



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

## **Highlight**

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

16 October 2015

**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 Proof of Concept scheme is open to ERC grant holders only. This year, the grantees could apply for funding in three rounds of the call. The results of the second round were announced today.

The selected projects cover a variety of topics. Researchers will, for example, build a multilingual database of EU law cases, develop a prosthesis to help people with hearing loss better recognise speech, and create a mobile application to reduce the level of aggression amongst individuals with chronic anger management problems.

The budget of the overall 2015 Proof of Concept competition is €20 million. A total of €6.6 million was earmarked for this second round, to which 107 ERC grant holders applied.

Proposals submitted in the third round of the competition (136 applications) are now under evaluation. The results will be known early next year.

Read also about the [results of the first round](#) of the 2015 Proof of Concept call.

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

## **Background**

Set up in 2007 by the EU, the European Research Council (ERC) is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. The ERC operates according to an "investigator-driven" (or "bottom-up") approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research, without thematic priorities. With its Proof of Concept grant scheme, the ERC also helps grantees 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, and, since January 2014, the ERC President is Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The ERC Executive Agency implements the strategy, set by the Scientific Council. The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion from 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.



## European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

To date, the ERC has funded more than 5,000 top researchers at a variety of stages in their careers, giving high priority to young scientists. The ERC has also supported over 40,000 team members, who benefit from cutting-edge research training opportunities. By offering them funding, autonomy and prestige, the ERC contributes to the development of a new generation of top researchers in Europe, who are competitive at a global level.

### For more information

[ERC website](#)

### ERC Press Contacts

Madeleine Drielsma  
Press and Communication adviser  
Tel: +32 (0)2 298 76 31  
[ERC-press@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-press@ec.europa.eu)

Marcin Mońko  
Press and Communication advisor  
Phone: +32 (0) 2 296 66 44  
[ERC-press@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-press@ec.europa.eu)