# ERC Advanced Grants (AdG): Comments on Evaluation Criteria

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### Proposal - Section 1

- Scientific leadership profile (1page):
   How has the PI influenced the field. Are there important results, directions, approaches, which can be attributed to the PI? World scale!
- CV (2 pages): Important facts including, e.g., invited plenary lectures, editorial work, founding of the widely recognized scientific school, current research grants (applications) related to the proposal. World scale!
- Synopsis (5 pages):
   An invitation to read the whole proposal. It must make the reader curious and full of expectations what will follow in Section 2.
   If it does not, the case is lost.



### Proposal - Section 2

- Clarity.
- The proposal must get enthusiastic support from a part of the referees (leading experts on the particular topic), and convince the rest.
- Solid, self confident language, without exaggerations.
- World scale state of the art horizon.
- No point to repeat the Synopsis.



#### What do the evaluators look for

- Originality. Originality.
- Vision. Ambitious goals. Well justified risk of getting something substantially new.
- Even if the goals are not fully achieved, it must be clear that the outcome will be so substantial that it is worth to retain the proposal for funding.
- Methodology. It makes no sense to propose a design of a perpetual motion machine without giving a hint on how to do it.
- No reason to ask for funding of the continuation of the work done for decade(s) without any substantially new idea.
- Multidisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity is good.



# Challenges in writing and evaluating proposals

- Originality often means going against the stream, nonconformity, making a firm stand against common and widely accepted opinion. That is not always easy, and, in a short term scale, it is not always rewarded.
- Quantification of originality is hopeless. Outstanding means standing out of scale. Excellent means close to the best within the scale.
- Quality in science is not proved by accumulating quantitative points.
   The role of commercial impact factor and h-index is limited.
   Overemphasizing of publish or perish policy leads to a gradual perishing of all.
- Big name with solid proposal or solid PI with exciting proposal?



# Why should we apply

- Is there any other way?
- ERC StG and AdG supports initiative, independence and responsibility of individuals.
- Evaluation and value.
- Being 1st means being 1st in service.
- Successful countries: Overwhelming institutional support on all levels, from departments, institutes and universities to scientific policy makers and state representatives.
- Czech Republic ???



# Leadership, Service, Responsibility

- How is "Czech excellence" related to excellence?
  - \* Czech excellence has no chance to get ERC AdG?
  - \* Are those, who might have a chance to get ERC AdG, considered excellent enough at home? Are they supported at home as the ERC program assumes?
- ERC CZ is not well tuned. We should support in an increasing way
  - \* all 1. step proposals evaluated as "very good",
  - \* all 2. step proposals,
  - \* all 2. step proposals evaluated as "very good".



# Thank you for your kind patience