

PROGRAMME

17:00–17:15

Welcome and opening

- Event hosted and presented by **Ricardo Moure**

- **Teresa Riesgo**, Secretary General for Innovation, Ministry for Science, Innovation and Universities
- **Maria Leptin**, President of the European Research Council

17:15 – 18:15

ERC–Grantees session, their vision and insights on the future of the ERC.

Moderated by **Nicola Spaldin**, Vice-President of ERC

Speakers:

- **Daniel García González** (Associate Professor, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)
- **Rebekah Clements** (ICREA Research Professor, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
- **Emma Motrico** (Tenured Professor, Universidad de Sevilla; Principal Investigator, Perinatal IBiS Lab, Instituto de Biomedicina de Sevilla)
- **María Jesús Vicent** (Cancer Programme Coordinator and Head of the Polymer Therapeutics Laboratory, Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe)
- **María Ximena Senatore** (Deputy Scientific Director and Associate Professor, Instituto de Ciencias del Patrimonio, CSIC)
- **Igor García Irastorza** (Professor and Director, Center for Astroparticles and High Energy Physics, Universidad de Zaragoza)
- **Alberto García-Basteiro** (Research Professor, IS Global, Barcelona Institute for Global Health)

18:15 – 19:15

Policy vision on excellent science towards FP10: main challenges and priorities.

Moderated by **José Manuel Fernández de Labastida**, Director General of Spanish Research State Agency (AEI)

Speakers:

- **Andreu Mas-Colell** (ERC Former Secretary General and member of the Rhine Group)
- **Nuria Montserrat** (Minister for Science and Universities, Government of Catalonia)
- **Maria Leptin** (ERC President)
- **David González** (Spanish Coord Counsellor for R&I at the Spanish Perm Rep to the EU)
- **Eloisa del Pino** (President of CSIC)
- **Joan Guàrdia Olmos** (Chair of the CRUE R&I Sectoral Commission and Rector of Barcelona University)

19:15 – 19:20

Main Conclusions and Closure

Izaskun Lacunza, Director General of the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)

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European Research Council: The European Union's
flagship programme for frontier research



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ERC – Scientific Council Open Event

The European Research Council (ERC) is Europe's leading funding organisation for frontier research. It supports pioneering projects across all fields of knowledge, selected solely on the basis of scientific excellence. ERC grants enable researchers to pursue ambitious, high-risk ideas with the potential to drive major scientific breakthroughs. By funding curiosity-driven research, the ERC helps strengthen Europe's global scientific leadership.

The **Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (MCIU)**, through the **Spanish Research State Agency (AEI)** and the **Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)**, host the event **"The ERC Scientific Council Meets the Spanish Scientific Community: Looking Ahead to FP10"**.

This event represents a unique opportunity to showcase the work of the ERC to the Spanish scientific community, exchange views on the future of frontier research in Europe, and contribute to the discussion on the priorities that will shape the next European framework programme for research and innovation funding.



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POLICY VISION TABLE / SPEAKERS PROFILE



José Manuel Fernández de Labastida
Director of the Spanish Research State Agency, Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Santiago de Compostela, has held senior leadership positions in Spain's science system, including Vice President for Scientific and Technical Research at CSIC and directive roles within the Ministry of Science and Innovation. Served as Head of the Scientific Department of the European Research Council.



David González
Civil servant at the Spanish Ministry of Science, with over 20 years of experience in research and R+D+i management. Coordinating Counsellor for Science, Innovation and Space at the Spanish Permanent Representation to the EU since 2021. He has played a key role in Spain's directive and negotiation positions on EU Framework Programmes and other international initiatives.



Joan Guàrdia
Rector and Full Professor of Psychology at the University of Barcelona. Chair of the CRUE R&I Sectoral Commission. He has held several university management positions and currently chairs the R+D+i sector group of CRUE and is a member of the LERU Rectors' Assembly.



Maria Leptin
President of the European Research Council. Biologist best known for her work on the mechanisms that allow a developing body to take on its correct shape. Member of leading European and international academies, including EMBO, Academia Europaea, Leopoldina, the Royal Society and the US National Academy of Sciences. She has received several honorary doctorates and international awards in recognition of her scientific career.



Andreu Mas Colell
Emeritus Professor of Economics at Pompeu Fabra University and the Barcelona School of Economics. Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology (BIST). Member of the Rhine Group. Secretary General of the ERC from June 2009 to August 2010.



Nuria Montserrat
Minister for Research and Universities of Catalonia. An ICREA Research Professor, she was previously Head of the Pluripotency for Organ Regeneration Group at IBEC. Her scientific career has been recognized twice by the European Research Council (ERC). She has combined her research activities with management responsibilities at the Barcelona Center for Regenerative Medicine and IBEC.



Eloísa del Pino
President of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and Tenure Scientist at CSIC. She has been a visiting researcher at the Universities of Oxford, Kent and Ottawa, and at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Bordeaux. She was also Chief of Staff to the Spanish Minister of Health and Deputy Director of Institutional Analysis at the Independent Authority for Fiscal Responsibility (AIReF).



Rebekah Clements
Tenured Research Professor at the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA), hosted by the Autonomous University of Barcelona. A cultural historian of Japan, she works on language, society and Japanese early modernity in the broader context of East Asian and world history. "ERC Starting" "Grant Aftermath of the East Asia War of 1592–1598" and ERC Consolidator Grant "Consuming Nature".



Alberto García-Basteiro
Research Professor at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, ISGlobal, Head of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology at Clinic-Barcelona Hospital, and Coordinator of the TB research unit in Manhíça. Over 15 years in global health, he studies poverty-related diseases in vulnerable populations and strengthens research capacity. Awards: Young Investigator Prize, Early Career Member Award and Stephen Lawn TB-HIV Research Leadership.



Daniel García González
Associate Professor at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and leader of the MULTIBIOSTRUCTURES Lab, working at the interface of mechanics, advanced materials and mechanobiology. ERC Starting Grant, two ERC Proof of Concept and EIC Transition grantee, co-founder of the spin-off 60Nd, recipient of the 2023 Spanish National Research Award for Young Researchers, and Secretary-General of the Young Academy of Spain.



Igor G. Irastorza
Professor of Physics at the University of Zaragoza and Director of its Center for Astroparticle and High Energy Physics (CAPA). An experimental astroparticle physicist working on searches for axions and dark matter, and spokesperson of the International Axion Observatory (IAXO). His research has been supported by three ERC grants: T-REX, IAXO+ and the Synergy Grant DarkQuantum, of which he is co-PI.



Emma Motrico
Tenured Professor at the University of Seville and Principal Investigator of the Perinatal IBiS Lab at the Institute of Biomedicine of Seville (IBiS). An ERC grantee and Board Member of the Association of ERC Grantees (AERG), her research focuses on advancing perinatal mental health through innovative, evidence-based and digital approaches.



María Ximena Senatore Connolly
Scientific Researcher and Deputy Scientific Director at INCIPIT-CSIC. A contemporary archaeologist with over two decades of research experience in Antarctica, she is Principal Investigator of AWAY – Antarctica Reframed: Material Histories and Genealogies of Human Presence (ERC Advanced Grant 2025).



Nicola Spaldin
Vice-president of the ERC and Professor of Materials Theory at ETH Zurich. She develops theoretical methods to understand and design functional materials, and is especially known for her pioneering work on multiferroics, materials combining magnetic and electric properties. Fellow of the Royal Society and Foreign Member of the National Academy of Engineering, she has received major awards including the Swiss Science Prize Marcel Benoist, the Körber European Science Prize and the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Prize.



María J. Vicent
Head of the Polymer Therapeutics Lab at the Príncipe Felipe Research Center (CIPF, Valencia) since 2006 and coordinator of the Cancer Program. She is also responsible for the Screening Platform, a Specialist Site in the European infrastructure EU-OPENSREEN. Her nanomedicine research has been supported by four ERC grants: MyNano, POLYMMUNE, Polybrait and the recently awarded Advanced Grant Morpheus.