Rényi Institute of Mathematics

ERC Grants

Stipsicz András
OUR SPECIALITIES (DISCLAIMER)

Mathematics (a theoretical science, with moderate needs)

Hungary

Research Institute (no teaching)

Small institute (small to non-existing hierarchy)
FIRST SECRET: THERE IS NO SECRET (OR IF THERE IS, I DO NOT KNOW)

Problem: few successful proposals

Bigger problem: few proposals

Three main components

(1) Find eligible (potential) candidates

(2) Convince eligible candidates to write a proposal

(3) Improve the quality of the proposal
FIND THE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES

- Grant-winning potential should be a component in hiring

- Propagate important aspects early on: shape Funding ID, add relevant aspects to Vita, publication strategy, acceptance of students, editorial work (e.g. mentoring)

- Adjust interest and research topics (focus or widen, as necessary --- only as an advise)

- Encourage and support smaller projects, proposals

- Proposal writing is (in most cases) rewarding
CONVINE POTENTIAL CANDIDATE

• Present application as (partly) service to the Institute. Grants might provide stability in turbulent times

• Acknowledge proposal writing as an important part of work (compensation)

• Recycle unsuccessful proposals (Frontier and Momentum grant applications, other grants)
IMPROVE QUALITY OF PROPOSAL

• Explain evaluation scheme (difference between Steps B1 and B2)
• Provide professional help in non-scientific matters (e.g. budget)
• Read and discuss proposal with others
• Help before interview (mock interview)
INSTITUTE PRACTICE

• One decision level (no hierarchy levels)

• Freedom in research topics

• Stability (7th director since 1950, three since 1995, same deputy director since 1995)

• Encouraging and helping environment

• Proposal writer should focus mainly on the scientific part
• Prepare future potential candidates

• Approach candidate

• Explain that an ERC Grant is not only a personal success, but a joint one with the Institute

• Grants also provide stability in turbulent times

• Reward effort dedicated to grant writing

• Recruit proposal readers

• Discuss aspects with specialists and with generalist mathematicians

• Mock interviews

• Recycle unsuccessful proposals if possible
WHY THE RÉNYI INSTITUTE?