

FACT SHEET

ERC@BOCCONI

32 research projects hosted, led by 26 researchers, in all areas of economics, social sciences and law, for a total of €34mln of funding and more than 200 researchers involved. These have been Bocconi's results since 2007, when the European Commission established the [European Research Council](#) (ERC) to promote basic research throughout the continent, with scientific excellence as the only selection criterion. These results have made Bocconi a center of excellence in its sectors of reference. The University is second in Europe for grants in economics, finance and management, and fourth for grants in environment and demography.

For Bocconi, the ERC has been an authoritative organization that, through financing many of its projects, has contributed to its legitimization as a top player in Europe in social sciences research.

In addition to these ERC grants, others have been awarded to faculty members currently at Bocconi, but hosted by other universities: Nicola Pavoni with a project on intergenerational transfer of cultural values and Riccardo Zecchina on the development of new algorithms for machine learning.

The ERC assigns three types of funding to scholars in successive stages of their career (starting, consolidator and advanced) and has recently introduced Synergy Grants to promote collaboration between small groups of principal investigators (from 2 to 4).

In 11 years, the ERC has financed approximately 9,000 projects. Considering that each project is led by a principal investigator but involves, on average, six researchers, the ERC has not only allowed cutting-edge research to be conducted, it has also allowed thousands of young European researchers to expand their networks outside their country of origin and often even outside Europe.

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Projects hosted

Economics, finance and management (SH1)

Number of projects: 19

Researchers: Arnstein Aassve, Pierpaolo Battigalli, Maristella Botticini, Simone Cerreia Vioglio, Francesco Decarolis, Nicola Gennaioli, Eliana La Ferrara (two grants), Thomas Le Barbanchon, Massimo Marinacci (two grants), Tommaso Monacelli, Massimo Morelli, Tommaso Nannicini, Marco Ottaviani, Gianmarco Ottaviano, Fabrizio Perri (faculty member transferred to another university), Guido Tabellini (two grants).

Topics:

- The economic consequences of demographic change (Aassve),
- Relationships between emotions and strategic decisions (Battigalli),
- The birth of insurance companies in Medieval Italy (Botticini),
- Interpreting seemingly irrational choices (Cerreia Vioglio),
- Redesigning public contracts and acquisitions to avoid corruption and waste (Decarolis),
- Behavioral finance and economics (Gennaioli),
- The role of social norms and the media in education of the limited aspirations of young people in developing countries (La Ferrara),
- Conflicts in developing countries (La Ferrara),
- Identifying interventions that reduce the inefficiencies of the job market (Le Barbanchon),
- Rational choices in uncertain conditions (Marinacci, two grants),
- The role of imperfections on financial markets in determining the effectiveness of economic policy interventions (Monacelli),
- Power relationships and economics (Morelli),
- Determining factors in voter choices (Nannicini),
- Designing efficient intuitions to evaluate quality ideas, such as in the case of evaluating research projects by ERC (Ottaviani),
- The effects of globalization on national economies (Ottaviano),
- Business cycles and the spread of crises (Perri),
- The relationship between culture and the functioning of institutions (Tabellini),
- The development of populism and Euroscepticism (Tabellini).

Social sciences, policy and law (SH2)

Number of projects: 3

Researchers: Arnstein Aassve, Delia Baldassarri (faculty member from another university, ERC hosted at Bocconi), Giacinto Della Cananea.

Topics:

- The interaction between global forces and local cultural traits in determining demographic trends (Aassve),



- Solidarity in times of high migration (Baldassarri),
- Common aspects of administrative law in European countries (Della Cananea).

Environment and demography (SH3)

Number of projects: 5

Researchers: Francesco Billari, Valentina Bosetti, Alessia Melegaro, Letizia Mencarini, David Stuckler.

Topics:

- Demographic changes in the presence of technological and economic discontinuities (Billari),
- The transition to a low-carbon economy to fight climate change (Bosetti),
- The role of demographic change and social interactions in the transmission of epidemics (Melegaro),
- The relationship between subjective well-being, family services and fertility (Mencarini),
- The impact of economic crises on public health (Stuckler).

Historiography (SH6)

Number of projects: 3

Researchers: Guido Alfani (two grants), Tamás Vonyó.

Topics:

- Inequality and social mobility in pre-industrial Europe (Alfani, two grants),
- The economic consequences of war (Vonyó).

Mathematics (PE1)

Number of projects: 1

Researchers: Igor Pruenster

Topics:

- The development of new prediction methods (Pruenster).