



UK Research Office
Brussels



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC Synergy Grant 2024 Call

UK NCP Information Event Session 2:
Submission and evaluation processes
and other elements to consider

7 September 2023

ERC-UK@ukro.ac.uk



What will be covered in this session?



Introductions to UKRO & UK Participation



Brief recap about the ERC



Submission Process



Evaluation process



Other considerations for your proposal



Q&A

Housekeeping



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



A chat function is available and will be monitored.



Please use the Q&A function to submit questions.



You can 'up vote' your favourite questions.



We will be recording this session.



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



About the Presenter

Jon Brookes

- **European Advisor since January 2017**
- **Interim ERC National Contact Point**
- **They/Them**



About UKRO

We support UK organisations involved in EU R&I funding

UK National Contact Point for
ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Unique partnership between UKRI and subscribing
organisations

Provide a service to more than 140 subscribing
organisations

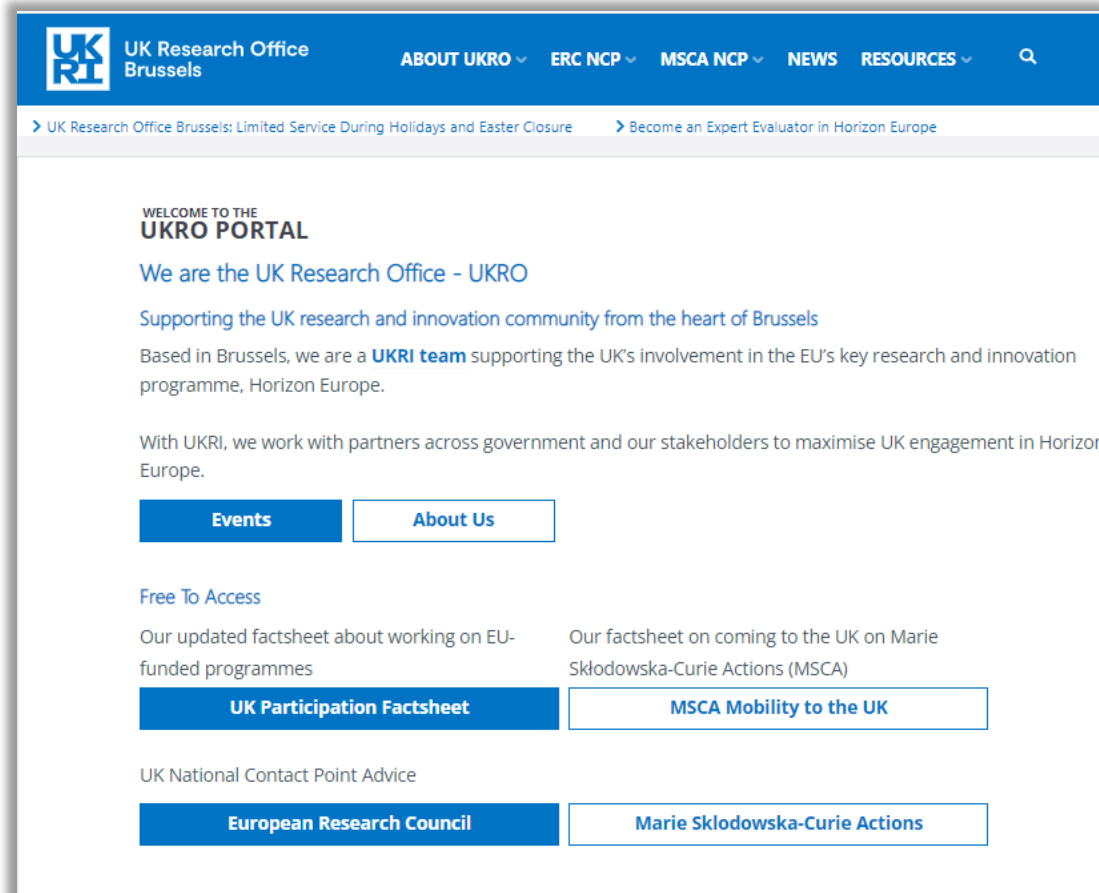
Part of UKRI's wider International team



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UKRO Portal www.ukro.ac.uk

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- [Factsheets](#) on Horizon Europe and other funding streams
- [Webinars](#) on lots of topics about Horizon Europe, how to apply, how to run a project and more.
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Have a look at our recently added:

- [Article series on Horizon Europe Novelities](#)
- [ERC webinars](#)
- [MSCA webinars](#)

It's easy to [create your account](#) and set up email updates.



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UK Participation in Horizon Europe

UK-EU Trade and
Cooperation Agreement



UK participation in Horizon Europe

In December 2020, the negotiations on the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement were concluded

The announcement sets out the UK's intention to **associate to Horizon Europe**

Includes **full participation in the programme** with only exception of the EIC Accelerator Fund*

*non-mandatory equity element of one EIC scheme

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

UKRO website provides latest info on UK participation



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UK participation in Horizon Europe

[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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Resources to help navigate delays

Use [UKRI Guarantee guidance documents](#) and send any queries about this funding to eugrantsfunding@ukri.org

UKRO can help with the European side, for example the rules for the Grant Agreement or managing changes of status within a consortium if necessary.

- UKRO's [UK Participation Factsheet](#) and the [EC Q&A on UK participation](#) to inform yourself and your partners.
- UKRO's [MSCA](#) and [ERC](#) National Contact Point mailboxes



ERC 2024 Synergy Grant Call

- Brief recap about the scheme



ERC Frontier Research Grant Schemes

The ERC funds

- the best 'frontier research' proposals
- submitted by excellent researchers
- in the research field of their choice

Projects led by Principal Investigators

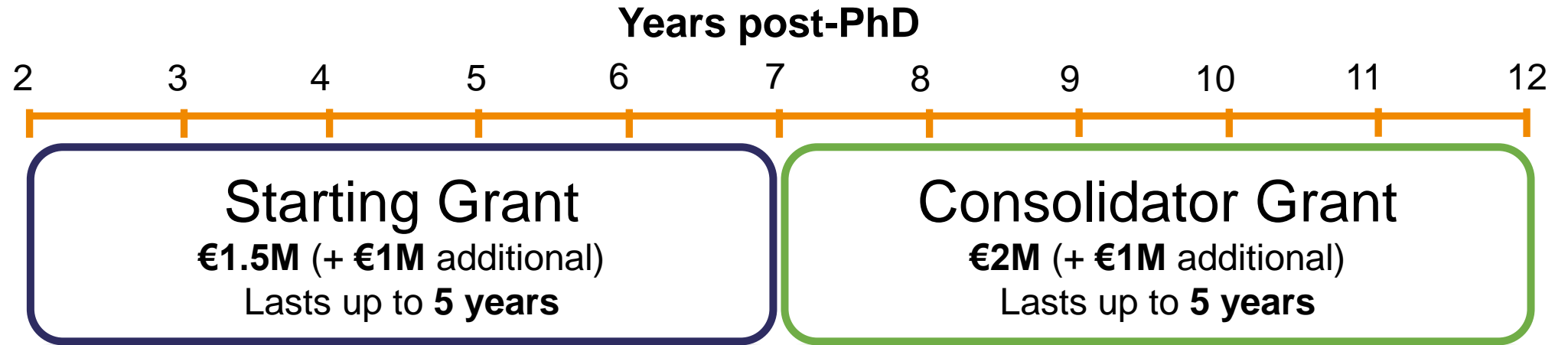
- PIs are central to the grant, not the Host Institution
- PIs build teams around them (if required)
- A Synergy Grant Group is still distinct from a traditional consortium on a research project

Open to all disciplines

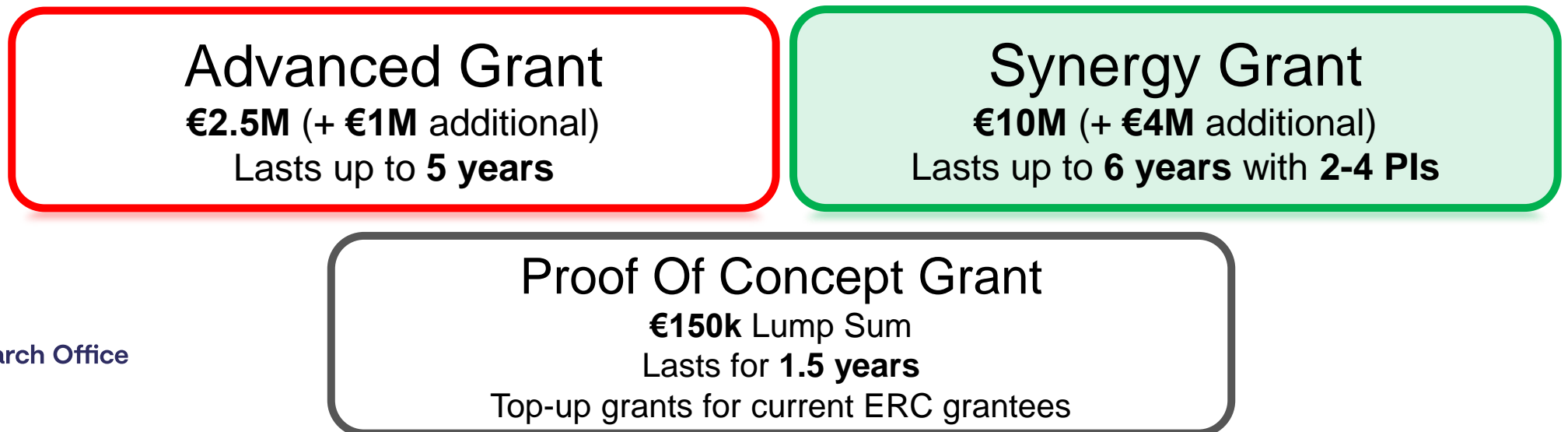
- Expert evaluators from all over the world
- Scientific Council leadership of the ERC
- Encouragement of interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary



ERC Grant Schemes



No PhD Requirements



What is special about Synergy?

Synergy: Integrated, complementary knowledge and approaches contributed by PIs in the group

Joint effort to achieve something the PIs could not on their own

Small, flexible group:
PIs decide who they need to work with.

Any PI can join with others as equals
to carry out excellent Frontier research,
any career stage/discipline



Synergy Group Eligibility

2, 3 or 4 PI's

1 designated as
“corresponding PI”.
*Nothing added in their role,
they communicate with EC*

PI group
can be a mix of
different career
stages

Max. 1 PI
can be hosted
outside
EU/Associated
Countries

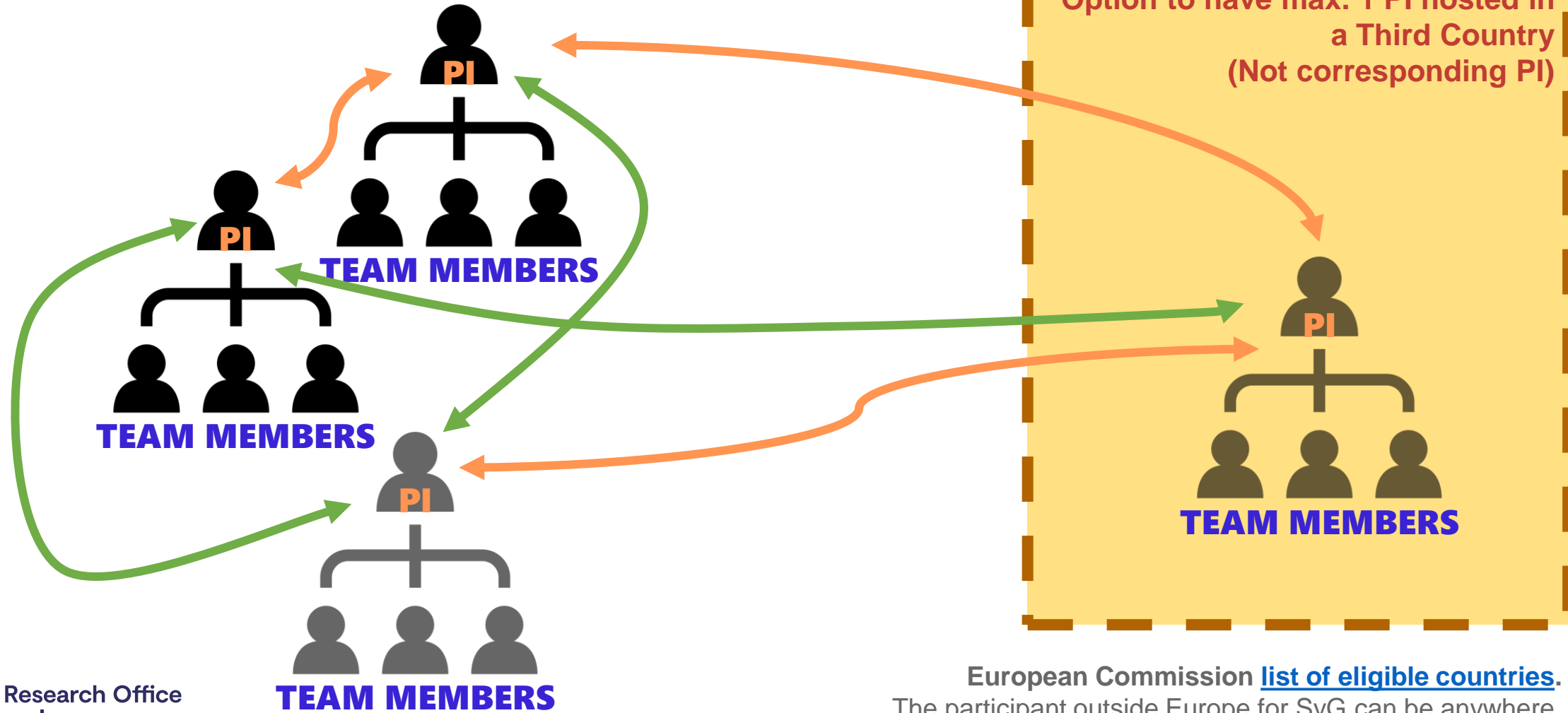
PIs are evaluated
individually
and
as a group

If one PI cannot
carry out the
project, they
cannot be replaced

Remember the [European Commission's Q&A](#) sets that the UK is treated as an associated country.

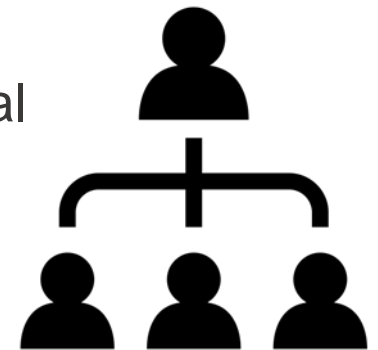


Principal Investigators in Synergy Grant Groups



Corresponding Principal Investigator

- The corresponding principal investigator bears the overall responsibility for the supervision of the scientific and technological implementation of the action, while the other principal investigators must contribute to the overall implementation and supervise each one their parts
- For reporting: the corresponding principal investigator assumes the primary responsibility for the scientific reporting and contribution to the financial reporting, while the other principal investigators must contribute to both the scientific and financial reporting
- For events or circumstances likely to affect the Agreement: each principal investigator must inform the coordinator, their beneficiary and the other principal investigators
- Corresponding PIs must also cover settlement of disputes between the principal investigators and between them and the beneficiaries).



Submission Process

- Practical tips for the online submission system and which documents to upload



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!!!



ERC Proposal Submission

Part A

- Administrative Forms,
- Abstract,
- Budget and Description of Resources

Part B1

- Extended synopsis
- CV/track record

Part B2

- Detailed Research Proposal
- Funding I.D.

Annexes

- Host Institution Letter,
- Ethics,
- Eligibility Documents

- **1-step submission all parts 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](#).



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Template PDF incl.
all parts of the
Synergy application
form **[available](#)**
[here](#).

Using the EC Portal

Funding and Tenders Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

The screenshot displays the European Commission's Funding & tender opportunities portal. The header includes the European Commission logo and the text "Funding & tender opportunities Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)". The language is set to English (EN). Navigation links include "SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS", "HOW TO PARTICIPATE", "PROJECTS & RESULTS", "WORK AS AN EXPERT", and "SUPPORT". The main content area is titled "Horizon Europe (HORIZON)".

The search bar contains the text "ERC" and is circled in green. Below the search bar, there are filters for "Match whole words only" (checked), "GRANTS" (checked), and "TENDERS" (unchecked). The "Submission status" section shows three categories: "Forthcoming", "Open for submission", and "Closed (2)". The "Programming period" section shows "2021 - 2027 (2)".

The results section is titled "Funding and tenders (2)". It displays two grant opportunities:

- ERC STARTING GRANTS**
 - Programme: Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
 - ID: ERC-2021-STG
 - Types of action: HORIZON ERC Grants
 - Deadline model: single-stage
 - Opening date: 25 February 2021
 - Deadline date: 12 April 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time
- ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS**
 - Programme: Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
 - ID: ERC-2021-COG
 - Types of action: HORIZON ERC Grants
 - Deadline model: single-stage
 - Opening date: 11 March 2021
 - Deadline date: 20 April 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

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)

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE ON THE PROPOSAL?

Your role

Please indicate your role in this proposal

- Principal Investigator
- Main Host Institution Contact
- Contact person

Fill in each role per organisation before going to the next step to avoid technical issues.

Can be changed later on but should be completed, if even if tentatively.

BASIC DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Anything you enter in this part of the form can be edited later up until submission

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

Choose keywords only, there are no pre-existing panels for Synergy

Full list of ERC's keywords in [Annex 4 of the Information for Applicants](#) (page 31)

ERC Panel Structure

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 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration*</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 Interactions*</p> <p>SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity</p> <p>SH5 Texts and Concepts*</p> <p>SH6 The Study of the Human Past</p> <p>SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space</p> <p>SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts*</p>

* *From 2024, LS and SH domains have changed slightly, check again to find your proposal's best fit!*

- **SH8** panel is newly added, split off from pre-existing panels
- LS3, SH3 and SH4 panels all have new panel titles
- LS5 panel has a new subtitle and descriptors

Synergy Grant dynamic panels

Due to the collaborative nature of Synergy grants, the call's evaluation process **does not have a disciplinary panel schema**

Instead...

...bespoke panels with a variety of experts are set up during the evaluation to match the unique profile of submitted proposals



Main proposal page

Part A: Administrative Forms
online only

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

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*

Proposal forms

Deadline
08 April 2021 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time
26 days left until closure

Call data:
Call: ERC-2021-STG
Topic: ERC-2021-STG
Type of action: HORIZON-ERC
Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG

Administrative forms
Edit forms View history Print preview

Part B and Annexes
In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments.

Part B1	Upload
Part B2	Upload
HI support letter	Upload
PhD certificate	Upload
Annex 1	Upload
Annex 2	Upload
Annex 3	Upload
Annex 4	Upload
Annex 5	Upload
Annex 6	Upload

Support & Helpdesk
Online Manual IT How To
IT Helpdesk FAQ
Service Desk:
EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 29 92222

Download Part B templates
Download part B templates

BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST VALIDATE SUBMIT

Part A – Administrative forms

< Proposal forms Table of contents General Information >

Application forms [Table Of Contents](#) [Save](#) [Save&Close](#)

HORIZON
Call: ERC-2021-STG
(Call for Proposals for ERC Starting Grant)
Topic: ERC-2021-STG
Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC
(HORIZON ERC Grants)
Proposal number: SEP-210732071
Proposal acronym: FAD
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](#)

Navigate by chapter or pages

How to fill in the forms

Part A – PI Declaration of Consent

- Written consent **should not be submitted with the application**
- The applicants must ensure they **have written consent from all participants on file** prior to the call submission deadline.
- ERC Executive Agency **may request the applicants to provide the written consent** mentioned in the declarations 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.

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

Make sure the figures are in whole Euros, not 1000s

Make sure the figures match between the table and the description.

- Additional funding:**
- In budget table dispersed across fitting cost categories
 - In resources section described altogether, separate from rest of the budget

Section C. Resources (Maximum 8000 characters allowed)

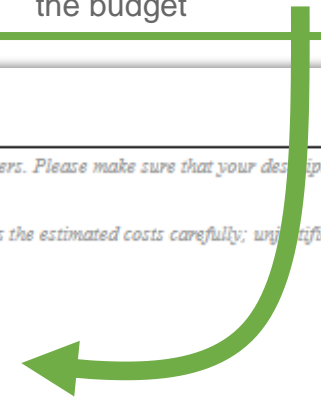
This section and the budget table will be made available to the experts evaluating the proposal at Step 2. Important: your description of resources will be truncated once it exceeds the maximum allowed characters. Please make sure that your description is complete before submitting.

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 panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budgets 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)

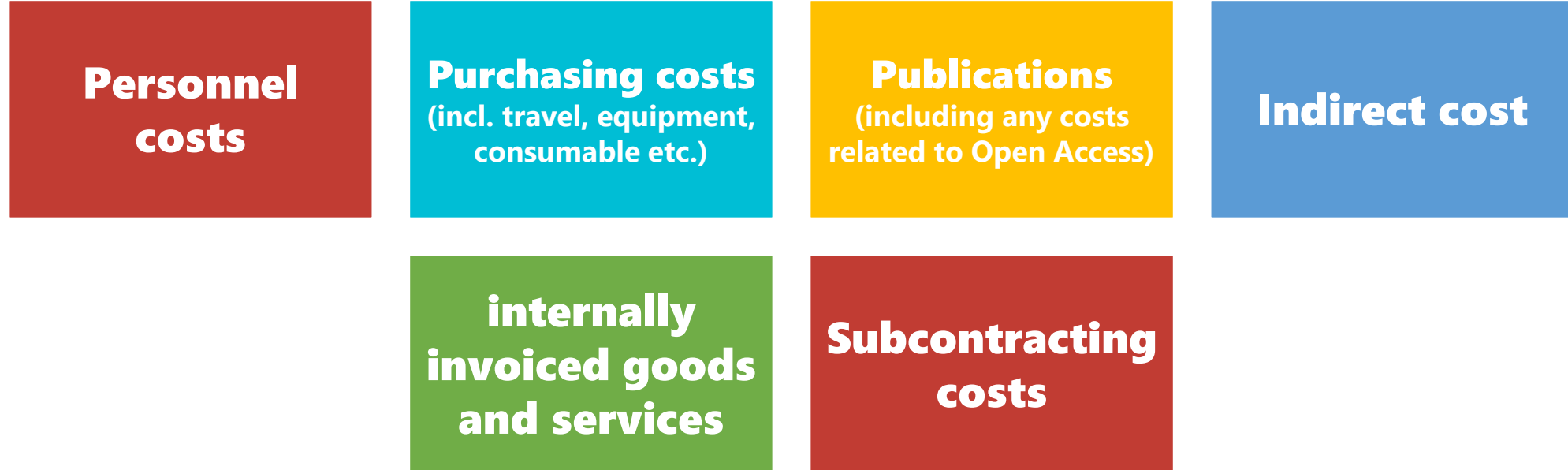
Justification:



Eligible costs

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

The budget is subdivided into



Funding Levels

Grant Type	Maximum Base Grant Amount	Maximum “Additional Funding”
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

Additional Funding is available for the project if properly justified; it is not strictly split as €1 million per PI.

Additional funding covers:

- 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)**

There is no definition of “equipment” or “facilities”. Make the case for what is needed for your discipline.



Part A – Ethics & Security questions

- Follow Horizon Europe guidance document: [‘How to complete your ethics self-assessment’](#)
- **UK-hosted applicants should answer ‘yes’ on questions about non-European 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.
- If the existing character limit is too short the recommendation is to provide the detailed explanation in optional annex, uploaded as a PDF. Include references to theses annexes in the Ethics text box in the application form.

Application forms Table Of Contents Validate Form Save Save&Close

Proposal ID SEP-210732071
Acronym FAD

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	

Page references to relevant sections in Part B1 & B2 for each issue if you answer ‘Yes’

Proposal Formatting

Page limits will be strictly applied.

Page formatting will be systematically checked by the ERCEA.

References do not count towards page limit.

Templates:

- [2024 Synergy Grant B1 & B2 template](#) (PDF version)
- [Guide for Peer Reviewers](#)

Page Format:
A4

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

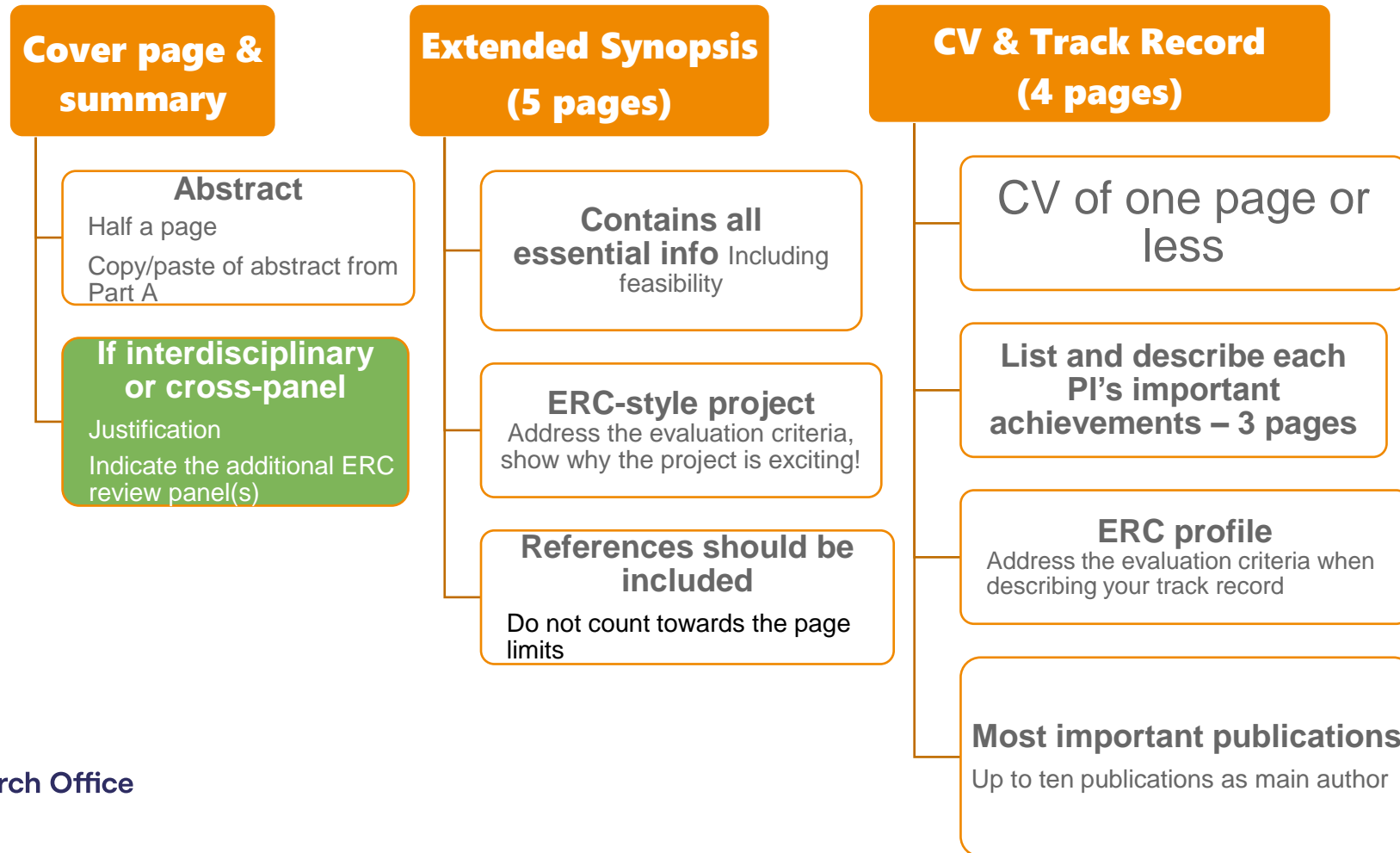
Font:

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

Side margin:
2 cm

Bottom margin:
1.5 cm

Part B1: Evaluated at Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3



Part B2: only evaluated from Step 2 onwards

Scientific Proposal

Maximum 15 pages*

*Different from StG, CoG & AdG

ERC Work Programme (page 34):

“For Synergy Grant proposals the page limit for the Scientific Proposal is 15 pages.”

But...

Section c ‘Resources and time commitment’ are not limited to 2 pages and do not count towards the page limit.

State of the art

Objectives & Methodology

Address the 'high-risk/high-gain' balance

Milestones & Deliverables

Risk & mitigation

Resources and time commitment

Part B2 – Budget

- Four main sections:
 - Personnel,
 - Subcontracting
 - Purchase
 - Internally invoiced good and services
- All **'Additional Funding'** requested must be
 - included in the overall budget table,
 - tallied with normal costs in appropriate cost category
 - *For example fieldwork travel would go under Travel & Subsistence in a sum including 'normal' costs not related to fieldwork).*
- If funding is requested for **Other personnel costs & Other additional direct costs (see highlights)**
 - Should be entered as a total figure on the budget table
 - Unpacked in the Resource section with each item briefly described

One column per Principal Investigator and their team

Cost category	Corresponding PI	2 nd PI	3 rd PI	4 th PI	Total in euro (no decimals)	
PI name						
Host Institution						
A. Direct personnel costs/€	PI ²					
	Senior Staff					
	Post docs					
	Students					
	Other personnel costs					
	Total personnel costs/€					
	B. Subcontracting Costs/€ (No indirect costs)					
C. Purchase Costs/€	C.1 Travel and subsistence					
	C.2 Equipment - including major equipment					
	C.3 Other goods, works and services	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs				
		Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination				
		Other additional direct costs				
	C.3 Total other goods, works and services					
Total Purchase costs/€ (C.1 + C.2 + C.3)						
D. Internally invoiced goods and services/€ (No indirect costs) ³						
E. Indirect Cost/€ e= 25% * (A + C1 + C2 + C3)						
Total eligible costs/€						
Requested EU contribution/€						

Part B2 –

State of the art and objectives

- Specify clearly the objectives of the proposal, in the context of the state of the art in the field. When describing the envisaged research it should be indicated how and why the proposed work is important for the field, and what impact it will have if successful, such as how it may open up new horizons or opportunities for science, technology or scholarship.
- Specify any particularly challenging or unconventional aspects of the proposal, including multi - or inter-disciplinary aspects.

Methodology

- Describe the proposed methodology and working arrangements in detail including, as appropriate, key intermediate goals.
- Include elements specifying why the combination of the skills, knowledge, expertise etc. brought together by the PIs is crucial to the execution of the work.
- Explain and justify the methodology in relation to the state of the art. Highlight any intermediate stages where results may require adjustments to the project planning.
- In case it is proposed that team members engaged by other organisations than the Host Institution(s) participate in the project, their participation has to be fully justified. This should be done emphasizing the scientific added value they bring to the project.
- The research methodology section should also describe and justify the collaborative arrangements enabling the Synergy Grant group to carry out the proposed joint work.

ERC Synergy Grant 2024
Research proposal [Part B2]¹
(not evaluated in Step 1)

- Name of the corresponding Principal Investigator (cPI) and corresponding Host Institution (cHI)
- List the other PIs, indicating the Host Institution of each PI

Part B2: *The scientific proposal* (max. 15 pages, excluding the Resources and time commitment section and References)

Please delete all text highlighted in grey in this template.

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margin sizes (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing. References and Resources section do not count towards the page limit.

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

Section b. Methodology

no complete

Part B2 – Description of Resources

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

Unjustified budget lines may be reduced or missing budget lines that are deemed necessary by evaluators could count against the proposal.

Some elements that should be briefly described and justified:

- **Each PI's working time commitment.**
- **Each cost category with items considered necessary**
- **Size and nature of the team**, indicating key team member(s) as named individuals or vacant roles
- Justify if team members are based elsewhere other than the Host Institution.
- Requested **equipment**: why you need it and how much it will be used.
- Costs for **Open Access** to project outputs including data management
- Describe any **additional funding** requested for the project.
- Existing **resources needed for the project but do not require ERC funding**

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

**Budget and Resources description are seen by evaluators but
no longer count towards B2 Page limit**

Break



Evaluation Process



Evaluation timeline

Call Identifier	ERC-2024-SyG
Budget	€400m
Estimated no. grants funded	39



2024 Call Resubmission Restrictions

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome		2024 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is <i>not</i> eligible
2022 and 2023 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or 2022 Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grant
	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced 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
2023 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 3	No restrictions
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	C at Step 1	Synergy Grant

More lenient restrictions for Synergy Grant

Score-based Restrictions only apply to Synergy calls from previous Synergy calls

- Potential restriction **from** Synergy proposals can only apply to future Synergy and Advanced Calls.
- No restrictions **for** Synergy proposals from prior Starting or Consolidator calls
- If you are eligible for Starting or Consolidator calls, currently there is no jeopardy submitting a Synergy call (other than in cases of research integrity issues).

Eligibility Check

ERC Executive Agency and Eligibility Committee ensure proposals are eligible for funding

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)
- Track Record (4 pages)

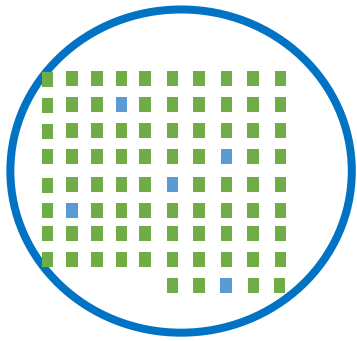
Part B2

Detailed Research Proposal

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Funding I.D.

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents



Step 1 Evaluation

One panel is formed with approximately 87 panel members, including 5 chairs, who will assess the extended synopsis of the scientific proposal (only Part B1 - and not the full scientific proposal) and the Principal Investigators' CVs and track records.

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)
- Track Record (4 pages)

Part B2

*Detailed Research
Proposal*

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Funding I.D.

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Step 2 Evaluation

Panel members from step 1 will be divided in five panels of around 17 experts each. They will assess the complete version of the retained proposals (Parts B1 and B2).

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)
- Track Record (4 pages)

Part B2

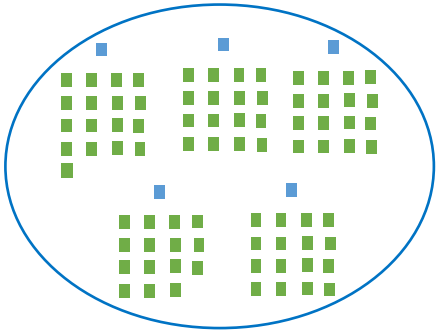
*Detailed Research
Proposal*

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Funding ID

(Total of 14 pages not inc. Funding ID)
+ Budget report from Part A

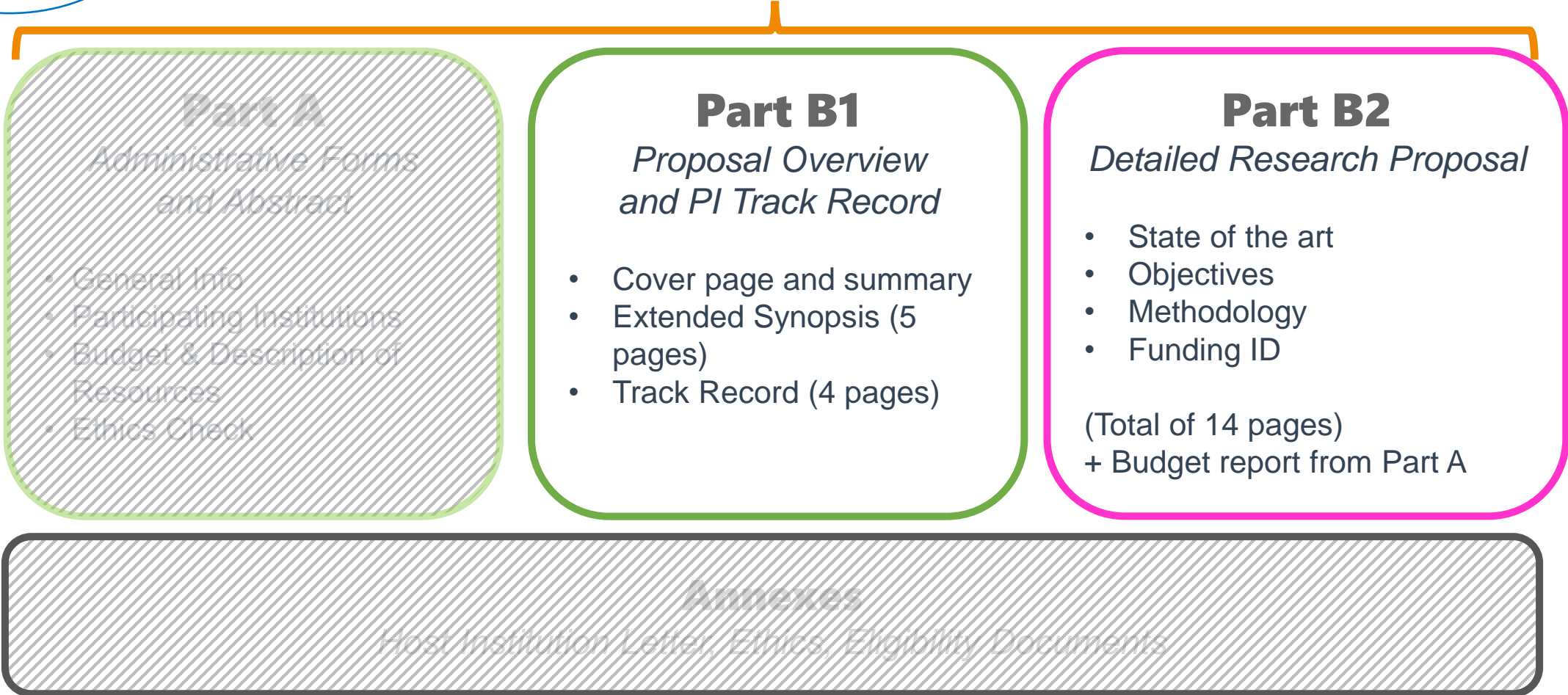
Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents



Step 3 Interview

The interview panels (that may be reconfigured to ensure the best expertise for the proposals) will assess the complete version of the most competitive of the retained proposals (Parts B1 and B2) and all their Principal Investigators may be invited for an interview to present their project to a panel.



Evaluation Outcomes

Proposal Grading	Stage	Funded?	Reapplication Restrictions?
A	2	If sufficient budget	None
B	2	No	None
A invited	1	Invited to Step 2	None
A not invited	1	No	None
B	1	No	1 Year
C	1	No	2 Years



Proposals which score a **B** or **C** at Step 1 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

ERC evaluation criteria

Excellence of one is not more important than that of the other

Each PI and overall Group's

intellectual capacity,
creativity
commitment

Research project's

ground-breaking nature
ambition
feasibility

**Excellence
is the sole
evaluation criterion**

- Proposals marked by panel from: 1 – 4 (non-competitive to outstanding)
- Numerical marks not communicated to applicant
- Outcome of panel meetings expressed as A, B or C.



Proposal is judged on its socioeconomic impact or relevance to European policy.

Research Project – Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

To what extent:

The project

- 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**

To what extent:

The Scientific Approach

- is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the high risk/high gain.
- are research methodology & 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.
- does the Group's proposal **go beyond what individual PIs could achieve**

Principal Investigator - Intellectual capacity and creativity

To what extent:

Each Principal Investigator (PI)

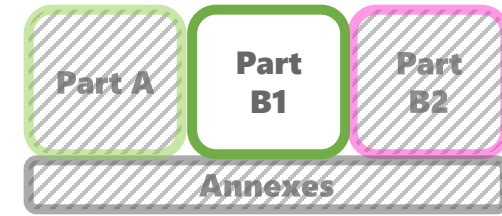
- has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- does the PI has/have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?
- Remember each Synergy PI must address the criteria of one ERC Grantee profile: Starting, Consolidator or Advanced.

To what extent:

Synergy Grant Group

- Has the group demonstrated they bring together the necessary know-how (skills, experience, disciplines and teams)
- What is necessary is defined by the project objectives – the project idea has to be a clear justification for group work.

Changes in the Evaluation Criteria – novelty since 2022



Guidance now asks for some description of how the Synergy Group will work as a team evaluated from as early as Step 1.

Guidance text with tracked changes from previous version

- **Evaluation of the Principal Investigators (previously evaluated only from step 2 onwards):**
 - To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully **demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the know-how elements**— such as skills, **knowledge**, experience, expertise, disciplines, **methods, approaches**, teams – **necessary to address the proposed research question?**
(see SyG Information for Applicants: page 16)
- **Evaluation of the Research Project – Scientific Approach:**
 - ‘To what extent do the Principal Investigators succeed in **proposing a combination of scientific approaches elements** ~~put forward in the proposal~~ that are crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research questions to be tackled?’

Make sure these questions are addressed in Part B1 already, as only the extended synopsis is evaluated at step 1.

Evaluation criteria about your Group

1. Research Project

Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?
- To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?
- To what extent is the proposed research high risk-high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a high risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Scientific Approach

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain? (based on the Extended Synopsis)
- To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone? (based on the Extended Synopsis)
- To what extent do the Principal Investigators succeed in proposing a combination of scientific approaches that are crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research questions to be tackled? (based on the Extended Synopsis)
- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the research proposal, evaluated only in step 2 and 3)?
- To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the research proposal, evaluated only in step 2 and 3)?
- To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal, evaluated only in step 2 and 3)?

2. Principal Investigators

Intellectual capacity and creativity

- To what extent have the PIs demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- To what extent do the PIs have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

Synergy Grant Group

- To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the know-how – such as skills, experience, expertise, disciplines, teams – necessary to address the proposed research question? (based on the Extended Synopsis)

“The ERC expects the composition of a Synergy Grant Group to remain unchanged throughout the lifetime of the grant. “



Other Points for Consideration



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.



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

Publishing Fees will be eligible for funding if the venue is fully open access (i.e. a full open access journal or book, or an open access publishing platform like, e.g., Open Research Europe)



UK Research Office
Brussels

[You can find the provisions related to Open Science on pages 107 – 109 of the Model Grant Agreement](#)

Open Research Europe

The screenshot displays the Open Research Europe website interface. At the top left is the European Commission logo. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the navigation bar, the 'Gateways' section is highlighted. A descriptive paragraph explains that gateways are dedicated portals for Horizon 2020 programme areas. Below this, eight gateway cards are arranged in a 2x4 grid, each with an icon, title, and description of the articles it hosts.

Gateway	Description
Enhanced European Innovation Council (EIC) Pilot	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the EIC pilot programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the EIT programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Excellent Science	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Excellent Science programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Focus areas	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the focus areas programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Industrial Leadership	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Industrial Leadership programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Science with and for Society	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Science with and for Society programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Societal Challenges	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Industrial Leadership programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation programme section supported by Horizon 2020.

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

Gender

Sex and Gender dimension of your project

- Not a strict requirement in of itself, but..
- Integrating the gender dimension in research and innovation can make your proposal more competitive
- Proper consideration of sex and gender in research design is often evaluated as added excellence to the research question and methodology.
- **Some basic questions you can ask in project design:**
 - Are some of your findings going to be gender specific?
 - Do you justify your gender choices in the research design to peer reviewers?
 - If the topic is not relevant to Sex & gender, do you explicitly acknowledge that consideration?

Find more tips and guidance:

In a recent [ERC workshop](#) about how ERC-style excellence in different domains can be interrelated with the Sex and Gender Dimension.

Gender rules for eligibility and in the Part A form

- A Gender Equality Plan (GEP) has to be in place for the Host Institutions at point of submission
- GEPs are the Host Institution's responsibility, it is not the Principal Investigator's responsibility
- Proposal PI and team members' gender and career stage details requested in Part A are not seen by evaluators.
- These Part A personal details are used in a quantitative way by the Commission to monitor progress towards gender equality and better careers in the European research sector



ERC Proposal Advice

Ask yourself

Does the proposal go beyond the state of the art ?

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

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

Why our my proposal important?

Why are we the best/only people to carry it out?

Why am I the best person for my role in the group?

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

Read all call documentation and evaluation criteria

Be specific and don't provide unsupported opinions or comments

Clearly address ALL of the evaluation criteria

Make it easy for 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/research area specific jargon

Include diagrams, images, tables if appropriate and actually helpful

Research previous and current projects

Find colleagues to proof read drafts with the evaluation criteria



Resources

- [ERC 2024 SyG- Information for Applicants](#)
- PDF Application Form template incl. B1, B2, CV and Host Institution Letter (editable versions will be Funding and Tenders Portal when it opens)
- [Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#)
- [Novelties in the Horizon Europe MGA](#) – Commission Stakeholder Workshop video
- [ERC YouTube Channel](#) with explainer videos
- ERC FAQ <https://erc.europa.eu/funding/frequently-asked-questions>
- [ERC Information System](#) and [Project database](#) to search for examples of past Synergy Grant Projects
- Guide for Peer Reviewers on Synergy Calls ([latest available version, for 2020 call](#). Look out for the 2021 version which we expect to be published soon)

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



Watch our first session!

Find the recording and slides on the UKRO event page:

<https://www.ukro.ac.uk/events/erc-2024-synergy-grant-call-information-webinar-1-of-2/>

- Eligibility
- Proposal development
- PI Testimony



The poster features a red diagonal background on the left and a photograph of a busy city square with people walking on the right. The text is white and centered on the red area.

 UK Research Office
Brussels

 European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC Synergy Grant 2024 Call

5 September 2023

UK NCP Information Event Session 1:
Introduction, UK participation, eligibility
criteria and proposal development

ERC-UK@ukro.ac.uk



UK Research Office
Brussels

Any questions?



@_UKRO_



UK Research Office (UKRO)

