The European Research Council

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La OFICINA EUROPEA

Objective
- Promote the participation and leadership of the Spanish R&I system in H2020.

Areas
- EXCELLENT SCIENCE: ERC, FET & MSCA
- SWAFS
- Challenge 6
- COST

Target group
- OPIs, Universities, public R&I centres
Contents

I. ERC basics

II. Starting, Consolidator & Advanced Grant

III. Synergy Grants

IV. Support services
I. ERC BASICS
European Research Council

- **Scientific excellence**: sole evaluation criteria (IP and project)
- **Bottom-up approach**: All fields
- **Individual projects (IP)**
- **Attractive funding**: [StG: 1.5 M€] [CoG: 2.0 M€] [AdG: 2.5 M€] 5 years
- **Portability of grants**
- **3rd countries incentives** (additional budget)
European Research Council

22 eminent scientists, covering all disciplines
President: JP Bourguignon
Three types of grants + PoC

+ SyG!

Starting Grants
starters
(2-7 years after PhD) up to € 2.0 Mio for 5 years
1st of JANUARY 2011

Consolidator Grants
consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD) up to € 2.75 Mio for 5 years
1st of JANUARY 2006

Advanced Grants
track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years up to € 3.5 Mio for 5 years

Proof-of-Concept
bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders
### Life Sciences

**LS1 Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry**
Molecular synthesis, modification and interaction, biochemistry, biophysics, structural biology, metabolism, signal transduction.

**LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology**
Molecular and population genetics, genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, bioinformatics, computational biology, biostatistics, biological modelling and simulation, systems biology, genetic epidemiology.

**LS3 Cellular and Developmental Biology**
Cell biology, cell physiology, signal transduction, organogenesis, developmental genetics, pattern formation in plants and animals, stem cell biology.

**LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology**
Organ physiology, pathophysiology, endocrinology, metabolism, ageing, tumorigenesis, cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome.

**LS5 Neurosciences and Neural Disorders**
Neurobiology, neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurochemistry, neuropharmacology, neuroimaging, systems neuroscience, neurological and psychiatric disorders.

**LS6 Immunity and Infection**
The immune system and related disorders, infectious agents and diseases, prevention and treatment of infection.

**LS7 Diagnostics, Therapies, Applied Medical Technology and Public Health**
Aetiology, diagnosis and treatment of disease, public health, epidemiology, pharmacology, clinical medicine, regenerative medicine, medical ethics.

**LS8 Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology**
Evolution, ecology, animal behaviour, population biology, biodiversity, biogeography, marine biology, microbial ecology.

**LS9 Applied Life Sciences and Non-Medical Biotechnology**
Applied plant and animal sciences; food sciences; forestry; industrial, environmental and non-medical biotechnologies, nanobiotechnology, bioengineering; synthetic and chemical biology; biomimetics; bioremediation.

### Social Sciences & Humanities

**SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations**
Economics, finance and management.

**SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment and Space**
Political science, law, sustainability science, geography, regional studies and planning.

**SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population**
Sociology, social psychology, demography, education, communication.

**SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity**
Cognitive science, psychology, linguistics, philosophy of mind.

**SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production**
Literature, philology, cultural studies, anthropology, study of the arts, philosophy.

**SH6 The Study of the Human Past**
Archaeology and history.

### Physical Sciences & Engineering

**PE1 Mathematics**
All areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of science, mathematical physics and statistics.

**PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter**
Particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics.

**PE3 Condensed Matter Physics**
Structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences, biophysics.

**PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences**
Analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics.

**PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials**
Materials synthesis, structure-properties relations, functional and advanced molecular architecture, organic chemistry.

**PE6 Computer Science and Informatics**
• 2/3 of the funds for StG & CoG.

• Target: equal success rate for StG & CoG
## WP2018 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Starting Grant</th>
<th>Consolidator Grant</th>
<th>Advanced Grant</th>
<th>Synergy Grant</th>
<th>Proof of Concept Grant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call Opens</strong></td>
<td>18/07/2017</td>
<td>24/10/2017</td>
<td>17/05/2018</td>
<td>19/07/2017</td>
<td>18/07/2017</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deadline or cut-off dates for PoC</strong></td>
<td>17/10/2017</td>
<td>15/02/2018</td>
<td>30/08/2018</td>
<td>14/11/2017</td>
<td>16/01/2018 18/04/2018 11/09/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Budget million EUR (estimated number of grants)</strong></td>
<td>583 (391)</td>
<td>553 (287)</td>
<td>452 (194)</td>
<td>250 (30)</td>
<td>20 (130)</td>
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Elegibility

• PhD certificate (StG & CoG).
  – Award date on the title: in case of doubt ask
  – Extensions:
    • Maternity: 18 months per child (irrespective of the maternity leave). Birth certificate / Libro de familia
    • Paternity, long-term illness, military service: actual leave taken (properly documented)
  – Medical Doctors
    • If not PhD: Have to proof “postdoc” track record ➔ MD+2
    • If PhD: first degree elegible
    • Clinical training: extension (clinical training after PhD)
• Host Institution Commitment Letter
• Complete and legible proposal: B1 + B2 (use templates!)

BEFORE the DEADLINE!
Host Institution

• HI must be located in an EU Member State or an Associated Country
• Hosts the PI for the duration of the project
• Is a legal entity: university, research center, business research unit, etc.
• Is committed to ensure that the PI may:
  o Apply for funding independently
  o Manage research and funding project
  o Publish independently as senior author
  o Have access to reasonable space and facilities
• Signs Grant Agreement
• Overhead: 25%
Restrictions on resubmissions

A Principal Investigator whose proposal was evaluated as category B at step 1 in the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals under Work Programme 2017 may **not** submit a proposal to the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2018.

A Principal Investigator whose proposal was evaluated as category C in the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals under Work Programmes 2016 or 2017 may **not** submit a proposal to the Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2018.

A Principal Investigator whose proposal was rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity in the calls for proposals under Work Programmes 2016 or 2017 may **not** submit a proposal to the calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2018.
THE EVALUATION PROCESS
What: the proposal

• Administrative information: on-line

• Proposal template:
  – B1: Extended Synopsis (5 pages) + CV + track record (4 pages)
  – B2: Scientific proposal (15 pages)

• Annexes:
  – PhD certificate (StG & CoG)
  – Host Institution Commitment Letter
  – If applicable: ethics, eligibility extension docs.
Submission of proposals

**PART A – online forms**
- A1 Proposal and PI info
- A2 Host Institution info
- A3 Budget

**PART B1 – submitted as .pdf**
- Extended Synopsis 5 p.
- CV 2 p.
- Track Record 2 p.

**Annexes – submitted as .pdf**
- Statement of support of HI
- If applicable: explanatory information on ethical issues; copy of PhD (StG, CoG); document for extension of eligibility window (StG, CoG)

**PART B2 – submitted as .pdf**
- Scientific Proposal 15 p.
How it goes: the evaluation process

STEP I: Part B1
- Panel Members (10-15 experts)
- Proposal remotely reviewed by 3-4 panel members
- Panel Meeting

STEP2: B1+B2
- Panel Meeting
- Final Meeting
- Interviews
- New revision by panel members + external referees

RANK

50%

25%

FINAL RANK

RANK

RANK
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 across disciplines)?
How much is the proposed research **high risk/high gain**?

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high gain/high risk** (based on Extended Synopsis)?
To what extent is the proposed research methodology appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on full Scientific Proposal)? **(FEASIBILITY)**
To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on full Scientific Proposal)? **(GROUNDBREAKING NATURE)**
To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on full Scientific Proposal)? **(FEASIBILITY)**
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 across disciplines)?
How much is the proposed research high risk/high gain?

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high gain/high risk (based on Extended Synopsis)?
To what extent is the proposed research methodology appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on full Scientific Proposal)? (FEASIBILITY)
To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on full Scientific Proposal)? (GROUNDBREAKING NATURE)
To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on full Scientific Proposal)? (FEASIBILITY)
**Principal Investigator**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Starting and Consolidator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intellectual capacity and creativity</strong></td>
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<td>To what extent has the PI demonstrated the <em>ability to propose and conduct groundbreaking research</em>?</td>
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<tr>
<td>To what extent does the PI provide evidence of <em>creative independent</em> thinking?</td>
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<tr>
<td>To what extent have the achievements of the PI <em>typically gone beyond the state of the art</em>?</td>
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<tr>
<th>Commitment</th>
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<tr>
<td>To what extent does the PI demonstrate the level of <em>commitment</em> to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 50% for Starting and 40% for Consolidator of the total working time on it and min 50% in an EU Member State or Associated Country) (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?</td>
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SYNERGY GRANTS
Synergy Grant – Objectives
2018 Work Programme text

ERC Synergy Grants are intended to enable minimum two to maximum four Principal Investigators and their teams to bring together complementary skills, knowledge, and resources in new ways, in order to jointly address ambitious research problems.

The aim is to promote substantial advances at the frontiers of knowledge, to cross-fertilize scientific fields, and to encourage new productive lines of enquiry and new methods and techniques, including unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between established disciplines. This should enable transformative research not only at the forefront of European science but also to become a benchmark on a global scale.

Applicants Principal Investigators must demonstrate the synergies, complementarities and added value that could lead to breakthroughs that would not be possible by the individual Principal Investigators working alone.
Groups applying for the ERC Synergy Grant must be made up of a minimum of two and a maximum of four Principal Investigators and, as necessary, their teams. One of the Principal Investigators must be designated as the Corresponding Principal Investigator.

Applications are expected from a group of innovative and active Principal Investigators and must present an early achievement track-record or a 10-year track-record whichever is most appropriate for their career stage (see Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant profiles above). There is little prospect of an application succeeding in the absence of such a record.

ERC Synergy Grants are designed to foster research at the intellectual frontiers. New types of joint effort may be needed that allow for new combinations of skills and disciplines, or the bringing together of researchers from different institutions, sectors or countries.
Restrictions that Scientific Council intends to apply

A Principal Investigator whose proposal was evaluated as **category B at step 1 or step 2** in the Synergy Grant call for proposals under Work Programme 2018 may **not** submit a proposal to the Synergy Grant calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2019.

A Principal Investigator whose proposal was evaluated as **category C at step 1** in the Synergy Grant call for proposals under Work Programme 2018 may **not** submit a proposal to any ERC research grant calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2019 or for the Synergy Grant call in 2020.

**All** Principal Investigators whose proposal was rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity in the Synergy Grant calls for proposals under Work Programme 2018 may **not** submit a proposal to the calls for proposals made under Work Programme 2019.
Design of the 2018 Synergy call

• Indicative budget foreseen for 2018: 250 M€
  – To select 25-30 projects
• 2 or 3 or 4 Principal Investigators
• No restrictions on location of PIs
  – PI can come from the same corridor in one HI, different HIs within one country, or from different countries (within EU or AC)
• Indicative call opening: 19 July 2017
• Indicative call closure: 14 November 2017
• More streamlined evaluation process
• Proposals to be evaluated between November 2017 and September 2018.
Design of a new Synergy call - continued

• PIs to be considered as equal, but a corresponding PI to be designated who will be the administrative contact for the duration of the project.

• Normal maximum budget of 10 M€ per grant
  – With additional 4 M€ more in case:
    a) "start-up' costs for Principal Investigators moving to the EU or AC and/or
    b) the purchase of major equipment and/or
    c) access to large facilities

• Time commitment: ≥50% of working time in EU or AC and ≥30% of working time on the ERC project
Take home messages

• ERC foresees to be a highly competitive call
  – only exceptional proposals are likely to be funded that will demonstrate that the truly ambitious research questions could lead to breakthroughs only through the joint effort of the complementary and synergistic group of PIs.

• ‘Synergy’ is not simply a successful collaboration
  – The interaction would yield something more than just the sum of the individual parts.
  – To yield possibly either unforeseen, completely new science, to cross fertilize disciplines or to solve important research problems that until now could not be dreamt of solving.

• Tough future restrictions on submissions planned
  – applicants to think twice before applying: PIs evaluated with a C score in 2018 will not be able to apply to any ERC call in 2019.
SyG 2018 evaluation process

**Step 1**
- Single panel
  - ≤~700 proposals
- Remote evaluation of short proposals
  - SyG PMs + PEVs (PMs of other calls)
- SyG panel chairs meet: preselect proposals for full review
  - No of proposals: 130-170, up to ~7x call budget

**Step 2**
- 5 panels dynamically formed
  - ~130-170 proposals
- Remote evaluation of full proposals
  - SyG PMs + external specialized reviewers
- Panels meet: preselect proposals for interview
  - No of proposals: ~60, up ~3x call budget

**Step 3**
- max 5 interview panels dynamically formed
  - ~60 proposals
- PMs reassess the retained proposals
  - based on step 2 reports + interviews
  - Interviews: all PIs of all proposals in step 3 to be present in Brussels
- Panels rank the fundable proposals
  - ~30 proposals
NCP SUPPORT SERVICES
Pre-screening of proposals: What is it?

  - Who? Any eligible PI applying to StG or CoG
  - Evaluators are expert scientists, but not in the same field. Confidentiality agreement signed.
- Proposal sent through the HI project office at [revisiones.erc@oficinaeuropea.es](mailto:revisiones.erc@oficinaeuropea.es) before a specific deadline (set by us)

No es una revisión científica en estricto sentido, sino una valoración de la propuesta que busca mejorar su estructura, claridad y atractivo.
Mock interviews

• Expression of interest from the candidates needed (we don’t know!)
• Common session + Q&A
• Individual mock interview (same conditions than the real one + 5 min of discussion)
• Panel=panel member +grantee

Supone un esfuerzo de dedicación por parte de los evaluadores y grantees que nos ayudan y que hacen una gran labor
National Contact Points

• Lucía del Río, ISCIII, lrio@eu-isciii.es
• Esther Rodríguez, Oficina Europea (FECYT-MEIC), esther.rodriguez@oficinaeuropa.es
• National Representative: Jose Luis García (CSIC) jluis.garcia@mineco.es
Más info
#Choose the right panel
ERC PI profile & Panel choice

ERC FUNDED PROJECTS

The ERC operates according to a “curiosity-driven”, or “bottom-up”, approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. Accordingly the portfolio ERC funded projects spans a wide range of topics and research questions.

Since 2007, more than 7,000 projects have been selected to receive ERC funding throughout the EU Member States and the associated countries. The ERC has received over 65,000 project proposals for its calls.

Use the search facility to quickly and easily find examples of ERC funded projects.

HOW CAN YOU SEARCH?

Projects can be filtered according to funding scheme, call year and/or country of host institution.
You can also use the search box and enter free text words, for instance names of universities or principal investigators.

WHERE DOES THE DATA COME FROM?

Information displayed is automatically updated through the information available on the CORDIS platform and can partially be exported in PDF format.
Only funded projects, whose grant agreements have been signed, appear in this section.

Please note that the structure and descriptions of ERC panels have changed over the
ERC PI profile & Panel choice

How I got my ERC grant - Dr Agnes Melinda Kovács.

Are you a talented early-career scientist who has already produced excellent supervised work, is ready to work independently and shows potential to be a research leader? The ERC Starting Grant could be for you.

Who can apply?

Researchers of any nationality with 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD (Extensions are possible under certain circumstances – see the latest ERC Work Programme), a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal.

What proposals are eligible?

Criteria
Applications can be made in any field of research. The ERC’s grants operate on a ‘bottom-up’ basis without predetermined priorities.

Location
Research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution). It could be the HI where the applicant already works, or any other HI located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries.

Host Institution
Applications for an ERC grant must be submitted by a principal investigator (PI) in conjunction with and on behalf of their Host Institution, called the applicant legal
#Start early
• Success rates are higher for reapplicants (20% vs 12% in StG2016)
• Restrictions on resubmissions:
  • B at Step 1: 1 year
  • C at Step 1: 2 years
Writing a good proposal takes time

EN

ERC Work Programme 2015

Minimum profile
Evaluation questions!
Evaluation process
Panel description

European Research Council
Established by the European Commission
(European Commission C(2014)5905 of 22 July 2014)

ERC Frontier Research Grants
Information for applicants to the
Starting and Consolidator Grant 2015 Calls
7. October 2014

This document is published by the ERC Scientific Council on http://erc.europa.eu. It can also be downloaded from the Research and Innovation Participant Portal on http://erc.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/
#Ask for help
Impact of the programme in Spain

DATA & STATS
Funding & Researchers

~400 ERC projects (73% for StG & CoG)

650 mill. €

New generation of researchers: +2500 jobs

70% of ERC PIs have been previously awarded with a Ramón y Cajal grant
Open & international environment

93 ERC PIs in Spain are non-Spaniards

Almost 50% of ERC PIs are hosted by Severo Ochoa Centres & Maria de Maeztu Units
H2020: Positive trends

Better share (7.3% UE28*)

Improved success rate (7.7%)

Incentives: Europa Excelencia

*Provisional data CDTI Database, Feb2017
Impact & Visibility

+ 60 projects to explore the commercial viability of ERC results (Proof of Concept)

Spain among top countries in ERC visibility