

ERC 2022 Proof of Concept Grant Information Event

Overview of the ERC, eligibility, proposal development, submission and evaluation



27 July 2021

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk

Webinar Agenda

- Introduction to UKRO
- UK Participation
- Overview of ERC
- Eligibility Criteria
- Proposal Development
- Submission
- Evaluation
- Case Study – Prof. Allan Matthews and Dr Aleksey Yerokhin
- Q&A



Photo by Jacob Lund from Noun Project

Housekeeping

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



UK Research Office

The Office, Our Mission and Our Services

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's UK National Contact Point for

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

Who is who

Presenter

- *Dr Phil Holliday - European Advisor, ERC National Contact Point*

Guest speakers

- *Prof Allan Matthews and Dr Aleksey Yerokhin, University of Manchester*

Moderator

- *Sean Rowlands - European Advisor and ERC National Contact Point*



UK's Relationship with the EU

Horizon Europe Participation

What Does Association Mean for the UK?

- **Access:** UK researchers and organisations will have access to Horizon Europe programmes on equivalent terms to EU countries
- **Collaboration:** UK organisations can have continued access to collaborative R&I funding, infrastructure and markets via the Horizon Europe programmes, and can lead and influence key collaborative projects
- **Programme Committees:** The UK can participate in Programme Committees with speaking rights, access to information and documentation.
- **Experts:** UK experts can continue to take part in evaluations and join expert groups

More on UK Participation and Access

User Experience

- UK entities will be able to compete for funding on equivalent terms to those of Member States.
- This means that the vast majority of UK applicants will have a very similar user experience to previous Framework Programmes such as Horizon 2020.

Applying to Horizon Europe

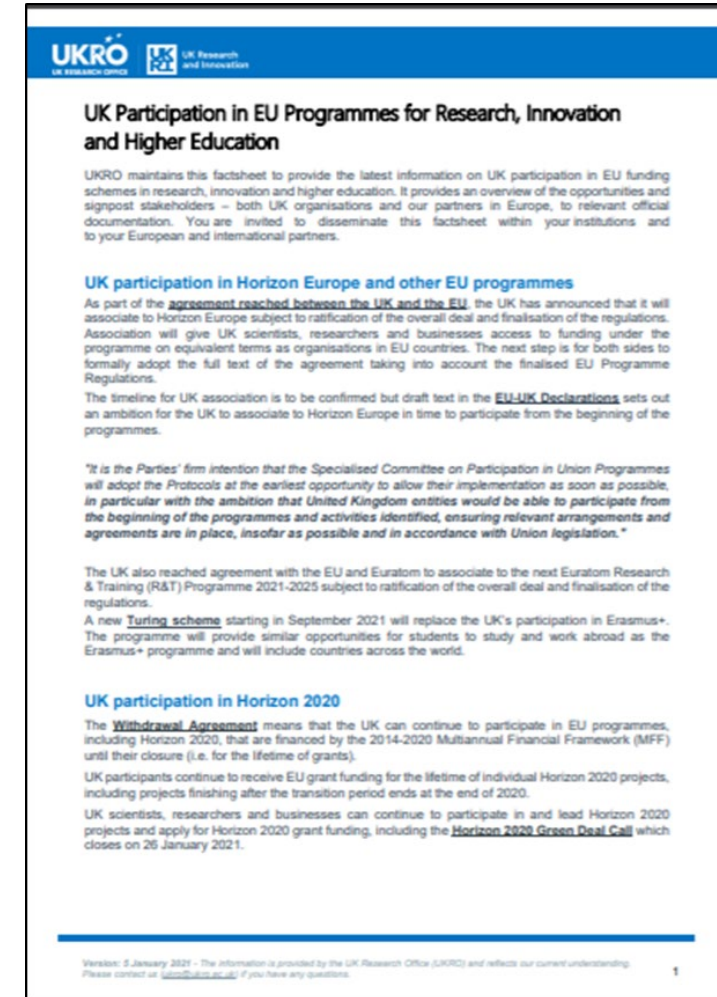
- There will be no role for the UK Government/UKRI in the application or grant management process.
- UK entities will be able to participate in all areas of the Horizon Europe Programme, including ERC, MSCA, Pillar 2 Clusters and grant elements of the EIC.

Direct Actions and COST

- They will also be able to participate in the direct actions of the
 - Joint Research Centre,
 - Article 185/187 Partnerships
 - The European Institute for Innovation and Technology
- The UK will also participate in the COST programme.

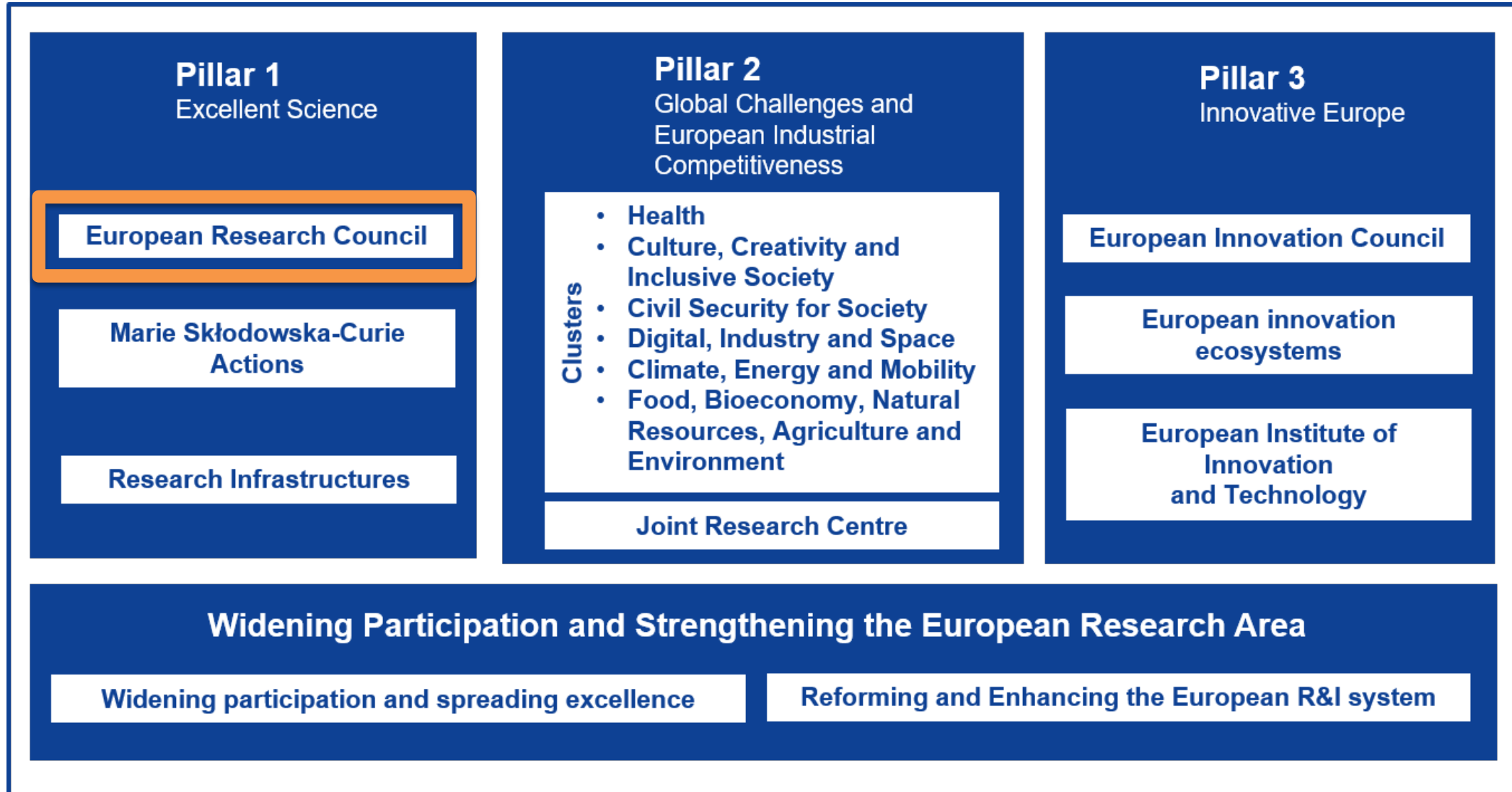
Sources of Further Information

- 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

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 work with and fund team members from anywhere in the world



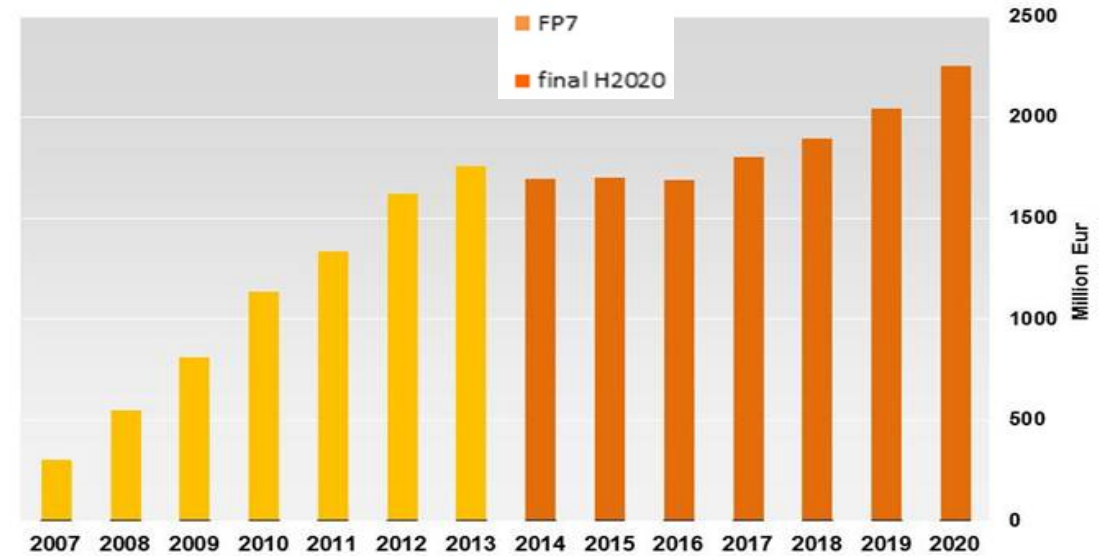
BOTTOM-UP, CURIOSITY-LED EXCELLENT RESEARCH

ERC Budget in Horizon Europe

26% increase in real terms compared to Horizon 2020.

Further budget increase expected once Associated Countries formally join.

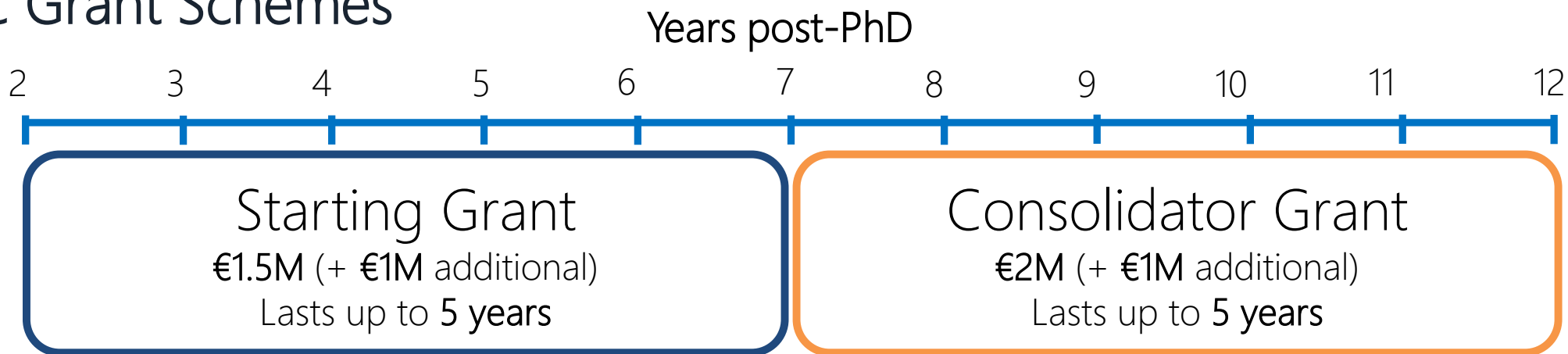
Horizon Europe structure is represented below with each section proportionate to budget allocation size.



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

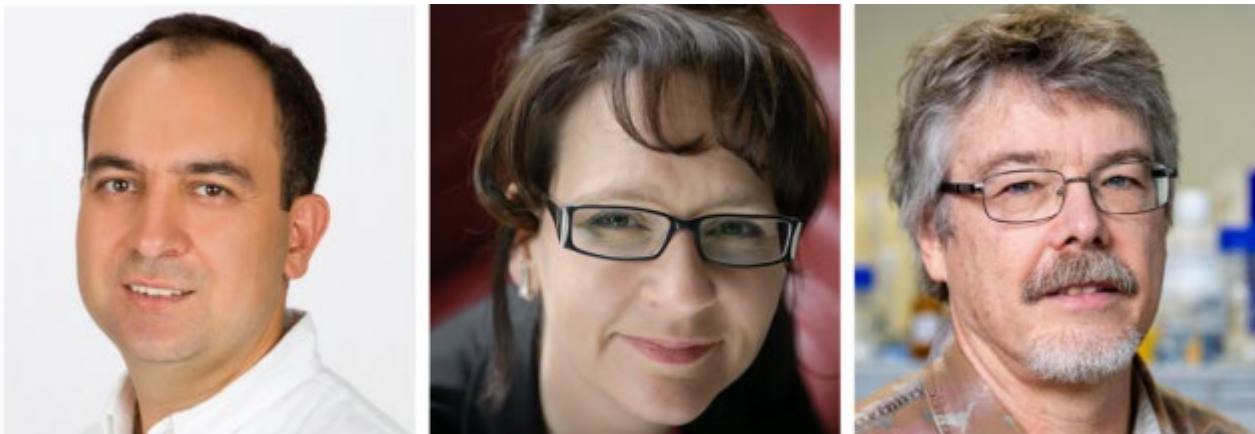
ERC 2022 Calls

	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	€757 M	€784 M	€561 M	€300 M	€25 M	€25 M

ERC-2020-PoC Results in more detail

- 3 rounds of funding in 2020
- 166 proposals selected for funding from a total of 510 evaluated
- 32% overall success rate
- 30 grantees based in the UK, highest number of grants awarded to applicants in any one country in the calendar year

A 2018 PoC Grantee will speak at the end of this webinar!



Images of 2020 Proof of Concept Grantees sourced from the [ERC website](#)

[Click here](#) to find out more about their projects and call statistics

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)

Remember – EU financial contribution to the project cannot be raised

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

Introduction to the Proof of Concept Grant

Revisions and novelties of PoC under Horizon Europe

- Objective of 'new' PoC
 - facilitate the exploration of the commercial and social innovation potential of ERC-funded research
 - Less of a focus on achieving economic or social impact as a direct result of the grant
- Scope enlarged to include **further research activities** needed to explore the innovation potential of the idea proposed
- Evaluation based solely on **excellence**, with new evaluation elements
- **Data Management Plan** now required (within 6 months from project start)
- **Letters of support or intent** can now be uploaded with your proposal

What can you do with a Proof of Concept grant?

Test, experiment, demonstrate & validate your idea. Enable further research covering exploitation aspects & research to carry these activities out

Clarify IPR position & KT strategy

Provide feedback for budgeting & other forms of commercial discussion

Provide connections to potential stakeholders & end users

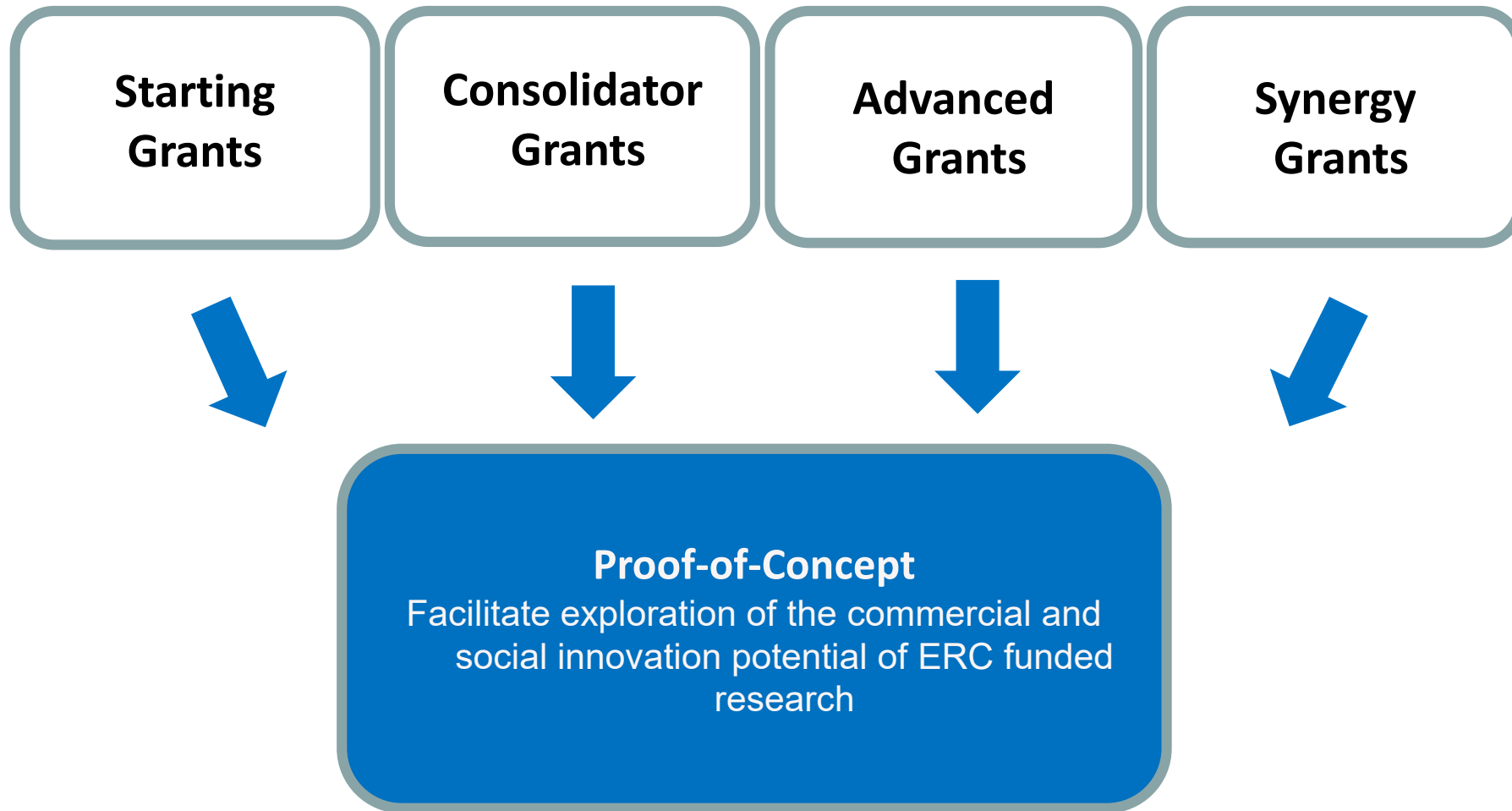
Cover initial expenses for establishing a company, or cost of other type of agreements

Provide connections to later stage funding (EIC Transition Funding / EIC Accelerator Funding)

Indicative timetable for PoC 1 and PoC 2

	Call opens	Deadline(s)	Planned dates to inform applicants	Signature of Grant Agreement
PoC 1	15 July 2021	14 October 2021	21 January 2022	19 May 2022
PoC 2	16 November 2021	15 February 2022 19 May 2022 29 September 2022	23 May 2022 29 August 2022 17 January 2023	21 September 2022 27 December 2022 15 May 2023

ERC Eligibility Criteria



- Project must draw substantially on their ERC funded research
- Max. 3 PoC grants per main ERC grant (for Synergy grants, max. of 6 PoC grants per ERC grant)

Eligibility of submission to the PoC 1 and PoC 2

ERC-2022-PoC1

- Main grant is ongoing, or
- Main grant has ended less than 12 months before 1 January 2021, and/or main grant has ended less than 12 months before 1 January 2022

It is possible to apply to PoC1 call, then resubmit for one of the PoC2 deadlines regardless of the result from PoC1 (provided that your main ERC grant is still eligible for the PoC2 call)

ERC-2022-PoC2:

- Main grant is ongoing, or
- Main grant has ended less than 12 months before 1 January 2022

Host institution

- Any legal entity based in a Member State or Associated Country

Proposal Structure

1-Step Submission

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

Part A

*Administrative Forms
and Abstract*

- General information
- Participants & contacts
 - Gender Equality Plan
- Budget
- Ethics & security questionnaire

Part B

The PoC Proposal

- The idea – Breakthrough innovation potential (max. 3 pages)
- Approach and methodology (max. 6 pages)
- Capacity and commitment of the PI (max 1 page)

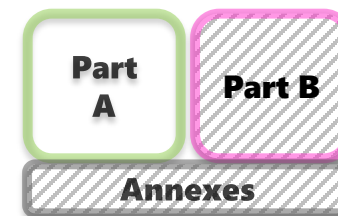
Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Letters of Support (where applicable), Ethics, Security

Proposal Development

Part A & Part B

Part A



- General information
- Participants & contacts
 - Gender Equality Plan
- Budget
- Ethics & security questionnaire

Gender Equality Plans:

Not an evaluation criterion!

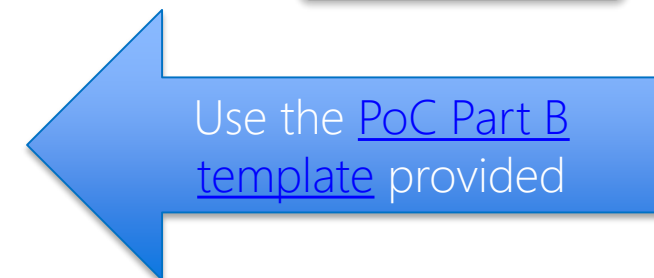
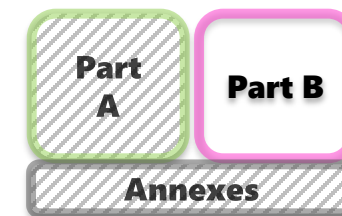
For PoC 1 – Exemption from requirement to have a GEP

For PoC 2 – HI must have GEP in place by signature of GA

Part B

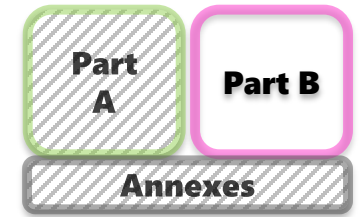
- Strict formatting requirements:

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



- **The idea – Breakthrough innovation potential (max. 3 pages)**
 - Brief description of the idea to be taken to proof of concept
 - Demonstration of Breakthrough Innovation Potential
 - Demonstration of the high-risk/high-gain idea
- **Approach and methodology (max. 6 pages)**
 - Outline the approach and methodology to explore the innovation potential of your ERC funded research
 - Describe the activities
 - Plan of the proof of concept - Description of the Action
- **Capacity and commitment of the PI (max 1 page)**
 - The PI
 - The Strategic Management

The Idea – Breakthrough innovation potential (max. 3 pages)



The idea to be taken to proof of concept

- **The problem** – what is the problem or need that your idea will solve/alleviate?
- **The solution** –
 - 1) How does the idea solve user's problems or improve their situation?
 - 2) Why would potential users/sponsors pay for this solution over existing ones?
- **The origin** – describe the ERC project that this idea has come from

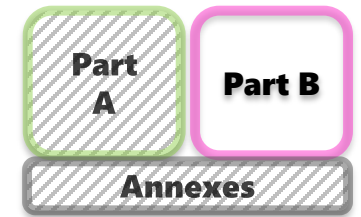
Breakthrough innovation potential

- Describe how your idea has the potential to **drive innovation** and **business inventiveness** and/or tackle **societal challenges**
- Describe how your project outcomes will be **innovative and disruptive**
- Describe any competing products or solutions

High-risk/high-gain idea

- Explain how your idea will result in **breakthrough innovation**
- Describe what can go **wrong**
- Present a plan for identification or **off-setting of possible risks**
- Present a plan for **unforeseen events** of non-scientific/technical nature

Approach and methodology (max. 6 pages)



The approach and methodology

- Describe how the project will make progress on the path from **ground-breaking research** towards **innovation**
- Demonstrate the **feasibility** and **effectiveness** of the project
- Demonstrate the **relevance** of the approach chosen for establishing the **technical** and **commercial/societal feasibility** of the project

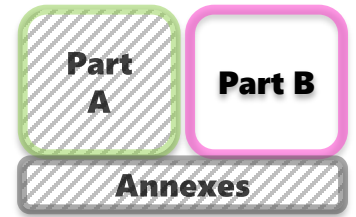
Describe the activities

- Plans for **validation activities** and related **research**
- Clarify **IPR position** and strategy or **knowledge transfer** strategy
- Involve **industrial partners, societal/cultural organisation, policy makers** or other potential stakeholders
- Assess the potential **“end users”** of your expected innovation

Plan of the proof of concept

- Provide a narrative description of the **resources planned** for each activity and fully justify
- No breakdown of budget with cost figures needed (Lump Sum)
- Use a GANTT chart and/or milestones table
- Describe the size and nature of your **team**

Capacity and commitment of the PI (max. 1 page)



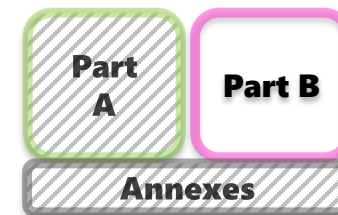
The Principal Investigator

- Describe your **role**
- Explain any relevant **experience** or **achievements** you have in leading similar innovative projects (if applicable), or explain how you are fit to lead this project

The Strategic Management

- Describe your organisational structure and the **decision-making process**
- Explain why these are appropriate to the complexity and scale of the project

PART B – An overview



Applicant's Last Name Part B ACRONYM

Proposal Full Title

ERC Proof of Concept Lump Sum Grant 2022-1
(ERC-2022-PoC1)

Part B

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margins (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing. Please respect the overall page limit (10 pages excluding references).

Section 1a: The idea – Breakthrough Innovation potential (max. 3 pages)

1a.i. Brief description of the idea to be taken to proof of concept:

The problem: Describe the problem or the need that the idea is aiming to solve or alleviate
The solution: Explain how the idea will solve or alleviate the problem or the need and the meaning that this will make. A clear value proposition should be included, explaining
- how the idea solves users' problems or improves their situation
The origin: Briefly describe the ERC-funded project from which the idea is substantially drawn and briefly demonstrate the relation between the idea and the ERC-funded project in question.

1a.ii. Demonstration of Breakthrough Innovation Potential:

Describe how the idea has the potential to drive innovation and business inventiveness and/or tackle societal challenges.
Describe in detail how the project outcomes will be innovative or distinctive. This section should include a clear explanation of why the solution proposed is new compared to what already exists. A clear value proposition should be included, explaining why potential users or sponsors should choose this solution and not other existing solutions. Describe any competing products or solutions.

1a.iii. Demonstration of the high-risk/high-gain idea:

Explain how the idea, if successful, will result in breakthrough innovation.
Describe what can go wrong: which are the aspects that might not work or what are the features of the problem that require development of new approaches.
Present a plan for the identification and acceptance or off-setting of possible risks linked to the project idea (e.g. scientific events such as if a test or an experiment fails)
Present a plan for unforeseen events of non-scientific/technical nature, including back-up procedures, emergency response and ex-post recovery (e.g. if a key person of the team leaves or you cannot access a facility)

Applicant's Last Name Part B ACRONYM

Use this risk mitigation table to summarise the information in section 1a.iii;

Description of the risk	Proposed risk-mitigation measures

Section 1b: Approach and Methodology (max. 6 pages)

1b.i. Outline the approach and methodology to explore the innovation potential of your ERC-funded research

1b.ii Describe the activities exploring the pathway from ground-breaking research towards innovation:

This may include (where applicable¹) proposed plans to:

- Test, experiment, demonstrate and validate the effectiveness of the project's outcomes (or of the idea) (e.g. testing, experimenting, technical reports or any other form of validation to confirm that the solution is effective, efficient and sustainable, or appropriate.)
- Undertake research required to carry out the above activities and to address the weaknesses uncovered by them.
- Clarify the IPR position and strategy² or knowledge transfer strategy (e.g. patenting, creation of spin-outs, licensing agreements, research contracts, research collaborations, consultancy agreements, informal advice, public engagement, policy reports/contributions to policy, and more.)
- Involving industrial partners, societal or cultural organisations, policy makers or any other potential stakeholders supporting the translation of research results into innovation. Describe the level of relationship with entities mentioned in your proposal. If you have an established working relationship with any of them, describe its nature.
If such contacts already exist, include supporting documentation like letters of support or intent from the relevant stakeholders.
- Assess the potential "end users" of the expected innovation. Who would be using the output? What would be the expected size of the group or market?

¹ "where applicable" does not mean you should skip these points if not applicable. In this case, explain why it does not apply to the project (is it out of scope or has it already been achieved?) in order for the evaluators to understand why this issue is not addressed in the frame of the Proof of Concept project.

² Any application for funding of IPR activities under the ERC Proof of Concept will not discharge beneficiaries from their prior obligations under their pre-existing ERC Grant Agreement in respect of protecting IPR capable of industrial or commercial application. If any foreground was potentially protectable in the pre-existing ERC project, beneficiaries had the legal obligation to seek for adequate and effective protection according to the [Horizon Europe Regulation](#) and the [Multi & Mono Model Grant Agreement for Lump Sum Grants](#).

[Standard PoC application form \(pdf version\)](#)

Submission Process

Practical tips for the online submission system and which documents to upload

Approaching Proposal Submission

Get in touch with your research support office



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



Add relevant contact people to the online application



Submit early and often – latest version will be accepted



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

ERC Proposal Submission

Part A

- General information
- Participants and contacts
- Budget
- Ethics and security questionnaire

Part B

- The idea – breakthrough innovation potential
- Approach and methodology
- The PI – capacity and commitment

Annexes

- Host Institution Letter
- Ethics & security (self assessment and supporting documentation)
- Letters of support (where applicable)

- 1-step submission all parts submitted together at deadline
- Part A is filled in online on the Funding and Tenders Portal
- Part B and the Annexes are uploaded as PDFs to the Funding and Tenders Portal

Template PDF of Part B of the PoC application form [available here](#)

Using the EC Portal <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

European Commission | Funding & tender opportunities | Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

English EN | Register | Login

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS | HOW TO PARTICIPATE | PROJECTS & RESULTS | WORK AS AN EXPERT | SUPPORT

Horizon Europe (HORIZON) | clear filter

ERC

Match with keywords only | GRANTS | TENDERS

Submission status: Forthcoming (2), Open for submission (1), Closed (2)

Programming period: 2021 - 2027 (5)

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Programme part: Select a Programme part...

Funding and tenders (5)

Need help? | Sort by: Submission status

Grant	ERC ADVANCED GRANTS
Open for submission	
Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
ID	ERC-2021-ADG
Types of action	HORIZON ERC Grants
Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	20 May 2021
Deadline date	31 August 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

Grant	ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANTS1
Forthcoming	
Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
ID	ERC-2022-POC1
Types of action	HORIZON ERC Proof of Concept Grants
Deadline model	single-stage
Opening date	15 July 2021
Deadline date	14 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

Grant	ERC Synergy Grants
Forthcoming	
Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
Deadline model	single-stage

Call Page on Funding & Tender Opportunities

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/erc-2022-poc1>

ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANTS¹

TOPIC ID: ERC-2022-POC1

Grant

General information

Topic description

Conditions and documents

Partner search

Submission service

Topic related FAQ

Get support

 Go back to search results

General information

Programme

Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

Call

[Call for proposals for ERC Proof of Concept Grant¹ \(ERC-2022-POC1\)](#)

 See budget overview

Type of action

HORIZON-ERC-POC HORIZON ERC Proof of Concept Grants

Type of MGA

HORIZON Lump Sum Grant [HORIZON-AG-LS]

Forthcoming

Deadline model

single-stage

Planned opening date

15 July 2021

Deadline date

14 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

Topic description

Objective:

Objectives:

The ERC Proof of Concept Grants aim to facilitate exploration of the commercial and social innovation potential of ERC funded research and are the

Size of ERC Proof of Concept Grants:

The financial contribution will be awarded as a **lump sum of EUR 150 000** for a period of **18 months**. The ERC expects that normally proof of concept projects will be funded for 18 months. In some cases, for example, in the case of a project with a long time, the grant agreements will be signed for 18 months. Extensions of the duration of proof of concept projects may be granted only exceptionally.

[show more...](#)

Topic conditions and documents

1. Admissibility and Eligibility Conditions: The conditions specific to ERC grants are described in the ERC Work Programme 2022 under the heading

Start submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the **type of action** and confirm your choice, as it cannot be changed in the submission system. Upon confirmation, you will be linked to

To access existing draft proposals for this topic, please login to the Funding & Tenders Portal and select the My

Please select the type of your submission:

HORIZON ERC Grants [HORIZON-ERC], HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based [HORIZON-AG]

[Start submission](#)

 Need help?

First page of proposal submission

Note, these are screenshots from the 2021 StG call, the 2022 PoC online form will be slightly different

IDENTIFY THE HOST INSTITUTION (PIC number)

Find your organisation

PIC 9 Short name 250

[Search for your organisation](#)

[Organisations you have been previously associated with. \(Click to select\)](#)

BASIC DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Anything you enter in this part of the form can be edited later up until submission

Your proposal

Please choose an acronym for your proposal.

It will appear also in the "General Information" section of the Application Form Part A and can also be updated there.

Acronym 20

Short Summary 2000

ERC Panel

[SAVE AND GO TO NEXT STEP](#)

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE ON THE PROPOSAL?

Your role

Please indicate your role in this proposal

Principal Investigator

Main Host Institution Contact

Contact person

Fill in each role per organisation to get to next step to avoid technical issues

Can be changed later on but should be completed, if even if tentatively.

For PoC proposal, you do not need to select an ERC panel

Main proposal page

Note, these are screenshots from the 2021 StG call, the 2022 PoC online form will be slightly different

Part A: Administrative Forms
online only

Part B
Upload PDFs based on editable templates
Other documents listed below uploaded separately as PDFs

Part B
Editable templates available to download

Support for using the EC portal

- *Not support on content of proposals*
- *Any issues during submission should be logged with the helpdesk*

The screenshot shows the 'Proposal forms' page with a progress bar at the top: Login (checked), Topic selection (checked), Create proposal (checked), Participants (checked), Proposal Forms (active), and Submit (unchecked). The page is divided into several sections:

- Deadline:** 08 April 2021 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time. 26 days left until closure.
- Call data:** Call: ERC-2021-STG, Topic: ERC-2021-STG, Type of action: HORIZON-ERC, Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG. A warning message states: 'Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.'
- Proposal data:** Acronym: FAD, Draft ID: SEP-210732071.
- Administrative forms:** Includes 'Edit forms', 'View history', and 'Print preview' buttons.
- Part B and Annexes:** A table with upload buttons for Part B1, Part B2, HI support letter, PhD certificate, and Annexes 1-6.
- Support & Helpdesk:** Includes 'Download Part B templates' button, 'Online Manual', 'IT How To', 'IT Helpdesk', and 'FAQ' buttons. Service Desk contact: EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu, +32 2 29 92222.

Callouts from the text boxes on the left point to specific elements: 'Part A: Administrative Forms online only' points to the 'Edit forms' button; 'Part B' (upload PDFs) points to the 'Part B and Annexes' table; 'Part B' (download templates) points to the 'Download Part B templates' button; and 'Support for using the EC portal' points to the 'IT Helpdesk' and 'FAQ' buttons.

Part A – Administrative forms

The screenshot shows the 'Application forms' section of a Horizon proposal submission system. At the top, there are navigation links: '< Proposal forms', 'Table of contents', and 'General Information >'. Below this, there are buttons for 'Table Of Contents', 'Save', and 'Save&Close'. The main content area displays the following information:

- HORIZON**
- Call: ERC-2021-STG**
(Call for Proposals for ERC Starting Grant)
- Topic: ERC-2021-STG**
- Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC**
(HORIZON ERC Grants)
- Proposal number: SEP-210732071**
- Proposal acronym: FAD**
- Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based**

Below this information is a 'Table of contents' section with a table listing sections and their corresponding actions:

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

At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a section titled 'How to fill in the forms' with a 'Read more' button. The text in this section states: 'The administrative forms must be filled in for each proposal using the templates available in the submission system. Some data fields in the administrative forms are pre-filled based on the steps in the submission wizard.'

Navigate by chapter or pages

How to fill in the forms

Evaluation

The Criteria

ERC evaluation criteria

Excellence of one is not more important than that of the other

Project

- 1.a Breakthrough innovation potential
- 1.b Approach and methodology

Principal Investigator

PI – Capacity and commitment

**Excellence
is the sole
evaluation criterion**

- Proposals evaluated by independent external experts
- All evaluation elements are marked “very good”, “good” or “fail”
- In order to be considered for funding, a proposal needs a pass mark (“very good” or “good”) from a majority of experts on all 3 evaluation elements

1. Project – Breakthrough innovation potential, approach and methodology


Breakthrough innovation potential

- Does the proposed idea have the **potential to drive innovation and business inventiveness** and/or tackle **societal challenges**?
- Are the proposed expected outcomes **innovative or distinctive** compared to existing solutions?
- Is the proposed project **high-risk/high-gain**?

Approach and methodology

- Are the outlined approach and methodology feasible to **explore the innovation** of ERC-funded research?
- Are the proposed activities and planning appropriate and effective to explore the pathway from ground-breaking research towards innovation?
- Are the proposed **timescales and resources** adequate and properly justified?

2. Principal Investigator - Capacity and commitment



**Principal
Investigator
(PI)**

- Does the PI demonstrate the ability to conduct the management of the project, the consolidation of information and data needed to take strategic decisions and implement the proposed plan?

Evaluation

The Process

Scoring

Evaluation is by remote independent experts:

1. Award a mark of “very good”, “good” or “fail” for each of the evaluation elements (1.a, 1.b and 2)
2. In order to be considered for funding, proposals must be awarded a pass mark (“very good” or “good”) by a majority of experts on ALL of the evaluation elements. A proposal that fails one evaluation element will not be ranked/funded

Ranking

- If there is not enough budget to fund all the proposals which **pass all three evaluation elements**, those proposals which pass all three evaluation elements will be ranked according to the marks (very good, good and fail) which they received will be sorted by the following order:
 - 1.a Breakthrough innovation potential
 - 1.b Approach and methodology
 - 2 Principal Investigator – capacity and commitment
- Proposals will be funded in order of this ranking. If necessary, experts will meet as an evaluation panel in order to determine a priority order for proposals which have the same ranking.
- Feedback to applicants will include the marks for each evaluation element, the ranking range and the assessment of the evaluation elements by each expert.

Other Points for Consideration

Open Access and Gender

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/>

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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?

Gender equality plans are not required for PoC 1 but are required for PoC 2

- 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.](#)

Things to remember

How to write a good PoC proposal

Read the reference documents carefully:

- [ERC 2022 Work Programme](#)
- [2022 PoC Information for Applicants](#) document

Talk to existing PoC grantees in your institution:

- Did they get external help?
- Why were they not successful at the first attempt?
- Consider consulting the list of PoC Grantees published on [ERC website](#)

Resources

- [ERC 2022 PoC call on the Funding and Tenders portal](#)
- [ERC 2022 PoC Information for Applicants](#)
- [PDF Application Form template](#)
for part B and Host Institution Letter (editable version will be Funding and Tenders Portal when the call opens)
- [Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#)
- [Novelties in the Horizon Europe MGA](#) – Commission Stakeholder Workshop video
- [ERC YouTube Channel](#) with explainer videos
- ERC FAQ <https://erc.europa.eu/funding/frequently-asked-questions>
- [ERC Information System](#) and [Project database](#) to search for examples of past Proof of Concept Grant Projects
- [Guide for Peer Reviewers on 2022 PoC Calls](#)
(will be published soon)

Remember Read the Information for Applicants and submit your proposal early and often!



Thank you!