

Annex 5 Proof of Concept Call for Proposals

Call Title: Call for proposals for *ERC Proof of Concept*

Call identifier: ERC-2012-PoC

Date of publication⁵⁷: 2 February 2012

Electronic proposal submission deadlines⁵⁸:

First deadline: 3 May 2012 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)

Final deadline: 3 October 2012 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)

Indicative budget: EUR 10m from 2012 budget⁵⁹ (approximately half of which will be for each of the two evaluation rounds following the deadlines above).

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 7% of the total eligible direct costs⁶⁰. 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 project⁶¹.

Objective: European Research Council ERC Proof of Concept (Coordination and Support Action) provides additional funding to ERC grant holders to establish proof of concept, identify a development path and an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) strategy for ideas arising from an ERC-funded project.

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).

Eligibility criteria: All Principal Investigators benefitting from an ERC grant that is either ongoing or, where the project has ended⁶² less than 12 months before the publication date of this call are eligible to participate and apply for an ERC proof of concept funding. See section 7.3 of the work programme.

⁵⁷ The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.

⁵⁸ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

⁵⁹ Under the condition that the draft budget for 2012 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority.

⁶⁰ 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.

⁶¹ 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.

⁶² The end date of the project which is indicated in the ERC Grant Agreement:

Evaluation criteria: Innovation potential, quality of the proof of concept plan and budget. See Section 7.7 of the work programme.

Evaluation procedure: The evaluation will be conducted by peer reviewers⁶³. These experts may work remotely and may if necessary meet as an evaluation panel. See sections 7.6 and 7.8 of the work programme.

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>

⁶³ According to section 3.1.6.3 of the ERC Rules for the submission of proposals peer reviewers will be compensated on the evaluation tasks they perform. Additional reimbursement of travel and subsistence will be made for assignments involving travel.