

Sistemul de finantare prin European Research Council (ERC)¹

ERC a fost infiintat in 2007, fiind prima organizatie pan-europeana pentru finantarea cercetarii, care functioneaza cu autonomie si integritate asigurate de Comisia Europeana. ERC este constituit din *Consiliul Stiintific* – organism de decizie al ERC, care stabileste strategia de finantare a cercetarii si *Agentia de Implementare (ERCEA)* – operationala pe deplin din 2008, care implementeaza strategia ERC stabilita de Consiliul Stiintific si are in atributii administrarea granturilor.

ERC are ca misiune sustinerea excelentei stiintifice in cercetare prin acordare de finantare pe baza de competitie, pentru toate domeniile stiintifice.

La nivel operational, ERCEA este agentia care implementeaza si manageriaza operatiunile ERC:

- **Agentia de Implementare a ERC (ERCEA)** a fost creata cu scopul de a coordona exclusiv Programul Idei (parte a FP7), in prezent functionand sub Programul HORIZON 2020, avand scop similar. Activitatile agentiei includ : organizarea competitilor cu respectarea Work Programme stabilit de Consiliul Stiintific ERC si adoptat de Comisia Europeana, asigura suport aplicantilor, organizeaza procesul de evaluare peer-review, contracteaza si implementeaza proiectele in acord cu regulile financiare europene, etc.

Schema de finantare contine 3 programe principale (*ERC Starting Grants*, *ERC Consolidator Grants* si *ERC Advanced Grants*) precum si 2 initiative aditionale, avand buget limitat (*ERC Synergy Grants* si *ERC Proof of Concept*).

ERC in cifre:

- The ERC represents 17% of the overall Horizon 2020 budget (€ 13.1 billion of € 77 billion);
- The total annual budget for 2014 will be of € 1.7 billion, and as from 2016 the call budgets are gradually increased each year;
- Since 2007, some 4,500 projects have been selected for funding from more than 43,000 applications;
- The ERC counts eight Nobel laureates and three Fields Medalists among its grant holders;
- Over 20,000 articles acknowledging ERC-funding have appeared in peer-reviewed high impact journals between 2008 and 2013;
- Each ERC grantee employs on average six team members, thus contributing to train a new generation of excellent researchers. Under *Horizon 2020*, it is estimated that around 7,000 grantees will be funded and 42,000 team members supported, offering cutting-edge research training for nearly 11,000 doctoral students and almost 16,000 postdoctoral researchers.

¹ <http://erawatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>; <http://erc.europa.eu/>