

# ***Challenges of Higher Education in Serbia***

**Dr Ana Jakovljević**

*Secretary General of the Conference of Universities of Serbia – CONUS*

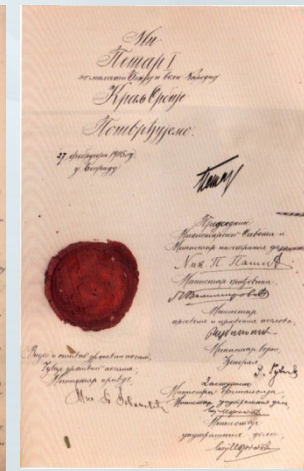
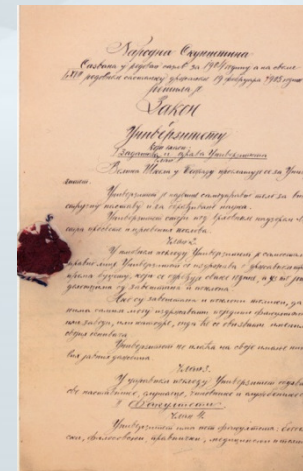
# Presentation outline

- HE in the Republic of Serbia
- Current challenges

# Historical Overview



- 1808 – 1813. Great School in Belgrade
- 1838 – 1841. Lyceum in Kragujevac
- 1841 – 1863. Lyceum in Belgrade
- 1863 – 1905. Great School
- 1905 University Law (Univ. Belgrade)
- 1960 Establishment of other universities (Novi Sad, Niš...)



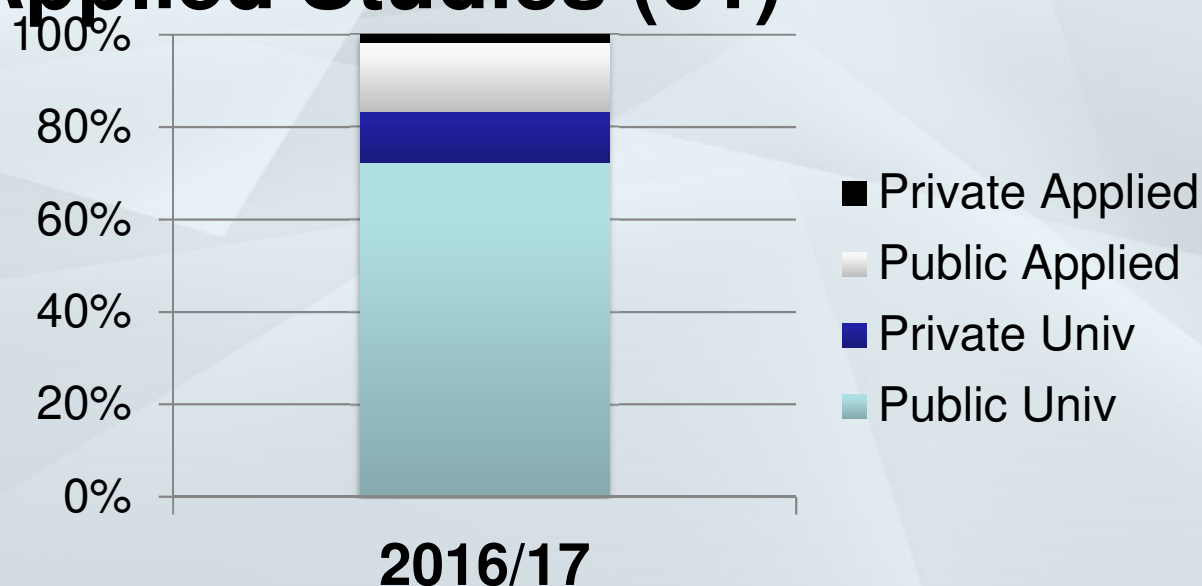
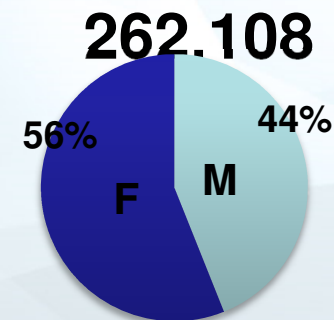
# HEI in Serbia

- **Universities (17)**

- 8 Public
- 9 Private

- **Schools of Applied Studies (61)**

- 48 Public
- 13 Private



# Legal framework

- Bologna Declaration – signed in 2003 (Berlin)
- Law on Higher Education
  - enacted in 2005 – Bologna principles
    - Three cycle system
    - Mobility
    - Quality control
- 2017 Law on Higher Education



# HE Bodies in Serbia

- Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development
- National Council for Higher Education (NCHE)
- Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (CAQA) (Member of ENQA from 2013, and EQAR from 2014) – Now National Accreditation Body – certificate for accreditation
  - MESTD – work permit
- Conference of Universities of Serbia (CONUS)
- Conference of Academies of Applied Studies (CAAS)
- Student Conference of Universities
- Student Conference of Academies of Applied Studies

# New Law on Higher Education (2017):

- Strengthening third mission of universities
- Introduction of short-cycle and part-time studies
- Strengthening the cooperation with industry - Council of Employers
- New category of teaching staff – top business experts
- Higher governmental control and less institutional autonomy

# Challenges

- National
  - University autonomy
  - Financing of public universities
- International
  - Participation in the EU research programmes
  - Serbia in the European Education Area



# National challenges

- CONUS representatives in the National Council for HE and National Accreditation Body
  - Decrease in the NCHE (from 12 to 6)
  - CAQA members are no longer nominated by the CONUS
- National council elected by the Government instead of the Parliament
- Increased number of the government representatives in the Council of Public HEI
- Ban on recruitment of public employees in Serbia – affecting university administrative staff

# University Autonomy in Europe

## The Scorecard 2017

### 29 Countries

## Serbia


The country is included for the first time in the Autonomy Scorecard in the 2016 update.

Recent developments:

- Ban on recruitment of public employees in Serbia, affecting university administrative staff

→ continue reading

 **26th**  
in Organisational

 **23rd**  
in Financial

 **20th**  
in Staffing

 **23rd**  
in Academic

Cluster

High

Medium

Medium

Low

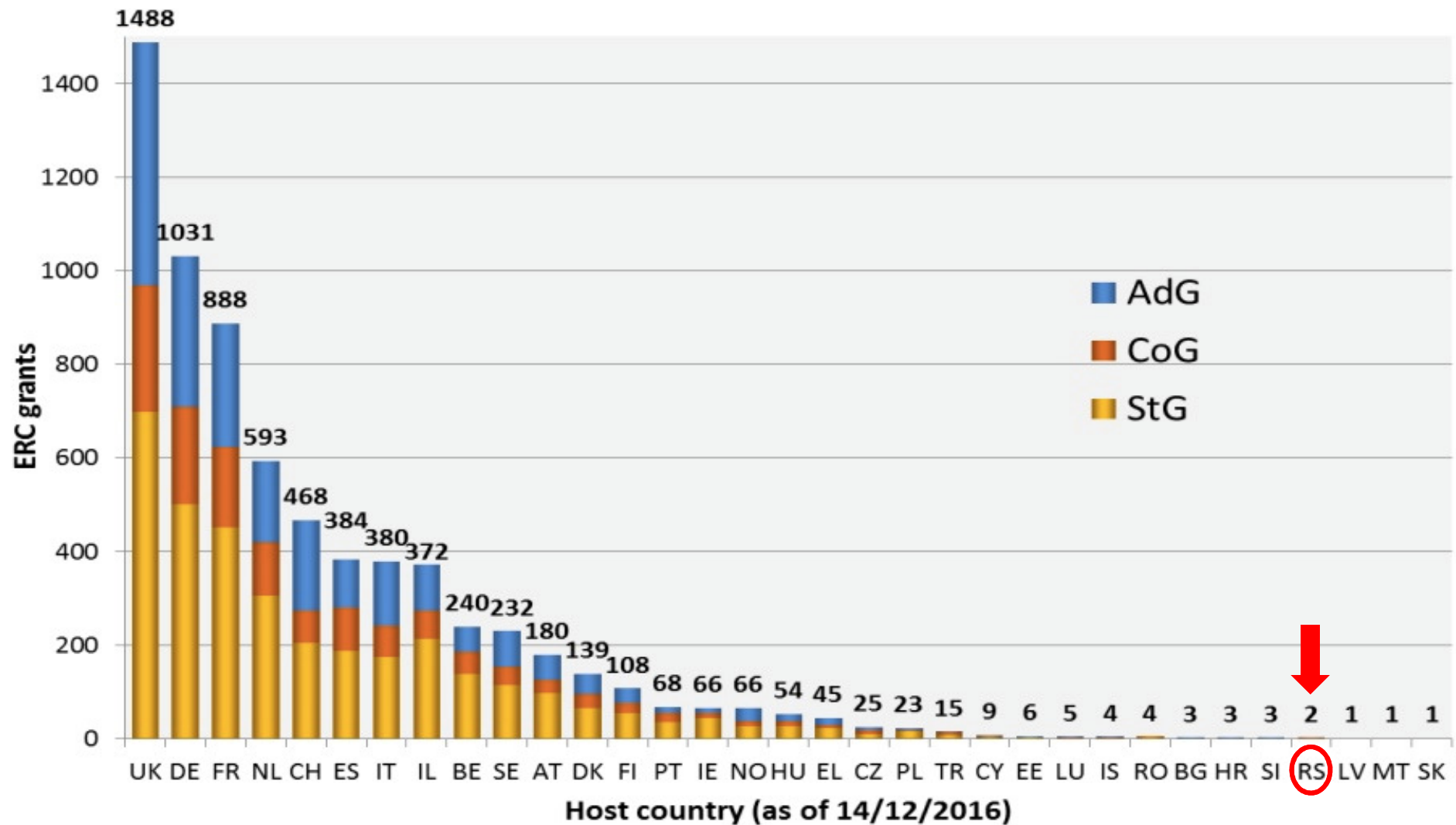
# National challenges

- **Financing of public universities:**
  - Current: number of students
  - Performance based criteria?
    - End of 2018?
  - HE: expense or investment?

# International challenges

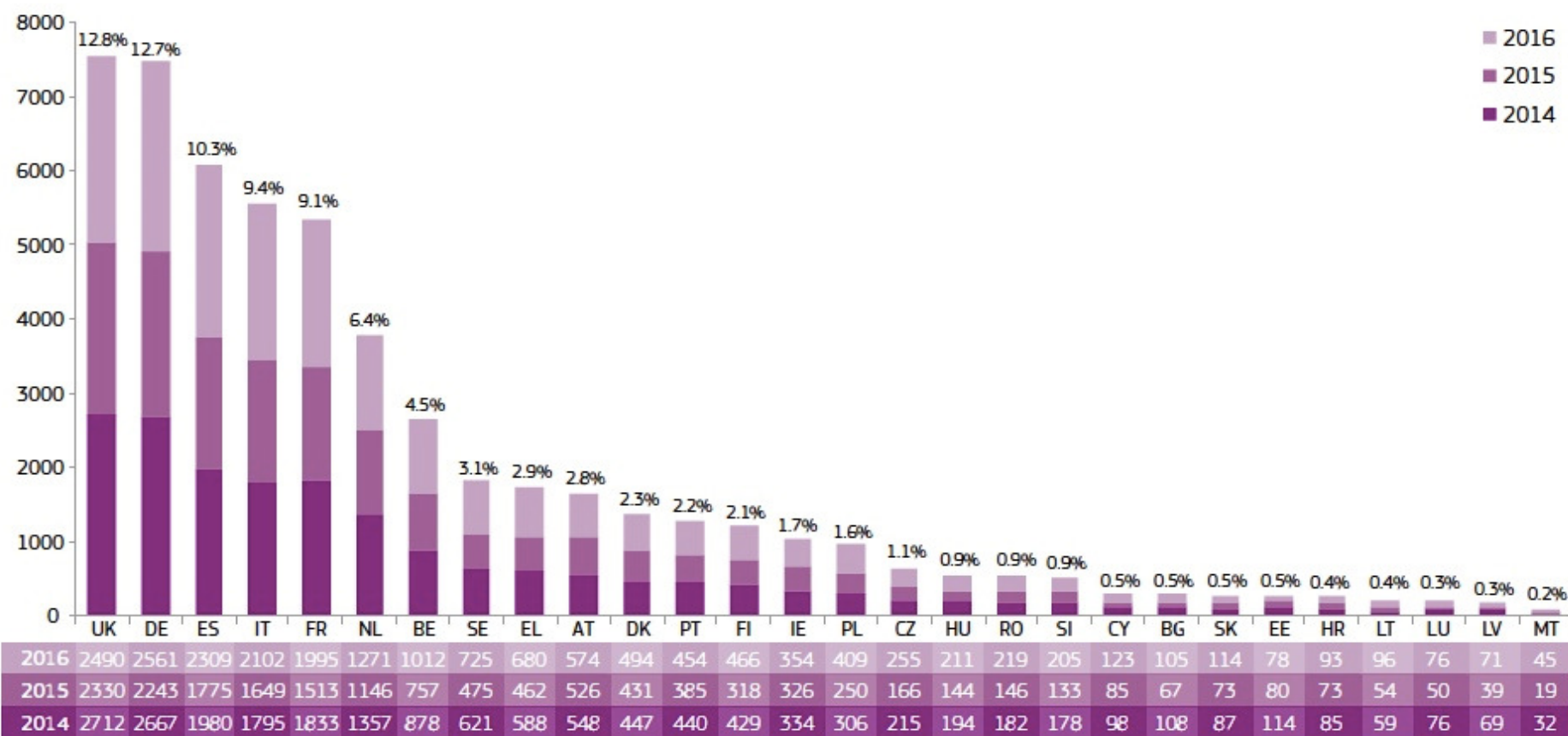
- **Participation in the EU research programmes:**
  - ERC and Horizon 2020

# ERC



# Horizon 2020

**FIGURE 16:** Number of participations to Horizon 2020 per Member State, 2014-2016, and share of total Horizon 2020 participations

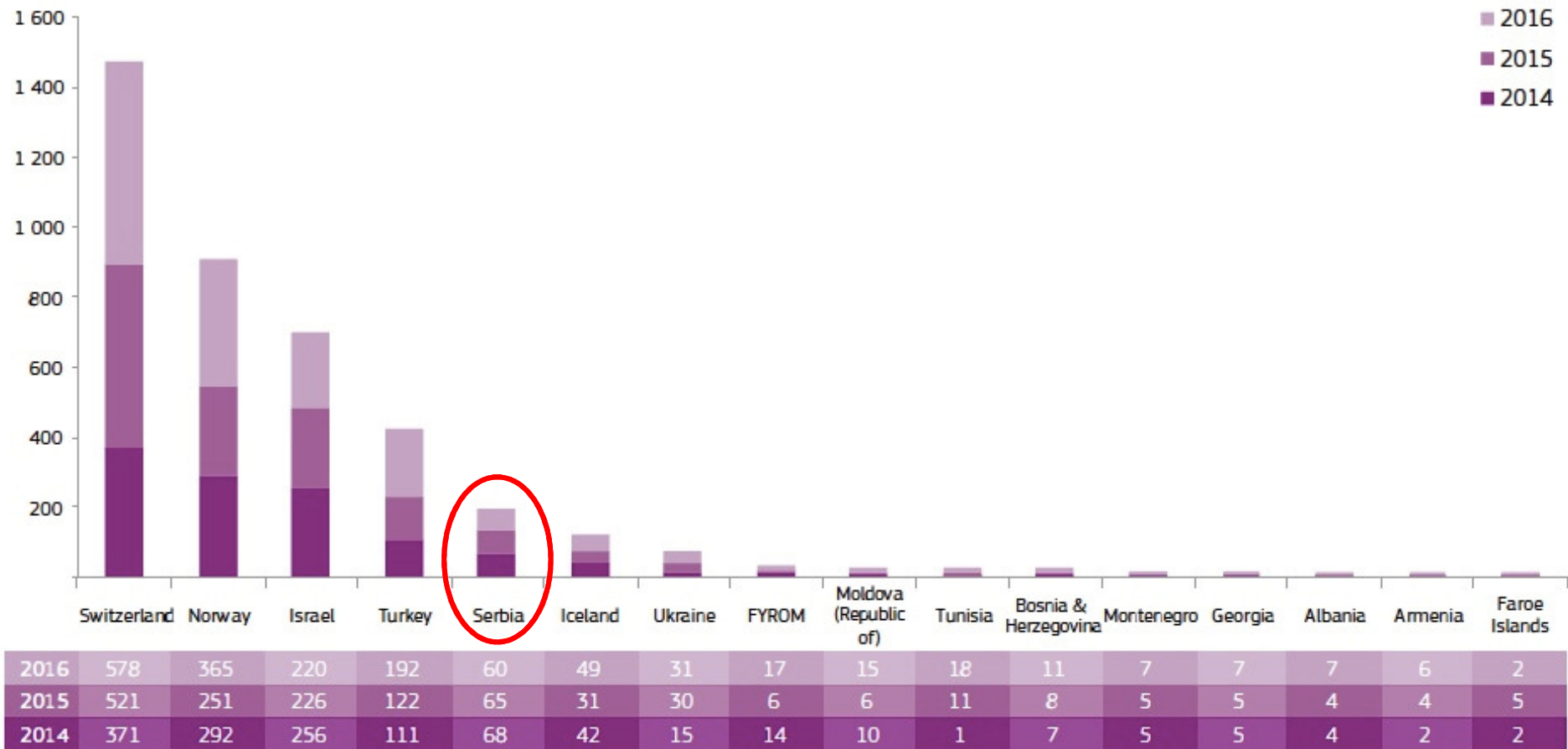


Source: Corda, calls in 2014, 2015 and 2016, Signed Grants cut-off date by 1/09/2017 (including grants to named beneficiaries)



# Horizon 2020

**FIGURE 19:** Number of participations in Horizon 2020 per Associated Country, 2014-2016



Source: Corda, calls in 2014, 2015 and 2016, Signed Grants cut-off date by 1/09/2017 (including grants to named beneficiaries)

# International challenges

- **Participation in the EU research programmes:**
  - Many challenges:
    - hourly rate in Horizon 2020

# Horizon 2020 - AGA

## TOTAL REMUNERATION

Basic remuneration

Basic  
Salary



COMPLEMENTS

Hourly rate



Additional remuneration



OTHER BONUS

**Additional remuneration**  
(**'bonus payments'**) are  
eligible only for non-profit  
legal entities

# International challenges

- **Participation in the EU research programmes:**

- Many challenges:
  - hourly rate in Horizon 2020
- Changes in the FP9 rules?
  - Networks: EUA, LERU, UNIQA...

# International challenges

- **Serbia in the European Education Area:**
  - Macron - “at least 20 European Universities” offering students the chance to “study abroad and take classes in at least two different languages”
  - Under discussion
  - Networks of existing universities
  - Serbia?

# Adaptability and survival

*“It is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is able to **adapt** to and to adjust best to the changing environment in which it finds itself”*

**Charles Darwin**