



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Highlight:

European Research Council takes part in debate at "Summer Davos" meeting in China
12 September 2013

In this year's Annual Meeting of the New Champions, the European Research Council (ERC) participates with more speakers and in more sessions than ever before. The gathering is organised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Dalian, China, from 11 to 13 September 2013. Led by ERC President Prof. Helga Nowotny, the ERC delegation includes Nobel laureate Sir Tim Hunt and sinologist Prof. Alain Peyraube, as well as six pioneering ERC-funded researchers. Under this edition's theme, "Meeting the Innovation Imperative", they will show the latest discoveries in their fields, and bring in the scientific perspective into the discussions. They will also underpin the most recent trends in science and the need to support excellent frontier research today for tomorrow's innovations. This annual meeting, dubbed "Summer Davos", especially focuses on the younger generation and creates an opportunity for exchange between leaders from industry, academia and key decision-makers, as well as the media and civil society.

ERC President Helga Nowotny said: *"It is very fruitful for the ERC to meet and debate with leaders from around the world who the World Economic Forum so uniquely gathers. With its special focus on science, innovation and young talent, the Annual Meeting of the New Champions is a natural platform for the ERC. We fund both top emerging and established research leaders. Some of them are in Dalian today to share their latest scientific insights. For the ERC it is a golden opportunity to interact with global partners and to raise its visibility beyond a more scientific audience. Our message is clear - excellent curiosity-driven frontier research is an imperative, not an option to spur innovation. Science, technology and innovation is a common theme in a rapidly globalising world. It is up to all of us to utilise this enormous potential."*

The meeting is the foremost global gathering in Asia, which that brings together over 1,500 participants from 90 countries to share strategies and solutions, and discuss global issues and risks. During this seventh annual meeting, the "New Champions" - who include younger scientists, technology pioneers, global growth companies, young global leaders, social and entrepreneurs - will once again engage with WEF members and partners.

The ERC delegates will bring their perspectives in nine sessions. President Helga Nowotny, who was also a speaker at the WEF summit 2013 in Davos, is present mainly to engage in discussions with other scientific and business leaders on how to collectively harness science, technology and innovation. Nobel laureate in Physiology or Medicine (2001) Sir Tim Hunt and sinologist Prof. Alain Peyraube, both ERC Scientific Council members, are also participating as speakers in several sessions. In addition, six ERC-funded pioneering researchers take part: Wolf prize winner (2013) Advanced grantee Prof. Peter Zoller, as well as Starting grantees Prof. Nicole Grobert, Prof. Valeria Nicolosi, Prof. Jeremy O'Brien, Dr Hele Savin and Prof. Wilfried Weber. They will discuss their research fields ranging from health, IT technology and energy storage, to nano-materials, photonics and optics.



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Read also recent [feature on Dr Hele Savin's research](#).

ERC at the Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2013

ERC Press conference

12 Sep. 2013

10.00-10.30

"The European Research Council - from frontier research to innovation"

(Dalian International Conference Center)

Speakers: ERC President Helga Nowotny, Nobel laureate Sir Tim Hunt and Prof. Alain Peyraube. The ERC grantees will also be present.

Main sessions with ERC participation at a glance:

11 Sep. 2013

19:00-21:00: **"Global Agenda of Science, Technology and Innovation: Setting priorities"** (Helga Nowotny participates)

12 Sep. 2013

10.30-11.15: **"Transforming Education Models"** (with Tim Hunt)

11:45-13:00: **"IdeasLab: Transformative Science with Nature Magazine"** (Jeremy O'Brien and Peter Zoller take part as discussion leaders)

14:00-15:00: **"Building the Innovation Ecosystem"** (Helga Nowotny is a panellist)

15:45-16:45: **"China's cultural legacy"** (Alain Peyraube is amongst the speakers)

17:00-18:15: **"Ideas Lab: The materials of the future with the ERC"** (with Helga Nowotny, Nicole Grobert, Valeria Nicolosi, Hele Savin and Wilfried Weber)

17:15-18:15: **"The Eureka Effect"** (Peter Zoller is a panellist)

13 Sep. 2013

09:00-10:00: **"Learning creativity"** (Tim Hunt takes part)

10:30-11:15: **"A quantum leap in quantum information"** (with Peter Zoller)

See also: [Detailed ERC programme](#)



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Background

Set up in 2007 by the European Union, the **European Research Council (ERC)** aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe¹ by encouraging competition for funding between the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age.

The ERC, part of the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7), has a total budget of €7.5 billion (around 62 billion yuan) from 2007 to 2013. The European Commission last year proposed to almost double the ERC budget for 2014 to 2020 under the new research programme 'Horizon 2020'.

The ERC funds leading researchers from anywhere in the world, and their innovative ideas across all disciplines, with up to €3.5 million (around 28.6 million yuan) per grant. Since the ERC's launch, it has awarded €6.3 billion (approx. 51.5 billion yuan) to over 3,800 scientists performing frontier research in Europe - both early-career and senior.

The ERC has adopted an 'investigator-driven', 'bottom-up' approach, which allows researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. The ERC has three core grant schemes: 'ERC Starting Grants', targeted at early-career emerging research leaders; 'ERC Consolidator Grants', aimed at already independent excellent researchers; and 'ERC Advanced Grants', supporting top senior researchers.

The ERC is composed of an Executive Agency and a Scientific Council. The latter sets the ERC scientific strategy and consists of 22 top scientists and scholars. The ERC is led by President Prof. Helga Nowotny and the Scientific Council is represented in Brussels by Secretary General Prof. Donald Dingwell.

Just before the WEF meeting in Dalian, the ERC also visited China in the context of the "ERC goes global" campaign, to inform top researchers about its funding opportunities and to foster relations with counterparts there. See more [here](#) (also [in Mandarin](#))

ERC representatives took part in the WEF Annual Meeting of the New Champions for the first time in September 2012, held in Tianjin, China. An ERC delegation then participated in the WEF summit in Davos, Switzerland, in January 2013.

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

[WEF official programme](#)

[ERC website](#)

[ERC speakers' biographies](#)

[ERC announcement on WEF summit 2013 in Davos](#) (Jan. 2013)

¹ The EU's FP7 associated countries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey.



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