

ERC ATTRACTIVENESS

Recruiting European Research Council grantees
to enhance the local research system

Open call

CALLS 2024. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Fondazione
CARIPLO

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Index

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. BACKGROUND.....	3
3. AIMS.....	3
4. GUIDELINES.....	3
4.1 Eligible subjects	3
4.2 Eligible projects	3
4.3 Criteria	4
4.4 Submission process	5
5. AVAILABLE BUDGET, ELIGIBLE/NON- ELIGIBLE COSTS.....	5
6. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION	5
7. SUMMARY.....	5

1. INTRODUCTION

“ERC Attractiveness - Recruiting European Research Council grantees to enhance the local research system” is an open call falling within Cariplo Foundation’s mandate "Creating the enabling conditions to strengthen our communities".

2. BACKGROUND

Within the context of European funding for research, the calls promoted by the European Research Council (ERC) are characterized by high competitiveness, rewarding only the best scientists with innovative ideas. Data about 2023 calls’ performance¹ show that Italians are competitive, but our Country remains unattractive in terms of number of researchers who decide to carry out their research projects there.

Indeed, according to statistics relating to the ERC Starting Grant call, out of 400 winners, 57 are Italians, placing our country second behind Germany, in terms of the number of grants obtained. However, looking at the data on host countries, only 32 projects will be carried out in Italian universities and research centers, placing our country in fourth place in the ranking. The trend is confirmed by the data relating to the ERC Consolidator Grant call. The country's performance is unfortunately even worse: Italy confirms second place in terms of the number of grants obtained at the level of individual researchers, but plummets to seventh place in terms of the number of grants hosted. Out of 308 winners, 36 are Italians, but only 15 will be carried out in Italy.

¹ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics>.

² The European trend around the topic of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) has been active for years now, especially in the European context (https://www.sis-rri-conference.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/RomeDeclaration_Final.pdf). Considering the available literature, it is possible to describe RRI

3. AIMS

Against this background, Cariplo Foundation confirms its commitment to support universities and research centers in attracting foreign or Italian researchers abroad who already hold ERC funding. This intervention is justified by the Foundation's desire to strengthen the local research system; in fact, through the transfer of ERC awardees, the Foundation's target territory will be enriched with new skills, resources, international collaborations and growth opportunities for young local researchers. In order to enhance the social impact of the funded projects, the Foundation also intends to promote initiatives to engage with the civil society, with an eye toward Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)². In particular, applications shall provide an inclusive communication plan, open to stakeholders otherwise involved in the research project, and which encourages the activation of a two-way exchange between research and society.

4. GUIDELINES

4.1 Eligible subjects

Public or private non-profit organizations carrying out scientific research. For more details please consult the "General Criteria for Grants" available online.

4.2 Eligible projects

To be eligible, applications must comply with the requirements specified below:

- provide for the recruitment of an ERC grantee who originally designated a foreign research

as a dynamic and iterative process which intends to match research and innovation to societal values, needs and expectations. Moreover, RRI aims at actively involving all the stakeholders taking part to activities of research and innovation, making them mutually responsible, with respect to both the research process and its results.

centre as host institution and is now willing to move her/his research in the territory of intervention of the Foundation, by activating the transfer of the grant agreement;

- formulate a dissemination plan following the Guidelines for the communication plan, available online.

The project must be carried out at an operating facility located in the Foundation's priority area; this requirement does not apply to actions related to possible partners.

The total cost of the intervention should only include the additional project costs³, as well as the operating expenses in accordance with the eligibility criteria and ceilings listed below:

- A03 - "Equipment and software"
This entry shall not exceed 30% of the additional costs. It fully covers the costs for newly acquired equipment and software of multi-year use acquired *ex novo*. It is mandatory to clearly motivate these costs according to the specificity of the project. This category may also include masonry expenses required for the installation of the new equipment.
- A04 - "Others amortizable costs"
This entry can include patent costs, as well as costs related to equipment rental.
- A06 - "Temporary staff"
This entry shall include research personnel costs only. The cost of administrative staff is not allowed.
- A07 - "Sub-contractors and consultants"⁴
- A08 - "Materials and supplies"
This entry shall not include costs related to office supplies and photocopies.
- A09 - "Overheads"
This entry shall not exceed 5% of the additional costs.
- A10 - "Travel, publication and dissemination costs"

³ "Additional project costs" is defined as the sum of: A03, A04, A06, A07, A08, A10. In other words, the total project cost excluding A09.

⁴ This entry should also include audit costs, where applicable. Exclusively certificated auditors are considered eligible. For the sole purpose of ascertaining whether the obligation to perform a financial audit applies or not, the amount which has to be considered is obtained by multiplying the eligible costs detailed

This entry shall include conference participation fees and travel expenses, publication costs, organization of congresses, extended visits to research facilities and all activities to improve networking. Any benefits offered to the researcher and her/his family may be included under this entry.

Expenditure items directly linked to the research funded by ERC, and therefore at risk of curtailment by the European agency, are not eligible.

Cariplo Foundation will cover 100% of project costs; therefore, the total cost of the project shall correspond to the requested amount. Requested funding shall not exceed 300.000 Euros. As for timing, projects must have a maximum duration of 60 months.

By participating to this Call, organizations acknowledge, agree and accept that the award of the grant requires the irrevocable acceptance of all the following documents, available online: Intellectual property rights policy, Open access policy and Acknowledgement guidelines for academic papers ("Linee guida per la citazione del contributo nelle comunicazioni scientifiche"). Please note that all the publications resulting from project's results should display the affiliation of the organization with which the proposal was submitted. Furthermore it is recommended to carefully consult the "Guide to the submission of projects on calls for proposals", and the FAQs specifically drafted for this call..

4.3 Criteria

The evaluation of the applications received will be carried out according to the criteria listed below:

1. Consistency between the profile of the recruited researcher, the development strategies of the proponent organization, and the local research system (weight 25%).
2. Efficacy of the proposed activities and additionality with respect to research funded by ERC (weight 30%).

in the Budget (sum of entries A06, A07, A08, A09 and A10) by the coefficient 1,25. It is also recommended to refer to the "Grant management and reporting guide" and to the guidelines for audit assignment "Linee guida per affidamento audit"; both documents are available on the Cariplo Foundation's website. However, it is anticipated that in case of funding, the Foundation will confirm to each recipient any obligation to satisfy such fulfillment.

3. Impact in terms of new skills, reinforcement of the proponent organization and extent of European funding transferred (25 % weight).
4. Dissemination to the scientific community and civil society (weight 10%).
5. Adequate financial plan properly motivated and detailed also in terms of project duration (weight 10%).

4.4 Submission process

To submit an application under this call, a pre-project must be submitted in advance in compliance with the procedure outlined in the "Guide to submitting projects on calls for proposals" available online. It should be noted that the pre-project does not represent an official application for funding, but is merely intended for a preliminary consultation.

Following this, it will be necessary to submit the application for contribution, which must be accompanied by the following mandatory documents:

- Project form⁵ as PDF file;
- Detailed budget as EXCEL file;
- Host Institution Agreement⁶;
- Partnership Agreement⁷;
- Communication plan⁸ as PDF file;
- Transfer of the grant agreement acceptance by ERC or self-declaration by the ERC grantee to have submitted the Transfer request.

5. AVAILABLE BUDGET, ELIGIBLE/NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS

The budget available for this call is 900.000 Euros.

Eligible and non-eligible costs are detailed in the previous section 4.2 Eligible projects.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

Cariplo Foundation, as a private entity, is not required to comply with public procedures and has the faculty not to allocate the entire budget in whole or in part. The text of the Call and all the

mentioned documents can be found on Cariplo Foundation website (www.fondazionecariplo.it).

7. SUMMARY*

Call	ERC Attractiveness - Recruiting European Research Council grantees to enhance the local research system
Type	Open call
Deadline	No deadline
Available budget	€ 900.000
Aims	Strengthen the local research environment
Eligible subjects	Institutions directly committed to scientific research
Funding constraints	Maximum funding: € 300.000
Contacts	Scientific Research Area Staff contacts at: www.fondazionecariplo.it

** The data shown in the "Summary" are intended as a brief overview of the terms and conditions of the Call only. For a full description, please read carefully the text of the Call.*

⁵ The Project must be drawn up on the basis of the form made available for the call.

⁶ Host Institution Agreement must be drawn up on the basis of the form available online.

⁷ Partnership Agreement is mandatory only in case the project involves partners and must be drawn up on the basis of the form available online.

⁸ The communication plan must be drawn up on the basis of the form made available for the call.