

The European Research Council

ERC Advanced Grants 2025

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Unit B.2. - Call Coordination

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ERC AdG 2025 Call – Belgian webinar



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Overview

- General outline ERC Grant Schemes
- ERC Advanced Grants
- Proposal preparation and evaluation
- Lump Sums in ERC Advanced Grants
- Further resources and information

General outline ERC Grant Schemes

ERC is part of Horizon Europe



EUR 16 billion
ERC budget in Horizon Europe



17%
of the entire
Horizon Europe budget

About the ERC

Scientific governance

- Independent Scientific Council with 22 members including the ERC President, with full authority over strategy
- Supported by a Dedicated Implementation Structure, the ERC Executive Agency

Scientific freedom

- Scientific excellence as the sole criterion
- Support to the individual scientist – *no consortia!*
- No predetermined subjects – “*bottom-up*”
- Support for frontier research in all fields of science and humanities
- International peer-review





LONG TERM GRANTS

TO PIONEERING PROJECTS

IN ANY FIELD OF FRONTIER RESEARCH



Life Sciences



Physical Sciences and Engineering



Social Sciences and Humanities

ERC grant schemes



Starting Grants

starters (2-7 years after PhD) up to € 1.5 Million
for 5 years



Consolidator Grants

Consolidators (7-12 years after PhD) up to € 2 Million
for 5 years



Advanced Grants

track-record of significant research achievements
up to € 2.5 Million
for 5 years



Synergy Grants

2 – 4 Principal Investigators up to € 10.0 Million for 6
years
1 PI can be based outside EU/Associated
Countries



Proof-of-Concept

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

Why to apply for ERC grant?

ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility to:

- work on a research topic of own choice
- gain financial autonomy for five years
- 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 Europe if desired (“portability of grants”)
- win additional funding



ERC Advanced Grants

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
- 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.



ERC AdG 2025 – Timeline ERC WP 2025

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>
<i>Call deadline</i>	15 October 2024	14 January 2025	28 August 2025	6 November 2024
<i>Budget million EUR²³ (estimated number of grants)</i>	751 (483)	719 (354)	683 (276)	500 (48)
<i>Planned dates to inform applicants after each step</i>	5 May 2025 22 August 2025	18 July 2025 12 December 2025	30 January 2026 12 June 2026	14 April 2025 15 August 2025 27 October 2025
<i>Indicative date for signature of grant agreements</i>	21 December 2025	12 April 2026	17 November 2026	24 March 2026

Evaluation Process:

STEP1: November 2025

STEP2: March 2026

Proposal preparation and evaluation

Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground-breaking nature
- Ambition
- Feasibility of the research project

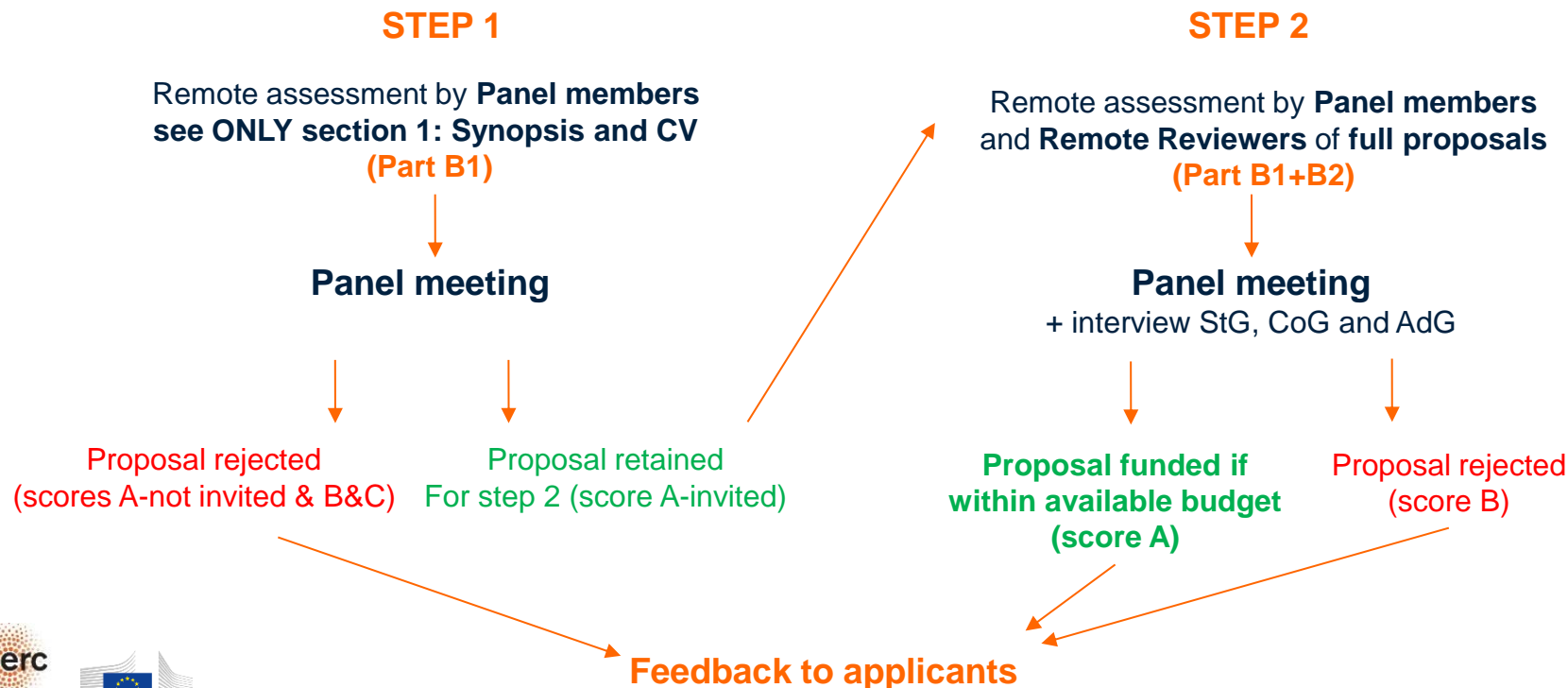
Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment

panels primarily evaluate the excellence of the project,
while evaluating the above aspects of the PI

Evaluation: process

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



Evaluation panel structure (2025)

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



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Commission

Evaluation panel structure

2025 ERC Panels and panel descriptors available on the [ERC homepage](#):

- Provides **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"**. 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!**

Preparing the proposal: Choosing the Panel

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



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ERC dashboard

Advanced analytics
tool (ERIS)

Science stories

Mapping ERC
frontier research

Scientific Prizes

Projects & statistics

You want to see what we have funded so far?

Dive into the database to get detailed info on the granted projects or use the statistics tool. In addition, you can read about some of the amazing research carried out in the stories section.

Data and statistics

Preparing the proposal: Choosing the Panel



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Sea

Apply for a grant

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Support

News & events

About the

Homepage > Apply for a grant > Panel Members

Pa

IMPORTANT: You are not allowed to contact panel members about the evaluation! Any such contact can lead to exclusion from the call.

Panel members are top scientists and scholars coming from a wide range of disciplines. The ERC's peer review ensures a comprehensive evaluation of proposals across three research domains and, currently, in 25 panels.

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This webpage provides information about the panel members who took part in the completed ERC grant competitions, and about panel choices, both past and currently serving.



Evaluation procedure

- 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.



Preparing your proposal

In Step 1: Panel members see only **Part B1** of the proposal (prepare it accordingly!)

Part B1: Find the right balance

- ✓ Innovative? Beyond state-of-art?
Realistic/feasible?
- ✓ Outline state of play (incl. competition)
- ✓ Goals realistic? Think about risk mitigation
- ✓ Be concise & clear
(also for generalists)
- ✓ Feasibility (scientific approach)

In Step 2: Part B1 and B2 and **Budget section** are evaluated by Panel Members & Remote Referees

Part B2: Fill in the details

- ✓ No verbatim repetition of synopsis
- ✓ Detailed state-of-art
- ✓ Extensive methodology and work plan
- ✓ Provide risk mitigation strategies
- ✓ Explain involvement of team members
- ✓ Justify requested resources - Panels have to ensure that the requested resources are reasonable and well justified.



Lump Sums in ERC Advanced Grants

ERC Lump Sum – AdG

- Proposals include a **budget based on estimated costs** related to activities
- Budget is **assessed during evaluation** (resources justification and costs plausibility)
- Lump sum **amount defined by project** (different for each project) and **capped at** funding scheme **ceiling**
- **Full grant amount paid** as long as project is implemented in line with objectives
 - **NO MORE FINANCIAL REPORTING** (e.g. submission of cost claims, time sheets, ...)

ERC Lump Sum – AdG

- **1 single lump sum contribution** for the entirety of the project (only broken down per beneficiary – NOT per work package)
- EU contribution paid on basis of **work done towards objectives** (not successful outcome)
- Right for **grant portability** remains for PIs
- Except financial reporting/payment process, other **processes remain similar to actual costs model** (e.g. evaluation criteria, scientific reporting, project amendments)

ERC Lump Sum funding – important messages

Applicants should not change

- The way they think up their idea and imagine their project
- The way they structure their project

Basic principles of ERC funding remain untouched

- The **evaluation criteria**
- Principles of **flexibility and serendipity**, i.e. how changes and deviations to the original work plan are handled during the course of a project
- The principle of **portability**

ERC Lump Sum funding – Submission & Evaluation

Proposal submission:

- **No change to Part B1 and Part B2** as a consequence of lump sum model
- **Additional details on budget** (person-month & depreciation table, use of resource section more structured)

Proposal Evaluation:

- **Same evaluation criteria:** scientific excellence only; focus remains on scientific merits of proposal
- **Assessment of costs** estimates (i.e. reasonable and non-excessive) to ensure sound financial management



Importance of a well-done budget, but within limit of what makes sense for a 5-year frontier research project

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.

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

- 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

Submission forms - Narrative section (new structure since AdG2024)

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



Submission forms - Equipment depreciation table (mandatory annex)

- Excel template is a **mandatory attachment** to be uploaded at submission

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	

Further resources and information

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-2025-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

Be ready! Be informed!

- Consult the **ERC Work Programme**, the **Information for Applicants** and the **Guide for Peer Reviewers**;
- Look at **funded projects in your field** (search tool on ERC website), testimonials, tutorials ([ERC homepage](#)).
- Talk to your National Contact Point

Where can you find more information?

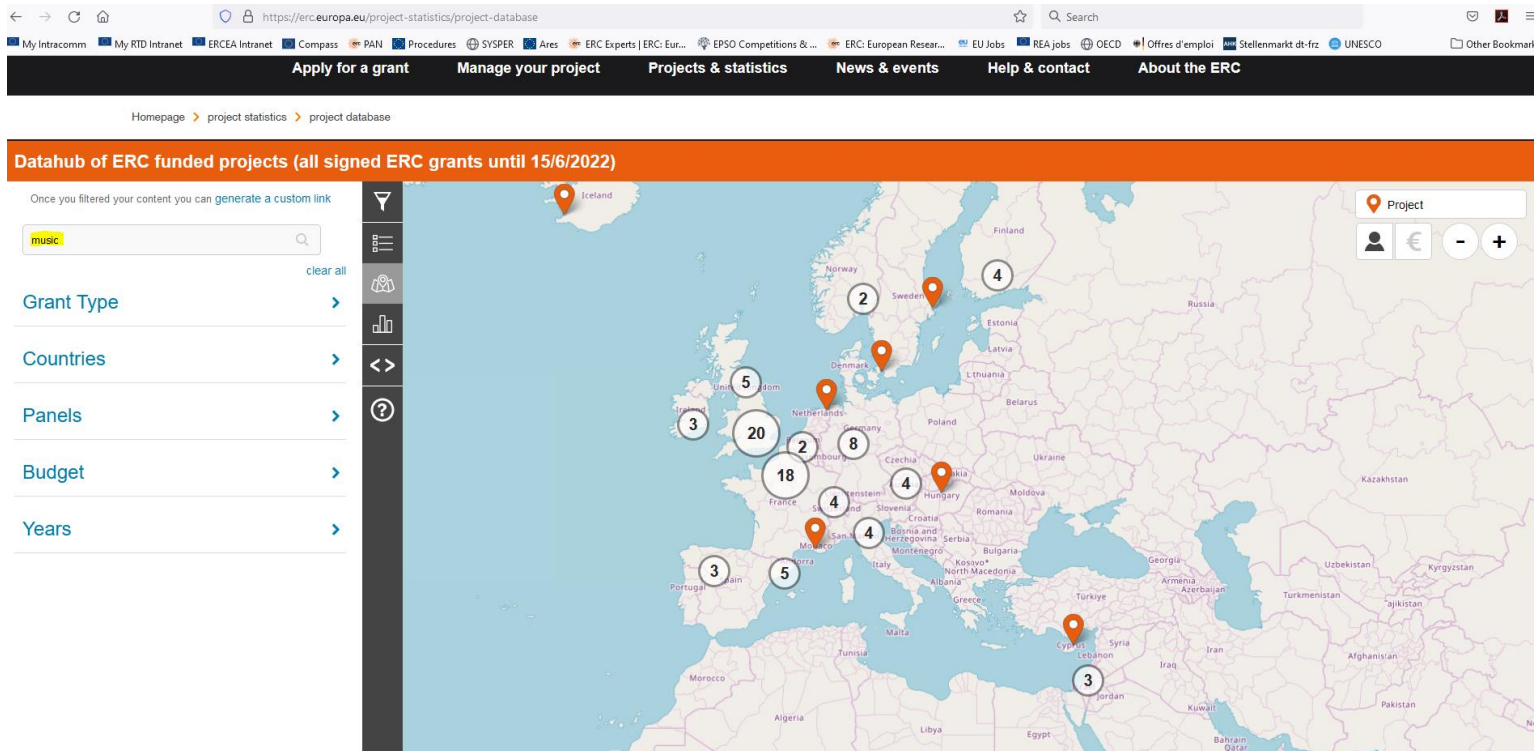


Videos - ERC Classes

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

[Click here to watch!](#)

Datahub of ERC funded projects



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](#)



[clear all](#)

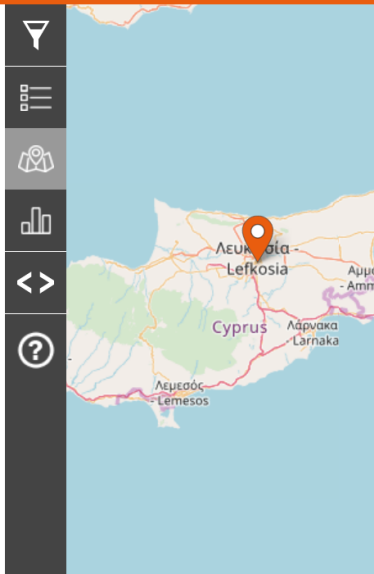
Grant Type >

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!

More information: erc.europa.eu

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