The European Research Council

ERC Work Programme 2027: What Future Applicants Should Know

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Condensed Matter Physics PE3 Panel
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Building ERC Capacity in Widening Countries

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Where can you find more information?

- Register early, get familiar with the European Commission's Funding and Tender portal and download the templates
- Read the call documents (Information for Applicants, ERC Work Programme, ERC website)
- Talk to your Institution's grant office, ERC National Contact Points
- Talk to ERC grantees (ERC Dashboard)
- Contact the ERCEA to ask all your questions well ahead of the submission deadline– e.g., ERC-2027-COG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

Where can you find more information?

Apply for a grant | ERC



- **6 New Videos - ERC Classes**
- How can you get started with your ERC proposals?
- How can you write your ERC proposal?
- How do we evaluate your ERC proposal?
- What do you need to know about the ERC Synergy Grants?
- How can you best prepare for your ERC interview?
- Why care about ethics in your ERC proposal?

- ERC CLASSES - YouTube

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ERC grant schemes



Starting Grants NEW

Researchers (0-10 years after PhD)
up to €1.5 million for 5 years



Consolidator Grants NEW

Researchers (5-15 years after PhD)
up to €2 million for 5 years



Advanced Grants

Researchers with track-record of significant research achievements up to €2.5 million for 5 years



Proof of Concept

bridging gap between research
- earliest stage of marketable innovation
lump sum €150 000 for ERC grantees



Synergy Grants

2-4 Principal investigators
up to €10 million for 6 years
1 PI can be based outside EU/Associated Countries



Plus Grants NEW

Principal investigators at all career stages with a vision for transformative research
up to €7 million over 4-7 years

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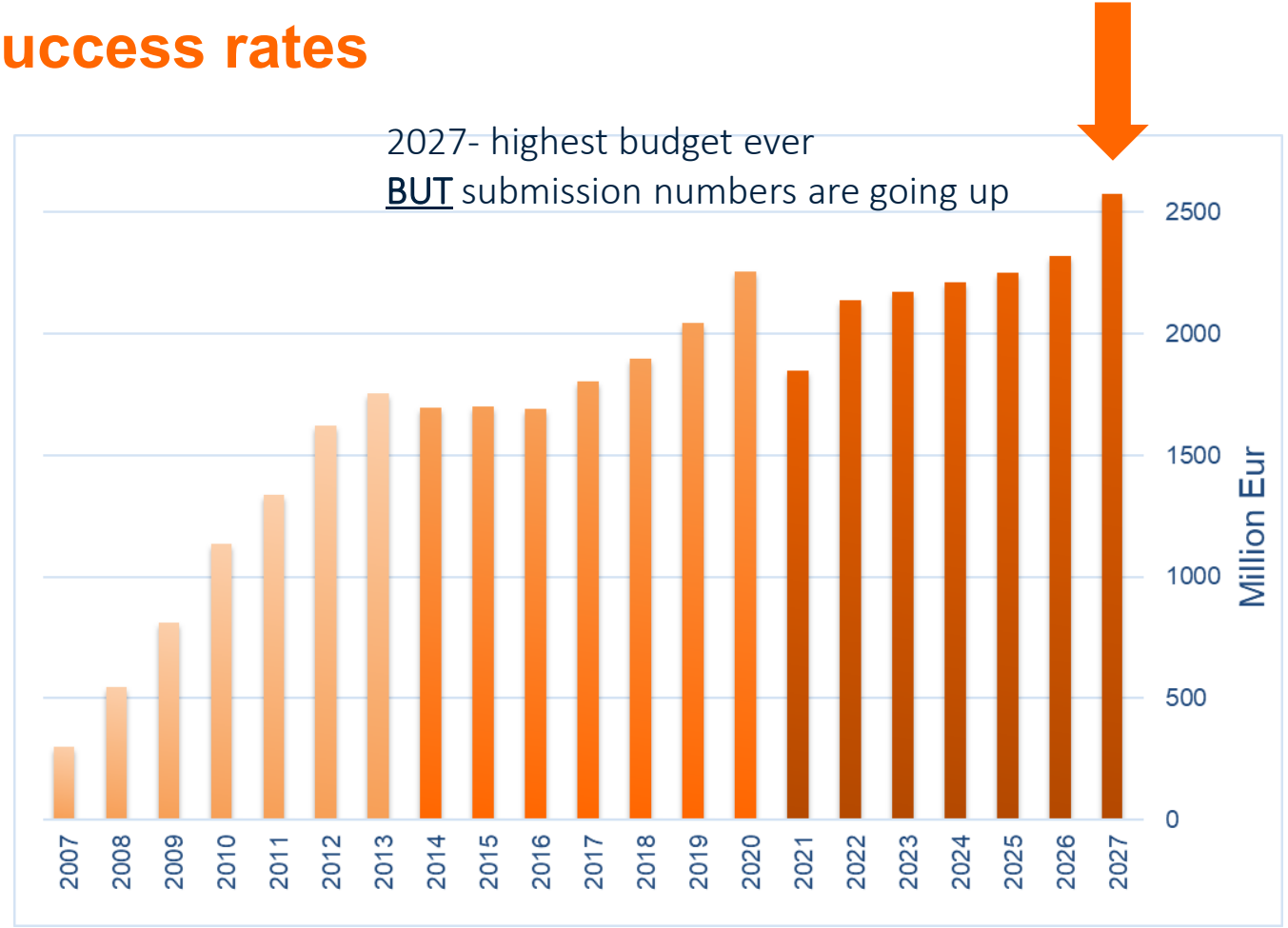
For individual calls:
+1 MEURO as additional funding if properly justified (no predefined categories)
+2 MEURO as additional funding for PIs from countries outside EU or Associated Countries NEW

Budget and success rates

FP7: €7.5 billion

H2020: €13 billion

HE: €16 billion



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To apply or not to apply…



- Starting and Consolidator:
  - Larger eligibility window, more chances
  - Submission numbers are going up, success rate is going down
  - Keep an eye on resubmission restrictions
  - You can have only one grant of each type

- Advanced, Plus and Synergy
  - Technically not limited to senior experts, even though they tend to represent the biggest portion of applicants
  - Which grant fits best your needs? Check also success rate

Evaluation panel structure (2027)

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems
- LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration
- LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing
- 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

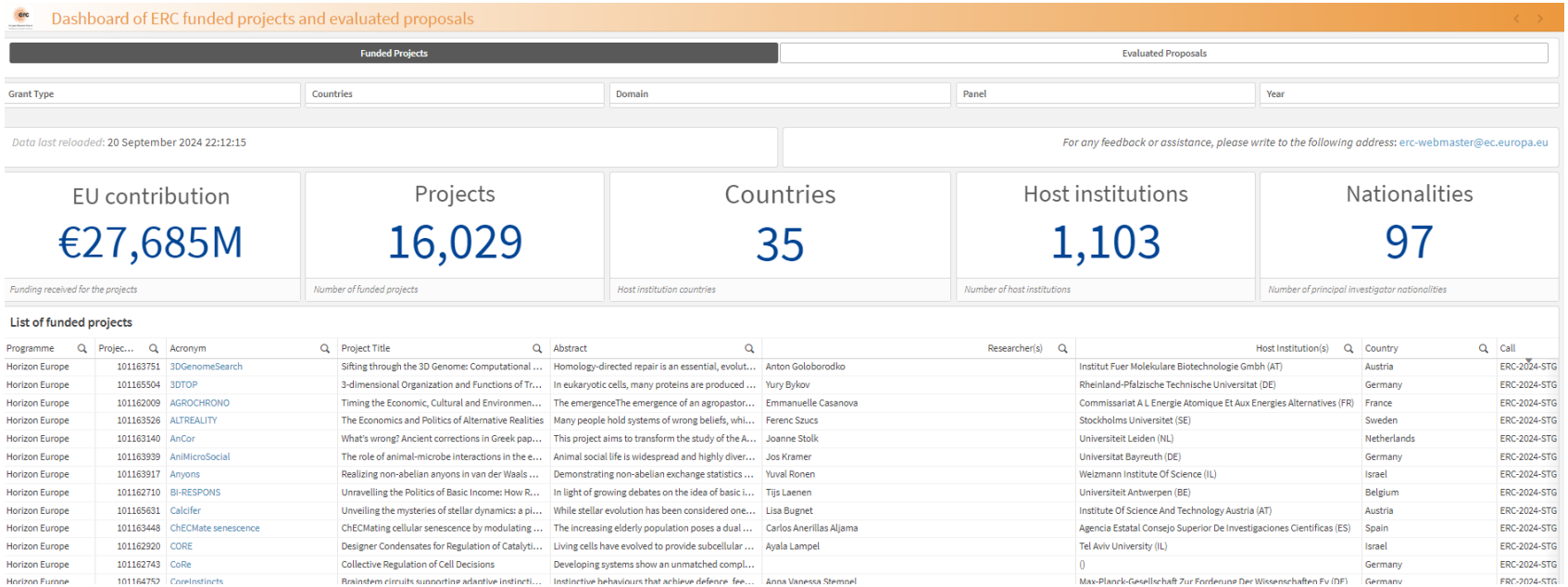
Physical Sciences & Engineering

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

Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- SH3 The Social World and Its Interactions
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Texts and Concepts
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
- SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts

Choose your panel- ERC website is your friend



Dashboard of ERC funded projects and evaluated proposals

Funded Projects | Evaluated Proposals

Grant Type | Countries | Domain | Panel | Year

Data last reloaded: 20 September 2024 22:12:15

For any feedback or assistance, please write to the following address: erc-webmaster@ec.europa.eu

EU contribution	Projects	Countries	Host institutions	Nationalities
€27,685M	16,029	35	1,103	97
Funding received for the projects	Number of funded projects	Host institution countries	Number of host institutions	Number of principal investigator nationalities

List of funded projects

Programme	Projec...	Acronym	Project Title	Abstract	Researcher(s)	Host Institution(s)	Country	Call
Horizon Europe	101163751	3DGenomeSearch	Sifting through the 3D Genome: Computational ...	Homology-directed repair is an essential, evolut...	Anton Goloborodko	Institut Fuer Molekulare Biotechnologie Gmbh (AT)	Austria	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101165504	3DTOP	3-dimensional Organization and Functions of Tr...	In eukaryotic cells, many proteins are produced ...	Yury Bykov	Rheinland-Pfalzische Technische Universitat (DE)	Germany	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101162009	AGROCHRONO	Timing the Economic, Cultural and Environmen...	The emergenceThe emergence of an agropastor...	Emmanuelle Casanova	Commissariat A L Energie Atomique Et Aux Energies Alternatives (FR)	France	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101163526	ALTREALITY	The Economics and Politics of Alternative Realities	Many people hold systems of wrong beliefs, whi...	Ferenc Szucs	Stockholms Universitet (SE)	Sweden	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101163140	AnCor	What's wrong? Ancient corrections in Greek pap...	This project aims to transform the study of the A...	Joanne Stolk	Universiteit Leiden (NL)	Netherlands	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101163939	AniMicroSocial	The role of animal-microbe interactions in the e...	Animal social life is widespread and highly diver...	Jos Kramer	Universitat Bayreuth (DE)	Germany	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101163917	Anyons	Realizing non-abelian anyons in van der Waals ...	Demonstrating non-abelian exchange statistics ...	Yuval Ronen	Weizmann Institute Of Science (IL)	Israel	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101162710	BI-RESPONS	Unravelling the Politics of Basic Income: How R...	In light of growing debates on the idea of basic i...	Tijs Laenen	Universiteit Antwerpen (BE)	Belgium	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101165631	Calcifer	Unveiling the mysteries of stellar dynamics: a pi...	While stellar evolution has been considered one...	Lisa Bugnet	Institute Of Science And Technology Austria (AT)	Austria	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101163448	ChECMate senescence	ChECMating cellular senescence by modulating ...	The increasing elderly population poses a dual ...	Carlos Anerillas Aljama	Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior De Investigaciones Cientificas (ES)	Spain	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101162920	CORE	Designer Condensates for Regulation of Catalyti...	Living cells have evolved to provide subcellular ...	Ayala Lampel	Tel Aviv University (IL)	Israel	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101162743	CoRe	Collective Regulation of Cell Decisions	Developing systems show an unmatched compl...		()	Germany	ERC-2024-STG
Horizon Europe	101164752	CoreInstincts	Brainstem circuits supporting adaptive instincti...	Instinctive behaviours that achieve defence, fee...	Anna Vanessa Stempel	Max-Planck-Gesellschaft Zur Forderung Der Wissenschaften Ev (DE)	Germany	ERC-2024-STG

Where is your research usually funded? Collaborators with ERC grants? Former Panel Members?

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Evaluation Process

PART A – admin forms online

- Section 1 Proposal and PI info
- Section 2 Host Institution info
- Section 3 Budget
- Section 4 Ethics
- Section 5 Call-specific Questions

Annexes – submitted as .pdf

- Statement of support of HI (template available)
- copy of PhD or equiv. (StG & CoG)
- No reference letters

If applicable:

- document for extension of eligibility window (StG & CoG)
- explanatory info on ethical issues



Seen by the panel

PART I – submitted as .pdf

Abstract and Cross-Panel explanation	1 p.
Extended Synopsis	5 p.+ref
CV & Track Record	up to 4 p.

PART II – submitted as .pdf



Scientific Proposal	7 p.+ref
Funding ID	1 p.

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Part I- Scientific project- what is important?

- You need a big/new idea - No incremental research
- Go beyond the state of the art, be ambitious- no safe, low-risk low gain ideas
- How can I prove/support my case? Give an idea of the overall strategy 

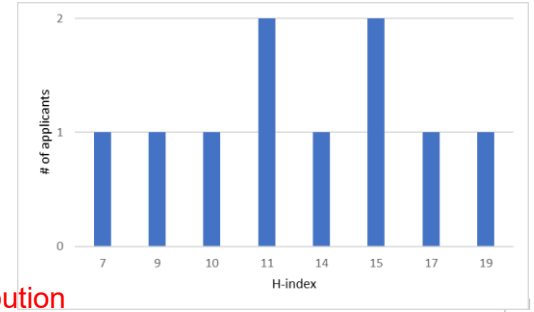
- Is it timely?
- Why am I the best/only person to carry it out? Know your competitors

Part I- Principal Investigator- what is important?

- Since 2024: Scientific Council explicitly asks reviewers to give more weight to the proposal than the PI
- Report up to 10 research achievements
- Explain what has been your own contribution to your publications/how they have impacted the field.
- If you know that you have gaps or other issues in your CV, explain them in the Additional Information section.

Rumour : *One needs publications in Nature/Science/High IF journals to succeed.*

✘**NOT true**: however, publishing with senior scientists (former supervisors) may raise doubts about maturity/scientific independence.



StG2024-PE3
H-index distribution

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Part I- Scientific Project- some advice

- Have it proof-read by EVERYBODY- needs to be accessible also to generalists
- Avoid jargon/excessive highlighting – you are talking to scientists
- Do not oversell it
- Make sure there are no typos, legends to the figures/tables are correct, figure axes are clearly visible etc. – don't look sloppy
- Complete reference list (no page limit - do your homework)
- Double check the work of your AI-companion. Hallucinations (especially in references) would look really really really bad

Part II- some advice

- Make sure that there is an obvious link between Part I and II - no surprises
- Do not repeat Part I, go into details on your methodology and work plan
- What if the first workpackage fails? Strategies to mitigate risks
- You should add/describe some sort of timeline
- Use full space available (7 p.)
- Fill in your Funding ID fully.
- Explain your budget properly

  (not relevant for deciding who gets the grant)



Explain your budget properly

- Budget is not an evaluation criterion
- Panels have responsibility to ensure that resources requested are reasonable and well justified.
- Budget cuts need to be justified on a proposal-by-proposal basis (no across-the-board cuts).
- Panels do not “micro-manage” project finances.
- Do not overinflate costs- panels would notice it
- Ask for funding for Open Access – this is obligatory in Horizon Europe
- No predefined categories for additional budget anymore- in practice it’s as if the maximum grant amount has been increased by 1 MEURO



Typical Reasons for rejection

Research Project

- Not clear groundbreaking aspects/Incremental research
- Scope: Too narrow or too broad/unfocussed
- Collaborative project, several PIs
- Work plan not detailed enough/unclear
- Insufficient risk management
- Part B2 did not give sufficient information on the methodology- concerns on feasibility

Principal Investigator

- Insufficient track-record
- Not clear they can carry out the project (not independent, lack of relevant expertise)

If rejected, **KEEP TRYING**

Reapplications have a higher success rate (50% more)

Use the feedback from evaluation reports

Thank You!

More information: erc.europa.eu



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