



UK Research Office
Brussels



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC Synergy Grant 2023 Call

UK NCP Information Event Session 2:
Submission and evaluation processes
and other elements to consider

29 June 2022

ERC-UK@ukro.ac.uk



What will be covered in this session?



Introductions to UKRO & UK Participation



Brief recap about the ERC



Submission Process



Evaluation process



Other considerations for your proposal



Q&A

Housekeeping

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

 A chat function is available and will be monitored.

 Please use the Q&A function to submit questions.

 You can 'up vote' your favourite questions.

 We will be recording this session.

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



Moderator

- *Dr Phil Holliday*
 - European Advisor and ERC NCP

Presenter

- *Sean Rowlands*
 - European Advisor and ERC NCP



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

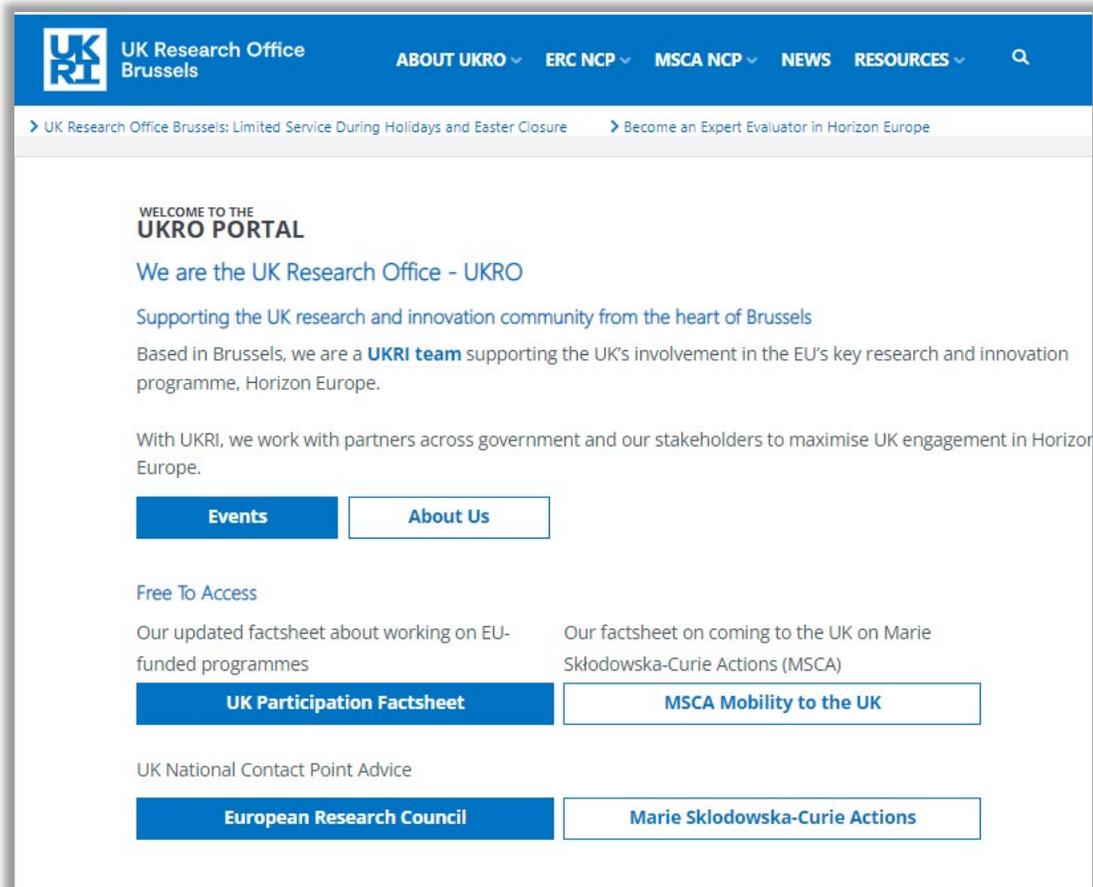
A Brussels-based team of advisors

Part of UKRI's wider International team



UKRO Portal www.ukro.ac.uk

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



The screenshot shows the UKRO Portal homepage. At the top is a blue navigation bar with the UKRI logo, 'UK Research Office Brussels', and menu items: 'ABOUT UKRO', 'ERC NCP', 'MSCA NCP', 'NEWS', and 'RESOURCES'. Below the navigation bar are two links: 'UK Research Office Brussels: Limited Service During Holidays and Easter Closure' and 'Become an Expert Evaluator in Horizon Europe'. The main content area starts with 'WELCOME TO THE UKRO PORTAL' and 'We are the UK Research Office - UKRO'. It describes the office's role in supporting the UK research and innovation community in Brussels. Below this are two buttons: 'Events' and 'About Us'. A 'Free To Access' section follows, with two columns of links: 'UK Participation Factsheet' and 'MSCA Mobility to the UK'. At the bottom, there are two more buttons: 'European Research Council' and 'Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions'.

- 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 Novelities](#)
- [ERC webinars](#)
- [MSCA webinars](#)

It's easy to [create your account](#) and set up email updates.



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UK Participation in Horizon Europe

UK-EU Trade and
Cooperation Agreement



UK participation in Horizon Europe

In December 2020, the negotiations on the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement were concluded

The [announcement](#) sets out the UK's intention to **associate to Horizon Europe**

Includes **full participation in the programme** with only exception of the EIC Accelerator Fund*

*non-mandatory equity element of one EIC scheme

UK entities can participate in/coordinate projects and receive funding from Horizon Europe, incl. ERC

UKRO [website](#) provides latest info on UK participation



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UK participation in Horizon Europe

[European Commission's Q&A](#) confirms UK eligibility to apply:

"UK entities including universities, research centres, scientists, innovative businesses, industry, etc. can participate in the first calls for proposals of Horizon Europe as soon as they are published on the European Commission's website."

"...UK applicants are treated as if the UK is an associated country throughout the process, from admissibility and eligibility to evaluation, up until the preparation of grant agreements."



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Resources to help navigate delays

Use [UKRI Guarantee guidance documents](#) and send any queries about this funding to eugrantsfunding@ukri.org

UKRO can help with the European side, for example the rules for the Grant Agreement or managing changes of status within a consortium if necessary.

- UKRO's [UK Participation Factsheet](#) and the [EC Q&A on UK participation](#) to inform yourself and your partners.
- UKRO's [MSCA](#) and [ERC](#) National Contact Point mailboxes



ERC 2023 Synergy Grant Call

- Brief recap about the scheme



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 led by Principal Investigators

- PIs are central to the grant, not the Host Institution
- PIs build teams around them (if required)
- A Synergy Grant Group is still distinct from a traditional consortium on a research project

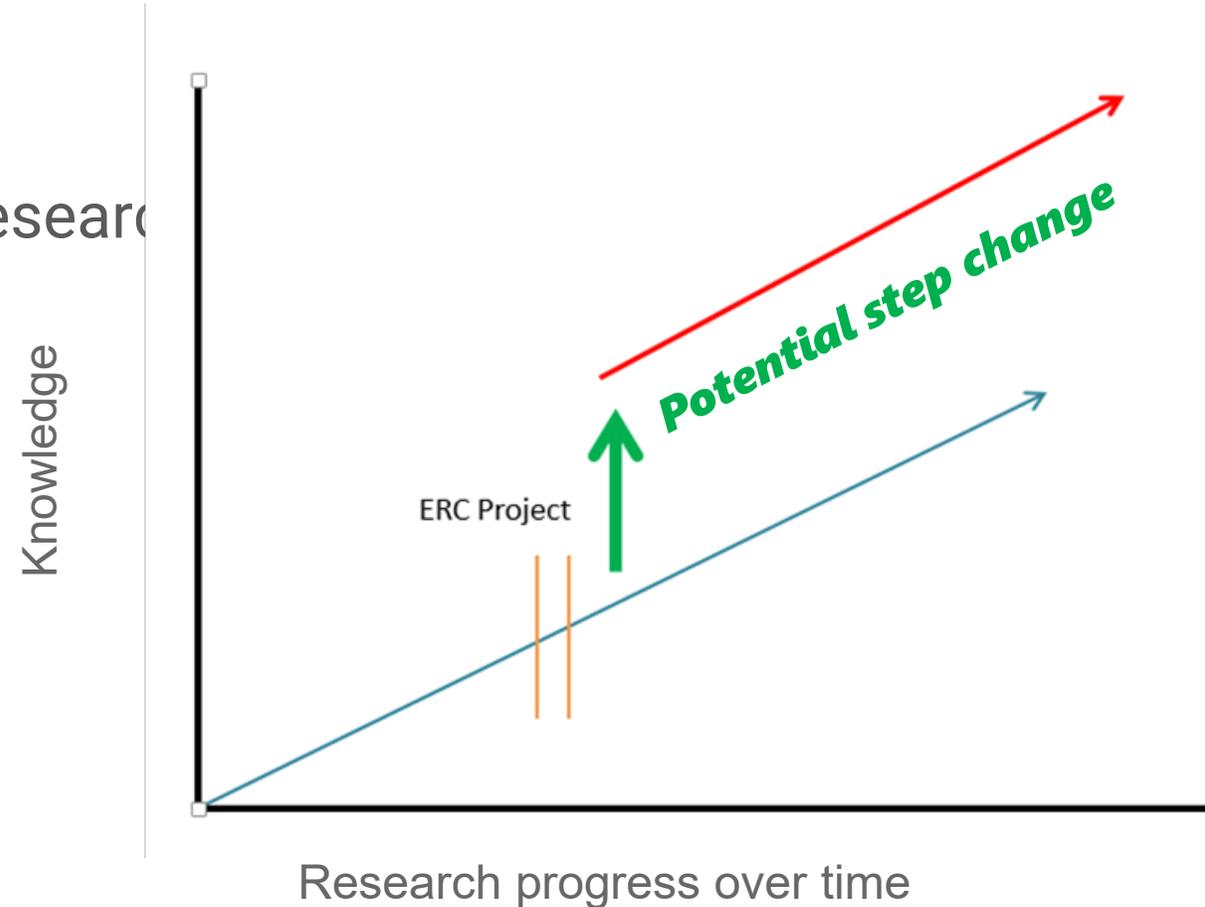
Open to all disciplines

- Expert evaluators from all over the world
- Scientific Council leadership of the ERC
- Encouragement of interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary

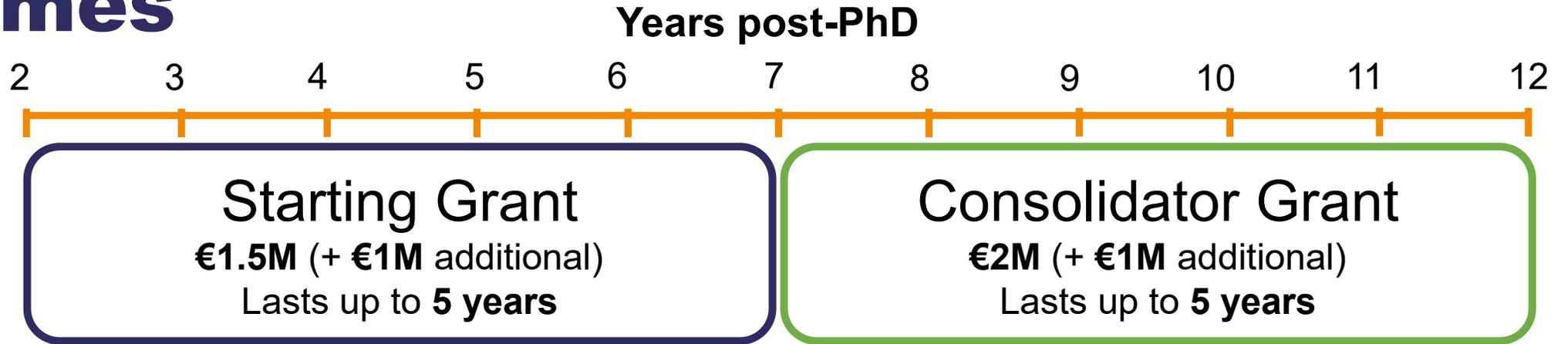


What Do We Mean by Frontier Research?

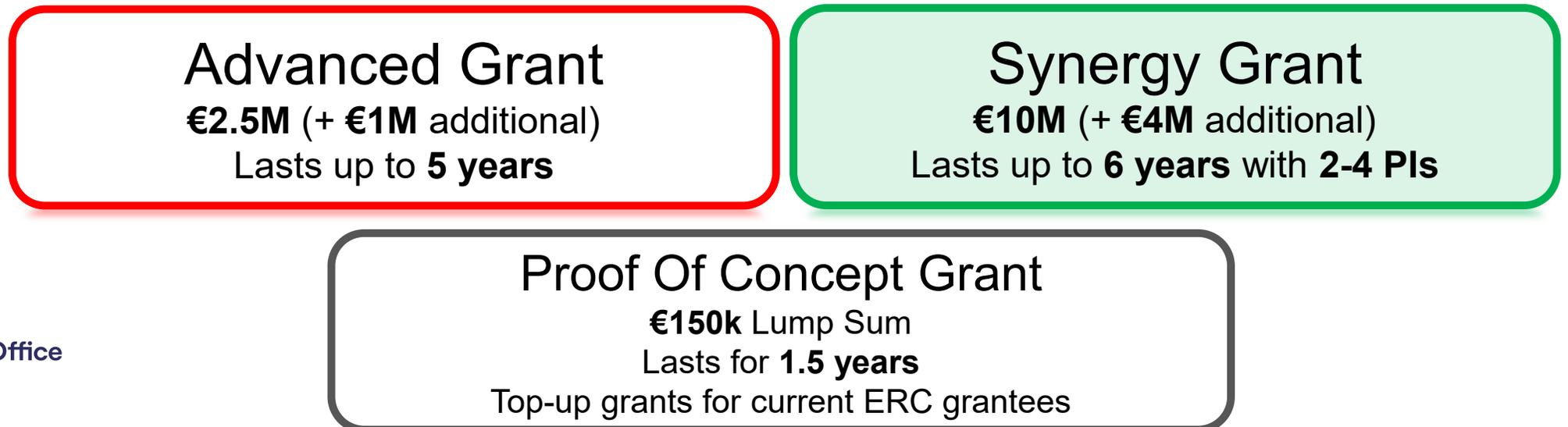
- **Ground-breaking** research
- Going **beyond current limits** of your research
- Development of **new horizons**
- **New solutions** to old problems
- **Exciting**



ERC Grant Schemes



No PhD Requirements



What is special about Synergy?

Synergy: Integrated, complementary know-how and approaches contributed by PIs in the group

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

Small, flexible group:
PI's 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



Synergy Group Eligibility

2, 3 or 4 PI's

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

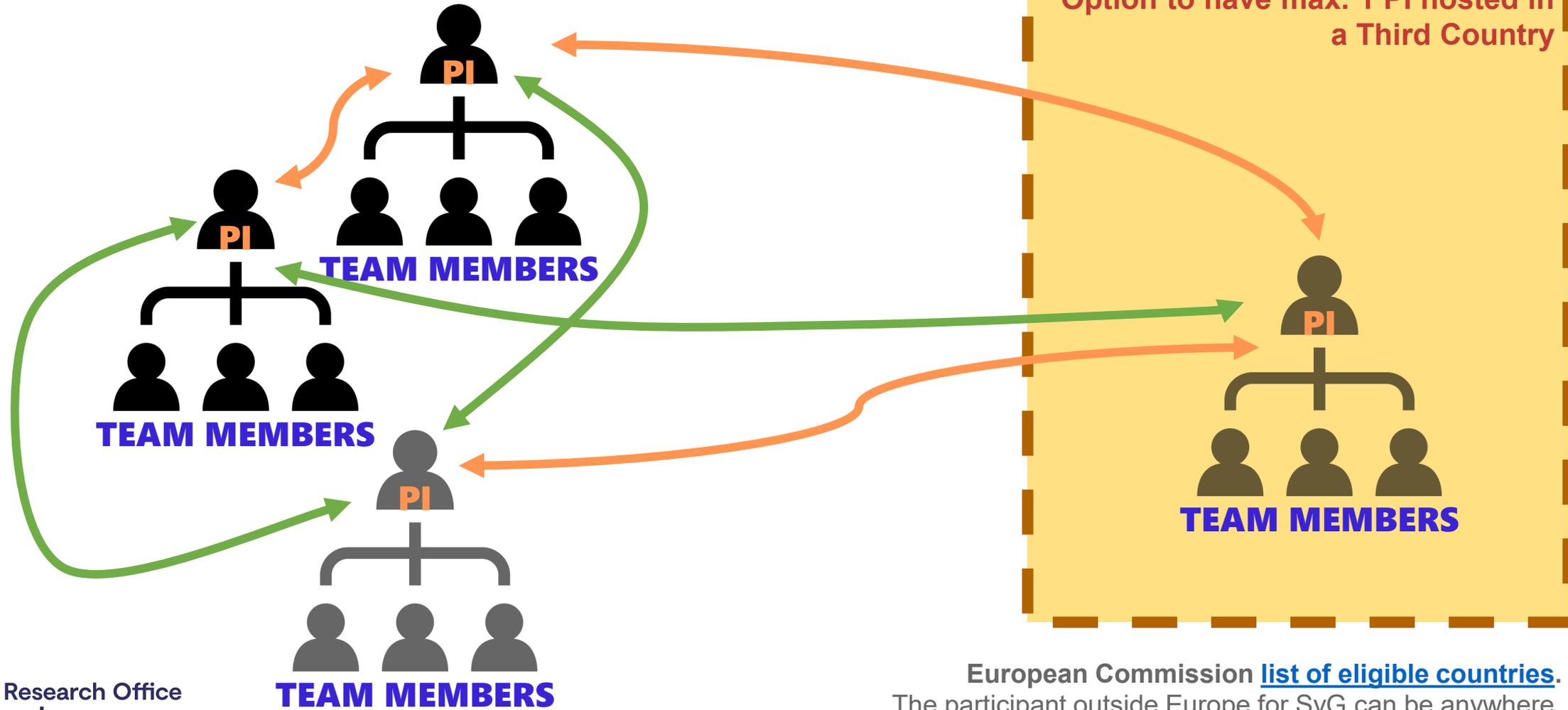
PIs are evaluated
individually
and
as a group

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

Remember the [European Commission's Q&A](#) sets that the UK is treated as an associated country.



Principal Investigators in Synergy Grant Groups



Submission Process

- Practical tips for the online submission system and which documents to upload



2023 Call Resubmission Restrictions

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome	2023 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is <u>not</u> eligible
* 2021 and 2022 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or 2022 Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity
2021 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1
2022 Synergy Grant	A or B at Step 3
	B at Step 1 or 2
	* C at Step 1
2022 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 2
	B or C at Step 1

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).

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!!!



ERC Proposal Submission

Part A

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

Part B1

- Extended synopsis
- PI Track Records

Part B2

- Detailed Research Proposal

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](#).



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Template PDF incl.
all parts of the
Synergy application
form **[available](#)**
[here](#).

Using the EC Portal

Funding and Tenders Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

The screenshot displays the European Commission's Funding & tender opportunities portal. The header includes the European Commission logo, the text "Funding & tender opportunities Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)", and language options (English EN) with Register and Login buttons. A navigation bar contains a home icon, a search bar with "SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS", and menu items for "HOW TO PARTICIPATE", "PROJECTS & RESULTS", "WORK AS AN EXPERT", and "SUPPORT".

The main content area is titled "Horizon Europe (HORIZON)" with a "clear filter" button. A search filter section on the left includes a search input field containing "ERC" (circled in green), a "Match whole words only" checkbox, and radio buttons for "GRANTS" (selected) and "TENDERS". Below this are filters for "Submission status" (Forthcoming, Open for submission, Closed (2)) and "Programming period" (2021 - 2027 (2)).

The results section, titled "Funding and tenders (2)", shows two entries:

- ERC STARTING GRANTS** (Grant type: Grant, Status: Closed)
 - Programme: Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
 - ID: ERC-2021-STG
 - Types of action: HORIZON ERC Grants
 - Deadline model: single-stage
 - Opening date: 25 February 2021
 - Deadline date: 12 April 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time
- ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS** (Grant type: Grant, Status: Closed)
 - Programme: Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
 - ID: ERC-2021-COG
 - Types of action: HORIZON ERC Grants
 - Deadline model: single-stage
 - Opening date: 11 March 2021
 - Deadline date: 20 April 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

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 20

Short Summary 2000

ERC Panel

SAVE AND GO TO NEXT STEP

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

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

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



Defining discipline(s) of an ERC Synergy proposal

Corresponding PI indicates **four to six 'fixed keywords'** along with other 'free keywords'

Applicants can **mix and match keywords** regardless of [the panel heading](#) listing

Keywords + abstract analysed by panel chairs to set best-fit evaluation group for each proposal

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

Successes for different disciplinary domains

ERC SyG 2022 Overview of the proposals received

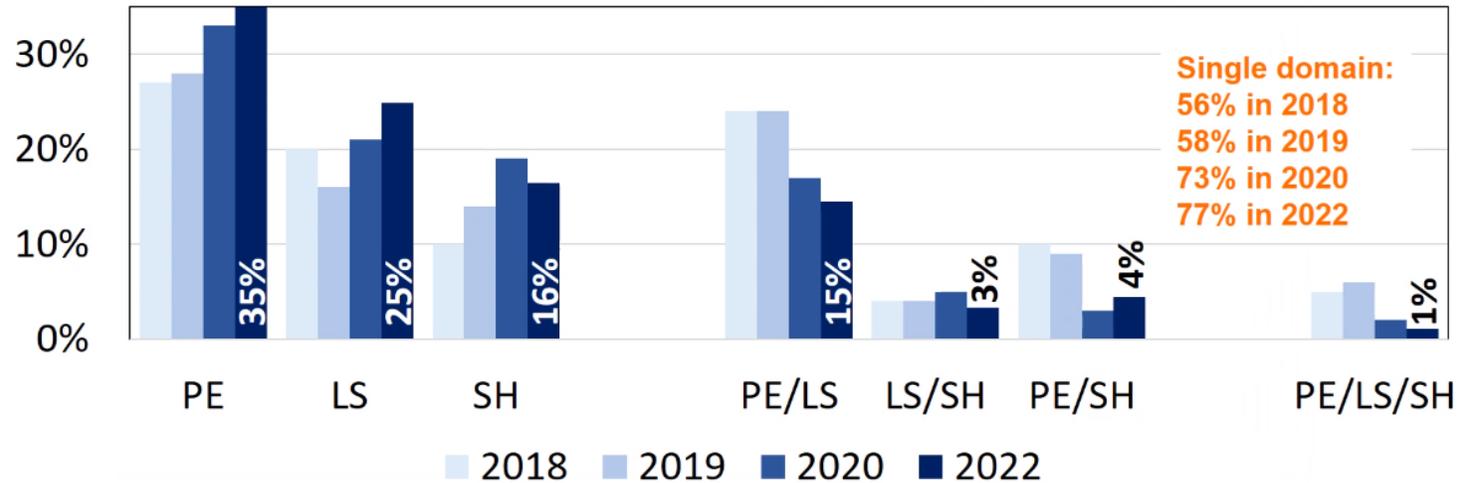
Submissions by domain classification

based on proposals' analysis - provisional data - data on 358 proposals



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SYG 2018 to 2022 Submissions by domain



It is not easy to separate proposals into one domain or another in Synergy because they are not linked to specific evaluation panels under each domain.

Note the small sample size

You can use the [ERC Information Service](#) to do more qualitative searches filtering for the Synergy Schema and for domain specific keywords.

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 in the EC portal. At the top, a progress bar indicates the current step is 'Proposal Forms', with previous steps (Login, Topic selection, Create proposal, Participants) completed and the next step (Submit) pending. The page displays a 'Deadline' of 08 April 2021 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time, with 26 days left until closure. A warning message states: '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 icon indicates: '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-2110732071. A blue button labeled 'Download Part B templates' is available. The 'Administrative forms' section has an 'Edit forms' button. The 'Part B and Annexes' section lists documents for upload: Part B1, Part B2, HI support letter, PhD certificate, Annex 1-6. At the bottom, there is a 'Support & Helpdesk' section with links for 'Online Manual', 'IT How To', 'IT Helpdesk', and 'FAQ', along with contact information for the Service Desk: EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu and +32 2 29 92222. Navigation buttons at the bottom right include 'BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST', 'VALIDATE', and 'SUBMIT'.

Part A – Administrative forms

< Proposal forms Table of contents General Information >

Application forms [Table Of Contents](#) [Save](#) [Save&Close](#)

HORIZON
Call: ERC-2021-STG
(Call for Proposals for ERC Starting Grant)
Topic: ERC-2021-STG
Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC
(HORIZON ERC Grants)
Proposal number: SEP-210732071
Proposal acronym: FAD
Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based
[Table of contents](#)

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

How to fill in the forms

The administrative forms must be filled in for each proposal using the templates available in the submission system. Some data fields in the administrative forms are pre-filled based on the steps in the submission wizard.

[Read more](#)

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. *



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 € (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 €
Ulni	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

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

Section C. Resources (Maximum 8000 characters allowed)

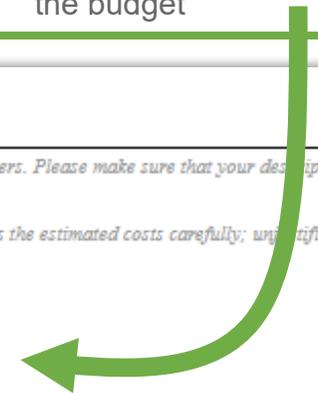
This section and the budget table will be made available to the experts evaluating the proposal at Step 2. Important: your description of resources will be truncated once it exceeds the maximum allowed characters. Please make sure that your description is complete before submitting.

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:



Part A – SyG Budget

Budget and Resources description are seen by evaluators but no longer count towards B2 Page limit (moved to Part A, the online form)

- 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

One column per Principal Investigator and their team

Cost category	Corresponding PI	2 nd PI	3 rd PI	4 th 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/€						

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

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

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

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.

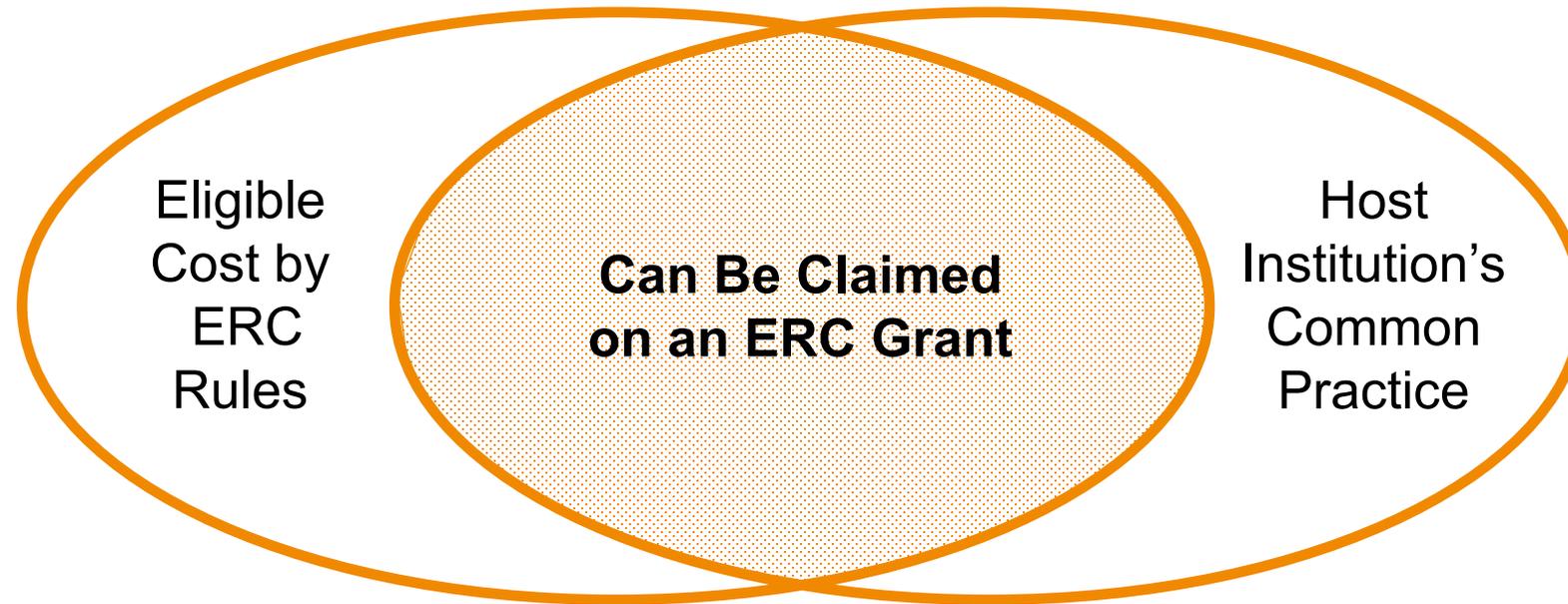
Additional funding covers:

- 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.



General tip on resources



Auditors will check that costs are both eligible by ERC rules and in keeping with the institution's standard accounting practices

- e.g. ERC allows hotel bookings in Paris for research trips from a UK institution, but a PI at a Paris institution would not be allowed to charge it to their grant due to institutional rules

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 these annexes in the Ethics text box in the application form.



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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)?	<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

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

Annexes

About the Institution

- Host Institution support letter
 - Using the [NEW template](#)
 - On official headed letter
 - Can be digitally signed

About the Project

- Ethics documents if requested by Part A Ethics questionnaire (e.g. ethics committee decisions, licenses etc.)
- If the character limit in Ethics self-assessment is too short, upload appropriate responses as PDF annexes.
- Documents related to the security issues (i.e. supporting documentation)



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:

- [2022 Synergy Grant B1 & B2 template](#) (PDF version)
- Editable templates not yet available, download them from the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#)

Page Format:
A4

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

Font:

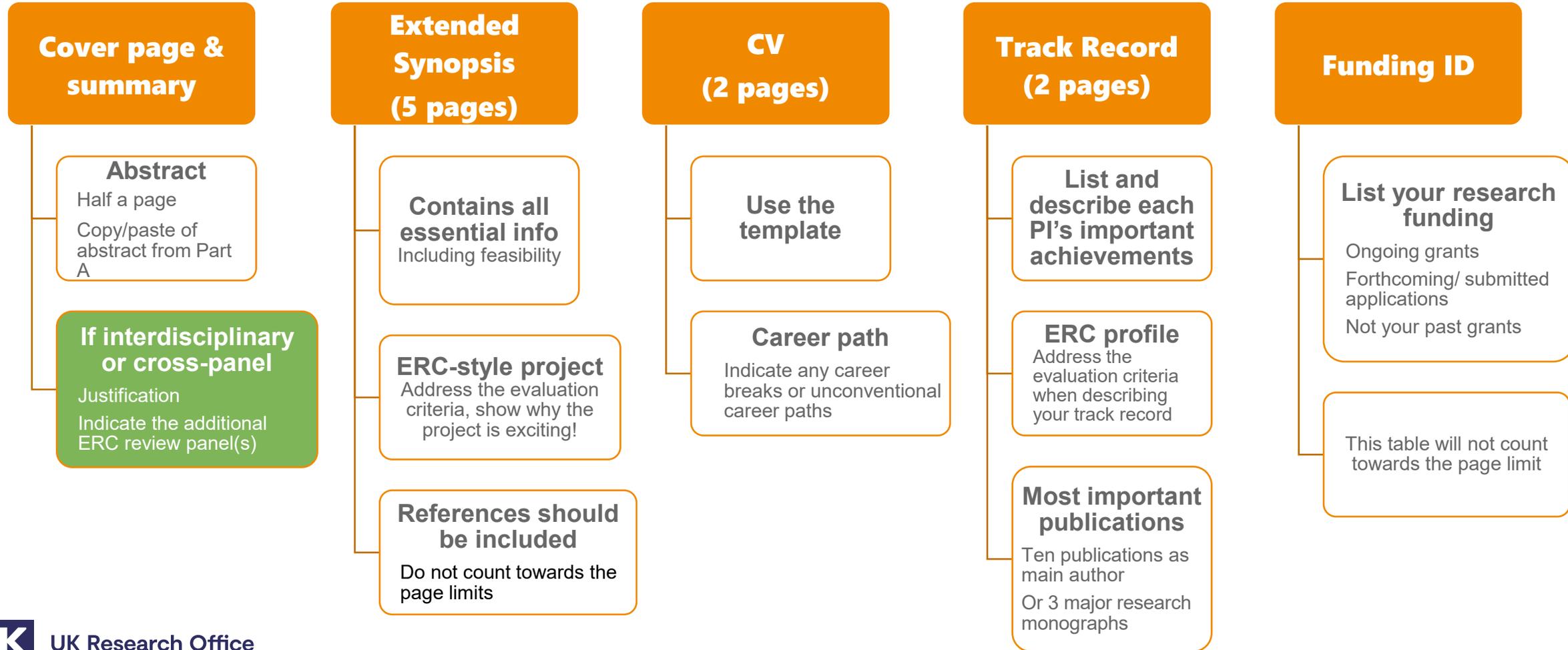
- Times New Roman, Arial or Similar
- At least font size 11,
- Single line spacing

Side margin:
2 cm

Bottom margin:
1.5 cm



Part B1: Evaluated at Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3



Part B2: only evaluated from Step 2 onwards

Scientific Proposal

Maximum 15 pages*

*Different from StG, CoG & AdG 2021

ERC Work Programme (page 34):

“For Synergy Grant proposals page limits above apply except that the page limit for the Scientific Proposal is 15 pages.”

Information for Applicants (page 25)

Section c ‘Resources and time commitment’ are not limited to 2 pages and do not count towards the page limit.

State of the art

Objectives & Methodology

Address the 'high-risk/high-gain' balance

Milestones & Deliverables

Risk & mitigation

References should be included
(not counted towards the page limits)

Evaluation

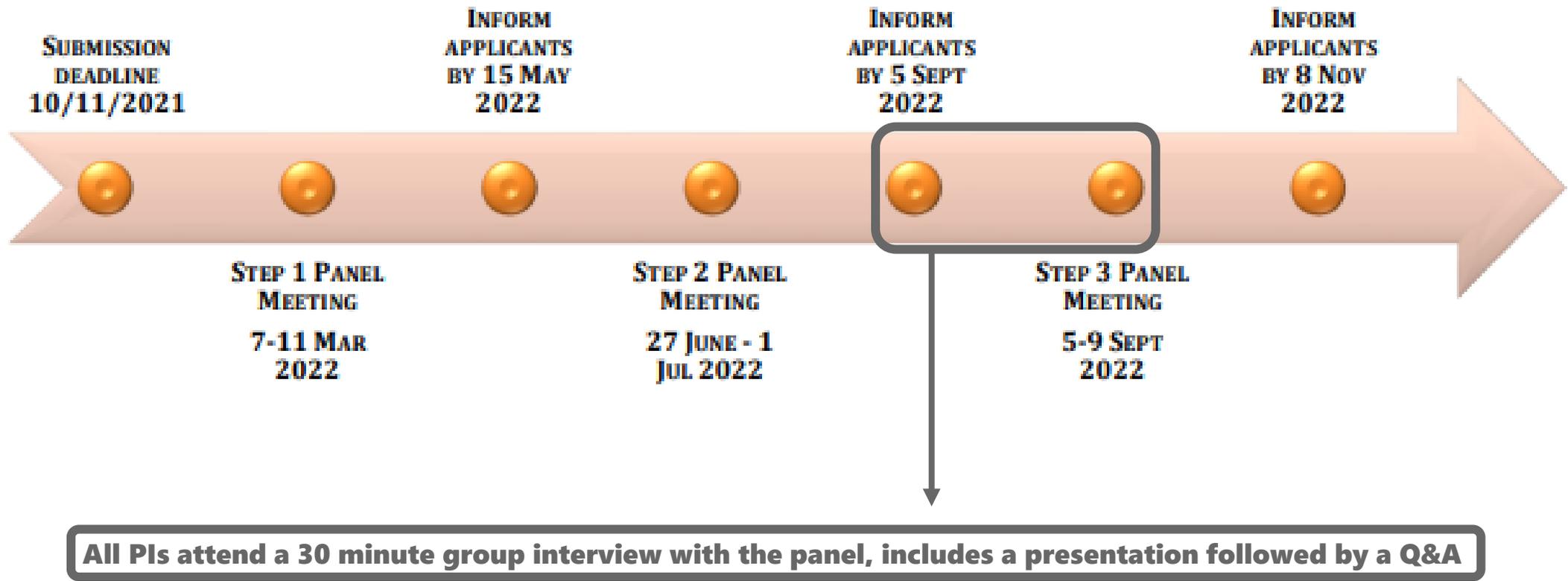
- The Process



Evaluation Process Timeframe (2022 call)

*This diagram will be updated
in the 2023 SyG Information
for Applicants*

*Use the 2023 call
documents when they
become available*



Evaluation Outcomes

Proposal Grading	Stage	Funded?	Reapplication Restrictions?
A	3	If sufficient budget	None
B	3	No	None
B	2	No	None
B	1	No	None
C	1	No	1 Year

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

- Synergy Grant calls only produce restrictions for future Advanced Grant Calls
- Restrictions from Horizon 2020 apply in Horizon Europe.

2023 Call Resubmission Restrictions

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome	2023 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is <u>not</u> eligible	
* 2021 and 2022 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or 2022 Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grant
2021 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2022 Synergy Grant	A or B at Step 3	No restrictions
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	* C at Step 1	Advanced and Synergy Grant
2022 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 2	No restrictions
	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant

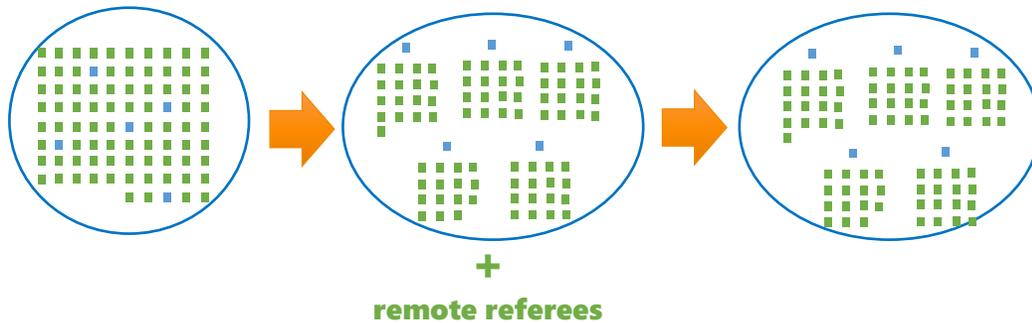
More lenient restrictions for Synergy Grant

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).

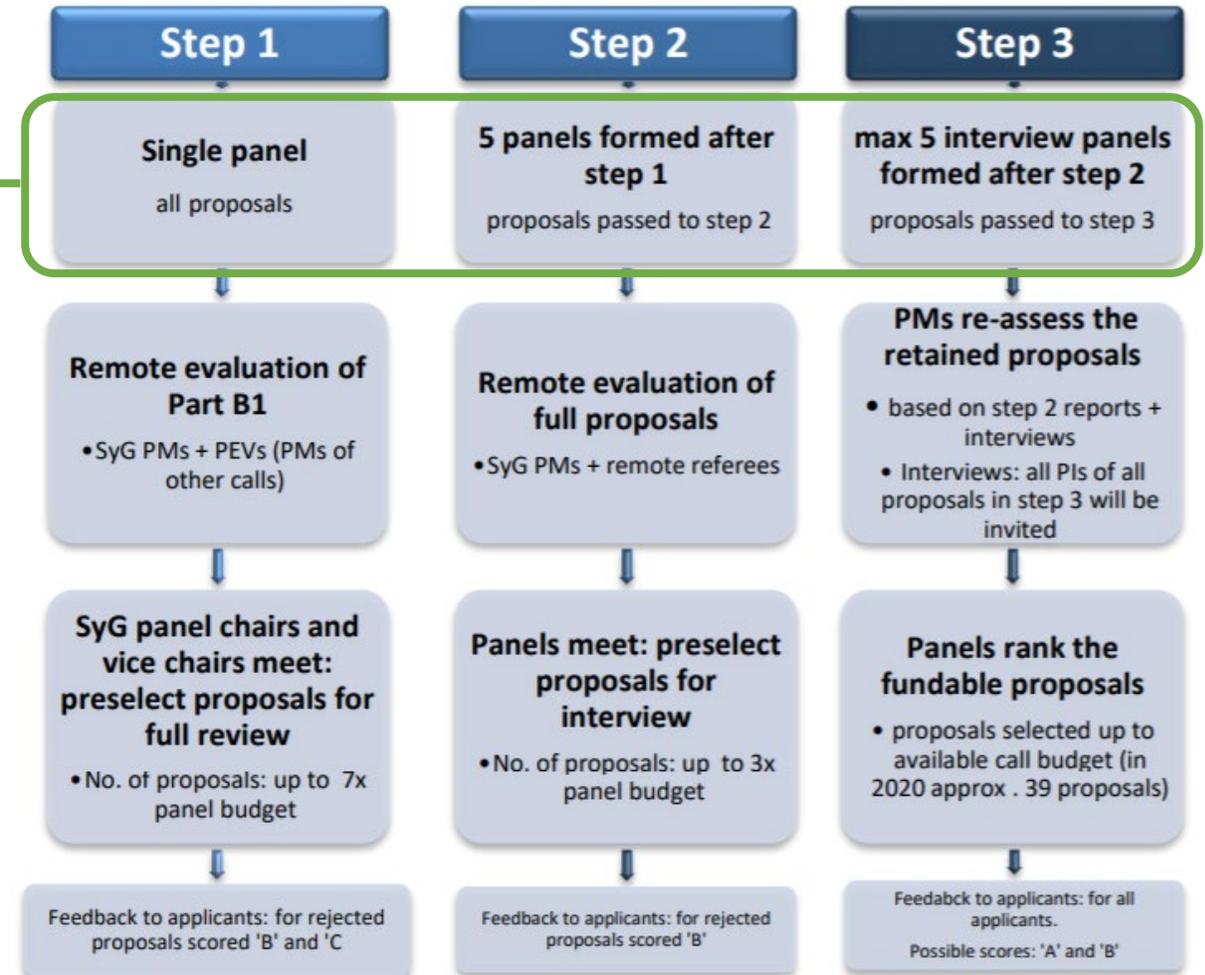
Evaluation process for Synergy Grant Calls

Dynamic panels reform at each step to adapt to multi-disciplinary submissions.



More detail on dynamic panel reconfigurations in:

- [Information for Applicants \(page 11\)](#)
- [Guidance to Peer Reviewers \(page 4\)](#)



Panels not involved yet

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)
- CV (2 pages)
- Funding ID
- Track Record (2 pages)

Part B2

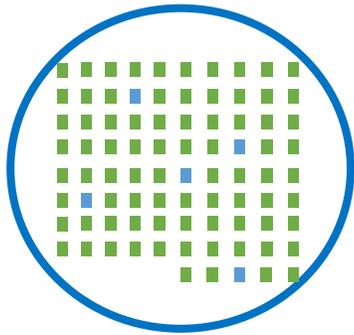
Detailed Research Proposal

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology

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

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents



Step 1 Evaluation

85 Panel Members and Chairs without any predefined structure remotely
They evaluate Part B1 from all the proposals submitted which passed the eligibility check

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 (2 pages)
- Funding ID
- Track Record (2 pages)

Part B2

*Detailed Research
Proposal*

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology

(Total of 14 pages)

Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Step 2 Evaluation

Proposals passed to step 1 are split among 5 Panels of roughly 17 members. Panels are structured to fit the kinds of interdisciplinary proposals submitted. Remote evaluators' evaluation also contributed at this stage.

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 (2 pages)
- Funding ID
- Track Record (2 pages)

Part B2

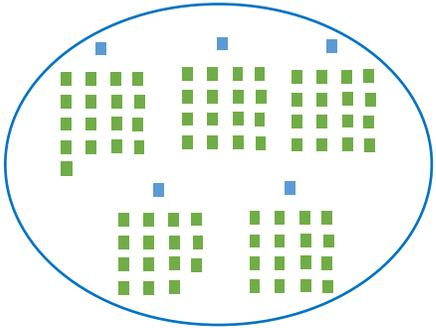
*Detailed Research
Proposal*

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology

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

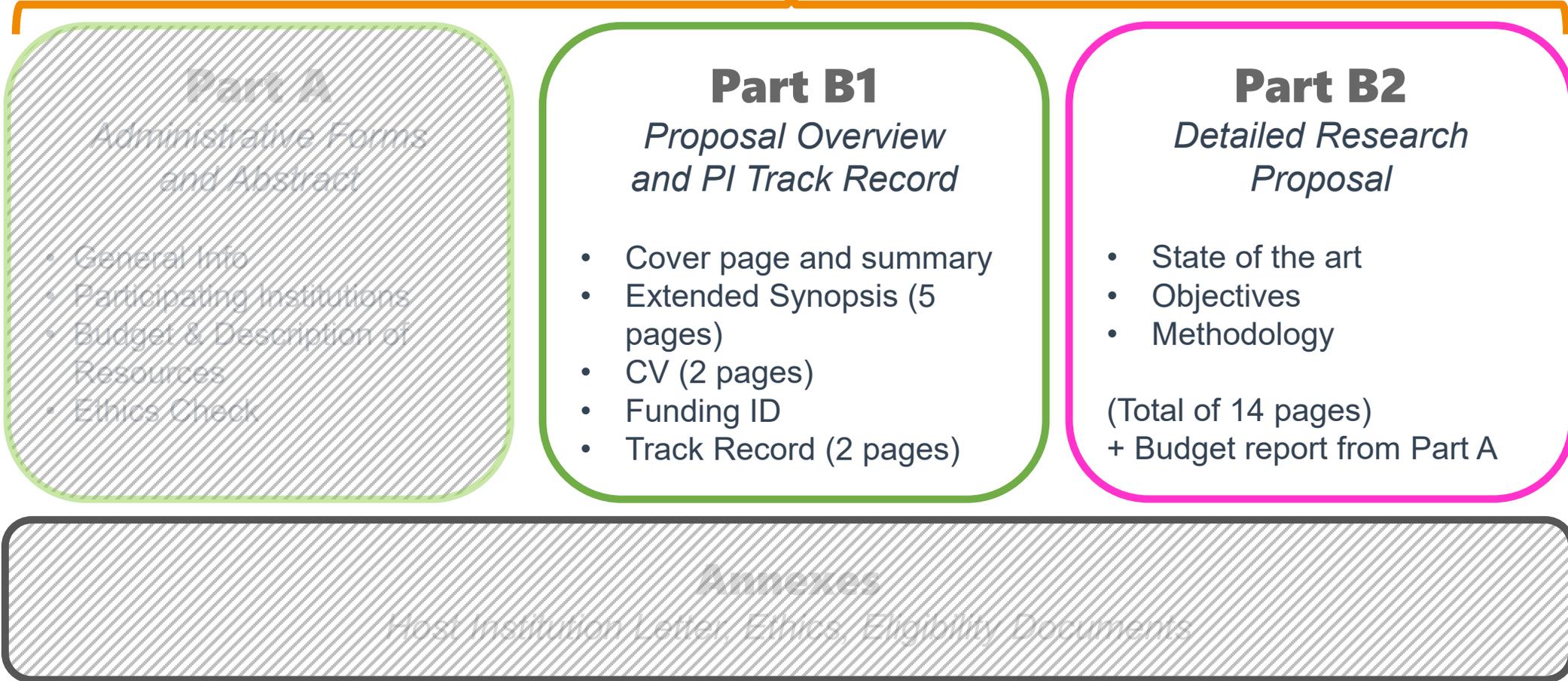
Annexes

Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents



Step 3 Interview

The same 5 Panels interview each applicant group for retained proposals.
Every Principal Investigator expected to attend
Panel then meets to re-assess full proposals in light of interview and make final ranking.



Evaluation

- The Criteria



ERC evaluation criteria



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



Each PI and overall Group's

intellectual capacity,
creativity
commitment

Research project's

ground-breaking nature
ambition
feasibility



**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 – Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

The project

To what extent:

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

The Scientific Approach

To what extent:

- is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the high risk/high gain.
- are research methodology & 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.
- does the Group's proposal **go beyond what individual PIs could achieve**

Principal Investigator - Intellectual capacity and creativity

To what extent:

Each Principal Investigator (PI)

- has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- does the PI has/have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?
- Remember each Synergy PI must address the criteria of one ERC Grantee profile: Starting, Consolidator or Advanced.

To what extent:

Synergy Grant Group

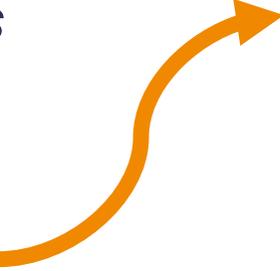
- Has the group demonstrated they bring together the necessary know-how (skills, experience, disciplines and teams)
- What is necessary is defined by the project objectives – the project idea has to be a clear justification for group work.

Synergy PIs at different career stages

“Researchers of any age and career stage can apply for up to six years funding.

No specific eligibility criteria regarding the academic training are foreseen for PIs applying for ERC Synergy Grants.

The Principal Investigators must present an early achievement track-record or a ten-year track-record, whichever is most appropriate for their career stage”
2022 Synergy Information for Applicants



The 3 ERC track-record profiles are a scale of benchmarks for applicants (potential → independence → achievements) with different expectations for no. of publications

Profiles defined in ERC Work Programme
Starting Grant: Page 19
Consolidator Grant: Page 20
Advanced Grant: Page 21-22

PhD certificate/award date not strictly requested for any applicant in 2022
SyG Information for Applicants



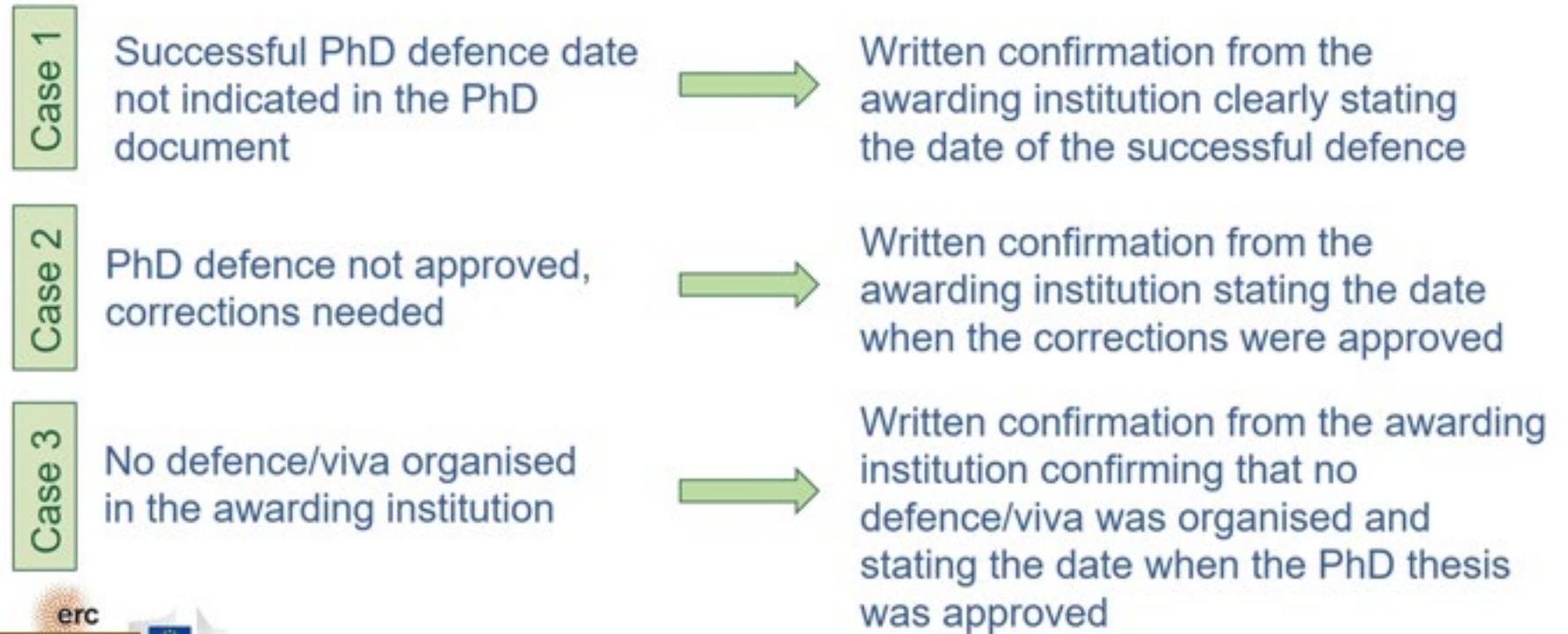
2023 Call PhD reference rule change

PhD certificate/award date not strictly requested for any applicant in [2022 Information for Applicants](#)

This may be useful for those looking at 2023 StG and 2024 CoG call

Links here are for 2022 Work Programme & Guidance.
Use the 2023 call documents when they become available

New features in 2023 PhD reference date for eligibility: Scenarios



Changes in the Evaluation Criteria – novelty since 2022



Guidance now asks for some description of how the Synergy Group will work as a team evaluated from as early as Step 1.

Guidance text with tracked changes from previous version

- **Evaluation of the Principal Investigators (previously evaluated only from step 2 onwards):**
 - To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully **demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the know-how elements**— such as skills, **knowledge**, experience, expertise, disciplines, **methods, approaches**, teams – **necessary to address the proposed research question?**
(see SyG Information for Applicants: page 16)
- **Evaluation of the Research Project – Scientific Approach:**
 - ‘To what extent do the Principal Investigators succeed in **proposing a combination of scientific approaches elements** ~~put forward in the proposal~~ that are crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research questions to be tackled?’

Make sure these questions are addressed in Part B1 already, as only the extended synopsis is evaluated at step 1.

Evaluation criteria about your Group

1. Research Project

Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- To what extent does the proposed research address important 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)?
- To what extent is the proposed research high risk-high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a high risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Scientific Approach

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain? (based on the Extended Synopsis)
- To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone? (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? (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, evaluated only in step 2 and 3)?
- To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the research proposal, evaluated only in step 2 and 3)?
- To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal, evaluated only in step 2 and 3)?

2. Principal Investigators

Intellectual capacity and creativity

- To what extent have the PIs demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- To what extent do the PIs have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

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)

“The ERC expects the composition of a Synergy Grant Group to remain unchanged throughout the lifetime of the grant. “

Taken from:
the [ERC 2022 Synergy Grant Information for Applicants](#)



Typical Reasons for Rejection

Proposed Project & Scientific Approach

- Scope: Too narrow or too broad or not focused enough
- Incremental research, not ground breaking
- Work plan not detailed enough or unclear.
- Collaboration approach is not suitable/creative
- Insufficient risk management

Principal investigator Groups

- Insufficient track-record
- Group is missing an element deemed necessary to carry out project objectives
- Insufficient synergies or complementarities between the PIs
- Insufficient experience in leading projects

Other Points for Consideration

- Including Open Science and gender dimension



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)



UK Research Office
Brussels

[You can find the provisions related to Open Science on pages 107 – 109 of the Model Grant Agreement](#)

Open Research Europe

The screenshot displays the Open Research Europe website interface. At the top left is the European Commission logo. A search bar is located at the top right. Below the navigation bar, the 'Gateways' section is highlighted. A descriptive paragraph explains that gateways are dedicated portals for Horizon 2020 programme areas. Below this, eight gateway cards are arranged in a 2x4 grid, each with an icon, a title, and a brief description of the articles it hosts.

Gateway Name	Description
Enhanced European Innovation Council (EIC) Pilot	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the EIC pilot programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the EIT programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Excellent Science	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Excellent Science programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Focus areas	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the focus areas programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Industrial Leadership	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Industrial Leadership programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Science with and for Society	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Science with and for Society programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Societal Challenges	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Societal Challenges programme section supported by Horizon 2020.
Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation	This gateway hosts the articles published on Open Research Europe stemming from the Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation programme section supported by Horizon 2020.

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

Why 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

Things to remember



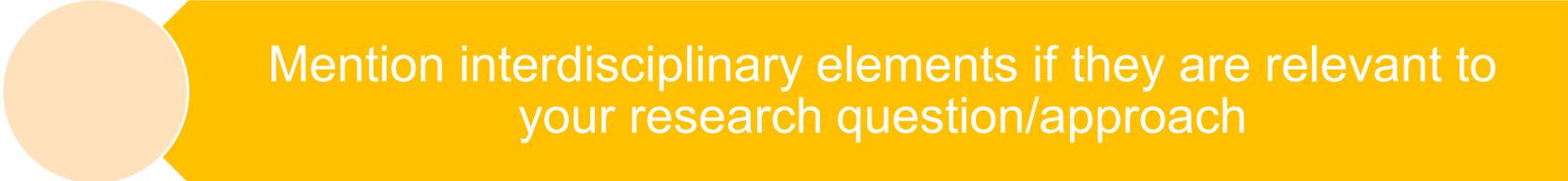
The Abstract



It's the first thing that everyone looks at



Panel chairs use key words in the abstract to choose the panel members who will carry out a closer review at Step 1



Mention interdisciplinary elements if they are relevant to your research question/approach



This text will become public if the proposal is successful

ERC Proposal Advice

Ask yourself

Does the proposal go beyond the state of the art ?

Is it timely? (Why wasn't it done in the past? Is it feasible now?)

What is the risk? Is it justified by the potential gain? Do I have a plan for managing the risk?

Why our my proposal important?

Why are we the best/only people to carry it out?

Why am I the best person for my role in the group?

Am I internationally competitive as a researcher at my career stage and in my discipline?

Am I able to manage a 5-year project with a substantial budget?

Key points

Read all call documentation and evaluation criteria

Be specific and don't provide unsupported opinions or comments

Clearly address ALL of the evaluation criteria

Make it easy for evaluators to find the information

Pitch to generalists: evaluators will be experts, but not necessarily in your exact area

Use clear and concise language and explain country/research area specific jargon

Include diagrams, images, tables if appropriate and actually helpful

Research previous and current projects

Find colleagues to proof read drafts with the evaluation criteria



Resources

- [ERC 2022 SyG Information for Applicants](#)
- [PDF Application Form template](#)
incl. B1, B2, CV and Host Institution Letter (editable versions will be Funding and Tenders Portal when it opens)
- [Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#)
- [Novelties in the Horizon Europe MGA](#) – Commission Stakeholder Workshop video
- [ERC YouTube Channel](#) with explainer videos
- ERC FAQ <https://erc.europa.eu/funding/frequently-asked-questions>
- [ERC Information System](#) and [Project database](#) to search for examples of past Synergy Grant Projects
- Guide for Peer Reviewers on Synergy Calls ([latest available version, for 2020 call](#). Look out for the 2021 version which we expect to be published soon)

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



UK Research Office
Brussels

*Links here are for 2022 Work
Programme & Guidance.*

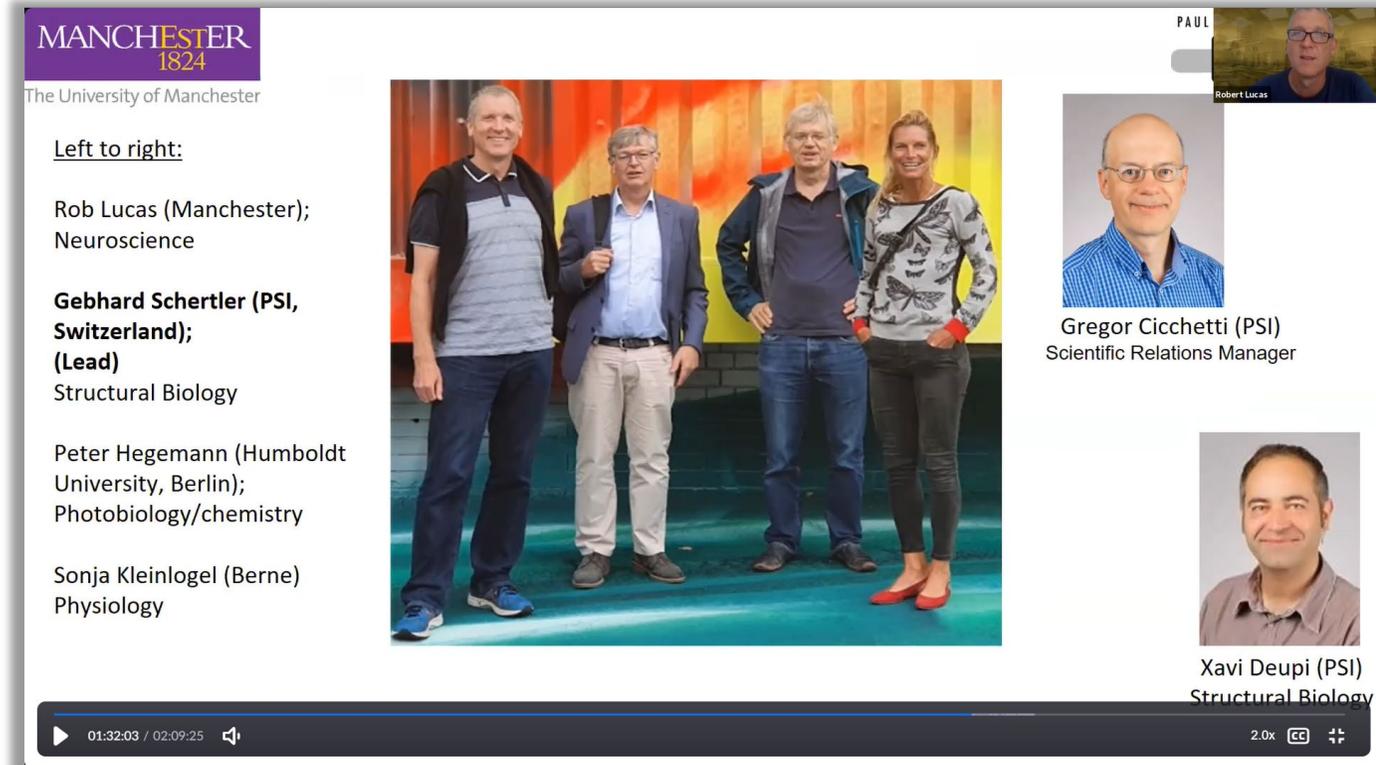
*Use the 2023 call
documents when they
become available*

Watch our 2022 guest presentation

Find the recording and slides on the [event page for the ERC 2022 Synergy Grant: Call Information Webinar 1 of 2](#) (UKRO Portal)

- Topic of research
- How the put the team and the proposal together
- Tips from their experience in the evaluation process

The project is due to start this week, find out more on [CORDIS](#)



The screenshot shows a video player interface. The main content is a presentation slide from The University of Manchester. The slide features the university's logo and a list of speakers. To the right of the slide, there are three small video thumbnails: one for Robert Lucas, one for Gregor Cicchetti, and one for Xavi Deupi. The video player controls at the bottom show a progress bar at 01:32:03 / 02:09:25, a volume icon, a 2.0x speed setting, and a full screen icon.

MANCHESTER
1824
The University of Manchester

Left to right:

Rob Lucas (Manchester);
Neuroscience

**Gebhard Schertler (PSI,
Switzerland);
(Lead)**
Structural Biology

Peter Hegemann (Humboldt
University, Berlin);
Photobiology/chemistry

Sonja Kleinlogel (Berne)
Physiology

PAUL
Robert Lucas

Gregor Cicchetti (PSI)
Scientific Relations Manager

Xavi Deupi (PSI)
Structural Biology

01:32:03 / 02:09:25

2.0x



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Brussels

Any questions?



@_UKRO_



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