

European Funding Opportunities for Postdocs in Horizon 2020

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships and ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants

Dunja Hofmann & Martin Winger, KoWi



KoWi – EU Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations



Information, consulting & training on EU research & innovation funding

"one-stop-shop" for Horizon 2020



Service platform for our supporting association* focussing on universities

financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG)



Connected on European level

offices in Bonn & Brussels



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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

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3 KoWi Services



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships



Horizon 2020 – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)

Part I – Excellent Science

- 1. European Research Council (ERC)
 - 2. Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)

3. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

4. European Research Infrastructures, including e-infrastructures

Part II – Industrial Leadership

- 1. Leadership in Enabling & Industrial Technologies (LEIT)
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Nanotechnologies, Advanced
 Materials, Advanced
 Manufacturing and Processing
 and Biotechnology
- Space
 - 2. Access to Risk Finance
 - 3. Innovation in SMEs

Part III – Societal Challenges

- 1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing
- 2. Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy
- 3. Secure, clean and efficient energy
- 4. Smart, green and integrated transport
- 5. Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
- 6. Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
- 7. Protecting freedom and security

Part IV
Spreading excellence & widening participation

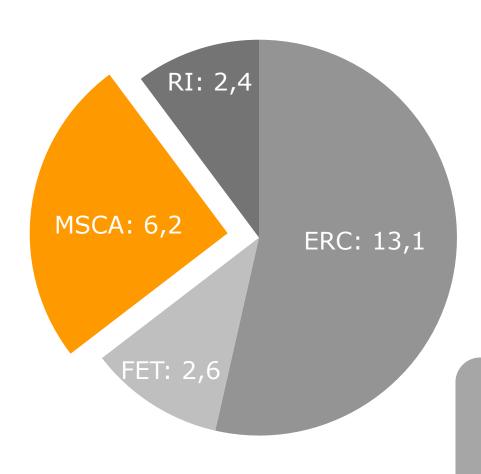
Part V
Science with &
for Society

Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)



Horizon 2020 Budget – Excellent Science



Total: ~ 24,3 billion



Individual Fellowships - Principles

Who?

 Postdocs or experienced Researchers with at least 4 years of research experience ("experienced researchers – ERs")

What?

 Implementation of an independent research project in Europe (MS or AC) or in a Third Country (TC)

How?

- Fellow writes individual application jointly with Host Institution;
 proposal is submitted jointly with supervisor
- Research & skills training at Host Institution
- Optional secondment(s)



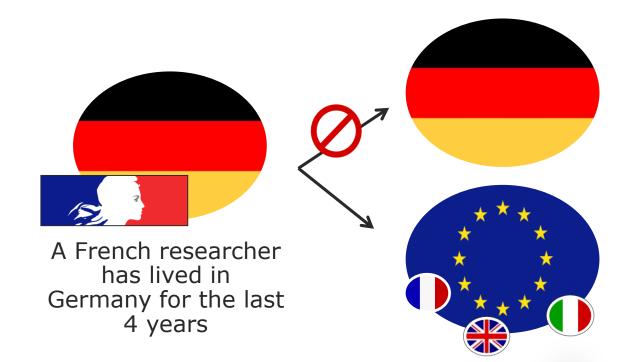
Country Categories in Horizon 2020

- Europe:
 - 28 EU Member States (MS), including their overseas departments
 - 16 associated countries (AC): Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia
- Third countries: all other countries



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Mobility Rule

Fellow has lived or worked ≤ 12 months within the last 3 years in the potential host country



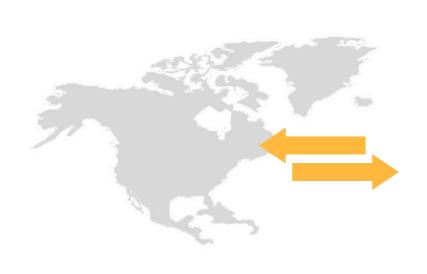
Not eligible for a Fellowship in Germany!

Eligible for a Fellowship in France and other countries



Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Individual Fellowships





Global Fellowship

European Fellowship



European Fellowships (EF)

Research project in Europe (EU Member State or FP-Associated Country)

Eligible	Postdocs or researchers with at least 4 years of research experience	
Nationality	No restrictions	
Mobility rule	May not have lived/worked more than 12 months within the last 3 years in host country	
Secondments	 Optional for 3 to 6 months to the academic or non-academic sector in Europe Can be split (e. g. 2 x 3 months) 	
Project	1 – 2 years	



MSCA Evaluation Criteria and Panels

Excellence

(weighting: 50%)

Impact

(weighting: 30%)

Implementation

(weighting: 20%)

- Standard Panel-scientific areas
 - 1. Chemistry (CHE)
 - Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
 - 3. Economic Sciences (ECO)
 - Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
 - Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
 - 6. Life Sciences (LIF)
 - Mathematics (MAT)
 - 8. Physics (PHY)



European Fellowships (EF): Multidisciplinary Panels

- CAR Career Restart
 - > Researchers who have not been active in research for at least 12 months within the last 18 months before the call deadline
- RI Reintegration
 - > Researchers **returning to Europe** after a research phase in a Third Country
- SE Society & Enterprise
 - > Applicants with a **non-academic Host Institution**

Fellow has lived or worked ≤ 3 years within the last 5 years in the potential host country



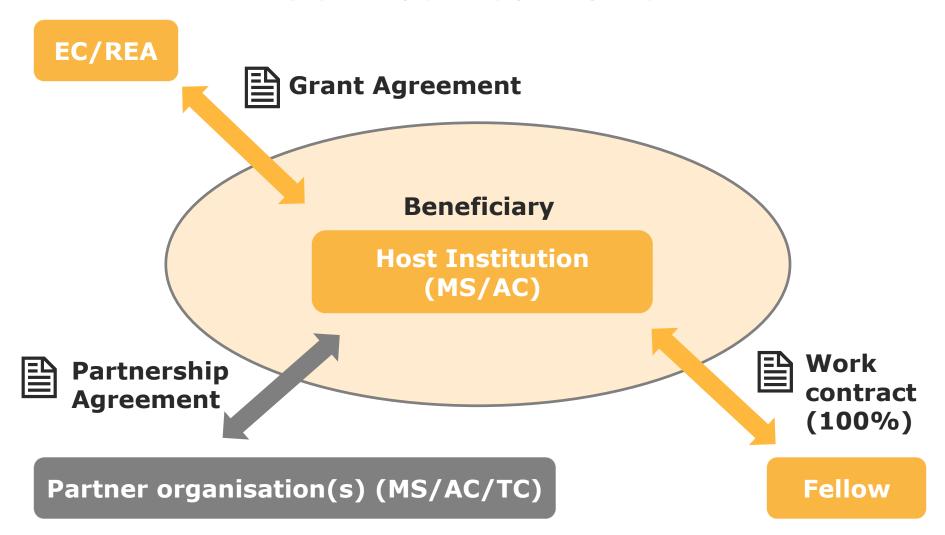
Global Fellowships (GF)

Research project in a Third Country and Europe (MS/AC)

Eligible	Postdocs or researchers with at least 4 years of research experience	
Nationality	MS/AC nationals and long-term residents (must have lived/worked ≥5 years in MS/AC)	
Mobility rule	May not have lived/worked more than 12 months within the last 3 years in host country	
Secondments	 Optional for 3 to 6 months to the academic or non-academic sector in Europe Can be split (e. g. 2 x 3 months) 	
Project	1 - 2 years+ 1 year mandatory return phase to Europe	



MSCA Basic Contracts IF



Needs : Special (max. 60.0000€ Per Fellow)

IF Financing

Living allowance ER(*country correction coefficient)

- Mobility allowance

- Family allowance (if applicable)

 Research, training and networking costs

- Management & overhead

Fellow

600 x 12 M

500 x 12 M

4,880 x 12 M

Project

800 x 12 M

650 x 12 M

Total

EUR 89,160 /y

Employer's gross e. g. Belgium (*100 %) 5,980 EUR/M 71,760 EUR/y

e. g. Germany (*correction co-efficient 97.0 %) = 5,833.60 EUR/M



How is the IF application process organised?

- Calls for proposals
 - Annually
 - Specific deadline
- The proposal
 - Submission by the Host Institution (supervisor)
 - Jointly with the researcher
- Online submission
 - Participant Portal of the European Commission:

ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html

MSCA Evaluation Process

- Each proposal will be evaluated by at least three reviewers (selection by Research Executive Agency, REA)
- 3 phases of evaluation:
 - 1. Individual evaluation (Individual Evaluation Report + comments and points for each criterion)
 - 2. Consensus meeting (Agreement of the experts +Consensus Report)
 - 3. Panel review (Evaluation Summary Reports + Panel Ranked List)



Preparation of the proposal

- Work Programme
- Guide for Applicants
- Templates

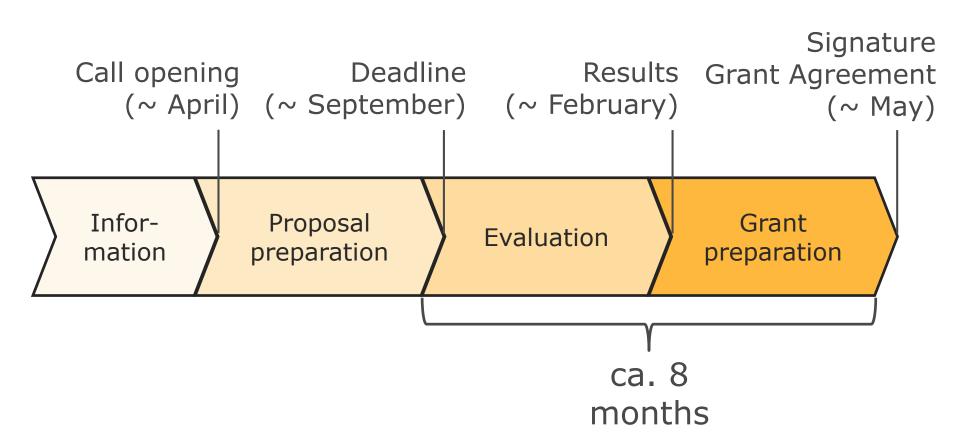


Participant Portal:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/ portal/desktop/en/home.html



From Submission to Funding (IF)





IF Success Rates 2017





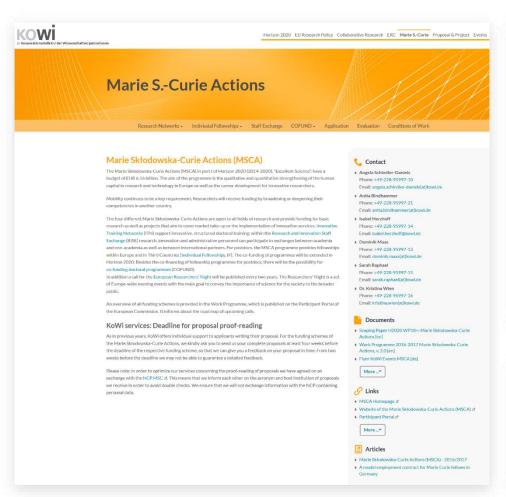
MSCA	Proposals retained for funding	Success rate
EF (ST)	1.029	14.6 %
EF (RI)	78	14.6 %
EF (CAR)	46	14.3 %
EF (SE)	58	28.4 %
GF	137	16.4 %



MSCA Calls 2018/2019*

	Budget (million)	Opening	Deadline
ITN	EUR 470	13 Sep 2018	15 Jan 2019*
RISE	EUR 80	04 Dec 2018	02 Apr 2019*
COFUND	EUR 80	12 Apr 2018	27 Sep 2018
IF	EUR 273	12 Apr 2018	12 Sep 2018

Information online





Participant Portal





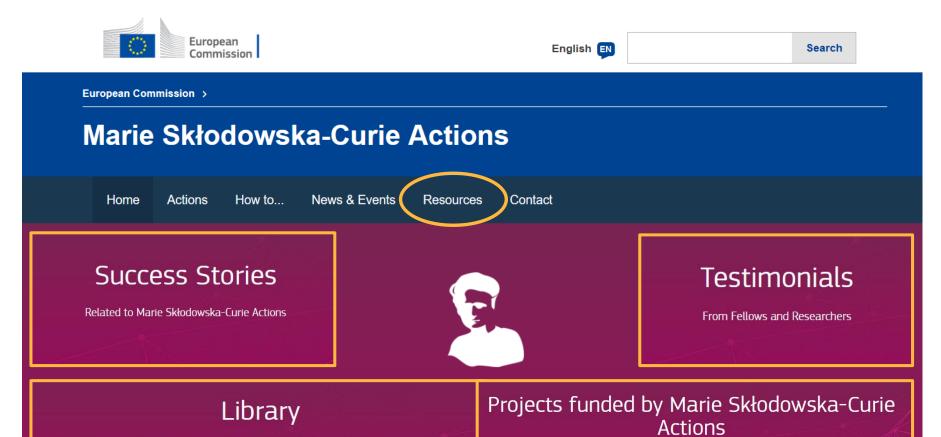
KoWi Website EU Commission **NKS MSC**



Legal documents, Policy documents, Reports, Publications, Guides, Factsheets and more.

Marie S.-Curie Resources





This is just a small sample of the projects funded



KoWi Services on Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Information

- Information events and workshops
- Newsletter "Active Information Service" (AiD), factsheets, MSCA Host Offers, etc.

Consulting

- Individual consulting and support for applicants
- Tailored advice for small groups
- Advice on legal and financial project management

Training

- Workshops on application and grant management
- Workshops on legal and financial project management



European Research Council





Horizon 2020 – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)

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Some (key) messages first

Overall, it doesn't look like fun...

- External factors mostly discouraging (high decision-making pressure, low success-rates)
- Am I ready? Will my profile/CV be competitive (enough)?
- What is my level of "frustration tolerance"?

Survival tips...

- Nurture a big idea (why & how) and face its risks
- Believe in your idea and shape it for your audience
- Still: Try to enjoy writing your application

ERC Underlying Principles

- European funding of basic research ("frontier research")
- Open to all fields of research: bottom-up, investigatordriven, annual calls for proposals
- Open for researchers of any age and nationality
- Funding of individuals: Principal Investigator + project
- Funding: 100 % direct + 25 % indirect project costs

Scientific excellence is the sole criterion for evaluation



Successful ERC Applicants – Some Observations

- ERC Grantees usually have longer (and often several) "mobility experiences"
- Previous third-party funding (DFG, BMBF, EU etc.)
- Publications in high-ranking international journals
- Memberships in academies and editorial boards, review activities
- Distinct (inter)national research cooperation with leading scientists



ERC Funding Schemes

Starting Grant

Consolidator Grant

Advanced Grant

2 – 7 years after PhD 7 – 12 years after PhD

10 years track record

Proof of Concept

Preparing ideas from ERC Grant for the market **Synergy** Grant

Teams of 2-4 PIs pursuing highly ambitious research goals



Overview: Starting Grant Consolidator Grant

Target group	2-7 years after PhD 7-12 years after PhD		
	extensions possible in exceptional cases; special rules for MD		
Funding	max. EUR 1.5 million (exception: + EUR 500,000)	max. EUR 2 million (exception: + EUR 750,000)	
	for a max. duration of 5 years		
Host institution	in EU Member State or Associated Country		
Time	≥ 50%	≥ 40%	
commitment	≥ 50% in Europe		
Application procedure	single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation (incl. interview)		
Call	annually, restricted resubmission		



ERC application process

- Calls for proposals
 - Annually
 - Specific deadline
- The proposal
 - submitted by the PI
 - together with a Host Institution (Host Support Letter)
- Online submission
 - Participant Portal of the European Commission:
 - ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html

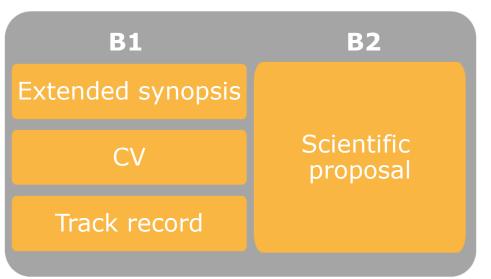


Proposal Parts

Part A Part B

Administrative Forms/ Proposal Submission Forms

- 1 General Information
- 2 Participants & Contacts
- 3 Budget
- 4 Ethics
- 5 Call-specific questions



Annexes

- Host Support Letter (Host Institution Binding Statement of Support)
- PhD-Certificate
- Ethics Self-Assessment (if applicable)
- Further documents (if applicable)



Evaluation Criteria Project

- Ground-breaking research?
- Beyond the state-of-the-art?
- Important challenges?
- Novel concepts?
- Approaches across disciplines?
- High risk/high gain?
- Feasibility:
 - Methodology appropriate?
 - Timescales, resources (and PI commitment) adequate?





Evaluation Criteria PI

- Ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- Creative independent thinking?
- Required scientific expertise and capacity?





Prolonged Eligibility

- Calculation of the eligibility time window:
 - Time elapsed between date on the PhD certificate and 1 January of call year
- Prolonged eligibility for documented parental leave
 - Mothers 18 months per child
 - Fathers documented time of leave taken
- Other reasons <u>after</u> PhD:
 - Documented elapsed time for long-term illnesses (> 90 days)
 - Clinical training
 - National service



Eligibility of Medical Doctors (MD)

- Principal Investigators who are MDs have to have:
 - Additional PhDOR
 - Appointment that requires doctoral equivalency (postdoc fellowship, professorship, ...)
- Eligibility time-window:
 - 4-9 years past MD for Starting Grants
 - 9-14 years past MD for Consolidator Grants



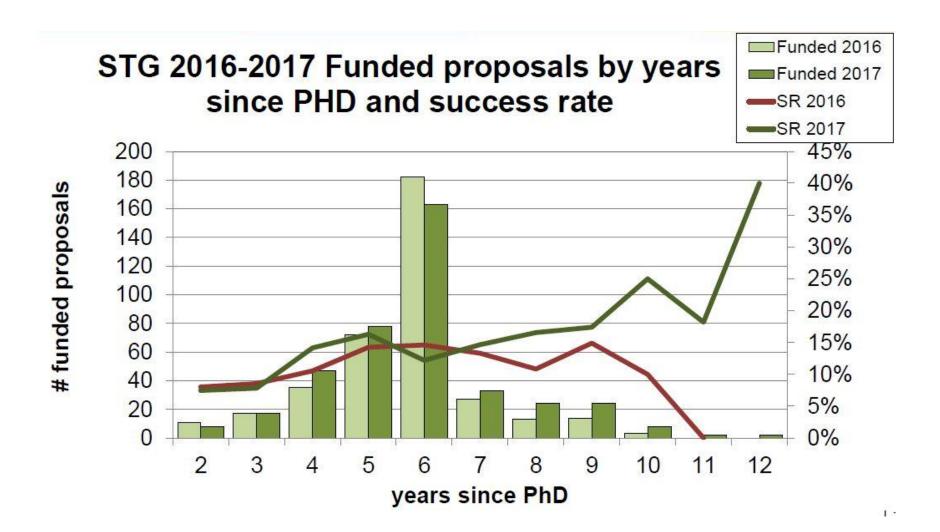
Evaluation (StG, CoG, AdG)

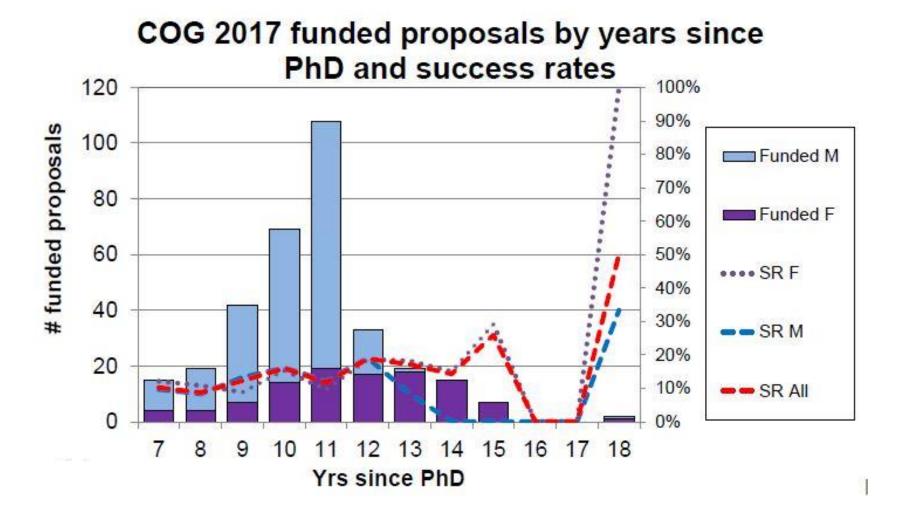
- Peer-review: Evaluation panels (10-15 members)
- Applicants choose panel(s)
- Up to 3 reviewers can be excluded in advance
- Three scientific domains:
 - Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE): 10 Panels
 - Life Sciences (LS):9 Panels
 - Social Sciences & Humanities (SH): 6 Panels
- Reviewers give marks for PI and project, respectively



ERC Success Rates 2015-2018

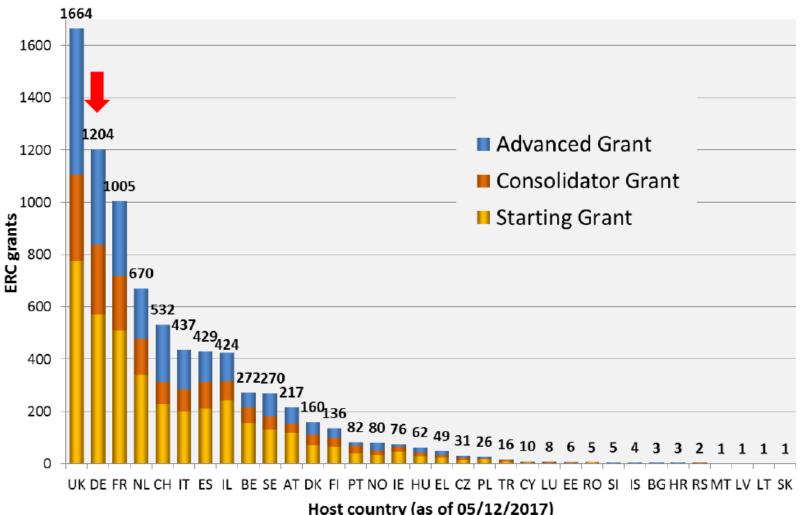
Call Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Starting Grants	12 %	11 %	13.3 %	12.7 %
Consolidator Grants	15 %	13.8 %	13.2 %	
Advanced Grants	14 %	9.6 %	12 %	







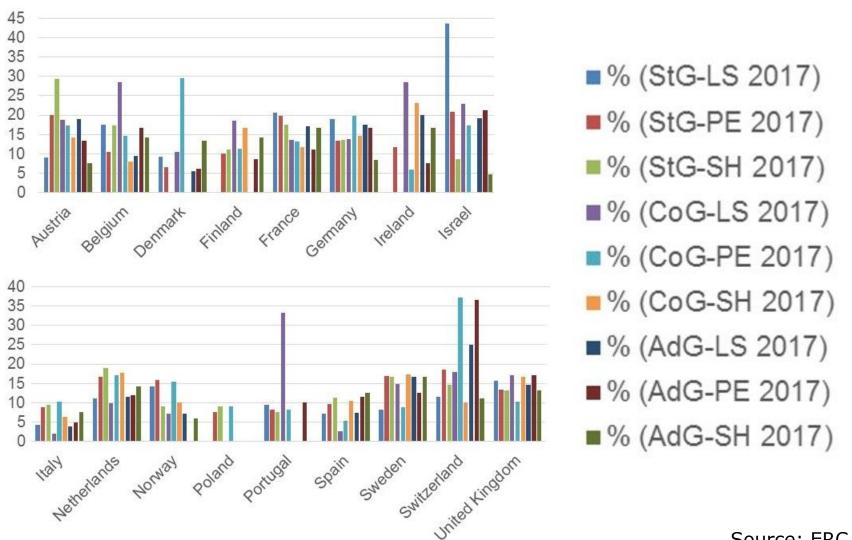
ERC Grants by Host Institution Country



Host country (as of 05/12/2017)

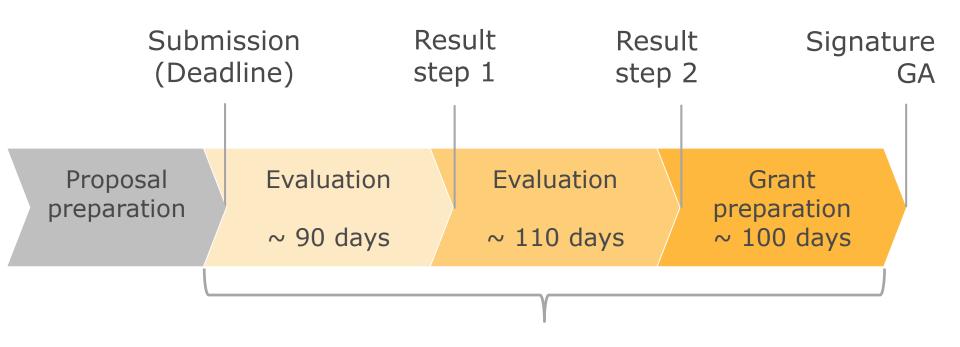


Success Rate by HI Country & Domain (2017)





From Submission to Funding



~ 10 months



Calls for Proposals 2019

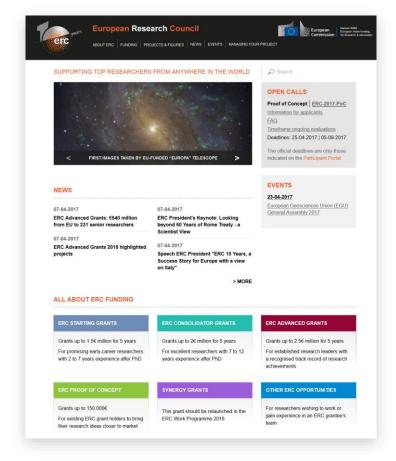
Publication of Work Programme: 7 September 2018

Funding line	PhD reference date	Open	Deadline*	Budget (EUR)
Starting Grants	1 Jan 2019	14 September 2018	17 October 2018	580 million
Consolidator Grants	1 Jan 2019	24 October 2018	7 February 2019	602 million
Advanced Grants		21 May 2019	29 August 2019	391 million
Synergy Grants		14 September 2018	8 November 2018	400 million



ERC Information Online





National Contact Point (NCP)

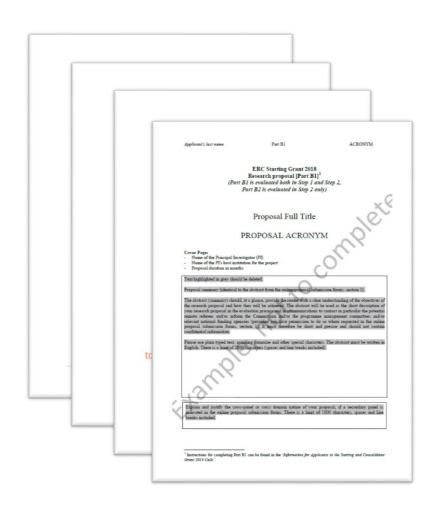
European Research Council (ERC)



Important Documents

- ERC Work Programme
- ERC Rules for Submission and Evaluation
- Information for Applicants
- Research Proposal Template

ec.europa.eu/research/participants/por tal/desktop/en/home.html





KoWi Services on the ERC*



Information

- Information events and workshops
- NCP ERC website, incl. ERC-FAQs): <u>nks-erc.de</u>
- Newsletter: eubuero.de/newsletter

Consulting

- Individual consulting and support for applicants
- Tailored advice for small groups
- Advice on legal and financial project management

Training

- Interview trainings for Starting und Consolidator Grants in Bonn + on-site support in Brussels
- Workshops on application and grant management

^{*} Cooperation with the EU-Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (EU-Büro des BMBF)



Some reflections on your proposal

- Can you explain your project idea briefly and concisely?
- Which important challenges will you tackle?
- Which are the ground-breaking or novel aspects?
- What is the expected impact on your research field?
- Why are you the right person to carry out the project?



Contact



Dunja Hofmann

<u>dunja.hofmann@kowi.de</u> +49 228-95997-26

Martin Winger

Martin.winger@kowi.de +32 2-54802-21

