



Gabinete de Promoção dos  
Programa Quadro ID&I

# European Research Council (ERC): Challenges and Opportunities

Universidade de Aveiro

FEUP, Porto

14 julho 2015

15 julho 2015

**Alexandra Veiga**



Gabinete de Promoção dos Programa Quadro ID&I





## European Research Council

Supporting top researchers  
from anywhere in the world

# ERC - Since 2007... A success story!

---

- ✓ Highly recognized by the research community
- ✓ Over 5000 top researchers funded (celebration on 16 Jun)
- ✓ Growing number of articles in scientific journals and prizes
- ✓ Highly competitive (success rate ~10%)
- ✓ Efficient and fast grant management
- ✓ Eleven Nobel Prize Laureates



# HORIZON 2020



Three pillars

Excellent  
Science

Industrial  
Leadership

Societal  
Challenges



# ERC - Grant schemes

---

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

**Consolidator Grants**  
(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



# General aspects

---

**The PI may be of any age and nationality** and may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application

Research must be conducted in a public or private research organization (Host Institution/HI) **located in one of the EU Member States or Associate Countries**

**Portability:** It is expected that the PI establishes and concludes the funded research project in association with the original host. However, the ERC grants allow PIs to transfer their projects from one host to another in the course of the project.

Research teams are headed by a **single Principal Investigator (PI)** + additional team members (6 members average) - it is neither a network, nor a 'research consortium'



# What kind of research can be funded?

Any field of research with particular emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering

## ERC encourages:

- Proposals of an interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research
- Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research
- Proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions



# What kind of research can be funded?

Any field of research with particular emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering

## Research with a high-gain/high-risk pioneering projects

If successful, the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims

*Evaluators will pay particular attention to the **ground-breaking** nature of the research project and the **feasibility** of the outlined scientific approach*





# Starting and Consolidator Grants

Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant
The PI must have been awarded his/her first PhD <b>at least 2 and up to 7 years</b> prior to the publication date of the call for proposals	The PI must have been awarded his/her first PhD <b>at least 7 and up to 12 years</b> prior to the publication date of the call for proposals
Extensions to this period may be allowed in case of eligible career breaks	
Up to <b>€ 1.5 million</b> (in some circumstances up to € 2 million) (100% direct costs + 25% indirect costs)	up to <b>€ 2 million</b> (in some circumstances up to € 2.75 million) (100% direct costs + 25% indirect costs)
Duration: up to 5 years	
PIs expected to spend a minimum <b>50%</b> of their total working time on the ERC project and a minimum of <b>50%</b> of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Maternity</b> (18 months for each child born <u>before or after</u> the PhD award); <b>NO LIMITS!!!!</b></li><li>• <b>Paternity</b> (documented amount of paternity leave actually taken for each child born <u>before or after</u> the PhD award);</li><li>• <b>Long-term illness, clinical training or national service</b> (the effective elapsed time since the award of the first PhD documented of leave actually taken by the PI for each incident which occurred <u>after</u> the PhD)</li></ul>	



# What makes a competitive candidate?

## Competitive Starting Grant

Must have already shown the **potential** for research independence and evidence of maturity. e.g.: **at least one** important publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor

## Competitive Consolidator Grant

Must have already shown research Independence and evidence of research maturity. e.g.: **several** important publications without the participation of their PhD supervisor

Promising **track-record of early achievements** appropriate to their research field and career stage.

e.g.: significant publications (main author) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field; invited presentations in well-established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes etc.

*“Applicants are encouraged to evaluate their track-record and leadership potential against the above-mentioned benchmarks that have been adopted by the Scientific Council, in order to decide for themselves their likelihood for success, thus avoiding to invest effort in proposals that are very unlikely to succeed.”*



# Application Form

<p><b>Part A</b> To be filled out online</p>	<p>Administrative information about the project and the Principal Investigator</p>	
<p><b>Part B – Section 1</b> PDF to be uploaded To be evaluated in step 1</p>	<p><i>Extended Synopsis</i> <b>5 pages</b></p>	<p>Concise presentation of the <b>scientific proposal</b>, with particular attention to the <b>ground-breaking nature</b> of the research project and the <b>feasibility</b> of the outlined scientific approach.</p>
	<p><i>Curriculum Vitae</i> <b>2 pages</b></p>	<p>Standard academic and research record and succinct ‘funding ID’</p>
	<p><i>Early achievements track-record</i> <b>2 pages</b></p>	<p>publications; invited presentations in well-established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes etc</p>
<p><b>Part B - Section 2</b> PDF to be uploaded To be evaluated in step 2</p>	<p><i>Scientific Proposal</i> <b>15 pages</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. State of the art and objectives</li> <li>b. Methodology</li> <li>c. Resources (incl. project costs)</li> <li>d. Ethical and Security sensitivity Issues</li> </ul>

# Advanced Grants

## Advanced Grant

Applicants must be **scientifically independent** and have a recent research track-record and profile which identifies them as **leaders in their respective field(s) of research**

up to € 2.5 million per grant  
(in some circumstances up to € 3.5 million per grant)  
(100% direct costs + 25% indirect costs)

Duration: up to 5 years

PIs expected to spend a minimum **30%** of their total working time on the ERC project and a minimum of **50%** of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country



# Application Form

Similar to Starting and Consolidator, except:

**Part B – Section 1**  
**10-year track-record**  
**2 pages**

*Activity over the past 10 years (dated from the deadline of the call):*

1. Highlight ten **representative publications**, as senior author
- 2.3 **major research monographs**, chapters in collective volumes and any translations thereof
- 3.5 granted patents (if applicable)
- 4.10 **invited presentations** to peer-reviewed, internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools (if applicable)
- 5.3 research expeditions that the applicant has led (if applicable)
- 6.3 **organisation of International conferences** in the field of the applicant (membership in the steering and/or programme committee) (if applicable)
7. International **Prizes/Awards/Academy memberships** (if applicable)
8. Major contributions to **early careers of excellent researchers** (if applicable)
9. Examples of leadership in industrial innovation (if applicable)



# Evaluation

**Excellence is the sole criterion for selection**

**Under revision**

## Evaluation Panels

**25 peer review evaluation panels** (ERC panels), subdivided into three main research domains:

- ✓ Physical Sciences and Engineering (10 Panels)
- ✓ Life Sciences (9 Panels)
- ✓ Social Sciences and Humanities (6 Panels)

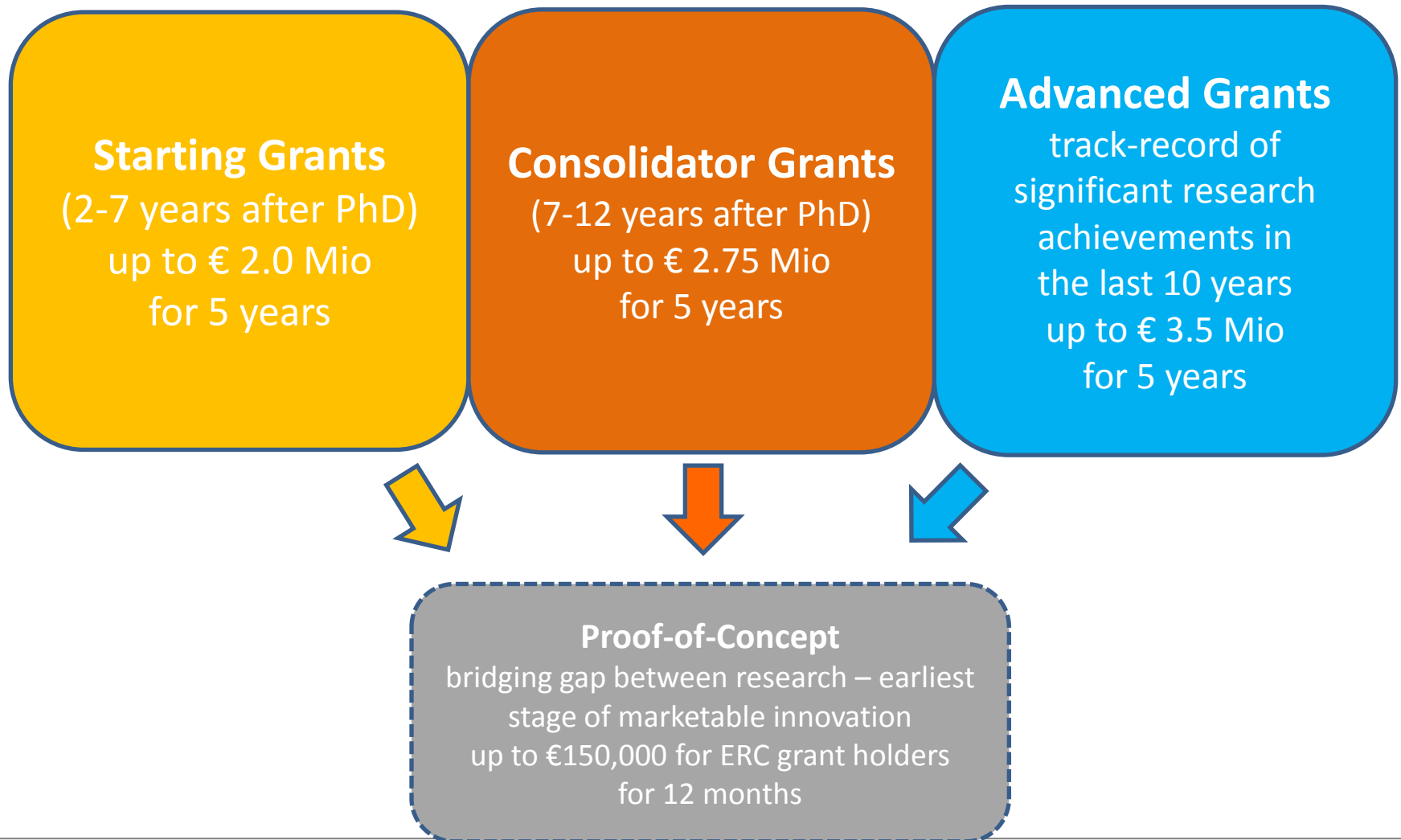
Panel chair and members chosen by the **Scientific Council**



Gabinete de Promoção dos Programa Quadro ID&I



# ERC - Grant schemes



# ERC @Portugal... increasing the success!!!

	FP7 (2007-2013)	H2020 (2014)	Total
<b>StG</b>	21	9	30
<b>CoG</b>	4	6	10
<b>AdG</b>	9	2	11
<b>Total</b>	34	17	<b>51</b>
<b>Budget (M €)</b>	<b>54.67</b>	<b>31.34</b>	<b>86.01</b>



# ERC and non MS or Associate Countries - Agreements

**National Science Foundation (NSF), USA - 2012**

**National Research Foundation (NRF) of the Republic of Korea - 2013**

**National Scientific Technical Research Council (CONICET), Argentina - 2015**

**Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) - 2015**

**China, South Africa - Under preparation, Brazil, Mexico (ongoing discussions)**

- Researchers to come to Europe to join the teams of ERC grantees
- Fellows who will come for these scientific visits in Europe will continue to receive remuneration from their country of origin
- Period: depends on the specific agreement



Publication on 22<sup>nd</sup> July



# Main calls from the 2016 WP (indicative)

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>
<i>Call identifier</i>	<b>ERC-2016-StG</b>	<b>ERC-2016-CoG</b>	<b>ERC-2016-AdG</b>
<i>Call Opens</i>	23 July 2015	15 October 2015	24 May 2016
<i>Deadline</i>	17 November 2015	2 February 2016	1 September 2016
<i>Budget million EUR (estimated grants)</i>	465 (355)	630 (355)	540 (240)
<i>Planned dates to inform applicants</i>	29 April 2016	1 July 2016	16 January 2017
	1 September 2016	1 December 2016	16 March 2017
<i>Indicative date for signature of grant agreements</i>	1 January 2017	1 April 2017	16 July 2017

# Restrictions on submission for 2016

---

- PIs may submit proposals to different ERC grant calls under the same WP, but only the first eligible proposal will be evaluated;
- A PI whose proposal was evaluated as **category C** in the StG, CoG or AdG calls for proposals under WP 2014 or 2015 may not submit a proposal WP 2016;
- A PI whose proposal was evaluated as **category B at step 2** in the StG, CoG or AdG calls for proposals under WP 2015 may submit a proposal WP 2016;
- A PI whose proposal was evaluated as **category B at step 1** in the StG, CoG or AdG calls for proposals under WP 2015 may not submit a proposal WP 2016;
- New restrictions on applications to PI whose proposals have been rejected on grounds of breach of research integrity



New



New



# Restrictions on submission for 2016

---

- A researcher may participate as PI or Co-PI in **only one ERC frontier research project at any one time**;
- The **PI of an ERC project** may not submit a proposal for another ERC grant, unless the existing project ends no more than two years after the call deadline;
- A PI who is **Panel Member for a 2016 ERC call** or who served as a Panel Member for a 2014 ERC call may not apply to a 2016 ERC call for the same type of grant.



# If you are thinking about applying...

---

**Assess which is the best time for you to apply:** have in mind the resubmission rules

## Read carefully:

- Work Programme
- Information for Applicants
- Consult previous ERC projects

(<http://erc.europa.eu/projects-and-results/erc-funded-projects>)

## Contact the National Contact Points:

- Alexandra Veiga: [alexandra.veiga@fct.pt](mailto:alexandra.veiga@fct.pt)
- Ana Mafalda Dourado: [ana.mafalda@fct.pt](mailto:ana.mafalda@fct.pt)
- Marisa Borges: [marisa.borges@fct.pt](mailto:marisa.borges@fct.pt)



# For additional information...

European Research Council (ERC)

<http://erc.europa.eu>

To subscribe to ERC newsletter and news alerts

<http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc>

Video

[http://erc.europa.eu/get\\_video/4009?height=353&width=650](http://erc.europa.eu/get_video/4009?height=353&width=650)

