

WP2008: characteristics, priorities, specific elements (AdG – ERC Advanced Grant)

Hakan KARATAŞ

Ideas/ERC
National Contact Point





Strategy & Activities

ERC Scientific Council

- **Retain – Repatriate – Recruit**
- Favour “**brain gain**” and “**reverse brain drain**”
 - increase **competition, recognition and international visibility** for excellent individual scientists and scholars in Europe
 - **ERC Advanced Grant**: attract & reward established independent research leaders
- **Keep (young) researchers** in Europe
 - improve **career opportunities and independence** - especially for young researchers
 - **ERC Starting Grant**: attract & retain the next generation of independent research leaders



ERC Advanced Grant

(ERC Advanced Investigator Researcher Grant)

- **Flexible grants** for ground-breaking, high-risk/high-gain research that opens new opportunities and directions including those of a multi- and inter-disciplinary nature
- **Complement to the ERC Starting Grants**, targeting researchers who are already established independent research leaders
- **for up to 5 years, i.e. normally up to ~2,500,000 Euro per grant** (may go up to ~3.5 MEuro in specific cases)
- **~ 2/3 of ERC annual budget**, annual calls (= ~ 300 Advanced Grants per year)



ERC Grants

Who can apply ?

➤ Individual Research Teams:

- headed by a single “**Principal Investigator**” (team leader)
 - of any nationality
 - if necessary, including additional team members.
- The **PI** has the freedom to choose the **research topic** and the power to assemble his/her **research team** (including “*co-Investigators*”) meeting the needs of the project.
- Teams can be of **national or trans-national** character
- **Hosting institution** located in an EU member state or associated country



ERC Advanced Grant

Lessons learned from StG 1

1. Managing demand for grants

→ Maximise call budget

- ↳ By combining budgets over 2 successive years (only one application per researcher in either 2008 or 2009)

→ Encourage the best to apply

- ↳ Excellent track record (in recent years)
- ↳ Strong leadership profile

→ Discourage trivial or low-quality applications

- ↳ Applications should be substantive (one-stage submission with two stage evaluation)
- ↳ Disincentives to submission of applications which are not of the highest quality



Benchmarks of 10 year “track record”

- **Senior author publications in major peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals** and/or in the **leading peer-reviewed journals** of their respective research fields
- **Monographs and any translations of monographs** (if applicable).
- **Granted patents** (if applicable)
- **Invited presentations into peer-reviewed, internationally established conferences** and/or **international advanced schools** (if applicable)
- **Expeditions** that the applicant has led (if applicable)
- **International conferences** in the field of the applicant that have been organised (member of the steering and/or organising committee) by him/her (if applicable)
- **International Prizes/Awards/Academy memberships** (if applicable)



Indicators of “leadership profile”

- Content and impact of the major scientific or scholarly contributions of the applicant to his or her own research field and/or neighbouring research fields and, if applicable, their wider societal impact;
- The international recognition and diffusion that these major contributions have received from others (publications or appropriate equivalents/additional funding/ students/international prizes and awards/ institution-building/other);
- Ability to productively change research fields and/or to establish new interdisciplinary approaches

ERC Advanced Grant

Re-application restrictions

European Research Council



- Only one ERC Grant per investigator may be active at any time
- One submission may be made to ERC-2008-AdG or ERC-2009-AdG
- PIs submitting to ERC-2008-AdG or ERC-2009-AdG and failing quality threshold(s) will not be permitted to apply to ERC-2010-AdG
- Additional restrictions on multiple submissions



ERC Calls Indicative Schedule (2007-2010)

ERC Starting Grant Calls Indicative Schedule 2007 - 2010

Work Programme Revision	ERC Action	Call open	Call Deadline	Estimated Call value (€ M)	Budgetary year	Evaluation
Feb. 2007	StG1	Winter 06	Spring 07	290	2007	Spring - Autumn 07
May 2008	StG2	Summer 08	Autumn 08	290	2009	Winter 08 - Spring 09
May 2009	StG3	Summer 09	Autumn 09	340	2010	Winter 09 - Spring 10
May 2010	StG4	Summer 10	Autumn 10	400	2011	Winter 10 - Spring 11

ERC Advanced Grant Calls Indicative Schedule 2007 - 2010

Work Programme Revision	ERC Action	Call open	Call Deadline	Estimated Call value (€ M)	Budgetary year	Evaluation
Oct. 2007	AdG1	Autumn 07	Spring 08	517	2008	Spring 08 - Autumn 08
May 2008	AdG2	Autumn 08	Spring 09	480	2009	Spring 09 - Autumn 09
May 2009	AdG3	Autumn 09	Spring 10	741	2010	Spring 10 - Autumn 10
May 2010	AdG4	Autumn 10	Spring 11	869	2011	Spring 11 - Autumn 11



ERC Advanced Grant

Lessons learned from StG 1

2. Evaluation

→ Methodology

- ↳ Single stage application with 2-step peer review evaluation
- ↳ Separate indicative budget for interdisciplinary and high risk proposals

→ Panel structure

- ↳ 25 panels across the 3 domains
- ↳ Additional panels to take account of uneven demand and improve the boundaries between research areas



ERC Advanced Grant

1-stage submission / 2-step evaluation

Proposals must contain:

- CV + 10 year track record + scientific leadership profile + extended synopsis (+ “co-investigator(s), if necessary)
- Research proposal
- Research Environment description

Special role (and assessment of co-investigators) in proposals that are anticipated for interdisciplinary research

Evaluation:

- **1st step:** Evaluation of P.I. (with special emphasis on track record/leadership profile/CV) & “Extended Synopsis”
- **2nd step:** Evaluation of Full Proposal (with referees, no interview)

ERC Advanced grant

Indicative budgets



- **3 main research domains + interdisciplinary research, with separate indicative budgets:**
 - **Physical Sciences & Engineering (39%)**
 - **Life Sciences (incl. medical) (34%)**
 - **Humanities & Social Sciences (14%)**
 - **Interdisciplinary (13%)**

ERC Advanced Grant

Panel structure



- Increase panels to 25
- Provisionally, each panel consists of the panel chair and 10 panel members
- Panel Chair oversees evaluation process for the proposals assigned to his/her panel in collaboration with the ERC staff
- The Panel Chair gives high level credibility stamp and visibility to the whole evaluation process



ERC Grant schemes

Panels: Interdisciplinary, forward-looking constitution

Examples (Panels for ERC Advanced Grant)

- **SH1: Individuals, institutions and markets:** economics, finance and management
- **PE10: Earth system science:** physical geography, geology, geophysics, meteorology, oceanography, climatology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management
- **LS5: Evolutionary, population and environmental biology:** evolution, ecology, animal behaviour, population biology, biodiversity, biogeography, marine biology, ecotoxicology, prokaryotic biology

ERC Advanced Grant

Submission of Proposals

European Research Council



➤ Early registration (via EPSS)

- To provide ERC with indication on number & area of proposals

➤ One-stage electronic submission (only via EPSS)

- Full Proposal
- Including elements that will be evaluated during the first step



Evaluation Criteria

Scientific Excellence is the sole Criterion

- 1. Quality of Principal Investigator**
 - 2. Quality of research project**
 - 3. Research Environment and Resources**
- Referees and panels evaluate and score criteria 1 and 2 numerically, which will result in the ranking of the proposals
 - Criteria 3 will be considered (step 2) on a "pass/fail" basis and commented but not scored



Applicants Services

- **ERC National Contact Points**
inform, raise awareness and provide advice on ERC funding opportunities, application, follow-up (Hakan KARATAŞ is the NCP for Turkey)
- **ERC helpdesk**
- **EPSS helpdesk**
technical support on electronic proposal submission
- **ERC website:** <http://erc.europa.eu>
→ News Alert

Advance Grant – Submission and Evaluation





Overview

- Proposal submission
- Proposal structure
- Panel structure
- Evaluation process
- Evaluation criteria
- Interdisciplinarity



Submission of proposals

- Single submission (1 stage, 2 step)
- Electronic submission via EPSS
- Early pre-registration strongly recommended
- 3 deadlines
 - ➔ Physical Sciences on 28th February
 - ➔ Social Sciences on 18th March
 - ➔ Life Sciences on 22nd April

Proposal structure

- **Part A:** Contains “normal” A1-A3 forms
 - Plus additional “A1T”: “*Track Record*”
 - Summary of Scientific Leadership profile
 - Summary of 10 year Track Record
- **Part B:** contains 3 sections & 1 annex
 - ➔ Section 1
 - Scientific Leadership profile (2 pages)
 - CV (including “funding ID”)
 - 10-years track record
 - Extended synopsis
 - ➔ Section 2 = Scientific proposal
 - ➔ Section 3 = Research Environment description
 - ➔ Statement of support from the Host Institution



Panel structure

- 3 domains – 25 panels (modification of StG panel structure)
- AdG Panels distinct from StG Panels
- Selection of Panel Members responsibility of the ScC



Submission to Panels

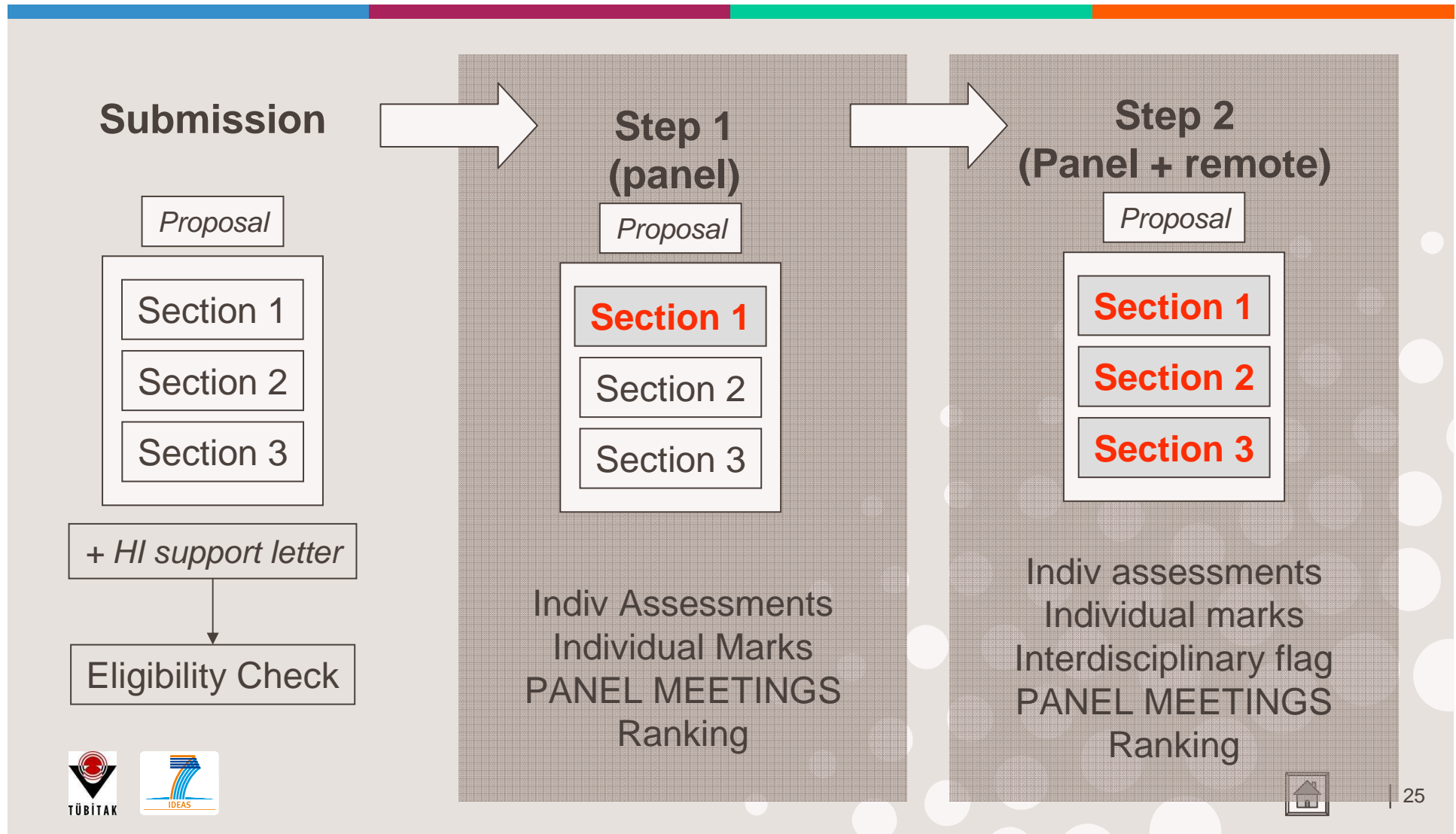
- Applicant submits to a *Targeted Panel* (of PI choice)
 - Can choose one additional “*Alternative Review Panel*”
- In case cross-panel or cross-domain proposal, evaluation by members of other panels
- Indicative call budget
 - Physical Sciences – 39%
 - Social Sciences – 14%
 - Life Sciences – 34%
 - + 13% for Interdisciplinary – Cross Panel / Cross domain



Two step evaluation

- Step 1:
 - ➔ Section 1 of Part B evaluated against Criterion 1 (PI) and 2 (Research Project)
 - ➔ Proposal needs to pass threshold for both criteria to pass to second step
 - In case of major oversubscription, panels may base their decisions on Form A1T (Track Record) + Extended Synopsis
 - ➔ Evaluated by Panel Members
- Step 2:
 - ➔ All three sections evaluated against all three evaluation criteria
 - ➔ Evaluated by Panel Members + Remote Evaluators

Evaluation process





Interdisciplinary Domain

- Interdisciplinary Research domain (cross-domain & cross-panel) → indicative budget of 13% total budget
- Proposal submitted to a primary panel
- Step 1:
 - Primary panel determines if proposal is “interdisciplinary”
 - Can take into account if secondary panel is indicated
Proposal “flagged” as interdisciplinary, if appropriate
 - Possibility to invite reviews from members of other panels
- Step 2:
 - Interdisciplinary proposals, not funded within panel budget, will be transferred to Interdisciplinary Domain for consideration there



Resubmission rules

- Only one AdG application for 2008 and 2009 calls (combined)
- Can only re-apply for 2010 AdG call if you are above threshold in 2008 or 2009 AdG Call
- If you apply for AdG in 2008 or 2009, cannot apply for a StG during same period



Warning!

- This is just a “preview” of what is currently presented...
- Go by the official documents that are published (Work Programme, Guide for Applicants, etc)!



Thank you !