



## **From zero to the ERC starting grant and what is next?**

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A decision to follow the academic path and to stay on that path is sometimes adventurous. Working in academy has, as every job, its pros and cons. On one hand, it gives us a certain working flexibility and on the other hand a successful academic path commonly requires mobility without a guarantee of a permanent job.

In my contribution, I would like to share briefly how the path was for me. How did I decide to become a scientist? What were the key steps and what were the downs and ups for me during my academic career? What is my main driving force for staying in science?

Furthermore, I will touch briefly why my way of working is different from most of my colleagues. I will also mention why mentoring was important for me and why I am actively involved in the mentoring of the young generation. I would also like to share what is my opinion on gender issues in academic field and what, I think, would help to improve it.