European Research Council

Convocatorias WP 2023

16 Septiembre 2022 Estefanía Muñoz NCP ERC



Puntos nacionales de contacto

Apoyo administrativo a ERC

Consejo Europeo de Investigación (ERC)



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ERC Grants en España (2014-2022)

550

ERC Grants

3850

ERC Team Members

810

Millones de Euros

90 instituciones







INDICE

- ERC Características principales
- ERC Individuales
- ERC Synergy

ERC: CARACTERÍSTICAS GENERALES



ERC: Características Generales

- Abierto al personal investigador de todo el mundo
- Proyectos individuales, innovadores, ambiciosos que no sean incrementales
- Sin prioridades temáticas, en cualquier campo de Investigación con naturaleza multi o interdisciplinar
- Investigación de frontera, "alto riesgo/alto beneficio" en cualquier campo científico
- Único criterio de evaluación: excelencia científica de la propuesta de investigación y del investigador principal
- Evaluación por científicos de alto prestigio internacional
- Ofrece al personal investigador: Independencia, reconocimiento y visibilidad



Established by the European Commission

ERC: What is?





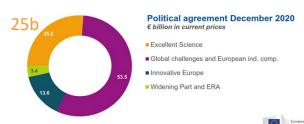
Funding: Horizon Europe budget (2021-2027) Pilar I

EUR 16 billion

ERC budget in Horizon Europe

17%
of the entire
Horizon Europe
budget

Horizon Europe Budget: €95.5 billion (2021-2027) (including €5.4 billion from NGEU – Next Generation Europe – programme of EU for Recovery from COVID-19 crisis)





The Scientific Council (ScC) https://erc.europa.eu/about-erc/erc-president-and-scientific-council

22 prominent researchers appointed by the EU Commission Scientific Strategy, Quality control of evaluation process, communication Strategy



The ERC Executive Agency (ERCEA) https://erc.europa.eu/about-erc/erc-executive-agency-ercea Implementation of the calls for proposals, Management of the Grants



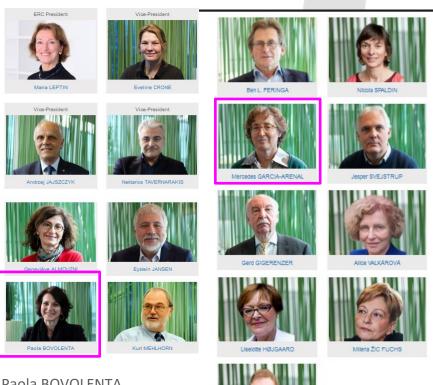
ERC The Scientific Council

Maria Leptin is the President of the ERC since 1 November 2021, former Director of EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organization)

The Scientific Council is composed of 22 eminent scientists and scholars.

The members are appointed by the EC, on the recommendations of an independent Identification Committee.

The term of office of the members of the Scientific Council is limited to 4 years, renewable once.



Paola BOVOLENTA
Mercedes GARCIA-ARENAL



ERC Grant Schemes

STARTING GRANTS

Grants up to **1.5€ million** for 5 years

For promising early-career researchers with 2 to 7 years experience after PhD

To develop their career and establish their own team

PI Commitment: >50%

CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

Grants up to **2€ million** for 5 years

For excellent researchers with 7 to 12 years experience after PhD

To consolidate their research team or programme

PI Commitment: >40%

ADVANCED GRANTS

Grants up to **2.5€ million** for 5 years

For **established research leaders** with a recognised 10 years track record of research achievements

To develop a new and outstanding project

PI Commitment: >30%

SYNERGY GRANTS

Grants up to **10€ million** for 6 years

To address ambitious research questions that can only be answered by the coordinated work of a small group of 2-4 principal Investigators

PROOF OF CONCEPT

Lump Sum Grant of **150.000€** for 18 months

For existing ERC grant holders to bring their research ideas closer to market/society

- ✓ Additional funding
- ✓ Extensions eligibility window

Minimum 50% of PI working time in an EU Member Sate or Associated Country



ERC Guides - 3 essential documents

ERC Work Programme

1 / calls calendar



Information for Applicants

- IfA to StG & CoG calls
- IfA to AdG call
- IfA to SyG call
- IfA to PoC call



Guide for Peer Reviewers

- GfPR StG & CoG calls
- GfPR AdG call
- GfPR SyG call
- GfPR PoC call







Calendario WP 2023

Indicative summary of calls from the 2023 budget¹⁹

| | Starting Grant | Consolidator Grant | Advanced Grant | Synergy Grant | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|--|
| Call identifier | ERC-2023-StG | ERC-2023-CoG | ERC-2023-AdG | ERC-2023-SyG | |
| Call opens | 12/07/2022 | 28/09/2022 | 08/12/2022 | 13/07/2022 | |
| Call deadline | 25/10/2022 | 02/02/2023 | 23/05/2023 | 08/11/2022 | |
| Budget million EUR (estimated number of grants) | 628 (407) | 595 (300) | 597 (246) | 300 (30) | |
| Planned dates to inform applicants after each step | 26/05/2023 25/08/2023 | 07/07/2023 08/12/2023 | 19/01/2024 19/04/2024 | 04/05/2023 04/09/2023 14/11/2023 | |
| Indicative date for signature of grant agreements | 23/12/2023 | 06/04/2024 | 17/08/2024 | 02/04/2024 | |



ERC INDIVIDUAL GRANTS 2023

StG, CoG, AdG



ERC Grant Schemes

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- √ Additional funding
- ✓ Extensions eligibility window

Minimum 50% of PI working time in an EU Member Sate or Associated Country

ERC Profile – individual Schemes

STARTING GRANTS

must have already shown the potential for research independence and evidence of maturity, e.g. at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor

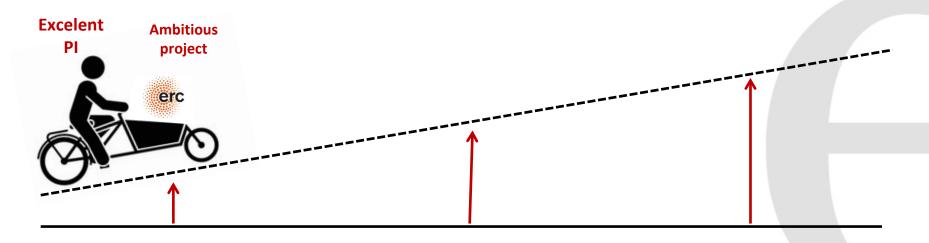
CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

must have already shown research independence and evidence of maturity, e.g. by having produced several important publications as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor.

ADVANCED GRANTS

researchers and to have a track record of significant research achievements

No PhD or seniority experience (years) needed





ERC achievements track record*

(Record of achievements <u>appropriate to the field</u> and at least matching one or more of the following benchmarks)

- Up to five (StG)/up to ten (CoG) publications in major international peer-reviewed (p-r) multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international p-r journals, p-r conferences proceedings and/or monographs of their respective research fields, highlighting those as main author or without the presence as co-author of their PhD supervisor
- Up to ten (AdG) representative publications, from the last ten years, as main author (or in those fields where alphabetic order of authorship is the norm, joint author) in major international p-r multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international p-r journals and p-r conference proceedings of their respective research fields

(properly referenced, field relevant bibliometric indicators may also be included); **preprints** may be included, if **freely available** from a preprint server (preprints should be properly referenced and either a link to the preprint or a DOI should be provided);

- Research monographs and any translations thereof Up to three (AdG)
- Granted patents Up to five (AdG)
- Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools Up to ten (AdG)
- Prizes, awards, academy memberships
- Research expeditions that the applicant PI has led Up to three (AdG)
- Organisation of international conferences in the field of the applicant (membership in the steering and/or organising committee) (AdG)
- Major contributions to the early careers of excellent researchers (AdG)
- Examples of innovation leadership (AdG)

ERC extensions to the eligibility window

Consideration of achievements over a longer period than:

| Eligibility period: Principal Investigator(s) who have successfully defended their first PhD | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Starting Grant | Consolidator Grant | Advanced and Synergy Grant | | | |
| > 2 and ≤ 7 years | > 7 and ≤ 12 years | | | | |
| prior to 1 January 2023 | prior to 1 January 2023 | | | | |
| Cut-off dates: Successful defence of PhD between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2020 (inclusive) | Cut-off dates: Successful defence of PhD between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2015 (inclusive) | No specific criteria | | | |

Starting Grants | ERC-2023-StG

Entre > 2 y \leq 7 años de experiencia posdoc antes del 01/01/2023. Fechas de corte: PhD awarded from 01/01/2016 – 31/12/2020 (incluidos).

Consolidator Grants | ERC-2023-CoG

Entre > 7 y \leq 12 años de experiencia posdoc antes del 01/01/2023.

Fechas de corte: PhD awarded from 01/01/2011 - 31/12/2015 (incluidos).

Circumstances:

- Maternity: 18 months extension for each child born. Longer maternities also considered.
- Paternity: elapsed time of paternity leave taken until the call deadline for each child born.
- Long-term illness, clinical qualifications or national service: amount of leave taken by the Principal Investigator until the call deadline for each incident which occurred after the PhD award.
- Clinical training: extension by the documented amount of clinical training received by the PI after the award of the first eligible degree and until the call deadline, up to a maximum of 4 years.
- + 2 new grounds for extensions from WP2023
- seeking asylum
- being a victim of a natural disaster



PhD reference date



! WP2023: PhD reference date for the calculation of the eligibility period from the date of the actual award according to the national rules of the country where the degree was awarded to the date of the successful PhD defence.

De acuerdo con el Real Decreto 1002/2010, de 5 de agosto, sobre expedición de títulos universitarios oficiales, en su artículo 3, punto 4 establece lo siguiente:

4.Los títulos universitarios oficiales, expedidos de conformidad con lo previsto en este real decreto, surtirán efectos plenos desde la fecha de la completa finalización de los estudios correspondientes a su obtención.

La fecha de expedición del título se corresponde con la fecha de abono de las tasas para su expedición. La legislación española dice, por tanto, que es la fecha de completa finalización (cumplimiento del último de los requisitos = día de lectura), no el de expedición, lo que hay que considerar.

https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2010-12621

Por tanto, para el caso de los títulos de PhD expedidos en España, no cambia nada. Se seguirá considerando el día de defensa del título, como hasta ahora.



Project Budget



Up to **[1,5; 2; 2,5] million euros for 5 years** (60 months)

- + Additional funding up to 1M€ when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work:
 - "start-up" costs for PIs moving to the EU or an Associated Country 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, excluding personnel costs.

All funding requested is assessed during evaluation.

These costs are justified separately in the proposal. There is no definition of "equipment" or "facilities" and all requests will be evaluated by the peer review panel.



The Host Institution (HI)



Any type of **legal entity**, private or public (universities, research centres, industry,...)

Based in one of the **EU Member States**, or one of the **Associated Countries**.

The PI does not necessarily need to be working at the Host Institution at the time when the proposal is submitted.

The HI is not an evaluation criteria, but a **HI commitment letter** is needed with the proposal.

Must host and engage the PI for the whole duration of the action

Must guarantee the PI scientific independence

Must provide research support and administrative assistance (if granted)



Signature of the Grant Agreement
Signature of a Supplementary Agreement with the PI

Gender Equality Plan

The organization must have a Gender Equality Plan (GEP) at the time of signing the grant agreement





EU contribution and management of the grant

An ERC grant can cover up to 100% of the total eligible direct costs of the research plus 25% contribution towards indirect costs.

Direct costs:

- Personnel costs (PI + research team)
- Equipment (Pendiente de más detalles.)
- Consumables
- Travels, publications,...
- Se aplican las reglas de la Host Institution
- Flexibilidad: se aceptan modificaciones mediante enmiendas al acuerdo de subvención
- Informes (2) Informes científicos a la mitad y final del proyecto
 - (4) Financieros cada 18 meses
- Las ayudas reciben entre 25-40% de pre-financiación
- Gestión de los fondos por parte del IP
- Las ayudas son **portables**



EU contribution and management of the grant

An ERC grant can cover up to **100% of the total eligible direct costs** of the research **plus 25%** contribution towards **indirect costs**.

Direct costs:

Equipment (Pendiente de más detalles.)



Explicit provision for possibility of equipment to be declared as capitalised costs

Purchases of equipment, infrastructure, or other assets for the actions must be declared as depreciation costs. Moreover, an applicant can request to include in the GA equipment, infrastructure, or other assets purchased specifically for the action that may exceptionally be declared as full capitalised costs.

ERC 2023 Proposal – individual Schemes

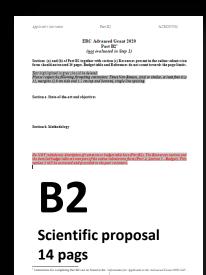
One deadline | 2 steps evaluation process

The ERC full proposal = B1 + B2 + PartA*



B1

Extended Synopsis 5 pags



Part B1 – documento pdf

- Cover Page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5pags)
- Curriculum vitae (2pags)
- Track-record (2p)

Part B2 – documento pdf (14pags

- SoA & objectives
- Methodology

Parte A - Formularios online

- **A1 General Information**
- A2 Participants (GEP)
- A3 Budget *

table + description (8.000c)

A4 Ethics and security

A5 Other questions

% Time commitment*
Exclusión hasta 3 evaluadores

Annexes

- HI support letter
- PhD certificate
- Ethics issues and security
- Eligibility window





ERC Evaluation panels - individual Schemes

27 panels(11 PE, 9 LS, 7 SH)

Each panel covers a given breath of research topics, further detailed with its descriptors



15-20 subfields/descriptors per panel









When you submit, you need to indicate:

Primary ERC Review Panel: which will in principle evaluate the

proposal

Secondary ERC Review Panel: if applicable

ERC Keyword 1: must be linked to the Primary Review Panel.

ERC Keyword 2-4: *if applicable, from any panel*

Free keywords: FREE text, they guide (but do not determine) the allocation of proposals to reviewers

ERC Panel Structure 2021/2022

Physical Sciences & Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical & Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- PE6 Computer Science & Informatics
- PE7 Systems & Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products & Process Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science
- PE11 Materials Engineering (New 2021)

Life Sciences (Revision on the descriptors)

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

Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisa ons
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- SH3 The Social World and its Diversity
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures & Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space (New 2021)

https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/docume nt/file/ERC Panel structure 2021 2022.pdf



ERC Evaluation panels

27 panels (11 PE, 9 LS, 7 SH)

Each panel is composed by **16-18 panel members.**

The panel chair is known during the evaluation however the composition is made public once the results are published.

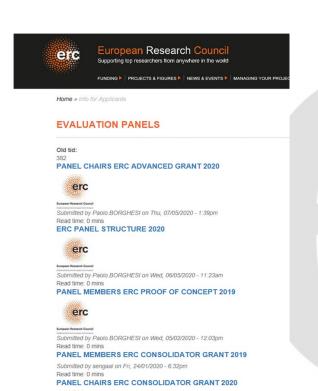
A panel may not include an expert in your discipline, they are semigeneralists

ERC 2023 panels ≈ ERC 2021 panels

https://erc.europa.eu/document-category/evaluation-panels







ERC Evaluation panels + Panel Members

LS8 Evaluation Panel (subfields)

LS8 Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology

LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution

For all organisms:

Ecology, biodiversity, environmental change, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology, marine biology, ecophysiology, theoretical developments and modelling

Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology (LS8)

- LS8_1 Ecosystem and community ecology, macroecology
- LS8_2 Biodiversity
- LS8 3 Conservation biology
- LS8_4 Population biology, population dynamics, population genetics
- LS8_5 Biological aspects of environmental change, including climate change
- LS8 6 Evolutionary ecology
- LS8_7 Evolutionary genetics
- LS8_8 Phylogenetics, systematics, comparative biology
- LS8_9 Macroevolution and paleobiology
- LS8_10 Ecology and evolution of species interactions
- LS8_11 Behavioural ecology and evolution
- LS8 12 Microbial ecology and evolution
- LS8_13 Marine biology and ecology
- LS8_14 Ecophysiology, from organisms to ecosystems
- LS8_15 Theoretical developments and modelling in environmental biology, ecology, and evolution

Jacobus Boomsma (Panel Chair)

- Melissa Bateson
 Joy Bergelson
 Michael Boots
 - Sandra Diaz
- José María Gómez Lead reviewer Michael S. M. Jetten Christiane Lancelot (Van Beveren)
- Anne MagurranDiethard TautzRalph Tiedemann
- Yves Van de Peer Lars Werdelin



ERC Evaluation panels + Panel Members

LS8 Evaluation Panel (subfields)

LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution

For all organisms:

Ecology, biodiversity, environmental change, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology, marine biology, ecophysiology, theoretical developments and modelling

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LS8 Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology

Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology (LS8)

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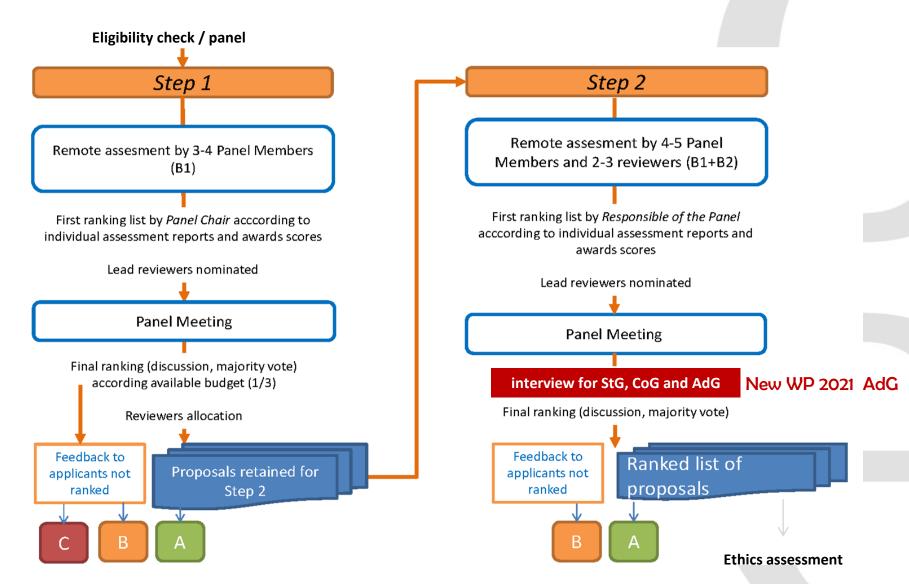
Yves Van de Peer

Lars Werdelin





ERC Evaluation process – individual Schemes





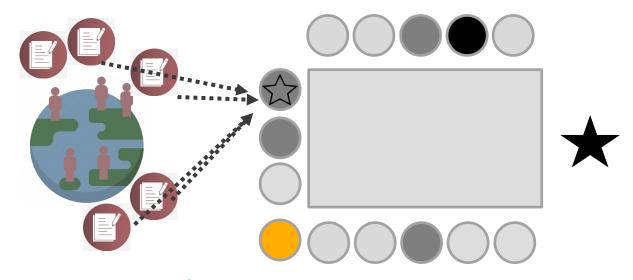


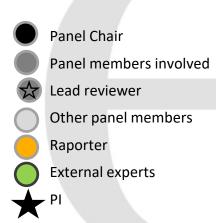
The interview

Presentation (3-10 min.) + Question (15 min) = Total 30min
Panel members: Top Science Experts , but possibly no expert in your field
Reports from Top Science Experts in your field
Consensus must be reached

Challenges:

- Present your project to general audience
- Answer technical questions from experts
- Answer broad questions from non-experts
- Remote format for PI but panel on-site









Restrictions on submission of proposals

Step 1 restrictions

Score C: 2 years Score B: 1 Year

Step 2 NO restrictions

Score B Score A Reserve list Main list

| Call to which the Princi under previous ERC Work evaluatio | 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 |
| | A or B at Step 3 | No restrictions |
| 2022 Synergy Grant | B at Step 1 or 2 | No restrictions |
| | C at Step 1 | Advanced and Synergy Grant |
| 2022 Starting, Consolidator, | A or B at Step 2 | No restrictions |
| or Advanced Grant | B or C at Step 1 | Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant |

- A "C" score in Step 1 as outcome of ERC 2023 call may prevent you from resubmitting until 2026 calls.
- A "B" score in Step 1 as outcome of ERC2023 call may prevent you from resubmitting until 2025 calls.
- A "C" score in Step 1 as outcome of SynergyGrant call may prevent you from resubmitting to the following AdG and SyG call
- Restriction related to PIs holding an ongoing grant (except PoC) must end within 2 years after the call deadline
- Restrictions for PIs who served as panel members under previous calls apply.

Applicants may also be subject to restrictions on submitting proposals to future ERC calls based on the outcome of the evaluation. Applicants will need to check the restrictions in place for each call





ERC SYNERGY GRANT 2023



ERC Grant Schemes - Synergy Grant 2023

Who can apply?

2-3-4 Principal Investigators of any nationality and at any career stage.

With a designated corresponding PI (cPI) and corresponding HI (cHI) who will be the administrative contacts for the duration of the project.

- PIs to engage genuinely in the collaboration
- ≥50% of working time in EU or Associated Countries (AC) and
- ≥30% of working time on the ERC project

One PI (not the cPI) can apply with a Host Institution outside of EU or Associated Countries



Funding

Maximum of **10M**€ for a maximum of **6 years** (reduced pro rata for shorter duration).

Additional max 4M€ globally for the project



Design of the ERC Synergy call 2023

SyG2023 call to open for submission on 13 July 2022

SyG-2023

Call budget: 300 M€

~30 grants to be funded

Grant size: up to 10M€ + 4M€ for 6 years

Host Institutions in EU or AC, with the possibility of having one HI outside 2-3-4 Principal Investigators (PIs) No restrictions on their location at the time of application

≥50% of working time in EU or AC* ≥30% of working time on the ERC project

PIs can be in the same or different institutions

SyG2023: call to close for submission of proposals on 8 November 2022

3 step evaluation: with interviews with all Pls in step 3

*Note: it does not apply to the Principal Investigator applying with a Host Institution outside of EU or AC



ERC Synergy grant features

Joint effort

Breakthroughs not possible by individual PIs working alone

Strong commitment

A PI is expected to remain part of the group for the whole grant

Ambitious research problem

Synergy

Know-how of the group

+

Combination of scientific approaches

Equality among PIs

With a designated corresponding PI

Pls of any career stage

PIs choose the type of track record (StG/CoG/AdG)





ERC Synergy grant features

PIs must demonstrate that their group can successfully bring together the scientific elements necessary to address the scope and complexity of the proposed research question.

Joint effort

Breakthroughs not possible by individual PIs working alone YES: A major scientific question with a transformative scientific potential that could not be addressed by an individual PI and their team working alone.

Strong commitment

A PI is expected to remain part of the group for the whole grant

Ambitious research problem

Synergy

Know-how of the group

Combination of scientific approaches

Note: The proposed work does not need to cover more than one discipline or field to be considered for the Synergy grants

Equality among PIs

With a designated corresponding PI

Pls of any career stage

PIs choose the type of track record (StG/CoG/AdG) Involves teams with exceptional combinations of knowledge and skills with the PIs holding a central role





ERC Synergy grant features

YES: PIs must demonstrate that their group can successfully bring together the scientific elements necessary to address the scope and complexity of the proposed research question.

NO: Loose cooperation or networking between PIs

Strong commitment

A PI is expected to remain part of the group for the whole grant Joint effort

Breakthroughs not possible by individual PIs working alone

Ambitious research problem

Pls of any career stage

PIs choose the type of track record (StG/CoG/AdG) YES: A major scientific question with a transformative scientific potential that could not be addressed by an individual PI and their team working alone.

Synergy

Know-how of the group

Combination of scientific approaches

NO: Simple passing of data or information from one team to another

Involves teams with exceptional combinations of knowledge and skills with the PIs holding a central role

Equality among PIs
With a designated

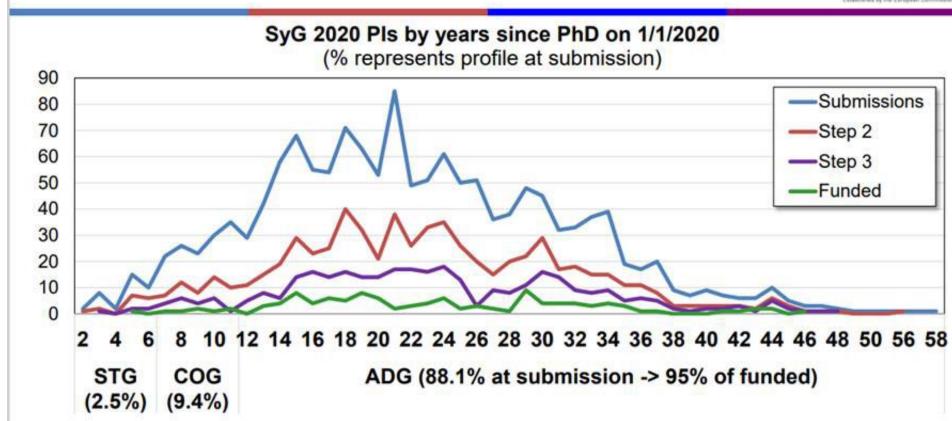
corresponding PI



ERC SYG2020 - Principal Investigators

Profile of Principal Investigators throughout the call



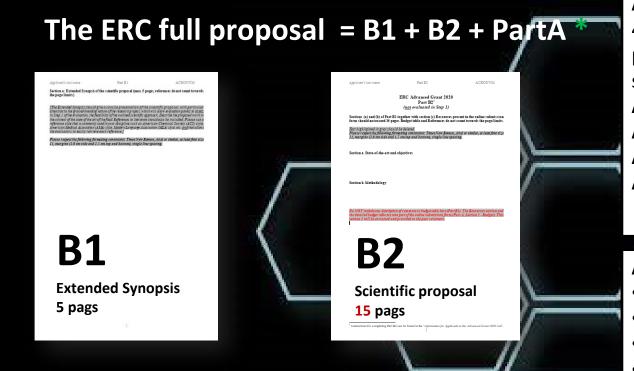






ERC 2023 Proposal – Synergy Grant

One deadline | 3 steps evaluation process



Parte A – Formularios online A1 General Information

4-6 ERC keywords are selected, panels are not defined at submission

A2 Participants

A3 Budget

A4 Ethics and security

A5 Other questions

Exclusión hasta 4 evaluadores

Annexes

- HI support letter
- Ethics issues and security
- Eligibility window
- PhD

Part B1 – documento pdf

- Cover Page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5pags)
- Curriculum vitae (2pags) X PI
- Track-record (2p) X PI

Part B2 – documento pdf (15 pags)

- SoA & objectives
- Methodology
- c. Resources (budget breakdown per PI + a joint one)

ERC Evaluation process ERC SyG Grant 2023

No predefined panels in SyG evaluations!

Panel Members SyG2020 https://erc.europa.eu/content/panel-members-erc-synergy-grant-2020

Step 1

U

Single panel

all proposals

1

Remote evaluation Part B1

85 (SyG PMs + PEVs : PMs of other calls)

Meeting: only SyG Panel Chairs and Vice Chairs. preselect proposals for full review

•up to ~7x call budget

Feedback: B and C

Step 2

U

5 panels <u>dynamically</u> formed

Remote evaluation of full proposals (B1 + B2)

SyG PMs + external specialized reviewers 17 experts per panel

1

Meeting: all panel members

preselect proposals for interview

•up ~4x call budget

Feedback: B

Step 3

1

max 5 interview panels dynamically formed



PMs reassess the retained proposals

- based on step 2 reports & prepare Qs for the interviews
- Meeting: all panel members; interviews will all PIs > rank proposals
 - SyG PMS



Ranking of fundable proposals

- main list ~ 30 funded in total

Feedback: A and B

MUCHAS GRACIAS