

European Research Council (ERC) Funding Schemes and Support

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European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Dr. Graeme Horley

**NCP (Life Sciences and Physical
Sciences & Engineering)**

Introduction: What is the ERC?

- Launched by the EC in 2007 as the “**flagship component of the 'Ideas Programme' of FP7**”, with a budget of €7.5bn (2007-2013)
- **Mission:** “*To encourage the highest-quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-initiated research across all fields of research, on the basis of scientific excellence*”
- Emphasis on “**frontier research**”: 1) basic research in science and technology of critical importance to economic and social welfare; 2) research at and beyond the frontiers of understanding yielding progress in new and exciting research areas with no disciplinary boundaries
- Divided into **three** main research domains:
 - *Physical Sciences & Engineering*
 - *Life Sciences*
 - *Social Sciences & Humanities*
- **Scientific excellence is always the sole evaluation criterion. You must have an excellent idea and an excellent track record to have a chance of success**

ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants

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

Consolidator Grants

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

Advanced Grants

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

Synergy Grants

2 – 4 Principal Investigators
up to € 15.0m for 6 years
(currently “under review”)

Proof-of-Concept

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

ERC under Horizon 2020 (H2020)

- The **Horizon 2020** (H2020) Research and Innovation Framework will provide ca. €80bn over 7 years to support 3 main research pillars: **Excellent Science**, **Competitive Industries** and **Tackling Societal Challenges**
- The ERC represents the most sizeable part of the **Excellent Science** pillar, with a budget of **ca. €13.1bn** or **ca. 17%** of the total H2020 budget (subject to the Juncker's "Investment Plan for Europe")
- Greater emphasis on the importance of funding **early-career researchers** evident in the 2013 and 2014 ERC calls. However, in 2015, the balance has been redressed somewhat in favour of the **Advanced Grant** for more senior investigators
- Very few changes to the ERC under H2020, but here are some important ones:
 - *New 25% flat-rate overhead (**forming part of total budget request**)*
 - *Greater restrictions on resubmissions – unsuccessful applicants will be requested to skip up to **two calls** if receiving a poor evaluation at Step 1 of the review process*
 - *Eligibility criteria based on experience beyond the award of the PhD (StG and CoG only) are now fixed on the **beginning of the calendar year**, rather than the launch date of the call (**e.g., to be eligible for the 2016 StG call, you must have been awarded a PhD no less than two years before, nor no later than seven years before January 1st 2016**)*

ERC Starting Grant (StG)

- Supports “*up-and-coming research leaders who are about to establish a research team and to start conducting independent research in Europe*”. Targets promising researchers who have the **proven potential** of becoming independent research leaders
 - Must demonstrate the “*ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal*”
 - Must have already shown the potential for research independence and evidence of scientific maturity. It is expected that applicants will have produced independently **at least one important publication** without the participation of their PhD supervisor
 - In addition, a **promising track-record of early achievements** appropriate to the applicant’s research field and career stage is expected – this might include high-impact main-author publications, invites to prepare review articles, conference organisation, keynote talks, granted patents, funding success, prizes, awards...
 - Awards are generally up to **€1.5M over five years** (but can be shorter) for applicants with **2-7 years of experience beyond the PhD** (or equivalent) award. This period of eligibility can be increased for fully documented leave, such as maternity leave or long-term illness. The ERC expects a **strong commitment to its funded projects** – applicants must spend **at least 50%** of their total working time on their ERC project and **a minimum of 50%** of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country
- **Extra funding may be requested for start-up costs, purchasing large equipment, or for access to large facilities, but must be well justified (for all ERC schemes)**

ERC Consolidator Grant (CoG)

- Designed to “*support researchers at the stage where they are consolidating their own independent research team or programme*”. Aims to strengthen independent and excellent new individual research teams that have recently been created
 - Must demonstrate the “*ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal*”
 - Must have already shown the potential for research independence and evidence of scientific maturity. For example, it is normally expected that applicants will have produced independently **several important publications** without the participation of their PhD supervisor
 - As for the StG programme, a **promising track-record of achievements** appropriate to the applicant’s research field and career stage is expected
 - Awards are generally up to **€2M over five years** for applicants with **7-12 years of experience beyond the PhD** (or equivalent) award. Applicants must register **a minimum 40% time commitment** to the ERC project, and spend **50% of their total working time** in an EU Member State or Associated Country
- In all ERC grants, indirect (overhead) costs must be included within the requested budget figure and must be **25% of the total requested direct costs** (minus subcontracting costs)

ERC Advanced Grant

- Targeted towards “*established, exceptional leaders who are recognised internationally within their respective fields, owing to the originality and significance of their research contributions*”
- In most cases, PIs will be expected to demonstrate a record of achievements appropriate to their field and at least matching **one or more** of the following benchmarks:
 - *10 publications as senior author (or in those fields where alphabetic order of authorship is the norm, joint author) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, and/or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals and peer-reviewed conference proceedings of their respective field*
 - *3 major research monographs, of which at least one is translated into another language. This benchmark is relevant to research fields where publication of monographs is the norm (e.g., SSH)*
- Examples of other benchmarks include:
 - *5 patents granted*
 - *10 invited presentations in well-established internationally organised conferences*
 - *Organisation as a member of the steering and/or organising committee of 3 well-established international conferences or congresses*
 - *Major contributions to launching the careers of outstanding researchers*
 - *Recognised leadership in industrial innovation*
- ERC Advanced Grants are generally **up to €2.5M over five years**. A minimum time commitment of **30%** is expected for AdG projects

Ireland's ERC Award Holders: StG (to 2013)



25 StG awardees, of which 24 are currently working in Ireland

<http://www.sfi.ie/international/the-european-research-council-introduction/erc-awards-programme-awardees-in-ireland.html>

Ireland's ERC Award Holders: CoG (to 2013)



Dr Marie-Louise Coolahan (NUIG)

“The Reception and Circulation of Early Modern’s Women’s Writing, 1550-1700”



Prof Martin Albrecht (UCD)

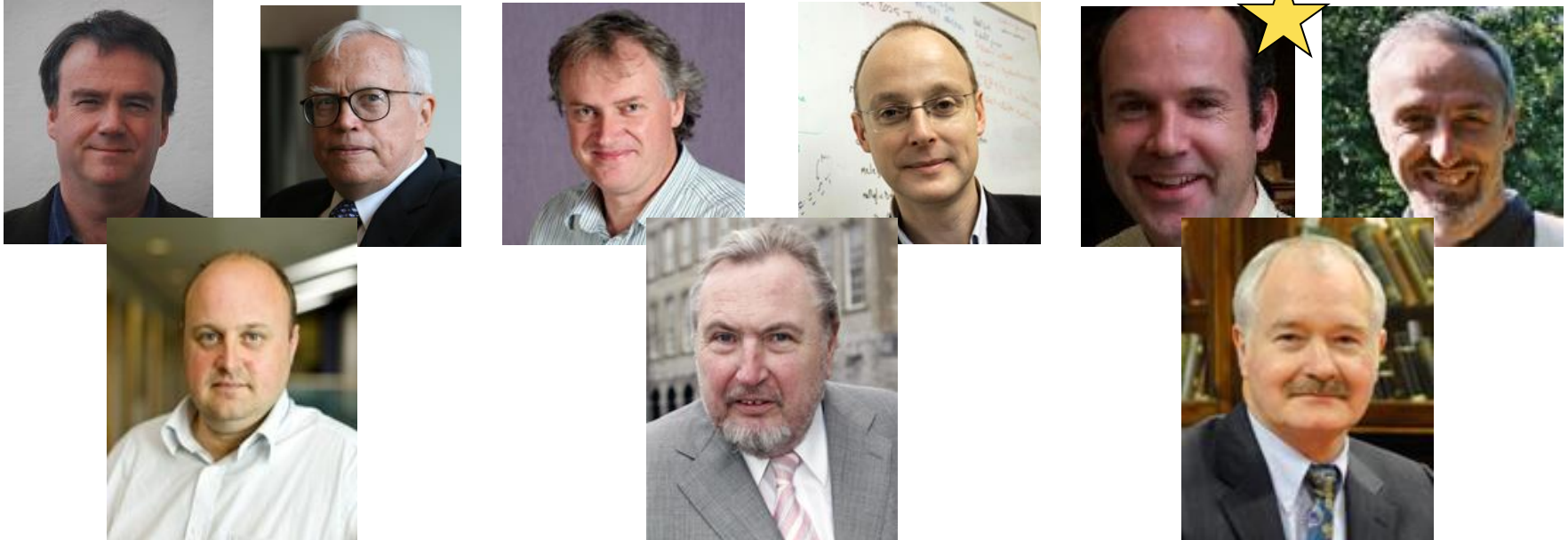
“Exploiting Synergistic Properties of Mesoionic Carbene Complexes: Teaching Rusty Metals Challenging Catalysis”



Dr John Quinn (UCC)

“The Evolutionary Ecology of Cognition across a Heterogeneous Landscape”

Ireland's ERC Award Holders: AdG (to 2013)



Top row, from left to right:

- Prof Kevin O'Rourke, TCD (2009)
- Prof James Heckman, UCD (2010)
- Prof Luke O'Neill, TCD (2010)
- Prof Kenneth Wolfe, TCD (2010)
- Prof Frédéric Dias, UCD (2011)
- Prof Dan Bradley, TCD (2011)

Bottom row, from left to right:

- Prof Rob Kitchin, NUIM (2012)
- Prof Peter Humphries, TCD (2012)
- Prof John Boland, TCD (2012)

Sadly, none in 2013

Awardees in Northern Ireland (all QUB)



From left to right:

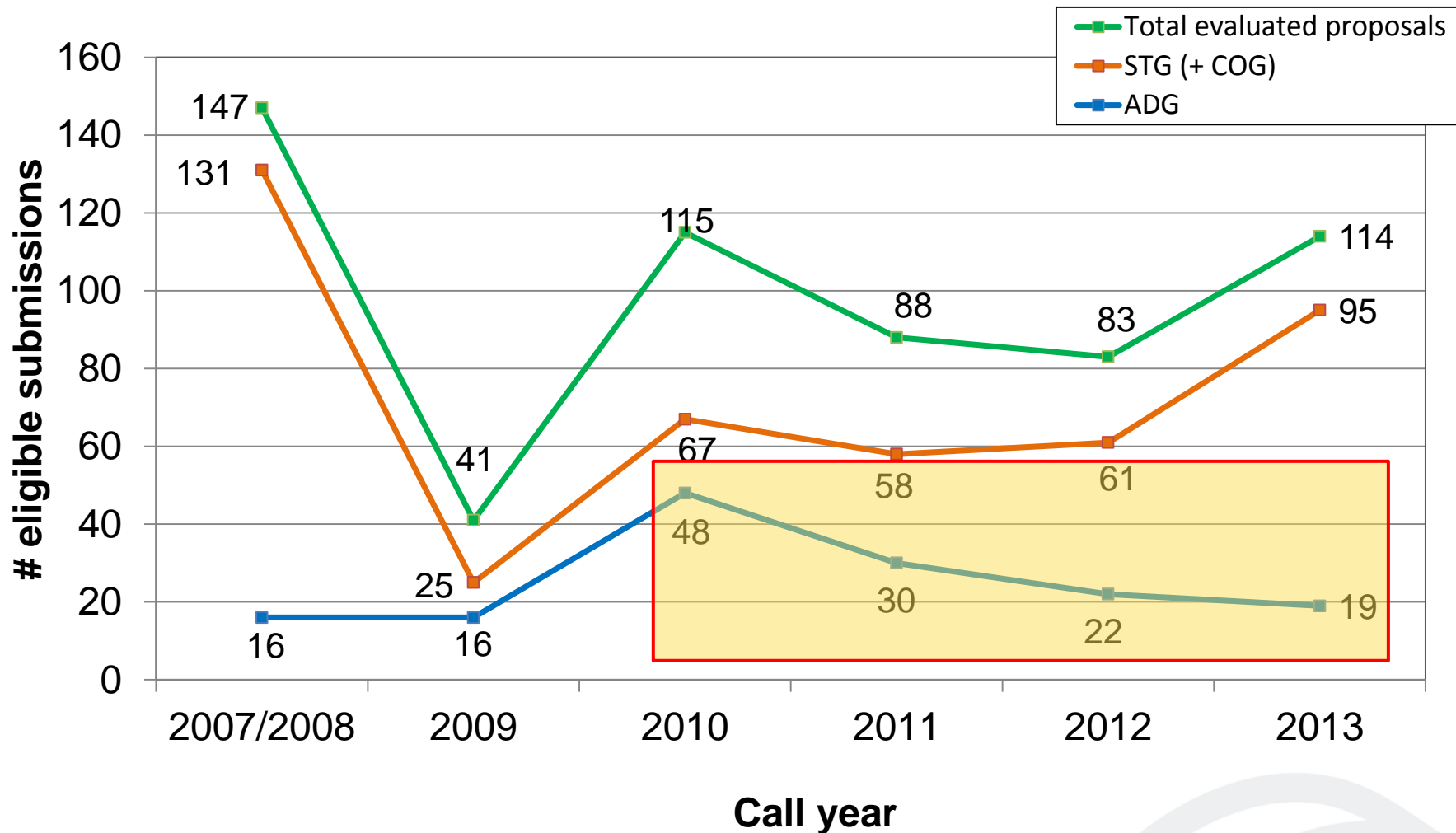
- **Prof Cathy Craig (2007 StG):** *“Temporal enhancement of motor performance using sensory guides”*
- **Prof Evgeny Rebrov (2011 StG):** *“RF-enhanced microprocessing for fine chemicals synthesis using catalysts supported on magnetic nanoparticles”*
- **Prof Stephen Smartt (2011 AdG):** *“Ultra-luminous supernovae : understanding their nature and cosmic evolution”*
- **Prof Caroline Malone (2012 AdG):** *“Fragility and sustainability in restricted island environments: adaptation, cultural change and collapse in prehistory”*
- **Prof John Dalton (2012 AdG):** *“Overpowering helminth-mediated immune-modulation is a route towards vaccine development against these major animal pathogens”*

Irish Activity in ERC Schemes (to 2013)

Call	Total Applications Received	Irish Applications	% of Total Applications	Total Evaluated	Total Funded	Overall Success Rate (%)	Irish Awards	Irish Success Rate (%)	Ireland's Fraction of Total Awards (%)
StG 2007	9167	132	1.44%	8787	299	3.40%	3	2.27%	1.00%
StG 2009	2503	29	1.16%	2392	245	10.24%	3	10.34%	1.22%
StG 2010	2873	70	2.44%	2767	436	15.76%	5	7.14%	1.15%
StG 2011	4080	58	1.42%	4005	486	12.13%	7	12.07%	1.44%
StG 2012	4741	61	1.29%	4652	555	11.93%	4	6.56%	0.72%
StG/CoG 2013	7002	95	1.36%	6870	613	8.92%	5	5.26%	0.82%
StG/CoG Total	30366	445	1.47%	29473	2634	8.94%	27	6.07%	1.03%
AdG 2008	2167	16	0.74%	2034	282	13.86%	0	0.00%	0.00%
AdG 2009	1584	16	1.01%	1526	245	16.06%	0	0.00%	0.00%
AdG 2010	2009	48	2.39%	1967	271	13.78%	3	6.25%	1.11%
AdG 2011	2284	30	1.31%	2245	301	13.41%	2	6.67%	0.66%
AdG 2012	2304	22	0.95%	2269	302	13.31%	3	13.64%	0.99%
AdG 2013	2408	19	0.79%	2363	291	12.31%	0	0.00%	0.00%
AdG Total	12756	151	1.18%	12404	1692	13.64%	8	5.30%	0.47%

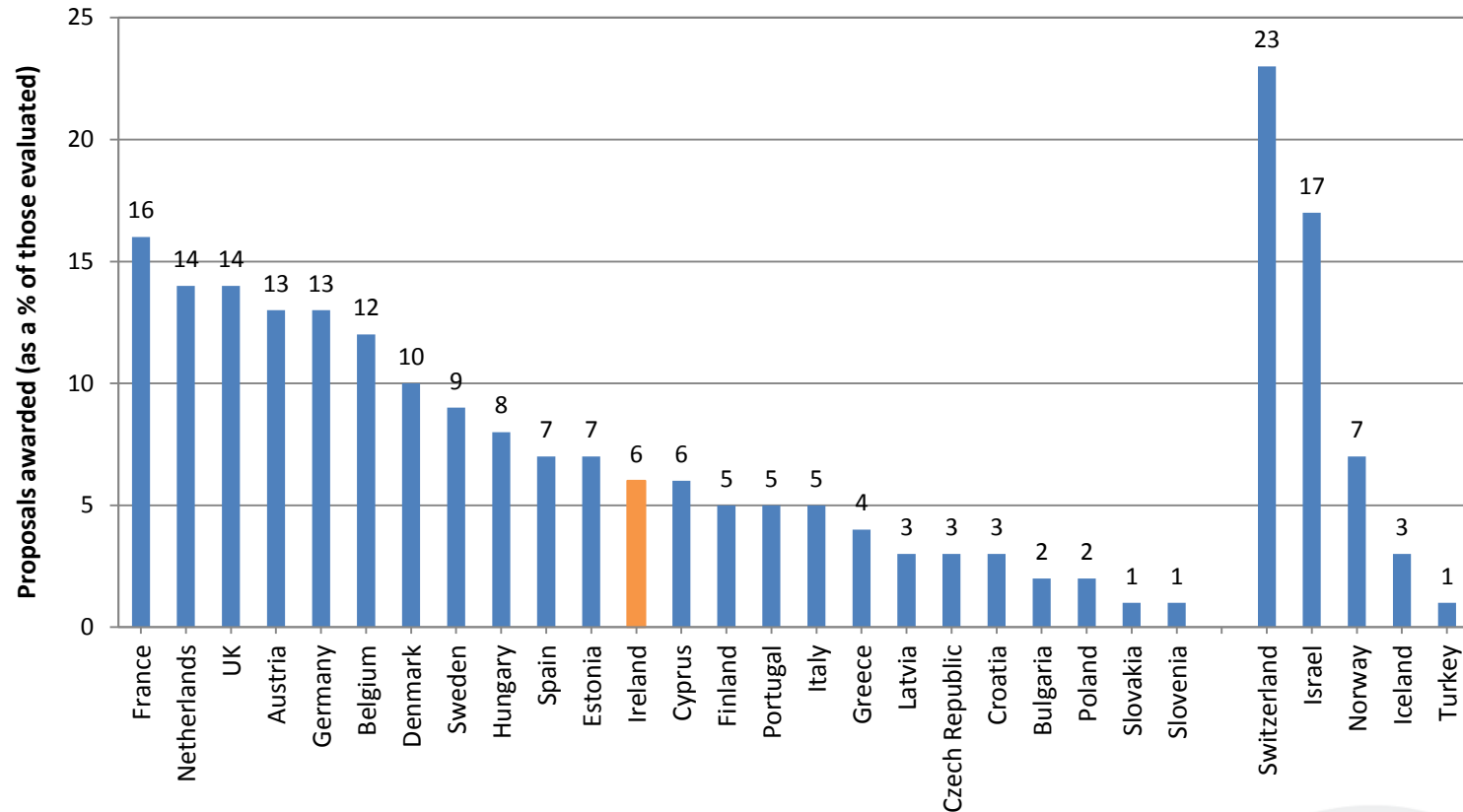
- Up to mid-2013, Ireland had drawn down **0.73%** of the total amount of ERC funding won across Europe. The *juste retour* would be approximately **1.1%** and the original target set at the launch of FP7 was **1.4%**. The expectation in H2020 is higher still, so there is work to be done on all sides...

Irish Activity in ERC Schemes (to 2013)



Irish Activity in ERC Schemes (to 2013)

Success rates per country of host institution
(StG 2007–2013, AdG 2008–2013)



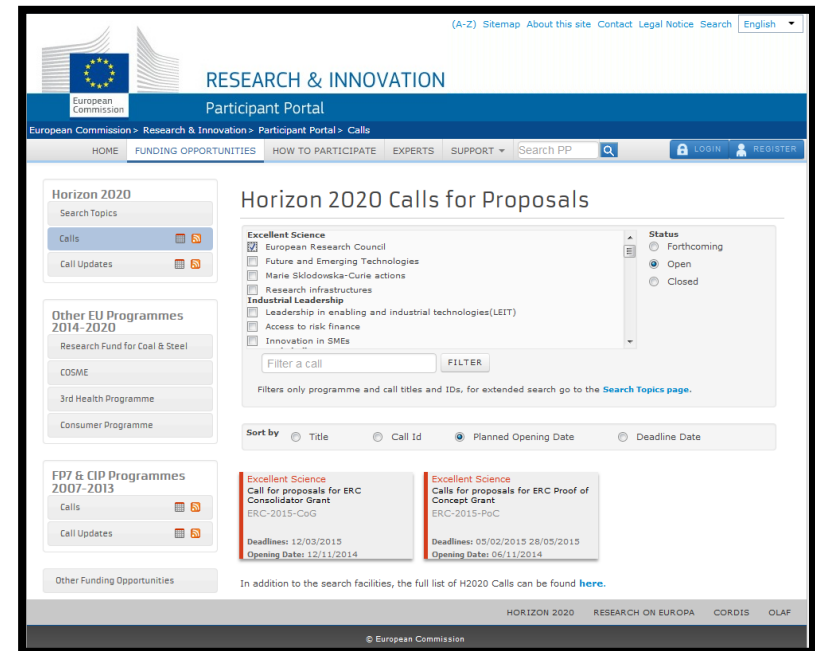
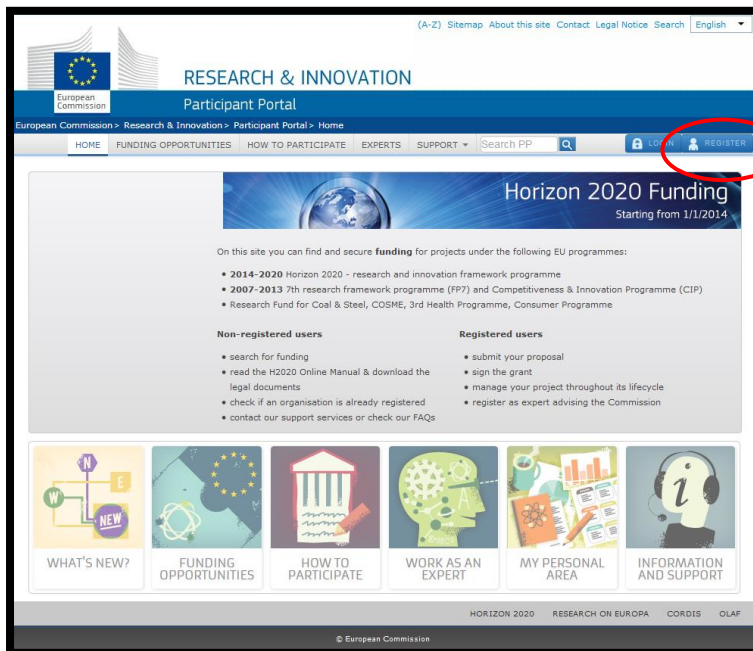
Aspirations for Ireland: ERC under H2020



- The Government has developed ambitious (but achievable) targets for Ireland's activities within the H2020 framework. We **must** aim to compete across the H2020 landscape, including the ERC, at, **or ideally above**, the level that should be attained by a country of Ireland's size and economy
- With respect to the ERC, meeting this challenge will require Ireland-based applicants to apply to the ERC in greater numbers and, most importantly, prepare their applications in the best-possible manner. Here's where NCPs and other supports can help...
- As an example, SFI is currently working with our 12 Research Centres to set targets that will assist in meeting this goal, but there is a need for all of our established researchers to put plans in place to apply to ERC schemes in the near future
- All ERC schemes are important, but the AdG scheme remains a specific target. SFI expects its research leaders, including recruits to Ireland through the SFI (Targeted) Research Professorship Programme or through other national funding programmes, to look for further support through the AdG scheme. In addition, the strong base of early-career researchers (SIRG, CDA, PIYRA, MCSA Fellows, etc.) should look to target future calls to the StG and CoG schemes

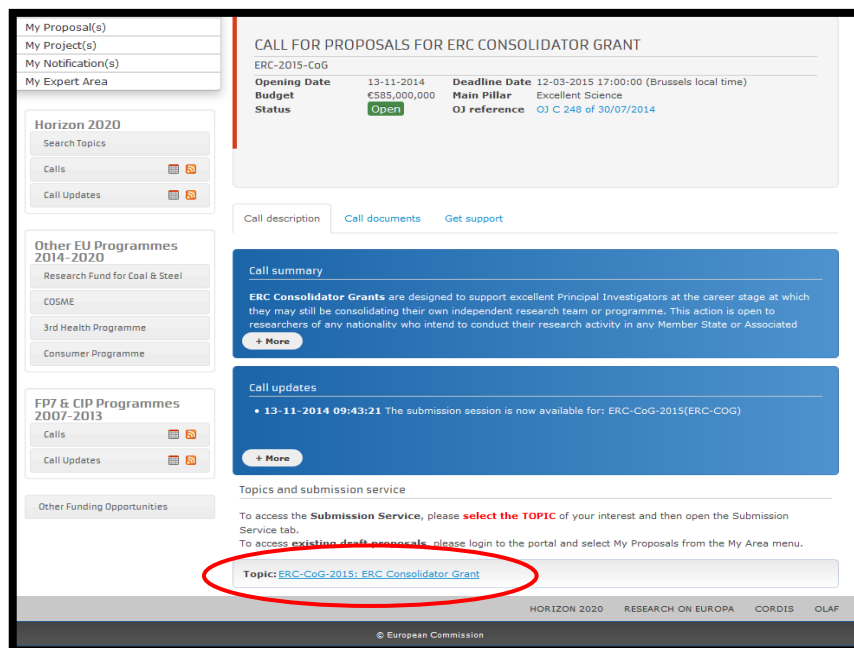
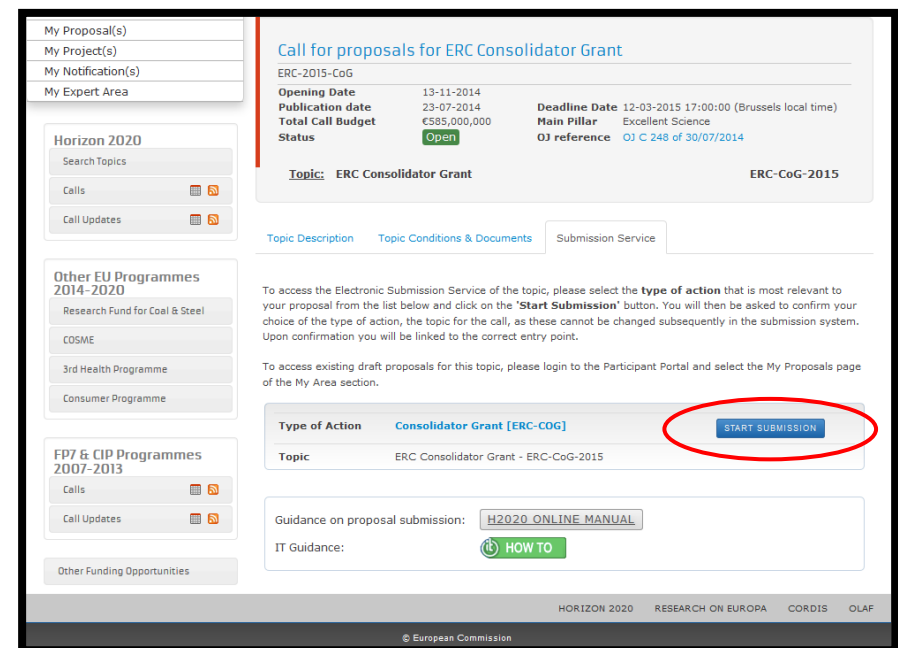
Applying to an ERC Call

- Successful applications to the ERC require a significant time commitment – if you intend to apply to a 2016 ERC call, it is recommended that this is only done if there has already been significant preparation carried out in advance (already!), particularly for the StG call, which will be the first to open
- Assuming that you are ready to proceed, the first step is to register to access to the **EC Participant Portal** (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>), which requires you to obtain a User ID through the **European Commission Authentication System (ECAS)**



Applying to an ERC Call

- Once registered, you can select the call you wish to apply to through selecting the appropriate 'topic'
- To start a submission, open the *Submission Service* tab and click the **START SUBMISSION** button
- You will then be asked to provide information that acts as a pre-registration, which includes the input of a **Participant Identification Code (PIC)** that is specific to your institution. A list of codes is available, but your Research Office will also be able to provide this for you

Proposal Structure

The “*Information for Applicants*” documentation is the essential guide for preparing an application to ERC calls.

- Three separate components to the application, prepared on the EC Participant Portal Submission System (PPSS) – **familiarise yourself with this early!**
 - Administrative Proposal Submission Forms (***not actually now termed “Part A”***)
 - Research Proposal (***still confusingly called “Part B”!***)
 - Supporting Documentation
- Five sections to the Administrative Proposal Submission Forms:
 1. *General information*
 2. *Administrative data of participating organisations*
 3. *Budget*
 4. *Ethics*
 5. *Call-specific questions*

Proposal Structure

- **Part B – Research Proposal:** Separated into two parts (**Parts B1 and B2**)
- **Part B1 – divided into four sections:**
 - *Cover page (template provided)*
 - a) Extended synopsis of the scientific proposal (max. 5 pages)*
 - b) Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages – suggested format given but can be modified)*
 - c) Early achievements or 10-year track record (max. 2 pages)*
- **Part B2 – the scientific proposal (max. 15 pages, divided into three sections):**
 - a) State of the art and objectives*
 - b) Methodology*
 - c) Resources (including project costs)*
- **Supporting Documentation (PDF format)**
 - *Host institution letter of support (template provided)*
 - *Scanned copy of PhD certificate or other documents confirming eligibility*
 - *Any other supporting documents (e.g., ethical self-assessments)*
- ***A useful checklist is provided in the “Information for Applicants” document (e.g., Page 30 within Box 4 in the StG/CoG 2015 documentation)***

Tips for ERC Proposal Writing

- **Clearly and confidently answer the following:**
 - *What is the problem being tackled?*
 - *What is the significance of the problem – why is it important to find the answer?*
 - *What makes your solution/approach to the problem ground breaking?*
- **Demonstrate leadership: Make the reviewers want to fund you. Give examples, such as:**
 - *Student supervision history – where they are now, their funding successes, etc.*
 - *Experience in leading research collaborations (national and international)*
 - *Industry interactions (particularly where you were the catalyst for the project)*
- If interdisciplinary elements are in the proposal, and if research teams are large and located over a number of institutions/countries, illustrate how **you** will be the driving force and the fulcrum around which the project will succeed
- Clearly describe your ground-breaking idea – explain why it has not been done before. **Put the ideas front and centre** – don't leave key messages to the end!
- Show how the research will provide impact if/when successful. What kind of impact(s)?
- Is your proposal risky? If it is, that's good, but where appropriate to do so explain how that risk might be mitigated and include a brief discussion of a plausible "Plan B" should the worst happen

Tips for ERC Proposal Writing

- Ensure that Part B1 of your proposal is equally approachable and convincing to specialists and non-specialists alike. It must outline the feasibility of the project and all other relevant information
(**REMEMBER: Only Part B1 of your proposal is assessed at Step 1, which is a panel-review process only**)
- In preparing Parts B1 and B2, ensure that they are written such that a reviewer need not refer to one part in order for the other part of the proposal to make sense
- **StG/CoG specific suggestions:**
 - *Demonstrate independence through appropriate information*
 - *Describe your international experience and how it has benefitted your career*
 - *Explain how the award will enhance your independent career and how your plans align to the aims and goals of the ERC programme*
 - *Endeavour to reduce any references to former mentors/supervisors to a minimum*
- **Consult the SFI Website!!** There is an excellent resource providing important and valuable information about the ERC. Visit: <http://www.sfi.ie/international/the-european-research-council-introduction/>

Tips for the Resources Section of Part B2

- **Use the budget template!** It is not mandatory but is easy to use and in a style that the ERC appreciates
- Utilise the helpful information in **Box 2** and **Box 3** of the “*Information for Applicants*” document
- All personnel costs (including the PI salary) are generally eligible. Applicants wishing to apportion funds for their own salary can only request an amount equivalent to the percentage time commitment indicated elsewhere in the application
- Team members may be located anywhere in the world. However, the inclusion of team members outside of the Host Institution must be very strongly justified (i.e., explain how the project would fail without their support) and any additional costs should be explained – consider whether the addition of “outsiders” really strengthens the proposal or, rather, dilutes the impact or complicates the plans
- Remember that the maximum award value for each scheme **includes** overheads at **25% of the requested direct costs** (not including subcontracting) – this is different to SFI where it is additional
- Further guidance can be found in the (complicated but legally relevant) **ERC Annotated Model Grant Agreement:**

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

ERC Panel Structure

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry
- LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences and neural disorders
- LS6 Immunity and infection
- LS7 Diagnostic tools, therapies and public health
- LS8 Evolutionary, population and environmental biology
- LS9 Applied life sciences and biotechnology

- **Annex 1 in the “Information for Applicants” divides each Panel into several sub-headings to give greater depth**
- **It is of crucial importance to carefully study the panel structures and histories to find the very best panel to submit your application to. It may not always be the most obvious panel based on its name – ask former applicants and reviewers**

Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, institutions and markets
- SH2 Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour
- SH3 Environment, space and population
- SH4 The Human Mind and its complexity
- SH5 Cultures and cultural production
- SH6 The study of the human past

Physical Sciences & Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental constituents of matter
- PE3 Condensed matter physics
- PE4 Physical and analytical chemical sciences
- PE5 Materials and synthesis
- PE6 Computer science and informatics
- PE7 Systems and communication engineering
- PE8 Products and processes engineering
- PE9 Universe sciences
- PE10 Earth system science

ERC Peer-Review Evaluation

STEP 1

Remote assessment by Panel members of section 1

Panel meeting

Proposals retained for step 2

Feedback to applicants

20-40% go through (variable on available budget for any given scheme in any year)

STEP 2

Remote assessment by Panel members **and external reviewers** of all sections

Panel meeting & interview

Consolidating Panel chairs meeting

Ranked list of proposals

Not AdG

Between 30 and 40% are funded depending on the panel

Support Available for ERC Activities



- **Two ERC National Contact Points (NCPs) in Ireland (NI also has NCP access through the UKRO):**
 - *SFI is responsible for the Life Sciences and Physical Sciences & Engineering research domains. **Current NCP: Graeme Horley***
 - *The Irish Research Council (IRC) is responsible for the Social Sciences & Humanities domain. **Current NCP: Paul Kilkenny***
- **The NCPs** provide information events, hold mock interviews, and provide feedback (where possible) on draft proposals. NCPs in Ireland are unfortunately not associated with the ERC on a full-time basis; a luxury often available in other (larger) European countries
- **Enterprise Ireland** are responsible for managing Ireland's coordination with the H2020 framework. A national H2020 website (<http://www.horizon2020.ie/>) is an additional useful resource. In addition, EI runs a support programme (**now with an ERC-specific application form**) providing funding (**up to €8000**) that allows ERC applicants to obtain professional support to help prepare their proposals and to obtain buy-out time or an assistant to help prepare the proposal (Research Offices can assist here)
- **Consultancy:** Companies that specialise in working with researchers to prepare ERC (and other EU) applications can be approached. These include *Yellow Research* (Netherlands), *Kwintessence* (France), *A Bigger Splash* (UK) and *Halbert Research* (Ireland). Again, your Research Office should have links to one or more of these consultancies

SFI ERC Support Programme

- The **SFI ERC Support Programme** supports the Irish Host Institutions of **ERC award holders**. Applications associated with awardees from any ERC scheme are eligible, but note that the area of research funded by the ERC award **must align to SFI's legal remit**
- The programme assists HIs by providing an additional indirect (overhead) contribution to the costs of hosting an ERC-funded research programme
- The programme was relaunched last week with revised programme documentation and an application process carried out **through the SESAME system**. There will now be two different types of support available:
 1. **Awardees already based in an Irish HI:** For such awardees, the programme provides a one-off, additional overhead contribution of **€150,000**. The funding is awarded to assist the HI in providing the best possible environment for the associated awardee to carry out their ERC-funded research. **An indicative budget is no longer required**
 2. **Awardees moving to Irish HIs with their ERC award:** In order to empower Irish institutions to recruit top-quality researchers, the Support Programme provides enhanced overhead support for HIs recruiting ERC awardees. Awards will have a maximum value of **€500k** for StG awardees, **€750k** for CoG awardees and **€1M** for AdG awardees, but may be awarded on a pro-rata basis depending on time remaining on the ERC award. For these awards, a fully justified budget outline will be requested

SFI ERC Development Programme

- The **SFI ERC Development Programme** supports researchers that have submitted a proposal to the ERC that has been deemed **excellent** and **fundable** (given an “A” rating at Stage 2), but was not funded due to a lack of available programme budget
- Open to investigators whose research is **aligned to SFI’s legal remit** (i.e., generally not SSH) and who applied to the ERC while working in an Irish institution or while working outside of Ireland and who will be moving to an eligible research body in Ireland to take up a permanent or fixed-term position (in the latter case, the contract must run for the duration of the award in order to be eligible). Applicants moving to Ireland from abroad are entitled to request a contribution to their own salary, and can apply **up to 12 months** after notification of the ERC (up to 3 months after notification for nationally based applicants)
- Awards are capped at **50% of the original direct-cost request to the ERC or €500,000**, whichever is lower, and will have a duration of **24 months**. Applications are now made through **SESAME**
- Importantly, the programme aims either to **support** a resubmission to the next relevant ERC call where the evaluation report has not indicated a need for major changes, **or** to **improve** upon a project where the evaluation has made it clear that such improvements are required before resubmission would be advised

Why You Should Apply to the ERC

- The statistics shown earlier tell us a story – **Ireland needs to be more competitive in gaining ERC funding, and you can make this happen!**
- **Applying to the ERC is a great career move** – success will allow you to expand your research horizons and can balance your basic and more applied research objectives **as you desire**
- **A chance to do what you always wanted to do!** Find out, following an first-class peer-review procedure, whether your big idea excites leading experts and demands support through the ERC
- **Entry to national funding programmes may be facilitated** – some SFI programmes (e.g., IvP) have included dispensations for ERC award holders; related strategies may be used in the future
- **Your institution will love you** – the prestige of ERC awards is enormous and you can obtain part of your salary through an award, but...
- **You can be more influential!** The mobility of ERC awards offers potential flexibility and as such can be an important bargaining chip. Force your institution to provide an ideal base for ERC work
- **People that matter do notice** – within the academic community, an ERC award is a badge of honour, but it goes much further than that. Questions are asked in political circles about Ireland's level of EU-funding success (*"If our continued national support cannot successfully leverage further funding from Europe, why do we bother spending more?"*)...

...so let's be clear, this matters a great deal. And, our community has responded!

ERC Success in the 2014 Calls

- The first calls to the ERC in the Horizon 2020 era have seen Ireland make enormous strides in terms of applications and award success – efforts from all sides are having a hugely beneficial effect... **this must continue in 2015 and beyond!**
- The **2014 StG** call saw the following:
 - ***33% increase in submissions from 2013***
 - ***220% increase in applications through to Stage 2 of the review process***
 - ***4th highest national success rate at Stage 1***
 - ***10 proposals retained for funding***
 - ***400% increase in the number of proposals retained for funding***
 - ***2nd highest national success rate overall (21.3% - compared to overall rate of 11.7%)***



StG 2014: From 20th to 2nd in a Year!

	Applications	Awards	Success Rate (%)
Israel	99	28	28.3
Ireland	47	10	21.3
France	256	49	19.1
Netherlands	212	40	18.9
Germany	425	69	16.2
Denmark	88	14	15.9
Austria	87	13	14.9
Turkey	16	2	12.5
United Kingdom	566	67	11.8
Serbia	9	1	11.1

- **Comparison:** Ireland's success rate in the StG scheme from 2007-2013 was **6.1%**. We need to show that this was not a blip **and that it can be repeated for the AdG scheme as well!**
- **Note:** 50 applications to **StG 2015** from Ireland!

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 - *400% increase in the number of proposals retained for funding*
 - *2nd highest national success rate overall (21.3% - compared to overall rate of 11.7%)*
- The **2014 CoG** call saw the following:
 - *67% increase in applications through to Stage 2 of the review process*
 - *39.5% success rate at Stage 1 – well above the call average (32.0%)*
 - *6 proposals retained for funding (plus one that will be transferred to Ireland)*
 - *100% increase in the number of proposals retained for funding*
 - *Success rate (15.8%) above the average for all participating countries (15.0%)*



CoG 2014: A Very Competitive Performance

	Applications	Awards	Success Rate (%)
Germany	307	66	21.5
Netherlands	150	32	21.3
Israel	58	12	20.7
France	260	53	20.4
United Kingdom	467	86	18.4
Czech Republic	23	4	17.4
Belgium	78	13	16.7
Hungary	31	5	16.1
Ireland	38	6	15.8
Portugal	58	9	15.5

- **Note:** Doesn't include countries that submitted less than four applications. If including the soon-to-be-transferred award, the success rate is actually **17.9%**

ERC Success in the 2014 Calls

- The first calls to the ERC in the Horizon 2020 era have seen Ireland make enormous strides in terms of applications and award success – efforts from all sides are having a hugely beneficial effect... **this must continue in 2015 and beyond!**
- The **2014 StG** call saw the following:
 - *33% increase in submissions from 2013*
 - *220% increase in applications through to Stage 2 of the review process*
 - *4th highest national success rate at Stage 1*
 - *10 proposals retained for funding*
 - *400% increase in the number of proposals retained for funding*
 - *2nd highest national success rate overall (21.3% - compared to overall rate of 11.7%)*
- The **2014 CoG** call saw the following:
 - *67% increase in applications through to Stage 2 of the review process*
 - *39.5% success rate at Stage 1 – well above the call average (32.0%)*
 - *6 proposals retained for funding (plus one that will be transferred to Ireland)*
 - *100% increase in the number of proposals retained for funding*
 - *Success rate (15.8%) above the average for all participating countries (15.0%)*
- Applications to the 2014 AdG call are currently under review – noteworthy details:
 - **30 eligible applications submitted by Ireland-based researchers**
 - **A 58% increase in applications from 2013**
 - **Most applications since 2010 (and the first rise in applications since that year)**

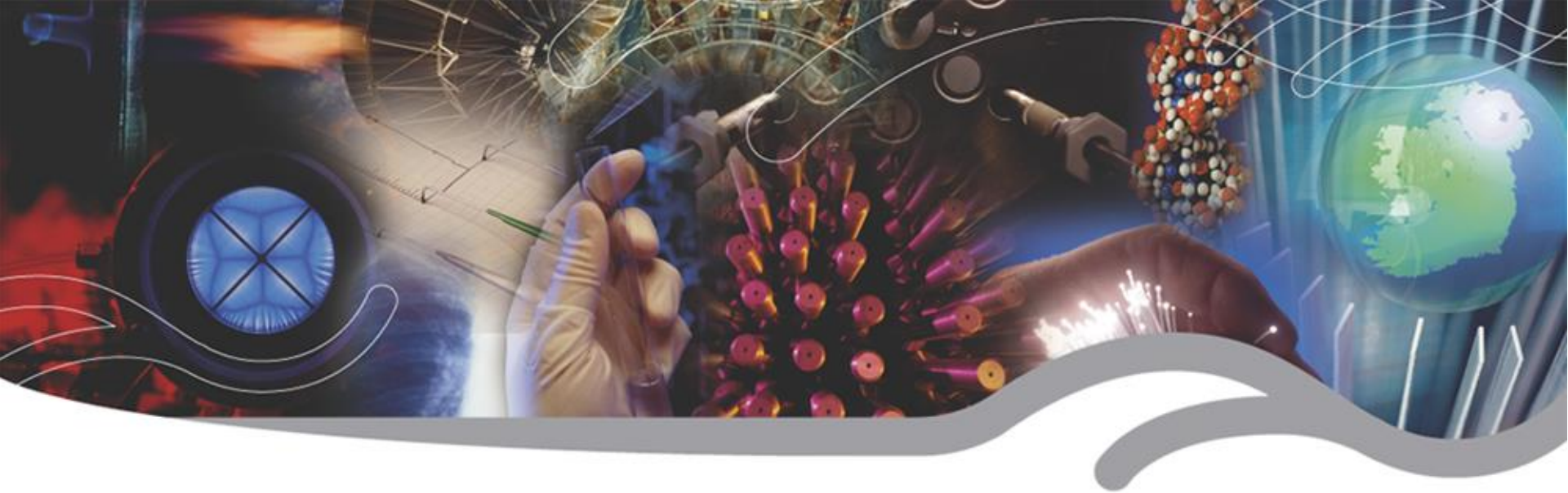
Useful Links and Websites

- **SFI:**
 - SFI's ERC Information Homepage:
<http://www.sfi.ie/international/the-european-research-council-introduction/>
 - SFI ERC Support Programme:
<http://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/open-calls/sfi-erc-support-programme/>
 - SFI ERC Development Programme:
<http://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/open-calls/sfi-erc-development-programme.html>
- **IRC:**
 - European/International Projects:
<http://research.ie/projects/european-research-council>
- **Horizon 2020 Ireland and Enterprise Ireland:**
 - Horizon 2020 National Network Homepage:
<http://www.horizon2020.ie/>
 - Financial Support for ERC Applicants:
<http://www.horizon2020.ie/who-can-help/financial-assistance/>

Useful Links and Websites

- **ERC:**
 - ERC Homepage:
<http://erc.europa.eu/>
 - Gateway page to ERC Documents:
<http://erc.europa.eu/document-library>

- **EC/Horizon 2020:**
 - Horizon 2020 Homepage:
<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>
 - Participant Portal:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>
 - ECAS Registration:
<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/eim/external/register.cgi>
 - Horizon 2020 Calls for Proposals:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html>



Thank you for your kind attention
(and good luck with your ERC application!)



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Dr. Graeme Horley
graeme.horley@sfi.ie
erc@sfi.ie