

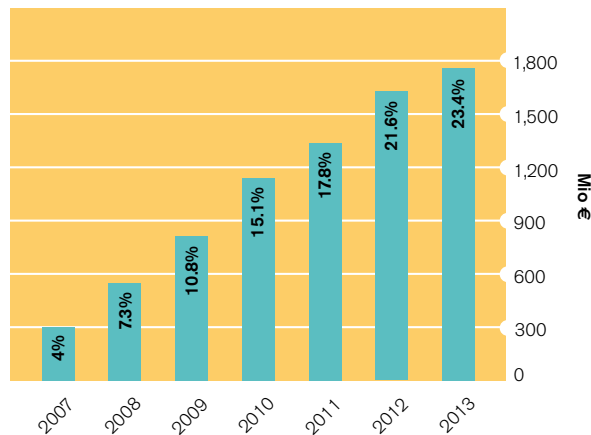
ELECTRONIC APPLICATION

ERC grant applications can be submitted only in response to a 'call for proposals' via the web-based Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS). Calls are published on the ERC website, the CORDIS website and in the Official Journal of the European Union. Deadlines for the submission of ERC grant applications are specified in each 'call for proposals'.

ANNUAL CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Calls for proposals for both the ERC Starting Grant and ERC Advanced Grant scheme are published annually. The total budget allocated to the ERC for the period 2007-2013 is € 7.51 bn. The call budgets will be gradually increased each year and from 2010 on, the ERC will have a total annual budget of over €1bn.

ERC Grant schemes: Annual Budget Evolution 2007-2013



INTERNATIONAL PEER REVIEW EVALUATION

ERC grant applications are evaluated on the basis of scientific excellence as sole criterion, which is examined on three distinct aspects of the research proposal:

- the principal investigator;
- the research project;
- the research environment (pass/fail).

To guarantee transparency, fairness and impartiality in the treatment of proposals, grant applications are selected following an international peer review evaluation process based on 25 panels covering all fields of science, engineering and scholarship.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND SERVICES

ERC Guide for Applicants

Detailed information on the ERC Grant schemes and the application procedures is provided in the 'ERC Guide for Applicants – Grant Schemes', available on the ERC website at: http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/ERC_Guide_for_applicants.pdf

ERC Calls for Proposals

Available on the ERC website at: <http://erc.europa.eu/callforproposals>

ERC National Contact Points

National Contact Points (NCPs) have been set up across Europe by the national governments to provide information and personalised support to applicants in their native language. The list of NCPs can be found at: <http://erc.europa.eu/ncp>

ERC News Alert

Via this electronic notification, the ERC informs and alerts potential applicants and other interested parties on latest news and developments posted on the ERC website. To receive ERC News Alerts, please register on: <http://erc.europa.eu/newsalert>

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ERC Grant Schemes



GENERAL FEATURES OF ERC GRANTS

- **Attractive long-term funding**
grants are managed according to simple procedures that combine flexibility with accountability
- **All fields of research are eligible**
no thematic or policy-driven research priorities need to be covered
- **Principal investigators and their research team are supported**
no trans-national partnerships nor consortia are required
- **Scientific excellence is the sole evaluation criterion**
no other considerations affect evaluation and funding decisions
- **Proposal submission only electronically via EPSS in response to calls for proposals**
no paper or other transmission of proposals is accepted

Funding top research
leaders for Europe



<http://erc.europa.eu>

THE ERC'S FUNDING STRATEGY

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first European funding body designed to support investigator-driven frontier research through open and direct competition.

Its main aim is to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by supporting and encouraging the very best, truly creative researchers to identify and explore new opportunities and directions in any field of research.

The ERC offers two types of long-term grants, both operating on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined research priorities:

- **ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grants (ERC Starting Grants)**

The objective is to support the independent careers of outstanding researchers, who are at the stage of establishing or consolidating their first research teams or programmes.

- **ERC Advanced Investigator Grants (ERC Advanced Grants)**

The objective is to support pioneering frontier research projects by leading established researchers.

ERC grants support frontier research projects carried out by single research leaders (principal investigators) of any nationality and age. Grant applications should be submitted by the principal investigator (PI) and must be supported by a host organisation that is or will be engaging the PI for the duration of the grant.

In order to be eligible for a grant, the PI must be scientifically independent or, for the ERC Starting Grant, at the stage of establishing scientific independence (i.e. starting or consolidating a research team) or, depending on the field, establishing an independent research programme.

ERC STARTING GRANTS

Support early career independent researchers of any nationality with:

- 2-10 years of experience since completion of PhD
- a scientific track record showing great promise
- an excellent research proposal
- a host organisation based in an EU Member State ⁽¹⁾, an Associated Country ⁽²⁾, or being an International European Interest Organisation
- funding per grant: up to € 2.0 Mio. (normally up to € 1.5 Mio.)
- duration: up to 5 years
- calls for proposals: published annually in summer with deadlines in autumn
- evaluation criteria: scientific excellence

Europe currently offers insufficient opportunities for young investigators to develop independent careers and make the transition from working under a supervisor to being independent researchers in their own right. This structural problem leads to a loss of research talent. It also limits the emergence of the next generation of research leaders in Europe.

ERC Starting Grants aim to support up-and-coming researchers who are about to establish or consolidate their own research team and to start conducting independent research in Europe. The scheme targets researchers who show great promise of becoming independent research leaders. It will support the creation of new research teams for the conduct of excellent frontier research projects.

ERC ADVANCED GRANTS

Support outstanding established research leaders of any nationality with:

- an exceptional scientific leadership profile
- an excellent scientific track record
- a ground-breaking research proposal
- a host organisation based in an EU Member State ⁽¹⁾, an Associated Country ⁽²⁾ or being an International European Interest Organisation
- funding per grant: up to € 3.5 Mio. (normally up to € 2.5 Mio.)
- duration: up to 5 years
- calls for proposals: published annually in autumn with deadlines in spring
- evaluation criteria: scientific excellence

The ERC Advanced Grant scheme complements the ERC Starting Grant scheme by targeting researchers who have already established themselves as independent research leaders.

Applicants for the ERC Advanced Grant are expected to be active researchers who have a track record of significant achievements appropriate to their field(s) of research in the last ten years. The principal investigators should be exceptional leaders in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions and pursue ground-breaking, high-risk research that opens new directions in their respective research fields or other domains.

Grant applications should tackle pioneering and far-reaching challenges at the frontiers of the field(s) addressed, and involve new, ground-breaking or unconventional methodologies, whose risky outlook is justified by the possibility of a major breakthrough with an impact beyond a specific research domain/discipline.

1 Member States

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

2 Associated Countries

Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Montenegro, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey.

