

FP7 IDEAS PROGRAMME (EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL)



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Overview of Presentation

- What is the ideas programme
- Proposal submission
- Schemes
- Benefits for non European researchers
- Evaluation criteria
- African grantees
- Ideas in Horizon 2020



Structure of FP7

Four Specific Programmes

- ***Cooperation:*** Collaborative research, research networks, coordination research programmes and support actions
- ***Ideas: Frontier research, researcher driven***
- ***People: Human capital: training & mobility***
- ***Capacities:*** Research infrastructures, SMEs, Science and Society and Horizontal international cooperation actions

What is the Ideas Programme

- Part of the 7th EU Research Framework Programme
- Significant budget – EUR 7.5 Billion for 2007-2013
- Excellence as the only valid criterion
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up); all science fields
- Support for the individual scientist
- International peer-review
- Open to researchers from anywhere in the world willing to do research in Europe



Ideas programme...

- Implemented by the European Research Council Agency (ERC)
- Frontier research and aims to attract top researchers (EU and non-EU) in European institutions of grantees choice and with a team of own choice
- Can get funding for 5 years
- Four types of support as follows:



Ideas programme...

- Highly recognised by the research community
- ~2 600 top researchers funded (58% are at early-career stage); 53 nationalities represented
- Working in >480 different institutes in 27 countries
- Highly competitive (average success rate 12%)
- “Excellence attracts excellence”
- Benchmarking effect, e.g. competition between universities

Proposal submission

- Single stage submission with 2 step evaluation
- Electronic submission via EPSS only
- Deadlines strictly enforced

Proposals have two parts:

- Part A: Administrative forms (proposal and PI info, host institution info and Budget)
- Part B: Scientific proposal itself and track record of PI
 - StG: early achievements, and scientific leadership and potential
 - AdG: last 10 yrs, CV
- Annexes: ethics, host institution support letter and PhD certificate or equivalent

Ideas Grant Schemes

Starting Grants

Starters (2-7 yrs after PhD)

Consolidators (7-12 yrs after PhD) up to € 2.0 Million for 5 yrs

Advanced Grants

Track record of significant research achievements in the last 10 yrs

Up to € 3.5 Million for 5 yrs

Synergy Grants (New)

2-4 Principal investigators
Up to € 15.0 Million for 6 yrs

Proof-of-concept (New)

Bridging the gap between research
and earliest stage of marketable
innovation up to € 150, 000 for ERC
grant holders

Benefits for non European researchers

- **Incentive:**
 - Additional “start-up” funding for scientists moving to Europe (EUR 500 000 for Starting and EUR 1 Million for Advanced grantees)
- **Flexibility:**
 - Grantee can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe
 - Team members can be based outside Europe
 - Grantee can move within Europe with the grant
- **Negotiation:**
 - Several European countries/host institutes assist applicants and reward grantees with top-up funds or long-term professorships

Evaluation process

- Panel Members are appointed by the ERC Scientific Council
- 25 panels covering all fields of science, technology and scholarship
- 2 sets of panels: StG Panels, AdG Panels
- Each panel consists of the panel Chair and 10-15 panel members
- Panel chair oversees evaluation process for the proposals assigned to his/her panel in collaboration with the ERC staff

Evaluation criteria

- **Principal Investigator:**
 - intellectual capacity and creativity
 - commitment
- **Research project:**
 - ground-breaking nature and potential impact
 - methodology

New instruments

Synergy grants

- 2012 work programme on a pilot basis for exceptional proposals
- 2 – 4 Principal Investigators

Expected:

- Interdisciplinary, often using multidisciplinary approaches;
- Physically located in the same place
- Built around specialized infrastructure, new combinations of skills and disciplines, or bringing together researchers from different institutions, sectors or countries
- 710 submissions to the first Synergy Call

New instruments...

Proof of concept

- Initiated to help ERC grant-holder to bridge the gap between their research and the earliest stage of a marketable innovation
- Supporting grant-holders during the pre-demonstration
- Up to 150.000 Euro per grant
- One step evaluation
- Call close on 3 October 2012)



African grantees

- Total of 4 (SA, Cameroon, Tunisia and Morocco)

SA

- Prof. Christopher Stuart HENSHILWOOD: Research Professor at the Institute for Human Evolution, Wits University
- South Africa Research Chair in the Origins of Modern Human Behaviour
- Professor of African Archaeology at the Institute for Archaeology, History Culture and Religion - University of Bergen (Norway)
- ERC Advanced Grant Tracing the evolution of symbolically mediated behaviours within variable environments in Europe and southern Africa at the University of Bergen

Ideas in Horizon 2020

- **HORIZON 2020 structure:**

- Excellence Science
- Industrial leadership
- Societal challenges

- **Excellent Science: reinforcing and extending the excellence of the** EU's science base and consolidating ERA to make EU's R&I system more competitive on a global scale

- **European Research Council (H2020: 15 billion euro)**
- Future and Emerging Technologies
- Marie Curie
- Research Infrastructures

Thank you!

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Advancement Programme