The European Reserach Council – Strategy and Administration of the ERC

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EU-BÜRO DES BMBF FÜR DAS
FORSCHUNGSRAHMENPROGRAMM

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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
- Web: www.eubuero.de
- Newsletter: EUB-Telegramm
- Support of BMBF

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
  - Admininstration 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 Programme EC*
People	**Capacities**	
JRC (non-nuclear)		

EURATOM	**JRC (nuclear)**	*EURATOM*

FP 7 – Budget

Budgetaufteilung im 7. FRP (in Mrd. €)

Zusammenarbeit 32.413

Ideen 7.510

Menschen 4.750

Kapazitäten 4.097

Maßnahmen der GFS (nicht-nuklear) 1.751

Maßnahmen der GFS (nuklear) 517

EURATOM 2.234
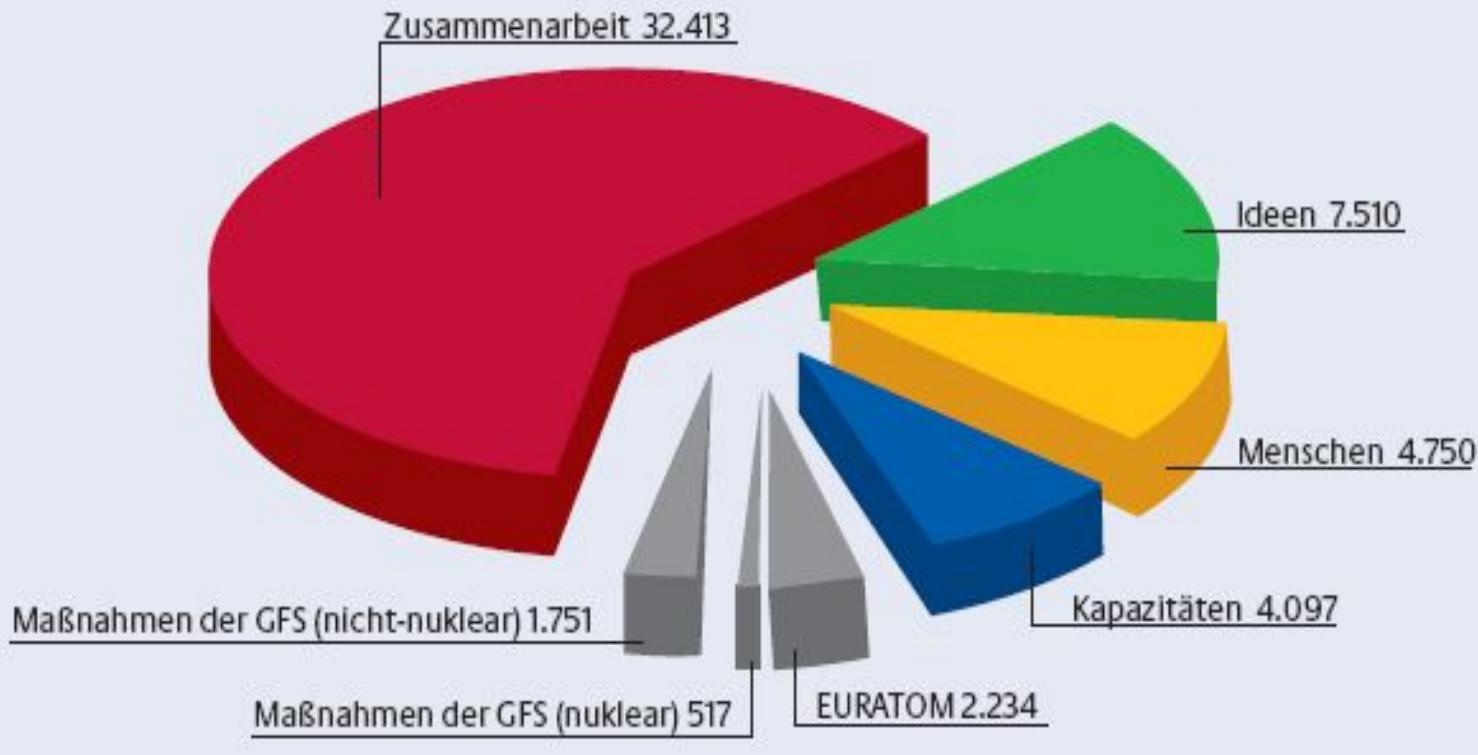
Gesamt 53.272

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

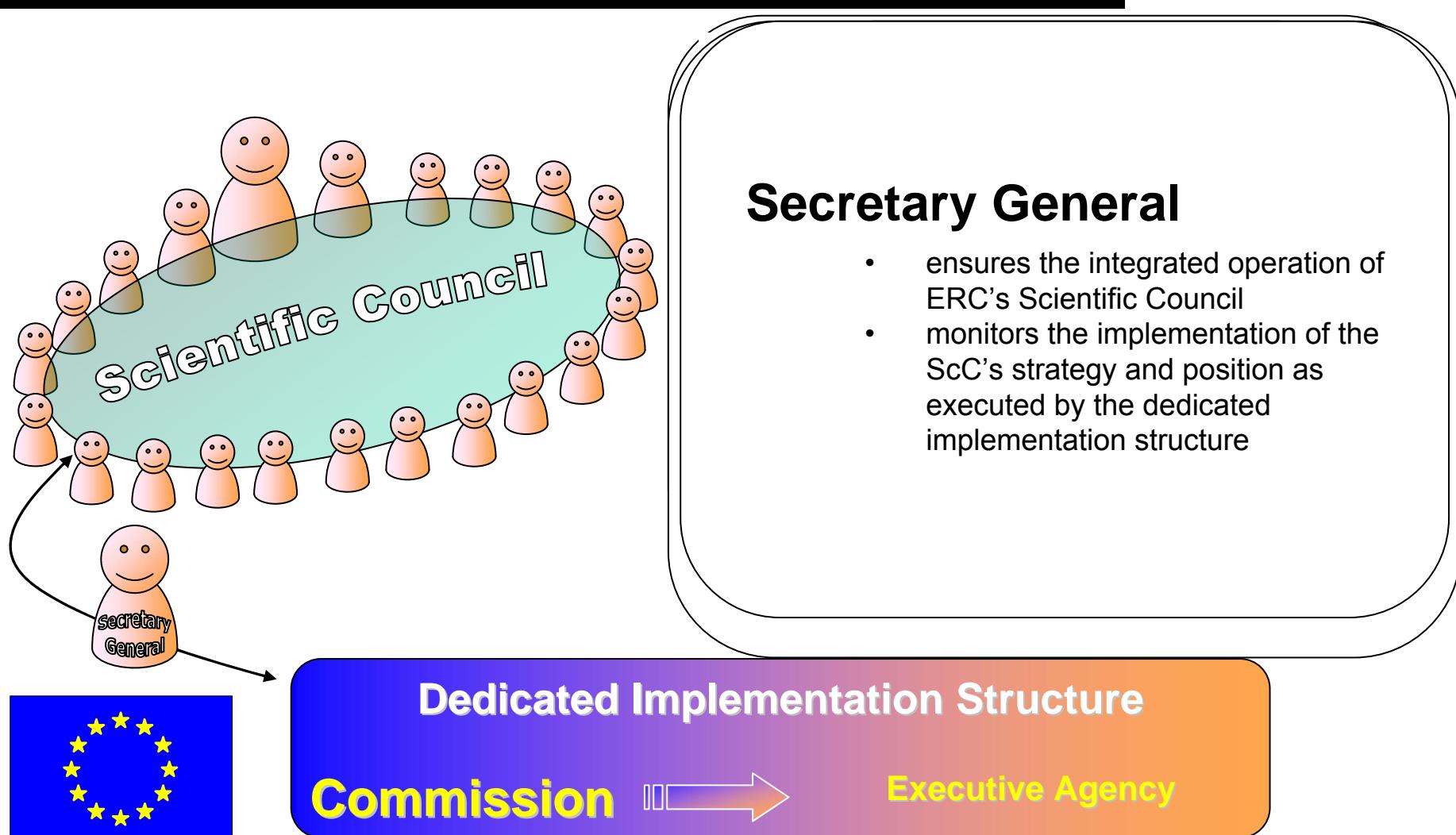- NEST-projects (FP6)

- ADVENTURE (Bottom-Up)

- PATHFINDER (Pre-Definition of themes)

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

Organisation

Strategy/ Funding schemes

Organisation/ Structure of the ERC

Secretary General

- ensures the integrated operation of ERC's Scientific Council
- monitors the implementation of the ScC's strategy and position as executed by the dedicated implementation structure

Dedicated Implementation Structure

Commission ⟹ **Executive Agency**

Strategy

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

2006	2007	From 2008 on
Budget 1. Call **StG, Dec 2006, €290 Mio.**	**Budget 2. Call** **AdG, Nov 2007, €514 Mio.**	**StG + AdG ca 1 Bio. €per year**

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

NKS

Principal Investigator

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

EU Member States
Associated 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 fro
- Team members from third countries can be financed.
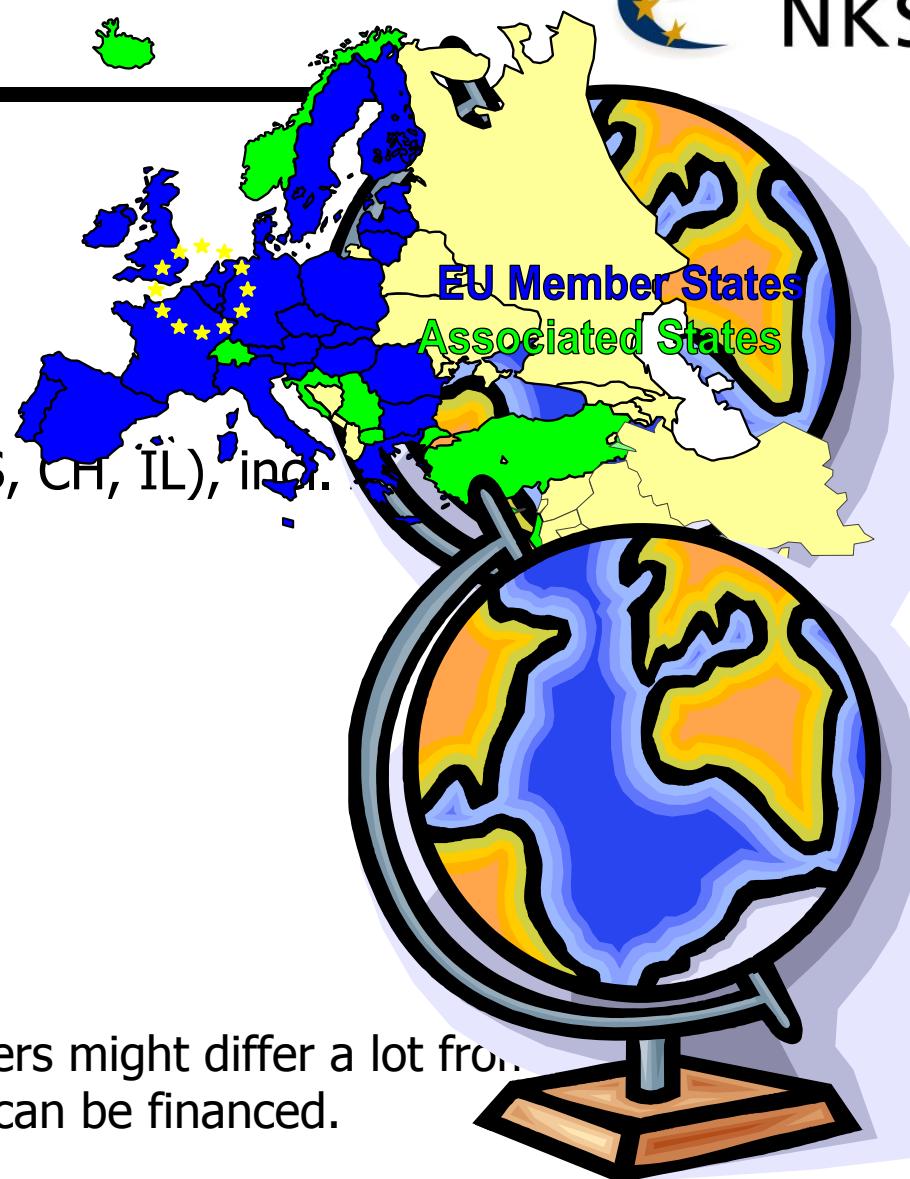
Financial Issues

- 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: 290 Mio €
Project budget: 100.000 – 400.000 €/ year
Duration of projects: up to five years

Max Budget: 2,0 Mio €

Advanced Grants

Budget 1. Call: 517 Mio €
Project budget: 100.000 – 500.000 €/ year
Duration of projects: up to five years

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

Starting Grants

Call: - every year with one
Submission: - two-step (8 und 16 pages)
Evaluation: - two-step
               - 20 Panels and external referees
               - Hearings

Proposals submitted → Proposals resubmitted

Change of procedure for next call!!!!

Reading and Assessment by Panel members → Panel meetings → Proposals retained for stage 2

Interviews of applicants → Panel meetings → Panel chairs meetings → Proposals selected
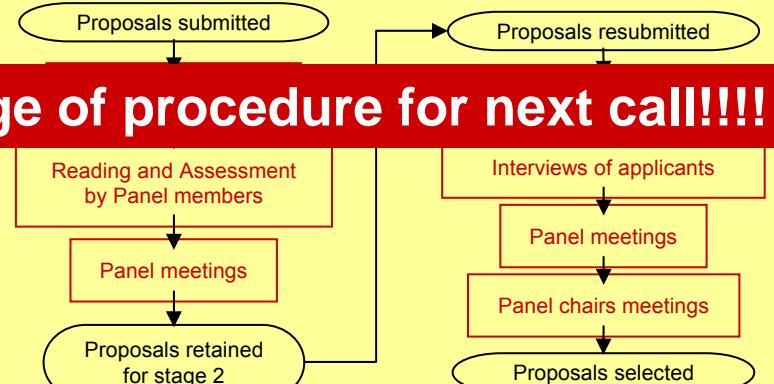
Advanced Grants

Call: - every year with 3 deadlines
                 (one per domaine)

Submission: - one-step (27 pages)

Evaluation: - two-step
               - 25 Panels
                 and external Referees

Proposal

Section 1
Section 2
Section 3

+ HI support letter

Eligibility Check

Proposal (panel)

Section 1
Section 2
Section 3

Indiv Assessments
Individual Marks
PANEL MEETINGS
Ranking

Proposal (Panel + remote)

Section 1
Section 2
Section 3

Indiv assessments
Individual marks
Interdisciplinary flag
PANEL MEETINGS
Ranking
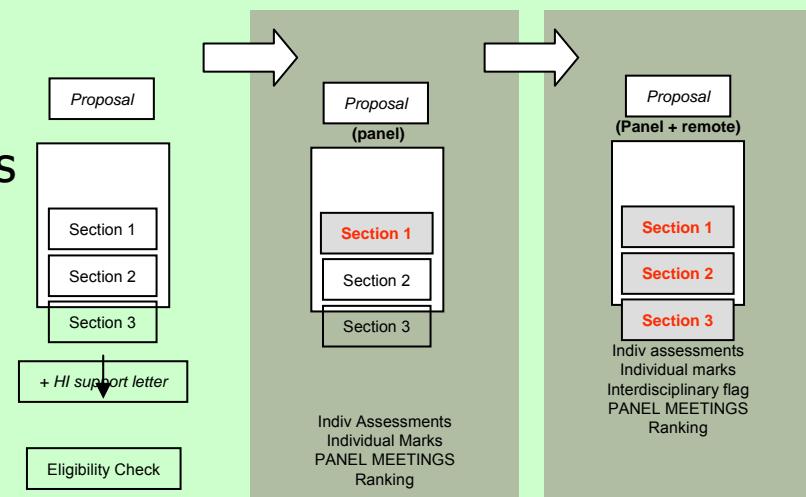
Rules of participation AdG

- 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

NKS

Starting Grants

Excellence PI	0,5 – 5
Quality of the project	0,5 – 5
Research Environment	pass/ fail
Hearings (2nd stage)	

Advanced Grants

Exzellence PI	0,5 – 4
Quality of the project	0,5 – 4
Research environment	pass/ fail

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____nt Researcher Grant scheme (ERC S____ant)**

2. **ERC Advanced I____ator Researcher Grant scheme (ERC ____rant)**

Principal Investigator

Quelle: Europäische Kommission
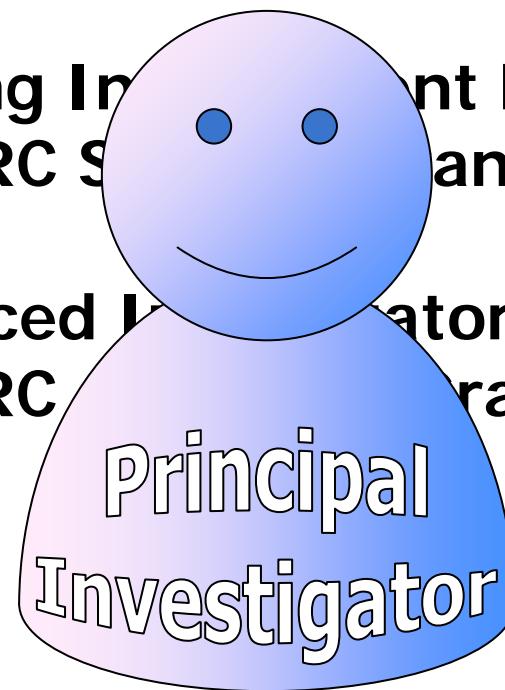
ERC Grant Agreement

Single Beneficiary Multi Beneficiary
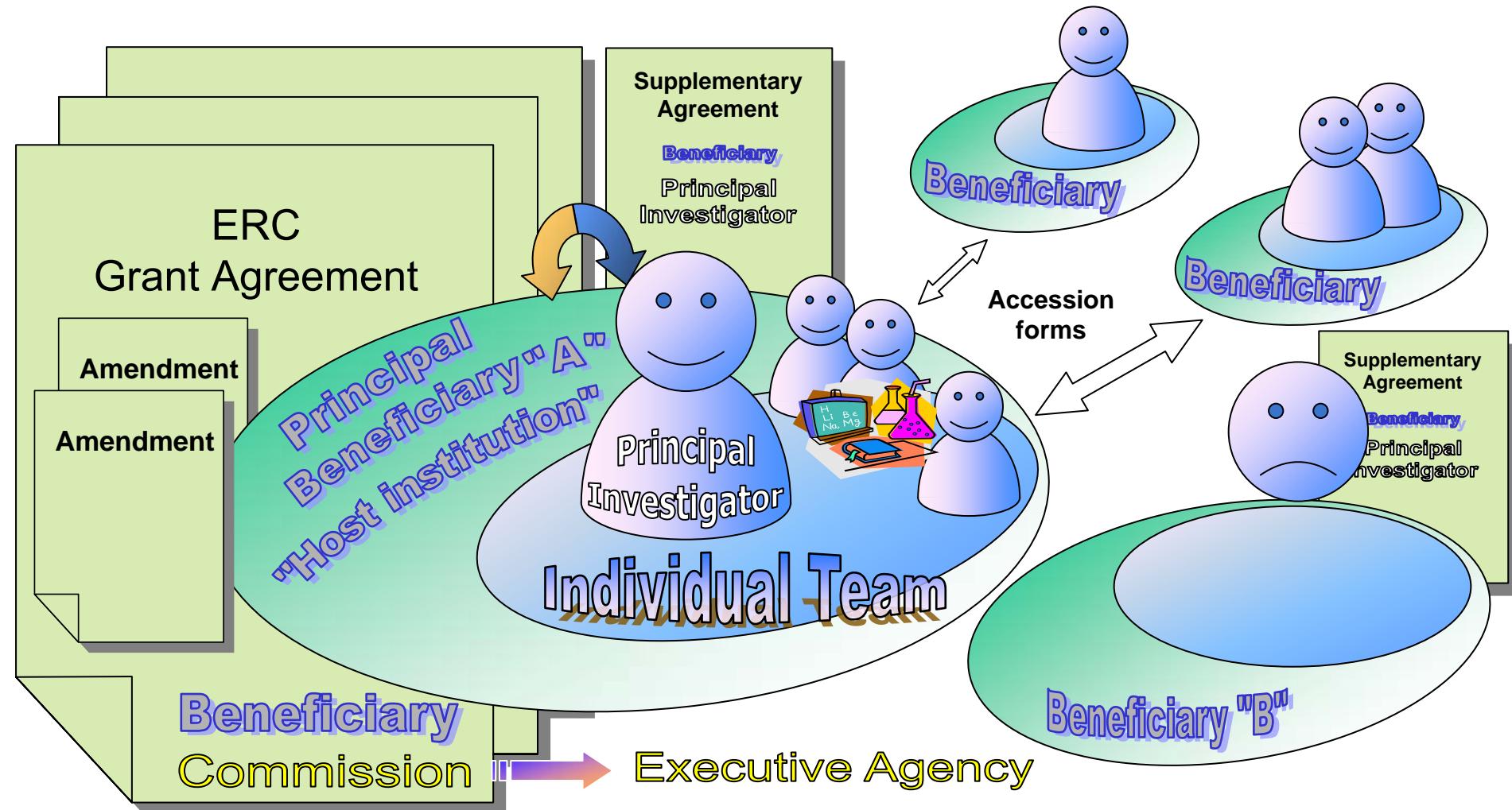
First Results (StG) and

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
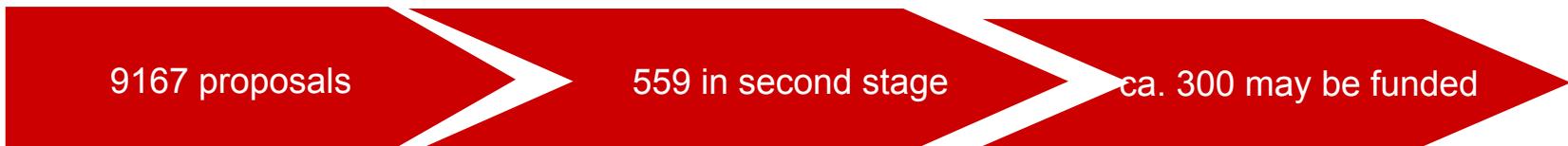
| 9167 proposals | 559 in second stage | ca. 300 may be funded |

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:

Proposal structure – Advanced Grant

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

27 pages

- 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

General Issues – avoiding mistakes

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

Future Calls

NKS

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

National Contact Point ERC

Information and support

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www.eubuero.de/erc