3RD WORKSHOP

HORIZON EUROPE
PROPOSAL ELABORATION

Pillar 2 proposals

Pillar 1 (ERC and MSCA)

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TODAY`S TOPIC

9:00 -09:10	Welcome
09:10 – 09:20 09:20-10:30 10:30 -11:00 11:00-11:45	Horizon Europe Overview - Pillars **Pilar 2 – Collaborative Projects (RIA, IA,…)** - Type of projects - Open Calls relevant for UNDARK researchers - Tips for a Successful Proposal **Pilar 1 -ERC Overview** - Synergy Starting /Consolidator/Advance grant Evaluation Process- ERC panel - Open Calls ERC proposals - Part B1- o Extended Synopsis o PI description o Track record - Part B2 o Objectives o State of the Art o Methodology and feasibility ERC Budget
11:45-12:15	Coffee break
12:15-12:45 12:45-13:30	**Pilar 1 MSCA Overview** - IF - Doctotal Networks - Evaluation - Open Calls MSCA Proposal - Part B - Budget - Key points and Evaluator Tips
13:30-14:30	WRAP-UP and Closing Remarks • Q&A • Expression of Interests of potential apllicants

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Ana Sofia



- +25 years of experience in managing European projects in the area of innovation and research.

- +20 years as an evaluator of R&D proposals for the European Commission
  - More than 300 proposals evaluated in all pillars, including MSCA proposals
  - Chairperson of the JTI FCH2 evaluation committee
  - Final reviewer of ERANET - "ECO-INNOVERA"

- +25 years experinece in European proposals drafting.
  - Experience in different European programs: HE, H2020, INTERREG, CEF, FP7, FP6, ...

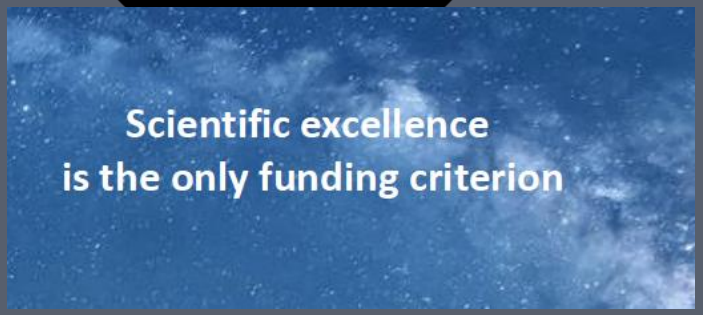
- Technological Physics Engineering
  - Additional training in innovation management, intellectual property management, gender issues European Union,...

For more information:
https://www.linkedin.com/in/anacairesbranco/

AND WHO ARE YOU ?

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UNDARK



Horizon Europe and Pillar 2

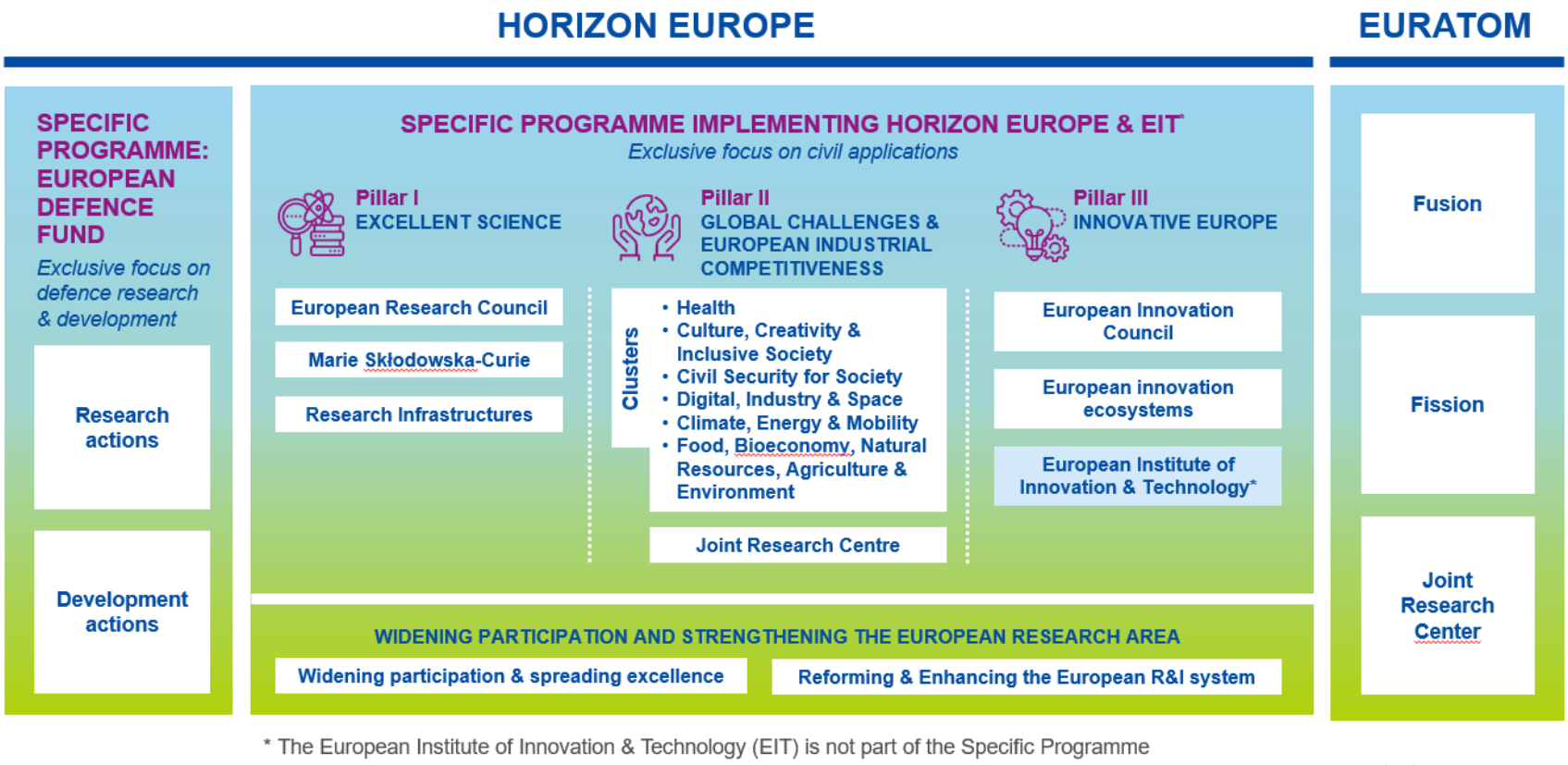
overview

SATURN TECH
AIMING YOUR TARGET

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About Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe supports research and innovation through Work Programmes, which set out funding opportunities for research and innovation activities.



* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

HORIZON EUROPE

Everyone can participate but as in the Olympic games-only the best will win

- **But It is NOT rockets science to WIN**

- **All forms of innovation (technological and no technological)**
  - **From Fundamental Research to Market Innovation**

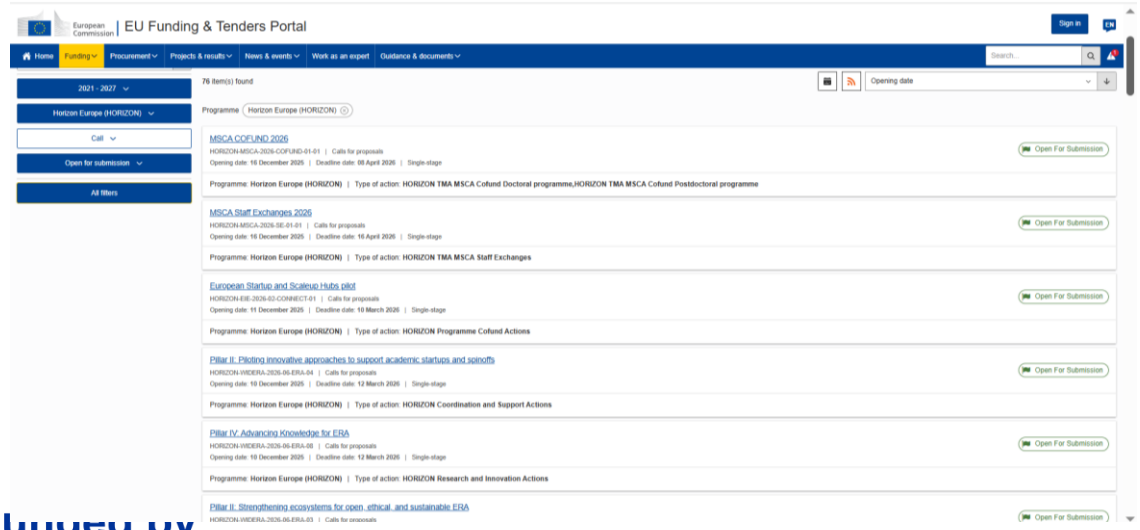
- **All type of entities (Small and Large Companies; Universities, non-profit associations, Public entities…)**

- **But do not forget – This is a INNOVATION AND RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

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New programme published in 11 December 2025 – 76 Open calls and 466 forthcoming

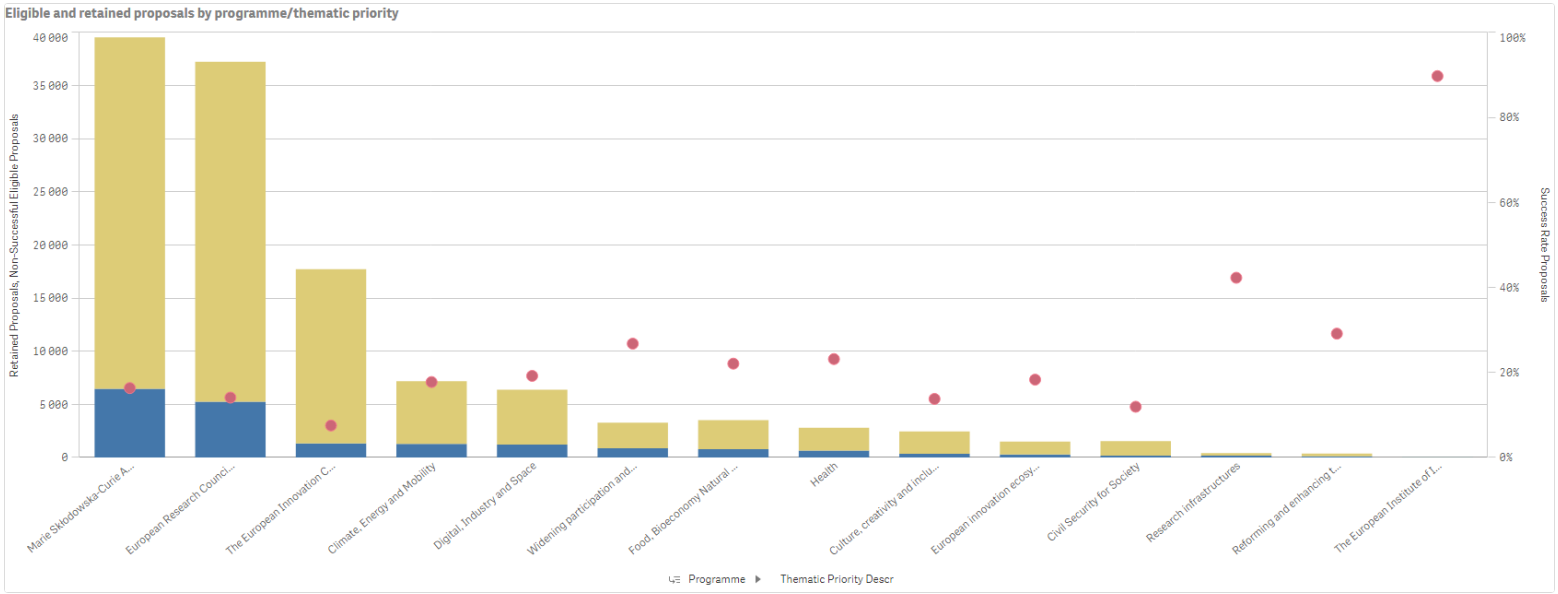




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HORIZON EUROPE – SUCCESS RATE

- Horizon Europe's overall success rate hovers around **15%**, but varies significantly by pillar, with **Pillar II (Global Challenges)** often seeing higher rates (20-25%) due to its collaborative nature (RIA/IA actions), while **Pillar I (Excellent Science - ERC/Pathfinder)** is much lower (<10%)



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Who can participate in Horizon Europe

- **Horizon Europe** is open to the world, which means that participants from all over the world can participate in most calls,but not all are eligible for funding- these are UE, associated (and expected) and Low-income countries

- List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe , updated January 2026

- Remarks:
  - Canada (associated to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness', including for the institutionalised European partnerships
  - New Zealand (associated to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness'
  - Republic of Korea (associated to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness
  - Switzerland (associated to the entire Programme
  - United Kingdom (associated to the entire Programme, with the only exception of the EIC fund
  - Egypt (applicable to the entire Programme
  - Japan (applicable to Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness',
  - Morocco (applicable for the entire Programme)

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Pilar 2 Overview



Eligibility

General Consortium composition for collaborative RTD projects

- at least one independent legal entity established in a Member State
- At least two independent legal entities, each established in a different Member State or an Associated Country.

But for some calls, this might change specific conditions.

For other types of projects, eligibility can change.

But normally, the consortia are from 8 to 12.

Horizonte Type of actions

Research and innovation action (RIA)

Activities to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution.

Innovation action (IA)

Activities to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services.

Coordination and support actions (CSA)

Activities that contribute to the objectives of Horizon Europe. This excludes R&I activities, except for 'Widening participation and spreading excellence'

Programme co-fund actions (CoFund)

A programme of activities established or implemented by legal entities managing or funding R&I programmes, other than EU funding bodies.

Innovation and market deployment actions (IMDA)

Activities that embed an innovation action and other activities necessary to deploy an innovation on the market. (EIC)

Training and mobility actions (TMA)

Activities that aim to improve the skills, knowledge and career prospects of researchers, based on mobility between countries and, if relevant, between sectors or disciplines. (MSCA)

Pre-commercial procurement actions/ (PCP)

Activities that aim to help a buyers' group to strengthen the public procurement of research, development, validation and, possibly, the first deployment of new solutions

Public procurement of innovative solutions actions (PPI)

Activities that aim to strengthen the ability of a buyers' group to deploy innovative solutions early

WORKPROGRAMME 2026/2027 – PUBLISHED ON 11 DECEMBER 2025

View available work programmes

2026 - 27

11 DECEMBER 2025
Horizon Europe Work programme (2026-27) - General introduction
English (470.6 KB - PDF) Preview Download

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Horizon Europe Work programme (2026-27) - MSCA
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Horizon Europe Work programme (2026-27) - Infrastructures

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Horizon Europe Work programme (2026-27) - European Innovation Ecosystems
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Horizon Europe Work programme (2026-27) - Horizontal activities
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Horizon Europe Work programme (2026-27) - Cluster 1
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English (2.18 MB - PDF) Preview Download

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English (2.4 MB - PDF) Preview Download

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Horizon Europe Work programme (2026-27) - Cluster 6
English (2.54 MB - PDF) Preview Download

Overview of Cluster 4 "*Digital, Industry and Space*"

Scope

Strengthen European capacity in central digital, industrial and space technologies, and support a competitive, digitised and circular European industry.

Destinations

1. Climate neutral, circular and digitised production
2. increased autonomy in key strategic value chains for resilient industry
3. world leading data and computing technologies
4. digital and emerging technologies for competitiveness and fit for the green deal
5. open strategic autonomy in developing, deploying and using global space-based infrastructures, services, applications and data
6. a human-centred and ethical development of digital and industrial technologies

WP 2026-2027 – Main Topics



CLUSTER 4 SPACE SUCCESS RATE – 27%

Calls overview

Call ID	Call Deadline Year	Eligible Proposals	Retained Proposals	% Retained Proposals	Non-Successful Eligible	Call Over-Subscripti... Rate
Totals		**302**	**82**	**27%**	**220**	**-**
HORIZON-EUSPA-2023-SPACE	2024	59	17	29%	42	32%
HORIZON-EUSPA-2022-SPACE	2023	74	19	26%	55	26%
HORIZON-CL4-2024-SPACE-01	2024	28	11	39%	17	49%
HORIZON-CL4-2023-SPACE-01	2023	141	35	25%	106	29%

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Open Calls

- **HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03 (Opening: ~10 Mar 2026 · Deadline: 03 Sep 2026)**

  - **HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-11** – Reinforcing EU autonomous access to space through EU-based spaceports
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-31** – Digital enablers and building-blocks for Earth Observation & satellite telecom
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-32** – Preparing demonstration missions for Earth Observation & satellite telecom
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-61** – Scientific analysis and exploitation of space data
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-81** – Space critical EEE components – Radiation Hard FPGA
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-82** – Space critical EEE components – GaN MMICs
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-85** – Critical facilities for space EEE components
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-86** – Space critical equipment – Space refuelling interface

- View HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03 Calls on EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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Forthcoming 2027 Calls

- **HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03 (Expected Opening: ~Mar 2027 · Deadline: ~Sep 2027)**
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-12** – Digital solutions for autonomous space transportation systems
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-21** – ISOS4I Pilot Mission Integrated Ground Test etc.
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-33** – Digital enablers for collaborative EO & satellite telecom
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-34** – Preparing collaborative demonstration missions
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-83** – Space critical EEE components
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-84** – Space critical equipment
  - **HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-71** – Quantum space gravimetry topic

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Let`s revise a Topic- HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-31: Digital enablers and building blocks for Earth Observation and Satellite telecommunications for Space solutions (Space Partnership)

- Read it carefully

Expected Outcome:

Scope:

Type of Action

TRL

Budget

HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-33: Digital enablers and building blocks for collaborative Earth Observation and Satellite telecommunications for Space solutions (Space Partnership)

Call: SPACE	
Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 1.50 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 4.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used). In order to achieve the expected outcomes, and safeguard the Union's strategic assets, interests, autonomy, and security, it is important to avoid a situation of technological dependency on a non-EU source, in a global context that requires the EU to take action to build on its strengths, and to carefully assess and address any strategic weaknesses, vulnerabilities and high-risk dependencies which put at risk the attainment of its ambitions. For this reason, participation is limited to legal entities established in Member States, Iceland and Norway and the following additional associated countries : Canada, New-Zealand, United Kingdom and Switzerland. In addition, entities established in third countries which may become associated to Horizon Europe during 2026 and 2027 may be eligible to participate in this topic if the third country is identified for this topic as an eligible country in the List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe at the time of submission of the application [158]. In any case, the association agreement to the

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Let`s revise a Topic- HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-31: Digital enablers and building blocks for collaborative Earth Observation and Satellite telecommunications for Space solutions (Space Partnership)

- Expect outcome- Projects are expected to contribute to one or several of the following outcomes:
  - New commercial services and applications enabled by increased digitalisation of space solutions;
  - Favouring a competitive and sustainable European Space Sector;
  - Enable the European Space Industry to maintain a significant share of the global connectivity market;
  - Next generation Earth observation and SatCom payloads, technologies and processing means (on ground and in space);
  - Security of SatCom and EO services, supporting next-generation technologies for both ground and space commercial applications;
  - Improved access to satellite data through interoperable systems.

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Let`s revise a Topic- HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-33: Digital enablers and building blocks for collaborative Earth Observation and Satellite telecommunications for Space solutions (Space Partnership)

- SCOPE
  - R&I on End-to-End SatCom Mission capabilities for current and future satellite networks interoperability including both space and ground-based assets, and digital on-ground infrastructure to test and enhance operational efficiency;
  - R&I on Earth Observation equipment, subsystems, applications and services, improving the End-to-End timeliness of an EO system and enhanced resolution, miniaturisation of instrument designs and digital techniques and technologies to support operations and harmonisation enabling interoperability among multiple EO missions;
  - R&I on building blocks and processes common to EO and SatCom systems, such system resources usage optimisation, high-performance processing payload H/W to support space network capabilities including an improvement in downlink and tasking capabilities of the European infrastructure, RF and optical hybrid ground stations for anchoring services and quantum technologies adaptation for space application.

- Proposals are expected to promote cooperation between different actors (industry, SMEs, research institutions and infrastructures and academia)

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Let`s revise a Topic- HORIZON-CL4-2027-SPACE-03-31: Digital enablers and building blocks for Earth Observation and Satellite telecommunications for Space solutions (Space Partnership)

- Type of Action :Research and Innovation Actions
- TRL
  - Activities are expected to achieve TRL 4-5 by the end of the project. The reference TRL definition is the ISO 16290:2013 applicable to the space sector.
- Budget
opic	Budget (EUR) - Year : 2026	Stages	Opening date	Deadline	Contributions	Indicative number of grants
HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-31 - HORIZON-RIA HORIZON	12 000 000	Single-stage	10/03/2026	03/09/2026	3000000 to 6000000	3

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PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PART B



Horizon Europe Programme

Standard Application Form (HE RIA, IA)

Application form (Part A)
Project proposal – Technical description (Part B)

Version 4.0
21 January 2022

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PROPOSAL SUBMISSION – PILAR 2 PART B

3 Sections – EQUAL IMPORTANTS

Section 1 - EXCELLENCE
Section 2 – IMPACT
Section 3 - IMPLEMENTATION



Horizon Europe Programme

Standard Application Form (HE RIA, IA)

Application form (Part A)
Project proposal – Technical description (Part B)

Version 4.0
21 January 2022

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HE PROPOSAL TEMPLATE – SECTION 1

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1.1 Objectives and ambition *[e.g. 4 pages]*

- Briefly describe the objectives of your proposed work.
- Describe how your project goes beyond the state-of-the-art, and the extent the proposed work is ambitious.
  - . Refer to any patent or publication search carried out.
- Describe where the proposed work is positioned in terms of R&I maturity (i.e. where it is situated in the spectrum from 'idea to application', or from 'lab to market').
  - Where applicable, provide an indication of the Technology Readiness Level.
- *Please bear in mind that advances beyond the state of the art must be interpreted in the light of the positioning of the project. Expectations will not be the same for RIAs at lower TRL, compared with Innovation Actions at high TRLs.*

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1.1 Objectives

- Have to be SMART
  - Specific
  - Measurable
  - Achievable
  - Relevant
  - Timely
- EASY TO UNDERSTAND – go to the point!
- 1st page is very important to catch the evaluators attention

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WHICH ONE IS SMART?

- **Study and analyze how the source of energy for road vehicles based in electricity dissipates energy** and in which quantities for different periods and distinct conditions followed by a **high level research in how to overcome the reveled shortcomings and weakness** in order to improve highly its life period and develop a very cost effective prototype trough an **innovative and disruptive manufacturing process** with the overall aim to gain a better market acceptance due to its lower cost and better performance.

- To develop an **innovative battery** for an electric car to achieve an autonomy of 1000 km (30% improvement) with a market value of 1000 Euros (20% lower than actual products).

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In the approach you can explain how you will achieve your goal

- It will gain more autonomy through
  - Study the use of material A and B in order overcome the revealed shortcomings (based on previous research done by XXXX*)
- Less cost
  - Through the use of just minute manufacturing process

*Include references to previous work (yours and/or from other experts)

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1ST PAGE

- In the first sentence, the evaluator should understand what you want to do
- It should have an overall picture of why your proposal should be funded
- Write it once… and revise it many times
  - Ask someone who is not from your field to read to see if he understands it
  - Please have in mind that in Pilar 2 proposals, not all evaluators are from Research,
    - It can be from Industry, Civil Society,…
- <u>Has to be a nice page… that invites you to read more</u>

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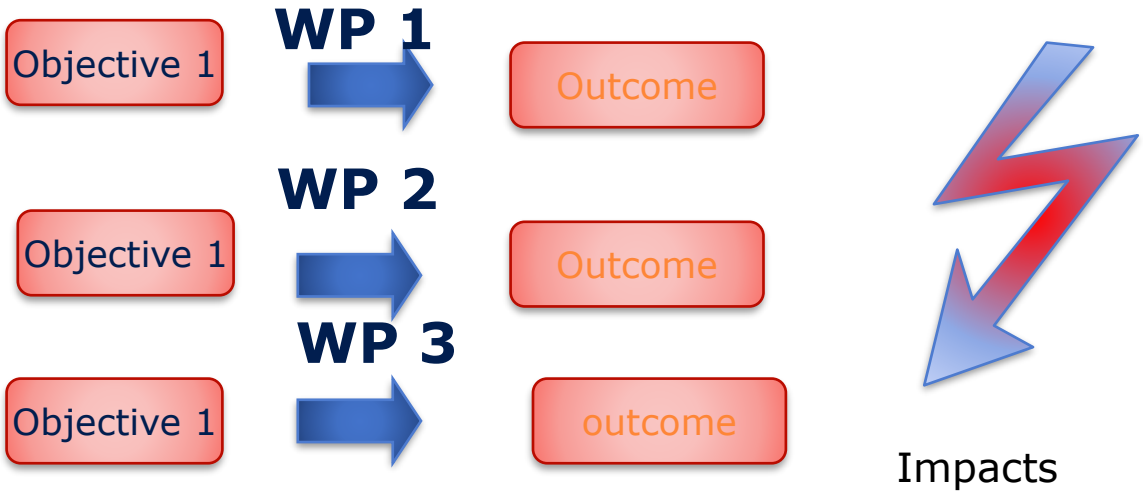
OBJECTIVES – ONE WAY TO DO IT

- The overall project aim is to develop a battery that will have autonomy of 500 Km with a cost of less 1.000 euro
  - O1: Characterization of material 1 ,2 and 3 that have good potential to replace lithium with a better cost -effective performance (W1, W2)
  - O2: Developing a prototype of a new battery with the material selected before (W3,W4)
  - O3 : research into a new cost-effective process that will allow to make a less expensive battery trough the use of just minute procedures (W4,W5,)

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Section 1: Excellence

- **1.1 Objectives**
  - Differentiate between Objectives, Outcomes and Impact



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1.2 Methodology

- Describe and explain the overall methodology, including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin your work.
- Describe any national or international research and innovation activities whose results will feed into
- Explain how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be brought together
- Gender Issues
- **Open Science**
- **Data management**

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HE PROPOSAL TEMPLATE – SECTION 2

Section 2 - Impact

- More explicit
  - Section 2.1
    - "*Project's pathways towards impact*"
    - A "**narrative**"
      - **Results** making **impact**
  - Explicitly **differentiate** between:
    - Immediate results
    - Outcomes
    - Wider Impacts
- Detailed 'Plan for dissemination and exploitation including communication activities' – mandatory ***deliverable*** within first 6 months
- Greater focus on feedback to policy makers
- Open access – mandatory and fully eligible

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PROJECT'S PATHWAYS TOWARDS IMPACT *[E.G. 4 PAGES]*

- Provide a **narrative** explaining how the project's results are expected to make a difference in terms of impact, beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project.
  - Scientific
  - Technolgical
  - Economical
  - Societal

  - Contribution your project results would make towards
    - (1) the **outcomes** specified in this topic,
    - (2) the **wider impacts**

- Describe any **requirements and potential barriers** that may determine whether the desired outcomes and impacts are achieved

- Give an indication of the scale and significance of the project's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts, (quantitative)

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Measures to maximise impact - Dissemination, exploitation and communication *[e.g. 5 pages, including section 2.3]*

- Plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities
  - Target group
  - Channels
  - Tools

- Management of intellectual property
  - How are you going protect your results ?

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DRAFT 'PLAN FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF THE PROJECT'S RESULTS.

- Explain how the proposed measures will help to achieve the expected impact of the project.

  - All should be coherent
    - If you foresee participating in a Professional Show is because there will be potential users/buyers for your solution :

  Ex: If my potential buyers are car manufacturers, what is the objective of attending an event where the target audience is the academic sector?

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Template -Section 2 - Summary

SPECIFIC NEEDS	D & E & C MEASURES	EXPECTED RESULTS
What are the specific needs that triggered this project?	What dissemination, exploitation and communication measures will you apply to the results?	What do you expect to generate by the end of the project?

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TEMPLATE -SECTION 2 - SUMMARY

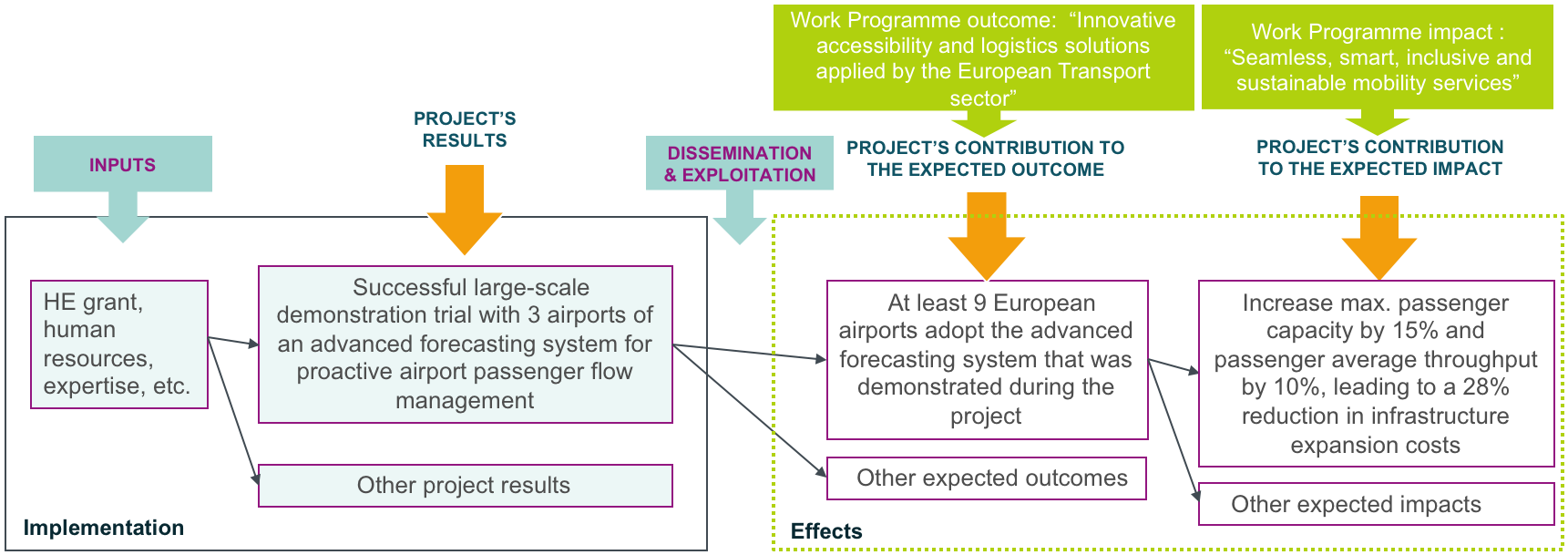
TARGET GROUPS	OUTCOMES	IMPACTS
Who will use or further up-take the results of the project? Who will benefit from the results of the project?	*What change do you expect to see after successful dissemination and exploitation of project results to the target group(s)?*	*What are the expected wider scientific, economic and societal effects of the project contributing to the expected impacts outlined in the respective destination in the work programme?*

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Section 2- Impact - Example

Project's pathway towards impact

…by thinking about the specific contribution the project can make to the expected outcomes and impacts set out in the Work Programme.



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HE PROPOSAL TEMPLATE – SECTION 3

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3 IMPLEMENTATION

- **3.1 Work plan and resources** *[e.g. 14 pages – including tables]*

- **Capacity of participants and consortium as a whole** *[e.g. 3 pages]*
  - In what way does each of them contribute to the project? Show that each has a valid role, and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.

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Section 3: Work plan

- The work plan is organized by work packages
  - Include a management WP (include data management issues) and a Dissemination, exploitation and communication measure tasks or WPs
- The work packages should describe how you are doing the work
- The work packages can (should) be divided in tasks
- The work packages should be linked
  - Example: Output of WP1 => input of WP2 and WP4

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SECTION 3: WORK PLAN

- Number of WPs must be **appropriate**
  - to the complexity of the work
  - the overall value of the proposed project
- Planning should be **sufficiently detailed to**
  - Ensure coherence between tasks and WPs
  - Ensure coherence between tasks and partners role
  - Relevant milestones
  - Deliverables well planned and defined
- Risks –VERY IMPORTANT

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CONSORTIUM

- Chose the best partners to do the activities
  - This does not mean that all partners should be highly experienced partners – it should be the best consortia for the activities to be performed.

- It is important to explain the capability of the the consortia as a whole

- The role of each partner has to be clearly defined and in line of the capability of the partner
  - Example : If it is a research partner the normal is that it should not be the responsible for the exploitation activity – this task should be leaded by the main partner responsible for the exploitation

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REVISE VERY WELL THE TOPIC

- Expected Outcome
- Scope
- Budget
- Specific Conditions
- Confirm your idea fits the topics

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Typical errors in Section 1



- Clear Objectives
- State-of-the-art on competing solutions is poorly addressed
- Similar work is published already and has not be mentioned in the proposal
  - Evaluators are experts so they know what exists.
  - Do not treat them as brainless… they do not like that ☺
- The explanation in how your idea is better than what already exist is not convincing

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1ST PAGE

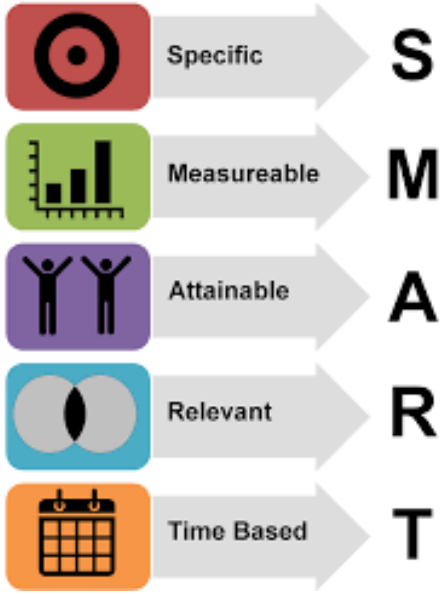
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- Write it once… and revise it many times
  - Ask someone that it is not from your field to read to see if he understands it
- Has to be a nice page… that invite you to read more



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Objectives – Clear and well defined

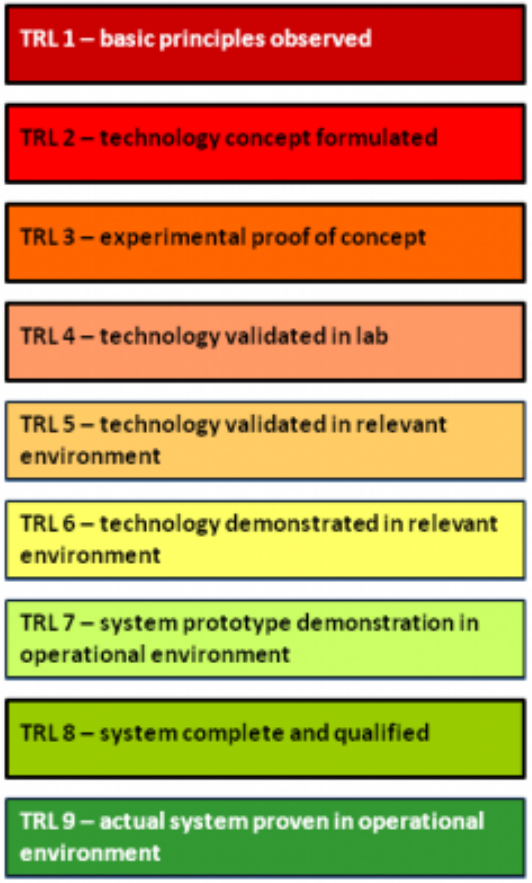
1. SMART
2. Clear
3. In the first page



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4 TRL (Technology Readiness Level)

1. Justify the claimed TRL
2. Tests results
3. Prototype Photos
4. Clear the doubts of the evaluators- make it convincing



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State of the Art

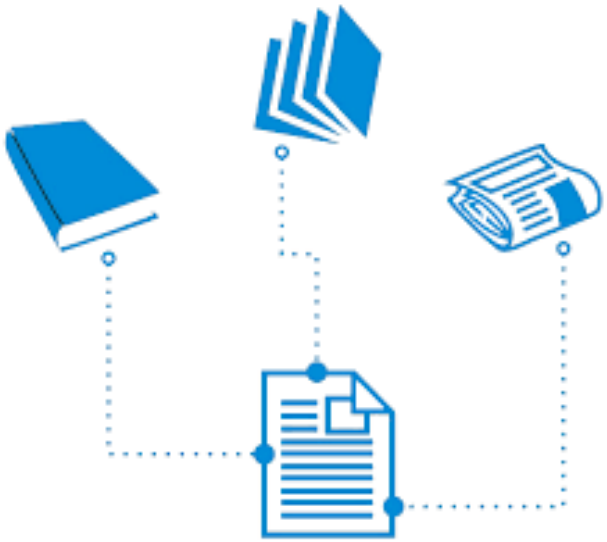
1. The Evaluator is an expert
2. If there is other initiatives similar to yours- Be Honest
   - It is better you take advantage to explain why your idea is better then the evaluator try to guess why it can be better than others
3. *Do not try to mislead the Evaluator*



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Include References

1. Not only academic
2. There a relevant EU reports,
3. Market reports
4. ,…



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Typical errors to avoid in Impact section

- Does not explain how the project will contribute to the expected impact of the topic
  - ***Outcomes*** *specified in this topic*
  - ***Wider impacts****, in the longer term according to the destinations*
- Not convincing Exploitation Plans
  - There is no use or exploitation plan for some of the results/ components
  - Market not well identified





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Typical errors to avoid in Impact section

- Potential Barreirs to reach the impact not addressed/ not well identified
- IPR and knowledge management not mentioned or mentioned in a very superficial
- No target groups defined
- Dissemination standard (eg copy/past from other proposal, not adapted to the proposal users and audience)





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Key Points in Impact

SPECIFIC NEEDS	EXPECTED RESULTS	D & E & C MEASURES
What are the specific needs that triggered this project?	What do you expect to generate by the end of the project?	What dissemination, exploitation and communication measures will you apply to the results?

TARGET GROUPS	OUTCOMES	IMPACTS
Who will use or further up-take the results of the project? Who will benefit from the results of the project?	What change do you expect to see after successful dissemination and exploitation of project results to the target group(s)?	What are the expected wider scientific, economic and societal effects of the project contributing to the expected impacts outlined in the respective destination in the work programme?

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Typical errors to avoid in Implementation

- Workplan too much complicated to follow
- Not coherent with the approach nor with the timeframe
- Efforts not adequate for the activities done (too high/too low)
- Too many deliverables
  - Few public deliverables



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Typical errors to avoid in Implementation

- Risks not well identified
- No clear description of the role of each partner in WP
- No clear explanation of the complementarities of each partner
- The resources allocated are not explained- It should be clear why the resources are needed
  - Equipment, other costs and services,..



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NOW THAT YOU HAVE KNOW HOW TO WRITE AN EXCELENTE PROPOSAL , LET'S



General Comments

- Write a “nice” proposal
  - Use images, graphs, tables to support idea
  - No more than two bold sentences in each page
  - Make an English revision before submitting



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Revise English

- Average sentence length of 15-20 words
  - Split long sentences in two. You can use ‘but’, ‘so’, ‘because’ to follow the same ide
- Do not use long words when a short one will do
  - Do not include words simply to sound impressive
- Assign one idea per sentence,

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Clear Text – Straight to the Point

- Use paragraphs and avoid large blocks of text
- Use bullet points to aid evaluators find specific Information
- Do not over use technical jargon and abbreviations
  - If it is not common knowledge, explain it



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BE POSITIVE!!!

- Avoid negative words,
  - ‘can’t', ‘don’t’ and ‘won’t’
  - Avoid uncertain words,
    - ‘could’, ‘should’, ‘may’, ‘possibly’, particularly when



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Evaluate your proposal

1. Ask a colleague to evaluate the proposals with the self-evaluation form
2. Have in mind that the Evaluator has a limited time to evaluate the proposal



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Write an Excellente Proposal

- All sections are important!!!
  - *Do not let the Impact to write in the last moment!*
- Time is important!
  - *Start to write the proposal with a long time in advance*



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Who are the evaluators?

- Experts like you
  - With expertise in the relevant fields of research and innovation
  - Academic, Industry, ….
  - Can be from anywhere in the World but the large majority are from the EU and associated countries

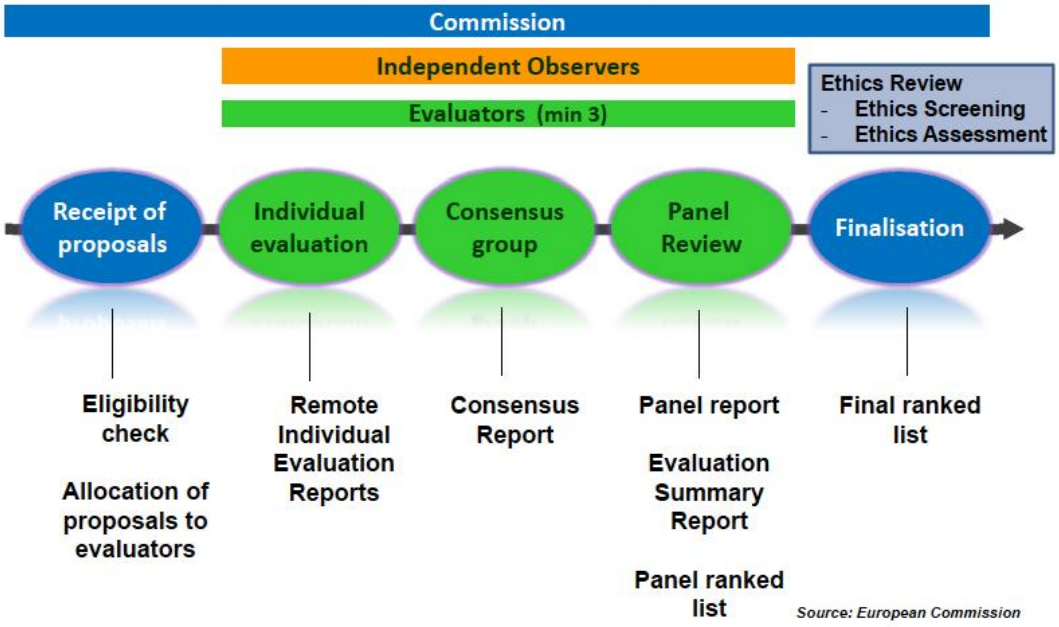
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Evaluation Criteria

- Section 1
  - Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives.
  - Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures, including soundness of methodology.
- Section 2
  - Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project.
  - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.
- Section 3
  - Quality and effectivness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. –
  - Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

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Evaluation process



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Evaluation process

- (Evaluators remote briefing)
- Individual Evaluation Report (remote, each evaluator, each project, max 0,3 day/project)
  - **Each evaluator judges from personal research specialism/experience** but first and foremost generic good practice in proposal writing
  - Objectiveness and making conclusions with no personal emotions interfering in the process of evaluation are essential
- Consensus Meeting/Report (the 3-4 project evaluators + EC officer, approx. 2 hours)
  - IE marks change considerably
  - Proposal champions OR joint positive/negative views OR mediation over disagreements
- Ranking Meeting/Evaluation Summary Report
  - Little, cosmetic changes if any
  - Line drawn when budget reached (sometimes at 14/15, sometimes at 11-12/15)

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Evaluation process

- The process of evaluation is extremely intensive because in the very limited time the evaluator needs to complete an extensive work

- Apart from not having enough time for reading specific parts twice or more, evaluator has to skim through the proposal swiftly which demands very good concentration and focus for a longer period during the day

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REMARKS

Same general admissibility conditions

- Applications must be submitted before the call deadline, **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal
- Applications must be **complete, readable, accessible and printable**, and include a **plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results**, unless provided otherwise in the specific call conditions.

Proposal page limit (it is normally increased when it it is a lumpsum)
Normal maximum length:

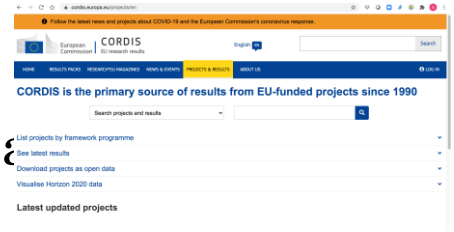
- RIAs and IAs type of actions: limit for a full application is **45 pages**
  - For lumpsum is usually is 50 pages
- CSAs: limit is **30 pages**
- First stage proposals: limit is **10 pages**
- EIC Pathfinder: limit is **17 pages**
- Exceptions, if any, would be specified in the call text.

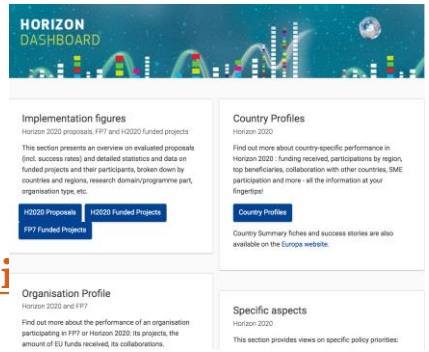
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PARTICIPATION

- If you are interested in a topic, what can you do ??

- Strategies:
  - Partcipate in the events organized by EC a other entities (ANI,…)
  - Look for matchmaking events
  - Look for funded projects in that área.
  - How?
    - Trough CORDIS
    - https://cordis.europa.eu/datalab/visualisations/vi
    - **Trough Horizon Dashboard**

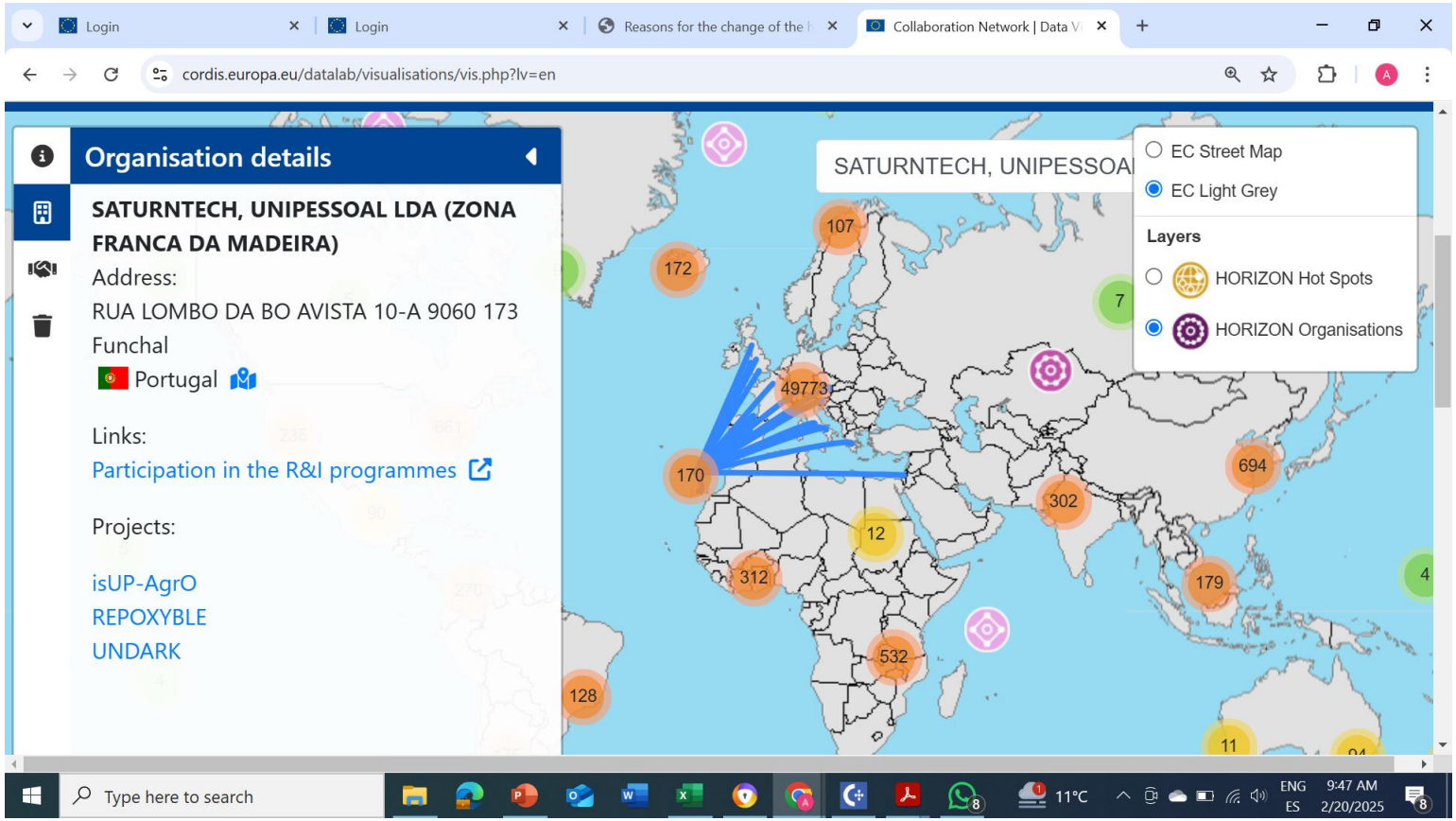




  - And contact main partners and coordinator presenting yourself , explaining your added value

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Partner Information from CORDIS



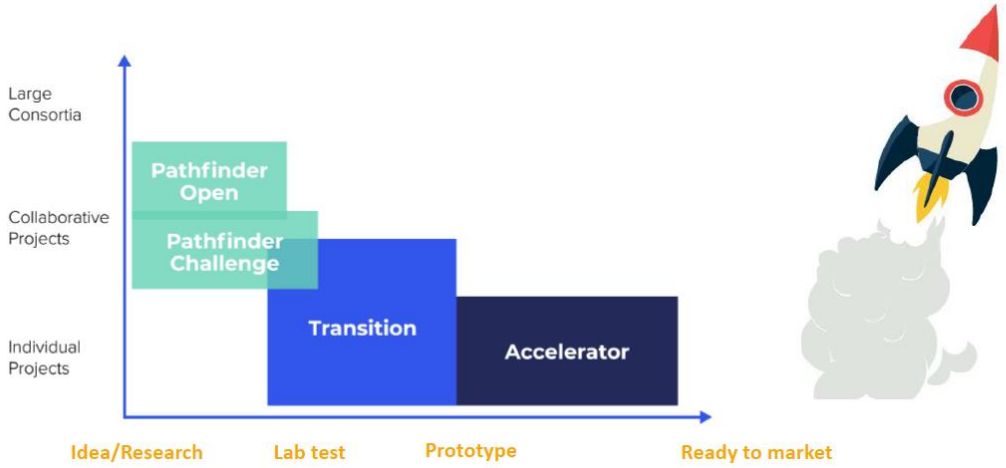
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Pillar III



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EIC INSTRUMENTS

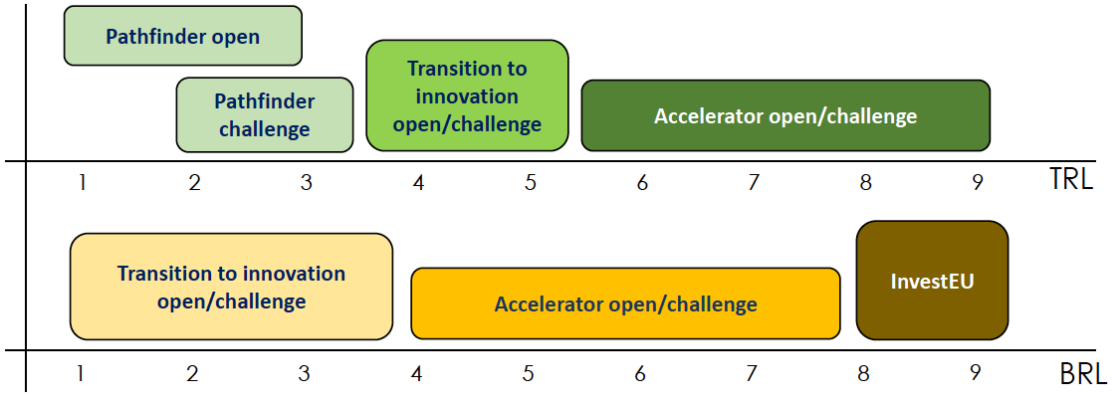


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Technolgy Readiness Level (TRL) VS Business Readiness Level (BRL)

0	IDEA
1	BASIC PRINCIPLES OBSERVED
2	TECHNOLOGY CONCEPT FORMULATED
3	EXPERIMENTAL PROOF OF CONCEPT
4	TECHNOLOGY VALIDATED IN LAB
5	TECH. VALIDATED IN RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT
6	TECH. DEMONSTRATED IN RELEVANT ENV.
7	SYSTEM PROTOTYPE DEM. IN OPERATIONAL ENV.
8	SYSTEM COMPLETE AND QUALIFIED
9	ACTUAL SYSTEM PROVEN IN OPERATIONAL ENV.

0	IDEA
1	BASIC NEED RESEARCH
2	NEEDS FORMULATION
3	NEEDS VALIDATION
4	SMALL SCALE STAKEHOLDERS OFFER
5	LARGE SCALE EARLY ADOPTER OFFER
6	PROOF OF TRACTION
7	PROOF OF SATISFACTION
8	PROOF OF SCALABILITY
9	PROOF OF STABILITY



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EIC INSTRUMENTS

Four main funding schemes of the EIC Work Programme 2025

EIC PATHFINDER €262M

Funding for early-stage technology research and development

Grants per project (Challenge)	max **€4M**
Grants per project (Open)	max **€3M**

EIC TRANSITION €98M

Funding for technology validation and commercialisation

Grants per project	max **€2.5M**

EIC ACCELERATOR €634M

Funding for commercialisation and scale-up

Grants per company	max **€2.5M**
Equity investments per company	max **€10M**

EIC STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES FOR EUROPE PLATFORM [STEP] SCALE UP €300M

Equity investments to catalyse larger investments to companies with pre-commitments from investors

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EIC PRE-ACCELERATOR

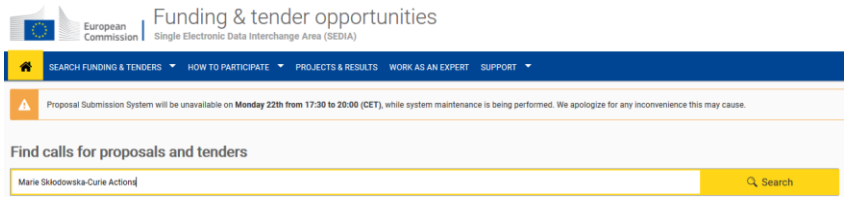
THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL (EIC) IS INTRODUCING A PRE-ACCELERATION CALL SPECIFICALLY FOR WIDERA
. THIS INITIATIVE AIMS TO SUPPORT EARLY-STAGE, DEEP TECH STARTUPS FROM LESS-DEVELOPED EU REGIONS IN PREPARING FOR FULL EIC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES OR ATTRACTING OTHER INVESTORS. WITH €20M ALLOCATED, THE PROGRAM'S PRIMARY FOCUS IS TO BOOST INNOVATION COMPETITIVENESS AND BUSINESS READINESS AMONG STARTUPS FROM THESE AREAS.

STARTUPS ACCEPTED INTO THIS PRE-ACCELERATOR PROGRAM WILL RECEIVE GRANTS BETWEEN €300,000 AND €500,000 FOR UP TO TWO YEARS, COVERING 70% OF PROJECT COSTS WHILE REQUIRING THE STARTUPS TO COVER THE REMAINDER. THIS FUNDING SUPPORTS TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, MARKET READINESS, AND INVESTOR APPEAL, HELPING COMPANIES BETTER POSITION THEMSELVES TO APPLY FOR THE EIC ACCELERATOR PROGRAM OR SEEK OTHER INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. ADDITIONALLY, PARTICIPANTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO EIC'S BUSINESS ACCELERATION SERVICES, WHICH INCLUDE NETWORKING, MENTORING, AND INVESTOR MATCHMAKING TO HELP COMPANIES SCALE AND ATTRACT FURTHER INVESTMENT.

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Funding opportunities



- All calls are published on the **Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal**
- Applications are submitted through the portal:
  - Find your call
  - Sign in to the portal and register your organisation (get a PIC number)
  - Find partners
  - Apply

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/

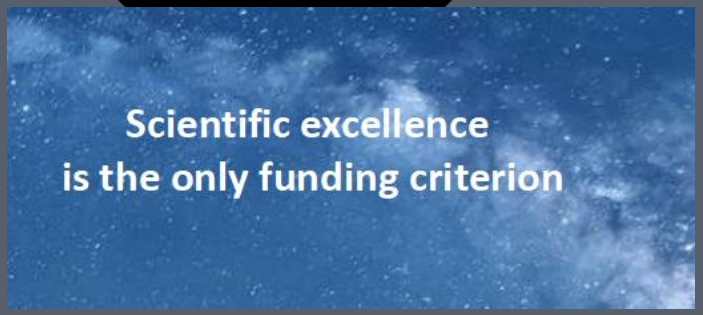
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KEY RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE

- Check all **guidance documents** available on Funding and Tenders Portal :
  - Guide for applicants: overview of rules, financial aspects, etc.
  - Work Programme and annexes
  - Proposal templates
  - Model Grant Agreements
  - Horizon Europe Programme Guide
  - Online manual on how to submit an application
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Partner search
- Ask for advice to your **National Contact Point** where available
- Submit specific queries to the **Research Enquiry Service** (funding, validation of participants, etc.)

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ERC

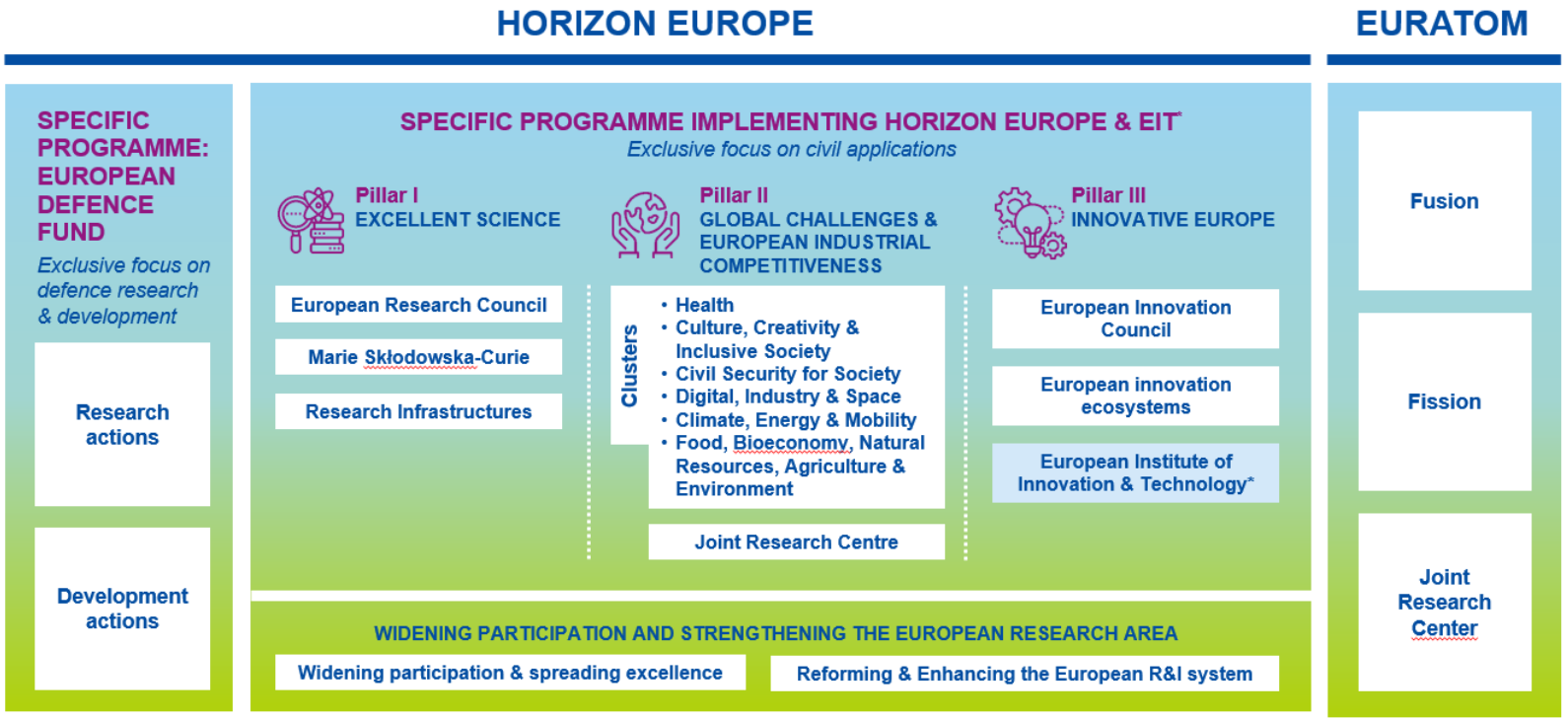
OVERVIEW

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About Horizon Europe

- Horizon Europe supports research and innovation through Work Programmes, which set out funding opportunities for research and innovation activities.



* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

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Pilar 1 Overview



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TYPE OF RESEARCH

- **Frontier research: basic and applied research**
  - Multi-or interdisciplinary proposals which cross boundaries between different fields of research, or
  - Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fieldsofresearch, or
  - Proposalsintroducingunconventional, innovative approachesand scientific inventions.

- **ERC is PI centric:** Principal Investigator is central to the project. They can be supported by as many "team members" as they need.
- Must be very ambitious in risk and in scope.

THINK BIG * OUT-OF-THE BOX **** DREAM***

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Changes in 2026

- The Extended Synopsis and the Scientific Proposal have been rethought in terms of focus and applicants are now requested to submit Part I of the Scientific Proposal (setting out the background, the objectives, and the overall research strategy) and Part II of the Scientific Proposal (focusing primarily on the implementation).

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Changes in 2026

- Part I of the Scientific Proposal (formerly, the *Extended Synopsis*) should describe the overall idea of the proposed research project, including the current state of knowledge and how the research will contribute to the field, the scientific questions the project will attempt to answer, the objectives of the project, and the overall approach or research strategy to achieve those objectives.
- As in the past, the length of this section will be limited to **five pages**.

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Changes in 2026

- Part II of the Scientific Proposal should describe the implementation in detail:
  - the research methodology,
  - work plan,
  - risk assessment and mitigating measures,
  - justification for the requested budget and resources,
  - and any further necessary background not included in Part I.

- The length of this section, will now be limited **to seven pages f**or Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant applications and ten pages for Synergy Grant applications. For Synergy Grant applications, this section should also explain the collaborative arrangements enabling the Synergy Grant group to carry out the project.

- This page limit does not apply to the justification of the requested budget and resources.

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CHANGES IN 2026

- ERC Plus Grant

1. The ERC Plus Grant supports outstanding Principal Investigators who address a major scientific challenge. Applications for ERC Plus Grants should be for projects that could not be carried out with a regular ERC grant.
2. Applicants should explain how the proposed project aims go beyond those of a regular ERC project, for example, because they have a vision to transform their field or open a new field of research.
3. Scholars at all career stages can apply for an ERC Plus Grant if they have an outstanding record of scientific achievement at the forefront of their field.
4. Their intellectual leadership will be evaluated in comparison to peers at their own career stage. It is expected that a researcher may be the Principal Investigator of only one ERC Plus Grant in their lifetime.
5. Applicants should be aware that every year, **only some 30 ERC Plus Grants can be awarded across all fields and all career stages, compared to approximately 1000 Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grants..**

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Changes in WP 2027 (to be applied to some 2026 calls)

- The ERC Scientific Council has decided to **broaden these eligibility windows** to better reflect diverse career paths:
  - **Starting Grant:** from **0 to 10 years** after PhD defence — meaning you could apply immediately after finishing your PhD and up to ten years later.
  - **Consolidator Grant:** from **5 to 15 years** after PhD defence — a wider overlap with StG that gives more flexibility in which grant to choose.

- There will also be a **lifetime limit**: you can receive **at most one Starting Grant and one Consolidator Grant** in your career.

- These new periods are expected to be formalised in the **2027 Work Programme** and applied to calls opening in the second half of 2026 / early 2027.

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SUMMARY - ERC GRANTS

ERC STARTING GRANTS

Grants up to 1.5€ million for 5 years

For promising early-career researchers with 2 to 7 years experience after PhD

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

Grants up to 2€ million for 5 years

For excellent researchers with 7 to 12 years experience after PhD

ERC ADVANCED GRANTS

Grants up to 2.5€ million for 5 years

For established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements

ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT

Lump Sum Grant of 150.000€

For existing ERC grant holders to bring their research ideas closer to market

SYNERGY GRANTS

Grants up to 10€ million for 6 years

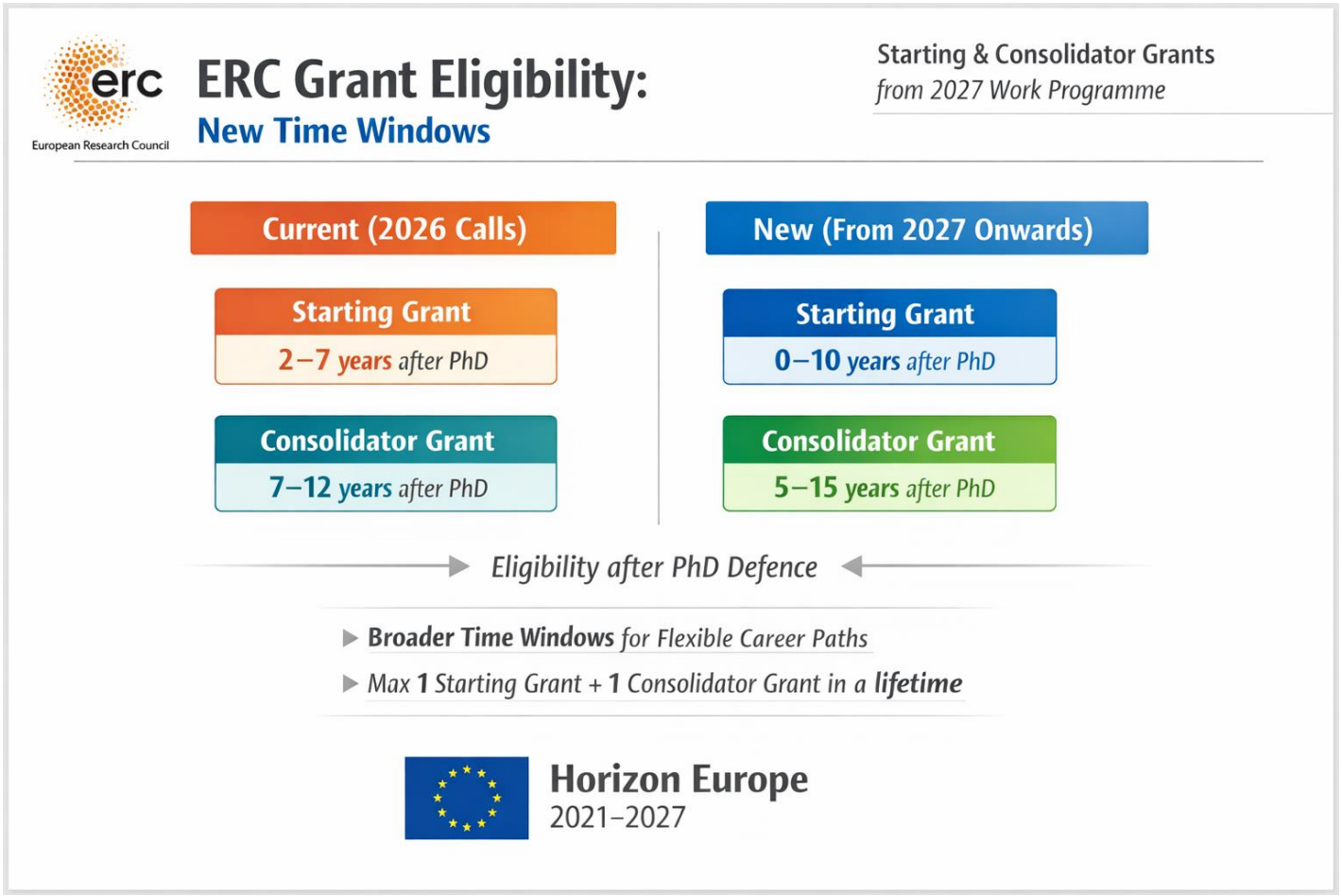
To address ambitious research questions that can only be answered by the coordinated work of a small group of 2-4 principal Investigators

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

For researchers wishing to work or gain experience in an ERC grantee's team

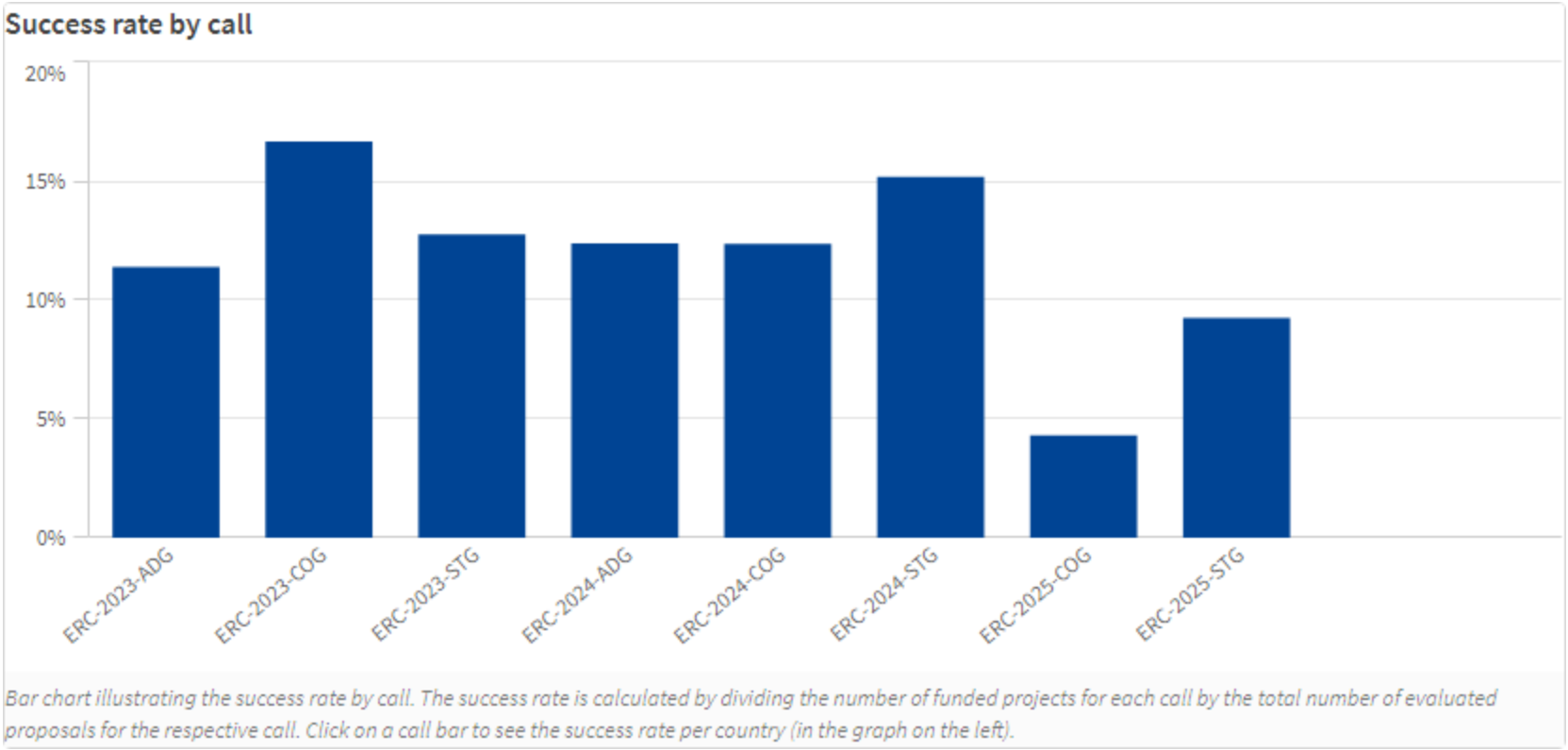
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CHANGES IN WP 2027 (TO BE APPLIED TO SOME 2026 CALLS)



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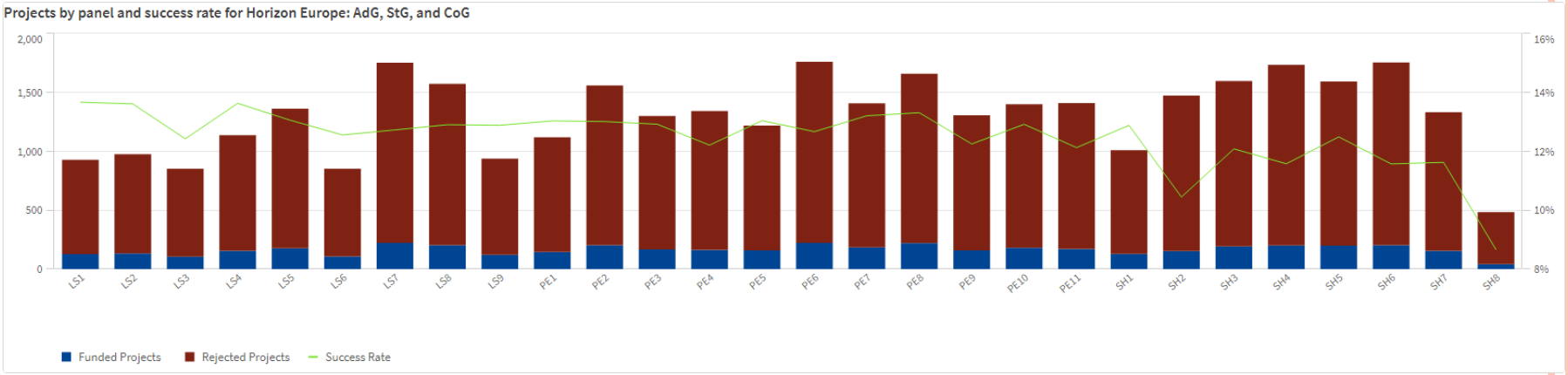
Statics from ERC



Bar chart illustrating the success rate by call. The success rate is calculated by dividing the number of funded projects for each call by the total number of evaluated proposals for the respective call. Click on a call bar to see the success rate per country (in the graph on the left).

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ERC GRANTS – STATISTICS



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New deadlines

Grant Scheme	Expected Deadline Window
Starting Grant (StG) 2027	Oct 2026 / Oct 2027
Consolidator Grant (CoG) 2027	Jan 2027
Advanced Grant (AdG) 2027	Aug 2026 / Aug 2027
Synergy Grant (SyG) 2027	Nov 2026 / Nov 2027
Proof of Concept (PoC) 2027	Jan–Oct 2027 (several cut-offs)



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One deadline | 2 steps evaluation process

The ERC full proposal = part B1 + part B2 + Part A*

Part B1 - pdf
Cover Page and summary (1p)

Extended Synopsis (5p)

Curriculum vitae + Track-record (4p) NEW

Evaluated in Step 1

Part B2 - pdf
(14p)

Sa: SoA & objectives

Sb: Methodology

funding ID NEW

NOT evaluated in Step 1 (only in Step 2)

Part A – online forms
A1 General Information
A2 Participants
A3 Budget*
table + description (8000c)
A4 Ethics and security
A5 Other questions
% Time commitment*
Excluded Reviewers (up to 3)

Annexes
HI support letter
PhD certificate
Ethics and security issues
Template Eligibility Extension NEW

FECYT

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Assessment

- **Emphasis on the evaluation of the project proposal**
  - Only the project is scored on a numerical scale.
  - Only this score can be used to rank the list of proposals before the panel discussion.
  - The applicant is given an overall qualitative assessment.

- **The evaluation should give the project more weight than the applicant.**
  - That was a practice in most ERC panels already

- **Broad assessment of the applicant**
  - No prescriptive PI profiles
  - New Template
  - Narrative elements



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Estructura de la propuesta ERC synergy

Synergy grant

Size of the grant: €10 million + up to €4 million

Duration: up to 6 years

Be composed of **2 to 4 researchers** and their research groups

(**one researcher can be based outside EU/AC**)

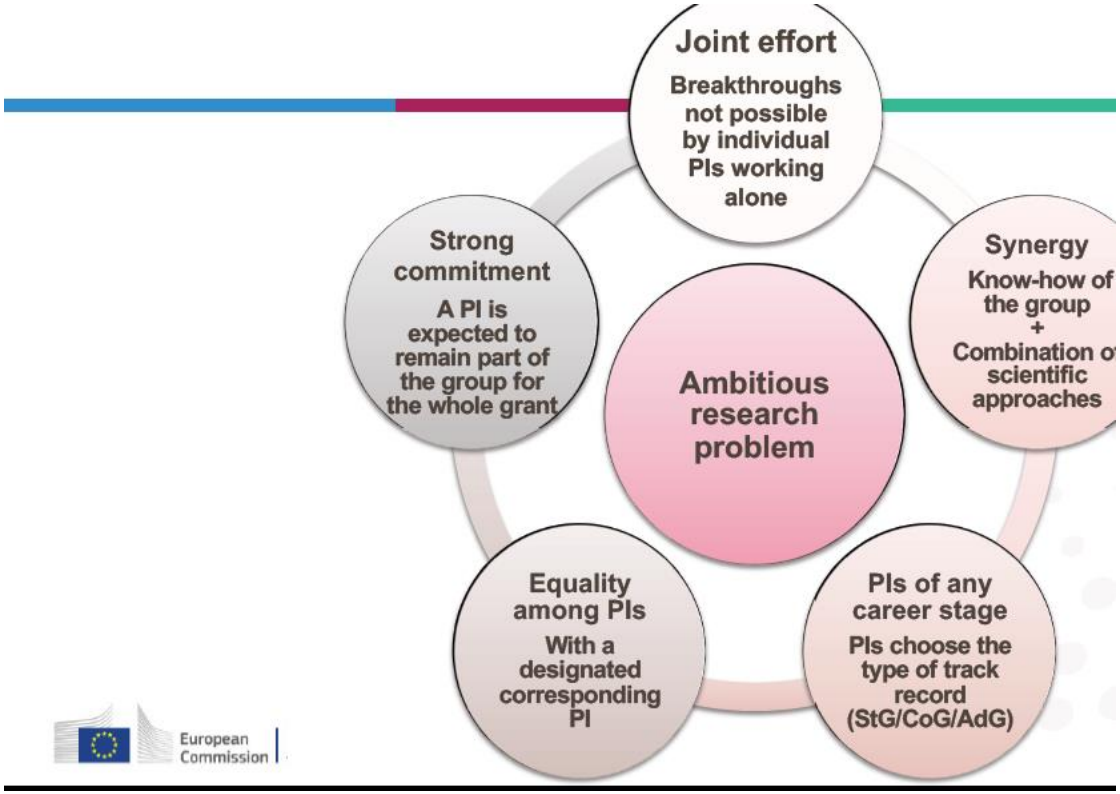






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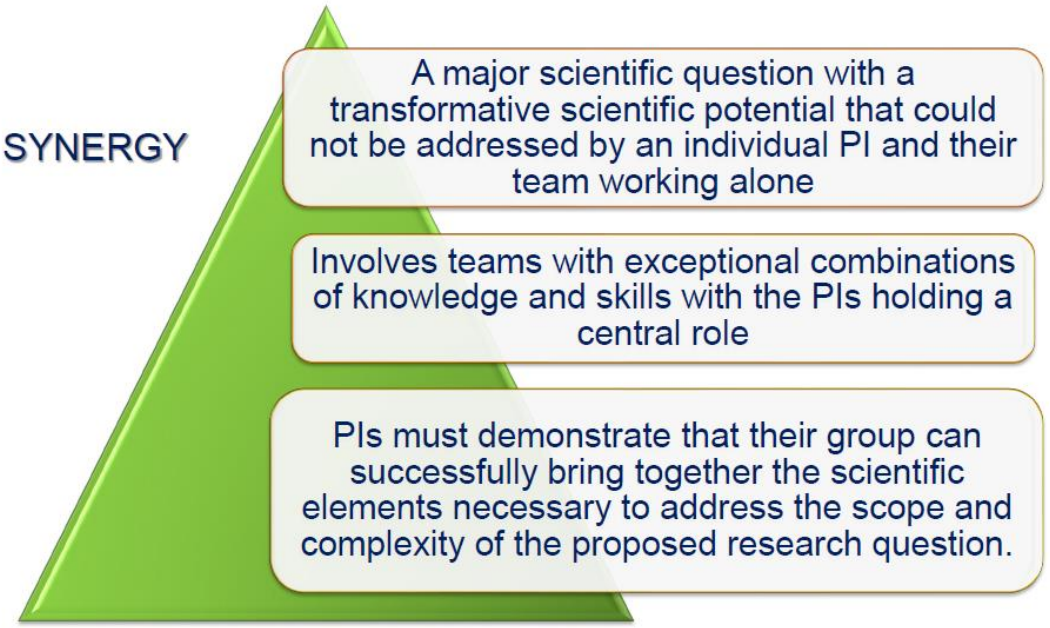
Estructura de la propuesta ERC synergy



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ERC Synergy Grant features

Synergy aspects



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Estructura de la propuesta ERC Synergy

A)Administrative proposal forms

B) Research Proposal (Parts B1 and B2), (uploaded in the submission tool as PDF files).

- **Proposal Part B1**
  - Extended Synopsis: max. 5 pages
    - (references do not count towards the page limit)
  - Curriculum Vitae:
    - max. 2 pages for each Principal Investigator
  - Funding ID: no page limits
  - Track Record:
    - max. 2 pages for each Principal Investigator

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Estructura de la propuesta ERC synergy

- **Proposal Part B2**
  - Scientific Proposal: max. 7 pages (references do not count towards the page limit).
    - Methodology
    - Risks
    - Respources
  - **Host institution(s) binding statement(s) of support template** .
    - Each host institution letter has to be uploaded at the time of submission.
- **Ethics review self-assessment** (if applicable) and supporting documentation.

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Evaluation process of ERC SYNERGY

Step 1: 1 panel

- **Remote reviews:** **Only part B1**
- Mainly generalists: Panel members, Panel evaluators
- **Meeting: only panel chairs and vice chairs**
  - Select proposals for step 2, with score 'A'
  - No. of proposals that can be passed to step 2: max 7x budget
- **Feedback to applicants:** Evaluation reports for rejected proposals, scored 'B' and 'C'

Step 2: 5 panels

- **Remote reviews:** **Parts B1 and B2**
- Mainly generalists: panel members
- Specialists: independent external experts
- **Meeting: all panel members**
  - Select proposals for step 3, with score 'A'
  - No. of proposals that can be passed to step 3: max 4 x budget
- **Feedback to applicants:** Evaluation reports for rejected proposals, scored 'B'

Step 3: 5 panels

- **No remote reviews**
- Panel members: re-assess proposals (parts B1 & B2) based on step 2 reports and prepare questions for the interview
- **Meeting: all panel members; interviews with all PIs → rank proposals**
- **Feedback to all applicants,** including evaluation reports:
  - Top 'A' scored - main list ~ 30 funded in total (up to call budget)
  - 'A' score below funding limit - reserve + rejected
  - 'B' score- rejected

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Evaluation

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion; focus on the project

Be familiar with the evaluation questions in the Work Programme or in the Information for applicants to the Synergy grants call.

1. EXCELLENCE OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

- Ground breaking nature
- Potential impact
- Scientific approach
- Synergetic aspects
- In **step 1** the **feasibility** is assessed only => methodology in step 2 and 3 (in part B2)
- Resources are **not** assessed in step 1

2. EXCELLENCE OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

- Each PI assessed according to their career benchmarks
- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment => evaluated in step 2 and 3 only (information in part B2)

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Take home messages – ERC Synergy grants

The end result should be more than the mere sum of the parts.

Competitive call (expected success rate of 10% in SyG2024)

- ➔ Only exceptional proposals are likely to be funded that will demonstrate that the **truly ambitious** research questions could lead to breakthroughs **only through the joint effort** of the group of PIs.

'Synergy' does not mean a loose consortium and is not the end goal

- ➔ The interaction would yield something more than just the sum of the individual parts.
- ➔ To yield possibly either unforeseen, completely new science, to cross fertilize disciplines or to solve important research problems that until now could not be dreamt of solving.

Early career applicants are encouraged to apply

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Estructura de la propuesta ERC

- A FORM
  - With Budget
    - Section C. Resources text box
- B1
  - Extended Synopsis,
  - Curriculum Vitae,
  - Track Record
- B2
  - State-of-the-art and objectives.
  - Methodology

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Criterios y procedimiento de evaluación

La importancia de una selección apropiada del panel ERC

SATURN TECH
AIMING YOUR TARGET

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EVALUATION PANEL

Life Sciences (LS)

- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems
- LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Aging
- 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

- 3 Domains / 27 Panels
- Operated by the Scientific Department B

Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- SH3 The Social World and Its Diversity
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

Physical Sciences & Engineering (PSE)

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

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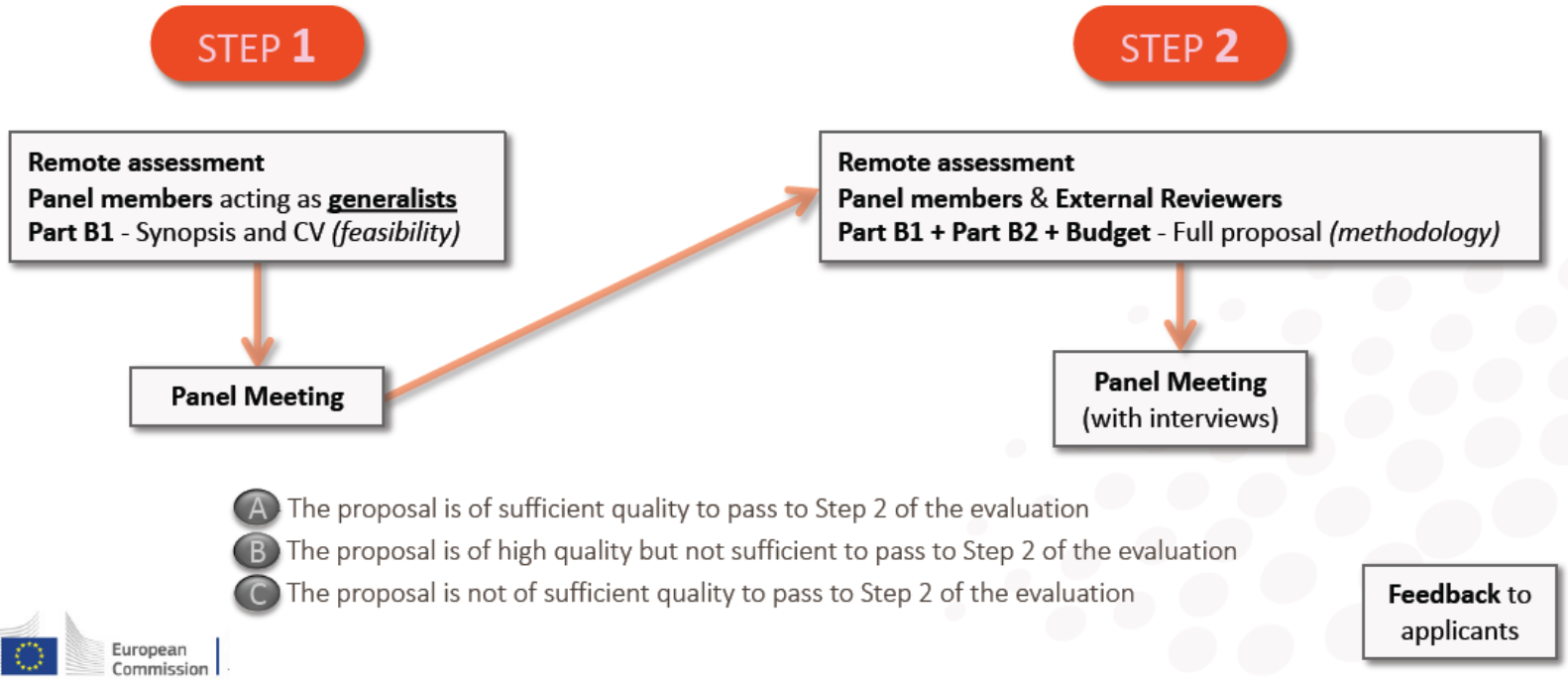
Choose your Panel

- According with your Main Research Field
  - Panel descriptors

- The EC can transfer the panel if the EC officer think it is more adequate
  - Both Panels have to agree

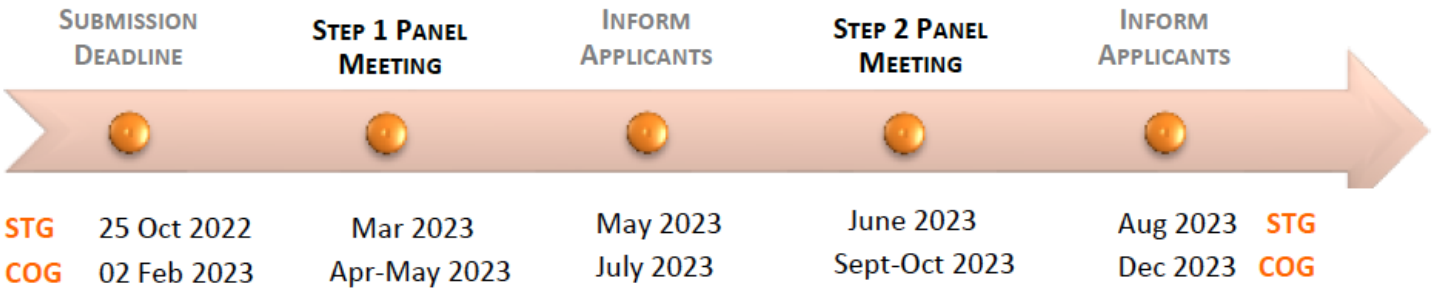
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Criterios y procedimiento de evaluación



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Criterios y procedimiento de evaluación



- Step 2
  - PI and RP (Parts B1 and B2) being again evaluated
  - New referees (experts) come into the evaluation
  - Same evaluation criteria as 1st stage, but now with full project proposal

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EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evaluation Elements applying to Excellence

1. Research Project

Ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility

Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grants

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

To what extent does the proposed research address important scientific 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)?

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EVALUATION CRITERIA

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the proposed research (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

*To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone (**for Synergy Grants,** based on the Extended Synopsis)?*

*To what extent do the Principal Investigators succeed in proposing a combination of scientific approaches that are crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research questions to be tackled (**for Synergy Grants,** based on the Extended Synopsis)?*

To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the research proposal)?

To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources, and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal)?

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EVALUATION CRITERIA

2. Principal Investigator(s)

Intellectual capacity and creativity
Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grants

To what extent has/have the PI(s) demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?

To what extent does/do the PI(s) provide evidence of creative and original thinking?

To what extent does/do the PI(s) have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

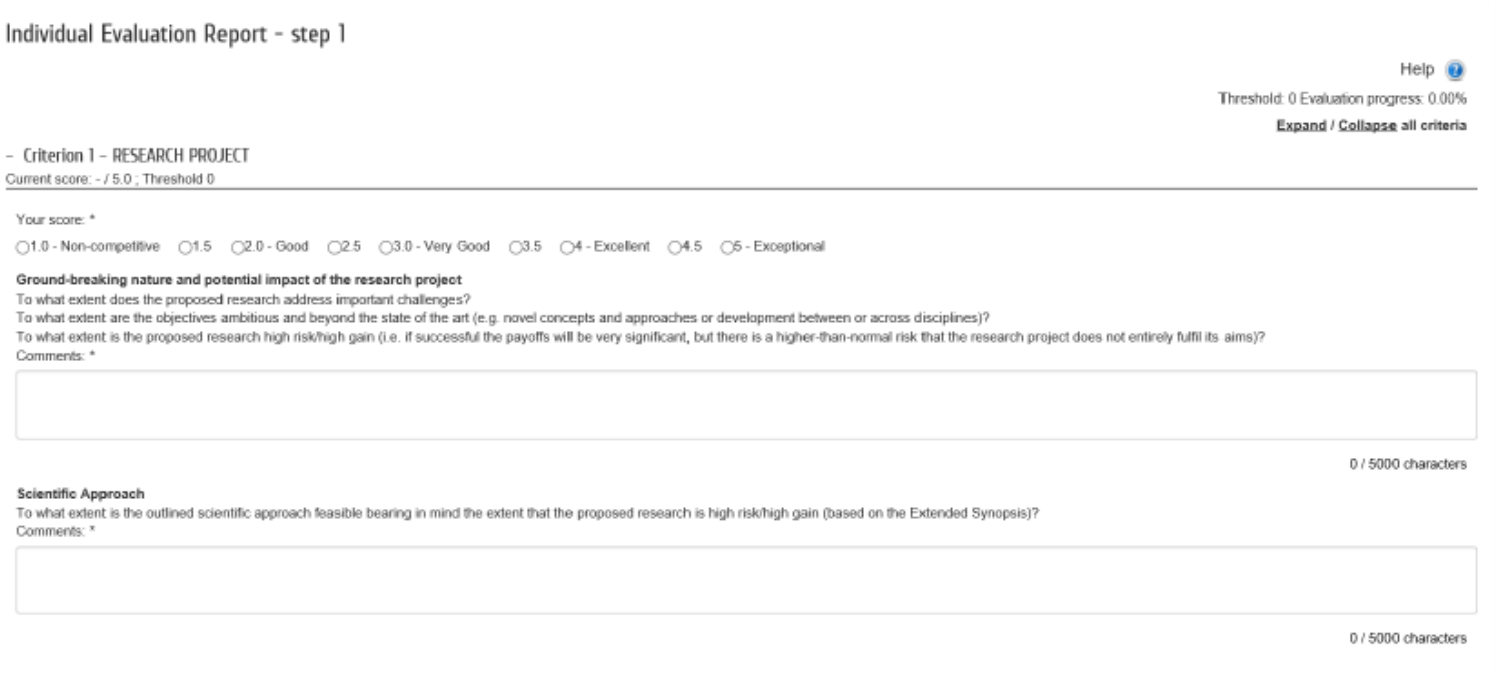
Synergy Grant Group
Synergy Grants

To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the know-how – such as skills, experience, expertise, disciplines, teams – necessary to address the proposed research question (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

The Host Institution is not an evaluation criterion.

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Individual Evaluation report



Individual Evaluation Report - step 1

Help

Threshold: 0 Evaluation progress: 0.00%

Expand / Collapse all criteria

– Criterion 1 – RESEARCH PROJECT

Current score: - / 5.0 ; Threshold 0

Your score: *

○1.0 - Non-competitive ○1.5 ○2.0 - Good ○2.5 ○3.0 - Very Good ○3.5 ○4 - Excellent ○4.5 ○5 - Exceptional

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

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 proposed research high risk/high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Comments: *

0 / 5000 characters

Scientific Approach

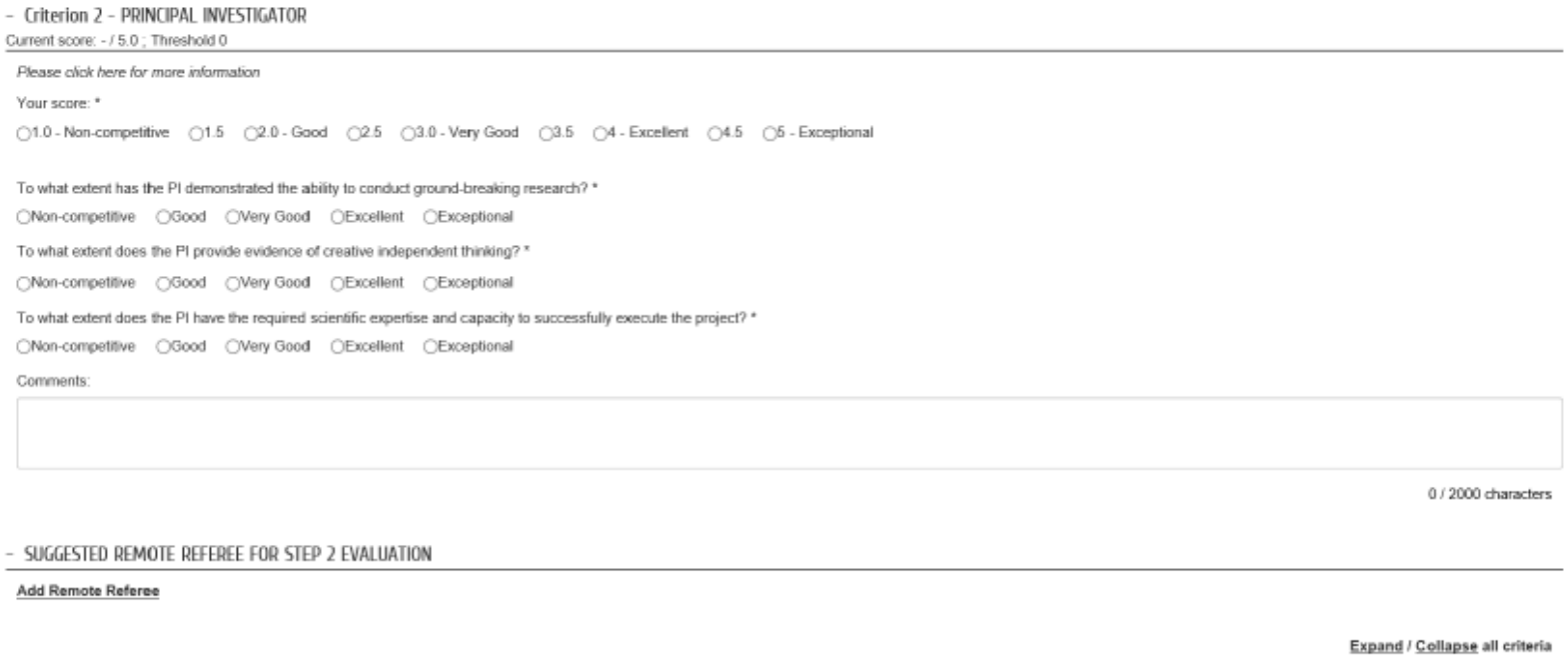
To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

Comments: *

0 / 5000 characters

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Individual Evaluation report



– Criterion 2 – PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Current score: - / 5.0 ; Threshold 0

Please click here for more information

Your score: *

○1.0 - Non-competitive ○1.5 ○2.0 - Good ○2.5 ○3.0 - Very Good ○3.5 ○4 - Excellent ○4.5 ○5 - Exceptional

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

○Non-competitive ○Good ○Very Good ○Excellent ○Exceptional

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

○Non-competitive ○Good ○Very Good ○Excellent ○Exceptional

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

○Non-competitive ○Good ○Very Good ○Excellent ○Exceptional

Comments:

0 / 2000 characters

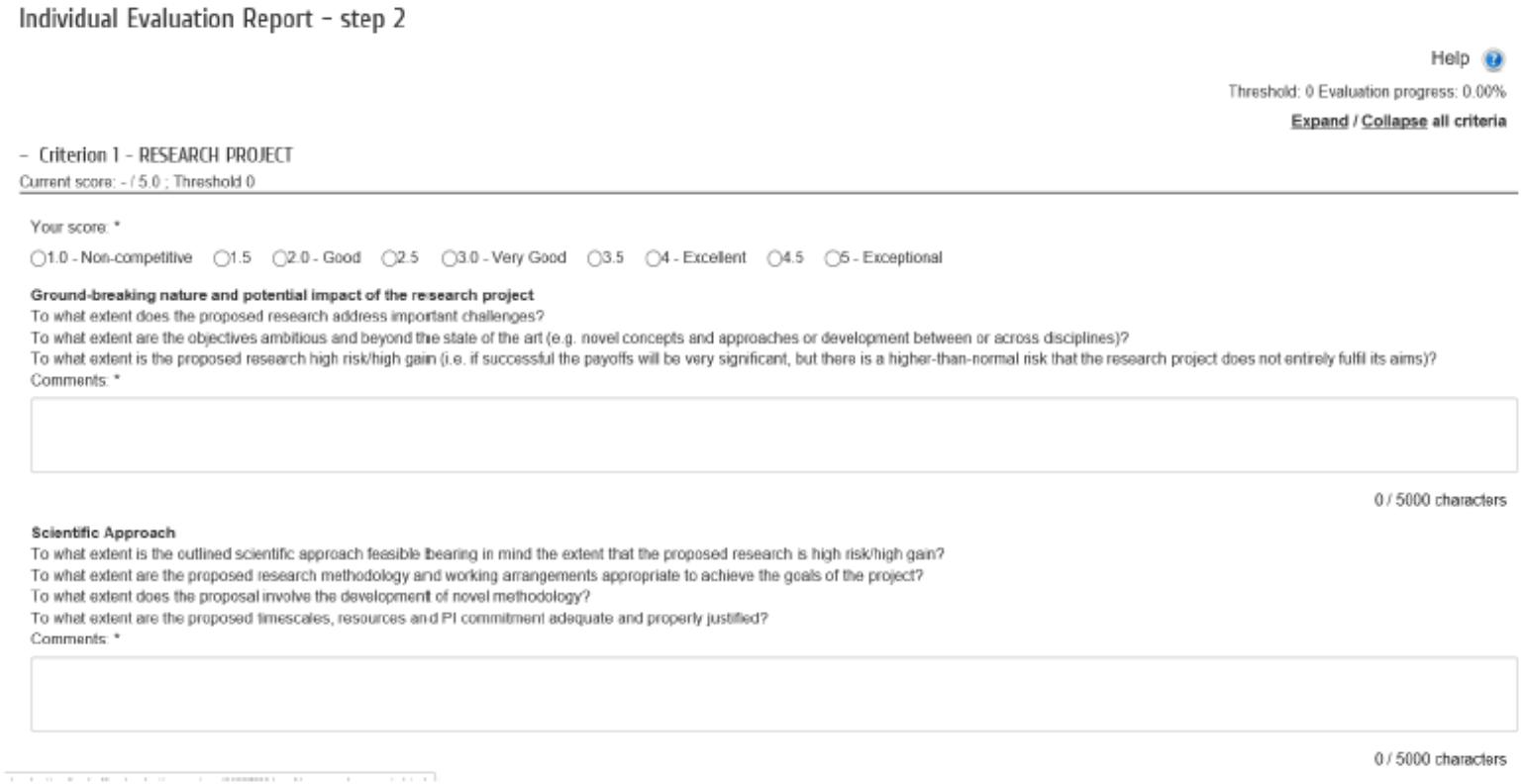
– SUGGESTED REMOTE REFEREE FOR STEP 2 EVALUATION

Add Remote Referee

Expand / Collapse all criteria

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Individual Evaluation report



Individual Evaluation Report - step 2

Help

Threshold: 0 Evaluation progress: 0.00%

Expand / Collapse all criteria

– Criterion 1 - RESEARCH PROJECT

Current score: - / 5.0 ; Threshold 0

Your score: *

○1.0 - Non-competitive ○1.5 ○2.0 - Good ○2.5 ○3.0 - Very Good ○3.5 ○4 - Excellent ○4.5 ○5 - Exceptional

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

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 proposed research high risk/high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Comments: *

0 / 5000 characters

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain?

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

To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology?

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

Comments: *

0 / 5000 characters

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How Evaluators Read the Proposals

- They first read title and abstract.
- The abstract already decides if they are interested in reading more.
- The second thing they read is the publication list.
- They often flip through the pages.
  - This means: Your proposal needs to be well structured.
  - Important parts of your proposal should be eye catching.

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How Evaluators Read the Proposals

- They normaly make a triage of 3 piles:
  - A) best,
  - B) intermediate,
  - C) out.
- They have many proposals to read.
  - They have little time.
  - Make their work easier in presenting them a nice proposal.
- The following criteria are not used: nationality, gender, age, amount of requested grant.

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Evaluator TIPS

- The Evaluator is Human
  - He/She is going to read many proposals
    - Simplify his/her work
      - Put the information where it should be
      - Graphs and tables are highly recommended
      - Font size not too small
- The proposal has to be understandable for experts as well as for generalists (counts also for abbreviations and nonenglish terms)
- Correct and Simple English
  - It has to be clear
  - Straight to the point



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Evaluators Tips

- An applicant who does not take his time to write a clear and nice proposal delegates the work to the evaluator, because the evaluator then has to struggle through the proposal to find the essence.
  - The more the applicant can save the time of the evaluator, the better is his chance.
  - An evaluator never has enough time
- In the top 15% everybody deserves the grant. If a person is in the top 15%, a nice proposal can make the difference

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Comments from ERC evaluators

- Objectives not clearly defined
- Hypothesis not convincing
- Proposal too descriptive
- Independence / Leadership of PI not clear
- Project not sufficiently focussed/too ambitious
- Project „incremental“, no scientific breakthrough expected;
  - “continuation of previous research“
- Not enough information on methodology
- Doubts on feasibility

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ESR -EXAMPLE

Step 2 Evaluation Report

CONFIDENTIAL

Call reference	ERC-CoG-2014
Activity	ERC-COG
Funding scheme	ERC Consolidator Grant
Panel name	PE5-Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
Proposal No.	647301
Acronym	DECRESIM
Applicant Name	Gaita Alejandro
Title	A Chemical Approach to Molecular Spin Qubits: Decoherence and Organisation of Rare Earth Single Ion Magnets

EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. Research Project

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

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 across disciplines)?
To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain?

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible (based on the Extended Synopsis)?
To what extent is the proposed research methodology appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?
To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on the full Scientific

2. Principal Investigator

Intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment:

For each of the statements below, reviewers were asked to choose one of the following four responses: Outstanding / Excellent / Very good / Non-competitive

To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research?
To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?
To what extent have the achievements of the PI typically gone beyond the state of the art?
To what extent does the PI demonstrate the level of commitment to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 50% of the total working time on it and min 50% in an EU Member State or Associated Country) (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

PANEL SCORE AND RANKING RANGE

Final panel score : A (fully meets the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available)	**Ranking range *:** 1%-65%

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ESR -EXAMPLE

PANEL COMMENT

This evaluation report contains the final recommendations and score awarded by the ERC review panel during the second step of the ERC Consolidator Grant review and the ranking range. The panel based its appraisal on prior individual reviews conducted by panel members and external referees and on the interview with the applicant.

The panel closely examined all the individual review reports and, while not necessarily subscribing to each and every opinion expressed, found that they provide a fair overall assessment. The comments of the individual reviewers are included in this report.

The presentation given by the applicant during the interview and the answers to the questions that were addressed greatly contributed to build the panel's view about the proposal's strengths and weaknesses.

Both the individual reviews and the interview were the basis for the discussion and the final recommendation of the panel.

The panel was impressed by the academic excellence of the PI, as well as the progressive construction of the project from WP1-3, with very clear objectives at each stage together with increasingly complex and creative science with high risk/gain potential. The candidate defended questions by the panel with clarity and confidence. The project outcomes will extend significantly beyond the state of the art in chemistry and the related areas of physics and biochemistry, where real networks are already in place.
The panel felt that the budget was not fully justified under all categories and it has been adjusted under travel, post doctoral and technical staff.

The panel therefore recommends the proposal to be retained for funding with a grant not exceeding 1 827 375.00 Euro.

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ESR - EXAMPLE

Reviewer 5

Research Project
Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project: This proposal aims at developing theoretical models in order to describe or predict the quantum coherence of spin-based qubits for quantum computing (QC), embodied in lanthanide ions. A method already provided by the authors to consider the crystal field based on point charges will be developed in order to incorporate covalency and spin-orbit coupling. It is also proposed to bring into the model the various factors influencing decoherence, namely coupling with the lattice, coupling with nuclear spins and coupling with neighbouring electronic spins. The time dependent evolution of the quantum phase and amplitude of any such system is expected to be described after this lengthy investigation. The challenge is of paramount importance since quantum coherence is one of the main issues of concern regarding the search for a suitable technology for QC. Currently, this property has been explored for some real Ln systems showing great promise. This precise description will be a true breakthrough in the area and shall guide experimental research towards the preparation of more suitable physical systems towards the goal of implementing QC. Further working packages (WPs) aim at studying theoretically and experimentally multiqubit systems, which represents an additional, more challenging milestone, which will necessarily have to be overcome in the phenomenal goal of realizing quantum information processing (QIP) with spin-qubits. The proposed research thus addresses a fundamental problem in nanoscience. The proposals WPs are of increasing ambition. The best developed WP (WP1) is proposed with gradual gain of complexity and aims to bring the predictive capacity of the area significantly beyond the state of the art, although beginning from well established (in part by the PI) basis. The goals of WP2 and WP3 are for the most part significantly ground breaking. However, some important aspects are currently being studied and developed in very similar terms (specifically, using and studying real Ln molecules as realizations of qugates). As stated by the PI, the main part of the project (WP1) is a continuation of his specialty (modelling the crystal field around Ln ions) drastically expanded in order to reach the ambitious goal of describing or predicting the quantum coherence of Ln spin-based qubits. This goal is clearly high gain since this would constitute a very significant step forward in this very relevant context. Given the previous knowledge and experience of the PI, a large part of this WP does not seem to entail exceedingly high risk, as pointed out by the PI. The other WPs are of very high gain. In there, it is proposed to investigate, theoretically, but also experimentally, multiqubit systems and the possibility to realize quantum gates (qugates), perform more complex algorithms or implement fault tolerant error quantum correction codes. However, these have been put forward in far less precise terms, which necessarily confer these, at least in appearance, with significantly higher risk. The same can be said about the proposal of WP3; it is mentioned that higher dimensionality in the organization of Ln-based qubits should allow to implement complex coding (such as Lloyd's scheme). However, there is very little precision and concretion about how to do it.

Scientific Approach: The PI has demonstrated the capacity to develop (in pioneering ways) theoretical models for describing the crystal field of lanthanides, and the ensuing properties of magnetic relaxation and quantum tunelling. The propositions to improve these models and incorporate spin decoherence (by including the coupling to phonons) appears thus feasible. The selection or preparation of MOFs of lanthanides as infinite qubit arrays is feasible (as mentioned by the PI, many such MOFs are available in the literature). Identify ideal conditions, using theoretical models, to minimize decoherence within the systems may be achieved. It is not clear how this will be probed experimentally. The implementation of complex algorithms with these higher dimensionality materials is not quite well explained. The theoretical section of the project is proposed in a well-structured manner and the methodology put forward for achieving the various goals is appropriate. It is planned to increase the degree of complexity, while the know-how of the PI in the various areas should lead to attain the goals, which, as mentioned before will push forward the current state of the art. Parts of the methodology suggested for WP2 and WP3 are appropriate. However, the implementation of complex algorithms is not clearly explained. The task of WP3 dealing with inclusion of qubits within biopolymers is much more delicate. It appears as a very good solution for sequencing various connected qubits in a desired manner, however, the goal seems too ambitious for constituting a somewhat marginal part of the project, considering the fact that the PI does not seem to have experience in this type of chemistry. In general, the proposal is original in implementing novel methodology; incorporate the coupling to phonons to the Hamiltonian of the Ln spin in order to model decoherence and then predict its time evolution. The use of pulsed EPR techniques to study and characterize the decoherence is becoming common practice. The authors however propose to build on recent experiments performed by them, showing that playing with the experimental parameters it is possible to significantly improve the quantum coherence. The authors do not seem to propose (or give sufficient details about) significantly new methodologies in chemistry for the production of suitable systems relevant to WP1 and WP2, as well as the first part of WP3. However, the method for preparing multiqubit systems based on biopolymers appears as radically original. The timescales are adequate and justified for most part of the project except for task 3.2, which would justify almost an entire grant, and a much higher degree of detail. Thus I would cut the cost related to this last part of the project (i.e. one postdoc). The PI should have justified the need of 100.000EUR for travelling.

Principal Investigator	
To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research?	Excellent
To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?	Outstanding
To what extent have the achievements of the PI typically gone beyond the state of the art?	Excellent
To what extent does the PI demonstrate the level of commitment to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 50% of the total working time on it and min 50% in an EU Member State or Associated Country) (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?	Outstanding

Comments (Optional for reviewers)
The PI exhibits a good track record of publications, many of very high impact, of which one needs to highlight especially these that are pioneering in the field of the proposal. He has been successful at his different stages of his career, particularly during his postdoctoral stays. The PI has shown the capacity to direct top research and to succeed in the training of young scientists. This is good proof that the PI should be capable to lead this ambitious project, most especially as it regards the theoretical developments and spectroscopic analysis of real systems. In terms of the chemical synthesis of new and ground breaking objects of study, this quality is less evident, most especially on systems Evidence of the PI for independent and creative thinking is already this research proposal. He has shown this capacity also with his current research, which constitute landmarks in the field. This has been also manifested in the talks and presentations he has been invited to give, which clearly show that he is opening research lines fully independently of current and past "supervisors". The key publications by the PI suggest that he has the capacity to overcome the state of the art. He is not corresponding author in some of them but his achievements as independent researcher show that his input was fundamental in them. As a young researcher he has demonstrated already that he is one of the few experts in this challenging field, and that he is able to put forward and develop very original ideas to bring it forward. Level of commitment. The level of commitment (85%) is above the average. Very appropriate in the current circumstances of the PI, which shall be to the best benefit of the project, in particular since it does not scale with the PI's salary cost (assumed by the local institutions).

Reviewer 7

Research Project
Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project: The proposal seeks to develop methods for understanding decoherence in molecular qubits based on lanthanide complexes, moving on to polynuclear lanthanide complexes and finally organization of qubits. This is clearly an important and ambitious research challenge. The program SIMPRE 2.0 will be useful for the wider scientific community, if properly distributed and supported. The risk is spread across the three WPs. Only the final part on 'programmable biopolymers' is high risk and I would have liked to have seen more on this and exactly how this will work. Scientific Approach: The PI discusses decoherence mechanisms for SMMs, which can be reduced in some cases for a high tunnel splitting, but in others for a low tunnel splitting. So, it is not sure how reducing the docherence from all the different mechanisms can be reconciled? Perhaps this is the reason to undertake the project. Overall the methodology is logical, moving from WP1-3. It will develop some novel methodology & should achieve some of the goals. Resources seem generally justified, travel at 100k Euros seems high though.

Principal Investigator	
To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research?	Excellent
To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?	Excellent
To what extent have the achievements of the PI typically gone beyond the state of the art?	Excellent
To what extent does the PI demonstrate the level of commitment to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 50% of the total working time on it and min 50% in an EU Member State or Associated Country) (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?	Very good

Comments (Optional for reviewers)
In places there is some over-selling e.g. 'a field shaped by seminal contributions of the PI' when in Ln-based SIMs the seminal work was by Ishikawa. The PI is already employed 100% on a Ramon y Cajal fellowship, but will spend 85% of his time working on the ERC grant, if awarded? I don't see how this will work in practice and this needs to be explained.

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Parte B1-

Extended Synopsis

PI description

Track record





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BEFORE STARTING TO WRITE

- Revise other projects in the field
  - Analyse their ideas
  - Check the PI profiles for comparison

- Define some brief Key points
  - What is the core novelty of your project?
  - What are the main overarching research questions/ testable hypotheses?
  - What are your central research objectives?
    - Are they clear and measurable?
  - What is your research vision?

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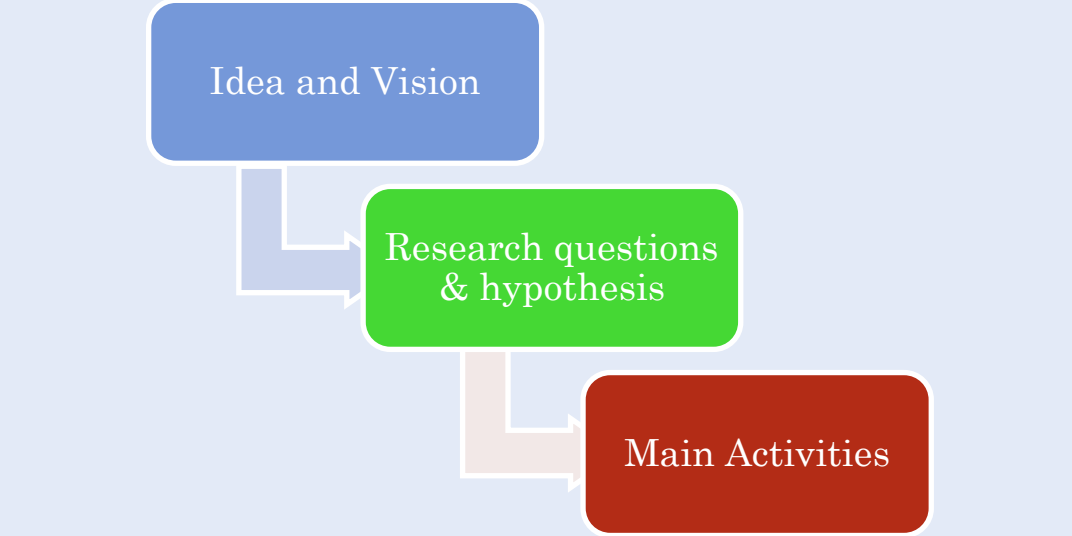
HYPOTHESIS

- The hypothesis should, on one hand, reflect the conceptual risk in the selected research path.
- On the other hand, it should be sufficiently supported by preliminary results.
- The hypothesis should not be too narrow (focused on a specific aspect) as this may result in a limited project scope and thus limited risk and gain.
- The hypothesis should not be too general, as this would limit the potential gain of testing it.

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BEFORE STARTING TO WRITE

- Start with B1 or B2?



IMPACT IN SCIENCE

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B1 Versus B2

- B1: COMMUNICATE THE ESSENCE TO GENERALISTS
  - NOVELTY
  - AMBITION
  - FEASIBILITY:
  - EXPERTISE OF PI
- B2 - CONVINCE SPECIALIST REVIEWERS AS WELL
  - NOVEL/ UNCONVENTIONAL ASPECTS,
  - ANTICPATED IMPACT OF PROPOSED RESEARCH
  - WORK AND TIME PLAN : KEY INTERMEDIATE GOALS;
  - RISKS AND CONTINGENCY PLANS;
  - REQUIRED EXPERTISE OF TEAM MEMBERS,

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Part B1

- Why there is scientific need for your Project ????

- **Part B1 contains all essential information incluiding the feasibility of the scientific proposal.**
  - During the Step 1 evaluation the panel members' expertise covers a wide range of proposals within a research field.
  - The panel members are asked to act as generalists when evaluating the proposals

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Have in mind

- Dual role: key text in stand-alone B1, then goes hand-in hand with the B2 full proposal. Make it work in both ways, not as a summary of the full proposal
- Consider what excites you about the research and convey this in your application
- Scientific Impact – you should be progressing the field of research beyond its current state.
  - Does the research open new lines of research and or enquiry that will lead to new scientific activity and further questions beyond the current state-of-the-art's frontier?
  - The impact is throughout the 5 years of the project, not just at the end
  - Be positive about achievements of others thus far while demonstrating you have something new and different to offer
- Timeliness and relevance should be shown throughout the project
- Research Aims, should clearly link to the research objectives, which should clearly link to research methodology(ies)

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Part B1

- Cover page & Summary (1page)

- Extended Synopsis,
- Curriculum Vitae,
- Track Record

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PART B1

- You have to demonstrate to generalists that your idea fit the main goal of the ERC: **to fund high risk – high gain, groundbreaking research projects by excellent and creative PI's.**

- Only the top 40% of ranked proposals is passed through to step 2 of the evaluation.

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Part B1 - Coverpage & summary

- **Cover Page:**
  - - Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
  - - Name of the PI's host institution for the project
  - - Proposal duration in months

- **Abstract** (2000 characters)
  - Same as Form A

- Clear title, clear abstract.
- He or she should get interested in your proposal after a short glimpse of ten seconds.
  - Should not contain confidential information.
- Do it once and revise it a million times.
  - It has to be a seeling point!

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Part B1 Extended sinopsis (5 pages),

- *Concise presentation of the scientific proposal*
- *Ground-breaking nature of the research project,*
- *Feasibility of the outlined scientific approach.*
  - *Describe the proposed work*
- *References to literature should also be included.*

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Part B1 Extended sinopsis (5 pages),

- Focus on novelty (why is this new?) and potential impact (why is this needed?).
  - Avoid standard cliches from your discipline
    - "If only everybody had used this formal method from the start, the Ariane failure could have been prevented..."); come up with fresh, real stories and insights instead.

- If the message is too complex, revise it and do it again
  - it has to be understandable for a no-specialist.

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Part B1 Extended sinopsis (5 pages),

- **<u>High-risk is one of the most important ERC aspects.</u>**
  - It is also extremely elusive and difficult to assess.

- The ERC funds high-risk, high-gain projects.
  - This means that there have to be substantial risks of failure (otherwise, others would have done this before).
  - However, your specific research plans should help to mitigate these risks and thus bring the high gains promised.

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Part B1 Extended sinopsis (5 pages),

- What is the problem/research challenge?
- Why is this problem important?
- Why was it not solved until now?
- What is your new idea/approach?
- Is this groundbreaking research?
- What are your concrete research objectives?
- Why can you succeed?

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Part B1 Possible structure

- Set the context,
  - the open question
  - its relevance for the WHOLE domain
  -
- **State of the Art** (Figure showing nowadays limitations)
- **Aims of the project**
  - Table with objectives (3-5)
  - Impact: before/after)
- **Methodology:**
  - Box with the theoretical framework of the proposal
  - Work Plan: very briefly
- **References:**

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PART B1 GROUND BREAKING & FEASIBILITY

Turbulence is a fundamental unsolved problem, at whose core are the multiscale processes that transfer, for example, energy across the inertial range of scales, or momentum across wall-bounded shear flows. **Turbulence is also key to applications**, from industrial design and energy generation to climate dynamics, where the worst uncertainties are often due to its modelling....

challenge

The premise of this proposal is that those new capabilities should allow us to elucidate, once and for all, the physics underlying the multiscale transfer processes in turbulence in the next five years, especially in shear flows near walls. That will allow the formulation of more realistic engineering models, but the immediate goal of the proposal is to answer the fundamental questions that have resisted two centuries of attack by physicists and engineers [...]

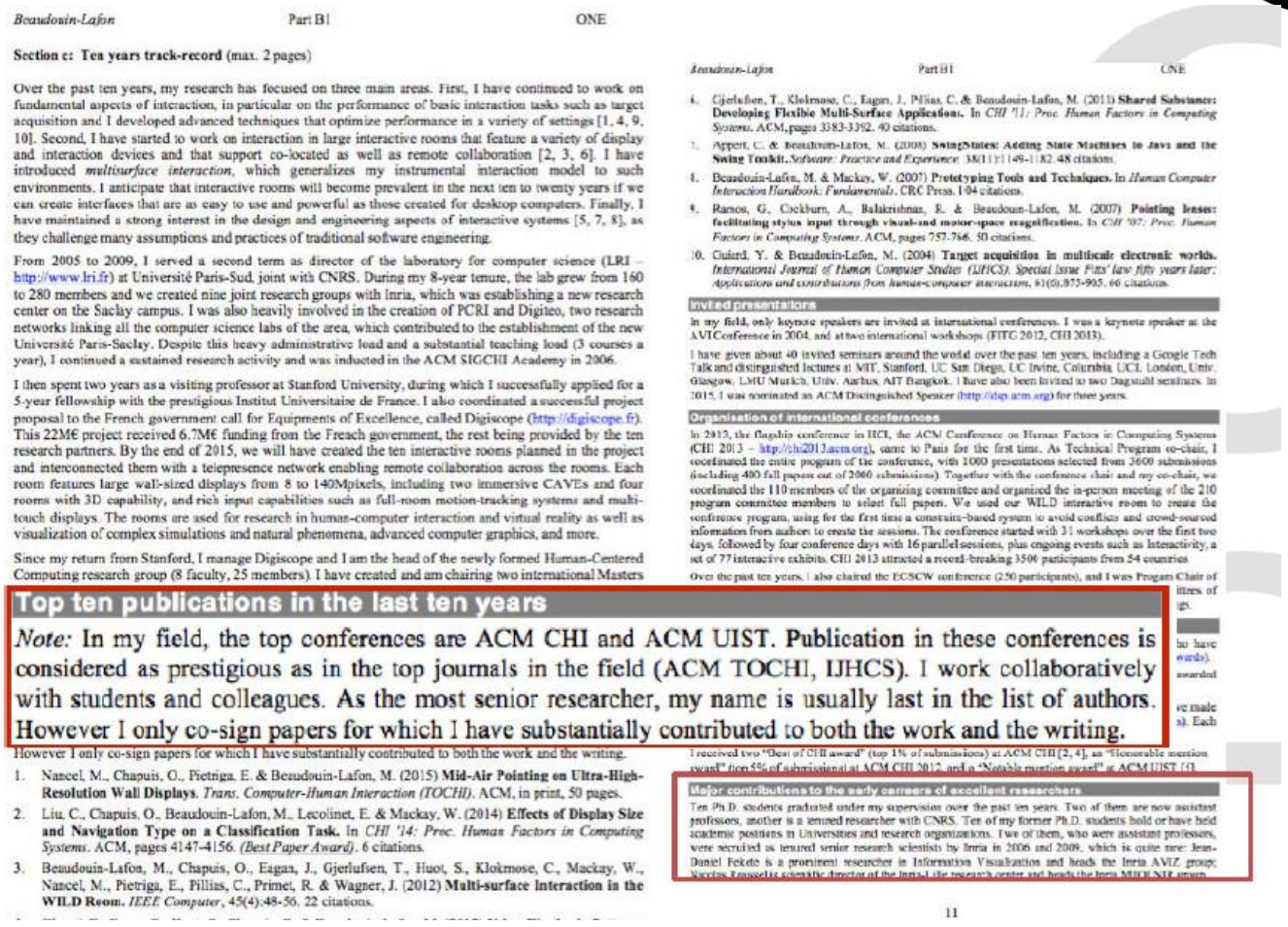
Groundbreaking nature/ Groundbreaking contributions

Neither large-scale computing nor data mining are trivial activities, but our group has specialised in both during the past 20 years, particularly for the study of turbulence.

feasibility

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EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS TRACK-RECORD



Beaudouin-Lafon Part B1 ONE

Section c: Ten years track-record (max. 2 pages)

Over the past ten years, my research has focused on three main areas. First, I have continued to work on fundamental aspects of interaction, in particular on the performance of basic interaction tasks such as target acquisition and I developed advanced techniques that optimize performance in a variety of settings [1, 4, 9, 10]. Second, I have started to work on interaction in large interactive rooms that feature a variety of display and interaction devices and that support co-located as well as remote collaboration [2, 3, 6]. I have introduced *multisurface interaction*, which generalizes my instrumental interaction model to such environments. I anticipate that interactive rooms will become prevalent in the next ten to twenty years if we can create interfaces that are as easy to use and powerful as those created for desktop computers. Finally, I have maintained a strong interest in the design and engineering aspects of interactive systems [5, 7, 8], as they challenge many assumptions and practices of traditional software engineering.

From 2005 to 2009, I served a second term as director of the laboratory for computer science (LRI – http://www.lri.fr) at Université Paris-Sud, joint with CNRS. During my 8-year tenure, the lab grew from 160 to 280 members and we created nine joint research groups with Inria, which was establishing a new research center on the Saclay campus. I was also heavily involved in the creation of PCRI and Digiteo, two research networks linking all the computer science labs of the area, which contributed to the establishment of the new Université Paris-Saclay. Despite this heavy administrative load and a substantial teaching load (3 courses a year), I continued a sustained research activity and was inducted in the ACM SIGCHI Academy in 2006.

I then spent two years as a visiting professor at Stanford University, during which I successfully applied for a 5-year fellowship with the prestigious Institut Universitaire de France. I also coordinated a successful project proposal to the French government call for Equipments of Excellence, called Digiscope (http://digiscope.fr). This 22M€ project received 6.7M€ funding from the French government, the rest being provided by the ten research partners. By the end of 2015, we will have created the ten interactive rooms planned in the project and interconnected them with a telepresence network enabling remote collaboration across the rooms. Each room features large wall-sized displays from 8 to 140Mpixels, including two immersive CAVEs and four rooms with 3D capability, and rich input capabilities such as full-room motion-tracking systems and multi-touch displays. The rooms are used for research in human-computer interaction and virtual reality as well as visualization of complex simulations and natural phenomena, advanced computer graphics, and more.

Since my return from Stanford, I manage Digiscope and I am the head of the newly formed Human-Centered Computing research group (8 faculty, 25 members). I have created and am chairing two international Masters

Top ten publications in the last ten years

Note: In my field, the top conferences are ACM CHI and ACM UIST. Publication in these conferences is considered as prestigious as in the top journals in the field (ACM TOCHI, IJHCS). I work collaboratively with students and colleagues. As the most senior researcher, my name is usually last in the list of authors. However I only co-sign papers for which I have substantially contributed to both the work and the writing.

However I only co-sign papers for which I have substantially contributed to both the work and the writing.

1. Nancel, M., Chapuis, O., Pietriga, E. & Beaudouin-Lafon, M. (2015) **Mid-Air Pointing on Ultra-High-Resolution Wall Displays**. *Trans. Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI)*. ACM, in print, 50 pages.
2. Liu, C., Chapuis, O., Beaudouin-Lafon, M., Lecolinet, E. & Mackay, W. (2014) **Effects of Display Size and Navigation Type on a Classification Task.** In *CHI '14: Proc. Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM, pages 4147-4156. *(Best Paper Award)*. 6 citations.
3. Beaudouin-Lafon, M., Chapuis, O., Eagan, J., Gjerlufsen, T., Huot, S., Klokmose, C., Mackay, W., Nancel, M., Pietriga, E., Pillias, C., Primet, R. & Wagner, J. (2012) **Multi-surface interaction in the WILD Room.** *IEEE Computer*, 45(4):48-56. 22 citations.

Beaudouin-Lafon Part B1 ONE

4. Gjerlufsen, T., Klokmose, C., Eagan, J., Pillias, C. & Beaudouin-Lafon, M. (2011) **Shared Substance: Developing Flexible Multi-Surface Applications.** In *CHI '11: Proc. Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM, pages 3383-3392. 40 citations.
7. Appert, C. & Beaudouin-Lafon, M. (2008) **SwingStates: Adding State Machines to Java and the Swing Toolkit.** *Software: Practice and Experience*. 38(11):1149-1182. 48 citations.
8. Beaudouin-Lafon, M. & Mackay, W. (2007) **Prototyping Tools and Techniques.** In *Human Computer Interaction Handbook: Fundamentals*. CRC Press. 104 citations.
9. Ramos, G., Cockburn, A., Balakrishnan, R. & Beaudouin-Lafon, M. (2007) **Pointing lenses: facilitating stylus input through visual-and motor-space magnification.** In *CHI '07: Proc. Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM, pages 757-766. 50 citations.
10. Guiard, Y. & Beaudouin-Lafon, M. (2004) **Target acquisition in multiscale electronic worlds.** *International Journal of Human Computer Studies (IJHCS). Special Issue Fitts' law fifty years later: Applications and contributions from human-computer interaction*, 61(6):875-905. 66 citations.

Invited presentations

In my field, only keynote speakers are invited at international conferences. I was a keynote speaker at the AVI Conference in 2004, and at two international workshops (FITC 2012, CHI 2013).

I have given about 40 invited seminars around the world over the past ten years, including a Google Tech Talk and distinguished lectures at MIT, Stanford, UC San Diego, UC Irvine, Columbia, UCL London, Univ. Glasgow, LMU Munich, Univ. Aarhus, AIT Bangkok. I have also been invited to two Dagstuhl seminars. In 2015, I was nominated an ACM Distinguished Speaker (http://dsp.acm.org) for three years.

Organisation of international conferences

In 2013, the flagship conference in HCI, the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2013 – http://chi2013.acm.org), came to Paris for the first time. As Technical Program co-chair, I coordinated the entire program of the conference, with 1000 presentations selected from 3600 submissions (including 400 full papers out of 2060 submissions). Together with the conference chair and my co-chair, we coordinated the 110 members of the organizing committee and organized the in-person meeting of the 210 program committee members to select full papers. We used our WILD interactive room to create the conference program, using for the first time a constrain-based system to avoid conflicts and crowd-sourced information from authors to create the sessions. The conference started with 31 workshops over the first two days, followed by four conference days with 16 parallel sessions, plus ongoing events such as Interactivity, a set of 77 interactive exhibits. CHI 2013 attracted a record-breaking 3500 participants from 54 countries.

Over the past ten years, I also chaired the ECSCW conference (250 participants), and I was Program Chair of

I received two "Best of CHI award" (top 1% of submissions) at ACM CHI [2, 4], an "Honorable mention award" (top 5% of submissions) at ACM CHI 2012, and a "Notable mention award" at ACM UIST '10.

Major contributions to the early careers of excellent researchers

Ten Ph.D. students graduated under my supervision over the past ten years. Two of them are now assistant professors, another is a tenured researcher with CNRS. Ten of my former Ph.D. students hold or have held academic positions in Universities and research organizations. Two of them, who were assistant professors, were recruited as tenured senior research scientists by Inria in 2006 and 2009, which is quite rare: Jean-Daniel Fekete is a prominent researcher in Information Visualization and heads the Inria AVIZ group; Nicolas Roussel is scientific director of the Inria Lille research center and heads the Inria MINT[illegible] group.

11

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Part B1 – CV Template

Section b: Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)

[Please follow the template below as much as possible. Please note that the CV part has been slightly modified compared to 2022 calls ("Supervision of Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Students" has been r CV for Starting Grant and Consolidator Grant applicants).]

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family name, First name:

Researcher unique identifier(s) (such as ORCID, Research ID, etc. ...):

Date of birth:

Nationality:

URL for web site:

- **EDUCATION**

200?
PhD
Name of Faculty/Department, Name of University/Institution, Country
Name of PhD Supervisor
199?
Master
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

- **CURRENT POSITION(S)**

201?–
Current Position
Name of Faculty/Department, Name of University/Institution/Country
200?–
Current Position
Name of Faculty/Department, Name of University/Institution/Country

- **PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

200?–200?
Position held
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
200?–200?
Position held
Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

- **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

200?–200?
Scholarship, Name of Faculty/ Department/Centre, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

200?
Award, Name of Institution/Country
199?–199?
Scholarship, Name of Faculty/ Department/Centre, Name of University/Institution/ Country

- **TEACHING ACTIVITIES (if applicable)**

200?–
Teaching position – Topic, Name of University/Institution/ Country
200?–200?
Teaching position – Topic, Name of University/Institution/ Country

- **ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS (if applicable)**

201?
Please specify your role and the name of event/Country
200?
Please specify type of event/number of participants/Country

- **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES (if applicable)**

201?–
Faculty member, Name of University/Institution/ Country
201?–201?
Graduate Student Advisor, Name of University/Institution/ Country
200?–200?
Member of the Faculty Committee, Name of University/Institution/ Country
200?–200?
Organizer of the Internal Seminar, Name of University/Institution/ Country
200?–200?
Member of a Committee; role, Name of University/Institution/ Country

- **REVIEWING ACTIVITIES (if applicable)**

201?–
Scientific Advisory Board, Name of University/Institution/ Country
201?–
Review Board, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
201?–
Review panel member, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
201?–
Editorial Board, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
200?–
Scientific Advisory Board, Name of University/Institution/ Country
200?–
Reviewer, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
200?–
Scientific Evaluation, Name of University/ Institution/ Country
200?–
Evaluator, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

- **MEMBERSHIPS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES (if applicable)**

201?–
Member, Research Network "*Name of Research Network*"

200?–
Associated Member, Name of Faculty/ Department/Centre, Name of University/Institution/ Country

200?–
Founding Member, Name of Faculty/ Department/Centre, Name of University/Institution/ Country

- **MAJOR COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)**

Name of collaborators, Topic, Name of Faculty/Department/Centre, Name of University/Institution/Country

- **CAREER BREAKS (if applicable)**

Exact dates
Please indicate the reason and the duration in months.

- **COVID-19 IMPACT TO SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTIVITY (if applicable)**

Please specify which of the following situations apply to you:

- ♦ Increased caring responsibility for dependent person, including home schooling of children;
- ♦ No access to laboratory facilities, archives, or other necessary facilities;
- ♦ No access to field work;
- ♦ Adaptation to online teaching;
- ♦ Physical and/or mental health issues;
- ♦ Other(s) _____

(optional)
Explain with objective facts how your productivity was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a limit of 300 characters, spaces and line breaks included.

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TRACK-RECORD

- Most important publications (up to up to ten for Consolidator Grant),
  - highlighting those as main autor and/or without the co-authorship of their PhD supervisor
- -Research monographs and any translations

Granted patent(s);

- invited presentations to internationally established conferences international advanced schools;
- Prizes/Awards/Academy memberships, etc.

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Early achievements track-record

- EXPLAIN:
  - The panel members may not know if your merits are relevant or not (prizes, grants, journals…)
- **CLARITY:** Vague information won't help you.
- Put every proof of independence you may have
  - Avoid too local, not relevant merits

explain the significance of your best publications

Examples:
https://jorgencarling.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/carling-erc-cv-and-track-record.pdf

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EARLY ACHIEVEMENTS TRACK-RECORD

Section c: Early achievements track-record (max. 2 pages)

My two current main research interests, which serve as basis for this project, are **spin qubits and rare-earth single-ion magnets**. In each one of these two fields I have made seminal contributions (see below) which have strongly impacted in the molecular magnetism community. The first one concerns the proposal of using molecular systems for the coupling of two spin qubits in order to develop a quantum gate (published in Nature Nanotechnology. 2007); this theoretical work had a strong impact in the nascent field of molecular spintronics since it proposed the way of controling the spin state of a molecular system through an electrical current. The second was the discovery that lanthanoid mononuclear complexes based on polyoxometalates behave as single-molecule magnets (published in JACS, 2008). This work showed to the chemists working in molecular magnetism the key role played by the crystal field around the lanthanide in the magnetic properties exhibited by these mononuclear complexes, which represent the ultimate step towards the miniaturisation of the single-molecule magnets, as a single metal ion, rather than a magnetic cluster, is enough to behave as a tiny magnet.

For both fields, **these contributions were the first published papers about these topics at the ICMol**, hence, they served to open two new lines of research. Most of my publications after my PhD period, including all my major contributions to date (see below for a selection) stem from the two fields mentioned above. Nowadays **a total of around 30 researchers and technicians are working at the ICMol in these two lines. Four PhD students have been working in these lines of research under my supervision** since then: M. A. AlDamen, S. Cardona-Serra, J. J. Baldoví and L. Escalera (M.A.A. is now Distinguished Researcher in the U. of Jordan, he has obtained funding and supervises a PhD working in the same topic). Moreover, my theoretical team is a reference for molecular spin qubits in Spain, being the only chemistry team participating in the First Workshop on Quantum Information in Spain (2012). A Consolidator Grant will launch my career as group leader, which has recently been officially kickstarted by the extremely competitive Ramón y Cajal program, with 175 grants for 2196 applications (start: Nov. 2013).

I include here 10 highlighted publications, divided by career period, plus 2 works currently under review. The star * indicates I am corresponding author (or first author in a publication with no starred author).

<u>PhD period</u>

"Magnetic polyoxometalates: Anisotropic exchange interactions in the Co_4(II) moiety of $[(NaOH_2)Co_4(H_2O)(P_2W_{15}O_{56})_2]^{17-}$",
J. M. Clemente-Juan *et al.*, ***Inorg. Chem.*** 2005, 44, 3389 [cites: 54]

This work, representative of my PhD, focused on the use of Inelastic Neutron Scattering to characterize the exchange in transition metal ions.

<u>Intraeuropean postdoctoral period</u>

In this period I produced my **first scientific breakthrough**, on the topic of using magnetic molecules as quantum bits and quantum gates:

"Spin qubits with electrically gated polyoxometalate molecules",
J. Lehmann *et al.*, *Nature Nano.* 2007, 2, 312 [cites: 164]

J.L. and I equally contributed to the main ideas of the paper. This proposal built upon the theoretical work

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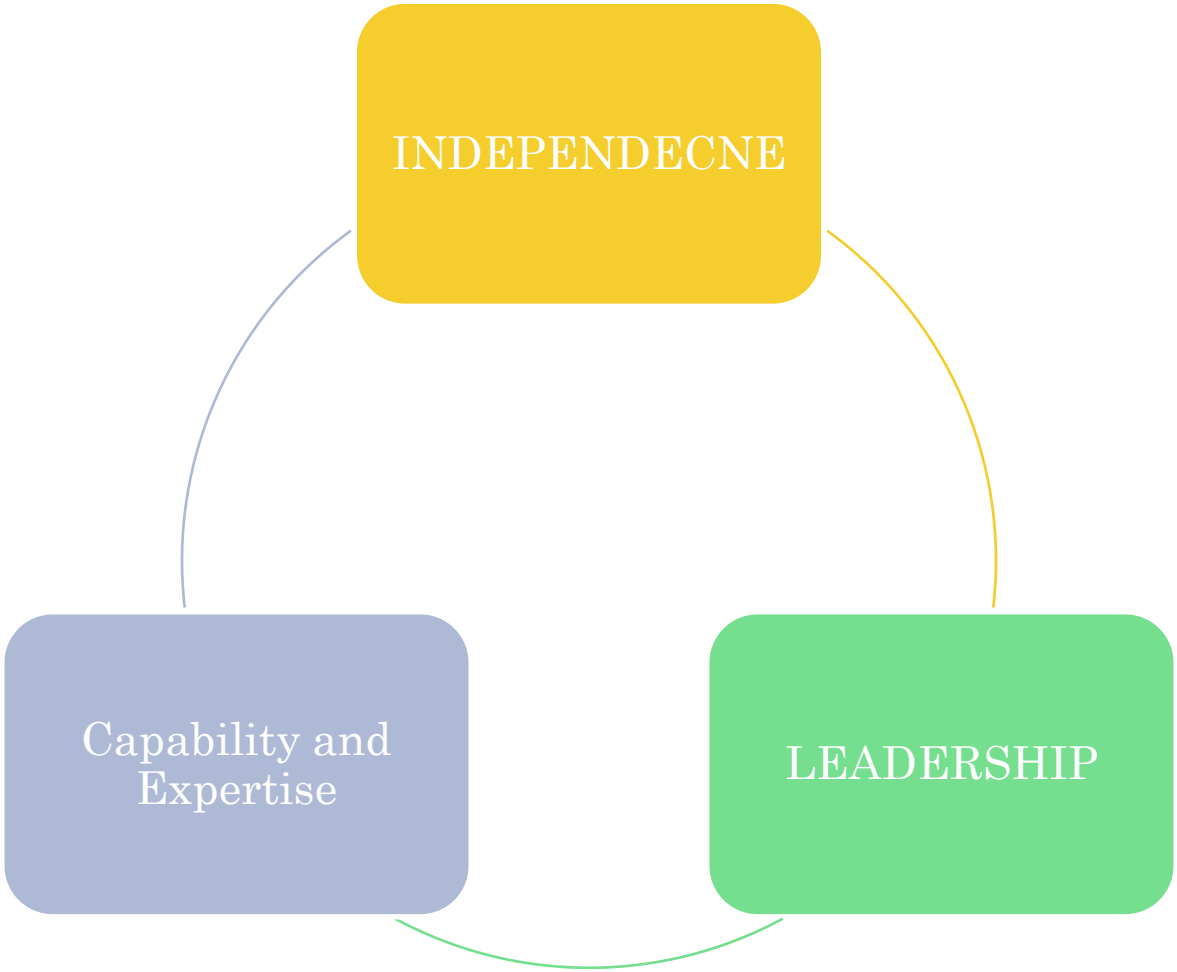
Appendix: All current grants and on-going / submitted grant applications of the PI (Funding ID)

- *Mandatory information (does not count towards page limits*
  - **Current research grants *(indicate "No funding" when applicable):***
  - **On-going / submitted grant applications (indicate "None" when applicable):**

Project Title	*Funding source*	*Amount (Euros)*	*Period*	*Role of the PI*	*Relation to current ERC proposal*[2]

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EVALUATION CRITERIA



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Parte B2-

Methodology

Risk

SATURN TECH
AIMING YOUR TARGET



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Part B2 – Not more tan 7 pages

- **Methodology**
  - work and time plan detailled;
  - key intermediate goals;
  - novel/ unconventional aspects,
  - key risks and contingency plans,

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Part B1 Clear objectives

Possible *Part B1* *BREAKTHROUGH*

In order to tackle these challenging questions, we set the following goals:

Aim 1: Understanding symptom X

(…)

Aim 2: **Creation of a new model of mind structure**

The new model will for the first time integrate the factor Y which so far has not been implicated in this context. Our first results strongly suggest that factor Y is critical for the development of symptom X, which would disprove the existing model.

(…)

Aim 3: **Experimental validation of the model**

(….)

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Part B2

- Since reviewers in step 2 of the evaluation have access to both B1 and B2, copying texts is not a good idea
- The proposal must be short, concise, crystal clear. No “noise”.
- The ERC funds projects that cannot be funded otherwise.
- Describe why you need the ERC grant.
  - And why it is now the best moment.
- Your project must make a difference.

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Part B2

- You need to have a strong research question
  - Interesting, significant, novel, exciting
- Need to clearly define what the state of the art is and how your project goes beyond this
- Explore your hyphotesis
- Need to have an excellent methodology
  - Multidisciplinary research is strongly encouraged –as the PI you are not expected to be the expert in everything, but the best person to make the project succeed
  - As the PI, it's up to you to decide the structure to best solve your research question
- •Have realistic and well-defined research objectives

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Part B2

- The ERC funds basic research projects that are novel, creative, go significantly beyond the state of the art, make substantial advances in the frontiers of knowledge, use new methods and techniques, are interdisciplinary, and highrisk- high-gain projects.

- This means:
  - Focus on these aspects
  - Display these aspects clearly and in a user-friendly manner
  - Show where and why your project is excellent

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Part B

- Show where and why your project is excellent
  - Qualitative differences

  But also
  - Quantitative differences

- How is it diferente from what you have done now?

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Part B2 -Section A

Coherence with Part B1	State of the art	Objectives
• **Elaborate Part B1 coherently:** Explain precisely how you plan to achieve what you promised. • **You will have an expert reader in addition to the generalist panel,** add technical detail that someone much closer to your field would need to know. • **Don't copy&paste from Part B1.** Both parts are considered together at Step 2 so make them complementary.	• It should be clear **how and why the proposed work is important for the field.** • What **scientific impact** will your project have if successful? What new horizons or opportunities for science, technology or scholarship?	• Objectives should **fit the context of the state-of-the-art** – they should match the ambition to go past the current frontier. • These objectives will become **part of the Grant Agreement** if successful – so the need to be feasible.

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PART B2 _ METHOLDOGY

- Approach has to be feasible
  - Research methodology to achieve goals
  - Be honest in relation to the limitations and risks
  - Why this research strategy
  - Have a plan B –alternative approach
- Development of novel methodologies
- Detailed tasks to be performed, with specific goals, with reference to previous works….

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Part B2 -Section B

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

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Part B2 -Section B

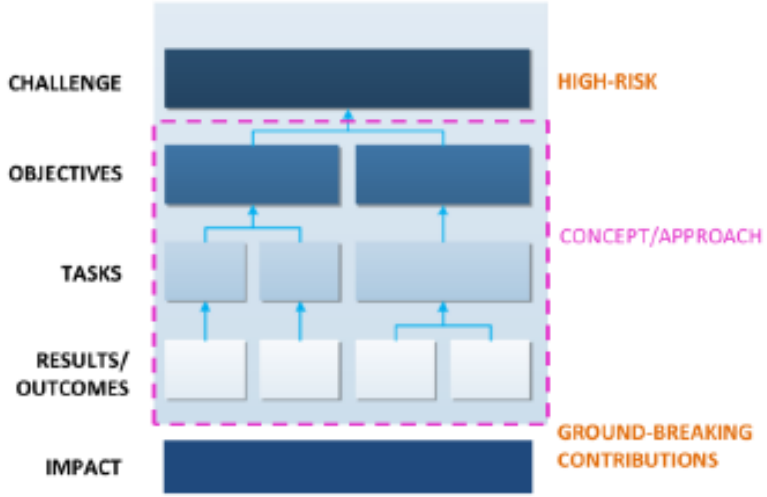
- To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

- To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

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PART B2 _ SECTION B METHOLDOGY

- How well conceived and organized is the activity?
- Demonstrate that the goals of the proposal can be **achieved with timescale and resources available**
- Describe accurately the requested budget vs. RP



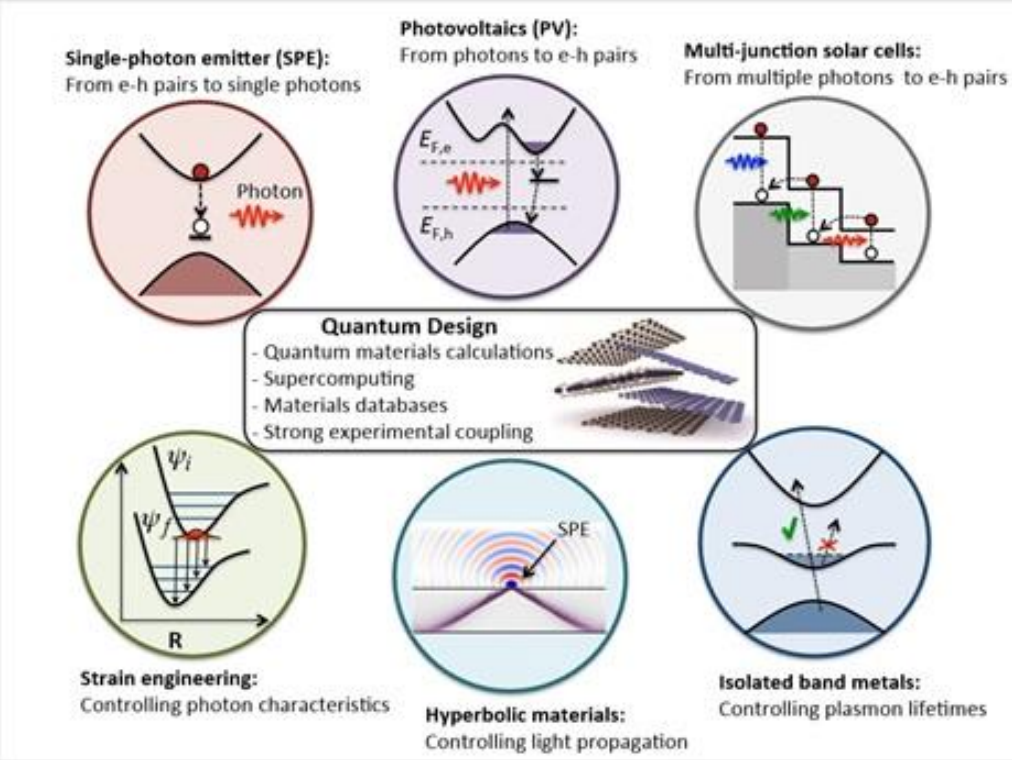
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PART B2 _ SECTION B METHOLDOGY

Methodology	Risk Mitigation Strategy	Your team	Justify resources
• Should be **extensive**, include the essential detail that an expert in your field would need to know. • Don't leave any reasons for the experts to raise doubts for the evaluation panel. • Work plan should also be clear and **persuade evaluators that you can carry out the logistics** of a long term project.	• Where possible **cover every risk with a mitigation strategy**. • ERC accepts high risk to hopefully reach high gain – but evaluators and external experts can be risk averse.	• Be sure to show how you will be the leader of the team and central figure for the project. • **Explain what each team member will do** – these can be named people or roles specified for recruitment.	• Be ambitious but every **part of the budget must have a place in the project and be linked to objectives.**

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PART B2 _ SECTION B METHODOLOGY – EXAMPLE 1



LIMA Controlling light-matter interactions by quantum designed 2D materials ERC-2017-COG PE3
https://www.fysik.dtu.dk/english/research/camd/research/projects/erc-lima

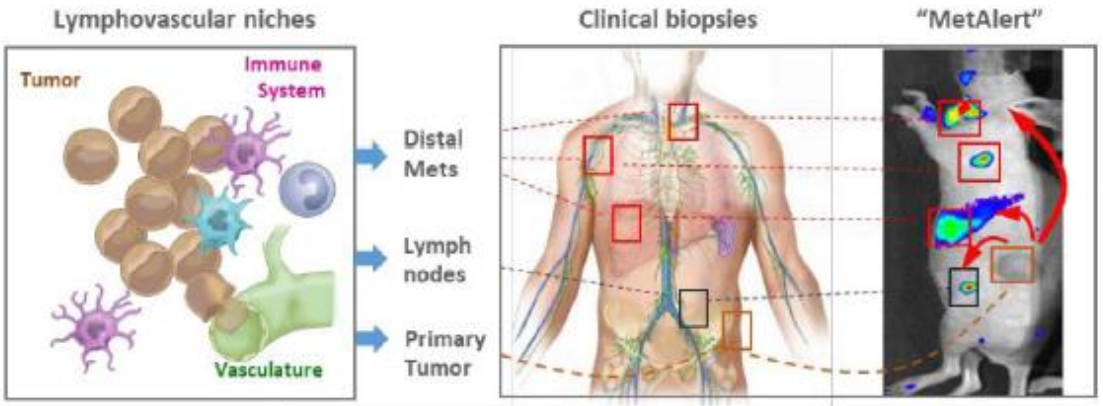
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PART B2 _ SECTION B METHODOLOGY – EXAMPLE 2

María S. Soengas (LS4) **AdG 2019**

METALERT-STOP

Imaging, characterizing and targeting metastatic niches in melanoma



Aim 1 When/Where/How	Aim 2 Organ-dependent Mets	Aim 3 Microenvironment	Aim 4 Treatment
- (Pre)metastatic niches Pre/post surgery	- Lymph nodes vs other sites	- Alarmins	- dsRNA mimics - MDKi - Other (RBP)

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PART B2 _ SECTION B METHOLDOGY

- Intermediate Outcomes: Milestones/Timetable

	Aim 1	**Aim 2**	**Aim 3**
Years 1-2	Analysis of... Publication 1...	Purify...	Visualize... Conference...
Years 3-4	Maps...	Integration of...	...
Year 5	Model...	Correlation of findings...	...Publications,...

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Part B2 _ RISKS

- Risky projects are welcome.
  - you are aware of the risks and know how to tackle them.
  - You may present a „plan B“.
- The feasability must clearly be shown.
- Find a balance between originality and realism.

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BUDGET

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BUDGET

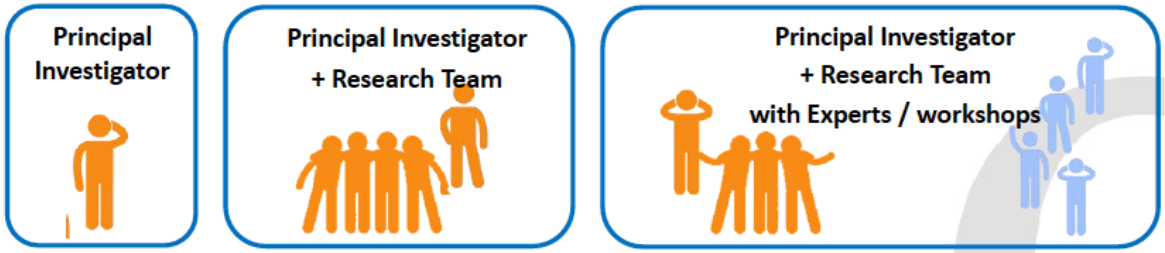
- The ERC funds up to 100% of the total eligible costs.

  - A. Direct personnel costs (PI, senior staff, post docs, students, other personnel costs).
  - B. Subcontracting costs (no indirect costs).
  - C. Purchase costs [travel and subsistence, equipment (including major equipment), consumables (including fieldwork and animal costs), publications (including any costs related to Open Access fees) and dissemination, and other additional direct costs].
  - D. Internally invoiced goods and services (no indirect costs).
  - E. Indirect costs.

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BUDGET _ EXPLAIN THE RESOURCES

- Describe the size and nature of the team, indicating, the key team members and their roles.



- Short technical description of any requested equipment and why is it nedded
- The evaluation panels assess the estimated costs carefully
  - *unjustified budgets will be reduced*

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Other Mandatory documents

- PhD certificate. (scanned copy)
  - clearly indicating the date of successful defence of PhD.
- Host Institution support letter
- Documents related to the ethics and /or security issues, when necessary

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Additional funding - up to 1M€

- to cover the following eligible costs when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work:
  - **"start-up" costs** for Principal Investigators moving to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant and/or
  - the **purchase of major equipment** and/or
  - **access to large facilities** and/or
  - other **major experimental and field work** costs, excluding personnel costs. **All funding requested is assessed during evaluation.**

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Key points and Tips

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KEY POINTS AND TIPS 1

- Revise the ERC projects in your field of research,
  - Analyze them in order to get an idea of what it takes to write a successful ERC application in your field.

- Search for previous ERC grantees within your field of research for comparison
  - Study in depth those who have already achieved it and are in your same scientific field,

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Key points and Tips 3

- Look up ERC panel members and evaluators; it can be helpful to know which ERC-panel to apply to.

Write the best proposal you can imagine
make it outstanding,
understandable for a generalist of your field
and
appealing for experts

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EXPERIENCE

- **My personal story to obtain an ERC grant – 7 submissions, 4 interviews and 6 heartbreaks**

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KEY POINTS AND TIPS 4

- Am I internationally competitive as a researcher at my career stage and in my discipline?
- Am I able to work independently, and to manage a 5-year project with a substantial budget?
- Why is my proposed project important?
- Does it promise to go substantially beyond the state of the art?
- Why am I the best/only person to carry it out?
- Is it timely? (Why wasn't it done in the past? Is it feasible now?)
- What's the risk? Is it justified by a substantial potential gain? Do I have a plan for managing the risk?

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KEY POINTS AND TIPS 5

- Appropriate selection of methodology to reach the goals
  - Specify if need for a novel and/or unconventional methodology. It depends on the RP
- Justify high risk/high gain balance.
  - Identify the risks, some contingency plan might be good
  - Proposal needs to be feasible.
- Do not over-dimension the work plan
- Proposal abstract/summary is very important.
  - First read by the reviewer. Take your time writing it

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KEY POINTS AND TIPS 6

- The following parameters must be respected for the layout:
  - Page format:A4
  - Font: Times New Roman; Arial or similar
  - Font size: At least 11
  - Line spacing: Single
  - Margin: 2 cm side; 1.5 bottom

- Make a proposal easy to read
  - Images, graphs to explain your idea
  - Not more than 2 bolds setences in a page

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KEY POINTS AND TIPS 6

- Subdivision of your text:
  - subheaders,
  - paragraphs…
  - Bulleting, numbering…
- Ask yourself: which sub-headers are best to describe yourself and your achievements?
- Hierarchy of titles should be clear
- Include graphs, tables
  - Such aspects make your text „light“ and easier to read!

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KEY POINTS AND TIPS 7 -BUDGET

- Budget analysis carried out in Step 2 evaluation (meeting)
- 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 to recommend a final maximum budget based on the resources allocated/ removed
- Panels do not “micro-manage” project finances
- Awards made on a “take-it-or-leave-it” basis: no negotiations

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Key points and Tips 8

- Evaluators are there to pick holes – don't give opportunity
  - **PRINT THE EVALUATION CRITERIA**
- Write and Rewrite you proposal until you are happy with it
- **Luck has not so much to do with winning**
  - Hard work has everything to do with it

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AND NOW LET'S START

- CALL DEADLINE :
- START TO WORK NOW
- TIME FLIES!









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THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION

And if you have any doubts, please fell free to contact me :

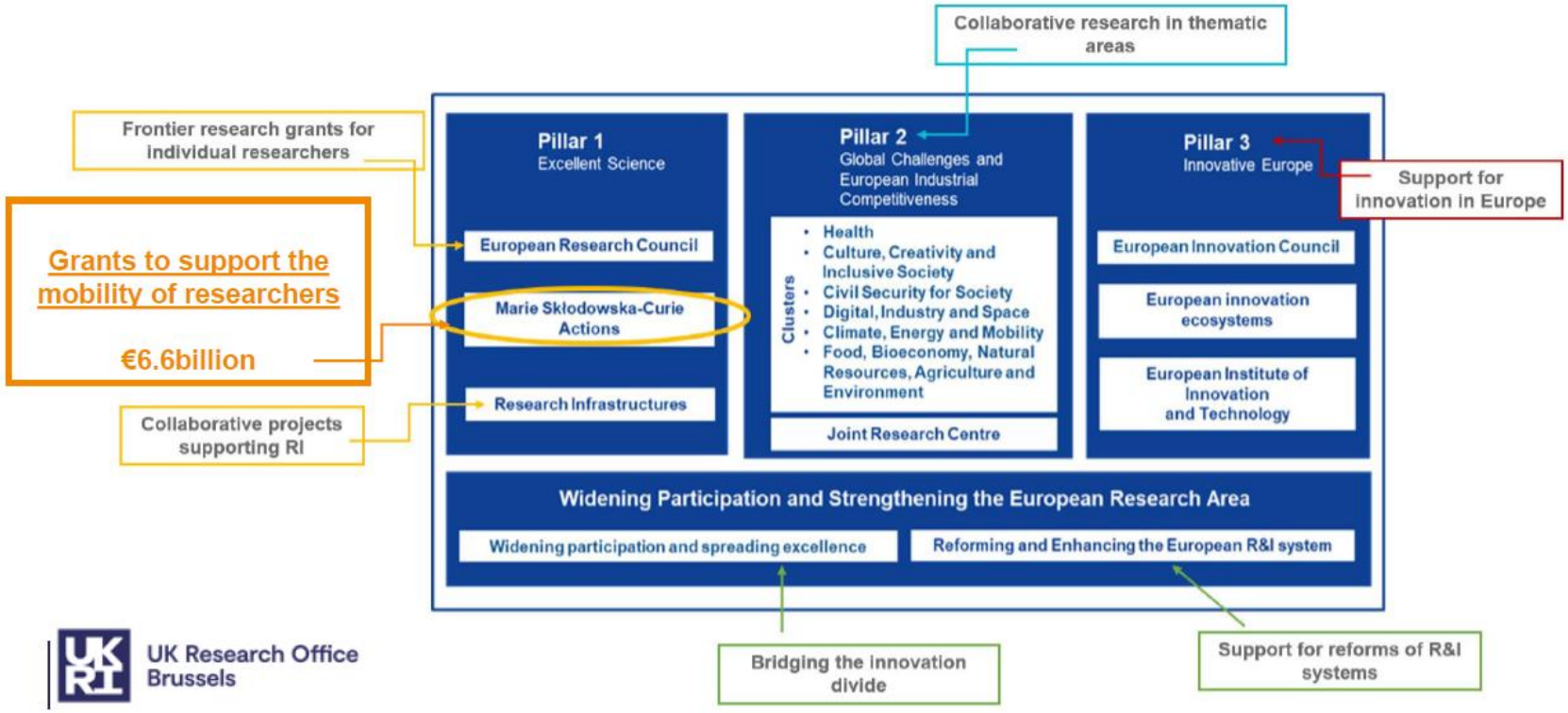
Ana.branco@Saturntech.eu

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MSCA PROPOSAL

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About Horizon Europe



UK Research Office Brussels

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MSCA ACTIONS

Doctoral Networks

Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

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MSCA ACTIONS – SUCCESS RATE

Calls overview

Call ID	Call Deadline Year	Eligible Proposals	Retained Proposals	% Retained Proposals	Non-Successful Eligible	Call Over-Subscripti... Rate
Totals		**21 159**	**3 379**	**16%**	**17 780**	**-**
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01	2025	324	80	25%	244	26%
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01	2024	10 221	1 700	17%	8 521	17%
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01	2024	1 405	149	11%	1 256	11%
HORIZON-MSCA-2023-SE-01	2024	229	73	32%	156	31%
HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01	2023	7 919	1 249	16%	6 670	16%
HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01	2023	1 061	128	12%	933	13%

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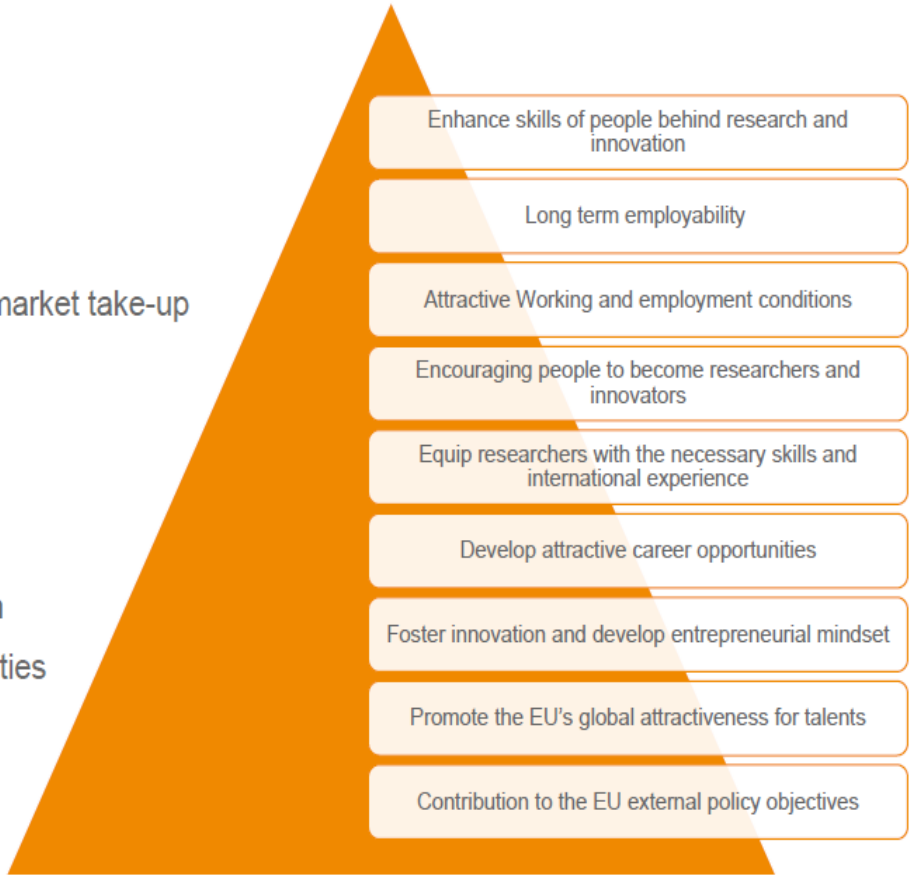
MSCA ACTIONS – KEY FEATURES

Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stages of career)	Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)	International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility
Attractive working and employment conditions	Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes	Strong collaboration beyond academia

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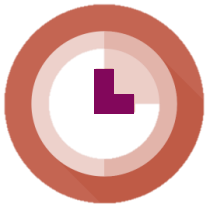
MSCA Key Features

- **Research project with training aspects**
- Operates on a 'bottom-up' basis – any subject area
- Funds all research, from basic research through to near market take-up
- 3 I approach to mobility:
  - **Interdisciplinary**
  - **Intersectoral**
  - **International**
- Enhances skills of people behind research and innovation
- Gender friendly and inclusive – promotes equal opportunities
- Dissemination and public engagement - public outreach



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MSCA Doctoral Networks



DURATION
4 years (5 years for Joint Doctorates)



COMPOSITION
Min 3 organisations in 3 different EU MS or HE AC (at least 1 MS)



FELLOWSHIP
Between 3 and 36 months (3-48 months for Joint Doctorates)



BUDGET
540 Person/Month

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European Fellowship

Post-Doctoral Fellowships

For fellows coming to EU MS / HE AC
"incoming"

or

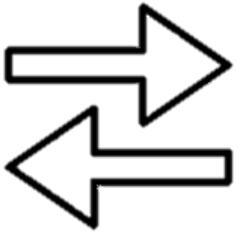
moving within EU MS / HE AC
"intra-European"

12-24 months



Global Fellowship

12-24 months



12 months

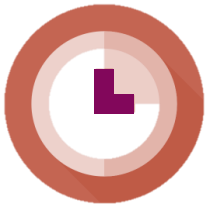
For fellows from Europe
going to third countries

and then
returning to Europe

+ 6 months
in non-academic sector
in MS/AC
(optional)

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MSCA Staff Exchanges



DURATION
4 years



COMPOSITION
Min 3 organisations in 3 different countries (min. 2 EU MS or HE AC)

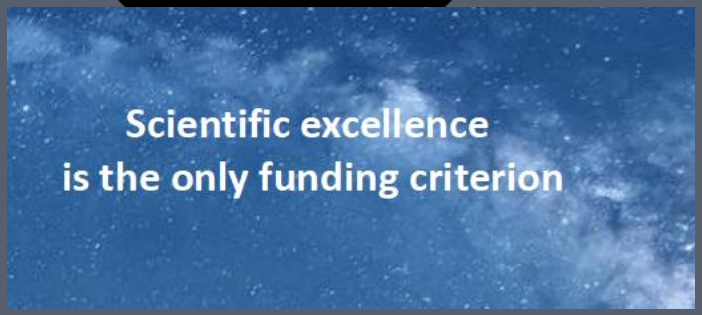


SECONDMENTS
1-12 months per staff



BUDGET
Max EUR 1.6 million (360 PM per project)

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MSCA IF PROPOSAL

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MSCA IF 2025 CALL

- **17,058 proposals**.
  - This is the highest number f proposals ever for any funding action in the 40 years of EU research and innovation framework programme.
  - By comparison, 10,360 proposals were submitted in 2024. **This represents an increase of 64.6%.**

- The 2025 call has seen a higher increase of applications from researchers based outside the EU compared to previous calls, including in Horizon Europe associated countries and in non-associated third countries.
  - Around 50% of applications have come from researchers currently based outside the EU.

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MSCA IF 2026

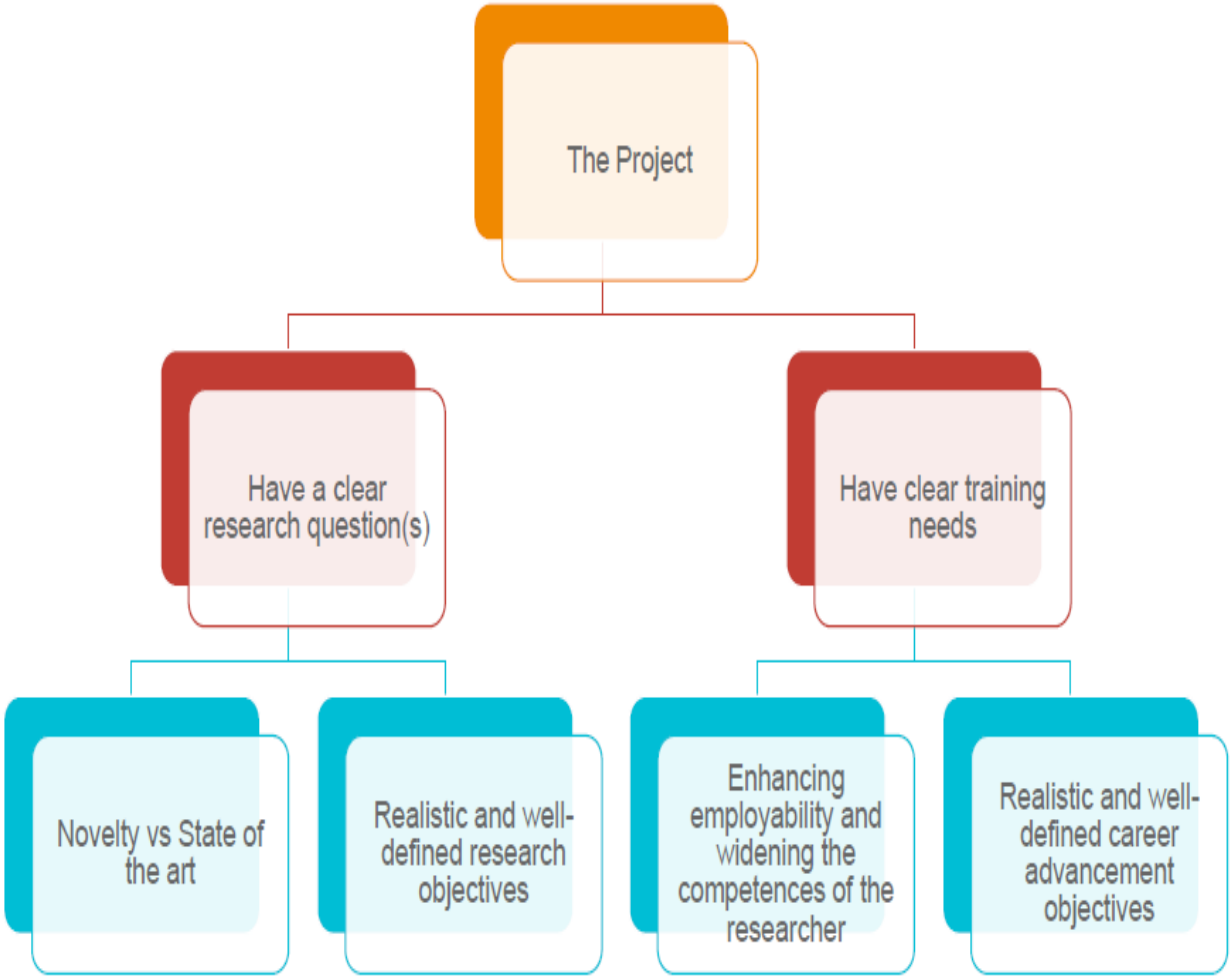
Planned opening date

9 April 2026, 0:00 CEST

Deadline date

- 9 September 2026, 17:00:00 Brussels time

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ELIGIBILITY

- **Must be in possession of a doctoral degree** (or have successfully defended one's doctoral thesis)
- Have a **maximum of 8 years full-time equivalent research experience**
- No nationality requirements
  - Global Postdoctoral Fellowship or researchers who wish to reintegrate to Europe from a third country (TC) must be nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC
- **Mobility rule:** *Cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host institution (European Fellowship), or host of the outgoing phase for a Global Fellowship) for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the call deadline*
  - Researchers wishing to reintegrate from a TC must have direct mobility to a MS or AC within the last 12 months before the call deadline or be in the TC at the call deadline

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Research Experience

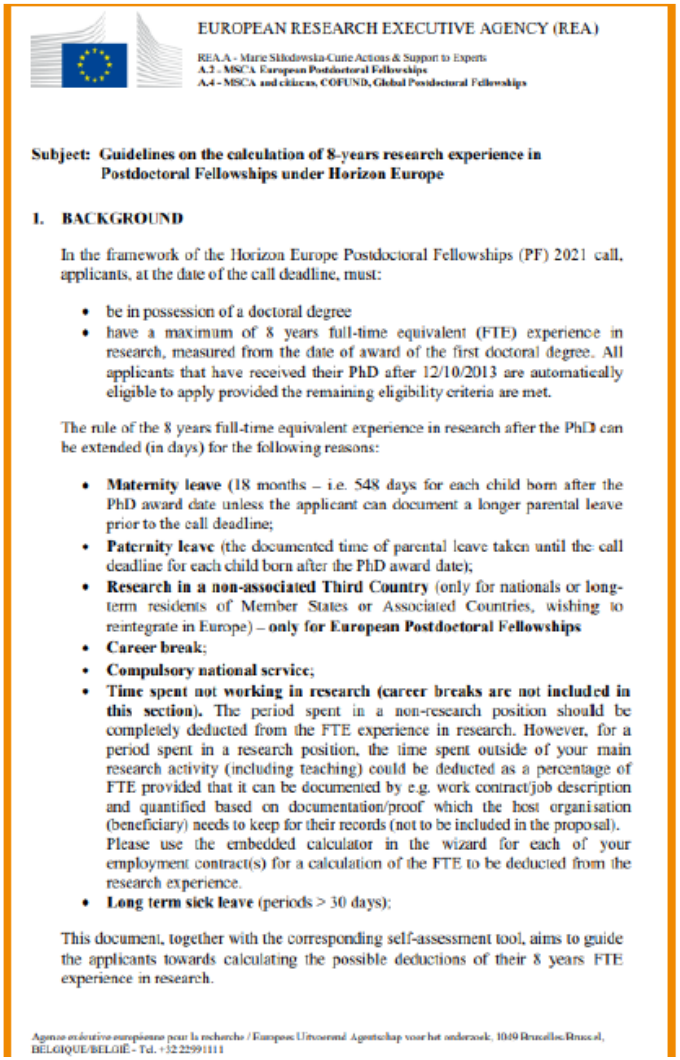
Refers to the time/periods in which the applicant is/was active in research (EC FAQ)

- Be employed or holding a scholarship in research
- Parental leave, unpaid leave, sick leave do not count as periods of active engagement in research (even if a formal employment relationship exists during these periods)
- Publication activities or mere association to a university (i.e. any other link to the university that is not considered as an employment contract or a fellowship agreement) are not considered periods of active engagement in research
- Time spent teaching or undertaking admin activities are also not considered periods of active research
- Must be documented (e.g., work contract/job description) and quantified based on documentation/proof which the host organisation (beneficiary) needs to keep for their records

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en#ecl-inpage-293

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Research Experience



EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY (REA)

REA.A - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions & Support to Experts
A.2 - MSCA European Postdoctoral Fellowships
A.4 - MSCA and citizens, COFUND, Global Postdoctoral Fellowships

Subject: Guidelines on the calculation of 8-years research experience in Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe

1. BACKGROUND

In the framework of the Horizon Europe Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) 2021 call, applicants, at the date of the call deadline, must:

- be in possession of a doctoral degree
- have a maximum of 8 years full-time equivalent (FTE) experience in research, measured from the date of award of the first doctoral degree. All applicants that have received their PhD after 12/10/2013 are automatically eligible to apply provided the remaining eligibility criteria are met.

The rule of the 8 years full-time equivalent experience in research after the PhD can be extended (in days) for the following reasons:

- **Maternity leave** (18 months – i.e. 548 days for each child born after the PhD award date unless the applicant can document a longer parental leave prior to the call deadline;
- **Paternity leave** (the documented time of parental leave taken until the call deadline for each child born after the PhD award date);
- **Research in a non-associated Third Country** (only for nationals or long-term residents of Member States or Associated Countries, wishing to reintegrate in Europe) – **only for European Postdoctoral Fellowships**
- **Career break**;
- **Compulsory national service**;
- **Time spent not working in research (career breaks are not included in this section).** The period spent in a non-research position should be completely deducted from the FTE experience in research. However, for a period spent in a research position, the time spent outside of your main research activity (including teaching) could be deducted as a percentage of FTE provided that it can be documented by e.g. work contract/job description and quantified based on documentation/proof which the host organisation (beneficiary) needs to keep for their records (not to be included in the proposal). Please use the embedded calculator in the wizard for each of your employment contract(s) for a calculation of the FTE to be deducted from the research experience.
- **Long term sick leave** (periods > 30 days);

This document, together with the corresponding self-assessment tool, aims to guide the applicants towards calculating the possible deductions of their 8 years FTE experience in research.

Agence exécutive européenne pour la recherche / Europees Uitvoerend Agentschap voor het onderzoek, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111

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Host and Associated partner

Beneficiary

- Host of the European Fellowship and return phase of Global Fellowship
- Must be located in a MS / AC / Euratom AC
- Any legal entity within or outside academia
- Recruits the postdoctoral researcher

Associated Partner

- Host of the outgoing phase of the Global Fellowship
- Secondment and placement host
- Any legal entity within or outside academia
- Located anywhere in the world

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SECONDMENTS

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship Project

MSCA European Fellowship: 12-24 months
MSCA Global Fellowship: 36 months

Non-academic Placement:

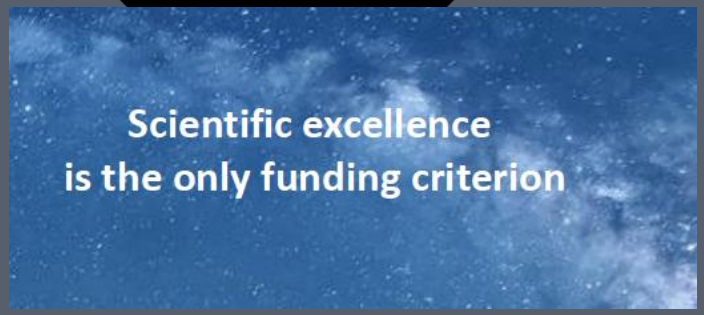
Up to 6 months at the end of the fellowship at a **non-academic institution**



Secondments (academic or non-academic)	**Short Stays** (academic or non-academic)	**Non-academic Placements** (NAPs)
Integral part of the proposal - must add significant value/impact to the fellowship. Will be assessed during evaluation, but organisation does not need to be named in the proposal	Can be planned in advance, or in line with the research and training needs of the fellow	Must be an integral part of the proposal and will be assessed during evaluation.
Must be in line with the project objectives and training needs of the research	Must be in line with the project objectives and training needs of the research	Must have added-value for the project and career development of the researcher
Must have clear supervisory arrangements	No defined supervisor arrangements	Must have clear supervisory arrangements

(all are optional, and proposals will not be penalised for not including a secondment or non-academic placement)

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MSCA
IF PROPOSAL STRUCTURE

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PROPOSAL STRUCTURE

A proposal consists of an administrative part (**Part A**, filled in online via the submission forms) and a narrative **part B** composed of two separate PDF files (Part B1 and Part B2), which must be uploaded as separate PDF files:

1. **Part B1**, containing a maximum of 10 (ten) A4-sized pages. Any excess pages (i.e. numerical page 11 and beyond) will not be available to the evaluators;
2. **Part B2**, with no strict page limit for A4-sized pages.

Part B1 is the core part of the proposal; it should contain the details of the proposed research and training activities along with the practical arrangements proposed to implement them.

Part B2 contains: the CV of the researcher, the capacity of the participating organization(s), additional information on ethics, security screening (in case there was not sufficient space in the dedicated sections in part A), and environmental considerations in light of the MSCA Green Charter[25], as well as the letter of commitment from the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase in case of Global Fellowships.

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Part B1 (only 10 pages)

- 3 sections
  - Excellence
    - Explain Excellence part including tables and figures.
    - This is the part, you convince about your research novelty, hosts, trainings and potential to reach maturity.
    - 50%
  - Implementation
    - 30%
  - Impact
    - 20%

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Part B1 - Excellence

- ***1.1 Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)***
  - Describe the quality and pertinence of the R&I objectives; are the objectives measurable and verifiable? Are they realistically achievable?
  - Describe how your project goes beyond the state-of-the-art, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious.

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STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALATION SUMMARY REPORTS

1. The proposal clearly states the current state of the art, its limitations and how the proposed research extends beyond this to address an unmet need in the field. The proposal might contribute to the state of the art during and beyond the proposal's scope with the development of advanced, reliable models for in vitro testing of new therapeutic approaches for melanoma and potentially other diseases

2. The research objectives are laid out in a clear and concise way and are founded very well in the presented background. The objectives are innovative, relevant, realistically achievable, measurable, verifiable and address a matter of high importance

3. The proposal clearly formulates three specific and distinct research and innovation objectives, which are relevant and highly innovative, and will use cutting-edge techniques, the inter-relations between the objectives are also convincingly described.

4. The hypotheses are clearly stated, and all the aims are clearly defined and developed against the field's current state of the art.

5. The state-of-the-art is very well outlined: the research will bring new perspectives and novel knowledge to its field of study.

WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS

1. The originality and innovation potential of the proposal is not outlined in a sufficiently convincing and detailed manner, particularly as the background on recent developments in the field of the proposal is not presented in sufficient detail to support the working hypotheses.

2. The preliminary data is not clearly supporting the objectives. Supporting literature and evidence provided does not adequately underpin the proposed project.

3. The degree of novelty of the proposed research is not entirely evident. The proposal fails to explain the added value of this work in relation to what is already known in the field.

4.The objectives are commendably ambitious but, consequently, the proposed research is unrealistically broad in scope, with many hypotheses yoked together without evident synergy. The broad-brush approach means the objectives are not fully measurable or verifiable. This is a shortcoming.

5. The question on how the proposed research differs from and expands the studies already conducted by the researcher (considering publications and postdoc projects) is inadequately addressed.

6. In general, the ideas are not structured clearly or concretely enough. Almost every section reads like a collection of buzz words and unclarified words with details that do not hang together sufficiently, making it difficult to understand what exactly is proposed, and to assess quality. For instance, there are sections focusing more on implementation than on quality/pertinence and innovation objectives.

7. It is not convincingly explained how the researcher can really take the lead for all the tasks mentioned. The proposal does not convincingly demonstrate that the objectives are realistically achievable.

Fu
th

Part B1 - Excellence

- ***1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)***
  - Overall methodology: Describe and explain the overall methodology, including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin your work. Explain how this will enable you to deliver your project's objectives. Refer to any important challenges you may have identified in the chosen methodology and how you intend to overcome them.
  - Integration of methods and disciplines to pursue the objectives: Explain how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be brought together and integrated in pursuit of your objectives. If you consider that an inter-disciplinary2 approach is unnecessary in the context of the proposed work, please provide a justification

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Part B1 - Excellence

- ***1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)***
  - Gender and other diversity aspects are taken into account in the project's research and innovation content. If you do not consider such a gender dimension to be relevant in your project, please provide a justification.
    - Remember that that this question relates to the content of the planned research and innovation activities, and not to gender balance in the teams in charge of carrying out the project.
    - Sex, gender and diversity analysis refers to biological characteristics and social/cultural factors respectively. For guidance on methods of sex / gender analysis and the issues to be taken into account, please refer to this page.
  - Open science practices: Describe how appropriate open science practices are implemented as an integral part of the proposed methodology. Show how the choice of practices and their implementation is adapted to the nature of your work in a way that will increase the chances of the project delivering on its objectives *[e.g. up to 1/2 page including data management)*

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STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1.The methodology, is described clearly and systematically. The important methodological challenges are identified. *2. The interdisciplinarity of the proposed research is well explained as combining theoretical dimensions from at least three key disciplines. (Educational design, STEM education, robotics and machine learning).* *3. The gender dimension and other diversity aspects are very well identified, and gender, age and ethnicity will be incorporated in the proposed models.* *4. The proposed open science practices are convincing and well described, considering FAIR principles for data, models and papers.* *5. The open science practices are well integrated into the proposal, all the data obtained will be made available using the FAIR protocol and implementing a data management plan that foresees an openly accessible repository.*
WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The proposed methodology is supported by previous work of the researcher. While the methodology is explained in general terms and is mostly a descriptive one, it lacks some information on the concrete methods to be used. *2.There is not sufficient explanation about how to implement open science practices as an integral part of the proposed methodology.* *3. Open science practices are described at a very high level of generality. Attempts to make adequate use of relevant possibilities, such as pre-print archiving, are not adequately processed in the proposal.* *4. The proposal overestimates its interdisciplinary relevance, in particular as expertise and methods from other disciplines are concerned* *5. The gender dimension and other diversity aspects could be relevant for the research. However, these have not been taken into account sufficiently in the proposal's research and innovation content and an insufficient justification has been provided.* *6. Significant dimensions of intersectional subjectivity and inequality, such as class and race, are not addressed sufficiently in the conceptual foundation of the proposal's approach.* *7. The details about the technical robustness of the Artificial Intelligence systems planned to be developed within the duration of the project are not sufficiently specified. Insufficient information is provided on which datasets are foreseen for training the AI and on which AI algorithm will be used.*

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Part B1 - Excellence

1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host

- •Describe the qualifications and experience of the supervisor(s). Provide information regarding the supervisors' level of experience on the research topic proposed and their track record of work, including main international collaborations, as well as the level of experience in supervising/training, especially at advanced level (i.e. PhD and postdoctoral researchers).
- Planned training activities for the researcher (scientific aspects, management/organisation, horizontal and key transferrable skills...).
  - For *European Fellowships*: two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and host organisation.
  - For *Global Fellowships*: three-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher, host organisation, and associated partner for outgoing phase.
- Rationale and added-value of the non-academic placement (if applicable) and secondment (if applicable).

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STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The proposal included a detailed and high-quality scientific plan and presents clearly the new knowledge that the researcher would gain. *2. Training is of good quality consisting of scientific tutoring organized by the supervisors and training in soft skills by the university career development office.* *3. The training is very well elaborated, including acquisition of skills related to design of experiments, a highly relevant subject for the proposal. Mentorship of younger students is included. Specific training and development of skills in IPR management, business and entrepreneurship and grant writing is a very strong point of the development plan.* *4. A very clear and detailed case is made for personal development by the acquisition of new technical and transferable skills by the researcher through a highly appropriate mix of hands-on training, informal and formal seminars, and courses.* *5. The supervisor's experience and track record is of high quality and in line with the proposed research. The supervisor has comprehensive experience in supervising PhD and post-doctoral fellows. In addition, the supervisor has many international collaborations working successfully* *6. The two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host institution is clear and of good quality as both parties have complementary expertise.* *7. The proposal clearly outlines the three-way knowledge transfer between the researcher and the outgoing and incoming hosts. An adequate and diverse strategy is provided for the researcher's contributions by teaching, research participation, and event organization. The researcher would effectively link both host institutions and import knowledge gained via two relevant stays.* *8. The industrial placement is very well described and justified and will provide the researcher with a practical view of the industrial application of the research results.*
WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The training activities for the researcher are not described with enough details. It is not sufficiently clear how the researcher will be trained at the host institution and gain key transferrable skills. *2. The proposal lacks a clear identification of suitable specific training activities at the host institution, given the researcher's existing professional experience.* *3. Due to the limited number of publications and expertise of the supervisor in the proposal's field, the proposal does not convincingly describe how the supervisor can support the improvement of the researcher's skills.* *4. The transfer of knowledge during the secondment is not sufficiently described. Since that supervisor has already supervised the researcher during their PhD on the general theme of the action, further transfer of knowledge is limited.* *5. Several activities and topics are mentioned in the application, but they are described in too general terms. (Especially for the transfer from the researcher to the institutions - without presenting enough concrete or specific ways of transfer).*

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Part B1 - Excellence

- ***1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills***
- Discuss the quality and appropriateness of the researcher's **existing** professional experience in relation to the proposed research project

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STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1.The proposal presents convincingly the researcher's record, which includes publications in high impact-factor journals, a demonstrated capacity to attract funding, experience in supervising and mentoring activities, prizes and awards. This record renders the researcher's professional growth during the fellowship highly credible. *2. Given the level of their experience, the researcher has already shown independence of thinking, and very good potential to secure the proposal execution and to further reach professional maturity.* *3. The researcher's CV is very competitive, with high quality and impact publications, international mobility and a multitude of relevant transferable skills. The professional experience and competences of the researcher are highly appropriate for the proposal.* *4. The institution has experience in hosting international researchers and the host group will be an excellent environment for the researcher.* *5. The expertise of the main supervisor, of the host research group, and of the supervisor secondment institution is soundly documented, and in a very good match with the research proposed.* *6. The planned non-academic placement is well described and its value for the project is very convincingly demonstrated, enabling the researcher to gain experience beyond academia and acquire new competences relevant to their profile, especially through the training of teachers.*

WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1.The quality of the scientific output of the researcher is unconvincing for the time spent as a post-doc. The proposal does not fully consider how the researcher's existing professional experience is relevant to the proposed project. *2. The researcher's track record in terms of publication output and visibility in the scientific community is low for their stage of career. The impact of their publications has been low.* *3. The administrative and leadership experience and skills of the researcher appear to be overstated as they are not based on evidence provided in the proposal or their CV.* *4. The supervision of the researcher is not adequately described given the large number of experts at the host and at the secondments involved.* *5. The plan for the supervisory meetings to create and monitor progress on the career perspectives is not sufficiently detailed to convincingly demonstrate adequate mentorship from the primary supervisor.*

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Part B1 - Impact

- ***2.1 Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development***
- •Specific measures to enhance career perspectives and employability of the researcher inside and/or outside academia
- •**Expected** contribution of proposed skills development to the future career of the researcher.

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STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. *The researcher's prospects for becoming a leader and supervisor of academic groups will also be enhanced via the mentoring of Master students by the researcher, as presented in the proposal.* 2. *The proposal clearly and convincingly outlines how the researcher envisions their future career development in and beyond academia, and the important role the proposal plays in this context, for example, in enhancing their international experience and network, and the expertise and skill set of the researcher.* 3. *The measures to enhance the researcher's expected career perspectives inside academia (as a recognized professor at a European level) and outside (as national and EU policymakers and regulators) are credible and excellent.* 4. *The planned training activities will significantly enhance the skill set of the researcher in both the scientific and non-scientific sector. These new skills together with the attainment of the research targets and dissemination to the scientific community, the strong international networking opportunities, and the possibilities for follow-up projects will clearly enhance their career perspectives.* 5. *Several opportunities to increase technical skills in a multidisciplinary field, to improve networking and collaboration, research management and science communication skills enhance the researcher's skills development and career perspectives.*
WEAKNESSES FORM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. *The proposal does not fully consider opportunities for the researcher to participate in educational activities (e.g. student supervision, teaching).* 2. *A clear vision for potential next steps in the career progression after the fellowship are not explicitly mentioned.* 3. *The specific measures to enhance the researcher's career beyond the project's duration, including soft skills and preparation for job market, are not sufficiently well described in the proposal.* 4. *The measures leading to researcher's independence by enhancing the management and organizational skills and developing collaborations in an extended research team are not appropriately described. The support provided by the host institution to the career development of the researcher is not clearly articulated.* 5. *The proposal does not sufficiently demonstrate that the project will significantly broaden the scientific horizons of the researcher, allow them to enhance their international visibility or significantly enlarge their network of potential collaboration partners. Therefore, a qualitative improvement of the researcher's employability is not fully credible.*

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Part B1 - Impact

- ***.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities***
- Plan for the dissemination and exploitation activities, including communication activities:4 Describe the dissemination, exploitation measures that are planned, and the target group(s) addressed (e.g. scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large). Regarding communication measures and public engagement strategy, the aim is to inform and reach out to society and show the activities performed, and the use and the benefits the project will have for citizens. Activities must be strategically planned, with clear objectives, start at the outset and continue through the lifetime of the project. The description of the communication activities needs to state the main messages as well as the tools and channels that will be used to reach out to each of the chosen target groups. Describe the planned measures to maximize the impact of your project by providing a first version of your 'plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities'.
- • Strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures: if relevant, discuss the strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures, such as patents, design rights,

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STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The proposal presents a well-defined and realistic plan for the dissemination of its scientific results through articles and conferences, presentations of their work at weekly group seminars, and a short in-house lecture series. *2. The dissemination measures are overall appropriately suited to the project's main objectives, and a series of target groups is well singled out within and outside academia (scientific and research communities; international organizations into SDG agenda; general public).* *3. The exploitation plan is credible, and the proposal appropriately considers IP management aiming to maximize the utilization of the planned outcomes.* *4. The proposal plans to protect intellectual property rights via the professional office at the host institution, which is an efficient approach.* *5. Communication activities and measures (e.g., website, newspapers, social media...) are clearly defined and target groups are well identified (e.g., local Science School, social media and general public); the communication to the general public will be carried out with the support of the Public Relation Office of the host institution.* *6. The proposal describes highly suitable impact plans for reaching academics and the general public, clearly identifying the target audience, expected impact, locations and time scales.*
WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The dissemination and exploitation activities are only briefly described, with no detailed discussion on how to engage the wider community through conferences, workshop, or other non-technical activities. There is little evidence of the researcher's previous experience in such activities. *2. Communication strategy for the wider audience is too generally addressed and it does not adequately provide sufficient information regarding the content and the message to be communicated to each different group and the number of communicating events. Also, tools to measure and analyse the impact of communication activities are insufficiently provided.* *3. The proposal does not address in sufficient detail dissemination of the project results to industry and application community.* *4. Intellectual property management and the way it will be shared among the researcher, the host, and the secondment institutions are not sufficiently discussed.* *5. The exploitation of the research results is not sufficiently well addressed. The TRL level at the end of the proposal will be high enough to initiate commercialization. However, the exploitable results are too generally presented.*

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Part B1 - Impact

- ***2.3. The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts***
- Provide a narrative explaining how the project's results are expected to make a difference in terms of impact, beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project. The narrative should include the components below, tailored to your project.
- Be specific, referring to the effects of your project, and not R&I in general in this field. State the target groups that would benefit.
- The impacts of your project may be:
  - Scientific: e.g. contributing to specific scientific advances, across and within disciplines, creating new knowledge, reinforcing scientific equipment and instruments, computing systems (i.e. research infrastructures);
  - Economic/technological: e.g. bringing new products, services, business processes to the market, increasing efficiency, decreasing costs, increasing profits, contributing to standards' setting, etc.
  - Societal: e.g. decreasing CO2 emissions, decreasing avoidable mortality, improving policies and decision-making, raising consumer awareness.
- Only include such outcomes and impacts where your project would make a significant and direct contribution. Avoid describing very tenuous links to wider impacts.
- Give an indication of the magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts, should the project be successful. Provide credible quantified estimates where possible and meaningful.
  - 'Magnitude' refers to how widespread the outcomes and impacts are likely to be. For example, in terms of the size of the target group, or the proportion of that group, that should benefit over time;

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STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. The impact of the proposal beyond its immediate scope is increased since the envisaged results are highly relevant also for different industries, which are not in the direct focus of the proposal. *2. Beyond the immediate scope, the proposal will establish a long-term collaboration between leading labs in Europe and the US and it will significantly advance the development of multimodal optical probes for biomedical applications. There is an excellent long-term impact reasonably to be expected.* *3. The societal contributions of the proposal are well evidenced as the results are convincingly contributing to different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN Agenda 2030.* *4. The magnitude of the proposal's contribution is realistically and clearly described with some excellent potential for economic impact and creating new market opportunities. This includes potential plans to start a new consultation service based on the proposal results and experience.* *5. The proposal is very timely and will have an important scientific and societal impact, given the novelty of the methodological approach and the social relevance of the research questions.*
WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. The proposal lacks a clear identification of the research contribution to the scientific, societal and economic areas. Moreover, the impact beyond the immediate scope of the proposal is not convincingly presented. *2. No adequate estimate of the scientific medium- and long-term impact of the project is discussed. Also, the impact on other science areas is not very convincing as the link appears very indirect.* *3. The quantified estimates in terms of magnitude and importance of the proposal's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts are not sufficiently described.*
4. Given the project's significant potential for societal impact, the proposal insufficiently discusses how this impact can be maximized. (i.e., how will findings be used to address problems associated with "fake news" or other forms of low quality) *5. The researcher does not sufficiently address the expected scientific impact beyond the immediate scope of the proposal and existing connections of model theory to other fields.*

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Part B1 - Implementation

- ***3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages***
- At a minimum, address the following aspects:
- • Brief presentation of the overall structure of the work plan, including deliverables and milestones.
- • Timing of the different work packages and their components;
- • Mechanisms in place to assess and mitigate risks (of research and/or administrative nature).

- A Gantt chart must be included and should indicate the proposed Work Packages (WP), major deliverables, milestones, secondments, placements, if applicable. This Gantt chart counts towards the 10-page limit.
- The schedule in the Gantt chart should indicate the number of months elapsed from the start of the action (Month 1).

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STRENGHTS FROM THE EVALUATITON SUMMARY REPORT
1. The proposal presents an appropriate list of milestones and deliverables which are very well defined to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the project. *2. A clear Gantt chart is included and completely consistent with the structure and timings of the workflow, including deliverables, milestones, and secondment.* *3. Progress monitoring is very well planned, as regular meetings between the researcher and the supervisor are scheduled and regular data reports for the host laboratory/institute.* *4. A large number of risks have been identified and very well considered, and the contingency plans shown for these risks are very comprehensible and suitable. Regular meetings, agreements and adjustments are planned in the different stages of the proposal in order to have the risks under control at all times. Possible risks related to the methods and data collection are also well considered in the proposal and are highly convincing.* *5. The effort assigned to work packages including timing and duration of the different work packages is appropriate and credible. The proportion of assigned tasks across the work plan is well balanced and time lines are as expected for this type of research work.* *6. A clear and realistic work plan including a convincing description of the work packages, as well as quantifiable milestones and deliverables to help the assessment of the proposal's progress against a timetable, is provided. The allocation of tasks and resources is appropriate.*

WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. The work plan is not described in sufficient detail; the work packages are not sufficiently clarified and justified in the proposal. Their timing and duration are not credible. Furthermore, the milestones and deliverables are very generic. *2. The administrative and training tasks and activities (e.g. management or dissemination, communication, and exploitation) are too loosely organised in terms of the time and effort needed and not assigned to specific periods in the Gantt chart.* *3. Insufficient consideration of scientific and/or administrative risks, and consequently, insufficiently developed contingency plan, might cause a delay of some work packages and even project completion delay.* *4. The dissemination and communication activities are not properly detailed in the Gantt chart (e.g., publications, conferences and general audience).* *5. The assessment of risks is insufficiently prepared with insufficient reference to risks associated with dissemination, exploitation, and communications, and risks associated with managerial and institutional support.* *6. The planned effort assigned to work packages and their timetable are not quite fully convincing as they do not sufficiently consider the need for time-overlapping of WP's to enable the argued spill-over effect between field trips and academic & artistic research.* *7. The overlap of multiple tasks in some work packages makes the action dense and this can be a potential problem impacting the timely completion of the work. It is unclear how experiments will be managed in the same timeframe.* *8. Given the complexity of the proposal, the teaching responsibilities can hamper the timely completion of the deliverables*

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Part B1 - Implementation

- ***3.2 Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements***
- • Hosting arrangements, including integration in the team/institution(s) and support services available to the researcher.
- • Quality and capacity of the participating organisations, including infrastructure, logistics and facilities. Additional information should be outlined in Part B-2 Section 5 ("*Capacity of the Participating Organisations*").

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STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. The host institution's quality and capacity for the proposed work is precisely specified, has established competencies in areas related to this proposal, has all the necessary infrastructure and suitable facilities to implement this proposal, and is prepared to provide all needed administrative support. *2. In terms of infrastructure, logistics and facilities, the main host, the outgoing host and the secondment host have excellent and adequate research and administrative environments to support the researcher and the proposal.* *3. The host laboratory is well organized with a well-structured supervision scheme. The progress monitoring approach is well described, taking into account regular individual meetings with the supervisor and weekly group meetings.* *4. The researcher would be allocated appropriate office resources (desk, workstation, laboratory space) within the facilities of the host team, as well as access to necessary software. Participation in group meetings and biweekly meetings with the supervisor and team building activities as well as seminars at the host institution would ensure effective team integration.* *5. Both prestigious host institutions and the renowned institution where the secondment would take place suit the planned research project very well, especially with regards to both the scientific environment (which complement each other in this regard) and the infrastructure, as well as with respect to the institutional support provided to the researcher.*
WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. The integration measures of the researcher at the group level are insufficiently described. *2. Hosting arrangements are not sufficiently described, which raises questions about the efficacy of the integration of the researcher in the host institution, and about the availability of support services for the researcher.* *3. The proposal fails to sufficiently address the hosting arrangements and the facilities in the non-academic placement, and how the researcher will be integrated in their team.* *4. Insufficiently detailed information is offered on the infrastructure and equipment at the host institution that will support achieving the research objectives.* *5. The proposal does not provide a clear description of non-scientific hosting arrangements involving support services related to accommodation, administration, and integration of the researcher throughout the fellowship* *6. The description of overall management structure and the monitoring actions such as meetings with the supervisor lack detail. The integration of the researcher into the research group is not well described.*

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Part B2 - CV of the researcher (indicative length: 5 pages)

- Any information provided in Parts A and B of the proposal should be fully consistent. Always mention full dates (using format: dd/mm/yyyy). The CV should include the standard academic and research record. Any research career gaps and/or unconventional paths should be clearly explained.
- At a minimum, the CV should contain:
  - a) The name of the researcher;
  - b) Professional experience (most recent first, with exact dates in format dd/mm/yyyy);
  - c) Education, including PhD award date (most recent first, with exact dates in format: dd/mm/yyyy).
- The CV should include information on:
  - • Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, peer-reviewed conference proceedings, and/or monographs (they are expected to be open access either published or through repositories) and other outputs such as data, software, algorithms significant for your research path (they are expected to be open access in appropriate repositories to the extent possible; they should be accompanied by a very short qualitative assessment of their scientific significance and not by the Journal Impact Factor);
  - • Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools;
  - • Organisation of international conferences, including membership in the steering and/or programme committee;
  - • Research expeditions led by the researcher;
  - • Granted patent(s);
  - • Examples of participation in industrial innovation;
  - • Prizes and Awards;
  - • Funding received so far;
  - • Supervising and mentoring activities;
  - • Other items of interest.
- Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis *before* the call deadline but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree must clearly indicate the date of the successful PhD defence ("viva"). Researchers having their last thesis defence *after* the call deadline will be automatically declared ineligible for this call.

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Part B2 - Capacity of the Participating Organisation(s)

Organisation role	PIC	Legal Entity Short Name	Academic organisation (Y/N)	Country	Name of Supervisor
Beneficiary					
Associated partner linked to a beneficiary (if applicable)					
Associated partner for outgoing phase (mandatory for GF)					
Associated partner for secondment (optional)					
Associated partner for non-academic placement (optional)					
Other: _____					

Example, not to be comp

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Part B2 - Capacity of the Participating Organisation(s)

Choose one of: ☐ *Beneficiary (compulsory)* ☐ *Associated partner linked to a beneficiary (if applicable)* ☐ *Associated partner for outgoing phase (compulsory for GF only)* ☐ *Associated partner for secondment (optional)* ☐ *Associated partner for non-academic placement (optional)*	
[Full name + Legal Entity Short Name + Country]	
General description	
Role and profile of supervisor	
Key research facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment	*Demonstrate that the beneficiary has sufficient facilities and infrastructure to host and/or offer a suitable environment for training and transfer of knowledge to the recruited experienced researcher.* *If applicable, indicate the name of the associated partner linked to a beneficiary and describe the nature of the link in the corresponding table.*
Previous and current involvement in EU-funded research and training programmes/actions/projects	*Indicate up to 5 relevant EU, national or international research and training actions/projects in which the institution/department has previously participated and/or is currently participating.*

not to be completed

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MSCA BUDGET

Researcher Unit Costs (Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month)					Institutional Unit Costs (Institutional unit contributions Per person-month)	
Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Long-term Leave Allowance	Special Needs Allowance	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 5990	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 6700 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

Long-term leave allowance

Only when leave exceeds 30 days for reasons other than annual leave

Requested when/if the need arises

All other allowances and contributions are set to '0'

% covered by the beneficiary will depend on national legislation and internal policies

Special Needs Allowance

Contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities, whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment(s) are certified by a competent national authority, and of such nature that their participation in the action may not be possible without them

Requested when/if the need arises

Managed by the beneficiary and claimed according to internal policies

e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel/transportation costs

Eligibility of the institutional costs is conditional on the eligibility of the researcher unit costs - the host will want records that prove eligibility

Research, Training and Networking costs (RTN)

Covers costs related to professional activities including visas costs, NHS surcharge and relocation costs related to starting the fellowship

Activities must contribute to research and training programme

Managed by the host institution according to usual internal policies e.g. Travel policy, Purchase policy etc.

Management and Indirect Costs

Covers general costs of the host institution, connected to organising and implementing the fellowship

Agreement in place to set out redistribution of funds to associated partners (secondment hosts, placement hosts, research visit hosts)

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MSCA BUDGET

Application forms

Proposal ID **SEP-211053804**

Acronym **Test_msca_pf_anne**

3 - Budget

Is the Researcher eligible for family allowance?* (•) Yes ( ) No

Duration of fellowship *	Country in which fellowship will take place
21	United Kingdom

	Country Coefficient	Number of Months	Contributions for recruited researchers			Institutional contributions		Total
			Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
Fellowship	1.417	21	178244.43	14910.00	13860.00	21000.00	13650.00	241664.43
Total			178244.43	14910.00	13860.00	21000.00	13650.00	241664.43

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MSCA BUDGET

Is the Researcher eligible for family allowance?* (•) Yes ( ) No

Duration of outgoing phase	Country in which outgoing phase will take place	Associated Partner
24	United States	OFFICE FOR SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Country in which return phase will take place
Belgium

Placement duration (1 to 6 months)	Country in which placement will take place	Associated Partner
	France	Microsoft Research & Development France

	Country Coefficient	Number of Months	Contributions for recruited researchers			Institutional contributions		Total
			Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
Outgoing phase	1.023	24	124724.15	14400.00	15840.00	24000.00	15600.00	194564.15
Return phase	1	12	60960.00	7200.00	7920.00	12000.00	7800.00	95880.00
Placement in non-academic sector	1	4	20320.00	2400.00	2640.00	4000.00	2600.00	31960.00
Total			206004.15	24000.00	26400.00	40000.00	26000.00	322404.15

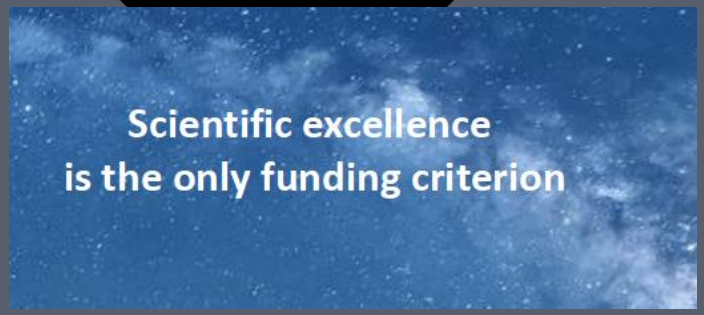
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MSCA BUDGET

Secondments Vs Non- Academic Sector Placement

	Secondment	Non-Academic Sector Placement
Part A Section 2 Participants	Do NOT encode the secondment organizations as a participating organisation.	The organization hosting the placement MUST be encoded as a participating organisation (= associated partner).
Part A Section 3 Budget	Do NOT encode (as no additional budget is allowed for secondments).	ADD the number of months requested for the non-academic placement as a separate line (up to 6 months are allowed).
Description in Part B-1	Secondments should be described in part B1 and the evaluators will assess their relevance and quality in the respective criterion. Secondments should be included in the Gantt chart.	Non-academic placements should be described in part B1 and the evaluators will assess their relevance and quality in the respective criterion. Non-academic placements should be included in the Gantt chart.
Description in Part B-2	Secondment hosts must be listed in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 within part B2 template as an associated partner	Non-academic placements hosts must be listed in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 within part B2 template as an associated partner.
Supporting Document in Part B-2	No Letter of commitment required.	No Letter of commitment required.

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MSCA DN PROPOSAL STRUCTURE

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What is a Doctoral Network (DN) ?



- ✓ One consortium
- ✓ Proposing a research project
- ✓ With interlinked individual PhD research projects
- ✓ For doctoral candidates

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MSCA-DN evolves from year to year



✓ 2022:
- Provide alternative to multiple recruitment in **DN-ID**
- Abolish maximum secondment duration for **DN-ID** and **DN-JD**
- *Simplification*: Abolish requirement of a "Steering Board"

✓ 2023:
- Increase the **DN** grant size from 360 to 540 person-month
- Increase the **DN-JD** maximum duration of fellowships to 4 years and of projects to 5 years
- *Simplification*: Abolish requirement of letters of commitment for Associated Partners

✓ 2024:
- Allow organisations from non-associated 3rd countries as degree-awarding institutions in **DN-JD** (jointly with ones from MS/AC)

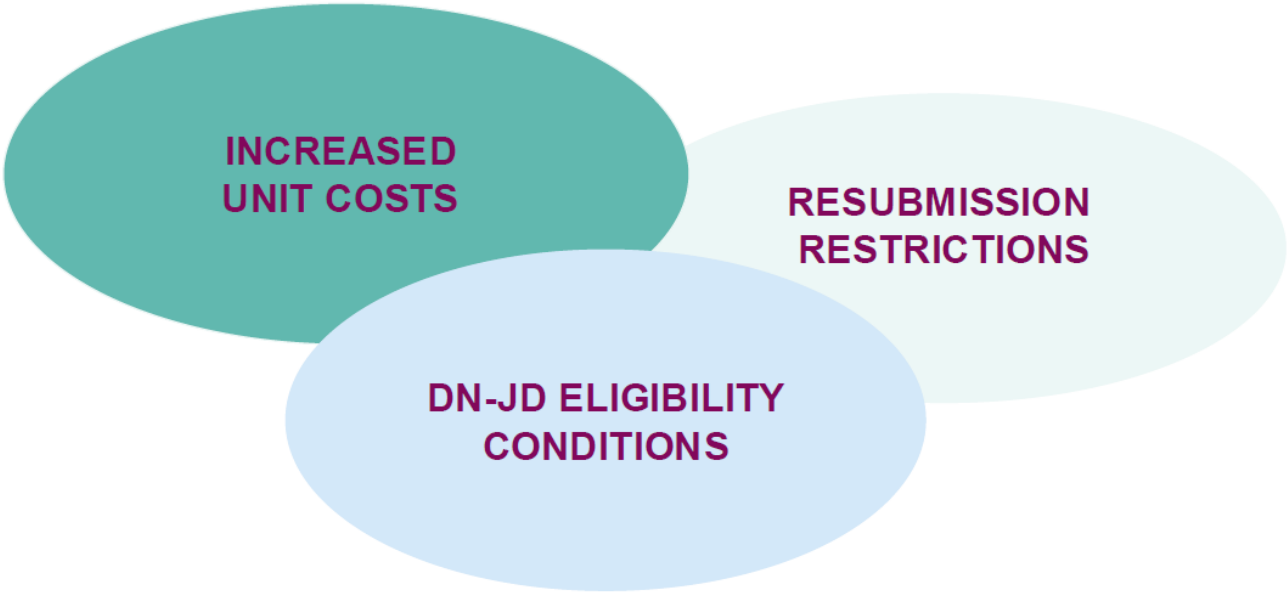
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Implementation modes



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Doctoral Networks – Novelties compared to DN 2023



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What is a joint or double/multiple degree?



Joint degree: single diploma issued by at least 2 higher education institutions and recognized officially



Double/multiple degree: 2 or more separate national diplomas issued by 2 or more higher education institutions and recognized officially

Letters of pre-agreement *to deliver joint/double doctoral degrees are mandatory in the proposal*

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Doctoral Networks – participant types

	Beneficiaries	Associated Partners
Academic/Non-academic	✓	✓
Signatories of the Grant Agreement	✓	✗
Recruitment of researchers	✓	✗
Training and/or hosting of seconded researchers	✓	✓
Participation in Supervisory Board	✓	✓
Directly claim costs	✓	✗

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Eligible size and duration

Size

✓ Up to **540 person-months for all type of actions**

Duration

✓ **Proposal**: max. 48 months for DN and DN-ID - *incentive for DN-JD **60 months***

✓ **Fellowship**: 3 to 36 months for DN and DN-ID - *incentive for DN-JD **48 months***

✓ **Secondments**: worldwide, any sectors, up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration for Standard DN - incentive for DN-ID and DN-JD **no secondment limitation**

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Other eligibility conditions

All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate, host and supervise in own premises, or use associated partners linked to them to do so

Max. 40% of budget allocated to the same country or to a single international organisation.

Re-submission restrictions for proposals scoring below 80% in Call 2023

Specific eligibility conditions for Industrial and Joint Doctorates

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Summary

	DN (Standard)	DN-ID (Industrial)	DN-JD (Joint)
Consortium	Min 3 entities from 3 different EU MS/AC (Min 1 from MS) Each beneficiary must recruit at least 1 DC Max 40% funding per country AP can't recruit, but can host secondments and provide training		
Project Duration	Max 48 months		Max 60 months
DC contract	Max 36 months		Max 48 months
Secondments	Max 1/3 fellowship	No limitation on secondment duration	

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Summary

	DN (Standard)	DN-ID (Industrial)	DN-JD (Joint)
Researcher	Doctoral Candidates (no PhD at time of recruitment) MSCA mobility condition Open, fair, transparent recruitment. Any nationality Must all be enrolled in a PhD from a MS/AC 50% in non-academic		Enrolled in joint/double/multiple PhD from min 1 MS/AC

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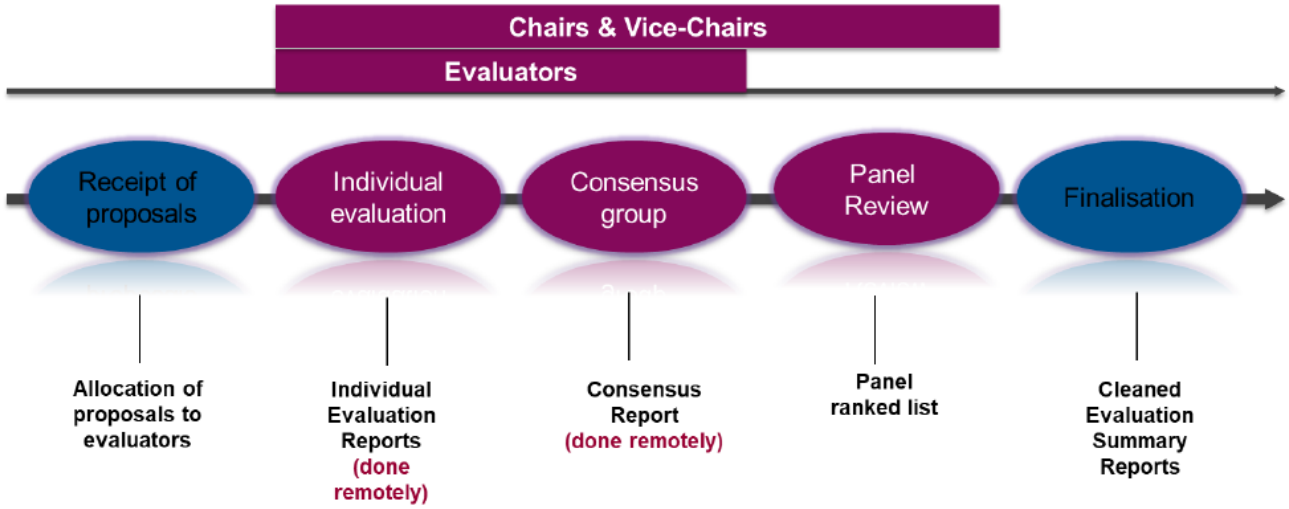
Cost categories

A. Contributions for recruited researchers					B. Institutional contributions	
A1. Living allowance (€)	A2. Mobility allowance (€)	A3. Family allowance (if applicable) (€)	A4. Long term leave (if applicable) (€)	A5. Special needs (if applicable) (€)	B1. Research training and networking contribution (€)	B2. Management and indirect contribution (€)
4010*	710	660	4000 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit x 1/ number of PM	1600	1200

**gross amount multiplied by country correction coefficient*

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Evaluation Workflow

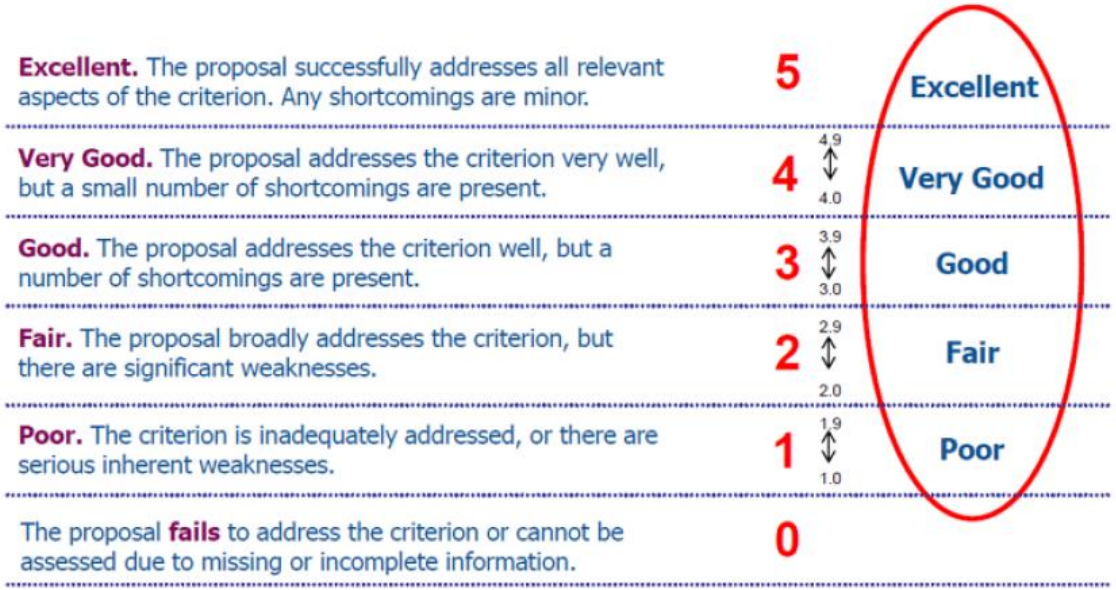


- Automatic pre-allocation done by REA based on **MSCA specific key words**
- Vice-Chairs revise the pre-allocation of proposals to experts

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Score Descriptors – Consensus Discussions



- **Involves an exchange on the basis of the 3 individual evaluations – Not just a simple averaging exercise**
- The aim is to **find agreement on comments** and **then the scores**
- **"Outlying" opinions** are explored
- **Additional evaluators** can be used if necessary

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Evaluation Process

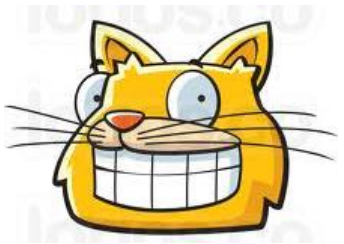
- **Each of the experts prepares an Individual Evaluation Report**
- Rapporteur drafts **Consensus Report (CR) reflecting their comments**
- Once comments agreed, discuss and agree on score
- CR is reviewed by Vice-Chairs for consistency
- Final version becomes **Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) sent to the applicant**



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Tips from an evaluator

- Write a “nice” proposal
  - Use images, graphs, tables to support your idea
  - No more than two bold sentences in each page
  - Make an English revision before submitting



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BE CAREFULL

- Proposals involving the same beneficiary (and same outgoing host in the case of GF) and researcher submitted to the previous year's call (2025) of the **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and having received a score of less than 70% must NOT be resubmitted to the 2026 call.**
  - This means, for example, that a researcher can resubmit a European Fellowship proposal with a **different** host organisation, or can resubmit a Global Fellowship proposal with **either** a different recruiting organisation **or** outgoing host**.**
- Applicants who scored over 70%, as well as applicants that were rejected as either ineligible or inadmissible under the 2025 Postdoctoral Fellowship call, can re-submit a proposal as long as they meet all other eligibility criteria.
- If you are going to re-submit a proposal you need to indicate re-submission in Part A of the current proposal, including the previously submitted proposal reference number.

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ERA TALENTS

- Based in MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026 action (HORIZON-MSCA-PF-2026).
- The target group are host organisations located in Widening Countries.

- Planned opening date :09 April 2026

- Deadline date : 09 September 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

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