

Call Title: Call for proposals for ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant

Call identifier: ERC-2012-StG

Date of publication: 20 July 2011

Electronic proposal submission deadlines¹ (single submission of full proposal):²

Domain Physical Sciences & Engineering (Panels PE1 - PE10): 12 October 2011, 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)

Domain Life Sciences (Panels LS1 – LS9): 9 November 2011 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)

Domain Social Sciences & Humanities (Panels SH1 – SH6): 24 November 2011 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)

Indicative budget: EUR 729.98m from 2012 budget³ The ERC Scientific Council has established the following indicative percentage budgets for each of the three main research domains:

Physical Sciences & Engineering: 44%

Life Sciences: 39%

Social Sciences & Humanities: 17%

An indicative budget is then allocated to each panel within each domain, in proportion to the budgetary demand of its assigned proposals.

The final budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of projects, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

Union contribution: The Union financial contribution will take the form of the reimbursement of up to 100% of the total eligible and approved direct costs and of flat-rate financing of indirect costs on the basis of 20% of the total eligible direct costs⁴. The level of the awarded grant represents a maximum overall figure – the final amount to be paid must be justified on the basis of the costs actually incurred for the project⁵.

Objective: ERC Starting Grants boost the independent careers of excellent researchers by providing adequate support at the critical stage where they are starting or consolidating their own independent research team or programme.

Minimum number of participants: At least one independent legal entity established in one of the Member States, or one of the associated countries (in the case of the participation of more than one legal entity the participants are not obliged to establish a consortium agreement).

¹ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

² Please consult Annex 1 to the Ideas Work Programme for the panel description.

³ Under the condition that the draft budget for 2012 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority.

⁴ Excluding the direct costs for subcontracting and the costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on the premises of the host institution.

⁵ Commission Decision (C(2009)1942) of 23 March 2009 on the use of flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions shall apply to grants awarded under this work programme.

Eligibility criteria: See eligibility criteria in the work programme section 3.4. Normally, the Principal Investigator must have been awarded their first PhD **at least 2 and up to 12 years prior to the publication date of the call for proposals of the ERC Starting Grant.** However, Principal Investigators who were awarded their first PhD more than 12 years prior to the publication date of the call may still be eligible in certain properly documented circumstances such as maternity.

Evaluation criteria: Excellence is the sole criterion of evaluation. It will be applied to the evaluation of both the Principal Investigator and the research project in conjunction. For the detailed elements applying to the two parts of the proposal see section 4.7 of the work programme.

Evaluation procedure: The evaluation will be conducted by means of a structure of high level peer review panels⁶ as listed in Annex 1. The panels may be assisted by remote referees. Principal Investigators whose proposals will be retained for the second step of the evaluation may be invited for an interview to present their project to the evaluation panel meeting in Brussels. They will be accordingly reimbursed for their travel and subsistence expenses⁷. See section 4.6 and Annex 9 of the work programme.

Grant starting date: Due to the ground-breaking nature of frontier research projects, it is expected that all projects start within 6 months from the award of the grant. ERC reserves the right to cancel a grant if the proposed start date goes beyond this limit.

Information on the modalities of the call and guidance to applicants on how to submit projects is available on:

<http://erc.europa.eu>

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/appmanager/participants/portal>

⁶ Panel members will be compensated on the evaluation tasks they perform. Additional reimbursement of travel and subsistence will be made for assignments involving travel. Referees who may assist the evaluation panels will not be compensated.

⁷ In duly justified and exceptional cases, the ERCEA may agree, subject to technical feasibility, on other ways of interviewing successful Principal Investigators such as video link, teleconference or similar means, and on the reimbursement of their possible related travel and subsistence expenses. Relevant provisions for the reimbursement of expenses incurred in relation to Principal Investigators' interviews are included in the ERC Rules for submission of proposals and the related evaluation, selection and award procedures for indirect actions under the Ideas Specific Programme of the 7th Framework Programme.