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STUDIES

Funding Opportunities in Horizon 2020 for early post-docs

European Research Council

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Horizon 2020

- Research and Innovation Programme of the European Union
- About 80bn EUR (current prices) of public funding available over seven years (2014 to 2020)
- Three main pillars
 - Excellent Science
 - Industrial Leadership
 - Societal Challenges



Pillar 1 Excellent Science (bottom up)

- European Research Council
- Future and Emerging Technologies
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions
- European Research Infrastructures, including e-Infrastructures



Pillar 2 Industrial Leadership (top down)

- Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies
 - Information and Communication Technologies
 - Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing, and Biotechnology
 - Space
- Access to risk finance
- Innovation in SMEs



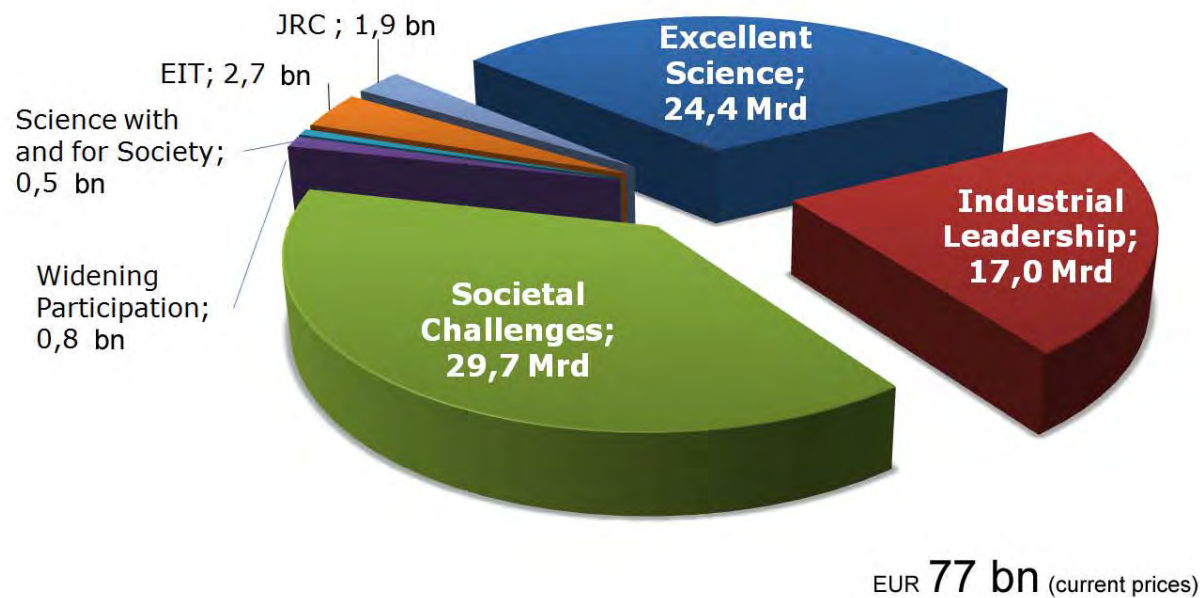
Pillar 3 Societal Challenges (top down)

- Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing
- Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy
- Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy
- Smart, Green and Integrated Transport
- Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials
- Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
- Secure societies – Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens



H2020 - Budget

Horizon 2020 Budget





Typical funding opportunities for (early/medium) post-docs

- I. European Research Council: Starting or Consolidator Grants
- II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions: Individual Fellowships
- III. Societal Challenges, in particular “Europe in a changing world - Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies”: participation in projects



H2020 - Budget

I. Excellent Science	31.73 %	24.441
1. European Research Council	17.00	13.095
2. Future and Emerging Technologies	3.50	2.696
3. Marie-Sklodowska-Curie actions	8.00	6.162
4. European research infrastructures (including eInfrastructures)	3.23	2.488
III. Societal Challenges	38.53%	29.679
1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing	9.70	7.472
2. Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, ...	5.00	3.851
3. Secure, clean and efficient energy	7.70	5.931
4. Smart, green and integrated transport	8.23	6.339
5. Climate action, environment resource efficiency and raw mater.	4.00	3.081
6. Europe in a changing world - Inclusive innovative and reflective societies	1.70	1.309
7. Secure societies - Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens	2.20	1.695



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ERC funding schemes

- **ERC Starting Grant**

- young, early-career top researchers (2-7 years after PhD) - up to 1.5 MEUR/5yrs (+500k) – ANNUAL CALL

- **ERC Consolidator Grant**

- already independent excellent researchers 7-12 years after PhD) - up to 2 MEUR/5yrs (+750k) – ANNUAL CALL



ERC funding schemes

- **ERC Advanced Grant**
 - senior research leaders with significant research achievements in the last 10 years - up to 3.5 MEUR/yr – ANNUAL CALL
- **ERC Proof of Concept Grants**
 - ERC grant holders who want to check the market and/or innovation potential of research results from ERC-projects - up to 150,000 euro for 1yr
- **ERC Synergy Grants**
 - Currently no calls



ERC Starting/Consolidator Grant: Objectives

- Support the *start* of an independent research career/ *consolidation* of independent team/activity
- Facilitate the transition from working under a supervisor to an independent research leader
- Encouraged are proposals of interdisciplinary nature, from new and emerging fields, and ,high risk – high-gain‘ proposals



ERC Grants: Facts

- Bottom-up approach
- ERC covers all fields of science and scholarship
- Three domains (approx. budget distribution)
 - Social Sciences and Humanities (16-19%)
 - Physical sciences and Engineering (43-45%)
 - Life Sciences (37-39%)
- Budget available (per call)
 - StG 2015: 485 MEUR; 2016: 485 MEUR (est. grants: 335)
 - CoG 2015: 585 MEUR; 2016: 605 MEUR (est. grants: 335)
 - AdG 2015: 630 MEUR; 2015: 540 MEUR (est. grants: 235)



ERC: Funding StG/CoG

- Duration: up to 5 years, normally up to 1.5 or 2 MEUR (possibly 500k or 750k EUR in addition).
- 100% grant for direct eligible costs, plus a contribution to indirect costs (up to 25%)
- Direct costs are e.g. Personnel Costs, Equipment Costs, Consumables, Travel and Subsistence Costs, Publication Costs (page charges and related fees for publication of results, OA, etc.)
- Includes personnel costs of PI, at least 50%/40% of working time must be devoted to the ERC project



ERC: Who can apply?

- “Principal Investigator”
 - Can be of any nationality or country of residence
 - Must be / become independent
 - Starters: PhD (or equivalent) awarded **more than 2 and less than 7 years**; Consolidators **more than 7 and less than 12 years**, reference date is **1 January 2016**; extensions (to be documented: maternity, paternity, long-term illness, clinical training, national service).
- „Host organisation“
 - Established in EU Member States or Associated Countries, or be an international European Interest Organisations or the JRC
 - Portability (normally not during the first two years)



ERC: Competitive?

- Principal Investigator: A promising track-record of early achievements?
 - At least one (StG) or several (CoG) important publication without the PhD supervisor?
 - Significant publications as main author in major international peer-reviewed (multidisciplinary) scientific journals (5/10)?
 - A good record of presentations at well-established international conferences, awards, prizes?
 - Leadership in Research Expeditions/Projects?



ERC: Procedures

- Deadlines:
 - StG: 17 November 2015 / ?? ??? 2016
 - CoG: 2 February 2016 / ?? ??? 2017
- Short Application (ca. 10 + 15 pages)
- Submission done with/by Host Institution
- Two-step peer review evaluation
- No multiple applications, re-submissions restricted (unless above threshold)
- SSH-Success 2015: StG 9,3% (70), CoG 12,9%(68)



ERC: Research Proposal

- Part B1
 - Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
 - Principal Investigator (2+1+2=5 pages)
 - i. 2 pages CV, ii: 'funding ID' iii: early achievement track-record (publications, conference organisations, awards, etc.)
- Part B2
 - The Scientific Proposal (15 pages)
 - i. state of the art and objectives, ii. methodology, iii. resources (team, resources, requested funding)



ERC: Evaluation

1. Research Project

- Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project:
- Scientific Approach

2. Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity and creativity
- Commitment



ERC: SSH Panels

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment and Space
- SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past



ERC Proposals with the RSCAS/EUI

- Contact RSCAS-Director or the relevant Head of Department with a draft outline
- Agreement on EUI as hosting institution
- Administrative Support by RSCAS or Research Administration
- Final Submission by EUI (Research Administration)