



European Research Council Consolidator Grant information session in the Baltic States

Joint event by ERC NCPs of
Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia

13 November 2025

13:30 - 15:30 EEST



Dace Sīle
ERC NCP Latvia



Latvian Council of Science



RCL

Research Council of Lithuania



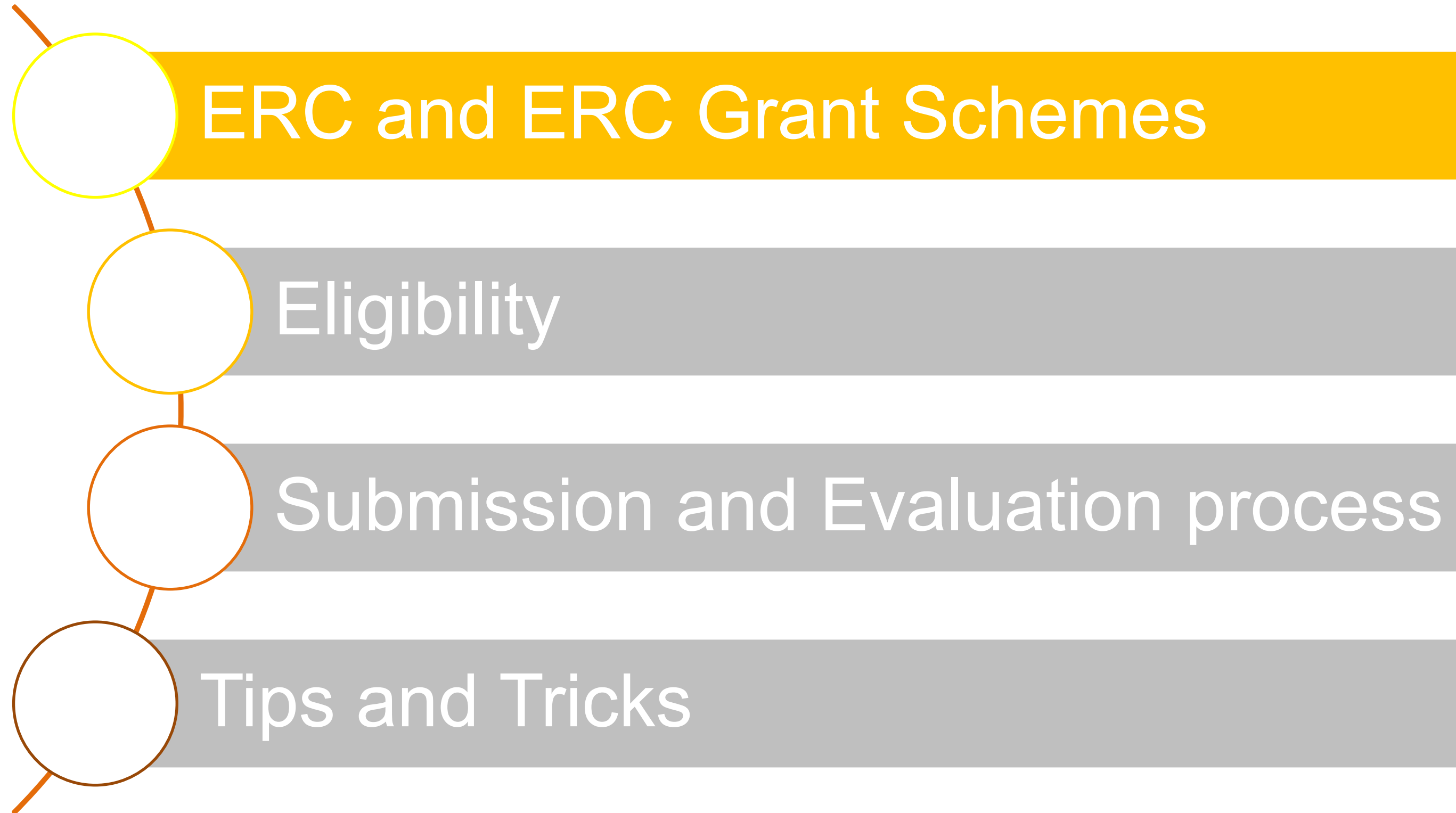
NCP

Research Council of Lithuania

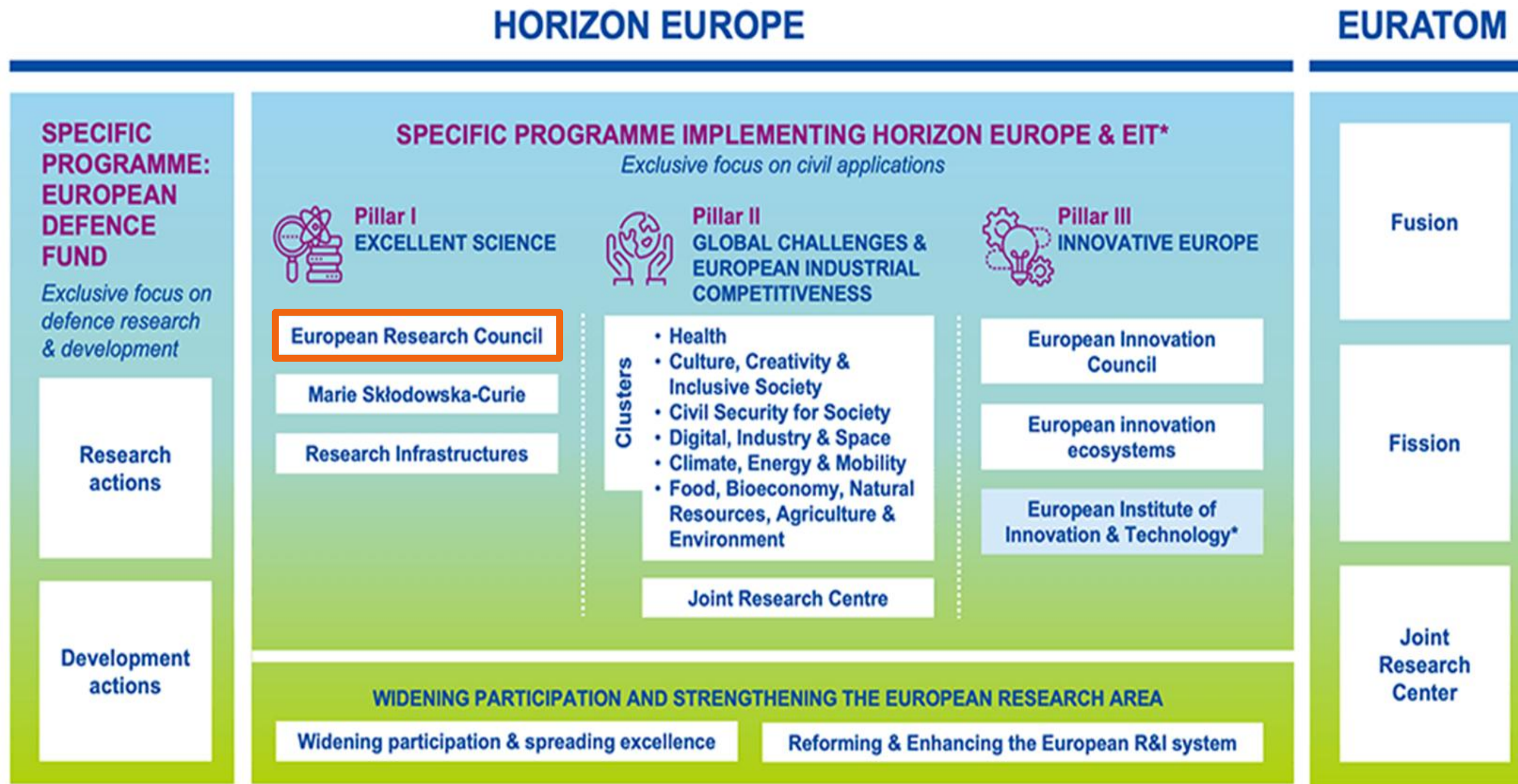


Estonian
Research Council

Overview



ERC in Horizon Europe



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

More than
EUR 16 billion
ERC budget in Horizon Europe

17%
of the entire Horizon Europe budget

**EUR 2.7 billion
(2025)**

1,361 grants are planned to be awarded, including Synergy Grant and Proof of Concept

Evaluation

Excellence



- the sole evaluation criteria

✓ **Excellence of the Research Project**

- Groundbreaking nature and ambition

✓ **Excellence of the Principal Investigator (PI)**

- Intellectual capacity and creativity

Why apply for an ERC grants?

They provide independence, recognition & visibility

- ✓ Work on a research **topic of your own choice**, with a **team of your own choice**.
- ✓ Gain true **financial autonomy** for 5 years.
- ✓ Negotiate the **best conditions** with the Host Institution.
- ✓ Attract **excellent team members** and **collaborators**. (Team members can be funded outside EU/AC if well justified and supported by the evaluation panel).
- ✓ Move with the grant to any place in Europe (**portability**), if desired.
- ✓ Attract **additional funding** and gain **recognition** (quality label).

ERC funding schemes

Starting Grants

- Starter (2-7 years after PhD)
 - Up to € 1.5 Mio for 5 years
-

Consolidator Grants

- Consolidators (7-12 years after PhD)
 - Up to € 2.0 Mio for 5 years
-

Advanced Grants

- Already established research leaders with a recognized track of research achievements
- Lump sum up to € 2.5 Mio for 5 years

Synergy Grants

- 2-4 Principal Investigators (PI)
 - Up to € 10.0 Mio for 6 years
 - 1 PI can be based outside EU/Associated Countries
-

Proof-of-concept (ERC grant holders)

- Bridging gap between frontier research – earliest stage of marketable innovation
 - Lump sum € 150,000 for 18 months
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New Instrument

- Up to € 7.0 Mio for 7 years, tbc

Additional funding StG, CoG, AdG

(+ new features as from WP2026)

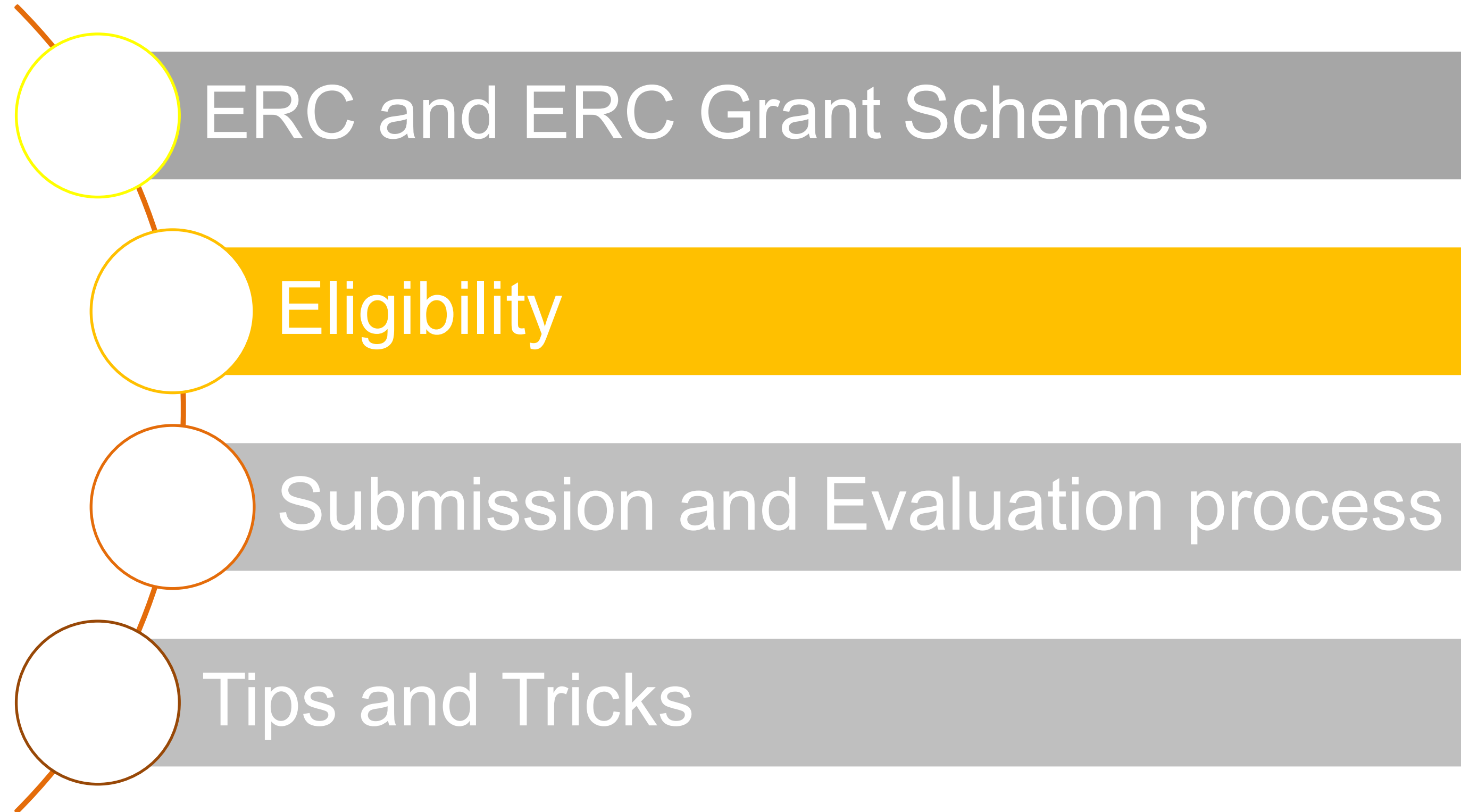
➤ **Up to 1 M € :** **Applicants already based in an EU Member State or country associated to HE**

- Additional funding can be requested to cover, e.g. purchase of major equipment, access to large facilities, other major experimental and field work costs, etc.

➤ **Up to 2 M € :** **Applicants currently based outside Europe**

- Additional funding can be requested to facilitate the start up/relocation of their laboratory/team to the EU/AC.

Overview



Preparing your proposal...

Make sure you are eligible

1. Reference date for the calculation of the Eligibility window: **1st of January of the call year**

[ERC-2026-CoG](#): 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2018

- *Extensions of eligibility window possible for documented cases*

2. If you previously applied to an ERC call, check **resubmission restrictions**

- *Indicative submission restrictions for the ERC-2026-CoG call – same as in the past*

3. Time **commitment on the project**: min 40% for ERC CoG

4. Minimum 50% of **PI working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country**

CoG: Extension of the Eligibility window

For documented situations occurring before the call deadline

- **Maternity leave:** +18 months for each child born before/after the date of successful defence of PhD degree.
- **Paternity/parental leave:** documented time taken for each child born before or after the date of the successful defence of PhD degree.
- **Long-term illness** (>90 days for the PI or a close family member) or **national service:** documented amount of leave taken for each incident that occurred after the date of the successful defence of PhD degree.
- **Disability:** Extension corresponding to the reduced amount of working time (including leave taken) and/or the degree of disability as documented by the applicant.
- **Clinical training:** documented amount of clinical training received after the reference date of the 1st eligible degree, up to maximum of 4 years.
- **Major disaster** and for **seeking asylum.**
- **Victims of any kind of violence, including gender-based** after the date of the successful defence of PhD degree.

PhD eligibility reference date

➤ New «PhD eligibility reference date» rule since WP2023:

The reference date towards the calculation of the eligibility period shall be the certified date of the successful defence. Document provided by the awarding institution.

- Allows for the eligibility window to reflect the real **academic age** instead of the «administrative age» of the PI
- Puts an end to confusion about «award according to national rules» - brings clarity to applicants.
- Most PhD certificates include the defence date.
- If the PhD certificate does not show defence date, the candidate has to ask for **written confirmation from the awarding institution**.

Envisaged changes from WP2027

Widening of the eligibility period for StG and CoG

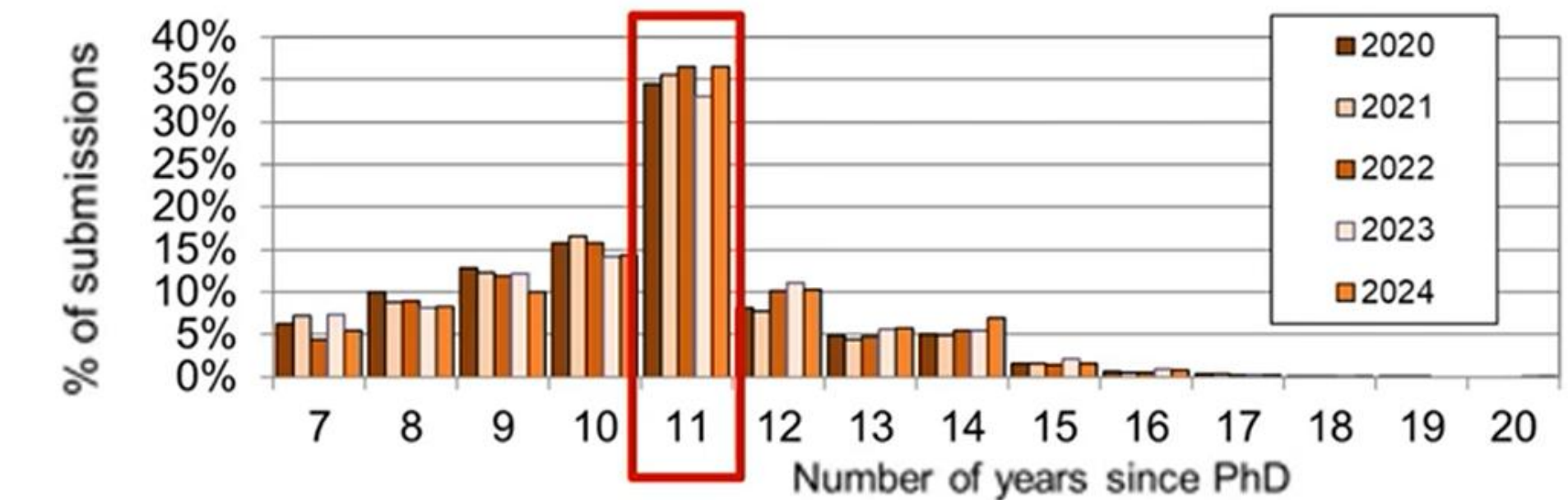


➤ Changes to the ERC evaluation procedures: background and rationale

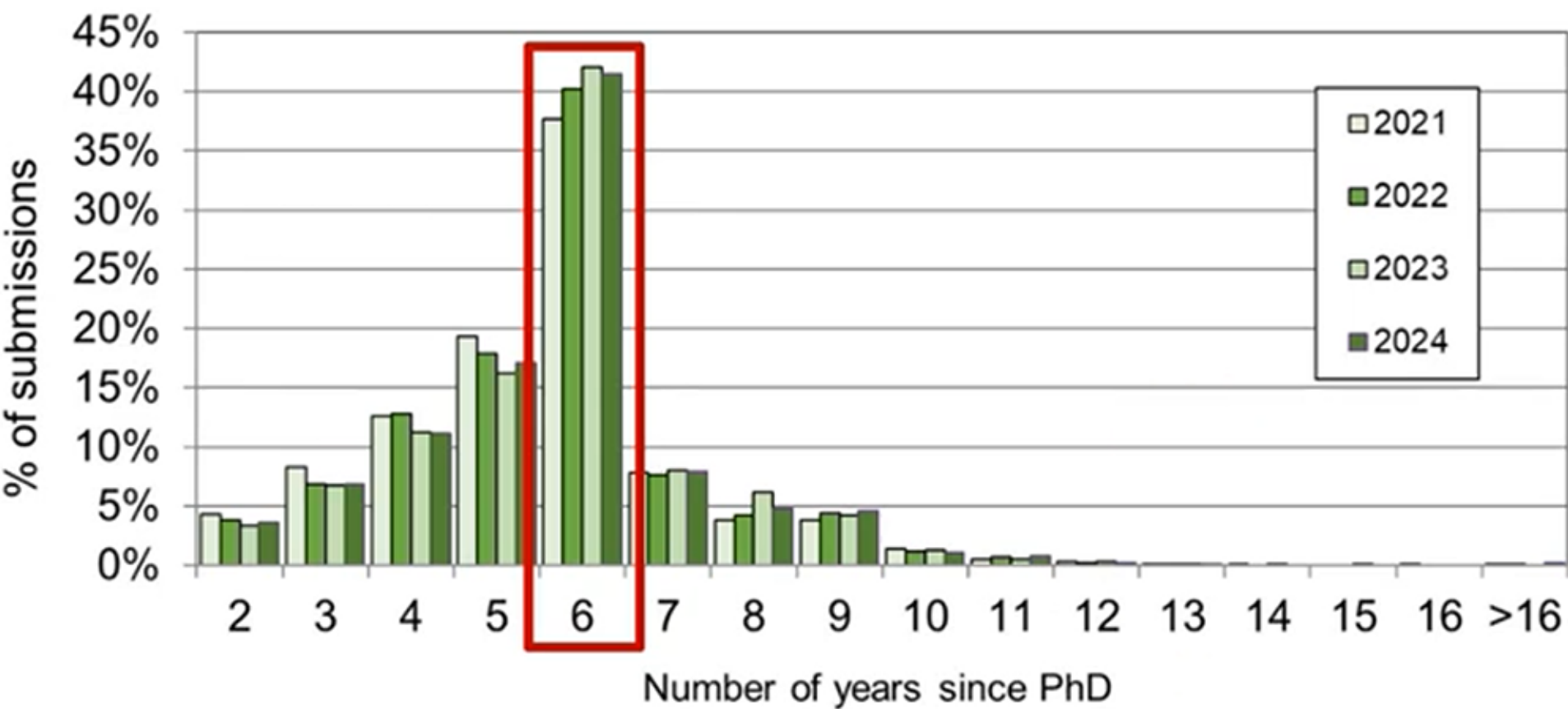
- **StG:** applicants will be eligible to apply **immediately after successfully defending their PhD**, and at **any time within the following 10-year period**.
- **CoG:** applicants will be eligible to apply between **5 and 15 years after defending their PhD**.
- All current policies for the extension of the eligibility periods will remain in force.
- Researchers will be awarded **no more than one StG and one CoG during their career**.

Submissions by years since PhD

ERC COG 2020-2024



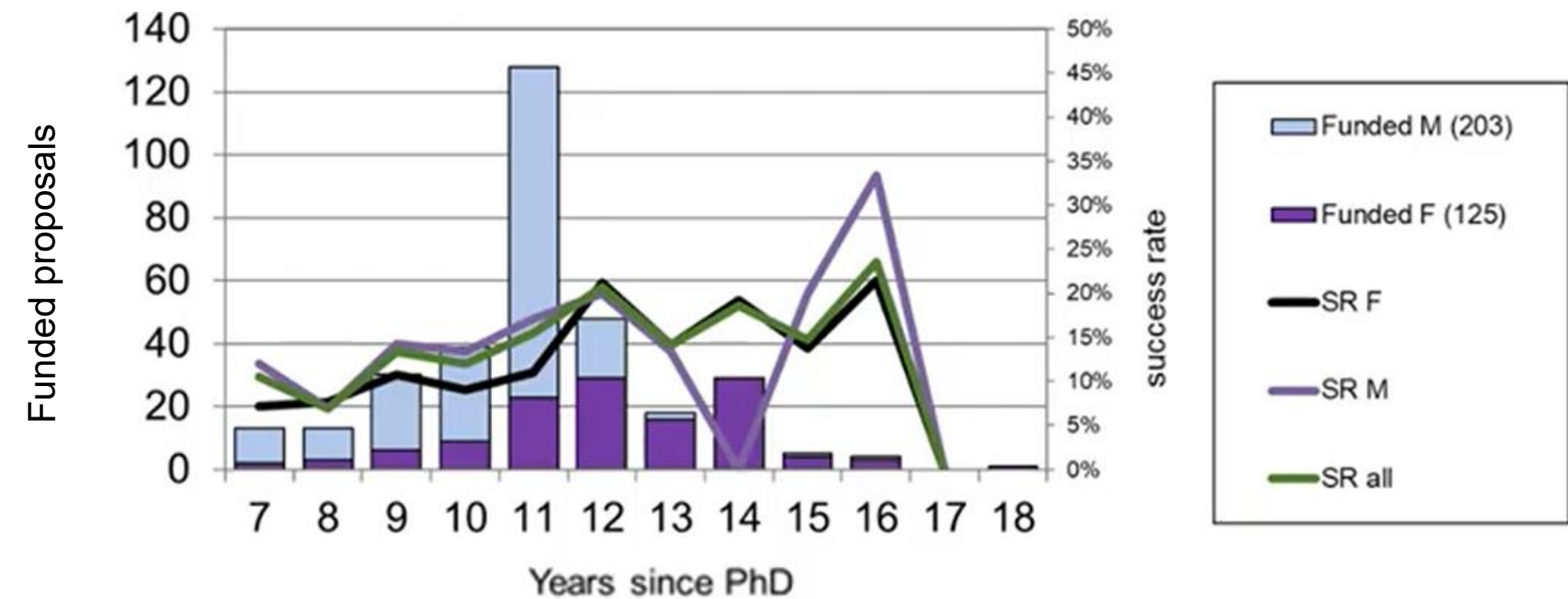
ERC STG 2021-2024



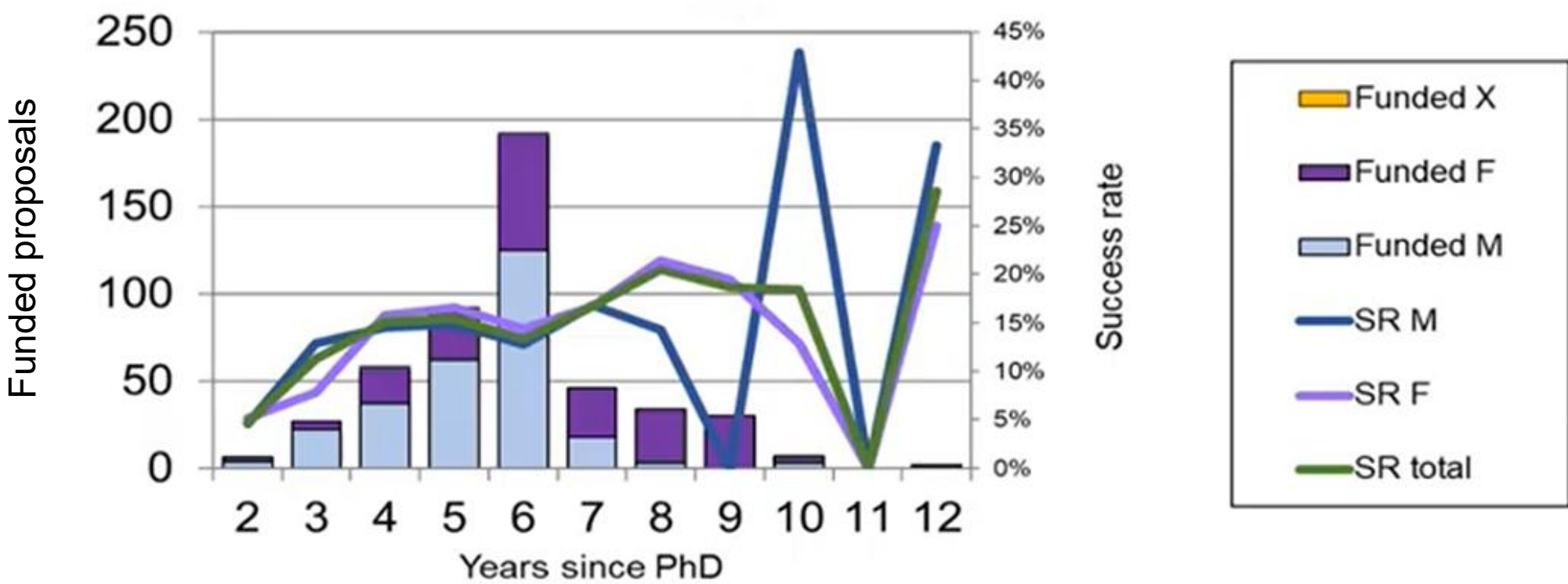
Shall I apply now or wait another year?

STG and COG 2024 – Results and Success Rate (SR) of step 2

ERC COG 2024



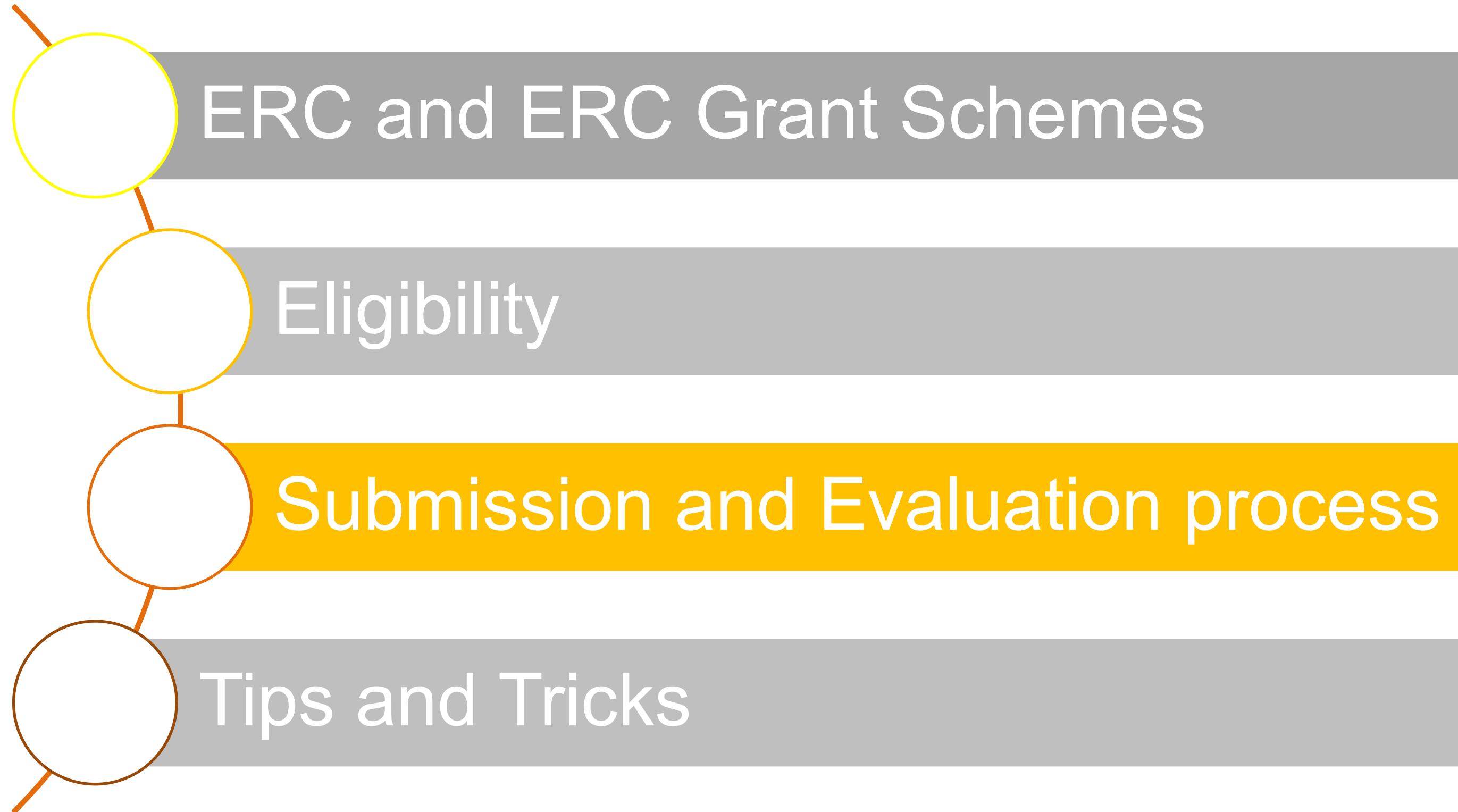
ERC STG 2024



ERC WP 2026 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	9 July 2025	25 September 2025	28 May 2026	10 July 2025
Deadline	14 October 2025	<u>13 January 2026</u>	27 August 2026	5 November 2025
Budget (EUR, m)	705	673	747	500
Estimated Number of Grants	450	328	294	49
Date to Inform Applicants – Step 1	28 April 2026	17 July 2026	29 January 2027	13 April 2026
Date to Inform Applicants – Step 2	25 August 2026	11 December 2026	11 June 2027	14 August 2026
Date to Inform Applicants – Step 3	-	-	-	27 October 2026
Grant Agreement Signature Date	22 December 2026	12 April 2027	16 November 2027	24 March 2027

Overview



Proposal Structure – Changes as from WP2026

[Changes to the 2026 and 2027 Work Programmes|ERC](#)

- **Part A:** Administrative form, including requested budget and resources
- **Part B1:**
 - part I of the Scientific Proposal (**5 pages**): **Overall idea, objectives and approach/research strategy**
 - CV + Track Record (up to 4 pages)
- **Part B2:**
 - Part II of the Scientific Proposal (**7 pages**): **Implementation and Methodology** (including feasibility, risk assessment and mitigating measures)
 - Funding ID
- **Host Institution support Letter**
- **PhD certificate** (+addition document to support PhD defence date, if needed)

Annexes: Extension request documents in 1 pdf, including cover page (new form), ethics, etc.

Research assessment

[Evaluation of research proposals: The why and what of the ERC's recent changes](#)

Focus on research project

- First and foremost, applicants will be assessed on the **ambition of their idea** in advancing present-day knowledge in the field.
- The ERC panels will also evaluate the intellectual capacity, creativity, and commitment of the applicant, with a focus on the extent to which they have the excellence and required scientific expertise to successfully execute the proposed project.

Broad assessment of the applicant

- Curriculum Vitae and Track Record: one document, structured.
- **Up to 10 research outputs** that demonstrate how the applicant has advanced knowledge.
- Selected **examples of significant peer recognition**.
- Noteworthy **contributions** to the research community, **career breaks** or unusual **career paths**. There will not in themselves be evaluated but are important to provide context.

Contrary to what you may think

- The **budget** is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand → success rate is equal amongst panels → **choose the Panel that is right for your proposal.**
- **Publication record** is not decisive in selection decisions.
- The **Host Institution** is **not** an evaluation criterion.
- The **success rate** is not linked to academic age.
- Proposals **shorter than five years** are welcome. The content of the proposed research determines its budget.
- Do not include unnecessary **partners and collaborators**; it is not a «consortium»
- The **panel descriptors** do not represent ERC scientific priorities; **any topic/field** is equally welcome.

Preparing your proposal

In Step 1: Panel members see only **Part I** of the Scientific Proposal + **CV and Track record**
(prepare it accordingly!)

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

- ✓ Outline the **current state of knowledge**
- ✓ Is the research idea **advancing** it?
- ✓ Is the research idea **original, creative, ambitious**?
- ✓ Explain **scientific question** and **objectives**
- ✓ What is the **overall approach**/research strategy?
- ✓ Be concise & clear (for generalists)

In Step 2: Panel Members & Remote Referees assess **Part I** and **Part II** of the Scientific Proposal + **Resources and Time commitment**

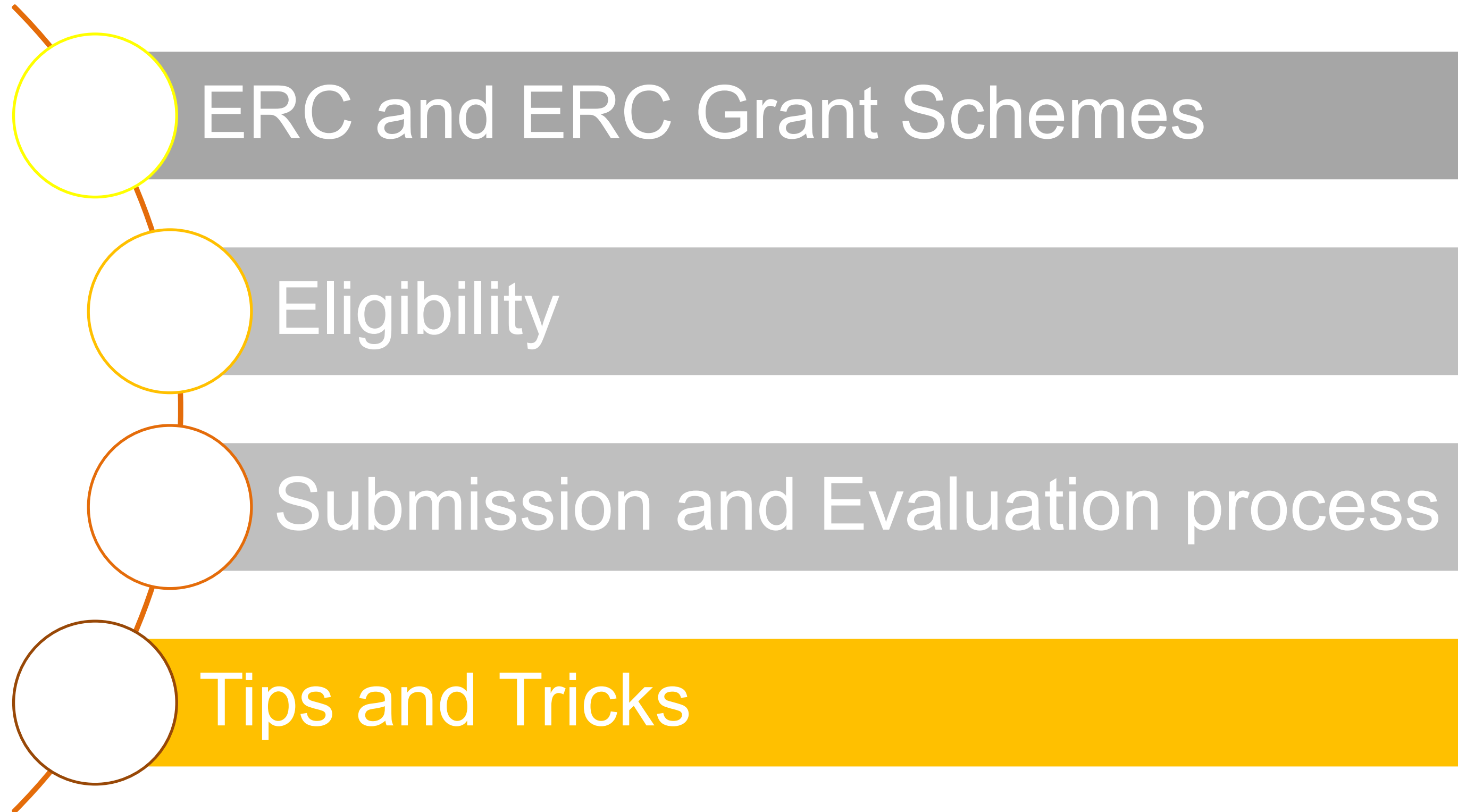
Can the idea be **implemented** realistically, and if so, in the manner and with the approach that the **applicant proposes**?

- ✓ Complementary to, but not redundant with Part 1
- ✓ Detail the **implementation** (including feasibility)
- ✓ Provide extensive **methodology**
- ✓ Detail the **work plan**
- ✓ Provide **risk assessment**
- ✓ Provide **mitigation** measures
- ✓ Justification requested budget and resources

I have been invited for an interview ... now what?

- Have **clear** and **representative slides** and focus on **science!** Don't try to make a business presentation – you are talking to the scientists.
- Get panel interested in **your ideas** & proposal
- Don't over-explain your CV
- **Anticipate questions**
- Know the **details of your proposal** and methods, as well as your **research area** – who are main competitors/collaborators?
- **Practice** thoroughly, many times; keep the time; typically, a 5-10 min. presentation followed by 15-20 min. of questions.

Overview



Key messages

- Don't exclude yourself from participating in ERC calls.
- If you have an idea that you think will make a significant change in your field of research or some other area, consider writing it down and apply to ERC.
- Be ambitious and «daring», **think big!**
- Look at funded projects in your field, testimonials, tutorials.
- **Take risk**, explain your project's expected high scientific impact, and **provide evidence that you can do it**.
- **If you fail, try again!** Gain experience from evaluation. Panel feedback is useful, and resubmissions have higher success rate.

Main tips, but no tricks!

1. Consult **call documents** ([ERC Work Programme 2026](#), the [Information for Applicants](#) and the [Guide for Peer Reviewers](#)).
2. Register early on the Funding and Tenders Portal.
3. Have your **documentation ready**; get the written consent of your collaborators before the submission deadline.
4. Look at funded projects in your field ([ERC Dashboard: Explore Projects, Statistics, and Insights](#)), testimonials, tutorials ([ERC Home Page - Consolidator Grant: Funding for Emerging Research Leaders](#); [ERC grants explained - YouTube](#)).
5. Contact NCP and **ask all your questions** well ahead of the submission deadline.
6. Submit your research proposal **before the deadline** – avoid submitting on the last day.

Thank you!

Aitäh!

Paldies!

Ačiū!



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