ERC 2022 Consolidator Call Webinar

Session 1:

Overview of the ERC, eligibility and proposal development

19 October 2021

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk

Who is who

Sean Rowlands

– European Advisor and ERC National Contact Point

Dr Phil Holliday

– European Advisor and ERC National Contact Point

Dr Branwen Hide

– Senior European Advisor and NCP coordinator for the ERC & MSCA

UKRI UK Research Office
Brussels

What will be covered in this webinar?

- Introduction to UKRO & UK Participation in Horizon Europe
- Overview of the ERC programme
- Eligibility criteria
- Proposal development
- Questions and answers session

UK Research Office
Brussels

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.

UKRI **UK Research Office**
Brussels

About UKRO

We support UK research intensive organisations

UK National Contact Point for
European Research Council and
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programmes

Unique partnership between UKRI and subscribing
organisations

Provide a service to more than 140 subscribing
organisations

A Brussels-based team of advisors

Part of UKRI's wider International team

UK Research Office
Brussels

UK participation in Horizon Europe

On 24 December 2020, the negotiations on the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement concluded

The announcement sets out the UK's intention to **associate to Horizon Europe**

This includes **full participation in the programme** (with the exception of the EIC Fund)

UK entities can participate in/coordinate projects and receive funding from Horizon Europe, incl. ERC grants

European Commission's Q&A confirms **UK eligibility to apply.**

UKRO website provides latest information on UK participation
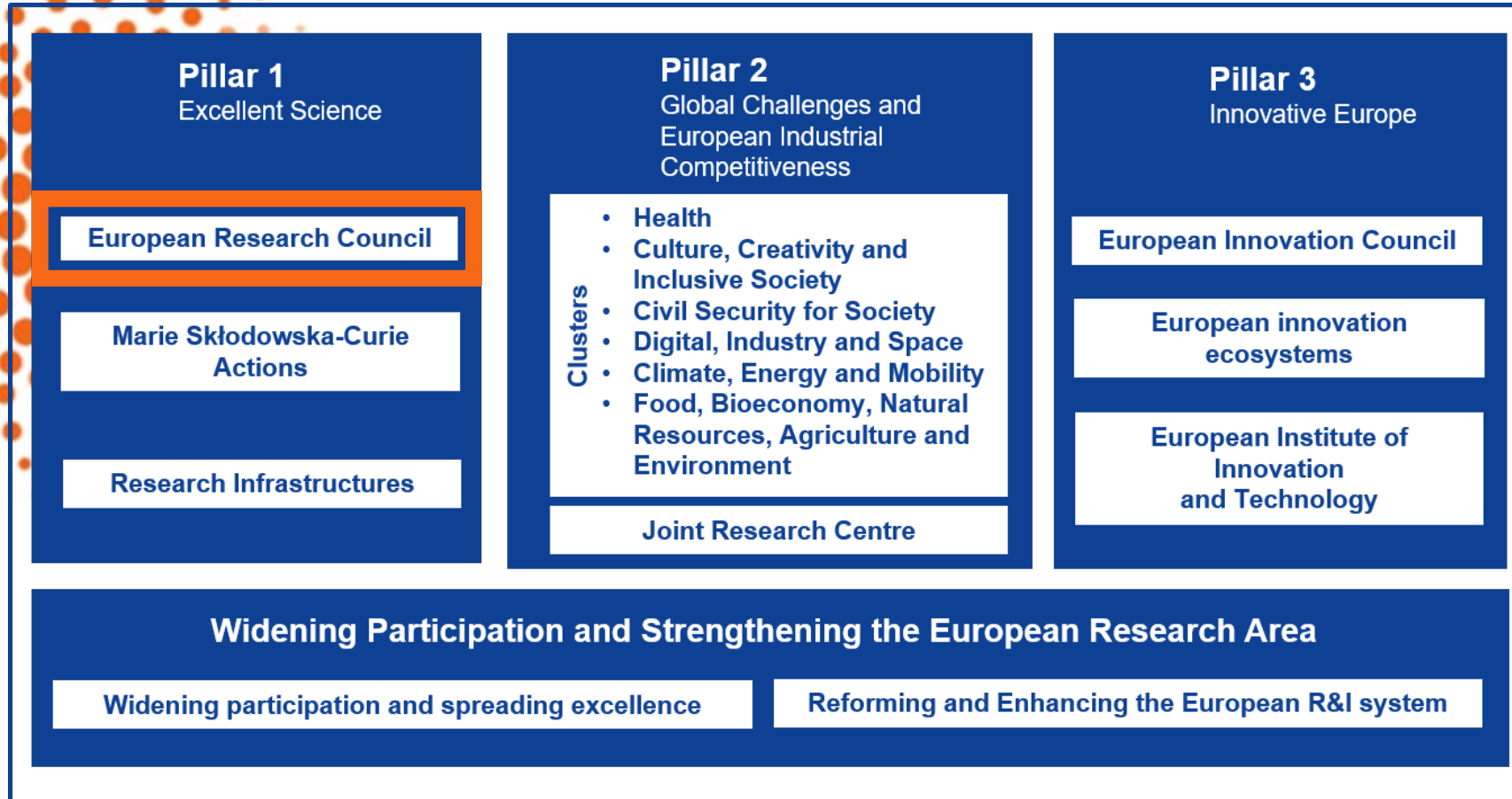

UK-EU TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Summary

December 2020

UKRI UK Research Office Brussels

Overview of the ERC

How does it fit into the wider Horizon Europe and what is it about?

Horizon Europe structure

Pillar 1
Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3
Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

UK Research Office
Brussels

What is the European Research Council?

The ERC's mission:

- Support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields
- Fund projects purely on the basis of scientific excellence
- Encourage the highest quality research in Europe

BOTTOM-UP,

CURIOSITY-LED,

EXCELLENT RESEARCH

What makes the ERC unique:

- Excellence is the only criteria
- Funding is distributed on researcher demand
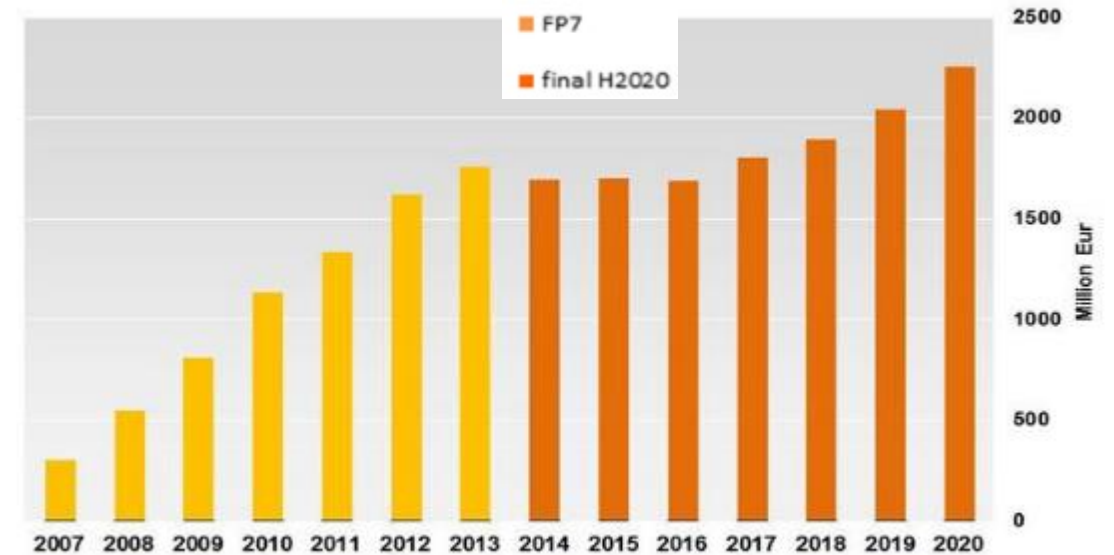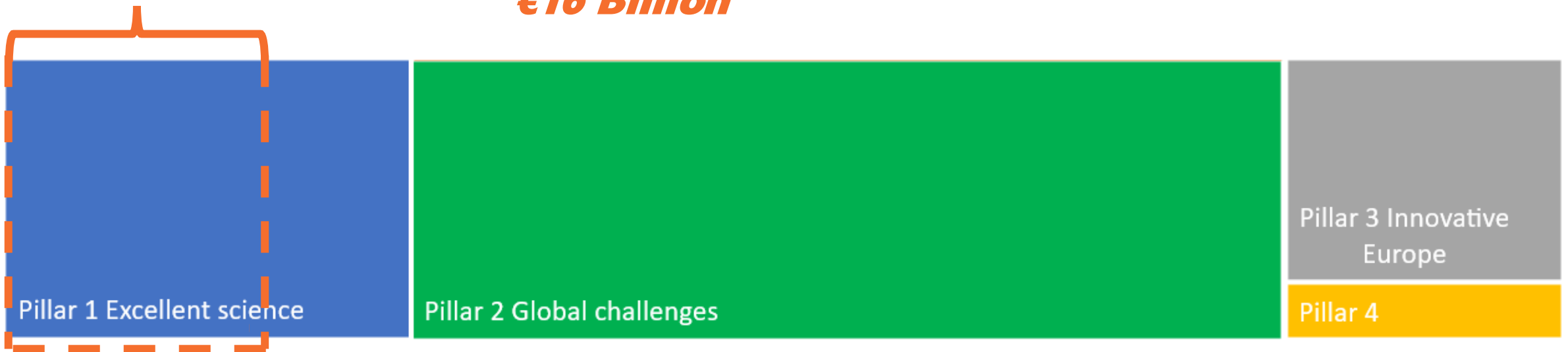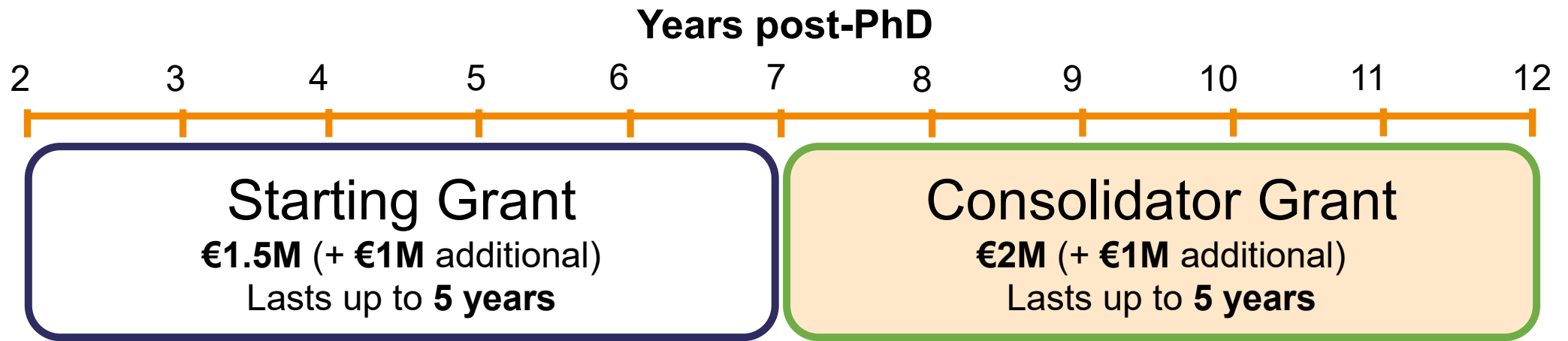- Freedom of PIs to lead their project with anyone in the world in their team

UK Research Office Brussels

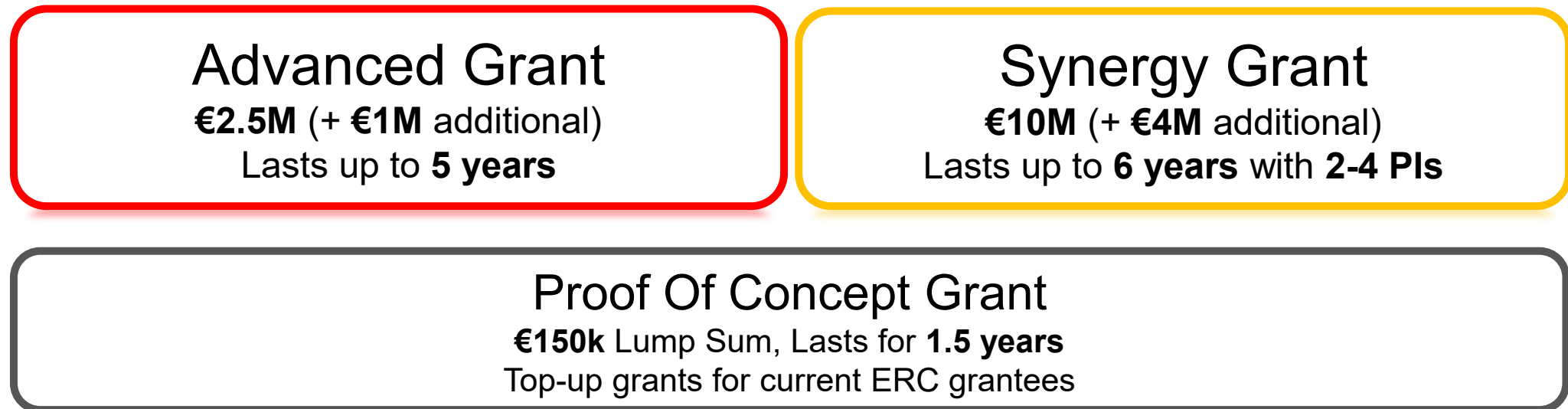# ERC Budget in Horizon Europe

26% increase in real terms compared to Horizon 2020.

Horizon Europe structure is represented below proportionate to budget allocation.

ERC BUDGET: €16 Billion

Years post-PhD

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Starting Grant
€1.5M (+ €1M additional)
Lasts up to **5 years**

Consolidator Grant
€2M (+ €1M additional)
Lasts up to **5 years**

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

UK Research Office
Brussels

ERC 2022 Calls

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant	Proof of Concept	
Call Type	ERC-2022-CoG	**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 (€ million)	749	**776**	555	297	25	25

UK Research Office Brussels

We understand that all these schemes will also be in the 2023 Work Programme but call dates may vary.

ERC Panel Structure
Open to any field of research

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*		

*Since 2021: PE11 and SH7 panels are newly added, split off from existing panels

Some descriptors in the LS domain were shuffled between its panels

How do I pick the right panel for me and my project?

Make the right choice/configuration

You must choose a **primary panel** – might not be perfect, go for best-fit

You can choose any other **secondary panel** as well if applicable – to indicate where other panellists could help to evaluate your proposal.

Choose **Panel Descriptor** – this helps the Panel Chair to identify your proposal's main readers ahead of the panel meeting.

Choose **ERC-listed keywords from primary/secondary panel** in order of priority

Choose **Free keywords** that complement your selected ERC keywords.

Keywords in your abstract – try to use keywords that define your project because they are used by the ERC to find the right remote expert reviewers.

Evaluation panel section in Part A form

Primary ERC Review Panel*

Secondary ERC Review Panel | (if applicable)

ERC Keyword 1* | As first keyword please choose one which is linked to the Primary Review Panel.
Please select, if applicable, the ERC keyword(s) that best characterize the subject of your proposal in order of priority.

ERC Keyword 2

ERC Keyword 3

ERC Keyword 4

Free keywords | *In addition, please enter free text keywords that you consider best characterise the scope of your proposal. The choice of keywords should take into account any multi-disciplinary aspects of the proposal.*

Do your homework to judge what matches your proposal.

Read panel descriptors & keywords in the ERC Work Programme to get an idea of the best-fit panel for you – they align with the kinds of experts on the panel.

Search for previously funded projects from your potential panel choices to see examples of projects. Use the ERC Information System

UK Research Office
Brussels

Avoid mistakes with your panel selection

What doesn't work...

Don't try to refit your proposal to a more "generous panel" based on previous call statistics.

Why?

- Funding is allocated to panels demand and the ERC aims is for comparable success rates between panels

- That means heavily subscribed panels will have lots of unsuccessful applicants

- This year a panel call may be oversubscribed/undersubscribed compared to recent years, you don't know.

- In any case if you adapt your proposal to another panel, it is less likely to be excellent in the eyes of evaluators.

What if I pick the wrong panel?

Panel chairs can reallocate proposals if a better fit of expertise is on another evaluation panel.

But don't count on this:

- No guarantee that panel chairs will do this.

- A good reallocation might not be apparent to them, especially when they are working with a high volume of proposals

- Nobody knows your project like you do, you're best placed to choose the best-fit.

UK Research Office
Brussels

ERC Eligibility Criteria

Types of research funded

- Can be in **ANY** field of research;

- Must be very **ambitious** in **risk** and in **scope;**

- **Principal Investigator** is central to the project, they can be supported by as many "team members" as they need;

- Must be **"frontier research",** and should not be incremental advances.

More on evaluation criteria in part 2 including how panels and external experts evaluate proposals

Judged on the scientific excellence of the project and PI

No need to aim for externally selected policies or research themes, it's up to the applicant!

UK Research Office
Brussels

2022 Consolidator Grant call details

Call Identifier	ERC-2022-CoG
Budget	€776 Million
Estimated no. grants funded	388

Call open 19/10/2021 ▶ **Deadline** 17/03/2022 ▶ **Step 1 Decision** 02/09/2022 ▶ **Step 2 Decision** 01/02/2023 ▶ **Grant Signature** Approx. 29/05/2023

UK Research Office Brussels

2022 Consolidator Grant Eligibility window

Cut-off dates:

**PhD awarded from
1 January 2010 to 31 December 2014 (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.

UK Research Office
Brussels

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 if documented) | **Paternity leave** (actual amount of documented leave taken) | **National service** (Actual amount of documented leave taken) | **Long-term illness** (lasting over 90 days) Illness of PI/family member | **Clinical training** Maximum 4 years |

Children born before or after PhD award date

Only occurrences after PhD award date

See Work Programme for details (p 28).

Details of documentation you need to submit in the Information for Applicants

No extensions for part time working, non-research careers, travel, Covid restrictions (e.g. home schooling) etc., unless linked to illness/maternity.

But evaluators do take these circumstance into account if you describe them in your track record).

UKRI UK Research Office Brussels

Example of an eligibility extension

Applicant had her PhD awarded on 1 April 2009 so she is not covered by t default PhD eligibility window.

She has 1 child, so she is automatically entitled to an 18 month extension.

After the extension her PhD eligibility window is from 1 July 2008 - 31 Dec 2014

The extension makes her eligible to apply to the 2022 Consolidator call

1 April 2009   1 January 2010   31 December 2014

PhD award date   PhD eligibility window

1) Original Scenario

1 July 2008   **1 April 2009**   31 December 2014

Extended PhD Eligibility limit   **1 April 2009**   **Birth of a child (triggers 18 month extension)**
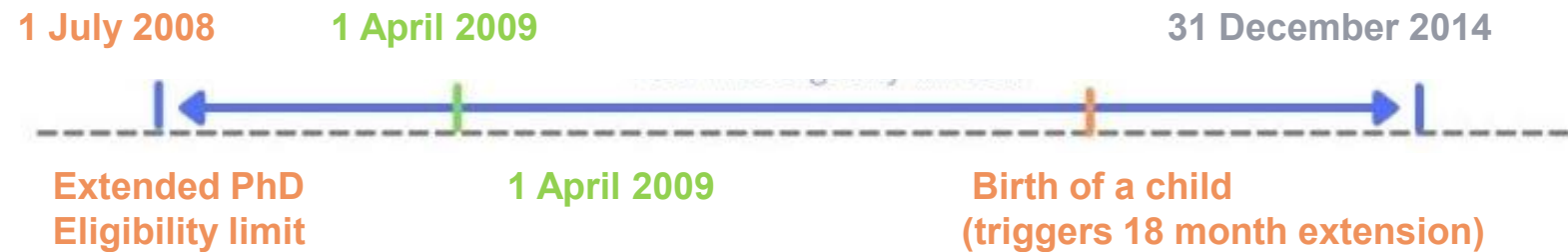
2) Extension request for maternity leave scenario

UK Research Office Brussels

Am I a competitive candidate?

Compared to what?

- Constantly measure yourself against the Consolidator Grantee profile and the PI Evaluation Criteria in the [Work Programme](#)

- Evaluators will benchmark you to your specific career age; 8 years PhD ≠ 11 years post PhD.

- Even distribution of success across eligible ages for Consolidator grant

- Think about what this profile looks like in your field of research.

- Look at [previously funded Consolidator PIs in your field](#), but remember you can present yourself on your own terms

What counts for a good track record?

- Prestigious achievements can matter but they aren't the only way to be successful. There are no blunt markers of an ERC grantee.

- Context matters, demonstrate what you did well and details that show your role so that evaluators can make a nuanced consideration

Don't forget to seek feedback!

Are you convinced you fit the profile? You will need to demonstrate enough to convince world-leading experts.

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 ten 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 indicators[22] 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.**

UK Research Office
Brussels

From the [ERC Work Programme (pg. 20)](#)

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 *not* 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

UK Research Office
Brussels

How are ERC proposals evaluated?

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion, applied to:

Research Project

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

Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity and creativity

UK Research Office
Brussels

Should I apply this year?

Apply when you're ready
- The calls are annual, if you're not ready, then apply next year

Don't wait if you're ready: apply for any call year if you're eligible
- Success rates across each 'number of years of experience' for Consolidator call is more or less even.
- Applying with the minimum 8 years post-PhD can be a viable possibility.

Have you planned ahead?
- It takes a long time and a lot of work to write an ERC proposal

Have you looked at the PI profile?
- If you have gaps, use the profile to Identify and aim to achieve before applying in a later year

Don't forget there are resubmission restrictions for ERC calls…
- Don't rush your proposal and risk being excluded for up to two years

**UK Research Office
Brussels**

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 or 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

UK Research Office
Brussels

Host Institution Eligibility

Can be any type of legal entity
(university, business, public body, NGO 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, the HI will:
- sign up to the **Grant Agreement**
- sign a '**Supplementary Agreement**' with the PI

UK Research Office
Brussels

Working out the PI's time commitments

Minimum 40% working time working on the ERC grant	Minimum 50% time spent in Europe (Member State or Associated Country)
• All percentages are established by reference to the full time equivalent at the host institution (see below) or 1720 hours per year.	Fieldwork/work abroad related to the ERC project does not count against time commitment

Consolidator PI with a full-time contract at the HI

40% out of 100% — 100%

PI WORKS ON ERC GRANT	PI WORKS ON OTHER HI TASKS
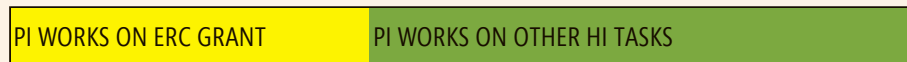
Consolidator PI working more than the 100% (FTE) ceiling

40% out of 100% — 100% — 110%

PI WORKS ON ERC GRANT	PI WORKS ON OTHER HI TASKS
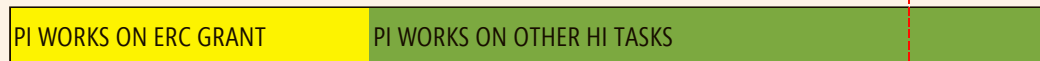
Consolidator PI working part-time - time commitments are pro-rata (% of P/T contract)

40% out of 80% — 80% — 100%

PI WORKS ON ERC GRANT	PI WORKS ON OTHER HI TASKS	Not employed
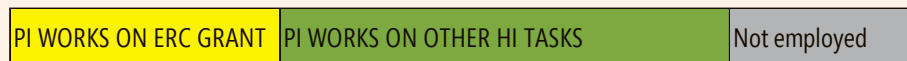
Consolidator PI with FTE Contract split between the HI and other institutions

40% out of 100% — 100%

PI WORKS ON ERC GRANT	OTHER HI TASKS	Work at other Institution(s)

Consolidator PI working above the 100% (FTE) ceiling, split between the HI and other institutions

40% out of 100% — 100% — 110%

PI WORKS ON ERC GRANT	OTHER HI TASKS	Work at other Institution(s)
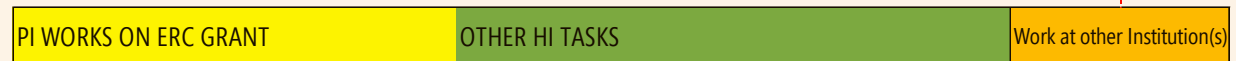
Consolidator PI working part-time, split between the HI and other institutions

40% out of 80% — 80% — 100%

PI WORKS ON ERC GRANT	OTHER HI TASKS	Work at other Institution(s)	Not employed

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

PI
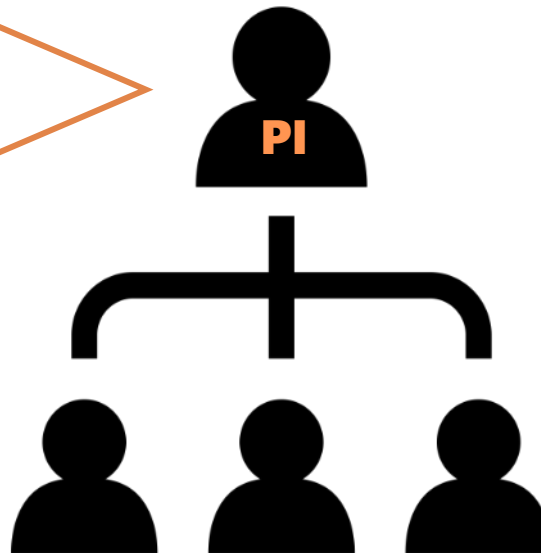
TEAM MEMBERS

- **Cannot 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

UK Research Office
Brussels

Eligible costs

- The ERC funds up to **100% of the total eligible costs with 25% indirect cost flat rate.**
- **Same as most EU grants** – based on actual cost reporting
- The costs cover the full project duration, grants cannot be topped up after they start.

The budget is subdivided into:

Personnel costs	Subcontracting costs	Purchasing costs	Other cost categories	Indirect costs
Employees	Price of good/service, Must follow HI purchasing policy (e.g. tender)	Travel & Subsistence	Financial support to third parties	Flat rate of 25% of direct costs
Natural persons w/ contract		Equipment	Internally invoiced goods and services	
Seconded persons		Other goods, works and services	ERC additional funding	

Don´t forget to ask for support from your Host Institution´s finance team as early as possible, the ERC project costing must follow their rules as well!

General budget tips

Eligible Cost by ERC Rules

Can Be Claimed on an ERC Grant

Host Institution's Common Practice

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

UK Research Office
Brussels

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.

UK Research Office
Brussels

Recap on what makes a quality ERC project

- You need to have a strong research question
  - ✓ *Interesting, significant, novel, exciting*
  - ✓ *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

- Dedicate a lot of time to write an ERC proposal, plan wisely

UK Research Office
Brussels

What Do We Mean by Frontier Research?

Groundbreaking research

Goes beyond current limits of your research area

Develops new horizons

New solutions to old problems

Exciting, high risk-high gain

**UK Research Office
Brussels**

Knowledge

ERC Project

Research Over time
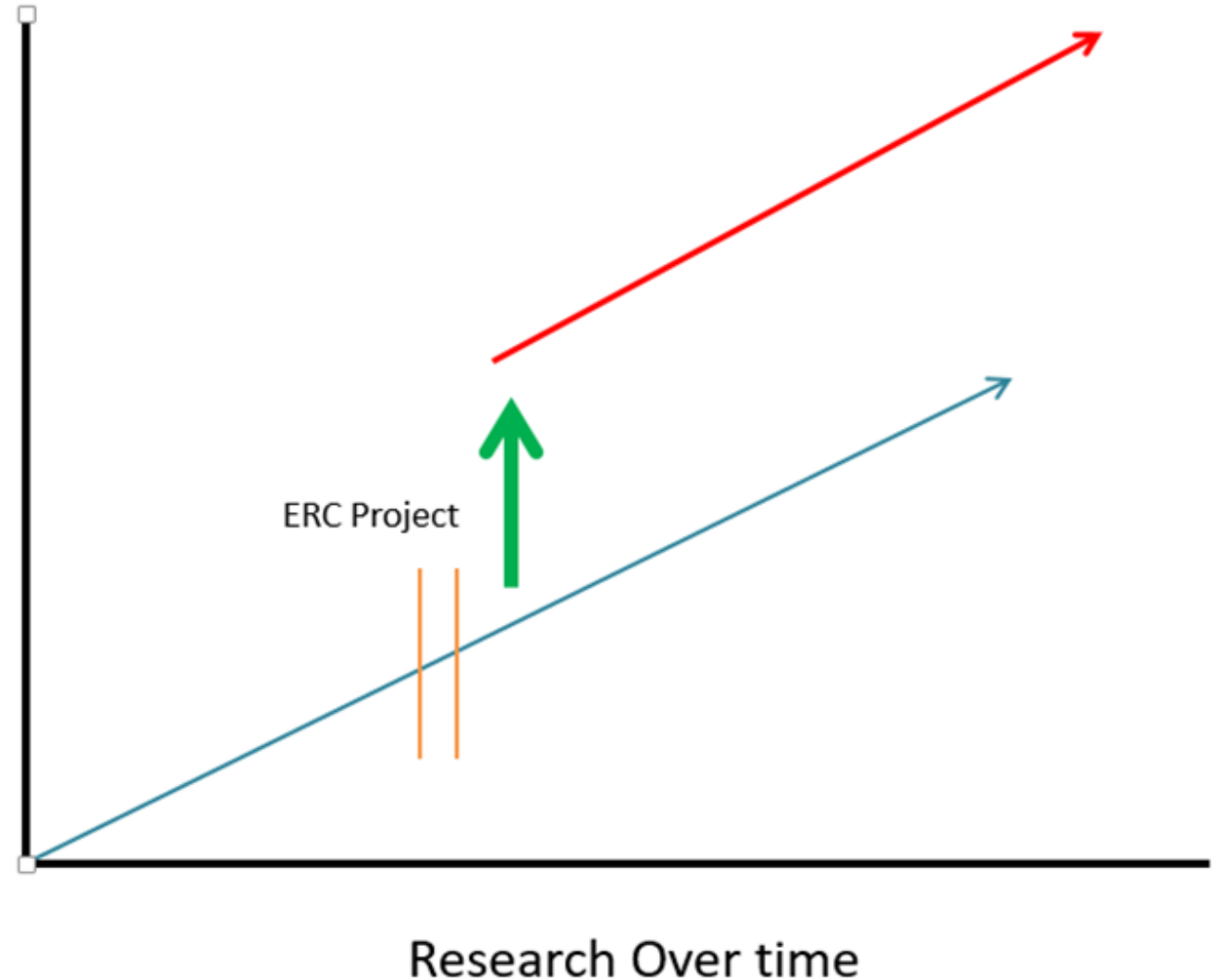
UK Research Office
Brussels

Short break

ERC Proposal Development

Upcoming section is focused on writing Part B1 & B2.

Part A is addressed in the second session tomorrow, part of the detailed guidance on proposal submission

1-Step Submission

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

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

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
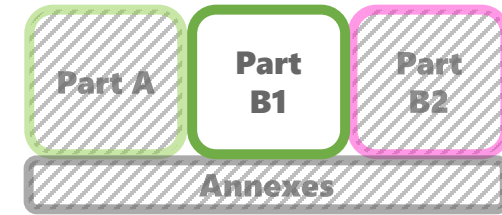
- **Dual role: key text in stand-alone B1, then goes hand-in hand with the B2 full proposal. Make it work in both ways, not as a summary of the full proposal**

- **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)**
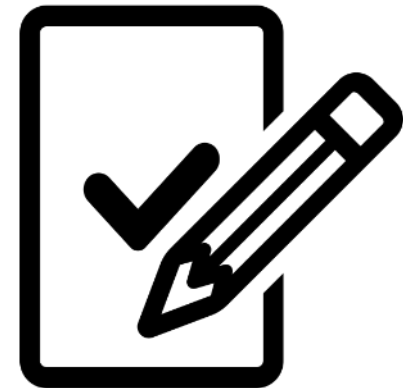
Writing your CV and Funding ID

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 careers

- 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 (multiple choice w/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).
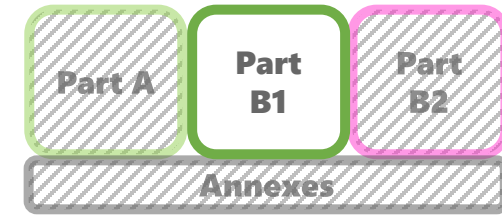
Things to think about: Your CV

- Make your CV bespoke and well-suited to the ERC evaluation criteria. Use the template but also include any kind of relevant activities

- Make sure the CV is easy to read, and information is easy to find

- Briefly 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?

- Provide a brief narrative of what each entry indicates about the PI, use these to relate directly to the PI evaluation criterion.
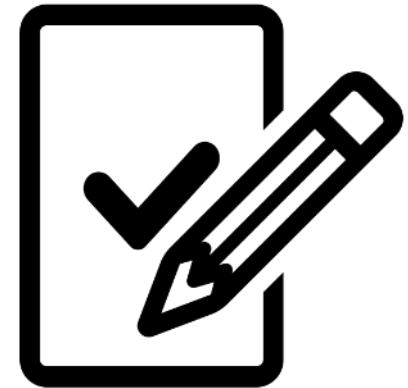
Writing your Early Achievements Track-Record

Track Record

- 2 pages max length

- Tell your story – don't be afraid to tell present yourself explicitly as an excellent candidate as demonstrated by achievements and their context

- Provide brief explanations linked to each CV & Funding ID entry.

- Relate yourself clearly with the criteria for a ERC Principal Investigator

10 publications for Consolidator Grant

- Several important publications 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 to set the context for the authorship and impact of a publication.

- These publications will be judged by generalists based on expectations in your field,

Highlight independent research

- "A competitive COG PI must have already shown research independence and evidence of maturity"

- How and when have you distinguished yourself from your supervisor(s)

- When did you attract the attention or participation of important figures in your field?

Early achievements

- Consolidator Grant evaluators' expectations set according to each applicant's career stage –

- But the applicant still has to demonstrate they are outstanding within that context.

- 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
- 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 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

UK Research Office
Brussels
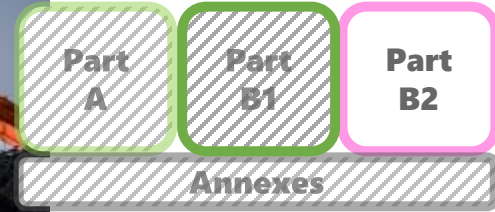
Writing your State of the Art and Objectives in Part B2
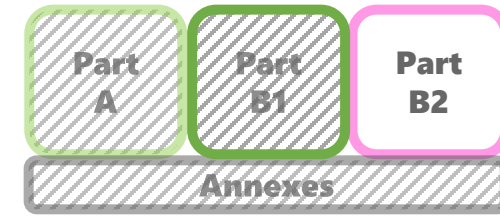
Coherence with Part B1

- Elaborate Part B1 coherently: Explain precisely how you plan to achieve what you promised.

- A remote expert review will be provided 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 looked at 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.

UK Research Office Brussels
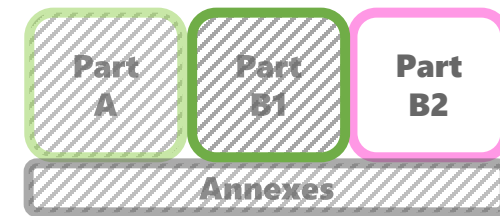
Writing your Methodology in Part B2

Methodology

- Should be **extensive**, include the essential detail that an expert in your field would need to know.

- Don't leave any reasons for experts to raise doubts for the 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 – so don't shy away

- But evaluators and external experts can be risk averse.

- Explicit but controlled risk

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**, if you don't ask for something needed that can be a problem.

- Justify: budget lines must have place in the project and **be linked to objectives.**

UK Research Office Brussels

Things to think about: The Scientific Proposal
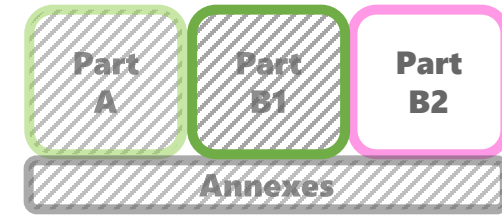
- Recap and expand on the introduction in Part B1's Extended Synopsis

- Detail the current state of the art, highlighting the achievements, challenges and gaps. How will your project go beyond the gaps to progress the 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. Timeliness should be shown throughout.

- Discuss the challenges and unconventional aspects of your project

- Coherence and clear linkages throughout proposal text: linking aims to budget via research methodologies. The better your proposal is organised the more feasible the project work plan will appear.

- Any preliminary data management plans could add to the excellence of your scientific approach. The full data management plan is required by Month 6 if funded.

Part A Part B1 Part B2

Annexes

UK Research Office
Brussels
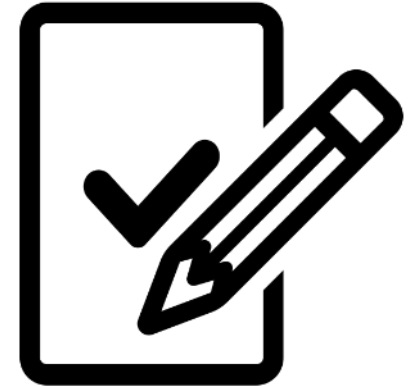
Drafting with last year's templates

We advise applicants to start writing as soon as possible.

You can carefully transfer to the 2022 template as soon as it is available. But look out for potential mismatches.

- CoG 2022 Proposal Templates have not yet been published as editable templates as the call has not opened on the Portal yet.

- The [ERC CoG 2022 Standard templates](#) (pdf) is currently accessible.

- Editable .rtf document versions from past years will still be in circulation and can help in proposal drafting.

- Although the **2021 proposal template will be very similar in 2022,** minor differences are possible

**UK Research Office
Brussels**

Other points to consider

Important aspects of proposal development that might not be immediately apparent.

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.

Provisions related to Open Science can be found on pages 107 – 109 of the Model Grant Agreement
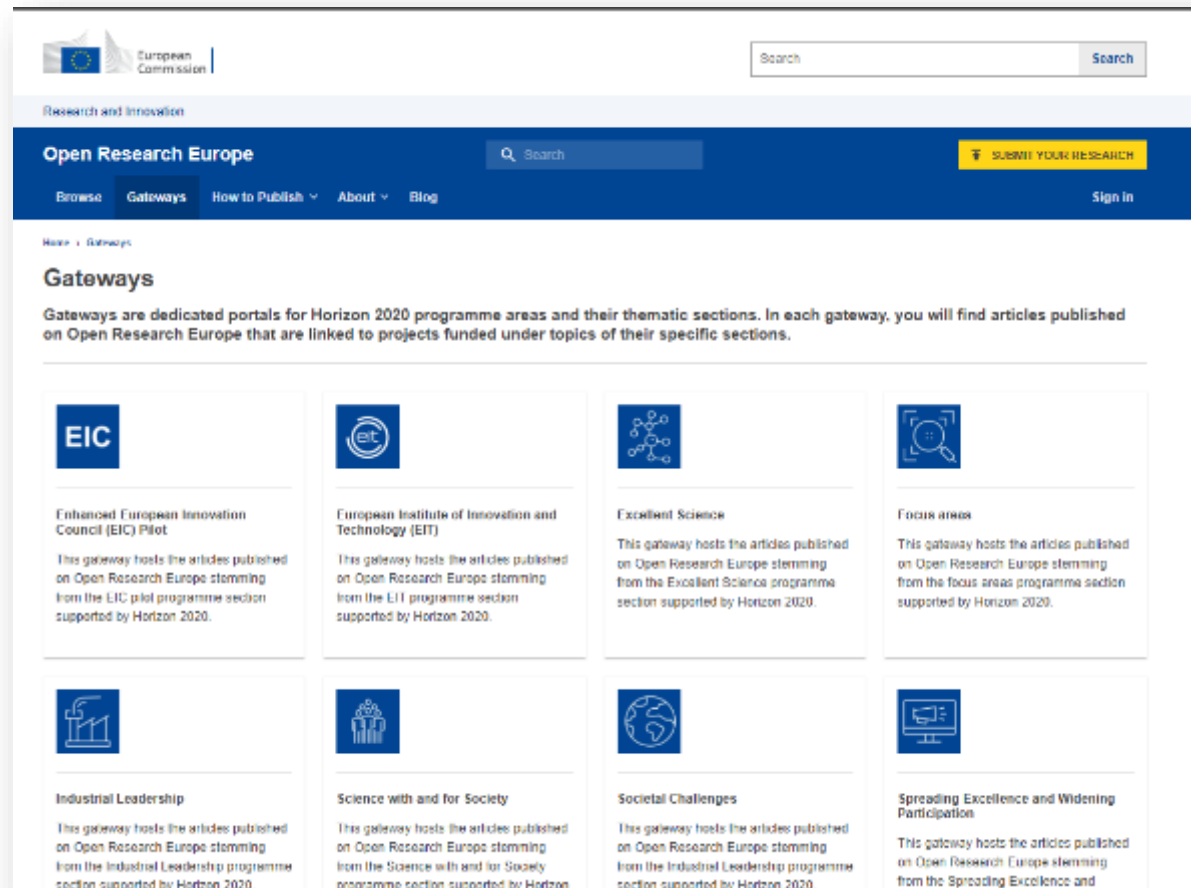
❖ Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020
❖ www.openaire.eu
❖ https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/

Publishing Fees

Will not be eligible for funding from the grant if the publication 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

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?

Sex & Gender is not an extra criteria, but it could have a lot to do with your proposal's scientific excellence.

Make sure you think about it in your research design relative your field/discipline, evaluators might see this as a gap in your proposal.

ERC grantees talking about how the **Sex and Gender Dimension is involved in** **each ERC domain** *(Physical Sciences & Engineering, Life Sciences and Social Sciences & Humanities)*

Some ideas to ponder:

- Integrating the gender dimension in research and innovation can be added value in terms of excellence and creativity

- S&G helps researchers question gender norms and stereotypes, to rethink standards and reference models – improve methodology

- It can enhance the validity of results and 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 – not specifically important for winning an ERC but it could be a big deal further down the line.

UK Research Office
Brussels

Covid-19 and the 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)

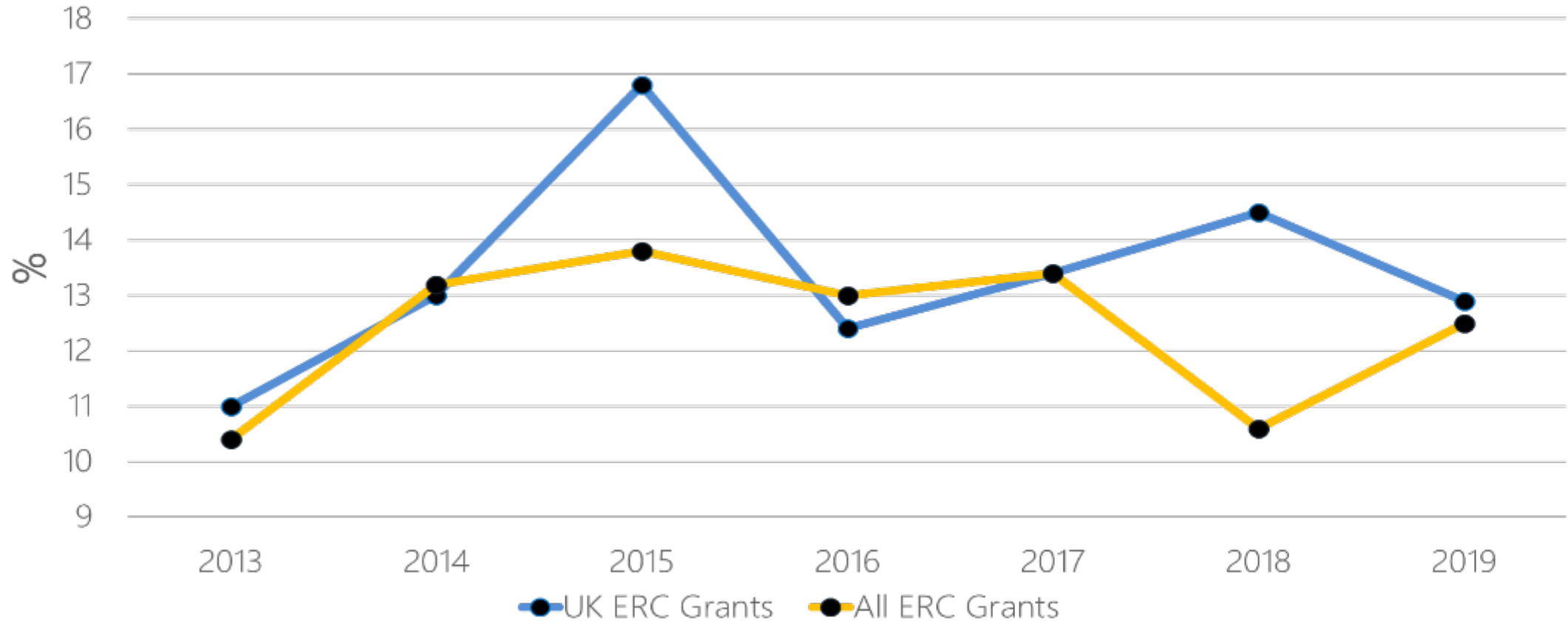**Remember – EU financial contribution to the project cannot be raised**

[Click here for the ERC's up to date coronavirus measures](#)
(covering submission, evaluation and implementation)

UK Research Office
Brussels
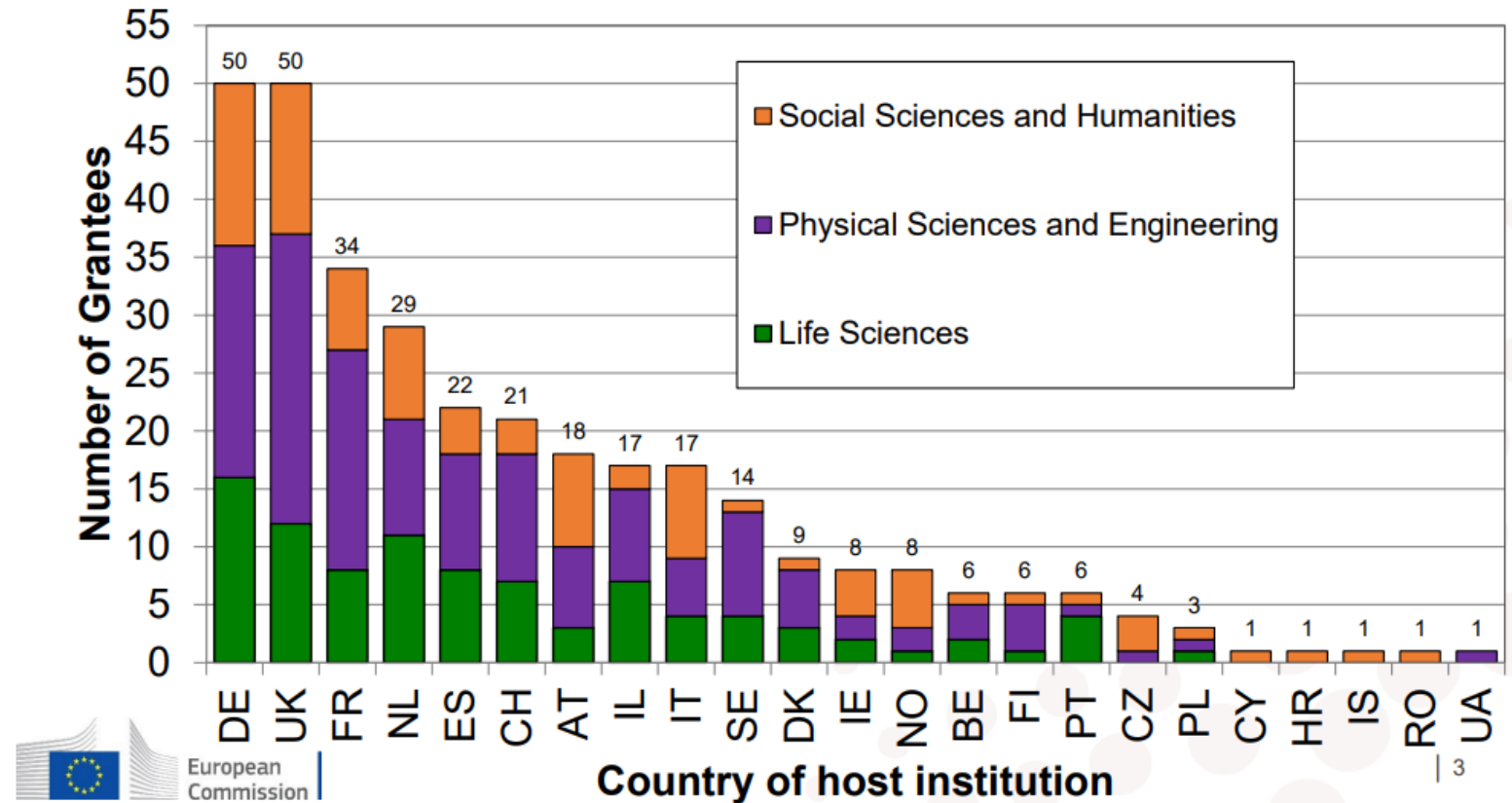
Combined ERC Awards by Domain

Source: ERC statistics
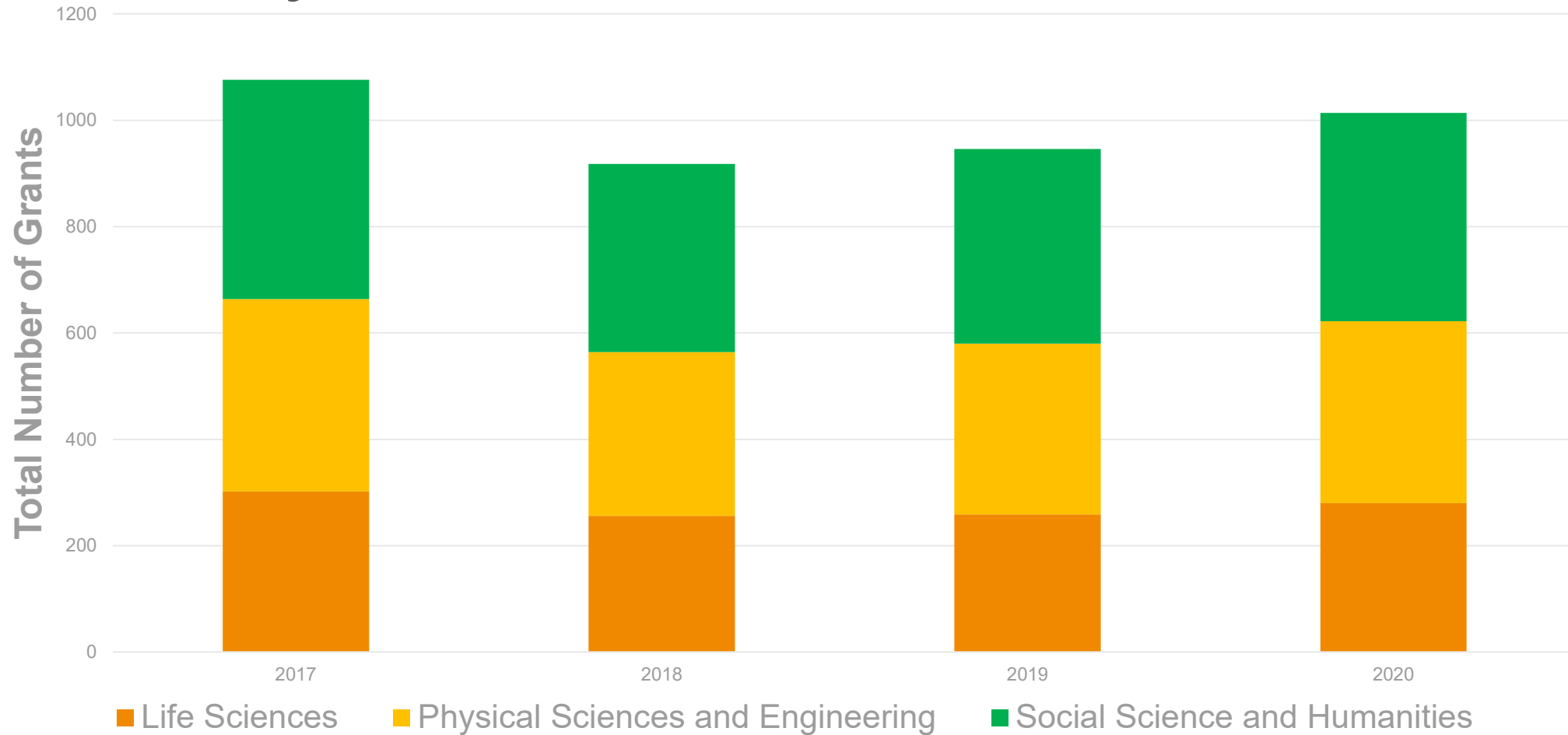
UK Success Rate vs Average Success Rate

Source: ERC statistics

UK Awards vs Total Awards (Consolidator 2020 call)

UK Host Institutions were joint top choice of successful ERC applicants in 2020 with

50 grants

Source: ERC statistics

The Next Session
for this Webinar

- Register for the 2nd Information Webinar on Thursday 20 October: ukro.ac.uk/erc and follow the links to events.

- Session 2 runs tomorrow, 10:00 – 12:00 UK time. We will cover:

  - Detailed explanation of how to submit the forms,

  - How proposals are evaluated by the ERC

  - Guest presentation by a 2019 ERC Consolidator Grantee about his experience as an applicant.

**UK Research Office
Brussels**

Useful links

- ERC 2022 CoG call on the Funding and Tenders portal - Not yet available.

- ERC 2022 CoG and CoG Information for Applicants

- Draft Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement

- Part B1/B2, Host Institution Support Template (pdf)

- ERC Website,
  including the easy to use Project Database and the more in depth ERC Information System

- Novelties in the Horizon Europe MGA –

  Commission Stakeholder Workshop video

**UK Research Office
Brussels**
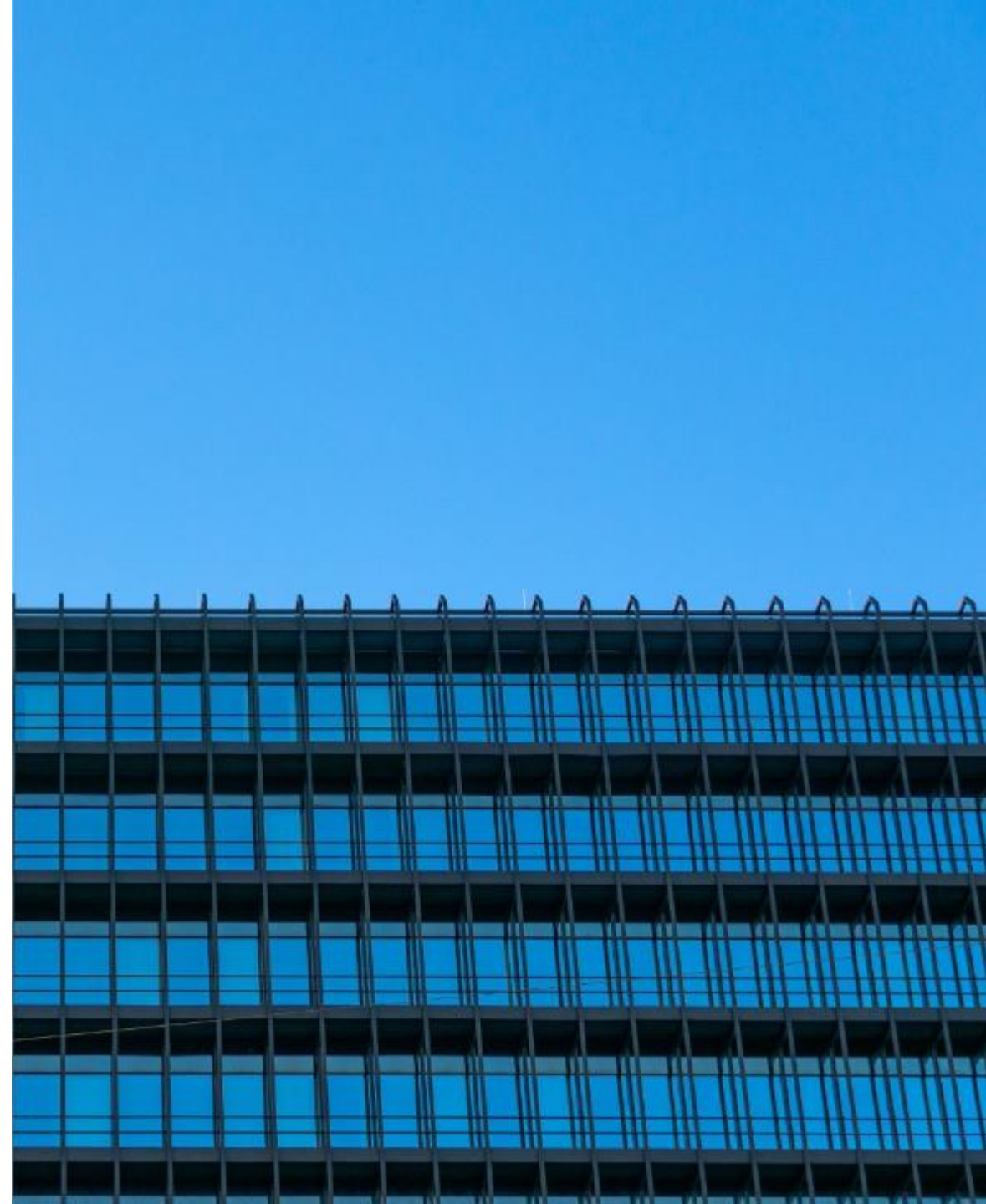
UK Research Office
Brussels

Thank you, any questions?

@_UKRO_   UK Research Office (UKRO)