

# EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL WEBINAR FOR RESEARCHERS IN RUSSIA: ERC GRANT SCHEMES, GRANTEE'S EXPERIENCE AND EVALUATOR PERSPECTIVE

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## Speakers' bios



**Nektarios Tavernarakis** is the Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH), Research Director at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB), and Professor of Molecular Systems Biology at the Medical School of the University of Crete (Med UOC), in Heraklion, Greece. He is the Director of the Graduate Program on Bioinformatics at the Med UOC, and Head of the Neurogenetics and Ageing laboratory of IMBB. He is an elected member and Vice President of the Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC), an elected member of the Academy of Athens, of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Governing Board and Executive Committee, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), the German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina), the European Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Academia Europaea. He has also served as the Director of the IMBB. He earned his Ph.D. degree at the University of Crete, and trained as a postdoctoral researcher at Rutgers University in New Jersey, USA. His research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of necrotic cell death and neurodegeneration, the interplay between cellular metabolism and ageing, the mechanisms of sensory transduction and integration by the nervous system, and the development of novel genetic tools for biomedical research. He has received several notable scientific prizes, including two ERC Advanced Investigator Grants, and an ERC Proof of Concept Grant. He is the recipient of the EMBO Young Investigator award, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel research award, the Bodossaki Foundation Scientific Prize for Medicine and Biology, the Empeirikeion Foundation Academic Excellence Prize, the BioMedical Research Award of the Academy of Athens, the Galien Scientific Research Award and the Helmholtz International Fellow Award.



**Irina R. Kuklina** is Executive Director of the International Centre for Innovations in Science, Technology and Education (ICISTE/MNIOP)

In 1991 graduated from Leningrad State University, faculty of psychology.

In 1991–1993 was a scientific fellow and lecturer at Kazan State University. Has developed courses on small groups dynamics and introduced group methods in training for NGOs and private companies personnel.

In 1995–1998 headed the International Projects Department, National Bahai Office in Russia (in charge of the international socio-economic projects in Russian regions), then in succession, held a position of Manager and Deputy Director of Science & Technology Section, British Council in Russia.

Since 2005 to 2007 she was an Advisor at the Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises (FASIE). As the Head of Scientific-Technological Expert Centre of the Russian Scientific Centre “Kurchatov Institute” was an active member of the working group, elaborating the project concept of long-term forecasting of scientific-technological development of the Russian Federation up to 2025.

In 2005–2008 she was an advisor to the Deputy Head of the Russian Federal Agency for Science and Innovation and later an advisor to the Deputy Minister of Science and Education. Irina Kuklina acts as an expert in International Councils and Working Groups, including National UNIDO Foresight Programme and Expert Council of the Russian Innovations Competition.

Since 2006 holds a position of an Executive Director at the International Centre for Innovation in Science, Technology & Education.

Since 2007 takes part in the development and implementation of mechanisms of bilateral and multilateral joint programs with Russian participation, where is responsible for monitoring of the international research projects, including projects with the EU MSs, supported within the framework of the Russian Federal Target Programs on research and development. She was a member of the Joint Secretariat of the EU-Russia Year of Science (2013–2014).



**Richard Burger** studied at the universities of Vienna (Austria), St. Andrews (Scotland) and Cambridge (England) and holds degrees in mathematics and economics. In his previous positions, Richard worked for the John F. Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University, the Harvard Institute of International Development, the Russian-European Centre for Economic Policy, as Director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, and as Deputy Executive Secretary of INTAS.

Since 2002, Richard has been with the European Commission (Directorate-General for Research and Innovation). From 2005 to 2010, he worked as Science & Technology Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Commission to the Russian Federation, in the period 2013-2019 as Research & Innovation Counsellor and Head of the 'Science & Technology and Other EU Policies Section' at the Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation. Articles and commentaries of his have appeared in *AEB Business Quarterly*, *Вопросы Экономики*, *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, *Der Falter*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Московские Новости*, *The Moscow Times*, *Независимая Газета*, *Новое Время*, *Пуск*, *Der Standard* and *Стратегия*.

Richard is a member of the Oxford & Cambridge Club, the Royal Over-Seas League, the Cambridge Society, the Club de la Fondation Universitaire, the Клуб Петрович, and the St.Andrews Alumni Association.

He was awarded the "Ordre des Palmes Académiques (Chevalier)" by the French Republic in 2016.



**Alice Rajewsky** graduated in Russian Philology, East European History and Law from the Universities of Cologne and Bonn. In 1999 she received her doctoral degree from Oxford University. In 2000 she moved into research management and joined the German Research Foundation (DFG), where in 2003 she became Programme Director for International Cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the CIS. From 2006 to 2008 she was seconded to the European Commission (DG RTD) as National Expert, working for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. In 2008 she became Director of the DFG's Russia Office in Moscow. In 2009 she joined the European Research Council Executive Agency in Brussels, where she currently works as acting Head of Unit of the Social Sciences and Humanities unit of the Scientific Management department. Her main responsibilities are linked to the evaluation process of proposals and scientific follow-up of running ERC-funded projects in the area of Social Sciences and Humanities. In addition, she coordinates support to the ERC Scientific Council as regards the recruitment of ERC panel members.



**Evgeny Skvortsov** was born in 1982. He is a graduate of Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and since 2010 a PhD holder from Lebedev Institute of Physics, Moscow, Russia.

He was a postdoctoral fellow at Albert Einstein Institute for gravitational physics, Potsdam, Germany (2012-2015 & 2017-2020) and at Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, Germany (2015-2017). Since 2020, he is an FNRS (Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique) research associate at the Physics of the Universe, Fields and Gravitation Service of the Faculty of Sciences of University of Mons in Belgium. He got an ERC Consolidator grant at the end of 2020 and his project HiSS (Higher Spin Symmetry in Quantum Gravity, Condensed Matter and Mathematics), has just started in September 2021.



**Laurent Bochereau, Ph.D.** is Minister-Counsellor, Head of S&T and Other EU Policies Section in the European Union Delegation to the Russian Federation

Since January 2020, Laurent Bochereau is heading the section 'S&T and Other EU Policies' at the EU Delegation in Moscow where he contributes to strengthen EU-Russia cooperation in the areas of higher education, research and innovation. He gained a Laureate from the Ecole Polytechnique and ENGREF in Paris, a Master's degree from the University of California and a PhD from the University of Paris VI. After spending several years working as a research project leader at IRSTEA, he served two years in the French Ministry for Research. He joined the European Commission in 1995 where he worked several years as Assistant to the Director for Life Sciences and then Head of Unit with responsibilities for agriculture and food safety research. From 2006 to 2010, he was the Head of the "Science, Technology and Education" Section at the Delegation of the European Union in Washington DC. From 2010 to 2014, he was Head of the "International Cooperation Policy" Unit within the European Commission's Research and Innovation Directorate General with responsibilities for developing the EU international strategy for international cooperation in research and innovation and the international dimension of the Horizon 2020 programme (2014-2020). From 2014 to 2018, he was the Head of the "Science, Technology and Environment" Section at the Delegation of the European Union in Beijing. From September 2018 to January 2020, he was coordinating the EU contribution to the Mission Innovation international initiative on clean energy innovation