

The European Research Council

ERC now and in the future Framework
Programme

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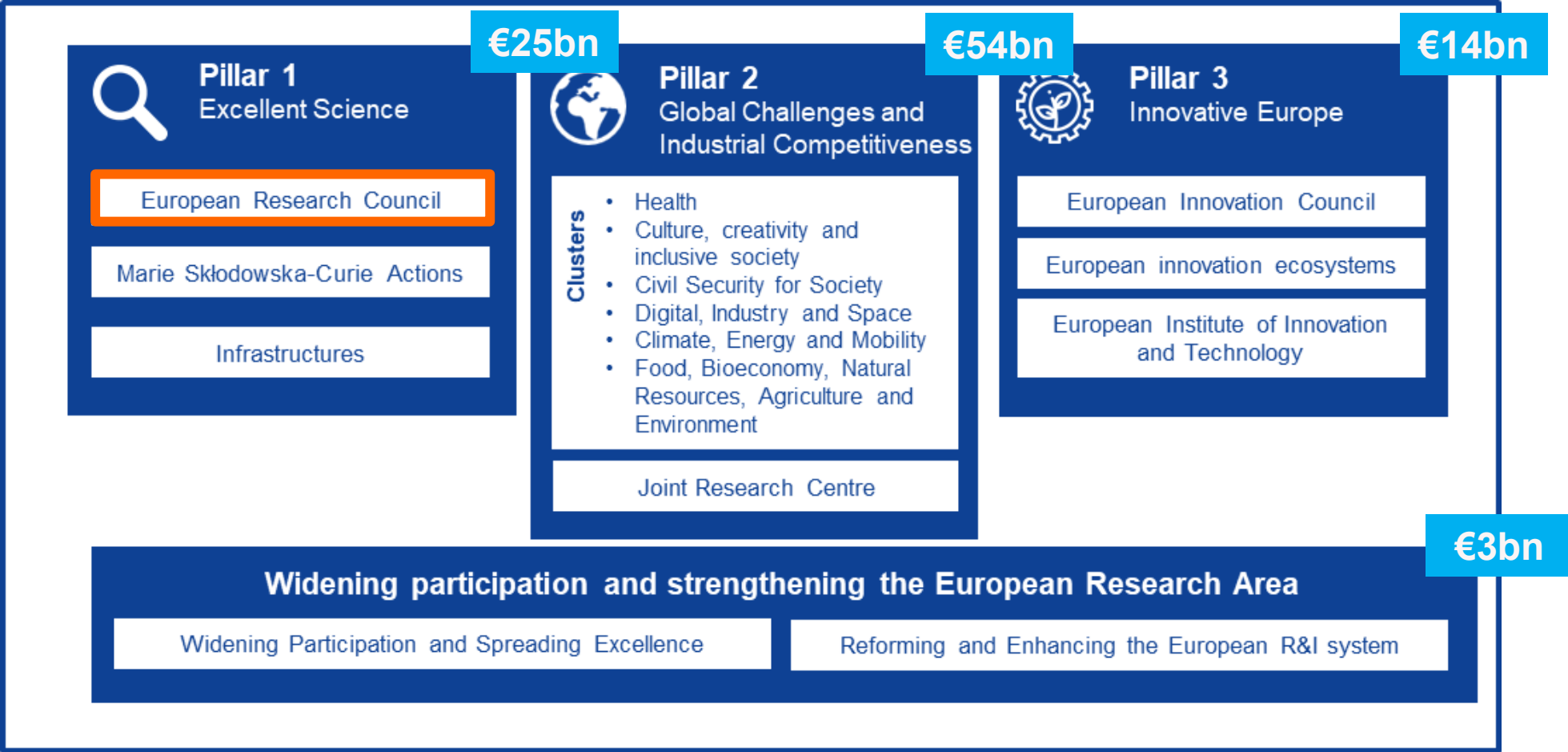
Member of the ERC Scientific Council
UNIBO and EUI



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC in Horizon Europe



ERC in figures



Over **13,000**
top researchers funded since
the ERC creation in 2007



Over **90,000**
researchers and other professionals
employed in ERC research teams



Over **2,400**
patents and other IPR applications
generated by ERC funding



Over **400**
start-ups identified as founded
or co-founded by ERC grantees



Over **220,000**
articles from ERC projects published
in scientific journals



Over **900** research institutions hosting
ERC grantees – universities, public or
private research centres in the EU or
Associated Countries



89
nationalities of
grant holders

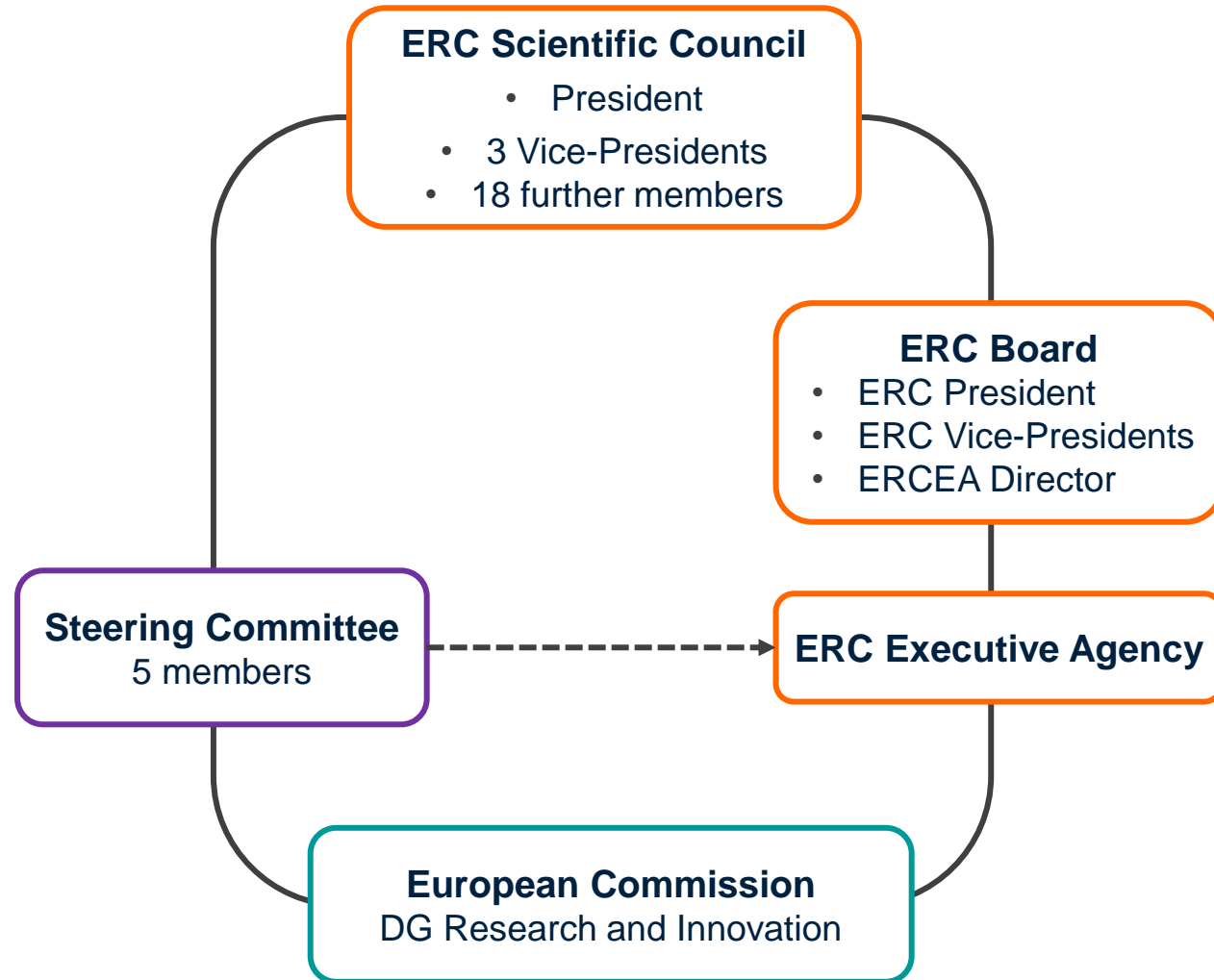


12 Nobel Prizes, **6** Fields Medals, **11** Wolf Prizes
and other prizes awarded to ERC grantees

ERC governance

Scientific governance

- Independent Scientific Council with 22 members including the ERC President
- Full authority over funding strategy and evaluation
- Support by a Dedicated Implementation Structure (ERC Executive Agency)



ERC Work Programme 2024: some novelties, why ?

In December 2022 the Scientific Council decided to:

- sign the Agreement on Reforming Research assessment process initiated in January 2022 and involving more than 350 organisations in 40 countries
- to make some changes in ERC's application forms and evaluation procedures for the 2024 calls taking into account the above and lessons from practice

“The Scientific Council recognises that maintaining the quality of the ERC's evaluation is critical to its success and has always been prepared to adapt and update the ERC's specific processes and procedures as necessary”

ERC Work Programme 2024: some novelties, how ?

Changes pertain to:

- Research assessment -> more focus on the project assessment of the applicant -> including relevant information on career breaks, unusual career paths, noteworthy contributions to the research community (*note: these will not in themselves be evaluated but provide context to the evaluation of the principal investigator*)
- Evaluation procedure -> max 44 interviews, new 'A not invited' score
- Administrative simplification -> Lump Sum in Advanced Grants

Preparing for the future: FP10 timetable

Current Framework Programme (Horizon Europe) 2021 – 27

Next Framework Programme (FP10) 2028 – 34

- Commission proposal for next Framework Programme – mid 2025
- Start of next Framework Programme – 1 January 2028

High expectations for the ERC

In order to have the desired impact, the ERC should during the first 3-5 years reach a grant volume of at least 2 billion a year. The purpose of the ERC will only be realized when the effects of its work are visible and evident in the member states.

Mayor Report (2003)

The ERC could become a Champions' League for research and we have to accept that research needs autonomy and freedom.

Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany (2007)

The ERC must have a funding capacity that exceeds at least 5% of existing (sub)national funding, at a minimum of 4bn € per year.

LERU input to the independent review of the ERC (2009)



Growth of EU research budget



EU added value of research

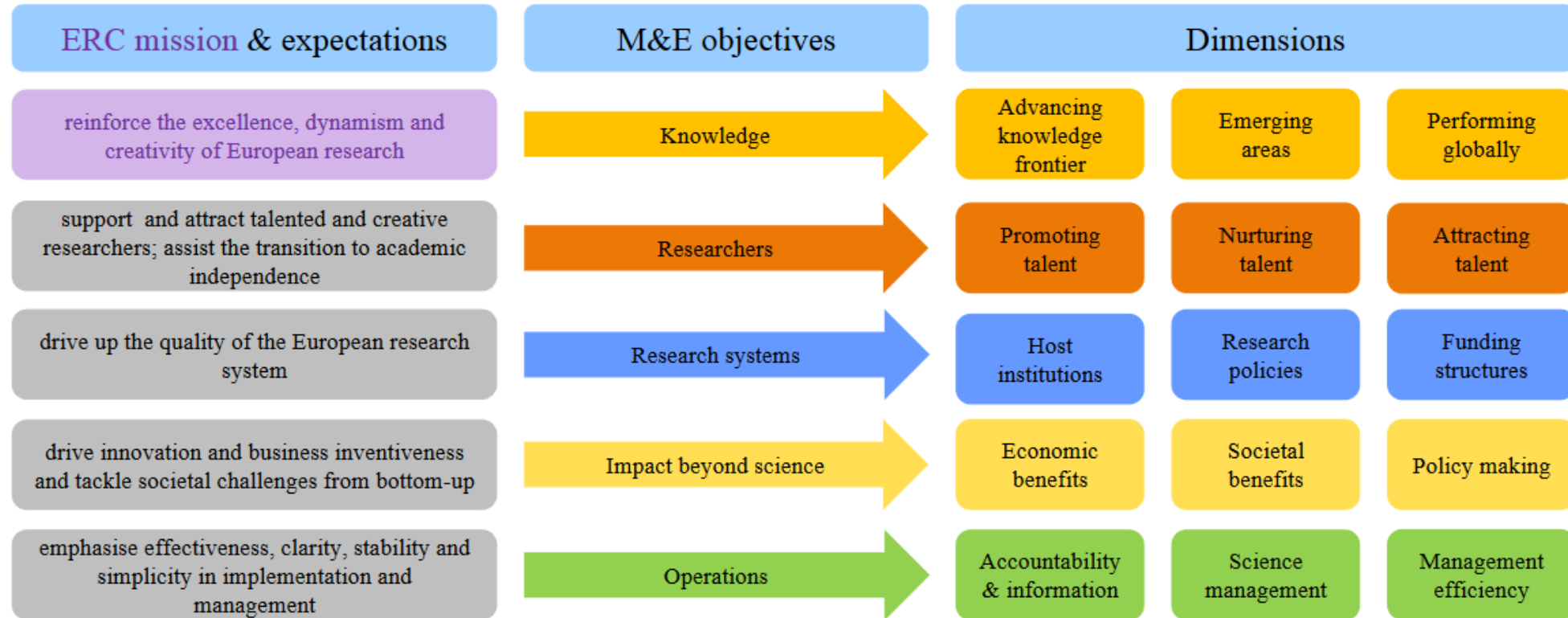
“Two areas seem to be consensually identified as having a high potential added value: research and development, and internal and external security.”



“Doubling the overall budget of the post-2020 EU research and innovation programme is the best investment the EU can make.”



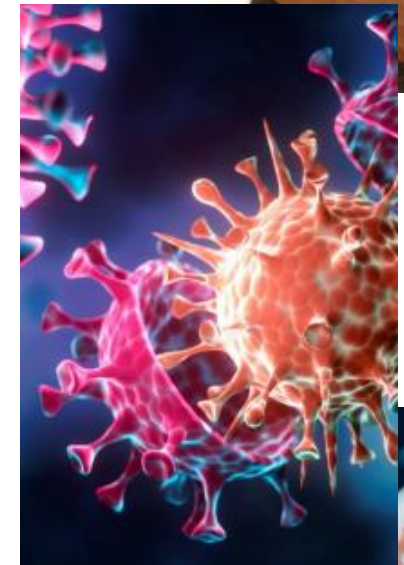
ERC impacts



Mapping Frontier Research: by fostering excellent research ERC provides impacts beyond science....



- **European Green Deal** **14% of ERC projects funded** under H2020 contribute to policies for a green transition
- **A Europe fit for the digital age** **10% of ERC projects funded** under H2020 contribute to the digital transition
- **EU4Health** **34% of ERC projects funded** under H2020 contribute to health policies
- More in progress (food production & consumption; Artificial Intelligence;)



In brief

*“The ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to **support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields**, based on scientific excellence”*

- It works !
- Adaptations by the Scientific Council when needed (e.g. WP 2024)
- Important to continue supporting frontier research also in the future !