

Webinar - 16 March - 6 PM AEDT

European Research Council Starting & Consolidator Grants

Gemma C. Solomon

Professor, University of Copenhagen

ERC Starting Grant - 2010
ERC Consolidator Grant - 2019



- Open for researchers with 2-12 years of experience since completion of PhD
- All nationalities & disciplines
- Free-of-charge



Damian Evans

Research Fellow, French Institute of Asian Studies

ERC Starting Grant - 2014
ERC Consolidator Grant - 2020



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REGISTER 

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EURAXESS Australia & New Zealand



Presented to you by



SCAN ME

The European Research Council

Starting & Consolidator Grants

Nishant Shandilya
Regional Coordinator
EURAXESS Australia & New Zealand
16 March 2021



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1. Funding: it is part of Horizon Europe



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EUR 16 billion
ERC budget in Horizon Europe

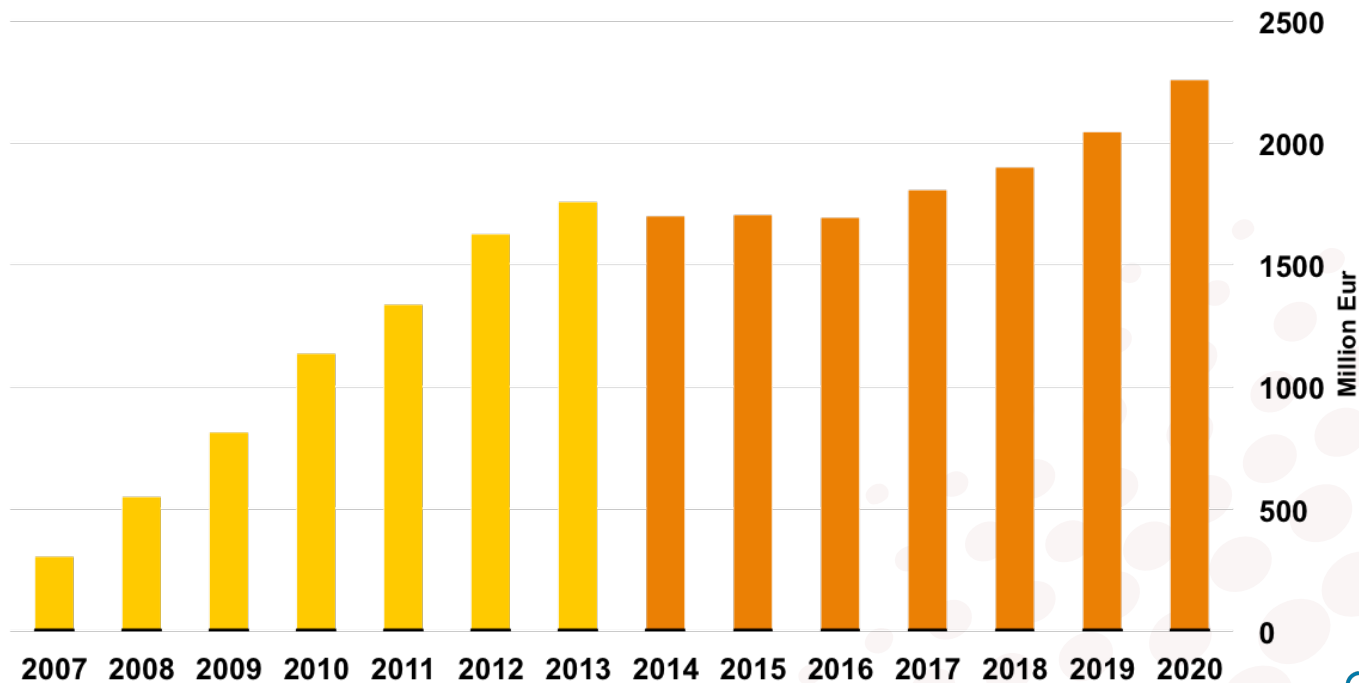


17%
of the entire
Horizon Europe budget

1. Funding: it is part of Horizon Europe



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2. The Scientific Council



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Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON
(Mathematics)
ERC President ad interim



Prof. Eveline CRONE
(Psychology)
Vice-President



Prof. Andrzej JAJSZCZYK
(Electronics and Communication Engineering)
Vice-President



Prof. Nektarios TAVERNARAKIS
(Molecular Systems Biology)
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Prof. Geneviève ALMOUZZI
(Biology)



Prof. Manuel ARELLANO
(Economics)



Prof. Paola BOVOLENTA
(Neurobiology)



Prof. Margaret BUCKINGHAM
(Biology)



Prof. Ben FERINGA
(Organic Chemistry)



Prof. Mercedes GARCÍA-ARENAL
(History)



Prof. Gerd GIGERENZER
(Psychology)



Prof. Liselotte HØJGAARD
(Medicine)



Prof. Dirk INZÉ
(Plant Biology)



Prof. Eystein JANSEN
(Earth Science)



Prof. Michael KRAMER
(Astrophysics)



Prof. Rodrigo MARTINS
(Materials, Nanotechnologies, Electronics)



Prof. Kurt MEHLHORN
(Computer Science)



Prof. Barbara ROMANOWICZ
(Geophysics)



Prof. Nicola SPALDIN
(Materials Theory)



Prof. Jesper SVEJSTRUP
(Biology)



Prof. Alice VALKÁROVÁ
(Physics)



Prof. Milena ŽIC FUCHS
(Linguistics)

3. ERC in figures



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>12,000

Total projects funded by
ERC since 2007



85

Nationalities
(ERC grantees)



35

EU and Associated
Countries hosting ERC
projects



>150,000

publications reported
by ERC projects



>1,300

prestigious prizes
awarded to
ERC grantees



>80,000

researchers and other
professionals
hired in ERC teams

48 Non-EU/AC Nationalities



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

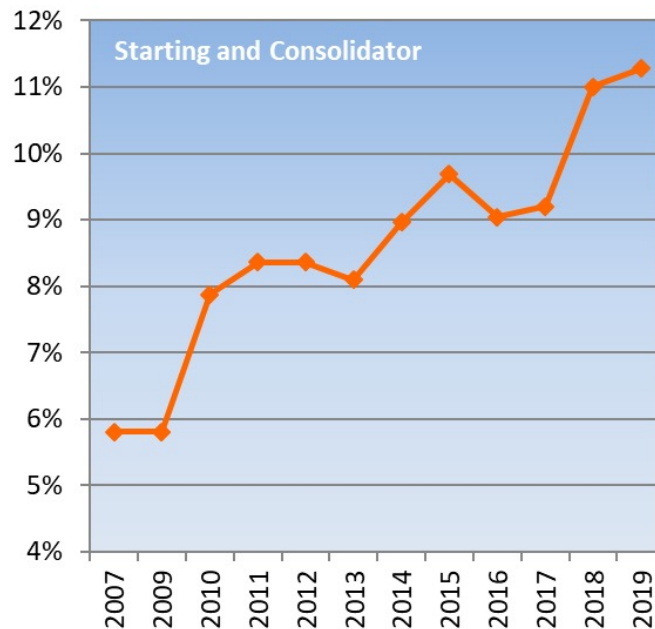
| Non-EU/AC Principal Investigators | Starting and Consolidator grants | Advanced grants | Total grants |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| USA | 236 | 121 | 357 |
| Canada | 87 | 16 | 103 |
| India | 61 | 3 | 64 |
| Russia | 53 | 9 | 62 |
| Australia | 49 | 10 | 59 |
| China | 52 | 1 | 53 |
| Japan | 29 | 7 | 36 |
| New Zealand | 17 | 6 | 23 |
| Argentina | 19 | 1 | 20 |
| Other | 113 | 13 | 126 |
| Total | 716 | 187 | 903 |

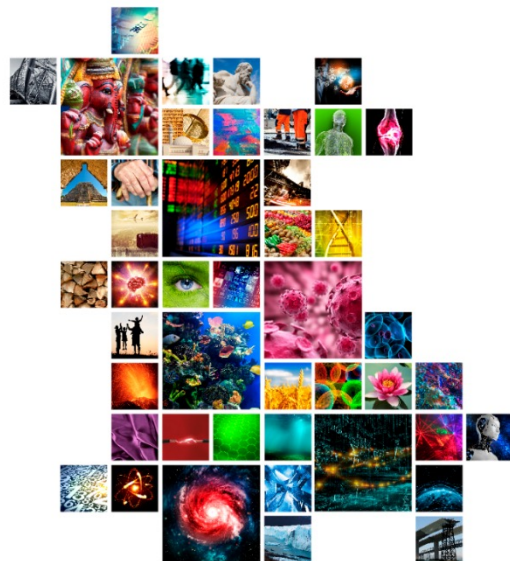
Increased Participation to H2020 Starting and Consolidator Calls



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





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INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
**LONG TERM
GRANTS**

TO HIGH-RISK/HIGH-GAIN PIONEERING PROJECTS
IN ANY FIELD OF FRONTIER RESEARCH



Life Sciences



Physical Sciences and Engineering



Social Sciences and Humanities



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

The eligibility periods can be extended beyond 7 and 12 years for the Starting and Consolidator Grants respectively for the following properly documented circumstances, provided they started before the call deadline:

- **Maternity:** 18 months extension for each child born before or after the PhD award. If the applicant can document a longer maternity leave, the eligibility period will be extended by the documented amount of actual leave taken until the call deadline.
- **Paternity:** extension by the documented time of paternity leave taken until the call deadline for each child born before or after the PhD award.
- **Long-term illness or national service:** extension by the documented amount of leave taken by the Principal Investigator until the call deadline for each incident which occurred after the PhD award date.
- **Clinical training:** extension by the documented amount of clinical training received by the Principal Investigator after the award of the first eligible degree and until the call deadline, up to a maximum of 4 years.

Additional funding for ‘start-up’ costs

- Up to € 1 Million
- For PIs moving to the EU or Associated countries from elsewhere – as long as the move is exclusively linked to the ERC project
- Costs should be eligible* and listed in the budget table** (in principle all budget categories)
- E.g. costs to ship or purchase consumables or equipment needed for the laboratory
- Requests need solid arguments for additional funding*** (reason and justification)
- Final decision by the review panels which assess if costs are fully justified for the proposed research

Reasons for Additional budget



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“Additional funding up to the amounts mentioned can be requested in the proposal to cover the following eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work:

- (a) "start-up" costs for Principal Investigators moving to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant and/or
- (b) the purchase of major equipment and/or
- (c) access to large facilities and/or
- (d) other **major experimental and field work costs**, excluding personnel costs.”
(WP2021, page 15)

2021 Call Calendar



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| ERC calls | Call Opening | Submission Deadline |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Starting Grants ERC-2021-StG | 25/02/2021 | 08/04/2021 |
| Consolidator Grants ERC-2021-CoG | 11/03/2021 | 20/04/2021 |

Budget for 2021



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| | <i>Starting Grant</i> | <i>Consolidator Grant</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Budget million EUR (estimated number of grants)</i> | 619 (413) | 633 (317) |

The ERC is particularly keen to encourage excellent proposals from Principal Investigators based in non-associated third countries wishing to carry out a project with a host institution in the EU or in one of the Associated Countries.

Minimum Time Commitment



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| Minimum percentage of the working time of a Principal Investigator that must be spent | Starting Grant | Consolidator Grant |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| On the ERC project | 50% | 40% |
| In an EU Member State or Associated Country²⁴ | 50% | 50% |

ERC Panel structure



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Life Sciences (LS)

- **LS1** Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- **LS2** Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems
- **LS3** Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- **LS4** Physiology in Health, Disease and Aging
- **LS5** Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System
- **LS6** Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy
- **LS7** Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases
- **LS8** Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
- **LS9** Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

- 3 Domains / 27 Panels
- Operated by the Scientific Department B

Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

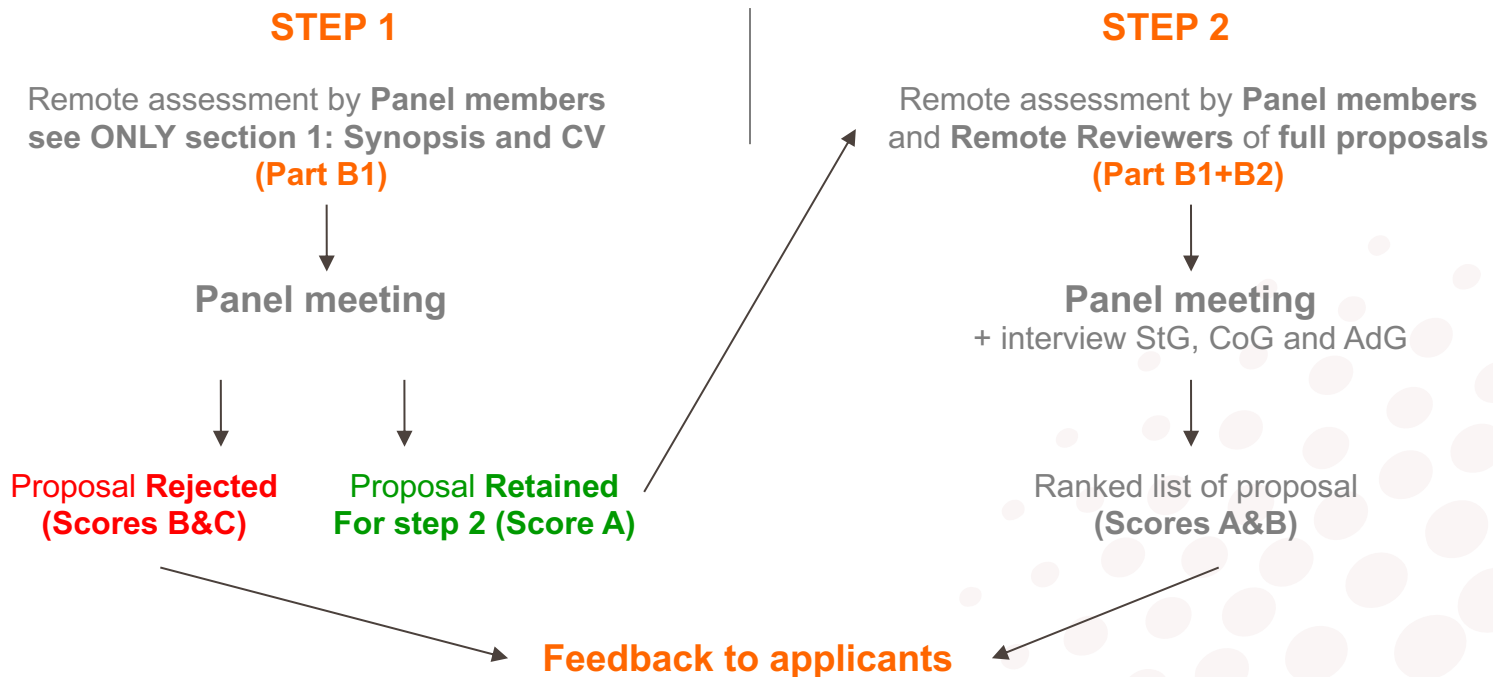
- **SH1** Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- **SH2** Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- **SH3** The Social World and Its Diversity
- **SH4** The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- **SH5** Cultures and Cultural Production
- **SH6** The Study of the Human Past
- **SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, 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 individuals calls: a single submission but a two-step evaluation



Contrary to what you may think



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- ERC funds "frontier research", including applied research.
- The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand.
- The panel descriptors do not represent ERC scientific priorities.
- The success rate is virtually flat across the eligibility window (StG, CoG).
- Publication record is not decisive in selection decisions.
- The Host Institution is not an evaluation criterion.





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

Some rumours



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Rumour 1: You can only apply for an ERC grant if you are a highly accomplished scientist.

✘ **NOT true:** Accomplishments are appreciated in relation to your stage/seniority as giving some evidence of your capacity to conduct the research you propose and of creativity within the past 10-12 years of your career.

Rumour 2: To be successful, you need to continue on an established research line, to prove continuity and credibility

✘ **NOT true:** Generally, the opposite is true.

Rumour 3: If you have already obtained an ERC grant you are less/more likely to get another one.

✘ **NOT true:** Panels look at each proposal on its own merit and in comparison with the other applications, irrespectively of whether you have or have not obtained an ERC grant in the past. (Of course this does not apply for applications to a Proof of Concept grant.)

Rumour 4: The more socially or medically relevant a grant proposal is, the higher the chances of it getting funded.

✘ **NOT true:** ERC funds frontier research, not research that promises to be only an incremental advancement of knowledge. This is irrespectively of the field and whether it has societal, medical or clinical applications.

Particular emphasis on...



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Frontier of science, scholarship and engineering, i.e.

- Multi- or interdisciplinary proposals which cross boundaries between different fields of research, **or**
- Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research, **or**
- Proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions.

Where can you find more information?



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Videos - ERC Classes

- What to consider before applying
- How to fill in the application
(Part B1 and B2)
- The interview
- How the evaluation works

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbFbz kVWgCU&list=PLtv6FnsXqnXAYRk6HCEr wMxwML0ZKoMcy>

Where can you find more information?



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Contact:

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EURAXESS Australia & New Zealand Social Media:

Twitter: twitter.com/Euraxess_AusNZ

Facebook: facebook.com/euraxess.aus.nz

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/euraxess-aus-nz

Profile of the ERC Starting Grant Principal Investigator



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- A competitive Starting Grant Principal Investigator must have already shown the potential for research independence and evidence of maturity, for example by having produced at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor.
- Applicant Principal Investigators should also be able to demonstrate a promising track record of early achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage, including significant publications (as main author) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field.
- They may also demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well-established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes, etc.

Profile of the ERC Starting Grant Principal Investigator



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Early achievements track record

In the Track record (see “Proposal description”) the applicant Principal Investigator should list (if applicable):

- 1. Up to five publications in major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals, peer-reviewed conferences proceedings and/or monographs of their respective research fields, highlighting those as main author or without the presence as co-author of their PhD supervisor (properly referenced, field relevant bibliometric indicators may also be included); preprints may be included, if freely available from a preprint server (preprints should be properly referenced and either a link to the preprint or a DOI should be provided);***
- 2. Research monographs and any translations thereof;***
- 3. Granted patent(s);***
- 4. Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools;***
- 5. Prizes, awards, academy memberships.***

Profile of the ERC Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator



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- A competitive Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator must have already shown research independence and evidence of maturity, for example by having produced several important publications as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor.
- Applicant Principal Investigators should also be able to demonstrate a promising track record of early achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage, including significant publications (as main author) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field.
- They may also demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well-established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes, etc.

Profile of the ERC Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator



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Early achievements track record

In the Track Record (see “Proposal description”) the applicant Principal Investigator should list (if applicable):

- 1. Up to ten publications in major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals, peer-reviewed conferences proceedings and/or monographs of their respective research fields, highlighting those as main author or without the presence as co-author of their PhD supervisor (properly referenced, field relevant bibliometric indicators may also be included); preprints may be included, if freely available from a preprint server (preprints should be properly referenced and either a link to the preprint or a DOI should be provided);***
- 2. Research monographs and any translations thereof;***
- 3. Granted patent(s);***
- 4. Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools;***
- 5. Prizes, awards, academy memberships.***