



UK Research
and Innovation

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ERC Starting Grant Webinar

(ERC-2027-StG)

2nd July 2026



UK Research
and Innovation



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

Starting Grant Webinar

ERC 2026 | 2 July 2026, 10am–12pm



Dr Antonino Puglisi
UK Research and Innovation
UK National Contact Point



Prof Mona Simion
University of Oxford
ERC Starting Grantee



Agenda

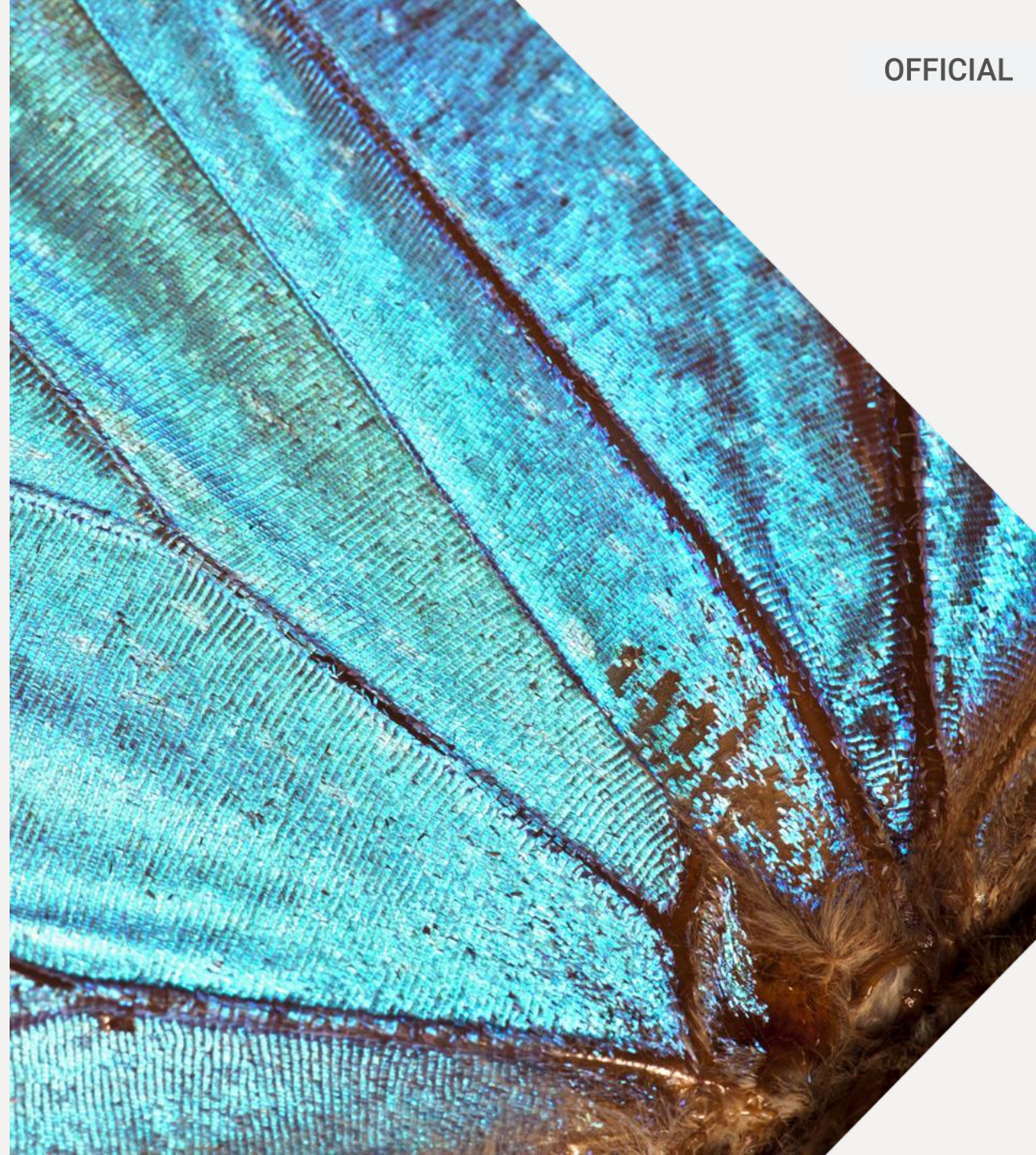
- Overview of the ERC
- Eligibility criteria
- Proposal development
- Submission Process
- Evaluation
- Break
- Testimonial
- Q&A



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erc-uk@ukri.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

UKRI Horizon Europe

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

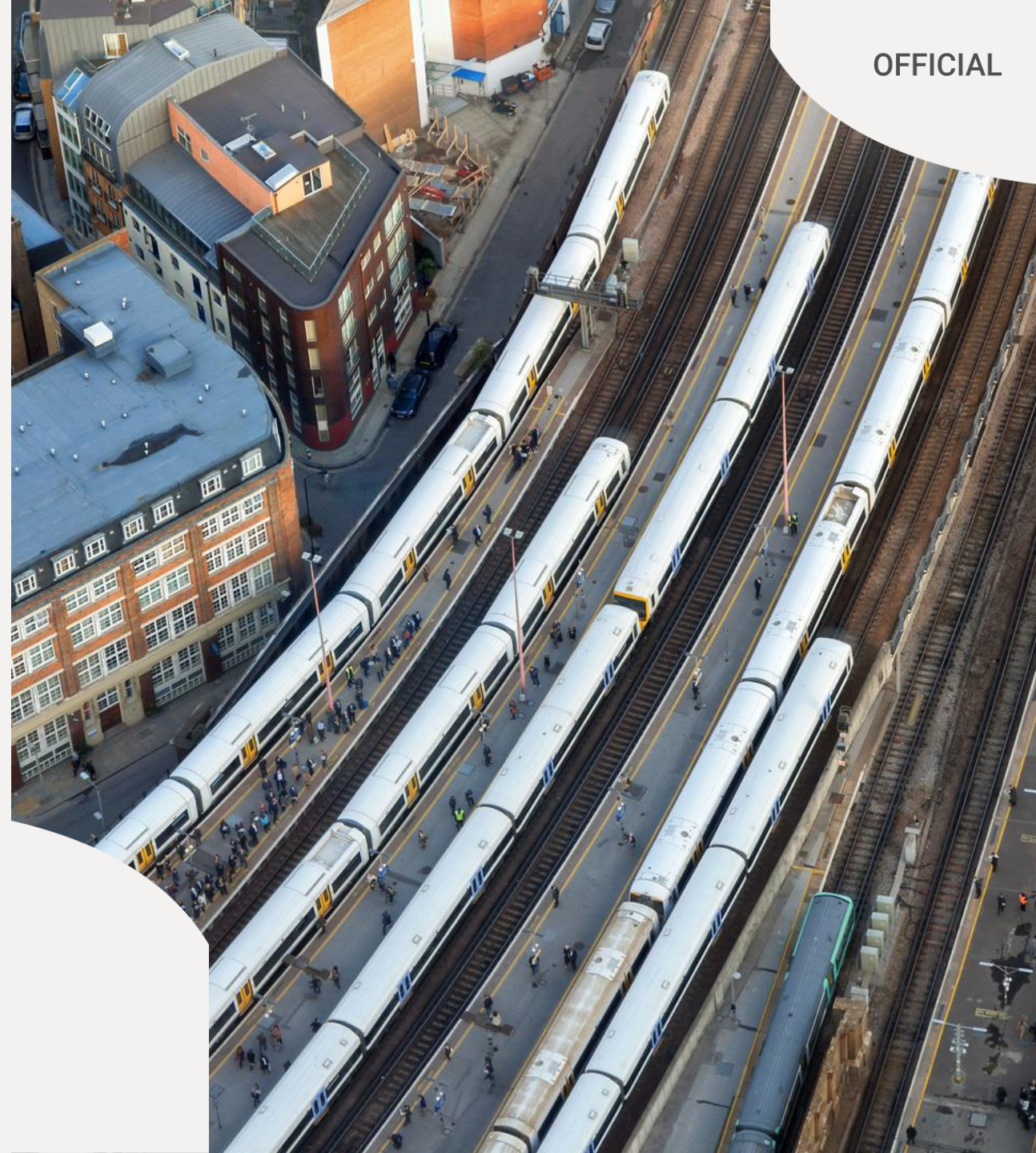
UK National Contact Point for

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Widening Participation
- COST
- NEB



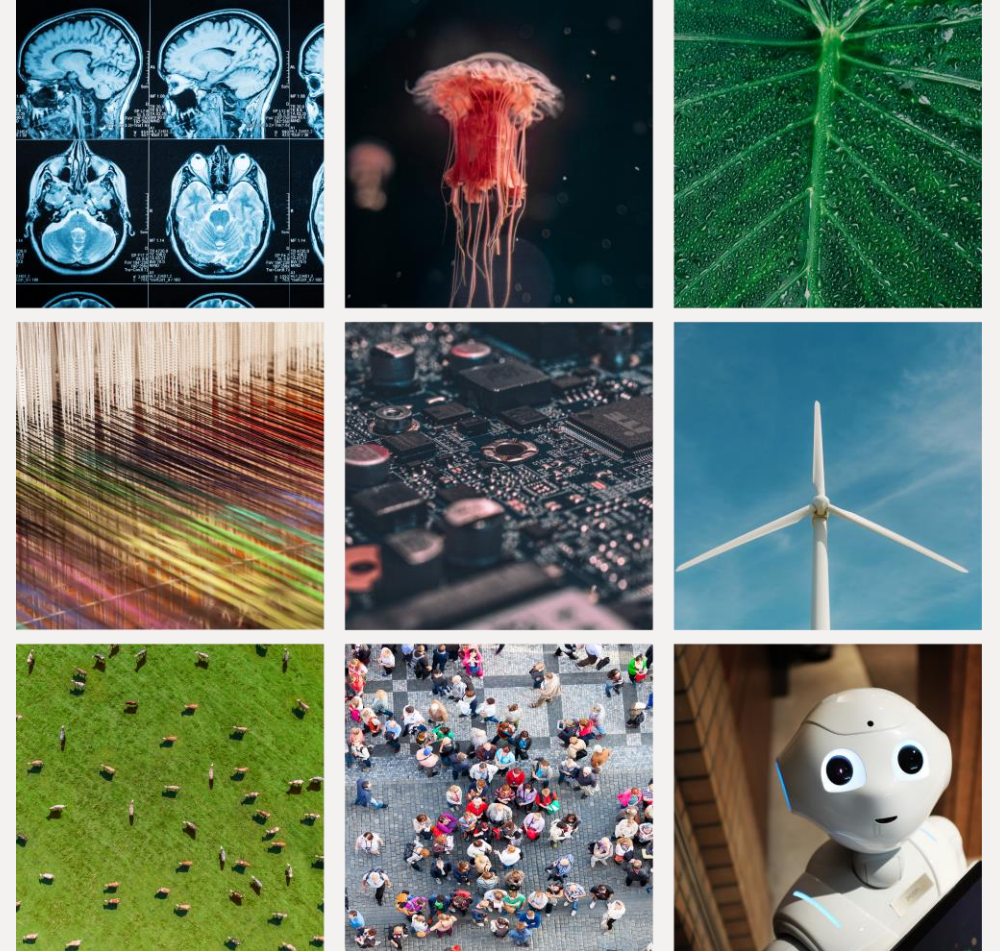
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Striving for excellence with ERC funding

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



ERC Facts and Figures



16 B euro



>18,000
Projects



>270,000
publications



>2,500
Patents



95
PI nationalities



120,000
Researchers



UK Research
and Innovation



ERC Frontier Grants Opportunities

Starting

1.5M€ | 5 yrs




Consolidator

2M€ | 5 yrs




Advanced

2.5M€ | 5 yrs





ERC Plus

7M€ | 7 yrs




Synergy

10M€ | 6 yrs



ERC Starting Grant

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



1.5 Million euros | Up to 5 years



Researchers are now eligible to apply for a Starting Grant immediately after successfully defending their PhD, and at any time within the following ten-year period



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

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



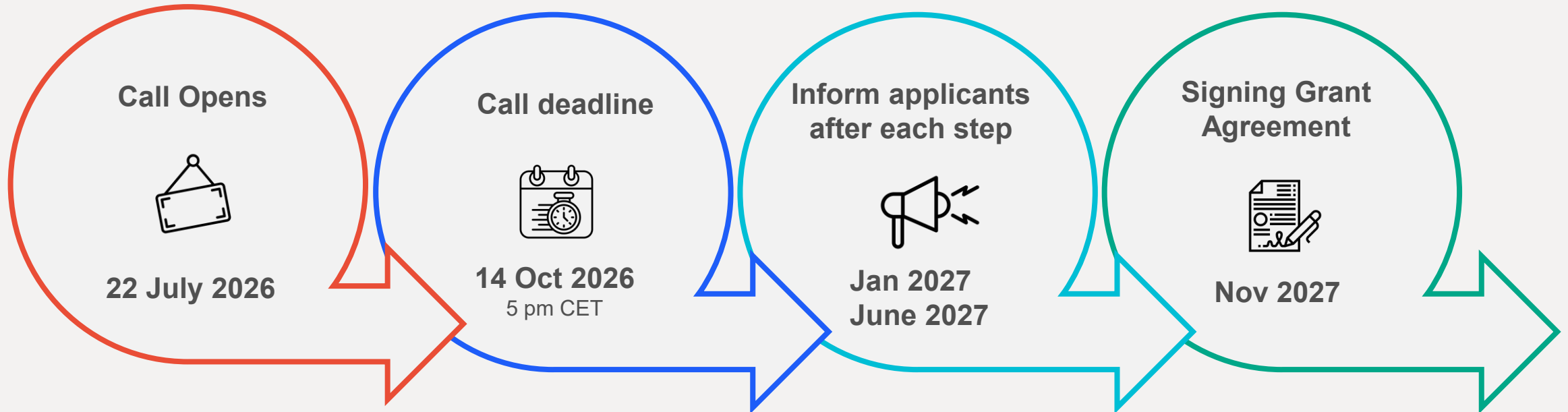
ERC-2027-StG | Timeline^(*)



€594 M



373 grants

UK Research
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Single submission

Two-step evaluation



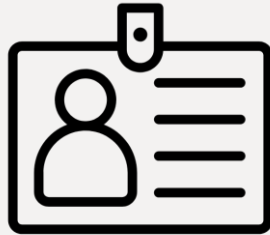


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Eligibility

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

Principal Investigator Eligibility

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
up to 10 years ago**



successfully defended their PhD
not earlier than 1st Jan 2017



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**



No more than 1 Starting Grant per researcher in a lifetime

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



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)



B2

Part II



(7 pages)



Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

ERC Application | your building blocks

Part A

Administrative Forms

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget
- Ethics Check



online

Actual
costs

B1



B2



Annexes

Part A | Administrative forms

HORIZON

Call: ERC-2026-STG

(Call for Proposals for ERC Starting Grant)

Topic: ERC-2026-STG

Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC
(HORIZON ERC Grants)

Proposal number: SEP-211195760

Proposal acronym: test

Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based

Table of contents

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	Show
2	Participants	Show
3	Budget	Show
4	Ethics and security	Show
5	Other questions	Show

1. General Information

2. Participants

3. Budget

4. Ethics and security

5. Other questions

Part A | General Information

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

1. General Information

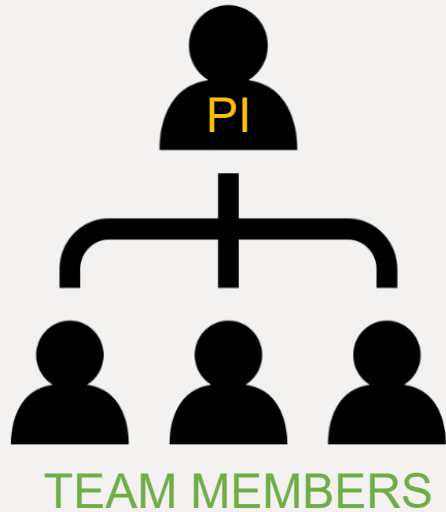
2. Participants

3. Budget

4. Ethics and security

5. Other questions

Part A | Participants



All encoded by their HI/beneficiary!

1. General Information

2. Participants

3. Budget

4. Ethics and security

5. Other questions

Part A | Budget

3 - Budget

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

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

Part A | Budget

3 - Budget

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

Section C. Resources

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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:

By cost categories

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

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-EU 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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Part A | Other questions

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

1. General Information

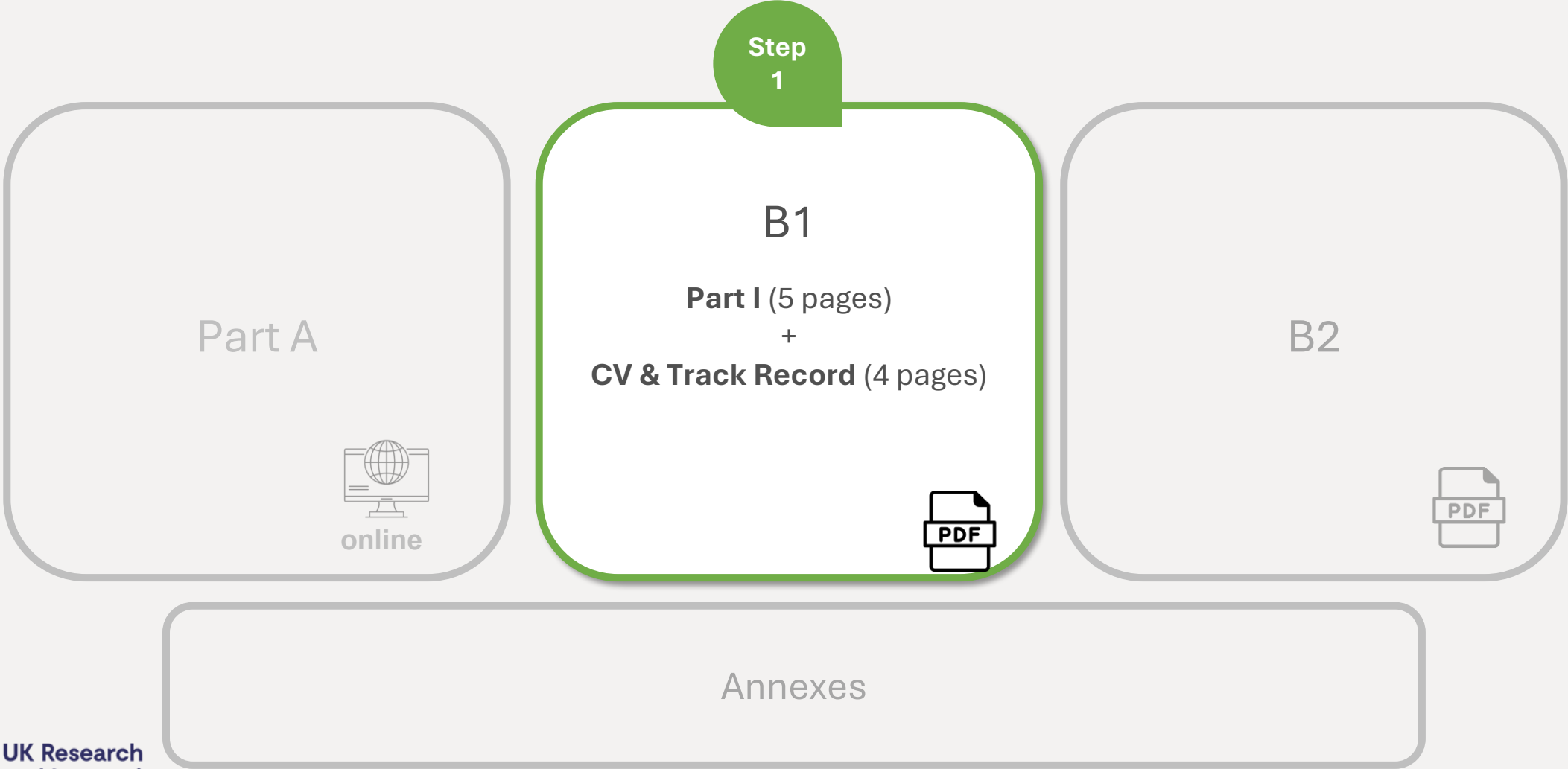
2. Participants

3. Budget

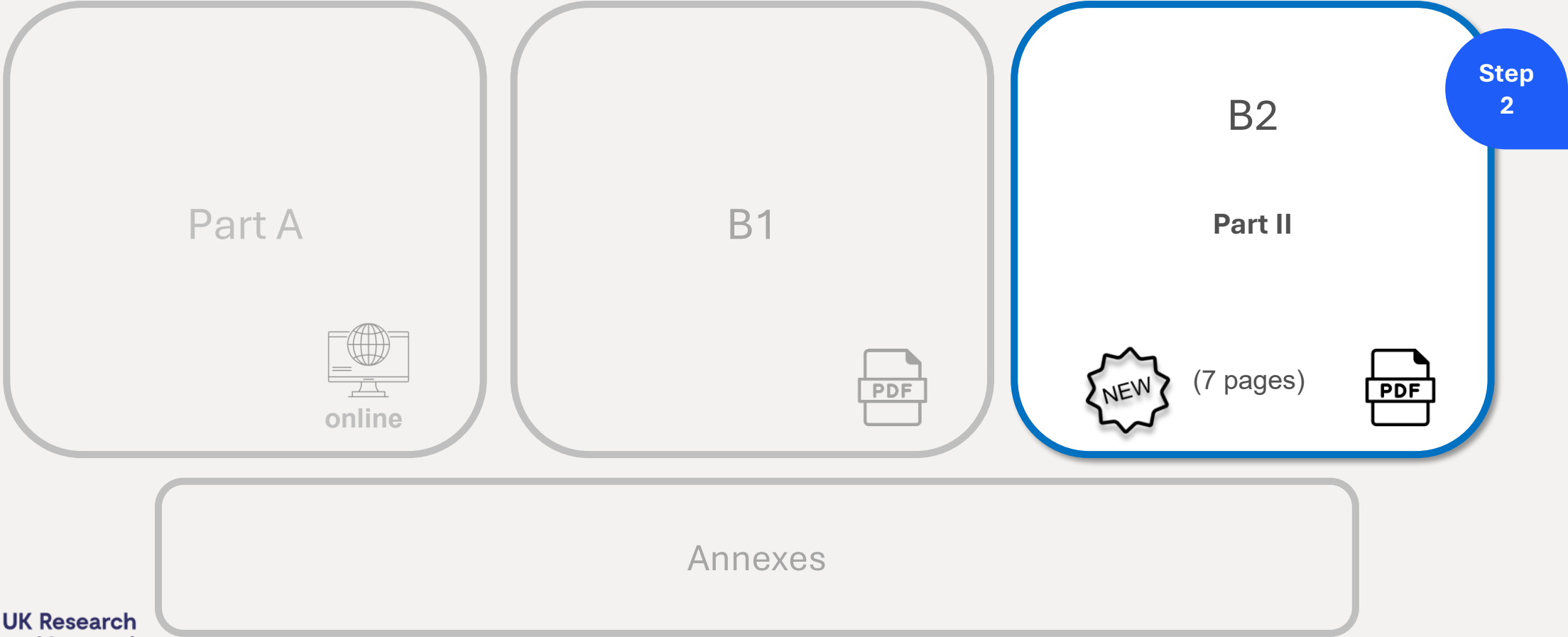
4. Ethics and security

5. Other questions

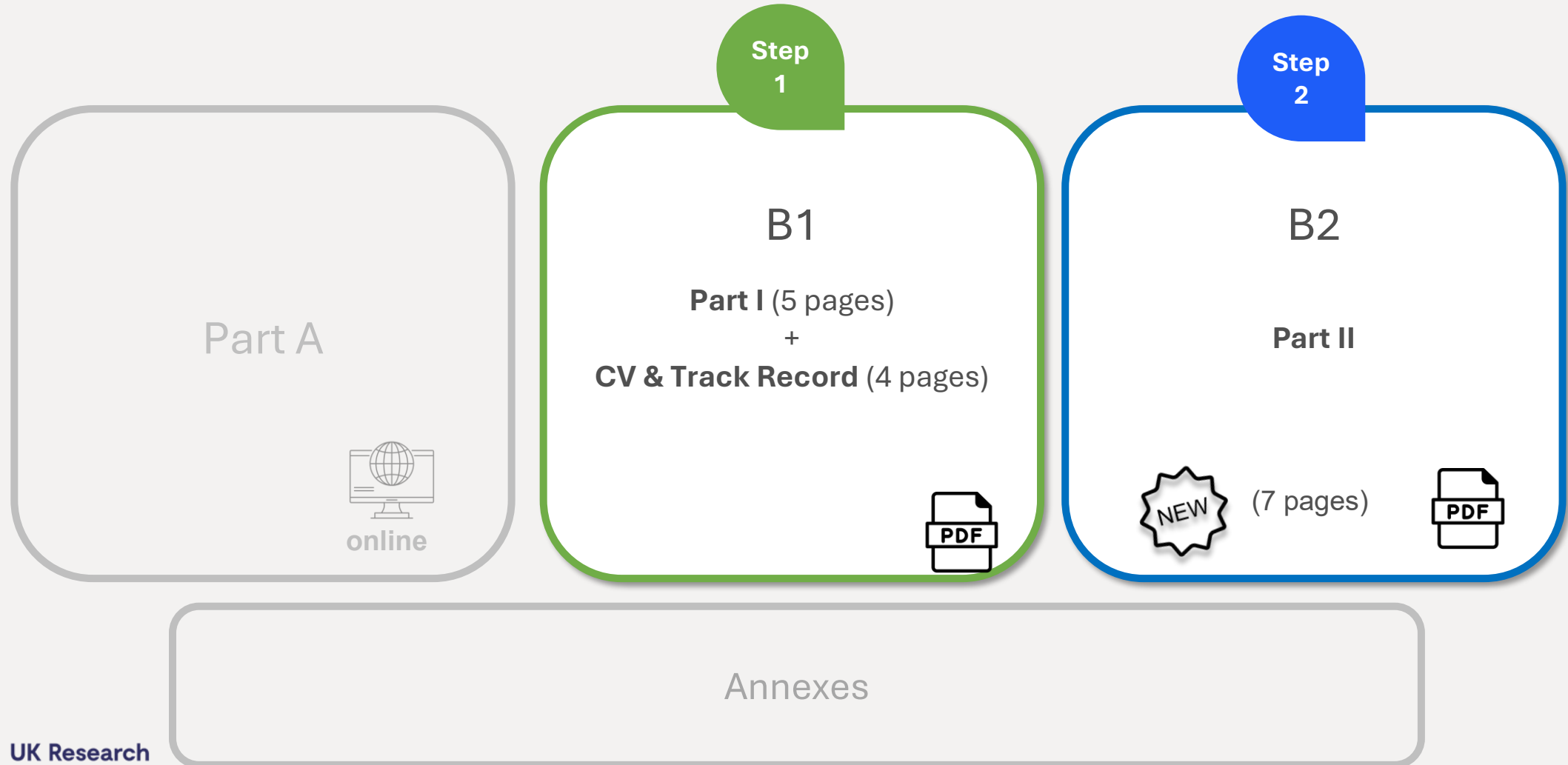
ERC Application | your building blocks



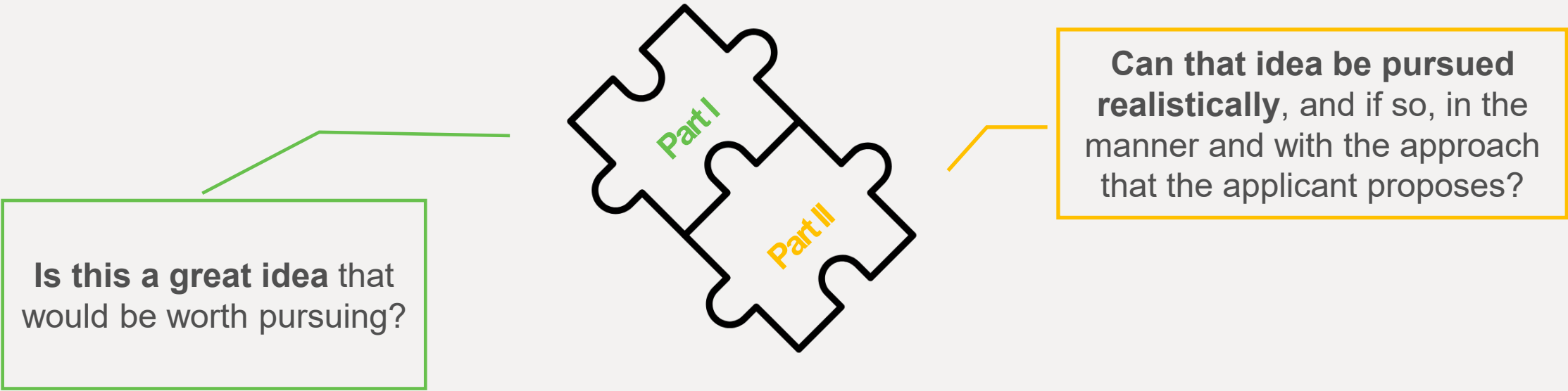
ERC Application | your building blocks



Your Scientific Proposal



Part I vs Part II



ERC President explains changes in the ERC evaluation procedures

15 September 2025

The ERC Scientific Council continuously monitors

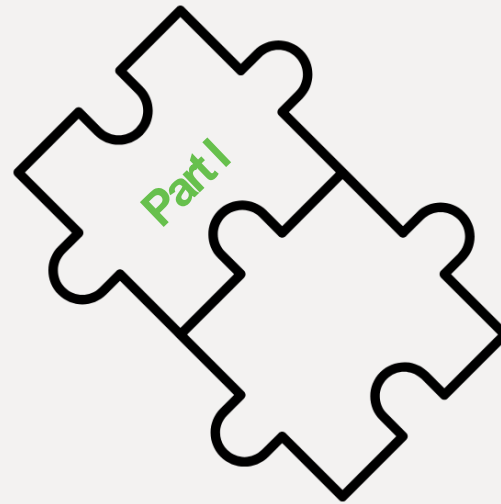
More share options

Part I

5 pages (max)



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



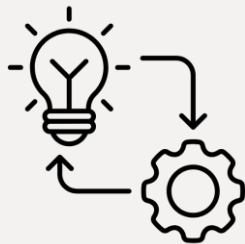
Present the **overall approach or research strategy** to reach the goals of the project



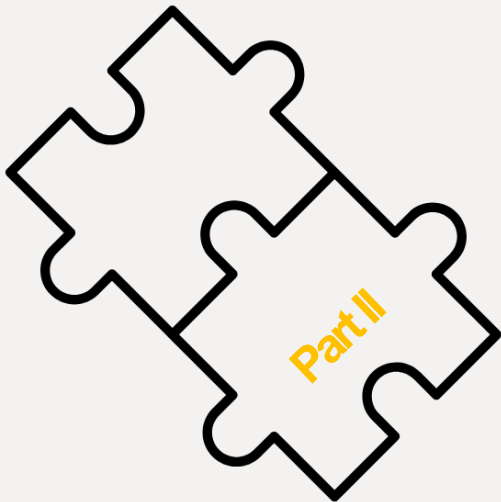
Lay out the **current state of knowledge**

Part II

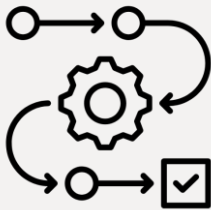
7 pages (max)



Describe the **implementation**



Work plan



Methodology



**Risk
assessment**

Deadline

14 October 2025 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

83 days left until closure

Call data

Call: ERC-2026-STG

Topic: [ERC-2026-STG](#)

Type of action: HORIZON-ERC

Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG

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

Proposal data

Acronym: test

Draft ID: SEP-211195760

Download Part B templates

Download part B templates

1

Support & Helpdesk

Online Manual

IT How To

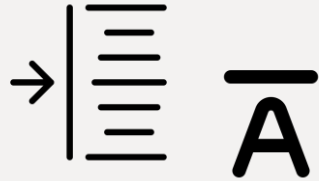
IT Helpdesk

FAQ

[illegible]

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

ERC Application | your building blocks

Part A

Administrative Forms



online

B1

Part I
+
CV & Track Record

(5 + 4 pages)



B2

Part II



(7 pages)



Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

B1 | Overview

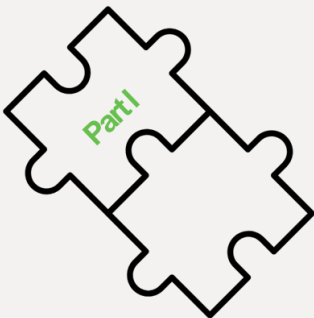


B1, your business card!



Cover Page

Info from Part A



Part I

5 pages



CV and Track Record

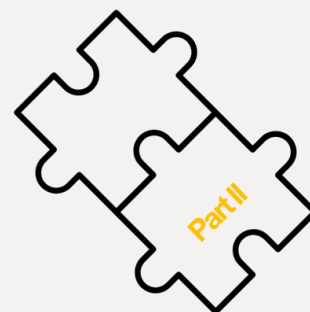
4 pages

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



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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

Deadline

14 October 2025 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

83 days left until closure

Call data

Call: ERC-2026-STG

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Type of action: HORIZON-ERC

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Draft ID: SEP-211195760

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

☎️ +32 2 29 92222

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 ⓘ

Part B1 *

Part B2 *

Host Support Letter *

PhD certificate *

Extension request

Annex 2

Annex 3

Annex 4

Annex 5

Annex 6

Upload

Upload

Upload

Upload

Upload

Upload

Upload

Upload

Upload

< BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST

VALIDATE

SUBMIT

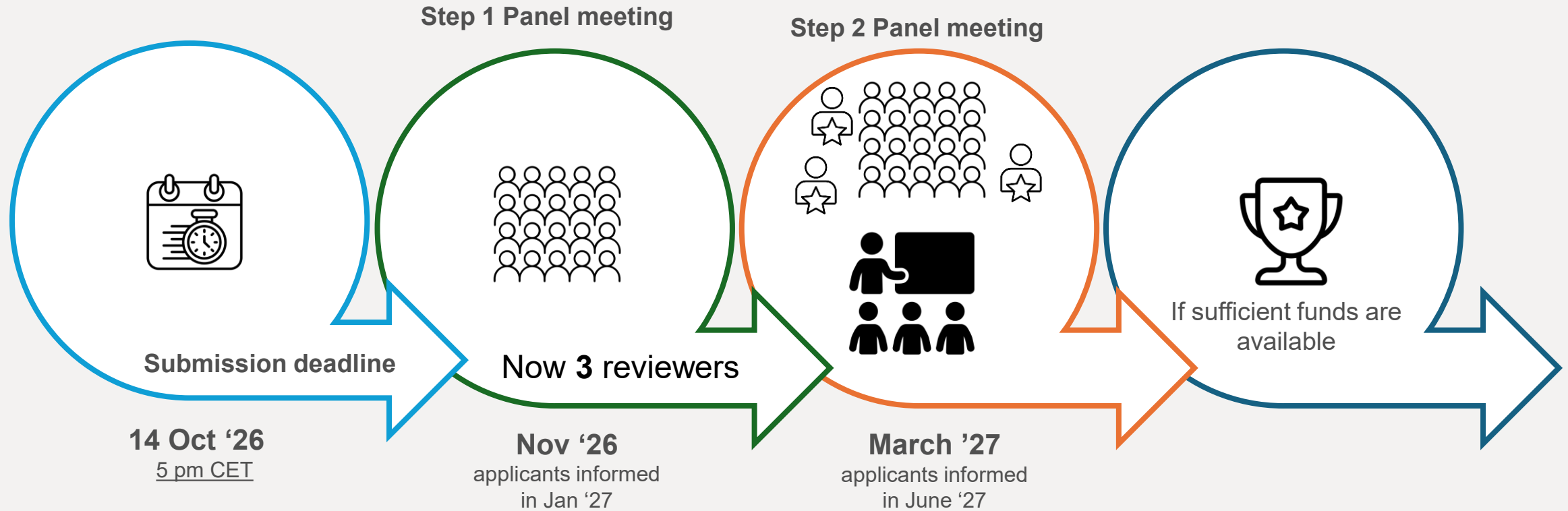


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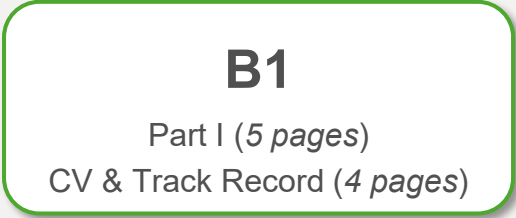
Evaluation Process

ERC-2027-StG | Evaluation

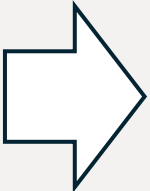


Evaluation in two steps

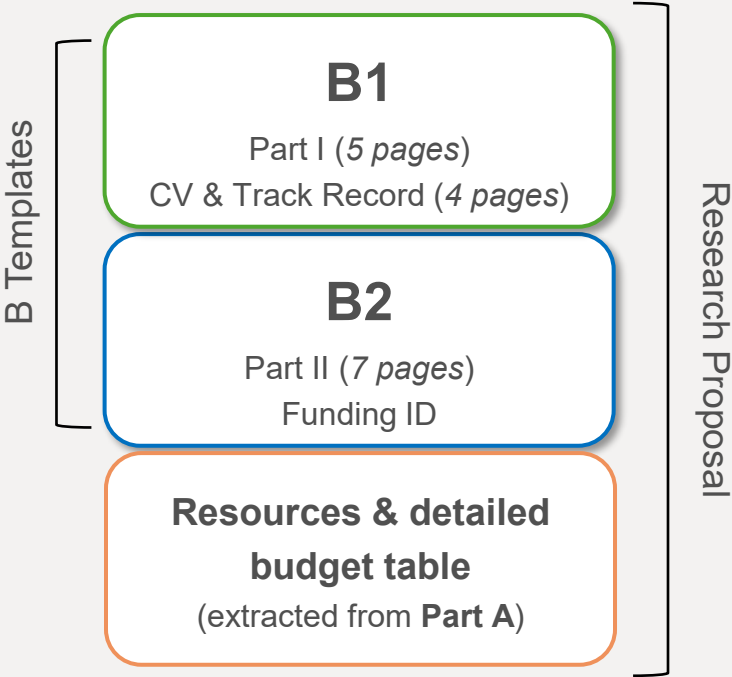
Step 1



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



Step 2



What is the evaluation based on?

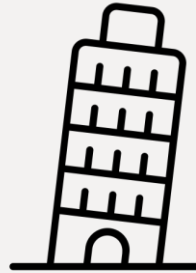
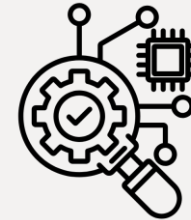
Principal Investigator

intellectual capacity,
creativity
commitment



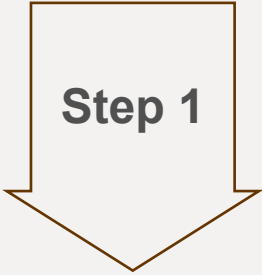
Research project

ground-breaking nature
ambition



Evaluation of the Research Project

Ground-breaking nature & ambition



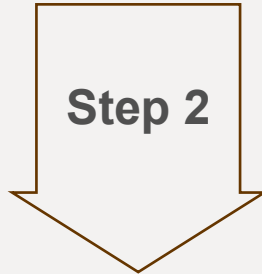
Step 1

To what extent...

- ...does the research address important scientific questions?
- ...are the project's objectives ambitious and will it advance the frontier of knowledge ***and is the proposed approach scientifically convincing?***



To what extent...



Step 2

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



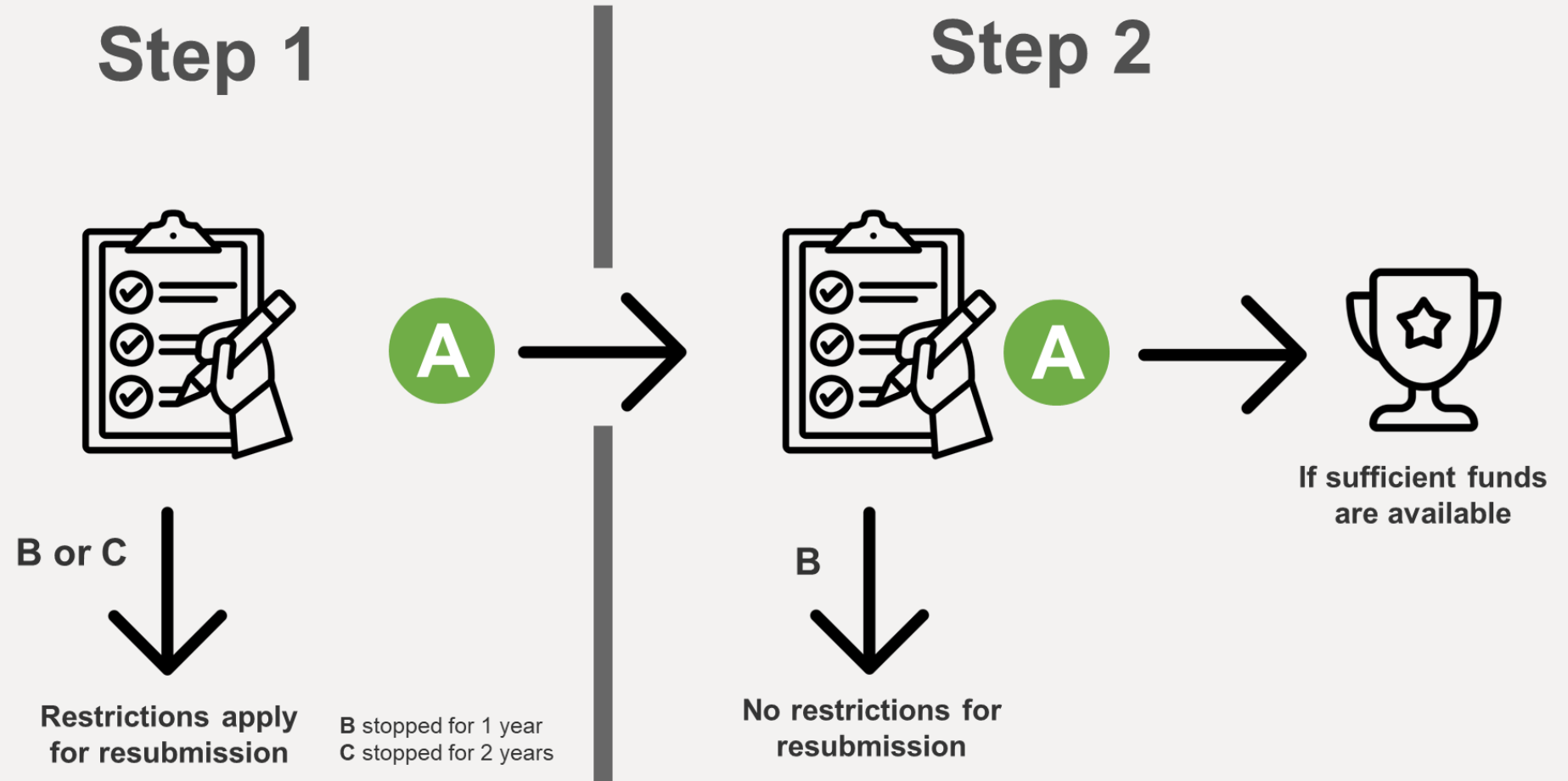
Evaluation of the Principal Investigators

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 submission restrictions



No more than 1 Starting Grant (StG) and 1 Consolidator Grant (CoG) per researcher in a lifetime



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Other aspects to consider



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



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’).

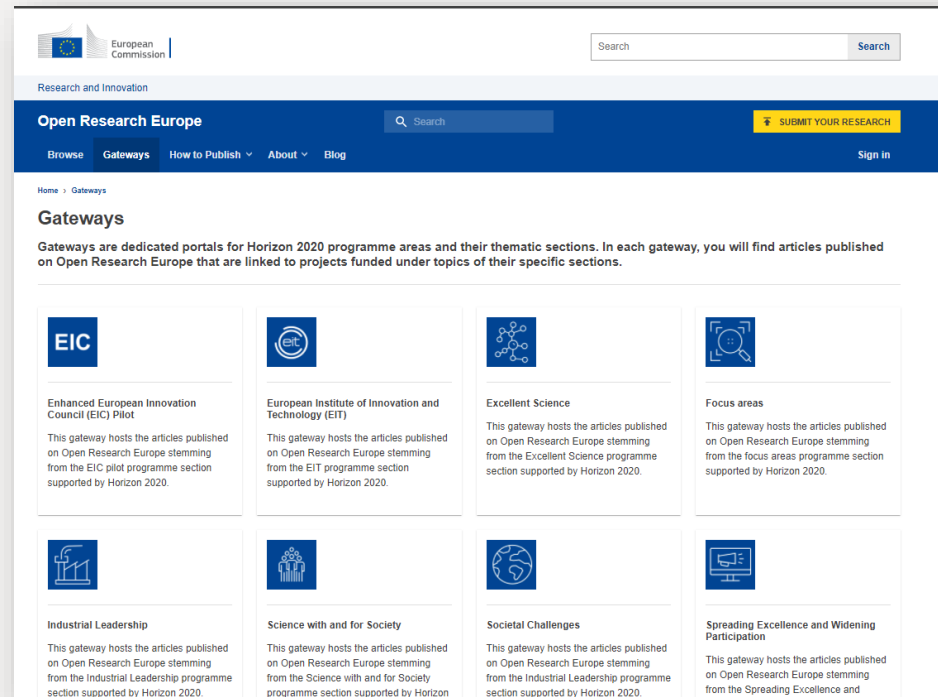
For long-text publications like monographs

- 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)

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 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 2027 Work Programme (*)
- Information for Applicants 2027 (*)
- Call for proposal (*)
- [Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#)



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by European Research Council

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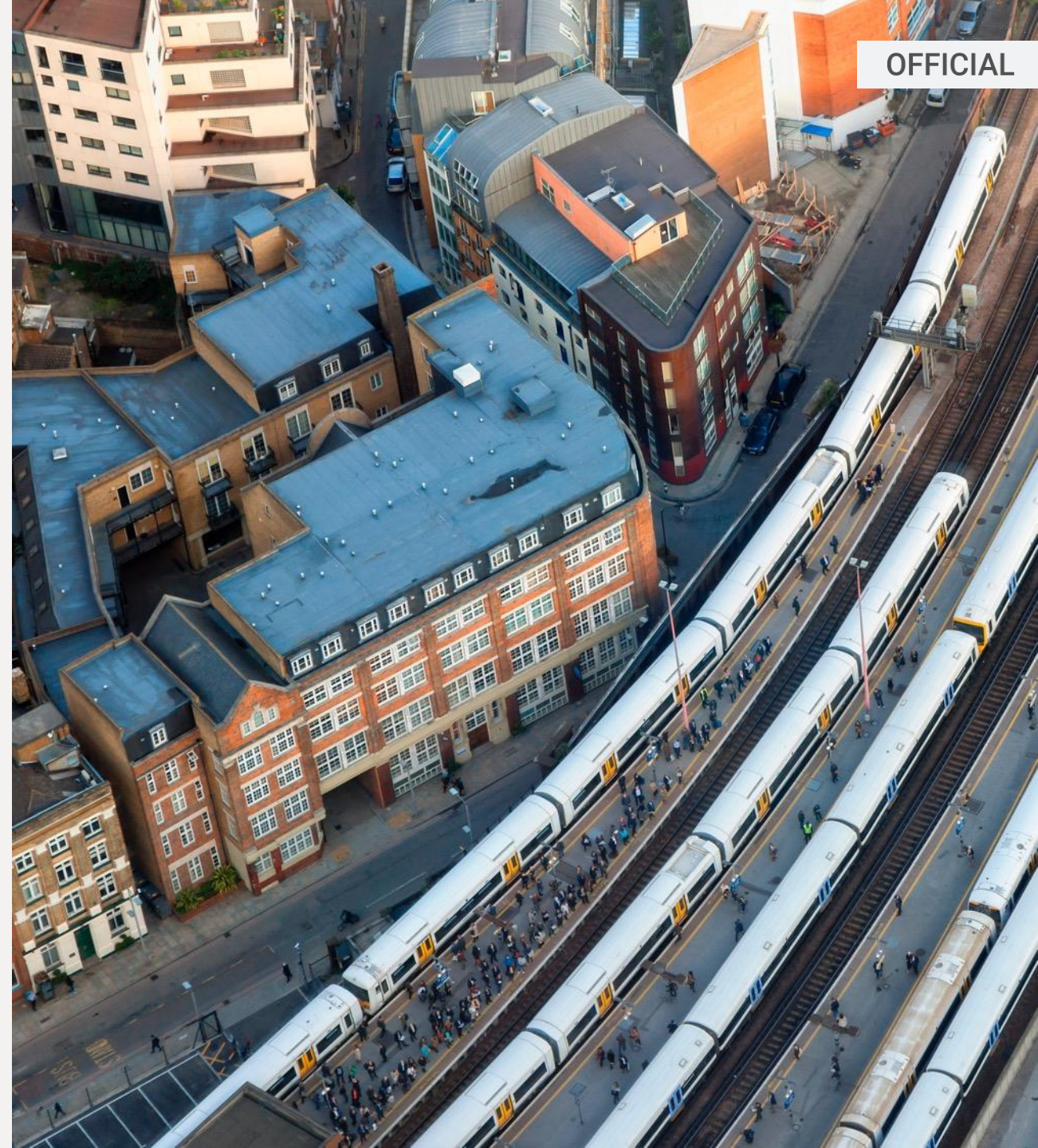
<https://cloud.email.comms.iuk.ukri.org/horizon-europe-sign-up>

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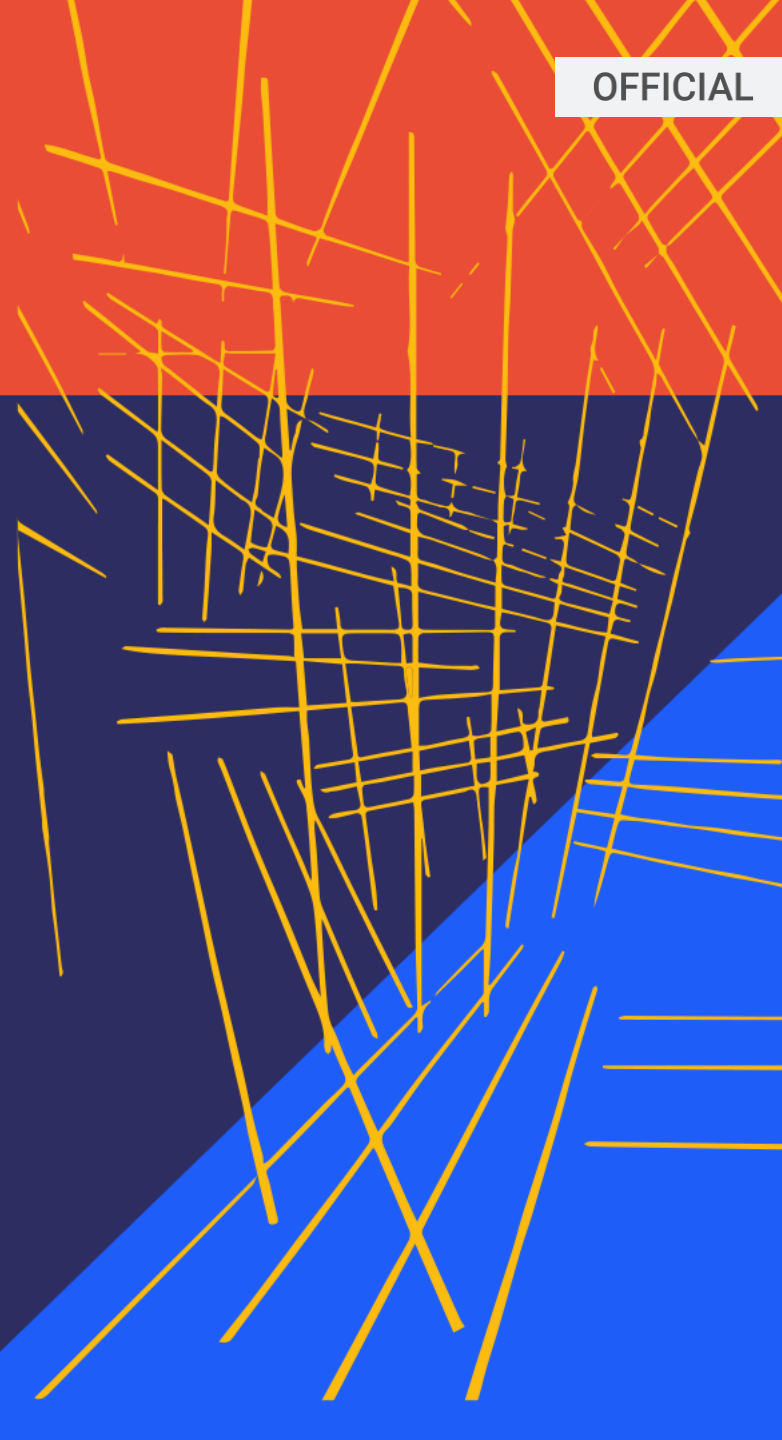




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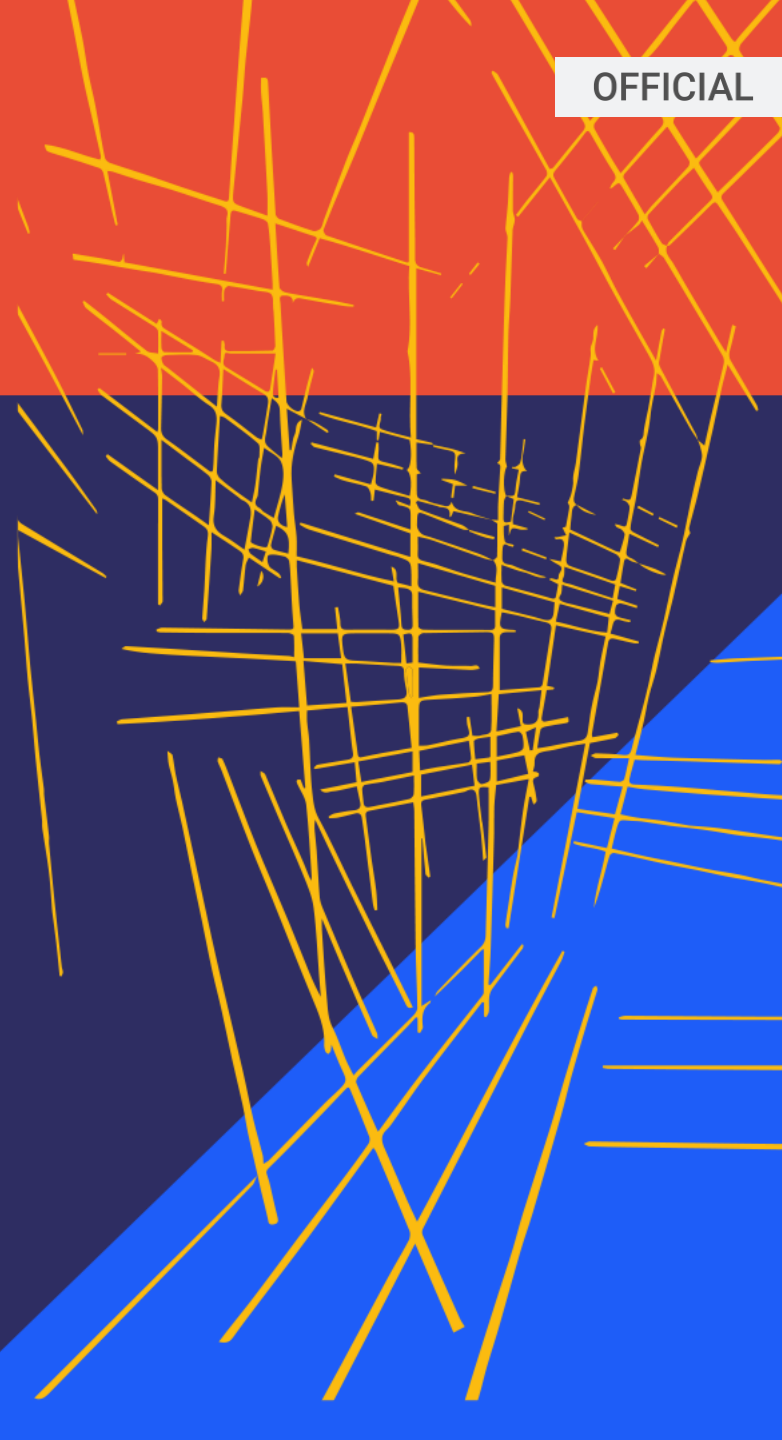


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Prof Mona Simion

University of Oxford





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Questions?



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Thank you



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