

European Research Council- funding opportunities

The European Research Council (ERC) aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by supporting the very best scientists, scholars and engineers in any field of research. ERC grants are awarded through peer reviewed open competition to projects headed by starting and established researchers, irrespective of their origins. The sole criterion for selection is scientific excellence. There are neither thematic priorities, nor geographical quotas. The competitions are open to top researchers from anywhere in the world, provided that they are based in or are moving to Europe (although one of the Principal Investigators in a Synergy grant Group may be based outside of the EU or an Associated Country).

ERC awards flexible, long-term funding for a period of up to five years. The four main ERC frontier research grants are: **Starting**; **Consolidator**; **Advanced**; and **Synergy Grants**. ERC Principal Investigators may also be able to apply for Proof of Concept Grants.

ERC Starting Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators that are starting their own independent research team or programme. **ERC Consolidator Grants** support excellent Principal Investigators that may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme. **ERC Advanced Grants** are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements. **ERC Synergy Grants** support small groups of two to four Principal Investigators and their teams with a designated Corresponding Principal Investigator. The constitution of the research teams is flexible. The nature of the collaboration within an ERC Synergy Group is expected to be fundamentally different from that of a network or consortium of undertakings, universities, research centres or other legal entities.

This session aims to give an overview of ERC activities.

Organized by :

Pilar Lacruz – Scientific Officer -European Research Council Executive Agency (Belgium)

As Scientific Officer in charge of panel "The Human Mind and its Complexity", Pilar Lacruz will present the ERC, the different granting schemes (size of grants, eligibility criteria, applicants' profiles) in the frame of the on-going and next ERC Work Programme.