



Yellow Research

HORIZON 2020

Writing Successful ERC Grant Proposals

The deadlines for submitting Starting and Consolidator Grant proposals have preliminary schedules for October 2016 and February 2017, respectively. The advance deadline for call 2016 is September 1st and is expected to be around the same period in call 2017. In this workshop we will discuss the ERC and panel specifics for the scientific proposal and Principal Investigator.

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. We will focus on how the different panels approach the evaluation criteria and what these panels expect in the structure and organization of the project.

We will discuss how to interpret terms as high-risk, how to make sensible time schedules, etc but also why there is such a strong focus on interdisciplinary research.

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 getting one step closer to obtaining an ERC grant.

Using the ERC '*Instructions for Applicants*' we will explain how you can address the ERC selection criteria in a panel specific manner and therefore write a competitive proposal. We will examine together the scope of keywords in the evaluation criteria as: novelty, groundbreaking nature, impact and feasibility of the scientific approach. We will discuss how to embed this into your thinking and how to translate this thinking into your proposal. Furthermore, we will explain the freedom of the reviewer to balance the PI's ambition versus PI's track-record, the risk versus the high-gain, the high-gain in relation to ground-breaking outcomes and finally the potential feasibility of the proposal as a whole, etc.

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 your track-record? What "actions" do you have to highlight or undertake to bring your CV in line with the expectations of the selected panel?

1. Training objectives

In the light of the panel chosen, to provide researchers with a good understanding of:

- How to interpret the evaluation criteria;
- How to design the proposal and to write the proposal;
- How to demonstrate the ground-breaking nature of one's CV and track-record;

2. Who should attend?

The workshop will be of value for applicants who want to submit an ERC proposal as well as for support staff.

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

Lotte Jaspers, 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. Our knowledge and experience in pre-submission review of ERC proposals is an important aspect of our success in this training.

5. Programme

9:00-9:15	Morning coffee/tea
Part I	ERC Grants Overview, ERC objectives, Selection criteria and Evaluation procedure
Part II	B2: Scientific Proposal We will use the project template to explain per paragraph ' <i>state-of the-art and objectives</i> ', ' <i>methodology</i> ' and ' <i>resources</i> '. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What needs to be addressed,- How this can be addressed ,- Different steps in conceptualizing the specific paragraphs- Different formats for designing the proposal We will detail how to address 1) groundbreaking nature and ambition 2) high-gain/high-risk balance and the link to feasibility 3) the envisioned impact on future research and possibilities for utility 4) sound project plan and structure with intermediate goals and back-up plans.
	Before going into the details of the B2 we will briefly explain why a good understanding of the B2 is essential before writing the B1a.
12:00	Lunch
13:00	Continuation Part II
Part III	B1a: 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 IV	B1b and B1c: Principal Investigator We will explain how to highlight the groundbreaking aspects of your Curriculum Vitae including Funding ID and Track Record
16:00	End of course

6. Date, Location, Contact

Dates	Thursday 18.8.2016
Time	9.00 – 16.00 hrs
Location	L7, Linnanmaa Campus, University of Oulu
Registration	Staff Training Portal (note that the maximum amount of participants for the workshop is 24)
Contact	Janika.Luukinen@oulu.fi