



# Friends of the ERC

-En EU politisk påvirkningskampanje ledet av UiB

Are Straume  
Seksjonssjef  
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#kunnskapsomformersamfunnet



Your Excellencies Presidents Michel, Sassoli and von der Leyen

One of the greatest success stories of the EU in the last decade is the European Research Council (ERC). Thanks to its unique formula of independence from political interference, bold research ideas, bottom-up approach, and a stellar focus on excellence, ERC grants have become one of the most prestigious research grants in the world.

In light of the current European debate on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, there is significant reason to fear a cut across all areas of Horizon Europe, and we anticipate that this would also impact the ERC.

We, the signatories of this petition, call upon the Heads of States and Governments, to secure funding for the ERC in Horizon Europe, the next European framework programme for Research and Innovation.

Protecting and improving the ERC budget will secure continued investments in research that pushes the boundaries of our knowledge and continues to strongly support Europe as a dynamic knowledge society.

The ERC is a major reason for Europe's increasing strength in research. The EU comprises 7% of the world's population but produces 17% of the world's high-quality scientific publications. It is a testament of preeminent importance that this success story can continue to develop and increase its strength in Horizon Europe.

The ERC invests in top researchers in Europe, giving them

the freedom to follow their scientific curiosity. Based on scientific excellence, the ERC supports research that is pushing the very frontiers of knowledge through competitive funding across all fields. Open to top talent worldwide, the ERC is vital in helping Europe to attract and retain the brightest minds, and to establish itself as a scientific powerhouse.

Many great ideas already exist which will not receive funding under current budget constraints. With increased funding, many more scientific breakthroughs are possible, with a high degree of certainty.

We recognize the ERC as the most important European instrument for financing frontier research - the very foundation of disruptive innovation. Thank to the success of the ERC, Europe is well positioned to remain a world-leading economy secured in the European Green Deal and make substantive contributions to the resolution of global societal challenges.

This investment in ground-breaking research has already paid off. It has led to countless breakthroughs, started science-based industry and created a greater appetite for research-based spin-offs.

With this open petition letter, we urge the EU to protect the funding of the European Research Council in the long-term budget of the EU.

ERC HIGHLIGHTS

7% of completed projects led to breakthroughs or major advances.

7 Nobel Prizes, 4 Kerr Prizes, 4 Fields Medals, dozens of important prizes awarded to ERC-grantees.

Over 8,500 top researchers have been funded, with 2/3 of grantees under 40 years old.

Over 70,000 team members, mostly PhD students and

post-docs, supported - training the next generation of excellent researchers.

ERC research led to over 100,000 articles published, with more than 5,000 articles in the 1% most cited international scientific journals.

ERC projects have led to over 1,300 patent applications and over 100 new ventures.

- Friends of the ERC var en kampanje som oppfordret EUs ledere til å sikre et sterkt og uavhengig ERC i den neste budsjett- og programperioden for EU (2021-2027)
- Kampanjen bestod av et «petition» brev stilet til presidentene for de tre EU institusjonene:
  - Charles Michel (Rådet)
  - David Maria Sassoli (Europaparlamentet)
  - Ursula von der Leyen (Europakommisjonen)
- En tilhørende underskriftskampanje



## Kampanjen :

- Innsamlet nesten 25.000 underskrifter (Mellom april 2020 til november 2020)
- Har vært med å legge grunnlaget for forsvaret av et større budsjett for både Horisont Europa og for ERC
- Gitt UiB en unik mulighet for synlighet, innflytelse og omdømme
- Fikk medieoppslag i store og viktige mediehus (BBC, Politico, Research Professional, Morgenbladet, Politiken)
- Har fungert som en plattform for UiB å være med å sette dagsorden og påvirke (egen pressekonferanse på ESOF2020 og egen sesjon på Europakommisjonens R&I Days 2020)
- Læring fra denne kampanjen kan brukes aktivt inn i videre arbeid med omdømmebygging av UiB som institusjon





## Friends of the ERC

Fremmet kampanjen gjennom Twitter, egen hjemmeside samt en kampanjeside på change-org



**@FriendsoftheERC**

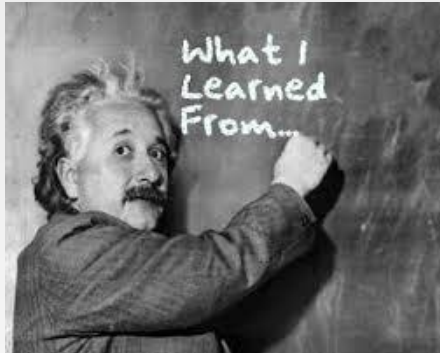


**FriendsoftheERC.eu**



**[change.org/FriendsoftheERC](https://change.org/FriendsoftheERC)**





Hva kan vi trekke ut som læringspunkter:

- Universitetet i Bergen og andre universiteter i Norge både kan og bør engasjere seg for å være med å sikre best mulige rammevilkår for forskning og innovasjon i Europa
- Finne saker hvor det er plass på den europeiske scene
- Engasjere en bred vifte av støttespillere
- Jobbe med “representanter på innsiden”
- Arbeide målrettet for å få innpass med budskapet på flest mulige arenaer

*"If we fail to strengthen the next European framework programme, Europe's share of the global production of knowledge will diminish - there's no doubt about that. This will have serious long-term consequences for European innovation and industrial leadership."*

Rector Dag Rune Olsen, BBC News, Sep. 2020





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