

## Visiting Fellowship Programme for Potential ERC Applicants in Estonia Estonian Research Council

In December 2015 a national research funding programme called Mobilitas Pluss (“Internationalisation of research and support for mobility and the next generation”) was adopted with decree no. 1.1-2/15/481 of the Minister of Education and Research of Estonia. The programme is being managed by the Estonian Research Council (ETAg) and the total budget for Mobilitas Pluss is 35 373 770 euros, 83.5% of which is covered by the European Regional Development Fund. One of the aims of the Mobilitas Pluss programme is to increase the number of ERC grant holders in Estonia. Although the programme was designed prior to the ERC initiative “Fellowship to Visit ERC Grantee”, one of the support schemes within the Mobilitas Pluss programme is very much in line with the ERC’s “Fellowship to Visit ERC Grantee” initiative principles and goals:

**Support for ERC grant applicants** - ETAg supports researchers who were invited to the second stage of evaluation with their ERC grant applications but did not receive funding from the European Research Council. We provide these researchers with the opportunity of continuing their research to improve their application. The researcher has an obligation to submit a new ERC grant application during the next call for proposals. The support is up to 100 000 € per annum and for up to 1.5 years. During this time the researchers are encouraged to make study visits to ERC grantees. All (research visit related) costs will be covered by the grant.

### Why?

The aim of the support is not to replace an ERC grant, but to give support to researchers who have written very good ERC applications, but have still not received funding from ERC. The researchers are provided with a chance to improve their applications, carry on with their research and visit existing ERC grant holders with the intention to prepare a new ERC grant application.

### When?

The call is ongoing and applications will be evaluated as results from ERC arrive. The eligibility period is from 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2015 until 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022.

### Who is eligible to apply?

Every researcher who works in an Estonian RTD institution, has submitted an ERC application, has reached the second stage of evaluation, but has not received funding from ERC.

The call is open to researchers from all disciplines.

If the researcher wishes to visit existing ERC grant holders during the project, they should have a letter of support of the proposed host researcher and institution when applying for a visit.

### How much and for how long?

The amount of the support depends on the amount of a national personal research grant during the same year, but cannot exceed 100 000 € per annum. The support is for up to 1.5 years. ETAg covers 100% of the eligible costs.

During the project researchers can make study visits to ERC grant holders for three to six months.

The total budget of the call is 1.8 million €.

**What kind of costs are eligible?**

All eligible costs are defined in the Mobilitas Pluss decree, but they include personnel costs, equipment, travel costs, costs of publication and IPR, 15% overhead (from direct personnel costs) and other necessary costs.

All costs related to the visits to ERC grant holders will be covered by the grant.

**How will the applications be evaluated?**

ETAg will not evaluate the scientific content of the project – this has already been done by the ERC. ETAg will only evaluate the action plan and the proposed budget of the applicant.

**Link to the English websites:**

Support for ERC grant applicants:

<http://www.etag.ee/en/funding/research-funding/grant-for-applying-for-an-erc-grant/>

Further information:

Margus Harak  
Mobilitas Pluss Consultant  
+372 731 7343  
[margus.harak@etag.ee](mailto:margus.harak@etag.ee)

Kristin Kraav  
ERC NCP  
+372 730 0337  
[kristin.kraav@etag.ee](mailto:kristin.kraav@etag.ee)