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European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC 2025 Starting Grant Call Webinar

Session 2

Submitting your proposal and how it
is evaluated by the ERC

1 August 2024

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk



About the Presenters

UK ERC NCPs



**Jonathan
Brookes**



**Antonino
Puglisi**



What will be covered in this webinar?



ERC Starting Grant Recap



Submission Process including budget



Evaluation



Q&A



All participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar.



We will be recording this session.



Slides will be shared after the webinar on the event page.



Please use the Q&A function to submit questions.



You can 'up vote' your favourite questions in the Q&A



A chat function is available and will be monitored.

Housekeeping



About UKRO

We support UK research intensive organisations

UK National Contact Point for European Research Council, MSCA, COST and Widening.

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



ERC Recap

Brief recap of the overview presented previously in Session 1



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

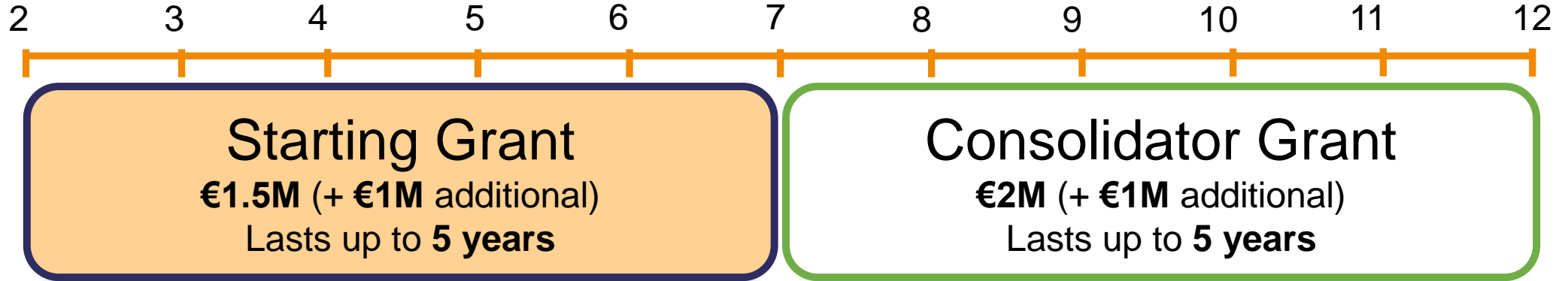
- plus team members (if required)
- NOT the same as a collaborative grant

Funds any field of research

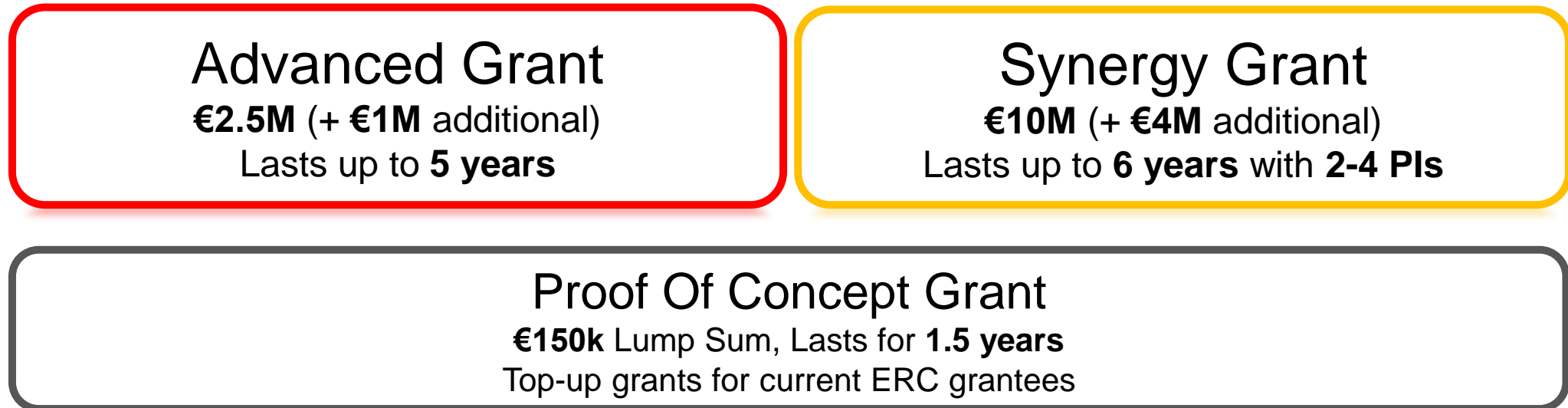
- Evaluation by 28 expert panels under 3 domains:
 - Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)
 - Life Sciences (LS)
 - Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)



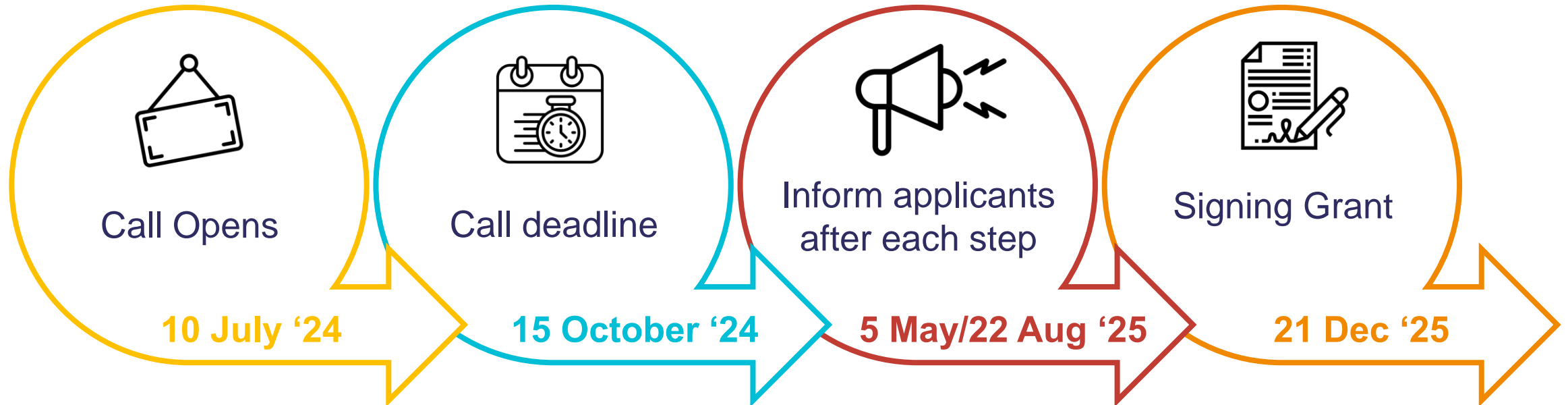
Years post-PhD



No PhD Requirements



2025 Starting Grant



Call Identifier	ERC-2025-StG
Budget	€751 Million
Estimated no. grants funded	483



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Changes to 2025 ERC Calls

- Changes to the evaluation procedure – **introducing a maximum number of proposals** (44) per panel for 2024 Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant calls
- The applicant's CV and Track Record are now merged into a **single four-page document**. The Funding ID is moved to Part B2
- **Eligibility extension:** two new categories for eligibility extensions
 - Extension on the ground of disability
 - Major disasters – definition elaborated to include disasters caused by humans

Evaluation of Proposals by Panels:

ERC evaluation panels are instructed to approve or reject proposals in their entirety, and they may not select parts of a proposal for funding.

Change in Panel Descriptors:

PE6 - Computer Science and Informatics: Theoretical and experimental computer science, information processing, intelligent systems



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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.



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

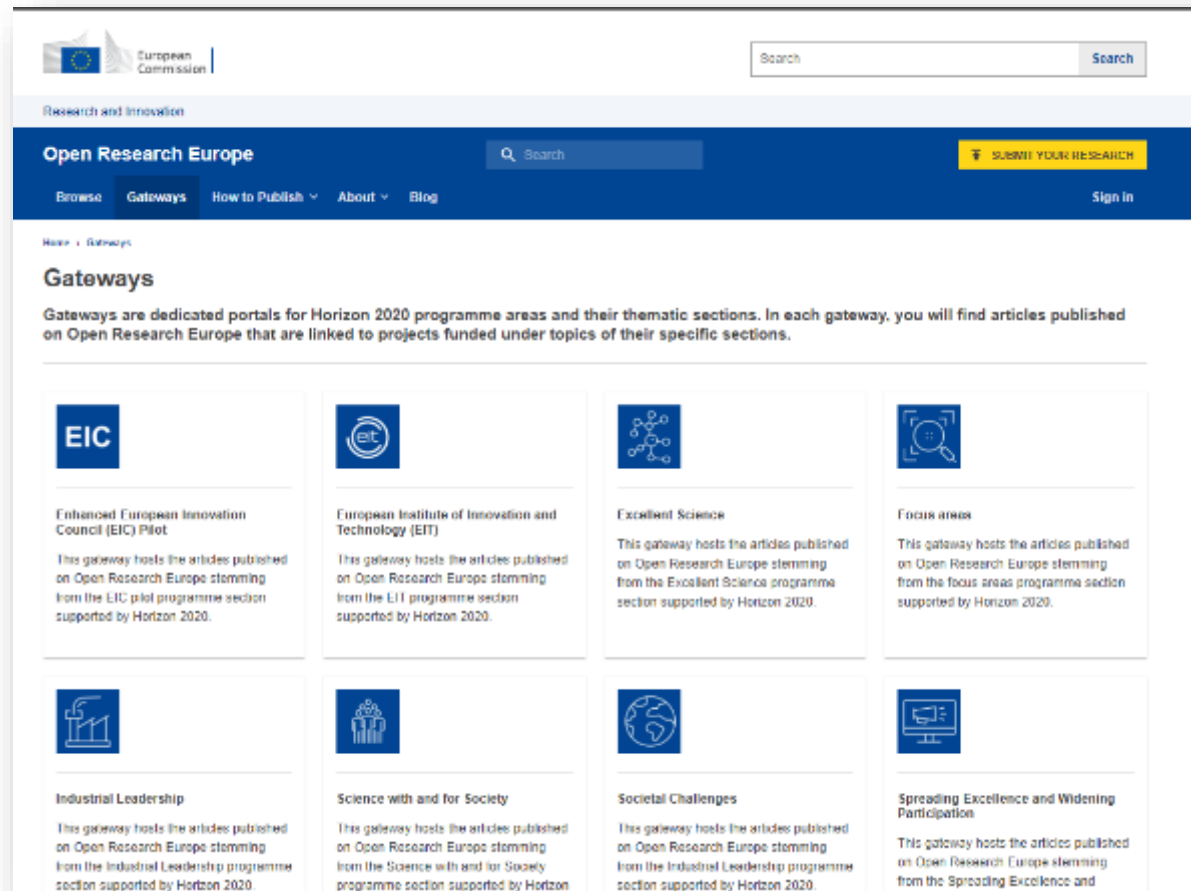
Publishing Fees

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)

[Provisions related to Open Science can be found on pages 107 – 109 of the Model Grant Agreement](#)

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/>

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](#)



Gender Equality Plans (GEPs)

The host institution will need a GEP in place for this 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

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



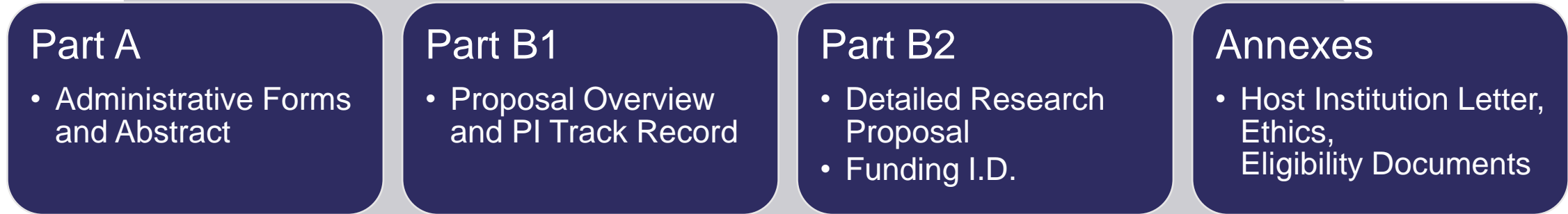
Submit early and often – latest version will be accepted



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](#)

The screenshot shows the EU Funding & Tenders Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the European Commission logo and the text 'EU Funding & Tenders Portal'. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Funding > Calls for proposals'. The main heading is 'Calls for proposals', followed by a descriptive paragraph: 'Calls for proposals are funding opportunities issued by the European Union institutions, agencies and bodies. These are direct financial contributions, known as grants, that are awarded to third-party beneficiaries (e.g., research organisations, public entities, non-governmental organisations, and private companies) to engage in activities that serve EU policies.' A link for 'More details' is provided. Below this, there is a 'Filters' section on the left with a 'Quick search' input field. The main content area shows '251 item(s) found' and a list of search results. The first result is 'European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools 2026-2027', which is a call for proposal under the Horizon Europe (HORIZON) programme. It includes details such as the opening date (17 June 2025), next deadline (22 October 2025), and type of action (HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions). The second result is 'MSCA COFUND 2025', also a call for proposal under the Horizon Europe (HORIZON) programme, with an opening date of 23 January 2025 and a next deadline of 24 June 2025. Both results are marked as 'Forthcoming'.

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 31)

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

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</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 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration</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 Interactions</p> <p>SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity</p> <p>SH5 Texts and Concepts</p> <p>SH6 The Study of the Human Past</p> <p>SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space</p> <p>SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts</p>

* From 2025: new Panel Descriptor in PE6

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

The screenshot shows the 'Proposal forms' page. At the top, a green 'Deadline' box indicates '08 April 2021 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time' with '26 days left until closure'. A blue information box states: 'In this step you can edit the Administrative Forms and upload the proposal itself.' A red error box says: 'Your proposal contains changes that have not yet been submitted.' The 'Call data' section includes: 'Call: ERC-2021-STG', 'Topic: ERC-2021-STG', 'Type of action: HORIZON-ERC', and 'Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG'. A warning box notes: 'Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.' The 'Proposal data' section shows: 'Acronym: FAD' and 'Draft ID: SEP-210732071'. A blue button 'Download Part B templates' is present. The 'Support & Helpdesk' section contains links for 'Online Manual', 'IT How To', 'IT Helpdesk', and 'FAQ', along with 'Service Desk' contact info: 'EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu' and '+32 2 29 92222'. The 'Administrative forms' section has 'Edit forms', 'View history', and 'Print preview' buttons. The 'Part B and Annexes' section lists upload options for Part B1, Part B2, HI support letter, PhD certificate, and Annexes 1-6. At the bottom right are buttons for 'BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST', 'VALIDATE', and 'SUBMIT'.

Participants

Deadline
 15 October 2024 17:00:00

84 days left until closure

Call data

Call: **ERC-2025-STG**

Topic: **ERC-2025-STG**

Type of action: **HORIZON-ERC**

Type of MGA: **HORIZON-AG**

⚠ Topic and type of action are not allowed for a new proposal.

Proposal data

Acronym: **test**

Draft ID: **SEP-211071294**

C:\Offline\JBro01\Downloads\templates (24).zip

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

+ - ✓ ⇨ ⇩ ✖ ⓘ

Add Extract Test Copy Move Delete Info

C:\Offline\JBro01\Downloads\templates (24).zip

Name	Size	Packed Si...	Modified	Created	Accessed	Attributes	Encrypted	Comment
ERC_StG_2025_B1_final.rtf	167 757	32 555	2024-07-...				-	AB6
ERC_StG_2025_B2_final.rtf	101 118	16 330	2024-07-...				-	785
HI_Letter ERC-2025-StG_CoG_AdG.rtf	96 266	15 084	2024-07-...				-	5B1er ↕
Template for requesting an extension of the eligibility period.rtf	236 853	18 749	2024-07-...				-	F24

< 0 / 4 object(s) selected >

Add Partner +

IT issues

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.



Problems? 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 - Online



Part A – PI Declaration of Consent

- These **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 understanding 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. *

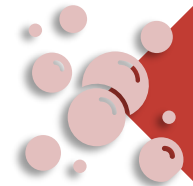
Part A- Abstract



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

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.

	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 €	Total Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution
--	----	--------------	----------	----------	-----------------------	----------------------------	---	----------------------------	---	--	---	-------------------------------	---	------------------------	---	--------------------	----------------------	---------------------------



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 budgets 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)

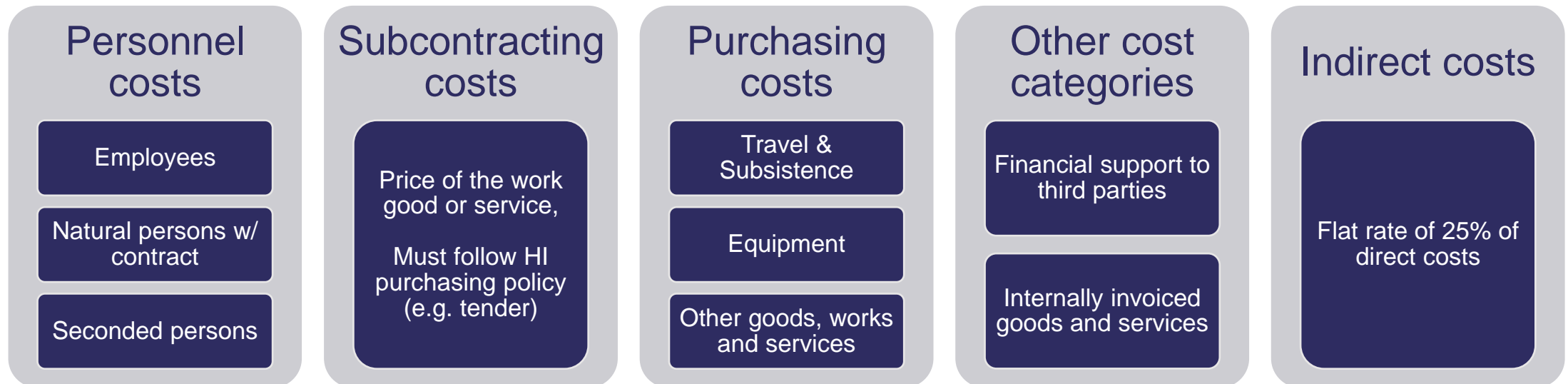
Justification:

Eligible costs for ERC projects

The ERC funds up to **100% of the total eligible costs with a 25% flat rate of indirect costs on top.**

- Same as most EU grants – based on actual cost reporting
- The budget covers the full project duration,
- It can be adjusted with budget transfers from one category to another, but the overall grant amount cannot be increased after start date.

The budget is subdivided into:



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Ask for support from your Host Institution's research support or finance team as early as possible,

The ERC project costing must follow Host Institution rules as well!

Budget

Budget and Resources description are seen by evaluators

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**

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

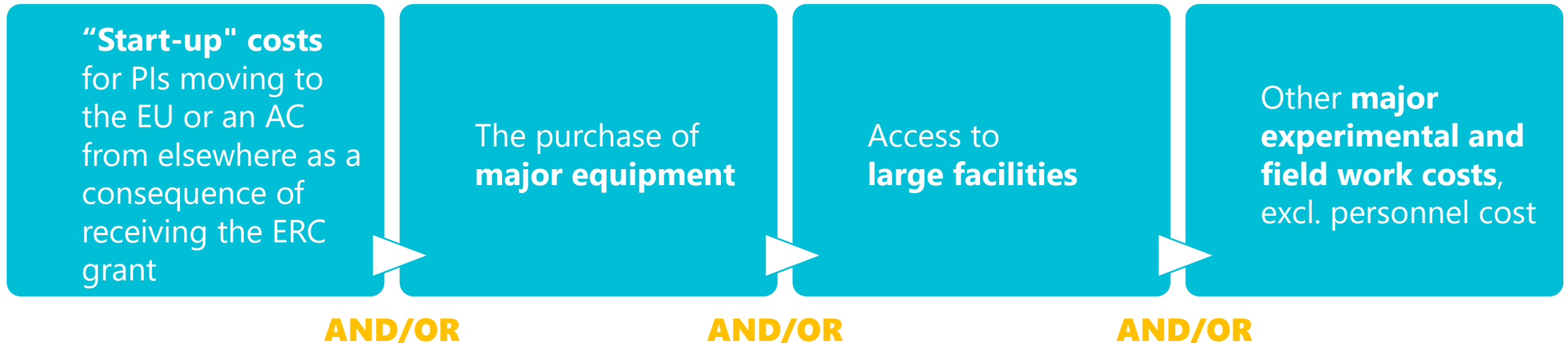
- *“I plan to allocate”* +Justification
- Max. 8000 characters (equivalent to about 2 pages)
- Request for **additional funding** if applicable.
 - Provide a total figure (cost in EUR)
 - Address specific grounds for additional funding in justification..
 - Additional funding described separately in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

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 **Description of 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?”

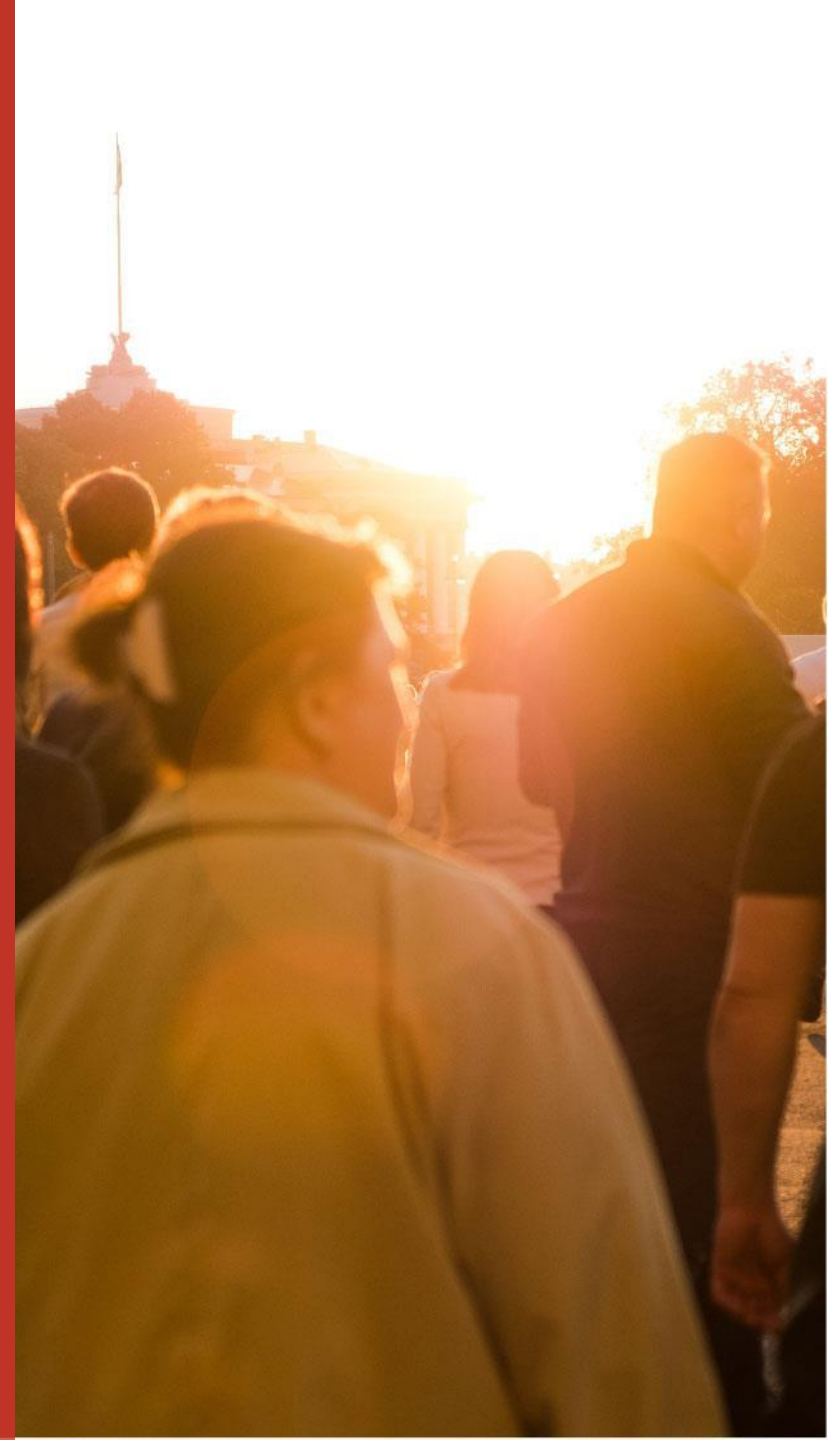
- You need to answer **yes for UK activity if the project involves EU classified information** ([EU CI; see Article 3 definition](#))





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Short break



Supporting Documents

UPLOAD AS PDF DOCUMENTS

About the Applicant

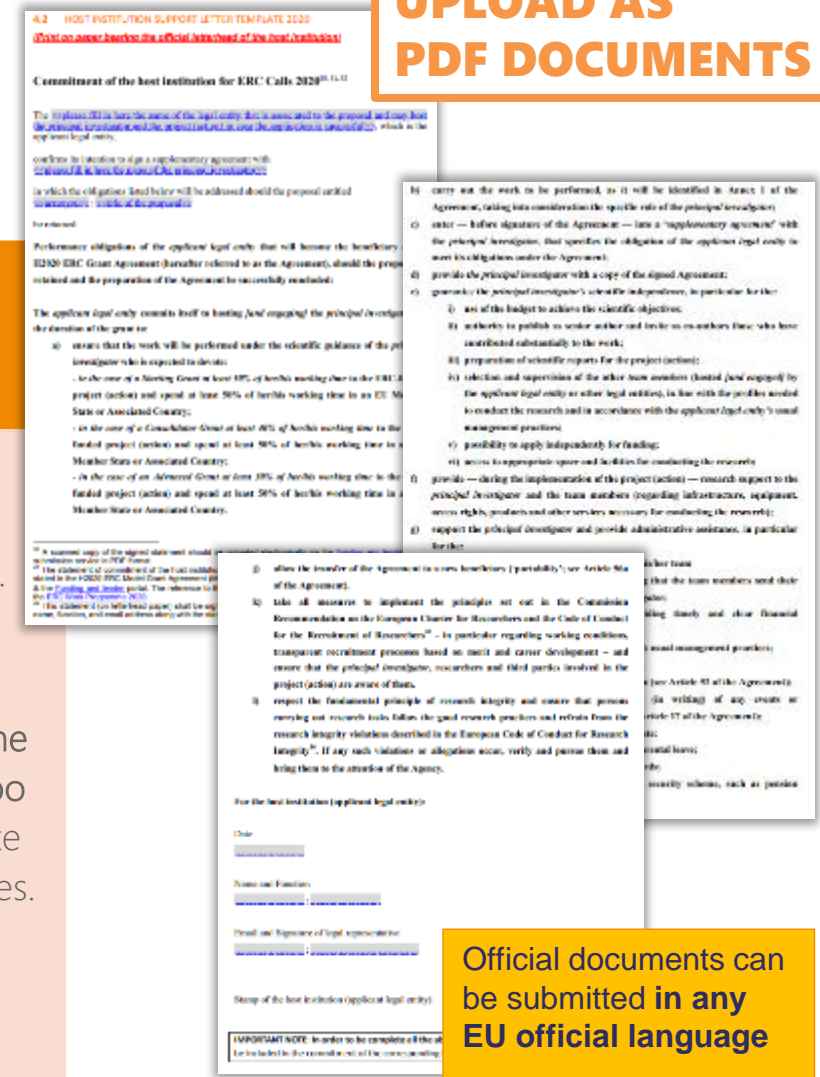
- Evidence of degree & date of defence
- Documentation to support extension of the eligibility window (if relevant)
 - Birth certificates
 - Doctor's letters
 - Proof of leave from an employer/previous employer
 - Etc.

About the Institution

- Host Institution support letter
- (using the [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.

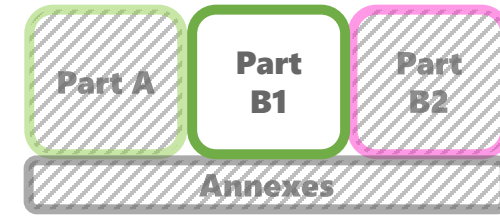


Official documents can be submitted in any EU official language OR certified translation into any EU language

Part B1 – Download/Upload



Part B1 – Step 1 of the Evaluation



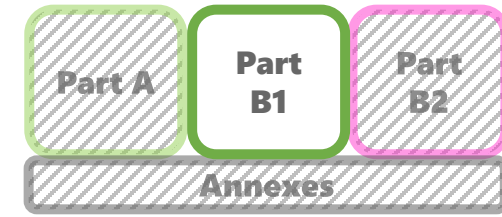
Strict formatting requirements:

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

Part B1 includes:

- Cover Page (info repeated from Part A)
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- CV and Track Record (4 pages)

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.

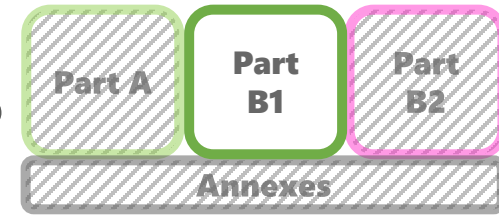
Persuasive to generalists

- A variety of experts decide collectively whether to pass the proposal to Step 2.
- Be clear and limit specialist jargon.
- Applicants need to **persuade the whole panel** – include just enough info and don't give any reasons to reject!

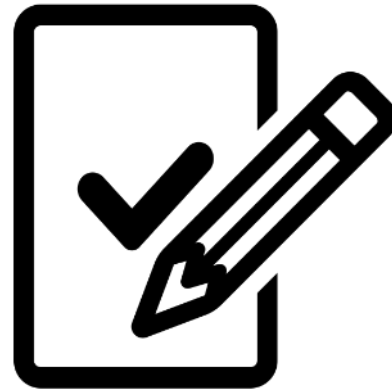
Entertaining!

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

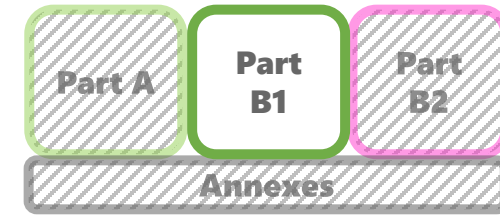
Things to think about: Extended Synopsis



- **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
- **What excites you about your research?** Convey that in your application
- **Scientific Impact** – how can you change your field of research and make progress beyond the current state-of-the-art.
 - Does the research open new lines of research and/or enquiry
 - Will it lead to new scientific activity and further questions beyond the current frontier?
 - Be positive about achievements made by others thus far then demonstrate you have something new and different to offer.
- **Timeliness and relevance of the work during the project,** not just at the deadline but throughout the project's five years. Scientific impact can also be made at anytime of the project, not just at the end
- **Research Aims, should clearly link to the research objectives,** which should clearly link to research methodology(ies)



Writing your CV and Track Record

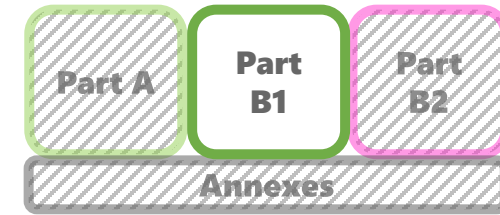


- **Personal details: education, employment**
- **Research achievements (up to a max. 10)**
 - Demonstrating advancement in the field
 - Emphasis on more recent achievements
 - Short narrative on significance of achievements
- **Peer recognition, prizes, fellowships, academy memberships, etc**
- **Additional information (setting the context)**
 - Career breaks, diverse career paths, life events
(Include COVID factors here)
 - Other contribution to research community



Template won't specify the layout. It will have some instructions, up to applicant to decide on the format. Let them best showcase their talent.

Writing your CV and Track Record



- The CV and Track Record should include personal details, education, key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions, a list of up to ten research outputs that demonstrate how the applicant has advanced knowledge in their field, with an emphasis on more recent achievements, and a list of selected examples of significant peer recognition.
- There is a template but you are not obliged to use it!
- A short explanation of the significance of the selected outputs, the role of the applicant in producing each of them, and how they demonstrate the applicant's capacity to successfully carry out their proposed project may be included, as well as a short explanation of the importance of the listed examples of significant peer recognition.



Part B2 – Download/Upload



Part B2- Second stage of evaluation

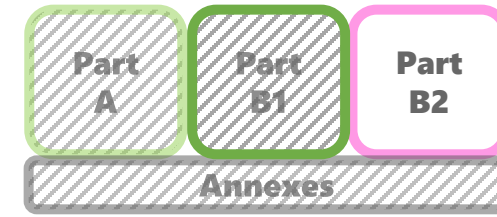
- 14 pages
- **State of the art and objectives**
 - Objectives here become grant agreement objectives
- **Methodology**
 - Proposed methodology
 - Milestones and alternatives
 - Risk and mitigation
 - Project Management
 - Publication & Exploitation of results



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Writing your State of the Art and Objectives



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.

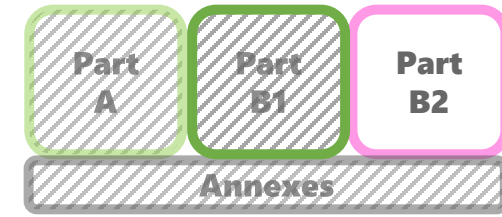
State of the art

- 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.

Writing your Methodology



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

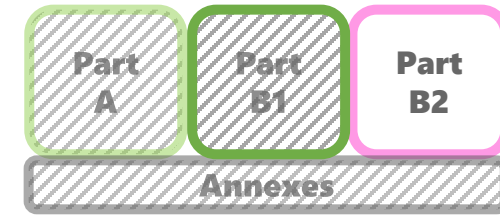
Your team

- 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**.

Things to think about for Part B2



- **Recap and expand** on Part B1 introductory Extended Synopsis.
- Detail the **current state of the art** in your field: highlight the achievements, challenges and gaps. How will your project go beyond these?
- 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.



ERC Evaluation Process



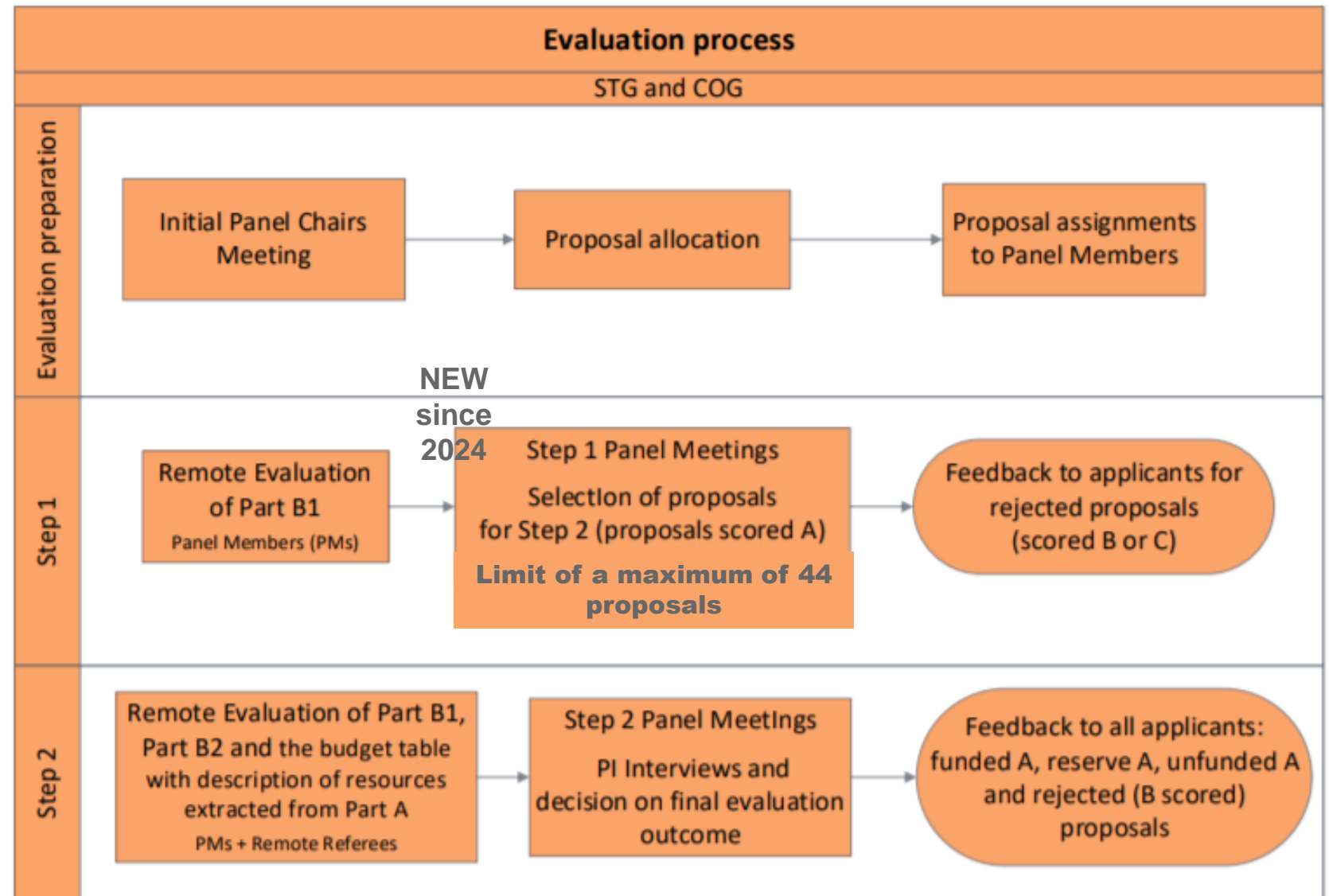
Evaluation Process

Tentative timeframe for StG call feedback

- **5 May 2025**
Feedback to unsuccessful applicants about Step 1 evaluation.

Interview invitations sent to successful candidates passed to Step 2

- **22 August 2025**
All applicants informed about Step 2 evaluation



Evaluation Outcomes

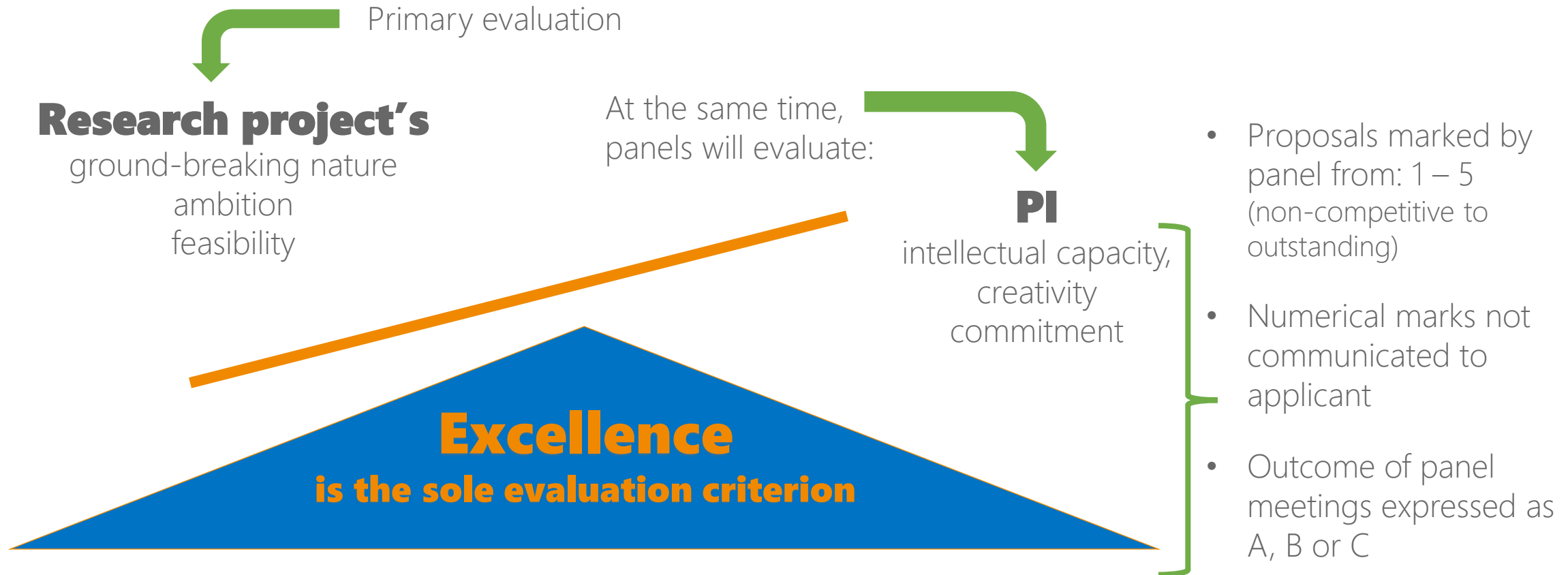
Proposal Grading	Stage	Funded?	Reapplication Restrictions?
A	2	If sufficient budget	None
B	2	No	None
A invited	1	Invited to Step 2	None
A not invited	1	No	None
B	1	No	1 Year
C	1	No	2 Years



Proposals which score a B or C at Step 1 have “demand management” restrictions

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

ERC evaluation criterion - Excellence



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

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?**

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?

Useful links

- [2025 ERC Starting & Consolidator Grant Information for Applicants](#)
- [2025 ERC Work Programme](#)
- [ERC Youtube Channel- explainer videos](#)
- [Find out more about ERC Experts who review proposals](#)
- [ERC FAQ page](#)
- [ERC 2025 WP webinar](#)



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



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Any Questions?



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