



## ERC 2025 Online-Training

### 1. The Online Training

This training is focused on How to Write a successful Horizon Europe ERC grant. We will provide you with in depth understanding of the nature of an ERC proposal and how to write such proposal.

The ERC selection criteria applied by each of the 28 panels use terms which have become familiar jargon, such as important challenge, novel concept, scientific approach, and feasibility. We will explain in detail not only what these terms mean and imply in the context of ERC, but also how the various ERC panel members use these terms to discuss, assess and select project proposals. We will also discuss how to balance between ambitious objectives on the one hand and feasibility on the other. And, how this in turn is balanced by your CV and track-record.

Our two-part webinar provides a roadmap to submission tackling stumbling blocks that you as Principal Investigator (PI) may have when writing your ERC grant: **Webinar 1** will focus on creating the right mindset for submitting a proposal, covering the ERC objectives and evaluation criteria, what the panels expect, how to strategically approach the design of the project, and how to generate the convincing argumentation that will allow the reviewers to understand the feasibility of your ambitious project; **Webinar 2** will guide participants systematically through the different parts of the proposal writing, including addressing the key elements for writing the CV-part, extended synopsis and Track Record.

### 2. Benefits

- To take critical stock of the key questions that are important for the future research direction of your research.
- Our online material including video tutorials on all aspects of writing an ERC proposal will allow you to sharpen your thinking and strategize your actions.
- The remote access allows you to be flexible in scheduling the studying of the materials on any device from smart phone to laptop simultaneously - while providing an eco-friendly alternative to our regular training where we all had to travel!

### 3. Content of the Webinars

#### Webinar 1:

**Part 1:** ERC Grant Introduction: overview, ERC objectives, ERC Work Programme and its evaluation procedure and criteria. This introduction allows us to take a deep dive in how to write the proposal and how to make best use of the open template the ERC offers

**Part 2:** B2 Scientific Proposal: the project template will be used to explain per section 'B2a state-of-the-art and objectives', 'B2b methodology' and 'Appendix Funding ID': What needs to be addressed for the in-depth reviewer; How to address this: What kind of conceptualizing is needed to logically detail the scientific arguments. The focus will be on how to detail: 1) the ground-breaking nature and ambition 2) the balance between an ambitious and at the same time feasible proposal. 3) sound project plan and structure with intermediate goals and back-up plans for an ambitious project. 4) the envisioned impact on future research and possibilities of commercial or social innovation.

**Q&A** Logical moments for asking questions will be included but you are free at any point in the presentation to ask your questions.

#### Webinar 2:

The focus of the second webinar is on how to write the B1. Where the B1 is the forward projection to the B2 full proposal it only has five-

pages. How to select the key elements from the B2 and how to present this to a group of 3-4 panel members having great scientific intuition but lacking in-depth expertise on the topic of your proposal.

**Part 1:** Wrapping up any remaining issues from webinar 1 and answering questions stemming from webinar 1.

**Part 2:** The abstract of 2000 characters. Writing this abstract is a good exercise in diving deep into what is at the heart of your proposal before writing the B1a Extended Synopsis. But the abstract has a broader and more strategic role in the entire evaluation process. Therefore, I will approach how to write the abstract from different angles including why sometimes making use of a graphical abstract will enhance the principal understanding of your proposal.

**Part 3:** Writing the B1a Extended Synopsis: This synopsis needs to contain all important information from the B2. How to make the decisions as to what is the important information for reviewers who are not in-depth experts but have strong scientific intuition about what makes research outstanding. We will discuss what the basic building blocks are for writing the B1a and where summaries suffice.

**Part 4:** CV & Track-record: The CV&Track-record should provide the reviewers with qualitative arguments as to why you are the right PI. This is a radical change from the past where a lot of emphasis was placed on high-impact papers.

**Q&A** Logical moments for asking questions will be included but you are free at any point in the presentation to ask your questions.

### 4. Trainer

**Lotte Jaspers.** Founding partner of Yellow Research, has extensive experience in running ERC workshops and in pre-submission review of ERC grant proposals. At Yellow Research, Lotte has successfully trained candidates for writing ERC proposals since the 2008 call. Her knowledge and experience in pre-submission review of ERC proposals is an important aspect of her success in this training.

### 5. Training tools



#### Live Webinars with Lotte Jaspers

They will be recorded and made available on the YR Online Platform to be rewatched freely by the candidates.



**Tutorials.** Structured around the unique knowledge and expertise of Yellow Research regarding the evaluation criteria, the design of a competitive proposal and what is key in strategizing grant writing.



#### Handouts for all tutorials



**Background Guide.** This guide has been developed over the past 16 years by Yellow Research and captures our latest insights on what panels are looking for.