



HORIZON 2020

Writing Successful ERC Grant Proposals

The ERC will launch the next call for ERC Starting Grant in July 2019 with a deadline in October, ERC Consolidator Grant in October 2019 with a deadline in February 2020, and ERC Advanced Grant with deadline August 2019.

The ERC is operating slightly different than a national research council due to the high number of applications and the European perception of high quality proposal. How can you present a high quality research proposal that captures the interest of the ERC panel members? In this workshop we will discuss the ERC and panel specifics for the scientific proposal and Principal Investigator and what information panels are looking for.

The ERC selection criteria applied by the panels use terms which have become familiar jargon, such as important challenge, novel concept, scientific approach and feasibility. Most of these terms are also used by other funding agencies but they are interpreted and applied differently. This workshop will explain in detail not only what these terms mean and imply under the ERC umbrella but also how the ERC panel members use these terms to discuss, assess and select project proposals. This process differs from panel to panel, for example feasibility of the scientific approach is assessed differently in social sciences from life sciences and development of a new methodology has a different meaning in social sciences from physics. What does this imply? This workshop will supply you with the necessary knowledge to write a successful ERC proposal and will be an invaluable aid in meeting the ERC standards, and to get one step closer to obtaining an ERC grant.

Using the ERC guide with "*Instructions for Applicants*" we will explain how you can address the ERC selection criteria and the panel specifics and draft a competitive project proposal. For example, we will examine keywords used in the ERC documentation such as novelty, groundbreaking, impact and feasibility of scientific approach and how these terms can be used to write a project proposal. However, we will also explain how to take into account the balances that are built into the ERC selection criteria such as being ambitious but still enforcing a breakthrough and proposing a novel scientific approach but still being feasible.

We will explain in detail how you can address the feasibility of the scientific approach, taking into account the panel specifics and research fields.

We will also discuss the panel specifics concerning the quality of the CVs and track-record of ERC grantees. What is the norm per panel and what does this mean for the CVs of the participants planning to submit an ERC proposal? What "actions" do participants have to highlight or undertake to bring their CV in line with the expectations of the selected panel?

1. Training objectives

- To provide researchers with a good understanding of:
- the evaluation criteria and how to analyse them;
 - what makes an excellent PI according to the reviewers of the different domains/panels;
 - how to write a competitive scientific proposal considering panel specifics and type of project.

2. Who should attend?

The workshop will be of value for applicants who want to submit an ERC proposal. Depending on the scientific backgrounds of the participants we will highlight domain specific issues.

3. Methodology

The seminar will be in English, with no translation. The trainer(s) will provide practical information and discuss the requested information, the evaluation criteria and the best strategy for drafting the proposal with the participants.

The workshop is highly interactive and includes discussions to promote an exchange of views between participants and trainer(s). Each participant receives an extensive guide with the information on the topics listed in the programme.

4. Trainer

Dr. Mette Skraastad, partner of Yellow Research has extensive experience in running ERC workshops and in pre-submission review of ERC Starting, Consolidator and Advanced grants. At Yellow Research we have successfully trained candidates for writing ERC proposals since the 2008 call. Her knowledge and experience in pre-submission review of ERC proposals is an important aspect of our success in this training.

5. Programme for 2 days

14:00	Opening
Part I	ERC Grants in a nutshell Short overview, ERC objectives, evaluation criteria and procedure and selection.
Part II	Panel choice Discussing how to select the best primary panel for your proposal and guiding the choice of external referees. Discussing what are panel members looking for. Individual task: checking panel structure and keywords and assessing best primary panel and potential audience. Bring along your laptop.
17:00	End of workshop on day 1
9:00	Start of workshop on day 2
Part IV	Scientific Proposal (incl. coffee & tea break) We will discuss in detail the project template (state of the art and objectives, methodology and resources), the ERC " <i>Instructions for Applicants</i> " and the ERC evaluation criteria. We will also discuss how you can provide the information the reviewers are looking for: regarding 1) groundbreaking nature and ambition 2) the high gain and high risk balance and the link to feasibility of the scientific approach 3) the envisioned impact on future research and possibilities of utility 4) sound project plan and structure with intermediate goals and back-up plans.
13.00 14.00	Lunch
Part V	Extended Synopsis The extended synopsis is a 5 page summary of the Scientific Proposal with an emphasis on the groundbreaking nature and feasibility of the proposal and how the outcomes of the research will impact further research
Part VI	Principal Investigator We will address the key elements for Curriculum Vitae including Funding ID, Early Achievements Track Record and assessment of career achievements.
15:30	End of course, time for final questions
16:00	Closure

6. Date, Location, Contact

Dates	10/06/2019 – 11/06/2019
Time	14:00-17:00 – 9:00-16:00
Location	Palazzo del Maino, via Mentana, 4, Aula Formazione
Contact	inroad@unipv.it , Tel: 0382/984635