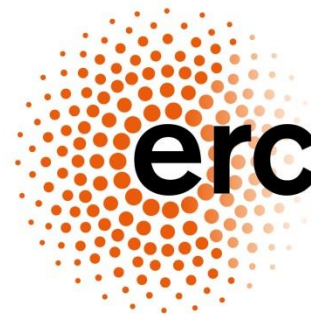


The European Research Council

ERC Grants and Novelties in 2026 and 2027

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European Research Council

Established by the European Commission



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ERC Work Programme 2026 - Budget

- ERC Work Programme 2026 approved by the Scientific Council in March 2025
- European Commission adopted the ERC Work Programme 2026 in July 2025

Provisional Total Budget = 2.7bn

ERC Work Programme 2026 – Provisional Call Calendar

	Starting Grant Call	Consolidator Grant Call	Advanced Grant Call	Synergy Grant Call
Identifier	ERC-2026-StG	ERC-2026-CoG	ERC-2026-AdG	ERC-2026-SyG
Opening Date	09/07/2025	25/09/2025	28/05/2026	10/07/2025
Deadline	14/10/2025	13/01/2026	27/08/2026	05/11/2025
Budget (EUR, m)	705	673	747	500
Grants (est.)	450	328	294	49

Novelties I – Eligibility Extensions

Eligibility Extensions:

- Parental leave – now included alongside maternity and paternity as a separate category of leave to acknowledge the diversity of applicants' personal circumstances
- Gender-based or any other form of violence – applicants who have been victims of violence are now eligible for an extension on these grounds

Novelties II – Submission Restrictions

Additional Submission Restrictions for 2026 calls:

- Applicants to Synergy Grant 2025 call, who have obtained a score 'B' at Step 1 will not be eligible for the Synergy Grant 2026 call
- Current grantees applying for their next grant in 2026 must abide by the two-year rule (i.e. their current grant must end within two years of the call deadline) but extensions to the duration of the current project after the call deadline may be exceptionally granted without affecting the eligibility of the new proposal

Novelties III – New Proposal Structure I

New Proposal Structure:

- Scientific Proposal Part I (\leq five pages)
- Scientific Proposal Part II (\leq seven pages/ten for Synergy Grant)
- CV and Track Record (\leq four pages)
- Resources and Time Commitment: up to two pages ($>$ two pages for Synergy Grant)
- Annex of Running Grants/Grant Applications in Progress (does not count towards the page limit)

Novelties III – New Proposal Structure II

Evaluation - Step 1

Part B1

Part I of the Scientific Proposal (≤ 5 pages)

References*

CV & Track Record (≤ 4 pages per PI)

*section does not count towards the page limit

Novelties III – New Proposal Structure III

Evaluation - Step 2

Part B1

Part I of the Scientific Proposal (<=5 pages)

References*

CV & Track Record (<=4 pages per PI)

Part B2

Part II of the Scientific Proposal (<=7 pages StG/CoG/AdG; <=10 pages SyG)

References*

Appendix: Current Grants/Grant Applications (Funding ID)*

Part A

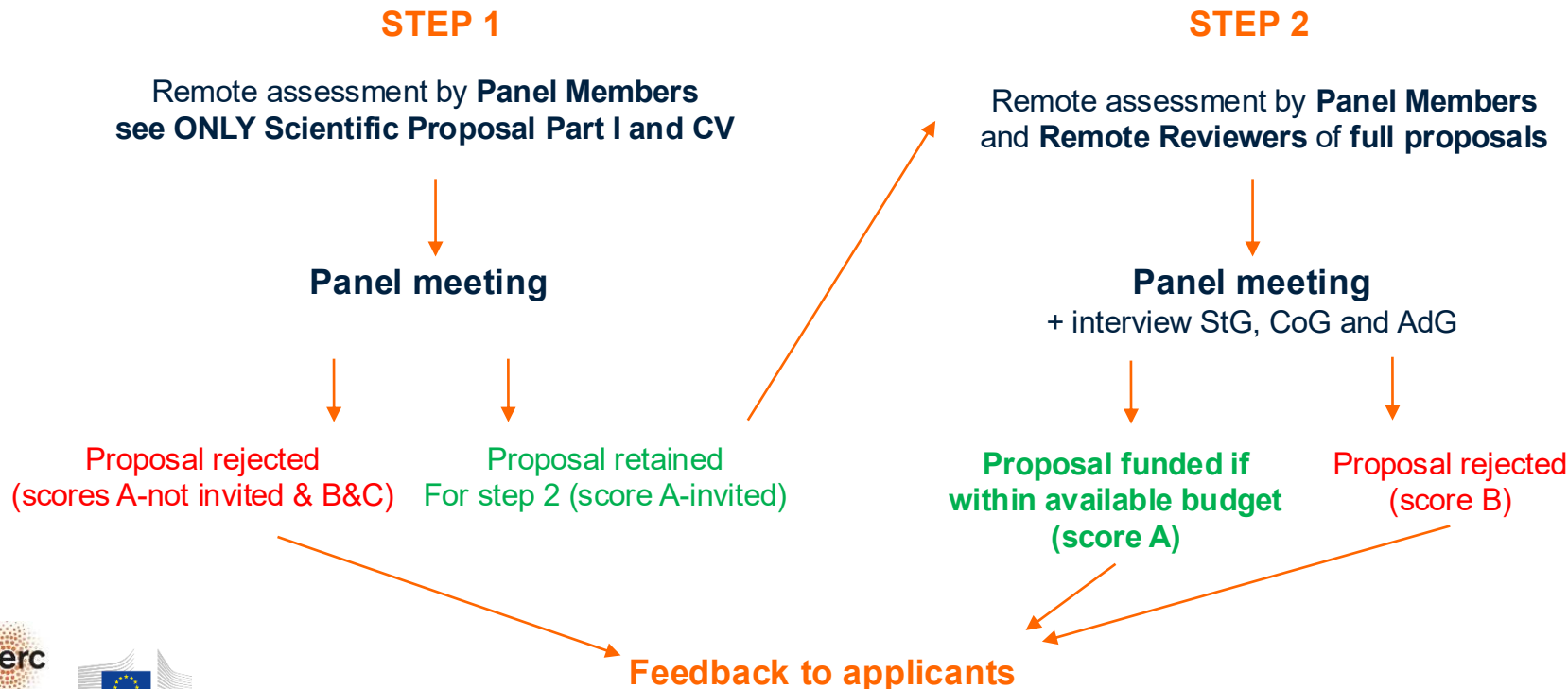
Budget & Resources (<=2 pages StG/CoG/AdG, >=2 pages SyG)

*section does not count towards the page limit



Evaluation Process (StG/CoG/AdG)

Single submission and evaluation in two steps



Novelties IV – Proposal Evaluation I

Proposal Evaluation:

- At Step 1:
 - Assessment of Scientific Proposal Part I + CV and Track Record
 - Feasibility of the scientific approach will no longer be assessed at Step 1
 - Combination of scientific approaches to address scope and complexity of research questions in Synergy Grant will now be assessed at Step 2 (instead of Step 1)
- At Step 2:
 - Scientific Proposal Part I + Part II + CV and Track Record + Resources and Time Commitment (from Part A) + Annex on Grants/Grant Applications

Novelties IV – Proposal Evaluation II

Evaluation Questions:

- **Research Project – 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?
 - Synergy Grants only: To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone?
- **Principal Investigator – Step 1 and Step 2:**
 - To what extent has/have the PI(s) demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
 - To what extent does/do the PI(s) provide evidence of creative and original thinking?
 - To what extent does/do the PI(s) have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?
 - Synergy Grants only: To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group demonstrate that it brings together the know-how necessary to address the proposed research

Question(s)?

Novelties IV – Proposal Evaluation III

Evaluation Questions – Step 2:

- **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?
 - Synergy Grants only: To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone?
 - 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?
 - Synergy Grants only: To what extent do the Principal Investigators succeed in proposing a combination of scientific approaches that are crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research questions to be tackled?



Novelties V – Additional Funding

Additional Funding (for both actual and lump sum cost models):

- One general category for additional funding without pre-defined sub-categories (examples provided)
- Applicant to define the purpose for which the additional funding is requested and justify the cost in the proposal
- Re-allocation of additional funding based on its necessity for the achievement of the project objectives

Novelties VI – Additional Actions for ERC Grantees

- Proof of Concept Grant: EUR 60 m of funding available for 2026
- Public Engagement With Research Award: 8 prizes worth EUR 10,000 each

Novelties VIII – Participation of Entities from Certain Countries

- Revised Annex 3 on the Participation of Associated Countries and Special Eligibility Conditions Applicable to Entities from Certain Countries, including:
 - Additional sanctions imposed on legal entities outside of Russia but largely directly or indirectly owned by entities established in Russia
 - Special measures applicable to entities from non-associated third countries in the Synergy Grant call for very specific topics in the interest of EU economic security

The ‘Supergrant’

- Announced by President von der Leyen at the “Choose Europe” conference in Paris
- ERC Scientific Council is currently refining the details of this new instrument:
 - A seven-year grant, providing stability for ambitious projects
 - Awarded purely on scientific excellence
 - Open to researchers in any field and of any nationality
 - Generous funding as lump-sum grants, without additional top-ups
 - Accessible to researchers at all career stages, designed to support ambitious individual-led research

ERC Work Programme 2027 - Eligibility

- New eligibility windows will apply to Starting and Consolidator Grant applicants in 2027 calls:
 - Starting Grant applicants will be able to apply 0-10 years after successfully defending their PhD
 - Consolidator Grant applicants will be able to apply 5-15 years after successfully defending their PhD
 - Researchers will be awarded no more than one Starting Grant and one Consolidator Grant during their career
 - Rules for extensions remain the same

Where can you find more information?



Videos - ERC Classes

- What to consider before applying
- How to fill in the application
- The interview
- How the evaluation works

[Click here to watch!](#)

Thank You!

More information: erc.europa.eu



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