



ERC 2026 | 31 July 2025, 10am-12pm

Starting Grant Webinar

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



Dr Antonino Puglisi
UK Research Office
ERC UK National Contact Point



Dr Jane Kershaw University of Oxford ERC Starting Grantee

Agenda for today





Overview of the ERC



Eligibility criteria



Proposal development



Submission Process



Break



ERC Testimonial



Q&A



Evaluation

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



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



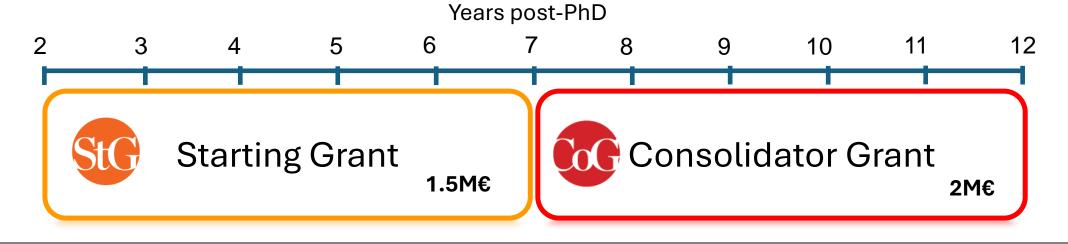
No thematic restrictions

No consortium required

No co-financing needed

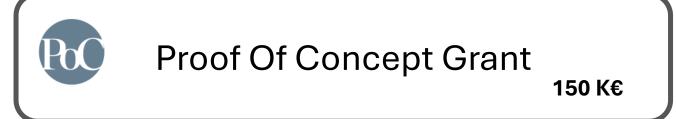
Scientific excellence of both yourself and your ambitious pioneering research proposal

ERC Grant Opportunities



No PhD Requirements





Webinar on ERC Work Programme 2026





Our upcoming webinars





Starting Grant | in a nutshell

Supports researchers at the early stage of their careers to become independent research leaders



1.5 Million euros | Up to 5 years



That's for applicants who got their PhD between 2 to 7 years ago



General info about ERC Starting Grants

Starting Grant | Funding rates

Base amount & Additional funding



Up to 2M euros



For grantees based anywhere in the world who want to move to Europe

- "Start-up" costs
- Purchase of major equipment
- Access to large facilities
- Other major experimental and field work costs

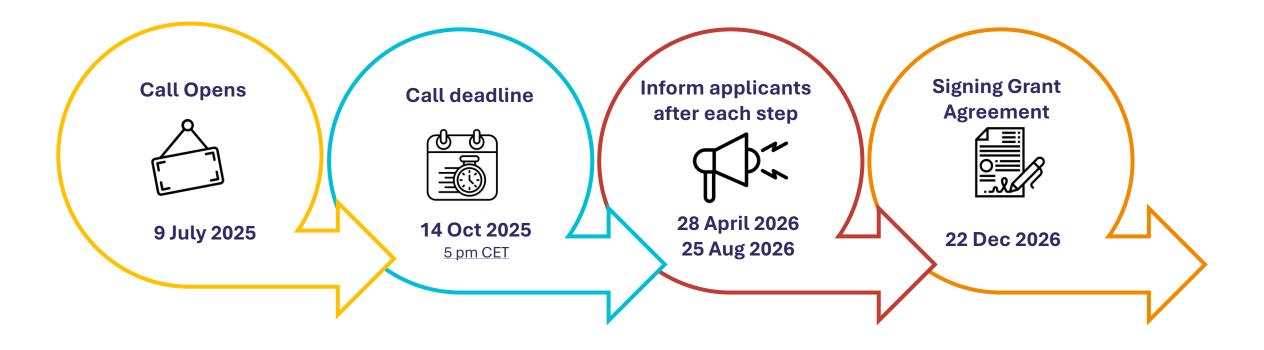


Now including personnel costs!

2026 Starting Grant (ERC-2026-StG)







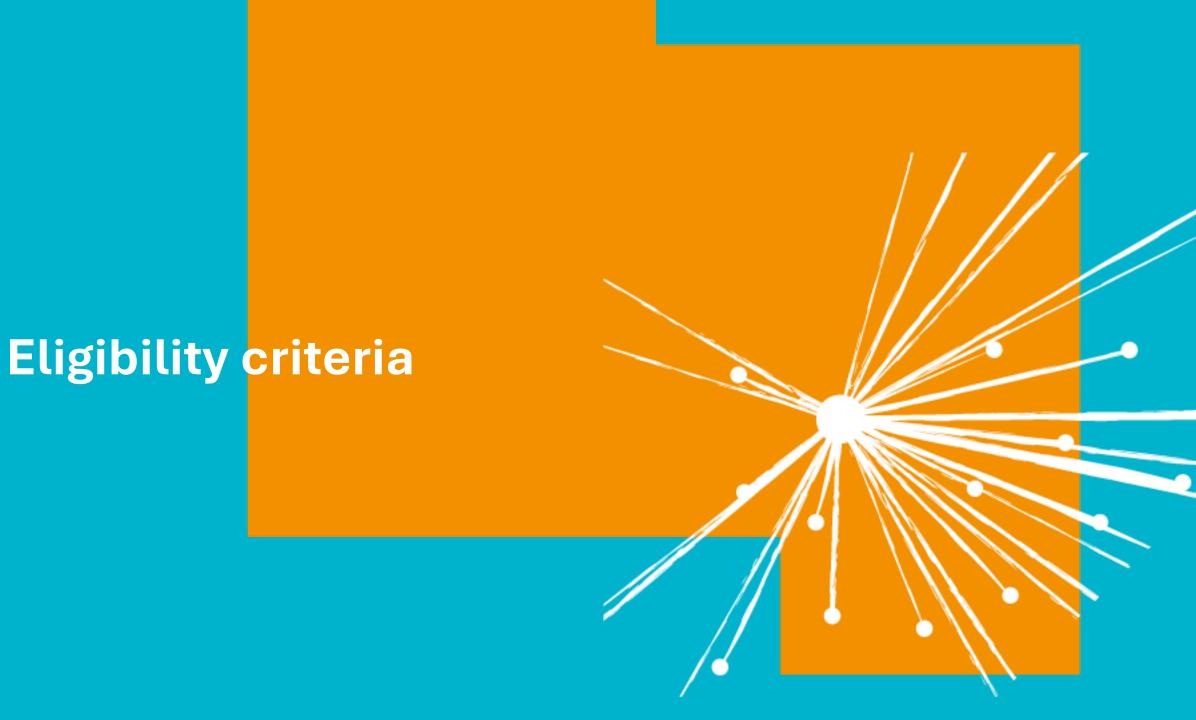




Single submission

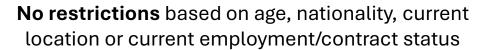
Two-step evaluation





Principal Investigator Eligibility







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

Time Commitment in the ERC Starting

50% minimum of working time on grant

50% minimum time in EU's MS or AC



Extension of the eligibility window



Successful defence of PhD between 2 to 7 years ago

From 1st Jan 2019 to 31st Dec 2023

Maternity leave

18 months per child or longer if documented

Paternity or parental leave



Long-term illness or National service

Disability

Clinical training

Maximum 4 years

Major Disaster

Seeking Asylum

Gender-based
Violence or Any Other
Form of Violence





General info about ERC Starting Grants

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

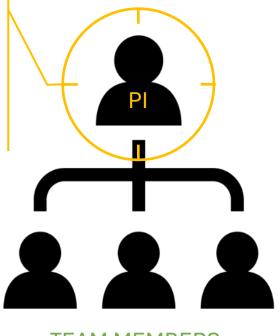


- Sign the Grant Agreement with the Commission
- ✓ Sign the Supplementary Agreement with the PI



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
- Pl names individuals or roles that will be recruited in the proposal
- PI must justify the team and its composition and contribution



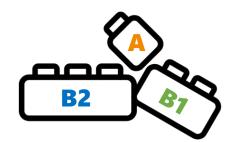


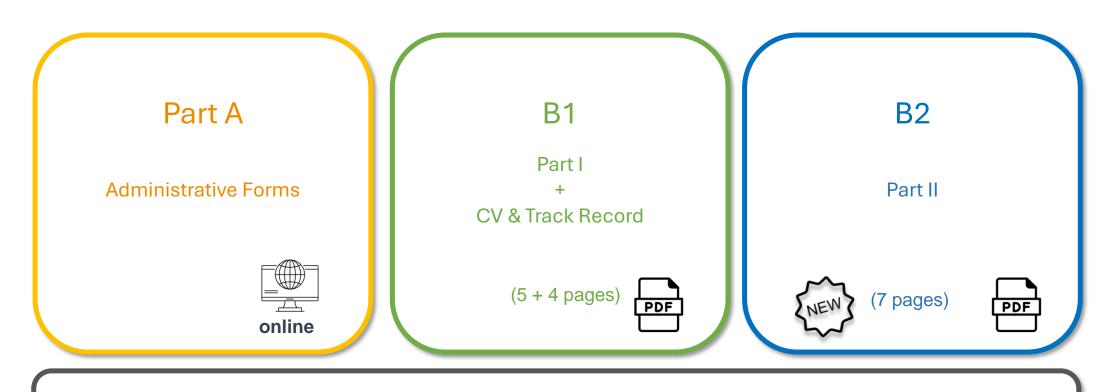


- Of any age, nationality or country of residence
- Can be based at the Host Institution or any other organisation in the world
- **Cannot be co-investigators**
- Assigned to specific project outputs/tasks
- Can be research staff at any level (including technicians and project managers)
- **EU funded**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

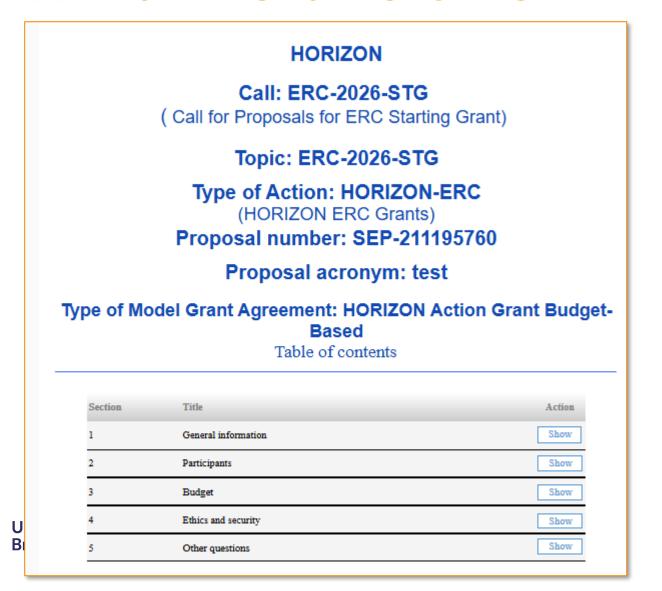


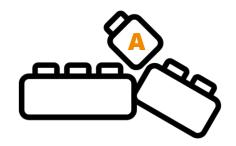
ERC Application – Your building blocks





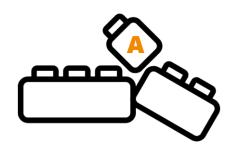
Annexes
Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents





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





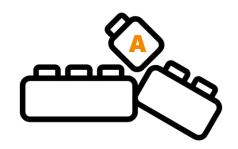
- Acronym
- Title of the project
- Duration
- Primary / secondary Review Panel
- Abstract
- Keywords (min 1) + free keywords
- (...)

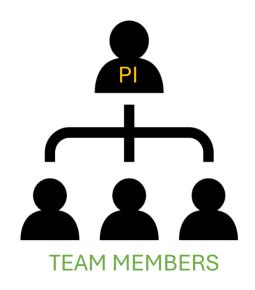


1. General Information

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







All encoded by their HI/beneficiary!

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









3 - Budget

| Reneficiary Short Name Reneficiary Short | D Daaget | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|----|--------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------|--|--------|------|-----------------------------------|
| And Innovation | Beneficiary Short Name | PI | Senior staff | Post docs | Students | Other staff | personnel | Subcontracti ng Costs € (No indirect | and subsistence | Equipment - including major | ables incl. fieldwork and animal | (incl. Open Access fees) and disseminatio | additional direct costs | other goods, works and | Purchase | invoiced goods and services∉ (No indirect | Cost € | | Requested EU contribution € |
| | And Innovation | 0 | 0 | c | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| | Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (| 0 | 0 | 0.00 | | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Section C. Resources

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.

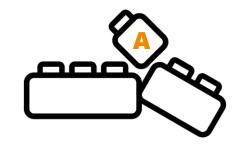
Request for additional funding if applicable (All items MUST be included in the overall budget table above): (Cost in EUR)

Justification:

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







| 3 - Budget | | Pers | sonn | el co | sts | | Purchase costs | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|--------------|-----------|----------|-------------|------|--------------------|------------|---|--|--|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Beneficiary Short Name | ΡΙ | Senior staff | Post docs | Students | Other staff | | B. Subcontracti | C.1 1ravel | C.2 Equipment - including major equipment | Consum- ables incl. fieldwork and animal costs | Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and disseminatio | additional direct costs | C.3 Total other goods, works and services | C. Total Purchase costs € | D. Internally invoiced goods and services € (No indirect co(ts) | E. Indirect Cost C | Total Bligible Costs | Requested EU contribution€ | |
| United Kingdom Research And Innovation | (| 0 | C | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | Subco | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | nternnal | Inglire | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Total | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | 0,00 | _ 0 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Section C. Resources | | | | | | | 41111 | | | | | | | ? | ***** | | • | | |

By cost categories

Section C. Resources

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.

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Justification.

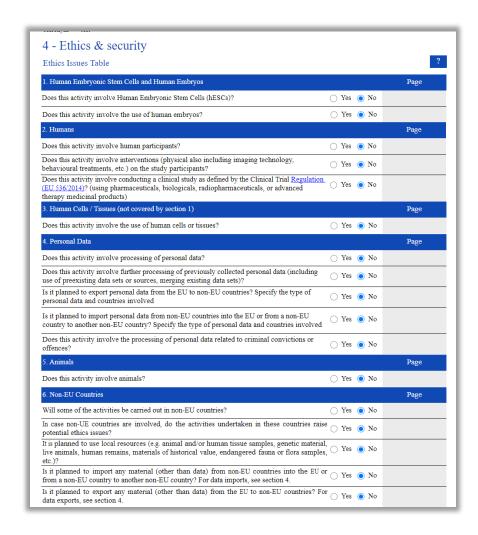
In a narrative way (8000 characters)





This part **will be extracted** and provided to the peer reviewers at **Step 2 evaluation**

Part A – Ethics & Security questions



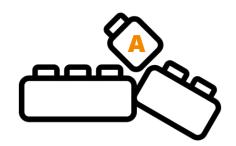


Follow the guidance document

'How to complete your ethics self-assessment'

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





- PhD reference date
- Extension requests
- Your Working Commitment
 - in the EU (50%) and to the project (50%)
- Excluded Reviewers
- (...)

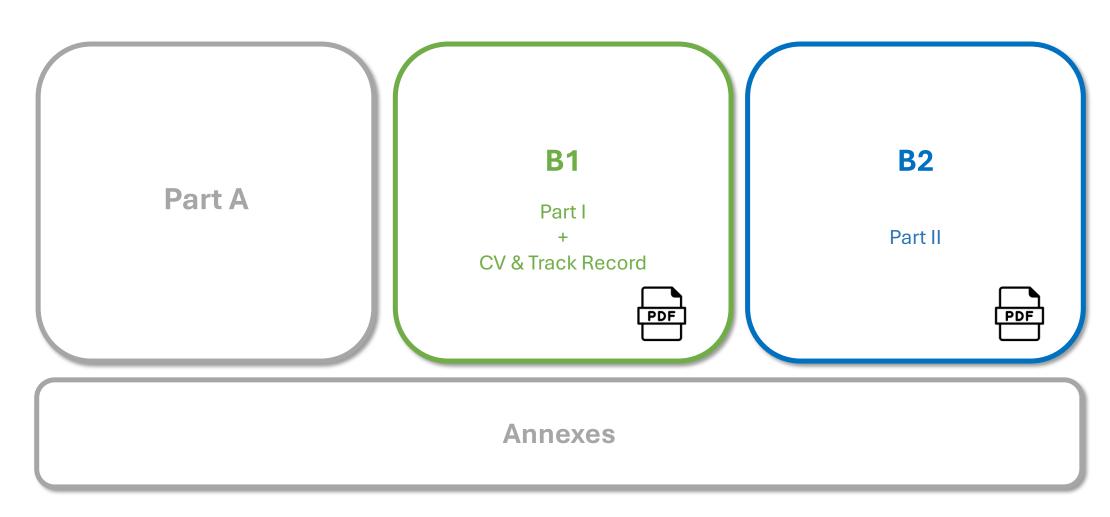
- 1. General Information
- 2. Participants
- 3. Budget
- 4. Ethics and security
- 5. Other questions





ERC Application – Your building blocks





ERC Application – Your scientific proposal



Your scientific proposal | Part I

5 pages max





Describe your idea

Your **objectives**





Overall **strategy**

Your scientific proposal | Part I





Self-contained

Standalone document
Complementary to B2





Entertaining

Grab the panellists' attention

Leave them curious to find out more in B2

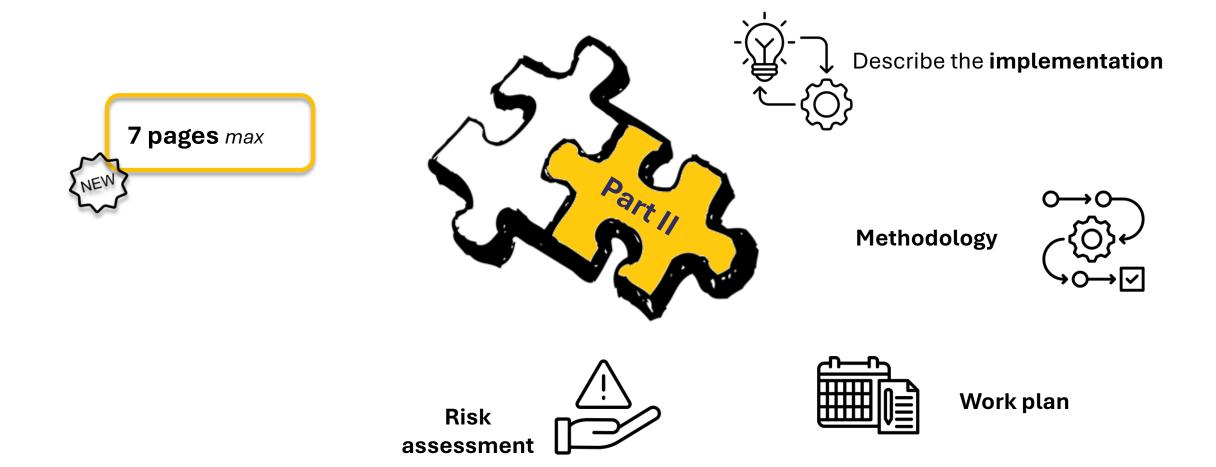
Convery your passion and motivation



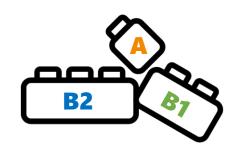
Persuasive to generalists

Do not use specialised jargon

Your scientific proposal | Part II



ERC Application – Overview





Follow the specific formatting requirements

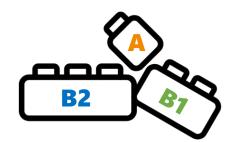


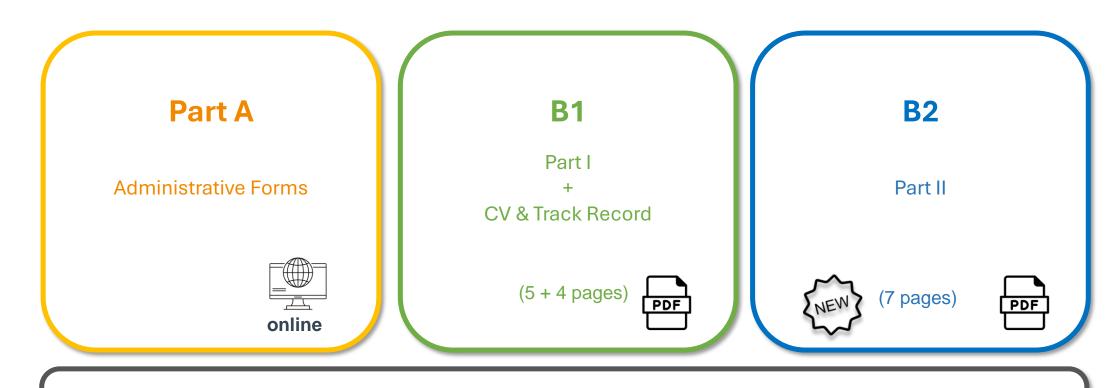
References do not count towards the page limit



Keep on hand
Information for
Applicants

ERC Application – Your building blocks

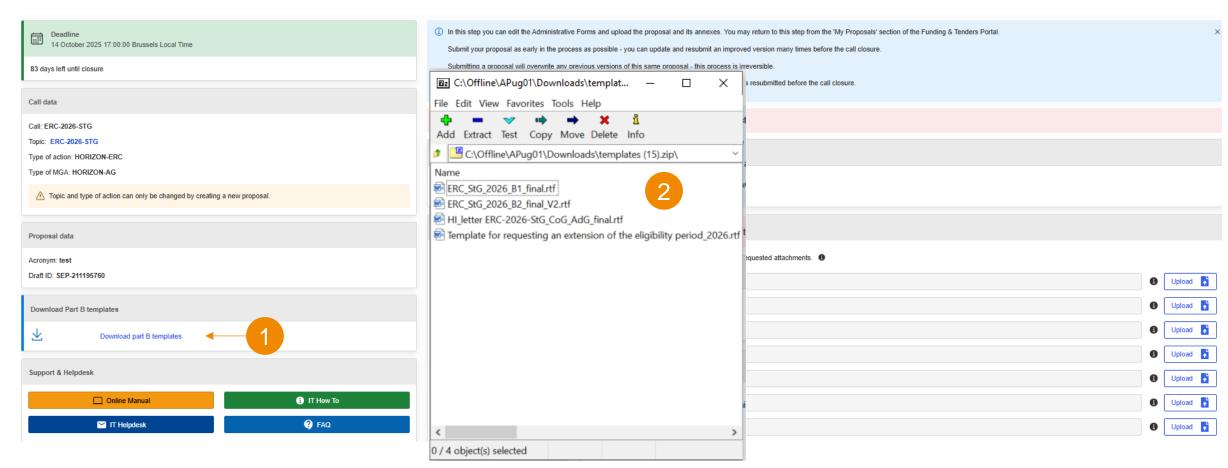




Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Part B2 – Your Templates





Part B1 – Overview





B1, your business card!



Cover Page

Info from Part A



Part I

5 pages



CV and Track Record

4 pages



Part B1 - CV and Track Record



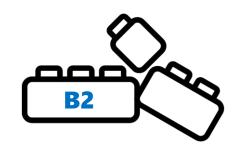
4 pages

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



B2 – Overview





Part II

7 pages



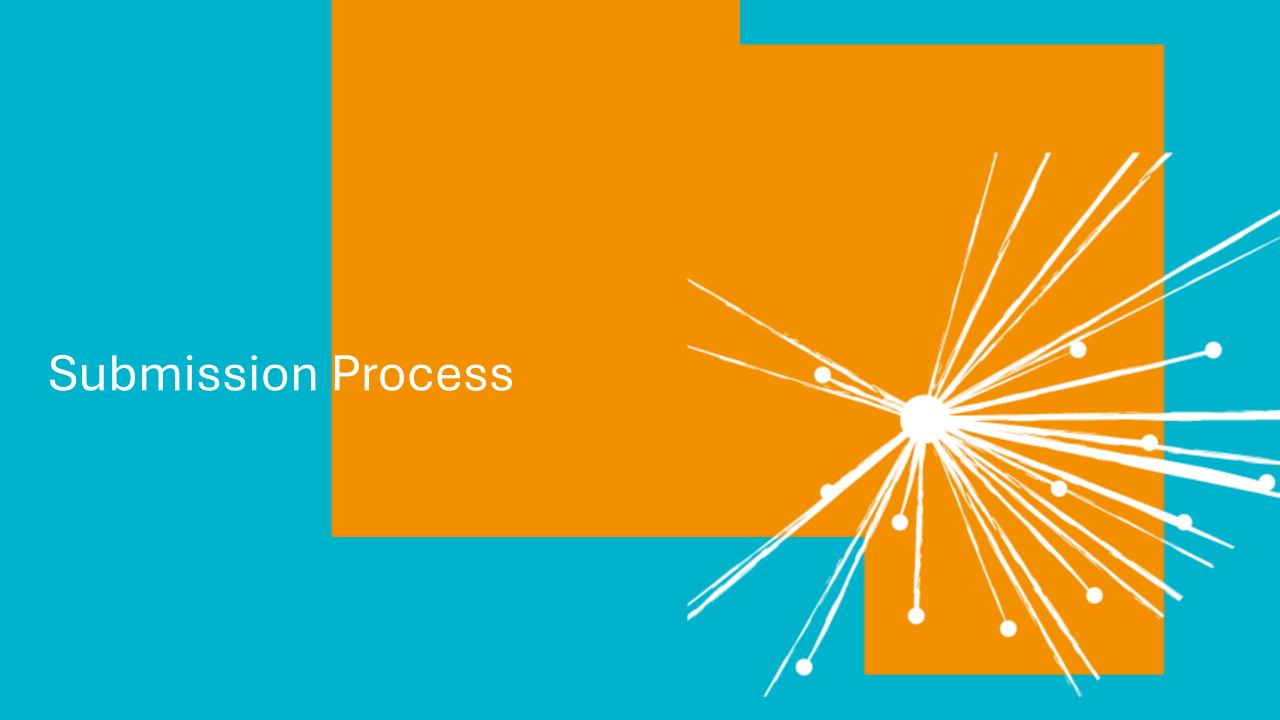
"Funding ID"

References and Funding ID not counting towards page limits



Information for Applicants to the Synergy Grant 2026 Call





ERC Evaluation Panels



Physical Sciences & Engineering



Life Sciences



- **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

- **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

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

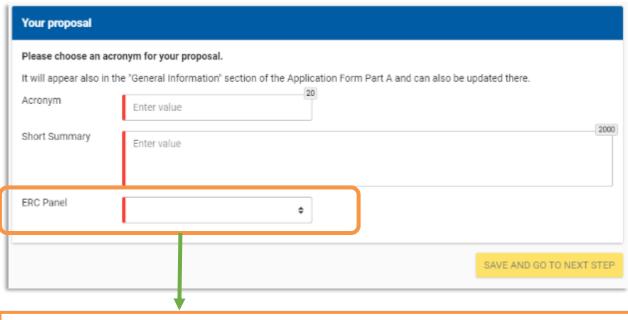
SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

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



Approaching Proposal Submission

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

Get in touch with your research support office

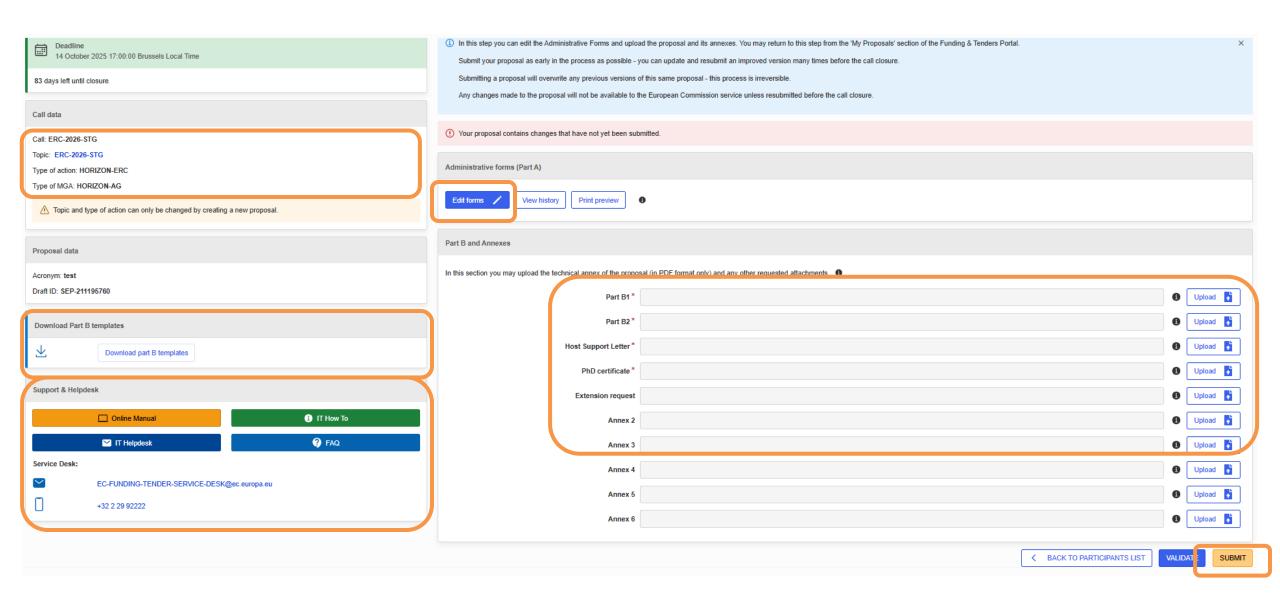
Add relevant contact people to the online application

Submit early and often – latest version will be accepted

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

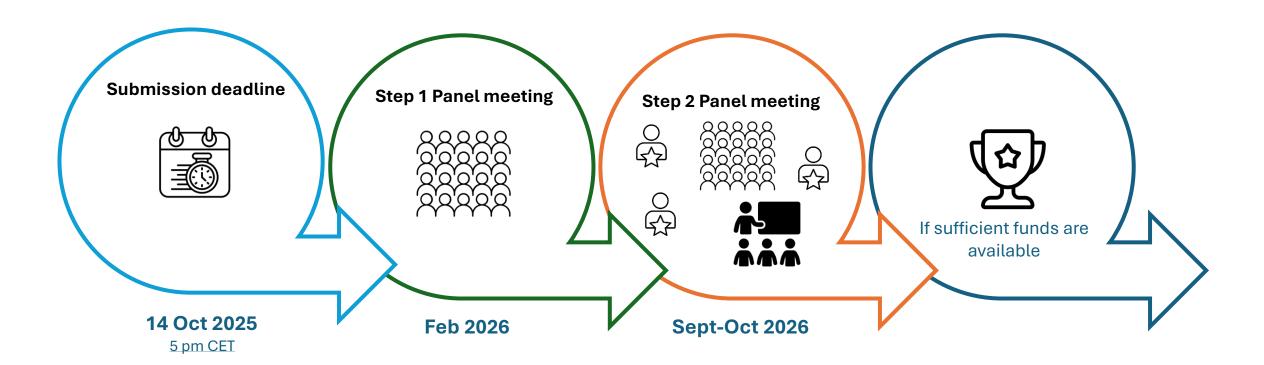


Main proposal page on EC Portal

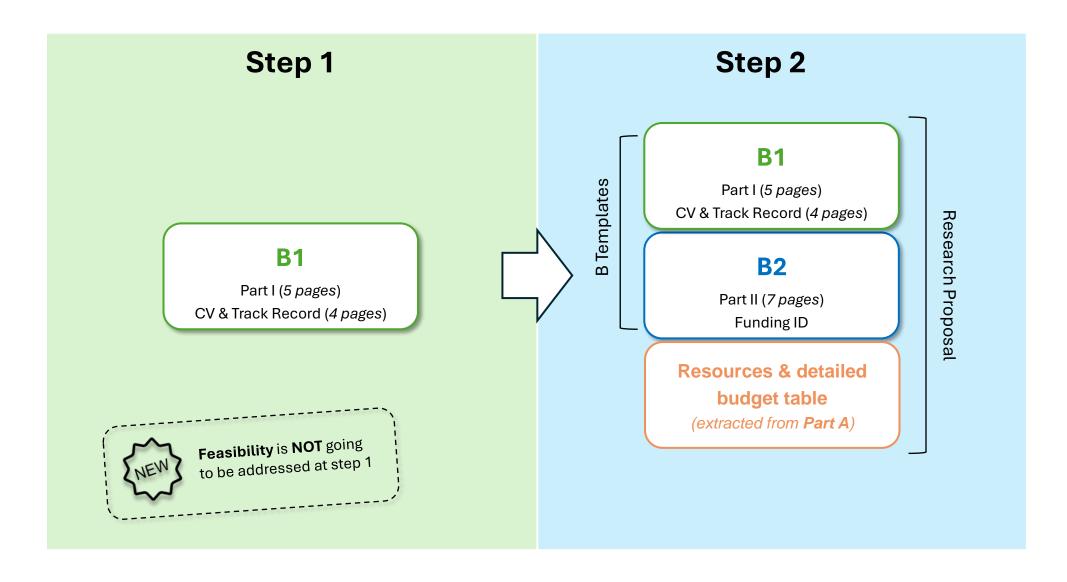




ERC Starting – Evaluation (ERC-2026-StG)



ERC Starting – Evaluation

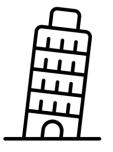


What is the evaluation based on?

Principal Investigator

intellectual capacity, creativity commitment





Research project

ground-breaking nature ambition





Evaluation of the **Research Project**

Ground-breaking nature & ambition



Step 1

To what extent...

- ...does the research address important scientific questions?
- ...are the project's objectives ambitious and will it advance the frontier of knowledge?

Step 2

To what extent...

- ...does the research address important scientific questions?
- ...are the project's objectives ambitious and will it advance the frontier of knowledge?
- ...are the research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?
- ...are the timescales and resources adequate and properly justified?

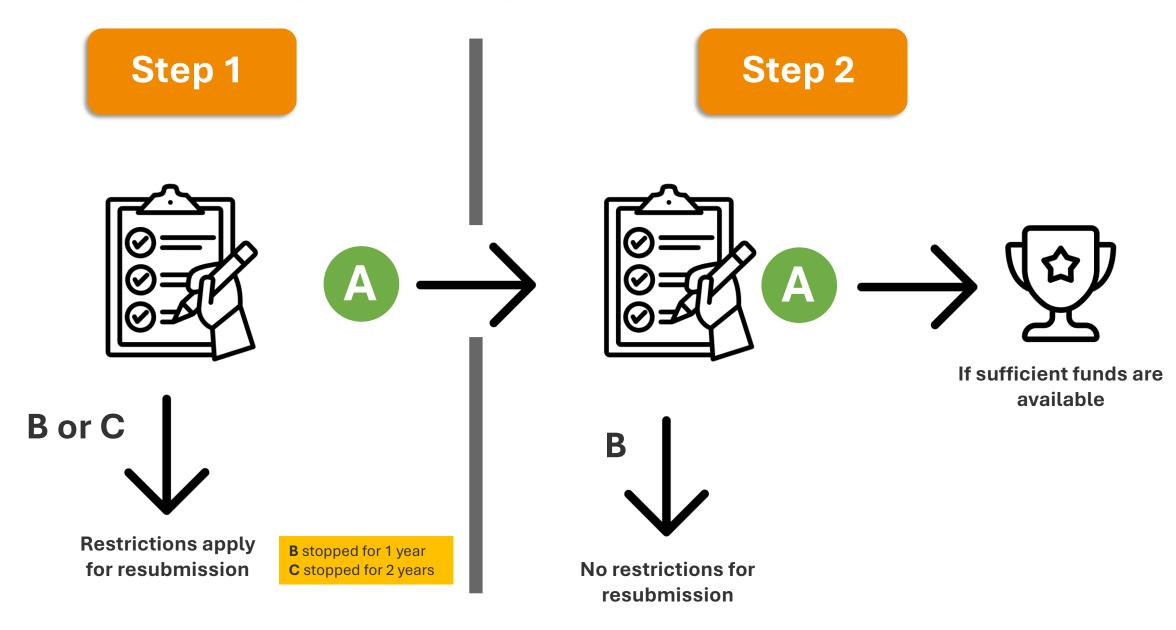
Evaluation of the **Principal Investigators**

Intellectual capacity and creativity

To what extent...

- ...the PIs demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- ...the PIs provide evidence of creative and original thinking?
- ...the PIs have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

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 (https://oapen.org) as repository for monographs and other books as well as book chapters.

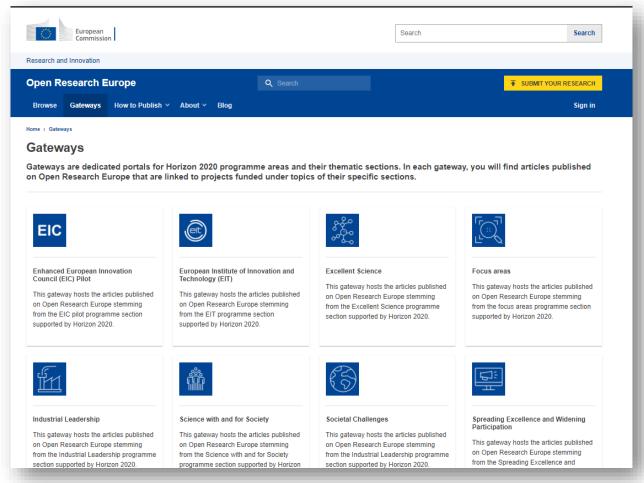
- - Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020
 - www.openaire.eu
 - https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/

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)



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 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

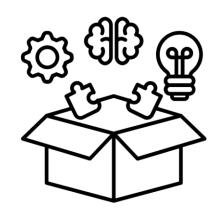


Useful resources

- ERC Website
- ERC Classes available on YouTube



- Webinar on ERC Work Programme 2026
- ERC 2026 Work Programme
- Information for Applicants 2026
- Call for proposal
- Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement





Stay tuned





erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk



Sign up for our free **ERC newsletters**



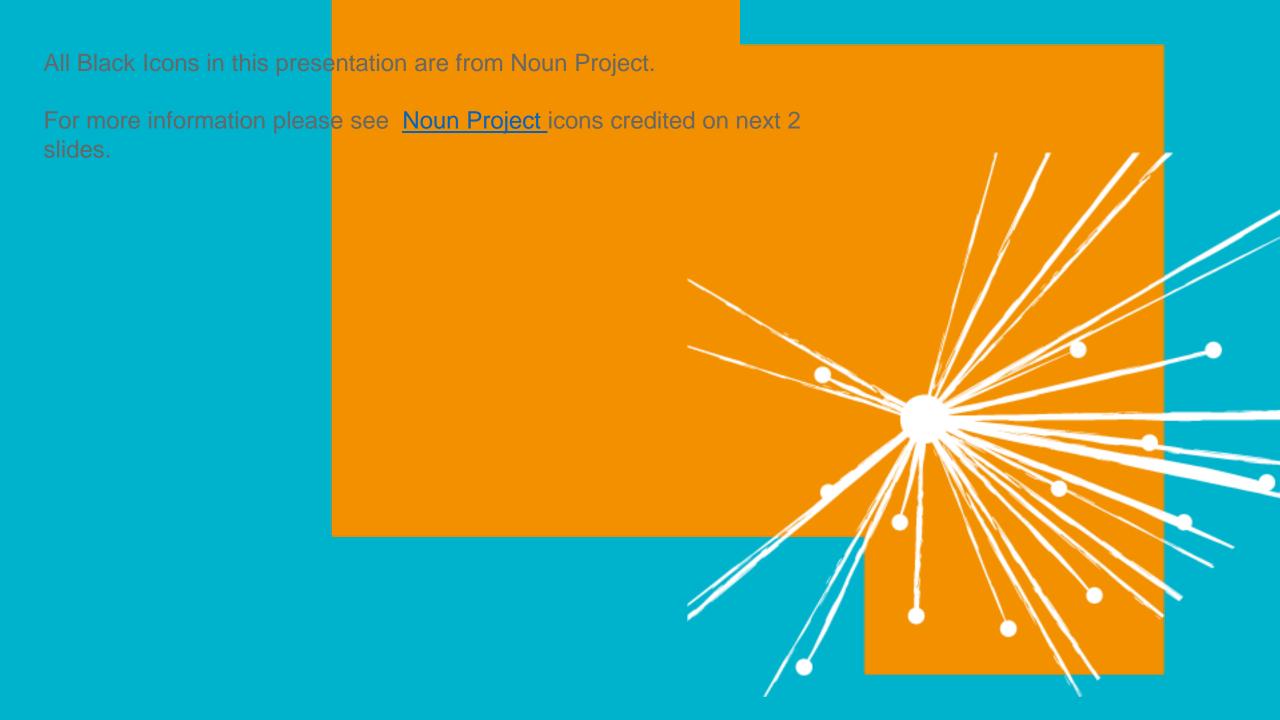
Please tick 'European Research Council (ERC)' within Pillar I when signing up

Best of luck with your frontier research!



Break

Q&A



Credits

Most icons were sourced from https://thenounproject.com/





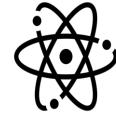


















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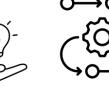






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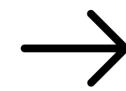












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