



European Research Council  
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## **Highlight:**

### **New ERC-Korea agreement for Korean young talent to join ERC research teams**

8 November 2013

A new initiative has been launched today to boost opportunities for early-career Korean scientists to come to Europe to join the research teams of European Research Council (ERC) grantees. The agreement was signed today by Minister of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea, Choi Mun Kee, and – on behalf of the ERC – the European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn. The signing ceremony took place on the occasion of the EU-Korea summit held in Brussels and in the presence of the President of the Republic of Korea Park Geun-hye, EU Presidents Herman Van Rompuy (Council) and José Manuel Barroso (Commission), as well as ERC President Prof. Helga Nowotny.

ERC President Nowotny commented: "*The agreement is a further important step in the mission of the ERC to make Europe an attractive place for frontier research. Young and talented Korean researchers will have the opportunity to join the teams of ERC grant holders, thus building new links between Korea and Europe bottom-up, in the ERC way.*"

The objective of the agreement is to stimulate cooperation by bringing the best researchers together to exchange ideas and experiences, and to enhance their international profile and knowledge. The initiative will make it easier for early-career Korean top scientists to be part of ERC-funded research teams for six to twelve months.

## **Background**

The common initiative signed today is in the form of an 'implementing arrangement' of the existing EU-Korea Scientific and Technological Cooperation agreement signed in 2006. Researchers from Korea who will become part of teams led by ERC grantees will be supported through the ERC grant in the same way as any other team member.

The first agreement of this kind was signed in July 2012 with the US National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide opportunities for early-career NSF researchers to join ERC-funded teams in Europe. (Read more [here](#))

To date, three Korean researchers have been awarded ERC grants and are based in research institutions in Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK. (Read about the research of one of these grantees [here](#).)

In July 2012, the ERC, represented by Secretary General Donald Dingwell, visited Korea to inform top researchers at leading research institutes and universities about its funding opportunities in Europe. The visit was part the 'ERC goes global' campaign, launched in February 2012.



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

The ERC is part of the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) and has a total budget of €7.5 billion from 2007 to 2013. Its budget will increase by around 70% under the new EU research programme 'Horizon 2020' (2014-2020).

The ERC has adopted an 'investigator-driven', 'bottom-up' approach, which allows researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. Since its launch, the ERC has funded nearly 4,000 research projects throughout Europe, and has become a "benchmark" of the competitiveness of national research systems as it complements existing funding schemes at national and European levels. 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 European Research Area.

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.

## Links

- [EC-Korea Agreement](#)
- [Implementing Arrangement 2013](#)
- [ERC website](#)
- [Information about ERC in Korean](#)
- [National Research Foundation of Korea \(NRF\) website](#)
- [EU-Korea summit](#)

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