



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

### **Highlight:**

## **European Research Council meets in Tallinn, Estonia**

6 October 2015

**Tomorrow, the ERC's governing body, the Scientific Council, for the first time meets at a plenary session in Tallinn, Estonia. The ERC will take this opportunity to encourage Estonian researchers to apply for ERC grants.**

Whilst in Tallinn, the ERC - the pan-European funding body for excellent frontier research - hopes to inspire more first-rate researchers from Estonia and the region to compete for ERC grants. These provide an exceptional opportunity for younger talent to further their research and set up their own teams, as well as for research leaders to make their most pioneering ideas come true.

On the eve of the meeting, ERC President Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon commented: *"Speaking also on behalf of the ERC Scientific Council, let me say how pleased we are to hold a plenary for the first time in Estonia, a country with a highly innovative climate. We very much look forward to engaging with the scientific community and policy makers here."*

He added: *"So far, a handful of ERC grantees are based in Estonia and we'd like to encourage more top talent here and in neighbouring countries to compete for ERC funding. This is why we will take the opportunity to discuss how to best support research talent and the ERC funding during our meetings in Tallinn."*

The ERC Scientific Council will also meet policy-makers and the country's scientific community to gain insight into the Estonian national research funding system.

### **Note to the editors**

Set up in 2007 by the EU, the **European Research Council** ([ERC](#)) is the first pan-European funding organisation for frontier research. It aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by encouraging competition for funding between the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe.

Under the new EU research and innovation programme *Horizon 2020*, the ERC has a increased budget of over €13 billion.

The ERC consists of an independent Scientific Council and an Executive Agency. The Scientific Council, the ERC's governing body, 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. Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon has been the ERC President since 1 January 2014. The ERC Executive Agency, led by Director Pablo Amor, is responsible for administering ERC funding.



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### Links

ERC website

<http://erc.europa.eu>

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