

# Philosophy of ERC as an Opportunity?

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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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- It aims at the growth of leaders of the European (World) science. **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.
- ERC fosters **initiative of individuals**. It combines trust based on a thorough evaluation of projects and credibility of applicants. **ERC gradually reshapes science in Europe (and also behind Europe)**.

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- Links to ERC? Recipients of some grant support must subsequently apply for ERC. This is being declared as actions towards resolving our poor performance in ERC calls.
- **Program ERC CZ is our best tool for supporting individual talents.** However, its implementation requires a thorough revision, which is under process.

### III. What can be done?

- Be open to positive inspirations and welcome local 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 following DORA. No quantification of quality "by points".
- Systematically support applicants for competitive individual international grants like ERC.

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- **Expert group for ERC Applicants** together with the **TC Praha**:
  - System of workshops (I, II, III) + Mock Interview.
  - Support for creating and running ERC pipelines on individual institutions.
  - Individual consultations.
  - Raising undistorted ERC awareness.
  - Main changes for 2024: I. **New system of entering the WS, on the first come, first serve basis.** II. **WS will serve only PIs of the StG and CoG category.**

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  - Main changes for 2024: I. New system of entering the WS, on the first come, first serve basis. II. WS will serve only PIs of the StG and CoG category.
- Individual institutions:
  - Responsibility for identifying and educating potential ERC applicants, supporting their independence and allowing them to build-up their own research groups.
  - Help applicants to finalize the ERC project (B2 parts).

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Realizing that even an unsuccessful ERC application can be very rewarding, **providing that it is prepared properly.**

If an ERC application were considered as "giving it a try" or as an "exercise in writing", **or, in the worst, only as filling the requirement,** then it could hardly be done properly.

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ERC is trying the best to help, see the changes in the ERC WP2024.

**Thank you for your valuable time.**

**We will greatly appreciate your help.**