

Norway



Background information

Population (2020)	5.37 million
GDP per capita (2020)	€ 68 630
R&D intensity (2019)	2.15% of GDP

[Eurostat](#); [Eurostat](#); [Eurostat](#)

ERC funding

Since 2007, over **10 750 projects** have been selected to receive ERC funding. The ERC has to date evaluated over **92 000 project proposals** for its calls. The grants are open to researchers of any nationality provided they are based in, or willing to move to, a host institution located in Europe¹, where they need to spend at least half of their research time.

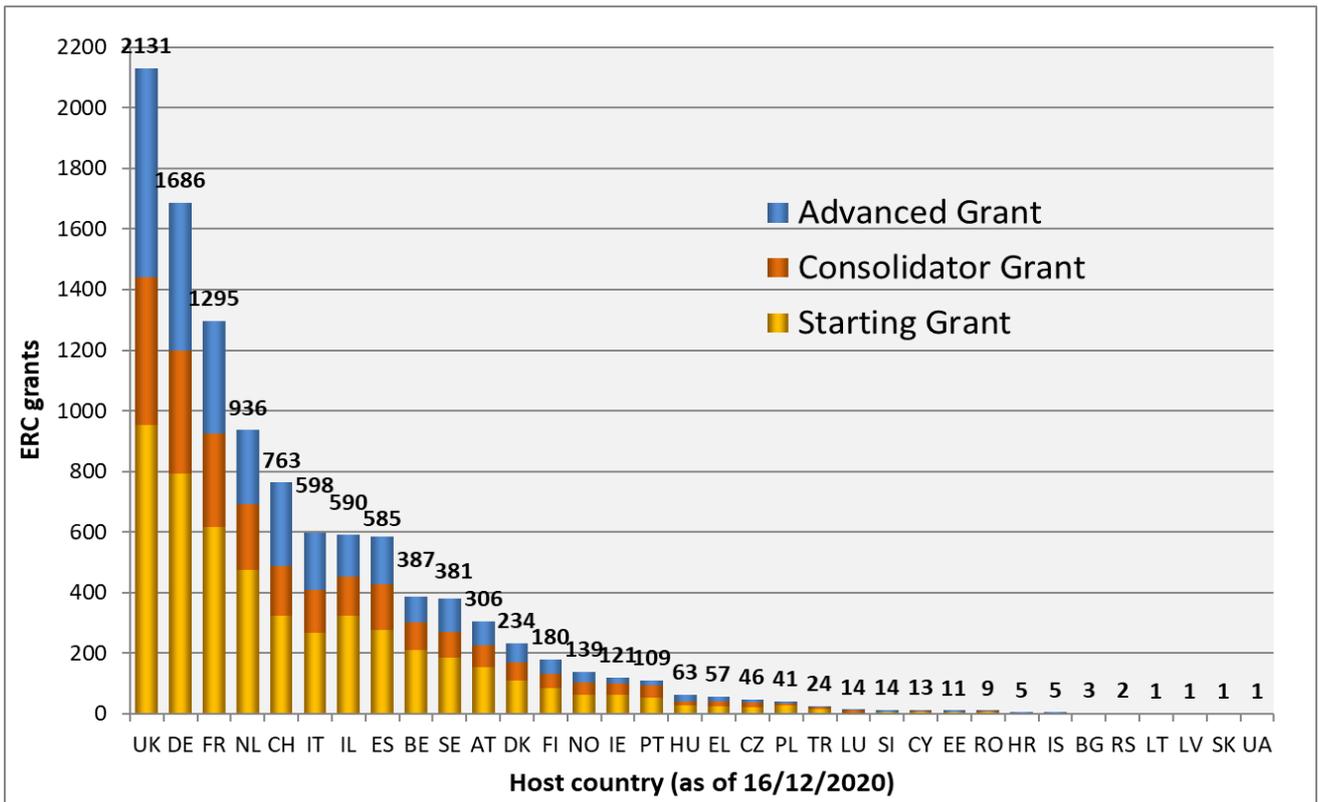
ERC core grant schemes²

Selected projects in Norwegian host institutions	139	
By type of ERC grant scheme	Starting Grants	64
	Consolidator Grants	41
	Advanced Grants	34
Distribution of ERC grants by domain	Physical Sciences & Engineering	42
	Life Sciences	35
	Social Sciences & Humanities	62
Distribution of ERC grants by gender	Women	45
	Men	94
Total ERC funding	About € 180 million	
Non-Norwegian ERC grantees in Norwegian host institutions	67	
Norwegian ERC grantees based outside Norway	10	
Evaluated proposals in Norwegian host institutions	1 553	

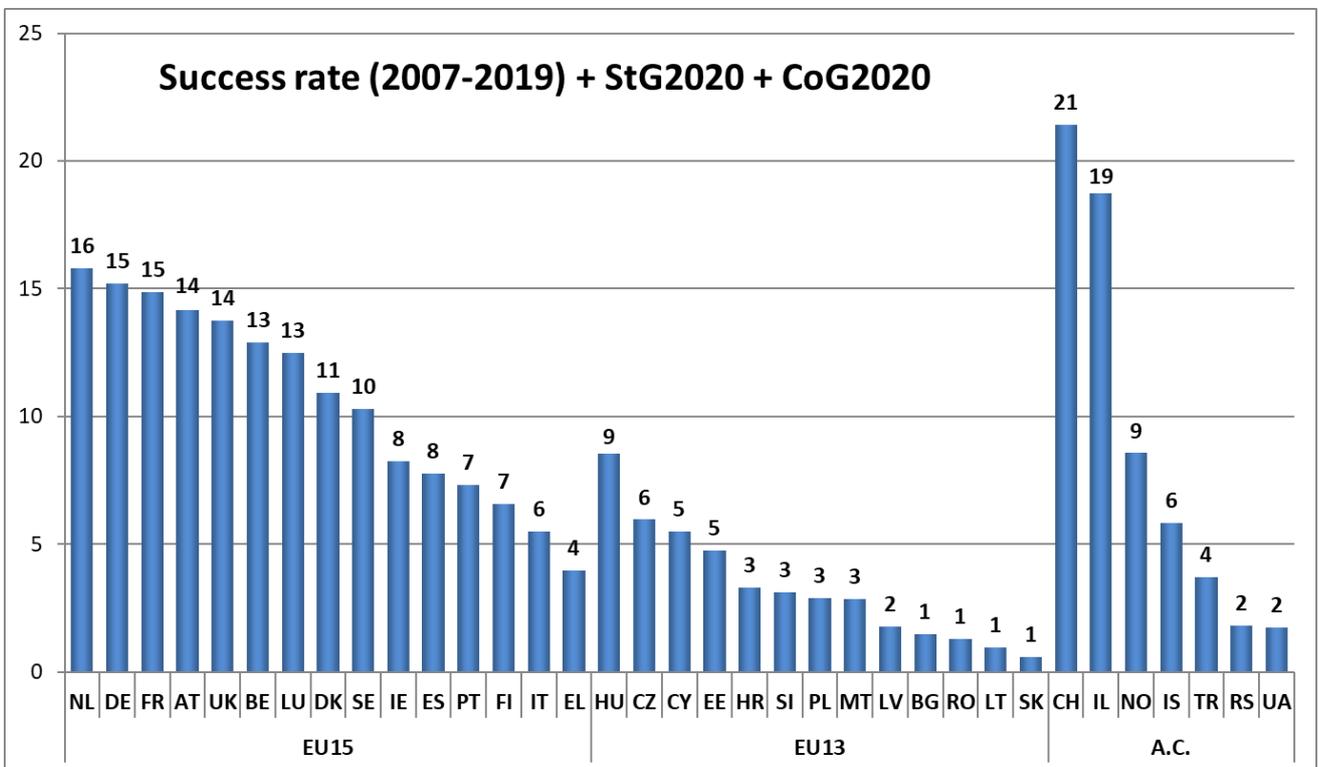
¹ In the EU or the Horizon 2020 Associated Countries (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, The Republic of North Macedonia, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland ([partial association](#)), Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine. See further information on the [Participant Portal](#)).

² All data in report as of 16/12/2021.

Number of ERC grants per host country



Success rate (grants in relation to applications)



A.C.= Associated countries

Top five host institutions in Norway ³				
Host institution	Starting Grants	Consolidator Grants	Advanced Grants	Total
University of Oslo	34	18	15	67
University of Bergen	9	11	10	30
Norwegian University of Science and Technology	7	3	5	15
University of Tromsø	4	1	2	7
Peace Research Institute Oslo	2	2	-	4

Additional ERC funding initiatives

Number of ERC grantees in Norwegian host institutions with ERC Proof of Concept funding	4
Total funding	€ 59 3000
Number of researchers in Norwegian host institutions part of ERC Synergy grant projects	7

Funding initiatives related to the ERC

The Research Council of Norway has a scheme that allows applicants who got to the second evaluation step in an Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants or Advanced Grants call, but were not awarded funding, may apply for support to improve their grant proposals ([Project Establishment Support](#) application type).

Norwegian key personalities in the ERC

- [Prof Eystein JANSEN](#) is a member of the ERC Scientific Council⁴. He is Professor of palaeoclimatology at the University of Bergen. He was the founding director of the Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research and is presently Academic Director for the Academia Europaea Bergen Knowledge Hub.
- **Professors Edvard I. MOSER and May-Britt MOSER**, both ERC Advanced Grants holders, received the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine “for their discoveries of cells that constitute a positioning system in the brain”. [See ERC press release](#).
- [Prof Nils Christian STENSETH](#) was a member of the ERC Scientific Council. He is Research Professor in ecology and evolution and Chair of the Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis (CEES) at the University of Oslo.

Examples of ERC-funded projects⁵

Healthy lungs start from your toothbrush

The composition of bacteria in the mouth has a lot to do with lung health, but it could also influence the development of inflammation throughout the whole body. Research has shown that, in addition to asthma, inflammation in the gums increases the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Dr Bertelsen’s hypothesis is that oral microbiome communities dominated by bacteria with strong inflammatory effects will have a negative effect on the respiratory tract. In this project, she tests her hypothesis with in vivo and in vitro experiments to identify whether a specific bacterial composition in saliva samples predicts lung function and respiratory health over time. She uses data and samples from study centres in northern Europe, Spain and Australia, making it possible to compare populations from different geographical areas.

Researcher: Randi Bertelsen

Host institution: University of Bergen

Project: BRuSH - Oral bacteria as determinants for respiratory health

ERC Call: Starting Grant 2018

ERC Funding: About € 1.5 million for five years

Links: [Project on CORDIS](#) ▪ [ERC story](#) ▪ [Researcher’s webpage](#) ▪ [Host institution](#)

⁴ The Scientific Council is the ERC’s governing body representing the European research community.

Please note that only funded projects, whose grant agreements have been signed, appear in this database. For this reason, the total number of projects in this database may differ from the figures provided in this document.

How imagined migration shapes the lives of individuals

Half of all young adults in West Africa wish to leave their own country and settle elsewhere. Yet, the vast majority never depart. If migration is desired, but never materialises, what are the consequences? This project breaks with traditional approaches by shifting the object of study from observed migration in the present to imagined migration in the future. The project is guided by a bold central hypothesis: Migration that is imagined, yet never takes place, decisively shapes the lives of individuals and the development of societies. The project's empirical focus is West Africa. Migration desires are particularly widespread in this region, and internal socio-economic variation can be exploited for theoretical purposes.

Researcher: Jørgen Koren Carling

Host institution: Peace Research Institute Oslo

Project: Future Migration as Present Fact (FUMI)

ERC Call: Consolidator Grant 2018

ERC Funding: € 2 million for five years

Links: [Project on CORDIS](#) ▪ [Host institution page](#)

A new understanding on gamma-ray phenomenon

Only twenty years after the discovery of cosmic gamma-ray bursts another unknown phenomenon involving gamma-rays was discovered. Short-lived and very energetic photon emissions were found to originate from the Earth atmosphere: Terrestrial Gamma Flashes (TGFs). These flashes are the most energetic natural photon phenomenon known to exist on Earth. However, there is no consensus on how TGFs are produced and what their properties are. These questions need to be answered to understand how important they are and how they may affect the Earth. To do so, Professor Nikolai Østgaard and his team are studying the electron acceleration in thunderstorm electric fields, lightning development, as well as X- and gamma-ray production to measure TGFs.

Researcher: Prof. Nikolai Østgaard

Host institution: University of Bergen

Project: Terrestrial Gamma Flashes-the Most Energetic Photon Phenomenon in our Atmosphere (TGF-MEPPA)

ERC Call: Advanced Grant 2012

ERC Funding: About € 2.5 million for five years

Links: [Project on CORDIS](#) ▪ [Researcher's webpage](#) ▪ [Host institution](#)

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