

## Essential UiB-info Preparing your application:

### [Letter of intent](#)

- mandatory for UiB EU applicants

EU Project establishment support -open deadline with cut-off-dates (PES)

- [application form](#)

## Other helpful links

[Research Participant portal](#) (EU, replaces CORDIS)

[RCN \(NFR\) homepage](#)

UK Research office FP 7:

[subscriber services](#)

(free registration for news service for UiB employees)

Register your profile as EU [FP7 expert evaluator](#)

## Contact:

To subscribe please register with your UiB mail address for our [mailinglist](#)

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## Funding Found!

We are very happy to introduce two ERC Starting Grant Winners who share some application tips with us.



**What:** ERC Starting Grant in the domain Social Sciences and Humanities

**Who:** **Jóhanna Barðdal**, Department of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies

**When:** The project is currently under negotiation and will start in spring 2013

1) What will you do in your project? I will continue my earlier work which I started in 2008 on non-canonical case marking of subjects and subject-like arguments in the early and archaic Indo-European languages. This is a historical-comparative project, aiming at gathering data from all 11 branches of the Indo-European languages. Most historical-comparative work on the Indo-European languages is on phonology, morphology or the lexicon, while my project is syntactic, i.e. it entails a comparison of syntactic structures, namely case and argument structures. This is in part what is new about my project. Second, we will be gathering data from the earliest attested stages of all 11 branches of the Indo-European languages, i.e. Old Norse, Gothic and other early Germanic languages, Latin, Ancient Greek, Old Russian, Old Lithuanian, Sanskrit and other old Indo-Iranian languages, Old Irish, Old Albanian, Classical Armenian, as well as the extinct languages, Hittite and Tocharian. The data will be stored in an interactive searchable database, which will be available to the research community. While we're already publishing our research on the branches that we have been able to cover to date, we'll be able to do proper comparative reconstructions when we have more data, which will enable us to reconstruct with certainty argument structure constructions, and hence a part of the grammar of Proto-Indo-European, including non-canonical case marking.

2) You have applied several times before you got the stipend, what was your motivation for that? First of all, the project is so large and so wide ranging that I knew that I had to apply at multiple venues. So, even though I now have a project funded by RCN, I knew I would have to try to land a grant with the ERC in order to be able to achieve the language coverage we need. Second, when I applied the first time in 2007, my proposal made it to the final round, although I didn't get funding at that time. With such a good result the first time, it was evident that I would have to apply again. The next call came in 2009, and to my great surprise my proposal did not make it to the final round that time, in spite of the fact that I had revised it and made it better. At that point it was unclear to me why the proposal had not made it to the final round, whether it meant that the competition had been more fierce with more high quality proposals, or whether it was because the panel had already decided not to fund my project the year before, and hence they did not consider it. So in order to try to find out, I decided to submit the same proposal, a revised version, of course, to the Advanced Grant Scheme. And to my delight, the proposal made it to the final round AGAIN, although it wasn't funded in the end. This showed me that it was not a coincidence that the proposal had made it to the final round the first time, which of course strengthened my belief in the project and in the proposal. Then in the end of 2010 I was able to land a grant with the Research Council of Norway, where I had applied for 16 manpower years, to cover all the language branches that were missing at the time, but that year

RCN decided to cut the funding to all their new projects which meant that my 16 manpower years got reduced to six. So it was evident that I would have to continue to apply to ERC if I wanted to complete the project. I also figured that a grant from RCN should strengthen my proposal with the ERC significantly. What happened this time was that half of the panel was new, because otherwise the panel for the Starting Grant Scheme has remained the same since 2007. So clearly, there were new people on the panel who thought that my project was exciting, which meant that it was sent out for review. It is important to note here that my ERC Starting Grant proposal has only been sent out once for review before, namely the first time I applied, meaning that only one third of my proposal, the extended summary, was read by the panel, since the whole proposal is only evaluated if it goes to the second round. So basically, since I've been working on the proposal every year, these revisions have really not been seen, because the full proposal wasn't really evaluated after the first time, until now when the panel was renewed. This makes it important to really have a very good extended summary, so that if you are resubmitting, the panel really sees the changes. But my story really shows how arbitrary this process is and it emphasizes the reasons for and the need to change the panel members regularly, because otherwise one may not have a fair chance when resubmitting.

3) Do you have any recommendations for other ERC applicants? Yes, several!

a) Don't give up easily, continue to revise and resubmit. This of course presupposes that you believe in the originality and high quality of your work and your proposal. That can sometimes be difficult when one's proposals are continuously without good evaluations. But I can tell you that one version of this proposal got really bad evaluations at the RCN, where one of the reviewer's most substantial criticism was that I didn't have very much supervision experience. I must admit that that was REALLY demoralizing. But I was too much of a fighter to give up, so I continued to apply.

b) Submit as many proposals to as many funding bodies as you can, as that increases your chances of receiving some funding. Already with one funding, your chances increase substantially.

c) Be creative with the proposal and enthusiastic about your work. It only needs one panel member to like your proposal, then you have somebody working for you.



What: ERC Starting Grant in the domain Physical Sciences and Engineering

Who: **Saket Saurabh**, currently at the institute of Mathematical Sciences in Chennai, India

When: The project will start on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 at the Department of Informatics

1) Can you briefly explain what you intend to do in your project? Perhaps, the best way to conceptualize this project is the following quote by Bertrand Russell: Though this may seem a paradox, all exact science is dominated by the idea of approximation. This proposal plans to take the idea of approximation on a new path. That is, to develop non-polynomial time theory of approximation. In this we will try to obtain efficient approximation algorithm for hard optimization problems (like Travelling Salesman problem) by algorithm that can take super polynomial time in some relevant parameters.

2) What made you choose ERC to come to Bergen? The reason I chose ERC to come to Bergen as follows. My project will be carried out at the Algorithms Research group of Department of Informatics, University of Bergen. The Algorithms Research group provides a highly stimulating research environment, large international contact with frequent guests and intensive publication activity. It is one of the leading algorithms centers in Europe. Also my familiarity with place and the people here helped me to choose this place. Everyone in the group (both academic as well as non-academic staff) welcomed me with open arms.

3) Would you recommend others to apply for an ERC Starting Grant? Yes, I would definitely recommend others to apply for the ERC starting grant. As a researcher we all desire to implement our own academic ideas. ERC grant provides a great opportunity to do so. Even if we do not succeed, the exercise we go through in writing proposal is rewarding. It allows us to focus on what we would like to do in next five years and sets up the agenda for the



future. Thus, whether or not we succeed with ERC, the proposal definitely fixes us for next five years. Also, it allows us to think differently than what we are doing and how we can be innovative. The freedom ERC grants provide is an added bonus.

**Principle investigators interested in ERC granting schemes** will find more information on currently available calls in the section on EU calls below.

## The first call for ERC Consolidator Grants

ERC consolidator Grants are for excellent scientist with new and groundbreaking ideas **7-12 years after PhD**. The Principal Investigators (PI) can apply for up to 2 million € for 5 years to build up a research team. As the name implies, you should already have a research team that you can consolidate and extend with this grant. Deadline is 21. February 2013. If this is of interest to you, please contact the adviser responsible for your faculty as soon as possible. [More information](#)

## New funding opportunities in the EEA and Norway Grants plus Scholarship Fund

Norwegian researchers who have cooperation partners in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia or Spain will soon be able to apply for research grants from the EEA/Norway grant scheme (total budget €1.79 billion). Of the beneficiary countries Bulgaria and Poland are leading the way (see extra article on Poland). Bulgaria recently launched the country's [first six programmes](#). Calls are expected in winter 2012/2013 and preferred topics and types of funded projects can vary. Please update yourself on [EEA/Norway homepage](#) or contact the advisers.

**1) The Polish-Norwegian Research Programme** (€36.830.000) will fund research projects over 3 years with at least one Norwegian partner (mandatory). Please note that projects are now financed 100% and the reporting burden is significantly reduced. The **deadline is 30 November** 2012. Two types of granting schemes are open. [The Core Scheme](#) covers research projects in the thematic areas Environment, Climate change, Health, Social sciences and bilateral relation, Gender equality and work-life balance. The max grant size is €1.000.000. Of which up to 40% may be allocated to the Norwegian partners. If you would like to work with a female polish researcher you can apply to [The Small Grant Scheme](#). The proposals will be submitted by the Polish partners. You can find potential partners in Poland in the [Partner Search Database](#).

**2) Other Research Programs** The [Norwegian-Estonian Research Programme](#) (€3.000.000) is about to be launched. In preparation for this a Matchmaking Event was organized on 21 Sept. 2012 in Tallinn. Proposals for research projects are invited in all areas of research. [Partner Search Database](#). The [Czech-Norwegian Research Programme](#) (€12.000.000) is currently preparing for launch. Main areas of the programme: Health, Environment, Social Sciences and Humanities. [Partner Search Database](#). Please note that the database has a filter function that should make it easy for you to spot entries in your field of research.

**The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU) would like to introduce their stipend program SF**, which offers many opportunities for teaching and research, please contact the SIU advisers directly if this is of interest to you (contact details below)

**3) SIUs Scholarship Fund (SF)** SF (33 million EUR) opens up for possibilities for mobility, institutional cooperation and knowledge exchange among institutions of higher education (HEIs) in donor and beneficiary states. Donor states (DS) are Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Beneficiary states (BS) are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

Norwegian HEIs can participate in all 11 scholarship programs with partners from BS. Main activities are mobility and institutional cooperation. SF may finance the mobility of students (at different levels of education), young researchers, academic and administrative staff. Institutional cooperation projects may provide financial support for joint courses, common degrees, seminars, conferences, summer schools, scientific publications, etc. Large-scale cooperation projects aim at the development of institutional (teaching and organisational) capacities and the modernisation of higher education in BS. The duration of projects is from one to three years.



Application procedures are slightly different compared to other programs for education and research (e.g. EU). Norwegian HEIs cannot apply for funding directly, merely in cooperation with their partners in BS. Partners submit an application to a Programme Operator in a BS. In case of approval, the project expenses for the Norwegian HEIs are to be covered by their partners in BS. Please see [www.siu.no](http://www.siu.no) for more information about programme priorities, application procedures [or partner search database](#).

SF is an important supplement to other EU programs for education and research, since it opens up for a closer connection between education and research. Some BS (e.g. Estonia and Latvia) have decided to use the scholarship and research funds within the EEA/Norway Grants in combination. In these countries, the priority will be given to the mobility of individuals (students studying for a higher degree, young scholars, etc.) participating in research projects, funded by the EEA/Norway Grants.

SIU has an advisory role concerning the implementation of SF (11 scholarship programmes), while NRC has a similar role concerning the use of EEA/Norway Grants research funds (6 research programmes). **For more detailed information on SF please contact SIU: Veena Gill, Senior Adviser (e-mail: [veena.gill@siu.no](mailto:veena.gill@siu.no)) or Ieva Serapinaite, Adviser (e-mail: [ieva.serapinaite@siu.no](mailto:ieva.serapinaite@siu.no)).**

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## The next Framework program – Horizon 2020

From 2014, [Horizon 2020](#) will officially take over from the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). This program will run for 7 years (2014 – 2020), with approximately 80 Billion Euro available. **The improvement of networking between experienced Framework Programme participants and less experienced SMEs will be crucial.**

### Horizon 2020 will be made up of 3 Pillars:

**Pillar 1: 'excellence in the science base'** This Pillar contains bottom-up instruments that address excellence driven projects as well as basic research and actions for research careers and mobility. European Research Council (ERC) and the Marie Curie Actions will be kept, although a reduction in the number of different Marie Curie Actions are likely.

**Pillar 2: 'societal challenges'** This Pillar will be a top-down, policy oriented pillar. It will probably address large, cooperative projects. Little has been defined to date; the EC is currently organizing expert and stakeholder workshops to define the content of this pillar.

**Pillar 3: 'industrial leadership and competitive frameworks'** This Pillar addresses "innovation goals" and will contain funding opportunities for industry and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to facilitate the transition from research into marketable products and services. The sections of the current CIP which are directly relevant to research and innovation activities will be integrated into the Horizon 2020 and placed within this pillar.

The social sciences and humanities will be fully integrated within the three main pillars of Horizon 2020, and they will be included as an integral part of the activities to address all societal challenges, working beyond the silos of distinct disciplines. We will keep you updated on new developments. More [information from RCN](#)

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## Overview of EU FP7 calls published in July 2012:

Please contact the FunderFinder team if you have questions, our contact details can be found on the first page. Remember that [project establishment support \(PES\)](#) is available at the Division of Research Management for UiB



researchers participating in EU proposals. Projects for the European Research Council and Marie Curie actions are thematically open for all scientific disciplines.

**European Research Council ERC- please note early deadline for the last Advanced Grants call in FP7:** The deadline for [ERC Advanced Grants](#) will be 22.11.2012 for all domains. The call for [ERC Synergy Grants](#) (teams of 2-4 Principle Investigators) has a deadline 10.1.2013. The call for consolidator grants (individuals 7-12 years after their PhD) is expected in November with a deadline in February 2013. The advisers will be happy to help you. [ERC work program Guide for applicants ERC Advanced Grants](#); [Guide for applicants ERC Synergy Grant](#)

**Marie Curie actions:** It is currently possible to apply for [Initial Training Networks](#) (training of PhD and post docs), [Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways](#) (IAPP- an exchange program with industrial partners), [Career Integration Grants](#) (CIG for researchers who have recently moved to Norway from abroad) and [IRSES](#), an exchange program with countries outside of Europe. Please contact the advisers if you need more information and help. [Work program People/Marie Curie program](#) [ITN Guide for applicants](#) [CIG Guide for applicants](#)

**Thematic programs** – Some of the deadline in the thematic programs have passed, please check the list below and our deadlines list, to see which programs still have open deadlines.

KBBE-Knowledge based bio-economies- [Single stage](#) 5.2.2013 [work program KBBE](#)

Oceans of Tomorrow- [joint call](#)- 7.2.2013- [call overview](#)

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) call [10](#) – 15.1.2013 and [11](#)- 16.4.2013; [ICT work program](#)

ICT [FET Xtrac](#)- replaces FET open 29.1.2013 (see work program above)

[Energy 1](#) – 28.11.2012 and [Energy 2](#)- 24.1.2013- [work program](#)

Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)- [call 1](#) and [call 2](#) 31.1.2013- [work program](#)

Science in Society (SiS)- 16.1.2013 [call](#) and [work program](#)

[Space](#)- 21.11.2012- [work program Space](#)

[Security](#)- 22.11.2012- [work program Security](#)

Capacities-Research for the benefit of SMEs-[work program](#)

See also full updated list of call deadlines including RCN (NFR) and other funding sources– [link to list](#).

## Guidance for researchers

See also our updated **list** on other **courses and information meetings** below.

**A First aid-document** for UiB-researchers interested in FP7 can be found [here](#)

**Call specific guides for applicants** will be made available under each call on the [EU participant portal website](#). Please contact the FunderFinder Team if you need help finding the documents you need, we will gladly assist you.

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## Upcoming information meetings and courses

**18. - 20.3.2013** European Climate Change Adaptation Conference in Hamburg, Germany – it is still possible to register, but without abstract submission. [More information](#)

30. - 31-10.2013 RCNs Klimakonferanse 2013, mark the date, more information will soon be posted on [this page](#)

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## Other open and upcoming calls

Link to [deadlines list](#)

RCN requests **users views on the Petromaks 2** program. If you are interested, fill out the questionnaire in the [link](#) (in Norwegian only). Deadline 14.11.2012

Give your **input to EUs Future and Emerging Technologies program** in ICT. The [consultation](#) is open until November 30<sup>th</sup>.

PhDs and post docs can now apply for **travel stipends** to the **Arctic Frontiers: Emerging leaders 2013** conference in Bodø, Svolvær and Tromsø from Jan 16.-20. 2013. Please consult the [RCN web pages](#) for submission rules. Deadline- continuous until November 15<sup>th</sup>-first come-first served base.

**Polar Research** with US and Russian partners. Please consult RCNs [call pages](#) for specific rules. Deadline 28.11.2012

The deadline for the Universities **fonds og legater** will be December 1<sup>st</sup>. They can be a good starting point for junior researchers to apply for travel grants and projects. [Meltzerfondet](#); the faculties information pages: [MatNat](#) and [Med-Odont](#)

The European Commission intends to award up to three **EU Prize for Women Innovators 2014**. Female researchers, who have brought about outstanding innovations to the market are very welcome to apply. Deadline to submit applications: 15 October 2013. [FP7-CDRP-Women-Innovators](#)

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### From the FunderFinder team:

Anja is now back from her maternity leave and will work 50% until July 2013. Her substitute Corina Guder will be with us until the end of November 2012. After that Corina will go on maternity leave and then join the faculty of Medicine and Dentistry as a research adviser. We wish you the best of luck with all of that!



Ramune Middtveit will be with us until the end of the year through a job placement and has contributed a lot of content for this edition. Thank you, Ramune!