

CHEMFORCE

Chemistry under force

PE4

Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences

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Full professor, Department of Chemistry, ULiège

2006: chair of AFM and building of a new lab from scratch

→ ~ 15 years of independent career


Group: 8 researchers in average

Research: A niche, in a small community

CV: Atypical: Much lower number of publications than “the standard” but in high-profile journals



READY TO GO ?

1. **CV:** Waited for sufficient significant research achievements to report in my CV
2. **Project:** Waited to find THE attractive idea 
A question that requires a paradigm shift
3. ... And the possibility of freeing up enough time and energy for the preparation !



SUPPORT

WEBINAR organized by a company providing specialized services related to ERC funding schemes

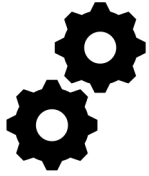
READ CAREFULLY the work programme and
Information for Applicants and Guide for Referees

The points and questions to be addressed are mentioned in black on white

ERC CLASSES: videos on YouTube

ERC CENTRE ULIEGE:

Discussion with previous laureates, with panel members



START WRITING

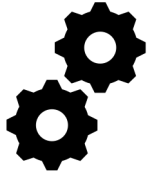
CV, B1, B2, B1 refining ... many versions

TRY TO ADDRESS/ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ASKED TO THE REFEREES:

1. Research Project - Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project
Scientific Approach

2. Principal Investigator - Intellectual capacity and creativity



TRY TO BALANCE HIGH RISK/HIGH GAIN VERSUS FEASIBILITY:

Not all eggs in one basket !

Different levels of risks

Intermediate steps with moderate risks

Provide a mitigation plan



10 YEARS TRACK-RECORD

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND LEADERSHIP

TRAINING AND ADVANCEMENT OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS



PAST ACHIEVEMENT

→ YOU ARE THE RIGHT PERSON TO MAKE
THIS PROJECT A SUCCESS



EXPLAIN EXPECTED RESULTS,
IMPACT ON OTHER FIELDS

SUBMISSION IN 2020:

A at step 2: "fully meets the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available" but ranked just below the cut-off

Very positive feedback, very positive reports (8)

When to resubmit? Wait for one year to be in the same panel or not?

RESUBMISSION IN 2021:

No changes, only updates and some clarifications

Mentioned in the 10 years track record section that the project was evaluated A in step 2 in the previous call

VERY HARSH

Technical questions related to issues raised by the referees. (you don't know the questions/concerns before the interview)

Infernal rate: no time to finish the answers

... very unpleasant experience !



... But finally, pleasant outcome when the results were announced...

Work hard 🤯

... and good luck ! 😄