



erc

**ERC**  
**Starting, Consolidator and**  
**Advanced Grants**  
European Research Council

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7<sup>th</sup> May 2026

# Table of Contents

1. ERC essentials
2. StG, CoG, AdG calls
3. ERC evaluation
4. Initial reflections: setting the ground
5. Contents and tips for part B1 and B2 preparation
6. Final tips and reflections
7. Annex



9.00 - 15.00 h





**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# **KVC brief info**

# **ERC background**

# About us and our/your ERC achievements

**+140M**  
in European funds

**+62**  
successful Eu projects completed

**+400**  
clients  
in **37 countries**

**25%**  
success rate in H2020 & HE

**30%**  
success rate in other European  
programs



**ERC\***

**+400**

Services delivered for  
ERC calls

**+60**

successful Researches  
funded (ERC):

- 15 Starting Grants (StG)
- 24 Consolidator Grants (CoG)
- 20 Advanced Grants (AdG)
- 4 Synergy Grants (SyG)

\*European Research Council

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YOUR IDEAS ARE OUR PROJECTS



**PhD Alba de la Vara**  
Researcher in Climate Change and Senior R&D Consultant.  
Responsible for the ERC area.



**Rebeca Lucas**  
Researcher in Social Sciences and Senior R&D Consultant.



**PhD José Benedicto**  
Researcher in Human Geography and Senior R&D Consultant.



**PhD Leticia Pérez Saiz**  
Researcher in Biomedical Sciences and senior R&D Consultant.



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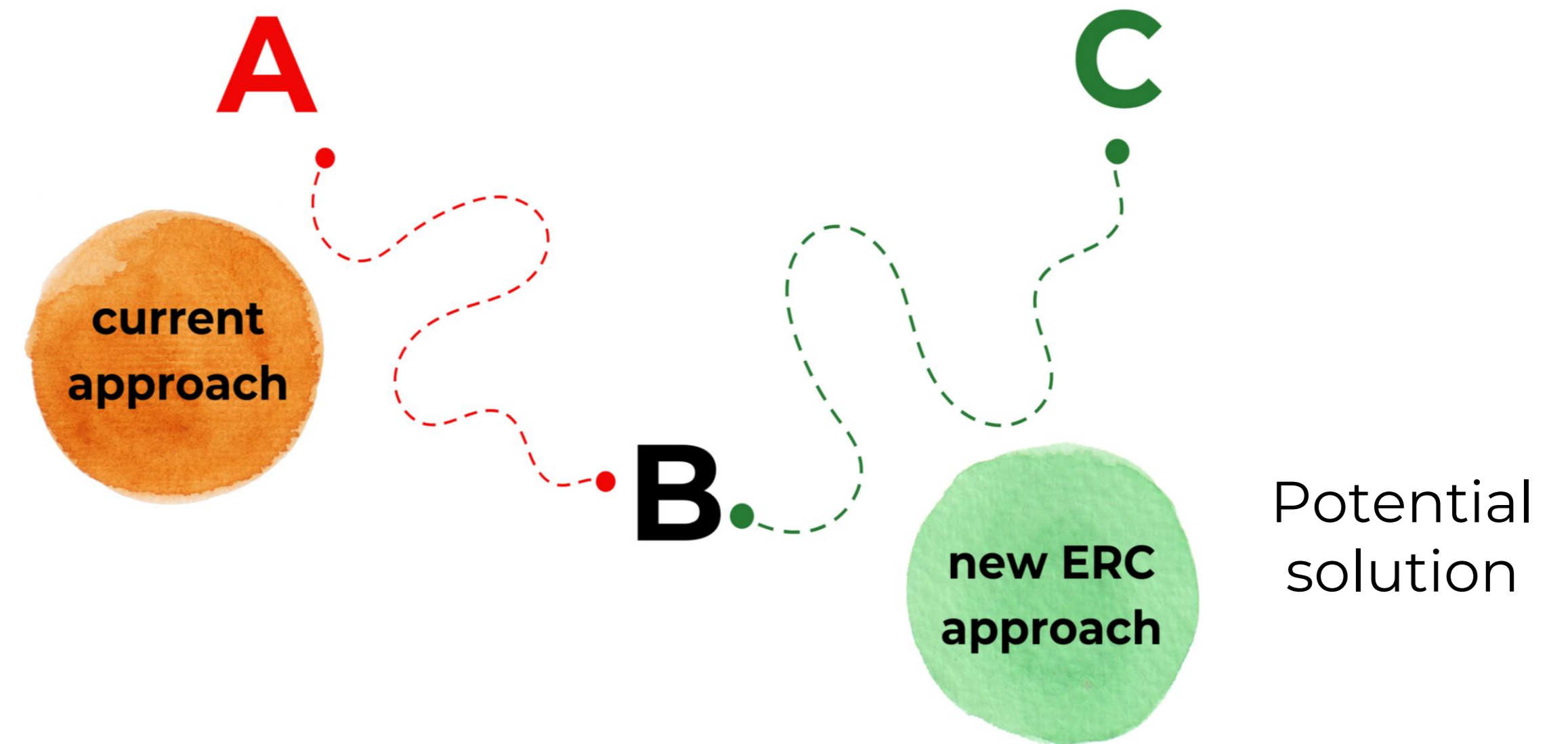
# **ERC** essentials

# About **ERC**

**Started in 2007 to fund the best ideas of the best researchers to develop their research in Europe.**

**Frontier science:  
Basic or applied,  
multidisciplinary, with  
unconventional and  
innovative approaches.**

Scientific problem not well resolved.



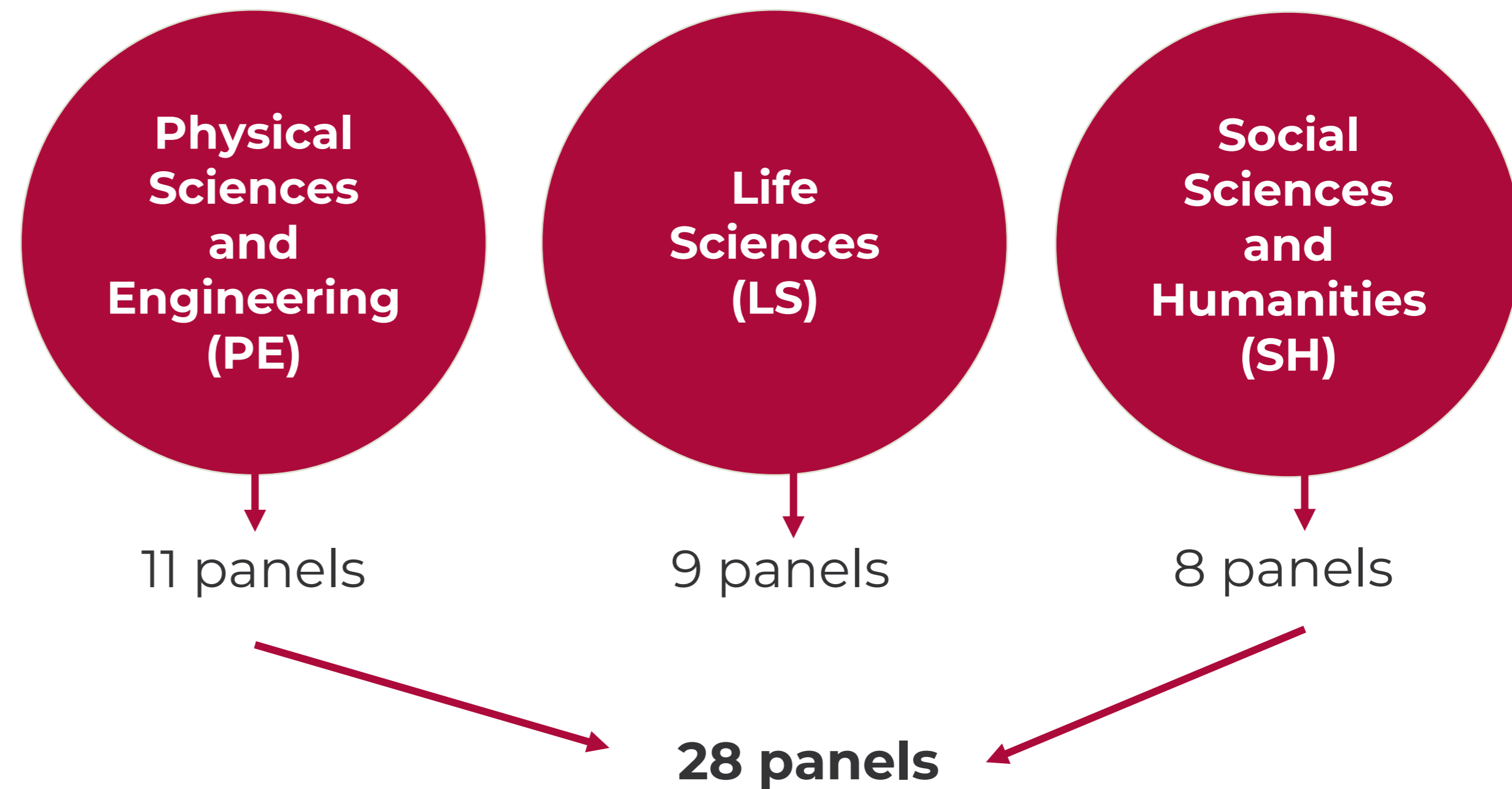
# About **ERC**

**Started in 2007 to fund the best ideas of the best researchers to develop their research in Europe.**

**Frontier science:**  
**Basic or applied, multidisciplinary, with unconventional and innovative approaches.**

There is no preference for a scientific field over another!

- **Ambitious projects with some risks.**
- **Calls are bottom up** and open to all scientific fields, which are represented by **3 domains organised into 28 evaluation panels.**



## About **ERC**

**Started in 2007 to fund the best ideas of the best researchers to develop their research in Europe.**

**Frontier science:  
Basic or applied,  
multidisciplinary, with  
unconventional and  
innovative approaches.**

- **Any age/stage in their research career/nationality.**
- It is centered on the **Principal Investigator (PI).**
- **ERC accounts for 17% of the Horizon Europe (HE) budget.**



# About **ERC**

## Horizon Europe 2021-2027



European Research and innovation funding programme until 2027.

**ERC: 17% of the overall Horizon Europe budget**

### HORIZON EUROPE BUDGET

Horizon Europe programme structure

	<b>Total</b> <i>in €million</i>
<b>EXCELLENT SCIENCE</b> <i>of which</i>	<b>25 011</b>
The European Research Council (ERC)	16 004
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)	6 602
Research infrastructures	2 406
<b>GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS</b> <i>of which</i>	<b>53 516</b>
Health	8 246
Culture, creativity and inclusive society	2 280
Civil Security for Society	1 596
Digital, Industry and Space	15 349
Climate, Energy and Mobility	15 123
Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment	8 952
Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)	1 970
<b>INNOVATIVE EUROPE</b> <i>of which</i>	<b>13 597</b>
European Innovation Council (EIC)	10 105
European innovation ecosystems	527
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)	2 965
<b>WIDENING PARTICIPATION &amp; STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA</b> <i>of which</i>	<b>3 393</b>
Widening participation and spreading excellence	2 955
Reforming and enhancing the European R&I System	438
<b>TOTAL HORIZON EUROPE</b>	<b>95 517</b>

## About **ERC**

**Started in 2007 to fund the best ideas of the best researchers to develop their research in Europe.**

**Frontier science:  
Basic or applied,  
multidisciplinary, with  
unconventional and  
innovative approaches.**

**The evaluation criterion is scientific excellence, but...**

**...What does it mean to be excellent?**



# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

More information in the  
Annex

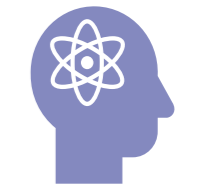


## SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE



### EXCELLENCE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

- 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?



### EXCELLENCE OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)

- To what extent has the PI demonstrated the **ability to conduct groundbreaking 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?

Evaluation elements based on the [ERC Work Programme 2026](#)

# About **ERC**



**European Research Council**  
Established by the European Commission

ERC has funded more than **17000 projects**

Over **850 research institutions** are hosting ERC grantees who hold more than **97 nationalities**

ERC projects have so far led to over **2200 patents and other IPR applications**

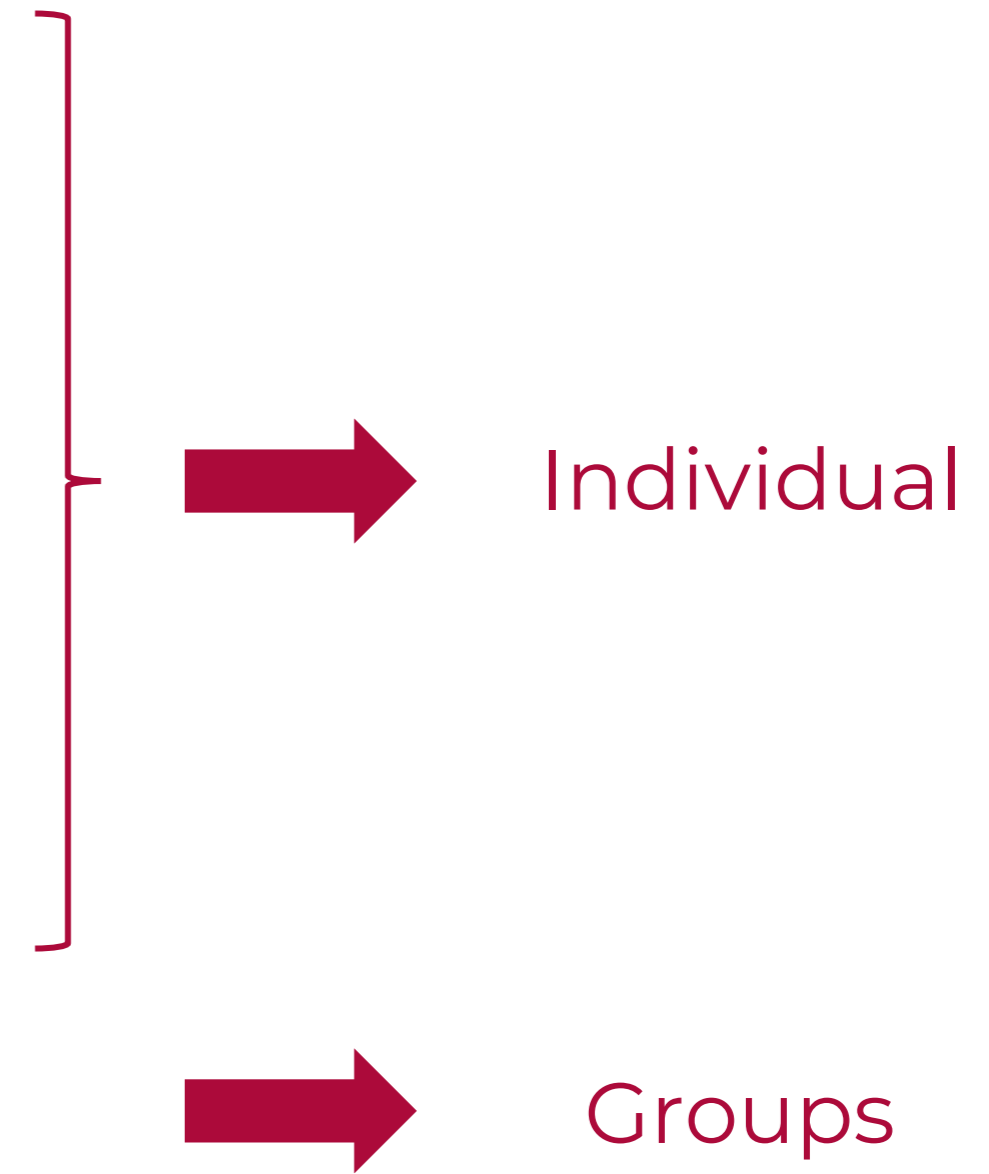
ERC grantees founded or co-founded over **400 start-ups**

# Calls for applications



## Five main funding schemes

- **Starting Grant**
- **Consolidator Grant**
- **Advanced Grant**
- ERC Plus Grant (novelty from the ERC 2026 Work Programme!)
- Synergy Grant



Calls are published on the [ERC's website](#), on the [European Commission's Tenders and Funding Portal](#) and in the [Official Journal of the European Union](#).



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# **Calls for applications: ERC StG, CoG & AdG**

# Starting Grant

Are you a **talented early-career scientist** who has already produced excellent supervised work, ready to work independently and **show potential to be a research leader?**

**The ERC Starting Grant could be for you**



# Starting Grant

## Who can apply?

- Active researchers who 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.

## Eligibility

- **Successful defense of the 1<sup>st</sup> PhD: > 2 and ≤ 7 years prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. **New expected window in 2027 calls: 0 to 10 years after PhD defence prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027.****
- **Maternity, paternity, long-term illnesses, gender-based violence, etc.**

## How much can we apply for?

- **Up to € 1.5 million for a period of 5 years.**
- An **additional € 1 million can be made available** to and/or the purchase of major equipment and/or access to large facilities and/or other major experimental and fieldwork costs.
- **€ 2 additional million can be requested** to cover e.g., eligible “start-up” costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or an associated country.
- An ERC grant **can cover up to 100% of the total eligible direct costs** of the research plus a contribution of 25% of the total eligible costs towards indirect costs.

More information: <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/starting-grant>

# Starting Grant

## Criteria

- Applications can be made in **any field of research**. The ERC's grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities.

## Location

- Research must be conducted in a **public or private research organisation** (known as a Host Institution/HI) **located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries**.
- Applications for an ERC grant must be submitted by a **single Principal Investigator** (PI) in conjunction with and on behalf of **their Host Institution**, called the applicant legal entity.
- Any type of legal entity, **including universities, research centres** and **undertakings** can host the PI and his/her team.

## Team

- ERC grants support projects carried out by an **individual researcher who can employ researchers of any nationality as team members**. It is also possible to have one or more team members located in a non-European country. Team members should bring scientific added value to the project.

Are you a scientist who wants to **consolidate your independence** by **establishing a research team** and continuing to **develop a success career in Europe**?

The **ERC Consolidator Grant** could be for you

# Consolidator Grant



# Consolidator Grant

## Who can apply?

- The Consolidator Grant **supports excellent Principal Investigators who are consolidating their own independent research team or programme.**

## Eligibility

- **Successful defence of the 1<sup>st</sup> PhD: > 7 and ≤ 12 years prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. **New expected window in 2027:** 5 to 15 years after PhD defence prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027.**
- **Maternity, paternity, long-term illnesses, gender-based violence, etc.**

## How much can we apply for?

- **Up to € 2 million for a period of 5 years.**
- An **additional € 1 million can be made available** to and/or the purchase of major equipment and/or access to large facilities and/or other major experimental and fieldwork costs.
- **€ 2 additional million can be requested** to cover e.g., eligible “start-up” costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or an associated country.
- An ERC grant **can cover up to 100% of the total eligible direct costs** of the research plus a contribution of 25% of the total eligible costs towards indirect costs

# Consolidator Grant

AS FOR StG

## Criteria

- Applications can be made in **any field of research**. The ERC's grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities.

## Location

- Research must be conducted in a **public or private research organisation** (known as a Host Institution/Hi) **located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries**.
- Applications for an ERC grant must be submitted by a **single Principal Investigator** (PI) in conjunction with and on behalf of **their Host Institution**, called the applicant legal entity.
- Any type of legal entity, **including universities, research centres** and **undertakings** can host the PI and his/her team.

## Team

- ERC grants support projects carried out by an **individual researcher who can employ researchers of any nationality as team members**. It is also possible to have one or more team members located in a non-European country. Team members should bring scientific added value to the project.

More information: <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/consolidator-grant>

# Advanced Grant

Are you an **established, leading principal investigator** who wants **long-term funding** to pursue a **ground-breaking, ambitious project**?

**The ERC Advanced Grant could be for you**



# Advanced Grant

## Who can apply?

- **Established**, leading active **researchers** who have already a track-record of significant research achievements.
- The PI should be **exceptional leader in terms of originality** and **significance** of their research contributions. No specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are foreseen.

## How much can we apply for?

- Type of funding model: **Lump Sum.**
- **Up to € 2.5 million for a period of 5 years.**
- An **additional € 1 million can be made available** to and/or the purchase of major equipment and/or access to large facilities and/or other major experimental and fieldwork costs.
- **€ 2 additional million can be requested** to cover e.g., eligible “start-up” costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or an associated country.

More information: <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/advanced-grant>

# Advanced Grant

AS FOR StG &  
CoG

## Criteria

- Applications can be made in **any field of research**. The ERC's grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities.

## Location

- Research must be conducted in a **public or private research organisation** (known as a Host Institution/Hi) **located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries**.
- Applications for an ERC grant must be submitted by a **single Principal Investigator** (PI) in conjunction with and on behalf of **their Host Institution**, called the applicant legal entity.
- Any type of legal entity, **including universities, research centres** and **undertakings** can host the PI and his/her team.

## Team

- ERC grants support projects carried out by an **individual researcher who can employ researchers of any nationality as team members**. It is also possible to have one or more team members located in a non-European country. Team members should bring scientific added value to the project.

More information: <https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/advanced-grant>

# Calls for applications

	Starting Grant Call	Consolidator Grant Call	Advanced Grant Call	Synergy Grant Call	ERC Plus Grant Call
Deadline	14 October 2025	13 January 2026	27 August 2026	5 November 2025	2 September 2026

- ERC StG and CoG 2026 calls are closed.
- ERC is a continuity-based programme, **ERC StG and CoG 2027 calls are expected to close in October 2026 and January 2027**, respectively.

- The **ERC AdG 2026 call** will close in **August 2026**.
- If you plan to apply for an **ERC AdG 2027 call**, this is expected to **close in August 2027**.

Deadlines for the ERC 2027 calls will be confirmed when the ERC 2027 Work Programme is published

# StG, CoG & AdG results

## ERC StG & CoG 2025 calls

ERC Starting Grant 2025  
Submitted and selected Proposals by Domain

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

Success rate ~ 12.2 %

ERC Consolidator Grants 2025  
Submitted and selected Proposals by Domain

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

Success rate ~ 11.2 %

ERC Advanced Grant 2024  
Submitted and selected Proposals by Domain

## ERC AdG 2024 call

	Submitted Proposals	Selected Proposals
Life Sciences	732	83
Physical Sciences and Engineering	1066	118
Social Sciences and Humanities	736	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>2534</b>	<b>281</b>

Success rate ~ 11%



Behind every statistic is a funded researcher who believed in their work!

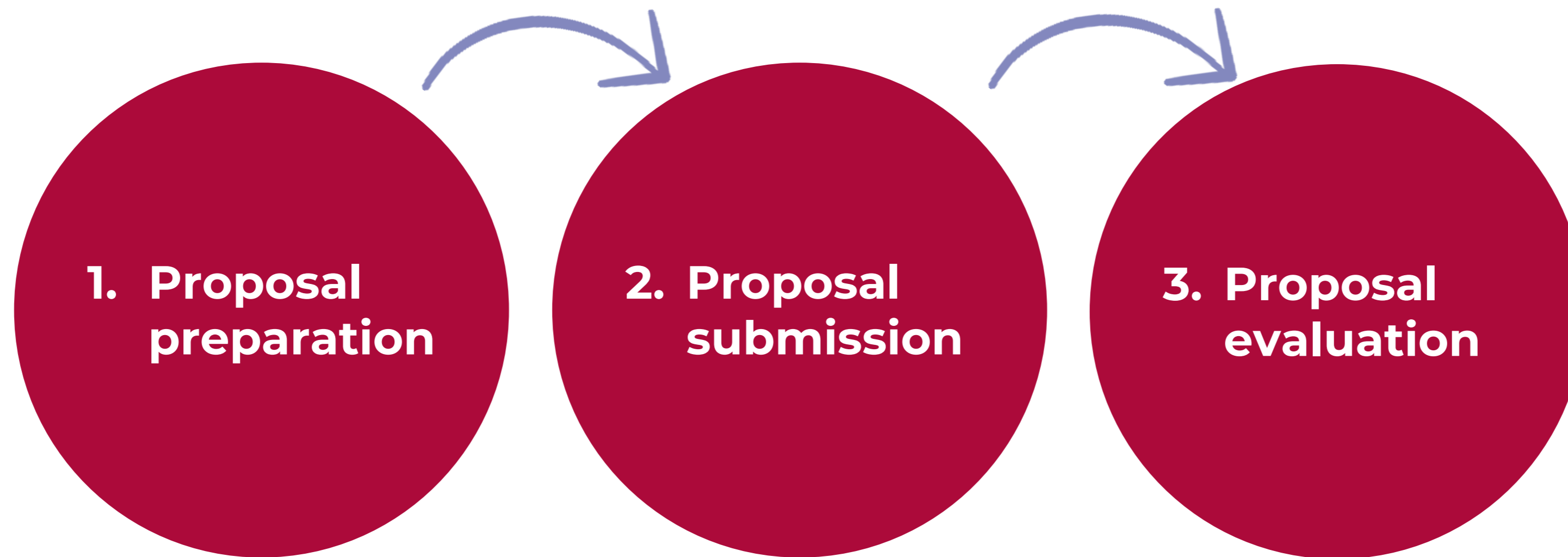


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# **ERC** evaluation

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion



Why do we start from the evaluation criteria



Understanding the ERC's evaluation criteria is key to preparing the proposal.

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion



- The use of the official call templates is mandatory.
- “Peer reviewers will only be asked to read, and will be under no obligation to read beyond, the material presented within the page limits”
- References do not count towards the page limits!

Excellence  
of the  
**Research  
Project**

What is  
evaluated?



Excellence  
of **Principal  
Investigator**

## **Scientific proposal (Parts B1+B2)**

**Part B1** (pdf):

- **Cover page (1 page):** title, acronym, abstract, etc.
- **Part I (5 pages):** overall vision of the project idea i.e., state-of-art, scientific questions, objectives, overall approach, research strategy, etc.
- **CV & Track record (4 pages):** personal information, research achievements & peer recognition, additional information.

**Part B2** (pdf):

- **Part II (7 pages-NEW!):** detailed research methodology, work plan, risk assessment and mitigation measures, etc.
- **Annex (Funding ID)**

**Budget** (platform):

- Justification for the budget and resources requested.

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

Parts B1 and B2 deserve equal attention and effort, but they require different content and serve different purposes. **Part B1 cannot be a “copy-paste” of pieces of Part B2!**



**Vision: general project idea**

Focus on the groundbreaking nature, ambition, and scientific impact

**Target audience:**  
generalist (e.g., avoid niche or overly complex terminology)



**Implementation**

Focus on the detail of the scientific approach

**Target audience:**  
specialist (e.g., rigour and degree of detail of a scientific publication)

**Due to the evaluation nature...**

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion



## STEP 1

**Part B1** (Cover Page, Part I + CV & Track record)

**Panel evaluators (panelists) will act as generalists**

**Evaluation criterion:**  
Groundbreaking nature and ambition of the research

## STEP 2

**Part B1 + B2** (Part II + funding ID table)+**budget**  
**The PI will be interviewed by the panel**

**Panelists + external remote referees proposed by panel members who will bring specialised expertise**

**Evaluation criteria:**  
Groundbreaking nature and ambition of the research. If (I) the methodology is appropriate to achieve the objectives; (II) the timescales and resources (e.g., personnel, equipment) are adequate and properly justified

- In step 1 and step 2, evaluators assess the PI's ability to conduct groundbreaking research, their creative and original thinking, and scientific expertise
  - Up to 44 proposals per panel will be retained for Step 2 of the evaluation

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion



## STEP 1

**Part B1** (Cover Page, Part I + CV & Track record)

**Panel evaluators (panelists) will act as generalists**

**Evaluation criterion:**  
Groundbreaking nature and ambition of the research

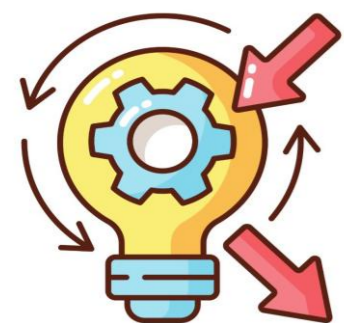
## STEP 2

**Part B1 + B2** (Part II + funding ID table)+**budget**  
**The PI will be interviewed by the panel**

**Panelists + external remote referees proposed by panel members who will bring specialised expertise**

**Evaluation criteria:**  
Groundbreaking nature and ambition of the research. If (I) the methodology is appropriate to achieve the objectives; (II) the timescales and resources (e.g., personnel, equipment) are adequate and properly justified

Often, we polish part B2 and do not pay enough attention to part B1.  
Nobody will read part B2 unless we are able to convince with our part B1!



# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

<https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/erc-scientific-council-readjusts-rules-reapplication>

Depending on the score you got from the evaluation, you may be subject to restrictions on future presentation of proposals to ERC calls. Particularly, for **StG, CoG, and AdG**:

## STEP 1 (not invited to step 2)

### **C** : 2025, 2026 StG, CoG, or AdG calls

*The proposal is not of sufficient quality to pass to step 2 of the evaluation.*

### **B** : 2026 StG, CoG, or AdG call

*The proposal is of high quality but not sufficient to pass to step 2 of the evaluation.*

**Not Invited:** *the proposal is of excellent quality but not ranked sufficiently high to pass to step 2 of the evaluation.*

**Invited:** *the proposal is of excellent quality and ranked sufficiently high to pass to step 2 of the evaluation.*

Not eligible for an ERC 2027 call

No restrictions. Eligible for an ERC 2027 call

## STEP 2 (not funded)

At step 2 there are no restrictions regardless of the score obtained.

**B** *The proposal meets some but not all aspects of the ERC's scientific excellence.*

**A** *The proposal meets the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding.*

Note that eligibility of applicants for the 2028 calls will be determined only in the 2028 Work Programme.

All applicants: information letter + evaluation report

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

**Remote interview:**

**Total 25 - 30 minutes**

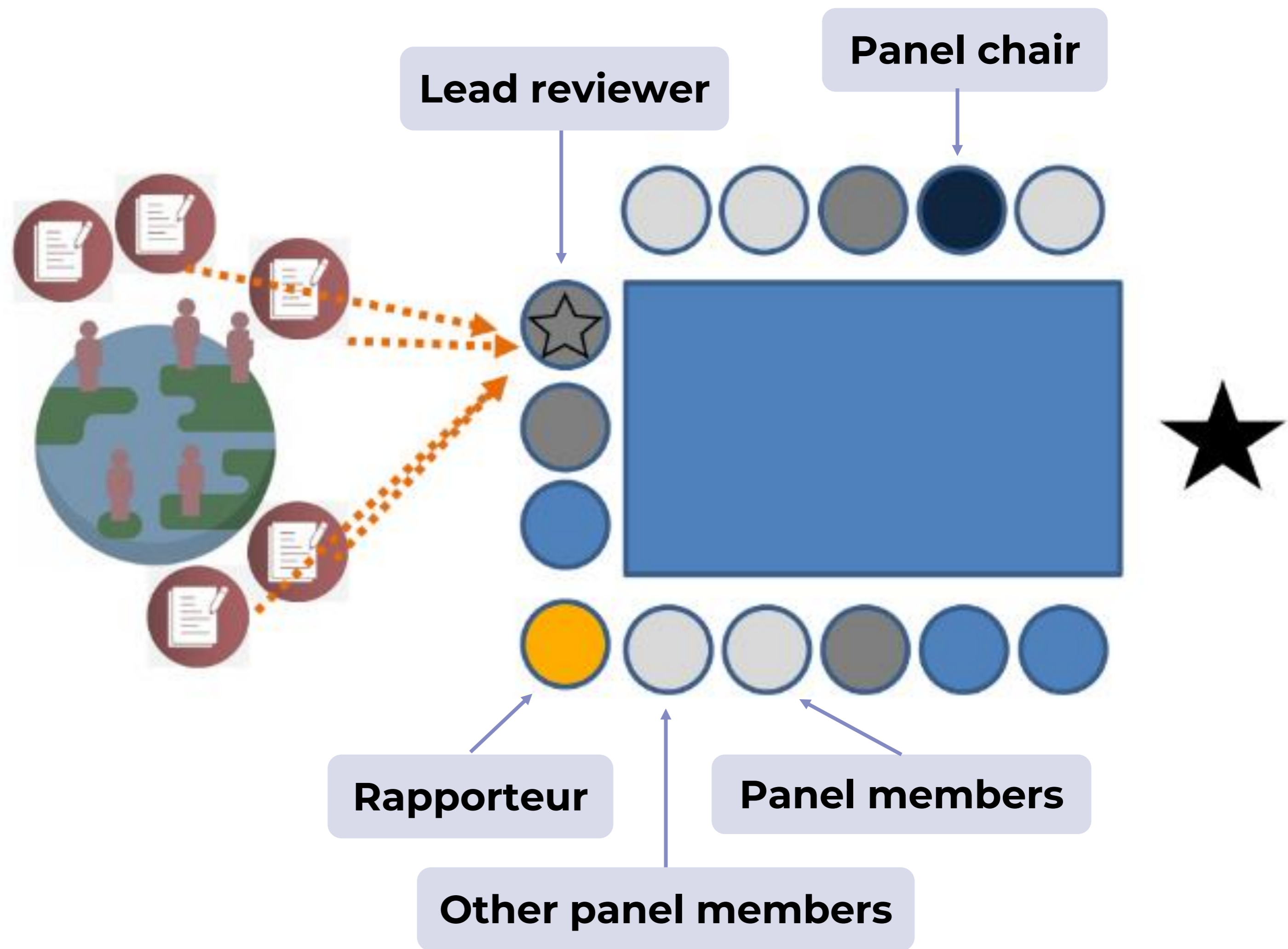
(Specific details provided under invitation)



- 1 Presentation → 3 – 10 minutes**
- 2 Questions → 15 – 25 minutes**

Aimed at experts with knowledge on the topic, although they might be specialised in other fields.

**Be ready for generalists and specialists**



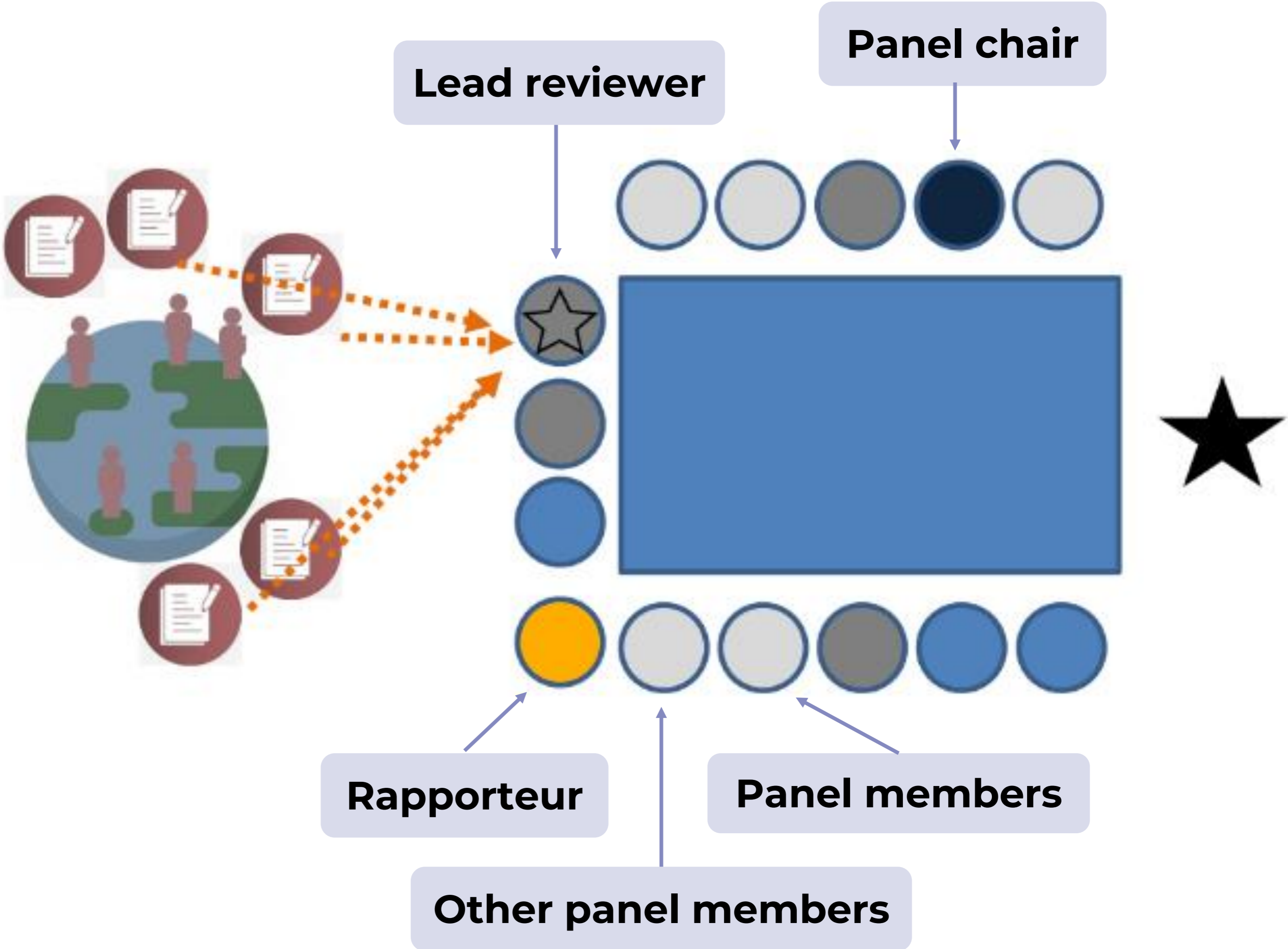
# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

## Remote interview: What will be evaluated?

- 1 **Presentation →**
  - Why the project cannot be carried out without an ERC grant?
  - Why is this research needed?
  - How does it fit with the PI's career?
  
- 2 **Questions & Answers →**
  - The more (questions answered), the better
  - Go to the point when answering!

Be **C**onfident, **C**lear and **C**oncise: **PREPARE & PRACTISE!**

[More information: How to prepare the interview?](#)



# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion



Keep in mind that scientific excellence is the central element in ERC evaluation!

## Typical reasons why the proposal does not meet ERC's excellence criterion

### Research Project

- The scope is too narrow or too broad.
- The groundbreaking nature of the proposal is not clear: Incremental research.
- The work plan is not detailed enough and/or is not clear.
- Weak risk management.
- Part II does not give sufficient information on the methodology and/or concerns on feasibility.

### Principal Investigator

- The PI has an insufficient track-record.
- It is not clear that the PI can carry out the project (lack of relevant expertise creativity not proved, not independent, etc.).

# Real examples of evaluation report comments (StG)



	PROS	CONS
<b>GROUNDBREAKING NATURE AND POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The project addresses a pressing and timely scientific challenge".</li> <li>"The aim of the submitted research proposal is to overcome several crucial challenges".</li> <li>"The project's objectives are ambitious".</li> <li>"The objectives outlined in the submitted research proposal are surely ambitious and, if successful, could extend the current state of the art in several key fields".</li> <li>"The proposal addresses aspects of relevance".</li> <li>"The idea behind this project is very interesting".</li> <li>"The project targets would make significant contributions to several fields."</li> <li>"The general and specific objectives go beyond the state of art".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"While the proposal has clear objectives, it is not obvious that it could lead to path-breaking research".</li> <li>"The main novelty of the research project remains a bit blurred".</li> <li>"It is not fully clear why the challenges are of high importance, and where is the great novelty coming from".</li> <li>"The proposal has some inconsistencies that hinder its focus and the possibility of making a valuable contribution to the state of the art".</li> <li>"Thus, while the study would be technologically interesting, it is doubtful if it would represent a new paradigm in this science".</li> <li>"To fully realize its promise, the project must further clarify how its approach diverges from existing studies".</li> <li>"It remains unclear for this reviewer why this is such an important focus".</li> </ul>
<b>SCIENTIFIC APPROACH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Although ambitious, the approach appears feasible in the planned time frame, considering the expertise of the applicant in the field, the available equipment and platforms at the host institution, the planned collaborations and the diversity of the methods".</li> <li>"The combination of methods is the key selling point of the approach".</li> <li>"The scientific approach appears feasible and fitting to the project's ambitions".</li> <li>"The methodological choices are mostly well argued and justified, and the project's work packages are clear and functional in terms of achieving the objectives that are put forward".</li> <li>"The project is organized into four coherent work streams, with clear alignment between the specific objectives and empirical strategies".</li> <li>"Timescale, resources, and PI commitment are adequate and properly justified, as well as risks and mitigation strategies".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Now and then the proposal is vague in outcomes and techniques used".</li> <li>"The proposal should reflect more critically on how this selection affects the generalisability of findings to the broader European context".</li> <li>"It is not always clear what the outcomes are for specific experiments".</li> <li>"Contingency plans for all sections are very limited in nature, sometimes no more than one sentence".</li> <li>"The details of the assessment are missing, and the sample characteristics are not described, making it very difficult to evaluate the scientific approach".</li> <li>"The details of proposed work are not sufficiently developed to evaluate the feasibility and appropriateness of the design".</li> <li>"The scientific approach is not described well. While the B1 section is short by definition, I still find the description of the scientific approach very vague".</li> <li>"Feasibility is currently constrained by inconsistencies between its objectives, conceptual framework, and methodological design".</li> </ul>
<b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR - INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY AND CREATIVITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The PI has a very good publication list and obtained several grants as a principal investigator".</li> <li>"The PI has all the scientific expertise to successfully execute the project, has access to the necessary infrastructure and has secured the necessary collaborations".</li> <li>"A good scientific track-record in terms of peer-reviewed scientific publications".</li> <li>"During the course of his scientific career, the applicant demonstrated good ability to conduct groundbreaking research and has shown an excellent capability for creative and independent thinking".</li> <li>"The PI has both the vision and capacity to lead a project of this scope and ambition".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The PI did not have any first authored publications since 2015 (also other publications are limited)".</li> <li>"The PI received a Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellow and other fellowships, which did not seem to result in any output".</li> <li>"While the PI's expertise is not in question, greater emphasis is needed on project management and supervisory planning".</li> <li>"The PI has documented ability to conduct ground-breaking research, scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project, but does not appear to have much expertise in (...)".</li> </ul>

# Real examples of evaluation report comments (CoG)



	PROS	CONS
<b>GROUNDBREAKING NATURE AND POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"This is an exciting proposal that offers theoretical sophistication, methodological innovation, and the possibility of exploring under-researched dimensions".</li> <li>"It has the potential to provide important, innovative steps forward in the field, both with regard to scholarship and to policy and practice".</li> <li>"The project foundation is highly disrupting, merging different principles in an integrated concept, which holds potential to overcome the limitations of (...)".</li> <li>"The ambitious objectives are beyond the state of the art".</li> <li>"The proposal convincingly argues that the research will (...)".</li> <li>"The research objectives are highly ambitious and moving the bar in several research fields".</li> <li>"This to me appears an exceptionally well developed project idea, that is immaculate in its sophistication and understanding of its potential research and intellectual contribution".</li> <li>"It offers a real step beyond the state of the art, and striking synergy between and across disciplines".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The objectives of the proposed research are overly ambitious and in some cases unclear".</li> <li>"It was not clear that the proposed methods were ambitious and beyond the state of the art".</li> <li>"Some aspects of the project could benefit from further reflection".</li> <li>"The inclusion of other countries would also have allowed for extending the theoretical scope of the project's results".</li> <li>"I am doubtful that this research would enlighten the science community on the topics tackled here".</li> <li>"While the project is intellectually and scientifically promising, several concerns emerge regarding the justification of its novelty and its positioning with respect to the state of the art".</li> <li>"The literature review provided is superficial and omits key references that are directly relevant to the proposed work".</li> </ul>
<b>SCIENTIFIC APPROACH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The working arrangements between the PI, post-docs, and Phd students are well-outlined and detailed: there is a strong sense of well-thought planning. Timescales, resources, and PI commitment are strong".</li> <li>"The feasibility of the project results therefore is high, also considering the PI's expertise in the field and in particular their recent demonstration of (...)".</li> <li>"The scientific approach is convincing and well described in the proposal with qualitative and quantitative objectives".</li> <li>"The methodology is appropriate and well reported".</li> <li>"The proposed methodology and the scientific approach are demanding, but the project is definitely feasible. The scientific outcome will enrich the instrumentation of the community greatly".</li> <li>"Methodologically, the project stands on solid ground".</li> <li>"The tasks are realistic and align with the overall scientific goals".</li> <li>"The proposed duration of 60 months is reasonable and consistent with the project's scope and ambition".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"This limits the scientific groundbreaking nature of the project".</li> <li>"In principle the scientific approach is feasible. However, it would require more resources and more time to achieve the goals of the proposal".</li> <li>"The PI and the involved team have the requested expertise for the (...) activities, while (...) expertise and facilities are out of the involved team. This can make harder the management of the project".</li> <li>"Several aspects of the proposed methodology have already been explored to a significant extent by the scientific community".</li> <li>"One major limitation lies in the project's apparent disconnection from existing European research initiatives".</li> <li>"The feasibility of the project is analyzed for what concerns the theoretical activities, but experimental issues and relative risks management are not reported".</li> </ul>
<b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR - INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY AND CREATIVITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The PI is clearly highly accomplished, with a profile and track record that equips them to carry out the research and to lead an interdisciplinary, multi-sited project."</li> <li>"The PI pioneered the original concept of the proposal in recent publications, with strong impact for its further implementation".</li> <li>"From the submitted documents and the long postdoctoral experience, it can be seen that the PI has acquired over the years a very good independence in formulating innovative and creative research projects".</li> <li>"The PI has the necessary scientific expertise and capacity to execute the proposed project successfully".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Research output is not that strong in the field of research, and there is no strong evidence on managing projects at the scale of ERC CoG".</li> <li>"There is no evidence of expertise in successfully executing projects".</li> <li>"I have some concerns on the PI's capability to coordinate and lead the experimental part".</li> <li>"It is not possible to determine the extent to which the PI demonstrates originality or creative leadership in research".</li> </ul>

# Real examples of evaluation report comments (AdG)



	PROS	CONS
<b>GROUNDBREAKING NATURE AND POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The proposal addresses a highly relevant topic and demonstrates significant ambition".</li> <li>• "The project's objectives are ambitious, aiming to develop a (...)".</li> <li>• "This is definitely a visionary project aiming to go well beyond the state of the art, and the main concept".</li> <li>• "While the project carries inherent risks, as highlighted in the risk analysis, it also holds the potential for significant rewards".</li> <li>• "The project represents an exciting scientific endeavor with the potential to make significant advances in the field of (...)".</li> <li>• "The interdisciplinary approach further enhances the potential impact".</li> <li>• "The proposal addresses a relevant and timely challenge".</li> <li>• "The project addresses to an important challenge with ambitious and beyond the state-of-the-art objectives".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "There is an overstatement in claiming it as a completely new paradigm".</li> <li>• "How the project will move beyond the previously funded project remains unclear".</li> <li>• "The research is a continuation of ongoing work and does not reach the groundbreaking nature required to be competitive".</li> <li>• "Notwithstanding the ambition of the proposed research, it lacks robust elements for going beyond the state of the art".</li> <li>• "The proposed research aims at using an approach, which is innovative but, at the same time, it appears only in part resolute with respect to (...)".</li> <li>• "This project does not represent ground-breaking research, and no disruptive approaches are proposed".</li> <li>• "The connection between identified challenges and the proposed protocol could also be more explicitly outlined".</li> <li>• "The scientific hypothesis and novelty were not clearly articulated".</li> </ul>
<b>SCIENTIFIC APPROACH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The proposed scientific methodology is rigorous, comprehensive, and convincingly feasible, articulated through interlinked work packages (WPs) with well-defined tasks and milestones".</li> <li>• "The scientific approach of this project is ambitious, leveraging state-of-the-art methods to tackle effects in science".</li> <li>• "The timescale, personal resources and PI commitment are coherent with the three distinct objectives of the proposal".</li> <li>• "The different tasks are well presented, detailed, and personnel has been assigned to each task in a careful and planned manner. "</li> <li>• "The project benefits from the access to (...)".</li> <li>• "It is clear that the PI considered very well many different scenarios, planned enough personnel and resources, and also evaluated risks and related mitigations to ensure the project can progress".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The vague manner in which the PI characterizes the sources to be used and how they will be analyzed makes it difficult to assess the feasibility of the work plan".</li> <li>• "The project is too broad and too ambitious to be feasible and not seriously considering the problems it involves".</li> <li>• "Another methodology would offer a more accurate representation, providing more realistic data for building the modeling platform".</li> <li>• "The approach of (...) would have benefited from more details and discussions".</li> <li>• "Some technical uncertainties remain, especially regarding (...)".</li> <li>• "Furthermore, the risk assessment appears overly optimistic, as no risks are identified as having a high likelihood of occurring".</li> <li>• "The methodology also lacks a dedicated work package for (...)".</li> <li>• "The topic faced by the current proposal is very competitive and the same aim currently investigated by some more promising approaches".</li> </ul>
<b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR - INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY AND CREATIVITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "There is evidence of the ability of carrying out groundbreaking research".</li> <li>• "The PI has demonstrated the ability to conduct creative and original research with a very good publication record in the field".</li> <li>• "The PI has significant experience mentoring young researchers, ensuring that the study will be conducted with the highest level of academic and operational excellence".</li> <li>• "The PI demonstrates outstanding expertise in leading innovative research by addressing critical scientific questions (...)".</li> <li>• "In summary, the PI's scientific achievements, leadership roles, and interdisciplinary approach to problem solving exemplify her outstanding intellectual capacity and creativity".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "However, the PI has not yet fully demonstrated the ability to lead large-scale and interdisciplinary projects".</li> <li>• "However, the track record of active participation in competitive research projects appears less robust".</li> <li>• "It is difficult to see (...) if the PI has the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project".</li> <li>• "The presented publication record does not convince the opinion of the possibility of ground-breaking research".</li> <li>• "In most cases, the proposer was a co-author within a large team. Unclear if scientific expertise is sufficient for a complex project".</li> </ul>

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

## Selecting the evaluation panel

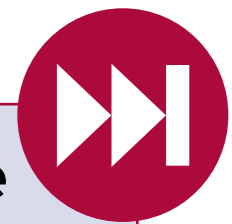
**ERC panel selection plays a key role in the evaluation.**



**Rumour:** it is more likely that the proposal is funded if you choose certain panels.



**Reality:** budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand: success rate is equal amongst panels!



More information in the Annex

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

## Selecting the evaluation panel

### 1. Check the evaluation panels and expertise available for evaluation.

#### Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE)

- **PE1** Mathematics
- **PE2** Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- (...)
- **PE11** Materials Engineering

#### Life Sciences (LS)

- **LS1** Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- **LS2** Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems
- (...)
- **LS9** Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

#### Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)

- **SH1** Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- **SH2** Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- (...)
- **SH8** Studies of Cultures and Arts (WP 2024)

For each evaluation panel, ERC defines 9-22 **panel descriptors (keywords)** which are used to inform PIs about the expertise available on the panel and find reviewers.

#### PE9 Universe Sciences

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

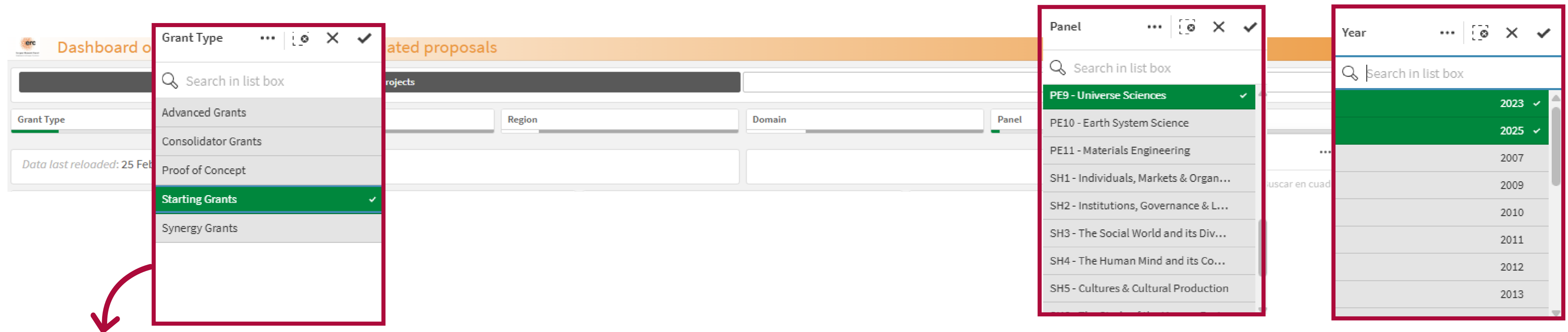
- **PE9\_1** Solar physics – the Sun and the heliosphere
- **PE9\_2** Solar system science
- **PE9\_3** Exoplanetary science, formation and characterization of extrasolar planets
- **PE9\_4** Astrobiology
- **PE9\_5** Interstellar medium and star formation
- **PE9\_6** Stars – stellar physics, stellar 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
- **PE\_11** Gravitational wave astronomy
- **PE9\_12** High-energy and particle astronomy
- **PE9\_13** Astronomical instrumentation and data, e.g. telescopes, detectors, techniques, archives, analyses

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

## Selecting the evaluation panel

### 2. Find and read funded projects in the panel(s) of your interest.

- o Use the ERC Dashboard: [https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs\\_digit\\_dashboard\\_mt/public/sense/app/c140622a-87e0-412e-8b29-9b5ddd857e13/sheet/61a0bd1d-cd6d-4ac8-8b55-80d8661e44c0/state/analysis](https://dashboard.tech.ec.europa.eu/qs_digit_dashboard_mt/public/sense/app/c140622a-87e0-412e-8b29-9b5ddd857e13/sheet/61a0bd1d-cd6d-4ac8-8b55-80d8661e44c0/state/analysis)



### Select the required filters:

- **Grant type:** Starting Grant
- **Panel of interest:** PE9
- **Call year:** 2025, 2023

Panel member composition remains very similar **every two calls**

- For ERC StG/CoG/AdG 2027 calls, panelists will be similar to those of the ERC StG/CoG/AdG 2025, 2023 calls, respectively.

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

## Selecting the evaluation panel

★ Read the abstracts to understand the approach of funded projects and help you choose the right panel!

### 2. Find and read funded projects in the panel(s) of your interest.

Dashboard of ERC funded projects and evaluated proposals

**Funded Projects** | **Evaluated Proposals**

Filters: Grant Type, Country, Region, Domain, Panel, Year

**Grant Type** dropdown: Starting Grants (selected)

**Panel** dropdown: PE9 - Universe Sciences (selected)

**Year** dropdown: 2023 (selected), 2025 (selected)

Project Name	Abstract	Host Institution	Year
ILMATAR	Unravelling the Cosmic Dawn: origin of globular...	Natalia Lahén	2023
ISOCOSMOS	Assembling the Cosmic Puzzle: Theoretical Insig...	Germán Molpeceres De Diego	2025
MagmaWorlds	Tracing the chemical evolution of super-Earth e...	Tim Lichtenberg	2023
nGHOST	next-Generation Handling of Optical Stray-light i...	Lionel Clermont	2025
OCAPI	Optimal Cosmological Analysis at the Pixel level	Natalia Porqueres I Rosa	2023
OUTLIERS	Observing Unique sTars and galactic chemical ...	David S. Aguado	2025
PulsarMAP	Pulsar Mode-changing And Polarization: mappi...	Lucy Oswald	2023
BeyondSTREAMS	Decoding Dark Matter with Stellar Streams from ...	Sarah Pearson	2025
CIRCE	Control of Instabilities in Rotating flows Conduc...	Florence Marcotte	2023
DistantDust	Dissecting Dust in the Distant Universe: A Panch...	Irene Shivaiei	2025

After applying the filters of interest, a list of projects meeting these criteria will appear on screen

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

## Selecting the evaluation panel

### 2. Find and read funded projects in the panel(s) of your interest.

It is possible to download the information in an Excel file!

Dashboard of ERC funded projects and evaluated proposals

Funded Projects | Evaluated Proposals

Grant Type | Country | Region | Domain | Panel | Year

Data last reloaded: 02 March 2026 07:16:19

EU contribution: €40M | Projects: 25 | Countries: 12 | Host institutions: 23 | Nationalities: 15

List of funded projects

Programme	Acronym	Project Title	Abstract	Researcher(s)	Host Institution(s)	Country	Region
Horizon Europe	2SStars	The Role of Binary-Stripped Stars: from Atomic Scales to Cosmic Dawn	A third of all massive stars are predicted to lose ...	Yiva Göteborg	Institute of Sc...	ES	Spain
Horizon Europe	ASHES	Astrochemistry and chemistry emulation to simu...	The chemical evolution of galaxies is driven by ...	Marie Van De Sande	Ghent Univer...	BE	Communauté de
Horizon Europe	COLIBRI	Cosmic nOn-Linearities: Impact of BaRyons on c...	Cosmology is entering a new era with revolutio...	Sandrine Codis	National Cen...	FR	Paris
Horizon Europe	D-SURGE	Data-driven Simulations for Understanding Rec...	Understanding and predicting energization of p...	George Miloshevich	University of I...	FR	Paris
Horizon Europe	EnviroFlash	Unraveling the nature of fast radio bursts throug...	Fast radio bursts (FRBs) are luminous impulses ...	Ziggy Pleunis	University of ...	NL	Utrecht
Horizon Europe	FIRST-GIANTS	Early Giants in Context: How could Galaxies Gro...	The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) has re...	Anna De Graaff	Max Planck St...	DE	Garching
Horizon Europe	ILMATAR	Unravelling the Cosmic Dawn: origin of globular...	Globular clusters (GCs) are the densest gravitati...	Natalia Lahén	Max Planck St...	DE	Garching
Horizon Europe	ISOCOSMOS	Assembling the Cosmic Puzzle: Theoretical Insig...	The advent of modern space instruments and gr...	Germán Molpeceres De Diego	Spanish Natic...	ES	Madrid
Horizon Europe	MagmaWorlds	Tracing the chemical evolution of super-Earth e...	The first low-mass exoplanet spectra from the J...	Tim Lichtenberg	University of ...	DE	Münster
Horizon Europe	nGHOST	next-Generation Handling of Optical Stray-light I...	In the ever-evolving realm of space instrumenta...	Lionel Clermont	University of ...	FR	Paris
Horizon Europe	OCAPI	Optimal Cosmological Analysis at the Pixel level	Distorted by the gravity of cosmic structures, gal...	Natalia Porqueres I Rosa	French Altern...	FR	Paris
Horizon Europe	OUTLIERS	Observing Unique sTars and gaLactic chemical ...	The number of identified primitive low-metallici...	David S. Aguado	Astrophysics I...	ES	Madrid
Horizon Europe	PulsarMAP	Pulsar Mode-changing And Polarization: mappi...	Why is pulsar radio emission time-variable? Ho...	Lucy Oswald	Universit...	DE	Münster
Horizon Europe	BeyondSTREAMS	Decoding Dark Matter with Stellar Streams from ...	One of the key questions driving astrophysics re...	Sarah Pearson	Universit...	DE	Münster
Horizon Europe	CIRCE	Control of Instabilities in Rotating flows Conduc...	Modeling magnetic field generation by dynamo ...	Florence Marcotte	Universit...	FR	Paris
Horizon Europe	DistantDust	Dissecting Dust in the Distant Universe: A Panch...	At the core of galaxy evolution is the evolution o...	Irene Shivali	Universit...	DE	Münster

Data settings

Table format  
It may take longer to export a large table if formatting is included.

Cancel | **Export**

Image

PDF

**Data**

A	B	C
Programme	Acronym	Project Title
Horizon Europe	2SStars	The Role of Binary-Stripped Stars: from Atomic Scales to Cosmic Dawn
Horizon Europe	ASHES	Astrochemistry and chemistry emulation to simulate dust formation and growth around evolved stars
Horizon Europe	COLIBRI	Cosmic nOn-Linearities: Impact of BaRyons on cosmological Inference with modern galaxy surveys
Horizon Europe	D-SURGE	Data-driven Simulations for Understanding Reconnection and GEomagnetism
Horizon Europe	EnviroFlash	Unraveling the nature of fast radio bursts through a multifaceted look at their local environments
Horizon Europe	FIRST-GIANTS	Early Giants in Context: How could Galaxies Grow so Rapidly in the First Billion Years?
Horizon Europe	ILMATAR	Unravelling the Cosmic Dawn: origin of globular clusters and their host galaxies
Horizon Europe	ISOCOSMOS	Assembling the Cosmic Puzzle: Theoretical Insights into the Detectability of Molecular Isomers in Space
Horizon Europe	MagmaWorlds	Tracing the chemical evolution of super-Earth exoplanets
Horizon Europe	nGHOST	next-Generation Handling of Optical Stray-light in Telescopes
Horizon Europe	OCAPI	Optimal Cosmological Analysis at the Pixel level
Horizon Europe	OUTLIERS	Observing Unique sTars and gaLactic chemical Evidence of the firSt relicS
Horizon Europe	PulsarMAP	Pulsar Mode-changing And Polarization: mapping out a connected picture of neutron star evolution
Horizon Europe	BeyondSTREAMS	Decoding Dark Matter with Stellar Streams from Beyond the Milky Way
Horizon Europe	CIRCE	Control of Instabilities in Rotating flows Conducting Electricity: dynamo seeds and subcritical transition to MHD turbulence in stellar objects.
Horizon Europe	DistantDust	Dissecting Dust in the Distant Universe: A Panchromatic Study with JWST and ALMA
Horizon Europe	E-BEANS	Exoplanets and Belts of Exocomets Around Nearby Stars
Horizon Europe	GalFlow	The Milky Way as key to understanding the inward transport of matter to the centre of galaxies
Horizon Europe	GIGA	A Gamma-ray Infrastructure to Advance Gravitational Wave Astrophysics
Horizon Europe	ILLUMINATOR	Illuminating neutron stars with radiative plasma physics
Horizon Europe	MMMonsters	The first multi-messenger detection of a supermassive black hole binary
Horizon Europe	PRO-RNO-G	Discovering neutrinos of extreme energies with the Radio Neutrino Observatory Greenland
Horizon Europe	RELICS	Revealing Elusive Light particles with Cosmic microwave background surveys across cosmological Scales
Horizon Europe	TREASURES	Digging into dwarf galaxies
Horizon Europe	VenusVolATmos	Volatile Element Cycles on Venus: Implications for the Evolution of Venus' Greenhouse-Dominated Atmosphere

# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

## Selecting the evaluation panel

### 3. Anticipate potential panel members in the panel(s) of your interest.

- **Panel members from ERC StG 2025:**

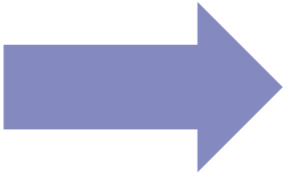
<https://erc.europa.eu/system/files/2025-09/ERC-2025-StG-panel-members.pdf>

- **Panel members from ERC CoG 2025:**

<https://erc.europa.eu/system/files/2026-03/ERC-2025-CoG-panel-members.pdf>

- **Panel members from ERC AdG 2025:**

<https://erc.europa.eu/system/files/2025-07/Panel-Chairs-ERC-Advanced-Grant-2025.pdf>



#### PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING (PE)

##### Mathematics (PE1)

Satoru Iwata (Panel Chair)  
Luigi Ambrosio  
Carolina Araujo  
Boris Aronov  
Stéphane Boucheron  
Alice Guionnet  
Gitta Kutyniok  
Elon Lindenstrauss  
Ilaria Perugia  
Laura Maria Sangalli  
Thomas Scanlon  
Carola-Bibiane Schönlieb  
Fabio Toninelli  
Karen Vogtmann  
Katrin Wendland

##### Fundamental Constituents of Matter (PE2)

Giulia Zanderighi (Panel Chair)  
Eric Arnold Bergshoeff  
Frédéric Chevy  
Brigitte Cros  
Péter Domokos  
Aurél Gábris  
Mariusz Gajda  
Oldřich Kepka  
Zohar Komargodski  
Blaženka Melić  
Werner Riegler  
Oriol Romero Isart  
Ewa Rondio  
Concettina Sfienti  
Katalin Varjú  
Frank Verstraete

##### Condensed Matter Physics (PE3)

Daniele Brida (Panel Chair)  
M. Isabel Alonso  
Sergej Demokritov  
Daan Frenkel  
Maia Vergniory  
Juan Garrahan  
Julie Grollier  
Pertti Hakonen  
Paul Janmey  
Despina Louca  
Dragomir Neshev  
Marco Polini  
Jeroen Van den Brink  
Thorsten Wohland  
Emanuela Zaccarelli

##### Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences (PE4)

Dónal Leech (Panel Chair)  
Sara Bals  
Perdita Barran  
Daniel Bélanger  
Ria Broer-Braam  
Michele Ceriotti  
Ilaria Ciofini  
Gaël de Paëpe  
Mariangela Di Donato  
Michael Lyons  
Steve Meech  
Arben Merkoçi  
Giulia Palermo  
Carsten Sönnichsen  
Martin Sterrer  
Hilde J. Venvik



For the ERC 2027 calls, the panelists will be similar to those of the ERC 2025 and 2023 calls

Check the panelists' names and investigate their profiles!

# Practical exercise

## Starting your ERC proposal: what's out there?

Use the ERC dashboard (<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>) to find funded projects of your interest, selecting:

- Grant type
- Panel
- Year



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# **ERC** Initial reflections: setting the ground

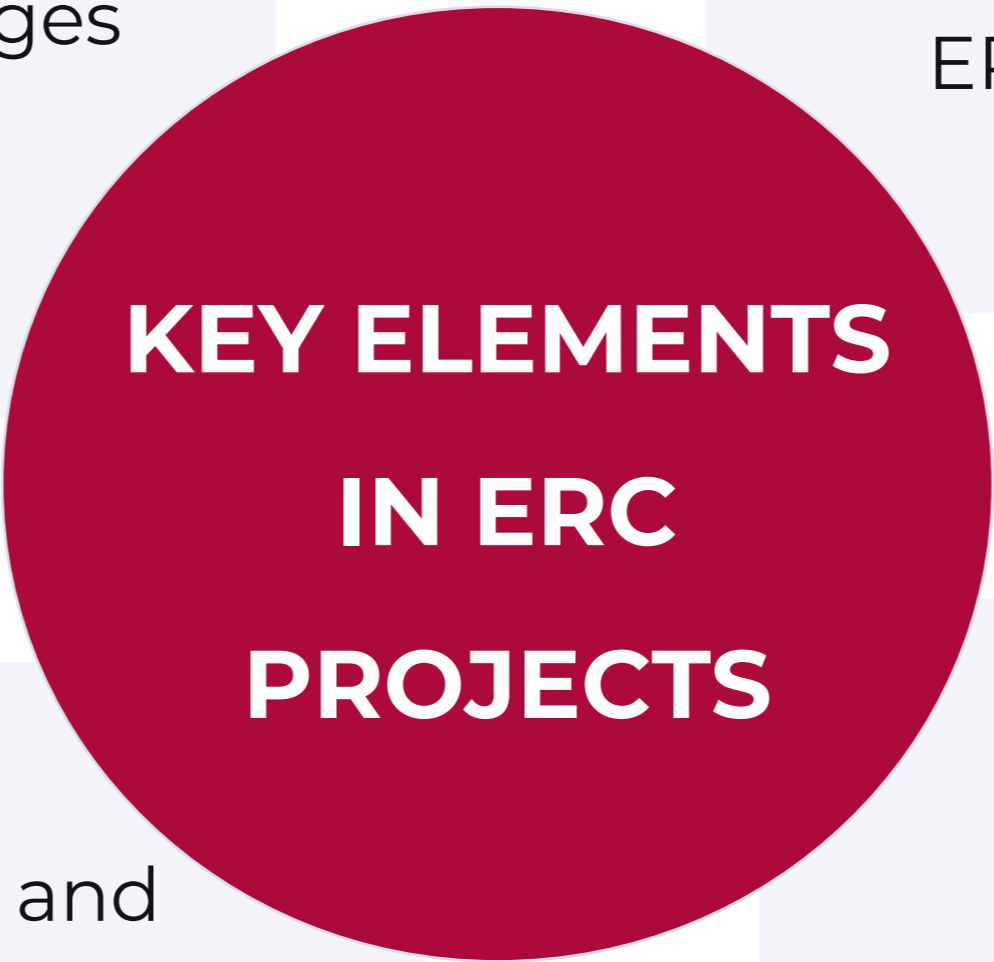
# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

## **GROUNDBREAKING**

Address relevant scientific-technical challenges with the potential to change established paradigms.

## **IMPACT**

ERC prioritises scientific impact over other types of impact



## **AMBITION**

Tackle challenges that are difficult — and even risky — to achieve, but transformative if successful.

## **FEASIBILITY**

The research has elements that reinforce its feasibility e.g., sound methodology, adequate team, etc.




**More resources in the Annex!**


# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

**For further information, read the documents related to the call when available:**

**ERC Work  
Programme 2027**



**Information for Applicants  
and Guide for Peer  
Reviewers on the ERC  
StG/CoG/AdG Grants 2027**



# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

Initial reflections



## 1. Is your idea original/creative and addresses an important question in the research field?

Investigate the state-of-the-art in the field and use the [ERC Dashboard](#) to find funded ERC projects to ensure there is no overlap!



# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

Initial reflections



## 2. Is it groundbreaking and ambitious?

- Does the research address a relevant and urgent **problem**?
- Are current **scientific approaches failing** to solve this problem (inadequate)?
- Which are the **scientific-technical challenges** that should be overcome?
- Are **challenges addressed with a paradigm-shifting approach** that is **high-risk but manageable, non-incremental**, and has the potential to transform the field?



# Scientific Excellence: ERC's foundational criterion

Initial reflections



## 3. Do you have the right background to lead this research?

- Do you have a **strong scientific track record in the field** relevant to the proposed research?
- Does your previous experience directly support your **ability to address the proposed scientific challenges?**
- Have you demonstrated the **capacity to lead ambitious, high-risk research?**



**Remember:** *the track record must convincingly show your capacity to lead groundbreaking research. Your profile should be aligned with the proposed research!*



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# **ERC proposal: Overview and Part A**

# REMEMBER

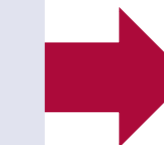
## The ERC full proposal



**Part A** (online forms): administrative data (general information, participants, budget, ethics & security, “other questions”)

**Part B1** (pdf):

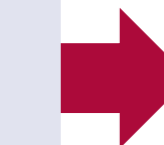
- Cover page (1 page)
- Part I (5 pages)
- CV & track record (4 pages)



**Evaluated in Step 1**

**Part B2** (pdf):

- Part II (**7 pages-NEW!**)
- Funding ID



**NOT evaluated in Step 1**

**Evaluated ONLY in Step2** (together with B1)  
→ avoid repetition with Part I

**Annexes:**

- Host institution support letter, etc.

# Part A - administrative

**Call: ERC-2026-COG**  
 (Call for Proposals for ERC Consolidator Grant)

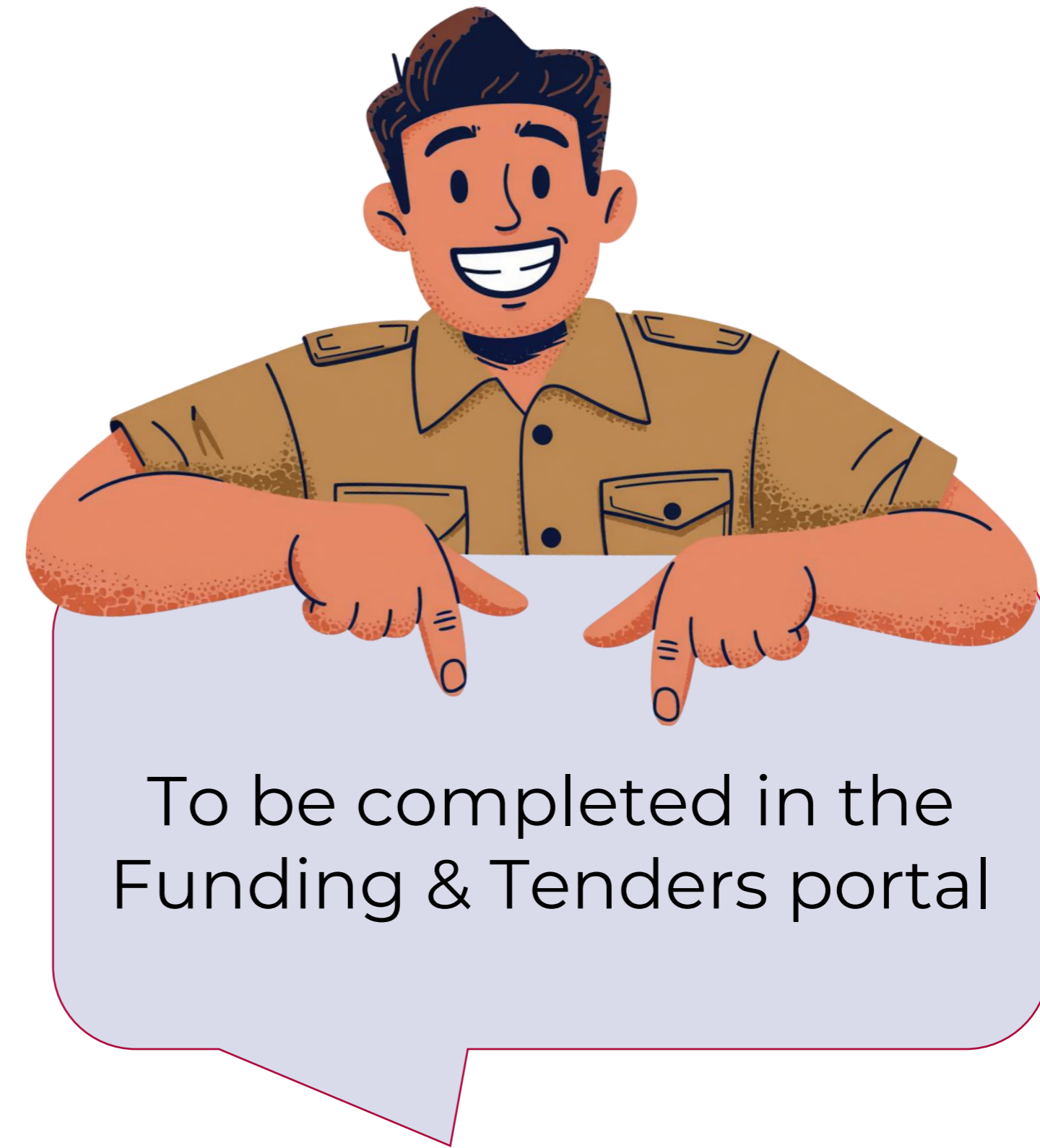
**Topic: ERC-2026-COG**  
**Type of Action: HORIZON-ERC**

**Proposal number: SEP-211248005**

**Proposal acronym: TEST**

**Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based**  
 Table of contents

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	
2	Participants	
3	Budget	
4	Ethics and security	
5	Other questions	



To be completed in the  
 Funding & Tenders portal

[Calls for proposals | EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

# Part A - administrative

## 1 - General information

Fields marked \* are mandatory to fill.

Topic	ERC-2026-COG	Type of Action	HORIZON-ERC
Call	ERC-2026-COG	Type of Model Grant Agreement	HORIZON-AG

Acronym TEST

Proposal title

*The title should be no longer than 200 characters (with spaces) and should be understandable to the non-specialist in your field.*

Note that for technical reasons, the following characters are not accepted in the Proposal Title and will be removed: < > " &

Duration in months\*

*Estimated duration of the project in full months.*

Primary ERC Review Panel\*

Not applicable

Secondary ERC Review Panel

Not applicable

(if applicable)

ERC Keyword 1\*

Please select, if applicable, the ERC keyword(s) that best characterise the subject of your proposal in order of priority.

ERC Keyword 2

Not applicable

ERC Keyword 3

Not applicable

ERC Keyword 4

Not applicable

Free keywords

*In addition, please enter free text keywords that you consider best characterise the scope of your proposal. The choice of keywords should take into account any multi-disciplinary aspects of the proposal.*

## Section 1. General information

- Acronym of the proposal.
- Title.
- Duration (months).
- Panel (primary and secondary panel (if applicable)).
- ERC keywords.
- **Abstract.**
- Declarations (e.g., about the information submitted, acceptance of the conditions for participation).

# Part A - administrative

**2 - Participants**

---

List of participating organisations

#	Participating Organisation Legal Name	Country	Action
1			

## Section 2. Participants

### Data of the Host Institution

- PIC of the HI.
- Gender equality plan.
- Department involved.

### Data of the PI:

- Identification: ORCID, Research ID.
- Personal data/information.
- Academic information.
- **Mobile number** essential info for interview logistics (step 2 of the evaluation)!!

# Part A - administrative

## 3 - Budget

Beneficiary Short Name	PI	Senior staff	Post docs	Students	Other staff	A. Total personnel costs/€	B. Subcontracting Costs/€ (No indirect costs)	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment - including major equipment	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	C.3 Total other goods, works and services	C. Total Purchase costs/€	D. Internally invoiced goods and services/€ (No indirect costs)	E. Indirect Cost/€	Total Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution /€
	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00

### Section C. Resources

This section and the budget table will be made available to the experts evaluating the proposal at Step 2. Important: your description of resources will be truncated once it exceeds the maximum allowed characters. Please make sure that your description is complete before submitting.

State and fully justify the amount of funding considered necessary to fulfil the objectives for the duration of the project. The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible. The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budgets will be consequently reduced. Please specify if you will use third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action.

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.

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

Justification:

## Section 3. Budget

- **Realistic** estimate of the project costs
- Two types of costs:
  - **Direct costs:** personnel, equipment, travel, subcontracting, etc.
  - **Indirect costs:** automatically calculated at 25% of eligible direct costs (excluding subcontracting and internally invoiced goods and services).
- Additional funding must be explicitly justified: costly equipment, fieldwork, access to large facilities, etc.
- Both the grant amount and additional funding are evaluated, thus budget justification must be **rigorous**.

# Part A - administrative

## 3 - Budget

Beneficiary Short Name	PI	Senior staff	Post docs	Students	Other staff	A. Total personnel costs/€	B. Subcontracting Costs/€ (No indirect costs)	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment - including major equipment	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	C.3 Total other goods, works and services	C. Total Purchase costs/€	D. Internally invoiced goods and services/€ (No indirect costs)	E. Indirect Cost/€	Total Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution /€
	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00

### Section C. Resources

This section and the budget table will be made available to the experts evaluating the proposal at Step 2. Important: your description of resources will be truncated once it exceeds the maximum allowed characters. Please make sure that your description is complete before submitting.

State and fully justify the amount of funding considered necessary to fulfil the objectives for the duration of the project. The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible. The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budgets will be consequently reduced. Please specify if you will use third parties giving in-kind contributions to the action.

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.

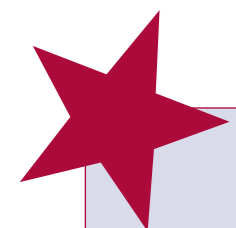
Request for additional funding if applicable (All items MUST be included in the overall budget table above): (Cost in EUR)

Justification:

## Section 3. Budget

- **StG & CoG: Actual cost model**
- **AdG: Lump sum model**

The payment of the lump sum contribution is based on the work carried out and reported, irrespective of the actual costs incurred for the project.



A **lump-sum grant** pays a fixed, pre-agreed amount for completing defined work packages, rather than reimbursing the costs you actually spent.

# Part A - administrative

## 4 - Ethics & security

Ethics Issues Table

1. Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Human Embryos		Page
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
2. Humans		Page
Does this activity involve human participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the <a href="#">Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)</a> ? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
3. Human Cells / Tissues (not covered by section 1)		Page
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
4. Personal Data		Page
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
5. Animals		Page
Does this activity involve animals?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
6. Non-EU Countries		Page

## Section 4. Ethics & security tables

- Complete the **Ethics** Issues Table: yes/no to predefined ethical questions (personal data, human subjects, animal research, hazardous materials, etc.).
- If any "yes": complete an ethics self-assessment explaining how these aspects will be managed.
- All proposals recommended for funding undergo an ethics review before Grant Agreement signature.
- **Security:** ensure your project is not subject to national or third-country restrictions that could affect its implementation.

# Part A - administrative

## 5 - Other questions

Academic data	
PhD reference date	
Earliest date of PhD or equivalent - DD/MM/YYYY*	
Applicants holding a Medical degree	
Are you a medical doctor or do you hold a degree in medicine? Please note that if you have also been awarded a PhD, your medical degree may be your first eligible degree. (please see the ERC Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant for more details).	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Extension Requests	
With respect to the earliest date (PhD or equivalent), I request an extension of the eligibility window, (indicate number of days) [see the applicable ERC Work Programme and the Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant Call].	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Working time commitment	
Please indicate your percentage of working time in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country over the period of the grant. Please note that you are expected to spend a minimum of 50% of your total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country.*	<input type="text"/>
Please indicate the % of working time you (as PI) will dedicate to the project over the period of the grant. Please note that PIs are expected to dedicate a minimum of working time to the project (30% for AdG, 40% for CoG and 50% for StG). The personnel cost for the PI provided in section "3-Budget" cannot be higher than the percentage indicated here. This information will be provided to the experts at Step 2 together with the section "3-Budget".*	<input type="text"/>
ERC eligibility requirements	
Please acknowledge that you are aware of the eligibility requirements for applying for this ERC call as specified in the ERC Annual Work Programme, and please certify that, to the best of your knowledge your application is in compliance with all these requirements. Please note that your proposal may be declared ineligible at any point during the evaluation or granting process if it is found not to be compliant with these eligibility criteria.*	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Section 5 Other questions

- PI's academic training and qualifications.
- Participant consent.
- PI's time commitment to the project:
  - **StG:** minimum **50%**
  - **CoG:** minimum **40%**
  - **AdG:** minimum **30%**
- PI's minimum percentage of working time to be spent in an EU Member State or Associated Country
  - **50%** for **StG, CoG** and **AdG**



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

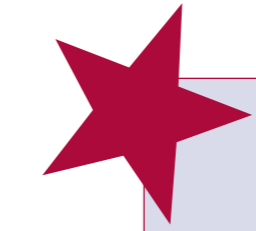
# **ERC proposal: contents and tips for part B1 preparation**

# B1: Cover Page



## Cover page (1 page)

- **Title:** descriptive of the essence of the project + main innovation (max. 200 characters with spaces).
- **Acronym:** readable and easy to remember.
- **Basic information:** PI's name, HI, project duration.
- **Abstract:** summary of the key elements of the project without complex or confidential information (max. 2000 characters with spaces).
- **Secondary review panel (ONLY if applicable):** only included if a secondary evaluation panel is chosen (not recommended).



**Remember:** Part B1 includes the Cover Page + Part I + CV & Track record

<i>Applicant's last name</i>	Part B1	ACRONYM
------------------------------	---------	---------

**ERC Starting Grant 2026**  
**Part B1<sup>1</sup>**  
*(Part B1 is evaluated in Step 1 and Step 2, Part B2 is evaluated in Step 2 only)*  
**Proposal Full Title**  
**PROPOSAL ACRONYM**

**Cover Page:**

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Name of the PI's Host Institution for the project
- Proposal duration in months

*Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.*

Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1).

The abstract (summary) should, at a glance, provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved. The abstract will be used as the short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process and in communications to contact in particular potential independent external experts and/or to inform the Commission and/or the programme management committees and/or relevant national funding agencies. It must therefore be short and precise, and should not contain confidential information.

Please use plain typed text, avoiding formulae and other special characters. The abstract must be written in English. There is a limit of 2000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

If a secondary panel is indicated in the online proposal submission forms, please explain and justify the cross-panel or cross-domain nature of your proposal here. There is a limit of 1000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

<sup>1</sup> Instructions for completing Part B1 can be found in the 'Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls'.

# B1: Cover Page



## Cover page (1 page)

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- **Abstract:** summary of the key elements of the project without complex or confidential information (max. 2000 characters with spaces).
- **Secondary review panel (ONLY if applicable):** only included if a secondary evaluation panel is chosen (not recommended).



Usually written at the end, but **of key importance...**

It is on the cover page / If funded, it will be public

**Ensure the abstract includes these 4 elements:**

- **Context** (should state that there is a problem, that current scientific approaches fail to solve, and that a series of scientific-technical challenges should be tackled to find a potential solution to it).
- **Objective** (should address the problem and challenges mentioned in its context).
- **Methodological approach** (should explain how the objective will be achieved and highlight the innovation).
- **Contribution** (should include the main results achieved, scientific impact).

# B1: Cover Page

## StG SH

### GUT-FEEL: Gut Influences on Brain and Mind

Context

Objective

Methodological approach

Contribution

A “gut feeling” is an intuition arising without conscious reasoning. This idiom reflects a profound biological truth: the gut is directly connected to subcortical systems that regulate arousal, mood, and behavior. However, brain-body theories often overlook these connections and their influence on arousal, a key mechanism through which the gut affects cognition. Moreover, we lack a detailed understanding of how different time scales of gut activity -from rapid contractions (seconds to minutes) to slower hormonal fluctuations (minutes to hours)- interact with brain dynamics, mood, and cognition. Critically, this gap also extends to mental health, where gut signals are increasingly recognized for their crucial role, yet a comprehensive mechanistic framework linking specific symptoms to altered brain-gut interactions remains absent. GUT-FEEL will address these challenges by systematically investigating gut-brain interactions across the vigilance, affective, and physiological dimensions of arousal, using pharmacological manipulations of the gut and brain. By combining non-invasive measurements of stomach activity with a dense, hourly sampling of gut hormones, I will probe how fast and slow gut signals interact with brain activity, captured simultaneously through electroencephalography and functional magnetic resonance imaging. This novel approach will allow me to untangle the complex web of interactions between the gut and the brain, both in healthy individuals and in those with depression. By positioning the gut as a critical modulator of brain function, GUT-FEEL will reshape our understanding of the intricate links between the brain, body, and mind. This groundbreaking approach will push the boundaries of cognitive neuroscience and pave the way for gut-focused therapeutic interventions, revolutionizing how we understand and treat mental health conditions such as depression. In doing so, GUT-FEEL is set to redefine the future of brain-body research.

# B1: Cover Page

## CoG LS

Context

Objective

Methodological approach

Contribution

### MOBICODE: Unravelling the genetic codes governing transposon mobilization

Transposons are ubiquitous DNAs capable of changing their genomic locations. While historically perceived as detrimental and damaging to host genomes, they have also been a major source of genetic variability, driving evolution. Unfortunately, the regulatory mechanisms of transposons remain largely unknown, primarily due to the lack of experimental methods to trace their movement. This project therefore aims to dissect the regulation of transposons in plants with unprecedented detail. This goal is enabled by a distinctive method developed in my lab, RUM (Real-time detection of transposon jUMping). RUM provides real-time, single-cell detection of transposon movement, offering a powerful platform to unravel the complexities of transposition regulation. Specifically, this project will focus on three major objectives investigating at multiple scales, from tissue to cellular and molecular levels. Firstly, it has long been assumed that transposition occurs more frequently in somatic tissues, however, this assumption has yet to be empirically validated. To comprehensively evaluate cell type-specific transposition activity, I will integrate RUM with single-cell RNA sequencing. This approach will provide a detailed map of cellular competence for transposition. Secondly, while epigenetic silencing is well known as a mechanism controlling transposons, significant gaps remain in our understanding of post-transcriptional and pre-integrational regulation. To identify novel regulators of transposition, I will perform a custom genome-wide CRISPR screen in combination with RUM. Thirdly, internal and auto-regulatory sequence motifs within transposons remain poorly studied. To address this, I will generate random mutations within RUM and map mutation hotspots associated with active transposition. Altogether, this study will illuminate the complex regulatory networks governing transposon movement, bridging longstanding knowledge gaps in biology.

# B1: Cover Page

## AdG PE

### ULTRAWAVE: Quantum entanglement with ultrashort charge wavepackets

Context

Objective

Methodological approach

Contribution

A significant challenge in quantum nanoelectronics is accessing the internal characteristic timescales, typically a few picoseconds, that dictate the quantum dynamics of nanoelectronic quantum devices. These timescales are currently beyond our reach. If achieved, this will open new path for studying the dynamic aspects of quantum mechanics. **ULTRAWAVE will overcome this challenge by leveraging advances in THz photon production and utilizing innovative photon-to-electron conversion devices to engineer THz electronic charge pulses for use in quantum nanoelectronics. We will integrate highly efficient photoconductive switches on-chip within a very low-temperature setup creating the first platform that merges time-resolved THz physics with milli Kelvin temperature. This breakthrough will enable us to achieve unprecedented time scales, granting access to the quantum regime of nanoelectronic conductors. We will develop a new quantum material platform for quantum nanoelectronics based on germanium heterostructures to elevate the field to unprecedented levels. The recently demonstrated exceptional quantum coherence properties of this material will enable us to develop the long-thought single-charge detector for propagating wave packets.** Overall, ULTRAWAVE will establish a novel approach for performing in-flight quantum manipulations at unprecedented timescales, resulting in a major breakthrough in the study of quantum entanglement and introducing a new type of quantum information processing with propagating quantum states. The ability to reach these unprecedented timescales will pioneer a new area of research in quantum nanoelectronics for both fundamental science and applications in quantum technology.

# Part B1: Cover Page

Applicant's last name      Part B1      ACRONYM

**Part B1<sup>1</sup>**  
*(Part B1 is evaluated in Step 1 and Step 2, Part B2 is evaluated in Step 2 only)*

Proposal Full Title  
 PROPOSAL ACRONYM

**Cover Page:**

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Name of the PI's Host Institution for the project
- Proposal duration in months

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**Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1):**

The abstract (summary) should, at a glance, provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved. The abstract will be used as the short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process and in communications to contact in particular potential independent external experts and/or to inform the Commission and/or the programme management committees and/or relevant national funding agencies. It must therefore be short and precise, and should not contain confidential information.

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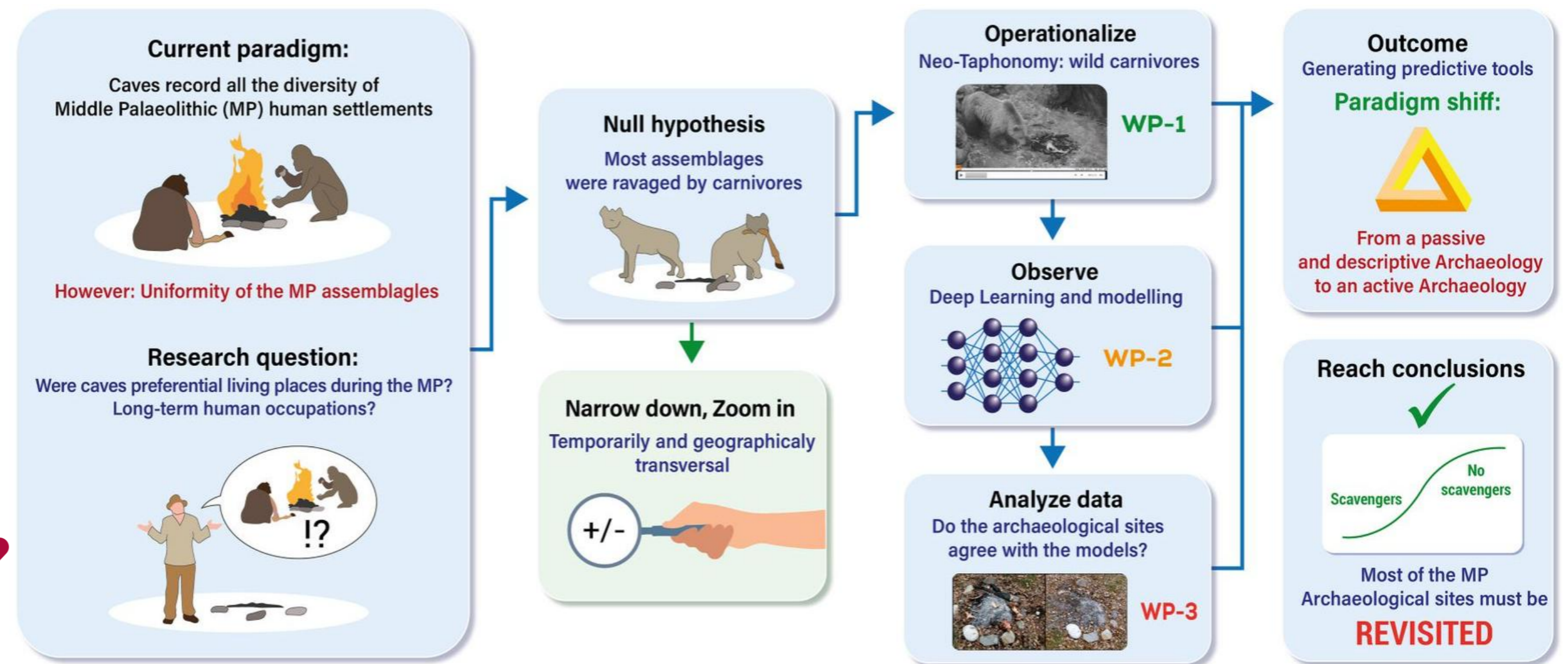
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<sup>1</sup> Instructions for completing Part B1 can be found in the 'Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls'.

**+** **Additional elements:**  
 logo and visual abstract



★ The visual abstract can be of help to develop your storytelling.



*It is a graphical representation of the key elements of the research that will facilitate the understanding of the project pillars.*

# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal



Part I of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?



## Overall idea of the research project (5 pages)

- State-of-the-art (SOTA) and scientific questions
- Objectives
- Overall approach or research strategy

Is this a great idea that would be worth pursuing?



Applicant's last name

Part B1

ACRONYM

**Part I of the Scientific Proposal (max. 5 pages, references do not count towards the page limit).**

Please note the changes as from 2026 calls regarding Part I and Part II of the Scientific Proposal and read carefully the “ERC Work Programme 2026” and the “Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls”.

**[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 evaluation Panel that it presents an original and creative idea addressing an important question in the respective research field(s). Furthermore, it should substantiate 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, only Part I and the Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Track Record (see below) is assessed by the evaluation Panel. It forms the basis for the Panel’s decision whether it chooses to evaluate the proposal in the next step. Therefore, all essential information must be covered in this section.**

References to literature should also be included. Please use a reference style that is commonly used in your discipline such as American Chemical Society (ACS) style, American Medical Association (AMA) style, Modern Language Association (MLA) style, etc. and that allows the evaluators to easily retrieve each reference.

**Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margin sizes (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.]**

# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal



**Tips to reinforce the groundbreaking nature and ambition of your project**

Establish a strong scientific context (SOTA/scientific questions) before presenting objectives. This sets the stage for why this groundbreaking approach is necessary. The narrative should include the following elements:

- The big picture (significance). State that there is an urgent and relevant problem to be solved.
- What we know and what we don't (current state). Explain that current scientific-technical approaches are inadequate and why.
- What needs to be done (challenges). Identify the main scientific-technical challenges to be tackled.
- What is possible now? (the opportunity). Demonstrate that these challenges require new, ambitious approaches.



**Part I of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?**



## Overall idea of the research project (5 pages)

- State-of-the-art (SOTA) and scientific questions
- Objectives
- Overall approach and/or research strategy

*Is this a great idea that would be worth pursuing?*

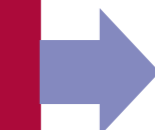


# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal



Tips to reinforce the groundbreaking nature and ambition of your project

HYPOTHETICAL, SIMPLIFIED EXAMPLE OF THE PREVIOUS CONTEXT STRUCTURE (to be expanded)



AI-Powered climate prediction at regional scale



- **Concrete data → immediate urgency**  
**Problem first, solution later.**

- **Clear knowledge gap**  
**Specific, not generic.**

- **Explicitly numbered challenges.**
- **Scientific-technical nature.**
- **Traceable to objectives & WPs.**

- **Timeliness.**  
**demonstrated, not stated.**

**THE BIG PICTURE - Significance:** Climate change threatens 3.6 billion people through extreme weather events (floods, droughts, heatwaves). Current climate models predict global trends decades ahead but fail to forecast regional extreme events with sufficient lead time. Farmers need to know if drought will hit their region next season, not global temperature in 2100.

**WHAT WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW - Current State:** Traditional physics-based climate models (like CMIP6) predict long-term global trends accurately but struggle with short-term regional forecasts. They can tell us Earth will warm 2°C by 2050 but cannot predict whether a region will face a severe drought next summer. Current approaches are fundamentally inadequate for actionable, near-term regional planning.

## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE? - Challenges

- 1) **Challenge 1: Multi-scale complexity.** Climate involves interactions across vastly different scales—from cloud formation (meters) to ocean currents (thousands of kilometers) to atmospheric circulation (global)—happening simultaneously. Traditional models can't capture all these scales with sufficient resolution.
- 2) **Challenge 2: Computational limitations.** Physics-based models require massive supercomputers and take weeks to run a single scenario. This makes real-time forecasting and exploring thousands of climate scenarios computationally impossible.
- 3) **Challenge 3: Data integration failure.** We have enormous amounts of observational data (satellites, weather stations, ocean buoys, ice cores) but current models cannot effectively integrate these diverse, multi-source datasets to improve predictions.

**WHAT IS POSSIBLE NOW? - The Opportunity:** Recent breakthroughs in AI (transformer models, physics-informed neural networks) combined with unprecedented climate datasets (40+ years of satellite observations, millions of weather stations) now enable us to predict regional climate patterns months-to-years ahead with an accuracy impossible years ago.

## Common mistakes

**Problem:** the scientific context is incomplete.

### Potential solution

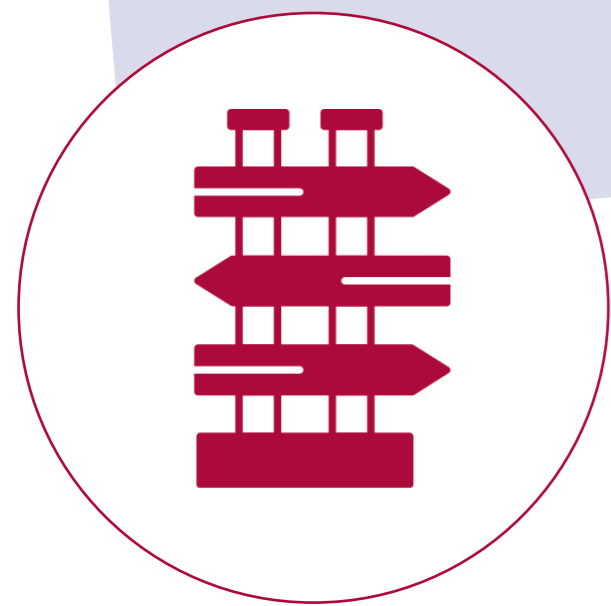
- Ensure the context is complete and includes:
  - The big picture (significance).
  - What we know and what we don't (current state).
  - What needs to be done (challenges).
  - What is possible now (the opportunity).



NEED

# Common mistakes

**Problem:** potential scientific-technical challenges are not clear.



## Potential solution

- Identify scientific-technical challenges using scientific literature since the beginning (context).
- For clarity, these could be numbered e.g., challenge 1, challenge 2, challenge 3, etc.

# Common mistakes

**Problem:** challenges are not scientific-technical e.g., economic, environmental, political.



## Potential solution

- The ambition should be to overcome the scientific-technical challenges identified in the context.

**Quiz: Are these  
valid ERC  
challenges?**



## Quiz: Are these valid ERC challenges?

### Estimated duration

8-10 minutes

### Instructions

**Read the following research challenges. For each one, indicate whether it is a valid scientific-technical challenge for an ERC proposal or not valid.**

- Challenge 1** *"One of the key challenges this project aims to address is the lack of affordable treatment options for patients with pancreatic cancer in low- and middle-income countries, where access to cutting-edge therapies remains severely limited."*
- Challenge 2** *"A major bottleneck in the field is the inability of current nanoparticle-based drug delivery systems to selectively target tumour cells without affecting surrounding healthy tissue, due to the absence of tumour-specific surface markers that can be reliably exploited."*
- Challenge 3** *"A fundamental challenge in the field of carbon capture is the inability of current solid sorbent materials to maintain their CO<sub>2</sub> adsorption capacity after repeated regeneration cycles, due to the poorly understood mechanisms of structural degradation at the atomic level under thermal stress."*
- Challenge 4** *"A fundamental unresolved challenge in quantum computing is the high error rate of current qubit systems caused by decoherence — the loss of quantum states due to environmental interference — which prevents the construction of fault-tolerant quantum computers."*
- Challenge 5** *"The main challenge this project seeks to overcome is the insufficient funding allocated to rare disease research at the European level, which has resulted in a lack of viable treatment options for patients."*

## Quiz: Are these valid ERC challenges?

- Challenge 1 → Not valid
- Challenge 2 → Valid
- Challenge 3 → Valid
- Challenge 4 → Valid
- Challenge 5 → Not valid

### Final reflection:

Review the challenges you have identified in your own proposal: are they truly scientific-technical, or have any economic, social, organisational or policy barriers crept in? If so, how would you reframe them?



# Practical exercise

## Drafting your proposal idea

Here you will start drafting your project idea. Steps to follow:

- Briefly describe your proposal idea (maximum length 4-5 lines). To that end, answer the following questions related to the groundbreaking nature and ambition of your proposal:
  - What is the current problem? Why is this relevant and urgent to solve?
  - Why are current scientific approaches failing?
  - What are the scientific-technical challenges to tackle?
  - Why is your research timely?

# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal



Part I of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?



Tips to reinforce the groundbreaking nature and ambition of your project



## Overall idea of the research project (5 pages)

- State-of-the-art (SOTA) and scientific questions
- Objectives
- Overall approach or research strategy

*Is this a great idea that would be worth pursuing?*



## Groundbreaking nature and ambition

Once the context is clear, present the **objectives**:

- Ensure the general objective:
  - (i) is compact and sound;
  - (ii) addresses the scientific-technical challenges identified;
  - (iii) shows the paradigm-shift nature of your approach (is not incremental);
  - (iv) is ambitious, yet achievable.

# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal

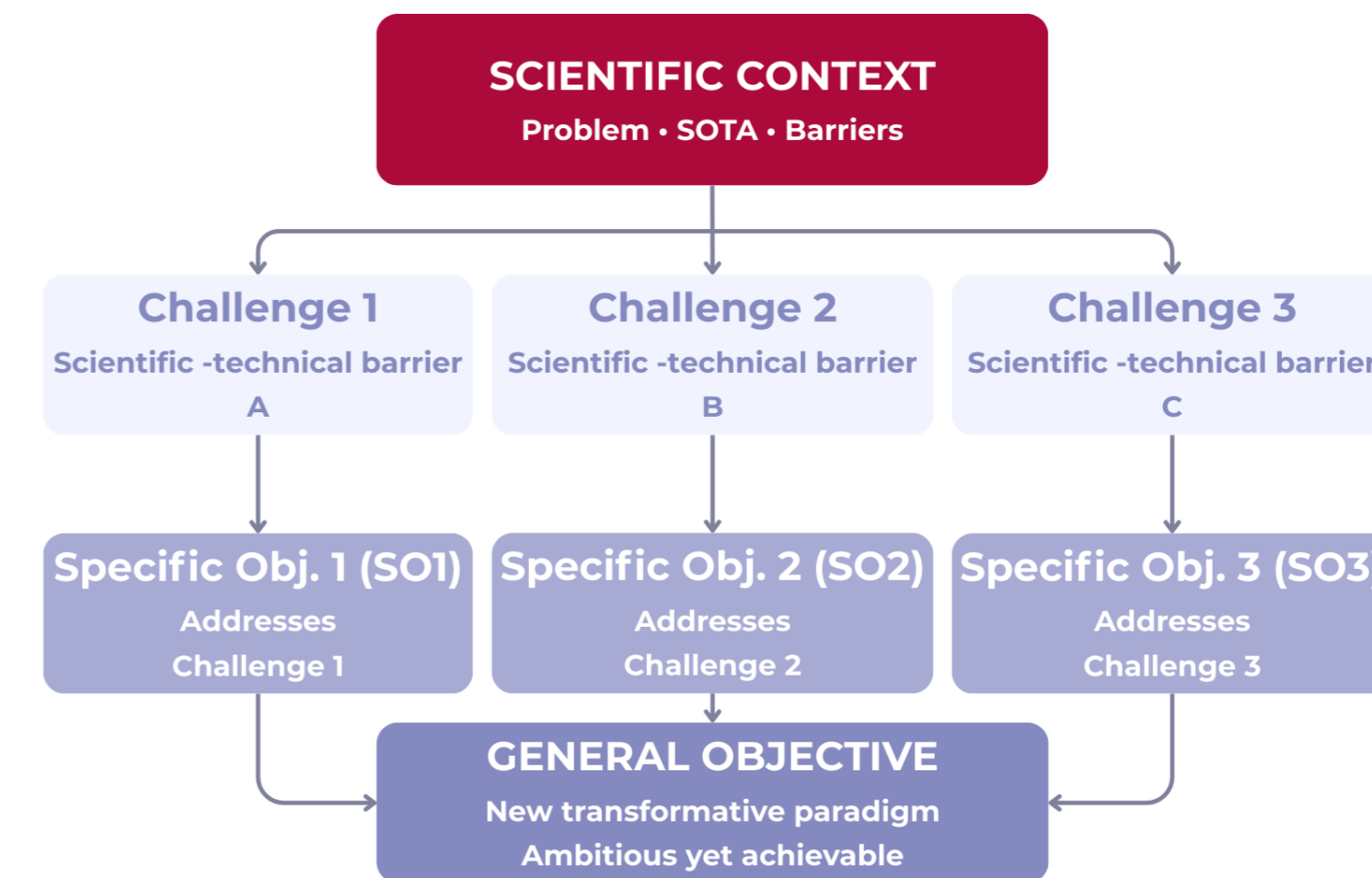


**Tips to reinforce the groundbreaking nature and ambition of your project**

## Groundbreaking nature and ambition

Once the context is clear, present the **objectives**:

- It is convenient to split the general objective into 3-5 specific objectives which: (i) should tackle the scientific-technical challenges; (ii) together, they show a logical path towards the general objective.



**Part I of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?**



**Overall idea of the research project (5 pages)**

- State-of-the-art (SOTA) and scientific questions
- Objectives
- Overall approach or research strategy

*Is this a great idea that would be worth pursuing?*



*Your ambitious objective is not just aspirational—you have a structured plan to achieve it!*

# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal



**Tips to reinforce the groundbreaking nature and ambition of your project**

**HYPOTHETICAL, SIMPLIFIED EXAMPLE OF A GENERAL OBJECTIVE FOR THE PREVIOUS CONTEXT**



To establish a hybrid AI-physics climate prediction system that forecasts regional extreme weather events 6-18 months in advance by integrating deep learning models, physics-based simulations, and multi-source observational data, fundamentally shifting from long-term global projections to actionable near-term regional forecasts.

- I. Compact & sound
- II. Addresses all challenges
- III. Paradigm-Shift
  - From: Long-term global projections
  - To: Near-term regional forecasts
  - Changes WHAT we predict (actionable vs theoretical) and WHEN (near-term vs far-future)
- IV. Ambitious yet achievable

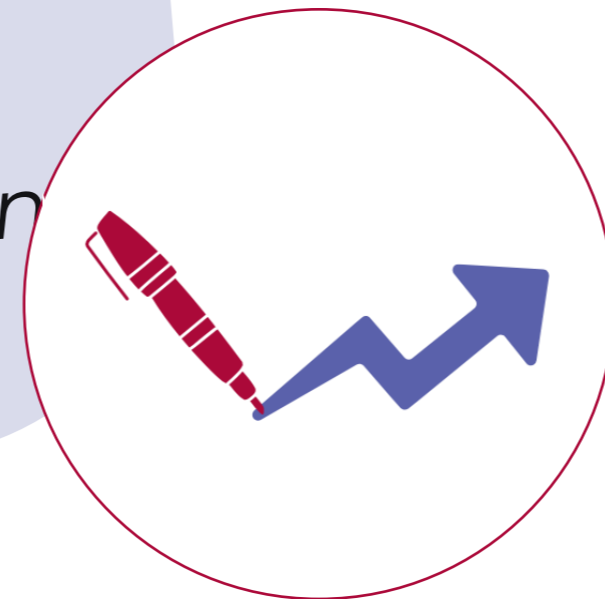
# Common mistakes

## Problem: incremental objective/incremental writing style

- *"This project is the continuation and extension of my pioneering research on..."*
- "The project expands the scope of..."
- "The project extends the emerging field of..."
- "The modelling component will extend..."
- "Building on recent work applying this method..."
- "The project expands current understanding..."

## Potential solution

- Ensure the research is not incremental.
- Avoid writing style using expressions such as building on, based on, expands, extends, etc.
- Alternatively, focus on the differences with previous approaches and the groundbreaking nature of your approach e.g., departing from current approaches, the project will...



# Common mistakes

**Problem:** the general objective of the project is not clear because there are several objectives defined at the same level



## Potential solution

- Try to define a general objective and a series of specific objectives.
- Ensure that the general objective
  - (i) is compact and sound;
  - (ii) addresses the scientific-technical challenges identified;
  - (iii) shows the paradigm-shift nature of your approach (is not incremental);
  - (iv) is ambitious, yet achievable.

**Quiz: Incremental  
or  
groundbreaking?**



## Quiz: Incremental or groundbreaking?

### Estimated duration

8-10 minutes

### Instructions

Read the following research project objectives and identify each one as groundbreaking or incremental.

- **Objective A** *"The overall objective of this project is to continue my previous research on drought-resistant wheat varieties by testing the strains developed in our lab under a wider range of climatic conditions across different European regions."*
- **Objective B** *"The overall objective of this project is to demonstrate that artificial photosynthesis can serve as the basis for a new generation of solar energy conversion systems, fundamentally challenging the dominance of silicon-based technologies and potentially redefining how renewable energy is harvested at the molecular level."*
- **Objective C** *"The overall objective of this project is to develop a novel machine learning framework to predict drought stress responses in wheat varieties at the cellular level, building on and refining the predictive models currently used in the field."*
- **Objective D** *"The overall objective of this project is to challenge the current paradigm on the origin of antibiotic resistance by demonstrating that resistance mechanisms are not an adaptive response, but a pre-existing structural feature in certain bacterial families. If confirmed, this would fundamentally redefine strategies for developing new antibiotics."*

## Quiz: Incremental or groundbreaking?

- **Objective A → Incremental**
- **Objective B → Groundbreaking**
- **Objective C → Incremental**
- **Objective D → Groundbreaking**

### Final reflection:

Review your own project objective: is the language you use groundbreaking or incremental? Are you proposing a paradigm shift or an improvement of what already exists?



# Practical exercise

## Drafting the objectives

Briefly describe the general objective and 3-5 specific objectives of your proposal idea. Each specific objective should (i) go beyond the state of the art in a disruptive way, and (ii) address the challenges identified in the previous exercise. The maximum length for each specific objective should be 3-4 lines.

# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal



**Tips to reinforce the groundbreaking and ambition of your project**

## Groundbreaking nature and ambition

Once the context and objectives are presented, **state the overall approach or research strategy** (details in **B2**):

- **Highlight methodological innovation** e.g., What's novel about your approach? Are you developing new methods? Are you combining approaches in unprecedented ways? Are you applying methods to a new field for the first time?
- **Demonstrate scientific soundness.** Support your approach with scientific literature. If possible, mention any supporting evidence (e.g., preliminary data, proof-of-concept results) that shows this approach has potential to succeed.



**Part I of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?**



### Overall idea of the research project (5 pages)

- State-of-the-art (SOTA) and scientific questions
- Objectives
- Overall approach or research strategy

*Is this a great idea that would be worth pursuing?*



*"This is not just ambitious—it's achievable"*

# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal



Part I of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?



**Overall idea of the research project (5 pages)**

- State-of-the-art (SOTA) and scientific questions
- Objectives
- Overall approach or research strategy

*Is this a great idea that would be worth pursuing?*



**Tips to reinforce the groundbreaking and ambition of your project**

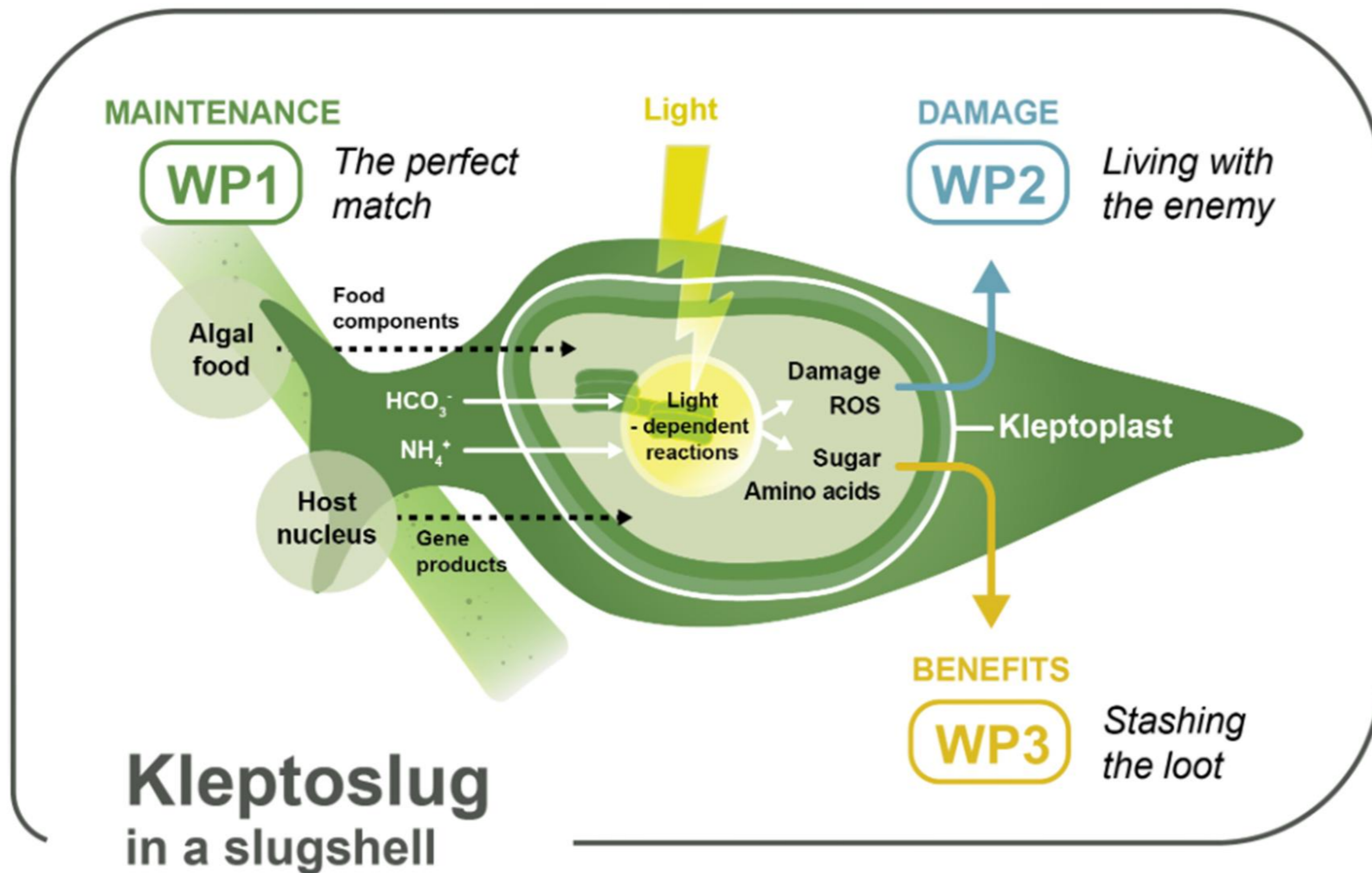
## Groundbreaking nature and ambition

Once the context and objectives are presented, **state the overall approach or research strategy** (details in **B2**):

- **Structure the content into coherent blocks of tasks** e.g., Work Packages (WPs), and **develop a clear narrative** showing:
  - How each WP addresses the specific objectives and challenges identified in the context.
  - Progression: foundational → breakthrough.
  - The interdependencies/synergies between WPs.

*"This is not just ambitious—it's achievable"*

# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal



**Tips to reinforce the groundbreaking and ambition of your project**

**Research Strategy of the ERC project:**  
Kleptoslug

# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal



Part I of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?



Tips to reinforce the groundbreaking nature and ambition of your project



## Overall idea of the research project (5 pages)

The ERC requires this content...

- State-of-the-art (SOTA) and scientific questions
- Objectives
- Overall approach or research strategy

*Is this a great idea that would be worth pursuing ?*

## Groundbreaking nature and ambition

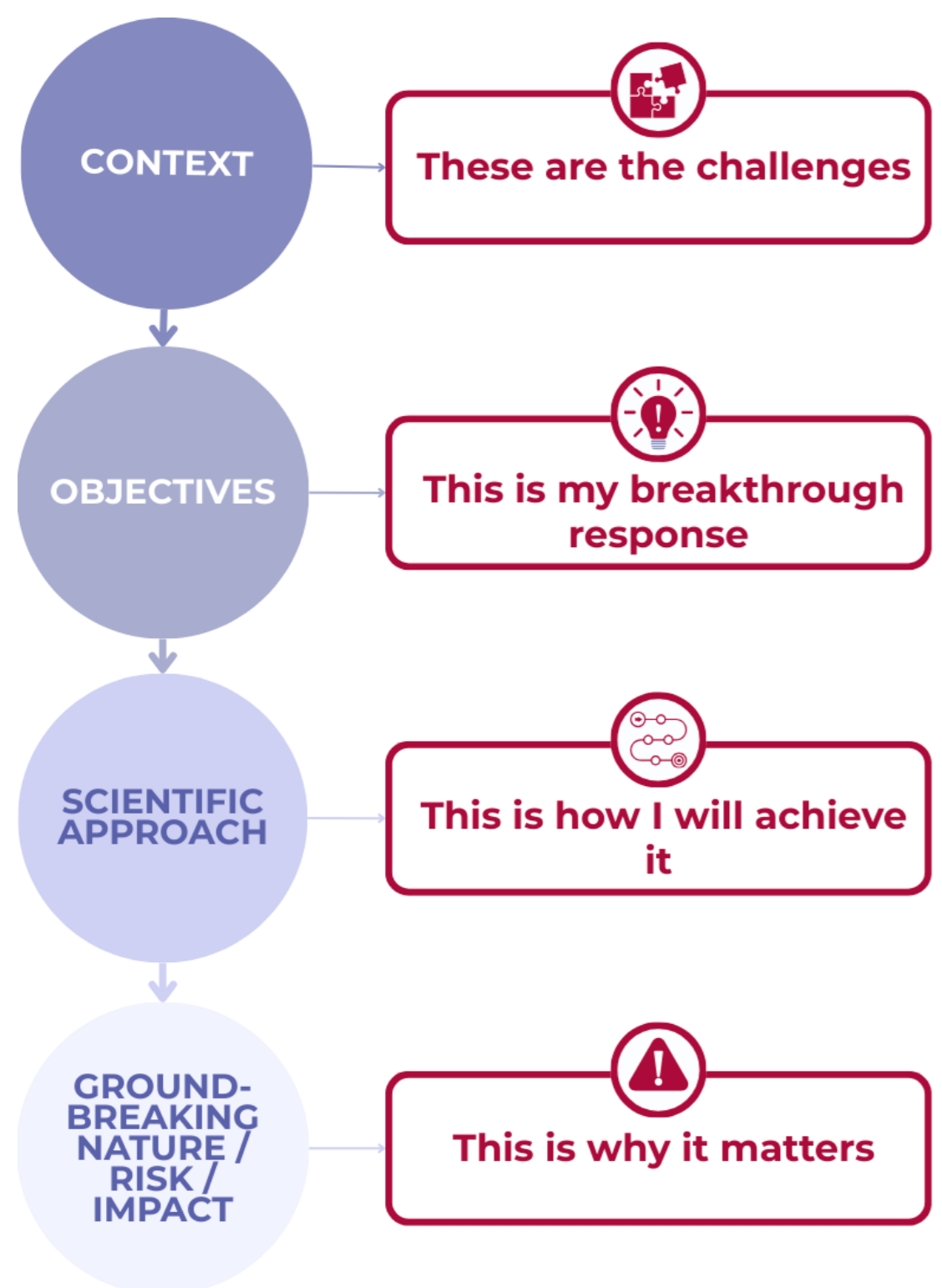
...but, to make the proposal's ambition clearer, you can consider adding content/sections on:

- **Groundbreaking nature**
- **Risk plan**
- **Scientific impact**

# B1: Part I of the scientific proposal



Part I of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?



**Remember:** if there is societal, economic, environmental impact etc., it should be placed at a secondary place and derived from the scientific impact e.g., *knowledge generated in the project could be used by stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding air pollution, improving health...*



**Tips to reinforce the groundbreaking nature and ambition of your project**

## Groundbreaking nature and ambition

<u>Groundbreaking nature</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> show that your research is paradigm-shifting.</li> <li>• <b>Strategy:</b> explain how this project overcomes identified challenges in a disruptive way.</li> </ul>
<u>Risk plan</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> show this groundbreaking research has inherent risks that have been identified and can be managed.</li> <li>• <b>Strategy:</b> identify major risks and outline mitigation strategies (details in B2).</li> </ul>
<u>Scientific impact</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aim:</b> demonstrate that this research has transformative potential.</li> <li>• <b>Strategy:</b> identify scientific impact e.g., How this project can be a revolution for the scientific community? Will it open new research lines? Will it open new directions in the field?</li> </ul>

## Common mistakes

**Problem:** the impact section is not complete.



### Potential solution

- Mention how the outcomes of the project could be a revolution for the scientific community.
- State if new research lines could be created, if new directions in the field (or other fields) could be opened thanks to this project.

# B1: CV & track record

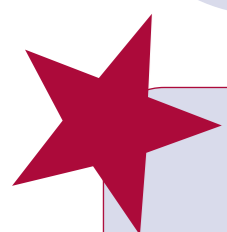


## CV & track record: what do reviewers expect?



### CV/Track record (4 pages)

- Personal details
- Research achievements (<=10) and peer recognition
- Additional information



**Remember:** A strategic presentation of the CV & track record is key to highlighting the originality, relevance, and leadership of your contributions in the field!

Does the PI have the capability to carry out this project successfully?

### b.1. Personal Details



Name:  
Website:  
Links of interest: XXX (🔗)

#### Education and key qualifications

- Start year University degree / organisation / country
- Start year University degree / organisation / country

#### Current positions

- Start year Position / organisation / (duration) / country
- Start year Position / organisation / (duration) / country

#### Previous positions

- Start year Position / organisation / (duration) / country
- Start year Position / organisation / (duration) / country

### b.2. Research Achievements and Peer Recognition

Optional

#### Summary:

- Overview
- Experience and capabilities
- Key achievements
- Project approach

#### Research Achievements

List of 10 publications that show how I have advanced the field of structural robustness. A brief explanation is provided on: 1) the significance of the work, 2) my leading role, and 3) its relevance for carrying out of the project.

#### • Reference + DOI

Significance:  
My role:  
Relevance for the project:



1. *Author 1., Author 2., Title. Journal (2025).* <https://doi.org/...>  
**Significance:** Enables the development of (...). **My role:** I coordinated efforts between (...). **Relevance for the project:** It demonstrates my experience combining these methods, which will benefit WPx (...).
2. *Author 1., Author 2., Title. Journal (2024).* <https://doi.org/...>  
**Significance:** It was the first to identify (...). **My role:** My contribution was (...). **Relevance for the project:** This supports my ability to develop (...), which will be key to for WPx (...).
3. *Author 1., Author 2., Title. Journal (2023).* <https://doi.org/...>  
**Significance:** Addresses critical gaps in (...). **My role:** I lead the integration of (...). **Relevance for the project:** This demonstrates my critical thinking and skills in bridging the gap between (...).

You may include relevant images related to the post



#### Peer Recognition

Example

**Invited presentations.** Invited speaker (Keynote or Plenary) at more than x major conferences and symposia organised by recognised prestigious bodies. Selection of x recent invited talks:

- **Title of the contribution.** Conference name. City, country (year). This is prestigious in the field and only a minority of researchers are invited per year, recognising transformative contributions to the research community.
- **Title of the contribution.** Conference name. City, country (year). Keynote speaker at biennial conference, selected by international scientific committee from global nominations.
- **Title of the contribution.** Conference name. City, country (year). Plenary talk highlighting breakthrough methodologies in the discipline.

# B1: CV & track record



## CV & track record: what do reviewers expect?



- Personal details
- Research achievements ( $\leq 10$ ) and peer recognition
- Additional information

*Does the PI have the capability to carry out this project successfully?*



**Personal details:** education, key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions.

**Research achievements ( $\leq 10$ )** a list of up to 10 research outputs:

- Demonstrating advancement in the field
- Emphasis on more recent achievements
- Short narrative on significance of achievements

**Peer recognition:** a list of selected examples of significant prizes, fellowships, academy memberships, etc. With short narratives about their significance.

**Additional information:**

- Career breaks, diverse career paths, life events
- Other contributions to research community

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# B1: CV & track record



## CV & track record: what do reviewers expect?



- Personal details
- Research achievements ( $\leq 10$ ) and peer recognition
- Additional information

### Research Achievements ( $\leq 10$ )

- Publications (some selected publications)
- Research monographs/books (without translations)
- Funding: Projects (past ones. Current ones in Funding ID section)
- Outreach-press-media
- Patents
- Documentaries/audiovisual productions
- Archeological campaigns
- Research expeditions (long duration, as a leader or member)
- Industrial/architectural designs
- Contribution to regulations/norms

### Peer recognition

- Fellowships and awards (also the rejected ones)
- Supervision of students (capacity to lead a team and open research paths)
- Teaching activities (related to the research topic)
- Organisation of scientific meetings (shows leadership)
- Institutional responsibilities
- Reviewing activities (regular reviewer, editorial boards...)
- Membership of scientific societies
- Major collaborations (include names/institution)
- Commissions of Trust (e.g., expert of the national plan...)
- Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools (relevant conferences in your field: keynote speaker)
- *Not exhaustive list...*

# B1: CV & track record



CV & track record:  
what do reviewers expect?



- Personal details
- **Research achievements** (<=10) and peer recognition
- Additional information

*Does the PI have the capability to carry out this project successfully?*



## Tips for a strategic CV & Track record

1. Use the **templates**.
2. Use the **narratives** to demonstrate that you have the capability to lead this project.



**Research achievements:** provide a narrative per achievement to highlight its relevance: why have you selected it?; what is your contribution to it?; how does it benefit your research?

1. *Author 1., Author 2., Title. Journal (2025). <https://doi.org/...>*  
**Significance:** Enables the development of (...). **My role:** I coordinated efforts between (...). **Relevance for the project:** It demonstrates my experience combining these methods, which will benefit WPx (...).
2. *Author 1., Author 2., Title. Journal (2024). <https://doi.org/...>*  
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**Significance:** Addresses critical gaps in (...). **My role:** I lead the integration of (...). **Relevance for the project:** This demonstrates my critical thinking and skills in bridging the gap between (...).

# B1: CV & track record



CV & track record:  
what do reviewers expect?



- Personal details
- Research achievements (<=10) and **peer recognition**
- Additional information

*Does the PI have the capability to carry out this project successfully?*



**Tips for a strategic CV & Track record**

1. Use the **templates**.
2. Use the **narratives** to demonstrate that you have the capability to lead this project.

**Peer recognition:** use the narratives to facilitate reviewers understand your recognitions e.g., teaching activities (explain if they relate to the ERC project); national/regional/local fellowships not widely known (explain their aim, success rate, etc.) e.g., the aim of this fellowship is to attract and retain talent and has a ~10-15% success rate in recent calls.

**Invited presentations.** Invited speaker (Keynote or Plenary) at more than x major conferences and symposia organised by recognised prestigious bodies. Selection of x recent invited talks:

- **Title of the contribution.** Conference name. City, country (year). This is prestigious in the field and only a minority of researchers are invited per year, recognising transformative contributions to the research community.
- **Title of the contribution.** Conference name. City, country (year). Keynote speaker at biennial conference, selected by international scientific committee from global nominations.
- **Title of the contribution.** Conference name. City, country (year). Plenary talk highlighting breakthrough methodologies in the discipline.

# Common mistakes

**Problem:** no narratives presented or they are incomplete.



## Potential solution

- Use the narratives to reinforce your excellence as PI.
- Include a narrative per research achievement indicating why you select the achievement, your role and how it benefits the ERC project. Number the achievements (1-10).
- For peer recognition, use narratives to provide context about the relevance of the merits and how they support your intellectual capacity to lead this research. Cluster the merits into categories e.g., Fellowships and awards; Supervision of students.

# Common mistakes

**Problem:** items are not included in the correct place.



## Potential solution

- Check what can fit in each section.

## Research Achievements (<=10)

- Publications (some selected publications)
- Research monographs/books (w. translations)
- Funding: Projects (past ones. Current ones in Funding ID section)
- Outreach-press-media
- Patents
- Documentaries/audiovisual productions
- Archeological campaigns
- Research expeditions (long duration, as a leader or member)
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## Peer recognition

- Fellowships and awards (also the rejected ones)
- Supervision of students (capacity to lead a team and open research paths)
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- Commissions of Trust (e.g., expert of the national plan...)
- Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools (relevant conferences in your field: keynote speaker)
- *Not exhaustive list...*

**Quiz: Research achievement or peer recognition?**



## Quiz: Research achievement or peer recognition?

### Estimated duration

8-10 minutes

### Instructions

Read the following merits from a researcher's CV. For each one, indicate whether it belongs to **Research Achievements (RA)** or **Peer Recognition (PR)**.

**Merit 1** *Nature Communications paper (2022) as first author, presenting a novel computational model for predicting protein folding dynamics.*

**Merit 2** *Principal Investigator of a €3M European research project (2018–2023) on computational modelling of synaptic plasticity, leading a team of 8 researchers across 3 institutions.*

**Merit 3** *Invited speaker at the International Congress of Neuroscience (2023), one of the top 3 conferences in the field, with over 5,000 attendees.*

**Merit 4** *Patent granted in 2021 for a nanoparticle-based drug delivery system for targeted cancer therapy, currently licensed to a biotech company.*

**Merit 5** *Member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Neuroscience Association since 2020.*

**Merit 6** *Best Paper Award at the International Conference on Computational Biology (2022), awarded to the top 1% of submitted papers.*

**Merit 7** *Development of an open-access software tool for the simulation of neural network dynamics, widely used by the research community.*

**Merit 8** *Editorial board member of the Journal of Molecular Biology since 2021.*

**Quiz: Research achievement  
or peer recognition?**

**Merit 1 → RA**

**Merit 2 → RA**

**Merit 3 → PR**

**Merit 4 → RA**

**Merit 5 → PR**

**Merit 6 → PR**

**Merit 7 → RA**

**Merit 8 → PR**

**Final reflection:**

Review your own CV draft: are all your merits in the right section?



# Practical exercise

## Drafting the ERC proposal: CV/Track Record

Select 3 items/examples, including the narrative. Locate each example/item respectively in the research achievements or peer recognition section and explain why you have selected them.

- Research achievements
  
- Peer recognition



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# **ERC proposal: contents and tips for part B2 preparation**

# B2: Part II of the scientific proposal



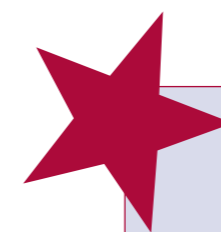
Part II of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?



## Detailed implementation (7 pages)

- Methodology
- Work plan
- Risk assessment & mitigation measures

Can that idea be pursued realistically, and if so, in the manner and with the approach that the applicant proposes ?



**Remember:** part B2 includes Part II + Annex (Funding ID table)

### Part B2<sup>1</sup> (not evaluated in Step 1)

Part II of the Scientific Proposal (**max. 7 pages**, references do not count towards the page limits).

*Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.*

**Please note the changes as from 2026 calls regarding Part I and Part II of the Scientific Proposal and read carefully the “ERC Work Programme 2026” and the “Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2026 Calls”.**

*[Part II of the Scientific Proposal should be a detailed explanation of the project implementation, including research methodology, work plan, risk assessment, mitigating measures and any further necessary background not included in Part I. Please note that the justification for the requested budget and resources should be explained under the “Resources” Section in the online submission form (Part A, Section 3 - Budget). Part II of the Scientific Proposal cannot deviate from the Resources section but can include additional justification where necessary when describing the methodology, workplan etc.]*

**Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margins (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.**

**Do NOT split Part II from the references and/or the appendix (Funding ID) and do NOT upload them as separate documents.**

# B2: Part II of the scientific proposal



Part II of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?



## Detailed implementation (7 pages)

- Methodology
- Work plan
- Risk assessment & mitigation measures

*Can that idea be pursued realistically, and if so, in the manner and with the approach that the applicant proposes ?*



**Tips for methodology/work plan feasibility**

**Cluster the tasks** into coherent blocks e.g., Work Packages (WPs), and **ensure traceability with part B1.**

### For each WP:

- Provide the specific objective(s) addressed, the team profiles involved and the timeline.
- **Describe in detail (rigour and degree of detail of a scientific publication):**
  - The **WP objective** (and its groundbreaking nature, if applies)
  - The **tasks** that will be performed
  - If **collaborations** are planned (not mandatory): Who? Where? Why?

# B2: Part II of the scientific proposal



Part II of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?



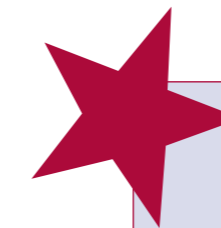
## Detailed implementation (7 pages)

- Methodology
- Work plan
- Risk assessment & mitigation measures

*Can that idea be pursued realistically, and if so, in the manner and with the approach that the applicant proposes ?*



**Tips for methodology/work plan feasibility**



It is advisable to present the outputs (e.g., results, deliverables) & milestones from each WP

**Deliverable (D):** concrete, tangible output produced as a result of completing a project activity or phase. 1 per task or group of tasks.

- **D1.1: data analysis report (month x)**
- **D1.2: variable list (month x)**

**Milestone (MS):** significant checkpoint that marks the achievement of a key stage/goal in the project. Conceptual or tangible. 4-5 per project.

- **MS1: field measurements conducted (month x)**
- **MS2: experimental phase finished (month x)**

# B2: Part II of the scientific proposal



**Tips for methodology/work plan feasibility**

**HYPOTHETICAL, SIMPLIFIED WP STRUCTURE – BUILDING ON THE PREVIOUS CONTEXT**



**WP1. Development of the AI-Physics Hybrid Framework (Responding to: SO1 / Duration: Months 1 -18 / Team: PI + PhD1 + PhD2 )**

**WP Objective & groundbreaking nature:** To design and validate a hybrid model architecture that integrates deep learning with physics-based constraints for regional climate prediction (to be developed).

**Task 1.1. Design of the deep learning architecture (Months 1-6 / PI + PhD1).**

**Description:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 1.2. Integration of physics-based constraints into the model (Months 6-12 / PI + PhD1 + PhD2). Description:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 1.3. Validation against 40 years of historical observational data (Months 12-18 / PhD1 + PhD2). Description:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

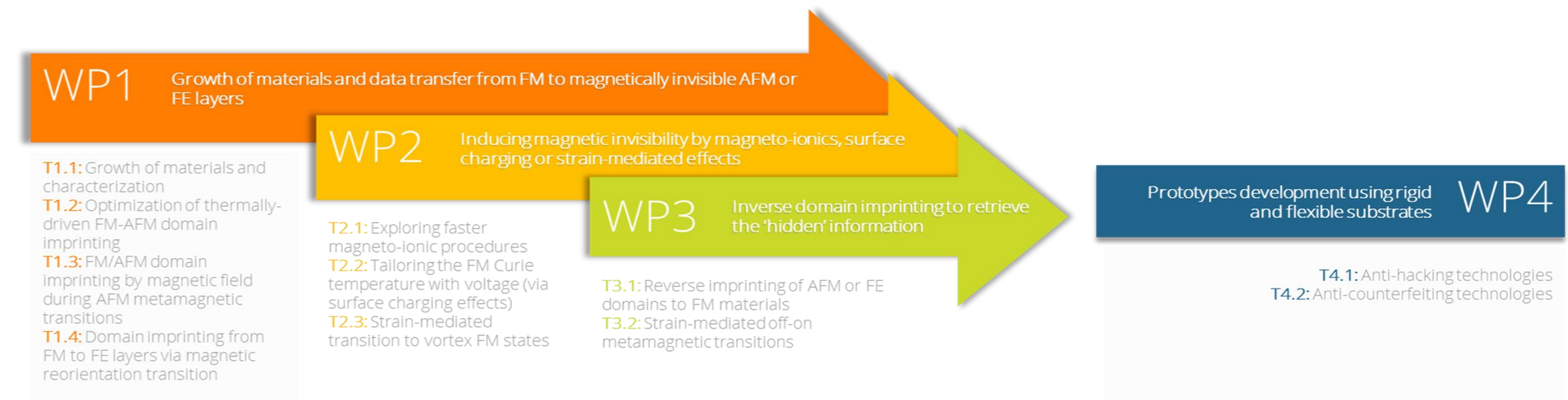
**Deliverables:** D1.1 Model architecture report (month 6). D1.2 — Validated hybrid model (Month 18)

**Milestones:** MS1. First functional hybrid model prototype validated (Month 12)

# B2: Part II of the scientific proposal

**Tips for methodology/work plan feasibility**

Use graphic elements to illustrate the methodology and establish the relationships between WPs



**Part II of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?**

## b. Methodology

The core objective of the project (fig 9) is the progress towards a deeper understanding of the freezing of colloids and in particular here of hydrosol –solid colloidal particles in suspension in water– as it is clearly a necessary step towards achieving a better control of the derived materials processing route. This project integrates materials science, chemistry, physics, mathematics and technological developments of observation techniques. To limit the risk and guarantee the success of the project, the research plan has been designed with a highly iterative approach, the basic lessons learned after each iteration will be applied in the design and control of the process of the next cycle. To overcome the complexity of the modelling of the process, progress towards further understanding will be based on in situ experimental observations of the freezing of colloids, using several different and complementary techniques, providing insights in the phenomenon at different length and time scales.

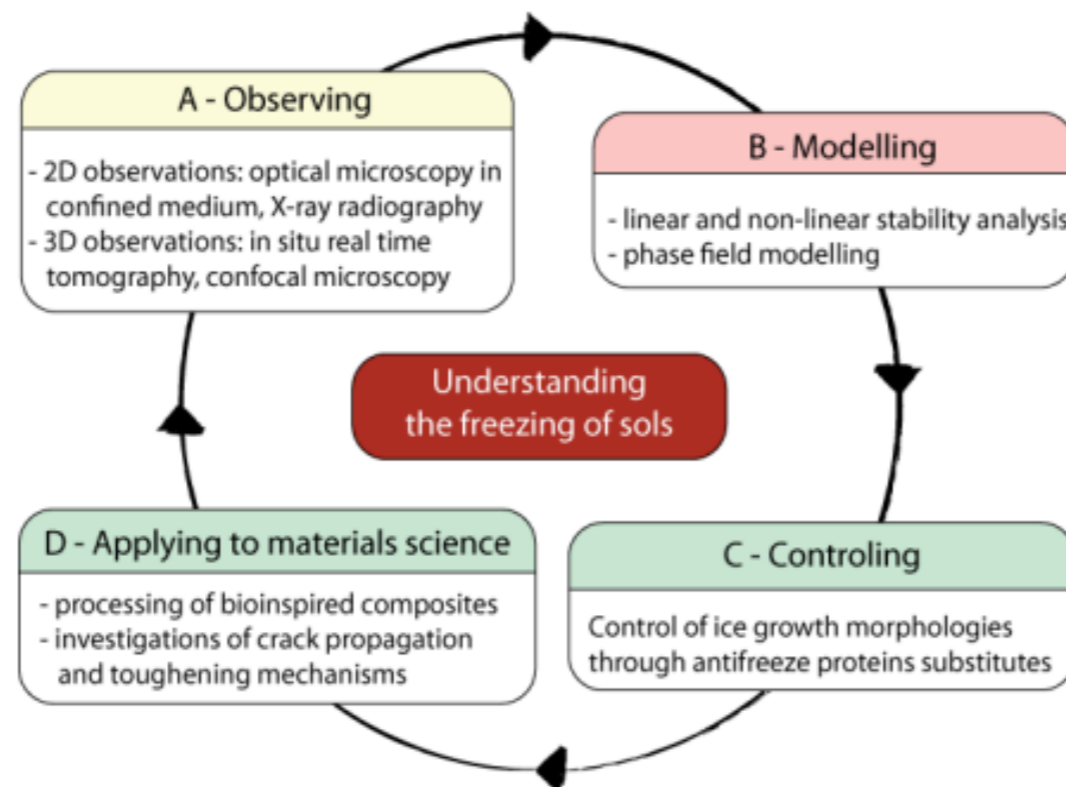
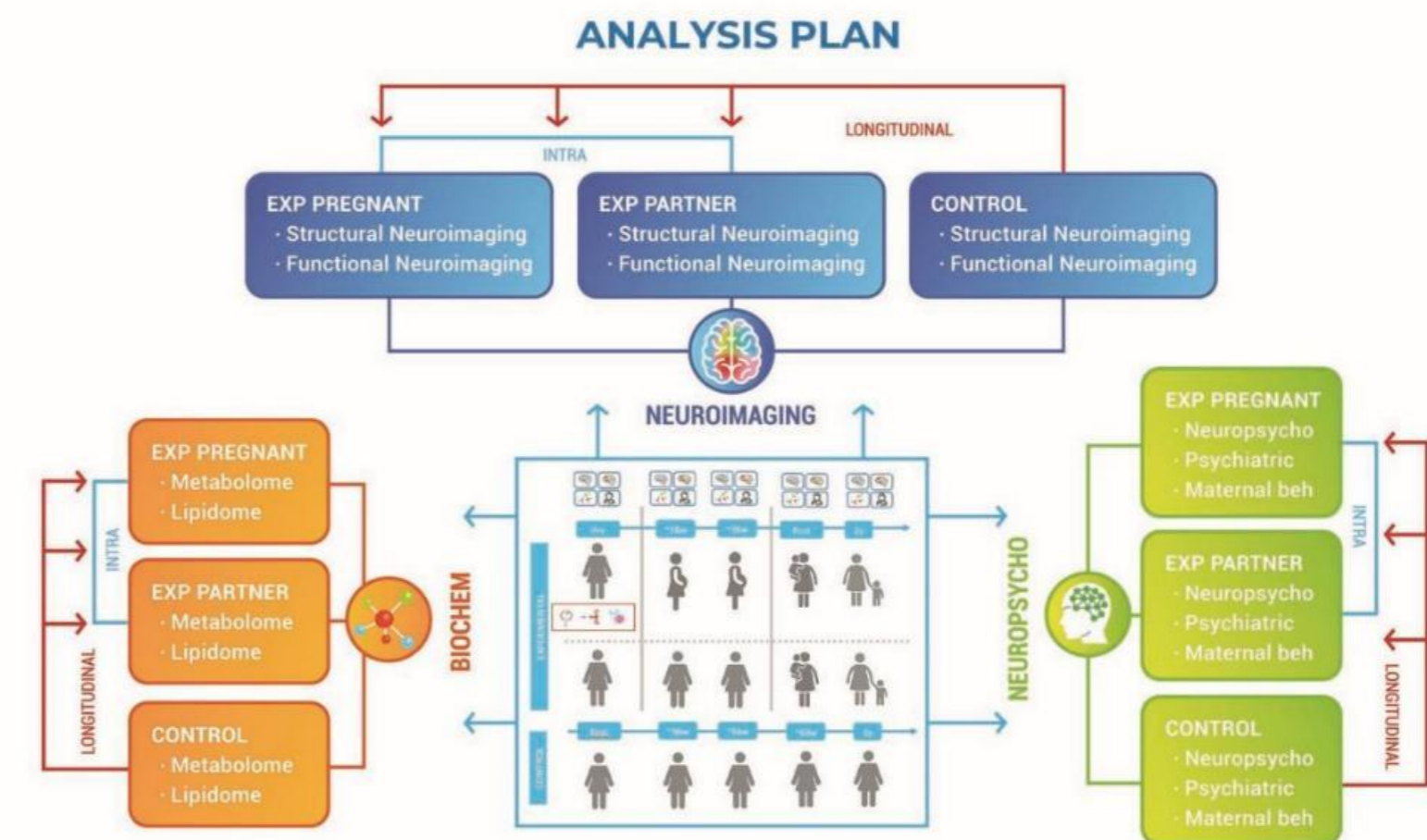


Fig. 9: Project workflow

Progress will be accomplished through iterative cycles of four subprojects, namely observing, modelling,



# B2: Part II of the scientific proposal

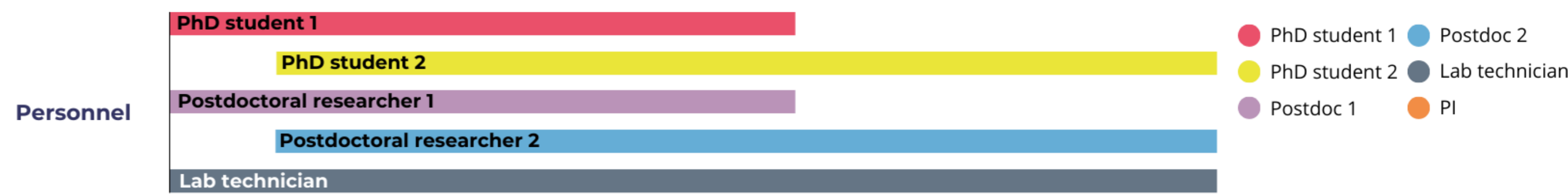
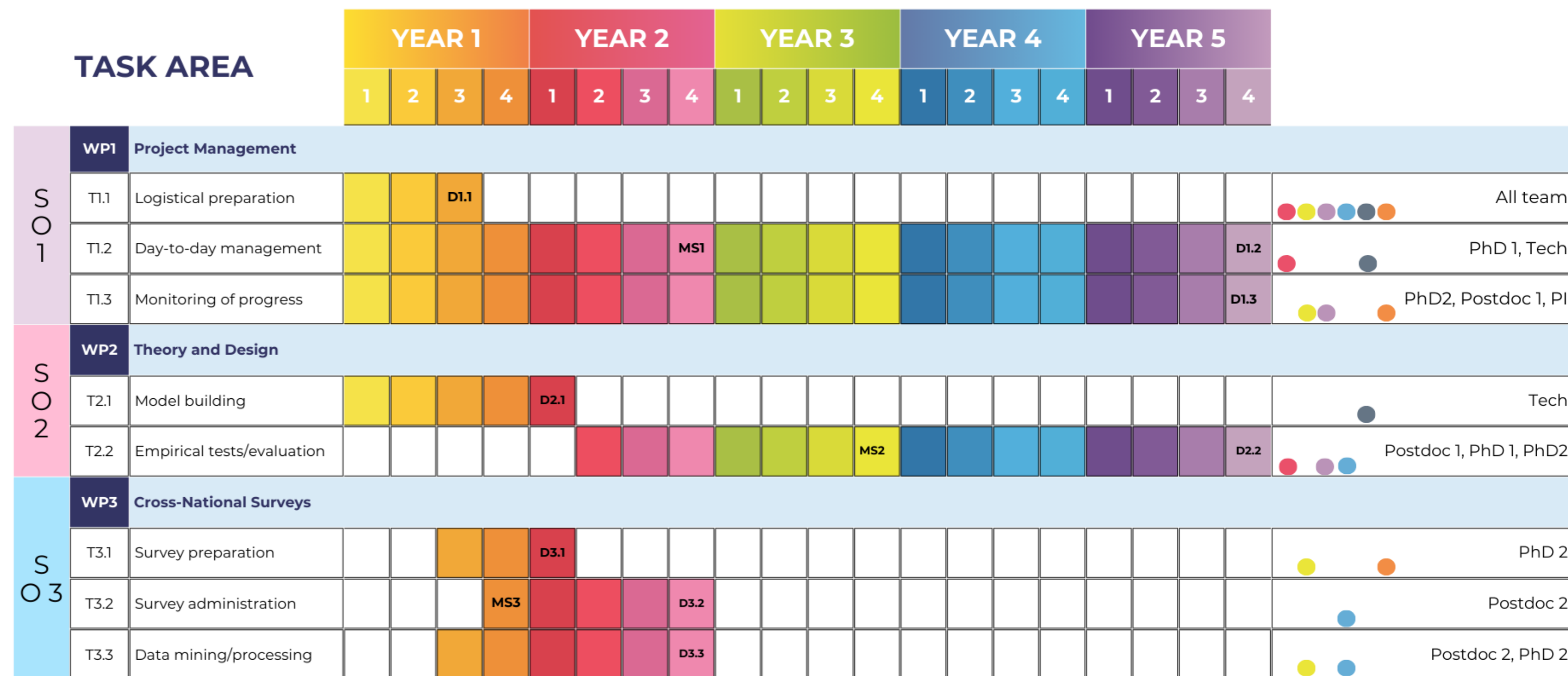


**Tips for methodology/work plan feasibility**



**Part II of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?**

**Use a Gantt chart to visually illustrate the project implementation**



# B2: Part II of the scientific proposal



Part II of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?



erc

## Detailed implementation (7 pages)

- Methodology
- Work plan
- Risk assessment & mitigation measures

*Can that idea be pursued realistically, and if so, in the manner and with the approach that the applicant proposes ?*



**The importance of the Risk Assessment to ensure feasibility**

- **Identify the major risks** and present the **mitigation measures**.
- Link risks to WP(s) and give the **likelihood** and **impact** of each risk (e.g., high, medium, low).

*A project can be very groundbreaking, ambitious and with significant potential scientific impact, but if you don't identify the most significant risks and don't explain how you could mitigate them, it is difficult to get funded.*

# B2: Part II of the scientific proposal



**The importance of the Risk Assessment to ensure feasibility**

**HYPOTHETICAL, SIMPLIFIED RISK ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE – BUILDING ON THE PREVIOUS CONTEXT**

RISK	WP	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	MITIGATION MEASURE
Deep learning model fails to integrate physics constraints effectively	WP1	Medium	High	Alternative architecture using physics-informed neural networks already tested in preliminary work
Insufficient quality or coverage of observational data for regional validation	WP1, WP2	Low	High	Three independent data sources identified. Data access agreements in place with two institutions
Computational resources insufficient for real-time forecasting	WP2	Medium	Medium	Agreement with HPC centre for dedicated computing time. Cloud computing as backup
Key team member leaves the project	All WPs	Low	Medium	Tasks distributed across team. PI can cover critical tasks. Recruitment plan in place

*You can present this content either as a table or as running text!*

# B2: Part II of the scientific proposal



Part II of the scientific proposal: what do reviewers expect?



**Detailed implementation (7 pages)**

The ERC requires this content...

- Methodology
- Work plan
- Risk assessment & mitigation measures

*Can that idea be pursued realistically, and if so, in the manner and with the approach that the applicant proposes ?*



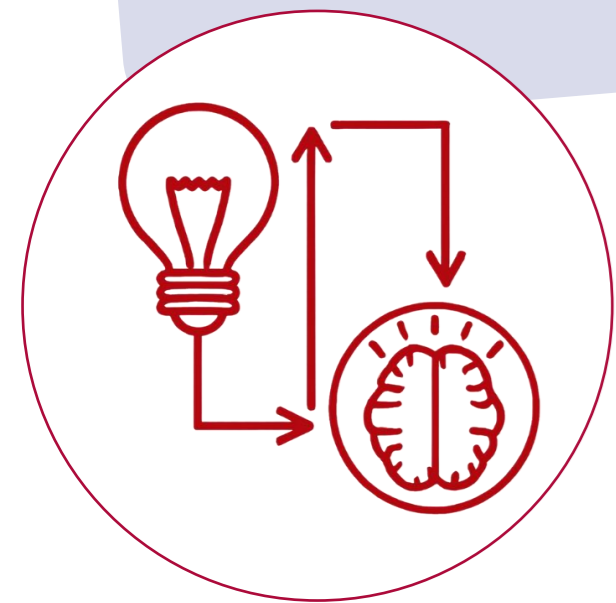
**Additional elements to reinforce feasibility**

...but, to reinforce the feasibility of your proposal **you can add a dedicated section on feasibility, including:**

- **The PI's profile:** key technical and transversal skills.
- **The team:** their background, complementary profiles. Mainly scientifically grounded e.g., PhDs, PostDocs, Senior researchers.
- **The Host Institution:** relevant infrastructure, facilities, or institutional strengths that support the research.
- **Collaborations (if applicable):** mention their contribution to the project.
- **Previous data (if applicable):** preliminary data, proof-of-concept results, etc.

# Common mistakes

**Problem:** the methodology is not detailed enough and/or not clear enough.



## Potential solution

- Ensure that the methodology is scientifically sound, the degree of detail sufficient and the narrative is clear.

## Common mistakes

**Problem:** the geographic area of study chosen is not duly justified.



### Potential solution

- Explain clearly why the area of study is chosen.
- Explain if your methodology/results are transferrable to other study areas, scalable, etc.

## Common mistakes

- Problem:** no preliminary results/data presented
- Whilst this is not mandatory, it is recommended to reinforce the feasibility of your approach.



### Potential solution

- If possible, mention your preliminary results/data that support the feasibility of your project.
- If this is not possible, use scientific literature to support the feasibility of your approach/methodology.

## Common mistakes

**Problem:** risk assessment is weak.



### **Potential solution**

- Ensure the most relevant risks are identified and that the mitigation measures proposed are scientifically sound.

# Common mistakes

**Problem:** feasibility support only includes limited elements e.g., PI's profile etc.



## Potential solution

Extend the elements tackled to reinforce the feasibility of your project:

- PI's profile (technical and soft skills).
- ERC team (qualified, multidisciplinary, with complementary profiles, etc.).
- Host institution (features that could benefit your research).
- Collaborations (if any).
- Preliminary data, etc. (if applicable).

# B2: Funding ID table



**Funding ID table: what do reviewers expect?**



For the column: **relation to current ERC proposal**, you should include a brief narrative making it clear that:

- Ongoing projects/submitted applications **DO NOT OVERLAP** with the ERC proposal, neither regarding objectives nor regarding implementation approach



**Tips to complete the funding ID table**

*Applicant's last name*

Part B2

ACRONYM

**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):**

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Amount (Euros)</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Role of the PI</i>	<i>Relation to current ERC proposal<sup>2</sup></i>

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

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Amount (Euros)</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Role of the PI</i>	<i>Relation to current ERC proposal<sup>2</sup></i>



*It does not count towards the page limit!*



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# **ERC: Final tips and reflections**

# Final tips and reflections

**Before we start writing, we must answer these questions:**

**What?  
How?**

- What do I want to do?
- Is it ambitious?
- Is it novel and goes beyond the state of the art?
- Is it feasible?
- Which are the main risks and how I can mitigate them?
- What has been done already?

**Why?**

- Why is it important?
- Why is it now a good moment?
- Who has been working on similar topics?

**Why me?**

- Have I proved my creativity?
- Have I proved my scientific independence?
- Why shall I lead this project?

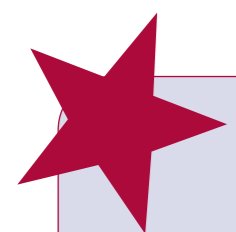
# Final tips and reflections

## PART B1 – Intrigue

- Not a copy-paste from Part B2.
  - Research frontier, innovative and groundbreaking
  - Goals ambitious but realistic
  - Written for a generalist audience — Avoid jargon.

## PART B2 – Convince

- Do not repeat what is already in Part B1.
  - Detail the methodology and work plan: WPs → tasks → outputs.
  - Identify risks and define concrete mitigation strategies.
  - Present the elements that make your research feasible.
  - Written for a specialist audience — rigour and degree of detail of a scientific publication.



Do not make cross-references between B1 and B2.

Without a strong B1, no one will read B2. And without a strong B2, B1 will not be enough!

# Final tips and reflections

## ALSO...

### Storytelling tips:

- Your proposal is a story — you are asking for funding to make a change in your field.
- Every element must be interconnected: SOTA → challenges → objectives → methodology.
- The narrative thread must be consistent across B1 and B2.

### Writing tips:

- Be clear, concise and well-structured - avoid trivial information.
- Use visual resources: bold, figures, graphs.
- Respect the format and page limits.
- The abstract is key — put time and effort into it.
- Use the first person: I / We: my vision, my approach / We will perform...
- Include self-references that support your experience.
- Do not just claim your project is "ambitious" or "novel" — prove it!

## Final tips and reflections

### Guidance on the use of generative AI tools for the preparation of the proposal:

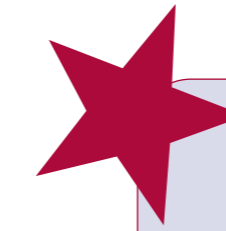
#### **CAUTION AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.**

Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal (even those parts produced by the AI tools).

Applicants are required to:

1. **Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content** and any citations generated by the AI tool and correct any errors or inconsistencies.
2. **Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations**, including those generated by the AI tool.
3. Be conscious of the **potential for plagiarism** where the AI tool may have reproduced substantial text from other sources. Check the original sources to be sure you are not plagiarising someone else's work.
4. **Acknowledge the limitations of the AI tool in the proposal preparation**, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge.

# Final tips and reflections



If it doesn't work out this time, keep trying! The feedback from the evaluators is very useful!!

## Novelty and Innovation

Does your project introduce fundamentally new solutions, theories, or approaches? Does it advance substantially beyond current knowledge?

## Significance and Ambition

Why does this research matter? Address both the "what" and the "why." Ensure your vision requires ERC-scale resources and timeframes—think transformative, not incremental

## Scientific Rigour

Can you substantiate your claims? Present clear hypotheses, supporting evidence, and proof of feasibility. Demonstrate that your objectives are challenging yet achievable

## Timing and Opportunity

Why is this research possible now? Explain what recent advances or gaps make this the right moment, and why it hasn't been done before

## Risk and Reward

What are the risks, and do they justify the potential breakthrough? Provide risk management strategies and mitigation plans

## Your Competitive Advantage

Why are you uniquely positioned to lead this work? Know your competitors, understand the landscape, and articulate why your approach and expertise are superior

## Collaboration Strategy

Present a realistic collaboration framework. Show you can leverage effectively while maintaining clear scientific leadership of the project

# Final reflections



# Final tips and reflections

## Estimated duration

8-10 minutes

## Instructions

Rate your proposal honestly from 1 to 5 for each of the following dimensions:

- 1 = Not yet addressed
- 5 = Very confident

## Dimensions to rate:

### 1. Groundbreaking & ambitious

- *Is the disruptive nature of my proposal clear? Does it address scientific-technical challenges in a non-incremental way?*

### 2. Scientific rigour

- *Is my methodology solid and detailed enough for an expert audience?*

### 3. Risk management

- *Are the main risks well identified? Are the mitigation measures scientifically convincing?*

### 4. PI profile

- *Does my CV/track record demonstrate my expertise and capacity to successfully lead the project?*

### 5. Feasibility

- *Are there enough elements reinforcing the feasibility of my project (sound methodology, preliminary results, team)?*

Which of these dimensions are the most challenging for you?





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# Annex

# Annex



## Videos

- **Interesting videos for potential applicants:**

[How can you get started with your ERC proposal?](#)

[How can you write your ERC proposal?](#)

[How do we evaluate your ERC proposal?](#)

[How can you best prepare for your ERC interview?](#)

[Why care about ethics in your ERC proposal?](#)

[ERC Grant management](#)

[Webinar on ERC Work Programme 2026](#)



## Other

- **Other interesting links:**

[Horizon Europe](#)

[ERC Dashboard](#)

[ERC Panel Members](#)

[ERC library, where you can find the documents with Panel Members for the different ERC calls](#)

# Annex

## **Presentations**



### **Interesting presentations for potential applicants:**

How to write a successful grant proposal?

Overview of the ERC individual grants

How to prepare the project budget?

How to deal with ethic requirements



# Annex



## Evaluation Elements (ERC Work Programme 2026)

**Research Project.** The groundbreaking nature and ambition of the Research Project is assessed as follows:

- **At Step 1:**
  - 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 Step 2:**
  - 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?

**Principal investigator.** The intellectual capacity and creativity of the Principal Investigator is assessed as follows:

- **At Step 1 and Step 2:**
  - To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct groundbreaking 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?

# Annex

## 28 evaluation panels

### Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE)

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

### Life Sciences (LS)

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

### Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- SH3 The Social World and Its Interactions
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Texts and Concepts
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
- SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts (WP 2024)

# Annex



## PhD Alba de la Vara

Researcher in Climate Change  
and Senior R&D Consultant.  
Responsible for the ERC area

She holds a **PhD in climate modelling** (Utrecht University, The Netherlands), a Master's Degree in **Analysis and Management of Mediterranean Ecosystems** with a specialisation in marine ecosystems (University of Alicante, Spain) and a Bachelor's Degree in **Marine Sciences** with honours for her academic performance from the Faculty of Sciences (University of Alicante). She also holds a University Expert Degree in **Educational Technology** (UNED, Spain).

Since 2011, she has been involved in research in the fields of **Oceanography and Climate** and, since 2016, focused on Climate Change. She has co-supervised a PhD thesis on climate with a defense date on 2023 (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain). She has taught theoretical and practical courses at various levels (degree, final degree project, doctorate), in public universities in Europe (University of Utrecht; Technical University of Madrid, Spain; University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain).

She has participated in various outreach activities, such as the Week of Science or Women and Girls in Science Day. She has also been a speaker at many international conferences and has numerous publications in prestigious international scientific journals.

As for her consulting profile, she focuses on European scientific excellence programs such as ERC, MSCA and Pillar II of HE, and she is the **coordinator of the ERC area** at Kveloce since 2024. She advises on the scientific-technical strategy, writing and review of ERC proposals (StG, CoG, AdG, SyG, PoC modalities). In addition, she has extensive experience in preparing ERC mock-ups (StG, CoG, AdG modalities) for universities and research centers, offering her perspective both from the scientific point of view and in terms of communication.

# Annex



**Rebeca Lucas**

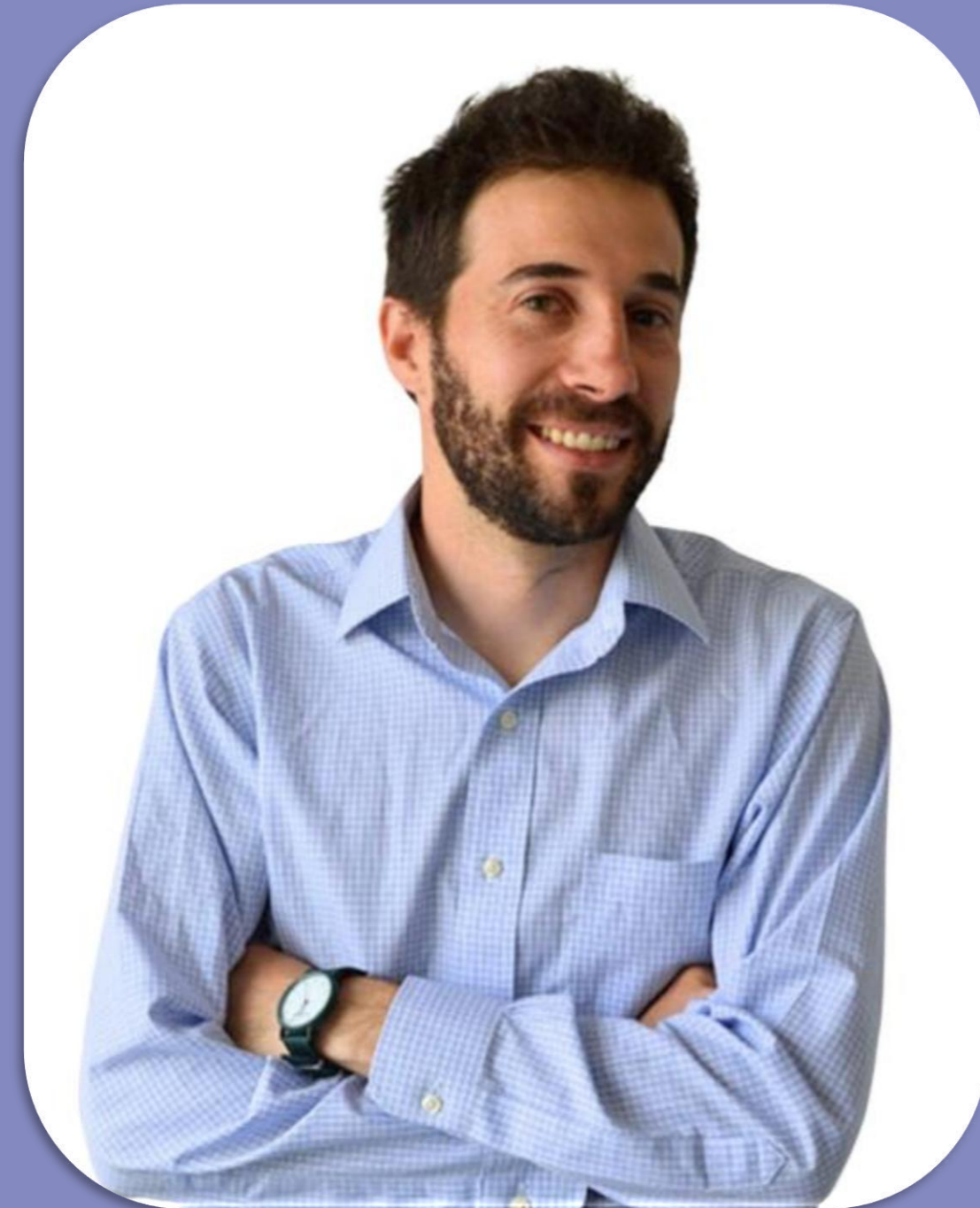
Researcher in Social Sciences and Senior R&D Consultant.

Degree in **Economics** from the University of Salamanca (Spain); **Diploma in Higher Education in Business Organisation** from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. **MA in Economics** from Staffordshire University (UK), and **postgraduate degree in Foreign Trade** from the Italian Institute of Foreign Trade in Rome (Italy).

She has been a lecturer in economics at Staffordshire University and a researcher at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. Since 2001 she has been preparing and advising on the drafting of proposals for European research and development programmes. In addition, she has extensive experience in the field of innovation policy, having been Italy's correspondent for the European Trend-Chart on Innovation and advising the European Commission on these matters.

Since 2018, she has been working at Kveloce as a consultant and researcher in social sciences, responsible for drafting R&D&I proposals at European level (especially Horizon Europe) and providing technical assistance in studies and technical services. She is currently head of the Grant Writing department. In the ERC area she advises on the scientific-technical and communication strategy, reviewing ERC proposals. She also has extensive experience in preparing ERC mock-ups (StG, CoG, AdG) for universities and research centers.

# Annex



**PhD José Benedicto**  
Researcher in Human  
Geography and Senior R&D  
Consultant.

José holds a degree in Business Administration and Management from the University of Valencia (Spain) and a **PhD in Human Geography** from Brunel University in London. The topic of his thesis is the analysis of alternative scenarios to prepare the sustainable development of a small island (Flores, Azores, Portugal).

He has experience in both project management (among others, INTERREG and H2020) and research on topics related to ecosystem services, circular economy, multi-criteria analysis, public participation and sustainable development. He is the co-author of a dozen scientific papers, reports, and book articles.

Since 2023, he has been part of the Kveloce team, highlighting his work in technical support and the drafting of R+D+i project proposals. At Kveloce he is directly involved in the implementation of Horizon Europe projects, providing support in the participation of case studies and the development of the Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD) evaluation framework, as well as in the review and simulations of ERC proposals.

# Annex



**PhD Leticia Pérez Saiz**  
Researcher In Biomedical  
Sciences and senior R&D  
Consultant.

**Graduate in Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences and Master in Basic and Applied Neurosciences**, both degrees obtained at the University of Valencia (Spain). **PhD Cum Laude in Neurosciences** from the Instituto de Neurociencias de Alicante (Spain), a joint CSIC-UMH centre, where she focused her research on understanding the role of spontaneous brain activity, specifically the thalamocortical system, in the development of sensory circuits and their plasticity.

She also has specific training in **European Union R&D funding programmes and instruments**, including the Postgraduate Diploma in Promotion and Management of International R&D&I Projects and Actions, taught by the Polytechnic University of Madrid (Spain); and the course on European Project Development and Management, taught by Euradia International.

In April 2022, she joined Kveloce as a consultant and researcher in biomedical sciences, where she participates in the technical writing of R&D&I proposals and in the implementation of research projects at European level (especially Horizon Europe), as well as contributing to health research journals and conferences.

Since joining Kveloce, she has been involved in the ERC mock-up service, contributing to the development of researchers' skills in coping with the interview phase of the program, as well as in ERC StG, CoG and AdG proposal reviews.



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