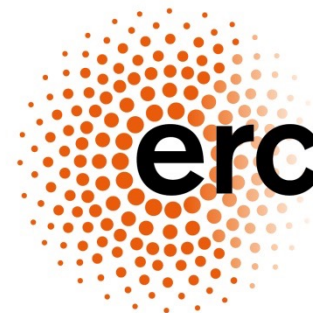


The European Research Council

An Introduction to the ERC

Benjamin Pelletier
Scientific Officer panels SH1 - SH2
30/09/2021

**Webinar Series 2021 Euraxess
ASEAN countries and India**



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

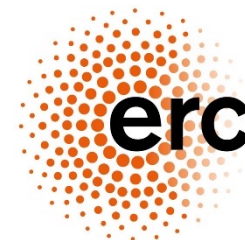
European Commission and ERC



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Directorate-General
Research and
Innovation (RTD)



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC is....

1. Funding: it is part of Horizon Europe



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



EUR 16 billion
ERC budget in Horizon Europe



17%
of the entire
Horizon Europe budget

ERC is....

2. The Scientific Council



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission



Prof. Maria
LEPTIN
(Biology)
ERC President (From 1/11/2021)



Prof. Eveline
CRONE
(Psychology)
Vice-President



Prof. Andrzej
JAJSZCZYK
(Electronics and Communication Engineering)
Vice-President



Prof. Nektarios
TAVERNARAKIS
(Molecular Systems Biology)
Vice-President



Prof. Geneviève
ALMOUZNI
(Biology)



Prof. Manuel
ARELLANO
(Economics)



Prof. Paola
BOVOLENTA
(Neurobiology)



Prof. Margaret
BUCKINGHAM
(Biology)



Prof. Ben
FERINGA
(Organic Chemistry)



Prof. Mercedes
GARCÍA-ARENAL
(History)



Prof. Gerd
GIGERENZER
(Psychology)



Prof. Liselotte
HOJGAARD
(Medicine)



Prof. Dirk
INZÉ
(Plant Biology)



Prof. Eystein
JANSEN
(Earth Science)



Prof. Michael
KRAMER
(Astrophysics)



Prof. Rodrigo
MARTINS
(Materials, Nanotechnologies, Electronics)



Prof. Kurt
MEHLHORN
(Computer Science)



Prof. Barbara
ROMANOWICZ
(Geophysics)



Prof. Nicola
SPALDIN
(Materials Theory)



Prof. Jesper
SVEJSTRUP
(Biology)



Prof. Alice
VALKÁROVÁ
(Physics)



Prof. Milena
ŽIC FUCHS
(Linguistics)

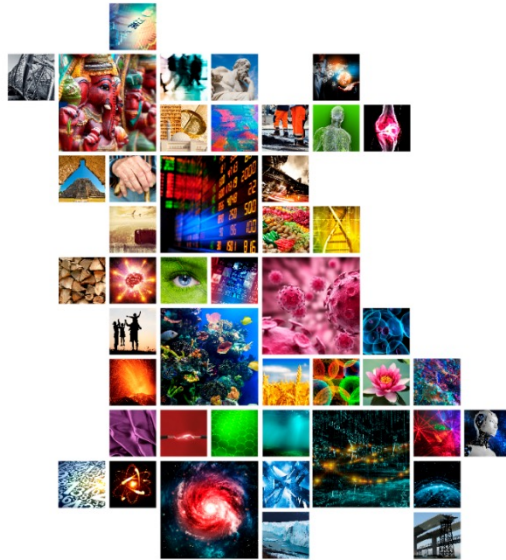
ERC is....

3. The ERCEA



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission





European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

LONG TERM GRANTS

TO HIGH-RISK/HIGH-GAIN PIONEERING PROJECTS
IN ANY FIELD OF FRONTIER RESEARCH



Life Sciences



Physical Sciences and Engineering



Social Sciences and Humanities



Starting Grant

Size of the grant: up to €1.5 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
2-7 years of experience since completion of their PhD



Consolidator Grant

Size of the grant: up to €2 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
7-12 years of experience since completion of their PhD



Advanced Grant

Size of the grant: up to €2.5 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
An excellent scientific track record of recognized achievements in the last 10 years



Synergy grant

Size of the grant: €10 million + up to €4 million

Duration: up to 6 years

Be composed of 2 to 4 researchers and their research groups
(one researcher can be based outside EU/AC)



Proof of Concept

Size of the grant: €150 000

Duration: up to 18 months

Demonstrate that the idea funded by the original ERC grant
has innovation potential and significant economic or
societal benefits

PIs from all over the World Can Apply to ERC



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Opportunities for non ERA* researchers:

- Additional “start-up” funding for researchers moving to Europe (1 M€ irrespective of call scheme)
- Grantee can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe (“significant part” of work time in Europe, at least 50%)
- Team members can be based outside Europe
- Grantee can move within Europe with the grant

*

ERA = European Research Area (EU + Associated Countries)

ERC in figures



>12,000

Total projects funded by
ERC since 2007



85

Nationalities
(ERC grantees)



35

EU and Associated
Countries hosting ERC
projects



8,456

proposals submitted in 2020
to ERC core schemes



>45,000

External reviewers in 2014-
2020 calls



>150,000

publications reported
by ERC projects



>1,300

prestigious prizes
awarded to
ERC grantees



>80,000

researchers and other
professionals
hired in ERC teams



>4,000

Panel members in 2014-2020 calls



+2%

increase in submissions
compared to 2019

2021 Call Calendar



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

ERC calls	Call Opening	Submission Deadline
Starting Grants ERC-2022-StG	23/09/2021	13/01/2022
Consolidator Grants ERC-2022-CoG	19/10/2021	17/03/2022
Advanced Grants ERC-2022-AdG	20/01/2022	28/04/2022
Synergy Grants ERC-2022-SyG	15/07/2021	10/11/2021
Proof of Concept ERC-2022-PoC1 ERC-2022-PoC2	15/07/2021 16/11/2021	14/10/2021 15/02/2022, 19/05/2022, 29/09/2022

ERC Panel structure



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Life Sciences (LS)

- **LS1** Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- **LS2** Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems
- **LS3** Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- **LS4** Physiology in Health, Disease and Aging
- **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

- 3 Domains / 27 Panels
- Operated by the Scientific Department B

Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

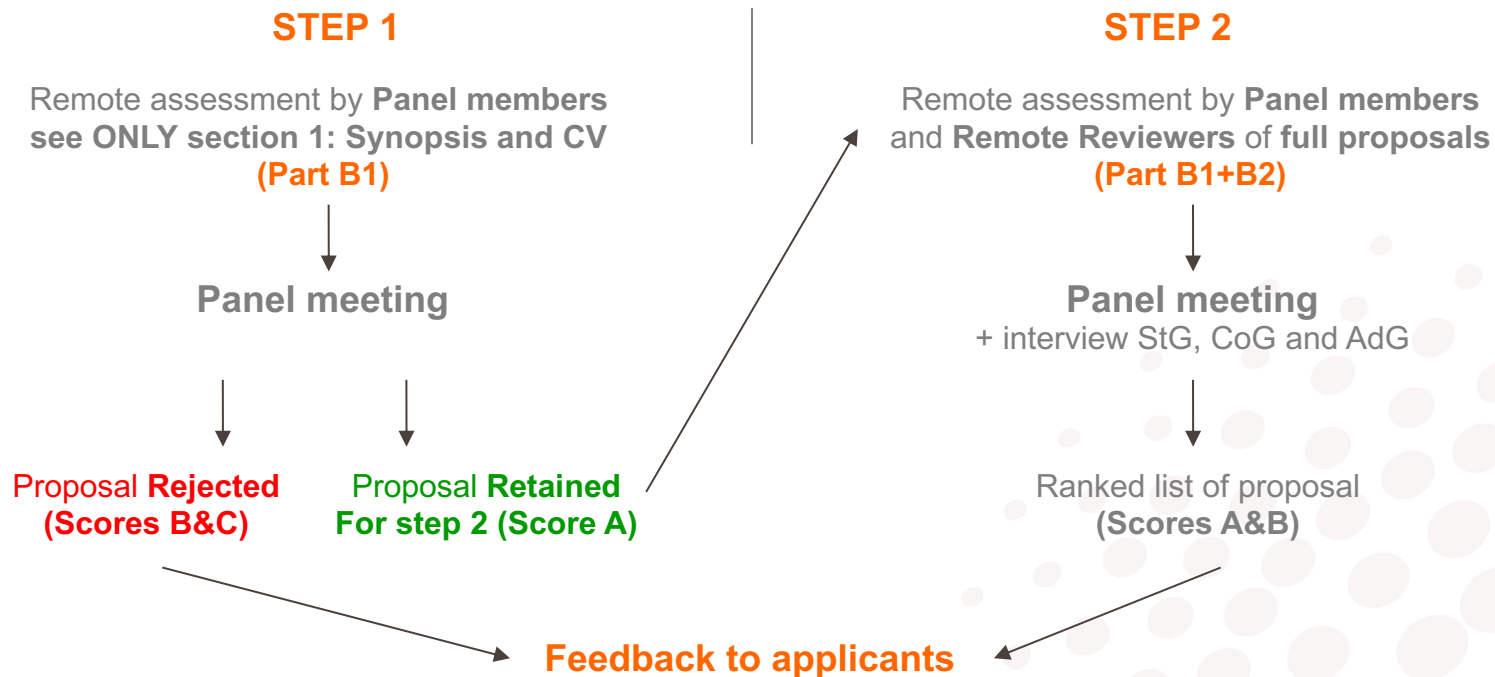
- **SH1** Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- **SH2** Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- **SH3** The Social World and Its Diversity
- **SH4** The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- **SH5** Cultures and Cultural Production
- **SH6** The Study of the Human Past
- **SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space**

Physical Sciences & Engineering (PSE)

- **PE1** Mathematics
- **PE2** Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- **PE3** Condensed Matter Physics
- **PE4** Physical & 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**

How are the ERC proposals evaluated

For individuals calls: a single submission but a two step evaluation



Contrary to what you may think



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

- ERC funds "frontier research", including applied research.
- The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand.
- The panel descriptors do not represent ERC scientific priorities.
- The success rate is virtually flat across the eligibility window (StG, CoG).
- Publication record is not decisive in selection decisions.
- The Host Institution is not an evaluation criterion.





Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Potential impact
- Scientific Approach

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment

Some rumours



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Rumour 1: You can only apply for an ERC grant if you are a highly accomplished scientist.

✘ **NOT true:** Accomplishments are appreciated in relation to your stage/seniority as giving some evidence of your capacity to conduct the research you propose and of creativity within the past 10-12 years of your career.

Rumour 2: To be successful, you need to continue on an established research line, to prove continuity and credibility

✘ **NOT true:** Generally, the opposite is true.

Rumour 3: If you have already obtained an ERC grant you are less/more likely to get another one.

✘ **NOT true:** Panels look at each proposal on its own merit and in comparison with the other applications, irrespectively of whether you have or have not obtained an ERC grant in the past. (Of course this does not apply for applications to a Proof of Concept grant.)

Rumour 4: The more socially or medically relevant a grant proposal is, the higher the chances of it getting funded.

✘ **NOT true:** ERC funds frontier research, not research that promises to be only an incremental advancement of knowledge. This is irrespectively of the field and whether it has societal, medical or clinical applications.

Particular emphasis on...



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Frontier of science, scholarship and engineering, i.e.

- Multi- or interdisciplinary proposals which cross boundaries between different fields of research, **or**
- Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research, **or**
- Proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions.

Some ERC research projects



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

The Cambodian Archaeological Lidar Initiative: Exploring Resilience in the Engineered Landscapes of Early SE Asia

PI: Damian Evans | **CALI**

Host Institution: French School of Asian Studies (EFEO)

Project Nr: 639828

Keywords: lidar; remote sensing; water management; palaeoenvironment; urbanism; resilience; Angkor; Southeast Asia



Tropical forests and climate change: understanding links to predict future responses

PI: Pieter Alle Zuidema | **TROFOCLIM**

Host Institution: Wageningen University

Project Nr: 242955

Keywords: Climate change; Tropical forests; Tree ring analysis; Stable isotope analysis; Tree demography



Novel Algorithmic Techniques through the Lens of Combinatorics

PI: Parinya Chalermsook | **ALGOCom**

Host Institution: Aalto University

Project Nr: 759557

Keywords: Approximation Algorithms, Hardness of Approximation, Data Structures, Online Algorithms, Combinatorial Optimization.



Cardiovascular Health effects of Air pollution in Andhra Pradesh, India

PI: Cathryn Tonne | **CHAI**

Host Institution: Institute for Global Health Barcelona

Project Nr: 336167

Keywords: air pollution, exposure sciences, cohort study, India



Where can you find more information?



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



Videos - ERC Classes

- What to consider before applying
- How to fill in the application
(Part B1 and B2)
- The interview
- How the evaluation works

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_bFbzkVWgCU&list=PLtv6FnsXqnXA_YRk6HCErwMxwML0ZKoMcy

Where can you find more information?



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Our website:

erc.europa.eu

Our social media channels:



National Contact Points (NCP):

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/national-contact-points>

Funding & Tender Opportunities:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>