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UK Research and Innovation

ERC Advanced Grant Webinar 2026

(ERC-2026-AdG)

8th June 2026

UK Research and Innovation

erc

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

Advanced Grant Webinar

ERC 2026 | 8 June 2026, 10am–12pm

Dr Antonino Puglisi
UK Research and Innovation
UK National Contact Point

Prof Adam Carter
University of Glasgow
ERC Advanced Grantee

Agenda

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

Break

- Testimonial
- Q&A

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk

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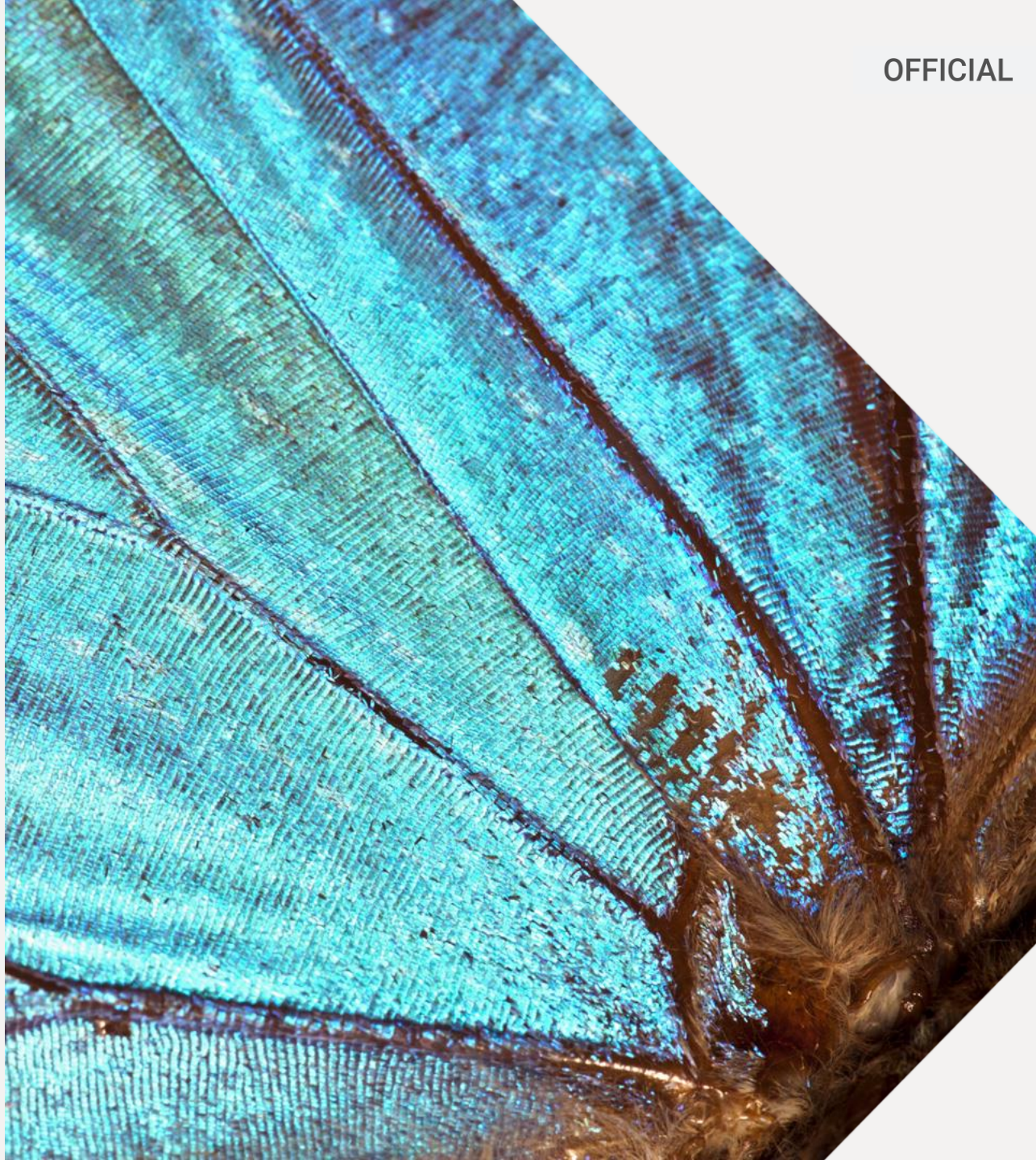

Housekeeping announcements

- 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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UKRI Horizon Europe Engagement Team

Our Mission
Maximise UK participation in Horizon Europe

UKRO Portal
- Dedicated news articles, events and factsheets to support participation
- Alerts to upcoming opportunities and call updates

UK National Contact Point for

- European Research Council
- Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions programmes
- Widening Participation
- COST
- New European Bauhaus

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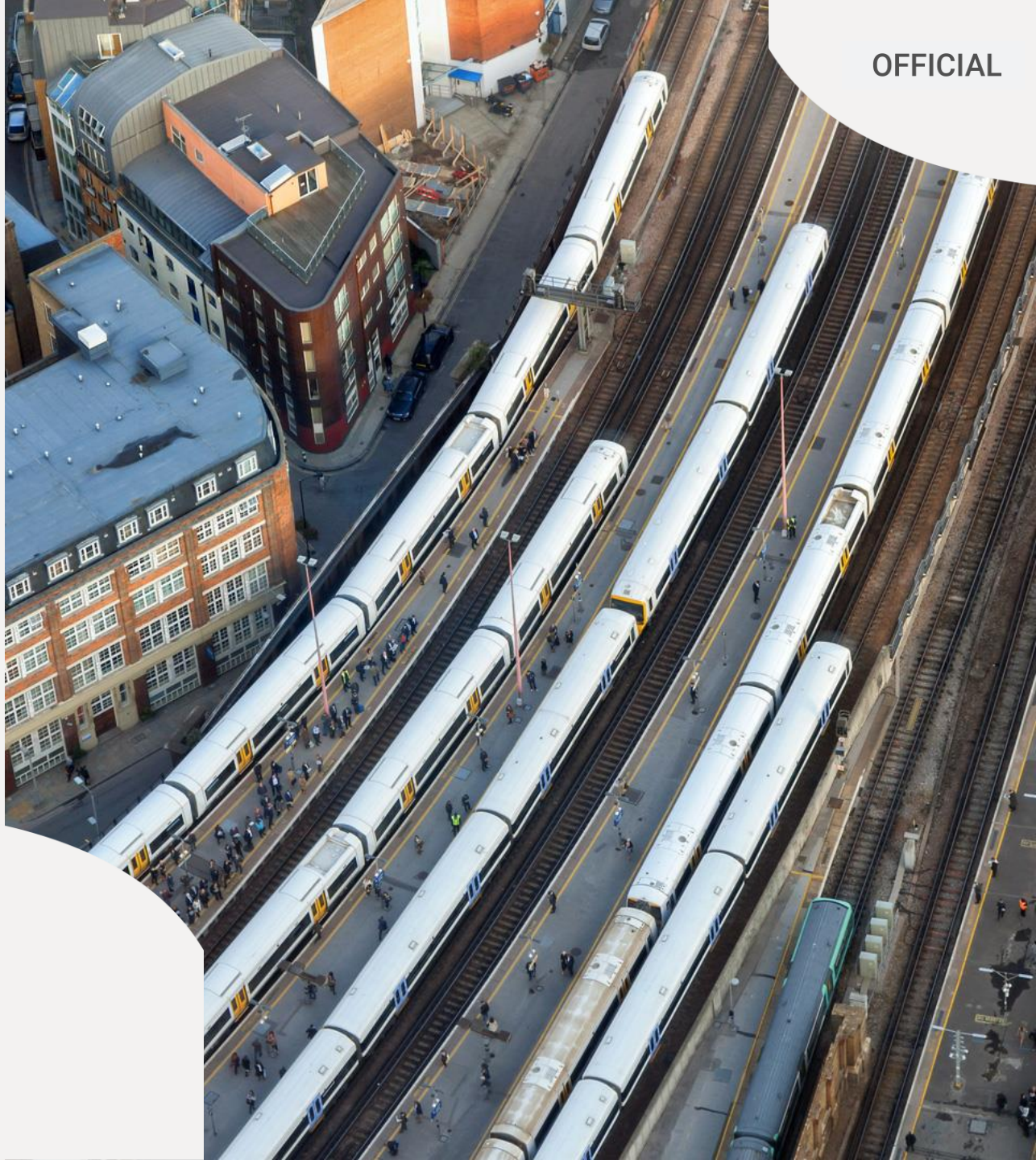
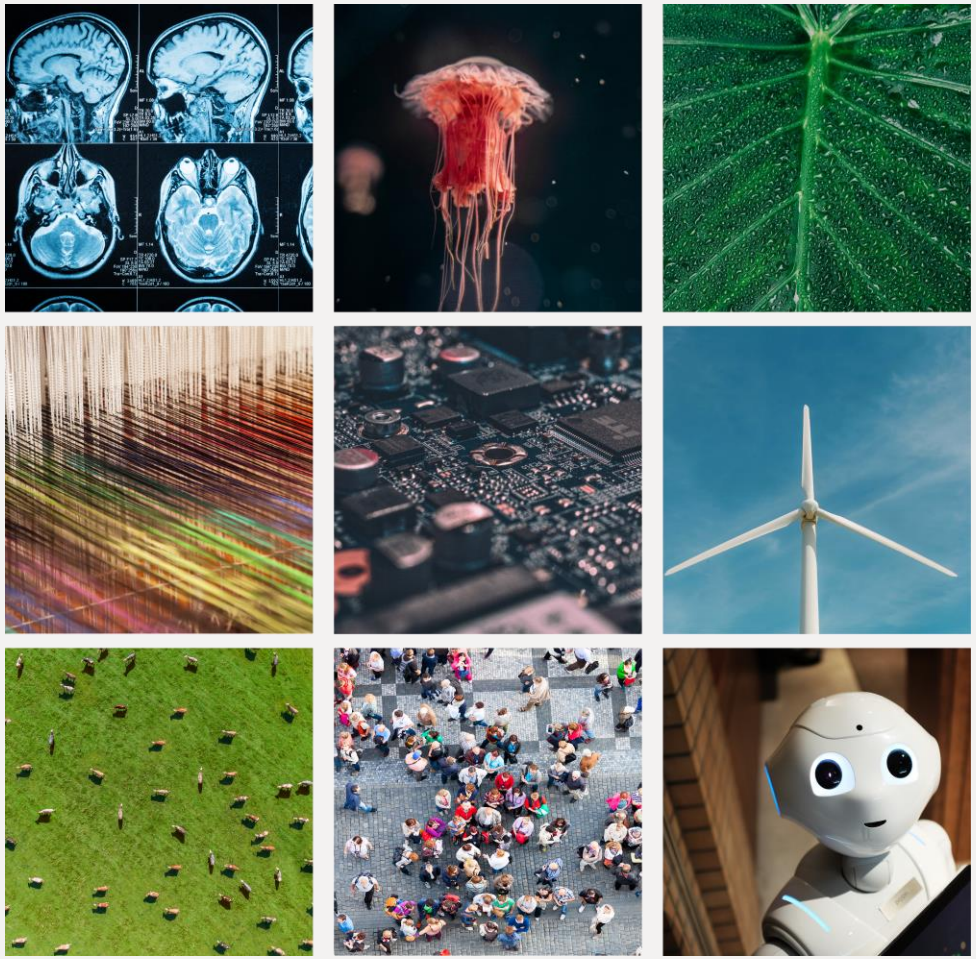


Striving for excellence with ERC funding

- Long-term and generous grants
- Any field of research
- No thematic restrictions
- No consortium required
- No co-financing needed
- Scientific excellence



ERC Frontier Grants Opportunities

Starting
1.5M€ | 5 yrs

Consolidator
2M€ | 5 yrs

Advanced
2.5M€ | 5 yrs

ERC Plus
7M€ | 7 yrs

NEW

Synergy
10M€ | 6 yrs

ERC Plus | Webinars

Streamed live on 28 Nov 2025

Streamed live on 2 June 2026

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erc

ERC 2027 | 2 July 2026, 10am–12pm

Starting Grant Webinar

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

Dr Antonino Puglisi
UK Research and Innovation
UK National Contact Point

Prof Mona Simion
University of Oxford
ERC Starting Grantee

ERC Advanced Grant

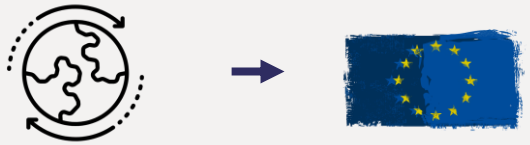
Supports outstanding and established research leaders to continue their work in expanding the frontiers of scientific knowledge

2.5 Million euros | Up to 5 years

Proven track record of significant research achievement

Additional funding

Up to 1M euros
For grantees already working in the EU's MS or AC



Up to 2M euros
For grantees moving to EU's MS or AC

NEW

Can be request for **any purpose** Including personnel costs

NEW

ERC-2026-AdG | Timeline

€747 M

294 grants

Call Opens

28 May 2026

Call deadline

27 Aug 2026
5 pm CET

Inform applicants after each step

Jan 2027
June 2027

Signing Grant Agreement

16 Nov 2027

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Single submission

Two-step evaluation

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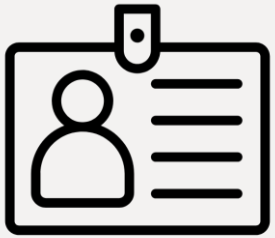
Eligibility

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

No PhD requirement for Advanced Grant

Principal Investigator Eligibility

Time Commitment in the ERC Advanced

- **30% minimum of working time on grant**
- **50% minimum time in EU's MS or AC**

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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Team Members

- Any age, nationality or country of residence
- Based anywhere in the world
- Cannot be co-investigators
- Assigned to specific project outputs/tasks
- At any level of seniority (including technicians and project managers)

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Proposal development

ERC Application | your building blocks

Part A

Administrative Forms

online

B1

Part I
+
CV & Track Record

5 + 4 pages

PDF

B2

Part II

NEW

7 pages

PDF

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

ERC Application | your building blocks

Part A

Administrative Forms

Lump sum

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

online

B1

PDF

B2

PDF

Annexes

ERC Application | your building blocks

Step 1

B1

Part I (5 pages)
+
CV & Track Record (4 pages)

PDF

Part A

online

B2

PDF

Annexes

ERC Application | your building blocks

Part A

online

B1

PDF

B2

Step 2

Part II

NEW

(7 pages)

PDF

Annexes

Part A

Completely online

HORIZON

Call: ERC-2026-ADG
(Call for Proposals for ERC Advanced Grant)

Topic: ERC-2026-ADG

Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC
(HORIZON ERC Grants)
Proposal number: SEP-211341417

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

Part A | Budget

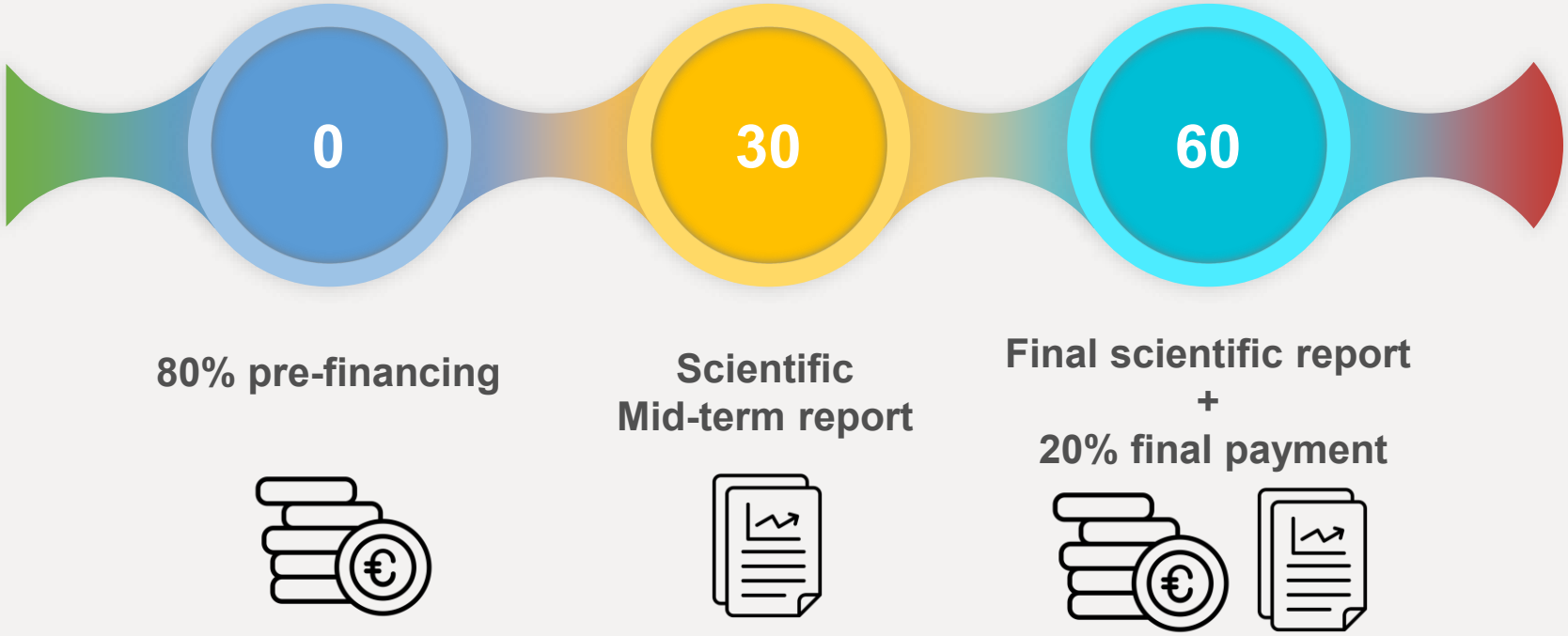
Lump Sum funding Principles

- 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

- **Ony one Work Package** for the entirety of the project



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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

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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 - specific to Lump Sum proposal

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

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	

Follow the guidance document

‘How to complete your ethics self-assessment’

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Your Scientific Proposal

Part A

online

Step 1

B1

Part I (5 pages)
+
CV & Track Record (4 pages)

PDF

Step 2

B2

Part II

NEW

(7 pages)

PDF

Annexes

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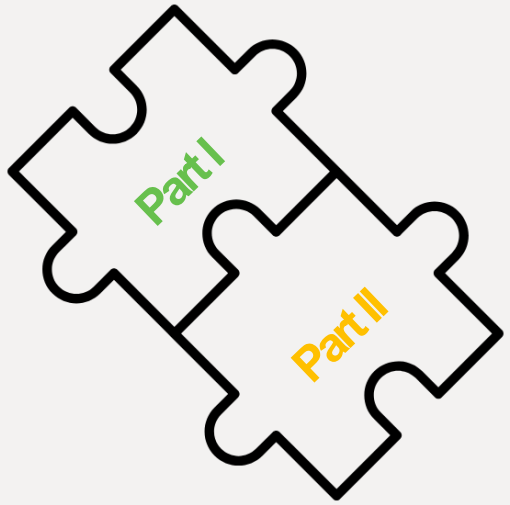
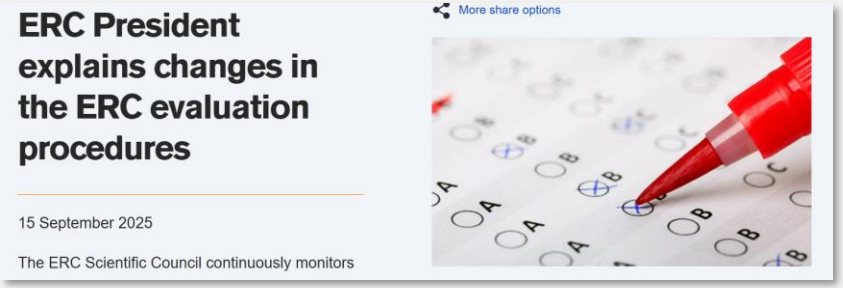
Part I *vs* Part II

Is this a great idea that would be worth pursuing?



Can that idea be pursued realistically, and if so, in the manner and with the approach that the applicant proposes?



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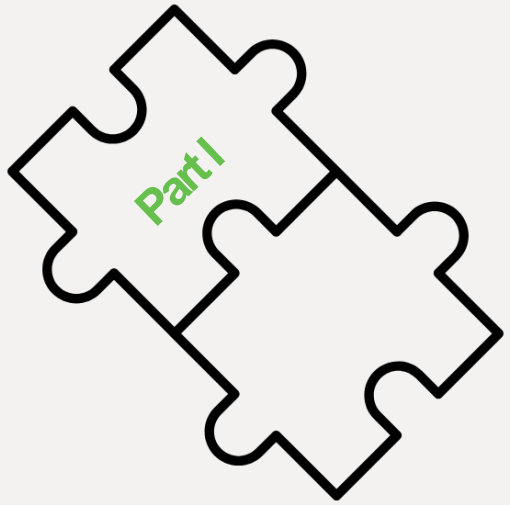
Part I

5 pages (max)

Present the **overall approach or research strategy** to reach the goals of the project

NEW

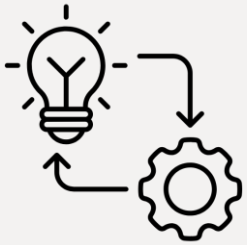


Explain the **scientific question & the objectives** of the project

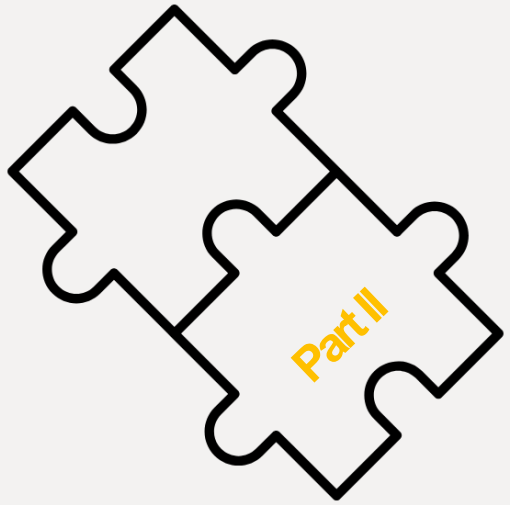
Lay out the **current state of knowledge**

Part II

7 pages (max)

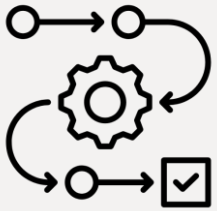


Describe the **implementation**



Work plan

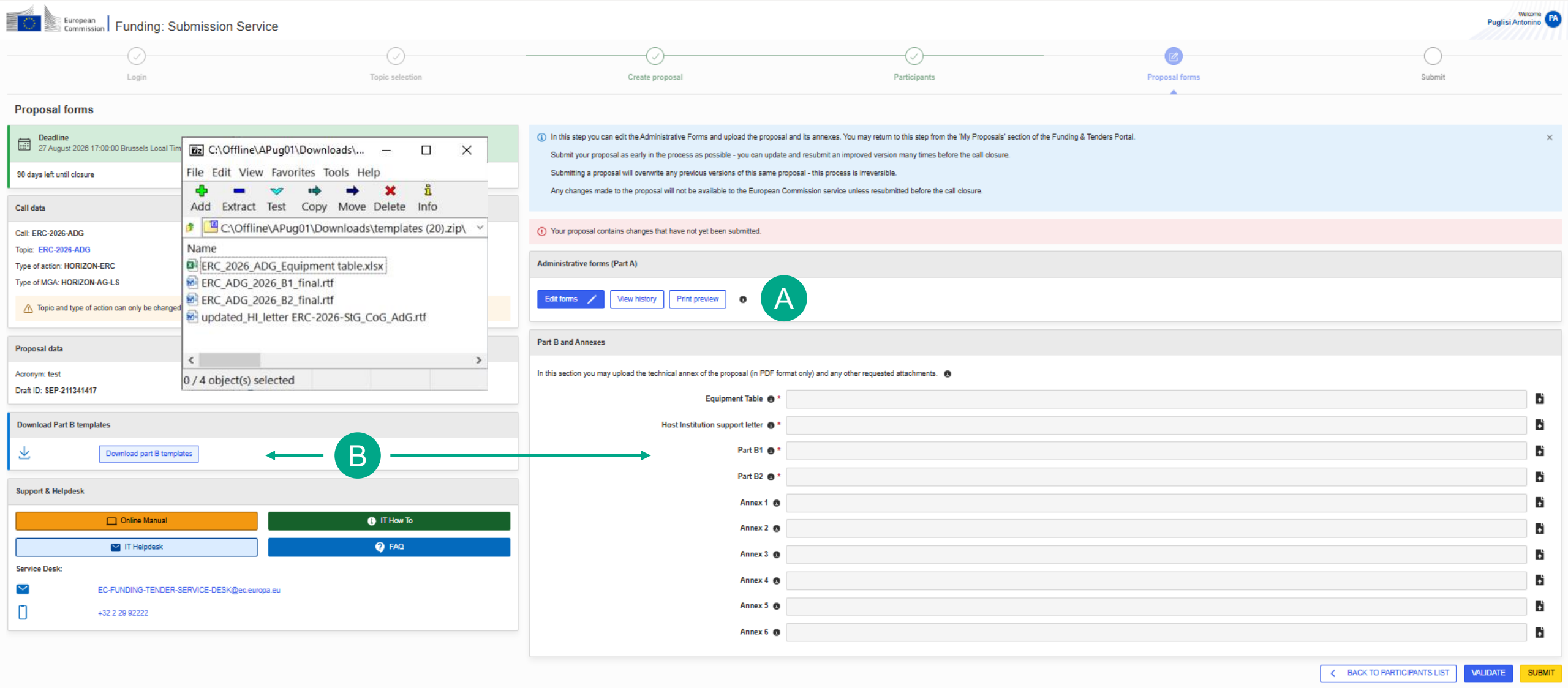
Methodology



Risk assessment

Part B1 and B2

Your Templates



Part B1 and B2

General considerations

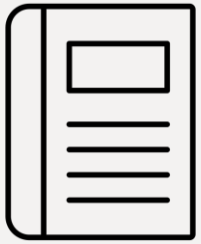
Follow the specific **formatting requirements**

References do not count towards the page limit

Keep on hand **Information for Applicants**

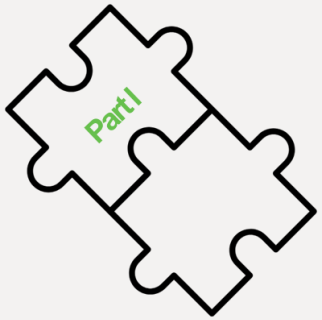
B1 | Overview

B1, your business card!



Cover Page

Info from Part A



Part I

5 pages

CV and Track Record

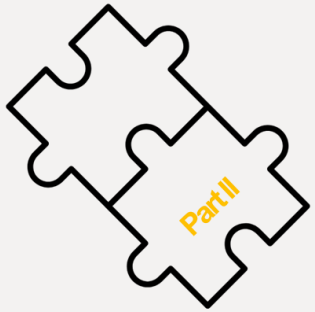
4 pages

B1 | CV and Track Record

4 pages (max) 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

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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

Approaching Proposal Submission

1. Register in the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal and create an ECAS account
2. Get in touch with your research support office
3. Add relevant contact people to the online application
4. Submit early and often – latest version will be accepted
5. Keep the Information for Applicants on hand

Main proposal page on EC Portal

European Commission | Funding: Submission Service

Welcome Puglisi Antonino PA

Login | Topic selection | Create proposal | Participants | Proposal forms | Submit

Proposal forms

Deadline
27 August 2026 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

90 days left until closure

Call data

Call: ERC-2026-ADG
Topic: ERC-2026-ADG
Type of action: HORIZON-ERC
Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG-LS

Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.

Proposal data

Acronym: test
Draft ID: SEP-211341417

Download Part B templates

Download part B templates

Support & Helpdesk

Online Manual | IT How To | IT Helpdesk | FAQ

Service Desk:
EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu

In this step you can edit the Administrative Forms and upload the proposal and its annexes. You may return to this step from the 'My Proposals' section of the Funding & Tenders Portal.

Submit your proposal as early in the process as possible - you can update and resubmit an improved version many times before the call closure.

Submitting a proposal will overwrite any previous versions of this same proposal - this process is irreversible.

Any changes made to the proposal will not be available to the European Commission service unless resubmitted before the call closure.

Your proposal contains changes that have not yet been submitted.

Administrative forms (Part A)

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.

Equipment Table *
Host Institution support letter *
Part B1 *
Part B2 *
Annex 1
Annex 2
Annex 3
Annex 4
Annex 5
Annex 6

BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST | VALIDATE | SUBMIT

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Evaluation Process

ERC-2026-AdG | Evaluation

Submission deadline

27 Aug ‘26
5 pm CET

Step 1 Panel meeting

Nov ‘26
applicants informed
in Jan ‘27

Step 2 Panel meeting

March ’27
applicants informed
in June ‘27

If sufficient funds are available

“generalist” panel | **External experts + interview**

NEW

feasibility is NOT going to be addressed at step 1

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Evaluation in two steps

Step 1

B1

Part I (*5 pages*)
CV & Track Record (*4 pages*)

NEW

Feasibility is **NOT** going to be addressed at step 1

Step 2

B Templates

B1

Part I (*5 pages*)
CV & Track Record (*4 pages*)

B2

Part II (*7 pages*)
Funding ID

Resources & detailed budget table

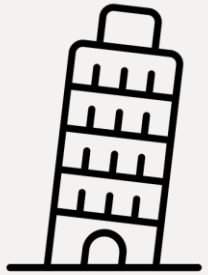
(extracted from **Part A**)

Research Proposal

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?

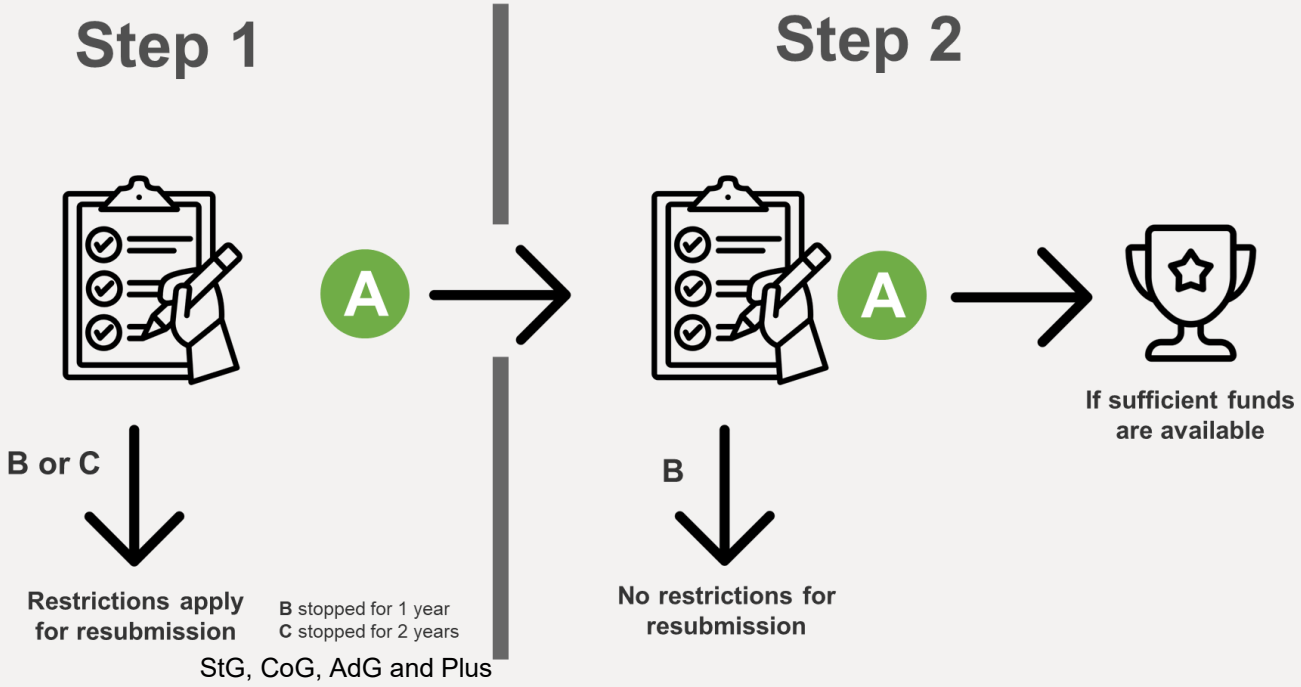
Evaluation of the Principal Investigators

Intellectual capacity and creativity

To what extent...

- …the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- …the PI provides evidence of creative and original thinking?
- …the PI has the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

Evaluation outcomes and resubmission restrictions



NEW

AdG 2026 applicants may NOT apply for a SyG 2027 irrespective of their score in previous evaluations

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Other aspects to consider

Use of AI

On Proposal Writing

- **Total Authorship Responsibility**: Applicants are permitted to use AI for brainstorming, literature searches, or language polishing, but they remain solely and fully responsible for the entire content of the proposal. This includes ensuring the accuracy of all information, avoiding AI-generated hallucinations, and strictly adhering to scientific integrity and anti-plagiarism standards

On Proposal Evaluation

- The ERC strictly prohibits the use of AI for the evaluation of proposals to protect intellectual property, that is, external AI tools does not lead to the unauthorized disclosure of sensitive research data or personal information to third-party platforms

Current position of the ERC Scientific Council on AI

ERC clarifies limits on AI use in grant evaluation

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.

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

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.

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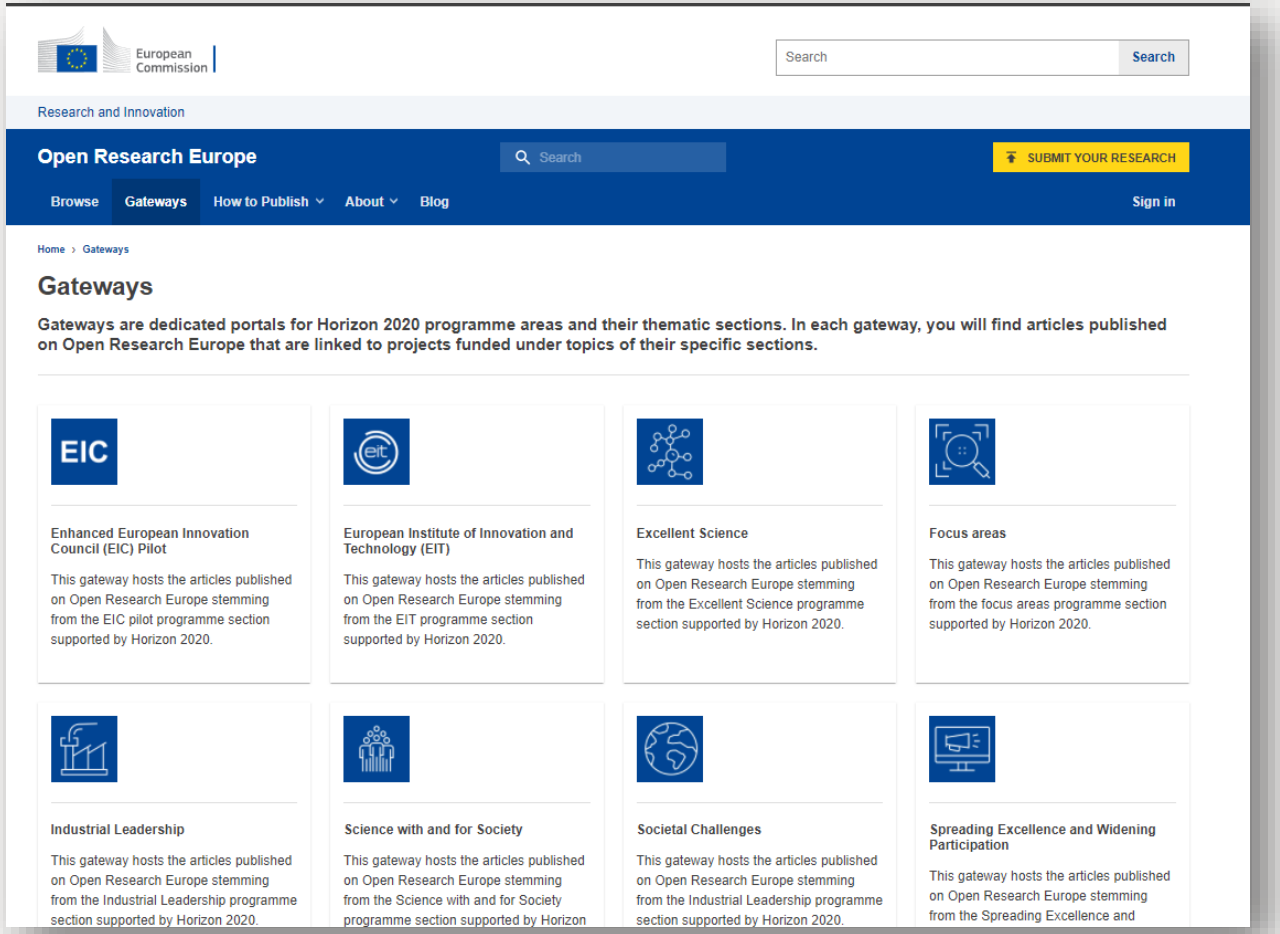
You can find the provisions related to Open Science on pages 107 – 109 of the Model Grant Agreement

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 resources

- ERC Website
- ERC Classes available on YouTube
- ERC 2026 Work Programme
- Information for Applicants 2026
- Call for proposal
- Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement

NEW

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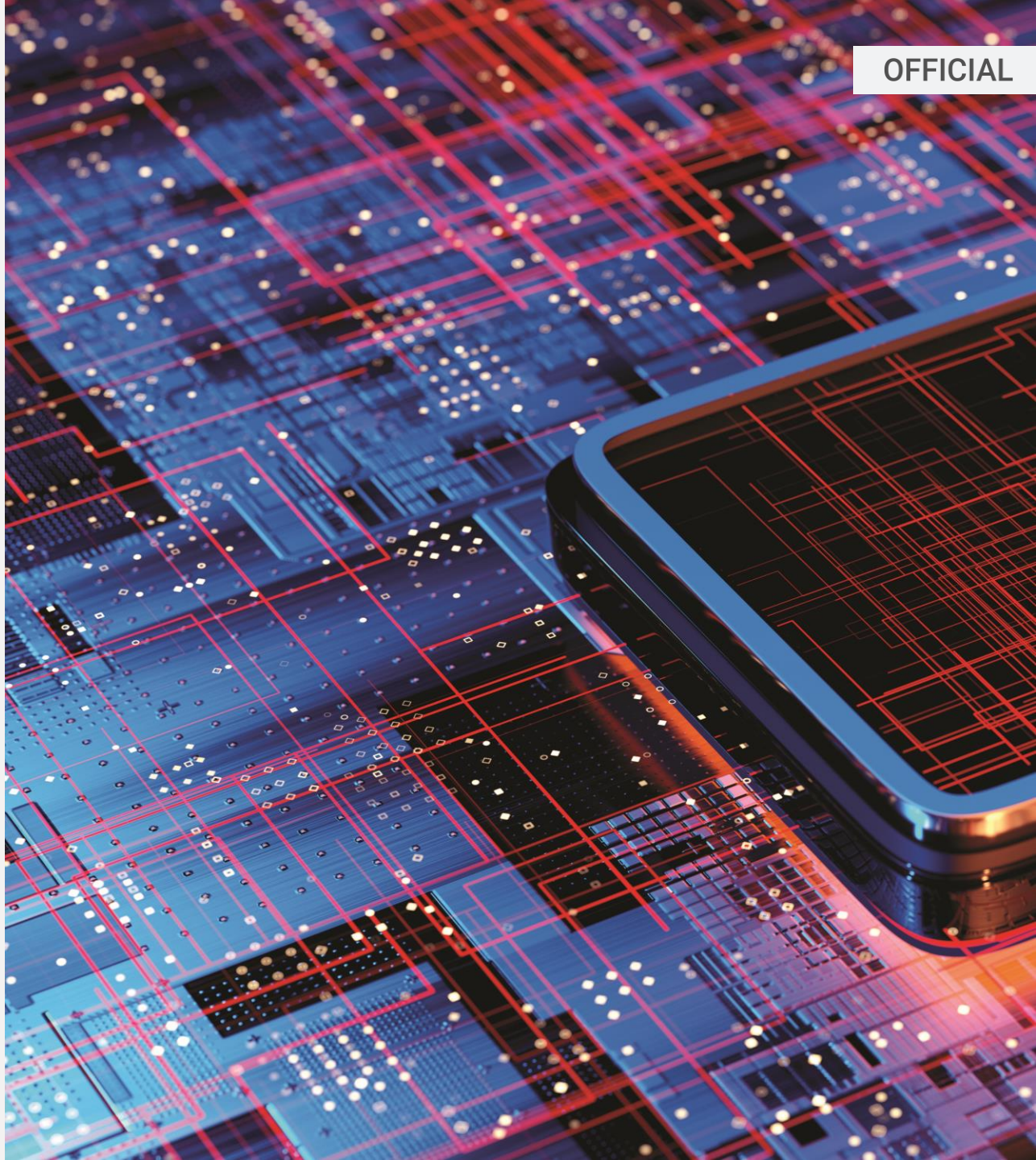

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within Pillar I when signing up

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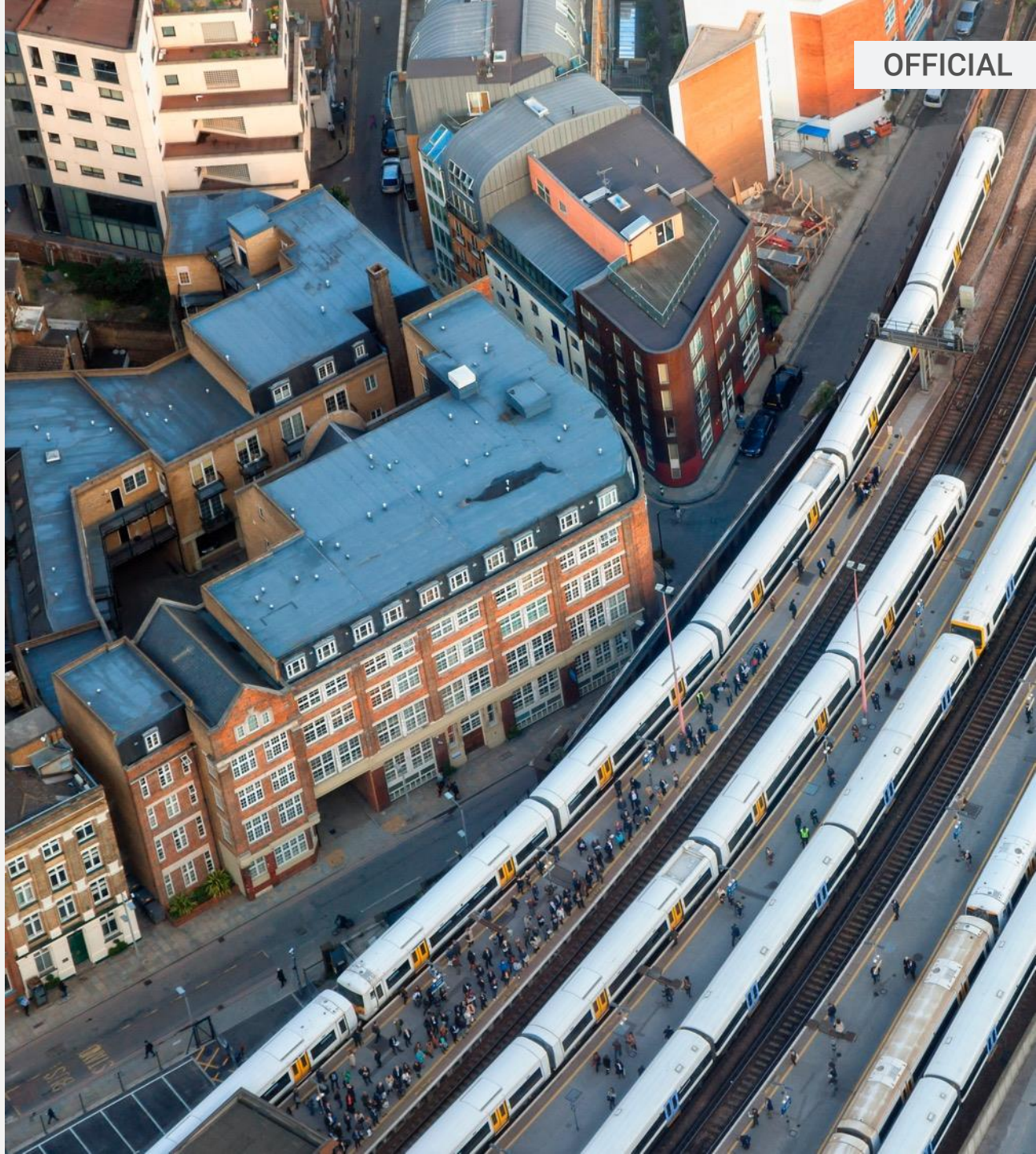

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Break

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Prof Adam Carter

University of Glasgow

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Questions?

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Thank you

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UKRIforResearchers

⚠ *We would like to draw your attention to a warning message that is not correctly displayed in the submission system for **Principal Investigators relocating to the EU or an Associated Country** from elsewhere to take up their ERC grant:*

- ***Form A - 3 - Budget table**: For Principal Investigators relocating to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere to take up their ERC grant, please disregard the warning message of "Total requested grant can not be higher than 3.500.000 Euro" as your total requested budget can be higher, i.e. up to 4.500.000 Euro.*

Thank you for carefully checking the maximum EU contribution that you can request depending on your situation, by consulting the ERC Work Programme 2026 and the Information for Applicants to the Advanced Grant 2026 call.

We would also like to draw your attention to the following items that are currently not correctly displayed in the submission system:

- ***Form A - 3 - Budget table**: Please note that in case of multiple beneficiaries, the budget table displays the sum of "Average Monthly Cost" over the different beneficiaries in the Total line, which is an irrelevant number.*
- ***Form A - 3 – Section C. Resources - Request for additional funding**: Please note that contrary to what the guiding text indicates, for the ERC Advanced Grant 2026 call additional funding requests are not limited to the four cost categories indicated. Additional funding is intended to cover further eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work.*

Thank you for regularly checking the call page for any update.