

ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

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Scientific Council announces ERC peer review panel structure

The ERC Scientific Council has today published its initial strategy for the peer review of Starting Independent Researcher Grants (“ERC Starting Grants”) which will be the subject of the ERC’s first call for proposals.

The 22-member Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC) gathered for its fifth plenary meeting in Helsinki on 3 and 4 July. As part of its discussions on the overall scientific strategy for the ERC, the Scientific Council held an extensive debate on how the peer review process will be carried out by panels of independent high-level scientists and scholars, supported by written referee evaluations.

As a result of these discussions, the Scientific Council today published a strategy note which sets out its initial view on the number and structure of these panels, based on the following overriding principles:

- **Coherence across all broad research domains and fields**
- **A forward-looking approach**
- **Encouragement to interdisciplinarity**
- **Funding allocations independent of the panel structure**
- **Flexibility and inclusiveness**

Prof. Fotis Kafatos, Chairman of the ERC Scientific Council, said: “The Scientific Council is devoting considerable attention to the design of the peer review panels, intending them to be both excellent and innovative. The first question that we have addressed is their structure, and the second will be their composition. We are confident that the adopted principles have led to a robust peer review panel structure, which will help optimise the evaluation process”.

More information on the guiding principles and the Panel Structure for the evaluation of ERC Starting Grants can be found in the relevant ERC strategy note, which is now published on the website of the Scientific Council: <http://www.erc.europa.eu>

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Note:

The next meeting of the ERC Scientific Council will take place in London on 5-6 October 2006.
