

Short introduction to IDEAS Programme

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Overview



- **Evolution of an idea**
- **The Scientific Council's ERC strategy**
- **The ERC Work Programme 2007**

Source: European Commission



ERC's Central Strategy:

<http://erc.europa.eu>

First Call of Proposals

Source: European Commission



ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant (ERC Starting Grant)

- *The only programme funded in 2007*
- *Ca. 200 new investigators/year in any field; funded ca. 1.5 M€ up to 5 yrs*
- *Sole selection criterion: Excellence of person & proposal*
- *Eligibility:*
 - (a) 2-9 years since PhD (at submission deadline) (could be up to 12 years according to specific circumstances)*
 - (b) Newly established in research or educational position
(or offer of position), within EU or associated States*
 - (c) No nationality criterion: The 3 Rs:*
- *Recruit, Repatriate, Retain TOP TALENT (ca 1200 positions in 7 years)*



ERC Advanced Investigator Grant (ERC Advanced Grant)



Source: European Commission

- *Start up expected in 2nd year*
- *Annual budget minus ERC Starting Grants*
- *From ca. 250 M to > 1 billion €/year (ca. 3M€ / proposal) → ca. 200 grants committed / each year*
- *Sole selection criterion: Excellence of proposal & track record*
- *Eligibility: investigators at all career stages; no age limit; 3 Rs*



ERC budget 2007-2013

Source: European Commission

- **Total (FP7 Ideas budget): € ≈7.5 bn**
 - ✓ ≈ 15 % of FP7 budget
 - ✓ ≈1/3 Starting Grants, ≈ 2/3 Advanced Grants
 - ✓ Less than 5% for operational ERC management
- **1st Call**
 - ✓ StG only, Jan 2007, € 300 Mio.
- **2nd Call**
 - ✓ AdG only, August 2007, € 550 Mio.
- **3rd call onwards:**
 - ✓ StG + AdG ≈ € 1.0 bn per year



Applying for ERC Grants (I)



Source: European Commission

➤ Two-step application procedure (risk of oversubscription)

- 1st stage – Outline Proposal: max 8 Pages (3+4+1)
- 2nd stage – Full Proposal: max 16 Pages (4+10+2)

➤ Proposal Components

- a) CV + self-evaluation of the PI's research achievements + funding ID
- b) Brief Description of scientific and technical aspects of the project
- c) Description of the scientific environment and resources

➤ Electronic Submission only (via EPSS)

➤ Pre-registration (via EPSS) – indication of number /area of proposals



Applying for ERC Grants (II)

Source: European Commission

➤ Eligibility (ERC Starting Grant)

➤ PI

- 2-9 years since completion of PhD: Special circumstances will be taken into account, such as maternity/paternity leave, military/civil service (+2 years max.)

➤ PI and contributing investigators (team members)

- Any nationality
- One ERC Grant per investigator only may be active at any one time

➤ Hosting institution

- Located in a EU member state or associated country
- Intra-European grant portability allowed



Evaluation criteria (I)

Scientific Excellence is the sole Criterion
Source: European Commission



1. Potential of applicant
2. Quality of project
3. Research Environment

- Referees and panels evaluate and score criteria under Heading 1 and Heading 2 numerically which will result in the ranking of the projects
- Criteria under Heading 3 will be considered as "pass/fail" and commented but not scored



Evaluation criteria (II)

ERC Starting Grant

Source: European Commission



1. Principal Investigator: Potential to become a world class research leader

a. Quality of research output

- Has the Principal Investigator published in high quality peer reviewed journals or the equivalent?
- To what extent are these publications ground-breaking and demonstrative of independent creative thinking and capacity to go significantly beyond the state of the art?

b. Intellectual capacity and creativity

- To what extent does the Principal Investigator's record of research, collaborations, project conception, supervision of students and publications demonstrate that he/she is able to confront major research challenges in the field, and to initiate new productive lines of thinking?



Evaluation criteria (III)

ERC Starting Grant

Source: European Commission



2. Quality of the research proposal

a. Ground-breaking nature of the research

b. Potential impact

c. Methodology

- Stage 1: Is the outlined scientific approach (including the activities to be undertaken by the individual team members) feasible?
- Stage 2: Is the proposed research methodology (including when pertinent the use of instrumentation, other type of infrastructures etc.) comprehensive and appropriate for to the project? Will it enable the goals of the project convincingly to be achieved within the timescales and resources proposed and the level of risk associated with a challenging research project?



Evaluation criteria (IV)

ERC Starting Grant

Source: European Commission



3. Research Environment

a. Transition to independence

- Will the proposed project enable the Principal Investigator to make or consolidate the transition to independence?

b. Host institution

- Is it in a position to provide an appropriate intellectual environment and infrastructural support and to assist in achieving the ambitions for the project and the Principal Investigator?

c. Participation of other legal entities

- If it is proposed that other legal entities participate in the project, in addition to the applicant legal entity, is their participation fully justified by the scientific added value they bring to the project?



Funding rates

Source: European Commission

100% of all direct eligible cost

20% for Indirect Cost



Evaluation – Stage 1



Source: European Commission

Stage 1

- Submission and reception of proposal
- Allocation to relevant Panel(s)
- Assignment of best-matched Panel members by Panel Chair(s)
- Stage 1 panel meeting
- **Outcome:** Proposal rejected or retained for Stage 2

Evaluation – Stage 2

Source: European Commission

Stage 2

- Submission of complete and updated proposal
- Panels may be assisted by:
 - Referees (remote Evaluation using “Rivet”)
 - Interviews with applicants
- Stage 2 Panel meeting
- **Outcome:** Consolidated ranking list of retained proposals



Panel Structure

Source: European Commission



- 1. PHYSICAL SCIENCES, ENGINEERING SCIENCES, UNIVERSE AND EARTH SCIENCES (8 panels)**
- 2. BIOLOGICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES (7 panels)**
- 3. SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES (5 panels)**

Each panel consists of one Panel Chair and approximately 10 panel members

Panel Chair oversees evaluation process for the proposals assigned to his/her panel in collaboration with the ERC staff

The Panel Chair gives high level stamp of credibility and visibility to the whole evaluation process



Relevant Links

Source: European Commission



- IDEAS Programme: Home page

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideas/home_en.html

- The Call for proposals

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.IdeasDetailsCallPage&call_id=3

- Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/epss_en.html



Electronic Submission of the Proposals: EPSS

- Dead-line: 25 April 2007 (17.00 CET)
- 2nd Phase: 17 September 2007



IDEAS Programme
Short introduction
presentation based on the slides
provided by the European Commission

Ευχαριστώ για την προσοχή σας