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European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC 2023 Advanced Grant Call Webinar

Session 1:

Overview of the ERC, eligibility and
proposal development

28 November 2022

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk



Who is who

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UKRO

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Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy



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What will be covered in this webinar?



Introduction to UKRO & UK Participation in Horizon Europe



Overview of the ERC programme



Eligibility criteria



Proposal development



Questions and answers session



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Housekeeping

- All participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar.
- We will be recording this session.
- Please use the Q&A function to submit questions.
- You can 'up vote' your favourite questions on Q&A.
- A chat function is available and will be monitored.
- Recording and slides will be available on www.ukro.ac.uk shortly after the live webinar



About UKRO

We support UK organisations involved in EU R&I funding

UK National Contact Point for the [ERC](#) and [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

A Brussels-based team of advisors

Unique partnership between UKRI and more than 140 subscribing organisations

Part of UKRI's wider [International team](#)



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UK participation in Horizon Europe

On 24 December 2020: 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 Portal](#) provides more detail and is updated with latest info on UK participation



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UK-EU TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Summary

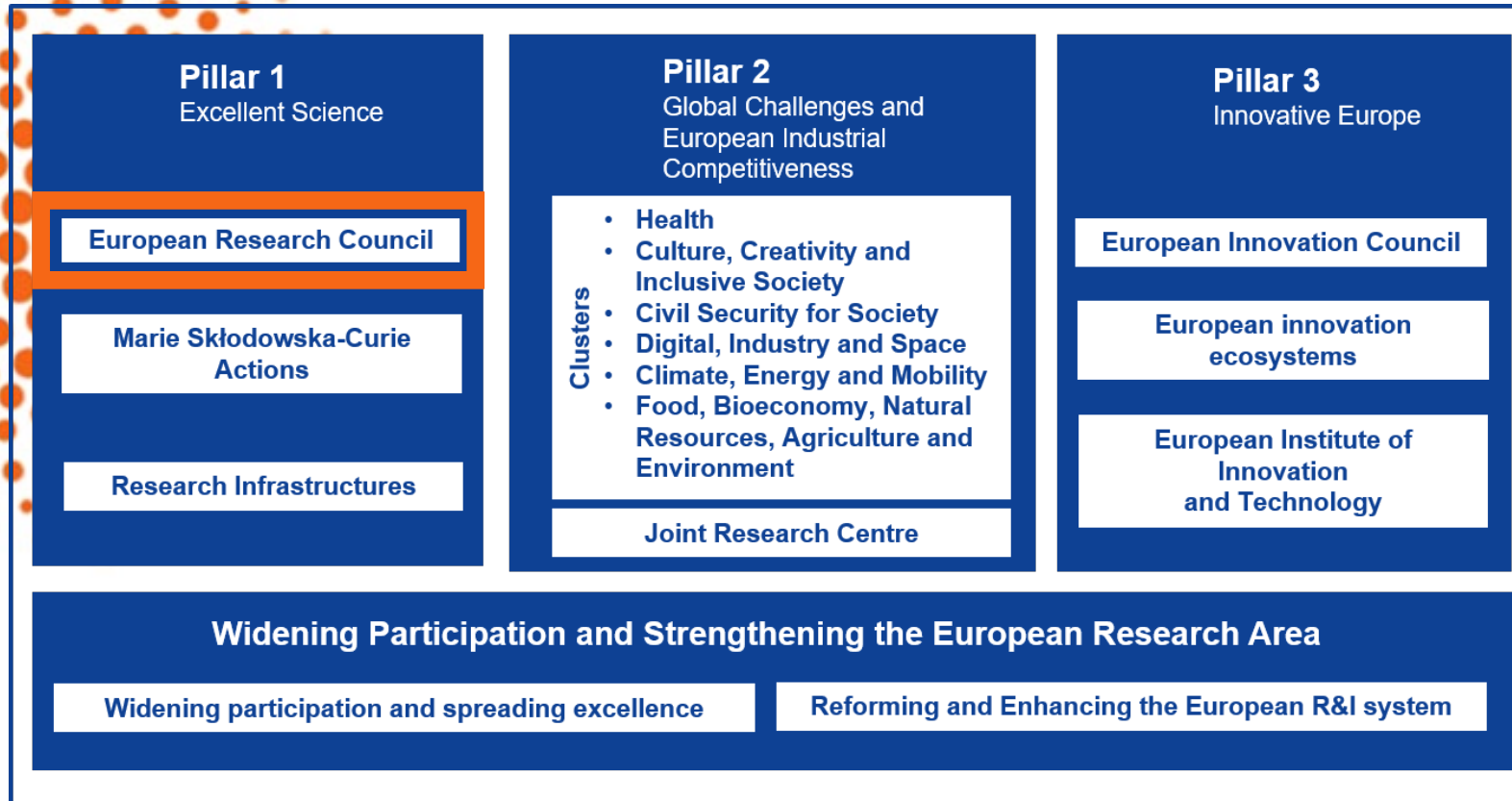
December 2020

Overview of the ERC

How does it fit into the wider Horizon Europe and what is it about?



Horizon Europe structure



What is the European Research Council?



The ERC's mission:

- Support PI-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 given to PIs to lead their project with anyone in the world in their team



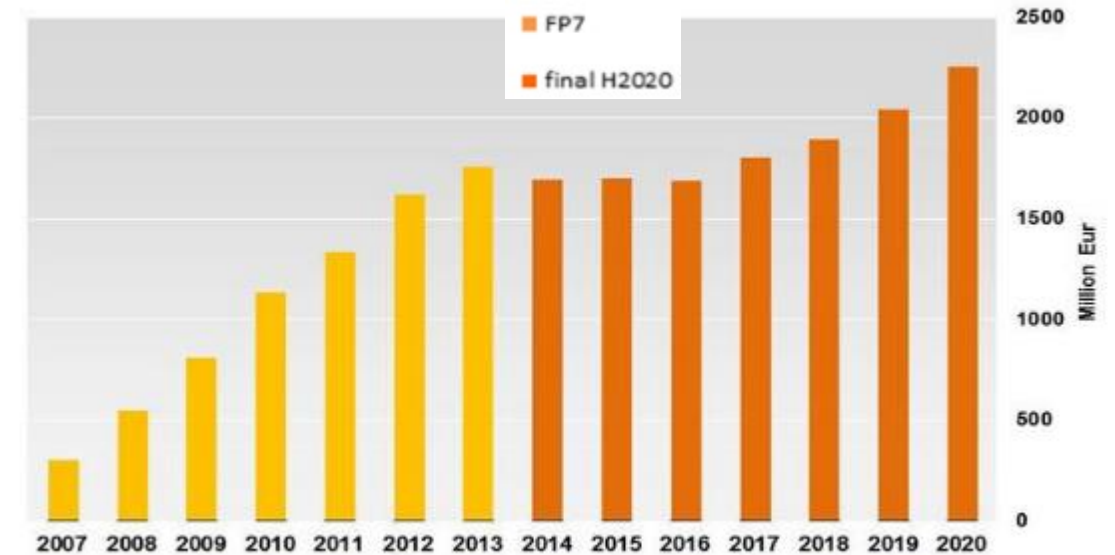
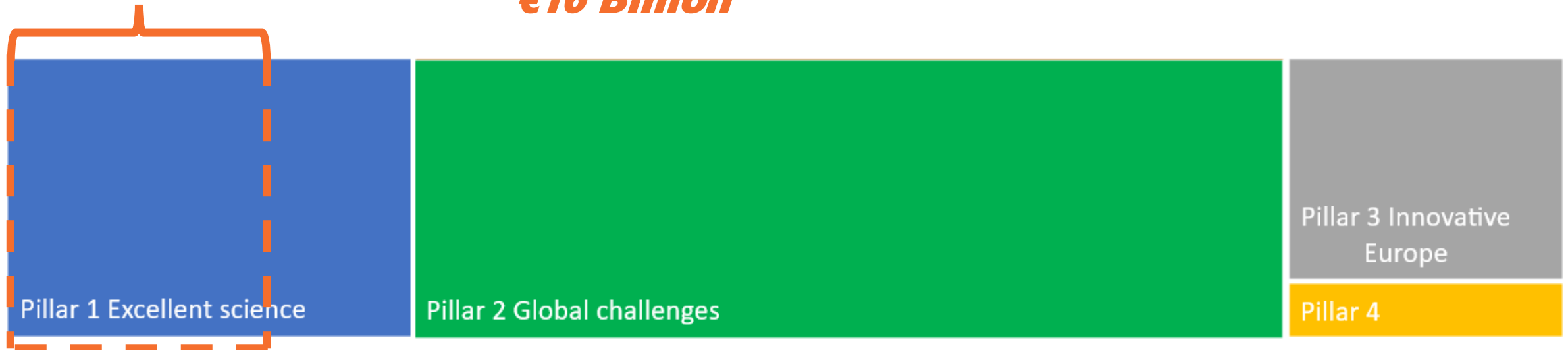
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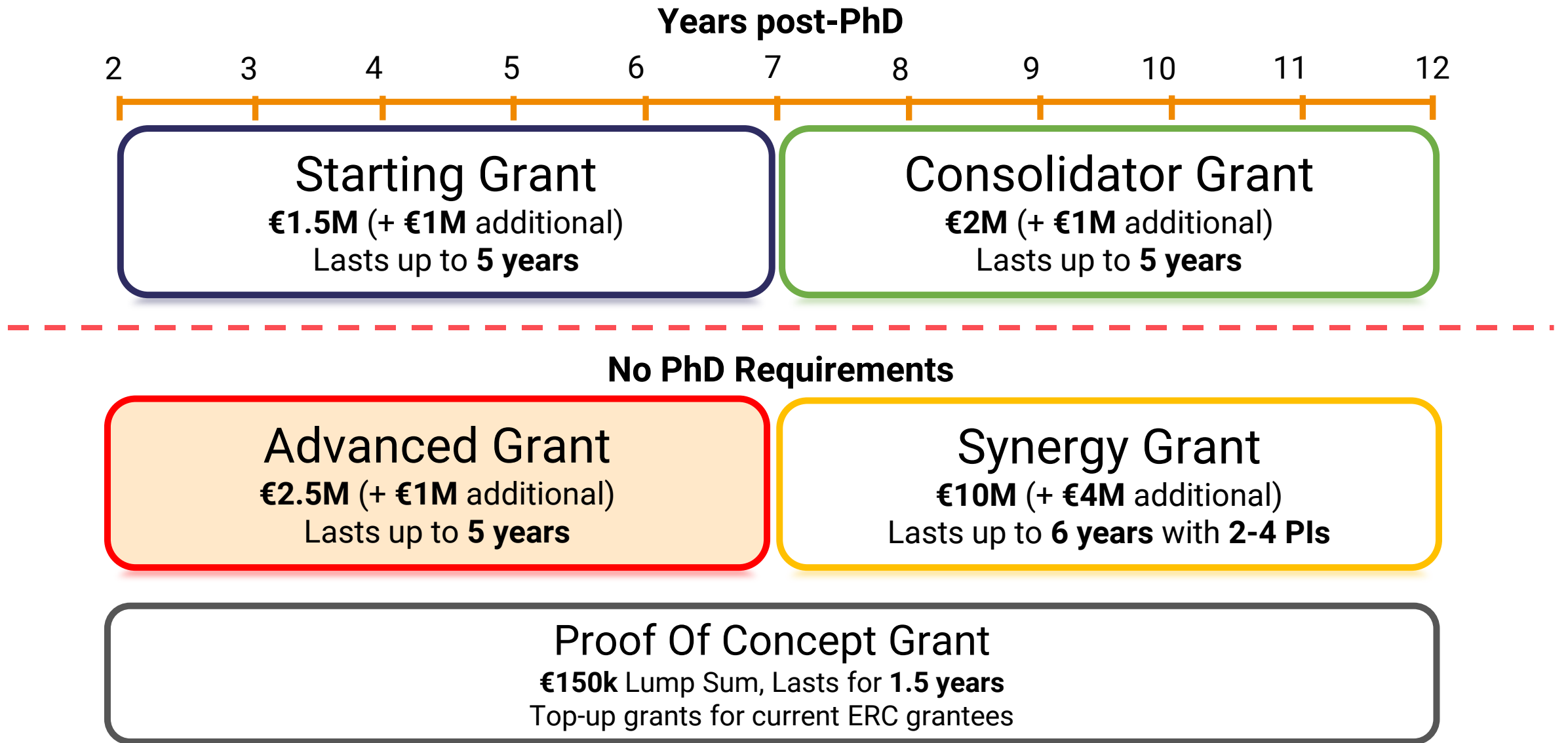
ERC Budget in Horizon Europe

26% increase in real terms compared to Horizon 2020.

Horizon Europe structure is represented below proportionate to budget allocation.

**ERC BUDGET:
€16 Billion**





Recent ERC call statistics

~250 UK-hosted AdG applications per year

Top number of Advanced Grant proposals from UK in
2021 & 2022 calls

2021 Advanced initial call results:

45 successful UK-hosted proposals
2nd behind Germany

UKRI Guarantee in place

to address to delays to Association which meant
UK-hosted ERC applicants could not sign grant agreements

162 UKRI Guarantee Grants have been offered

to cover successful ERC applications to all ERC calls
£243.3 million of funding



**More info on the ERC Website about
Advanced Grant 2021 results:**

- [Statistics](#)
- [Physical Sciences and Engineering](#)
- [Life Sciences](#)
- [Social Sciences and Humanities](#)
- [Examples of projects](#)

ERC 2023 Call Calendar

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant	Proof of Concept
Call Type	ERC-2023-StG	ERC-2023-CoG	ERC-2023-AdG	ERC-2023-SyG	ERC-2023-PoC
Call Opens	12/07/2022	28/09/2022	08/12/2022	13/07/2022	20/10/2022
Deadline	25/10/2022	02/02/2023	23/05/2023	08/11/2022	24/01/2023
					20/04/2023
					14/09/2023



2023 Advanced Grant Call Details

Call Identifier	ERC-2023-AdG
Budget	€597 Million
Estimated no. grants funded	246



ERC-type projects & eligibility criteria



Type of research the ERC funds

- Can be in **ANY** field of research
- Must be very **ambitious** in **risk** and in **scope**
- **Principal Investigator** is central to the project, they can be supported by as many “team members” as they need
- Must be “**frontier research**”, and should have potential for more than incremental advances



More on evaluation criteria in part 2 including how panels and external experts evaluate proposals

Judged on the scientific excellence of the project and PI

No need to aim for externally selected policies or research themes, it's up to the applicant!



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ERC Panel Structure

Open to any field of research

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: 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>



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* *Since 2021 all domains have changed slightly, check again to find your proposal's best fit!*

- **PE11** and **SH7** panels are newly added, split off from pre-existing panels
- Descriptors under **Life Sciences** reshuffled, changing the remit of existing panels

Picking the right panel for you and your project

Make the right choice/configuration

You must choose a **best fit primary panel** – might not be perfect

Choose **Panel Descriptors** – this helps the Panel Chair to identify your proposal's main readers ahead of the panel meeting.

Choose **ERC-listed keywords from primary/secondary panel** in order of priority

Choose **Free keywords** to complement your selected ERC keywords.

Keywords in your abstract – The panel chair & ERC use this text at the very beginning as prompt for planning the evaluation process, including identifying remote expert reviewers.

You can choose a **secondary panel** – someone from another panel could help the primary panel to evaluate your proposal

Evaluation panel section in Part A form

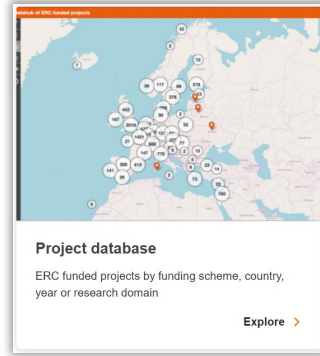
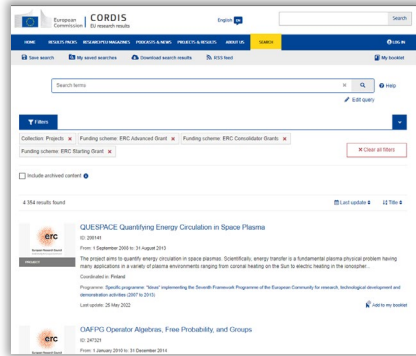
Primary ERC Review Panel*	<input type="text"/>	
Secondary ERC Review Panel	<input type="text"/>	(if applicable)
ERC Keyword 1*	<input type="text"/> <small>As first keyword please choose one which is linked to the Primary Review Panel. Please select, if applicable, the ERC keyword(s) that best characterize the subject of your proposal in order of priority.</small>	
ERC Keyword 2	<input type="text"/>	
ERC Keyword 3	<input type="text"/>	
ERC Keyword 4	<input type="text"/>	
Free keywords	<input type="text"/> <small>In addition, please enter free text keywords that you consider best characterize the scope of your proposal. The choice of keywords should take into account any multi-disciplinary aspects of the proposal.</small>	

Take your time: you can change your panel choice right up to the deadline.



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Inform yourself about past panellists and projects



Read a wide range of descriptors & keywords in the [ERC Work Programme](#) for a thorough understanding of your best-fit panel.

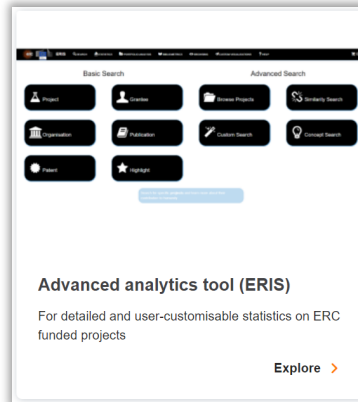
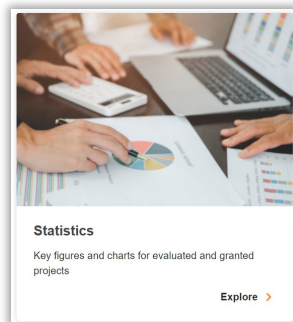
Then cross-refer:

[Search for previously funded projects](#) filtered by panel to compare yourself to a variety of predecessors

[Look up past panel members](#) to get an idea of what kind of audience your proposal will have.

Roughly two thirds of 2021 AdG panellists are likely to be rotated back in this time.

A lot of information is openly available:
in the call documents and databases
on the ERC website.



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Avoid mistakes with your panel selection

What doesn't work...

Don't try to refit your proposal to what seems to be a more "generous panel"

Why?

- Funding is allocated to panels demand and the ERC aims is for comparable success rates between panels
- That means heavily subscribed panels will have lots of unsuccessful applicants
- This year any panel could end up oversubscribed/undersubscribed compared to recent years
- In any case if you adapt your proposal to another panel, it is less likely to be excellent in the eyes of evaluators.



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What if I pick the wrong panel?

Panel chairs can reallocate proposals to a more fitting panel but they only do this on rare occasions

Don't count on being reallocated:

- No guarantee that panel chairs will do it.
- A necessary reallocation might not be apparent to them, especially amongst a high volume of proposals
- Nobody knows your project like you do, you're best placed to choose the best-fit.

Am I a competitive candidate?

Compared to what?

- Measure yourself against the Advanced Grantee profile and the PI Evaluation Criteria in the [Work Programme](#)
- It's about the last 10 years, competitors can't rest on their laurels
- Your profile is evaluated in the context of your field of research
- Look at [previously funded Advanced PIs in your field](#), but remember you can present yourself on your own terms

What counts for a good track record?

- There are no prescriptive markers for a ERC Advanced grantee: be bold and present the importance of your achievements in your field
- Context matters: use short narrative descriptions to explain your role and why your achievement was important
- Help generalist evaluators to make nuanced judgements about your unique track record

Try to get lots of varied feedback as possible

Ten-year track record

In the Track Record (see "Proposal description") the applicant Principal Investigator should list (if applicable, and in addition to any other scientific achievements deemed relevant by the applicant in relation to their research field and project):

1. **Up to ten representative publications *as main author*** (or in those fields where alphabetic order of authorship is the norm, joint author) in **major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals** and/or in the **leading international peer-reviewed journals and peer-reviewed conference proceedings** of their respective research fields (properly referenced, field relevant bibliometric indicators²⁴ may also be included); preprints may be included, if freely available from a preprint server (preprints should be properly referenced and either a link to the preprint or a DOI should be provided);
2. **Research monographs and any translations thereof;**
3. **Granted patents;**
4. **Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools;**
5. **Research expeditions** that the applicant Principal Investigator has led;
6. Organisation of **international conferences** in the field of the applicant (membership in the steering and/or organising committee);
7. **Prizes, awards, academy memberships;**
8. **Major contributions to the early careers of excellent researchers;**
9. **Examples of innovation leadership.**



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***You will need to demonstrate you are the right person
to convince other world-leading experts***

2023 Call Resubmission Restrictions

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome		2023 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is <u>not</u> eligible
2021 and 2022 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or 2022 Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grant
2021 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2022 Synergy Grant	A or B at Step 3	No restrictions
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	C at Step 1	Advanced and Synergy Grant
2022 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 2	No restrictions
	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant



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How are ERC proposals evaluated?

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion, applied to:

Research Project

- Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility
- Scientific approach

Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity and creativity

Should I apply this year?

Apply when you're ready

- The calls are annual, if you're not ready, then apply next year

Have you planned ahead?

- It takes a long time and a lot of work to write an ERC proposal

Have you looked at your current PI profile?

- If you have gaps, use the guidance profile to aim for achievements ahead of later calls

Don't forget there are resubmission restrictions for ERC calls...

- Don't rush your proposal and risk being excluded for up to two years

If you can resubmit, make the most of your prior evaluation

- Reapplicants' higher success rates are likely to be linked to benefits from evaluation comments



Principal Investigator Eligibility

Who?

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

Where?

Must have an institution based in an EU member state or associated country willing to host them.

Calculated as an average across entire project duration, can vary to a degree year on year

Grant Type	Minimum % of Working Time on Grant	Minimum % of time* in EU Member State or Associated Country	Years since PhD Award
Starting	50	50	2-7
Consolidator	40	50	7-12
Advanced	30	50	N/A
Synergy	30	50	N/A



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* Fieldwork/work abroad related to the ERC project does not count against time commitment

Host Institution Eligibility



Can be any type of legal entity
(university, business, public body, NGO etc.)



Must be based in the territory of an
EU Member State or Associated Country



Has the infrastructure and capacity to allow the PI to
independently direct the research and manage ERC funding



Must not constrain the PI to the institution's research strategy.
PI has the right to transfer the grant to another institution.



Must 'engage' the PI for project duration, if grant is successful



Not assessed as a separate criterion during peer review but
must sign a letter of commitment as part of application



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If funded, the HI will:

- sign up to the **Grant Agreement**
- sign a '**Supplementary Agreement**' with the PI

Working out the PI's time commitments

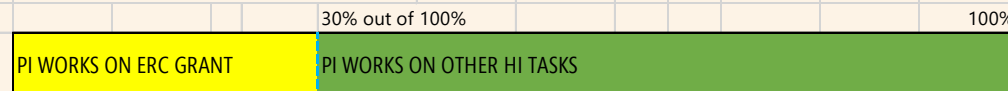
Minimum 30% working time working on the ERC grant

- All percentages are established by reference to the full time equivalent at the host institution (see below) or 1720 hours per year.

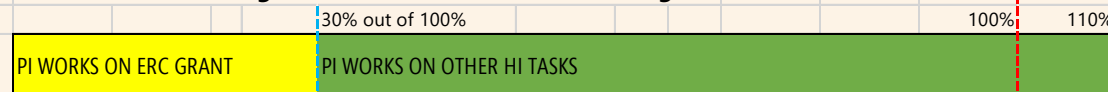
Minimum 50% time spent in Europe (Member State or Associated Country)

Fieldwork/work abroad related to the ERC project does not count against time commitment

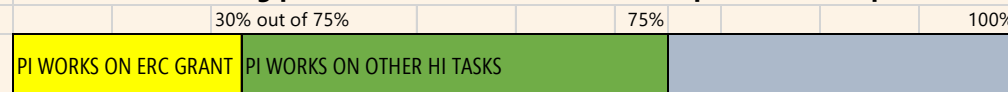
Advanced PI with FTE Contract



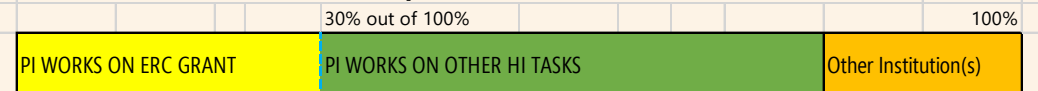
Advanced PI working more than the 100% (FTE) ceiling



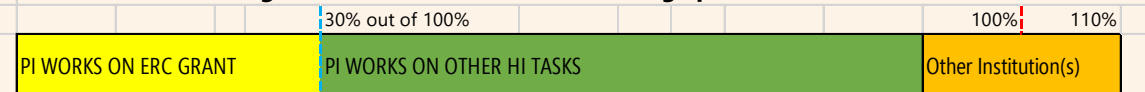
Advanced PI working part-time - time commitments are pro-rata (% of part-time contract)



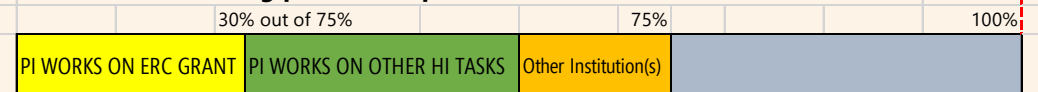
Advanced PI with FTE Contract split between the HI and other institutions



Advanced PI working more than the 100% (FTE) ceiling split between the HI and other institutions

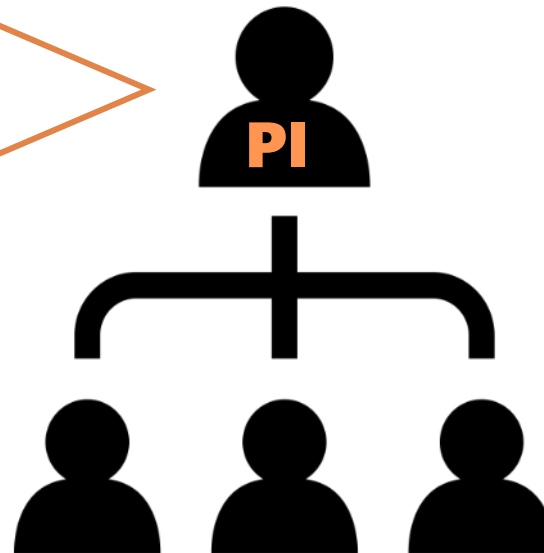


Advanced PI working part-time, split between the HI and other institutions



Principal Investigators leading Team Members

- PI **leads** the research project, they are not collaborating as equals with their 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 in the proposal
- PI must **justify the team** and its composition and contribution
- Evaluators reject proposals where the PI is overshadowed by any team members



**TEAM
MEMBERS**

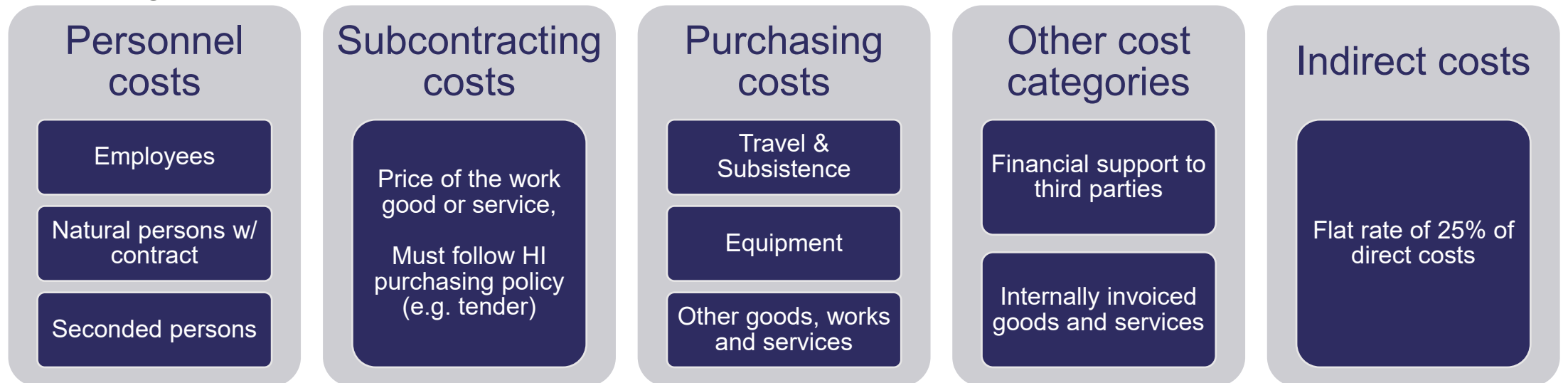
- Cannot be “co-investigators”
- Assigned to specific project outputs/tasks
- Do activities the PI can’t do by themselves
- Should not have purely supervisory/mentor roles
- Can be **research staff at any level** (including technicians and project managers)
- Think about career path of employees
- Of any age, nationality or country of residence
- Can be based **at the Host Institution or any other organisation** in the world
- **EU funded**, even outside member states or associated countries

Eligible costs for ERC projects

The ERC funds up to **100% of the total eligible costs with a 25% flat rate of indirect costs on top**

- Same as most EU grants – based on actual cost reporting
- The budget covers the full project duration
- It can be adjusted during the project with budget transfers from one category to another
- Overall grant amount cannot be increased after start date

The budget is subdivided into:



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Ask for support from your Host Institution's research support or finance team as early as possible,

The ERC project costing must follow your Host Institution rules as well!

Whose legal and finance rules apply?



Auditors will check that costs are both eligible by ERC rules **and** in keeping with the standard accounting practices of the Host Institution.



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e.g. ERC allows hotel bookings in Paris for research trips, but a PI at a Paris host institution would not be allowed to charge it to their grant due to institutional rules

Funding Levels

Grant Type	Main Grant Amount up to:	“Additional Funding” up to:
Starting	€1.5 M	€1.0 M
Consolidator	€2.0 M	€1.0 M
Advanced	€2.5 M	€1.0 M
Synergy	€10 M	€4.0 M



ERC's Additional Funding:

- eligible “start-up” costs for PIs moving from outside Europe
- the purchase of major equipment
- access to large facilities
- major experimental/fieldwork costs (excluding personnel)

Additional funding requests are **mixed into the main budget table** but **written separately** in the justification of resources text



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Recap on what makes a quality ERC project

- You need to have a strong research question
 - ✓ *Interesting, significant, novel, exciting*
 - ✓ *Clearly define what the state of the art is and how your project goes beyond this*
- Need to have an excellent methodology
 - ✓ *Multidisciplinary research is strongly encouraged – as the PI you are not expected to be the expert in everything, but the best person to make the project succeed*
 - ✓ *As the PI, it's up to you to decide the structure to best solve your research question*
- Have realistic and well-defined research objectives
- Dedicate a lot of time to write an ERC proposal, plan wisely



What Do We Mean by Frontier Research?

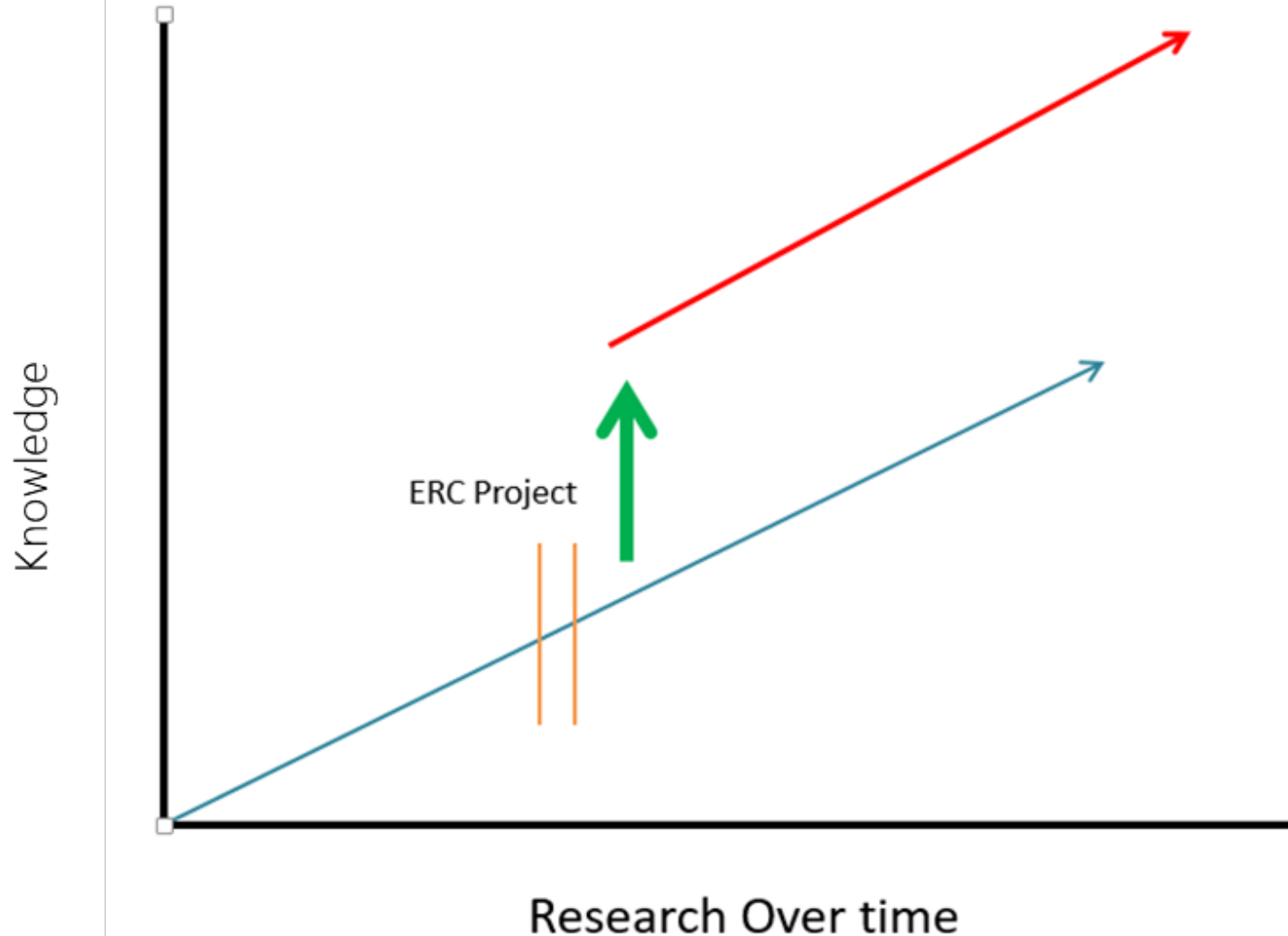
Groundbreaking research

Goes beyond current limits of your research area

Develops new horizons

New solutions to old problems

Exciting, high risk-high gain





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ERC Proposal Development

Part B1 & B2

Part A is addressed in the next session



1-Step Submission

All parts submitted together by the call deadline.

Part A is filled in online.

B1, B2 & Annexes are uploaded as PDFs.

Part A

*Administrative Forms
and Abstract*

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget & Description of Resources
- Ethics Check

Part B1

*Proposal Overview
and PI Track Record*

- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- CV (2 pages)
- Funding ID
- Track Record (2 pages)

Part B2

*Detailed Research
Proposal*

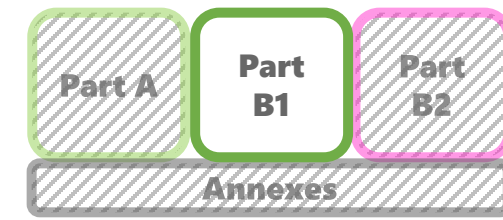
- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology

(Total of 14 pages)

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Part B1 – Step 1 of the Evaluation



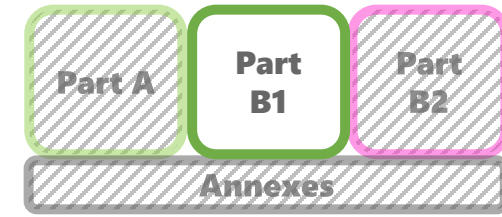
Strict formatting requirements:

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

Part B1 includes:

- Cover Page (info repeated from Part A)
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- CV (2 pages)
- Track Record (2 pages)
- Funding ID (not counted towards page limit)

Writing the Extended Synopsis



Self-contained

- All the essential info about your idea in 5 pages.
- Describe where the novelty lies – what is the state-of-the-art and how does this proposal go further?
- Your synopsis should be **referenced**, these won't count towards page limits – using end-notes is recommended.

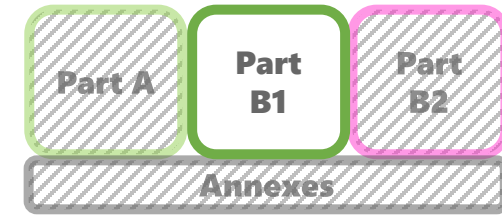
Persuasive to generalists

- A variety of experts decide collectively whether to pass the proposal to Step 2.
- Be clear and don't use **specialist jargon** because the panel are generalists as a whole, some will be less familiar with your field.
- Applicants need to **persuade the whole panel** – include just enough info and don't give any reasons to reject!

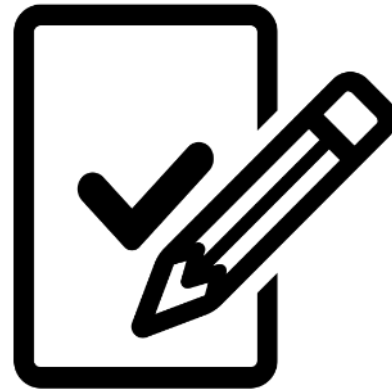
Entertaining!

- Sell your idea and yourself – the synopsis should grab the panellists' attention
- Your idea should be ambitious – be explicit about **high risk and potentially high gain**.
- The description of novelty and ambition **should leave them curious to find out more detail** in Part B2 and the interview at Step 2.

Things to think about: Extended Synopsis



- **Dual role:** key text in stand-alone B1, then goes hand-in hand with the B2 full proposal. Make it work in both ways, not as a summary of the full proposal
- **What excites you about your research?** Convey that in your application
- **Scientific Impact** – how can you change your field of research and make progress beyond the current state-of-the-art.
 - Does the research open new lines of research and/or enquiry
 - Will it lead to new scientific activity and further questions beyond the current frontier?
 - Be positive about achievements made by others thus far then demonstrate you have something new and different to offer.
- **Timeliness and relevance of the work during the project**, not just at the deadline but throughout the project's five years. Scientific impact can also be made at anytime of the project, not just at the end
- **Research Aims, should clearly link to the research objectives**, which should clearly link to research methodology(ies)



Writing your CV

Use the suggested template

- 2 page limit
- Be concise and make sure the CV is laid out clearly. Choose additional highlights wisely.
- CV template can also give you an indication of how to build your track record for future ERC bids.

Career breaks, reduced capacity or unconventional careers

- Complement any 10-year track record extensions with a descriptions of how/when you have been restricted.
- What were able to achieve despite these restrictions or thanks to this unconventional path?
- New in 2022 Covid-19 Impact to scientific productivity (multiple choice w/300 characters)

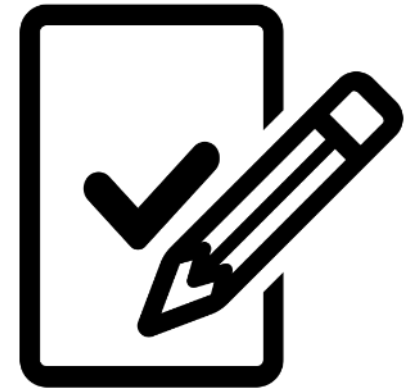
Describe significance

- Adding concise descriptive captions can help explain why an entry is significant
- What experience can be flagged as being an exceptional leader in terms of originality and significance of your research contributions?
- Your story will be told in the track record, but you can lay out the timeline and context in the CV.

Things to think about: Your CV



- **CVs should be bespoke to your proposal.** Use the template but you can include other essential info
- Make sure the CV is **easy to read**, and information is easy to find
- **Briefly explain context** such as any career breaks or unusual pathways – this can be used to extend your 10-year track record
- **Link CV info explicitly to the ERC's PI evaluation criterion:** how do you fit the profile given the context of your field and career achievements
- **Highlight activities** that show your significant research achievements in the last 10 years and evidence of being an exceptional leader in terms of originality and significance of your research contributions
- What was **your contribution** to key publications/activities?

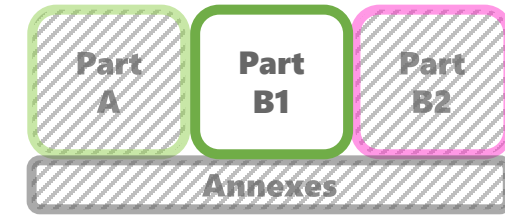


Quick note on your Funding ID Table

- The Funding ID Table lists your current grants and on-going/submitted grant applications.
- It is **mainly used to flag any existing or potential grant overlaps** if your ERC proposal is successful. The ERCEA will help manage any risk of double funding if there are overlaps.
- Evaluators can see the table. Our understanding is they mainly look at it to judge whether you/your team have a feasible workload on the whole.
- This table will not count towards the page limits so include grants (not past grants that have ended, those go in the CV and/or track record).



Writing your 10 Year Track-Record



Track Record

- 2 pages
- Tell your story - provide a brief explanation of what each entry on the CV & Funding ID indicates about you as an excellent potential Principal Investigator
- Relate your story directly to the **PI evaluation criteria**

Up to 10 publications

- Choose your most important 10 with strong links to the proposal
- Add **descriptive captions** if helpful to set the context for the authorship and impact of a publication
- These publications will be judged on the basis of expectations in your field, but **make sure their significance comes across to generalists**

Highlight leadership

- How and when have you **distinguished yourself in your field?**
- What activity demonstrated sound leadership in the **training and advancement of young scientists**
- When did your activity attract the attention or participation of **important figures in your field?**

10 years of achievements

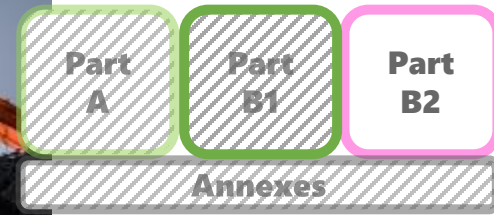
- You must **demonstrate achievements and leadership** over the last 10 years. This can be extended for maternity/paternity leave etc.
- Advanced Grant sets **high expectations** appropriate for an established researcher
- Achievements can include **anything significant in your field**, the evaluators will be in your general field so they will recognise them. Can include:
 - Patents granted
 - Prizes/awards/academy memberships
 - Etc.

Part B2

- **State of the art and objectives**
 - Objectives here become grant agreement objectives
- **Methodology**
 - Proposed methodology
 - Milestones and alternatives
 - Risk and mitigation
 - Project Management
 - Publication & Exploitation of results



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Panellists and remote evaluators will have **both** parts at Step 2

Part A

*Administrative Forms
and Abstract*

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget & Resources
- Ethics Check

Part B1

*Proposal Overview
and PI Track Record*

- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- CV (2 pages)
- Funding ID
- Track Record (2 pages)

Part B2

*Detailed Research
Proposal*

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology

(Total of 14 pages)

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

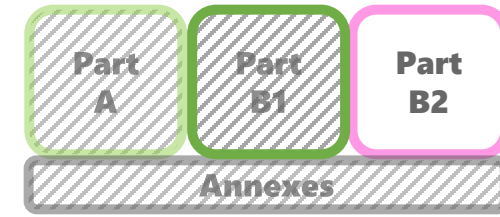
***Advanced Grant applicants also have interviews at Step 2
(~30 min presentation and Q&A)***

[WATCH OUR WEBINAR ON INTERVIEWS](#)



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Writing your State of the Art and Objectives



Coherence with Part B1

- Elaborate Part B1 coherently:
Explain precisely how you plan to achieve what you promised
- A remote expert review will be provided to the generalist panel, add technical detail that someone much closer to your field would need to know.
- Don't copy & paste from Part B1. Both looked at together at Step 2, so make them complementary

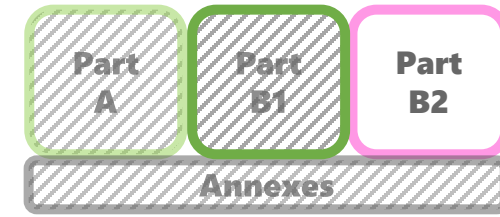
State of the art

- It should be clear how and why the proposed work is important for the field
- What scientific impact will your project have if successful? What new horizons or opportunities for science, technology or scholarship?

Objectives

- Objectives should fit the context of the state of the art – they should match the ambition to go past the current frontier
- These objectives will become part of the Grant Agreement if successful – so the need to be feasible

Writing your Methodology



Methodology

- Should be **extensive**, include the essential detail that an expert in your field would need to know
- Don't leave any reasons for experts to raise doubts for the panel
- Work plan should also be clear and **persuade evaluators that you can carry out the logistics** of a long term project

Risk Mitigation Strategy

- Where possible **cover every risk with a mitigation strategy**
- ERC accepts high risk to hopefully reach high gain – so don't shy away
- But evaluators and external experts can be risk averse
- Explicit but controlled risk

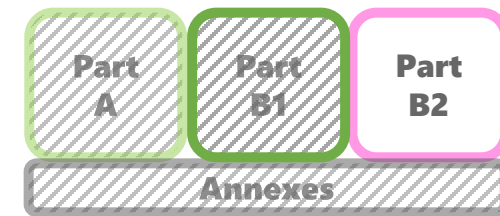
Your team

- Be sure to show **how you will be the leader** of the team and central figure for the project
- **Explain what each team member will do** – these can be named people or roles specified for recruitment

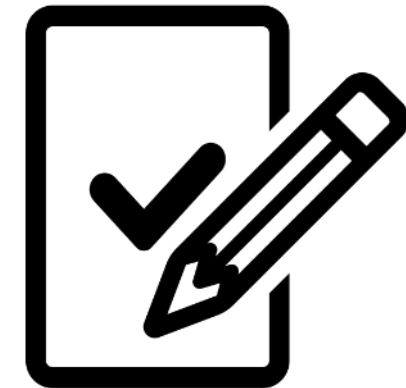
Justify resources

- Be **ambitious**, if you don't ask for something needed that can be a problem
- Justify: budget lines must have place in the project and **be linked to objectives**

Things to think about: The Scientific Proposal



- **Recap and expand** on Part B1's introductory Extended Synopsis.
- Detail the **current state of the art** in your field: highlight the achievements, challenges and gaps. Timeliness should be shown throughout.
- **Scientific impact and implications:** explain how, and why, carrying out your project is important to the field and goes beyond state of the art.
- Discuss the **challenges and unconventional aspects** of your project.
- **Coherence and clear linkages** throughout proposal text: linking aims to budget via research methodologies. The better your proposal is organised the more feasible the project work plan will appear.
- Any preliminary **data management plans or ethics approvals** are not required* but could add to the excellence of your scientific approach



*If funded: full ethics screening required before start date, data management plan required by Month 6 if funded

Other points to consider

Important aspects of proposal development that might not be immediately apparent



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.

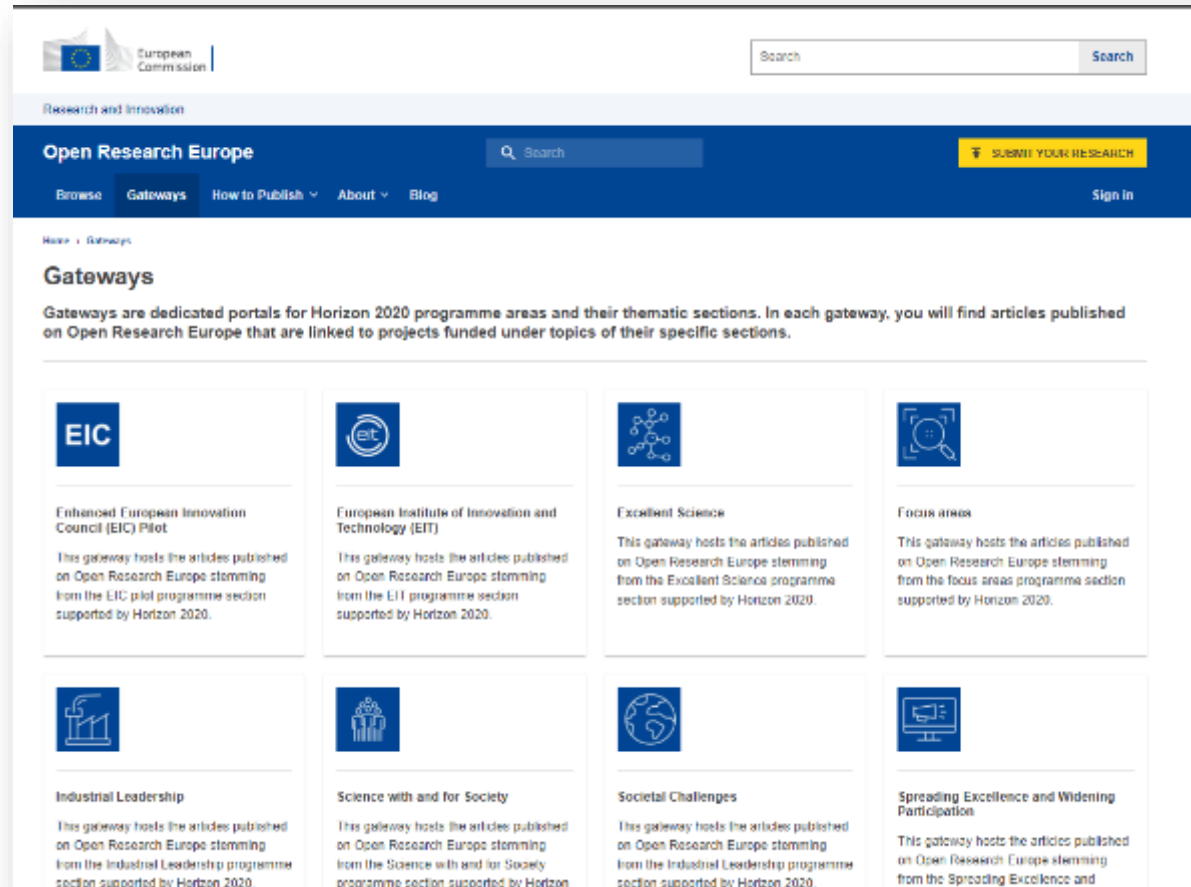
Publication costs: only eligible for funding from the grant if the publication venue is fully open access.



Resources to help

- ❖ [Provisions for Open Science on pages 110 – 112 of the HEU Model Grant Agreement](#)
- ❖ [e-learning platform on open science](#)
- ❖ [Research Data Management in Horizon Europe Proposals](#)
- ❖ [FAIR Data Principles](#)

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/>

Why Gender?

Sex & Gender is not an extra 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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Covid-19 and the ERC

New in application template since 2022 – applicants can describe the impact of Covid-19 on their scientific productivity (300 characters in CV)

Brief descriptions help evaluators to gauge your 10-year track record in the context of your specific circumstances during the pandemic (e.g. absences due to illness, lab closures, lack of data collection access, disruption of conferences etc)

ERC coronavirus measures

(covering submission, evaluation and implementation)

Project implementation flexibility

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)



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Remember – EU financial contribution to the project cannot be raised

The Next Session

- Register for the 2nd Information Webinar on Wednesday 30 November: ukro.ac.uk/erc and follow the links to events.
- Session 2 runs on Wednesday, from 10:00 – 12:00 UK time. We will cover:
 - Detailed explanation of how to submit the forms
 - How proposals are evaluated by the ERC
 - Guest presentation by a 2020 ERC Advanced Grantee about his experience as an applicant



Useful links

Links here are for 2022 AdG call guidance.

Use the 2023 call documents and templates when they become available

- [ERC 2022 AdG call on the Funding and Tenders portal](#)
- [ERC 2022 AdG Information for Applicants](#)
- [Draft Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#)
- [Part A. Part B1/B2 & Host Institution Support Template](#) (pdf)
- [ERC Website](#), including the easy to use [Project Database](#) and the more in depth [ERC Information System](#)
- [Novelties in the Horizon Europe MGA](#) – Commission Stakeholder Workshop video



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Thank you, any questions?



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