

# The European Research Council

## ERC Grant Schemes

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**European University Institute**

**Max Weber Programme**

**Florence, 26 November 2014**



- ERC and its grant schemes
- Evaluation
- Application tips

# European Research Council in the H2020 Structure



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## ➤ The HORIZON 2020 main components:

- Excellent Science
  - ➔ *World class science is foundation of technologies, jobs, well-being*
  - ➔ *Europe needs to develop, attract, retain research talent*
  - ➔ *Researchers need access to the best infrastructures*
- Industrial leadership
- Societal challenges

## ➤ Excellent Science:

- **European Research Council** (budget under H2020: € 13.1 billion)
- Future and Emerging Technologies
- Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

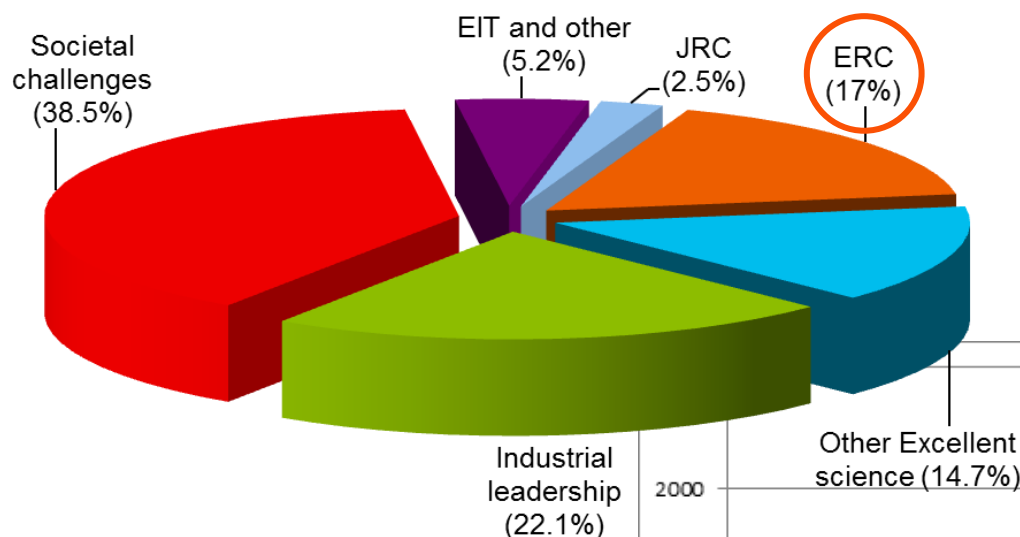
# Horizon 2020 Budget € 77 billion

ERC Budget € 13 billion



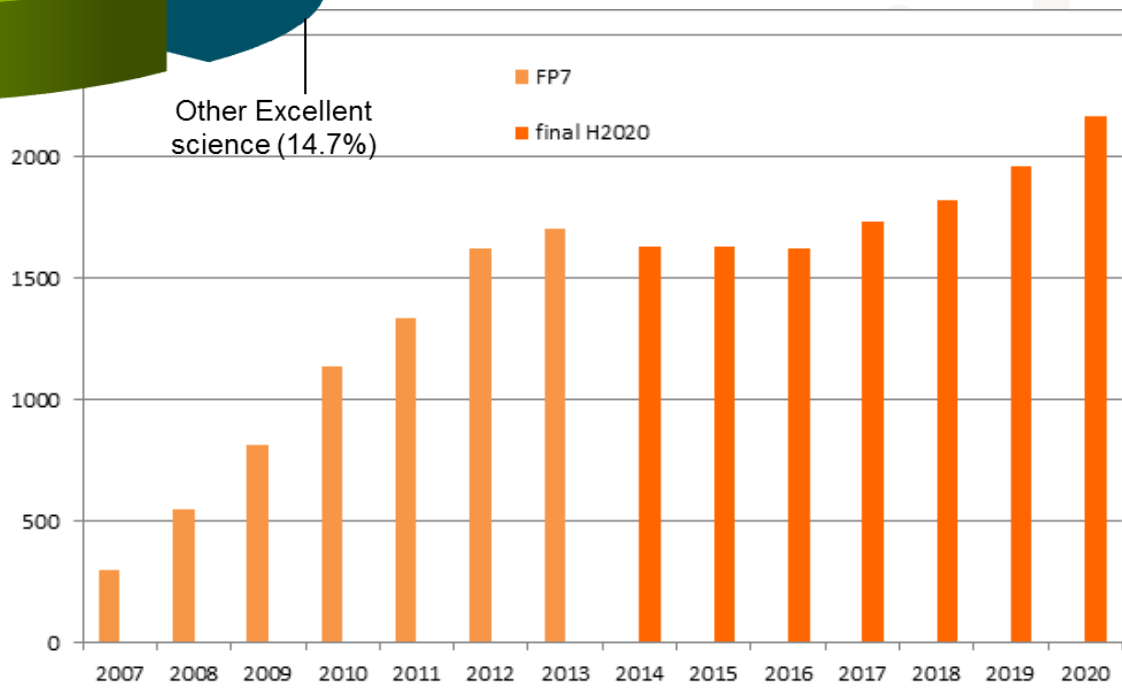
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**H2020 budget € 77 billion**  
**ERC budget € 13 billion**

**FP7 budget € 50.5 billion**  
**ERC budget € 7.5 billion**



# ERC Basics

## What is European Research Council?



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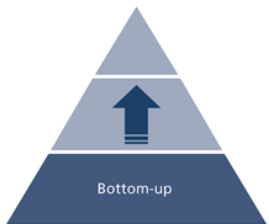
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The mission of the ERC is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence

Research funded by the ERC is expected to lead to:

- advances at the frontiers of knowledge
- reinforce and extend the Union's science base in Europe

*By challenging Europe's brightest minds, the ERC expects that its grants will help to bring about new and **unpredictable scientific and technological discoveries** the kind that can form the basis of new industries, markets, and broader social innovations of the future*



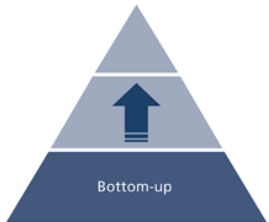
# ERC Basics

## What is European Research Council?



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### Structure

#### ➤ **Scientific Council:**

- science-led funding body: 22 members representing Europe's scientific community
- full authority over funding strategy and methodologies

#### ➤ **ERC Executive Agency**

- Supports the Scientific Council
- Implements and manages ERC operations

### Strategy

- Excellence as the only criterion
- Support for the individual scientist – no networks!
- Global peer-review
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Pan-European competition
- Support of frontier research in all fields of science and humanities



European  
Commission

Horizon 2020  
European Union  
for Research

# ERC Grant Schemes – Who can apply?

## ■ Excellent Researchers (PIs)

→ Any nationality, age or current place of work (with a PhD min 2 years old)

## ■ In conjunction with a Host Institution (HI)\*

→ Based in the EU or an Associated Country

## ■ Individual research team

→ Researcher has freedom to choose national or trans-national team, if scientific added value proven

\*Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Faroe Islands, FYR Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey

# ERC Funding Schemes

## 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



# ERC Funding Schemes- Starting Grants (1)

**OBJECTIVE:** Support **excellent PIs** at the career stage where they are **starting their own independent research team or programme**

- **PROFILE:**
  - They shall have been awarded their first PhD at **least 2 and up to 7 years prior to 1 January 2015\***
  - Must have shown **potential for research independence/evidence maturity**
  - **At least one important publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor**
  - **Invited presentations in conferences**
  - **Funding, patents, awards, prizes**

# ERC Funding Schemes- Starting Grants (2)

## Early achievements track record:

- 1. Up to five publications in leading peer-reviewed journals, conferences proceedings and/or monographs ...\****
- 2. Research monographs and any translations thereof (if applicable);***
- 3. Granted patent(s) (if applicable);***
- 4. Invited presentations to peer-reviewed, internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools (if applicable)***
- 5. Prizes/ Awards/ Academy memberships (if applicable).***

# ERC Funding Schemes- Starting Grants (3)

## COMMITMENT:

- Shall spend a minimum of 50% working time in EU/AC
- Shall spend a minimum 50% working time on ERC project

## GRANT:

- Maximum of **EUR 1 500 000** for a period of 5 years
  - Addition **EUR 500 000** in justified cases ("start-up" costs for PIs moving to the EU or AC; purchase of major equipment; access to large facilities)

Call opened: 7 October 2014  
Deadline: 3 February 2015

# ERC Funding Schemes- Consolidator Grants (1)

**OBJECTIVE:** Support **excellent PIs** at the career stage where they are **consolidating their own independent research team or programme**

- **PROFILE:**
  - They shall have been awarded their first PhD **over 7 and up to 12 years prior to 1 January 2015\***
  - Must have shown **research independence, evidence of maturity, very often already working with own group**
  - **Some publications with significant impact**
  - **Invited presentations and conferences**
  - **Funding, patents, awards, prices**

# ERC Funding Schemes- Consolidator Grants (2)



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## Early achievements track record

- 1. Up to ten publications in leading peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings, monographs....\****
- 2. Research monographs and any translations thereof (if applicable);***
- 3. Granted patent(s) (if applicable);***
- 4. Invited presentations to peer-reviewed, internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools (if applicable)***
- 5. Prizes/ Awards/ Academy memberships (if applicable).***



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Horizon 2020  
European Union funding  
for Research & Innovation

# ERC Funding Schemes- Consolidator Grants (3)



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## COMMITMENT:

- Shall spend a minimum of **50%** working time in EU/AC
- Shall spend a minimum **40%** working time on ERC project

## GRANT:

- Maximum of **EUR 2 000 000** for a period of 5 years
  - Addition **EUR 750 000** in justified cases ("start-up" costs for PIs moving to the EU or AC; purchase of major equipment; access to large facilities)

Call opened: **13 November 2014**  
Deadline: **12 March 2015**

# ERC Funding Schemes – Advanced Grants (1)

**OBJECTIVE:** Support **excellent PIs** at the career stage where they are **established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements in the last 10 years**

- **PROFILE:**

- Excellent in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions.
- Publications with significant impact, Invited presentations at conferences
- Funding, patents, awards, prizes
- No specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are foreseen.

# ERC Funding Schemes – Advanced Grants(2)

## *Ten-year\* track record*

- 1. Up to ten representative publications, from the last ten years, as main author in leading international peer-reviewed journals, conferences proceedings ....**
- 2. Research monographs and any translations thereof (if applicable);**
- 3. Granted *patents* (if applicable);**
- 4. Invited presentations to peer-reviewed, internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools (if applicable);**
- 5. Research expeditions (if applicable);**
- 6. Organisation of international conferences....**
- 7. Prizes/Awards/Academy memberships///**
- 8. Mayor contributions to early careers excellent researchers**
- 9. Examples of leadership in undustrial innovation or design**



# ERC Funding Schemes – Advanced Grants (3)

## COMMITMENT

- Shall spend a minimum of **50%** working time in EU/AC
- Shall spend a minimum **30%** working time on ERC project

## GRANT

- Maximum of **EUR 2 500 000** for a period of 5 years
  - Addition **EUR 1 000 000** in justified cases ("start-up" costs for PIs moving to the EU or AC; purchase of major equipment; access to large facilities)

*Expected dates for 2015:*

Call opens: **10 February 2015**

Deadline: **2 June 2015**

# ERC's offer to researchers

## ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- to work on a research topic of own choice (bottom-up), with a team of own choice.
- to gain true financial autonomy for up to 5 years\*.
- to negotiate with the host institution the best conditions of work.
- to move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary (portability of grants).
- to attract top team members (EU and non-EU) and collaborators.
- to attract additional funding and gain recognition; ERC is a quality label.

# Role of Host Institution

- **Grants are awarded to the Host Institution that engages the Principal Investigator**
  - Supplementary agreement (PI, HI)
- **Provide appropriate conditions for the PI to independently direct the research and manage its funding**
  - ➔ Apply for funding independently
  - ➔ Manage the research and funding, decision on allocation of resources
  - ➔ Publish independently as senior author
  - ➔ Supervise the work of the team members, including research students, doctoral students
  - ➔ Have access to appropriate space and facilities for conducting research

# ERC achievements

## After 7 years of existence...



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- Highly recognised by the research community
- 4 300 top researchers funded (65% are at an early-career stage); 64 nationalities represented
- **Highly competitive** (average success rate 12%)
- Working in almost 600 different institutions in 29 countries
- **Benchmarking** effect: impact on national programmes and agencies; national funding for best projects who could not be funded due to limited ERC budget
- Efficient and fast grant management

- **ERC and its grant schemes**
- **Evaluation**
- **Application tips**

# Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion



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- Excellence of the Research Project
  - Ground breaking nature
  - Potential impact
  - Scientific Approach
- Excellence of the Principal Investigator
  - Intellectual capacity
  - Creativity
  - Commitment
- Referees and panels evaluate and score each criterion, which results in a ranking of the proposals.

# ERC Panel Structure 2015

## 3 domains & 25 panels



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Each panel:  
Panel Chair and  
12-16 Panel Members

### Life Sciences

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

### Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Markets, Individuals and Institutions
- SH2 The Social World, Diversity, Institutions and Values: sociology, political science, law, communication, education
- SH3 Environment, Space and Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures and 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 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- PE6 Computer Science & Informatics
- PE7 Systems & Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products & Process Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Sciences

# SH2 The Social World, Diversity, Institutions and Values: Sociology, political science, law, communication, education



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- SH2\_1 Social structure, social mobility
- SH2\_2 Social inequalities, social exclusion, social integration
- SH2\_3 Diversity and identities, gender, interethnic relations
- SH2\_4 Social policies, educational policies, welfare
- SH2\_5 Democratisation, social movements
- SH2\_6 Political systems, governance
- SH2\_7 Conflict and conflict resolution, violence
- SH2\_8 Legal studies, constitutions, comparative law
- SH2\_9 Human rights
- SH2\_10 International relations, global and transnational governance
- SH2\_11 Communication and information, networks, media

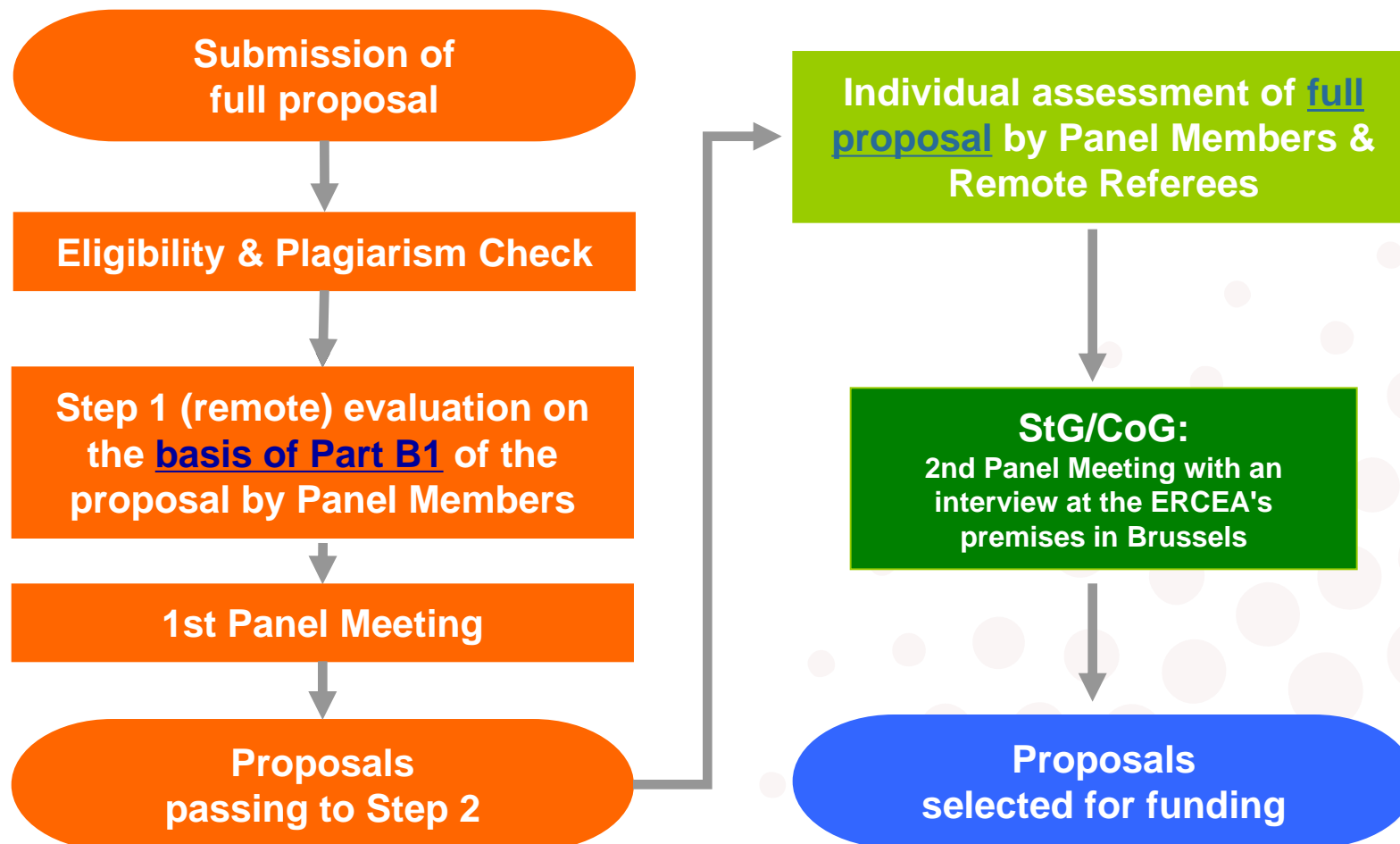


# ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants – Selection of Proposals



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# Timetable of the 2015 Calls



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ERC calls	Call Publication	Submission Deadline
<b>Starting Grants</b> ERC-2015-StG	7 Oct 2014	3 Feb 2015
<b>Consolidator Grants</b> ERC-2015-CoG	13 Nov 2014	12 Mar 2015
<b>Advanced Grants</b> ERC-2015-AdG	10 Feb 2015	2 Jun 2015
<b>Proof of Concept Grants</b> ERC-2015-PoC	Dec 2014	5 Feb 2015, 28 May 2015, 1 Oct 2015



- **ERC and its grant schemes**
- **Evaluation**
- **Application tips**

# How to apply?



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- **Go to <http://erc.eu>:**
  - which grant am I eligible for?
  - read FAQ
  - check successful applicants' profiles
  - check panels <http://erc.europa.eu/evaluation-panels>
  
- **Find a host institution:**
  - check National Contact Point (NCP)
  - contact EU Grants office at target institution

# ERC Grants – Funded Projects



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Menu allows  
searching by  
Funding Scheme,  
Call Year and  
Country of Host  
Institution.



You are here: [Homepage](#) > [Projects and Results](#) > [ERC Funded Projects](#)

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## ERC Funded Projects

Browse ERC projects by

**Funding Scheme** ▾

**Call year** ▾

**Country of Host Institution** ▾

**Keywords**

Search

Clear all



# ERC Grants – Proposal Submission

- Online (via the Participant Portal)  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>
- One deadline per call.
- Submit to a specific panel (one of 25) but you can indicate a secondary panel.

# ERC Grants – General Tips

- Allow sufficient time to prepare your application.
- Submit well in advance of the deadline – you can overwrite any version submitted with a new one.
- Double and triple check that all documents are correct and have been submitted.
- Respect the page limits and proof-read your proposal well.

# ERC Grants – Conclusion

- Any topic, nationality, age and current workplace
- Scientific excellence
- Host institution in EU or AC
- Min. working time at European HI 30-50% (flexible across project duration)
- +2 years PhD
- Offer: Attractive, long-term funding for the very best researchers



# ERC Grants – Further Information

More information on

<http://erc.europa.eu>

Support to applicants

<http://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points>

To subscribe to ERC newsletter and news alerts

<http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc>

Follow us on



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[https://twitter.com/ERC\\_Research](https://twitter.com/ERC_Research)

# Thank you ! - Questions?

## Contacts:

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