Personal insights and reflections about ERC Starting Grant application

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2016 ERC StG Grantee

Presentation overview

- short about me – reasons my application
- ERC types of projects
- Tips & tricks written application
- Tips & tricks interview

Background

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- 02 Sep 2015: ERC info session
  15 Jun 2016: ERC interview
  01 Feb 2017: start project

Why I applied?

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'Extras'

- really challenging research question
- 1.5 euro: nice start …
- CV much stronger (further funding etc.)
- credibility & reputation (opening doors …)

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Are there project types with higher chances of success
than others? (big project is not enough ...) What about
high risk – high gain? Paradigm shift? Etc.

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    - 11 small sections: 2 skipped, 1 added 'Research interests and prospectives'
  - Extra info (explanation on e.g. key publications, your project background)
  - Details (e.g. how much was a post-doc grant you won?)

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- General
  - Discuss it with senior colleagues, ERC grantees or former ERC panel members
  - Ask examples of winning proposal (through research managers your university)
  - Proposal: lot of work … but you can do at easy and with advices: <u>do it carefully as a strong written file will be very helpful in second step!</u>

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    - make several mock defenses (I had 6-7… colleagues, international partners, research managers, consultants);
    - repeat tens and tens of times … in 'real conditions' (with laser-pointer, stand-up etc.)
  - Ask colleagues and peers to read your proposal and make questions
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- That day
  - Answer the questions to the point & be brief and calm
    - I had 10 questions in 15 minutes … I guess panel likes to have time to pose questions they thought…
  - What to do if you do not know an answer? Prepare this situation ….

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…… based on my own experience (and peers who have advised me …) - different approaches to application are possible!

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- But try to help the 'luck' coming to you by
  - be conscious what ERC call is for (type of project)
  - prepare both steps (text and interview) really good