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erc European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC 2024 Consolidator Grant Call Webinar

26 October 2023

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk

About the Presenters

Jon Brookes

- **European Advisor since January 2017**

- **Interim ERC National Contact Point**

- **They/Them**

Guest Speaker

- **Professor Amy Buck, Edinburgh University**

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.

UKRO **UK Research Office Brussels**

What will we cover in this webinar?

- Introduction to UKRO & UK Participation in Horizon Europe
- Overview of the ERC programme
- Eligibility criteria
- Proposal development
- Proposal submission
- Evaluation
- Case Study - Professor Buck, Edinburgh
- Question and Answer session

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About UKRO

We support UK organisations involved in EU R&I funding

UK National Contact Point for the European Research Council, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence and COST

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

UKRI UK Research Office Brussels

UK participation in Horizon Europe

Dec 2020: UK-EU Agreement incl. announcement of intention for **UK to associate to Horizon Europe**

Agreement sets out that UK entities can participate in/coordinate projects and receive funding from Horizon Europe, incl. MSCAs

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UK-EU TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT
Summary

December 2020

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.

- UK organisations can now bid into Horizon*, certain that all successful UK applicants will be covered through the UK's association (or through the UK Guarantee) for the remainder of the programme.

- For any UK Horizon Europe Guarantee project already underway the UK Horizon Europe Guarantee covers funding for the project duration.

On ALL Horizon Europe proposals (to ALL 2023 and 2024 calls), UK organisations:
- must be added to Horizon Europe proposals as a 'Partner' (= Beneficiary) and not as an 'Associated Partner'
- must request funding from the EU on their Horizon Europe proposal

This applies to all Horizon Europe proposals irrespective of the Work Programme year or call opening/deadline date

UK Research and Innovation

What does this mean?

All successful UK applicants to Horizon will be covered through the UK's association (or through the existing UK funding guarantee) for the rest of the programme.

Work Programme 2024

- **Calls with a 2024 call identifier will be covered by association**.
- Successful applicants will receive funding from the EC for the lifetime of their grant.
- Even if the deadline is in 2023.

Work Programme 2023

- **Calls with a 2023 call identifier will be covered by the Horizon Europe Guarantee**.
- Successful UK applicants will receive funding from the guarantee for the lifetime of their grant.
- Even if the deadline is in 2024.
- Applicants must be included as a beneficiary in order to receive funding through the Horizon Europe Guarantee.
- [UK applicants call continue to apply to calls in Work Programme 2023](#).

Current/On going Grants

- UK participants currently entering into, or going through, the grant agreement preparation phase will receive funding through the Horizon Europe Guarantee for the lifetime of their grant.
- Grants currently receiving guarantee funding, will continue to do so for the lifetime of their grant.

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Horizon Europe Guarantee

*"A new scheme was announced by UK government on 29 November to guarantee funding for successful applicants to the **first wave of Horizon Europe grant awards** regardless of the outcome of the UK's efforts to associate to Horizon Europe."*

*"The guarantee is a **short-term measure** intended to address the delays in the formalisation of the UK's association to Horizon Europe. … the government has guaranteed funding for the first wave of eligible, successful applicants to Horizon Europe **if they are unable to sign their grant agreements** with the EU."*

"The UK government … will monitor the situation closely and may consider whether it is appropriate to change the scope of the guarantee, in which case, it will provide updated guidance."
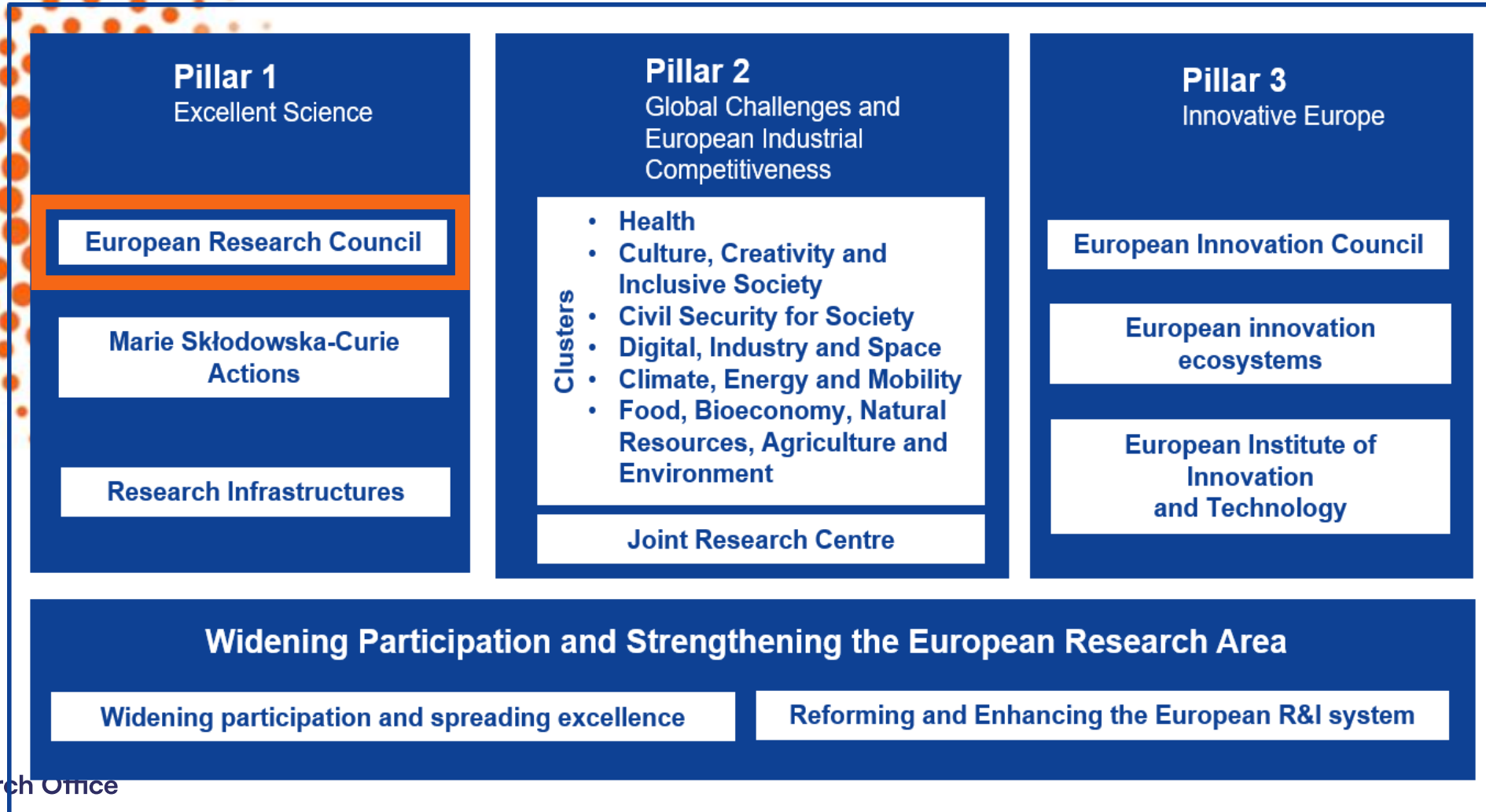
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[Guaranteed funding]
for successful Horizon Europe UK applicants

Overview of 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 European Research Council?

erc

BOTTOM-UP,

CURIOSITY-LED,

EXCELLENT RESEARCH

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The ERC's mission:

- Support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields
- Fund projects purely on the basis of scientific excellence
- Encourage the highest quality research in Europe
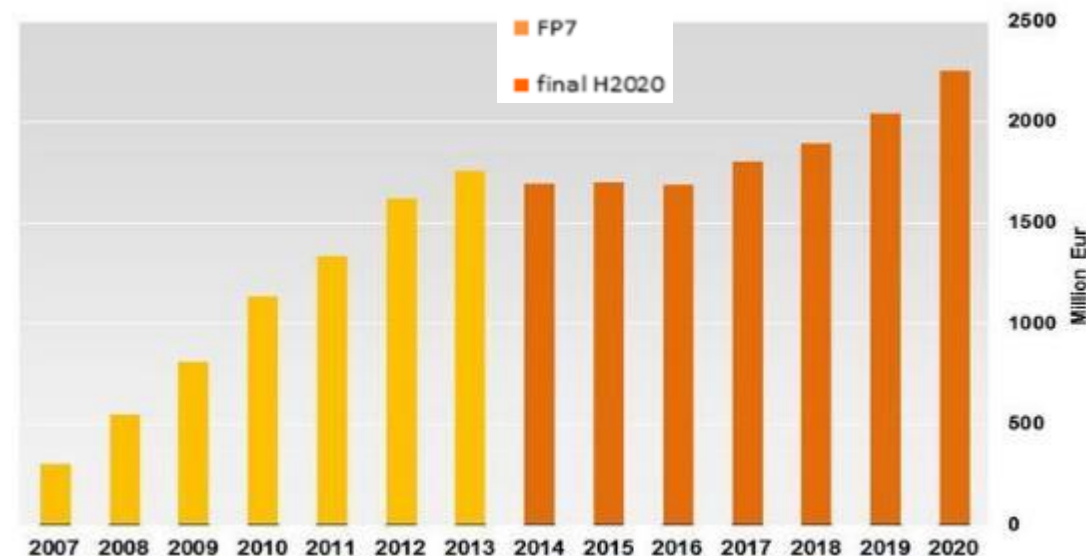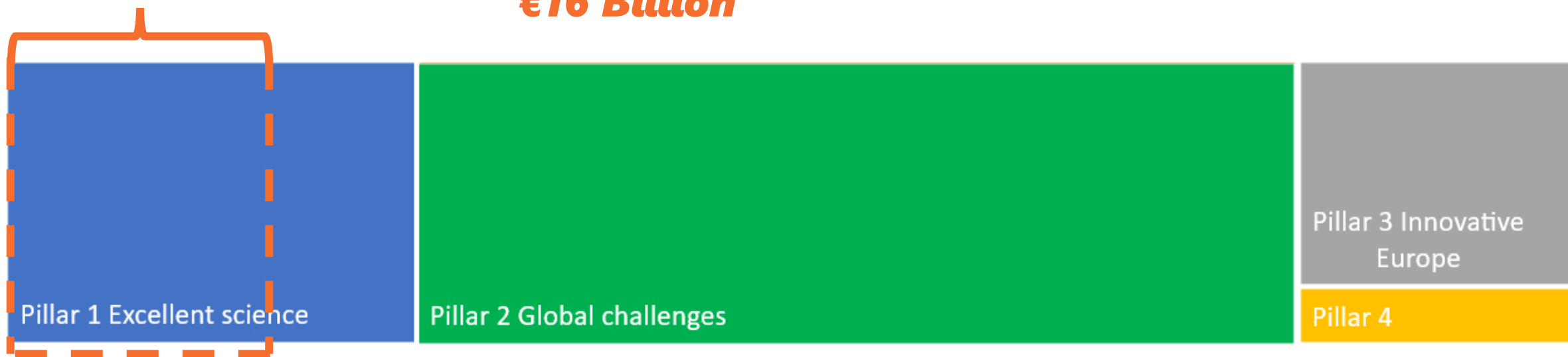
What makes the ERC unique:

- Excellence is the only criteria
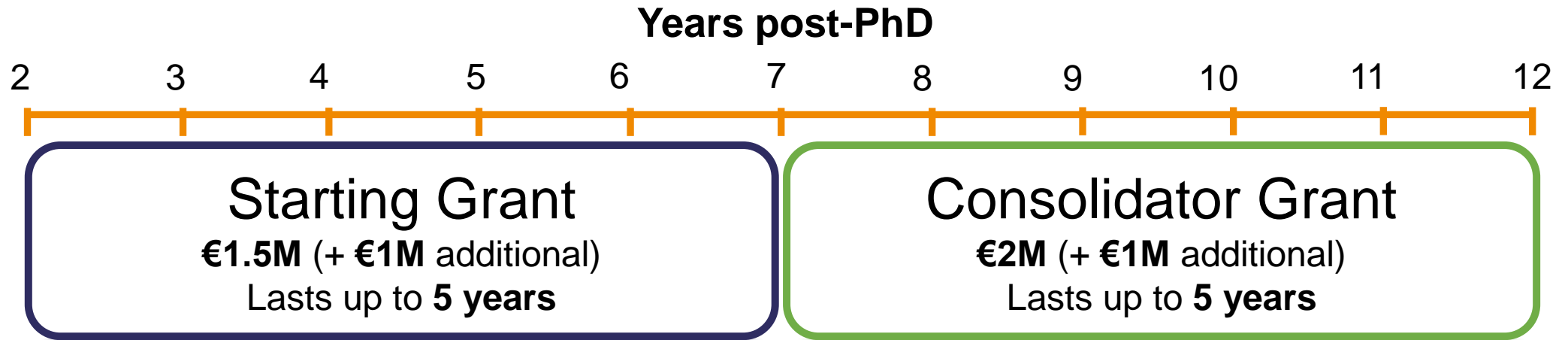- Freedom of PIs to lead their project with anyone in the world in their team

ERC Budget in Horizon Europe
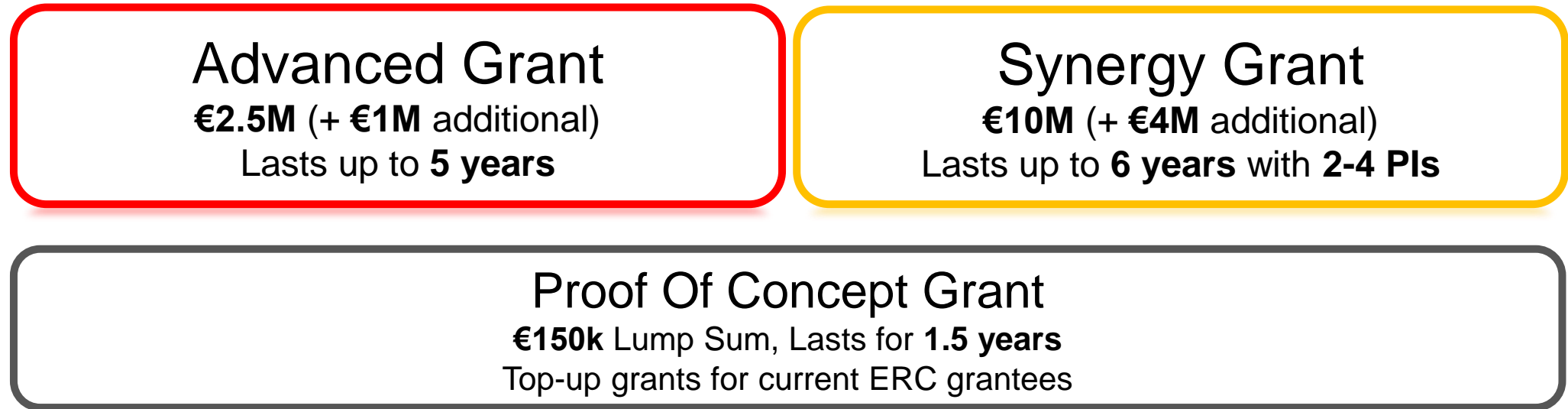
26% increase in real terms compared to Horizon 2020.

Horizon Europe structure is represented below proportionate to budget allocation.

ERC BUDGET: €16 Billion

Pillar 1 Excellent science

Pillar 2 Global challenges

Pillar 3 Innovative Europe

Pillar 4

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 **2-4 PIs**

Proof Of Concept Grant
€150k Lump Sum, Lasts for **1.5 years**
Top-up grants for current ERC grantees

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ERC 2024 Calls

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant	Proof of Concept
Call Type	ERC-2024-StG	**ERC-2024-CoG**	ERC-2024-AdG	ERC-2024-SyG	ERC-2024-PoC
Call Opens	11/07/2023	**12/09/2023**	29/05/2024	12/07/2023	16/11/2023
Deadline	24/10/2023	**12/12/2023**	29/08/2024	08/11/2023	14/03/2024 17/09/2024

2024 Consolidator Grant call details

Call Identifier	ERC-2024-CoG
Budget	€584m
Estimated no. grants funded	291

Changes to 2024 ERC Calls

- Excellence remains the only evaluation criterion, with a **primary evaluation of the research project** and at the same time an evaluation of the Principal Investigator

- Changes to the evaluation procedure – **introducing a maximum number of proposals** (44) per panel for 2024 Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant calls

- **New panel** in the SH domain – **SH8** – and changes to the panel title, sub-title and descriptors for others

- The applicant's CV and Track Record are now merged into a **single four-page document.** The Funding ID is moved to Part B2

- The **2024 Advanced Grant call** will be implemented as a pilot call using lump sum funding and has a deadline in August now, three months later than in 2023

- The **2024 Proof-of-Concept call** will have two cut-off dates instead of three

- The **2024 Consolidator Grant call** is in December, two months earlier than in 2023

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ERC Eligibility Criteria

Types of research funded

- Can be in **ANY** field of research;

- Must be very **ambitious** in **risk** and in **scope;**

- **Principal Investigator** is central to the project, they can be supported by as many "team members" as they need;

- Must be **"frontier research",** and should not be incremental advances.

Judged on the scientific excellence of the project and PI

No need to aim for externally selected policies or research themes, it's up to the applicant!

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2024 Consolidator Grant Eligibility window

Cut-off dates:

Successful defence of PhD between 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2017 (inclusive)

The date of the first PhD considered for the calculation of the eligibility period is the date of the actual award according to the national rules of the country where the degree was awarded.

Applicants should check with the awarding institution if there is any doubt on the date of actual award.

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Extending Eligibility window of an ERC applicant

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

Submit a template

Seeking Asylum
(Actual amount of
documented time)

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

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Only occurrences after date of successful defence of PhD degree

Only occurrences after date of successful defence of PhD degree

2024 Call Resubmission Restrictions

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome		2024 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is _not_ eligible
2022 and 2023 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or 2022 Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grant
2022 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
	A or B at Step 2	No restrictions
2023 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
	A or B at Step 3	No restrictions
2022 and 2023 Synergy Grant	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	C at Step 1	Synergy Grant

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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 or 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

* Fieldwork/work abroad related to the ERC project does not count against time commitment

Host Institution 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 HI will:
- sign up to the **Grant Agreement**
- sign a **'Supplementary Agreement'** with the PI

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
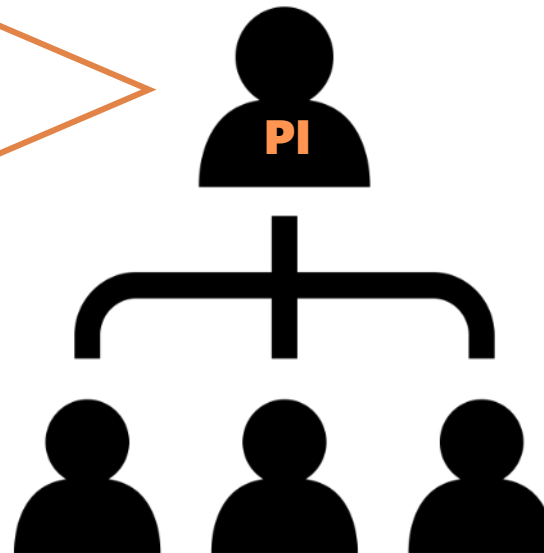
TEAM MEMBERS

- **Cannot be co-investigators**

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

- Do activities the PI can't do by themselves

- Should not have purely supervisory/mentor roles

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

- Think about career path of employees

- 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

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Funding Levels

Grant Type	Main Grant Amount up to:	"Additional Funding" up to:
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

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Eligible costs for ERC projects

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

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

The budget is subdivided into:

Personnel costs	Subcontracting costs	Purchasing costs	Other cost categories	Indirect costs
Employees	Price of the work good or service,	Travel & Subsistence	Financial support to third parties	Flat rate of 25% of direct costs
Natural persons w/ contract	Must follow HI purchasing policy (e.g. tender)	Equipment	Internally invoiced goods and services	
Seconded persons		Other goods, works and services		

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Ask for support from your Host Institution's research support or finance team as early as possible,
The ERC project costing must follow Host Institution rules as well!

ERC Additional funding

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

Additional funding:
- **Mixed in the budget table** with the main budget, included in totals for the fitting cost categories
- Separate in the **Description of Resources** text

"Start-up" costs for PIs moving to the EU or an AC from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant

AND/OR

The purchase of **major equipment**

AND/OR

Access to **large facilities**

AND/OR

Other **major experimental and field work costs**, excl. personnel cost
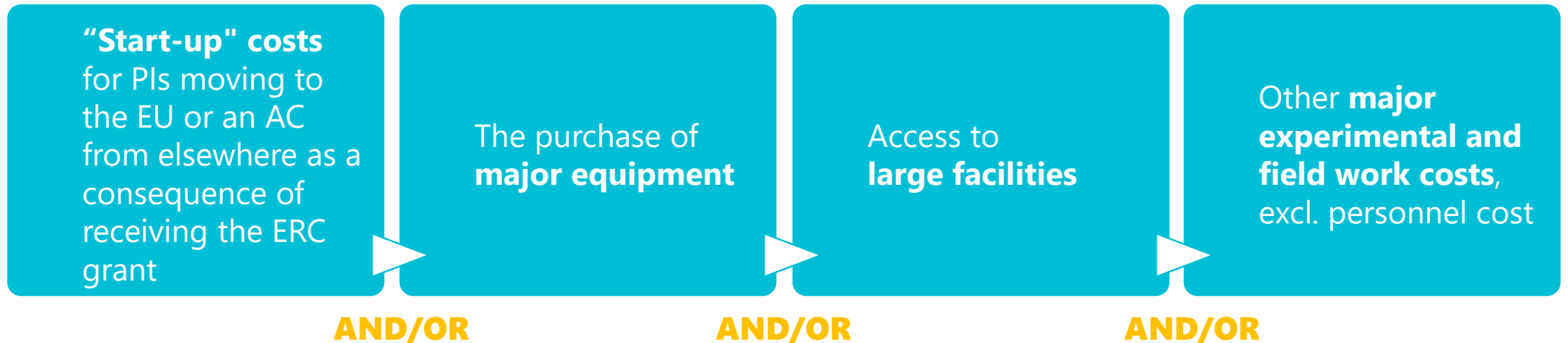
Special features of Additional Funding:
- What fits into the 4 categories in your field will vary from other fields
- If this additional part of the budget is not spent it cannot be transferred
- Same amount available to all ERC schemes

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ERC Submission Process

Approaching Proposal Submission

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

Get in touch with your research support office

Add relevant contact people to the online application

Submit early and often – latest version will be accepted

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

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Find the call on the Funding & Tenders Portal

Use the topic search

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The call is open

All the guidance documents are included on the EC portal call.

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

TOPIC ID: ERC-2023-COG

Grant

- **General information**
- Topic description
- Conditions and documents
- Partner search announcements
- Submission service
- Topic related FAQ
- Get support
- Call updates

⇤ Go back

General information

Programme	Work programme part
Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)	**HORIZON-ERC-2023**
Call	Work programme year
Call for Proposals for ERC Consolidator Grant (ERC-2023-COG)	**HORIZON-ERC-2023**

⊙ See budget overview

Open for submission

Type of action   Type of MGA
HORIZON-ERC-HORIZON-ERC-Grants   HORIZON-Action-Grant-Budget-Based

Scroll down to start submission

Start submission

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

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

Please select the type of your submission:

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

Start submission

🛟 Need help?

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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

BASIC DETAILS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Your proposal

Please choose an acronym for your proposal.

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

Acronym _____ 20
Enter value

Short Summary _____ 2000
Enter value

ERC Panel _____ ⬍

[SAVE AND GO TO NEXT STEP]

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 (from page 31)

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

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Main proposal page on EC Portal

Part A: Administrative Forms
online only

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

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

Proposal forms

Deadline
02 February 2023 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

122 days left until closure

Call data

Call: ERC-2023-COG
Topic: ERC-2023-COG
Type of action: HORIZON-ERC
Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG

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

Proposal data

Acronym: test
Draft ID: SEP-210899104

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

In this step you can edit the Administrative Forms and upload the proposal and its annexes. You may return to this step from the 'My Proposals' section of the Funding & Tenders Portal.

Submit your proposal as early in the process as possible - you can update and resubmit an improved version many times before the call closure.

Submitting a proposal will overwrite any previous versions of this same proposal - this process is irreversible.

Any changes made to the proposal will not be available to the European Commission service unless resubmitted before the call closure.

❌ Your proposal contains changes that have not yet been submitted.

Administrative forms (Part A)

[Edit forms ✏] [View history] [Print preview] ℹ

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. ℹ

Part B1 *	ℹ	Upload ☁
Part B2 *	ℹ	Upload ☁
HI support letter *	ℹ	Upload ☁
PhD certificate *	ℹ	Upload ☁
Annex 1	ℹ	Upload ☁
Annex 2	ℹ	Upload ☁
Annex 3	ℹ	Upload ☁
Annex 4	ℹ	Upload ☁
Annex 5	ℹ	Upload ☁
Annex 6	ℹ	Upload ☁

[◀ BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST] [VALIDATE] [SUBMIT]

ERC Proposal Development

ERC Panel Structure - Open to any field of research

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 Particle	**LS2** Integrative Biology: Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems	**SH2** Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
PE3 Condensed Matter Physics	**LS3** Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology	**SH3** The Social World and its Diversity
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** Cultures and Cultural Production
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	
PE9 Universe Sciences	**LS9** Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering	
PE10 Earth System Science		
PE11 Materials Engineering*		

*PE11** and **SH7** panels are newly added, split off from pre-existing panels

- Descriptors under **Life Sciences reshuffled**, changing the remit of existing panels

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.

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Evaluation panel section in Part A form

Primary ERC Review Panel*

Secondary ERC Review Panel   (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 best 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 choice 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 ERC Work Programme 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

1-Step Submission

All parts submitted together by the call deadline

Part A is filled in online

B1, B2 & Annexes are uploaded as PDFs

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)

Part B2
Detailed Research Proposal

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Funding I.D

(Total of 14 not including Funding I.D pages)

Annexes
Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

Part A – Administrative forms

Navigate by chapter or pages

How to fill in the forms

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Part A - Budget & Resources

Additional funding:
- **Mixed in the budget table** with the main budget, included in totals for the fitting cost categories
- Separate in the **Description of Resources** text

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 individual columns. The 'Requested EU contribution' has to be filled in manually. Please make sure to update the 'Requested EU contribution' if updates are made in any of the cost categories.

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

Other personnel costs and Other additional direct costs:
If applicable, please specify this cost category in the Resources section (textbox below).

Internally invoiced goods and services:
Costs for host institution invoices and invoices for other entities should be included here; e.g. access to large facilities, access to other services that are charged as unit costs.
For more details on the budget table, please consult the ERC Information for Applicants document applicable to the call and year. Please note that the budget table and the description of resources below will be made available to the experts evaluating the proposal at Step 2.

	PI	Senior Staff	Postdocs	Students	Other Personnel costs	A. Total personnel costs €	B. Subcontracting Costs € (No indirect costs)	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment - including major equipment	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	E. Indirect Cost €	Total Eligible Costs	Re contr

Make sure the figures match

Section C. Resources (Maximum 8000 characters allowed)

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

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

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

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

Justification:

Part A – Ethics & Security questions

- Follow Horizon Europe guidance document: **'How to complete your ethics self-assessment'**

- UK applicants should **answer 'yes' on questions about non-EU activity.** This will not affect eligibility.

- Answering 'yes' on certain questions may require a **brief text response** from the applicant.

- Applicants may be requested to **upload documents** related to particular questions.

- **Free text character limits:** 5000 per text box

- If the character limit is too short, we recommend using a separate document **uploaded as one of the optional PDF annexes.** Make a reference to the annex in the Ethics text box in the application form.

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
Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences? ○ Yes ◉ No

5. Animals — Page
Does this activity involve animals? ○ Yes ◉ No

6. Non-EU Countries — Page
Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries? ○ Yes ◉ No
In case non-UE countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues? ○ Yes ◉ No
It is planned to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)? ○ Yes ◉ No
Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? For data imports, see section 4. ○ Yes ◉ No
Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4. ○ Yes ◉ No

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

Proposal Formatting & Templates

Page limits will be strictly applied

Page formatting will be systematically checked by the ERCEA

References do not count towards page limit

Templates:
- [Consolidator Grant application form template](#) (PDF version)
- Editable version of the template available via EC Portal

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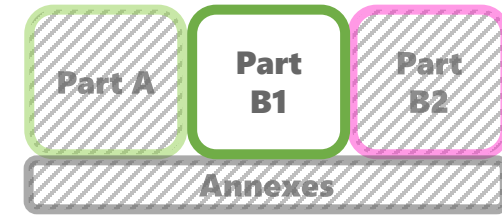**Header:** [PI surname], [Project acronym] & [Proposal section (Part B1 or Part B2)]

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

Writing the Extended Synopsis

Self-contained

- All the essential info about your idea in 5 pages.

- Describe where the novelty lies – what is the state-of-the-art and how does this proposal go further?

- Your synopsis should be referenced, these won't count towards page limits – using end-notes is recommended.

Persuasive to generalists

- A variety of experts decide collectively whether to pass the proposal to Step 2.

- Be clear and don't use specialist jargon because the panel are generalists as a whole, some will be less familiar with your field.

- Applicants need to persuade the whole panel – include just enough info and don't give any reasons to reject!

Entertaining!

- Sell your idea and yourself - the synopsis should grab the panellists' attention

- Your idea should be ambitious – be explicit about what you hope to achieve.

- The description of novelty and ambition should leave them curious to find out more detail in Part B2 and the interview at Step 2.

Things to think about: Extended Synopsis

- **Dual role:** key text in stand-alone B1, then goes hand-in hand with the B2 full proposal. Make it work in both ways, not as a summary of the full proposal

- **What excites you about your research?** Convey that in your application

- **Scientific Impact –** how can you change your field of research and make progress beyond the current state-of-the-art.

  - Does the research open new lines of research and/or enquiry

  - Will it lead to new scientific activity and further questions beyond the current frontier?

  - Be positive about achievements made by others thus far then demonstrate you have something new and different to offer.

- **Timeliness and relevance of the work during the project,** not just at the deadline but throughout the project's five years. Scientific impact can also be made at anytime of the project, not just at the end

- **Research Aims, should clearly link to the research objectives,** which should clearly link to research methodology(ies)
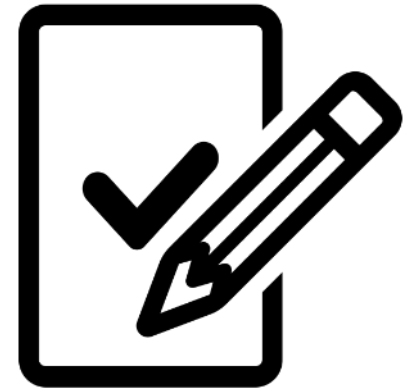
Writing your CV and Track Record

- **Curriculum Vitae and Track Record will be merged into one single template of up to four pages.** The applicant is expected to include their personal details, education, key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions, **as well as a list of up to ten research outputs** that demonstrate how the applicant has advanced knowledge in their field with an emphasis on more recent achievements and a list of selected examples of **significant peer recognition** (for example, prizes).

- A template for the CV part is provided but not mandatory.

- The applicant may include a short, factual explanation of the significance of the selected outputs, the applicant's role in producing each of them.

- The applicant may also include **relevant additional information on career breaks, diverse career paths, and life events,** as well as any particularly noteworthy contributions to the research community they have made other than research achievements and peer recognition and a short explanation of these contributions.
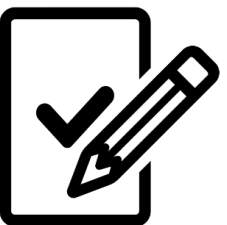
Part A
Administrative Forms and Abstract

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

Part B1
Proposal Overview and PI Track Record

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

Part B2
Detailed Research Proposal

- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Funding I.D

Annexes
Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents

At Step 2 there is also a ~30 min interview with your panel (presentation and Q&A)
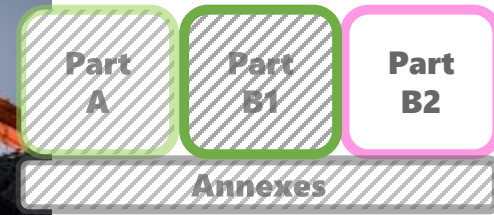
WATCH OUR WEBINAR ON INTERVIEWS
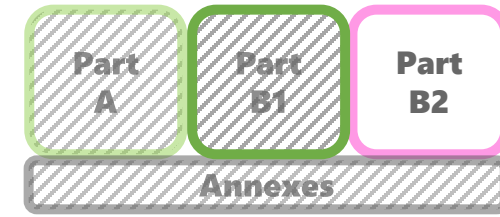
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Part B2

- **State of the art and objectives**
  - Objectives here become grant agreement objectives

- **Methodology**
  - Proposed methodology
  - Milestones and alternatives
  - Risk and mitigation
  - Project Management
  - Publication & Exploitation of results

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Writing your State of the Art and Objectives

Coherence with Part B1

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

- **A remote expert review will be provided to the generalist panel**, add technical detail that someone much closer to your field would need to know.

- **Don't copy & paste from Part B1.** Both looked at together at Step 2, so make them complementary.

State of the art

- It should be clear **how and why the proposed work is important for the field**.

- What **scientific impact** will your project have if successful? What new horizons or opportunities for science, technology or scholarship?

Objectives

- Objectives should **fit the context of the state-of-the-art** – they should match the ambition to go past the current frontier.

- These objectives will become **part of the Grant Agreement** if successful – so the need to be feasible.

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Writing your Methodology
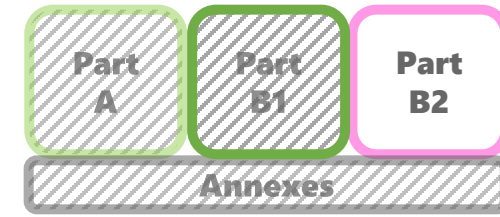
Methodology

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

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

- Work plan should also be clear and **persuade evaluators that you can carry out the logistics** of a long term project.

Risk Mitigation Strategy

- Where possible **cover every risk with a mitigation strategy**.

- 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.**

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ERC Evaluation Process

Evaluation Process
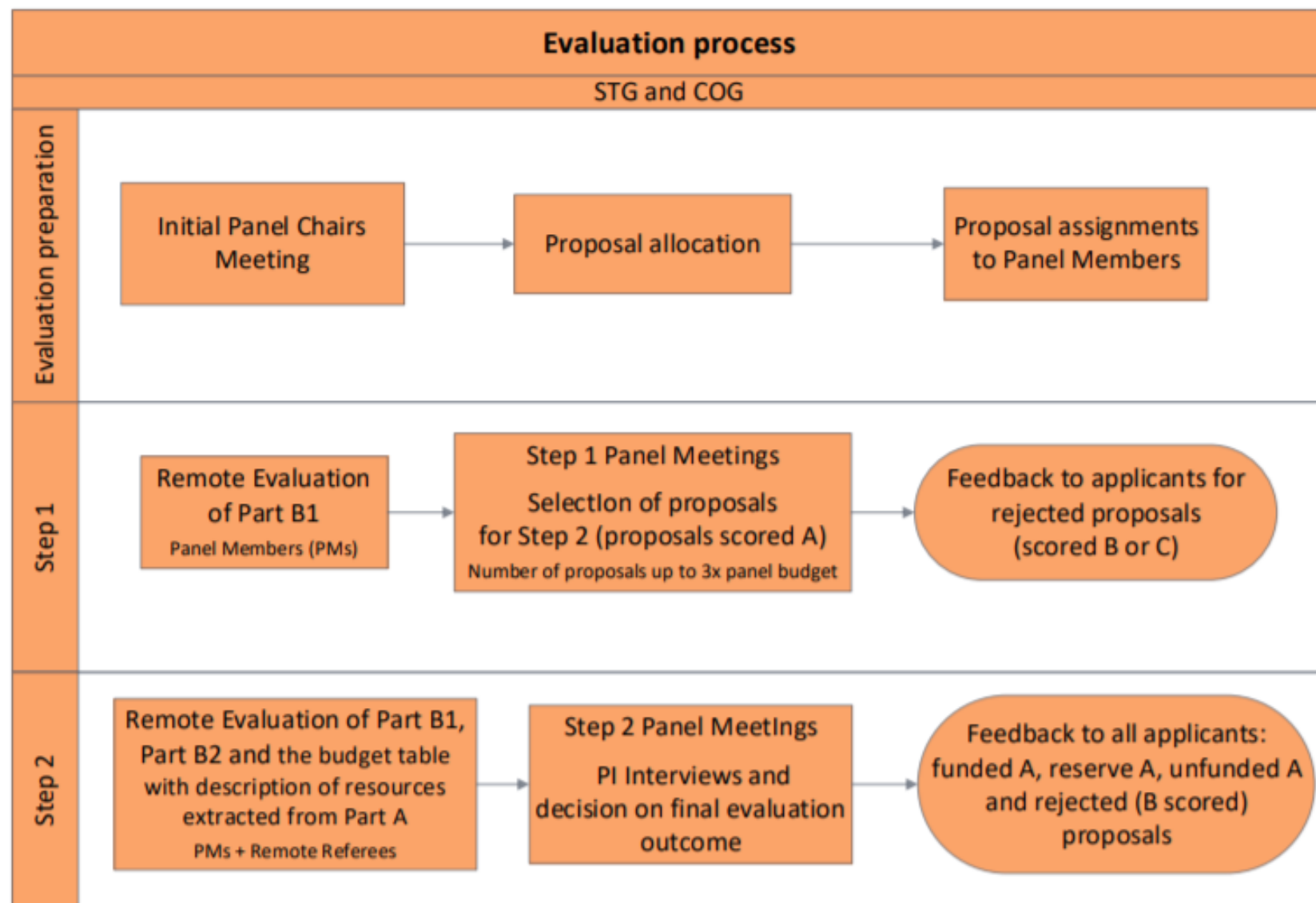
Timeframe for feedback

- **June 2024**

  Feedback to unsuccessful applicants about Step 1 evaluation.
  Interview invitations sent to successful candidates passed to Step 2

- **Interviews in September/October 2024**

- **December 2024**

  All applicants informed about Step 2 evaluation

Evaluation process

STG and COG

Evaluation preparation
- Initial Panel Chairs Meeting → Proposal allocation → Proposal assignments to Panel Members

Step 1
- Remote Evaluation of Part B1 — Panel Members (PMs) → Step 1 Panel Meetings — Selection of proposals for Step 2 (proposals scored A) — Number of proposals up to 3x panel budget → Feedback to applicants for rejected proposals (scored B or C)

Step 2
- Remote Evaluation of Part B1, Part B2 and the budget table with description of resources extracted from Part A — PMs + Remote Referees → Step 2 Panel Meetings — PI Interviews and decision on final evaluation outcome → Feedback to all applicants: funded A, reserve A, unfunded A and rejected (B scored) proposals

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PI has approx. 30 minute interview that includes a presentation to the panel followed by a Q&A

How are ERC proposals evaluated?

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion, applied to:

Research Project

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

Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity and creativity

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

The Project

To what extent:

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

The Scientific Approach

To what extent:

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

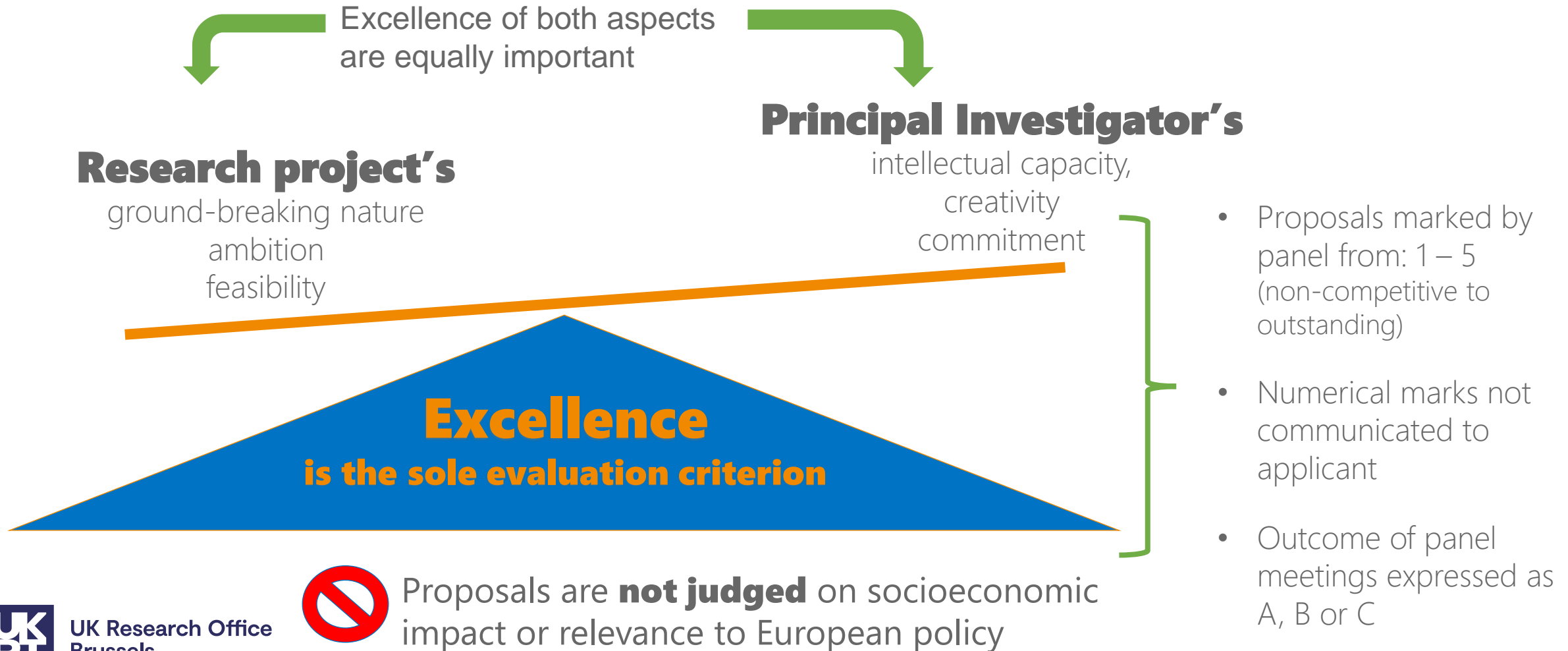## 2. **Principal Investigator** - Intellectual capacity and creativity

The Principal Investigator (PI)

To what extent:

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

ERC evaluation criterion

Excellence of both aspects are equally important

Research project's
ground-breaking nature
ambition
feasibility

Principal Investigator's
intellectual capacity,
creativity
commitment

Excellence
is the sole evaluation criterion

- Proposals marked by panel from: 1 – 5 (non-competitive to outstanding)

- Numerical marks not communicated to applicant

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

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

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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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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
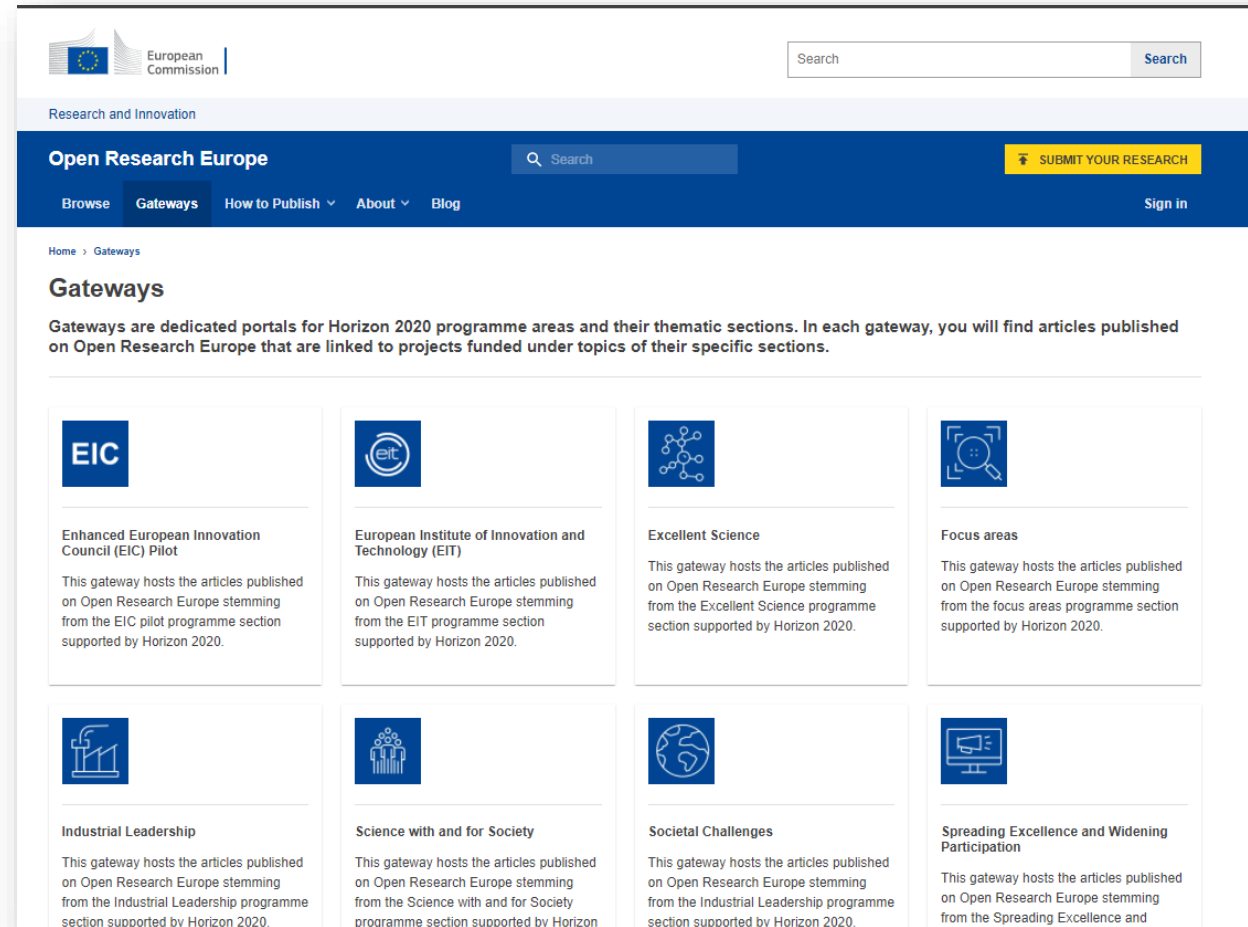❖ https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/

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)

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You can find the provisions related to Open Science on pages 107 – 109 of the Model Grant Agreement

Open Research Europe

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

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https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/

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?

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
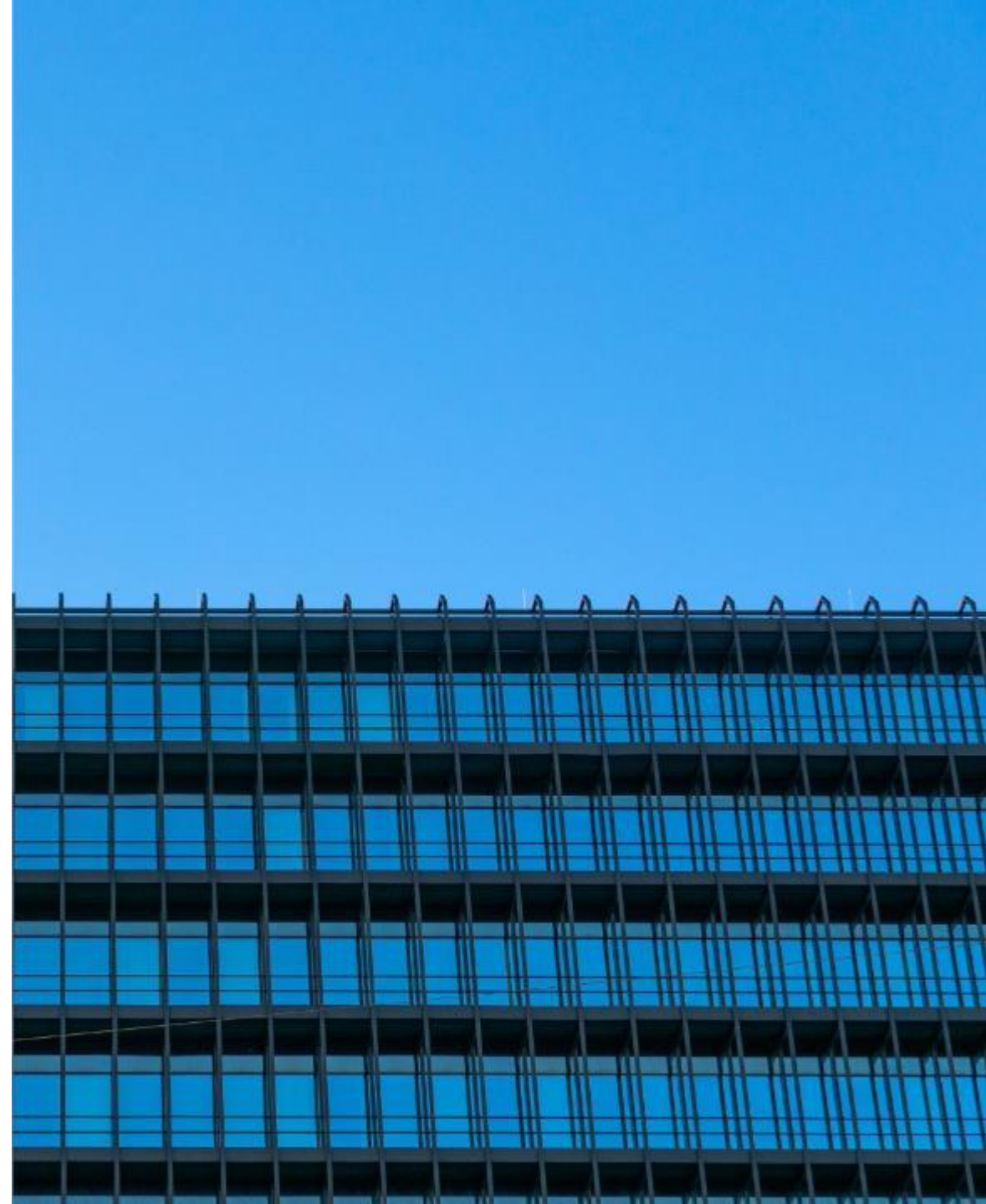
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Useful links

- [ERC COG 24 Call](#)

- [ERC work programme 2024](#)

- [Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#)

- [Part B1/B2, Host Institution Support Template](#) (pdf)

- [ERC Website](#),
including the easy to use [Project Database](#) and the more in depth [ERC Information System](#)

- [Novelties in the Horizon Europe MGA](#) – Commission Stakeholder Workshop video

- [EURAXESS UK webinar on 'Strategy on applying for a Consolidator Grant'](#)
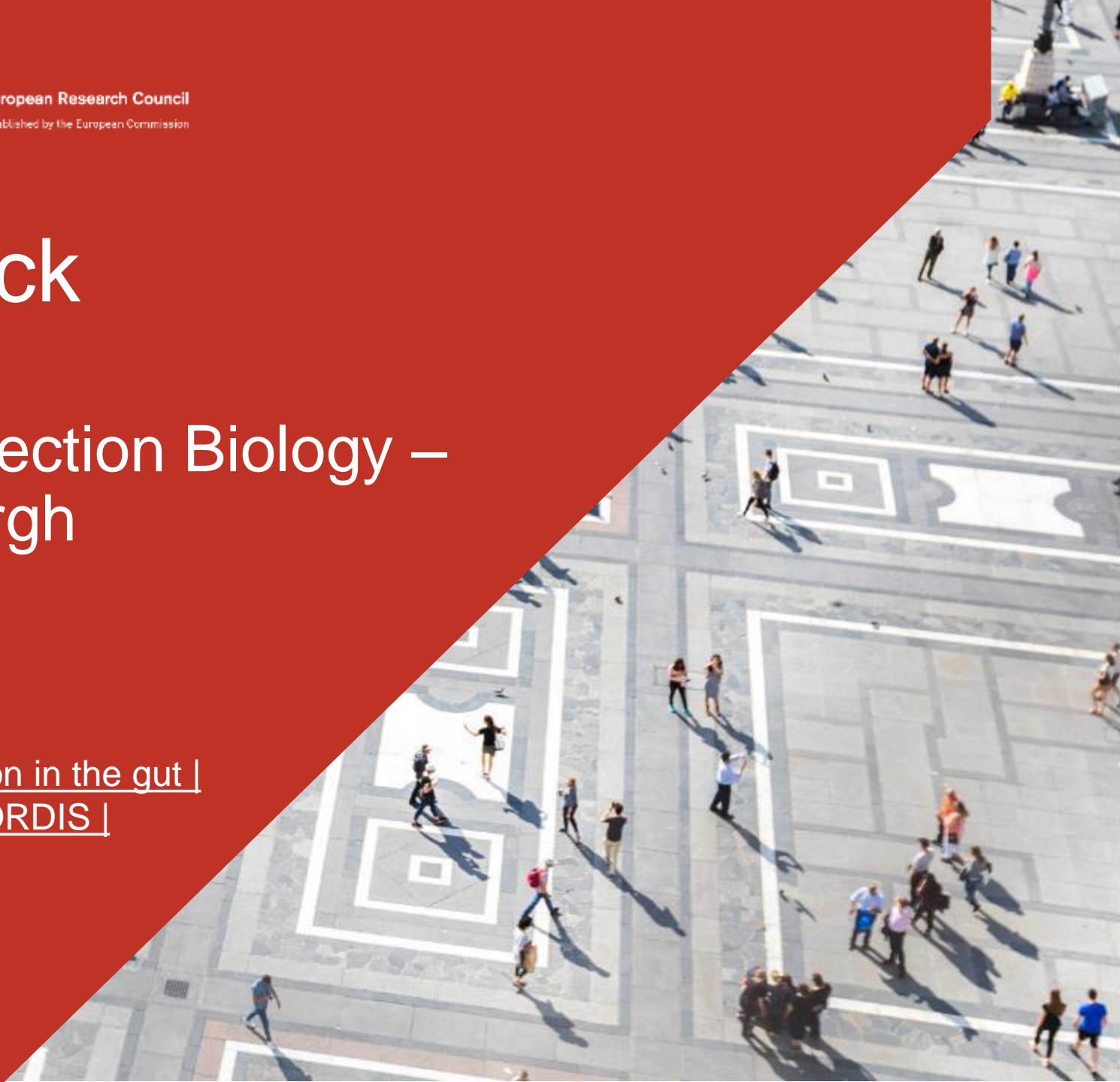
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Professor Amy Buck

Professor of RNA and Infection Biology – The University of Edinburgh

ERC CoG 2020 PI – RNACOM

RNA functions in parasite-host communication in the gut | RNACOM | Project | Fact sheet | H2020 | CORDIS | European Commission (europa.eu)

Thank you, any questions?

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