



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

## Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



### Special Session Proposal

#### ERC Funding Programme by the European Commission

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#### Abstract

The Special Session has been proposed for prospective researchers looking for funding opportunities for high-level research in the field of regional studies. The session is to present ERC funding schemes (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, Synergy and POC Grants), the specifics of the SH panels and the potential of these grants for applicants at different career stages (from post-docs to established researchers) in the humanities and social sciences.

The European Research Council is the first pan-European funding body for frontier research. It was established in 2007 to significantly strengthen and shape the European research system. Now part of the Excellent Science pillar of Horizon 2020, the ERC aims to promote the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research in all fields based on scientific excellence

ERC funding programmes are open to top researchers of any nationality and age who wish to carry out their research in a public or private research institution in one of the 28 EU Member States or Associated Countries. There are four core funding programmes:

-Starting Grants: for researchers with 2-7 years' experience since completing their PhD who have a promising scientific track record (grants of up to €1.5 million over five years);

-Consolidator Grants: for researchers with more than 7 and up to 12 years' experience since completing their doctorate who have demonstrated an outstanding mid-career scientific achievement (grants of up to 2 million euros); and

-Advanced Grants: for established and scientifically independent researchers with a recent research record and a profile that identifies them as leaders in their respective research fields (grants up to 2.5 million euros).

-Synergy Grants: for a group of two to a maximum of four researchers working together and bringing different skills and resources to tackle ambitious research problems (grants up to 10 million euros).

In all cases, the sole evaluation criterion is the scientific excellence of the research proposal and the track record of the individual applicant. Proposals are evaluated by selected international reviewers who are responsible for assessing and scoring the proposals. Those who pass the quality threshold are ranked and, depending on the call's available budget, only the highest ranked proposals are offered a grant until the call's budget is exhausted.

The ERC uses a typical panel-based system. Each call comprises 25 panels divided into three disciplinary areas covering the full spectrum of science, engineering and scholarship: social sciences and humanities (SH), life sciences (LS) and physical and engineering sciences (PE). Each panel is composed of 12-16 high-level scientists selected by the ERC Scientific Council on the basis of their scientific reputation and who make recommendations for funding. In addition, the evaluations are based on input from external reviewers who are not members of the panel.