



European Research Council

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Highlight

45 ERC grantees receive top-up innovation funding

30 September 2016

Forty-five ERC grantees will bring the results of their frontier research closer to market thanks to Proof of Concept grants. This top-up funding will help them explore the innovation potential of their ERC-funded discoveries.

The grants will support projects covering a wide array of subjects from physical sciences and engineering to life sciences and social sciences. For instance, a researcher in France will carry out clinical trials of a cure for a rare cancer; a scholar in Germany will set up a phonetics laboratory service to diagnose speech impairment via the web; a scientist in Austria will develop a method to eliminate turbulence in oil pipelines and potentially save billions on transport costs; a grantee in the Netherlands will test neuroprotective therapy for stroke.

These Proof of Concept grants, worth €150,000 each, can be used for example to establish intellectual property rights, investigate business opportunities or conduct technical validation. The scheme is open to ERC grant holders only. The grantees can apply for funding in one of the three rounds of the yearly call. Earlier this year the ERC [announced](#) the results of the first round.

The budget of the overall 2016 Proof of Concept competition is €20 million. In the second round of the competition 131 ERC grant holders applied.

- [List of the 45 grantees by country of host institution](#)

Background

The European Research Council, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the first European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. It offers three core grant schemes: Starting, Consolidator and Advanced. Every year, it selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based in Europe. The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, the ERC has funded around 6,500 top researchers at various stages of their careers. With its Proof of Concept grant scheme, the ERC also helps grantees to bridge the gap between their pioneering research and early phases of its commercialisation.



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The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council. The ERC President is Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon. The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion for the years 2014 to 2020 and is part of the EU research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, for which European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Carlos Moedas is responsible.

For more information

[ERC website](#)

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