

# One-page critical review

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya; ETSECCPB

Communication Skills 1

Assignment #3

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## Seminar

'Where should I seek funding for my research career?'

by CIMNE Project Department

Tuesday, November 15th, 2016. Time: 12 p.m.

Place: O.C. Zienkiewicz Conference Room, C1 Building, UPC Campus Nord, Barcelona.

### Critical Review:

The review gives a critical statement on the presentation “Where should I seek funding for my research career?” that took place on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 in the Zienkiewicz Conference Room. The presentation focuses on the financial side of a research career. The CIMNE Project Department wants to inform future scientific colleagues about the wide possibility of grants which help researchers gain a stable economic foundation so that they can concentrate on their work.

The presenter starts by introducing himself. After this in English he switches into Spanish which is surprising because the online announcement [Appendix 1] as well as all the information about the presentation is in English. After the introduction, the presenter starts by giving an overview of the different programs at the University. This is the foundation for the whole presentation and he already mentions possible grants and offers from the University and from private organisations. During the first slide another member of the CIMNE department interrupts the presenter many times. This additional information is confusing the audience because the person is speaking with her back to everybody else and is therefore difficult to understand. During the presentation the presenter speaks clearly and is easy to understand. But, while he is speaking, he mostly stands in front of the slides because he is pointing with his hands at the things he is currently speaking about. It is better to use a laser pointer for this, because then it is possible for everybody to see the entire slide. Nevertheless, the presentation is clearly thought-out. The presenter always stays with the central theme and forms a clear path from the initial ideas to the final application process, which is a good way to introduce the audience to this topic. Also, his appearance is very confident. He is moving and speaking with good intonation, which makes it easier to follow his presentation. But one issue is that he never asks for questions and uncertainties.

The slides are difficult to see because the projector displays them at the same height as the people who are seated. Thus, just people in the first row can see the whole slide. Everybody else can see a bit more than the upper half of it [Appendix 2]. The slides are also filled with too much information. It is very difficult to read everything while the presenter is speaking. Firstly, because it is too much to read and secondly because the character height is too small.

At the end of the presentation it is possible to ask questions. As there was no opportunity to ask during the presentation many questions were asked. The questions are about all different aspects of the presentation and because of that it is hard to follow the content. It would be more useful if questions could be asked during the presentation. The presenter is able to answer all the questions. Once more, it is good to see that he is very well prepared and has a strong background knowledge about the information given in his speech.

Overall, I recommend a different room for such a presentation, the use of a laser pointer and to improve the presentation slides. The information, language, manner and duration of the presentation are adequate. From the beginning until the end there is a clear structure which leads the audience through the presentation and always keeps the focus on the central theme.



2) View from the 4<sup>th</sup> row:

