

# The European Research Council

An Introduction to the ERC  
Webinar North America  
07 November 2021

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Scientific Officer  
ERC Executive Agency



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# ERC is....

## 1. Funding: it is part of Horizon Europe



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Directorate-General  
Research and  
Innovation (RTD)



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EUR 16 billion  
ERC budget in Horizon  
Europe



17%  
of the entire  
Horizon Europe budget

# ERC is....

## 2. The Scientific Council



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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)

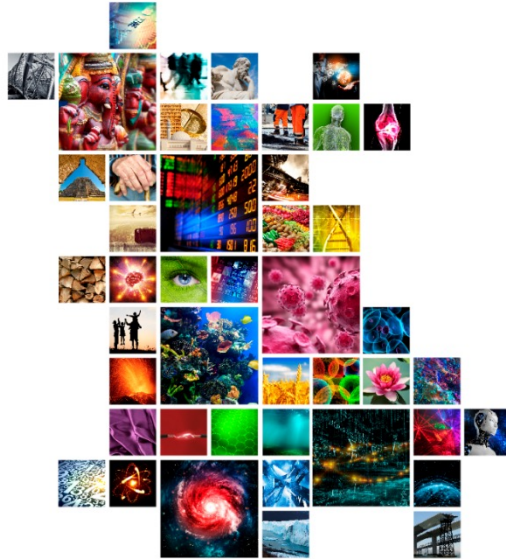
# ERC is....

## 3. The ERCEA



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INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS  
FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD  
**LONG TERM  
GRANTS**

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



# Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion!



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## PAN-EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS

NO THEMATIC PRIORITIES  
NO CONSORTIA  
NO CO-FINANCING



OPEN TO  
**EXCELLENT**  
& **INDEPENDENT**  
RESEARCHERS

REGARDLESS  
**NATIONALITY**  
**AGE & GENDER**

# ERC in figures



**>12,000**

Total projects funded by  
ERC since 2007



**85**

Nationalities  
(ERC grantees)



**35**

EU and Associated  
Countries hosting ERC  
projects



**>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

# ERC funding schemes: individual grants

apply with a HI in EU member states or associated country



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**ERC**  
STARTING  
GRANT



1.5 M



COMPLETED YOUR PHD  
2 TO 7 YEARS BEFORE



ONE IMPORTANT PUBLICATION  
SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL IN  
YOUR FIELD

**ERC**  
CONSOLIDATOR  
GRANT



2 M



PHD AWARDED  
7 TO 12 YEARS BEFORE



A CV AND TRACK-RECORD  
INDEPENDENCE AND  
RESEARCH MATURITY



SEVERAL IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS  
SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS IN  
YOUR FIELD

**ERC**  
ADVANCED  
GRANT



2.5 M



UP TO 10 YEARS EXCELLENT  
SCIENTIFIC  
TRACK-RECORD

## Reasons for additional funds (up to 1Meuro)

- ✓ Start-up costs for moving to Europe
- ✓ Access to large facilities
- ✓ Major equipment
- ✓ Field trip





# ERC funding schemes (collaborative grant): apply from a HI in EU or anywhere else in the world



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## Synergy grant

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

Duration: up to 6 years

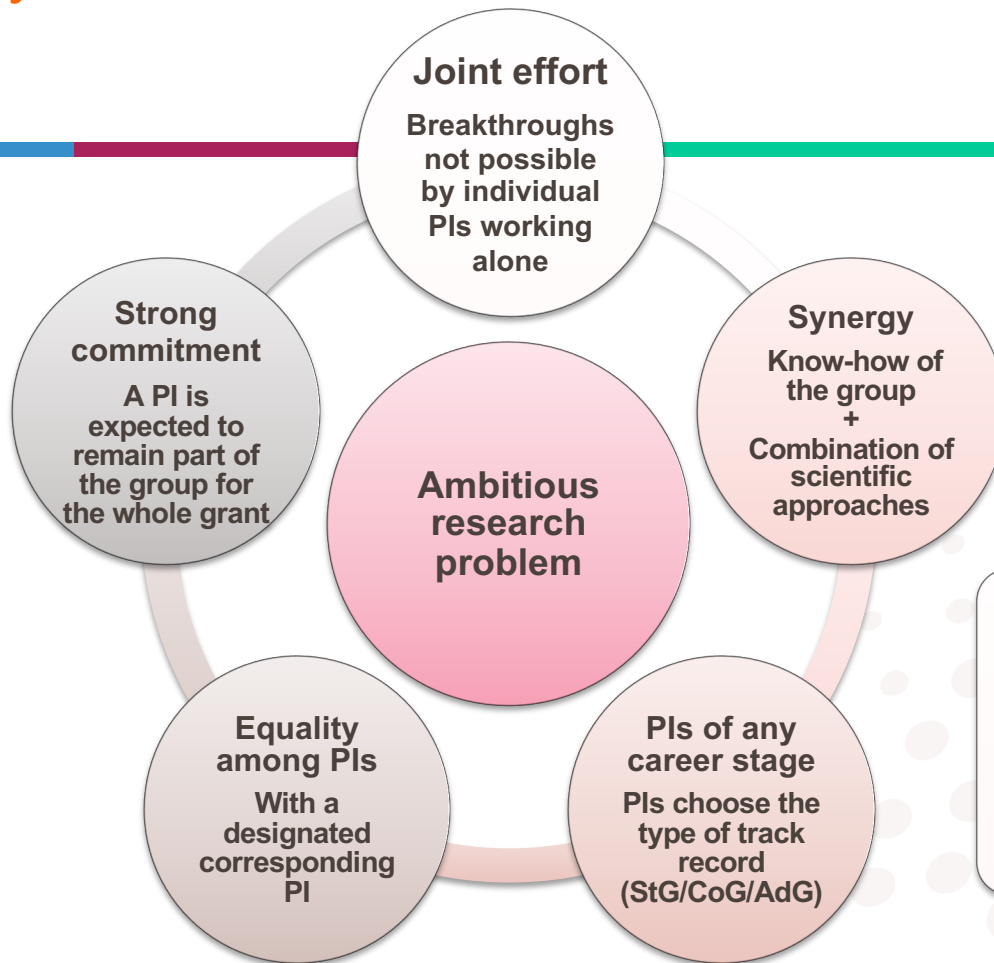
Be composed of **2 to 4 researchers** and their research groups  
(**one researcher can be based outside EU/AC**)



# ERC Synergy Grant features



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**SyG2022:**  
**Deadline 10 November 2021**  
**Call Budget: 297 M€ (~30 grants to be funded)**

# Preparing your proposal: Get the information!



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- ✓ **Register early**, get familiar with the European Commission's Participant Portal system, download the templates and start filling in the forms  
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>
- ✓ Use the **help tools and call documents** (**Information for Applicants**, Work Programme, Frequently Asked Questions) to prepare your proposal
  - Read the guidelines carefully!
  - **Find out about the formatting rules and page limits to respect!**
- ✓ **Talk to your Host Institution's grant office and other ERC grantees**

# Preparing your proposal

## For Starting/Consolidator Grants, make sure you are eligible!



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### Eligibility window measured from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the year of the Call

**Extensions of eligibility window possible** for StG and CoG for documented cases of:

- Maternity – 18 months per child (**before or after PhD**)
- Paternity – actual time taken off
- Medical specialty training
- Caring for seriously ill family members
- Military service

**No limit to the total extension**

# Preparing your proposal

## Familiarise yourself with the ERC panel structure

### 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**

# Contrary to what you may think

- 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

# Evaluation procedure and scoring system

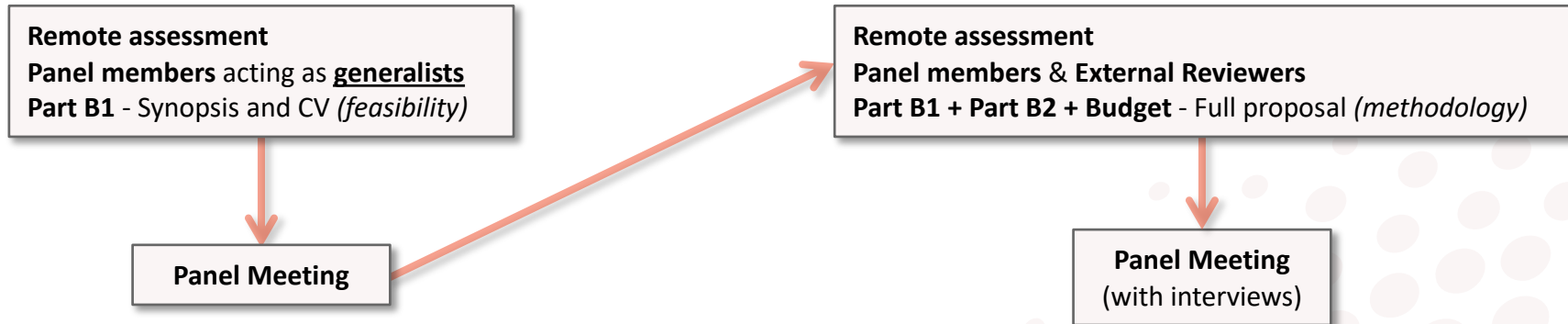
## ERC Evaluation procedure



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### STEP 1

### STEP 2



- A** The proposal is of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation
- B** The proposal is of high quality but not sufficient to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation
- C** The proposal is not of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation

**Feedback to applicants**



# Where can you find more information?



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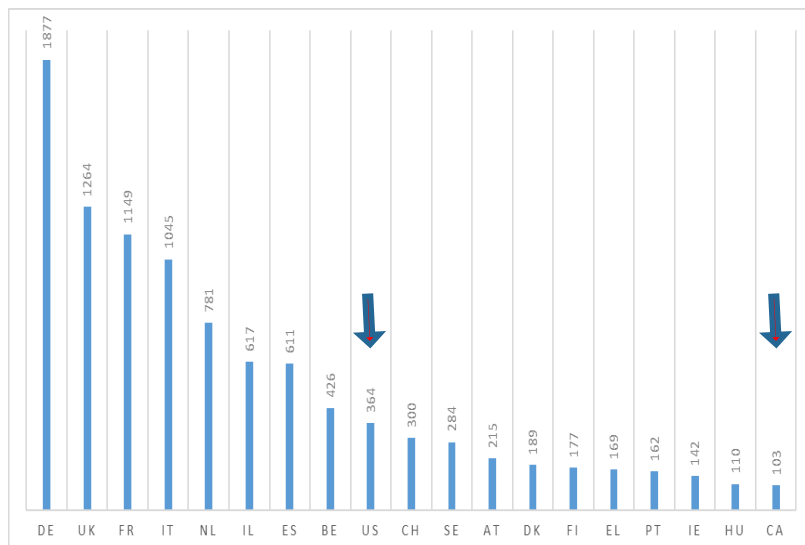
## Videos - ERC Classes

- 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>

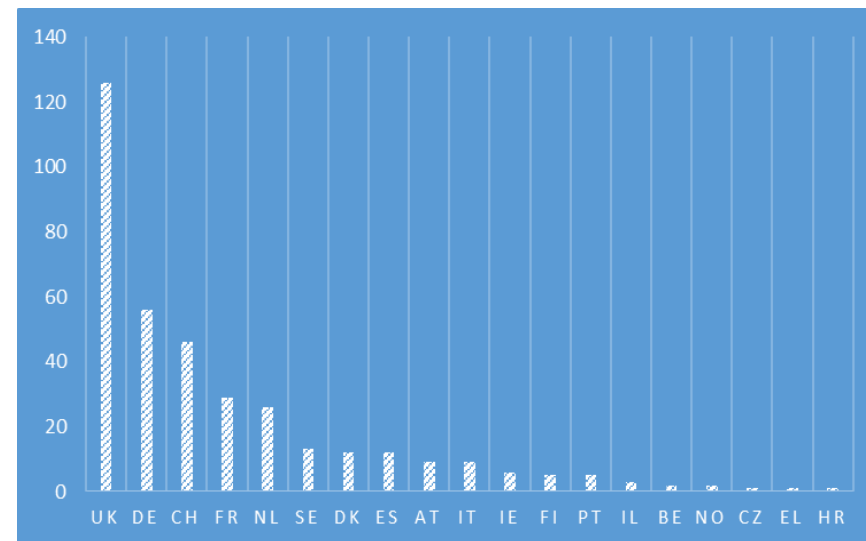
# ERC in figures: North America

Prevailing nationalities of ERC grantees \*



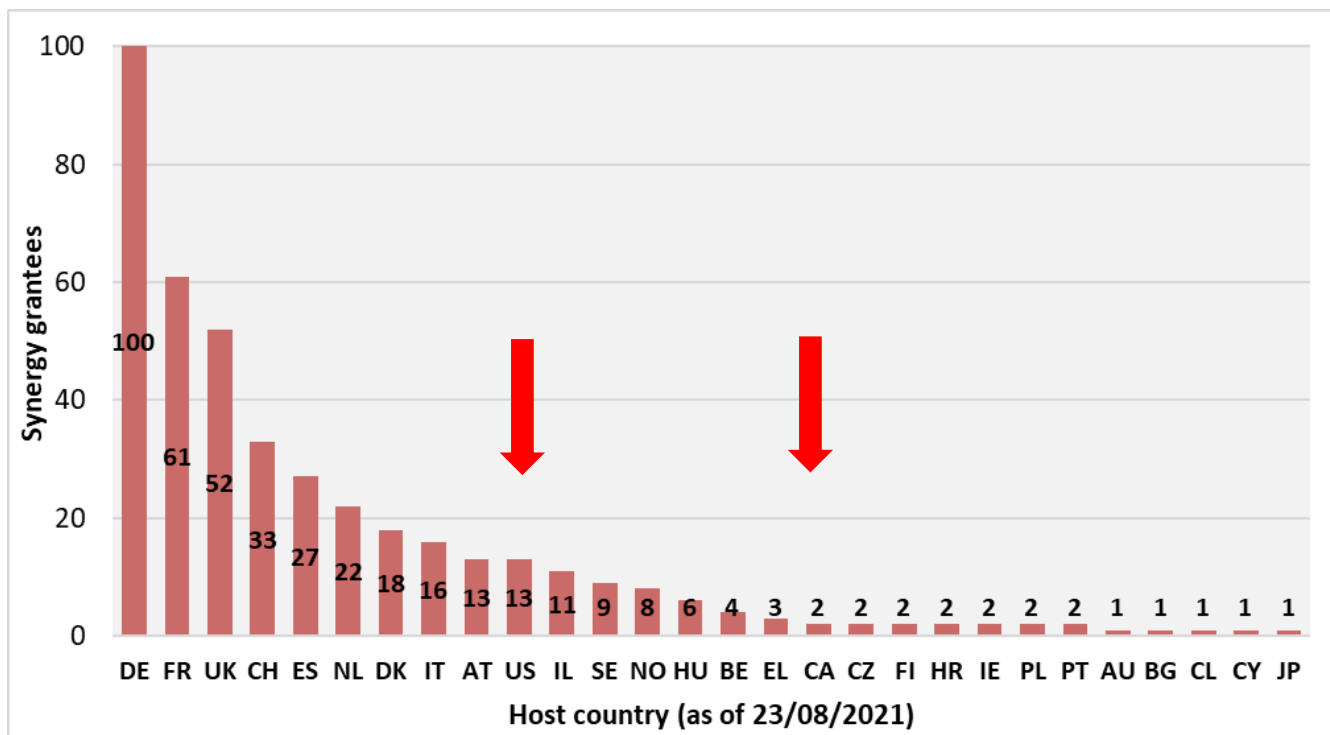
\*Only nationalities with over than 100 ERC grantees are included in the table

US grantees - countries of host institution



# ERC in figures: North America

## Host Country Synergy calls



# 2021-2022 Call Calendar



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

# Where can you find more information?



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Our website:

[erc.europa.eu](https://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>

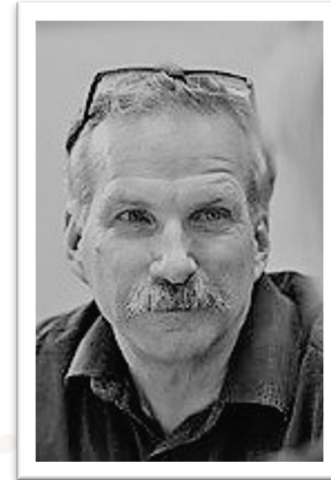
## VIRHIST

Bloodborne: Hot Zones, Disease Ecologies, and the  
Changing Landscape of Environment and Health in West  
Africa

Researcher: Gregg Mitman

ERC Advanced Grant 2019  
Panel SH6

HI: University of Munich, DE



*“VIRHIST aims to discern the ecological, economic, political and social forces at play that have simultaneously turned certain regions into profitable sites of natural resource extraction, productive enclaves of biomedical research, and hot zones of pandemic threats.”*