

A few tips and tricks on

HOW TO WRITE A SUCCESSFUL ERC APPLICATION

VERNESA SMOLČIĆ, Univ. of Zagreb

Constraining Stellar Mass and Supermassive Black Hole Growth through Cosmic Times: Paving the Way for next generation sky surveys



- **Application:** 2012. godine; ERC Starting Grant - FP7
- **Host institution:** Faculty of Science University of Zagreb, Croatia
- **Approved:** June 2013
Contracts signed: October 2013
- **Start:** 1st of February 2014
- **Duration:** 5,5 years
Amount: 1,5 M€

Constraining Stellar Mass and Supermassive Black Hole Growth through Cosmic Times: Paving the Way for next generation sky surveys



Project 1

The dust
unbiased star
formation history

Stellar mass build up of galaxies
through cosmic time

Project 2

The importance
of distant
extreme
starbursts

Project 3

Challenging the
Unified model for
active galactic
nuclei

Supermassive
black hole
growth of
galaxies
through cosmic
time

Project 4

Preparation
for next
generation
surveys

Next
generation
surveys

EVALUATION

CRITERIA



- 1. Research Project – Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility**
 - 1a** Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project
 - 1b** Scientific Approach
- 2. Principal Investigator – Intellectual capacity and creativity**

WHY THE PROJECT?

WHY NOW?

WHY ME?

B1

- **Extended Synopsis of the scientific proposal** (max 5 pages)
- **CV** (max 2 pages)
- **Early achievements track-record** (max 2 pages)

B2 (max 15 pages w/o references)

- **State-of-the-art and objectives**
- **Methodology**
- **Resources (including project costs)**



1

Abstract

Highly important to be clear.

<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-figures/erc-funded-projects>



4

Text & images

Include images with clear captions, bold-face important parts, spell-out important things that may seem obvious.



2

Know the audience

The proposal will be evaluated not only by full experts in field.



5

Plan and risk assessment

Spell it out.



3

Emphasize past success

And how to proposed project is a continuation of those.



6

Prepare B2 prior to B1

B1 should be a clear summary of project, so it's best to write it after full project idea is developed.