



European Research Council

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Highlight

ERC sets guidelines for national and regional fellowships to visit ERC projects

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The ERC published today the [guidelines](#) for national or regional authorities and other organisations that wish to set up fellowship programmes to fund short-term visits of potential ERC applicants to current ERC grantees' teams. Countries eligible for hosting ERC grants may consider introducing such schemes to stimulate and help their researchers fare better in ERC grant competitions. The ERC welcomes such initiatives by facilitating and streamlining the process.

Professor Éva Kondorosi, Research Professor at the Biological Research Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Chair of the ERC Scientific Council's Working Group on Widening European Participation, said: *"We encourage such measures. The fellowship programmes can create win-win situations. They will offer prospective applicants for ERC grants an opportunity to see first-hand how ERC-funded research works in practice, while for the ERC grantees who will host the visitors they will be a chance to strengthen and diversify their teams. Overall, this can advance our goal to widen the European participation in ERC calls and use the full potential for frontier research across Europe."*

The guidelines recommend that fellowship programmes are notified to the ERC, are open to researchers of all disciplines, are based on transparent evaluation with scientific excellence as the main criterion and final selection based on applicants' potential to be awarded an ERC grant. The programmes should require the visitors to apply for an ERC grant within a specified time after the visit. Costs, such as travel and salary pertaining to these visits, should be covered by the scheme organisers.

The ERC will recognise the fellowship schemes that follow the guidelines, and will promote them among grantees, facilitating exchange of information between the grantees and scheme organisers.

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 creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run ambitious projects based in Europe. The ERC strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, the ERC has funded more than 5,000 top researchers at various stages of their careers.



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The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council, and, since January 2014, the ERC President is Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion for the years 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.

The ERC aims to contribute to an inclusive European culture of competitiveness in science. Its Working Group on Widening European Participation focuses on increasing the participation of researchers in ERC calls from all EU countries, including those less research-performing. The Working Group facilitates dialogue, exchange of experiences, networking and learning about good practice in supporting the researchers to successfully apply to the ERC.

More information

[ERC Scientific Council's Working Group on Widening European Participation](#)

[Fellowship to visit ERC grantee – ERC guidelines](#)

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