



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

**Highlight:**

**European Research Council to meet world leaders in Davos 2013**

23 January 2013

**For the first time, the European Research Council (ERC), represented by its President Prof. Helga Nowotny as well as some of the brightest scientists, attends the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland. The Forum, which takes place annually for the past 40 years, is one of the most well-known platforms for leaders from governments, business, civil society and academia to discuss pressing global issues. With their participation, the ERC delegation will introduce a scientific perspective in the discussions by highlighting the most up-to-date trends in science, and will stimulate the debate on the importance of frontier research for today's society.**

ERC President [Prof. Helga Nowotny](#) said: *"The World Economic Forum is an exclusive event for leaders to think and search for solutions to global challenges. The health and wealth of future societies greatly depend on maintaining the long-term perspectives that science offers. Investment in research, education and innovation is even more important in times of budgetary austerity, in Europe and elsewhere. Leaders from all fields, including business, understand this dynamic, but need to find novel ways of joining forces. We truly believe that science, as well as technology and innovation, will emerge as a common theme of interest to shape the agenda of the future decades"*.

This year, around 2,500 participants from around 100 countries, comprising heads of state or government, ministers, leaders of many of the world's top companies and organisations, trade unions and think tanks, artists and academics alike, will gather in Europe's highest - altitude city aiming to "improve the state of the world".

The idea to catalyse actions for putting science, technology and innovation on the global agenda has already started and is likely to be prominent in this year's forum. There is growing awareness amongst policy-makers worldwide and public research organisations, of the fact that globalisation of science offers unprecedented opportunities for cooperation. In Davos, one of the sessions will be devoted to how decision-makers, business, civil society and academia can join forces to build a new vision based on frontier research, scientific discoveries and innovation.

In addition to Prof. Helga Nowotny, the ERC delegation is composed of Sir [Tim Hunt](#), member of the ERC Scientific Council and Nobel laureate in Physiology or Medicine 2001, Prof. [Serge Haroche](#) (Nobel laureate in Physics 2012), Prof. [Jules Hoffmann](#) (Nobel laureate in Physiology or Medicine 2011) and Prof. [Viola Vogel](#) (ERC panel chair and head of the Laboratory of Applied Mechanobiology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich).

A dedicated **ERC session** chaired by Prof. Nowotny, will take place on Friday 25 January (16:00 – 17:15, Congress Centre, *Sertig IdeasLab*); Sir [Tim Hunt](#), Prof. [Serge Haroche](#), Prof. [Jules Hoffmann](#) and Prof. [Viola Vogel](#) will brainstorm about the new trends, technologies and discoveries that will impact society in areas as broad as prevention and curing of cancer,



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molecular and cellular biology and immunity, mechanobiology and antibiotics, and quantum physics.

### A glance at the main other sessions with ERC participation:

- > **“Cancer: Myths and Truths”** on Wednesday 23 January (20:00 – 22:00) with Tim Hunt as a discussion leader on what the latest research tells us about the causes of and the cures for cancer.
- > Dinner session on Thursday 24 January (20:00 – 22:00) where Tim Hunt and Serge Haroche will discuss the **“State of the World”** with other Nobel laureates and invited guests.
- > The Betazone session with Nobel laureate Serge Haroche on Friday 25 January (10:30 – 11:15) on **“Our Quantum World”**. Serge Haroche will explain the mysteries behind the quantum world and how the ability to manipulate single particles of light can change the world.
- > **“Meeting the Innovation Imperative”** on Friday 25 January (14:45 – 15:45) with Helga Nowotny with a far-reaching topic on how business, science and society push the global innovation frontier to meet the needs of a population of 9 billion.
- > **“An insight, An Idea with Tim Hunt”** on Saturday 26 January (09:15 – 09:45) on rethinking education to foster curiosity, creativity and competitiveness. (On-the-record session and broadcast live [here](#)).

### The full programme of the WEF is available on:

<http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-annual-meeting-2013>

### For more information on the participation of the ERC to the WEF:

<http://erc.europa.eu/european-research-council-meet-world-leaders-davos-2013>

### ERC website:

<http://erc.europa.eu>

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