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I. ERC BASICS
• Scientific **excellence**: sole evaluation criteria (IP and project)

• **Bottom-up approach**: All fields

• **Individual projects (IP)**

• **Attractive funding**  
  - [StG: 1.5 M€]  
  - [CoG: 2.0 M€]  
  - [AdG: 2.5 M€]  
  - 5 years

• **Portability of grants**

• **3rd countries incentives**
European Research Council

22 eminent scientists, covering all disciplines
President: JP Bourguignon
ERC basics

- Highly recognised by the research community
- 4,400 top researchers funded (65% are at an early-career stage); 64 nationalities represented
- **Highly competitive** (average success rate 12%)
- Working in >500 different institutions in 29 countries
- 50% of grantees in 50 institutions: “Excellence attracts excellence”
- **Benchmarking** effect: impact on national programmes and agencies; national funding for best "runners-up"
- Efficient and fast grant management
ERC timeline

- **2005**: Appointment of 22 Scientific Council Members
- **2006**: Adoption of FP7 and IDEAS Programme
- **2007**: Launch of ERC & 1st StG call
- **2008**: 1st AdG call
- **2009**: 2nd StG and AdG calls
- **2010**: 3rd StG and AdG calls
- **2011**: 4th StG, AdG calls & 1st PoC call
- **2012**: 5th StG, AdG calls & 1st SyG call
- **2013**: 6th StG, AdG calls & 1st SyG call

**H2020**
ERC grant distribution: StG, CoG, AdG [2007-2013]
Rising number of applications (1)
II. ERC WITHIN HORIZON 2020
Excellent Science Budget: 30% of H2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Budget (€)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERC</td>
<td>13,094,81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FET</td>
<td>2,695,99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSCA</td>
<td>6,162,26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructures</td>
<td>2,488,01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>24,441,07</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Industrial Leadership: 24%**

**Societal Challenges: 41%**

**Excellente Science Base: 30%**

**EIT: 2%**

**JRC: 3%**
Goals

**Excellent Science**

- European Research Council (ERC)
  - *Frontier research by the best individual teams*
- Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)
  - *Collaborative research to open new fields of innovation*
- Marie S. Curie Actions (MSCA)
  - *Opportunities for training and career development*
- INFRASTRUCTURES
  - (including e-infrastructure)
  - *Ensuring access to world-class facilities*
Budget: 70% increase but lower than 2014 (2)
CONTINUITY

III. WORK PROGRAMME 2015
European Research Council

- Scientific **excellence**: sole evaluation criteria (IP and project)
- **Bottom-up approach**: All fields
- **Individual projects (IP)**
- **Attractive funding**  
  - [StG: 1,5 M€]  
  - [CoG: 2,0 M€]  
  - [AdG: 2,5 M€]  
  - 5 years
- **Portability of grants**
- **3rd countries incentives**
# ERC Work Programme 2015: Novelties

## Horizon 2020
- Starting; Consolidator; and Advanced Grants
- Proof of Concept for ERC PIs
- Overhead: 25%
- **Extension of restrictions** based on the outcome of the evaluation of the 2014 calls
- Open access is now mandatory
- Templates for CV (flexible)

## WP2015
- Publication date of first calls: 07 October 2015
- **Elegibility criteria**: Reference date will be 01.01.2015
- No budget pre-distribution per domain: PE, LS, SH
- Update of panel titles, subtitles and descriptors
- **Extension of restrictions**
- Opt in open DATA pilot
- Eliminated: evaluation question about ERC impact on PI’s career
Resubmission Restrictions (3)

- A Principal Investigator whose proposal was evaluated as category C in the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals under Work Programme 2014 may not submit a proposal to the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2015 and 2016.

- A Principal Investigator whose proposal was finally evaluated as category B in the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals under Work Programme 2014 may not submit a proposal to the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2015.

- A Principal Investigator whose proposal is finally evaluated as category A in the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals under Work Programme 2015 but it is not funded for budgetary reasons may submit a proposal to the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2016.
Open access: common obligation for H2020

• The ERC supports the principle of open access to the published output of research, including peer-reviewed articles, monographs, data and data related products such as computer codes, as a fundamental part of its mission. The ERC considers that providing free online access can be the most effective way of ensuring that the fruits of the research it funds can be accessed, read and used as the basis for further research.

• The terms and conditions laid down in the ERC Model Grant Agreement will address how scientific publications must be made available through open access. The ERC also considers it essential that data and data-related products, such as computer codes, be deposited in the relevant databases as soon as possible, although this is not a formal requirement of the Grant Agreement.
Open access: ERC guidelines

• **requests** that an electronic copy of any research article, monograph or other research publication that is supported in whole, or in part, by ERC funding be deposited in a suitable repository immediately upon publication. **Open access should be provided as soon as possible and in any case no later than six months after the official publication date. For publications in the Social Sciences and Humanities domain a delay of up to twelve months is acceptable.**

• **strongly encourages** ERC funded researchers to use discipline-specific repositories for their publications (http://europepmc.org, http://arxiv.org/).

• **reminds** ERC funded researchers that open access fees are eligible costs that can be charged against ERC grants, provided they have been incurred during the duration of the project.

• **encourages** Host Institutions to cover open access fees of any research publications that are supported in whole, or in part, by ERC funding, which arise in the period up to 24 months after the end of the project.
3 Types of grants + PoC

Starting Grants
starters
(2-7 years after PhD) up to € 2.0 Mio for 5 years

Consolidator Grants
consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD) up to € 2.75 Mio for 5 years

Advanced Grants
track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years up to € 3.5 Mio for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept
bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders

Synergy Grants (not in 2015)
2 – 4 Principal Investigators up to € 15.0 Mio for 6 years
# STARTING GRANTS: BASIC PROFILE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>1,5 M€ [2,0 M€] 5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>nurturing the next generation research leaders. To support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are starting their own independent research team or programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELEGIBILITY</td>
<td>PhD 2 - 7 years [ limited reasons for extension].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HI support letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROFILE</td>
<td>Potential for independence and evidence of maturity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good track-record of early research achievements, appropriate to their research field and career stage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least one major publication without PhD supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commitment to the project &gt; 50%. At least 50% in Europe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maternity (nx18months) 
Long-term illness
## CONSOLIDATOR GRANT: BASIC PROFILE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>2,0 M€ [2,75 M€] 5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>Support excellent PI at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme. PI must demonstrate the ground breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELEGIBILITY</td>
<td>PhD 7-12 years [limited reasons for extension].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HI support letter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROFILE</td>
<td>Independence and evidence of maturity shown Promising track-record of early research achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage Several publications without PhD supervisor Commitment to the project &gt; 40%. At least 50% in Europe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEW!!
## ADVANCED GRANTS: BASIC PROFILE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FUNDING LEVEL</th>
<th>2,5 M€ [3,5 M€] 5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>Attract and reward top scientists from anywhere in the world to conduct frontier research in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELEGIBILITY</td>
<td>No conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRACK RECORD</td>
<td>Strong leadership profile (impact, recognition,...) Excellent track record in recent years (10 yrs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 selected publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 monographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Or if applicable: Patents/Expeditions/Prizes/Conferences/Academies...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30% of time devoted to the ERC project. 50% in Europe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ERC: Calendar & Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>StG</th>
<th>CoG</th>
<th>AdG</th>
<th>PoC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Oct. 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget (M€)</strong></td>
<td>430</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(nr. of grants)</td>
<td>(330)</td>
<td>(330)</td>
<td>(280)</td>
<td>(130)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Results</strong></td>
<td>7 Jul. 2015</td>
<td>6 Aug. 2015</td>
<td>18 Nov. 2015</td>
<td>1 May 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Host Institution

- HI must be located in an EU Member State or an Associated Country
- Hosts the PI for the duration of the project
- Is a legal entity: university, research center, business research unit, etc.
- Is committed to ensure that the PI may:
  - Apply for funding independently
  - Manage research and funding project
  - Publish independently as senior author
  - Have access to reasonable space and facilities
- Signs Grant Agreement
- Overhead: 25%

www.eshorizonte2020.es
ERC Grant Management

• No constraints on eligible costs as long as they are for the execution of the project
• Rules of the HI apply
• High flexibility: aims of the project can be modified through amendments to the grant agreement
• Grants have a light reporting along the project life-time: financial report every 18 months, scientific report at mid-term and end of the project
• Grants have 25-40% pre-financing
• PI is empowered to manage the research activity and the funds of the project
• Grants are portable
If you are asked to be an ERC panel member, please accept

IV. EVALUATION OF ERC PROPOSALS
Submission of proposals

PART A – online forms

A1 Proposal and PI info
A2 Host Institution info
A3 Budget

PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

- Extended Synopsis 5 p.
- CV 2 p.
- Track Record 2 p.

PART B2 – submitted as .pdf

- Scientific Proposal 15 p.

Annexes – submitted as .pdf

- Statement of support of HI
- If applicable: explanatory information on ethical issues; copy of PhD (StG, CoG); document for extension of eligibility window (StG, CoG)
Submission of proposals

PART A – online forms
A1 Proposal and PI info
A2 Host Institution info
A3 Budget

PART B1 – submitted as .pdf
- Extended Synopsis 5 p.
- CV 2 p.
- Track Record 2 p.
- One **strict** single deadline

Annexes – submitted as .pdf
- Statement of support of HI
- If applicable: explanatory information on ethical issues; copy of PhD (StG, CoG); document for extension of eligibility window (StG, CoG)

- Proposal complete (A+B1+B2) + HI letter and other docs: readable
- Panel identification and keywords
- Exclusion of –up to three- reviewers (blind choice)
Panel Structure

**Life Sciences**
- LS1 Molecular & Structural Biology & Biochemistry
- LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics & Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology & Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences & Neural Disorders
- LS6 Immunity & Infection
- LS7 Diagnostic tools, Therapies & Public Health
- LS8 Evolutionary, Population & Environmental Biology
- LS9 Applied Life Sciences & Biotechnology

**Social Sciences and Humanities**
- SH1 Individuals, Institutions & Markets
- SH2 The Social World, Diversity and Common Ground
- SH3 Environment, Space and Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures & Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past

**Physical Sciences & Engineering**
- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical & Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Materials & Synthesis
- PE6 Computer Science & Informatics
- PE7 Systems & Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products & Process Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science
The evaluation process

**STEP I: Part B1**
- Panel Members (10-15 experts)
- Proposal remotely reviewed by 3-4 panel members
- Panel Meeting

**STEP 2: B1+B2**
- Panel Meeting
- Final Meeting
- Interviews
- New revision by panel members + external referees

**RANK**
- 25%
- 50%
V. NCP SUPPORT SERVICES
La generación de nuevo conocimiento, base del crecimiento europeo
NCP Services
(Lucía del Río, Esther Rodríguez)

• Proposal pre-screening: Published at www.eshorizonte2020.es
  – Who? Any eligible PI asking for a StG or CoG 2015
  – Evaluators are expert scientist, but not in the same field. Confidentiality agreement signed.
  – Proposal sent through the HI project office at revisiones.erc@oficinaeuropea.es before 18 dec (StG), 29 jan (CoG)

• Infodays (Vigo, Madrid, Valencia, Bilbao, Barcelona, Murcia, Córdoba, Zaragoza,...)

• Grant writing workshops or interviews (as organized by local entities)

• Mock interviews for those candidates reaching the step 2.
Final consideration

- Think carefully when you should go for the ERC grant (right timing)
- Do prepare it well in advance!!!
Get support from the appropriate NCP!

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES AT EU LEVEL
• Jose Luis Garcia (MINECO-CSIC)
• Lucia del Rio (ISCIII) ldrio@isciii.es
• Esther Rodriguez (OE) esther.rodriguez@oficinaeuropea.es

• Borja Izquierdo (Oficina Europea)
• Severino Falcon (MINECO) severino.falcon@mineco.es
• Roberto Martinez (UPM) roberto.martinez@upm.es
• Pablo Fernández (UPC) pablo.fernandez.gonzalez@upc.edu

• Antonio Skarmeta (MINECO-UM)
• Cristina Gómez Corchete (FECYT) cristina.gomez@fecyt.es
• Jesús Rojo (jesus.rojo@madrimasd.org)

• Inmaculada Figueroa (MINECO)
• Marta March (INTA) martam@inta.es
• Gloria Villar (ISCIII) gvillar@isciii.es

• Rocío Castrillo rocio.castrillo@fecyt.es
• Carolina Rodriguez
Scientific Council: 22 members

- Prof. Klaus BOCK (Chemistry)
- **Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON (Mathematics), ERC President**
- Prof. Nicholas CANNY (History)
- Prof. Sierd A.P.L. CLOETINGH (Earth Sciences)
- Prof. Tomasz DIETL (Physics)
- Prof. Daniel DOLEV (Computer Sciences)
- Prof. Athene DONALD (Biological Physics)
- Dr. Barbara ENSOLI (Medicine)
- Prof. Pavel EXNER (Applied Mathematics & Mathematical Physics)
- Prof. Reinhard GENZEL (Astrophysics)
- Prof. Carl-Henrik HELDIN (Molecular Cell Biology)
- Prof. Timothy HUNT (Biology)
- Prof. Matthias KLEINER (Engineering)
- Prof. Eva KONDOROSI (Biology)
- Prof. Mart SAARMA (Biological Sciences)
- Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES (Psychology)
- Prof. Nils Christian STENSETH (Ecology & Evolution)
- Prof. Martin STOKHOF (Philosophy)
- Prof. Anna TRAMONTANO (Biochemistry)
- Prof. Isabelle VERNOS (Molecular and Cell Biology)
- Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS (Economics)
- Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA (Sociology)
StG 2013 - 2014
Results of Step1 by years past PhD

# interviews

# passed to step 2 2013
# passed to step 2 2014
Step 1 SR 2013
Step 1 SR 2014

# Yrs past phd on call publication date

Step 1 success rate