

ERC 2022 Starting Grant Information Event

Session 1: Overview of the ERC, eligibility and proposal
development



28 September 2021

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk

Who is who

Presenter

- Dr Phil Holliday - European Advisor and ERC National Contact Point

Moderator

- Sean Rowlands - European Advisor and ERC National Contact Point



Webinar Agenda

- Introduction to UKRO
- UK Participation
- Overview of ERC
- Eligibility Criteria
- Proposal Development
- Other points for consideration



Photo by Jacob Lund from Noun Project

Housekeeping

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



About UKRO

Mission

- Maximise UK engagement in EU-funded research, innovation and higher education activities

Our office

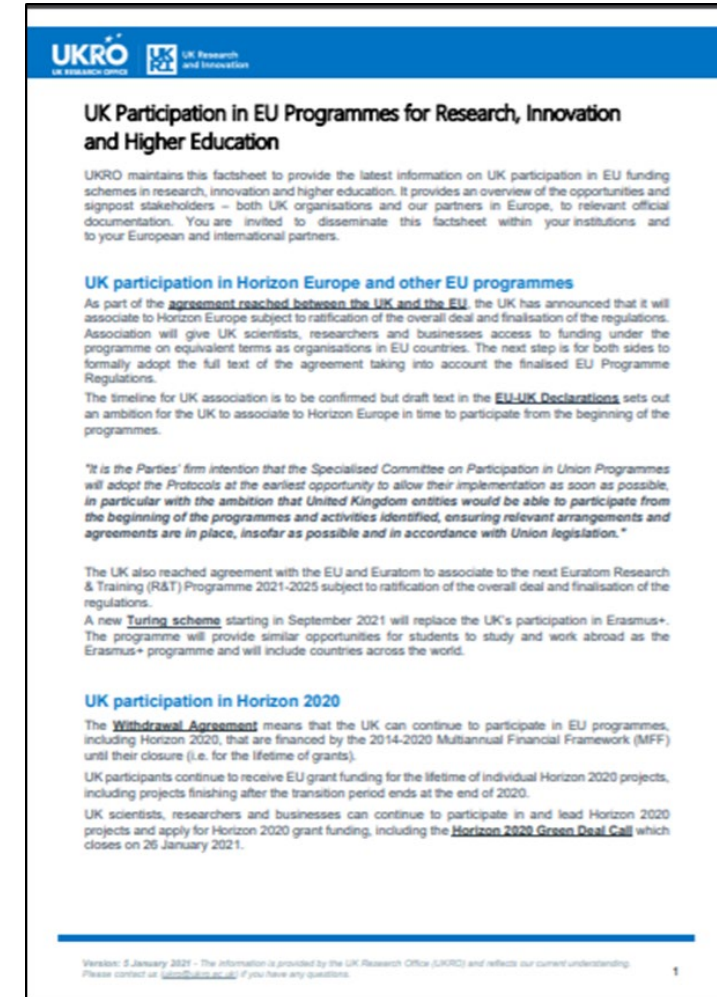
- Based in Brussels
- EU office of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
- Delivers subscription-based advisory services for around 140 research organisations in the UK and beyond

Horizon Europe National Contact Point for

- European Research Council (ERC)- erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk
- Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) - mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk

UK Participation in Horizon Europe (incl. ERC)

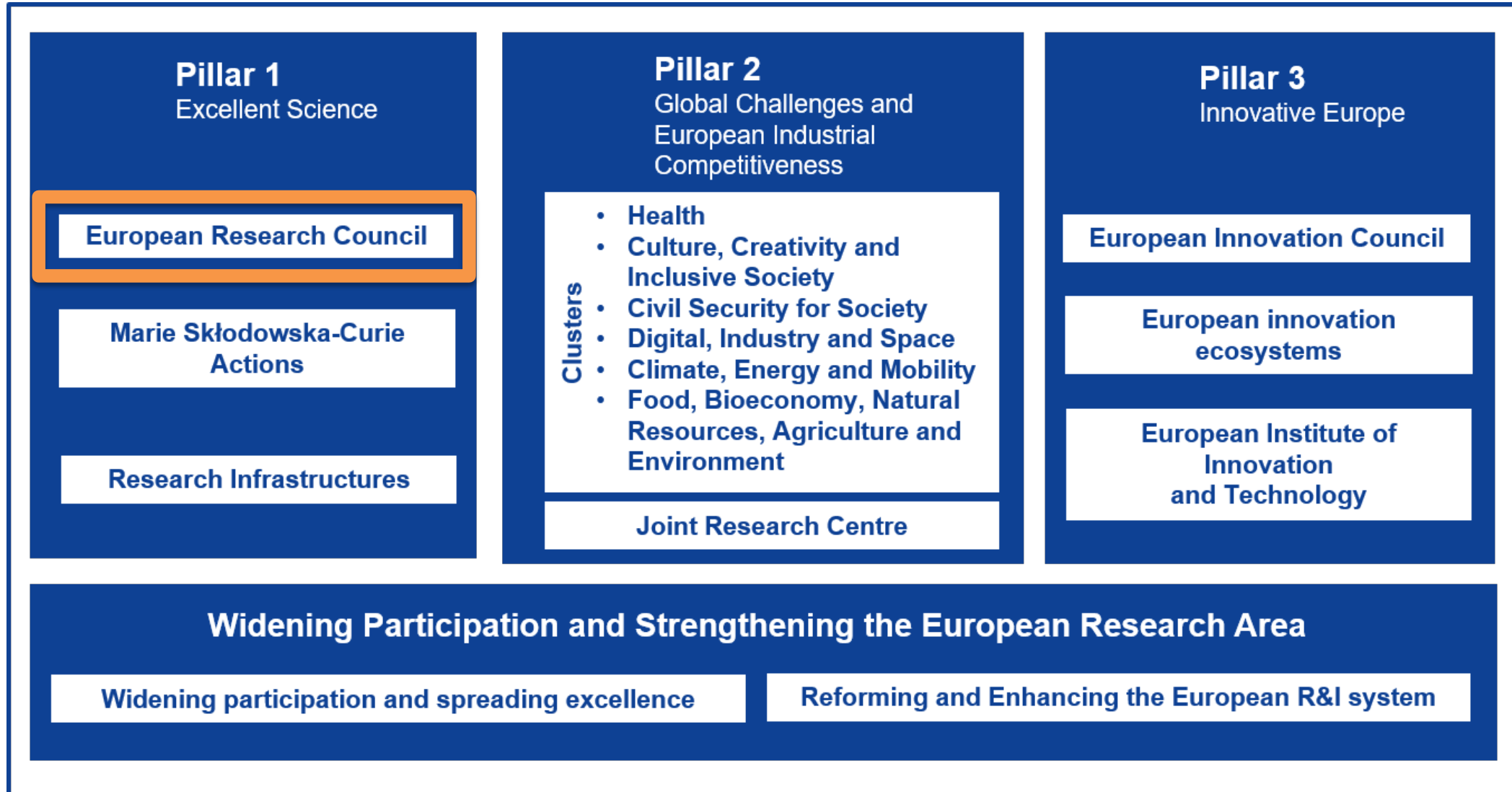
- UKRO [website](#) provides latest information on UK participation
- The official statements on the EU-UK relationship
 - [European Commission website](#)
 - [UK Government website](#).
- UK Government provides information on [EU Funded Programmes under the Withdrawal Agreement](#).
- [Turing scheme](#) for students to study and work abroad - new UK programme replacing Erasmus+



Introduction to the ERC

Handover to Phil

Horizon Europe structure



What is the ERC?

The ERC's mission:

- encourage the highest quality research in Europe
- support investigator-driven frontier research *across all fields*
- fund projects *purely* on the basis of *scientific excellence*

What makes the ERC unique:

- Excellence is the only criteria
- Funding split based on number of applications, *not* field/discipline/topic
- Freedom to collaborate with and fund team members anywhere in the world

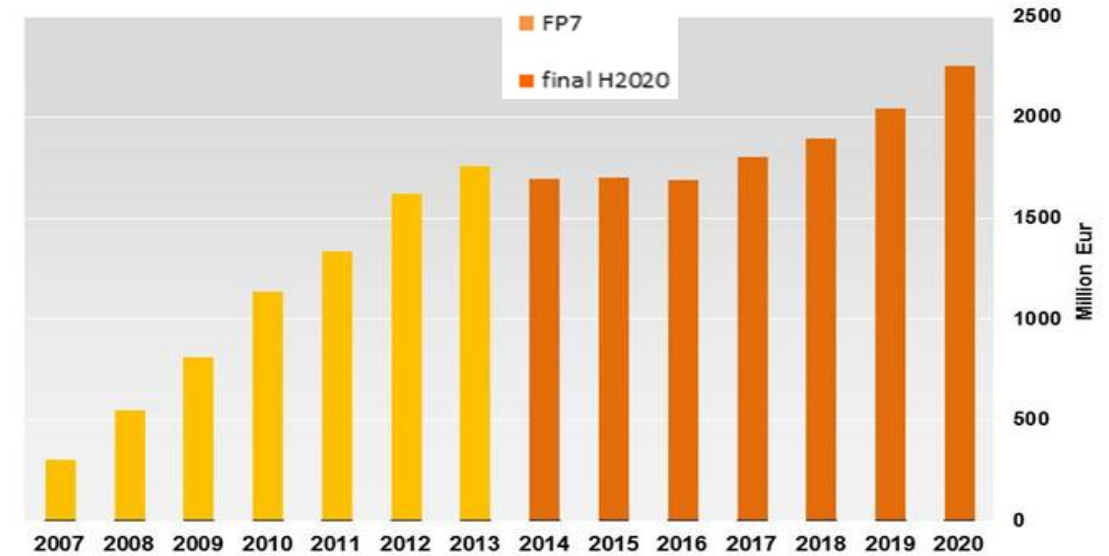


BOTTOM-UP, CURIOSITY-LED EXCELLENT RESEARCH

ERC Budget in Horizon Europe

26% increase in real terms compared to Horizon 2020.

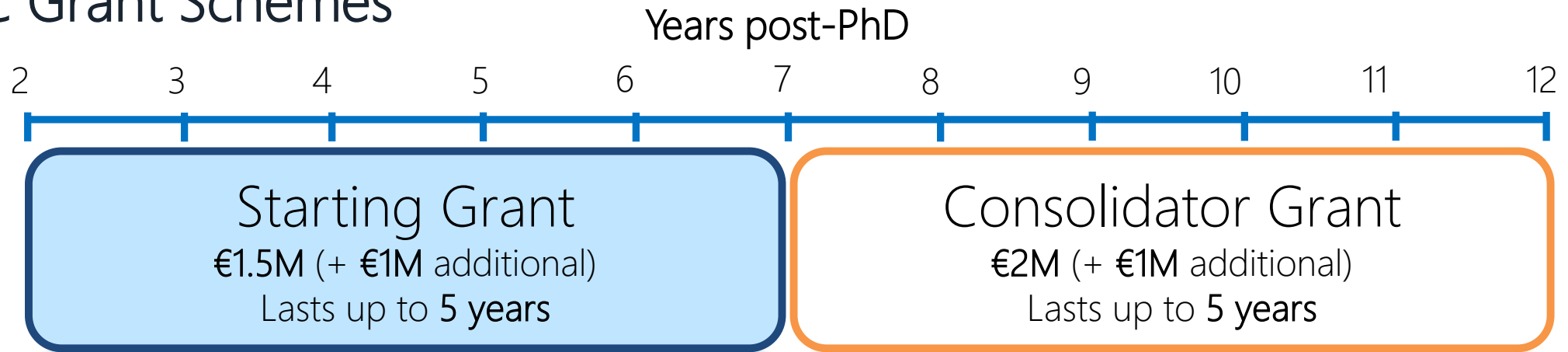
Horizon Europe structure is represented below proportionate to budget allocation.



ERC BUDGET: €16 Billion



ERC Grant Schemes



No PhD Requirements

Advanced Grant
€2.5M (+ €1M additional)
Lasts up to 5 years

Synergy Grant
€10M (+ €4M additional)
Lasts up to 6 years with 2-4 PIs

Proof Of Concept Grant
€150k Lump Sum
Lasts for 1.5 years
Top-up grants for current ERC grantees

ERC 2022 Calls

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant	Proof of Concept	
Call Type	ERC-2022-StG	ERC-2022-CoG	ERC-2022-AdG	ERC-2022-SyG	ERC-2022-PoC1	ERC-2022-PoC2
Call Opens	23/09/2021	19/10/2021	20/01/2022	15/07/2021	15/07/2021	16/11/2021
Deadline	13/01/2022	17/03/2022	28/04/2022	10/11/2021	14/10/2021	15/02/2022 19/05/2022 29/09/2022
Budget	€749 M	€776 M	€555 M	€297 M	€25 M	€25 M

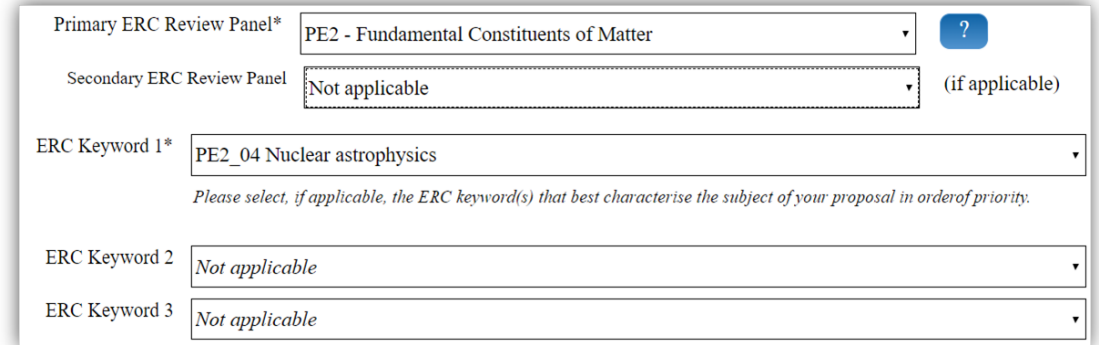
ERC Panel Structure

Physical Sciences & Engineering	Life Sciences	Social Sciences & Humanities
PE1 Mathematics	LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures & Functions	SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter Particle	LS2 Integrative Biology: Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems	SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
PE3 Condensed Matter Physics	LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology	SH3 The Social World and its Diversity
PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences	LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing	SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials	LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System	SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production
PE6 Computer Science and Informatics	LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy	SH6 The Study of the Human Past
PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering	LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases	SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space*
PE8 Products and Processes Engineering	LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution	
PE9 Universe Sciences	LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering	
PE10 Earth System Science		
PE11 Materials Engineering*		

****These two panels are new additions since 2021***

How do I pick the right panel for me?

- Use panel descriptor key words as orientations to find the right panel for you
- Search for previously funded projects from your potential panel choices
- You can apply to a primary panel and include a secondary panel as well
- Make sure you include the correct words in the abstract to help the ERC find the right evaluators for you.
- Note that **funding is allocated to panels in proportion to the budgetary demand of its assigned proposal**. This aims to ensure comparable success rates between panels regardless of the number of proposals each panel evaluates
 - Don't try and target a panel with “high success rates”, best to target a panel that has the closest fit to your proposal



The screenshot shows a form for selecting ERC review panels and keywords. The 'Primary ERC Review Panel*' is set to 'PE2 - Fundamental Constituents of Matter'. The 'Secondary ERC Review Panel' is set to 'Not applicable'. 'ERC Keyword 1*' is 'PE2_04 Nuclear astrophysics'. 'ERC Keyword 2' and 'ERC Keyword 3' are both set to 'Not applicable'. A blue question mark icon is visible next to the primary panel selection.

Primary ERC Review Panel*	PE2 - Fundamental Constituents of Matter	?
Secondary ERC Review Panel	Not applicable	(if applicable)
ERC Keyword 1*	PE2_04 Nuclear astrophysics	
<i>Please select, if applicable, the ERC keyword(s) that best characterise the subject of your proposal in order of priority.</i>		
ERC Keyword 2	Not applicable	
ERC Keyword 3	Not applicable	

What if I picked the wrong panel?

- The ERC may reallocate a proposal to a different panel if the necessary expertise required for the evaluation is in another panel

ERC Eligibility Criteria

Types of research funded

Proposals:

- can be in **ANY** field of research
- must be very **ambitious** in **risk** and in **scope**
- are based around a **central Principal Investigator**, who can be supported by “team members”
- must be “**frontier research**”, and should not be incremental advances

- are judged **only on the scientific excellence** of
 - the proposed project and
 - the Principal Investigator

More in part 2 of this webinar series tomorrow on the evaluation criteria, including how panels and external experts evaluate proposals

2022 Starting Grant call details

Call Identifier	ERC-2022-StG
Open	23/09/2021
Close	13/01/2022
Budget	€749 M
Estimated no. grants funded	502
Planned dates to inform applicants	
Step 1	22/07/2022
Step 2	09/12/2022
Indicative date for signature of grant agreement	08/04/2023

[2022 Starting Grant call page](#)

2022 Starting Grant Eligibility window

Cut-off dates:

PhD awarded from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2019 (inclusive)

The date of the first PhD considered for the calculation of the eligibility period is the date of the actual award according to the national rules of the country where the degree was awarded.

Applicants should check with the awarding institution if there is any doubt on the date of actual award.

Extending Eligibility window of an ERC applicant

Starting and Consolidator Grant eligibility window can be extended for:

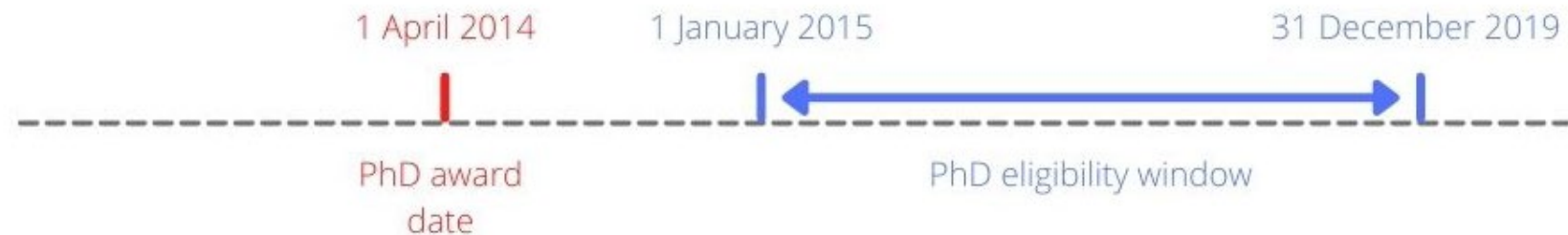
- Maternity leave (18 months per child or longer with documentation) before or after PhD award
- Paternity leave (actual amount of documented leave taken) before or after PhD award
- National service, after PhD award
- Long-term illness (over 90 days) of PI or a close family member (child, spouse, parent or sibling), after PhD award.
- Clinical training

Please see [Work Programme](#) for details (p 28)

No extensions for part time working, non-research careers, travel, Covid restrictions (e.g. home schooling) etc., unless linked to illness/maternity (but this is taken into account for evaluation of the PI's track record).

Calculating your PhD eligibility window extension – an example

- PhD awarded on 1 April 2014
- The applicant has 1 child. She is entitled to an 18 month extension
- Her PhD eligibility window is now from 1 July 2013 to 31 Dec 2019
- She is eligible to apply to the 2022 Starting Grant call.



1) Original Scenario



2) Extension request for maternity leave scenario

Am I a competitive candidate?

- Look at early career track record for a StG PI in the Information for Applicants and compare yourself to it based on your career stage
- Look at previously funded StG projects in your field
- Speak to colleagues in your Department
- Speak to your Research Support Office

Early achievements track record

In the Track record (see "Proposal description") the applicant Principal Investigator should list (if applicable, and in addition to any other scientific achievements deemed relevant by the applicant in relation to their research field and project):

- 1. Up to five publications in major international peer-reviewed multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals, peer-reviewed conferences proceedings and/or monographs of their respective research fields, highlighting those as main author or without the presence as co-author of their PhD supervisor (properly referenced, field relevant bibliometric indicators²¹ may also be included); preprints may be included, if freely available from a preprint server (preprints should be properly referenced and either a link to the preprint or a DOI should be provided);**
- 2. Research monographs and any translations thereof;**
- 3. Granted patent(s);**
- 4. Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools;**
- 5. Prizes, awards, academy memberships.**

2022 Call Resubmission Restrictions

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome		2022 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is <i>not</i> eligible
2020 and 2021 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or 2020 Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy Grant
2020 Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant
2020 Synergy Grant	A, or B at Step 3	No restrictions
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	C at Step 1	Advanced and Synergy Grant
2021 Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant	A, or B at Step 2	No restrictions
	B, or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant

What is the evaluation criterion for ERC grants?

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

Research Project

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

Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity and creativity

Am I ready to submit?

- **Need to plan ahead**
 - It takes a long time and a lot of work to write an ERC proposal
- **Look at the PI profile to identify gaps in your track record and aim to achieve these as a first step towards applying in a later year**
- **There are resubmission restrictions for ERC calls**
 - Don't rush your proposal and risk being excluded in the future
- **Apply when you're ready**
 - The calls are annual, if you're not ready, then apply next year
 - If this is your last year of eligibility for the StG and you're not ready, apply next year to the CoG call, the success rates are slightly better than the StG success rates!!
- **Success rates across the 'number of years of experience' for StG is more or less even**
 - applying 2 years post PhD is a viable possibility - don't wait if you're ready!

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 or associated country willing to host them.

Calculated as an average across entire project duration, can vary to a degree year on year

Grant Type	Minimum % of Working Time on Grant	Minimum % of time in EU Member State/Associated Country*	Years since PhD Award
Starting	50	50	2-7
Consolidator	40	50	7-12
Advanced	30	50	N/A
Synergy	30	50	N/A

* Fieldwork/work abroad related to the ERC project does not count against time commitment

Host Institution Eligibility



Can be any type of legal entity
(university, business, public body etc.)



Must be based in the territory of an
EU Member State or Associated Country



Has the infrastructure and capacity to allow the PI to
independently direct the research and manage ERC funding



Must not constrain the PI to the institution's research strategy.
PI has the right to transfer the grant to another institution.



Must 'engage' the PI for project duration, if grant is successful



Not assessed as a separate criterion during peer review but
must sign a letter of commitment as part of application

If funded:

- signs up to the **Grant Agreement**
- signs a **'Supplementary Agreement'** with the PI

Working time commitment

- Min. 50% full time equivalent on the ERC grant, 50% min. time spent in a EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country
- Fieldwork/work abroad related to the ERC project does not count against time commitment
- All percentages are established by reference to the full time equivalent at the host institution (or 1720 h)

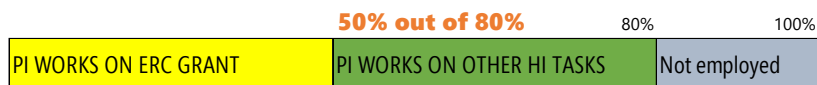
Starting PI with FTE Contract



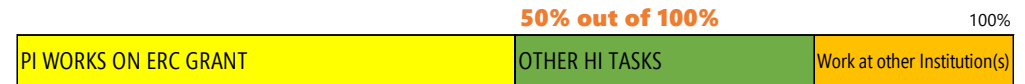
Starting PI working more than the 100% (FTE) ceiling



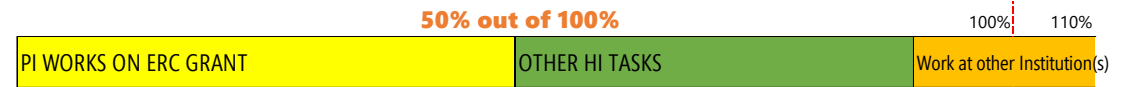
Starting PI working part-time - time commitments are pro-rata (% of P/T contract)



Starting PI with FTE Contract split between the HI and other institutions



Starting PI working more than the 100% (FTE) ceiling split between the HI and other institutions

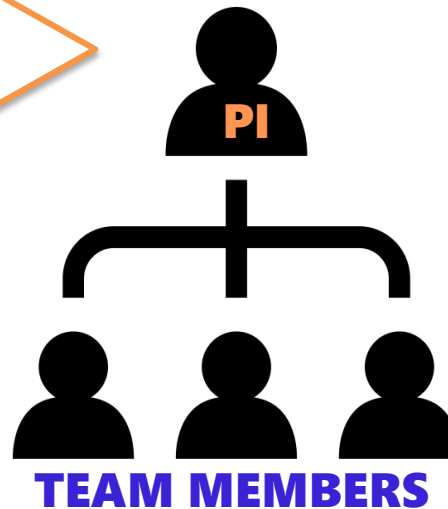


Starting PI working part-time, split between the HI and other institutions



Principal Investigators leading 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
- Evaluators reject proposals where the PI is overshadowed by any team members



- No one can be co-investigators
- Assigned to specific project outputs/tasks
- Do activities the PI can't do by themselves
- Should not have purely supervisory/mentor roles
- Can be **research staff at any level** (including technicians and project managers)
- Think about career path of employees
- Of any age, nationality or country of residence
- Can be based **at the Host Institution or any other organisation** in the world
- **EU funded**, even outside member states or associated countries

Eligible costs

- The ERC funds up to **100% of the total eligible costs**.
- The costs cover the full project duration.
- This includes the direct costs of the project plus a flat-rate contribution to **indirect costs calculated as 25% of the total eligible direct costs**
- The budget is subdivided into

personnel costs

**travel,
equipment**

consumables

**publications
(including any
costs related to
Open Access)**

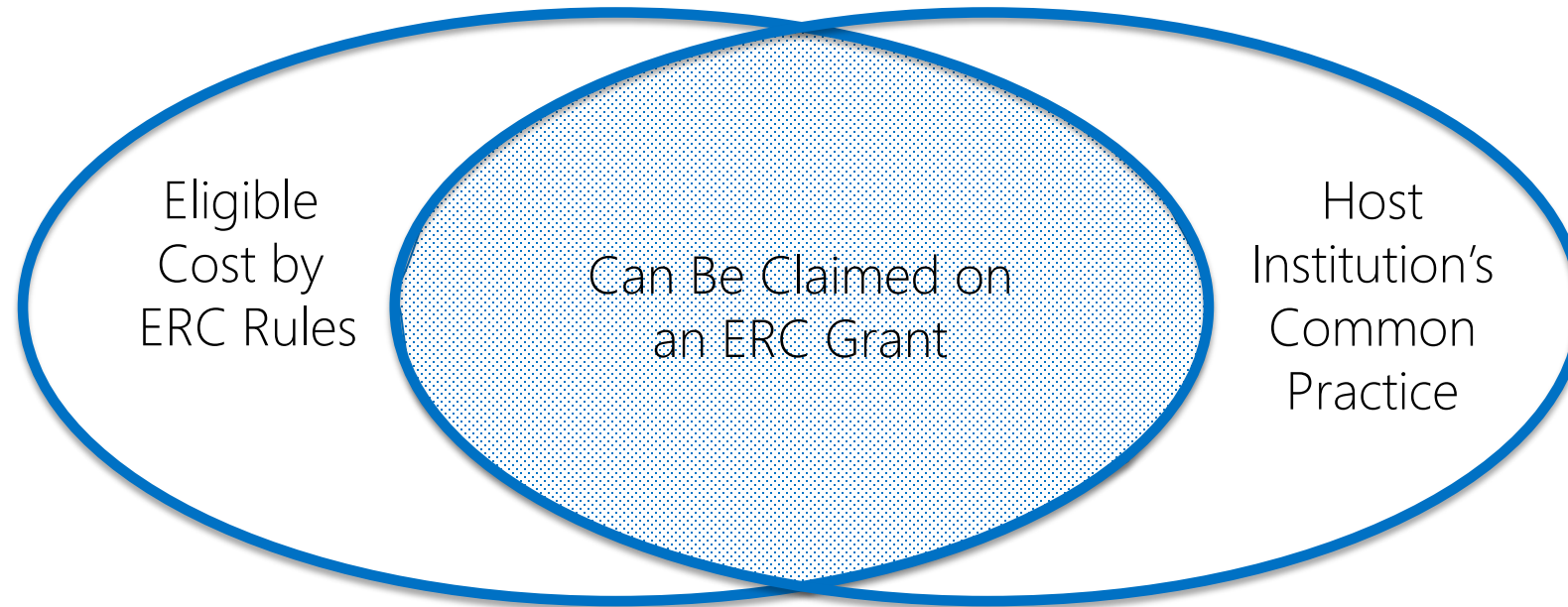
**other additional
direct costs**

**internally
invoiced goods
and services**

**in kind
contributions
not used on the
premises**

**subcontracting
costs**

Resources: general tips



Auditors will check that costs are both eligible by ERC rules *and* in keeping with the standard accounting practices of the host institution.

e.g. ERC allows hotel bookings in Paris for research trips, but a PI at a Paris institution would not be allowed to charge it to their grant due to institutional rules

Funding Levels

Grant Type	Maximum Base Grant Amount	Maximum "Additional Funding"
Starting	€1.5 M	€1.0 M
Consolidator	€2.0 M	€1.0 M
Advanced	€2.5 M	€1.0 M
Synergy	€10 M	€4.0 M

Additional funding covers:

- eligible "start-up" costs for PIs moving from outside Europe
- the purchase of major equipment
- access to large facilities
- major experimental/fieldwork costs (excluding personnel)

These costs are justified separately in the proposal.

There is no definition of "equipment" or "facilities".

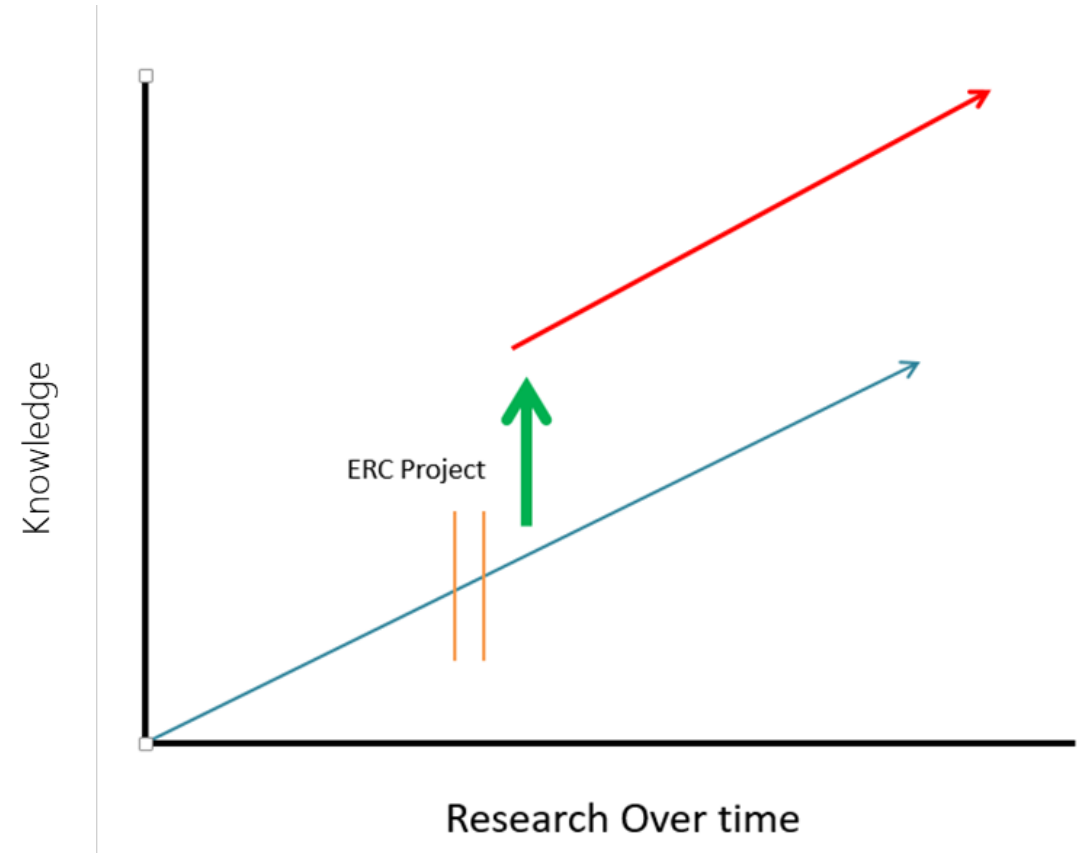
All requests will be evaluated by the peer review panel.

The perfect ERC proposal – the research project

- **You need to have a strong research question**
 - Interesting, significant, novel, exciting
- **Need to clearly define what the state of the art is and how your project goes beyond this**
- **Need to have an excellent methodology**
 - Multidisciplinary research is strongly encouraged – as the PI you are not expected to be the expert in everything, but the best person to make the project succeed
 - As the PI, it's up to you to decide the structure to best solve your research question
- **Have realistic and well-defined research objectives**
- **You need to dedicate a lot of time to write an ERC proposal, plan wisely**
- **ERC is looking for high-risk/high-gain – pushing boundaries, intellectual gain**

What Do We Mean by Frontier Research?

- Ground breaking research
- Going beyond current limits of your research area
- Development of new horizons
- New solutions to old problems
- Exciting



Break!

Proposal Structure

1-Step Submission

Part A is filled in online. B1, B2 and annexes are uploaded as PDFs. All submitted together at the call deadline

Part A

*Administrative Forms
and Abstract*

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget & Description of Resources
- Ethics Check

Part B1

*Proposal Overview
and PI Track Record*

- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- CV (2 pages)
- Funding ID
- Track Record (2 pages)

Part B2

Detailed Research Proposal

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology

(Total of 14 pages)

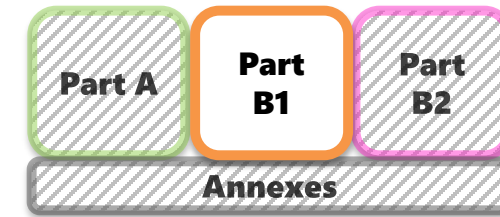
Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Proposal Development

Part B1 & Part B2

Part B1 – Stage 1 of the Evaluation

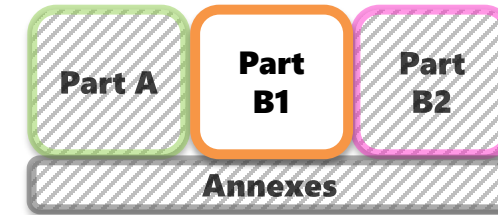


- Strict formatting requirements:

Page Format	Font Type	Font Size	Line Spacing	Margins
A4	Times New Roman, Arial or similar	At least 11	Single	2cm Side 1.5cm Bottom

- Cover Page (info repeated from Part A)
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- CV (2 pages)
- Track Record (2 pages)
- Funding ID

Writing the Extended Synopsis



Self-contained

- All the essential info about your idea in 5 pages.
- Describe where the novelty lies – what is the state-of-the-art and how does this proposal go further?
- Your synopsis should be **referenced**, these won't count towards page limits – using end-notes is recommended.

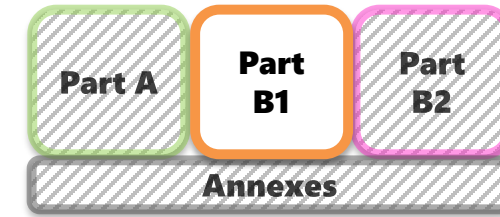
Persuasive to generalists

- A variety of **experts acting as generalists** come to a collective decision of whether to pass the proposal to Step 2 – so **be concise and clear without jargon**
- Persuade them the idea and **scientific approach are feasible** – include just enough and don't give a reason to reject!

Entertaining!

- Sell your idea - the synopsis should **grab the panellists' attention**
- Your idea should be ambitious – be explicit about **high risk and potentially high gain**.
- The description of novelty and ambition **should leave them curious to find out more detail** in Part B2 and the interview at Step 2.

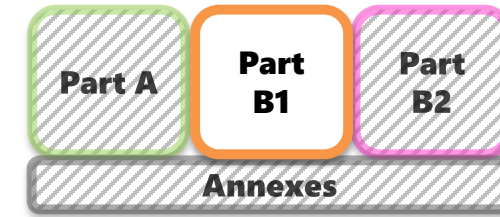
Things to think about: Extended Synopsis



- Dual role: key text in stand-alone B1, then goes hand-in hand with the B2 full proposal. Make it work in both ways, not as a summary of the full proposal
- Consider what excites you about the research and convey this in your application
- Scientific Impact – you should be progressing the field of research beyond its current state.
 - Does the research open new lines of research and or enquiry that will lead to new scientific activity and further questions beyond the current state-of-the-art's frontier?
 - The impact is throughout the 5 years of the project, not just at the end
 - Be positive about achievements of others thus far while demonstrating you have something new and different to offer
- Timeliness and relevance should be shown throughout the project
- Research Aims, should clearly link to the research objectives, which should clearly link to research methodology(ies)



Writing your CV and Funding ID



Use the suggested template

- 2 page limit
- Be **concise and make sure the CV is laid out clearly**. Choose additional highlights wisely.
- CV template can also give you an indication of **how to build your track record for future ERC bids**.

Career breaks, reduced capacity or unconventional career paths

- Complement any eligibility extensions with a descriptions of **how/when you have been restricted**.
- **What were able to achieve** despite these restrictions or thanks to this unconventional path?
- **New in 2022** – Covid-19 Impact to scientific productivity (300 characters)

Describe significance

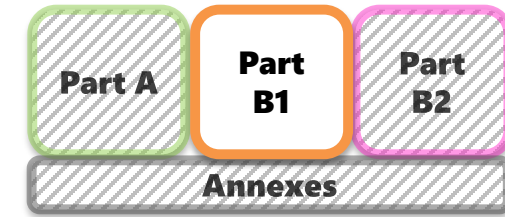
- Adding concise descriptive captions can help explain why an entry is significant
- What experience can be flagged as independent, mature or showing leadership?
- Your story will be laid out in the track record, but you can lay the groundwork in the CV.

Funding ID table lists your current grants and on-going/submitted grant applications. You will also have to briefly outline any scientific overlap with the ERC proposal. (This table will not count towards the page limits).

Things to think about: The CV

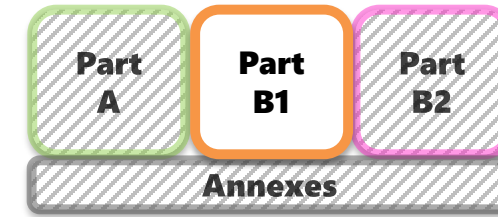
- Make your CV bespoke and well-suited to the ERC evaluation criteria
- Make sure the CV is easy to read, and information is easy to find
- Explain any career breaks/alternative career pathways
- Highlight activities that show your research independence and evidence of maturity
- What was your contribution to key publications/activities?
- Include ALL relevant activities
- Provide a brief narrative of what each entry indicates about the PI, use these to relate directly to the PI evaluation criterion. For example:
 - If you were a speaker – describe what led you to being invited to give a talk/seminar/presentation
 - If you organised the event – describe at what level the event took place i.e. was it local/national/international? Also state the key attendees
- If applicable, use the new COVID-19 impact to scientific productivity feature: multiple choice and short free text

Things to think about: Funding ID



- Even small amounts of money are important
- Want to demonstrate that you can manage a 5-year €1.5M grant
- Describe clearly any scientific overlap between your ERC application and the current research grant or on-going grant application
- If not the PI or CoI indicate your contribution to the project and dedicated funding
- For large collaborative grants include the total funding as well as the amount you are/will be responsible for

Writing your Early Achievements Track-Record in Part B1



Track Record

- 2 pages
- **Tell your story** - provide a brief explanation of what each entry on the CV & Funding ID indicates about you as an excellent potential Principal Investigator.
- Use these to relate points directly to the PI evaluation criterion.

5 publications for Starting Grant

- At least one important **publication as main author** or without the participation of their PhD supervisor. Include field relevant bibliometric indicators but NOT the Journal Impact Factor.
- Add **descriptive captions** if helpful to set the context for the authorship and impact of a publication.
- These publications will be judged on the basis of expectations in your field, but make sure their significance comes across to generalists.

Highlight independent research

- How and when have you distinguished yourself from your supervisor(s)
- What activity demonstrated self-organisation or leading of others?
- When did you activity attract the attention or participation of important figures in your field?

Early achievements

- Starting Grant sets expectations appropriate for an early career stage – but the applicant still has to demonstrate they are outstanding.
- Patents granted
- Invited presentations
- Prizes/awards/academy memberships

Part A

*Administrative Forms
and Abstract*

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget & Resources
- Ethics Check

Part B1

*Proposal Overview
and PI Track Record*

- Cover page and summary
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- Track Record (2 pages)

Part B2

Detailed Research Proposal

- State of the art
 - Objectives
 - Methodology
- (Total of 15 pages – including resources section from part A)

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

+ approx. 30 minute interview with panellist (presentation followed by a Q&A)

[WATCH OUR WEBINAR ON INTERVIEWS](#)

Part B2

- **State of the art and objectives**
 - Objectives here become grant agreement objectives
- **Methodology**
 - Proposed methodology
 - Milestones and alternatives
 - Risk and mitigation
 - Project Management
 - Publication & Exploitation of results



Writing your State of the Art and Objectives in Part B2



Coherence with Part B1

- **Elaborate Part B1 coherently:**
Explain precisely how you plan to achieve what you promised.
- You will have an expert reader in addition 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 parts are considered 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.

Writing your Methodology in Part B2



Methodology

- Should be **extensive**, include the essential detail that an expert in your field would need to know.
- Don't leave any reasons for the experts to raise doubts for the evaluation 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**.
- ERC accepts high risk to hopefully reach high gain – but evaluators and external experts can be risk averse.

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 but every part of the budget must have a place in the project and be linked to objectives.

Things to think about: The Scientific Proposal



- Recap and expand on the introduction in Part B1's Extended Synopsis
- Detail the current state of the art, highlighting the challenges, limitations, and gaps. How will your project fill these limitations and gaps to progress beyond the current state of the art
- Explain how, and why, your project is important to the field and what impact and implications it will have if successful
- Discuss the challenges and unconventional aspects of your projects
- Timeliness and relevance should be shown throughout the project
- Coherence and clear linkages throughout: from Research Aims to the research objectives, to the research methodology(ies), onto the required team members and resources justification
- Include work plan with milestones, deliverables, dissemination activities
- A research data management plan is required by Month 6 if funded. Meanwhile, any preliminary, outline plan can be included in proposal

Drafting with the 2021 Proposal templates

- The ERC 2022 Proposal Templates have not yet been published as editable templates. They can be downloaded from the submission system (forthcoming).
- The [ERC 2022 Standard templates](#) (pdf) is currently accessible.
- Editable .rtf document versions will still be in circulation and can help in proposal drafting, use them as much as possible.
- Although the **2021 proposal template will be very similar in 2022**, minor differences are possible and these can be disruptive to existing proposal draft structures and page limits.
- **We advise applicants to carefully transfer to the 2022 template as soon as it is available and to look out for potential mismatches.**

Applicant's last name

Part B1

ACRONYM

ERC Starting Grant 2022
Research proposal [Part B1]¹
(Part B1 is evaluated both in Step 1 and Step 2,
Part B2 is evaluated in Step 2 only)

Proposal Full Title

PROPOSAL ACRONYM

Cover Page:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Name of the PI's host institution for the project
- Proposal duration in months

Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.

Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1).

The abstract (summary) should, at a glance, provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved. The abstract will be used as the short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process and in communications to contact in particular the potential remote referees and/or inform the Commission and/or the programme management committees and/or relevant national funding agencies (provided you give permission to do so where requested in the online proposal submission forms, section 1). It must therefore be short and precise and should not contain confidential information.

Please use plain typed text, avoiding formulae and other special characters. The abstract must be written in English. There is a limit of 2000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

Explain and justify the cross-panel or cross domain nature of your proposal, if a secondary panel is indicated in the online proposal submission forms. There is a limit of 1000 characters, spaces and line breaks included.

¹ Instructions for completing Part B1 can be found in the 'Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2022 Calls'.

Other Points for Consideration

Open Science, Gender, Covid-19, Statistics

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.

[You can find the provisions related to Open Science on pages 107 – 109 of the Model Grant Agreement](#)



- ❖ [Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020](#)
- ❖ www.openaire.eu
- ❖ <https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/>

Publishing Fees

Will not be eligible for funding from the grant if the venue is not fully open access (i.e. a fully open access journal or book, or an open access publishing platform like, e.g., Open Research Europe)

Open Research Europe



Research and Innovation

Open Research Europe

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Gateways

Gateways are dedicated portals for Horizon 2020 programme areas and their thematic sections. In each gateway, you will find articles published on Open Research Europe that are linked to projects funded under topics of their specific sections.

 <p>Enhanced European Innovation Council (EIC) Pilot</p> <p>This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the EIC pilot programme section supported by Horizon 2020.</p>	 <p>European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)</p> <p>This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the EIT programme section supported by Horizon 2020.</p>	 <p>Excellent Science</p> <p>This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Excellent Science programme section supported by Horizon 2020.</p>	 <p>Focus areas</p> <p>This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the focus areas programme section supported by Horizon 2020.</p>
 <p>Industrial Leadership</p> <p>This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Industrial Leadership programme section supported by Horizon 2020.</p>	 <p>Science with and for Society</p> <p>This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Science with and for Society programme section supported by Horizon 2020.</p>	 <p>Societal Challenges</p> <p>This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Industrial Leadership programme section supported by Horizon 2020.</p>	 <p>Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation</p> <p>This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation programme section supported by Horizon 2020.</p>

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/>

Why Gender?

- Integrating the gender dimension in research and innovation is an added value in terms of excellence, creativity, and business opportunities.
- It helps researchers question gender norms and stereotypes, to rethink standards and reference models.
- It leads to an in-depth understanding of both genders' needs, behaviours and attitudes.
- It enhances the societal relevance of the knowledge, technologies and innovations produced.
- It also contributes to the production of goods and services better suited to potential markets.

[See the recently recorded ERC workshop about how ERC Excellence is interrelated to the Sex and Gender Dimension.](#)

Covid-19 and ERC

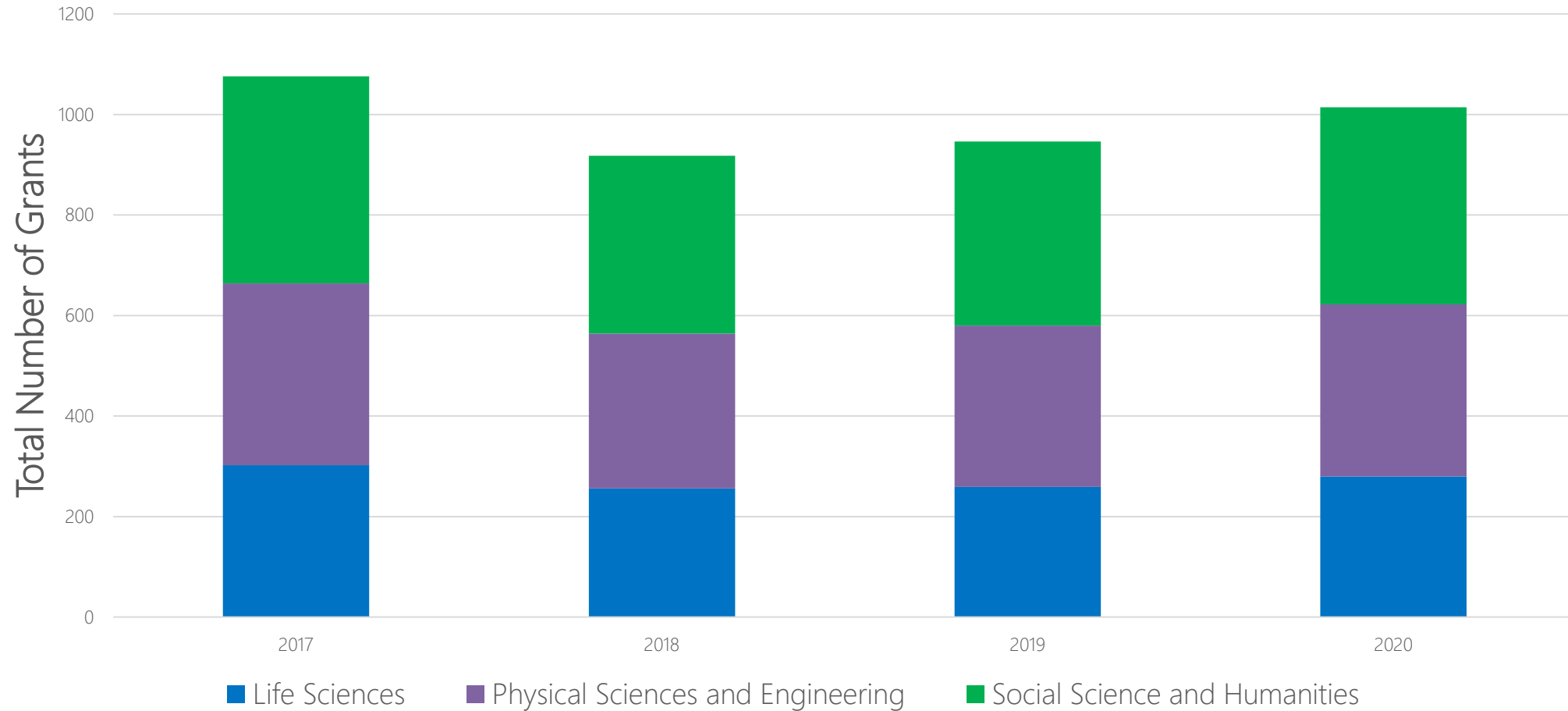
- Possible to postpone project start date by 6 months
- Possible to extend duration of project by 6 months or further on case by case basis
- Flexibility on teleworking and time commitments (notify ERCEA)
- **New in 2022** – Covid-19 Impact to scientific productivity (300 characters in CV)

Remember – EU financial contribution to the project cannot be raised

[Coronavirus – business continuity measures at the ERC](#)

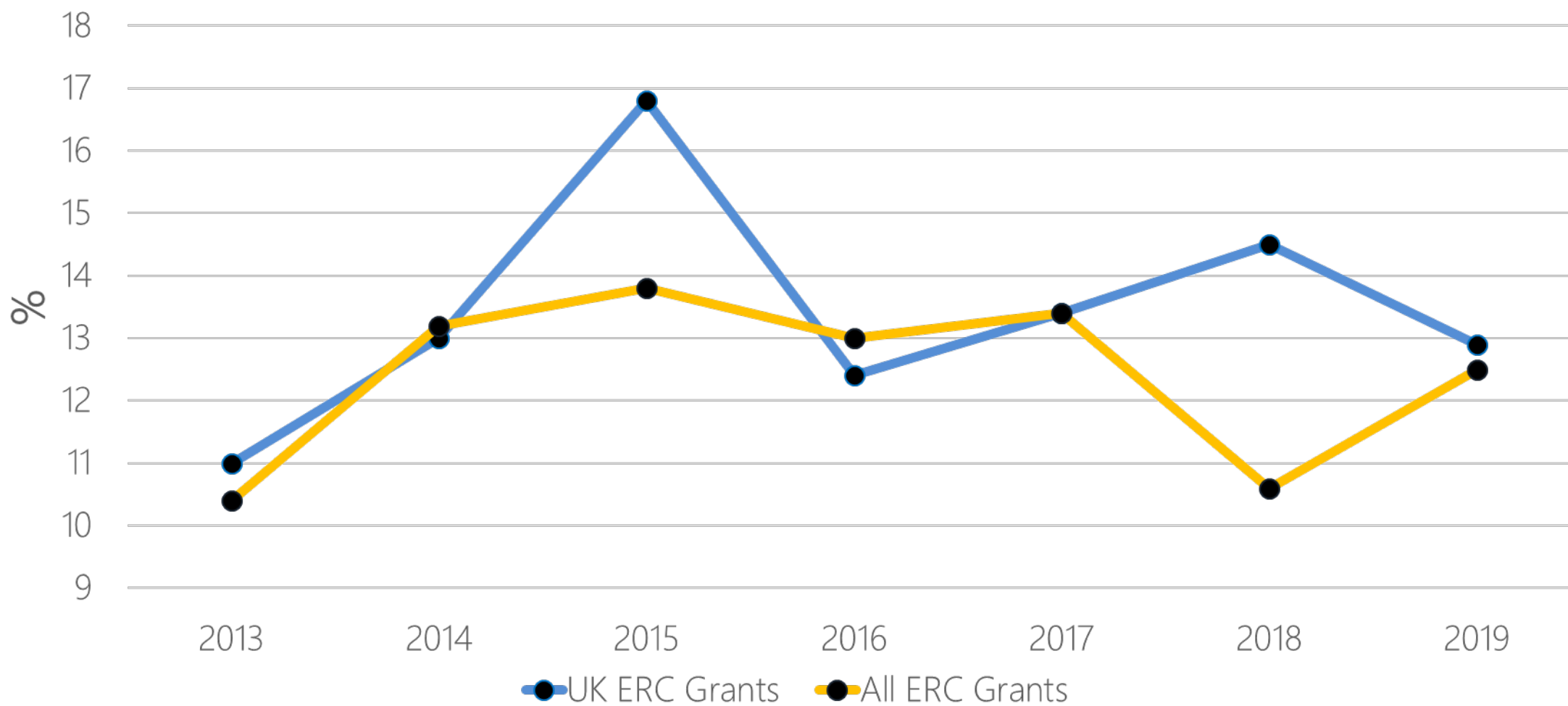
Funded Projects by Domain

ERC StG, CoG & AdG Awards by Domain



Source: [ERC statistics](#)

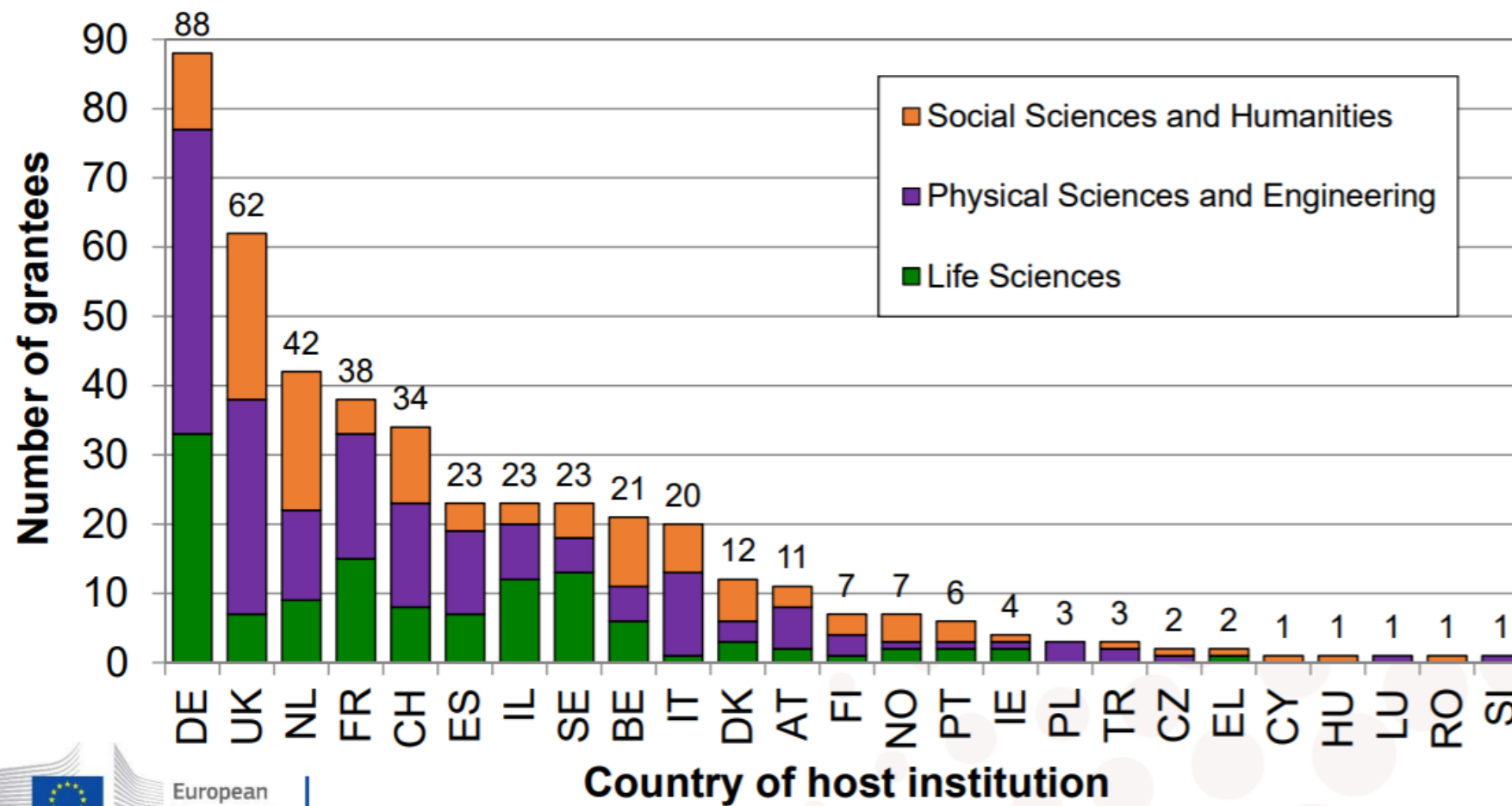
UK Success Rate vs Average Success Rate



Source: [ERC statistics](#)

UK Awards vs Total Awards (Starting Grant 2020 call)

25 countries



Source: [ERC statistics](#)

ERC-2020-StG Results in more detail

- **436** proposals selected for funding from a total of **3272** submitted
- Overall success rate of 13.3%, compared to 12.5% in 2019
- Breakdown by research domain:

Update on ERC 2021 StG call:

- 4066 proposals submitted (24% increase)
- 1070 passed to Step 2
- ~400 proposals will be funded
- Success rate of ~10%

Further information available on the ERC website:

[Highlighted research projects: Starting Grant 2020](#)

[ERC Starting grants 2020 - Statistics](#)

	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Life Sciences	Social Sciences and Humanities
Proposals submitted	1409	923	940
Proposals selected	186	124	126



Images of 2020 Starting Grantees sourced from the ERC website

2 of 2 Information Webinar on ERC 2022 StG Call

- [Register for the 2nd Information Webinar on Thursday 30 September](#)
- Webinar 2 (10:00 – 12:00 UK time) - provides information on the submission process, how proposals are evaluated and a case study for a 2019 ERC StG Grantee.

Useful links

- [ERC 2022 StG call on the Funding and Tenders portal](#)
- [ERC 2022 StG and CoG Information for Applicants](#)
- [Draft Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#)
- [Part B1/B2, Host Institution Support Template](#) (pdf)
- [ERC Website](#)
- [Novelties in the Horizon Europe MGA](#) – Commission Stakeholder Workshop video

Thank you, any questions?

Image Credits:

- Top view of woman making her vacation plan sitting in front of world map by Jacob Lund from Noun Project