



Information session on European Research Council

2016 call for proposals

Advanced Grants

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ERC Advanced Grant 2015 (HEXTREME, PE8)

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# *Genesis of HEXTREME*

- Sabbatical leave @ Rice University (CAAM) in 2014-2015
  - One undergraduate and one graduate course (half teaching load, no administrative duties)
  - One full year with the family (wife & 3 kids), piece of mind!
  - I had in mind to submit an ERC → I managed to **reserve large chunks of valuable time**
  - One colleague with whom I had fruitful contacts @ Rice

→ I was in a positive environment

# *Genesis of HEXTREME*

- Why did I try ?
  - I kind of like writing grants: several FP7/H2020 winning proposals
  - Close colleagues have received ERC grants recently: **their CV is not significantly better than mine** (my thought)
  - Recent papers relatively well cited: those last 10 years were clearly my “most prolific research period”
  - A little bit of (gentle/positive) pressure from my University + **incentives**
  - No fear of failing (avoid self censorship)

➔ I was confident & motivated

# *Genesis of HEXTREME*

- Writing the grant
  - The idea of HEXTREME was very clear in my mind beforehand of the writing process
  - Spring term ends up April 10<sup>th</sup> @ Rice and ERC deadline was June 2<sup>nd</sup>: **this gave me more than two months to write the proposal**
  - I had the chance to have two ERC AdG winning proposals at hand (2011 and 2012), same panel
  - HEXTREME was submitted May 20<sup>th</sup> (no stress)
- I had an idea and enough time to elaborate

# *Some “tips”*

- First of all
  - You do not have to trust me on that: I have received one ERC and I have only tried once (generalization is hazardous)
  - Take advices: **let other people read your proposal**
- First Stage (B1)
  - Convince the panel that you address an important problem
  - Convince the panel that you are the right person to solve that problem
  - High risk high gain or **low risk high gain?**
  - **Choose the right panel** (how many panel members do know you?)

# *Some “tips”*

- **Second Stage (B2)**
  - Large number of reviewers (14 for HEXREME): if something is not 100% clear in your head, do not write about it
  - The objective(s) should be **clearly defined** and the budget/efforts should be 100% dedicated to the objectives (no funding for administrative staff, there are quite large overheads that can cover that)
- **Budget / project management**
  - **No worries:** way simpler than ETN's or a collaborative H2020!
  - No exaggeration (I have seen proposals with 200,000 € of travel money, total budget do not have to be 2,499,999 €)