

ZÁPIS: IGLO ERC Success

Datum:	18.2.2025
Místo konání akce:	online
Zapsal/a:	Lucie Tesařová, konzultant pro výzkum

The focus of this hybrid meeting of the working group was on sharing best practices for ERC candidates support. Lyudmyla Tsyachna from The Technology Centre CAS as the Czech National Contact Point (NCP) and Máire Coyle from University College Dublin gave insights in their work and their successful measures.

1

CZECH PARTICIPATION IN ERC CALLS: A SUCCESS STORY?

- Czech mindset not used to the ERC think – safe rather than risky projects
- Due to the research assessment system, extreme pressure on researchers to produce vast quantities of publications
- Academic inbreeding
- Institutions not supportive of early stage researchers

Steps to improve the system:

- Departure from the overly quantitative assessment of research performance
- Support for a mobility abroad (e.g. through ESIF)
- New schemes by the Czech Science Foundation: Junior Star and EXPRO in line with the ERC principles
- ERC CZ programme to fund high-quality ERC proposals (both As and Bs at Step 2)
- Continuous development of the national system of support for applicants to ERC call
- Since 2021, support to ERC applicants based on a close cooperation between the ERC NCP and the
- Expert Group for supporting ERC applicants
 - All three ERC scientific domains
 - EG is responsible for the scientific part of Czech ERC-focused activities
 - Support to all Czech-based applicants regardless of their institutional affiliation
- Activities financed by TC Prague (project CZERA supported by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports) as well as Czech Academy of Sciences and Charles University
- Apart from Czech experts, also access to foreign PIs and evaluators via the ERC Mentoring Initiative

Activities to support the system

1. National information day
2. Workshops
3. Mock interviews

Q&A:

- The Czech ERC expert group is made up by direct contacts. No collaboration with Association of ERC Grantees or the ERC Mentoring Initiative so far. Maybe in the future with the new ERC Ambassador.



- Timing: the Czech info days on the ERC grant schemes are conducted in Autumn; the hands-on workshops in Spring.

- Enterprise Ireland Support: further information is available at <https://horizoneurope.ie/enterprise-irelands-horizon-europe-funding-supports>.

