

The European Research Council

FP7 IDEAS Programme

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A logical and revolutionary development of the European Research Area meant to boost European excellence in frontier research

- through investigator-driven projects;
- through competition at European level on the basis of scientific excellence as the sole criterion;
- by investing in the best researchers and ideas.

Part of the FP7 “family” and complementary to other FP7 supports to research

- Bottom-up vs. targeted research
- Individual teams vs. consortia

FP7 “Ideas” programme provides funding

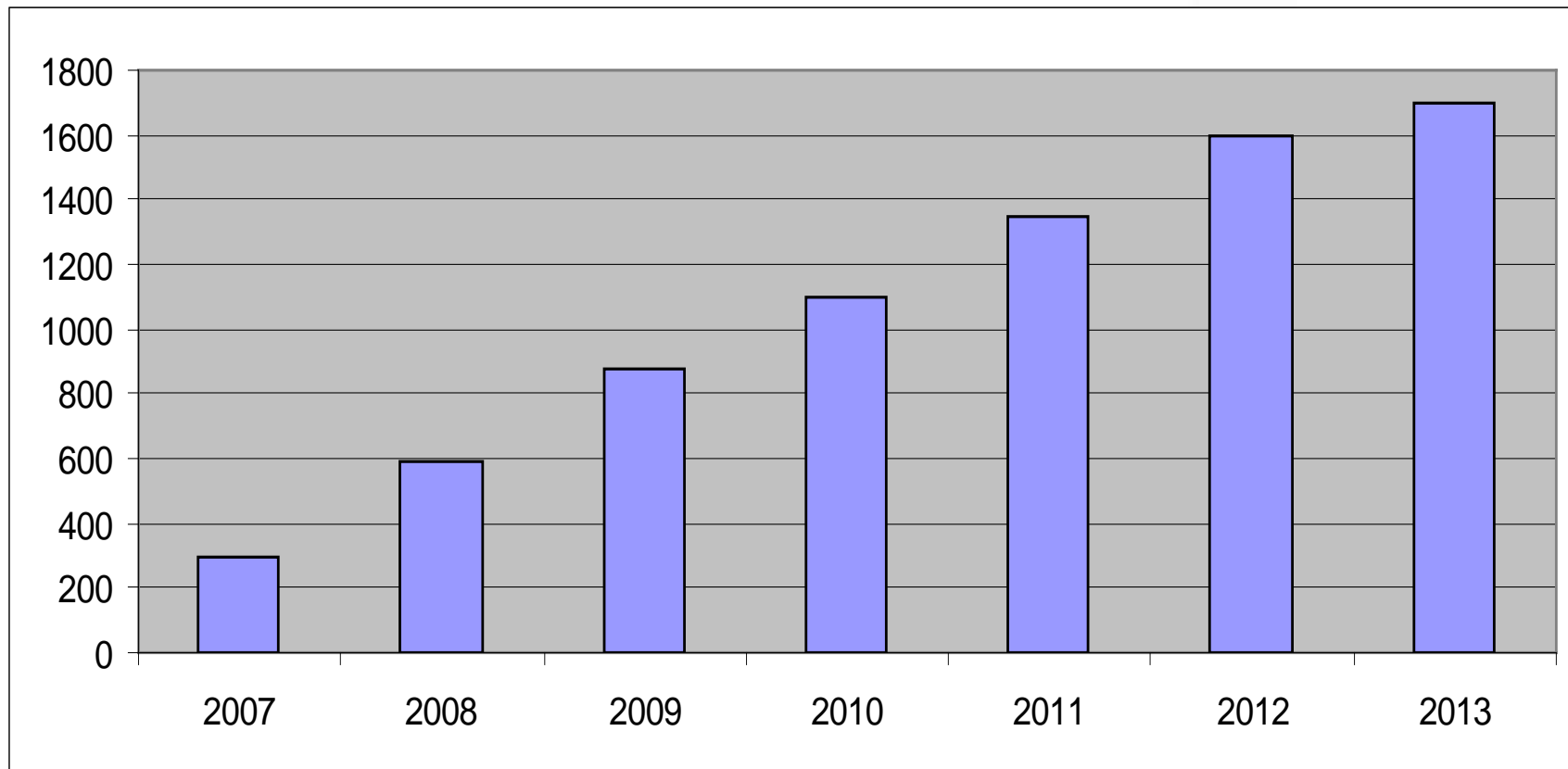
- Budget (2007-2013): EUR7.51 billion (around 15% of FP budget)
- Average budget: ~EUR1billion per year

- **A new understanding of fundamental, forward-looking research:**
 - *primary importance of S&T for social and economic development;*
 - *appropriate balance between provided resources and risks.*
- **The term “Frontier research” reflects:**
 - *critical importance of fundamental research in S&T;*
 - *risk-taking nature of research;*
 - *at and beyond the frontiers of knowledge;*
 - *fluidity of disciplinary boundaries.*

- Independent scientific governance : Scientific Council, 22 members, high level scientists;
 - President : Helga Nowotny (AU);
 - Vice-présidents : Pavel Hexner (CZ) and Carl-Henrik Heldin (SE)
- Objectives:
 - decide on a scientific strategy;
 - monitor and control quality and performance;
 - establish a communication strategy;
- Dedicated Implementation Structure : Executive Agency (ERCEA) - practical implementation and management of operations
- Peer review : 25 panels

- Supporting the best of the best scientific efforts in Europe across all fields of science, engineering and scholarship;
- Encouraging wholly investigator-driven, or 'bottom-up' frontier research;
- Encouraging the work of the established and next generation of independent top research leaders in Europe;
- Rewarding innovative proposals by placing emphasis on the quality of the idea rather than the research area;
- Harnessing the diversity of European research talent and channel funds into the most promising ideas;
- Raising the status and visibility of European frontier research and the best researchers of today and tomorrow;
- Putting excellence at the heart of European Research;
- Recognise the best ideas, and retain and confer status and visibility to the best brains in Europe, while also attracting talent from abroad;
- By challenging Europe's brightest minds, the ERC expects to bring about new and unpredictable scientific and technological discoveries - the kind that can form the basis of new industries, markets, and broader social innovations of the future.

ERC Grant Scheme Annual Budget Distribution, million USD (2007 -2013)



Two core funding schemes:

- ERC Starting Grant (StG):
 - attracting and retaining the next generation of independent research leaders
- ERC Advanced Grant (AdG):
 - attract & reward established independent research leaders

Additional funding schemes, launched in 2011:

- ERC Synergy Grant:
 - enable a small group of Principal Investigators and their teams to bring together complementary skills, knowledge, and resources.
- ERC Proof of Concept:
 - open to researchers who have already been awarded an ERC grant

Grants eligibility principles:

- Host institution located in one of the EU member states and associated countries;
- No criteria of nationality for the Principal Investigators;
- Individual teams;
- Eligible costs: 100% of the total eligible and approved direct costs, and as indirect costs a flat-rate of 20% of the total eligible direct costs;
- All fields of research and technology
- ERC grants are awarded through open competition to projects headed by young and established researchers, who are working in Europe irrespective of their origins.

- For researchers of any nationality with 2-12 years of experience since completion of PhD (or equivalent degree) and scientific track record showing great promise
- An excellent research proposal
- Research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution /HI) located in one of the EU Member State or Associated Countries
- Funding per grant: up to EUR1.5 million (in some circumstances up to EUR2 million)
- Duration: up to 5 years
- Evaluation criterion: scientific excellence
- Calls for proposals: published once a year in summer with deadlines in autumn

- **Starting Grants 2007:**
 - 9167 submitted proposals
 - 299 (3.3%) selected projects
- **Starting Grants 2009:**
 - 2503 submitted proposals;
 - 243 (9.7%) selected projects
- **Starting Grants 2010:**
 - 2873 submitted proposals;
 - 427 (15%) selected projects

- Research field: any field of science, engineering and scholarship
- Researchers: any nationality, any age. Applicants must be scientifically independent and have a recent research track-record and profile which identifies them as leaders in their respective field(s) of research
- Evaluation Criterion: scientific excellence
- Host Institution: research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution/HI) located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries
- Funding: up to EUR2.5 million per grant (in some circumstances up to EUR3.5 million per grant)
- Duration: up to 5 years
- Calls for proposals: published once a year in autumn with deadlines in early spring (February - April)

- Advanced Grants 2008 :
 - 2167 submitted proposals;
 - 282 (13.0 %) selected projects
- Advanced Grants 2009 :
 - 1584 submitted proposals;
 - 244 (15,4 %) selected projects
- Advanced Grants 2010 :
 - 2009 submitted proposals;
 - 266 (13 %) selected projects

- Submission only electronically via **EPSS** (Electronic Proposal Submission System);
 - Single submission of the full proposal;
- Peer review evaluation;
 - 25 peer reviews pannels
 - Physical Sciences and Engineering – 10 panels
 - Life Sciences – 9 panels
 - Social Sciences and Humanities – 6 panels

- **Objective of the Scheme :**
 - enabling a small group of Principal Investigators and their teams to bring together complementary skills, knowledge, and resources;
 - promoting substantial advances in the frontiers of knowledge, and to encourage new productive lines of enquiry and new methods and techniques.
- **Eligibility:**
 - 2 – 4 Principal Investigators (with one designated lead Principal Investigator);
 - physically located in the same place to ensure face to face contact for significant periods of "core time" over the course of the project.
- **Expected (but not required) that ERC+ groups will be:**
 - Interdisciplinary, often using multidisciplinary approaches;
 - Built around specialized infrastructure, new combinations of disciplines, or bringing together researchers from different institutions, sectors or countries.
- **Peer Review Evaluation:**
 - Two steps procedure;
- **Funding: up to a maximum of EUR15 million for a period up to 6 years**
- **Calls for proposals: published annually with one deadline**

- Launched in March, 2011;
- Open to researchers who have already been awarded an ERC grant;
- All Principal Investigators benefiting from an ERC Advanced or Starting Grant that is either ongoing, or where the project has ended less than 12 months before the publication date of an ERC Proof of Concept call;
- Bridging the gap between research and a marketable innovation;
- The Principal Investigator must be able to demonstrate the link between the idea and the related ERC-funded project;
- How will proposals be assessed?
 - Innovation potential;
 - Quality of the Proof of Concept plan;
 - Budget.
- Funding per grant: up to EUR150.000;
- Duration: 12 months;
- Deadlines: on June 15 and November 8, 2011
- The total funding: EUR10 million

- Total budget of the call: EUR1.578 billion
- ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant: EUR730 million;
- Advanced Investigator Researcher Grant: EUR680 million;
- ERC + “Synergy” Grant: EUR150 million;
- Call for proposals for ERC Proof of Concept: EUR 10 million.

- Identifier: ERC-2012-StG_20111124
- Publication Date: 20 July 2011
- Budget: EUR730 million
- Deadline: 24 November 2011
 - **ERC-2012-STG_20111012** for the domain Physical Sciences & Engineering (Panels: PE1 – PE10),
 - Deadline: 12 October 2011
 - **ERC-2012-STG_20111109** for the domain Life Sciences (Panels: LS1 – LS9),
 - Deadline: 09 November 2011
 - **ERC-2012-STG_20111124** for the domain Social Sciences & Humanities (Panels: SH1 – SH6),
 - Deadline 24 November 2011
- Maximum size of the grant: EUR1.5 million for 5 years;
- Principal Investigator coming from a third country: EUR2 million
- Purchase of equipment: EUR2 million

- The Principal Investigator must have been awarded their first PhD at least 2 and up to 12 years prior to the publication date of the call for proposals
- Two categories of investigators:
 - “Starters” those awarded their PhD from 2 up to 7 years prior to the call publication;
 - “Consolidators” those awarded their PhD over 7 and up to 12 years prior to call publication.

- Call identifier : ERC-2012-ADG;
- Budget : EUR689.74 million;
- Publication Call : 16 November 2011;
- Deadlines :
 - Physical Sciences and Engineering : 16 February 2012;
 - Life Sciences : 14 March 2012;
 - Social Sciences and Humanities : 11 April 2012;
- Maximum size of the grant : EUR2.5 million for 5 years;
- Principal Investigator coming from a third country: EUR3.5 million;
- Purchase of equipment: EUR3.5 million

- Call identifier : ERC-2012-SyG;
- Budget : EUR150 million;
- Publication date: 25 October 2011;
- Deadline : 25 January 2012;
- Maximum size of the grant : EUR15 million for 6 years.

Call for proposals for ERC Proof of Concept



- **Call Identifier: ERC-2011-PoC**
- **Publication Date:** 29 March 2011
- **Budget:** EUR10 million
- **Final Deadline:** 8 November 2011
- **Maximum Size:** up to EUR150,000 over 12 months.
- **Objective of the Scheme:**
 - Establish the innovation potential of an ERC-funded idea:
 - technical validation,
 - market research,
 - clarifying IPR strategy,
 - investigating business opportunities.
 - Outcome: A "package" to be presented to venture capitalists
- **Eligibility:**
 - Holders of an ERC Starting or Advanced grant with an idea substantially drawn from an ERC-funded project

ERC website

<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm>

CORDIS website (*Find a call*)

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

Национальная контактная точка «Идеи» ЕИС

<http://www.fp7-ideas.spbcas.org/> (Санкт-Петербург)

<http://ideas.msu.ru> (Москва)

Thank you for Attention!

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