



IDENTIFYING EXCELLENT RESEARCHERS THROUGH THEIR CURIOSITY

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European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

THE DANISH COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH



ERC funding instruments

- ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grants (up to 2 mio. €)
- ERC Consolidator Grants (up to 2 mio. €)
- ERC Advanced Investigator Grants (up to 3.5 mio. €)
- Proof of Concept (up to 150,000 €)
- Synergy Grants (up to 15 mio. €)

Key features

- Scientific excellence is only criterion
- Competitions are open to top researchers from anywhere in the world, provided they are based in or are moving to Europe
- Disposes of an annual budget of over € 1 billion
- Has announced 10 calls for proposals
- Has supported more than 3,000 projects, including 59 with a Danish host institution (2007-2012)

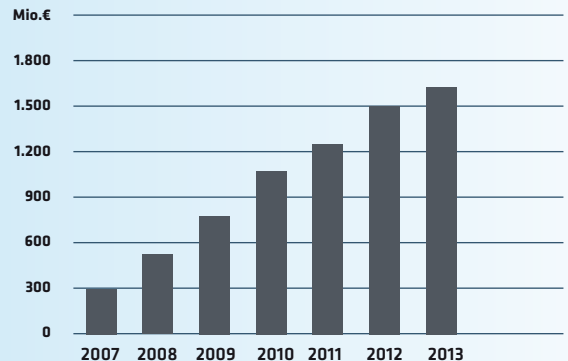
The European Research Council

The European Research Council (ERC) was established in 2007 as the first European funding body designed to support investigator-driven frontier research through open and direct competition.

Aim: to stimulate scientific excellence in Europe by supporting and encouraging the very best, truly creative researchers to identify and explore new opportunities and directions in any field of research.

ERC Grant schemes: Annual Budget Distribution 2007-2013

The ERC budget represents 15 % (€ 7.51) of the overall FP7 budget (€ 50.5 billion)



The DFF Sapere Aude programme

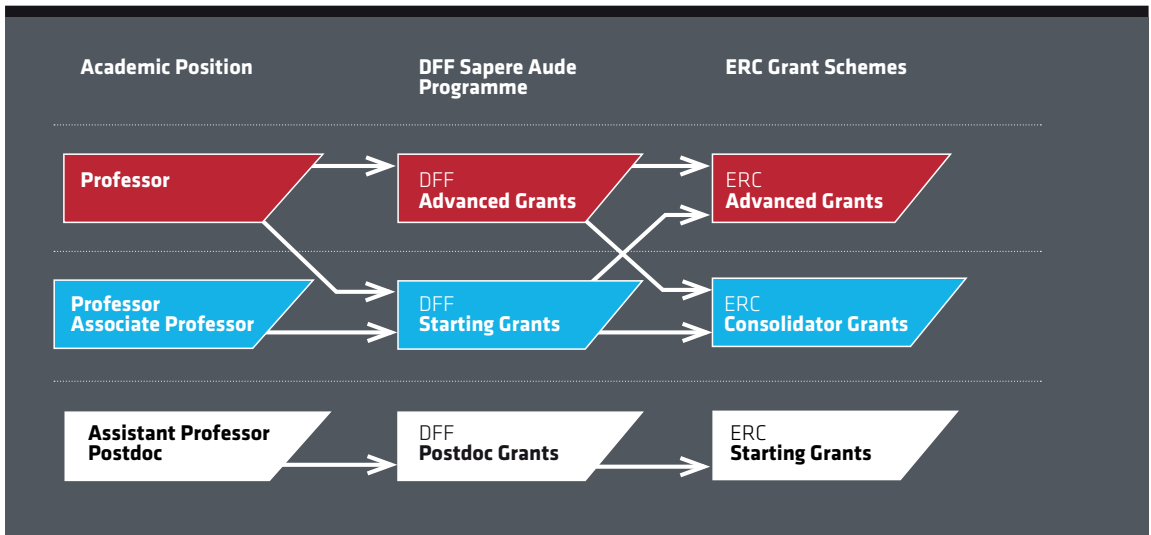
Launched for the first time in 2010 as DFF's most ambitious initiative so far. The research career programme seeks to attract and retain the greatest research talents by offering them the best possible conditions for pursuing their own original ideas and research ambitions.

Aim: to strengthen the coming generation of researchers, to lift up more female researchers to the top, and to be a launching point to the international elite.

DFF-Postdoc Grants are aimed at the best young researchers at postdoc level.

DFF-Starting Grants are intended for top researchers who have completed their postdocs and are going to establish themselves as heads of their own research groups.

DFF-Advanced Grants are for researchers who have become Associate Professors or Professors early on in their careers, and who have ambitious research goals.

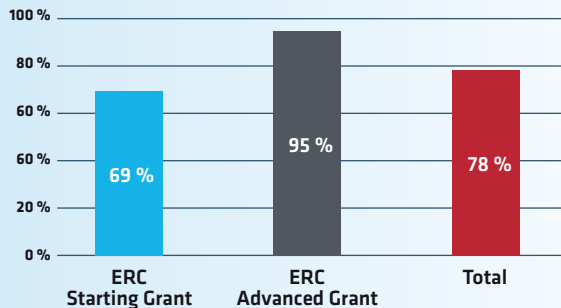


DFF Sapere Aude interaction with the ERC Grant Schemes

The Sapere Aude Programme – a launching point for the research elite

The research career programme Sapere Aude creates incentives for applying to large international pools, ie. ERC and EU's Seventh Framework Programme – partly by creating the best possible conditions for developing exceptional research projects, and partly by preparing applicants for international application processes by conducting interviews as a part of the selection procedure.

Share of Danish ERC grantees initially funded by DFF (percent)



Sapere Aude funding instruments

DFF-Postdoc Grants (Postdoc Grant plus 0.5 mio. DKK)

DFF-Starting Grants (up to 7 mio. DKK)

DFF-Advanced Grants (up to 12 mio. DKK)

Key features

- Scientific excellence is only criterion
- Competitions are open to top researchers from anywhere in the world, provided that their research is considered of benefit to Danish research
- DFF allocates more than 250 mio. DKK of its annual budget to the Sapere Aude programme
- Is announced annually since 2010
- Has supported 197 projects (2010-2012)



ERC's three main grant schemes

ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grants

The objective is to support the independent careers of outstanding researchers, who are at the stage of establishing or consolidating their first research teams or programmes.

ERC Consolidator Grants

The objective is to support researchers at the stage at which they are consolidating their own independent research team or programme. The scheme will strengthen independent and excellent new individual research teams that have been recently created.

ERC Advanced Investigator Grants

The objective is to support pioneering frontier research projects by leading established researchers.



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Danish Agency for Science
Technology and Innovation
Ministry of Science, Innovation
and Higher Education

The Danish Council for Independent Research

The Danish Council for Independent Research (DFR) funds specific research activities, within all scientific areas, that are based on the researchers' own initiatives and that improve the quality and internationalisation of Danish research.

The Danish Council for Independent Research also provides scientific advice in all scientific areas for the Danish Minister for Science, Innovation and Higher Education, the Danish Parliament and the Danish Government.



The portraits illustrating this folder are a selection of researchers who have been awarded grants under the Sapere Aude programme.

The Danish Council for Independent Research is comprised of a Board of Directors and five scientific research councils:

DFF | Humanities

DFF | Natural Sciences

DFF | Social Sciences

DFF | Medical Sciences

DFF | Technology and Production Sciences

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