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## **Highlight:**

### **New agreement signed - Argentinian talent to join ERC teams in Europe**

13 March 2015

A new initiative has been launched today to encourage Argentinian top scientists to come to Europe as members of research teams lead by European Research Council (ERC) grant holders. The agreement was signed in Buenos Aires by the Argentinian Minister of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCYT), Lino Barañao, and the Director for International Cooperation of the European Commission's Research and Innovation Directorate General, Maria Cristina Russo. The signing ceremony took place in the context of the EU-Argentina [Conference](#) '10 years of Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation'.

The ERC President, Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, welcomed the deal: "*ERC projects offer a first-class scientific environment that can be further enriched by ERC grantees welcoming researchers from other parts of the world, who bring new talent and novel expertise. Argentinian scientists joining ERC teams, thanks to the new initiative, will boost their international profile. I am convinced that the bonds created during such exchanges are lasting, as they really widen the researchers' horizons and help develop new ideas. This initiative is part of the ERC's quest to make Europe an attractive place for the best talent and to stimulate international exchange*".

The initiative will boost opportunities for Argentinian top scientists of the National Scientific Technical Research Council (CONICET) to be part of ERC-funded teams for six to twelve months or multiple short-term visits.

## **Background**

The common initiative signed today is in the form of an 'Implementing Arrangement' of the existing EU-Argentina [Scientific and Technological Cooperation](#) agreement, initially signed in 1999 and renewed in 2011.

Researchers from Argentina, who will become part of ERC teams for a certain period, will continue receiving their salaries from CONICET whilst the ERC grant will cover the subsistence costs during their stay in Europe. The collaboration will enable Argentinian researchers of CONICET, with a running PICT (MINCYT Scientific and Technological Research Project) or PIP (CONICET Multiannual Research Project) project, and at least ten years of full-time research experience after being awarded a PhD degree, to undertake research visits to ERC teams.

The first agreement of this kind was signed in July 2012 with the US National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide opportunities for NSF researchers to join ERC-funded teams. (Read [more](#).) In November 2013, a similar agreement was signed with the Republic of Korea. (Read [more](#))



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Since the ERC was launched in 2007, nine Argentinian researchers have been awarded ERC grants and are based in research institutions such as in Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom. ([Feature](#) on the research of one of these grantees.)

Set up by the European Union, the European Research Council 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 4,500 top researchers at various stages of their careers. On average, ERC grantees employ around six team members during their ERC project. An estimate shows that around 18% of these team members are nationals from countries outside the Europe.

Under the new EU research and innovation programme Horizon 2020, the ERC has a budget of over €13 billion. The ERC consists of an independent governing body, the Scientific Council, and an implementing body, the Executive Agency. Since January 2014, the ERC President is Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon.

#### **For more information**

[ERC website](#)

[Striking ERC-funded projects](#)

[Horizon 2020](#)

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