

Dear ERC NCPs

Probably, you receive an increasing number of requests from Starting Grant PI's on the evaluation process or from researchers who would like to submit an Advanced Grant application.

May I quickly give you a brief overview on the state-of-play:

1) 1st Call "Starting Grants"

Applications retained for Stage 2

Last Friday, the ERC DIS started to send out letters to those who passed stage 1 and are invited to submit a full proposal via EPSS by September 17, 2007 at 17.00 h.

In total, 559 applications were selected for the 2nd stage. Letters are sent to both the PI and PI's host institution by email only (1118 letters/emails in total).

Tomorrow, the last letters/emails will be sent. Please find attached the template letters that have been sent to the PIs and host institutions

By the beginning of August a second letter will be sent to the stage 2 applicants providing details

- on the interviews: timing and location, practical information on the interview
- if applicable, on ethical issues that have been identified, which need to be described in separate Supporting Document (max 6 Pages)

In addition, applicants will receive a letter from Prof Kafatos.

EPSS:

- The 2nd Stage proposal needs to be submitted with the same EPSS account as stage 1, ie same login name and password.
- To re-activate their account and confirm the reception of the our first letter, PIs should do a login in EPSS at <http://www.epss-fp7.org> .

Proposal Stage 2:

- the Guide for Applicants is about to be updated concerning stage 2
- the only major change concern: a) the Template letter "Commitment by the Host institution", which now is a complete template (Annex 8 has been removed therefore), b) the Ethical Issues Description shall be provided in separate Supporting Document (max 6 Pages) and not as part of the Research Project description (Part B).

Applications NOT retained for stage 2

The ERC DIS will send "quick no" information letters to applicants who didn't pass stage 1 in the beginning of August (probably week 31)

In addition, applicants will receive a letter from Prof Winnacker.

2) 1st Call "Advanced Grant" (Revision of ERC Workprogramme 2007/2008)

- The workprogramme is not consolidated yet. It will be finalised in the course of July/August.
- The Call will certainly not be launched in October, but rather in the course of November.
- There will be five call deadlines. Call deadlines will not be earlier than end of February 2008.
- Information on the Advanced Grant scheme cannot be provided before end of August/mid-September, ie questions cannot be answered before.
- A new, revised Guide for Applicants and FAQs are in preparation.

3) ERC website - latest updates and modifications:

Restructuring and reformulation of pages:

"Contacts" Page at <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=49>

"Library" Page at <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.overView&topicID=119>

"Press & Public" Page at <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.overView&topicID=120>

New events have been added <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.overView&topicID=121>

4) Guide for Peer Reviewers, Guide for Grant Holders: not yet published and not clear when they will be finally approved for publication