



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the **Scientific Council**, and, since January 2014, the ERC **President is Prof. Jean-Pierre Bourguignon**. The ERC has a budget of over €13 billion and is part of the EU research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020.

ERC grantees have won prestigious prizes, including **6 Nobel Prizes, 4 Fields Medals, 5 Wolf Prizes** and more.

2014-2020 budget: 13,1 billion euro.



Watch the ERC video [here](#).

*FRONTIER RESEARCH

European Research Council (ERC) grants support excellent researchers of **any nationality and age** who wish to pursue their frontier research. The ERC encourages in particular proposals that cross disciplinary boundaries, pioneering ideas that address new and emerging fields and applications that introduce unconventional, innovative approaches.

Focus on the European Research Council (ERC)

Set up in 2007 by the European Union, the [European Research Council](#) is the first European funding organisation for frontier research*. It aims to stimulate **scientific excellence** in Europe. It selects and funds the very best, creative researchers of **any nationality and age** to run five-year-projects in a public or private research organisation based in the countries of the European Research Area (ERA), that includes [EU Member States](#) and [Associated Countries](#) to the Framework Programme Horizon 2020.

ERC open to the world

The ERC also strives to attract top researchers from anywhere in the world to come to Europe. To date, the ERC has funded some 7 000 top researchers at various stages of their careers.

ERC grants are **open to researchers of any nationality** who may reside in any country in the world at the time of application. For scientists moving to Europe, the ERC offers additional "start-up" funding (from EUR 500 000 for StG to EUR 1 Million for AdG).

Currently, there are **621 principal investigators of non-ERA nationality**, representing 8% of all grantees. These grant holders are mainly nationals of the US (212), Canada (61), Russia (40), Australia (35), India (35), and Japan (24).

To date, **seven grantees are Brazilian**: [Artur Avila](#), [Aureo de Paula](#), [Elison Matioli](#), Bernardo Franklin, [Eduardo Lee](#), Roberto Rinaldi and [Mariana de Campos Françoço](#).

Team members. On average, ERC grantees employ around six team members during their ERC project. An estimate shows that some 17% of these team members are nationals from countries outside Europe. An estimated 250 Brazilian researchers work as team members on ERC-funded research projects. The ERC encourages more top Brazilian researchers to join the ranks of ERC grant holders.

What's in it for Brazilian researchers?

1. ERC funding schemes

Brazilian researchers, independently of their current place of work, can apply for 4 types of ERC grants:

- [ERC Starting Grants \(StG\)](#) for young, early-career top researchers, 2-7 years after award of PhD.
- [ERC Consolidator Grants \(CoG\)](#) for already independent excellent scientists, 7-12 years after award of PhD.
- [ERC Advanced Grants \(AdG\)](#) for senior research leaders.
- [ERC Synergy Grants \(SyG\)](#) for group of two to four principal investigators presenting early achievement or a 10-year track-record.

Additionally, ERC grant holders can apply for top-up funding ([Proof of Concept Grant](#) -PoC) to explore the commercial or societal potential of their research results.



Brazil and ERC:

To date, seven **Brazilian researchers have been awarded ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants.**

They are (Click on the blue names to read their interviews):

- The leading mathematician [Artur Avila](#) for his Quasiperiodic project;
- [Aureo de Paula](#) for his project on “Econometric Analysis of Interaction Models”;
- [Elison Matioli](#) for his project IN-NEED on energy efficiency;
- [Bernardo Franklin](#) for his Plat-IL-1 project on inflammasomes
- [Eduardo Lee](#) for his project TOPOQDot on topological materials
- [Roberto Rinaldi](#) for his LIGNINFIRST project on lignocellulosic Biomass
- [Mariana de Campos Françoze](#), for her BRASILIAE project on Indigenous knowledge.

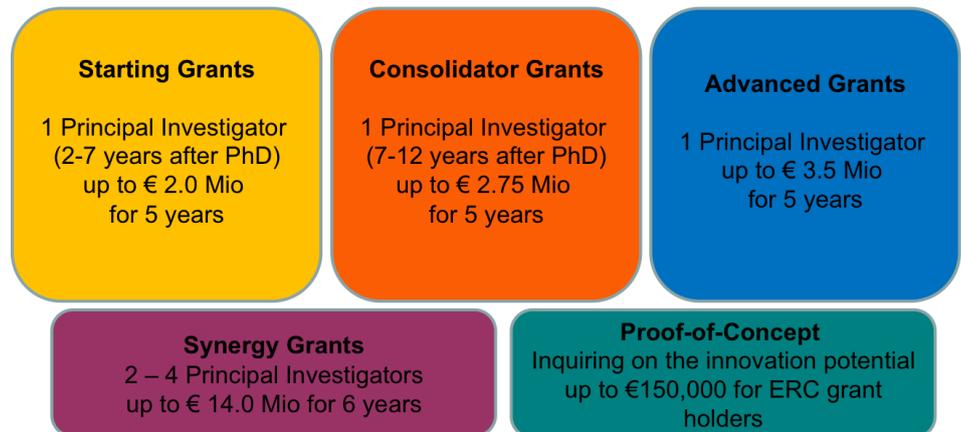
Implementing arrangement:



Signature of the 'implementing arrangement' on 13 October 2016 by the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, and the President of the Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (CONFAP), Sergio Luiz Gargioni.

Brazil is the eighth country worldwide to sign such an agreement with ERC, after the USA, South Korea, Argentina, Japan, China, South Africa and Mexico.

The different ERC funding schemes are shown in the figure below:



ERC calls are annual. They are published on the [Participant Portal](#).

2. Jobs in ERC teams: PhD and post-doc positions

ERC projects are carried out by an individual researcher ('Principal Investigator') who can **employ researchers of any nationality as team members**. One or more team members can even be located in a non-European country.

=> **How to find a job in ERC teams?** Vacancies for team members interested in joining an ERC led research project can be published on the [EURAXESS Jobs portal](#). A quick search with the “European Research Council (ERC)” additional filter will list all vacancies available in ERC teams in Europe. It is then possible to refine the search by research field, country, etc.

Read the [interviews of 3 Brazilian PhD candidates within ERC projects](#) and with an [ERC grantee running part of his ERC project in Brazil](#) where one of his team-member is based and find out some tips for successful applications.

3. Short-term postdoctoral visits to ERC teams in Europe

Since October 2016, the Implementing arrangement (IA) between Confap and the European Commission enables Brazilian post-doc researchers to carry out research visits and **temporarily join ERC teams in Europe**. Research visits can be either one-offs and long-term (6-12 months), or multiple short-term visits.

In practice, ERC launches an annual Call for expression of interest amongst ERC grantees to inquire about their interest to host Brazilian scientists in their research teams. In October 2016 call, 317 Principal Investigators (PIs) expressed interest in hosting Brazilian scientists. The list is then sent to CONFAP who informs active Brazilian post-doctoral grantees from FAPs, CAPES and CNPq of the opportunity through the issuance of a letter. The pre-selection of the Brazilian scientists is done by CONFAP on behalf of and in agreement with the Brazilian funding agency without any ERC intervention (neither in the selection criteria nor in the selection procedure).

Selected Brazilian researchers will continue to receive their salaries and/or scholarships. The participant FAP will also provide support for travel expenses, including those of the accompanying family members in case of long-term visits. Read the [agreement](#) for more details on ERC’s contribution.