Horizon Europe

European Research Council (ERC) Frontier Research Grants

Information for Applicants to the Advanced Grant Call

European Research Council
Executive Agency

Established by the European Commission

Version 3.0
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1.0	20.05.2021	▪ Information for Applicants to the Advanced Grant 2021 Call
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Warning: The budget table, description of resources and time commitment are part of the online submission form (Section 3 – Budget and Section 5 – Other questions). Do NOT include them in Part B2.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

The present document is based on the legal documents setting the rules and conditions for the ERC frontier research grants, in particular:

➢ the ERC Work Programme 2023[1],
➢ the European Research Council Rules of Submission, and the related methods and procedures for peer review and proposal evaluation relevant to the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe (hereinafter ERC Rules of submission and evaluation under Horizon Europe), and
➢ the Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions[2].

This document does not supersede the afore-mentioned documents, which are legally binding. In case of any discrepancies the European Commission, the ERC Executive Agency or any person or body acting on their behalf cannot be held responsible for the use made of this document.

The Guide for ERC Peer Reviewers – applicable to the Advanced Grant call, provides practical information on the evaluation process.

National Contact Points (ERC NCPs) have been set up across Europe[3] by the national governments to provide information and personalised support to ERC applicants in their native language. The mission of the ERC NCPs is to raise awareness, inform and advise on ERC funding opportunities as well as to support potential applicants in the preparation, submission and follow-up of ERC grant applications. For details on the ERC NCP in your country please consult the ERC website or the Funding & Tenders Portal.

Abbreviations

AC – Associated Country[4]

ADG – Advanced Grant

COG – Consolidator Grant

ERC – European Research Council

ERC NCPs – ERC National Contact Points

ERC panel – ERC peer review evaluation panel

ERC WP – ERC Work Programme 2023

ERCEA – European Research Council Executive Agency

EU MS – EU Member State

F&T Portal – Funding & Tenders Portal Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

HE FP – Horizon Europe Framework Programme

HI – Host Institution

PI – Principal Investigator

PIC – Participant Identification Code

PM – Panel Member

STG – Starting Grant

SYG – Synergy Grant

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[1] European Commission C(2022) 4861 of 11 July 2022.
[2] Specific rules for ERC actions are detailed in Annex 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.
[3] This applies to EU Member States and Associated Countries. Some other countries also provide this service.
[4] Please check the Horizon Europe Programme Guide on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal for up-to-date information on the current position for Associated Countries.

Content

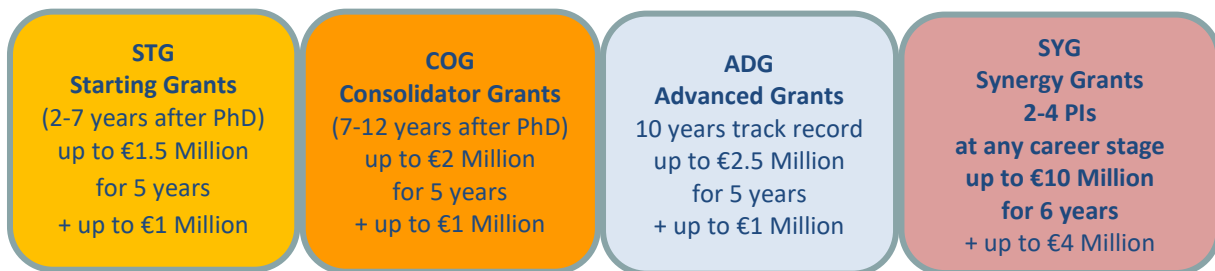**ERC ADVANCED GRANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

1. ERC ADVANCED GRANTS 2023

1.1   ERC FUNDING PRINCIPLES

The ERC Advanced Grants are part of the 2023 main ERC frontier research grants funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HE FP) for Research and Innovation.

The ERC's main frontier research grants aim to empower individual researchers and provide the best settings to foster their creativity. **Scientific excellence** is the sole criterion of evaluation. Please see below an overview of all ERC 2023 main frontier research grant calls.

STG **Starting Grants** (2-7 years after PhD) up to €1.5 Million for 5 years + up to €1 Million	COG **Consolidator Grants** (7-12 years after PhD) up to €2 Million for 5 years + up to €1 Million	ADG **Advanced Grants** 10 years track record up to €2.5 Million for 5 years + up to €1 Million	SYG **Synergy Grants** **2-4 PIs** **at any career stage** **up to €10 Million** **for 6 years** + up to €4 Million

Single Principal Investigator (PI) heading research teams

The ERC ADG grants support individual researchers who are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements and who can demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their research proposal. In certain fields (e.g., in the humanities and mathematics), where research is often performed individually, the 'team' may consist solely of the Principal Investigator.

Research fields – no predetermined priorities

The ERC frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis and applications can be made in any field of research with an emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering[5]. In particular, the ERC encourages proposals of a multi- or interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research, pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions. The focus is on the PI and on the individual team. Support for consortia is provided by other calls under Horizon Europe. Projects wholly or largely consisting in the collation and compilation of existing material in new databases, editions or collections are unlikely to constitute ground-breaking or "frontier" research, however useful such resources might be to subsequent original research. Such projects are therefore unlikely to be recommended for funding by the ERC panels. The ERC aims at funding truly novel ideas, not just continuations of ongoing projects or existing collaborations. Frontier research is also expected to be risky. It is important, however, that the risk is well assessed and mitigating measures outlined in the proposal.

Evaluation and peer review

The ERC evaluation process is conducted by peer review panels composed of renowned scientists and scholars. The panel chair and members are selected by the ERC Scientific Council on the basis of

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[5] Research proposals within the scope of Annex I to the Euratom Treaty, namely those directed towards nuclear energy applications, must be submitted to relevant calls under the Euratom Framework Programme.

their scientific merits. The panels may be assisted by independent external experts working remotely.

Open Science

Open science is a core principle of the ERC. The ERC is committed to the principle of open access to the published output of research, including in particular peer-reviewed articles and monographs. It also supports the basic principle of open access to research data and data related products such as computer code, algorithms, software, workflows, protocols, electronic notebooks or any other forms of research output. The ERC considers that providing free online access to all these materials can be the most effective way to ensure that the results of the research it funds can be accessed, read and used as the basis for further advancement.

Under Horizon Europe, beneficiaries of ERC grants must ensure open access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications[6] relating to their results as set out in the Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions. Open access has to be provided with full re-use rights[7]. Beneficiaries must ensure that they or the authors retain sufficient intellectual property rights to comply with their open access requirements. Publishing costs can be considered as eligible costs provided that the publishing venue (e.g., journal, book) is fully open access.

In addition, beneficiaries of ERC frontier research grants funded under the ERC Work Programme 2023 will automatically be covered by the provisions on research data management as set out in the Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions. In particular, whenever a project generates research data, beneficiaries are required to manage it in line with the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability as described by the FAIR principles initiative[8], and establish a data management plan within the first six months of project implementation. Open access to research data should be ensured under the principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'. These provisions are designed to facilitate access, re-use and preservation of the research data generated during the ERC funded research work.

Funding

Advanced Grants can be up to a maximum of EUR 2 500 000 for a period of 5 years. **For projects of shorter duration the maximum amount of the grant is reduced *pro rata temporis*.**

Additional funding up to EUR 1 000 000 can be requested in the proposal to cover the following eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work:

(a) "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
(b) the purchase of major equipment and/or
(c) access to large facilities and/or
(d) other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs.

Additional funding is not subject to *pro rata temporis* reduction for projects of shorter duration. All funding requested is assessed during evaluation.

Eligible project costs will be reimbursed at a funding rate of 100% for direct costs plus a flat-rate of 25% for indirect costs[9].

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[6] This includes peer-reviewed book chapters and long-text publications such as monographs, edited collections, critical editions, scholarly exhibition catalogues, or PhD theses.
[7] For monographs and other long-text formats, commercial re-use and derivative works may be excluded.
[8] The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship | Scientific Data (nature.com)
[9] Excluding the direct eligible costs for subcontracting, and internally invoiced goods and services.

Research integrity

Cases of scientific misconduct such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or misrepresentation of data[10] may result in the rejection of proposals in accordance with section 3.11 of the [ERC Rules of submission and evaluation under Horizon Europe](). Please also note that plagiarism detection software is used to analyse all submitted proposals to detect similar proposals submitted by different PIs. A procedure is in place to assess alleged or suspected cases of scientific misconduct. Scientific misconduct may result in the rejection of the proposal from the current call and a possible restriction on submission of proposals to future calls, as provided in the relevant ERC Work Programme.

Advanced Grant profile

Principal Investigators must provide a list of achievements reflecting their track record. A short narrative describing the scientific importance of the research outputs and the role played by the Principal Investigator in their production may also be included.

Applicants are encouraged to evaluate their track record and research independence against the below-mentioned benchmarks, in order to judge their likelihood for success and to avoid investing effort in proposals that are very unlikely to succeed.

In the context of the Covid-19 outbreak, applicants may mention in Part B1 of their research proposal (section b. Curriculum Vitae) any specific situation caused by the pandemic that had a negative impact on their CV or track record.

Advanced Grant
ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigators are expected to be active researchers and to have a track record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years, which must be presented in the application. A competitive Advanced Grant Principal Investigator must have already shown a record which identifies them as an exceptional leader in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions.
Advanced Grant applicant PIs are expected to demonstrate a record of achievements in the past ten years appropriate to their research field and at least matching one or more of the following benchmarks, for instance: 10 publications as main author in major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary scientific journals, and/or leading international peer-reviewed journals and peer-reviewed conferences proceedings of their respective field; 3 major research monographs (for research fields where publication of monographs is the norm). Applicants PIs should clearly report joint authorships and co-corresponding roles in their publications. They may also demonstrate a record of invited presentations in well-established international conferences, organization of international conferences, granted patents, leading research expeditions, awards, prizes, academy memberships, etc.[11].
Any documented career break during the last ten years (e.g., parental leave, long-term illness, inability to work due to (i) natural disaster and (ii) seeking asylum) should be clearly explained in the dedicated section of the CV, if the PI wishes to extend the track record beyond ten years.

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[10] For example, if (i) in the list of publications, the order of authors does not appear as indicated in the original publications; (ii) the written consent of the research collaborators mentioned in the proposal is not obtained by the call submission deadline.

[11] See the [ERC WP 2023]() for the full description of the AdG profile, possible extensions of the period under consideration for the assessment of research achievements and career breaks.

1.2   ADMISSIBILITY AND ELIGIBILITY

Admissible and eligible proposals

All proposals must be complete, readable, and accessible. They must be submitted by eligible Principal Investigators before the relevant call deadline. Please see section 2.1 for an overview of a complete ERC proposal. Proposals that do not meet these criteria may be declared inadmissible. All scientific fields are eligible for ERC funding[12].

All applications and the related supporting information are reviewed to ensure that all admissibility and eligibility criteria are met. The proposal's content should be related to the objectives of the call and must meet all its admissibility and eligibility requirements as defined in the ERC Work Programme 2023. If there are doubts about the admissibility or eligibility of a proposal, the peer review evaluation may proceed pending a final decision by the admissibility and eligibility review committee. The fact that a proposal is evaluated in such circumstances does not constitute proof of its admissibility or eligibility. If it becomes clear before, during or after the peer review evaluation phase, that one or more of the admissibility or eligibility criteria has not been met (for example, due to incorrect or misleading information), the proposal will be declared inadmissible or ineligible and it will be rejected.

Host institution

The HI must engage and host the PI for at least the duration of the project, as defined in the grant agreement[13]. It must either be established in an EU MS or an AC as a legal entity created under national law, or it may be an international European research Organisation (such as CERN, EMBL, etc.), the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) or any other entity created under EU law. International organisations with headquarters in an EU MS or AC will be deemed to be established in this EU MS or AC. Any type of legal entity, public or private, including universities, research organisations and undertakings, can host Principal Investigators and their teams. The ERC welcomes applications from PIs hosted by private for-profit research centres, including industrial laboratories. Normally the PI will be employed by the HI, but cases where, for duly justified reasons, the PI's employer cannot become the HI, or where the PI is self-employed, can be accommodated. The specific conditions of engagement will be subject to clarification and approval during the granting procedure or during the amendment procedure for a change of HI.

Legal entities from an EU MS or AC that are public bodies, research organisations or higher education institutions (including private research organisations and private higher education institutions) must have a gender equality plan or an equivalent strategic document in place for the duration of the project. The gender equality plan or equivalent must fulfil the mandatory requirements listed in Annex 5 of the ERC Work Programme 2023.

During the granting process, the financial capacity of applicant legal entities will be assessed, if required[14].

Principal Investigator

ERC grants are open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any EU MS or AC. The research team may be of national or trans-national character. The PI does not

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[12] Research proposals within the scope of Annex I to the Euratom Treaty, namely those directed towards nuclear energy applications shall be submitted to relevant calls under the Euratom Framework Programme.

[13] Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions.

[14] Applicant legal entities must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects. The financial capacity of applicant legal entities will be verified in accordance with Article 198(5) of the Financial Regulation and Article 27 of the Horizon Europe Regulation.

need to be employed by the HI at the time when the proposal is submitted. However, the PI must be engaged by the latter at least for the duration of the grant. Grant proposals are submitted by the PI taking scientific responsibility for the project, on behalf of the host institution.

Expected time commitment

With the support of the HI, the successful PIs are expected to lead their individual teams and devote a significant amount of time to the project. They will be expected to dedicate a minimum of 30% of their working time to the ERC project and spend a minimum of 50% of their working time in an EU MS or an AC. The time commitment must be clearly indicated in the administrative form (Part A).

Submission restrictions

The ERC calls are highly competitive. Thousands of high quality proposals are received each year and only outstanding proposals are likely to be funded. In order to maintain the quality and integrity of the ERC evaluation process, restrictions on applications are in place.

The following general restrictions apply for the ERC 2023 frontier research calls (StG, CoG, AdG and SyG):
- A researcher may participate as PI in only one main ERC frontier research project at any one time[15]. A new main frontier research project can only start after the duration of the project fixed in a previous main frontier research ERC grant agreement has ended.
- A researcher participating as PI in an ERC frontier research project may not submit a proposal for another main ERC frontier research grant, unless the existing project ends no more than two years after the call deadline[16] (i.e., current grantees of a main ERC frontier grant can apply to the 2023 AdG call only if their current grant ends by 23 May 2025 – two years after the 2023 AdG call submission deadline).
- A PI who is a serving Panel Member for a 2023 ERC call or who served as a Panel Member for a 2021 ERC call may not apply to a 2023 ERC call for the same type of grant[17].
- A PI may submit proposals to different main ERC frontier research grant calls published under the same Work Programme, but only the first eligible proposal will be evaluated. The other proposal(s) will be declared ineligible, unless withdrawn by the applicants.

Additional restrictions have been designed to allow unsuccessful Principal Investigators (as listed below) the time necessary to develop a stronger proposal. Therefore, the outcome of the evaluation of previous submissions may prevent applications to the 2023 AdG call. Inadmissible, ineligible or withdrawn proposals do not count against any of the restrictions listed below.

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[15] Including all PIs supported under the Synergy Grant.
[16] According to the duration of the project defined in the previous grant agreement of the main frontier research grant.
[17] The members of the ERC panels alternate to allow panel members to apply to the ERC calls in alternate years.

Call to which the PI applied under previous ERC WP and proposal evaluation outcome		2023 ERC calls to which a PI is _not_ eligible
2021 and 2022 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or 2022 Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy Grant
2021 Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant
2022 Synergy Grant	A or B at Step 3	No restrictions
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	C at Step 1	Advanced and Synergy Grant
2022 Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 2	No restrictions
	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant

The year of an ERC call refers to the WP under which the call was published and can be established by its call identifier. A 2023 ERC call is therefore one that was published under the WP 2023 and will have 2023 in the call identifier (for example ERC-2023-AdG).

1.3   EVALUATION PROCESS

The ERC peer review evaluation process has been carefully designed to identify scientific excellence irrespective of gender, age, nationality or institution of the PI and other potential biases, and to take career breaks as well as unconventional research career paths into account[18]. The evaluations are monitored to guarantee transparency, fairness and impartiality in the treatment of proposals.

A single submission of the full proposal is followed by a two-step evaluation.

ERC evaluation panels[19]

The peer review is carried out by 27 evaluation panels (ERC panels), covering all fields of science, engineering and scholarship (see panel details and ERC keywords in Annex 4.1). For operational reasons they are divided into three main research domains:

  − Physical Sciences and Engineering (11 Panels),
  − Life Sciences (9 Panels) and,
  − Social Sciences and Humanities (7 Panels).

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[18] Regarding negative impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak on a Principal Investigator's curriculum vitae or track record, see section 2.3 of this guide.
[19] Please refer to the Guide for Peer Reviewers for details.

Before the deadline of a call, the names of the 27 panel chairs are published on the ERC website. The names of panel members are published after the evaluation process is concluded.

No Contact allowed with Peer Reviewers at any time

Please note that, in accordance with section 3.2 of the [ERC Rules of submission and evaluation under Horizon Europe](), any direct or indirect contact about the peer review evaluation of an ERC call between an applicant legal entity or a PI submitting a proposal on behalf of an applicant legal entity, and any independent external expert involved in the peer review evaluation under the same call, in view of attempting to influence the evaluation process, is strictly forbidden. Such contact can constitute an exclusion situation and may result in the decision of the ERCEA to reject the proposal concerned from the call in question (Article 141 of the Financial Regulation).

In addition, any contact with Peer Reviewers to obtain confidential information on the evaluation process is not allowed.

ERC Peer Reviewers are bound to confidentiality during as well as after the evaluation. Hence, they are not allowed to communicate about the evaluation and/or specific proposal(s) with the principal investigators or potential team members or persons linked to them even after the completion of the evaluation process.

Panel allocation and panel budgets

It is the applicant's responsibility to choose and indicate the most relevant ERC panel ('primary evaluation panel') for the evaluation of the proposed research and to indicate one or more ERC keywords representing the research fields involved. The applicant may indicate a secondary evaluation panel.

When choosing the panel, please take careful note of the panel details and ERC keywords in [Annex 4.1](). The ERC Scientific Council reviewed the ERC panels' structure since the 2021 calls, to redefine the contours of panels and enrich the descriptors, aiming at optimising scientific coverage while taking into account previous application numbers. This also resulted in the addition of two new panels: SH7 - Human Mobility Environment and Space and PE11 - Materials Engineering. The number of panels in the Life Sciences Domain did not change, however, the descriptors of some panels have been revised to address the multidisciplinary aspects of the domain and the continuum between its different areas, with translational work often seamlessly emerging from basic studies.
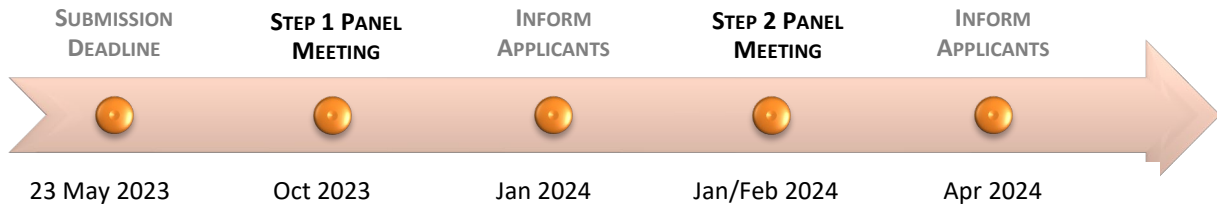
The initial allocation of the proposal to a panel will be based on the preference expressed by the applicant. However, when necessary due to the expertise required for the evaluation, a proposal may be reallocated to a different panel with the agreement of both panel chairs concerned. In such cases, applicants are informed of the reallocation of the proposal through the notification for the invitation to the interview (if applicable) or the information letter with the final outcome of the evaluation of their proposal.

The composition of the ERC evaluation panels is by nature multi-disciplinary. The evaluation panel will determine if additional reviews by appropriate members of other panel(s) or additional remote experts are needed.

An indicative budget is allocated to each panel in proportion to the budgetary demand of its assigned proposals. **This important principle ensures comparable success rates between the individual panels regardless of how many proposals each panel evaluates.** Depending on the budget available for the call, a budgetary cut-off applies to the call ranking list at both Step 1 and Step 2. Only proposals ranked A at Step 1 will be further evaluated and only the highest ranked A proposals at Step 2 will be invited for grant preparation until the call budget is spent. The remaining proposals recommended for funding may be funded by the ERC if additional funds become available.
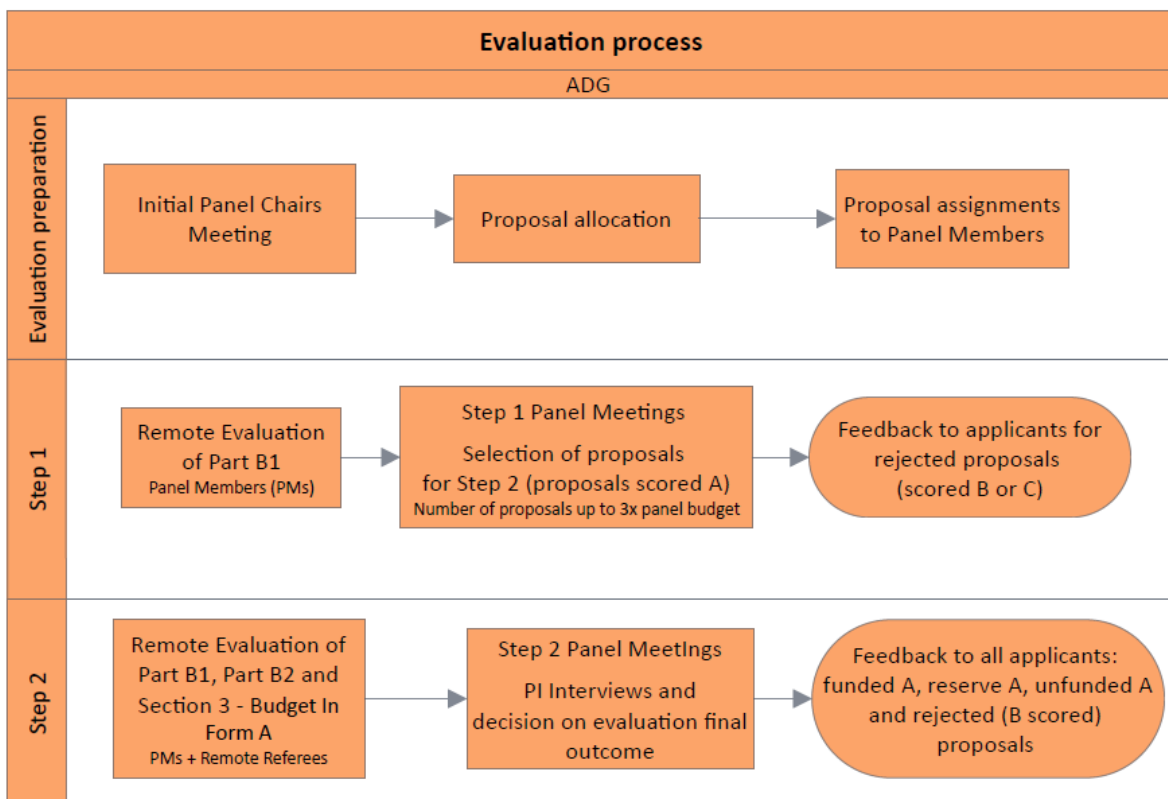
Evaluation process and important dates

An indicative evaluation timeline is available for the Advanced Grant Call on the ERC website and outlined below.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	STEP 1 PANEL MEETING	INFORM APPLICANTS	STEP 2 PANEL MEETING	INFORM APPLICANTS
23 May 2023	Oct 2023	Jan 2024	Jan/Feb 2024	Apr 2024

At both evaluation Steps, every proposal will be evaluated for each of the two main elements of the proposal: Research Project and Principal Investigator. The ERC independent external experts deliver individual proposal reviews in a remote evaluation phase at both Step 1 and Step 2, which constitute the starting point for the panels' discussion. The ERC panels assess and score the proposals on the basis of the panels' overall appreciation of strengths and weaknesses of each proposal.

Resubmissions are evaluated as new proposals. Each ERC evaluation is independent from previous ones and the competition is different every year. The score and reviews received in a previous ERC call will not affect the outcome of the current evaluation and will not be shared with the experts. Applicants should refrain from referring to previous evaluations.

Evaluation process

ADG

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 Section 3 - Budget in Form A PMs + Remote Referees	Step 2 Panel Meetings — PI Interviews and decision on evaluation final outcome	Feedback to all applicants: funded A, reserve A, unfunded A and rejected (B scored) proposals

STEP 1

At Step 1 the extended synopsis together with the PI's track record and CV will be evaluated (Part B1 – see section 2.3). After the remote evaluation phase, each panel meets to discuss all the proposals assigned to the panel. Proposals will proceed to Step 2 based on the outcome of the Step 1 evaluation. The maximum number of proposals evaluated by the panel at Step 2 may not exceed three times the panel's indicative budget. At the end of Step 1 of the evaluation, each proposal will receive one of the following scores:

A score - is of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation,
B score - is of high quality but not sufficient to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation[20],
C score - is not of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation[20].

The Step 1 evaluation outcome is provided to the applicants receiving a B or a C score through an information letter together with an evaluation report. It includes the score and the panel ranking range of their proposal, the panel comment explaining the panel decision as well as the individual comments given by each reviewer. This communication is uploaded to the Funding & Tenders Portal accounts of the PI and HI main contact person (see section 3.2).

Applicants who receive an A score pass to Step 2 of the evaluation and are invited for an interview to present their project at the Step 2 panel meeting. Each panel decides on the exact format of its interviews (duration, number of slides allowed, time allocated to the presentation and the questions and answers session), which will be communicated to the applicants shortly after Step 1. Applicants who receive an A score will not receive a Step 1 evaluation report.

STEP 2

At Step 2, the full proposal (Part B1, Part B2 plus Section 3 – Budget and time commitment, present in the administrative form) will be evaluated. After a remote evaluation phase, the panels meet again. Step 2 includes an interview of approximately 30 minutes of each applicant[21]. The applicant PIs will be interviewed remotely, while the panel members will be present in the ERC premises. The first part of the interview will consist of a presentation of the research project by the PI. The remaining time will comprise a questions and answers session. The PI may expect questions also related to the detailed budget table and resources section, which are at full title part of the application. The evaluation panels will review the requested budget for proposals recommended for funding and, if appropriate, recommend adjustments. In exceptional and justified cases such as illness, maternity or force majeure, if unable to attend in person, in case of on site meetings, a panel member may participate remotely by electronic means (video-conferencing or telephone-conferencing), subject to the ERCEA's agreement.

> *The details of the interview arrangements will be communicated to the selected applicants shortly after the Step 1 evaluation is completed.*
> *In view of the confidentiality of the evaluation process, applicants invited to a Step 2 interview* **should not share the identity of panel members** *within their scientific communities until their names have been published on the ERC website.*

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[20] The applicants may 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.
[21] Should a planned interview not be possible for reasons beyond the control of the ERCEA, the panel will have to take its decision based on the information made available to it.

The assessment by the panels will take into account the interview, all individual reviews and the panels' overall appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal. At the end of Step 2, following the timeline described above, applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation. The score of their proposal can be either A or B.

A score proposals fully meet the ERC's excellence criterion and are recommended for funding. Such projects will be funded on a priority order based on their rank, if sufficient funds are available. This means that it is very likely that not all proposals scored 'A' will be funded by the ERC.
B score proposals meet some but not all elements of the ERC's excellence criterion and will not be funded.

The Step 2 evaluation outcome is provided to all applicants through an information letter together with an evaluation report. It includes the final score, the panel ranking range of their proposal, the panel comment explaining the panel decision as well as the individual comments given by each reviewer[22]. This communication is uploaded to the Funding & Tenders Portal accounts of the PI and HI main contact person (see section 3.2).

Information to Programme Committee and NCPs

After each peer review evaluation, a report is prepared by the ERCEA services and made available to the Programme Committee. The report provides information on the proposals received: it includes names of Host Institutions and personal data, i.e., names of applicant PIs, evaluation scores of all proposals, as well as panel comments and individual reviews. A subset of information is also made available to the National Contact Points. The NCP report provides the names of the Host Institutions and personal data, i.e., the names of the applicant PIs and evaluation scores of the proposals. Applicants have various rights as regards the processing of their personal data[23].

Panel comments

Comments by the individual reviewers may reflect divergent views. Differences of opinions about the proposal are part of the scientific debate and are legitimate. Furthermore, the ERC panel may take a position that is different from what could be inferred from the individual reviews. A panel discussion could reveal an important weakness that was not identified by the individual reviewers. The panel comment reflects the final decision taken by the panel either by consensus decision or by majority vote based on the individual assessments and the discussion within the panel.

Evaluation criteria

The "scientific excellence" evaluation criterion will be applied in conjunction of both: (i) the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of the research project, and (ii) the intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment of the PI:

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[22] The pre-defined responses related to the questions regarding the Principal Investigator can be the following: Exceptional/ Excellent/Very Good/Good/Non-competitive.

[23] Applicants have the right to access their personal data, the right to rectify them, if necessary, and/or to restrict their processing or erase them, if applicable. They are also entitled to object to the processing of their personal data, where applicable. If they would like to exercise their rights under the Regulation 2018/1725, if they have comments, questions or concerns, regarding the collection and use of their personal data, applicants are free to contact the ERCEA Controller at ERCEA-B2-CALL-COORDINATION@ec.europa.eu.

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

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?
- To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?
- To what extent is the proposed research high risk-high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a high risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Scientific Approach

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk-high gain *[based on the Extended Synopsis at Step 1]*?
- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project *[to be assessed at Step 2 based on the full Scientific Proposal]*?
- To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology *[to be assessed at Step 2 based on the full Scientific Proposal]*?
- To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified *[to be assessed at Step 2 based on the full Scientific Proposal]*?

2. Principal Investigator - Intellectual capacity and creativity

- To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?
- To what extend has the PI demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists?

1.4 ETHICS AND SECURITY

Ethics

Every project funded by the ERC under Horizon Europe is subject to an ethics review process. The ethics review process is independent from the evaluation procedure and the evaluation panels do not have access to the ethics documents.

Please see Annex A to the [ERC Rules of submission and evaluation under Horizon Europe](#) for a detailed description of the ERC Ethics Review procedure.

The process is aimed at ensuring that all the research and innovation activities under Horizon Europe comply with ethics principles and relevant national, Union and international legislation, including the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#) and the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) and its Supplementary Protocols.

The main areas that are addressed during the ethics review process include:

1. Human embryonic stem cells and human embryos
2. Human participants
3. Human cells/tissues

4. Personal data
5. Animals
6. Non-EU countries
7. Environment, health and safety
8. Artificial Intelligence

When submitting their proposal, applicants must complete the Ethics Issues Table as part of the submission form and provide an ethics self-assessment and supporting documentation where needed as separate annex(es). Please see the How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment document for guidance. It is important to provide a complete overview of all ethics issues during the submission phase in order to speed up the ethics review process. Applicants should be aware that no grant agreement can be signed by ERCEA prior to a satisfactory conclusion of the ethics review procedure.

Security[24]

Under Horizon Europe applicants are requested to identify if the proposed activity will use and/or generate information which might raise security concerns. When submitting their proposal, applicants must complete the Security issues table (section 4 of the online proposal submission form) and provide, if applicable, available supporting documentation (as separate annexes). For proposals selected for funding, additional information regarding security issues may be requested at a later stage (for further information see Annex 4 to the ERC WP 2023).

1.5   MEANS OF REDRESS, ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS

Please see section 3.9 of the ERC Rules of submission and evaluation under Horizon Europe for a detailed description of the admissibility and eligibility procedures, enquiries and complaints, and evaluation review procedures.

Means of redress

Upon receiving the information letter with the evaluation report or with the results of the admissibility and eligibility checks, the PI and/or the HI (applicant legal entity) may request an admissibility, eligibility or evaluation review, if there is an indication that the results of the admissibility or eligibility checks were incorrect or that there has been a procedural shortcoming or a manifest error of assessment in the evaluation.

A request can be made if the PI and/or the HI consider that the applicable procedure has not been correctly applied to the proposal.

The evaluation review procedure is not meant to call into question the scientific judgement made by the peer review panel. It will look into procedural shortcomings and – in rare cases – into factual errors.

The information letter for unsuccessful and reserve list applicants provides a link for the PI and/or the HI to introduce the request. The letter will specify a deadline for the receipt of any such requests, which will be 30 days from the date of receiving the information letter[25]. A formal notification is

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[24] Further guidance on tackling various security aspects and mitigating associated risks in research has been published by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation: Tackling R&I Foreign Interference: Staff Working Document, 2022.
[25] Applicants of proposals selected for funding will normally not receive information on the means of redress in their information letter but if the applicants consider that there are grounds for such request, they can redress.

considered to have been accessed by the applicant 10 calendar days after sending, if not accessed before in the system[26].

Requests must be:
- related to the evaluation process, or admissibility/eligibility checks, for the call and grant in question;
- set out using the online form, including a clear description of the grounds for complaint;
- received within the time limit specified in the information letter;
- sent by the PI and/or the HI.

Requests that do not meet the above-mentioned conditions, or do not deal with the admissibility, eligibility or evaluation of a specific proposal, will not be admitted.

An acknowledgment of receipt will be sent no later than two weeks after the deadline for submitting the request indicating the estimated date of a final reply.

A redress committee may be convened to examine the request for the admissibility, eligibility or evaluation review process. The redress committee will bring together staff of the ERC Executive Agency with the requisite scientific, technical and legal expertise. The committee shall be chaired by and include staff of ERCEA who were not involved in the evaluation of the proposal. The committee's role is to ensure a coherent interpretation of the requests, based on all available information related to the proposal and its evaluation, and fair and equal treatment of all applicants.

In case of the evaluation review procedure, the committee itself, however, does not re-evaluate the proposal. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the committee may review the evaluation report, the individual comments and examine the profile and expertise of the experts. The committee may also contact the panel chair/panel member(s) concerned. **The committee will not call into question the scientific judgement of appropriately qualified panels of experts.** In light of its review, the committee will recommend a course of action to the Responsible Authorizing Officer (RAO) for the call. If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the eventual funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the proposal will be re-evaluated.

Please note:
- a partial or total re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the quality of the assessment of a proposal;
- the committee may confirm the initial outcome if it concludes that the errors identified would not substantially affect the outcome of the evaluation nor the ranking of the proposal;
- the evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score;
- only one request at a time for evaluation review per proposal will be considered by the committee;
- all requests for evaluation review will be treated in confidence.

The above procedure does not prevent the applicants from resorting to any other means of redress such as:

- requesting a legal review of the Agency decision under Article 22 of Council Regulation 58/2003[27] ('Article 22 request'), within 1 month of receiving the ERCEA's letter; or

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[26] Evaluation result letters are formal notifications. This means that deadlines triggered by these letters (evaluation review request, etc.) must be counted accordingly (i.e., access date + 1 day (event) + 30 days (deadline) OR sending date + 1 day (event) + 10 days (embargo period) + 30 days (deadline), if the letter was not accessed in the system).
[27] Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003 of 19 December 2002 laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes (OJ L 11, 16.01.2003, p.1).

- bringing an action for annulment under Article 263 of the TFEU[28] ('Article 263 action') against the Agency, within 2 months of receiving the ERCEA's letter.

Applicants may choose which means of redress they wish to pursue[29]. Applicants are asked not to take more than one formal action at a time. Once the Agency/Commission communicates the final decision on an action, applicants can take a further action against that decision. Deadlines for a further action will start to run from when applicants receive the final decision[30].

Other types of complaints on decisions affecting the involvement of applicants in the programme

Any other complaint against a decision affecting the involvement of applicants in Horizon Europe shall be addressed to the Agency Director within 30 calendar days from the receipt of the communication of the Agency decision[31].

1.6 QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE CALL

Useful information can be found on the ERC website and more specifically on the pages dedicated to the Advanced Grant Call. An extended set of Frequently Asked Questions for the ERC calls is available on the ERC website. They can be filtered by calls or categories, and answer the most common questions on how to prepare and submit an ERC application.

A series of instructional videos giving information about the whole ERC application process (drafting the proposal, its evaluation steps and PI's interview) is available on the funding page of the ERC website.

For additional questions related to the call, please contact the relevant Call coordination team: ERC-2023-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu. For questions related to the ethics issues of the proposal, please contact the Ethics Support team: ERC-ETHICS-REVIEW@ec.europa.eu.

For questions on open access to scientific publications and research data management, please see the section on Open Science in the Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions or contact ERC-OPEN-ACCESS@ec.europa.eu.

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[28] Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 47–390).

[29] Even though applicants may freely choose which means of redress to pursue, first submitting a request for evaluation review will ensure that the applicants' case can be heard on all the above-mentioned possible instances.

[30] Please be aware that, as per Article 22 of Regulation 58/2003, reaching a final decision on an Article 22 request may generally take more than 30 days. Therefore, if you first file an Article 22 request you may not be able afterwards to submit an evaluation review request within the 30 days deadline. Please note as well that applicants of proposals included on the reserve list may not file an Article 22 request because their information letter does NOT constitute a final position concerning funding.

[31] A formal notification is considered to have been accessed by the applicant 10 calendar days after sending, if not accessed before in the system.

2. COMPLETING AN APPLICATION

2.1 OVERVIEW OF AN ERC APPLICATION

An ERC application is composed of:

– the administrative form (Part A) **including the detailed budget table, description of resources (Section 3 – Budget) and time commitment (Section 5 – Other questions)**;
– completed Part B1 template (Extended Synopsis, Curriculum Vitae, 10 years Track Record);
– completed Part B2 template (Scientific Proposal: a. State-of-the-art and objectives; b. Methodology);
– completed HI support letter;
– if applicable, any additional supporting documentation related to ethics and security issues.

2.2 THE ADMINISTRATIVE FORM

The administrative form is accessed via the call submission link in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](). The electronic form has 5 sections (approximately 25 pages in total), which need to be completed before a submission can take place. Many fields are mandatory and specific to the ERC calls and we therefore advise to create a draft proposal well in advance of the submission deadline. **All mandatory fields are marked in red if left empty. Failure to fill in any mandatory field will block submission (see [Annex 4.5]()).**

1 – General Information section contains information about the research proposal, including the project duration, title, acronym and abstract. Furthermore, in this section you will select the ERC evaluation panel which you believe is best suited to evaluate the research proposal. If the proposal covers several scientific disciplines you may indicate a 'secondary review panel'. You may indicate up to four ERC keywords as listed in [Annex 4.1]() that cover your proposal subject. The abstract should provide a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved. The abstract will be used as a short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process. Please note that in case your proposal is funded the abstract will be published. It must therefore be short and precise and should not contain confidential information. This section also contains general declarations related to the proposal and participation in Horizon Europe[32]. The declarations have to be filled in by the Principal Investigator on behalf of the Host Institution and "We" has to be understood as both "the Principal Investigator" and "the Host Institution".

2 – Participants section contains information about the PI and the HI. One section will appear for each beneficiary. The name and e-mail of contact persons including the PI and HI contact are **read-only.** Further details such as ORCID number, researcher ID, other ID, last name at birth, gender, nationality, etc., should be provided for the PI as well as the address and telephone number of each contact person. The PI's mobile number is an essential information for the Step 2 interview logistics.

This section contains new fields compared to previous calls under the below headings:

- Gender Equality Plan (GEP): 'yes/no' tick box question to be filled in by the HI contact person. Only Public bodies, Higher education institutions and Research organisations (including private Higher education institutions and private Research organisations) must answer this question. This answer

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[32] Please note that the ERCEA may at any time during the evaluation process request the applicants to provide the written consents mentioned in the declarations. These consents should not be submitted with the application, but the applicant must ensure the written consent from all participants prior to the call submission deadline.

and the absence of GEP at submission stage will not affect the evaluation of the proposal. In case the proposal is selected for funding, the HI must have a Gender Equality Plan or an equivalent strategic document in place for the duration of the project. The GEP or equivalent must fulfil the mandatory requirements[33] listed in Annex 5 of the Work Programme 2023 and will be necessary before the signature of the grant agreement.

- Departments carrying out the proposed work: the data field "Links with other proposal participating organisations" is optional and only to be filled if there are dependencies with other participating Host Institutions (for example, team members from another HI). This field should not to be filled for mono-beneficiary grants.

- Person in charge of the proposal (Principal Investigator): on this page there is a new field on the 'career stage' of the PI. This information will not be provided to the evaluators and it will not be evaluated. The field on the career stages refers to the ones defined in the Frascati 2015 manual (see below). Please choose the appropriate option:

> Category A – Top grade researcher: the single highest grade/post at which research is normally conducted. Examples: 'Full professor' or 'Director of research'.
> Category B – Senior researcher: researchers working in positions not as senior as top position but more senior than newly qualified doctoral graduates (IsCED level 8). Examples: 'associate professor' or 'senior researcher' or 'principal investigator'.
> Category C – Recognised researcher: the first grade/post into which a newly qualified doctoral graduate would normally be recruited. Examples: 'assistant professor', 'investigator' or 'post-doctoral fellow'.
> Category D – First stage researcher: either doctoral students at the IsCED level 8 who are engaged as researchers, or researchers working in posts that do not normally require a doctorate degree. Examples: 'PhD students' or 'junior researchers' (without a PhD).

3 – Budget section contains the proposal budget including the total estimated eligible project costs and the requested EU contribution for the project. The costs are given in whole Euros (not kilo Euros). A description and justification of the resources should be provided in the text box (Section C. Resources) under the budget table.

The budget table and description of resources will be made available to the independent external experts evaluating the proposal. The Section C. Resources has a maximum length of 8000 characters (including spaces). Please refer to section 2.3 for further instructions on how to draw up the budget.

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[33] A Gender Equality Plan of an Applicant Legal Entity must cover the following minimum process-related requirements:
- Publication: formal document published on the institution's website and signed by the top management
- Dedicated resources: commitment of resources and gender expertise to implement it
- Data collection and monitoring: sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel (and students for institutions concerned) and annual reporting based on indicators
- Training: awareness raising/training on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision-makers.

Content-wise, recommended areas to be covered and addressed via concrete measures and targets are the following:
- work-life balance and organisational culture
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making
- gender equality in recruitment and career progression
- integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content
- measures against gender-based violence including sexual harassment.

Other strategic documents such as a development plan, an inclusion strategy or a diversity strategy, are considered as equivalent if they meet the requirements listed above.

4 – Ethics and security section consists of the ethics issues table, and the security issues table.

The ethics issues table serves to identify any ethical aspects of the proposed work. This table has to be completed even if there are no issues (simply confirm that none of the ethical issues apply to the proposal). Please note that, in case you answer YES to any of the questions, you are requested to provide an Ethics Self-Assessment and additional ethics documentation as annexes, if applicable and available at the time of submission, as detailed in the Ethics Self-assessment step by step. Please refer to section 1.4 for further details.

The security issues table serves to identify if the proposed activity will use and/or generate information which might raise security concerns. The table provided has to be completed by answering YES or NO to all questions. Where necessary and applicable, you are requested to provide available documentation as annexes. For proposals selected for funding, additional information regarding security issues may be requested at a later stage.

5 – Other questions section contains information on the academic training of the PI (collected for statistical purposes only) as well as declarations related to eligibility and expected working time spent in an EU MS or an AC and dedicated to the ERC project. AdG applicants are expected to spend as a minimum 50% of their working time in an EU MS or an AC and to commit as a minimum 30% of their working time to the ERC project. The personnel cost for the PI's salary provided in section "3 – Budget" cannot be higher than the percentage indicated in this section. This information will be provided to the independent external experts at Step 2 together with section "3 – Budget" (see Annex 4.3).

This section also contains permission statements on sharing evaluation data. These data-related consents are entirely voluntary.

In addition, this section comprises a specific declaration regarding the written consent of all participants and researchers mentioned in the proposal. The applicant PI will have to declare that, at the time of submission, they have the written consent of all participants on their involvement and on the content of the proposal, as well as of any researcher mentioned in the proposal on their participation in the project (either as team member, collaborator or member of the advisory board). Please note that the ERCEA may request the applicant PI at any time during the evaluation, to provide proof of the written consent obtained prior to the call submission deadline.

Finally, as established in section 3.3 of the ERC Rules of submission and evaluation under Horizon Europe and specified in the ERC Work Programme 2023, applicant PIs may identify up to three reviewers to be excluded from the evaluation of their proposal and indicate their details in this section.

2.3 THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The research proposal consists of Part B1, Part B2 and section 3 – "Budget" and time commitment from section 5 – "Other questions" (present in the submission form – Part A). The templates of Part B1 and Part B2 are provided in the submission system and their use is **strongly recommended**. Each proposal page **shall** carry a **header** presenting the **PI's last name**, the **acronym of the proposal**, and the reference to the respective proposal section (**Part B1** or **Part B2**).

The following parameters **must** be respected for the layout:

Page Format	Font Type	Font Size	Line Spacing	Margins
A4	Times New Roman Arial or similar	At least 11	Single	2 cm side 1.5 cm top and bottom

In fairness to all applicants, the **page limits will be strictly applied**. Only the material that is presented within these limits will be evaluated. Peer reviewers will be asked to read the material presented within the page limits only (provided that the instructions regarding font type and size are respected) and will be under no obligation to read beyond them[34].

Experts have no access to other parts and sections of the submitted application, i.e., Annex(es) are not visible to experts.

Be aware that at **Step 1 only Part B1** is evaluated by the panel members. At **Step 2 Parts B1, B2 and Section 3 – Budget and time commitment** are evaluated by panel members and Remote Reviewers. When drafting Part B1, pay particular attention to the Extended Synopsis (section a) and do not think of it as simply complementing Part B2. It is important that Part B1 contains all essential information.

During the Step 1 evaluation the panel members' expertise covers a wide range of proposals within a research field. The panel members are asked to act as generalists when evaluating the proposals. Further expertise on each proposal retained to Step 2 is brought to the evaluation by Remote Reviewers. Remote Reviewers are scientists and scholars who do not participate in the panel meetings and who deliver their individual reviews before the Step 2 panel meeting.

Part B1 (References should be included – they do not count towards the page limit)

The Part B1 cover page should list the name of the PI and HI, the title, acronym and abstract of the proposal as well as the project duration (in months). The abstract should be a maximum of 2000 characters and must be a copy/paste of the abstract from the submission form, section 1. For inter-disciplinary/cross-panel proposals please indicate the additional ERC review panel(s) and explain why the proposal needs to be considered by more than one panel.

Section a: Extended Synopsis of the scientific proposal (max. **5** pages) should contain all <u>essential information</u> including the feasibility of the scientific proposal since at Step 1 the panel will only evaluate Part B1. References should be included (they do not count towards the page limits).

Section b: Curriculum vitae (max. **2** pages) should follow the suggested template. Hyperlinks should be avoided, as experts are under no obligation to review external documents. Include (and explain) any career breaks or unconventional career paths, so that professional achievements are fairly assessed by the evaluation panels. If applicable, any impact Covid-19 had on the scientific productivity may be highlighted[35]. List also any on-going grants and submitted grant applications in the funding ID table (this table will not count towards the page limits). Please note that also grants where your participation was/is *pro bono*, i.e., no funds were/are received, should be listed.

Section c: 10 years track-record (max. **2** pages) should list important achievements, including up to 10 of the most important publications[36]. The publications should be properly referenced, including all authors in the published order (see section 1.1 on Research integrity). Field relevant bibliometric indicators[37] as well as research monographs, any translations thereof, may also be included. If applicable list: granted patent(s); invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools; prizes/awards/academy memberships, etc.

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[34] The working language of the ERC evaluation panels is English. Therefore, the evaluation reports will be available in English only. If the proposal is not in English, the ERCEA will provide a version of the proposal translated using computer-aided technology. An English translation of the abstract must be included in the proposal.

[35] In the context of the Covid-19 outbreak, any specific situation caused by the pandemic with a negative impact on the curriculum vitae or track record should be mentioned under this section.

[36] Preprints should be freely available from a preprint server; they should be properly referenced and either a link to the preprint or a DOI should be provided.

[37] Except the Journal Impact Factors.

A short narrative describing the scientific importance of the research outputs and the role played by the Principal Investigator may be added.

The track-record can be extended beyond ten years, in case of certain career breaks, as foreseen in the ERC WP 2023, provided they are duly reported in Section b: Curriculum vitae.

Part B2 (References should be included – they do not count towards the page limit)

The limit of 14 pages for the 'Scientific Proposal' as per the ERC WP 2023 applies to Part B2.

Section a: State-of-the-art and objectives. Specify the proposal objectives in the context of the state of the art in the research field. It should be clear how and why the proposed work is important for the field, and what impact it will have if successful, such as how it may open up new horizons or opportunities for science, technology or scholarship. Highlight any particularly challenging or unconventional aspects of the proposal, including multi- or inter-disciplinary aspects.

Section b: Methodology. Describe the proposed methodology in detail including any key intermediate goals. Explain and justify the methodology in relation to the state of the art, and particularly novel or unconventional aspects addressing the 'high risk-high gain' balance. Highlight any intermediate stages where results may require adjustments to the project planning.

Section 3 – Budget (included in the online form)

> **PLEASE NOTE: The budget table and description of resources are part of the online form (Section 3 – Budget). The description of resources (Section C. Resources, text box under the budget table) should provide a clear description of the costs and justification of the proposal budget *and, if applicable, of the additional funding.***

With the exception of clear mistakes (detected cases of obvious clerical error[38]), in case of inconsistencies between the budget table and the description of resources, the figures entered in the budget table will prevail.

Budget table

The ERC funds up to 100% of the total eligible costs. The costs cover the full project duration[39]. This includes the direct costs of the project plus a flat-rate financing of indirect costs calculated as 25% of the total eligible direct costs (excluding the eligible costs for subcontracting, and internally invoiced goods and services). The flat rate is automatically calculated by the system. Only Euro integers should be used when preparing the budget table.

The budget table is subdivided in different cost categories:

- A. **Direct personnel costs** (PI, senior staff, post docs, students, other personnel costs).
- B. **Subcontracting costs** (no indirect costs).
- C. **Purchase costs** [travel and subsistence, equipment (including major equipment), consumables (including fieldwork and animal costs), publications (including any costs related to Open Access fees) and dissemination, and other additional direct costs].
- D. **Internally invoiced goods and services** (no indirect costs).
- E. **Indirect costs**.

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[38] See Articles 151 and 200(3) of the Financial Regulation and section 2.3 of ERC Rules of Submission and Evaluation under Horizon Europe.

[39] The maximum award is reduced *pro rata temporis* for projects of a shorter duration (e.g., for a project of 48 months the maximum requested EU contribution allowed is 2.000.000 €). Additional funding to cover major one-off costs is not subject to *pro rata temporis* reduction for projects of shorter duration (e.g., with additional funding it is possible, as far as properly justified, to request a maximum EU contribution of 3.000.000 € for a project of 48 months).

If **additional funding**[40] above the ceiling of 2.500.000 € is requested for (a) covering eligible 'start-up' costs for a PI moving from another country to the EU or an AC as a consequence of receiving an ERC grant and/or (b) the purchase of major equipment and/or (c) access to large facilities and/or (d) other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs, the request has to be **fully justified in the description of the resources and the figures included in the budget table**, under the corresponding cost categories.

Any additional funding request may be subject to 25% overhead, unless it falls under subcontracting or internally invoiced goods and services.

Additional funding is meant to cover relatively large costs that would exceed the normal grant maximum. Any cost requested under additional funding must be necessary for the implementation of the proposed research activities.

Please note that for relocation costs under (a) 'start-up' costs category, the cost of the PI's one-way ticket to the EU or an AC may be requested, only if in line with the normal practice and the accounting policy of the host institution, and within the duration of the project; other personal costs (e.g., tickets of family members and all relocation costs related to them) incurred because of moving to the EU or an AC cannot be claimed on the grant.

For the purchase of any piece of equipment, including major equipment, infrastructure or other assets used for the action, applicants can only charge on the ERC grant the total annual depreciation costs in relation to the total percentage of use of the equipment for the proposed research activity, according to the accounting policy of the host institution.

Moreover, an applicant can request to include in the Grant Agreement equipment, infrastructure or other assets purchased specifically for the action (or developed as part of the action tasks) that may exceptionally be declared as full capitalised costs[41]. Such equipment, infrastructure or other assets must be clearly identified in the proposal, which must include the explicit request to declare it as full capitalised costs.

In case the total estimated eligible costs differ from the requested EU contribution, specify in Section C. Resources what exactly is funded from other sources.

Please carefully check all values of the budget table. **The 'Requested EU contribution' has to be filled in manually. Please make sure to update the 'Requested EU contribution' if changes are made in any of the cost categories.**

For more information on eligible and non-eligible direct and indirect costs as well as the different cost categories, applicants should consult the Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions.

Section C. Resources (Text box below the budget table – maximum 8000 characters allowed including spaces)

1. State the amount of funding considered necessary to fulfil the research objectives. The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible. The requested budget should be fully justified and in proportion to the actual needs. Describe all the cost categories considered necessary for the

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[40] Additional funding costs of ERC frontier research grants are a separate cost category in the Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions. These costs will be eligible if they fulfil the eligibility conditions set out in the Model Grant Agreement for this cost category, if they are incurred for the activities and objectives for which the additional funding may be awarded, and if they are in line with the specific eligibility conditions for the other relevant cost categories as set out in the Model Grant Agreement (e.g., costs related to a purchase of major equipment must also fulfil the specific eligibility conditions for the cost category for "Equipment").

[41] Where needed for the viability of the action (including its financial viability), and recorded under a fixed asset account of the beneficiary in compliance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices.

project. The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully: **unjustified budgets will be reduced**.

2. Specify your commitment in terms of percentage of working time you are willing to devote to the proposed project[42] and, if applicable, the percentage of salary claimed on the grant.

3. Describe the size and nature of the team, indicating, where appropriate, the key team members and their roles. In case one or more team members are engaged by another host institution, their participation has to be fully justified with respect to the scientific added value they bring to the project and in relation to the additional cost this may impose. When estimating your personnel costs take into account the working time dedicated to the project. If applicable, describe the staff included under the 'Other personnel costs' category (e.g., technician, etc.). Specify all cost items included under the 'Other additional direct costs' category (e.g., certificate on the financial statement).

4. Explain and describe in detail any additional funding requested for the project. It needs to be indicated in the budget table and well justified for the successful implementation of the project. Please also indicate under which of the above-mentioned four cost categories the request falls in.

5. Include a short technical description of any requested equipment, why it is needed and the planned usage for the project.

6. Include a realistic estimation of the costs for Open Access for project outputs. Costs for providing immediate Open Access to full open access venues for peer reviewed scientific publications, such as full open access journals, books, or platforms (including Article Processing Charges, Book Processing Charges) and other publishing fees, such as colour charges or page charges, are eligible if they are incurred during the lifetime of the project.

7. Describe any existing resources not requiring EU funding that will be used for the project, such as infrastructure and equipment.

The information entered in section 3 – Budget (including "Section C. Resources") of the administrative submission form (Part A) together with the time commitment entered in section 5 of the administrative submission form (Part A) will be provided to the independent external experts in the form of a Proposal Budget Report for their assessment. An example of Proposal Budget Report is shown in Annex 4.3.

2.4   SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

A scanned copy of the following supporting documentation needs to be submitted with the proposal by uploading them electronically in PDF format:

- **Host Institution support letter.** Please make sure to use the new 2023 template. As applicant legal entity, the HI must confirm its support to the project and to the PI. As part of the application, the institution must provide a binding statement that the conditions of independence are already fulfilled or will be provided to the PI if the application is successful. The template letter is part of the zip-file available in the submission system (see Annex 4.2). The complete text should be copied and printed on paper with the official letterhead of the HI, blue-inked signed, stamped and dated by the institution's legal representative. In case the HI support letter is digitally signed, there is no need to stamp it. **Proposals that do not include this institutional statement may be declared inadmissible.**

- Documents related to the **ethics** issues (i.e., supporting documentation). Where necessary, applicant PIs shall provide any available documentation, such as: (a) favourable opinion(s) of the relevant ethics committee(s); (b) the regulatory approval(s) or authorization(s) of the competent national or local authority(ies) in the country in which the research is to be carried out; (c) templates of information sheets and informed consent forms, etc. The

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[42] You are expected to dedicate as a minimum 30% of your working time to the ERC project.

supporting documentation must be provided to the ERCEA at the latest during the ethics review. If such documentation is available and provided with the application at submission stage, it may help speed up the ethics review process following the evaluation. **Please note that the ethics self-assessment is now included in section 4 of the online proposal submission form.**

- Documents related to the **security** issues (i.e., supporting documentation). Where necessary, the applicant PIs shall provide available documentation at submission stage. For proposals selected for funding, additional information regarding security issues may be requested at a later stage.

Copies of official documents can be submitted in any of the EU official languages. **Document(s) in any other language must be provided together with a certified translation into English or into any other official EU language**.

Please provide only the documents requested above. Unless specified in the call, any hyperlinks to other documents, embedded material, and any other documents (company brochures, support letters, reports, audio, video, multimedia, etc.) will be disregarded. **Experts will not have access to any supporting documentation, i.e., Annex(es), during the evaluation.**

All annexes, i.e., the Host Institution support letter and, where relevant, documentation already available related to ethics and security issues should be provided and uploaded as separate PDF documents. Annexes are used for administrative purposes only, and do not count towards the maximum page limits of the proposal.

3. SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

3.1   IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE YOU BEGIN

➢   Regularly consult the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) call page for updated information on the call.

➢   Make sure that the personal information added in the Submission Form is accurate as this information is used to personalise the communications to applicants and the Evaluation Reports.

➢   In case of technical problems with the submission system please contact EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu or get in touch with the **IT Helpdesk** directly on **+32 (2) 29 92222** to receive immediate assistance.

➢   Registration and submission via the F&T Portal submission system should be done as early as possible and well in advance of the call deadline**. Applicants, who wait until shortly before the closing of the call to start uploading their proposal, take a serious risk that the uploading will not be concluded in time and that their submission will fail.**

➢   Only the person creating the draft proposal will have the right to manage the access rights of other people to the proposal and will be able to modify any parts of the proposal and to submit it.

➢   The other contacts will only be able to edit the parts related to their personal data.

➢   Be aware that only one person should work on the forms at any given time. If two persons work on the forms at the same time, in case of a save conflict, the last save wins, which means that you risk overwriting changes made by another person if you are working in parallel. We therefore recommend that you give 'read-only' access to your additional contact persons (other contacts) unless it is absolutely necessary to grant full access. Remember that the Host Institution main contact person has full access – it is not possible to grant them 'read-only' access.

➢   Up to the call deadline it is possible to re-edit, download or withdraw a proposal. **ONLY the last updated version of your proposal submitted before the deadline will be evaluated**; no later version can be accepted and no earlier version can be recovered from the submission system. Once the deadline has passed, no further additions, corrections or resubmissions are accepted. However, a read-only access to the submitted proposal is available for 90 days after the call deadline.

➢   **Submit your proposal as early as possible** (at least 48 hours prior to the deadline of the call) to avoid being confronted with last minute issues shortly before the call deadline. There is no reason in delaying the submission for confidentiality concerns as the system does not allow any access to the proposals before the call deadline (other than to selected data that is part of the Submission and Evaluation of Proposals Assent Disclaimer).

➢   In some rare occasions the proposal may be altered while being converted into a PDF file. Before uploading the file, please check that everything is correct. Additionally, please download and verify all uploaded files in due time before the submission deadline.

Submission is deemed to occur only if the submission sequence described in point 3.2 below has been followed and not when the applicant starts uploading the proposal.

3.2 HOW TO APPLY

The ERC grant applications can only be submitted in response to a 'call for proposals' and only via the Electronic Submission Service. Calls announced in the ERC Work Programme 2023 are published on the ERC website and the Funding & Tenders Portal.

USER GUIDANCE

- proposals must be submitted electronically using the Electronic Submission System of the web-based Funding & Tenders Portal (F&T Portal)[43];

- the user guide of the Submission Service is available online;

- the IT How To wiki site provides an online IT manual with screenshots;

- the F&T Portal Online Manual describes the standard process of proposal submission.

The submission of an ERC proposal includes 6 practical Steps:

Step 1 and 2 – Logging in and Selection of the call

To be able to create and submit a proposal and, in general to login to the Funding & Tenders Portal, first register an EU Login account (step 1). Each time you access the proposal for editing, this user ID (EU Login) is requested. The same user ID is used for all later interactions with the ERCEA, including notification of the results of the evaluation[44].

Under the "Search" function, you may search for ERC-2023-ADG (step 2). Soon after the opening of the call, you will be able to access the Electronic Submission page. The 'Start Submission' button is available under the "Start submission" section of the call. You will need to select HORIZON ERC Grants to open the submission page. When you click 'Start Submission' and confirm your choice, you will move to the next step: Step 3 – Create a Draft proposal.

Step 3 – Create a draft proposal

Here, you fill in the pre-registration data for the proposal. These data will be used by the ERCEA in order to plan the evaluation. Once this page is completed and you will progress to the next step, you will not be able to return to this page, but certain data, such as Acronym (maximum 20 characters) and Short Summary (abstract) can be modified at a later stage (i.e., when editing the submission forms). **Be careful to choose the correct Participant Identification Code (PIC) number for your Host Institution.** An online tool is available to search for existing PICs and the related organisations. Organisations not yet having a PIC must self-register (via the same page) before starting the application process.

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[43] In duly justified exceptional circumstances the ERCEA may authorise submission by other means than the electronic submission system.

[44] Further details are available here: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cpnp/public/ecas-signup.cfm

Step 4 – Participants (manage your partners and/or edit contact details)

At this step, you MUST enter the name and e-mail of the PI and the Main Host Institution Contact person[45]. You may also add the LEAR as a contact person (e.g., as a team member with 'read-only' rights). These **contact details** are saved **directly from this step** into the administrative form where they cannot be edited. You can, at any time before submission, return to the "Participants List" and add or delete any contact person and/or change the access rights. In case you foresee partner organizations in your proposal, their contact details must also be entered. Remember always to save the updated contact details before leaving the "Participants List" page. Once the changes are saved, an automatic invitation is sent to all contacts' e-mail addresses. The persons invited as participants can access the proposal after logging in to the Funding & Tenders Portal – with the EU Login account linked to the given e-mail address – under the 'My Proposals' tab.

If they have not yet registered an EU Login account, the PI or the applicant legal entity's contact person will receive an activation e-mail inviting them to activate their EU Login account. Following this first activation, the EU Login account will be maintained for subsequent communications or feedback. In order to be able to submit your proposal after saving the changes made in the "Participants List" (e.g., editing participants' details, adding a partner to the proposal), you have to re-open the **administrative** form ('Edit forms' button), revise the changes, validate and save the form. Failure to do so will prevent you from submitting your proposal. Further details are available in the F&T Portal Online Manual and the Submission Service User Manual.

Step 5 – Proposal forms (edit and complete the proposal)

This step is the core of the submission process, as from this step, you **can edit the online administrative form**, view the history, print the draft proposal, **download templates**, **upload files** and **submit** the proposal by clicking on the relevant buttons. Guidance on how to fill in the administrative form is provided directly in the form as ghost text for the single entries or as additional help text hidden behind question-marks . Some parts of the form will be prefilled based on the data entered at pre-registration or in the Beneficiary Register. Please use the **'Validate form'** button to check the validity and completeness of your data. Any blocking error or warning will be listed at the end of the validated form. **If any mandatory field is not filled, the submission of your proposal will fail.**

Further information on the preparation of the application (the online administrative submission form and Proposal Parts B1 and B2) is given in section 2 of this document.

- **All files must be uploaded in the submission system as PDF ('portable document format'). Other file formats will not be accepted by the system.** Irrespective of any page limits specified in this document, there is an **overall limit of 10 Mbytes to the size of each uploaded document (Part B1, Part B2, and supporting documentation)**. However, it is advised to limit the size of Parts B1 and B2 to 2 Mbytes each.
- **Embedded material and any other documents** (company brochures, scientific papers, reports, audio, video, multimedia, etc.) sent either electronically or by post to the ERCEA or uploaded directly in the Funding & Tenders Portal **will be disregarded**.

There are restrictions to the name given to the Part B files: use alphanumeric characters; special characters and spaces must be avoided. You are advised to clean your document before converting it to PDF (e.g., accept all tracked changes, delete notes). Check that your conversion software has successfully converted all the pages of your original document (e.g., there is no problem with page limits or page view), and that captions and labels have not been lost from your diagrams.

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[45] Be careful to type the correct e-mail address of the PI and all contact persons at this Step. Please note that if the Principal Investigator and the administrative contact person is the same person (because the PI is self-employed), you must use two different e-mail addresses as the system does not allow two identical e-mail addresses to be entered.

Completing the Proposal submission forms in the submission system and uploading all the necessary files does <u>not</u> yet mean that your proposal is submitted (mandatory files: Part B1, Part B2, Host Institution support letter and if applicable: Ethics Self-assessment and supporting documentation for ethics and security issues). Once there is a consolidated version of the proposal, **the 'SUBMIT' button must be pressed**. The system performs a limited automatic validation of the proposal. Any problems such as missing data, wrong file format or excessive file size will appear as a list of warnings and/or errors on the screen. You may submit your proposal with warnings (marked in yellow), but it is not possible to submit a proposal until all errors (marked in red) are corrected**.** Please note that the electronic checks by the submission system do not replace the formal admissibility and eligibility review and do not confirm that the contents of these files respond to the requirements of the call.

Step 6 – Manage the submitted proposal

By hitting the "Submit" button the proposal is submitted. It does not mean that the proposal is valid, admissible and eligible in all respects. After submission, your proposal will be available for download with an e-receipt in the system. You will receive a confirmation e-mail with the summary data of the submitted proposal. Please, note that this e-mail may end up in the spam folder or be blocked by the anti-spam system of your organisation.

At this step, you can re-edit the proposal (by clicking on "Edit forms" or uploading revised Part B1 and B2) and update the information in the "Participants List" (Step 4 and 5). **You may continue to modify the proposal and submit revised versions overwriting the previous one until the call deadline.** The sequence above must be repeated each time. The last version of your proposal submitted before the deadline is the one that will be reviewed for admissibility and eligibility and evaluated. No earlier version can be recovered from the submission system.

Check if the proposal is complete. Once submitted, it is recommended to verify the proposal and its content by downloading all submitted files. The ERCEA strongly advises to submit a first version of your proposal at least 48 hours prior to the call deadline. Incomplete proposals (where parts or sections of the proposal and/or the Host Institution's commitment statement are missing) may be declared inadmissible and will not be evaluated[46]. The final version of the proposal must be submitted **before the deadline of the call.**

Warning: Please note that in the last hours prior to call deadline, the download option for checking your submitted proposal may be disabled due to a high pressure on the system. In this case, the ERCEA will inform the applicants via the call page on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) (under 'call summary') that the function has been disabled. **If the e-receipt and download option have been disabled, you may review your submitted proposal by selecting "View Submitted" and clicking on 'View History' to verify which attachments have been uploaded.**

3.3   HOW TO WITHDRAW A PROPOSAL

To withdraw a proposal **before the call deadline** use the "withdraw proposal" button from the 'My proposals' tab when logged in on the Funding & Tenders Portal. After the call deadline, proposals may be withdrawn at any moment **until the day preceding the panel meetings** when a final decision on the outcome of the evaluation of the proposal is established. A withdrawn proposal will not be considered for evaluation nor count against possible re-application restrictions as set out in the [ERC Work Programme 2023](#).

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[46] See also section 2.4 'Admissibility and eligibility checks' in the [ERC Rules of submission and evaluation under Horizon Europe](#) and section "Proposal submission and description" of the [ERC Work Programme 2023](#).

To withdraw a proposal **after the call deadline,** please send an e-mail to the call-specific mailbox ERC-2023-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu and include a signed scanned letter requesting the formal withdrawal. The letter should mention the name and the acronym of the proposal as well as the call identifier (for example ERC-2023-AdG). In the case of two or more proposals submitted by the same PI, the ERCEA services may ask the PI to withdraw one or more of those proposals. In the case of no reaction by the PI to this request, only the first eligible submitted proposal will be evaluated.

4. ANNEXES

4.1 ERC EVALUATION PANELS AND KEYWORDS

ERC panels cover all fields of research in three domains: Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE), Life Sciences (LS), and Social Sciences and Humanities (SH).

The list of keywords and descriptors associated to each panel is indicative and not exhaustive; applications are welcomed from all fields and disciplines even if not specifically mentioned under a given panel.

Physical Sciences and Engineering

PE1   Mathematics
All areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics

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

PE2   Fundamental Constituents of Matter
Particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics

PE2_1   Theory of fundamental interactions
PE2_2   Phenomenology of fundamental interactions
PE2_3   Experimental particle physics with accelerators
PE2_4   Experimental particle physics without accelerators
PE2_5   Classical and quantum physics of gravitational interactions
PE2_6   Nuclear, hadron and heavy ion physics
PE2_7   Nuclear and particle astrophysics
PE2_8   Gas and plasma physics
PE2_9   Electromagnetism
PE2_10   Atomic, molecular physics
PE2_11   Ultra-cold atoms and molecules
PE2_12   Optics, non-linear optics and nano-optics
PE2_13   Quantum optics and quantum information

PE2_14   Lasers, ultra-short lasers and laser physics
PE2_15   Thermodynamics
PE2_16   Non-linear physics
PE2_17   Metrology and measurement
PE2_18   Equilibrium and non-equilibrium statistical mechanics: steady states and dynamics

PE3   Condensed Matter Physics
Structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences, biological physics

PE3_1   Structure of solids, material growth and characterisation
PE3_2   Mechanical and acoustical properties of condensed matter, lattice dynamics
PE3_3   Transport properties of condensed matter
PE3_4   Electronic properties of materials, surfaces, interfaces, nanostructures
PE3_5   Physical properties of semiconductors and insulators
PE3_6   Macroscopic quantum phenomena: e.g. superconductivity, superfluidity, quantum Hall effect
PE3_7   Spintronics
PE3_8   Magnetism and strongly correlated systems
PE3_9   Condensed matter – beam interactions (photons, electrons, etc.)
PE3_10   Nanophysics, e.g. nanoelectronics, nanophotonics, nanomagnetism, nanoelectromechanics
PE3_11   Mesoscopic quantum physics and solid-state quantum technologies
PE3_12   Molecular electronics
PE3_13   Structure and dynamics of disordered systems, e.g. soft matter (gels, colloids, liquid crystals), granular matter, liquids, glasses, defects
PE3_14   Fluid dynamics (physics)
PE3_15   Statistical physics: phase transitions, condensed matter systems, models of complex systems, interdisciplinary applications
PE3_16   Physics of biological systems

PE4   Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
Analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics

PE4_1   Physical chemistry
PE4_2   Spectroscopic and spectrometric techniques
PE4_3   Molecular architecture and Structure
PE4_4   Surface science and nanostructures
PE4_5   Analytical chemistry
PE4_6   Chemical physics
PE4_7   Chemical instrumentation
PE4_8   Electrochemistry, electrodialysis, microfluidics, sensors
PE4_9   Method development in chemistry
PE4_10   Heterogeneous catalysis
PE4_11   Physical chemistry of biological systems
PE4_12   Chemical reactions: mechanisms, dynamics, kinetics and catalytic reactions
PE4_13   Theoretical and computational chemistry
PE4_14   Radiation and Nuclear chemistry
PE4_15   Photochemistry
PE4_16   Corrosion
PE4_17   Characterisation methods of materials
PE4_18   Environment chemistry

PE5   Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
New materials and new synthetic approaches, structure-properties relations, solid state chemistry, molecular architecture, organic chemistry

PE5_1   Structural properties of materials
PE5_2   Solid state materials chemistry
PE5_3   Surface modification

PE5_4   Thin films
PE5_5   Ionic liquids
PE5_6   New materials: oxides, alloys, composite, organic-inorganic hybrid, nanoparticles
PE5_7   Biomaterials synthesis
PE5_8   Intelligent materials synthesis – self assembled materials
PE5_9   Coordination chemistry
PE5_10 Colloid chemistry
PE5_11 Biological chemistry and chemical biology
PE5_12 Chemistry of condensed matter
PE5_13 Homogeneous catalysis
PE5_14 Macromolecular chemistry
PE5_15 Polymer chemistry
PE5_16 Supramolecular chemistry
PE5_17 Organic chemistry
PE5_18 Medicinal chemistry

PE6   Computer Science and Informatics
Informatics and information systems, computer science, scientific computing, intelligent systems

PE6_1   Computer architecture, embedded systems, operating systems
PE6_2   Distributed systems, parallel computing, sensor networks, cyber-physical systems
PE6_3   Software engineering, programming languages and systems
PE6_4   Theoretical computer science, formal methods, automata
PE6_5   Security, privacy, cryptology, quantum cryptography
PE6_6   Algorithms and complexity, distributed, parallel and network algorithms, algorithmic game theory
PE6_7   Artificial intelligence, intelligent systems, natural language processing
PE6_8   Computer graphics, computer vision, multimedia, computer games
PE6_9   Human computer interaction and interface, visualisation
PE6_10 Web and information systems, data management systems, information retrieval and digital libraries, data fusion
PE6_11 Machine learning, statistical data processing and applications using signal processing (e.g. speech, image, video)
PE6_12 Scientific computing, simulation and modelling tools
PE6_13 Bioinformatics, bio-inspired computing, and natural computing
PE6_14 Quantum computing (formal methods, algorithms and other computer science aspects)

PE7   Systems and Communication Engineering
Electrical, electronic, communication, optical and systems engineering

PE7_1   Control engineering
PE7_2   Electrical engineering: power components and/or systems
PE7_3   Simulation engineering and modelling
PE7_4   (Micro- and nano-) systems engineering
PE7_5   (Micro- and nano-) electronic, optoelectronic and photonic components
PE7_6   Communication systems, wireless technology, high-frequency technology
PE7_7   Signal processing
PE7_8   Networks, e.g. communication networks and nodes, Internet of Things, sensor networks, networks of robots
PE7_9   Man-machine interfaces
PE7_10 Robotics
PE7_11 Components and systems for applications (in e.g. medicine, biology, environment)
PE7_12 Electrical energy production, distribution, applications

PE8   Products and Processes Engineering

Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods

PE8_1   Aerospace engineering
PE8_2   Chemical engineering, technical chemistry
PE8_3   Civil engineering, architecture, offshore construction, lightweight construction, geotechnics
PE8_4   Computational engineering
PE8_5   Fluid mechanics
PE8_6   Energy processes engineering
PE8_7   Mechanical engineering
PE8_8   Propulsion engineering, e.g. hydraulic, turbo, piston, hybrid engines
PE8_9   Production technology, process engineering
PE8_10 Manufacturing engineering and industrial design
PE8_11 Environmental engineering, e.g. sustainable design, waste and water treatment, recycling, regeneration or recovery of compounds, carbon capture & storage
PE8_12 Naval/marine engineering
PE8_13 Industrial bioengineering
PE8_14 Automotive and rail engineering; multi-/inter-modal transport engineering

PE9   Universe Sciences

Astro-physics/-chemistry/-biology; solar system; planetary systems; stellar, galactic and extragalactic astronomy; cosmology; space sciences; astronomical instrumentation and data

PE9_1   Solar physics – the Sun and the heliosphere
PE9_2   Solar system science
PE9_3   Exoplanetary science, formation and characterization of extrasolar planets
PE9_4   Astrobiology
PE9_5   Interstellar medium and star formation
PE9_6   Stars – stellar physics, stellar systems
PE9_7   The Milky Way
PE9_8   Galaxies – formation, evolution, clusters
PE9_9   Cosmology and large-scale structure, dark matter, dark energy
PE9_10 Relativistic astrophysics and compact objects
PE9_11 Gravitational wave astronomy
PE9_12 High-energy and particle astronomy
PE9_13 Astronomical instrumentation and data, e.g. telescopes, detectors, techniques, archives, analyses

PE10   Earth System Science

Physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, cryology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management

PE10_1 Atmospheric chemistry, atmospheric composition, air pollution
PE10_2 Meteorology, atmospheric physics and dynamics
PE10_3 Climatology and climate change
PE10_4 Terrestrial ecology, land cover change
PE10_5 Geology, tectonics, volcanology
PE10_6 Palaeoclimatology, palaeoecology
PE10_7 Physics of earth's interior, seismology, geodynamics
PE10_8 Oceanography (physical, chemical, biological, geological)
PE10_9 Biogeochemistry, biogeochemical cycles, environmental chemistry
PE10_10 Mineralogy, petrology, igneous petrology, metamorphic petrology
PE10_11 Geochemistry, cosmochemistry, crystal chemistry, isotope geochemistry, thermodynamics
PE10_12 Sedimentology, soil science, palaeontology, earth evolution
PE10_13 Physical geography, geomorphology
PE10_14 Earth observations from space/remote sensing

PE10_15 Geomagnetism, palaeomagnetism
PE10_16 Ozone, upper atmosphere, ionosphere
PE10_17 Hydrology, hydrogeology, engineering and environmental geology, water and soil pollution
PE10_18 Cryosphere, dynamics of snow and ice cover, sea ice, permafrosts and ice sheets
PE10_19 Planetary geology and geophysics
PE10_20 Geohazards
PE10_21 Earth system modelling and interactions

PE11 Materials Engineering

Advanced materials development: performance enhancement, modelling, large-scale preparation, modification, tailoring, optimisation, novel and combined use of materials, etc.

PE11_1 Engineering of biomaterials, biomimetic, bioinspired and bio-enabled materials
PE11_2 Engineering of metals and alloys
PE11_3 Engineering of ceramics and glasses
PE11_4 Engineering of polymers and plastics
PE11_5 Engineering of composites and hybrid materials
PE11_6 Engineering of carbon materials
PE11_7 Engineering of metal oxides
PE11_8 Engineering of alternative established or emergent materials
PE11_9 Nanomaterials engineering, e.g. nanoparticles, nanoporous materials, 1D & 2D nanomaterials
PE11_10 Soft materials engineering, e.g. gels, foams, colloids
PE11_11 Porous materials engineering, e.g. covalent-organic, metal-organic, porous aromatic frameworks
PE11_12 Semi-conducting and magnetic materials engineering
PE11_13 Metamaterials engineering
PE11_14 Computational methods for materials engineering

Life Sciences

LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
For all organisms:
Molecular biology, biochemistry, structural biology, molecular biophysics, synthetic and chemical biology, drug design, innovative methods and modelling

LS1_1   Macromolecular complexes including interactions involving nucleic acids, proteins, lipids and carbohydrates
LS1_2   Biochemistry
LS1_3   DNA and RNA biology
LS1_4   Protein biology
LS1_5   Lipid biology
LS1_6   Glycobiology
LS1_7   Molecular biophysics, biomechanics, bioenergetics
LS1_8   Structural biology
LS1_9   Molecular mechanisms of signalling processes
LS1_10 Synthetic biology
LS1_11 Chemical biology
LS1_12 Protein design
LS1_13 Early translational research and drug design
LS1_14 Innovative methods and modelling in molecular, structural and synthetic biology

LS2 Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems

For all organisms:

Genetics, epigenetics, genomics and other 'omics studies, bioinformatics, systems biology, genetic diseases, gene editing, innovative methods and modelling, 'omics for personalised medicine

LS2_1 Genetics
LS2_2 Gene editing
LS2_3 Epigenetics
LS2_4 Gene regulation
LS2_5 Genomics
LS2_6 Metagenomics
LS2_7 Transcriptomics
LS2_8 Proteomics
LS2_9 Metabolomics
LS2_10 Glycomics/Lipidomics
LS2_11 Bioinformatics and computational biology
LS2_12 Biostatistics
LS2_13 Systems biology
LS2_14 Genetic diseases
LS2_15 Integrative biology for personalised medicine
LS2_16 Innovative methods and modelling in integrative biology

LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology

For all organisms:

Structure and function of the cell, cell-cell communication, embryogenesis, tissue differentiation, organogenesis, growth, development, evolution of development, organoids, stem cells, regeneration, therapeutic approaches

LS3_1 Cell cycle, cell division and growth
LS3_2 Cell senescence, cell death, autophagy, cell ageing
LS3_3 Cell behaviour, including control of cell shape, cell migration
LS3_4 Cell junctions, cell adhesion, the extracellular matrix, cell communication
LS3_5 Cell signalling and signal transduction, exosome biology
LS3_6 Organelle biology and trafficking
LS3_7 Mechanobiology of cells, tissues and organs
LS3_8 Embryogenesis, pattern formation, morphogenesis
LS3_9 Cell differentiation, formation of tissues and organs
LS3_10 Developmental genetics
LS3_11 Evolution of developmental strategies
LS3_12 Organoids
LS3_13 Stem cells
LS3_14 Regeneration
LS3_15 Development of cell-based therapeutic approaches for tissue regeneration
LS3_16 Functional imaging of cells and tissues
LS3_17 Theoretical modelling in cellular, developmental and regenerative biology

LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing

Organ and tissue physiology, comparative physiology, physiology of ageing, pathophysiology, inter-organ and tissue communication, endocrinology, nutrition, metabolism, interaction with the microbiome, non-communicable diseases including cancer (and except disorders of the nervous system and immunity-related diseases)

LS4_1 Organ and tissue physiology and pathophysiology
LS4_2 Comparative physiology
LS4_3 Physiology of ageing

LS4_4   Endocrinology
LS4_5   Non-hormonal mechanisms of inter-organ and tissue communication
LS4_6   Microbiome and host physiology
LS4_7   Nutrition and exercise physiology
LS4_8   Impact of stress (including environmental stress) on physiology
LS4_9   Metabolism and metabolic disorders, including diabetes and obesity
LS4_10   The cardiovascular system and cardiovascular diseases
LS4_11   Haematopoiesis and blood diseases
LS4_12   Cancer
LS4_13   Other non-communicable diseases (except disorders of the nervous system and immunity-related diseases)

LS5   Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System

Nervous system development, homeostasis and ageing, nervous system function and dysfunction, systems neuroscience and modelling, biological basis of cognitive processes and of behaviour, neurological and mental disorders

LS5_1   Neuronal cells
LS5_2   Glial cells and neuronal-glial communication
LS5_3   Neural development and related disorders
LS5_4   Neural stem cells
LS5_5   Neural networks and plasticity
LS5_6   Neurovascular biology and blood-brain barrier
LS5_7   Sensory systems, sensation and perception, including pain
LS5_8   Neural basis of behaviour
LS5_9   Neural basis of cognition
LS5_10   Ageing of the nervous system
LS5_11   Neurological and neurodegenerative disorders
LS5_12   Mental disorders
LS5_13   Nervous system injuries and trauma, stroke
LS5_14   Repair and regeneration of the nervous system
LS5_15   Neuroimmunology, neuroinflammation
LS5_16   Systems and computational neuroscience
LS5_17   Imaging in neuroscience
LS5_18   Innovative methods and tools for neuroscience

LS6   Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy

The immune system, related disorders and their mechanisms, biology of infectious agents and infection, biological basis of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, innovative immunological tools and approaches, including therapies

LS6_1   Innate immunity
LS6_2   Adaptive immunity
LS6_3   Regulation of the immune response
LS6_4   Immune-related diseases
LS6_5   Biology of pathogens (e.g. bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi)
LS6_6   Infectious diseases
LS6_7   Mechanism of infection
LS6_8   Biological basis of prevention and treatment of infection
LS6_9   Antimicrobials, antimicrobial resistance
LS6_10   Vaccine development
LS6_11   Innovative immunological tools and approaches, including therapies

LS7   Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases

Medical technologies and tools for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases, therapeutic approaches and interventions, pharmacology, preventative medicine, epidemiology and public health, digital medicine

LS7_1   Medical imaging for prevention, diagnosis and monitoring of diseases
LS7_2   Medical technologies and tools (including genetic tools and biomarkers) for prevention, diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of diseases
LS7_3   Nanomedicine
LS7_4   Regenerative medicine
LS7_5   Applied gene, cell and immune therapies
LS7_6   Other medical therapeutic interventions, including transplantation
LS7_7   Pharmacology and toxicology
LS7_8   Effectiveness of interventions, including resistance to therapies
LS7_9   Public health and epidemiology
LS7_10   Preventative and prognostic medicine
LS7_11   Environmental health, occupational medicine
LS7_12   Health care, including care for the ageing population
LS7_13   Palliative medicine
LS7_14   Digital medicine, e-medicine, medical applications of artificial intelligence
LS7_15   Medical ethics

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

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

LS9   Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

Biotechnology using all organisms, biotechnology for environment and food applications, applied plant and animal sciences, bioengineering and synthetic biology, biomass and biofuels, biohazards

LS9_1   Bioengineering for synthetic and chemical biology
LS9_2   Applied genetics, gene editing and transgenic organisms
LS9_3   Bioengineering of cells, tissues, organs and organisms
LS9_4   Microbial biotechnology and bioengineering
LS9_5   Food biotechnology and bioengineering
LS9_6   Marine biotechnology and bioengineering
LS9_7   Environmental biotechnology and bioengineering
LS9_8   Applied plant sciences, plant breeding, agroecology and soil biology
LS9_9   Plant pathology and pest resistance

LS9_10 Veterinary and applied animal sciences
LS9_11 Biomass production and utilisation, biofuels
LS9_12 Ecotoxicology, biohazards and biosafety

Social Sciences and Humanities

SH1   Individuals, Markets and Organisations
Economics, finance and management

SH1_1   Macroeconomics; monetary economics; economic growth
SH1_2   International trade; international management; 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

SH2   Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
Political science, international relations, law

SH2_1   Political systems, governance
SH2_2   Democratisation and social movements
SH2_3   Conflict resolution, war, peace building, international law
SH2_4   Legal studies, constitutions, human rights, comparative law
SH2_5   International relations, global and transnational governance
SH2_6   Humanitarian assistance and development
SH2_7   Political and legal philosophy
SH2_8   Big data in political and legal studies

SH3   The Social World and Its Diversity
Sociology, social psychology, social anthropology, education sciences, communication studies

SH3_1   Social structure, social mobility, social innovation
SH3_2   Inequalities, discrimination, prejudice
SH3_3   Aggression and violence, antisocial behaviour, crime
SH3_4   Social integration, exclusion, prosocial behaviour
SH3_5   Attitudes and beliefs
SH3_6   Social influence; power and group behaviour
SH3_7   Kinship; diversity and identities, gender, interethnic relations
SH3_8   Social policies, welfare, work and employment
SH3_9   Poverty and poverty alleviation
SH3_10   Religious studies, ritual; symbolic representation
SH3_11   Social aspects of teaching and learning, curriculum studies, education and educational policies
SH3_12   Communication and information, networks, media
SH3_13   Digital social research
SH3_14   Social studies of science and technology

SH4 **The Human Mind and Its Complexity**

Cognitive science, psychology, linguistics, theoretical philosophy

SH4_1   Cognitive basis of human development and education, developmental disorders; comparative cognition
SH4_2   Personality and social cognition; emotion
SH4_3   Clinical and health psychology
SH4_4   Neuropsychology
SH4_5   Attention, perception, action, consciousness
SH4_6   Learning, memory; cognition in ageing
SH4_7   Reasoning, decision-making; intelligence
SH4_8   Language learning and processing (first and second languages)
SH4_9   Theoretical linguistics; computational linguistics
SH4_10 Language typology; historical linguistics
SH4_11 Pragmatics, sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, discourse analysis
SH4_12 Philosophy of mind, philosophy of language
SH4_13 Philosophy of science, epistemology, logic

SH5 **Cultures and Cultural Production**

Literary studies, cultural studies, study of the arts, philosophy

SH5_1   Classics, ancient literature and art
SH5_2   Theory and history of literature, comparative literature
SH5_3   Philology; text and image studies
SH5_4   Visual and performing arts, film, design and architecture
SH5_5   Music and musicology; history of music
SH5_6   History of art and architecture, arts-based research
SH5_7   Museums, exhibitions, conservation and restoration
SH5_8   Cultural studies, cultural identities and memories, cultural heritage
SH5_9   Metaphysics, philosophical anthropology; aesthetics
SH5_10 Ethics and its applications; social philosophy
SH5_11 History of philosophy
SH5_12 Computational modelling and digitisation in the cultural sphere

SH6 **The Study of the Human Past**

Archaeology and history

SH6_1   Historiography, theory and methods in history, including the analysis of digital data
SH6_2   Classical archaeology, history of archaeology, social archaeology
SH6_3   General archaeology, archaeometry, landscape archaeology
SH6_4   Prehistory, palaeoanthropology, palaeodemography, protohistory, bioarchaeology
SH6_5   Palaeography and codicology
SH6_6   Ancient history
SH6_7   Medieval history
SH6_8   Early modern history
SH6_9   Modern and contemporary history
SH6_10 Colonial and post-colonial history
SH6_11 Global history, transnational history, comparative history, entangled histories
SH6_12 Social and economic history
SH6_13 Gender history, cultural history, history of collective identities and memories, history of religions
SH6_14 History of ideas, intellectual history, history of economic thought
SH6_15 History of science, medicine and technologies

SH7   Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

Human geography, demography, health, sustainability science, territorial planning, spatial analysis

SH7_1   Human, economic and social geography
SH7_2   Migration
SH7_3   Population dynamics: households, family and fertility
SH7_4   Social aspects of health, ageing and society
SH7_5   Sustainability sciences, environment and resources
SH7_6   Environmental and climate change, societal impact and policy
SH7_7   Cities; urban, regional and rural studies
SH7_8   Land use and planning
SH7_9   Energy, transportation and mobility
SH7_10 GIS, spatial analysis; big data in geographical studies

4.2 HOST INSTITUTION SUPPORT LETTER TEMPLATE 2023

Print on paper bearing the official letterhead of the host institution

Commitment of the host institution for ERC Calls 2023 [47, 48, 49]

The <<please fill in here the name of the legal entity that is associated to the proposal and may host the principal investigator and the project (action) in case the application is successful>>, which is the applicant legal entity,

confirms its intention to sign a supplementary agreement with
<<please fill in here the name of the principal investigator>>

in which the obligations listed below will be addressed should their proposal be retained.

Performance obligations of the *applicant legal entity* (Host Institution) that will become the coordinator of the HE ERC Grant Agreement (hereafter referred to as the Agreement), should the proposal be retained and the preparation of the Agreement be successfully concluded:

The applicant legal entity (Host Institution) commits itself to ensure that the action tasks described in Annex 1 of the Agreement are performed under the guidance of the principal investigator who is expected to devote:

– in the case of a Starting Grant at least 50% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country;

– in the case of a Consolidator Grant at least 40% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country;

– in the case of an Advanced Grant at least 30% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country.

The applicant legal entity (Host Institution) commits itself to respect the following conditions for the principal investigator and their team:

a) host and engage the principal investigator for the whole duration of the action;

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[47] A scanned copy of the signed statement should be uploaded electronically via the F&T Portal in PDF format.
[48] The statement of commitment of the host institution refers to most obligations of the host institution, which are stated in the Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions (MGA). The MGA is available on the F&T Portal. The reference to the time commitment of the Principal Investigator is stated in the ERC Work Programme 2023.
[49] This statement (on letterhead paper) shall be signed (in blue ink or digitally) by the institution's legal representative indicating their name, function, email address and, in case of blue ink signature, along with the stamp of the institution.

b) take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers[50] — in particular regarding working conditions, transparent recruitment processes based on merit and career development — and ensure that the principal investigator, researchers and third parties involved in the action are aware of them;

c) enter — before grant signature— into a Supplementary Agreement with the principal investigator, that specifies the obligation of the applicant legal entity to meet its obligations under the Agreement;

d) provide the principal investigator with a copy of the signed Agreement;

e) guarantee the principal investigator scientific independence, in particular for the:

   i) use of the budget to achieve the scientific objectives;

   ii) authority to publish as senior author and invite as co-authors those who have contributed substantially to the work;

   iii) preparation of scientific reports for the action;

   iv) selection and supervision of the other team members, in line with the profiles needed to conduct the research and in accordance with the beneficiary's usual management practices;

   v) possibility to apply independently for funding;

   vi) access to appropriate space and facilities for conducting the research;

f) provide — during the implementation of the action — research support to the principal investigator and the team members (regarding infrastructure, equipment, access rights, products and other services necessary for conducting the research);

g) support the principal investigator and provide administrative assistance, in particular for the:

   i) general management of the work and their team;

   ii) scientific reporting, especially ensuring that the team members send their scientific results to the principal investigator;

   iii) financial reporting, especially providing timely and clear financial information;

   iv) application of the beneficiary's usual management practices;

   v) general logistics of the action;

   vi) access to the electronic exchange system;

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[50] Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (OJ L 75, 22.3.2005, p. 67).

h) inform the principal investigator immediately (in writing) of any events or circumstances likely to affect the Agreement;

i) ensure that the principal investigator enjoys adequate:

    i) conditions for annual, sickness and parental leave;

    ii) occupational health and safety standards;

    iii) insurance under the general social security scheme, such as pension rights;

j) allow the transfer of the Agreement to a new beneficiary, if requested by the principal investigator and provided that the objectives of the action remain achievable (portability; see Article 41 of the Agreement);

k) respect the fundamental principle of research integrity and ensure that persons carrying out research tasks under the action follow the good research practices and refrain from the research integrity violations described in the European Code of **Conduct for Research Integrity[51]. If any such violations or allegations occur, verify and pursue them and bring them to the attention of the Agency.**

For the applicant legal entity (Host Institution):

Date

:::::::::::::::::::

Name and Function

::::::::::::::::: ; :::::::::::::::::

Email and Signature (blue ink or digitally signed[52]) of legal representative

::::::::::::::::: ; :::::::::::::::::::::::::::

Stamp of the applicant legal entity (Host Institution)[53]

IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to be complete all the above mentioned items are mandatory and shall be included in the commitment of the host institution.

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[51] The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA - All European Academies, Berlin 2017.
[52] The digital signature must have the same legal value (i.e., must be the electronic equivalent) of a handwritten signature and a stamped seal.
[53] No need to stamp this letter of support when it is digitally signed.

4.3 PROPOSAL BUDGET REPORT[54]

Proposal number	999999999
Acronym	ERC proposal
Title	Title describing the ERC proposal
Evaluation panel	XXx
Principal Investigator	First Name, Last Name
Host Institution	Name of Institution, country
Project duration	xx months (this information will be extracted from the administrative submission form, 1 - General information)
Time commitment of the PI to the project	xx % (this information will be extracted from the administrative submission form, section 5 - Other questions)

Budget summary

Beneficiary organisation(s)	Total cost (€)	Requested AMT (€)
1. Name of Institution, country	x,xxx,xxx.00	xxx,xxx.00

Budget details

Cost Category / Beneficiary			Name of Institution	Total
A. Personnel costs	PI		xx	xx
	Senior Staff		xx	xx
	Postdocs		xx	xx
	Students		xx	xx
	Other Personnel costs		xx	xx
Total Personnel costs			Xxx	Xxx
B. Subcontracting costs (no indirect costs)			xx	xx
C. Purchase costs	**C.1 Travel and subsistence**		xx	xx
	C.2. Equipment incl. major equipment		xx	xx
	C.3 Other goods, works and services	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	xx	xx
		Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	xx	xx
		Other additional direct costs	xx	xx
		C.3 Total other goods, works and services	Xx	Xx
Total Purchase costs (C1 + C2 + C3)			Xxx	Xxx
D. Internally invoiced goods and services (no indirect costs)			Xx	Xx
E. Indirect costs (= 25% * (A + C1 + C2 + C3))			Xxx	Xxx
Total eligible costs (A + B + C + D + E)			X.xxx.xxx	X.xxx.xxx
Requested EU contribution			**X.XXX.XXX**	**X.XXX.XXX**

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[54] This is an example of how the Proposal Budget Report looks like for the independent external experts. Please note that the layout may be further adapted when needed and in case of partner organization(s).

Section C. Resources

I plan to allocate …. (one to max. two descriptive text pages – max. 8000 characters)

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 if applicable.

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

Justification:

4.4   DATA PROTECTION NOTICE

All legal notices are accessible on the F&T Portal.

The Privacy Statement on 'Grant management and registration/validation of participants' relevant to this document is available here.

4.5 LIST OF BLOCKING FIELDS and WARNINGS IN THE ONLINE FORM

BLOCKING FIELDS: The submission of the proposal will be blocked unless the error/missing entry is corrected

Section 1 – General Information

Acronym, Title, Duration, Primary ERC Review Panel, ERC Keyword 1, Abstract

Declaration on explicit consent on participation and content of the proposal

Section 2 – Participants

PI: First name, Last name and E-mail (can only be entered in the Participants section in the submission system)

PI: Nationality, Date of birth, Gender, Country of birth, Place of birth, Town, Country

Main contact person (for ERC HI contact person): First name, Last name and E-mail (can only be entered in the Participants section in the submission system)

Section 3 – Budget

The total Requested EU contribution must not be zero (0.00)

Section 4 – Ethics and security

No blocking fields

Section 5 – Other questions

Percentage of working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country over the period of the grant

Percentage of working time the PI dedicates to the project over the period of the grant

Declaration of acknowledgement of eligibility requirements

Confirmation of written consent obtained from participants and researchers

WARNINGS: The submission of the proposal will not be blocked

Section 1 – General Information

Previous submission of similar proposal

Non mandatory declarations

Section 2 – Participants

PI: ORCID number, Career Stage, Last name at Birth, Title, Country of residence, Contact address

Contact address of HI and contact person: Gender, Position in org., Department

Section 3 – Budget

Budget table: Field of Total Eligible Costs and Requested EU contribution per participant is zero (0.00)

Section C. Resources has less than 1500 characters

Section 4 – Ethics and security

Declaration of assessment of ethics issues

Section 5 – Other questions

Date of earliest award (PhD or equivalent)

Sharing of evaluation data: consent to disclose the results, name and proposal details if not funded due to budget limitations; consent to publish name and proposal details if funded