



ERC Consolidator Grant 2025 Call

17 October 2024

UK NCP Information Session



erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk



Agenda for today



10.00 am - 12.30 pm



Overview of the ERC



Eligibility criteria



Proposal development

Submission Process



Break



ERC Testimonial



Q&A



Evaluation



Q&A

How the webinar will run



- 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



About the Speakers

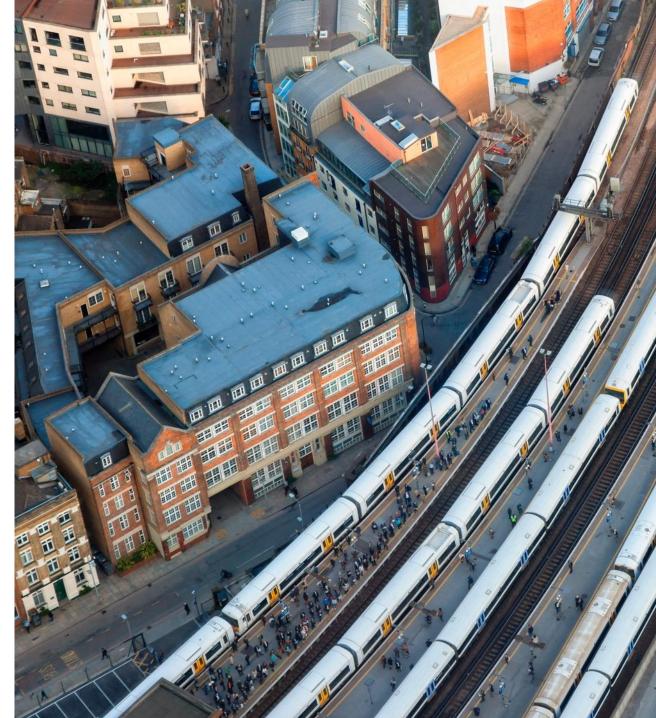


Prof. Tiina RooseUniversity of Southampton

ERC Consolidator Grantee



Dr. Antonino PuglisiUK Research Office
UK National Contact Point ERC



About UKRO

We support UK organisations involved in EU R&I funding

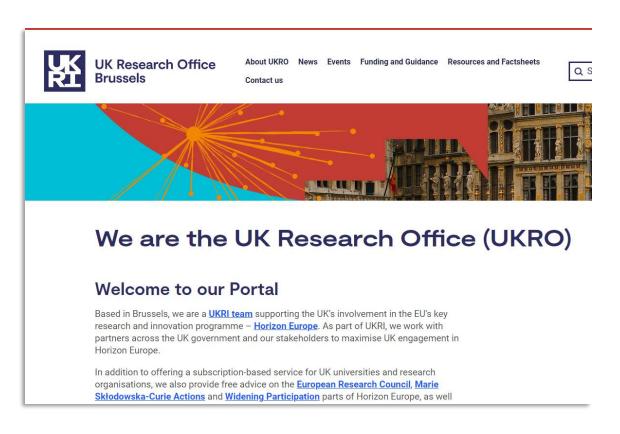
- Host UK National Contact Points for ERC, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, WIDERA and COST
- Unique partnership between UKRI and subscribing organisations
 - Provide service to more than 140 subscribing organisations
- Part of UKRI's wider International team championing EU engagement





UKRO Portal - www.ukro.ac.uk

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- Search engine with refiners and tags
- Personalised daily or weekly alerts to your inbox.
- <u>Factsheets</u> 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

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

UK Association to Horizon Europe & Copernicus

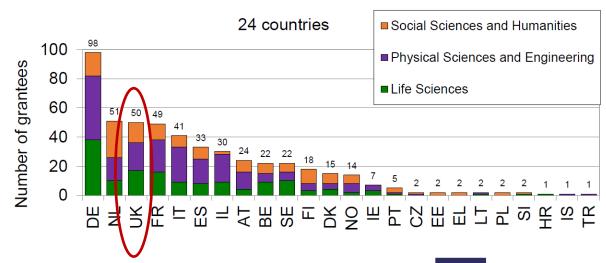
- From 1 Jan 2024 UK organisations can bid into Horizon Europe
 - With some exclusions EIC Accelerator Investment Fund, some Cluster 4 calls governed by Article 22.5



- Grant agreement set up between the Commission
- Costs met by the Commission
- UK participation in the ERC looks promising
 - First data on UK participation (ERC-2024-StG)
 UK won 50 Starter grants, 11% success rate



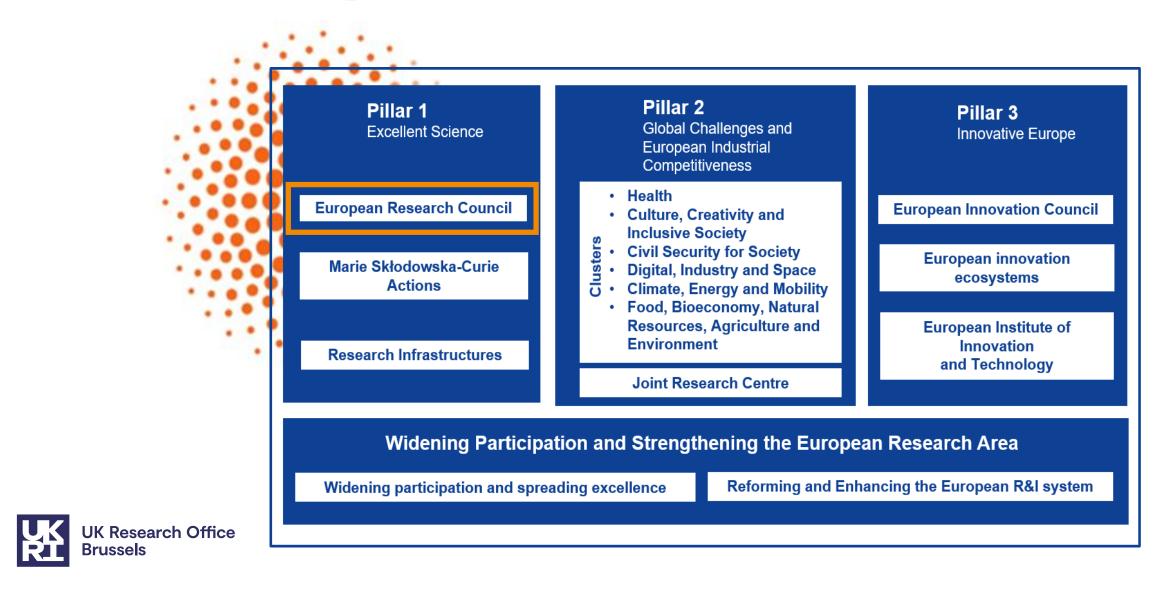
ERC Starting Grants 2024 **Grantees by Country of Host Institution and Domain**Total 494 grants







Horizon Europe overview



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 in Figures: After 15 Years, a Success Story



Over **13,000** top researchers funded since the ERC creation in 2007



Over **90,000** researchers and other professionals employed in ERC research teams



Over **2,400**patents and other IPR applications generated by ERC funding



Over 400 start-ups identified as founded or co-founded by ERC grantees



Over **250,000** articles from ERC projects published in scientific journals



Over **900** research institutions hosting ERC grantees – universities, public or private research centres in the EU or Associated Countries



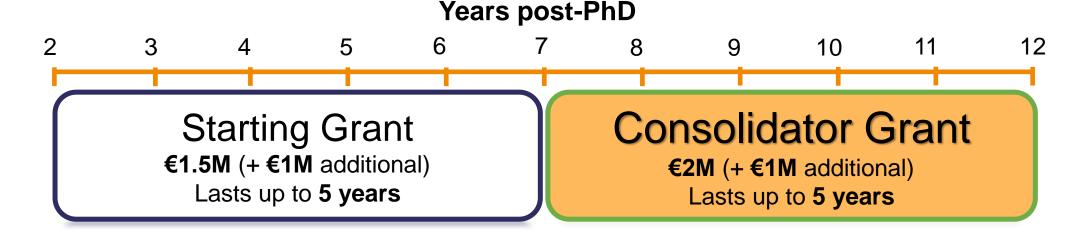
93 nationalities of grant holders



12 Nobel Prizes, 6 Fields Medals, 11 Wolf Prizes and other prizes awarded to ERC grantees



ERC Grant Opportunities



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









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









2025 Consolidator Grant (ERC-2025-CoG)











Single submission Two-step evaluation





Types of research funded

- Can be in any field of research
- Must be very ambitious in scope
- Principal Investigator is central to the project
- Must be "frontier research"

Judged on the scientific excellence of the project and PI

No need to aim for externally selected policies or research themes







Principal Investigator Eligibility



Who?



No restrictions based on age, nationality, current location or current employment/contract status

Must have an institution based in an EU member state or associated country willing to host them

Time Commitment in the ERC Consolidator

40% minimum of working time on grant

50% minimum time in EU's MS or AC



2025 Consolidator Grant Eligibility window

- Applicants must hold a PhD between 7 and 12 years before
 1st Jan 2025
- Cut-off dates between 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2017
- The date of the PhD considered for the calculation of the eligibility period is the date of the successful defence of the first PhD degree





Extending Eligibility window

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

Seeking Asylum

(Actual amount of documented time)

Natural Disaster

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

Disability



Host Institution Eligibility



Any type of legal entity



Based in an **EU** Member State or Associated Country



Have the **infrastructure** to enable PI's independence



Must **not constrain the PI** to the institution's research strategy



Must engage the PI for project duration



Not assessed at evaluation

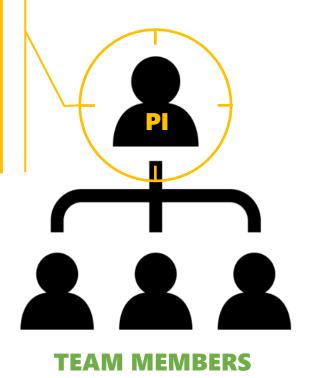


- ✓ Sign the **Grant Agreement** with the Commission
- ✓ Sign the Supplementary Agreement with the PI



Principal Investigator & 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





- Of any age, nationality or country of residence
- Can be based at the Host Institution or any other organisation in the world
- Cannot be co-investigators
- Assigned to specific project outputs/tasks
- Can be **research staff at any level** (including technicians and project managers)
- **EU funded** Even outside member states or associated countries

Funding rate

The ERC funds up to 100% of the total

eligible costs + 25% of indirect costs

> Based on actual costs

2 million euros

up to 5 years



+ 1 million of additional funding

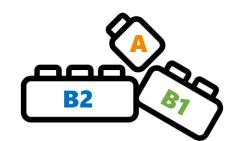
- "Start-up" costs
- Purchase of major equipment
- Access to large facilities
- Other major experimental and field work costs

Excluding personnel costs





ERC Application – Your building blocks



Part A

Administrative Forms

- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget
- Ethics Check



Part B1

- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis
- CV & Track Record



Part B2

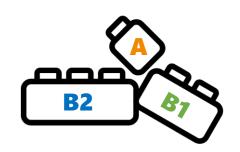
- State of the art
- Methodology
- Funding ID



Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

ERC Application – Overview





Follow the specific formatting requirements

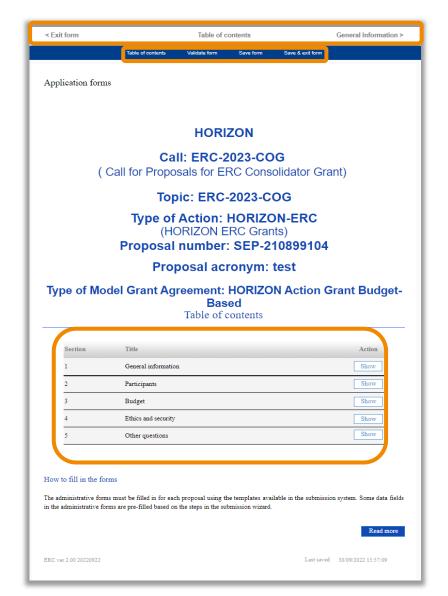


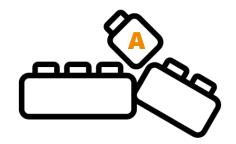
References do not count towards the page limit



Keep on hand Information for Applicants

Part A – Administrative forms

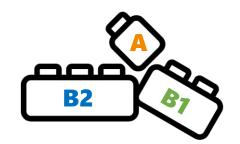


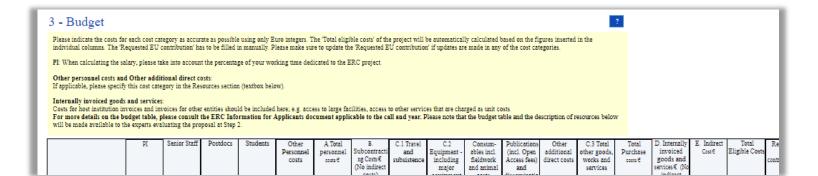


- 1. General Information
- 2. Participants
- 3. Budget
- 4. Ethics and security
- 5. Other questions



Part A – Budget and Resources





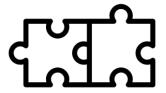
1. General Information

2. Participants

3. Budget

4. Ethics and security

5. Other questions



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.

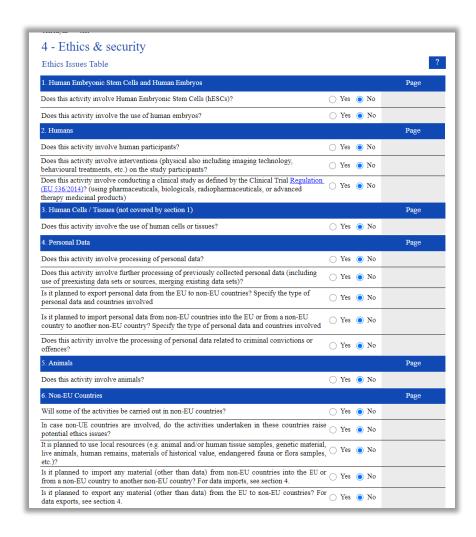
State and fully justify the amount of funding considered necessary to fulfil the objectives for the duration of the project. The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible. The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budgets will be consequently reduced. Please 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)

Justy to delito?

Part A – Ethics & Security questions

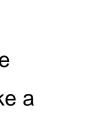


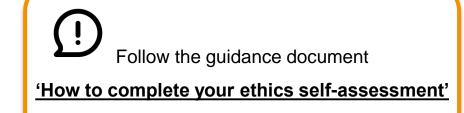
- 1. General Information
- 2. Participants
- 3. Budget
- 4. Ethics and security
- 5. Other questions



Part A – Ethics & Security questions

- 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.







Part B1 – Overview



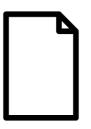


B1, your business card!



Cover Page

Info from Part A



Extended Synopsis

5 pages



CV and Track Record

4 pages



Part B1 – Extended Synopsis

5 pages max





Standalone document Complementary to B2 Timeliness & relevance State-of-the-art



Persuasive to generalists

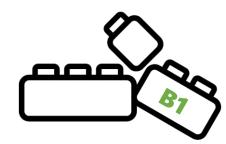
Do not use specialised jargon



Entertaining

Grab the panellists' attention Leave them curious to find out more in B2 Convery your passion and motivation

Part B1 – CV and Track Record

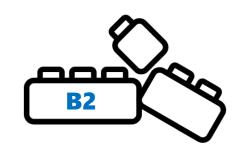


4 pages in one single template

- Personal details, education, key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions
- list of up to ten research outputs that demonstrate how the applicant has advanced knowledge in their field and a list of selected examples of significant peer recognition (for example, prizes).
- Include relevant additional information on career breaks, diverse career paths, and life events



Part B2 – Overview

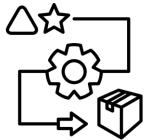


14 pages

State of the art and objectives





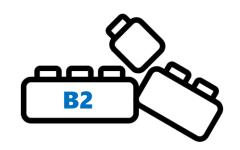




"Funding ID"
does not count towards page limits



Part B2 – 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

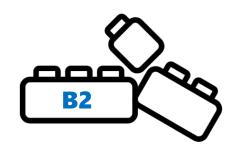
- It should be clear how and why the proposed work is important for the field.
- What scientific impact will your project have if successful? What new horizons or opportunities for science, technology or scholarship?

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.



Part B2 – 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.
- But evaluators and external experts can be risk averse.
- Explicit but controlled risk

Your team

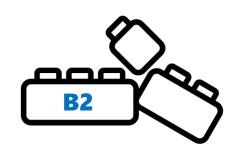
- Be sure to show how you will be the leader of the team and central figure for the project.
- Explain what each team member will do – these can be named people or roles specified for recruitment.

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.



Part B2 – Final thoughts



- 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



Submission Process

ERC Evaluation Panels



- **PE1** Mathematics
- **PE2** Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- **PE3** Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
- **PE5** Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- **PE6** Computer Science and Informatics
- **PE7** Systems and Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products and Processes Engineering
- **PE9** Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science
- **PE11** Materials Engineering





Life Sciences

- **LS1** Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures & Functions
- **LS2** Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems
- **LS3** Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration
- LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing
- **LS5** Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System
- LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy
- **LS7** Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases
- LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
- LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering



- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- **SH3** The Social World and its Interactions
- **SH4** The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- **SH5** Texts and Concepts
- **SH6** The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
- **SH8** Studies of Cultures and Arts

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

Make the right choice/configuration

You must choose a **best fit primary panel – might not be perfect**

You can choose a **secondary panel** – indicate where other panellists could help the primary panel to evaluate your proposal

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

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

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

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

You can change your chosen panel right up to the deadline.



Evaluation panel section in Part A form	
Primary ERC Rev Secondary ERC R	(if applicable)
ERC Keyword 1*	As first keyword please choose one which is linked to the Primary Review Panel. Please select, if applicable, the ERC keyword(s). that dest characterize the subject of your proposal in order of priority.
ERC Keyword 2	
ERC Keyword 3	
ERC Keyword 4	
Free keywords	In addition, please enter free text keywords that you consider best characterise the scope of your proposal. The chaice of keywords should take into account any multi-disciplinary aspects of the proposal.

Do your homework to judge which panel best matches your proposal.

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

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

Approaching Proposal Submission

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

Get in touch with your research support office

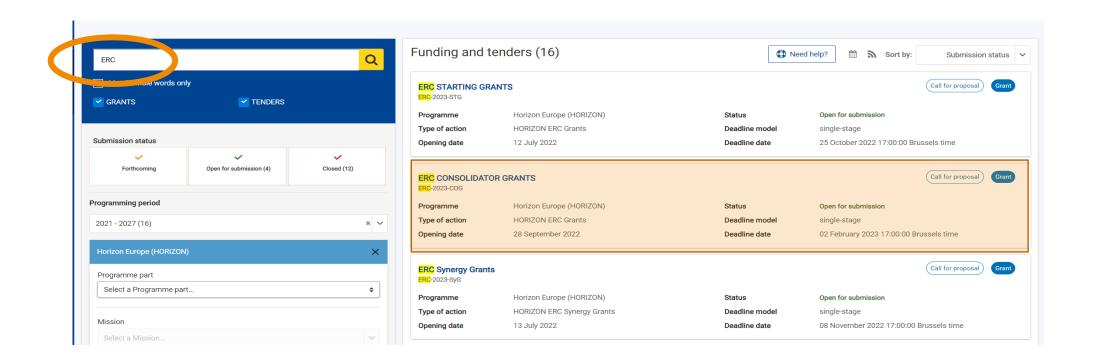
Add relevant contact people to the online application

Submit early and often – latest version will be accepted

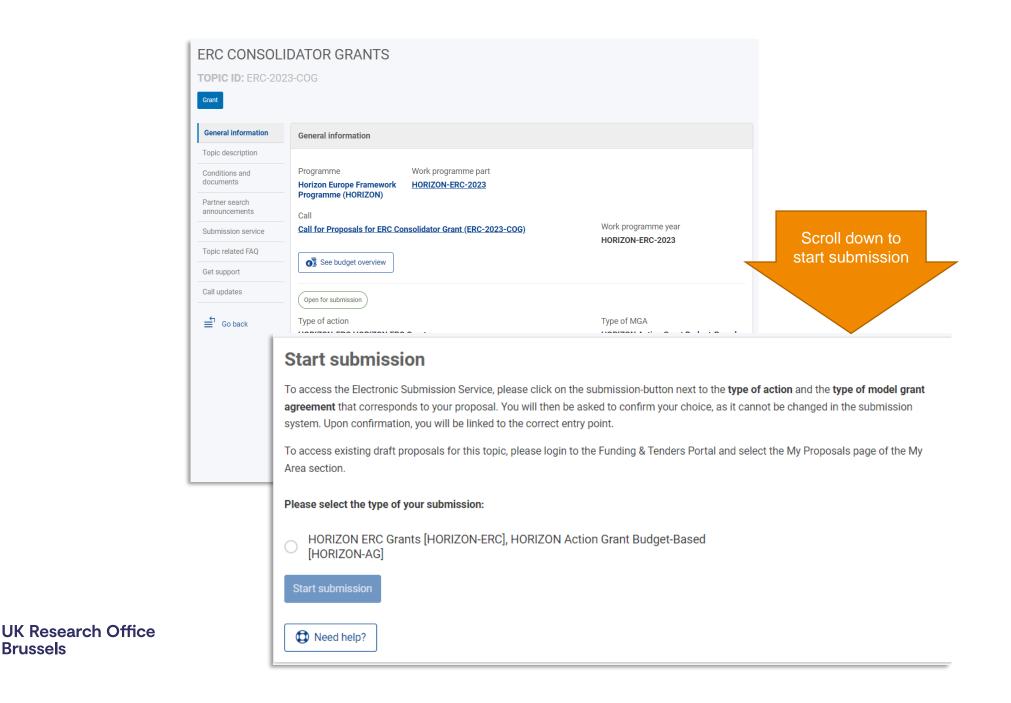
Keep the Information for Applicants in front of you throughout!!!



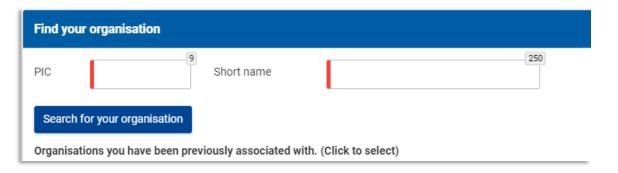
Find the call on the Funding & Tenders Portal



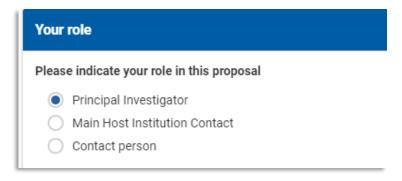




IDENTIFY THE HOST INSTITUTION (PIC number)

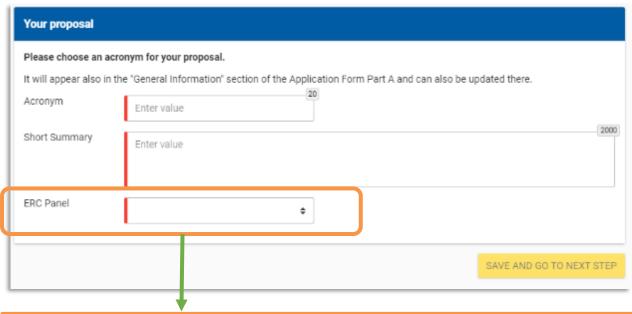


WHAT IS YOUR ROLE ON THE PROPOSAL?





BASIC DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

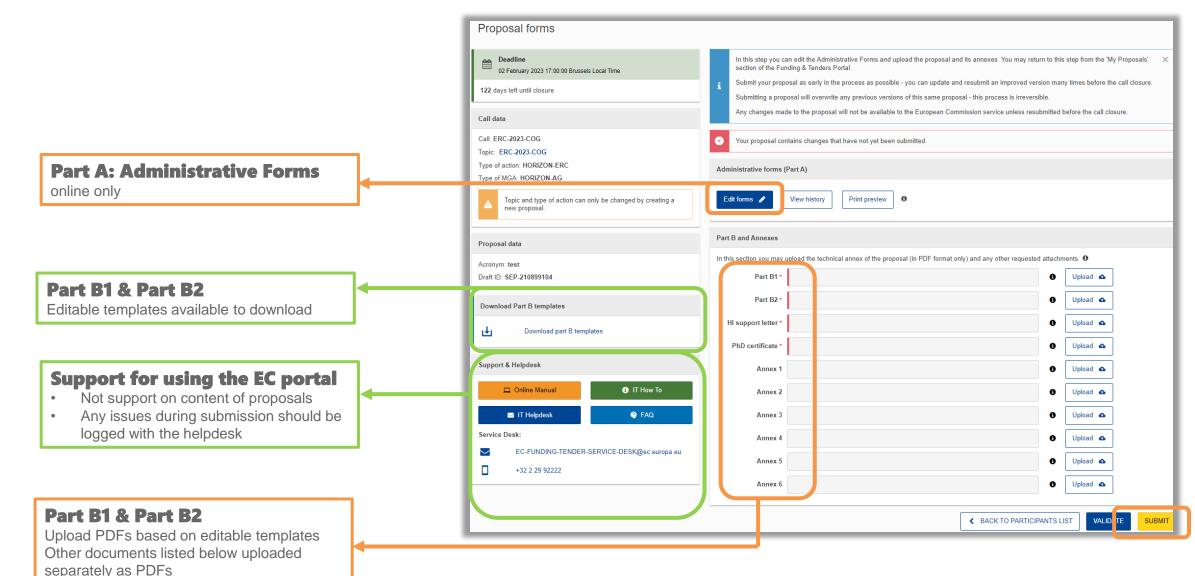


Select your primary evaluation panel (e.g. LS3/SH1/PE4 etc)

See a full list of ERC panels and keywords in Annex 4 of the Information for Applicants

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

Main proposal page on EC Portal



Evaluation Process

Evaluation Process



two-step evaluation



How are ERC proposals evaluated?

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

Research Project

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

Principal Investigator

Intellectual capacity and creativity



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



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**?
- 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



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?

ERC evaluation criterion



Excellence of both aspects are equally important

Research project

ground-breaking nature ambition feasibility



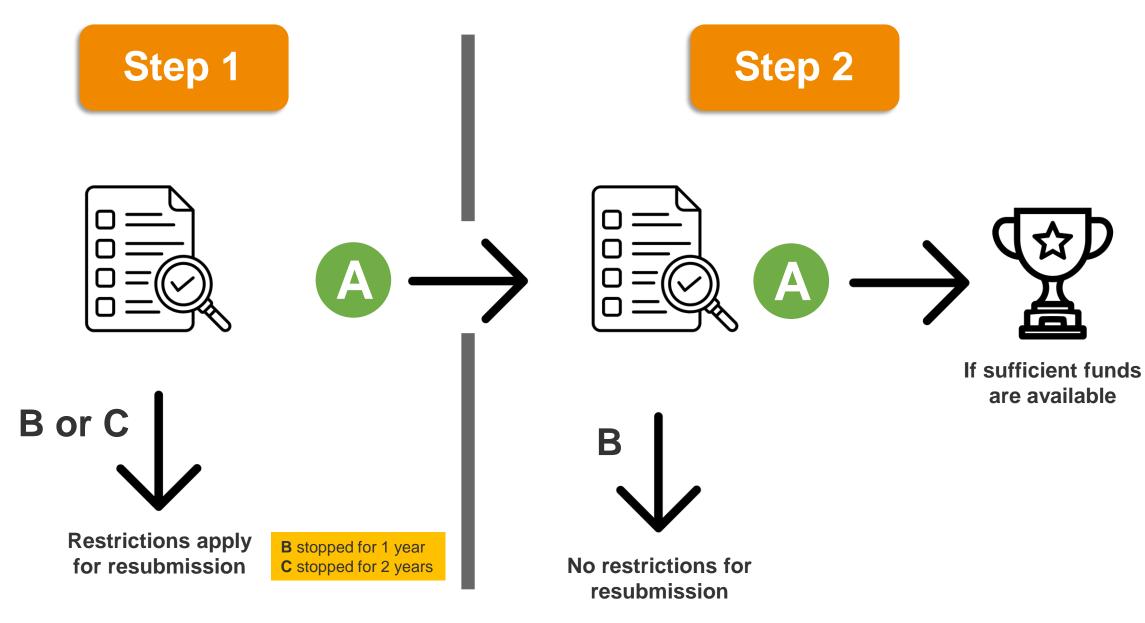
intellectual capacity, creativity commitment

Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion



Evaluation Outcomes



Other Points for Consideration



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.



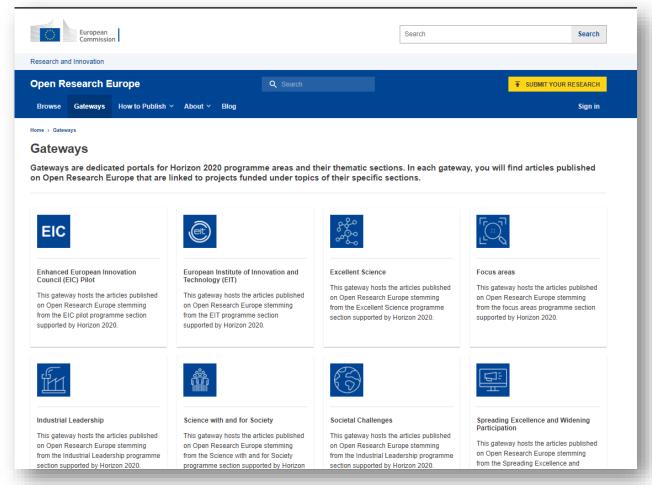


- Guidelines on FAIR Data
 Management in Horizon 2020
- www.openaire.eu
- https://www.fosteropenscience.eu//

Publishing Fees will be eligible for funding if the venue is fully open access (i.e. a full open access journal or book, or an open access publishing platform like, e.g., Open Research Europe)



Open Research Europe



Scholarly publishing platform that will provide Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe beneficiaries with a no-cost full open access peer-reviewed publishing service, across all fields of research



Gender

Sex and Gender dimension of your project

- Not a strict requirement in of itself, but...
- Integrating the gender dimension in research and innovation can make your proposal more competitive
- Proper consideration of sex and gender in research design is often evaluated as added excellence to the research question and methodology.
- Some basic questions you can ask in project design:
 - Are some of your findings going to be gender specific?
 - Do you justify your gender choices in the research design to peer reviewers?
 - If the topic is not relevant to Sex & gender, do you explicitly acknowledge that consideration?

Find more tips and guidance:

In a recent **ERC workshop** about how ERC-style excellence in different domains can be interrelated with the Sex and Gender Dimension.

Gender rules for eligibility and in the Part A form

- A Gender Equality Plan (GEP) has to be in place for the Host Institutions at point of submission
- GEPs are the Host Institution's responsibility, it is not the Principal Investigator's responsibility
- Proposal PI and team members' gender and career stage details requested in Part A are not seen by evaluators.
- These Part A personal details are used in a quantitative way by the Commission to monitor progress towards gender equality and better careers in the European research sector



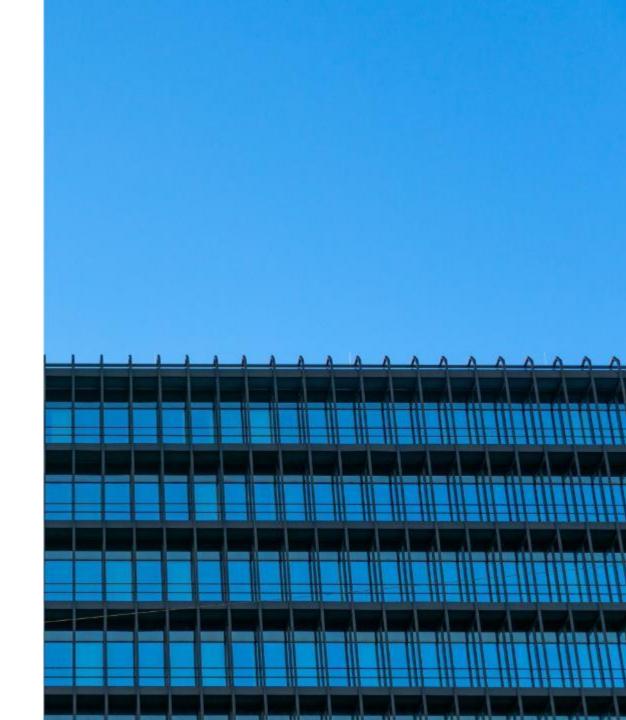
Useful links

ERC Website

including the ERC Dashboard and the more in-depth ERC Information System

- ERC Work Programme 2025
- Information for Applicants 2025
- Call for proposal
- Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement







Q&A







@_UKRO_ in UK Research Office (UKRO)



Break











Professor Tiina Roose

Professor of Biological and Environmental Modelling - University of Southampton

ERC CoG 2014 - DIMR

Data Intensive Modelling of the Rhizosphere Processes





Q&A







@_UKRO_ in UK Research Office (UKRO)

Credits - CC BY-3.0 Attribution License - https://thenounproject.com/

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- Slide 2 Phoenix Dungeon | Image# 6928396
- Slide 2 Andre Buand | Image# 7152424
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- Slide 13 iconisme | Image# 7208260
- Slide 13 –IYIKON | Image# 7208689
- Slide 13 Heztasia | Image# 4588070
- Slide 14 ainul muttaqin | Image# 6768367
- Slide 14 kusuma potter | Image# 7275185
- Slide 14, 20 Eucalyp | Image# 3000000
- Slide 14, 22 Singlar | Image# 6892307
- Slide 14 Wouter Buning | Image# 1119507
- Slide 14, 46 popcornarts | Image# 6800851
- Slide 14, 46 Made | Image# 1193528
- Slide 17, 31, 33 Suhansih Ningrum | Image# 7174725
- Slide 17 WEBTECHOPS LLP | Image# 2848269
- Slide 20 joe pictos | Image# 420334
- Slide 20 Olguioo | Image# 141682
- Slide 20 Purple icon | Image# 6736369
- Slide 20 Sentya Irma | Image# 7336219
- Slide 20 Oksana Latysheva | Image# 969537
- Slide 20 Selot Lo | Image# 7142522
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- Slide 38 Tanvir Islam | Image# 7343050
- Slide 38 Vaclav Petrasek | Image# 5050071
- Slide 38 Creative Mahira | Image# 6556918
- Slide 51 Omah Icon | Image# 7264422
- Slide 51 jisangbong | Image# 7136697