



OVERVIEW

ERC APPLICATION

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ERC: Applying for a competition

Before you start...

Excellent idea

- Frontier research
- Innovative concept
- Ground breaking research

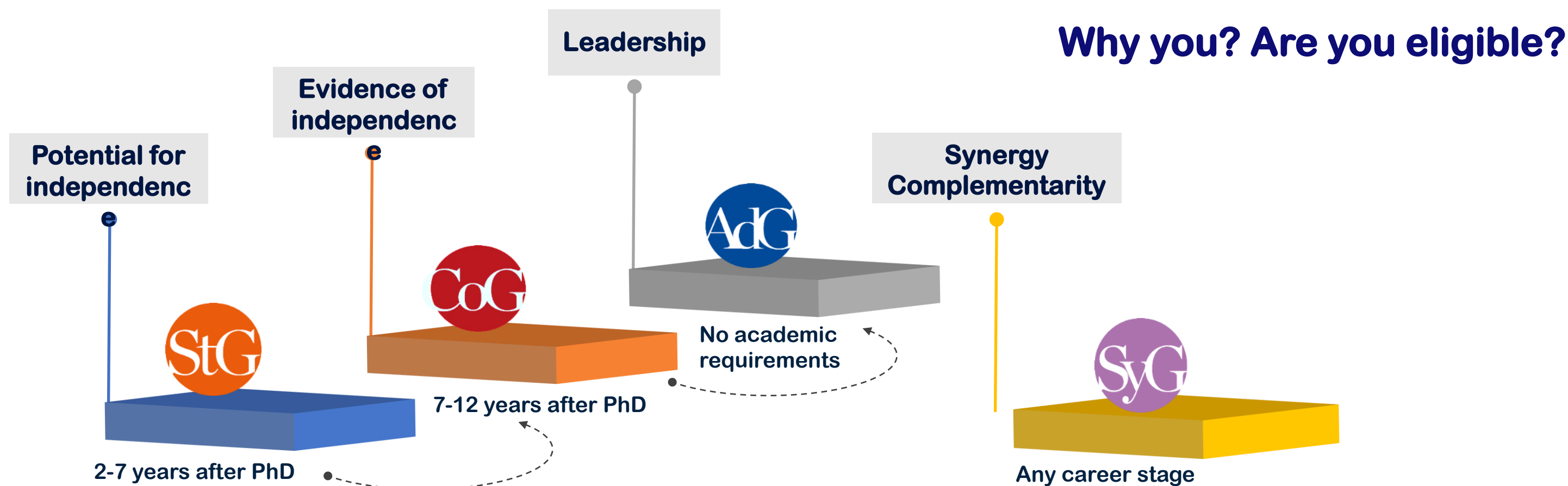
Excellent researcher

The best version
OF YOU



Why you? Are you eligible?

Principal Investigator Profile



Grant type	Minimum% of Working Time on Grant	Minimum% of time in EU MS/AC	Years since PhD defence
STG	50	50	2 – 7
COG	40	50	7 – 12
ADG	30	50	N/A
SYG	30	50	N/A

Change in PhD eligibility reference date

.....for Starting and Consolidator ERC calls, make sure you are eligible!

Starting from WP2023  New "PhD eligibility reference date" rule:

*The reference date towards the calculation of the eligibility period shall be the **certified date of the successful defence***

The first PhD shall have been successfully defended

!!!! Eligibility window is measured from the **1st of January of the year of the Call**

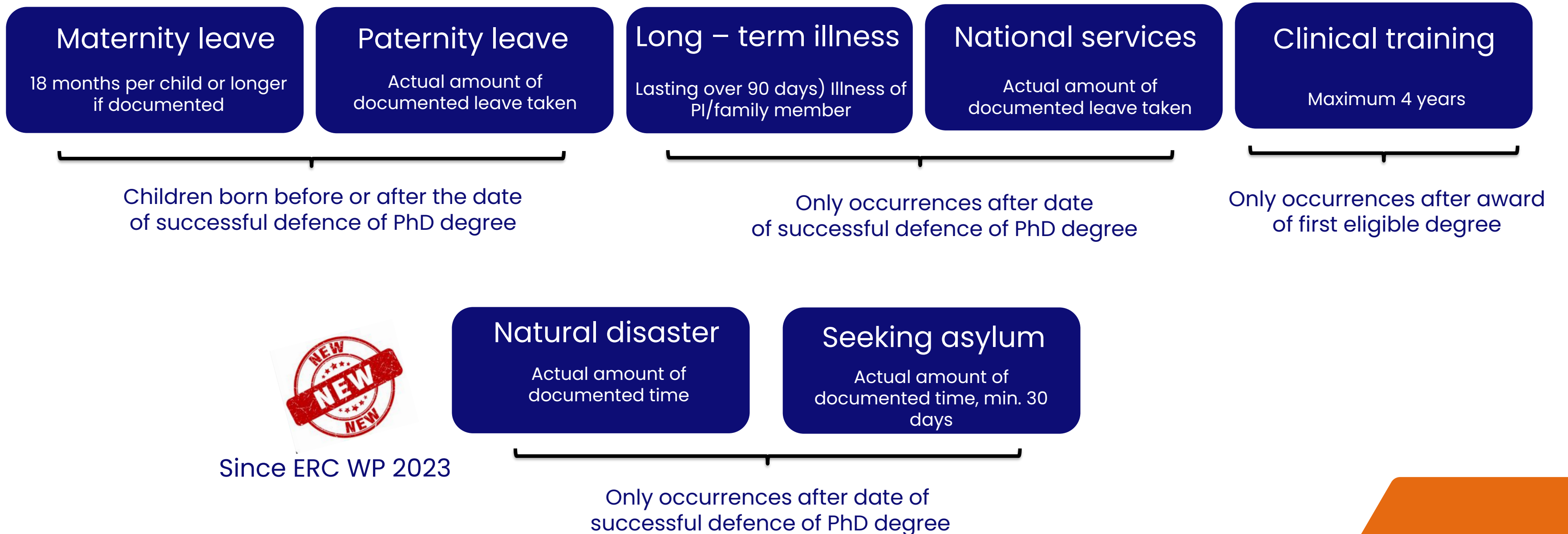
Extensions of eligibility window possible for documented cases

> 2 and \leq 7 years prior to 1 January..... STG

> 7 and \leq 12 years prior to 1 January.....COG

STG and COG : Extension of the Eligibility windows

For documented situations occurring before the call deadline the eligibility window can be extended for:



Are you eligible?

See the submission restrictions

General restrictions

1

.....

A researcher may participate as a Principal Investigator in only one ERC main frontier research grant project at any one time

2

.....

A researcher participating as a Principal Investigator in one of the main frontier research grants may not submit another proposal for a main ERC grant, unless the existing project ends less than two years after the call deadline

3

.....

A researcher who is a serving Panel Member for a 2024/2025 ERC call or who served as a Panel Member for a 2022/2023 ERC call may not apply to a 2024/2025 ERC call for the same type of grant

4

.....

If a researcher applies to more than one main ERC frontier research grant call published under the same Work Programme, only the first eligible proposal will be evaluated

5

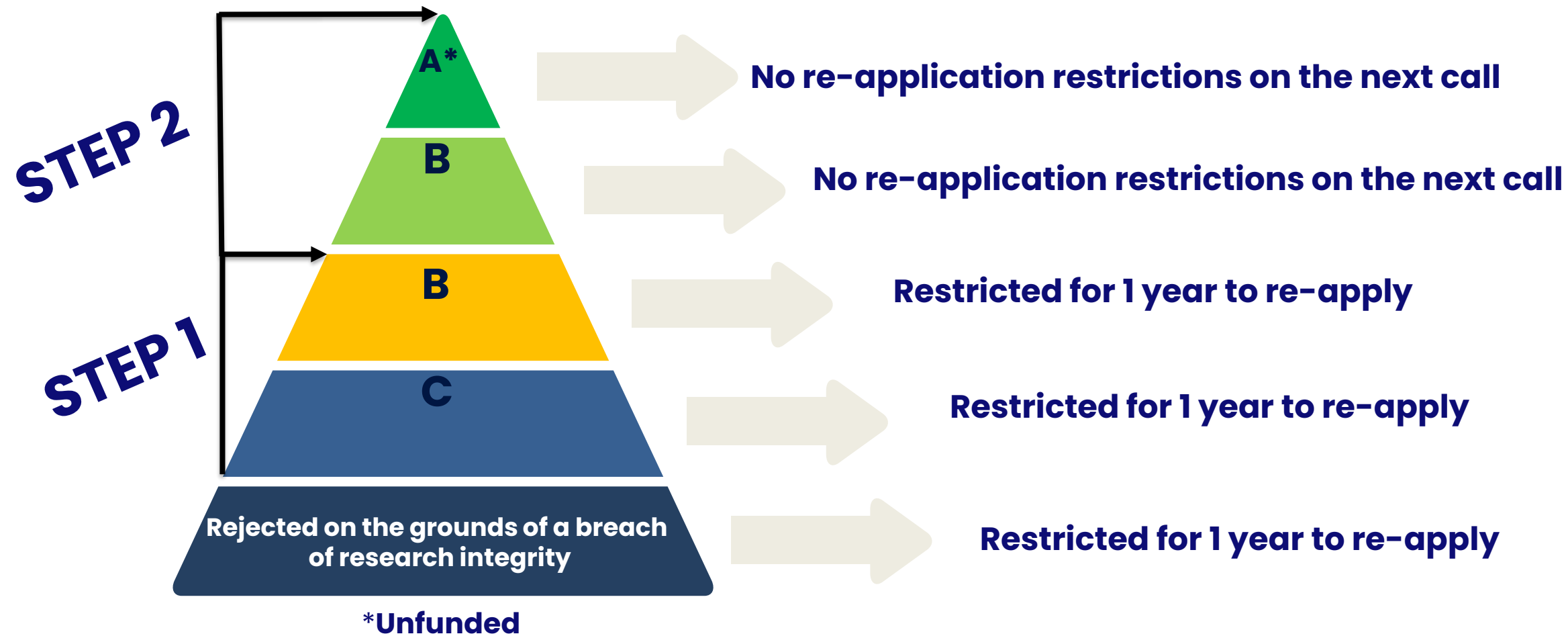
.....

A researcher, whose proposal has been selected for funding and who is preparing a grant agreement under a 2023 ERC call, may not apply for a Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant under a 2024 ERC call

Are you eligible?

See the submission restrictions

Additional restrictions



Get informed – Specific forms

For individuals calls: STG, COG, ADG

The ERC full proposal = B1 + B2 + Part A

Part A (Administrative forms)

- **A1 - General Information**
- **A2 - Participants (GEP)**
- **A3 – Budget table + Resources description (8000 words for STG, COG, 1000 words for ADG)**
- **A4 - Ethics and security**
- **A5 - Other questions (Time commitment)**

Annexes

- Host Institution Binding Statement of Support
- Explanatory information on ethical issues
- PhD record (STG, COG) and supporting documentation for eligibility checking
- Excel table with complete information on depreciation and usage of all equipment items for ADG

Part B1 (pdf)

Evaluated in Step 1 & Step 2

- Cover page and Summary
- Extended Synopsis (5 p.)
- CV & Track record (4 p.)

Part B2 (14 p.)

NOT evaluated in Step 1 (only in Step 2)

Scientific Proposal (pdf)

- SoA and Objectives
- Methodology

Choose a Panel

ERC Panel Structure for individual grants (STG, COG, ADG)

3 Domains / 28 Panels



Read the
descriptors

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems
- LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration
- LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing
- LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System
- LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy
- LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases
- LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
- LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

Social Sciences and Humanities

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

Physical Sciences & Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- PE6 Computer Science and Informatics
- PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products and Processes Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science
- PE11 Materials Engineering

How to choose submission panel?

You are presenting a proposal involving (potentially) an **important scientific advance**

- **In which field?**
- **Which panel is covering that field?** – *This is the panel which will have the evaluators best suited to appreciate the work you propose*
- **Which descriptor(s) best cover it?** – *That the panel should correspond to the first descriptor*

Each panel covers a given breath of research topics, further detailed with its descriptors

At submission, indicate:

- **The submission panel** – which will in principle evaluate the proposal + possibly a secondary panel
- **1-4 descriptors**
- **Free keywords (optional)**

Secondary panel?

Indicate a secondary panel if :

.....
The proposal's innovative content concerns a discipline at the interface between panels

OR

.....
The proposal also includes important advances in a field covered by another panel

Also explain why you think the second panel is relevant.

This will “flag” your proposal as potentially interdisciplinary and needing a cross-panel reviews

How are the ERC proposals evaluated???

Excellence

is the sole evaluation criterion

Primarily to:

**Excellence
of the Research Project**

- Ground breaking nature
- Scientific impact
- Scientific approach

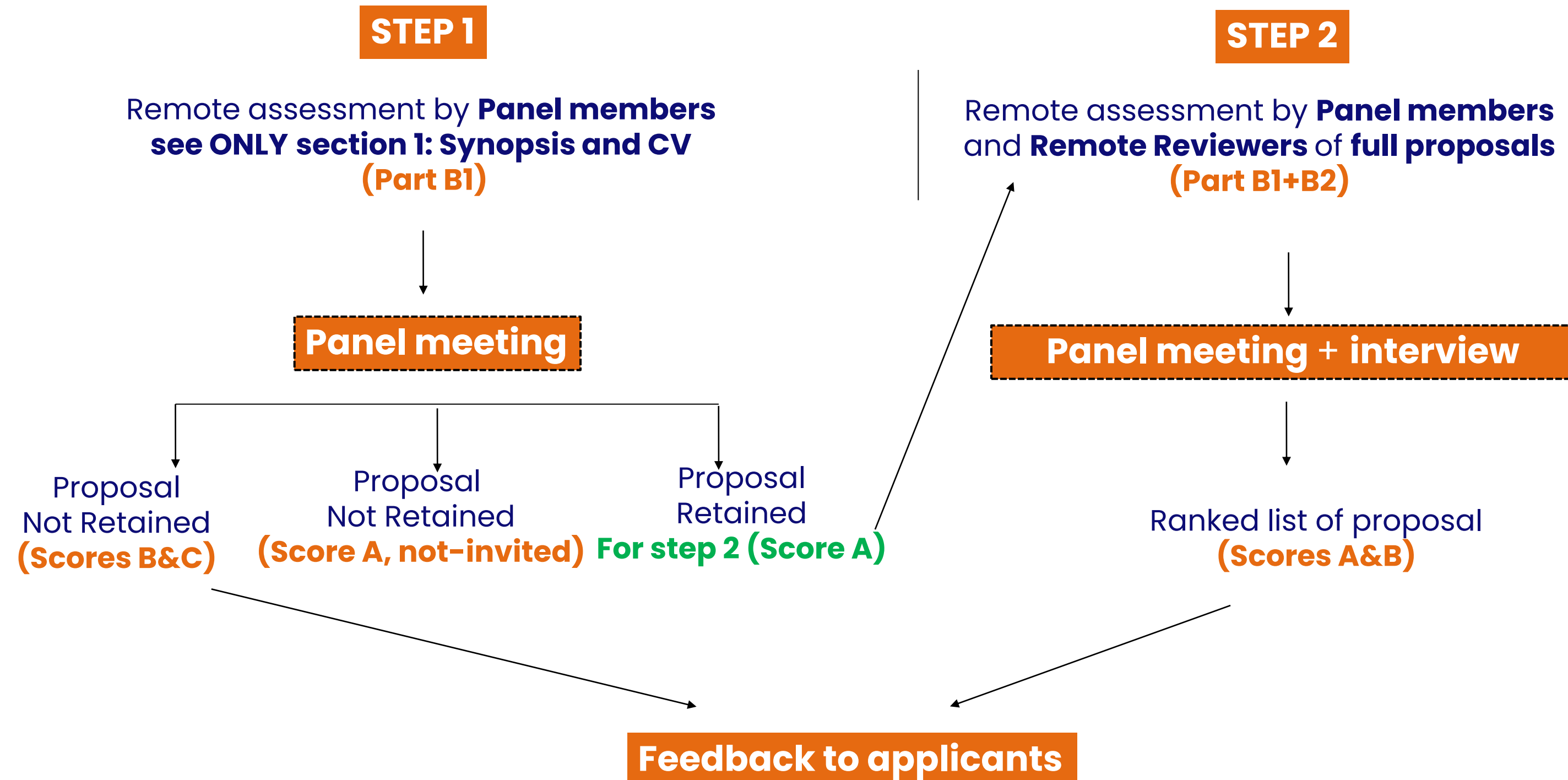
At the same time:

**Excellence
of the Principal Investigator**

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Time Commitment

Evaluation process (1)

For individuals calls: a single submission..... but a two step evaluation



Evaluation process (2)

For ERC Synergy Grants calls: a single submission..... but a three step evaluation

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 invited'
 - No. of proposals that can be passed to step 2: max 7x budget
- **Feedback to applicants:** Evaluation reports for rejected proposals, scored 'A not invited' '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 ~ 39 funded in total (up to call budget)
 - 'A' score below funding limit - reserve + rejected
 - 'B' score- rejected

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 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)?

Scientific Approach

- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the groundbreaking 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)?

Evaluation Elements applying to Excellence

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

- 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)?

Useful documents



-  [Guide for Applicants](#)
-  [Proposal templates](#)
-  [ERC Work Programme](#)
-  [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
-  [Model Grant Agreement](#)
-  [Annotated Grant Agreement](#)



CONTACT US

We are here to **HELP YOU**



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