



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Highlight

European Research Council meets in Dublin

11 October 2016

Starting today, the ERC's governing body, the ERC Scientific Council, will convene for a two-day plenary session in Dublin. The visit is an opportunity for the ERC to engage with the Irish scientific community. A public [event](#) with stakeholders and scientists on Wednesday 12 October will conclude the ERC visit to Dublin.

Background

Set up by the European Union in 2007, the European Research Council is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. The ERC every year selects and funds the very best individual scientists to run five-year projects in Europe. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe.

Operating according to an "investigator-driven" (or "bottom-up") approach, the ERC allows its grant holders to identify new opportunities in any field of research, without thematic priorities. Also, the ERC is changing the scientific landscape in Europe as several countries are reforming their funding agencies or policies on the basis of the ERC approach.

To date, the ERC has funded some 6,500 top researchers at various stages of their careers. The applications are evaluated and selected after a peer-review process every year involving hundreds of renowned scientists coming from all over the world. Scientific excellence is the only selection criterion.

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

For more information

[ERC website](#)