

Ylva Huber | FFG

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANT: TIPS FOR A COMPETITIVE PROPOSAL


5.12.2019 Webinar

OUTLINE

- ERC Consolidator Grant – nutshell overview
- Presenting yourself as Principal Investigator
- Communicating your research project
- Q+A

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANT: PRINCIPLES



- Consolidate independent research team/programme
- Min 7 - max 12 years post PhD until 1.1.2020 (Call 2020)
- max. 2,0 (3,0) Mio € for 5 years 
- next CoG Deadline: [4.2.2020, 17:00 CET](#)
- Eligibility time-window can be extended under defined circumstances (e.g. parental leave, long-term illness; national service, clinical training)

- Minimum **time commitment** by PI (min 40% working on CoG; min 50% in Europe)
- ERC-Grants are portable

FURTHER RULES FOR ERC PROPOSALS

- **Resubmission rules:** waiting time one year (category B) or possibly two years (category C) for proposals not successful in step one of the evaluation
- If you have an ongoing ERC frontier research Grant, you can submit a new ERC frontier grant proposal if the existing project ends no more than two years after the call deadline
- **Open Access** rules of Horizon 2020 apply (Art. 29.2., ERC Model Grant Agreement)
<https://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/managing-project/open-access>
- **Research data sharing** by default, possibility to opt out at any time (Art. 29.3, ERC Model Grant Agreement)

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

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

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

Overall, we think....

I think....

I think....

I think....


Generalists

10-16 Panel Members
Step 1 and Step 2

Specialists


Remote Referees
Step 2

ONLINE EVALUATION INTERFACE



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Individual Evaluation Report - step 1

Help 

Threshold: 0 Evaluation progress: 0.00%

Expand / Collapse all criteria

- **Criterion 1 - RESEARCH PROJECT**

Current score: - / 5.0 ; Threshold 0

Your score: *

1.0 - Non-competitive 1.5 2.0 - Good 2.5 3.0 - Very Good 3.5 4 - Excellent 4.5 5 - Exceptional

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

To what extent is the proposed research high-risk/high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Comments: *

0 / 5000 characters

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

Comments: *

0 / 5000 characters

THE QUESTIONS TO ERC REVIEWERS

Research project (1)

- **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 beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?
 - To what extent is the proposed research **high risk/high gain** (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

THE QUESTIONS TO ERC REVIEWERS (2)

Research project (2)

- **Scientific approach:**
 - To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain? (based on the Extended Synopsis)
 - To what extent are the proposed **research methodology and working arrangements** appropriate to achieve the goals of the project? (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
 - To what extent does the proposal involve the development of **novel methodology** (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
 - To what extent are the **proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment** adequate and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

THE QUESTIONS TO ERC REVIEWERS (3)

Principal Investigator (Starting and Consolidator)

- **Intellectual capacity and creativity**
 - To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
 - To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?
 - To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

WHAT MAKES A CONSOLIDATOR 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.



Promising **track-record of early achievements** appropriate to the research field and career stage, e.g. significant publications as main author in major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary journals, or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals of the field, monographs, invited presentations, patents, prizes/awards,...

HOW CAN YOU PRESENT YOUR PROFILE?

- **CV-Template – 2 pages:**
Education; Current and previous position(s), Fellowships and Awards
- **Track Record – 2 pages:**
Early achievements Track Record - publications, conferences
- **Extended Synopsis (B1) and Scientific Proposal (B2):**
e.g. As we could show in [reference],...
preliminary results,...

CV-TEMPLATE (1)

- Education **tip:** + title of PhD thesis and name of PhD supervisor
- Current and previous position(s); **tip:** + declined offers
- Fellowships and Awards
- Supervision of Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows - **Tip:** including co-supervision/informal supervision (without habilitation)
- Teaching Activities
- Organisation of Scientific Meetings
- Institutional Responsibilities
- Commissions of Trust
- **Tip:** + Reviewer for Journals
- **Tip:** + Concluded grants (in addition to extra annex on current grants)

CV-TEMPLATE (2)

- Memberships of scientific societies
- Major collaborations
- Career breaks

Applicant's last name

Part B1

ACRONYM

Section b: Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)

[The template below is provided only for guidance. It may be modified as necessary and appropriate.]

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family name, First name:

Researcher unique identifier(s) (such as ORCID, Research ID, etc. ...):

Date of birth:

URL for web site:

• EDUCATION

- | | |
|------|---|
| 199? | PhD
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country |
| 199? | Master
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country |

EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS TRACK RECORD – CONSOLIDATOR

**overview
+ highlights**

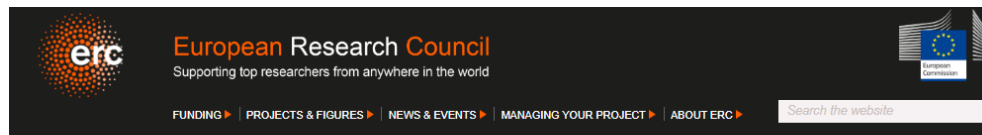
- **Publications:**

Major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals, and/or in the leading international peer reviewed-journals, peer-reviewed conferences proceedings and/or monographs,... **up to 10** representative publications

tip: + 1-2 sentences summarizing significance of publication (+ role of PI)

- Research monographs and any translations thereof
- **Granted patent(s)**
- **Invited presentations:** internationally established conferences, international advanced schools
- **Prizes, awards, academy memberships**

FIND A CONSOLIDATOR NEAR YOU



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FUNDING SCHEME

- Starting Grant (StG) (4254)
- Consolidator Grant (CoG) (1909)
- Advanced Grant (AdG) (2862)
- Proof of Concept (PoC) (964)
- Synergy Grants (SyG) (51)

CALL YEAR

RESEARCH DOMAIN

- (PE) Physical Sciences & Engineering (875)
- PE1 (70)
- PE2 (103)

Displaying 1 - 10 of 1909. Show [10](#) | [20](#) | [50](#) | [100](#) results per page.

Project acronym	15CBOOKTRADE
Project	The 15th-century Book Trade: An Evidence-based Assessment and Visualization of the Distribution, Sale, and Reception of Books in the Renaissance
Researcher (PI)	Cristina Dondi
Host Institution (HI)	THE CHANCELLOR, MASTERS AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Call Details	Consolidator Grant (CoG), SH6, ERC-2013-CoG
Summary	+
Project acronym	2D-CHEM
Project	Two-Dimensional Chemistry towards New Graphene Derivatives

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

B1 – IMPORTANT FEATURES

Extended synopsis (5 pages):

- research challenge
- overall goal and specific aims
- groundbreaking nature vs. state of the art
- originality/unique feature(s)
- feasibility/risk mitigation strategies → favorable risk/gain balance
- expected impact; PI's long-term research vision
- methodology
- preliminary data
- figures/graphs?
- nutshell information: expertise of PI & team, rough time plan
- avoid repetitions

→ to convince **generalist and specialist panel members**
rule of thumb: **minimum 50% of B1 about novel approach**



Abstract (2000 characters)

B2: CONVINCING SPECIALIST REVIEWERS AS WELL

- a) **State of the art and objectives:** **provide context, define your aims**
objectives clearly specified in context of state of the art; importance, timeliness and anticipated impact of proposed research

- b) **Methodology:** **feasibility & coherence with your aims**
detailed; novel/ unconventional aspects, work and time plan, key intermediate goals; intermediate stages that may require adjustments to the project planning; risks and contingency plans; required expertise of team members, working arrangements; preliminary data

+ impeccable layout

BUDGET: ONLINE SUBMISSION FORM (SECTION 3)

2 - Participants & contacts | **3 - Budget** | 4 - Ethics

Proposal ID: SEP-210699017 | Acronym: TEST ONLY NCP

3 - Budget

Beneficiary Short Name	Direct costs														A. Total Direct Costs	B. Indirect Costs	C1. Subcontracting Costs	C2. Costs of in kind contributions not used on the beneficiary's premises	Total Estimated Eligible Costs	Requested by contribution
	Personnel					Other direct costs								A.3. Internally incurred goods and services						
	PI	Senior Staff	Postdocs	Students	Other Personnel costs	A.1. Total direct costs for personnel	Travel	Equipment including major equipment	Other goods and services			A.2. Total Other Direct Costs								
							Consumables incl. software and animal costs	Publications incl. Open Access fees and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	Total other goods and services										
Fig.	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00

H2020-ERIC-ADG V1er 1.00 20190523

- Personnel costs: Host Institution- specific, e.g. FWF-rates: <https://www.fwf.ac.at/de/forschungsfoerderung/personalkostensaetze/>
- possible to include admin/management costs
- Open access
- Open data?
- Additional costs, e.g. equipment?

FURTHER USEFUL REFLECTIONS FOR A COMPELLING STORY

- The **core novelty** of your project
- **focus ↔ scope**
- **Gain/Risk-balance**
- How will you **validate and interpret** your results? → **Explanatory power**; e.g. descriptive vs. experimental; causality vs. correlation; generalizable results?
- Important details for **methodology, appropriate to the field(s)**: e.g. selection criteria for case studies; statistical power analysis, how will you prioritize,...
- Important (working) **definitions** for your project?
- Q+As for the interview in Brussels?

EVALUATION SCHEDULE COG 2020

Timeframe for sending information to applicants (CoG2020)	PE Physical Sciences & Engineering	LS Life Sciences	SH Social Sciences & Humanities
1. Results of eligibility check (applies only to proposals declared ineligible)	April 2020		
2. Invitations for interviews	Mid May	End may	Early June
3. Results of Step 1 for non-retained applicants	Mid July	Mid July	Mid July
4. Step 2 Interviews	Mid/end September	End September/early October	Early October
5. Results of Step 2	Mid December	Mid December	Mid December

Indicative date
for signature of
grant agreements:
3 April 2021



updates: <https://erc.europa.eu/timeframe-consolidator-grant-2020-evaluation-erc-2020-cog>

ERC-RELATED SERVICES BY FFG

- ERC Grant Proposal writing trainings
- Proposal Library/ Reading Days: next on Dec 13, 2019
- Individual consultancy
- Proposal checks – please send draft by Jan 13, 2020
- Information packs
- Interview Trainings
- Homepage: <https://www.ffg.at/Europa/Horizon2020>
- ERC: <https://www.ffg.at/erc>
- Contact: ylva.huber@ffg.at



Q&A



Verbal Questions

This is your webinar **toolbar**.
Press the **arrow** to show the
whole dashboard

You are muted by default to
avoid disturbing background
noises.

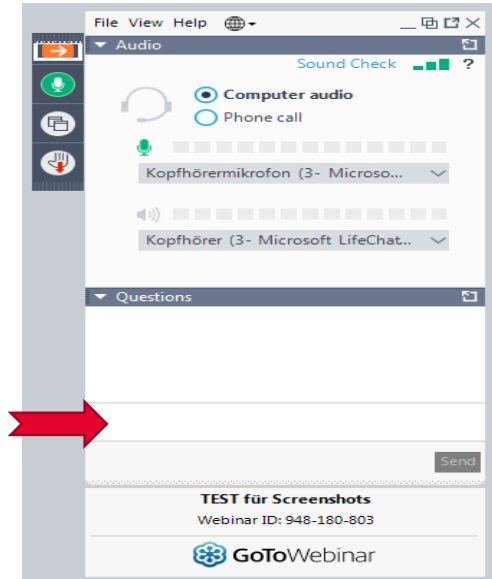
**Test: Can you hear us? If so,
please raise your hand NOW!**

**Use this symbol whenever
you want to ask a question
verbally**



Written Questions

Insert your
question here



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