

ERC: FUNDING PRINCIPLES & SUCCESS FACTORS

BILAT  USA 2.0

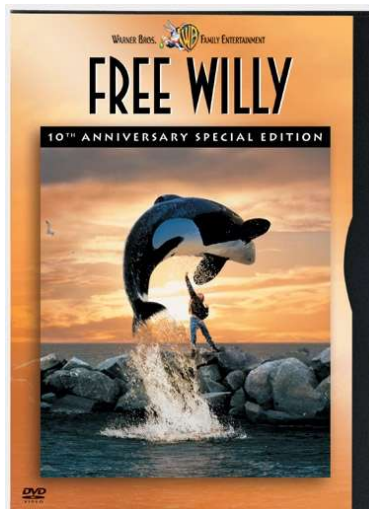
BILAT USA 2.0 WEBINAR
FEBRUARY 19th, 2014

THE ERC IS DIFFERENT....



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

...AND WANTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE




OVERVIEW




- ERC: Aims and principles
- Evaluation and proposal structure
- Success factors: What makes a competitive proposal?
- Quick guide through the “EU Participant Portal”



ERC: AIMS AND MAIN PRINCIPLES


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



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ERC: FUNDING PRINCIPLES


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1 Principal Investigator (PI) +

1 Host Institution (HI)





Target group: excellent scientists in all career stages

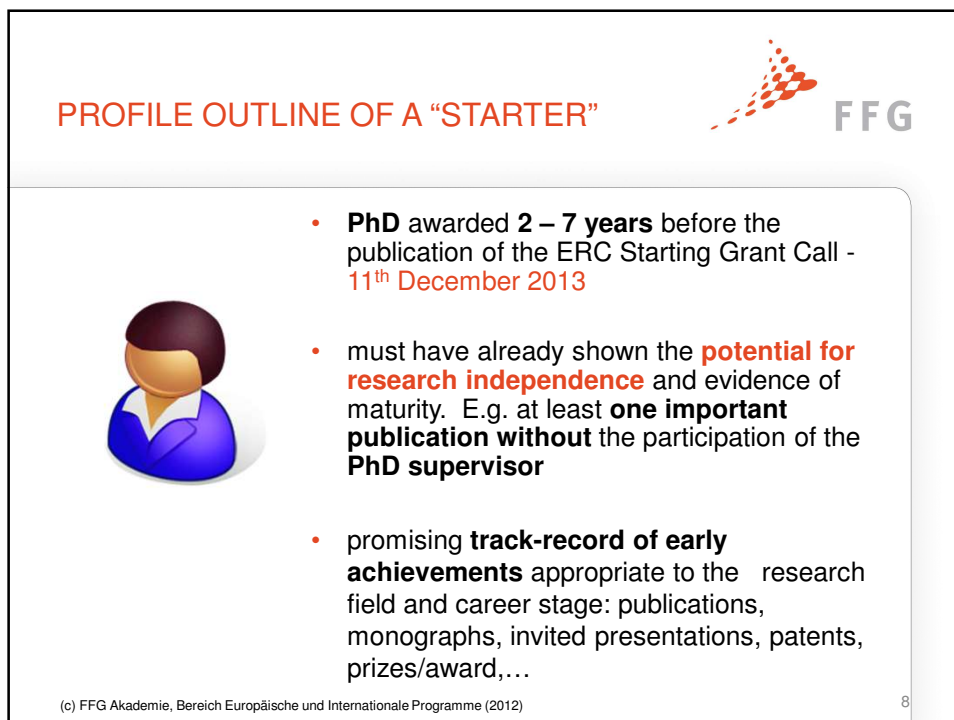
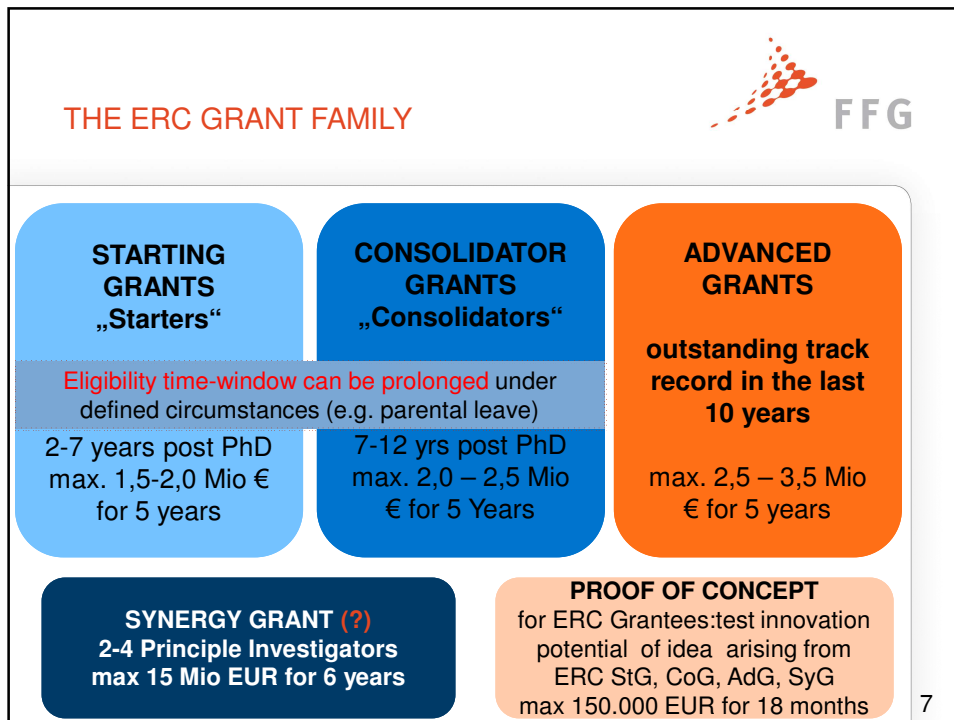
“Starters”: establish independent research team/programme

“Consolidators”: consolidate research team/programme

“Advanced”: novel, ambitious research programme

- Minimum time commitment by PI (50%/30%)
- Funding goes to HI, but HI guarantees autonomy of PI
- ERC-Grants are portable – “Money follows researcher”

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PROFILE OUTLINE OF A “CONSOLIDATOR”



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- **PhD** awarded **>7 – 12 years** before the publication of the ERC Consolidator Grant Call -**11th December 2013**
- 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,...

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“ADVANCED” PROFILE OUTLINE



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- No specific eligibility criteria, but intense competition
- **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** in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals
- 3 major research **monographs**; organization of 3 well-established international **conferences** or congresses,...

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FUNDING RATES AND IMPORTANT RULES



- Horizon 2020 **funding rates** apply:
100 % funding of indirect costs,
25% flat rate for overheads
- All documents and proposal submission via **EU Research Participant Portal**
- **Open Access** policy for ERC publications
- New: **Prolonged waiting time for resubmission** of non-funded ERC proposals (1-2 years depending on evaluation category)

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EVALUATION "SUBCRITERIA"

SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE


research project:

PI:

groundbreaking nature,
ambition,
feasibility

intellectual capacity,
creativity,
commitment

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EVALUATION: DOMAINS AND PANELS

ERC Domains

Domain	Percentage
PE	44%
LS	39%
SH	17%

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 and Informatics
- PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products and Processes Engineering
- 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

Social Sciences and Humanities

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

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EVALUATION: PANEL MEMBERS AND REMOTE REFEREES

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

LS6 Immunity and Infection: The immune system and related disorders, infectious agents and diseases, prevention and treatment of infection

- LS6_1 Innate immunity and inflammation
- LS6_2 Adaptive immunity
- LS6_3 Phagocytosis and cellular immunity
- LS6_4 Immunosignalling
- LS6_5 Immunological memory and tolerance
- LS6_6 Immunogenetics
- LS6_7 Microbiology
- LS6_8 Virology
- LS6_9 Bacteriology
- 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. allergy, autoimmunity)
- LS6_13 Veterinary medicine and infectious diseases in animals




Remote Referees
„Specialists“
Step 2

10-15 Members/Panel
„Generalists“
Step1 and Step 2
StG, CoG: Interview

list of previous panel members: <http://erc.europa.eu/evaluation-panels>

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PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION PROCESS (STG, COG, ADG)




PART A	Online administrative forms Ethical issues	
PART B1 – pdf	CV (including “funding ID”) Track record Extended synopsis	2 p. 2 p. 5 p.
PART B2 – pdf	Scientific proposal	15 p.
Annexes – pdf	Statement of support by the host Supporting documents (if needed)	

Eligible?

1 2

Interview
(StG, CoG)



Step 1: only B1 is evaluated by Panel Members

Step 2: B1 + B2 is evaluated by Panel + external referees

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QUICK POLL # 2

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PROPOSAL STRUCTURE – PART B1 COMMUNICATING THE ESSENCE



Extended synopsis:

research challenge; aims,
groundbreaking nature vs.state of
the art; originality, scientific
feasibility, impact, methodology,
expertise of PI, team

- > convince „generalist“ and
„specialist“ panel members
- > careful choice of panel(s)

Abstract

CV:

- academic and research record
- Funding ID (Annex)
- report any important career
breaks
- international collaborations

Early Achievement track record:

- publications
- conferences
- prizes and awards
- patents,...

PART B2: CONVINCING “GENERALIST” AND “SPECIALIST” REVIEWERS



Scientific proposal:

- a) **State of the art and objectives:** objectives clearly specified in context of state of the art; importance + impact of proposed research
- b) **Methodology:** detailed; key intermediate goals; novel /unconventional aspects, key risks and contingency plans, work and time plan
- c) **Resources:** team members, expertise, explanation for all cost categories, budget table; commitment of PI

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WITHIN FEW MINUTES, EVALUATORS WANT TO KNOW:



- What is the **problem/research challenge**?
- Why is this problem **important**?
- Why was it **not solved until now**?
- What is your **new idea/approach**?
- Is this **groundbreaking** research?
- What are your concrete research **objectives**?
- Why can **you** succeed?

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GREAT PROPOSAL - GREAT STORY



- ➔ What is the optimal **structure** to tell your story?
- **Key Components**: State-of-the Art, Objectives/Aims, Methods, Impact, Team/Resources
- Provide the "**big picture**" first
- Additional **subheaders**
 - e.g. Research Questions
 - Work leading up to this proposal
 - Scientific Impact
 - Research Design
- **visual material** such as images/ graphs
- important: feedback/questions by colleagues

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KEY CONSIDERATIONS



- How does the project break new ground? What is its „**core novelty**“?
- What are the main overarching **research questions/ testable hypotheses?** (-> validation of results, interpretation)
- What are the central **research objectives?**
- **Risk/gain**-balance
- Which **panel** is best suited to understand the „breakthrough“-character of the project?

INTERESTED IN APPLYING TO THE ERC? NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS (NCPS) CAN SUPPORT YOU!



<http://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points>

- National Contact Points (NCPs) **across Europe** provide information and personalized support to applicants
- The mission of the ERC NCPs is **to raise awareness, inform and advise on ERC funding opportunities**
- NCPs can also support in the **preparation, submission and follow-up** of an ERC grant application.

SUPPORT FOR ERC APPLICANTS IN/VIA AUSTRIA



- Consultancy and **Coaching**
- **Trainings** for ERC applicants and interview
- Guidance documents
- ERC news mailings
- **Proposal Check**
- **Analyses** of ERC evaluation comments
- Cooperation with grant management offices at Austrian ERC host institutions

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KEEPING UP TO DATE: IMPORTANT LINKS



ERC homepage

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

Abstracts of granted ERC projects

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

Previous ERC Panel Members:

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

ERC Newsletter

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



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HORIZON 2020 WEBPAGE


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<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

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THE EU RESEARCH PARTICIPANT PORTAL – FOCUS ERC



<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

RESEARCH & INNOVATION Participant Portal

Horizon 2020

ERC

Excellent Science
European Research Council
Future and Emerging Technologies
Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions
Research Infrastructures
Industrial Leadership
Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies(LEIT)
Access to risk finance
Innovation in SMEs

Filter a call FILTER

Sort by Title Call Id Publication Date Deadline Date

Excellent Science Call for proposals for ERC Consolidator Grant ERC-2014-CoG Pub.Date: 11/12/2013 Deadline: 20/05/2014	Excellent Science Call for proposals for ERC Proof of Concept Grant ERC-2014-PC Pub.Date: 11/12/2013 Deadline: 01/10/2014	Call for proposals for ERC Starting Grant ERC-2014-STG Pub.Date: 11/12/2013 Deadline: 25/03/2014
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In addition to the search facilities, the full list of H2020 Calls can be found [here](#).

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THE EU RESEARCH PARTICIPANT PORTAL – FOCUS ERC (2)



RESEARCH & INNOVATION Participant Portal

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR ERC STARTING GRANT
ERC-2014-STG

Publication date: 2013-12-11
Budget: €485,039,385
Status: Open

Deadline Date: 2014-03-25 +17:00:00 (Brussels local time)
Main Pillar: Excellent Science
O3 reference: O3 C361/9 of 11 December 2013

Call description Call documents Get support Subscribe to notifications

Call summary

ERC Starting Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are starting their own independent research team or programme. This action is open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any Member State or Associated Country.

The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities. The call 'ERC-2014-STG' consists of one call with a single deadline applying to each of the three main research domains:

- Physical Sciences & Engineering (Panel: PE1 – PE10);
- Life Sciences (Panel: LS1 – LS9);
- Social Sciences & Humanities (Panel: SH1 – SH6).

The deadline for all domains of this call is 25 March 2014, 17:00:00 (Brussels local time).

The budget indicated above is the total budget covering all domains.

Please note that the link for the electronic proposal submission system will be made available in January.

Topics and submission service

- ERC-STG-2014: ERC Starting Grant

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THE EU RESEARCH PARTICIPANT PORTAL – FOCUS ERC (3)



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Q+ A SESSION

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UPCOMING ERC DEADLINES



ERC Grant	Call publication	Call deadline	Budget (Mio €)
Starting Grant 2014	11. Dec. 2013	25. March 2014	485 (~ 370 grants)
Consolidator Grant 2014	11. Dec. 2013	20. May 2014	713 (~ 400 grants)
Advanced Grant 2014	17. June 2014	21. Oct 2014	450 (~ 200 grants)
Proof of concept 2014	11. Dec. 2013	1. April 2014 1. Oct. 2014	15 (~ 100 grants)
Starting Grant 2015	Sep/Oct 2014?	3. Feb. 2015	411 (~ 315 grants)
Consolidator Grant 2015	Nov/Oct 2014?	12. March 2015	603 (~ 340 grants)
Advanced Grant 2015	Jan/Feb 2014?	2. June 2015	640 (~ 285 grants)
Proof of concept 2015	Nov/Dec 2014?	23. April 2015 1. Oct. 2015	15 (~ 100 grants)
Synergy 2015?	?	?	?

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ERC CALLS AND BUDGET



Starting and Consolidator Grants 2014/15

CALL ID	CALL BUDGET Mio €	No of Proposals	No of Grants EU/AT
ERC-SIG-2014	485	tbd	tbd
ERC-SIG-2015	411	tbd	tbd
ERC-CoG-2014	713	tbd	tbd
ERC-CoG-2015	603	tbd	tbd

Advanced Grants Horizon 2014/15

CALL ID	CALL BUDGET Mio €	No of Proposals	No of Grants EU/AT
ERC-AdG-2014	450	tbd	tbd
ERC-AdG-2015	640	tbd	tbd

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