

# FP7 Ideas Work Programme

## Call Fiche

**Call Title: Call for proposals for *ERC Advanced Investigators Grant***

**Call identifier:** ERC-2008-AdG

**Date of publication:** 30 November 2007

**Electronic proposal submission deadlines (single submission of full proposal)<sup>1</sup>:**

**Call Closure Dates for proposals submitted to:**

**Panels: PE1 - PE10 (Physical Sciences & Engineering),** 28 February 2008, 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)

**Panels: SH1 – SH6 (Social Sciences & Humanities),** 18 March 2008, 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)

**Panels: LS1 – LS9 (Life Sciences),** 22 April 2008, 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)

**Indicative budget:** EUR 516 950 000<sup>2</sup> from 2008 budget

**N.B.:** The ERC Scientific Council has established the following indicative percentage budgets for each of the 3 main research domains:

Physical Sciences & Engineering: 39%

Life Sciences: 34%

Social Sciences & Humanities: 14%

and an Interdisciplinary<sup>3</sup> domain with an indicative budget of 13%.

In the case of the ERC, indicative budgets may permit a variation of the budget for each domain by a maximum of 10% of the total budget for the call; however for this call the budget proportions allocated to projects in the three main research domains will be no lower than the percentages indicated

**Activity:** European Research Council Advanced Grant

**Minimum number of participants:** At least 1 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)

**Restrictions on participation:** see eligibility criteria in the work programme

**Topics:** Applications may be made in any field of research, other than those specifically excluded from the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme

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<sup>1</sup> Please consult Annex 3 of the "Ideas" Work Programme for the panel description

<sup>2</sup> Under the condition that the preliminary draft budget for 2008 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority

<sup>3</sup> Including cross-panel and/or cross-domain research projects and research with the potential to open new fields

**Grant "Portability"**: applicants should be aware of the portability features of ERC grants as described in the ERC model grant agreement ([http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls-grant-agreement\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls-grant-agreement_en.html))

**Eligibility criteria<sup>4</sup>:**

Incomplete proposals (missing parts, forms, and the host institution's commitment statement) are considered ineligible and will not be evaluated<sup>5</sup>.

**Eligible Scientific Fields**

Applications may be made in any field of research<sup>6</sup>.

Funding of human embryonic stem cell research will be possible within the ethical framework defined in the EC 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme<sup>7</sup> as well as the "Ideas" Specific Programme.

**Eligible Principal Investigator**

The ERC actions are open to researchers of any nationality who would like to establish their research activity up in any Member State as well as any associated country.

The Principal Investigator can be of any age and nationality and he/she can reside in any country in the world at the time of the application.

**Eligible Host Institution (Applicant Legal Entity)**

This institution will host and engage the Principal Investigator for at least the duration of the grant. It must be situated in one of the Member States, or one of the associated countries. It may also be an International European Interest Organisation (such as CERN, EMBL, etc.) or the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. Normally, the applicant legal entity will be the only participating legal entity. Other legal entities, including those located in third countries, may however be involved and receive funding to support the work of additional team members, if so specified in the grant award or subsequent amendments to the original grant.

**Evaluation procedure:**

- The evaluation will take place **in two steps** following the **single submission of a full proposal**.
- The evaluation is carried out through evaluation panels that may be assisted by referees.
- The allocation of the proposals to the various panels will be based on the expressed preference of the applicant. In case of interdisciplinary proposals the panel may request additional reviews by appropriate members of other panel(s) or additional referees who act as reserve evaluators.
- Proposals may be evaluated remotely.

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<sup>4</sup> See also "eligibility check" in *ERC rules for the submission of proposals and the related evaluation, selection and award procedures relevant to the Ideas Specific Programme*

<sup>5</sup> See also "eligibility check" in *ERC rules for the submission of proposals and the related evaluation, selection and award procedures relevant to the Ideas Specific Programme*

<sup>6</sup> Research proposals within the scope of Annex I of the EURATOM Treaty, namely those directed towards nuclear energy applications should be submitted to relevant calls under the EURATOM 7th Framework Programme

<sup>7</sup> In accordance with Commission statement, OJ L 412 of 30.12.2006, p. 42, proposals which will include research activities which destroy human embryos, including for the procurement of stem cells, will not be submitted to the Regulatory Committee. The exclusion of funding of this step of research will not prevent funding of subsequent steps involving human embryonic stem cells.

- An indicative budget will be allocated to each panel, in proportion to the budgetary demand of its assigned proposals. This indicative budget is calculated as the cumulative grant request of all proposals to the panel divided by the cumulative grant request of all proposals to the domain of the call, multiplied by the total indicative budget of the domain.
- Each panel will determine its budgetary cut-off level as a multiple of its indicative budget. The budgetary cut-off level should be at least 3 times the panel's indicative budget. Proposals with a mark passing the quality threshold and which lie above the budgetary cut-off level will be retained and pass to step 2 of evaluation (all proposals with identical marks at the cut off level will pass through to the second step of evaluation). Those proposals failing to reach the quality threshold on any of the evaluation criteria or ranked below the budgetary cut-off described above will be rejected.
- The complete version of the retained proposals will be assessed and ranked by the panels during step 2 of the evaluation. Interdisciplinary proposals within a domain or across domains will be flagged as such, and the panel may request additional reviews by appropriate members of other panel(s) or additional referees who act as reserve evaluators.
- Following the conclusion of the panel evaluations the following additional steps will be taken with the participation of the evaluation peer review evaluation panel chairs:
  - Step 2a:** Acting in concert, the peer review evaluation panel chairs of each research domain or their deputies, representing their panels, will prepare a consolidated ranked list for the domain's proposals which are above the quality threshold and can be funded in order of priority from the respective domain budgets<sup>8</sup>.

**Step 2b:** Acting in concert across the 3 main research domains, taking account of the forward looking and innovative nature of the programme, all the Evaluation peer review evaluation panel chairs or their deputies will bring forth and specifically discuss, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the scientific added value of proposals above the quality threshold which are of interdisciplinary nature. In order to establish the ranked list of the *Interdisciplinary Research* domain, all peer review evaluation panel chairs will further assess these proposals on the basis of the second evaluation criterion (Research project).

Any funds still available in any of the 4 domains, after exhausting the list of proposals over the quality threshold, will be distributed to the other 3 domains according to the initial call budget breakdown.

Finally, a number of proposals (over the quality threshold) in the 4 domain lists may also be kept in reserve to allow for eventualities such as the failure of negotiations on projects, the withdrawal of proposals, budget savings agreed during negotiation, or the availability of additional budget from other sources. Additional funds will also be distributed according to the initial call budget breakdown.

**Evaluation criteria:** See the work programme for the applicable criteria

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

<http://erc.europa.eu>, [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideas/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ideas/home_en.html)

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<sup>8</sup> In accordance with the ERC rules for the Submission of Proposals and the related evaluation, selection and award procedures relevant to the Ideas Specific Programme