

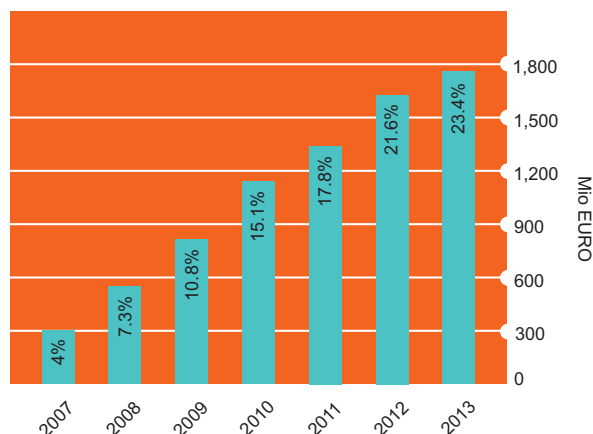
Electronic Application

ERC grant applications can be submitted only in response to a 'call for proposals' via the web-based Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS). Calls are published on the ERC website, the Participant Portal and in the Official Journal of the European Union. Deadlines for the submission of ERC grant applications are specified in each 'call for proposals'.

Annual Calls for Proposals

Calls for proposals for the ERC Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grant schemes are published annually. The total budget allocated to the ERC for the period 2007-2013 is EUR 7.51 bn. The call budgets have been gradually increased each year - from 2010 onwards the ERC has a total annual budget of over EUR 1 bn.

ERC Grant schemes: Annual Budget Distribution 2007-2013



International Peer Review Evaluation

ERC grant applications are evaluated solely on the basis of scientific excellence, which is examined on two distinct aspects of the research proposal:

- > the principal investigator
- > the research project

To guarantee transparency, fairness and impartiality in the treatment of proposals, grant applications are selected following an international peer review evaluation process based on 25 panels covering all fields of science, engineering and scholarship.



Further information and services

Detailed information on the ERC Grant schemes and the application procedures is provided in the Grant Schemes Guides for Applicants, on the ERC website.

- > **Starting Grants at:**
http://erc.europa.eu/guide_StG
- > **Advanced Grants at:**
http://erc.europa.eu/guide_AdG
- > **Consolidator Grants at:**
http://erc.europa.eu/guide_CoG
- > **Synergy Grant at:**
http://erc.europa.eu/guide_SyG

ERC Calls for Proposals

Available on the ERC website at:
<http://erc.europa.eu/callforproposals>

ERC National Contact Points

National Contact Points (NCPs) have been set up across Europe by the national governments to provide information and personalised support to applicants in their native language. The list of NCPs can be found at:

<http://erc.europa.eu/ncp>

ERC Quarterly Newsletter «IDEAS»

Keeps you informed about the ERC: its activities, its presence at events worldwide, and its grantees and their research.

To subscribe to the newsletter register at:
<http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc>

Specific section on the ERC website for non-EU researchers:
<http://erc.europa.eu/non-european-researchers>

General features of ERC grants

Attractive long-term funding grants are managed according to simple procedures that combine flexibility with accountability.

All fields of research are eligible. No thematic or policy-driven research priorities need to be covered.

Principal investigators and their research team are supported. No trans-national partnerships. No co-financing nor consortia are required.

Scientific excellence is the sole evaluation criterion; no other considerations affect evaluation and funding decisions.

Proposal submitted only electronically via EPSS in response to calls for proposals. No paper or other transmission of proposals is accepted.



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The European Research Council



ERC Grant Schemes



BRINGING GREAT **IDEAS** TO LIFE
<http://erc.europa.eu>



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

The ERC funding strategy

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first European funding body designed to support investigator-driven frontier research through open and direct competition. Its main aim is to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by supporting and encouraging the very best, truly creative researchers of any nationality and age, located anywhere in the world, to identify and explore new opportunities and directions in any field of research. Proposals addressing new or emerging fields or introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions are encouraged. The ERC offers long-term grants, operating on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined research priorities:

> ERC Starting Grants

Support the independent careers of outstanding researchers of any nationality, who are at the stage of establishing their first research teams or programmes.

> ERC Consolidator Grants

Support outstanding researchers, of any nationality, who are at the stage of consolidating their independent research teams or programmes.

> ERC Advanced Grants

Support outstanding established research leaders, of any nationality, to pursue ground breaking, high risk research.

> ERC Synergy Grants

Support small groups of outstanding researchers, of any nationality, collaborating on a complex scientific problem at the frontiers of knowledge.

Applications for ERC grants should be submitted by individual researchers (Principal Investigators or PIs) and must be supported by a host organisation that is, or will be, engaging the PI for the duration of the grant.

The ERC Starting Grant

Support the independent careers of outstanding early career researchers of any nationality who have:

- > 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD when the call for proposals is published
- > a scientific track record showing great promise
- > a ground-breaking research proposal
- > a host organisation based in an EU Member State (1), an Associated Country (2), or an International European Interest Organisation (3)
- > funding per grant: up to EUR 2.0 Mio.
- > duration: up to 5 years
- > calls for proposals: published annually in the summer with deadlines in the autumn
- > evaluation criteria: scientific excellence

Europe currently offers insufficient opportunities for young investigators to develop independent careers and make the transition from working under a supervisor to being independent researchers in their own right. This structural problem leads to a loss of research talent. It also limits the emergence of the next generation of research leaders in Europe.

ERC Starting Grants aim to support up-and-coming researchers who are about to establish their own research team or programme in Europe. The scheme targets independent and excellent new individual research teams.

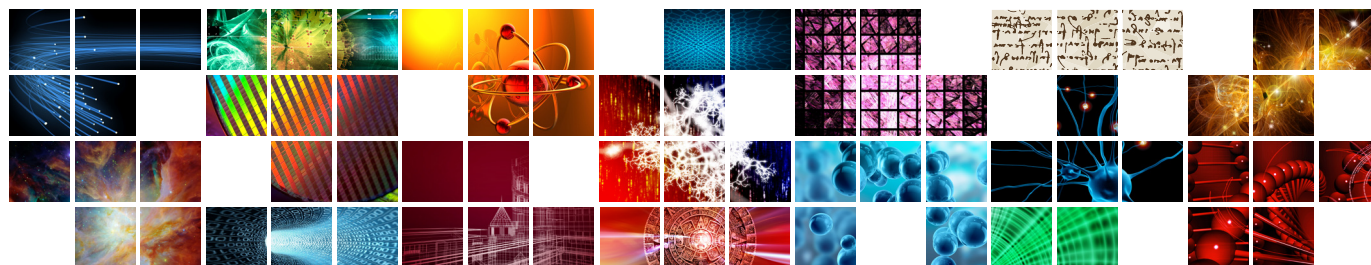
The ERC Advanced Grant

Support outstanding established research leaders of any nationality who have:

- > an exceptional scientific leadership profile
- > an excellent and recognised scientific track record
- > a ground-breaking research proposal
- > a host organisation based in an EU Member State (1), an Associated Country (2) or an International European Interest Organisation (3)
- > funding per grant: up to EUR 3.5 Mio.
- > duration: up to 5 years
- > calls for proposals: published annually in the summer with deadlines in the autumn
- > evaluation criteria: scientific excellence

The ERC Advanced Grant scheme provide an opportunity to established, innovative and active scientists and scholars to pursue ground-breaking, high-risk research that opens new directions in any field of their choice .

Applicants for the ERC Advanced Grant are expected to be active researchers who have a track record of significant achievements appropriate to their field(s) of research in the last ten years.



1 Member States

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

2 Associated Countries

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Faroe Islands, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey.

3 International European Interest Organisation

A definition of an International European Interest Organisation is available at: <http://erc.europa.eu/faq>