ERC grants

Funding for excellent ideas
ERC Starting/Consolidator grant

• a frontier research project
• centered around a Principal Investigator
• Who is creating or consolidating his/her first individual research team
• at a host organisation in Europe
ERC Starting/Consolidator grant

ERC STARTING Grant
- 2-7 years after PhD
- PI is starting first research team
- transition to independence

ERC CONSOLIDATOR grant
- 7-12 years after PhD
- PI is consolidating team
- consolidation of independence
Eligibility window *(StG and CoG)*

**Starting grant** (PhD 2-7 years prior to 1 January of call year)

**Consolidator grant** (PhD 7-12 years prior to 1 January of call year)

Extensions to eligibility window:

- Maternity leave: 18 months per child;
- Paternity leave: accumulation of actual time taken off
- Long-term illness, clinical qualification, obligatory national service

*before/after PhD*
ERC StG/CoG grant - What is allowed?

• Starting grant: up to 1.5 M€
• Consolidators grant: up to 2 M€

**Top up** in case of:
- PI moving to Europe
- Purchase major equipment
- Access to large facilities
- (0.5 M€ StG; 0.75 M€ CoG)

• Up to 5 years
• Min. 50% (StG) and 40% (CoG) of time dedicated to the project
• Including *portability*
ERC grants- Frontier research

- Any field of research*
- Interdisciplinary, crossing boundaries between different fields
- Pioneering
- New and emerging fields
- Unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions
- High risk – high gain
- Opening new horizons of knowledge

*Except nuclear energy and unacceptable ethical issues
Profile of PI (StG and CoG)

- Promising track record of early achievements, including:

  Significant publications as main author in:

  - major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journals
  - the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field

- Important publications without PhD supervisor

  \textit{StG}: at least 1; \textit{CoG}: several

- Invited presentations, awards, granted patents
Submission

- Single submission – two step evaluation
- Step 1: Short proposal (5p) and profile assessed by panel
- Step 2: full proposal (15p) assessed by panel and expert referees, interview
- Strict resubmission rules
How are you evaluated?

Excellence of the PI

- Intellectual capacity and creativity (achievements & publications groundbreaking and capacity to go significantly beyond the state of the art?

- Commitment, willingness to devote at least 50%/40% of time

Excellence of the project

- Ground-breaking nature and potential impact
- Methodology (step 1: feasible / step 2: appropriate)
- High risk/High gain balance
How are you evaluated?

**Step 1**

- **C**: not of sufficient quality for ERC
- **B**: of high quality but not sufficient for step 2
- **A**: of sufficient quality to pass to step 2

**Step 2**

- **B**: meets some but not all of the excellence criteria
- **A**: excellent, will be fundable if sufficient funds are available
Resubmission rules

First step:  B score: may not submit for next call

C score: may not submit for coming 2 calls

Strategic planning crucial
Yearly calls... similar timing

**Starting grant 2018**  
Opening: 18 July 2017  
Deadline: 17 October 2017

**Consolidator Grant 2018**  
Opening: 24 October 2017  
Deadline: 15 February 2018

Expected success rate for each scheme ~14%
More information

http://erc.europa.eu

- Calls
- Panels
- News alerts
- Funded projects
Need support?

• Your local EU support office!

• National Contact Point: horizon.erc@rvo.nl

**Doenja** Koppejan  088 602 5592
**Esther** Verhoeven  088 602 5648

www.rvo.nl/horizon2020