

# Trying, Failing, and Sometimes Succeeding: One Researcher's Journey Through Funding Applications

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Let's be honest, applying for research funding can be tough, and success often feels like the exception rather than the rule. In this talk, I'll share my own experiences with the highs and lows of the application process, including more rejections than I'd like to count and the occasional win. I'll talk about what has helped me improve over time, the kind of feedback I've received, the helpful and the confusing, and how I've learned to deal with rejection without losing motivation. Having worked in different European research environments, I'll also reflect on how national systems shape the experience of applying for funding and what that means for early-career researchers. The goal isn't to present a formula for success, but to offer a candid perspective, and hopefully start a conversation about how we can better support each other through this part of academic life.