

# **ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANT SUPPORT PROGRAM 2024**

## **STEP 1: OPTIONAL HANDS-ON FULL-DAY TRAINING**

*What:* This full-day training from RVO provides general information about the ERC Consolidator Grant call, including what is requested in terms of researcher's profile and research idea. How do you make the move from idea to proposal? A laureate will be invited as a guest speaker to share his/her best-practices. This training only has 16 places available.

*Expected outcome:* Prospective participants can assess their fit for the ERC eligibility/criteria and whether they would have a good/decent chance in successfully securing the grant for the upcoming round.

*Delivered by:* IXA-GO in collaboration with RVO and guest speaker (ERC laureate)

## **Step 2: MEET YOUR GRANT ADVISOR(S) AND FIND YOUR MENTOR**

*What:* After the confirmation of participation of the Support Program, all participants will be introduced to their dedicated grant advisor(s). They will support the application throughout the preparation, writing and submission process. Grant advisors and participants will initially plan a meeting to discuss their profile and research idea, and discuss how they would like to collaborate. Each participant is also highly encouraged to find a mentor within their department as early in the application process as possible. The mentor can also be one of the senior researchers as mentioned in step 6.

*Expected outcome:* Throughout the application process, the participants will be guided by their grant advisor "hands-on" – the grant advisor will be the "go-to-person", whenever the participants have any questions. The (departmental) mentor is expected to provide discipline-specific advice and to support the candidate (with personal experience). After the initial meetings, the participants will have a pitch or project summary ready, which will be needed for the first workshop (in step 3).

*Delivered by:* Grant advisors will make the initial contact with the participants. The participants will be responsible to find and contact a mentor.

## **STEP 3: WORKSHOP "WRITE YOUR PROPOSAL LIKE A PRO" + KICK START PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT GROUP**

*What:* The workshop provides detailed information about the evaluation criteria, the ERC jargon, and the application form, including suggestions on how to structure it, how to use headlines and figures, and how to write the planning and narrative C.V.. General writing tips & tricks, do's and don'ts, and best-practices will be given by the organizers. At the end of the workshop, all participants will be matched with one or two peers in order to discuss any challenges they may have with their application (urgency, budget like personnel, panel choices, writing process etc.)

and give feedback/suggestions to each other. Furthermore, the participants can read each other's proposals (e.g., B1) to give constructive feedback and learn how others decided to structure their proposal.

*Expected outcome:* The workshop will provide ample information for the participants to write a strong proposal (B1 and B2) with a better use of visuals, planning tools, and phrasing that will make the application stronger. The participant will also be able to write a convincing narrative of fundamental aspects of the proposal, such as the 'track record' and 'curriculum vitae' sections. For the peer-to-peer group, by working together, the participants will provide/receive feedback from others in different fields, and be able to structure and write their proposal that is more "generalist/panel member-friendly".

*Delivered by:* IXA-GO

#### **STEP 4: GUIDELINES ON ETHICS AND DATA MANAGEMENT**

*What:* The participants will receive written guidelines with detailed information about the ethical dimension of the proposal and the data management practices. Practical examples will be provided, along with more general information.

*Expected outcome:* After reading the guidelines participants will know how to create a well thought-out ethical paragraph and data management section. They will know which rules and regulations of the VU and the EU they have to follow and which services the VU offers. Additionally, they will know who they can contact with ethical and data management questions.

*Delivered by:* LEAR, IXA-GO, (BETHCIE), RDM

#### **STEP 5: GUIDELINES ON SUBMISSION – INTRODUCTION TO THE EC PORTAL**

*What:* Participants will receive relevant information on portal guidelines from the IXA-GO LEAR officer when the portal is open.

*Expected outcome:* The participants will become familiarized with the portal before starting their submission.

*Delivered by:* LEAR

#### **STEP 6: INTERNAL REVIEW WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT (FOCUS: SCIENTIFIC CONTENT (B1 & B2))**

*What:* Each participant is strongly encouraged to look for one or two senior researchers supported by the department head who could look into the scientific content of the proposal.

*Expected outcome:* It is expected that, after receiving feedback on the scientific content, the participant will be able to sharpen his/her proposal.

*Delivered by:* This one-on-one feedback step has to be organized at the department level. The participants will be responsible to find and contact the suitable reviewer(s).

#### **STEP 7: FIRST REVIEW FROM GRANT ADVISOR(S)**

*What:* The IXA-GO grant advisor(s) will review both parts B1 & B2. They will give feedback to each participant, in written format and in personal meeting(s). The focus will be on the overall presentation of the proposal (layout/structure, readability (i.e., understandable, convincing and logical)) and whether the evaluation criteria have been met (i.e., ground-breaking nature, high-risk/high-gain, frontier science, feasibility etc.).

*Expected outcome:* It is expected that, after receiving feedback from IXA-GO, the participant will be able to sharpen his/her proposal.

*Delivered by:* IXA-GO

#### **STEP 8: SECOND REVIEW FROM GRANTS OFFICE AND FINAL FEEDBACK**

*What:* The participant will send his/her final draft of the proposal to the internal reviewers (from the department) and grant advisors to receive a very last one-on-one feedback moment (minor corrections).

*Expected outcome:* The goal of this last step before submission is to fine-tune the very last details of the proposal.

*Delivered by:* IXA-GO (and ideally, internal reviewers from the department as well).

## **FOR PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE SELECTED FOR THE INTERVIEW**

#### **STEP 9: WORKSHOP: “PITCH LIKE A PRO”**

*What:* During this workshop, the participants will be coached on how to prepare for their presentation and how to deliver it immaculately. The workshop will include peer-to-peer feedback.

*Expected outcome:* After this workshop, the participants will have a better understanding of what a solid presentation should look like in preparation for the interview.

*Delivered by:* Rikkert Stuve.

#### **STEP 10: MOCK INTERVIEW**

*What:* The participant will have an opportunity to experience a realistic simulation of the interview stage prior to the big day. The mock interview will be followed up by critical and

thorough feedback from mock panel members (experts from the VU, grant advisor(s) and potentially RVO).

*Expected outcome:* The mock interview aims to sharpen the narrative of the pitch, expose the participant for the frequently asked questions, and boost the participant's confidence.

*Delivered by:* IXA-GO and experts from the VU

## Draft planning ERC Consolidator Grant Training Program round 2024

Submission deadline full proposal: 12-12-2023

Step	What	Date	Time	Location
1	HANDS-ON FULL-DAY TRAINING	<b>4-9-2023</b>	09:00 – 17:00	Aurora
2	MEET YOUR GRANT ADVISOR(S) AND FIND YOUR MENTOR	11-9-2023		
3	WORKSHOP “WRITE YOUR PROPOSAL LIKE A PRO” + KICKSTART PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT GROUP	18-9-2023	10:00 – 12:00	t.b.d.
4	GUIDELINES ON ETHICS AND DATA MANAGEMENT	2-10-2023	x	x
5	GUIDELINES ON SUBMISSION – INTRODUCTION TO THE EC PORTAL	2-10-2023	x	x
7	INTERNAL REVIEW, FOCUS ON SCIENTIFIC CONTENT (B1 & B2)	9-10-2023	Individual planning	Individual planning
9	FIRST REVIEW FROM GRANTS OFFICE	23-10-2023	Individual planning	Individual planning
10	SECOND REVIEW AND FINAL FEEDBACK	20-11-2023	Individual planning	Individual planning
	Deadline submission step 1	<b>12-12-2023</b>	17:00	EC portal
	If invited for step 2 - interviews			
11	WORKSHOP: “PITCH LIKE A PRO”	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
12	MOCK INTERVIEW	t.b.d.	t.b.d.	t.b.d.

### Contact details IXA-GO:

Grant Advisor Fleur Verbiest [f.j.verbiest@vu.nl](mailto:f.j.verbiest@vu.nl) / 06-18 869 511

Grant Advisor Sandy Broere-Lee: [s.broere-lee@vu.nl](mailto:s.broere-lee@vu.nl) / 06-34 193 498

General e-mail of grant advisors: [subsidiedesk@vu.nl](mailto:subsidiedesk@vu.nl)