

# The European Research Council

## ERC Mentoring Initiative

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# The ERC Mentoring Initiative: What?

## Problem identified:

some research agencies and host institutions in low performing countries have established programmes to support prospective ERC applicants at national or regional level. These programmes struggle to identify international experts to provide coaching and advise.

## Chosen approach:

ERC puts in contact national and regional programmes with ERC grantees and former panel members, interested in being mentors.

## Objective:

Increase ERC applications and success rate in the selected 'low performing countries'.

# The ERC Mentoring Initiative: Why?

- Give an extra push to programmes that are already in place, to enhance ERC value added and show impact.
- Targeted intervention to make best use of ERCEA resources: we should not substitute governments' policies
- Possible demonstration effect: other 'low-performing countries' may wish to establish similar national/regional support offices in the future.

# ERC Mentoring Initiative (MI)

The ERC Scientific Council approved the new **Mentoring Initiative (MI)** proposed by the Working Group on Widening European Participation, in response to discussions of **last year Final Panel Chair Meeting break-out sessions on Widening participation.**

The aim of this initiative is supporting **ERC applicants** from 'low performing countries', inspired by the experience of some research agencies and host institutions which put in place programmes to support ERC applicant, but **struggle to identify international experts to provide coaching and advise.**

# ERC MI General Guidelines



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1

The **local offices** in charge of the Mentoring Initiative **should coordinate the activities with the NCPs and NCPs will serve as the primary contact to ERC** regarding the Mentoring Initiative.

2

**National/regional authorities are envisaged to participate.** The programme is not intended to serve individual research organizations.

3

The **local offices should serve a pool of ERC applicants PIs at pre-submission stage already pre-selected by the host research organizations** on the basis of their track record and draft proposal, showing clear potential for success in the competition for ERC grants.

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The **local offices should specify the expected workload** (and *potential compensations*) of the external mentors. **ERCEA will not compensate the mentors** and any costs linked to this initiative.

5

It is understood that **mentors on the list provided by ERC only agree to be contacted by the local offices**. The presence on the ERC's Mentoring Initiative list is not a commitment to participate in a given local program.

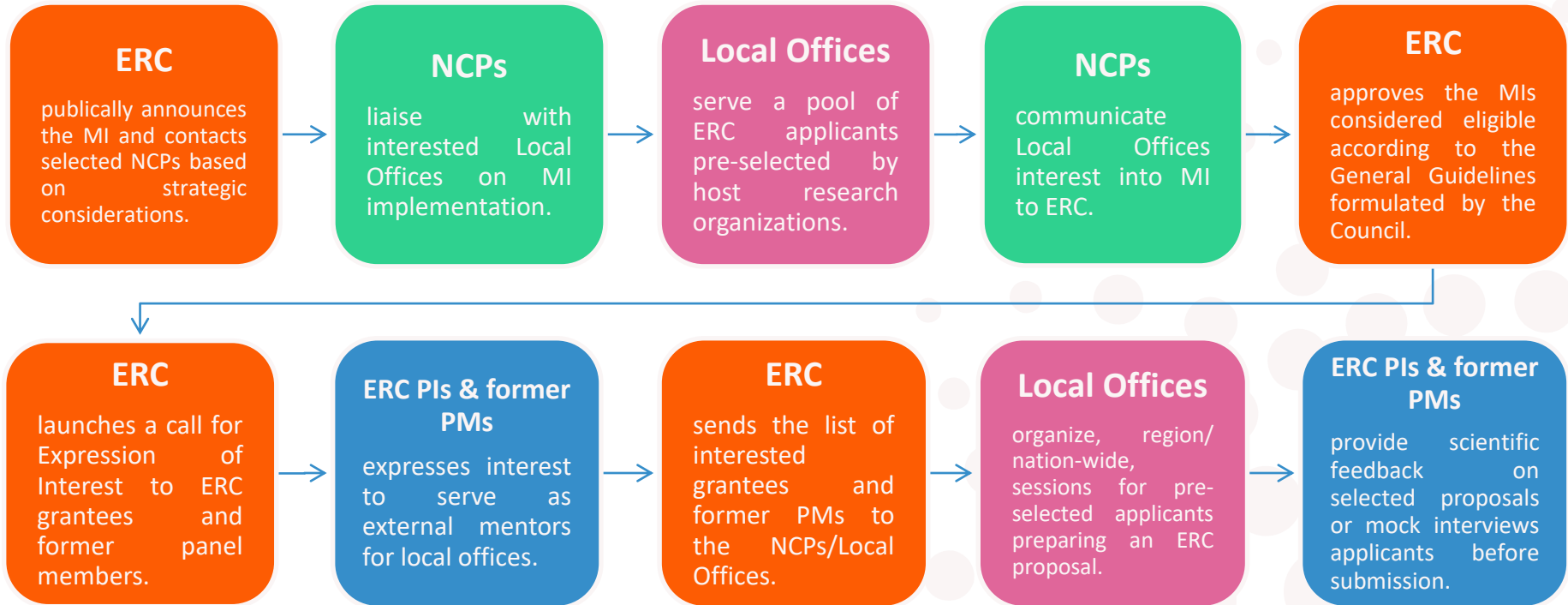
6

The **ERC Mentoring Initiative has to be fully in line with the ERC's rules of conflicts of interest** excluding, e.g., active panel members from participating in the Initiative. Mentors should be informed clearly about the fact that ERC conflict of interest rules and code of conduct for any ERC independent experts will apply.

# ERC MI procedures



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# ERCEA support



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- Identify ERC PIs and former PMs who could serve as external mentors to help national programmes and provide general info.
- Communicate to local offices through NCPs.
- Communicate feedback and proposals to ERC Scientific Council.
- Monitoring of the mentoring activities.



# Proposals submission

- Provided support to NCPs working on offices identification.
- We received several proposals (the deadline for submission was the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April).
- We transmitted these applications to the ERC Scientific Council, which assessed, discussed and approved the eligible initiatives.

## Next steps

- Selection of eligible ERC PIs and PMs
- Launch of the call for expression of interested, contacting the selected potential mentors by email and asking them to respond to the survey
- Transmission of the potential mentors' lists to the NCPs
- Feedback collection and adjustment after this 'pilot' initiative, in terms of procedures, implementation and timeframe

# Where can you find more information?



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MI call for Expression of Interest for ERC PIs and PMs:

→ **June 2021**

Support and information:

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/additional-opportunities>

[ERC-MENTORING-INITIATIVE@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-MENTORING-INITIATIVE@ec.europa.eu)



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Thank you!