

The European Research Council



26 September 2021



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ERC funding schemes



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Starting Grant

Size of the grant: up to €1.5 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
2-7 years of experience since completion of their PhD



Consolidator Grant

Size of the grant: up to €2 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
7-12 years of experience since completion of their PhD



Advanced Grant

Size of the grant: up to €2.5 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
An excellent scientific track record of recognized achievements in the last 10 years



Synergy grant

Size of the grant: €10 million + up to €4 million

Duration: up to 6 years

Be composed of 2 to 4 researchers and their research groups
(one researcher can be based outside EU/AC)



Proof of Concept

Size of the grant: €150 000

Duration: up to 18 months

Demonstrate that the idea funded by the original ERC grant has innovation potential and significant economic or societal benefits



Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Potential impact
- Scientific Approach

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment

ERC Panel structure



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Life Sciences (LS)

- **LS1** Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- **LS2** Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems
- **LS3** Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- **LS4** Physiology in Health, Disease and Aging
- **LS5** Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System
- **LS6** Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy
- **LS7** Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases
- **LS8** Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
- **LS9** Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

- 3 Domains / 27 Panels
- Operated by the Scientific Department B

Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

- **SH1** Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- **SH2** Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- **SH3** The Social World and Its Diversity
- **SH4** The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- **SH5** Cultures and Cultural Production
- **SH6** The Study of the Human Past
- **SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space**

Physical Sciences & Engineering (PSE)

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

SH1 descriptors



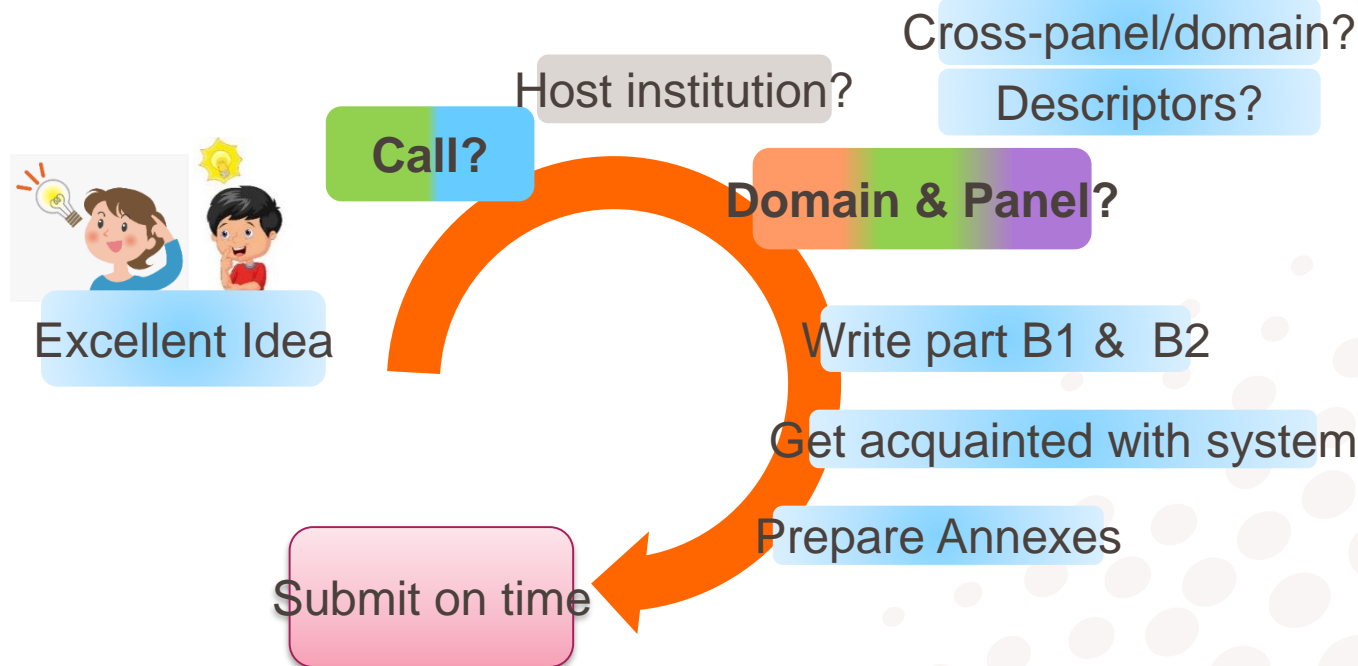
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SH1_1	Macroeconomics; monetary economics; economic growth
SH1_2	International management; international trade; international business; spatial economics
SH1_3	Development economics, structural change, political economy of development
SH1_4	Finance; asset pricing; international finance; market microstructure
SH1_5	Corporate finance; banking and financial intermediation; accounting; auditing; insurance
SH1_6	Econometrics; operations research
SH1_7	Behavioural economics; experimental economics; neuro-economics
SH1_8	Microeconomic theory; game theory; decision theory
SH1_9	Industrial organisation; entrepreneurship; R&D and innovation
SH1_10	Management; strategy; organisational behaviour
SH1_11	Human resource management; operations management, marketing
SH1_12	Environmental economics; resource and energy economics; agricultural economics
SH1_13	Labour and demographic economics
SH1_14	Health economics; economics of education
SH1_15	Public economics; political economics; law and economics
SH1_16	Historical economics; quantitative economic history; institutional economics; economic systems

Submitting an ERC proposal

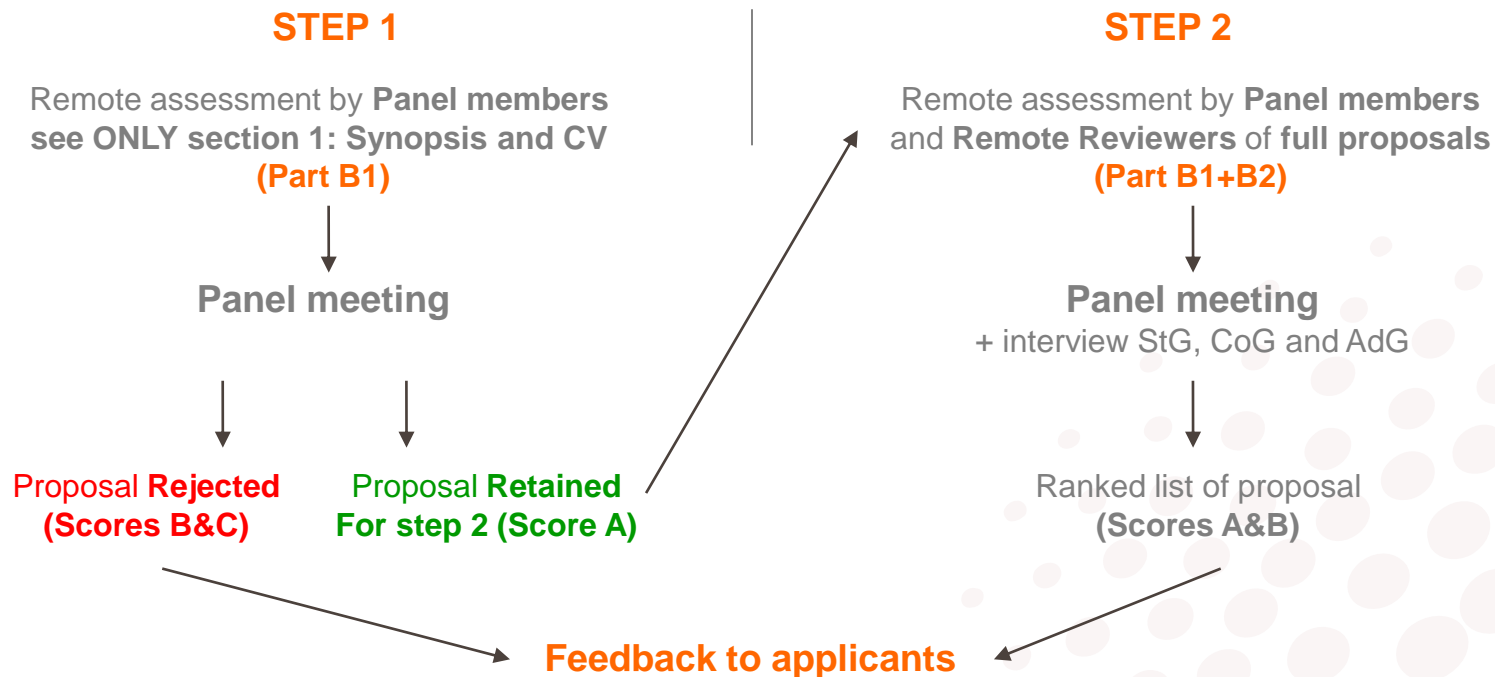


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How are the ERC proposal evaluated

For individuals calls: a single submission but a two step evaluation



Some Hints & Tips



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Part B1: Find the right balance

- ✓ Innovative? Beyond state-of-art?
High risk/High gain?
Realistic/feasible?
- ✓ **Feasibility**: provide sufficient information on scientific approach
- ✓ Outline state of play (incl. competition)
- ✓ Be **concise & clear** (also for generalists)
- ✓ Think about **risk mitigation**

Part B2: Fill in the details

- ✓ Do not copy-paste from synopsis
- ✓ Detailed state-of-art
- ✓ Extensive **methodology** and **work plan**
- ✓ Provide **risk mitigation strategies**
- ✓ Explain involvement of **team**
- ✓ Justify requested **resources**

Some misconceptions

Rumour 1 - NOT true: You can only apply for an ERC grant if you are at the very top of your profession.

✘ Accomplishments are appreciated in relation to your stage/seniority as giving some evidence of your capacity to conduct the research you propose and of creativity within the past 10-12 years of your career.

Rumour 2 - NOT true: To be successful, you need to continue on an established research line, to prove continuity and credibility

✘ Generally, the opposite is true.

Rumour 3 - NOT true: If you have already obtained an ERC grant you are less/more likely to get another one.

✘ Panels look at each proposal on its own merit irrespectively of whether you have or have not obtained an ERC grant in the past. (Of course this does not apply for applications to a Proof of Concept grant.)

Rumour 4 - NOT true: The more socially or medically relevant a grant proposal is, the higher the chances of it getting funded.

✘ ERC funds frontier research, not research that promises to be only an incremental advancement of knowledge. This is irrespectively of the field and whether it has societal, medical or clinical applications.

ERC Classes on YouTube

European Research Council YT Channel



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- **Step-by-step to the ERC** (5:19 min)
<https://youtu.be/xbFbzkVWgCU>
- **How to get started with your ERC grant?** (11:37 min)
<https://youtu.be/O7mOFL2tIQ8>
- **How to write part 1 of your ERC proposal?** (14:33 min)
<https://youtu.be/HsmQRM88yyM>
- **How to write part 2 of your ERC proposal?** (8:26 min)
<https://youtu.be/NnDLnabEpxQ>
- **How do we evaluate your ERC proposal?** (11:48 min)
<https://youtu.be/FFhZX00AUV4>
- **How to prepare for your ERC interview?** (9:02 min)
<https://youtu.be/F4qXVGcdH5w>