

## Workshop 10<sup>th</sup> September 2010

### Writing better ERC Starting Grant Proposal

The workshop will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at the University of Ljubljana.

#### 1. Workshop

The workshop and the following clinics are all about making your ERC proposal the best competitive proposal.

Competition for the ERC starting Grant is tough, but with help of Yellow Research professional trainers you can improve your chances to succeed. Yellow Research has acquired cumulative expertise and in-depth understanding from the previous ERC calls and has been extensively consulting applicants prior to and during the application phase. The University of Ljubljana wants to offer this expertise to its researchers for their benefit.

The 2011 call for submission of proposals for the ERC Starting Grant is expected to be published in July 2010. The call covers all research fields. Preliminary deadlines are:

- Physical sciences and Engineering: **October, 2010**;
- Life Sciences: **November, 2010** and;
- Social Sciences and Humanities: **November, 2010**.

In the 2010 ERC Starting Grant call the ERC is planning to extend the PhD eligibility window **to 2-12 years**, bridging the gap between Starting and Advanced Grant holders. Further, the career break window is planned to span up to 4,5 years, giving particularly the women a fairer chance to obtain a grant.

The two evaluation criteria for funding are an outstanding principal investigator (PI) who proposes an outstanding research project. These, and other key elements of the proposal, will be dealt with in the workshop. A good understanding of these forms the basis for writing a successful competitive ERC-proposal. During the workshop we will discuss the proposal format and approaches for writing and address all requirements based on successful examples. We will also discuss how to evaluate yourself as a promising researcher and how to incorporate "feasible" high gain and high risk elements in your proposal.

See <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm> for more information.

#### 2. Training objectives

To provide researchers with a good understanding of:

- the requirements of the Guide for Applicants regarding the structure and the contents of the proposal;
- the evaluation criteria and how these can be matched upon the requirements of the Guide for Applicants and;
- Approaches to draft an outstanding proposal.

#### 3. Who should attend?

The workshop is aimed for potential applicants and research administrators. It is aimed to the University of Ljubljana researchers.

#### 4. Methodology

The seminar will be in English, with no translation. The trainers will give practical information and examine with the participants the requested information, the evaluation criteria and the best strategy for drafting the proposal. The workshop is highly interactive and periods of discussions are included in the programme to promote exchange of views between participants and trainers. Each participant will receive an extensive guide with the information on the topics listed in the programme. During the interactive parts of the workshop, there is a possibility to discuss and develop your project idea with one of the trainers.

#### 5. Trainers

##### **Mette Skraastad, PhD**

Mette followed a research career as a molecular biologist and has specialised in technology transfer, writing EU project proposals and project management. She has worked at academia as EU officer, research manager and business developer and in the biotech industry as business developer. She has been co-writer of several EU grants and advisor to ERC Starting and Advanced Grants and ERC Starting Grant interview trainings.

##### **Lotte Jaspers**

Lotte has extensive knowledge on the rules for participation and the EC grant agreement for FP7 and was a member for the Netherlands of the commission consultation group. She has worked as a specialist in EU projects and technology transfer. She has been advisor for ERC Starting and Advanced Grants and ERC Starting Grant Interview trainings.

#### 6. Information and registration

Further information:  
Registration for workshop by University of Ljubljana at [EUpromjeki@uni-lj.si](mailto:EUpromjeki@uni-lj.si).

#### 7. Programme and venue

<b>8:40</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9.00</b>	<b>Introduction Ljubljana University</b>
<b>Part I</b>	<b>ERC Starting Grant</b>
	Lessons learnt from the first calls and evaluation procedure
<b>Part II</b>	<b>How to write a successful ERC proposal</b>
B1a, b, c	<b>The Principal Investigator</b> The key elements for Scientific Leadership, Curriculum Vitae including Funding ID, Early Achievement Track Record and assessment of starter or consolidator.
	<b>Coffee Break</b>
B1d	<b>Extended Synopsis</b> Five page summary of the Scientific Proposal
B2 – section 2	<b>The Scientific Proposal</b>
	Matching evaluation criteria to the requirements of the Guide for Applicants by using a matrix.
	<b>Lunch Break</b>
	Objectives, State-of-the-Art, Methodology, Resources and approaches to originality, creativity and ambition.
	Demonstrate planning capacity by a good description or an explanatory figure.
	To be ambitious and realistic – A Risk Analysis of high risk and high gain. Impact, exploitation and/or dissemination.
B2 – section 3	Research Environment
<b>Part III</b>	<b>Understanding Brussels</b>
	Interview session in Brussels
	Your rights and obligations regarding the grant.