

European Research Council

The European Research Council



Outline



1. ERC in a nutshell
2. Poland and ERC
3. Rumours, truth, and tips

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ERC in a nutshell



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The ERC supports excellence in frontier research through a bottom-up, individual-based, pan-European competition

Budget: € 13 billion (2014-2020) - 1.9 billion €/year

Legislation

- Scientific governance: independent Scientific Council; full authority over funding strategy
- Support by the ERC Executive Agency (autonomous)
- Excellence as the only criterion

Strategy

- Support for the individual scientist – **no networks!**
- Global peer-review
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support of frontier research in all fields of science and humanities



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ERC Scientific Council Members



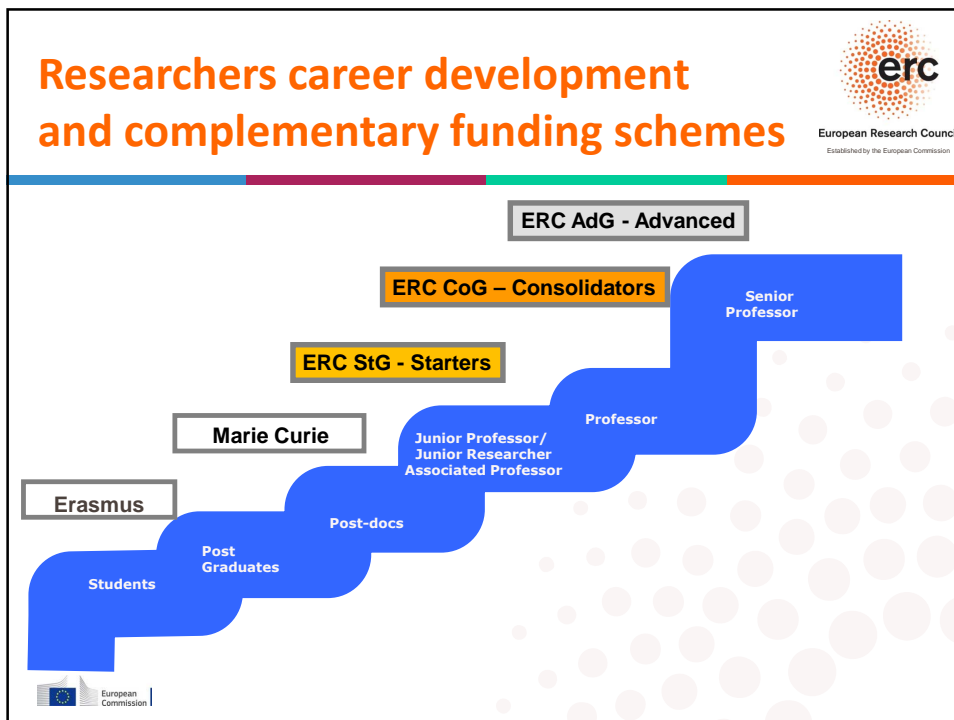
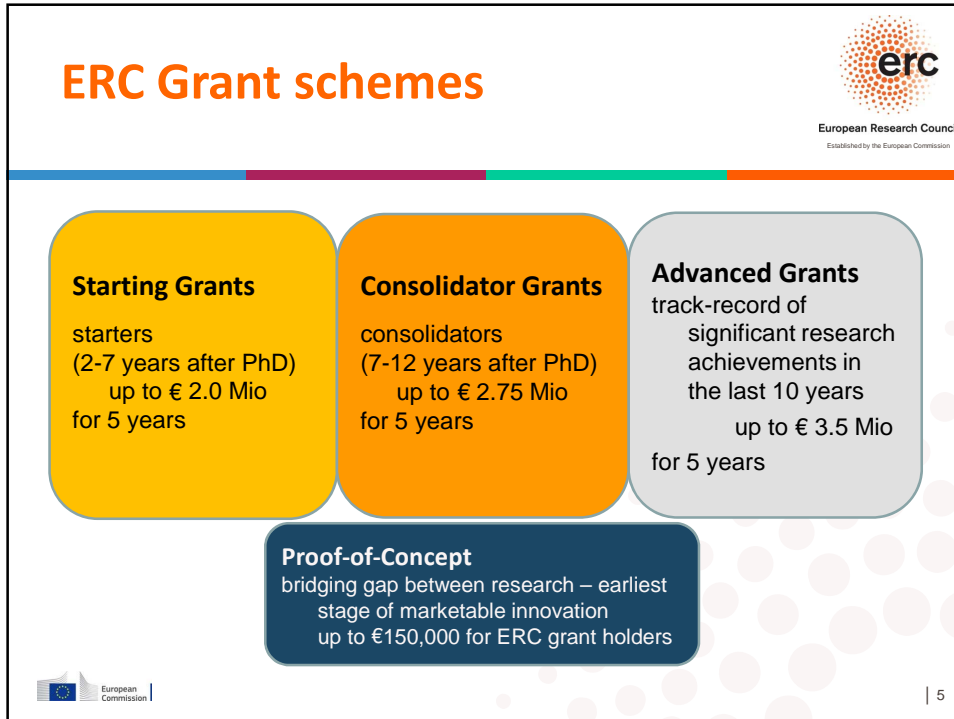
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- Prof. Klaus BOCK (Chemistry)
- **Prof. Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON (Mathematics), ERC President**
- Prof. Margaret BUCKINGHAM (Biology)
- Prof. Nicholas CANNY (History)
- Prof. Sierd A.P.L. CLOETINGH (Earth Sciences), **ERC Vice-President**
- Prof. Athene DONALD (Biological Physics)
- Dr. Barbara ENSOLI (Medicine)
- Prof. Tomas JUNGWIRTH (Physics)
- Prof. Matthias KLEINER (Engineering)
- Prof. Éva KONDOROSI (Biology)
- Prof. Michael KRAMER (Astrophysics)
- Prof. Mart SAARMA (Biology), **ERC Vice-President**
- Prof. Nuria SEBASTIAN GALLES (Psychology), **ERC Vice-President**
- Prof. Nils Christian STENSETH (Ecology & Evolution)
- Prof. Martin STOKHOF (Philosophy)
- Prof. Janet THORNTON (Bioinformatics)
- Prof. Isabelle VERNOS (Molecular and Cell Biology)
- Prof. Reinhilde VEUGELERS (Economics)
- Prof. Michel WIEVIORKA (Sociology)
- Prof. Fabio ZWIRNER (Theoretical Physics)



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Submission of Proposals

ERC Work Programme 2016 calendar



ERC calls	Budget	Call Publication	Submission Deadline(s)
Starting Grants ERC-2016-StG	485 M€ (335)	29 July 2015	<u>17 November 2015</u>
Consolidator Grants ERC-2016-CoG	605 M€ (335)	15 October 2015	<u>2 February 2016</u>
Advanced Grants ERC-2016-AdG	540 M€ (235)	24 May 2016	<u>1 September 2016</u>
Proof of Concept ERC-2016-PoC	20M€ (130)	22 October 2015	16 February 2016 26 May 2016 4 October 2016



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ERC funding schemes

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants. The applicant's profile



"Am I COMPETITIVE enough?"

- Potential for research independence
- Evidence of scientific maturity
- At least one (StG) /several (CoG) publications without participation of PhD supervisor

Promising track-record of early achievements

- Significant publications
- Invited presentations in conferences
- Funding, patents, awards, prizes



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ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants



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- Possible requested amount:
max. € 1,500,000 (StG) or €2,000,000 (CoG) for 5 years
 - + €500,000 (StG) or €750,000 (CoG) if new research activity in EU: moving from third country, purchase of major equipment, access to large facilities
- Eligible costs: Costs supporting the project (personnel, equipment, consumables, travel, admin)
- Dedication of min: 50% of PI's working time to the ERC-funded project
- First PhD awarded 2-12 years before call publication date
 - Starters (PhD award: 2-7 years)
 - Consolidators (PhD award: 7-12 years)
- Extension may be accepted for specific and duly justified reasons (maternity leave,...)

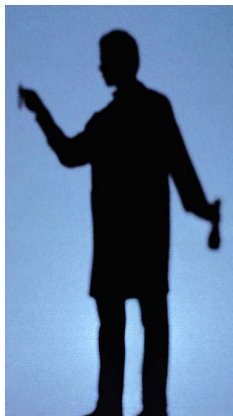


ERC funding schemes

ERC Advanced Grants. The applicant's profile



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- Track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years
- Exceptional leaders and mentors
- 10 publications as senior author in major scientific journals
- 5 granted patents
- 10 invited presentations at international conferences
- 3 international conferences where Principal Investigator was an organiser
- International prizes/awards



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ERC Advanced Grants (AdG)



- Possible requested amount:
 - max. € 2,500,000 for 5 years
 - + € 1,000,000 if moving from third country to MS or AC, purchase of major equipment, access to large facility
- Eligible cost: costs supporting the project (personnel, equipment, consumables, travel, admin)
- Dedication of **min.** 50% of PI's working time in a EU MS or AC and min. 30% of PI's working time to the ERC-funded project



Proof of Concept




- Initiative for getting good ideas to the market
- For ERC grantees **ONLY**
- 18 months grant, up to € 150,000
- Intended for the preparation of a “package” to take a project through the early commercialization phase
- “Frontier technology” emerges often in the course of basic research
- If picked up, frontier technologies travel well: across research fields and out of the lab

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ERC Evaluation process (StG, CoG & AdG)

Panel structure: 3 domains and 25 panels



Each panel :
Panel Chair and
10-16 Panel Members

Life Sciences (LS) - 9 panels


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

Social Sciences and Humanities (SH) - 6 panels

- SH1 Markets, Individuals & Institutions
- SH2 The Social World, Diversity & Common Ground
- SH3 Environment, Space & Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures & Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past


Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE) - 10 panels

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



Online Submission

Proposal structure



Administrative forms (Part A)

- 1 – Contact information
- 2 – Administrative data of participating organisations
- 3 – Budget
- 4 – Ethics
- 5 – Call specific questions

Part B1 (submitted as .pdf)
Evaluated in Step 1 & Step 2

- a – Extended synopsis 5p
- b – Curriculum vitae 2p
- c – Funding ID
- d - Track-record 2p


Annexes
Commitment of the host institution, PhD certificates, etc

Part B2 (submitted as .pdf)
Not evaluated in Step 1 (Step 2 only)

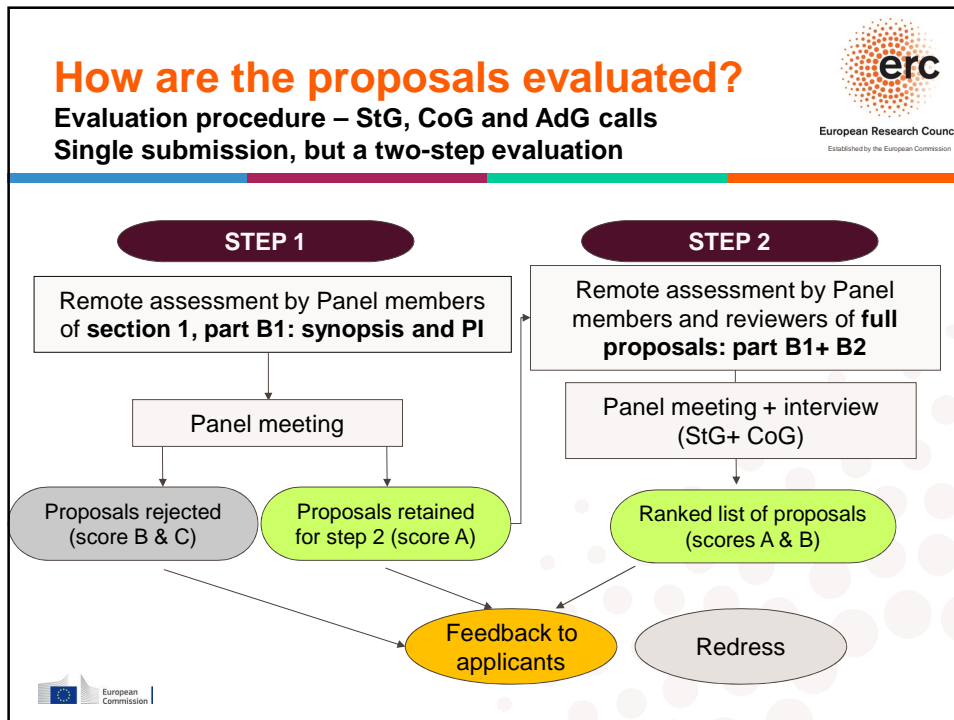
Scientific proposal 15p

- a – State-of-the-art and objectives
- b – Methodology
- c – Resources

Guidelines and Recommendations in the 2016 Information for Applicants


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What is evaluated?

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

```
graph TD; subgraph STEP_1 [STEP 1]; S1[Remote assessment by Panel members of section 1, part B1: synopsis and PI]; S1 --> PM1[Panel meeting]; PM1 --> R1(Proposals rejected score B & C); PM1 --> R2(Proposals retained for step 2 score A); end; subgraph STEP_2 [STEP 2]; S2[Remote assessment by Panel members and reviewers of full proposals: part B1+ B2]; S2 --> PM2[Panel meeting + interview StG+ CoG]; PM2 --> R3(Ranked list of proposals scores A & B); PM2 --> R4(Redress); end; R1 --> FB(Feedback to applicants); R2 --> FB; R3 --> FB; R4 --> FB;
```

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Excellence of the Research Project

- ✓ **Ground breaking nature** Important challenge? Substantially beyond the current state of art? High-gain/high-risk balance
- ✓ **Potential impact** Possibility of a major break-through?
- ✓ **Scientific Approach Feasibility, novel concepts/methodology**

- **Excellence of the Principal Investigator**
 - ✓ **Intellectual capacity:** Track-record, capacity to go significantly beyond the state of the art, evidence of creative independent thinking
 - ✓ **Creativity**
 - ✓ **Commitment :** Willing to devote a significant part of PI's working time (minimum of 50% for Starting, minimum of 40% for Consolidator Grant, minimum of 30% for Advanced Grant)

Referees and panels **evaluate and score** each criterion, which results in a ranking of the proposals.

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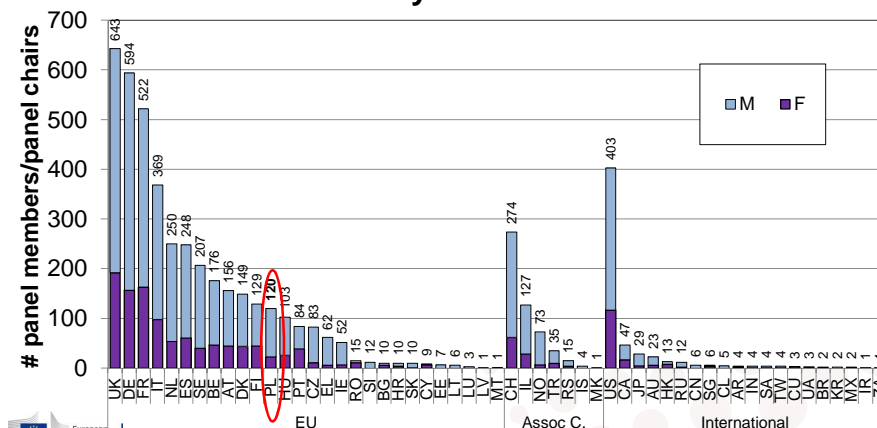
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ERC panel members by country of HI and gender



ERC Starting, Consolidator and Advanced grant calls 2007 - 2014

STG ADG COG panel members by institution country 2007-2014



Preparing an application

Hints and tips (Generalities)



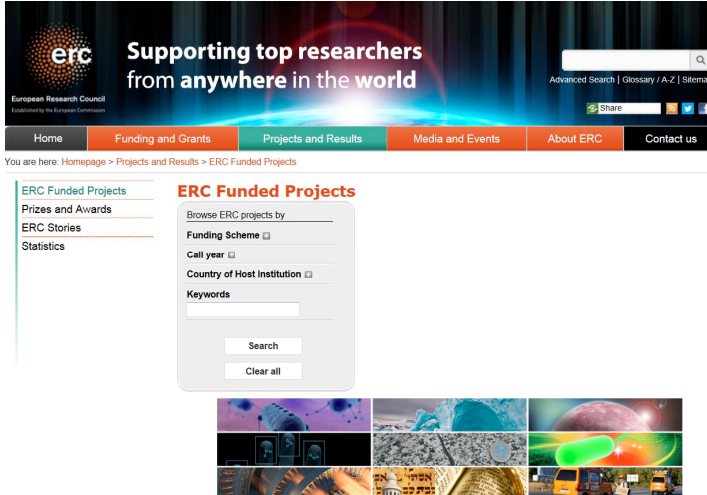
- **Register early**, get familiar with the system and templates and start filling in the forms
- A submitted proposal can be **revised until the call deadline** by submitting a new version and overwriting the previous one
- Follow the formatting rules and page limits.
- Download and proof-read the proposal before submitting.
- Make use of the **help tools and call documents** (Information for Applicants, Work Programme, Frequently asked questions) to prepare your proposal
- Talk to the National Contact Points and your Institution's grant office



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Preparing an application

Check the already Funded Projects



Menu allows searching by Funding Scheme, Call Year and Country of Host Institution.

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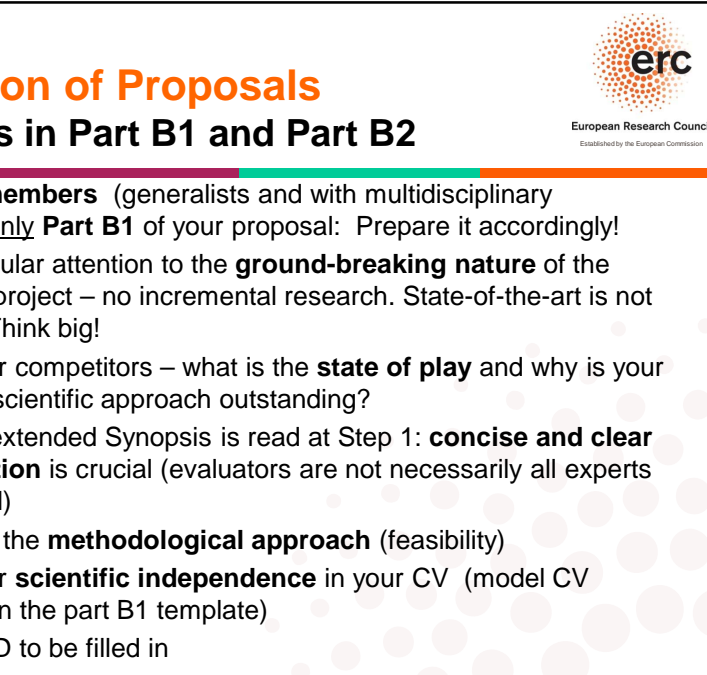
Clear all

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Submission of Proposals

Differences in Part B1 and Part B2



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In Step 1: **Panel members** (generalists and with multidisciplinary approaches) see only Part B1 of your proposal: Prepare it accordingly!

- Pay particular attention to the **ground-breaking nature** of the research project – no incremental research. State-of-the-art is not enough. Think big!
- Know your competitors – what is the **state of play** and why is your idea and scientific approach outstanding?
- Only the extended Synopsis is read at Step 1: **concise and clear presentation** is crucial (evaluators are not necessarily all experts in the field)
- Outline of the **methodological approach** (feasibility)
- Show your **scientific independence** in your CV (model CV provided in the part B1 template)
- Funding ID to be filled in

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Submission of Proposals

Differences in Part B1 and Part B2



- In Step 2: Both Part B1 and B2 are sent to specialists around the world (**specialised external referees**)
 - Do not just repeat the synopsis
 - Provide **sufficient detail** on methodology, work plan, selection of case studies etc. (15 pages)
 - Check coherency of figures, **justify requested resources**
 - Explain **involvement of team members (ERC proposals are NOT collaborative ones)**
 - Provide alternative strategies to **mitigate risk**



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Proposal budget considerations



- Budget analysis carried out in Step 2 evaluation (meeting)
- Panels have responsibility to ensure that resources requested are reasonable and well justified
- Budget cuts need to be justified on a proposal by proposal basis (no across-the-board cuts)
- Panels to recommend a final maximum budget based on the resources allocated/ removed
- Panels do not “micro-manage” project finances
- Awards made on a “take-it-or-leave-it” basis: no negotiations



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Questions to ask yourself as an applicant



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- Is my project new, innovative, bringing in new solutions? theory? applications?
- Does it promise to go substantially beyond the state of the art?
- Why is my proposed project important?
- Is it timely? (Why wasn't it done in the past? Is it feasible now?)
- What's the risk? Is it justified by a substantial potential gain? Do I have a plan for managing the risk?
- Why am I the best/only person to carry it out?
- Am I internationally competitive as a researcher at my career stage and in my discipline?
- Am I able to work independently, and to manage a 5-year project with a substantial budget
- How can I prove/support my case?



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Typical reasons for rejection



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Principal investigator

- Insufficient track-record
- Insufficient (potential for) independence
- Insufficient experience in leading projects

Proposed project

- Scope: Too narrow \leftrightarrow too broad/unfocussed
- Incremental research
- Collaborative project
- Work plan not detailed enough/unclear




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Insufficient risk management


Data as of 26/05/2014 24

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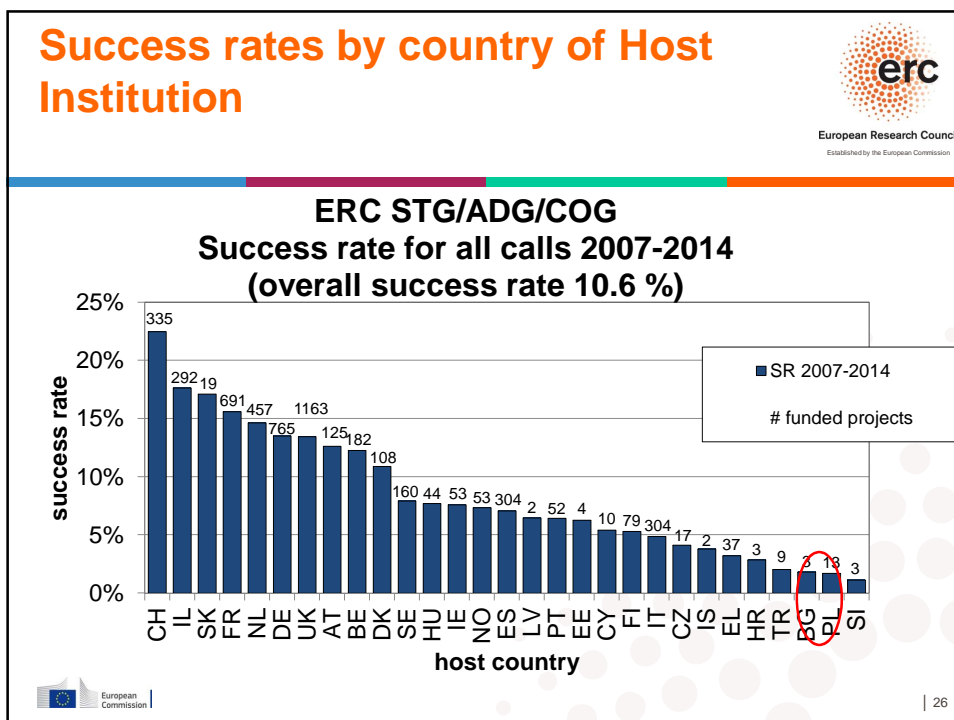
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Poland and ERC

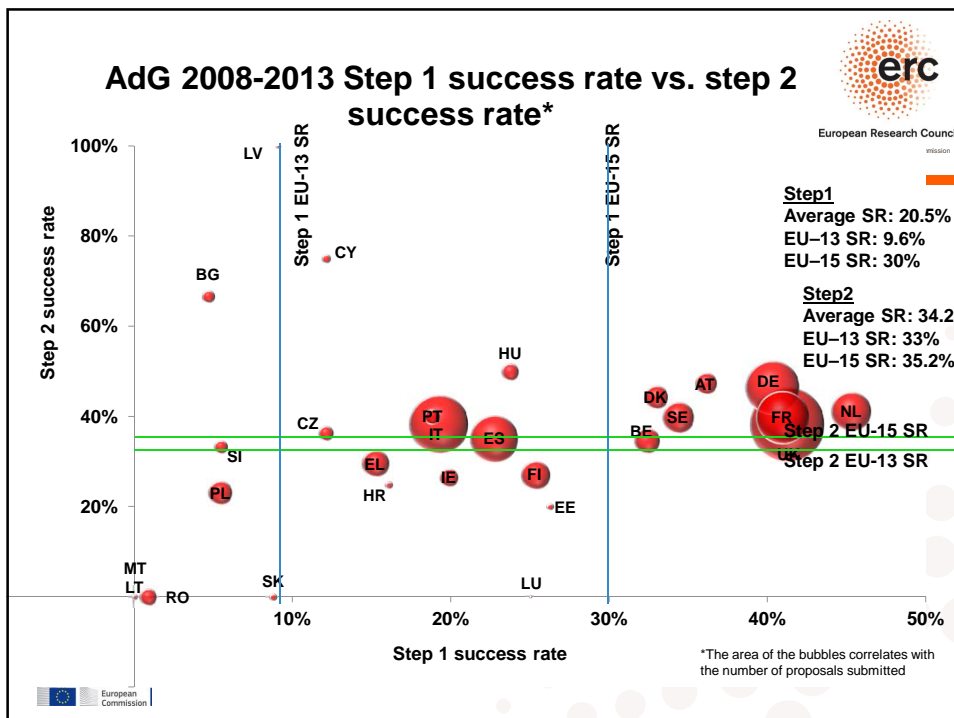
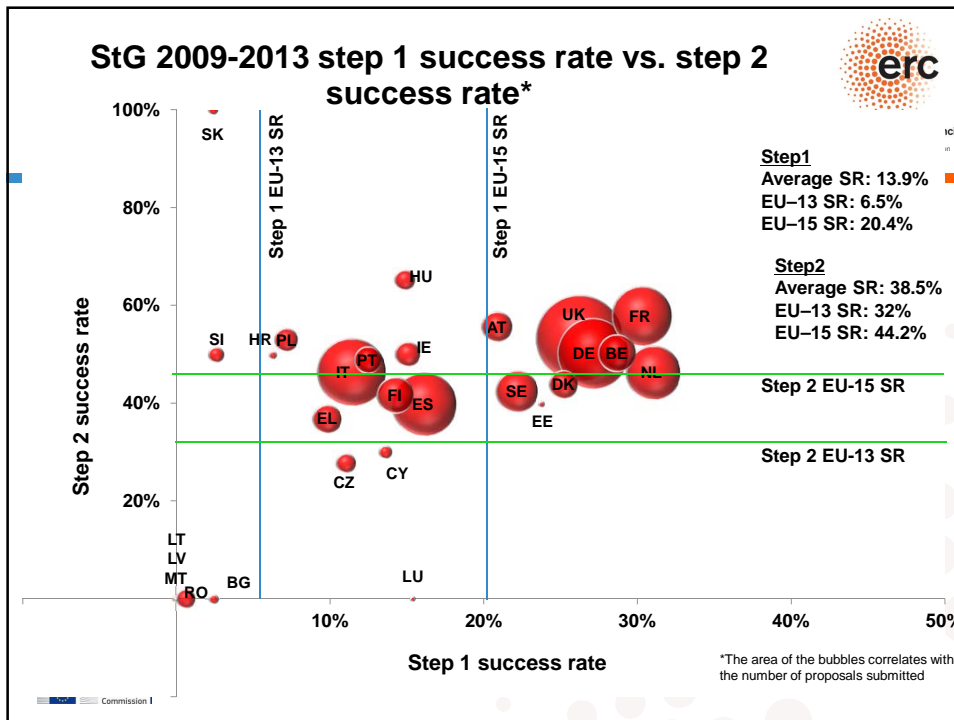


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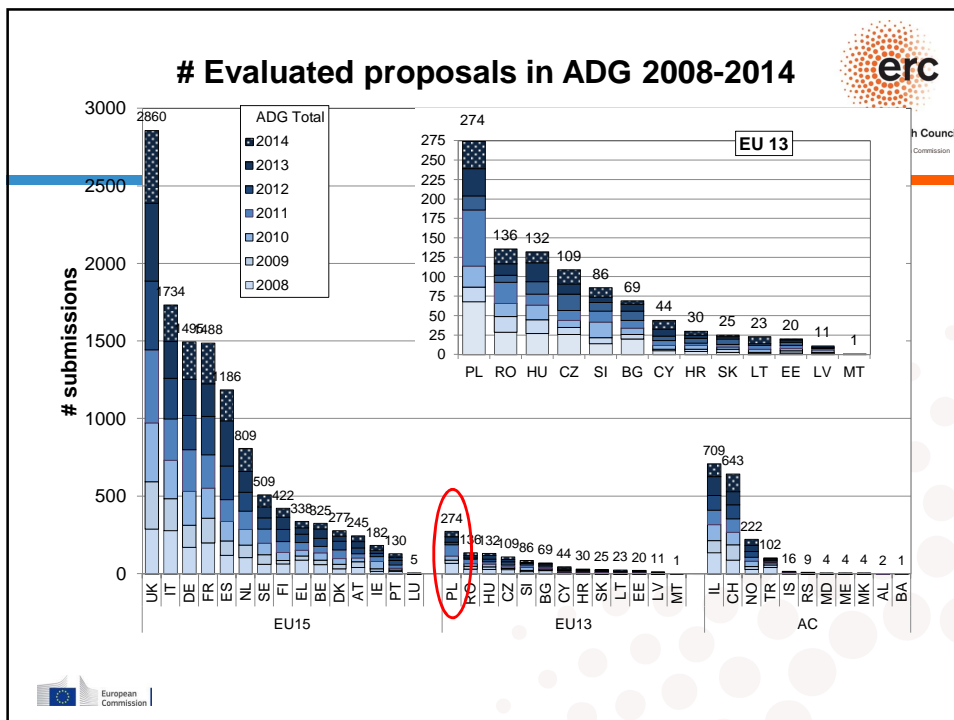
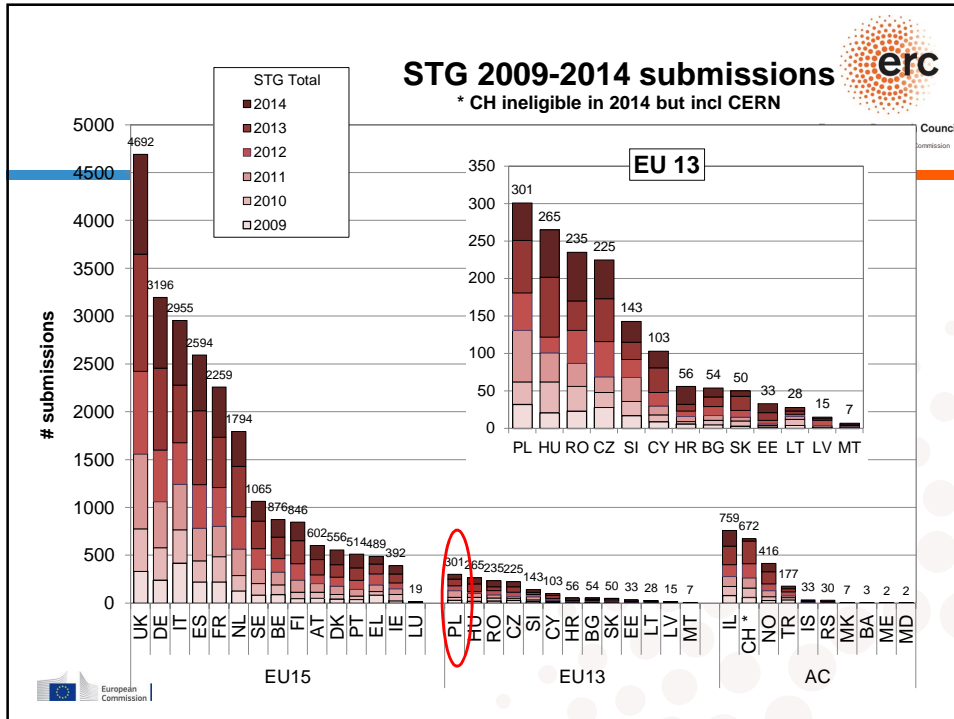
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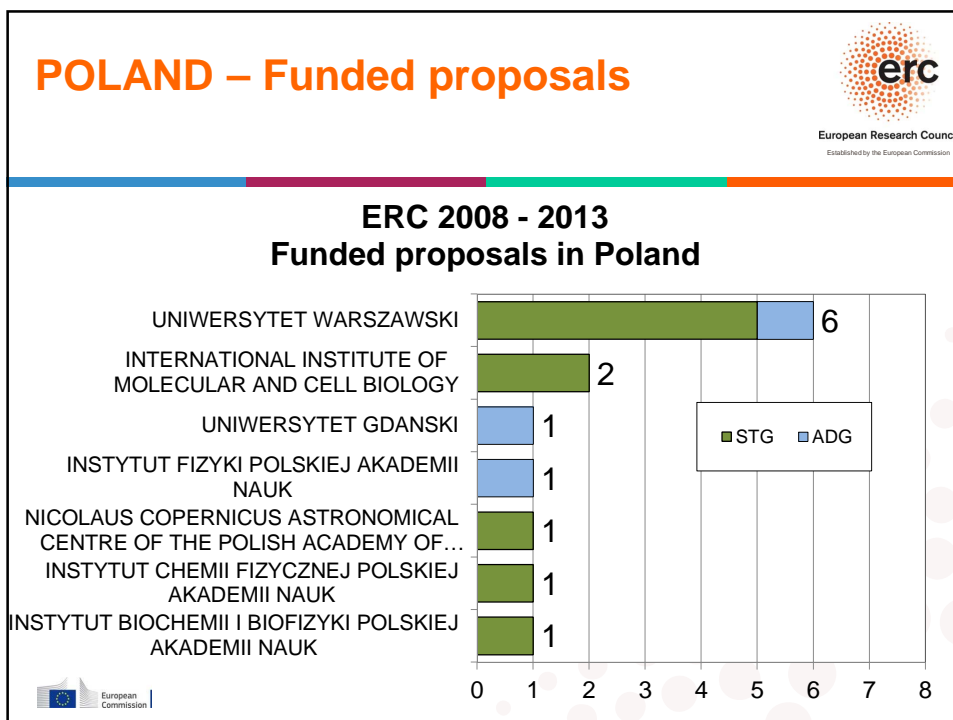
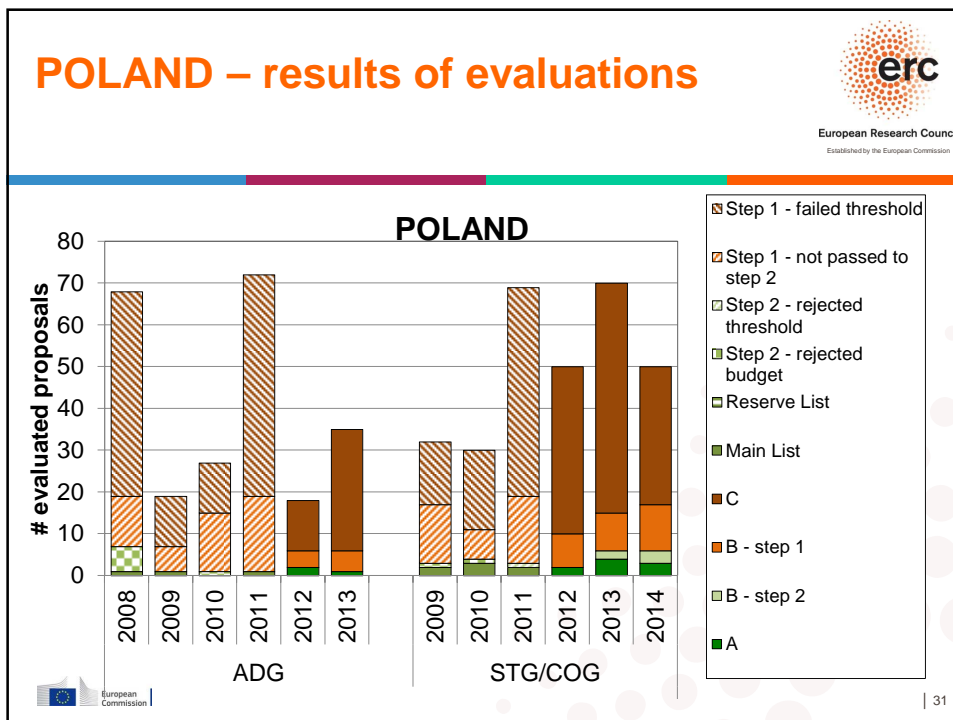
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Institution	# submissions 2008-2013 (490)	# funded (13)	Success rate (2.6 %)
Institute of Physics (PAS)	3	1	33.33%
Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center (PAS)	3	1	33.33%
International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology	7	2	28.57%
University of Gdansk	5	1	20.00%
Institute of Physical chemistry (PAS)	6	1	16.67%
Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics (PAS)	7	1	14.29%
University of Warsaw	51	6	11.76%
Jagiellonian University Cracow	60		
Lodz University of Technology	14		
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań	13		
Warsaw University of Technology	13		
Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń	12		
University of Lodz	12		
Poznan University of Technology	11		
Silesian University of Technology	11		
AGH University of Science and Technology, Cracow	10		
University of Warmia and Mazury, Olsztyn	9		
Wroclaw University	8		
Wroclaw University of Technology	8		
Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry (PAS)	7		
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Lublin	7		
Medical University of Gdansk	7		
The Henryk Niewodniczanski Institute of Nuclear Physics (PAS)	7		
Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology (PAS)	6		
The Eugeniusz Piasecki University School of Physical Education	6		
Gdańsk University of Technology	5		
Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry (PAS)	5		
Institutions with 1 submission	66		
Institutions with 2 submissions	25		
Institutions with 3 submissions	15		
Institutions with 4 submissions	4		

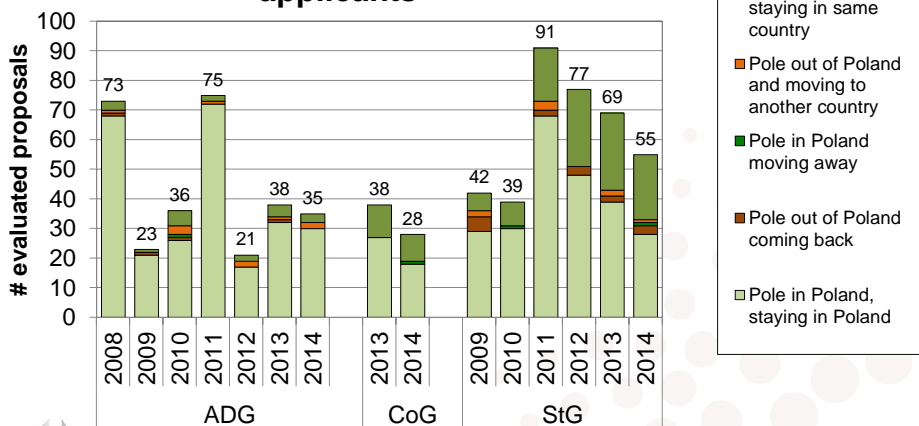


Polish applicants: mobility



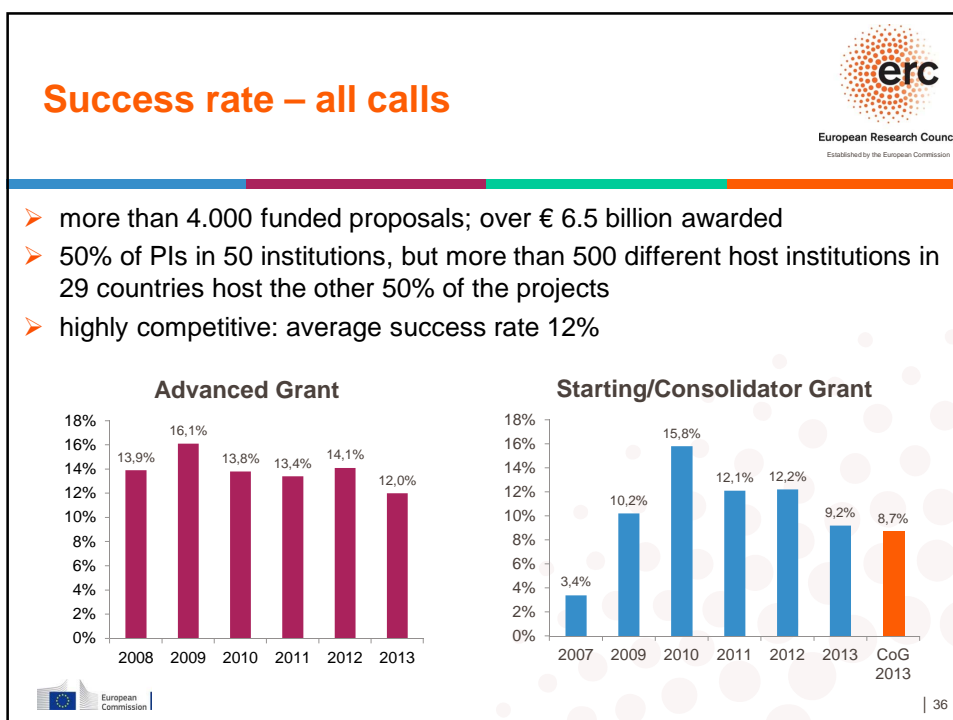
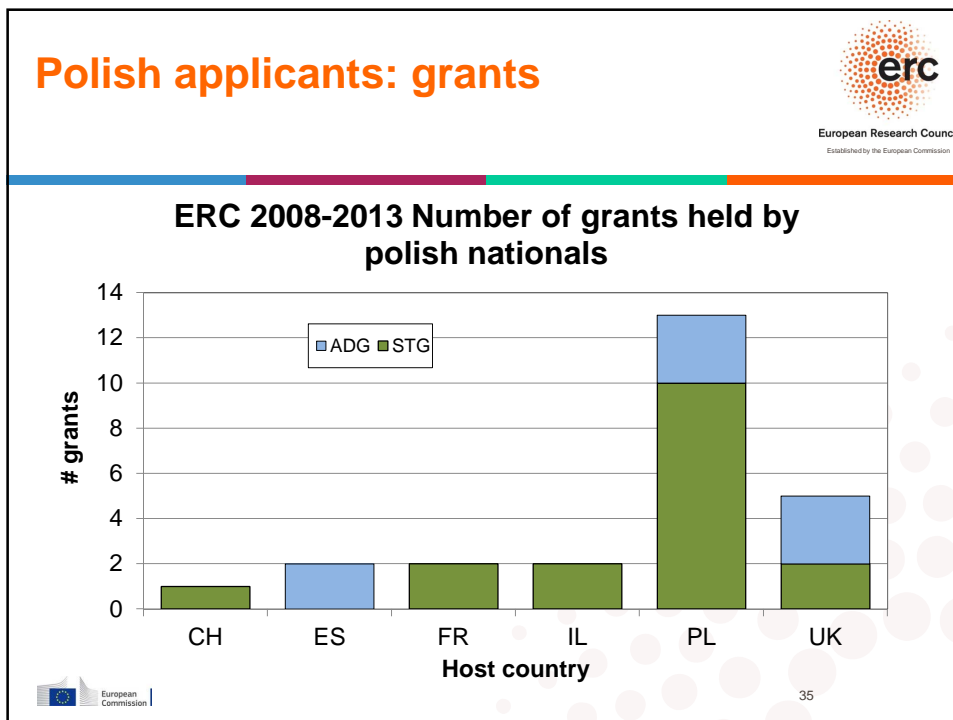
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ERC 2008-2014 Submissions from Polish applicants



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Resubmission success rate - examples



StG 2014 call success rate 11.7 %

- SR F 11.45 %
- SR M 11.9 %
- SR resubmissions 17.4%
- SR resubmissions F 18.2%
- SR resubmissions M 16.9%

AdG 2013 call success rate 12.3%

- SR resubmissions 16%



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Polish proposals: Step 1 C scores (2014-15)



1. Research project

- Not ground-breaking; lacks novelty; incremental
- Lacks focus, sharp questions, clear objectives
- Narrow scope of field research (e.g. geographically); limited universal/international relevance
- Vague work plan
- Overreliance on a single concept/model (SH)



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Polish proposals: Step 1 C scores (2014-15)



2. Principal investigator

- Limited international recognition
- Limited publications in high-impact journals
- Insufficient scientific independence
- Lack of evidence of research and project leadership skills

Polish proposals: Step 1 B scores (2014-15)



1. Research project

- + Objectives reasonably ambitious and well described
- + Research approach well suited to objectives
- + Under-researched topic crossing national lines
- + Well-crafted, carefully planned

- Questionable novelty
- Too limited in scope
- Overambitious scope yet with a vague work plan

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Polish proposals: Step 1 B scores (2014-15)



2. Principal investigator

- + Clearly an expert in the field
- + Experience in (national) research projects
- + Clear leadership qualities (no. of PhD / postdoc students)
- + Good international collaboration
- Moderate publication / citation record
- International recognition not yet outstanding

Polish proposals: Step 2 B scores (2014-15)



1. Research project

- + Important, interesting, timely
- + Feasible approach
- + Excellent presentation of the theoretical part
- Concerns about insufficient focus: remain after interview
- Hypothesis not supported by preliminary data

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Polish proposals: Step 2 B scores (2014-15)



2. Principal investigator

- + Well-established expert in the area
- + Several high-impact publications
- + Impressive independent thinking
- His/her research is deep but somewhat narrow in scope
- Leadership potential not fully demonstrated



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Polish proposals: Step 2 A "below threshold" scores



1. Research project

- + (In many parts) innovative, original, worth pursuing
- + Centres around some of the most important questions on the borderline between fields
- + Novel, certainly off the beaten track
- + Most doubts successfully clarified in interview
- Stronger experimental validation could be planned
- Yet more focus in approach, hypothesis formulation would help



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Polish proposals: Step 2 A "below-threshold" scores



2. Principal investigator

- + Very strong background in innovative research, confirmed in the interview
- + International contacts, resulting in many joint papers
- Publication record does not yet truly stand out in this highly competitive group of peers

Polish proposals: Step 2 A "to be funded" scores




1. Research project

- + High prerequisites but potentially great gains in understanding
- + A range of disciplines involved
- + Entirely reasonable resources

2. Principal investigator


- + Involved in recent remarkable progress
- + Very substantial publication record
- + Excellent leadership record with students

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ERC in practice - tips, rumours and the truth




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ERC Mission



In Search of
EXCELLENCE



Bottom-up



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Legislation

- ERC supports novel ideas, creative minds (wherever they are), European Research, ground-breaking results, high risk/high gain projects
- **Excellence as the only criterion**

FACTS


- ERC Grant is a proof of one's excellence / Quality label
- **More than 4 000 scientists were successful**
- **More than 40 000 were not successful**
- **Is there a key to success?**

KEY

- Start preparing in time (6 months in advance)
- **Read the evaluation criteria carefully** (WP)
- Consult with successful grantees (if possible)
- Ask colleagues to proof read your application

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ERC modus operandi

- ✓ Publishing of the Call (including WP, guides for applicants)
- ✓ Submission of the proposals (Deadlines)
- ✓ Eligibility check
- ✓ Evaluation step 1 (assignment of the proposals, cross panel experts)
 - ✓ Remote evaluation and Panel discussions at Panel meetings
- ✓ Feedback to the Applicants
- ✓ Evaluation step 2 (assignment of the proposals, cross panel experts)
 - ✓ Remote evaluation and Interview (only for StG and CoG)
- ✓ Feedback to the Applicants
- ✓ Redress cases
- ✓ Signing the Grant Agreement




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Tips - once the Call and supporting documents are published

- ✓ Read the guidelines carefully
 - ✓ Consult EC and ERC websites check for funded projects on your topic (**can be done at any time!**)
- ✓ Choose your Host Institution (**should be done well in advance**)
 - ✓ negotiate
- ✓ Select the "right" Panel – **very IMPORTANT**
- ✓ Choose your descriptors and free keywords **carefully**
- ✓ Presentation of the project
 - ✓ Follow the template (including length)
 - ✓ CV presentation
 - ✓ Project presentation



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Tips 1- Host Institution


- ✓ It is your choice (in MS or Associated countries)
- ✓ You can change it during the project's life (e.g. your career)
- ✓ Negotiate with the HI (your position, equipment, administrative support, access to infrastructure, etc.)


Rumours

1. The quality/fame of the HI is increasing my chances/scores
2. There is a lobbying from the not so successful countries to introduce a quota

➤ **NOT true,**

1. The HI is not an evaluation criteria and it is never discussed at the evaluation meetings,
2. Lobbying is firmly rejected, but WG are set-up to support less successful countries WP



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25 panels for all areas of science

Physical Sciences & Engineering 10 panels	Mathematics Fundamental constituents of matter Condensed matter physics Physical and analytical chemical sciences Synthetic chemistry and materials Computer science and informatics Systems and communication engineering Products and processes engineering Universe sciences Earth system science	Social Sciences & Humanities 6 panels Individuals, institutions and markets Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour Environment, space and population The Human Mind Cultures and cultural production The study of the human past
Life Sciences 9 panels	Molecular and structural biology and biochemistry Genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and systems biology Cellular and developmental biology Physiology, pathophysiology and endocrinology Neurosciences and neural disorders Immunity and infection Diagnostic tools, therapies and public health Evolutionary, population and environmental biology Applied life sciences and biotechnology	8-21 descriptors/panel


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Tips 2- Submission; Descriptors and free keywords



- ✓ Decides on the panel which will evaluate your proposal
- ✓ Is the basis of allocation to the panel members (with various expertise)
- ✓ Will determine whether a cross panel evaluation is necessary
 - E.g. energy-related descriptors can be found in several panels e.g. PE2 (Fundamental Constituents of Matter, PE4 and PE5 (the Chemistry panels), PE7 (Systems and Comm. Eng.), PE8 (Products and Process Eng., incl. PE8_6 Energy Systems)

Rumours

1. Choose the panel "strategically"
2. The more cross panel descriptors are indicated, the higher the funding chances, i.e. indicates inter-disciplinarity
 - **NOT really true,**
 - 1. Your project might be evaluated by a "wrong" panel" (only with restricted expertise)
 - 2. If your project is interdisciplinary, decide on the evaluating panel based on the dominating innovative element of your project



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Tips 3- The project



- ✓ Obvious link between Parts B1 and B2 (both evaluated only in step 2)
 - ✓ Mention briefly the methodology and budget even in Part B1 (better chance to assess the scientific approach)
- ✓ Clear and logical presentation (keep the recommended length)
- ✓ Make use of the evaluation criteria (use them as title/subtitle)
- ✓ Make the project "easy to read and attractive"
 - ✓ Use paragraphs instead of long text
 - ✓ Use figures, charts whenever possible (colours)
- ✓ Give timeline and show you did your homework (references/literature)
- ✓ Describe accurately the requested budget vs. the proposed research (resources)

Rumours

1. Ask for more money, the reviewers will anyhow cut it down
2. I need preliminary results
 - **NOT true,**
 - 1. but unexplained or non-motivated requests can be cut down
 - 2. If you have preliminary results include them, if they are absent, explain the "hypothesis" show support in literature



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Tips 4- The CV



- ✓ As important as your project
- ✓ Clear and logical presentation (list all **relevant** facts)
- ✓ "guide the reviewer"
- ✓ Have a Researcher ID that can be generated on the web of science
 - ✓ Submit the web address in the application
- ✓ If you know that you have gaps or other issues in your CV (e.g. co-authored publications), explain them
- ✓ Give trend (if possible)
- ✓ Describe accurately any other activity which can indicate scientific maturity

Rumours

- ✓ One needs publications in Nature/Science/Cell/high IF journals to succeed
- **NOT true**, however, publishing with senior scientists (former supervisors) raises doubts about maturity/scientific independence. Give publishing trend is possible, explain gaps in the trend (maternity, illness, army, ..), explain publishing habits in your field and country



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Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion



Evaluation of **excellence** at two levels:

1. Excellence of the Research Project

- ✓ Ground breaking nature
- ✓ Potential impact
- ✓ Scientific Approach

2. Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- ✓ Intellectual capacity
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Commitment

Referees and panels **evaluate and score** each criterion, which results in a **ranking** of the proposals (and final scores **A**, **B** and **C**). **As** fully meet the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available, **Bs** are of high quality but still need improvement (Step 1 Bs banned for 1 year resubmission), **Cs** need rethinking and serious improvement (banned for 2 years resubmission)



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Tips 5- The evaluation (1)



Facts

- ✓ **Step 1:** evaluation done by the Panel Members/PM (4-5/proposal) only, (remote) followed by panel discussions at the step 1 Panel Meeting
- ✓ **Step 2:** evaluation done by remote reviewers (3-5) and Panel Members (3-4) (remote) + interview with the PI at step 2 Panel Meeting
- ✓ You can exclude a reviewer (competitor, personal problems, etc.) including a PM
- ✓ Panel members are selected by the Scientific Council (ScC) **based on their scientific excellence and demonstrated outstanding scientific achievements**
- ✓ Remote reviewers (RR) are proposed by the Panel Members and approved by the ScC
- ✓ All RRs are **selected based on their scientific excellence and expertise**
- ✓ The list of all PMs is published at the end of the Calls, Panel Chairs are published before the Panel Meeting



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Tips 5- The evaluation (2)



Tips

- ✓ Think through your project, have a logical and clear step by step description
- ✓ Explain risks if you can identify them and have a contingency plan
- ✓ **"Guide the reviewer", use evaluation criteria as title/subtitle**

Rumours

1. There is request to include PMs from all Member States in the panels, not all are competent
2. PMs are generalists, with only few real experts, those can influence the panel decision
3. Expert PMs influence the panel decision by lobbying for their own country

NOT true, however,

1. if equal excellence/expertise is present, a positive discrimination might be applied (considering gender, grantee, geographic location, etc.)
2. PMs are excellent scientists, all used to evaluate projects at national and international level
3. The panel meetings are assisted by ERC scientific officers and independent observers (including members of the Scientific Council) to assure equal treatment and objective evaluation



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Tips 6- Interview



- ✓ Show your interest and enthusiasm – to be remembered by the PMs
- ✓ Have clear and representative slides ("Less is more!")
- ✓ Look at the panel and not to the wall/slides - to be remembered by the PMs
- ✓ Bring additional slides on new supporting data, if you can/have
- ✓ Answer all questions, if not sure ask back the question
- ✓ Don't over-explain your CV
- ✓ **Keep the time**
- ✓ **PRACTICE !!!!!**

Rumours

1. Choose your Acronym in alphabetical order, interviews are planned after alphabet
2. Late PM interviews have less chance, PMs are tired

NOT true, however,

1. Easy to remember acronym helps identifying the project during discussion
2. Tiredness can be there, "shake" the PMs up, place a joke, a comment...



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Increasing your chances



Address all evaluation criteria carefully

- Be clear when describing scientific excellence
- Show your ability of thinking outside the box
- Show the progress beyond the state-of-the-art
- If you have supporting preliminary results, include them
- Support (literature) & visualise your hypothesis, if possible use charts, tables, images
- Show "proof of maturity", think through the research you propose, identify risks and propose alternatives to reach the goal (contingency)
- Be realistic with your goals (don't over-dimension the Work Plan)
- Have a well presented CV
- Choose the correct descriptors (key words), don't "overuse" them
- Use your own key words



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Final tips



Interview

- ✓ Practice in advance
- ✓ Be prepared for scientific questions
 - ✓ bring extra slides for possible explanations
 - ✓ If you have new preliminary results, show them
- ✓ **Show your interest and enthusiasm**

Redressing

Before Redressing: don't blame the evaluator, see what could you have done/explain/present better

- Diverting scientific opinion is not motivating a redress
- An obvious mistake might result in a re-evaluation



Documents




1. **Work Programme**
 2. **Information for Applicants**
 3. ERC Rules for the submission of proposals and the related evaluation, selection and award procedures
 4. Guide for Peer Reviewers
 5. H2020 Rules for participation
-
-

6. Guide for Grant Holders
 7. ERC Model Grant Agreement
- <http://erc.europa.eu/document-library>



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Further information





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Dziękuję za uwagę!



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