

## Workshop Writing ERC Starting Grant

The workshop will take place at the University of Oslo on June 15, 2010 in Norway.

### 1. Workshop

This workshop is all about making your ERC proposal the best competitive proposal. Competition for the ERC starting Grant is fierce, and it is not enough to provide good science! Based on the experiences in the first ERC calls this workshop will provide you with valuable input for writing a competitive ERC Starting Grant proposal.

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: **December, 2010**

The first call was very tough; 9167 applications submitted for only 299 grants. The competition in the second and third call has become less fierce because the number of applications has decreased and the budget has increased. In 2009 2503 applications were submitted and 237 selected and in 2010 2873 applications were submitted. We are still waiting for the end results of the third call but we expect more awarded grants because the budget was increased approx 66%.

In the 2010 call the ERC has extended the PhD window to 2-10 years and the career break window from 3 years to 4,5 years, giving young scientists and women a fairer chance to obtain a grant. In the 2010 call the ERC is planning to extend this PhD window **to 2-12 years**, bridging the gap between Starting and Advanced Grant holders.

In 2010 the ERC divided the applicants in starters and consolidators, giving both groups a fair chance. These changes come with an increased budget, increasing the number of available grants.

The two evaluation criteria for funding are being an outstanding principal investigator (PI) and proposing an outstanding research project. Outstanding implies that the PI and proposal should be better than excellent. A good understanding of the requirements described in the Guide for Applicants is essential 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.

### 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 will be of value for researchers as well as administrators, experienced and non-experienced in EU grant applications.

### 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. Specific requests are welcome. Each participant will receive an extensive guide with the information on the topics listed in the programme.

### 5. Programme

<b>Part I</b>	<b>ERC Starting Grant</b>
	Experience with ERC Starting Grants: a 2010 applicant will be invited to discuss his/her experience with ERC
	Lessons learned from the first calls and evaluation procedure
<b>Part II</b>	<b>How to write a successful ERC-proposal</b>
B1a, b and c	<b>The Principal Investigator:</b> The key elements for Scientific Leadership, Curriculum Vitae including Funding ID, Early Achievement Track Record and assessment starter or consolidator.
	<b>Coffee Break</b>
B1d	<b>Extended Synopsis:</b> The Extended Synopsis is a 5 page summary of the Scientific Proposal with an emphasis on the ground breaking elements and feasibility of the proposal and how the outcomes of the research will affect further research.
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 are discussed.
	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.
	What effect will your research results have in terms of interesting research e.g. 10 years from now, exploitation and/or dissemination.
B2 – section 3	Research Environment How to describe excellence
<b>Part III</b>	<b>Understanding Brussels</b>
	Interview session
	Your rights and obligations regarding the grant.
	<b>Individual questions and answers</b>

### 6. Trainers

#### **Mette Skraastad, PhD from Yellow Research**

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.

Mette Skraastad is founding partner of Yellow Research together with Jet van Dijk and Lotte Jaspers. Yellow Research is a company focused on consultancy and training in the field of FP7 and academic-industrial collaborations.

### 7. Date and location

Date	Time	Location
Workshop: June 15 2010	09.00 – 15.30	University of Oslo, Eilert Sundts building: Block A, Aude 2, Blindern

### 8. Information

For further information contact Per Ivar Høvring (National Contact Point for ERC, e-mai : [pjh@rcn.no](mailto:pjh@rcn.no) , tel: 22037426).  
Registration at the latest June 10, at the link: <https://web.questback.com/norgesforskningsrd/wlhobygy3y/> (indicate if you are a researcher or an administrator in the field "Comments"). Number of participants is limited to 70.