



Best Practices: Examples of Institutional Support at Charles University

AUTHORS

JIROUDKOVÁ Adéla, SYROVÁTKOVÁ Veronika
+ ChatGPT4.0

INTRODUCTION

Charles University has implemented various strategies to support researchers in securing prestigious grants, such as those from the **European Research Council** (ERC). This poster presents the institutional support systems available to assist researchers from the application stage through to project completion.

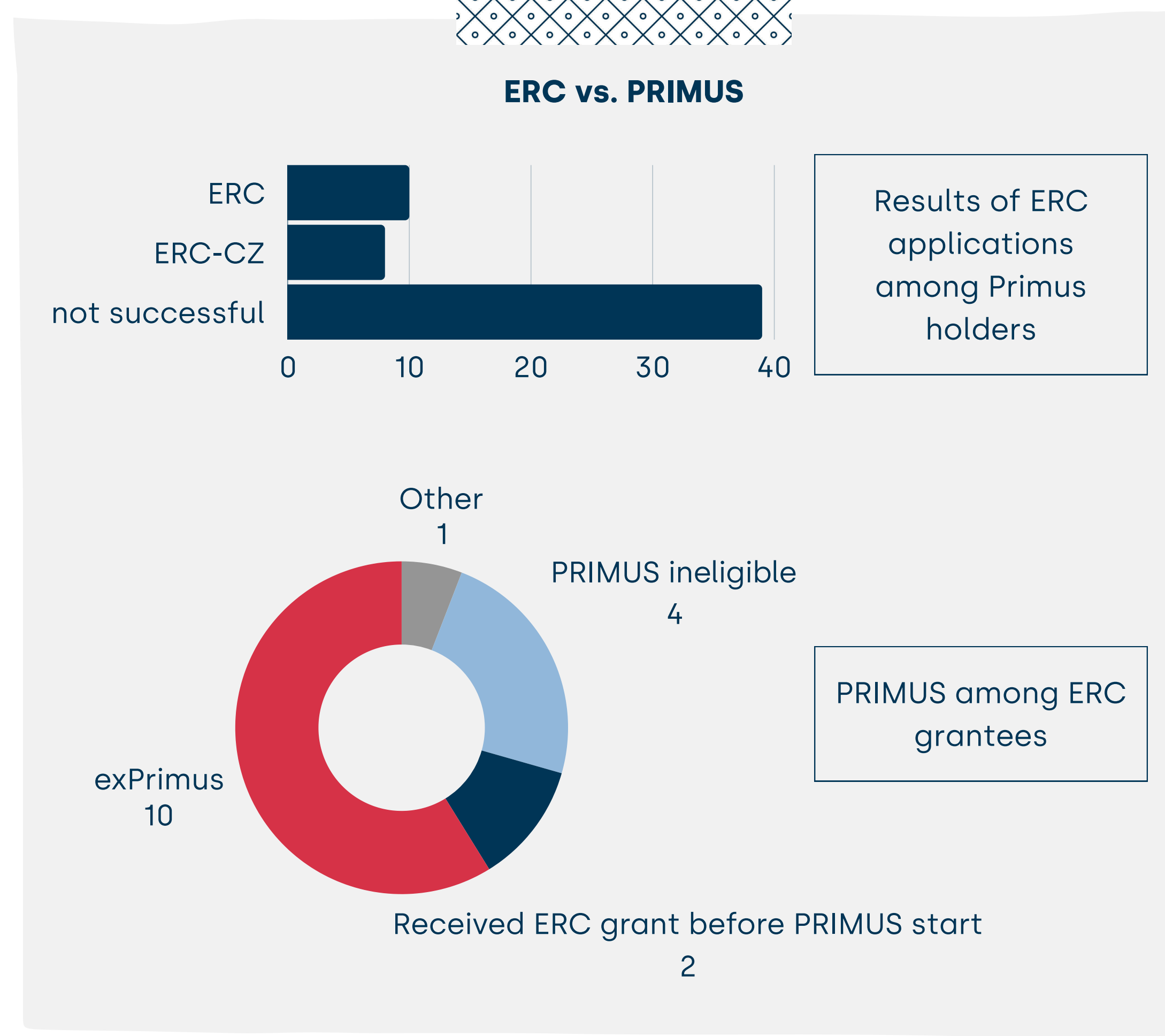
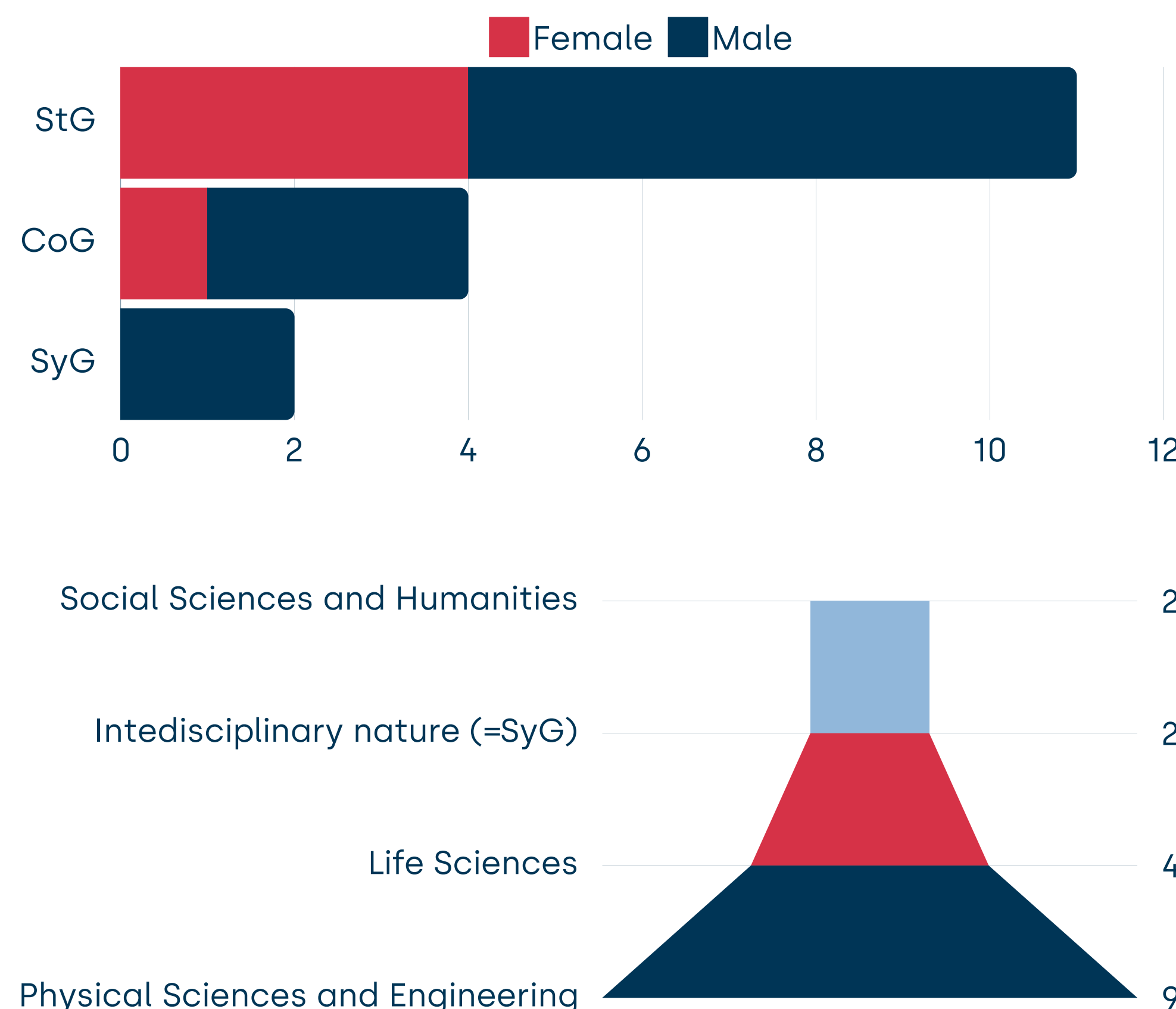
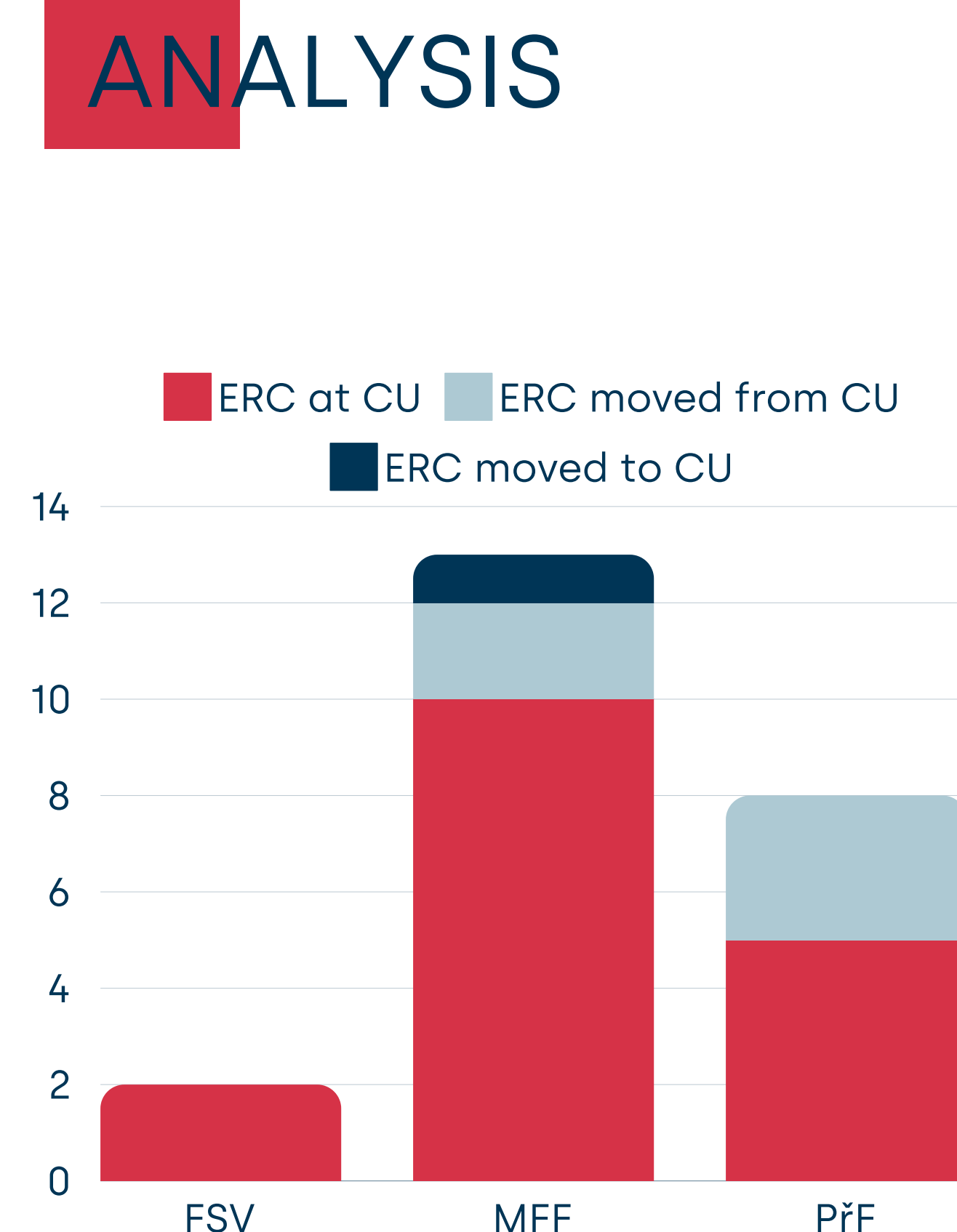
OBJECTIVE

To outline the supportive mechanisms at Charles University for researchers pursuing ERC and to pinpoint areas for improvement in institutional support to elevate research capabilities and grant success rates even further.

KEY SUPPORT

- **PRIMUS Program** is a start-up grant offers financial support to young researchers to establish their new research groups and labs. Up to CZK 3 million annually for 3-5 years.
- **CHARLESTON Program** - our MSCA COFUND program - aims to attract postdoctoral fellows with international experience for research internships at CU. The plan is to support 20 postdocs for 2.5-year fellowships, with research topics chosen through a bottom-up approach.
- **ERC Pipeline** identifying and engaging potential Principal Investigators 2-3 years before grant submission. This includes tracking Start-up grantees and faculty members with potential.
- **Pre-Award Support:** Centralized administrative support for proposal development, including consultations, project proposal reviews, feedback, and financial awards for top-quality ERC project submissions.
- **Post-Award Support:** Decentralized support managed by the faculties.
- **Informative Documents:** Brochures, leaflets and guides, such as "How to Write a Strong ERC Proposal" available on our website.

ANALYSIS



RESULTS/FINDINGS

- **ERC Faculty Pipeline:** Faculties should take more responsibility for providing pre-award and post-award support and creating a supportive environment for researchers.
- **Gender Disbalance:** Only one-third of ERC grantees are women.
- **Program Outcomes:** The Primus program has successfully established new research groups and attracted international talent. All of the ERC grantees - who were Primus eligible (10) - came from that program.
- **Career Guidance:** Enhancement of career guidance for PhD students and postdocs.
- **Proposal Evaluation Analysis:** Detailed analysis of Evaluation Summary Reports to identify strengths and weaknesses in grant proposals to boost the success rate.

CONCLUSION

Charles University has significantly improved its research capabilities through its strong support for ERC grant applications. Notable accomplishments include the creation of an efficient ERC pipeline and specialized programs such as Primus and CHARLESTON.

To further enhance support for researchers and increase grant success rates, we must boost faculty involvement, provide better project support, career guidance, and create a supportive environment within the faculty.