

ERC AdG from different angles: reviewer, panelist, applicant, grantee

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Panelist – PE 4 (Physical and Analytical Chemistry)

2008, 2010, 2012, 2015

(Also: off-site reviews, ERC Starting, ERC AdG Shadow, ERC Synergy)

2011: Wrote my own ERC AdG (“Microscopic Processes and Phenomena at Oxide Surfaces, OxideSurfaces”)

Review Panels

- ca. 14 members/panel, 1 panel chair
- Panel meets twice, 1 rapporteur/proposal
 - 1st round – only synopsis is seen (!) and evaluated by panel members,
 - 8-10 reviewers are picked for successful proposal (ca. 3 times of allotted €)
 - 2nd round – ranking of proposals based on expert reviews (from outside and from panel, if available).

You pick your panel.

(Proposals are hardly ever moved to another panel.)

My experience as a panelist

- Panel was extremely well-versed and fair
- All panel members were excellent, research-active scientists
- Deep commitment to excellence
- Potential conflict of interest was taken very seriously

- A lot of work, but also very enjoyable

You pick your panel.

(Proposals are hardly ever moved to another panel.)

Evaluation:

Criterion 1: Research Project

4.0 Outstanding 3.5 3.0 (Excellent) 2.5 2.0 (good) 1.5 1.0 (non competitive)

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 go beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or developments across disciplines)?

To what extent is the research high risk/high gain?

Scientific Approach:

*To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** (based on the synopsis)?*

Criterion 2: PI

Overall score:

4.0 Outstanding 3.5 3.0(Excellent) 2.5 2.0 (good) 1.5 1.0 (non competitive)

To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research? To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?

To what extent have the achievements of the PI typically gone beyond the state of the art?

To what extent has the PI demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists?

Evaluation:

Criterion 1: Research Project

70 % - high risk/high gain

4.0 Outstanding 3.5 3.0 (Excellent) 2.5 2.0 (good) 1.5 1.0 (non competitive)

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 go beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or developments across disciplines)?

To what extent is the research high risk/high gain?

Scientific Approach:

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible (based on the synopsis)?

Criterion 2: PI

30 % - can s/he conduct such a project?

Overall score:

4.0 Outstanding 3.5 3.0(Excellent) 2.5 2.0 (good) 1.5 1.0 (non competitive)

To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research? To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?

To what extent have the achievements of the PI typically gone beyond the state of the art?

To what extent has the PI demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists?

High Reward/high risk

High reward:

- must be novel for the world (not for you)
- must address a significant issue.

Risk: *not* a value by itself

‘good risk’: challenging topic, hard-to-solve problem

‘bad risk’: - this is clearly impossible

- PI does not know his/her stuff



Think big, plan meticulously:

‘broad, yet focused’

‘imaginative, yet specific’

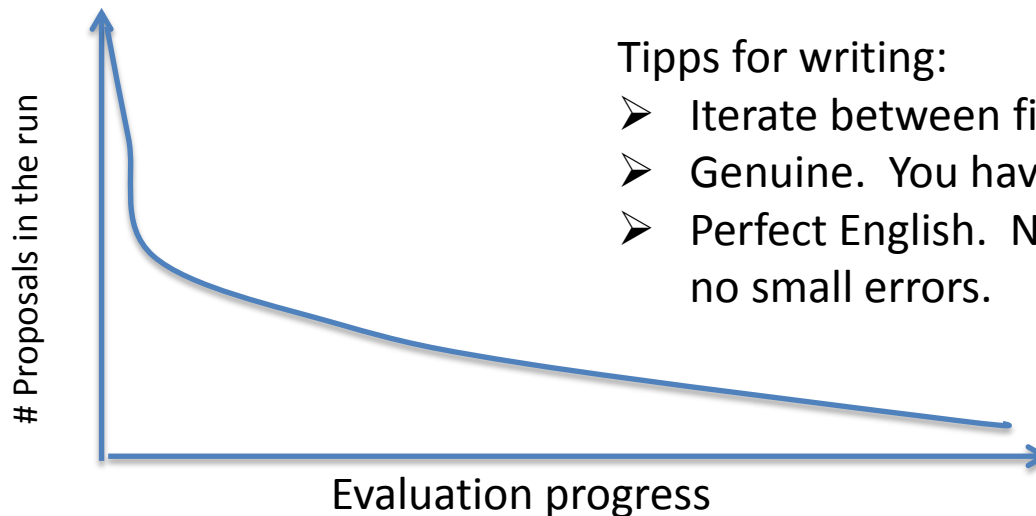
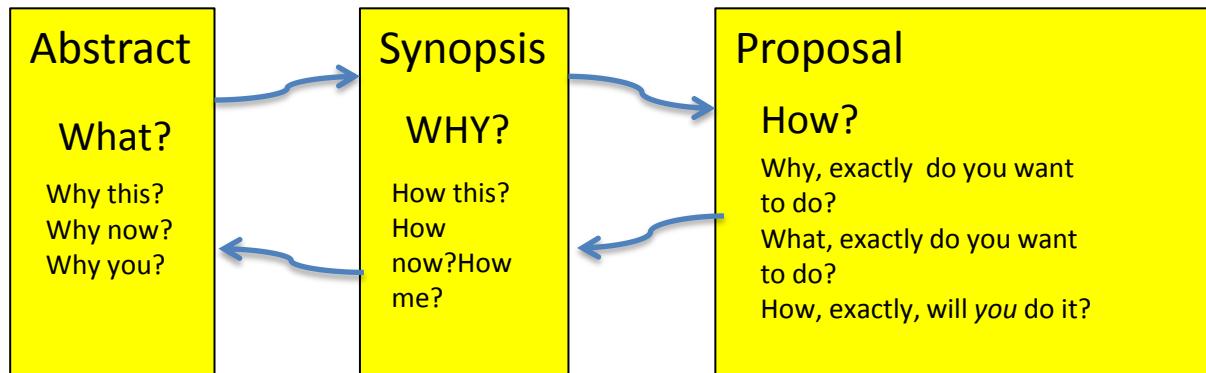
These questions need to be answered within the first few minutes

- What is the whole thing about?
- Why this? It must be a wide, fundamental, and important problem.
- Why now? You have the right ideas/background/resources to attack this in a novel, unconventional way.
- Why you?

ERC Proposal

1st step

2nd step



Tipps for writing:

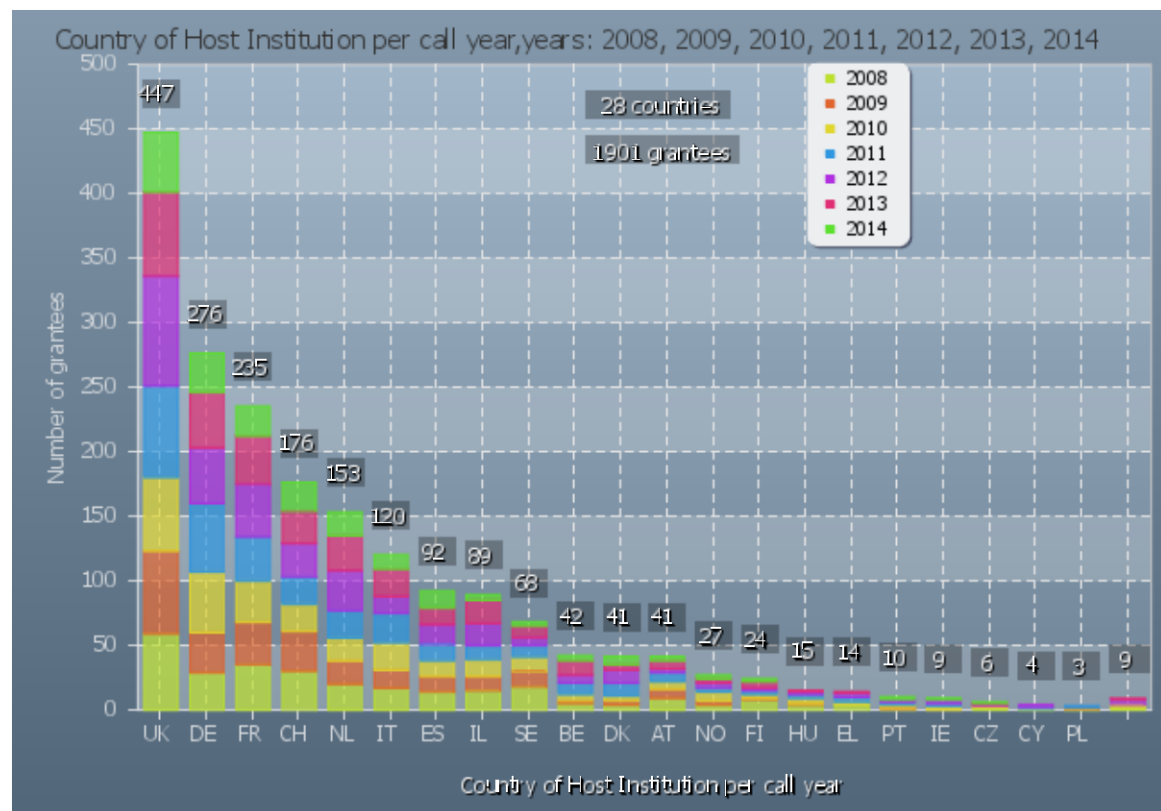
- Iterate between files. No cut/paste.
- Genuine. You have to find your own style.
- Perfect English. No sloppiness, no typos, no small errors.

Country of Host Institution per call year, years: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

This page provides **basic statistics for ERC funding activities**.

Please note that the data reflects the current status of the granting process. Therefore the total number of grants and grant distribution might differ from the indicative statistics, published at the release of the results, which are based on the outcome of the evaluation process.

You can use the menu on the left to select different views on the data.



-> perfect English. No sloppiness, no typos, no small errors.
(Let someone proof-read your proposal.)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
United Kingdom	59	64	57	71	85	65	46

Summary

- Pick the right problem.
- Write (rewrite, rewrite, rewrite,..) a good proposal.
- Discuss with colleagues you trust, let someone check the English
- Pick the right panel.

Questions?