

ERC and national support measures for researchers in Bulgaria

6 November 2025
9.30 - 12.00 CET
10.30 - 13.00 EET

In partnership with:
Institute of Catalysis - Bulgarian Academy of Sciences



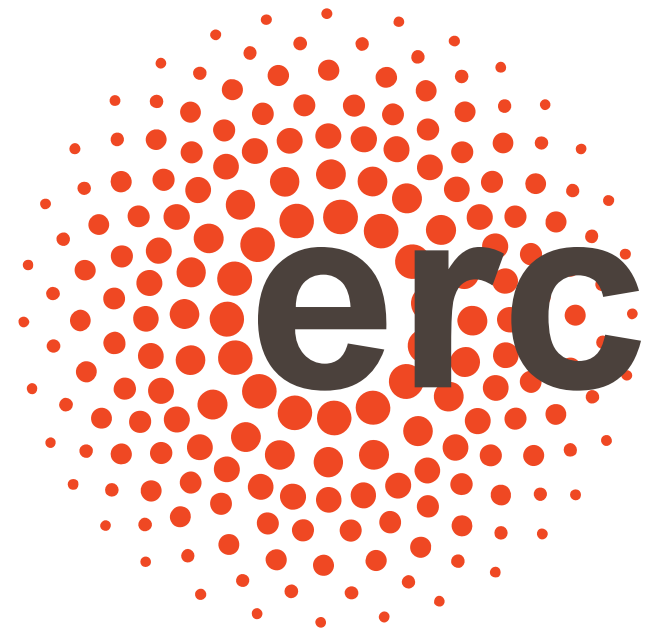
The European Research Council

Support for ERC applicants: mERCury project and National Scientific Program “Vihren”



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ERC NCP and Program Committee Member,
Bulgaria



What can the Bulgarian ERC NCP do for you?



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Information Dissemination Raising Awareness

- Dedicated Websites of the ERC and the Bulgarian Horizon Europe website, organized by the Bulgarian MES
- Info-days
- Presentations and Training Seminars
- Direct Communication
- Mailing Lists
- Social Media

Proposal Preparation Assisting & Advising

- Pre-Proposal and Full Proposal Check
- Solving Queries Assistance
- Mock Interviews
- *ERC Mentoring Initiative*
- *ERC Visiting Fellowship Program*

Project Management Support

- Grant Agreements Preparation
- Legal, Financial and IPR Issues
- General Project Management Support

International Cooperation - **mERCury project**



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Title: Maximising excellence in research upskilling NCPs and raising the quality of their support to ERC applicants

- HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions

- 36 months

- Estimated Project Budget:
€1,737,608.75

Project start date 01/09/2025

Project end date 31/08/2028

The consortium:

- 22 beneficiaries + 1 Associated Partner
- 12 from Widening countries
- from all levels of ERC experience

Aim of mERCury project



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Support for ERC NCPs network for better support of ERC applicants

Specific Objectives:

- ✓ Improve and harmonise services of ERC NCPs
- ✓ Increase capacities of less experienced and Widening countries NCPs
- ✓ Strengthen national and local support to potential ERC applicants, in particular to those from countries with weak participation in the ERC program

International Cooperation - **mERCury project**



The project supports ERC NCPs network ...

- **ERC News:** regular updates of the ERC NCPs community on the latest news in the ERC and in the project activities and outputs
- **Benchmarking of NCP knowledge and services:** to map, assess and analyze the ERC NCPs' knowledge, best practices, acquisition of new knowledge needs with a focus on Widening and newcomers
- **Promoting Success Stories and Good Practices:** identify and disseminate successful examples and practices in Widening Countries

International Cooperation - **mERCury project**



... and support for ERC applicants

- **Domain-specific Workshops and Trainings for ERC Individual Grant Applicants:** trans-national online events, each one dedicated to an individual ERC scheme (StG, CoG & AdG) will be organized including dedicated workshops divided within research domains (PE, LS, SH).
- **Workshops and Trainings for ERC Synergy Grant (SyG) Applicants:** transnational online events.
- **Workshops presenting follow-up opportunities for ERC grantees:** beyond their ERC project by building a sustainable, long-term funding path'
- **NCP's toolbox:** to develop a comprehensive set of guidelines for applicants that address recurring questions and challenges regarding the submission and evaluation phases in the ERC grant application process.

National Scientific Program “Vihren”

“Excellent Research and People for the Development of European Science”



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➤ What?

- Proposals Type 1: ERC StG, CoG or AdG, which in the last three years were rated A in the final evaluation, but not funded by the ERC (after application, no evaluation, financial plan adjustment);

- Proposals Type 2: New applicants

➤ Who? Action refers to the individual research projects:

- **Leading & Established researcher & Starting grand**
- **Beneficiaries** are researchers together with **Bulgarian universities or research organizations** that are accredited to train doctoral students, **no portability option**.

National Scientific Program “Vihren”

“Excellent Research and People for the Development of European Science”



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- How long? between 36 and 60 months.
- How much? The budget depends on project duration and a maximum amount for a five-year period is :
 - 400,000 BGN per year for a "Leading Investigator" project.
 - 300,000 BGN per year for an "Established Investigator" project.
 - 200,000 BGN per year for a "Starting Grant" project.The budget will be reduced on a *pro rata temporis* basis (proportionally in time) if the project duration is shorter.
- The Program is implemented by the Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF), and the financing is through the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science.

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