



Open petition letter to
The President of The European Council, Charles Michel
The President of The European Parliament, David Maria Sassoli
The President of The European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen

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Your Excellencies Presidents Michel, Sassoli and von der Leyen

One of the greatest success stories of the EU in the last decade is the European Research Council (ERC). Thanks to its unique formula of independence from political intervention, bold research ideas, bottom-up approach, and a singular focus on excellence, ERC grants have become one of the most prestigious research grants in the world.

In light of the current European debate on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, there is significant reason to fear a cut across all areas of Horizon Europe, and we anticipate that this would also impact the ERC.

We, the signatories of this petition, call upon the Heads of States and Governments, to secure funding for the ERC in Horizon Europe, the next European framework programme for Research and Innovation.

Protecting and improving the ERC budget will secure continued investments in research that pushes the boundaries of our knowledge and continues to strongly support Europe as a dynamic knowledge society.

The ERC is a major reason for Europe's increasing strength in research. The EU comprises 7% of the world's population but produces 1/3 of the world's high-quality scientific publications. It is therefore of paramount importance that this success story can continue to develop and increase its strength in Horizon Europe.

The ERC invests in top researchers in Europe, giving them

the freedom to follow their scientific curiosity. Based on scientific excellence, the ERC supports research that is pushing the very frontiers of knowledge through competitive funding across all fields. Open to top talent worldwide, the ERC is a vital tool helping Europe to attract and retain the brightest minds, and to establish itself as a scientific powerhouse.

Many great ideas already exist which will not receive funding under current budget constraints. With increased funding, many more scientific breakthroughs are possible, with a high degree of certainty.

We recognize the ERC as the most important European instrument for financing frontier research - the very foundation of disruptive innovation. Thanks to the successes of the ERC, Europe is well positioned to remain a world leading economy, succeed in the European Green Deal and make substantive contributions to the resolution of global societal challenges.

This investment in ground-breaking research has already paid off.

It has led to countless breakthroughs, nurtured science-based industry and created a greater impetus for research-based spin-offs.

With this open petition letter, we urge the EU to protect the funding of the European Research Council in the long-term budget of the EU.

ERC HIGHLIGHTS

75% of completed projects led to breakthroughs or major advances.

7 Nobel Prizes, 4 Kavli Prizes, 4 Fields Medals, dozens of important prizes awarded to ERC-grantees.

Over 9,500 top researchers have been funded, with 2/3 of grantees under 40 years old.

Over 70,000 team members, mostly PhD students and

post-docs,*supported – training the next generation of excellent researchers

ERC research led to over 100,000 articles published, with more than 5,500 articles in the 1% most cited international scientific journals.

ERC projects have led to over 1,200 patent applications and over 100 new ventures.



Friends of the ERC

initial signatories in alphabetical order

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