

Strategy to increase the importance of ERC grants at HZDR

1. ERC Calls for proposals are announced widely latest 6 months before the deadline, i.e. prior to the anticipated opening date of a specific call. Dissemination is done by
 - An email to the whole center for StG and CoG calls.
 - An additional invitation to the institute directors to identify and approach suitable candidates in their institute as well as from outside HZDR
 - Direct contact to persons that have been identified as potential candidates by the board of directors or by FSPP or who already indicated their interest in earlier consultations with HZDR
 2. Candidates are requested to indicate their interest in applying for an ERC grant by the deadline specified by the scientific director. This deadline will be around 5 months in advance of the submission deadline. The expression of interest consists of the CV and the track record in the format defined by the template of part B1 of the ERC proposal, and of an abstract/ project summary of not more than 2000 characters. As the call will not yet be open in the EU Funding and Tenders Portal at that time, corresponding templates may be requested from FSPP.
 3. Complementarily, all candidates are invited to orally present their project at a meeting scheduled soon after the internal deadline.
 - a) For StG and CoG candidates, the participants in this meeting are:
 - The scientific director
 - Three ERC grant holders and experts in EU project evaluation and review from HZDR
 - The chair of the scientific-technical committee (WTR) of HZDR
 - up to two staff members of FSPP
 - b) For AdG and SyG candidates the project is presented in the framework of the next meeting of the institute directors.
- Format of the presentation:
- Short characterization of an ERC project and introduction to the application and evaluation process.
 - Power point presentation
 - 15 minutes maximum
 - Topics to be covered:
 - Which is my groundbreaking new idea?
 - Why is it cool? Why has nobody tackled it before?
 - Who am I, which is my scientific background?
 - What will I need for the implementation of my project (qualitatively without details: staff, equipment, access to large-scale research infrastructures, access to HPCs, other)
4. After the presentations, the projects are discussed by the members of the auditorium. Based on this discussion, the scientific director decides on the projects that will be supported by HZDR.
 5. The candidates are informed about the outcome of the selection procedure within 3 working days after their presentation. Successful candidates may profit of the full support for the proposal preparation by the EU support team from FSPP. In a small article shared within HZDR internally, the project titles and the names of the selected candidates are announced. After submission of the proposal, the selected candidates receive an incentive of 5 kEUR for StG and CoG proposals and of 10 kEUR for AdG and SyG proposals that they may invest for “other goods and services” related to their research activities.
 6. In the following, successful applications that reached step two are communicated within HZDR. When the final results are available, the successful projects as well as the PIs are presented in the format of a press release.

7. The Evaluation Summary Reports of all applicants are evaluated and discussed with the respective PI, the scientific director and the staff from FSPP directly involved in the support of ERC projects, if the PI agrees.