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Many science progresses derived from intuitions that initially appeared to be meaningless or that, despite being wrong, opened new unexpected research opportunities to investigator's curiosity. To continue benefitting from further steps forward in fundamental science and, hence, in new technology, we need to preserve research environments fed by bottom-up approaches rather than being constrained by priorities set by politics. By funding "high risk high gain" frontier research projects selected with the sole criterion of scientific excellence, ERC provides the European bulwark that maintains the possibility for researchers to identify new opportunities and directions in any field of research.

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