







The European Research Council (ERC) in Horizon 2020

Starting and Consolidator Grants

Stefanie Schelhowe National Contact Point ERC Germany EU-Bureau of the BMBF, PT-DLR 4 December 2014, Garching









Excellence as sole criterion

All research fields

European Research Council

"Bottom-Up"



Investigator-driven

Portability of grants

Groundbreaking Frontier Research

Scientific Autonomy









ERC Funding Schemes

	Starting Grants StG	Consolidator Grants CoG	Advanced Grants AdG	Proof of Concept
Target group	scientists 2-7 years after PhD	scientists 7-12 years after PhD	established scientists	Successful ERC- Grantees
Max. duration	5 years	5 years	5 years	12-18 months
Max. budget	1.5 M€ (2 M€)*	2 M€ (2.75 M€)*	2.5 M€ (3.5 M€)*	150 000 €
Total budget 2015	430 M €	585 M €	630 M €	20 M €**

()* exception possible in case of high equipment costs or PI from Third Country

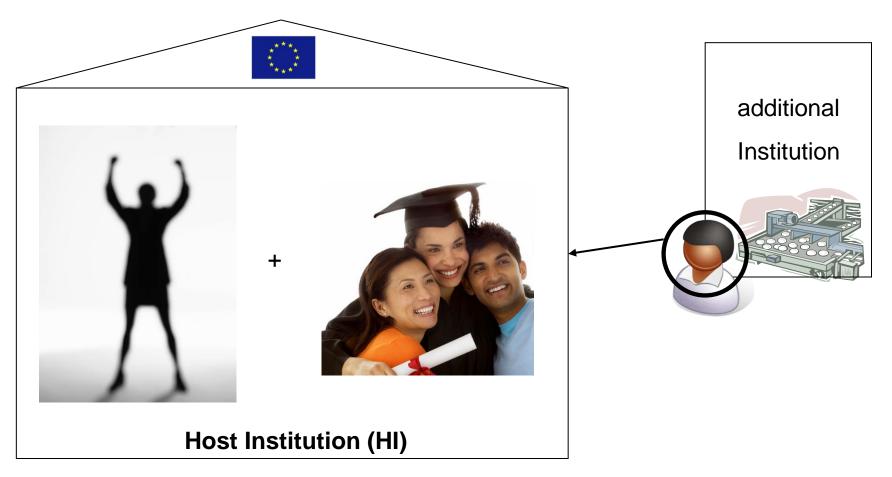








Principal Investigator (PI) + Team



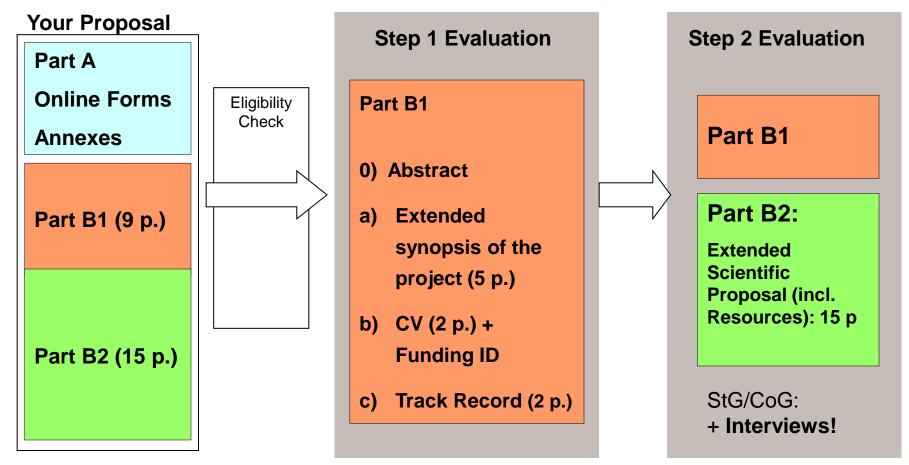








Application / Evaluation (StG, CoG)



Proposals in step 2: max. 3x of panel budget



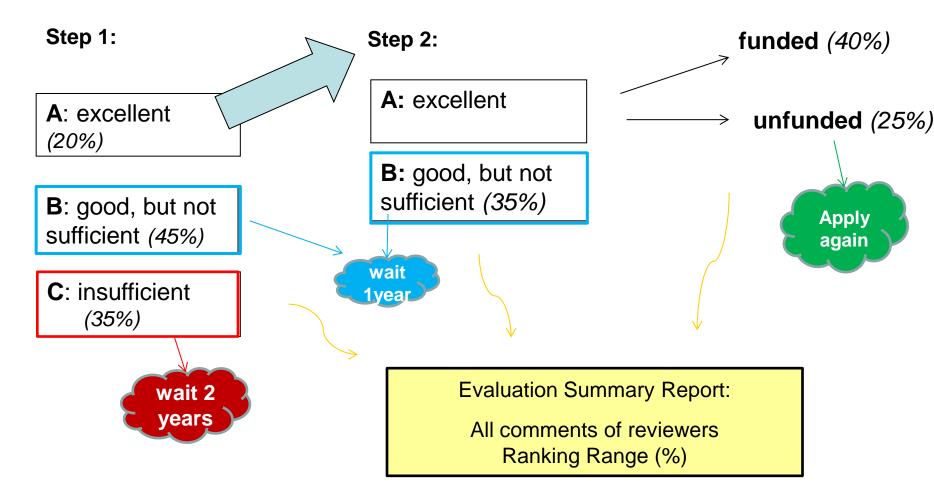








Percentages = experiences of previous calls, not fixed!!



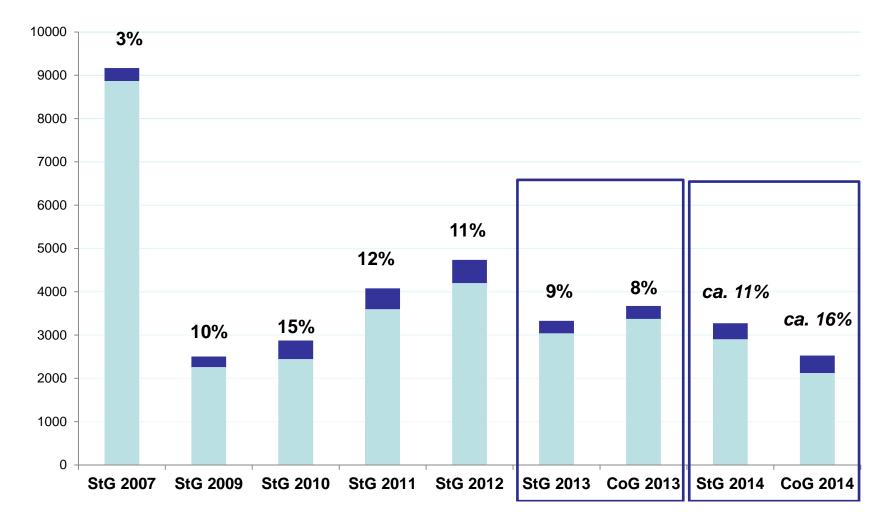








Starting & Consolidator Grants: submissions success rate











StG / CoG: eligibility

2-7 or 7-12 years after first PhD - strict

- Date on PhD certificate -> 1 January 2015 (for 2015-Calls)
- Certain career breaks accepted
 - birth of children (female researcher): 18 months per child
 - paternity leave: exact number of days taken
 - military/civil service after PhD
 - long-term illness of PI or close family member after PhD (>90 days)
 - "clinical training"











StG/CoG: Profile of Principle Investigator (PI)

Soft (peer-review evaluation)

- Promising Track Record
- At least one (Starting) or several (Consolidator) important publications without PhD supervisor

StG: At least 50% of working time on the ERC project

CoG: At least 40% of working time on the ERC project

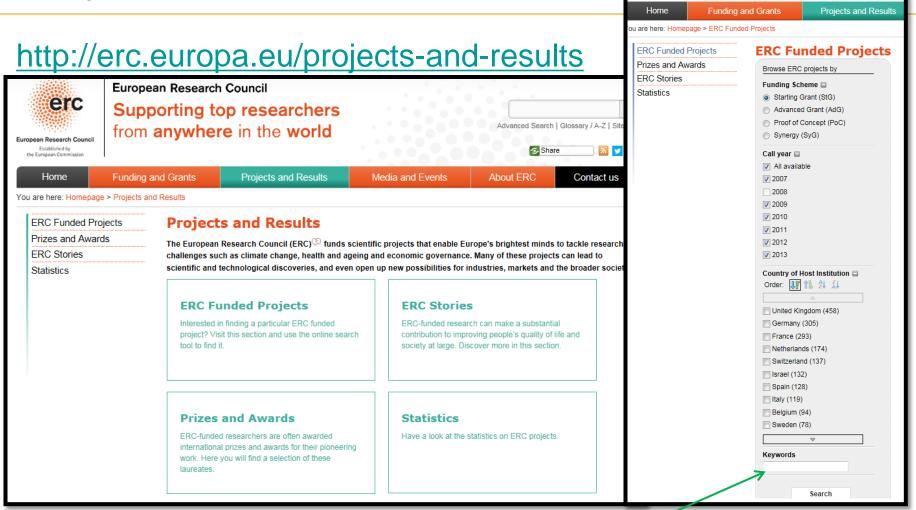












Enter Panel Acronym (i.e. "LS1") in open search field









Indicative timeframe- Work Programme 2015

Scheme	Call	Deadlines2015	Budget (Grants to be funded)
Starting Grants	07.10.2014	03.02.2015	430 M€ (330)
Consolidator Grants	13.11.2014	12.03.2015	585 M€ (330)
Advanced Grants	10.02.2015	02.06.2015	630 M€ (280)
Proof of Concept	07.11.2014	05.02.; 28.05.; 01.10.2015	20 M€ (130)

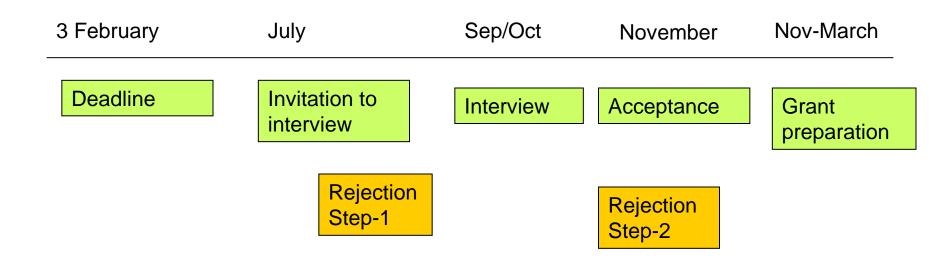








Indicative Timeline Starting Grants 2015



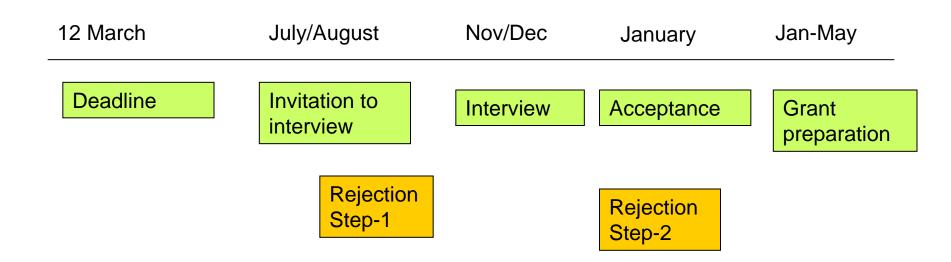








Indicative Timeline Consolidator Grants 2015











Peer Review Evaluation









Choosing the right panel...

- 25 panels
 - 10 Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)
 - 9 Life Sciences (LS)
 - 6 Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)
- "primary panel" & if applicable: "secondary panel"
- Check
 - panel descriptors / key words
 - funded projects
 - panel members of previous Calls



Annex 1 - Information for Applicants

ANNEX 1: ERC PEER REVIEW EVALUATION PANELS (ERC PANELS)

For the planning and operation of the evaluation of ERC grant proposals by panels, the following panel structure applies. There are 25 ERC panels to cover all fields of science, engineering and scholarship assigned to three research domains: Social Sciences and Humanities (6 Panels, SH1–SH6), Physical Sciences and Engineering (10 Panels, PE1–PE10), Life Sciences (9 Panels, LS1–LS9).

The panel names are accompanied by a list of panel descriptors (i.e. ERC keywords) indicating the fields of research covered by the respective ERC panels.

The panel descriptors must always be read in the overall context of the panel's titles and subtitles.

Social Sciences and Humanities

SH1	Individ	uals, institutions and markets: economics, finance and management
	SH1_1	Macroeconomics, business cycles
	SH1_2	Development, economic growth
	SH1_3	Microeconomics, institutional economics
	SH1_4	Econometrics, statistical methods
	SH1_5	Financial markets, asset prices, international finance
	SH1_6	Banking, corporate finance, accounting
	SH1 7	Competitiveness, innovation, research and development
	SH1_8	Consumer choice, behavioural economics, marketing
	SH1_9	Organization studies, strategy
	SH1 10	Human resource management, labour economics
	SH1_11	Public economics, political economics, public administration
	SH1 12	Income distribution, poverty
	SH1 13	International trade, economic geography
	SH1_14	Quantitative and institutional economic history
		ions, values, beliefs and behaviour: sociology, social anthropology, e, law, communication, social studies of science and technology
		Social structure, inequalities, social mobility, interethnic relations
		Ageing, work, social policies, welfare
	-	Kinship, cultural dimensions of classification and cognition, identity, gender
		Myth, ritual, symbolic representations, religious studies
	SH2_5	Democratization, social movements
	SH2_6	Violence, conflict and conflict resolution
	SH2_7	Political systems and institutions, governance
	SH2_8	Legal theory, legal systems, constitutions, comparative law
	SH2_9	Global and transnational governance, international studies, human rights
	SH2_10	Communication networks, media, information society
	SH2_11	Social studies of science and technology, science, technology and innovation
		policies
		nment, space and population: environmental studies, demography,
socia		ohy, urban and regional studies
	SH3_1	Environment, resources and sustainability

SH6_6	Modern and contemporary history
SH6_7	Colonial and post-colonial history, global and transnational history
SH6_8	Social and economic history
SH6_9	History of ideas, intellectual history, history of sciences and techniques
SH6_10	Cultural history
SH6_11	History of collective identities and memories, history of gender
SH6_12	Historiography, theory and methods of history

Physical Sciences and Engineering

nd sub-	PE1 Mathematics: all areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical					
nu sup-	foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics					
		PE1 1	Logic and foundations			
		PE1_2	Algebra			
		_	Number theory			
			Algebraic and complex geometry			
ement		_	Geometry			
		PE1_6	Topology			
		PE1_7	Lie groups, Lie algebras			
		PE1_8	Analysis			
		PE1_9	Operator algebras and functional analysis			
		PE1 10	ODE and dynamical systems			
		PE1_11	Theoretical aspects of partial differential equations			
		PE1_12	Mathematical physics			
		PE1 13	Probability			
		PE1_14	Statistics			
			Discrete mathematics and combinatorics			
		PE1_16	Mathematical aspects of computer science			
		PE1_17	Numerical analysis			
			Scientific computing and data processing			
		_	Control theory and optimization			
ology,		_	Application of mathematics in sciences			
		PE1_21	Application of mathematics in industry and society life			
	PE2 Fundamental constituents of matter: particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic,					
	molecular, gas, and optical physics					
		_	Fundamental interactions and fields			
			Particle physics			
			Nuclear physics			
		_	Nuclear astrophysics			
		_	Gas and plasma physics Electromagnetism			
			Atomic, molecular physics Ultra-cold atoms and molecules			
n						
			Optics, non-linear optics and nano-optics			
nhv		_	Quantum optics and quantum information Lasers, ultra-short lasers and laser physics			
phy,		-				
		_	Acoustics Relativity			
		PE2_13	Relativity			









Panel composition

- 12-16 panel members
- From all over the world
- Multi-disciplinary



- At least 3 reviews from panel members (generalists)
 - In Step 2 also external referees (specialists in your field)
- Panel discussions in Brussels (before & after interview)









Nationale Kontaktstelle zum EU-Programm Horizont 2020



Panel Chairs of the ERC Peer Review Panels ERC Starting Grant Panel 2014

The list below includes the panel chairs in the seventh ERC Starting Grants peer review process, identified and invited by the ERC Scientific Council. There are in total 25 panels, divided between the 3 domains as follows: 9 panels in Life Sciences (LS), 10 panels in Physical Science and Engineering, and 6 panels in Social Sciences and Humanities (SH). The full list of ERC peer reviewers (panel members and remote referees) will be published by the European Commission after the conclusion of the current peer review process.

Note to applicants:

This information is given for reasons of transparency. Under no circumstances should peer reviewers be contacted by applicants, potential applicants or potential host institutions. Questions can be addressed to:

- ERC Helpdesk http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=enquiries

- ERC National Contact Points http://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points

LIFE SCIENCES

LS1 Molecular and structural biology and biochemistry:	Prof. Tomi P Makela
LS2 Genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and systems biology:	Prof. Frank Grosveld
LS3 Cellular and developmental biology:	Prof. Daniel Robert St Johnst
LS4 Physiology, pathophysiology and endocrinology:	Prof. Hellmut Augustin
LS5 Neurosciences and neural disorders:	Prof. Michael Brecht
LS6 Immunity and infection:	Dr. Diego Sebastian Amigo
LS7 Diagnostic tools, therapies and public health:	Prof. Stefanie Dimmeler
LS8 Evolutionary, population and environmental biology:	Prof. John N. Thompson
LS9 Applied life sciences and non-medical biotechnology:	Prof. Diana Banati

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

SH1 Markets, individuals and institutions: SH2 The social world, diversity and common ground: SH3 Environment, space and population: SH4 The human mind and its complexity: SH5 Cultures and cultural production: SH6 The study of the human past:

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

PE1 Mathematics: PE2 Fundamental constituents of matter: PE3 Condensed matter physics: PE4 Physical and analytical chemical sciences: PE5 Synthetic chemistry and materials: PE6 Computer science and informatics: PE7 Systems and communication engineering: PE8 Products and process engineering: PE9 Universe sciences: PE10 Earth system science:

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Prof. Philip Hans B.F. Franses Prof. Gustavo Guerreiro Seabra Leitao Cardoso Prof. Petter Pilesio Prof. Sonja Anette Kotz Cimon Prof. Caroline van Eck Prof. Maria Todorova

Prof. Ari Laptev Prof. Maciei Lewenstein Prof. Gerrit Bauer Prof. Marco Daturi Prof. Horst Weller Prof. Marta Zofia Kwiatkowska Prof. Peter Kennedy Dr. Christian Sattler Prof. Monica Tosi Prof. Dorthe Dahl-Jensen

Panel Chairs and Members

Names of panel members of previous Calls:

http://www.eubuero.de/ercdokumente.htm#reviewer

- since 2014 new composition of StG and CoG panels
- Names published after Call evaluation
- Names of Panel Chairs published before Deadline









Exclusion of reviewers

Exclusion of independent experts at the request of an applicant

As established in section 3.3 of the ERC Rules for Submission²⁴, applicants submitting proposals may request that up to three specific persons would not act as peer reviewers in the evaluation of their proposal. Such a request is done at the time of proposal submission in the online administrative forms section 5 'Excluded Reviewers'.

If the person(s) identified is an independent expert participating in the Starting or Consolidator Grant 2014 evaluation, he/she may be excluded from the evaluation of the proposal as long as ERCEA remains in the position to have the proposal evaluated. Applicants need to provide the following data about the persons which they intend to exclude from the evaluation:

- Name of the expert(s);
- Institution/employer, Town and Country;
- Web page.

First Name	Last Name	Institution	Town	Country	Webpage









Evaluation Criteria I

1. Research project



• Ground-breaking nature and potential impact

- address important challenges
- Objectives ambitious & beyond the state of the art
- High risk / high gain

• Scientific Approach

- Feasibility (step 1 and step 2!)
- Research methodology appropriate to achieve goals (in step 2)
- Development of novel methodology? (in step 2)
- Timescales & resources necessary & properly justified? (in step 2)
- In case of additional institutions: fully justified by the scientific added value? (in step 2)









Bundesministerium und Forschung

Evaluation Criteria II

2. Principal Investigator (PI)

- Ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research and achievements typically beyond the state-of-the-art
- Abundant evidence of creative independent thinking
- ERC Grant would contribute significantly to the establishment and/or further consolidation of Pl's independence
- PI is strongly committed to the project and demonstrate the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 50%/40% of working time)? (in step 2)









Proposal Writing









Main Documents to be used

- Templates B1 / B2
- Information for Applicants StG-2015 / CoG-2015
 - Eligibility criteria
 - Application Structure
 - Formal Parameters (Font type, size etc.)
 - Electronic Proposal Submission System
 - Budget (direct costs, indirect costs, non-eligible costs)
 - Evaluation criteria and evaluation
- Work Programme 2015
 http://www.eubuero.de/erc-dokumente.htm









Choosing a topic

- "Propose a project that comes from your heart"
- "Be excited about your project"
- Creative, innovative, feasible
- An important challenge of your field
- Balance between "not ambitious enough" and "too ambitious" fitting to your profile
- opportunity to define *your* research field
- Unique selling proposition









Abstract

- Clear goal
- A successful proposal starts with a A successful proposal starts with a - Groundbreaking Nature of Research
- Frontier Research: new & visionary
- Impact on research field / society
- State of the Art vs Knowledge Gaps
- Risks / Challenges
- Interdisciplinarity?









a. Extended Synopsis (max. 5 pages)

- Assessed in Step 1 by panel (evaluators have no access to Part B2!) and Step 2
- Short stand-alone version of your project description
 - Ground-breaking vs. state of the art
 - Arousing curiosity
 - All relevant aspects (incl. feasibility)
 - Including few references to key literature (page limit!)
- Understandable for non-specialists









b. Curriculum Vitae (max. 2 pages) + Funding ID

Curriculum Vitae (max. 2 pages)

- Education
- Current Position
- Previous positions
- Fellowships and awards
- Supervision of graduate students and potdoctoral fellows
- Teaching activities

Funding ID (no page restriction):

For all Ongoing Grants and Applications:

- Project Title, Funding Source, Amount, Period
- Relation to current ERC proposal

Aim: prevent double funding / see you have at least 50%/40% time for ERC project

- Organisation of scientific meeting
- Insitutional responsibilities
- Commission of trust (reviewer, editorial board, evaluator)
- Memberships of scientific societies
- *Major collaborations*
- Career breaks









c. Early Achievements Track Record (max. 2 pages)

- Indicate number of citations (if applicable)
- Highlight 5 or 10 most important publications
- Distinguish publications with & without PhD supervisor
- Don't forget: conferences, patents, prizes and awards!
- "Examples of leadership in industrial innovation"
- Add: total number of publications and h-index









Use B1/B2 templates!

B2: The Scientific Proposal (max. 15 pages)

- Evaluated only in Step 2 by panel & external experts
- Respect the given structure:
 - a) State of the art and objectives
 - b) Methodology
 - c) Resources (incl. project costs)
- Respect formal parameters
 - Times New Roman / Arial or similiar
 - Size: at least 11
 - Single line-spacing
 - Margins: 2 cm side, 1,5 top & bottom









Nice to have: Readability

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Readability

- Paragraphs
- Concise title, headings, sub-headings
- Bullet points
- Format important statements in bold
- Use tables, graphics, diagrams (readable in black/white)
- Methodology: time chart, responsibility of team members etc.
- short, simple sentences











Proposal Writing - Contents

- State clearly your objectives on page 1
- What is the **international** state-of-the art in your field? Where are the gaps?
- What will be changed after you successfully completed your project? What is your vision?
- Why is your project new and unconventional?
- High-Risk / High-Gain Balance
- Check the evaluation criteria, i.e. with help of colleagues









Funding

Direct Costs – 100% covered

- (part of) PI's salary
- Post Docs, PhD Students, Technicians etc.
- Consumables
- Equipment Costs (depreciation rates)
- Travel Costs
- Publications Costs (incl. Open Access)
- Subcontracts
- Other

+ 25% Overhead (to cover indirect costs)













Cost Category			Total in Euro
	Personnel	PI ³	
		Senior Staff	
		Postdocs	
		Students	
		Other	2
Direct	i. Total Direct co	. ()	
Costs ²	Travel		
	Equipment	5	
		Consumables	5
	Other goods and services	Publications (including Open Access fees), etc.	
		Other (please specify)	
	ii. Total Other D		
A – Total Direct Costs (i + ii) (in Euro)			
B – Indirect Costs (overheads) 25% of Direct Costs ⁴ (in Euro)			
C1 – Subcontracting Costs (no overheads) (in Euro)			
C2 – Other Direct Costs with no overheads ⁵ (in Euro)			
Total Estimated Eligible Costs (A + B + C) (in Euro) ⁶			
Total Requested EU Contribution (in Euro) ⁶			

Budget Table









Resources - Justification

- Explain roles and (required) profiles of **team members**
- Explain your **own role** and your time commitment
- Explain **need of equipment**, intensity of its planned use
- Explain what resources are already available at your institution
- In case of "additional institutions": explain scientific added value
 Non-justified costs can be reduced from









Ethical Issues

- Ethical Issues Table (all applicants) now in online form
- Ethical Issues
 - Humans
 - Data Protection
 - Cells and Tissues
 - Animals
 - Non EU Countries
 - Misuse and Security
 - Environment Protection
- If one of the issues apply -> Ethical Issues Annex
- Clarify procedures and rules at your institution

More information: p. 41 Information fo			
p. 41 Information: p. 41 Information for	applicants S	StG/CoG 2015	7









Interview preparation



NKS ERC Interviewleitfaden Informationen zur Vorbereitung der Interviews bei den ERC

Informationen zur Vorbereitung der Interviews bei den ER Starting und Consolidator Grants

FORSCHUNG

http://www.eubuero.de/erc-dokumente.htm

Ask for English version, Interview Trainings and collection of sample questions by e-mail

PNKS IKC

ERC Starting Grant Interviews - Sammlung von Beispielfragen

Zum Projekt What is the most oritical step in your proposal?

- What is most innovative in your proposal? Why is this groundbreaking research?
- Can you generate general conclusions from your specific results?
- Do you see any risks in your proposal?
- What will you do if stage 1 in your research yields null results?
- Where do you see the main challenges in your proposal?
- Why do you focus only on this, not on that?
 How exactly will you do the data analysis?
- How exactly will you do the data analysis?
 In what is your approach different from other approaches?
- In what is your approach different from other approache
 Did you consider ethical aspects?
- Why do you do this? It's not necessary
- Do you have any preliminary results?

Zum Budget / Team / Durchführung

- Why do you need so many team members?
- What will you do if we finance your project with 2 PhD students less?
 How will you recruit your team members? Where will you find these specialists?
- How do you assure that this project will be successful?
- With which persons will you collaborate?
- In which way does your Host Institution support your project? Do you have enough lab space?
- Zur Person • What will the grant mean for your personal development?
- You have already 5 PhD students and 2 Post-Docs... will the grant still help you to consolidate your independence?
- Which are your most important papers? What was your contribution to these publications?

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

- Zum Forschangsfeld • Who are your make competitors (names, places)? Which other research groups are active in this field and ethy is your approach better?
 - How do you see the future of your research field? How will your research results change this field?
 - How can your results be useful for other disciplines?

NATIONALE KONTAKTSTELLE ERC www.nks-erc.de

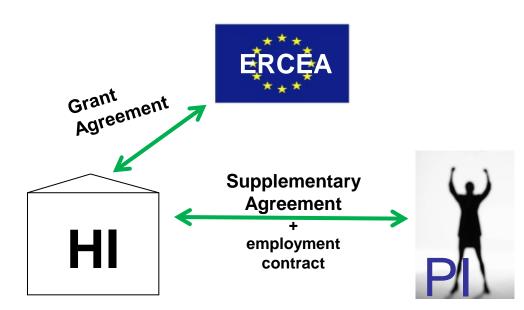








ERC Grant Management



Portability:

- PI centric approach
- Grant follows PI (inside Europe)

Reporting:

- 2 Scientific Reports (Mid-Term and Final)
- 4 Financial Reports (every 18 months)









Job Search / Recruiting Team member



http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/jobs









The European Research Council (ERC) (English)

www.erc-germany.de

- FAQ
- Newsletter
- Documents
- Workshops
- etc.

The National Contact Point ERC is a cooperation between the EU-Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (EU-Büro des BMBF) and the European Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi).



Interested in doing groundbreaking research in Germany?

The European Research Council (ERC) provides funding opportunities for excellent researchers and their teams regardless of their nationality and current place of work. Germany's research landscape offers a wide range of outstanding host institutions in all scientific areas. The impressive number of German research institutions and universities hosting one or more of the distinguished ERC grants speaks for itself. Here you will find the ideal place for your research project and team.

What kind of grants are available?

The ERC annually launches calls for proposals for three funding schemes:

1. Starting Grants, open to researchers between 2 and 7 years after PhD, maxium funding: 2 million euros.

2 Concellidates Grante open to researchers between 7 and 12 years after DhD, mayium funding: 2.75

Koordinierung des NKS-Netzwerkes

Erstinformation

Recht & Finanzen

Der Europäische Forschungsrat (ERC)

The European Research Council (ERC) (English)

ERC Starting Grants (English)

ERC Consolidator Grants (English)

ERC Advanced Grants (English)

ERC Proof of Concept (English)

ERC proposal submission (English)

ERC evaluation (English)

ERC grant management (English)

FAQ (English)

Contacts (English)

Aktuelles

Ausschreibungen

ERC-Antragstellung

ERC-Homepage http://erc.europa.eu









Further Information

- Homepage National Contact Point: <u>www.nks-erc.de</u>
 - English: <u>http://www.erc-germany.de</u>
 - German: http://www.nks-erc.de
- Newsletter: http://www.eubuero.de/newsletter.htm
- ERC-Homepage <u>http://erc.europa.eu</u>
- Horizon 2020: <u>http://www.horizont2020.de</u>











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