



UK Research Office
Brussels



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC 2022 Advanced Call Webinar

Session 2:

Submitting your proposal and how it
is evaluated by the ERC

3 February 2022

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

Guest Presenter: Prof. Ronen Palan, City, University of London

ERC Advanced Grantee 2015



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What will be covered in this webinar?



UKRO & UK Participation in Horizon Europe



Recap about the ERC



Submission Process



How the proposal is evaluated



Guest speaker and Q&A



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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

We support UK research intensive organisations

UK National Contact Point for the **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 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

Questions from yesterday's webinar:

Can you apply for both ERC advanced and a synergy grant?

The eligibility rules for the PI in the [2022 ERC Work Programme](#) (pg 31) state that **an ERC PI may only hold one main frontier grant at any one time**

This includes Advanced and Synergy grants, so you won't be able to hold both grants simultaneously.

You can submit proposals to different main frontier grant calls (i.e. Advanced and Synergy) under the same Work Programme, but **only the first eligible proposal will be evaluated** (2022 [ERC Work Programme](#), pg. 31).

So if you applied as a Synergy grant as a PI last November your Advanced Grant proposal will not be evaluated.

If you apply for the 2022 Advanced grant call you will be able to apply for the 2023 Synergy call but if you are successful in both you will have to choose one or the other.

You can be part of more than one ERC grant if you are a PI in one and a team member in the others.



Questions from yesterday's webinar:

I'm confused about ERC AdG grant closing dates, is this one with the April deadline, the 2021 round which is running late, and there will be another with a closing date August 2022?

TIMEFRAME ADVANCED GRANT 2021 EVALUATION (ERC-2021-ADG)

Timeframe* Advanced Grant 2021 evaluation (ERC-2021-ADG)	Social Sciences & Humanities SH	Physical Sciences & Engineering PE	Life Sciences LS
1. Results of eligibility check (applies only to proposals declared ineligible)		End October 2021	
2. Invitations for interviews	Early December 2021	Mid December 2021	End December 2021
3. Results of Step 1 for non-retained applicants	End January 2022	End January 2022	End January 2022
4. Step 2 Interviews	Mid February 2022	End February 2022	Early March 2022
5. Results of Step 2		Mid May 2022	

* This timeframe indicates the dates when we expect to have sent evaluation results to applicants after each evaluation step.

We understand an overlap of the 2021 & 2022 evaluation processes is likely

Our advice:

- If you are in Step 2 of ERC 2021 prepare to submit for the 2022 call with its deadline in April.
- You may not benefit from evaluation feedback but you can use notes from your 2021 interview to polish the proposal. It can be submitted again without any changes if you choose to do so.
- If your 2021 submission is successful your 2022 submission would be withdrawn.
- If your 2021 submission is unsuccessful, you have another proposal in the running.
- If you were rejected in the 2021 call at Step 1 you will have a resubmission restriction and will have to wait until the 2023 or 2024 call.

Indicative summary of calls from the 2022 budget¹⁷

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant
Call identifier	ERC-2022-StG	ERC-2022-CoG	ERC-2022-AdG	ERC-2022-SyG
Call opens	23/09/2021	19/10/2021	20/01/2022	15/07/2021
Call deadline	13/01/2022	17/03/2022	28/04/2022	10/11/2021

TIMEFRAME ADVANCED GRANT 2022 EVALUATION (ERC-2022-ADG)

Timeframe* Advanced Grant 2022 evaluation (ERC-2022-ADG)	PE Physical Sciences & Engineering	LS Life Sciences	SH Social Sciences & Humanities
1. Results of eligibility check (applies only to proposals declared ineligible)	Late June 2022		
2. Invitations for interviews	Mid October 2022	Late October 2022	Early November 2022
3. Results of Step 1 for non-retained applicants	Mid December 2022		
4. Step 2 Interviews	Mid January 2023	Late January 2023	Late January Early February 2023
5. Results of Step 2	April 2023		

* This timeframe indicates the dates when we expect to have sent evaluation results to applicants after each evaluation step.

2023 Calls Calendar

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant
Call identifier	ERC-2023-StG	ERC-2023-CoG	ERC-2023-AdG	ERC-2023-SyG
Call opens	12/07/2022	28/09/2022	08/12/2022	13/07/2022
Call deadline	25/10/2022	02/02/2023	23/05/2023	08/11/2022

Proof of Concept Grant

Call identifier	ERC-2023-PoC
Opening of the call	20/10/2022
Cut-off dates or deadline for applications	24/01/2023 20/04/2023 14/09/2023

The dates in this table are indicative. The Director of the European Research Council



Questions from yesterday's webinar:

One of your slides suggests that including a well known scientist in your team can be problematic. It is possible to clearly define their role to avoid problems but it is also important to use a language that is acceptable to both the ERC and the established researcher. Co-I is not acceptable for the ERC but could I use “collaborator” to refer to the senior members in the team?

The simplest term to use for all other personnel on the project is ‘team member’ as it is the term used throughout the [ERC Work Programme](#) (e.g. pg. 9) and this term can be applied persons or roles at any career level.

Each team member's skills and expertise can be outlined and justified according to the task/activities they are assigned by the PI. The ERC does not prescribe that the PI should be despotic on the project, so collaborator probably makes good sense. Nevertheless the evaluators will be using criteria set out in the Work Programme about the PI, their leadership and the PI's design of their team for the project the PI is leading.

So we understand the use of their term “team member” to be the lowest risk in terms of raising concerns and the most coherent with ERC guidance.



Recap about the ERC

Brief recap of the overview presented previously in Session 1



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

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



ERC Frontier Research Grant Schemes

The ERC funds

- the best 'frontier research' proposals
- submitted by excellent researchers
- in the research field of their choice

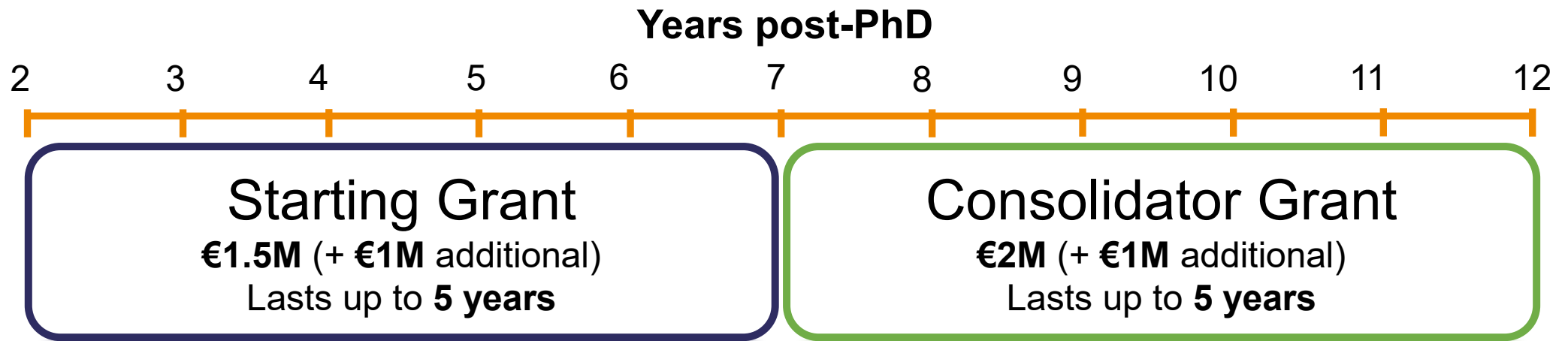
Projects are led by a Principal Investigator

- plus team members (if required)
- NOT the same as a collaborative grant

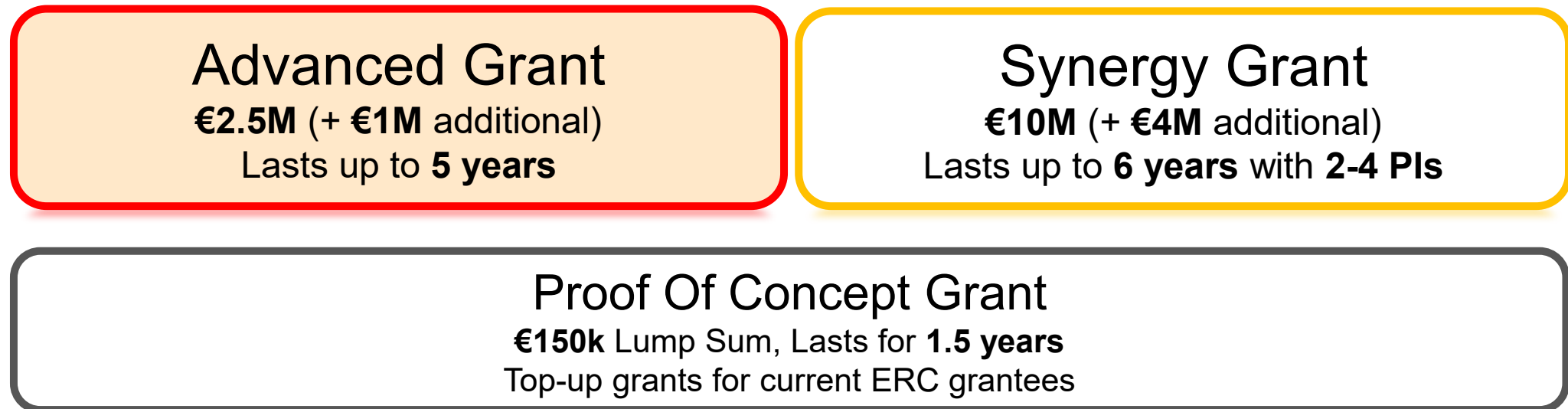
Funds any field of research

- Evaluation by 27 expert panels under 3 domains:
 - Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)
 - Life Sciences (LS)
 - Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)





No PhD Requirements



2022 Advanced Grant call details

Call Identifier	ERC-2022-AdG
Budget	€555 Million
Estimated no. grants funded	223



ERC Submission Process



Approaching Proposal Submission

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

Get in touch with your research support office

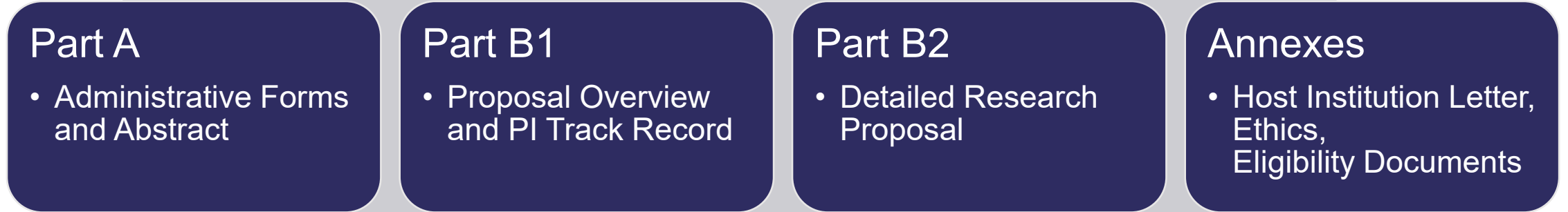
Add relevant contact people to the online application

Submit early and often – latest version will be accepted

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



ERC Proposal Submission



1-step submission: all parts of the proposal are submitted together at deadline

- Part A is filled in online on the Funding and Tenders Portal
- Part B1, Part B2 and the Annexes are uploaded as PDFs to the Funding and Tenders Portal.

Find the call on the Funding & Tenders Portal

Use the [topic search](#)

ERC

Match whole words only

GRANTS TENDERS

Submission status

Forthcoming Open for submission (6) Closed (42)

Programming period

Select a Programme period...

Filter by Programme / Programme group

Select a Programme...

Filter by call

Select a Call...

CPV code (Tenders Only)

Select a CPV code...

Places of delivery or performance (Tenders Only)

Funding and tenders (48)

[Need help?](#) Sort by:

Grant ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

Open for submission

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	ERC-2022-COG	Opening date	19 October 2021
Types of action	HORIZON ERC Grants	Deadline date	17 March 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Grant ERC ADVANCED GRANTS

Open for submission

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	ERC-2022-ADG	Opening date	20 January 2022
Types of action	HORIZON ERC Grants	Deadline date	28 April 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Grant ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANTS2

Open for submission

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	multiple cut-off
ID	ERC-2022-POC2	Opening date	16 November 2021
Types of action	HORIZON ERC Proof of Concept Grants	Next deadline	15 February 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Grant INVOLVE (CITIZEN SCIENCE)

Open for submission

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
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2022-ERC-AdG

ERC ADVANCED GRANTS

TOPIC ID: ERC-2022-ADG

Grant

General information	General information		
Topic description	Programme Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON) Work programme part HORIZON-ERC-2022		
Conditions and documents	Call Call for Proposals for ERC Advanced Grant (ERC-2022-ADG) Work programme year HORIZON-ERC-2022		
Partner search announcements	See budget overview		
Submission service	Open for submission		
Topic related FAQ	Type of action	Type of MGA	
Get support	HORIZON-ERC HORIZON ERC Grants	HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based [HORIZON-AG]	
Call information	Deadline model	Opening date	Deadline date
Call updates	single-stage	20 January 2022	28 April 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Scroll down to start your submission

Start submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the **type of action** and the **type of model grant agreement** that corresponds to your proposal. You will then be asked to confirm your choice, as it cannot be changed in the submission system. Upon confirmation, you will be linked to the correct entry point.

To access existing draft proposals for this topic, please login to the Funding & Tenders Portal and select the My Proposals page of the My Area section.

Please select the type of your submission:

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

[Start submission](#)

[Need help?](#)

UK Entity Warning on the EC Portal

We are aware of this warning on the EC portal but according to our understanding it will not block a UK-hosted submission

Because....

The [ERC's website](#) says this

UK's participation in Horizon Europe

The UK is expected to soon become an associated country to the EU's R&I Framework Programme Horizon Europe. The UK will therefore have the same rights and obligations as other countries associated to the Programme. [Read more.](#)

The screenshot shows a web interface with a warning message at the top: "Call requires at least 1 participant(s) from different EU Member States and Associated countries, currently you have 0." Below this, the "Call data" section includes: "Call: ERC-2022-ADG", "Topic: ERC-2022-ADG", "Type of action: HORIZON-ERC", and "Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG". A warning icon indicates that the topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal. The "Proposal data" section shows "Acronym: Test" and "Draft ID: SEP-210831987". The "Host Institution" section lists "UKRI" and "UNITED KINGDOM RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SWINDON, UK PIC: 906446474", with a contact "Sean Rowlands - Principal Investigator". Buttons for "Change organisation", "Contact organisation", and "Add Partner" are visible.

And the [EC's Q&A](#) (updated Dec 2021) says...

The General Annexes attached to the main Horizon Europe work programme (2021-2022) ensure that UK applicants are treated as if the UK is an associated country throughout the process, from admissibility and eligibility to evaluation, up until the preparation of grant agreements. However, grant agreements can only be signed if the association has come into force. The same treatment is also granted to any applicants from other associated countries currently engaged with the European Commission in an active process of association.



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And we were able to submit a test proposal to this call with a UK Host Institution despite the warning

First page of proposal submission

IDENTIFY THE HOST INSTITUTION (PIC number)

Find your organisation

PIC Short name

Search for your organisation

Organisations you have been previously associated with. (Click to select)

BASIC DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

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 Enter value

Short Summary Enter value

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

Select your primary evaluation panel
(e.g. LS3/SH1/PE4 etc)

See a full list of ERC panels and keywords in [Annex 4 of the Information for Applicants](#) document (from page 30)

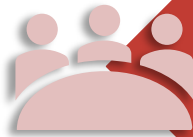
Anything you enter in this part of the form **can be edited later!**



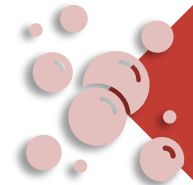
The Abstract



First thing that everyone looks at



Used by the panel chair to choose which panel members will undertake the Step 1 review



Mention interdisciplinary elements



Public facing – a version will be available on CORDIS if your project is selected

Don't forget to add excellence to the abstract

Most of Part A is not evaluated by experts but they do get a cover page using information from that online form.

Make it exciting and memorable for panellists!

Your abstract is an important first glimpse at your proposal, and also the blurb that is likely to become the point of reference for what you want to do.

Getting your abstract right is a great way to improve your chances of standing out for the expert panel which will be have lots of proposals to get through.

ERC Panel Structure

Must choose a primary evaluation panel

Optional secondary evaluation panel

Optional free key words

Read the descriptors

Applicants can flag their proposal as interdisciplinary

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

Query on trans/interdisciplinary ERC proposals

Could you please elaborate on a transdisciplinary approach and its potentials as you are talking much about a disciplinary approach?

- The advice we provided yesterday was meant to apply broadly to those with proposal that fit into one discipline, involve more than one discipline or cut across disciplines (and everything in between)
- There is no competitive edge to any kind of disciplinary approach so long as it is excellent
- Applicants still need to choose the best fit of evaluation panels for their project and profile
- There is a specific option available to “flag their proposal as interdisciplinary” so that panel chairs take that into account when planning for it’s evaluation – on top of your panel choices, keywords etc.

From the [Information for Applicants](#):

“the ERC encourages proposals of a multi- or interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research, pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions”



Main proposal page

Part A: Administrative Forms
online only

Part B1 & Part B2
Upload PDFs based on editable templates
Other documents listed below uploaded separately as PDFs

Part B1 & Part B2
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

Proposal forms

Deadline
28 April 2022 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

Call data:
Call: ERC-2022-ADG
Topic: ERC-2022-ADG
Type of action: HORIZON-ERC
Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG

Proposal data:
Acronym: test
Draft ID: SEP-210830145

Administrative forms (Part A)
Edit forms | View history | Print preview

Part B and Annexes
In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments.

Part B1	Upload
Part B2	Upload
HI support letter	Upload
Annex 1	Upload
Annex 2	Upload
Annex 3	Upload
Annex 4	Upload
Annex 5	Upload
Annex 6	Upload

Download Part B templates
Download part B templates

Support & Helpdesk
Online Manual | IT How To
IT Helpdesk | FAQ
Service Desk:
EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu

BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST | VALIDATE | SUBMIT

IT issues on the Funding & Tenders Portal

Avoid issues by:

- Validating your proposal regularly
- Submitting early and often. Each submission overwrites the last, so only your final version will go to evaluators
- You can always submit an improved draft later but if there are IT issues and you do not manage to make any submission before the deadline, a proposal is unlikely to be accepted after the deadline
- Avoid using special characters for file upload. Only alphanumerical characters (A-Z, a-z, 0-9, _ (underscore), - (dash), . (dot) or space are allowed.



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Resolving IT issues

Contact the [EC's IT Helpdesk](#) ASAP

Send screenshots and clear description of the problem.

Log the problem!

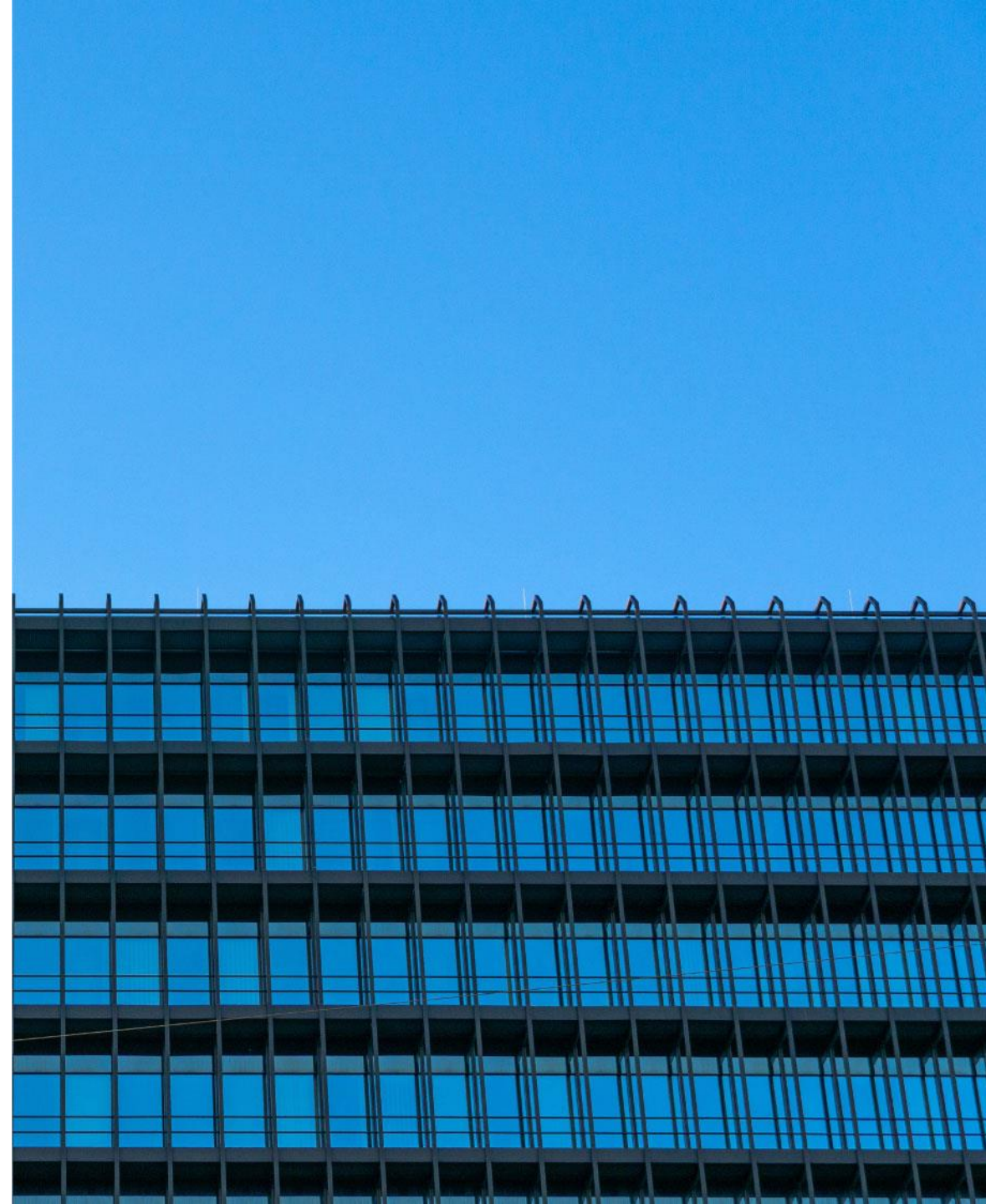
Call them if it is urgent: +32 2299 2222

Once you have contact the helpdesk and your issue has been logged, you can try to resolve the issue with minor fixes, e.g.:

- Try using a different browser or computer.
- Try again at another time of day when traffic might be lower on the portal.



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Part A – Administrative forms

Navigate by chapter or pages

How to fill in the forms

The screenshot shows a web interface for administrative forms. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: '< Exit form', 'Table of contents', and 'General Information >'. Below this is a dark blue header with 'Table of contents', 'Validate form', 'Save form', and 'Save & exit form'. The main content area is titled 'Application forms' and contains the following information:

HORIZON
Call: ERC-2022-ADG
(Call for Proposals for ERC Advanced Grant)

Topic: ERC-2022-ADG
Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC
(HORIZON ERC Grants)
Proposal number: SEP-210830145
Proposal acronym: test
Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based

Table of contents

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

How to fill in the forms

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.

[Read more](#)

ERC ver 2.00 20211011

Callouts: An orange box highlights the top navigation bar and the 'Table of contents' link in the header. An orange box highlights the 'Table of contents' table. A green box highlights the 'How to fill in the forms' section.

Part A – PI Declaration of Consent

- These consents **should not be submitted with the application**, but the applicant must ensure they have written consent from all participants prior to the call submission deadline.
- The written consent doesn't need to be an official letter, our understand is that an email with the essential info and clear consent would work.
- ERC Executive Agency may request the applicants to provide this written consent as evidence at any time during the evaluation process

Application forms

[Table Of Contents](#)[Validate Form](#)[Save](#)[Save&Close](#)

Proposal ID **SEP-210732071**

Acronym **FAD**

Declarations

[?](#)

Field(s) marked * are mandatory to fill.

1) We declare to have the explicit consent of all applicants on their participation and on the content of this proposal. *

Part A – Gender Equality Plans (GEP)

The host institution will need a GEP in place for the 2022 call

- **Necessary before the signing of the Grant Agreement**
- **Not the responsibility of individual PI applicants**, it is meant for the organisation, approved by management.
- **Applies to public bodies, research organisations and HEIs**, not required for SMEs, industry, NGOs or civil society organisations.

GEP must have the following building blocks:

Publication	Dedicated resources	Data collection and monitoring	Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• formal document published on the institution's website and signed by the top management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• commitment of resources and gender expertise to implement it	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel and students and annual reporting based on indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness raising/trainings on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and

Check with research support whether your host organisation is preparing for this eligibility criteria.

Part A - Budget & Resources

3 - Budget

Please indicate the costs for each cost category as accurate as possible using only Euro integers. The 'Total eligible costs' of the project will be automatically calculated based on the figures inserted in the individual columns. The 'Requested EU contribution' has to be filled in manually. Please make sure to update the 'Requested EU contribution' if updates are made in any of the cost categories.

PI: When calculating the salary, please take into account the percentage of your working time dedicated to the ERC project.

Other personnel costs and Other additional direct costs:

If applicable, please specify this cost category in the Resources section (textbox below).

Internally invoiced goods and services:

Costs for host institution invoices and invoices for other entities should be included here; e.g. access to large facilities, access to other services that are charged as unit costs.

For more details on the budget table, please consult the ERC Information for Applicants document applicable to the call and year. Please note that the budget table and the description of resources below will be made available to the experts evaluating the proposal at Step 2.

Additional funding:

- Mixed in the budget table with the main budget, included in totals for the fitting cost categories
- Separate in the resources text

	PI	Senior Staff	Postdocs	Students	Other Personnel costs	A Total personnel costs €	B. Subcontracting Costs € (No indirect costs)	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment - including major equipment	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	C.3 Total other goods, works and services	Total Purchase costs €	D. Internally invoiced goods and services € (No indirect costs)	E. Indirect Cost €	Eligible Total
--	----	--------------	----------	----------	-----------------------	---------------------------	---	----------------------------	---	--	---	-------------------------------	---	------------------------	---	--------------------	----------------



Make sure the figures match



Section C. Resources (Maximum 8000 characters allowed)



This section and the budget table will be made available to the experts evaluating the proposal at Step 2. Important: your description of resources will be truncated once it exceeds the maximum allowed characters. Please make sure that your description is complete before submitting.

State and fully justify the amount of funding considered necessary to fulfil the objectives for the duration of the project. The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible. The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budget will be consequently reduced. Please specify if you will use third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action.

If applicable, please specify the cost items covered by your 'Other personnel costs' category and the cost items covered by your 'Other additional direct costs' category.

Request for additional funding if applicable (All items MUST be included in the overall budget table above): (Cost in EUR)

Justification:

Part A - Budget

Budget and Resources description are seen by evaluators but no longer count towards B2 Page limit

Four main sections:

- Personnel
- Subcontracting
- Purchase
- Internally invoiced good and services

All 'Additional Funding' requested must be

- Included in the overall budget table
- Added to sums under each appropriate cost category
- *For example fieldwork travel would go under Travel & Subsistence along with non-fieldwork travel like conferences*

If funding is requested for 'Other personnel costs' & 'Other additional direct costs'

- Should be entered as a total figure on your budget table
- Should be unpacked in the Resource section with each item briefly described

Budget summary

Beneficiary organisation(s)	Total cost (€)	Requested AMT (€)
1. Name of Institution, country	x,xxx,xxx.00	xxx,xxx.00

Budget details

Cost Category / Beneficiary		Name of Institution	Total	
A. Personnel costs	PI	xx	xx	
	Senior Staff	xx	xx	
	Postdocs	xx	xx	
	Students	xx	xx	
	Other Personnel costs	xx	xx	
Total Personnel costs		Xxx	Xxx	
B. Subcontracting costs (no indirect costs)		xx	xx	
C. Purchase costs	C.1 Travel and subsistence		xx	
	C.2. Equipment incl. major equipment		xx	
	C.3 Other goods, works and services	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	xx	xx
		Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	xx	xx
		Other additional direct costs	xx	xx
	C.3 Total other goods, works and services		Xx	Xx
Total Purchase costs (C1 + C2 + C3)		Xxx	Xxx	
D. Internally invoiced goods and services (no indirect costs)		Xx	Xx	
E. Indirect costs (= 25% * (A + C1 + C2 + C3))		Xxx	Xxx	
Total eligible costs (A + B + C + D + E)		X,xxx,xxx	X,xxx,xxx	
Requested EU contribution		X.XXX.XXX	X.XXX.XXX	

⁵³ This is an example of how the Proposal Budget Report looks like for the experts. Please note that the layout may be further adapted when needed.

Part A – Description of Resources

Specify all the resources required and justify them against the needs of the project.

Unjustified budget lines may be reduced or count against your proposal.

Suggested elements to briefly describe and justify:

- Describe **your commitment** to the project
- Describe **all the cost categories** considered necessary for the project
- Describe the **size and nature of the team**, indicating the key team member(s) and their roles, or key vacant roles, specify and justify if they based at organisations other than the Host
- Describe any requested **equipment**, justify why you need it and how much it will be used
- Include the costs for **Open Access** to project outputs including data management
- Describe any **additional funding** requested for the project
- Describe any **existing resources that will be used but don't require funding**

Budget and Resources description are seen by evaluators but no longer count towards B2 Page limit

Template for Resources Description (from [Information for Applicants](#) page 53)

- “*I plan to allocate*” +Justification
- Max. 8000 characters (equivalent to about 2 pages)
- Request for **additional funding** if applicable.
 - Provide a total figure (cost in EUR)
 - Address specific grounds for additional funding in justification..
 - Additional funding described separately in Resources section

Query on how much funding to request out of the €2.5M available

Does the amount of money requested affect chances of success (beyond whether reviewers think it's justified)

- There is no 'special number' or bias towards cheaper/more expensive proposals
- It's about having the right amount in the eyes of the expert panel enough to carry out the work
- Requesting too little or too much can be a factor in a proposal not being successful

Tips for developing your funding request:

- ***Seek support from your Host Institution as soon as possible!
Without their advice your costing might have problems***
- Base your figures on your project activities
- Get feedback on your budget from those who read your Part B2
- Don't worry too much about the finest details. An ERC PI has a relatively high degree of freedom and flexibility, your proposal budget is an estimate which can be adjusted and adapted over the 5 year project within the total budget requested.
- Asking for less can be one of the hardest restrictions you can set yourself.



Final Ranked List Calculation

Budgets are set by researchers' demand

$$\frac{\text{Requested EU Contribution (Panel)}}{\text{Requested EU Contribution (Total)}} \times \text{Available Budget} = \text{Panel Budget}$$

Normalised Accumulated Budget (NAB)

$$\frac{\text{Funding Requested} + (\text{Funding for Higher Ranked Proposals})}{\text{Panel Budget}} \times 100 = \text{NAB}$$

Evaluators make a ranking list, then the cut off is decided automatically

Example: If a Panel has a €6 million budget:

- 3 projects selected
- 1 on reserve list

Rank	Funding	Score	NAB	Funded?
1	€2M	A	$1/3 \times 100 = 33\%$	Yes
2	€2M	A	$(1+1)/3 \times 100 = 67\%$	Yes
3	€2M	A	$(1+1+1)/3 \times 100 = 100\%$	Yes
4	€2M	A	$(1+1+1+1)/3 \times 100 = 133\%$	Reserve?
5	€2M	B	$(1+1+1+1+1)/3 \times 100 = 168\%$	No
6	€2M	B	$(1+1+1+1+1+1)/3 \times 100 = 200\%$	No

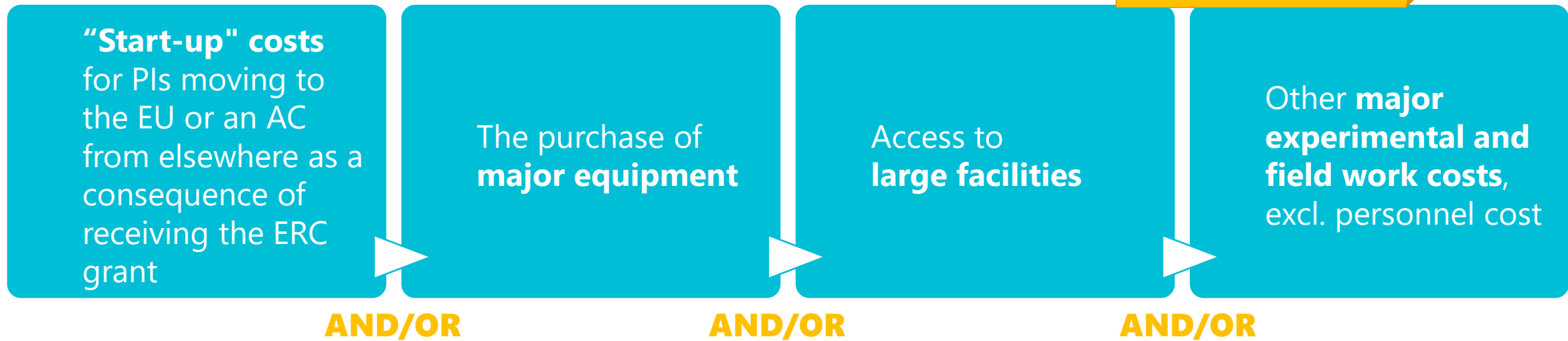
Proposals with a NAB between 0% and 100% are funded.

ERC Additional funding

Additional funding up to €1 million (incl. 25% indirect costs) can be requested to cover the following eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work:

Additional funding:

- **Mixed in the budget table** with the main budget, included in totals for the fitting cost categories
- **Separate in the resources text**



Special features of Additional Funding:

- What fits into the 4 categories in your field will vary from other fields
- If this additional part of the budget is not spent it cannot be transferred
- Same amount available to all ERC schemes

Part A – Ethics & Security questions

- Follow Horizon Europe guidance document: ['How to complete your ethics self-assessment'](#)
- UK applicants should **answer 'yes' on questions about non-EU activity**. This will not affect eligibility.
- Answering 'yes' on certain questions may require a **brief text response** from the applicant.
- Applicants may be requested to **upload documents** related to particular questions.
- **Free text character limits:** 5000 per text box
- If the character limit is too short, we recommend using a separate document **uploaded as one of the optional PDF annexes**. Make a reference to the annex in the Ethics text box in the application form.



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4 - Ethics & security		?
Ethics Issues Table		
1. Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Human Embryos		Page
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
2. Humans		Page
Does this activity involve human participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
3. Human Cells / Tissues (not covered by section 1)		Page
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
4. Personal Data		Page
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
5. Animals		Page
Does this activity involve animals?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
6. Non-EU Countries		Page
Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? For data imports, see section 4.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	

Include page references to relevant sections in Part B1 & B2 for each issue if you answer 'Yes'



Part A – Responses on non-EU activity

Ethics Section 6, Non-EU countries – “Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?”

- Answer **yes for UK activity** and cite relevant points in the proposal.
- Similarly if there are any other activities outside EU member states.

Ethics Section 4, Personal data – “Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries?”

- Explain how these exports are **in accordance with GDPR** (Chapter V of the [General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679](#)).
- Mention the **EU Adequacy Decisions for the UK** on the protection of individuals regarding the processing of personal data and free movement of such data from the EU to the UK.

Security Section 1 EU classified information – “Does this activity involve non-EU countries?”

- You need to answer **yes for UK activity** if the project involves **EU classified information** ([EUCI; see Article 3 definition](#))

Supporting Documents

About the Applicant

- Evidence of degree & date of award
- Documentation to support extension of the eligibility window (if relevant)
 - Birth certificates
 - Doctor's letters
 - Proof of leave from an employer or previous employer
 - Etc.

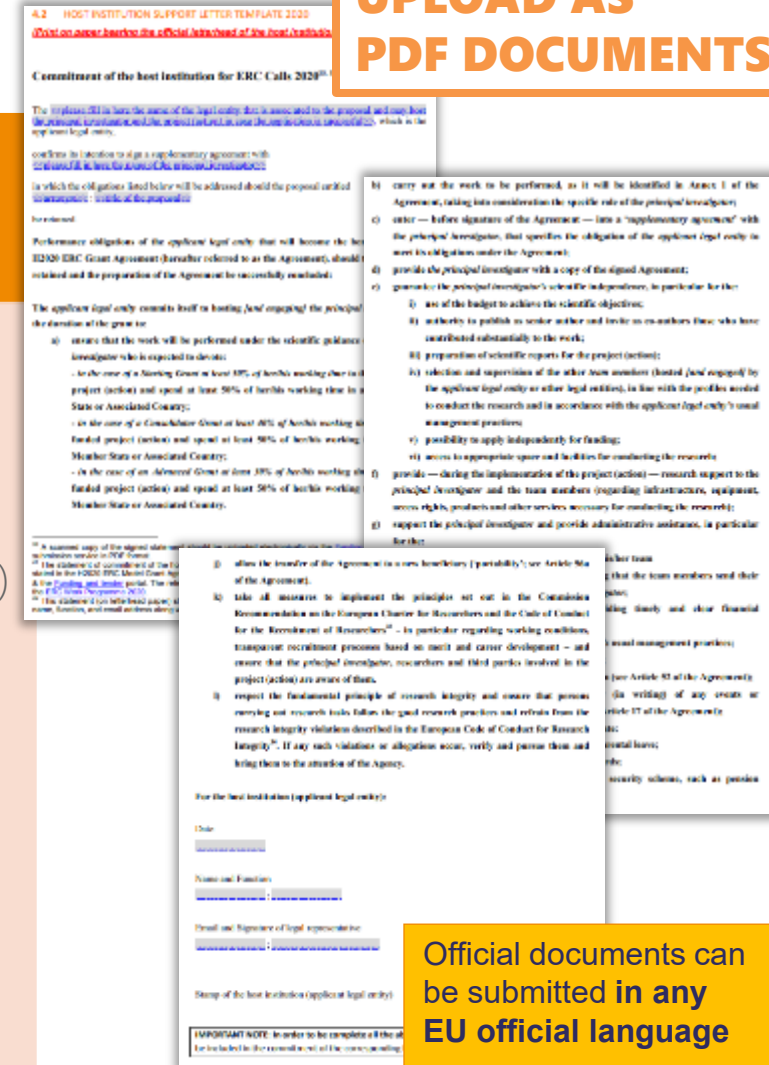
About the Institution

- Host Institution support letter (using the [NEW template](#), on official headed letter)
- Documentation to support extension of the eligibility window for applicant (if relevant)

About the Project

- Ethics documents if requested by the Part A Ethics questionnaire (e.g. ethics committee decisions, licenses etc.)
- If the character limit in the Ethics questionnaire is too short, upload appropriate responses as PDF annexes.

UPLOAD AS PDF DOCUMENTS



Official documents can be submitted in any EU official language OR certified translation into any EU language

Data Management Plan (DMP)

Every ERC grantee must submit a DMP within 6 months of the start of their ERC project.

Further information:

- [Information for ERC Grantees on DMP](#)
- [Data Management Plan](#)



Proposal Formatting & Templates

Page limits will be strictly applied

Page formatting will be systematically checked by the ERCEA

References do not count towards page limit

Templates:

- [2022 Advanced Grant application form template](#) (PDF version)

Page Format:
A4

Header: [PI surname], [Project acronym] & [Proposal section (Part B1 or Part B2)]

Font:

- Times New Roman, Arial or Similar
- At least font size 11,
- Single line spacing

Side margin:
2 cm

Bottom margin:
1.5 cm

Bibliometrics and Impact Factors

ERC has formally endorsed the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#):

Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions

What does this mean for applicants?

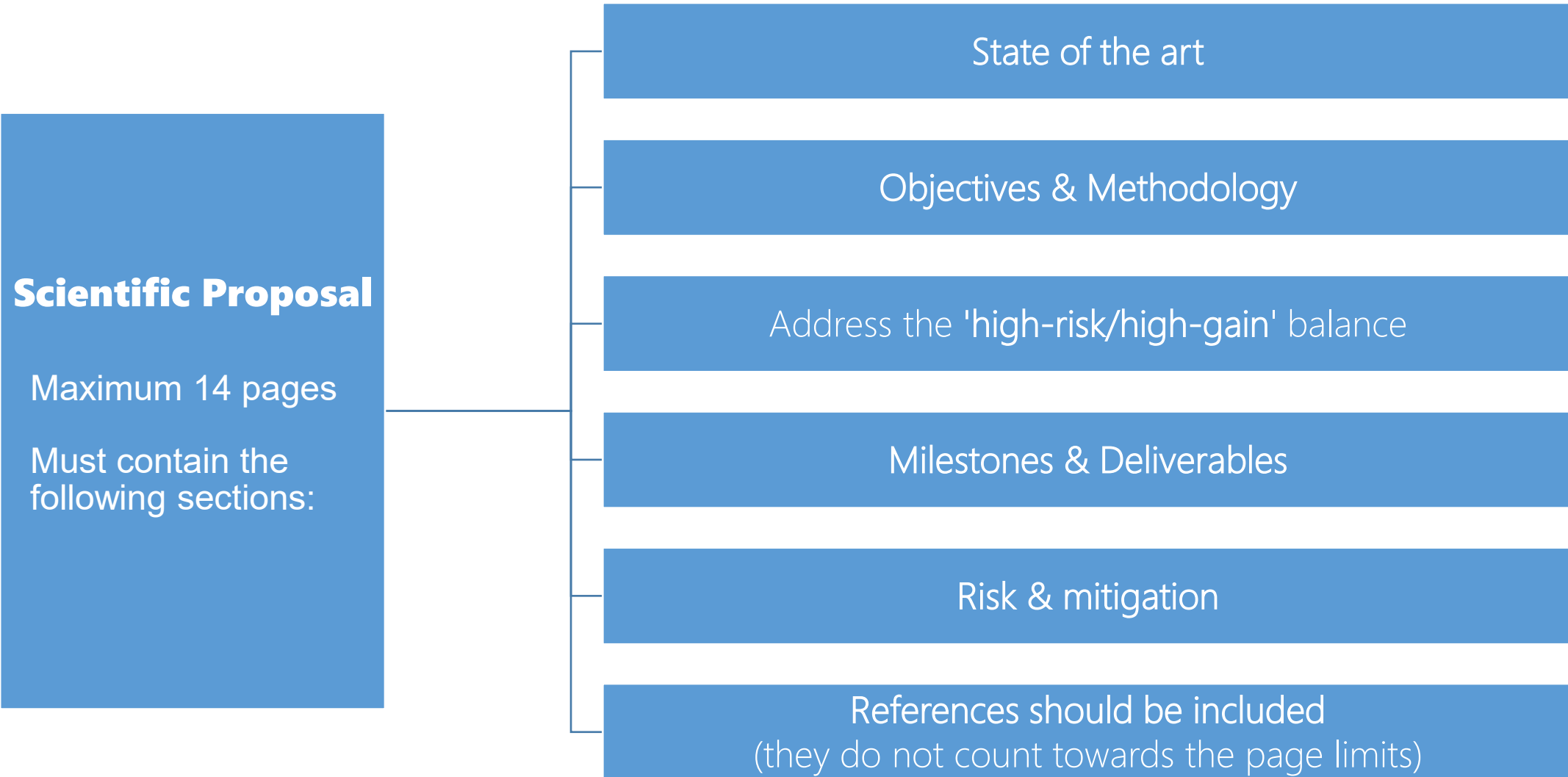
- Publications listed in the “track record” (Part B1) **can have contextual details** incl. field-relevant bibliometric indicators
- **Journal Impact Factor will be disregarded** anywhere in the proposal



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Part B2: only evaluated if proposal is selected for Step 2



Should I describe my team in Part B1 or B2?

PIs should describe their team in Part B2, including how they fit in with the work plan and methodology

With Part B1's 5 page limit, it is unlikely there will be space for describing the team

The priority in Part B1 is an eye-catching presentation of:

- the **Project** and
- the **Principal Investigator**



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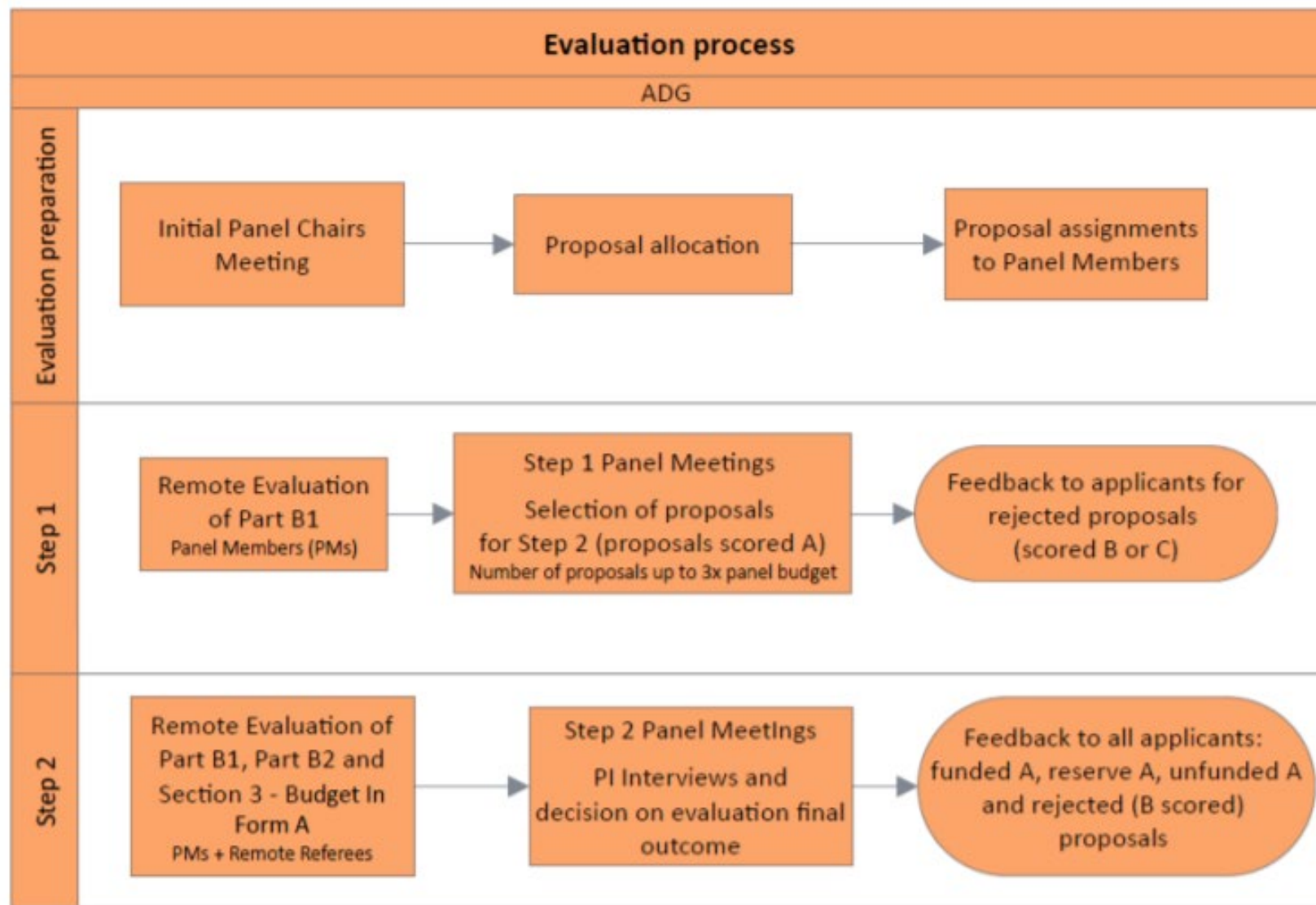
ERC Evaluation Process & Criteria



Evaluation Process

Tentative timeframe for AdG call feedback

- **December 2022**
Feedback to unsuccessful applicants about Step 1 evaluation.
Interview invitations sent to successful candidates passed to Step 2
- **April 2023**
All applicants informed about Step 2 evaluation



Evaluation Outcomes

Proposal Grading	Stage	Funded?	Reapplication Restrictions?
A	2	If sufficient budget	None
B	2	No	None
B	1	No	1 Year
C	1	No	2 Years

Proposals which do not progress to Step 2 have “demand management” restrictions

- Restrictions are produced from Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant calls
- Synergy Grant calls only produce restrictions for Advanced Call applicants
- Restrictions from Starting Grant calls apply to subsequent Consolidator Grant calls
- Restrictions from Horizon 2020 apply in Horizon Europe

ERC evaluation criterion

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

Research project's

ground-breaking nature
ambition
feasibility

Principal Investigator's

intellectual capacity,
creativity
commitment

Excellence
is the sole evaluation criterion

- Proposals marked by panel from: 1 – 5 (non-competitive to outstanding)
- Numerical marks not communicated to applicant
- Outcome of panel meetings expressed as A, B or C



Proposals are not judged on socioeconomic impact or relevance to European policy



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1. Research Project - Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

The Project

To what extent:

- does the proposed **research address important scientific challenges?**
- are the objectives **ambitious and beyond the state of the art?**
- is the proposed research **high risk/high gain?**

The Scientific Approach

To what extent:

- is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the high risk/high gain?
- are the research methodology and working arrangements **appropriate to achieve project goals?**
- the proposal involves the **development of novel methodology?**
- are the **timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate** and properly justified?

2. Principal Investigator - Intellectual capacity and creativity

The Principal Investigator (PI)

To what extent:

- has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?
- does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

Typical Reasons for Rejection

Proposed Project and Scientific Approach

- Scope is too narrow or too broad or not focussed enough etc.
- Incremental research, not ground breaking
- Work plan not detailed enough or unclear
- Insufficient risk management

Principal investigator

- Insufficient track-record
- Insufficient (potential for) independence
- Insufficient experience in leading projects



Reviewer comments about the Principal Investigator

Unsuccessful

- PI has very good track record, yet, it is not entirely clear, what are their own original contributions their potential as an independent project leader (creativity, management) is to be demonstrated
- Based on the available information about their track record, publication activity and scientific experience, the Principal Investigator does not seem to have the capacity and is not prepared to execute the outlined project
- The PIs creativity and independent thinking are not appropriately demonstrated
- The PI has been working in a specialized field and contributed to a respectable number of publications, although the impact of these publications is not particularly high

Successful

- The PI has a strong track record, including various aspects of scientific service, and seems ready to establish their independent career
- The PI has shown an excellent knowledge of their field and an amazing productive, including some real highlights
- The PI made several significant contributions [to their field]
- The PI has a strong track record

Reviewer comments about the Project

Unsuccessful

- The concepts are novel, but very ill described
- Only 5 lines of text to describe a complex set of experiments. Much more information is needed
- Is really high risk but whether it is high gain is not certain due to lack of elements
- Is an important challenge, but the proposed project is not going to make a significant contribution to it.
- There is no description of the expected outcome
- Could not find information whether the PI will have sufficient access [necessary infrastructures]
- The proposal is high risk and low return
- Less sure that the research design proposed will provide particularly convincing answers
- No novel methodology is involved

Successful

- The proposed research is based on a bold vision
- This project certainly has substantial risks with equally substantial payoffs if successful
- Addresses a very relevant research topic
- Proposed project is challenging and the objectives are certainly ambitious
- Approach seems feasible to address the questions
- Project is well grounded in supporting evidence
- Timescale of the project looks adequate
- Funding request is fully justified
- There is also no doubt that the PI would have the optimal working conditions to achieve these results
- The breakthrough of the timescales and resources described in the project by the PI is fully justified



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Refer back to Session 1

Your understanding of the evaluation process and other guidance today should inform your proposal writing.

We covered proposal writing in Session 1, the slides and a recording are available [here](#)



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**Slides to have
with you
while writing
your proposal**



Tips & Tricks to Remember

Speak ASAP with your
HI's Research Support
colleagues

- Find colleagues to proofread drafts against evaluation criteria
- You need a strong CV (in relation to your career stage)

Read all call
documentation and
evaluation criteria

- Evaluators are experts, but not necessarily in your exact area
- Study previous ERC projects within your research area

The best proposals take
time to write

- Use clear and concise language, make it easy to find information in your proposal
- Explain jargon used in your country/research area
- Include diagrams, images, tables if appropriate

Proposal Advice

Questions to ask yourself

- Does the proposal go beyond the state of the art ?
- Is it timely? (Why wasn't it done in the past? Is it feasible now?)
- What is the risk? Is it justified by the potential gain? Do I have a plan for managing the risk?
- Why is my proposal important?
- Why am I the best/only person to carry it out?
- Am I internationally competitive as a researcher at my career stage and in my discipline?
- Am I able to manage a 5-year project with a substantial budget?

Key points

- Read all call documentation and the evaluation criteria
- Be specific and don't provide unsupported opinions or comments
- Clearly address ALL of the evaluation criteria
- Make it easy for the evaluators to find the information
- Pitch to generalists: evaluators will be experts, but not necessarily in your exact area
- Use clear and concise language and explain country/research area specific jargon
- Include diagrams, images, tables if appropriate
- Research previous and current projects
- Find colleagues to proof read drafts with the evaluation criteria

Check your proposal's coherence

Does my methodology support my scientific objectives/questions?

Do I have the right resources to carry this out?

Does the latest version of the B1 match the B2?

Scientific Questions	Methodology 1	Methodology 2	Methodology 3	Methodology 4
Questions 1	X			
Question 2		X		
Question 3	X		X	
Questions 4				

Evaluators are looking for feasibility in the proposal.

If something does not match up in the text, it raises concerns for the project.

Activity (Methodology)	Team Member 1	Team Member 2	Team Member 3	Team Member 4
Activity 1	X			
Activity 2		X		
Activity 3	X		X	
Activity 4				

Useful links

- [2022 ERC Advanced Grant Information for Applicants](#)
- [2022 ERC Work Programme](#)
- [ERC Youtube Channel- explainer videos](#)
- [Find out more about ERC Experts who review proposals](#)
- [ERC FAQ page](#)
- [ERC Information Service](#) – the best way to find out about previously funded projects



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



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Guest speaker followed by Q&A



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