ERC 2025

UK Research Office

erc

Advanced Grant Webinar

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UK Research Office
UK National Contact Point

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

11.00 am – 1.00 pm

- Overview of the ERC
- Eligibility criteria
- Proposal development
- Submission Process
- Evaluation

- Break

- ERC Testimonial
- Q&A

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk

Housekeeping announcements

- All participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar
- We will be recording this session
- Slides will be shared after the webinar on the event page
- Please use the Q&A function to submit questions
- You can ‘up vote’ your favourite questions in the Q&A
- A chat function is available and will be monitored

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

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Brussels

Striving for excellence with ERC funding

Long-term grants to conduct pioneering research projects

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

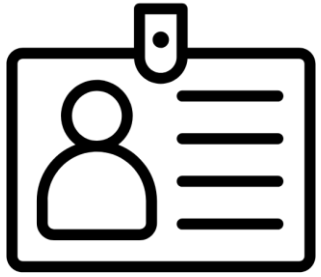
Over **400**
start-ups identified as founded or co-founded by ERC grantees

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



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

Any field of science

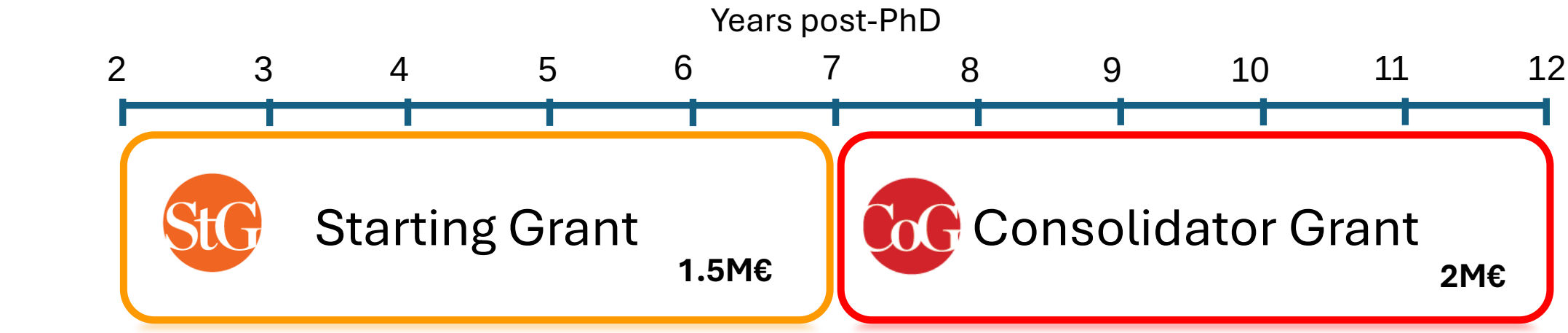
No thematic restrictions

No consortium required

No co-financing needed

Scientific excellence of both yourself and your **ambitious** pioneering research proposal

ERC Grant Opportunities



No PhD Requirements

AdG Advanced Grant **2.5M€**

SyG Synergy Grant **10 M€**

PoC Proof Of Concept Grant **150 K€**

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

- **“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)

€683 M

276 grants

Call Opens

22 May 2025

Call deadline

28 Aug 2025 5 pm CET

Inform applicants after each step

30 Jan 2026
12 June 2026

Signing Grant Agreement

17 Nov 2026

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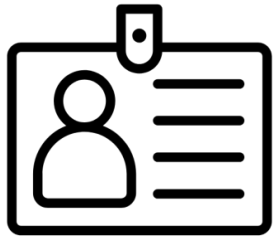
Single submission

Two-step evaluation

Eligibility criteria

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 (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

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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

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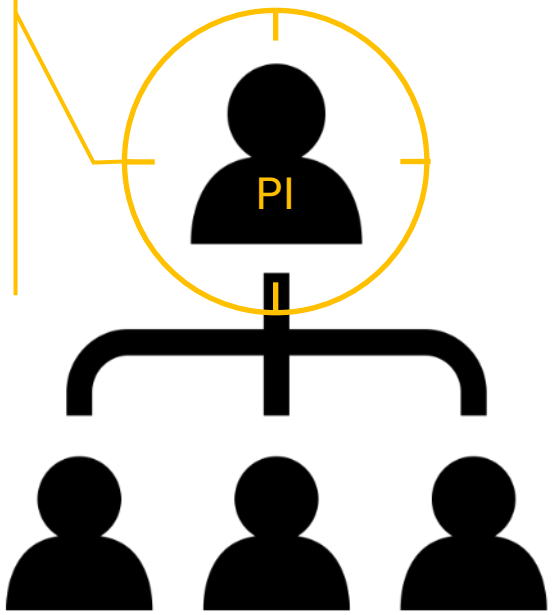
Principal Investigator & Team Members

- 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



TEAM MEMBERS

- 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

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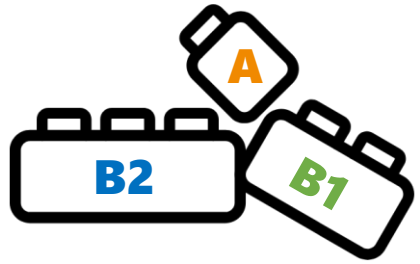
Proposal development

ERC Application – Your building blocks



Part A

Administrative Forms

online

Part B1

Extended Synopsis
+
CV & Track Record

(5 + 4 pages)

PDF

Part B2

Full research proposal

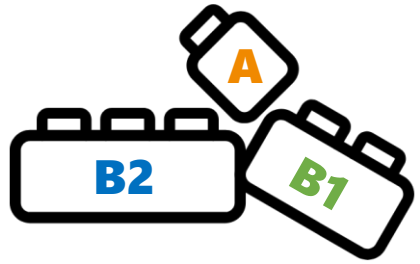
(14 pages)

PDF

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

ERC Application – Your building blocks



Lump sum

Part A

Administrative Forms

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- **Budget**
- Ethics Check

online

Part B1

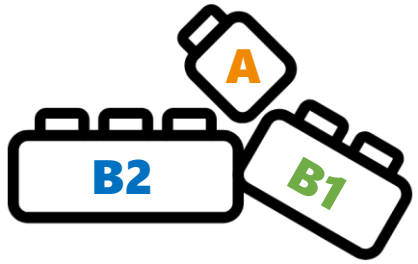
PDF

Part B2

PDF

Annexes

ERC Application – Your building blocks



Step 1

Part A

Part B1

Extended Synopsis
+
CV & Track Record

(5 + 4 pages)

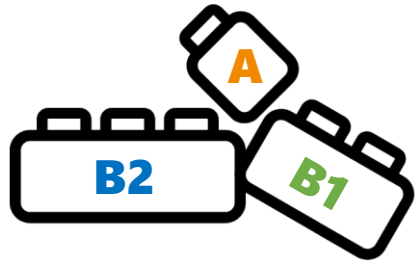
Part B2

PDF

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

ERC Application – Your building blocks



Part A

Part B1

Extended Synopsis
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CV & Track Record

(5 + 4 pages)

PDF

Part B2

Full research proposal

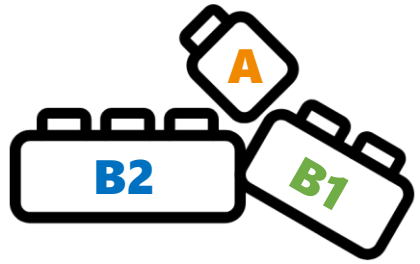
(14 pages)

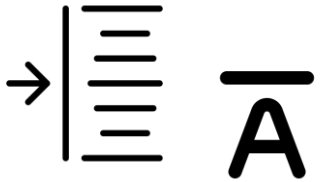
PDF

Step 2

Annexes

ERC Application – Overview



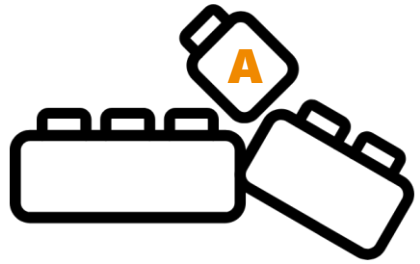


Follow the specific **formatting requirements**

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

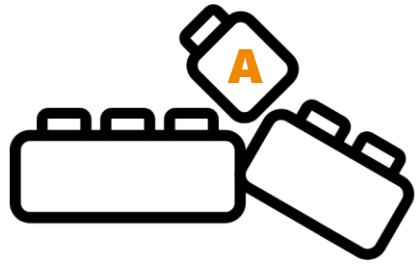
Table of contents

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

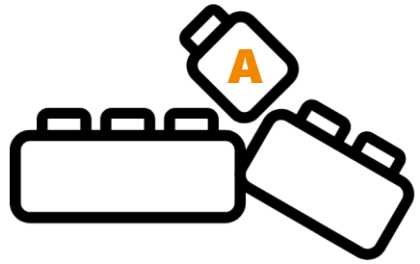
Lump Sum funding Principles



- 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

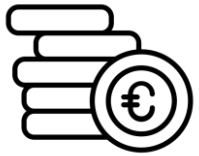
Lump Sum in practice



One Work Package for the entirety of the project

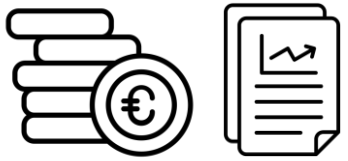
Only broken down per beneficiary

80% pre-financing



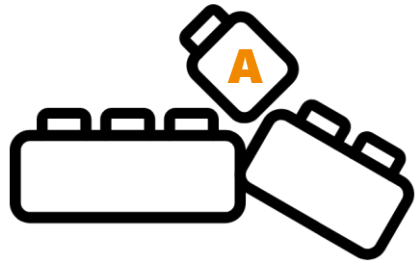
Scientific Mid-term report

Final scientific report + 20% final payment



Part A – Budget

Lump Sum – other considerations

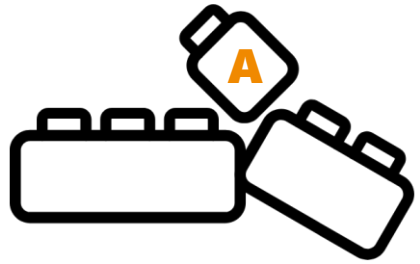


Applicants should not change

- **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

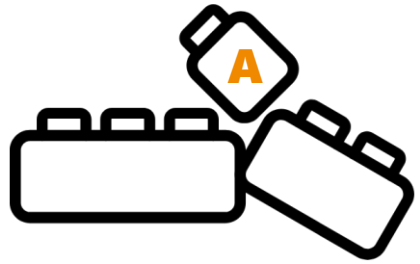
Minor changes to application forms

- **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



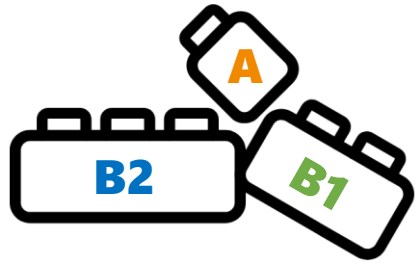
Beneficiary Short Name	PI			Senior staff			Post docs			Students			Other staff			A. Total personnel costs/€
	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average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

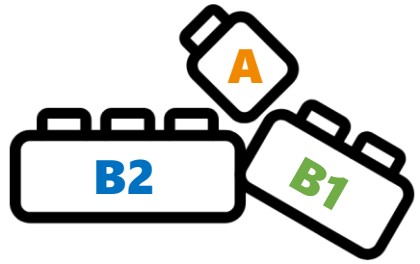


Section C. Resources	
A. Personnel	**D. Internally invoiced goods and services**
Maximum 2500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed
B. Subcontracting (if applicable)	**Request for additional funding justification**
Maximum 1000 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed
C. Purchase 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 sub-sections (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

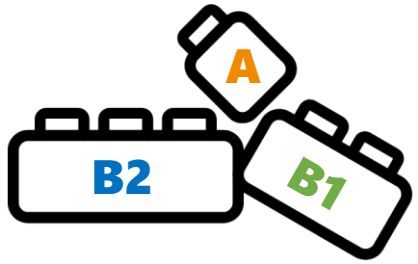
Part A – Budget

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)*	*Depreciation time (months) (b)*	*Expected percentage of usage for the grant (c)*	*Expected use time during the grant (months, cannot exceed the duration of the grant) (d)*	*Estimated depreciation costs per item (cannot exceed the purchase costs) (a/b)*c*d*	*Comments (e.g. depreciation policy, grouped items, full capitalised costs, etc……)*
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’

4 - Ethics & security

Ethics Issues Table ?

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

1. General Information

2. Participants

3. Budget

4. Ethics and security

5. Other questions

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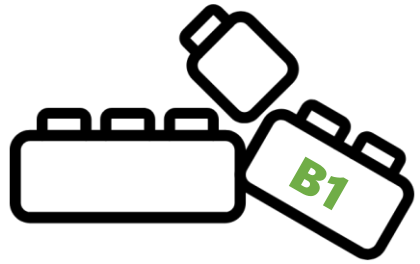
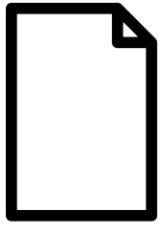
Part B1 – Overview



B1, your business card!

Cover Page

Info from Part A



Extended Synopsis

5 pages

CV and Track Record

4 pages

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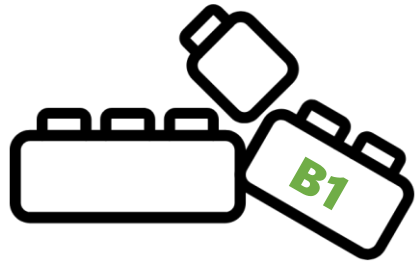
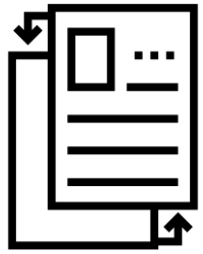
Part B1 – Extended Synopsis



5 pages *max*



Self-contained

Standalone document

Complementary to B2

Timeliness & relevance

State-of-the-art

Persuasive to generalists

Do not use specialised jargon

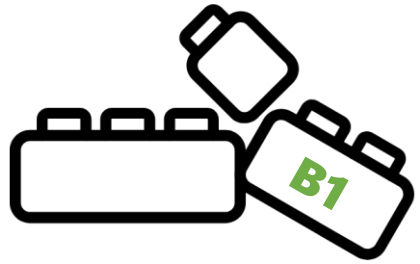
Entertaining

Grab the panellists' attention

Leave them curious to find out more in B2

Convery your passion and motivation

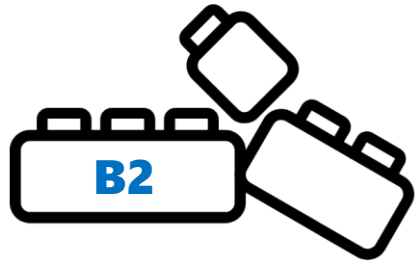
Part B1 – CV and Track Record



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**

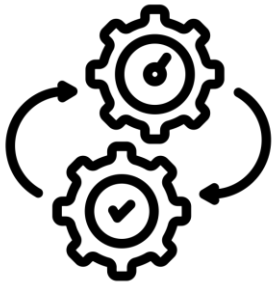
Part B2 – Overview



14 pages

State of the art and objectives

Methodology



“Funding ID”
does not count towards page limits

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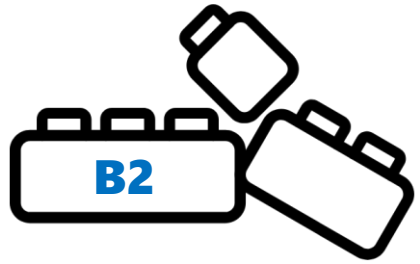
Part B2 – State of the Art and Objectives



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.

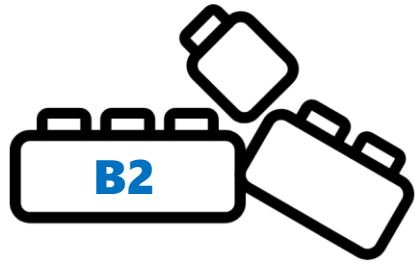
State of the art

- 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

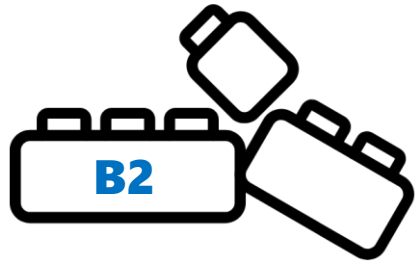
Your team

- 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 c**hallenges** 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

Submission Process

ERC Evaluation Panels

Physical Sciences & Engineering

PE1 Mathematics

PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter

PE3 Condensed Matter Physics

PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences

PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials

PE6 Computer Science and Informatics

PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering

PE8 Products and Processes Engineering

PE9 Universe Sciences

PE10 Earth System Science

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

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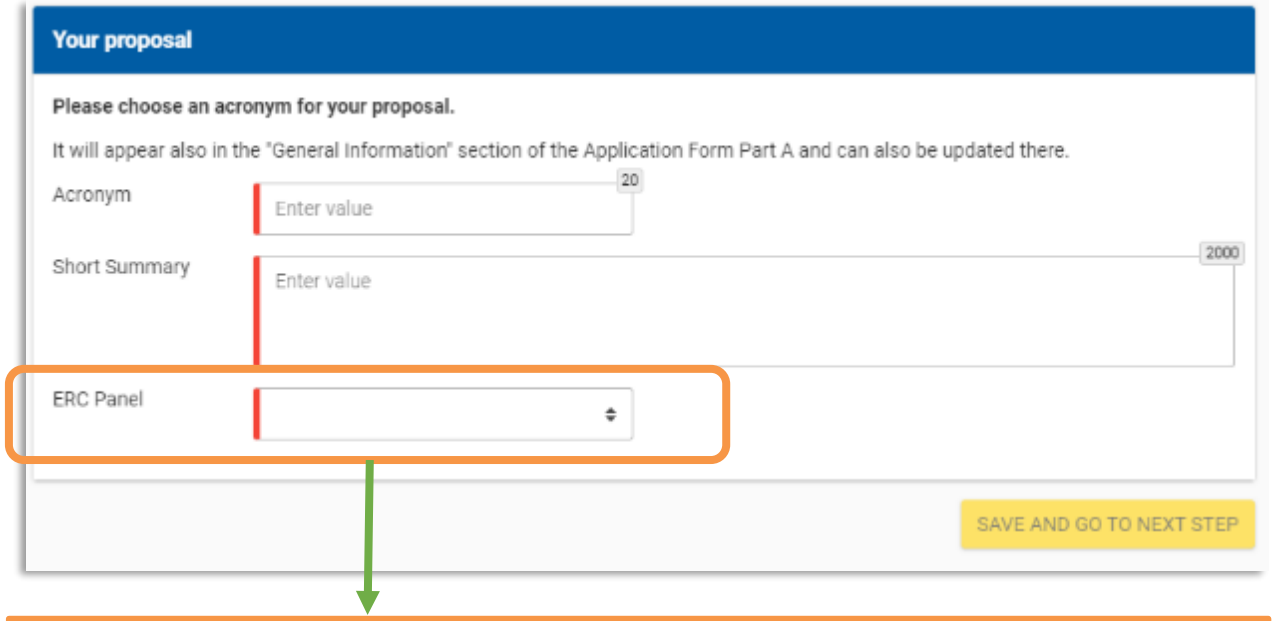
How do we pick the right panel?



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

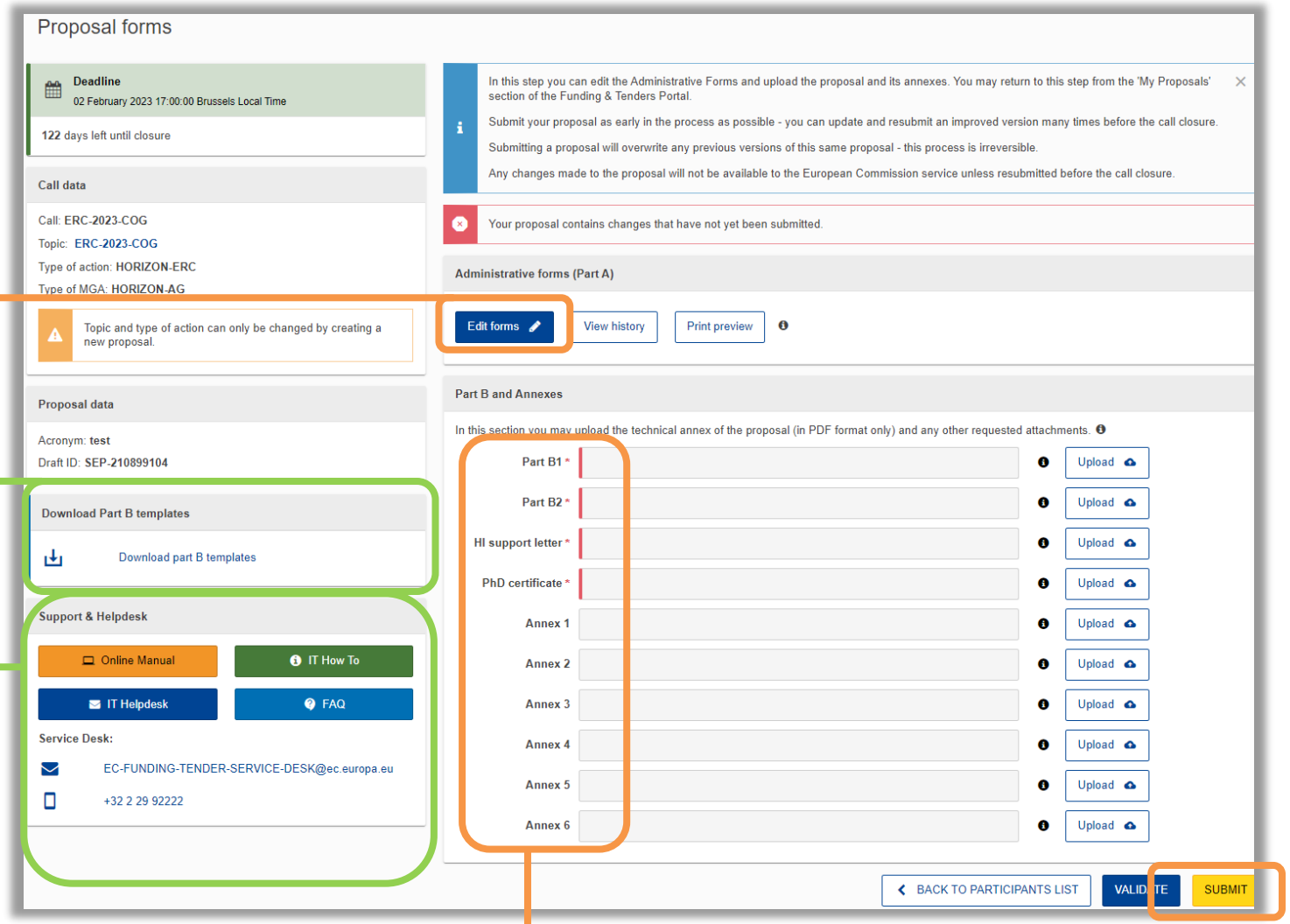
Main proposal page on EC Portal

Part A: Administrative Forms
online only

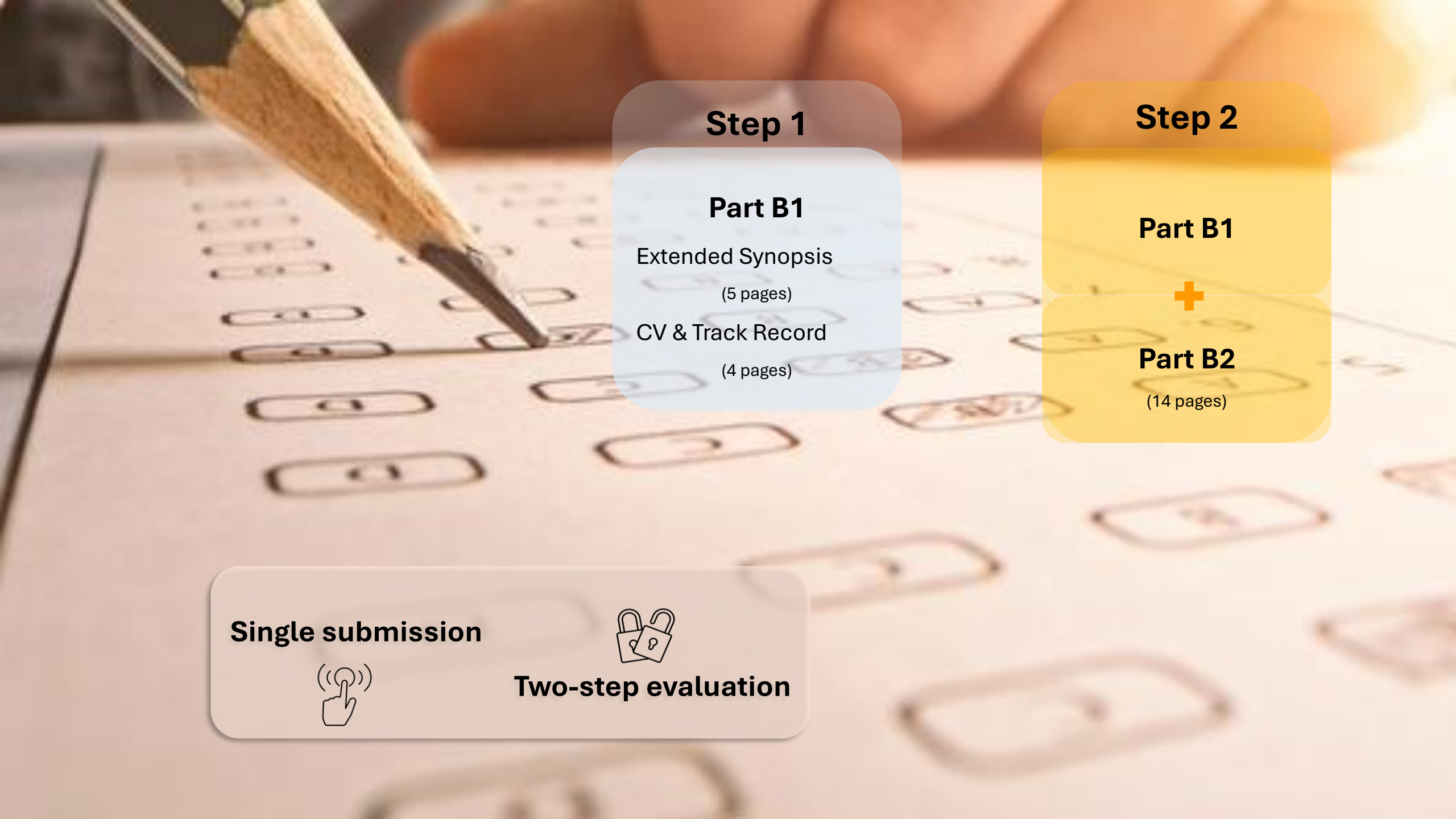
Part B1 & Part B2
Editable templates available to download

Support for using the EC portal
- Not support on content of proposals
- Any issues during submission should be logged with the helpdesk

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



Evaluation Process



Step 1

Part B1

Extended Synopsis

(5 pages)

CV & Track Record

(4 pages)

Step 2

Part B1

+

Part B2

(14 pages)

Single submission

Two-step evaluation

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

The Project

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?

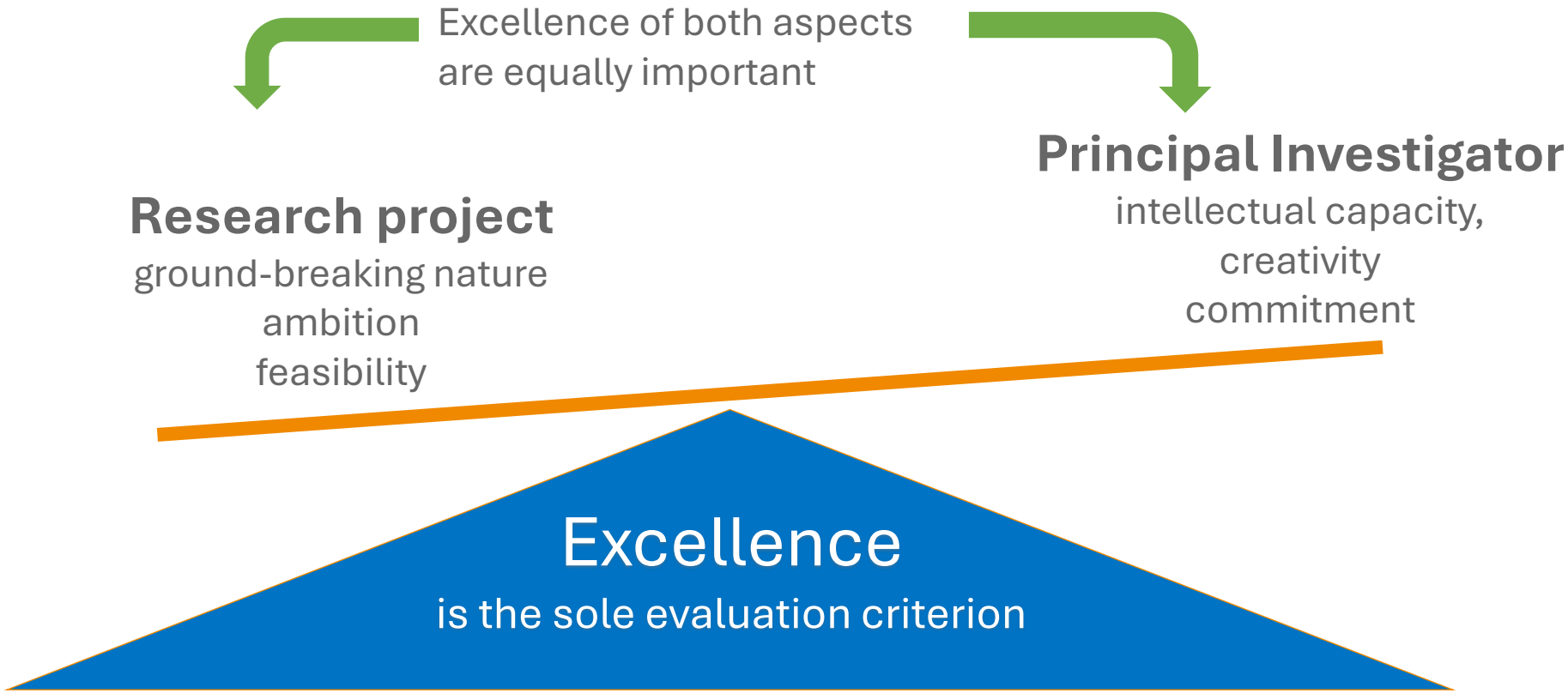
2. **Principal Investigator** - Intellectual capacity and creativity

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



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Evaluation Outcomes

Step 1

A

B or C

Restrictions apply for resubmission

B stopped for 1 year
C stopped for 2 years

Step 2

A

If sufficient funds are available

B

No restrictions for resubmission

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)

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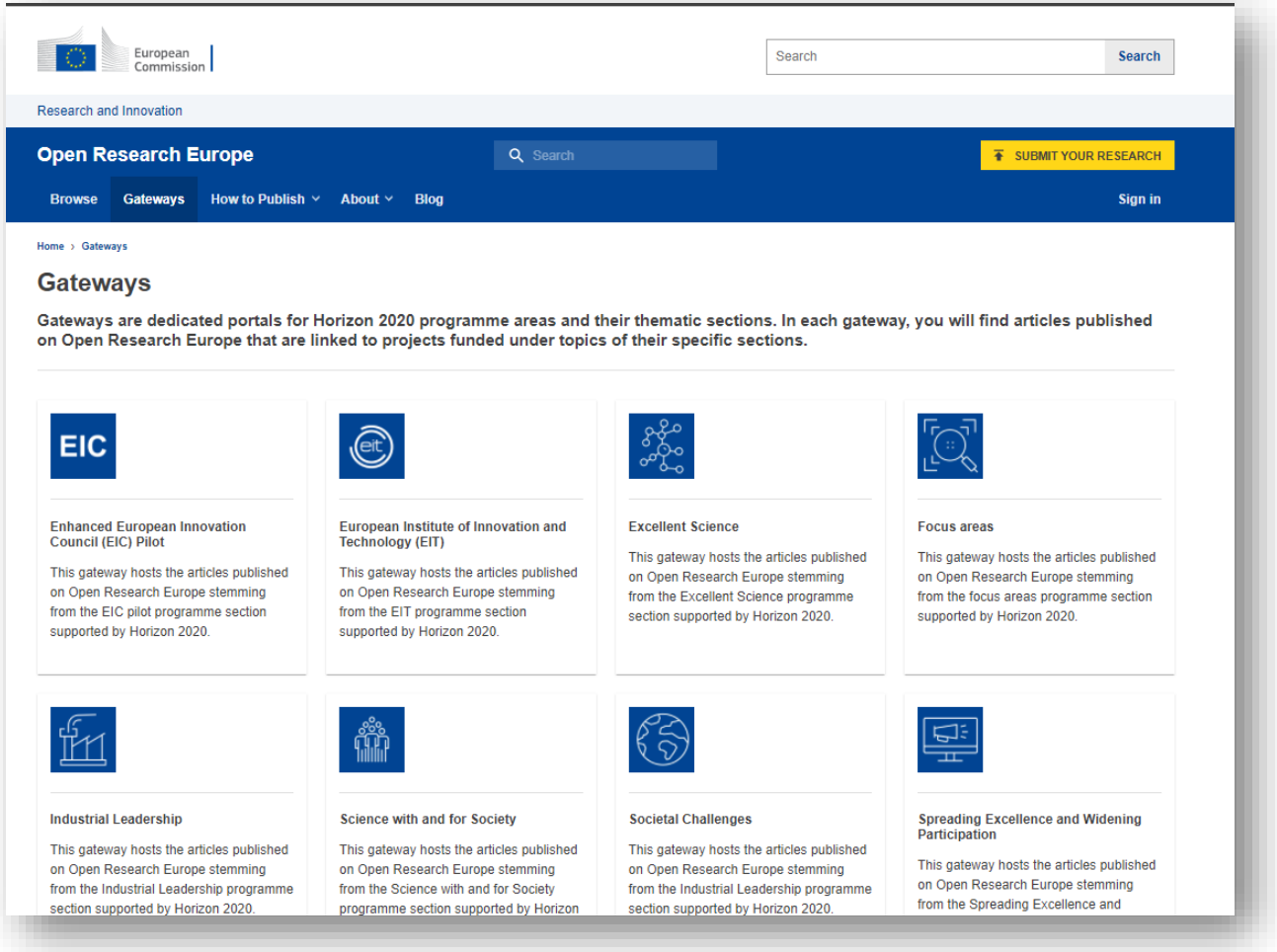
You can find the provisions related to Open Science on pages 107 – 109 of the Model Grant Agreement

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

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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 before the signature of the grant agreement.
- 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

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**

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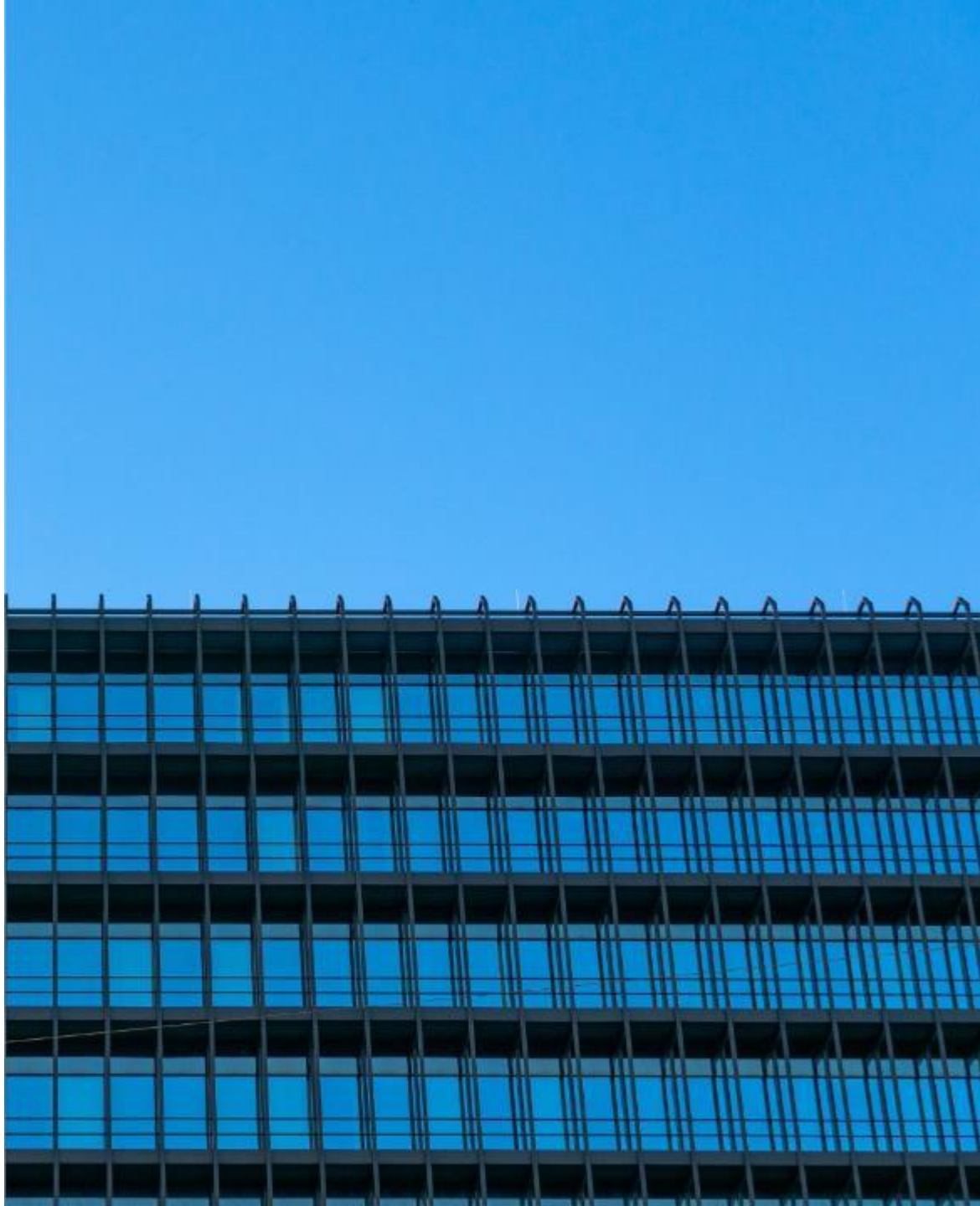

Our upcoming webinars

[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

Contact us **via email**

Sign up for our free **ERC newsletters**

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

Best of luck with your frontier research!

Break

Q&A

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For more information please see Noun Project

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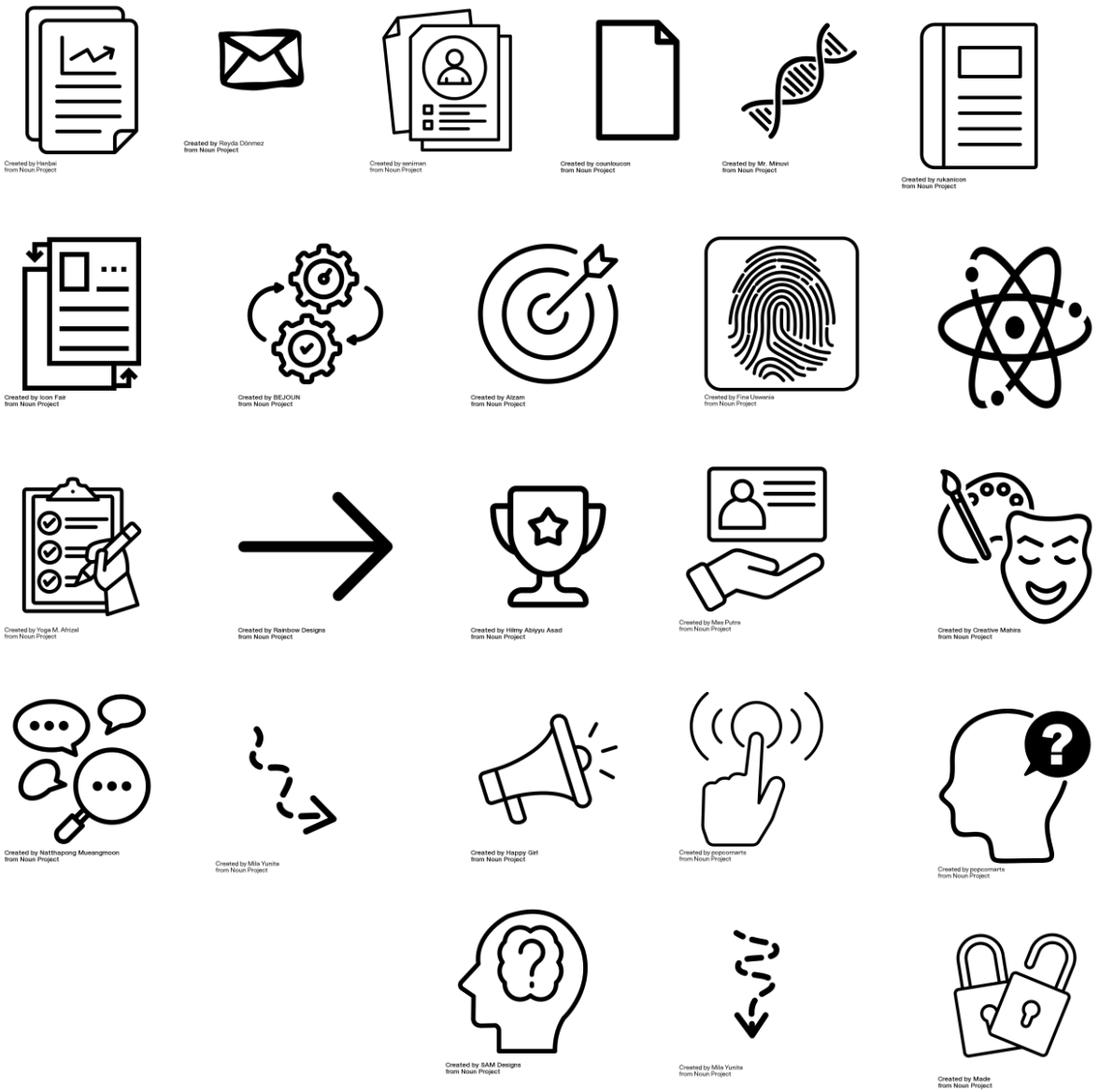

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