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Statement from ERC President Prof. Helga Nowotny regarding European Parliament vote on *Horizon 2020*

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The European Parliament has today approved *Horizon 2020*, the new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for 2014 to 2020. With a budget of nearly €80 billion, *Horizon 2020* will be a key component of Europe's strategy to create economic growth and to reinforce its global competitiveness. The European Research Council (ERC) will receive over €13 billion, around 17% of the total budget. This represents a substantial increase of the ERC budget compared to the previous seven-year programme. The ERC will be part of the first pillar of *Horizon 2020*, which is 'Excellent Science'.

On this occasion, ERC President Helga Nowotny commented: *"The ERC Scientific Council and I are delighted with this positive outcome of the European Parliament vote, which recognises the key role that excellent frontier research holds for Europe's future. After the long negotiations preceding Horizon 2020 and its budget, I interpret this as a vote of confidence for the ERC. This substantial budget increase over the coming seven years will allow the ERC to continue its mission – finding and funding the very best researchers with the most creative ideas – with renewed vigour. Europe needs to nurture its talent wherever it can be found. Funding frontier research in times of economic crisis will also boost confidence in Europe's ability to compete at a global level, and help it become ever more attractive to researchers coming from outside. Under Horizon 2020, the ERC will continue to promote excellence in science and fund research that often leads to vital, but unpredictable, breakthroughs with important benefits for European citizens. The main challenges for the years to come will be to preserve the quality of the evaluation and of the panels, as well as to start thinking about interactions with national funding agencies."*

The Council of the European Union, which represents the EU Member States, will adopt *Horizon 2020* in early December, before it comes into force on 1 January 2014. The European Commission recently published the first draft work programmes and calls for proposals under *Horizon 2020*.

When launched, it will be the biggest research programme in the world and the third largest EU programme, after funding for agriculture and structural funds. *Horizon 2020* will take over after the EU's seventh Framework Programme for research (2007-2013).

Links

[More information on Horizon 2020](#)

[ERC website](#)

[ERC work programme 2014](#)



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ERC Press contacts

Madeleine DRIELSMA
Press and Communication advisor
Phone: +32 (0) 2 298 76 31
(Mobile: +32 (0) 498 98 43 97)
ERC-press@ec.europa.eu

Maud SCELO
Press and Communication advisor
Phone: +32 (0) 2 298 15 21
(Mobile: +32 (0) 460 752 466)
ERC-press@ec.europa.eu