



**Press release**

20 July 2010

**New opportunities for early-career top researchers from anywhere in the world:  
€661 Mio for new "ERC Starting Grant" call**

**The European Research Council (ERC) announces its fourth call for proposals for the "ERC Starting Grants", open to early-career top researchers of any nationality, working - or moving to work - in host institutions in Europe. The total budget for this call amounts to €661 Mio, which is an increase of just over 25% from last year's call. This brings the ERC budget earmarked for early-career researchers to the same level as its funds available for senior researchers ("ERC Advanced Grants").**

This ERC call for early-career researchers is part of the EU's biggest ever investment in research and innovation: nearly €6.4 billion "for smart growth and jobs". (As part of the same initiative, ERC will also publish its fourth Advanced Grant call worth another €661 Mio later in the autumn of this year.) [Press Release \(19.07.2010\)](#)

The European Research Council's overall budget is 7.5 billion EUR from 2007 till 2013, with a steady yearly increase of the annual budget. To date the ERC has funded over one thousand top researchers and their innovative, "blue-sky" research throughout Europe.

[Striking examples](#)

The announced ERC Starting Grant competition is open to even more researchers, as the required post-PhD experience is now between two and twelve years. It is open to proposals in any field of research, from Social Sciences and Humanities to Life Sciences and Physical Sciences. The three deadlines (depending on scientific domain) are throughout autumn 2010. [Call for proposals](#)

[More on the ERC Grants](#)



**Note to the editors**

Set up in 2007, the European Research Council (ERC) aims to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by supporting the very best, creative researchers. The ERC funds both top senior scientists ("ERC Advanced Grants") and younger, early-career research leaders ("ERC Starting Grants"). Scientific excellence is the only selection criterion in the ERC's peer reviewed grant competitions. The ERC operates according to an "investigator-driven", or "bottom-up", approach and there are no thematic priorities.

**ERC Press Contact:**

Madeleine Drielsma

Phone: +32 (0)2 298 76 31

Fax: +32 (0)2 299 3173

[rtd-erc-press@ec.europa.eu](mailto:rtd-erc-press@ec.europa.eu)

<http://erc.europa.eu>