

President

Warsaw, 1 June 2020

Letter of support for the European Research Council

On behalf of the Polish Academy of Sciences, I would like to express our strong support for the campaign to secure funding for the European Research Council under the framework of the new long-term European Union budget.

With its mission to stimulate research excellence, dynamism and creativity across all scholarly fields, the grants awarded by the European Research Council have become one of the world's most widely recognised and prestigious grant schemes. Over the last decade, ERC grants have enabled more than 9,000 outstanding scientists to pursue investigator-driven research at the very frontier of science, thereby fostering the advancement of knowledge and boosting competitiveness in terms of innovation. As the most recent research indicates, apart from strengthening Europe's position in science, some 75% of research projects funded by the ERC have brought about scientific breakthroughs or major advances.¹ These results offer incontrovertible evidence of the ERC's significant contribution to enhancing the European research sector.

We are firmly convinced that, especially in the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of science cannot and should not be underestimated. Recognizing that the European Research Council is a guarantor of Europe's increasing position in science, we wholeheartedly believe that the current health crisis should not adversely affect its funding in the future. We feel that only by protecting the European Research Council budget can we facilitate further European scientific breakthroughs and continue to advance the frontiers of human knowledge, seeking to answer the fundamental questions that drive the scientific pursuit.

Yours faithfully,


Professor Jerzy Duszyński

¹ Qualitative Evaluation of completed projects funded by the European Research Council, July 2019, <https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/2019-qualitative-evaluation-projects.pdf>