



Association of ERC Grantees

The Association of ERC Grantees
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BELGIUM

Announcing the SPARK program

The Association of ERC Grantees (AERG) is proud to announce it will offer partial funding for meetings on topics relevant to the objectives of the Association and organized by its members. The program, called SPARK (for “Stimulus Program for Association-linked Research & Knowledge-sharing”) will fund up to five meetings every year, with grants initially set at 1,000 euros. “Meeting” can either mean a self-standing event or an event organized in the context of a larger meeting, i.e., a symposium, a workshop, or a panel. This first call, inviting applications for meetings taking place in 2026, will close on January 31st, 2026. Applications will be selected based on the following criteria:

- The meeting must focus on a topic of broad relevance to the Association (e.g., science policy, science funding, research evaluation, mentoring, science communication, outreach, interdisciplinarity, “frontiers” research, translational research, etc.)
- The organizer must be a member of AERG at the time of application.
- Preference will be given to meetings specifically geared towards AERG membership.

Proposals must be submitted in .pdf form, should not exceed 1,500 words and must include the following information:

- A description of the meeting, including its relevance to AERG
- The place and date at which the meeting will take place.
- The list of organizers, including membership in AERG
- The program, even tentative, including the names of speakers
- The intended audience, including expected number of participants
- The budget, even provisional, including how AERG support will be spent
- An indication of how AERG support, if granted, will be acknowledged

To be considered, proposals should be sent to contact@aerg.eu and be received at the latest by January 31st, 2026, at 23:59 CET. The committee will then assess and select the proposals. Decisions will be communicated by February 15th, 2026. Successful applicants commit to compose and communicate to the Association a brief report that establishes how the funds were spent and how AERG’s support was acknowledged.