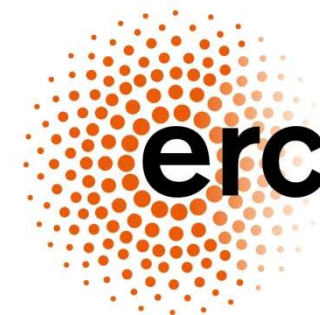


# The European Research Council

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Info Session on ERC funding opportunities  
Equadiff 15 Masaryk University  
Maria Gonzalez  
PE1 panel coordinator



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# ERC Basics – bottom up approach

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# ERC Basics

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**EXCELLENCE**

**ANY FIELD  
OF RESEARCH**

**PORTABLE**

**INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS FROM ALL  
OVER THE WORLD**

**LONG TERM  
GRANTS**

**HIGH-RISK/HIGH-GAIN  
GROUNDBREAKING**

**RESEARCH  
FRONTIER**



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# ERC Grant Schemes



Extensions to eligibility window possible!

## Starting Grants

starters (2-7 years after PhD) up to € 1.5 Mio for 5 years



## Consolidator Grants

Consolidators (7-12 years after PhD) up to € 2 Mio for 5 years



## Advanced Grants

track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years up to € 2.5 Mio for 5 years



## Synergy Grants

2 – 4 Principal Investigators up to € 10.0 Mio for 6 years  
1 PI can be based outside EU/AC



## Proof-of-Concept

bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation  
lump sum €150,000 for ERC grant holders



# Thinking on applying?

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## **KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!**

Evaluation process

Resources available

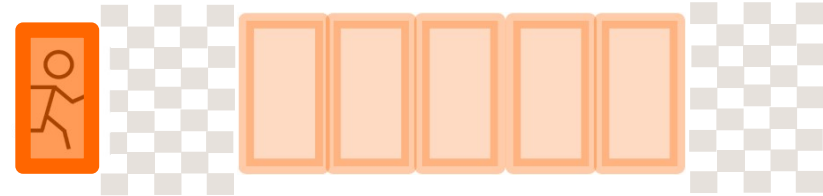
# Evaluation process overview - Regular calls



Synergy grants have an extra step

Single submission – two-step evaluation

# Panels



- Three domains, 27 panels



9



11



7

Each panel contains a series of descriptors

- Panel member recruitment – Scc

Ahead of time

Average of 15

Appointed chair  
public

Constraints

# PE1 descriptors

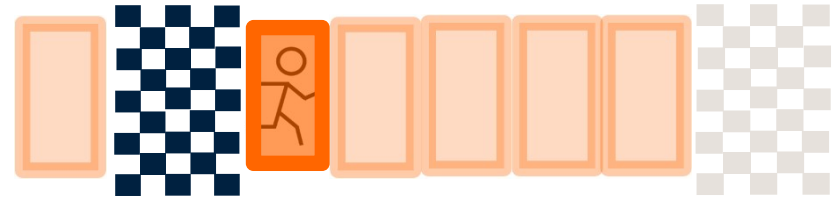
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|        |   |        |   |
|--------|---|--------|---|
| PE1_1  | Logic and foundations                                 | PE1_12 | Mathematical physics                                  |
| PE1_2  | Algebra   | PE1_13 | Probability   |
| PE1_3  | Number theory   | PE1_14 | Mathematical statistics                               |
| PE1_4  | Algebraic and complex geometry                        | PE1_15 | Generic statistical methodology and modelling         |
| PE1_5  | Lie groups, Lie algebras                              | PE1_16 | Discrete mathematics and combinatorics                |
| PE1_6  | Geometry and global analysis                          | PE1_17 | Mathematical aspects of computer science              |
| PE1_7  | Topology  | PE1_18 | Numerical analysis                                    |
| PE1_8  | Analysis  | PE1_19 | Scientific computing and data processing              |
| PE1_9  | Operator algebras and functional analysis             | PE1_20 | Control theory, optimisation and operational research |
| PE1_10 | ODE and dynamical systems                             | PE1_21 | Application of mathematics in sciences                |
| PE1_11 | Theoretical aspects of partial differential equations | PE1_22 | Application of mathematics in industry and society    |

**PE1\_14 renamed**  
**PE1\_15 NEW**  
**PE1\_20 modified to include OR**

# Submission deadline reached

## Initial panel Chair meeting



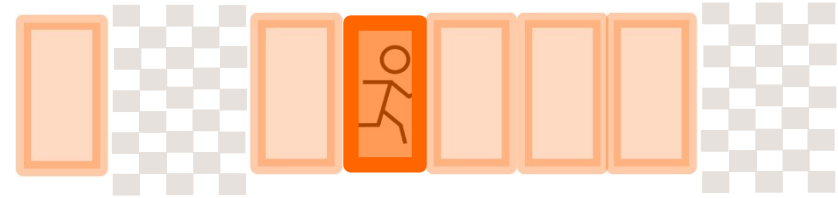
- **Applicant:**
  - Home panel and secondary panel
  - ERC descriptors and free keywords
- **Panel chair:**
  - Transfers
  - Cross panels
  - Assignments
    - At least 3 in panel
- **Panel members:**
  - Declare expertise
  - Declare Col
  - In cases review preferences

**Elaborate your selection!**

**If you are lucky one is close to field but rest are not!**

**Agency further checks Col and eligibility**

# Step 1 remote evaluation



**WHO**



**generalists**

**WHAT**

**Part B1** 

**Excellence**



**HOW**

**Research project**

**Principal investigator**



# Evaluation Form: Research Project

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## ***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)?*

# Evaluation Form: Principal investigator

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*To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?*

*To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?*

*To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?*

*To what extent has the PI demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists (**for Advanced Grant applicants**)?*

# Keep all this in mind when writing B1

- Part B2 will only be assessed if you go to Step 2  
They are independent documents
- Panel members = generalists  
Convince all
- Clarity: structure, novelty, goals, why you...  
Don't make a PM's work harder than it already is  
Highlighted publications: Elaborate your contribution
- The panel needs to assess feasibility  
Detailed methodology is only in B2 but here you need to give the essential info
- Do not hide career breaks



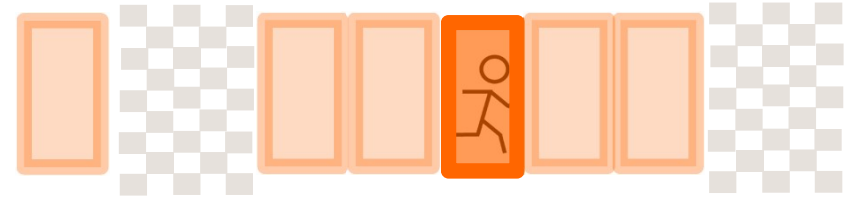
European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



New Covid section

# Step 1 panel meeting

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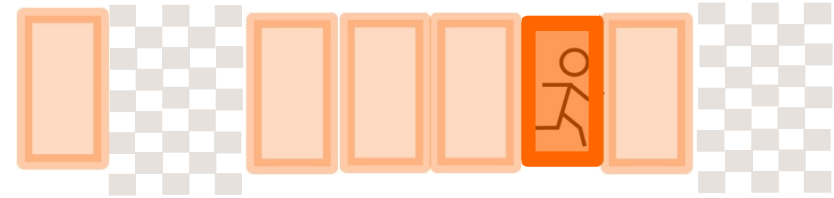


Ranked list 

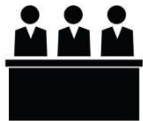
Nomination of RRs 

Feedback 

# Step 2 remote evaluation



## WHO



## WHAT

B1 & B2



Excellence

## HOW

Research project

Principal investigator



# Evaluation Form: what is new in Step 2?

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*To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?*

*To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?*

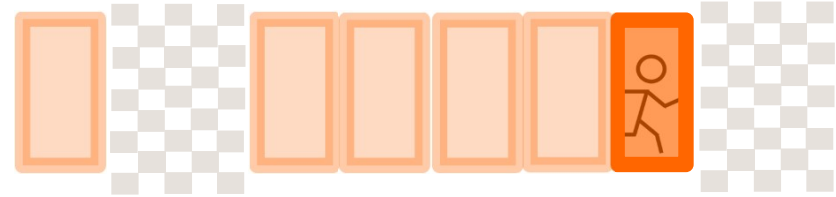
*To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?*

## For part B2 keep in mind

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- Clear structure
- Experts have access to B1 too
- Time for methodology and work plan
- Involvement of team members (do not overdo with collaborators)
- Acknowledge the work of others
- Justify requested resources
- Immediate open access is mandatory (only full OA venues are eligible for reimbursement)

## Step 2 panel meeting



### Virtual Interviews



Now also in ADG!

25 min

Time is tight-Updates



Rehearse!

Budget Ready to explain?

### Ranked list



### Feedback



## Some tips coming from our panel members interview

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- Answer honestly and as precisely as you can.
- Listen carefully to the questions and answer them directly. Give specific rather than general answers.
- It is perfectly OK to answer "I don't know" or "this point of my proposal is maybe overly optimistic".
- StG especially: be ready to argue your independence

## Maybe you did not know

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- Budget is allocated on demand
- Success rate is flat across eligibility window
- Quality/potential of applicant is evaluated in view of concrete career stage and local conditions
- Already having an ERC grant does not guarantee obtaining another one
- Resubmissions have a significantly higher success rate

# New deadlines

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| ERC calls                           | Call Opening | Submission Deadline |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Starting Grants<br>ERC-2023-StG     | 12-07-2022   | 25-10-2022          |
| Consolidator Grants<br>ERC-2023-CoG | 28-09-2022   | 02-02-2023          |
| Advanced Grants<br>ERC-2023-AdG     | 08-12-2022   | 23-05-2023          |
| Synergy Grants<br>ERC-2023-SyG      | 13-07-2022   | 08-11-2022          |

# Where can you find more information?

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## Videos - ERC Classes

- What to consider before applying
- How to fill in the application  
(Part B1 and B2)
- The interview
- How the evaluation works

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbFbzkVWgCU&list=PLtv6FnsXqnXAYRk6HCErwMxwMLOZKoMcy>

# Help available

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Info for applicants and work programme (also for peer reviewers!)

ERC website



Grantees experiences and funded projects

Additional opportunities



Questions?

THANKS

**Creative ideas have no limits**

ERC, funding blue sky research

