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PART II

Preparing a Starting Grant Application

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Proposal Structure

Administration

PART A – online forms

A1	Proposal, PI and HI data
A2	Host institution/ other organisations
A3	Budget (reference for grant)

Annexes – submitted as .pdf
-Statement of support by host!
-StG: PhD certificate (+docs to extend eligibility window if necessary)
-If applicable: Ethical Issues Annex
-If applicable: explanatory info and docs on ethical issues

Contact your Host Institution in time!

Step 1 Evaluation

PART B Section 1 (B1)

PI and project summary

a) Scientific Leadership	1 p.
b) CV	2 p.
c) Track Record	2 p.
d) Extended synopsis (project)	5 p.

Step 2 Evaluation

PART B2 Section 2 (B2

Scientific proposal 15 p.

Main Documents to be used

- **Templates B1 / B2**
- **Guide for Applicants StG-2012**
  - „Who could be a competitive candidate?“
  - Eligibility criteria
  - Application Structure
  - Formal Parameters (Font type, size etc.)
  - Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS)
  - Budget (direct costs, indirect costs, non-eligible costs)
  - Evaluation criteria and evaluation
- **Work Programme 2012**

http://www.eubuero.de/erc-dokumente.htm

Choose the right panel…

- 25 Panels
  - 10 Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)
  - 9 Life Sciences (LS)
  - 6 Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)
- Choose one „primary panel“ and if applicable one „secondary panel“
- Up to 14 members per panel, 1 panel chair
  - International and interdisciplinary composition
- At least 3 reviews from panel members (generalists)
  - In Step 2 also external referees (specialists in your field)

Annex 1 - Guide for Applicants (p.55)

ANNEX 1: ERC PEER REVIEW EVALUATION PANELS (ERC PANELS)

For the planning and operation of the evaluation of ERC grant proposals by panels, the following panel structure applies. There are 25 ERC panels to cover all fields of science, engineering and scholarship assigned to three research domains: Social Sciences and Humanities (6 Panels, SH1–SH6), Physical Sciences and Engineering (10 Panels, PE1–PE10), Life Sciences (9 Panels, LS1–LS9).

The panel names are accompanied by a list of panel descriptors (i.e. ERC keywords) indicating the fields of research covered by the respective ERC panels.

The panel descriptors must always be read in the overall context of the panel's titles and sub-titles.

Social Sciences and Humanities

SH1 Individuals, institutions and markets: economics, finance and management

- SH1_1 Macroeconomics, business cycles
- SH1_2 Development, economic growth
- SH1_3 Microeconomics, institutional economics
- SH1_4 Econometrics, statistical methods
- SH1_5 Financial markets, asset prices, international finance
- SH1_6 Banking, corporate finance, accounting
- SH1_7 Competitiveness, innovation, research and development
- SH1_8 Consumer choice, behavioural economics, marketing
- SH1_9 Organization studies, strategy
- SH1_10 Human resource management, labour economics
- SH1_11 Public economics, political economics, public administration
- SH1_12 Income distribution, poverty
- SH1_13 International trade, economic geography
- SH1_14 Quantitative and institutional economic history

SH2 Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour: sociology, social anthropology, political science, law, communication, social studies of science and technology

- SH2_1 Social structure, inequalities, social mobility, interethnic relations
- SH2_2 Ageing, work, social policies, welfare
- SH2_3 Kinship, cultural dimensions of classification and cognition, identity, gender
- SH2_4 Myth, ritual, symbolic representations, religious studies
- SH2_5 Democratization, social movements
- SH2_6 Violence, conflict and conflict resolution
- SH2_7 Political systems and institutions, governance
- SH2_8 Legal theory, legal systems, constitutions, comparative law
- SH2_9 Global and transnational governance, international studies, human rights
- SH2_10 Communication networks, media, information society
- SH2_11 Social studies of science and technology, science, technology and innovation policies

SH3 Environment, space and population: environmental studies, demography, social geography, urban and regional studies

- SH3_1 Environment, resources and sustainability
- SH6_6 Modern and contemporary history
- SH6_7 Colonial and post-colonial history, global and transnational history
- SH6_8 Social and economic history
- SH6_9 History of ideas, intellectual history, history of sciences and techniques
- SH6_10 Cultural history
- SH6_11 History of collective identities and memories, history of gender
- SH6_12 Historiography, theory and methods of history

Physical Sciences and Engineering

PE1 Mathematics: all areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics

- PE1_1 Logic and foundations
- PE1_2 Algebra
- PE1_3 Number theory
- PE1_4 Algebraic and complex geometry
- PE1_5 Geometry
- PE1_6 Topology
- PE1_7 Lie groups, Lie algebras
- PE1_8 Analysis
- PE1_9 Operator algebras and functional analysis
- PE1_10 ODE and dynamical systems
- PE1_11 Theoretical aspects of partial differential equations
- PE1_12 Mathematical physics
- PE1_13 Probability
- PE1_14 Statistics
- PE1_15 Discrete mathematics and combinatorics
- PE1_16 Mathematical aspects of computer science
- PE1_17 Numerical analysis
- PE1_18 Scientific computing and data processing
- PE1_19 Control theory and optimization
- PE1_20 Application of mathematics in sciences
- PE1_21 Application of mathematics in industry and society life

PE2 Fundamental constituents of matter: particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics

- PE2_1 Fundamental interactions and fields
- PE2_2 Particle physics
- PE2_3 Nuclear physics
- PE2_4 Nuclear astrophysics
- PE2_5 Gas and plasma physics
- PE2_6 Electromagnetism
- PE2_7 Atomic, molecular physics
- PE2_8 Ultra-cold atoms and molecules
- PE2_9 Optics, non-linear optics and nano-optics
- PE2_10 Quantum optics and quantum information
- PE2_11 Lasers, ultra-short lasers and laser physics
- PE2_12 Acoustics
- PE2_13 Relativity

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Panel Chairs and Members

European Research Council Scientific Council — erc

Panel Chairs of the ERC Peer Review Panels
ERC Starting Grant Panel 2011

The list below includes the panel chairs in the third ERC Starting Grants peer review process, identified and invited by the ERC Scientific Council. There are in total 25 panels, divided between the 3 domains as follows: 9 panels in Life Sciences (LS), 10 panels in Physical Science and Engineering, and 6 panels in Social Sciences and Humanities (SH).

Note to applicants:
This information is given for reasons of transparency. Under no circumstances should panel chairs be contacted by applicants, potential applicants or potential host institutions.

Questions can be addressed to:
- ERC Helpdesk http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?fgmen&pgmenquiries
- ERC National Contact Points http://erc.europa.eu/ncp

LIFE SCIENCES

LS1 Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry:	Prof. Reinhard Jahn
LS2 Genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and systems biology:	Prof. Marja Makarow
LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology:	Prof. Christer Betsholtz
LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology:	Prof. Ole H. Petersen
LS5 Neurosciences and neural disorders:	Prof. Andrea Kleinschmidt
LS6 Immunity and infection:	Prof. Maria Grazia Roncarolo
LS7 Diagnostic tools, therapies and public health:	Prof. Hans Bräuner-Osborne
LS8 Evolutionary, population and environmental biology:	Prof. Lars Chittka
LS9 Applied life sciences and biotechnology:	Prof. Francisco Tomás-Barberán

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

SH1 Individuals, institutions and markets:	Prof. Jordi Galí
SH2 Institutions, values, beliefs and behaviour:	Prof. Ronald Rogowski
SH3 Environment and society:	Prof. Mark Rounsevell
SH4 The human mind and its complexity:	Prof. Luciano Fadiga
SH5 Cultures and cultural production:	Prof. Simon Goldhill
SH6 The study of the human past:	Prof. Jane Burbank

DOMAIN PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

PE1 Mathematical foundations:	Prof. Janusz Grabowski
PE2 Fundamental constituents of matter:	Prof. Sune Svanberg
PE3 Condensed matter in physics:	Prof. Yvan Bruynseraede
PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical sciences:	Prof. Philippe Sautet
PE5 Material and synthesis:	Prof. Jeffrey Alan Hubbell
PE6 Computer science and informatics:	Prof. Stefan Jähnichen
PE7 Systems and communication engineering:	Prof. Palle Jeppesen
PE8 Products and process engineering:	Prof. Ulrich Stimming
PE9 Universe sciences:	Prof. Georges Meylan
PE10 Earth system science:	Prof. Daniel Conley

- Names of panel members of previous Calls: http://www.eubuero.de/erc-dokumente.htm#reviewer
- NB: in 2011 and 2012 new composition of A- and B-Panels
- -> No panel members from 2011 in 2012, but some from previous years
- Names published after evaluation of the Call
- Names of Panel Chairs usually published before Deadline

Proposal Contents

FORSCHUNG

Ideen zünden!

Evaluation Criteria I

1. **Principal Investigator**
   - To what extent are the **achievements and publications** of the Principal Investigator groundbreaking and demonstrative of **independent creative thinking and capacity** to go significantly beyond the state of the art?
   - To what extent will an ERC Starting Grant make a significant contribution to the **establishment or consolidation of independence**?
   - Commitment: Is the Principal Investigator strongly committed to the project and willing to devote a significant amount of time to it (they will be expected to devote at least **50% of their working time** to the ERC-funded project)?

Evaluation Criteria II

2. Research project

- **Ground-breaking nature and potential impact**
  - address important challenges at the frontiers of the field(s)
  - suitably ambitious objectives, which go substantially beyond the current state of the art

- **Methodology**:
  - high-gain/high-risk balance
  - feasibility
  - research methodology appropriate to achieve goals
  - resources properly justified? (assessed at step 2)
  - In case of additional institutions: fully justified by the scientific added value? (assessed at step 2)

Marking (PI and project)

Step 1 (panel):

- **A**: of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation
- **B**: of high quality but not sufficient to pass to Step 2
- **C**: of **insufficient quality**, not eligible to re-apply next year

Step 1 (panel + remote refereees) :

- **A**: fully meet the ERC's excellence criterion & recommended for funding if sufficient funds available
- **B**: meets some but not all elements of the ERC's excellence criterion and will not be funded

- Evaluation Summary Report: reviewer comments, ranking position

Abstract (1/2 page)

- Exercise: Identify the most important elements of the exemplary abstracts

a. Scientific Leadership Potential (max. 1 page)

- What are your most important achievements and why?
- What have you discovered and how was this echoed by the scientific community of your research field?
- What was *your* specific contribution? (“I” vs. “we”)
- Starter or Consolidator: assessment of career stage, relevance of ERC-grant for career development (build-up or consolidate research team)

Streaming: Starter or Consolidator?

- By default applicants will be classified according to years after PhD
  - **2-7 years** after PhD: **„Starters“**
  - **7-12 years** after PhD: **„Consolidators“**
- If you have significant career breaks in the first 7 years after PhD: ask to be evaluated as Starter and provide evidence
  - Same as rules to extend eligibility window
  - Other reasons *may be*: unemployment, sabbatical, volunteer work
- Final decision is taken by the panel
- Comparable success rate in both streams

b. Curriculum Vitae (max. 2 pages)

- Standard Academic Record
  - **Aim: Proving scientific excellence**
  - Clear distinction (i.e. Education, Work Experience / Positions, Teaching, Memberships…)
  - Optional: Number of children / Marital Status
  - **Not:** Hobbies / Kindergarten / language courses / contact details / partnership details
- **Funding ID**
  - Distinguish between: ‘previous funding’, ‘current funding’ and ‘ongoing applications’
  - List project title & topic, duration, budget, role of PI
  - Aim: to prevent double funding, but also: see what you have achieved
  - Note: you need to devote min. 50% of your time to the ERC project!

c. Early Achievements Track Record (max. 2 pages)

- Clear distinction (publications with & without PhD supervisor)
- In case of too many publications: select the most important ones and indicate the best ten
- Indicate number of citations
- Important: Report significant career breaks
- Don‘t forget: conferences, patents, prizes and awards!
- Add a sentence about the total number of publications and h-index

d. Extended Synopsis (max. 5 pages)

- Short version of the scientific proposal
- An interesting proposal that arouses curiosity!
- Non-Specialists should be able to understand what you want to achieve and why it is groundbreaking
- Include few references to key literature (page limit!)
- Mention everything that is important in order to understand (the feasibility of) your future project
  - ➢ evaluators do not have access to Part B2 in step 1!

Part B2 + Annexes

FORSCHUNG

Ideen zünden!

B2: The Scientific Proposal (max. 15 pages)

- Respect the given structure
  a) State of the art and objectives
  b) Methodology
  c) Resources (incl. project costs)
  d) Ethical and Security Sensitivity Issues (Table)

- Respect formal parameters (p. 34 Guide for Applicants)
  – Times New Roman
  – Size: at least 11
  – Single line-spacing
  – Margins: 2 cm side, 1,5 bottom

Use B1/B2 templates!

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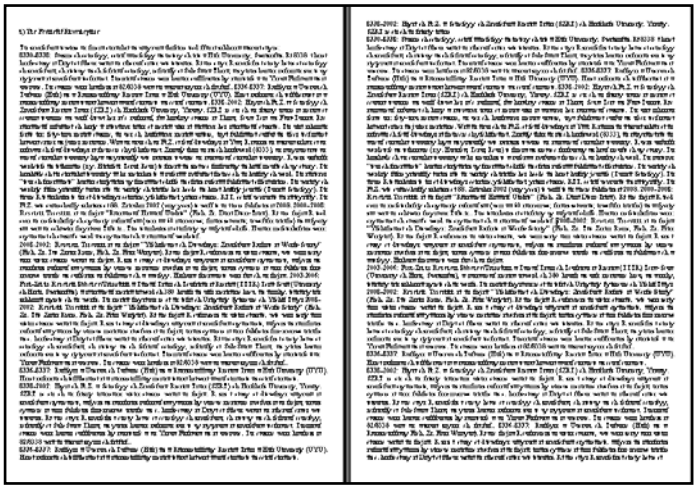
Nice to have: Readability



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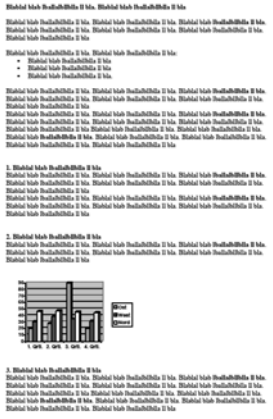
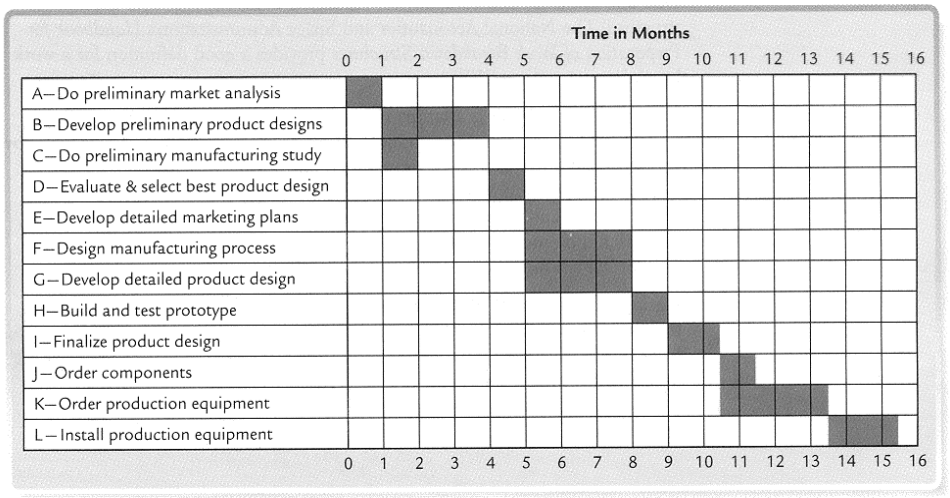
Readability

- Paragraphs
- Concise title, headings, sub-headings
- Bullet points
- Format **important statements** in bold
- Use tables, graphics, diagrams (readable in black/white)

- Methodology: project planning with time chart, expected results and alternative routes
- Write short, simple sentences





Proposal Writing - Contents

Non-Specialists should be able to understand what you want to achieve!

- State clearly your objectives on page 1
- What is the **international** state-of-the art in your field? Where are the gaps?
- What will be changed after you successfully completed your project? What is your vision?
- Why is your project new and unconventional?
- High-Risk / High-Gain Balance
- Check the evaluation criteria, i.e. with help of colleagues

Resources

Cost Category	Total (Y1-5)
Direct Costs (Personnel) PI, Senior Staff, Post Docs, Phd Students, Other	800.000 €
Other Direct Costs Equipment, Consumables, Travel, Publications, Other	400.000 €
Indirect Costs (max. 20% of Direct costs)	240.000 €
Subcontracting Costs (no over-heads)	40.000 €
Total Costs of Project	1.480.000 €

Funding

- 100% of direct costs
- + 20% Overhead (flat rate)
- No Overhead on subcontracting costs

Non eligible costs

- Any identifiable indirect taxes (VAT)
- Interest owed
- Exchange losses
- Etc.

Resources – what should/can you ask for?

- Maximum 1.5 Mio. €, plus exceptionally 500.000 in case:
  - PI comes from outside Europe (‘start-up costs’)
  - Purchase of major equipment
- All personnel costs, incl. the PI’s salary, can be paid by the grant
  - to the percentage the person is working on the project
- Clarify funding of equipment in advance with your institution
  - Depreciation rates of the Host Institution apply
  - VAT (MwSt.) is not reimbursed
- Calculate for certificates on financial statements („audits“) – every 375000 € (by internal revision or external accountant firm)
- Subcontract only non-core-parts of your project

Resources - Justification

- Explain roles and required profiles of **team members**, (names)
- Explain your **own role** and your time commitment (at least 50%)
- In case you ask for more than 1.5 Mio. € justify why (major equipment)
- Explain **need of equipment**, intensity of its planned use
- Explain what resources are already **available at your institution**
- In case of “additional institutions”: explain scientific added value
- Changes during project possible

Non-justified costs can be reduced from your budget by reviewers!

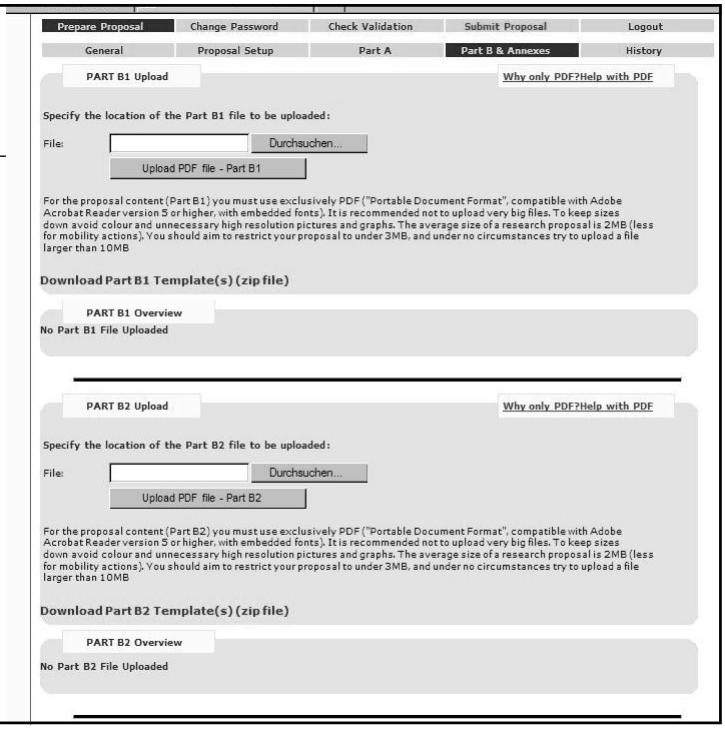
B2: Ethical Issues

- Ethical Issues Table (all applicants in B2!)
- B2 Ethical Issues Annex, in case of
  - Research on Human Embryo/ Foetus
  - Research on Humans / Informed Consent
  - Privacy
  - Research on Animals
  - Research Involving Developing Countries
  - Dual Use (potential military/terrorist application)

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

Convert B1, B2 and annexes in pdf

Upload in EPSS



NKS ERC Interview-Leitfaden

http://www.eubuero.de/erc-dokumente.htm

Ask for English version, Interview Trainings and collection of sample questions by e-mail

After your successful application…

Legal Forms

- Grant Agreement: Host Institution <–> ERC
- Supplementary Agreement: Host Institution <–> Principal Investigator
- (if applicable) Accession Forms for additional institutions

Portability: change of institution possible (within Europe)

Light Reporting:

- Usually 2 Scientific Reports (Mid-Term and Final)
- Usually 4 Financial Reports (every 18 months)

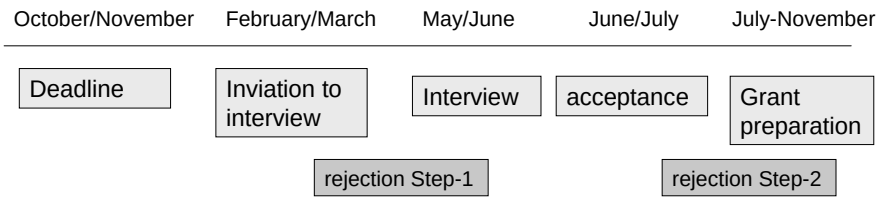
If your proposal fails…

2011	2012	2013
proposal failed step-1 below quality threshold	Wait	Apply again
proposal failed step-1 but passed quality threshold	Apply again	
proposal passed to step-2 (interview)	Apply again	

Further Rules

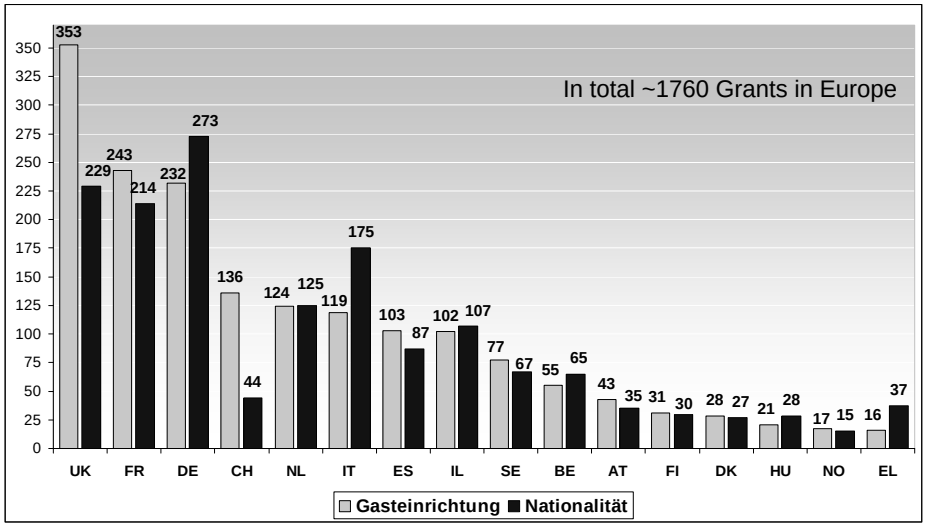
- Only one ERC-proposal per calendar year
- Only one active ERC-grant at time per PI

Timeline



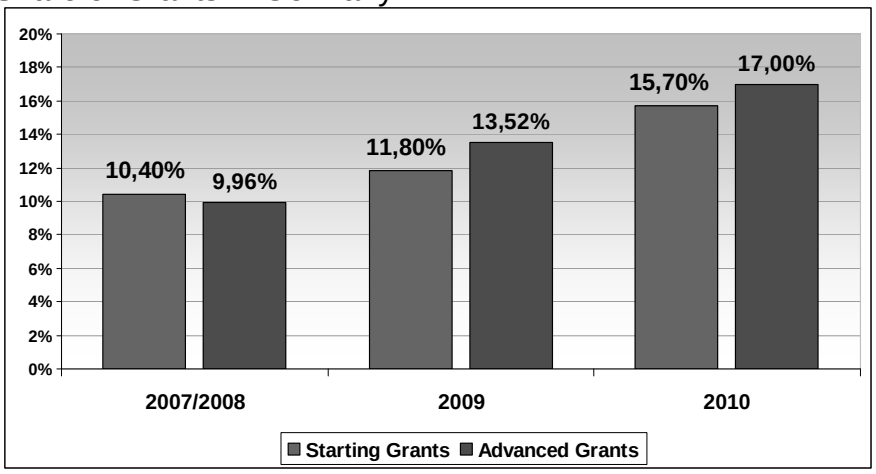
Project start date: latest 6 months after invitation to grant preparation

Statistics



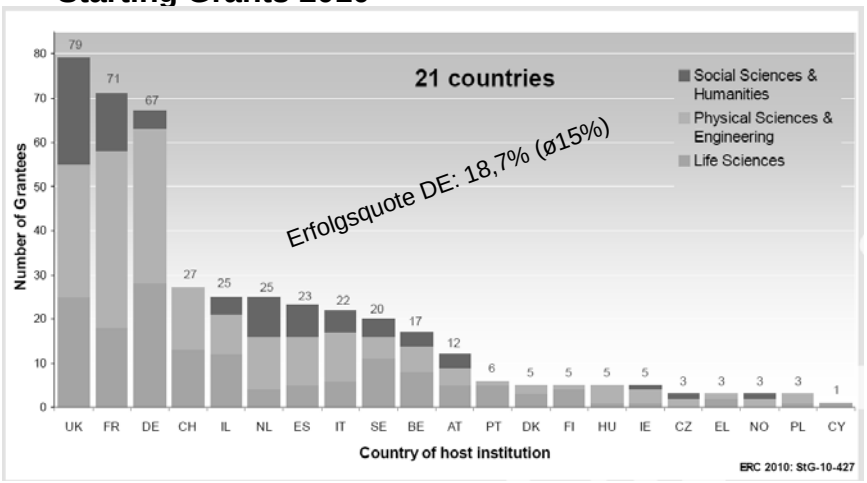
Erfolgreichste Staaten, in 3 StG-Calls und 3 AdG-Calls

Share of Grants in Germany



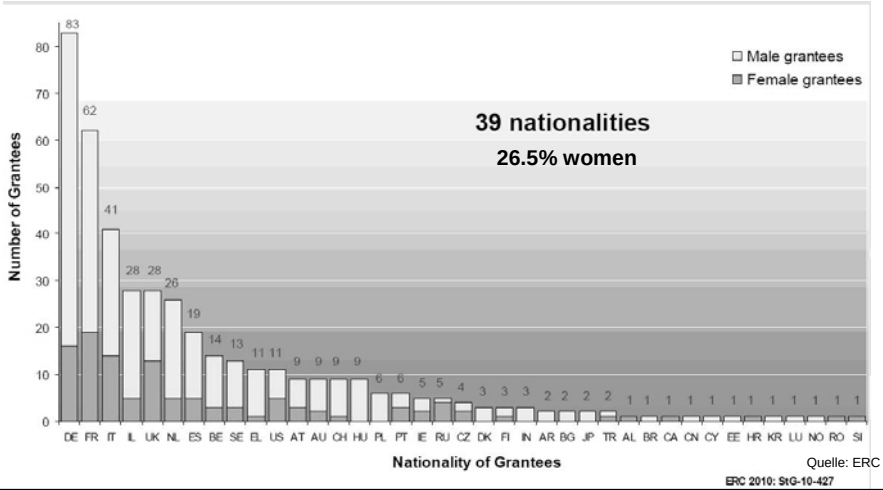
Prozentsatz des deutschen Anteils an allen Grants der entsprechenden Ausschreibung (nach Land der Gasteinrichtung)

Starting Grants 2010



Source: ERC

StG 2010: Nationalität & Geschlecht der Grantees



Quelle: ERC

Documents and Web Sites

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Ideen zünden!

Further Information

- Homepage National Contact Point: **www.nks-erc.de**
  - English: http://www.eubuero.de/erc-germany.htm
- NKS ERC Newsletter: http://www.eubuero.de/newsletter.htm
- ERC-Homepage http://erc.europa.eu
  - „Funded Projects“
- „Find a project“ on CORDIS: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html


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Suchbegriff eingeben
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www.nks-erc.de
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Nationale Kontaktstellen (NKS)
Forschung und Innovation
EU-Büro des BMBF
Ansprechpartner/innen
Nationale Kontaktstellen (NKS)
Koordinierung der NKS
Erstanlaufstelle
Recht & Finanzen
Europäischer Forschungsrat (ERC)
Aktuelles
Archiv
Pionierforschung
Coming to Germany with an ERC Grant
Schon Gewusst? (FAQs)
Ausschreibungen
Veranstaltungen
Dokumente
Links
Forschungs-infrastrukturen
Wissensregionen
Forschungspotenzial
Wissenschaft in der Gesellschaft
Kohärente Entwicklung der Politiken
Internationale Zusammenarbeit
EUROPÄISCHER FORSCHUNGSRAT (ERC)
Aktuelles
Starting Grant 2011: Benachrichtigungen
Folgende Antragstellende der vierten Starting Grant Ausschreibung (2011) wurden bereits benachrichtigt:
- PE: 9. Juni (erfolgreich) und 24. Juni (nicht-erfolgreich)
Der ERC plant alle Antragstellenden spätestens bis zu folgenden Zeitpunkten zu informieren:
- LS: Mitte August
- SH: Mitte August
- Reserveliste / Interdisziplinäre Domain: Mitte August
In der Regel ist jedoch mit einer früheren Benachrichtigung zu rechnen.
Advanced Grant 2011 - Benachrichtigungen
Folgende Kandidat/innen wurden bereits über das Ergebnis der ersten Evaluierungsstufe informiert:
- PE: 23. Juni 2011 (erfolgreiche Kandidat/innen)
Der ERC plant alle Antragstellenden spätestens zu folgenden Zeitpunkten über das Ergebnis der ersten Evaluierungsstufe zu benachrichtigen:
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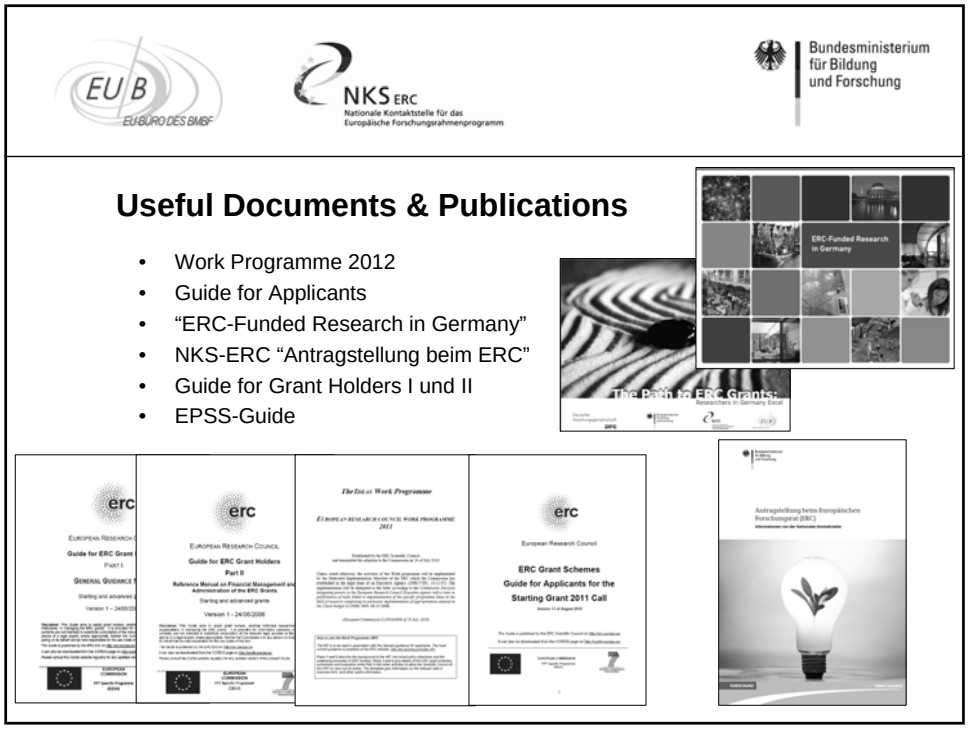
Publikationen
NKS-ERC-Newsletter abonnieren
NKS ERC Flyer (deutsch)
Download (pdf)
Kostenlos Bestellen
Leaflet National Contact Point ERC (engl)
Download (pdf)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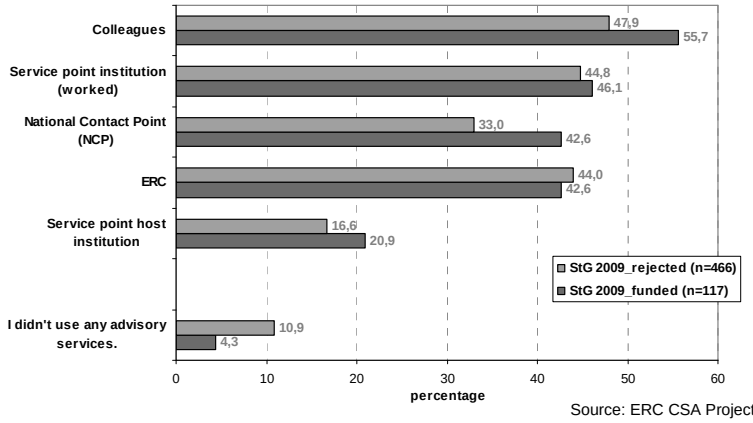
Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung
Useful Documents & Publications
Work Programme 2012
Guide for Applicants
“ERC-Funded Research in Germany”
NKS-ERC “Antragstellung beim ERC”
Guide for Grant Holders I und II
EPSS-Guide
ERC-Funded Research in Germany
The Path to ERC Grants:
Researchers in Germany Excel
erc
European Research Council
Guide for ERC Grant Holders
Part II
The IDEAS Work Programme
European Research Council Work Programme 2011
ERC Grant Schemes
Guide for Applicants for the Starting Grant 2011 Call
Antragstellung beim Europäischen Forschungsrat (ERC)

Why seek advice?

Which advisory services did you use for preparing your proposal?



Source: ERC CSA Project MERCI 2011

NATIONALE KONTAKTSTELLE ERC

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Internet: www.nks-erc.de