



European Research Council
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Highlight

ERC funds 45 excellent scientists to commercialise their research results

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Today, the ERC announced 45 grant holders who will receive top-up funding to investigate commercial applications of their frontier research results. The grants, worth up to €150,000, cover costs of activities to verify the innovation potential of ERC-funded projects.

The Proof of Concept scheme is open to ERC grant holders only. This year's call will be done in instalments with three deadlines for applications. In this first round, 45 researchers based in 13 countries are being funded (see list of winners below). Their projects cover a spectrum of topics: from improving the cultivation of medicinal plants, to building car engines using nanomaterials and boosting turnout in elections by increasing the satisfaction of first-time voters.

The total budget of the 2015 Proof of Concept competition is € 20 million, of which € 6.7 million is earmarked for this first round. Projects submitted in the second round of the call are now under evaluation and the results will be known later this year. ERC grant holders can still apply for the third round of the call (deadline on 1 October 2015). This is the first time that applicants can only submit their project proposals in one of the three rounds (see [ERC Work Programme 2015](#)).

- [List of the 45 winners by country of host institution](#)

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