



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Highlight:

European Research Council gathers in Strasbourg, France

1 June 2015

The European Research Council (ERC) is today starting its three-day visit to Strasbourg. Invited by the University of Strasbourg, it is the first time that the ERC Scientific Council is holding a plenary meeting in France. It will also be an opportunity to engage with the research community in this region.

In addition to this plenary meeting, the visit (1-3 June) will be a chance for the members of the ERC's governing body to meet with cross-regional and local stakeholders. An event for researchers focused on ERC will also take place.

On this occasion, ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon commented: *"I am delighted to be in Strasbourg together with the ERC Scientific Council to engage with the very active local and regional research community and with policy makers. I'd like to thank the University of Strasbourg and in particular its President, Alain Beretz, for their hospitality."* He added: *"France has fared well in the ERC competitions, which shows that it has a strong research base with a great deal of scientific talent eager to develop bright and ambitious ideas. Applicants having a host institution in France have consistently one of the highest success rates in the ERC calls."*

President of the University of Strasbourg and Chairman of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) Prof. Alain Beretz welcomes the fact that this meeting is taking place following the announcement that the European budgets of the ERC and of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions will not be affected by the implementation of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI). *"French research universities and LERU are particularly pleased with that announcement"*, he said. (See also ERC President's statement on this.)

The information event for researchers interested in applying for ERC funding will take place on 3 June from 14.00 to 17.00 at University of Strasbourg. During the session, the ERC delegation will meet the research community from the Upper Rhine region in France and Germany to explain the attractive ERC funding opportunities. ERC grant holders will also be in attendance to share their experience.

Background

Set up by the European Union in 2007, the **European Research Council** is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. The ERC every year selects and funds the very best individual scientists to run five-year projects in Europe. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe.

Operating according to an "investigator-driven" (or "bottom-up") approach, the ERC allows its grant holders to identify new opportunities in any field of research, without thematic priorities. Also, the ERC is changing the scientific landscape in Europe as several countries are reforming their funding agencies or policies on the basis of the ERC approach.



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To date, the ERC has funded some 5,000 top researchers at various stages of their careers. The applications are evaluated and selected after a peer-review process every year involving hundreds of renowned scientists coming from all over the world. Scientific excellence is the only selection criterion.

More than 30,000 articles featuring ERC projects have been published to date in international scientific journals.

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council. It is composed of 22 distinguished scientists and scholars, who define the scientific funding strategy and methodologies, and act on behalf of the scientific community to promote creativity and innovative research in Europe. Since January 2014, the ERC President is Frenchman Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion for 2014 – 2020 and is part of the EU research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, for which European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Carlos Moedas is responsible.

Links

[ERC website](#)

[University of Strasbourg website](#)

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