



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

## **ERC Highlight:**

### **ERC at ESOF2014: rendezvous with first-class science**

20 June 2014

**The European Research Council (ERC) is for the fourth time taking part in the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF); now with a stronger delegation than ever before, headed by ERC President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. Under the theme 'Science Building Bridges', over 40 ERC grant winners will present their cutting-edge research. ESOF2014, which will showcase the latest advances in science, kicks off tomorrow in Copenhagen, Denmark.**

On the eve of the event, ERC President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, who will speak in a [plenary session](#), said: *"ESOF is a wonderful platform to bring science to a wider audience. I am glad that this year so many ERC grant holders can contribute to this effort and feed the forum with exciting discussions on high-level science. It is a privilege for the ERC to contribute to Europe's rich scientific heritage with stimulating new ideas".*

Three ERC Scientific Council members - ESOF2014 Champion [Prof. Klaus Bock](#), [Prof. Nils Chr. Stenseth](#) and [Prof. Isabelle Vernos](#) - will also fuel the debate at the event.

The ERC grant winners will showcase their inspiring projects that push the frontiers of knowledge in a wide array of scientific fields; from calculating the impact of environmental changes, and creating an "ecosystems accounting", to developing new natural resources management, and fighting against obesity. The scientists will also explain e.g. how the Earth became the only habitable planet in our solar system, how to handle the risk of epidemics in a global world, or how research on cities can improve our understanding of urban social systems. (Read about some of these [ERC-funded projects](#) and watch [videos](#) with grantees – to view, click on 'Projects' tab.)

Some 4,500 participants are expected at ESOF, Europe's largest general science event. Nobel laureates, including ERC grantees Prof. Ada Yonath (2009 Nobel Prize for Chemistry) and Prof. Serge Haroche (2012 Nobel Prize for Physics), research leaders and innovators will be present, as will policy-makers, such as European Commission President José Manuel Barroso and EU Commissioner for Research and Innovation Máire Geoghegan-Quinn. This year's edition will put the spotlight on building bridges between science and society, and, in particular, engaging young people with science and innovation topics.

See full [ERC programme](#).

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### **PRESS POINT: Q&A with the ERC President**

**Tuesday, 24 June, 15:00–15:30** (Press Briefing Room, TAP1, Ny Carlsberg Vej 91)

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, ERC President since January this year, will share his views on the ERC. ESOF2014 Champion Prof. Klaus Bock, Danish ERC Scientific Council member, will highlight the Danish perspective. Several of the ERC researchers, including Danish grant winners, will attend this press point.

After this, the ERC delegation is available for **one-to-one interviews** at **15.30-16.15** (TAP1 Meeting Room B7 Room 2), and throughout ESOF2014.



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## Background

Set up in 2007 by the EU, the **European Research Council (ERC)** is the first pan-European funding organisation for frontier research. It aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by encouraging competition for funding between the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe.

From 2007 to 2013 under the seventh EU Research Framework Programme (FP7), the ERC's budget was €7.5 billion. Under the new Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020, the ERC has a substantially increased budget of over €13 billion. Since its launch, the ERC has selected over 4,500 researchers for funding.

The ERC consists of an independent Scientific Council and an Executive Agency. The Scientific Council, the ERC's governing body, is composed of 22 distinguished scientists and scholars, including the ERC President. They define the scientific funding strategy and methodologies, and act on behalf of the scientific community in Europe to promote creativity and innovative research. Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon has been the ERC President since 1 January 2014. The ERC Executive Agency implements the ERC component of the EU Programme Horizon 2020 and is led by Director Pablo Amor.

## More information

[ERC website](#)

[ESOF website](#)

## ERC Press contacts

**Madeleine Drielsma** (*present in Copenhagen, 21-25 June 2014*)

Communication and Press Adviser

M +32 (0)498 984397

E [madeleine.drielsma@ec.europa.eu](mailto:madeleine.drielsma@ec.europa.eu)

**Maud Scelo**

Communication and Press Adviser

T +32 (0)2 29 81521

E [erc-press@ec.europa.eu](mailto:erc-press@ec.europa.eu)