



European Research Council
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Press release

ERC Consolidator Grants: €605 million from Brussels to 314 ambitious researchers

13 December 2016

New regenerative therapies for heart disease, novel algorithms to make computer networks more resilient, a pioneering treatment for psychological conditions and better understanding of how illicit markets work – these are examples of the challenges at the frontiers of knowledge that the new grantees of the European Research Council are going to take on.

The ERC has announced today the awarding of its Consolidator Grants to 314 top researchers in Europe. The funding, worth a total of €605 million, will give them a chance to have far-reaching impact on science and beyond. The grants fall under the 'Excellent Science' pillar of Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme.

On this occasion, Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: *"The ERC has been established to find the best quality in science, to cherish it and support it, making Europe a centre of international scientific excellence. The new grant winners have been awarded this competitive funding because they are top-notch scientists with truly ground-breaking ideas - investment in their success will pay back."*

The President of the ERC, Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, commented: *"Consolidator Grants support talented researchers still early in their careers. In 2016 the demand for this type of ERC funding increased again. It testifies to the need for more funding for curiosity-driven research in Europe. It is satisfactory to see that, for one more call, the success rates of women and men are comparable. The grantees who succeeded in this tough competition will enjoy full freedom and flexibility, important characteristics of ERC grants, to contribute to major advances in science."*

The research projects proposed by the new grantees cover a wide range of topics in physical sciences and engineering, life sciences, as well as social sciences and humanities. ([See more examples](#))

The grantees will carry out their projects at universities, research centres and other host institutions in the EU or Associated Countries¹. In this competition, researchers

¹ List of countries associated to the EU Horizon 2020:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf



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of 39 nationalities received funding, amongst them are for example Germans (50 grants), Italians (38), French (34) and Britons (24). The researchers will work in 23 countries across Europe, with the United Kingdom (58 grants), Germany (48), France (43) and the Netherlands (29) as leading locations.

The ERC has evaluated 2,274 research proposals this time, out of which 13.8% have been selected for funding. Twenty-eight percent of grants were awarded to female applicants. The grants will create an estimated 2,000 jobs for postdocs, PhD students and other staff working in the grantees' research teams. ([See more statistics](#))

[List of all selected researchers in alphabetical order](#)

Lists of selected researchers by domain (in alphabetical order):

- [Physical Sciences and Engineering](#)
- [Life Sciences](#)
- [Social Sciences and Humanities](#)

[Statistics – Consolidator Grants 2016](#)

[Discover more projects in this Consolidator Grant competition](#)

Background

The ERC Consolidator Grants are awarded to outstanding researchers of any nationality and age, with at least seven and up to 12 years of experience after PhD, and a scientific track record showing great promise. Research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries. The funding (maximum of €2 million per grant), is provided for up to five years and mostly covers the employment of researchers and other staff to consolidate the grantees' teams. .

About the ERC

The European Research Council, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based in Europe. The ERC has three core grant schemes: Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants and Advanced Grants. Another funding scheme [Synergy Grants](#) should be re-launched in 2018.

The ERC has an annual budget of €1.7 billion for the year 2016, which is around 1% of overall spending on research in Europe. The ERC strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe - key global research funding bodies concluded special agreements to provide their researchers with [opportunities to visit or join](#) ERC grantees' teams. To date, the ERC has funded some 6,500 top researchers at various stages



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of their careers, and more than 40,000 postdocs, PhD students and other staff working in their research teams. To monitor gender balance in ERC calls, in 2008, the ERC set up a dedicated [Working Group](#) and introduced a number of measures.

The ERC is part of the 'Excellent Science' pillar of Horizon 2020 for which European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Carlos Moedas is responsible. It is led by an independent governing body, its Scientific Council, chaired by Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon since January 2014.

More information

[ERC website](#)

[Horizon 2020](#)

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