FP7-IDEAS

EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC)

STARTING RESEARCHERS GRANT 2012
FP7 Framework Programme (2007-2013):
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls
FP7: budget breakdown (€ million)

- COOPERATION € 32.413
- IDEAS € 7.510
- CAPACITIES € 4.097
- PEOPLE € 4.750

**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL**
(decision making body)

**EXECUTIVE AGENCY**
(operating arm)

**Funding opportunities:**

– ERC Starting Researcher Grants
– ERC Advanced Investigator Grants
THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

PI of any nationality, age, or country of residence at the time of the application
PhD (or equivalent doctoral degree) 2 - 12 years prior to the publication date of the call for proposals

THE HOST INSTITUTION:

Located in a EU Member State or Associated Country.
• Maternity (18 months)
• Paternity (actual time of paternity leave)
• Long term illness
• National service
RESEARCH CAREER STAGE

**STARTERS:** PhD between 2 and 7 years prior to the call publication

**CONSOLIDATORS:** PhD between 7 and 12 years prior to the call publication.
Potential for research **independence** (at least one important publication without the participation of the PhD supervisor).

**Promising track record** of early achievements (significant publications as main author)

**Record of invited presentations** in well established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes etc.
Only one ERC grant active at any time.

No more than one application during the same year.

No reapplication to the following call unless the first was above the quality threshold at the end of step 1 evaluation.
SIZE:
up to €1,500,000 for a period of 5 years (pro rata for projects of shorter duration)
+ €500,000 for PIs moving from a Third Country or an Associate Country

EC CONTRIBUTION:
100% of the total eligible and approved direct costs.
20% of indirect costs.
OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUBCALLS

ERC-2012-StG_20111012
Physical Sciences & Engineering (Panels: PE1 - PE10).
DEADLINE: 12 October 2011, 17.00.00 (Brussels local time).

ERC-2012-STG_20111109
Life Sciences (Panels: LS1 – LS9).
DEADLINE: 09 November 2011, 17.00.00 (Brussels local time).

ERC-2012-STG_20111124
Social Sciences & Humanities (Panels: SH1 – SH6).
DEADLINE: 24 November 2011, 17.00.00 (Brussels local time).
The proposals to EC must be submitted by using the EPSS (Elettronic Proposal Submission System). In the page dedicated to each call for proposal there is the link to the EPSS.

Do not forget UNITN Internal Deadline
The application procedure consists of a single submission stage using EPSS

PROPOSAL

• The administrative forms (Part A)
• The research proposal (Part B)
• The supporting documentation
PART A

A1 Proposal and PI Information
A2 Host Organization
A3 Budget

PART B1

Section 1
a) Scientific leader potential (1p)
b) CV (2p)
c) Track Record (2p)
d) Extended Synopsis (5p)

ANNEXES

Letter of HI
Annexes on Ethical Issues
Annexes on Extensions

PART B2

Section 2
Scientific proposal (15p)
Ethical issues table (1-2p)
UNITN PROCEDURES

Internal Expression of Support
(signed by the Head of Department or Research Center)

Research and Knowledge Transfer Division

INTERNAL DEADLINES

3 October 2011 - PANEL: Physical Sciences & Engineering (Panels: PE1 - PE10)

2 November 2011 - PANEL: Life Sciences (Panels: LS1 – LS9)

15 November 2010 - PANEL: Social Sciences & Humanities (Panels: SH1 – SH6)
Life sciences
EVALUATION - PROCESS

Single submission ➔ 2 step evaluation

STEP 1

- Eligibility Check
- Evaluation of Part B1

STEP 2

- Full proposal evaluation
  - Interview in Brussels
Each at least one Chair and 10/15 Members

At least 3 reviewers

3 main research domains:

- Physical Sciences & Engineering – 10 Panels
- Life Sciences (incl. medical) – 9 Panels
- Humanities & Social Sciences – 6 Panels

Before the deadline of a call, the names of the panel chairs are published on the ERC website.

Call budget pre-allocated to these areas as follows:

- 44% - 39% - 17%
HOT TIPS (general)!!

(not) To do List

Don’t: Writing it for a SPECIALIST only – GENERALIST might need to understand it as well

Do: Reaching ‘out of box’- leaving the lab and thinking broader

Don’t: Writing like a publication rather than a project proposal

Don’t: Only continuation of the previous work - offer new developments, go a step further (if needed)

Do: VISION/IMPACT – how will this project contribute to the field, society,etc. – giving a promise

Don’t: Modesty in describing the P.I. profile – proving quality should not seem arrogant
Do: **FOCUS** – in 5 years not all research ideas/results can be achieved

Do: **SRUCTURE** the proposal well/clear (legible – comprehensible)

**OBJECTIVES** → **METHODOLOGY** → **WORKPLN** → **BUDGET**

Do: **SUMMARY** – or an abstract is an entry ticket! – winning evaluator’s attention – sharpness

Do: **(ENGLISH)** language is not perfect enough – scientific editing
1. If the proposal is not «tailored» you could fail: better not taking the risk and work on it properly for the next call.

2. Step 1 evaluation is totally based on part B1 of the proposal (PI description and synopsys), part B2 is not even circulated among evaluators until Step 2 => B1 has to be prepared with maximum care.

3. The Proposal Summary is your business card. Panel members should be enticed through the summary to read the whole proposal. The writing should be clear, synthetic, engaging and convincing. It is convenient leave it as last item to compose.
4. The PI description should highlight all their added values in comparison with other participants. The key question (in B1 e B2) is:

Why you?

NB: Do not cite too many publications with the Phd supervisor.

5. Project description should underline every aspect of:

- ground-breaking science
- worldwide impact
- European leadership

   Do not repeat what already said only to stretch the text.

   Better a B2 short and synthetic that one long and boring!!!
‘Town of laboratory’
65 StG and 33 AdG with Italian Host Inst

Source May 2011:
StG 2007 (299 selected)
StG 2009 (245 selected)
StG 2010 (433 selected)
AdG 2008 (282 selected)
AdG 2009 (245 selected)
AdG 2010 (266 selected)
ERC Starting Grant 2011 Call
Grantees by country of host institution
Source: 480 proposals

Number of Grantees

Country of Host Institution

Social Sciences and Humanities
Physical Sciences and Engineering
Life Sciences

21 countries
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