APRE
Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea



Come scrivere una proposta ERC Advanced Grant

APREformazione

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9/11/2026

Scan the QR code



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Agenda

ERC – European Research Council

10:00	Saluti di Benvenuto
10:05	Il programma ERC, caratteristiche e criteri di eleggibilità
	Gli schemi di finanziamento: Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, Synergy, Plus
	Le novità del Work Programme 2027 Il processo di valutazione
10:45	*Q&A session*

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Agenda

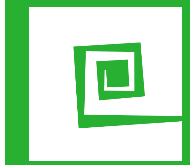
ERC – European Research Council

11:00	Tips & Tricks per scrivere una proposta ERC Advanced: • La Part B1: Part I of the Scientific Proposal, CV & Track Record • La Part B2
12:15	La Parte A della proposta: • Compilazione delle sezioni amministrative • Principi e aspetti chiave della definizione del budget ERC
12:45	*Q&A session*
13:00	*Conclusioni Finali*

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01.

ERC at a glance





95,5 miliardi €
(*prezzi correnti*)

The ambitious EU research and innovation framework programme (2021-2027)

- to strengthen the EU's scientific and technological bases and the European Research Area (ERA)
- to boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and jobs
- to deliver on citizens' priorities and sustain our socio-economic model and values

Scientific

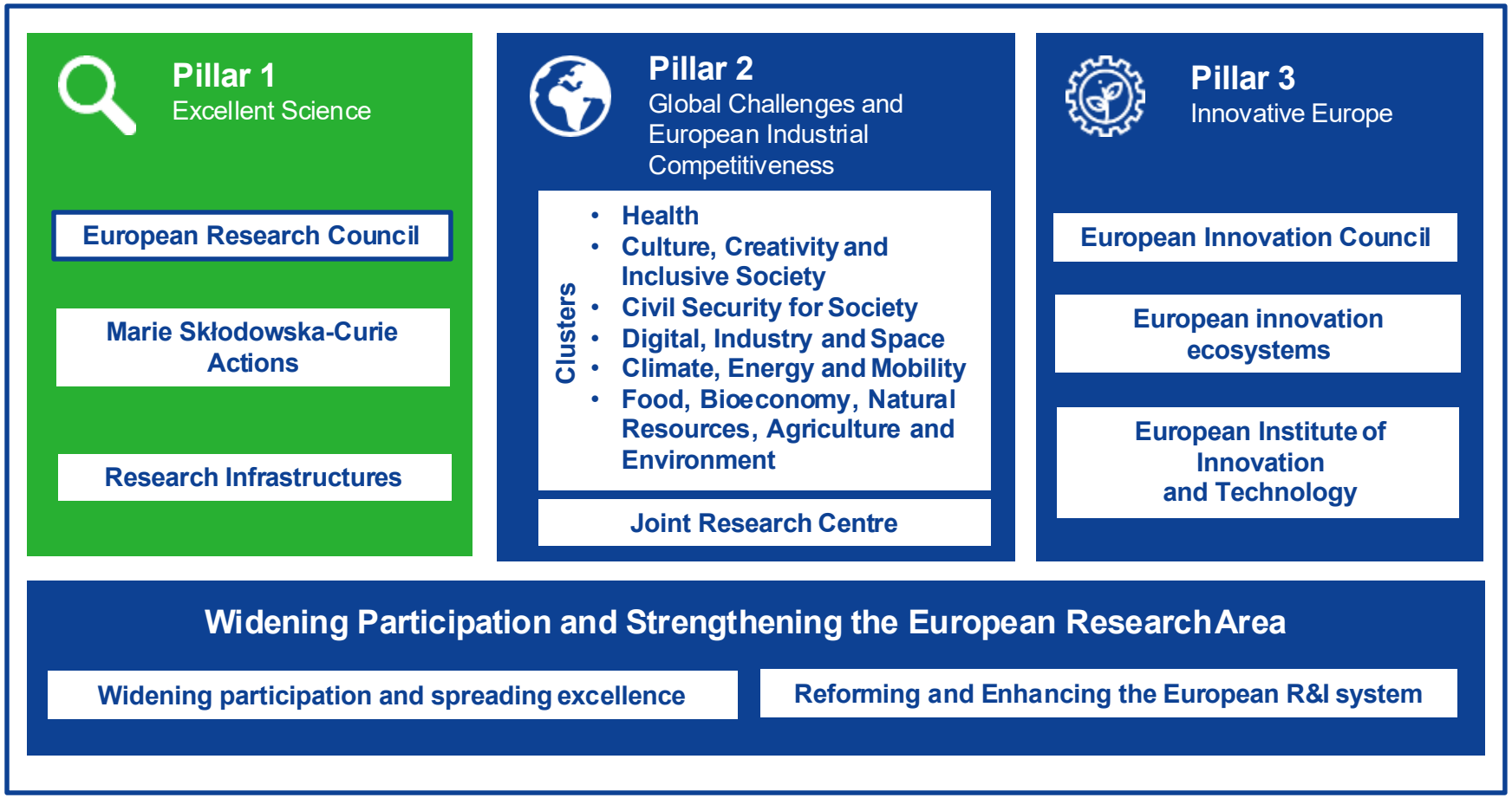
Economic

Social

DIMENSION

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Horizon Europe: Pillar 1



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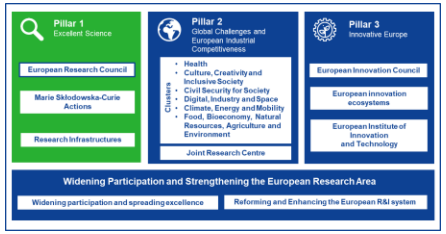
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES



- to develop, promote and advance scientific excellence, support the creation and diffusion of high-quality new fundamental and applied knowledge, skills, technologies and solutions, training and mobility of researchers, attract talent at all levels and contribute to full engagement of Union's talent pool in actions supported under this Programme; bottom up.

Consiglio europeo della ricerca	Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions	Research Insfrastructure
Ricerca di frontiera effettuata dai migliori ricercatori e dai loro gruppi	Mobilità e formazione per fornire nuove conoscenze e competenze ai ricercatori	Integrated and interconnected world-class research infrastructure
16,8 billion EUR	6,6 billion EUR	2,4 billion EUR

ERC is a unicum in HE scenario



- Bottom-up approach
- Individual researchers, selecting an EU host institution and choosing an own team
- Low TRL
- High EU contribution (between 1,5 to 4,5 mln € for project)

European Research Council	Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions	Research Insfrastructure
Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams	**Mobility and training to provide researchers with new knowledge and skills**	**Integrated and interconnected world-class research infrastructures**
16 bilion €	**6,6 bilion €**	**2,4 bilion €**

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The ERC Governance and Strategy

Scientific Governance

- Independent Scientific Council with 22 members including the ERC President with full authority over funding strategy and evaluation
- Support by a Dedicated Implementation Structure (ERC Executive Agency)

Scientific Freedom

- Scientific quality as the only criterion for selection
- Support to the individual scientist – no consortia!
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support to Frontier Research in all fields of Science and Humanities
- International peer-review

President
Maria Leptin



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Over **13,000**
top researchers funded since
the ERC creation in 2007

Over **90,000**
researchers and other professionals
employed in ERC research teams

Over **2,400**
patents and other IPR applications
generated by ERC funding

Over **400**
start-ups identified as founded
or co-founded by ERC grantees

Over **250,000**
articles from ERC projects published
in scientific journals

Over **900** research institutions hosting
ERC grantees – universities, public or
private research centres in the EU or
Associated Countries



93
nationalities of
grant holders

12 Nobel Prizes, **6** Fields Medals, **11** Wolf Prizes
and other prizes awarded to ERC grantees

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

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ERC e l’Italia in cifre

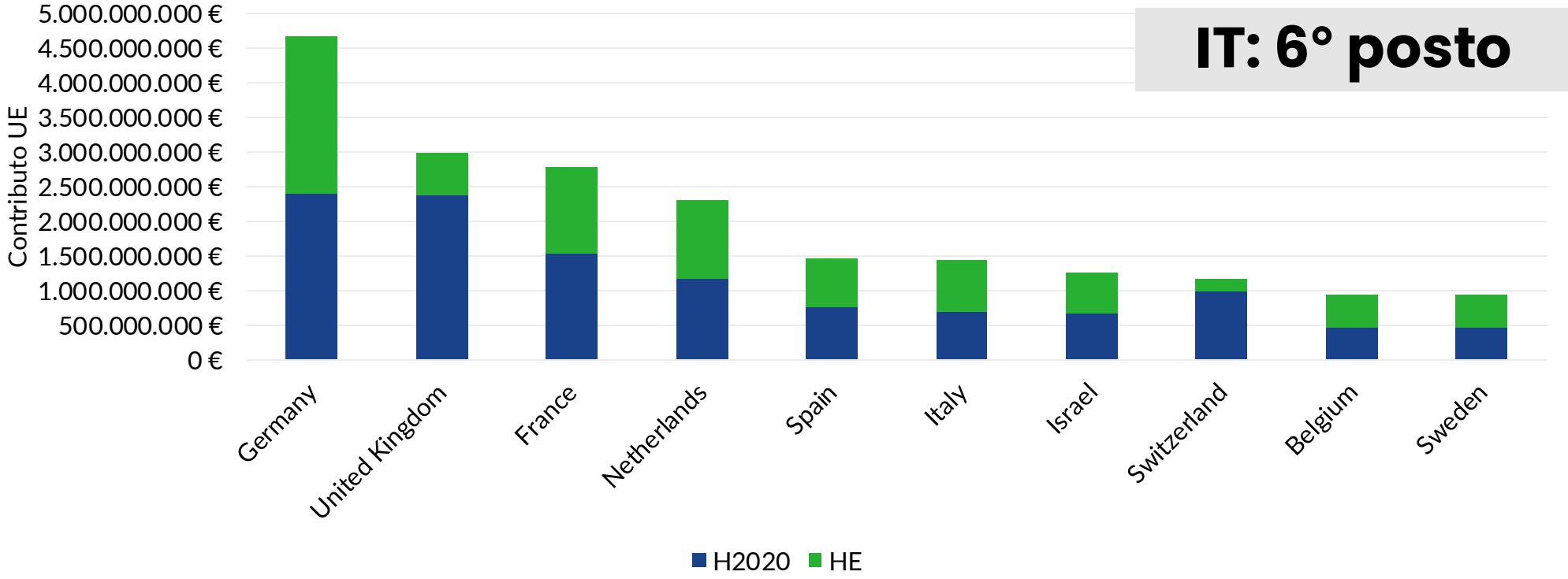
Fonte: ERC dashboard al 27/04/2026

Periodo di riferimento: bandi 2014-2025* (H2020 e HE)

* *dati parziali*

Competizione europea – H2020 + HE

Focus: contributo finanziario UE



IT: 6° posto

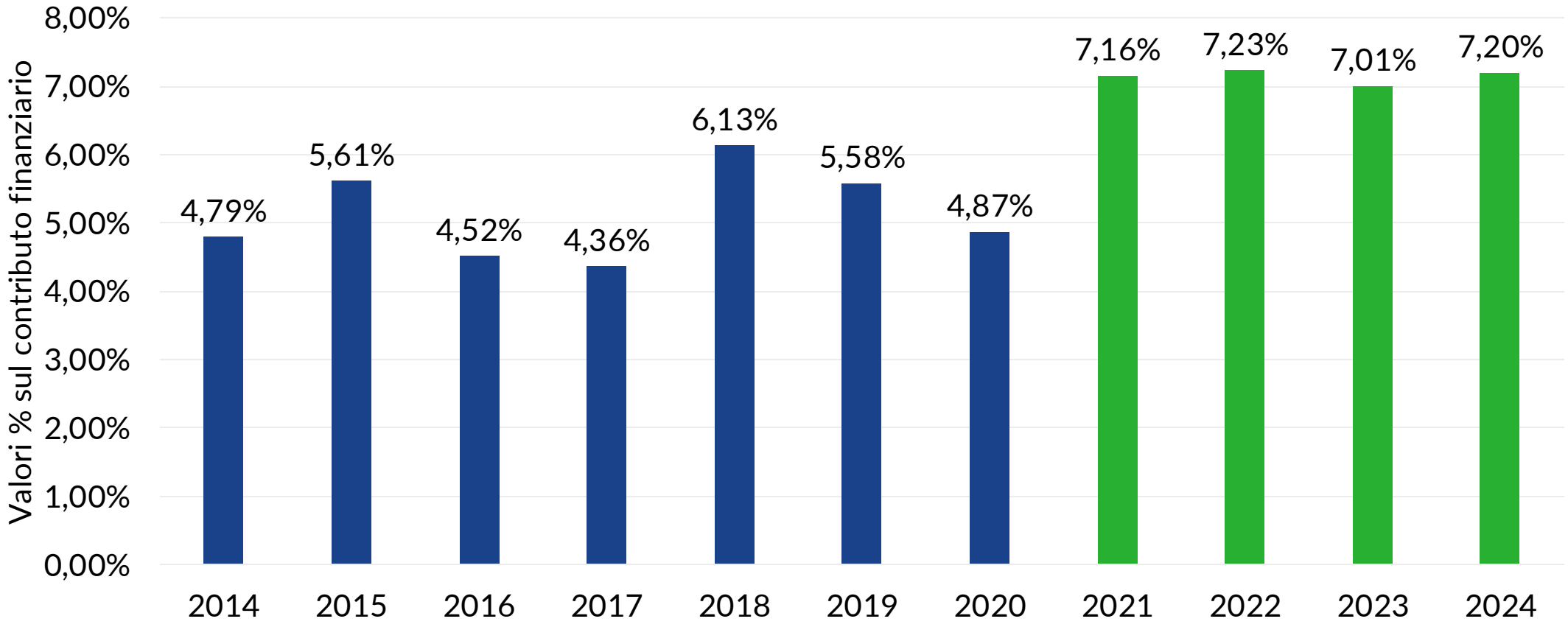
H2020: 7° posto

HE: 4° posto

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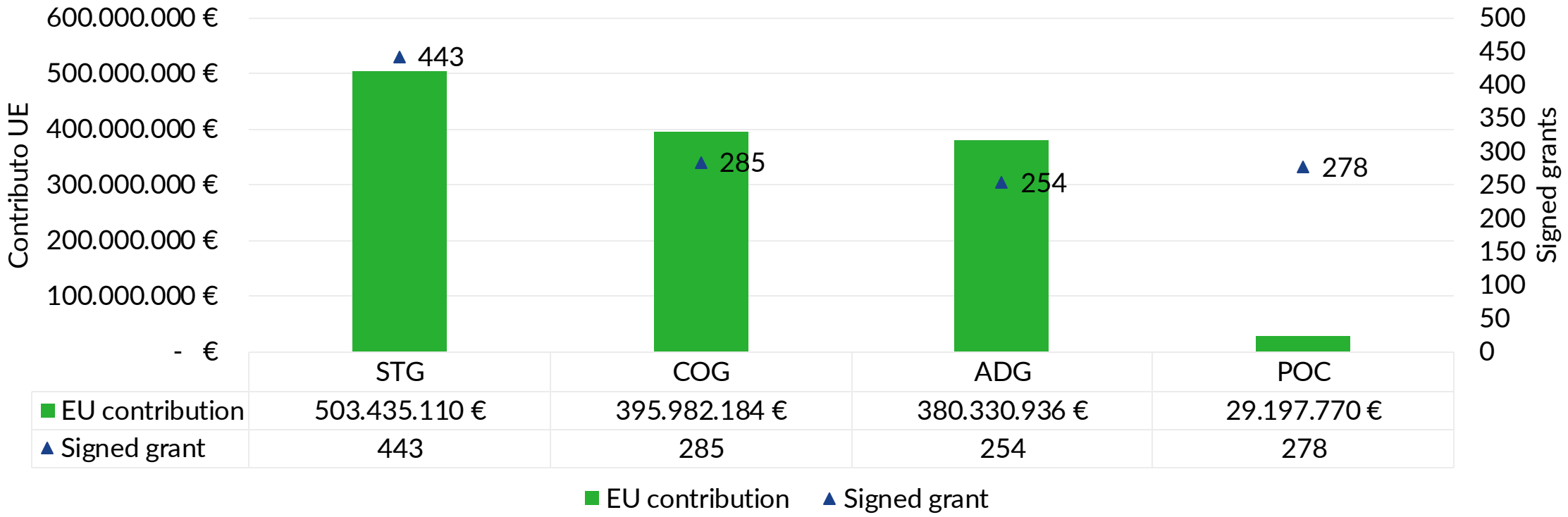
Rientro nazionale Italia: 2014 – 2024

Focus: contributo finanziario UE



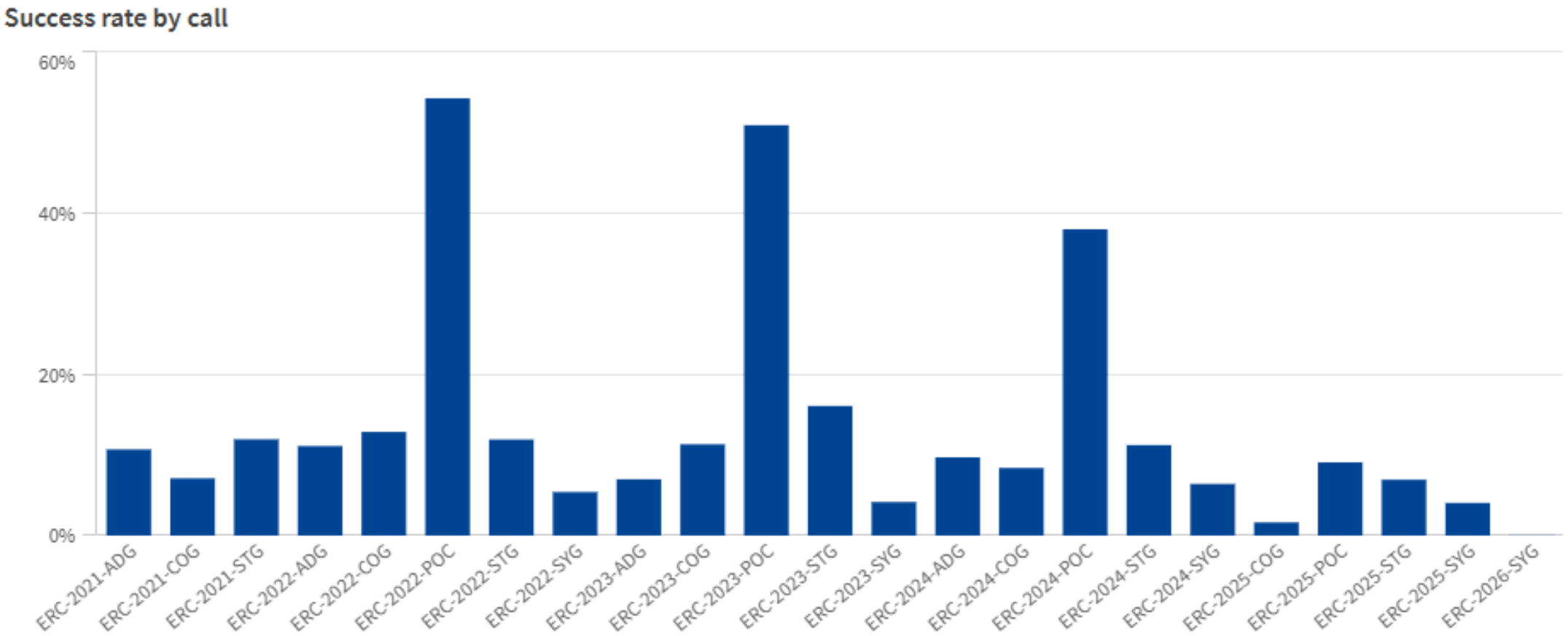
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Distribuzione del rientro nazionale per schema di finanziamento: H2020 + HE



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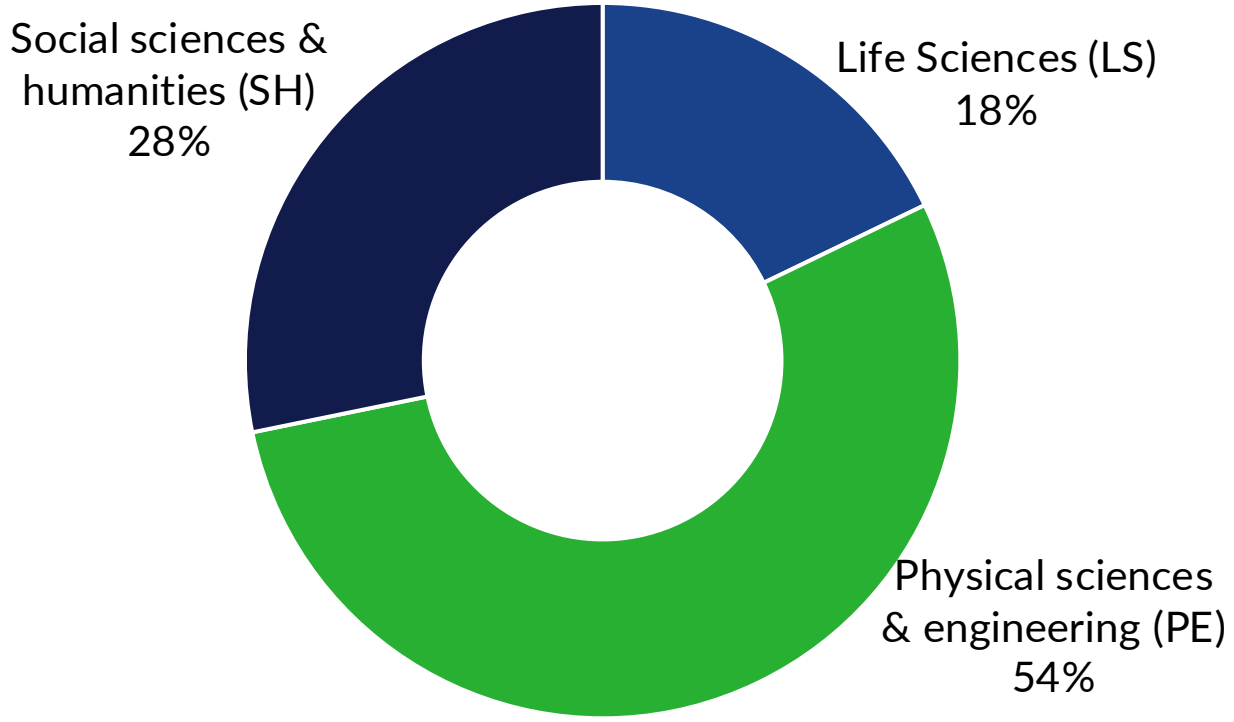
Tasso di successo per call HE



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Italia – Domini di ricerca HE

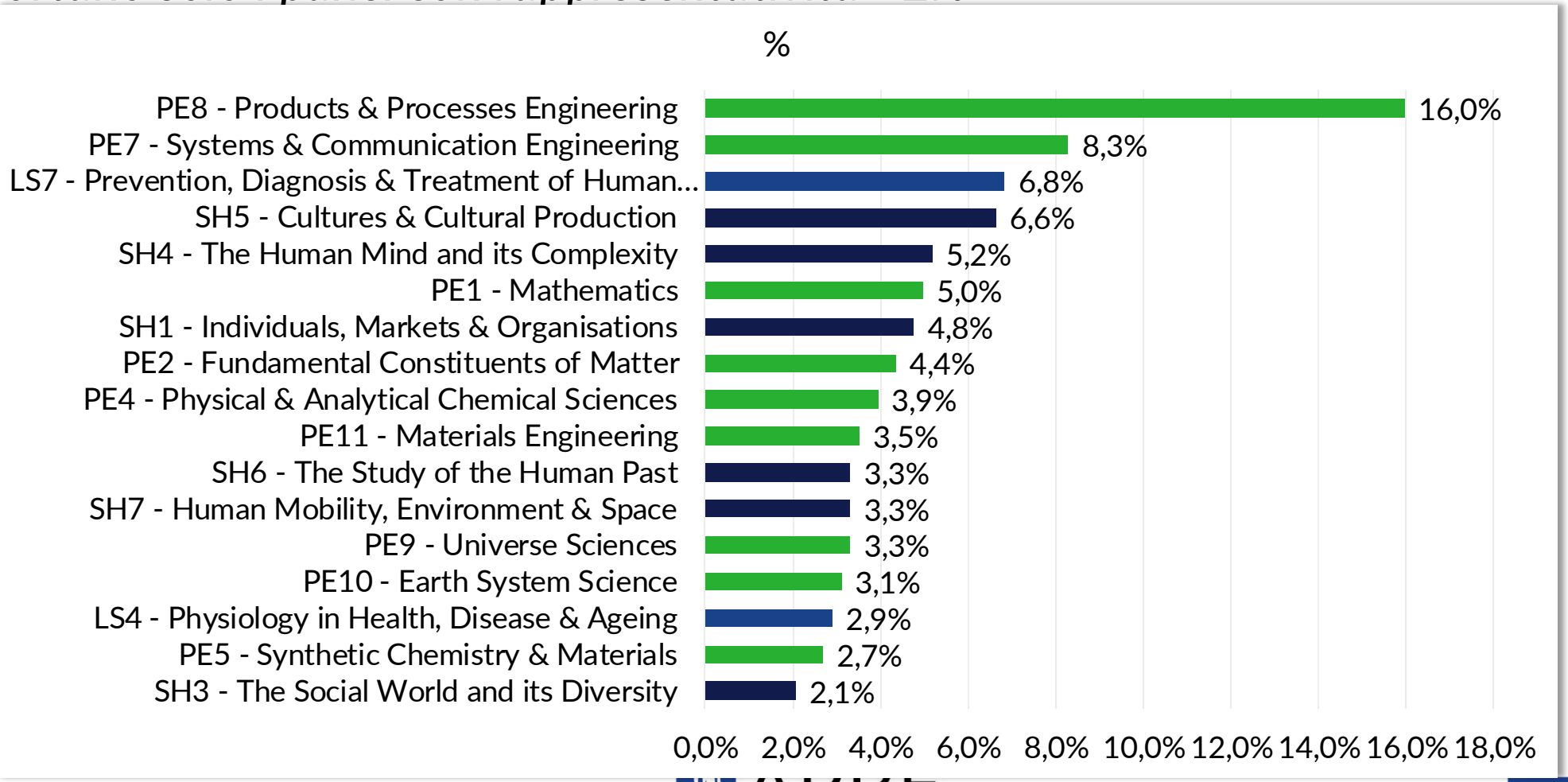
% presenza dei PI Italiani vincenti



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Panel con maggior presenza di PI italiani finanziati (solo HE)

Si riportano solo i panel con rappresentatività >2%

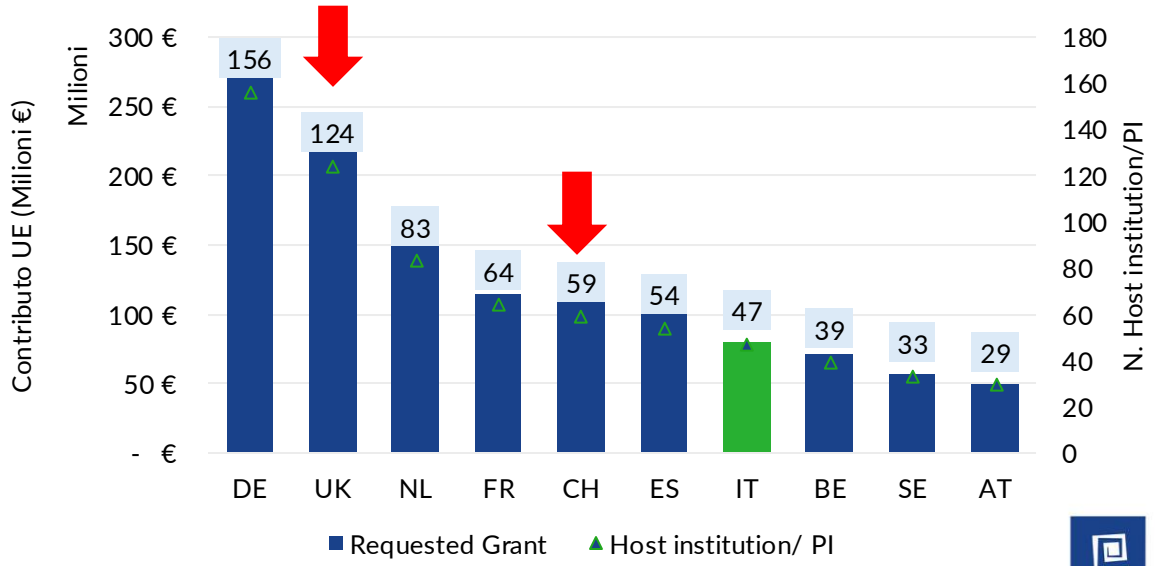


Dettaglio call ERC 2025 (STG e COG)

Call 2025:
ERC- 2025 – STG ERC- 2025 - COG

	TASSO DI SUCCESSO IT	RIENTRO NAZIONALE
	Host institution/PI	Host institution/PI
#	6,2%	5,8%
€	6,3%	5,4%

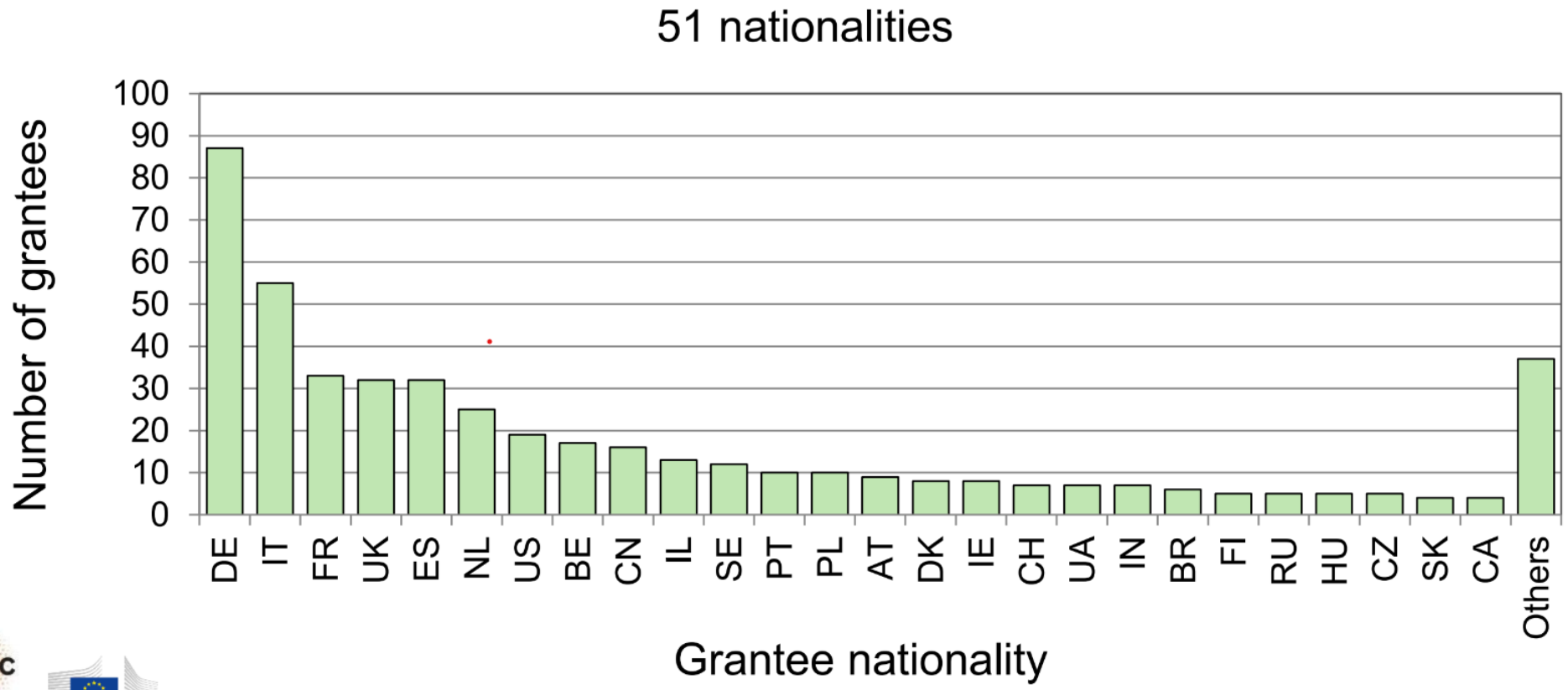
COMPETIZIONE EU *Host Institution/PI*	# 7°	€ 7°



		TASSO DI SUCCESSO IT	RIENTRO NAZIONALE
		Host institution/PI	Host institution/PI
Starting Grant	#	6,8%	6,4%
	€	6,9%	6,0%
Consolidator Grant	#	5,6%	4,8%
	€	5,7%	4,8%

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PI nazionalità IT (STG 2025)



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Key elements

Scientific excellence

Bottom up approach

Individual Research

Principal Investigator

Host Institution

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Scientific excellence

Scientific excellence is the sole criterion on the basis of which ERC frontier research grants are awarded

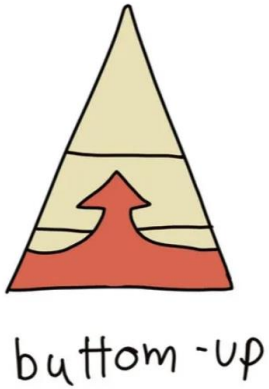
Work Programme ERC 2026 → **Work Programme ERC 2027**

The ERC strives to achieve the following objectives:

- to promote scientific excellence in research by funding ground-breaking, high-risk, and ambitious frontier research;
- to attract the best talent and skill to Europe, to support early-career researchers, and to promote exchange of ideas and knowledge;
- to increase Europe's competitiveness in the international research arena.

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Bottom-up



- Applications can be made in any field of research
- The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities.
- It encourages proposals of a multi- or interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research, pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions.

ERC - GRANT SCHEMES



Starting Grants



Plus Grants



Consolidator Grants



Advanced Grants



Synergy Grants



Proof-of-Concept

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ERC PANELS

Which fields?

- ✓ Applications in any field of science are eligible for ERC funding and the ERC welcomes research proposals of an interdisciplinary nature.
- ✓ For practical reasons, they are divided into:
  - Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)
  - Life Sciences (LS)
  - Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)

Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)

Physical Sciences & Engineering

PE1 Mathematics
All areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics, and statistics.

PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
Particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics.

PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
Structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences, biological physics.

PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
Analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics.

PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
New materials and new synthetic approaches, structure-properties relations, solid state chemistry, molecular architecture, organic chemistry.

PE6 Computer Science and Informatics
Informatics and information systems, computer science, scientific computing, intelligent systems.

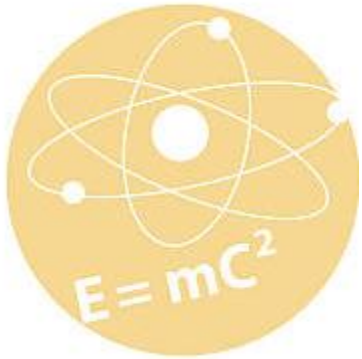
PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering
Electrical, electronic, communication, optical and systems engineering.

PE8 Products and Processes Engineering
Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods.

PE9 Universe Sciences
Astro-physics/-chemistry/-biology; solar system; planetary systems; stellar, galactic and extragalactic astronomy; cosmology; space sciences; astronomical instrumentation and data.

PE10 Earth System Science
Physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, cryology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management.

PE11 Materials Engineering
Advanced materials development: performance enhancement, modelling, large-scale preparation, modification, tailoring, optimisation, novel and combined use of materials, etc.



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Life Sciences

LS1 **Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions**
For all organisms: Molecular biology, biochemistry, structural biology, molecular biophysics, synthetic and chemical biology, drug design, innovative methods and modelling.

LS2 **Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems**
For all organisms: Genetics, epigenetics, genomics and other 'omics studies, bioinformatics, systems biology, genetic diseases, gene editing, innovative methods and modelling, 'omics for personalised medicine.

LS3 **Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration**
For all organisms: Structure and function of the cell, cell-cell communication, embryogenesis, tissue differentiation, organogenesis, growth, development, evolution of development, organoids, stem cells, regeneration, therapeutic approaches.

LS4 **Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing**
Organ and tissue physiology, comparative physiology, physiology of ageing, pathophysiology, inter-organ and tissue communication, endocrinology, nutrition, metabolism, interaction with the microbiome, non-communicable diseases including cancer (and except disorders of the nervous system and immunity-related diseases).

LS5 **Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System**
Nervous system development, homeostasis and ageing, nervous system function and dysfunction, systems neuroscience and modelling, biological basis of cognitive processes and of behaviour, neurological and mental disorders.
– *In humans and all other organisms*

LS6 **Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy**
The immune system, related disorders and their mechanisms, biology of infectious agents and infection, biological basis of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, innovative immunological tools and approaches, including therapies.

LS7 **Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases**
Medical technologies and tools for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases, therapeutic approaches and interventions, pharmacology, preventative medicine, epidemiology and public health, digital medicine.

LS8 **Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution**
For all organisms: Ecology, biodiversity, environmental change, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology, marine biology, ecophysiology, theoretical developments and modelling.

LS9 **Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering**
Biotechnology using all organisms, biotechnology for environment and food applications, applied plant and animal sciences, bioengineering and synthetic biology, biomass and biofuels, biohazards.

Life Sciences (LS)



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Social Sciences & Humanities

SH1 **Individuals, Markets and Organisations**
Economics, finance, management.

SH2 **Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems**
Political science, international relations, law.

SH3 **The Social World and Its Interactions**
Sociology, social psychology, education sciences, communication studies.

SH4 **The Human Mind and Its Complexity**
Cognitive science, psychology, linguistics.

SH5 **Texts and Concepts**
Literary studies, literature, philosophy.

SH6 **The Study of the Human Past**
Archaeology and history.

SH7 **Human Mobility, Environment, and Space**
Human geography, demography, health, sustainability science, territorial planning, spatial analysis.

SH8 **Studies of Cultures and Arts**
Social anthropology, studies of cultures, studies of arts.

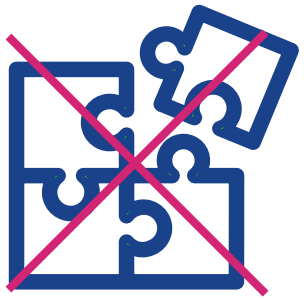
Social Sciences & Humanities (SSH)



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Individual research

The ERC frontier research grants aim to empower individual researchers and provide the best settings to foster their creativity



The ERC supports individual Principal Investigators.
Support for consortia is provided by other calls under Horizon Europe

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Principal Investigator

Who?

No restrictions based on age, nationality, current location or current employment/contract status.

- The ERC awards funding to excellent investigators looking to set up or consolidate their own independent research team or programme, as well as to already established research leaders.
- PI must declare a certain **time commitment to the project**, depending on the type of ERC grant.



Minimum time of Commitment

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Plus Grant	Synergy Grant
Minimum % of Working Time to be Spent on the ERC Project	50%	40%	30%	30%	30% for each PI
Minimum % of Working Time to be Spent in an EU Member State or Associated Country	50%	50%	50%	50%	50% for each PI hosted in the EU or an Associated Country

Novelties | Eligibility window 2027



Successful defense of PhD
≥ 0 and ≤ 10 years

StG



Successful defense of PhD
> 5 and ≤ 15 years

CoG

A researcher may hold only one ERC Starting Grant or Consolidator Grant during their scientific career.

Work Programme 2027

Novelties | Cut-off dates 2027



1 January 2017

31 December 2026

StG



1 January 2012

31 December 2021

CoG

Work Programme 2027

Extension of the eligibility window

Maternity leave
18 months per child or longer if documented

Paternity or Parental leave

Long-term illness or National Service

Disability

Major Disaster

Seeking Asylum

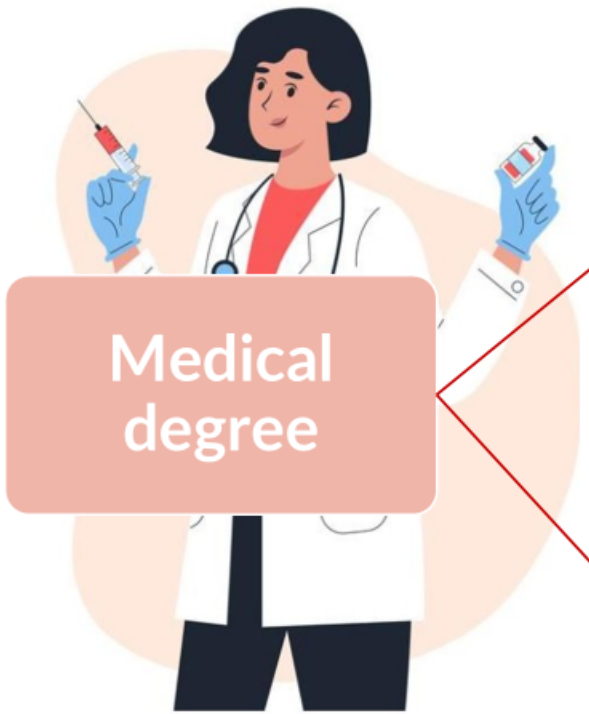
Gender-based violence or any other form of violence



Clinical training
Maximum 4 years

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Principal investigator | Medical degree * *



Medical degree

Doctoral equivalency
(e.g. post-doctoral fellowship, professorship appointment)

Eligibility date:
MD + 2 years

PhD

Eligibility date:
PhD defence date

For applicants holding both, the eligibility period → the date of the earliest degree that makes the applicant eligible.

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Principal investigator & Team composition

- PI leads the research team
- PI has the freedom to choose how many team members are included in the project
- PI names individuals or roles that will be recruited
- PI must justify the team and its composition and contribution



- Team members can be of any age and nationality
- Be based at the Host Institution or in any other organization in the world
- Assigned to specific tasks of the project
- Can be research staff at any level

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Host institutions

Where?

Host institutions must be based in an EU member state or Associated Country.

Host institutions must provide appropriate conditions for the Principal Investigator to independently direct the research and manage its funding.

Grants are awarded to the Host Institution with the **explicit commitment** that this institution offers appropriate conditions for the Principal Investigator to independently manage the ERC funded research.

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Host institutions

- The Principal Investigator does not need to be employed by the Host Institution at the time when the proposal is submitted.

- If not already employed by the Host Institution, the Principal Investigator must be engaged by the latter at least for the duration of the grant.

Commitment of the Host Institution for ERC Calls 2026' '

The <<please fill in here the name of the legal entity that is associated to the proposal and may host the principal investigator and the project (action) in case the application is successful>>, which is the applicant legal entity,

confirms its intention to sign a supplementary agreement with
<<please fill in here the name of the principal investigator>>

in which the obligations listed below will be addressed should the proposal be retained.

Performance obligations of the *applicant legal entity* (Host Institution) that will become the coordinator of the HE ERC Grant Agreement (hereafter referred to as the Agreement), should the proposal be retained and the preparation of the Agreement be successfully concluded:

The applicant legal entity (Host Institution) commits itself to ensure that the action tasks described in Annex 1 of the Agreement are performed under the guidance of the principal investigator who is expected to devote:

- in the case of a Starting Grant at least 50% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country;
- in the case of a Consolidator Grant at least 40% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country;
- in the case of an Advanced Grant at least 30% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country.

The applicant legal entity (Host Institution) commits itself to respect the following conditions for the principal investigator and their team:

a) host and engage the principal investigator for the whole duration of the action;

b) take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers — in particular regarding working conditions, transparent recruitment processes based on merit and career development — and ensure that the principal investigator, researchers and third parties involved in the action are aware of them;

c) enter — before grant signature— into a Supplementary Agreement with the principal investigator, that specifies the obligation of the applicant legal entity to meet its obligations under the Agreement;

d) provide the principal investigator with a copy of the signed Agreement;

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Host Institutions | to sum up

- ✓ Any type of legal entity
- ✓ Based in an EU Member State or Associated Country
- ✓ Must engage the PI for the project duration
- ✓ Sign the **Grant Agreement** with the European Commission and the **Supplementary Agreement** with the PI
- ✓ Not assessed in the evaluation

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02.

ERC Grants

Starting Grant

The Starting Grant supports excellent Principal Investigators starting or having recently started their own independent research team or programme.

A Starting Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of the potential for research independence, for example, by having produced at least one important publication as its main author or a publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor.

- actual-cost funding model

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Starting Grant | in a nutshell



1.5 Million euros up to 5 years



Applicants must have awarded their PhD up to 10 years ago *

Information for applicants

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Starting Grant | Funding rates



1.5 Million euros
(base amount)

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

up to 1 million /
2 million for PIs moving to EU or AC:

- "Start-up" costs
- Purchase of major equipment
- Access to large facilities
- Other major experimental and field work costs
- Personnel costs

Consolidator Grant

The Consolidator Grant supports excellent Principal Investigators who are consolidating their own independent research team or programme.

A Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of research independence

- actual-cost funding model

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Consolidator Grant | in a nutshell



2 Million euros up to 5 years



Applicants must have awarded their PhD between 5 to 15 years ago*

Information for applicants

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Consolidator Grant | Funding rates



2 Million euros
(base amount)

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

up to 1 million /
2 million for PIs moving to EU or AC:

- "Start-up" costs
- Purchase of major equipment
- Access to large facilities
- Other major experimental and field work costs
- Personnel costs

Advanced Grant

The objective of the Advanced Grant is to support excellent Principal Investigators that are established research leaders.

An ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigator is expected to be an active researcher with a track record of significant research achievements.

- single lump-sum contribution for the entirety of the project

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Advanced Grant | in a nutshell



2.5 Million euros up to 5 years



No PhD requirements

Information for applicants

APRE

Advanced Grant | Funding rates



2.5 Million euros
(base amount)

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

up to 1 million /
2 million for PIs moving to EU or AC:

- "Start-up" costs
- Purchase of major equipment
- Access to large facilities
- Other major experimental and field work costs
- Personnel costs

Synergy Grant

The objective of the Synergy Grant is to support groups of two to four excellent Principal Investigators working together to address ambitious research problems that could not be tackled by individual researchers alone.

- actual-cost funding model

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Synergy Grant

Principal Investigators of any professional seniority, and with a competitive track record matching their career stage can apply.

One of the Principal Investigators (except the Corresponding Principal Investigator) of the Synergy Grant Group may be hosted and engaged by an institution outside of the EU or an Associated Country.

Synergy Grant | in a nutshell



10 Million euros up to 6 years



No PhD requirements

Information for applicants

Advanced Grant | Funding rates



10 Million euros
(base amount)

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

up to 4 million:

- "Start-up" costs
- Purchase of major equipment
- Access to large facilities
- Other major experimental and field work costs
- Personnel costs

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Plus Grant (Choose Europe Initiative)

New ERC funding scheme supporting projects that address **major scientific challenges**.

Open to researchers at **all career stages** with an outstanding track record of scientific achievement.

Projects must go **beyond the scope of a standard ERC grant**, with the potential to:

- transform an existing research field;
- create a new field of research.
- Scientific leadership will be assessed relative to peers at the same career stage.

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Plus Grant (Choose Europe Initiative)

- Researchers are expected to hold **only one ERC Plus Grant during their career**.
- **Highly competitive:** around **30 grants per year** across all fields and career stages.

➢ single lump-sum contribution for the entirety of the project

Plus Grant | in a nutshell



7 Million euros up to 7 years



No PhD requirements

Webinar on the ERC Plus

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ERC schemes | to sum up

Work Programme 2027

	Eligibility period	Maximum Duration (months)	Maximum Grant Amount (EUR, pro rata)	Maximum Additional Funding (EUR)
Starting Grant	> 0 and ≤ 10 years	60	1 500 000	1 000 000*
Consolidator Grant	> 5 and ≤ 15 years	60	2 000 000	1 000 000*
Advanced Grant	No PhD requirements	60	2 500 000	1 000 000*
Plus Grant	No PhD requirements	84	7 000 000	-
Synergy Grant	No PhD requirements	72	10 000 000	4 000 000

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***up to 2 Million if a PI is moving to Europe**

Important documents

Work Programme

- ERC Objectives & Principles
- Evaluation procedure & criteria:
- Excellence as sole criterion
  - Scientific Project
  - Principal Investigator
- PI profile and benchmark
- Deadlines

Information for Applicants

- Writing instructions
- Panel structure
- Keywords

Template: Application Form

- Proposal template
- Any word-processing format can be used because it is uploaded as a PDF

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03.

What’s new at the ERC in the 2027 Work Programme

ERC Work Programme 2027 – Call Calendar

	Starting Grant Call	Consolidator Grant Call	Advanced Grant Call	Synergy Grant Call	Plus Grant Call
Identifier	ERC-2027-StG	ERC-2027-CoG	ERC-2026-AdG	ERC-2027-SyG	ERC-2027-PLUS
Opening Date	22 July 2026	24 Sept 2026	27 May 2027	17 Feb 2027	1 June 2027
Deadline	**14 Oct 2026**	**12 Jan 2027**	**26 Aug 2027**	**11 May 2027**	**1 Sept 2027**
Budget (EUR, m)	594	618	798	500	210
Grants (est.)	373	296	311	49	30

Novelties | Eligibility window 2027



Successful defense of PhD
≤ 10 years before 1 January 2027

→ StG



Successful defense of PhD
> 5 and ≤ 15 years before 1 January 2027

→ CoG

A researcher may hold only one ERC Starting Grant or Consolidator Grant during their scientific career.

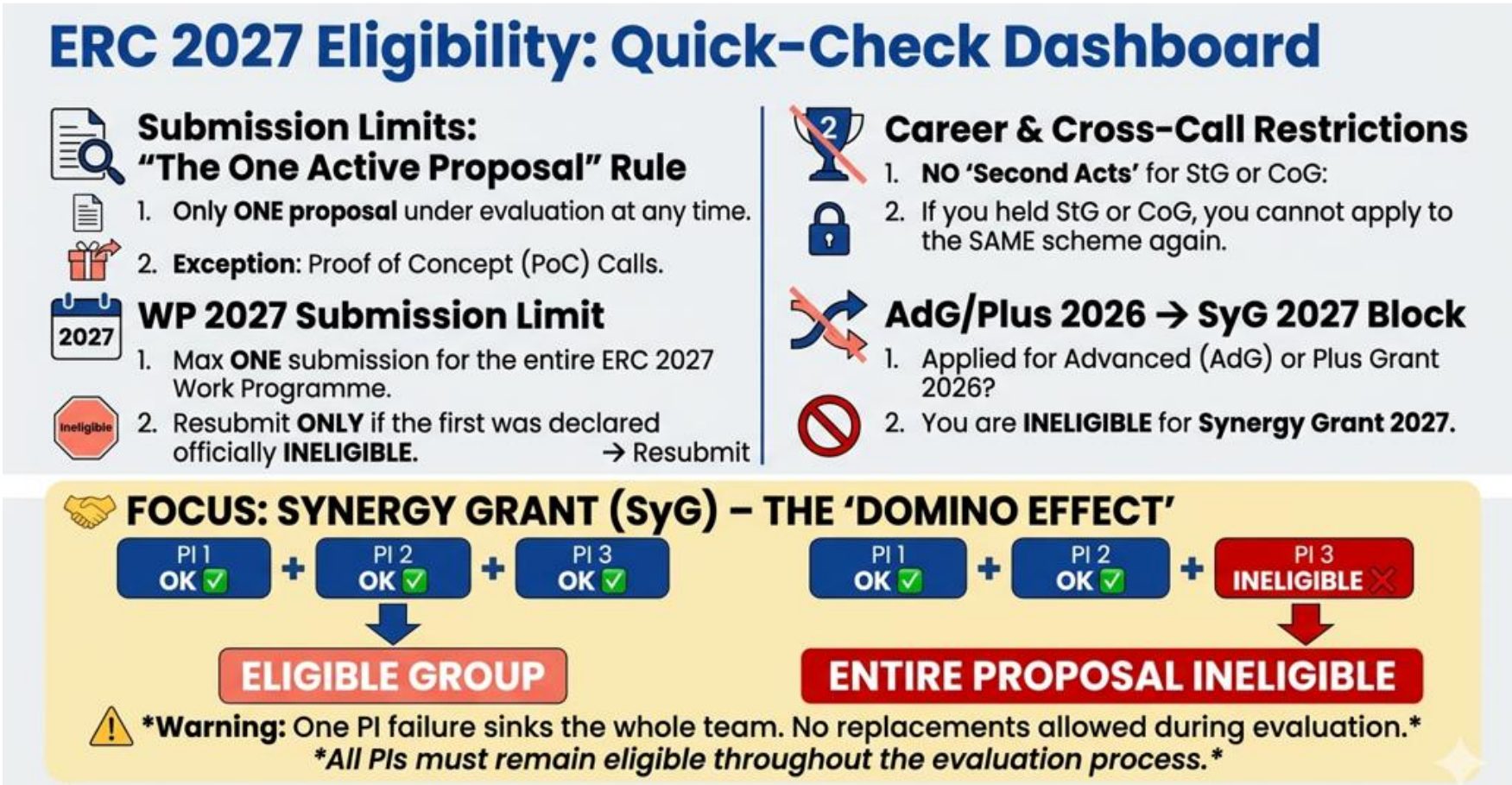
Work Programme 2027

Novelties | Application restrictions

Work Programme 2027

- Only one proposal may be under evaluation at a time (except for Proof of Concept grants).
- Under the 2027 Work Programme, applicants may submit only one ERC proposal, unless the first proposal is declared ineligible.
- Researchers may receive a maximum of one Starting Grant or one Consolidator Grant during their career (retroactive measure).
- Applicants who submitted an eligible proposal to the Advanced Grant or Plus Grant 2026 calls are not eligible to apply for the 2027 Synergy Grant.
- For Synergy Grants, all Principal Investigators must remain eligible throughout the entire evaluation process; if one PI loses eligibility, the whole proposal is excluded.

Novelties | Application restrictions



Work Programme 2027

Novelties | Resubmission restrictions

Work Programme 2027

Restrictions following Step 1 evaluation results (unchanged from previous Work Programmes) apply to all individual ERC grants under WP 2027:

- Score C: 2-year resubmission ban
  (e.g. if a proposal received a C in 2025, the applicant may submit again starting from WP 2028).
- Score B: 1-year resubmission ban
  (e.g. if a proposal received a B in 2025, the applicant may submit again starting from WP 2027).

Synergy Grant →same restrictions apply, but only to future Synergy Grant applications.

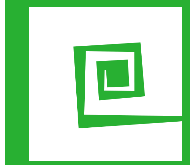
ERC Plus Grant →applicants who received a B or C at Step 1 in the 2026 Plus Grant call are not eligible to apply to the ERC Plus Grant call under WP 2027.

Novelties | Resubmission restrictions

Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, ERC Plus, or Synergy Grant 2026	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity[50]	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, ERC Plus, and Synergy Grant 2027
Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant 2025	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, ERC Plus, and Synergy Grant 2027
Starting or Consolidator Grant 2026	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, ERC Plus, and Synergy Grant 2027
Advanced Grant 2026	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and ERC Plus Grant 2027
Synergy Grant 2025	C at Step 1	Synergy Grant 2027
Synergy Grant 2026	B or C at Step 1	Synergy Grant 2027
ERC Plus Grant 2026	Not retained at Step 1	ERC Plus Grant 2027

04.

ERC Evaluation



Evaluation procedure

For individual calls: one single submission but a two-step evalutation

- In **Step 1**, **Part I together with the Principal Investigator's CV and Track Record will be evaluated.** Based on the outcome of the evaluation in Step 1, a maximum of 44 proposals per panel will be selected for Step 2 of the evaluation.

- In **Step 2**, the **entire research proposal** will be evaluated.
  PIs whose proposals are selected for Phase 2 will be invited to attend an **interview** to present their proposal to the evaluation committee.

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Evaluation procedure: Synergy Grant

Step 1: 1 panel

- **Remote reviews: <u>Only Part I</u>**
- Mainly generalists: Panel members, Panel evaluators
- **Meeting: only panel chairs and vice chairs**
  - Select proposals for step 2, with score 'A invited'
  - No. of proposals that can be passed to step 2: max 7x budget
- **Feedback to applicants**: Evaluation reports for rejected proposals, scored 'A not invited' 'B' and 'C'

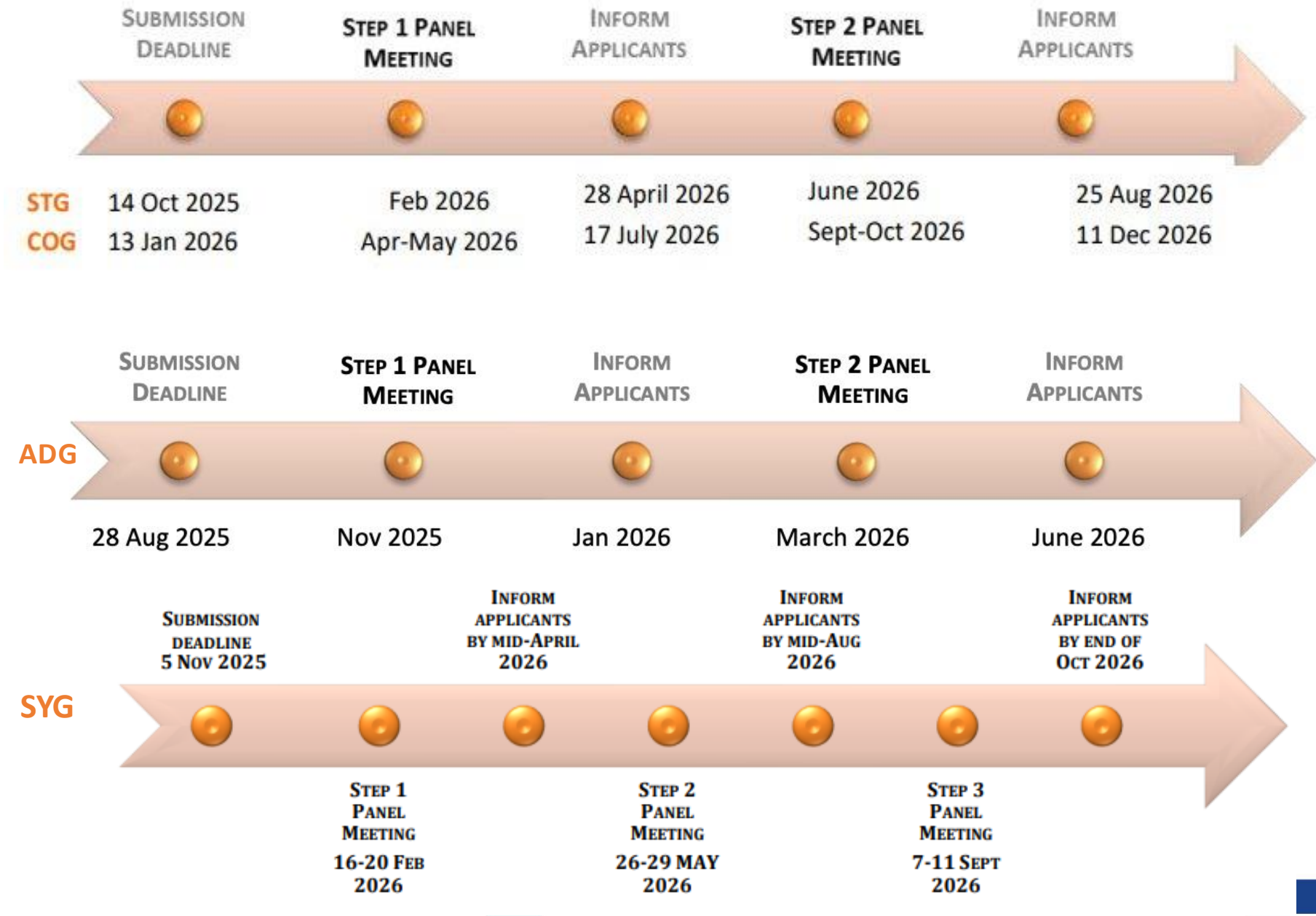
Step 2: 5 to 7 panels

- **Remote reviews: <u>Parts I, II and Budget table annex</u>**
- Mainly generalists: panel members
- Specialists: independent external experts
- **Meeting: all panel members**
  - Select proposals for step 3, with score 'A'
  - No. of proposals that can be passed to step 3: max 3x budget
  - **Feedback to applicants**: Evaluation reports for rejected proposals, scored 'B'

Step 3: 5 to 7 panels

- **No remote reviews**
- Panel members: re-assess proposals (Part I, II and Budget table annex) based on step 2 reports and prepare questions for the interview
- **Meeting: all panel members; interviews with all PIs →** rank proposals
- **Feedback to all applicants**, including evaluation reports:
  - Top 'A' scored - main list ~ 50 funded in total (up to call budget)
- 'A' score below funding limit - reserve list + rejected
  - 'B' score- rejected

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Submission Deadline
Step 1 Panel Meeting
Inform Applicants
Step 2 Panel Meeting
Inform Applicants
STG
14 Oct 2025
Feb 2026
28 April 2026
June 2026
25 Aug 2026
COG
13 Jan 2026
Apr-May 2026
17 July 2026
Sept-Oct 2026
11 Dec 2026
Submission Deadline
Step 1 Panel Meeting
Inform Applicants
Step 2 Panel Meeting
Inform Applicants
ADG
28 Aug 2025
Nov 2025
Jan 2026
March 2026
June 2026
SYG
Submission deadline 5 Nov 2025
Inform applicants by mid-April 2026
Inform applicants by mid-Aug 2026
Inform applicants by end of Oct 2026
Step 1 Panel Meeting 16-20 Feb 2026
Step 2 Panel Meeting 26-29 May 2026
Step 3 Panel Meeting 7-11 Sept 2026

Evalutation criterion & elements

Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground-breaking nature
- Ambition

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity

The panels primarily evaluate the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the project.
At the same time, the panels evaluate the intellectual capacity and creativity of the PI, with a focus on the extent to which the PI has the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project.

APRE

Step 1

Step 1

Panel members
evaluate remotely the **Extended Synopsis** of the proposal and the **CV** (only Part B1)

Intellectual capacity and creativity

*To what extent has the PI demonstrated the **ability** to conduct ground-breaking research?*

*To what extent does the PI provide **evidence of creative and original thinking**?*

*To what extent does the PI have the **required scientific expertise and capacity** to successfully execute the project?*

Ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility

To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?

*To what extent are the objectives **ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g., novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?***

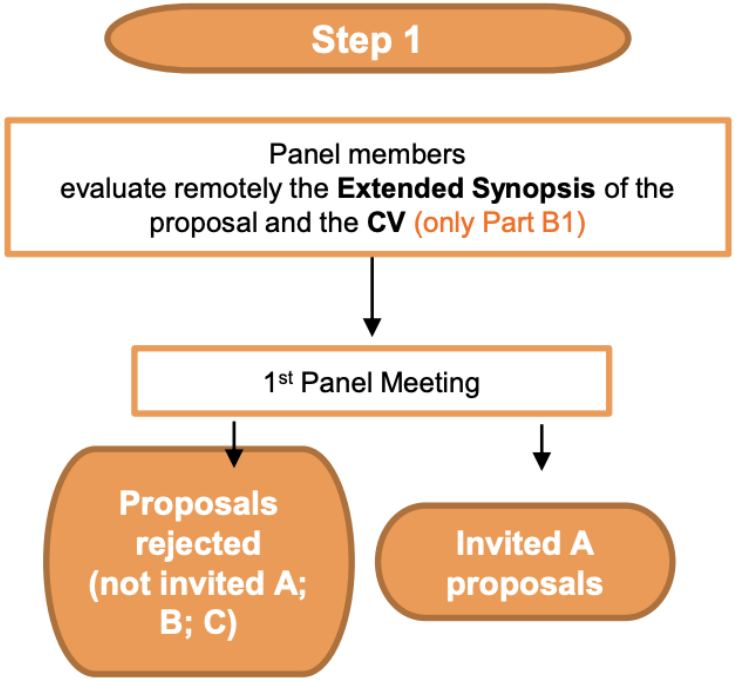
*To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the groundbreaking nature and ambition of the proposed research?*

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

European Commission

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Step 1



A	A	B	C
invited max. 44	not invited Can apply next year	Wait for 1 year	Wait for 2 years

Feedback to applicants

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

European Commission

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Step 2

Ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility

To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?

*To what extent are the objectives **ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g., novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?***

*To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the groundbreaking nature and ambition of the proposed research?*

*To what extent are the proposed research **methodology and working arrangements** appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?*

*To what extent are the **proposed timescales, resources, and PI commitment** adequate and properly justified?*

Step 2

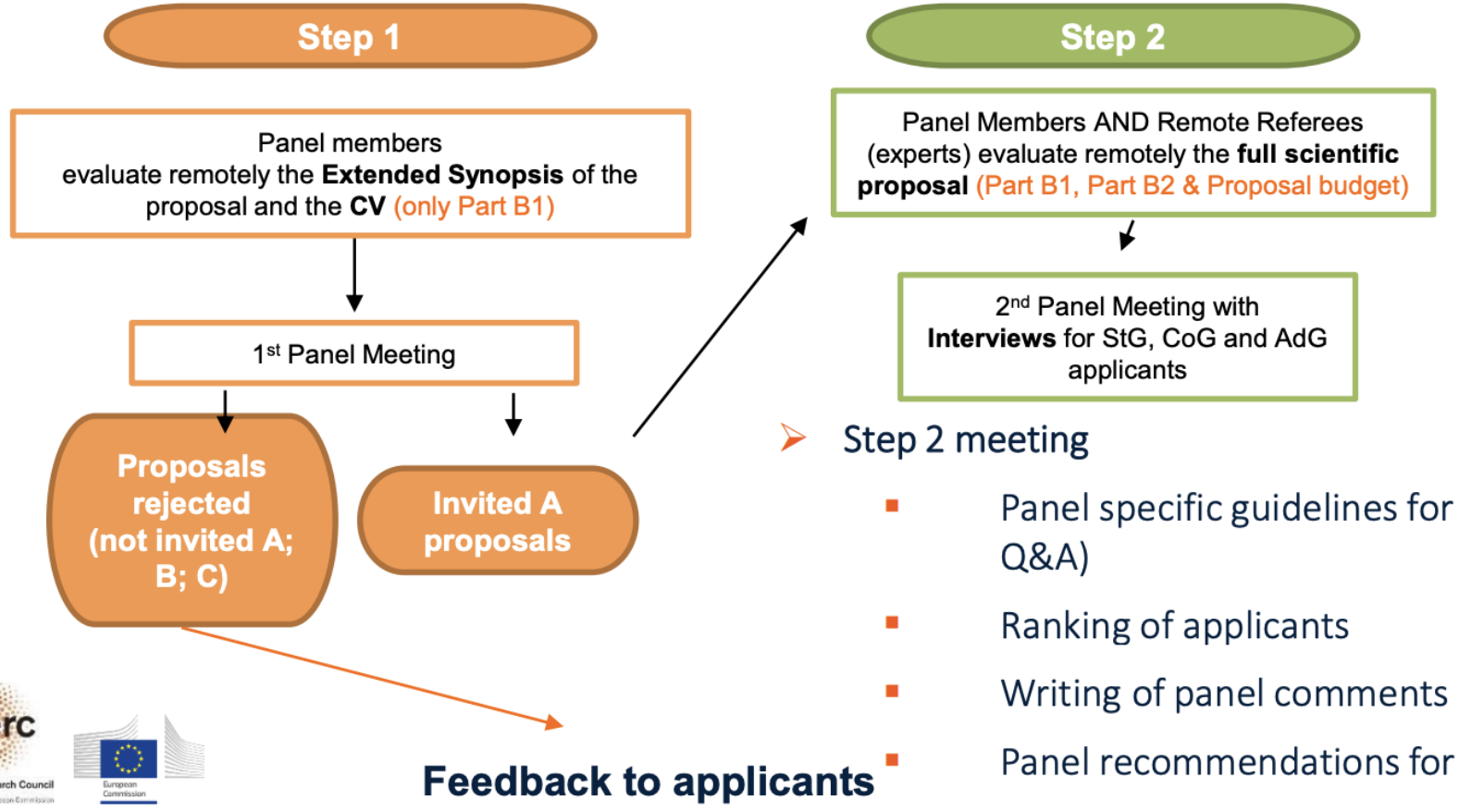
Panel Members AND Remote Referees (experts) evaluate remotely the **full scientific proposal** (Part B1, Part B2 & Proposal budget)

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European Commission

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Step 2



- Step 2 meeting
  - Panel specific guidelines for interviews (presentation, Q&A)
  - Ranking of applicants
  - Writing of panel comments
  - Panel recommendations for scientific council

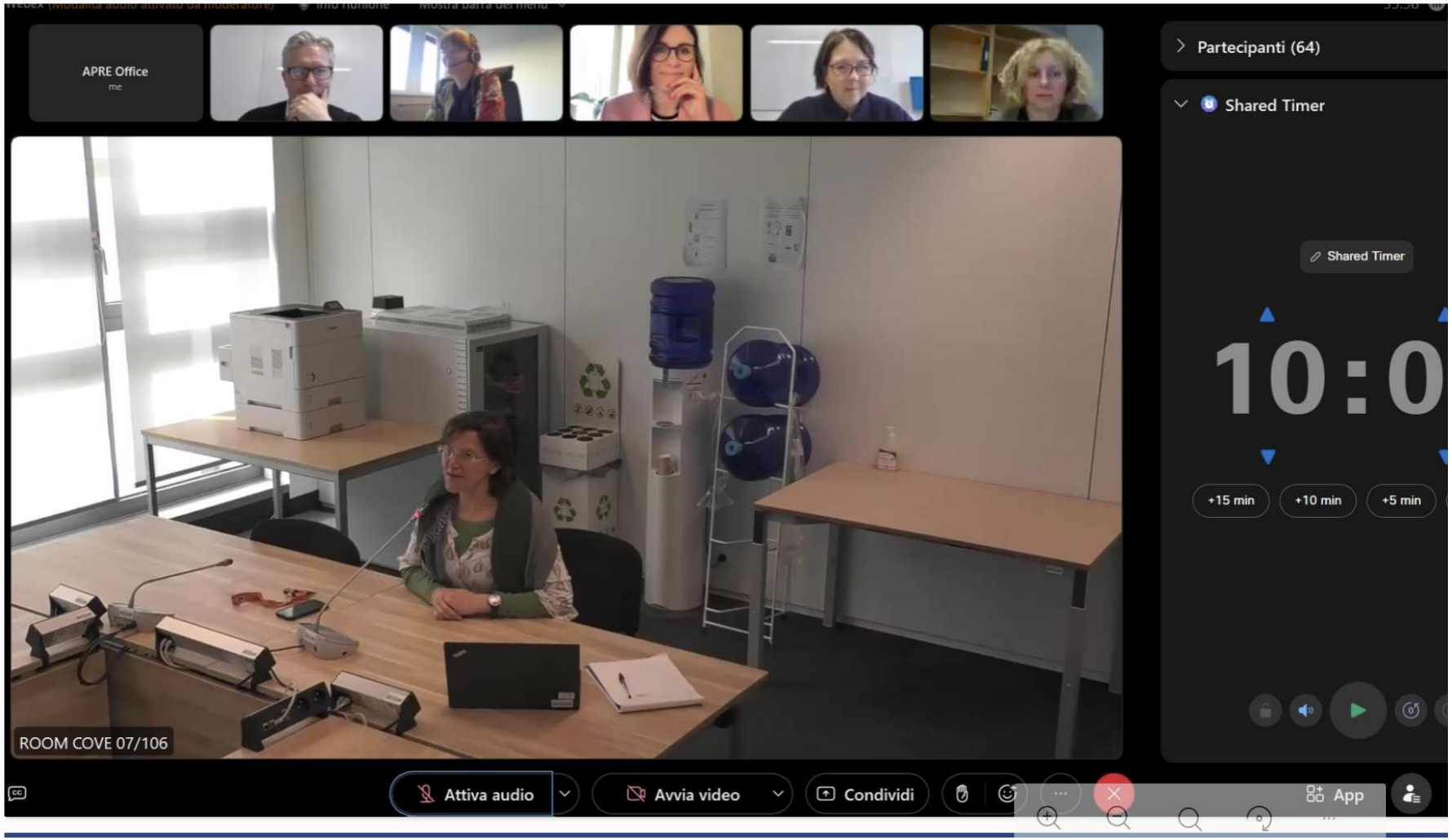
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Step 2 | The Interview

- Have clear and representative slides and focus on RESEARCH project!
- Get panel interested in your ideas & proposal;
- Defend your hypothesis (panels want to see that these are your ideas);
- Don't over-explain your CV!
- Provide additional preliminary data if available
- Anticipate questions and know the details of your proposal and methods, as well as your research area – who are your main competitors/collaborators
- Follow the instructions for the interview and practice thoroughly, several times

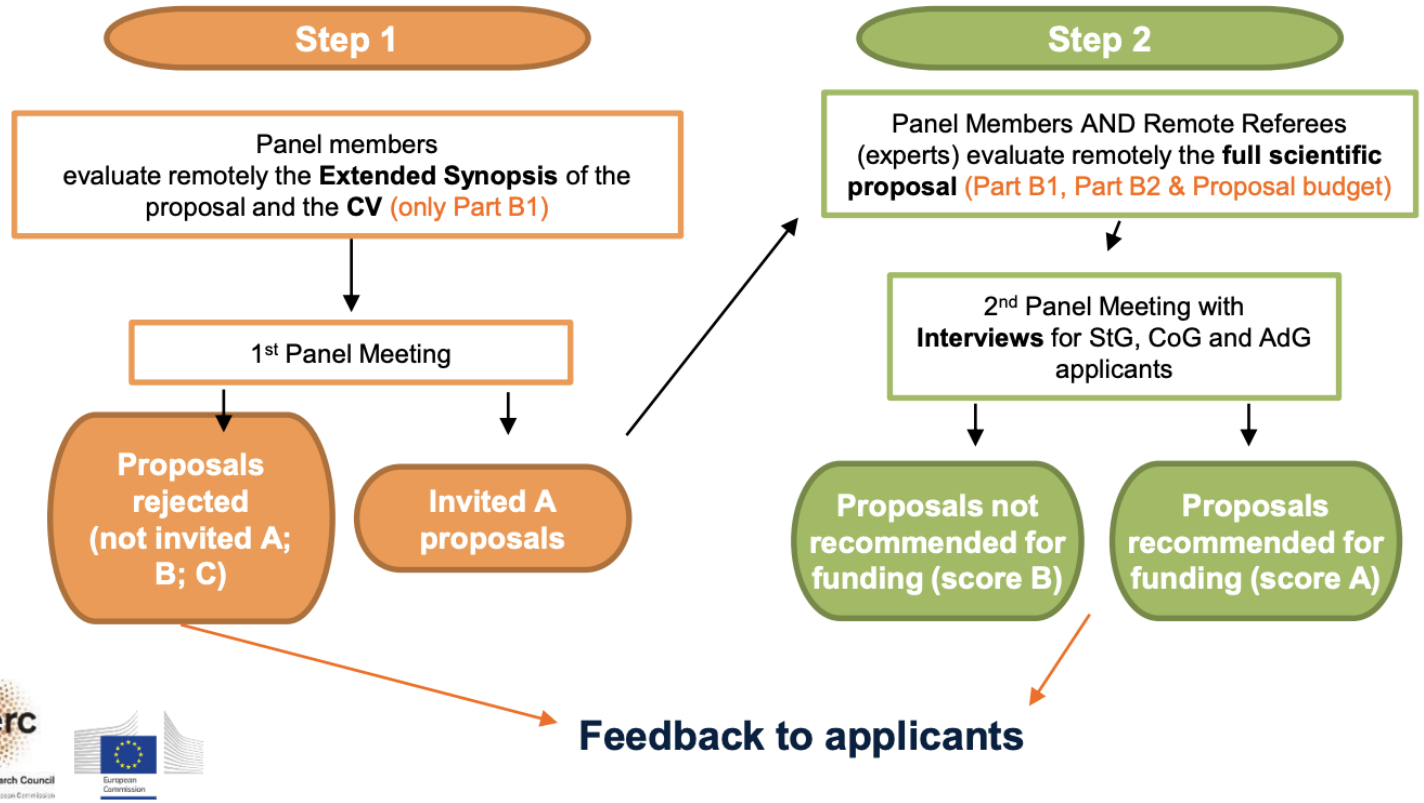
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Step 2 | The Interview



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Evaluation process



3 Domains / 28 Panels

13-18 Panel Members / Panel

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Novelties in the ERC Work Programme 2024 (I)
Research assessment

Focus on the research project



- ERC panels will primarily evaluate the ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of the project.
- They will also evaluate the intellectual capacity, creativity, and commitment of the applicant, with a focus on the extent to which she/he has the excellence and required scientific expertise to successfully execute the proposed project.

Broad assessment of the applicant



- Curriculum Vitae and Track Record: one document, structured
- Up to 10 research outputs that demonstrate how the applicant has advanced knowledge
- Selected examples of significant peer recognition
- Noteworthy contributions to the research community, career breaks or unusual career paths. These will not in themselves be evaluated but are important to provide context.

Evaluation criterion | Research Project

Ground-breaking nature and ambition of the research

At Step 1:

- Does the research address **important scientific questions**?
- Are the **objectives ambitious** and do they **advance the frontier of knowledge**?

At Step 2 (in addition):

- Are the **methodology and working arrangements** appropriate to achieve the goals?
- Are **timescales and resources** adequate and properly justified?

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Evaluation criterion | Principal Investigator

Intellectual capacity and creativity

At Step 1 and Step 2:

- Has the PI demonstrated the **ability to conduct groundbreaking research**?
- Does the PI show **creative and original thinking**?
- Does the PI have the **scientific expertise and capacity** to successfully carry out the project?

ESR | Example



Ref. Ares(2026)5538483 - 01/06/2026



Step 2 Evaluation Report

CONFIDENTIAL

Call reference	ERC-20
Activity	HORIZON ERC Grants
Funding scheme	ERC GRANTS
Panel name	
Proposal No.	
Acronym	
Applicant Name	
Title	

APRE

PANEL SCORE AND RANKING RANGE

Final panel score: A (fully meets the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available)	**Ranking range*:** 39%-41% For your information, only the top [redacted]% of the proposals evaluated in panel [redacted] in Step 2 were funded.

* Ranking range of your proposal out of the proposals evaluated by the panel in Step 2, in percent, from 1% for the highest ranked proposals to 100% for the lowest ranked.

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PANEL COMMENT

This evaluation report contains the final recommendations and score awarded by the ERC review panel during the second step of the ERC Advanced Grant review and the ranking range. The discussion of the panel was conducted within the context of prior reviews submitted by ERC panel members and external referees and the interview with the applicant.

The panel closely examined all the individual review reports and, while not necessarily subscribing to each and every opinion expressed, found that they provide a fair overall assessment. The comments of the individual reviewers are included in this report.

The presentation given by the applicant during the interview and the answers to the questions that were addressed greatly contributed to build the panel's view about the proposal's strengths and weaknesses.

Both the individual reviews and the interview were the basis for the discussion and the final recommendation of the panel.

The panel found the proposal to address an important and long-standing challenge in [redacted]. The approach is innovative in its explicit treatment of [redacted].

However, the panel had concerns regarding [redacted]. While the candidate addressed these concerns during the interview, the panel remained unconvinced about the project's groundbreaking nature.

The PI was recognised as an internationally leading scientist with an outstanding track record in [redacted] and [redacted], extensive leadership experience, and a strong record of mentoring early-career researchers.

The panel therefore considers the proposal of high quality and fundable; however it is not in a sufficiently high position in the ranking order to be retained for funding.

Reviewer 2

Research Project
Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project The proposal tackles a central and still unresolved challenge in [redacted], namely the [redacted]. While stochastic approaches themselves are not new, the project is ambitious in its attempt to provide a unifying, physically motivated framework that integrates [redacted]. The objectives go beyond the current state of the art in their conceptual scope and in the planned global-scale testing and [redacted]. If successful, the work could substantially influence both [redacted] theory and practical risk-informed decision making. **Scientific Approach** The scientific approach is ambitious but overall feasible, with a clear structure that progressively develops theory, tests it on large samples of [redacted]. The methodology is appropriate to the objectives, combining theoretical development, large-sample statistical testing and [redacted], albeit applied here in a novel way [redacted]. The main risks, particularly related to [redacted], are explicitly acknowledged and supported by credible contingency plans. The proposed timescale, resources and team composition are adequate for the scope of the project, and the PI's substantial time commitment and track record strongly support the feasibility of delivering the planned outcomes.

Principal Investigator
Intellectual capacity and creativity The PI has convincingly demonstrated the capacity to conduct ground-breaking research through a long and influential track record in [redacted], including seminal contributions that underpin the present proposal. The project clearly builds on original ideas developed by the PI over more than a decade, reflecting sustained creative and independent thinking rather than opportunistic novelty. The PI's extensive expertise, international recognition, and prior leadership of large and complex research efforts provide strong evidence that [redacted] has both the scientific capacity and the authority within the field to successfully execute this ambitious project.

Reviewer 3

Research Project
Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project The main innvation aspect of this project is the develoment of a [redacted] framework based on the inclusion in [redacted]. `This approach appears to be based on previous work by the PI, and conceptually does represent an advance compared to traditional [redacted] modeling. However, it appears more as an incremental development of the PIs previous work than a true groundbreaking step. The proposal is written in a clear way and the project is quite straightforward in its WP structure. I have a few specific points to raise, which could be discussed at the interview: 1) Although I can recognise the conceptual advance of the proposed methodology, and I can see how this provides information on [redacted], I do not see clearly the reasons why the modeling approach is expected to yield better [redacted], or at least in what sense it does so. The model is still based on the calibration of a set of parameters, and therefore it is as good as the calibration data are. In addition, I do not see why the aggregated impact of [redacted] would yield better [redacted]. Perhaps, I fail to understand what is meant by "better" in the proposal, unless this actually means that a better description of [redacted] is provided.

Typical reasons for rejection

Research Project

- Scope: Too narrow or too broad/unfocussed
- Not clear groundbreaking aspects/Incremental research
- Collaborative project, several PIs
- Work plan not detailed enough/unclear
- Insufficient risk management
- Part B2 did not give sufficient information on the methodology- concerns on feasibility

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Strenghts:

EVALUATION EXAMPLES: GROUND-BREAKING?



- The project clearly opens new technological opportunities and challenges.
- High risk project but novel and very exciting
- The proposed research addresses important challenges in the field.
- The proposed research is very original

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Weaknesses

EVALUATION EXAMPLES: GROUND-BREAKING? (2)



- unfortunately rather conventional
- ...not really go beyond the state-of-the-art
- ...seems to be a continuation of ongoing projects with a lot of cruises and equipment but little additional staff.
- The state-of-the-art modeling approaches are not as bad as the proposer described.
- The realization of [...] is quite interesting and important for applications but it represents mainly a technological development

Strenghts

EVALUATION EXAMPLES: CLEAR AND AMBITIOUS OBJECTIVES?



- It has clearly very ambitious objectives that, if reached, will go substantially beyond the current state-of-the-art. Indeed the methodology is well illustrated and the intermediate tasks are clearly described.
- To tackle this challenge the proposal is structured into five objectives. Each of these objectives is described clearly and supported by evidence from previous publications.
- A good balance between short, medium and long term objectives is maintained.
- the project is very clearly written, and delineates a testable mechanistic hypothesis concerning [X]

Weaknesses

EVALUATION EXAMPLES: CLEAR AND AMBITIOUS OBJECTIVES? (2)



- It is a very important objective. However, a grant proposal should be explicit about the detailed tasks to be performed, with specific goals, with reference to previous works….
- The set of objectives does not go substantially beyond the current stat of the art in the field.
- The [tools] would have a significant impact on [X] applications, but higher level research objectives are lacking

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Strenghts

EVALUATION EXAMPLES: FEASIBILITY



- the methodology is very comprehensive and appropriate for the project
- the outlined approach is highly feasible….it is highly reflective about its own limitations and particular choices and research strategies.
- the scientific project is both doable and ambitious at the same time.
- The work plan is cutting edge and has inherent risk. However, this risk is legitimate and minimized based on the PI's previous work.
- There is also a good balance of low risk/high risk tasks.

Weaknesses

EVALUATION EXAMPLES: FEASIBILITY(2)



- … methodology is not equally well developed with regard to all subprojects
- Some specific examples (or application scenarios) would help here
- …However the panel felt that more preliminary data were needed to support the feasibility of the whole project, and in particular for the second WP.
- No alternative approaches are given, if….
- some of the sub-aims would have benefited from preliminary results or "plan B" strategies in order to evaluate their feasibility.

Strenghts

EVALUATION EXAMPLES: IMPACT



- If granted, very high impact for biology, material science and structural chemistry…
- The new experimental set-up that is proposed is based on new and original ideas of the proponent and will be undoubtedly of large impact for the community of future users. This community will surely expand to transdisciplinary areas.
- *Potential impact:* The ideas behind the project are very unusual but make much sense, they may lead to a breakthrough in the X field.

Weaknesses

EVALUATION EXAMPLES: IMPACT (2)



- doubts on the possible impact of the scientific results
- not clear how the results might impact on X
- no ground breaking expectations are visible

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Strenghts



- The PI has been recognized for her papers with outstanding results demonstrating her level of independent thinking and originality. She does not have a permanent position, thus the ERC grant would help.

- The PI has an excellent research background and outstanding track record with publications in high-quality peer reviewed journals as first or only author.

- It was also found that the scientific output of the PI is excellent and very well fitted to the aspects of the project.

The PI is experienced in many areas, but to-date her experience in detector development remains to be demonstrated.

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Weaknesses

PROJECT OVERALL



- The proposal would have benefitted of being better framed and focused.

- It was noted by the panel that the project is not clearly written; it lacks relevant background information on X signaling and the actual work plan is often unclear. The panel noticed that the project is related to ongoing work conducted in the X lab, and it would be advisable to clearly indicate the particular research directions that will be independently developed by the applicant.

Weaknesses

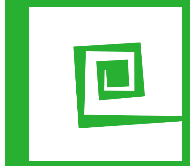
The proposal is well written, but lacks the necessary details to judge the probability of success.

The proposed project is interesting and timely, but it seems to be mainly a continuation of what the applicant is already doing at the moment. It is unclear to what extent the concepts are really novel and innovative.

On the other hand, the panel felt that the PI failed to address key technical challenges which will surely impact the proposed workplan. The feasibility of the overall workplan was found difficult to assess given the lack of milestones and schedule.

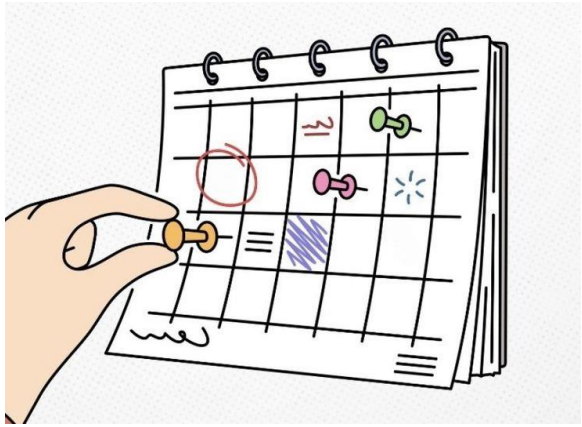
01.

How to write your part B1



Long-term planning is a must!

- Don’t leave it for the last month before the deadline
- Do a proper literature study
- Establish collaborations in advance
- Write the proposal and get feedback from outstanding scientists



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Get info!

- Register early, get familiar with the European Commission's **Funding and Tender portal** and download the **templates**
- Read the **call documents** (Information for Applicants, ERC Work Programme, ERC website) that explain how to prepare your proposal
- Talk to your **Institution's grant office** and to the **ERC National Contact Points**
- Talk to **ERC grantees**

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What is an ERC idea?

The idea can take different forms:

- A brave hypothesis or theoretical framework (as expected by many panels)
- A creative solution to a persistent challenge
- A new conceptual or methodological approach
- What matters is that the idea reflects the unique ERC expectations

Groundbreaking vs Breakthrough

GROUNDBREAKING

- What results would be a major contribution to the field
- What would be significant advances for the field?

BREAKTHROUGH

- What would be the holy grail
- What would be ultimate goal for the field

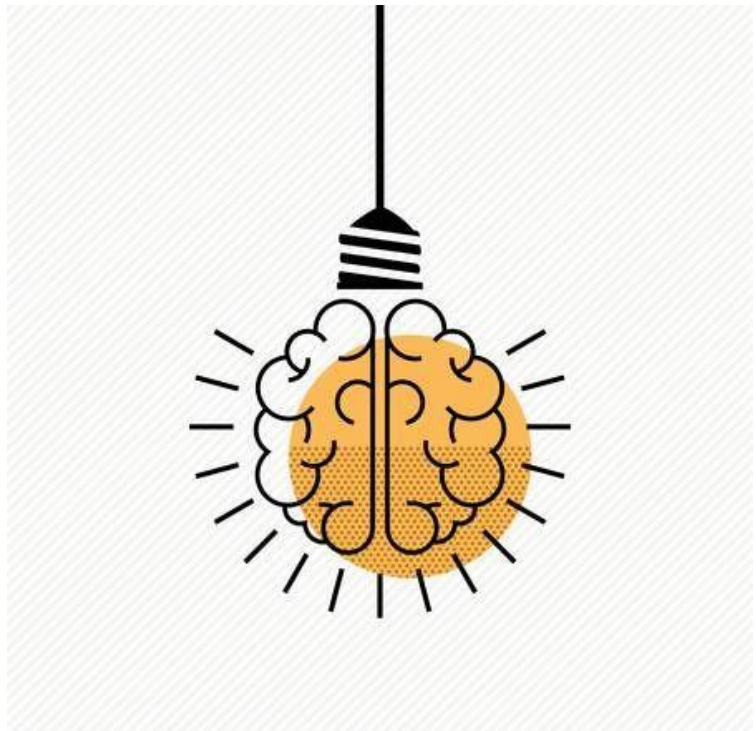
APRE

At this stage, you should ask yourself:

- Does it involve **unconventional** or **cross-disciplinary** thinking?
- Are there real analytical or theoretical **challenges** involved?
- Is there a high level of **scientific uncertainty** that raises the project's risk and its potential reward?

The ERC proposal

Intrigue (part B1)
Convince (part B2)
Inspire (Parts B1+B2+ interview)



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Scientific Proposal Part 1



APRE

New Proposal Structure

- Scientific Proposal Part I (<= 5 pages)
- CV and Track Record (<= 4 pages)

The questions to answer in your B1

- To what extent does the research address important scientific questions?
- To what extent are the project's objectives ambitious and will it advance the frontier of knowledge?

You have to introduce yourself and make the panel understand what you want to do, why this idea is interesting and new!

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Identify important challenges

Your future research vision?

What is the challenge/problem?

- It's dimensions
- Why scientifically urgent

What is the Big Research Question or Ultimate Goal?

Why are you able to potentially address this challenge?

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High-risk and novel methodologies

- No explicit reference to '*high-risk/high-gain*'
- Instead: 'ground-breaking, ambitious, and feasible'.
- The ERC will always encourage risky research.

- No explicit reference to '*novel methodologies*'
- 'Novel methodologies' is an element that may be positive but is not strictly necessary for an excellent proposal.

APRE

SECTION B1 – Scientific Proposal Part I

ERC Starting Grant 2026
Part B1[1]
(Part B1 is evaluated in Step 1 and Step 2, Part B2 is evaluated in Step 2 only)

Proposal Full Title

PROPOSAL ACRONYM

Cover Page:
- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Name of the PI's Host Institution for the project
- Proposal duration in months

Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.

Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1).

The abstract (summary) should, at a glance, provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved. The abstract will be used as the short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process and in communications to contact in particular potential independent external experts and/or to inform the Commission and/or the programme management committees and/or relevant national funding agencies. It must therefore be short and precise, and should not contain confidential information.

Please use plain typed text, avoiding formulae and other special characters. The abstract must be written in English. There is a limit of 2000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

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Part I of the Scientific Proposal (max. 5 pages, references do not count towards the page limit).

Please note the changes as from 2026 calls regarding Part I and Part II of the Scientific Proposal and read carefully the "ERC Work Programme 2026" and the "Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls".

[***Part I of the Scientific Proposal*** *should present the envisaged research and it should:*

- *lay out the current state of knowledge,*
- *explain the scientific question and the objectives of the project, and*
- *present the overall approach or research strategy to reach the goals of the project.*

Part I should convince the evaluation Panel that it presents an original and creative idea addressing an important question in the respective research field(s). Furthermore, it should substantiate how the project will advance the frontier of knowledge, and what contribution it will make to the research field(s) i.e. what may be changed, opened, challenged or how the results of the work will alter the current understanding of the field.

At Step 1, only Part I and the Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Track Record (see below) is assessed by the evaluation Panel. *It forms the basis for the Panel's decision whether it chooses to evaluate the proposal in the next step. Therefore, all essential information must be covered in this section.*

References to literature should also be included. Please use a reference style that is commonly used in your discipline such as American Chemical Society (ACS) style, American Medical Association (AMA) style, Modern Language Association (MLA) style, etc. and that allows the evaluators to easily retrieve each reference.

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margin sizes (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.]

Abstract

Summary:

Extreme events often cause local-initial damage to the critical elements of building structures, followed by a cascade of further failures in the rest of the building; a phenomenon known as "progressive collapse". Current design philosophies are based on giving buildings extensive continuity, so that when a critical element fails its load can be re-distributed among the rest of the structure. *However, in certain situations (e.g. initial failure of several columns) this extensive continuity introduces undesirable effects and actually increases the risk of progressive collapse.*

Segmenting a building into individual units connected only by means of fuses would avoid a failure in one zone propagating to others. While such fuses would provide continuity for normal loads or small local-initial failure, they would "isolate" the different parts of the building when otherwise the forces generated by the initial failure would pull down the rest of the structure. *Although fuse segmentation is probably the only alternative that can fill the gaps in the present design philosophies, so far, no studies have been carried out on the possibility of applying it to buildings.*

***Endure*'s overall aim is to develop a novel fuse-based segmentation design approach to limit or arrest the propagation of failures in building structures subjected to extreme events.**

The project will be multidisciplinary and highly ambitious, and will achieve its overall aim by: 1) Developing a performance-based approach for the design of fuse-segmented buildings; 2) Designing, manufacturing and testing fuses for segmenting buildings; and 3) Implementing fuses in segmented realistic building prototypes and testing and validating the new fuse-based approach in these structures.

Endure will open up a new research area and design approach, and also deliver novel construction procedures. The project will lead to safer buildings, especially in the case of extreme events with severe consequences for building integrity.

The context of the proposal ('what' and 'why')

The aim of the proposal

How we will achieve the aim

The expected outcomes and scientific impact





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What to describe in the Scientific Proposal Part I

- What is the research challenge?
- Why is this research challenge important?
- Why was it not tackled until now?
- Why is your project new/innovative?
- What is the new idea/approach?
- Does it go substantially beyond state of the art?
- Have you proven/supported your case? Do you have a hypothesis?
- What are the concrete aims of the project?
- Is this groundbreaking, transformative research?
- What is the risk? (if applicable)
- What is the potential impact/gain?

Practical example:

B1 structure:

1. The importance of the subject at study
1.1 The state of the art
2. The innovation brought by the project to the state of the art
3. The goal of the project
4 The impact of the project

1. The importance of the subject at study (1 pag max)

Scientific & Social Importance

BUMP fits exceptionally well within the ERC remit for High Risk/High Gain Research. It sets out a completely *new* direction of research, which, by combining different areas of philosophy with the empirical findings of other academic disciplines, is approached in an *interdisciplinary* and *methodologically innovative* way. It is *ambitious* in size and scope and *bold* because it is willing to question established philosophical dogma and assumptions. It is *ground-breaking* because it places our gestational origin not as liminal, but as a key aspect of who and what we are, which will affect and possibly overturn a range of key practical and philosophical assumptions. Finally it is both *fundamental* and has a *wide practical and scholarly remit*. The former because it approaches pregnancy not through the biased lens of a particular moral or social question or agenda – such as the morality of abortion or the oppression of women – but through combining detailed attention to our best scientific understanding of human reproduction and development with a systematic investigation of its most fundamental philosophical aspects. The latter because the resulting understanding of pregnancy is likely to affect practical social, medical and moral questions, such as the treatment and obligations of pregnant women, as well as our personal and socio-cultural understanding of persons and their relations to their parents and offspring.

To realize the important social impact of this research, a significant portion of the requested resources will be devoted to knowledge transfer, as described in more detail later on in the proposal.

1.1 The state of the art

Pregnancy appears in three main contexts in analytic philosophy. First, in the context of the non-identity problem: the question whether future individuals can be harmed or wronged by the consequences of choices or conditions that were necessary to their existence (Parfit, 1984) Second, in the context of debates about the morality of abortion (e.g. McMahan 2002; Thompson, 1971). Third, in other questions in reproductive ethics, such as questions about genetic screening and questions about a pregnant woman's obligations towards her (future) offspring (e.g. Buchanan et al., 2000). In none of these contexts does the literature pay due attention to the peculiar *metaphysical* questions that pregnancy raises: questions about the nature of pregnancy; the entities involved in it; and the relations between them. In this literature, what I call the *foetal*

- Contextualize your project within current and future challenges.
- Highlight your contribution to the state of the art.

2. Innovation

- A clear and focused presentation of the state of the art lays the foundation for the next step: identifying and smoothly stating the knowledge gap that the presented project aims to bridge.
- Use bulleted lists or tables to emphasize your state-of-the-art innovation
- Be bold and convinced about what you write ("I firmly believe that my project will do it....)
- Emphasize your personal contribution to the development of such innovations in the past

Knowledge gap

It is recommended to identify this knowledge gap either as a summary at the end of the state-of-the-art presentation or as a methodical discussion interwoven throughout the state of the art.

Emphasize the key messages that define the knowledge gap and make it easy for the evaluators to follow. Therefore, the text identifying the knowledge gap should be short, concise, and highlighted. Make sure to avoid redundancies and repetitions of elements or notions already mentioned in the state of the art. The evaluators will greatly appreciate this.

3. The goals of the project

Aims

1) to develop a philosophically sophisticated account of human pregnancy and birth, and the entities involved in this, that is attentive to our best understanding of human reproductive biology;
2) to articulate a metaphysics of organisms, persons and selves that acknowledges the details of how we come into existence;
3) to start the process of rewriting the legal, social and moral language we use to classify ourselves and our actions so that it is compatible with and can accommodate the nature of pregnancy.

Another example

In order to tackle these challenging questions, we set the following goals:

Aim 1: Understanding symptom X

(…)

Aim 2: **Creation of a new model of mind structure**

The new model will for the first time integrate the factor Y which so far has not been implicated in this context. Our first results strongly suggest that factor Y is critical for the development of symptom X, which would disprove the existing model.

(…)

Aim 3: **Experimental validation of the model**

(….)

4. Impact

Impact, Engagement and Knowledge Transfer

The investigation in this project has the potential for considerable social impact. In ethics, policy and law, for example, reconfigurations of the pregnant organism-offspring relation might radically alter how we think about the scope of choices open to pregnant women. In ordinary life, reproducing families who currently are being offered a single conceptualization of pregnancy as the foetal container model may welcome an alternative way of thinking about the important and life-transforming process they are experiencing.

Knowledge Transfer is often promised, and rarely properly implemented. I have extensive experience and an impressive track record in this area having published in the popular press, medical journals, midwifery journals and on blogs; having made multiple radio-appearances; and having engaged with and advised midwives, professional obstetricians and human rights lawyers. I have therefore a very concrete sense of the importance and exciting rewards of knowledge transfer and engagement, as well as an established social and professional network that is relevant to this project. My extensive experience in this area also means that I am acutely aware of the amount of time and commitment that knowledge transfer, outreach and engagement requires, and the very real pressures and conflict this can cause with the need to do in-depth research and publish and disseminate this academically.

Another Example

Expected impact

AMORE is a highly interdisciplinary project pushing Linguistics, Computational Linguistics, and Artificial Intelligence forward. The proposed model handles reference, as does formal semantics, but in a framework that can adequately deal with descriptive content, integrates perceptual and linguistic information, and can learn from data and so has a broad coverage. These advances will contribute to our scientific understanding of language, a defining trait of the human species. The project also contributes to the decades-long debate in Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science over *symbolic* vs. *distributed* approaches to cognition (Fodor and Pylyshyn 1988, Churchland 1998, Fodor and Lepore 1999, LeCun et al. 2015, among many others) with a proposal that synthesizes strong aspects of both approaches. The proposal will impact Artificial Intelligence as the first linguistically interesting application of algorithms that have until now been used either for toy tasks (Joulin and Mikolov 2015) or without clear linguistic motivation (Weston et al. 2014). From a more applied perspective, although the project itself focuses on fundamental research, it paves the way for technologies that will enable machines to talk to us in situated applications.

APRE

What does the ERC template say about impact?

(Spoiler: almost nothing)

- No dedicated “Impact” section
- No detailed guidance
- No explicit structure

it should substantiate how the project will advance the frontier of knowledge, and what contribution it will make to the research field(s) i.e. what may be changed, opened, challenged or how the results of the work will alter the current understanding of the field.

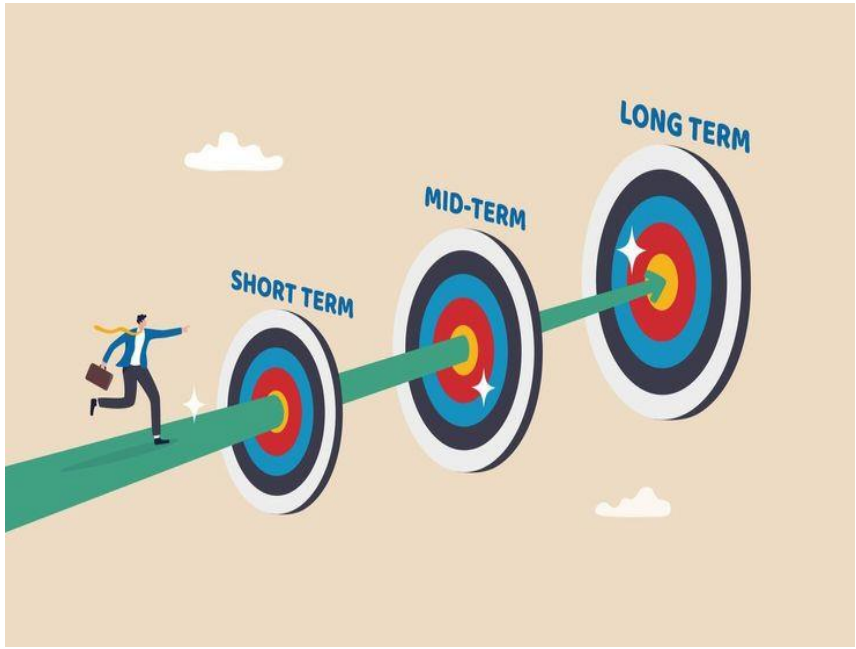


APRE

Short vs Long-Term Impact

Short-term:

- Publications
- Methods
- Data



Long-term:

- New research fields
- Applications
- Societal change

💡 ERC focuses on long-term

APRE

Common mistakes



- Writing like Horizon Europe collaborative projects
- Overpromising impact
- Being too applied
- Generic statements
- No link to research excellence

APRE

Weak vs Strong Impact

❌ Weak:

- Generic statements
- List of possible impacts
- No link to research

✅ Strong:

- Clear narrative
- Linked to objectives
- Specific transformation

APRE

The narrative logic

Step 1: Define Long-Term Value

- *What will change in the field?*
- *What limitation will be overcome?*
- *What new direction will emerge?*

💡 Use strong verbs:

- *redefine*
- *revolutionize*
- *unlock*

Step 2: Show Transformative Potential

"If successful, what will be different?"

- *New paradigm?*
- *New methodology?*
- *New research agenda?*

APRE

The narrative logic

Step 3: Link to ERC Mission

- Frontier research
- Ambition
- Novelty

👉 Make clear:

- Why this is not incremental
- Why it belongs to ERC

Step 4: Impact

- Who will use the results?
- How will knowledge spread?
- What communities are involved?

⚠️ Keep it:

- realistic
- credible
- not over-detailed
- “Make impact easy to grasp in 30 seconds”

APRE

02.

CV and Track record

The questions to answer

Principal Investigator(s)

Intellectual capacity and creativity

- *To what extent has/have the PI(s) demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?*
- *To what extent does/do the PI(s) provide evidence of creative and original thinking?*
- *To what extent does/do the PI(s) have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?*

APRE

Guidance questions to write this section

- Why are you the best/only person who can do this?
- Why is this a better approach than your competitors?
- Have you shown independence (for more junior applicants)?
- Did you show creativity also outside the research group of your supervisor?
- Are you active and internationally recognised? List your committees, research mobility, international collaborations, editors/reviewer.
- Show scientific leadership in CV.

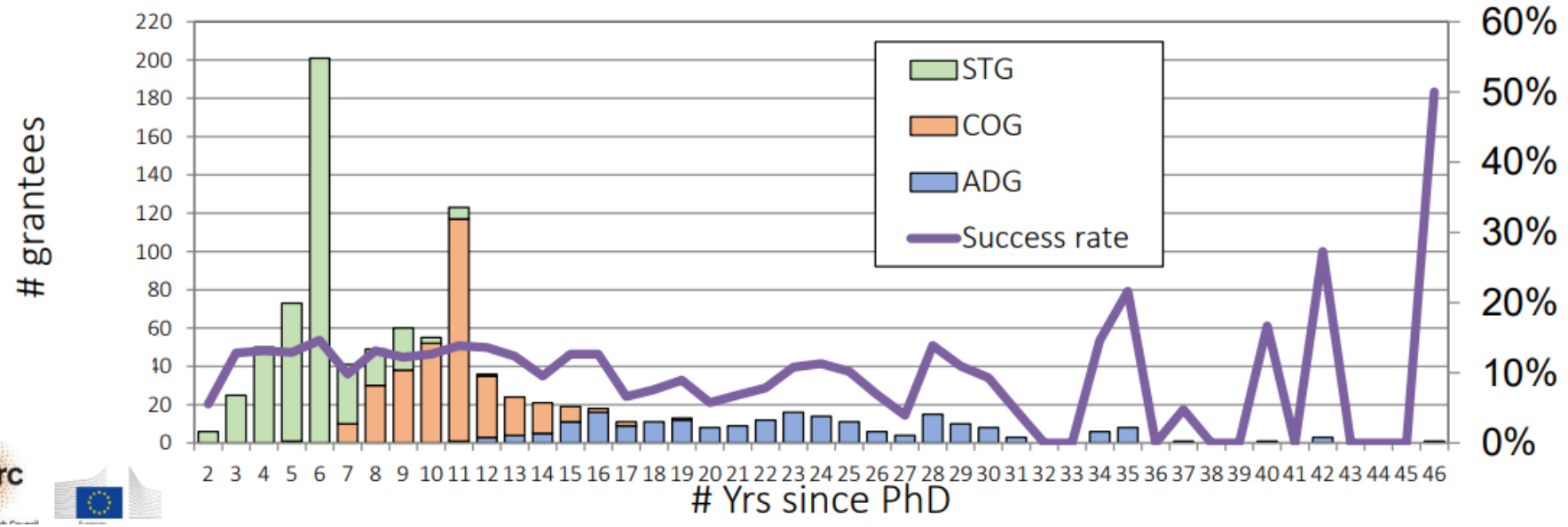
General recommendations

- It is an opportunity to convince the panel that you are an expert in your field or topic.
- Highlight your key strengths and accomplishments and tell them your story.
- Avoid letting panel members wonder about things; they really look at your proposal in detail. If there are gaps or other issues in your CV, explain why.

APRE

Decide wether to apply: Success rate

- Rumour: I should wait until the end of the eligibility window in order to accumulate enough seniority, only then I will be competitive.
- NOT TRUE! The success rate is virtually flat across the eligibility window



APRE

Section b: Curriculum vitae and Track Record (max. 4 pages)

PERSONAL DETAILS

[Provide your personal details, your education and key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions you have held.]

Family name, First name:

Researcher unique identifier(s) (such as ORCID, Research ID, etc. ...):

URL for web site:

- **Education and key qualifications**

DD/MM/YYYY PhD
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country
Name of PhD Supervisor
YYYY Master
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

- **Current position(s)**

YYYY - YYYY Current Position
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
YYYY – YYYY Current Position
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

- **Previous position(s)**

YYYY - YYYY Position held
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
YYYY - YYYY Position held
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

PI's education and key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions.

Section b: Curriculum vitae and Track Record (max. 4 pages)

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND PEER RECOGNITION

Research achievements

[Provide a list of up to ten research outputs that demonstrate how you have advanced knowledge in your field with an emphasis on more recent achievements, such as publications, articles deposited in a publicly available preprint server, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, data sets, software, patents, licenses, standards, start-up businesses or any other research outputs you deem relevant in relation to your research field and your project.

You may include a short, factual explanation of the significance of the selected outputs, your role in producing each of them, and how they demonstrate your capacity to successfully carry out your proposed project.]

Peer recognition

[Provide a list of selected examples of significant recognition by your peers if applicable, such as prizes, awards, fellowships, elected academy memberships, invited presentations to major conferences or any other examples of significant recognition you deem relevant in relation to your research field and project.

You may include a short explanation of the significance of the listed examples.]

- demonstrate advancement in the field, with emphasis on more recent achievements
- prizes, fellowships, academy membership, etc.

APRE

Section b: Curriculum vitae and Track Record (max. 4 pages)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You may provide relevant additional information on your research career to provide context to the evaluation panels when assessing your research achievements and peer recognition as described above.

Career breaks, diverse career paths and major life events

[*You may include a short factual explanation of career breaks or diverse career paths such as secondments, volunteering, part-time work, time spent in different sectors or the effects of major life events such as long term illness as well as the effects of pandemic restrictions on research productivity.*]

Other contributions to the research community

[*You may include a list of particularly noteworthy contributions to the research community you have made other than research achievements and peer recognition and a short explanation of these contributions. The purpose of this section is to allow the panels to take a more rounded view of your career and achievements and to ensure that any additional responsibilities, commitments and leadership roles that you have taken on beyond your individual research activities are recognised and taken into account.*]

Relevant additional information on:

- career breaks, diverse career paths, life events
- other noteworthy contributions to research community

APRE

Dimension	Elements
Recognition in the scientific community, expertise, scientific impact and influence, research strategy	leading international expertise in the subject area
	contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field
	provide intellectual thought leadership
	setting the international research agenda
	development of research and funding strategies
	developing strategies for societal impact
	originality of research
	participation in national and international scientific networks and conferences
	invitations to present as key-note speaker or invited lecturer
	leads major research conferences (membership in the steering and/or organising committee)
	prizes and honours for research (including artefacts with documented use, such as architectural or engineering design)
	editing or reviewing for major academic journals
	elected to research-related leadership roles in the community
	reputation and recognition by peers (including academy memberships)

Research output	recognized publications (peer-reviewed journal articles and conference proceedings, monographs)
	portfolio of high-quality research outputs other than publications (including data, databases, software, models, methods, theories, algorithms, protocols, workflows, exhibitions, policy contributions, open and citable peer reviews, educational products, clinical guidelines)
	preprints
	research monographs and translations thereof
	scientific/technological impact through high quality-research and/or citations
	number of publications (in relation to the individual's career)
Open science practices	open access to (past/future) publications, data, and other research outputs
Innovation leadership	patents
	examples of innovation leadership
Track record in funding	winning competitive funding
	research projects and their funding
	ability to acquire third-party funds

Collaborations and interdisciplinarity	develops multi-, inter-, trans-, or cross-disciplinary research activities
	leads collaborative research projects (including research expeditions)
	maintains international research collaborations
	intersectoral collaboration (e.g., industry-academia collaboration; collaboration with hospitals)
Advancement and enablement of junior researchers	excellence through the performance of others
	high research student completion rates
	nurtures talent and demonstrates engagement with researcher training and development
	demonstrates inclusive leadership and provides a positive working environment
Teaching, mentoring activities	workshops or summer schools
	regular teaching activity (other than workshops or summer schools)
	supervision of students / PhD candidates, postdocs and colleagues
	mentoring of other researchers in their field and support to the advancement of colleagues
Research community	editing, reviewing, refereeing, committee work
	contributions to the evaluation of researchers and research projects
	organisation of events
	contributions to increasing research integrity, and improving research culture
	appointments to positions of responsibility such as committee membership and corporate roles within organisation or sector

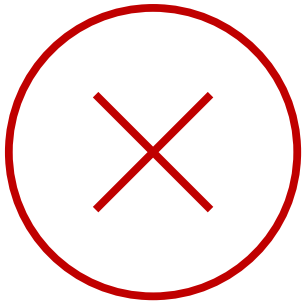
Broader society	citizen science
	societal engagement
	engagement with industry and the private sector
	engagement with the public sector, clients, and the broader public (including patient care)
	advise policymakers at local, national, or international level
	provide information through the press and on social media
	science communication through any means (including radio interviews, exhibitions for the general public, etc.)
	societal or economic impact
Developmental perspective	career stage
	leadership potential
	research independence and evidence of maturity
	international or intersectoral mobility
Personal context	unconventional career paths
	career breaks / part-time work
	personal circumstances
	belonging to an underrepresented group
	general and research-specific ethics and integrity standards are met
	gender equality / gender dimension
	diversity in the broader sense (e.g., racial, or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, socio-economic, disability)
	equal opportunities and inclusiveness
	security issues
	freedom of scientific research

Ex.of Awards/Grants

- Marie Curie Grant
- European Physical Society
- European Young Investigator award
- European Contest for Young Scientist
- ANR Chair d'Excellence
- AFOSR Young Investigator Award
- Humboldt Foundation
- FIRB
- Rita Levi Montalcini
- SIF
- SIGRAV prize of the Italian society of General relativity and Gravitation

APRE

What is not needed?

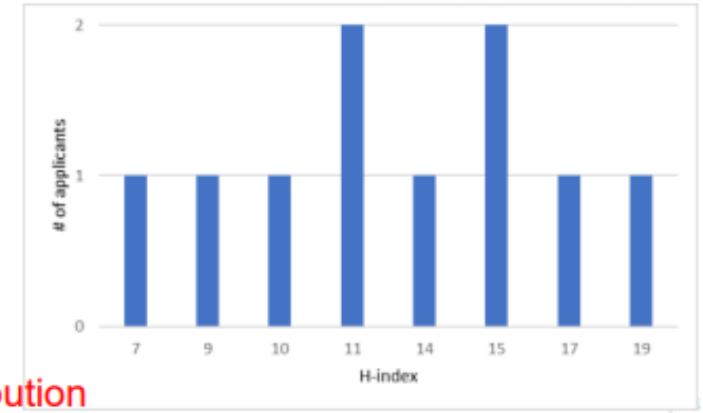


- Have a permanent position or be a full professor
- Present a project in a “trendy” area
- Have a high number of publications
- Apply with a prestigious Host Institution
- Articles in top sector magazines (for example, Science or Nature)
- astronomical h-index

What is not needed?

Rumour : *One needs publications in Nature/Science/High IF journals to succeed.*

✘**NOT true**: however, publishing with senior scientists (former supervisors) may raise doubts about maturity/scientific independence.



StG2024-PE3
H-index distribution

What is needed



- Be independent and successful in your research
- Interesting and/or original career path in research

APRE

Positive evaluations of CV/1

- Several publications are single authored showing <u>*research independence and creativity*</u>. Important ***research mobility***, ex MC fellow

Evaluations of CV (score B)

- It appears that the proposer has exclusively published with experimental consortia involving large (and alphabetic) author list. There is not a single research paper with would allow to access the ability of independent thinking to be clearly distinguished from the competence and expertise of the collaboration, a problem common to many applicants who work primarily or even exclusively under such circumstances. Yet, ***there are sufficient examples where collaborativework and individual competence develop on similar grounds, offering exceptional scientist to distinguish themselves.***

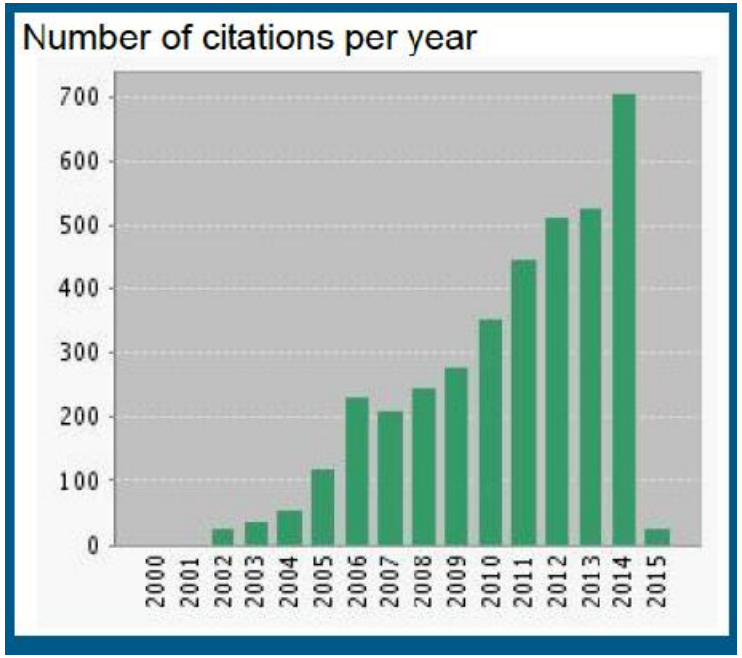
- The PI has a long list of publications in refereed journal ***but with a low level of citations.*** Good past performance with the appropriate expertise

Tools

"I have published XX peer-reviewed articles in major international journals with XX citations (excluding self citations) yielding an H-index of xx. The publications include xx in blabla journal, xx in blabla 2 journal……I have xx patent applications….

researcherID: XXXXXXXXXXXX (from the database)" .

Link to the full list of publications *(if you don't have space to list all of your publications prepare a website for that)*



APRE

Tips & Tricks

Start with a strong declaration

My research interests focus on fundamental physics, in particular the answer to the questions what the Universe is made of and which are the laws of physics that govern its fundamental constituents. For this

Continue with a short story about your career in research

reason, I took part in accelerator-based particle physics experiments (Babar, MEG), aimed to probe

Strong of the experience acquired during my studies and my seven postdocs years, I recently moved my attention to DM and neutrinos, in my opinion the most interesting and fertile fields where to work right now,

- Go through your career from today backwards showing intent and direction
- Demonstrate your capability of independence as a researcher and as a project manager
- Explain the significance of your major past works
- Show that you already started doing preliminary works propaedeutic to your project
- Conclude summarising your career listing the skill you acquired that make you the best candidate for carry out the project and discussing how getting the ERC would allow you to start (consolidate) your research line

APRE

Tips & Tricks

Choose the publications more related to the proposed project
Tip: if your publication have a high level >50 citations, write it

5. J. Adam et al. [MEG Collaboration], *"New constraint on the existence of the $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+\gamma$ decay"*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 110 (2013) 201801, **(527 citations)**.
6. A. M. Baldini et al. [MEG Collaboration], *"Search for the lepton flavour violating decay $\mu^+ \rightarrow e^+\gamma$ with the full dataset of the MEG experiment"*, Eur. Phys. J. C 76 (2016) no.8, 434, **(165 citations)**.

Try to show consistency along the time, i.e. one publication per year

APRE

Tips & Tricks

Section c) Ten years track-record (max 2 pages)

Key publications as main author

I have a total of xx publications in peer reviewed journals as main author/x monographies....
The following 10 publications are either relevant to the project or representative of work I have carried out.

1) Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapy (2017),34, 203-24; *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life,* Martin Baumgartner, Ingrid Maier, Kim Possible

Studying the various deviations from the stereotypes of everyday behavior, strange defects and malfunctions, as well as seemingly random errors, we postulate that they indicate the underlying pathology of the psyche, the symptoms of psychoneurosis. This publication has already attracted a high number of citations (320).

2) *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, June 2017, Vol. 30, No.6, pp 785-798, Beyond the Pleasure Principle, Kim Possible and Wiliam Sidis

This paper marks a turning point of my previous theoretical approach. In "going beyond" the pleasure principle, I developed a theory of drives, adding the death instinct. **Highlighted as best paper of the year 2017.**

APRE

Recommendations

- Underline mobility
- Underline managing of funds
- Underline international experiences
- Underline collaborations/network participation
- Underline tutoring and mentorship
- Underline your capability to adapt to new challenges (having changed experiments, field of research laboratories, etc…)
- Underline responsibility positions (Pis, spokeperson, WP leader, conference organization)
- Underline every experience that is propaedeutic to the ERC project

APRE

Typical reasons for rejection: the PI

Not clear they can carry out the project (not independent, lack of relevant expertise).
Lack of coherence between your track record and your proposal.
Core competences missing.

CLARITY: Vague information won't help you.

QUALITY vs QUANTITY

- The track record must be in line with the proposed research
- Numbers are ok but explain your contribution

EXPLAIN: The panel members may not know if your merits are relevant or not (prizes, grants, journals…)

Contribution at each career step: explain gaps

Not structured/selected info

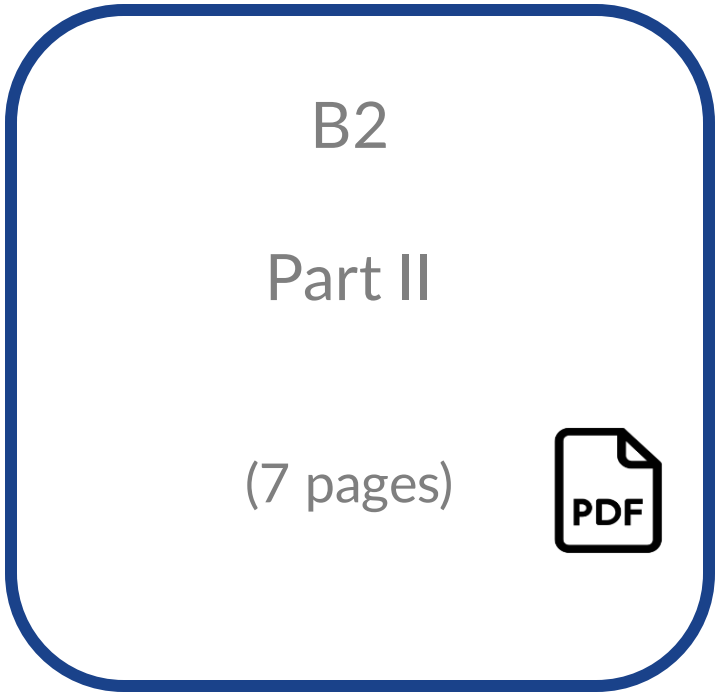
03.

How to write your part B2

Part B2

The limit of **7 pages** for Part II applies to Part B2.

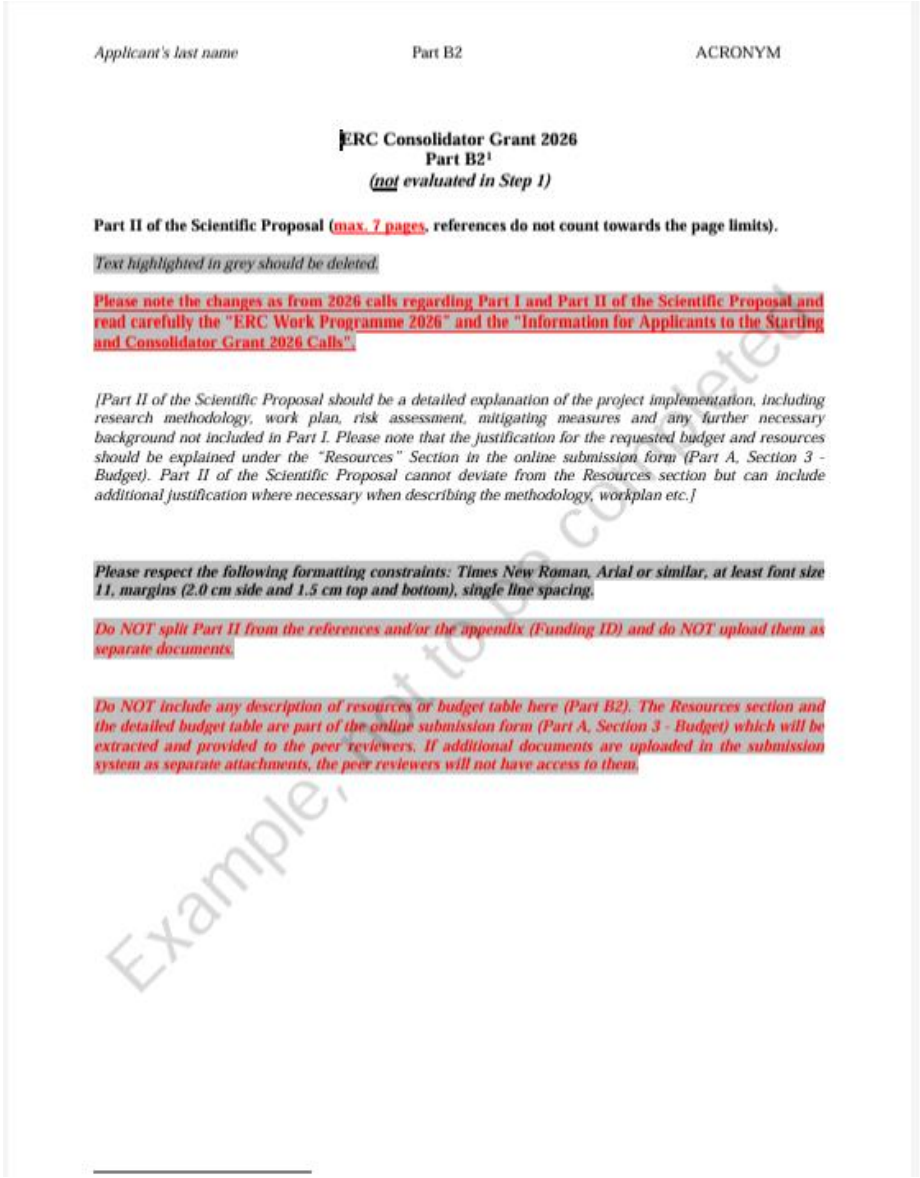
This should be a description of the scientific and technical aspects of the project, demonstrating the ground-breaking nature of the research, its potential impact, and research methodology.



APRE

Part II of the Scientific Porposal

Template



Applicant's last name Part B2 ACRONYM

ERC Consolidator Grant 2026
Part B2[1]
(not evaluated in Step 1)

Part II of the Scientific Proposal (max. 7 pages, references do not count towards the page limits).

Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.

Please note the changes as from 2026 calls regarding Part I and Part II of the Scientific Proposal and read carefully the "ERC Work Programme 2026" and the "Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls".

[Part II of the Scientific Proposal should be a detailed explanation of the project implementation, including research methodology, work plan, risk assessment, mitigating measures and any further necessary background not included in Part I. Please note that the justification for the requested budget and resources should be explained under the "Resources" Section in the online submission form (Part A, Section 3 - Budget). Part II of the Scientific Proposal cannot deviate from the Resources section but can include additional justification where necessary when describing the methodology, workplan etc.]

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margins (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.

Do NOT split Part II from the references and/or the appendix (Funding ID) and do NOT upload them as separate documents.

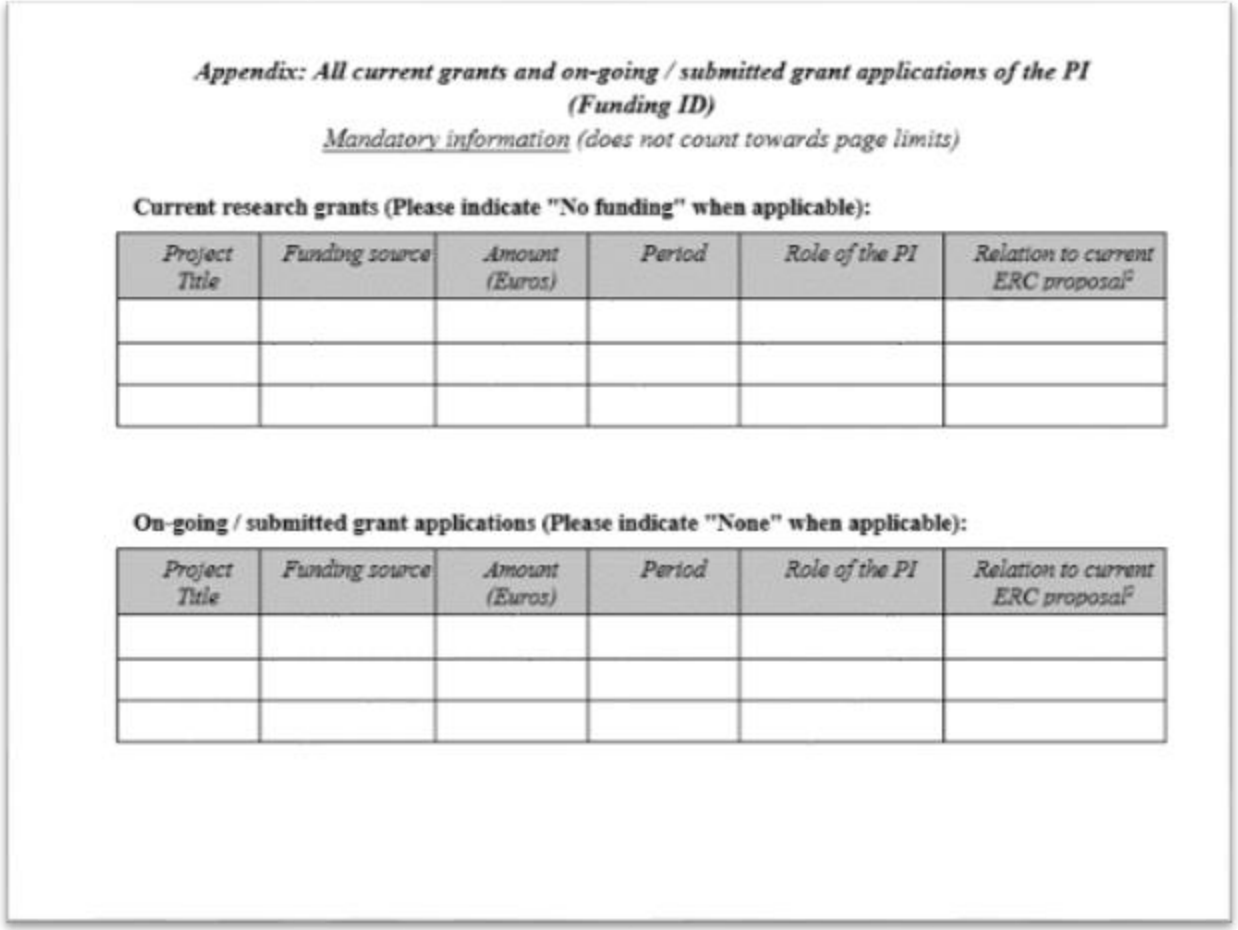
Do NOT include any description of resources or budget table here (Part B2). The Resources section and the detailed budget table are part of the online submission form (Part A, Section 3 - Budget) which will be extracted and provided to the peer reviewers. If additional documents are uploaded in the submission system as separate attachments, the peer reviewers will not have access to them.

Example, not to be completed

APRE

FUNDING ID

Specify any ongoing research grants and their objectives, as well as any pending applications for projects related to the proposal.



Appendix: All current grants and on-going / submitted grant applications of the PI (Funding ID)

Mandatory information (does not count towards page limits)

Current research grants (Please indicate "No funding" when applicable):

Project Title	*Funding source*	*Amount (Euros)*	*Period*	*Role of the PI*	*Relation to current ERC proposal*[2]

On-going / submitted grant applications (Please indicate "None" when applicable):

Project Title	*Funding source*	*Amount (Euros)*	*Period*	*Role of the PI*	*Relation to current ERC proposal*[2]

APRE

The questions to answer

- To what extent does the research address important scientific questions?
- To what extent are the project's objectives ambitious, will the project advance the frontier of knowledge and is the proposed approach scientifically convincing?
- ERC Plus Grants only: To what extent does the project address aims that could not be reached with a regular ERC grant?
- Synergy Grants only: To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone?
- To what extent are the research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?

The questions to answer

- To what extent are the timescales and resources adequate and properly justified?
- Synergy Grants only: To what extent do the Principal Investigators succeed in proposing a combination of scientific approaches that are crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research questions to be tackled?

APRE

The importance of PART B2

Part B2 is the main document that **external experts** will review, in addition to Form B1. In the ERC evaluation process, external experts are selected based on the specific nature of the project.

Therefore, you should write your B2 with this in mind and draft the text as if you were presenting your research to your peers or experts in the specific field.



APRE

The importance of PART B2

- Do not repeat the synopsis (part B1), but detail the methodology and work plan.
- Restate the groundbreaking aspect of your project to introduce your methodology.
- Make sure to include all relevant details in your project implementation and to be precise.
- Include all project outcomes that are measurable and quantifiable.
- You should provide some sort of timeline.
- Provide alternative strategies to mitigate the main risks.

Convince specialists reviewers as well

APRE

PART B2 | Where to start

Describe the **work plan**, including **timelines** and **personnel**, as well as the previous work that led to this research idea. In addition, **feasibility** and **risk mitigation plans** should be described in more detail here.

Since reviewers at Step 2 of the evaluation have access to both B1 and B2, copying text is not a good idea. Instead, in B2 you should elaborate on all the elements briefly mentioned in B1, such as the innovative aspects and the timeliness of the proposal.



APRE

a) State of the art and objectives: provide context, define your aims

objectives clearly specified in context of state of the art; importance, timeliness and anticpated impact of proposed research

PART I

b) Methodology: feasibility & coherence with your aims

detailled; novel/ unconventional aspects, work and time plan, key intermediate goals; intermediate stages that may require adjustments to the project planning; risks and contingency plans; required expertise of team members, working arrangements

PART II

APRE

State of the Art and Objectives

- Start with one paragraph shortly explaining the
  - Aims
  - Significance
- Continue with
  - State of the Art

Methodology

- Methodology per objective (1,2,3 or a,b,c)
- Challenges
- Strategy, Tasks, detailed approach per objective. **Three objectives is the sweet spot**
- Feasibility (facilities, know-how, collaborations, previous data etc)
- Risk analysis. If risky have a plan B and write about it!!!
- Ethics !!!
- Time schedule and work flow

If necessary, provide further details on what is outlined in Part I.

APRE

5 tips to write your Part B2

1) Show how your methodology stands out
2) Address risks effectively
3) Structure your proposal smartly (keep the evaluation criteria in mind)
4) Make it clear and readable
5) Ensure consistency and coherence

APRE

PART B2 | Main topics

Methodology, work plan, feasibility

Tell them exactly what you expect to do, the work plan, explore hypotheses and any supporting evidence (if available).

- Revolutionary nature: Motivation/logical foundation
- Scientific Approach: Methodology
- Potential impact: expected outcomes. Include broader applications (other sectors?)
- Risk assessment and feasibility: emphasize support from experts and preliminary data/expertise of the PI to support feasibility (include a table).

APRE

Part 2 | Methodology and work plan

- Describe in detail the proposed methodology, including the main intermediate objectives.
- Explain and justify the methodology in relation to the state of the art.
- Highlight any intermediate stages where the results may require adjustments to the project plan.
- Include a Gantt chart to present the scheduling of Work Packages (WPs), deliverables, and milestones.
- Describe each WP, including the activities, impacts, expected results, and subsequent phases.

APRE

Part B2 | Methodology and objectives

What are your project's objectives? the concrete steps needed to explore the concept or test the hypothesis. The **methodology** should follow logically, presenting a clear and justified plan of action for achieving each objective.

As you develop this part, make sure to answer the following key questions:

- *Are the tasks/experiments aligned with the proposed objectives?*
- *Is this the most effective and appropriate methodology for the problem?*
- *Is it clear how each step contributes to testing the hypothesis or answering the core questions?*

APRE

Part B2 | Outcomes

ERC does not require certainty, but scientific value.

Ask yourself:

- *Am I able to credibly anticipate possible outcomes?* This should demonstrate expertise in the chosen methodology and adequate planning of the experiments.
- *If the hypothesis is wrong, do the results still offer insight or direction? Will the results contribute to filling the knowledge gap?*
- *Will the expected outcomes just reassure preliminary findings or add significant value to the scientific community?*
- *Will the outcomes help fill the knowledge gap? Generate new lines of inquiry or shift the conversation in your field?*

Project INTIUM | Introduction to the methodology

Tips & Tricks

1. Start with a statement that clearly highlights the project's objective, innovation, and significance

2. Present the expected results/outcomes

3. Conclude with a strong statement on the short- and long-term impact

INITIUM goal is to boost the development and advancement of gaseous Time Projection Chamber detectors, in particular in the Dark Matter (DM) searches field. I believe this approach to be superior because of its active electron/nuclear recoil discrimination, directional and fiducialization capability down to low energies and versatility in terms of target (Sec. A.2). Thanks to advances in recent years in Micro Pattern as Detectors

and versatility in terms of target (Sec. A.2). Thanks to advances in recent years in Micro Pattern as Detectors (MPGD) for amplification and improved readout techniques (Sec. A.3, A.4), TPCs are nowadays mature

cameras and PMTs at Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (LNGS). Thanks to the foreseen innovative features discussed in Sec. A.5., INITIUM will be able to put new remarkable constraints in a WIMP-nucleon

features discussed in Sec. A.5., INITIUM will be able to put new remarkable constraints in a WIMP-nucleon scattering parameter space still unexplored to these days, with sensitivity down to $\sim 10^{-42}$-10^{-43} cm^2 for Spin

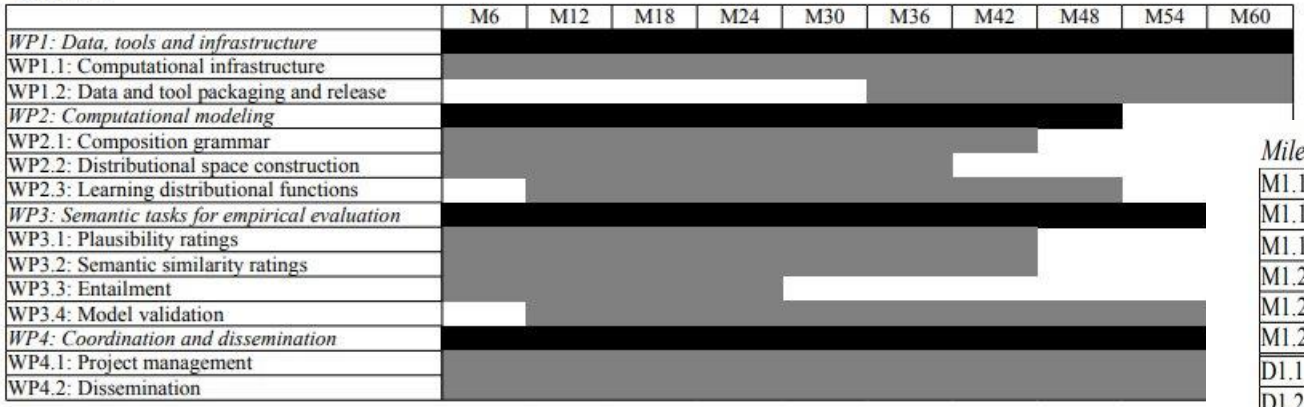
measure the coherent scattering of neutrinos from the Sun and Supernovae. I firmly believe that INITIUM can start a new era for NITPC detectors in directional DM search, while giving me the chance to solidly establish my research team and line in Italy and worldwide.

APRE

Project COMPOSES | Work Plan

b.1 Work plan

Timeline



Milestones and deliverables

M1.1.1	Extended server up and running	M6
M1.1.2	Hadoop/MapReduce architecture ready	M12
M1.1.3-5	Annual infrastructure review	M24,36,48
M1.2.1	Precompiled semantic space resources packaged	M39
M1.2.2	Experimental data set streamlining	M48
M1.2.3	Code cleanup and review	M57
D1.1.1	Architecture documentation	M13
D1.2.1	Public precompiled semantic spaces release	M40
D1.2.2	Public experimental data set release	M50

Work Package 1: Data, tools and infrastructure [Months 1-60]

Objectives: set up and maintain computational infrastructure; package and document data and tools to be released.

WP1 Activity 1: Computational infrastructure (Lead: PI; participants: post-doc 1) [Months 1-60]

In order to run the intensive computations required by the project (Activities WP2.2, WP2.3 and WP3.4), we will use COMPOSES funds to extend our current server cluster setup to (minimally) 10 16GB RAM blades and 20TB high quality (NetApp) storage space. On top of this hardware layer, we will implement a

Tips & Tricks

APRE

Project COMPOSES | Risk assessment

time, in particular, to model evaluation *after* the models have been implemented and the benchmark data sets have been constructed, as well as to final dissemination of the project results. The regular meetings of the COMPOSES team and the periodic consultant reviews will assess progress, and re-adjust the objectives accordingly.

We briefly comment here on two critical dependencies and the connected risks. *(1) WP2 modeling undershoots its target, failing to implement all the rules we would like to account for.* We will make sure that the WP3 data sets include sentences of different degrees of complexity, as well as phrases (e.g., adjective-noun constructions) as standalone stimuli, to allow incremental evaluation of the WP2 models and meaningful evaluation even if it turns out that some of the more advanced aspects of the WP2 grammars are not feasible to implement. In any case, the full WP3 subject-elicited data will be released, and they will constitute a precious resource for future empirical semantic studies. The partial success and specific failures of WP2 modeling will also be documented, and they will be of interest by themselves, and in paving the way for future work. *(2) Some WP3 experiments do not provide meaningful results* (e.g., subjects do not provide consistent sentential similarity ratings). Data sets will be collected incrementally, so that we can adjust their focus (for example, shifting focus phrase similarity ratings). WP2 models will be evaluated on the usable subset of empirical benchmarks, as well as by alternative evaluation means (e.g., by how well distributional functions approximate their output on held-out data).

b.3 Risk table

Risk	*Mitigation actions*
WP1, WP2, WP3: Dependencies?	Although the experiments in the three simulation WPs are related and some techniques should ideally be prototyped in WP1 and then applied to WP2 and WP3, there is no crucial dependency such that delays in a WP would prevent concurrent progress in the other WPs.
WP1: Problems generalizing to new referents	i) Work with (still useful) protocols limited to a large but fixed number of object classes. ii) Special training methods to encourage 0-shot generalization: in particular, add many training examples where target and distractors are same-class or extremely similar, to spur emergence of a granular attribute-level language. iii) Study problem at the class level: are there specific classes where fast generalization works better? Does this depend on similarity to training classes? Can we capitalize on this observation, if confirmed?
WP1, WP2, WP3: Problems generalizing to new agents	i) Explore simplified setups, e.g., limit DNN architecture variety. ii) Focus on supervised imitation learning. iii) Study if community-evolved languages have other advantages, even if they are not as fast to transmit as hypothesized.
WP1, WP2: Supervision is not beneficial.	For the time being, we won't get a single "universal" language, but methods to evolve useful languages will still be delivered. Extensive study of *why* supervision does not help: Is it because language drift undoes its benefits? Does supervision hamper generalization?

APRE

PROJECT INTIUM | Risk assessment

Tips & Tricks

B.2 RISK ASSESSMENT

I believe that the proposed approach, combined with chosen institutions and research team, can mitigate the expected contingencies. The time devoted to the optical readout design and performances optimisation will allow us to sustain our final detector choices with experimental data in addition to simulations. The

- Discuss how you can mitigate the contigencies with back up plans
- Elaborate on the feasibility of the project, backling it up with appropriateness of the research team and facilities chosen.

APRE

The narrative logic

Methodology

Should be extensive with the essential details an experts would need to know;

Work plan should also be clear and persuade evaluators .

Feasibility

Where possible cover every risk with a mitigation strategy;

Explicit but controlled risks.

Justify resources & team

Be sure to show the PI is the leader of the team and central figure;

Explain what each team member will do;

Be ambitious and link the resourced to the objectives.

APRE

Part B2 | Final thoughts

- Briefly recap and expand the **groundbreaking aspects**;
- Explain ***how*** and ***why*** your project is important to the field.
  Do not forget the ***timeliness***;
- Discuss the challenges and ***unconventional aspects*** of your project;
- ***Coherence*** and ***clear linkages*** throughout proposal text;
- The better your proposal is organized the more **feasible** the **project plan** will appear.

APRE

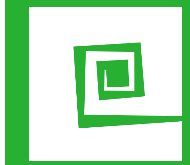
Differences between Part B1 and Part B2

	Part B1	Part B2
Main focus	Idea & excellence	Implementation & feasibility
Audience	Panel members	Panel members + Remote referees
Level of detail	Conceptual and visionary	Technical and practical
Includes CV / track record	Yes	No
Includes Gantt chart, WPs, deliverables	No	Yes
Evaluation criteria (ERC)	Excellence (only)	Excellence (and feasibility check)

APRE

04.

ERC Application



Overview of an ERC application

PART A

Administrative forms



B1

Part I +
CV & Track Record

(5+ 4 pages) PDF

B2

Part II

(7 pages) PDF

Annexes

Host Institution letter, Ethics and Security (if applicable), Eligibility Documents

PDF

APRE

PART A

PART A

Administrative forms



APRE

PART A | Administrative forms

Section 1- General Information

- Project acronym
- Title
- Duration
- Abstract: **objectives** of the research and **how** they will be achieved
- Evalutation Panel:

main ERC panel best suited to evaluate your proposal
optional: indicate a **secondary review panel** if your project is interdisciplinary
Choose up to **four ERC keywords** (Annex 4.1)

The submission form is accessed via the call submission link in the **EU Funding & Tenders Portal.**

APRE

Choose your panel

When you submit, you need to indicate:

Primary ERC Review Panel : which will in principle evaluate the proposal
Secondary ERC Review Panel: *if applicable*

ERC Keyword 1: must be linked to the Primary Review Panel.
ERC Keyword 2-4: *if applicable, from any panel*

Free keywords: FREE text, they guide (but do not determine) the allocation of proposals to reviewers

PANEL

KEYWORDS

4.1 ERC EVALUATION PANELS AND KEYWORDS

Physical Sciences and Engineering

PE1 Mathematics

All areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics

PE1_1 Logic and foundations
PE1_2 Algebra
PE1_3 Number theory
PE1_4 Algebraic and complex geometry
PE1_5 Lie groups, Lie algebras
PE1_6 Geometry and global analysis
PE1_7 Topology
PE1_8 Analysis
PE1_9 Operator algebras and functional analysis
PE1_10 ODE and dynamical systems
PE1_11 Theoretical aspects of partial differential equations
PE1_12 Mathematical physics
PE1_13 Probability
PE1_14 Mathematical statistics
PE1_15 Generic statistical methodology and modelling
PE1_16 Discrete mathematics and combinatorics
PE1_17 Mathematical aspects of computer science
PE1_18 Numerical analysis
PE1_19 Scientific computing and data processing
PE1_20 Control theory, optimisation and operational research
PE1_21 Application of mathematics in sciences
PE1_22 Application of mathematics in industry and society

PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter

Particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics

PE2_1 Theory of fundamental interactions
PE2_2 Phenomenology of fundamental interactions
PE2_3 Experimental particle physics with accelerators
PE2_4 Experimental particle physics without accelerators
PE2_5 Classical and quantum physics of gravitational interactions
PE2_6 Nuclear, hadron and heavy ion physics
PE2_7 Nuclear and particle astrophysics
PE2_8 Gas and plasma physics
PE2_9 Electromagnetism
PE2_10 Atomic, molecular physics
PE2_11 Ultra-cold atoms and molecules
PE2_12 Optics, non-linear optics and nano-optics
PE2_13 Quantum optics and quantum information
PE2_14 Lasers, ultra-short lasers and laser physics
PE2_15 Thermodynamics
PE2_16 Non-linear physics
PE2_17 Metrology and measurement
PE2_18 Equilibrium and non-equilibrium statistical mechanics: steady states and dynamics

DATABASE PANEL:

https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/panel-members?bt1TQmHqqd

PANEL MEMBERS ANNI PRECEDENTI:

https://erc.europa.eu/support/document-library/archive

Review panel	Funding schemes	Review panel member name	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
LS	SyG	Ruben Abagyan					■			■		
LS	SyG	Kari Alitalo									■	
LS	SyG	Genevieve Almouzni									■	
LS	SyG	Rudolf Amann									■	
LS	SyG	Bruno Amati				■			■			
LS	SyG	Dora Angelaki					■			■		
LS	SyG	Tamas Bartfai								■		
LS	SyG	Carmen Birchmeier								■		
LS	SyG	Susan Bonner-Weir				■						
LS	SyG	Dries Bonte				■			■			
LS	SyG	Dimitrios Boumpas									■	

PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

PE1 Mathematics:	Prof. Anton Alekseev
PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter:	Prof. Jean-Sébastien Caux
PE3 Condensed Matter Physics:	Prof. Suzanne Fielding
PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences:	Prof. Marco Musiani
PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials:	Prof. Mark Bradley
PE6 Computer Science and Informatics:	Prof. Josep Domingo-Ferrer
PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering:	Prof. Rick Middleton
PE8 Products and Processes Engineering:	Prof. Jonathan Borg
PE9 Universe Sciences:	Prof. Maria Alessandra Papa
PE10 Earth System Science:	Prof. James W. Kirchner
PE11 Materials Engineering:	Prof. Maria Antonietta Loi

LIFE SCIENCES

LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions:	Prof. Reinhard Jahn
LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems:	Prof. Fyodor Kondrashov
LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology:	Prof. Elly Tanaka
LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing:	Prof. Eli Pikarsky
LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System:	Prof. Carmen Sandi
LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy:	Prof. Dominique Soldati-Favre
LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases:	Prof. Emmanuel Delamarche
LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution:	Prof. Tobyn Kiers
LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering:	Prof. David G. Heckel

SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations:	Prof. Ailsa Röell
SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems:	Prof. Andrej Zwitter
SH3 The Social World and its Diversity:	Prof. Evelyn Ruppert
SH4 The Human Mind and its Complexity:	Prof. Olivier Roy
SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production:	Prof. Ann Rigney
SH6 The Study of the Human Past:	Prof. Bruno Strasser
SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space:	Prof. Arnstein Aassve

APRE

Choose your panel | 28 panels

Each of the 28 panels is composed by 12-18 panel members.

More than 450 panel members per call and year!

The panel chair is known during the evaluation however the composition is made public once the results are published.

A panel may not include an expert in your discipline , they are semi-generalists , **but**!
ERC can establish collaborations between panels…

The members of ERC panels alternate to allow panel members to apply to the ERC calls in alternate years.

Only the Panel chairs are public knowledge !

APRE

Considerations when choosing a panel

Firstly, which panel **speaks the project's scientific language**? which panel will be able to best understand and appreciate the scientific merit and groundbreaking aspects of my research project (including its terminology, approaches and proposed methods)?

Secondly, which panel will be able to **acknowledge my scientific expertise**, research achievements and leadership?

In most cases, the answer will lead you to the best panel choice for you and your proposed project.
If there is no 'perfect' match or a clear choice, ask yourself which panel will be the 'next best thing'.

If the answers to these questions result in more than one panel, you might consider opting for a **secondary panel**.

APRE

Choose your panel

- Proposals are initially assigned to the Panel of the PI's choice.
- Transfer of proposals between panels may occur if: • there is a clear mistake on part of the applicant. • the necessary expertise is available in a different panel.

Rumour: Choose the panel "strategically" in order to increase chances of success NOT true: Choose the panel that best fits the proposal. The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand → success rate is equal amongst panels!

Rumour: indicate a lot of diverse descriptors, so your proposal looks more multidisciplinary. NOT true: reviewers will not see them in Part B1. This simply makes the assignment process more confusing

APRE

Secondary panel

- If necessary. The secondary panel can be chosen either within or across the scientific domains. Although this option is mostly relevant for multidisciplinary projects, not all will require two evaluation panels and this shouldn't be viewed as an obvious choice. Opting for a secondary panel should be carefully considered and well justified. In addition to the questions we listed above, try answering the following ones –
- What is the leading research discipline of the project's core idea? in which scientific area does the weight and focus of the project lay?
- Which panel best reflects the scientific excellence and expertise of the PI (according to their track record and research achievements)?

These questions will help determine not only if a secondary panel is essential, but also the hierarchy of the selected panels. This is critical, as the primary panel will lead and manage the evaluation process, and may (or may not) choose to include the secondary panel in the evaluation process.

APRE

Panels and keywords

Step 1: Initial registration: Primary and/or secondary panel

Primary ERC Review Panel*		
Secondary ERC Review Panel		(if applicable)

Step 2: Initial registration: ERC Keyword 1: Mandatory link to primary panel

ERC Keyword 1*	*As first keyword please choose one which is linked to the Primary Review Panel.*

Step 3: Characterizing the subject of the proposal

Please select, if applicable, the ERC keyword(s) that best characterise the subject of your proposal in order of priority.

ERC Keyword 2	*Not applicable*
ERC Keyword 3	*Not applicable*
ERC Keyword 4	*Not applicable*

Step 4: Indicating Scope & Selecting Remote Reviewers

Free keywords	*In addition, please enter free text keywords that you consider best characterise the scope of your research proposal. The choice of keywords should take into account any multi-disciplinary aspects of the proposal.*

Draft - not for submission

APRE

PART A | Administrative forms

Section 2- Participants

- Principal Investigator (PI):
  ORCID number, Researcher ID, other IDs
- Host Institution
- Additional beneficiaries (if relevant)

This section also includes the following elements:

- Gender Equality Plan (GEP)
- Career stage of the Principal Investigator

The submission form is accessed via the call submission link in the **EU Funding & Tenders Portal.**

APRE

PART A | Administrative forms

Section 3- Budget

- The **budget table** must contain all cost information.
- No **additional documents or annexes** will be accepted.
- Under the table, in **Section C. Resources**:
  - **Description** of the resources, 8.000 / 10.000 (AdG) characters, including spaces.
  - **Justification** for each budget item

A. Personnel – 2.500 characters max

B. Subcontracting (if applicable) – 1.000 characters max

C. Purchase costs – 3.500 characters max

D. Internally invoiced goods and services (if applicable) – 1.000 characters max

Request for additional funding (if applicable) – 1.000 characters max

Funding from other sources (if applicable) – 1.000 characters max

APRE

PART A | Administrative forms

Section 4- Ethics & Security

This section is divided into two parts:

- Ethics Issues Table
- Security Issues Table

Must be completed **even if no ethical/security issues apply**

If **YES** to any question:

- Provide an **Ethics Self-Assessment**
- Attach **supporting documents** as annexes.

Further guidance available in: *"How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment"*

The submission form is accessed via the call submission link in the **EU Funding & Tenders Portal**.

APRE

PART A | Administrative forms

Section 5- Other questions

This section collects additional administrative and statistical information, including:

- Academic training of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Eligibility and working time declarations!
- Data sharing and consent statements
- Reviewer exclusion requests

APRE

PART B

B1

Part I +
CV & Track Record

(5+ 4 pages) PDF

B2

Part II

(7 pages) PDF

APRE

PART B | The research proposal



Follow the specific **formatting requirements**



References do not count towards the page limit

It consists of Part B1, Part B2.

The templates provided in the submission system (zip file) must be used. Each page of the proposal must include a header containing the PI's last name, the project acronym, and a reference to the corresponding section of the proposal (Part B1 or Part B2).

Page Format	Font Type	Font Size	Line Spacing	Margins
A4	Times New Roman Arial or similar	At least 11	Single	2 cm side 1.5 bottom

APRE

COVER

SECONDARY PANEL

ERC Consolidator Grant 2026
Part B1[1]
(Part B1 is evaluated in Step 1 and Step 2, Part B2 is evaluated in Step 2 only)

Proposal Full Title

PROPOSAL ACRONYM

Cover Page:
- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Name of the PI's Host Institution for the project
- Proposal duration in months

Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.

Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1).

The abstract (summary) should, at a glance, provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved. The abstract will be used as the short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process and in communications to contact in particular potential independent external experts and/or to inform the Commission and/or the programme management committees and/or relevant national funding agencies. It must therefore be short and precise, and should not contain confidential information.

Please use plain typed text, avoiding formulae and other special characters. The abstract must be written in English. There is a limit of 2000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

example, not to be completed

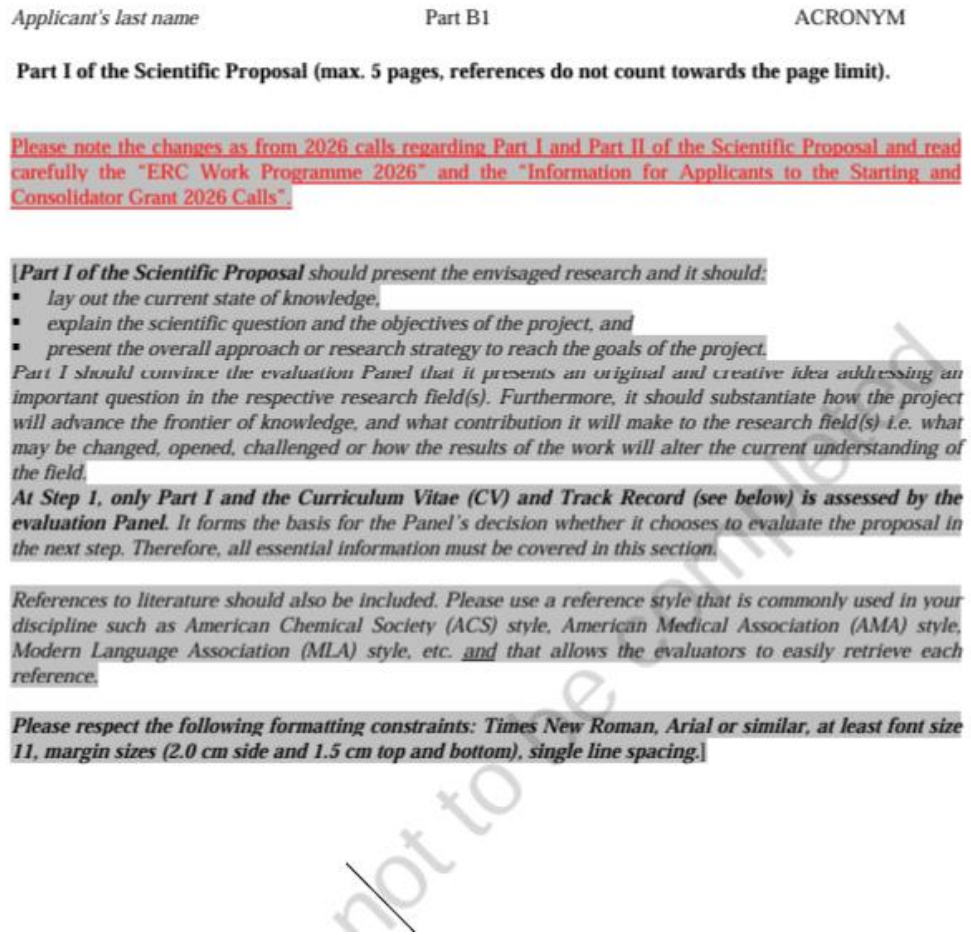
If a secondary panel is indicated in the online proposal submission forms, please explain and justify the cross-panel or cross-domain nature of your proposal here. There is a limit of 1000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

[1] Instructions for completing Part B1 can be found in the '*Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls*'.

SECTION B1

Part I of the Scientific Porposal

(5 pages)



Applicant's last name Part B1 ACRONYM

Part I of the Scientific Proposal (max. 5 pages, references do not count towards the page limit).

Please note the changes as from 2026 calls regarding Part I and Part II of the Scientific Proposal and read carefully the "ERC Work Programme 2026" and the "Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls".

[***Part I of the Scientific Proposal*** *should present the envisaged research and it should:*

- *lay out the current state of knowledge,*
- *explain the scientific question and the objectives of the project, and*
- *present the overall approach or research strategy to reach the goals of the project.*

Part I should convince the evaluation Panel that it presents an original and creative idea addressing an important question in the respective research field(s). Furthermore, it should substantiate how the project will advance the frontier of knowledge, and what contribution it will make to the research field(s) i.e. what may be changed, opened, challenged or how the results of the work will alter the current understanding of the field.

At Step 1, only Part I and the Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Track Record (see below) is assessed by the evaluation Panel. *It forms the basis for the Panel's decision whether it chooses to evaluate the proposal in the next step. Therefore, all essential information must be covered in this section.*

References to literature should also be included. Please use a reference style that is commonly used in your discipline such as American Chemical Society (ACS) style, American Medical Association (AMA) style, Modern Language Association (MLA) style, etc. and that allows the evaluators to easily retrieve each reference.

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margin sizes (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.]

not to be compiled

APRE

CV and Track record

(4 pages)

Curriculum vitae and Track Record (max. 4 pages)

[You may modify the below template if necessary.]

PERSONAL DETAILS

[Provide your personal details, your education and key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions you have held.]

Family name, First name:
Researcher unique identifier(s) (such as ORCID, Research ID, etc. ...):
URL for website:

- **Education and key qualifications**

DD/MM/YYYY PhD
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country
Name of PhD Supervisor
YYYY Master
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

- **Current position(s)**

YYYY - YYYY Current Position
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
YYYY – YYYY Current Position
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

- **Previous position(s)**

YYYY - YYYY Position held
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
YYYY - YYYY Position held
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND PEER RECOGNITION

Research achievements

[Provide a list of up to ten research outputs that demonstrate how you have advanced knowledge in your field with an emphasis on more recent achievements, such as publications, articles deposited in a publicly available preprint server, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, data sets, software, patents, licenses, standards, start-up businesses or any other research outputs you deem relevant in relation to your research field and your project.

You may include a short, factual explanation of the significance of the selected outputs, your role in producing each of them, and how they demonstrate your capacity to successfully carry out your proposed project.]

Peer recognition

[Provide a list of selected examples of significant recognition by your peers if applicable, such as prizes, awards, fellowships, elected academy memberships, invited presentations to major conferences or any other examples of significant recognition you deem relevant in relation to your research field and project.

You may include a short explanation of the significance of the listed examples.]

Example, not to be completed

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[You may provide relevant additional information on your research career to provide context to the evaluation panels when assessing your research achievements and peer recognition as described above].

Career breaks, diverse career paths and major life events

[You may include a short factual explanation of career breaks or diverse career paths such as secondments, volunteering, part-time work, time spent in different sectors or the effects of major life events such as long-term illness, including events that have no impact on eligibility, such as the effects of pandemic restrictions on research productivity.]

Other contributions to the research community

[You may include a list of particularly noteworthy contributions to the research community you have made other than research achievements and peer recognition, and a short explanation of these contributions. The purpose of this section is to allow the evaluation Panel to take a more rounded view of your career and achievements and to ensure that any additional responsibilities, commitments and leadership roles that you have taken on beyond your individual research activities are recognised and taken into account.]

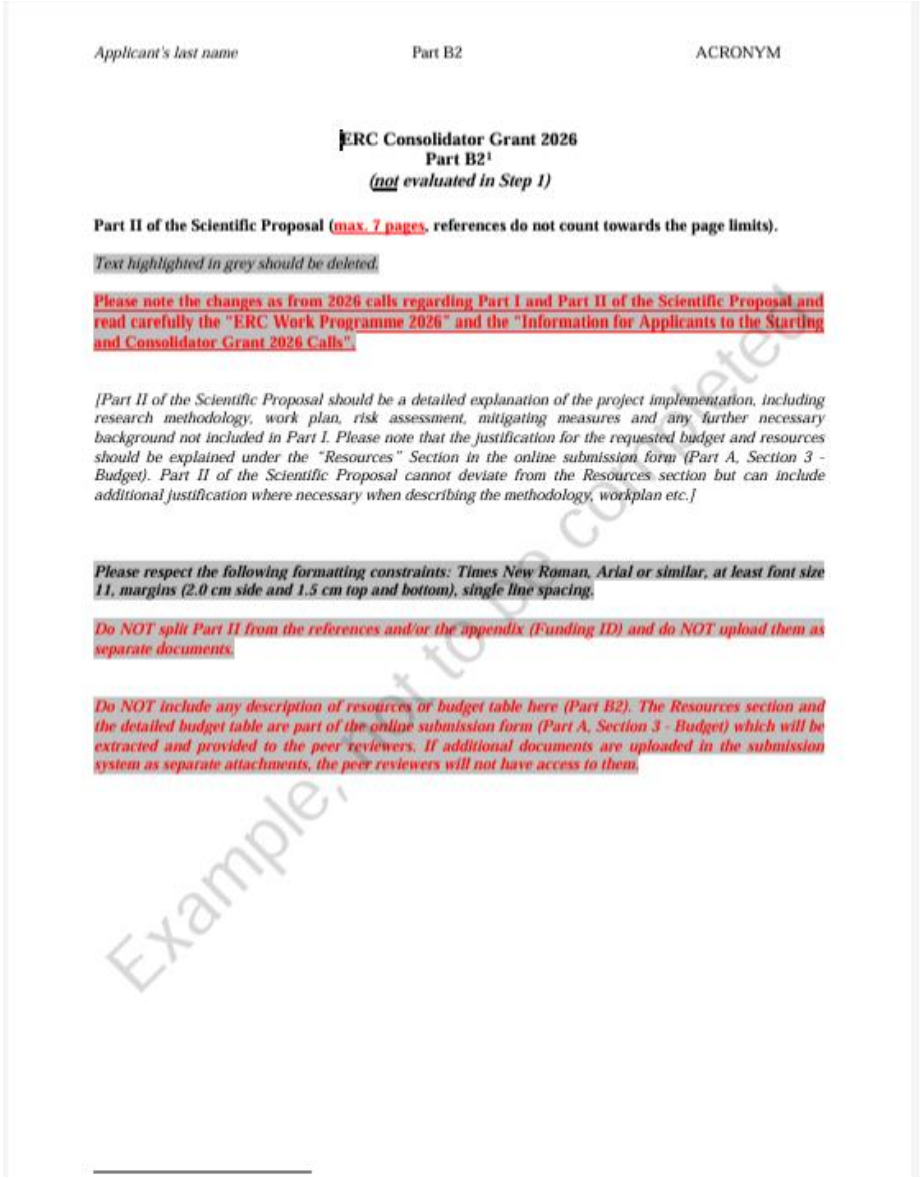
[(for more information see 'Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls')]

Do NOT split Part 1 from the CV and Track Record and/or references and do NOT upload them as separate documents. The peer reviewers will only receive one single document for evaluation at Step 1. Hence, Part B1 should contain all elements as explained in this template. If some parts of Part B1 are uploaded in the submission system as separate attachments, the peer reviewers will not have access to them.

Example, not to be completed

Part II of the Scientific Porposal

(7 pages)



Applicant's last name Part B2 ACRONYM

ERC Consolidator Grant 2026
Part B2[1]
(not evaluated in Step 1)

Part II of the Scientific Proposal (max. 7 pages, references do not count towards the page limits).

Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.

Please note the changes as from 2026 calls regarding Part I and Part II of the Scientific Proposal and read carefully the "ERC Work Programme 2026" and the "Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls".

[Part II of the Scientific Proposal should be a detailed explanation of the project implementation, including research methodology, work plan, risk assessment, mitigating measures and any further necessary background not included in Part I. Please note that the justification for the requested budget and resources should be explained under the "Resources" Section in the online submission form (Part A, Section 3 - Budget). Part II of the Scientific Proposal cannot deviate from the Resources section but can include additional justification where necessary when describing the methodology, workplan etc.]

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margins (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.

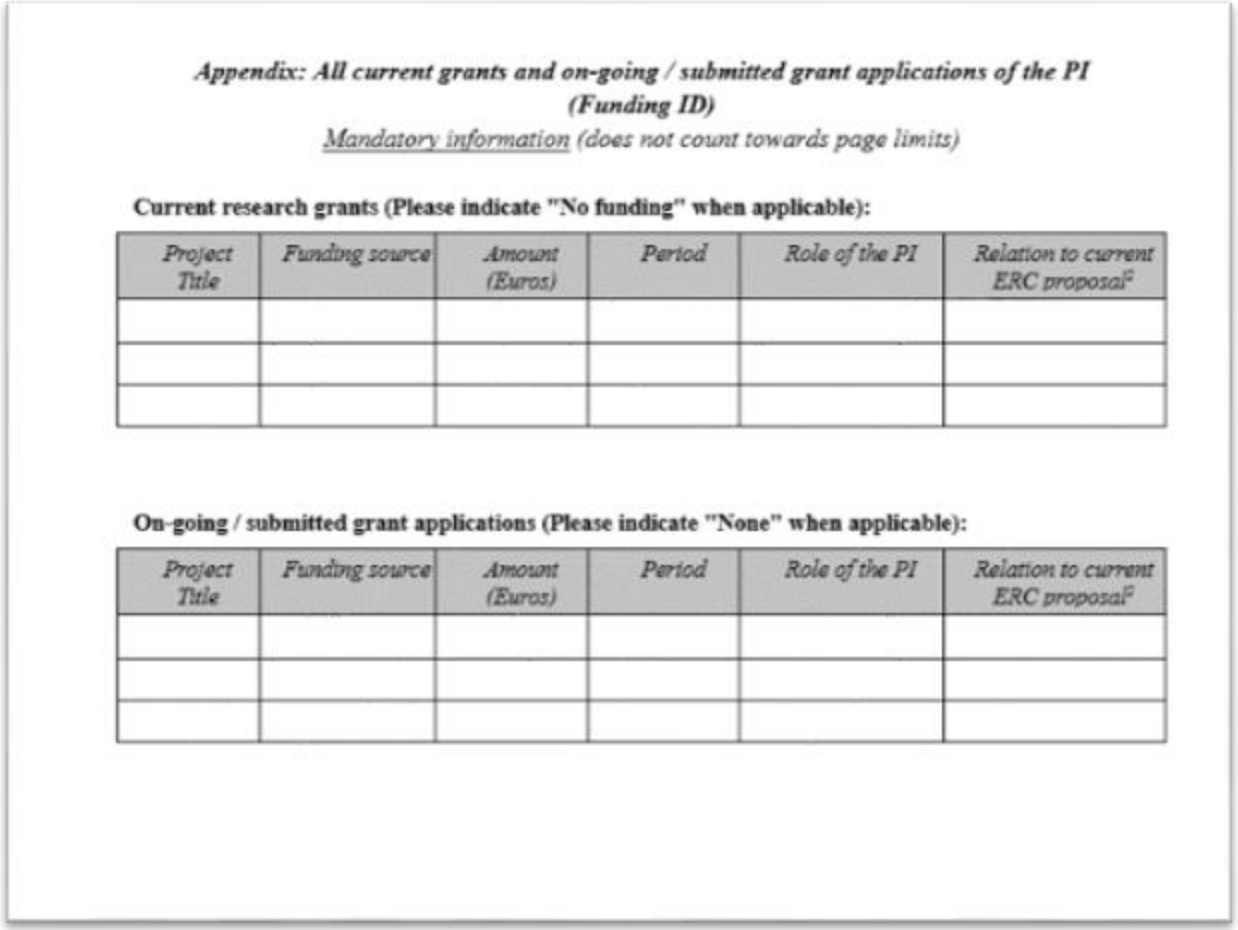
Do NOT split Part II from the references and/or the appendix (Funding ID) and do NOT upload them as separate documents.

Do NOT include any description of resources or budget table here (Part B2). The Resources section and the detailed budget table are part of the online submission form (Part A, Section 3 - Budget) which will be extracted and provided to the peer reviewers. If additional documents are uploaded in the submission system as separate attachments, the peer reviewers will not have access to them.

Example, not to be completed

APRE

FUNDING ID



Appendix: All current grants and on-going / submitted grant applications of the PI (Funding ID)

Mandatory information (does not count towards page limits)

Current research grants (Please indicate "No funding" when applicable):

Project Title	*Funding source*	*Amount (Euros)*	*Period*	*Role of the PI*	*Relation to current ERC proposal*[2]

On-going / submitted grant applications (Please indicate "None" when applicable):

Project Title	*Funding source*	*Amount (Euros)*	*Period*	*Role of the PI*	*Relation to current ERC proposal*[2]

APRE

ANNEXES

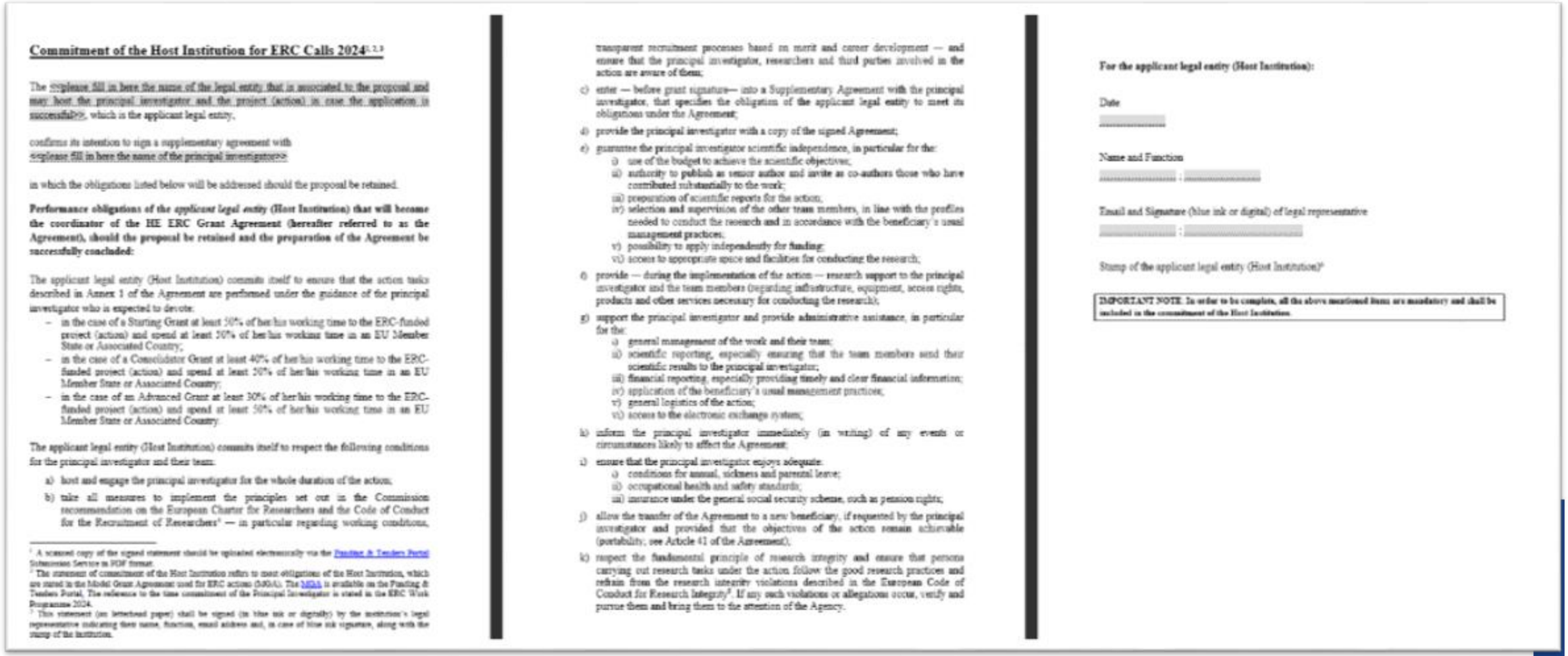
Annexes

Host Institution letter, Ethics and Security (if applicable), Eligibility Documents



APRE

H.I . SUPPORT LETTER



Commitment of the Host Institution for ERC Calls 2024[1, 2, 3]

The <please fill in here the name of the legal entity that is associated to the proposal and may host the principal investigator and the project (action) in case the application is successful>, which is the applicant legal entity,

confirms its intention to sign a supplementary agreement with
<please fill in here the name of the principal investigator>

in which the obligations listed below will be addressed should the proposal be retained.

Performance obligations of the *applicant legal entity* (Host Institution) that will become the coordinator of the HE ERC Grant Agreement (hereafter referred to as the Agreement), should the proposal be retained and the preparation of the Agreement be successfully concluded:

The applicant legal entity (Host Institution) commits itself to ensure that the action tasks described in Annex 1 of the Agreement are performed under the guidance of the principal investigator who is expected to devote:

- in the case of a Starting Grant at least 50% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country;
- in the case of a Consolidator Grant at least 40% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country;
- in the case of an Advanced Grant at least 30% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country.

The applicant legal entity (Host Institution) commits itself to respect the following conditions for the principal investigator and their team:

a) host and engage the principal investigator for the whole duration of the action;

b) take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers[4] — in particular regarding working conditions, transparent recruitment processes based on merit and career development — and ensure that the principal investigator, researchers and third parties involved in the action are aware of them;

c) enter — before grant signature— into a Supplementary Agreement with the principal investigator, that specifies the obligation of the applicant legal entity to meet its obligations under the Agreement;

d) provide the principal investigator with a copy of the signed Agreement;

e) guarantee the principal investigator scientific independence, in particular for the:
   i) use of the budget to achieve the scientific objectives;
   ii) authority to publish as senior author and invite as co-authors those who have contributed substantially to the work;
   iii) preparation of scientific reports for the action;
   iv) selection and supervision of the other team members, in line with the profiles needed to conduct the research and in accordance with the beneficiary's usual management practices;
   v) possibility to apply independently for funding;
   vi) access to appropriate space and facilities for conducting the research;

f) provide — during the implementation of the action — research support to the principal investigator and the team members (regarding infrastructure, equipment, access rights, products and other services necessary for conducting the research);

g) support the principal investigator and provide administrative assistance, in particular for the:
   i) general management of the work and their team;
   ii) scientific reporting, especially ensuring that the team members send their scientific results to the principal investigator;
   iii) financial reporting, especially providing timely and clear financial information;
   iv) application of the beneficiary's usual management practices;
   v) general logistics of the action;
   vi) access to the electronic exchange system;

h) inform the principal investigator immediately (in writing) of any events or circumstances likely to affect the Agreement;

i) ensure that the principal investigator enjoys adequate:
   i) conditions for annual, sickness and parental leave;
   ii) occupational health and safety standards;
   iii) insurance under the general social security scheme, such as pension rights;

j) allow the transfer of the Agreement to a new beneficiary, if requested by the principal investigator and provided that the objectives of the action remain achievable (portability; see Article 41 of the Agreement);

k) respect the fundamental principle of research integrity and ensure that persons carrying out research tasks under the action follow the good research practices and refrain from the research integrity violations described in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity[5]. If any such violations or allegations occur, verify and pursue them and bring them to the attention of the Agency.

For the applicant legal entity (Host Institution):

Date
.....

Name and Function
..... : .....

Email and Signature (blue ink or digital) of legal representative
..... : .....

Stamp of the applicant legal entity (Host Institution)[6]

IMPORTANT NOTE. In order to be complete, all the above mentioned items are mandatory and shall be included in the commitment of the Host Institution.

[1] A scanned copy of the signed statement should be uploaded electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Submission Service in PDF format.

[2] The statement of commitment of the Host Institution refers to most obligations of the Host Institution, which are stated in the Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions (MGA). The MGA is available on the Funding & Tenders Portal. The reference to the time commitment of the Principal Investigator is stated in the ERC Work Programme 2024.

[3] This statement (on letterhead paper) shall be signed (in blue ink or digitally) by the institution's legal representative indicating their name, function, email address and, in case of blue ink signature, along with the stamp of the institution.

APRE

OTHER ANNEXES

- PHD certificate
- Any supporting documents proving career breaks (maternity, paternity, or illness…)
- Any documents related to the ethics component

ANNEXES | Supporting documentation

- PhD certificate MUST indicate the date of the successful defence of PhD.

Special cases:

- the PhD certificate does not explicitly state the date of the defence: a written confirmation from the awarding institution stating the said date;
- if corrections were required: official document with the date when the corrections to the PhD thesis were approved;
- no defence: a written confirmation from the awarding institution stating that no defence was organised and indicating the date when the PhD was approved.

This is to certify that

Jane Doe

xxxxxxxxx

having submitted a thesis entitled

Xxxxx

and, having satisfied all the conditions prescribed by the Statutes of the University on 9 January 2018, was on 14 July 2018 admitted to the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Signature:

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
REPORT OF THE EXAMINERS
FIRST EXAMINATION
CONFIDENTIAL

GSO.11a

PS R(17)312

Board/Department of:	**Chemistry: Organic**
Candidate's Name:	**Mr** xxxxxxxxx
Student No.	
College:	
Examiner Names:	
Supervisor(s):	
Title of Thesis as a the Board/Departm	

EXAMINERS:

We provide a detailed report (attached). (Examiners are asked to provide reports in word-processed or typewritten form)

Date of Viva:	15/12/17

Signature:	signature	Date:	15/12/17
Full Name:	J. doe		
Signature:	signature	Date:	15 December 20
Full Name:	J. doe		

We have examined
Board/Department a
A full explanation of
(GSO.5)

DGS:

Signature:	signature	Date:	21/12/17
Full Name:	signature		

	Recomme
❑	**1.a Award**

APRE

ANNEXES | Supporting documentation

- Copies of official documents can be submitted in any of the EU official languages.

Document(s) in any other language must be provided together with a certified translation into English or into any other official EU language.

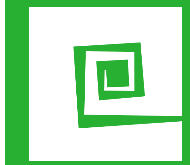
- Provide only the documents requested.

Experts will not have access to any supporting documentation during the evaluation.

- All annexes, including the PhD documentation, the host institution support letter (and where relevant, documentation related to ethics and security issues or documentation for requesting an eligibility extension) should be provided and uploaded as separate PDF documents. They do not count towards the maximum page limits for the proposal.

05.

The budget



ERC Budget Philosophy

- Supports excellent PIs
- Academic freedom & flexibility
- Flexible to adapt to project developments
- Reflection of methodology & project plan

ERC Budget Philosophy | Flexibility

Inherent to this type of research, is a notable level of uncertainty and flexibility. It follows that the schedule of the research plan, the volume of the tasks, or the focus of the research may change in response to unexpected scientific developments or delays as the research progresses.

As such, it is agreed that the resolution of information in the work plan and budget plan cannot be very high during the grant proposal phase.

ERC Grant Models

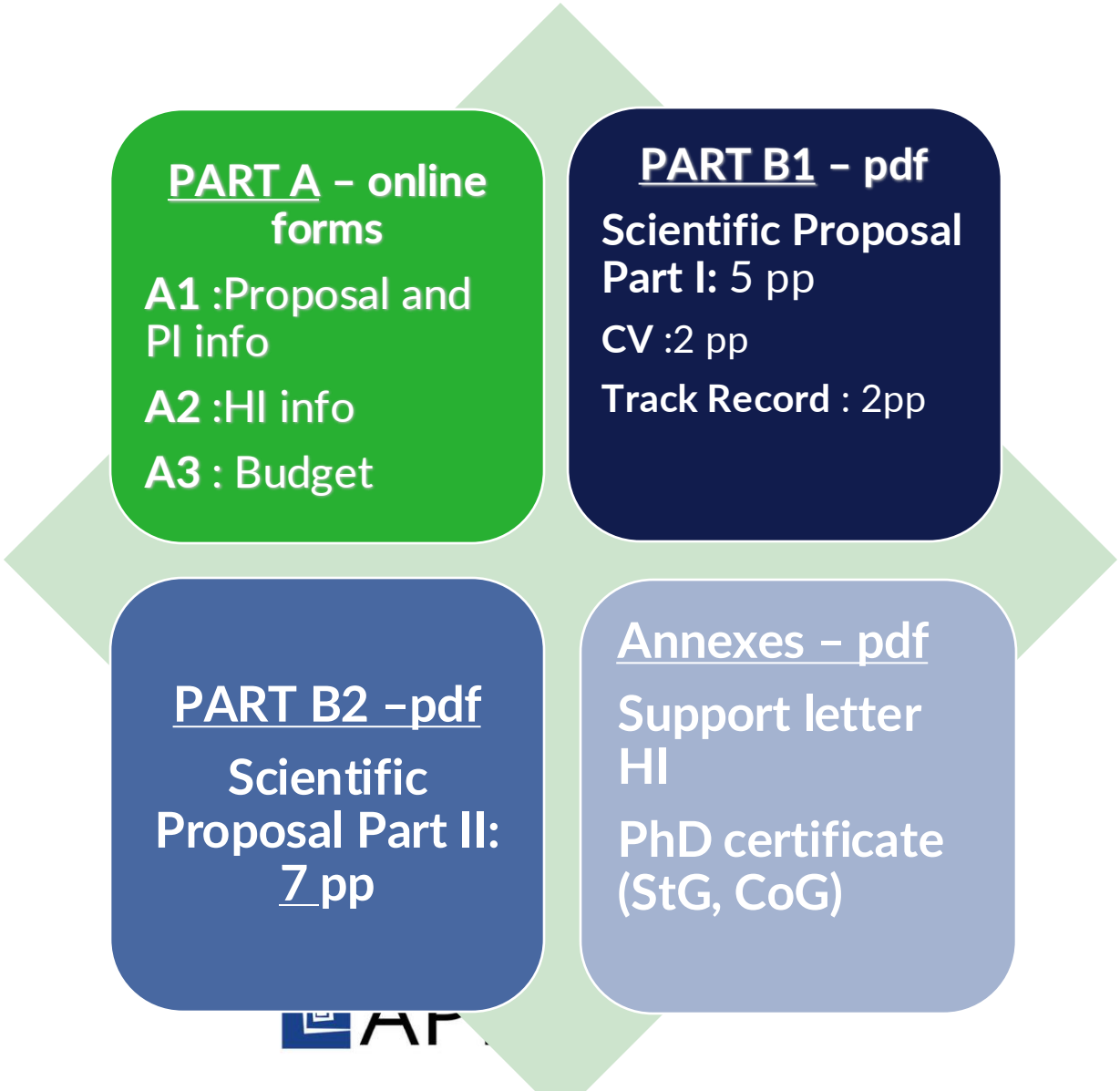
StG, CoG, SyG → Actual cost model

AdG, Plus, Proof of Concept → Lump sum model (since WP 2024)

Flexibility remains central

Where to present the budget

- StG, CoG, AdG, Plus: Budget only in online forms + excel equipment table for AdG
- Not in the Scientific Proposal Part I or in the Scientific Proposal Part II



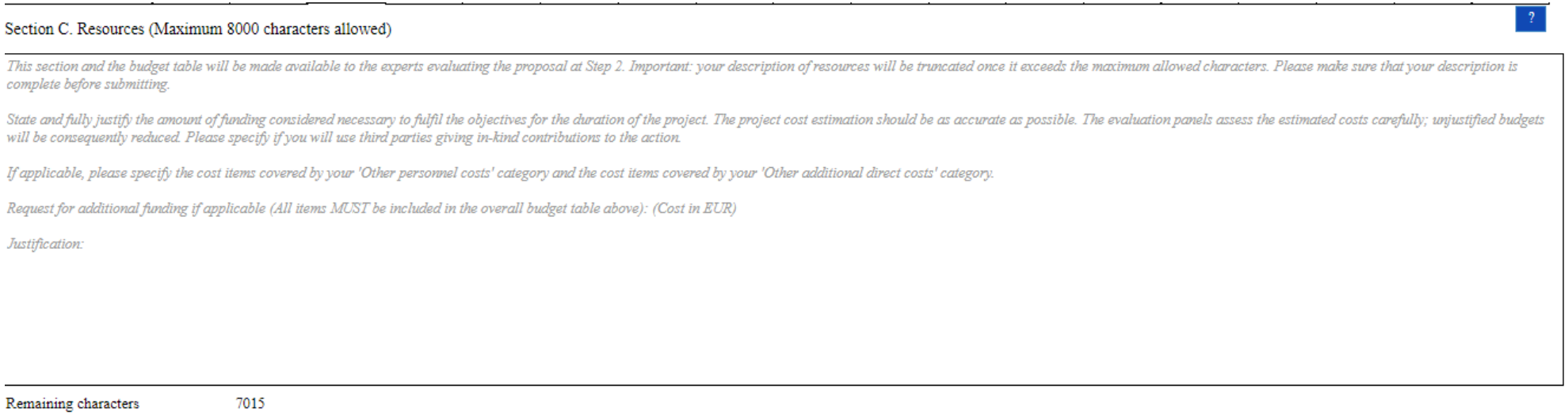
Online Budget Structure

Beneficiary Short Name	PI	Senior Staff	Postdocs	Students	Other Personnel costs	A.Total personnel costs€	B. Subcontracting Costs€ (No indirect costs)	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment - including major equipment	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	C.3 Total other goods, works and services	Total Purchase costs€	D. Internally invoiced goods and services€ (No indirect costs)	E. Indirect Cost€	Total Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution€
Empire Science Ltd	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00

APRE

Online Budget Structure

Budget Description & Justifications – narrative
8000 characters for StG/CoG
10.000 characters for AdG and 9.000 for Plus Grant in structured textboxes



Online Budget Structure

For Synergy Grant:

Resources and Time Commitment (incl. project costs) in part B2 for each PI– this section does not count towards the page limit.

Budget table/Annex for the entire proposal.



The justification boxes

Just below this budget table, there is a section termed "Section C. Resources", which is where the applicants should provide justifications to the requested budget, in plain text. For StG and CoG, this section includes one textbox limited to 8000 characters, including spaces.

For AdG, this section includes six textboxes for providing justifications separately for each of the following categories: A. Personnel; B. Subcontracting; C. Purchase costs; D. Internally invoiced goods and services; Request for additional funding ("extra budget") and Funding from other sources. Total characters available, 10.000.

For Plus Grant: 9.000 characters separated in the same categories for AdG.

Resources description: matching the methodology

The requested budget and its justification should be in line with the project's work plan. For example, key equipment and materials for which budget is requested, should be mentioned in the methodology, and vice versa – the budget justification text should correspond to the methodology.

The same logic applies to the profile of hired personnel. If, for example, personnel costs of a biological project include hiring an Artificial Intelligence expert, the need for such expertise and tasks that would be relevant to this expert should be apparent from the methodology section as well.

General Principles

DIRECT COSTS + INDIRECT COSTS = ELIGIBLE COSTS

Costs directly chargeable to the project because they are necessary to carry out the activities

Costs that are not directly chargeable to the project, yet are incurred in connection with the direct costs.

DIRECT COSTS

- personnel
- equipment
- subcontrating
- travel
- consumables
- other goods and services

- They are reimbursed in full (100%), with no distinction by type of activity.

INDIRECT COSTS

overheads. **Costs not directly attributable to the project.** These are structural and support costs for the beneficiary's activities and are *cross-cutting* across the various projects/activities in which the beneficiary is engaged (administrative, technical and logistical costs: rent, water, gas, electricity, maintenance, insurance, postage, network/Internet connections, technical-administrative staff, etc.).

Flat-rate reimbursement equal to 25% of eligible direct costs, excluding subcontracting and third-party costs.

1. Personnel

This item should refer to the cost of the **expected personnel** that will work in the project. This should clearly include the **PI first** (if PI salary is not requested, this should also be clearly indicated, more on that below), followed by the **senior staff**, **post-docs**, **students and/or other personnel,** as needed.
The team can consist of existing members, as well as future potential recruits. In each **category** (PI, senior staff, post-docs, students or other), it is expected that the justification text will provide:

- a **cost breakdown** which includes the **category** and **number** of respective **team members** that will be employed by the grant
- the expected **duration of their employment**
- the **main tasks** they will be assigned to
- and finally – present the cost of employment of the detailed personnel. Cost of employment should refer to the salary (be it on a monthly or annual basis) in addition to any relevant social benefits or any other remuneration component allowed by the host institution's financial department, and subject to local relevant legislation or policy.

1. Personnel

Specifically, when addressing the PI's personnel cost there are a few things to consider:

• The PI's cost of employment should derive from **realistic budget planning**, which takes into account all the PI's obligations in the institution (researchers are potentially expected to be involved in other research projects, in addition to some institutional responsibilities, such as teaching).

• The **percentage** of the **PI's salary** requested from the ERC grant cannot be higher than the **declared dedication to the ERC project**, as indicated in the application. It is typically expected that the PI's cost of employment charged to the ERC budget will fully correlate with the PI's time dedication (e.g. PI's time dedication of 65% entails that the cost of employment of the PI in the ERC budget is 65% of their full cost of employment). However, you may request no salary at all from the ERC budget.

- **Principal Investigator:**

Minimum Commitment: 50, 40 or 30%

Cost Category			Total in Euro
	Personnel	PI[3]	
		Senior Staff	
		Postdocs	
		Students	
		Other	

- **Team members (senior/junior staff, post-doc, etc. from the HI and additional participant)**

- **Other (administrative, technical staff)**

Staff not belonging to HI or additional participants: *not part of the* team (no personnel costs but “visiting/external experts”)

2. Travel

The budget for travel in an ERC project should provide an estimation of the expected travel costs, based on the number of trips and their nature (duration, within Europe or outside, etc.). Clearly, trips to conferences, as well as any other relevant scientific meetings, should be part of this budget. This can cover trips made by the PI or other team members for that matter. Note that the travel budget should include airfare, accommodation, local transportation, subsistence costs, etc. All of these need to be in line with the institutional and local regulations and policies.

There are two important aspects to remember about travel budget planning:

1.The ERC budget is relatively flexible, meaning that even in cases where the actual budget for travel during the project execution is eventually significantly different than the original budget, this is fine as long as you have the right justification for this change;

2. Travel budget should not exceed 100,000 Euro.

3. Equipment

Purchase (or usage) of any equipment needed for the project is an eligible cost and therefore needs to be included in the budget.

When preparing the budget for equipment, note the following:

•The cost of the equipment in the budget has to be the "depreciation value" calculated for the actual time in which the equipment will be used during the project execution. This calculation should be done by the financial department in your institution, and in accordance with the local tax laws.

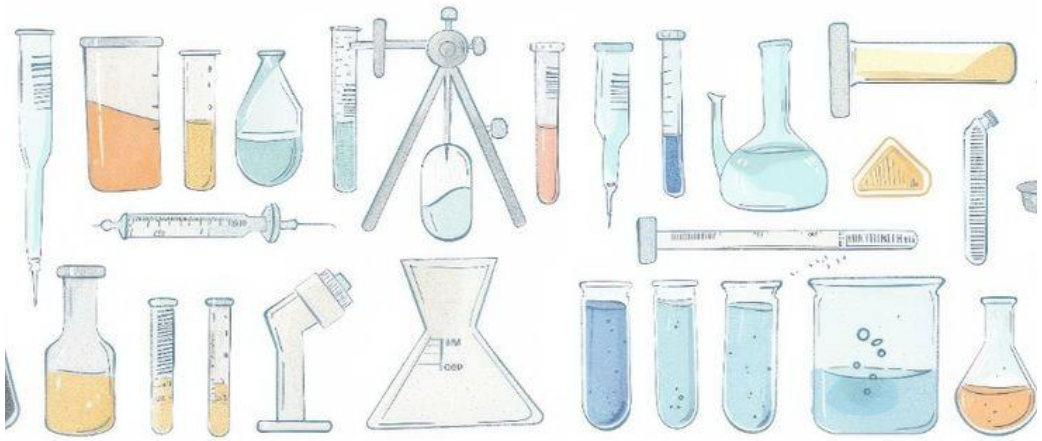
3. Equipment as additional funding

In case you are asking for an extra budget for equipment, we recommend:

- That this extra budget is requested only for budget items bearing significant costs. We'd refrain from 'accumulating' costs of minor equipment or experimental and field work costs, just in order to justify such extra budget. For example, requesting extra budget for purchasing a new expensive Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope is legitimate. However, requesting it for purchasing a collection of simple lab microscopes is not considered reasonable for this matter.
- That the base budget per category should be fully exhausted, before placing a request for extra budget

4. Consumables

Purchase of consumables is eligible as well under the ERC budget.
To the extent possible, detail the type of consumables you budgeted and link them to the relevant methods and experiments planned.



5. Publications

Being a classic research output, costs associated with publications are eligible in ERC.
Note that ERC grantees are required to ensure open access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to the output of their project.
Therefore, charges associated with various open access fees should be included in the budget.



Open Access Repositories

6. Other additional direct costs

This can include other direct costs which do not fall under any of the abovementioned categories, for example other services such as financial audit costs, the website.





7. Internally invoiced goods and services

This refers to in-house facilities and services provided by your institution (e.g. proteomics or bioinformatic services).
Add such expenses as relevant to your project, and after consulting with your institution's financial department.

06.

Additional funding

Additional funding requests

- ✓ Start-up costs
- ✓ Major equipment
- ✓ Access to large facilities
- ✓ Major experimental/fieldwork costs
- ✓ Personnel costs

Up to:

- ➢ 1M EUR for Starting, Consolidator and Advanced
  2M EUR for PIs that move to EU or AC.

- ➢ 4M EUR for Synergy

Some examples

	LS	PE	SH
(a) "start-up" costs for PI moving to the EU or an AC from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant	• Costs to purchase the equipment to set up the laboratory of the PI • Recruitment costs to hire team • ~~Travel costs of the PI to come to EU~~		
(b) the purchase of major equipment	Build a low-turbulence wind tunel to study flight in controlled conditions	Supercomputer	Mobile scanning station
(c) access to large facilities	Access to vessels to conduct research in oceans	Access to a telescope facility	Access to archives or acquisition of images
(d) other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs	High amount of consumables to perform experiments	Specific tasks to be subcontracted (building of parts for satellites)	

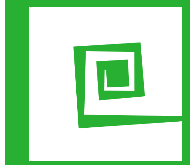
Important things to know

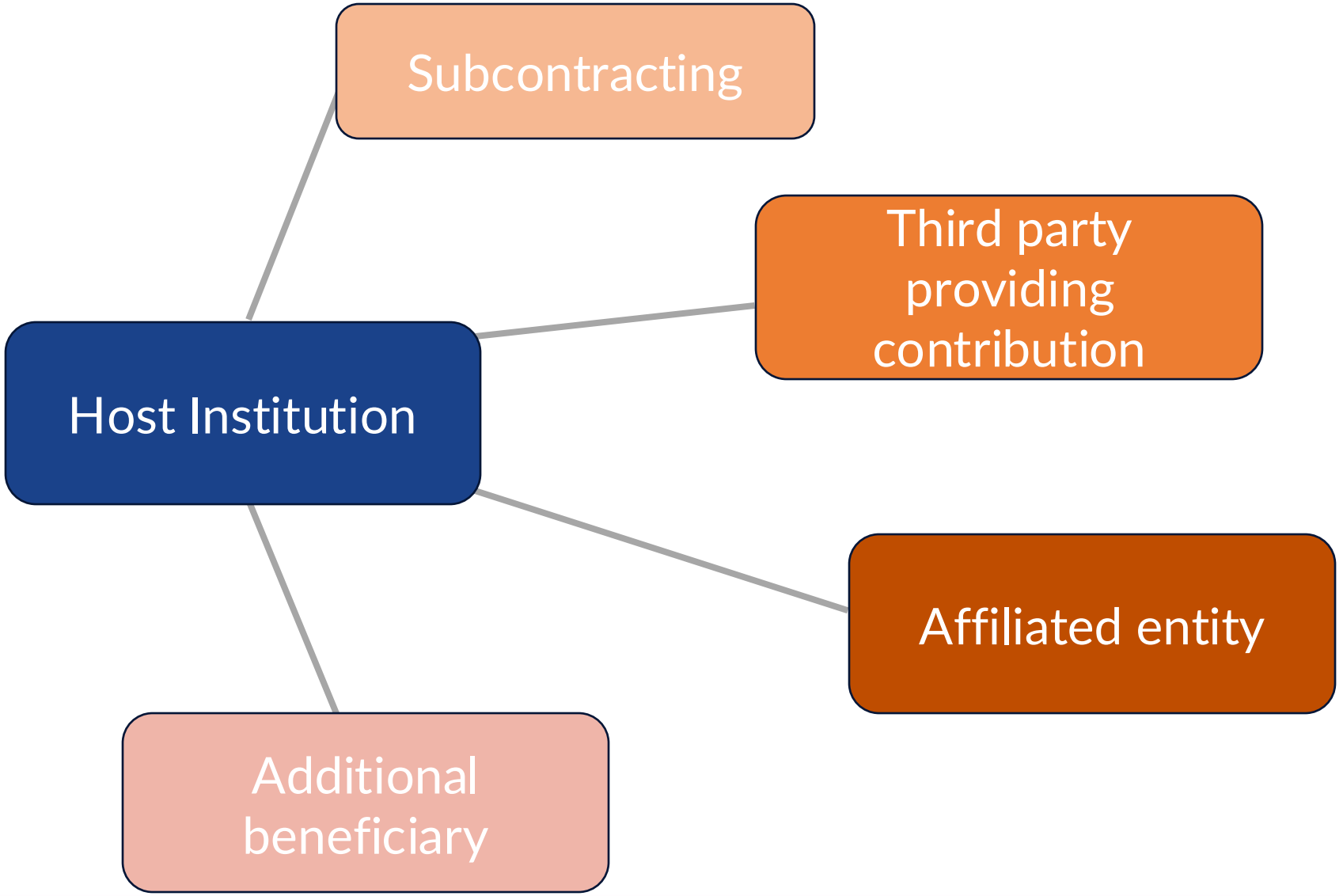
There is no official definition of “major equipment”, but that the applicant has to convince the panel members reviewing the proposal that the additional funding is justified and required. The panel will then judge if it fits the description of major equipment (for their field/speciality) and if it is justified enough to be funded. The statistics are that 17% of all projects ask for extra funding and about 11% of all projects get it.

START UP COST: when a researcher is moving from outside the EU, the additional funding can be used for anything. They simply set a budget and explain what they want in the "additional funding" section (they just need to say they're start-up costs because they're moving, but otherwise, it can be any cost category, including personnel costs). The researcher's relocation costs are not included and are not eligible for funding.

07.

Collaborations in ERC




Subcontracting
Third party providing contribution
Host Institution
Affiliated entity
Additional beneficiary

Why collaborations in ERC are not a default

The motivation behind the ERC's attitude towards collaborations stems from the fact that the ERC seeks to fund highly independent, notably creative and exceptionally capable PIs performing research that is unique to them.

Working with collaborators might imply, or even worse – clearly indicate, that the PI is not in the right level of expertise expected in ERC. Furthermore, it could suggest that the core of the research project is not tailored to his/her expertise and capacity.

- Therefore, the recommendation is to avoid collaborative work on tasks which constitute the core of the research in ERC applications

APRE

When collaborations in ERC *can* be relevant

Collaborations are allowed, as long as they:

- bring specific and unique expertise or capability, which is different and indeed compliments that of the PI;
- are needed for a particular, specific complementary task (to the core research);
- do not impede the scientific leadership of the PI in the project in general, and on the core research in particular.

APRE

Example of complementary support

In case the PI is lacking a specific skill, which is supplementary or complementary to the core research, collaboration on that may be allowed.

For example, adding a statistician to a biology-data-driven project: the PI will design and execute the project and then analyze and generalize the outcomes of the project. Meanwhile, the statistician will add a unique and specific statistical expertise, **enabling the PI to complete the work, better understand the data and contribute to the overall scientific excellence of the project.** Notably, this is true in this case as long as the core of the research relates to the biological questions and methods. In contrast, if for example a dominant part of the core of the project is the development and implementation of novel statistical approaches, one could claim that this is **no longer** supplementary or complementary support. Rather, it is a collaborative effort, hence unwanted in ERC.

Example of external support

Access to sites / data: In some ERC projects, the PI might need to involve researchers or groups which essentially grant access to specific sites or data. This can be, for example, a unique archaeological site, natural habitat, a unique data-set from a clinical study, etc. Such access to sites or data, as long as it does not require actual research done by the group providing it, need not be presented as a collaboration in ERC. Instead, the PI can simply indicate that he/she has the necessary access to the sites or data, describing the logistic and technical details of this access.

Example of external support

Access to unique research facilities:

The PI should only indicate that he/she has this kind of access. Notably, unlike in access to sites / data described above, this type of relation is typically more prone to extending beyond 'just access to the facility' and in fact includes shared work on core research, which is less welcome in ERC. The applicant must then clearly and honestly assess the nature of work with the peer enabling access to the unique research facility.

Preferably, the work with the peer should only entail access to the facility. If this is indeed the case, then there is no need to label this as 'collaboration'. However, if the peer will actually contribute to the work in the core research tasks, this should be defined as collaborations in ERC. Having done so, the applicant should realize the risk that this might not be welcome in ERC.

Tips for including collaborators in ERC

1) Collaborators can come from anywhere in the world. Choose **the best and most relevant researcher to work with**. This will make the case for adding collaborations in ERC stronger.
2) Instead of just stating the need (e.g. “a bioinformatician will be involved”), identify the specific individual **that you want to collaborate with by name, institution and a short description of his/her capabilities.** This will show the reviewers that you have a solid plan to implement these tasks in the best possible way.
3) Explain clearly why you have selected this specific individual.
4) Clearly describe the specific tasks done by the collaborator(s) and distinguish your contribution from theirs. Be sure to avoid the impression that substantial parts of the research is done by others. Avoid any vagueness about the extent of their involvement.

APRE

08.

Lump sum funding

Lump sum funding principles

- Proposal budget on estimated costs related to activities
- Lump sum amount capped at the funding scheme ceiling (2.5M + 1/2M for AdG)
- Budget assessed during evaluation
- Payment based on work completion. Not linked to successful outcome
- No financial reporting anymore (e.g. submission of cost claims, time sheets,…).
- Ex-post audit only on proper implementation (not costs) & compliance with non-financial obligations (e.g. ethics, procurement procedures, PI time commitments).

Lump sum funding principles

One Work Package for the entirety of the project

Only broken down per beneficiary



Lump sum funding principles

Applicants should not change

- The way they think up their idea and imagine their project
- The way they structure their project

Basic principles of ERC funding remain untouched

- The evaluation criteria
- Principles of flexibility
- Principles of portability

Minor changes to application form

More structured information on budget

- Budget table: person month per staff category
- Budget narrative: structured in 6 boxes
- Equipment depreciation table

Budget table: Person-Month per staff category

	PI			Senior staff			Postdocs			Students			Other staff			A. Total personnel costs/€
Beneficiary Short Name	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	
Participant X																
Participant Y																
Linked 3rd party X																
Linked 3rd party Y																
Total																

New cost fields for AdG

- ☐ Person months
- ☐ Average monthly costs (automatic calculation)

- Person-months* and total amount must be encoded
- System will calculate automatically the average monthly costs

ERC historic data personnel costs available for consultation to serve as benchmark
Please check the ERC website

*Person-months =
% time commitment to the project × number of months of actual involvement in the project.

Budget table: Person-Month per staff category

	PI			Senior staff			Postdocs			Students			Other staff			A. Total personnel costs/€
Beneficiary Short Name	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	
Participant X																
Participant Y																
Linked 3rd party X																
Linked 3rd party Y																
Total																

New cost fields for AdG

- ☐ Person months
- ☐ Average monthly costs (automatic calculation)

B. Subcontracting Costs/€ (No indirect costs)	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment - including major equipment	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	C.3 Total other goods, works and services	C. Total Purchase costs/€	D. Internally invoiced goods and services/€ (No indirect costs)	E. Indirect Cost/€	Total Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution /€

All other cost categories remain the same

Budget narrative

Section C. Resources	
A. Personnel	**D. Internally invoiced goods and services**
Maximum 2500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed
B. Subcontracting (if applicable)	**Request for additional funding justification**
Maximum 1000 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed
C. Purchase cost ***(Travel - Equipment - Consumables - Field work - Animal costs - Publications - Other additional direct costs)***	**Funding from other sources**
Maximum 3500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed

- Single box split in 6 sub-sections (text boxes) to provide a more structured format for PIs to justify
- Overall character limit to justify resources up to 10.000 character

Equipment depreciation table

- **Excel template** will be a mandatory attachment to be uploaded at submission (temporary solution, in future will become part of online submission forms and linked to budget table)

Beneficiary's/affiliated entity's name	*Short name of the asset*	*Purchase cost per item (a)*	*Depreciation time (months) (b)*	*Expected percentage of usage for the grant (c)*	*Expected use time during the grant (months, cannot exceed the duration of the grant) (d)*	*Estimated depreciation costs per item (cannot exceed the purchase costs) (a/b)*c*d*	*Comments (e.g. depreciation policy, grouped items, full capitalised costs, etc.....)*
Example 1	Equipment 1	€ 100,000.00	60	100%	48	€ 80,000.00	
Example 2	Equipment 2	€ 10,000.00	36	100%	36	€ 10,000.00	
Example 3	Equipment 3	€ 50,000.00	60	50%	48	€ 20,000.00	

Proposal evaluation

- No change to the proposal Part B1 or Part B2 templates as a consequence of the change in funding model, no change to the evaluation criteria!

- Resources needed for the project & plausibility of costs estimates are assessed during the evaluation

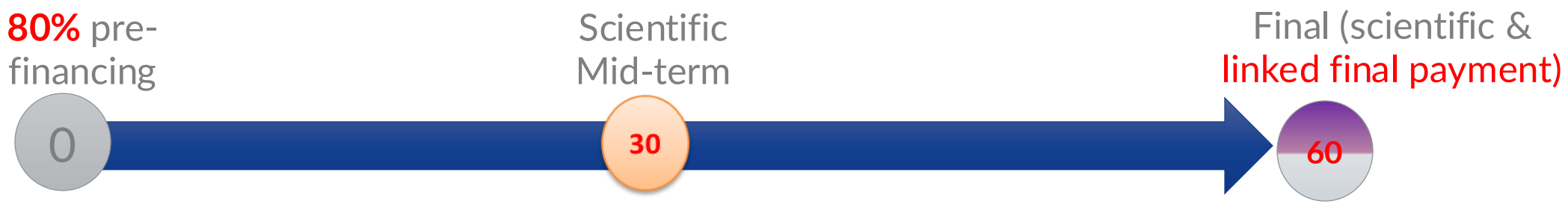
- Assessment of costs estimates (i.e. reasonable and non-excessive) only at evaluation to define the lump sum contribution (sound financial management):

  → eligibility of costs

  → reasonable, non-excessive costs

Reporting and payment

- 80% prefinancing to ensure cash-flow
- 1 scientific mid-term report to assess progress and deviations
- 1 single payment at the end of the project



Reporting and payment

Lump sum fully paid when all the work has been carried out (as described in the DoA), and also if

- All essential tasks completed, and/or
- Equivalent tasks have been carried out, and/or
- Deviations have been duly justified.

Otherwise, partial completion:

Lump sum **paid partially** in line with the degree of completion as declared by the PI/HI **at the end of the project** (contradictory procedure)

Ex-post Audits

- Only on proper implementation (not on costs) & compliance with non-financial obligations (e.g. ethics, procurement procedures, PI time commitments)

- Keeping records:

  - Publications, prototypes, deliverables
  - Documentation required by good research practices (e.g. lab books)
  - Document proving implementation in line with DoA

ERC Lump Sum funding simplifications

Major reduction of administrative burden:

- Remove all obligations on costs reporting (incl. personnel costs)
- No more requests for time-sheets or other document supporting actual costs incurred
- No more financial audits

Useful resources

- ERC Dashboard
- Panel members
- ERC Work Programme 2027
- ERC Starting and Consolidator Grant Guide for Applicants
- ERC Advanced Grant Guide for Applicants
- ERC Synergy Grant Guide for Applicants
- How to complete your ethic self-assessment
- ERC VIDEOS (PIs and PANEL MEMBERS)
- APRE Website
- mERCury Website

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