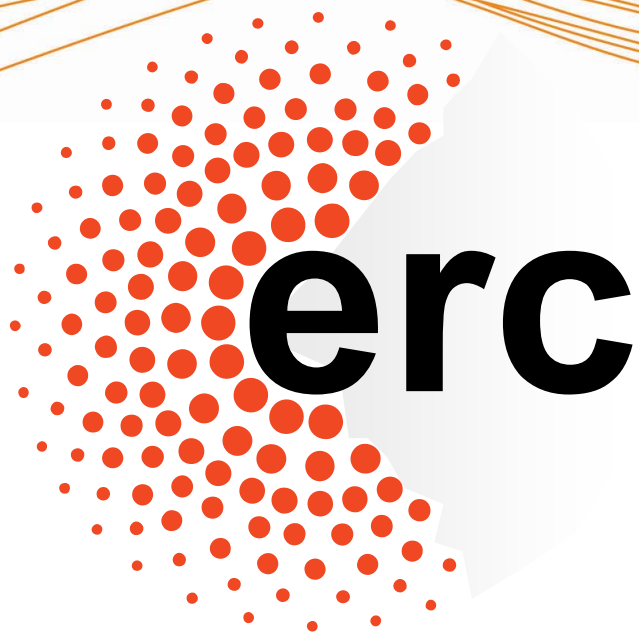




FP7 IDEAS The European Research Council



European Commission
Research DG

Jack Metthey

Launching FP7 – Conference for Information Multipliers – Brussels, 7-8 February 2007





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Overview

1. Background & Evolution
2. Organisation & Management
3. In brief: 1st call



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Basic / Frontier research in the Europe

■ National activities:

- Research councils (DFG-1920, CNR-1923, CNRS-1939, SNF-1952), academies, etc.

■ Intergovernmental activities:

- CERN (1953), ESO (1962), ESA (1962/1975), EMBO (1963), ILL (1967), COST (1971), ESF (1974), EMBL (1978), Eureka (1985), ITER (1988), ESRF (1988), INTAS (1993)

■ EU activities (“supranational”):

- ECSC – Euratom – EC (1957), JRC (1959), JET (1973), FP1 (1984) ... FP7 (2006-2013)
- European Research Area – ERA (2000)
- **FP7 (2006-2013): Ideas/ERC, Marie Curie fellowships, research infrastructures, thematic priority areas**



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The birth of the European Research Council

The ERC is:

- **A logical development of the European Research Area**
- **Securely anchored in European legislation**

... at the same time.....

- **A revolutionary development**





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FP7 Ideas Specific Programme

- **Creates ERC**
- **Provides funding**
 - **Budget (2007-2013) : €7.51 bn**
(around 15% of FP7 budget)
 - **Average budget: €~1 bn per year**
- **Sets overall objectives for research and operating principles**



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Strategic Aims Overview

Boost European excellence in frontier research

- by investing in the best researchers and ideas
- through competition at European level
- on the basis of excellence as the sole criterion
- raising incentives towards quality and aspirations of individual researchers
- providing benchmarks and leverage towards broader (structural) improvements in European research



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ERC Actors

The Scientific Council

Independent scientific governance

The Agency

Practical implementation and management of operations

The European Union

Providing the financial means



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK
PROGRAMME



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The Scientific Council Members & Role

22 highly respected researchers reflecting the full scope of European research and scholarship

- proposed by an independent identification committee
- appointed by the Commission (for 4 years, renewable once)

Role:

- **Establishes overall scientific strategy**
establishes annual work programmes (incl. calls for proposals, evaluation criteria); defines peer review methodology; ensures selection and accreditation of experts
- **Controls quality of operations and management**
- **Ensures communication with the scientific community**



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The Scientific Council Organisation

- 22 Members of the Scientific Council elected 1 **Chair** and 2 **Vice-Chairs**
- Chair: Prof. Fotis Kafatos, Vice-Chairs: Prof. Helga Nowotny and **Dr Daniel Estève**



- + Regular Plenary Meetings (every 1-2 months)
- + Secretariat of the ScC (Directorate S)

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The Agency

- **Executes annual work programme**
as established by the Scientific Council
- **Implements calls for proposals**
and provides information and support to applicants
- **Organises peer review evaluation**
- **Establishes and manages grant agreements**
- **Administers scientific and financial aspects**
and follow-up of grant agreements



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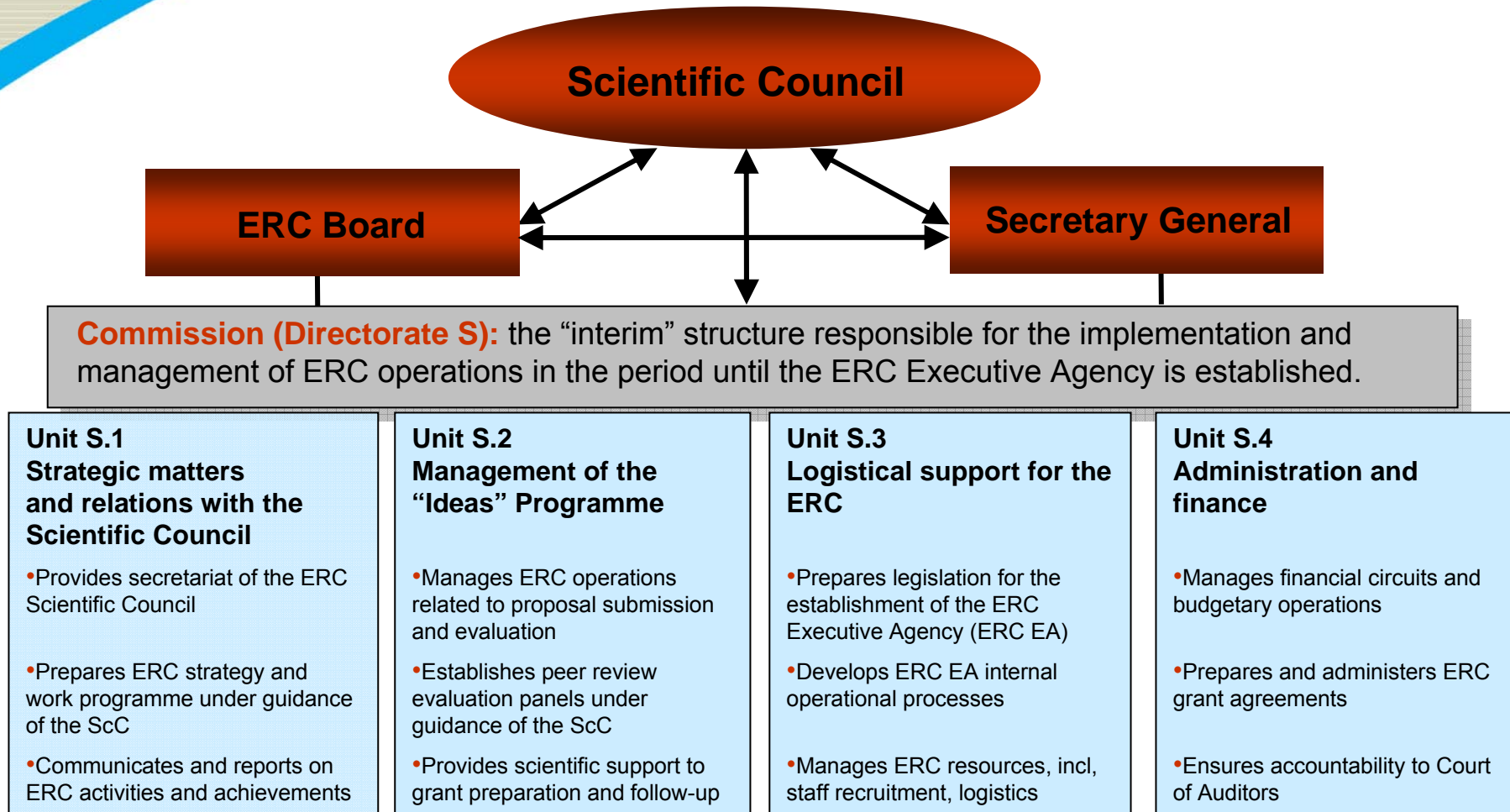
Community research

The European Union (represented by the European Commission)

- **Provides financing**
through the EU framework programmes
- **Guarantees autonomy** of the ERC
- **Assures the integrity and accountability** of the ERC
- **Adopts annual work programme**
as established by the Scientific Council



ERC Management Structure





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The ERC Board

Prof. Fotis Kafatos

President of the ERC



Prof. Helga Nowotny

Dr Daniel Esteve

Vice-Presidents of the ERC



Jack Metthey

Director of ERC DIS
(EC RTD Directorate S)



**Prof. Ernst-Ludwig
Winnacker**

ERC Secretary-General



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Dedicated Implementation Structure (DIS)

- **Progressive establishment of ERC Executive Agency**
 - Principles of lean and efficient management apply
- **First: Building up of capacities and operational methods as dedicated service within Commission**
- **Then: Transition to agency structure**
 - Executive Agency will be legally established within the first semester of 2007 and is expected to be fully operational by mid-2008
- **Review of ERC structure by 2010**



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1st Call in Brief

- **ERC Starting Grants only**
- **Two stage submission process** (1st - Outline, 2nd – Full)
- Submission via EPSS only (no paper submission)
- What? **Any field of science, engineering and scholarship**
- Who? **Principal Investigator (Individual Team) + Hosting Organisation**
- By when ? **Deadline Stage 1 submission: April 25, 2007**
- How? **Consult « ERC Guide for Applicants »**