



European Research Council

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### **Highlight:**

#### **"Summer Davos" forum, China: European Research Council debates innovation with leading young talent**

10 September 2014

**The European Research Council (ERC) takes part in the Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Tianjin, China from 10 to 12 September to discuss how innovation can create better value for all. ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon and the Chair of the ERC Working Group on Innovation and Relations with Industry, Prof. Sierd Cloetingh, will represent the ERC, alongside eleven ERC grant winners who will showcase their ground-breaking research. Dubbed 'Summer Davos', this World Economic Forum meeting provides a platform for young researchers, pioneers and entrepreneurs to engage with global leaders from industry, politics and science.**

ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, commented: *"The overall theme of this year's Annual Meeting of the New Champions – "Creating Value through Innovation" – resonates with the ERC's mission to fund ambitious projects proposed by researchers with an open mind for long-term innovation. This is crucial, as innovation - a decisive driver of economic growth - is boosted by high-risk, high-gain research at the frontier of knowledge".*

He added: *"The meeting certainly strikes another chord with the ERC as it focuses on young talent. The ERC gives high priority to younger scientists to let them acquire independence in their work and fully develop their potential at an early career stage. Giving them the means and freedom to follow their curiosity is key for spurring scientific breakthroughs from which, when appropriately dealt with, innovation can spring."*

The 'Summer Davos' meeting is a major global gathering on innovation and entrepreneurship, with over 1,500 attendees annually. It brings together global leaders to interact with the "New Champions", who include the next generation of social and business front-runners, technology pioneers and promising scientists.

In this year's edition, ERC President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon has been selected as one out of eight mentors; all prominent figures from the world of science and business to lead discussions on the global agenda and to share their experience with the generation of upcoming leaders. A mentors' press conference, with participation of Prof. Bourguignon, will take place on Wednesday 10 September (for details, see the programme below).

An **ERC press conference** will be held on 10 September at 09:00-09:30 (more details below). In addition, the ERC delegation will actively participate in the forum, with Prof. Bourguignon and Prof. Cloetingh speaking at two sessions on commercialising scientific results. Four grant winners Dr Aikaterina Fotopoulou, Dr Antoine Jerusalem, Prof. Morten Overgaard and Prof.



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Panayiota Poirazi will also speak at the ERC *Ideas Lab* session on Wednesday 10 September addressing the question of how breakthroughs in brain research are transforming the future of health.

In total, the ERC speakers will participate in ten public sessions. All eleven ERC grant winners present have been selected by the World Economic Forum for the Young Scientists Programme, which gathers exceptional researchers from around the world who have produced ground-breaking work.

Read more about two of the ERC grantees attending the meeting:

- [Dr Aikaterina Fotopoulou](#)
- [Dr Suchitra Sebastian](#)

### **ERC at the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2014:**

***ERC Press conference:***

***"The European Research Council – Creating value through science"***

#### **10 September**

09.00-09.30 (Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Center, press room)

Speakers: ERC President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, ERC Scientific Council member Sierd Cloetingh, ERC grantees Aikaterina Fotopoulou. Other ERC grantees will also be present.

**Main sessions with ERC participation:**

#### **10 September**

10:15-11:30: "Ideas Lab with the ERC" - ERC grantees A. Fotopoulou, A. Jerusalem, M. Overgaard and P. Poirazi

10:30-11:30: "Tomorrow's Consumer Technology" – ERC grantee S. Subramanian,

14:00-14:30: Mentors press conference – President J-P Bourguignon participates

14:00-15:00: "Ancient Remedies for Modern Ailments" - ERC grantee A. Fotopoulou

#### **11 September**

09:00-11:00: "New Business Models for Science" – ERC Scientific Council member S. Cloetingh

09:00-09:45: "Creative Spark: How to boost confidence" - ERC grantee M. Overgaard

9:00 – 9:45: "Discover! Quantum Technology" - ERC grantees S. Sebastian and Ch. Stampfer

10:15-11:00: "Discover! New Materials" - ERC grantee M. Moram

11:30-12:30 "New Champions Plenary: Creating value through innovation"

14:00-14:45: "Turning Science into Business" – President J-P Bourguignon

17:15-18:15: "The Global Science Outlook" – President J-P Bourguignon

#### **12 September**

10:30-11:15: "Creative Spark: How to embrace experimentation" - ERC grantee P. Poirazi

See also: detailed [ERC programme](#) and ERC speakers' [biographies](#).



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### **Note to the editors**

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.

Since its launch, the ERC has supported some 4,500 top researchers and has radically changed Europe's research landscape. Under the new EU research and innovation programme *Horizon 2020*, the ERC has a substantially increased budget of over €13 billion from 2014 to 2020.

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 who define the scientific funding strategy and methodologies, and act on behalf of the scientific community to promote creativity and innovative research in Europe. Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon has been the ERC President since 1 January 2014. The ERC Executive Agency implements the strategy.

ERC representatives took part in the WEF Annual Meeting of the New Champions for the first time in September 2012, in Tianjin, China. The ERC then participated in the WEF summit in Davos, Switzerland, in January 2013, and since then participates in both events.

The **World Economic Forum** is an independent international organisation committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agenda.

### **Links**

[ERC website](#)

[AMNC official programme](#)

[ERC announcement on WEF meeting 2014 in Davos \(Jan. 2014\)](#)

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