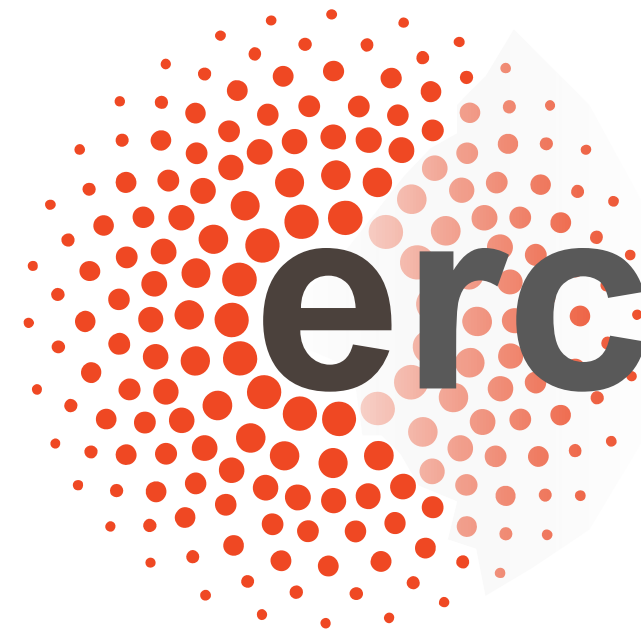


The European Research Council

ERC 2023 Proof of Concept Grants Seal of Excellence awards

Seal of Excellence Community meeting
24 April 2024
Line Fredslund Volkers
Scientific Department, ERCEA



ERC supplementary funding for PIs



Proof of Concept

Size of the grant: **€150 000** (lump sum)

Duration: **12 months**

Demonstrate that the idea funded by the original ERC grant has innovation potential and significant economic or societal benefits

- One continuous open call
- **Three cut-off deadlines**
- **30M EUR PoC call budget in 2023 (budget split btw the 3 cut-off deadlines)**

Proof of Concept: Eligibility

- Eligible Principal Investigators **have an ERC grant**, which is either **running** or **ends after 1 January 2022**
- The PoC idea has to **draw substantially on the ERC funded research**
- Only **one eligible application per PI per year** = per PoC call
- Maximum **3 PoC grants** per ERC StG, CoG or AdG grant (can run in parallel)
- Maximum **6 PoC grants** per ERC SyG (with consent of all SyG PIs)
- The **host institution can be different** than for the main grant; **Additional beneficiaries are allowed** as for ERC main grants
- **Same rules regarding portability** of the PoC grant as for main grants

Which activities are funded?

The activities to be funded shall draw substantially on scientifically excellent ERC-funded research.

The funding will cover:

- activities aimed at exploring the pathway from ground-breaking research towards innovation
- activities at the very early stage of moving research ideas towards the initial steps of a process leading to an innovation or socially valuable proposition
- this includes further research to translate research ideas to possible application and development and testing to validate the idea in the lab

Proof of Concept: Proposal

10-page proposal (excluding references):

- 1. The idea – breakthrough innovation potential** (max. 3 pages)
- 2. Approach and Methodology** (max. 6 pages)
- 3. Principal Investigator - strategic lead and project management** (max. 1 page)

Online administrative submission form A (similar to ERC main grant applications)

Supplementary documents (e.g., Host Institution Support letter, Letters of support or letters of intent)



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_WAkrKgWKs

Read more:
<https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/proof-concept>

Proof of Concept: Evaluation procedure

Single step evaluation procedure (~100 days from submission to notification):

- Remote evaluation by 5 independent experts in technology transfer and social innovation
- Each evaluation element receives a comment and a mark: *very good*, *good (pass)* or *fail*
- No panel meeting discussion – only individual reviews
- Rank listed proposals have to pass all evaluation elements (pass-mark by majority of experts)
- Ranked list established by the marks given by experts to evaluation elements 1, 2 and 3
- Highest weight is given to evaluation element 1 followed by element 2 and then 3
- Highest ranked proposals within the budget for the evaluation round are main listed
- A short reserve list is created in case of granting failure among the main list projects

POC 2023 Results

Summary

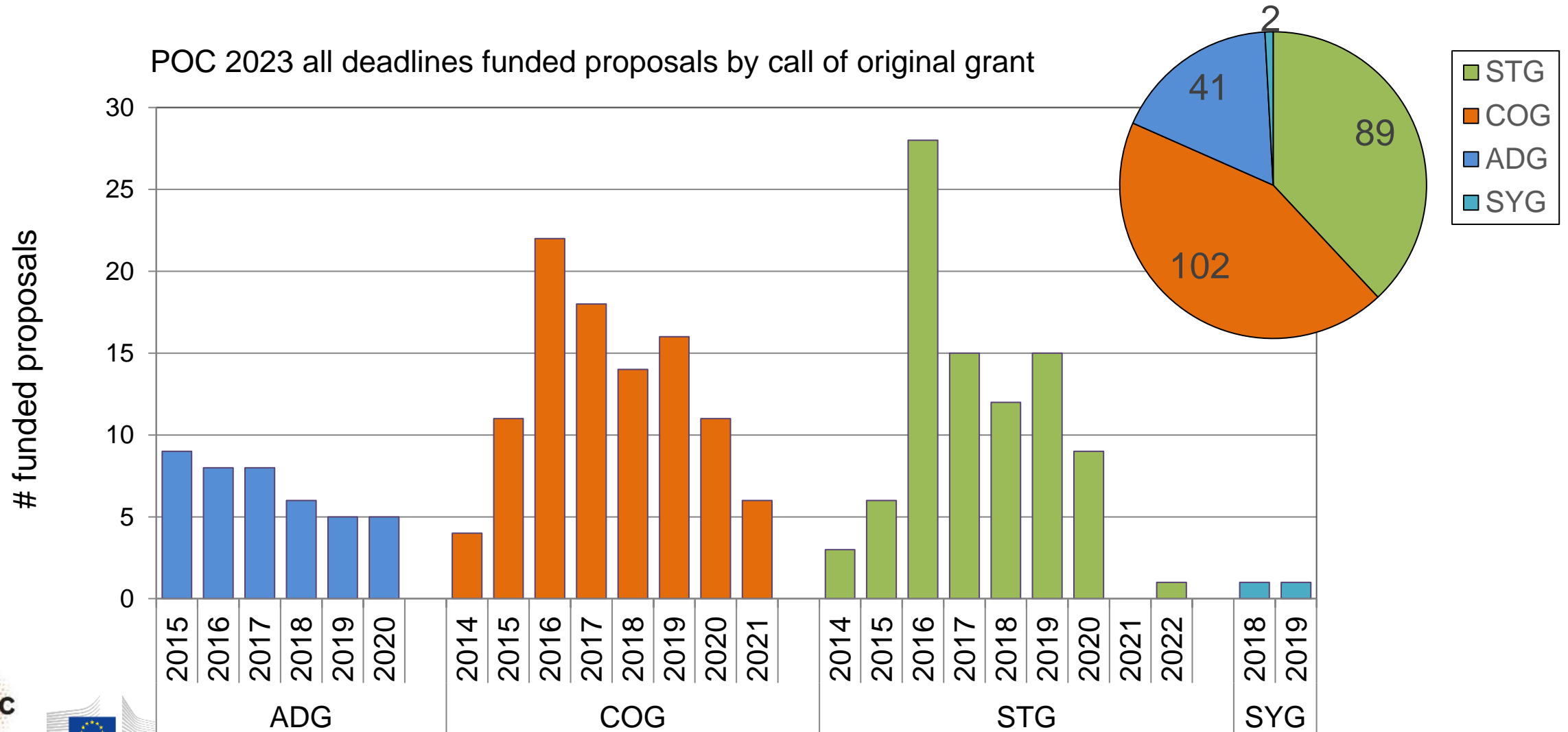
- PoC 2023 Call budget was 30 M€ + 6 M€ additional budget
- 240 PoC projects funded in three 2023 evaluations
- Final call success rate is 39.5% of 608 submitted proposals and 42.6% of 564 evaluated proposals
- 37 rejected applicants (6.5%)
- SoE awarded to 70 reserve list and 223 below budget applicants in 2023

POC 2023 – update on the Seals of Excellence (SoE)

- ScC decided to award the SoE to PoC proposals, which passed all evaluation thresholds but cannot be funded with the call budget
 - For ERC-2023-PoC DL 1: 15 reserve list projects – 33 below budget
 - For ERC-2023-PoC DL 2: 30 reserve list projects – 76 below budget
 - For ERC-2023-PoC DL 3: 25 reserve list projects – 114 below budget
- The SoEs are sent to applicants with the final evaluation results
- Applicants are informed in year N+1 of their final rejection
- Agreement with RTD that also reserve listed applicants will be entitled to receive their SoE with their evaluation result and automatic upload for 2024 calls

POC 2023 DL1, DL2 and DL3

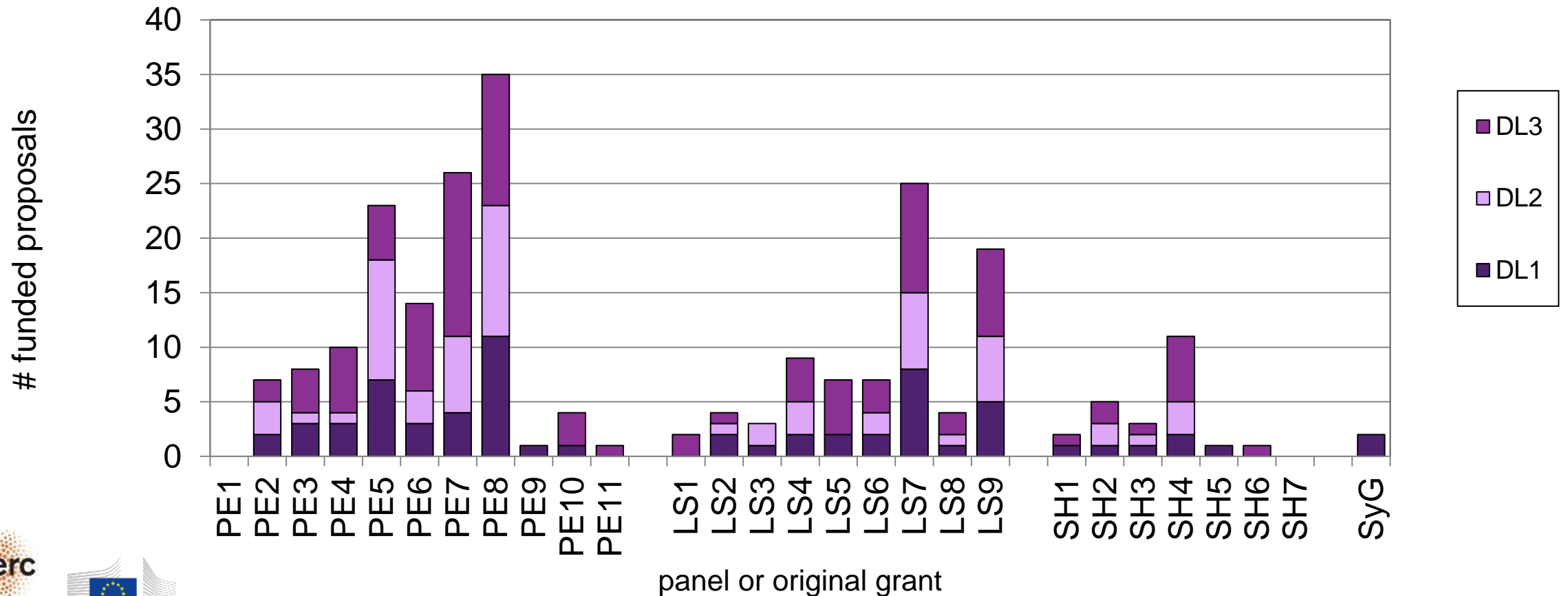
Funded proposals by call of original grant



POC 2023 Funded proposals DL1 and DL2 and DL3

Panel of original grant

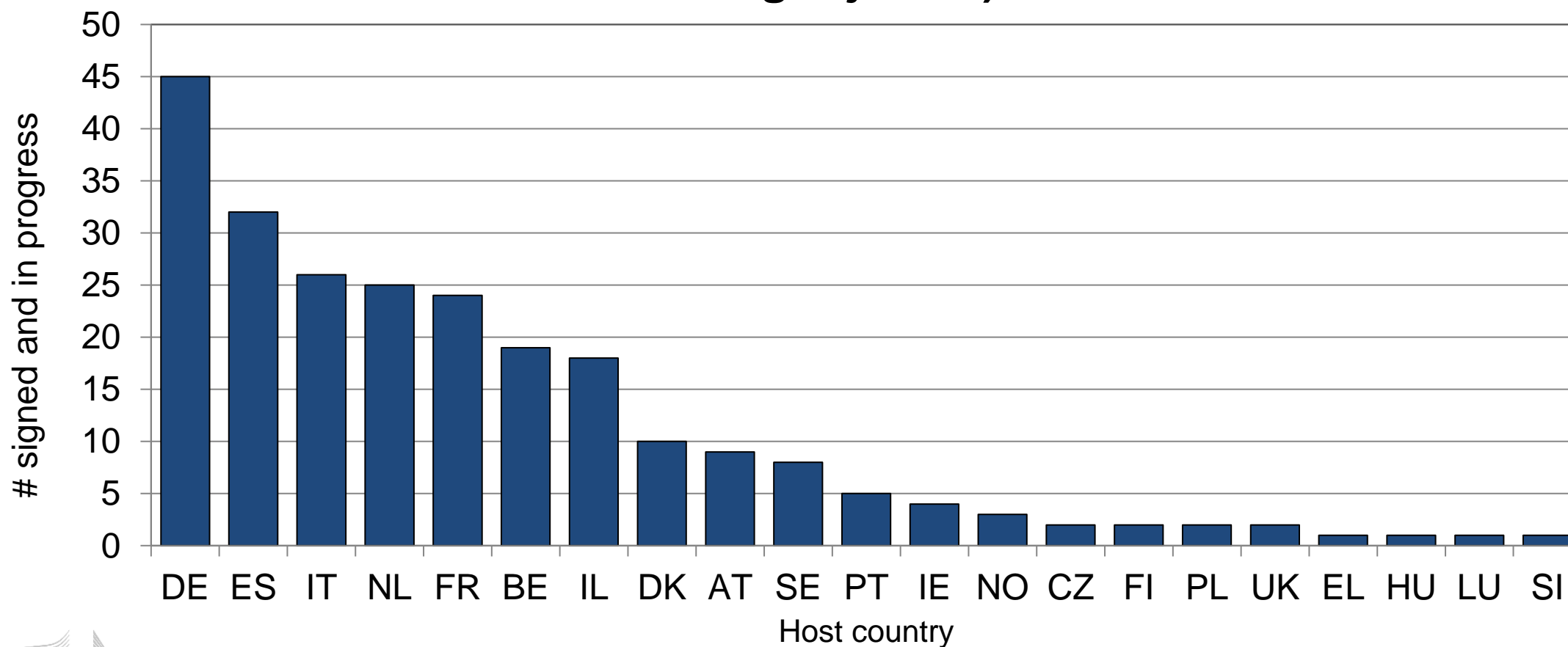
POC 2023 funded proposals by panel of original grant



POC 2023 Funded proposals DL1, DL2 and DL3

By host country (provisional data by 18/3 pending final UK grants decisions)

POC 2023 All deadlines: 240 Invited and in progress (not including rejected)



Thank you !