



European Research Council

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Highlight

ERC conference on Frontier Research and Science Diplomacy

26 October 2016

In a world where many global and regional challenges cannot be addressed by a single country, science becomes an important driver of international cooperation. The European Research Council (ERC) will shed light on the intersection of science and international relations in its two-day conference "Frontier Research and Science Diplomacy" in Brussels from 27 to 28 October.

Political representatives from the EU, the UN, UNESCO, including European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation **Carlos Moedas**, ERC President Professor **Jean-Pierre Bourguignon**, as well as ERC-funded top scholars will share their insights in the thriving field of science diplomacy. They will present how science can address topics such as security, sustainable development and health on a global scale. By engaging with their counterparts in sharing experience and resources, researchers greatly contribute to exchange and understanding across nations and cultures.

ERC grantees include Mary Kaldor, who contributes to the European security strategy of the EU High Representative Frederica Mogherini, Eyal Benevenisti, an expert on diplomacy, law and global interdependence who will speak about how diplomacy is changing; Graeme Barker, an archaeologist working in Northern Africa and Middle East, will share his experience of on-site access in conflict zones, and many more.

Follow the conference LIVE through webstreaming (subsequently available):

[Webcast of the conference 27 October](#)

[Webcast of the conference 28 October](#)

Background

The European Research Council, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based in Europe. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, the ERC has funded over 6,500 top researchers at various stages of their careers.

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.



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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.

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council. Since January 2014, the ERC President is 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

[Conference programme](#)

[Webcast of the conference 27 October](#)

[Webcast of the conference 28 October](#)

[ERC website](#)

ERC Press contacts

Madeleine Drielsma
Press and Communication advisor
+32 (0) 2 298 76 31
ERC-press@ec.europa.eu

Marcin Mońko
Press and Communication advisor
+32 (0) 2 296 66 44
ERC-press@ec.europa.eu