

12/05/2026 – BELGIAN WEBINAR
Overview on the ERC Advanced Grant call

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HORIZON
EUROPE



THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME **2021 - 2027**

#HorizonEU



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.

Particular emphasis on...

Frontier of science, scholarship and engineering, i.e.

- Multi- or interdisciplinary proposals which cross boundaries between different fields of research, or
- Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research, or
- Proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions.

ERC grant schemes



Starting Grants

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



Consolidator Grants

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

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



ERC PLUS is a distinct and unique funding scheme

Key features

1. **ERC Plus Grants: NOT like any other ERC grant** (Political context: 'Choose Europe' initiative)
2. **Grant size and duration:** up to EUR 7 million for up to 7 years and for a minimum of 4 years
3. **Stiff competition:** only 30 Plus grants for 2026 (call budget = EUR 210 million in 2026)
4. **Objective:** support outstanding PIs to address major scientific challenges
 - projects cannot be carried out with regular ERC grant
 - application includes **vision statement** that explains how project goes beyond regular ERC
5. **Candidates:** PIs with an outstanding record of scientific achievement at the forefront of their field
PI >> project !

2/06/2026 15h – 16h30 **ERC PLUS GRANTS WEBINAR**

ERC President Maria Leptin and Philippe Cupers, Head of the Scientific Management Department

[wp_horizon-erc-2026_en.pdf](#) amended on 15.01.2026

[ERC Plus Grant](#)|ERC

[Webinar on the new ERC Plus Grants](#)|ERC

[Video interview – What should you know about the ERC Plus Grants?](#)

ERC grant schemes



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Changes as from WP 2027 (legal text expected to be published in July 2026)

- New eligibility windows will apply to Starting and Consolidator Grant applicants in 2027 calls.

Years post-PhD	StG	CoG
WP 2026	2-7	7-12
WP 2027	0-10	5-15

[Video interview – What's changing in ERC eligibility for 2027? Maria Leptin explains
Changes to ERC evaluation procedures background rationale.pdf](#)

ERC ADVANCED GRANTS 2026

KEY FEATURES

- **Opening date** 28 May 2026; **Deadline** 27 August 2026
- Estimated number of grants for 2026 = 294, call budget = EUR 747 million in 2026
- **Grant size and duration:** up to **2,5M€** (lump sum) for up to **5 years** (pro-rata)
 - **+up to 1M€** Additional funding (not pro-rata) when **further costs** are **necessary** to carry out the proposed work (e.g. start-up costs, major equipment, access to large facilities, major experimental and field work costs)
 - **+up to 2M€** Additional funding (not pro-rata) when the **PI relocates to the EU/AC** from elsewhere to take up their ERC grant
- Grantees can keep affiliation with home institute outside Europe (significant part of work time in Europe: at least **50% EU/AC** + **30% of time committed to the project**)
- **Candidates:** excellent Principal Investigators that are **established research leaders**. An ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigator is expected to be an active researcher with a track record of significant research achievements.

Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground-breaking nature
- Ambition

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity

Evaluation elements (2026)

Research Project. The ground-breaking nature and ambition of the Research Project is assessed as follows:

At Step 1:

- To what extent does the research address important scientific questions?
- To what extent are the project's objectives ambitious and will it advance the frontier of knowledge?

At Step 2:

- To what extent does the research address important scientific questions?
- To what extent are the project's objectives ambitious and will it advance the frontier of knowledge?
- To what extent are the research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?
- To what extent are the timescales and resources adequate and properly justified?

Evaluation elements (2026)

Principal Investigator. The intellectual capacity and creativity of the Principal Investigator is assessed as follows:

At Step 1 and Step 2:

- 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 (2026)

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 Univers Sciences
PE10 Earth System Science
PE11 Materials Engineering

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 Neurosciences 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

Social Sciences & 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 Process – Individual Grants

For main grant schemes (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced grants):
one single submission but a **two-step** evaluation

STEP 1

Remote assessment by **panel members**
Part I, CV and Track Record



Panel meeting



**Proposal rejected
(Scores B&C)**



Feedback to
applicants

**Proposal retained
for step 2 (Score A)**
- max. 44 per panel
- above 44: 'A non-
invited'

STEP 2

Remote assessment by **panel members**
and **remote reviewers** of **complete research proposal**



**Panel meeting
+ interview**



**Proposal not
funded
(Score B)**



Feedback to
applicants

Proposal funded (score A)
• **A funded** (within available
budget)
• **A non-funded** (outside
available budget)



Proposal structure (2026)

Part A: Administrative forms, time commitment and proposal budget (budget table and description of resources)

Part B1 - Part I of the Scientific Proposal (formerly, the Extended Synopsis)

Scientific proposal (up to 5 pages) should describe the overall idea of the proposed research project
CV and Track Record (up to 4 pages)

Check final version
after call opening

Part B2 - Part II of the Scientific Proposal

Scientific proposal (up to 44 7 pages) that should describe the implementation in detail

Host Institution support letter + Equipment Table + Annexes (ethics and security issues docs, etc.)

Proposal structure (2026)

Part A: Administrative forms, time commitment and proposal budget (budget table and description of resources)

The time commitment + budget table and description of resources will be made available to the experts evaluating the full proposal → Step 2

Part B1 - Part I of the Scientific Proposal (formerly, the Extended Synopsis)

Scientific proposal (up to 5 pages) should describe the overall idea of the proposed research project
CV and Track Record (up to 4 pages)

Part B2 - Part II of the Scientific Proposal

Scientific proposal (up to 44 7 pages) that should describe the implementation in detail

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Proposal structure (2026)

Part A: Administrative forms, time commitment and proposal budget (budget table and description of resources)

Part B1 - Part I of the Scientific Proposal (formerly, the Extended Synopsis)

Scientific proposal (up to 5 pages) should describe the overall idea of the proposed research project
CV and Track Record (up to 4 pages)

(-) Details on the
feasibility of the
scientific approach

Part B2 - Part II of the Scientific Proposal

Scientific proposal (up to 44 7 pages) that should describe the implementation in detail

Host Institution support letter + Equipment Table + Annexes (ethics and security issues docs, etc.)

Proposal structure (2026)

Part A: Administrative forms, time commitment and proposal budget (budget table and description of resources)

Part B1 - Part I of the Scientific Proposal (formerly, the Extended Synopsis)

Scientific proposal (up to 5 pages) should describe the **overall idea of the proposed research project**
CV and Track Record (up to 4 pages)

At Step 1 of the evaluation, only Part I and the CV and Track Record are assessed by the evaluation panel.

Part I forms the basis for the panel's decision whether to evaluate the proposal in the next step. Therefore, all essential information must be covered in this section: **overall idea, objectives and approach/research strategy**.

Part B2 - Part II of the Scientific Proposal

Scientific proposal (up to 44 7 pages) that should describe the implementation in detail

Host Institution support letter + Equipment Table + Annexes (ethics and security issues docs, etc.)

Proposal structure (2026)

Part A: Administrative forms, time commitment and proposal budget (budget table and description of resources)

Part B1 - Part I of the Scientific Proposal (formerly, the Extended Synopsis)

Scientific proposal (up to 5 pages) should describe the overall idea of the proposed research project
CV and Track Record (up to 4 pages)

Part B2 - Part II of the Scientific Proposal

Scientific proposal (up to 44 7 pages) that should describe the implementation in detail

Host Institution support letter + Equipment Table + Annexes (ethics and security issues docs, etc.)

Proposal structure (2026)

Part A: Administrative forms, time commitment and proposal budget (budget table and description of resources)

Part B1 - Part I of the Scientific Proposal (formerly, the Extended Synopsis)

Scientific proposal (up to 5 pages) should describe the overall idea of the proposed research project
CV and Track Record (up to 4 pages)

Part B2 - Part II of the Scientific Proposal

Scientific proposal (up to 44 7 pages) that should describe the implementation in detail

research methodology, work plan, risk assessment, mitigating measures and any further necessary background not included in Part I

Host Institution support letter + Equipment Table + Annexes (ethics and security issues docs, etc.)

ERC Work Programme 2026 – Resubmission restrictions

Application under Previous ERC Work Programme Calls and Outcome of Evaluation ⁴⁷		Applicants are Ineligible for the Following Calls under Work Programme 2026
Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, or Synergy Grant 2024 and 2025	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity ⁴⁸	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, ERC Plus, and Synergy Grant 2026
Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant 2024	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and ERC Plus Grant 2026
Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant 2025	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and ERC Plus Grant 2026
Synergy Grant 2024	C at Step 1	Synergy Grant 2026
Synergy Grant 2025	B or C at Step 1	Synergy Grant 2026

2027 announcement – Resubmission restrictions

Published on 29 April 2026, readjusting announcement of 16 April,
legal text (i.e ERC 2027 WP) expected to be published in July 2026

Eligibility for the **2027 Starting (StG), Consolidator (CoG) and Advanced (AdG) Grants** calls will follow the same rules as in the past:

- Applicants who received a C score at step 1 in the 2025 or 2026 StG/CoG/AdG call are not eligible.
- Applicants who received a B score at step 1 in the 2026 StG/CoG/AdG call are not eligible.

Eligibility for the **2027 ERC Plus** call will be as follows:

- Applicants who received a C score at step 1 in the 2025 or **2026** StG/CoG/**AdG** call are not eligible.
- Applicants who received a B score at step 1 in the **2026** StG/CoG/**AdG** call are not eligible.
- Applicants who were not retained at step 1 in the 2026 ERC Plus call are not eligible.

Eligibility for the **2027 Synergy Grants (SyG)** call will be as follows:

- Applicants who received a C score at step 1 in the 2025 or **2026** SyG/StG/CoG/**AdG** call are not eligible.
- Applicants who received a B score at step 1 in the **2026** SyG/StG/CoG/**AdG** call are not eligible.

Success rates

The budget allocated to each Panel is in proportion to the requested budget of the proposals allocated to the Panel in order to ensure **similar success rate (SR) across all Panels**.

Call	SR EU/AC ^a	Applications increase ^b
ERC-2021-ADG	15%	
ERC-2022-ADG	13%	
ERC-2023-ADG	14%	
ERC-2024-ADG	11%	39%
ERC-2025-ADG	10% (expected)	31%

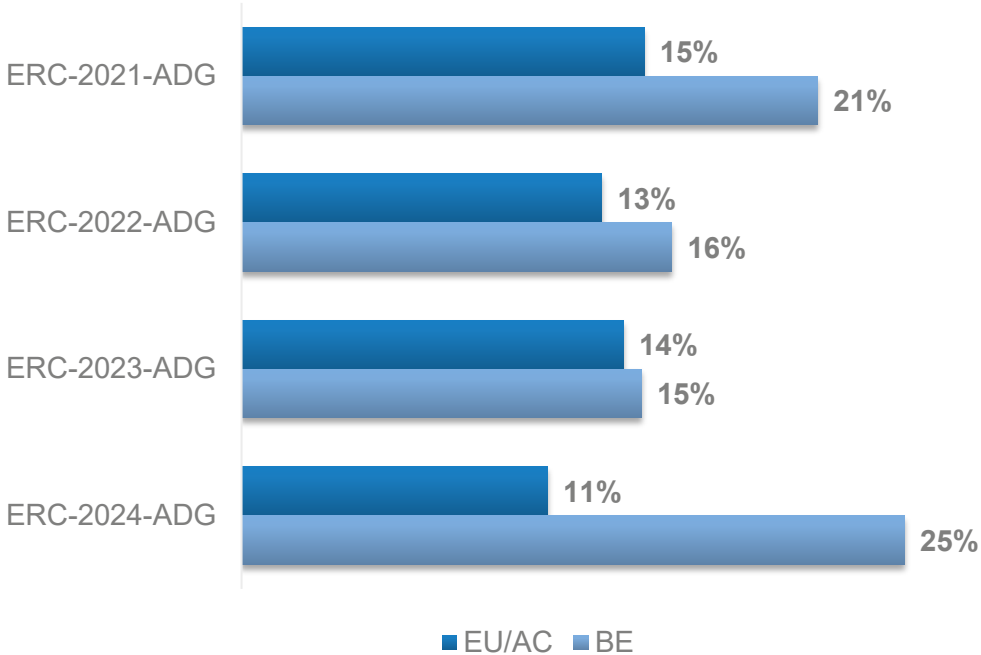
More data: The SR EU/AC of the Advanced Grant call under H2020 (2014-2020) was **11%**.^a

^aERC Dashboard, Funded Projects, accessed on 2026-07-05

^bEU Funding and Tenders Portal, accessed on 2026-07-11

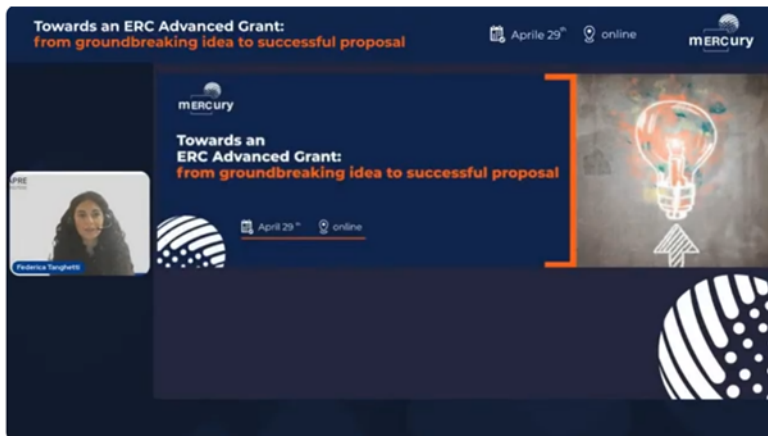
Success rates

Number of funded projects/number of evaluated proposals



April 29, 2026 ▶ News

Recording of webinar: Towards an ERC Advanced Grant



We are pleased to share the recording of our webinar: **Towards an ERC Advanced Grant: from Groundbreaking Idea to Successful Proposal.**

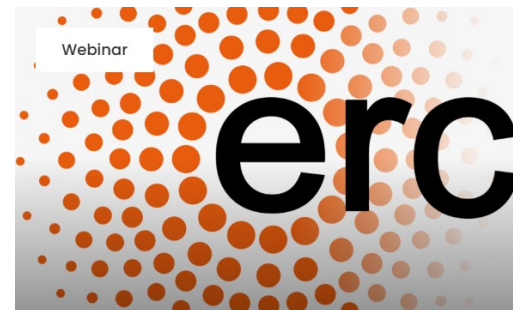
<https://mercuryncp.eu/recording-of-webinar-towards-an-erc-advanced-grant/>

BE ERC webinars to come – Registration is mandatory!

HORIZON EUROPE Info Sessions

ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants 2027 calls – Belgian Webinar

 5/06/2026, 14h00



ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants 2027 calls – Belgian Webinar

ERC 5 June 2026 14 h 00 min
Upcoming Webinar
NCP Federal Belgium, NCP FLANDERS, NCP FNRS

