

# The European Research Council

## The ERC evaluation process

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**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# After the call deadline:

## Preparation for the start of evaluations:

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- **Panel team screens for Conflict of Interest (CoI)**
  - Panel members receive the book of abstracts and can declare CoI
  - ERC uses inhouse developed tools to identify CoI
  - Excluded reviewers
- **Meeting with the Panel Chair**
  - Assignment of proposals (keywords and abstract) and distribution of workload
  - Potential proposal transfer
- **Briefing of Panel Members**
  - Reminder of evaluation criteria and rules
  - Explanation of evaluation steps



# Evaluation process (StG, CoG & AdG)

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

## ➤ Start of Step 1

### Step 1

Panel members  
evaluate remotely the **Extended Synopsis** of the  
proposal and the **CV** (only Part B1)

#### *Intellectual capacity and creativity*

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

*To what extent does the PI provide **evidence of creative and original thinking**?*

*To what extent does the PI have the **required scientific expertise and capacity** to successfully execute the project?*

#### *Ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility*

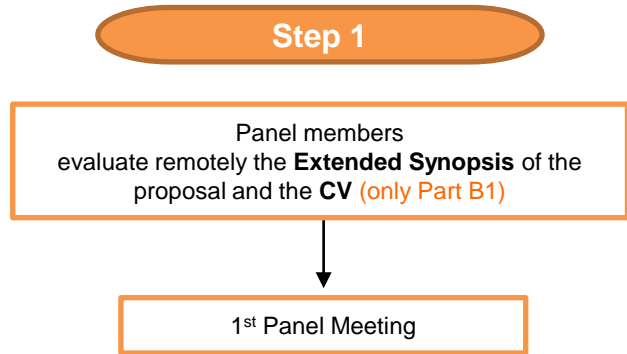
*To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?*

*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 outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the groundbreaking nature and ambition of the proposed research?*

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## ➤ Before the meeting

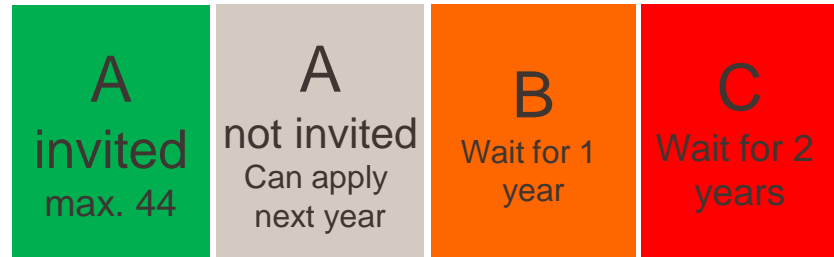
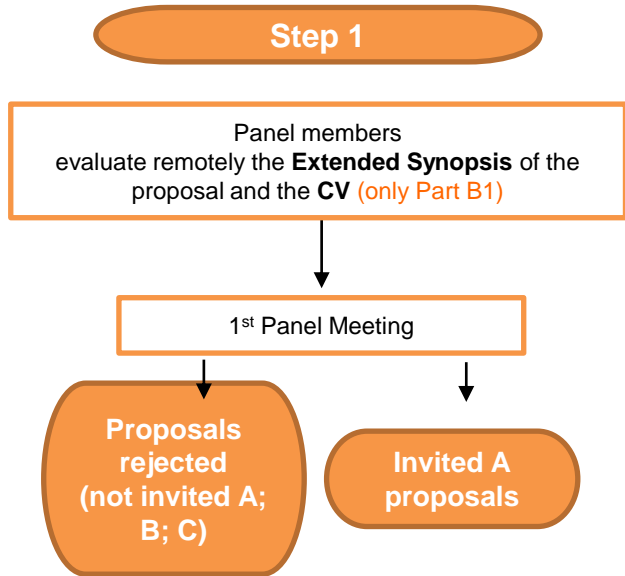
- Panel members receive all individual reviews (except Col)
- Lead reviewers prepare to present their proposals based on reviews received

## ➤ During the meeting

- Briefing by the panel team and ERC President
- Discussion of all proposals
- Scoring and ranking of proposals
- Writing panel comments
- Assignment of remote referees

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Feedback to applicants

# Evaluation process (StG, CoG & AdG)

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

## *Ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility*

*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 outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the groundbreaking nature and ambition of the proposed research?*

*To what extent are the proposed research **methodology and working arrangements** appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?*

*To what extent are the **proposed timescales, resources, and PI commitment** adequate and properly justified?*

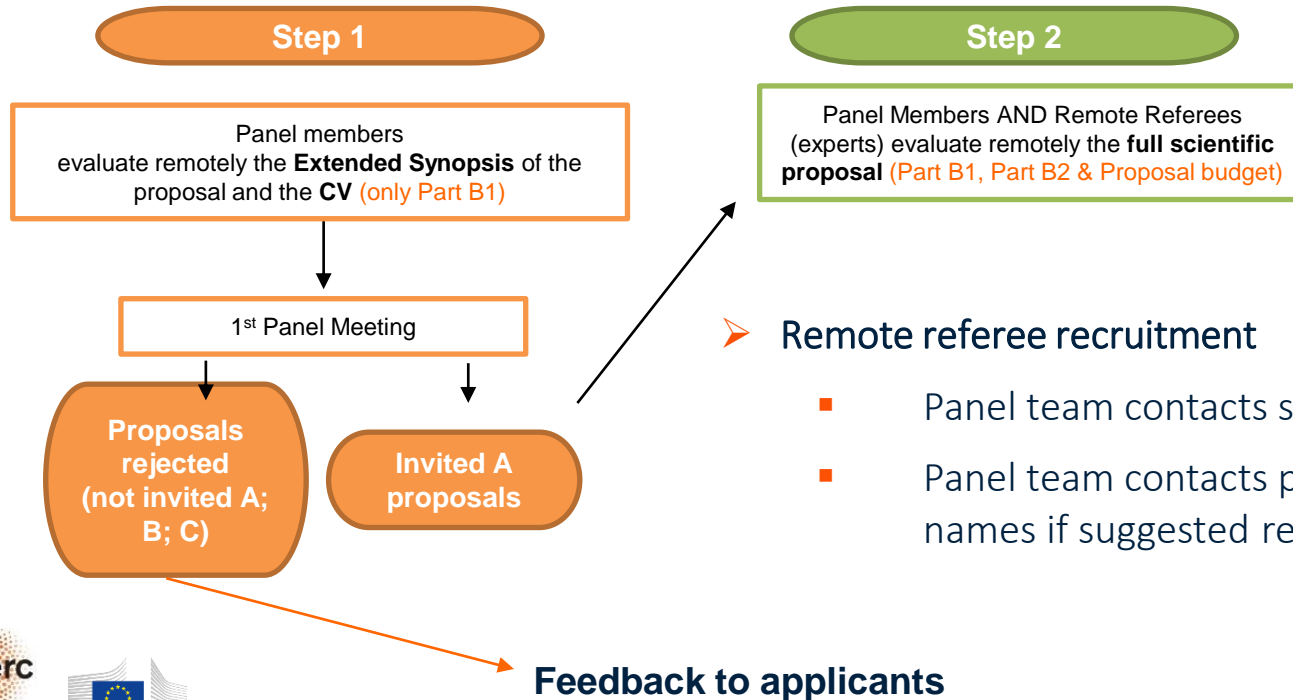
## Step 2

Panel Members AND Remote Referees (experts) evaluate remotely the **full scientific proposal** (Part B1, Part B2 & Proposal budget)



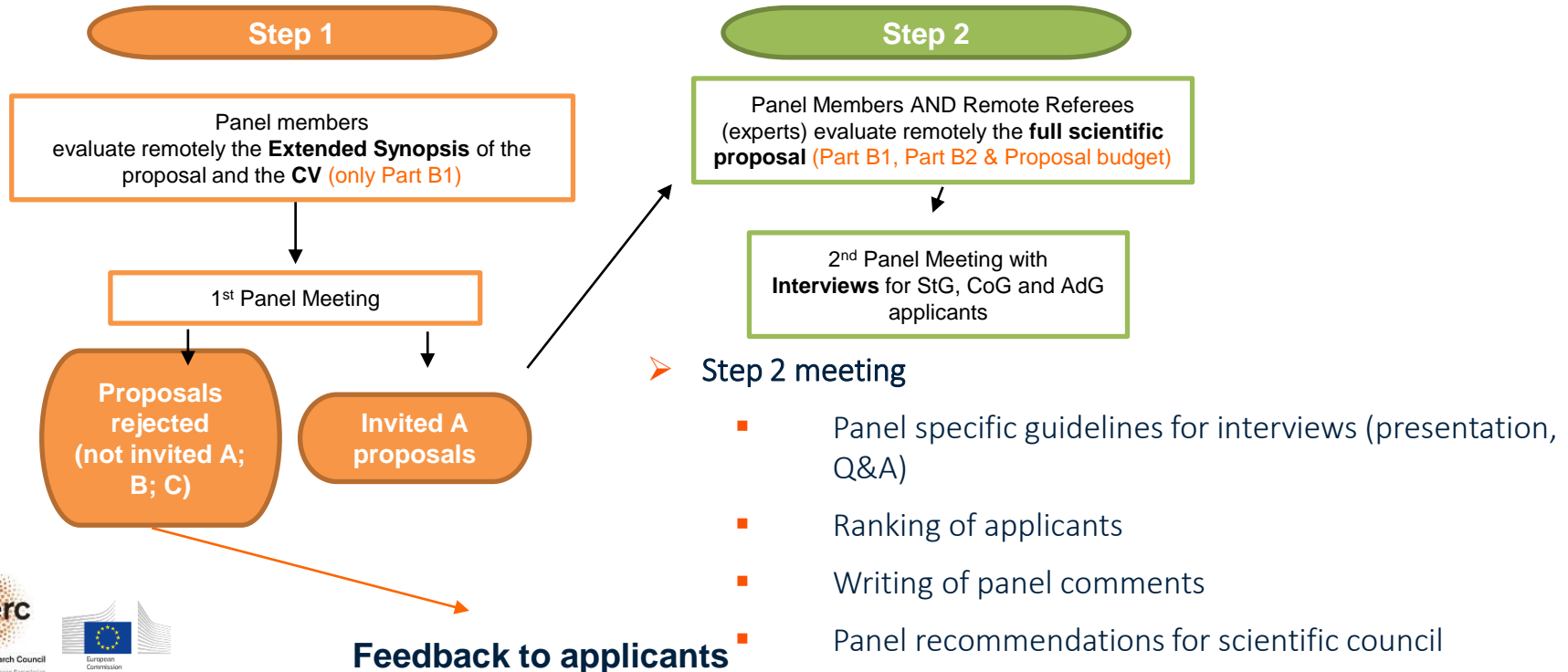
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# I have been invited for an interview .. now what?

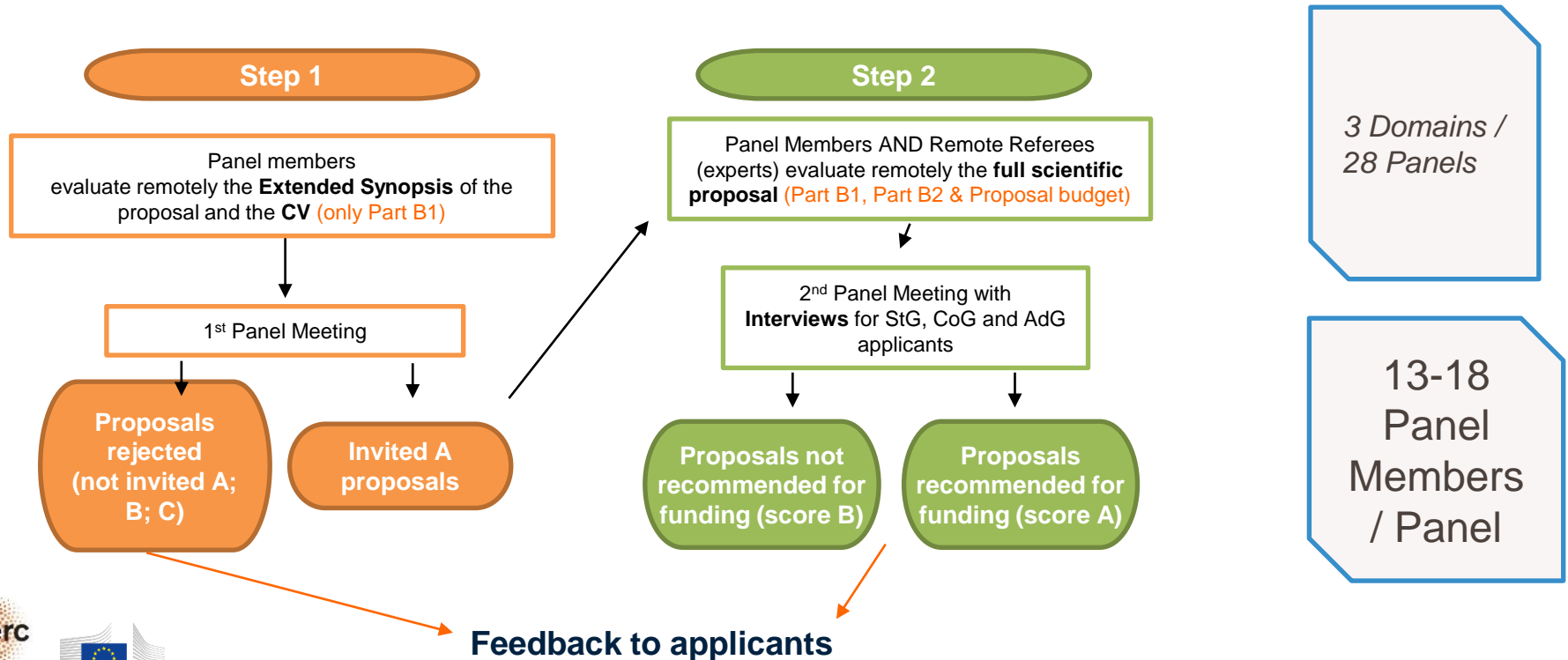
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- Have **clear and representative** slides and focus on **RESEARCH project!** Don't try to make a business presentation – you are talking to passionate scientists.
  - Get panel interested in **YOUR ideas** & proposal;
  - Present & defend YOUR ideas (panels want to see that these are your ideas);
  - Don't over-explain your CV!
  - Provide additional preliminary data if available
- **Anticipate questions**
- Know the **details of your proposal** and methods, as well as your **research area** – who are your main competitors/collaborators?
- **Follow the instructions for the interview and practice** thoroughly, several times



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# Myths

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1. English native speakers have a clear advantage
2. Projects with acronym starting by A have better chances to get funded
3. Interviews scheduled for late afternoon (or late in the week) are less successful.

## Mistakes

1. Unsure/unconvincing about your own project (not your idea).
2. Provide vague/unnecessary long answers (wasting time).
3. Unaware of or “hiding” recent or previous development in the field.



# Thank You!

More information: [erc.europa.eu](https://erc.europa.eu)



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