The perfect grant and how to get it

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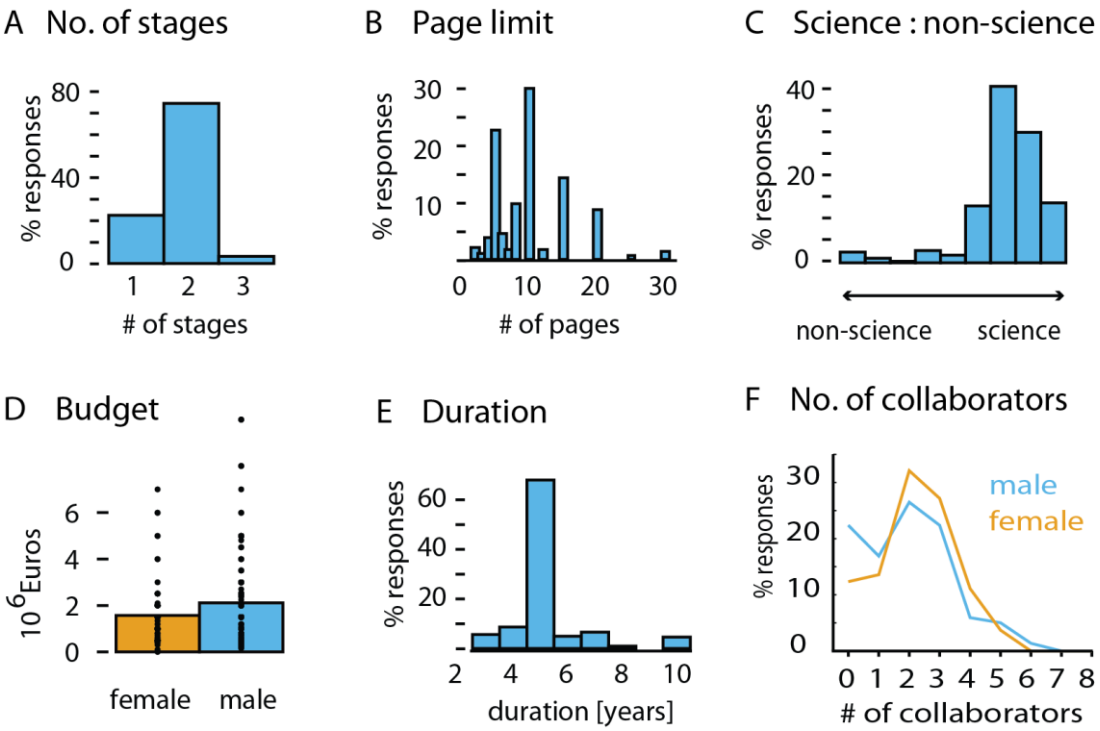

Figure 1: Responses of 312 independent researchers having their research labs in Europe to the question "What would be a perfect grant application?" According to these data, the perfect grant application should consist of a 2-stage approach, the proposed research should be described within 5-10 pages and should emphasis should be on science related sections. The perfect grant should have a budget of approximately 2 million euros, a duration of about 5 years and a small number of collaborators, raging from 2-3 and not exceeding 5.

The survey was conducted by the FENS-Kavli Network of Excellence a young, European academy of Neuroscientists. Findings were used to provide recommendations to the European Commission for the upcoming revision of Horizon 2020. The author is the Chair of the FENS-Kavli Network and the Director of the dendrites lab at IMBB-FORTH in Crete, Greece. The survey was coordinated by Tim Vogels at the University of Oxford. Matthew Grubb at King College London, Carlos Ribeiro at Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown and Panayiota Poirazi helped with data analysis and reporting. All FKNE scholars helped with participant recruitment and approved the analysis.