



**European Research Council**

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## **Highlight**

### **ERC awards 44 Proof of Concept grants**

4 July 2016

**Today, the ERC announced the names of 44 of its grant holders who will receive top-up funding to explore commercial or innovation potential of the results of their ERC-funded research.**

These Proof of Concept grants, worth €150,000 each, can be used, for example, to establish intellectual property rights, investigate business opportunities or conduct technical validation. The scheme is open to ERC grant holders only. The grantees can apply for funding in one of the three rounds of the yearly call. The results of the first round were announced today.

The selected projects cover a variety of topics. Researchers will, for example, build a neurotechnology device that could help its users improve their memory retention, or develop open-source software for faster and better forecasts of severe weather events, or design a new vaccine strategy for RNA viruses, like Ebola, dengue and Zika.

The budget of the overall 2016 Proof of Concept competition is €20 million. In the first round of the competition 141 ERC grant holders applied.

- [List of the 44 grantees by country of host institution](#)

## **Background**

The European Research Council, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. It offers three core grant schemes: Starting, Consolidator and Advanced. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run 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 6,000 top researchers at various stages of their careers. With its Proof of Concept grant scheme, the ERC also helps grantees to bridge the gap between their pioneering research and early phases of its commercialisation.

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council. The ERC President is Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion for the years 2014 to 2020 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.



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**For more information**

[ERC website](#)

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