What will be covered?

- Introduction to UKRO & UK Participation
- Overview of the ERC
- Eligibility criteria for Synergy Call
- Proposal development
- Submission Process
- Evaluation
- Q&A

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk

Housekeeping

- 🔇 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.

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Brussels**

About UKRO

We support UK organisations involved in EU R&I funding

UK National Contact Point for
ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Unique partnership between UKRI and subscribing
organisations

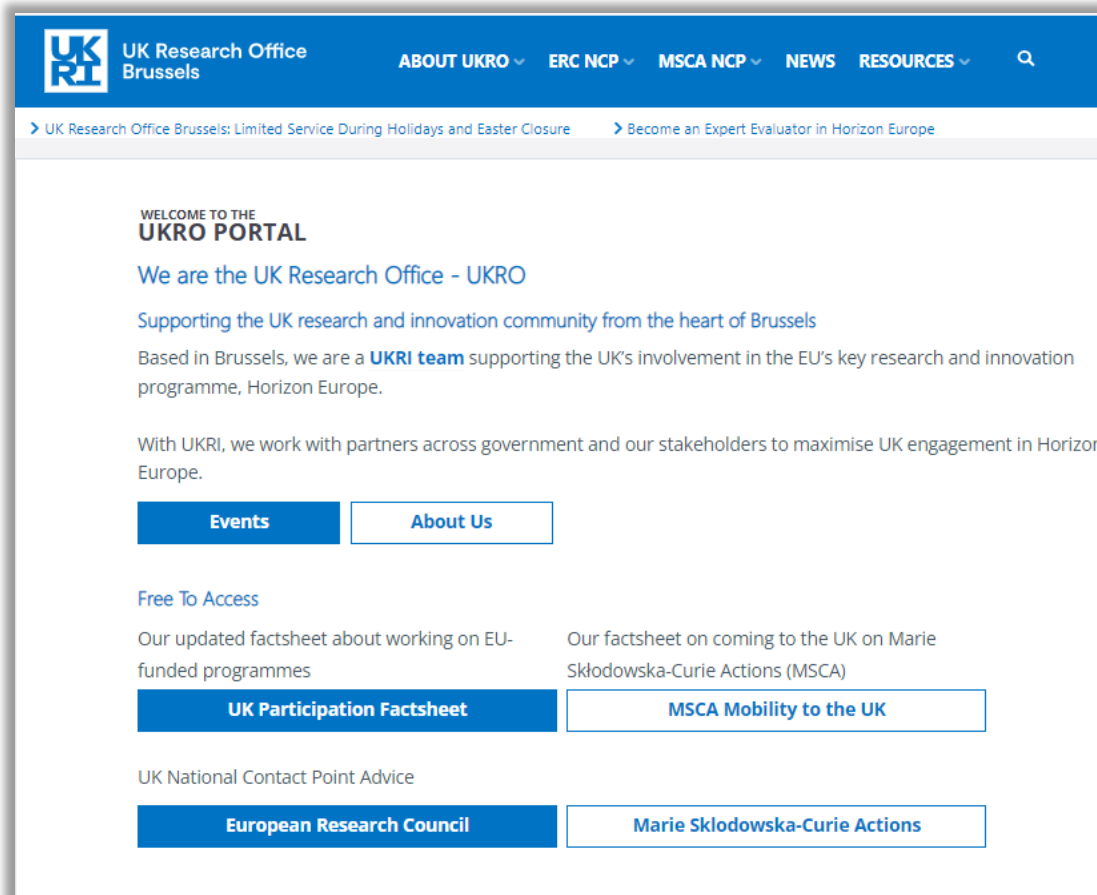Provide a service to more than 140 subscribing
organisations

A Brussels-based team of advisors

Part of UKRI's wider International team

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Brussels**

UKRO Portal www.ukro.ac.uk

Sign up for free for the latest news, opportunities and training on European funding

It's easy to create your account and set up email updates.

- Tailored news articles on EU funding and policy

- Search engine with refiners and tags

- Personalised daily or weekly alerts to your inbox.

- Factsheets on Horizon Europe and other funding streams

- Webinars on lots of topics about Horizon Europe, how to apply, how to run a project and more.

- Click here to find out more

Have a look at our recently added:

- Article series on Horizon Europe Novelties
- ERC webinars
- MSCA webinars

UK Association to Horizon Europe

- On 7 Sept 2023 the European Commission and UK Government [reached an agreement](#) about the UK's association to Horizon Europe.

- From 1 Jan 2024 UK organisations can bid into Horizon*, certain that all successful UK applicants will be covered through the UK's association for the remainder of the programme.

* Only exceptions: European Innovation Council Fund (equity part of EIC Accelerator) plus very exceptional cases if the eligibility for individual funding calls is limited in the Work Programme to EU Member States or certain other countries.

UK Research and Innovation

Introduction to the ERC

Horizon Europe structure

Pillar 1
Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

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

Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3
Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

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What is the ERC?

The ERC's mission:

- encourage the highest quality research in Europe
- support investigator-driven frontier research *across all fields*
- fund projects *purely* on the basis of *scientific excellence*

What makes the ERC unique:

- Excellence is the only criteria
- Funding split based on number of applications, *not* field/discipline/topic
- Freedom to work with and fund team members from anywhere in the world

BOTTOM-UP, CURIOSITY-LED EXCELLENT RESEARCH

ERC Budget in Horizon Europe

26% increase in real terms compared to Horizon 2020.

Further budget increase expected once Associated Countries formally join.

Horizon Europe structure is represented below with each section proportionate to budget allocation size.
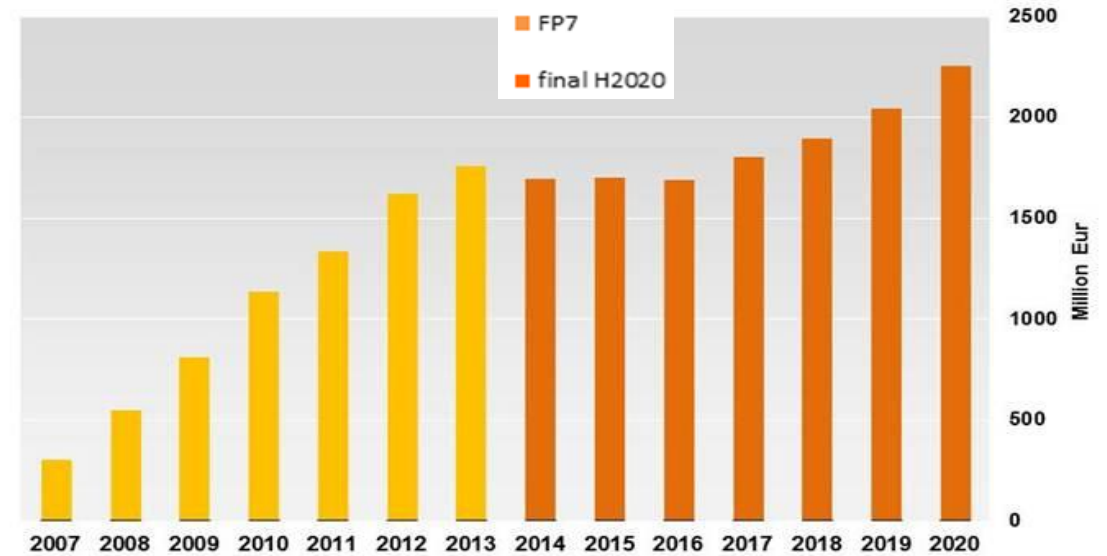
ERC BUDGET: €16 Billion

Pillar 1 Excellent science

Pillar 2 Global challenges

Pillar 3 Innovative Europe

Pillar 4

ERC Grant Schemes

Years post-PhD

2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10   11   12

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

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

No PhD Requirements

Advanced Grant
€2.5M (+ **€1M** additional)
Lasts up to **5 years**

Synergy Grant
€10M (+ **€4M** additional)
Lasts up to **6 years** with **2, 3 or 4 PIs**
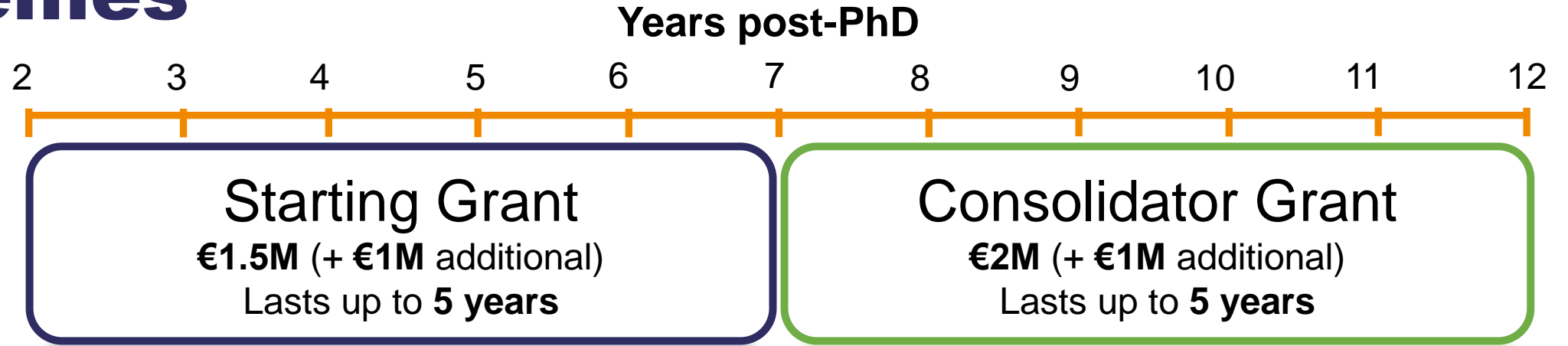
Proof Of Concept Grant
€150k Lump Sum
Lasts for **1.5 years**
Top-up grants for current ERC grantees
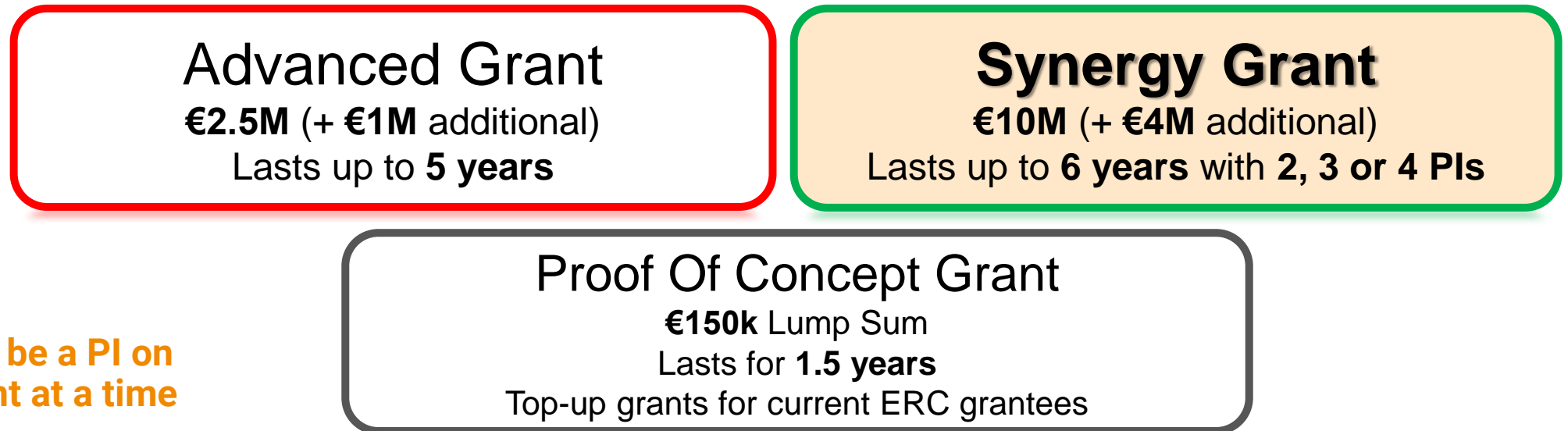
You can only be a PI on one ERC grant at a time

Types of research funded

Proposals:

- can be in **ANY field of research**

- must be **very ambitious** in risk and in scope

- Based around a **central Principal Investigator,** who can be supported by "team members"

- **"Frontier research"** aiming for breakthroughs not incremental advances

- **judged only on the scientific excellence of**
  - the proposed project and
  - the Principal Investigator

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What is special about Synergy?

Synergy: Integrated, complementary knowledge and approaches contributed by PIs in the group

Joint effort to achieve something the PIs could not on their own

Small, flexible group: PIs decide who they need to work with

Any PI can join with others as equals to carry out excellent Frontier research, any career stage/discipline

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ERC 2025 Calls

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant
Call identifier	ERC-2025-StG	ERC-2025-CoG	ERC-2025-AdG	ERC-2025-SyG
Call opens	10 July 2024	26 September 2024	22 May 2025	11 July 2024
Call deadline	15 October 2024	14 January 2025	28 August 2025	6 November 2024

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2025 Synergy Grant

Call Opens

11 July 2024

Call deadline

6 November 2024

Inform applicants after each step

14 April 2025
15 August 2025
27 October 2025

Signing Grant

24 March 2026

Call Identifier	ERC-2025-SyG
Budget	€500m
Estimated no. grants funded	48

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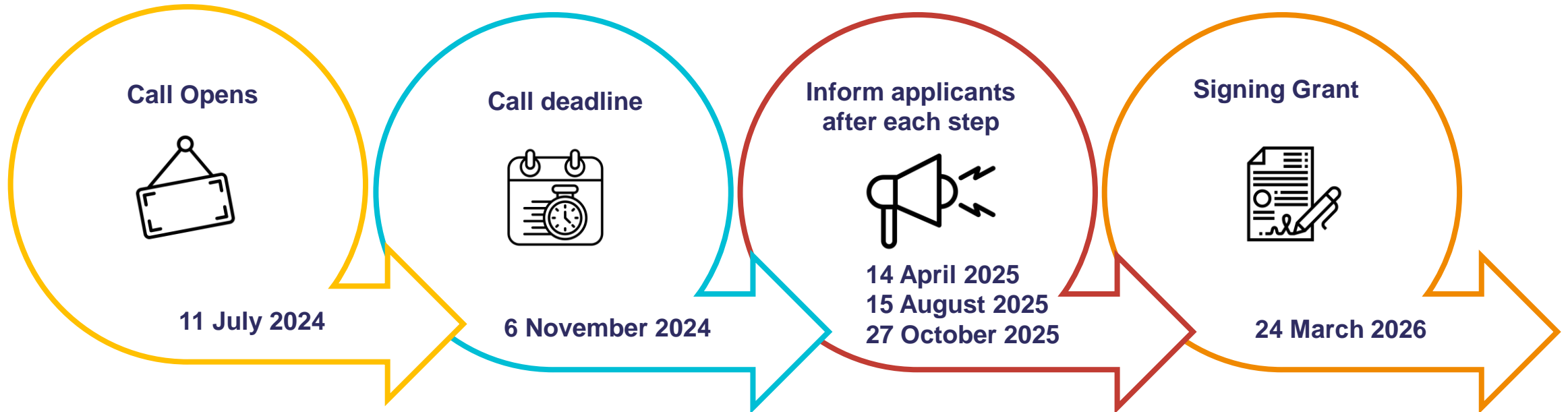
ERC Work Programme 2025:
Novelties I – Eligibility and Submission Restrictions

Eligibility Extensions (changes):

- Extension on the grounds of disability

- Major disasters – definition elaborated to include disasters caused by humans

Evaluation of Synergy Grants:

- Flexibility in the number of panels in Step 2: between five and seven

- At Step 2, the budgetary cut-off to pass to Step 3, reverts to three times the panel budget (instead of four)
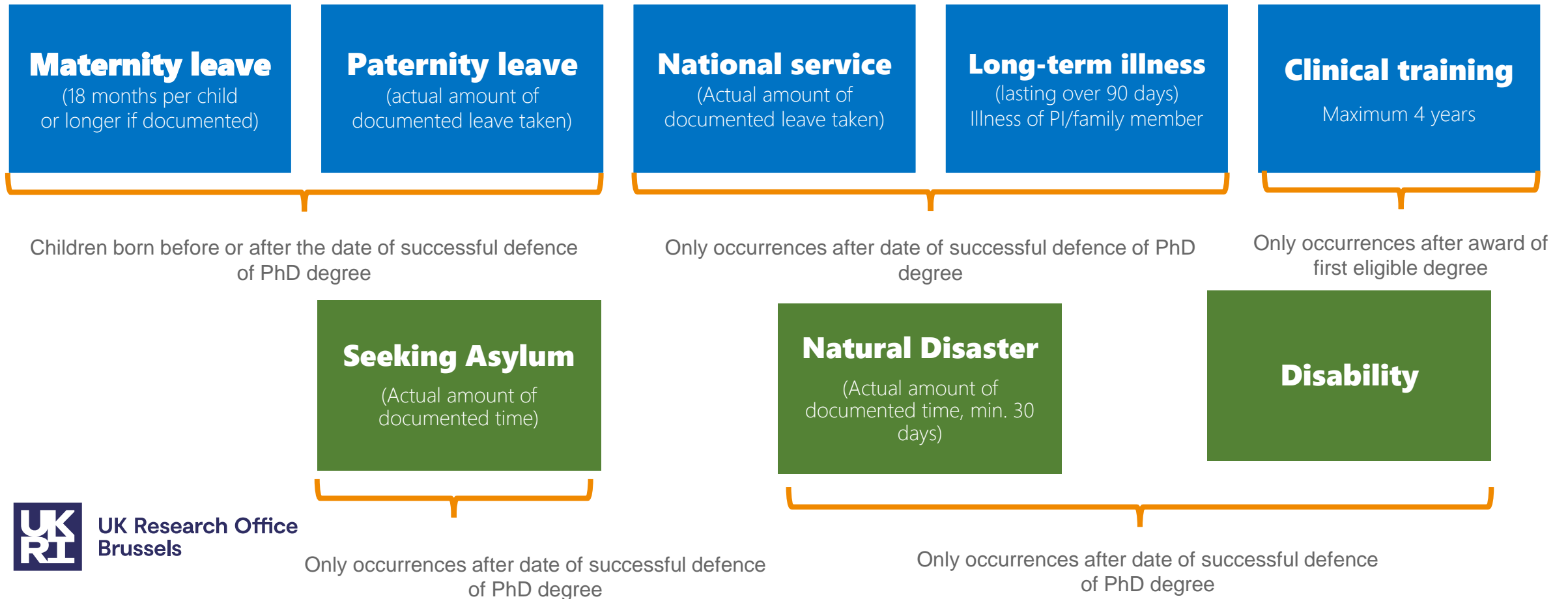
Extending Eligibility window

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

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

Starting and Consolidator Grant eligibility window can be extended for:

Maternity leave
(18 months per child
or longer if documented)

Paternity leave
(actual amount of
documented leave taken)

National service
(Actual amount of
documented leave taken)

Long-term illness
(lasting over 90 days)
Illness of PI/family member

Clinical training
Maximum 4 years

Children born before or after the date of successful defence of PhD degree

Only occurrences after date of successful defence of PhD degree

Only occurrences after award of first eligible degree

Seeking Asylum
(Actual amount of
documented time)

Natural Disaster
(Actual amount of
documented time, min. 30
days)

Disability

Only occurrences after date of successful defence of PhD degree

Only occurrences after date of successful defence of PhD degree

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ERC Usual Panel Structure – Not for Synergy!

Physical Sciences & Engineering	Life Sciences	Social Sciences & Humanities
PE1 Mathematics	**LS1** Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures & Functions	**SH1** Individuals, Markets and Organisations
PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter	**LS2** Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems	**SH2** Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
PE3 Condensed Matter Physics	**LS3** Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration	**SH3** The Social World and its Interactions
PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences	**LS4** Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing	**SH4** The Human Mind and Its Complexity
PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials	**LS5** Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System	**SH5** Texts and Concepts
PE6 Computer Science and Informatics*	**LS6** Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy	**SH6** The Study of the Human Past
PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering	**LS7** Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases	**SH7** Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
PE8 Products and Processes Engineering	**LS8** Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution	**SH8** Studies of Cultures and Arts
PE9 Universe Sciences	**LS9** Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering	
PE10 Earth System Science		
PE11 Materials Engineering		

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* From 2025: new Panel Descriptor in PE6

Synergy Grant dynamic panels

Due to the collaborative nature of Synergy grants, the call's evaluation process **does not have a disciplinary panel schema**

Instead…

…**bespoke panels with a variety of experts are set up during the evaluation** to match the unique profile of submitted proposals

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Synergy Grant dynamic panels

- The panels are not predefined at the beginning of the evaluation. The applicants apply to a single panel and all panel members belong in step one to this panel that covers all fields of science and scholarship.

- To facilitate the allocation of proposals to the right experts, the applicant corresponding PI has to indicate between four and six fixed **keywords**.

- It is the **corresponding PI's responsibility** to choose and indicate the most relevant keywords for the evaluation of the proposed research.

- The composition of the panels at step 2 and step 3 is by nature multi-disciplinary to accommodate a proper evaluation of multidisciplinary and complex proposals.

- The allocation of the proposals to the various panels in step 2 and step 3 will be done by grouping proposals based on their research areas and the expertise of the panel members.

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ERC Eligibility Criteria

Synergy Group Eligibility

2, 3 or 4 PIs

1 designated as "corresponding PI". *Nothing added in their role, they communicate with EC*

PI group can be a mix of different career stages

Max. 1 PI can be hosted outside EU/Associated Countries

PIs are evaluated individually and as a group

If one PI cannot carry out the project, they cannot be replaced

The 'non-EU PI' cannot be the Corresponding PI

Corresponding Principal Investigator

- The corresponding principal investigator bears the overall responsibility for the supervision of the scientific and technological implementation of the action, while the other principal investigators must contribute to the overall implementation and supervise each of their parts

- For reporting: the corresponding principal investigator assumes the primary responsibility for the scientific reporting and contribution to the financial reporting, while the other principal investigators must contribute to both the scientific and financial reporting

- For events or circumstances likely to affect the Agreement: each principal investigator must inform the coordinator, their beneficiary and the other principal investigators

- Corresponding PIs must also cover settlement of disputes between the principal investigators and between them and the beneficiaries).
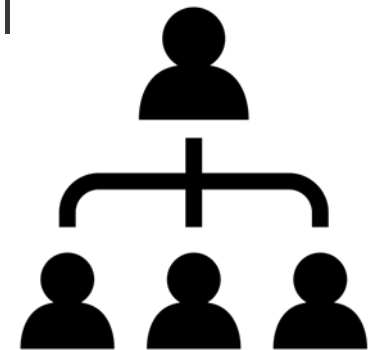
Principal Investigator Eligibility

Who?
• No restrictions based on age, nationality, current location or current employment/contract status.

Where?
• Must have an institution based in an EU Member State or Associated Country willing to host them.

Calculated as an average across entire project duration, can vary to a degree year on year

Grant Type	Minimum % of Working Time on Grant	Minimum % of time in EU Member State/Associated Country*	Years since PhD Award
Starting	50	50	2-7
Consolidator	40	50	7-12
Advanced	30	50	N/A
Synergy	**30**	**50**	**N/A**

* Minimum time requirement is 30% but evaluators will look at your profile (e.g. over 50% recommended for Starting profile)

* Does not apply to any Non-EU PI

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Host Institutions Eligibility

Can be any type of legal entity
(university, business, public body, NGO etc.)

Must be based in the territory of an
EU Member State or Associated Country

Has the infrastructure and capacity to allow the PI to
independently direct the research and manage ERC funding

Must not constrain the PI to the institution's research strategy.
PI has the right to transfer the grant to another institution.

Must 'engage' the PI for project duration, if grant is successful

Not assessed as a separate criterion during peer review but
must sign a letter of commitment as part of application

If funded, the HIs will:
- sign up to the **Grant Agreement**
- sign a **'Supplementary Agreement'** with the PI

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Principal Investigators leading Team Members

- PI **leads** the research project, they are not collaborating as equals with their team

- PI has the **freedom to choose** how many team members are included in the project

- PI **names individuals or roles** that will be recruited in the proposal

- PI must **justify the team** and its composition and contribution

- Evaluators reject proposals where the PI is overshadowed by any team members

PI
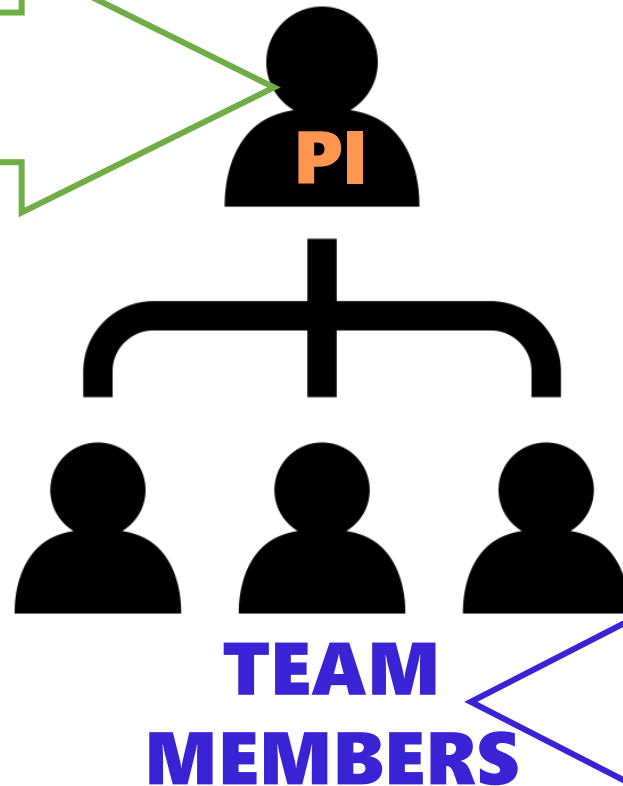
TEAM MEMBERS

- **Team members cannot be co-investigators**

- **Assigned to specific project outputs/tasks**

- Should not have purely supervisory/mentor roles

- Can be **research staff at any level** (including technicians and project managers)

- Of any age, nationality or country of residence

- Can be based **at the Host Institution or any other organisation** in the world

- **EU funded**, even outside member states or associated countries

What kind of team members can be in an ERC project?

Depending on the nature of a project the research team may involve team members from other research organisations situated in the same or a different country.
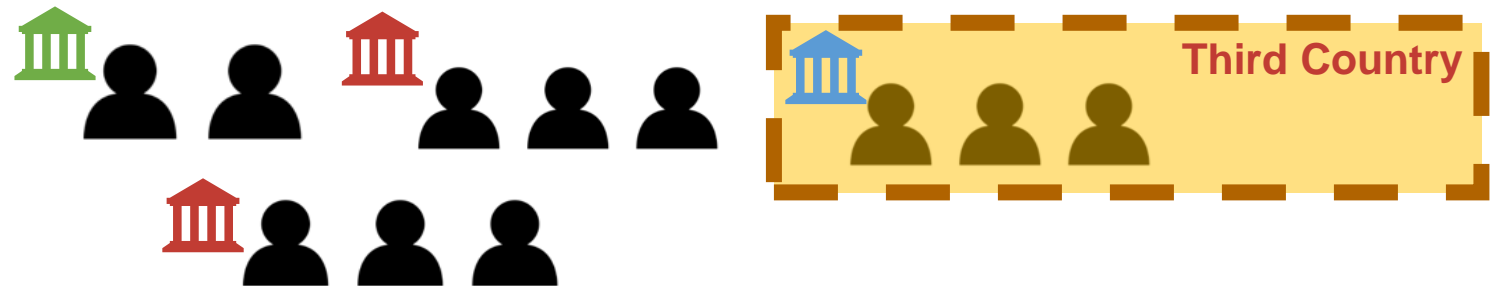
PI
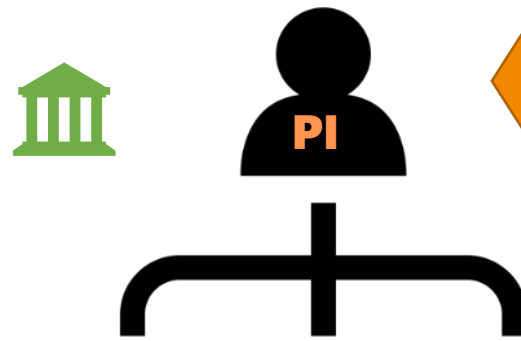
2-4 PIs
evaluated in proposal according to the broadly defined work programme (no prescribed job title)
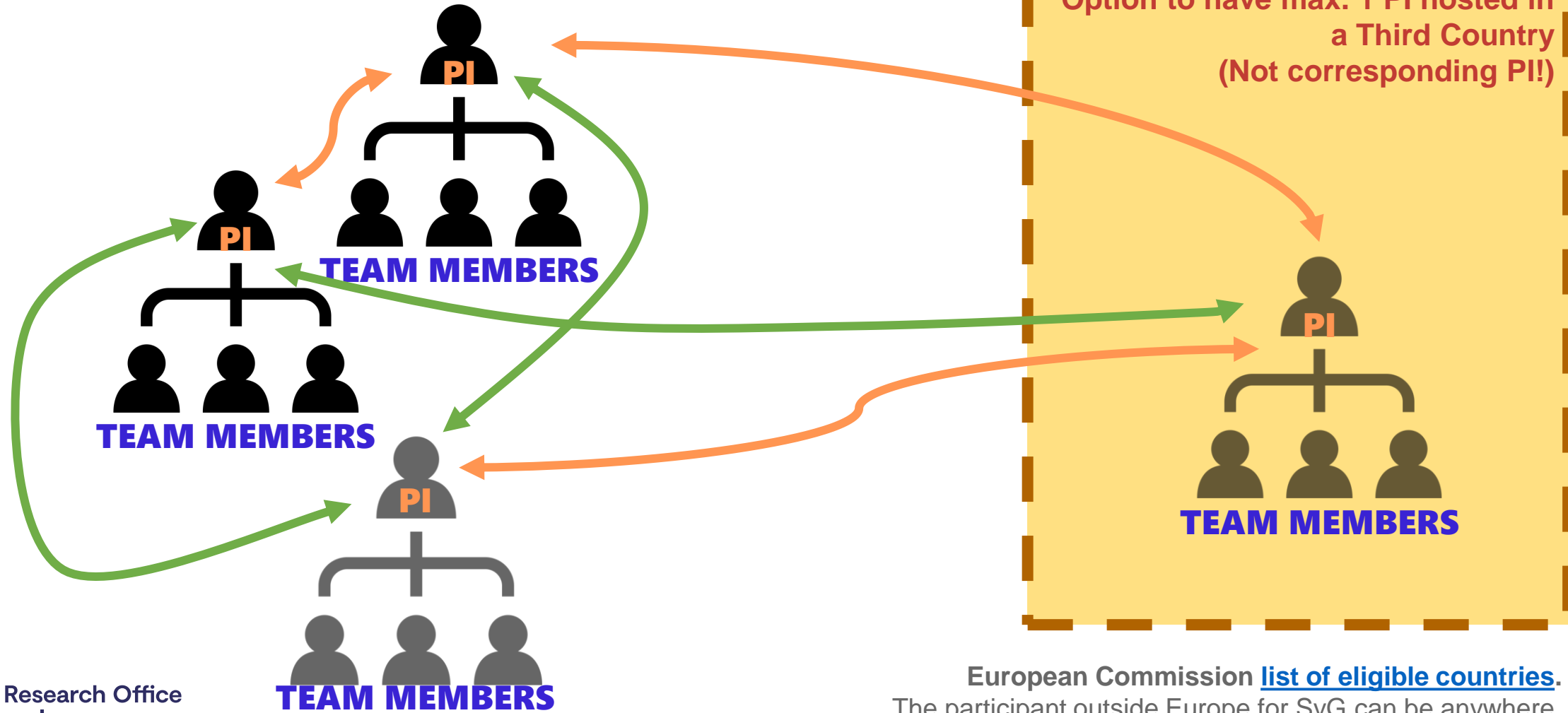
1 - 4 Host Institutions
(a SyG group can be on the same corridor or opposite ends of the world)

PI designs and chooses their team according to the needs of the project

Third Country

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Principal Investigators in Synergy Grant Groups

PI

PI

TEAM MEMBERS

TEAM MEMBERS

PI

TEAM MEMBERS

Option to have max. 1 PI hosted in a Third Country (Not corresponding PI!)

PI

TEAM MEMBERS

European Commission list of eligible countries.
The participant outside Europe for SyG can be anywhere, so their Host Institution's Third Country may not be listed.

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Difference between a Synergy Group and other Horizon Europe consortia

"It is of utmost importance not to confuse the term 'synergy' and its requirements with the concepts and the terminology of other parts of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme …

Synergy Group is:

- PIs (and their teams) that are capable of tackling bold research themes requiring novel approaches

- Research teams are typically characterised by exceptional combinations of knowledge and skills

- The collaborative element is expect to add a creative layer of excellence making the group greater than sum of its parts

Synergy Group is not:

- Loose cooperation: e.g. essentially separate projects with networking links/events

- Simply passing data or information from one team to another

- Long-established approaches to collaborating

- Agreement between organisations with staff participating. It must be led by each PI, who can still move the grant elsewhere

Each P.I is essential, irreplaceable and of equal value to the project!

Proposal Development

1-step submission for a 3-step evaluation

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

Part A
*Administrative Forms
and Abstract*

- General information
- Participating Institutions
- Budget & Description of
  Resources
- Ethics & security questionnaire

Part B1
*Proposal Overview
and profile of each
Principal Investigator*

- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- **Curriculum Vitae and Track
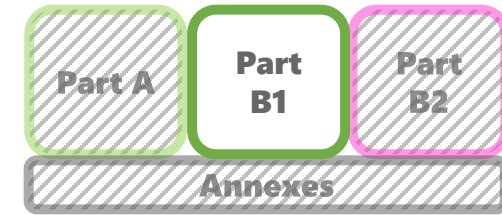 Record (max. 4 pages for each PI)**

Part B2
*Detailed Research
Proposal*

- State of the art and objectives
- Methodology
  (Total of 15 pages)
- Resources and time
  commitment, including project
  costs (does not count towards
  page limit)

Annexes
*Host Institution Letters, Ethics, Eligibility Documents*

Part B1

- **Strict formatting requirements:**

Page Format	Font Type	Font Size	Line Spacing	Margins
A4	Times New Roman, Arial or similar	At least 11	Single	2cm Side 1.5cm Bottom

- **Cover Page (info repeated from Part A)**

- **Extended Synopsis (5 pages)**

- **Curriculum Vitae and Track Record (max. 4 pages for each PI)**

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Things to think about: Extended Synopsis
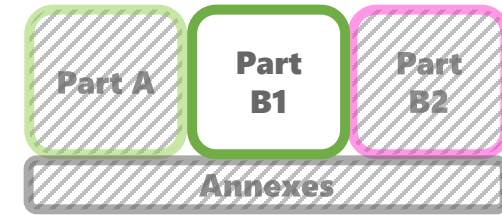
✓ Consider what excites you about the research and convey this in your application

✓ Scientific Impact – you should be progressing the field of research beyond its current state.

✓ Why is a group-based approached needed? Does the proposal highlight why your group's scientific elements are well suited to the project theme and objectives?

✓ Timeliness and relevance should be shown throughout the project

✓ Research aims should clearly link to the research objectives, which should clearly link to research methodology(ies)

Writing your CV and Track Record

No prescriptive PI profiles

- **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
  - Other contribution to research community
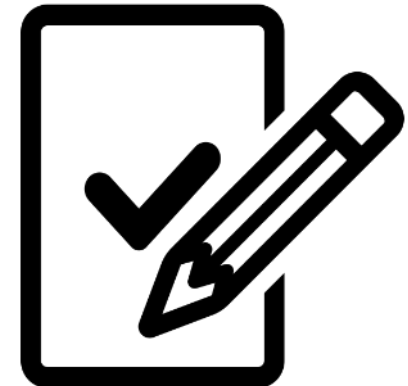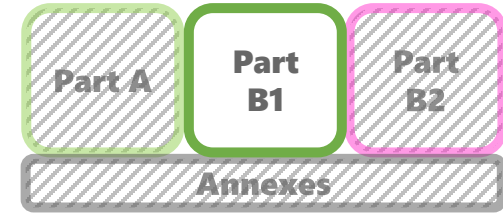
Part B2
(15 pages excluding the resources and time commitment section and References)
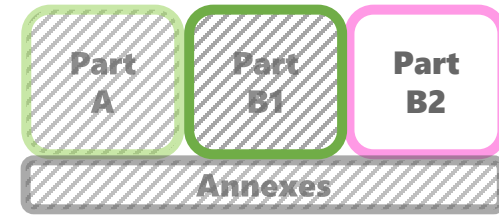
- **State of the art and objectives**
  - Objectives here become grant agreement objectives
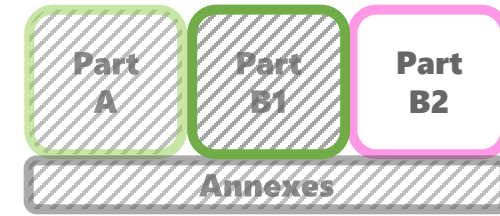
- **Methodology**
  - Proposed methodology
  - Milestones and alternatives
  - Risk and mitigation
  - Project Management
  - Publication & Exploitation of results

- **Funding I.D**
  - All ongoing grants and submitted grant applications of each of the PIs (not included in page limit)

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Writing your State of the Art and Objectives in Part B2

Coherence with Part B1

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

- **You will have at least one expert reviewer in addition to the generalist panel members**, add technical detail that someone much closer to your field would need to know

- **Don't copy paste from Part B1**. Both parts are considered 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 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 in Part B2
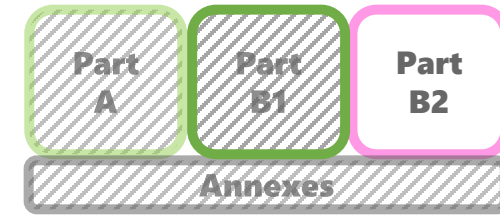
Methodology

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

- Describe significant synergies, complementarity and added value of the group

- Don't leave any reasons for the remote experts to raise doubts in the generalist panel

- Work plan should also be clear and **persuade evaluators that your group 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 – but external experts and to some extent panellist can be more risk averse

- Show evaluators you are aware and considerate of issues and how to react but **be prepared to acknowledge unavoidable uncertainty** that comes with ambitious, new ideas

Your team

- The team members under each PI

- Be sure to show how you will be the **leader of your team** and central figure for your part of project, **alongside other PIs in leadership roles**

- **Explain what each team member will do** – these can be named people or roles specified for recruitment

Justify resources

- Be ambitious but every **part of the budget must have a place in the project and be linked to objectives**

- **Show resources put towards collaborative efforts between PIs**

Writing your Resources and Time Commitment in Part B2
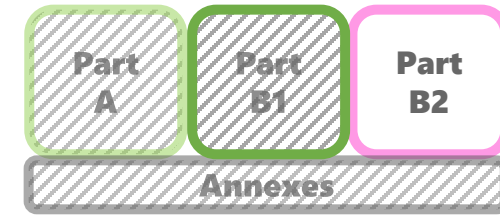
Resources

- Describe the **size and nature** of the Synergy Group, indicating key members and their roles

- Specify any **existing resources** that will contribute to the project

- Describe and fully justify **other necessary resources**, such as infrastructure, equipment, travel costs, consumables, publication costs etc

- Describe and fully justify any 'additional funding' requested

Time commitment

- Specify the time commitment of each PI

- **Minimum 30% working time per PI**

- Each PI can make a commitment above the minimum

- Experts will evaluate each time commitment separately based on the needs of the project and according to the profile of each PI

- **N.B.** Funding I.D. now in B2

Budget table

- Use the budget table template in Part B2

- ERC will fund 100% eligible costs and a flat-rate 25% for indirect costs

- Any unjustified budgets will be cut by the panel members

Things to think about:
The Scientific Proposal
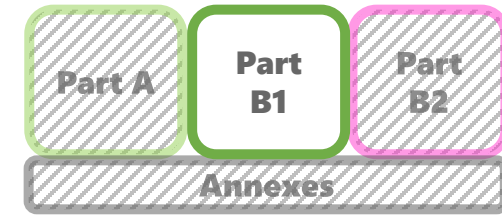
- ✓ **Recap and expand** on Part B1 introductory Extended Synopsis.

- ✓ 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.

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Break

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!!!

UK Research Office
Brussels

ERC Proposal Submission

Part A
- Administrative Forms,
- Abstract,
- Budget and Description of Resources

Part B1
- Extended synopsis
- CV/track record

Part B2
- Detailed Research Proposal
- Funding I.D.

Annexes
- Host Institution Letter,
- Ethics,
- Eligibility Documents

- **1-step submission all parts 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.

UK Research Office Brussels

Template PDF incl. all parts of the Synergy application form **available here**..

Using the EC Portal

Funding and Tenders Portal: EU Funding & Tenders Portal | EU Funding & Tenders Portal (europa.eu)

First page of proposal submission

IDENTIFY THE HOST INSTITUTION (PIC number)

Find your organisation

PIC [9]   Short name [250]

Search for your organisation

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

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE ON THE PROPOSAL?

Your role

Please indicate your role in this proposal

- (•) Principal Investigator
- ( ) Main Host Institution Contact
- ( ) Contact person

Fill in each role per organisation before going to the next step to avoid technical issues.

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

BASIC DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

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

Your proposal

Please choose an acronym for your proposal.

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

Acronym [Enter value] [20]

Short Summary [Enter value] [2000]

ERC Panel [▼]

SAVE AND GO TO NEXT STEP

Choose keywords only in Part A, there are no pre-existing panels for Synergy

Full list of ERC's keywords in Annex 4 of the Information for Applicants (page 31)

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*

Login   Topic selection   Create proposal   Participants   Proposal Forms   Submit

Proposal forms

Deadline
08 April 2021 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

26 days left until closure

In this step you can edit the Administrative Forms and upload the proposal itself. ⓘ

Your proposal contains changes that have not yet been submitted.

Call data:

Call: **ERC-2021-STG**
Topic: **ERC-2021-STG**
Type of action: **HORIZON-ERC**
Type of MGA: **HORIZON-AG**

⚠ Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.

Administrative forms

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 ⬆
PhD certificate		Upload ⬆
Annex 1		Upload ⬆
Annex 2		Upload ⬆
Annex 3		Upload ⬆
Annex 4		Upload ⬆
Annex 5		Upload ⬆
Annex 6		Upload ⬆

Proposal data:

Acronym: **FAD**
Draft ID: **SEP-210732071**

Download Part B templates

⬇ Download part B templates

Support & Helpdesk

📖 Online Manual   ℹ IT How To

✉ IT Helpdesk   ❓ FAQ

Service Desk:
✉ EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu
📞 +32 2 29 92222

◄ BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST   VALIDATE   SUBMIT

Who starts the submission?

- Only one PI initiates the proposal! They then add the details of other Host Organisations and their PIs.

- ERC advises that either the **corresponding Principal Investigator** or the Main Administrative contact person (the administrative person on behalf of the corresponding Host Institution) start creating a proposal.

- The person who starts drafting the proposal will have an influence on the subsequent steps. Only that person will have the right to manage the access rights of other people to the proposal at the following step.

- The person who creates the proposal will have the 'coordinating' role, and alongside other people at the corresponding Host Institution with a designated coordinating role, will be able to modify any parts of the proposal and to submit it. Further contacts or PIs at other Host Institution will only be able to edit the parts related to their personal data or their Host Institution (have 'full access' rights to their parts only).

After defining a Host Institution by clicking on the 'Add contact +' button, you identify the Principal Investigators linked to it and the administrative contact person(s).

You can see the name and details of the corresponding Host Institution (always participant number '1') and the name of the person who created the draft proposal.

At this step, you can:

- add the main administrative contact person name (for the corresponding Host Institution) or the corresponding Principal Investigator (if not done yet) and e-mail;
- add further Principal Investigators hosted at the corresponding HI (full access or read only access);
- add further Principal Investigators hosted at other Host Institutions;
- give access to one or more 'Contact person(s)' (full access or read-only access);
- add additional organisations ('Add Partner Organisations (no PI)'): to add team members
- hosted in other organisations than the Host Institutions.

Part A – Administrative forms

Navigate by chapter or pages

How to fill in the forms

Part A – PI Declaration of Consent

- Written consent **should not be submitted with the application**
- The applicants must ensure they **have written consent from all participants on file** prior to the call submission deadline.
- ERC Executive Agency **may request the applicants to provide the written consent** mentioned in the declarations 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. * ☐

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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.

Beneficiary Short Name	PI	Senior Staff	Postdocs	Students	Other Personnel costs	A. Total personnel costs/€	B. Subcontracting Costs/€	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment - including major equipment	Consum-ables 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/€
Ukri	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00

ERC ver 1.00 2021

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:

Make sure the figures are in whole Euros, not 1000s

Make sure the figures match between the table and the description.

Additional funding:
- **In budget table** dispersed across fitting cost categories
- **In resources section** described altogether, separate from rest of the budget
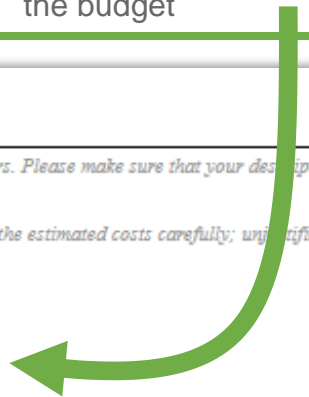
Eligible costs

The ERC funds up to 100% of the total eligible costs with a 25% flat rate for indirect costs

The budget is subdivided into

Personnel costs

Purchasing costs (incl. travel, equipment, consumable etc.)

Publications (including any costs related to Open Access)

Indirect cost

internally invoiced goods and services

Subcontracting costs

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Work with your Host Institution to cost the budget properly
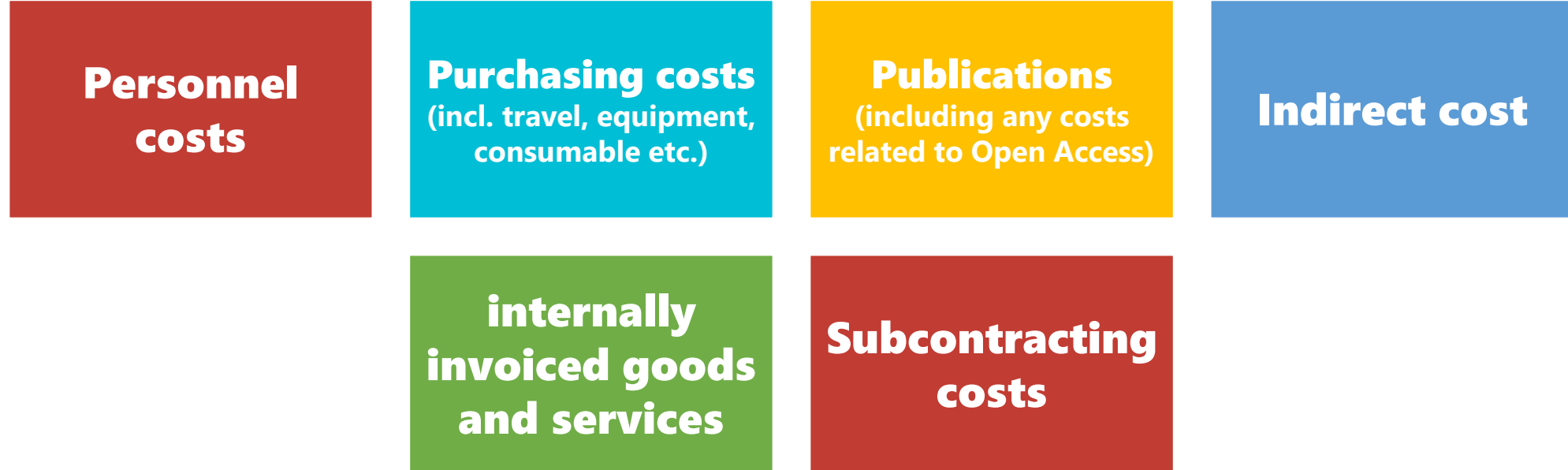
Funding Levels

Grant Type	Maximum Base Grant Amount	Maximum "Additional Funding"
Starting	€1.5 M	€1.0 M
Consolidator	**€2.0 M**	**€1.0 M**
Advanced	€2.5 M	€1.0 M
Synergy	€10 M	€4.0 M

Additional Funding is available for the project if properly justified; it is not strictly split as €1 million per PI.

Additional funding covers:
- eligible "start-up" costs for PIs moving from outside Europe
- the purchase of major equipment
- access to large facilities
- major experimental/fieldwork costs (excluding personnel)

There is no definition of "equipment" or "facilities". Make the case for what is needed for your discipline.

Part A – Ethics & Security questions

- Follow Horizon Europe guidance document: ['How to complete your ethics self-assessment'](#)

- **UK-hosted applicants should answer 'yes' on questions about non-European 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.

- If the existing character limit is too short the recommendation is to provide the detailed explanation in optional annex, uploaded as a PDF. Include references to theses annexes in the Ethics text box in the application form.

Application forms

Table Of Contents   Validate Form   Save   Save&Close

Proposal ID   **SEP-210732071**

Acronym   **FAD**

4 - Ethics & security

Ethics Issues Table

1. Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Human Embryos		Page
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	○ Yes ⦿ No	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	○ Yes ⦿ No	

2. Humans		Page
Does this activity involve human participants?	○ Yes ⦿ No	
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?	○ Yes ⦿ 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)	○ Yes ⦿ No	

3. Human Cells / Tissues (not covered by section 1)		Page
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	○ Yes ⦿ No	

4. Personal Data		Page
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	○ Yes ⦿ No	
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?	○ Yes ⦿ No	
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	○ Yes ⦿ 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	○ Yes ⦿ No	

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

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Proposal Formatting

Page limits will be strictly applied.

Page formatting will be systematically checked by the ERCEA.

References do not count towards page limit.

Templates:

- Application form (PDF version)
- Guide for Peer Reviewers

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

Page Format: A4

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Part B2 – Budget

- Four main sections:
  - Personnel,
  - Subcontracting
  - Purchase
  - Internally invoiced good and services

- All '**Additional Funding**' requested must be
  - included in the overall budget table,
  - tallied with normal costs in appropriate cost category
  - *For example fieldwork travel would go under Travel & Subsistence in a sum including 'normal' costs not related to fieldwork).*

- If funding is requested for **Other personnel costs** & **Other additional direct costs (see highlights)**
  - Should be entered as a total figure on the budget table
  - Unpacked in the Resource section with each item briefly described

- Now an Excel spreadsheet…

One column per Principal Investigator and their team

Cost category		Corresponding PI	2nd PI	3rd PI	4th PI	Total in euro (no decimals)
PI name						
Host Institution						
A. Direct personnel costs/€	PI[2]					
	Senior Staff					
	Post docs					
	Students					
	Other personnel costs					
	Total personnel costs/€					
B. Subcontracting Costs/€ (No indirect costs)						
C. Purchase Costs/€	C.1 Travel and subsistence					
	C.2 Equipment - including major equipment					
	C.3 Other goods, works and services	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/€ (C.1 + C.2 + C.3)					
D. Internally invoiced goods and services/€ (No indirect costs)[3]						
E. Indirect Cost/€ e= 25% * (A + C1 + C2 + C3)						
Total eligible costs/€						
Requested EU contribution/€						

Example, not to complete

			cPI	PI2	PI3	PI4	
Principal Investigator names							
Host Institutions							
Cost category							**Total**
A. Direct prsonnel Costs	**Personnel**	PI (take into account the % of each PI's dedicated working time on the ERC project)					-
		Senior Staff					-
		Postdocs					-
		Students					-
		Other Personnel costs					-
	Total Personnel Costs		-	-	-	-	-
B – Subcontracting Costs (no indirect costs)							-
C. Purchase Costs		**C.1 Travel and subsistence**					-
		C.2 Equipment (including major equipment under additional funding)					-
	C.3 Other goods, works and services	Consumables (incl. fieldwork and animal costs)					-
		Publications (including Open Access fees) and dissemination					-
		Other additional costs					-
		C.3 Total other goods, works and services	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Purchase costs (C.1 + C.2 + C.3)		-	-	-	-	-
D. Internally invoiced goods and services (No indirect costs) Costs for invoices generated by laboratories and/or services belonging to the HI and calculated as Unit costs							-
E. Indirect Costs (overheads) e=25%*(A+C1+C2+C3)			-	-	-	-	-
Total Estimated Eligible Costs (A + B + C + D + E)			-	-	-	-	-
Requested EU contribution*							-
Please indicate the duration of the project in months*:							
Please indicate the % of working time each PI dedicates to the project over the period of the grant (min. 30%):						%	
Corresponding PI name:							
2nd PI name:							
3rd PI name:							
4th PI name:							

Please save the excel file and upload it in the submission system as a separate annex.

Instructions on how to fill in the budget table:
Each PI is required to fill in their budget breakdown using the budget table template.
All eligible costs requested should be included in the budget. In case you have team members belonging to partner organisations or third parties (i.e. not Host Institutions) please include their amounts under the appropriate PI's budget.

In addition to the budget table, please **describe and fully justify in part B2 the amount of funding considered necessary** to fulfil the objectives throughout the duration of the project. The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible. The amounts mentioned in the justification in part B2 should match the figures in the table.

The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs and the justification carefully; unjustified budgets will be consequently reduced.

Use integer euro values only throughout the table and fill in the 'Requested EU contribution' cells.

In case you are requesting additional funding above the normal EUR 10 million (up to EUR 4 million), **include these top-up costs in the budget breakdown table** as well and justify your request in the second table. The justification for the additional funding should fit within the provided box.

Check that the Total Eligible Costs and the Requested EU contribution amounts in the breakdown table MATCH those presented in the online proposal submission form, section 3 – Budget. The requested amounts cannot be higher than the eligible costs.

* The maximum award is reduced pro rata temporis for projects of a shorter duration than 72 months (e.g. for a project of 60 months duration the maximum requested EU contribution allowed is EUR 8 333 333). Additional funding to cover major one-off costs is not subject to pro-rata temporis reduction for projects of shorter duration (e.g. with additional funding it is possible to request a maximum EU contribution of EUR 12 333 333 million for a project of 60 months duration).

Upload separately to Part B2!

Part A – Description of Resources

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

Unjustified budget lines may be reduced or missing budget lines that are deemed necessary by evaluators could count against the proposal.

Some elements that should be briefly described and justified:

- **Each PI's working time commitment.**

- **Each cost category with items considered necessary**

- **Size and nature of the team**, indicating key team member(s) as named individuals or vacant roles

- Justify if team members are based elsewhere other than the Host Institution.

- Requested **equipment:** why you need it and how much it will be used.

- Costs for **Open Access** to project outputs including data management

- Describe any **additional funding** requested for the project.

- Existing **resources needed for the project but do not require ERC funding**

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

Evaluation Process

Evaluation timeline

Call Identifier	ERC-2025-SyG
Budget	€500m
Estimated no. grants funded	49

Call open → **Deadline 6 November 2024** → **Step 1 Decision 14 April 2025** → **Step 2 Decision 15 August 2025** → **Step 3 Decision 27 October** → **Grant Signature 24 March 2026**

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2025 Call Resubmission Restrictions

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome		2025 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is *not* eligible
2023 and 2024 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant, or Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grant
2023 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2024 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 2	No restrictions
	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2023 and 2024 Synergy Grant	A or B at Step 3	No restrictions
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	C at Step 1	Synergy Grant

More lenient restrictions for Synergy Grant

Score-based Restrictions only apply to Synergy calls from previous Synergy calls

- Potential restriction **from** Synergy proposals can only apply to future Synergy and Advanced Calls.

- No restrictions **for** Synergy proposals from prior Starting or Consolidator calls

- If you are eligible for Starting or Consolidator calls, currently there is no jeopardy submitting a Synergy call (other than in cases of research integrity issues).

Eligibility Check

ERC Executive Agency and Eligibility Committee
ensure proposals are eligible for funding

Part A
*Administrative Forms
and Abstract*

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget & Description of
  Resources
- Ethics Check

Part B1
*Proposal Overview
and PI Track Record*

- Cover page and summary
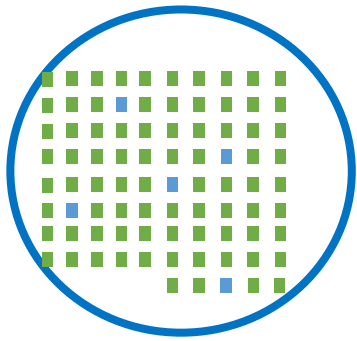- Extended Synopsis (5
  pages)
- Track Record (4 pages)

Part B2
*Detailed Research
Proposal*

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Funding ID

Annexes
Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Step 1 Evaluation

One panel is formed with approximately 87 panel members, including 5 chairs, who will assess the extended synopsis of the scientific proposal (only Part B1 - and not the full scientific proposal) and the Principal Investigators' CVs and track records.

Part A
Administrative Forms and Abstract

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget & Description of Resources
- Ethics Check

Part B1
Proposal Overview and PI Track Record

- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- CV &Track Record (4 pages per PI)

Part B2
Detailed Research Proposal

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Funding ID

Annexes
Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Step 2 Evaluation

Panel members from step 1 will be divided into **five to seven** panels of around 17 experts each.
They will assess the complete version of the retained proposals (Parts B1 and B2).

Part A
Administrative Forms and Abstract

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget & Description of Resources
- Ethics Check

Part B1
Proposal Overview and PI Track Record

- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- Track Record (4 pages)

Part B2
Detailed Research Proposal

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Funding ID

(Total of 14 pages not inc. Funding ID)
+ Budget report from Part A

Annexes
Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Step 3 Interview

The interview panels (that may be reconfigured to ensure the best expertise for the proposals) will assess the complete version of the most competitive of the retained proposals (Parts B1 and B2) and all their Principal Investigators may be invited for an interview to present their project to a panel.

Part A
Administrative Forms and Abstract

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget & Description of Resources
- Ethics Check

Part B1
Proposal Overview and PI Track Record

- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- Track Record (4 pages per PI)

Part B2
Detailed Research Proposal

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Funding ID

(Total of 14 pages)
+ Budget report from Part A

Annexes
Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Interview process

- Following the step 2 evaluation the applicants will receive an invitation letter detailing the format and the length of the interview. All Principal Investigators of the proposals selected for interviews will be invited to present their proposal to the interview panel.

- The interview panels may be reconfigured to ensure the best expertise for the proposals. The interview details will depend on the decision of the panels: interviews can last around 45 minutes in total.

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Interview process

- The panel may ask the applicants to give a 7-15 minute presentation on the proposed research project.

- The remaining time may be devoted to questions and answers on the scientific content and implementation of the project, modalities of collaboration among the Principal Investigators and the project's budget and resources.

- The presentation is an opportunity to elaborate on the synergies that the project aims to create.

- The interviews are planned between 8 and 12 September 2025. Please check the ERC website for any changes.

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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

NEW since 2024

Proposals which score a B or C at Step 1 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

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ERC evaluation criteria

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

Research project's
ground-breaking nature
ambition
feasibility

Each PI and overall Group's
intellectual capacity,
creativity
commitment

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

- Proposals marked by panel from: 1 – 4 (non-competitive to outstanding)

- Numerical marks not communicated to applicant

- Outcome of panel meetings expressed as A, B or C.

🚫 **Proposal is judged on its socioeconomic impact or relevance to European policy.**

Research Project

1. The ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- To what extent does the proposed research address important scientific challenges?

- To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g., novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?

Research Project

2. The Scientific Approach

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the groundbreaking nature and ambition of the proposed research (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

- To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone (for Synergy Grants, based on the Extended Synopsis)?

- To what extent do the Principal Investigators succeed in proposing a combination of scientific approaches that are crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research questions to be tackled (for Synergy Grants, based on the Extended Synopsis)?

- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the research proposal)?

- To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources, and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal)?

Principal Investigator(s)

1. Each Principal Investigator (PI)

- To what extent has/have the PI(s) demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking
- research?
- To what extent does/do the PI(s) provide evidence of creative and original thinking?
- To what extent does/do the PI(s) have the required scientific expertise and capacity to
- successfully execute the project?

2. Synergy Grant Group

- To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the know-how – such as skills, experience, expertise, disciplines, teams – necessary to address the proposed research question (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

Other considerations

- The peer reviewers are asked to primarily evaluate the quality of the science proposed, as well as the synergy aspects through the combination of the scientific elements and the know-how of the group, collaborative working arrangements when assessing the excellence of the proposal.

- The applicant Corresponding Principal Investigator can request, on behalf of the group, during the electronic proposal submission, that up to four specific persons should not act as an evaluator in the evaluation of their proposal.

- As a general rule, all Principal Investigators should take part in the interview. Interviews are taking place in Brussels, in person. In very exceptional cases, if a Principal Investigator from the group is unable to attend the interview (e.g. pregnancy, immobility due to illness, Covid-19 pandemic situation, out in research field work), two alternatives for a remote interview are offered: video-conference or telephone-conference.

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Each P.I is essential, irreplaceable and of equal value
to the project!

Useful links

- [2025 ERC Synergy Grant Information for Applicants](#)

- [2025 ERC Work Programme](#)

- [ERC Youtube Channel- explainer videos](#)

- [ERC FAQ page](#)

- [ERC 2025 WP webinar](#)

- ERC dedicated mailbox: [ERC-SYG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu](#)

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

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Any questions?

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