



THE ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES
OF THE CZECH
REPUBLIC



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Striving and Supporting Excellence in Science European Research Council and the Czech Republic

A meeting hosted by the Czech Academy of Sciences on the occasion of the visit of
Jean Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council

30. October 2014/ Czech Academy of Sciences/ 2nd floor/ Národní 3, Praha 1

In cooperation with the Technology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences



and with the Office of the ERC Vicepresident Pavel Exner

Preliminary Programme

Supporting Excellence in Science

European Research Council has promoted frontier research in all areas of science, including social sciences and humanities, throughout Europe over the last seven years. Its goal is to identify outstanding individual researchers and projects on the basis of scientific excellence only, by means of competitive evaluation by top-level peer-review panels. ERC strives for optimal participation in the ERC funding calls, without any geographic restrictions, by creating conditions allowing to maximize prospects for funding of out-of-the-box thinking and potential for successful frontier research wherever on the globe it thrives.

So far only sixteen Czech nationals gained these prestigious grants. Four of them will take part in the meeting and share their experience by describing their way to the scientific excellence. There are many questions to be asked which may inspire promising young researchers. In particular, why do they think they succeeded? What was their scientific career? How did they elaborate the proposal? Did they consult their peers on the scientific content and the NCP on procedural issues when drafting their proposals?

8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:10	P. Exner, <i>Vicepresident of the European Research Council</i> Welcome
9:10 – 10:00	J. P. Bourguignon, <i>President of the European Research Council</i> ERC – Supporting 7 years of Excellence in Frontier Research
10:00 – 10:30	P. Perutková, <i>Technology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences</i> ERC grants: Support to the Applicants
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 13:00 205	Parallel Session Scientific Presentations – Life Sciences E. Zažímalová, <i>Czech Academy of Sciences, Chair</i> P. Plevka, <i>Masaryk University/CEITEC, ERC Grantee</i> P. Tomančák, <i>MPG, ERC Grantee</i> Discussion
11:00 – 13:00 206	Parallel Session Scientific Presentations – Physical Sciences and Engineering Z. Strakoš, <i>Charles University – Chair</i> L. Tajčmanová, <i>ETH Zurich, ERC Grantee</i> M. Koucký, <i>Charles University, ERC Grantee</i> P. Štěpánek, <i>Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry, Czech Academy of Sciences, Panel Member</i> Discussion
13:00	End of the Meeting

Striving towards Excellence in Science

Excellence is said to be found everywhere. To the day, however, the general feeling is that Czech researchers do not perform to their potential in the ERC competition. Why do not our scientific strengths mirror in the ERC grants? Or is it an effect of an insufficient quality of the local research environment? How is it with the outflow of talent and with our ability to attract talent from abroad? Are we too much dedicated now to the capacity building? What would be a strategy leading to excellence? Are we providing the right conditions for young scientists to succeed and how can we develop the full potential of excellence in science?

14:00 – 14:10	J. Drahoš, <i>President of the Czech Academy of Sciences</i> Welcome
14:10 – 14:40	J. P. Bourguignon, <i>President of the European Research Council</i> ERC – European Research Council and the Czech Republic
14:40 – 15:40	Striving towards Excellence in Science in Europe Round table discussion P. Exner, <i>Vicepresident of the European Research Council, chair</i> J. P. Bourguignon, <i>President of the European Research Council</i> M. Koucký, P. Plevka, F. Štěpánek, L. Tajčmanová, P. Tomančák – <i>ERC Grantees</i>
15:40 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:30	Striving towards Excellence in Science in the Czech Republic Round table discussion P. Exner, <i>Vicepresident of the European Research Council, chair</i> J. P. Bourguignon, <i>President of the European Research Council</i> <i>Introducing notes from Z. Strakoš and E. Zažímalová</i> <i>Representatives of the Host Institutions of the ERC grants (tbc)</i>
17:30 – 18:00	S. Cloetingh, <i>President of the Academia Europaea</i> Promoting Scientific Excellence – Academia Europaea and Young Academy of Europe
18:00 – 20:00	Reception