Outline

- ERC and its grant schemes
- Evaluation
- Application tips
European Research Council in the H2020 Structure

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

FP7 budget € 50.5 billion
ERC budget € 7.5 billion

H2020 budget € 77 billion
ERC budget € 13 billion
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?

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-Europian competition
- Support of frontier research in all fields of science and humanities
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
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
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
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
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).
ERC Funding Schemes - Consolidator Grants (3)

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
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.
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…

- 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
Outline

- ERC and its grant schemes
- Evaluation
- Application tips
Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Life Sciences</th>
<th>Physical Sciences &amp; Engineering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LS1</strong> Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry</td>
<td>PE1 Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LS2</strong> Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology</td>
<td>PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LS3</strong> Cellular and Developmental Biology</td>
<td>PE3 Condensed Matter Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LS4</strong> Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology</td>
<td>PE4 Physical &amp; Analytical Chemical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LS5</strong> Neurosciences and Neural Disorders</td>
<td>PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LS6</strong> Immunity and Infection</td>
<td>PE6 Computer Science &amp; Informatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LS7</strong> Diagnostic Tools, Therapies &amp; Public Health</td>
<td>PE7 Systems &amp; Communication Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LS8</strong> Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology</td>
<td>PE8 Products &amp; Process Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LS9</strong> Applied Life Sciences and Biotechnology</td>
<td>PE9 Universe Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SH1</strong> Markets, Individuals and Institutions</td>
<td>PE10 Earth System Science</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SH2</strong> The Social World, Diversity, Institutions and Values: sociology, political science, law, communication, education</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SH3</strong> Environment, Space and Population</td>
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<td><strong>SH4</strong> The Human Mind and Its Complexity</td>
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<td><strong>SH5</strong> Cultures and Cultural Production</td>
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<td><strong>SH6</strong> The Study of the Human Past</td>
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Each panel: Panel Chair and 12-16 Panel Members
SH2 The Social World, Diversity, Institutions and Values: Sociology, political science, law, communication, education

- 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

1. Submission of full proposal
2. Eligibility & Plagiarism Check
3. Step 1 (remote) evaluation on the basis of Part B1 of the proposal by Panel Members
4. 1st Panel Meeting
5. Proposals passing to Step 2
6. Individual assessment of full proposal by Panel Members & Remote Referees
7. StG/CoG: 2nd Panel Meeting with an interview at the ERCEA's premises in Brussels
8. Proposals selected for funding
## Timetable of the 2015 Calls

<table>
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<th>ERC calls</th>
<th>Call Publication</th>
<th>Submission Deadline</th>
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<td><strong>Proof of Concept Grants</strong></td>
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- Application tips
How to apply?

- 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

Menu allows searching by Funding Scheme, Call Year and Country of Host Institution.
ERC Grants – Proposal Submission

- Online (via the Participant Portal)

- 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
https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil
https://twitter.com/ERC_Research
Thank you! - Questions?

Contacts:

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