



UK Research Office  
Brussels



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

# ERC 2022 Proof of Concept Call

## Virtual Q&A Session

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# Who is who

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# What will be covered in this Q&A session?



Introduction to UKRO & UK  
Participation in Horizon Europe



Brief overview of PoC novelties in  
Horizon Europe



Submitted questions



Questions and answers session

# 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



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# 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



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UK-EU TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Summary

December 2020

# 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	<b>ERC-2022-PoC2</b>
Call Opens	23/09/2021	19/10/2021	20/01/2022	15/07/2021	15/07/2021	<b>16/11/2021</b>
Deadline	13/01/2022	17/03/2022	28/04/2022	10/11/2021	14/10/2021	<b>15/02/2022</b>
						<b>19/05/2022</b>
						<b>29/09/2022</b>
Budget (€ million)	749	776	555	297	25	<b>25</b>

# 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
- More of a focus on how the idea will eventually lead to an innovation

- **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)



# Am I eligible to apply to this call?

- For the call that is currently open (ERC-2022-PoC2), you are eligible to apply if your main ERC project is ongoing, or your main ERC project has ended less than 12 months before 1 January 2022.
- A PI can have up to 3 PoC grants awarded per main ERC project (except for Synergy Grant projects, where the maximum is 6 PoC grants per Synergy Grant project). PoC grants can run in parallel.

# I applied in 2020, what has changed since then?

- **Scope and objectives**

- Broader than in Horizon 2020, aims to facilitate exploration of commercial and social innovation of the idea, looking at how the project will make progress on the path from ground-breaking research towards innovation. You need to have a clear description of how the idea will eventually lead to an economic or social innovation.

- **New evaluation elements**

- There are new sections to the proposal and the evaluation criterion is excellence:
  - The idea – Breakthrough innovation potential
  - Approach and methodology
  - Capacity and commitment of the PI

I applied to the last call (ERC-2022-PoC1) with a deadline of 14 October. If I am unsuccessful, can I apply to one of the later 2022 cut-off dates?

- 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)

I plan to apply to the first deadline (15 Feb), can I also apply to the second (19 May) and third cut-off dates (29 Sept)?

- For the ERC-2022-PoC2 cut-off dates, a PI can only apply to one cut-off date in this call. If a second submission is made to the second or third cut-off dates, only the first admissible and eligible proposal will be evaluated.

Can you tell me more about the Transition Scheme that ERC PoC PIs are eligible to apply for?

- See next slide

# EIC main instruments and characteristics

- **EIC Pathfinder**
  - Early stage research on breakthrough technologies
  - Grants up to €4 million
  - Successor of FET (Open & Proactive)
  
- **EIC Transition (new)**
  - Technology maturation from proof of concept to validation
  - Business & market readiness
  - Grants up to €2.5 million
  
- **EIC Accelerator** (successor to the SME instrument)
  - Development & scale up of deep-tech/ disruptive innovations by start-ups/ SMEs
  - Blended finance (grants up to €2.5 million; equity investment up to €15 million)

# European Innovation: financial support

