

Welcome to the session –
we will start at 3 pm!

ERC ADVANCED GRANT: KEY FEATURES AND SUCCESS FACTORS

17.06.2020, Introductory session

Ylva Huber, ERC NCP, FFG

OUTLINE

- ERC Advanced Grant: Key features
- Outlook: Advanced Grant in Horizon Europe
- Reflections for a competitive proposal
- ERC Services by FFG
- Outlook on research domain-specific sessions
- Q+A

scientific excellence is the only funding criterion

open for all areas
of research

frontier research

led by autonomous
Scientific Council

PI – Advanced:

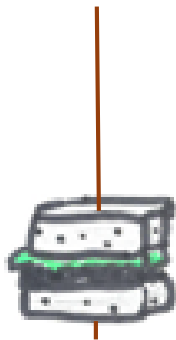
- active researcher, significant research achievements in the last 10 years
- minimum time commitment (50% in EU/AC; 30% for project)

- 2,5 Mio € (exceptionally: up to 3,5 Mio €) for 5 years.
- ERC Grants are portable



Host Institution in
EU- or
Associated
Countries (AC)

ERC PROPOSAL: 2 VERSIONS OF YOUR STORY



Extended Synopsis - 5 pages
+ CV - 2 pages
+ 10 years Track record - 2 pages



Full proposal - 15 pages

ERC EVALUATION: 2 TYPES OF REVIEWERS, 2 STEPS

Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)

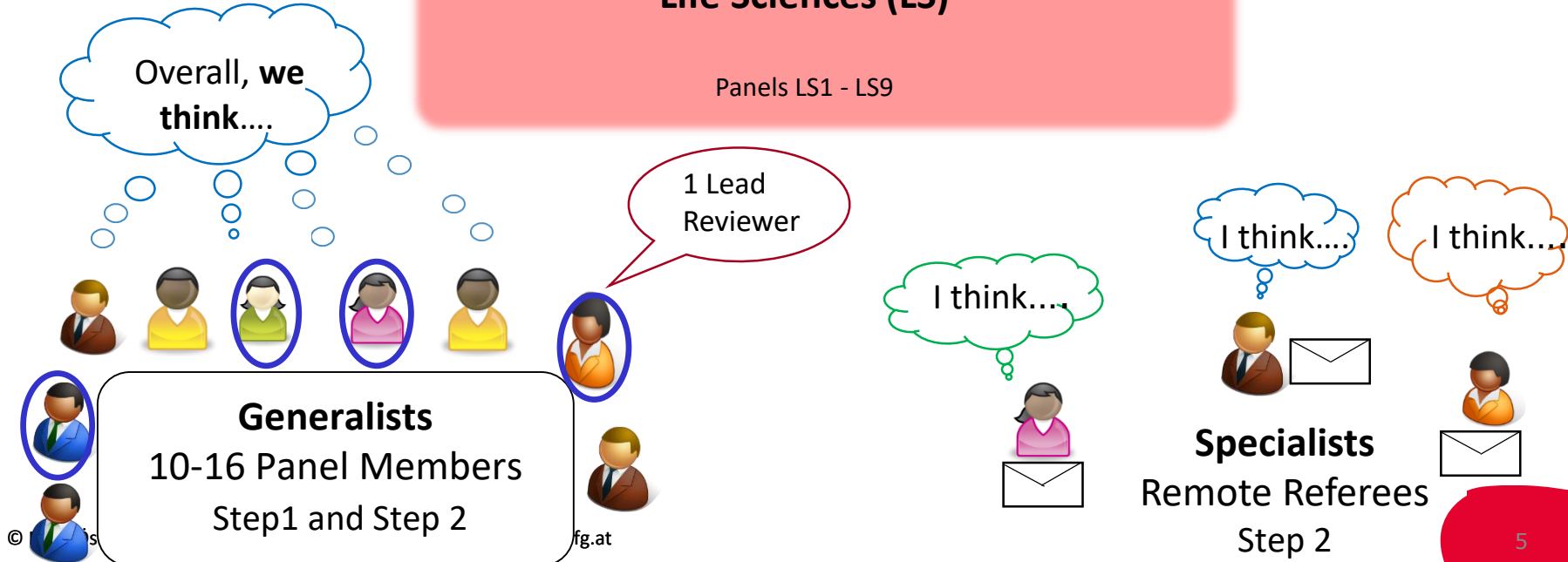
Panels SH1 – SH6 (Horizon Europe: SH7)

Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)

Panels PE1 – PE10 (Horizon Europe: PE 11)

Life Sciences (LS)

Panels LS1 - LS9



Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment and Space
- SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures and Cultural Productions
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past

Horizon Europe: SH7 Human Mobility, Environment and space

Physical Sciences and Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- PE6 Computer Science & Informatics

- PE7 Systems & Comm. Engineering
- PE8 Products and Processes Eng.
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science

Horizon Europe: PE11 Materials Engineering

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecular & Structural Biology and Biochemistry
- LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics, Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences and Neural Disorders
- LS6 Immunity and Infection
- LS7 Diagnostic Tools, Therapies and Public Health
- LS8 Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology
- LS9 Applied Life Sciences and Non-Medical Biotechnology

PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION STEPS

Part A – Administrative Forms

Part B – Proposal



incl. Host commitment letter, ethics,
+ new: budget section

PART B1:

CV 2 p.

Track record 2 p.

Extended synopsis 5 p.



Step 1:

only **B1** is evaluated
by **Panel** Members
("Generalists")
only



Step 2:

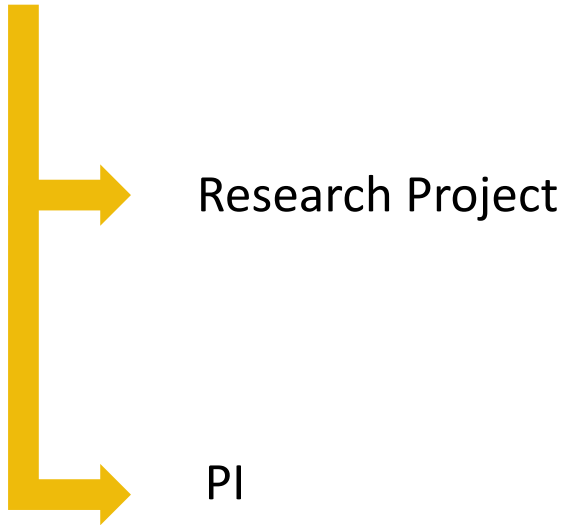
B1 + B2 are evaluated
by **Panel** + external
Referees
("Specialists")

Horizon Europe/as of
Call 2021: [Interview](#)
[also for AdG](#)

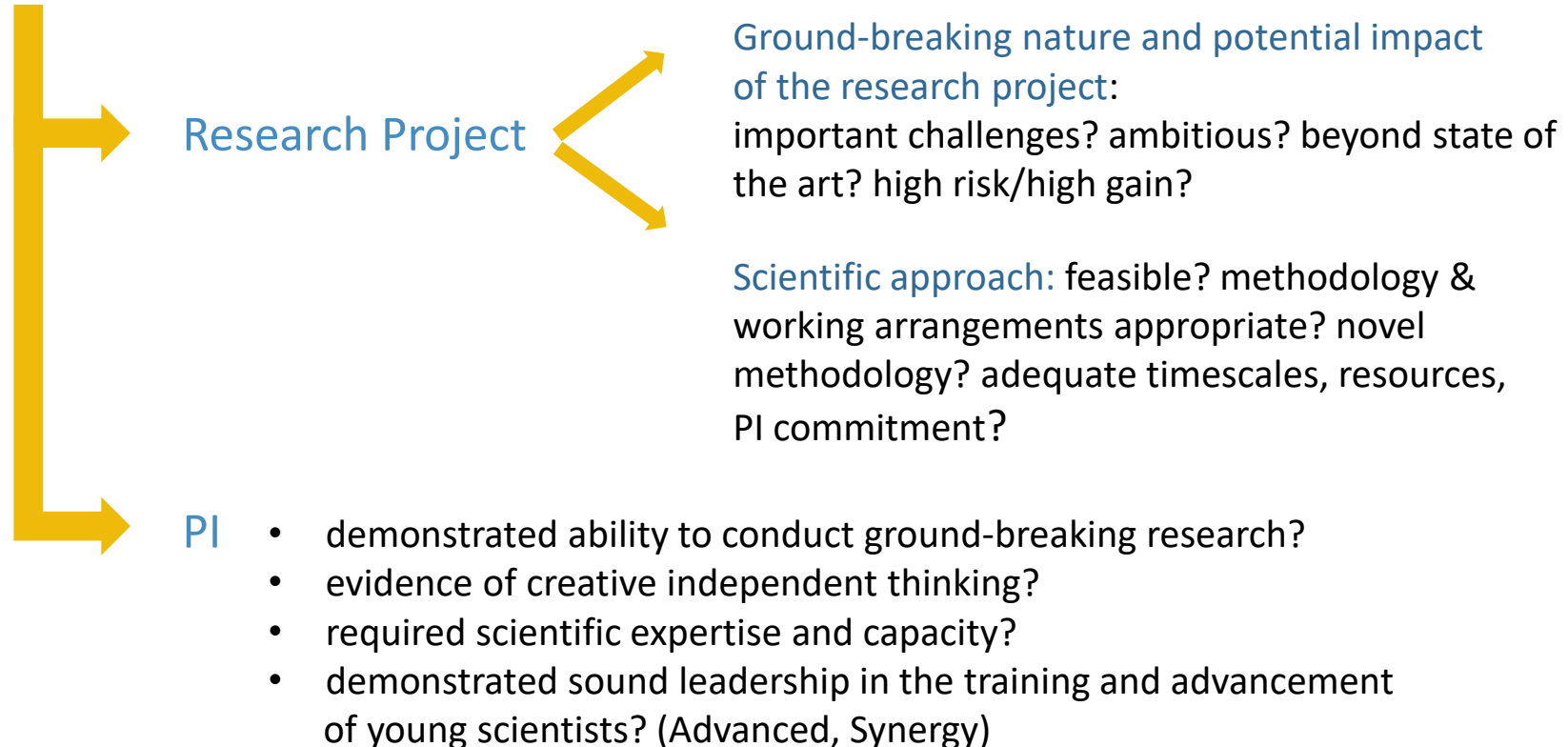
PART B2:

Scientific proposal 15 p

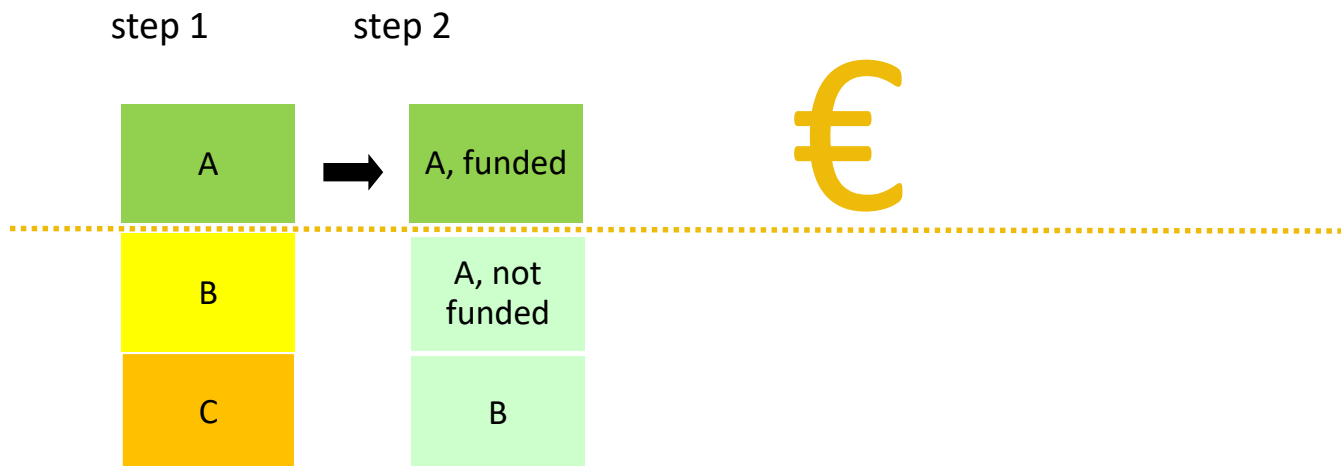
SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE



SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE



EVALUATION OUTCOMES



1 year waiting time for new ERC application

→ only for step1

2 years waiting time for new ERC application

→ only for step1

POSSIBLE FUTURE: DYNAMIC PANELS FOR ALL ERC GRANTS?

- Model: ERC Synergy Grant
- AI used for allocation of panel members to proposals



WHAT MAKES AN ERC PROFILE?



STARTER

Must have already **shown the potential for research independence** and evidence of maturity. E.g. at least **one important publication as main author** or without the participation of the PhD supervisor



CONSOLIDATOR

Must have already **shown** research **independence** and evidence of **maturity**. E.g. **several important publications as main author** or without participation of the PhD supervisor.



ADVANCED

Promising **10 years track record**

ADVANCED PROFILE OUTLINE (1)



- no formal eligibility criteria, but intense competition: “exceptional leader in terms of originality and significance of research contributions”
- active researchers with a track-record of significant research achievements **in the last 10 years***; at least matching one or more of the following **benchmarks**:
- **10 publications as main author** (or joint author, depending on the field) in
 - major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals
 - and/or in the leading international peer reviewed journals and peer-reviewed conferences in the field

* **extension** of time-window possible under defined circumstances, e.g. maternity/parental leave, long-term illness, clinical qualification

ADVANCED PROFILE OUTLINE (2)

- **3 major research monographs**, of which at least one is translated into another language (e.g. humanities, social sciences)
Other benchmarks may be considered, e.g:
- 5 granted patents
- 10 invited presentations in well-established international conferences
- 3 research expeditions led by PI
- organisation/steering committee member: 3 well-established international conferences/congresses
- awards, prizes, academy memberships, artefact with documented use
- major contributions to launching careers of outstanding researchers
- recognised leadership in industrial innovation

HOW CAN YOU PRESENT YOUR PROFILE?

- **CV-Template – 2 pages:**

Education; Current and previous position(s), Fellowships and Awards, Funding ID; Supervision of students, organisation of scientific meetings, institutional responsibilities, commissions of trust; memberships of academic societies, major collaborations; career breaks

- **10 years Track Record – 2 pages:** top 10 publications; invited presentations; patents; awards

- **Extended Synopsis (B1) and Scientific Proposal (B2):**

e.g. references: - As we could show in [ref],...
preliminary results,...

CV-TEMPLATE – SOME TIPS

- Panel members appreciate the template → follow it where possible, adapt where necessary/useful
- Current and previous position(s); → + declined offers
- Supervision of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows
→ Important to demonstrate a strong mentoring profile, in addition to Track Record
- Reviewer for Journals, for other funding agencies, PhD advisory committee,...? field-specific “merits”?
- Mention also concluded grants (in addition to extra annex on current grants); you can also indicate total funding raised so far

10 YEARS TRACK RECORD – SOME TIPS

- **Publications:**

Up to ten representative publications, from the last ten years, as main author (or in those fields where alphabetic order of authorship is the norm, joint author) in major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals and peer-reviewed conference proceedings of the respective research field)→ **describe significance of papers in 1-2 sentences**

- **Major contributions to early careers** of excellent researchers

→ **Provide concrete examples** (PhD/postdoc in PI's group, now Professor in.../prize awarded...)



SHOW WHAT MAKES YOU STAND OUT



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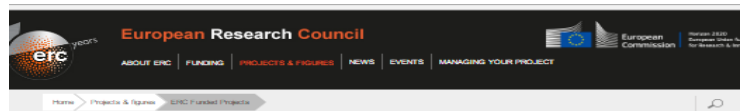
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ERC PROFILES: FIND A GRANTEE NEAR YOU



ERC FUNDED PROJECTS

The ERC operates according to a "outlet-driven", or "bottom-up", approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. Accordingly the portfolio ERC funded projects spans a wide range of topics and research questions.

Since 2007, more than 7,000 projects have been selected to receive ERC funding throughout the EU Member States and the associated countries. The ERC has received over 65,000 project proposals for its calls.

Use the search facility to quickly and easily find examples of ERC funded projects.

HOW CAN YOU SEARCH?

Projects can be filtered according to funding scheme, call year and/or country of host institution. You can also use the search box and enter free text words, for instance names of universities or principal investigators.

The filter for panels will be enabled soon again.

WHERE DOES THE DATA COME FROM?

Information displayed is automatically updated through the information available on the **CORCIS** platform and can partially be exported in PDF format. Only funded projects, whose grant agreements have been signed, appear in this section.

Please note that the structure and descriptions of ERC panels have changed over the years. The panel structures for each year can be found in ERC annual work programmes. Panels displayed in this tool are the panels the projects were selected in.

DATA PROTECTION

Individuals' personal information contained in this database is published for information concerning their involvement in an ERC project. It shall only be used to contact them for matters related to their function. Processing this information for other purposes (such as further transmission, further publication, direct marketing and requests for information, which differ from the matters indicated) is illegal and liable to consequences according to applicable legislation.

SEARCH

FILTER BY FUNDING SCHEME:

Starting Grant (SIG) (3410)
Advanced Grant (AdG) (2180)
Consolidator Grant (CoG) (1170)
Proof of Concept (PoC) (549)
Synergy Grants (SyG) (24)

FILTER BY CALL YEAR:

- ☐ 2007 (305)
- ☐ 2008 (284)
- ☐ 2009 (492)
- ☐ 2010 (707)
- ☐ 2011 (838)
- ☐ 2012 (957)
- ☐ 2013 (985)
- ☐ 2014 (1058)
- ☐ 2015 (1089)
- ☐ 2016 (630)

FILTER BY COUNTRY:

- ☐ Austria (190)
- ☐ Belgium (297)
- ☐ Bulgaria (3)
- ☐ Croatia (3)
- ☐ Cyprus (14)
- ☐ Czechia (25)

ERC FUNDED PROJECTS

Displaying 1 - 10 of 47. Show **10** | 20 results per page.

Project acronym	A-LIFE
Project	Absorbing aerosol layers in a changing climate: aging, lifetime and dynamics
Researcher (PI)	Bernadett Barbara Weinzierl
Host Institution (HI)	UNIVERSITÄT WIEN
Call Details	Starting Grant (SIG), PE10, ERC-2014-STG
Summary	+

Project acronym	ABINITIODGA
Project	Ab initio Dynamical Vertex Approximation
Researcher (PI)	Karsten Held
Host Institution (HI)	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN
Call Details	Starting Grant (SIG), PE3, ERC-2012-SIG_20111012
Summary	+

SEARCH

FUNDING SCHEME

Starting Grant (SIG) (47)
Consolidator Grant (CoG) (12)
Advanced Grant (AdG) (25)
Proof of Concept (PoC) (0)
Synergy Grants (SyG) (0)

CALL YEAR

RESEARCH DOMAIN

<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-figures/erc-funded-projects>

SOME REFLECTIONS ON WRITING THE PROPOSAL (1)



SOME REFLECTIONS ON WRITING THE PROPOSAL (2)

- knowledge gap
- core novelty of your project
- driving research questions
- include your more long-term research vision
- groundbreaking approach, not incremental
- not (largely) methods-driven
- testable hypotheses
- ambitious scope ↔ sufficient focus for a credible approach
- favourable gain/risk-balance
- central research objectives - clear and measurable
- how will you validate and interpret your results? → explanatory power
- time for feedback loops



a **story**,
not a
checklist

OUTLOOK: DOMAIN-SPECIFIC ADG SESSIONS “ERC AT 3”

- July 2, 2020 3 -5:30 PM Social Sciences & Humanities
 - July 7, 2020 3-5:30 PM Life Sciences
 - July 9, 2020 3-5:30 PM Physical Sciences & Engineering
-
- PE, LS, SH evaluation comments: Observations /Lessons learnt
 - Q+A with panel members
 - You can send questions in advance to ylva.huber@ffg.at or add them in the registration form (field for comments)
 - **Registration is open** at https://www.ffg.at/europa/veranstaltungen/ffg-akademie_2020-06-17

ERC-RELATED SERVICES BY FFG



- **ERC Grant Proposal writing trainings**
- **Webinars/interactive online sessions**
- **Proposal Reading Days**
- **Individual consultancy**
- **Proposal checks** - AdG 2020: please send your proposal by Aug 3, 2020
- **“Notes and Tips”-document for all ERC calls**
- **Interview Trainings**
- Homepage: <https://www.ffg.at/erc>
- Contact: ylva.huber@ffg.at

QUESTIONS?



CONTACT:

Ylva Huber

ERC National Contact Point

Austrian Research Promotion Agency FFG
Sensengasse 1, A-1090 Vienna

T +43 (0) 5 77 55 – 4102
ylva.huber@ffg.at
www.ffg.at



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