

The European Research Council

ERC Grants and Novelties in 2026 and 2027

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14 July 2025



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC is part of Horizon Europe



EUR 16 billion
ERC budget in Horizon Europe



17%
of the entire
Horizon Europe budget

ERC Scientific Council

Life Sciences



Geneviève
Almouzni
Molecular Cell
Biology



Liselotte
Højgaard
Medicine



Leszek
Kaczmarek
Neurobiology



Dirk
Inzé
Plant Biology



Luke
O'Neill
Biochemistry and
Immunology



Jesper
Svejstrup
Vice-President
Biochemistry



Maria Leptin
ERC President
Cell Biology



Gerd
Gigerenzer
Vice-President
Psychology



Eystein
Jansen
Vice-President
Earth Science

Social Sciences and Humanities



Harriet
Bulkeley
Geography



Mercedes
García-Arenal
History



Torsten
Persson
Economics



Giovanni
Sartor
Law



Milena
Žic Fuchs
Linguistics

Physical Sciences and Engineering



Conny
Aerts
Astrophysics



Tom
Henzinger
Computer
Science



Maarit
Karppinen
Chemistry



Sylvie
Lorente
Mechanical
Engineering



Björn
Ottersten
Electrical
Engineering



Tomaž Prosen
Physics

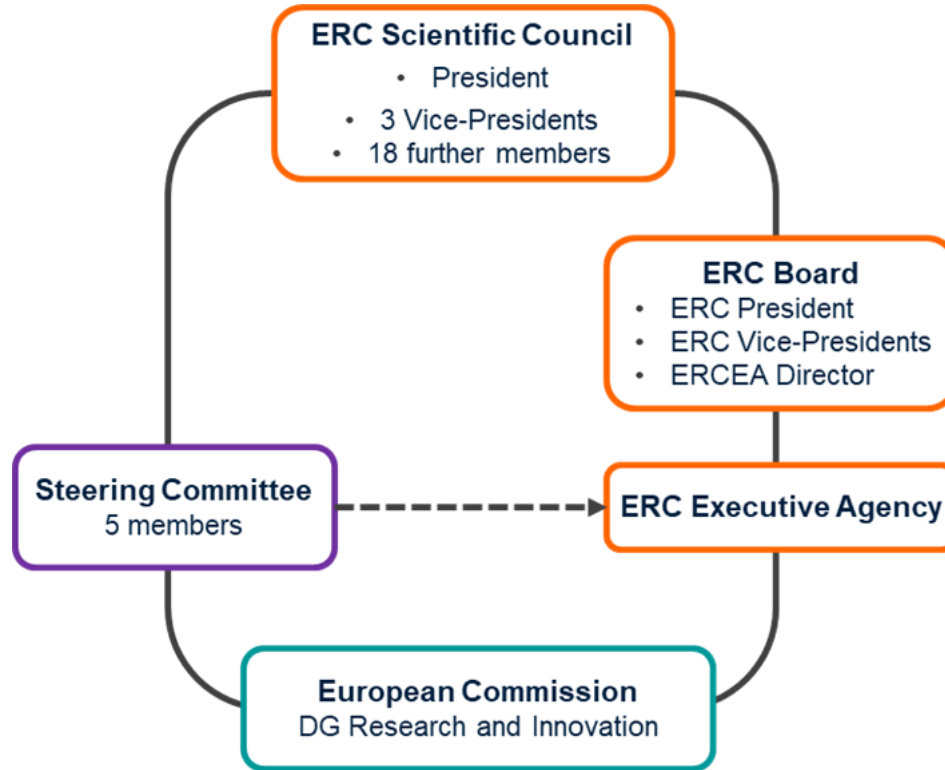


Nicola
Spaldin
Materials Theory



András
Stipsicz
Mathematics

The European Commission and the ERC



ERC Grant Schemes



Starting Grants

starters (2-7 years after PhD) up to €1.5 Million
for 5 years



Consolidator Grants

Consolidators (7-12 years after PhD) up to €2 Million
for 5 years



Advanced Grants

track-record of significant research achievements
up to €2.5 Million
for 5 years



Synergy Grants

2 – 4 Principal Investigators up to €10 Million for 6
years
1 PI can be based outside EU/Associated
Countries



Proof-of-Concept

bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation
lump sum €150,000 for ERC grant holders

What do ERC grants offer?

- Generous longer-term funding
- Support to Principal Investigator-led research projects
- Any field of research
- Selected through international peer-review
- Transferrable to another Host Institution ('portability')

Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground-breaking nature
- Ambition
- Feasibility of the research project

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment

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

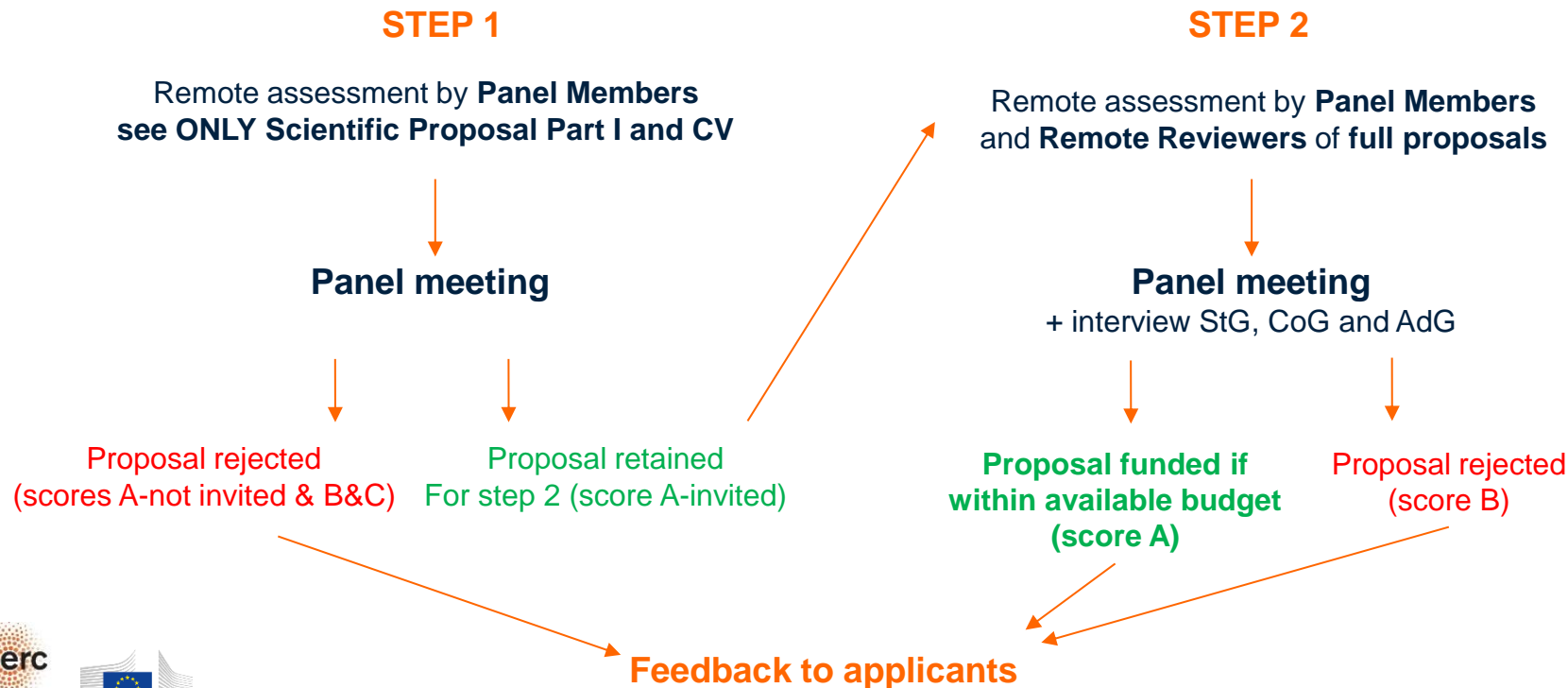
New Proposal Structure:

- 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)



Evaluation Process (StG/CoG/AdG)

Single submission and evaluation in two steps



Novelties IV – Proposal Evaluation

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 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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