



European  
University  
Institute

DEPARTMENT  
OF POLITICAL  
AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES



Comparative Life Course and Inequality Research Centre

# Some insights from my ERC application process

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SESandHEALTH

Socioeconomic Status and Health:  
Disentangling causal pathways  
in a life course perspective



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



# 1. Formalities

- **Eligibility**
- **Deadlines**
- **Time management**
- **Host institution**



## 2. Idea, Topic

- **Idea is important**
- **Based on findings and experiences but also “new”**
- **Brainstorming, own opinion, but also community check**



# 3. My two attempts

- **My interest in ERC started as MWF in 2008/2009**
- **In 2010 rejected, in 2011 succeeded**
- **2010:**
  - **Dissertation as Springer-book**
  - **3 book chapters**
  - **6 peer-reviewed articles (mostly as 2<sup>nd</sup> author)**
  - **2 submissions**
  - **H-index=3**
  - **17 citations**
  - **“low and weak”**
- **2011:**
  - **Two more mono-authored papers**
  - **27 citations**
  - **H-index=5**
- **Proposal hardly changed**



## 4. Resources for writing

- **One month full-time for proposal**
- **Three kinds of help:**
  - **10 seniors**
  - **5 colleagues with ERC grant**
  - **Agencies, seminars, workshops**
- **No compromises: idea and presentation must be excellent**
- **Endless time, unconditional priority**



# 5. Proposal

- **Extended synopsis (B1) is important**
- **List aims, list and repeat innovative and convincing points**
- **State of the Art (SOTA)**
- **Explain how you want to answer your question (logic! design!)**
- **Summarize each part at the end**
- **A graph on each page**
- **Strategic use of host, network and “advisors”**
- **Write for an multi-disciplinary audience**