My experience on ERC

• ERC starting grant
  – Evaluated more than 110 proposals
  – Interviewed more than 80 applicants
ERC starting grant

• Target group
  – 2 to 12 years after PhD
    • 2 to 7 years: starters
    • 7-12 years: consolidators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ERC Starting Grant Calls Provisional Schedule – 2011-2012</th>
<th>Call open</th>
<th>Call Deadlines</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERC-2011-StG</td>
<td>Summer 10</td>
<td>Autumn 10</td>
<td>Winter 10 - Spring 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC-2012-StG</td>
<td>Summer 11</td>
<td>Autumn 11</td>
<td>Winter 11 - Spring 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ERC starting grant

- Two stages
  - Evaluation of synopsis & PI
  - Evaluation of full proposal & interview
- SH 4 – the Human Mind and its complexity
- SH 5 – Cultures and cultural production
- SH 6 – The study of the human past
Success rate

- 2009
  - About 2000 applicants
  - About 20% success rate at 1st stage
  - About 50% success rate at 2nd stage
# Success rate

## ERC Starting Grant: 2010 call

### Submitted and selected proposals by domain

Source: 427 proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Submitted proposals</th>
<th>Selected proposals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>1029 (35.8%)</td>
<td>153 (35.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>1205 (42%)</td>
<td>195 (45.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>639 (22.2%)</td>
<td>79 (18.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total = 2873**  
**Success rate ~15%**  
**Total = 427**
Success rate

• 2011
  – SH4
  • 247 submission
  • 46 is retained for the second stage
  • about 20 will be granted
  • budget has increased 25%
The proposal

- Part A
  - Extended Synopsis
  - The PI
- Part B
  - The complete research proposal
Future applicants

• You need to be ready to
  – write a competitive proposal
  – invest at least 2 weeks in writing; invest a lot of time in re-writing
  – obtain information concerning the evaluation process
What is evaluated?

• Applicant:
  – previous achievements
  – intellectual capacity and creativity
  – independence
  – added value of the grant to the applicant
What is evaluated?

• Research project:
  – ground breaking nature
  – potential impact
  – research methods
  – risk/gain balance
Evaluation criteria

• Scientific excellence
  – of the applicant
  – of the project
Evaluation criteria

• What is not used as criteria:
  – amount requested
  – nationality
  – gender
  – age
Evaluation process

• 1st stage evaluation
  – the synopsis of the proposal has 4 evaluators (internal to the panel)
  – the evaluators have about one hour to read the synopsis
  – make it memorable and exciting
Evaluation process

- 2\textsuperscript{nd} stage evaluation
  - Full proposal has 4 to 8 evaluators (including external reviewers)
  - Evaluators have about 2 hours to read the proposal
  - About 20-30-minutes interview in Brussels
Good application

• Demonstrates convincingly
  – your previous achievements
  – your leadership potential
  – your independence
  – uniqueness and impact of the project
Feedback to applicants

- Reports of all evaluators
- Panel report
- Numerical grade
Good luck!