

Do's and don'ts for an ERC application

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CEU ERC Workshop, August 28, 2023

My ERC credentials

Proposals

	Year and call	Proposal	Result
2012 StG		KNOWLEDGFLOWS	funded
2017 CoG		PROXIMITY	B in Step 2
2019 AdG		B2B TRADE	B in Step 1
2022 AdG		MACROMGR	funded from waitlist

Evaluations

On ERC Starting Grant panel 2020 and 2022. Expert reviewer for several proposals in other years.

Do

- 1 Spend a lot of time preparing the proposal.
- 2 Explain research plan.
- 3 Make it coherent.

Spend a lot of time preparing the proposal

If 150 hours can increase your chances by 10pp, your hourly wage is 1000 EUR.

The best use of your time.

Explain research plan

Focus on crafting an exciting research plan.

Explain *what* you will do and *how*. Useful for you and makes the proposal credible.

Lot of work before funding, but see #1.

Make it coherent

Better one big question than several loosely related projects.

In economics, 4-5 studies are promised. Best to have a common theme and an arc.

Don't

- 1 Ignore related literature.
- 2 Hide your related work.
- 3 Strategize too much.

Don't ignore related literature

Panel members come from different fields. If there is relevant connection, cite it.

Don't hide your related work

Be transparent about your own related work. If you have a paper, cite it.

Beware: reviewers will see your proposal 5-8 months after submission.

Don't strategize too much

Don't try to guess what the panel wants. It is a diverse group.

Don't spend time guessing who will be on the panel. Can even be counterproductive.

Good luck!