

The European Research Council



ERC GRANTS FOR TOP RESEARCHERS FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

Lucía Rubio Fernández
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Presentation to Australia and New Zealand



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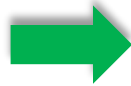
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European Commission and ERC



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Directorate-General
Research and
Innovation (RTD)



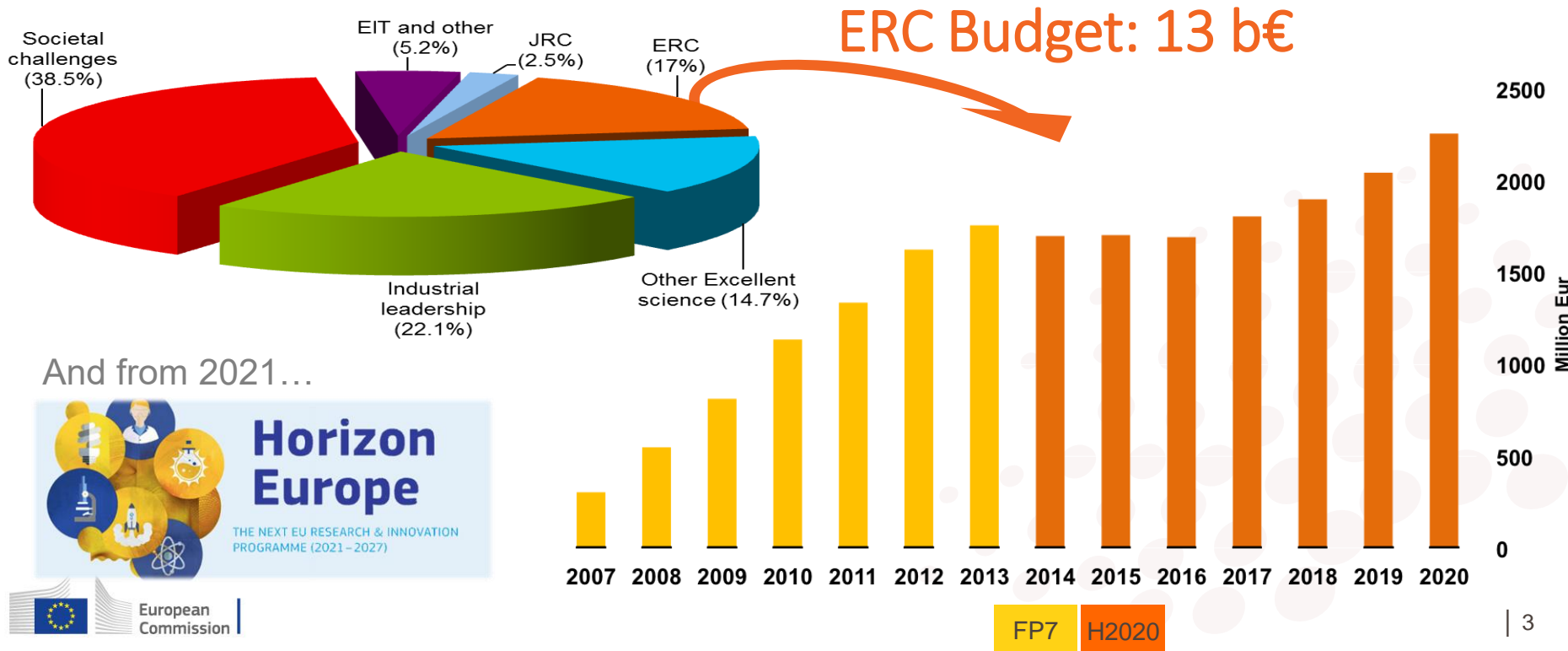
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ERC is....

1. Funding: it is part of Horizon 2020



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ERC is....

2. The Scientific Council



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ŽIĆ FUCHS**
(Linguistics)

ERC is....

3. The ERCEA



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The ERC Executive Agency

- Implements calls for proposals
- Organises peer review evaluations
- Establishes and manages grant agreements
- Administers scientific and financial aspects
- Carries out communications activities



ERC Facts and figures



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> 10,500

projects of all types funded
by the ERC since 2007



82

nationalities
(ERC grantees)



34

EU and Associated Countries
hosting ERC projects



> 125,000

publications reported
by ERC projects



> 1,300

prestigious prizes
awarded to ERC grantees



> 75,000

researchers and other professionals
hired in ERC teams

ERC funds
"frontier research" including
applied research



Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion

Publication record
is not decisive
in selection

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Potential impact
- Scientific Approach

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment

Host institution is not
an evaluation criterion

ERC basics

The ERC funding schemes



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Starting Grant

Size of the grant: up to €1.5 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
2-7 years of experience since completion of their PhD



Consolidator Grant

Size of the grant: up to €2 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
7-12 years of experience since completion of their PhD



Advanced Grant

Size of the grant: up to €2.5 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
An excellent scientific track record of recognized achievements in the last 10 years



Synergy grant

Size of the grant: €10 million + up to €4 million
Duration: up to 6 years
Be composed of 2 to 4 researchers and their research groups (**one researcher can be based outside EU/AC**)



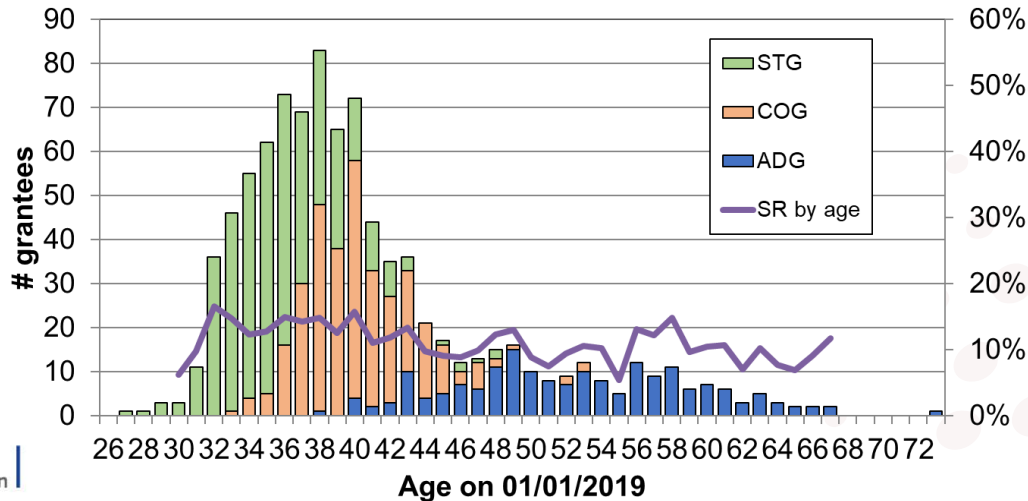
Proof of Concept

Size of the grant: €150 000
Duration: up to 18 months
Demonstrate that the idea funded by the original ERC grant has innovation potential and significant economic or societal benefits

The budget is distributed among the panels as a function of demand

The success rate is virtually flat across the eligibility window

STG COG ADG 2019 Grantees by age with success rate



Investing in the young:
2/3 of ERC grants go to early-stage researchers

Researchers from all over the world can apply to ERC



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Opportunities for researchers outside the European Research Area*

* European Research Area = EU + Associated Countries

- Additional 1 M€ “start-up” funding for researchers moving to Europe
- Grantee can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe - at least 50% of work time in Europe
- Team members can be based outside Europe
- Grantee can move within Europe with the grant



2021 Call Calendar (expected dates*)



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ERC calls	Expected Call Opening	Expected Submission Deadline(s)
Starting Grants ERC-2021-StG	January 2021	March 2021
Consolidator Grants ERC-2021-CoG	January 2021	April 2021
Advanced Grants ERC-2021-AdG	May 2021	August 2021
Proof of Concept ERC-2021-PoC (cut off dates)	January 2021	March 2021 June 2021 October 2021
Synergy Grants ERC-2021-SyG	No Synergy Grant call in 2021	

ERC Panel structure – 2021 Update

3 Domains - 27 Panels



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Life Sciences (LS)

- **LS1** Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Structural Biology and Molecular Biophysics
- **LS2** Genetics, 'Omics', Bioinformatics and Systems Biology
- **LS3** Cellular and Developmental Biology
- **LS4** Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology
- **LS5** Neuroscience and Neural Disorders
- **LS6** Immunity and Infection
- **LS7** Applied Medical Technologies, Diagnostics, Therapies, and Public Health
- **LS8** Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology
- **LS9** Applied Life Sciences, Biotechnology and Molecular and Biosystems Engineering

The panel descriptors do not represent
ERC scientific priorities

Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

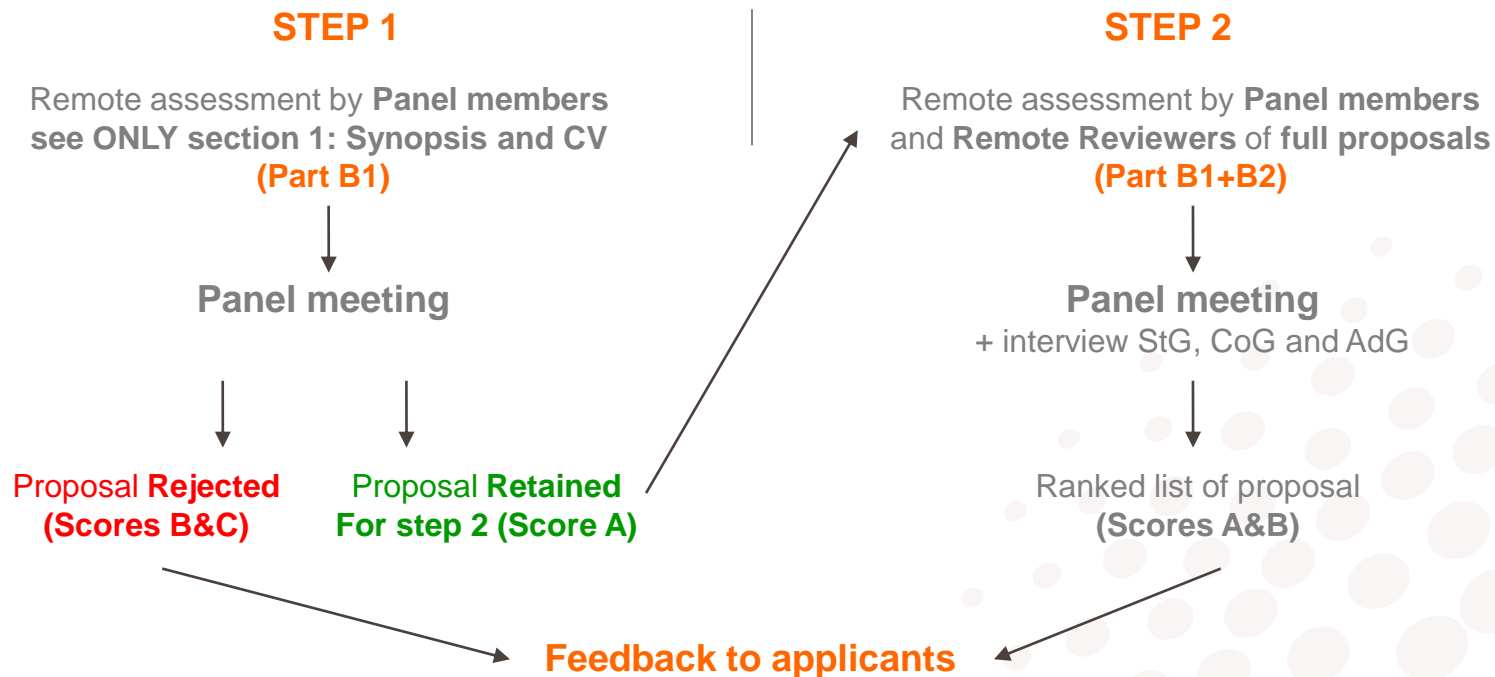
- **SH1** Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- **SH2** Institutions, Values, Environment and Space
- **SH3** The Social World, Diversity, Population
- **SH4** The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- **SH5** Cultures and Cultural Production
- **SH6** The Study of the Human Past
- **SH7** Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

Physical Sciences & Engineering (PSE)

- **PE1** Mathematics
- **PE2** Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- **PE3** Condensed Matter Physics
- **PE4** Physical & Analytical Chemical Sciences
- **PE5** Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- **PE6** Computer Science and Informatics
- **PE7** Systems and Communication Engineering
- **PE8** Products and Processes Engineering
- **PE9** Universe Sciences
- **PE10** Earth System Science
- **PE11** Materials Engineering

How are the ERC proposal evaluated

For individual calls: a single submission but a two step evaluation





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INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION TO ERC

47 Non-EU/AC Nationalities



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Over 8% of all ERC grants have principal investigators of non-EU/AC nationality

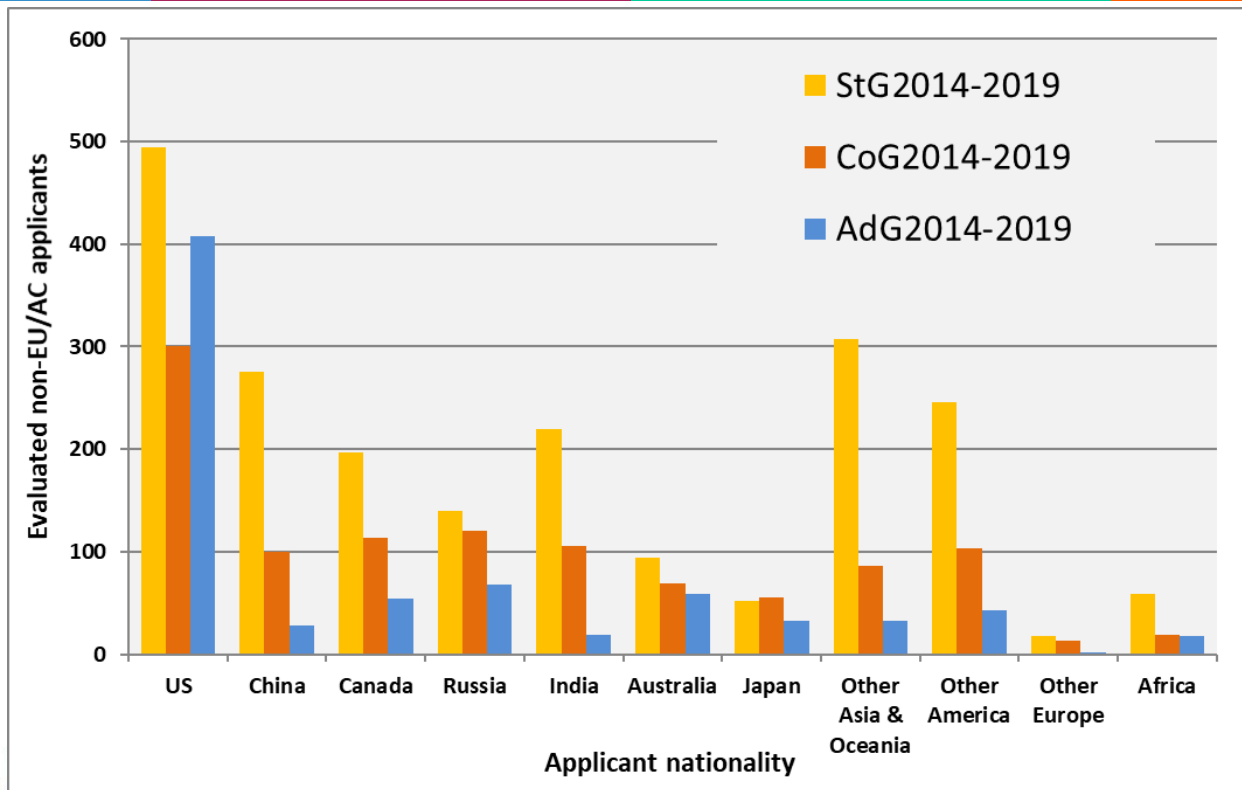
Non-EU/AC Principal Investigators	Starting and Consolidator grants	Advanced grants	Total grants
USA	227	121	348
Canada	83	16	99
India	59	3	62
Russia	50	9	59
Australia	49	10	59
China	50	1	51
Japan	25	7	32
New Zealand	17	6	23
Argentina	19	1	20
Other	106	13	119
Total	685	187	872

H2020 ERC Calls

Evaluated Proposals from non-EU/AC Nationals



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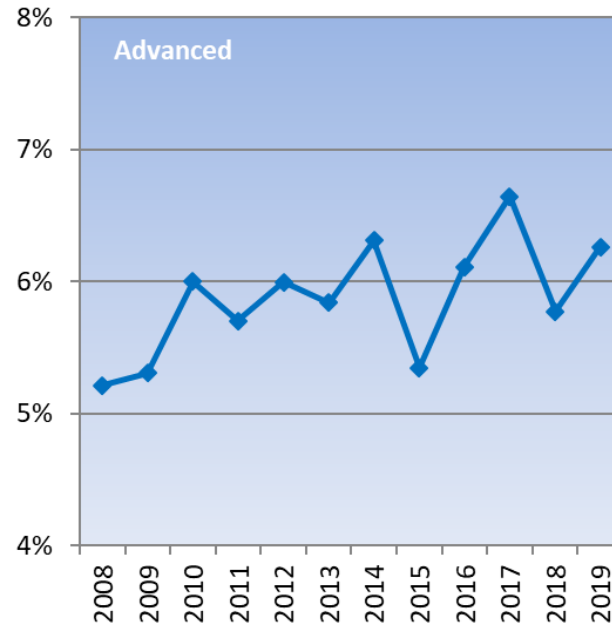
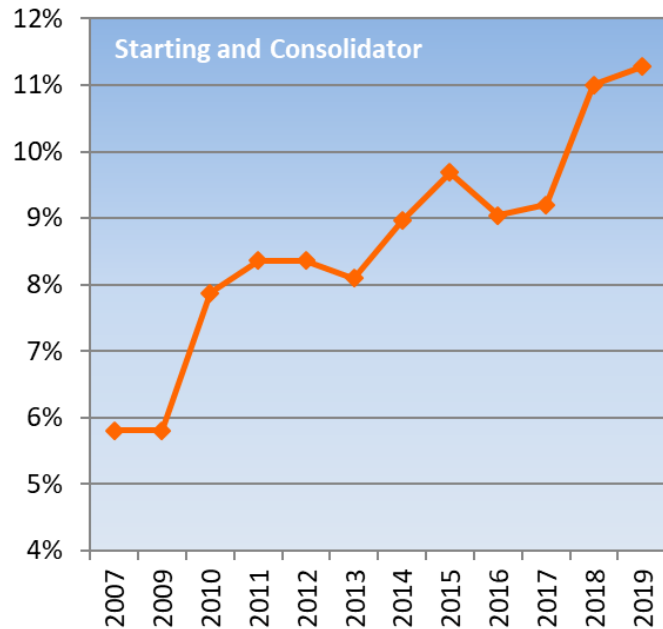


Increased Participation to H2020 Starting and Consolidator Calls



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Proportion of evaluated proposals from non-EU/AC nationals by call year



Attracting Researchers to Europe

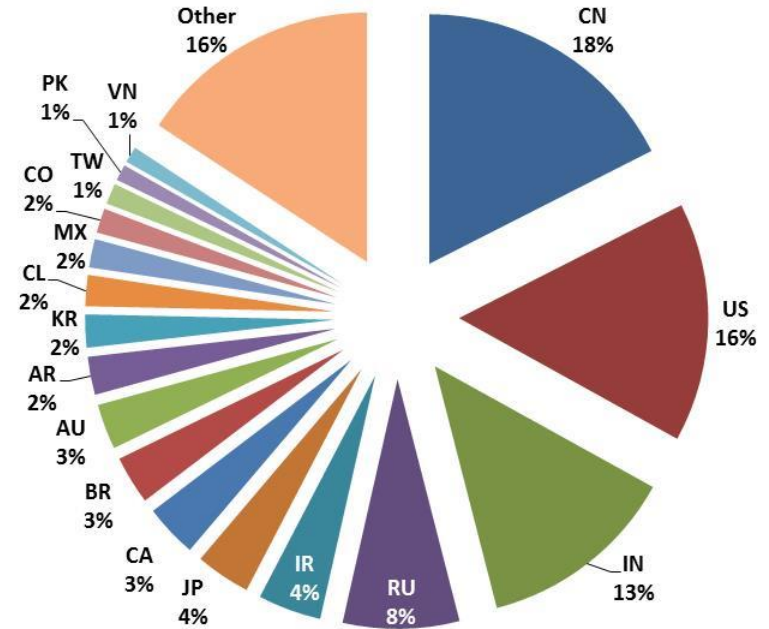


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Nationality of ERC project teams (PIs not included)
Analysis of 1,901 Starting and Advanced Grants

EU: 71%
Assoc. Countries: 10%
non-EU/AC: 17%
unknown: 2%

In all ERC grants
over 10,000 non-ERA team members
most from
China, US, India, and Russia



Examples of International Grantees ERC Funded Projects



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SignMorph

SH04 : The Human Mind and Its Complexity
Seeks to provide answers about the nature of human language through a focus on the sign languages of deaf communities.

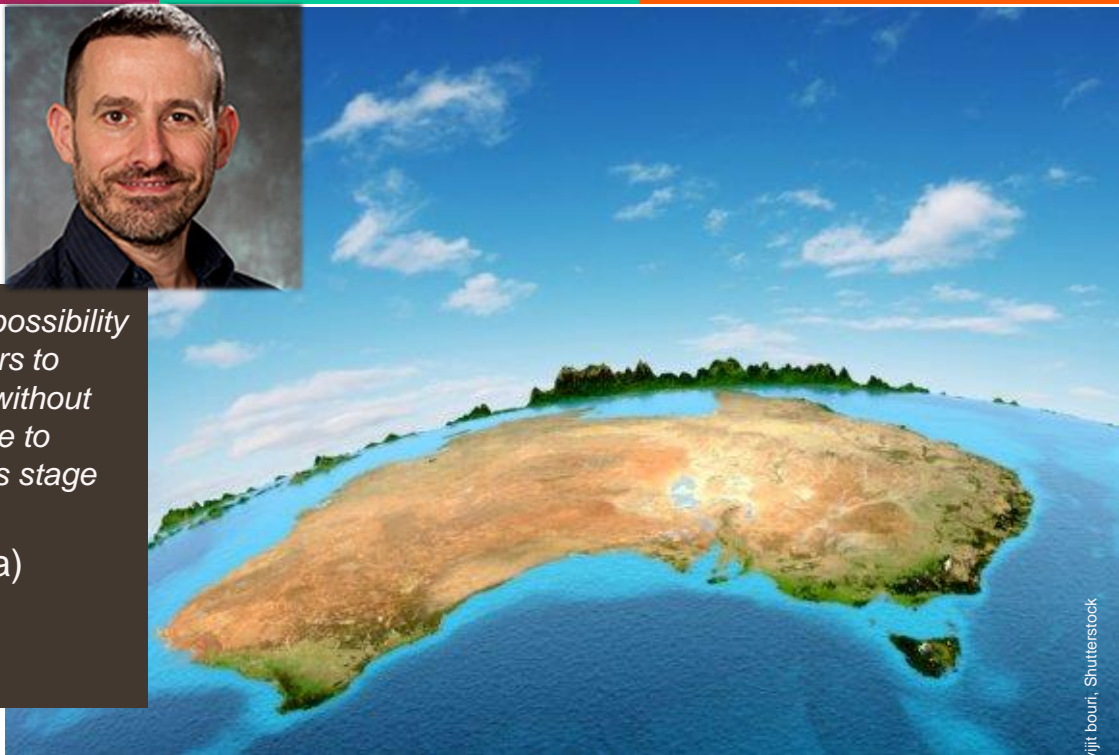


“The ERC Advanced Grant scheme offered the possibility of sufficient funding to build a team of researchers to work on such a large-scale project..... In fact, without this support from the ERC, it would be impossible to achieve the research goals I set for myself at this stage in my career.”

Researcher: Dr Adam Schembri (Australia)

ERC Advanced Grant 2019

HI: University of Birmingham (UK)



Where can you find more information?



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Our website:

erc.europa.eu

Our social media channels:



National Contact Points (NCP):

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

Funding & Tender Opportunities:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>