



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Highlight

European Research Council day in Slovakia

20 June 2016

Less than two weeks before Slovakia takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a delegation from the European Research Council (ERC) visits its capital, Bratislava. Headed by President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, the delegation will today take part in the "ERC day in Slovakia" at the Comenius University and will meet with Slovakia's Minister of Education and Science, and with Minister of Finance.

On the occasion of the visit, President Jean-Pierre Bourguignon said: "Talent is everywhere in Europe. So, I'm glad that the programme of Slovakia's upcoming EU Presidency includes issues that are crucial for the future of research in Europe: support to young researchers, spreading excellence and widening participation in the EU's research framework programme Horizon 2020. These goals are also important for the ERC, which is a component of this programme, based on a bottom-up approach."

At the Comenius University, Prof. Bourguignon and Prof. Tomas Jungwirth, Czech physicist and member of the ERC Scientific Council, will meet young researchers and encourage them to compete for ERC grants. Current ERC grantees from Slovakia will share their experience. The conference has been organised by the Slovak Liaison Office for Research and Development in Brussels.

Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Prof. Peter Plavčan, will be in attendance, as well as Comenius University Rector Prof. Karol Mičieta and Prof. Pavol Šajgalik, President of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

To date only one ERC grantee is based in Slovakia, whilst four Slovaks awarded ERC grants are abroad. Dr Ján Tkáč carries out his ERC-funded research at the Institute of Chemistry at the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. He has recently been named "Scientist of the Year in Slovakia".

Background

The European Research Council, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. It offers three core grant schemes: Starting, Consolidator and Advanced. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based in Europe. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, the ERC has funded more than 6,000 top researchers at various stages of their careers.

To address the issue of widening European participation in ERC competitions, the ERC has a dedicated [working group](#) on this matter.



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council. The ERC President is Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion for the years 2014 to 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 Day in Slovakia](#)

[ERC website](#)

ERC Press Contacts

Marcin Mońko

Press and communication advisor

Phone: +32 (0) 2 296 66 44

ERC-press@ec.europa.eu

Madeleine Drielsma

Press and communication adviser

Tel: +32 (0)2 298 76 31

ERC-press@ec.europa.eu