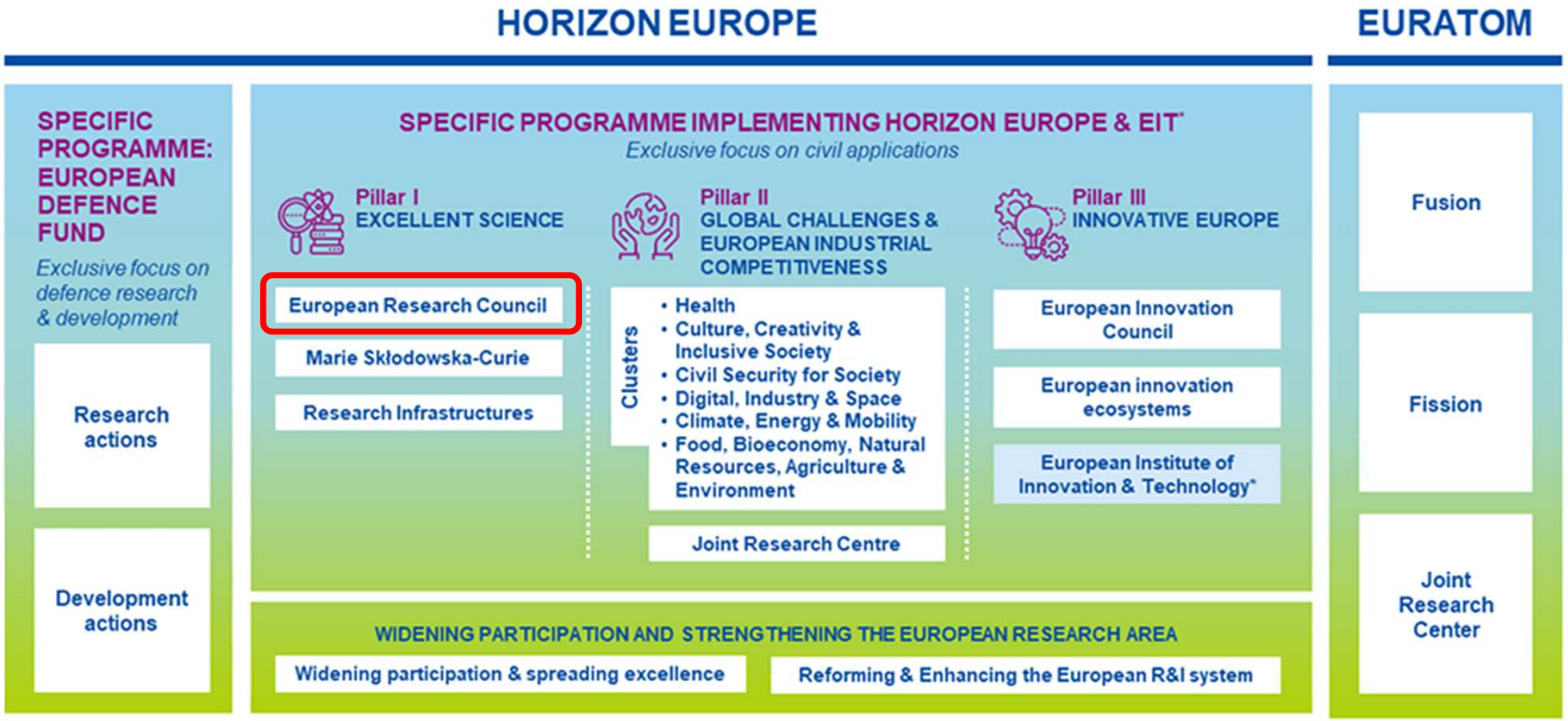
EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL - ERC

AARHUS UNIVERSITY

AGRO FUNDING DAY 2024
28 NOVEMBER 2024

MIKKEL BJERG KONGSBAK
CENTRAL RSO, SPECIAL CONSULTANT

HORIZON EUROPE - OVERVIEW



ERC – GOVERNANCE

*"The ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to **support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields**, based on scientific excellence."*

ERC – GOVERNANCE

ERC Scientific Council

ERC Executive Agency

Responsibilities

- Executing the annual work programme, as defined by the ERC Scientific Council and adopted by the Commission.
- Implementing calls for proposals, in accordance with the work programme.
- Providing information and support to applicants.
- Organising peer review evaluation.
- Establishing and managing grant agreements, in accordance with the EU's financial regulations.
- Providing assistance to the ERC Scientific Council.
- Communicating about ERC.

ERC FRONTIER GRANTS AND KEY CONCEPTS

ERC BASICS – GRANTS

ERC GRANTS

STARTING GRANT

Eligibility (PhD age):	> 2 and ≤ 7 years
Budget:	<= 1.5 mio EUR
Duration:	60 months
PI dedication:	min. 50%
Deadline:	Mid October

Career stage

CONSOLIDATOR GRANT

Eligibility (PhD age):	> 7 and ≤ 12 years
Budget:	<= 2.0 mio EUR
Duration:	60 months
PI dedication:	min. 40%
Deadline:	Mid January

ADVANCED GRANT

Eligibility (PhD age):	N/A
Budget:	<= 2.5 mio EUR
Duration:	60 months
PI dedication:	min. 30%
Deadline:	Late August

SYNERGY GRANT

Eligibility:	2-4 PI's	Budget:	<= 10 mio. EUR
Duration:	72 months	PI dedication:	min. 30%
Deadline:	Early November		

PROOF-OF-CONCEPT

Eligibility:	*For ERC grantees only*	Budget:	<= 150.000 EUR
Duration:	12 - 18 months	PI dedication:	no minimum
Deadline:	2 cut off dates (March, September)		

STARTING, CONSOLIDATOR, ADVANCED GRANTS

ERC BASICS – PI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) – PROFILE

COMPETITIVE PI

StG - Information for applicants:

"A competitive Starting Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of the potential for research independence, for example by having produced at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor."

"Principal Investigator must provide a list of achievements reflecting their track record. A short narrative describing the scientific importance of the research outputs and the role played by the Principal Investigator in their production may also be included."

PI Profile focus:

- Independence:	Main author publications; scientific progress from PhD and/or postdoc work; successful grant applications (=> past achievements, track-record, Funding ID)
- Creative thinking:	Potential to reach scientific breakthroughs; game-changers and paradigm shifts in the field (=> past achievements, track-record).
- Outstanding CV:	Recognition in the field; impactful publications and high number of citations (=> CV, selected publications)
- International visibility:	Postdoc positions abroad; invited talks; international network (=> CV)
- Basic research-oriented:	Limited focus on industry-driven research (=> past achievements, track-record – highlighting basic research efforts)
- Timeliness:	Career stage: Progressing scientific maturity Project: Novel and groundbreaking, but feasible given the experience of the PI (=> Why me?, why now?)

ERC BASICS – PI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) – PROFILE

COMPETITIVE PI

CoG - Information for applicants:

"A competitive Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of research independence."

"Principal Investigator must provide a list of achievements reflecting their track record. A short narrative describing the scientific importance of the research outputs and the role played by the Principal Investigator in their production may also be included."

PI Profile focus:

- Independence:	Main and senior author publications; scientific progress from postdoc work; successful grant applications (=> past achievements, track-record, Funding ID)
- Creative thinking:	Potential to reach scientific breakthroughs; game-changers and paradigm shifts in the field (=> past achievements, track-record).
- Outstanding CV:	Recognition in the field; impactful publications and high number of citations (=> CV, selected publications)
- International visibility:	Postdoc positions abroad; invited talks; international network (=> CV)
- Basic research-oriented:	Limited focus on industry-driven research (=> past achievements, track-record – highlighting basic research efforts)
- Timeliness:	Career stage: Progressing scientific maturity Project: Novel and groundbreaking, but feasible given the experience of the PI (=> Why me?, why now?)

ERC BASICS – PI

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) – PROFILE

COMPETITIVE PI

AdG - Information for applicants:

"A competitive Advanced Grant Principal Investigator is expected to be an active and established research leader with a track record of significant research achievements."

"Principal Investigator must provide a list of achievements reflecting their track record. A short narrative describing the scientific importance of the research outputs and the role played by the Principal Investigator in their production may also be included."

PI Profile focus:

- Independent researcher:	Senior author publications; extensive career marked by significant scientific breakthroughs; successful grant applications (=> past achievements, track-record, Funding ID)
- Creative thinking:	Ability to challenge existing paradigms; game-changers and paradigm shifts in the field (=> past achievements, track-record).
- Outstanding CV:	Clear recognition in the field; impactful publications and high number of citations (=> CV, selected publications)
- International visibility:	Internationally recognized research leader; substantial research achievements; invited talks; significant role in international networks (=> CV)
- Basic research-oriented:	Limited focus on industry-driven research (=> past achievements, track-record – highlighting basic research efforts)
- Timeliness:	Career stage: Established scientific maturity Project: Novel, pioneering and groundbreaking, but feasible given the experience of the PI (=> Why me?, why now?)

ERC BASICS – PROJECT

ERC PROJECT PROFILE

COMPETITIVE PROJECT

Information for applicants:

"The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis and applications can be made in any field of research with an emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering..... pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions."

"As ERC funds frontier research, careful consideration should be given so to propose truly novel ideas, not just continuations of ongoing work or existing collaboration."

Unwritten rules:

- Project type:	Single PI heading a strong research team – NOT a collaborative effort with partners and stakeholders.
- Non-incremental:	Large scientific leap forward! – not 'just' the logical next step and a direct continuation of ongoing work. Idea must be new to the research community! - not 'only' to the PI.
- Groundbreaking nature:	High scientific impact, disruptive nature, ambitious objectives, scientifically/conceptually challenging.
- Hypothesis-driven:	Testable but with room for different scientific interpretations. Both confirmation and falsification of the hypothesis should constitute a very significant result in the research field.
- Open-ended:	Projects should point to what would be possible beyond the scope of the 5 years, based on breakthroughs achieved by the project. The breakthroughs serve as cornerstones for future research directions.
- Coherent:	Present an overall aim/objective that can be addressed from different scientific angles (= 'sub-objectives').

ERC BASICS – PROJECT

ERC PROJECT PROFILE

COMPETITIVE PROJECT

Information for applicants:

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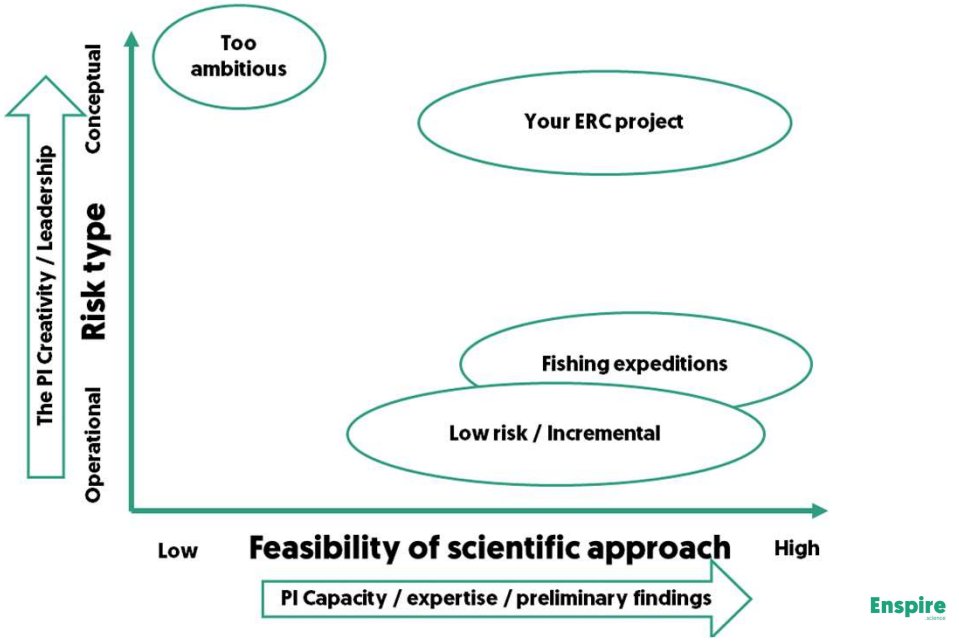
High Risk vs. Feasibility



APPLICATION

PART A (submission portal - online)

Sections

1 – **General information**
(title, duration, keywords, abstract, declarations)

2 – **Participants**
(department, contact information)

3 – **Budget**
(budget table, section c – justification of resources)

4 – **Ethics and security**
(ethics table, security issues table, self-assessment)

5 – **Other questions**
(PhD date, PI commitment, excluding reviewers)

PART B (templates - uploaded as PDF's)

B1 *(step 1)*

Cover page (title, acronym, abstract)

Section a – **Extended synopsis** (5 pages, excl. ref.)

Section b – **CV and track-record** (4 pages)

B2 *(step 2)*

Section a – **State-of-the-art and objectives**

Section b – **Methodology**
(section a + b – max. 14 pages)

Appendix – **Funding ID**
(current grants, applications)

Appendices

(uploaded as PDF's)

HI support letter:	Document confirming AU as host (mandatory) – signed by LEAR (not head of department)
PhD certificate [StG, CoG]:	Official PhD certificate stating the date of the defence (mandatory)
Annexes:	Ethics, documentation of eligibility extension [StG, CoG] (specific cover page, single pdf)

APPLICATION – B1

PART B (templates - uploaded as PDF's)

B1 *(step 1)*

Cover page (title, acronym, abstract)

Section a – **Extended synopsis** (5 pages, excl. ref.)

Section b – **CV and track-record** (4 pages)

<<< Stand-alone document >>>

Audience: Panel members, generalists, highly experienced – but NOT necessarily within your specific field!

Focus: Establishing the overall problem, presenting your investigator-driven groundbreaking idea, and arguing that this project would be a gamechanger in the field, should you be successful.

MUST highlight:

- Scientific novelty and ambition
- Ground-breaking nature
- Non-incremental focus
- Scientific reasoning (state-of-the-art vs. gaps)
- Feasibility of scientific approach (conceptually challenging)
- Your scientific achievements ('what are you most proud of?')

APPLICATION – B2

PART B (templates - uploaded as PDF's)

B2 *(step 2)*

Section a – **State-of-the-art and objectives**

Section b – **Methodology**

(section a + b – max. 14 pages)

Appendix – **Funding ID**

(current grants, applications)

<<< Stand-alone document >>>

Audience: Peers, external international experts, highly experienced – deep knowledge about your field!

Focus: Main research proposal! Although focus is the same as in B1, the B2 goes into much greater details – especially the methodology.

MUST highlight:

- Scientific novelty and ambition
- Ground-breaking nature
- Non-incremental focus
- Scientific reasoning (state-of-the-art vs. gaps)
- Feasibility of scientific approach (conceptually challenging)
- Overall work plan (aims/objectives/research questions – rather than detailed timeplan, deliverables and milestones)

ERC BASICS - PANELS

ERC PROJECT PROFILE

ALTERNATING PANELS

Panel Chairs:
- disclosed at call publication

Panel members:
- disclosed after evaluation

'A' and 'B' panels:
- evaluation; odd years A, even years B
- 60-80% overlap in panel members
- e.g.; 2023 panel composition overlaps with 2025

Physical Sciences and Engineering	Life Sciences	Social Sciences and Humanities
PE1 Mathematics	**LS1** Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions	**SH1** Individuals, Markets and Organisations
PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter	**LS2** Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems	**SH2** Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
PE3 Condensed Matter Physics	**LS3** Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration	**SH3** The Social World and Its Interactions
PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences	**LS4** Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing	**SH4** The Human Mind and Its Complexity
PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials	**LS5** Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System	**SH5** Texts and Concepts
PE6 Computer Science and Informatics	**LS6** Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy	**SH6** The Study of the Human Past
PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering	**LS7** Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases	**SH7** Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
PE8 Products and Processes Engineering	**LS8** Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution	**SH8** Studies of Cultures and Arts
PE9 Universe Sciences	**LS9** Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering	
PE10 Earth System Science		
PE11 Materials Engineering		

EVALUATION - PROCESS

SINGLE DEADLINE – TWO STEP EVALUATION PROCES

STEP 1 – *only B1*

Panel chair	Allocates proposals to panel members based on abstract and selected keywords.
Panel members	3-4 panel members evaluate the proposals remotely before a consensus meeting deciding which proposals go to step 2.
Score	A invited, A not invited, B or C
Quarantine	B = 1 year; C = 2 years

A, invited

A not invited, B, C

Rejection

STEP 2 – *full proposal, but in essence a focus on B2*

External experts	3-8 external reviewers evaluate each proposal.
Interview	Applicant and panel members (online). Panel expert is the lead interviewer, but all panel members participate.
Score	A or B
Quarantine	None!

B → Rejection

A → Ranking list

Budget	Allocated budget is proportional to the number of proposals for each panel – max. 44 pr. panel is retained for step 2 Step 2, interview: 2-3 times available budget More A's on ranking list than available funding ☹

EVALUATION - CRITERIA

SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

Two overall evaluation criteria

(applies to both B1 and B2)

1. Research project

- **Ground-breaking nature**
- **Scientific approach**

→ Focus and highlights of B1 and B2

2. Principal Investigator

- **Intellectual capacity and creativity**

1. Research Project - Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?
- To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?

Scientific Approach

B1 • To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the proposed research *(based on the Extended Synopsis)*?

B2 • To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project *(based on the research proposal)*?

B2 • To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources, and PI's commitment adequate and properly justified *(based on the research proposal)?*

2. Principal Investigator - Intellectual capacity and creativity

B1
- To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative and original thinking?
- To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

SYNERGY GRANTS

ERC BASICS – GRANTS

ERC GRANTS

STARTING GRANT

Eligibility (PhD age): > 2 and ≤ 7 years
Budget: <= 1.5 mio EUR
Duration: 60 months
PI dedication: min. 50%
Deadline: Mid October

Career stage

Establishing -ERC Starting Grant | Consolidating -ERC Consolidator Grant | Advancing -ERC Advanced Grant

CONSOLIDATOR GRANT

Eligibility (PhD age): > 7 and ≤ 12 years
Budget: <= 2.0 mio EUR
Duration: 60 months
PI dedication: min. 40%
Deadline: Mid January

Establishing -ERC Starting Grant | **Consolidating** -ERC Consolidator Grant | Advancing -ERC Advanced Grant

ADVANCED GRANT

Eligibility (PhD age): N/A
Budget: <= 2.5 mio EUR
Duration: 60 months
PI dedication: min. 30%
Deadline: Late August

Establishing -ERC Starting Grant | Consolidating -ERC Consolidator Grant | **Advancing** -ERC Advanced Grant

SYNERGY GRANT

Eligibility: 2-4 PI's
Budget: <= 10 mio. EUR
Duration: 72 months
PI dedication: min. 30%
Deadline: Early November

Establishing -ERC Starting Grant | **Consolidating** -ERC Consolidator Grant | **Advancing** -ERC Advanced Grant

PROOF-OF-CONCEPT

Eligibility: *For ERC grantees only*
Budget: <= 150.000 EUR
Duration: 12 - 18 months
PI dedication: no minimum
Deadline: 2 cut off dates (March, September)

Establishing -ERC Starting Grant | **Consolidating** -ERC Consolidator Grant | **Advancing** -ERC Advanced Grant

SYNERGY GRANT, PI PROFILES

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS (PI) – PROFILES of Synergy group

COMPETITIVE Synergy Group

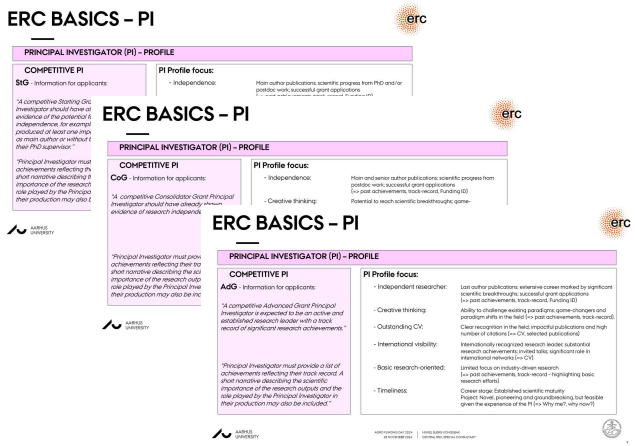
SyG - Information for applicants:

"ERC Synergy Grants support a small group of two to maximum four Principal Investigators (PIs)…to jointly address ambitious research problems that could not be addressed by the individual Principal Investigators and their teams working alone."

"It is of utmost importance not to confuse the term 'synergy' and its requirements with the concepts and the terminology of other parts of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme."

"Synergy projects should generally involve PIs and their teams that are capable of tackling bold new research themes that require novel approaches."

SyG group:



- Synergy focus: Demonstrate the ability to bring together different scientific elements and disciplines; clear role of each PI to address scope and complexity of the proposed research question (=> B1 and B2)

SYNERGY GRANTS – PROJECT

ERC SYG PROJECT PROFILE

COMPETITIVE SYG PROJECT

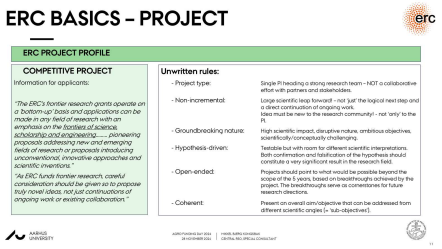
Information for applicants:

"Synergy projects should enable substantial advances at the frontiers of knowledge, stemming, for example, from the cross-fertilisation of scientific fields, from new productive lines of enquiry, or new methods and techniques, including unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between established disciplines."

"The transformative research funded by Synergy Grants should have the potential of becoming a benchmark on a global scale."

Unwritten rules:

- Project type: 2-4 PIs bringing different scientific disciplines and/or knowhow together to address very ambitious fundamental research problems – NOT an 'ordinary' collaborative effort with partners and stakeholders.


ERC BASICS – PROJECT

ERC PROJECT PROFILE

COMPETITIVE PROJECT

Information for applicants:

"The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a bottom-up basis and applications can be made in any field of research with an emphasis on the frontiers of science, scholarship and engineering. ... pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions."

"As ERC funds frontier research, careful consideration should be given as to propose truly novel ideas, not just continuations of ongoing work or existing collaboration."

Unwritten rules:

- Project type: Single PI heading a strong research team - NOT a collaborative effort with partners and stakeholders.
- Non-incremental: Large scientific leap forward – not 'just' the logical next step and a direct continuation of ongoing work. Ideas must be new to the research community! – not 'only' to the PI
- Groundbreaking nature: High scientific impact, disruptive nature, ambitious objectives, scientifically/conceptually challenging.
- Hypothesis-driven: Testable but with room for different scientific interpretations. Both confirmation and falsification of the hypothesis should constitute a very significant result in the research field.
- Open-ended: Projects should point to what would be possible beyond the scope of the 5 years, based on breakthroughs achieved by the project. The breakthroughs serve as cornerstones for future research directions.
- Coherent: Present an overall aim/objective that can be addressed from different scientific angles (= 'sub-objectives').

- Synergy focus: Describe the significant synergies, complementarity and added value of the group beyond the current work of the PIs (=> B1 and B2).

  Feasibility and appropriateness of working arrangements bringing the group together (=> B1 and B2).

ERC SYNERGY - APPLICATION

PART A (submission portal - online)

Sections

1 – **General information**
(title, duration, keywords, abstract, declarations)

2 – **Participants**
(department, contact information)

3 – **Budget**
(budget table

4 – **Ethics and security**
(ethics table, security issues table, self-assessment)

5 – **Other questions**
(PhD date, PI commitment, excluding reviewers)

PART B (templates - uploaded as PDF's)

B1 *(step 1)*

Cover page (title, acronym, abstract)

Section a – **Extended synopsis** (5 pages, excl. ref.)

Section b – **CV and track-record**, each PI
(4 pages pr. PI)

B2 *(step 2)*

Section a – **State-of-the-art and objectives**

Section b – **Methodology**
(section a + b – max. 14 pages)

Section c – **Resources**

Appendix – **Funding ID**

Appendices
(uploaded as PDF's)

HI support letters: Document confirming Host Institution (mandatory for ALL PIs) – signed by LEAR (not head of department)

Budget file: Official Excel file showing the overall budget for all PIs (mandatory)

Annexes: Ethics

ERC SYNERGY - PANELS

ERC SYG PROJECT PROFILE

>>> NO PREDEFINED PANELS <<<

Panel members:

- Step 1: app. 90 panel members
- Step 2: 5-7 panels with app. 17 panel members ensuring the best expertise for a group of proposals.
- Step 3: 5-7 interview panels (can be reconfigured from the step 2 panels).

Focus:

"The structure and membership of the panels at each step is not predefined but will be decided dynamically in relation to the proposals received."

Physical Sciences and Engineering	Life Sciences	Social Sciences and Humanities
PE1 Mathematics	**LS1** Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions	**SH1** Individuals, Markets and Organisations
PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter	**LS2** Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems	**SH2** Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
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PE9 Universe Sciences	**LS9** Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering	
PE10 Earth System Science		
PE11 Materials Engineering		

SYNERGY EVALUATION - PROCESS

SINGLE DEADLINE – THREE STEP EVALUATION PROCES

STEP 1 – *only B1*

Single panel	Not predefined. Panel members cover all fields of science and scholarship.
Panel members (min. 3 panel members)	Proposal allocated based on keywords and abstract.
Score	A invited, A not invited, B or C
Quarantine	B = 1 year; C = 2 years

A, invited

A, not invited, B, C

Rejection

STEP 2 – *B1, B2 and budget*

5-7 panels	Not predefined. App. 17 members in each panel (step 1 panel members).
External experts	Independent external experts complement the panelist reviews.
Score	A or B
Quarantine	None!

A

B

Rejection

STEP 3 – *interview, all PIs*

5-7 panels	Same panels, but can can be reconfigured to ensure the best evaluation expertise.
Interview	Physical interview in Bruxelles. Presentation + Q&A.
Score	A or B
Quarantine	None!

A, ranking list

B

Rejection

Budget	Step 1: All available budget (500 mio. EUR in 2025 call ≈ 50 grants). Up to 7x available budget can be retained for step 2. Step 2: Up to 3x available budget can be retained for step 3. Step 3: Ranking list determines which proposals gets funded until the budget is exhausted.

SYNERGY EVALUATION - CRITERIA

SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

Two overall evaluation criteria

(applies to both B1 and B2)

1. Research project → Focus and highlights of B1 and B2

- Ground-breaking nature
- Scientific approach
- Synergy

2. Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity and creativity
- Synergy

	1. Research Project
	Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility
	Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project
	➢ *To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?*
	➢ *To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?*
	Scientific Approach
B1	➢ *To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the proposed research? (based on the Extended Synopsis)*
B1	➢ *To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone? (based on the Extended Synopsis)*
B1	➢ *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? (based on the Extended Synopsis)*
B2	➢ *To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the research proposal, evaluated only in step 2 and 3)?*
B2	➢ *To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal, evaluated only in step 2 and 3)?*
	2. Principal Investigators
B1	***Intellectual capacity and creativity***
	➢ *To what extent have the PIs demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?*
	➢ *To what extent do the PIs provide evidence of creative and original thinking?*
	➢ *To what extent do the PIs have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?*
B1	***Synergy Grant Group***
	➢ *To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the know-how – such as skills, experience, expertise, disciplines, teams – necessary to address the proposed research question? (based on the Extended Synopsis)*

APPLICATION SUPPORT

SUPPORT

RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE

RSO ERC TEAM

Team members:

Pre-award:

Mikkel Bjerg Kongsbak (*kongsbak@au.dk*)
Birgit Christensen (*bc@au.dk*)
Lea Graugaard Kjær (*lgrau@au.dk*
Pernille Hamburger Grøngaard (*phg@au.dk*)

Post-award and strategy:

Jesper Juel Holst (*jjh@au.dk*)
Karen Matthisson (*kmat@au.dk*)

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

- Start up meeting:	Initial discussion about idea and application process towards the deadline.
- Funding and Tenders:	Creating the proposal in the Funding and Tenders portal.
- Formalities:	Checking, completing and proof-reading the administrative forms of the proposal (part A). Completing the HI support letter (signed by LEAR, Jesper Juel Holst).
- Budget support:	Budget drafts in line with the EU and ERC requirements. Giving input to section c – resources.
- Feedback and sparring:	Reading and offering constructive criticism on both B1and B2, ensuring ERC focus and a clear structure.

SUPPORT

RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE

RSO ERC TEAM

Team members:

Pre-award:

Mikkel Bjerg Kongsbak	*(kongsbak@au.dk)*
Birgit Christensen	*(bc@au.dk)*
Lea Graugaard Kjær	*(lgrau@au.dk*
Pernille Hamburger Grøngaard	*(phg@au.dk)*

Post-award and strategy:

Jesper Juel Holst	*(jjh@au.dk)*
Karen Matthisson	*(kmat@au.dk)*

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Writing process

- B1 vs. B2:	Generalist vs. specialists. B2 => B1, condensing the scientific details to a generalist. B1 => B2, expanding the extended synopsis and focusing on the scientific details and methodology.

MYTHS

- Scientific panels:	"Some panels experience higher success rates than others, so I should address my proposal to one of those." – **NO!** The panel budget is proportionate to the number of proposal addressed to each panel – thus, the success rates are the same.
- Late vs. early starters:	"My chances of success are higher the closer my PhD age gets to 7 (StG) or 12 (CoG) years." – **NO!** The success rates are comparable throughout the consolidator grant eligibility window.

SUPPORT

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

ERC EXECUTIVE AGENCY

Key points:

*"**Take risks**, explain your project's high scientific impact if you reach your aims, and **provide evidence that you can do it**."*

*"Consider the **balance between addressing generalists and specialists**, and the difference between part B1 and part B2 of the written proposal."*

*"**If you fail, try again!** Gain experience from evaluation. Panel feedback is useful and resubmissions have higher success rate (typically 1.5 times higher)."*

*"Writing is hard and requires time: **devote plenty of time** to the 'job'*

*"Writing a proposal = **rewriting** it many times"*

USEFUL LINKS

- ERC homepage: Apply for a grant | ERC

- ERC instructional videos: 7 videos – ERC classes:
  What to consider before applying.
  How the evaluation works.
  The interview.

- ERC Projects & Statistics: ERC Dashboard
  Find ERC funded projects (filtering for year, instrument, panelt, host institution, etc.).
  See acronym, abstracts and links to project webpages.

- ERC document library: ERC Panel members


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