



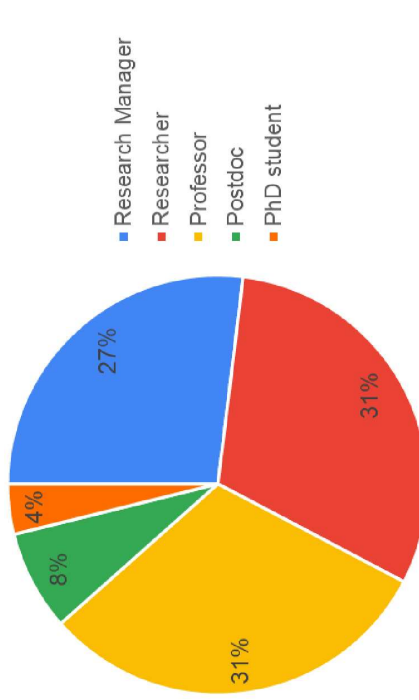
## ERC grants | Understanding the (not) so basic

**Mariana Santa-Marta, PhD**

Head of Pre-award efforts @CERENA and CEGIST (IST)

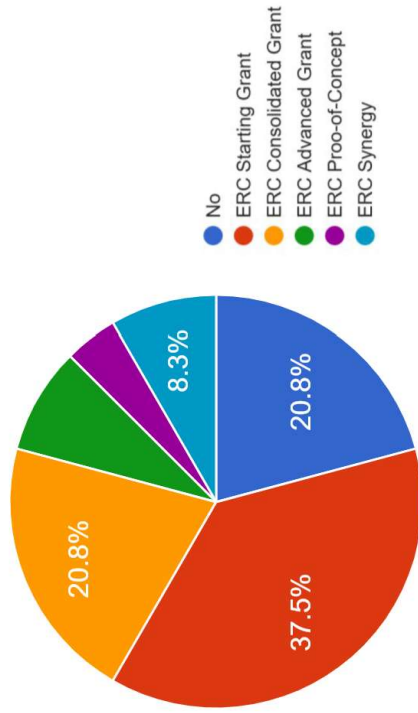


# Who are You?



Are you planning on submitting an application to the ERC calls?

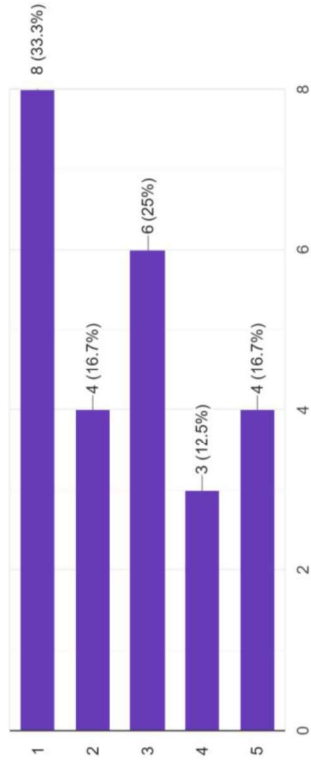
24 responses



Are you familiar with ERC funding schemes? (Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = Not at all familiar and 5 =

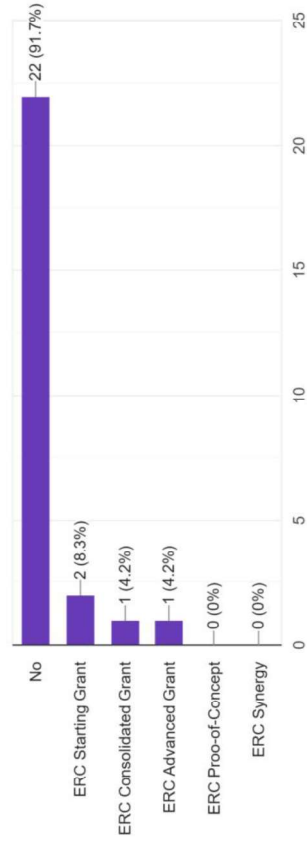
Very familiar)

24 responses



Have you already applied to the ERC funding scheme? If yes, in which ERC funding scheme have you submitted an application?

24 responses



# HORIZON EUROPE

## SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT\*

*Exclusive focus on civil applications*



### Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures



### Pillar II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

#### Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre



### Pillar III INNOVATIVE EUROPE

European Innovation Council

European Innovation Ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation & Technology\*

## WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

\* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

# HORIZON EUROPE

## SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT\*

*Exclusive focus on civil applications*



### Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures

### European Research Council

Frontier research by the  
best researchers and their  
teams

**€16 billion**

Joint Research Centre



### Pillar III INNOVATIVE EUROPE

European Innovation  
Council

European Innovation  
Ecosystems

European Institute of  
Innovation & Technology\*

## WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

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# ERC as a Career Development Grant



**European Research Council**  
Established by the European Commission

**A bottom-up approach, individual-based, pan European with host institutions in EU or Associated countries**



- ✓ Support for **Individual** Researchers (not institutions)
- ✓ **International** peer-review
- ✓ **No pre-determined subject** (bottom-up)
- ✓ Support for **frontier research in all fields of science and humanities**
- ✓ Look for **high gain ambitious project**
- ✓ **Institutional Commitment and Grant portability**

## Strategy

- ✓ Scientific governance by an independent **22-member Scientific council** which as full authority over funding and evaluation
- ✓ Support by the **ERC Executive Agency** (autonomous)
- ✓ **Only criterion: quality of research** aiming for excellence.

## Legislation



Life Sciences



Physical Sciences and Engineering



Social Sciences and Humanities

# Types of ERC Grants

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## Starting Grants

2-7 years after PhD  
(≥ 50% commitment)  
up to €1.5 Million  
for 5 years

## Consolidator Grants

7-12 years after PhD  
(≥ 40% commitment)  
up to €2 Million  
for 5 years

## Advanced Grants

track-record of  
significant research  
achievements in the  
last 10 years  
(≥ 30% commitment)  
up to €2.5 Million  
for 5 years

## Proof-of-Concept

bridging gap between research - earliest stage  
of marketable innovation  
up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders only

## Synergy Grants

2-4 PIs up to €10 million for 6 years  
to lead to breakthroughs that cannot be  
achieved by a PI working alone

## Additional funding:

- Start-Up costs for scientists moving to EU / Associated Countries
- Purchase of major equipment
- Access to large facilities

# Preparing your proposal:

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## Step by Step

### Before the call is published:



1. Get familiar with the ERC funding scheme: [Read the Official docs](#)
  - [ERC 2025 Work Programme](#)
  - [Information for applicants](#)
  - [Guide for peer reviewers](#)
2. Find out which ERC grant and which call is suitable for you.
3. Which Project should I submit
4. When should I apply (plan strategically): [Verify your eligibility](#) [Inspire calculator](#) / understand evaluation restrictions
5. Identify the **Host Institution** and team members you would like to work with.
6. Contact the **Grants Office** of your ERC Host Institution

## ERC Training Academy

(You tube Channel)

- 1) [How to get started](#)
- 2) [Writing part 1](#)
- 3) [Writing part 2](#)
- 4) [How you are evaluated](#)

## ERC Starting Grant: <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/starting-grant>

- **Objective:** support excellent PIs at the stage at which they are starting their own independent research team or programme
- **Grant size:** €1.5M (possibility of additional €1M)
- **PI Profile:**
  - Potential for research independence
  - At least one publication as main author or without PhD supervisor
  - Invited presentations in conferences
  - Funding, patents, awards, prizes
  - 50% of PI's time in the project + 50% in the EU or AC
  - > 2 and ≤ 7 years of the certified date of the **successful defence** of first PhD degree on 1 January (year of the call)

### Starting Grants

>2-7 years after PhD  
≥ 50% commitment  
up to 1.5 M€  
(+ 1 M€)  
for 5 years

Deadline: ~October  
(previous year)





# ERC Starting Grant – Success Rates

---

	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Submitted	Selected	Submitted	Selected	Submitted	Selected	Submitted	Selected
Life Sciences	860	124	735	110	992	146	1081	
Physical Sciences and Engineering	1224	168	1150	173	1463	209	1660	
Social Sciences and Humanities	848	116	811	117	1039	139	1187	
Total	2932	408	2696	400	3474	494	3928	?

Success rate  $\approx$  13.9 %    Success rate  $\approx$  14.8 %    Success rate  $\approx$  14.2 %    Success rate  $\approx$  ?  
 0 for PT                                  6 for PT                                  4 for PT

2025 STG applicants already informed if selected for interview (up to 44 applicants per panel)

# ERC Consolidator Grant <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/consolidator-grant>

- **Objective:** support excellent PIs at the stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme
- **Grant size:** €2M (possibility of additional €1M)
- **PI Profile:**
  - Has achieved a certain degree of research independence
  - Several publications as main author or without PhD supervisor
  - Invited presentations in conferences
  - Funding, patents, awards, prizes, mentoring
  - 40% of PI's time in the project + 50% in the EU or AC
  - > 7 and ≤ 12 years of the certified date of the **successful defence of first PhD degree on 1 January (year of the call)**



## Consolidator

### Grants

7-12 years after PhD  
≥ 40% commitment  
up to 2 M€  
(+ 1 M€) for 5 years

Deadline: ~January

# ERC Consolidator Grant – Success Rates

---

	2022		2023		2024		2025	
	Submitted	Selected	Submitted	Selected	Submitted	Selected	Submitted	Selected
Life Sciences	612	91	612	89	652	94	820	
Physical Sciences and Engineering	938	133	881	129	928	131	1268	
Social Sciences and Humanities	672	97	637	90	733	103	1033	
Total	2222	321	2130	308	2313	328	3121	

Success rate  $\approx$  14.4 %      Success rate  $\approx$  14.5 %      Success rate  $\approx$  14.2 %      Success rate  $\approx$  ?

4 for PT

3 for PT

3 for PT

## Extensions of eligibility window

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- **Maternity** – 18 months per child (**before or after PhD defence**). For longer maternity leaves -documented amount of actual leave taken until the call deadline
- **Paternity** – actual time taken off
- **Long-term illness**: Over 90 days for the Principal Investigator or a close family member (child, spouse, parent or sibling) - documented amount for each incident after PhD defence date.
- **Disability**: reduced amount of working time (including leave taken) and/or the degree of disability as documented by the Principal Investigator after PhD defence
- **Military service** - actual time taken off
- **Clinical training**: documented amount of clinical training received by the Principal Investigator after the award of the first eligible degree and until the call deadline (up to 4 years)
- **No limit to the total extension**

**No pre-eligibility check by the ERC**

# ERC Advanced Grant

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- **Objective:** established research leaders with a **recognised track-record of research** achievements in the last 10 years
- **Grant size:** €2.5M (possibility of additional €1M) – **lump sum**
- **PI Profile:**
  - Active researchers with a significant track record in the last 10 years
  - 10 top publications/3 research monographs as main author
  - Invited presentations, organisation of major conferences
  - Funding, patents, awards, prizes, mentoring
  - 30% of PI's time in the project + 50% in the EU or AC

## Advanced Grants

significant research records in the last 10 years  
≥ 30% commitment up to **2.5 M€**  
(+ **1 M€**) for 5 years

**Deadline:** May/June

# ERC Advanced Grant – Success Rates

---

	2022		2023		2024	
	Submitted	Selected	Submitted	Selected	Submitted	Selected
Life Sciences	467	64	517	75	730	?
Physical Sciences and Engineering	711	96	787	107	1068	?
Social Sciences and Humanities	469	69	525	73	736	?
Total	1647	218	1829	225	2534	?

Success rate  $\approx$  13.2%    Success rate  $\approx$  13.9%

# How to prepare & submit an ERC research proposal

## Proposal Structure

### PART A – online forms

- A1 Proposal info
- A2 Host Institution and PI info
- A3 **Budget & Budget Justification**
- A4 Ethics Self-assessment
- A5 Call Specific Info (doctoral training, extensions, excluded reviewers etc.)

### Annexes – submitted as **.pdf**

- HI support letter
- Copy of PhD title (with PhD defense date)
- Documents for extension of eligibility window

Application forms

**HORIZON**

**Call: ERC-2025-COG**

(Call for Proposals for ERC Consolidator Grant)

**Topic: ERC-2025-COG**

**Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC**

**Proposal number:**

**Proposal acronym:**

**Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based**

Table of contents

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	
2	Participants	
3	Budget	
4	Ethics and security	
5	Other questions	

Admissibility and eligibility check

# How to prepare & submit an ERC research proposal

Applicant's last name

Part B1

ACRONYM

ERC Consolidator Grant 2025  
Research proposal (Part B1)<sup>1</sup>  
(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

Please delete all text highlighted in grey in this template.

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

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).

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

## STEP 1

### PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

- **Abstract (up to 2000 characters)** 5 p.
- **Extended Synopsis** 4 p.
- **CV & Track Record**
  - Personal details
  - Research achievements & Peer Recognition
  - Additional Information (career breaks, diverse career paths, major life events & other contributions )



# How to prepare & submit an ERC research proposal

Applicant's last name

Part B1

ACRONYM

## Section b: 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 web site:

#### • Education and key qualifications

DD/MM/YYYY

PhD

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

Master

Name of PhD Supervisor

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

YYYY

• 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

## STEP 1

### PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

- **Abstract (up to 2000 characters)**
- **Extended Synopsis** 5 p.
- **CV & Track Record** 4 p.
  - Personal details
  - Research achievements & Peer Recognition
  - Additional Information (career breaks, diverse career paths, major life events & other contributions )

# How to prepare & submit an ERC research proposal

## ERC Consolidator Grant 2025 Part B2<sup>1</sup> (not evaluated in Step 1)

Sections (a) and (b) of Part B2 should not exceed 14 pages. References do not count towards the page limits.

*Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.*

*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 the sections, references and/or the appendix (Funding ID) and do NOT upload them as separate documents.*

Section a. State-of-the-art and objectives

Section b. Methodology

*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.*

## STEP 1

### PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

- **Abstract (up to 2000 characters)**
- **Extended Synopsis** 5 p.
- **CV & Track Record** 4 p.
  - Personal details
  - Research achievements & Peer Recognition
  - Additional Information (career breaks, diverse career paths, major life events & other contributions )

## STEP 2

### PART B2 – submitted as .pdf

- Scientific Proposal** 14 p.
- State of the Art & Objectives
  - Methodology

# How to prepare & submit an ERC research proposal

## Proposal Structure

### PART A – online forms

- A1 Proposal info
- A2 Host Institution and PI info
- A3 **Budget & Budget Justification**
- A4 Ethics Self-assessment
- A5 Call Specific Info (doctoral training, extensions, excluded reviewers etc.)

### Annexes – submitted as .pdf

- HI support letter
- Copy of PhD title (with PhD defense date)
- Documents for extension of eligibility window

## Admissibility and eligibility check

### PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

- **Abstract (up to 2000 characters)** 5 p.
- **Extended Synopsis** 4 p.
- **CV & Track Record**
  - Personal details
  - Research achievements & Peer Recognition
  - Additional Information (career breaks, diverse career paths, major life events & other contributions )

### PART B2 – submitted as .pdf

- **Scientific Proposal** 14 p.
- State of the Art & Objectives
- Methodology

STEP 1

STEP 2

# How to prepare & submit an ERC research proposal

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## ERC Panel Structure 2025 (28 panels)

**Each panel :**  
Panel Chair and 11-16 Panel Members

### Panel members

- cover the full range of areas inside a specific panel (**check ERC Panel descriptors**)
- alternate in odd and even years with some changes  
(at the application stage only the panel chair is released)

**Tip:** Check for panel members' names [here](#), to (try to) understand who will be evaluating you on a specific year

# How to prepare & submit an ERC research proposal

## ERC Panel Structure 2025 (28 panels)

Each panel :  
Panel Chair and 11-16 Panel Members

### Physical Sciences & Engineering

PE1 Mathematics  
PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter  
PE3 Condensed Matter Physics  
PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences  
PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials  
PE6 Computer Science and Informatics  
PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering  
PE8 Products and Processes Engineering  
PE9 Universe Sciences  
PE10 Earth System Science  
PE11 Materials Engineering

### Social Sciences and Humanities

SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations  
SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems  
SH3 The Social World and Its Interactions  
SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity  
SH5 Texts and Concept  
SH6 The Study of the Human Past  
SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space  
SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts

### Life Sciences

LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions  
LS2 Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to System  
LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration  
LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing  
LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System  
LS6 Immunity, Infection, and Immunotherapy  
LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases  
LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution  
LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

# ERC Panel and Keywords

## ERC Panel Structure 2025 (28 panels)

- **Keyword Selection defines the primary evaluation panel**

The screenshot shows a form with the following fields and options:

- Duration in months\***: A text input field with the placeholder text "Estimated duration of the project in full months."
- Primary ERC Review Panel\***: A dropdown menu with a question mark icon. The selected option is "PE2 - Fundamental Constituents of Matter".
- Secondary ERC Review Panel**: A dropdown menu with a question mark icon and the text "(if applicable)". The selected option is "SH6 - The Study of the Human Past".
- ERC Keyword 1\***: A dropdown menu with a question mark icon. The selected option is "PE2\_07 Nuclear and particle astrophysics".

Below these fields is a scrollable list of options for the Primary Review Panel, with a blue bar at the top containing the instruction: "As first keyword please choose one which is linked to the Primary Review Panel." The list includes:

- PE2\_01 Theory of fundamental interactions
- PE2\_02 Phenomenology of fundamental interactions
- PE2\_03 Experimental particle physics with accelerators
- PE2\_04 Experimental particle physics without accelerators
- PE2\_05 Classical and quantum physics of gravitational interactions
- PE2\_06 Nuclear, hadron and heavy ion physics
- PE2\_07 Nuclear and particle astrophysics
- PE2\_08 Gas and plasma physics
- PE2\_09 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

Other fields in the form include:

- ERC Keyword 2**
- ERC Keyword 3**
- ERC Keyword 4**
- Free keywords**

At the bottom left, it says "ERC ver 2.00 20240327". At the bottom right, it says "Annihilation for".

ERC Keyword 1 (Primary panel)

ERC Keyword 2 (any panel)

ERC Keyword 3 (any panel)

ERC Keyword 4 (any panel)

**Free keywords**

**(what are and why are they needed?)**

# ERC Panel and Keywords

## ERC Panel Structure 2025 (28 panels)

### 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

✓ Full list in [ERC 2025 Work Programme](#)

# ERC Hub: <https://erc.easme-web.eu/>

Finding and fitting my idea

## Databuh of ERC funded projects (all signed ERC grants until 28/3/2023)

Once you filtered your content you can generate a custom link

clear all

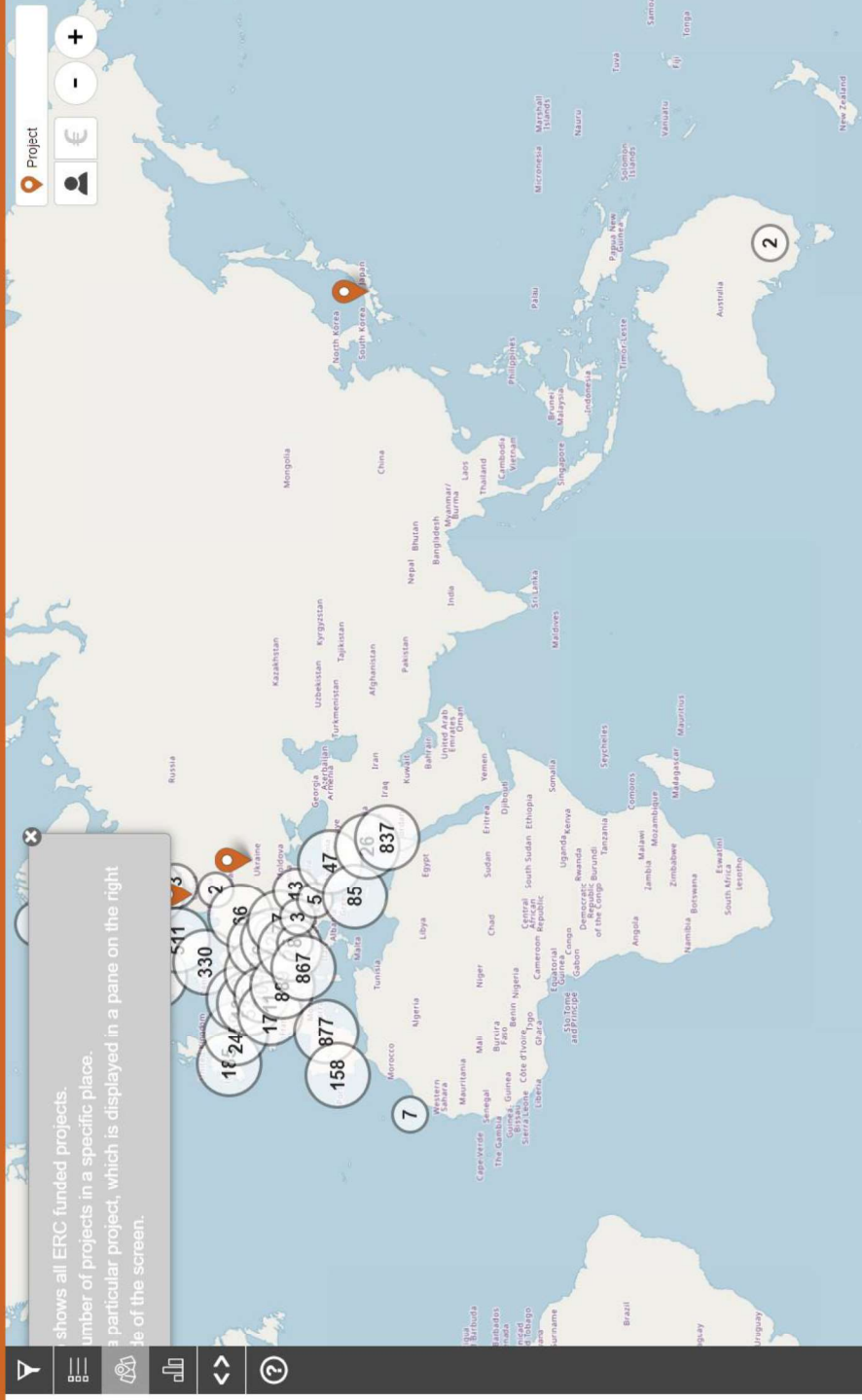
Grant Type >

Countries >

Panels >

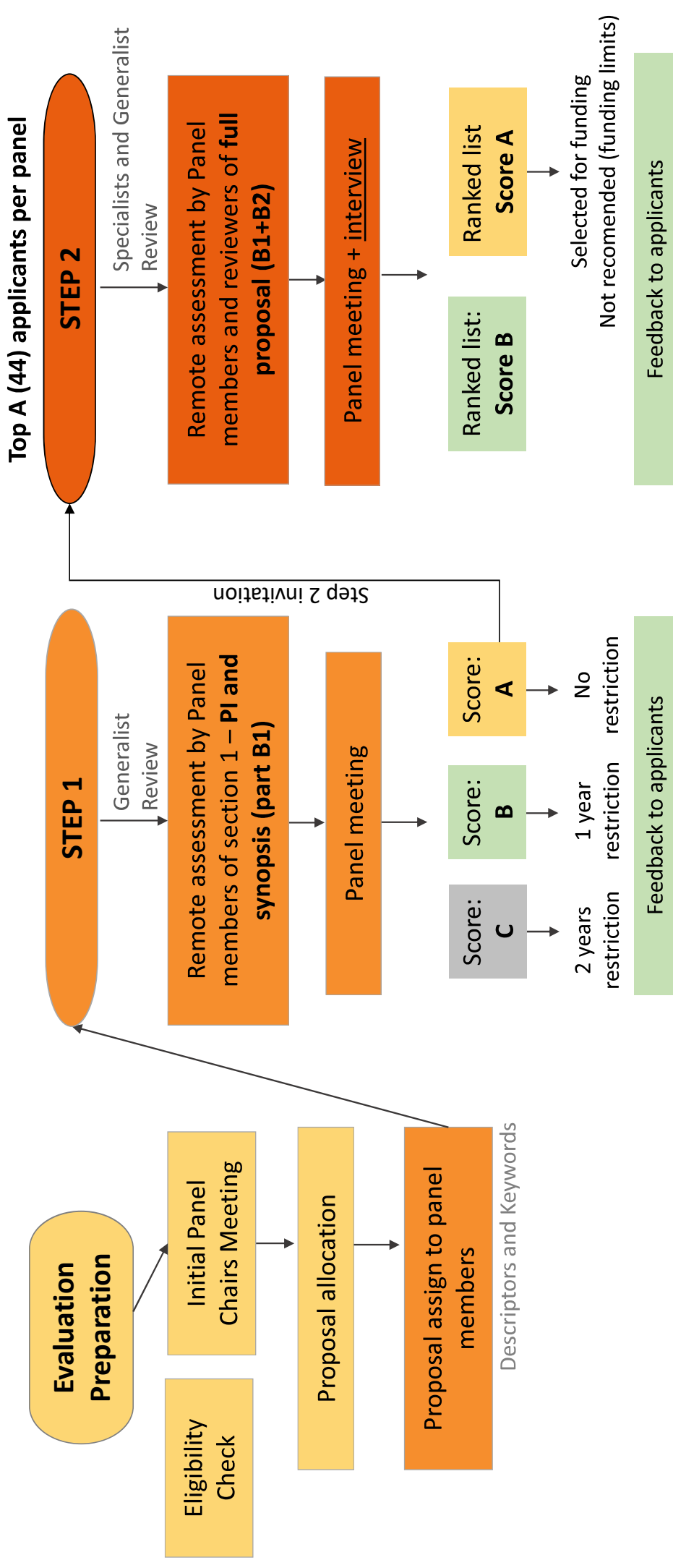
Budget >

Years >





# ERC Proposals Evaluation



# ERC Evaluation Form – 2 criteria only

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## 1. Research Project Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

### Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- ✓ 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)?

### Scientific Approach

- ✓ To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the groundbreaking nature and ambition of the proposed research (based on the Extended Synopsis)?
- ✓ To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone (**for Synergy Grants**, based on the Extended Synopsis)?
- ✓ 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 (**for Synergy Grants**, based on the Extended Synopsis)?
- ✓ To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the research proposal)?
- ✓ To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources, and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal)?

# ERC Evaluation Form – 2 criteria only

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## 2. Principal Investigator

### 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 independent thinking?
- ✓ To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

# Preparing your proposal:

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## Step by Step

### Start thinking today :

1. I am eligible for ERC **XXXX**
2. What do I want to research for 5 years that is bold, relevant, curiosity-driven, and aligned with my CV and skills?  

3. Search for **inspiration** on the ERC Hub (panels, style, etc)
4. Contact previous applicants and awardees - Find a mentor?
5. Prepare an outline of your project (draw a roadmap of what you want to do, why and how), gather preliminary data (if possible)
6. Decide the structure of your proposal
7. **Start writing** – Write for generalists, provide context, definitions and details (this is how you showcase your expertise)
8. An ERC is not a review paper... Is a statement of need with detailed actions toward a major scientific advance.

# Preparing your proposal:

---

## Step by Step

### Once the call is open:



1. Read the call documents carefully.
2. Contact the Host Institution and gather all the details you need for the application.
3. **Start writing your proposal.** Allow time for other people to review your draft.
4. Familiarise yourself with the [EU submission service](#).
5. **Submit your proposal as early as possible.** Deadlines cannot be changed under any circumstances. You can update your submitted proposal any time before the deadline by simply submitting a new version, which will overwrite the old one.
6. You will get an 'acknowledgement of receipt' by e-mail for each submission.

# Preparing your proposal:

## Step by Step

### After the deadline



1. The ERC will check whether your proposal meets the call's eligibility criteria.
2. External experts will evaluate all the eligible proposals.
3. You will receive further information as your proposal progresses through the evaluation. You can consult the timeframe for your call.

TIMEFRAME	
1. Results of eligibility check (applies only to proposals declared ineligible)	~1/2 month after deadline
2. Invitations for interviews	2/3 months after deadline
3. Results of Step 1 for non-retained applicants	~3/4 months after deadline
4. Step 2 Interviews	5/6 months after deadline
5. Results of Step 2	~8 months after deadline
6. Start of Grant	From 8 months onward

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant
Call deadline	15 October 2024	14 January 2025	28 August 2025	6 November 2024
Budget million EUR <sup>23</sup> (estimated number of grants)	751 (483)	719 (354)	683 (276)	500 (48)
Planned dates to inform applicants after each step	5 May 2025 22 August 2025	18 July 2025 12 December 2025	30 January 2026 12 June 2026	14 April 2025 15 August 2025 27 October 2025
Indicative date for signature of grant agreements	21 December 2025	12 April 2026	17 November 2026	24 March 2026

## Final Considerations

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- Plan your application (STG, CoG, Adv or SYN)?
- **Be aware on eligibility and future restrictions to applications**
- **Be ambitious and 'daring'**; panels instructed to seek out frontiers research
- **Grab interest and attention of readers/ reviewers**, you must convince them
- Remember that Part B1 will be seen by 'generalists' (panel members), provide context
- If you make it to Step 2, reviewers see both B1 and B2
- Ask for help
- Ask for feedback
- **If you apply you might be surprised with the outcome, or you can simply reapply** (you will receive valuable feedback)
- *Do not include unnecessary partners and collaborators; it is not supposed to be a 'consortium'*

A large, colorful word cloud in the shape of a stylized 'W'. The words are arranged to form the outline and fill of the letter. The words include: WHO?, WHAT?, HOW?, WHY?, WHERE?, WHEN?, WHICH?, and WHOSE?. The colors used are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The words are of various sizes and orientations, creating a dense and vibrant composition.

A smaller, colorful word cloud in the shape of a stylized 'W'. The words are arranged to form the outline and fill of the letter. The words include: WHO?, WHAT?, HOW?, WHY?, WHERE?, WHEN?, WHICH?, and WHOSE?. The colors used are red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The words are of various sizes and orientations, creating a dense and vibrant composition.