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## CNRS top EU institution for ERC 2014 Starting Grants

The European Research Council (ERC) has awarded its "Starting Grants" to 328 projects, 43 of which are based in France. The CNRS leads the way with 18 laureates.

The "Starting Grant" programme of the European Research Council rewards novel projects by researchers who have obtained their PhD between two and seven years ago and who wish to set up or strengthen a research team. Scientific excellence at European level is one of the main selection criteria for this scheme, which benefits from a budget in excess of 485 million euros, compared with 398 million in 2013. Laureates thus receive grants of about 1.5 million euros over five years on average.

With 43 candidates selected out of 256 at the national level, France comes third behind Germany (70 projects), and the UK (55 projects) — a significant increase from the 30 French projects selected in 2013.

Nearly half the French laureates have chosen the CNRS as host institution, thus putting the organization in first place, ahead of the Max Planck Gesellschaft (16 laureates) and Tel Aviv University (12 laureates). The 18 CNRS laureates carry out their research in engineering, physics and the life sciences.

This first ERC call for proposals under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme will be followed next year by applications for the « consolidator grants » (applicable to researchers who have acquired between 7 and 12 years' experience after their PhD thesis) and « advanced grants » (established researchers).

To download the [list](#) of all selected researchers by country of host institution (alphabetical order within each country group)

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