ERC STARTING GRANTS 2013

Trento, September 19th 2012
• How to apply: overview on eligibility criteria and administrative rules regarding the preparation and the submission of the proposal (dott.sa Samanta Voltolini – Research and Technological Transfer Division)

• The experience of a Unitn researcher who have won an ERC Starting Grant (prof. David Paul Melcher – Cimec)
Summary

- Mission of the Programme
- Who can apply (PI eligibility criteria and profile)
- How to apply and when
- Relevant documentation to be read
- UNITN internal procedures
- Evaluation process
- Statistics
- Tips on writing a proposal

This presentation is provided for information purposes only and its contents are not intended to replace the consultation of the FP7 legal documents. Neither the University of Trento nor any person acting on its behalf can be held responsible for the use made of this presentation.
FP7 OVERVIEW

**COOPERATION**
- Health
- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology
- Information & communication technologies
- Nanosciences, nanotechnologies, materials & new production technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including Climate Change)
- Transport (including aeronautics)
- Socio-economic Sciences and the Humanities
- Space
- Security

**IDEAS**
- European Research Council (ERC) Grants

**PEOPLE**
- Initial training
- Life-long training
- Industry academia
- International dimension
- Specific actions

**CAPACITIES**
- Research infrastructures
- Research for the benefit of SMEs
- Regions of knowledge
- Research potential of Convergence Regions
- Science in society
- Support to the coherent development of research policies
- International cooperation

**EURATOM**

**JRC**
• **Structure of ERC**: Scientific Council and an Executive Agency.

• **Mission**: encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-initiated frontier research across all fields of research, on the basis of scientific excellence.

• **Themes**: all fields of research (bottom up)

• **Evaluation criteria**: ONLY the Scientific excellence

• **Funding opportunities**:
  - Starting Grant
    - Consolidator Grant
    - Advanced Grant
    - Synergy Grant
    - Proof of Concept Grant
Support up-and-coming research leaders who are about to establish a proper research team and to start conducting independent research in Europe.

The scheme targets promising researchers who have the proven potential of becoming independent research leaders.

It will support the creation of excellent new research teams.
ERC STARTING GRANTS – WHO CAN APPLY
ERC STG – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Principal Investigator

any nationality, age, or country of residence

2 - 7 of experience since completion of PhD (or equivalent degree) – possible extensions

scientific track record showing great promise

Host Institution

located in a EU Member State or Associated Country

Proposal
Eligible career breaks (which must be properly documented)

Maternity: 18 months for each child born before or after the PhD award

Paternity: the actual amount of paternity leave taken for each child born before or after the PhD award

Longterm illness (over ninety days), clinical training or national service: the actual amount of leave taken for each incident which occurred after the PhD award

Up to 11 years and 6 months
The PI

• must have already shown the potential for research independence and evidence of maturity (e.g. at least one important publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor).

• should demonstrate a promising track record of early achievements appropriate to their research field and career stage (e.g. significant publications (as main author) in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field).

• may demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well established international conferences, granted patents, awards, prizes etc.

• will be expected to spend a minimum 50% of their total working time on the ERC project and a minimum of 50% of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country.
Restrictions on submissions of proposals

• Only 1 proposal to the ERC under the same Work Programme;

• No applications to ERC call 2013 if the PI has submitted an eligible proposal to a 2012 ERC call evaluated as of insufficient quality to pass to step 2. Exception: reapplication after an eligible proposal to the 2012 Synergy Grant (PI can apply to ERC STG or Consolidator or ADG 2013).

• Only one ERC grant active at any time held by a PI or Co-investigator;

• A PI who holds an ERC grant cannot submit a proposal for another ERC Grant unless the existing grant expires no more than two years after the call deadline;

• No application for the same type of grant from PI serving as a Panel Member for a 2013 ERC call or who served as a Panel Member for a 2011 ERC.
ERC STARTING GRANTS – EC CONTRIBUTION
Call identifier: ERC-2013-StG

Indicative budget: 398 000 000 € from 2013 budget.
Indicative percentage for the three main research domains:

*Physical Sciences & Engineering:* 44%

*Life Sciences:* 39%

*Social Sciences & Humanities:* 17%
- up to a maximum of EUR 1 500 000 for a period of 5 years (pro rata for projects of shorter duration).
- up to an additional EUR 500 000 as
  - (a) "start-up" costs for Principal Investigators moving from another country to the EU or an Associated Country as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant and/or
  - (b) the purchase of major equipment and/or
  - (c) access to large facilities.
Up to 100% of the total eligible and approved direct costs

+ 

a flat-rate financing of indirect costs on the basis of 20% of the total eligible direct costs (Excluding the direct costs for subcontracting and the costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on the premises of the host institution)
ERC STARTING GRANTS 2013—DEADLINE

17 October 2012, 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)
ERC STARTING GRANTS 2013–HOW TO APPLY
A single submission of the FULL proposal will be followed by a two-step peer review evaluation.

The proposals to EC must be submitted by using the EPSS (Electronic Proposal Submission System). In the page dedicated to each call for proposal is the link to the EPSS

Page dedicated to the call:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/ideas?callIdentifier=ERC-2013-StG
Call for proposals for ERC Starting Grant

Identifier: ERC-2013-STG
Publication Date: 10 July 2012
Budget: € 350,000,000
Deadline: 17 October 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)
OJ Reference: C 202 of 10 July 2012
Specific Programme(s): IDEA
Theme(s): ERC

Additional information

Please note that the call 'ERC-2013-STG' consists of one call with a single deadline applying to the three domains:

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

The deadline for all domains of this call is 17 October 2012, 17:00:00 (Brussels local time).

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

Latest information on Call

14-08-2012

The revision of the Guide for Applicants (14 August 2012) only affects the layout and not the content in any manner.

Information Package

In order to receive a complete Information Package for this call, you will need to select the following elements:

1. The call fiche (only available in .pdf format)
2. The work programme (.pdf format)
3. "FP7" work programme is required in order to proceed with the basic elements of this programme's content.
Don’t forget UNITN Internal Guidelines and Deadlines

http://www.unitn.it/ateneo/bando-ricerca/23643/bando-ideas-erc-starting-grants
ERC STG – THE PROPOSAL

PART A

A1 Proposal and PI and HI
A2 Host Organization
A3 Budget

PART B1

to be evaluated at step 1 and step 2:
– Section a - The Extended Synopsis of the scientific proposal
– Section b – the CV of the PI
– Section c – Early achievements track-record.

PART B2

to be evaluated at step 2 only:
– Section a, b, c – The scientific proposal.
– Section d – Ethical and Security issues.

The Supplementary Documents
– The Commitment of the Host.
– PhD certificate and the docs, in case of career breaks
– The explanatory information on ethical issues and/or on security sensitivity issues (if applicable)
ERC STG – EPSS

All files have been treated uniformly and compressed to facilitate the access to the individual documents and to optimise the speed of transfer. To access the files, you will need a file compression utility capable of opening the `zip` format.

All documents as a zip file (EN only).
Caution: Download time will vary depending on your internet connection. this type of zip file can exceed 40 Mb.

Electronic Proposal Submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service of the call, please select the funding scheme or objective corresponding to the work programme topic that is most relevant to your proposal from the list below. You will then be linked to the correct entry point.

Available funding scheme(s):
- ERC Starting Grant (ERC-SG)

Get Support

- View or contact relevant National Contact Points for further help.
- To ensure compliance with ethical issues, further information is available on the Ethics review on CORDIS and on the Europa Portal.
- Enquiry service: Ask your questions about any aspect of European research in general and the EU Research Framework Programmes in particular from the Research Enquiry Service.
- The European IPR Helpdesk assists beneficiaries on intellectual property issues.
- A partner search is offered on CORDIS Partners Service.

Enterprise Europe Network

- Do you know how to tackle standardization in your future project proposal? Contact CEN and CENELEC, the European Standards Organisations to receive tailor-made help at research@cencenelec.eu (CEN-CENELEC Research Helpdesk) or visit the websites of CEN and CENELEC.
Welcome to EPSS, the Electronic Proposal Submission Service

Call Selected: ERC-2013-StG
Sub-Scheme Selected: ERC-SG

I am the coordinator of a proposal and I need a user name and a password
I already have an online user name and a password
I am a participant (not the coordinator) in a proposal and I need a user name and password

REGISTER1
LOGIN
CONTACT YOUR COORDINATOR

1Usernames and passwords are sent by e-mail. The Commission takes no responsibility for any potential loss, incorrect arrival, non-delivery or use of the username and password. It is the co-ordinator’s responsibility to ensure that he/she has sufficient time to prepare and submit the proposal using EPSS after the receipt of the username and password. The proposer takes the risk and responsibility to ensure that the e-mail address provided is correct and assumes all risks in case of error, misuse, illegibility or loss of confidentiality or security. If you experience any difficulty receiving your user name and password, please contact the EPSS operator by e-mail support@epss-fp7.org or by phone +32-2-233 3760.

EPSS user guide
Privacy Statement
INSERT PIC OF THE HI IN THE REGISTRATION PHASE
ERC STG – EPSS - REGISTRATION

Registration - Personal Details

Call Selected: ERC-2013-STG
Sub-Scheme Selected: ERC-SG

Please fill in your details below. Note that you must provide entries marked with an asterisk.

PIC info?

PIC 999841954

Title * Mr.

First name *

Organisation Short Name

Telephone *

E-mail *

Organisation Legal Name UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO

City * TRENTO

Country * Italy

Warning: Only proposal Coordinators should register. Partners should obtain the registration information from the proposal Coordinator.

reset next
AT THE END OF THE REGISTRATION THE PI WILL RECEIVE USERNAME AND PASSWORD.
ERC STG – HOW DOES EPSS WORK?

Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)

EPSS

Prepare Proposal | Change Password | Check Validation | Submit Proposal | Logout
General
Proposal Setup | Part A | Part B & Annexes | History

General Information

Call Selected: ERC-2013-StG
Sub-Scheme Selected: ERC-STG
Proposal ID: Not available
Proposal status: Proposal NOT submitted

The information below has been supplied during the registration phase; the information supplied during the registration is not inherited in the EPSS account since it is considered indicative only; it cannot be modified but is NOT used for the evaluation of the proposal. Make sure that the correct information is present in the A forms and Part B.

Title: nnnnn
Coordinator: Samanta Voltolini

Too | EPSS Help Desk | EPSS User Guide | Privacy statement | EPSS FAQ | CORDIS Support

Norton SECURED
powered by VeriSign
ERC STG – HOW DOES EPSS WORK?

Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)

EPSS
- Prepare Proposal
- Change Password
- Check Validation
- Submit Proposal
- Logout

General
- Proposal Setup
- Part A
- Part B & Annexes
- History

Part A

Click on a form name to edit online, or select form(s) and press download to view as PDF.
Scroll to bottom of the form to save and validate form.
Note: Automatic calculations will only be performed if form is valid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form name</th>
<th>Download (PDF)</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last updated 17 Jul 2012 10:15:04 Brussels Local Time by EPSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2 Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last updated 17 Jul 2012 10:15:04 Brussels Local Time by EPSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last updated 17 Jul 2012 10:15:04 Brussels Local Time by EPSS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that all participants in proposals must ensure that they have the authorisation of their organisation to participate in the proposal and any project arising from it. Co-ordinators are advised to ensure that this is the case prior to the submission of the proposal.
• The administrative forms (Part A)
TO BE FILLED IN ON LINE IN EPSS

Section A1: Proposal and PI information
  o General Information on the Proposal
  o Information on the Principal Investigator
  o The Legal Representative of the Host Institution (The person who can commit the host institution according to the requirements of the ERC Model Grant Agreement) and the Contact Person.
  o Reviewers Requested to be Excluded

Section A2: Host Institution information
  o The Organisation

Section A3: Budget
Financial information – whole duration of the project
ERC STG – HOW DOES EPSS WORK?

Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)

Prepare Proposal | Change Password | Check Validation | Submit Proposal | Logout

General | Proposal Setup | Part A | Part B & Annexes | History

PART B1 Upload

Specify the location of the Part B1 file to be uploaded:

File: ___________________________

Upload PDF file - Part B1

Why only PDF? Help with PDF

For the proposal content (Part B1) you must use exclusively PDF (‘Portable Document Format’, compatible with Adobe Acrobat Reader version 5 or higher, with embedded fonts). It is recommended not to upload very big files. To keep sizes down avoid colour and unnecessary high resolution pictures and graphs. The average size of a research proposal is 2MB (less for mobility actions). You should aim to restrict your proposal to under 3MB, and under no circumstances try to upload a file larger than 10MB.

Download Part B1 Template(s) (zip file)

PART B1 Overview
No Part B1 File Uploaded

PART B2 Upload

Specify the location of the Part B2 file to be uploaded:

File: ___________________________

Upload PDF file - Part B2

Why only PDF? Help with PDF

For the proposal content (Part B2) you must use exclusively PDF (‘Portable Document Format’, compatible with Adobe Acrobat Reader version 5 or higher, with embedded fonts). It is recommended not to upload very big files. To keep sizes down avoid colour and unnecessary high resolution pictures and graphs. The average size of a research proposal is 2MB (less for mobility actions). You should aim to restrict your proposal to under 3MB, and under no circumstances try to upload a file larger than 10MB.

Download Part B2 Template(s) (zip file)

PART B2 Overview
No Part B2 File Uploaded
Part B1

Cover Page:
- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Name of the PI's host institution for the project
- Proposal full title
- Proposal short name
- Proposal duration in months
- Proposal summary (half page - possibly copy/paste of abstract from administrative part A1)

The Principal Investigator:
a. Extended Synopsis of the scientific proposal (max 5 pages)
b. Curriculum Vitae (max 2 pages)
c. Early achievements track-Record (max 2 pages)
ERC Starting Grant 2013
Research proposal [Part B1]\(^1\)
(to be evaluated in Step 1)

Proposal Full Title

PROPOSAL ACRONYM

Section a: Extended Synopsis of the project proposal (max. 5 pages)
(see Guide for Applicants for the Starting Grant 2013 Call – Instructions for completing ‘Part B’ of the proposal)

[Concise presentation of the scientific proposal, with particular attention to the ground-breaking nature of the research project, which will allow evaluation panels to assess, in step 1 of the evaluation, the feasibility of the outlined scientific approach.

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, at least font size 11, margins (2.0 side and 1.5 bottom), single line spacing.

Section b: Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)
Section c: Early achievements track-record (max. 2 pages)
(see Guide for Applicants for the Starting Grant 2013 Call – Instructions for completing ‘Part B’ of the proposal)

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, at least font size 11, margins (2.0 side and 1.5 bottom), single line spacing.

Proposal summary (half page, possibly copy/paste abstract from the administrative form A1)
Part B2

*The scientific proposal* (max 15 pages, excluding Ethical Issues Table and Annex)

a. State of the art and objectives
b. Methodology
c. Resources (incl. project costs)
d. Ethical and Security sensitivity Issues
ERC Starting Grant 2013
Research proposal [Part B2]¹

(Not evaluated in Step 1)

Part B2: The Project proposal
(max. 15 pages, excluding Ethical Issues Table and Annex)

(see Guide for Applicants for the Starting Grant 2013 Call – instructions for completing ‘Part B’ of the proposal)

Section a. State-of-the-art and objectives:

Section b. Methodology:

Section c. Resources (incl. project costs)³
(Note: To facilitate the assessment of resources by the panels, the use of the following costing table is strongly suggested)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Category</th>
<th>Month 1-10</th>
<th>Month 19-36</th>
<th>Month 37-54</th>
<th>Month 55-60</th>
<th>Total (M€/y)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Costs</td>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>FTE</td>
<td>Senior Staff</td>
<td>Post docs</td>
<td>Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Costs</td>
<td>Max 20% of</td>
<td>Direct Costs</td>
<td>Subcontracting</td>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>Costs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Direct Costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Costs:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>(by reporting</td>
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<td>period and total)</td>
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<td>(by reporting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ETHICS ISSUES TABLE

Areas Excluded From Funding Under FP7 (Art. 6)

(i) Research activity aiming at human cloning for reproductive purposes;
(ii) Research activity intended to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes inheritable (Research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads can be financed);
(iii) Research activities intended to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer;

All FP7 funded research shall comply with the relevant national, EU and international ethical-rules and professional codes of conduct. Where necessary, the beneficiary(ies) shall provide the responsible Commission services with a written confirmation that it has received (a) favourable opinion(s) of the relevant ethics committee(s) and, if applicable, the regulatory approval(s) of the competent national or local authority(ies) in the country in which the research is to be carried out, before beginning any Commission approved research requiring such opinions or approvals. The copy of the official approval from the relevant national or local ethics committees must also be provided to the responsible Commission services.

Guidance notes on informed consent, dual use, animal welfare, data protection and cooperation with non-EU countries are available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/ethics/index_en.htm

For real-time updated information on Animal welfare also see:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/ethics/meetings/lab_animals.htm

For real-time updated information on Data Protection also see:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/ethics/privacy/index_en.htm

¹ Instructions for completing Part B2 can be found in the Guide for Applicants for the Starting Grant 2013 call. For specific information about financial items, please consult the Guide for ERC Grant Makers on the ERC website.

² Please note that the percentage of your dedicated working time (minimum 10% of your total working time) is the ERC-funded activity.

³ Please make sure that the data by reporting period and cost category match.
ERC STG – PART B2

Research on Human Embryo/ Foetus

- Does the proposed research involve human embryos?
- Does the proposed research involve human foetal tissues/cells?
- Does the proposed research on human embryonic stem cells involve cells in culture?
- Does the proposed research on human embryonic stem cells involve cells from embryos?

I CONFIRM THAT NONE OF THE ABOVE ISSUES APPLY TO MY PROPOSAL

Research on Humans

- Does the proposed research involve human beings?
- Does the proposed research involve persons not able to give consent?
- Does the proposed research involve adult healthy individuals?
- Does the proposed research involve human genetic material?
- Does the proposed research involve human biological samples?

I CONFIRM THAT NONE OF THE ABOVE ISSUES APPLY TO MY PROPOSAL

Privacy

- Does the proposed research involve processing of genetic information or personal data (e.g. health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity), political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction?
- Does the proposed research involve tracking the location or observation of people?

I CONFIRM THAT NONE OF THE ABOVE ISSUES APPLY TO MY PROPOSAL

Research on Animals

- Does the proposed research involve vertebrate animals?
- Are those animals transgenic small laboratory animals?
- Are those animals transgenic farm animals?
- Are those animals non-human primates?
- Are those animals cloned farm animals?

I CONFIRM THAT NONE OF THE ABOVE ISSUES APPLY TO MY PROPOSAL

Research involving non-EU Countries (ICPC Countries)

- Is the proposed research or part of it going to take place in one or more of the ICPC Countries?
- Is any material used in the research (e.g. personal data, animal or human tissues, genetic material, live animals)...

Page 5

Dual Use

- Research having direct military use
- Research having the potential for terrorist abuse

I CONFIRM THAT NONE OF THE ABOVE ISSUES APPLY TO MY PROPOSAL

If any of the above issues apply to your proposal, you are required to complete and upload the ‘B2 Ethical Issues Assess’ (template provided).

Without this Assess, your application cannot be properly evaluated and even if successful the granting process will not proceed.

Please see the Guide for Applicants for the Starting Grant 2013 Call for further details and CORDIS http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7-wikis.en.html for further information on how to deal with ethical issues in your proposal.
ERC STG – HOW DOES EPSS WORK?

Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)

EPSS

Prepare Proposal  Change Password  Check Validation  Submit Proposal  Logout

General

Proposal Setup  Part A  Part B & Annexes  History

Call Selected: ERC-2013-STG
Sub-Scheme Selected: ERC-SG
Proposal ID: Not available
Proposal status: Proposal NOT submitted

The information below has been supplied during the registration phase; the information supplied during the registration is not inherited in the EPSS account since it is considered indicative only; it cannot be modified but is NOT used for the evaluation of the proposal. Make sure that the correct information is present in the A forms and Part B.

Title: nnnnn
Coordinator: Samanta Voltolini
ERC STG – HOW DOES EPSS WORK?

For the PhD certificate you must use exclusively PDF ("Portable Document Format", compatible with Adobe Acrobat Reader version 5 or higher, with embedded fonts). It is recommended not to upload very big files. To keep sizes down avoid colour and unnecessary high resolution pictures and graphs. The average size of a research proposal is 2MB (less for mobility actions). You should aim to restrict your proposal to under 3MB, and under no circumstances try to upload a file larger than 10MB

For the Host Institution support letter you must use exclusively PDF ("Portable Document Format", compatible with Adobe Acrobat Reader version 5 or higher, with embedded fonts). It is recommended not to upload very big files. To keep sizes down avoid colour and unnecessary high resolution pictures and graphs. The average size of a research proposal is 2MB (less for mobility actions). You should aim to restrict your proposal to under 3MB, and under no circumstances try to upload a file larger than 10MB

Download Host Institution support letter Template(s) (zip file)
- The Commitment of the Host, originally signed, stamped and dated by the institution’s legal representative.

- Documents proving his/her eligibility for the grant, i.e. the PhD certificate (or equivalent degree,) clearly indicating the date of award/defence and, in case of an extension of the eligibility period beyond 7 years has been requested, the relevant documentary evidence.

- Any additional supporting documents which may be required following the indications provided by the Guide for Applicants (i.e. ethical and/or security sensitivity issues)
Internal Procedure – THE COMMITMENT OF THE HOST

The PI should:

- talk to his/her Head of Dept. or Director of the Centre;

- ask him/her to approve and support his/her proposal by signing the Internal Espression of Support (see the internal template);

- send the duly signed Internal Expression of Support to the Divisione Supporto alla Ricerca within October 5th 2012.
Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)

EPSS

Prepare Proposal  Change Password  Check Validation  Submit Proposal  Logout
General
Proposal Setup  Part A  Part B & Annexes  History

General Information

Call Selected: ERC-2013-Stg
Sub-Scheme Selected: ERC-SG
Proposal ID: Not available
Proposal status: Proposal NOT submitted

The information below has been supplied during the registration phase; the information supplied during the registration is not inherited in the EPSS account since it is considered indicative only; it cannot be modified but is NOT used for the evaluation of the proposal. Make sure that the correct information is present in the A forms and Part B.

Title: nnnnn
Coordinator: Samanta Voltolini
ERC STG – HOW DOES EPSS WORK?

Electronic Proposal Submission Service (EPSS)

Proposal submission

Modifications to proposals are possible at any time before the deadline, also after an initial submission. The latest version available at the deadline is considered as the one submitted. When resubmitting, the principal investigator automatically accepts the withdrawal of the previously submitted proposal by replacing it with the new version.

By submitting this proposal, the principal investigator (corresponding principal investigator in the case of a Synergy Grant application) confirms that all necessary internal authorisations have been obtained by all team members (and all principal investigators in the case of a Synergy Grant application) and that the submission complies with any internal requirements of the principal investigators' and team members' organisations relating to the submission of such proposals.

In doing so, the (corresponding) principal investigator accepts that the Commission takes no responsibility for the evaluation or selection of any proposal which subsequently proves not to have been authorised by the competent officials of the principal investigators' and team members' organisation(s).

The (corresponding) principal investigator also confirms that the proposal is based on his/her own ideas, or the ideas of his/her team members (or fellow principal investigators in the case of a Synergy Grant application) and that contributions by others are acknowledged appropriately.

N.B.: The validation does not guarantee that you have uploaded the files with the right content, i.e. Part B1, Part B2, Host Support Letter, PhD Document with supporting documentation (in case of the Starting Grant) and, if applicable, the Ethical Issues Annex and the Security Issues Annex.

Please make sure that you have uploaded the right files with the right content!

It is strongly recommended that you check the integrity and completeness of the uploaded files by downloading all of them in the "Part B & Annexes" section.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the ERC receives readable copies of all your proposal files.

Please press the button below to have your proposal submitted.

Press this button to submit the proposal
ERC STARTING GRANTS – EVALUATION PROCESS
A single submission of an ERC Starting Grant proposal will be followed by a two-step peer review evaluation.

25 peer review evaluation panels (ERC panels) subdivided into three main research domains:
- Physical Sciences and Engineering 10 Panels
- Life Sciences 9 Panels
- Social Sciences and Humanities 6 Panels

A chairman + 10-15 members (names of the chairs are published before the deadline; panel members after the conclusion of the evaluation process).  
http://erc.europa.eu/evaluation-panels

Grant applications are assessed by peer review evaluation panels (ERC panels), which may be supported by additional remote reviewers (e.g. Multi and inter disciplinary proposals)
The PI choose and indicate in form A1 the ERC primary Panel + one or more panel descriptors (keywords). The PI can indicate also a secondary Panel if relevant.

The initial allocation of the proposal to the panels are based on this preference. However the panel can determine (also when the PI indicates a secondary panel) whether the proposal is cross-panel or crossdomain and request additional reviews by member of other panels or additional referees.

When necessary due to the expertise required for the evaluation, a proposal may be reallocated to a different panel with the agreement of both Panel Chairs concerned.
Scientific excellence as sole criterion

The research project: Ground-breaking nature and Potential impact
Scientific Approach

The Principal Investigator: intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment
1. Research Project
Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

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 across disciplines)?
How much is the proposed research high risk/high gain?

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible (based on Extended Synopsis)?
To what extent is the proposed research methodology appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on Scientific Proposal)?
To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on Scientific Proposal)?
To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on Scientific Proposal)?

2. Principal Investigator(s)
Intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting and Consolidator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The PI has demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research and his/her achievements have typically gone beyond the state-of-the-art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The PI provides abundant evidence of creative independent thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ERC Grant would contribute significantly to the establishment and/or further consolidation of the PI’s independence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The PI is strongly committed to the project and demonstrates the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 50% of the total working time on it and min 50% in an EU Member State or Associated Country) (based on Scientific Proposal).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Eligibility Check: Proposals are checked to ensure that all of the eligibility criteria are met (this check is made by the ERCEA).

- Evaluation Process:
  - Step 1 - part B1 of the proposal is assessed, marked and ranked.
    A - Proposals that should go forward to the second step (up to 3.0 times the panel's indicative budget)
    B - high quality but not sufficient to pass to Step 2
    C - not of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2
  - Step 2 - All sections of the retained proposals are assessed and ranked. For the Starting Grant Call, PI may be invited for an interview
    A - proposals which fully meet the ERC's excellence criterion and are therefore recommended for funding;
    B - which meet some but not all elements of the ERC's excellence criterion and therefore will not be funded.

AFTER PEER REVIEW AND BEFORE ANY FUNDING DECISION:
- ETHICS PROCEDURE and ETHICS REVIEW (if necessary)
- REVIEW FOR SECURITY ISSUES and SECURITY SCRUTINY PROCEDURE (if necessary)
SOME TIPS ON HOW TO WRITE A COMPETITIVE PROPOSAL
Tips on writing a proposal

- **TIME:** writing a good application requires a lot of time
- Study the rules of the call for proposal
- Answer to the following question: why you?
- Discuss about your idea and see database of funded projects (e.g. ERC 🏡).
Tips on writing a proposal

- Title, acronym and abstracts are really important
- Catch evaluators’ attention and facilitate their work
- Use a clear language and a concise writing style
- Follow the instructions and fill in all the required fields
- Use understandable diagrams
- Leave nothing to the imagination, don’t write only for specialist
Pay attention on your cv and track record:
- Organize the information
- Underline publications without the phd supervisor
- Why you?

Step 1 evaluation is totally based on part B1 of the proposal (PI description and synopsys) – prepare it with maximum care

Describe the objectives of the project – the ground-breaking nature

Provide evidence that you are aware of the level and nature of the risks of failure, and that you have a good idea on how to address these risks - high risk-high-gain!

Underline also dissemination activities
Tips on writing a proposal

- Discuss the budget with the Divisione Supporto alla Ricerca

- Make sure you have done the necessary steps to have the letter of Commitment in time

- Don’t upload unnecessary documents

- Don’t write too much or too less, respect page limits

- Make sure you submit the latest and complete version of your proposal (submit well in advance)


- DSRSTT website: http://www.unitn.it/ateneo/2584/partecipazione-bandi-di-ricerca-e-trasferimento-tecnologico
Person in charge

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WEBSITE:
http://www.unitn.it/ateneo/2584/partecipazione-bandi-di-ricerca-e-trasferimento-tecnologico
# ERC STARTING GRANTS – STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Year</th>
<th>Submitted</th>
<th>Funded</th>
<th>% Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EU</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>UNITN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Call 2007</td>
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<td>1575</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>475</td>
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</table>
THANK YOU!

http://www.unitn.it/