

The European Research Council

Satisfaction Survey on Grant Management 2011

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ERCEA - Department C Satisfaction Survey

Background

Context :

- The ERCEA is presently in its 2nd year of autonomous operations, managing over 1.500 Grant Agreements.
- ERCEA overall aim is to provide highest quality support (speed, simplicity , flexibility and relevance) to frontier research.
- While feedback from participants was always positive, the need was identified to further investigate and focus efforts to improve the services for the researchers themselves (PIs).
- Hence a **PI centric action plan** was put together in December 2010. First phase: SATISFACTION SURVEY.





- Objectives of the Survey :
 - Take stock of the level of satisfaction and of the quality of services and interactions between the third parties to the ERC grants (Principal Investigators, Host Institutions ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA))
 - Better understand the evolving needs of ERC GA stakeholders.
 - Streamline and simplify procedures to further ease the implementation of the IDEAS Programme.

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Concept

- **Target population:**

- Principal Investigators (1515) and Host Institutions (772)

- **Main areas of the survey:**

- Quality of the services provided by the Grant Management Department
- Relationship between Host Institutions and Principal Investigators
- Impact of the ERC Grant Agreements on the career of Principal Investigators
- Main reasons for change of Host Institution
- Attraction of Principal Investigators from third countries to Europe
- Comparison with other funding schemes (Community, national and international)



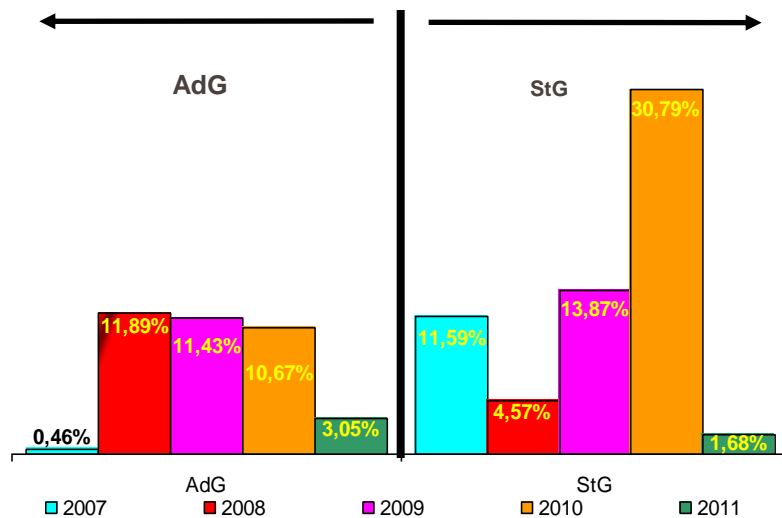
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Response rate

43,3 % of Principal Investigators (656) (AdG= 41,1% ; StG= 44,8%)
26,2 % of Host Institutions (202)

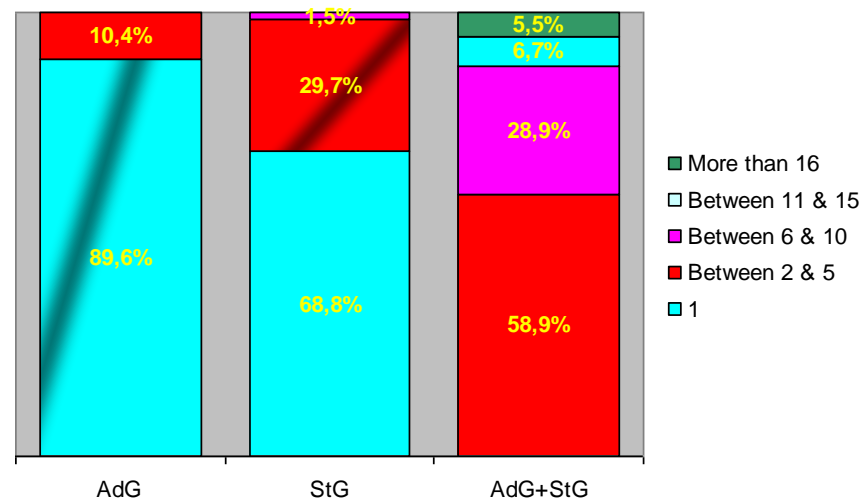
PIs

Distribution of questionnaires submitted by type of grants and by years



HIIs

Distribution of questionnaires submitted by type of grants and number of project per HI

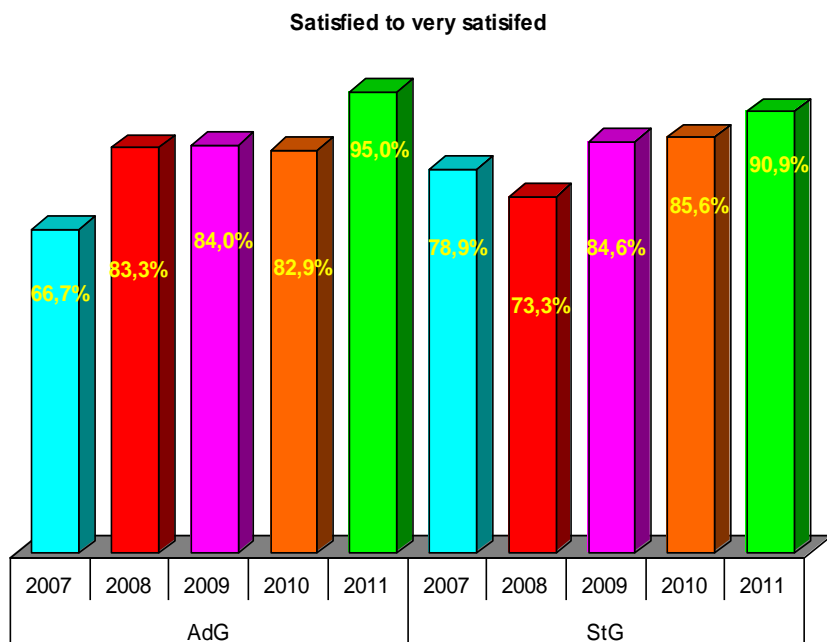


High participation rate of Principal Investigators confirms interest in the survey, proving that the survey was needed and timely.

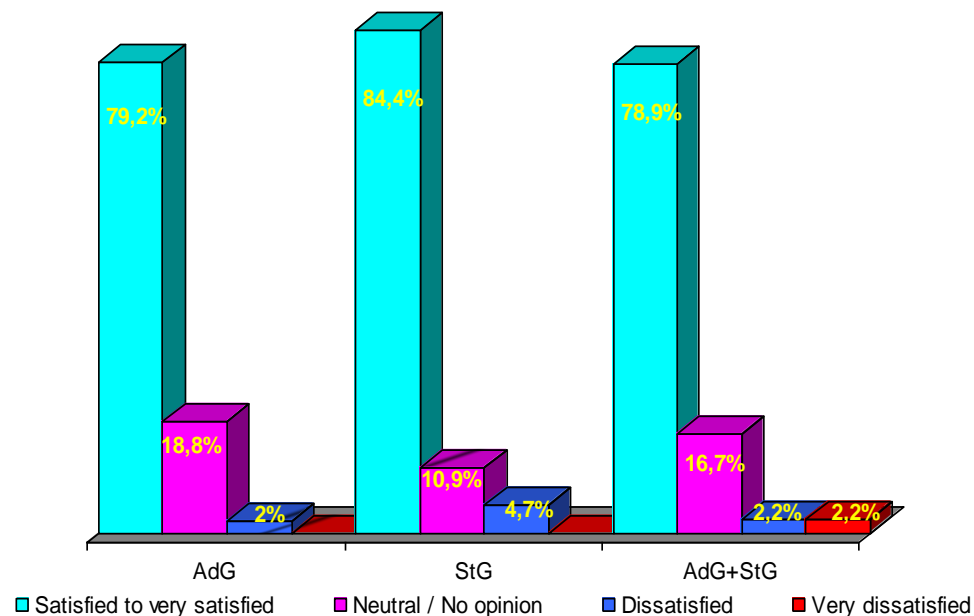
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Satisfaction with overall performance of Grant Management Department

PIs



HIIs

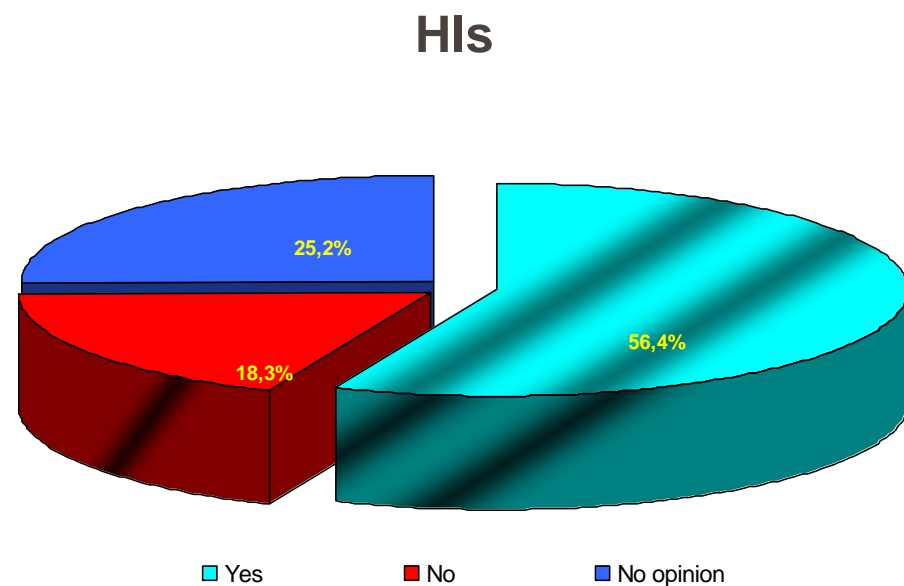
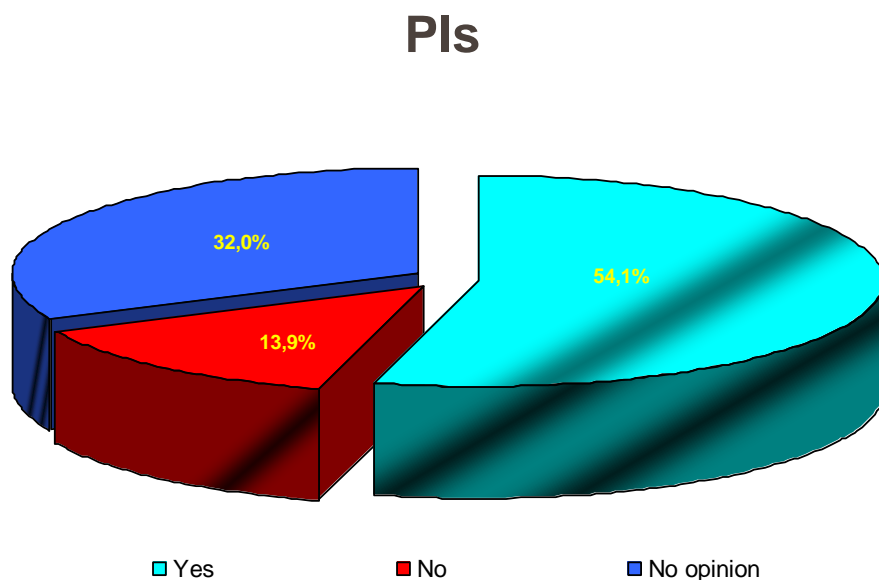


83,7 % of PIs and 84,2 % of HIIs are satisfied to very satisfied with the performance of the Grant Management Department. HOW TO WE DEVELOP FURTHER?



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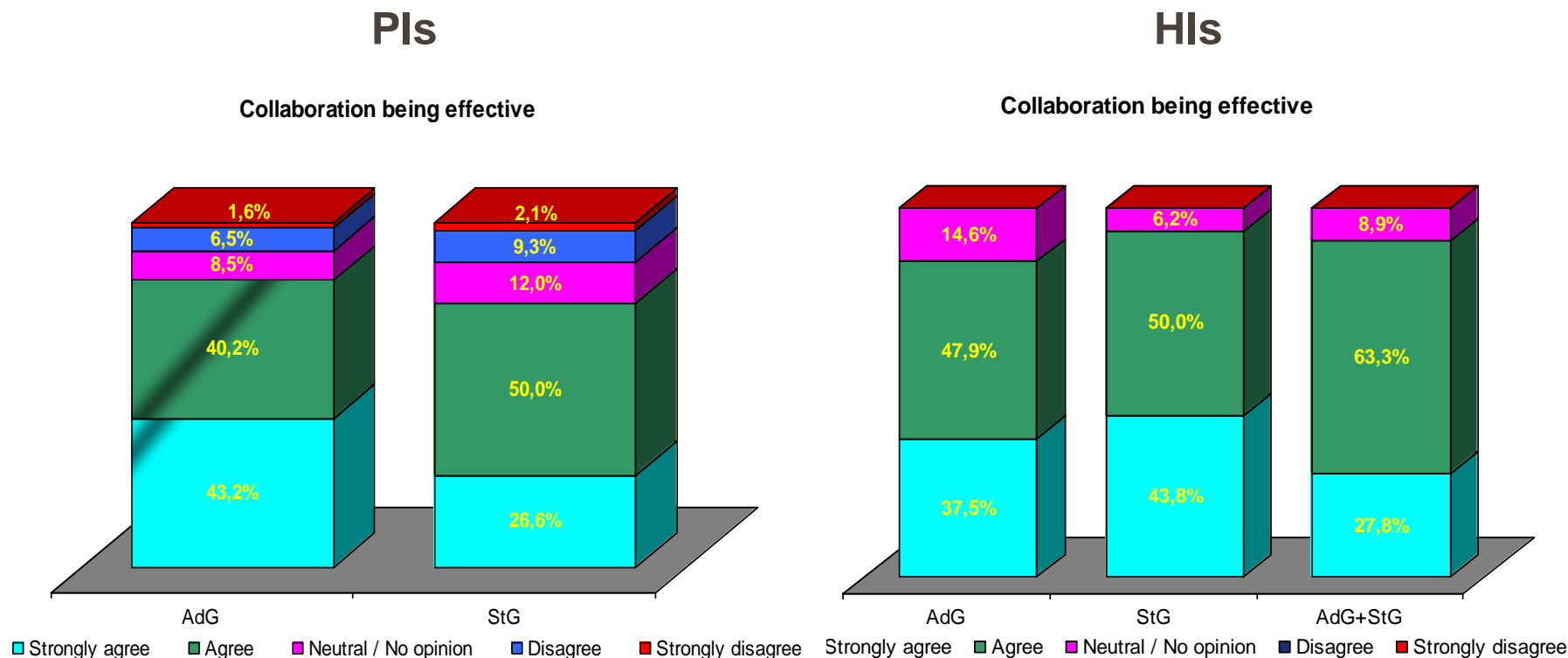
Split between financial and scientific reports



54,1% of all PIs and 56,4 % of HIs consider the split between financial and scientific reports as positive. In conclusion this major innovation in grant management has reached its objective of simplifying the implementation process and mainstreaming the PI's obligation towards science only.

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Relationship between Host Institutions and Principal Investigators

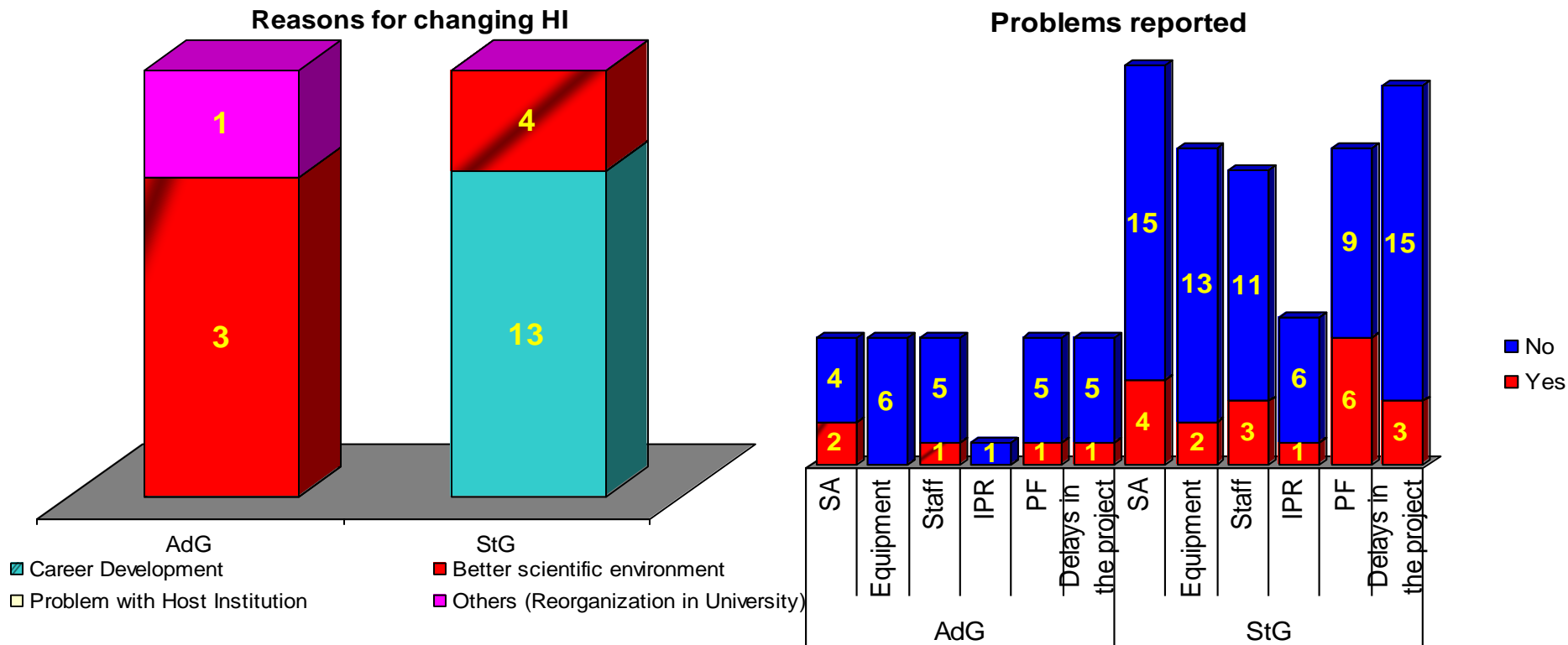


79,1 % of all PIs and 90,6 % of HIs see this relationship as effective, but the HI still need to expand further their support. ERCEA can help forming specialised information kits and services to facilitate this relation.



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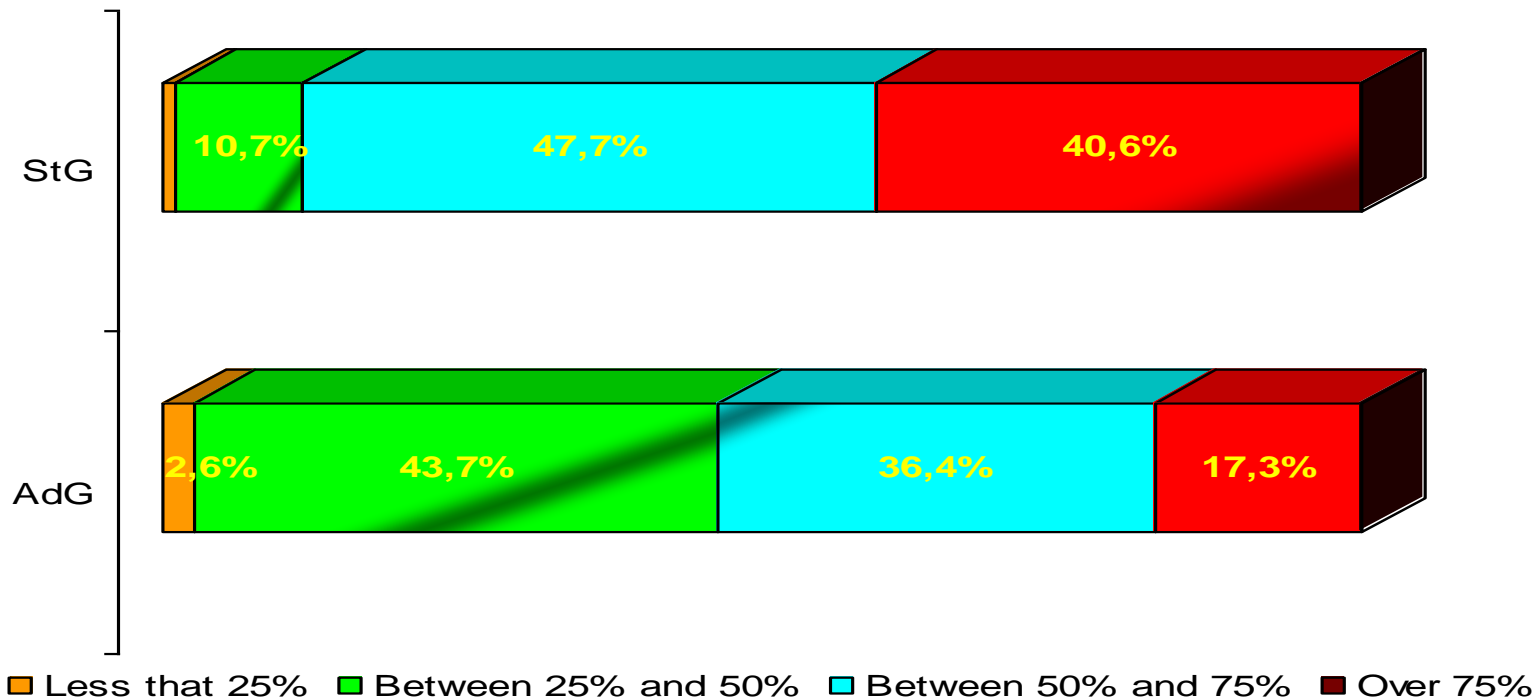
Change of Host Institutions



So far 33 changes of HI (2,2% of all ERC GA) mainly concerning StG (87,9 %). Main reasons are career development (StG) and better scientific environment (AdG). ERCEA understands that mobility is vital to modern research, hence reviewed procedures linked to such changes. SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE in place.

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Time percentage spent by PIs on their ERC GA

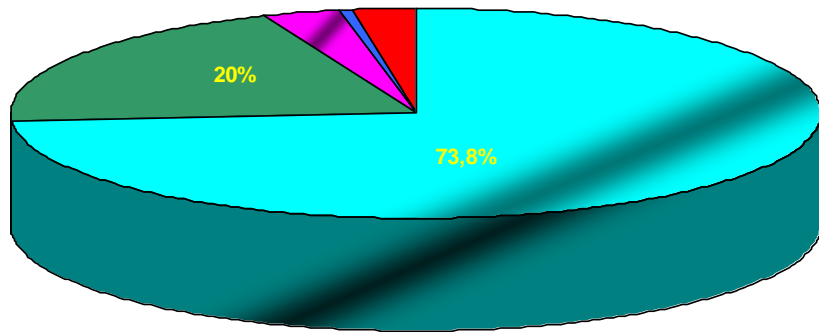


Vast majority of PIs spend at least 50% of their working time on their ERC-funded project, showing the weight of ERC grants in the professional portfolio of researchers, and the need of flexibility in multi-project management.

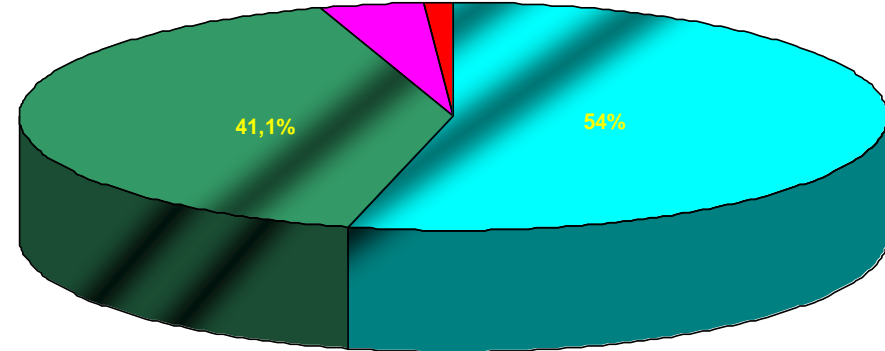
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Impact of ERC GA on Pls' career and on institutions

Impact on Pls career



Impact on institutions



Strongly agree Agree Neutral / No opinion Disagree Strongly disagree

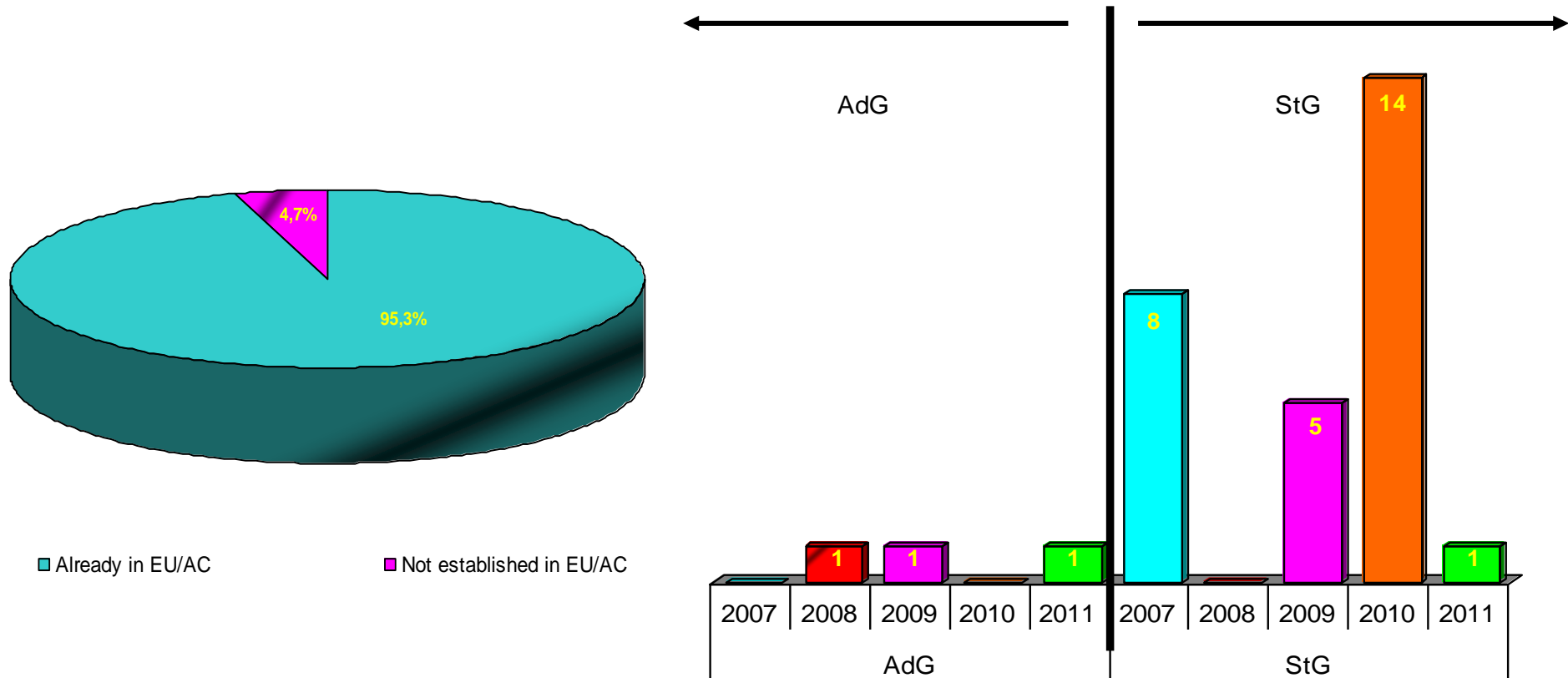
Strongly agree Agree Neutral / No opinion Disagree Strongly disagree

93,8 % of all PI consider that ERC grants have a positive impact on their career. 76,8 % of StG Pls and 68,7 % of AdG Pls strongly agree with this affirmation.



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Attraction of Principal Investigators from third countries



Only 31 PIs (4,7 %) were not established in EU or AC at the time of the submission of their proposal. The percentage is 6,8% for StG taken alone (AdG = 1,2%). ERCEA will look into the reasons and on means to make the European research area more appealing.

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Main areas for further improvement - proposals from beneficiaries

- More flexibility (notably dealing with budget reallocation or starting date of their projects) - ***implemented***
- Guidance documentation provided by ERCEA should focus on ad-hoc factsheets and not duplicate other FP7 documents – ***under preparation***
- Facilitation of contacts within Agency (clearer information on who to contact in different circumstances would be welcomed) – ***under preparation***
- **Introduction of a third funding** scheme between the Starting and Advanced Grants (StG-Consolidators-AdG) – ***under preparation***
- Preparation of a Compendium on reporting - ***under preparation***
- Development of a Fully Integrated Reporting Portal - ***under preparation***



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Conclusions

- **ERC's leading role in European research funding confirmed**
- **ERC administration in line with excellency of its projects**
- **Further potential for development and growth expected by stakeholders.**

