

ERC IN BRIEF

FET INFODAY, FFG, 14.1.2016



ERC – MAIN FEATURES



- Funds potentially **groundbreaking research** (“**frontier research**”) by individual researchers (PIs) and their teams
- Open for **all areas of research**
- **Scientific excellence** is the only criterion for funding
- Led by autonomous Scientific Council
- **highly competitive** : ~ 10% success rate



ERC: FUNDING PRINCIPLES (1)

1 Principal Investigator (PI)

+

Host Institution (HI)



For excellent scientists in all career stages

Starting Grant: establish independent research team/programme

Consolidator Grant: consolidate research team/programme

Advanced Grant: novel, ambitious research programme

- Min. **time commitment** by PI (50% StG; 40% CoG; 30% AdG for project; min 50% in Europe)
- Funding goes to HI, but HI guarantees autonomy of PI
- ERC-Grants are portable

ERC: FUNDING PRINCIPLES (2)



STARTING GRANTS „Starters“

2-7 years post PhD
until 1.1.2016
max. **1,5** (-2,0)

Mio € for 5 years
next DL:
Autumn 17?

CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS „Consolidators“

7-12 yrs post PhD
until 1.1.2016

max. **2,0** (- 2,75)
Mio € for 5 years

Deadline: 2.2.2016

ADVANCED GRANTS

outstanding track
record in the last 10
years

max. **2,5** (- 3,5)
Mio € for 5 years

Deadline: 1.9.2016

Eligibility time-window can be extended under defined circumstances (e.g. parental leave, illness; national service, clinical training). No limit for extension

PROPOSAL STRUCTURE



Administrative Forms

- 1 General info, abstract
- 2 Participants & contacts
- 3 Budget
- 4 Ethics
- 5 Call-specific questions


+ Annexes:

- Commitment letter of HI
- Supporting documents if required (e.g. PhD certificate)

 Eligibility check


PART B1 – pdf

- CV 2 p.
- Track record 2 p.
- Extended synopsis** 5 p.

 **Step 1:**
only **B1** is
evaluated
by **Panel**
Members
(„**Generalists**“)
only

PART B2 – pdf

- Scientific proposal** 15 p

 **Step 2:**
B1 + **B2** are
evaluated
by **Panel +**
external
Referees
(„**Specialists**“)

StG, CoG:
INTERVIEW

EVALUATION: PANEL MEMBERS AND REMOTE REFEREES

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES (6 Panels)

Physical Sciences and Engineering (10 Panels)

Life Sciences (9 Panels)

- LS1 Molecular & Structural Biology and Biochemistry
- LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics, Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences and Neural Disorders
- LS6 Immunity and Infection
- LS7 Diagnostic Tools, Therapies and Public Health
- LS8 Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology
- LS9 Applied Life Sciences and Non-Medical Biotechnology

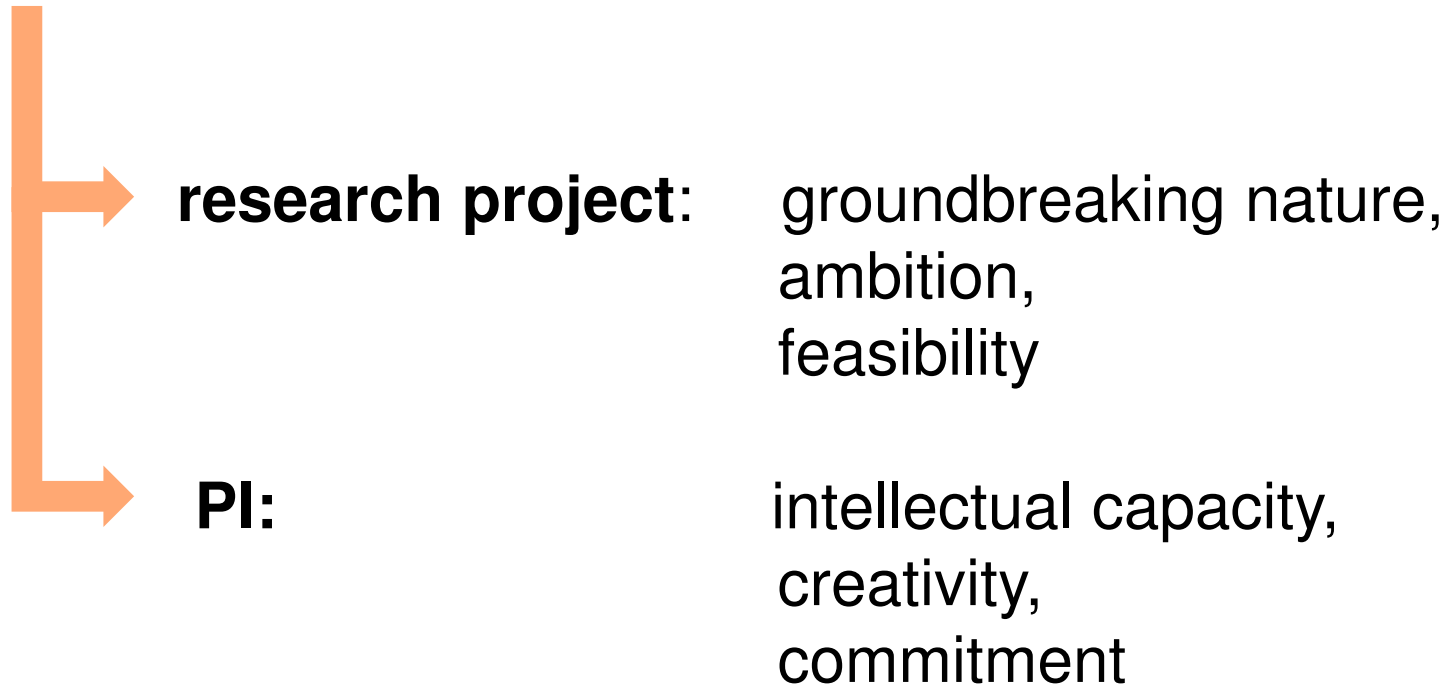


Remote Referees
„Specialists“
Step 2

- LS6 Immunity and Infection:** The immune system and related disorders, infectious agents and diseases, prevention and treatment of infection
- LS6_1 Innate immunity and infection
 - LS6_2 Adaptive immunity
 - LS6_3 Phagocytosis and cellular immunity
 - LS6_4 Immunology
 - LS6_5 Immunological memory and tolerance
 - LS6_6 Immunology
 - LS6_7 Microbiology
 - LS6_8 Virology
 - LS6_9 Immunology
 - LS6_10 Parasitology
 - LS6_11 Prevention and treatment of infection by pathogens (e.g. vaccination, antibiotics, fungicide)
 - LS6_12 Biological basis of immunity related disorders (e.g. autoimmunity)
 - LS6_13 Veterinary medicine and infectious diseases in animals

10-15 Members/Panel
„Generalists“
Step 1 and Step 2

SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE



PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR: PROFILE OUTLINE OF A “STARTER”



- **PhD** awarded min **2 – max 7 years** until (including) January 1st, 2016
- must have already shown the **potential** for **research independence** and evidence of **maturity**. E.g. at least one important publication without the participation of the PhD supervisor
- promising **track-record of early achievements** appropriate to the research field and career stage: publications, monographs, invited presentations, patents, prizes/award,...

PROFILE OUTLINE OF A “CONSOLIDATOR”



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- **PhD** awarded **>7 – max. 12 years** until (including) January 1st, 2016
- must have already shown **research independence and evidence of maturity**, e.g. **several** important publications without participation of the PhD supervisor.
- promising **track-record of early achievements** appropriate to the research field and career stage: publications, monographs, invited presentations, prizes/awards, patents,...

“ADVANCED” PROFILE OUTLINE



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- No eligibility criteria, but intense competition (~ 12 % success rate)
- active researchers with a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years; at least matching one or more of the following benchmarks:
- **10 publications as senior author** (or joint author, depending on field) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, and/or in the leading international peer reviewed journals and peer-reviewed conferences in the field

“ADVANCED” PROFILE OUTLINE (2)



- 3 major research monographs, of which at least one is translated into another language (e.g. humanities, social sciences)

Other alternative benchmarks may be considered, e.g:

- 5 granted patents
- 10 invited presentations in well-established international conferences
- 3 research expeditions led by PI
- organisation of international conferences/congresses
- awards, prizes
- major contributions to launching careers of outstanding researchers
- recognised leadership in industrial innovation

„ERC PROFILES“ FOR COMPARISON



The screenshot shows the 'ERC Funded Projects' page on the ERC website. The header features the ERC logo and the tagline 'Supporting top researchers from anywhere in the world'. A navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Funding and Grants', 'Projects and Results', 'Media and Events', 'About ERC', and 'Contact us'. The main content area is titled 'ERC Funded Projects' and includes a grid of project images. A sidebar on the left offers filters for funding scheme, subpanel, and country, along with a search bar and a 'Clear all' button. Text on the page explains the ERC's 'investigator-driven' approach and provides statistics: 'Since 2007, more than 4,500 projects have been selected to receive ERC funding throughout the EU Member States and the associated countries. The ERC has received over 43,000 project proposals for its calls.' It also mentions that users can filter projects by funding scheme, research area, and country, and that Horizon 2020 projects are available on the EU Open Data Portal.

<http://erc.europa.eu/projects-and-results/erc-funded-projects>

ERC PROPOSAL: KEY CONSIDERATIONS



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- How does the project break new ground? What is its „**core novelty**“? What makes it unique?
- What are the main overarching **research questions/ testable hypotheses**? (→ + validation of results, interpretation)
- What are the central research **objectives**?
- What is your (mid-/long-term) „research vision“?
- **Risk/gain**-balance/Feasibility: Convincing preliminary data/results?
- Which **panel** is best suited?
- What is the best **structure** for the proposal?

KEEPING UP TO DATE: IMPORTANT LINKS



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ERC homepage

<http://erc.europa.eu/>

Abstracts, PIs, Panels of granted ERC projects

<http://erc.europa.eu/projects-and-results/erc-funded-projects>

Previous ERC Panel Members:

<http://erc.europa.eu/evaluation-panels>

ERC Newsletter

<http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc>



ERC-RELATED SERVICES BY FFG



- ERC Grant Proposal writing trainings
- Individual consultancy
- Proposal checks
- Information packs
- Interview Trainings
- Homepage: <https://www.ffg.at/Europa/Horizon2020>
- ERC: <https://www.ffg.at/erc>
- contact: ylva.huber@ffg.at