



European Research Council

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Highlight:

ERC grantees meet business angels

16 November 2015

The ERC and nine of its funded Proof of Concept projects take part in the [European Business Angel Network \(EBAN\)](#) Winter University from 16 to 18 November in Copenhagen. Investors from all over the world will attend, which provides an opportunity for researchers to interact with industry and attract investments into their start-ups and innovative frontier research.

The EBAN 2015 Winter University is the global summit on venture finance and innovation in science, space, technology and the creative industries, gathering 300 representatives of the early stage financing industry and entrepreneurs from all over the world. Nine ERC projects, all awarded ERC Proof of Concept top-up funding to explore the innovation potential of their findings, are amongst the 20 European start-ups attending. On the 17 November, the ERC grantees and partners in the ERC projects will pitch their ideas to investors.

The same day, ERC representatives will also speak at the event:

- ERC Vice President, Prof. Sierd Cloetingh, who also chairs the Working Group, will give a keynote speech on “ERC blue-sky researchers, rising stars in innovation”.
- ERC Scientific Council member Prof. Klaus Bock will take part in a workshop on "Redefining public private partnerships in funding innovation in science".
- Prof. Jens Rostrup-Nielsen, former member of the ERC Scientific Council, will participate in a panel discussion on “High stakes for Business Angels: science-based high risk/high gain projects”, along with ERC grantee Deniz Kirik (Lund University). Prof. Kirik recently joined forces with Skåne Regional Council in southern Sweden to build a state-of-the-art gene therapy centre. This start-up was financed by an ERC Proof of Concept grant. (See also: [ERC Story](#))

The ERC awards the [Proof of Concept](#) grant to its grantees to explore the innovation potential of the results of their ERC-funded research. It allows ERC grantees to see their frontier research through to its applications, bridging the gap between academia and industry. The ERC has so far awarded 387 Proof of Concept grants, that is 7% of funded projects. In June 2009, the ERC set up a special [Working Group](#) on innovation and relation with industry.



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Note to the editors

The [European Research Council](#), set up by the European Union in 2007, is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run five-year-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 5,000 top researchers at various stages of their careers.

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

Links

ERC website

<http://erc.europa.eu>

Watch videos of previous ERC grantees' pitches (2013)

<https://erc.europa.eu/new-technologies-european-research-council>

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