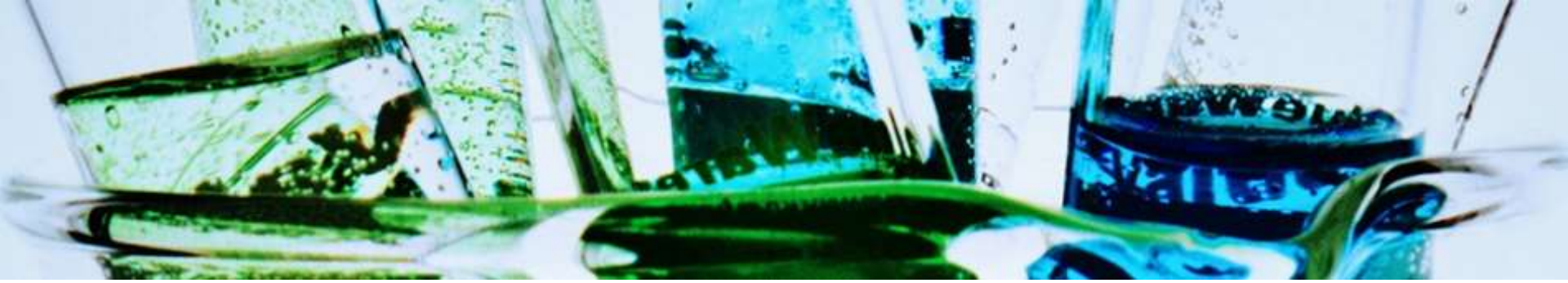


Evaluation Summary Report Analysis

Panel Structure

Life Sciences

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

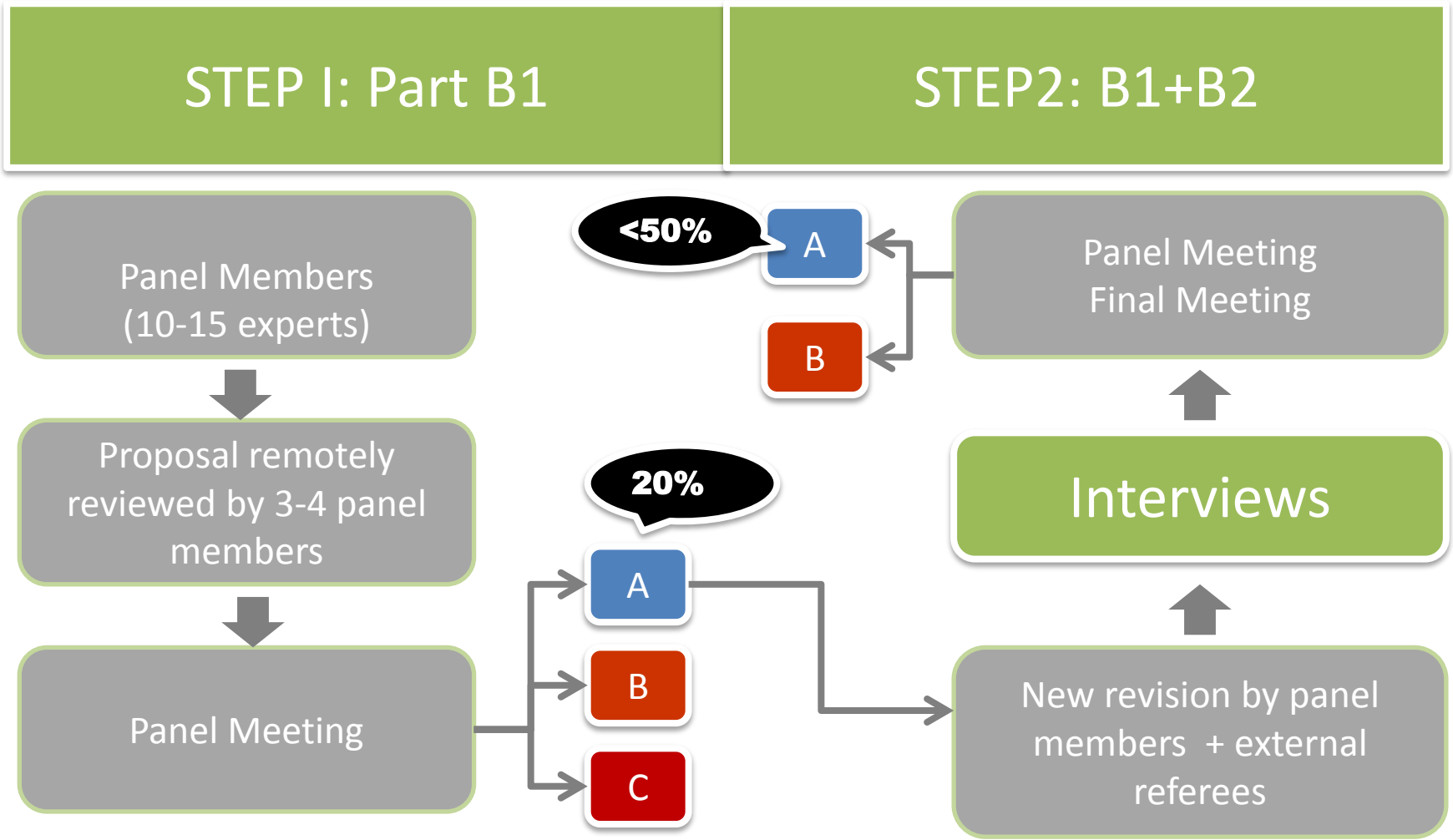
Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, Institutions & Markets
- SH2 The Social World, Diversity and Common Ground
- SH3 Environment, Space and Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures & Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past

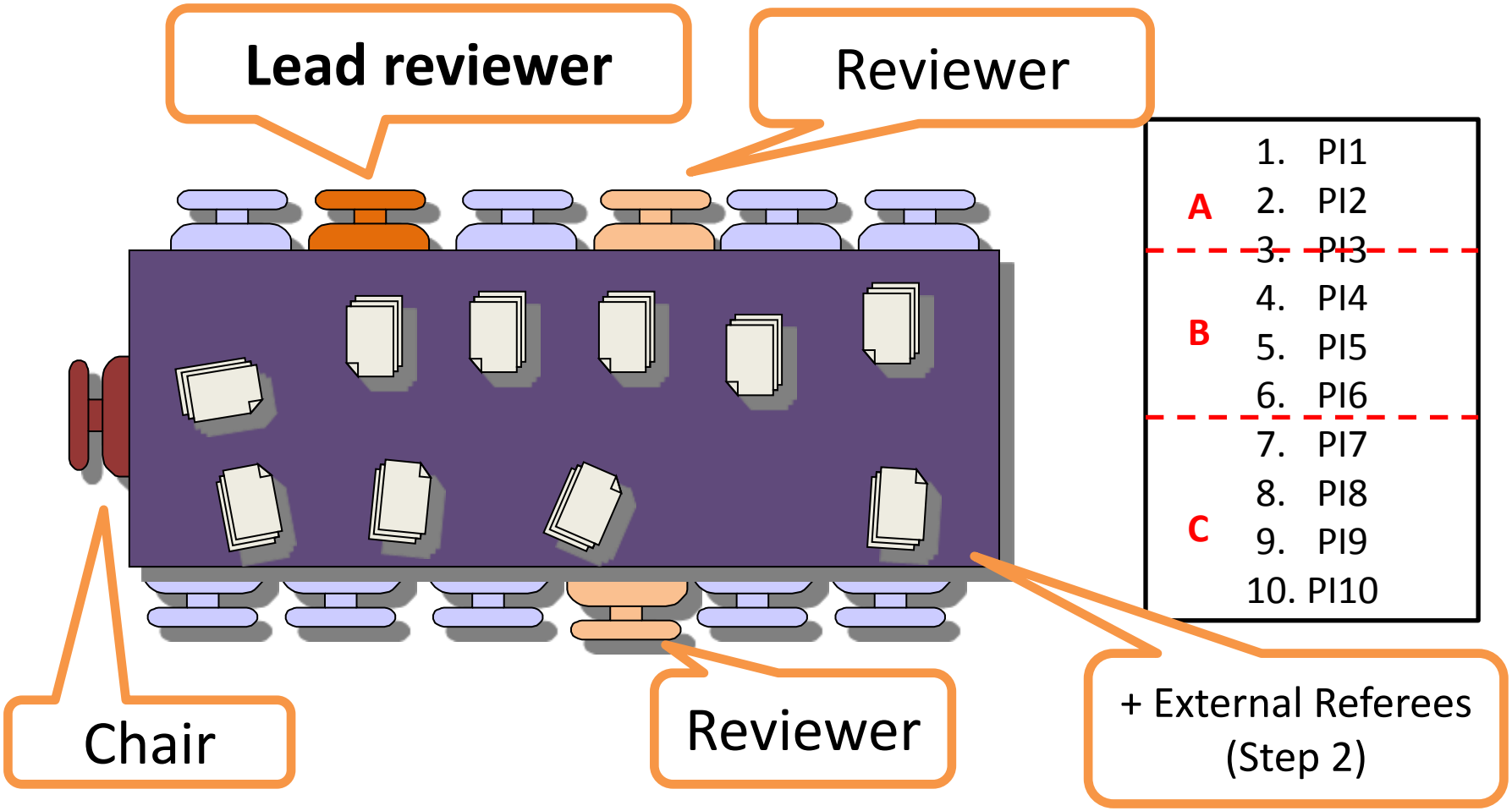
Physical Sciences & Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical & Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Materials & Synthesis
- PE6 Computer Science & Informatics
- PE7 Systems & Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products & Process Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science

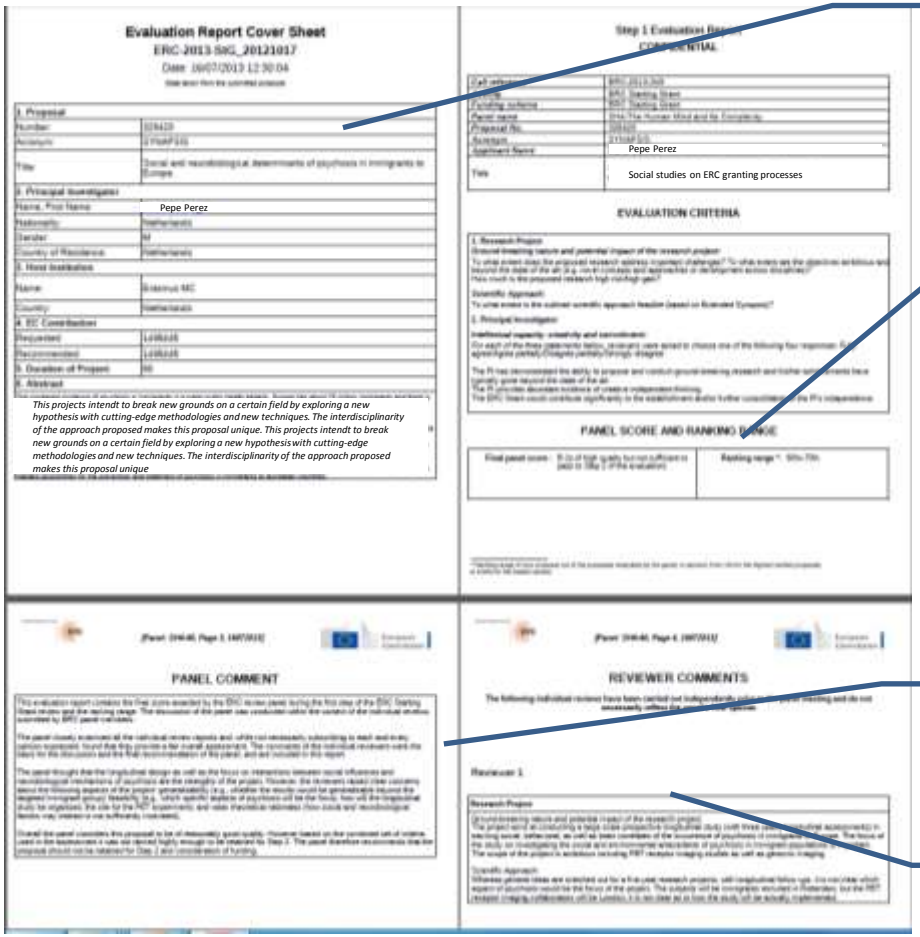
Evaluation process



Evaluation panel: Ranking meeting

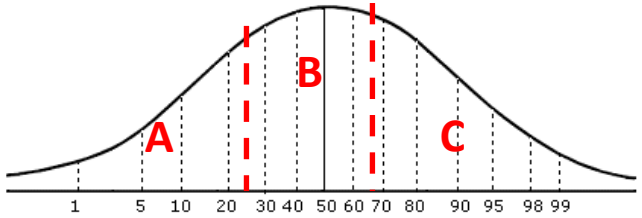


ESR structure



Cover sheet: basic info about the proposal (PI, Title, HI), including the abstract

Final score + ranking range



Panel Comment

Individual reviews: different roles

Final score at each step

STEP 1	
A	is of sufficient quality to pass to step 2 of the evaluation;
B	is of high quality but not sufficient to pass to step 2 of the evaluation
C	is not of sufficient quality to pass to step 2 of the evaluation
STEP 2	
A	fully meets the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available
B	meets some but not all elements of the ERC's excellence criterion and will not be funded

Common messages (step1 &2)

This evaluation report contains the final score awarded by the ERC review panel during the first step of the ERC Starting Grant review and the ranking range. The discussion of the panel was conducted within the context of the individual reviews submitted by ERC panel members.

The panel closely examined all the individual review reports and, ***while not necessarily subscribing to each and every opinion expressed, found that they provide a fair overall assessment****. The comments of the individual reviewers were the basis for the discussion and the final recommendation of the panel, and are included in this report.*

Final score (step1)

- B→ *Overall the panel considers this proposal to be of reasonably good quality. However based on the combined set of criteria used in the assessment it was not ranked highly enough to be retained for Step 2. The panel therefore recommends that the proposal should not be retained for Step 2 and consideration of funding*

- C→ *The panel has therefore decided to award the score as given above and recommends that the proposal should not be retained for Step 2 and funding.*

Common messages (step 2)

The presentation given by the applicant during the interview and the answers to the questions that were addressed greatly contributed to build the panel's view about the proposal's strengths and weaknesses

Final score (step 2)

- *B →The panel therefore does not recommend the proposal for funding*
- *A- → Overall, the panel considers that the proposal meets the ERC's excellence criterion, however is not at a sufficiently high position in the ranking order to be retained for funding.*
- *A → The panel recommends to fund this proposal*

Research project

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 across disciplines)?
How much is the proposed research **high risk/high gain**?

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** (based on Extended Synopsis)?
To what extent is the proposed research methodology appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on full Scientific Proposal)? **(FEASIBILITY)**
To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on full Scientific Proposal)? **(GROUNDBREAKING NATURE)**
To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on full Scientific Proposal)? **(FEASIBILITY)**

Principal Investigator

Starting and Consolidator PI				
Intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment	Fully agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly disagree
The PI has demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research and his/her achievements have typically gone beyond the state-of-the-art.	□	□	□	□
The PI provides abundant evidence of creative independent thinking	□	□	□	□
~~The ERC Grant would contribute significantly to the establishment or where necessary, the further consolidation of the PI's independence and career.~~	~~□~~	~~□~~	~~□~~	~~□~~
The PI is strongly committed to the project and demonstrates the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 50% of the total working time on it and min 50% in an EU Member State or Associated Country) (based on full Scientific Proposal).	□	□	□	□

To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?

C	*The project to use these survey data to study xxxx, is good but hardly of ground-breaking character. A more clear demonstration of the potential of the xxx of the survey could have been presented*
B	*This is a good proposal in an area of current interest in which the PI has a well-established record. However, the research follows an already defined line of work and therefore it is not considered sufficiently innovative*
A	*The panel considered this to be a very good project especially for the importance of the subject, the well-structured research plan and the quality of the principal* *So this is an **extremely timely project**, and clearly has the capacity to deliver ground-breaking research.*

To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art?

C	*"This is an important subject and the proposals appears to be state of the art, but not going beyond".* *"The added value of the new study compared to previous work on other cohorts was not well established"… "no ground-breaking nature"*
B	*The project is ambitious but its details are not well worked out and the project is rather from an evolutionary nature than really novel.* *… Yet the panel was concern that the subject was potentially vast, and the PI had not yet sufficiently defined the means of narrowing it down". The project might have been strengthen by focusing only on xxx* *Surprisingly, the PI doesn't list works A & B, that would be particularly relevant to this subject"*
A	*Studying x problem with such approach, was perceived as an innovative and **timely** proposal, well worthy of funding.*

How much is the proposed research high risk/high gain?

C	*NO COMMENTS: Most C are because there is no risk*
B	*the PI could not fully convince the panel about the feasibility and the scale-up potential of the project. Examples of the difficulties involved concern …., which were not fully taken into account by the PI during the interview. The proposal would benefit from a higher focus*
A	*Moreover, the panel came to the conclusion that the results that will be obtained will significantly advance our understanding even if the improvement of age determinations which will be achieved is less than hoped for by the PI* *The project plan is exciting and ambitious, addressing important issues related to xxx and with potential translational implications*

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible?

C	*The proposal synopsis is not detailed enough for evaluation of feasibility* *However the panel felt is was too vague… A stronger account is needed on how research should be carried out and what the main result would be…*
B	*For the proposal to be successful in a very strong field the outcome of the research needs to be less dependent on input assumptions and factors that are poorly known as indicated in reports by individual reviewers.* *The objectives are overly ambitious*
A	*Questions were raised about the suitability of some experimental approaches, but the PI showed awareness of the technical limitations and exposed sound contingency plans. The panel expects that the proposed research program will result in important scientific contributions to the field...* *The doubts about … have been of concern but the recent work …. may show feasibility of the approach. The panel* ***was positively surprised by the data****, shown during the interview that the … was taken up in tissues in vivo. The panel also agrees on the plan of testing of novel small … for which* ***the applicant's know-how and resources are a great asset***

Ability to … ground-breaking research … & achievements gone beyond the state-of-the-art.

C	The possibilities of the PI to take a leading role in the field are not clear. *The PI is not yet at a leading the position in the field*
B	*The PI is well prepared and well placed to conduct this research.* *The objectives are overly ambitious* *The panel found the proposal interesting with novel ideas on how to overcome xxx. It found questionable the possibility to determine the proper bases for the sparsity required by the method. WP2 was not considered sufficiently focused*
A	*Despite this limited mobility , his publication record shows not only high-quality research but also considerable independence. Author of over xx publications, with several articles published in top interdisciplinary journals or leading journals in his discipline. He is the first or last author in many of them, many without his previous supervisors.* *"The PI has a strong track record in the area... His visibility in his research community is excellent, providing strong evidence of independent thinking and leadership in research.*

Ability to … ground-breaking research … & achievements gone beyond the state-of-the-art.

C	The possibilities of the PI to take a leading role in the field are not clear. *The PI is not yet at a leading the position in the field*
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A	*Despite this limited mobility , his publication record shows not only high-quality research but also considerable independence. Author of over xx publications, with several articles published in top interdisciplinary journals or leading journals in his discipline. He is the first or last author in many of them, many without his previous supervisors.* *"The PI has a strong track record in the area... His visibility in his research community is excellent, providing strong evidence of independent thinking and leadership in research.*

The PI provides abundant evidence of creative independent thinking

C	The possibilities of the PI to take a leading role in the field are not clear. *The track record of the PI is moderate at best*
B	*The PI shows a good knowledge of current research* *The applicant has an excellent track record and in terms of publications and independence from the supervisor, as well as in teaching, supervision and team leadership*
A	*Despite this limited mobility , his publication record shows not only high-quality research but also considerable independence. Author of over xx publications, with several articles published in top interdisciplinary journals or leading journals in his discipline. He is the first or last author in many of them, many without his previous supervisors.* *"The PI has a strong track record in the area... His visibility in his research community is excellent, providing strong evidence of independent thinking and leadership in research.*

CV: The right timing

	The ERC Grant would contribute significantly to the establishment
C	
B	
A	*Further step in PI's independence* *The grant would clearly have an enormous benefit to his career.*

	The PI is strongly committed
C	
B	
A	*The proposal is in line with the field of interest of the PI*

- Advanced Grants:

The PI has demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists

Conclusions

#1 : Diversity in opinions. Usually, key information is within the summary report and/or the lead reviewer report

#2: Most projects fail because lack of clarity in their objectives, or vague information on the approach (FEASIBILITY is key)

#3: An overly ambitious project may fail, a conventional project WILL fail