

European Research Council (ERC)

ERC application review

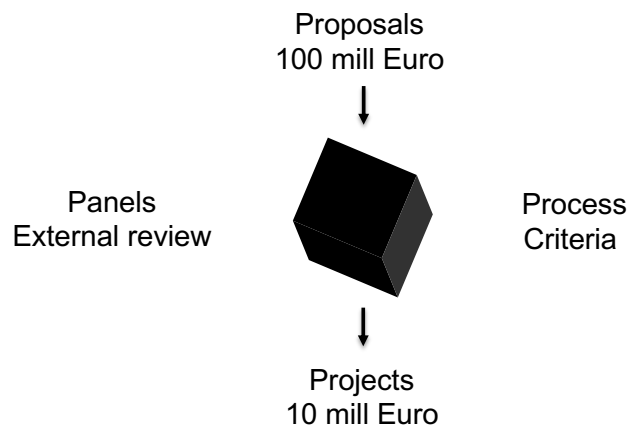
Prof. Kaare Magne Nielsen
OsloMet, Oslo
Previous ERC panel chair

5 March 2020



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Excellence - creativity idea – principal investigator(s)



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Panels

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecular & Structural Biology & Biochemistry
- LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics & Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology & Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences & Neural Disorders
- LS6 Immunity & Infection
- LS7 Diagnostics, Therapies, Applied Medical Technology and Public Health
- LS8 Evolutionary, Population & Environmental biology
- LS9 Applied Life Sciences & Non-Medical Biotechnology

Same funding probability

Social Sciences & Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, Markets & Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment & Space
- SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures & Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past

Physical Sciences & Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical & Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Synthetic Chemistry & Materials
- PE6 Computer Science & Informatics
- PE7 Systems & Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products & Process Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science

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ERC personnel

ERC staff (PhDs)

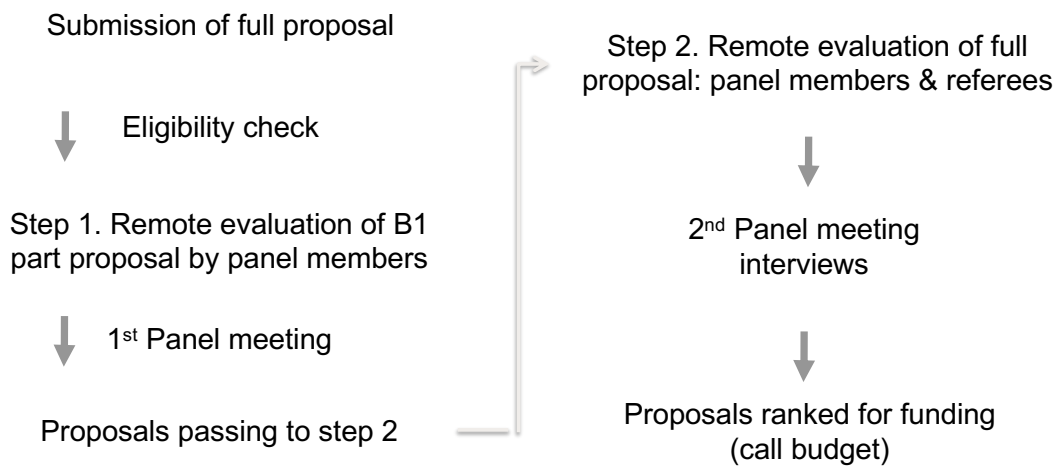
- Formal requirements, extensions
- Communications with applicants
- Conflicts of interest

Panel

- Approx. 14 members, 2 ERC staff
- Alternates biannually
- **2 step evaluation process**
 - Panel reviews (cross)
 - External reviews
 - Interviews

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Starting (StG), consolidator (CoG), advanced (adG) grants



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Step 1 - B1 extended synopsis

Remote

- Generalist stage
 - 30 applications, 10 pages)
- Online platform
- Written review
- Internal marks 1.0 - 5.0
- 4 to 8 reviews per proposal
- Cross panel reviews
- B2 part not available

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Step 1 - B1 extended synopsis

First panel meeting, 3-5 days

- All proposals discussed
- Produce ranked list A B C grades
- Written feedback from panel for B and C, with ranking
- Feedback from single reviewers
- Penalty 1 year (B) og 2 years (C)

- A graded invited to Brussels (max # 3 x budget invited)
- Panel identifies external reviewers (- 12)

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Step 2 - B2 full proposal

Remote (online)

- Specialist stage B1 + B2 (15 pages)
- Written review with grades 1.0 - 5.0
- External reviewers – global perspectives
- 6 to 10 independent reviews
- Budget and plan

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Step 2 - B2 full proposal

Second panel meeting, 4 - 5 days

- Interviews
- Random order
- 25 min with 10 min pres.
- Thank you and goodbye
- Final ranking A – B
- The greyzone – cutoff line
- Ranked list
- Panel report

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Step 2 – outcome

No congratulations

No further contact

No reports

Career development

Mindset rather than deadline

Flat success rate over years

Gender

EU13

Professional

Competition

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Excellence

Criterion 1: research proposal (idea)

- Proposed research address **important challenges**
- **Groundbreaking** nature and potential impact
- **Ambitious** objectives beyond the state of the art
- **Novel** concepts and approaches
- Developments across disciplines
- High risk/high gain

Comments/Score

- Scientific approach feasible

Comments/Score

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Excellence

Criterion 2: principal investigator

- Individual capacity, creativity and commitment (+50%)

Comments/Score

- Ability to propose and conduct groundbreaking research
- Evidence of creative independent thinking
- Achievements beyond the state of the art

Comments/Score

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Criterion 2: principal investigator

CV

- Independence
- Leadership
- Footprint
- 5 publications
- Supervisor
- Your role/niche/**story--**
- Explanatory text
- International

- Teams
- Template (gender)
- H-index between 7-27 (starting grant), visibility

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"Solid fresh ideas"

Concentrated quality with air, and intense surprises

- No overkill (claims, information)
- Process focus versus pointing to new deliverables/outcomes

Ideas thought through *before* writing application

- Bold and ambitious
- Use available resources (*internal and NFR*), support team
- Demanding to plan large projects

Move the research front - in depth understanding of state of the art

- Room for continual reflection and maturation
- Punctuated not gradual evolution/changes
- High risk - gain, include risk assessment/management

Communication: enthusiasm for need, approach and outcomes

- Users?

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ERC considerations

- Gender
- Less competitive countries
- Efficient administration
- "Keep it simple"
- Diversity
- Independence versus team
- Host institution's role
- Professional writing
- CoI
- Discipline versus challenge
- Role models

Groundbreaking
ideas



Impact
Science - society

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Success?

Ideas
Creative
Mindset
Continual
Hard work
Ambitions
Context
Leadership
Role models
Support

Nettverk er kraftverk

Eksempel CV

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Thank you!

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