

Information and tips for your success in the ERC

18 September 2018, Lausanne

Katja Wirth, PhD
NCP ERC
Euresearch Network Office
erc@euresearch.ch
+41 (0)31 380 60 18

Presentation overview

- ERC general
- 4 ERC Excellence Grant types
- ... and SSH researchers?
- Application & evaluation
- Your next steps

ERC General

<https://vimeo.com/146915193>

General characteristics

- Overall aim: stimulate excellence in frontier research in Europe
- Support for excellent individual researchers
- All fields of science
- Bottom-up
- Excellence (of Principle Investigator and project) only evaluation criterion

4 ERC Excellence Grant Types

ERC STARTING GRANTS

Grants up to 1.5€ million for 5 years

For promising early-career researchers with 2 to 7 years experience after PhD

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

Grants up to 2€ million for 5 years

For excellent researchers with 7 to 12 years experience after PhD

ERC ADVANCED GRANTS

Grants up to 2.5€ million for 5 years

For established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements

SYNERGY GRANTS

Grants up to 10€ million for 6 years

To address ambitious research questions that can only be answered by the coordinated work of a small group of 2-4 principal Investigators

Who can apply? – Research Age

ERC STARTING GRANTS

Grants up to 1.5€ million for 5 years

For promising early-career researchers
with 2 to 7 years experience after PhD

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

Grants up to 2€ million for 5 years

For excellent researchers with 7 to 12
years experience after PhD

Reference date: 1 January of call year

Next calls:

StG-2019: 1 Jan 2012 – 31 Dec 2016

CoG-2019: 1 Jan 2007 – 31 Dec 2011

Who Can Apply? – Research Age

- Extension of eligibility time window possible:
 - Maternity, paternity
 - Clinical training
 - Military service
 - Long illness
- Special conditions for Medical Doctors

Who Can Apply?

- Commitment to ERC project
 - StG: $\geq 50\%$ of working time on ERC project
 - CoG: $\geq 40\%$ of working time on ERC project
 - AdG/SyG: $\geq 30\%$ of working time on ERC project
- $\geq 50\%$ of working time in Europe
- Host Institution in EU member state or associated country
- Support of Host Institution

Highly Competitive Grants

- **StG:** Proven potential for research independence, e.g. at least 1 important publication as main author/without contribution by PhD supervisor
- **CoG:** Evidence or research independence, e.g. several important publications as main author/without contribution by PhD supervisor
- **AdG:** Established research leaders, significant achievements in past 10 years
- **SyG:** PIs (StG, CoG or AdG level) must demonstrate synergies, complementarities, that lead to breakthroughs that would not be possible by an individual PI.

Self-Assessment of Competitiveness

- Are you amongst the best researchers in Europe in your domain and career stage?
- Are your achievements comparable with those of past grant winners?

<http://erc.europa.eu/erc-funded-projects>

- Ask for Euresearch's Self Assessment Guide!

Characteristics of ERC Projects

- Clearly defined projects (not programs)
- Novel, creative, innovative; significant advancement beyond state of the art
- Often of interdisciplinary nature
- Often high-risk high-gain
- Yet feasible
- Mature “out of the box” idea

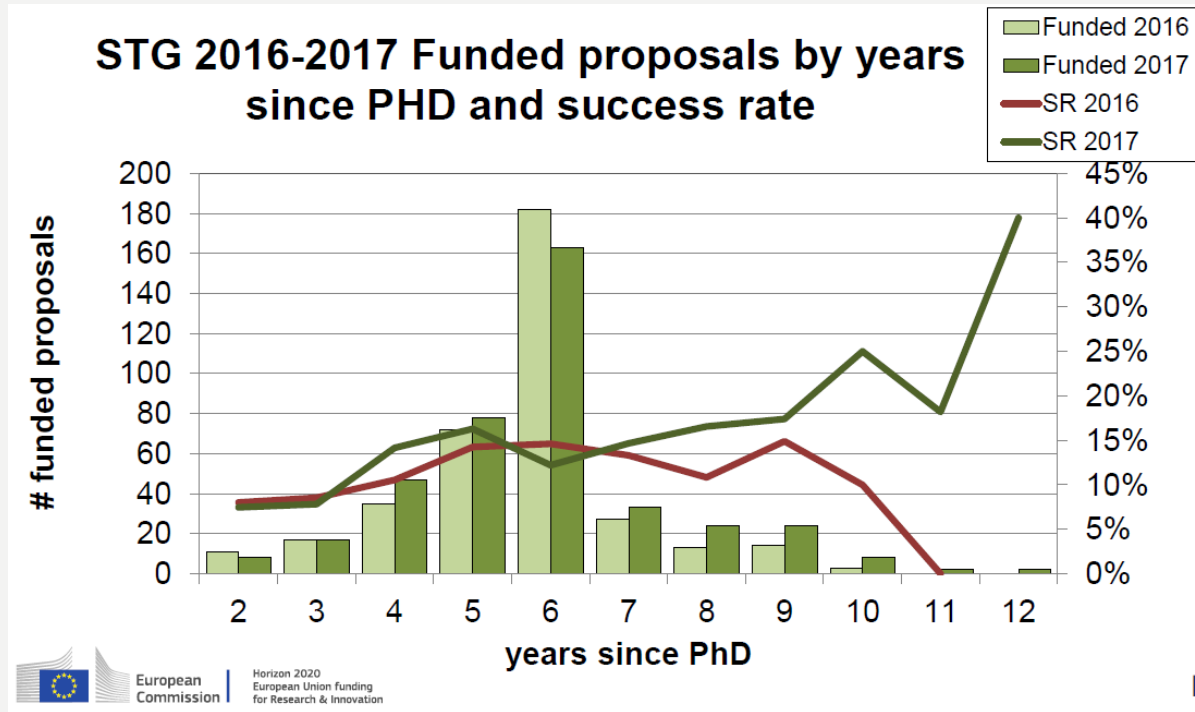
Characteristics of ERC Projects cont.

- Needs to be clear that PI is the right person to perform the project
- Complementarity of ERC to national research funding: normally ERC projects could not be easily funded otherwise due to nature and size of projects

When to Apply – Factors to Consider

- Upcoming crucial achievements
- Maturity and timeliness of project idea
- Resources to work intensively on proposal
- Support by HI

When to Apply?



Calls

	StG-2019	CoG-2019	AdG-2019	SyG-2019
Call opens	Now open	24/10/2018	21/5/2019	Now open
Call closes	17/10/2018	7/2/2019	29/8/2019	8/11/2018

.... and SSH Resesarchers?

We have to compete with all other disciplines!

No!



Social Sciences & Humanities

SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
Economics, finance and management.

SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment and Space
Political science, law, sustainability science, geography, regional studies and planning.

SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population
Sociology, social psychology, social anthropology, demography, education, communication.

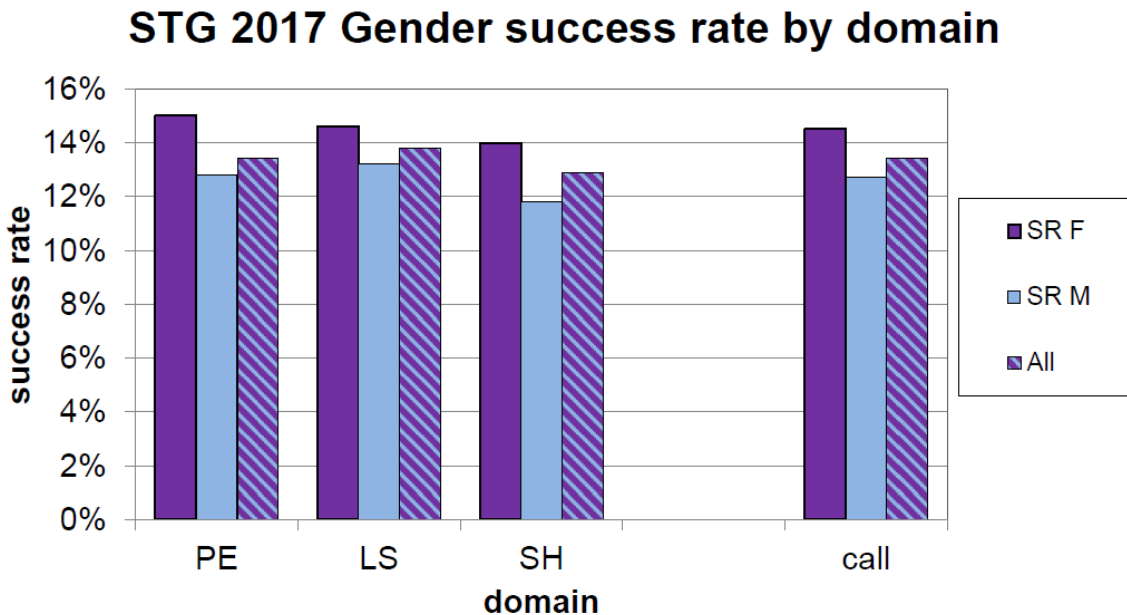
SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
Cognitive science, psychology, linguistics, philosophy of mind.

SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production
Literature, philology, cultural studies, study of the arts, philosophy.

SH6 The Study of the Human Past
Archaeology and history.

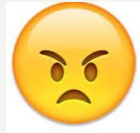
There is a lower success rate in the SSH domain.

No!



The ERC may be an option for Social Scientists, but not for the humanities.

No!



Project acronym	PerformEast
Project	Performance-Art in Eastern Europe (1950-1990): History and Theory
Researcher (PI)	Sylvia Monika Sasse
Host Institution (HI)	UNIVERSITAT ZURICH
Call Details	Consolidator Grant (CoG), SH5, ERC-2013-CoG

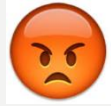


Project acronym	Locus Ludi
Project	Locus Ludi: The Cultural Fabric of Play and Games in Classical Antiquity
Researcher (PI)	Veronique DASEN
Host Institution (HI)	UNIVERSITE DE FRIBOURG
Call Details	Advanced Grant (AdG), SH6, ERC-2016-ADG

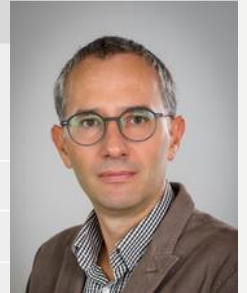


The ERC only funds projects with a European dimension– my research is «local».

No!



Project acronym	BORDER
Project	Towards a decentred history of the Middle East: Transborder spaces, circulations, frontier effects and state formation, 1920-1946
Researcher (PI)	Jordi TEJEL GORGAS
Host Institution (HI)	UNIVERSITE DE NEUCHATEL
Call Details	Consolidator Grant (CoG), SH6, ERC-2016-COG



Project acronym	TIMEJ
Project	Time in Medieval Japan
Researcher (PI)	Christian Carl Ludwig Steineck
Host Institution (HI)	UNIVERSITAT ZURICH
Call Details	Advanced Grant (AdG), SH6, ERC-2016-ADG



Application and Evaluation

Composition of Application

PART A - online forms To complete in PPSS

- A1 General info
- A2 Administrative Data
- A3 Budget
- A4 Ethics
- A5 Call specific questions

PART B1 - submitted as pdf

- a) Extended synopsis 5 p.
- b) CV 2 p.
- c) Track record 2 p.

Annexes - submitted as pdf

- Letter of HI
- StG/CoG: PhD certificate (incl. supporting documents if applicable)
- Ethics self-assessment (if applicable)
- Supporting documents related to ethics (if applicable)

PART B2 - submitted as pdf

- Scientific proposal 15 p.
- a) State of the art + objectives
 - b) Methodology
 - c) Resources

Composition of Application

PART A - online forms

To complete in PPSS

- A1 General info
- A2 Administrative Data
- A3 Budget
- A4 Ethics
- A5 Call specific questions

PART B1 - submitted as pdf

- a) Extended synopsis 5 p.
- b) CV 2 p.
- c) Track record 2 p.

Evaluation step 1

Annexes - submitted as pdf

- Letter of HI
- StG/CoG: PhD certificate (incl. supporting documents if applicable)
- Ethics self-assessment (if applicable)
- Supporting documents related to ethics (if applicable)

PART B2 - submitted as pdf

- Scientific proposal 15 p.
- a) State of the art + objectives
 - b) Methodology
 - c) Resources

Composition of Application

PART A - online forms

To complete in PPSS

- A1 General info
- A2 Administrative Data
- A3 Budget
- A4 Ethics
- A5 Call specific questions

PART B1 - submitted as pdf

- a) Extended synopsis 5 p.
- b) CV 2 p.
- c) Track record 2 p.

**Evaluation step 2
+ interview (StG, CoG)**

Annexes - submitted as pdf

- Letter of HI
- StG/CoG: PhD certificate (incl. supporting documents if applicable)
- Ethics self-assessment (if applicable)
- Supporting documents related to ethics (if applicable)

PART B2 - submitted as pdf

- Scientific proposal 15 p.
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- b) Methodology
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Evaluation Panels

- 25 evaluation panels in 3 domains
 - Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE)
 - Life Sciences (LS)
 - Social Sciences & Humanities (SH)
- Panel choice is your responsibility!
- Check on ERC website who could be in your evaluation panel
- Success rates do not differ significantly across panels

Evaluation

1. Research Project

Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy

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 between or across disciplines)?

To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone (for Synergy Grants based on the Extended Synopsis)?

ERC Work Programme 2019, p.36f

Evaluation

2. Principal Investigator

Intellectual capacity and creativity

Starting and Consolidator

To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?

To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?

To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

ERC Work Programme 2019, p.36f

Resubmission Rules

- With a C in the evaluation outcome, you can be blocked for 2 years
- With a B you may be blocked for 1 year

See [ERC Work Programme!](#)

Your Next Steps

Your next Steps

- Decide on if and when to apply
- Get familiar with the grant type in detail
- Check who in your domain got an ERC Grant
- Talk with peers
- Contact Euresearch
- Reserve sufficient time for proposal writing
- Attend Euresearch Applicants Training
- Have proof-read your proposal

Early Career Researcher? Your next Steps

- Independence is very important
- Achievements are very important
- A “classical” career is favoured
- Make yourself internationally recognised!

Links and Documents

- [ERC on Euresearch Website](#)
- [ERC Website](#)
- [ERC Work Programme](#)
- Call-specific “Information for Applicants” (e.g. [StG/CoG 2019](#))
- Ask for the call-specific Euresearch Writing Guide!
- [ERC funded projects](#)

Questions?

