

ERC Consolidator Grant Applicant Training

Zürich, 30 January 2015

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Presentation outline

- Basics
- Getting started
- Application
 - CV and track-record
 - Synopsis and proposal
- Budget and resources

Basics

- PhD award 7-12 years* before 1 January 2015
- Requirements:
 - Excellence and potential of PI
 - Excellence of project
 - Commitment to ERC project: $\geq 40\%$ of working time
 - Support of Host Institution

* Extensions in certain circumstances possible

Call characteristics

- Call opened: 13 November 2014
- Deadline: 12 March 2015
- Budget: €430 mio (~330 grants)

Documents

- [Work Programme 2015](#)
- [Information for applicants](#) (Starting and Consolidator Grant 2015)
- [Self-evaluation form](#)
- ERC-CoG-2015 on [Participant Portal](#)

Resubmission rules

- Researchers with proposals categorised C not eligible in subsequent 2 calls
- Researchers with proposals categorised B not eligible in subsequent call
- Researchers with proposals categorised A can submit in subsequent call

Evaluation

- 25 evaluation panels
- Panel descriptions: Annex I of «Information for applicants»
- Panels chairs [published](#) before call deadline; panel members after call deadline
- Two sets of evaluation panels alternate
- Two-step evaluation
- Step 1: proposal part B1 (Synopsis, CV and track-record) by panel members
- Step 2: proposals part B1 and B2 (full proposal) by panel members and external reviewers; interviews in Brussels

ERC projects

- [ERC website](#)
- [Cordis](#)
- Get impression on type of research funded
- Find out who of your peers and colleagues has received ERC grant

Getting started

- Start early – your proposal must be excellent in all aspects (including layout, language etc.)
- Study Work Programme and «Information for Applicants»
- Have evaluation criteria in mind
- Decide on evaluation panel(s); target especially introduction of concept to composition of panel(s)
- Use templates available from PPSS once registered

Application parts

PART A – online forms To complete in PPSS

- A1 General info
- A2 Administrative Data
- A3 Budget
- A4 Ethics
- A5 Call specific questions

Annexes – submitted as pdf

- Letter of HI
- PhD certificate (incl. supporting documents if applicable)
- Ethics self-assessment (if applicable)
- Supporting documents related to ethics (if applicable)

PART B1 - submitted as pdf

- a) Extended synopsis 5 p.
- b) CV 2 p.
- c) Track record 2 p.

PART B2 – submitted as pdf

- Scientific proposal 15 p.
- a) State of the Art + objectives
- b) Methodology
- c) Resources

Application parts

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- | | |
|----------------------|------|
| a) Extended synopsis | 5 p. |
| b) CV | 2 p. |
| c) Track record | 2 p. |

PART B2 – submitted as pdf

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Scientific proposal | 15 p. |
| a) State of the Art + objectives | |
| b) Methodology | |
| c) Resources | |

CV and track-record

- Detailed instructions on p. 24 of «Info for Applicants»
- 2 pages maximum each – juggle to use space optimally
- Convince evaluators of your intellectual capacity and creativity:
 - Ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research
 - Evidence of creative independent thinking
 - Achievements beyond state of the art
 - Ability to manage a team and big budget

CV

- Standard academic CV
- Suggestion for CV outline available in template
- Explicitly mention career gaps
- Contains «funding ID»: ongoing grants and funding applications
 - Use tables available in template
 - Tables not included in page limit
 - Concluded projects which competitive funding as additional achievement

Track record

- Highlight up to 10 representative publications
- Highlight publications without contribution of PhD supervisor
- List as many additional publications as space allows
- Include number of citations (excluding self-citations)
- Consider commenting on publications

Application parts

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Proposal and synopsis

- Bear in mind
 - The ERC funds frontier research projects that are novel, creative, go significantly beyond the state of the art, make substantial advances in the frontiers of knowledge, use new methods and techniques, often are interdisciplinary, and high-risk-high-gain projects.
 - The ERC funds projects that cannot easily be funded otherwise.

Proposal and synopsis

- Detailed instructions on p. 23-26 of «Info for Applicants»
- Keep panel composition in mind – presentation of concept and overall objectives should be understandable to all panel members
- Full proposal not available at evaluation step 1
- Avoid copy-paste between synopsis and proposal
- Introduce overall concept and objectives early in text
- Show that you know state of the art
- Maximum page limits include references

Proposal and synopsis

- Convince evaluators of:
 - Importance of scientific challenge addressed
 - Objectives ambitious and beyond state of the art
 - High risk/high gain research
 - Feasibility of scientific approach
 - Research methodology appropriate to achieve goals (only proposal)
 - Developement of novel methodology (only proposal)
 - Proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (only proposal)

Proposal and synopsis

- Use tables and graphs where appropriate
- Bear in mind evaluators might print proposals b/w
- Structure text using e.g. bullet points, additional subtitles, highlighting

Application parts

PART A – online forms To complete in PPSS

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- A3 Budget**
- A4 ETHICS
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Maximum funding

- Up to €2 million for 5 years
- Includes flat rate indirect costs: 25% of direct costs
-> maximum €1.6 million direct costs
- Additional budget (€ 750'000) can be requested in case of
 - Moving from overseas
 - Purchase of major equipment
 - Access to large facilities

Budget table

Cost Category			Total in Euro
Direct Costs ²	Personnel	PI ³	
		Senior Staff	
		Postdocs	
		Students	
		Other	
	i. Total Direct Costs for Personnel (in Euro)		
	Travel		
	Equipment		
	Other goods and services	Consumables	
		Publications (including Open Access fees), etc.	
		Other (please specify)	
	ii. Total Other Direct Costs (in Euro)		
A – Total Direct Costs (i + ii) (in Euro)			
B – Indirect Costs (overheads) 25% of Direct Costs ⁴ (in Euro)			
C1 – Subcontracting Costs (no overheads) (in Euro)			
C2 – Other Direct Costs with no overheads ⁵ (in Euro)			
Total Estimated Eligible Costs (A + B + C) (in Euro) ⁶			
Total Requested EU Contribution (in Euro) ⁶			

Budget and resources

- Include description of team
- Mention required profile of team members to be recruited
- Clearly link team members to project objectives
- Present simple gantt chart or similar to show who does what when
- Special justifications needed:
 - Team members engaged by another institution
 - Request for additional funding (for start-up costs, large equipment or access to large infrastructures)

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Application parts

PART A – online forms To complete in PPSS

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A2 Administrative Data
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Includes

- Choice of evaluation panel(s)
- Free keywords
- Abstract

Ethical Issues Table formerly
part of full proposal

Includes option to exclude
reviewers

Ethical issues

- All applicants must complete Ethics issues table (form A4)
- If answer to any question «yes» need to provide further information in Ethics self-assessment
- Guidance
 - Information for Applicants Annex 4 (p. 62-67)
 - [Dedicated website on PP](#)
 - Guide on [How to complete your ehtics Self-Assessment](#)

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PART B2 – submitted as pdf

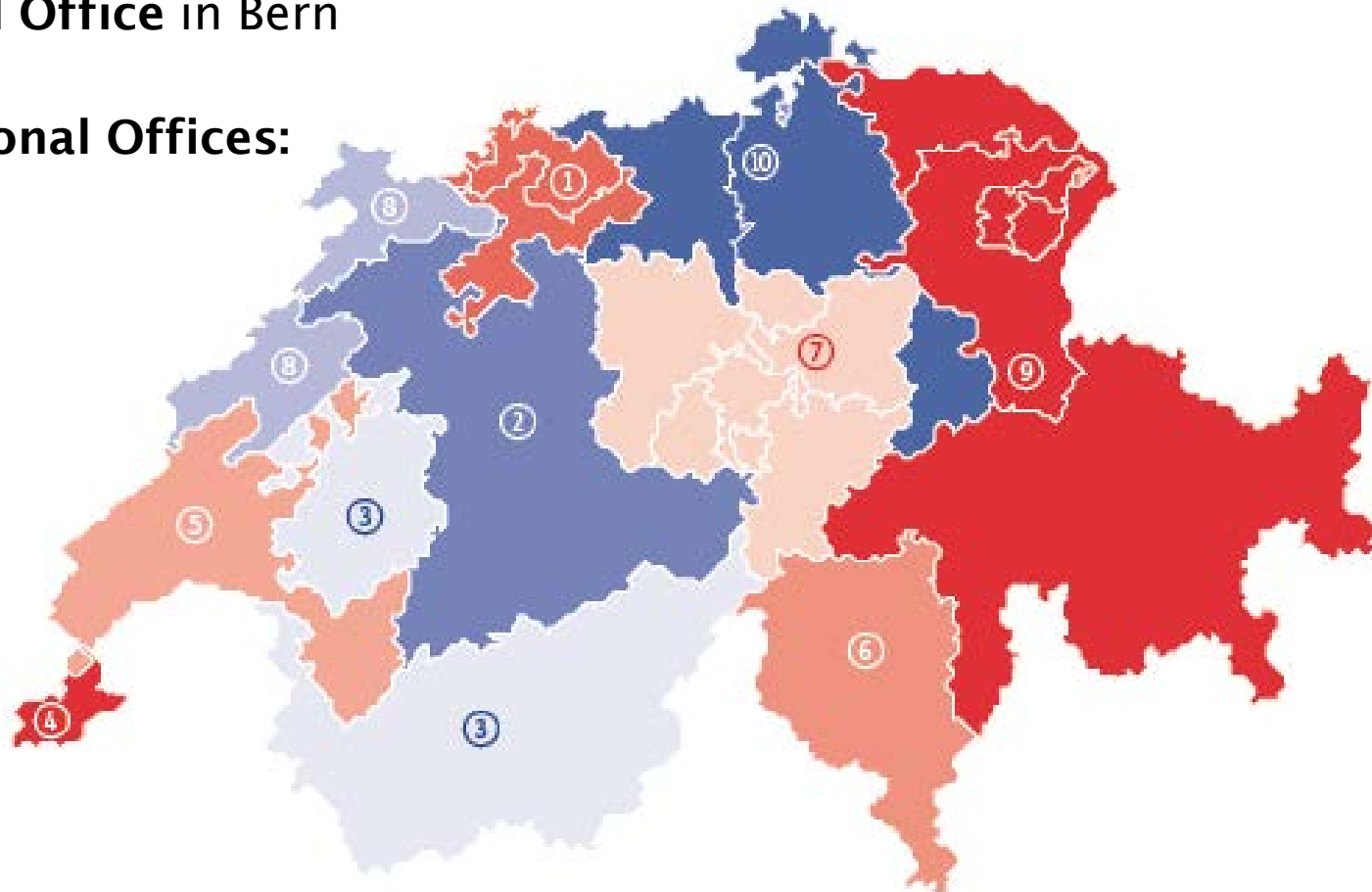
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Euresearch

Euresearch **Head Office** in Bern

Euresearch **Regional Offices:**

1. Basel
2. Bern
3. Fribourg
4. Geneva
5. Lausanne
6. Lugano
7. Luzern
8. Neuchatel
9. St. Gallen
10. Zurich



3 «UAS Contact Points»: HES-SO, FHNW, ZHAW

Relevant Euresearch services

- Feedback on mature draft of proposal – for proposals available in due time on first-come first-serve basis
- Organisation of Support letter of host institution (Euresearch regional offices)
- Help with administrative issues and budget (Euresearch regional offices)
- Interview trainings (on invitation) for applicants invited to interviews

Contacts

- National Contact Points (NCPs):
 - Dr. Katja Wirth: katja.wirth@euresearch.ch;
031 380 60 18
 - Dr. Judith Zbinden: judith.zbinden@euresearch.ch;
031 380 60 16
 - Véronique Sordet: veronique.sordet@euresearch.ch;
031 380 60 23
- Euresearch Regional Office:
<https://www.euresearch.ch/en/about-euresearch/contacts/>

Good Luck!



Questions?

Research age

- Since calls 2013: Split of former «Starting Grant» into «Starting Grant» & «Consolidator Grant»
- Eligibility time window
 - Enforced very strictly
 - Reasons for extension
 - Maternity, paternity
 - Clinical training
 - Military service
 - Long illness
 - Special conditions for Medical Doctors
 - Reference date: 1 January of call year

Resubmission rules

- Researchers with proposals categorised C not eligible in subsequent 2 calls
- Researchers with proposals categorised B not eligible in subsequent call
- Researchers with proposals categorised A can submit in subsequent call