PERIN Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network

Opportunities for people and for institutions:

European Research Council (ERC)

FCT Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

FCT Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia · ANI Agência Nacional de Inovação · Portugal Space · AICIB · Erasmus+ · DGES Direção-Geral do Ensino Superior · Ciência Viva

European Research Council

Starting Grants

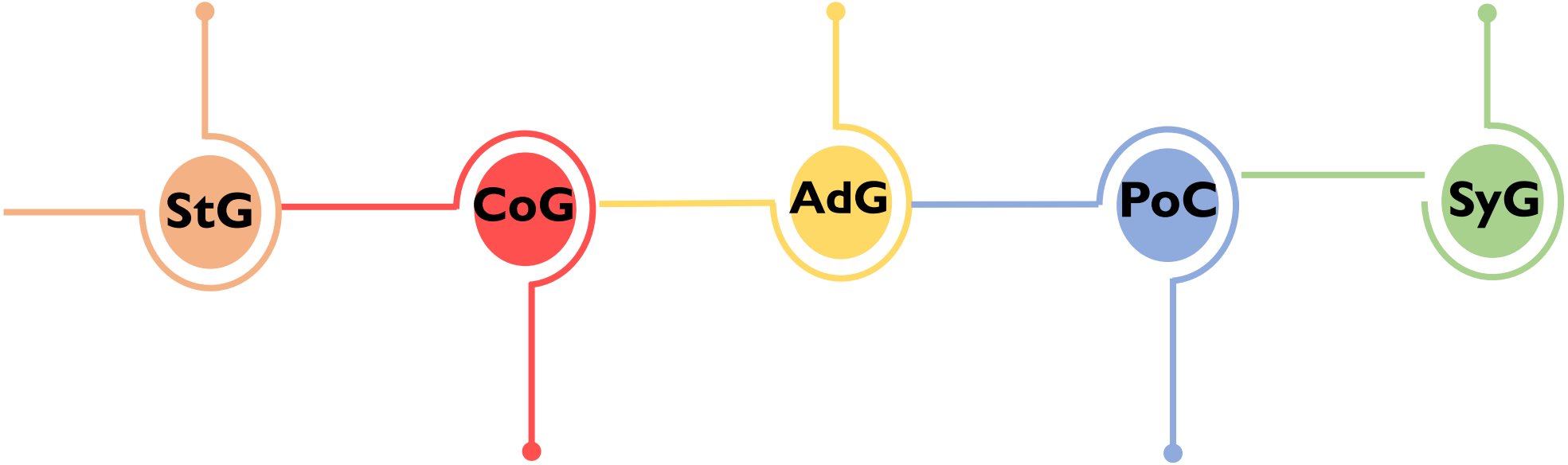
2-7 years after PhD.
1.5 M€, 5 years **(+1M€?)**
50% commitment

Advanced Grants

10 years' track-record
2.5 M€, 5 years **(+1M€?)**
30% commitment

Synergy Grants

All profiles; 2-4 PIs
10 M€, 6 years **(+4M€?)**



Consolidator Grants

7-12 years after PhD.
2.0 M€, 5 years **(+1M€?)**
40% commitment

Proof of Concept

ERC Grantees Only
150 K€, 1,5 years

European Research Council

"The ERC's main frontier research grants aim to empower individual researchers and provide the best settings to foster their creativity. Scientific excellence is the sole criterion of evaluation."

- Bottom-Up
- Cross boundaries between different fields of research
- Unconventional, innovative approaches
- Competitive Principal Investigators
- PI in control (idea, team and implementation) but not alone
- Support from HI necessary, but HI is not evaluated
- Grant portability

PERIN Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network

Opportunities for people and for institutions:

European Research Council (ERC)

FCT Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

FCT Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia · ANI Agência Nacional de Inovação · Portugal Space · AICIB · Erasmus+ · DGES Direção-Geral do Ensino Superior · Ciência Viva

National Delegates / National Contact Points

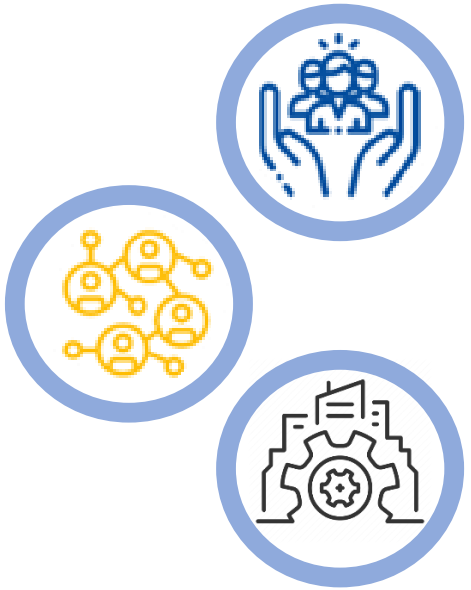
Rui Munhá (FCT)
rui.munha@fct.pt
(+351) 213 911 538

David Marçal (FCT)
david.marcal@fct.pt
(+351) 213 924 350

European Research Council

- Career breakthrough
- Visibility | Recognition
- Leadership | Autonomy

- Attract and retain talents
- Institutional reputation
- New lines of research



- Research Team
- Networks
- Infrastructures and Resources

European Research Council

- Project
- Readiness

- Team Members
- Collaborators
- Advisors

- Active involvement
- Working conditions
- Research Support Offices
- Support from Peers

European Research Council

National or Transnational

- 3 year projects
- 50 K€ – 300 K€
- Consortium
- Interdependence
- Incremental OK

ERC

- 5 year projects
- 1 M€ – 2.5 M€
- Collaboration
- Independence
- Breakthrough

General Outlook

- Planning
- Support from HI
- Strategic Approach
- Documentation
- Profile of the PI
- Useful Tips

Visit us at

perin.pt

(google "perin erc")

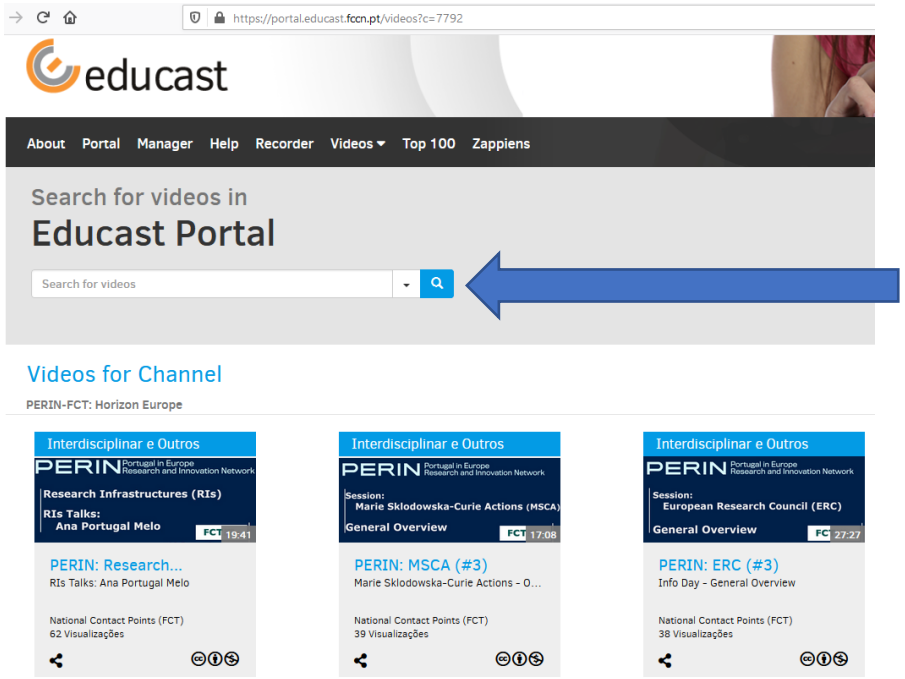
at the FCT webpage

https://www.fct.pt/apoios/cooptrans/horizonteeuropa

Join our Contact List!

Watch our recorded sessions @ EDUCAST

https://portal.educast.fccn.pt/videos?c=7792



OBRIGADO!

Open discussion

Submission Process

PART A ELECTRONIC FORM

- ❑ **A1 General Info**
- ❑ **A2 Participants**
  - ❑ Gender Equality Plan (tick yes/no)
- ❑ **A3 Budget**
- ❑ **A4 Ethics and Security**
  - ❑ Ethics Table (yes/no)
  - ❑ Security Table (yes/no)
- ❑ **A5 Other Questions**
  - ❑ Academic Training of the PI
  - ❑ Eligibility declarations
  - ❑ Commitment of the PI

PART A Annexes

- ❑ **SUBMITTED AS INDEPENDENT .PDF FILES!**
  - ❑ Host Institution Support Letter
  - ❑ Proof of PhD. Degree
  - ❑ All other necessary documentation

PART B1 PHASE 1 + PHASE 2

- ❑ **SUBMITTED AS .PDF**
  - ❑ Extended Synopsis (5 p.)
  - ❑ CV (2 p.)
  - ❑ Early Achievements, Track Record, including relevant publications (2 p.)

PART B2 PHASE 2

- ❑ **SUBMITTED AS .PDF**
  - ❑ Scientific Proposal (14 p.)
    - ❑ State of the Art & Objectives
    - ❑ Methodology

TIPS

Submissions can only occur after completion of the electronic form.

FUNDING & TENDERS PORTAL IS OPEN!

Electronic Form has 5 sections (25 p.) Mandatory fields marked in red.

Can revise and resubmit until deadline ("Submit" saves a proposal on the system);

Part B1 – STEP 1 EVALUATION

Page Format	Font Type	Font Size	Line Spacing	Margins
A4	Times New Roman, Arial or similar	At least 11	Single	2cm side 1.5cm bottom

- **Header** with PI's last name, acronym of the proposal, and reference to Part B1.
- **Cover Page** (info repeated from Part A1)
  - Name of the PI & Name of HI
  - Title, Acronym
  - Abstract and Project Duration
- **Extended Synopsis of the Scientific Proposal (5 pages)**
  - Self-contained and should contain all essential information, including feasibility of the project
  - Referenced (don't count towards page limits – recommend end-notes)
  - Entertaining!
- **CV (2 pages)**
  - Include career breaks, unconventional career paths
  - Funding ID Table does not count towards the 2-page limit
- **Track Record (2 pages)**
  - Highlight independent research, Up to 5 publications. Include research monographs, translations, prizes, patents, invited presentations, awards, memberships, etc…

B1 is not complementary to B2. Part B1 has to contain all essential information.

CV: stick to the format

Provide a brief explanation of what each entry on CV/Track Record indicates about the PI.

Use these to relate points directly to the PI evaluation criteria.

Part B2 – STEP 2 EVALUATION

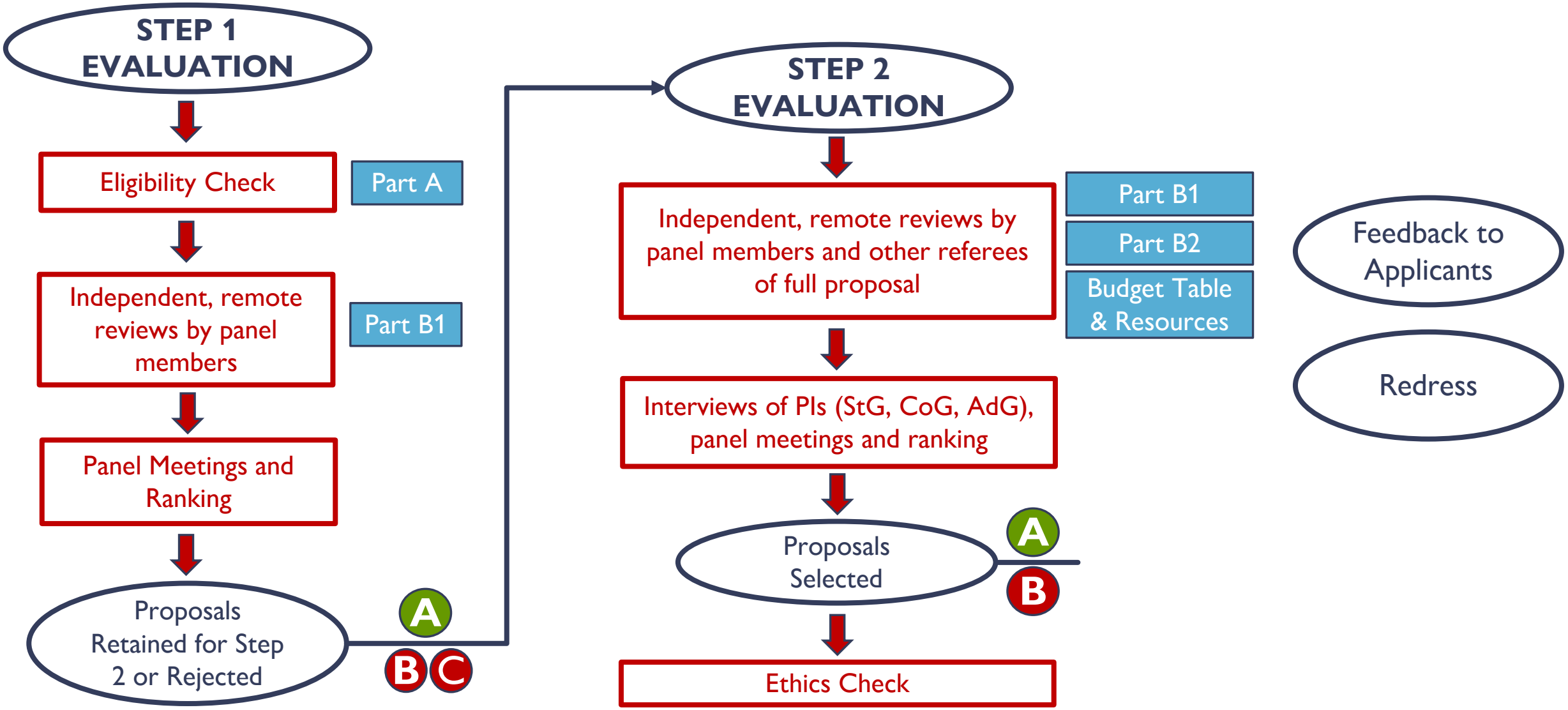
Page Format	Font Type	Font Size	Line Spacing	Margins
A4	Times New Roman, Arial or similar	At least 11	Single	2cm side 1.5cm bottom

- **Header** with PI's last name, acronym of the proposal, and reference to Part B2.
- **Scientific Proposal (14 p.)**
  - **State of the art and objectives**
    - Specify the proposal objectives in the context of the state of the art
    - How and why is the work important?
    - What is the impact if successful? How does it open new horizons and perspectives?
    - Highlight unconventional, multi- or interdisciplinary aspects of the proposal;
  - **Methodology**
    - Proposed methodology, including intermediate goals
    - Explain methodology in relation to the state of the art
    - Address high-risk/high gain balance;
    - Highlight intermediate stages where results may require adjustments to the original plan
    - Team Members from other institutions need to be fully justified (explicit added-value)
    - Risk and mitigation

DO NOT REPEAT THE SYNOPSIS OF PART B1 IN PART B2!!!

Make sure quantitative and qualitative differences to the state of the art are clear and referenced. Explain hypothesis and show preliminary data (if it exists)

Evaluation Process



Penalties

StG, CoG, AdG

Grade	Stage	Funding Decision	Reapplication Restrictions
A	2	Yes	No
A	2	Reserve List	No
B	2	No	No
B	1	No	1 Year
C	1	No	2 Years
SyG 2020 - C	1	No	AdG 2021

- A researcher may participate as Principal Investigator in only one ERC frontier research project at any one time;
- A researcher participating as Principal Investigator in an ERC frontier research project may not submit a proposal for another ERC frontier research grant, unless the existing project ends no more than two years after the call deadline;
- A Principal Investigator who is a serving Panel Member for an ERC call, or who served as a Panel Member for an ERC call two years previously, may not apply for the same type of grant that year.

Evaluation Process

DOMAINS

- LIFE SCIENCES
- PHYSICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING
- SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

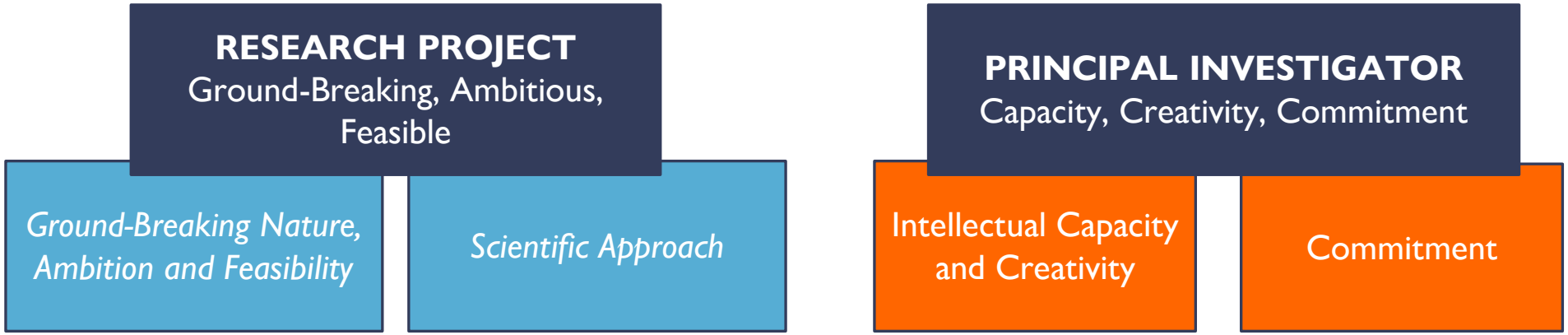
PANELS

- LIFE SCIENCES: 9 PANELS (revised)
- PHYSICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING: 11 PANELS (NEW! Materials Engineering)
- SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES: 7 PANELS (NEW! Human Mobility, Environment, Space)

Evaluation Criteria

Part B1 and B2 – EVALUATION

- Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion
- Not judged on socioeconomic impact or European added value
- Applied to:
  - the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of the research project
  - the intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment of the Principal Investigator
- Proposals marked on the above, ranging from minimum scores ("non-competitive") to maximum scores ("outstanding");
- Outcome of panel meetings expressed as A, B or C.



RESEARCH PROJECT

Ground-Breaking Nature Ambition Feasibility	▪ To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges? ***(B1 & B2 Both Steps)*** ***Note:*** *Challenges in the field(s) of research* ▪ To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)? ***(B1 & B2 Both Steps)*** ***Note:*** *More than incremental research –needs to be an exciting and ambitious idea* ▪ To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain? (i.e. if successful, the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)? ***(B1 & B2 Both Steps)*** ***Note:*** *Projects should be ambitious enough to be risky, but risks should always be necessary and well-mitigated. Not all project is of high-risk.*

Evaluation Criteria

RESEARCH PROJECT

Scientific Approach

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain (based on the Extended Synopsis at Step 1)? ***(B1 Step 1)***
  Note: *Realistic, feasible project outcomes (even if risky)*
- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the full Scientific Proposal)? ***(B2 Step 2)***
  Note: *Research questions properly addressed by research proposed*
- To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)? ***(B2 Step 2)***
  Note: *Proposal opens up new research*
- To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)? ***(B2 Step 2)***
  Note: *Project milestones, checkpoints and resource justifications*

Evaluation Criteria

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Intellectual Capacity and Creativity

- To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
  Note: *Publications, grants, projects, etc…*
- To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?
  Note: *Achievements that support the specific tasks you are proposing and evidence that your time commitment and skillset are sufficient to run the project.*
- To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking? ***(StG, CoG)***
  Note: *Track record going beyond the state of the art, independent work detached from PhD. advisor.*
- To what extent has the PI demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists? ***(AdG)***
  Note: *Highlight how you have helped progress the careers and research of more junior researchers*

Commitment

- To what extent does the PI demonstrate the level of commitment to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project? ***(50% StG, 40% CoG, 30% AdG)***

Applicant Profile

CANDIDATES

- **Central to the grant** and to the review criteria;
- Must have the ability to show the **potential/demonstrated/established leadership and independence** in the chosen research topic;
- Has the power to **assemble a research group of team members** & freedom to chose the research topic;
- Expected **to lead their team and be fully engaged** in the running of the grant;
- Expected to spend a minimum of total working time on the ERC project and a minimum of total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country (this does not exclude fieldwork/research outside Europe needed to achieve research objectives);
- Chooses a host institution in EU Member State or Associated Country (or an 'International European Interest Organisation');
- Applies in conjunction with host institution and, if funded, signs 'supplementary agreement' with the host;
- Resubmission rules apply to PI only (not to team members)

Host Institution and Team Members

TEAM MEMBERS

- The PI leads the research project (there are no “Co-Is”) and the PI has the freedom to choose appropriate ‘team members’
- Team members can be:
  - research staff of any level, PhDs, technicians, specialists, etc.
  - at the host institution or at another institution
  - of any age, nationality or country of residence
  - hosted in non-EU/AC institutions for the project
  - defined as specific individuals in the proposal, or as job roles to be recruited

Note: Team members must be assigned to project outputs and should not have purely supervisory or mentor-style roles. Their participation must be fully justified in the proposal.

HOST INSTITUTION

- The PI does not have to be based there at the time of application;
- Institution has the infrastructure and capacity to carry out frontier research project, and must provide appropriate conditions for the PI to direct independently the research and manage the ERC funding;
- Must not constrain the PI to the research strategy of the institution;
- Normally employs the PI;

PI Profile: StG

Starting Grants

Early Stage Career

2-7 years after PhD.

(≥ 50% commitment)

Up to 1.5 M€*, 5 years

PhD. awarded between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2019*

**Extensions for Maternity, Paternity, Illness, and Clinical Training*

****Call Opened: 24 Sept 2021**
****Call Closes: 13 Jan 2022**

APPLICANT PROFILE

- **Demonstrated potential** to conduct independent research. Important to have at least a high-level publication **(as main author) or without the PhD. supervisor**;
- Ability to adapt and face challenges (mobility and international experience);
- **Up to 5 peer-reviewed publications in highly relevant** international journals, multidisciplinary journals, conference proceedings or books in the given scientific field;
- Invited presentations in conferences, funding, patents, awards, prizes;
- CV and career stage aligned with the ambitions of the Starting Grant level;
- 50% commitment: at the level of the project, and time spent in the EU or Associated Country.

PI Profile: CoG

Consolidator Grants

Career Consolidation

7-12 years after PhD.

(≥ 40% commitment)

Up to 2.0 M€, 5 years

PhD. awarded between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2014*

**Call Opens: 19 October 2021*

**Call Closes: 17 March 2022*

Extensions for Maternity, Paternity, Illness, and Clinical Training

APPLICANT PROFILE

- **Demonstrated independent research career**. Important to have several high-level publications as main author or without the PhD. supervisor;
- **Up to 10 peer-reviewed publications in highly relevant** international journals, multidisciplinary journals, conference proceedings or books in the given scientific field;
- Invited presentations in conferences;
- Funding, patents, awards, prizes, **mentoring**;
- **CV and career stage aligned with the ambitions of the Consolidator Grant**;
- 40% commitment at the level of the project, and 50% commitment at the level of time spent in the EU or Associated Country.

Advanced Grant

Advanced Grants

Significant track record

Achievements in the last 10 years

≥ 30% commitment

≥ 50% of the time spent in EU/AC

Up to 2.5 M€, 5 years

****Call Opens:**
20 January 2022
****Call Closes:**
28 April 2022

APPLICANT PROFILE

- **Established Research Leaders** with a recognised track record of research achievements;
- Active researchers with **significant achievements in their field during the last 10 years**;
- **Exceptional leader** in terms of **originality and significance** of their research contributions;
- Ability to demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of the scientific proposal
- Up to 10 peer-reviewed publications in highly relevant (leading) international journals or major international multidisciplinary journals,
- For research fields where monographs are the norm: 3 major research monographs
- Invited presentations in conferences, organisation of international conferences, granted patents, leading research expeditions, awards, prizes, academy memberships….

Useful Tips

QUESTION YOURSELF

- Does the proposal go substantially **beyond the state of art**?
- Is this an **emerging or relatively new topic**? Am I **aiming at the current bottlenecks** of this topic and is there a huge gain from overcoming them?
- **Is it timely** (topic and objectives)? (why wasn't this done in the past? Why is it feasible now?);
- What are the **risks associated**? What are the risk management plan(s)?
- **Why** is it important?
- Have you explained your **collaborations**? This is not a collaborative project (you are the driver) but you are not an island
- Do I consider myself **capable of carrying** this project out?
- **Am I internationally competitive** compared to others at my career stage and within my field of research?
- Is the **timing right** (to apply)?
- Is the idea so clear that **a non-specialist will understand** it?

Useful Tips

WORK CLOSELY WITH YOUR RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE

TIPS

- **Read all the guidelines and the work programme;**
- Benchmark your CV and check your competition;
- Seek advice;
- Try to defend your CV by describing your research environment (the pace of the career development varies from country to country);
- Check the ERC Youtube Channel;
- Take time off to think about your proposal: you are aiming at a medium-long-term project and quite possibly at a defining moment in your career;
- If you feel you are ready: APPLY;
- ERC Applicants who were not awarded the grant describe the period of proposal writing as highly rewarding and impactful on their careers;

Writing Style

Straight to the point, Objective, Accessible to non-specialists, Original approach, Well-defined plan including intermediate goals, Explain the role of each team member including background or recruitment profile, Project management and dissemination, justify resources and ensure they are appropriate, Convincing, Ambitious but tangible, Leadership capacity, Strengths, Highlight positive stats, Breakthrough knowledge, How research will open new horizons, Show your passion!

The ERC encourages proposals of a multi- or interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research, pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions. The focus is on the PI and on the individual team.

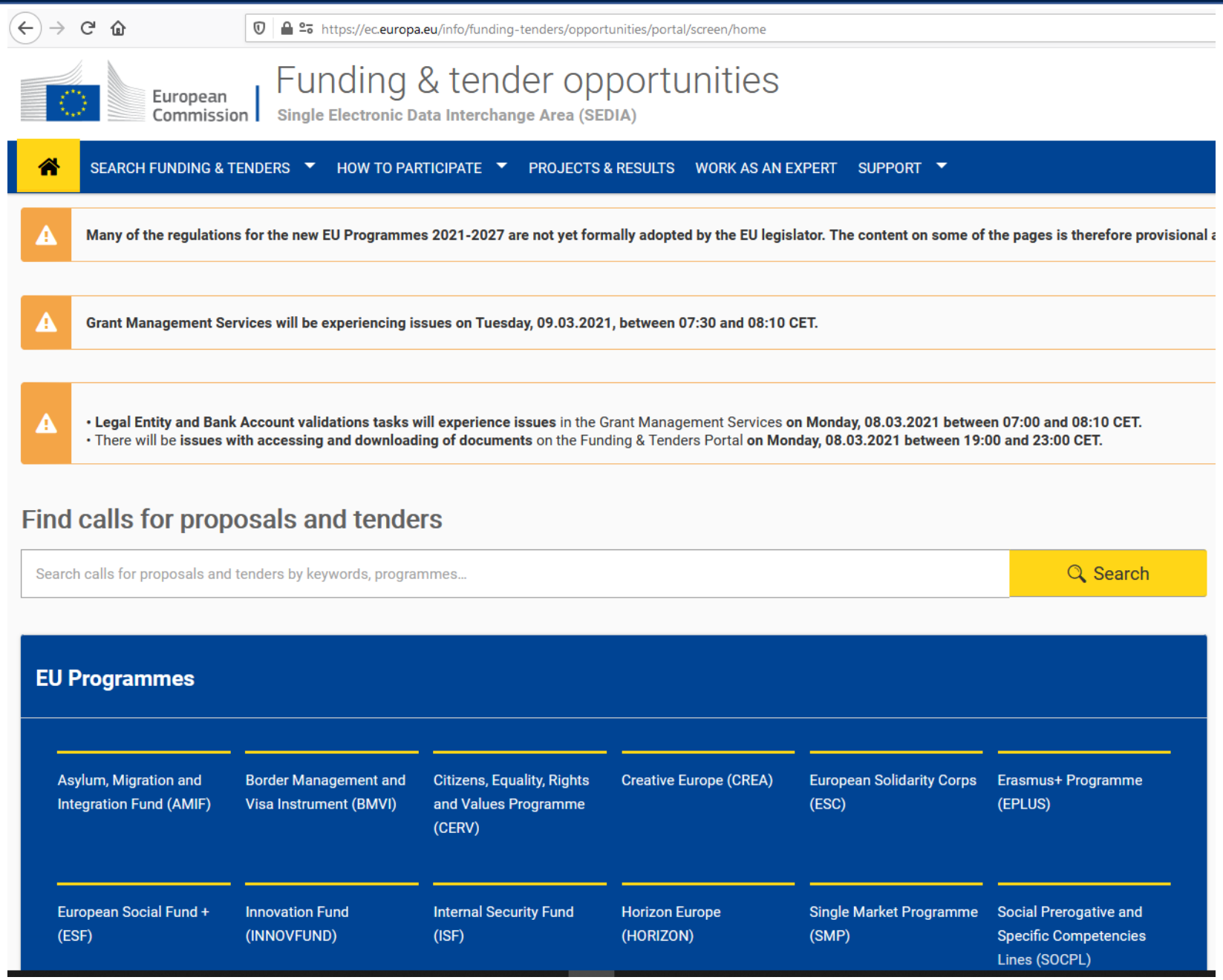
INVISIBLE, Elvira Fortunato, AdG, 2008

Imagine having a fully transparent and flexible, foldable, low cost, displays or at the glass window of your home/office, a transparent electronic circuit, do you believe on that? Maybe you are asking me if I am writing science fiction. No I am not. In fact this is a very ambitious objective but is tangible in the framework of this project due to the already acquired experience in the development of transparent thin film transistors using novel multifunctional and multicomponent oxides that can behave as active or passive semiconductor materials.

NEUROHABIT, Rui Costa, StG, 2009

In every day life, we constantly have to select the appropriate actions to obtain specific outcomes. Actions can be selected based on their consequences, for example when we press an elevator button to get to the particular floor where we live. This goal-directed behaviour is crucial to face the ever-changing environment but demands an effortful control and monitoring of the response; one way to balance the need for flexibility and efficiency is through automatization of recurring decision processes as a habit.

Starting Point: Funding and Tenders Portal



Starting Point: Funding and Tenders Portal

Type your Keywords...

Match whole words only

GRANTS TENDERS

Submission status

Forthcoming (1) | Open for submission (2) | Closed (3)

Programming period

2021 - 2027 (6)

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Programme part

European Research Council (ERC)

Mission

Select a Mission...

Funding and tenders (6)

Need help? Sort by: Submission status

Grant — ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANTS1

Open for submission

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	**Deadline model**	single-stage
ID	ERC-2022-POC1	**Opening date**	15 July 2021
Types of action	HORIZON ERC Proof of Concept Grants	**Deadline date**	14 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

Grant — ERC Synergy Grants

Open for submission

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	**Deadline model**	single-stage
ID	ERC-2022-SyG	**Opening date**	15 July 2021
Types of action	HORIZON ERC Synergy Grants	**Deadline date**	10 November 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

Grant — ERC STARTING GRANTS

Forthcoming

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	**Deadline model**	single-stage
ID	ERC-2022-STG	**Opening date**	23 September 2021
Types of action	HORIZON ERC Grants	**Deadline date**	13 January 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Starting Point: Funding and Tenders Portal

General information
Topic description
Conditions and documents
Submission service
Topic related FAQ
Get support

Go back to search results

General information

Programme
Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

Work programme part
HORIZON-ERC-2022

Call
Call for Proposals for ERC Starting Grant (ERC-2022-STG)

Work programme year
HORIZON-ERC-2022

See budget overview

Type of action
HORIZON-ERC HORIZON ERC Grants

Type of MGA
HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based [HORIZON-AG]

Forthcoming

Deadline model
single-stage

Planned opening date
23 September 2021

Deadline date
13 January 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Topic description

Scope:

Objectives

The ERC Starting Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are starting their own independent research team or programme. Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal.

Size of ERC Starting Grants

Starting Grants may be awarded up to a maximum of **EUR 1 500 000** for a period of **5 years.** The maximum size of the grants is reduced *pro rata temporis* for projects of a shorter duration. (This does

show more...

Topic conditions and documents

1. Admissibility and Eligibility Conditions: