

# The European Research Council

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The ERC support initiatives for applicants

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**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# Aim

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- boost the full European potential for frontier research
- contribute to an inclusive culture of scientific competitiveness in Europe
- increase applications to ERC calls from countries hosting few ERC grantees
- facilitate policy dialogue with relevant stakeholders for better local support to scientists

## HOW?

- Visiting Fellowships Programmes (2016)
- Mentoring Initiative (2021)

[www.erc.europa.eu/visiting-fellowships-programmes-and-mentoring-initiatives](http://www.erc.europa.eu/visiting-fellowships-programmes-and-mentoring-initiatives)

# Visiting Fellowships Programmes

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**Why?** To develop researchers' potential

**Who?** Researchers from participating countries/agencies

**When?** Before they apply for their first ERC grant

**How?** Joining an ERC-funded team for a short period  
(1 to 6 months)

## Important!

- Programmes managed by national authorities
- Conditions vary according to each national or regional funding agency



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# How they work

## The ERC

- launches annual calls to its grantees to host visiting researchers to strengthen and diversify their teams
- shares the list of interested grantees with national authorities

## National funding agencies

- set own criteria and selection process
- issue annual or open calls
- cover salary and travel costs of selected researchers

## Interested researchers

- contact the national authorities and apply to the programme
- if selected, join an ERC-funded team
- commit to apply for ERC funding in specific timeframe



# Ongoing programmes

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- **Croatia** – Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ)  
next deadlines: 5/05 and 5/09/2025
- **Cyprus** – R&I Foundation (RIF)  
next deadline: 30/09/2025
- **Estonia** - Estonia Research Council (ETag)  
open call
- **Hungary** – Hungarian Academy of Science (MTA)
- **Italy** - CNR & University of Venice Ca' Foscari
- **Latvia** – Latvian Council of Science (LCS)
- **Romania** - Politehnica University of Bucharest (UPB)  
open call
- **Slovak Republic** - Research and Innovation Authority (VAIA) open call until Q2
- **Slovenia** - Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS)

# Outcome

995 ERC grantees interested in 2024 call

58 visiting fellows



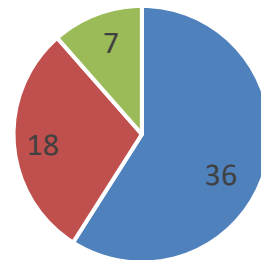
61 proposals to ERC calls



8 funded (13%)  
(4 PL, 2 SI)

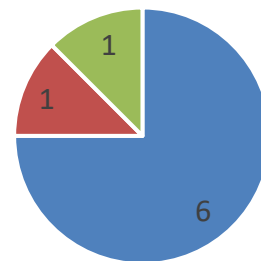
*(data as of 2023)*

## 61 Proposals



■ StG ■ CoG ■ AdG ■

## 8 Grants



■ StG ■ CoG ■ AdG ■

# ERC Mentoring Initiative

**Why?** To provide applicants with experts' feedback on their proposals or interviews

**Who?** ERC applicants from participating countries

**When?** Before submitting the proposal to strengthen the quality of their application OR before interview

**How?** Through specific national/regional support offices

**Important!**

- Initiatives managed by the relevant organizations



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# How it works

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## The ERC

- Approves the MIs (facilitated by the NCPs)
- launches calls to its grantees and former panel members
- shares the list with NCPs

## NCPs

- liaise with ERC, interested support offices and experts

## National/regional offices

- select the applicants
- contact the experts

## Interested ERC applicants

- contact the local office
- if selected, benefit from experts' mentoring



# Participating offices

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- **Cyprus** - Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF)
- **Czech Republic** - Czech National Expert Group for the ERC (NEG)
- **Estonia** - Estonian Research Council (ETAg)
- **(2024) Georgia** - Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation (LEPL)
- **Hungary** - Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA)
- **Italy** - National Research Council (CNR)
- **(2024) Latvia** - Latvian Council of Science
- **(2024) Luxembourg** - Luxinnovation
- **Malta** - Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)
- **Poland** - National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), National Science Centre (NCN) and the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP)
- **Slovakia** - Horizon National Office - Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (CVTI SR)
- **Turkey** - Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK)
- **(2024) Ukraine** - National Research Foundation – Horizon Europe Office in Kyiv

# Outcome

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94 mentors (65 grantees & 29 former PMs) supported 119 ERC applicants

119 ERC applicants



more than 50 applied to ERC calls



6 funded (around 12%)

In 2024, more than 1 000 ERC grantees & former PMs expressed interest to participate as mentors

# Thank you!

More information: [erc.europa.eu](https://erc.europa.eu)



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