

WRITING A COMPETITIVE ERC PROPOSAL

July 30, 2019, Sao Paolo

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OUTLINE

- ERC principles in brief
- Sharing experiences: ERC grantee/panel member
- Writing the proposal: Structure and some lessons learnt
- Practical exercise: Discussing a successful proposal



**Scientific excellence
is the only funding criterion**

**Open for all areas
of research**

**Led by autonomous
Scientific Council**

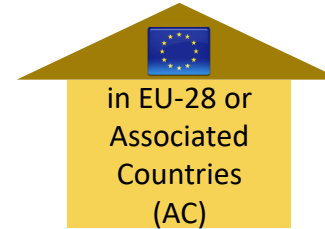
**Highly
competitive**

1 Principal Investigator (PI) + Host Institution (HI)



Excellent scientists in all career stages

- **Starter**
- **Consolidator**
- **Advanced**



- Minimum time commitment by PI (50% in EU/AC; 50%/40%/30% for project)
- PI autonomy
- ERC Grants are portable

2 - 4 Principal Investigators (PI)



including 1 Corresponding PI
(admin. contact for ERC)

+

Host Institution/s (HI)



Corresponding HI in
EU-28 or
Associated
Countries; **1 HI can
be located outside
of EU/AC**

- Excellent scientists in all career stages
- Max. **EUR 10 million for up to 6 years** (up to EUR 14 million in defined exceptional cases)

- Minimum 30% time commitment to project by each PI
- Minimum 50% of total working time spent in EU-28/AC by each PI except if one PI (not Corresponding PI) located at HI outside EU-28/AC

MAIN ERC FUNDING SCHEMES

STARTING GRANT

2-7 years post PhD

max. **1,5** (-2,5)
Mio € for 5 years

next deadline:
16 Oct 2019
Eligibility reference
date 1.1.2020

CONSOLIDATOR GRANT

7-12 years post PhD

max. **2,0** (- 3,0) **Mio**
€ for 5 years

next deadline:
4 Feb 2020
Eligibility reference
date 1.1.2020

ADVANCED GRANT

outstanding track
record in the last 10
years

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

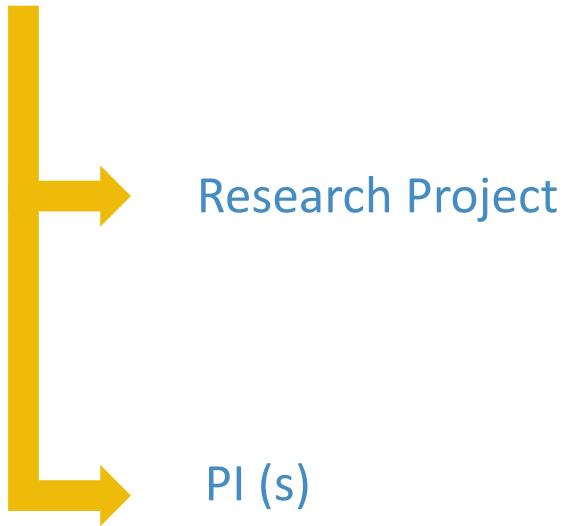
next deadlines:
Aug 29, 2019
Aug 26, 2020

Eligibility time-window can be extended
in defined cases, e.g. for maternity, parental
leave, long-term illness

SYNERGY GRANT

max **10 Mio** (-14
Mio) **€** for 6 years
next deadline:
5 Nov 2019

SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE



PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION STEPS (STARTING, CONSOLIDATOR & ADVANCED GRANT)

Part A – Administrative Forms

Part B – Proposal



incl. Host commitment letter, ethics,
budget/resources

PART B1:

CV 2 p.

Track record 2 p.

Extended synopsis 5 p.



Step 1:

only **B1** is evaluated
by **Panel** Members
("Generalists")
only



Step 2:

B1 + B2 are
evaluated
by **Panel +**
external
Referees
("Specialists")

PART B2:

Scientific proposal 15 p

StG, CoG:
Interview

THE QUESTIONS TO ERC REVIEWERS (1)

Research project (1)

- **Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project:**
 - To what extent does the proposed research address **important challenges**?
 - To what extent are the objectives **ambitious** and **beyond the state of the art** (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?
 - To what extent is the proposed research **high risk/high gain** (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

THE QUESTIONS TO ERC REVIEWERS (2)

Research project (2)

- **Scientific approach:**
 - To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain? (based on the Extended Synopsis)
 - To what extent are the proposed **research methodology and working arrangements** appropriate to achieve the goals of the project? (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
 - To what extent does the proposal involve the development of **novel methodology** (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
 - To what extent are the **proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment** adequate and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

THE QUESTIONS TO ERC REVIEWERS (3) - SYNERGY

Research project (3)

- **Scientific approach:**
 - To what extent does the proposal go beyond what individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone (for Synergy Grants, based on the Extended Synopsis)?
 - To what extent is the combination of scientific elements put forward in the proposal crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research question (for Synergy Grants, based on the Extended Synopsis)?

THE QUESTIONS TO ERC REVIEWERS (4)

Principal Investigator(s) - Starting and Consolidator

- **Intellectual capacity and creativity**

- To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?
- To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

THE QUESTIONS TO ERC REVIEWERS (5)

Principal Investigator(s) -Advanced and Synergy

- **Intellectual capacity and creativity**
 - To what extent has/have the PI(s) demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
 - To what extent does/do the PI(s) have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?
 - To what extent has the PI demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists (for Advanced Grant applicants)?

THE QUESTIONS TO ERC REVIEWERS (5)

Synergy Grant Group

- **Synergy**
 - To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the elements – such as skills, knowledge, experience, expertise, disciplines, methods, approaches, teams – necessary to address the proposed research question (for Synergy Grants, based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

EVALUATION PANELS: STG, COG, ADG

Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment and Space
- SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures and Cultural Productions
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past

Physical Sciences and Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- PE6 Computer Science & Informatics
- PE7 Systems & Comm. Engineering
- PE8 Products and Processes Eng.
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science

Life Sciences

- 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

Overall, we
think....

I think....

I think....

I think....

Generalists

10-16 Panel Members
Step 1 and Step 2

Specialists

Remote Referees
Step 2

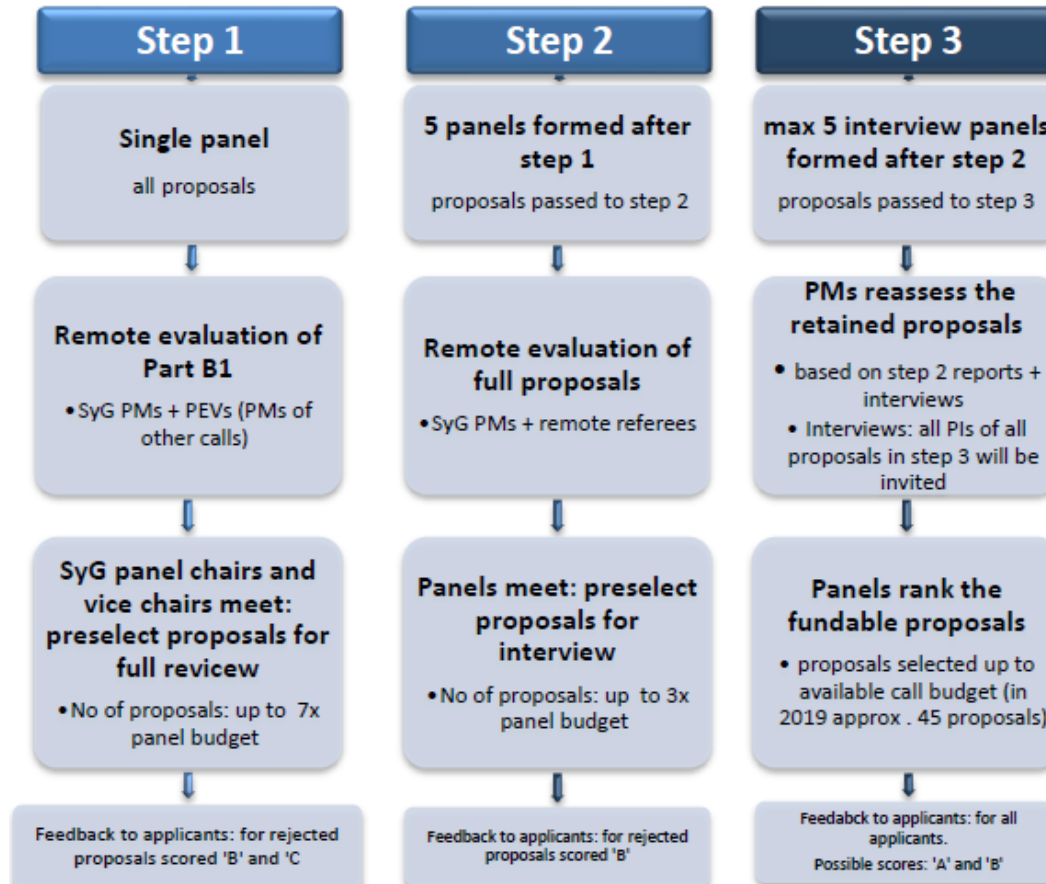
EXAMPLE: PANEL AND DESCRIPTORS

LS8 Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology

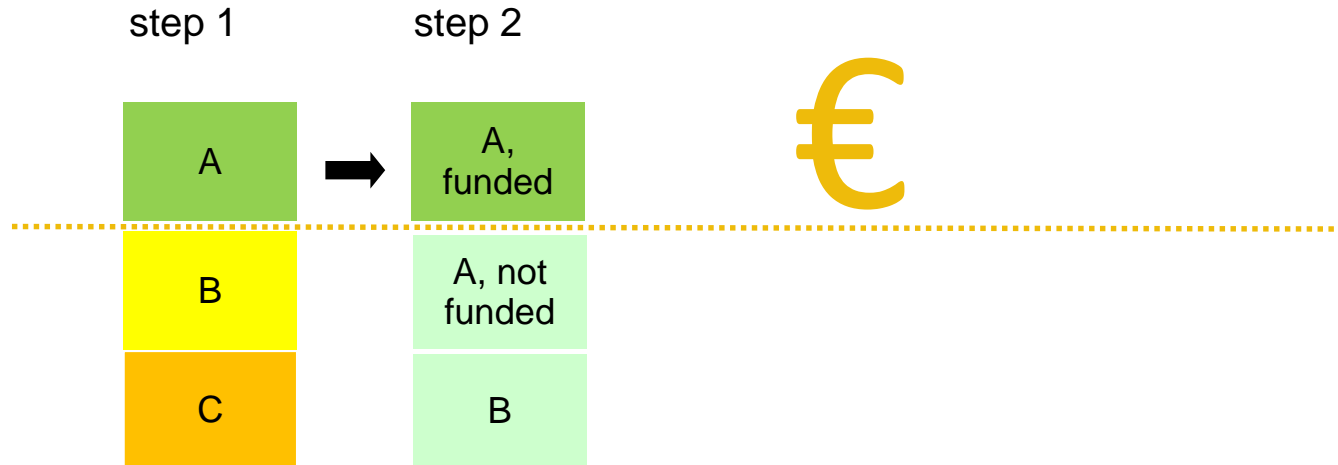
Population, community and ecosystem ecology, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology

- LS8_1 Ecosystem and community ecology, macroecology
- LS8_2 Biodiversity, conservation biology, conservation genetics
- LS8_3 Population biology, population dynamics, population genetics
- LS8_4 Evolutionary ecology
- LS8_5 Evolutionary genetics
- LS8_6 Phylogenetics, systematics, comparative biology
- LS8_7 Macroevolution, paleobiology
- LS8_8 Coevolution, biological mechanisms and ecology of species interactions (e.g. symbiosis, parasitism, mutualism, food-webs)
- LS8_9 Behavioural ecology and evolution
- LS8_10 Microbial ecology and evolution
- LS8_11 Marine biology and ecology

ERC SYNERGY GRANT: TAILOR-MADE EVALUATION PROCESS



EVALUATION OUTCOMES



1 year waiting time for new ERC application

→ only for step1

2 years waiting time for new ERC application

→ only for step1

WHAT MAKES AN ERC PROFILE? (1)



STARTER

Must have already shown the **potential for research independence** and evidence of maturity. E.g. at least **one important publication** as **main author** or without the participation of the PhD supervisor



CONSOLIDATOR

Must have already **shown research independence** and evidence of **maturity**. E.g. **several important** publications as **main author** or without 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/awards,...

WHAT MAKES AN ERC PROFILE? (2)



ADVANCED

“Exceptional leader in terms of originality and significance of research contributions”

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 main author (or joint author, depending on the field) in

- major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals
- and/or in the leading international peer reviewed journals and peer-reviewed conferences in the field

3 major research monographs

10 invited presentations in internationally organised conferences,...**organisation** of 3 well-established conferences,...

Major contributions to **launching careers of outstanding researchers**,...etc

DO'S AND DON'TS?

USEFUL REFLECTIONS (1)

- core novelty of your project
- knowledge gap
- research vision
- groundbreaking approach, not incremental/derivative
- overarching research questions, not methods-driven
- testable hypotheses
- focus ↔ scope
- your central research objectives - clear and measurable
- how will you validate and interpret your results? → explanatory power,
e.g. descriptive vs. experimental; causality vs. correlation; generalizability
of results

USEFUL REFLECTIONS (2)

- competing approaches
- unique features
- gain/risk-balance; plan B
- important (working) definitions for your project
- theoretical framework
- crucial information on methodology: e.g. selection criteria for case studies; statistical power analysis
- inclusive wording: invite specialists from other fields on board
- picture your interview

→ a **story**, not a check-list

SHARING EXPERIENCES





WRITING THE PROPOSAL



= COMMUNICATING YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT AND VISION

Bildunterschrift und/oder Quelle eingeben



B1: COMMUNICATE THE ESSENCE TO GENERALISTS

NOVELTY, AMBITION AND FEASIBILITY:

research challenge, aims, groundbreaking nature vs. state of the art;
originality, feasibility, impact, methodology, expertise of PI & team,
brief time plan; working arrangements (Synergy)
+ references (also a source for selecting specialist reviewers for step2)
+ figures/graphs as applicable (B1 + B2)

- convince generalist and specialist **panel members**
- careful choice of panel(s) – Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant
- Synergy: **story one of a piece**, not assembly of parallel projects



Abstract (2000 characters)

B2: CONVINCE SPECIALIST REVIEWERS AS WELL

- a) **State of the art and objectives:** **provide context, define your aims**
objectives clearly specified in context of state of the art; importance, timeliness and anticipated impact of proposed research
- b) **Methodology:** **feasibility & coherence with your aims**
detailed; novel/ unconventional aspects, work and time plan, key intermediate goals; intermediate stages that may require adjustments to the project planning; risks and contingency plans; required expertise of team members, working arrangements

+ impeccable layout

HOW CAN YOU PRESENT YOUR PROFILE?

- **CV-Template – 2 pages:**
Education; Current and previous position(s), Fellowships and Awards
- **Track Record – 2 pages:**
Early achievements Track Record (Starter/Consolidator)
or 10 years Track Record (Advanced)
- **Extended Synopsis (B1) and Scientific Proposal (B2):**
e.g. references: - As we could show in [ref],...
preliminary results,...

CV-TEMPLATE (1)

- Education
- Current and previous position(s); **tip**: + declined offers
- Fellowships and Awards
- Supervision of Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows
- Teaching Activities
- Organisation of Scientific Meetings
- Institutional Responsibilities
- Commissions of Trust
- **Tip**: + Reviewer for Journals
- **Tip**: + Concluded grants (in addition to extra annex on current grants)

CV-TEMPLATE (2)

- Memberships of scientific societies
- Major collaborations
- Career breaks

Applicant's last name

Part B1

ACRONYM

Section b: Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)

[The template below is provided only for guidance. It may be modified as necessary and appropriate.]

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family name, First name:

Researcher unique identifier(s) (such as ORCID, Research ID, etc. ...):

Date of birth:

URL for web site:

• EDUCATION

199?	PhD
	Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country
199?	Master
	Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS TRACK RECORD – STARTING/CONSOLIDATOR

- **Publications:**

Major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals, and/or in the leading international peer reviewed-journals, peer-reviewed conferences proceedings and/or monographs,... → **up to 5** (Starter) or **up to 10** (Consolidator) representative publications

**overview
+ highlights**

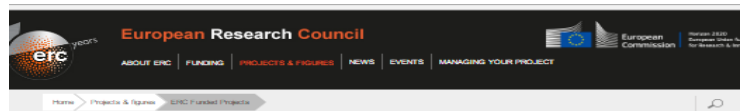
- Research monographs and any translations thereof
- **Granted patent(s)**
- **Invited presentations:** internationally established conferences, international advanced schools
- **Prizes, awards, academy memberships**

ERC ADVANCED GRANT: 10 YEARS TRACK RECORD

- **up to 10** representative **publications** from the **last 10 years**, as main author/joint author (*in **major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals** and/or in the **leading international peer-reviewed journals** and **peer-reviewed conferences proceedings***)
- research **monographs** and translations thereof
- granted **patents**
- **invited presentations:** Conferences, international advanced schools
- research expeditions led by PI
- organisation of conferences
- **prizes and awards**
- major **contributions to early careers** of excellent researchers
- examples of leadership in industrial innovation or design

**overview
+ highlights**

ERC PROFILES: FIND A GRANTEE NEAR YOU



ERC FUNDED PROJECTS

The ERC operates according to a "outlet-driven", or "bottom-up", approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. Accordingly the portfolio ERC funded projects spans a wide range of topics and research questions.

Since 2007, more than 7,000 projects have been selected to receive ERC funding throughout the EU Member States and the associated countries. The ERC has received over 65,000 project proposals for its calls.

Use the search facility to quickly and easily find examples of ERC funded projects.

HOW CAN YOU SEARCH?

Projects can be filtered according to funding scheme, call year and/or country of host institution. You can also use the search box and enter free text words, for instance names of universities or principal investigators.

The filter for panels will be enabled soon again.

WHERE DOES THE DATA COME FROM?

Information displayed is automatically updated through the information available on the **CORDIS** platform and can partially be exported in PDF format. Only funded projects, whose grant agreements have been signed, appear in this section.

Please note that the structure and descriptions of ERC panels have changed over the years. The panel structures for each year can be found in ERC annual work programmes. Panels displayed in this tool are the panels the projects were selected in.

DATA PROTECTION

Individuals' personal information contained in this database is published for information concerning their involvement in an ERC project. It shall only be used to contact them for matters related to their function. Processing this information for other purposes (such as further transmission, further publication, direct marketing and requests for information, which differ from the matters indicated) is illegal and liable to consequences according to applicable legislation.

SEARCH

FILTER BY FUNDING SCHEME:

Starting Grant (SIG) (3410)
 Advanced Grant (AdG) (2180)
 Consolidator Grant (CoG) (1170)
 Proof of Concept (PoC) (549)
 Synergy Grants (SyG) (24)

FILTER BY CALL YEAR:

- ☐ 2007 (305)
- ☐ 2008 (284)
- ☐ 2009 (492)
- ☐ 2010 (707)
- ☐ 2011 (838)
- ☐ 2012 (957)
- ☐ 2013 (985)
- ☐ 2014 (1058)
- ☐ 2015 (1089)
- ☐ 2016 (630)

FILTER BY COUNTRY:

- ☐ Austria (190)
- ☐ Belgium (257)
- ☐ Bulgaria (3)
- ☐ Croatia (3)
- ☐ Cyprus (14)
- ☐ Czechia (25)

ERC FUNDED PROJECTS

Displaying 1 - 10 of 47. Show **10** | 20 results per page.

Project acronym	A-LIFE
Project	Absorbing aerosol layers in a changing climate: aging, lifetime and dynamics
Researcher (PI)	Bernadett Barbara Weinzierl
Host Institution (HI)	UNIVERSITÄT WIEN
Call Details	Starting Grant (SIG), PE10, ERC-2014-STG
Summary	+

Project acronym	ABINITIODGA
Project	Ab initio Dynamical Vertex Approximation
Researcher (PI)	Karsten Held
Host Institution (HI)	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN
Call Details	Starting Grant (SIG), PE3, ERC-2012-SIG_20111012
Summary	+

SEARCH

FUNDING SCHEME

Starting Grant (SIG) (47)
 Consolidator Grant (CoG) (12)
 Advanced Grant (AdG) (25)
 Proof of Concept (PoC) (0)
 Synergy Grants (SyG) (0)

CALL YEAR

RESEARCH DOMAIN

<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-figures/erc-funded-projects>

Possible

Part B1

BREAKTHROUGH

Section c) Ten years track-record (max 2 pages)

Key publications as main author

I have a total of xx publications in peer reviewed journals as main author/x monographies....

The following 10 publications are either relevant to the project or representative of work I have carried out.

- 1) Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapy (2017),34, 203-24; *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life*, Martin Baumgartner, Ingrid Maier, Kim Possible

Studying the various deviations from the stereotypes of everyday behavior, strange defects and malfunctions, as well as seemingly random errors, we postulate that they indicate the underlying pathology of the psyche, the symptoms of psychoneurosis. This publication has already attracted a high number of citations (320).

- 2) *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, June 2017, Vol. 30, No.6, pp 785-798, Beyond the Pleasure Principle, Kim Possible and Wiliam Sidis

This paper marks a turning point of my previous theoretical approach. In “going beyond” the pleasure principle, I developed a theory of drives, adding the death instinct. **Highlighted as best paper of the year 2017.**

explain the
significance
of your best
publications



**SHOW
WHAT
MAKES YOU
STAND OUT**

AIMS/OBJECTIVES: CLEAR AND VISIBLE AT FIRST GLANCE

Possible

Part B1

BREAKTHROUGH

In order to tackle these challenging questions, we set the following goals:

Aim 1: Understanding symptom X

(...)

Aim 2: Creation of a new model of mind structure

The new model will for the first time integrate the factor Y which so far has not been implicated in this context. Our first results strongly suggest that factor Y is critical for the development of symptom X, which would disprove the existing model.

(...)

Aim 3: Experimental validation of the model |

(....)

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES: MILESTONES/TIMETABLE

	<u>Aim 1</u>	<u>Aim 2</u>	<u>Aim 3</u>
<u>Years 1-2</u>	Analysis of... Publication 1...	Purify...	Visualize... Conference...
<u>Years 3-4</u>	Maps...	Integration of...	...
Year 5	Model...	Correlation of findings...	...Publications,...

IMPACT: SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR PROJECT/**YOUR VISION**

Examples:

If some of our approaches are successful, we can expect within the next few years a **detailed understanding of.....**

The proposed project should provide a rich set of scientific data on X, which will suggest new research experiments in the area of X.

The expected result **will open a new research area/** ...can open up new perspectives for analyzing ...

The results are to drastically advance not only the fields of X systems and Y but also the current understanding of Z which is of **great importance far beyond the borders of...**

BUDGET: ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM (SECTION 3)

Proposal ID: SEP-210699017 Acronym: TEST ONLY NCP

3 - Budget

Beneficiary Short Name	Direct costs										A.3 Internally provided goods and services	A. Total Direct Costs	B. Indirect Costs	C1. Subcontracting Costs	C2. Costs of in kind contributions not used on the beneficiary's premises	Total Estimated Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution	
	Personnel					Other direct costs												
	PI	Senior Staff	Postdocs	Students	Other Personnel costs	A.1. Total direct costs for personnel	Travel	Equipment including major equipment	Other goods and services									A.2. Total Other Direct Costs
								Consumables incl. software and animal costs	Publications and Open Access fees and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	Total other goods and services							
Fig.	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00

H2020-ERC-ADG Vnr 1.00 20190523

- Personnel costs: Host Institution- specific salary rates
- Open access
- Open data?
- Additional costs, e.g. equipment?

OPEN ACCESS AND RESEARCH DATA SHARING

- **Open Access** rules of Horizon 2020 apply (Art. 29.2., ERC Model Grant Agreement)
<https://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/managing-project/open-access>
- Since ERC Work Programme 2017: **Research data sharing** by default, possibility to opt out at any time (Art. 29.3, ERC Model Grant Agreement)

ETHICAL ISSUES: CLEAR STRATEGY

- Complete the [ethics issues table](#) (online) and, if applicable, upload your ethical self-assessment form
- Ethical self-assessment (annex, no template): Discuss in detail how the ethics issues identified in the ethics issues table will be addressed, e.g. indicate which particular [approvals](#) will be obtained

PROFIT FROM FEEDBACK

- **Use the questions of colleagues, mentors,... for your proposal...**
 - to delineate the scope/focus of your project → crystal-clear concept and aims
 - to make the proposal appealing to generalists
 - to describe how you will deal with key risks
 - to further improve figures/graphs

and to get rid of:

- vague, unclear expressions
- repetitions
- typos

“ I AM EXCITED ABOUT THIS PROJECT”

EXAMPLE COMMENTS BY ERC REVIEWERS



Lists of previous ERC panel members:
<https://erc.europa.eu/document-category/evaluation-panels>

EVALUATION EXAMPLES: GROUND-BREAKING?



- The project clearly **opens new** technological opportunities and challenges.
- High risk project but **novel and very exciting**
- The proposed research addresses **important challenges** in the field.
- The proposed research is **very original**



EVALUATION EXAMPLES: GROUND-BREAKING? (2)



- unfortunately rather conventional
- ...not really go beyond the state-of-the-art
- ...seems to be a continuation of ongoing projects with a lot of cruises and equipment but little additional staff.
- The state-of-the-art modeling approaches are not as bad as the proposer described.
- The realization of [...] is quite interesting and important for applications but it represents mainly a technological development



EVALUATION EXAMPLES: CLEAR AND AMBITIOUS OBJECTIVES?



- It has clearly **very ambitious objectives** that, if reached, will go substantially beyond the current state-of-the-art. Indeed the methodology is well illustrated and the **intermediate tasks** are clearly described.
- To tackle this challenge the proposal is structured into five objectives. Each of these **objectives is described clearly and supported by evidence** from previous publications.
- A good balance between short, medium and long term objectives is maintained.
- the project is very clearly written, and delineates **a testable mechanistic hypothesis** concerning [X]



EVALUATION EXAMPLES: CLEAR AND AMBITIOUS OBJECTIVES? (2)



- It is a very important objective. However, a grant proposal should be explicit about the detailed tasks to be performed, with specific goals, with reference to previous works....
- The set of objectives does not go substantially beyond the current state of the art in the field.
- The [tools] would have a significant impact on [X] applications, but higher level research objectives are lacking



EVALUATION EXAMPLES: FEASIBILITY



- the methodology is **very comprehensive and appropriate** for the project
- the outlined approach is highly feasible....it is **highly reflective about its own limitations and particular choices and research strategies**.
- the scientific project is **both doable and ambitious** at the same time.
- The work plan is cutting edge and has inherent risk. However, **this risk is legitimate and minimized** based on the PI's previous work.
- There is also a **good balance** of low risk/high risk tasks.



EVALUATION EXAMPLES: FEASIBILITY(2)



- ... methodology is not equally well developed with regard to all subprojects
- Some **specific examples (or application scenarios)** would help here
- ...However the panel felt that **more preliminary data** were needed to support the feasibility of the whole project, and in particular for the second WP.
- **No alternative approaches** are given, if....
- some of the sub-aims would have benefited from preliminary results or "plan B" strategies in order to evaluate their feasibility.



EVALUATION EXAMPLES: IMPACT



- If granted, **very high impact** for biology, material science and structural chemistry...
- The new experimental set-up that is proposed is based on new and original ideas of the proponent and will be **undoubtedly of large impact for the community** of future users. This community will surely expand to transdisciplinary areas.
- *Potential impact:* The ideas behind the project are very unusual but make much sense, they may lead **to a breakthrough in the X field**.



EVALUATION EXAMPLES: IMPACT (2)



- doubts on the possible impact of the scientific results
- not clear how the results might impact on X
- no ground breaking expectations are visible



PROJECT OVERALL



- The proposal would have benefitted of being better framed and focused.
- It was noted by the panel that the project is not clearly written; it lacks relevant background information on X signaling and the actual work plan is often unclear. The panel noticed that the project is related to ongoing work conducted in the X lab, and it would be advisable to clearly indicate the particular research directions that will be independently developed by the applicant.

EVALUATION EXAMPLES: PI (1)



- The PI has been recognized for her papers with **outstanding results demonstrating her level of independent thinking and originality**. She does not have a permanent position, thus the ERC grant would help.
- The PI has an excellent research background and **outstanding track record** with publications in **high-quality peer reviewed** journals as first or only author.
- It was also found that the scientific output of the PI is excellent and **very well fitted** to the aspects of the project.





The panel appreciated the sheer scope of the project, the synergy and the value of combining so many powerful methods focused coherently on a single project of biological and pathological relevance.



All PIs are world-class scientists with exceptional CVs and ample evidence of innovative thinking in the last 10 years



The project's adaptivity, teamwork and close communication in fundamental research together combine to make it potentially transformative in these timely, fundamental issues



Excitingly, this proposal is also planning
[x] experiments that capture a level of
complexity never tried before

SUMMARY

- research challenge/knowledge gap
- driving questions/hypotheses
- novelty & groundbreaking approach
- clear aims/objectives
- long-term research vision
- explanatory power/validating your research results
- check previous ERC review panels
- time for feedback loops with sparring partners

PRACTICAL EXERCISE: DISCUSSING A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL



Individual Evaluation Report – step 1

Help 

Threshold: 0 Evaluation progress: 0.00%

[Expand](#) / [Collapse all criteria](#)

– Criterion 1 – RESEARCH PROJECT

Current score: - / 5.0 ; Threshold 0

Your score: *

☐ 1.0 - Non-competitive ☐ 1.5 ☐ 2.0 - Good ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3.0 - Very Good ☐ 3.5 ☐ 4 - Excellent ☐ 4.5 ☐ 5 - Exceptional

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?

To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?

To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Comments: *

0 / 5000 characters

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

Comments: *

0 / 5000 characters

- Criterion 2 - PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Current score: - / 5.0 ; Threshold 0

[Please click here for more information](#)

Your score: *

☐ 1.0 - Non-competitive ☐ 1.5 ☐ 2.0 - Good ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3.0 - Very Good ☐ 3.5 ☐ 4 - Excellent ☐ 4.5 ☐ 5 - Exceptional

To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research? *

☐ Non-competitive ☐ Good ☐ Very Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Exceptional

To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking? *

☐ Non-competitive ☐ Good ☐ Very Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Exceptional

To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project? *

☐ Non-competitive ☐ Good ☐ Very Good ☐ Excellent ☐ Exceptional

Comments:

0 / 2000 characters

- SUGGESTED REMOTE REFEREE FOR STEP 2 EVALUATION[Add Remote Referee](#)[Expand](#) / [Collapse](#) all criteria

Individual Evaluation Report – step 2

Help 

Threshold: 0 Evaluation progress: 0.00%

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– Criterion 1 – RESEARCH PROJECT

Current score: - / 5.0 ; Threshold 0

Your score: *

☐ 1.0 - Non-competitive ☐ 1.5 ☐ 2.0 - Good ☐ 2.5 ☐ 3.0 - Very Good ☐ 3.5 ☐ 4 - Excellent ☐ 4.5 ☐ 5 - Exceptional

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?

To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?

To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Comments: *

0 / 5000 characters

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain?

To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?

To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology?

To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified?

Comments: *

0 / 5000 characters



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GOOD LUCK!