Mariacristina Di Nardi, recipient of an ERC Consolidator Grant

Talking points:

1. Why should you apply for an ERC?
   There are many advantages in addition to research money and time buy-outs
   A. You are going to think deeply where your research is going during the next five years.
   B. You are going to ask yourself what is the goal of your research and where you are going with it.
   C. You are going to ask yourself what are the big questions you will be able to help answer with your research.
   D. You are going to evaluate and recruit new coauthors.
   E. You are going to receive very valuable feedback on your ideas at a very early stage.
   F. The expected and influential people in the paper and the referees will become (more) aware of you and your work.
   All of these will help you with your career and professional development.

2. Some advice on how to go about applying.
   A. Start early. You will need time, to think about your proposal, to familiarize yourself with the requirements and the website, and to ask for feedback to a small number of people. You do not need to work on this continuously many months in advance, but you do need to start early and make sure you have enough time for the various elements.
   B. Ask for feedback on your proposal to a small number of knowledgeable senior people. Listen to their suggestions.
   C. Do the administrative part asap. I will stay there, ready for you, online. Triple check it. People do get eliminated because of mistakes on this.
   D. Upload and save your research proposal on a regular basis, the most recent one will be submitted at the deadline for you if you upload it and set it so, so you do not run a risk of a last minute problem.
   E. Think, ponder and evaluate. Try to get a common theme connecting your research project and ideas and develop it clearly and coherently.