

Tales from the ERC road – the panel perspective

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KU Leuven - FNRS, 7/6/2023

Disclaimer

These are my personal observations, opinions and conclusions. They are not endorsed by ERC or aiming to represent ERC or its opinion in any way.

My ERC journey as researcher

- 2011 : ERC Starting Grant *BRIDGE*
- 2016 : ERC Consolidator Grant (first attempt > 2nd round, 45%)
- 2017 : ERC Consolidator Grant *INSITE*
- 2023 : ERC Consolidator Grant (2) *INSTant CARMA*

My ERC journey as reviewer

- 2021 - ... : ad hoc reviewer for AdvG, CoG & StG
- 2021 : ERC StG LS7 (panel member)
- 2023 : ERC StG LS7 (chair)

General

DO

- Choose panel wisely
- Write the abstract for the panel of your choice
- Explain things clearly (science & CV) to non-specialist audience

DO NOT

- Include keywords of other panels just to have diversity
- Indicate a secondary panel when you do not want it to be changed (especially in LS7)
- Choose an acronym that cannot be pronounced easily

Stage 1 - science

DO

- Be succinct in the intro
- Include relevant prelim data
- Include methodological detail
- Include risk & mitigation
- Include feasibility aspects

DO NOT

- Spend 2+ pages on intro
- Refer to B2 for all methods
- Refer to other people for all new developments

Outline B2

- State of the art & objectives
 - State of the art of project
 - Project general aim
 - Project specific objectives (+ overview figure)
 - Project strengths and scope
- Methodology
 - Project WPs (+ overview figure)
 - Project planning (Gantt chart)
 - Project feasibility aspects
 - Project innovation, expected impact & foundational character
- Refs



- WP title
- *Objectives*
 - *Deliverables*
 - *Methodology*
 - WP X.1
 - ...
 - WP X.n
 - *Risk & mitigation*

Outline B1

- State of the art & objectives
 - State of the art of project
 - Project general aim (at bottom of page 1)
 - Project specific objectives (bullets + small overview figure)
- Methodology
 - Project WPs (+ overview figure) 
 - Project feasibility aspects
 - Project innovation, expected impact & foundational character
- Refs

WP title

- *Objectives*
- *Risk & mitigation*

Stage 1 - CV

DO

- Include all measures of impact (highlights, citations, ...)
- Include all leadership potential demonstrators (memberships, institutional commitments, ...)
- Use the free text part to explain your CV to non-specialists

DO NOT

- Simply list publications & abstracts without explanation
- Have inconsistencies in the numbers of publications
- Oversell your involvement in joint studies

Stage 2 - interview

DO

- Presentation short & to the point
- Practice with your group, your colleagues, anyone until it feels comfortable
- Answer short & to the point
- Answer truthfully

DO NOT

- Spend too much time explaining your CV
- Have too many things on a slide (screens are not very big)
- Think you can dazzle panel with QBS
- Deliver an overly slick sales pitch

Writing an ERC is never a lost effort!

Questions? Examples?

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