



TRADERUN MOODUL
TRADERUN MODULE



FUNDING PROJECTS IN RUSSIA AND EU PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES
PROJEKTIDE RAHASTAMINE VENEMAAL JA EL IDAPARTNERLUSRIIKIDES

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INTRODUCTION

The current reading material focuses on European Union funding opportunities managed directly via European Institutions.

The main tool of European Union financing are tenders, grants and microfinancing. All of it is related to gradually simplified applying procedure, contracting, implementation and reporting.

The following pages give an introductory to businesses (especially small and medium size enterprises (SMEs)) and research or innovation oriented entities about the necessary background and ideas behind funding opportunities.

*The aim of the Traderun programme course “**FUNDING PROJECTS IN RUSSIA AND EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**” is to provide the students with comprehensive and practical overview of the fundraising possibilities in EU and Estonia. The course gives an overview of EU structural support and regional implementing agencies, that are available for a businessman to apply for a fund.*

A successful student will be aware of and understand the EU fundraising possibilities in the frames of cooperation with Russian and Eastern Partnership countries, and able to define the financing criteria and priorities.

The current reading material summarises the main aspects covered by lectures and structurises the information channels for the future.

The course supports the other Traderun courses, especially the course related to EU cooperation with Russia and Eastern Partnership Countries.

SECTION 1. FUNDING CONCEPTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

European Union funding is available via public tenders, grants and microfinancing.

Small companies can apply for European funding either directly from the Commission or via national agencies

SMEs can also benefit from non-financial assistance measures such as business support services or consultancies.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/index_en.htm

http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html

Tenders

Tenders are public contracts the European Commission (and other institutions) use to buy in goods and services – studies, technical assistance and training; consultancy, conference and publicity services; books and IT equipment etc¹.

The Commission website provides easy and readable guidelines for the ones interested (available via http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/index_en.htm):

[Beginners' guide to EU public contracts](#) 

How to tender for a Commission contract – with guidance on the different types of contract, finding a contract that's relevant to your business and filling out the forms.

Grants

Grants are available via various grant calls and the funding is thematically administered by different Departments or agencies of the European Commission. SMEs and other organisations (e.g. business associations, business support providers, consultants) can usually apply directly for the programmes and submit their applications to the calls².

IMPORTANT LINK:

http://ec.europa.eu/grants/index_en.htm

¹ Public Contracts and Funding, European Commission, http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/index_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/funds_rules/pack_rules_funds_en.pdf

Research and Innovation grants and programme

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION funding is currently provided through the [Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development](#) (known as the 7th Framework programme). the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme ([CIP](#)) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ([EIT](#)).

7th Framework Programme is the programme for the budget period of 2007-2013. The last major calls date to summer/autumn 2012; some calls will be open during 2013. See more info: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html



The new programme for the period of 2014-2020 will be Horizon 2020 – see more at http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)

The competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) is another tool of European Union funding.

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/index_en.htm
<http://ec.europa.eu/cip/>



<http://ec.europa.eu/cip/>

OTHER Structural Funds

Direct aid provided via structural funds is only available for SMEs in economically less developed regions (convergence regions). In the majority of the regions in EU, the aid to SMEs is not given directly, but is provided via actions of entrepreneurship trainings, support services, business incubators, technology transfer mechanisms and networking.

Different measures and nationally administered programmes are available for SMEs also via **European Union Cohesion Policy**.



See more at: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/index_en.htm

The website for Directorate General for Regional Policy

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm

managing authorities:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/manage/authority/authority_en.cfm



The other structural fund's - **European Social Fund** – resources are available to SMEs via national agencies.

See more at: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/>

OTHER IMPORTANT LINKS FOR SMEs

Enterprise Europe Network -

<http://portal.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu>

European Portal for SMEs

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/_redirect_template_lang_en.htm

The funding opportunities by policy area

http://ec.europa.eu/contracts_grants/index_en.htm

FUNDING GUIDES PROVIDED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:

The beginners' guide to European Union funding:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/beginnersguide/KV3111332ENC_002web.pdf

New funds, better rules:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/biblio/publications/funds_rules/pack_rules_funds_en.pdf

SECTION 2. 7TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME AND HORIZON 2020

The main instrument for research funding is the European Community Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.



The Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development have a previous history of numbered programmes related to EU budget periods. The Programme for the period 2007-2013 is called the 7th Framework Programme. Even though the period is ending, the application calls are still made and the projects launched withing the period will last later than 2013/2014.

The Framework programme is divided into four sections:

- a) Cooperation
- b) Ideas
- c) People
- d) Capacities

COOPERATION	Health	IDEAS	European Research Council
	Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology	PEOPLE	Initial training
	Information and communication technologies		Life-long training
	Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies		Industry-academia
	Energy		International dimension
	Environment (Including climate change)	CAPACITIES	Specific actions
	Transport (Including aeronautics)		Research infrastructures
	Socio-economic sciences and the humanities		Research for the benefit of SMEs
	Security		Regions of Knowledge
	Space		Research potential
	Science in society		
	Coherent development of research policies		
	International co-operation		
	Non-nuclear actions by the Joint Research Centre		

7th Framework Programme is also connected with Euratom and Joint Research Centre (JRC) implementation.

Euratom indirect actions	Fusion	Euratom direct actions by the Joint Research Centre
	Fission	

Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/home_en.html

7TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

The 7th Framework Programme is established for supporting the European Union's achievements to become the "**most dynamic competitive knowledge-based economy in the world**" (the Lisbon Agenda) via supporting research, education and innovation.

The **Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)** connects all European Union research-related funding and is also a key pillar for the European Research Area (ERA) (<http://cordis.europa.eu/era/>).

FIELD 1: COOPERATION

The specific programme on '**Cooperation**' supports all types of research activities carried out by different research bodies in trans-national cooperation and aims to gain or consolidate leadership in key scientific and technology areas³.

FP7 allocates EUR 32413 million to the Cooperation programme. The budget is devoted to support cooperation **between universities, industry, research centres and public authorities throughout the EU and beyond.**

The ten themes or fields represent the most important fields of knowledge and technology in which the research excellence is particularly important for Europe in improving its social, economic, public health, environmental and industrial challenges of the future.

Themes for the field Cooperation⁴ are the following:

- a) Health
- b) Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology
- c) Information and communication technologies
- d) Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials and new production technologies
- e) Energy
- f) Environment (including climate change)
- g) Transport (including aeronautics)
- h) Socio-economic sciences and the humanities
- i) Security
- j) Space

Across all these themes, support to trans-national cooperation will additionally be implemented through the following initiatives:

[Collaborative research: European Excellence](#)

[Coordination between national research programmes](#)

[Joint Technology Initiatives](#)

[Technology Platforms](#)

³ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/home_en.html

⁴ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/home_en.html

Read more: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/cooperation/home_en.html

FIELD 2. IDEAS

“Ideas” is an Investigator-driven “**frontier research**”, within the framework of activities commonly understood as “basic research”. It opens new opportunities for scientific and technological advance, and is instrumental in producing new knowledge leading to future applications and markets⁵.

The objective of the programme field “Ideas” is to encourage excellence, dynamism and creativity in European research. It aims to improve the attractiveness of Europe for the best researchers and research teams from both **European and third countries**, as well as for industrial research investment. It provides a Europe-wide competitive funding structure, it adds up and it does not replace national funding. Communication and dissemination of research results is an important aspect of this programme.

For implementing “Ideas” programme, the [European Research Council](#) (ERC), consisting of an independent Scientific Council and a dedicated implementation structure, has been established by the Commission under this specific programme. The ERC operates “according to the principles of scientific excellence, autonomy, efficiency, transparency and accountability, and supports investigator-driven projects in ‘frontier research’, carried out by individual teams competing at the European level, within and across all fields of research”⁶.

ERC grants will be awarded through open competition to projects headed by young and established researchers, irrespective of their origins, who are working in Europe - the sole criterion for selection is excellence. The aim here is to recognise the best ideas, and retain and confer status and visibility to the best brains in Europe, while also attracting talent from abroad.

FIELD 3. PEOPLE

The 7th framework programme “People” section – previously and widely known as the “Marie Curie Actions” - have long been one of the most popular and appreciated measures of the European Community Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development. The 'Marie Curie Actions' are contributing to Europe's scientific community in terms of training, mobility and career development. The actions have developed significantly over time - from a pure mobility fellowships programme to a programme dedicated to stimulating researchers' career development.



In the Seventh Framework Programme, the 'Marie Curie Actions' have been

⁵ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideas/home_en.html

⁶ <http://erc.europa.eu>

regrouped and reinforced in the 'People' Specific Programme. Entirely dedicated to human resources in research, this Specific Programme has [a significant overall budget of more than € 4,7 billion](#) over a seven year period until 2013, which represents a 50% average annual increase over FP6.

The 'People' Specific Programme will be implemented through actions under five headings⁷:

* [Initial training](#) of researchers to improve mostly young researchers' career perspectives in both public and private sectors, by broadening their scientific and generic skills, including those related to technology transfer and entrepreneurship.

* [Life-long training](#) to support experienced researchers in complementing or acquiring new skills and competencies or in enhancing inter/multidisciplinarity and/or intersectoral mobility, in resuming a research career after a break and in (re)integrating into a longer term research position in Europe after a trans-national mobility experience.

* [Industry-academia](#) pathways and partnerships' to stimulate intersectoral mobility and increase knowledge sharing through joint research partnerships in longer term co-operation programmes between organisations from academia and industry, in particular SMEs and including traditional manufacturing industries.

* [International dimension](#), to contribute to the life-long training and career development of EU-researchers, to attract research talent from outside Europe and to foster mutually beneficial research collaboration with research actors from outside Europe.

* [Researchers' Night](#) is an event bringing together the public at large and researchers. It occurs annually on the fourth Friday of September all over Europe. Its main objective is to reveal scientists and science in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Read more: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html

MARIE CURIE ACTIONS in more detail at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/index_en.htm

FIELD 4. CAPACITIES.

The Commission's proposals for the FP7 Capacities programme aim to enhance research and innovation capacities throughout Europe and ensure their optimal use.

The Capacities programme is provided with a [budget of EUR 4 097 million](#) to operate in seven broad areas⁸:

[Research infrastructures](#)

[Research for the benefit of SMEs](#)

[Regions of knowledge](#) and support for regional research-driven clusters

[Research potential of Convergence Regions](#)

⁷ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html

⁸ http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/home_en.html

Science in society

Support to the coherent development of research policies

International cooperation

This specific programme also aims to:

- support the coherent development of policies;
- complement the Cooperation programme;
- contribute to EU policies and initiatives to improve the coherence and impact of Member States policies;
- find synergies with regional and cohesion policies, the Structural Funds, education and training programmes and the [Competitiveness and Innovation Programme \(CIP\)](#).

Read more: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/home_en.html

[Further information on each of these specific programmes and their sub-divisions](#) can be accessed via: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/info-programmes_en.html

See more at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/fp7inbrief/home_en.html

And: http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/pdf/fp7-brochure_en.pdf

ERA-NET

7th framework programme also involves ERA-NET, which takes European Research Area actions wider than to the EU.

The objective of the ERA-NET scheme is to develop and strengthen the coordination of national and regional research programmes through two specific actions:

- * ERA-NET actions which provide a framework for actors implementing public research programmes that support joint calls for trans-national proposals.
- * ERA-NET Plus actions which provide a high European added value to a limited number of projects which are additional to EU financial support in joint calls for proposals between national and/or regional programmes.

Under the ERA-NET scheme, national and regional authorities identify research programmes they wish to coordinate or open up mutually. The participants in these actions are therefore programme 'owners' (typically ministries or regional authorities defining research programmes) or programme 'managers' (such as research councils or other research funding agencies managing research programmes).

More than 1000 projects are involved in the 71 ERA-NET actions funded through Coordination Actions, involving hundreds of national research programmes.

See full list of projects at <http://cordis.europa.eu/coordination/projects.htm> and a comprehensive report published in December 2006 (read the [ERA-NET Review Report](#)).

Read more: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/about-era_en.html

JRC – JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Joint Research Centre provides customer-driven scientific and technical support to the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EU policies.

The budget of the JRC is 1751 million EUR for carrying out direct non-nuclear research in the following fields⁹:

- a) **Prosperity in a knowledge-intensive society** (activities intended to support, inform and analyse specific EU policies, including the Lisbon agenda for more competitive European Economic Area. The priority is also to develop the European Research Area; research in the areas of renewable and cleaner energies and transport, the information society, life sciences and biotechnology).
- b) **Solidarity and responsible resource management** (define approaches to achieve economically, environmentally and socially sustainable development with the priorities on sustainability in rural development, agriculture and fisheries, a holistic approach to natural resources management, environment and health, and climate change),
- c) **Security and freedom** (contribution to security and freedom will rest on research to provide suitable technological means for the detection and analysis of potential threats and the delivery of tools to improve the EU's prevention, monitoring and risk management capacities; priority areas include internal security, responses to and management of disasters, and food and feed safety and quality),
- d) **Europe as a world partner** (provides support to the EU's external relations instruments, including instruments for stability and humanitarian aid, thus assisting EU policy efforts to improve the global security situation and helping to equip the EU's development cooperation policy with tools such as an Observatory for Sustainable Development and Environment in APC countries; priority areas include global security issues and development cooperation).

More info:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/jrc/home_en.html

⁹ JRC website: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/jrc/home_en.html



The programming period 2014-2020 will not be called numbered Framework Programme. It will be called the Horizon 2020 - The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation¹⁰.

According to the European Commission's Horizon 2020 information site (European Commission 2012)¹¹ the new programme simplifies and combines the funding for research and innovation currently provided through the Framework Programmes for Research and Technical Development (7th Framework programme in 2007-2013)¹², the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)¹³ and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)¹⁴.

Horizon 2020 provides major simplification through a single set of rules. It will be running with an €80 billion budget.

Horizon 2020 is the financial instrument implementing the [Innovation Union](#), a [Europe 2020](#) flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness.

Horizon 2020 will aim to bridge the gap between research and the market by supporting innovative enterprises to develop their technological breakthroughs into viable products with real commercial potential. This market-driven approach will include creating partnerships with the private sector and Member States to bring together the resources needed.

International cooperation will be an important priority of Horizon 2020. International participation and cooperation is also targeted to actions with **key partner countries and regions that support the EU's strategic priorities**. Through The policy framework for international cooperation in research and innovation (adopted in September 2012)¹⁵ is the basis for strategic and coherent approach to international cooperation that will be ensured across Horizon 2020.

Horizon 2020 will further develop the [European Research Area](#). These measures will aim at opening doors for creating a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation.

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm

¹¹ http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020

¹² http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html

¹³ <http://ec.europa.eu/cip/>

¹⁴ <http://eit.europa.eu>

¹⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=strategy>

The proposed actions for research and innovation under Horizon 2020 will be:

* Strengthening the EU's position in science globally - dedicated budget of € 24 598 million. This will provide a boost to top-level research in Europe, including an increase in funding of 77% for the European Research Council ([ERC](#)).

* Strengthen industrial leadership in innovation - € 17 938 million. This includes major investment in key technologies, greater access to capital and support for SMEs.

* € 31 748 million for major general affairs shared by all Europeans such as climate change, developing sustainable transport and mobility, making renewable energy more affordable, ensuring food safety and security, or coping with the challenge of an ageing population.

Current affairs:

From 30/2011: Parliament and Council negotiations on the basis of the Commission proposals

Ongoing: Parliament and Council negotiations on EU budget 2014-20 (including overall budget for Horizon 2020)

Mid 2012: Final calls under 7th Framework Programme for Research to bridge gap towards Horizon 2020

By end 2013: Adoption of legislative acts by Parliament and Council on Horizon 2020

1/1/2014: Horizon 2020 starts; launch of first calls

Read more:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm

SECTION 3. COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme is more enterprise-oriented than the European Community Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (the 7th Framework Programme and the Horizon 2020).

CIP FOR 2007-2013

With small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as its main target, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) supports innovation activities (including eco-innovation), provides better access to finance and delivers business support services in the regions.



It encourages a better take-up and use of information and communication technologies (ICT) and helps to develop the information society.

It also promotes the increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

The CIP runs from 2007 to 2013 with an overall budget of € 3621 million.

The CIP is divided into three operational programmes:

- The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP)
- The Information Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP)
- The Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE)

Each programme has its specific objectives, aimed at contributing to the competitiveness of enterprises and their innovative capacity in their own areas, such as ICT or sustainable energy.

Read more at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/cip/>

Programme for the Competitiveness of enterprises and SMEs (COSME) 2014-2020

The new Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) will run from 2014 to 2020, with a planned budget of €2.5bn (current prices).



The main aim of Cosme is “improving the business environment and the competitiveness of European enterprises”¹⁶ via:

- * facilitating access to finance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
- * creating an environment favourable to business creation and growth
- * encouraging an entrepreneurial culture in Europe
- * increasing the sustainable competitiveness of EU companies
- * helping small businesses operate outside their home countries and improving their access to markets.

THE AIMS as stated in COSME documentation are:¹⁷

It aims to access the finance for SMEs through dedicated financial instruments. It will support start-up and growth phase investments in the format of venture capital (VC) and loan facilities. This will cover loans up to EUR 150 000.

It boosts the Enterprise Europe Network being a business support service point for European and non-European businesses. The network of 600 business support organisations in 60 countries allows the enterprises to be more competitive via information, guidance and customized assistance. **“It facilitates business expansion and partnering in the EU Single Market and beyond”.**

It supports initiatives of establishing, transferring enterprises and building trans-national networks, also allows support of exchange of good practices and identity scope for expanding business activities. Special actions will be organised in the EU to support SMEs or specific target groups (i.e. young or women entrepreneurs).

Improving the “analytical work for evidence-based policy-making by national and regional policy-makers”¹⁸ based on better data analysis of performances of EU member states and regions as well as other world economies. It also involves research on latest trends and developments in various sectors in European and global markets.

It supports SMEs on markets outside EU via helpdesks and specific centres. International business cooperation will be supported. Via this measure, the reduction of differences in regulatory and business environments between the EU and its main partners.

¹⁶ http://ec.europa.eu/cip/files/cosme/cosme_leaflet_recto_verso_a5_revii_en.pdf

¹⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/cip/files/cosme/cosme_leaflet_recto_verso_a5_revii_en.pdf

¹⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/cip/files/cosme/cosme_factsheet_en.pdf

COSME will:

- ensure continuity of the initiatives and actions already undertaken under the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP) during 2007-2013, such as the Enterprise Europe Network (focusing on analysis of results and lessons learnt);
- continue the successful features of the EIP. It aims to simplify the management of the programme to make it easier for entrepreneurs and small businesses to apply and benefit from the programme;
- support, complement and help coordinate actions by EU member states. For that, COSME will specifically tackle transnational issues.

According to the info available in 2012¹⁹ the main target organisations for the programme are:

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME)
- Entrepreneurs
- Citizens who want to be self-employed
- Business support organisations

In other words:

- **Existing entrepreneurs** (small businesses in particular) – easier access to funding for development, consolidation and growth of their business.
- **Future entrepreneurs** (including young people) – assistance in setting up their own business.
- **National, regional and local authorities** – tools for effectively reforming policy: reliable, EU wide data and statistics, best practice and financial support to test and scale up sustainable solutions for improving global competitiveness.

Impact on competitiveness of businesses large and small

Expected results of COSME (according to the European Commission expectations are):

- easier access to finance for entrepreneurs and small businesses;
- more prominent role for self-employment and business development as important sources of growth and job creation;
- in individual EU countries: a more competitive industry, more entrepreneurs and higher employment rates.

COSME is expected to contribute to an annual increase of €1.1bn in the EU's GDP.

¹⁹ *ibid.*

The Enterprise Europe Network is expected to assist 40,000 companies with partnership agreements, resulting in:

- 1,200 new business products, services or processes annually
- €400mn annually in additional turnover for assisted companies.

Access to finance will be easier for entrepreneurs, in particular those willing to launch cross-border activities, resulting in an expected annual increase of €3.5bn in additional lending and/or investment for EU companies.

What happens now?

The Commission's proposal will be discussed by the European Parliament and the Council, which must agree to adopt it. COSME should start on 1 January 2014.

Applying for the grants:

Information will be available during 2013

Read more:

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/files/cosme/cosme_leaflet_recto_verso_a5_revii_en.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/cip/files/cosme/com_2011_0834_proposition_de_reglement_en.pdf

SECTION 4. EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

European Research Council (ERC) supports both European and non-European research projects. Researchers from anywhere in the world are eligible for applying for ERC grants - the research should be carried out in and EU member state (EU) or in Associated Country (AC)²⁰.



ERC grants are becoming more and more internationally recognised as awards for scientific excellence. Research projects funded by the ERC can last up to five years and can cover frontier research in any scientific domain, including social sciences, humanities and interdisciplinary studies. The grants may help both emerging research leaders ('ERC Starting Grants' and 'ERC Consolidator Grants') and already well-established and recognised scientists ('ERC Advanced Grants').

If a researcher is moving to Europe (EU Member State or Associated Country), some extra funds may be added to the grant, totalling up to €2 Mio for a Starting Grant (instead of €1.5 Mio for those already established in Europe), €2.75 Mio for a Consolidator Grant (instead of €2 Mio) and €3.5 Mio for an Advanced Grant (instead of €2.5 Mio).

Both the application, granting and reporting processes are very straightforward and user-friendly. ERC grants are "portable" - the funding follows the researcher and is not linked to the initial host institution, so the researcher has the possibility to change host institution in Europe in the course of your project.

Among the referred success stories is also the project connected with University of Tartu and one of the professors at Traderun Prof. Lauri Mälksoo²¹ - "Testimony of Human Rights Law. A research project led by ERC grantee Prof. L. Mälksoo, based at the University of Tartu (Estonia), illustrates the significance of human rights in today's global context by looking at precisely how countries like Russia, understand and practice international law.

APPLYING

ERC grant applications can be submitted only in response to a 'Call for Proposals'. Still yet the ERC has yearly calls for proposals covering all scientific fields. In the ERC, there are **three types of calls**: **Starting Grant** call, **Consolidator Grant** call and **Advanced Grant** call. In addition, ERC grant holders can also apply for additional funding through a **Coordination and Support Action** called Proof of Concept call.

Calls for the ERC funding schemes are published on the ERC website, the European Participants Portal and in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Each call covers one specific funding scheme.

²⁰ <http://erc.europa.eu>

²¹ <http://erc.europa.eu/success-stories>

Once the Call is published on the **Participant Portal**, official documents are available, providing decisive information (deadlines, budget, etc.).

All grant application documents involve the administrative forms, the research proposal and the supplementary documents. The completed proposal/application should be submitted by the specified closing date.

Read more at: <http://erc.europa.eu>

SECTION 5. APPLYING FOR FUNDING

ALL EUROPEAN FUNDING takes place via integrated Participant Portal

The website: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/>



Once the call you are interested in is published on the Participants Portal, check out these following points:

1. Read carefully the Guide for Applicants and Call details (Call FICHE),
2. Keep deadlines in mind as no late submissions will be allowed,
3. Make sure you have all details (such as PIC codes and contact information) of the the host institution and partner institutions at hand,
4. Write the proposal well in advance
5. Register at EPSS well in advance
6. Make yourself familiar with EPSS, the Electronic Proposal Submission Service well in advance
7. Do not leave submitting the application on the last day as the portal might get “jammed”
8. Once you have submitted your project, you can still modify it until the deadline by submitting a new version which will overwrite the old one.

ERC information:

<http://erc.europa.eu/step-step>

ABOUT TRADERUN PROGRAMME

The aim of the one year study programme **TRADERUN** is to increase the development of Russian and Eastern Partnership countries' environment and its impact on the business society to value the quality and expertise of Estonian higher education. The goal of this multilateral MA training programme is to introduce a unified academic module that gives an overview of economic, cultural, political, administrative business settings in Russia and Eastern Partnership countries.

The programme is developed in cooperation between **University of Tartu, University of Tallinn, Tallinn University of Technology and Estonian School of Diplomacy** and representatives of business, government and education sector. The project raises the competence and ability of Estonian higher institutions to analyze economic and political-administrative environment and to foresee the possible changes of business development of Russia and Eastern Partnership countries. Furthermore, the module does not focus only on business awareness, but combines the economic, cultural and political sciences and provide the problem-oriented knowledge and abilities.

The programme is designed for MA students, entrepreneurs, managers, consultants, officials, public servants, wide public. The BA degree or equivalent is required. The programme is aimed to improve the cooperation between business and educational institutions and to develop awareness of Eastern Partnership countries' culture, economics, law and public administration.

The programme is taught by the best academics of Estonian and foreign universities and the experts and professionals working in the field of cooperation with Russia and Eastern Partnership countries ([see list of lecturers](#)). The courses are taught in English.

2011/2012 academic year programme is made of 10 courses during one year (from September to June). Total amounts of credits to earn is 30 ECTS. All the credits collected can be added to or used in the curricula. It is necessary to fulfill 6 courses out of 10 in order to get a certificate.

Economy and Business Climate in Eastern Partnership Countries
Russians: History, Myths and Ideology
EU Cooperation with Russia and Eastern Partnership Countries
Regionalism and Regional Administration in Russia
Russian Legal System and Regulations in Practice II
Funding projects in Russia and Eastern Partnership Countries
Economy and Business climate in Russia
Contemporary Russian Society and Culture
Russian Political Economy



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MORE INFO: <http://www.traderun.ee/>