



European Research Council
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Highlight

26 February 2016

ERC backs another 59 top researchers with Starting Grants

In addition to 291 early-career researchers already awarded [ERC Starting Grants](#) last December, the European Research Council has today announced another 59 grantees, also part of this 2015 competition. The funding comes from European Union Research and Innovation Programme Horizon 2020.

In the entire call, the ERC supported 350 researchers with almost €515 million. They received grants, worth up to €1.5 million each, to build their own teams and carry out research in all scientific domains at the frontiers of knowledge. The grants will enable them to employ in total an estimated 1,200 postdocs, PhD students and other expert staff.

Altogether, the highest number of grants in this 2015 competition was awarded to researchers in the United Kingdom (61), Germany (53), Netherlands (38) and France (35). The grantees represent 38 nationalities with Germans in the lead (56) followed by the Italians (37). The overall success rate in the competition was around 12%. (See the [statistics](#))

For further details see:

- [List of the additional 59 winners](#) (alphabetically, by country)
- [List of all 291 winners](#) announced on 4 December 2015 (alphabetically, by country)
- [Updated statistics](#) (for entire call)

Background

Fifty nine grantees announced today receive funding thanks to new ERC budget allocation – almost €86 million more was made available to the ERC.

ERC Starting Grants are awarded to researchers of any nationality with 2-7 years of experience since completion of their PhD (or equivalent degree) and a scientific track record showing great promise. Research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation located in one of the EU



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Member States or Associated Countries. The funding (maximum €1.5 million per grant) is provided over up to five years. Two thirds of the ERC budget is earmarked for the Starting Grant and Consolidator Grant schemes, and calls for proposals are published once a year.

The ERC, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. Every year, it selects and funds the creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run ambitious projects based in Europe. The ERC strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, the ERC has funded some 6,000 top researchers at various stages of their careers.

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

More information

[ERC website](#)

[Horizon 2020](#)

ERC press contacts

Marcin Mońko

Press and Communication adviser

Phone: +32 (0) 2 296 66 44

erc-press@ec.europa.eu

Madeleine Drielsma

Press and Communication adviser

Phone: +32 (0)2 298 76 31

erc-press@ec.europa.eu