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Q&A from the Online Information Event on Individual Funding Opportunities in Horizon Europe – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and European Research Council (January 29th 2021)

Question: Do 10 publications for consolidator grants include co-authored work, or only the first and/or correspondence authored papers are taken into account?

Answer:

The requirements speak of main authorship in 10 publications. In the application itself, e.g. in the state of the art and track record, you have the opportunity to include further important publications – also related to the project.

“as main author in leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field”, page 6 AdG Guide for applicants WP 2020

“The publications should be properly referenced, including all authors in the published order”, page 18 AdG Guide for applicants WP 2020

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide20-erc-adg_en.pdf

Question: Does the cut-off date only adjust by year, i.e. if I defended dissertation in March 2020, when could I first apply? In 2022 or only from 2023 onward?

Answer:

By cut-off date is meant the timeframe of eligibility to apply? The reference is always 1 January of the respective work programme under which the call for proposals was published. For StG you then calculate 2–7 years and CoG 7–12 years back. If the day of the doctorate is within this time frame, you are eligible to apply. Under certain conditions, e.g. parental leave, the respective timeframe can be extended. Please refer to the information on the presentation.

If you count back from 1 January 2022, you are at 1 January 2020 as the earliest possible date. You are not yet eligible to apply for the 2022 work programme. If you calculate back 2 years from 1 January 2023, you get to 1 January 2021. You are in the 2023 timeframe.





Question: How is the "importance" of a publication measured?

Answer:

The importance of the publication depends on the standards in the respective research field. List your most important publications according to the standards of your research community. Add other important achievements. Highlight those that are particularly important for the project.

page 18 AdG Guide for applicants WP

2020 https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide20-erc-adg_en.pdf

Question: Potential for research independence: one important without PhD supervisor. This rule apply only to PhD supervisor or also to the post-doc supervisor?

Answer:

This rule only applies to the PhD supervisor.

Question: I was wondering what the approx. proportion of received vs. funded ERC applications for a starting grant looks like?

Answer:

For the last few years, the success rate of StG and Cog has been between 11-13 per cent. You can find more information on this on the NCP ERC website:

<https://www.euburo.de/erc-stg.htm>; <https://www.euburo.de/erc-consolidator-grants.htm>

Question: Are there percentages for acceptance at the different stages: first review, second review, interviews?

Answer:

There are no concrete percentages of how many applications move from stage 1 to stage 2. The interview belongs to stage 2. Experience shows that about three times more applications reach stage 2 than are funded. However, this can also vary from call to call and from review panel to panel.

Question: How important is preliminary data?

Answer:

This can certainly be assessed differently from project to project. Preliminary data can of course say something about the feasibility of a project. This is also evaluated. They indicate that a project is feasible despite high-risk elements. They also say something about why you are the right person to implement the project.



Question: How important is to address the development of the applicant in the proposal beyond the research itself? Learning new techniques or expanding interests?

Answer:

The focus of the ERC StG and CoG is to enable excellent scientists to build or consolidate their research and research careers. In the application, the development of the PI must always be considered when answering the evaluation questions. When evaluators look for the "ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project", the potential success of the researcher is also taken into account. Read the evaluation criteria in the current Guide for Applicants.

(for the previous

calls: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide20-erc-adg_en.pdf;

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide20-erc-stg-cog_en.pdf)

Question: Do you expect a higher number of applications next year, due to (maybe) fewer applications this year with the yet unknown deadlines and budgets?

Answer:

This is a look into the crystal ball.

Question: Regarding the profile: "Important Publications w/o Supervisor": That means first author, or are also co-author publications counted?

Answer:

Important publications mean main authorship. Publication without supervisor means without the supervisor listed as author at all.

Question: Are there differences between ERC HEU projects and ERC H2020 projects? Are there new rules?

Answer:

Please check with the presentation, slide 7

Question: Starting grant: I would like to employ researchers both from my host institution and other institutions as well (i.e. employees of universities other than Bremen). I understand this requires some agreement with the other institution? Does the guidebook explain this issue? Or is it impossible?

Answer:

It is possible to implement an ERC project with a team that is only located at the host institution or with a team where some team members are also located at additional institutions.



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This must then be briefly described and budgeted for in the application.
There is also an answer to this in the ERC NCP FAQ.

https://www.eubueno.de/erc-faq_en.htm#difference_host_additional_institution

Question: If you get B or C evaluation, you will be forbidden to resubmit again for 1 or 2 years...
Does this apply to all ERC grant? For example, you were rejected for starting grant, can you
apply next year for consolidator grant? or Marie Curie...

Answer:

Yes, resubmission rules and restrictions, if any, also apply to the other funding lines in the
ERC. Please refer to the rules in the respective current work programme. They have no
influence on applications in other programme areas, e.g. Marie Curie.