

## Greece



### Background information

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Population (2017)     | 10.8 million |
| GDP per capita (2016) | € 16 200     |
| R&D intensity (2016)  | 0.99% of GDP |

Source: [Research and Innovation Observatory – RIO](#) (2017), [Eurostat](#)

### ERC funding

Since 2007, **more than 8 500 projects** have been selected to receive ERC funding. The ERC has to date evaluated over **70 000 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 Europe<sup>1</sup>, where they need to spend at least half of their research time.

### ERC core grant schemes<sup>2</sup>

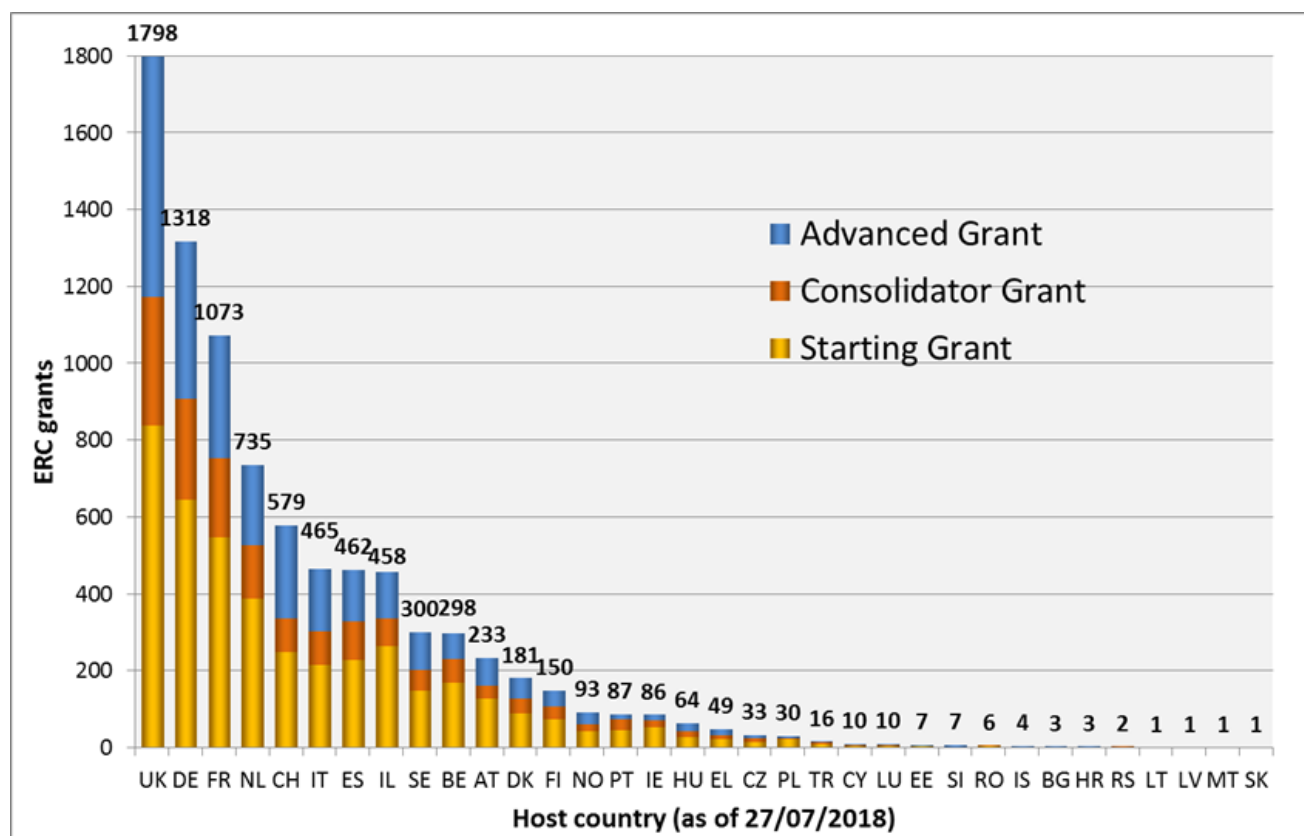
|   |                                  |              |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Evaluated proposals with Greek host institutions</b> |                                  | <b>1 433</b> |
| <b>Selected projects in Greek host institutions</b>     |                                  | <b>49</b>    |
| By type of ERC grant scheme                             | Starting Grants                  | 23           |
|   | Consolidator Grants <sup>3</sup> | 10           |
|   | Advanced Grants                  | 16           |
| Distribution of ERC grants by domain                    | Physical Sciences & Engineering  | 27           |
|   | Life Sciences                    | 17           |
|   | Social Sciences & Humanities     | 5            |
| Distribution of ERC grants by gender                    | Women                            | 15           |
|   | Men                              | 34           |
| Total ERC funding committed                             | About € 77.6 million             |              |
| <b>Greek ERC grantees based outside Greece</b>          |                                  | <b>87</b>    |

<sup>1</sup> In the EU or the Horizon 2020 associated countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, and Turkey. See further information on the [Participant Portal](#)).

<sup>2</sup> Data as of 27/07/2018

<sup>3</sup> Since 2013, the ERC Starting Grant scheme has been split in two: i) the ERC Starting Grant, targeted at researchers with at least 2 and up to 7 years of experience after their PhD, and ii) the new ERC Consolidator Grant for researchers with over 7 and up to 12 years of experience after their PhD.

## Number of ERC grants per host country



### Top institutions in Greece<sup>4</sup>

| Host institution  | Starting Grants | Consolidator Grants | Advanced Grants | Total |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Foundation for Research & Technology Hellas             | 6               | 5                   | 5               | 16    |
| National Technical University of Athens                 | 1               | -                   | 4               | 5     |
| Biomedical Sciences Research Centre "Alexander Fleming" | 2               | -                   | 2               | 4     |

### Additional ERC funding initiatives<sup>5</sup>

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Number of ERC grantees in Greek host institutions with ERC Proof of Concept funding | 13               |
| Total funding   | About €2 million |

### Greek key personalities in the ERC

- [Prof. Nektarios Tavernarakis](#) is an ERC Scientific Council member. He is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), and Professor of Molecular Systems Biology at the Medical School of the University of Crete, Heraklion, Greece.
- [Prof. Fotis Kafatos](#) († November 2017) was the first ERC President (until March 2010) and was then elected Honorary President.

<sup>4</sup> Current host institutions. Data as of 27/07/2018.

<sup>5</sup> Data as of 27/07/2018.

## Examples of ERC-funded projects in Greece<sup>6</sup>

### European perspectives on religion in public

The place of religion in the public sphere is a hot topic in Europe, where minority and majority religions jostle for space. Should we allow or restrict the expression of religion? And how does this apply in schools, the workplace and public spaces? Dr Effie Fokas studies the influence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) decisions on the public. In her project she looks at a range of ECtHR cases, analysing local reactions and the resulting mobilisations of religious and non-religious groups. The fieldwork is being done in Italy, Greece, Romania and Turkey: countries chosen for their high stakes in religious rights case law. Looking beyond the legal implementation of the decisions, Dr Fokas hopes to discover how they change local perceptions of religious rights, grassroots movements and national case law.

**Researcher:** Effie Fokas

**Host institution:** Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy

**ERC project:** Directions in Religious Pluralism in Europe: Examining Grassroots Mobilisations in Europe in the Shadow of the European Court of Human Rights religious freedom jurisprudence (GRASSROOTSMOBILISE)

**ERC call:** Starting Grant 2013

**ERC funding:** €1.2 million

**Links** [Project on CORDIS](#) ▪ [Researcher's website](#)

### Predicting the unpredictable: Real time, reliable traffic apps

We are increasingly connected through our mobile devices. Social media, data sensing, the widespread use of smartphones are changing the way we interact with each other and the world around us. Prof Kalogeraki's team aims to take advantage of these new technologies to develop the next generation of large-scale mobile human-centred systems, robust enough to provide services that are timely and adapt to unpredictable changes. The researchers investigate the use of mathematical models to address the impact of various factors, including disruption of the network, user mobility, different demands in case of unpredictable or emergency situations, changes in population growth and urban dynamics.

**Researcher:** Vasiliki (Vana) Kalogeraki

**Host institution:** Athens University of economics and business - research center

**ERC project:** Creating the Next-Generation Mobile Human-Centered Systems (NGHCS)

**ERC call:** Starting Grant 2012

**ERC funding:** €960 000

**Links:** [Project on CORDIS](#) ▪ [Researcher's website](#)

### Targeting cancer: Nanocontainers deliver localized Chemotherapy

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in the EU – and this figure is expected to rise due to an ageing population in Europe. In his ERC-funded 'Nanotherapy' project, Prof George Kordas has developed 'nanocontainers' – tiny hollow spheres with a width measured in molecules – which are attracted to cancer cells and, once there, deliver their payload of chemotherapy drugs. The research team has designed coatings for the nanocontainers that are sensitive to a cancer environment and external alternating magnetic fields (such as radio-frequency radiation). These 'targeting molecules', which are added on the carriers' surface, are attracted to cancer cell molecules, making it possible to target specific cancers. This has been demonstrated in two types of cancer – breast and prostate cancer.

**Researcher:** George Kordas

**Host institution:** National Center for Scientific Research Demokritos

**ERC project:** A Novel Nanocontainer drug carrier for targeted treatment of cancer (NANOTHERAPY)

**ERC call:** Advanced Grant 2008, Proof of Concept 2013

**ERC funding:** €2 million

**Links:** [Project on CORDIS](#)

<sup>7</sup> The complete list of signed projects in each country can be found on the [ERC website](#).

Information displayed is automatically updated through the information available on the CORDIS platform.

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.

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