

The European Research Council

ERC Advanced Grants 2024

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Unit B.2. - Call Coordination

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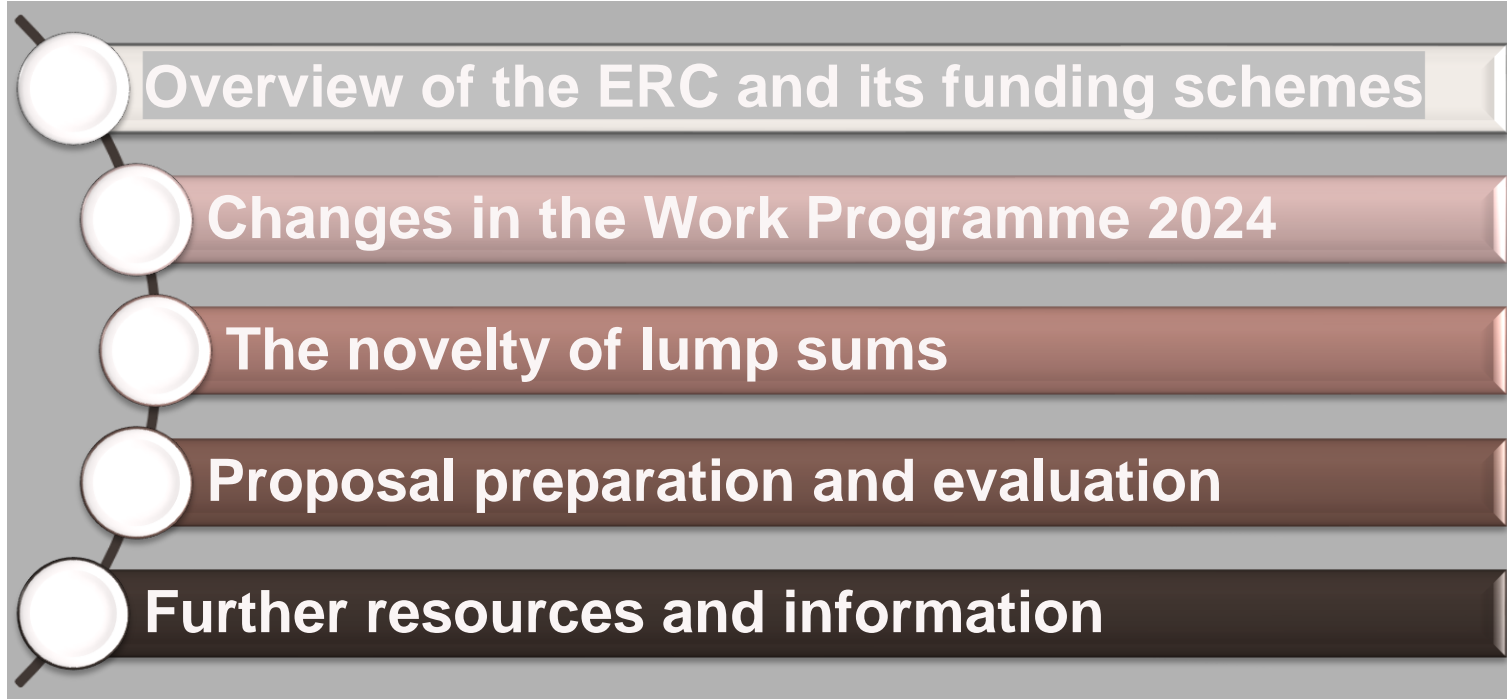
ERC AdG 2024 Call – Belgian webinar



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Presentation outline



ERC in figures as of (April 2023)



Over **13,000**
top researchers funded since
the ERC creation in 2007



Over **90,000**
researchers and other professionals
employed in ERC research teams



Over **2,400**
patents and other IPR applications
generated by ERC funding



Over **400**
start-ups identified as founded
or co-founded by ERC grantees



Over **220,000**
articles from ERC projects published
in scientific journals



Over **900** research institutions hosting
ERC grantees – universities, public or
private research centres in the EU or
Associated Countries



89
nationalities of
grant holders



14 Nobel Prizes, **6** Fields Medals, **11** Wolf Prizes
and other prizes awarded to ERC grantees

ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants

2-7 years after PhD
up to € 1.5 + 1 Mio
for 5 years



50%

50%



Consolidator Grants

7-12 years after PhD
up to € 2 + 1 Mio
for 5 years



40%



50%

Advanced Grants

track-record of significant
research achievements
up to € 2.5 + 1 Mio
for 5 years



30%

50%



Synergy Grants

2 – 4 Principal Investigators
any career stage

up to € 10.0 + 4 Mio for 6 years

1 PI can be based outside EU/Associated Country



30%



50%, except
non-EU/AC PI

Proof-of-Concept

bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable or social innovation
lump sum €150,000 for ERC grant holders



ERC Advanced Grants (AdG): Anyone from anywhere in the world can apply

- Keep in mind that host institutions have to be in the EU or Associated Country.
- Grantees can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe (“significant part” of work time in Europe: at least 50% + 30% of time committed to the project)
- Grantees can move within Europe with the grant
- Additional “start-up” funding for researchers moving to Europe (€ 1 Mio irrespective of grant scheme)
- Opportunities for researchers outside EU/Associated Countries: Team members can be based outside Europe. Over 18% of team members in H2020 were from non-EU and non-associated countries, like the USA, China and India.

Why apply for an ERC grant?

ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility to:

- work on a research topic of own choice
- gain financial autonomy for 5 years in individual grants
- negotiate the best conditions of work with the host institution
- attract excellent team members and collaborators from anywhere in the world
- move with the grant to any place in EU or in an associated country if desired (“portability of grants”)
- win additional funding

ERC 2024 Work Programme

Summary of Novelties – ERC Work Programme 2024

FOCUS ON RESEARCH

- Ground-breaking
- Ambitious
- Feasible

Assessment

- Up to 10 research outputs
- Short narrative
- Career breaks, diverse paths

No prescriptive PI profiles

- Up to 44 proposals in step 2 (excl. SyG)
- 'A not invited' can reapply next year

Evaluation Procedure

- AdG only: Introduction of lump sum funding model

Lump Sum Pilot

- New Panel – SH8
- Changes in description of LS3/LS5 panels

Panels

Changes in Work Programme 2024 (1)

Focus of evaluation on the research project; no prescriptive PI profiles

- Explicitly **weighing project proposal more** than past achievements of applicant during evaluation
- **CV & Track Record templates** are combined + simplified: 4 pages in total → broad assessment of the Principal Investigator
 - List of up to ten research outputs that demonstrate how the applicants have advanced knowledge in their field, with an emphasis on more recent achievements, and a list of selected examples of significant peer recognition (for example, prizes).
 - Applicants will be able to **add short narrative descriptions**: explain the significance of the selected outputs, the applicant's role in producing each of them, whether the applicant has demonstrated the capacity to successfully carry out the proposed project
 - Applicants are invited to explain **career breaks or unconventional career paths**
 - Applicants can describe **exceptional contributions** to research community
- **Evaluation questions have been revised** (no question any longer on high risk/ high gain aspect, neither on development of novel methodology: focus rather on the extent of the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the proposed research)

Changes in Work Programme 2024 (2)

Evaluation procedure – A new category of ‘A not invited’

- Proposals **continue to be evaluated by peer review panels** composed of leading scientists and scholars using sole criterion of scientific excellence
- Cap on the number of proposals passing to step 2 in Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grants calls: **at most 44 proposals can be passed to step 2** of the evaluation.
- New scoring introduced at step 1: A not invited- *‘A not invited is of excellent quality but not ranked sufficiently high to pass to step 2 of the evaluation’*
 - A candidate whose proposal is scored A at step 1 of the evaluation, but not taken to interview, will be free to submit a proposal in the following year’s calls.

Changes in Work Programme 2024 (3)

Lump Sums to be introduced in Advanced Grants 2024

- Lump Sum to be introduced **only for Advanced Grants 2024** on pilot basis (rather than actual cost model); detailed work on its implementation is ongoing
- Lump Sum funding - defined up-front and fixed in the grant agreement without financial reporting
 - No need for milestones or deliverables
- Core features remain the same:
 - Continue to support **ground-breaking research solely based on excellence**
 - **Autonomy of Principal Investigator**
 - Approach to **portability & flexibility** of ERC grants remain unchanged (PIs have right for **grant portability**)
- More information: [Lump sum funding in ERC Advanced Grant 2024: Questions and answers | ERC \(europa.eu\)](#) (July 2023)



The novelty of lump sums

ERC AdG 2024 Lump Sum – General principles

- **1 single lump sum contribution** for the entirety of the project (broken down by beneficiary if multi-beneficiary)
- Lump sum **request defined by each project** and **capped at** funding scheme **ceiling** (2.5 M€ + 1 M€ of **additional funding**)
- Proposals include a **budget based on estimated costs** for the project activities
- Budget is **assessed during evaluation** (justification of resources and plausibility of costs)
- Once the lump sum contribution is established, **costs actually incurred are not relevant** (budget table not included in the grant agreement) - **Full flexibility** (transfer between costs categories)

ERC Lump Sum Model ERC - Main features

- Entire project formally considered as **one single lump sum work package** (applicants can continue to structure their project as they wish)
- **No changes to evaluation criteria** - Scientific Excellence is sole evaluation criterion; Minimal change in the evaluation process
- **No ad-hoc financial experts** for budget assessment
- Agency will conduct budget checks and provide historical ERC personnel cost data to **support budget assessment by panel**
- **No financial reporting**, 80% pre-financing, scientific reporting at mid-term & final (including implementation requirements such as PI time commitment, etc.)



ERC Lump Sum funding – Reporting/payment (2)

Lump sum fully paid when all the work has been carried out (as described in the DoA), and also if

- All essential tasks completed, and/or
- Equivalent tasks have been carried out, and/or
- Deviations have been duly justified.

ERC AdG 2024 Lump Sum – Timeline ERC WP 2024

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>
<i>Call identifier</i>	ERC-2024-StG	ERC-2024-CoG	ERC-2024-AdG	ERC-2024-SyG
<i>Call opens</i>	11 July 2023	12 September 2023	29 May 2024	12 July 2023
<i>Call deadline</i>	24 October 2023	12 December 2023	29 August 2024	8 November 2023
<i>Planned dates to inform applicants after each step</i>	10 May 2024 23 August 2024	21 June 2024 13 December 2024	31 January 2025 13 June 2025	3 May 2024 30 August 2024 4 November 2024
<i>Indicative date for signature of grant agreements</i>	21 December 2024	12 April 2025	18 November 2025	24 March 2025

Evaluation Process:

STEP1: November 2024

STEP2: March 2025

Proposal Submission - Budget

Budget must only include estimated costs on items that are:

- **Eligible** (same eligibility conditions as actual costs)
- **reasonable, non-excessive** costs
- in line with the **beneficiaries' normal practices** (Declaration 10 in the administrative Form A)

'For Lump Sum Grants with a detailed budget table: We understand and accept that the EU lump sum grants must be reliable proxies for the actual costs of a project and confirm that the detailed budget for the proposal has been established in accordance with our usual cost accounting practices and in compliance with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (see AGA - Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6) and exclude costs that are ineligible under the Programme. Purchases and subcontracting costs must be done taking into account best value for money and must be free of conflict of interest.' This tick box is mandatory for all lump sum calls of the European Commission family.

Changes to the submission forms - Budget table (Person-Month per staff category)

	PI			Senior staff			Postdocs			Students			Other staff			A. Total personnel costs/€
Beneficiary Short Name	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	
Participant X																
Participant Y																
Linked 3rd party X																
Linked 3rd party Y																
Total																

New cost fields for AdG 2024

- Person months
- Average monthly costs (automatic calculation)

B. Subcontracting Costs/€ (No indirect costs)	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment - including major equipment	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	C.3 Total other goods, works and services	C. Total Purchase costs/€	D. Internally invoiced goods and services/€ (No indirect costs)	E. Indirect Cost/€	Total Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution /€

➡ All other cost categories remain the same

Changes to the submission forms - Narrative section (new structure)

Section C. Resources	
A. Personnel	D. Internally invoiced goods and services
Maximum 2500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed
B. Subcontracting (if applicable)	Request for additional funding justification
Maximum 1000 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed
C. Purchase cost (<i>Travel - Equipment - Consumables - Field work - Animal costs - Publications - Other additional direct costs</i>)	Funding from other sources
Maximum 3500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed

- Single box split in 6 sub-sections (text boxes) to provide a more structured format for PIs to justify
- Overall character limit to justify resources extended from 8.000 to 10.000 character

Changes to the submission forms - Equipment depreciation table (new annex)

- Excel template will be a **mandatory attachment** to be uploaded at submission
- Guidance *to be provided* on how to list items for which several units may be requested (i.e., centrifuges, laptops)
- Guidance *to be provided* on how to encode fully capitalized costs items

Beneficiary's/affiliated entity's name	Short name of the asset	Purchase cost per item (a)	Depreciation time (months) (b)	Expected percentage of usage for the grant (c)	Expected use time during the grant (months, cannot exceed the duration of the grant) (d)	Estimated depreciation costs per item (cannot exceed the purchase costs) $(a/b)*c*d$	Comments (e.g. depreciation policy, grouped items, full capitalised costs, etc.....)
Example 1	Equipment 1	€ 100,000.00	60	100%	48	€ 80,000.00	
Example 2	Equipment 2	€ 10,000.00	36	100%	36	€ 10,000.00	
Example 3	Equipment 3	€ 50,000.00	60	50%	48	€ 20,000.00	

Proposal evaluation – Evaluation of resources & costs requested by applicants

No change to the proposal Part B1 or Part B2 templates as a consequence of the change in funding model – changes only as a consequence of the general changes of ERC WP 2024 as for StG and CoG – no change to the evaluation criteria!

Resources needed for the project & **plausibility of costs estimates** are assessed during the evaluation

Assessment of costs estimates (i.e. reasonable and non-excessive) **only at evaluation** to define the lump sum contribution (sound financial management):

- **eligibility** of costs
- **reasonable, non-excessive** costs

Proposal Evaluation – ERC Dashboard (Personnel Costs)

ERC Dashboard for personnel costs will be made available for applicants and panel members

In line with RTD Dashboard, except:

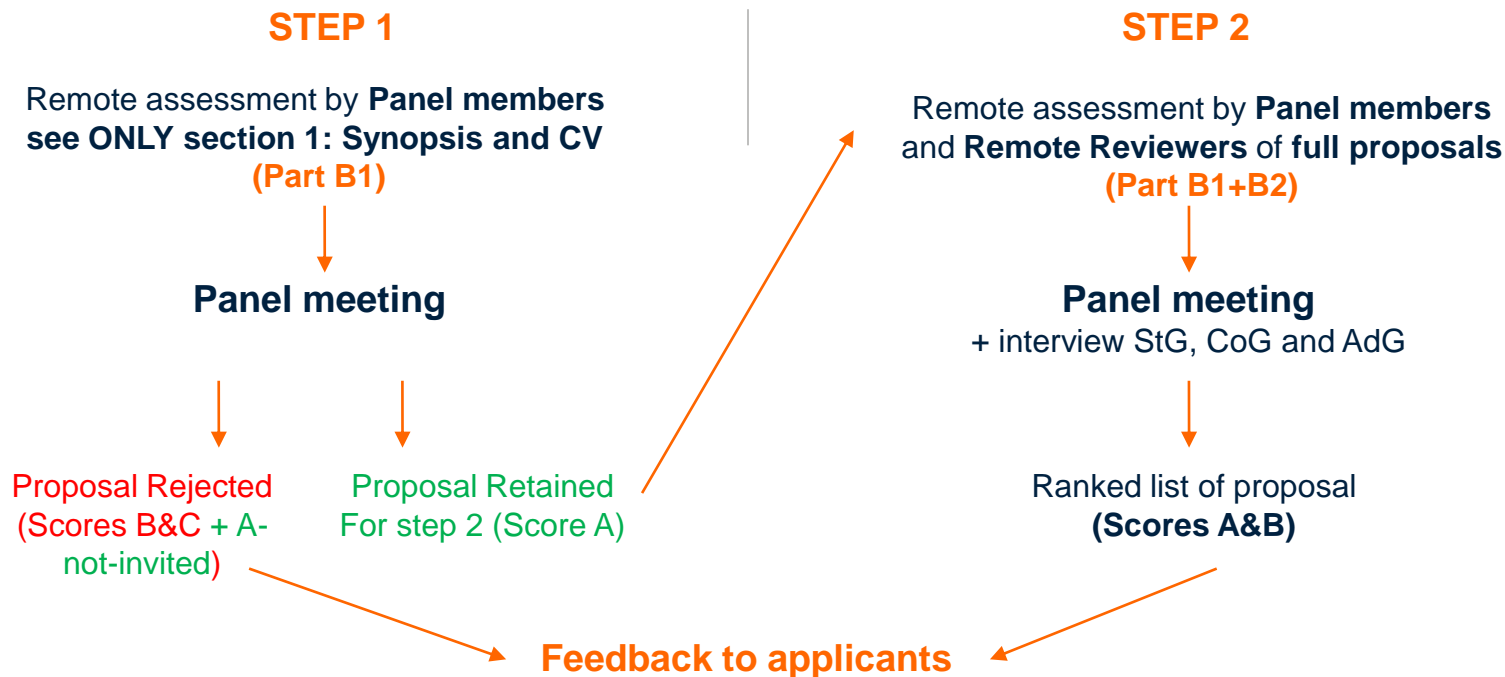
- Based on **ERC historical data** - actual personnel costs paid since 2018 (to be updated for each Advanced Grant call)

Displayed by Country and Staff Category

Proposal preparation and evaluation

Evaluation: process

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



Structure of the proposal; some tips in putting it together

Part B1

In **Step 1: Panel members** (act as **generalists**) they see only **Part B1** of your proposal: Prepare it accordingly, make sure it is accessible to non-specialists!

- Part B1 must provide a **concise and clear presentation** of your research project
- Pay particular attention to its **ground-breaking nature** – no incremental research. State-of-the-art is not enough. Think big!
- Know your competitors – what is the **state of play** and why is your idea and scientific approach outstanding?
- **Only outline the methodological approach**
- Are the goals realistic? Feasibility is assessed at step 1; think about risks and their mitigation

Preparing your proposal (continued)

Part B2

In Step 2 : Both Part B1 and B2 are sent to specialists around the world (specialised external referees)

- Do not just repeat the synopsis in part B2
- Provide **sufficient detail** on methodology, work plan, selection of case studies etc. (14 pages) (references do not count towards page limit)
- Explain **involvement of additional team members** (it is possible to have further beneficiaries/partners in the project)
- **Get feedback** from your peers; have mock interviews if you passed to step 2

Read carefully the evaluation criteria

Evaluation Questions: Research Project (StG, CoG, AdG)

- ✓ 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 (Step 1)?
- ✓ To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (Step 2)?
- ✓ To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources, and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (Step 2)?

Evaluation Questions: Principal Investigator (StG, CoG, AdG)

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?

Evaluation panel structure (2024)

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



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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

Evaluation panel structure (2024): Applicants must choose the panel that will evaluate their proposal

Panel structure revised – 2024 ERC Panels and panel descriptors available on the [ERC homepage](#):

- Provide guidance to applicants; Not meant to be a complete scientific classification (not exhaustive)
- Panel titles, subtitles, descriptors do not reflect priorities
- Any topic/field is equally welcome, whether mentioned in panel structure or not
- The PI can flag one "Secondary Review Panel". If proposal is across panels: reviewers from both panels used. Explain why proposal is "cross-panel" in Part B1!

Rumour: Choose the panel "strategically" in order to increase chances of success

NOT true: The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand → success rate is equal amongst panels → choose the Panel that is right for your proposal in the individual PI calls!

Proposal Structure

- Part A: Administrative forms and proposal budget
- Part B1: **Extended synopsis**: 5 pages + CV and Track Record (up to 4 pages)
- Part B2: **Scientific proposal**: 14 pages
 - State-of-the-art and objectives
 - Methodology
- Resources (budget and budget narrative) & time commitment (new format for AdG 2024)
- Equipment table to be uploaded

New CV and Track Record – 2024 Calls

- No prescriptive Principal Investigator profiles
- Personal details: education, employment
- Research achievements (≤ 10):
 - demonstrating advancement in the field
 - emphasis on more recent achievements
 - short narrative on significance of achievements
- Peer recognition: prizes, fellowships, academy membership, etc.
- Additional information:
 - career breaks, diverse career paths, life events
 - other contributions to research community

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

RESEARCH PROJECT

- ✓ Ground-breaking nature
- ✓ Potential impact
- ✓ Scientific approach

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

- ✓ Intellectual capacity
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Scientific expertise and capacity to execute the project

Not the Host Institution

quality of PI's past, current or future institution is not evaluated

Typical reasons for rejection

Research Project

- Incremental research
- Scope: Too narrow vs too broad/unfocussed
- Hypothesis objectives and workplan insufficiently clear
- Work plan not detailed enough/unclear
- Insufficient risk management
- For interdisciplinary proposal: expertise missing in one area

Principal Investigator (PI)

- Insufficient track-record
- Poor interview / not addressing the questions

Reminders - Preparing your proposal

1. Consult **call documents** (Work Programme, Information for Applicants)
2. **Register** early on the Funding and Tenders Portal
3. Have your **documentation ready** – proof read the proposal
4. Contact the ERCEA and **ask all your questions** well ahead of the submission deadline (dedicated mailboxes for each call) – e.g.,
ERC-2024-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

Ask your questions to the call coordination teams:

ERC-2024-STG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

ERC-2024-COG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

ERC-2024-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

ERC-SYG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

ERC-POC-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

Explore the ERC projects portfolio:

<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>



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ERC dashboard

ERC dashboard

Advanced analytics tool (ERIS)

Science stories

Mapping ERC frontier research

Need data on ERC grants? New dashboard is [here](#)

The [dynamic platform](#) for ERC funded projects and evaluated proposals is a user-friendly interface with powerful filter options.

You can effortlessly filter by funding scheme, country, year, panel, and more. Plus, export results and graphs to further analyze and showcase your findings.

Share your experience

Please contact us at erc-webmaster@ec.europa.eu to share your feedback and suggestions regarding this new tool.



Where can you find more information?



Videos - ERC Classes

- What to consider before applying
- How to fill in the application
- The interview
- How the evaluation works

[Click here to watch!](#)

Take a chance and apply!

Datahub of ERC funded projects



Homepage > project statistics > project database

Datahub of ERC funded projects (all signed ERC grants until 15/6/2022)

Once you filtered your content you can [generate a custom link](#)

music

clear all

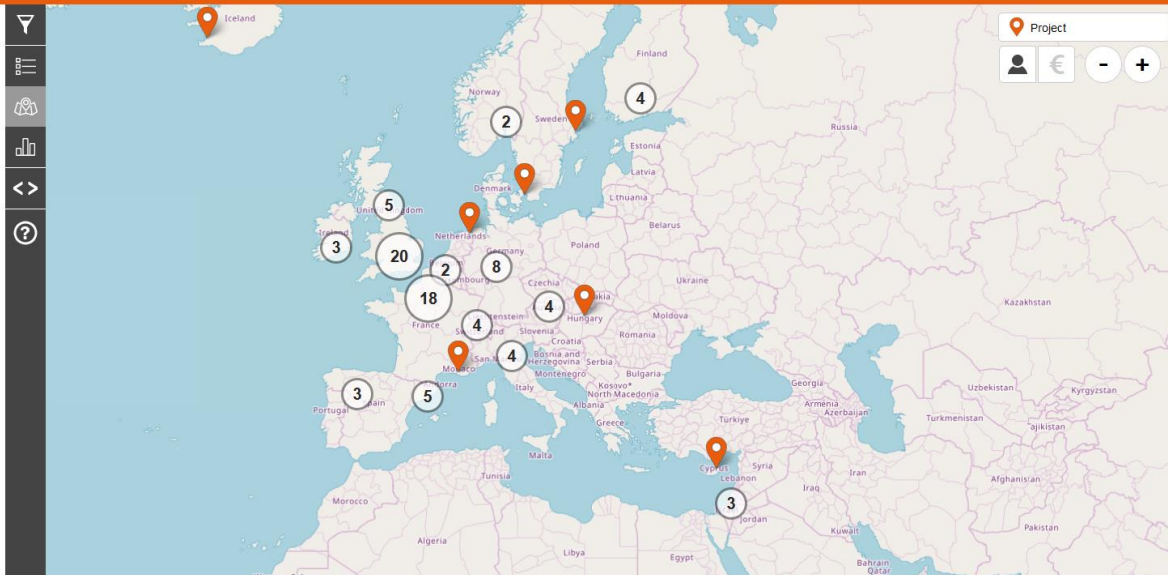
Grant Type

Countries

Panels

Budget

Years



Datahub of ERC funded projects

Homepage > Project statistics > Project database

Datahub of ERC funded projects (all signed ERC grants until 19/12/2022)

Once you filtered your content you can [generate a custom link](#)



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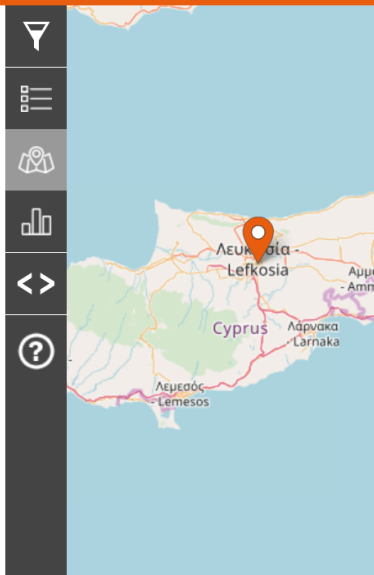
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Countries >

Panels >

Budget >

Years >



[Direct link](#) X

MUTE

Project Title: Soundscapes of Trauma: Music, Sound and the Ethics of Witnessing

MUTE's main objective is to investigate for the first time empirically and theoretically the use of music and sound in situations of confinement and displacement from the Cold War to contemporary times. It explores their weaponization in light of transnational developments in technologies of terror. At the same time, it carefully attends to how music/sound can become a tool of survival, even in the same setting in which they are weaponized. Also explored are ethical challenges of such research, and of music programmes for prisoners and refugees, highlighting their shortcomings and providing alternative models. MUTE innovates through a theoretical framework that investigates the interlocking of politics, ethics, and aesthetics, focusing on the ethics of sound and ethics of witnessing. Its comparative approach extends to (post)colonial Cyprus, Greece, Serbia, Germany, Soviet Union and contemporary Russia, Iraq, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay. MUTE will critically analyse this complex phenomenon across the disciplines of (ethno)musicology, social anthropology, history, critical theory, human rights law and sound art, since it cannot be fully grasped through the methods of any one alone. The PI's extensive immersion into all disciplinary components over the last decade, evident in her novel approach, ensures the successful implementation of research objectives. MUTE's

Thank you!

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