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European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC 2023 Consolidator Grant Call Webinar

Session 2:

Submitting your proposal and how it
is evaluated by the ERC

6 October 2022

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk



Who is who

Sean Rowlands (presenter)

– European Advisor and ERC National Contact Point

Dr Phil Holliday (moderator)

– European Advisor and ERC National Contact Point



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What will be covered in this webinar?



UKRO & UK Participation in Horizon Europe



Recap about the ERC



Submission Process



How the proposal is evaluated



Q&A



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All participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar.



We will be recording this session.



Slides will be shared after the webinar on the event page.



Please use the Q&A function to submit questions.



You can 'up vote' your favourite questions in the Q&A



A chat function is available and will be monitored.

Housekeeping



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About UKRO

We support UK research intensive organisations

UK National Contact Point for the **European Research Council** and **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** programmes

Unique partnership between UKRI and subscribing organisations

Provide a service to more than 140 subscribing organisations

A Brussels-based team of advisors

Part of UKRI's wider International team



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UK participation in Horizon Europe

On 24 December 2020, the negotiations on the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement concluded

The [announcement](#) sets out the UK's intention to **associate to Horizon Europe**

This includes **full participation in the programme** (with the exception of the EIC Fund)

UK entities can participate in/coordinate projects and receive funding from Horizon Europe, incl. ERC grants

[European Commission's Q&A](#) confirms **UK eligibility to apply**.

UKRO [website](#) provides latest information on UK participation and we have a [factsheet on UK participation in EU programmes](#)



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UK-EU TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Summary

December 2020

Commission Q&A Guidance

[European Commission's Q&A](#) confirms UK eligibility to apply:

"UK entities including universities, research centres, scientists, innovative businesses, industry, etc. can participate in the first calls for proposals of Horizon Europe as soon as they are published on the European Commission's website."

"...UK applicants are treated as if the UK is an associated country throughout the process, from admissibility and eligibility to evaluation, up until the preparation of grant agreements."



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Recap about the ERC

Brief recap of the overview presented
previously in Session 1



What is the European Research Council?



The ERC's mission:

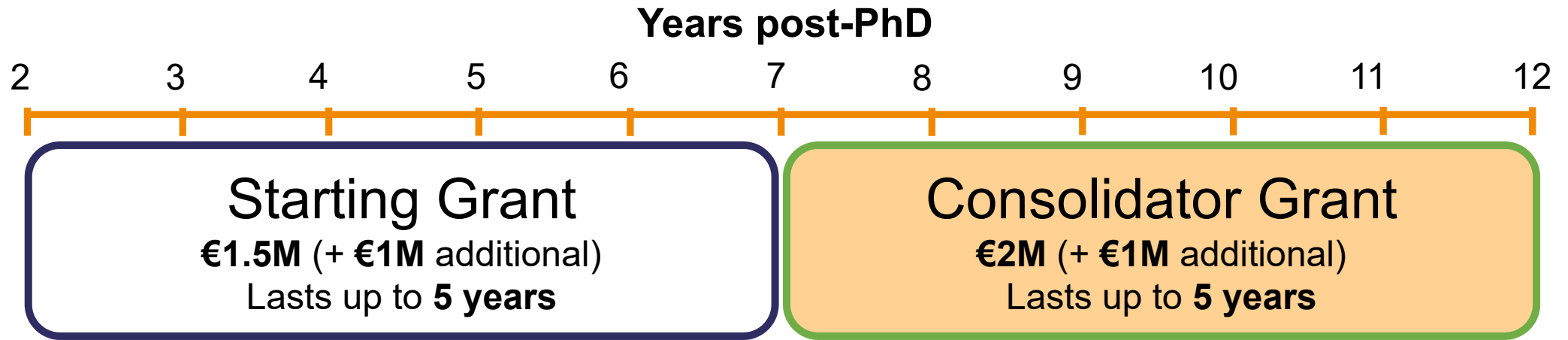
- Support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields
- Fund projects purely on the basis of scientific excellence
- Encourage the highest quality research in Europe

What makes the ERC unique:

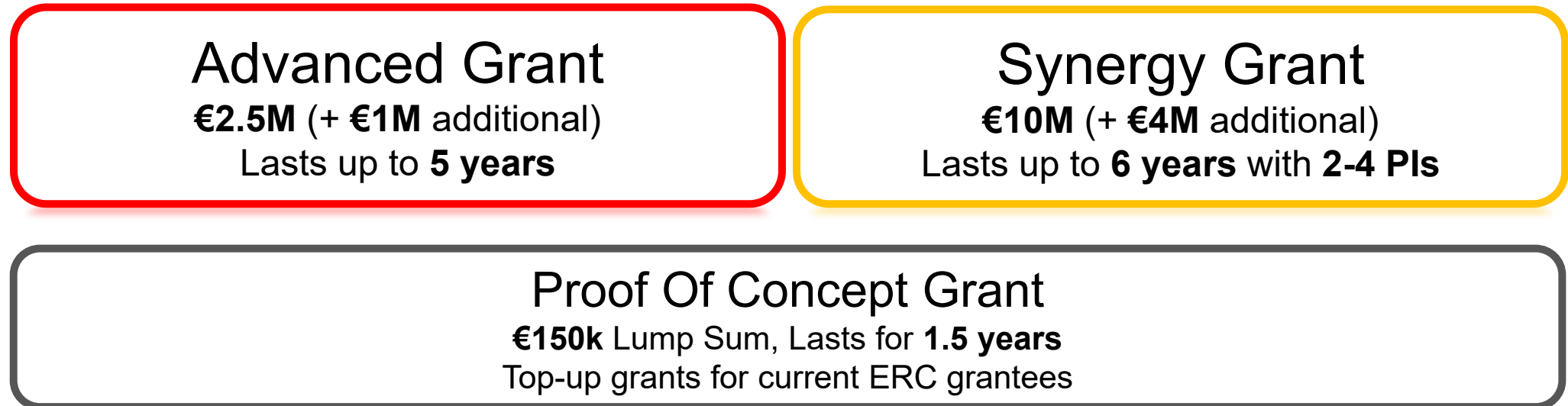
- Excellence is the only criteria
- Funding is distributed on researcher demand
- Freedom of PIs to lead their project with anyone in the world in their team



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No PhD Requirements



2023 Consolidator Grant call details

Call Identifier	ERC-2023-CoG
Budget	€595 Million
Estimated no. grants funded	300



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Q&As from Session 1

Which panel should I apply to if my proposal covers more than one panel?

- Pick the panel that fits the majority of your proposal activity or its predominant methodology.
- You are allowed to select a secondary panel as well.
- The primary panel will evaluate your proposal and could ask for support from a panel member from the secondary panel for your proposal.
- At Step 1 you have to convince the generalist, at Step 2, remote expert evaluators will be assigned to your proposal.



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The applicant should make a judgement on what fits best, it's not mean to be perfect, the panels are meant to be flexible and open

Q&As from Session 1

How can we trust that the assessors can understand the groundbreaking nature of our projects? Are they more conservative than applicants?

- The ERC Scientific Council is responsible for proposing independent external experts for the evaluation of ERC proposals. They may rely on information provided by panel chairs and panel members or by the ERC Executive Agency to identify these experts.
- Panels are generalists, which in principle mitigates the risk of Part B1 being assessed with biases and orthodoxy built in to any one field.
- When assembling the pool of experts, the ERC will ensure the highest level of scientific and technical skills, experience, knowledge (including in specialist areas) and will also take into consideration gender balance, geography diversity across MS/AC and reasonable inclusion of third country nationals) and regular rotation of experts, to balance between continuity and renewal.
- Looking at previously funded ERC projects, there is a strong record of funding novel, even unpopular ideas via this evaluation method.
- Applicants can look up who has been a [panel member](#) in past calls



Q&As from Session 1

During the evaluation of Part B1 and Part B2, should I focus more of Part B1 to my CV and more of Part B2 to my ERC project?

- The ERC only have one evaluation criterion, which is excellence.
- The evaluators will assess excellence in **both your research project and you as the Principal Investigator equally**, one is not more important or more weighted than the other.
- You will need to think carefully as how to incorporate both elements in both Part B1 and Part B2.
- The evaluation process has two steps:
 - At Step 1, the chosen panel will only read your Part B1.
 - At Step 2, the panellists and remote evaluators specially chosen for the proposal will read both Part B1 and Part B2

Both parts need to complement each other.



Other points to consider

Important aspects that might not be immediately apparent under 'excellence'



Open Science

Under Horizon Europe, beneficiaries of ERC grants must ensure open access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to their ERC project results.

- **Open access means accessible on:**
 - a trusted repository
 - under a CC BY (or equivalent) licence (either to the 'author accepted manuscript' or the published 'version of record').
- **For long-text publications like monographs**
 - a CC BY-NC / ND / NC-ND licence (or equivalent) is acceptable.
 - The ERC Scientific Council recommends the use of the OAPEN Open Books library (<https://oapen.org>) as repository for monographs and other books as well as book chapters.

[Provisions related to Open Science can be found on pages 107 – 109 of the Model Grant Agreement](#)



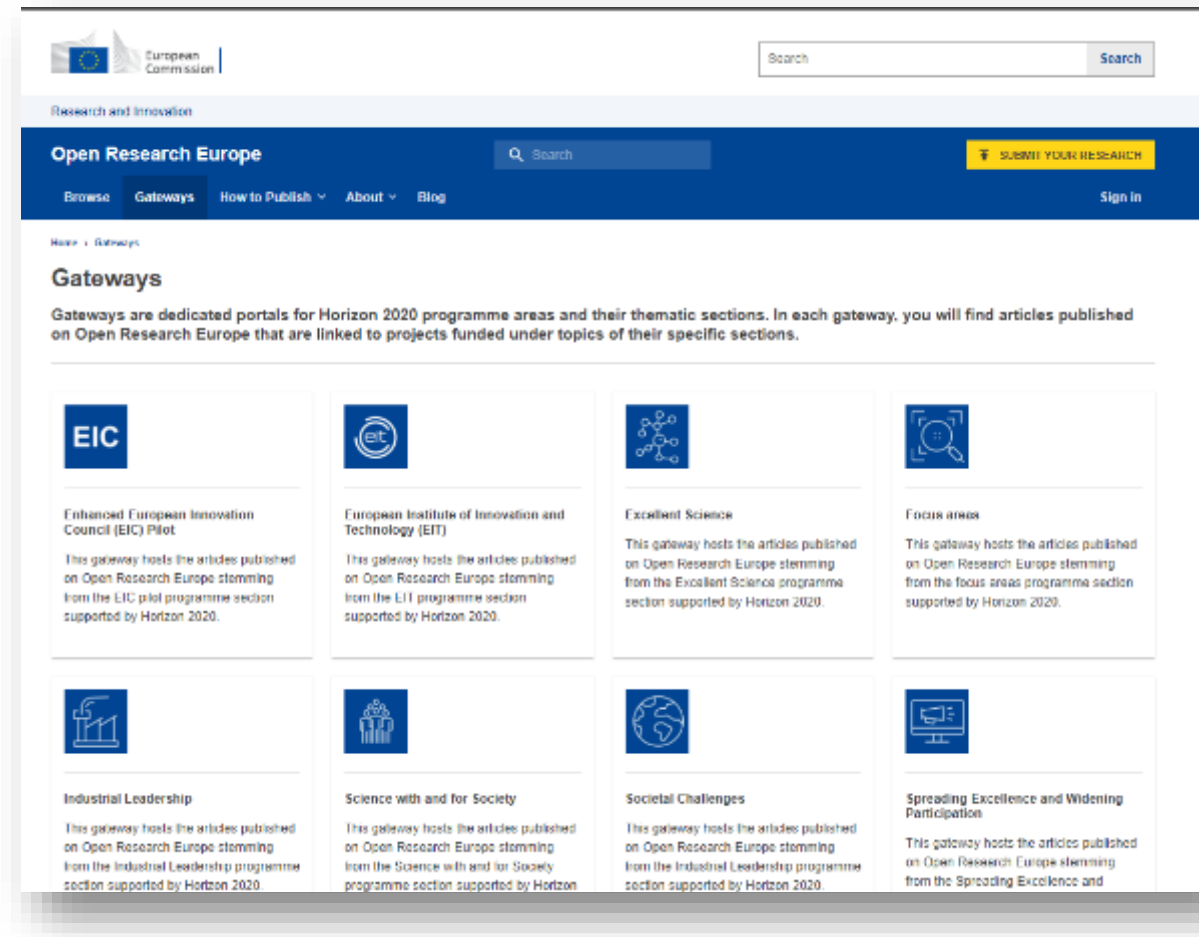
- ❖ [Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020](#)
- ❖ www.openaire.eu
- ❖ <https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/>

Publishing Fees

Will not be eligible for funding from the grant if the publication venue is not fully open access

(i.e. a fully open access journal or book, or an open access publishing platform like, e.g., Open Research Europe)

Open Research Europe



Scholarly publishing platform that will provide Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe beneficiaries with a no-cost full open access peer-reviewed publishing service, across all fields of research

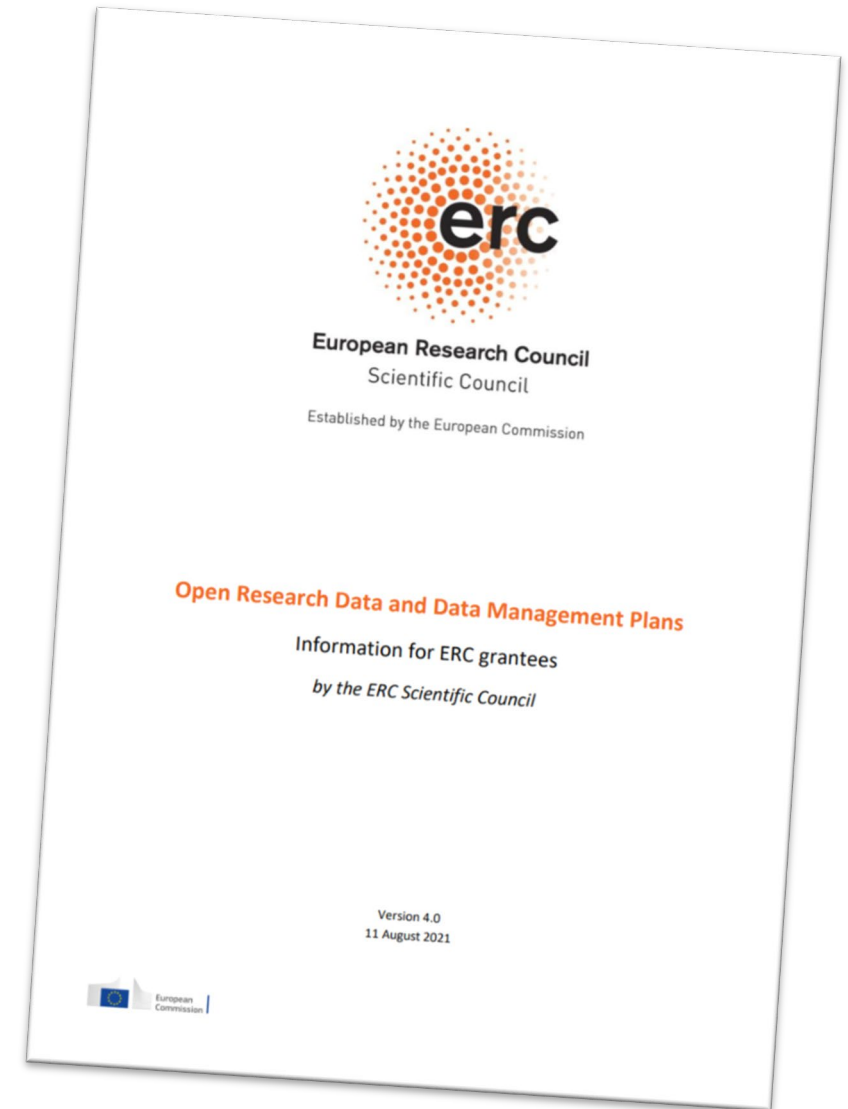
<https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/>

Data Management Plan (DMP)

Every ERC grantee must submit a DMP within 6 months of the start of their ERC project.

Further information:

- [Information for ERC Grantees on DMP](#)
- [Data Management Plan](#)



Gender Equality Plans (GEP)

The host institution will need a GEP in place for this call

- **Necessary before the signing of the Grant Agreement**
- **Not the responsibility of individual PI applicants**, it is meant for the organisation, approved by management.
- **Applies to public bodies, research organisations and HEIs**, not required for SMEs, industry, NGOs or civil society organisations.

GEP must have the following building blocks:

Publication	Dedicated resources	Data collection and monitoring	Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• formal document published on the institution's website and signed by the top management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• commitment of resources and gender expertise to implement it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel and students and annual reporting based on indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness raising/trainings on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and

Why Gender?

Sex & Gender is not an evaluation criteria, but it could have a lot to do with your proposal's scientific excellence.

Make sure you think about it in your research design relative your field/discipline, evaluators might see this as a gap in your proposal.

Some ideas to ponder:

- Integrating the gender dimension in R&I can be added value in terms of **excellence** and **creativity**
- S&G helps researchers question gender norms and stereotypes, to rethink standards and reference models – **improve methodology**
- It can **enhance** the **validity of results** and the **societal relevance** of the knowledge, technologies and innovations produced.
- It also contributes to the **production of goods and services** better suited to potential markets – not specifically important for winning an ERC but it could be a big deal further down the line.

[Click here to watch an ERC workshop](#)

ERC grantees talking about how the **Sex and Gender Dimension is involved in each ERC domain**

(Physical Sciences & Engineering, Life Sciences and Social Sciences & Humanities)



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Bibliometrics and Impact Factors

ERC has formally endorsed the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#):

Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions

What does this mean for applicants?

- Publications listed in the "track record" (Part B1) **can have contextual details** incl. field-relevant bibliometric indicators
- **Journal Impact Factor will be disregarded** anywhere in the proposal



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Covid-19 and the ERC

- Possible to postpone project start date by 6 months
- Possible to extend duration of project by 6 months or further on case by case basis
- Flexibility on teleworking and time commitments (notify ERCEA)
- **New since 2022** – Covid-19 Impact to scientific productivity (300 characters in CV)

Remember – EU financial contribution to the project cannot be raised

[Click here for the ERC's up to date coronavirus measures](#)
(covering submission, evaluation, interviews and implementation)



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ERC Submission Process



Approaching Proposal Submission

Register in the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal and create an ECAS account



Get in touch with your research support office



Add relevant contact people to the online application



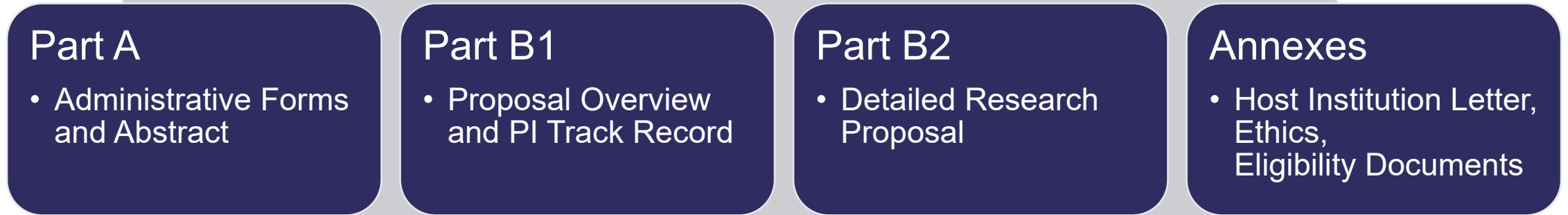
Submit early and often – latest version will be accepted



Keep the Information for Applicants in front of you throughout!!!



ERC Proposal Submission



1-step submission: all parts of the proposal are submitted together at deadline

- Part A is filled in online on the Funding and Tenders Portal
- Part B1, Part B2 and the Annexes are uploaded as PDFs to the Funding and Tenders Portal.

Find the call on the Funding & Tenders Portal

Funding and tenders (16)

[Need help?](#) [Calendar](#) [RSS](#) [Sort by:](#) [Submission status](#) [v](#)

ERC STARTING GRANTS
ERC-2023-STG

[Call for proposal](#) [Grant](#)

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Open for submission
Type of action	HORIZON ERC Grants	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	12 July 2022	Deadline date	25 October 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS
ERC-2023-COG

[Call for proposal](#) [Grant](#)

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Open for submission
Type of action	HORIZON ERC Grants	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	28 September 2022	Deadline date	02 February 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time

ERC Synergy Grants
ERC-2023-SyG

[Call for proposal](#) [Grant](#)

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Status	Open for submission
Type of action	HORIZON ERC Synergy Grants	Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	13 July 2022	Deadline date	08 November 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time



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Use the [topic search](#)

The call is open

All the guidance documents are included on the EC portal call.

[Click here](#) to set up a submission, it's quick and it gives access to Part B1 and Part B2 templates

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

TOPIC ID: ERC-2023-COG

Grant

General information

Topic description

Conditions and documents

Partner search announcements

Submission service

Topic related FAQ

Get support

Call updates

[Go back](#)

General information

Programme
Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

Work programme part
[HORIZON-ERC-2023](#)

Call
[Call for Proposals for ERC Consolidator Grant \(ERC-2023-COG\)](#)

Work programme year
HORIZON-ERC-2023

[See budget overview](#)

Open for submission

Type of action
HORIZON-ERC HORIZON ERC Grants

Type of MGA
HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based [HORIZON-AG]

Deadline model
single-stage

Opening date
28 September 2022

Deadline date
02 February 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time

Start submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the **type of action** and **grant agreement** that corresponds to your proposal. You will then be asked to confirm your choice, as it cannot be changed in the submission system. Upon confirmation, you will be linked to the correct entry point.

To access existing draft proposals for this topic, please login to the Funding & Tenders Portal and select the My Proposals page of the My Area section.

Please select the type of your submission:

☐ HORIZON ERC Grants [HORIZON-ERC], HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based [HORIZON-AG]

[Start submission](#)

[Need help?](#)

Scroll down to start submission



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First page of proposal submission

IDENTIFY THE HOST INSTITUTION (*PIC number*)

Find your organisation

PIC Short name

Search for your organisation

Organisations you have been previously associated with. (Click to select)

BASIC DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Your proposal

Please choose an acronym for your proposal.
It will appear also in the "General Information" section of the Application Form Part A and can also be updated there.

Acronym

Short Summary

ERC Panel

SAVE AND GO TO NEXT STEP

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE ON THE PROPOSAL?

Your role

Please indicate your role in this proposal

☒ Principal Investigator
☐ Main Host Institution Contact
☐ Contact person

Select your primary evaluation panel (e.g. LS3/SH1/PE4 etc)

See a full list of ERC panels and keywords in
[Annex 4 of the Information for Applicants](#) (from page 31)

Anything you enter in this part of the form **can be edited later!**



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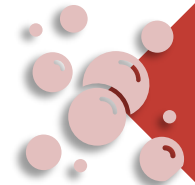
The Abstract



First thing that everyone looks at



Used by the panel chair to choose which panel members will undertake the Step 1 review



Mention interdisciplinary elements



Public facing – a version will be available on CORDIS if your project is selected

Don't forget to add excellence to the abstract

Most of Part A is not evaluated by experts but they do get a cover page using information from that online form.

Make it exciting and memorable for panellists!

Your abstract is an important first glimpse at your proposal, and also the blurb that is likely to become the point of reference for what you want to do.

Getting your abstract right is a great way to improve your chances of standing out for the expert panel which will have lots of proposals to get through.



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ERC Panel Structure

Must choose a primary evaluation panel

Optional secondary evaluation panel

Optional free key words

Read the descriptors

Applicants can flag their proposal as interdisciplinary

Physical Sciences & Engineering	Life Sciences	Social Sciences & Humanities
<p>PE1 Mathematics</p> <p>PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter Particle</p> <p>PE3 Condensed Matter Physics</p> <p>PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences</p> <p>PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials</p> <p>PE6 Computer Science and Informatics</p> <p>PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering</p> <p>PE8 Products and Processes Engineering</p> <p>PE9 Universe Sciences</p> <p>PE10 Earth System Science</p> <p>PE11 Materials Engineering</p>	<p>LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures & Functions</p> <p>LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems</p> <p>LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology</p> <p>LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing</p> <p>LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System</p> <p>LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy</p> <p>LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases</p> <p>LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution</p> <p>LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering</p>	<p>SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations</p> <p>SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems</p> <p>SH3 The Social World and its Diversity</p> <p>SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity</p> <p>SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production</p> <p>SH6 The Study of the Human Past</p> <p>SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space</p>

Main proposal page on EC Portal

Part A: Administrative Forms
online only

Part B1 & Part B2
Editable templates available to download

Support for using the EC portal

- Not support on content of proposals
- Any issues during submission should be logged with the helpdesk

Part B1 & Part B2
Upload PDFs based on editable templates
Other documents listed below uploaded separately as PDFs

The screenshot shows the 'Proposal forms' page on the EC Portal. It is divided into several sections:

- Deadline:** 02 February 2023 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time. 122 days left until closure.
- Call data:** Call: ERC-2023-COG, Topic: ERC-2023-COG, Type of action: HORIZON-ERC, Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG.
- Proposal data:** Acronym: test, Draft ID: SEP-210899104.
- Download Part B templates:** A button labeled 'Download part B templates'.
- Support & Helpdesk:** Includes links for 'Online Manual', 'IT How To', 'IT Helpdesk', and 'FAQ'. A 'Service Desk' section provides the email 'EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu' and the phone number '+32 2 29 92222'.
- Administrative forms (Part A):** Includes an 'Edit forms' button, 'View history', and 'Print preview'.
- Part B and Annexes:** A section for uploading documents. It lists 'Part B1', 'Part B2', 'HI support letter', 'PhD certificate', and 'Annex 1' through 'Annex 6'. Each item has an 'Upload' button.
- Footer:** Includes buttons for 'BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST', 'VALIDATE', and 'SUBMIT'.

Annotations from the text boxes point to specific elements: 'Part A: Administrative Forms online only' points to the 'Edit forms' button; 'Part B1 & Part B2 Editable templates available to download' points to the 'Download part B templates' button; 'Support for using the EC portal' points to the 'Support & Helpdesk' section; and 'Part B1 & Part B2 Upload PDFs based on editable templates' points to the 'Part B and Annexes' section.

Avoid IT issues on the Funding & Tenders Portal



Validate your proposal regularly



Submit early and often.

Each submission overwrites the last, so only your final version will go to evaluators



You can always submit an improved draft later but if there are IT issues and no submission, the **EC is unlikely to accept after deadline**



Avoid using special characters for filename.

Only alphanumerical characters (A-Z, a-z, 0-9, _ (underscore), - (dash), . (dot) or space are allowed.

**Problems encountered?!
Contact the [EC's IT Helpdesk](#) ASAP**

Log the problem with screenshots and clear description of the problem.

Once you have contacted the helpdesk and your issue has been logged, you can try to resolve the issue with minor fixes, e.g.:

- Try using a different browser or computer.
- Try again at another time of day when traffic might be lower on the portal.

Call the EC IT Helpdesk if it is urgent: +32 2299 2222



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Part A – Administrative forms

Navigate by chapter or pages

How to fill in the forms

The screenshot shows the 'Application forms' section of the HORIZON submission system. It includes a top navigation bar with links like '< Exit form', 'Table of contents', and 'General Information >'. Below this is a sub-navigation bar with 'Table of contents', 'Validate form', 'Save form', and 'Save & exit form'. The main content area displays proposal details: 'HORIZON', 'Call: ERC-2023-COG', 'Topic: ERC-2023-COG', 'Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC', 'Proposal number: SEP-210899104', and 'Proposal acronym: test'. A 'Table of contents' link is present. Below this is a table with 5 sections: General information, Participants, Budget, Ethics and security, and Other questions, each with a 'Show' button. At the bottom, there is a 'How to fill in the forms' section with explanatory text and a 'Read more' button. Arrows from the text boxes on the left point to the 'Table of contents' link in the sub-navigation bar, the 'Table of contents' link in the main content area, and the 'How to fill in the forms' section.

< Exit form Table of contents General Information >

Table of contents Validate form Save form Save & exit form

Application forms

HORIZON

Call: ERC-2023-COG
(Call for Proposals for ERC Consolidator Grant)

Topic: ERC-2023-COG

Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC
(HORIZON ERC Grants)

Proposal number: SEP-210899104

Proposal acronym: test

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

Table of contents

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

How to fill in the forms

The administrative forms must be filled in for each proposal using the templates available in the submission system. Some data fields in the administrative forms are pre-filled based on the steps in the submission wizard.

Read more

ERC ver 2.00 20220922 Last saved 30/09/2022 15:57:09

Part A – PI Declaration of Consent

- These consents **should not be submitted with the application**, but the applicant must ensure they have written consent from all participants prior to the call submission deadline.
- The written consent doesn't need to be an official letter, our understand is that an email with the essential info and clear consent would work.
- ERC Executive Agency may request the applicants to provide this written consent as evidence at any time during the evaluation process

Application forms

[Table Of Contents](#)[Validate Form](#)[Save](#)[Save&Close](#)

Proposal ID **SEP-210732071**

Acronym **FAD**

Declarations

[?](#)

Field(s) marked * are mandatory to fill.

1) We declare to have the explicit consent of all applicants on their participation and on the content of this proposal. *

☐

Part A - Budget & Resources

3 - Budget

?

Please indicate the costs for each cost category as accurate as possible using only Euro integers. The 'Total eligible costs' of the project will be automatically calculated based on the figures inserted in the individual columns. The 'Requested EU contribution' has to be filled in manually. Please make sure to update the 'Requested EU contribution' if updates are made in any of the cost categories.

PI: When calculating the salary, please take into account the percentage of your working time dedicated to the ERC project.

Other personnel costs and Other additional direct costs:

If applicable, please specify this cost category in the Resources section (textbox below).

Internally invoiced goods and services:

Costs for host institution invoices and invoices for other entities should be included here; e.g. access to large facilities, access to other services that are charged as unit costs.

For more details on the budget table, please consult the ERC Information for Applicants document applicable to the call and year. Please note that the budget table and the description of resources below will be made available to the experts evaluating the proposal at Step 2.

	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 costs	Total Purchase	D. Internally invoiced goods and services	E. Indirect Cost €	Eligible Total
--	----	--------------	----------	----------	-----------------------	---------------------------	---	----------------------------	---	--	---	-------------------------------	-----------------------	----------------	---	--------------------	----------------

Make sure the figures match

Section C. Resources (Maximum 8000 characters allowed)

This section and the budget table will be made available to the experts evaluating the proposal at Step 2. Important: your description of resources will be truncated once it exceeds the maximum length. Please ensure your description is complete before submitting.

State and fully justify the amount of funding considered necessary to fulfil the objectives for the duration of the project. The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible. The evaluation of the proposal will be consequently reduced. Please specify if you will use third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action.

If applicable, please specify the cost items covered by your 'Other personnel costs' category and the cost items covered by your 'Other additional direct costs' category.

Request for additional funding if applicable (All items MUST be included in the overall budget table above): (Cost in EUR)

Justification:

- Additional funding:**
- Mixed in the budget table with the main budget, included in totals for the fitting cost categories
 - Separate in the **Description of Resources** text

Part A - Budget

Budget and Resources description are seen by evaluators

Four main sections:

- Personnel
- Subcontracting
- Purchase
- Internally invoiced good and services

All ‘Additional Funding’ requested must be

- Included in the overall budget table
- Added to sums under each appropriate cost category
- *For example fieldwork travel would go under Travel & Subsistence along with non-fieldwork travel like conferences*

If funding is requested for ‘Other personnel costs’ & ‘Other additional direct costs’

- Should be entered as a total figure on your budget table
- Should be unpacked in the Resource section with each item briefly described

Budget summary

Beneficiary organisation(s)	Total cost (€)	Requested AMT (€)
1. Name of Institution, country	x,xxx,xxx.00	xxx,xxx.00

Budget details

Cost Category / Beneficiary		Name of Institution	Total
A. Personnel costs	PI	xx	xx
	Senior Staff	xx	xx
	Postdocs	xx	xx
	Students	xx	xx
	Other Personnel costs	xx	xx
Total Personnel costs		Xxx	Xxx
B. Subcontracting costs (no indirect costs)		xx	xx
C. Purchase costs	C.1 Travel and subsistence	xx	xx
	C.2. Equipment incl. major equipment	xx	xx
	C.3 Other goods, works and services	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	xx
		Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	xx
		Other additional direct costs	xx
	C.3 Total other goods, works and services		Xx
Total Purchase costs (C1 + C2 + C3)		Xxx	Xxx
D. Internally invoiced goods and services (no indirect costs)		Xx	Xx
E. Indirect costs (= 25% * (A + C1 + C2 + C3))		Xxx	Xxx
Total eligible costs (A + B + C + D + E)		X,xxx,xxx	X,xxx,xxx
Requested EU contribution		X.XXX.XXX	X.XXX.XXX

⁵³ This is an example of how the Proposal Budget Report looks like for the experts. Please note that the layout may be further adapted when needed.

Part A – Description of Resources

Specify all the resources required and justify them against the needs of the project.

Unjustified budget lines may be reduced or count against your proposal.

Suggested elements to briefly describe and justify:

- Describe **your commitment** to the project
- Describe **all the cost categories** considered necessary for the project
- Describe the **size and nature of the team**, indicating the key team member(s) and their roles, or key vacant roles, specify and justify if they based at organisations other than the Host
- Describe any requested **equipment**, justify why you need it and how much it will be used
- Include the costs for **Open Access** to project outputs including data management
- Describe any **additional funding** requested for the project
- Describe any **existing resources that will be used but don't require funding**

Template for Resources Description (from [Information for Applicants](#) page 53)

- “*I plan to allocate*” + Justification
- Max. 8000 characters (equivalent to about 2 pages)
- Request for **additional funding** if applicable.
 - Provide a total figure (cost in EUR)
 - Address specific grounds for additional funding in justification..
 - Additional funding described separately in Resources section

How much funding should I request out of the €1.5M available?

Does the amount of money requested affect chances of success
(beyond whether reviewers think it's justified)

- All expert assessments are on a case by case basis
- There is no 'special number'
- No bias towards cheaper/more expensive proposals
- It's about having the right amount to do the work
- Requesting too little or too much can be a factor in a proposal not being successful

Tips for developing your funding request:

TOP TIP: Seek support from your Host Institution as soon as possible!

Without their advice your costing might have problems

- Base your figures on your project activities
- Get feedback on your budget from those who read your Part B2
- Don't worry too much about the finest details. An ERC PI has a relatively high degree of freedom and flexibility, your proposal budget is an estimate which can be adjusted and adapted over the 5 year project within the total budget requested.
- Asking for less can be one of the hardest restrictions you can set yourself.



Should I describe my team in Part B1 or B2?

The priority in Part B1 is an eye-catching presentation of:

- the **Project** and
- the **Principal Investigator**

Our suggestion:

PIs should describe their team in Part B2, including how they fit in with the work plan and methodology

With Part B1's 5 page limit, it is unlikely there will be space for describing the team in detail



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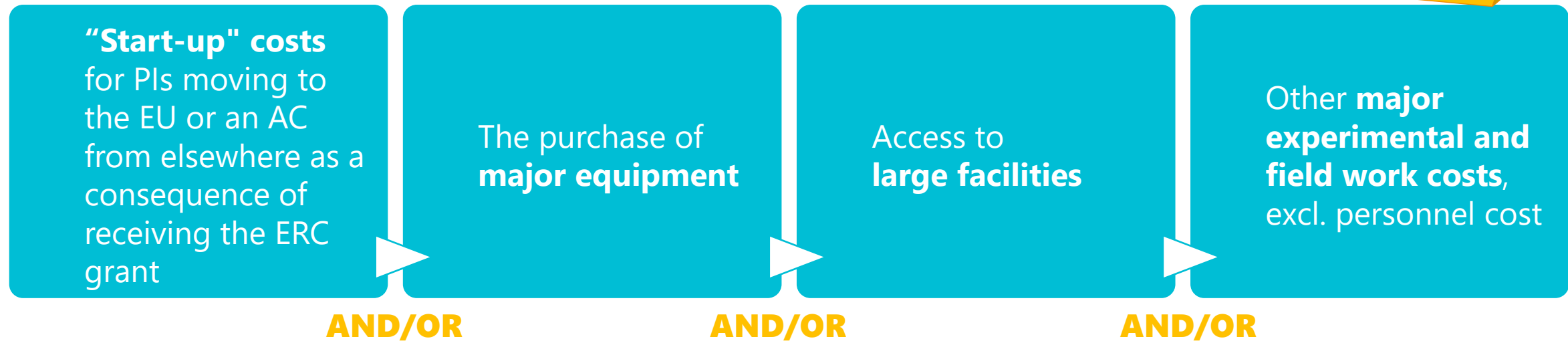


ERC Additional funding

Additional funding up to €1 million (incl. 25% indirect costs) can be requested to cover the following eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work:

Additional funding:

- Mixed in the budget table with the main budget, included in totals for the fitting cost categories
- Separate in the **Description of Resources** text



Special features of Additional Funding:

- What fits into the 4 categories in your field will vary from other fields
- If this additional part of the budget is not spent it cannot be transferred
- Same amount available to all ERC schemes

Part A – Ethics & Security questions

- Follow Horizon Europe guidance document: ['How to complete your ethics self-assessment'](#)
- UK applicants should **answer 'yes' on questions about non-EU activity**. This will not affect eligibility.
- Answering 'yes' on certain questions may require a **brief text response** from the applicant.
- Applicants may be requested to **upload documents** related to particular questions.
- **Free text character limits:** 5000 per text box
- If the character limit is too short, we recommend using a separate document **uploaded as one of the optional PDF annexes**. Make a reference to the annex in the Ethics text box in the application form.



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4 - Ethics & security

Ethics Issues Table

1. Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Human Embryos		Page
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
2. Humans		Page
Does this activity involve human participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
3. Human Cells / Tissues (not covered by section 1)		Page
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
4. Personal Data		Page
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
5. Animals		Page
Does this activity involve animals?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
6. Non-EU Countries		Page
Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? For data imports, see section 4.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	

Include page references to relevant sections in Part B1 & B2 for each issue if you answer 'Yes'



Part A – Responses on non-EU activity

Ethics Section 6, Non-EU countries – “Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?”

- Answer **yes for UK activity** and cite relevant points in the proposal.
- Similarly if there are any other activities outside EU member states.

Ethics Section 4, Personal data – “Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries?”

- Explain how these exports are **in accordance with GDPR** (Chapter V of the [General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679](#)).
- Mention the **EU Adequacy Decisions for the UK** on the protection of individuals regarding the processing of personal data and free movement of such data from the EU to the UK.

Security Section 1 EU classified information – “Does this activity involve non-EU countries?”

- You need to answer **yes for UK activity** if the project involves **EU classified information** ([EUCl; see Article 3 definition](#))



Supporting Documents

UPLOAD AS
PDF DOCUMENTS

About the Applicant

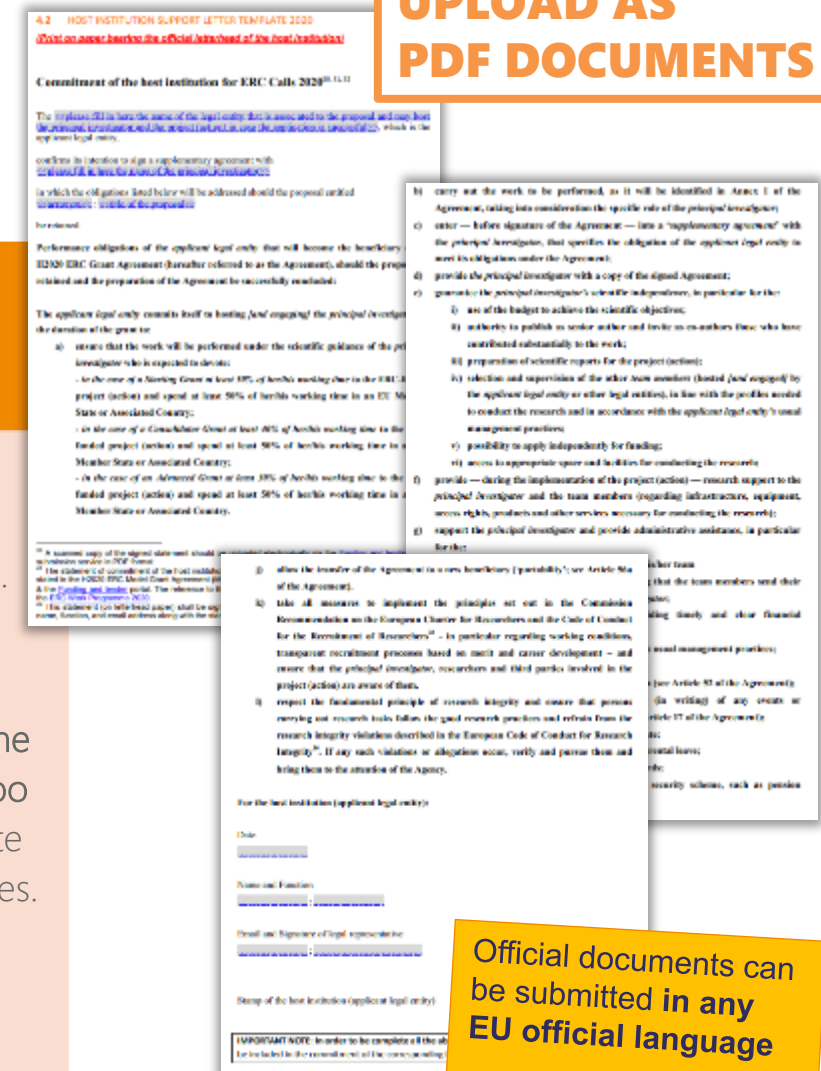
- Evidence of degree & date of award
- Documentation to support extension of the eligibility window (if relevant)
 - Birth certificates
 - Doctor's letters
 - Proof of leave from an employer/previous employer
 - Etc.

About the Institution

- Host Institution support letter (using the [template](#), on official headed letter)
- Documentation to support extension of the eligibility window for applicant (if relevant)

About the Project

- Ethics documents if requested by the Part A Ethics questionnaire (e.g. ethics committee decisions, licenses etc.)
- If the character limit in the Ethics questionnaire is too short, upload appropriate responses as PDF annexes.



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Proposal Formatting & Templates

Page limits will be strictly applied

Page formatting will be systematically checked by the ERCEA

References do not count towards page limit

Templates:

- [2023 Consolidator Grant application form template](#) (PDF version)
- Editable version of the template available via EC Portal



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Page Format:
A4

Header: [PI surname], [Project acronym] & [Proposal section (Part B1 or Part B2)]

Font:

- Times New Roman, Arial or Similar
- At least font size 11,
- Single line spacing

Side margin:
2 cm

Bottom margin:
1.5 cm



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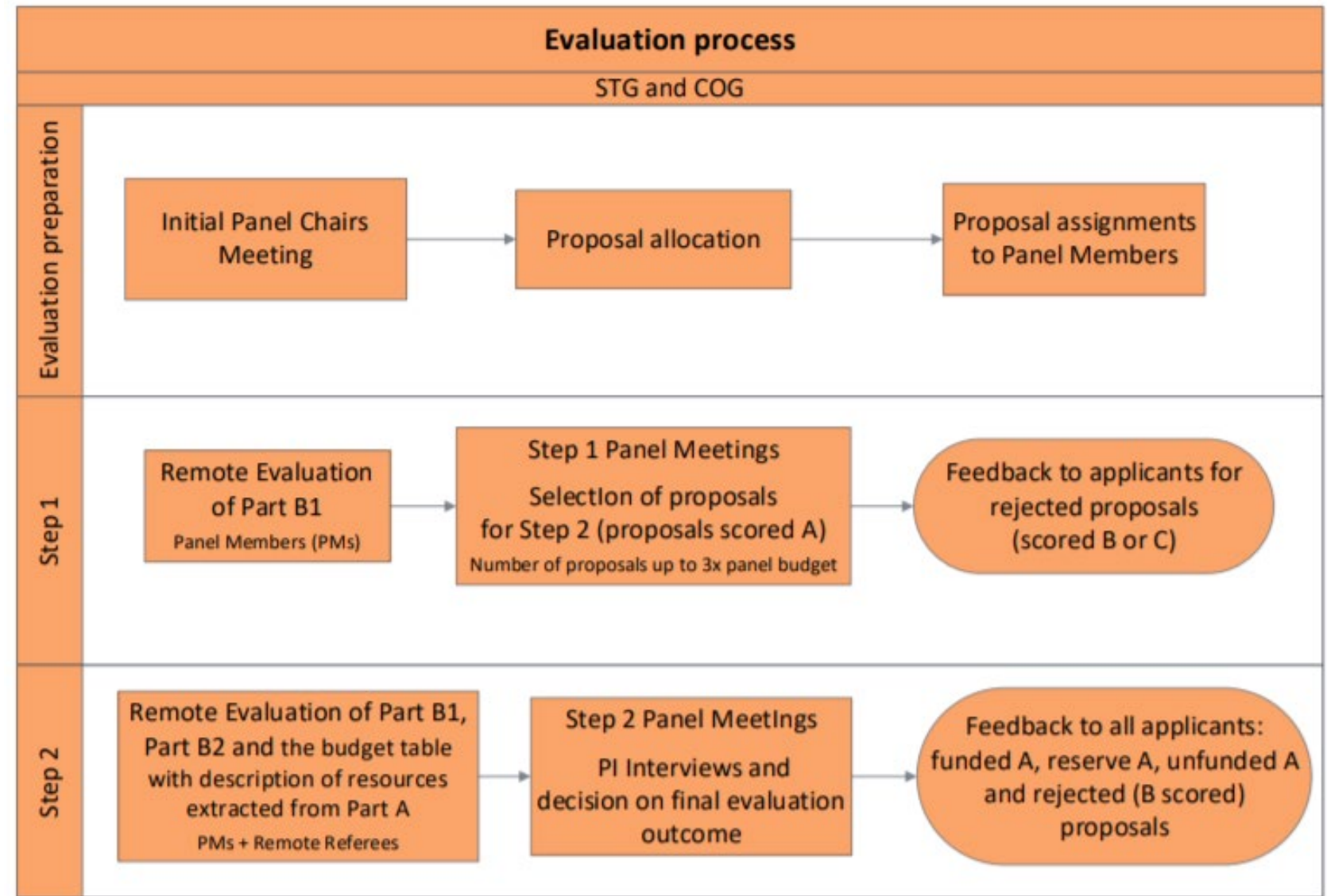
ERC Evaluation Process & Criteria



Evaluation Process

Tentative timeframe for CoG call feedback

- **July 2023**
Feedback to unsuccessful applicants about Step 1 evaluation.
Interview invitations sent to successful candidates passed to Step 2
- **December 2023**
All applicants informed about Step 2 evaluation



Evaluation Outcomes

Proposal Grading	Stage	Funded?	Reapplication Restrictions?
A	2	If sufficient budget	None
B	2	No	None
B	1	No	1 Year
C	1	No	2 Years

Proposals which do not progress to Step 2 have “demand management” restrictions

- Restrictions are produced from Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant calls
- Restrictions from Starting Grant calls apply to subsequent Consolidator Grant calls
- Synergy Grant calls only produce restrictions for Advanced Call applicants

Final Ranked List Calculation

Budgets are set by researchers' demand

$$\frac{\text{Requested EU Contribution (Panel)}}{\text{Requested EU Contribution (Total)}} \times \text{Available Budget} = \text{Panel Budget}$$

Normalised Accumulated Budget (NAB)

$$\frac{\text{Funding Requested} + \text{(Funding for Higher Ranked Proposals)}}{\text{Panel Budget}} \times 100 = \text{NAB}$$

Evaluators make a ranking list, then the cut off is decided automatically

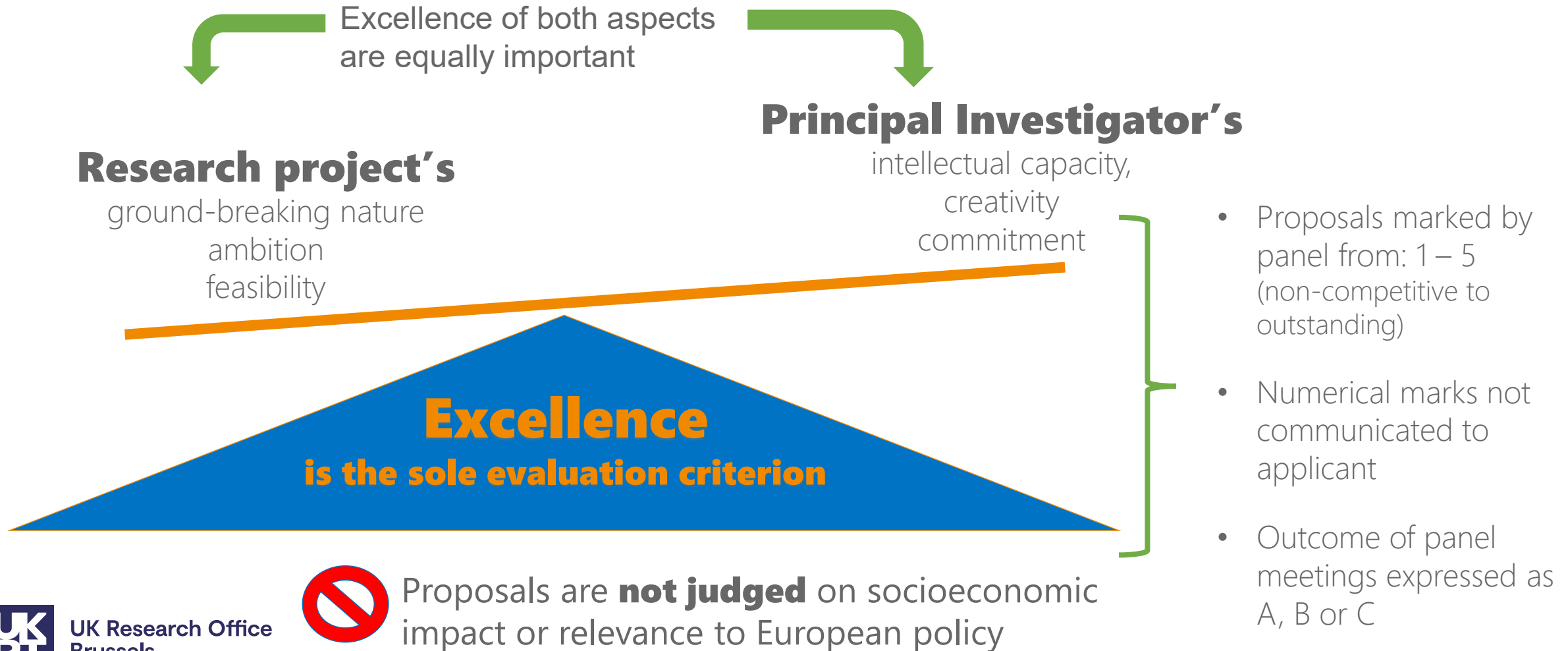
Example: If a Panel has a €6 million budget:

- 3 projects selected
- 1 on reserve list

Rank	Funding	Score	NAB	Funded?
1	€2M	A	$1/3 \times 100 = 33\%$	Yes
2	€2M	A	$(1+1)/3 \times 100 = 67\%$	Yes
3	€2M	A	$(1+1+1)/3 \times 100 = 100\%$	Yes
4	€2M	A	$(1+1+1+1)/3 \times 100 = 133\%$	Reserve?
5	€2M	B	$(1+1+1+1+1)/3 \times 100 = 168\%$	No
6	€2M	B	$(1+1+1+1+1+1)/3 \times 100 = 200\%$	No

Proposals with a NAB between 0% and 100% are funded.

ERC evaluation criterion



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

The Project

To what extent:

- does the proposed **research address important scientific challenges?**
- are the objectives **ambitious and beyond the state of the art?**
- is the proposed research **high risk/high gain?**

The Scientific Approach

To what extent:

- is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the high risk/high gain?
- are the research methodology and working arrangements **appropriate to achieve project goals?**
- the proposal involves the **development of novel methodology?**
- are the **timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate** and properly justified?

2. **Principal Investigator** - Intellectual capacity and creativity

The Principal Investigator (PI)

To what extent:

- has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?
- does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

Typical Reasons for Rejection

Proposed Project and Scientific Approach

- Scope is too narrow or too broad or not focussed enough etc.
- Incremental research, not ground breaking
- Work plan not detailed enough or unclear
- Insufficient risk management

Principal investigator

- Insufficient track-record
- Insufficient (potential for) independence
- Insufficient experience in leading projects

Reviewer comments about the Principal Investigator

Unsuccessful

- PI has very good track record, yet, it is not entirely clear, what are their own original contributions their potential as an independent project leader (creativity, management) is to be demonstrated
- Based on the available information about their track record, publication activity and scientific experience, the Principal Investigator does not seem to have the capacity and is not prepared to execute the outlined project
- The PIs creativity and independent thinking are not appropriately demonstrated
- The PI has been working in a specialized field and contributed to a respectable number of publications, although the impact of these publications is not particularly high

Successful

- The PI has a strong track record, including various aspects of scientific service, and seems ready to establish their independent career
- The PI has shown an excellent knowledge of their field and an amazing productive, including some real highlights
- The PI made several significant contributions [to their field]
- The PI has a strong track record

Reviewer comments about the Project

Unsuccessful

- The concepts are novel, but very ill described
- Only 5 lines of text to describe a complex set of experiments. Much more information is needed
- Is really high risk but whether it is high gain is not certain due to lack of elements
- Is an important challenge, but the proposed project is not going to make a significant contribution to it.
- There is no description of the expected outcome
- Could not find information whether the PI will have sufficient access [necessary infrastructures]
- The proposal is high risk and low return
- Less sure that the research design proposed will provide particularly convincing answers
- No novel methodology is involved

Successful

- The proposed research is based on a bold vision
- This project certainly has substantial risks with equally substantial payoffs if successful
- Addresses a very relevant research topic
- Proposed project is challenging and the objectives are certainly ambitious
- Approach seems feasible to address the questions
- Project is well grounded in supporting evidence
- Timescale of the project looks adequate
- Funding request is fully justified
- There is also no doubt that the PI would have the optimal working conditions to achieve these results
- The breakthrough of the timescales and resources described in the project by the PI is fully justified



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Refer back to Session 1

Your understanding of the evaluation process and other guidance today should inform your proposal writing.

We covered proposal writing in Session 1, the slides and a recording are available [here](#)



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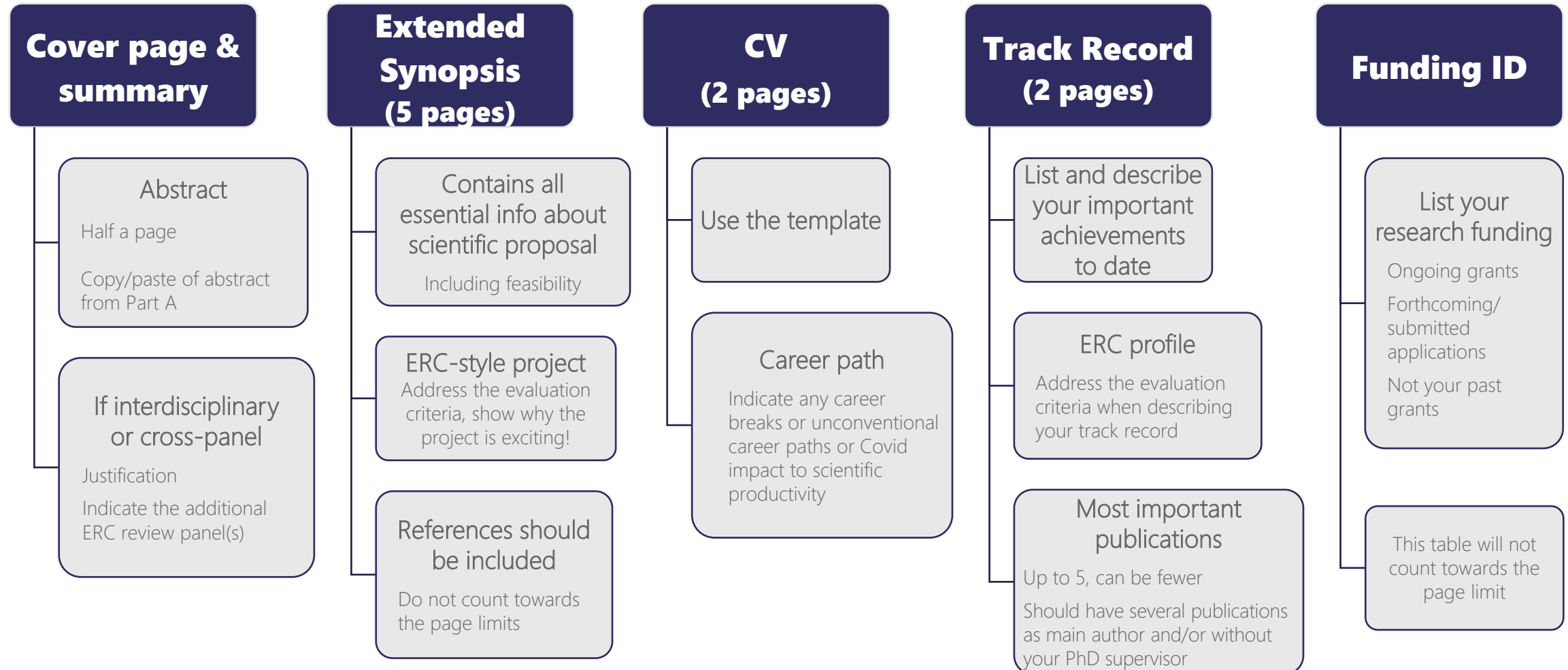


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**Slides to keep by
your side for
proposal writing**

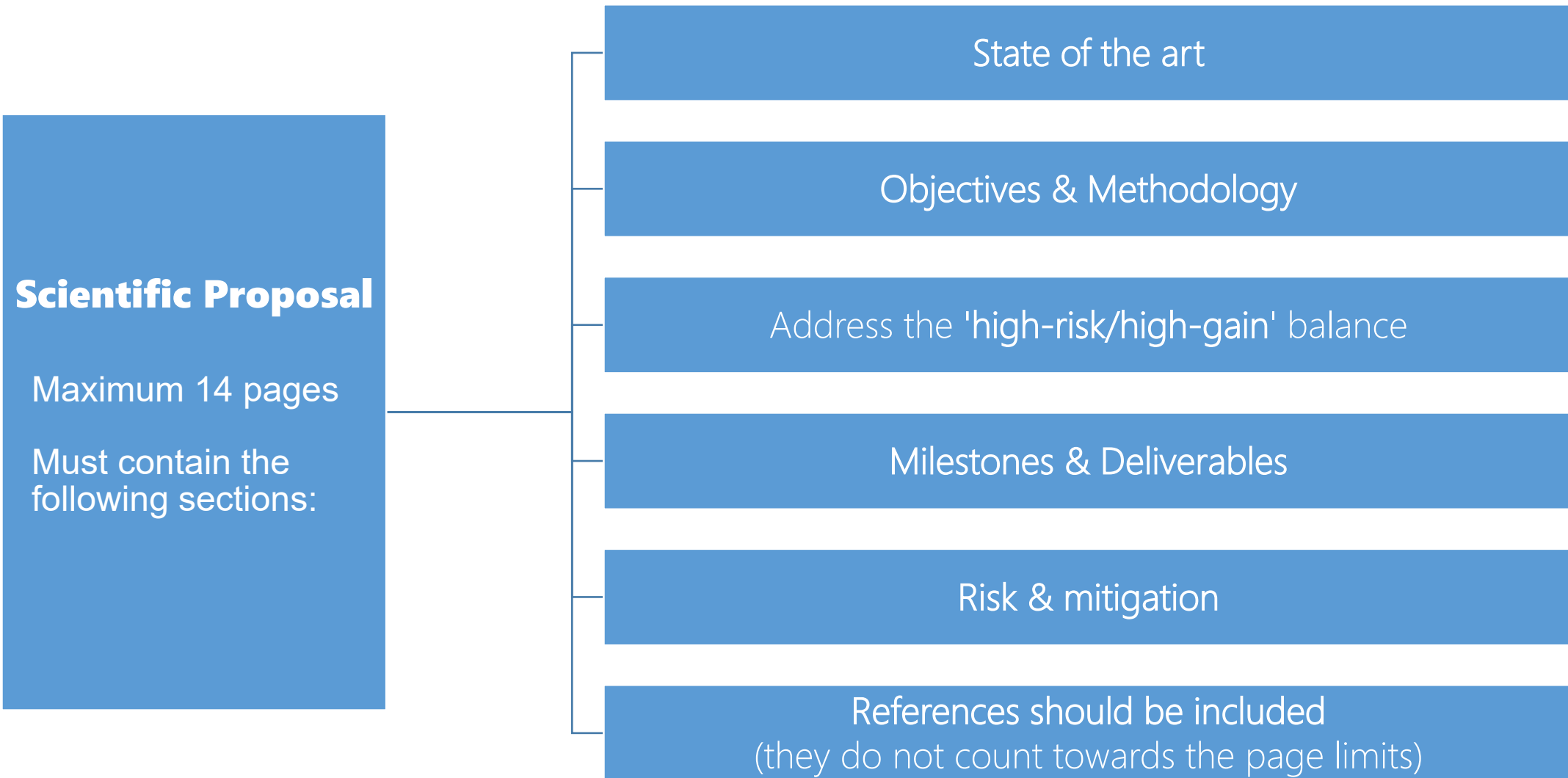


Part B1: Evaluated at Step 1 and Step 2



Part B2:

only seen if proposal is selected for Step 2



Tips & Tricks to Remember

Speak with your HI's
Research Support ASAP

- Find colleagues to proofread drafts against evaluation criteria
- You need a strong CV (in relation to your career stage)

Read all call **documentation**
and available information

- Refer back to the evaluation criteria constantly while drafting
- Study previous ERC projects within your research area

Think of your **audience**

- Panellist are experts, but not necessarily in your exact area. They are based around the world so there may be different approaches even in similar fields
- Expert reviewers will be a close expert to your proposal or an aspect of it – but they don't get the final say.

The best proposals
take time to write

- Use clear and concise language. If you must use jargon, explain it.
- Make it easy to find information in different parts of your proposal

Proposal Advice

Questions to ask yourself

Does the proposal go beyond the state of the art ?

Is it timely?
(Why wasn't it done in the past? How is it feasible now?)

What is the epistemological risk?
(Is it justified by the potential gain? Do I have a plan for managing the risk?)

Why is my proposal important?

Why am I the best/only person to carry it out?

Am I internationally competitive as a researcher at my career stage and in my discipline?

Am I able to manage a 5-year project with a substantial budget?

Key points

Be specific and don't provide unsupported opinions or comments

Clearly address ALL of the evaluation criteria

Make it easy for the evaluators to find the information

Pitch to generalists: evaluators will be experts, but not necessarily in your exact area

Use clear and concise language and explain country-/field-specific jargon

Include diagrams, images, tables *only if appropriate and helpful*

Research previous and current projects

Find colleagues to proof read drafts with the evaluation criteria

Check your proposal's coherence

Does my methodology support my scientific objectives/questions?

Do I have the right resources to carry this out?

Does the latest version of the B1 match the B2?

Scientific Questions	Methodology 1	Methodology 2	Methodology 3	Methodology 4
Questions 1	X			
Question 2		X		
Question 3	X		X	
Questions 4				

Evaluators are looking for feasibility in the proposal.

If something does not match up in the text, it raises concerns for the project.

Activity (Methodology)	Team Member 1	Team Member 2	Team Member 3	Team Member 4
Activity 1	X			
Activity 2		X		
Activity 3	X		X	
Activity 4				



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Useful links

- [2023 ERC Starting & Consolidator Grant Information for Applicants](#)
- [2023 ERC Work Programme](#)
- [ERC Youtube Channel- explainer videos](#)
- [EURAXESS UK webinar on 'Strategy on applying for a Consolidator Grant'](#)
- [Find out more about ERC Experts who review proposals](#)
- [ERC FAQ page](#)
- [ERC Information Service](#) – the best way to find out about previously funded projects



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Remember
Read the
Information for Applicants
&
Submit your proposal
early and often!





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Any Questions?



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