



# European Research Council – ERC

Starting Grant Call StG-2010  
MPG-Garching  
24 September 2009

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EU-Bureau of the BMBF

NATIONALE KONTAKTSTELLE ERC

EU-BÜRO DES BMBF  
FÜR DAS FORSCHUNGSRAHMENPROGRAMM

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## Topics

1. Background & Introduction
2. Funding Schemes & Budget
3. Who can apply?
4. Grant Agreement & Costs
5. Proposal Structure & Evaluation
6. Statistics
7. Important Documents

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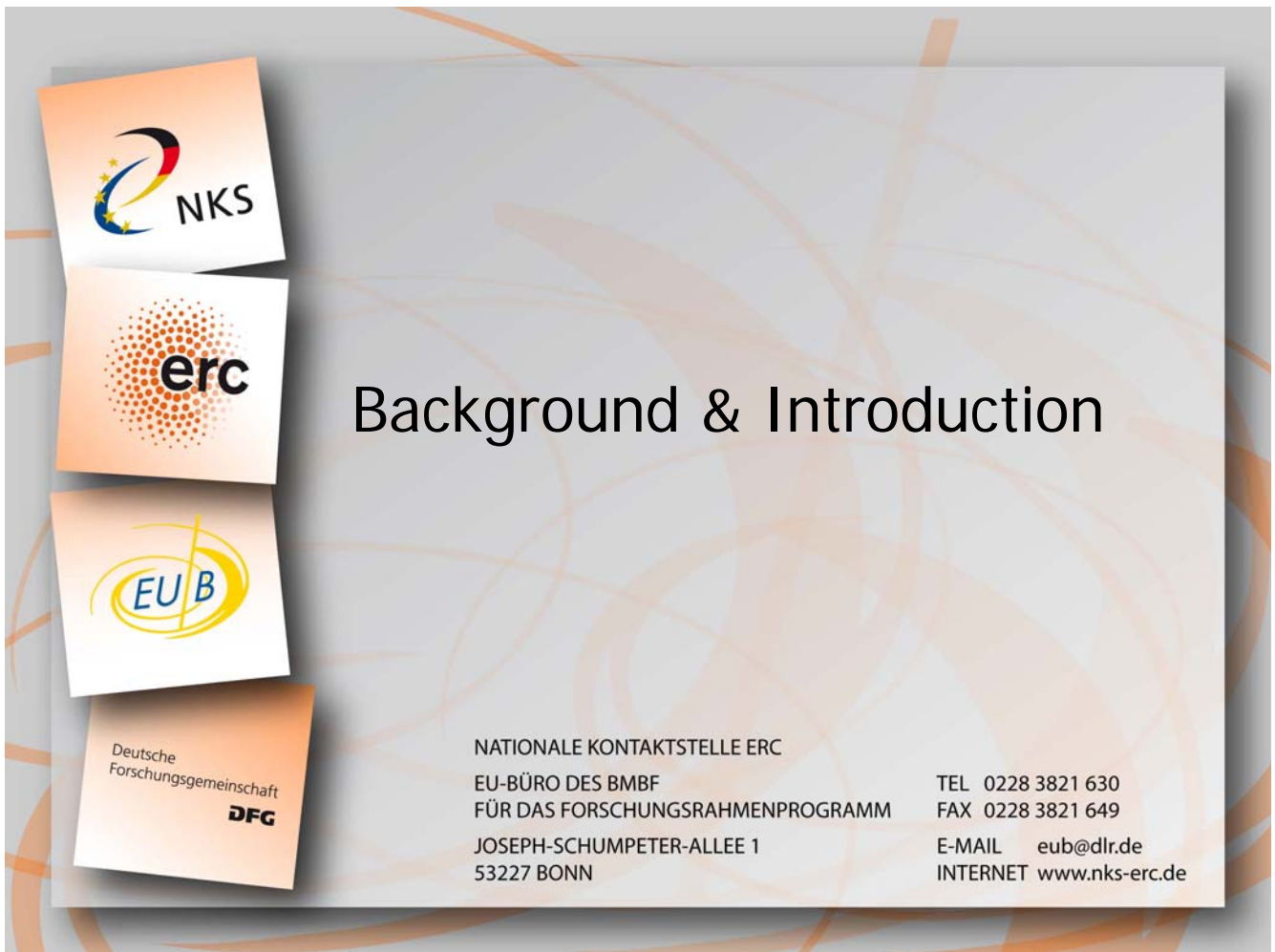
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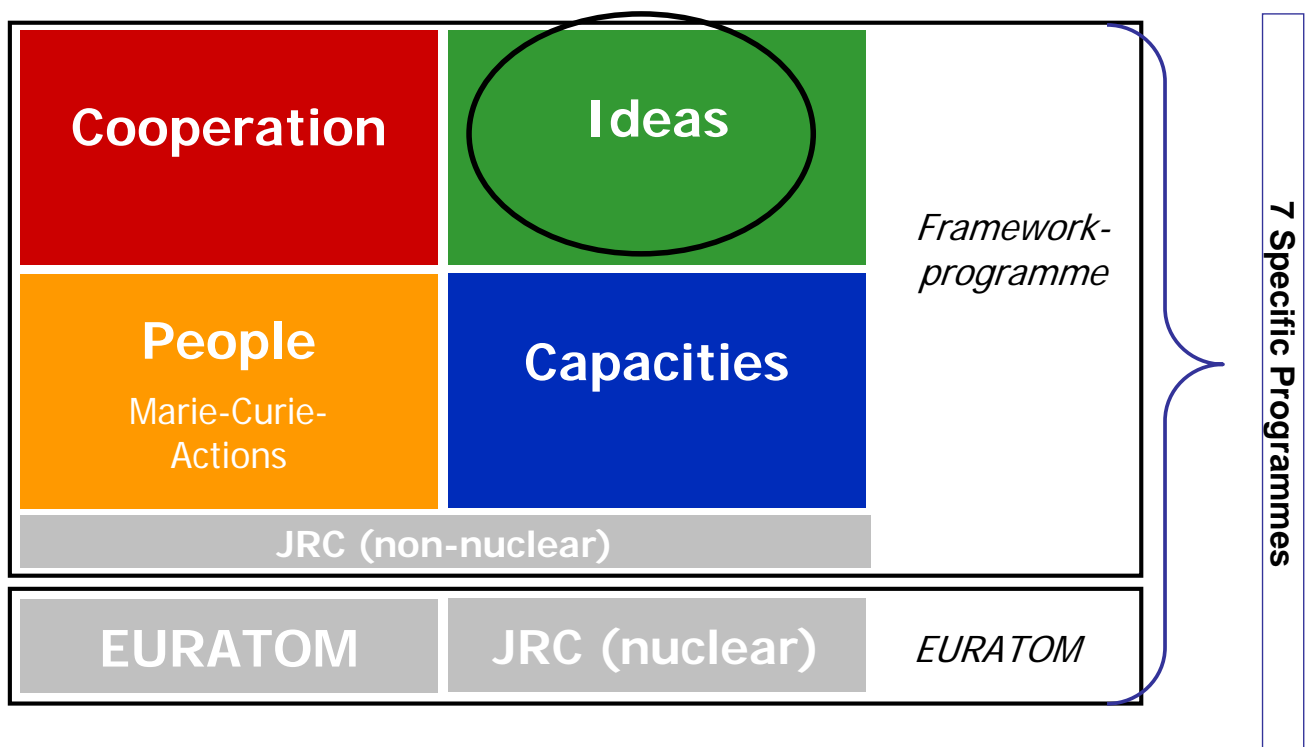


# Background & Introduction

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## Framework Programme 7 (FP 7) - Structure



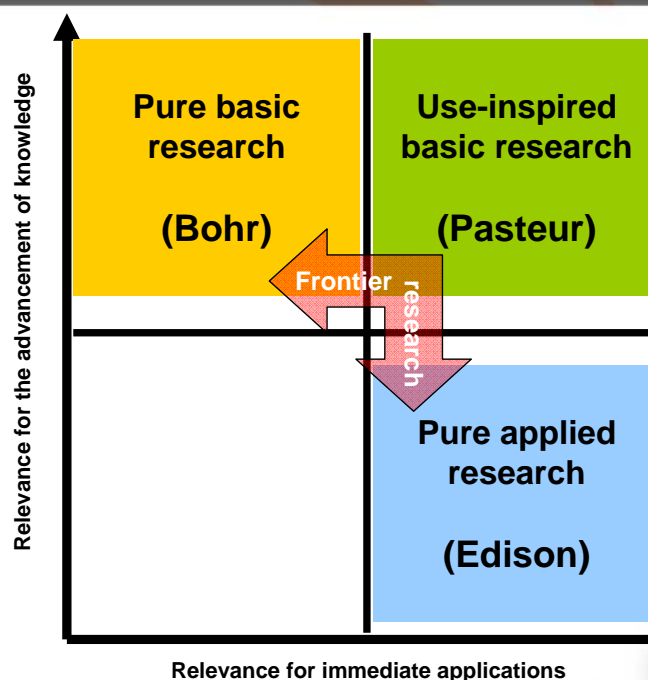
# Characteristics of the ERC I

- “Frontier Research”: Avoiding the distinction between
  - Basic and Applied Sciences
  - Science and Technology
  - Traditional Disciplines
- “Bottom-Up”: No predetermined thematic or policy-driven priorities
- Impact: Projects of **ground breaking** and **visionary** nature at the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering
- Between high risk & high gain
- Interdisciplinarity: All research fields



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## Frontier research?



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# Characteristics of the ERC II

- Scientific excellence as sole criterion for project selection
- Emphasis on the individual: “Principal Investigator” (PI) + Individual Team
  - Overall project management by PI
  - No trans-national partnerships or consortia needed
  - Team composition based on scientific added value only
- **Aim I:** Improving career opportunities and independence for young, aspiring & already established researchers
- **Aim II:** Increase competition, recognition and international visibility – for excellent individual scientists and scholars in Europe



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## Funding Schemes & Budget



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# Two streams of activity

**Activities:** Two complementary funding schemes

## 1. ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant scheme

- **ERC Starting Grant (StG)**: attract & retain the next generation of independent research leaders

## 2. ERC Advanced Investigator Researcher Grant scheme

- **ERC Advanced Grant (AdG)**: attract & reward established independent research leaders

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# Deadlines and Domaines

## 1. ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant scheme

- **Next deadlines:**
  - Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE) - 28 October 2009
  - Life Sciences (LS) - 18 November 2009
  - Social Sciences & Humanities (SH) - 09 December 2009

## 2. ERC Advanced Investigator Researcher Grant scheme

- **Next deadlines:** Spring 2010

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# Budget and Project volume

## Starting Grants

Budget 2nd Call:	528,2 Mio €
Budget:	100.000 – 400.000 €/ year
Time:	up to 5 years
Max Budget:	1,5 Mio € (2,0 for 3rd Country PI)

## Advanced Grants

Budget 2nd Call:	590,1 Mio €
Budget:	100.000 – 500.000 €/ year
Time:	up to 5 years
Max Budget:	2,5 Mio €
In exceptional cases:	3,5 Mio €

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# ERC Starting Grant Call Overview

- The ERC Starting Grant call will be published End of **July 2009** (<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>)
- **Domains** **Budget**

Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE)	39%
Social Sciences & Humanities (SH)	14%
Life Sciences (LS)	34%
- The remaining 13% maximum is allocated to the Interdisciplinary Research Domain (cross-domain & cross panel)

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# ERC Calls and Budget 2007-2011 - Prospective Schedule



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## Who can apply?



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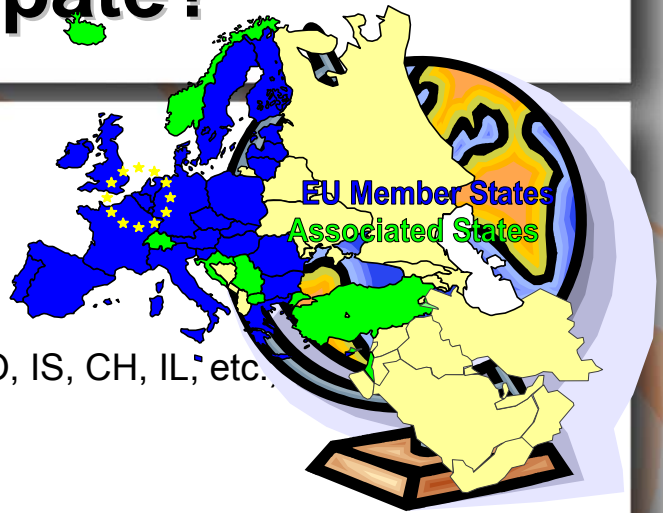
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# Who can participate?

## Principal Investigator

- Each Nationality
- Host Institution in:
  - 27 EU Member State
  - Associated Countries (e.g. NO, IS, CH, IL, etc.)



## Member of Research Team

- Each Nationality
- Institution in:
  - 27 EU Member State
  - Associated Countries (NO, IS, CH, IL), incl. candidate countries
  - Third Countries

### Important difference to FP7:

An ERC-Team is **no consortium!**

You don't have "partners"

Third Countries **CAN** be financed!



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# Profile of the Principle Investigator (PI)

- **Any nationality or age**
- **Any current place of work** – but: working or moving to work in Europe (EU member state, Associated Country)
- **2-10 years of experience after PhD** - certain types of career breaks are accepted up to a maximum of 14 ½ years
- New: 2-6 Starters and 6-10 Consolidators
- **Potential for research independence and evidence of maturity**
  - at least **one important publication** without participation of PhD supervisor
  - **Track-record of early research achievements** appropriate to their research field and career stage



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# Profile of successful projects

## Important elements of project descriptions

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

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Successful German Starting Grantees

[www.nks-erc.de](http://www.nks-erc.de)

## The Path to ERC Grants:

Researchers in Germany Excel

Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft  
**DFG**

 Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

 **NKS**  
Nationale Koordinierung  
der Bundesregierung für das Europäische  
Forschungsrahmenprogramm

 **EUB**  
Europäische Union



## Projects

## „Funded Projects“ auf den Seiten des ERC:

Project	Acronym	Title	Principal Investigator	Host Institution
210934	<a href="#">19th-Century Euclid</a>	Nineteenth-Century Euclid: Geometry and the Literary Imagination from Wordsworth to Wells	Dr. Alice Jenkins	UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW
202445	<a href="#">2-HIT</a>	GENETIC INTERACTION NETWORKS: FROM C. ELEGANS TO HUMAN DISEASE	Dr Ben Lehner	FUNDACIO PRIVADA CENTRE DE REGULACIO GENOMICA
208792	<a href="#">3D-FM</a>	Taking Force Microscopy into the Third Dimension	Dr. Tjerk Hendrik Oosterkamp	UNIVERSITEIT LEIDEN.
209700	<a href="#">4C</a>	4C technology: uncovering the multi-dimensional structure of the genome	Dr. Wouter Leonard de Laat	KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN - KNAW
210806	<a href="#">4DVideo</a>	4DVideo: 4D spatio-temporal modeling of real-world events from video streams	Prof. Marc Pollefeys	EIDGENOESSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE ZUERICH
206281	<a href="#">AAMDDR</a>	DNA damage response and genome stability: The role of ATM, ATR and the Mre11 complex	Dr Vincenzo Costanzo	CANCER RESEARCH UK
203929	<a href="#">ACAP</a>	Agency Costs and Asset Pricing	Dr. Thomas Mariotti	FONDATION JEAN-JACQUES LAFFONT, TOULOUSE SCIENCES ECONOMIQUES
205641	<a href="#">AdipoDif</a>	Adipocyte Differentiation and Metabolic Functions in Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes	Dr. Christian Wolfrum	EIDGENOESSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE ZUERICH
205537	<a href="#">ADONIS</a>	Attosecond Dynamics On Interfaces and Solids	Dr. Reinhard Kienberger	MAX PLANCK GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTEN E.V.
207182	<a href="#">AFDMATS</a>	Anton Francesco Doni □ Multimedia Archive Texts and	Dr. Giovanna Rizzarelli	SCUOLA NORMALE SUPERIORE DI PISA

<http://erc.europa.eu>



## Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)

Search all CORDIS

Maps | Advanced Search

Search

About | What's New? | Sitemap

>> Quick Links

### Find a project

Project details are published on CORDIS after the negotiation and the signature of the grant agreement between the European Commission and the beneficiaries. This follows the publication of [calls for proposals](#) and the selection procedure where they are selected by the European Union to be partly financed by the Commission.

### Search Projects:

Enter search term(s): „Find a Project“ on CORDIS:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html)

Theme\*:

FP7-HEALTH  
FP7-ICT  
FP7-IDEAS  
FP7-INCO  
FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES

\* Keep the control key pressed to make more than one selection

Activity\*:

ERC - ERC  
ERC-AG - Advanced Grants  
ERC-EPS - Exploratory and preparatory studies  
ERC-OA - Other activities

\* Keep the control key pressed to make more than one selection

Country\*:

Any Country  
AUSTRIA  
BELGIUM  
BULGARIA  
CYPRUS  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
DENMARK

Sort order:

Most recent first

Search

Clear

→ FP7 Home

→ FP7 newsroom

→ Understand FP7

→ Participate in FP7

→ Find a call

→ Register your organisation (URF)

→ Preparation and Submission of Proposals (EPSS)

→ Get support

→ Find project partners

→ **Find a project**

→ Find a document

Specific  
programme

Activity

Host  
Institution-  
Country



# Proposal Structure & Evaluation

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## Proposal content and submission

### ERC Starting Grant proposal

#### PART A – online forms

**A1** Proposal and PI info

**A2** Host institution info

**A3** Budget

#### PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

##### **Section 1** Track Record of PI

Scientific Leadership Potential 2 p.

CV (including “funding ID”) 2 p.

Early achievements track record 2 p.

Extended synopsis 5 p.

#### Annexes – submitted as .pdf

Statement of support by host  
PhD certificate (incl. supporting  
documents to extend the  
eligibility window)

#### PART B2 – submitted as .pdf

**Section 2** Scientific proposal 15 p.

**Section 3** Research Environment 2 p.



# Documents to be uploaded

- **PART B & Annexes**

There are 4 **mandatory** uploads: B1, B2, PhD documentation and the HI Letter of support

**New:** 1 Ethical Issues Annex if there is a “YES” in any field of the ethical issues table.

- Templates are provided on [www.nks-erc.de](http://www.nks-erc.de) and EPSS.

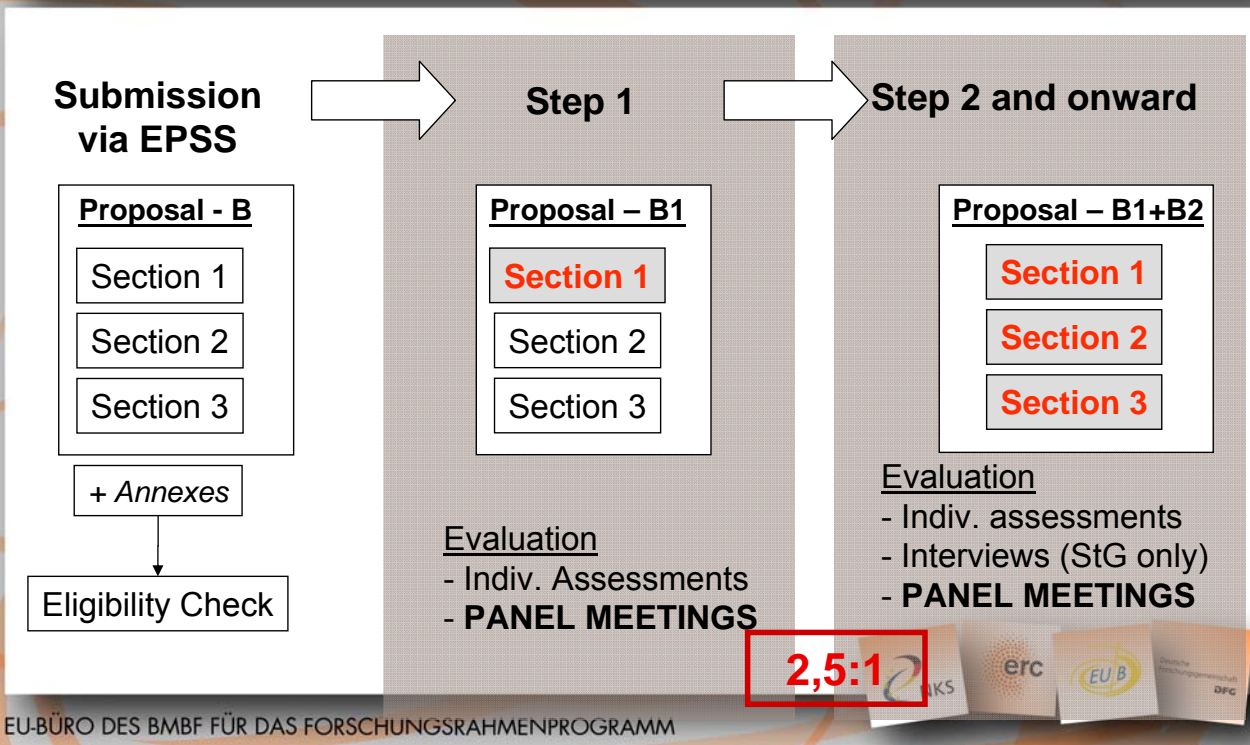
**Important:** use the provided templates or your proposal risks being declared ineligible

- **If applicable:** Documentation concerning career breaks



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## Proposal evaluation: details of step-1 and 2



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# Evaluation Criteria

1. Excellence of the PI (0-4 Points)
  - Quality of research, Track Record
  - Intellectual capabilities & creativity to go beyond the state of the art
2. Excellence of the Project (0-4 Points)
  - Ground-breaking nature of the research
  - Potential impact
  - Methodology
  - High gain/ high risk
3. Excellence of the Host Institution (pass/fail)
  - Guaranteeing scientific autonomy
  - Infrastructure & intellectual & financial support
  - Participation of external team members

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# Evaluation Methodology

- 25 Panels in 3 Domains
- 1 Panel chair + 12 to 15 panel members
- Referees and panels evaluate and score criteria 1 and 2 numerically, which will result in the ranking of the proposals
- Criteria 3 will be considered (step 2) on a "pass/fail" basis and commented but not scored
- Step 2 of the evaluation: Interviews and up to 5 remote referees
- **New:** Possibility to name 1 panel member to be excluded from Evaluation

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# Submission & Reapplication rules

- Only one ERC Grant per investigator may be active at any time
- Only one eligible application to ERC per year
- PIs submitting an eligible application and failing quality threshold(s) in the first step of evaluation will not be permitted to apply to the next ERC Starting Grant Call
- Successful Starting Grantees may apply for an Advanced Grant within the last two years of the Grant to allow uninterrupted funding
- **Important:** Reapplication Rules for applicants of StG/AdG 2009 still apply



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## How to apply? Via [www.cordis.lu](http://www.cordis.lu) and EPSS

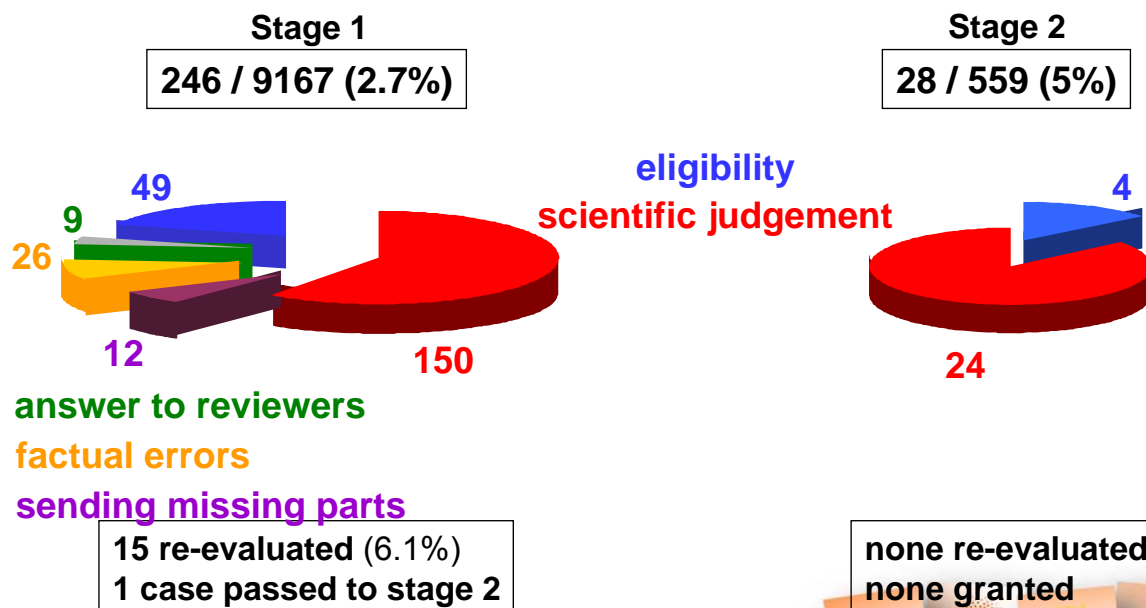
The screenshot shows the CORDIS website interface for the Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7). The main content area displays the 'ERC Calls: ERC-2009-AdG\_20090506' information package. Key details include: Publication Date: 19 November 2008; Budget: € 489 538 000; Deadline: 06 May 2009 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time); and Technical Call: Yes. A red banner states 'EPSS is now available for this call for proposals'. The left sidebar contains navigation links such as 'FP7 Home', 'Find a call', and 'Register your organisation (URF)'.

The screenshot shows the EPSS login page. It includes a welcome message and a 'Call Selected: ERC-2009-AdG\_20090506' notice. Below this, there are three options for users: 'I am the coordinator of a proposal and I need a user name and a password' (with a 'REGISTER!' button), 'I already have an online user name and a password' (with a 'LOGIN' button), and 'I am a participant (not the coordinator) in a proposal and I need a user name and password' (with a 'CONTACT YOUR COORDINATOR' button). There are also links for 'EPSS user guide' and 'Privacy Statement'.



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# Redress Starting Grant 2007



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## Grant Agreement & Costs



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# ERC Grant Agreement

- **(“Beneficiary”) Agreement between ERC and PI’s host institution**
  - Rights/obligations on scientific, financial, ethical conduct and monitoring, eligible costs, IPR, modifications, grant portability
- **Supplementary Agreement between PI and host institution**
  - Rights/obligations: administration, project execution, IPR
- **Accession forms for external team members**
  - In general: PI and members from same organisation
  - Additional institutions can participate if scientific added value is proven



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## Portability

- **Transfer of the Grant to another host institution possible**
  - Normally after minimum of 2 years at the initial host institution
- **Proper justification and approval by the ERC needed**
- **Quote: „Portability is my nuclear weapon“**



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# Reimbursement of Costs

- Up to 100% funding of the direct eligible costs plus 20% indirect costs
- Distinction between eligible and non-eligible costs
  - **Non eligible costs**
  - Any identifiable indirect taxes
  - Interest owed
  - Exchange losses
  - Etc.



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# Reimbursement of Costs

- Direct costs (resulting directly from the project – Research, Management, Training... and excluding subcontracting)
  - Personnel costs
  - Equipment costs
  - Travel and subsistence costs
  - Consumables
  - Publication costs
  - Etc.



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# Reimbursement of Costs

- 20% for Indirect cost
  - Administration & Management
  - Rent, standard equipment, electricity
  - Maintenance, Insurance costs
  - Etc.
- Flexible budget administration after receiving grant



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## Budget calculation

Cost Category	Total (Y1-5)
<b>Direct Costs (Personnel)</b> PI, Senior Staff, Post Docs, Students	800.000 €
<b>Other Direct Costs</b> Equipment, Consumables, Travel, Publications	450.000 €
<b>Indirect Costs (max. 20% of Direct costs)</b> Administration, equipment, rent, heating etc.	250.000 €
Subcontracting Costs (no overhead)	<b>Host Institution</b>
<b>Other non eligible costs</b>	
<b>Total costs of project vs Requested Grant</b>	<b>1,5 Mio</b>



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# Payment & Reporting

- Prefinancing at the beginning of the project
- Mid-term und final scientific report
  - Progress, Results, Publications
- Financial Report:
  - Periodic financial management report
  - For EC Funding equal or more than 375.000 € an audit certificate is required



## Guide to Financial Issues relating to FP7 Indirect Actions

Version 24/7/2007

### Disclaimer

This guide is aimed at assisting beneficiaries. It is provided for information purposes only and its contents are not intended to replace consultation of any applicable legal sources or the necessary advice of a legal expert, where appropriate. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on its behalf can be held responsible for the use made of these guidance notes.

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## ERC Starting Grant 2009 Outcome: Indicative statistics



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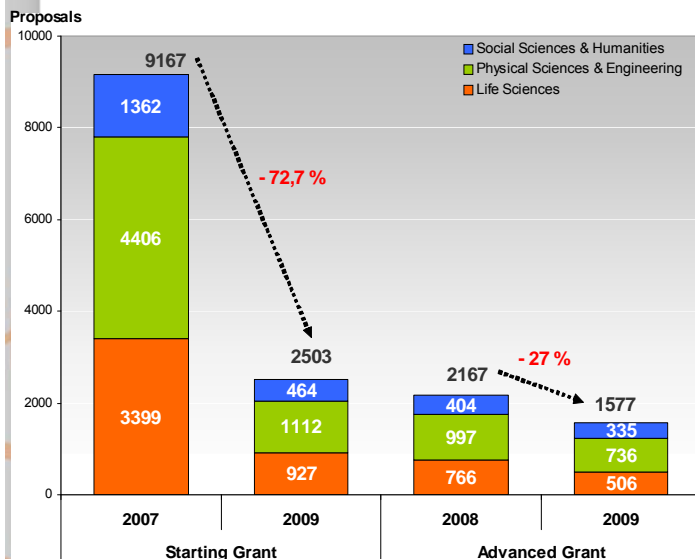
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the source "ERC" is acknowledged

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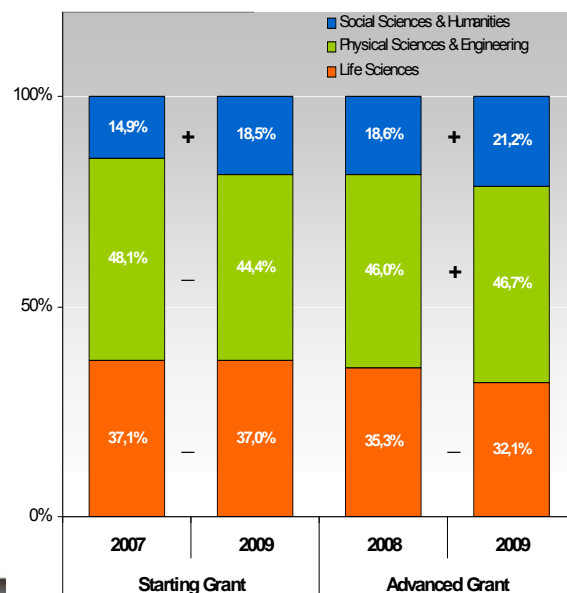
# ERC Starting & Advanced grant calls 2007, 2008 & 2009

## Submitted proposals by domain

Number of proposals

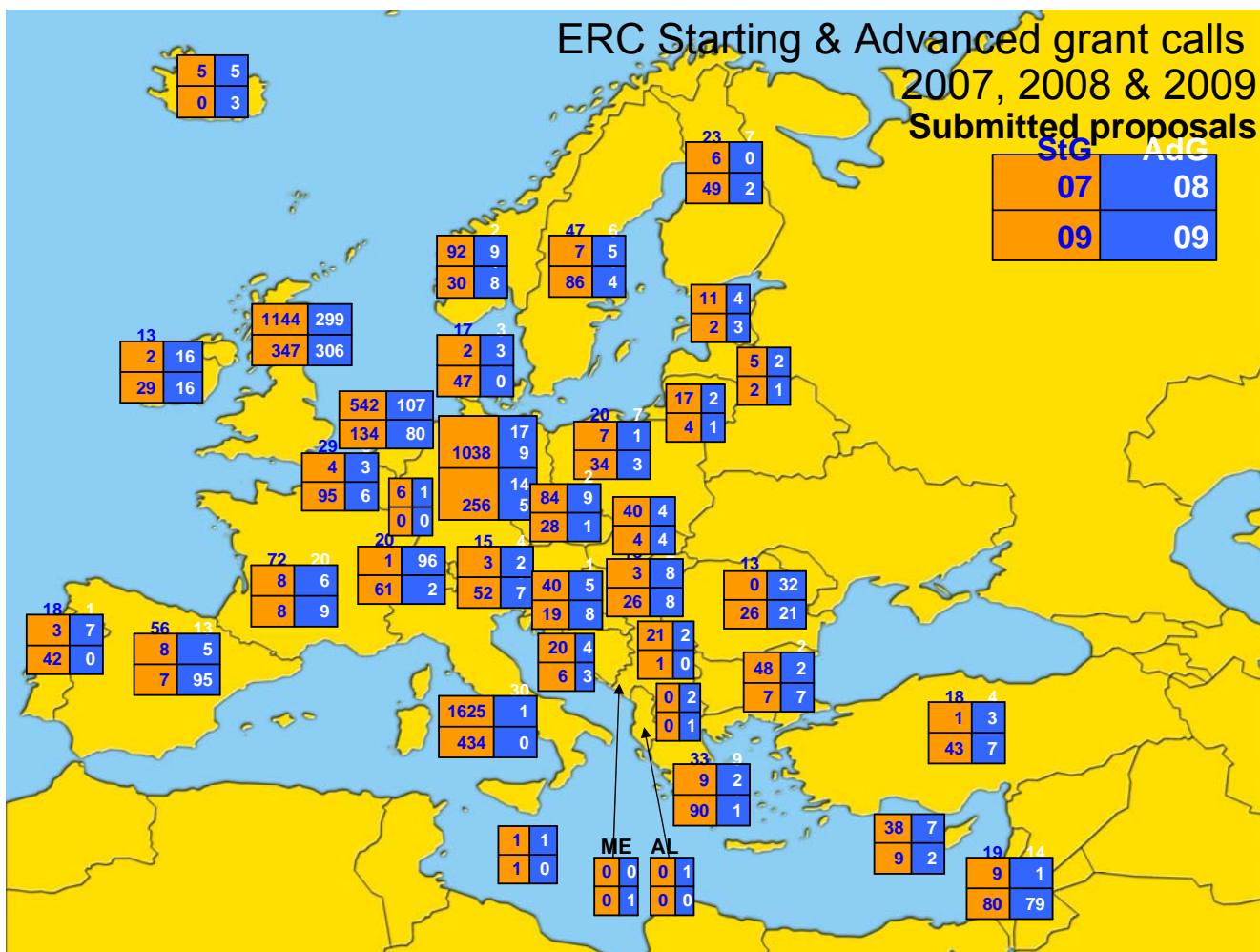


Proposals by domain



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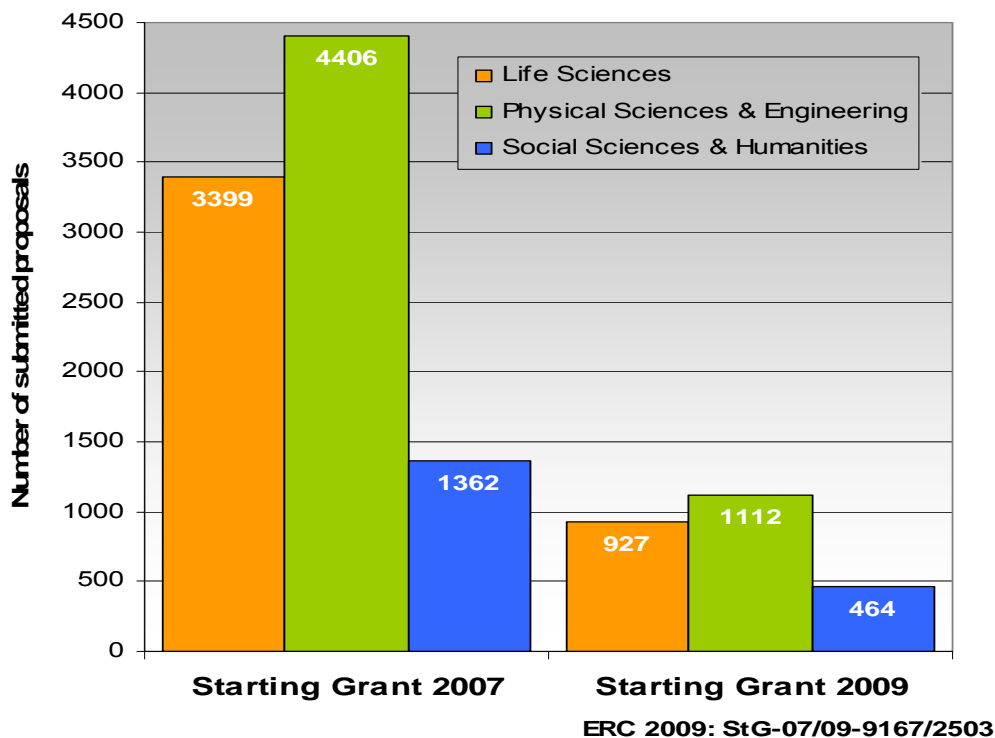
## ERC Starting & Advanced grant calls 2007, 2008 & 2009 Submitted proposals





# ERC Starting Grant: 2007 & 2009 calls

## Submission by domain & call

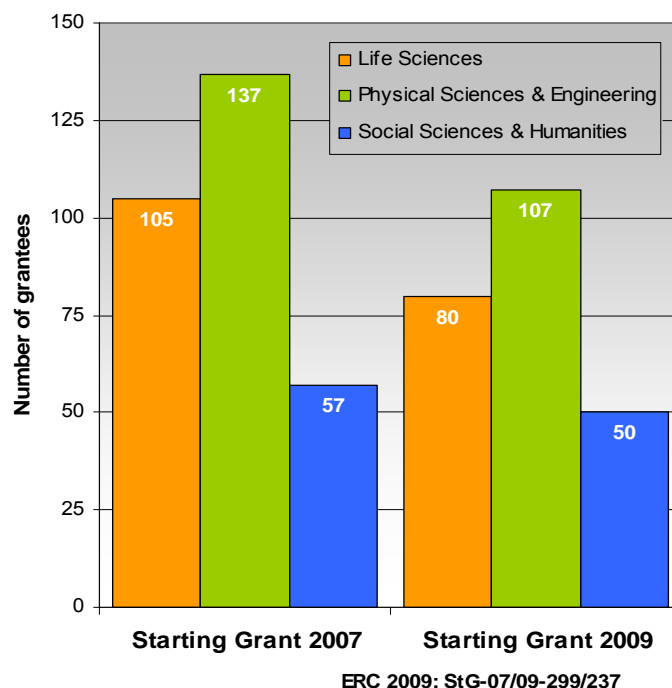


EU-BÜRO D



# ERC Starting Grant: 2007 & 2009 calls

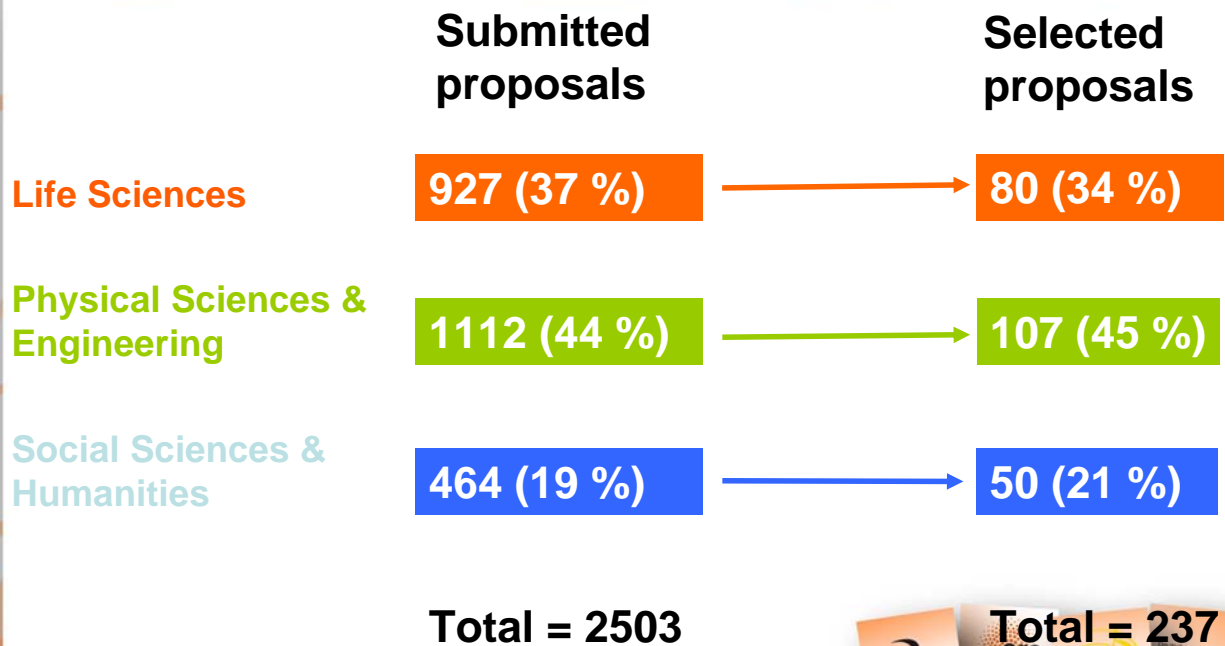
## Top 237 projects by domain & call



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## ERC Starting Grant: 2009 call Submitted and selected proposals by domain

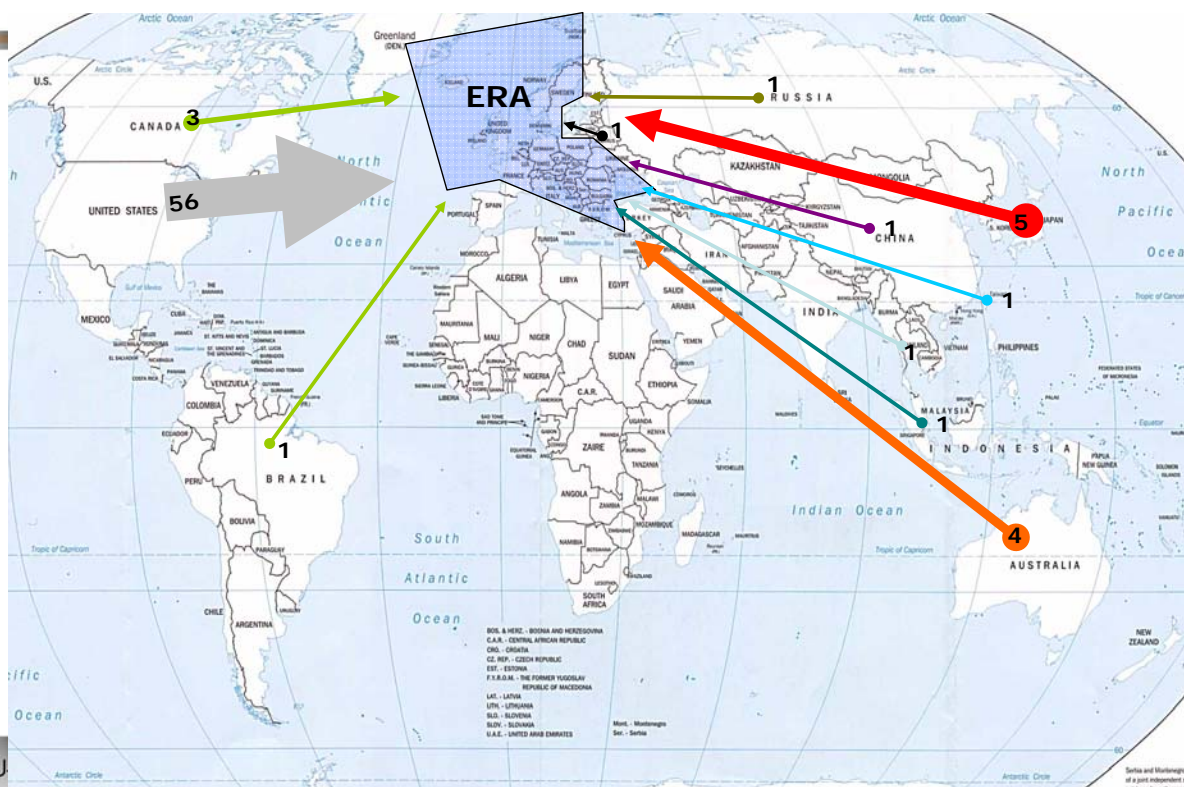


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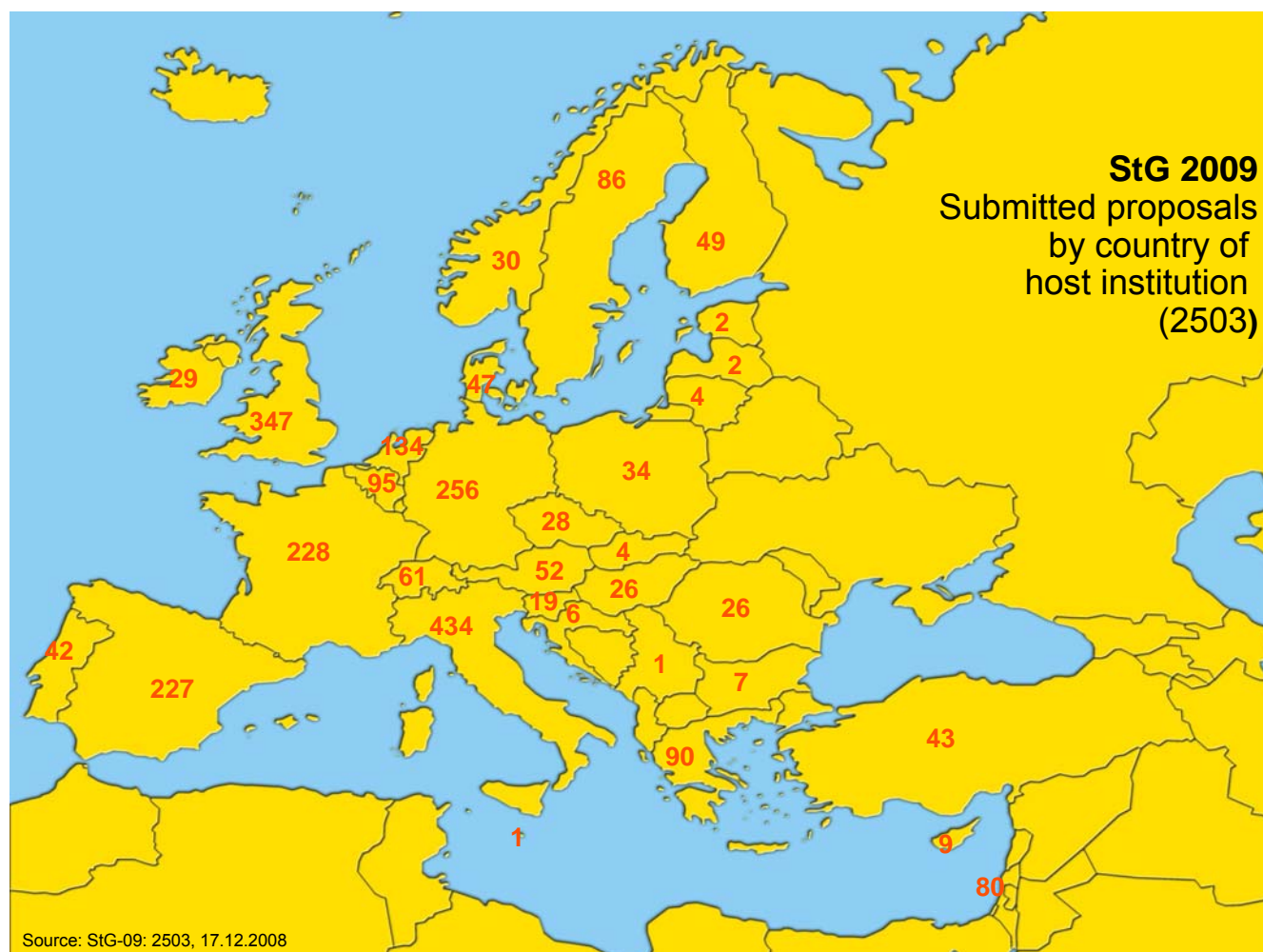
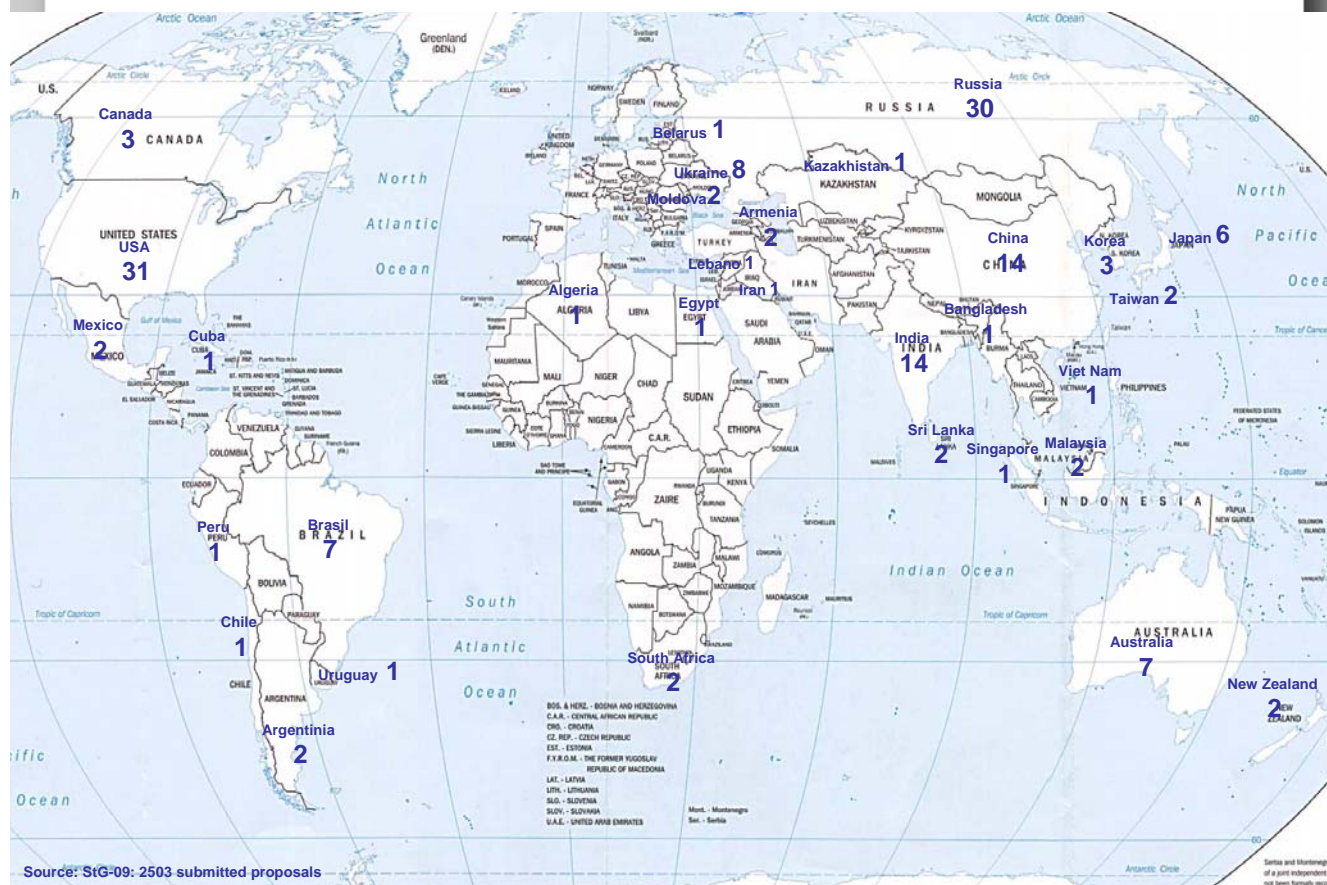
## ERC Starting Grant 2009

### Submissions from researchers with a residence outside of ERA



## ERC Starting Grant 2009

### Submissions from nationals of third countries

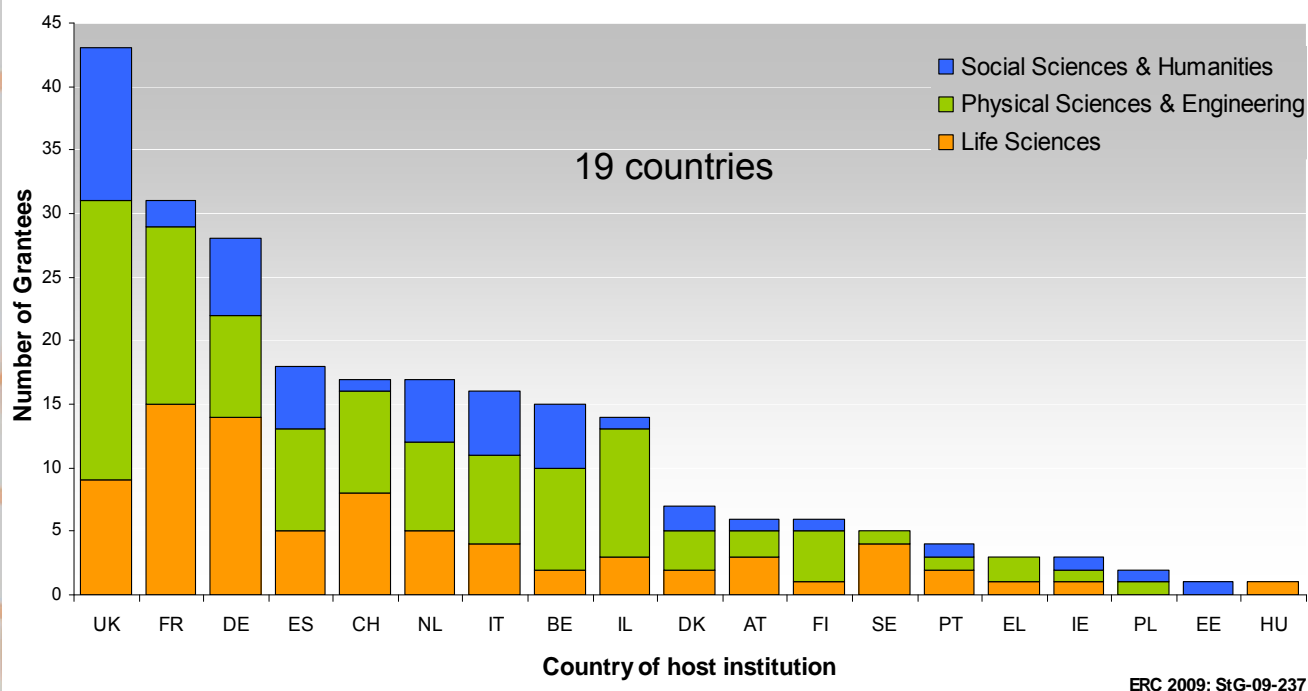




## ERC Starting Grant: 2009 call

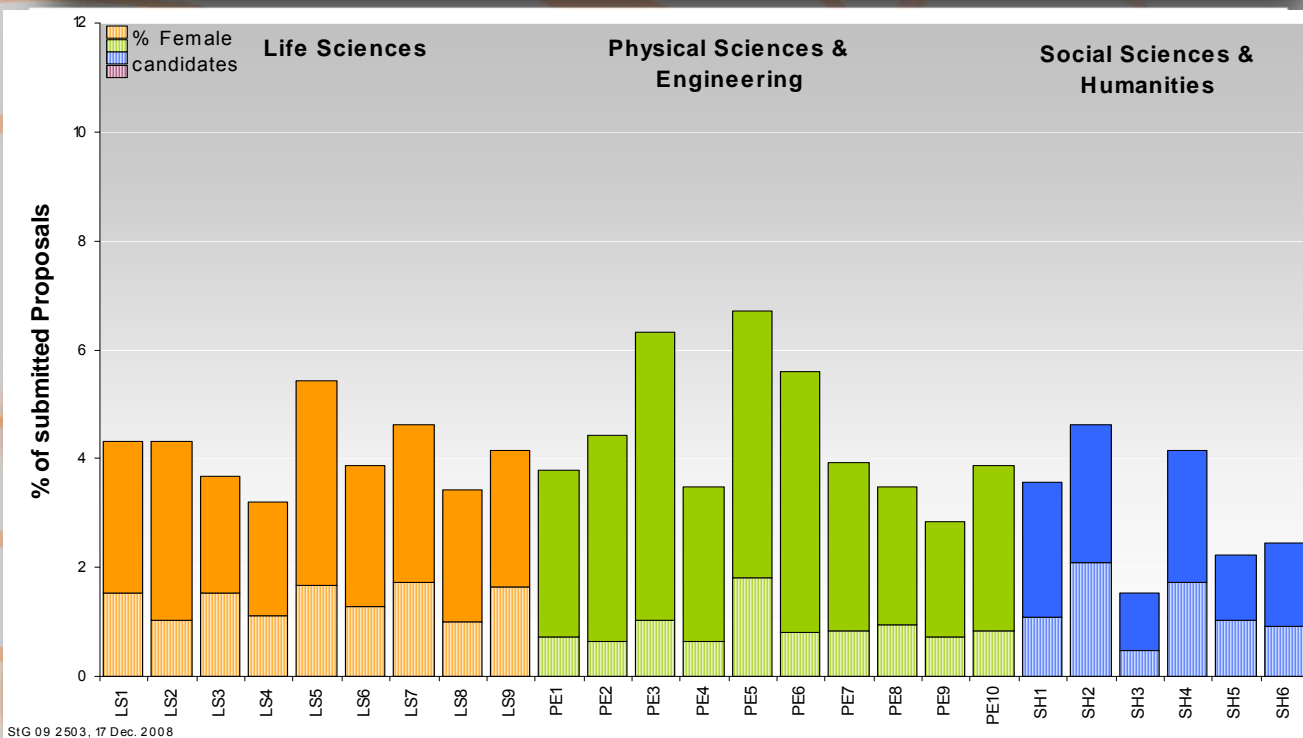
### Grantees by country of host institution & domain

Source: top 237 proposals



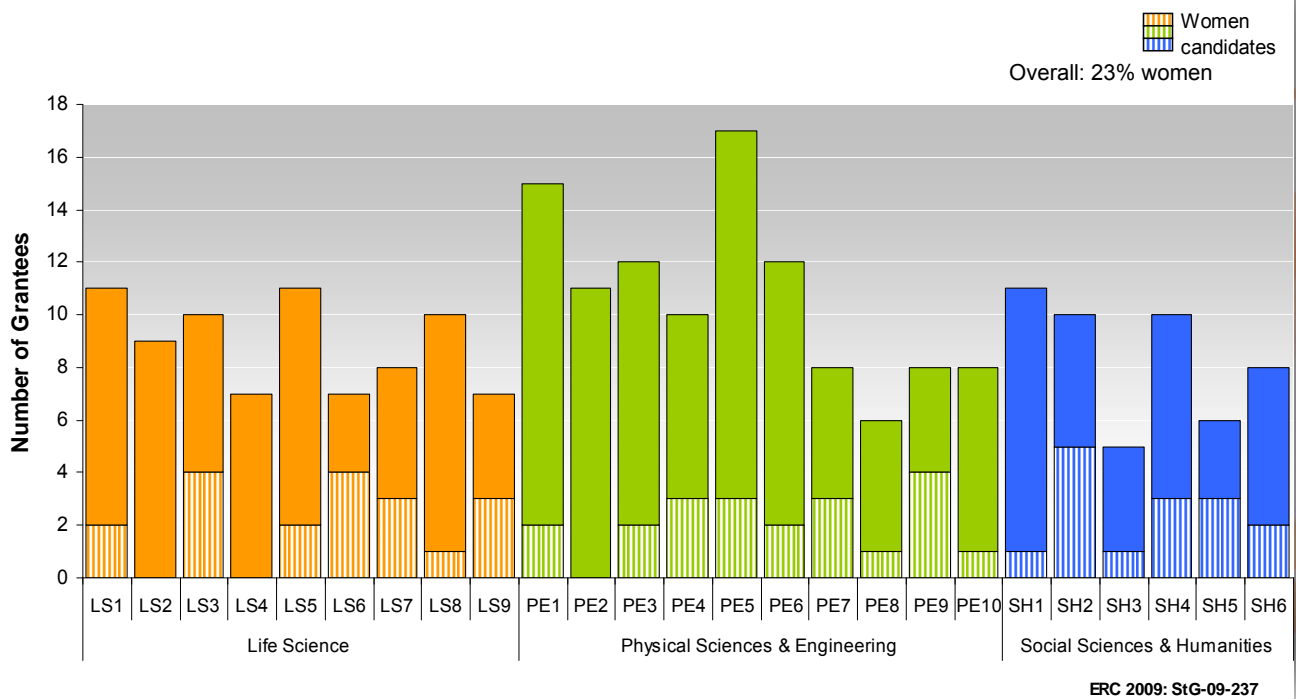
## ERC Starting Grant 2009

### Submitted proposals by panel & gender





ERC Starting Grant: 2009 call  
**Grantees by panel & gender**  
 Source: top 237 proposals



## Important Documents and Websides

NATIONALE KONTAKTSTELLE ERC

EU-BÜRO DES BMBF  
 FÜR DAS FORSCHUNGSRAHMENPROGRAMM  
 JOSEPH-SCHUMPETER-ALLEE 1  
 53227 BONN

TEL 0228 3821 630  
 FAX 0228 3821 649  
 E-MAIL eub@dlr.de  
 INTERNET www.nks-erc.de

# Important Documents

**IMPORTANT: Always use the latest versions!**

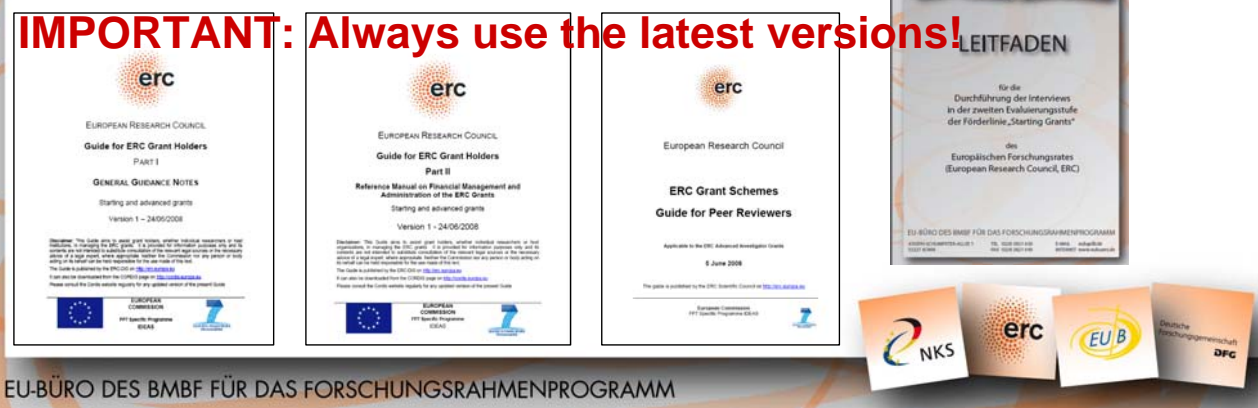


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# Other useful documents

- Guide for Grant Holders I und II
- Guide for Peer Reviewers
- “The Path to ERC-Grants”
- NKS-ERC Interview-Guide
- EPSS-Guide

**IMPORTANT: Always use the latest versions!**



EU-BÜRO DES BMBF FÜR DAS FORSCHUNGSRAHMENPROGRAMM

EU- Büro

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- Erstanlaufstelle
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- Infrastrukturen
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  - Pionierforschung
  - Zwischenevaluierung des ERC
  - Veranstaltungen
  - Dokumente
  - Schon gewusst?
- Wissenschaft in der Gesellschaft
- Kohärente Entwicklung der Forschungspolitiken
- Internationale Zusammenarbeit
- Gemeinsame Forschungsstelle (GFS)
- Recht und Finanzen
- ERA- NET
- Frauen in die EU-Forschung

## The National Contact Point ERC Germany:



European Research Council  
(ERC)

[www.nks-erc.de](http://www.nks-erc.de)



Die Nationale Kontaktstelle ERC wird in Kooperation des EU-Büro des BMBF mit der [DFG](#) durchgeführt.

### Aktuelles

- [Neuer Generalsekretär des ERC](#)
- [Informations-Veranstaltungen](#)
- [Zweite Ausschreibung Starting Grants - Stand der Dinge](#)
- ["Funded Projects" auf den Seiten des ERC: Neue Elemente](#)
- [Zwischenevaluierung des ERC](#)
- [Zweite Ausschreibung der Advanced Grants - Stand der Dinge](#)
- [Dritte Ausschreibung der Starting Grants - Stand der Dinge](#)

### Neuer Generalsekretär des ERC

Am 1. Juli 2009 hat der Spanier Prof. Andreu Mas-Colell das Amt des Generalsekretärs des ERC übernommen. Er löst damit Prof. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker ab, der die ersten Jahre des ERC entscheidend mitgestaltet hatte. Beide Generalsekretäre waren bereits 2006 vom Scientific Council gewählt worden.

Der Generalsekretär ist in der Struktur des ERC das Bindeglied zwischen dem Wissenschaftlichen Rat und der entstehenden Exekutivagentur.

Die Pressemitteilung des ERC zum Amtsantritt von Prof. Mas-Colell finden Sie [hier](#).

### Kontakt

#### Beratung:

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## Schon gewusst?

### Themen:

## FAQ-Section: „Schon gewusst?“



Die Nationale Kontaktstelle ERC wird in Kooperation des EU-Büro des BMBF mit der [DFG](#) durchgeführt.

### Aktuelle Hinweise

**Zwischenevaluierung de ERC:** Besuchen Sie unser [Info-Seite](#) und die [Webseite](#) für den "Mid-Term-Review" des ERC ur lesen Sie die Pressemitteilungen [1](#) und [2](#).

### Links

[ERC FAQ](#)

[Homepage des ERC](#)

[Aktuelle ERC-Calls auf CORDIS](#)

[FAQs des ERC zum Startir Grant](#)

### Ist das Zeitfenster von 3-8 Jahren ein hartes Kriterium?

Das für die Antragsberechtigung in der Starting Grant-Förderlinie vorgegebene Zeitfenster von 3 bis 8 Jahren (im Ausnahmefall bis zu 11 Jahre) nach der Promotion ist ein hartes Kriterium. Es zählt vom Tag der Ausstellung der Promotionsurkunde bis zum Tag der Veröffentlichung der relevanten Ausschreibung.

Die vorgesehene Ausnahmeregel gilt ausschließlich für Forscherinnen und Forscher, die Elternzeit für nach der Promotion geborene Kinder (Frauen: 1 Jahr Verlängerung pro Kind / Männer: exakte Zeit pro Kind, die der Vater nicht gearbeitet hat), eine lange Krankheit oder Wehrdienstzeit nachweisen können.

**Wichtig:** Die Zeiten außerhalb des Berufs müssen zwingend nach Erhalt der Promotion angefallen sein. Wenn die Elternzeit erst nach der Promotion begonnen hat, das Kind jedoch bereits vor der Promotion geboren wurde, sieht



# Applicants Services

## Information and helpdesks

- **ERC News Alert**  
<http://erc.europa.eu/newsalert>
- **ERC National Contact Points**  
inform, raise awareness and provide advice on ERC funding opportunities, application, follow-up  
<http://erc.europa.eu/ncp>
- **ERC helpdesk**  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?lg=en&pg=enquiries>
- **EPSS helpdesk**  
technical support on electronic proposal submission  
<https://www.epss-fp7.org/epss/helpdesk.jsp>

EU-BÜRO DES BMBF FÜR DAS FORSCHUNGSRAHMENPROGRAMM



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**Internet:** [www.nks-erc.de](http://www.nks-erc.de)





# Thank you for your attention!



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