

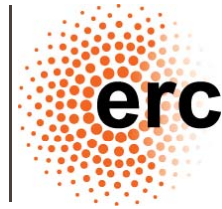
The ERC Advanced Grant scheme

Brussels, 3 December 2007

Gianpietro van de Goor, PhD

ERC/European Commission
RTD, Directorate S





ERC Actors

The Scientific Council

Independent scientific governance

The Agency

Practical implementation and management of operations

The European Union

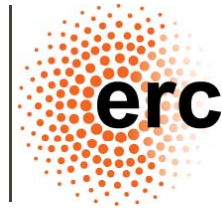
Providing the financial means, guarantor of ERC's autonomy



ERC Grant schemes

Strategic principles

- **All fields of science and scholarship are eligible**
 - ☞ investigator-driven, bottom-up
- **Excellence is the only valid criterion**
 - ☞ Principal Investigator + research project
- **Investment in research talent**
 - ☞ Attractive, flexible grants, up to five years
 - ☞ under control of the Principal Investigator
- **Independent individual teams in Europe**
 - ☞ nationality of researchers is not relevant
 - ☞ host organisation to be located in EU or AS



ERC Grant schemes

“Individual Research Team” Concept

Individual Research Teams:

- headed by a single team leader who is the “Principal Investigator” (PI)
- can be of any nationality
- if necessary, including additional team members meeting the needs of the project
- AdG only: for interdisciplinary projects, the PI can choose a co-investigator(s) from the related discipline(s)

PI’s host institution:

- Located in an EU Member State or Associated Country



ERC Grant schemes

Operational Principles

- **Application in response to calls for proposals**
 - ↳ Principal Investigators applies in conjunction and on behalf of a research-performing host institution

- **Staged Evaluation Procedure**
 - ↳ to manage large number of expected applications (almost 9167 proposals received in response to 1st Call for ERC Starting Grant proposals)

- **Panel-based peer review process**
 - ↳ Scientific Council selects Panels and peer reviewers
 - ↳ Panels assess and select proposals

ERC Grant Schemes

Peer review evaluation panels



- Each Panel consists of the **Panel Chair** and **10-15 Panel Members**
- Panel Chair **oversees evaluation process** for the proposals assigned to his/her panel in collaboration with the ERC staff
- The Panel Chair gives high level **credibility** stamp and **visibility** to the whole evaluation process



ERC Grant Schemes

Evaluation: Scientific Excellence is the sole criterion

Evaluation of *Excellence* at three levels:

- Quality of Principal Investigator
- Quality of Research Project
- Research Environment

Referees and panels evaluate and score criteria 1 and 2 numerically, which will result in the ranking of the proposals

Criteria 3 will be considered on a "pass/fail" basis and commented but not scored

ERC Advanced Grant

(ERC Advanced Investigator Researcher Grant)

- Designed to support excellent investigator-initiated research projects by **established independent research leaders**
- Targeting researchers who have already established their independence as team leaders and are **exceptional leaders in terms of significance of their research achievements** (in the last 10 years)

up to 5 years,
up to €2,5 (3,5) Mio. per grant

~2500 Advanced Grants
over 7 years of FP7
(2007-2013)

ERC Advanced Grant

First call: ERC-2007-AdG1 (30 Nov 2007)

- **Indicative Budget: €517 Mio.**
- **Single submission (1 stage, 2 steps)**
- **Electronic submission via EPSS**
 - ↳ Early (pre-)registration strongly recommended
- **3 deadlines, 3 domains, 25 panels (10 PE, 9 LS, 6 SH)**
 - ↳ Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE) on 28th February
 - ↳ Social Sciences and Humanities (SH) on 18th March
 - ↳ Life Sciences (LS) on 22nd April
- **20,000 proposals expected (?)**

ERC Advanced Grant

Managing high demand for grants

→ Maximise call budget

- ↳ By combining budgets over 2 successive years (only one application per researcher in either 2008 or 2009)

→ Encourage the best to apply

- ↳ Excellent track record (in recent years)
- ↳ Strong leadership profile

→ Discourage trivial or low-quality applications

- ↳ Applications should be substantive (one-stage submission with two stage evaluation)
- ↳ Disincentives to submission of applications which are not of the highest quality

ERC Advanced Grant

Benchmarks of 10 year “track record”

At least:

- **10 Senior author publications in major peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals** and/or in the **leading peer-reviewed journals** of their respective research fields
- **3 Monographs and any translations of monographs** (if applicable).
- **5 Granted patents** (if applicable)
- **10 Invited presentations into peer-reviewed, internationally established conferences** and/or **international advanced schools** (if applicable)
- **3 Expeditions** that the applicant has led (if applicable)
- **3 International conferences** in the field of the applicant that have been organised (member of the steering and/or organising committee) by him/her (if applicable)

and

- **International Prizes/Awards/Academy memberships** (if applicable)



ERC Advanced Grant

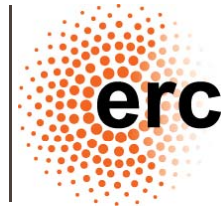
Indicators of “leadership profile”

European Research Council



- **Content and impact** of the major scientific or scholarly contributions of the applicant to his or her own research field and/or neighbouring research fields and, if applicable, their wider societal impact
- The **international recognition** and diffusion that these major contributions have received from others (publications or appropriate equivalents/additional funding/ students/international prizes and awards/ institution-building/other)
- Ability to productively **change research fields** and/or to **establish new interdisciplinary approaches**





ERC Advanced Grant

Re-application restrictions

- Only **one ERC Grant per investigator** may be active at any time
- **One submission only** may be made to ERC-2008-AdG or ERC-2009-AdG
- PIs submitting to ERC-2008-AdG or ERC-2009-AdG and **failing quality threshold(s) will not be permitted to apply to ERC-2010-AdG**
- Additional restrictions on multiple submissions



ERC Advanced Grant

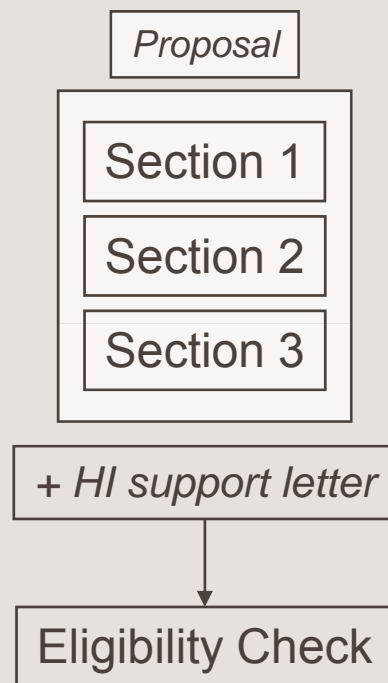
Proposal Structure

- **Part A:** Contains “normal” A1-A3 forms
 - Plus additional “A1T”: “*Track Record*”
 - Summary of Scientific Leadership profile
 - Summary of 10 year Track Record
- **Part B:** contains 3 sections & 1 annex
 - ➔ Section 1
 - Scientific Leadership profile (2 pages)
 - CV (including “funding ID”)
 - 10-years track record
 - Extended synopsis
 - ➔ Section 2 = Scientific proposal
 - ➔ Section 3 = Research Environment description
 - ➔ Statement of support from the Host Institution
 - ➔ Ethical Issues Table + Detailed Description (if applicable)

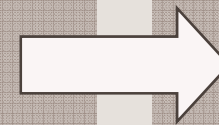
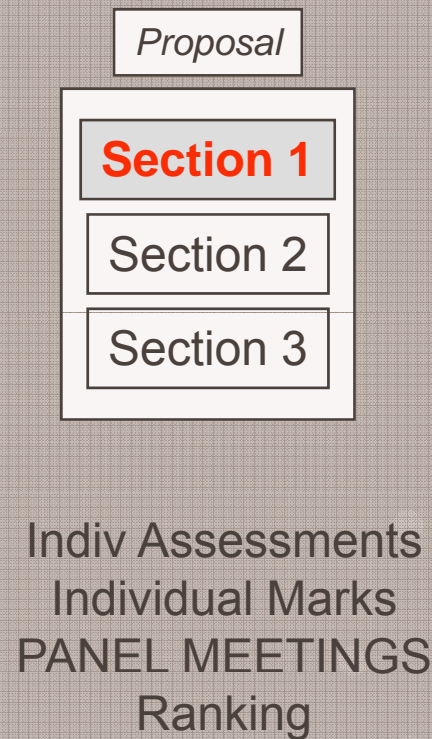
ERC Advanced Grant

2-step evaluation

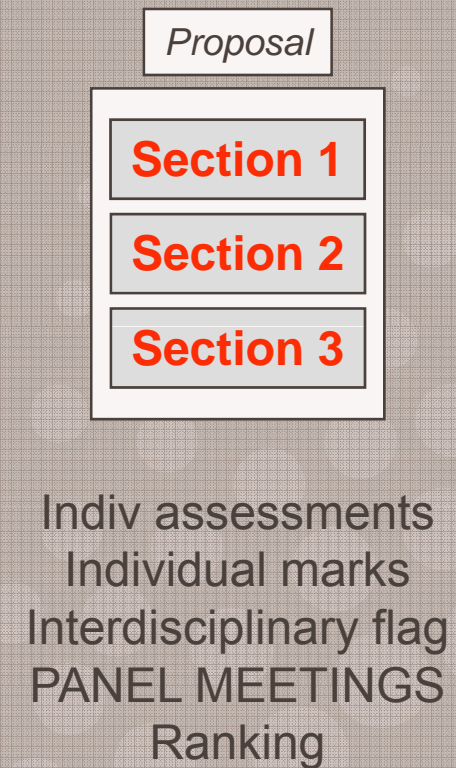
Submission



Step 1 (panel)



Step 2 (Panel + remote)



ERC Advanced Grant

Submission to Panels

- Applicant submits to a *Targeted Panel* (of PI choice)
 - ➔ Can choose one additional “*Alternative Review Panel*”
- In case cross-panel or cross-domain proposal, evaluation by members of other panels
- Budget allocation per domain
 - Physical Sciences – 39%
 - Social Sciences – 14%
 - Life Sciences – 34%
 - + 13% for Interdisciplinary – Cross Panel / Cross domain

ERC Advanced Grant

Interdisciplinary proposals

- Interdisciplinary Research domain (cross-domain & cross-panel) → indicative budget of 13% total budget
- Proposal submitted to a primary/targeted panel
- Step 1:
 - Primary panel determines if proposal is “interdisciplinary”
 - Can take into account if secondary panel is indicated
Proposal “flagged” as interdisciplinary, if appropriate
 - Possibility to invite reviews from members of other panels
- Step 2:
 - Interdisciplinary proposals, not funded within panel budget, will be transferred to Interdisciplinary Domain for consideration there

ERC Calls

Indicative Schedule (2007-2010)



ERC Starting Grant Calls Indicative Schedule 2007 - 2010

Work Programme Revision	ERC Action	Call open	Call Deadline	Estimated Call value (€M)	Budgetary year	Evaluation
Feb. 2007	StG1	Winter 06	Spring 07	290	2007	Spring - Autumn 07
May 2008	StG2	Summer 08	Autumn 08	290	2009	Winter 08 - Spring 09
May 2009	StG3	Summer 09	Autumn 09	340	2010	Winter 09 - Spring 10
May 2010	StG4	Summer 10	Autumn 10	400	2011	Winter 10 - Spring 11

ERC Advanced Grant Calls Indicative Schedule 2007 - 2010

Work Programme Revision	ERC Action	Call open	Call Deadline	Estimated Call value (€M)	Budgetary year	Evaluation
Oct. 2007	AdG1	Autumn 07	Spring 08	517	2008	Spring 08 - Autumn 08
May 2008	AdG2	Autumn 08	Spring 09	480	2009	Spring 09 - Autumn 09
May 2009	AdG3	Autumn 09	Spring 10	741	2010	Spring 10 - Autumn 10
May 2010	AdG4	Autumn 10	Spring 11	869	2011	Spring 11 - Autumn 11

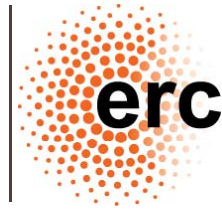


Documentation

- **Specific text of “Call for Proposal”**
- **ERC Work Programme**
- **ERC Guide for Applicants**
- **ERC Grant agreement**

Other:

- **ERC Guide for Grant Holders (coming soon)**
- **ERC Guide for Peer Reviewers**
- **ERC Rules on submission, evaluation, selection and award procedures**



Up-to-date Information

ERC website at <http://erc.europa.eu>



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HIGHLIGHTS

4 bn Euro for Europe's most far-reaching research
21 November 2007

The Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC) today announced the successful completion of its first round of funding and unveiled the detailed design of a new high-profile initiative which is set to become one of the most prestigious...[Read more](#)

What's New

- [ERC Guide for Peer Reviewers](#)
- 10/09/2007 -
- [Scientific Council of the ERC: Relaunching the European Research Area \(ERA\)](#)
- 03/09/2007 -

Message from the President of the European Research Council



The creation of the European Research Council (ERC) by the common action of the political institutions of the European Union (the Commission, the Parliament and the Council of Ministers) represents a landmark event for science policy in our continent. By this action, Europe is taking a decisive step towards the formation of a common European Research Area.

We are committed to establish the ERC as an outstanding research funding agency that attracts the very best researchers, beginning in 2007 with those who are embarking on or consolidating their independent careers.
... [read more](#)



Professor Fotis C. Kafatos, FMRS
ERC President and Chairman of its Scientific Council

Last update: 16-11-2007

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The ERC is established by the European Commission and funded through the EU 7th Research Framework Programme







| 20

Other Services

- **ERC News Alert**
<http://erc.europa.eu/?fuseaction=reg.edit#01>
- **ERC National Contact Points**
inform, raise awareness and provide advice on ERC funding opportunities, application, follow-up
<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.ncpList>
- **ERC helpdesk**
<https://www.epss-fp7.org/epss/helpdesk.jsp>
- **EPSS helpdesk**
technical support on electronic proposal submission
<https://www.epss-fp7.org/epss/helpdesk.jsp>



Thank you !

