

# The European Research Council

## ERC Grants and Novelties in 2027

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13 August 2026



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# Today's Talk

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## Introduction

### What's new in the ERC Work Programme 2027?

- Eligibility windows
- Submission and re-submission restrictions
- Proposal evaluation

## Q&A

# What is a Work Programme? And why does it matter?

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- What opportunities are available?
- How much funding is allocated to each scheme or project?
- What are the rules and requirements for taking part?
- How will applicants be evaluated?
- How will the money be disbursed? What can it be spent on?
- What are the obligations of successful applicants?

# ERC Grant Schemes

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## Starting Grant

Researchers (0-10 years after PhD)  
up to €1.5 million for 5 years



## Consolidator Grant

Researchers (5-15 years after PhD)  
up to €2 million for 5 years



## Advanced Grant

Researchers with track-record of significant  
research achievements. Lump Sum of up  
to €2.5 million for 5 years



## Synergy Grant

2-4 Principal investigators  
up to €10 million for 6 years  
1 PI can be based outside  
EU/Associated Country



## ERC Plus Grant

Principal investigators at all  
career stages with a vision for  
transformative research. Lump  
Sum of up to €7 million over 4-7 years



## Proof of Concept Grant

For ERC grantees  
bridging gap between research and  
early stage of application.  
Fixed Lump Sum of €150 000 for 18 months



# Upcoming Call Calendar 2026-2027

| ERC Call                                                                                                                | Call Opens                 | Submission Deadline              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Advanced Grant</b><br>ERC-2026-AdG<br>ERC-2027-AdG                                                                   | 28 May 2026<br>27 May 2027 | 27 August 2026<br>26 August 2027 |
| <b>ERC Plus Grant</b><br>ERC-2026-PLUS<br>ERC-2027-PLUS                                                                 | 2 June 2026<br>1 June 2027 | 2 September 2026<br>1 June 2027  |
| <b>Starting Grant</b><br>ERC-2027-StG                                                                                   | 22 July 2026               | 14 October 2026                  |
| <b>Consolidator Grant</b><br>ERC-2027-CoG                                                                               | 24 September 2026          | 12 January 2027                  |
|  <b>Synergy Grant</b><br>ERC-2027-SyG | 17 February 2027           | 11 May 2027                      |

# New Research Proposal Structure (Part B, 2026-2027)

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- 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)
- Statement of Vision (half a page to two pages; ERC Plus Grants only)
- 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)



# Proposal Evaluation

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## At Step 1:

- Scientific Proposal Part I + CV and Track Record + Statement of Vision (ERC Plus Grants only)

## At Step 2:

- Scientific Proposal Part I + Part II + CV and Track Record + Statement of Vision (ERC Plus Grants only) + Resources and Time Commitment (from Part A) + Annex on Grants/Grant Applications

# Assessment Criteria

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- The ground-breaking nature and ambition of the Research Project
- The intellectual capacity and creativity of the Principal Investigator(s)



# ERC Work Programme 2027 – Budget



Provisional budget ~ EUR 2.8 bn:

- ~EUR 2.25 bn – EU
- ~EUR 550 m – Associated Countries

Grants to be funded:

- Starting Grant ~373
- Consolidator Grant ~296
- Advanced Grant ~311
- Synergy Grant ~48
- ERC Plus Grant ~30
- Proof of Concept Grant ~400

# Novelties I – New Eligibility Windows

- 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 at most one Starting Grant and one Consolidator Grant during their career
- Rules for extensions remain the same
- The reference date for the eligibility period will be the 1st of January 2027
- Applicants must have successfully defended their PhD at the time of the call deadline



# Novelties II – Submission Restrictions I

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Updated rules on submission of proposals and eligibility:

- Only one ERC main grant proposal under evaluation\* at any time
- Only one eligible ERC main grant proposal to 2027 calls

\*A proposal is considered under evaluation between the time of the call deadline and the time an applicant receives a letter informing them of the outcome of either:

- the eligibility and admissibility check, or
- the evaluation (including placement on the reserve list)

# Novelties II – Submission Restrictions II

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Updated rules on submission of proposals and eligibility (continued):

- Former and current Starting and Consolidator Grant holders may not apply for the same type of grant in 2027
- Advanced and ERC Plus 2026 grant applicants may not apply for a Synergy Grant 2027
- Advanced Grant 2027 panel members may not apply for an ERC Plus Grant 2027
- Should one Principal Investigator of a Synergy Grant group be declared ineligible, the whole group will be declared ineligible in Synergy Grant 2027

# Novelties III – Resubmission Restrictions

Resubmission restrictions will apply to:

- Applicants having obtained a score of C at Step 1 in the last two years (2025 and 2026)
- Applicants having obtained a score of B at Step 1 in the last year (2026)
- Former Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant applicants with the above scores may not apply to any main grant call schemes (including Synergy) in 2027
- Advanced and ERC Plus 2026 grant applicants may not apply for a Synergy Grant 2027 irrespective of their score
- Former Synergy Grant applicants with the above scores may not apply for a Synergy Grant 2027 only
- ERC Plus 2026 grant applicants that were not retained for Step 2 of the evaluation may not apply for an ERC Plus Grant 2027

| Previous application                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Outcome                       | StG<br>2027 | CoG<br>2027 | AdG<br>2027 | Plus<br>2027 | SyG<br>2027 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| StG, CoG, AdG, SyG 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Breach of research integrity* | -           | -           | -           | -            | -           |
| StG, CoG, AdG, Plus, SyG 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Breach of research integrity* | -           | -           | -           | -            | -           |
| StG, CoG, AdG 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Step 1 C                      | -           | -           | -           | -            | -           |
| StG, CoG 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Step 1 C or Step 1 B          | -           | -           | -           | -            | -           |
| AdG 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Step 1 C or Step 1 B          | -           | -           | -           | -            | -**         |
| SyG 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Step 1 C                      | +           | +           | +           | +            | -           |
| SyG 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Step 1 C or Step 1 B          | +           | +           | +           | +            | -           |
| Plus 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Step 1 ‘not retained’         | +           | +           | +           | -            | -**         |
| (-) ineligible (+) eligible (*) this restriction will be implemented with due respect for the principle of proportionality<br>(-**) AdG and Plus 2026 applicants may not apply for a SyG 2027 irrespective of their score in previous calls |                               |             |             |             |              |             |

# Novelties IV – Proposal Evaluation

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The assessment of the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the research project in the main grant calls will now include the following (updated) evaluation question at Step 1 and 2:

*To what extent are the project's objectives ambitious, will the project advance the frontier of knowledge and is the proposed approach scientifically convincing?*



# Novelties V – Evaluation of Proof of Concept Grants

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- As of Work Programme 2027 Proof of Concept Grant proposals will be scored quantitatively as follows:
  - each expert will award a score of 0-5 (in increments of 0.5)
  - a score of 3 or higher from a majority of experts will count as a ‘pass’ on the evaluated element
  - a score of 2.5 or lower from a majority of experts on any element will mean the proposal will not be ranked or funded
  - to be considered for funding, a proposal will require a ‘pass’ mark on each of the evaluation elements by a majority of experts
  - proposals that have passed the evaluation but cannot be funded due to budget constraints will receive a Seal of Excellence



# Novelties VI – Restrictions on Entities from Certain Countries

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Based on Article 22(6) of the HE Regulation, universities (higher education establishments) established in China which are public bodies, that are administered by or fall under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) will not be eligible to participate in the Synergy Grant call in 2027.

Under Article 22(6) of the Horizon Europe Regulation, legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in ERC Proof of Concept grants if the proposed project concerns one or more of the 10 critical technology areas identified in the Annex to the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/2113 of 3 October 2023.

Proposals from applicants hosted by the above entities will still be evaluated and, if successful, they will be able to exercise portability at granting.

# Discover the ERC Classes Videos for Applicants

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- Getting started with your ERC proposal
- Writing your proposal
- Understanding the evaluation process
- Preparing for the interview
- Complying with ethics requirements
- Explaining Synergy grants



Watch the full [playlist](#)

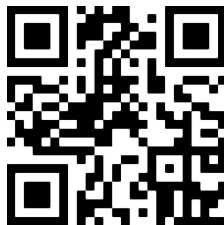
# New Horizon Europe 2028 – 2034: the Proposal

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- Horizon Europe will remain a stand-alone programme alongside the new European Competitiveness Fund
- Worth EUR 175 bn in total with EUR 31.5 bn going to the ERC
- Emphasis on supporting early-career researchers and attracting talented researchers to Europe
- Funding activities shall continue to be governed by the ERC and implemented by a dedicated implementation structure

# Thank You!

More information: [erc.europa.eu](https://erc.europa.eu)



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# Assessment Criteria: the Research Project I

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The ground-breaking nature and ambition of the Research Project (applicable to Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, ERC Plus, and Synergy Grants, unless otherwise specified)

## At Step 1:

- To what extent does the research address important scientific questions?
- To what extent are the project's objectives ambitious, will the project advance the frontier of knowledge and is the proposed approach scientifically convincing?
- ERC Plus Grants only: To what extent does the project address aims that could not be reached with a regular ERC grant?
- Synergy Grants only: To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone?



# Assessment Criteria: the Research Project II

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The ground-breaking nature and ambition of the Research Project (applicable to Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, ERC Plus, and Synergy Grants, unless otherwise specified)

## At Step 2:

- All the questions from Step 1, as well as
- 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?



# Assessment Criteria: the Principal Investigator

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The intellectual capacity and creativity of the Principal Investigator(s) (applicable to Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, ERC Plus, and Synergy Grants, unless otherwise specified)

## At Step 1 and 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?
- ERC Plus Grants only: To what extent is the applicant an undisputed leader in the field (compared to peers at the same career stage)?
- 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)?

