



European Research Council

Funding Opportunities for researchers

Research Support Office

Vice-Rectorate for Research and Doctoral School

University of Aveiro

June 2017

1



Frontier Research
by the best
individual teams

Horizon 2020

Excellent Science

European Research Council (ERC)

Future Emerging Technologies (FET)

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA)

European Research Infrastructures

Industrial Leadership

Enabling and Industrial Technologies

Access to Risk Finance

Innovation in SMEs

Societal Challenges

Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing

Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, etc.

Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy

Smart, Green and Integrated Transport

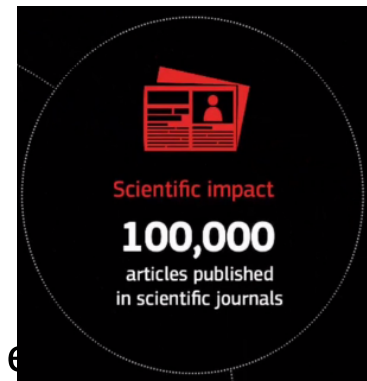
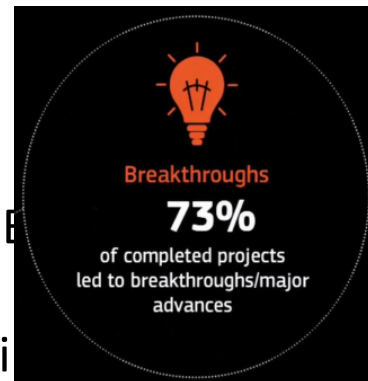
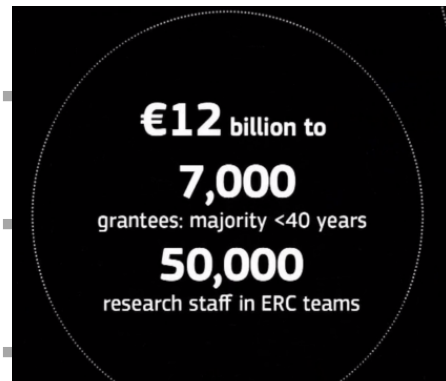
Climate Action, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials

Inclusive, Innovative and Reflective Societies

Secure Societies

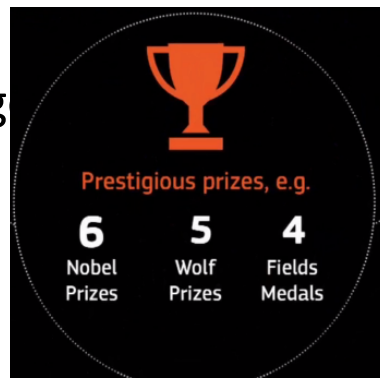
European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) • Joint Research Centre (JRC)
• Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation • Science with and for Society

Facts and figures

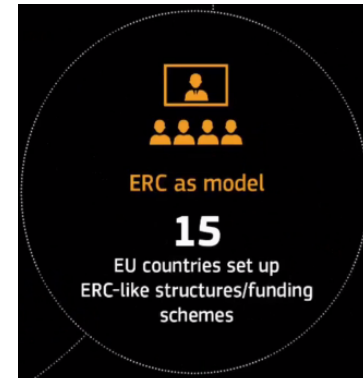
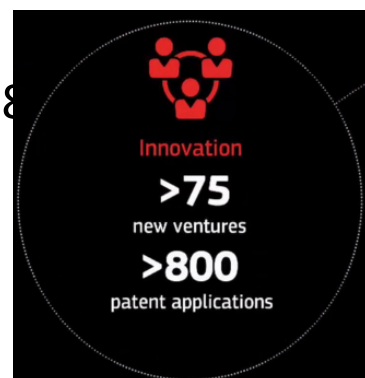


By Horizon 2020, the EU programme for Research and Innovation

→ Budget



1.8



ERC – General Features

- **The PI may be of any age and nationality** and may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application
- Research must be conducted in a public or private research organization (Host Institution/HI) located in one of the EU Member States or Associate Countries
- **Portability:** It is expected that the PI establishes and concludes the funded research project in association with the original host. However, the ERC grants allow PIs to transfer their projects from one host to another in the course of the project.
- Research teams are headed by a single Principal Investigator (PI) + additional team members (6 members average) - it is neither a network, nor a 'research consortium'

ERC – Expected Features of the proposals

In Any field of research!

- interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research
- Pioneering , addressing new and emerging fields of research
- introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions

ERC – Expected Features of the proposals

- high-gain/high-risk
- ground-breaking nature of the research project
- Ambition
- feasibility of the outlined scientific approach



ERC – 5 types of grants / applicants

Starting Grants

are designed to support Principal Investigators at the early stage at which they are starting their own research programme.

Expected - 3/08/2017 to 17/10/2017

after PhD

to 1 January 2018
Cut-off dates:
PhD awarded from 1 January 2011 to
31 December 2015 (inclusive))

Consolidator Grants

(7-12 years after PhD)
Cut-off dates:
from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2010 (inclusive))

Expected - 24/10/2017 to 15/02/2017

Advanced Grants

designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at an advanced career stage at which they are already established as research leaders.
Cut-off dates:
research achievements in the last 10 years

OPEN CALL – Deadline Aug 31st 2017

Synergy Grants – enable 2-4 Principal Investigators (with complementary track records as appropriate to their career stage) and their teams to bring their complementary skills, knowledge, and resources together in new ways, in order to address ambitious research problems.

Expected – 3/08/2017 to 14/11/2017

Proof-of-Concept bridging innovation up to €150,000

Expected – 6/09/2017 to 16/01 | 18/04 | 11/09 2018

– earliest stage of marketable

ERC – StG – PI Profile & Early achievements track record

- **at least one important publication** as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor
- **Up to five publications in major international peer-reviewed** multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals, peer-reviewed conferences proceedings and/or monographs of their respective research fields;
- **Research monographs and any translations thereof;**
- **Granted patent(s);**
- **Invited presentations** to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools;



Prizes/ Awards/ Academy memberships.

ERC – StG

Time allocated to the Project

- expected to spend a **minimum 50% of total working time on the ERC project** and a **minimum of 50% of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country**

Budget and Duration

- up to a maximum of **EUR 1 500 000** for a period of 5 years
- Possibility of additional **EUR 500 000**

ERC CoG– PI Profile & Early achievements track record

- **several important publications as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor.**
- **Up to five publications in major international peer-reviewed** multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international peer-reviewed journals, peer-reviewed conferences proceedings and/or monographs of their respective research fields;
- **Research monographs and any translations thereof;**
- **Granted patent(s);**
- **Invited presentations** to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools;



Prizes/ Awards/ Academy memberships.

ERC – CoG

Time allocated to the Project

- expected to spend a **minimum 40% of total working time on the ERC project** and a **minimum of 50% of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country**

Budget and Duration

- up to a maximum of **EUR 1 500 000** for a period of 5 years
- Possibility of additional **EUR 500 000**

ERC – Advanced Grants – Profile /Recognised Track Record

one or more of the following

- **10 publications as main author**
- **3 major research monographs**, of which at least one is translated into another language
- **5 granted patents**
- **10 invited presentations;**
- **3 research expeditions;**
- **3 well-established international conferences or congresses;**
- **scientific or artistic prizes/awards or membership in well-regarded Academies or artefact with documented use;**
- Major contributions to **launching the careers of outstanding researchers;**
- Recognised **leadership in industrial innovation**

No PhD needed!

ERC – Advanced Grants

Time allocated to the Project

- shall spend a minimum of 50% of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country and a minimum of 30% of their total working time on the ERC project

Budget and Duration

- up to a maximum of **EUR 2 500 000** for a period of **5 year**
- Possibility of **additional EUR 1 000 000**

ERC – Synergy Grants - Profile

- 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 with competitive track records as appropriate to their career stage** and each must present as part of the proposal an early achievement track-record or a 10-year track-record whichever is most appropriate for their career stage).

ERC – Synergy Grants

Time allocated to the Project

- spend a minimum of 50% of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country and a minimum of 30% of their total working time on the ERC project

Budget and Duration

- up to a maximum of EUR 10 000 000 for a period of 6 years³⁰.
- up to an additional EUR 4 000 000 in total can be requested

ERC – Proposal

→ Administrative Proposal Submission form

Information on PI, host institution, budget
including Ethics Review Table
Filled on line

→ The Research Proposal, Parts B1 and B2

uploaded and submitted PDF files
The minimum font size allowed is 11 points. The page size is A4 (with single line spacing). Side margins should be at least 20 mm and the bottom and top margins at least 15 mm

→ Host Institution Binding Statement of Support

→ Ethics review self-assessment (if applicable) and supporting documentation

[registration to Participant Portal](#) needed!
(Submission by the PI)

ERC – Proposal – Part B1

Showcase the innovative methodology and theory, the main question and research Questions

Show the components of the programme and how they contribute to the whole

→ Extended Synopsis: max. 5 pages

references do not count towards the page limits

Concise description of the scientific proposal; needs to show the ground-breaking nature of the research project and its feasibility

→ Curriculum Vitae: max. 2 pages

→ Funding ID: no page limits

→ Track Record: max. 2 pages

Publications, prizes, awards, contributions to other's careers, invited talks...

Evaluated on step1

ERC – Proposal – Part B2

Position the research programme in the field, state of art

→ Scientific Proposal: max. 15 pages

references do not count towards the page limit

- State of the art and objectives
- Methodology
- Resources (including project costs)
- Ethics submitted as annex

Evaluated on step2



Cost Category			Total in euro
Direct Costs ²	Personnel	PI ³	
		Senior Staff	
		Postdocs	
		Students	
		Other	
	i. Total Direct costs for Personnel (in euro)		
	Travel		
	Equipment		
	Other goods and services	Consumables	
		Publications (including Open Access fees), dissemination activities, etc.	
		Other (please specify)	
	ii. Total Other Direct Costs (in euro)		
A – Total Direct Costs (i + ii) (in euro)			
B – Indirect Costs (overheads) 25% of Direct Costs ⁴ (in euro)			
C1 – Subcontracting Costs (no overheads) (in euro)			
C2 – Other Direct Costs with no overheads ⁵ (in euro)			
Total Estimated Eligible Costs (A + B + C) (in euro)			
Total Requested Grant (in euro)			

The project cost estimation should be as accurate as possible. Significant mathematical mistakes may reflect poorly on the credibility of the budget table and the proposal overall. The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully; unjustified budgets will be consequently reduced. The Total Estimated Eligible



ERC – Evaluation - Panels

ERC Evaluation process (StG, CoG & AdG) Panel structure: 3 domains and 25 panels

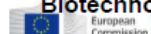


Each panel :
Panel Chair and
11-15 Panel Members

→ PI chooses one panel

Life Sciences (LS) - 9 panels

- LS1 Molecular & Structural Biology & Biochemistry
- LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics & Systems Biology
- LS3 Cellular & Developmental Biology
- LS4 Physiology, Pathophysiology & Endocrinology
- LS5 Neurosciences & Neural disorders
- LS6 Immunity & Infection
- LS7 Diagnostics, Therapies, Applied Medical Technology & Public health
- LS8 Evolutionary, Population & Environmental Biology
- LS9 Applied Life Sciences & Non-Medical Biotechnology



Social Sciences and Humanities (SH) - 6 panels

- SH1 Individuals, Markets & Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Values, Environment & Space
- SH3 The Social World, Diversity, Population
- SH4 The Human Mind and its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures & Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past

Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE) - 10 panels

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



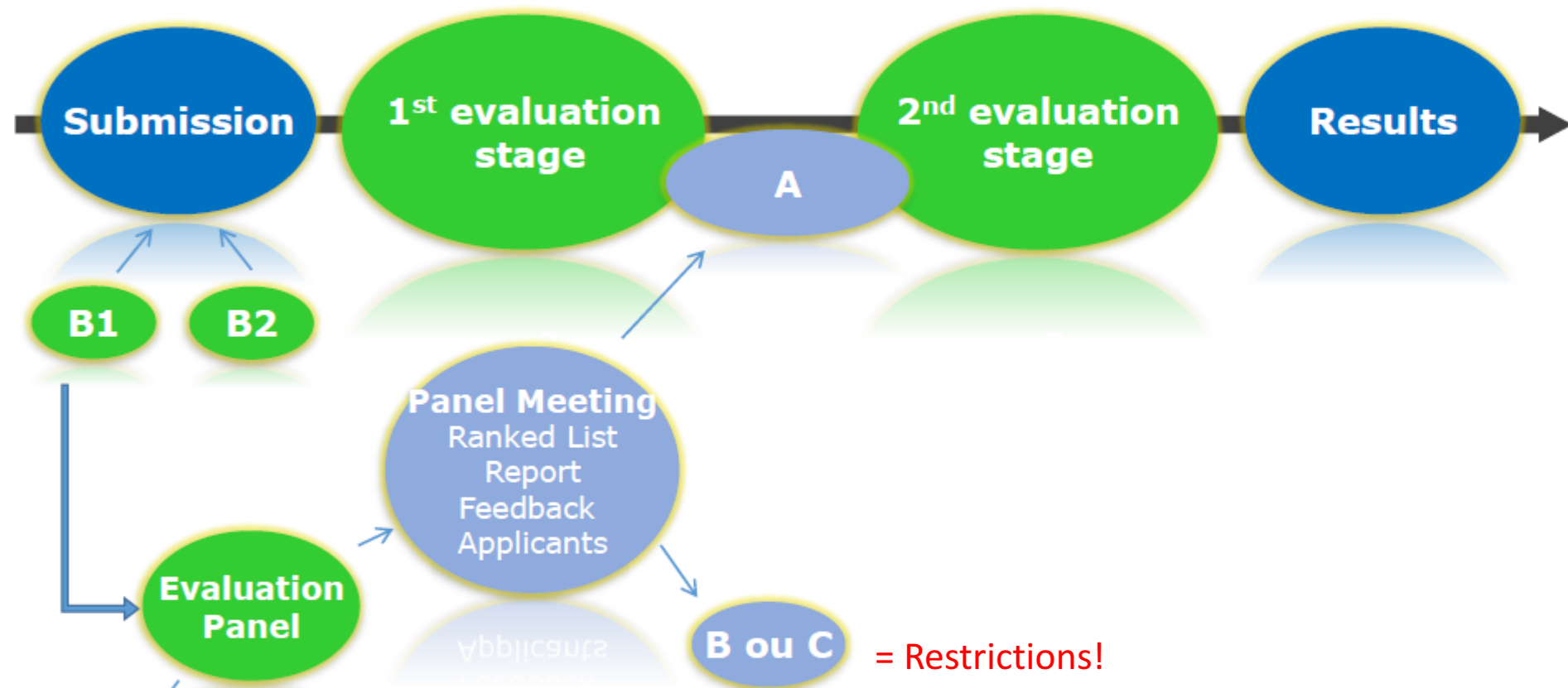
ERC – Evaluation - Criteria

Evaluation of *excellence* at two levels:

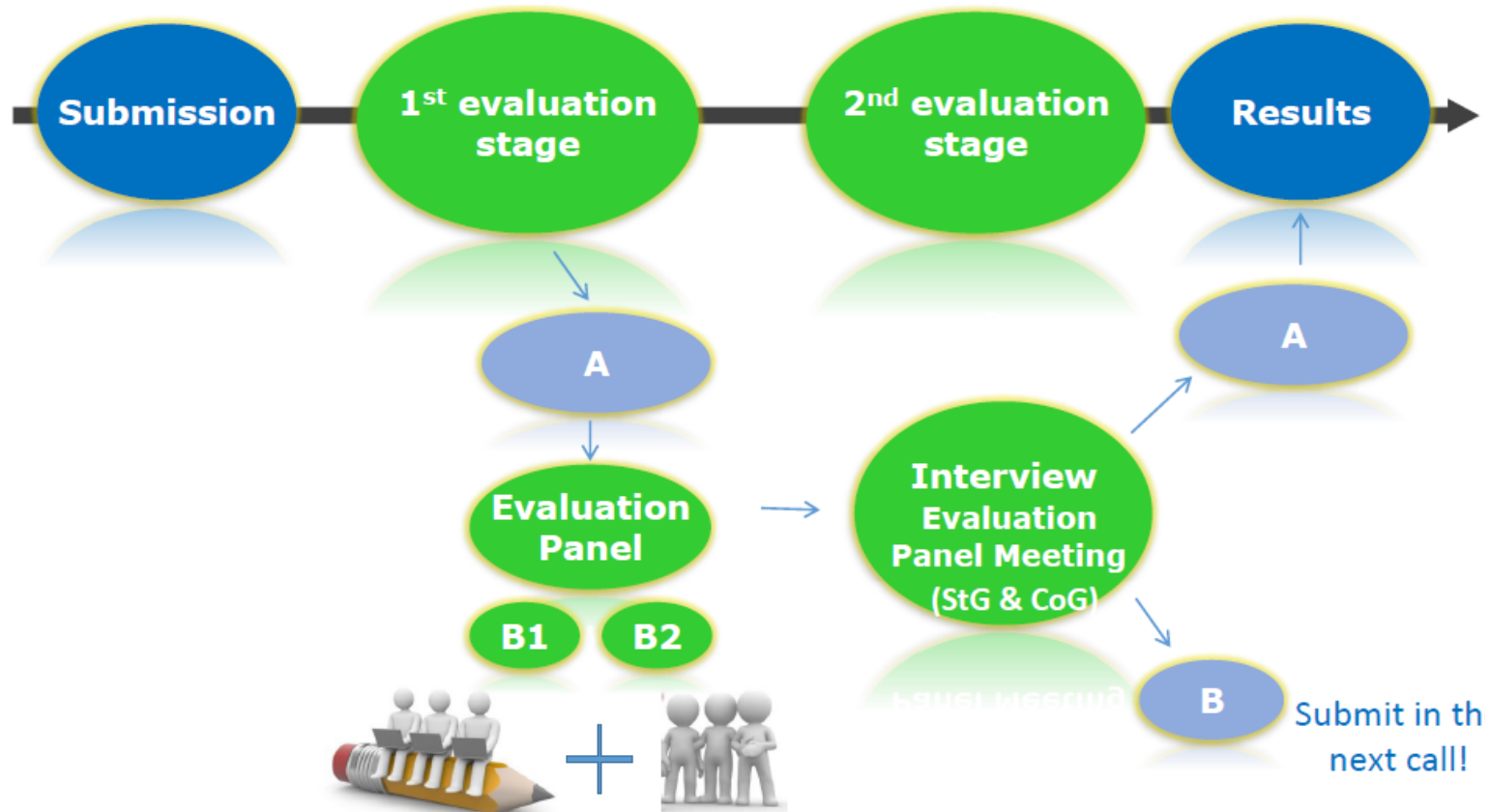
- **Excellence of the Research Project**
 - ✓ Ground breaking nature
 - ✓ Potential impact
 - ✓ Scientific Approach
- **Excellence of the Principal Investigator**
 - ✓ Intellectual capacity
 - ✓ Creativity
 - ✓ Commitment



ERC – Evaluation -Process



ERC – Evaluation - Process



<https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC-2016-AdG-results-sh.pdf>

ERC – Evaluation - Scoring

- **Score 'A':** Fully meets the ERC excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available.
- **Score 'B':** Meets some but not all of the ERC's excellence criterion and will not be funded. **If score B is awarded in step 1, PI may not submit a proposal to any call in 2018!**
- **Score 'C':** Proposal is not of sufficient quality to pass to Step 2 of the evaluation. The applicant may also be subject to resubmission limitations in the next call. **PI may not submit a proposal to any call in 2018 and 2019!**



ERC Restrictions to submission

Resubmission restrictions			
Proposal evaluated under ERC Work Programme	Evaluation STEP	Evaluation SCORE	Can the PI resubmit in 2018?*
2016	1	B	yes
		C	no
	2	A	yes
		B	yes
2017	1	B	no
		C	no
	2	A	yes
		B	yes

NOTE: these restrictions are not to be applied to Synergy Grant Call 2018; any researcher can apply to Synergy call under ERC Work Programme 2018 regardless of their outcome of any application made under the Work Programmes 2016 and 2017. Please note that this does not preclude other restrictions listed in the ERC WP 2018 that might be applicable also to Synergy Grant call 2018

ERC – Reasons for rejection

Principal investigator

- Insufficient track-record
- Insufficient (potential for) independence
- Insufficient experience in leading projects

Proposed project

- Scope: Too narrow \leftrightarrow too broad/unfocussed
- Incremental research
- Work plan not detailed enough/unclear
- Insufficient risk management

ERC – Useful Links and Documents

European Research Council (ERC)

<http://erc.europa.eu>

To subscribe to ERC newsletter and news alerts

<http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc>

Participant Portal

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

<https://vimeo.com/117398570>

[https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/Info for Applicants StG-CoG-2018 draft 19072017 pre-publication.pdf](https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/Info%20for%20Applicants%20StG-CoG-2018%20draft%2019072017%20pre-publication.pdf)

Thank You & Contact Us!!!

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1. Research Project

Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy

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 between or across disciplines)?

To what extent 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 risk/high gain (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone (for Synergy Grants based on the Extended Synopsis)?

To what extent does the proposal require and demonstrate significant synergies, complementarities and scientific added-value to enable it to achieve its objectives (for Synergy Grants based on the Extended Synopsis)?

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)?

To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

2. Principal Investigator

Intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment

Starting and Consolidator

Intellectual capacity and creativity

To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research?

To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?

To what extent have the achievements of the PI typically gone beyond the state of the art?

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 (minimum 50% for Starting and 40% for Consolidator of the total working time) (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

Advanced and Synergy

Intellectual capacity and creativity

To what extent has/have the PI(s) demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research?

To what extent does/do the PI(s) provide evidence of creative independent thinking?

To what extent have the achievements of the PI(s) typically gone beyond the state of the art?

To what extent has the PI demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists (for Advanced Grant applicants)?

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 (minimum 30% for Advanced and Synergy of the total working time) (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?