REGON
CZEXPATS in Science

Marie Kolmanová

About me

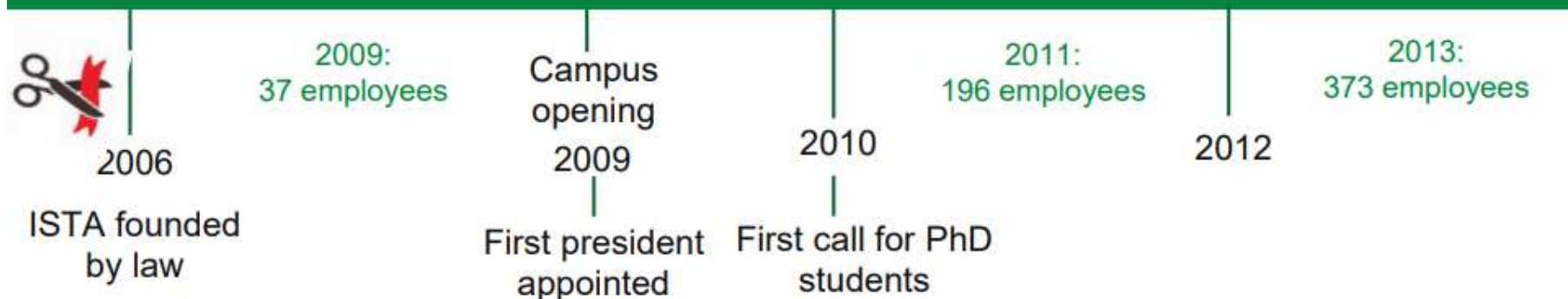Centre for European Integration at Czech Chamber of Commerce

Czech Liaison Office for Research and Development (CZELO)

Czech Permanent Representation to the EU, Brussels

EU Research Project Manager at VŠCHT Praha

Grant Office at Institute of Science and Technology Austria

Building a New Institution

Nov. 27, 2008

Bertalanffy Foundation Building, 2010

Lab Building East, 2012

2009: 37 employees

Campus opening 2009

2011: 196 employees

2013: 373 employees

2006

2010

2012

ISTA founded by law

First president appointed

First call for PhD students

Building a New Institution

Lab & Office Building West, 2015

IST Park, 2019

Sunstone Building, 2021

🎓 75 professors
1008 employees

2017:
617 employees

2019:
777 employees

2015

First PhD degree
awarded

2022 (Sept)

Institute of Science and Technology Austria

The Eight Principles behind ISTA

BASIC RESEARCH
Curiosity-Driven

INDEPENDENT
Board of Scientists

INTERNATIONAL
English Language

INTERDISCIPLINARY
No Boundaries

PHD GRANTING
Graduate School

SUPPORTING CAREERS
Tenure Track

DIVERSE FUNDING
Public and Private

EXPLOITING RESULTS
Intellectual Property

(authors: Haim Harari, Olaf Kuebler, Hubert Markl)

Incentives

In applying for grants

Only 50% of the ISTA budget is guarenteed by the Ministry:

25% is dependent on ISTA winning the other 25% in third-party funding

- i.e. the Ministry matches every €1M in grants/donations with another €1M
  - → Incentive for the institute

ISTA passes on this matching to researchers

- i.e. ISTA match every €1M in awarded grants with another (up to) €300k
  - → Incentive for the researchers

All grant applications need to be approved by the Grant Office/Pre-Award.

All awarded grants are administered by the Grant Office/Post-Award.

Grant Office @ISTA

- Centralized structure of GO

  + suitable for smaller institutions

  + less coordination = lower risk of mistakes

  - centralized office looks larger compared to other institutions

  - some future (coordination) tasks might be better decentralized?

- High service orientation in pre- and post-award

  + high service level increases application (& success?) rate and ensures compliance with financial (and other grant) rules

  + individual approach greatly appreciated by scientists

  - high service level allows only limited 'economies of scale'

  - increased need for coordination with other administration units

- Beyond pure GO tasks

  + tasks connected to grants: various internal and external reports (ISTA management/Ministry), timesheet process, internal program coordination (EU Cofunds, and other programs), best-practice/PR

  + know-how in one place ensures coherence and synergies

  - need for resources; expertise from different fields

  - tendency to assign more and more tasks

- Split per research group in post-award

  + great benefit for researchers (one-stop shop)

  + enables replaceability in the team

  - challenging to cope with broad range of funding schemes

  - experienced, skilled and flexible post-award experts are crucial

ISTA GO team

Pre-award

Post-award

Marie (Head of GO)

Niall (TL pre-award)

Lenka

Eszti

Anna

Susana

Emmanouil

Stephanie

Benoit

Samuele

Paul (on leave)

Csilla

Carla

Eszter (on leave)

Grants@ISTA in numbers

Institute of Science and Technology Austria

Third party funding per funding agency: 222.28 MEUR (contract amount)

Other Austrian grants; 6.69

FWF grants; 46.90

ERC (FP7, H2020, HE); 106.24

Other International grants; 34.04

EU (FP7, H2020, HE); 27.96

As of 31.12.2022

Grants@ISTA in numbers

ISTA — Institute of Science and Technology Austria
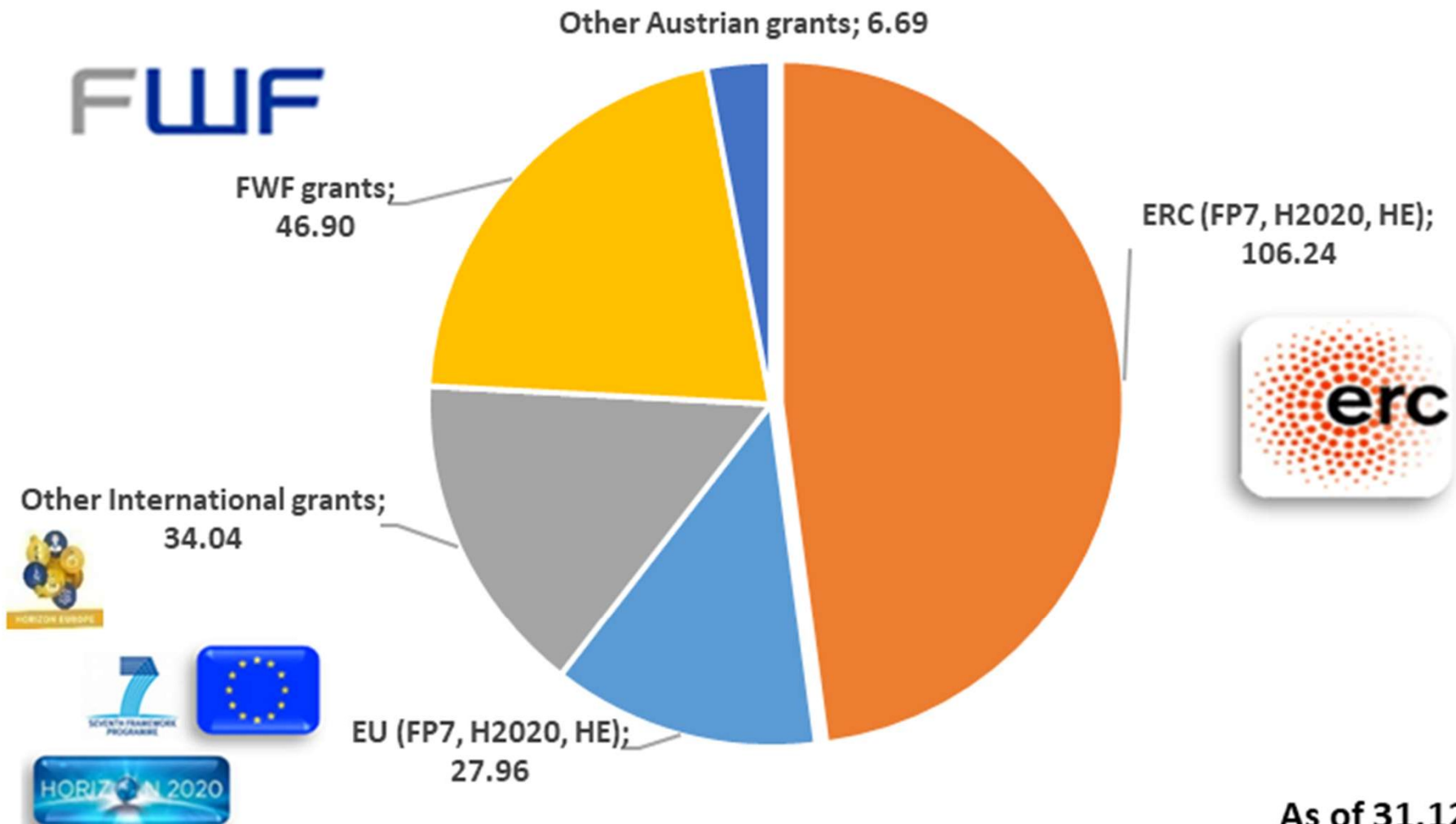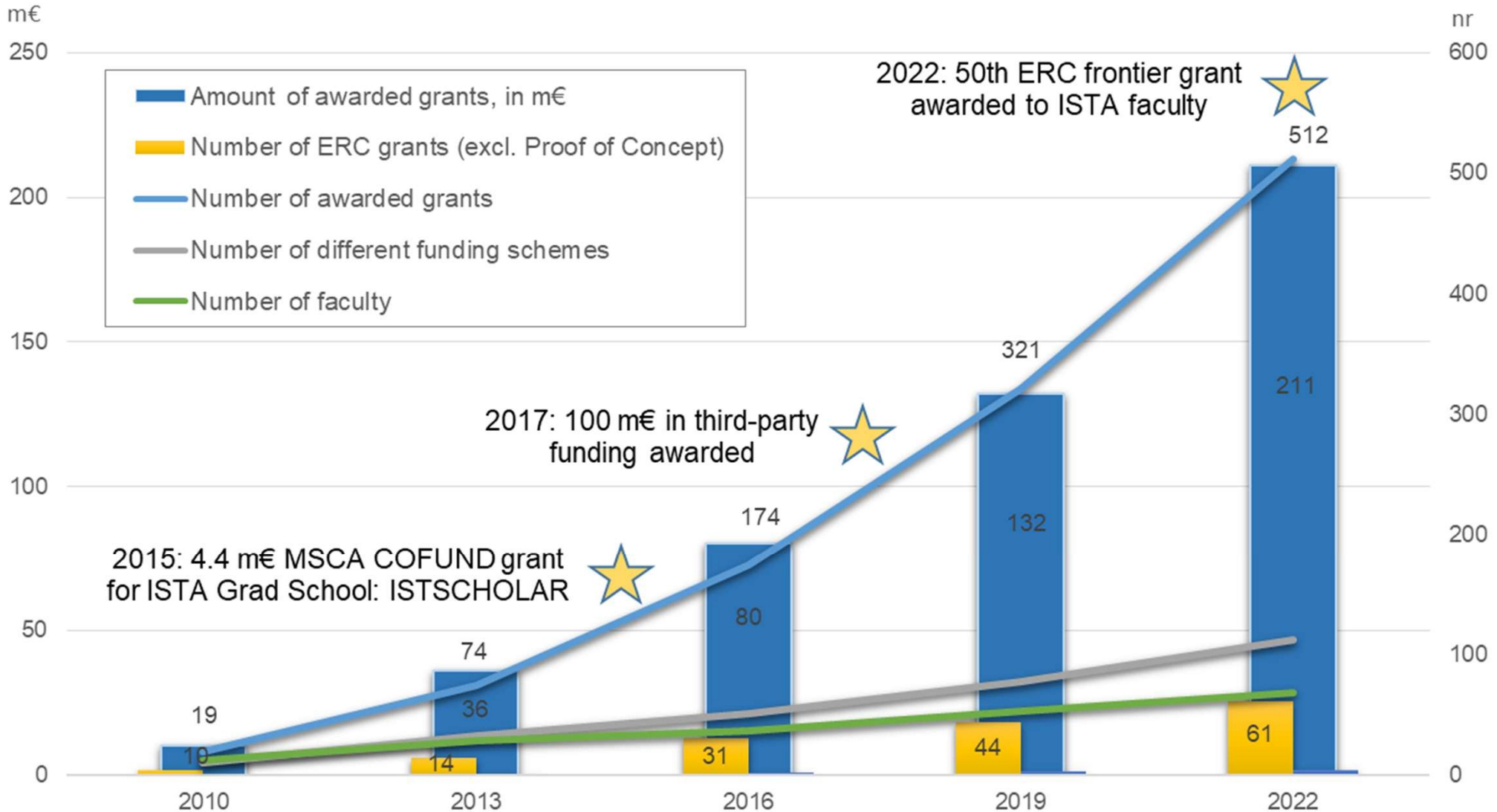
ERC/MSCA

~ 190 running grants in total; 24 running ERC grants

Total # ERC Grants (StG, CoG, AdG, SyG) awarded to professors under contract and hosted at ISTA: 64 (49 professors)

78% professors on campus have/had an ERC grant.
14 professors awarded 2 ERC grants. 1 professor awarded 3 ERC grants.

Total # ERC Grants (StG, CoG, AdG) transferred to ISTA: 15

ERC Grants success rate (total awarded / total applications): 48.1 %

In total 4 MSCA Co-fund grants (1 PhD and 3 PostDoc)

In total 23 MSCA Fellowships (IF/PF)

Application management

Pre-Award responsible for

- Eligibility: adherence to funder and internal rules: ethics, IPR, rules for employees

- Proposal feedback: structure, fit to program goals, completeness, internal templates

- Coordination: internal cost quotations and approvals/signatures, collaborating researchers/institutes, funding agency inquiries

- Submission: management of institutional profiles and registrations

Support available from initial idea to final submission → GO monitor timelines and remind of the requirements at each step

Communication

- **Targeted funding alerts**: incoming researchers; researchers reaching end of eligibility

- **Faculty candidates/new hires**: individualized information packages and consultations

- **Training**: 'Proposal Writing' (Graduate School); webinars and scheme specific workshops; info packages: 'templates & tips'

- **Reporting**: grant statistics – C&E/Exec Committee/Management

- **Funding diversification**: EU & national information events; scheme<>faculty matching

- ***Planned* Annual application reports**: summary for faculty of group's recent application history + upcoming funding opportunities for group members

Project management

Post-Award responsible for:

- Project start (SAP set up, contract negotiations)

- Project life-time (allocations of personnel, project timesheets, project controlling, financial reportings – personal costs, audits)

- Project end (rebookings, SAP project close)

- Project extensions and project transfers

Constant and immediate support to scientists

Reports, internal processes

Reports to IST and Ministry

- Management reports

- Quarterly reports to professors – financial overview of grants

- Matching report, Other 3rd party fund reports to the Ministry

Internal process management

- Internal process guidelines, maintenance of databases

- Funding agency specific guidelines

- Managing timesheet process

- Organizing internal workshops for scientists/administration

- Following development of funding policy/rules

- Participating in trainings/webinars, networking

Post-Award Tasks
Interface with other departments

- **Finance**: project accruals, rebookings, cash-in forecast, GO part of year-end close, internal charges, procurement

- **HR**: time recording system, check employment contracts for audits, split of salary paid from grant, contract particularities

- **Assistants to professors**: close cooperation regarding signatures, bookings, travels

- **Graduate School Office and Post-Doctoral Office**: informed about new PDs and PhDs with possible allocations on the grant

- **Library**: Rules on Open Access and Data Management Plan

- **ISTA Ethics Officer**: consultation on ethical issues

- **Tech Transfer Office**: consultation on IPR issues, collaborative projects

- **Legal Unit**: non-standard contracts/agreements

Thank you
Questions?

Grant Office