

ERA-CAPS – supporting bottom-up plant science collaborations across Europe and beyond

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Prague

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ERA-CAPS

ERA-NET for Coordinating
Action in Plant Sciences



ERA-CAPS: ERA-NET for Coordinating Action in Plant Sciences



ERA-CAPS is a network of funding organisations (ERA-NET)

History:

Builds on a successful previous network, ERA-PG (2004-2009)

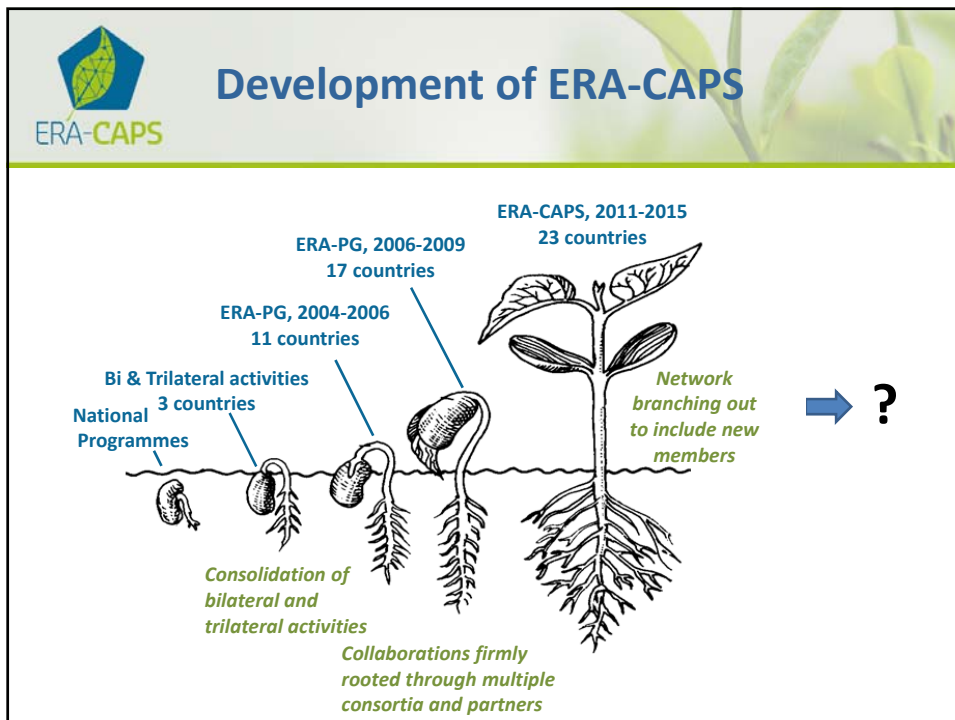
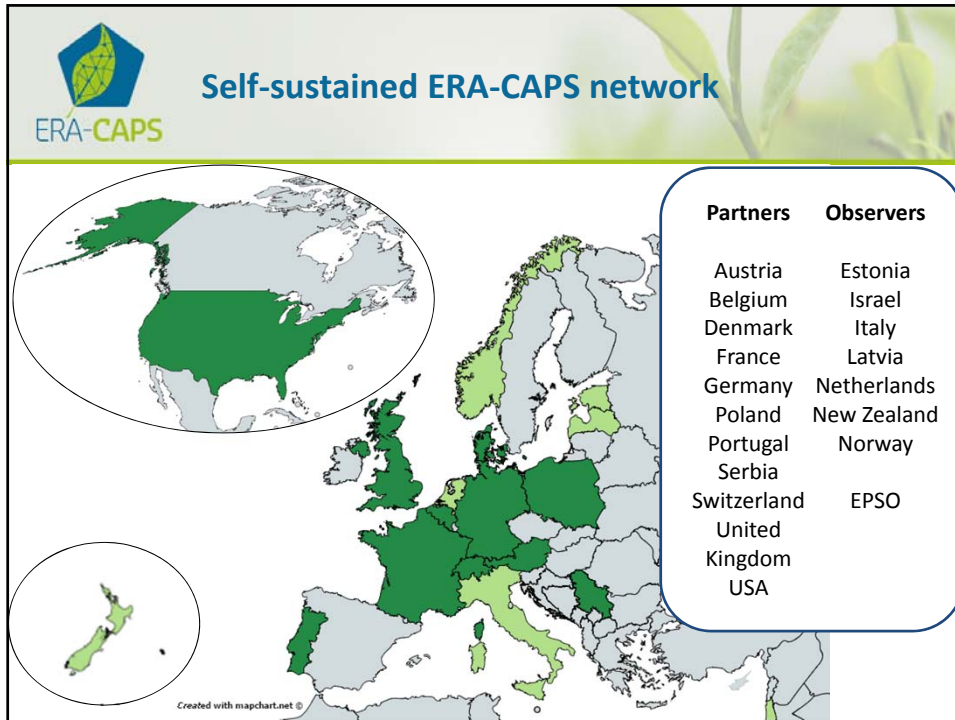
Funded by the EC under FP7 from 2012 – mid 2015

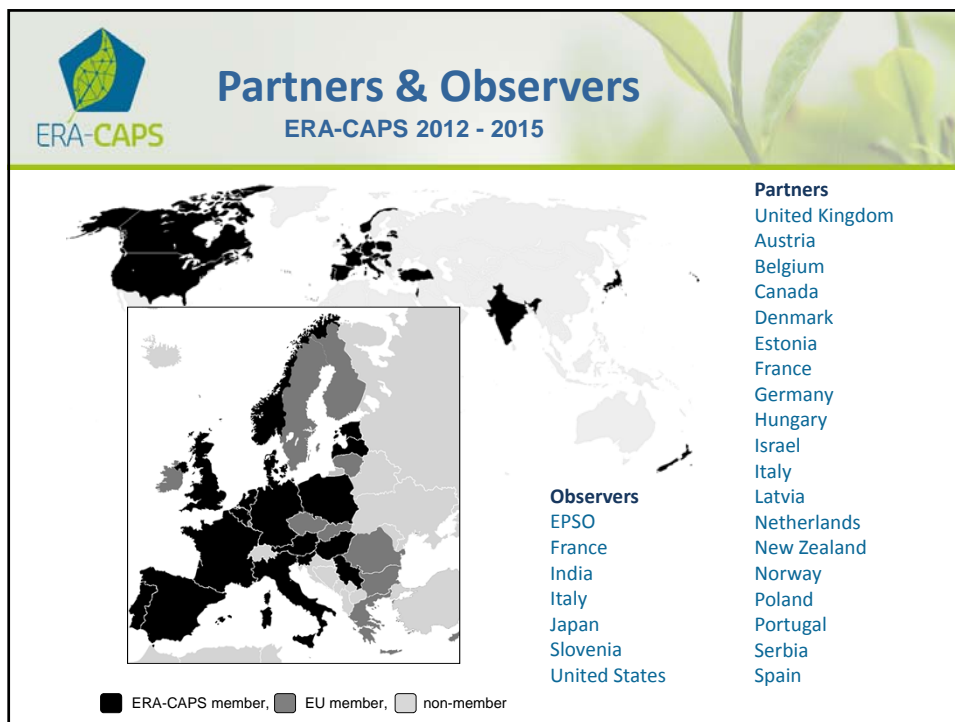
Self-sustained network of funding organisations as of August 2015




ERA-CAPS Outline:

- Network Coordinator is BBSRC, UK
- **Broad scope: Molecular Plant Sciences**
- EC-funded network included the majority of ERA-PG partners
+ many new EU and non-EU partners
- Launched **transnational joint calls** in **2012, 2014** and **2016**
- Works closely with other initiatives, e.g. EPSO, Global Plant Council





 **ERA-CAPS: Essential facts**

- **ERA-Net for Coordinating Action in Plant Sciences**
- **Initial phase** funded through EC Framework Programme 7 (2012 – mid 2015): 19 Partners plus 7 observers
- **Two transnational calls, launched in 2012 and 2014**

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- **Now a self-sustained network – 11 partners plus 9 observers**
- Coordinated by Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, UK (as before)
- **Third ERA-CAPS Call launched 23 June 2016**



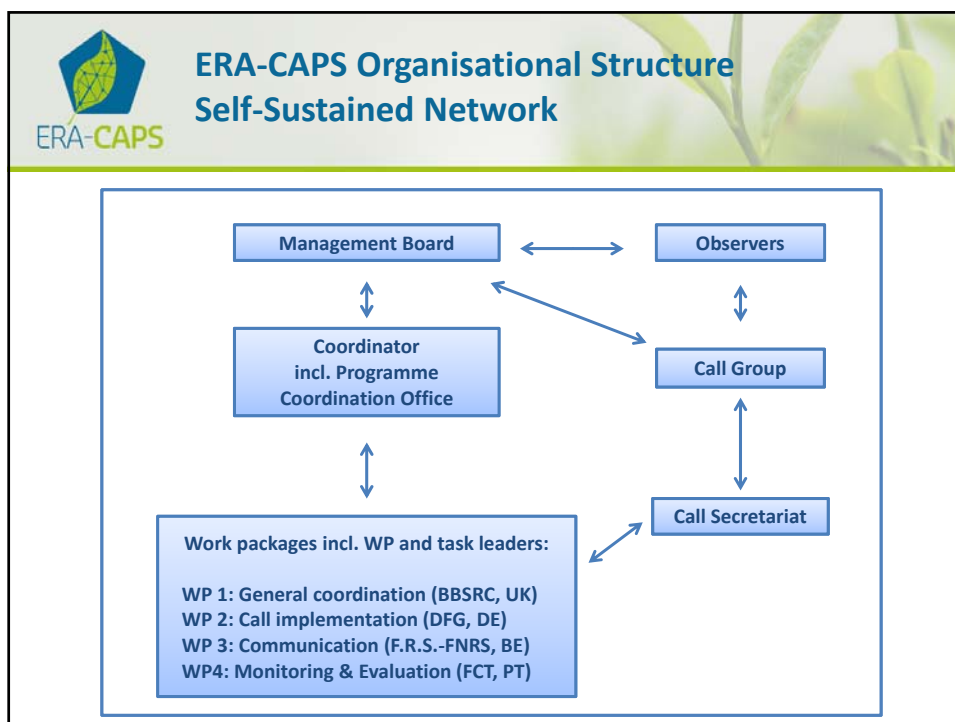
FP7 phase - Achievements

- **Integration of new partners from Europe and beyond**
- **Development of joint vision**
- **Establishment of ERA-CAPS in the Community**
 - Website, external engagement, publications, database
- **Two joint calls: approx €20M in each call; 26 collaborative projects**
 - Development of IP guidelines
 - Data sharing policy
- **Evaluation of ERA-PG, start of ERA-CAPS evaluation**
- **Three Grant Holders' Workshops (ERA-PG and ERA-CAPS)**
- **Data standards whitepaper**
- **Continuation of network**



Data Standards - Expert Working Group

- **Preparation of white paper**
- **Key recommendations to the ERA-CAPS network:**
 1. For ERA-CAPS to continue its involvement with, and support of, data standards issues
 2. To hold a special session during PAG XXIV in San Diego to bring together relevant initiatives along with the plant science community to develop a collaborative plan
 3. To include a special topic in ERA-CAPS calls for "flagship" projects in data standards, data quality management and data exchange



ERA-CAPS Website

Website:
www.era-caps.org

The screenshot shows the ERA-CAPS website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, ABOUT, JOINT CALLS, NEWS AND EVENTS, PUBLICATIONS, and RELATED INITIATIVES. Below this is a large banner image of various seeds. A 'NEWS AND EVENTS' section is visible, featuring a news item titled 'The Third ERA-CAPS call for proposals has been launched on 23 June 2016'. To the right, there is a 'SUB SECTIONS' menu with options for NEWS, NEWSLETTERS, and NEWSLETTER - SUBSCRIPTION. The website also includes a search bar and a user login area at the top right.



Third ERA-CAPS Call 2016 - participation

- Transnational Call with broad scope in **Molecular Plant Sciences**
 - 9 Call participating Funding Organisations:
FWF (AT), F.R.S.-FNRS (BE), ANR (FR), DFG (DE), NCN (PL),
MPNTR (Serbia), SNSF (CH), BBSRC (UK), NSF (USA)
 - Min. **3 partners from 3 countries**, two of which need to be from call-participating countries,
 - Third or any additional partner could come from any other country and participate on „own“ (i.e. non-ERA-CAPS) funding
- [Call Announcement](#) published on **23rd June 2016**



Third Call (2016): Call topics

- The **third ERA-CAPS Call** has a **broad scientific scope** (like the previous calls) :
- **Highlighted themes** for the call are:
 - food and nutrition security,
 - non-food crops,
 - adaptation to a changing climate,
 - biotic/abiotic stresses;
 - **Other** topics within the Molecular Plant Sciences can be proposed.
- **New:** [Sub-Call Addressing Data Challenges in Plant Science](#)



Call 2016: Call topics & Data management

Species to be worked on:

- Model plants
- Crops, including Horticultural crops, ornamentals, trees and forage plants
- Algae
- Fungi if in plant-microbe interaction; microbiome; phytobiome

- A **Data Management Plan** will be requested for **each** of the full proposals based on the ERA-CAPS **Data Sharing Policy**.




Call 2016: Call structure & implementation

- **Two stage review procedure**
using DFG's electronic submission system ELAN:
- **Pre-Proposal stage**
 - Selection by the Review Panel
- **Full Proposal stage**
 - First step: External reviews and rebuttal
 - Second step: Rating and Ranking by the Review Panel
- Proposals to the **Data Challenges Sub-Call** will be reviewed by the same panel / same procedure
- **Final selection step: Moderating Panel** of Funding Agencies
- Final **funding decisions** are taken **nationally**

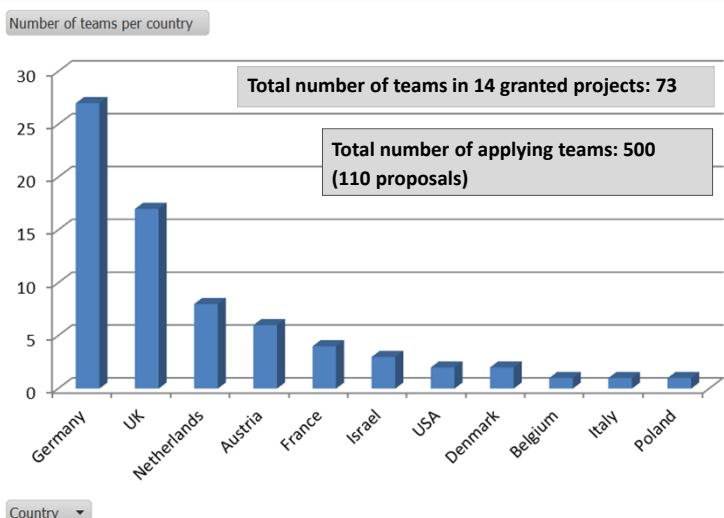


Call 2016 - Timeline

Call Pre-Announcement	4 April 2016
Call-Announcement	23 June 2016
Pre-Proposal Deadline	28 September 2016
Invitation of Full proposals	7 January 2017
Full Proposal Deadline	31 March 2017
External written reviews	April – June 2017
Rebuttal	24 June – 1 July
Final Funding Decisions	End of 2017



Facts & figures: First call - Grants



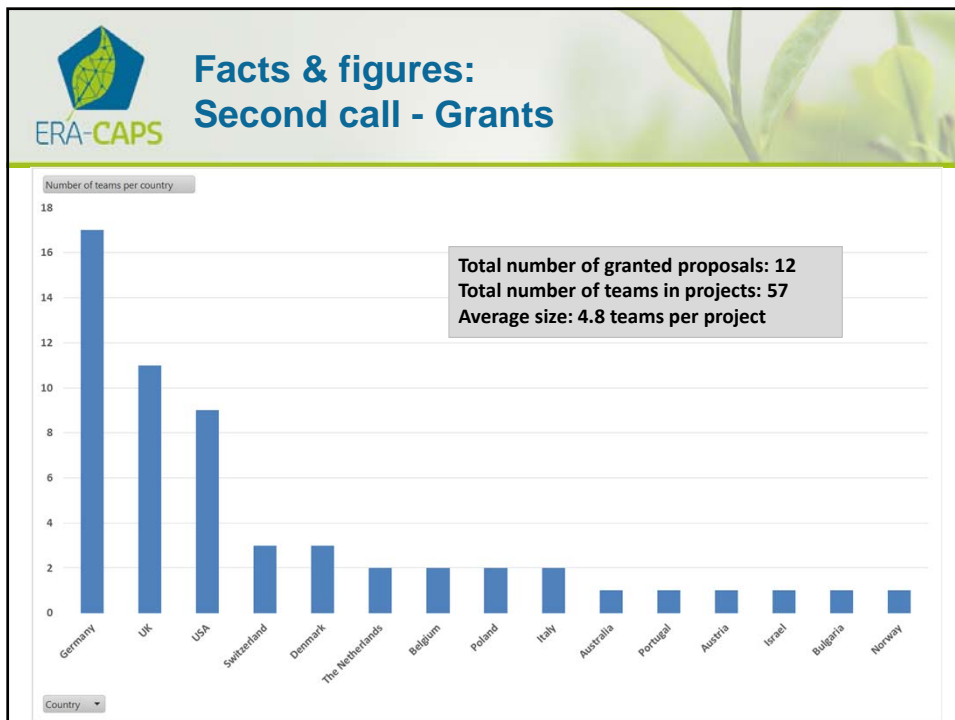
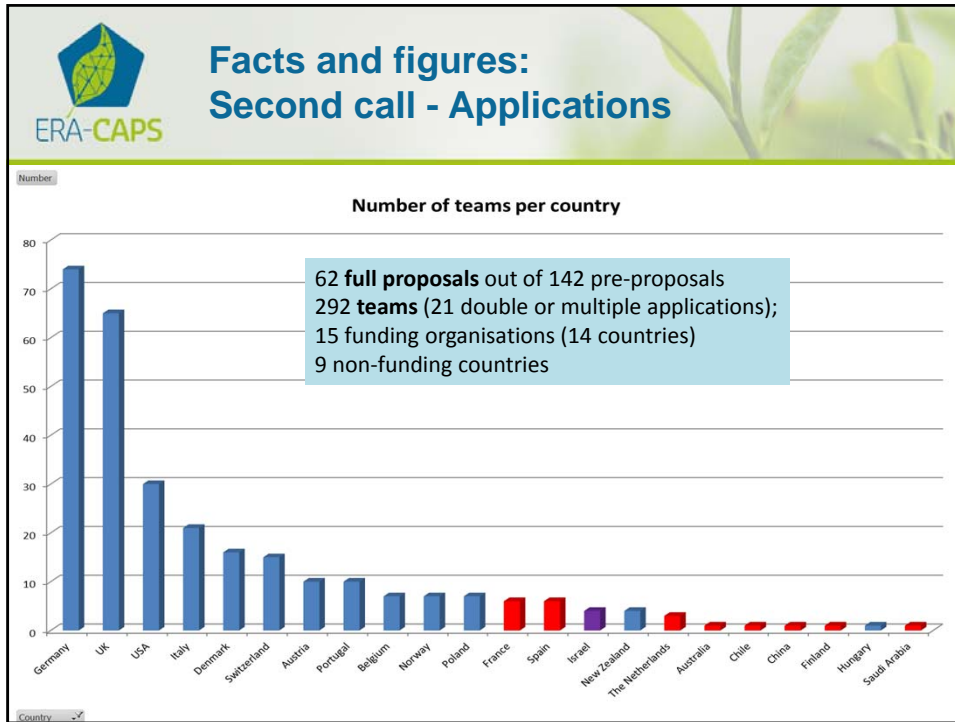
Number of teams per country

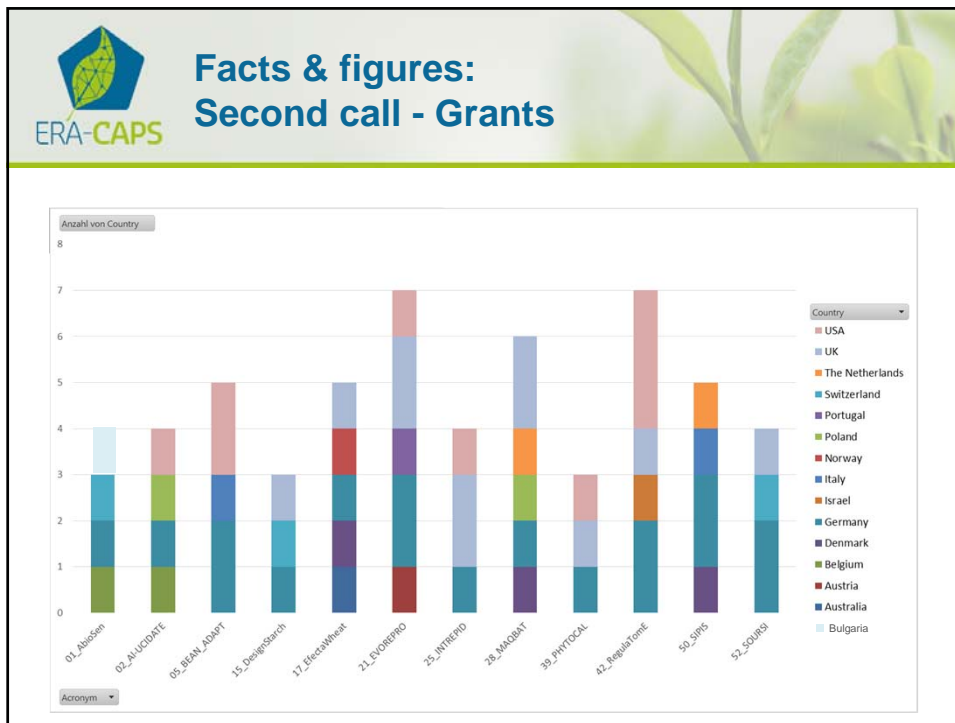
Total number of teams in 14 granted projects: 73

Total number of applying teams: 500 (110 proposals)

Country	Number of teams
Germany	28
UK	18
Netherlands	9
Austria	7
France	5
Israel	4
USA	3
Denmark	3
Belgium	2
Italy	2
Poland	2

Country ▾





Second Call 2014: Funded projects - one example

BEAN ADAPT

**Evolution in a changing environment:
the genetic architecture of adaptation
outside centers of domestication of
Phaseolus vulgaris and *P. coccineus***

Partners:

- Roberto Papa, ITALY (Università Politecnica delle Marche)
- Alisdair R Fernie, GERMANY (Max-Planck-Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology)
- Paul Gepts, US (Department of Plant Science, University of California)
- Andreas Graner, GERMANY (Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics & Crop Plant Research)
- Scott A Jackson, US (Center for Applied Genetic Technologies, University of Georgia)

Collaborators:

- ECPIGR, CROP TRUST, DivSeek, The International Treaty, JÜLICH, CIAT, uniss, ARROZ e FEIÇÃO, Embrapa, CNR, ESA, Kmetijski inštitut Slovenija, UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN, CAVOLICA PORDO, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN, The University of Georgia

ERA-CAPS
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Presented at PAG XXIV, San Diego, Jan. 2016



Thank you for your attention!