



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

## Press update

3 March 2015

### ERC backs additional 47 top researchers in 2014 Starting Grant call

**In addition to 328 early-career scientists awarded ERC Starting Grants in December, the European Research Council today announces another 47 winners as part of this 2014 call. They will receive funding, worth up to €2 million per project, to build their own research teams and pursue their best ideas at the frontiers of knowledge.**

The **additional 47 researchers** announced today are of 18 nationalities based in 14 countries across Europe. In terms of host institutions, the countries in the lead are: the UK (12 grants), the Netherlands (7 grants) and France (6 grants). Researchers are also hosted in Italy (4), Norway (3), Austria (2), Denmark (2), Finland (2), Germany (2), Ireland (2), Spain (2), Belgium (1), Israel (1) and Portugal (1).

In **the entire call, 375 researchers** will therefore be funded, with almost €550 million. Altogether, the highest number of grants was awarded in Germany (72), the UK (67) and France (49). In terms of nationality, Germans are in the lead (71), followed by the French (41) and Italians (36). The overall success rate in the complete call was around 11.5% and was virtually equal between male and female applicants. In the previous call, the success rate was 9%. (For more information, see the statistics below.)

In total, 163 of the grantees are in the domain 'Physical Sciences and Engineering', 142 in 'Life Sciences' and 70 in 'Social Sciences and Humanities'. The average age of selected researchers is 35 years. The funding will allow these Starting grantees to build their own research teams, engaging in total over 1,600 postdocs and PhD students as their team members.

ERC Starting Grants are intended for the best junior researchers to help them fully develop their potential and become a new generation of European research leaders.

ERC funding is part of the EU Horizon 2020 framework programme for research and innovation.



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

For further details see:

- [List of the additional 47 winners](#) (alphabetically, by country)
- [List of all 375 winners in entire call](#) (alphabetically, by country)
- [Updated statistics](#) (based on all winners in entire call)

#### Note to the editors

The additional researchers selected today will receive funding thanks to new ERC budget allocations; in January 2015, €64 million was made available to the ERC.

ERC Starting Grants are awarded to researchers of any nationality with two to seven years of experience after completion of 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 Member States or Associated Countries. The funding is provided for up to five years. Two thirds of the ERC budget go to younger researchers - the Starting Grant and Consolidator Grant schemes - and calls for proposals are published once a year.

Set up in 2007 by the EU, the European Research Council (ERC) is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age to run five year 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 4,500 top researchers at a variety of stages in their careers.

Under the new EU research and innovation programme Horizon 2020, the ERC has a budget of over €13 billion.

The ERC consists of an independent governing body, the Scientific Council, and an implementing body, the Executive Agency. Since January 2014, the ERC President is Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon.

#### **For more information:**

[2014 Starting Grants announcement](#) (Dec. 2014)

[ERC website](#)

[Horizon 2020](#)

#### **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)

Magdalena Kufrej  
(ERC Press Team)  
Tel: +32 (0)2 298 79 30  
[erc-press@ec.europa.eu](mailto:erc-press@ec.europa.eu)

Follow us on   