



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

# European Research Council (ERC)

**National Contact Point in Germany**



**RESEARCH**

**Igniting ideas!**

# European Research Council, ERC

The European Research Council (ERC) is the first pan-European funding body established to support investigator-driven frontier research. It was set up via the specific programme “Ideas”, as part of the EU’s 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2007-2013). The aim is to support outstanding researchers with groundbreaking ideas. The projects are selected solely on the criterion of excellence.

For the period 2007-2013, the ERC has 7.5 billion Euros at its disposal.

The ERC stands for:

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

## ERC funding schemes

1. Starting Independent Researcher Grant (young, excellent researchers on their way to building up or consolidating their own research group, 2-12 years after PhD)
2. Advanced Investigator Grant (already established, outstanding scientists)
3. ERC Synergy Grant (interdisciplinary groups of 2-4 Principal Investigators)
4. Proof of Concept (funding to explore the potential of ideas arising from ERC projects )



## **National Contact Point ERC**

In collaboration between the EU-Bureau of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBWF) and the German Research Foundation (DFG), the National Contact Point ERC (NCP ERC) offers advice and information for potential applicants and their host institutions in Germany.

The National Contact Point supports with the following services in German and English:

- providing individual advice in all questions concerning the ERC application
- organising information and support events for potential applicants
- rendering legal and financial information with regard to grant preparation and project management
- identifying relevant target groups

The NCP ERC furthermore supports German scientific institutions in the organisation of events such as workshops, information events, presentations and individual advice on location.

A newsletter in German informs about ongoing calls and current developments concerning the ERC.

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## **Starting Independent Researcher Grant**

- Target group: excellent scientists 2-12 years (in exceptional cases: up to 16 ½ years) after PhD
- Supporting the establishment („Starters“) or the consolidation („Consolidators“) of an own research group
- Budget: max. € 1.5 million (in exceptional cases up to € 2 million)
- Project duration: up to 5 years
- Annual calls are published each summer with deadlines at the end of the year

## **Advanced Investigator Researcher Grant**

- Target group: experienced scientists with an excellent 10-year-track-record
- Budget: max. € 2.5 million (in exceptional cases up to € 3.5 million)
- Project duration: up to 5 years
- Annual calls are published each autumn with deadlines at the beginning of the following year

## **ERC Synergy Grant**

- Target group: 2-4 excellent scientists
- Support of (interdisciplinary) groundbreaking research (ideally located at one place)
- Budget: up to € 15 million
- Project duration: up to 6 years

## **Proof of Concept**

- Target group: ERC-Grantholder
- Additional financial support to explore the potential of ideas arising from ERC projects
- Budget: up to € 150.000
- Project duration: up to 12 months
- Annual calls with two deadlines



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## Internet

For further information, relevant documents and FAQ please consult our website: [www.nks-erc.de](http://www.nks-erc.de)

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