

# WRITING A COMPETITIVE ERC PROPOSAL

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# PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND EVALUATION STEPS

## STEP 1



**Extended Synopsis (B1)** - 5 pages  
+ CV - 2 pages  
+ Track record - 2 pages

Only B1 is evaluated at step 1



Panel Members – **Generalists** (12-16)

## STEP 2



**Scientific proposal (B2)** - 14 pages  
+ Resources section: max 2 pages,  
in online forms

B1 and B2 are available to reviewers in step 2  
+ interview in Brussels (or online)



Remote Referees – **Specialists** (minimum 3)

# SOME REFLECTIONS ON WRITING THE PROPOSAL (1)

- fundamental knowledge gap: what barriers prevented a breakthrough up to now?
- novelty
- context/big picture
- big leap, no incremental advance
- clear research questions (hypotheses? – in particular for Life Sciences)
- ambitious scope ↔ sufficient focus
- outline also your more long-term research vision (5-10 years)
- research objectives: highly visible, clear and measurable, not too many
- favourable gain/risk-balance; mitigation strategies (e.g. stability of materials, access to archives,...)
- proof-of-principle paper, preliminary results
- how will you validate your results? (e.g. experimental approaches to test theory/model, causality vs. correlation,...?) → explanatory power

## SOME REFLECTIONS ON WRITING THE PROPOSAL (2)

- justify your choices/priorities within the project (e.g. selection criteria for case studies)
- clear connection between different parts of the proposal, e.g. aims and work packages → well-integrated proposal
- clear, precise descriptions, definitions - avoid vague wording
- interdisciplinary approaches: how will this work in practice?
- awareness of competing approaches (comparisons, benchmarking) → show unique promise
- well-structured proposal
- chart(s) can be helpful to communicate your approach, also in B1
- think about the ERC interview when writing the proposal - e.g. what will be the single key contribution of your project?
- it is your proposal – you should be convinced

# HOW CAN YOU PRESENT YOUR ERC PROFILE?

- **CV-Template – 2 pages:**

Education; Current and previous position(s), Fellowships and Awards, Funding ID; Supervision of students, organisation of scientific meetings, institutional responsibilities, commissions of trust; memberships of academic societies, major collaborations; career breaks

- **Track Record – 2 pages:**

**Early achievements** Track Record (**Starter/Consolidator**) – focus on publications, talks, awards

- **Extended Synopsis (B1) and Scientific Proposal (B2):**

e.g. references: - As we could show in [ref],...  
preliminary results,...



**STARTER**



**CONSOLIDATOR**



**ADVANCED**

## CV-TEMPLATE – SOME TIPS

- Panel members appreciate the template → follow it where possible, adapt where necessary/useful
- Current and previous position(s); → + **declined offers**
- Supervision of Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows  
→ **provide also info on informal supervision** (e.g. without habilitation)
- Reviewer for journals, for other funding agencies, PhD advisory committee,...? field-specific “merits”? → demonstrating your visibility in the community
- **Mention also concluded grants** (in addition to extra annex on current grants); you can also indicate total funding raised so far
- **Major collaborations:** To illustrate that you are well connected with top researchers, built a network independently,...

## TRACK RECORD

- **Publications:**

Major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals, and/or in the leading international peer reviewed-journals, peer-reviewed conferences proceedings and/or monographs,... → **up to 5** (Starter) or **up to 10** (Consolidator, Advanced) representative publications → **describe significance and your role**

**overview  
+ highlights**

- Research monographs and any translations thereof
- **Granted patent(s)**
- **Invited presentations:** internationally established conferences, international advanced schools
- **Prizes, awards, academy memberships**

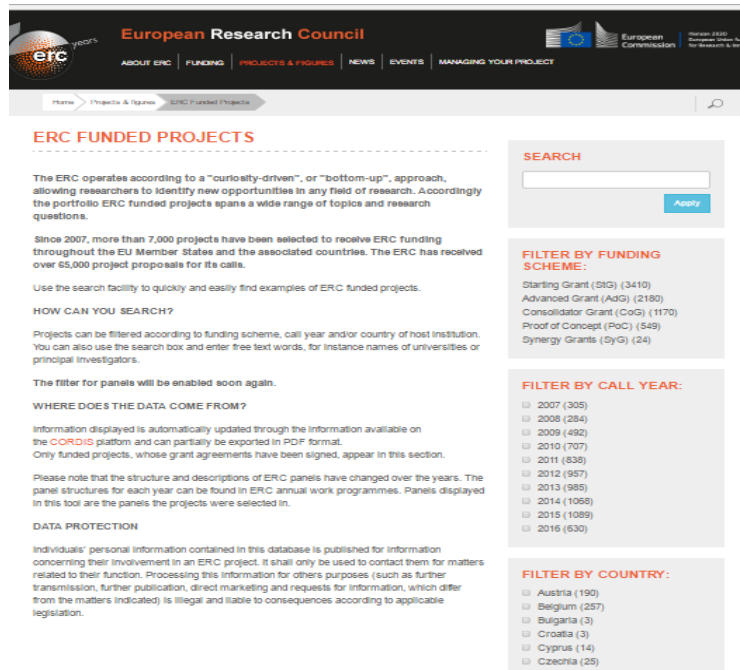


**“I WANT TO SEE SOMETHING SPECIAL“**



source: iStock FFG

# ERC PROFILES: FIND A GRANTEE NEAR YOU



The screenshot shows the 'ERC FUNDED PROJECTS' page on the European Research Council website. It features a search bar, filter options for funding scheme, call year, and country, and a list of project details.

**ERC FUNDED PROJECTS**

The ERC operates according to a "curiosity-driven", or "bottom-up", approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. Accordingly the portfolio ERC funded projects spans a wide range of topics and research questions.

Since 2007, more than 7,000 projects have been selected to receive ERC funding throughout the EU Member States and the associated countries. The ERC has received over 65,000 project proposals for its calls.

Use the search facility to quickly and easily find examples of ERC funded projects.

**HOW CAN YOU SEARCH?**

Projects can be filtered according to funding scheme, call year and/or country of host institution. You can also use the search box and enter free text words, for instance names of universities or principal investigators.

The filter for panels will be enabled soon again.

**WHERE DOES THE DATA COME FROM?**

Information displayed is automatically updated through the information available on the **CORDIS** platform and can partially be exported in PDF format. Only funded projects, whose grant agreements have been signed, appear in this section.

Please note that the structure and descriptions of ERC panels have changed over the years. The panel structures for each year can be found in ERC annual work programmes. Panels displayed in this tool are the panels the projects were selected in.

**DATA PROTECTION**

Individuals' personal information contained in this database is published for information concerning their involvement in an ERC project. It shall only be used to contact them for matters related to their function. Processing this information for other purposes (such as further transmission, further publication, direct marketing and requests for information, which differ from the matters indicated) is illegal and liable to consequences according to applicable legislation.

**SEARCH**

**FILTER BY FUNDING SCHEME:**

- Starting Grant (StG) (3410)
- Advanced Grant (AdG) (2180)
- Consolidator Grant (CoG) (1170)
- Proof of Concept (PoC) (549)
- Synergy Grants (SyG) (24)

**FILTER BY CALL YEAR:**

- 2007 (305)
- 2008 (284)
- 2009 (492)
- 2010 (707)
- 2011 (838)
- 2012 (957)
- 2013 (985)
- 2014 (1068)
- 2015 (1089)
- 2016 (630)

**FILTER BY COUNTRY:**

- Austria (190)
- Belgium (257)
- Bulgaria (3)
- Croatia (3)
- Cyprus (14)
- Czechia (25)

## ERC FUNDED PROJECTS

Displaying 1 - 10 of 47. Show 10 | 20 results per page.

Project acronym	A-LIFE
Project	Absorbing aerosol layers in a changing climate: aging, lifetime and dynamics
Researcher (PI)	Bernadett Barbara Weinzierl
Host Institution (HI)	UNIVERSITÄT WIEN
Call Details	Starting Grant (StG), PE10, ERC-2014-STG
Summary	+
Project acronym	ABINITIODGA
Project	Ab initio Dynamical Vertex Approximation
Researcher (PI)	Karsten Held
Host Institution (HI)	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN
Call Details	Starting Grant (StG), PE3, ERC-2012-SIG_20111012
Summary	+

**SEARCH**

**FUNDING SCHEME**

- Starting Grant (StG) (47)
- Consolidator Grant (CoG) (12)
- Advanced Grant (AdG) (25)
- Proof of Concept (PoC) (0)
- Synergy Grants (SyG) (0)

**CALL YEAR**

**RESEARCH DOMAIN**

<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-figures/erc-funded-projects>

# USEFUL LINKS/FURTHER ONLINE RESOURCES TO GET STARTED

- New: ERC Classes – ERC Youtube Channel
- Several successful ERC Proposals published online, e.g. OpenGrants, Academia, FigShare
- ERC Homepage: <https://erc.europa.eu/>
- Previous ERC Panel Members: <https://erc.europa.eu/document-category/evaluation-panels>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbFbzkVWgCU&list=PLtv6FnsXqnXAYRk6HCErwMxwML0ZKoMcy>

# SUPPORT BY ERC NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

## ERC BRINGING GREAT IDEAS TO LIFE



### DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS



### NATIONAL CONTACT POINT



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ORGANISATION

### ERC PRESIDENT AND SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL >

As the ERC's governing body, the Scientific Council defines the organisation's funding strategy and methodologies. It is composed of eminent scientists and scholars who collectively represent the European scientific community.

### ERC EXECUTIVE AGENCY (ERCEA) >

The ERCEA implements and manages ERC operations. Its responsibilities include managing the Horizon 2020 programme, executing the annual work programme and implementing calls for proposals for funding.

### THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS >

The ERC Scientific Council has set up Thematic Working Groups to address specific issues. Current Working Groups cover topics such as gender balance, open access, widening European participation, innovation and industry.

### ERC STANDING COMMITTEES >

The ERC Scientific Council has set up Standing Committees to address specific tasks. It has established two Standing Committees: one to deal with conflict of interest, the other to control the selection of reviewers and panellists.

## Services may include:

- Newsletters & Mailings
- Information Events
- Grant Writing Workshops
- Discussion of project idea & track record
- ERC Interview Trainings
- Information Packs/Guidelines for proposal writing, interviews, ...
- Screening/discussion of ERC evaluation comments
- Proposal Check
- ERC Proposal Library/Reading Days

<https://erc.europa.eu/>

## CONTACT:

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