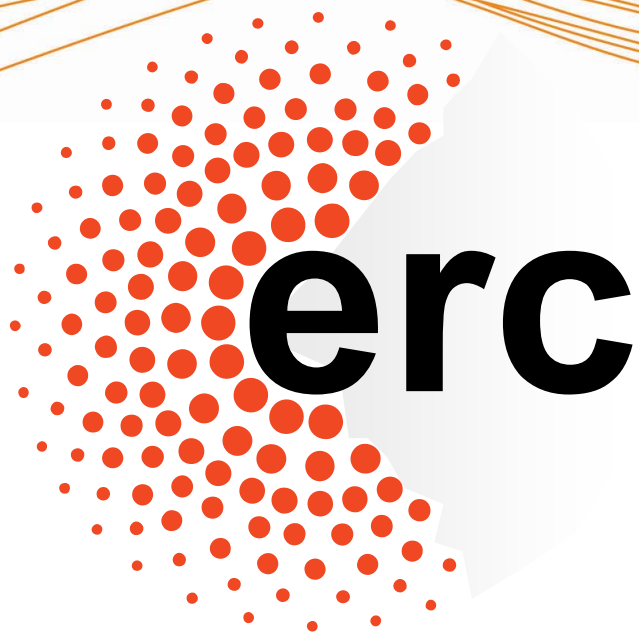




FP7 IDEAS The European Research Council



**European Commission
Research DG**

Ben Tubbing

Launching FP7 – Conference for Information Multipliers – Brussels, 7-8 February 2007





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Grants

Strategic principles

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



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Grants Operational Principles

- **Application in response to calls for proposals**
- **Two-step application Procedure**
due to large number of expected applications
- **ERC peer review evaluation process based panels**
panels select proposals to be funded and applicable budgets



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Grants

Who can apply ?

- Individual Research Teams:
 - headed by a single “**Principal Investigator**” (team leader)
 - of any nationality
 - if necessary, including additional team members.
- The “Principal Investigator” has the freedom to choose the **research topic** and the power to assemble his/her **research team** meeting the needs of the project.
- Teams can be of **national or trans-national** character.



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Grant Schemes

Two grant schemes are available:

1. ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant scheme (ERC Starting Grant)

→ 1st call for proposals published, deadline 25 April 2007

2. ERC Advanced Investigator Researcher Grant scheme (ERC Advanced Grant)

→ 1st call for proposals published later in 2007



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Advanced Grant (ERC Advanced Investigator Researcher Grant)

- Designed to support excellent investigator-initiated research projects by **established independent research leaders**
- Complement the ERC Starting Grant scheme by targeting researchers who have already established their independence as team leaders
- **~100'000-500'000 Euro per grant per year**
- **for up to 5 years, i.e. ~500'000-2'500'000 Euro per grant**
- ~ € 600M per call (~ $\frac{2}{3}$ of ERC annual budget, annual calls)
- ~ 300 Advanced Grants per year



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Starting Grant (ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant)

- support researchers at the start of their independent research career and **establishing or consolidating their own independent research team** (or research programme)
- provide a structure for transition from working under a supervisor to an independent research leader
- **~100'000 – 400'000 Euro per grant per year**
- **for up to 5 years, i.e. ~500'000-2'000'000 Euro per Grant**
- ~ €300M per call (~ 1/3 of ERC annual budget, annual calls)
- ~200 Starting Grants per year, ~1400 Starting Grants over 7 years of FP7 (2007-2013)



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Starting Grant Requirements

→ PI

- 2-9 years since completion of PhD: Special circumstances will be taken into account, such as maternity/paternity leave, military/civil service (+3 years max.)

→ PI and team members

- Any nationality
- One ERC Grant per investigator only may be active at any one time

→ Hosting institution

- Located in a EU member state or associated country



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Starting Grant Submission of Proposals

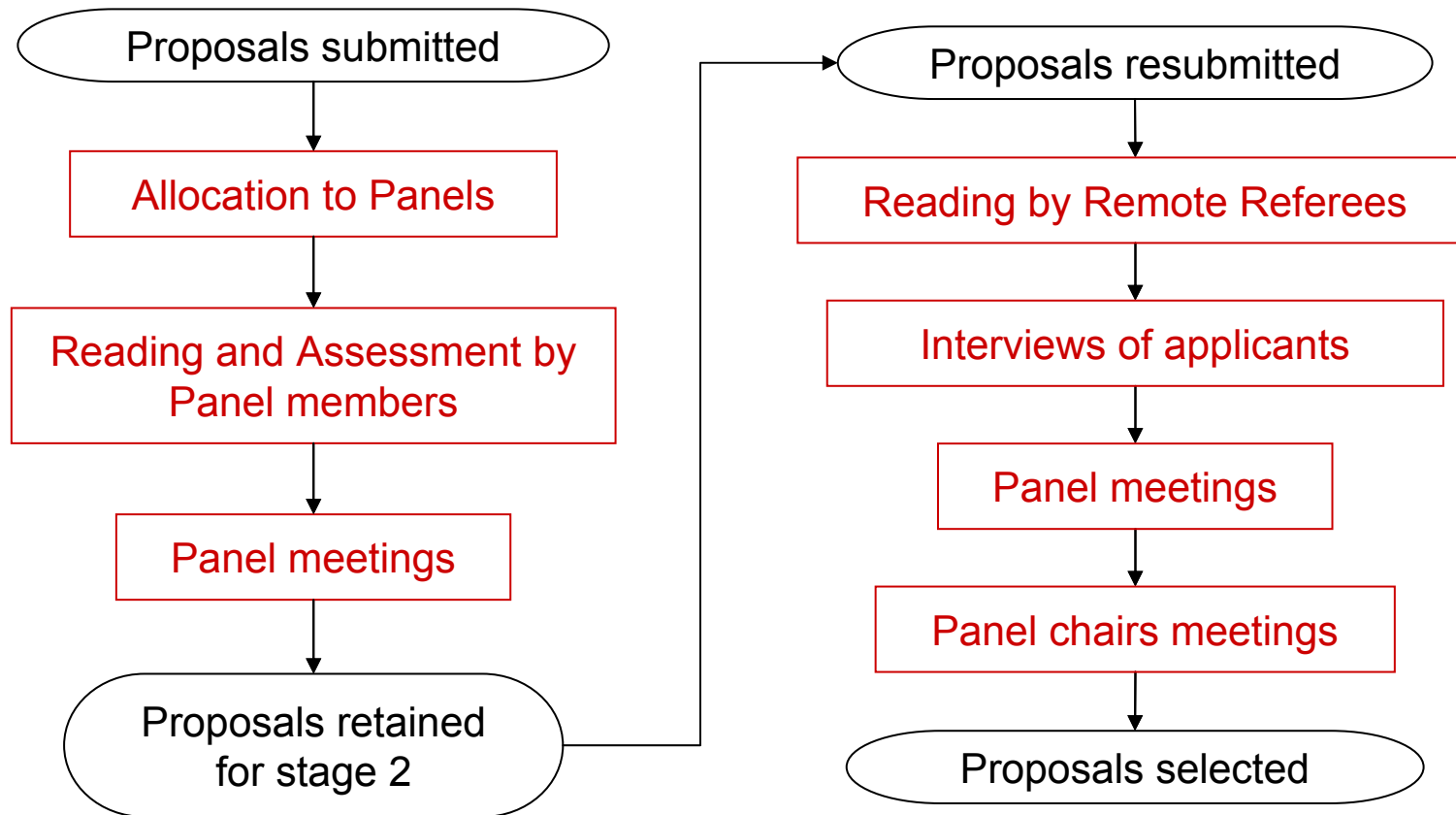
- **Two-step application procedure** (risk of oversubscription)
 - 1st stage - Outline Proposal: max 8 Pages
 - 2nd stage – Full Proposal: max 16 Pages
- **Electronic Submission** only (via EPSS)
- **Pre-registration** (via EPSS)
 - Providing ERC with indication on number & area of proposals
- **Proposal Components**
 - a) CV + self-evaluation + funding ID (3/4 pages)
 - b) Description of research project (4/10 pages)
 - c) Description of scientific environment + resources (1/2 pages)



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Submission, Evaluation and Selection Process





EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Starting Grant

20 peer review panels in 3 domains

Area 1: Physical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Universe and Earth Sciences (8 panels)

Area 2: Biological and Life Sciences (7 panels)

Area 3: Social Sciences and Humanities (5 panels)

- Each panel consists of one Panel Chair and 10-12 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 stamp of credibility and visibility to the whole evaluation process



Community research

ERC Starting Grant

Panel Structure per Area (I)

1. **Physical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Universe and Earth Sciences (8 panels)**

Panel PE1 - Mathematical foundations

Panel PE2 - Fundamental constituents of matter

Panel PE3 - Condensed matter in physics and chemistry

Panel PE4 - Material and chemical sciences

Panel PE5 - Information and communication

Panel PE6 - Engineering sciences

Panel PE7 - Universe science

Panel PE8 - Earth system science



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Starting Grant

Panel Structure per Area (II)

2. Biological and Life Sciences (7 panels)

Panel LS1 - Molecular, cellular and developmental biology

Panel LS2 - Genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and systems biology

Panel LS3 - Organismic physiology, including infection and immunity

Panel LS4 -Neurosciences

Panel LS5 - Evolutionary, population and environmental biology

Panel LS6 - Medical and health science research

Panel LS7 - Applied Life Sciences, biotechnology and bioengineering



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Starting Grant

Panel Structure per Area (III)

3. Social and Human Sciences (5 panels)

Panel SH1 - Individuals and organisations

Panel SH2 - Institutions, behaviour, values and beliefs

Panel SH3 - The human mind and its complexity

Panel SH4 - Cultures and cultural diversity

Panel SH5 - The study of the past and of cultural artefacts



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Evaluation Criteria

Scientific Excellence is the sole Criterion

- 1. Potential of Principal Investigator**
 - 2. Quality of research project**
 - 3. Research Environment and Resources**
- Referees and panels evaluate and score criteria under Heading 1 and Heading 2 numerically which will result in the ranking of the projects:
 - 0-5 points, in increments of 0.5
 - Threshold 8 / 10
 - Criteria under Heading 3 will be considered as "pass/fail" and commented but not scored



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Starting Grant Evaluation criteria (I)

1. Principal Investigator: Potential to perform world class research

a. Quality of research output

- Has the Principal Investigator published in high quality peer reviewed journals or the equivalent?
- To what extent are these publications ground-breaking and demonstrative of independent creative thinking and capacity to go significantly beyond the state of the art?

b. Intellectual capacity and creativity

- To what extent does the Principal Investigator's record of research, collaborations, project conception, supervision of students and publications demonstrate that he/she is able to confront major research challenges in the field, and to initiate new productive lines of thinking?



ERC Starting Grant

Evaluation criteria (II)

2. Quality of the research proposal

a. Ground-breaking nature of the research

- Does the proposed research address important challenges in the field(s) addressed?
- Does it have suitably ambitious objectives, which go substantially beyond the current state of the art (e.g. including trans-disciplinary developments and novel or unconventional approaches)?

b. Potential impact

- Does the research open new and important, scientific, technological or scholarly horizons?

c. Methodology

- Stage 1: Is the outlined scientific approach (including the activities to be undertaken by the individual team members) feasible?
- Stage 2: Is the proposed research methodology (including when pertinent the use of instrumentation, other type of infrastructures etc.) comprehensive and appropriate for to the project? Will it enable the goals of the project convincingly to be achieved within the timescales and resources proposed and the level of risk associated with a challenging research project?



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

ERC Starting Grant Evaluation criteria (III)

3. Research Environment

a. Transition to independence

- Will the proposed project enable the Principal Investigator to make or consolidate the transition to independence?

b. Host institution [normally applicant legal entity]

- Does the institution hosting the project have most of the infrastructure necessary for the research to be carried out?
- Is it in a position to provide an appropriate intellectual environment and infrastructural support and to assist in achieving the ambitions for the project and the Principal Investigator?

c. Participation of other legal entities

- If it is proposed that other legal entities participate in the project, in addition to the applicant legal entity, is their participation fully justified by the scientific added value they bring to the project?



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

1st Call in Brief

- **ERC Starting Grants only**
- **What? Any field of science, engineering and scholarship**
- **Who? Principal Investigator (Individual Team) + Hosting Organisation**
- **By when ? Deadline Stage 1 submission: April 25, 2007**
- **How? Consult « ERC Guide for Applicants »**
- **Note:**
 - Submission via EPSS only (no paper submission)
 - Respect page limits and format
 - Indicate keywords describing the subject area (panel assignment)
 - Stage 2 submission: on invitation only if stage 1 proposal evaluated positively



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Applicants Services

- **ERC National Contact Points**
inform, raise awareness and provide advice on ERC funding opportunities, application, follow-up
- **ERC helpdesk**
- **EPSS helpdesk**
technical support on electronic proposal submission
- **ERC website:** <http://erc.europa.eu>
News Alert, Publicity Material



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community research

Thank you !

Launching FP7 – Conference for Information Multipliers – Brussels, 7-8 February 2007

