

# European Research Council

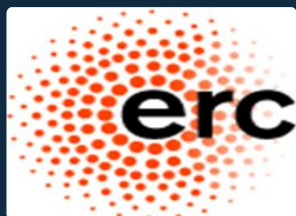
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Director, Irish Research Council

HORIZON  
EUROPE



THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION  
PROGRAMME 2021 - 2027

#HorizonEU

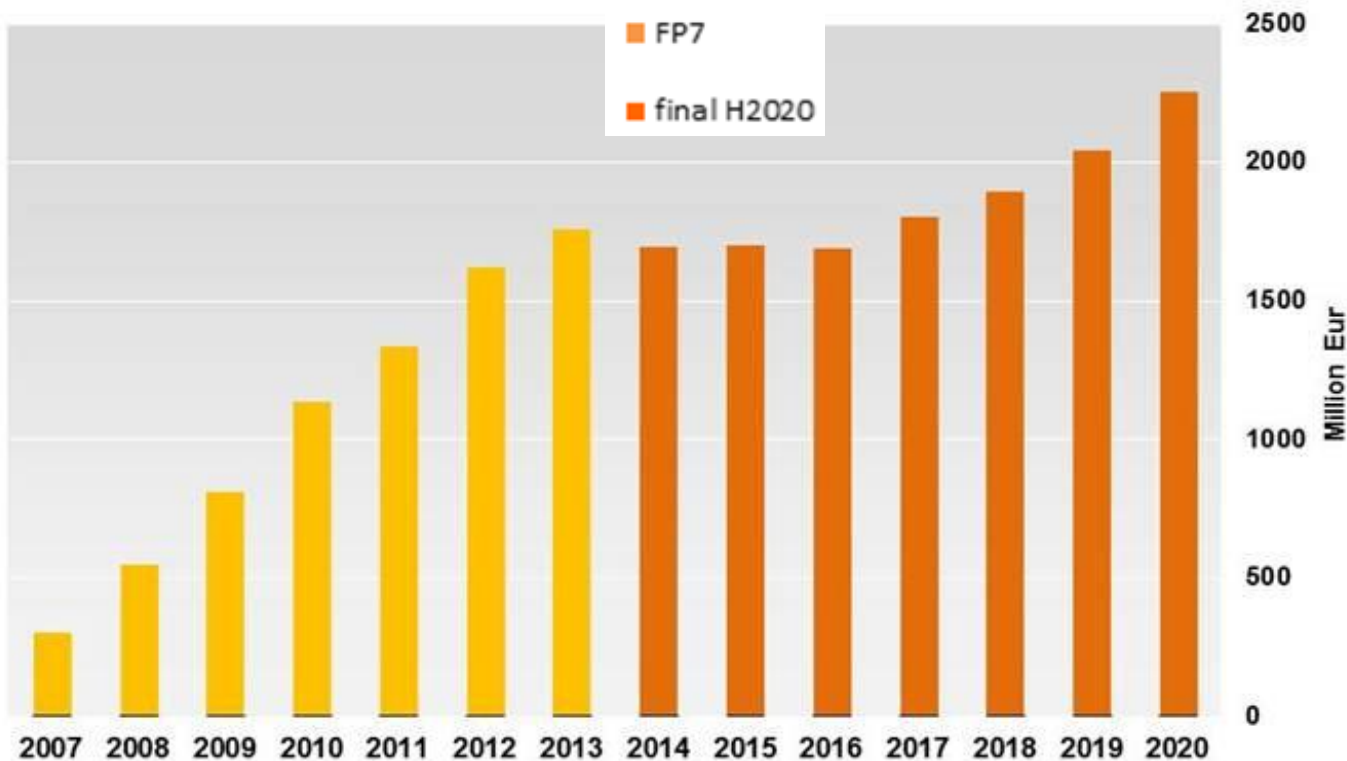


An Roinn Breiseoidéachais agus Ardoideachais,  
Taighde, Nuálaíocht agus Eolaíocht  
Department of Further and Higher Education,  
Research, Innovation and Science



# What is ERC?

The ERC supports excellence in frontier research through a bottom-up, individual-based, pan-European competition.



**Budget H2020: € 13 billion**  
1.9 billion €/year

**Budget FP7: € 7.5 billion**  
1.1 billion €/year



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

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

- Career changing
- Opportunity to do frontier research in any discipline
- Opportunity to build your team
- Highly competitive
- Requires dedication



## Key PI career stages

- Starting Grant
- Consolidator Grant
- Advanced Grant

## Collaborative awards

- Synergy grant

## Research through to Innovation

- Proof of Concept (POC) grants

## Ireland's H2020 ERC Performance

- 108 awards
- 2020 Advanced Grant pending
- Across Sciences, Arts and Humanities
- 2<sup>nd</sup> highest source\*\* of funding for Ireland under H2020
- Ireland's first Synergy Grant in 2020 - AHSS



# ERC Applications Evaluated SOLELY Based On Excellence

## ❖ Excellence of the Research Project

- ✓ Ground breaking nature
- ✓ Potential impact
- ✓ Scientific Approach

## ❖ Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- ✓ Intellectual capacity
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Commitment

**Note:** Quality of the PI's institution (where they come from / where they go to) is not evaluated





# Which competitions am I eligible for?

Grant	Description	Qualifications	Funding	Duration
Starting grant	For early-career researchers to develop their career and establish their own team	PhD + 2-7 years experience	Up to €1.5 million + €1m	Up to 5 years
Consolidator grant	For established researchers to consolidate their own research team or programme	PhD + 7-12 years experience	Up to €2 million + €1m	Up to 5 years
Advanced grant	For well-established researchers to develop a new and outstanding project	10-year excellent scientific track record	Up to €2.5 million + €1m	Up to 5 years
Synergy grant	For a group of 2-4 researchers to collaborate on a research problem with a novel approach	Excellent scientific track record	Up to €10 million + €1m	Up to 6 years
Proof of concept grant	For ERC grantees to bridge the gap between research and marketable innovation	Holders of previous ERC grant	Up to €150 thousand	Up to 18 months

# ERC Career impact study 2017-2019

## (all ERC frontier research grants funded under FP7)

### of ERC Starting/Consolidator grantees\*:

- 62%** had their group become more visible internationally
- 61%** gained academic independence
- 59%** improved their status in the scientific community
- 27%** were nominated for membership of scientific academies, learned societies or editorial boards

### of ERC Advanced grantees\*:

- 52%** had their group pushed to world-leader status
- 52%** could focus more on research activities
- 25%** were nominated for membership of scientific academies, learned societies or editorial boards

(\*) share of respondents reporting that the impact was achieved to a large extent

# 2021-2022 Calls Calendar (may be subject to change)

	<i>Starting Grant</i>		<i>Consolidator Grant</i>		<i>Advanced Grant</i>		<i>Synergy Grant</i>
<i>WP</i>	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2022
<i>Open</i>	25/02/2021	23/09/2021	11/03/2021	19/10/2021	20/05/2021	20/01/2022	15/07/2022
<i>Closure</i>	08/04/2021	13/01/2022	20/04/2021	17/03/2022	31/08/2021	28/04/2022	10/11/2022
<i>Budget</i>	EUR 619 M	EUR 757 M	EUR 633 M	EUR 784 M	EUR 626 M	EUR 561 M	EUR 300 M

<i>Proof of Concept</i>		
<i>WP</i>	2022	2022
<i>Open</i>	15/07/2021	16/11/2021
<i>Cut-off dates or Closure</i>	14/10/2021	15/02/2022 19/05/2022 29/09/2022
<i>Budget</i>	EUR 25 M	EUR 25 M





# Noteworthy changes effective 2021-2022

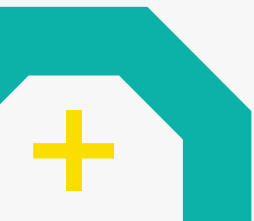
- Two new panels
  - ✓ PE11 – Materials Engineering
  - ✓ SH7 – Human Mobility, Environment and Space
- Interview now part of Advanced Grant assessment process
- Steps taken to better reflect DORA principles in the application form
- Opportunity for applicants to make case if COVID-19 has negatively affected their track record





# Leveraging Support

- Enterprise Ireland offers **financial support** to researchers preparing applications to ERC scheme
- [www.horizoneurope.ie](http://www.horizoneurope.ie)
- An award of **up to €16,000** can be obtained for the following assistance:
  - Professional consultancy services to assist in proposal preparation
  - Graphical design services
  - Teaching buy-out to free up time
  - Hiring a research assistant to help collate information to interpret experimental results, or to carry out preliminary research
  - Travel to collaborators or to obtain ERC-relevant experience



# Supporting future ERC success across all disciplines



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

## ❖ IRC Laureate awards

- ✓ Key action of Innovation 2020
- ✓ Funding for frontier basic research across all disciplines
- ✓ Solely based on excellence
- ✓ Key among the objectives are to cultivate a long-term pipeline of 'ERC-ready' candidates

## ❖ Laureate call opening in 2021

- ✓ Starting / Consolidator
- ✓ More awards
- ✓ Expected opening Q3 2021

**48 Laureates  
currently in the  
system, with ERC  
success already in  
evidence**



# Supporting future ERC success across all disciplines



IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL  
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- ❖ Council offer mock interviews for applicants progressing to final ERC assessment stage
- ❖ Piloted training workshop for prospective ERC applicants
- ❖ Joint NCPs (IRC and SFI) work closely together to identify opportunities to enhance engagement





**Your ERC NCPs:**

**STEM NCP:**

**Dr Maria Nash, SFI**  
**[www.sfi.ie](http://www.sfi.ie)**

**AHSS NCP (Interim):**

**Dr Deirdre Quinn, IRC**  
**[www.research.ie](http://www.research.ie)**



# THANK YOU



**IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL**  
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

**www.research.ie**  
**@irishresearch**  
**#loveirishresearch**



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