The European Reserach Council – Strategy and Administration of the ERC

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| National Contact Points ERC Research Infrastructures Regions of Knowledge Research potential Science in Society Coherent development of policies Joint Research Centre ERA-Net Legal and financial issues | General Tasks Central contact point for the FP Training for muliplicators and applicants Coordination of German NCPs Contact Point Women into EU-Research Participation in EU-Projects | |

Content



- Specific Programme "Ideas": Implementation in FP7
 - Background
- Goals and Basics of the ERC
- Organisation/ Structure of the ERC
- Strategy and funding schemes
 - Rules of participation
 - Budget/ Costs
 - Submission of Proposals
 - Evaluation
 - Administration of projects
- First results and outlook

Objectives of the Framework Programmes



Treaty of Nice, Art. 163

- Strengthening the scientific and technological bases of Community industry
- Encouraging to become more competitive at international level
- Support to other policy areas (Health, environment, transport, security etc.)

European Research Area

ERA =

European Research Area

 concept and vision, political initiative by Commissioner Philippe Busquin (January 2000)

Objectives:

- new impetus for Research and Technological Development (RTD)
- RTD as key factor for European innovation
- complementarity between Member States (MS) and EU measures

Instrument to implement ERA:

• Framework Programme for Research and Development





FP7 - Structure

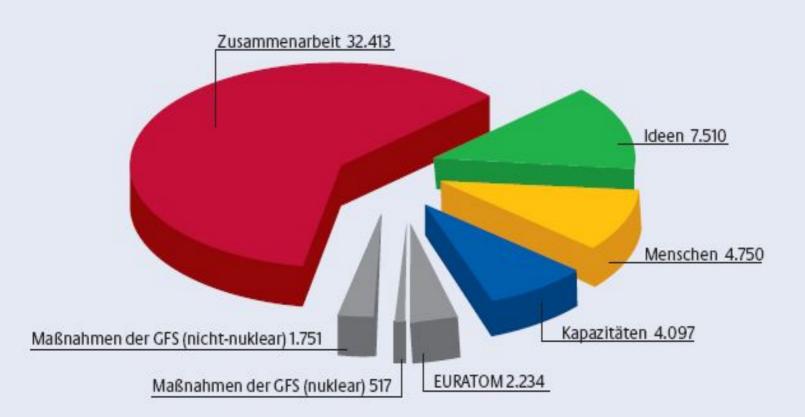


| Cooperation | Ideas | Framework |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| People | Capacities | Programme EC |
| JRC (non-nuclear) | | |
| EURATOM | JRC (nuclear) | EURATOM |

FP 7 – Budget



Budgetaufteilung im 7. FRP (in Mrd. €)



Background ERC



- Novum in the history of the FPs
- Funding of basic oriented research (Frontier research!)
- Acknowledgment of the importance and impact of basic research for the innovation chain
- Aims to establish an attractive ERA

Goals and Basics



- Funding of individual Teams
- Scientific Autonomy
- Excellence as the sole criterion
- Simple administration and procedures
- Focus on science driven Frontier Research ("bottom-up")

Frontier Research



Research at the frontiers of science is:

- risky
- without disciplinary boundaries
- relevant for science and society
- Goal: Avoid outmoded distinctions:
 - Between basic and applied science
 - Between science and technology
 - Between traditional disciplines

Objectives of frontier research



European funding of the most creative scientists in order to

- support outstanding discoveries
- stimulate scientific excellence
- generate new knowledge

Consequences:

- Change of understanding of the world
- technological progress
- Solutions for social and ecological problems
- Significant social and economic advantages

Frontier Research: examples





- NEST-projects (FP6)
- ADVENTURE (Bottom-Up)
- PATHFINDER (Pre-Definition of themes)

http://www.eubuero.de/arbeitsbereiche/erc/pionierforschung

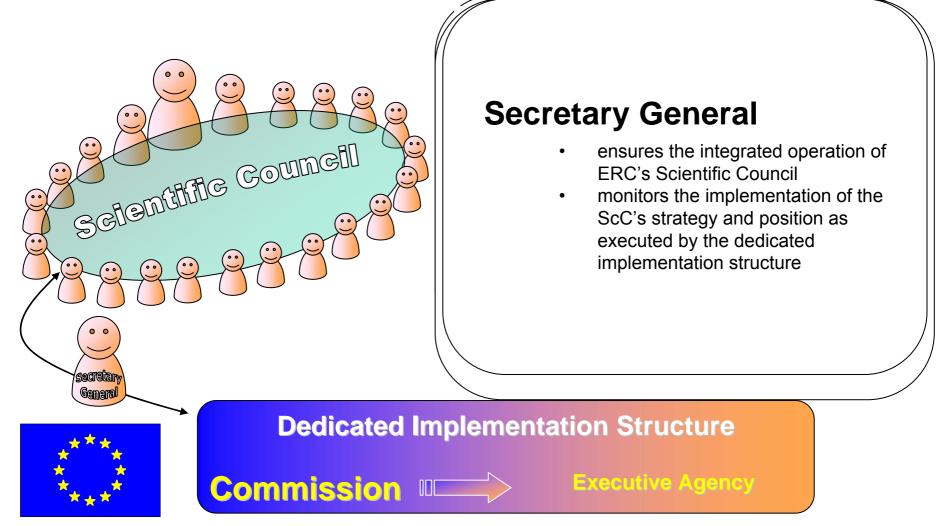


Organisation

Strategy/ Funding schemes

Organisation/ Structure of the ERC





Quelle: Europäische Kommission





Two Funding Schemes

- ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant scheme (ERC Starting Grant): focus on young scientists
 - First Call: 22. Dezember 2006, Deadline 25. April 2007
- ERC Advanced Investigator Researcher Grant scheme (ERC Advanced Grant): Focus on established excellent researchers
 - First call 30. November 2007, Deadline: 28.02. 22.03.2008

Bottom-Up



- All fields of science are covered
 - For administrative reasons: 3 scientific domains:
 - » Physical Sciences & Engineering
 - » Biological & Life Sciences
 - » Social Sciences and Humanities
 - Breakdown of budget for the first call of the Starting Grants:
 - 45% 40% 15%
 - Breakdown of budget for the first call of the Advanced Grants:
 - Physical Sciences 39%/ Life Sciences 34%/ Social Sciences 14%
 - + 13% for Interdisciplinary Cross Panel / Cross domain

Funding Schemes



ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant

- Support of researchers at the start of their independent research career
- establishment or consolidation of the researchers' own independent research team
- Provision of a structure for transition from working under a supervisor to an independent research leader
- Upcoming Call: 3 8 years since completion of PhD

Funding schemes



ERC Advanced Investigator Researcher Grant

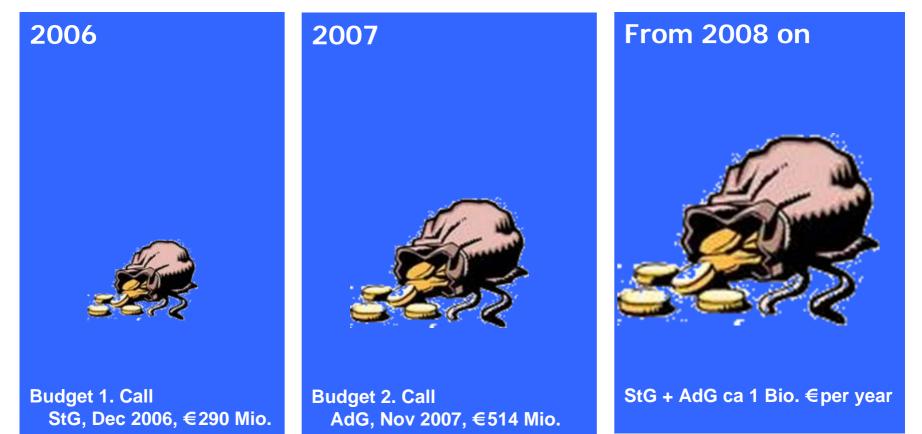
- Support of excellent research projects by established independent research leaders
- Complements the ERC Starting Grant scheme by targeting researchers who have already established their independence as team leaders

Budget



Budget (FP7 Ideas): € ≈7.5 Bio.

- ≈1/3 Starting Grants, ≈ 2/3 Advanced Grants
- Less than 5% for Administration



Strategy



Individual Teams

- Individual Research Teams:
 - headed by a single "Principal Investigator" (team leader)
 - of any nationality
 - *if necessary, including additional team members*
- The "Principal Investigator" has:
 - the freedom to choose the **research topic** and the power to assemble his/her **research team** meeting the needs of the project.
- Teams can be of national or trans-national character.
- Notice: "Individual Teams" differ from "consortia" in the rest of FP7

Rules of Participation

Principal Investigator

- Any nationality
- Host Institution located in:
 - 27 EU Member States
 - Associated States (e.g. NO, IS, CH, IL), ind

NKS

EU Member States

ssociated States

Team members

- Any nationality
- Host Institution:
 - 27 EU Member States
 - Associated States (NO, IS, CH, IL),
 - Third Countries

Notice:

- The role of the different team members might differ a lot from
- Team members from third countries can be financed.

Financial Issues



- Up to 100% of the direct costs plus 20% indirect Costs
- Direct Costs (directly related to the project Research, Management, Training...)
 - Personnel
 - Equipment
 - Travel
 - ..
- Indirect Costs (costs that are not directly related to the project) Administration
 - rent, heating, infrastructure
 - insurances
- Flexibility in the administration of budget



Call and project budget



Starting Grants

Budget 1. Call: Project budget: Duration of projects:

Max Budget:

290 Mio € 100.000 – 400.000 €/ year up to five years

100.000 – 500.000 €/ year

2,0 Mio €

517 Mio €

up to five years

Advanced Grants

Budget 1. Call: Project budget: Duration of projects:

Max Budget:2,5 Mio €exception:3,5 Mio €(PI from Third Country, very interdisciplinary projects)



Submission of Proposals

Evaluation

Handing in your proposal

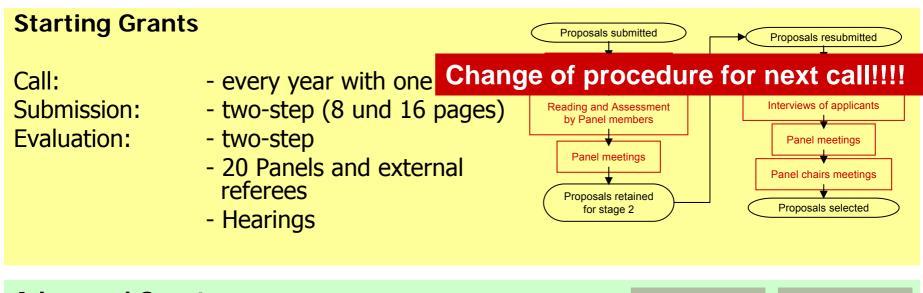


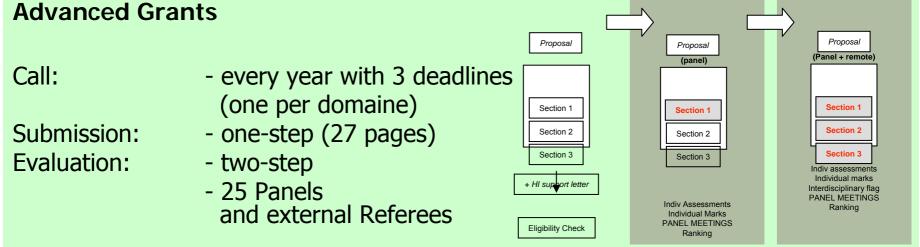
Preregistration

- Via EPSS (3 weeks before the deadline at the latest)
- Providing Abstract, Title, Acronym and the panel in which the proposal will be evaluated

Proposal submission and evaluation







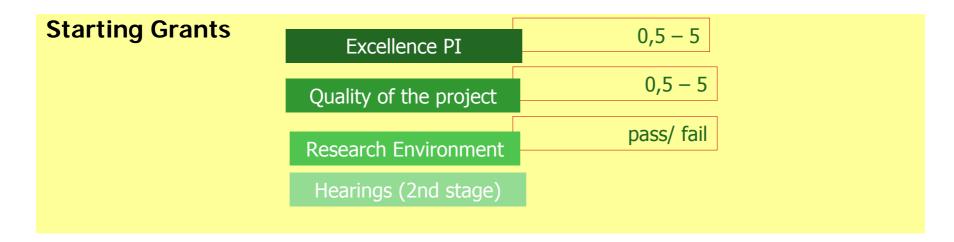
Rules of participation AdG

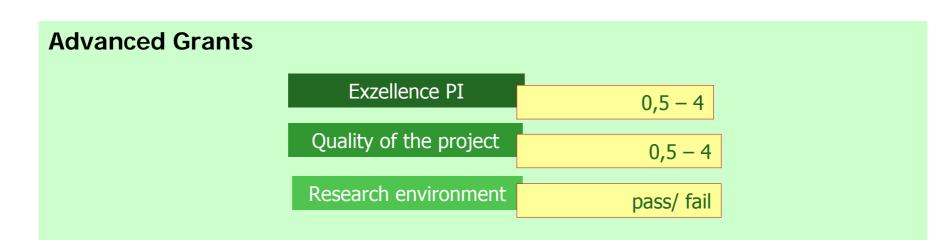


- Budget 2008 und 2009 are taken together. Only one submission for both calls is possible
- Being negatively evaluated, resubmission is only possible in 2011

Evaluation Criteria







Evaluation Criteria (StG)



1) Principal Investigator: "Potential to perform world class research"

- a. Quality of research results
- b. Intellectual Capacitiy and creativity

Evaluation Criteria



2) Quality of Research

a. Ground-breaking nature of the research

b. Potential impact

c. Methodology

Evaluation Criteria



3) Research Environment

a. Transition to Independence

b. Host Institution

c. Team Members



Administration

Administration



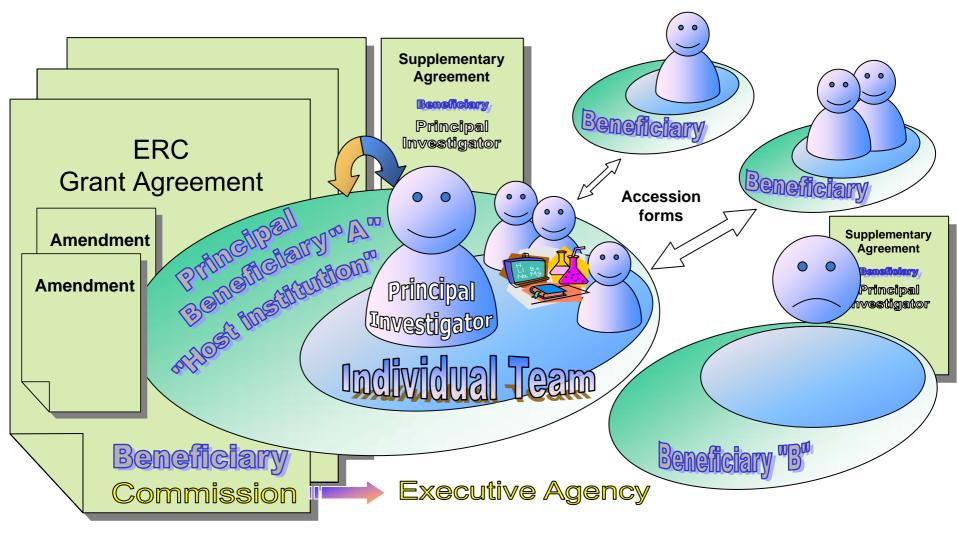
Two streams of activity:

- 1. ERC Starting In scheme (ERC S ant)
- 2. ERC Advanced Advanced Advanced Fator Researcher Grant scheme (ERC rant)

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Pri

ERC Grant Agreement







First Results (StG) and

Lessons Learned

First Results Starting Grants



First Call of the Starting Grants

- Two-step procedure:
 - Deadline first stage: 25. April 2007
 - 2. stage: 17. September 2007



Nationality of PIs (best 300)



| Nationality | | |
|-------------|----|-------|
| Germany | 40 | 13,3% |
| Italy | 35 | 11.6% |
| France | 32 | 10,6% |
| UK | 29 | 9,6% |
| Israel | 23 | 7,6% |
| Netherlands | 21 | 7,0% |
| Spain | 20 | 6,6% |
| Belgium | 16 | 5,3% |

Location of Host Institution (best 300)



| Country of Host | | |
|-----------------|----|-------|
| UK | 58 | 19,3% |
| France | 35 | 13,0% |
| Germany | 33 | 11,0% |
| Netherlands | 26 | 8,6% |
| Italy | 25 | 8,3% |
| Spain | 24 | 8,0% |
| Israel | 24 | 8,0% |
| Switzerland | 16 | 5,3% |

What can be improved



- Oversubscription must be tackled with clear identification of target group and definition of idea of frontier research
- Workshops and trainings must identify and support relevant scientists
- Institutions need strategies to identify potential ERC-grantees

Experience StG: Quotes from scientists



It is important not to ignore the prerequisites

- 1. "Nicht promoviert? Na und meine Idee ist doch prima!"
- 2. "Ich möchte aber mein Zertifikat als zusätzlichen Annex anhängen und damit zeigen, dass ich das auch wirklich gemacht habe…."
- 3. "Ich möchte doch gerne die Schriftgröße kleiner wählen. Sonst kann ich nicht alles Wichtige schreiben."
- 4. "Ich möchte nicht über das elektronische System einreichen, das ist mir zu kompliziert. Kann ich nicht eine Email schicken?"
- 5. "Ich lebe in England. Könnte ich den Antrag dann eine Stunde später einreichen?"
- 6. 3 min nach Einreichungsfrist: "bei mir ist etwas schief gegangen, das System hat nicht funktioniert. Wo kann ich den Antrag nachreichen?"

First figures AdG



- Deadline PSE, 28. February 2008:
 997 proposals
- Deadline SSH, 18. March 2008:
 - 404 proposals
- Deadline LS, 22. April 2008:
 766 proposals

Avoiding Mistakes: Formating



Stick to the Guide for Applicants:

✓ Cover page
✓ Pages and chapters
✓ Font, spaces, margins
✓ A4- Format

- Template of Part B provided in EPSS
- Complete submission!! (Part A, B and Annexes)

Complete submission!



- Advanced Grants:
- Submission of several components:

| | | Street name | Number | |
|---|---|---------------------|--|--|
| | INFORMATION ON THE PRINCIPAL IN Family Name Bitth Family | | Fax - The Final Provide Instant Found Provid | sion Form PEAN COMMISSION mework Programme on rch. Technological poment and Demonstration A3: Budget |
| Proposal Number | Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Proposel Acronym | Ам | Proposal Number Order Proposal Arrows Proposal Ar | A2: rticipants PROJECT Eligible costs (in Requested grant e) (in e) |
| Type of project Call identifier | General Information 28xtra Grant ERG-2007-000 | | Proposal Number 000000 Proposal Acronym Organisation Nur | nber 1 0 0 |
| Type of project Proposal Title Duration in months ERC Review Panel (1st preference) | ERC Starting Grant | Number x | THE ORGANIZATION If your organisation has already registered for FP7, enter your Participant Identity Code Organisation Legal name | |
| ERC Review Panel (2nd preference) ERC Review Panel (3rd preference) ERC Keyword 1 ERC Keyword 2 ERC Keyword 3 | None None None | | Organisation short name Town Country | |
| ERC Keyword 4 | Abstract (max. 2000 char.) | E HOST ORGANIZATION | Department/Faculty/Institute/Laboratory name/ Department/Faculty/Institute/Lab Town Department/Faculty/Institute/Lab Country | |
| | | | Internet homepage | |

Proposal structure – Advanced

Part A (Forms):

- A1-A3 Forms (PI/ Institution, Budget)
- Additional Form "A1T" ("Track Record")
 - <u>Summary</u> Scientific Leadership profile
 - <u>Summary</u> 10 year Track Record

Part B :

- Part 1: Scientific Leadership profile (2 pages)
 - CV (including "funding ID")
 - 10-years track record
 - Extended synopsis
- Part 2: Scientific proposal
- Part 3: Research Environment description
- Annex 1: Statement of support from the Host Institution



Nice to have: readable proposal



How do I get as much text as possible on one page

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General Issues – avoiding mistakes



- \checkmark Early registration in EPSS
- \checkmark Timely submission of at least one draft version
- ✓ Contact your NCP and the administration of your institution

Future Calls



Starting Grants

| ERC-Action | Publication of Call | Deadline | Evaluation |
|------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| StG 1 | 22.12.2006 | 25.04.2007 | Spring - Fall 2007 |
| StG 2 | Summer 2008 | Fall 2008 | Winter 2008 -Spring 2009 |
| StG 3 | Summer 2009 | Fall 2009 | Winter 2009 - Spring 2010 |
| StG 4 | Summer 2010 | Fall 2010 | Winter 2010 - Spring 2011 |

Advanced Grants

| ERC- Action | Publication of Call | Deadline | Evaluation |
|----------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| AdG 1 | 30.11.2007 | Physical Science & Engineering: 28.02.2008 Social Science & Humanities: 18.03.2008 Life Sciences: 22.04.2008 | Spring - Fall 2008 |
| AdG 2 | Fall 2008 | Spring 2009 | Spring - Fall 2009 |
| AdG 3 | Fall 2009 | Spring 2010 | Spring - Fall 2010 |
| AdG 4 | Fall 2010 | Spring 2011 | Spring - Fall 2011 |

European Research Council

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