European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator and Advanced Grants

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NB. Slides will be circulated after the event
Agenda:

• General overview of the ERC scheme
• Specificities of Consolidator and Advanced Grants
• Upcoming Calls in 2021 and 2022
• Q&A
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• General overview of the ERC scheme
• Specificities of Consolidator and Advanced Grants
• Upcoming Calls in 2021 and 2022
• Q&A
Key points:

• Similar structure to H2020

• ERC, MSCA and Infrastructures remain in a distinct excellence pillar called ‘Open Science’

• Industrial Leadership topics have been dispersed amongst Pillar 3 – Open Innovation and the ‘Digital and Industry’ Global Challenge

• Spreading excellence and some topics under H2020 Societal Challenge 6 moved to ‘transversal element’ called ‘Strengthening the European Research Area’

• 30% of spending to fight climate change
What is the European Research Council (ERC)?

The ERC's mission:

• encourage the highest quality research in Europe
• support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields
• fund projects purely on the basis of scientific excellence

What makes the ERC unique:

• Excellence is the only criteria
• Principal Investigator is given considerable freedom to play a central role
• Freedom to work with and fund team members from anywhere in the world
• Funding split based on number of applications, not field/discipline/topic

BOTTOM-UP, CURIOSITY-LED EXCELLENT RESEARCH
ERC Budget in Horizon Europe

26% increase in real terms compared to Horizon 2020.

Horizon Europe structure is represented below proportionate to budget allocation.

ERC BUDGET: €16 Billion
Horizon Europe budget – Pillar I ‘Excellent Science’

- European Research Council: 16.00 € bn
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: 6.60 € bn
- Research infrastructures: 2.41 € bn

* Amounts in € bn in current prices
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Scheme</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Additional Funding</th>
<th>PhD Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting Grant</td>
<td>€1.5M (+ €1M additional)</td>
<td>Lasts up to 5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidator Grant</td>
<td>€2M (+ €1M additional)</td>
<td>Lasts up to 5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Grant</td>
<td>€2.5M (+ €1M additional)</td>
<td>Lasts up to 5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synergy Grant</td>
<td>€10M (+ €4M additional)</td>
<td>Lasts up to 6 years with 2-4 PIs</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proof Of Concept Grant</td>
<td>€150k Lump Sum</td>
<td>Lasts for 1.5 years</td>
<td>Top-up grants for current ERC grantees</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ERC 2021 Calls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Type</th>
<th>Starting Grant</th>
<th>Consolidator Grant</th>
<th>Advanced Grant</th>
<th>Synergy Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call Type</td>
<td>ERC-2021-StG</td>
<td>ERC-2021-CoG</td>
<td>ERC-2021-AdG</td>
<td>No call in 2021 but…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call Opens</td>
<td>25/02/2021</td>
<td>11/03/2021</td>
<td>20/05/2021</td>
<td>2022 call is expected to open in late 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>08/04/2021</td>
<td>20/04/2021</td>
<td>31/08/2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned dates to inform applicants</td>
<td>26/08/2021</td>
<td>22/11/2021</td>
<td>28/01/2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20/12/2021</td>
<td>28/03/2022</td>
<td>13/05/2022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget €M (grants)</td>
<td>619 (413)</td>
<td>633 (317)</td>
<td>626 (250)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# ERC Panel Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Sciences &amp; Engineering</th>
<th>Life Sciences</th>
<th>Social Sciences &amp; Humanities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PE1 Mathematics</td>
<td>LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures &amp; Functions</td>
<td>SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter Particle</td>
<td>LS2 Integrative Biology: Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems</td>
<td>SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3 Condensed Matter Physics</td>
<td>LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology</td>
<td>SH3 The Social World and its Diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences</td>
<td>LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing</td>
<td>SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials</td>
<td>LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System</td>
<td>SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE6 Computer Science and Informatics</td>
<td>LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy</td>
<td>SH6 The Study of the Human Past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering</td>
<td>LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases</td>
<td>SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE8 Products and Processes Engineering</td>
<td>LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE9 Universe Sciences</td>
<td>LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE10 Earth System Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE11 Materials Engineering*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These two panels are new additions, they will be in place for the 2021 calls*
Eligible costs

- The ERC funds up to **100% of the total eligible costs**.
- The costs cover the full project duration.
- This includes the direct costs of the project plus a flat-rate contribution to **indirect costs calculated as 25% of the total eligible direct costs**.
- The budget is subdivided into:

  - **personnel costs**
  - **travel, equipment**
  - **consumables**
  - **publications (including any costs related to Open Access)**
  - **other additional direct costs**
  - **internally invoiced goods and services**
  - **in kind contributions not used on the premises**
  - **subcontracting costs**
Funded Projects by Domain

ERC StG, CoG & AdG Awards by Domain

Source: ERC statistics
Agenda:

• General overview of the ERC scheme
• Specificities of Consolidator and Advanced Grants
• Upcoming Calls in 2021 and 2022
• Q&A
ERC-2020-CoG Results in more detail

- 327 proposals selected for funding from a total of 2470 evaluated.
- 13.2% overall success rate, up from 12.4% in 2019.
- 39% success rate for proposals passed to Step 2 of Evaluation.

Breakdown by research domain:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Sciences and Engineering</th>
<th>Life Sciences</th>
<th>Social Sciences and Humanities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposals evaluated</td>
<td>1092</td>
<td>705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals selected</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Images of 2020 Consolidator Grantees sourced from the ERC website.
ERC-2020-AdG Results in more detail

- 209 proposals selected for funding from a total of 2678 evaluated.
- ~8% overall success rate
- 39% success rate for UK proposals passed to Step 2 of Evaluation

Breakdown by research domain:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Domain</th>
<th>Proposals evaluated</th>
<th>Proposals selected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Sciences and Engineering</td>
<td>1175</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Images of 2020 Advanced Grantees sourced from the [ERC website](https://erc.europa.eu)

Click here to see an interactive database of all ERC projects
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consolidator</td>
<td>Support for excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team or programme. Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.</td>
<td>Up to EUR 2 000 000 for a period of 5 years. Additional funding up to EUR 1 000 000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Grant</td>
<td>Support for excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements. Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.</td>
<td>Up to EUR 2 500 000 for a period of 5 years. Additional funding up to EUR 1 000 000.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of research funded

Proposals:
• can be in **ANY** field of research
• must be very **ambitious** in **risk** and in **scope**
• are based around a **central Principal Investigator**, who can be supported by “team members”

• are judged **only on the scientific excellence** of
  – the proposed project and
  – the Principal Investigator

• **Only be a PI on one ERC grant at a time**
Advanced & Consolidator Eligibility and PI Profiles

• A competitive **Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator** must have already shown research independence and evidence of maturity, for example by having produced several important publications as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor.

• Applicant Principal Investigators should also be able to demonstrate a **promising track record of early achievements** appropriate to their research field and career stage,

• ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigators are expected to be active researchers and to have a track record of significant research achievements in the **last 10 years** which must be presented in the application.
2021 Consolidator Grant Eligibility window

**Cut-off dates:**

PhD awarded from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013 (inclusive)

The date of the first PhD considered for the calculation of the eligibility period is the date of the actual award according to the national rules of the country where the degree was awarded.

Applicants should check with the awarding institution if there is any doubt on the date of actual award.
### Principal Investigator Eligibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Type</th>
<th>Minimum % of Working Time on Grant</th>
<th>Minimum % of time in EU Member State/Associated Country*</th>
<th>Years since PhD Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidator</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>7-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synergy</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Fieldwork/work abroad related to the ERC project does not count against time commitment

### Who?
- No restrictions based on age, nationality, current location or current employment/contract status.

### Where?
- Must have an institution based in an EU member state or associated country willing to host them.

Calculated as an average across entire project duration, can vary to a degree year on year
Principal Investigators leading Team Members

- PI leads the research project, they are not collaborating as equals with their team
- PI has the freedom to choose how many team members are included in the project
- PI names individuals or roles that will be recruited in the proposal
- PI must justify the team and its composition and contribution
- Evaluators reject proposals where the PI is overshadowed by any team members

- No one can be co-investigators
- Assigned to specific project outputs/tasks
- Should not have purely supervisory/mentor roles
- Can be research staff at any level (including technicians and project managers)
- Of any age, nationality or country of residence
- Can be based at the Host Institution or any other organisation in the world
- EU funded, even outside member states or associated countries
ERC Proposal Structure: 1 Step Submission for a 2 Step Process

Part A is filled in online, B1, B2 and Annexes are uploaded as PDFs. All submitted together at the call deadline.

**Part A**
Administrative Forms and Abstract
- General Info
- Participating Institutions
- Budget & Description of Resources
- Ethics Check

**Part B1**
Proposal Overview and PI Track Record
- Cover page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5 pages)
- CV (2 pages)
- Funding ID
- Track Record (2 pages)

**Part B2**
Detailed Research Proposal
- State of the art
- Objectives
- Methodology
(Total of 14 pages)

**Annexes**
Host Institution Letter, Ethics, Eligibility Documents
Proposal Evaluation Process

STEP 1 - Evaluation

Eligibility check

Independent, remote reviews by panel members
(of part B1 only)

Panel meetings and ranking

Proposals retained for Stage 2, or rejected

STEP 2 - Evaluation

Independent, remote reviews by panel members and other referees of full proposal (parts B1 and B2)

Interviews of PIs, panel meetings and ranking

Proposals selected

Ethics check
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome</th>
<th>2021 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is <em>not</em> eligible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2019 and 2020</strong>&lt;br&gt;Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or Synergy Grant</td>
<td>Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2019 Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant</strong></td>
<td>C at Step 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2020 Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant</strong></td>
<td>A, or B at Step 2  &lt;br&gt; B, or C at Step 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2020 Synergy Grant</strong></td>
<td>A, or B at Step 3  &lt;br&gt; B at Step 1 or Step 2  &lt;br&gt; C at Step 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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• Q&A
## ERC 2021 & 2022 Calls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Scheme</th>
<th>Starting</th>
<th>Consolidator</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
<th>Synergy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work Programme</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening</td>
<td>25/02/2021</td>
<td>11/03/2021</td>
<td>19/10/2021</td>
<td>20/05/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closure</td>
<td>08/04/2021</td>
<td>20/04/2021</td>
<td>17/03/2022</td>
<td>31/08/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget (€ millions)</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Scheme</th>
<th>Proof of Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work Programme</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening</td>
<td>25/02/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closure (multiple cut-off dates)</td>
<td>14/10/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget (€ millions)</td>
<td>619</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Further information and contact

- ERC website
- Horizon Europe Work Programmes 21-22
- UKRO website (including UKRO Portal)
- ERC Events and Webinars (including past recordings and upcoming)
- ERC-UK <erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk>