



Brussels, April 2020

G6 Declaration

The future of research in Europe depends on the success of the ERC

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the world is facing an unprecedented health crisis.

From the outset, the research communities have mobilized to understand the propagation mechanisms of the pandemic, develop therapeutic solutions and prepare to face its health, economic and social consequences.

In Europe, particularly affected by the pandemic, this mobilization involves all decision-making levels, European Commission, European Parliament, member States, and regions. It also concerns all relevant actors. Each scientific network, each discipline, each type of research, fundamental or applied, has a role to play.

As such, the G6 network, which brings together CNR, CNRS, CSIC, the Helmholtz Association, the Leibniz Association and the Max-Planck Society, the 6 major European research organizations that lead the way in terms of skills, networks and interdisciplinary research, intends to reaffirm its strong support to the European Research Council in the context linked to the resignation of its president.

In less than 15 years, the ERC has become the flagship of European research funding in the world. It has brought numerous scientific breakthroughs in many areas, among them a long list of results with direct relevance to covid-19.

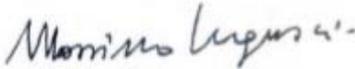
This remarkable success is based on the ERC's proven values: a strict orientation towards excellence, scientific competition and openness to new topics in a strictly bottom up approach.

These principles are underpinned by the organization of the ERC. It is headed by the Scientific Council and its president, who take strategic decisions according to scientific criteria, independently of political priorities. And it is managed by the competent and devoted teams of the executive agency (ERCEA), in coordination with the European Commission. They have been the true architects of the success of the European Research Council.

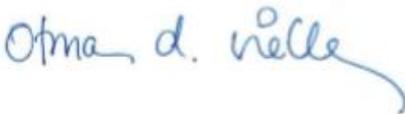
Therefore, in order to allow the ERC to play its full role, the G6 calls for preserving its values and its mission guaranteed by its proven organization. Regarding the choice of the new President of the Scientific Council, the G6 trusts the European institutions to determine an appropriate and transparent procedure, which will allow for the selection of a personality with an outstanding scientific profile and an unwavering commitment for Europe. Given the present emergency, the nomination procedure should be efficient and effective. In this context, it is important to seriously consider the voice of the Scientific Council.

Europe will face the current crisis and other shocks that might hit thereafter only if it unites to support its best researchers and its programs of excellence. The ERC is at the forefront of them. On behalf of the 135 000 staff it represents and, among them, its roughly 1 400 ERC laureates, the G6 recommends that all measures be rapidly taken to allow the ERC to continue to play its key role in the European research funding landscape.

Yours sincerely



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Otmar Wiestler, President, Helmholtz Association



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