

You are kindly invited to attend

a two-day online training:

Preparing project proposals for European Research Council (ERC) calls with optional individual consultations

22 and 23 September 2025

09:00 – 14:00 and

14.00 – 17.00 (for individual consultations)

In this online training course, you will learn about the ins and outs of the ERC programme and how to prepare a competitive ERC Starting/Consolidator proposal. Practical tips for writing the application parts B1, B2 and drawing up your CV will be provided. Insights into elements that we (from a grant writer and reviewer perspective) see work well and what often goes wrong will be given. Exciting opportunities for ERC Advanced and ERC Synergy grants will also be discussed. In a dedicated Q&A session and even more in individual consultations, you will have the opportunity to discuss your own proposal/idea with the trainers and/or questions you may have about the ERC program.



The event will be held in English. Both the training and the consultations are open to researchers as well as research support staff.

You can register for the training and individual consultations [HERE](#) until 18 September 2025. Separate registration is required for individual consultations – register [HERE](#).

A link to the online training will be sent to registered participants the day before the event.

Participants selected for individual consultations will be contacted in advance, and they will receive a separate consultation link directly from the trainers.

For further information, please contact us at [urska.borko1@um.si].

We kindly invite you to participate.

AGENDA

DAY 1 (22 September 2025): ERC proposal design, PI Role & Core Sections

9.00 Introduction

Meet the Catalyze trainers- Participants' ERC challenges & learning goals

9.30 ERC Call – Key aspects

Why apply to ERC?

Types of grants

Eligibility criteria

Info sources

10.00 Short break

10.15 ERC Call – Evaluation

Evaluation criteria & process

Resubmission rules

Know your audience (exercise)

Tips & tricks for project and PI excellence

11.15 Assess fit with ERC StG/CoG

Are you ready?

Project outline check (exercise)

12.00 Lunch break

12.45 How to write an ERC application – Part 1

Key components (Part A, B)

Timeline- B2 part: storyline, objectives, work plan

Risks, mitigation, budgeting- (exercise)

13.45 End of Day 1 training session and break before individual consultations

14.00 Individual Consultations

Total 6 consultations (30 min each)

17.00 End of Day 1

DAY 2 (23 September 2025): Structuring the Application & Preparing for Success

9.00 **How to Write an ERC Application – Part 2**

B1 part: storyline & structure
Drafting an effective CV (exercise)
Part A: abstract & keywords
Final prep tips & reviewer feedback

10.00 **Interview Preparation**

Key points for ERC interview success
Strategies and pitfalls

10.30 **Short break**

10.45 **Ethics and Data Management**

Project office support.

11.15 **ERC Adv and ERC SYG- Promising opportunities**

12.00 **Lunch break**

12.45 **ERC national support measures** (dr. Andreja Umek Venturini, National Contact Point for the European Research Council)

13.00 **Q&A Session + Wrap-Up**

Final discussion
Common challenges and clarifications
Participant reflections

13.45 **End of Day 2 training session and break before individual consultations**

14.00 **Individual Consultations**

Total 6 consultations (30 min each)

17.00 **End of Day 2**

Profile of Trainers

Mithila Burute, PhD: SENIOR CONSULTANT

I am a specialist in EU subsidy programs in life sciences & health with a focus on EIC, Large Horizon EU, Eurostars and ERC programs. I have 12+ years of international experience with a distinct emphasis on Oncology and Neurobiology research topics. In my role at Catalyze, I mainly work on subsidy projects spanning academic and industry grants by developing business cases for innovative products such as new pharmaceutical small molecule drugs, biologics, gene therapy, sequencing technologies as well medical devices. I develop R&D project proposals for innovative products at early to late technology readiness level (TRL 1-9) by incorporating rigorous market analysis, highlighting competitive advantages and potential market-disruptive nature of these innovations. I strive to provide value to projects by ensuring that they are scientifically as well as strategically sound. In addition, I also contribute to the quality of the proposals as an expert reviewer. I am Catalyze's Expert in Horizon EU ERC as well as Marie-Curie programmes.



Helen Pothuizen, PhD: MANAGING CONSULTANT INNOVATION INTELLIGENCE



I am a specialist in EU subsidy applications in life sciences & health, green & sustainable innovations, and digital & industrial technologies - in particular for large public private partnerships. In my role at Catalyze, I oversee the coordination of internal quality control processes and business intelligence to strive for excellent quality of our consulting services, in particular our academic-oriented services, and I contribute to the quality of our applications as expert reviewer. Using my 10 years' experience in grant writing, I provide trainings, webinars and coaching in grant writing and innovation, and I assist our clients with the development of their grant applications. I am Catalyze's Expert in Horizon Europe large collaborative applications. At Catalyze, I use my scientific knowledge and strong research experience combined with a clear business focus to help clients to develop their innovations and move their R&D projects forward. I assist our clients with the development of their grant applications, as reviewer or co-writer, using my 10 years' of grant writing experience. I have contributed to >180 subsidy applications and have secured >€70M in funding, with awarded projects in EU Horizon/H2020 programs (RIA/IA/CSA, MSCA, WIDERA), EIC Accelerator program (previously SME instrument Phase 2), ERC, Eurostars and national programs. I am Catalyze's Expert in Horizon Europe large collaborative applications as well as ERC applications.