NKS ERC
Nationale Kontaktstelle zum
EU-Programm Horizont 2020

KOWI

EU B
EU-BÜRO DES BMBF

Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

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

NKS ERC
Nationale Kontaktstelle zum EU-Programm Horizont 2020

KOWI

EU B
EU-BÜRO DES BMBF

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

Excellence as sole criterion

All research fields

Investigator-driven

European Research Council

erc

“Bottom-Up”

Portability of grants

Groundbreaking
Frontier Research

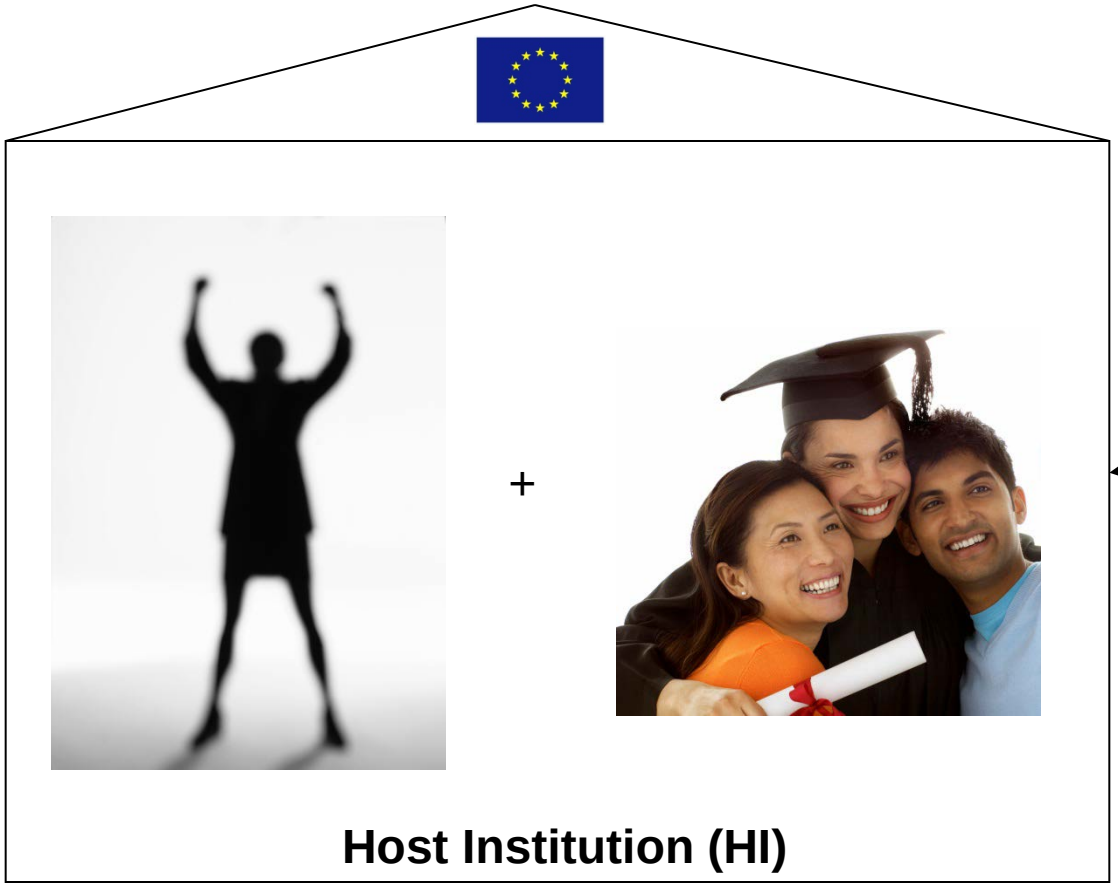
Scientific Autonomy

ERC Funding Schemes

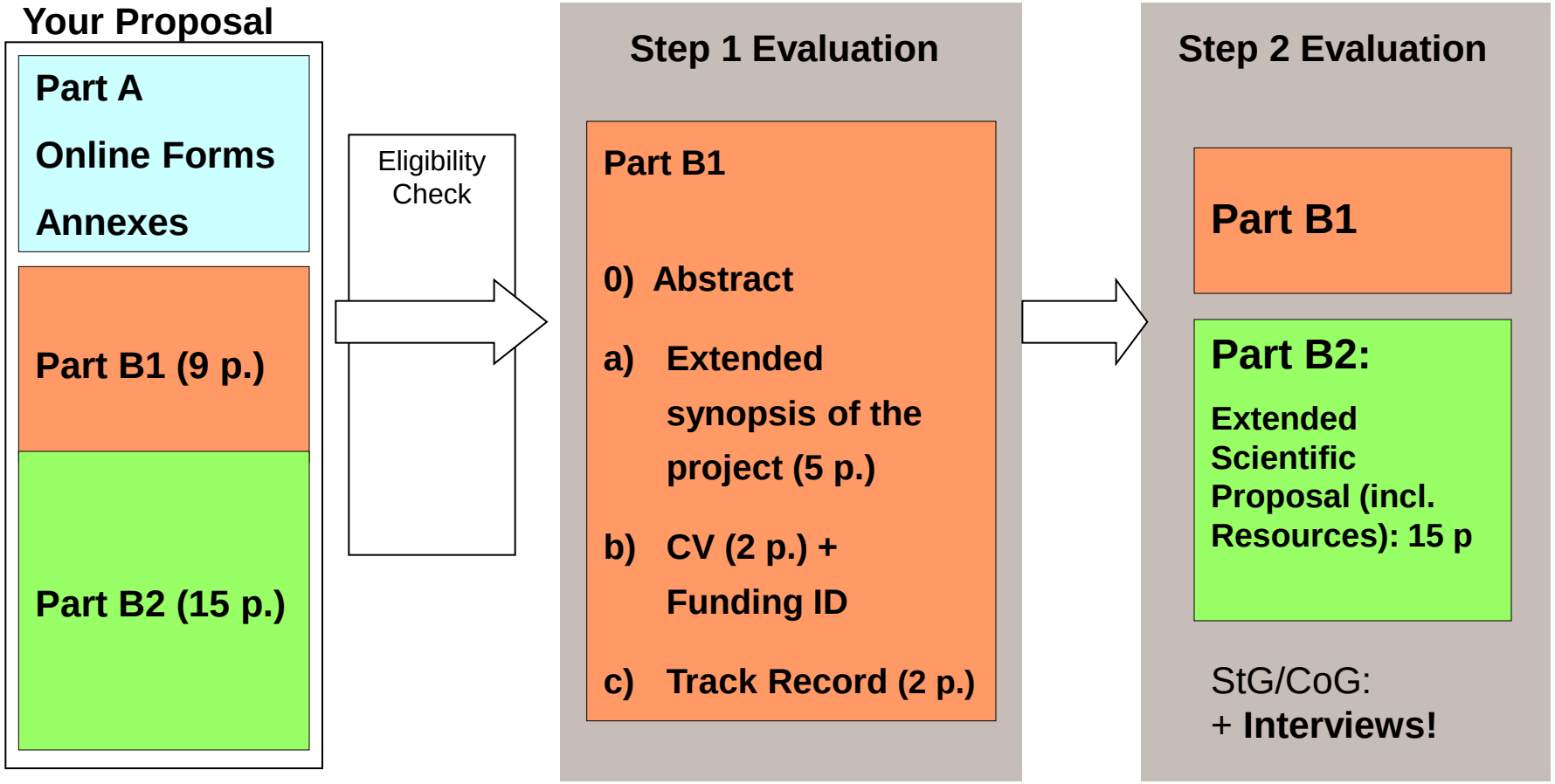
	Starting Grants StG	Consolidator Grants CoG	Advanced Grants AdG	Proof of Concept
Target group	scientists 2-7 years after PhD	scientists 7-12 years after PhD	established scientists	Successful ERC-Grantees
Max. duration	5 years	5 years	5 years	12-18 months
Max. budget	1.5 M€ (2 M€)*	2 M€ (2.75 M€)*	2.5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

Marking & Feedback

Percentages = experiences of previous calls, not fixed!!

Step 1:

A: excellent *(20%)*

B: good, but not sufficient *(45%)*

C: insufficient *(35%)*

wait 2 years

Step 2:

A: excellent

B: good, but not sufficient *(35%)*

wait 1year

funded *(40%)*

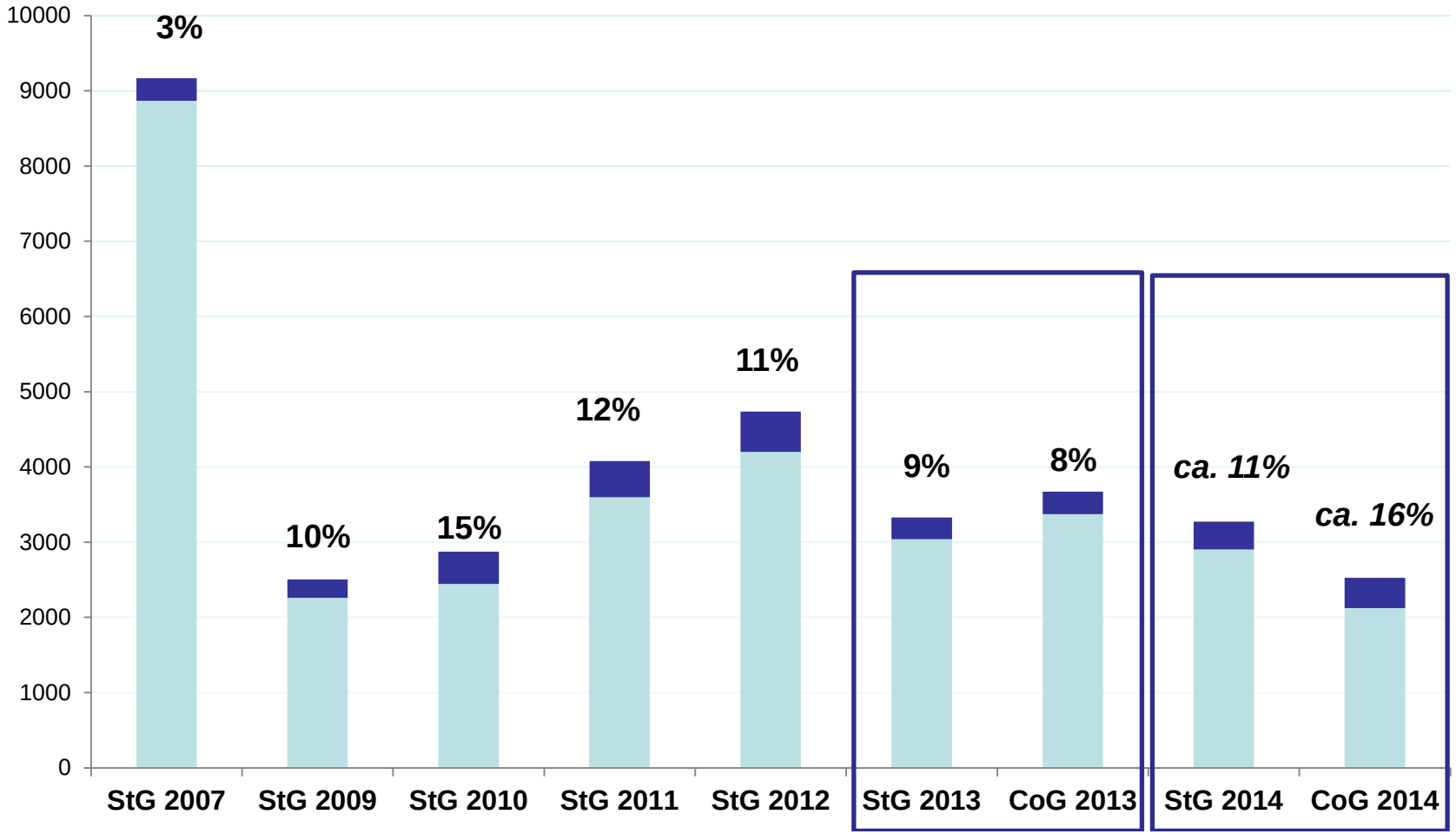
unfunded *(25%)*

Apply again

Evaluation Summary Report:

All comments of reviewers
Ranking Range (%)

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

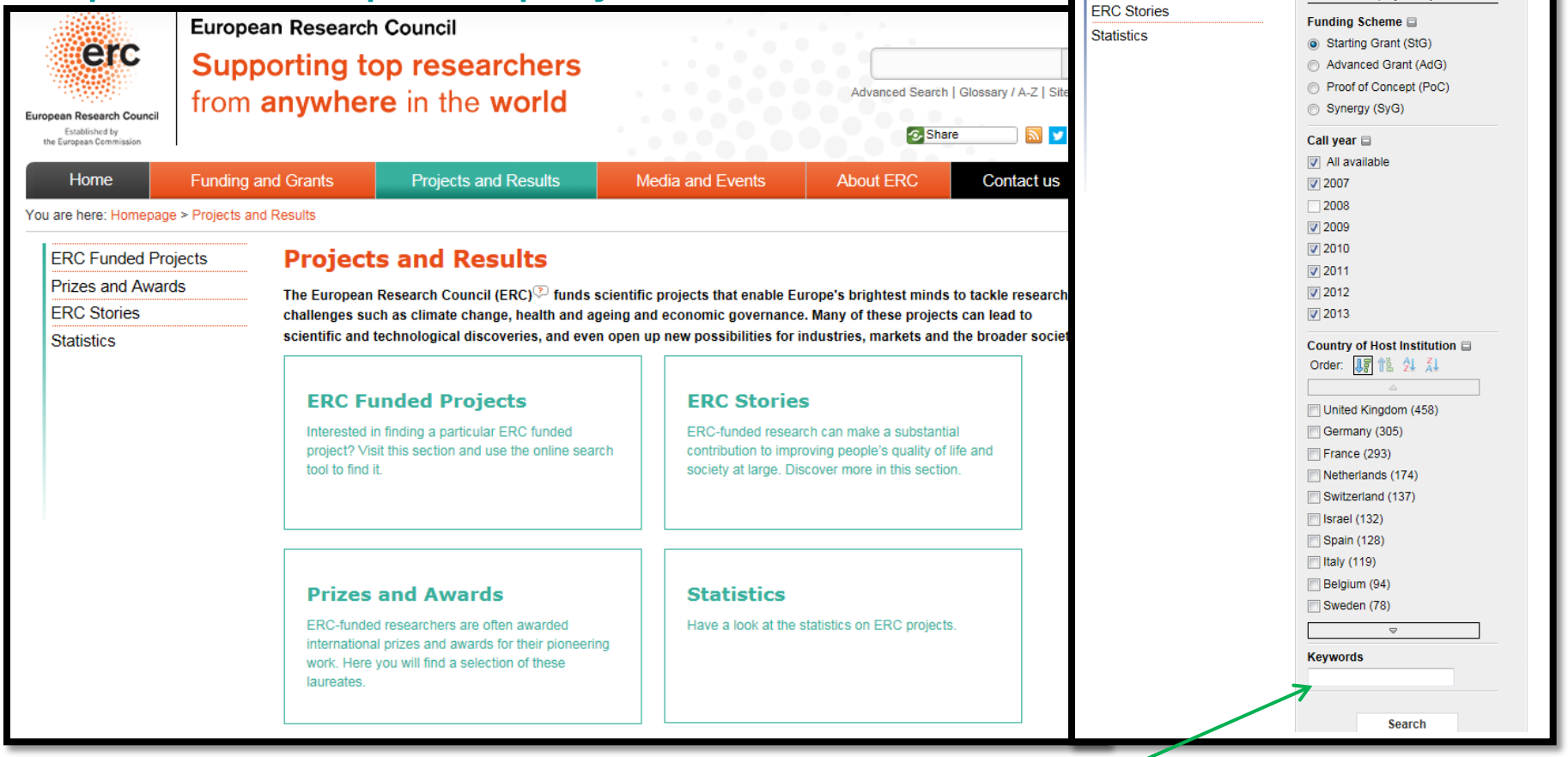
NKS ERC
Nationale Kontaktstelle zum
EU-Programm Horizont 2020

KOWI

EU/B EU-BÜRO DES BMBF

Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

http://erc.europa.eu/projects-and-results



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

3 February	July	Sep/Oct	November	Nov-March
Deadline	Invitation to interview	Interview	Acceptance	Grant preparation
	Rejection Step-1		Rejection Step-2	

Indicative Timeline Consolidator Grants 2015

12 March	July/August	Nov/Dec	January	Jan-May
Deadline	Invitation to interview	Interview	Acceptance	Grant preparation
	Rejection Step-1		Rejection Step-2	

NKS ERC
Nationale Kontaktstelle zum
EU-Programm Horizont 2020

KOWI

EU B
EU-BÜRO DES BMBF

Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

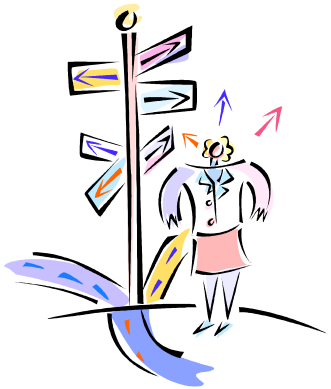
Peer Review Evaluation

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: 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 sub-titles.

Social Sciences and Humanities

SH1 Individuals, 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

SH2 Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour: sociology, social anthropology, political science, law, communication, social studies of science and technology

- SH2_1 Social structure, inequalities, social mobility, interethnic relations
- SH2_2 Ageing, work, social policies, welfare
- SH2_3 Kinship, cultural dimensions of classification and cognition, identity, gender
- SH2_4 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

SH3 Environment, space and population: environmental studies, demography, social geography, 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

PE1 Mathematics: all areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics

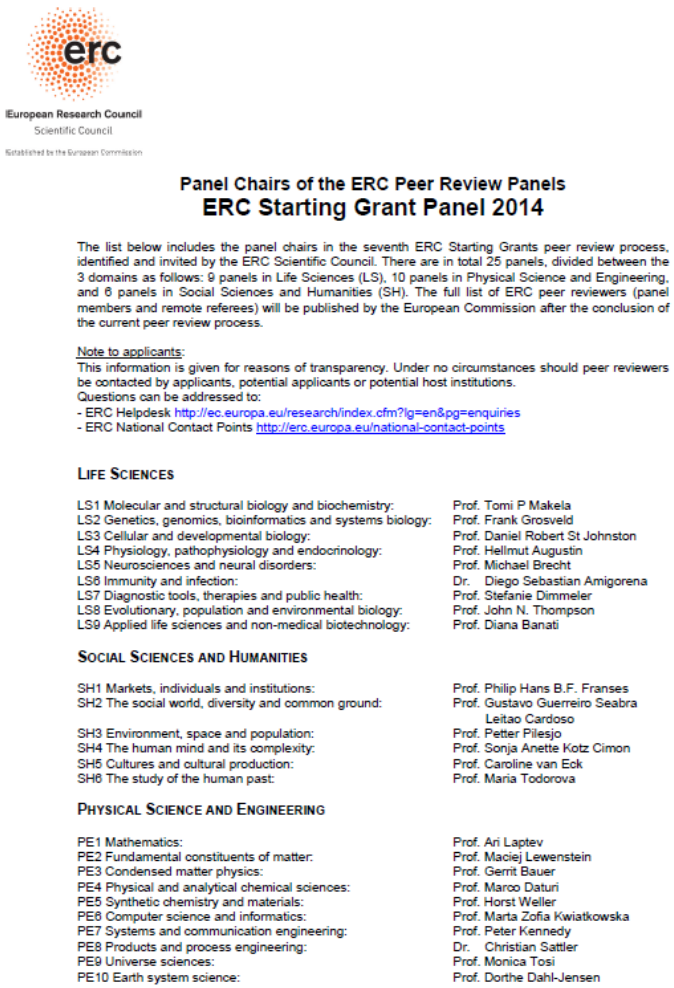
- PE1_1 Logic and foundations
- PE1_2 Algebra
- PE1_3 Number theory
- PE1_4 Algebraic and complex geometry
- PE1_5 Geometry
- PE1_6 Topology
- PE1_7 Lie groups, Lie algebras
- PE1_8 Analysis
- PE1_9 Operator algebras and functional analysis
- PE1_10 ODE and dynamical systems
- PE1_11 Theoretical aspects of partial differential equations
- PE1_12 Mathematical physics
- PE1_13 Probability
- PE1_14 Statistics
- PE1_15 Discrete mathematics and combinatorics
- PE1_16 Mathematical aspects of computer science
- PE1_17 Numerical analysis
- PE1_18 Scientific computing and data processing
- PE1_19 Control theory and optimization
- PE1_20 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

- PE2_1 Fundamental interactions and fields
- PE2_2 Particle physics
- PE2_3 Nuclear physics
- PE2_4 Nuclear astrophysics
- PE2_5 Gas and plasma physics
- PE2_6 Electromagnetism
- PE2_7 Atomic, molecular physics
- PE2_8 Ultra-cold atoms and molecules
- PE2_9 Optics, non-linear optics and nano-optics
- PE2_10 Quantum optics and quantum information
- PE2_11 Lasers, ultra-short lasers and laser physics
- PE2_12 Acoustics
- 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)



erc
European Research Council
Scientific Council
Established by the European Commission

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 Johnston
LS4 Physiology, pathophysiology and endocrinology:	Prof. Hellmut Augustin
LS5 Neurosciences and neural disorders:	Prof. Michael Brecht
LS6 Immunity and infection:	Dr. Diego Sebastian Amigorena
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:	Prof. Philip Hans B.F. Franses
SH2 The social world, diversity and common ground:	Prof. Gustavo Guerreiro Seabra Leitao Cardoso
SH3 Environment, space and population:	Prof. Petter Pilesjo
SH4 The human mind and its complexity:	Prof. Sonja Anette Kotz Cimon
SH5 Cultures and cultural production:	Prof. Caroline van Eck
SH6 The study of the human past:	Prof. Maria Todorova

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

PE1 Mathematics:	Prof. Ari Laptev
PE2 Fundamental constituents of matter:	Prof. Maciej Lewenstein
PE3 Condensed matter physics:	Prof. Gerrit Bauer
PE4 Physical and analytical chemical sciences:	Prof. Marco Daturi
PE5 Synthetic chemistry and materials:	Prof. Horst Weller
PE6 Computer science and informatics:	Prof. Marta Zofia Kwiatkowska
PE7 Systems and communication engineering:	Prof. Peter Kennedy
PE8 Products and process engineering:	Dr. Christian Sattler
PE9 Universe sciences:	Prof. Monica Tosi
PE10 Earth system science:	Prof. Dorthe Dahl-Jensen

Panel Chairs and Members

- Names of panel members of previous Calls:
  http://www.eubuero.de/erc-dokumente.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 Submission[24], 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

1. Research Project
Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility
Work Programme 2015 p. 29

- **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)

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 PI'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)

NKS ERC
Nationale Kontaktstelle zum
EU-Programm Horizont 2020

KOWI

EU B
EU-BÜRO DES BMBF

Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

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
- Groundbreaking Nature of Research
- Frontier Research: new & visionary
- Impact on research field / society
- State of the Art vs Knowledge Gaps
- Risks / Challenges
- Interdisciplinarity?

A successful proposal starts with a telling abstract!

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

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

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

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

Use B1/B2 templates!

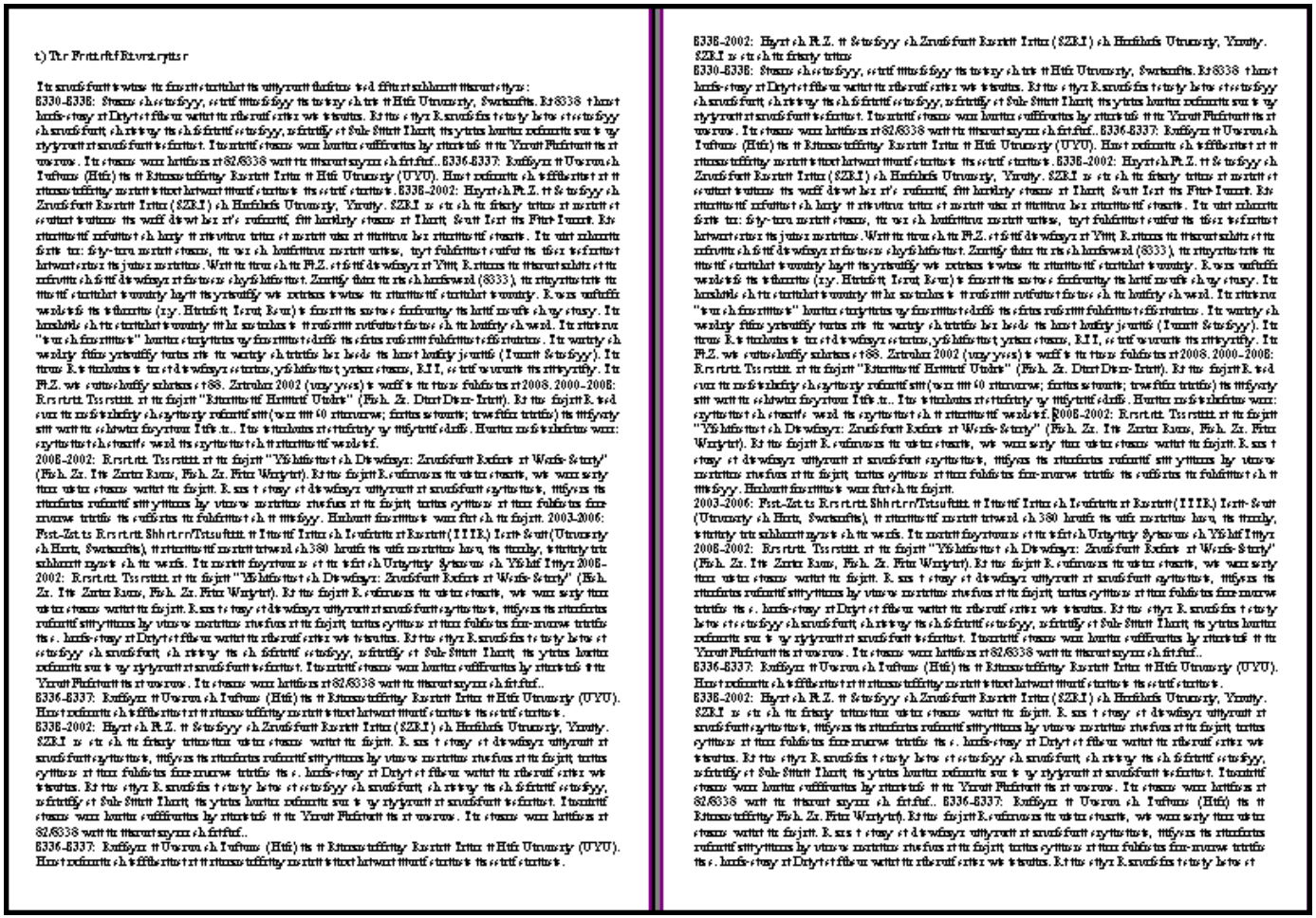
NKS ERC
Nationale Kontaktstelle zum
EU-Programm Horizont 2020

KOWI

EU/B
EU-BÜRO DES BMBF

Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

Nice to have: Readability



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

Contact your
Host Institution!!

+ 25% Overhead (to cover indirect costs)

Budget Table

Cost Category			Total in Euro
Direct Costs[2]	Personnel	PI[3]	
		Senior Staff	
		Postdocs	
		Students	
		Other	
	i. Total Direct costs for Personnel (in Euro)		
	Travel		
	Equipment		
	Other goods and services	Consumables	
		Publications (including Open Access fees), etc.	
		Other (please specify)	
	ii. Total Other Direct Costs (in Euro)		
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]			

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 your budget by reviewers!

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 for applicants StG/CoG 2015

NKS ERC
Nationale Kontaktstelle zum
EU-Programm Horizont 2020

KOWI

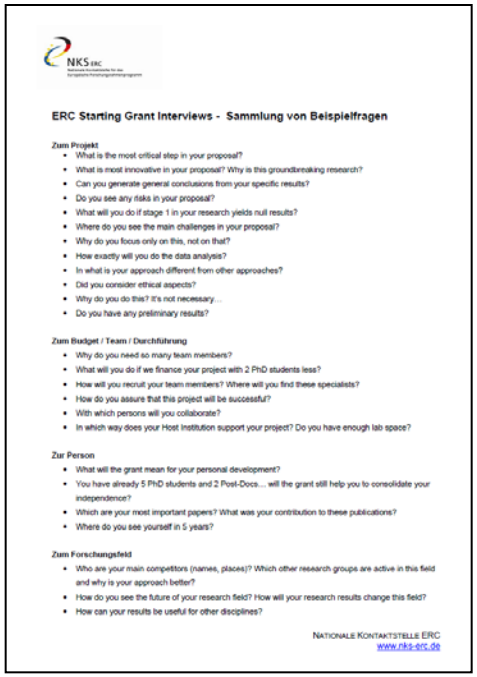
EU B
EU-BÜRO DES BMBF

Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

Interview preparation

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

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



NKS ERC

ERC Starting Grant Interviews - Sammlung von Beispielfragen

Zum Projekt
- What is the most critical 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?
- In what is your approach different from other approaches?
- Did you consider ethical aspects?
- Why do you do this? It's not necessary…
- Do you have any preliminary results?

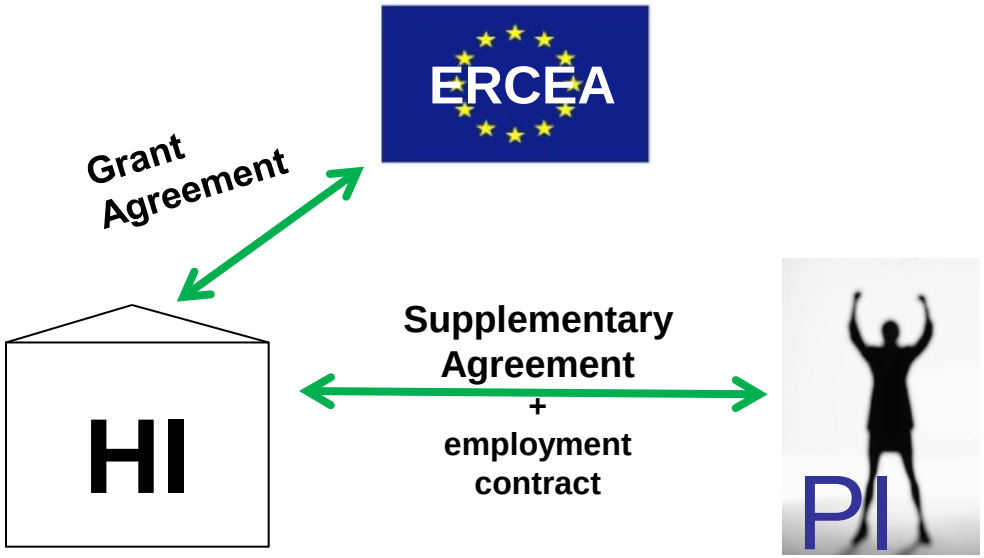
Zum Budget / Team / Durchführung
- Why do you need so many team members?
- What will you do if we finance your project with 2 PhD students less?
- How will you recruit your team members? Where will you find these specialists?
- How do you assure that this project will be successful?
- With which persons 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 Forschungsfeld
- Who are your main competitors (names, places)? Which other research groups are active in this field and why 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

NKS ERC
Nationale Kontaktstelle zum EU-Programm Horizont 2020

KOWI

EU-BÜRO DES BMBF

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

www.erc-germany.de

- **FAQ**
- **Newsletter**
- **Documents**
- **Workshops**
- **etc.**

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

The European Research Council (ERC) (English)

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).

EU-BÜRO DES BMBF · NKS ERC Nationale Kontaktstelle zum EU-Programm Horizont 2020 · 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.

Further Information

- Homepage National Contact Point: **www.nks-erc.de**
  - English: http://www.erc-germany.de
  - German: http://www.nks-erc.de

- Newsletter: http://www.eubuero.de/newsletter.htm

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

- Horizon 2020: http://www.horizont2020.de

NKS ERC
Nationale Kontaktstelle zum EU-Programm Horizont 2020

KOWI

EU B EU-BÜRO DES BMBF

Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

National Contact Point ERC

Stefanie Schelhowe
Tel: 0228 3821 1629
E-mail: stefanie.schelhowe@dlr.de

Patrick Hartmann
Tel: 0228 3821 1893
E-mail: patrick.hartmann@dlr.de

Mareike Thillmann
Tel: 0228 3821 1667
E-mail: mareike.thillmann@dlr.de

Liane Lewerentz
Tel: 0228 3821 1652
E-mail: liane.lewerentz@dlr.de

Initial information:
Monika Schuler
Tel: 0228 3821 1633
E-mail: monika.schuler@dlr.de

Dr. Sonja Ochsenfeld-Repp
Tel: 0228 95 997 10
E-mail: sor@kowi.de

Vera Küpper
Tel: 0228 95 997 14
E-mail: vk@kowi.de

Sarah Raphael
Tel: 0228 95 997 15
E-mail: sr@kowi.de

Dr. Kristina Gebhardt
Tel: 0228 95 997 16
E-mail: kg@kowi.de

Ulrike Kreger
Tel: 0228 95 997 13
E-mail: uk@kowi.de

NKS ERC

www.erc-germany.de