ERC 2026 IST research ecosystem Guidance

Técnico Lisboa Pre-Award Support:

> **Centralized support**:
>> - **DPFC:** information, guidance support to the interview stage
>> - **ERC Club:** forum for discussion, sharing best practices, practical exercises (Narrative C.V., budget, branstorming, etc)
>> - **DP:** host institution signature and budget viability check.
>
> **Local support** (Research Unit research manager): direct support to the researcher (e.g., administrative, financial, application review, application submission, etc)

FCT Support: ERC-Portugal Program - FCT

- ERC-PT Pre-Assessment: a support to the national scientific community in preparing proposals for the ERC, through a pre-assessment model and suggestions for improvement, which mirrors the ERC's assessment criteria and assessor profiles, available in two forms;

Deadline for submitting applications: August 19th – ERC-StG

November 6th – ERC CoG

- ERC-PT A-Projects: incentive to improve the conditions for a future ERC application, by funding the initial development of research projects already evaluated with the top classifications not selected for ERC funding;
- ERC-PT Careers: attracting and retaining researchers with ERC projects already funded (ongoing or recently completed) to take up permanent positions in institutions of the National System of Science and Technology and Higher Education.

Contents

ERC -StG 2026

Submission Deadline: **14th October 2025** STEP 1 Results: 28th April 2026 STEP 2 Results: 25th August 2026 STEP 3 Results: to be defined Probable GA date: 22nd December 2026

ERC STARTING GRANT (StG) CHECKLIST

General Requirements

- ☐ For **PIs starting or recently started** their independent research
- ☐ Project must be led by one or more **Principal Investigators (PIs)**
- ☐ PI(s) must demonstrate the **ground-breaking nature and ambition** of the proposed research
- ☐ PIs are **scientifically responsible** for the project

Eligibility & Objectives

- ☐ Check **PI PhD date** is between 1 Jan 2019 and 31 Dec 2023
- ☐ Verify **at least one key publication without PhD supervisor**
- ☐ Must show **potential for independence and leadership**, e.g., key publications as main author

Funding & Duration

- ☐ Set project duration (**up to 60 months**)
- ☐ Define budget **up to €1.5M**
- ☐ Justify additional funding request (up to €1M)
- ☐ Ensure budget complies with **actual-cost model + 25% indirect cost**

Time Commitment

- ☐ Ensure PI commits **at least 50% working time to the project**
- ☐ Ensure PI spends **at least 50% of working time in EU/Associated Country**

Evaluation & Proposal

- ☐ Prepare Part I: research idea, objectives, state-of-the-art (max 5 pages)
- ☐ Prepare Part II: methodology, risk assessment, resources (max 7 pages)
- ☐ Draft CV and Track Record (max 4 pages)
- ☐ Include **Host Institution Support Letter**: ask for it to dprojetos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt

- ☐ send the budget for checking **financial viability** to: dprojetos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt, **two weeks in advance of the deadline**
- ☐ Submit proposal electronically before **deadline: 14th October 2025**
- ☐ If invited to the interview, contact your research manager and DPFC at pre-award@ist-id.pt

ERC – SyN 2026

Submission Deadline: 5th November 2025
STEP 1 Results: 13th April 2026
STEP 2 Results: 14h August 2026
STEP 3 Results: to be defined
Probable GA date: 22nd December 2026

ERC SYNERGY GRANT (SyG) CHECKLIST

General Requirements

- ☐ Form **group of 2 to 4 Principal Investigators**
- ☐ Synergy Grant applicants must show that the group can **combine complementary expertise** to tackle complex problems
- ☐ PI(s) must demonstrate the **ground-breaking nature and ambition** of the proposed research
- ☐ PIs are **scientifically responsible** for the project
- ☐ PIs of **any seniority level** may apply, with a **competitive track record**
- ☐ One PI (excluding the Corresponding PI) **may be based outside the EU or Associated Country**

Eligibility & Objectives

- ☐ Assign **one Corresponding PI**
- ☐ Ensure **research challenge cannot be addressed by a single PI**
- ☐ Confirm one PI may be hosted outside the EU/Associated Country (except Corresponding PI)

Funding & Duration

- ☐ Set project duration (**up to 72 months**)
- ☐ Define budget **up to €10M**
- ☐ Justify **additional funding request (up to €4M)**
- ☐ Use **actual-cost model + 25% indirect cost**

Time Commitment

- ☐ Ensure each PI commits **at least 30% working time to project**
- ☐ Ensure each EU/AC-hosted PI spends **at least 50% working time in EU/Associated Country**

Evaluation & Proposal

- ☐ Prepare Part I (max 5 pages) and Part II (max 10 pages)
- ☐ Provide CV and Track Record (4 pages per PI)
- ☐ Include detailed collaboration and resource plan
- ☐ Submit Host Institution Support Letters for all participating institutions; ask for the commitment letter to dprojetos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt
- ☐ send the budget for checking **financial viability** to: dprojetos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt, **one week in advance of the deadline**
- ☐ If invited to the interview, contact your research manager and DPFC at pre-award@ist-id.pt

ERC – CoG 2026

Opening: Deadline: 13th Janury 2025
STEP 1 Results: 17th July 2026
STEP 2 Results: 11th December 2026
STEP 3 Results: to be defined
Probable GA date: 12th April 2027

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANT (CoG) CHECKLIST

General Requirements

- ☐ For PIs **consolidating** their independent research programme
- ☐ Project must be led by one or more **Principal Investigators (PIs)**
- ☐ PI(s) must demonstrate the **ground-breaking nature and ambition** of the proposed research
- ☐ PIs are **scientifically responsible** for the project

Eligibility & Objectives

- ☐ Check **PI PhD date** is between 1 Jan 2014 and 31 Dec 2018
- ☐ Must show clear **evidence of research independence**

Funding & Duration

- ☐ Set project duration (**up to 60 months**)
- ☐ Define budget **up to €2M**
- ☐ Justify **additional funding request (up to €1M)**

- ☐ Use **actual-cost model + 25% indirect cost**

Time Commitment
- ☐ Ensure PI commits **at least 40% working time to the project**
- ☐ Ensure PI spends **at least 50% of working time in EU/Associated Country**

Evaluation & Proposal
- ☐ Prepare **Part I and II** of the scientific proposal
- ☐ Complete **CV and Track Record**
- ☐ Include **budget and resources breakdown**
- ☐ Provide Host Institution Support Letter: ask for it to dprojetos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt
- ☐ send the budget for checking **financial viability** to: dprojetos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt, two weeks in advance of the deadline
- ☐ If invited to the interview, contact your research manager and DPFC at pre-award@ist-id.pt

ERC – AdG 2026

Deadline: 27th August 2025
STEP 1 Results: 29th January 2027
STEP 2 Results: 11th June 2027
STEP 3 Results: to be defined
Probable GA date: 16th November 2027

ERC ADVANCED GRANT (AdG) CHECKLIST

General Requirements
- ☐ For **established research leaders**
- ☐ Project must be led by one or more **Principal Investigators (PIs)**
- ☐ PI(s) must demonstrate the **ground-breaking nature and ambition** of the proposed research
- ☐ PI must be **active in research**
- ☐ PIs are **scientifically responsible** for the project
- ☐ Must have a **track record of significant research achievements**

Eligibility & Objectives
- ☐ Confirm PI is an **active researcher with significant achievements**
- ☐ Validate **international recognition and leadership**

Funding & Duration

- ☐ Set project duration (**up to 60 months**)
- ☐ Define budget **up to €2.5M**
- ☐ Justify **additional funding (up to €1M)**
- ☐ Use **lump sum model**

Time Commitment

- ☐ Ensure PI commits **at least 30% working time to the project**
- ☐ Ensure PI spends **at least 50% working time in EU/Associated Country**

Evaluation & Proposal

- ☐ Prepare **Part I and II** of scientific proposal
- ☐ Provide **CV and Track Record**
- ☐ Submit **Equipment Depreciation Table**
- ☐ Include **budget justification**
- ☐ Provide Host Institution Support Letter: ask for it to dprojetos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt
- ☐ send the budget for checking **financial viability** to: dprojetos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt, **one week in advance of the deadline**
- ☐ If invited to the interview, contact your research manager and DPFC at pre-award@ist-id.pt

If you want to know more contact us at pre-award@ist-id.pt