ERC Grants: all you need to know

Research Support, Innovation & Technology Transfer (Forschungsservice)

Olivier Guillaume, PhD
Pre-award support (national funding agencies)
Expert Research Funding for Early Career Researchers

Ylva Huber, PhD
Unit for Life Sciences
National Contact Point ERC

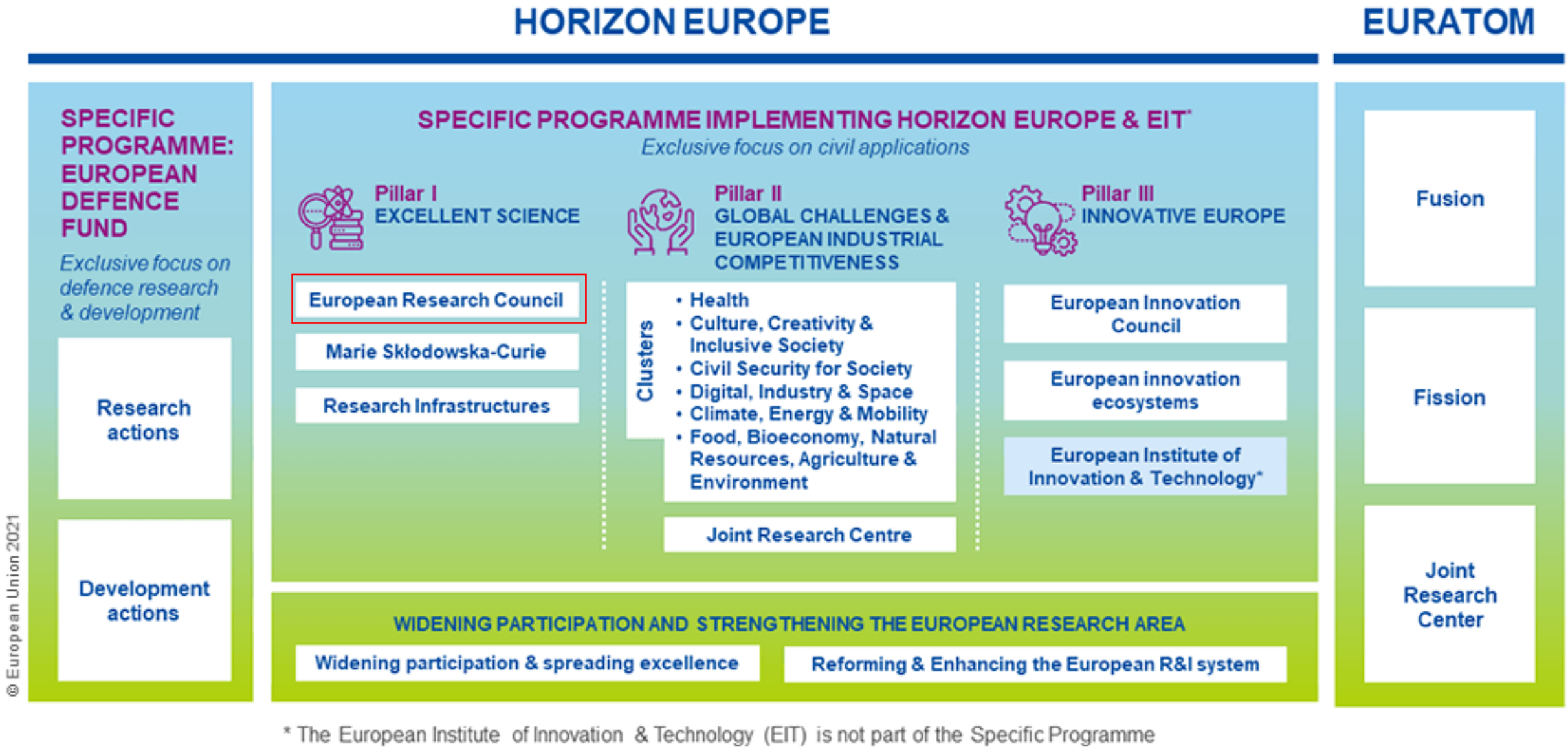
FFG
Forschung wirkt.

Agenda

- Different ERC schemes available for Researchers
- What are the PI eligibility criteria?
- Which costs can an ERC cover?
- What are the evaluation criteria?
- How to organize your research proposal?

Agenda

- Facts & Figures
- Mentoring Program @ FOS
- How can an ERC help you in securing a permanent university position?
- How can FFG support you?
- Q&A Session and Discussion

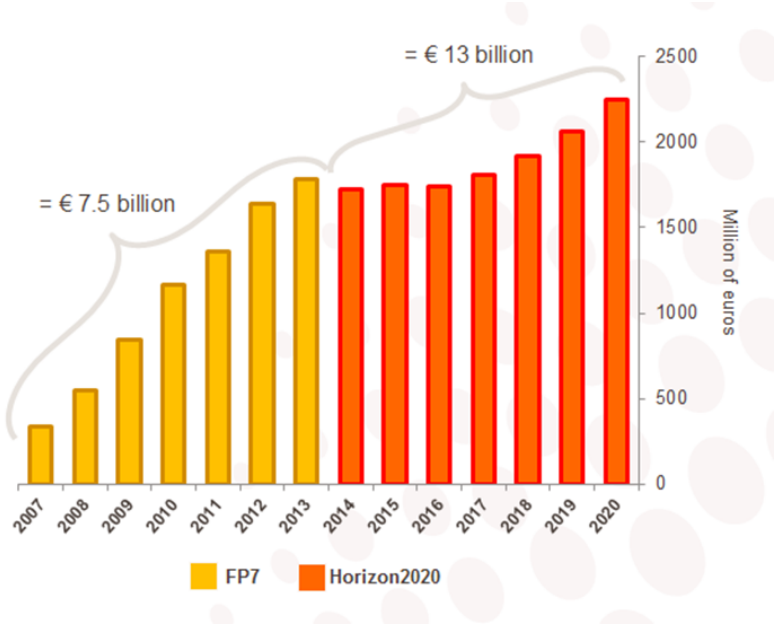


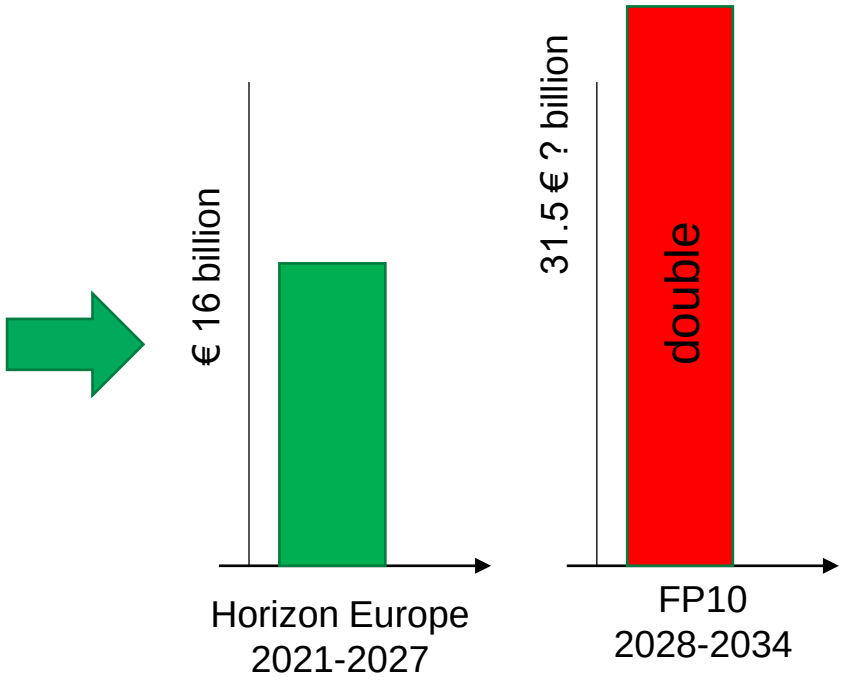
* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

The ERC, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the premier European funding organisation for excellent frontier research.

It funds creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based across Europe.





European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- The fundamental activity of the ERC is to **provide attractive, long-term funding** to support **excellent** investigators and their research teams to pursue **ground-breaking, high-risk and ambitious research**.

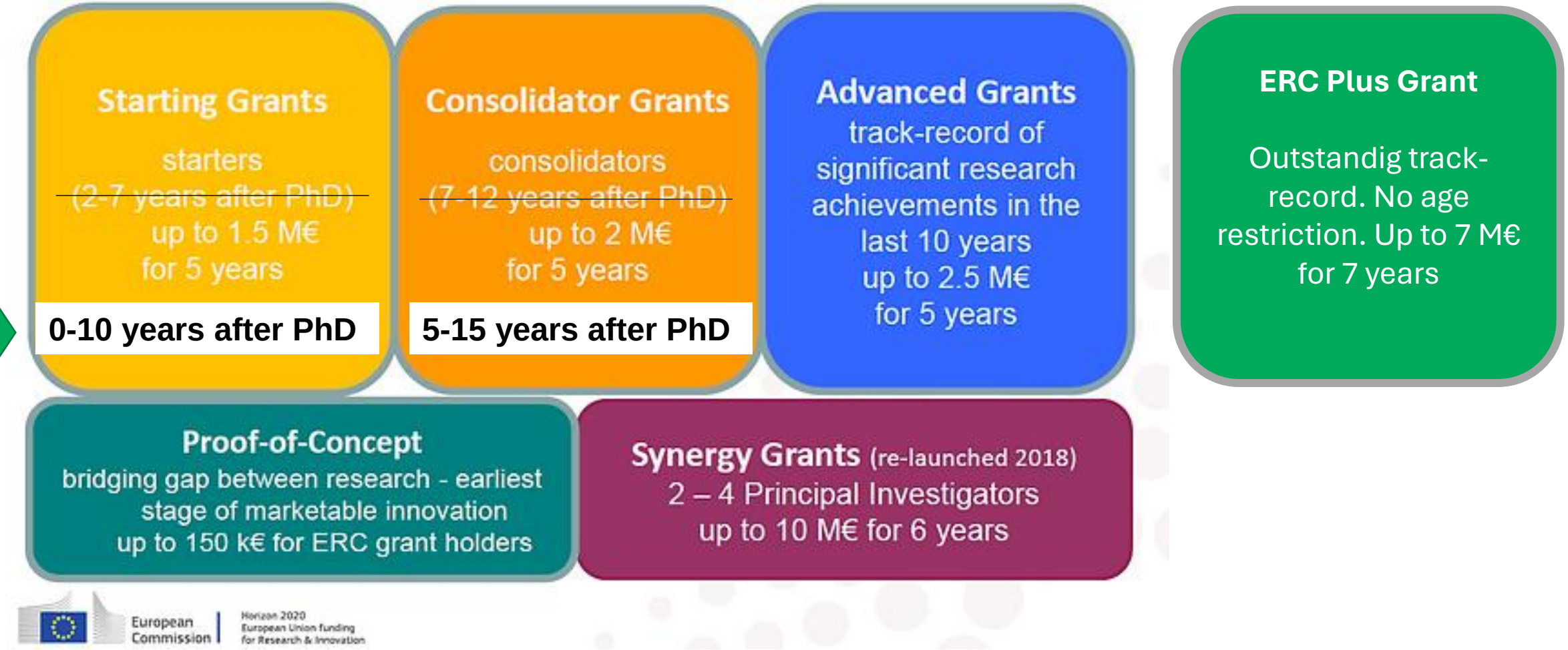
Excellence is the sole criterion on the basis of which ERC frontier research grants are awarded

"Bottom-up approach" without topic priorities

➢ Different ERC schemes available for Researchers

- ➢ Figures until now (including Work Program 2026)

For the next WP 2027



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC WP 2026

ERC-2026 Call*

	Starting Grant Call	Consolidator Grant Call	Advanced Grant Call	Synergy Grant Call	ERC Plus Grant Call[8]
Call Identifier	ERC-2026-StG	ERC-2026-CoG	ERC-2026-AdG	ERC-2026-SyG	ERC-2026-PLUS
Opening Date	9 July 2025	25 September 2025	28 May 2026	10 July 2025	2 June 2026
Deadline	14 October 2025	13 January 2026	27 August 2026	5 November 2025	2 September 2026
Budget (EUR, m)	705	673	747	500	210
Estimated Number of Grants	450	328	294	49	30
Date to Inform Applicants – Step 1	28 April 2026	17 July 2026	29 January 2027	13 April 2026	16 February 2027
Date to Inform Applicants – Step 2	25 August 2026	11 December 2026	11 June 2027	14 August 2026	15 June 2027
Date to Inform Applicants – Step 3	-	-	-	27 October 2026	-
Grant Agreement Signature Date	22 December 2026	12 April 2027	16 November 2027	24 March 2027	13 October 2027

**Do not forget: you will apply for the Call 2027*

➢ Different ERC schemes available for Researchers

Objectives and Principal Investigator
Support for excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are starting their own independent research team or programme. Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of their research proposal. A Starting Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of the potential for research independence, for example by having produced **at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor.**

StG

Starting Grants (StG) support researchers at the early stage of their careers to become independent research leaders.

6 ERC-StG

Eva Oburger (2018)

Johannes Schmidt (2017)

Simone Gingrich (2017)

Erik Reimhult (2012)

Jürgen Kleine-Vehn (2014)

Chris Oostenbrink (2010)

Maximum amount and duration of the grant
Up to **EUR 1 500 000** for a period of **5 years**. Additional funding up to **EUR 1 000 000**.

➢ Different ERC schemes available for Researchers

Support for excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme.

Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of their research proposal.

A Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of research independence.

CoG

Consolidator Grants (CoG) support researchers who are at the early stage of their careers and are often already working

3 ERC-CoG

Fabian Pfrengle (2022)

Notburga Gierlinger (2015)

Roland Ludwig (2016)

Up to **EUR 2 000 000** for a period of **5 years**. Additional funding up to **EUR 1 000 000**.

➢ Different ERC schemes available for Researchers

Support for excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements.

Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of their research proposal.

An ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigator is expected to be an active researcher and to have a track record of significant research achievements.

AdG

Advanced Grants (AdG) support outstanding and established research leaders to continue their work in expanding the frontiers of scientific knowledge.

2 ERC-AdG

Helmut Haberl (2016)

Wei Wu (2024)

Up to **EUR 2 500 000** for a period of **5 years**. Additional funding up to **EUR 1 000 000**.

[ERC Funding Opportunities::Research Support, Innovation & Technology Transfer::BOKU]

➢ What are the eligibility criteria?

ERC-2027 Call

Eligibility period: Principal Investigator(s) who have successfully defended their first PhD		
Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced and Synergy Grant
➢ 0 and ≤ 10 years Prior to 1 January 2027*	➢ 5 and ≤ 15 years Prior to 1 January 2027*	➢ No limitation

For ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants, the reference date towards the calculation of the eligibility period is the **certified date of the successful defense (and not the award) of their first PhD degree**.

** Under discussion if for WP2027 if it stays like that or counting down from deadline of submission*

- Independent researchers of **any age and career stage** can apply for attractive long-term funding
- The ERC actions are open to researchers of **any nationality**, who intend to conduct their research activity in any **EU Member State** or **Associated Country****

** list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

➢ What are the eligibility criteria?

"Minimum time commitment„

50% for Starting, 40% for Consolidator and 30% for Advanced

Eligibility period extension

- **Maternity**: 18 months extension for each child born before or after the date of the successful defence of their first PhD degree.
- **Paternity**: extension by the documented time of paternity leave taken before the call deadline for each child born before or after the date of the successful defence of their first PhD degree.
- **Long-term illness or national service**: extension by the documented amount of leave taken by the Principal Investigator before the call deadline for each incident.
- **Clinical training**: extension by the documented amount of clinical training received by the Principal Investigator after the reference date of the first eligible degree and before the call deadline.
- **Natural Disaster**: extension by the documented time of a Principal Investigator's inability to work before the call deadline due to a natural disaster.
- **Seeking Asylum**: extension by the documented time of the Principal Investigator's inability to work before the call deadline due to seeking asylum.
- **Gender-based violence**

https://enspire.science/erc-eligibility-window-calculator/

➢ Which cost can an ERC cover?

- **It can cover 100% of the eligible costs**

PI salary & staff, consumable, travels, publications, equipment*, subcontracting, third-party services…

- **Addition of 25 % indirect cost**

Without subcontracting or internally invoiced goods & services)

The maximum amount of the grants is reduced *pro rata temporis* for projects of a shorter duration.

The final amount to be paid must be justified on the basis of the costs incurred for the project and it may be lower than the budget requested.

** with depreciation rate (exceptionally fully capitalised upon request from applicant)*

➢ Which cost can an ERC cover?

- **Additional funding up to €1 Mio** (no time-reduction and no personal cost)

  ➢ "start-up" costs for **Principal Investigators moving** to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant*

  * An additional € 1 Mio is available for PI moving to EU

  ➢ purchase of **major equipment**,

  ➢ access to **large facilities**, and/or other major experimental and **field work** costs

  ➢ Additional **staff**

➢ Which cost can an ERC cover?

The Budget Table and description of resources are part of the **online submission form** (Section 3 – Budget).

Resources text box should provide:
- clear description and justification of the proposal budget
- nature of other additional cost
- nature & size of the team & key members
- technical description of equipment
- mention if in-kind contribution

Budget summary

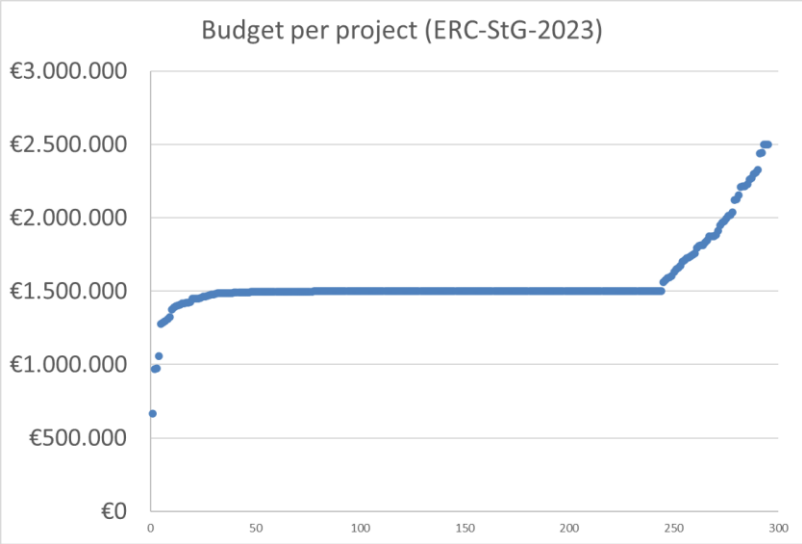
Beneficiary organisation(s)	Total cost (€)	Requested AM
1. Name of Institution, country	x,xxx,xxx.00	xxx,

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

➢ Which cost can an ERC cover?

- Is there a better to chance when not targeting the max budget?



*- BUT: the budget must be justified and must match **your project – PI experience***

Budget summary

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

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
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Total eligible costs (A + B + C + D + E)			X.xxx.xxx	X.xxx.xxx
Requested EU contribution			X.XXX.XXX	X.XXX.XXX

Agenda

- Different ERC schemes available for Researchers
- What are the PI eligibility criteria?
- Which costs can an ERC cover?
- What are the evaluation criteria?
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➢ What are the evaluation criteria?

Excellence is the sole criterion on the basis of which ERC frontier research grants are awarded

The **intellectual capacity, creativity, and commitment** of PI

The **ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility** of the research project.

Has the PI the **required scientific expertise** and capacity to successfully execute the project?

➢ What are the evaluation criteria?

Not a mystery: -> described in “1.6.5 Evaluation Elements” of WP2026

Research Project: The ground-breaking nature and ambition of the research project

At stage 1 (B1 including CV)

- To what extent does the research address important scientific questions?
- To what extent are the project’s objectives ambitious and will it advance the frontier of knowledge?

At stage 2 (B1+B2 + resources)

- To what extent does the research address important scientific questions?
- To what extent are the project’s objectives ambitious and will it advance the frontier of knowledge?
- To what extent are the research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?
- To what extent are the timescales and resources adequate and properly justified?

➢ What are the evaluation criteria?

Not a mystery: -> described in “1.6.5 Evaluation Elements” of WP2026

	StG	CoG	AdG
Career stage	Starting their own independent research team or programme	May still be consolidating their own independent research team	Already established researcher leaders with a recognized track record
Objective	Demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their research proposal		
Achievement level	Evidence of the potential for research independence (1 Pub. as main author or without PhD sup.)	Evidence of research independence	Active researcher and track record of significant achievements

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 provide evidence of creative and original thinking?
- To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

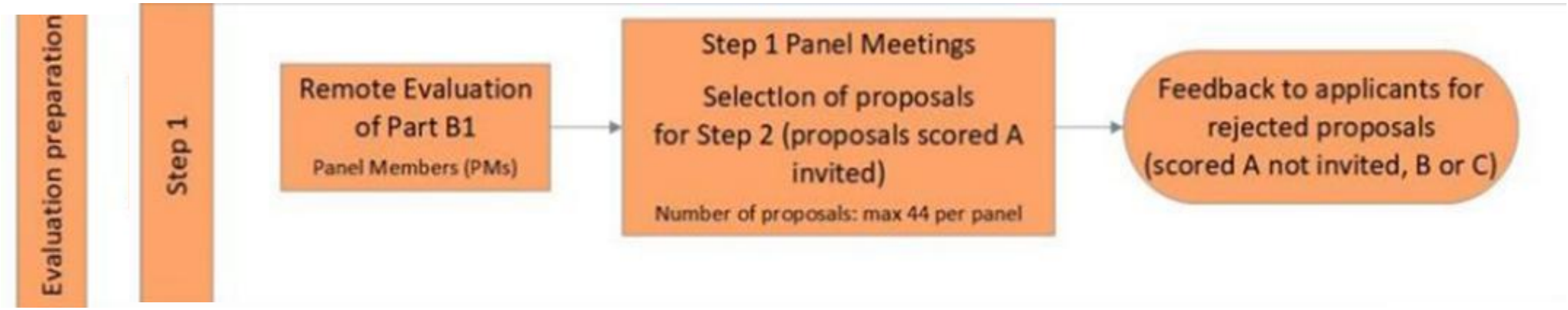
➢ How does the evaluation take place?

STEP 1

- **A Invited**: excellent quality -> goes to step 2
- **A not invited**: excellent quality but not high enough
- **B**: high quality but not sufficient
- **C**: not of sufficient quality

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

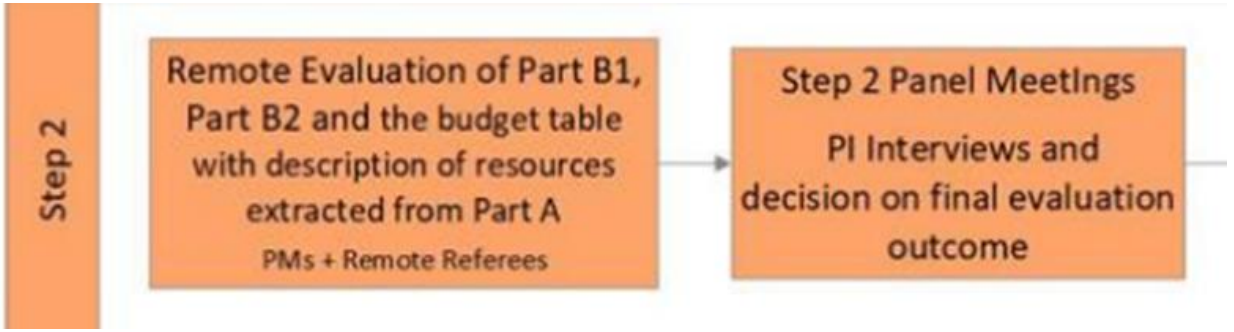
StG 2027	13/14 Oct. 2026	Feb 2027	May 2027	June 2027	Aug 2027



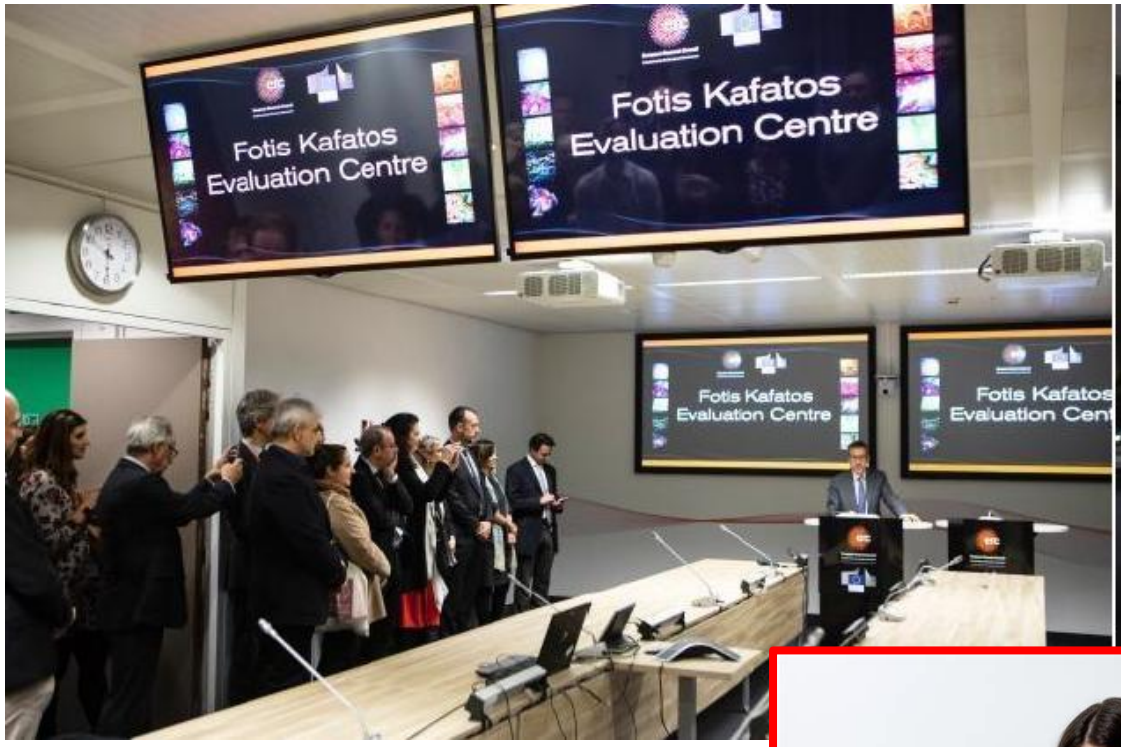
➢ How does the evaluation take place?

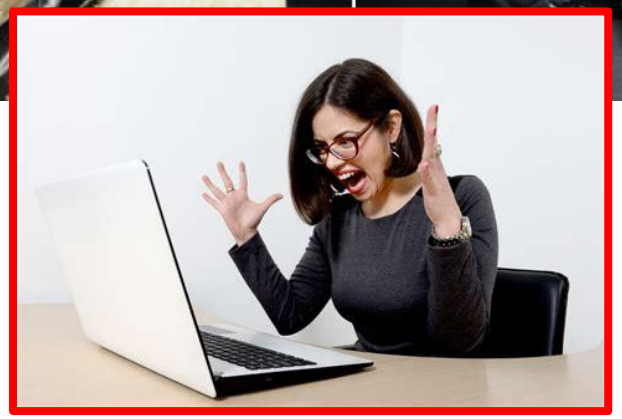
A **single submission** of the full proposal is followed by a **two-step evaluation**

StG 2027	13/14 Oct. 2026	Feb 2027	May 2027	June 2027	Aug 2027



➢ What does it look like to be invited for hearing?



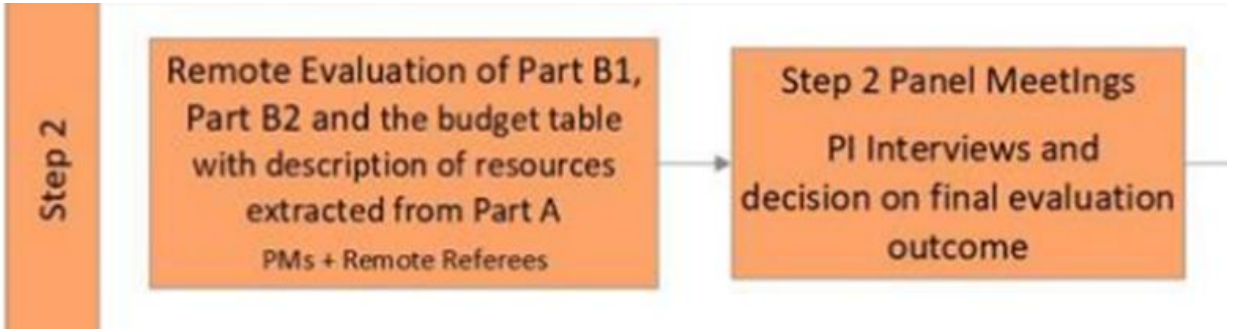


➢ How does the evaluation take place?

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

StG 2027	13/14 Oct. 2026	Feb 2027	May 2027	June 2027	Aug 2027

STEP 2



- **A**: fully meet ERC´s excellence criterion **if sufficient funds are available**
- **B:** Will not be funded

➢ How does the evaluation take place?

Physical Sciences & Engineering

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PE8 Products and Processes Engineering
Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods.

PE9 Universe Sciences
Astro-physics/-chemistry/-biology; solar system; planetary systems; stellar, galactic and extragalactic astronomy; cosmology; space sciences; astronomical instrumentation and data.

PE10 Earth System Science
Physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, cryology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management.

PE11 Materials Engineering
Advanced materials development: performance enhancement, modelling, large-scale preparation, modification, tailoring, optimisation, novel and combined use of materials, etc.

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.

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.

LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration
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.

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).

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.
– In humans and all other organisms

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.

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.

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.

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.

Social Sciences & Humanities

SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
Economics, finance, management.

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

SH3 The Social World and Its Interactions
Sociology, social psychology, education sciences, communication studies.

SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
Cognitive science, psychology, linguistics.

SH5 Texts and Concepts
Literary studies, literature, philosophy.

SH6 The Study of the Human Past
Archaeology and history.

SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
Human geography, demography, health, sustainability science, territorial planning, spatial analysis.

SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts
Social anthropology, studies of cultures, studies of arts.

The Panel Members are organized per **discipline** (**3 domains including 28 Panels**)

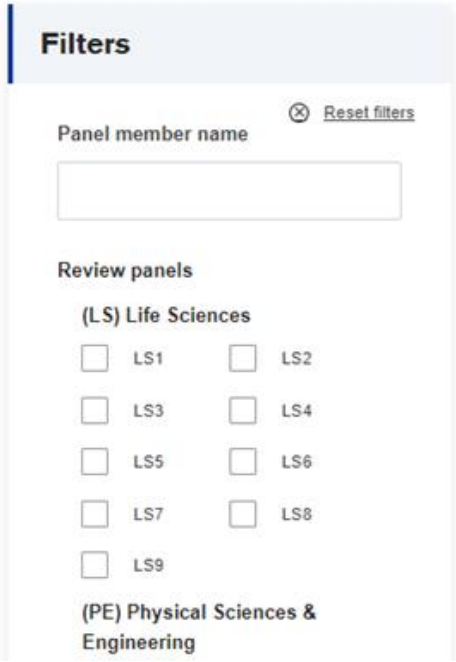
-> full list

➢ How does the evaluation take place?

[Panel Members | ERC (europa.eu)]

This webpage provides information about the panel members who took part in the completed ERC grant competitions, and about panel chairs, both past and currently serving.

Note to applicants:
This information is given for reasons of transparency. **Applicants, potential applicants, or potential host institutions must not contact reviewers.** If they do so before the publication of the list of panel members and communication of the results, the applications will be rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity.



Showing results 1 - 50 of 8748

Export as XLS

Review panel	Funding schemes	Review panel member name	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
LS	SyG	Ruben Abagyan			■			■	■			
LS	SyG	Kari Alitalo							■			
LS	SyG	Genevieve Almouzni							■			
LS	SyG	Rudolf Amann							■			
LS	SyG	Bruno Amati					■					
LS	SyG	Dora Angelaki			■			■				
LS	SyG	Tamas Bartfai						■				

➢ What are the PI eligibility criteria?

Example for ERC 2025

STEP 1

- **A Invited**: excellent quality -> goes to step 2
- **A not invited**: excellent quality but not high enough
- **B**: high quality but not sufficient
- **C**: not of sufficient quality

STEP 2

- **A**: fully meet ERC´s excellence criterion **if sufficient funds are available**
- **B:** Will not be funded

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome		2025 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is *not* eligible
2023 and 2024 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant, or Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grant
2023 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2024 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 2	No restrictions
	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2023 and 2024 Synergy Grant	A or B at Step 3	No restrictions
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	C at Step 1	Synergy Grant

Agenda

- Different ERC schemes available for Researchers
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Before, you start writing ask yourself:

- Is my project new, innovative, bringing in new solutions/theories?
- Does it promise to go substantially beyond the state of the art?
- Think Big! Make sure that your idea needs an ERC to do it
- How can I prove / support my case? Do I have a hypothesis?
- What´s the risk? Do I have a plan for managing the risks?
- Why am I the best person to carry it out? Know your competitors
- Have I given a realistic picture of my collaborations? Show that you can drive the collaborations but that it is you who will lead the project.

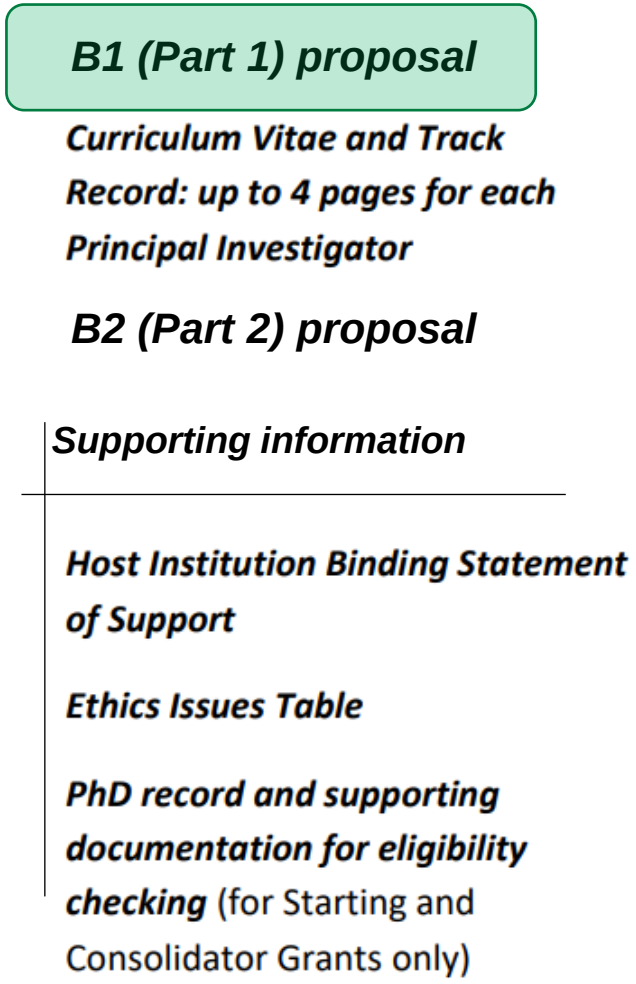
➢ How to organize your research proposal

Section of B1:

- **5 pages** without given structure
- This should be a concise presentation of the scientific proposal, with particular attention to the **ground-breaking nature** of the research project of the outlined scientific approach.
- **Think BIG! No incremental research**
- Formulate clearly your **Research Question**

- The applicant will choose the evaluation panel(s) and may also indicate a secondary evaluation panel (explanation)

- **Read by "generalist" @ STEP 1**



The main question to be answered is: *Is this a great idea that would be worth pursuing?*

➢ How to organize your research proposal

Section of B1 CV and Track Record:

- **Personal details**
- Education & Key qualifications
- Current position(s)
- Relevant previous positions

- **Research achievements & Peer recognition**
- A list of up to ten **research outputs**

How the applicant has advanced knowledge in their field, with an emphasis on more recent achievements (publications, grants, patents, conference proceedings, data sets, start-ups,). A short explanation of the significance of the selected outputs, the role of the applicant in producing each of them, and how they demonstrate the applicant's capacity to successfully carry out their proposed project may be included

- A list of **Peer recognition outputs**

Prizes, awards, fellowships, elected academy memberships, invited presentations to major conferences

B1 (Part 1) proposal

Curriculum Vitae and Track Record: up to 4 pages for each Principal Investigator

B2 (Part 2) proposal

Supporting information

Host Institution Binding Statement of Support

Ethics Issues Table

PhD record and supporting documentation for eligibility checking (for Starting and Consolidator Grants only)

➢ How to organize your research proposal

Section of B1 CV and Track Record:

- **Additional information**
- The applicant may also include relevant additional information on career breaks, diverse career paths, and life events, as well as any particularly noteworthy contributions to the research community.

e.g. reviewing activity, teaching and supervision,

These will provide context to the evaluation panels when assessing the Principal Investigator's research achievements and peer recognition in relation to their career stage.

B1 (Part 1) proposal

Curriculum Vitae and Track Record: up to 4 pages for each Principal Investigator

B2 (Part 2) proposal

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➢ How to organize your research proposal

Section B2:

- In step 2: **both B1 & B2** are sent to specialists
- Do not repeat B1
- It should be clear **how** will you run your project. Detail of implementation, methods, Work plan, risk assessment, some justification of your budget and team.

- Specify any particularly challenging or unconventional aspects of the proposal (methodological perspective)

- Explain **involvement of team members**

- Explain some **budget and resource** (not a repetition of online - resource section)

- Provide **alternative strategies** to mitigate risks

B1 (Part 1) proposal

Curriculum Vitae and Track Record: up to 4 pages for each Principal Investigator

B2 (Part 2) proposal

Supporting information

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➢ How to organize your research proposal

Section B2:

Appendix: All current grants and on-going / submitted grant applications of the PI (Funding ID)

Mandatory information (does not count towards page limits)

Current research grants (Please indicate "No funding" when applicable):

Project Title	*Funding source*	*Amount (Euros)*	*Period*	*Role of the PI*	*Relation to current ERC proposal*[2]

On-going / submitted grant applications (Please indicate "None" when applicable):

Project Title	*Funding source*	*Amount (Euros)*	*Period*	*Role of the PI*	*Relation to current ERC proposal*[2]

Describe clearly **any scientific overlap** between your ERC application and the other ones

B1 (Part 1) proposal

Curriculum Vitae and Track Record: up to 4 pages for each Principal Investigator

B2 (Part 2) proposal

Supporting information

Host Institution Binding Statement of Support

Ethics Issues Table

PhD record and supporting documentation for eligibility checking (for Starting and Consolidator Grants only)

Summary B1 *versus* B2

***Part I** of the Scientific Proposal should present the envisaged research and it should:*

- *lay out the current state of knowledge,*
- *explain the scientific question and the objectives of the project, and*
- *present the overall approach or research strategy to reach the goals of the project.*

Part I should convince the Panel that the proposal presents an original and creative idea addressing an important question in the research field(s). It should explain how the project will advance the frontier of knowledge, and what contribution it will make to the research field(s), i.e. what may be changed, opened, challenged or how the results of the work will alter the current understanding of the field.

At Step 1 of the evaluation, only Part I and the Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Track Record (see below) are assessed by the evaluation panel. Part I forms the basis for the panel's decision whether to evaluate the proposal in the next step. Therefore, all essential information must be covered in this section.

***Part II** of the Scientific Proposal: This should be a detailed explanation of the project implementation, including research methodology, work plan, risk assessment and mitigating measures, justification for the requested budget and resources, and any further necessary background not included in Part I. An annex listing all ongoing research grants, and any grant applications submitted or pending approval for work related to the proposal should be included.*

➢ How to organize your research proposal

HI Letter:

Grants are awarded to the host institution with the **explicit commitment** that this institution offers **appropriate conditions** for the PI to **independently manage** the grant.

The host must engage the PI for **at least the duration** of the project

It guarantees that, you will:

- apply for funding independently;
- manage the research and the funding for the project, and make appropriate resource allocation decisions;
- publish independently as main author and include as co-authors only those who have contributed substantially to the reported work;
- select and supervise the work of team members, including doctoral candidates or others;
- have access to appropriate space and facilities for conducting the research;
- meet the time commitments described in the grant agreement[13].

Extended Synopsis: 5 pages

Curriculum Vitae and Track Record: up to 4 pages for each Principal Investigator

Scientific Proposal: 14 pages

Supporting information

Host Institution Binding Statement of Support

Ethics Issues Table

PhD record and supporting documentation for eligibility checking (for Starting and Consolidator Grants only)

Agenda

- Facts & Figures & Rumours
- Mentoring Program @ FOS
- How can an ERC help you in securing a permanent university position?
- How can FFG support you?
- Q&A Session and Discussion

➢ Facts & Figures

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC Starting Grant 2024

	Submitted Proposals	Selected Proposals
Life Sciences	992	146
Physical Sciences and Engineering	1443	209
Social Sciences and Humanities	1039	139
Total	3474	494

Success rate ~ 14.2 %

ERC Starting Grant 2025

	Submitted Proposals	Selected Proposals
Life Sciences	1099	137
Physical Sciences and Engineering	1640	197
Social Sciences and Humanities	1189	144
Total	3928	478

Success rate ~ 12.2 %

ERC Starting Grant 2026

• applications, marking a **22.4% increase** compared to the previous call.

•The highest number of applications came from the **Physical Sciences and Engineering** domain with **1 980 submissions (41%)** followed by **Social Sciences and Humanities** with **1 568 submissions (33%)**, and **Life Sciences** with **1 257 submissions (26%)**.

ERC Consolidator Grant 2024

	Submitted Proposals	Selected Proposals
Life Sciences	652	94
Physical Sciences and Engineering	928	131
Social Sciences and Humanities	733	103
Total	2313	328

Success rate ~ 14.2 %

BOKU: 1 StG /1 CoG

ERC Consolidator Grant 2025

	Submitted Proposals	Selected Proposals
Life Sciences	823	93
Physical Sciences and Engineering	1261	141
Social Sciences and Humanities	1037	115
Total	3121	349

Success rate ~ 11.2 %

BOKU: 5 StG / 3 CoG

ERC Consolidator Grant 2026

•**3 060 applications**, marking a **2%** decrease compared to the previous call.

•The highest number of applications came from the Physical Sciences and Engineering domain with **1 238 submissions** (**41%**) followed by Social Sciences and Humanities with **1 086** submissions (**36%**), and Life Sciences with **736** submissions (**24%**).

BOKU: 6 StG / 2 CoG

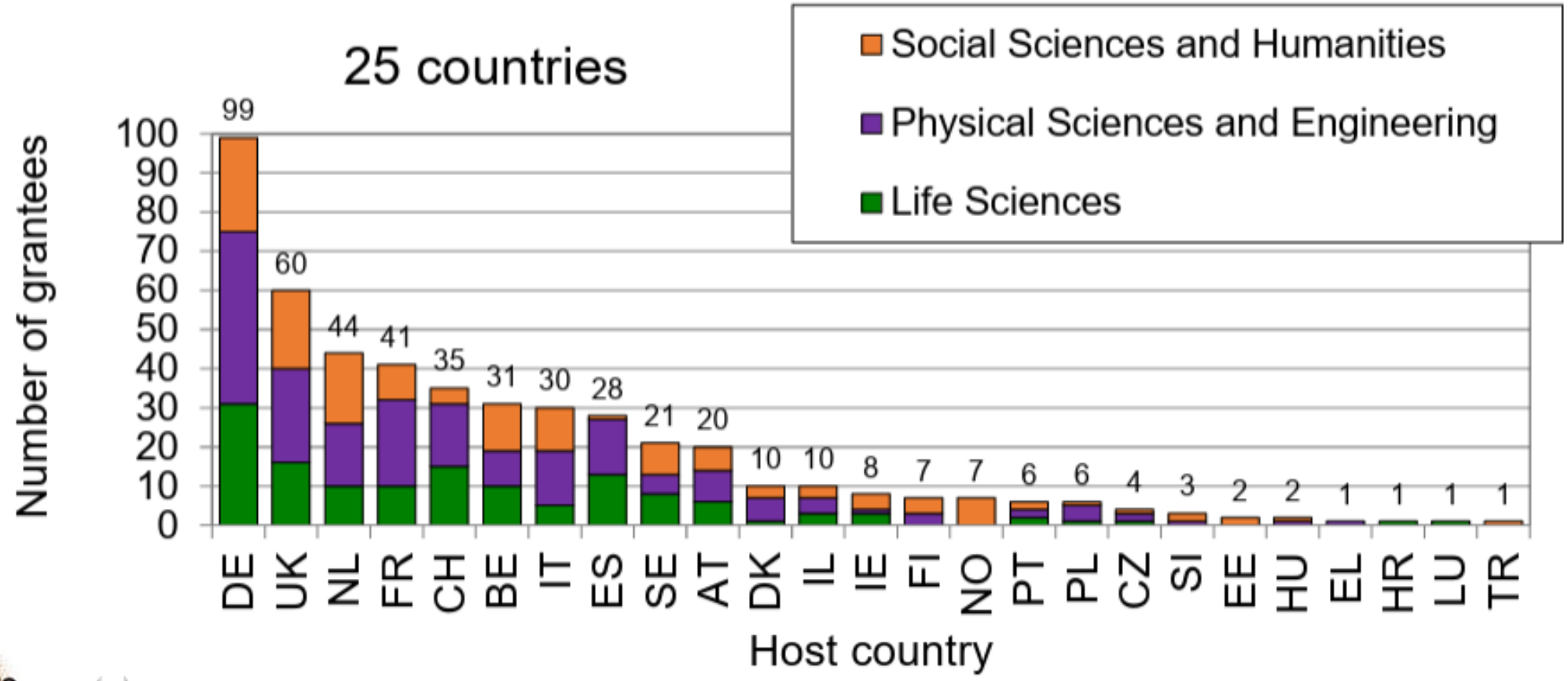
➢ Facts & Figures

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC Starting Grants 2025

Grantees by Country of Host Institution and Domain

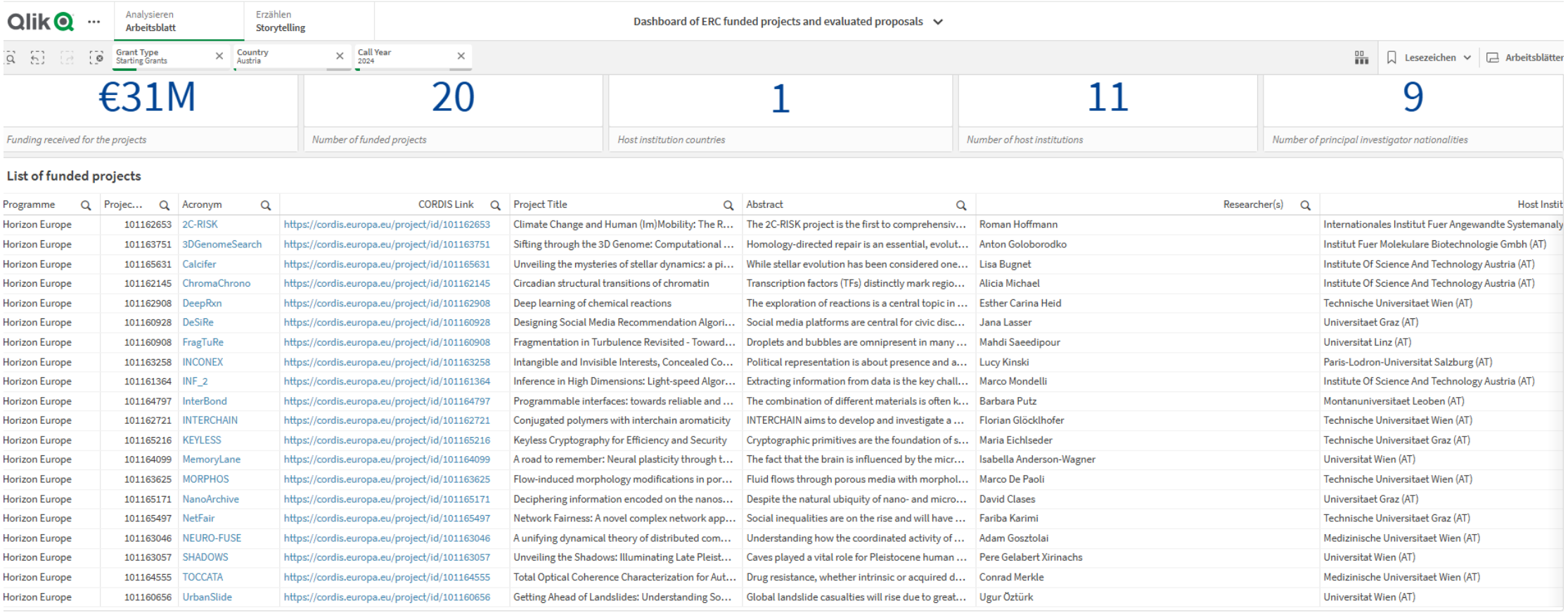
Total 478 grants



➢ Facts & Figures

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

[Dashboard of ERC funded projects](#)



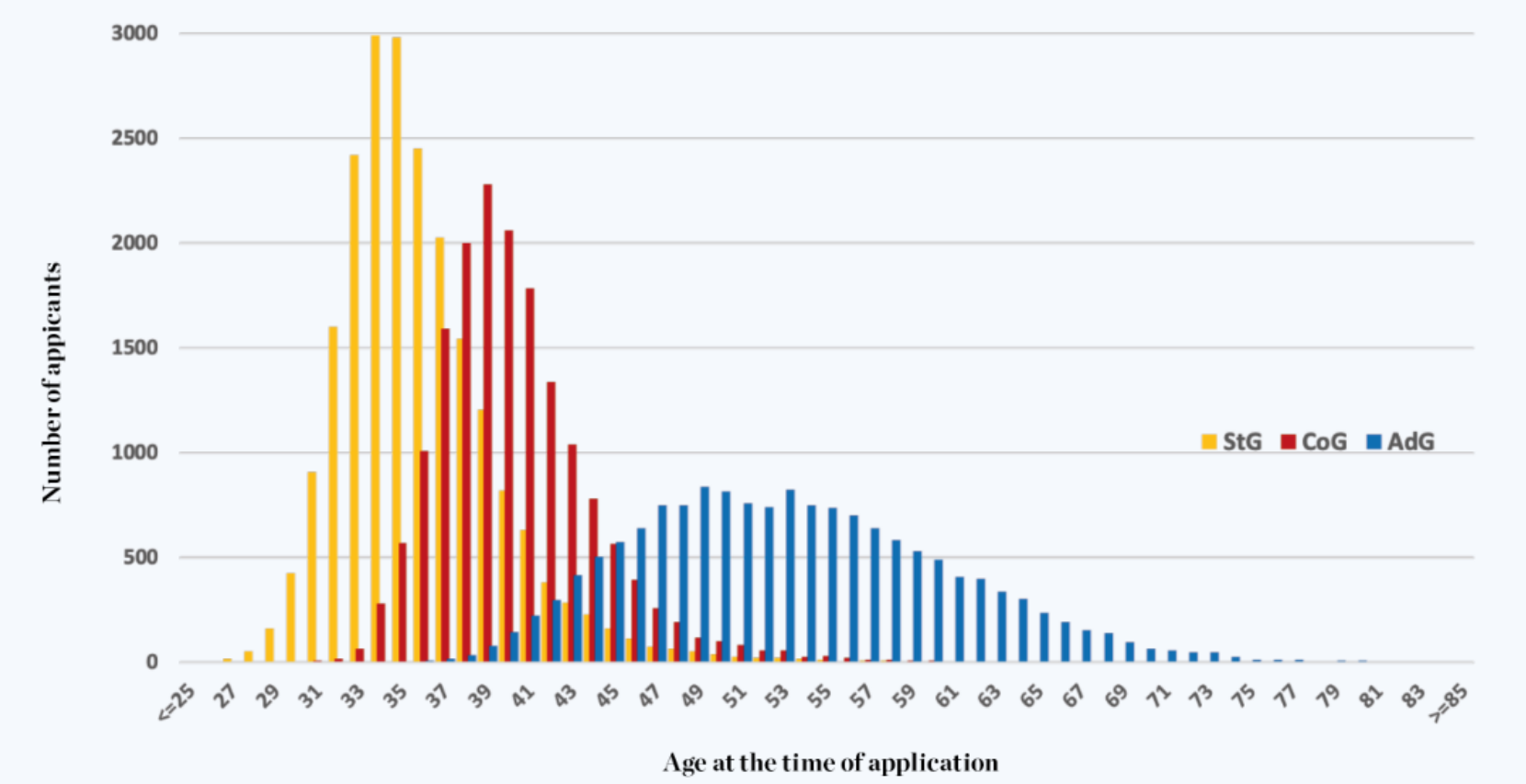
List of funded projects

Programme	Projec...	Acronym	CORDIS Link	Project Title	Abstract	Researcher(s)	Host Instit
Horizon Europe	101162653	2C-RISK	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101162653	Climate Change and Human (Im)Mobility: The R...	The 2C-RISK project is the first to comprehensiv...	Roman Hoffmann	Internationales Institut Fuer Angewandte Systemanaly
Horizon Europe	101163751	3DGenomeSearch	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101163751	Sifting through the 3D Genome: Computational ...	Homology-directed repair is an essential, evolut...	Anton Goloborodko	Institut Fuer Molekulare Biotechnologie Gmbh (AT)
Horizon Europe	101165631	Calcifer	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101165631	Unveiling the mysteries of stellar dynamics: a pi...	While stellar evolution has been considered one...	Lisa Bugnet	Institute Of Science And Technology Austria (AT)
Horizon Europe	101162145	ChromaChrono	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101162145	Circadian structural transitions of chromatin	Transcription factors (TFs) distinctly mark regio...	Alicia Michael	Institute Of Science And Technology Austria (AT)
Horizon Europe	101162908	DeepRxn	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101162908	Deep learning of chemical reactions	The exploration of reactions is a central topic in ...	Esther Carina Heid	Technische Universitaet Wien (AT)
Horizon Europe	101160928	DeSiRe	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101160928	Designing Social Media Recommendation Algori...	Social media platforms are central for civic disc...	Jana Lasser	Universitaet Graz (AT)
Horizon Europe	101160908	FragTuRe	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101160908	Fragmentation in Turbulence Revisited - Toward...	Droplets and bubbles are omnipresent in many ...	Mahdi Saeedipour	Universitat Linz (AT)
Horizon Europe	101163258	INCONEX	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101163258	Intangible and Invisible Interests, Concealed Co...	Political representation is about presence and a...	Lucy Kinski	Paris-Lodron-Universitat Salzburg (AT)
Horizon Europe	101161364	INF_2	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101161364	Inference in High Dimensions: Light-speed Algor...	Extracting information from data is the key chall...	Marco Mondelli	Institute Of Science And Technology Austria (AT)
Horizon Europe	101164797	InterBond	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101164797	Programmable interfaces: towards reliable and ...	The combination of different materials is often k...	Barbara Putz	Montanuniversitaet Leoben (AT)
Horizon Europe	101162721	INTERCHAIN	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101162721	Conjugated polymers with interchain aromaticity	INTERCHAIN aims to develop and investigate a ...	Florian Glöcklhofer	Technische Universitaet Wien (AT)
Horizon Europe	101165216	KEYLESS	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101165216	Keyless Cryptography for Efficiency and Security	Cryptographic primitives are the foundation of s...	Maria Eichlseder	Technische Universitaet Graz (AT)
Horizon Europe	101164099	MemoryLane	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101164099	A road to remember: Neural plasticity through t...	The fact that the brain is influenced by the micr...	Isabella Anderson-Wagner	Universitat Wien (AT)
Horizon Europe	101163625	MORPHOS	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101163625	Flow-induced morphology modifications in por...	Fluid flows through porous media with morphol...	Marco De Paoli	Technische Universitaet Wien (AT)
Horizon Europe	101165171	NanoArchive	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101165171	Deciphering information encoded on the nanos...	Despite the natural ubiquity of nano- and micro...	David Clases	Universitaet Graz (AT)
Horizon Europe	101165497	NetFair	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101165497	Network Fairness: A novel complex network app...	Social inequalities are on the rise and will have ...	Fariba Karimi	Technische Universitaet Graz (AT)
Horizon Europe	101163046	NEURO-FUSE	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101163046	A unifying dynamical theory of distributed com...	Understanding how the coordinated activity of ...	Adam Gosztolai	Medizinische Universitaet Wien (AT)
Horizon Europe	101163057	SHADOWS	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101163057	Unveiling the Shadows: Illuminating Late Pleist...	Caves played a vital role for Pleistocene human ...	Pere Gelabert Xirinachs	Universitat Wien (AT)
Horizon Europe	101164555	TOCCATA	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101164555	Total Optical Coherence Characterization for Aut...	Drug resistance, whether intrinsic or acquired d...	Conrad Merkle	Medizinische Universitaet Wien (AT)
Horizon Europe	101160656	UrbanSlide	https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101160656	Getting Ahead of Landslides: Understanding So...	Global landslide casualties will rise due to great...	Ugur Öztürk	Universitat Wien (AT)

➢ Facts & Figures

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

[Dashboard of ERC funded projects]



➢ Facts & Figures & Rumours

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

#1- I should wait until the end of the eligibility window in order to accumulate enough seniority: only then I will be competitive.

NOT true: The success rate is virtually flat across the eligibility window (StG, CoG).

#2- One needs publications in Nature/Science/High IF journals to succeed.

NOT true: No numerical scoring of the Principal Investigator, instead an overall assessment of PI's intellectual capacity and creativity, with a focus on the extent to which the PI has the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project

#3- You can only apply for an ERC grant if you are a highly accomplished scientist.

NOT true: Accomplishments are appreciated in relation to your stage/seniority as giving some evidence of your capacity to conduct the research you propose and of creativity.

➢ Facts & Figures & Rumours

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

#4- To be successful, you need to continue on an established research line, to prove continuity and credibility

NOT true: Generally, the opposite is true.

#5- The more socially or medically relevant a grant proposal is, the higher the chances of it getting funded.

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

#6- I need preliminary results

NOT true: however explain how the literature supports your hypothesis.

➢ Questions to ask yourself as an applicant ?

- ❖ Am I internationally competitive as a researcher at my career stage & in my discipline?
  - ❖ Am I able to work independently and to manage a 5-year project with the substantial budget?
    - ❖Why is my proposed project important?
- ❖ Does it promise to go substantially beyond the state of the art?
  - ❖ Why am I the best person to carry it out?
    - ❖Is it timely and feasible now?
      - ❖What are the risks and substantial gains? Can I manage the risk?

Agenda

- Facts & Figures & Rumours
- Mentoring Program @ FOS
- How can an ERC help you in securing a permanent university position?
- How can FFG support you?
- Q&A Session and Discussion

➢ Boosting ERC@BOKU

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

STEP 1
Dissemination

- FoS Website with actual ERC-news
- Distribution of Flyer
- eNewsletters
- ERC Seminar

STEP 2
Proposal writing

- Contact @ FoS
- Brainstorming session
- Search for a Mentor
- Workshop "ERC Reading & Writing"
- 1-hr Pitch / project (Candidate/Mentor/Expert/Myself/ other ERC candidates)
- Seminar Graphical Design

STEP 3
Proposal Feedback

- CV / Budget check
- PART I & PART II Proof reading

STEP 4
Hearing training

- PPT Check
- Mock Interview

Framework of the ERC Mentoring Program

Link to our Program (log in)

➢ How can an ERC help you in securing a permanent university position

Procedure to reach Tenure-Track position UG §99

Aim: offer excellent PD the possibility to reach an assistant Prof. and then a Tenured associated Prof. position

- Upon decision from the Rectorate, **Tenure-Track** position (usually 6 years) can be offered between 2 to 10 years after PhD

  -> **Qualification agreement** (Qualifizierungsvereinbarung, QV)
  Standards to achieve are described here
„https://boku.ac.at/fileadmin/data/H01000/mitteilungsblatt/MB_2018_19/MB08/Formular_QV_neu_Feb_2019.pdf“

- They are defined together with the rectorate and include: *development of research & teaching activities, publications, international visibility (working abroad & collaboration), grant, supervision, leadership in developing own group*

➢ How can an ERC help you in securing a permanent university position

Procedure to reach Tenure-Track position UG §99

- **Phase 1: Post-doc** (two years) -> For grantees (ERC, FWF ASTRA, WWTF VRG, CD Labor) -> jump to Assistant Prof.

- **Phase 2: Assistant Prof.** position is temporary and max 4 years
  - This can also be shortened for grantees of Programme of excellence
  - It is expected that the PI finalizes his/her Habilitation
  - 6 months before the end->submission to the rectorate of the QV (if positive)

- **Phase 3: Associated Prof**. This is a permanent position

➢ How can an ERC help you in securing a permanent university position

Habilitation @ BOKU[1,2]

- Take early contact with Rectorate (1 to 2 years before expected submission)
- Minimum requirement :
  - **Publications** (>15 points): Peer-reviewed publications (1,25 to 0,5), books (1 to 1,5) and book chapters (0,75), monographs (3), patents (0,75 to 1)
  - **Presentation** at int. scientific conf. (> 5 talks or poster)
  - **Acquisition of fundings** (as project manager for FWF or EU)
  - **Education** of young scientists (co-supervising master & PhD)
  - **Scientific Community Service** (reviewer for publications and grants, organizing conf. & workshop)

Proof of the PI independence in teaching and of the research capacity

[1] Verfahrensregelungen für Habilitationsverfahren
[2] Beilage zu den Habilitationsrichtlinien„Empfehlungen für Anforderungen an eine Habilitation an der Universität für Bodenkultur Wien“ Translation in english (Supplement to the habilitation guidelines)

➢ How can an ERC help you in securing a permanent university position

Habilitation @ BOKU[1,2]

- Take early contact with Rectorate (1 to 2 years before expected submission)
- Minimum requirement :
  - **Teaching:** The habilitation thesis contains a teaching portfolio
    - Candidate´s teaching philosophy & self-reflection on methods
    - List of courses
    - Results of cours evaluations
    - Vision of future teaching priorities
    - Participation in training courses

Proof of the PI independence in teaching and of the research capacity

[1] Verfahrensregelungen für Habilitationsverfahren
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➢ How can an ERC help you in securing a permanent university position

- **Convention to reach a permanent position (Entfristungsrichtlinie)**

- Request is filled during the discussion (PI-IL Mitarbeiter*innen-Gespräche)
- To be sent to DL who will take the decision (is it a strategical position)
- If YES, further documents to be sent to Rectorate
  - Strategical position and scientific relevance of the PI for the development of the institutes and Dept.
  - Description of the performance & achievement (research & teaching)
  - Financial plan from I & D (which Third-party fundings will be raised the next 5 years) to cover his/her salary

➢ How can an ERC help you in securing a permanent university position

- **Convention to reach a permanent position (Entfristungsrichtlinie)**

- **CRITERIA**

  - Grantees of ERC, FWF ASTRA, WWTF VRG, Elise Richter Stipendium
  - Exceptional achievement in publications
  - Continual acquisition of third-party funded projects (nation. & europ.)
  - Strategic Importance of the PD for his/her methodological competence

  - It is be expected that the PD plays an active role in the strategical development of the I & D in research and in teaching.

➢ How can an ERC help you in securing a permanent university position

- **Convention to reach a permanent position (Entfristungsrichtlinie)**

- **CRITERIA**

  - Grantees of ERC, FWF ASTRA, WWTF VRG, Elise Richter Stipendium
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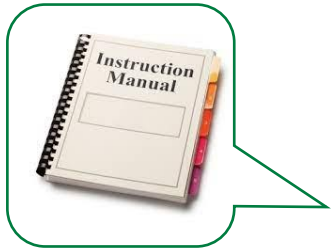
  - Strategic Importance of the PD for his/her methodological competence

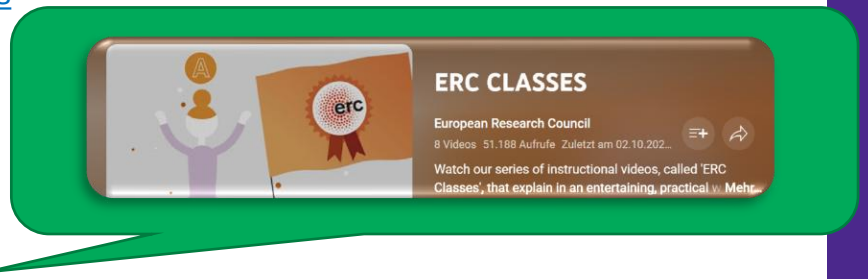
  - It is be expected that the PD plays an active role in the strategical development of the I & D in research and in teaching.

ERC Grants: all you need to know

More info: [click here!](https://boku.ac.at/fos/projektsupport/foerderprogramme-stipendien-preise/europaeische-foerderprogramme/erc-funding-opportunities)

https://boku.ac.at/fos/projektsupport/foerderprogramme-stipendien-preise/europaeische-foerderprogramme/erc-funding-opportunities





seminar

Science for a [cooler future]

BOKU

Agenda

- Facts & Figures & Rumours
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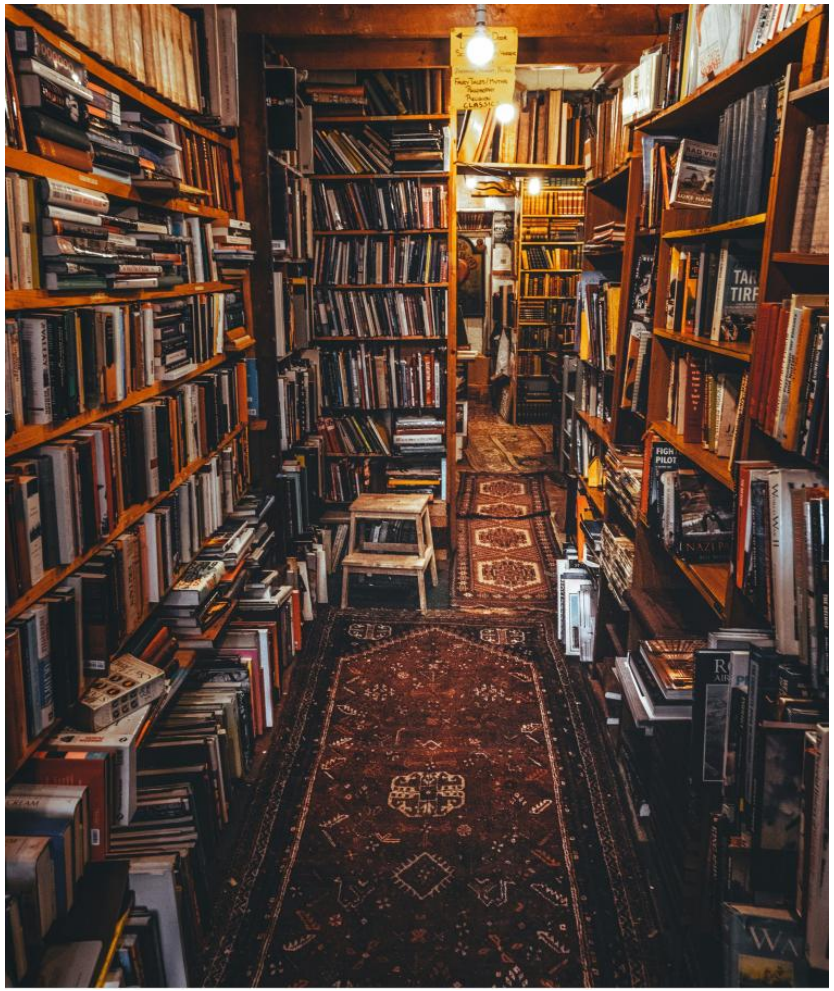
FFG`s SERVICES FOR ERC APPLICANTS

Ylva Huber| FFG
23 February 2026| BOKU

OVERVIEW FOR STARTERS & CONSOLIDATORS (1)

- **Discussion** of proposal idea in the early planning/ preparation phase
- (Online) **sessions on ERC Grant Writing** by the FFG Academy for the ERC Starting & Consolidator Grant, some clustering according to scientific domain
  Next: 23 and 26 June 2026, https://www.ffg.at/europa/akademie-termine
- **Proposal check:** focusing on proposal structure, lessons learnt from evaluation comments - to complement scientific feedback from your peers (close and more distant to your field)
- FFG Academy (online) sessions to **share experiences,** e.g. on the ERC interview
- ERC **interview trainings** by FFG Academy
- FFG **Notes and Tips:** Information and tips for all ERC grants, updated for each call

OVERVIEW FOR STARTERS & CONSOLIDATORS (2)



- Online ERC proposal library: ERC proposals published by ERC Grantees: https://www.ffg.at/europa/heu/erc/published-proposals - Note: Proposal Structure has changed
- On site: ERC Proposal Library Afternoon, 19 June 2026 at FFG
- Newsletter: to be included in FFG's mailing list for info on ERC and MSCA, please register at https://www.ffg.at/form/newsletter-europa (category: Research Career).
- webpage: https://www.ffg.at/europa/heu/erc

CONTACT:

Ylva Huber, Lil Reif
ERC National Contact Points

Austrian Research Promotion Agency FFG
Sensengasse 1, A-1090 Vienna

T +43 (0) 5 77 55 – 4102
erc@ffg.at

www.ffg.at

Contacts

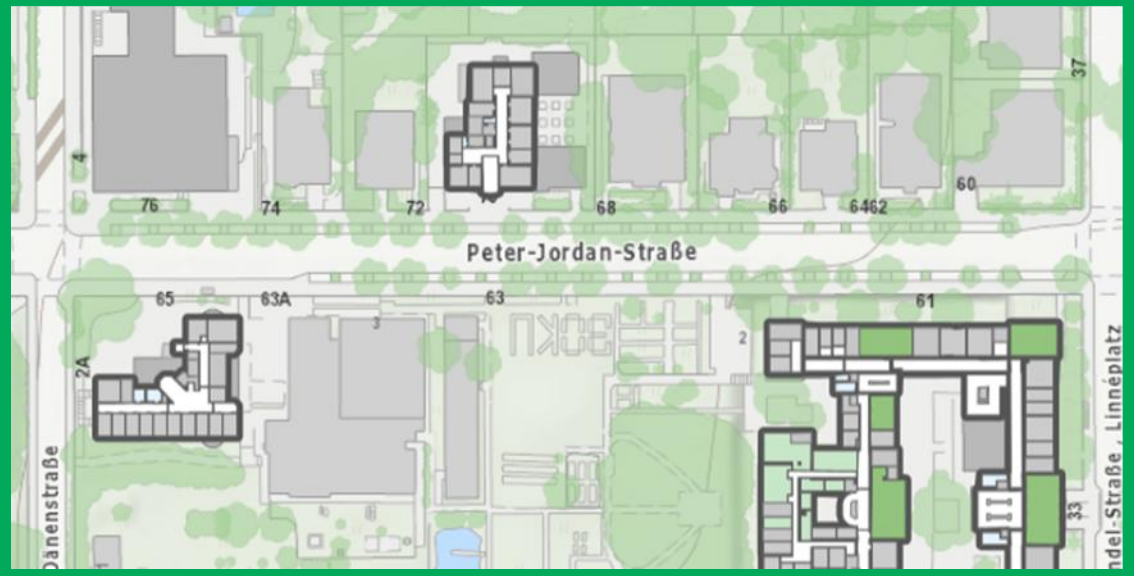
Research Support, Innovation & Technology Transfer
(Forschungsservice)

Olivier Guillaume, PhD
Expert Research Funding for Early Career Researchers
Telefon +43 1 47654-33018

DI Lada Fialova, PhD
Expert Horizon Europe
Telefon +43 1 47654-33014

projektsupport@boku.ac.at

1190 Wien, Peter-Jordan-Straße 70/III



Other useful contacts

Controlling: controlling@boku.ac.at

Research Support (Forschungsservice) - Research information system (FIS): fis@boku.ac.at

Research Support (Forschungsservice) – Pre-award support (Projektsupport): projektsupport@boku.ac.at

Research Support (Forschungsservice) – TechTransfer: techtransfer@boku.ac.at

Personnel management (Personalmanagement): Contact persons by area of responsibility

Quality management (Qualitätsmanagement): thomas.guggenberger@boku.ac.at

Finance and Accounting (Rechnungswesen): Contact persons by area of responsibility

Legal department (Rechtsabteilung): rechtsabteilung@boku.ac.at

Service Agency for Project Audits (Servicestelle für Projektabrechnungen & Audits (SPA)): projekt.auditing@boku.ac.at

ERC Grants: all you need to know

Research Support, Innovation & Technology Transfer (Forschungsservice)

Olivier Guillaume, PhD
Pre-award support (national funding agencies)
Expert Research Funding for Early Career Researchers

Ylva Huber, PhD
Unit for Life Sciences
National Contact Point ERC

FFG
Forschung wirkt.