

# Philosophy of ERC as an Opportunity?

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- *The scientist does not study nature because it is useful; he studies it because he **delights in it**, and he delights in it because it is beautiful.*
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A shift from science as a **vocation**,  
through science as a **profession**,  
to science as a **business**.

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Competition???

As a quest for personal recognition in comparison to others it is nothing but a lethal disease. It can be useful only as a possible way helping different individual talents to grow and to be put in service to all.

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**To lead means to take the responsibility.** This is a big burden  
at the times when science is getting more and more business alike;  
as a quest for prestige.
- Gill Wells (University of Oxford):
  - Individual fellowships – strategic tool for the University of Oxford.
  - Invest to those who are open.
  - Recruit and retain.

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Empty phrases using the word "excellence" do not deliver, no matter on how loudly and frequently used.

### III. Reflection from CzexPats in Science

- Research environment is still not practically welcoming to newcomers.
- National programs are focused locally.
- Missing program for [internationalization coordinated on the national level](#) is the main obstacle.
- Gaps in the national support are filled, with a large effort, by the initiative of individuals.

# III. What can be done?

- Be open to positive inspirations and welcome changes in the existing research environment. Remove bureaucratic barriers for collaborations and for creating internationally standard working conditions. Foster initiative.
- Prioritize practical actions that welcome scientists from abroad, citizens returning home as well as foreigners.
- In research assessment, apply high international standards.
- Systematically support applicants for competitive individual international grants like ERC.

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- Expert group for ERC Applicants together with the TC of CAS:
  - System of workshops (I, II, III) + Mock Interview.
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  - Individual consultations.
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  - Raising undistorted ERC awareness.
- Individual institutions:
  1. They must take the responsibility for identifying and educating potential ERC applicants, supporting their independence and allowing them to build-up their own research groups.
  2. They must help the applicants to finalize the ERC applications.

**Without this, work with applicants on the national level can not be efficient.**

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Considering ERC seriously is for any institution certainly rewarding **in a longer time period**. If we wish not to be disturbed and prefer short sighted views, then there is no help.

There is also a work to be done on the side of ERC, but this is a topic for another event.

**Thank you for your valuable time.**

**We will greatly appreciate your help.**