

ERC Starting & ERC Consolidator Grants από τη πλευρά ενός αξιολογητή

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ERC

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President: Jean-Pierre Bourguignon

Frontier Research

- Today the distinction between 'basic' and 'applied' research has become blurred...
-ERC activities ...will be directed towards fundamental advances at and beyond the 'frontier' of knowledge.

- Investigator driven; bottom up
- Excellence; Creativity; Risks (high risk/high gain)
- ERC Starting Grants
- ERC Consolidator Grants
- ERC Advanced Investigators Grants

ERC Starting and Consolidator Researcher Grant

- Any field of science
- PhD >2 years and <12 years (extensions if there are justified breaks in career, such as maternity)
- Starters 2-7 years; Consolidators >7 -12 yrs
- Host Organization (researcher moving) in EU or associated country
- Grants usually up to 1.5M euro (nominally 2M for starters, 2.75 for consolidators)- 5 years

Competitive applicants

- Has shown potential for research independence & scientific maturity (Grant allowing consolidation of independence)
- (nominal: 1 important publication without PhD supervisor)
- Significant publications (as main author); invited presentations; patents; awards, prizes

Submission to a panel (also interdisciplinary submissions)

- LIFE SCIENCES (9 panels)
- SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES (6 panels)
- DOMAIN PHYSICAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING (10 panels)

LIFE SCIENCES

- LSD1 Molecular and structural biology and biochemistry
- LS2 Genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and systems biology
- LS3 Cellular and developmental biology
- LS4 Physiology, pathophysiology and endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences and neural disorders
- LS6 Immunity and infection
- **LS7 Diagnostic tools, therapies and public health**
- LS8 Evolutionary, population and environmental biology
- LS9 Applied life sciences and biotechnology

Reviewing

- Panel members and external reviewers
- Two stage procedures (but all forms submitted at one date!)
- Stage 1 (3-5 reviewers)
- Stage 2: Interview (4-9 reviewers)

Criteria for evaluation

- Excellence is the sole criterion of evaluation
- Evaluation of the proposal
- Evaluation of the Principal Investigator (PI)

Criteria for the evaluation of the PI

- ***Intellectual capacity and creativity:*** *To what extent are the achievements and publications of the PI ground breaking and demonstrative of independent thinking and capacity to go significantly beyond the state of the art? To what extent will an ERC Starting Grant make a significant contribution to the establishment or consolidation of independence?*
- ***Commitment:*** *Is the PI strongly committed to the project and willing to devote a significant amount of time to it (>50%)?*

Criteria for the evaluation of the Research Project

- **Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research:** *To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges at the frontiers of the field(s) addressed? To what extent does it have suitably ambitious objectives, which go substantially beyond the current state of the art (e.g. including inter- and trans-disciplinary developments and novel or unconventional concepts and/or approaches)?*
- **Methodology:** *To what extent does the possibility of a major breakthrough with an impact beyond a specific research domain/ discipline justify any highly novel and/or unconventional methodologies ("high-gain/high-risk balance")? To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible?*

Grading

- 4: outstanding
- 3: Excellent
- 2: Very good
- 1: Non-competitive

- Threshold: 2

Essential features of the proposal

- For the PI to have some real degree of independence
 - (Unfortunately southern countries are at a disadvantage- time to change!- scientists mobility!)
 - Make it easy: show essential data, publications, no of citations, what you consider as your main achievements, how do you demonstrate international recognition.
- For the project:
 - Think of the impact!
 - **Be specific**
 - Employ preliminary data (e.g. exposure contrasts; previous response rates; prevalence/ incidence of a specific disease or health outcome)
 - Have a good structure, make it easy to read

Taking into account the Reviewer's
point of view

Reading your proposal as if you were the Reviewer

- The Reviewer is doing hard work trying to understand and judge in a fair way
- Often, especially in bottom-up approaches, he is not "the" expert in the field of your application
- Do not take anything for granted, do not assume something is so evident, it should be known.

Get in the Reviewer's shoes!

- Do not try to hide something you are not so certain or sure about, by writing commonplace generalities.
- Be clear and specific
- Better to admit a weakness
- Avoid abbreviations!
- Research your topic well, better to have a good idea of how you are going to implement your project

INTERVIEW!!

- Good knowledge of the literature
- For every point know "why" and "how".
- Don't hesitate to ask for clarifications
- Self confident but not arrogant

Ευχαριστώ για την προσοχή σας!

Ερωτήσεις? Σχόλια?