



European Research Council

**Funding for top researchers  
from anywhere in the world**










## H2020 Pillar “Excellent Science”

- The European Research Council (ERC)
- Future and emerging technologies (FET)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research infrastructure

The ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven **frontier research** across all fields, on the basis of **scientific excellence**.

The term '**frontier research**' reflects a new understanding of **basic research**. On one hand it denotes that basic research in **science** and **technology** is of critical importance to economic and social welfare. And on the other that research at and beyond the frontiers of understanding is an intrinsically risky venture, progressing in new and the most exciting research areas and is characterised by the absence of disciplinary boundaries.

# Granting system

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant
Specific eligibility criteria	<p>Principal Investigator shall have been awarded his/her first PhD</p> <p>□  and □    </p> <p>prior to the publication date of the call for proposals of the ERC Starting Grant</p>	<p>Principal Investigator shall have been awarded his/her first PhD</p> <p>&gt; 7 and □    </p> <p>prior to the publication date of the call for proposals of the ERC Consolidator Grant</p>	<p>none</p>
Grant size:	up to € 2million	up to €2.75million	up to € 3.5million

Proof of Concept grants up to € 150 000 per grant

# Some figures about ERC granting system

- program started in 2007
- 5000 grants awarded
- H2020 budget: € 13.1 billion (2014-2020)
- budget year 2014: € 1.7 billion

## Consolidator Grant 2014

- Call Budget: € 585 M€
- 2051 proposals ( 19% decrease compared to CoG 2014)
- Domain Budgets:
  - PE: 47% (~ 275 M€)
  - LS: 32% (~ 188 M€)
  - SH: 21% (~ 121 M€)

budget is divided among the panels  
based on requested funding

ERC Principles:

# Excellence - sole evaluation criterion

Evaluation of the *scientific excellence* at two levels:

- **Excellence of the Research Project**
    - ✓ Ground-breaking nature
    - ✓ Potential impact
    - ✓ Scientific Approach
  - **Excellence of the Principal Investigator**
    - ✓ Intellectual capacity
    - ✓ Creativity
    - ✓ Commitment
- 

# One-step submission procedure / Two-step evaluation process

## Step 1

- remote evaluation of short proposal by 4 Panel Members, acting as generalists, + members of other relevant Panels
- panel meeting

classification in three categories: **A B C**

**A** projects go to Step2

2x – 3x the available budget



## Step 2

- remote evaluation of the full proposal by 4 Panel Members + 5 external experts
- interview (30 minutes)

# Criterion 1: Research Project

## Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- To what extent does the proposed research address **important challenges**?
- To what extent are the objectives **ambitious** and **beyond the state of the art** (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development across disciplines)?
- To what extent is the proposed research **high risk/high gain**?

## Scientific Approach

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain?
- To what extent is the proposed research methodology **appropriate** to achieve the goals of the project?
- To what extent does the proposal involve the development of **novel methodology**?
- To what extent are the proposed **timescales** and **resources** necessary and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

# Criterion 2: Principal Investigator

- To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to propose and **conduct ground-breaking research**?
- To what extent does the PI provide evidence of **creative independent thinking**?
- To what extent have the **achievements** of the PI typically gone **beyond the state of the art**?
- To what extent does the PI demonstrate the **level of commitment** to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 50% of the total working time on it and min 50% in an EU Member State or Associated Country)?



# Evaluation parameters on Criterion 2: Principal Investigator

no specific criteria/guidelines:

- scientific production
  - bibliometric parameters
  - independency from PhD supervisor
- international visibility
  - invited talks
  - scientific meeting organization
  - editorial board
- project management capabilities
- leading capabilities
  - PhD / postDoc supervising experience

# Suggerimenti(?)

- provarci (se “requisiti minimi” di qualificazione scientifica)  
CoG 2014: P??: 74 proposte → 12 progetti finanziati (≈16%)
- partire da una idea  
innovativa, rilevante, fattibile
- individuare il/i panel “giusti”, indicare keyword “opportune”
- evidenziare gli aspetti oltre lo stato dell’arte, la natura “ground-breaking” e l’impatto potenziale della ricerca
- dimostrare di essere in grado di portare avanti la ricerca in maniera indipendente
- indicare indicatori bibliometrici (h-index, num tot di citazioni, IF)

PS. la sede della ricerca non viene giudicata