Yellow Research

HORIZON 2020

Writing Successful ERC Grant Proposals

The deadline for submitting Consolidator Grant proposals are scheduled for 7th February 2019. 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. 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 getting 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 under H2020? 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 as well as 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

Dr. Mette Skraastad 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

09:00	**Opening of seminar** **Experiences from applying for ERC Consolidator grant** By grant holder Sven Wedemeyer
Part I	**ERC Grants** Short overview, ERC objectives, selection criteria and evaluation procedure
Part II	**Scientific Proposal** We will discuss in detail the project template (state of the art and objectives, methodology and resources), the ERC Instructions for Applicants and the ERC selection criteria. We will also discuss how you can provide the information the reviewers are looking for:: as eg 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.
	Short break
Part II	**Continuation: Scientific Proposal**
12:00	**Lunch**
Part II	**Continuation and Discussion**
Part III	**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	**Principal Investigator** We will address the key elements for Curriculum Vitae including Funding ID, 10 year Track Record and assessment of career achievements.
14:00	**End of course**

6. Date, Location, Contact

Dates	**Friday 19th of October, 2018**
Time	09.00 – 14.00 hrs
Location	Forskningsparken, møterom Faros, 5th floor
Booking	https://forskningsradet.pameldingssystem.no/kurs-i-oslo-ndash-hvordan-soke-erc-consolidatorgrants
Contact	**Per Magnus Kommandantvold** pmk@rcn.no , ph. 92247635