



# Yellow Research

## HORIZON 2020

### Writing Successful ERC Consolidator Grant Proposals

In the coming few years the ERC will launch calls with a deadlines in mid-October for ERC Starting Grant applicants, mid-February for ERC Consolidator Grant applicants and end of August for ERC Advanced Grant applicants<sup>1</sup>. The provisional deadline for ERC CoG Proposals is February 15 2018.

The ERC selection criteria applied by the Panels use terms which have become familiar jargon, such as important challenge, novel concept, scientific approach, and feasibility. Most of these terms are also used by other funding agencies but they are interpreted and applied differently. This workshop will explain in detail not only what these terms mean and imply under the ERC umbrella but also how the ERC Panel members use these terms to discuss, assess, and select project proposals. This process differs from Panel to Panel: for example, 'feasibility of the scientific approach' is assessed differently in social sciences to life sciences; 'development of a new methodology' has a different meaning in social sciences compared to physics. What does this imply? This workshop will supply you with the necessary knowledge to write a successful ERC proposal and will be an invaluable aid in meeting the ERC standards, and to get one step closer to obtaining an ERC Consolidator Grant.

Using the ERC guide with "*Instructions for Applicants*" we will explain how you can address the ERC selection criteria and the Panel specifics and draft a competitive project proposal. We will examine keywords used in the ERC documentation such as novelty, groundbreaking, impact, and feasibility of scientific approach and how these terms can be used to write a project proposal. However, we will also explain how to take into account the balances that are built into the ERC selection criteria such as being ambitious but still enforcing a breakthrough, and proposing a novel scientific approach but still being feasible. We will explain in detail how you can address the feasibility of the scientific approach, taking into account the Panel specifics and research fields.

We will also discuss the Panel specifics concerning the quality of the CVs and track-record of ERC grantees. What is the norm per panel and what does this mean for the CVs of the participants planning to submit an ERC proposal? What "actions" do participants have to highlight or undertake to bring their CV in line with the expectations of the selected panel?

#### 1. Training objectives

- To provide researchers with a good understanding of:
- the ERC evaluation criteria and how to analyse them;
  - what makes an excellent PI according to the reviewers of the different domains/Panels;
  - how to write a competitive scientific proposal considering Panel specifics and type of project, with particular focus on ERC CoG proposals

#### 2. Who should attend?

The workshop will be of value for applicants who want to submit an ERC proposal. Depending on the scientific backgrounds of the participants we will highlight domain-specific issues.

#### 3. Methodology

The seminar will be in English, with no translation. The trainer(s) will provide practical information and discuss with the

participants the requested information, the evaluation criteria, and the best strategy for drafting the proposal.

The workshop is highly interactive and includes discussions to promote an exchange of views between participants and trainer(s). Each participant receives an extensive guide with the information on the topics listed in the programme.

#### 4. Trainers

Yellow Research has extensive experience in running ERC workshops and in pre-submission review of ERC Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grants. We have successfully trained candidates for writing ERC proposals since the 2008 Call. Our knowledge and experience in pre-submission review of ERC proposals is an important aspect of our success in this training.

#### 5. Programme

9:00	<b>Start of the training</b>
<b>Part I</b>	<b>ERC Grants in a nutshell</b> Short overview, ERC objectives, evaluation criteria, and procedure and selection.
<b>Part II</b>	<b>Scientific Proposal (incl. coffee &amp; tea break)</b> We will discuss in detail the project template (state of the art and objectives, methodology and resources), the ERC " <i>Instructions for Applicants</i> " and the ERC evaluation criteria.  We will also discuss how you can provide the information the reviewers are looking for: regarding 1) groundbreaking nature and ambition 2) the high gain and high risk balance and the link to feasibility of the scientific approach 3) the envisioned impact on future research and possibilities of utility 4) sound project plan and structure with intermediate goals and back-up plans.
12:15	<b>Lunch</b>
13:00	<b>Continuation: Scientific Proposal</b>
<b>Part III</b>	<b>Principal Investigator</b> We will address the key elements for Curriculum Vitae including Funding ID, Early Achievements Track Record and assessment of career achievements.
<b>Part IV</b>	<b>Extended Synopsis (incl. small break)</b> The extended synopsis is a 5 page summary of the Scientific Proposal with an emphasis on the groundbreaking nature and feasibility of the proposal and how the outcomes of the research will impact further research.
16:15	<b>Time for final questions and closure</b>

#### 6. Course fee

The YR course fee is € 595 per participant (VAT exempted), incl. coffee & tea, lunch and course materials. The fee for in house training with max 24 persons and 1 trainer is €3.750 (VAT reverse charged outside the Netherlands), excl. travel, hotel, subsistence costs and printing of course materials. Course fee for more than 24 persons is €4.740.

#### 7. Date, Location, Contact

<b>Dates</b>	<b>November 17 2017</b>
<b>Time</b>	9.00 – 16.30 hrs
<b>Location</b>	<b>Yellow Research</b> Veembroederhof 5-7 1019 HD Amsterdam
<b>Booking Contact</b>	<b>Online <u>only</u> at <a href="http://www.yellowresearch.nl">www.yellowresearch.nl</a></b> Sarah Jones at <a href="mailto:jones@yellowresearch.nl">jones@yellowresearch.nl</a>

<sup>1</sup> In 2018 Call the ERC will relaunch Synergy