



EUROPEAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION SEED GRANTS FOR APPLICATIONS TO EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL GRANTS*

INTRODUCTION

The European Research Council (ERC) presents a great opportunity for both young and established economists to fund their research. ERC grants support individual researchers of any nationality and age who wish to pursue their frontier research.

In an effort to encourage applications and to support economics research, the Council of the European Economic Association (EEA) has decided to introduce **seed grants for EEA members affiliated with institutions in a selection of European countries or in additional eligible regions** (list at bottom of call) who wish to apply for an ERC grant (categorized as Starting, Consolidator or Advanced) to the panel SH1.

We target countries in the lower tail of the European income distribution because the flow of applications from these countries is low, and because we believe applicants from these countries have access to less local support in the application process.

Writing a grant proposal for the ERC is a good investment. Although the process is competitive, the small number of applicants implies that chances of success are higher than commonly perceived. In addition, a good research proposal can be submitted to other research funding calls. Moreover, ERC proposals receive constructive feedback from an expert panel and from a number of international referees. This can serve as guidance for applicants' future research.

The application process to ERC grants is simple. Applying for the seed grants of the EEA is also very simple. Applicants automatically become members of the EEA, and can waive the membership fee. Seed grants are not competitive, but based on first come-first served approach. There is no uncertainty about success. The use of grant is discretionary, and is not monitored by the EEA.

THE EEA SEED GRANT INITIATIVE

- The EEA funds 100 seed grants of the amount of €1,000 (Euro) for each application submitted to the **PANEL SH1** of any ERC grant program.
- Since the EEA wishes to promote an increase in the number of applications but does not intend to interfere with the process of selection of grants, the EEA does not operate any screening. Therefore, seed grants are simply assigned by the criterion first-come-first-served to 100 researchers affiliated with the selected countries (list can be found below)
- The only requirements to qualify for a grant are that (i) the application is for a 60-month project; (ii) the application is declared admissible by the ERC administration.

HOW TO APPLY

- The applicant contacts the EEA by email to admin@eeassoc.org declaring the intention to submit a proposal to the ERC. The applicant must include on this email her or his personal information, country of residence, and institutional affiliation (i.e., the host institution of the project).
- The EEA administrator will acknowledge the receipt of the application for a seed grant and assign to the applicant a number.

- The EEA will pay the seed grant as soon as the proposal has been deemed eligible by the ERC administration.
- The EEA will not transfer any grants to any individuals whose ERC research grant application is deemed ineligible or that have a duration inferior to 60 months.
- The payment will be made via bank transfer.

Interested people can also ask for general information by emailing admin@eeassoc.org.

****EEA Seed Grants will be given to eligible research proposals / grant applications for ERC-2016-AdG, ERC-2017-StG and ERC-2017-CoG***

THE EEA SEED GRANT PROGRAMME IS COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF THE ERC.

THE EEA CANNOT OFFER ANY ADVICE ON WRITING ERC RESEARCH PROPOSALS OR GIVE AID IN ANY WRITING OF APPLICATIONS TO ERC FUNDING PROGRAMMES.

LIST OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES FOR THE EEA SEED GRANTS

Albania
 Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Bulgaria
 Croatia
 Czech Republic
 Estonia
 Georgia
 Greece
 Hungary
 Latvia
 Lithuania
 Moldova
 Montenegro
 Poland
 Portugal
 Republic of Macedonia (FYRM)
 Romania
 Serbia
 Slovakia
 Slovenia
 Turkey
 Ukraine

LIST OF ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE REGIONS

Andalucia (Spain)
 Basilicata (Italy)
 Calabria (Italy)
 Campania (Italy)
 Castilla La Mancha (Spain)
 Cornwall (United Kingdom)
 Extremadura (Spain)
 Lincolnshire (United Kingdom)
 Molise (Italy)
 Puglia (Italy)
 Sardinia (Italy)
 Sicily (Italy)

WHAT ARE THE ERC GRANTS?

The European Research Council grants are open to top researchers of any nationality or age who wish to carry out their frontier research in the 28 EU Member States or associated countries.

Three funding schemes are available:

- 1) Starting Grants: for researchers with 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD (plus 18 months for each child). Funding per grant is up to € 1.5 million, with duration up to 5 years;
- 2) Starting Grants: for researchers with 7-12 years of experience since completion of PhD (plus 18 months for each child). Funding per grant is up to € 2 million, with duration up to 5 years;
- 3) Advanced Grants: no experience limit (the scheme targets established researchers). Funding per grant is up to € 2.5 million, with duration up to 5 years.

Applying for an ERC research grant is not complicated as there are clear procedures to follow. Moreover, individual researchers can apply for the research grants - researchers do not need to form networks with other researchers or institutions to form. Applicants, however, do have to be affiliated with a “host” institution in a EU Member State or Associated Country. If an applicant is successful, the host institution frees up teaching hours allowing the researcher to concentrate on the funded project.

Furthermore, each application goes through a very thorough review process by experts who sit on the panel. Feedback on the application is fundamental for the applicant. Furthermore, if the research project is not successful during one year, it can be resubmitted during another year. The research proposal can also be submitted to other funding agencies. Moreover, many national funding agencies have a format where they fund certain applicants whose research projects have reached the final stages of the ERC funding evaluation process (please check with your national agencies to see what they offer).

Visit the ERC webpage at <https://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants>