

EU grants €575 million to research: Italians rank second



The [European Research Council](#) has selected **312 researchers** who will be awarded near **575 million euro** under the first call for proposals for [Consolidator Grants](#), designed to support **mid-career researchers**. Italians rank second in obtaining awards, following German researchers, with **46 grants** assigned to fund research projects developed in Italy and abroad.

Addressed to researchers with **7 to 12-year experience**, the consolidator grants aim at helping scientists in a “crucial” phase of their career to consolidate their own independent research teams and to develop their best ideas. The current grants, worth a total of 575 million euro, were assigned to researchers of **33 different nationalities**, hosted in **institutions located in 21 different countries throughout Europe**. In terms of nationality, Italian researchers are at the top, after German ones, with 46 grants obtained. Of these, 20 were assigned to researchers who are currently working in Italy and 26 to Italian researchers working abroad.

Among the awarded projects, the **CHRONOS project** stands out which is aimed at forecasting volcano eruptions and is coordinated by **Diego Perugini**, a young researcher of the [University of Perugia](#). Funded by **1.9 million euro**, the project will focus on two active regions of Southern Italy, including the Vesuvius area, and on Soufrière Hills volcano in the Caribbean which became active in 1995 and will analyze the **magma mix** inside the volcano to try and **reliably forecast the eruption time**. In case of success, CHRONOS project could help to reduce the burden of social and environmental effects associated with volcanic eruptions.

Source European Research Council

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