The ERC: a Success Story for the EU

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Beyond the first 10 years

The ERC in a Nutshell
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✓ The ERC is a key component of Horizon 2020, the EU programme for Research and Innovation

✓ €13 billion budget for 2014-2020, i.e. 17% of the Horizon 2020 budget

✓ Over 60,000 applications received and around 7,000 projects funded

✓ Highly competitive calls: success rate is around 11%

1 EUR = 14,000 IDR
The ERC - Supporting Research Talent

- 7,000 "research champions" and their teams supported
- 50,000 team members, mostly PhDs and postdocs, working on ERC projects
The ERC in a Nutshell

- An autonomous funding body set up by the EU in 2007 and led by scientists (scientific council with 22 elected members)
- Substantial for funding for excellent researchers of any nationality
- To carry out frontier research in any scientific domain (visionary, ground braking, trans-disciplinary, excellent)
- 1 researcher, 1 project, 1 selection criterion, 1 Host Institution
- Recognised label of excellence
- International, top level peer-review
Three core funding schemes:
Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants and Advanced Grants

For top researchers of any nationality and age who wish to carry out their frontier research in EU Member States or associated countries

1 project, 1 Principal Investigator, 1 Host Institution, 1 selection criterion
The ERC – Funding Schemes

**Starting Grants**

- **starters**
  - (2-7 years after PhD)
  - up to €2.0 Mio
  - for 5 years

**Consolidator Grants**

- **consolidators**
  - (7-12 years after PhD)
  - up to €2.75 Mio
  - for 5 years

**Advanced Grants**

- track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years
- up to €3.5 Mio
- for 5 years

**Proof-of-Concept**

- bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation
- up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders
The ERC – Who Can Apply

- Excellent Researchers

- Any nationality, any age or any current place of work (at least 50% of work time in Europe) – Indonesian Researchers Eligible!

- Host Institution based in EU or associated countries
Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Potential impact
- Scientific Approach
- Added-value of the Group (only SyG)

• Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment
The ERC - Benefits

ERC offers creative freedom of the individual grantee!

- Work on a research topic of own choice, with a team of own choice
- True financial autonomy for 5 years
- Negotiate best work conditions with the host institution
- Attract top team members (EU and non-EU) and collaborators
- Move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary (portability of grants)
- Attract additional funding and gain recognition; ERC is a quality label
Hidden Medieval Cities Uncovered in Cambodia

**Method:** A laser radar mounted on a helicopter to scan the jungle in the Angkor region

**Result:** Discovery of unknown human activity dating back to prehistory

Prof Damian EVANS, École française d’Extrême-Orient (France)

CALI (Cambodian Archaeological Lidar Initiative), ERC Starting Grant 2014
Thank you! Terima Kasih!

Key figures
- 7,000 top researchers funded
- 50,000 researchers & other professionals hired in ERC teams
- €12 billion

Breakthroughs
- 73% of completed projects led to breakthroughs/major advances

Scientific impact
- > 5,500 articles among 1% most cited scientific journals

Open to the World
- 9 international initiatives for non-EU talent to join ERC teams

Prestigious prizes, e.g.
- 6 Nobel Prizes
- 5 Wolf Prizes
- 4 Fields Medals

ERC as model
- 15 EU countries set up ERC-like structures/funding schemes