

# Applying for an ERC- starting grant

(based on a single case study)

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# From Brussels to Brussels (and back again)

- 11 September 2012: information-session FWO/FNRS
- 14 October 2014: interview ERC
- 15 September 2015: information-session FWO/FNRS

# PI requirements

- Independency

e.g. cannot highlight publications with promotor;  
workshops/conferences: initiator, coordinator,  
editor; invited presentations

- Creativity

e.g. in previous publications

- Productivity

e.g. as author, editor

# Writing the project

- It takes time to write and rewrite
- Get an idea of scale of the projects:  
look at the summaries on the ERC-website
- Novelty (& you are the one to do it)
- High risk/feasibility
- Impact
- Sound structure (all sub-projects fit  
into the larger whole)
- Ask feedback from: i.a. EU-office of your  
university (financial part), colleagues in and  
outside your field of expertise

# Writing my project

"Between saints and celebrities. The devotion and promotion of stigmatics in Europe, c.1800-1950"

(SH6, The study of the human past)

- Interdisciplinary: involve experts from other fields as 'sounding board' (workshops and meetings)
- Novelty & importance (the dreaded "so-what?" question)
- Risk: archives/source prospection

# Preparing the interview

- My initial approach and what I ended up presenting
  - 'dry', expert-material → pitch talk,  
(more than a mere summary of the proposal)
- Practice presentation & ask for feedback!
  - You only get 10 minutes, so everyone of them counts

# What you get

- Time investment: yours equals theirs
- Gender equality
- Your dream job: high-level, innovative research, international scale, a team working on your field of interest
- Credibility
- (and paperwork)