SUCCESS IN ERC: THE PRE-WRITING STAGE

ERC-2025-STG/COG

JUNE 25, 2024

Presentation by Stewe Bekk and Malte Beringer

In collaboration with scientifyRESEARCH research funding database

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BEKK RESEARCH SUPPORT

science point



Stewe Bekk, MSc
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ERC Grants Advisors and Trainers

ERC Proposal Review
ERC Interview Coaching
ERC Preparatory Seminars/Workshops



Malte Beringer, PhD
malte@sciencepoint.eu

Past work experience

- Research support positions for 12 years
- Coordinator of ICFO´s pre-award unit for 8 years

Past work experience

- PhD in biochemistry
- 15 years lab experience in molecular life sciences

Goals of the seminar

1.

Present essence of ERC StG/CoG: Ensure that your research idea and profile align with the call.

2.

Review submission process and evaluation criteria: Tailor your proposal to meet ERC standards.

3.

Address key challenges: Discuss common issues and how to overcome them.

What ERC grants are there?

Starting Grant
2-7 years after PhD
(extensions apply)

Consolidator Grant
7-12 years after PhD
(extensions apply)

Advanced Grant
No PhD restrictions

Synergy Grant
No PhD restrictions
for up to 6 years and 2-4 PIs

Proof of Concept
Only open to ERC grantees

What ERC grants are there?

Starting Grant
2-7 years after PhD
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Consolidator Grant
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Proof of Concept
Only open to ERC grantees

Call characteristics

StG



~~**WP 2024: Oct 24, 2023**~~

WP 2025: ***tba***

Up to **1.5** M€, 5 years

CoG



~~**WP 2024: Dec 12, 2023**~~

WP 2025: ***tba***

Up to **2** M€, 5 years

Up to additionally **1** M€ for:
(a) "start-up" costs for PIs moving to the EU/AC
(b) the purchase of major equipment
(c) access to large facilities
(d) other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs

Changes possible, confirm when WP 2025 is out!

Eligibility criteria

HOST INSTITUTION

The PI must be "engaged" by a host institution in EU MS or an AC (not necessarily currently employed)

NATIONALITY

Any nationality but must implement the project in EU MS or an AC (min 50% of working time)

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

StG: 2-7 years after PhD

WP 2025: (1 January 2018 - 31 December 2022)

CoG: 7-12 years after PhD

WP 2025: (1 January 2013 - 31 December 2017)

TIME COMMITMENT

At least 50% (StG), or 40% (CoG) of total time

EXTENSIONS

Maternity - 18 months for each child;
Paternity - documented time;
Some other cases (illness, clinical training, refugee)

OTHER ERC APPLICATIONS

Only the first eligible proposal will be evaluated if multiple proposals are submitted to the same Work Programme.

Changes possible, confirm when WP 2025 is out!

What is an ERC project?



Important scientific challenge



Unique, visionary approach



Step-change: A ‘before’ and an ‘after’



Feasibility: Not just a ´crazy idea´



Knowledge seeking/driven



Focus on *scientific* impact

☒ And what is NOT an ERC project?



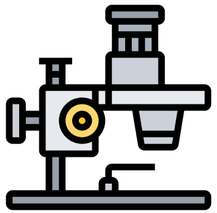
Incremental research:
Natural continuation



Unclear scientific motivation/
project trigger



Observational research



Pure technology development



Collaborative project



Not aligned with PI profile
and expertise

Application process & evaluation

SUBMISSION CONTENT
EVALUATION PROCESS
PANELS AND EXTERNAL EXPERTS

ERC StG/CoG calls
"Success in ERC"
Stewe Bekk , Malte Beringer

Submission content

PART B1

- Cover page (1 pg)
- Extended synopsis (5 pg)
- CV & Track-record (4 pg)

Changes since WP 2024

PART B2

Scientific proposal (14 pg)
- SoA & objectives
- Methodology

Table on current grants & applications

SUPP DOC

- HI support letter
- Supporting doc for ethics/security
- StG/CoG:
  - PhD certificate
  - Supporting doc for eligibility extensions

PART A

- Abstract
- Fix & free keywords (panel choice)
- Budget & budget description (8.000 chrs.)
- Time commitment, *etc.*

ERC Starting Grant 2024

Research proposal [Part B1][1]

(Part B1 is evaluated in Step 1 and Step 2, Part B2 is evaluated in Step 2 only)

Proposal Full Title

PROPOSAL ACRONYM

Cover Page:
- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- List the other PI's Host Institution for the project
- Proposal duration in months

Please delete all text highlighted in grey in this template.

Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1).

The abstract (summary) should, at a glance, provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved. The abstract will be used as the short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process and in communications to contact in particular potential independent external experts and/or to inform the Commission and/or the programme management committees and/or relevant national funding agencies. It must therefore be short and precise and should not contain confidential information.

Please use plain typed text, avoiding formulae and other special characters. The abstract must be written in English. There is a limit of 2000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

Explain and justify the cross-panel or cross domain nature of your proposal, if a secondary panel is indicated in the online proposal submission forms. There is a limit of 1000 characters, spaces and line breaks included.

Section a: *Extended Synopsis of the scientific proposal (max. 5 pages, references do not count towards the page limit)*

*[The Extended Synopsis should give a concise presentation of the scientific proposal, with particular attention to the ground-breaking nature of the research project, which will allow evaluation panels to assess, in Step 1 of the evaluation, the feasibility of the outlined scientific approach. Describe the proposed work in the context of the state of the art of the field. It is important that the extended synopsis contains minimum information relevant to the evaluation criteria, since the **Step 1 panel will have access only to part B1**. References to literature should also be included. Please use a reference style that is commonly used in your discipline such as American Chemical Society (ACS) style, American Medical Association (AMA) style, Modern Language Association (MLA) style, etc. and that allows the evaluators to easily retrieve each reference.]*

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margin sizes (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.

Section b: Curriculum vitae and Track Record (max. 4 pages)

[You may modify the below template if necessary.]

PERSONAL DETAILS

[Provide your personal details, your education and key qualifications, current position(s) and previous positions you have held.]

Family name, First name:
Researcher unique identifier(s) (such as ORCID, Research ID, etc. ...):
URL for web site:

- **Education and key qualifications**

DD/MM/YYYY PhD
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country
Name of PhD Supervisor
YYYY Master
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

- **Current position(s)**

YYYY - YYYY Current Position
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
YYYY – YYYY Current Position
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

- **Previous position(s)**

YYYY - YYYY Position held
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
YYYY - YYYY Position held
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND PEER RECOGNITION

Research achievements

[Provide a list of up to ten research outputs that demonstrate how you have advanced knowledge in your field with an emphasis on more recent achievements, such as publications, articles deposited in a publicly available preprint server, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, data sets, software, patents, licenses, standards, start-up businesses or any other research outputs you deem relevant in relation to your research field and your project.

You may include a short, factual explanation of the significance of the selected outputs, your role in producing each of them, and how they demonstrate your capacity to successfully carry out your proposed project.]

Peer recognition

[Provide a list of selected examples of significant recognition by your peers if applicable, such as prizes, awards, fellowships, elected academy memberships, invited presentations to major conferences or any other examples of significant recognition you deem relevant in relation to your research field and project.

You may include a short explanation of the significance of the listed examples.]

L INFORMATION

ide relevant additional information on your research career to provide context to the els when assessing your research achievements and peer recognition as described above.

, diverse career paths and major life events

de a short factual explanation of career breaks or diverse career paths such as secondments, art-time work, time spent in different sectors or the effects of major life events such as long well as the effects of pandemic restrictions on research productivity.]

Other contributions to the research community

[You may include a list of particularly noteworthy contributions to the research community you have made other than research achievements and peer recognition and a short explanation of these contributions. The purpose of this section is to allow the panels to take a more rounded view of your career and achievements and to ensure that any additional responsibilities, commitments and leadership roles that you have taken on beyond your individual research activities are recognized and taken into account.]

[(for more information see "Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2024 Calls")]

Do NOT split the sections and/or references in Part B1 and do NOT upload them as separate documents. The peer reviewers will only receive one single document for evaluation at Step 1. Hence, Part B1 should contain all elements as explained in this template. If some parts of Part B1 are uploaded in the submission system as separate attachments, the peer reviewers will not have access to them.

B1

ERC Starting Grant 2024

Part B2[1]

(not evaluated in Step 1)

Sections (a) and (b) of Part B2 should not exceed 14 pages. References do not count towards the page limits.

Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margins (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing. Do NOT split the sections, references and/or the appendix (Funding ID) and upload them as separate documents.

Section a. State-of-the-art and objectives

Section b. Methodology

Do NOT include any description of resources or budget table here (Part B2). The Resource the detailed budget table are part of the online submission form (Part A, Section 3 - Budget) extracted and provided to the peer reviewers.

[1] Instructions for completing Part B2 can be found in the '*Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2024 Calls*'.

Appendix: All current grants and on-going / submitted grant applications of the PI (Funding ID)

Mandatory information (does not count towards page limits)

Current research grants (Please indicate "No funding" when applicable):

Project Title	*Funding source*	*Amount (Euros)*	*Period*	*Role of the PI*	*Relation to current ERC proposal*[2]

On-going / submitted grant applications (Please indicate "None" when applicable):

Project Title	*Funding source*	*Amount (Euros)*	*Period*	*Role of the PI*	*Relation to current ERC proposal*[2]

[2] Describe clearly any scientific overlap between your ERC application and the current research grant or on-going grant application.

B2

2-step evaluation

Changes in WP 2024

Evaluation process

Step 1	**Remote evaluation** Part B1 **Panel members**	**Panel meetings** Selection of up to 44 proposals per panel for step 2 (scored A invited)	**Feedback** to applicants of rejected proposals (scored A not invited, B or C)
Step 2	**Remote evaluation** Parts B1, B2 and budget (part A) **Panel members External experts**	**Panel meetings and interviews** Decision on final outcome	**Feedback** to applicants of funded A, reserve A, unfunded A and rejected (B scored) proposals

2-step evaluation

Changes in WP 2024

Step 1

Remote evaluation
Part B1
Panel members

Panel meetings
Selection of up to 44 proposals per panel for step 2 (scored A invited)

Feedback to applicants of rejected proposals (scored A not invited, B or C)

Step 2

Remote evaluation
Parts B1, B2 and budget (part A)
Panel members
External experts

Panel meetings and interviews
Decision on final outcome

Feedback to applicants of funded A, reserve A, unfunded A and rejected (B scored) proposals

Evaluation process

2-step evaluation

Changes in WP 2024

Evaluation process

Step 1

Remote evaluation
Part B1
Panel members

Panel meetings
Selection of up to 44 proposals per panel for step 2 (scored A invited)

Feedback to applicants of rejected proposals (scored A not invited, B or C)

Step 2

Remote evaluation
Parts B1, B2 and budget (part A)
Panel members
External experts

Panel meetings and interviews
Decision on final outcome

Feedback to applicants of funded A, reserve A, unfunded A and rejected (B scored) proposals



PANEL MEMBERS

- "Generalist scientists"
- Serve bi-yearly (max 4 rounds)
- Review in steps 1 and 2
- 10-15 proposals
- Remote review + panel discussion



EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

- Experts on the topic
- Contracted ad hoc
- Only review in step 2
- Single proposal
- Remote review only

Evaluation panel structure (2024 calls)

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems
- LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration
- LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing
- LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System
- LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy
- LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases
- LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
- LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

Physical Sciences and Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- PE6 Computer Science and Informatics
- PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products and Processes Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science
- PE11 Materials Engineering

Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- SH3 The Social World and Its Interactions
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Texts and Concepts
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
- **SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts**

Panels

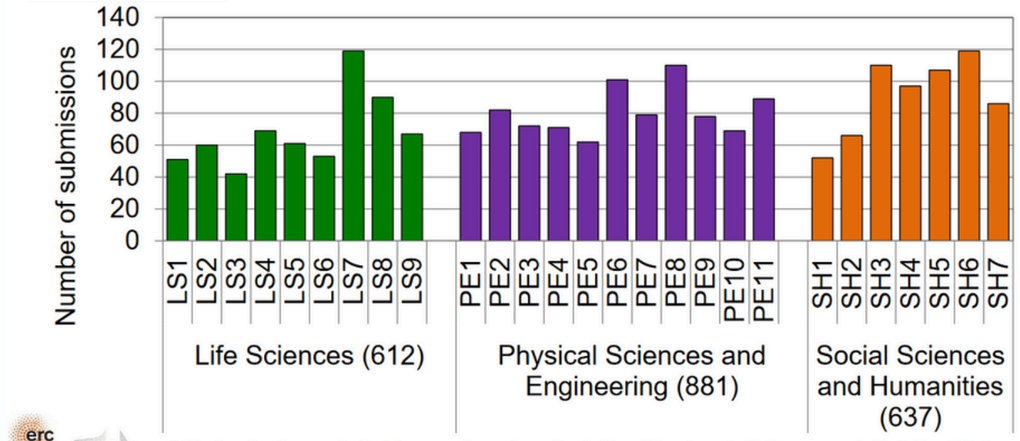
ERC-2023-CoG Statistics

	Submitted Proposals	Selected Proposals
Life Sciences	612	89
Physical Sciences and Engineering	881	129
Social Sciences and Humanities	637	90
Total	2130	308

Success rate ~ 14.5 %

ERC Consolidator Grant 2023

Submitted proposals* per panel (2130 submitted proposals in total)



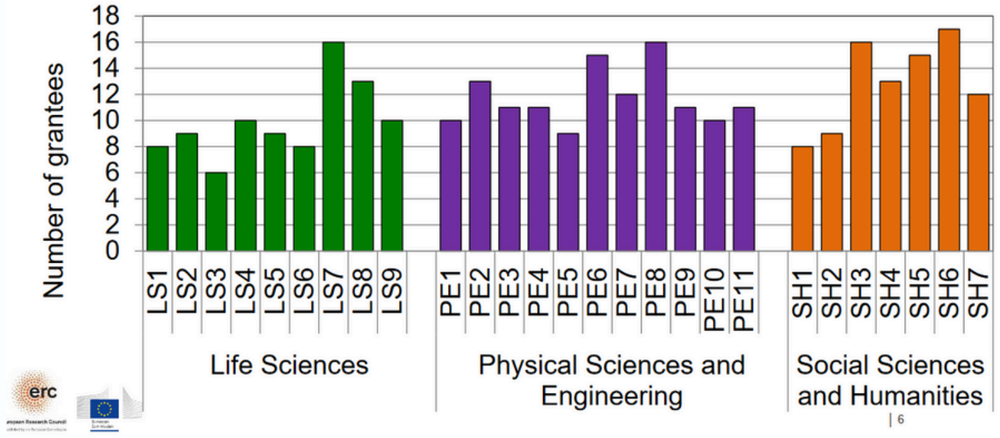
** After transfer of proposals: Certain proposals may be reallocated to a different panel with the agreement of both Panel Chairs concerned. This is done when necessary and solely due to the expertise required for the evaluation.*

ERC Consolidator 2023

Grantees by Panel

Total 308 grants

*NB: The budget allocated to each Panel is in proportion to the requested budget of the proposals allocated to the Panel in order to **ensure similar success rate across all Panels**. The difference in the number of funded PIs per Panel reflects the difference of submitted proposals to the Panel.*



ERC in numbers

Panels & keywords

PE3 Condensed Matter Physics

Structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences, biological physics

PE3_1 Structure of solids, material growth and characterisation
PE3_2 Mechanical and acoustical properties of condensed matter, lattice dynamics
PE3_3 Transport properties of condensed matter
PE3_4 Electronic properties of materials, surfaces, interfaces, nanostructures
PE3_5 Physical properties of semiconductors and insulators
PE3_6 Macroscopic quantum phenomena, e.g. superconductivity, superfluidity, quantum Hall effect
PE3_7 Spintronics
PE3_8 Magnetism and strongly correlated systems
PE3_9 Condensed matter – beam interactions (photons, electrons, etc.)
PE3_10 Nanophysics, e.g. nanoelectronics, nanophotonics, nanomagnetism, nanoelectromechanics
PE3_11 Mesoscopic quantum physics and solid-state quantum technologies
PE3_12 Molecular electronics
PE3_13 Structure and dynamics of disordered systems, e.g. soft matter (gels, colloids, liquid crystals), granular matter, liquids, glasses, defects
PE3_14 Fluid dynamics (physics)
PE3_15 Statistical physics: phase transitions, condensed matter systems, models of complex systems, interdisciplinary applications
PE3_16 Physics of biological systems

Determines primary and (if applicable) secondary panel

Each descriptor represents a research area. Must choose at least 1 and up to 4.

PE8 Products and Processes Engineering

Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods

PE8_1 Aerospace engineering
PE8_2 Chemical engineering, technical chemistry
PE8_3 Civil engineering, architecture, offshore construction, lightweight construction, geotechnics
PE8_4 Computational engineering
PE8_5 Fluid mechanics
PE8_6 Energy processes engineering
PE8_7 Mechanical engineering
PE8_8 Propulsion engineering, e.g. hydraulic, turbo, piston, hybrid engines
PE8_9 Production technology, process engineering
PE8_10 Manufacturing engineering and industrial design
PE8_11 Environmental engineering, e.g. sustainable design, waste and water treatment, recycling, regeneration or recovery of compounds, carbon capture & storage
PE8_12 Naval/marine engineering
PE8_13 Industrial bioengineering
PE8_14 Automotive and rail engineering; multi-/inter-modal transport engineering

Fictitious project: *"Nano-engineered Smart Materials for Enhanced Industrial Catalysis"*

Relevant descriptors

PE3 Condensed Matter Physics

Structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences, biological physics

PE3_1	Structure of solids, material growth and characterisation
PE3_2	Mechanical and acoustical properties of condensed matter, lattice dynamics
PE3_3	Transport properties of condensed matter
PE3_4	Electronic properties of materials, surfaces, interfaces, nanostructures
PE3_5	Physical properties of semiconductors and insulators
PE3_6	Macroscopic quantum phenomena, e.g. superconductivity, superfluidity, quantum Hall effect
PE3_7	Spintronics
PE3_8	Magnetism and strongly correlated systems
PE3_9	Condensed matter – beam interactions (photons, electrons, etc.)
PE3_10	Nanophysics, e.g. nanoelectronics, nanophotonics, nanomagnetism, nanoelectromechanics
PE3_11	Mesoscopic quantum physics and solid-state quantum technologies
PE3_12	Molecular electronics
PE3_13	Structure and dynamics of disordered systems, e.g. soft matter (gels, colloids, liquid crystals), granular matter, liquids, glasses, defects
PE3_14	Fluid dynamics (physics)
PE3_15	Statistical physics: phase transitions, condensed matter systems, models of complex systems, interdisciplinary applications
PE3_16	Physics of biological systems

PE8 Products and Processes Engineering

Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods

PE8_1	Aerospace engineering
PE8_2	Chemical engineering, technical chemistry
PE8_3	Civil engineering, architecture, offshore construction, lightweight construction, geotechnics
PE8_4	Computational engineering
PE8_5	Fluid mechanics
PE8_6	Energy processes engineering
PE8_7	Mechanical engineering
PE8_8	Propulsion engineering, e.g. hydraulic, turbo, piston, hybrid engines
PE8_9	Production technology, process engineering
PE8_10	Manufacturing engineering and industrial design
PE8_11	Environmental engineering, e.g. sustainable design, waste and water treatment, recycling, regeneration or recovery of compounds, carbon capture & storage
PE8_12	Naval/marine engineering
PE8_13	Industrial bioengineering
PE8_14	Automotive and rail engineering; multi-/inter-modal transport engineering

Fictitious project: *"Nano-engineered Smart Materials for Enhanced Industrial Catalysis"*

Panel compositions

PE3 Condensed Matter Physics

Structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences, biological physics

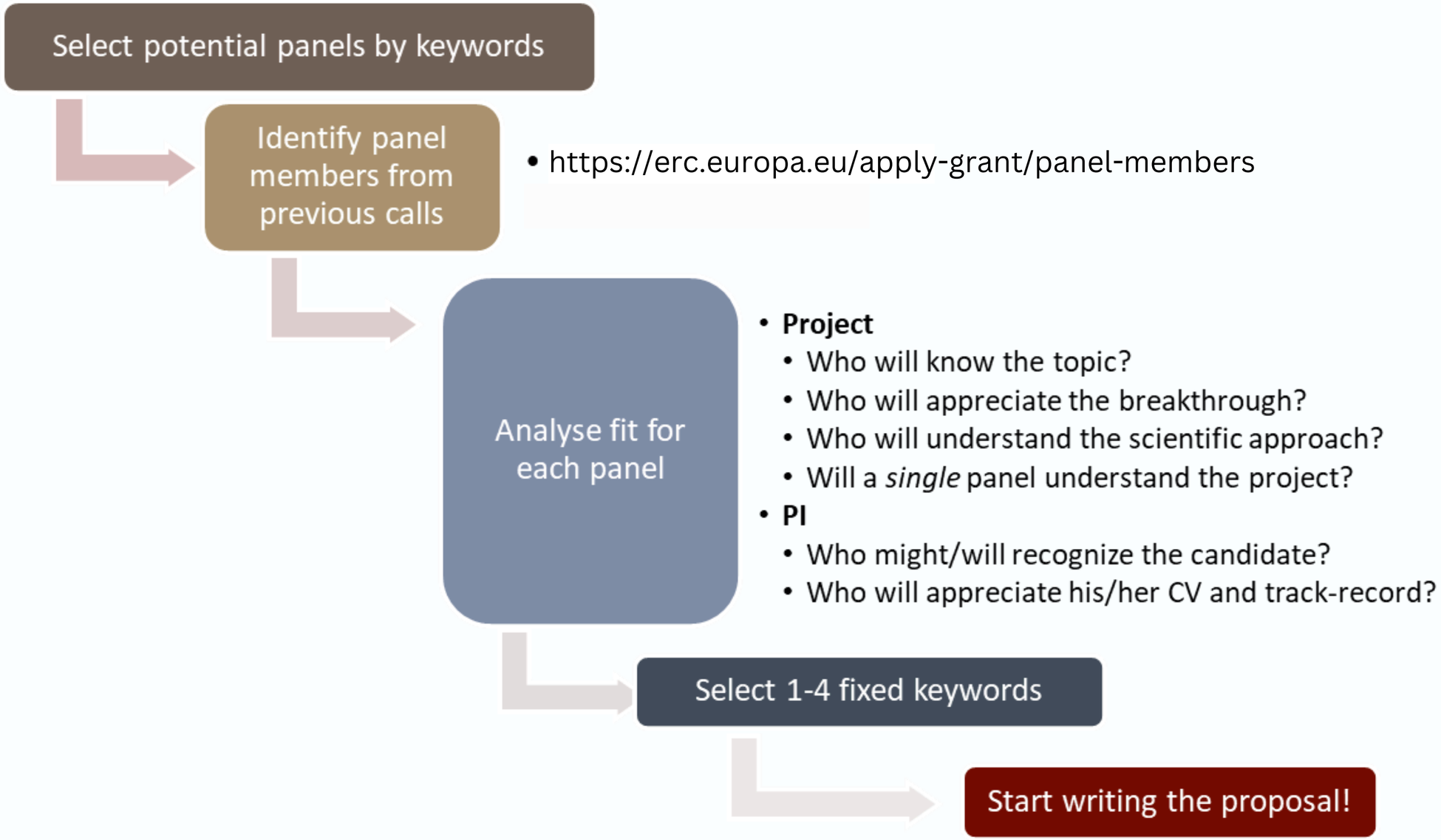
Member's Name	Position	Department/Institution
Cait MacPhee	Prof. of **Biological Physics**	School of Phys. & Astron., Univ. of Edinburgh (UK)
Eric Akkermans	Prof. of **Theoretical Physics**	Inst. for Theoretical Phys., Univ. of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
Lyderic Bocquet	Prof. of **Physics**	Lab of Phys. of Interfaces & Thin Films, EPFL (Switzerland)
Alberta Bonanni	Prof. of **Physics**	Phys. Dept., Sapienza Univ. of Rome (Italy)
Rachel Goldman	Prof. of **Physics**	Phys. Dept., Cornell Univ. (USA)
Bernhard Keimer	Prof. of **Physics**	Max Planck Inst. for Solid State Research, Stuttgart (Germany)
Saulius Marcinkevicius	Prof. of **Physics**	Ctr. for Phys. Sci. & Tech., Vilnius (Lithuania)
Theo Rasing	Prof. of **Experimental physics**	MESA+ Inst. for Nanotech., Univ. of Twente (Netherlands)
Francesco Ricci	Prof. of **Physics**	Phys., Chem. & Biol. Dept., Linköping Univ. (Sweden)
Sandro Scandolo	Prof. of **Physics**	Int. Centre for Theoret. Phys., Trieste (Italy)
Christian Schönenberger	Prof. of **Physics**	Phys. Dept., Univ. of Basel (Switzerland)
Jairo Sinova	Prof. of **Physics**	Phys. Dept., Johannes Gutenberg Univ. Mainz (Germany)

PE8 Products and Processes Engineering

Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods

Member's Name	Position	Department/Institution
Michael Graetzel	Prof. of Chem. & Physics	Lab of Photonics & Interfaces, EPFL (Switzerland)
Carlos Cesnik	Prof. of **Aero. Eng.**	Aero. Eng. Dept., Univ. of Michigan (USA)
Yordan Garbatov	Prof. of Mechanics	Inst. of Mechanics, Bulgarian Acad. of Sciences (Bulgaria)
Jesper Hattel	Prof. of **Mech. Eng.**	Mech. Eng. Dept., Tech. Univ. of Denmark (Denmark)
Christian Hellmich	Prof. of **Civil Eng.**	Inst. of Struct. Eng., Vienna Univ. of Tech. (Austria)
Dan Henningson	Prof. of Appl. Mechanics	Appl. Mechanics Dept., Chalmers Univ. of Tech. (Sweden)
Hrvoje Jasak	Prof. of Fluid Mechanics	Fluid Mech. Dept., Fac. of Mech. Eng. & Naval Arch., Univ. of Zagreb (Croatia)
Dragan Obradovic	Prof. of **Mech. Eng.**	Mech. Eng. Dept., KU Leuven (Belgium)
Siglinda Perathoner	Prof. of **Ind. Eng.**	Ind. Eng. Dept., Univ. of Padova (Italy)
Manuela T. Raimondi	Prof. of **Chem. Eng.**	Chem. Eng. Dept., Politecnico di Milano (Italy)
Nor A. Saidina Amin	Prof. of **Chem. Eng.**	Chem. Eng. Dept., Univ. Teknologi Malaysia (Malaysia)
Aldina Santiago	Prof. of **Mech. Eng.**	Mech. Eng. Dept., Instituto Superior Técnico, Univ. de Lisboa (Portugal)
Richard Stone	Prof. of **Chem. Eng.**	Chem. Eng. Dept., Imperial College London (UK)
Bengt Sundén	Prof. of **Mech. Eng.**	Mech. Eng. Dept., Lund Univ. (Sweden)
Sebastian Thiede	Prof. of **Eng. Thermodyn.**	Inst. of Eng. Thermodyn., TU Darmstadt (Germany)
Antonio Tricoli	Prof. of Mater. Sci. & Eng.	Mater. Sci. & Eng. Dept., Aalborg Univ. (Denmark)
Radek Zbořil	Prof. of Phys. Chem.	Phys. Chem. Dept., Palacký Univ. Olomouc (Czech Republic)

Panel and fixed keywords selection steps



Choice of panel

ERC panel member tool

Filters

Reset filters

Panel member name

Review panels

(LS) Life Sciences

- [ ] LS1
- [ ] LS2
- [ ] LS3
- [ ] LS4
- [ ] LS5
- [ ] LS6
- [ ] LS7
- [ ] LS8
- [ ] LS9

(PE) Physical Sciences & Engineering

- [x] PE1
- [ ] PE2
- [ ] PE3
- [ ] PE4
- [ ] PE5
- [ ] PE6
- [ ] PE7
- [ ] PE8
- [ ] PE9
- [ ] PE10
- [ ] PE11

(SH) Social Sciences & Humanities

- [ ] SH1
- [ ] SH2
- [ ] SH3
- [ ] SH4

StG ⊗ PE1 ⊗

Showing results 1 - 50 of 167

Export as XLS

Review panel	Funding schemes	Review panel member name	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
PE1	StG	Boris Adamczewski		■								
PE1	StG	Anton Alexeev		■		■		■		■		
PE1	StG	Habib Ammari					■		■		■	
PE1	StG	Adelchi Azzalini								■		
PE1	StG	Nicola Bellomo		■		■		■				
PE1	StG	Bo Berndtsson		■		■						
PE1	StG	Roman Bezrukavnikov						■		■		
PE1	StG	Stéphane Boucheron			■							
PE1	StG	Giuseppe Buttazzo				■		■		■		■
PE1	StG	Luigi Chierchia			■		■		■		■	
PE1	StG	Felipe Cucker		■		■		■				
PE1	StG	Michael Drmota						■		■		■
PE1	StG	Yakov Eliashberg			■		■		■			
PE1	StG	Olivier Dominique Faugeras							■		■	

erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/panel-members

Choice of panel

Evaluation criterion

SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE AND ITS MEANING

ERC StG/CoG calls
"Success in ERC"
Stewe Bekk , Malte Beringer

Scientific excellence

Evaluation of excellence at two levels:

THE RESEARCH PROJECT

- Ground-breaking nature
- Ambition
- Feasibility

THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity

Evaluation criteria

Scientific excellence

Evaluation of excellence at two levels:

THE RESEARCH PROJECT

- Ground-breaking nature
- Ambition
- Feasibility

THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity

Changes in evaluation questions in WP 2024

Evaluation criteria

Evaluation of project: Step 1

- To what extent does the proposed research address **important challenges?**
- To what extent are the objectives **ambitious** and beyond the SoA?
- ~~To what extent is the proposed research **high risk/high gain**?~~
- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible**?

Removed in WP 2024





additionally in Step 2

- To what extent are (i) the proposed **research methodology** and working arrangements appropriate, and ~~(ii) involve developing **novel methodology**~~?
- To what extent are the **timescales**, **resources** and **PI commitment** adequate?









Evaluation of project: Step 1

- To what extent does the proposed research address **important challenges?**
- To what extent are the objectives **ambitious** and beyond the SoA?
- ~~To what extent is the proposed research **high-risk/high-gain**?~~
- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible**?

Removed in WP 2024


part B1



additionally in Step 2

- To what extent are (i) the proposed **research methodology** and working arrangements appropriate, and ~~(ii) involve developing **novel methodology**~~?
- To what extent are the **timescales**, **resources** and **PI commitment** adequate?


part B1


parts B2 + A




External
Reviewers

Evaluation criteria

To what extent does the proposed research address **important challenges**?



Steps 1+2

Overall Topic

- Motivation & Relevance

Scientific Challenge

- Scientific question/problem?
- Limitations & barriers

Evaluation criteria



Steps 1+2

To what extent does the proposed research address **important challenges**?

Overall Topic

- Motivation & Relevance

Scientific Challenge

- Scientific question/problem?
- Limitations & barriers

Solution / vision

- Original & creative

Evaluation criteria

To what extent are the **objectives ambitious** and beyond the SoA (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?

Steps 1+2



Innovative & non-incremental



Very challenging but not impossible



Examine, Assess ,...
Devise, Develop, ...



Verifiable: Expected results

Evaluation criteria

To what extent are the **objectives ambitious** and beyond the SoA?

Solution / vision

Steps 1+2

Innovative & non-incremental

Very challenging but not impossible

What?

Examine, Assess ,...
Devise, Develop, ...

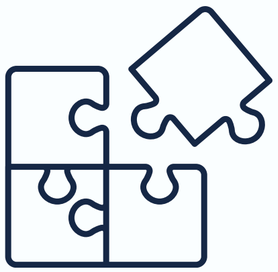
Verifiable: Expected results

Evaluation criteria

To what extent is the outlined **scientific approach feasible?**



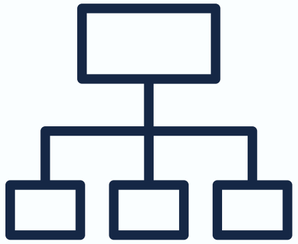
Steps 1+2



Rationale of concept and approach



Trigger, initial data, timeliness



Project design



Methods, disciplines, data

Evaluation criteria

- To what extent are (i) the proposed **research methodology** and working arrangements appropriate?
- To what extent are the **timescales**, **resources** and PI **commitment** adequate and properly justified?



Step 2

Research methodology

- Type of methods, technologies and models used, and why
- Inter-/multidisciplinarity
- Novelty in relation to SoA
- Ability to draw conclusions

Timescales, resources & commitment

- Plausible and coherent work plan
- Resources appropriate for the proposed activities
- Sufficient PI dedication

Scientific excellence

Evaluation of excellence at two levels:

THE RESEARCH PROJECT

- Ground-breaking nature
- Ambition
- Feasibility

THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity

Changes in evaluation questions since WP 2024

Evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria

- To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct (i) **ground-breaking research,** and provides evidence of (ii) **creative and original thinking**?

Steps 1+2

- ***Ground-breaking research:***
  - High *quality* of scientific achievements: citations, journals...etc.
  - PI positioned as a reference in the field
  - Track record of exceptional research achievements

- ***Ability and Leadership***
  - Main (senior) authorships
  - Stepping stones towards independence
  - Evidence of research independence / GL
  - Experience managing teams

StG



CoG



Evaluation criteria

Steps 1+2



- To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct (i) **ground-breaking research,** and provides evidence of (ii) **creative and original thinking**?

- ***Peer recognition / trust***
  - Grant & fellowships
  - (Leading) International collaborations
  - Commissions of trust: peer review, editorial boards, etc.



- International ***visibility***
  - Conferences, invited talks, etc
  - Organising important conferences; network



- ***Legacy*** *(removed from official questions)*

Evaluation criteria

- To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct (i) **ground-breaking research,** and provides evidence of (ii) **creative and original thinking**?

- ***Creativity and Originality***
  - Evidence for original research
  - New concepts / methodologies
  - New research directions in the past



Steps 1+2

StG



CoG



Evaluation criteria

Steps 1+2

- To what extend does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully **execute the project**?



ERC signatures

Challenge

What is the big question/problem?

Why is it important?

Is it timely?

Scientific Impact

What will be the main scientific legacy?

How does it inspire future research?



Breakthrough

What is the overall aim of the entire project?

And the main innovation, compared to the SoA?

Feasibility

What makes the project feasible & realistic?

Why are YOU the ideal researcher for this project?

Thank you!



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