



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

# European Research Council (ERC)

National Contact Point in Germany





## Foreword

Scientific excellence enables us to remain competitive at global level. Research provides the answers to the great pressing questions of our science and business communities and society. That is why we want to attract the most creative and brightest researchers to Germany, foster their development and retain them here. In addition to promoting strong German research talent, we also encourage excellent researchers to submit their individual or team proposals for funding calls by the European Research Council. Our aim is to inspire science pioneers to embark on a path of innovation also at European level – to advance their own careers and promote Germany as a location for science and research.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Johanna Wanka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka

Federal Minister of Education and Research

# European Research Council

**The European Research Council (ERC) is the first pan-European funding body established to support investigator-driven frontier research. It is financed by the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020. The aim is to support outstanding researchers with groundbreaking ideas.**

The ERC stands for:

- funding of "frontier research"
- bottom-up calls without thematic priorities
- scientific excellence as sole criterion for project selection
- funding of individual researchers and their teams
- unbureaucratic and transparent procedures
- scientific autonomy

From 2014-2020, the ERC has about 13 billion Euros at its disposal. The grant has to be conducted in Europe.

## How to apply

Proposals for ERC funding may be submitted annually for all funding schemes according to the calls for proposals. ERC funding schemes are open to researchers of any nationality or age who wish to carry out their frontier research at a host institution in the 28 EU Member States or associated countries. The proposals are submitted online by the Principal Investigator (PI) via the official Participant Portal of the European Commission.

A single submission of the full proposal will be followed by a two-step evaluation. Proposals are being evaluated by independent experts within an internationally oriented peer review procedure. Additionally – except for the ERC Advanced Grants and Proof of Concept – there will be interviews in Brussels, during which the researchers have to present their idea in front of the panel.

# ERC Funding Lines

## Starting Grants StG

support promising researchers who are at the beginning of an independent research career.

### Target Group:

Excellent scientists  
2-7 years after PhD

### Max. Project Duration:

5 years

### Max. Project Budget:

1,5 Million € (2 Mio.€)\*

## Consolidator Grants CoG

are designed to back up researchers who want to establish their research teams and continue developing a successful career in Europe.

### Target Group:

Excellent scientists  
7-12 years after PhD

### Max. Project Duration:

5 years

### Max. Project Budget:

2 Million €  
(2,75 Million €)\*

## Advanced Grants AdG

support excellent research projects by leading advanced researchers. Applicants may be at any stage of their research career if they have a track-record of significant research achievements of the last 10 years.

### Target group:

Established excellent scientists

### Max. project duration:

5 years

### Max. project budget:

2,5 Million €  
(3,5 Million €)\*

## Proof of Concept

Proof of Concept Grants are designed to support ERC grantees with the commercial or societal application of the results of their funded research.

### Target group:

Successful ERC-Grantees

### Max. project duration:

18 months

### Max. project budget:

150.000 €

\* Exceptions to high investment costs/PI from third country

## National Contact Point in Germany

Established by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the National Contact Point ERC (NCP ERC) offers advice and information for potential applicants and their host institutions in Germany. The NCP is managed jointly by the EU-Bureau of the BMBF and The European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi).

### The National Contact Point offers the following services in German and English:

- individual advice in all questions concerning the ERC application (phone/e-mail)
- information and support events for potential applicants (workshops/presentations)
- interview trainings
- legal and financial information with regard to grant preparation and project management
- identifying relevant target groups
- newsletter in English and German

**Website in English:**

[www.erc-germany.de](http://www.erc-germany.de)

**Website in German:**

[www.nks-erc.de](http://www.nks-erc.de)

**Contact persons:**

[www.eubuero.de/  
erc-contacts\\_en.htm](http://www.eubuero.de/erc-contacts_en.htm)



## Imprint

### **Published by**

Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)  
EU Research Policy and Programmes; ERA; ERC, EIT  
53170 Bonn

### **Orders**

in writing to

Publikationsversand der Bundesregierung  
Postfach 48 10 09  
18132 Rostock

E-Mail: [publikationen@bundesregierung.de](mailto:publikationen@bundesregierung.de)

Internet: <http://www.bmbf.de>

or by

Tel.: 030 18 272 272 1

Fax: 030 18 10 272 272 1

March 2017

### **Printed by**

BMBF

### **Layout**

DLR Project Management Agency

### **Photo credits**

Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany/Steffen Kugler: Foreword (Portrait Prof. Dr. Johanna Wanka) p. 2;  
Thinkstock: title

### **Edited by**

DLR Project Management Agency

European and International Cooperation, Europe, NCP ERC

This publication is distributed free of charge by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research as part of its public relations work. It is not intended for commercial sale.

[www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)