**ERC 2025** 





## Advanced Grant Webinar





Prof Rachel Gibson
The University of Manchester
ERC Advanced Grantee

10 June 2025 | 11am-1pm

For more information erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk

### Agenda for today





Overview of the ERC



Eligibility criteria



Proposal development



**Submission Process** 



**Evaluation** 



**Break** 



**ERC Testimonial** 

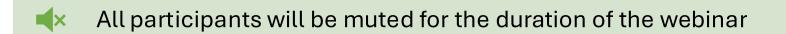


Q&A

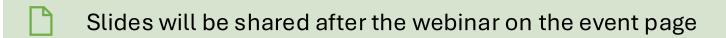


#### Housekeeping announcements





We will be recording this session



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



#### **About UKRO**

## We support UK organisations involved in EU R&I funding

 Part of UKRI's wider International team – championing EU engagement

 Host UK National Contact Points for ERC, MSCA, WIDERA, NEB and COST

 Provide resources to help understand Horizon Europe on the UKRO Portal <u>www.ukro.ac.uk</u>

 Work in partnership with EU support teams within research organisations – helping European Liaison officers navigate pre- and post-award





### Striving for excellence with ERC funding







Over **13,000** top researchers funded since the ERC creation in 2007



Over **90,000** researchers and other professionals employed in ERC research teams



Over **2,400**patents and other IPR applications generated by ERC funding



Over 400 start-ups identified as founded or co-founded by ERC grantees



Over **250,000** articles from ERC projects published in scientific journals



Over **900** research institutions hosting ERC grantees – universities, public or private research centres in the EU or Associated Countries



93
nationalities of grant holders



12 Nobel Prizes, 6 Fields Medals, 11 Wolf Prizes and other prizes awarded to ERC grantees







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



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

# Any field of science



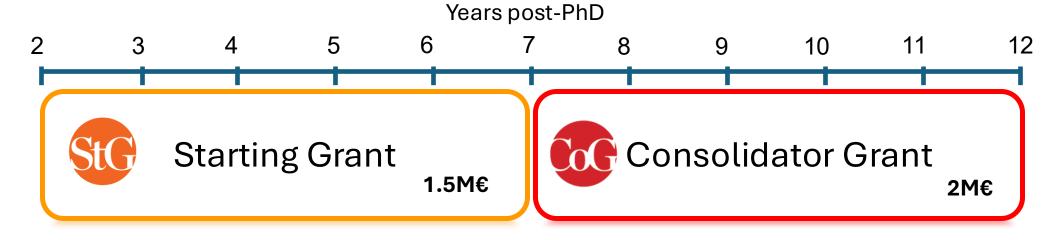
No thematic restrictions

No consortium required

No co-financing needed

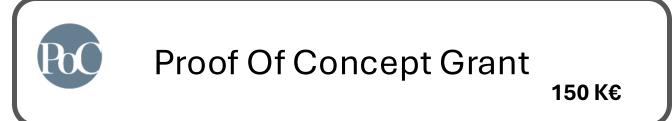
Scientific excellence of both yourself and your ambitious pioneering research proposal

## **ERC Grant Opportunities**



No PhD Requirements





## Our upcoming webinars







#### Register now!

ERC Synergy Grant Webinar | 29 July 2025

**ERC Starting Grant Webinar | 31 July 2025** 

ERC Consolidator Grant Webinar | 23 September 2025

#### **ERC Work Programme 2026**

- Proposal Structure
- Evaluation Process
- Additional Funding
- New funding instrument
- New rules for extensions (gender-based violence and parental leave)
- Resubmission restrictions

#### **ERC Work Programme 2027**

- New eligibility windows for StG (0-10) and CoG (5-15)
- No more than one Starting Grant and one Consolidator
   Grant during their career.





## **Advanced Grant**

Supports outstanding and established research leaders to continue their work in expanding the frontiers of scientific knowledge



2.5 Million euros | Up to 5 years



Proven track record of significant research achievement



General info about ERC Advanced Grants

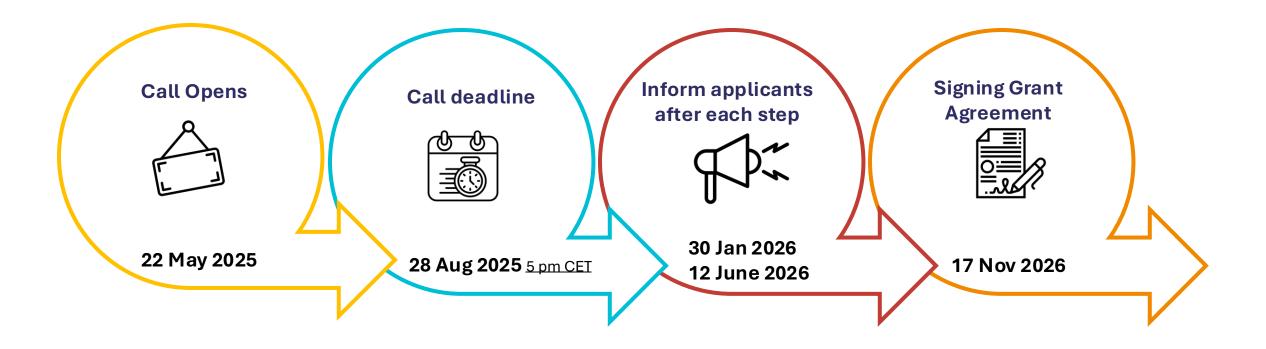
# Additional funding (NEW)

- > "Start-up" costs
- > Purchase of major equipment
- > Access to large facilities
- > Other major experimental and field work costs
- Now up to 2M euros
  - ✓ For grantees based anywhere in the world who want to move to Europe (including the UK!)
  - ✓ Funding can be used for any of the above existing eligible cost categories
- Now including personnel costs!

#### 2025 Advanced Grant (ERC-2025-AdG)







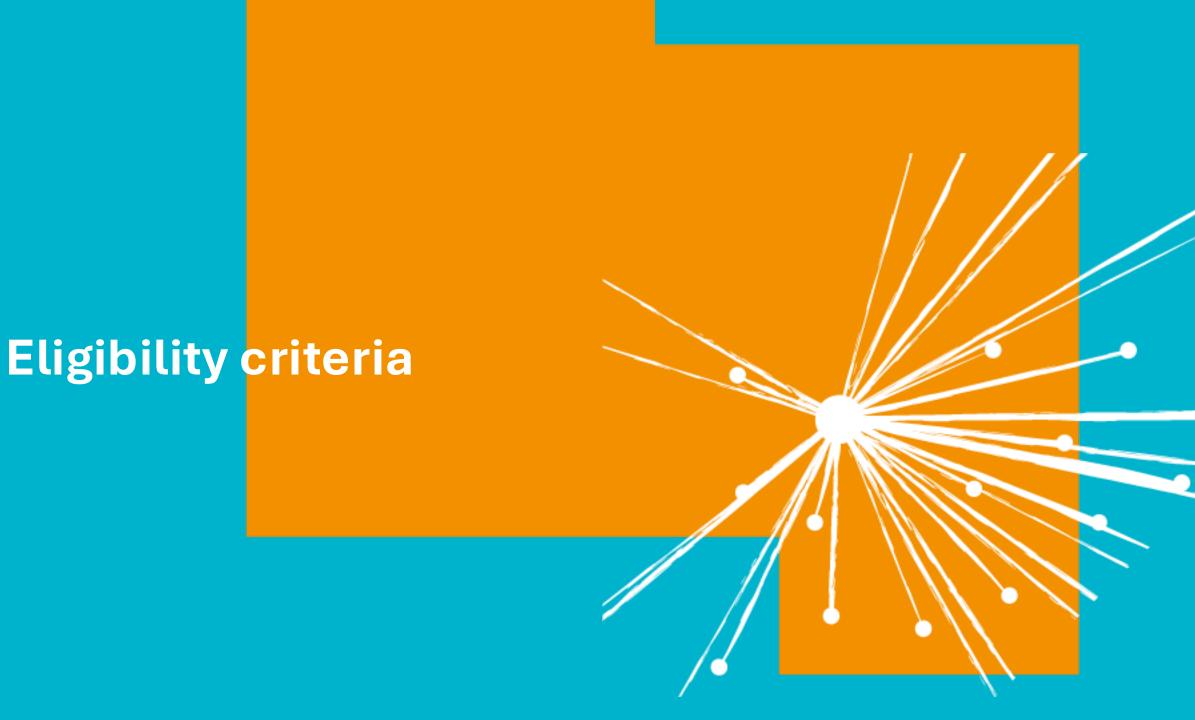




Single submission

**Two-step evaluation** 





## **Principal Investigator Eligibility**





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

Must have an institution based in an EU Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC) willing to host them

Time Commitment in the ERC Advanced

30% minimum of working time on grant

50% minimum time in EU's MS or AC

**No PhD requirement** for Advanced Grant



## Host Institution Eligibility



Any type of legal entity



Based in an **EU** Member State or Associated Country



Have the **infrastructure** to enable PI's independence



Must **not constrain the PI** to the institution's research strategy



Must engage the PI for project duration



Not assessed at evaluation

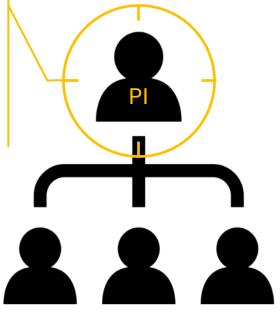


- ✓ Sign the **Grant Agreement** with the Commission
- ✓ Sign the Supplementary Agreement with the PI



#### Principal Investigator & Team Members

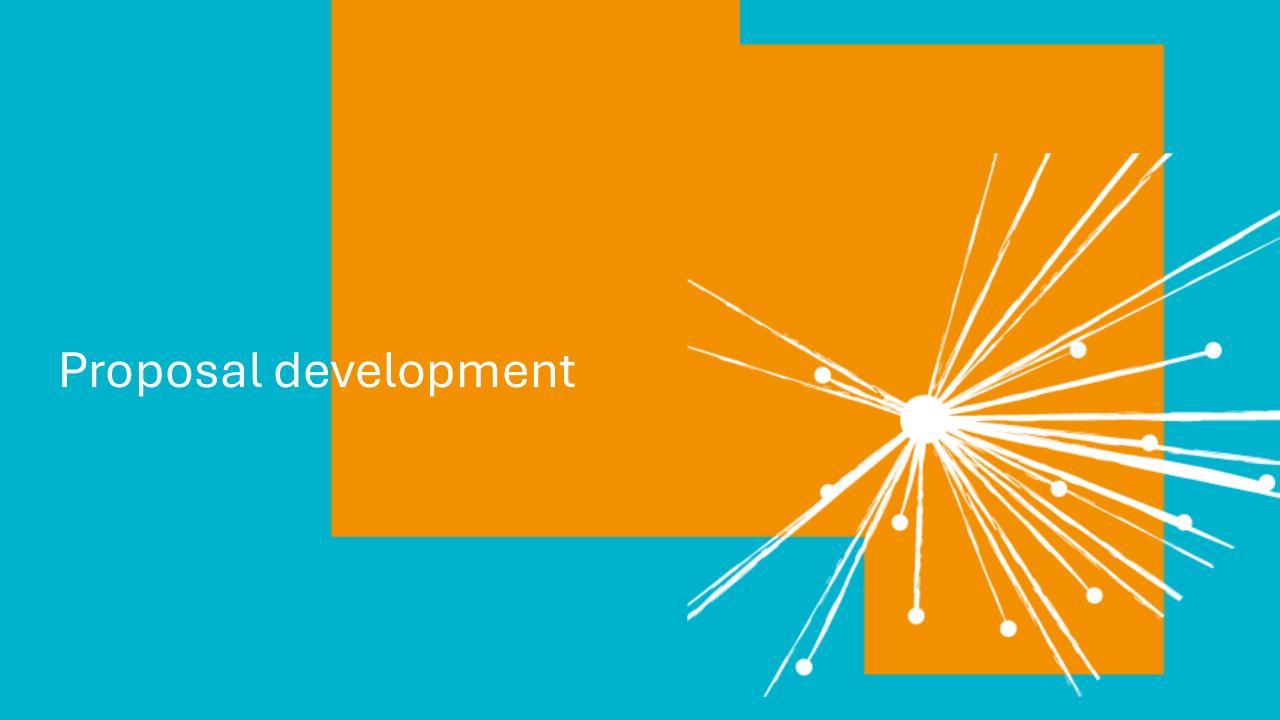
- PI leads the research project They are not collaborating as equals with their team
- PI has the freedom to choose how many team members are included in the project
- PI names individuals or roles that will be recruited in the proposal
- PI must justify the team and its composition and contribution

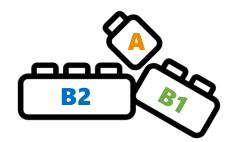


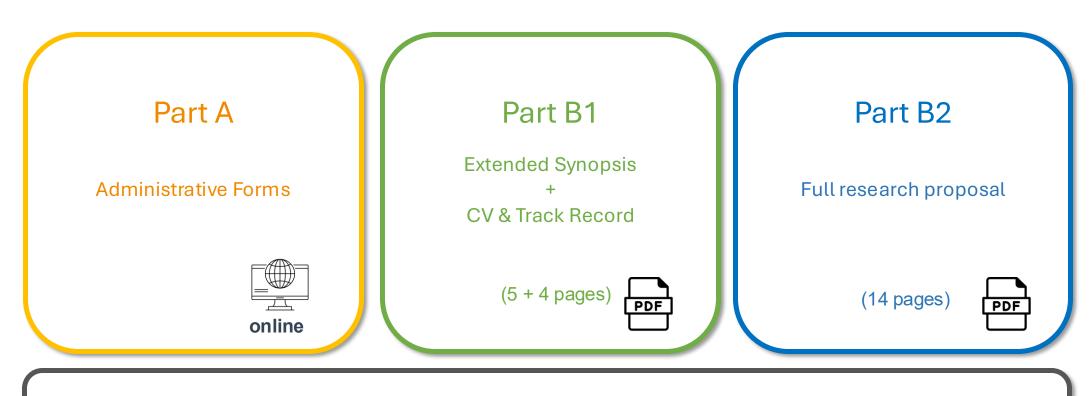




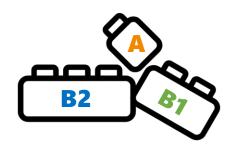
- Of any age, nationality or country of residence
- Can be based at the Host Institution or any other organisation in the world
- Cannot be co-investigators
- Assigned to specific project outputs/tasks
- Can be research staff at any level (including technicians and project managers)
- EU funded Even outside member states or associated countries

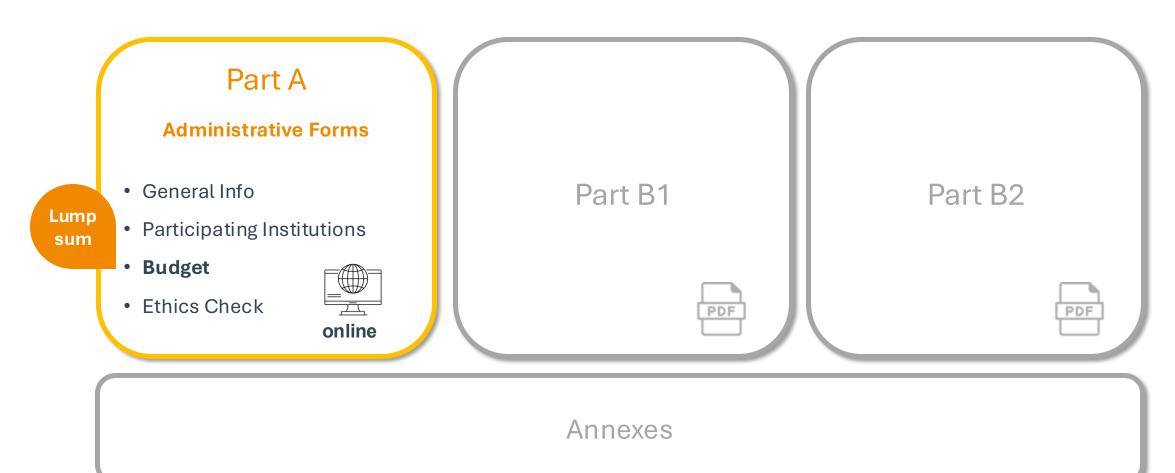




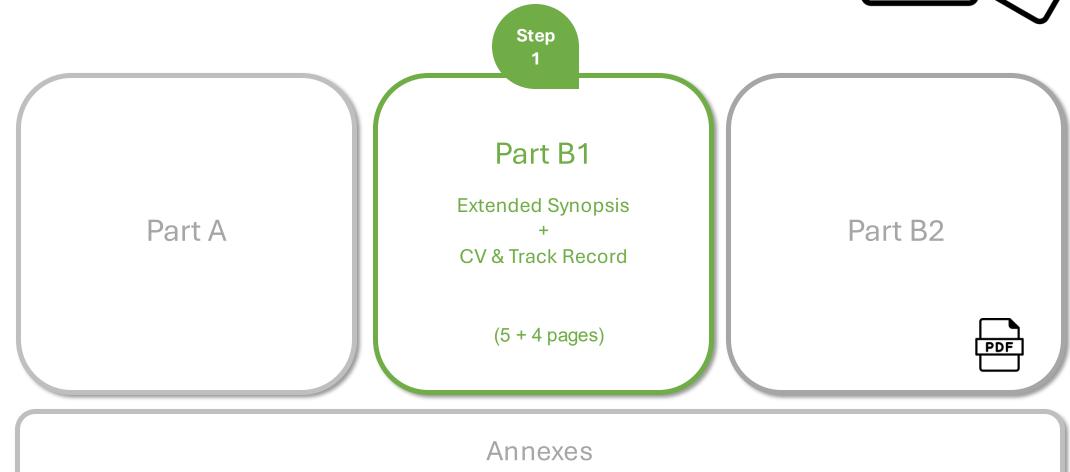


Annexes
Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents



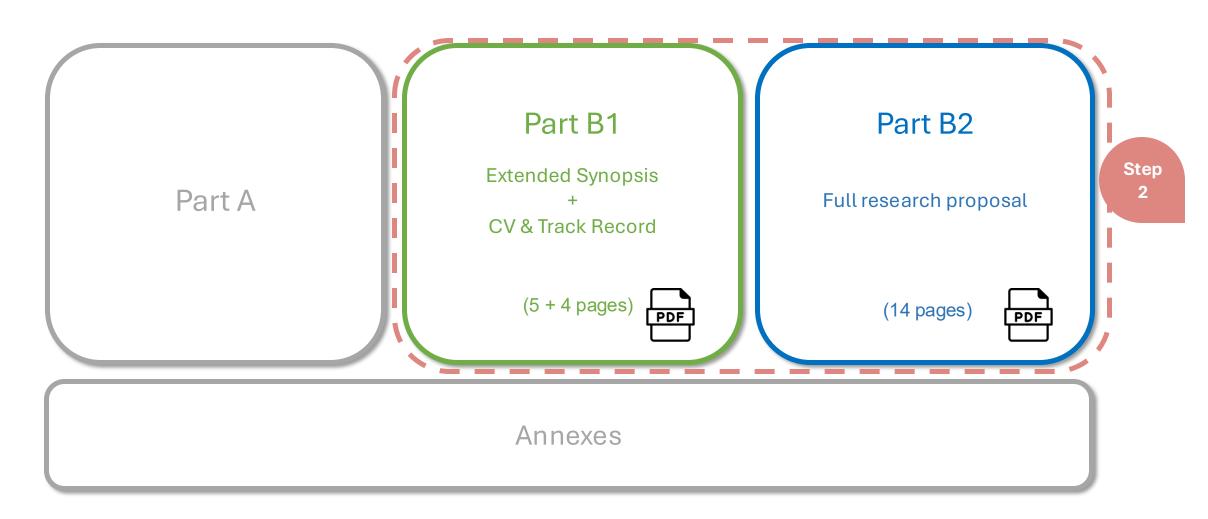




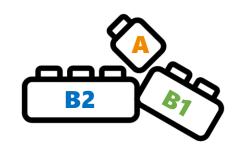


Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents





### **ERC Application** – Overview





Follow the specific formatting requirements



**References** do not count towards the page limit



Keep on hand
Information for
Applicants

#### Part A – Administrative forms

#### HORIZON

Call: ERC-2025-ADG

( Call for proposals for ERC Advanced Grant)

Topic: ERC-2025-ADG

Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC

(HORIZON ERC Grants)

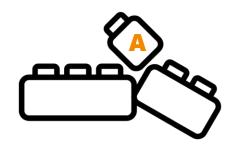
Proposal number: SEP-211173720

Proposal acronym: test

Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Lump Sum Grant

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

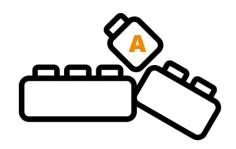


- 1. General Information
- 2. Participants
- 3. Budget
- 4. Ethics and security
- 5. Other questions



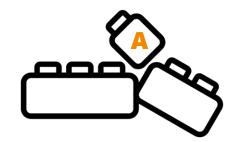


### Part A – Budget Lump Sum funding Principles



- Proposals budget based on estimated costs related to activities
- Lump sum amount capped at funding scheme ceiling (2.5M + 2M)
- Budget assessed during evaluation
- Payment based on work completion. Not linked to successful outcome
- No financial reporting anymore (e.g. submission of cost claims, time sheets, ...)

### Part A – Budget Lump Sum in practice

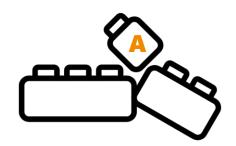


#### One Work Package for the entirety of the project

Only broken down per beneficiary



### Part A – Budget Lump Sum – other considerations

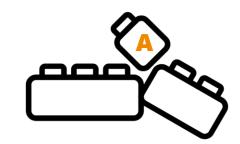


#### Applicants should not change

- > The way they think up their idea and imagine their project
- The way they structure their project

#### Basic principles of ERC funding remain untouched

- The evaluation criteria
- Principles of **flexibility and serendipity**, i.e. how changes and deviations to the original work plan are handled during the course of a project
- The principle of portability

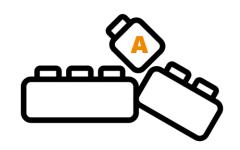


## Part A – Budget Minor changes to application forms

- More structured information on budget
  - Budget table: person-months per staff category
  - Budget narrative: structured in six boxes
  - Equipment depreciation table

Additional Declaration 10

## Part A – Budget Personnel costs



	PI			Senior staff		Post docs		Students			Other staff			A. Total		
Beneficiary Short Name	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	personnel costs/€
Participant X																
Participant Y																
Affiliated entity X																
Affiliated entity Y																
Total																

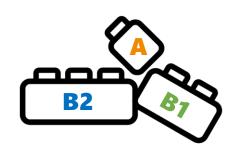
- Person-months and total amount must be encoded
- System will calculate automatically the average monthly costs

**ERC historic data personnel costs** available for consultation to serve as benchmark *Please check the ERC website* 

## Part A – Budget

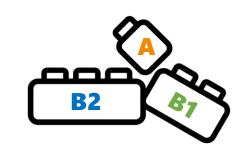
#### **Budget narrative**

Section C. Resources						
A. Personnel	D. Internally invoiced goods and services					
Maximum 2500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed					
B. Subcontracting (if applicable)	Request for additional funding justification					
Maximum 1000 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed					
C. Purchase cost (Travel - Equipment - Consumables - Field work - Animal costs - Publications - Other additional direct costs)	Funding from other sources					
Maximum 3500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed					



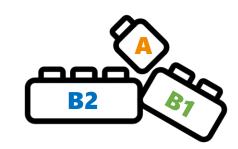
- Single box split in 6 subsections (text boxes) to provide a more structured format for PIs to justify
- Overall character limit to justify resources extended from 8.000 to 10.000 characters

## Part A – Budget Equipment depreciation table



- Excel table mandatory attachment to be uploaded at submission (temporary solution, in future will become part of online submission forms and linked to budget table)
- Guidance provided on how to fill in (e.g. several units of same equipment, fully capitalised cost items...)

Beneficiary's/affiliated entity's name	Short name of the asset	Purchase cost per item (a)	A STATE OF THE STA	Expected percentage of usage for the grant (c)	Expected use time during the grant (months, cannot exceed the duration of the grant) (d)		Comments
Example 1	Equipment 1	€ 100,000.00	60	100%	48	€ 80,000.00	
Example 2	Equipment 2	€ 10,000.00	36	100%	36	€ 10,000.00	
Example 3	Equipment 3	€ 50,000.00	60	50%	48	€ 20,000.00	



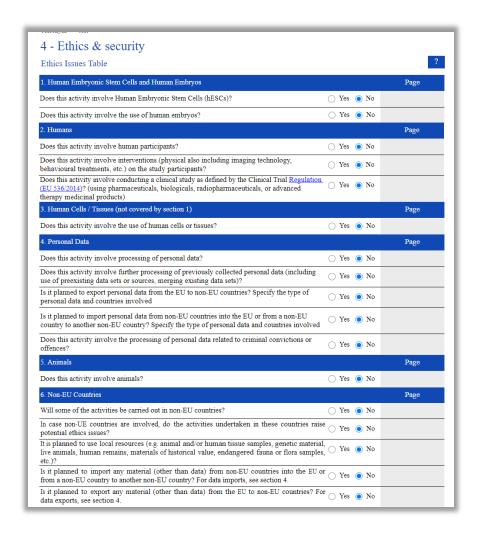
## Part A – Budget Additional declaration 10

**New declaration** specific to Lump Sum proposal, under Point 1 of the Application forms

Applicants to declare that cost estimates have been established in compliance with:

- usual accounting practices of their institution &
- basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants

#### Part A – Ethics & Security questions





Follow the guidance document

'How to complete your ethics self-assessment'

- 1. General Information
- 2. Participants
- 3. Budget
- 4. Ethics and security
- 5. Other questions



#### Part B1 – Overview



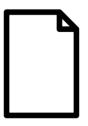


B1, your business card!



**Cover Page** 

Info from Part A



**Extended Synopsis** 

5 pages



**CV** and Track Record

4 pages



# Part B1 – Extended Synopsis







#### **Self-contained**

Standalone document

Complementary to B2

Timeliness & relevance

State-of-the-art



Do not use specialised jargon



#### **Entertaining**

Grab the panellists' attention

Leave them curious to find out more in B2

Convery your passion and motivation

### Part B1 – CV and Track Record



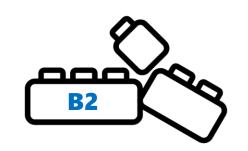
#### 4 pages

in one single template

- Personal details, education, key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions
- list of up to ten research outputs that demonstrate how the applicant has advanced knowledge in their field and a list of selected examples of significant peer recognition (for example, prizes).
- Include relevant additional information on career breaks, diverse career paths, and life events



### Part B2 - Overview

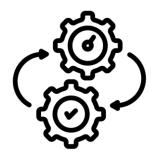


14 pages

State of the art and objectives

Methodology





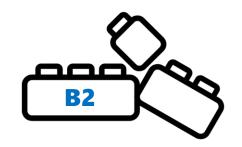


"Funding ID"

does not count towards page limits



### Part B2 – 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

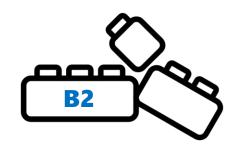
- It should be clear how and why the proposed work is important for the field.
- What scientific impact will your project have if successful? What new horizons or opportunities for science, technology or scholarship?

#### **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.



## Part B2 – 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.
- But evaluators and external experts can be risk averse.
- Explicit but controlled risk

#### Your team

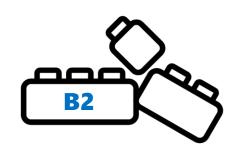
- Be sure to show how you will be the leader of the team and central figure for the project.
- Explain what each team member will do – these can be named people or roles specified for recruitment.

#### **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.



## Part B2 – Final thoughts



- Recap and expand on Part B1 introductory Extended Synopsis
- Detail the **current state of the art** in your field: highlight the achievements, challenges and gaps. How will your project go beyond these?
- Explain how, and why, your project is important to the field and what **impact** and **implications** it will have if successful. Timeliness should be shown throughout
- 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 could add to the excellence of your scientific approach.
   The full data management plan is required by Month 6 if funded





#### **ERC Evaluation Panels**



#### **Physical** Sciences & **Engineering**

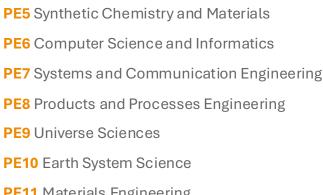


PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter

**PE3** Condensed Matter Physics

PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences

**PE11** Materials Engineering





#### Life **Sciences**

LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures & Functions

LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems

LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration

**LS4** Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing

LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System

**LS6** Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy

LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases

**LS8** Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution

LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering



### Social Sciences & **Humanities**

SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations

**SH2** Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems

SH3 The Social World and its Interactions

**SH4** The Human Mind and Its Complexity

**SH5** Texts and Concepts

**SH6** The Study of the Human Past

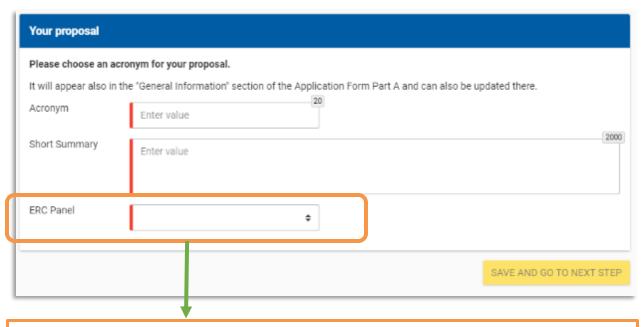
SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

**SH8** Studies of Cultures and Arts



### How do we pick the right panel?



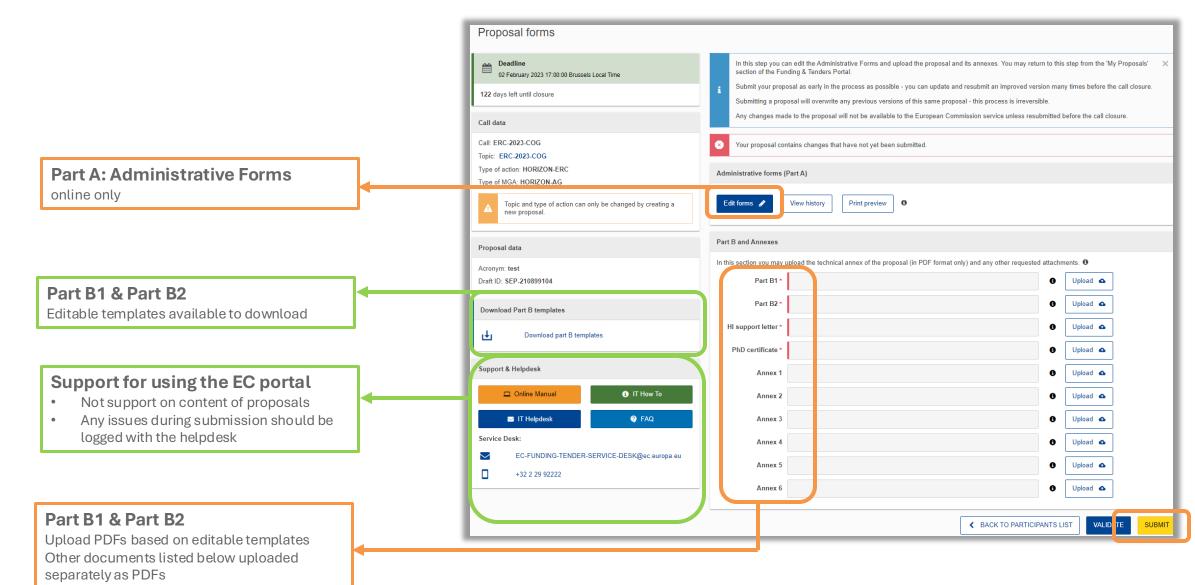


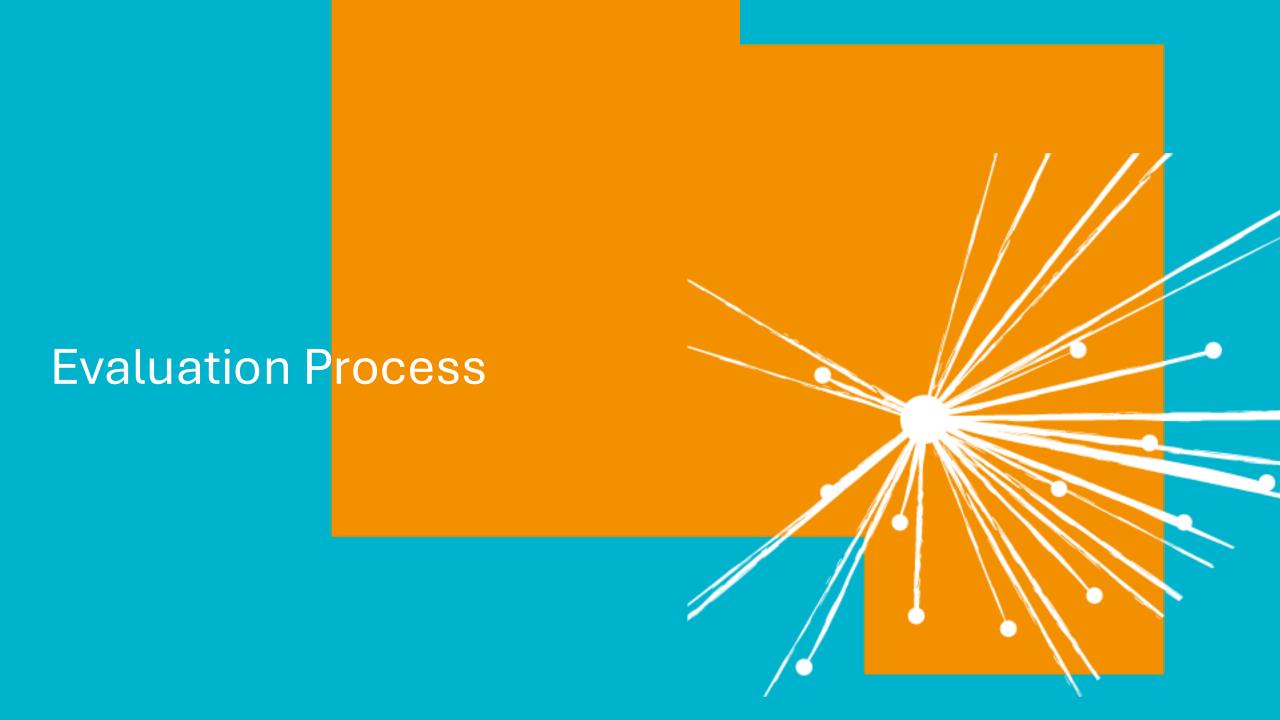
Select your primary evaluation panel (e.g. LS3/SH1/PE4 etc)

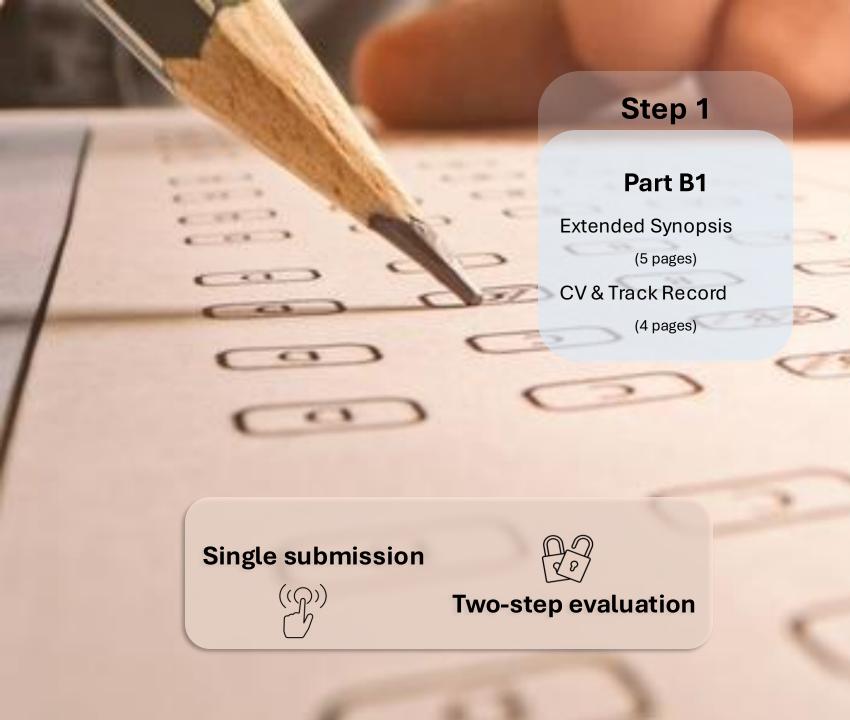
See a full list of ERC panels and keywords in Annex 4 of the Information for Applicants



# Main proposal page on EC Portal







Step 2

Part B1



Part B2

(14 pages)

# How are ERC proposals evaluated?

### Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

### Research Project

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

### Principal Investigator

Intellectual capacity and creativity



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



#### To what extent:

- does the proposed research address important scientific challenges?
- are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art?

# The Scientific Approach

#### To what extent:

- is the outlined scientific approach **feasible**?
- 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?

### ERC evaluation criterion



Excellence of both aspects are equally important

### **Principal Investigator**

intellectual capacity, creativity commitment

### Research project

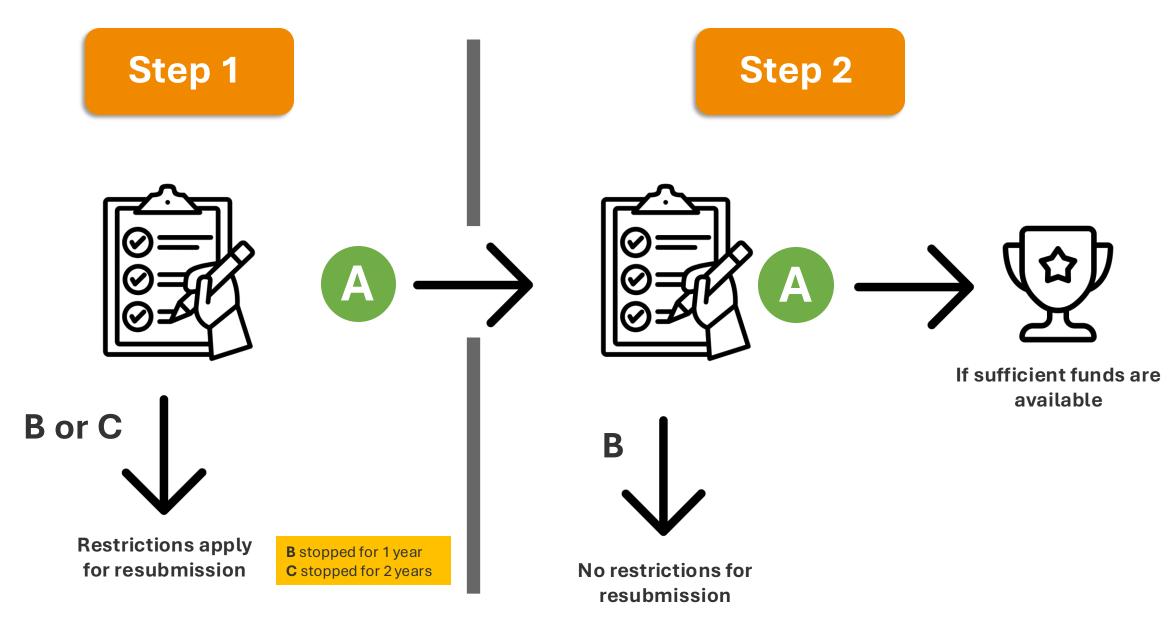
ground-breaking nature ambition feasibility

### Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion



### **Evaluation Outcomes**



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 (<a href="https://oapen.org">https://oapen.org</a>) 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/

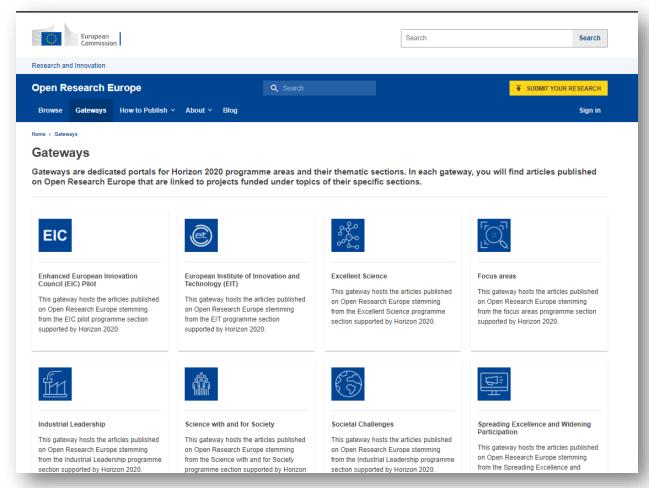
# Publishing Fees will be eligible for funding if the venue is fully open access

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



You can find the provisions related to Open Science on pages 107 – 109 of the Model Grant Agreement

# **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/

### 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 <u>before the signature of the</u> grant agreement.
- GEPs are the Host Institution's responsibility, it is not the Principal Investigator's responsibility
- Proposal Pland 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



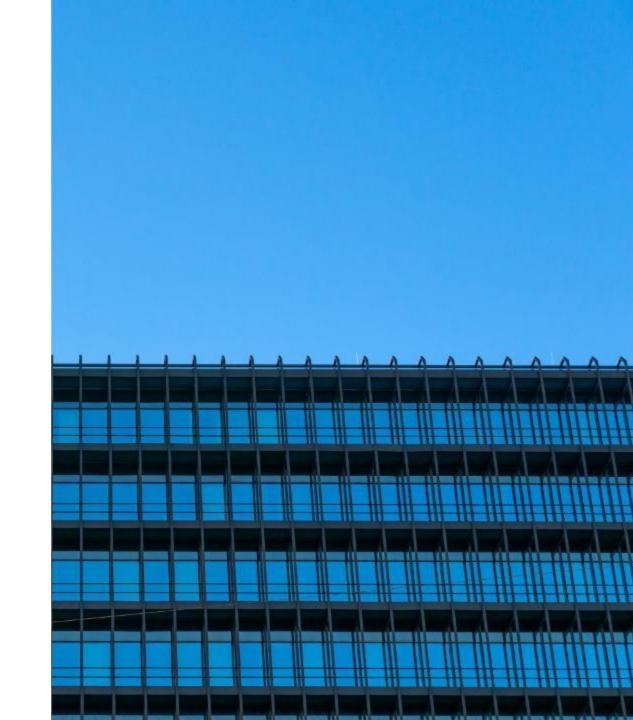
### **Useful links**

• **ERC Website** 

including the ERC Dashboard and the more in-depth ERC Information System

- Amended ERC 2025 Work Programme
- Information for Applicants 2025
- Call for proposal
- Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement





# Our upcoming webinars







**ERC Synergy Grant Webinar | 29 July 2025** 

**ERC Starting Grant Webinar | 31 July 2025** 

**ERC Consolidator Grant Webinar | 23 September 2025** 

# Stay tuned

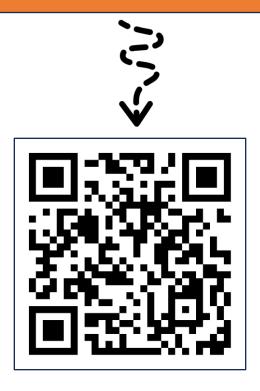




erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk



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Please tick 'European Research Council (ERC)' within Pillar I when signing up

Best of luck with your frontier research!



Break

Q&A