

ERC Advanced Grants Call 2024

Frequently Asked Questions



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Contents

Funding opportunities

Q1. For ERC calls under Horizon Europe, will the information requested in Part A on the career stage of the PI be provided to the reviewers? (e.g., for ERC-2024-STG; ERC-2024-COG; ERC-2024-ADG; ERC-2024-SYG; ERC-2024-POC).....	5
Q2: For ERC calls under Horizon Europe, is the written consent of collaborators and/or participants in the project required? (e.g., for ERC-2024-STG; ERC-2024-COG; ERC-2024-ADG; ERC-2024-SYG; ERC-2024-POC)	5
Q3. For ERC 2024 calls under Horizon Europe, will the information requested in Part A concerning the Gender Equality Plan (GEP) be provided to the reviewers? (e.g., for ERC-2024-STG; ERC-2024-COG; ERC-2024-ADG; ERC-2024-SYG; ERC-2024-POC)	6
Q4. According to the conditions applied to the ERC frontier research Grants 2024, can a researcher serving as Panel Chair or Panel Member for the ERC-2024-AdG call apply to the ERC-2024-AdG call?.....	6
Q5. For ERC calls under Horizon Europe, is the GEP (gender equality plan) required at submission stage or at the grant signature?.....	6
Q6. What are the reporting requirements for ERC research frontier projects granted under the Horizon Europe Programme [Starting Grant (StG)/Consolidator Grant (CoG)/Advanced Grant (AdG)/Synergy Grant (SyG)]?.....	7
Q7. Can a researcher apply to the ERC calls for proposals after 16 December 2022 (e.g. ERC-2024-SYG, ERC-2024-STG, ERC-2024-COG, ERC-2024-ADG, ERC-2024-POC) with a Hungarian host institution concerned by the measures set out in the Council Implementing Decision?	8
Q8. For ERC 2024 frontier research calls, what is the best practice for communication between the Host Institution(s) (HI), the Principal Investigator(s) (PI) and the European Research Council Executive Agency during the grant preparation and implementation?.....	8

Q9. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) qualify as Host Institution (HI) to support an ERC project?9

Q10. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, are only PhD holders allowed to apply for an ERC Advanced Grant?9

Q11. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, will ERC experts have access to the administrative form (Part A) of the proposal to assess the budget table and justification of resources?9

Q12. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can a Principal Investigator, simultaneously engaged part-time by 2 different research organisations and leading research group at both, apply for an ERC Advanced grant with both research groups executing the project as one team? 10

Q13. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can a Principal Investigator (PI), who holds a permanent position in a research organisation in the US, apply for an ERC Advanced Grant with a Host Institution located in Europe? 10

Q14. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can a Principal Investigator, whose proposal was submitted to a 2022 or 2023 ERC frontier research grants call and evaluated at the end of Step 1 as of insufficient quality to pass to Step 2 (C category), submit an application? 11

Q15. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can a Principal Investigator (PI) whose proposal was evaluated as category A or B at step 2 in an ERC 2023 call, submit a proposal to the ERC Advanced Grant 2024? 11

Q16. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can team members be hosted by a research organisation other than the Host Institution? 11

Q17. Are applicants with Swiss Host Institutions eligible to apply to the ERC 2024 Advanced grant call (ERC-2024-ADG)? 11

ERC Advanced Grants Call 2024

Frequently Asked Questions Update July, 2024

Q1. For ERC calls under Horizon Europe, will the information requested in Part A on the career stage of the PI be provided to the reviewers? (e.g., for ERC-2024-STG; ERC-2024-COG; ERC-2024-ADG; ERC-2024-SYG; ERC-2024-POC)

For ERC calls under Horizon Europe (e.g. for ERC-2024-STG; ERC-2024-COG; ERC-2024-ADG; ERC-2024-SYG; ERC-2024-POC), the information requested in Part A on the career stage of the PI will not be provided to the reviewers of your proposal and will not be part of the evaluation. This data is gathered for statistical purposes and used to evaluate the Horizon Europe Programme as a whole. See also the [ERC Work Programme 2024](#).

Q2: For ERC calls under Horizon Europe, is the written consent of collaborators and/or participants in the project required? (e.g., for ERC-2024-STG; ERC-2024-COG; ERC-2024-ADG; ERC-2024-SYG; ERC-2024-POC)

Yes, Principal Investigators submitting a proposal to any ERC call must have, at the time of submission, the written consent of all participants on their involvement and on the content of the proposal, as well as of any researcher mentioned in the proposal as participating in the project (either as team member, collaborator, other PI or member of the advisory board), should the proposal be funded. The ERC Executive Agency may request PIs to provide proof of the written consent (email, letter) at any time. See also the [ERC Rules of submission and evaluation under Horizon Europe](#)

Q3. For ERC 2024 calls under Horizon Europe, will the information requested in Part A concerning the Gender Equality Plan (GEP) be provided to the reviewers? (e.g., for ERC-2024-STG; ERC-2024-COG; ERC-2024-ADG; ERC-2024-SYG; ERC-2024-POC)

To be eligible for calls with deadlines in 2024, legal entities from an EU Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC) must have a gender equality plan (GEP) or an equivalent strategic document in place for the duration of the project. This information will not be provided to the reviewers and it will not be evaluated. In the Part A online submission form, there is a 'yes/no' tick box question that the Host Institution (HI)'s contact person must fill in. Only public bodies, research organisations or higher education institutions (including private research organisations and private higher education institutions) must answer this question. This answer and the absence of GEP at submission stage will not affect the evaluation of the proposal. The GEP or equivalent must fulfil the mandatory requirements listed in Annex 5 to the [ERC Work Programme 2024](#) and will be necessary before the signature of the grant agreement. See guidelines [here](#).

Q4. According to the conditions applied to the ERC frontier research Grants 2024, can a researcher serving as Panel Chair or Panel Member for the ERC-2024-AdG call apply to the ERC-2024-AdG call?

No, according to the conditions applied to the ERC frontier research Grants 2024, researchers serving as Panel Chairs or Panel Members for the ERC-2024-AdG call, or who served for the ERC-2022-AdG call, cannot apply to the ERC-2024-AdG call (see the [ERC Work Programme 2024](#)).

Q5. For ERC calls under Horizon Europe, is the GEP (gender equality plan) required at submission stage or at the grant signature?

To be eligible for ERC calls, Host Institutions (HIs) – which can be public bodies, research organisations or higher education institutions (including private research organisations and private higher education institutions establishments) from an EU Member State or [Associated Country](#) – must have a gender equality plan (GEP) or an equivalent strategic document in place for the duration of the project.

Please be aware that it is not necessary for the Host Institution to have already the gender equality plan or equivalent strategic document in place at the time of the submission and the absence of a

GEP will not affect the evaluation of the project. However, if the project is successful, it will be necessary before the signature of the grant agreement.

Q6. What are the reporting requirements for ERC research frontier projects granted under the Horizon Europe Programme [Starting Grant (StG)/Consolidator Grant (CoG)/Advanced Grant (AdG)/Synergy Grant (SyG)]?

The reporting requirements for ERC main frontier research projects granted under the Horizon Europe Programme (Starting Grant / Consolidator Grant / Advanced Grant or Synergy Grant) foresee two different reporting streams to cover the scientific aspects, on the one hand, and the financial aspects of the grant, on the other hand, as described in Article 21 of the [Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions](#). Scientific reports are the sole responsibility of the Principal Investigator and are submitted via the Host Institution usually twice during the lifetime of an individual PI project (at mid-term and at the end). In case of the Synergy grants running for 6 years, there are two intermediate and a final report. The financial reports are prepared by the Host Institution in consultation with the Principal Investigator and must usually be submitted 60 days after the end of each period; this report must include information on the use of resources and the general implementation of the project (see Article 21 [of Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions](#)). At the end of a project, the Host Institution will also have to submit a Certificate on Financial Statements for each beneficiary (and linked third party) depending on the amount of requested EU contribution to the costs claimed (if the entity requests a total contribution of EUR 430 000 or more – standard threshold). Both types of reports (Scientific and Financial) are prepared and submitted online via the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal. In the case of Synergy Grants the corresponding Principal Investigator assumes the primary responsibility for the scientific reporting and contribution to the financial reporting, while the other Principal Investigators must contribute to both the scientific and financial report (page 120 of [Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions](#)).

Q7. Can a researcher apply to the ERC calls for proposals after 16 December 2022 (e.g. ERC-2024-SYG, ERC-2024-STG, ERC-2024-COG, ERC-2024-ADG, ERC-2024-POC) with a Hungarian host institution concerned by the measures set out in the Council Implementing Decision?

Researchers with a Hungarian host institution concerned by the [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/2506](#) can continue to apply to ERC calls for proposals (e.g. ERC-2024-SYG, ERC-2024-STG, ERC-2024-COG, ERC-2024-ADG, ERC-2024-POC) after the 16 December 2022.

For successfully evaluated proposals, if these measures are not lifted at the time of the grant agreement signature, (following the procedure set out by Article 7 of Regulation 2020/2092), the concerned Hungarian entities would be found ineligible to receive Union funding. The applicant researchers concerned will then be informed about the available options to mitigate the consequences to their proposals, which will include the possibility to use portability.

Q8. For ERC 2024 frontier research calls, what is the best practice for communication between the Host Institution(s) (HI), the Principal Investigator(s) (PI) and the European Research Council Executive Agency during the grant preparation and implementation?

In Horizon Europe, all interactions with ERCEA will take place online via the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal, under "My Area" (after EU Login). The handling of documents will be fully electronic as there is no need any more to exchange any paper document. The grants for the successful proposals submitted to the ERC 2024 calls (ERC-2024-STG, ERC-2024-COG, ERC-2024-ADG, ERC-2024-SYG, ERC-2024-PoC) will be prepared and then signed electronically. Requests of amendments will be prepared, submitted and either accepted or rejected electronically. All reports will have to be submitted for review via the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal. According to the various phases of the project lifecycle, the correct actors (HIs and/or PIs) will be informed via email that certain tasks must be performed in the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal. In the case of Synergy grants, the corresponding HI and PI are the main contacts with the Agency. Notwithstanding the above and in an effort to keep on offering a high level service, we strongly encourage both the HIs and the PIs to contact the respective Agency staff for discussion in an informal way about any changes in their respective action. This is of utmost importance in order to avoid cancellation of documents or requests that are incomplete or incorrect. The name and surname of the ERC officer responsible for the PI's grant can be found

in the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal. The officer can be easily contacted via the messaging tool embedded in the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal, allowing the PI (corresponding PI for the Synergy grants) to communicate directly with the officer without having to use emails. Furthermore, the ERCEA has set up a helpdesk to provide Principal Investigators with assistance and guidance throughout the lifetime of the project. The helpdesk can be contacted by email at ERC-C2-PI-HELPDESK@ec.europa.eu.

Q9. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) qualify as Host Institution (HI) to support an ERC project?

Yes. Any SME (as defined by Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC) can be a Host Institution (HI) for an ERC grant as long as it meets the conditions of eligibility of the HI laid down in the ERC Work Programme 2024.

Q10. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, are only PhD holders allowed to apply for an ERC Advanced Grant?

No, a PhD is not required to submit a proposal to the ERC-2024-AdG call. As specified in the [ERC Work Programme 2024](#), excellence is the sole criterion for the evaluation of a proposal. A competitive Principal Investigator (PI) is expected to have outstanding research results. For more information, please refer to the [ERC Work Programme 2024](#), or the [Information for Applicants](#) relevant for the call.

Q11. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, will ERC experts have access to the administrative form (Part A) of the proposal to assess the budget table and justification of resources?

Under the ERC-2024-AdG call, only Section 3 - Budget of the administrative form (Part A) containing the budget table and description of resources; the time commitment (extracted from section 5 of Part A) and the equipment depreciation and use table will be available to the experts evaluating the proposal. The evaluators will have no access to the rest of the administrative form.

Q12. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can a Principal Investigator, simultaneously engaged part-time by 2 different research organisations and leading research group at both, apply for an ERC Advanced grant with both research groups executing the project as one team?

Yes, this is possible as long as the Principal Investigator (PI), at the time of submission, is supported by one organisation acting as Host Institution (applicant legal entity) based in an EU Member State or an Associated Country, committing itself, through the Host Institution support letter, to host and engage the Principal Investigator for the whole duration of the action as well as to ensure that the project will be performed under the guidance of the Principal Investigator who is expected to devote 30% of their working time to the ERC funded project. Specific circumstances, where the minimum time requirement of the call (30%) results from the sum of more than one employment contract of the PI with different organisations, may be accommodated in case the proposal is selected for funding. Other organisation(s) hosting team members should be referred to as (an) additional partner(s) in the proposal and their details should be given in the administrative proposal submission form in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Q13. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can a Principal Investigator (PI), who holds a permanent position in a research organisation in the US, apply for an ERC Advanced Grant with a Host Institution located in Europe?

Yes, a Principal Investigator (PI) engaged in the US or in any third country can apply for an ERC Advanced Grant 2024 (ERC-2024-AdG) call, as long as they will be engaged and hosted by a Host Institution based in an EU Member State or an Associated Country for the whole duration of the grant (see the [ERC Work Programme 2024](#) for the eligibility conditions). Principal Investigators funded through the ERC Advanced Grants call have to spend a minimum of 50% of their total working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country and a minimum of 30% of their total working time on the ERC project (see the [ERC Work Programme 2024](#) for the Advanced Grant Profile).

Q14. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can a Principal Investigator, whose proposal was submitted to a 2022 or 2023 ERC frontier research grants call and evaluated at the end of Step 1 as of insufficient quality to pass to Step 2 (C category), submit an application?

No, under call ERC-2024-AdG, a Principal Investigator (PI) whose proposal was evaluated as category C in the step 1 of Starting (StG), Consolidator (CoG), Advanced (AdG) Grant or Synergy Grant (SyG) calls for proposals under ERC Work Programme 2022 and 2023 may not submit a proposal to the AdG call under [Work Programme 2024](#). For more information, please refer to the restrictions on submission of proposals in the [ERC Work Programme 2024](#).

Q15. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can a Principal Investigator (PI) whose proposal was evaluated as category A or B at step 2 in an ERC 2023 call, submit a proposal to the ERC Advanced Grant 2024?

Yes, as specified in the [ERC Work Programme 2024](#), a PI whose proposal was evaluated as category A or category B at step 2 in an ERC 2023 Starting (StG), Consolidator (CoG) or Advanced (AdG) call, can submit a proposal to the ERC Advanced Grant 2024 (ERC-2024-ADG) call.

Q16. Under call ERC-2024-AdG, can team members be hosted by a research organisation other than the Host Institution?

Yes, under call ERC-2024-AdG, team members can be hosted by other research organisation(s). The research organisation(s) should be referred to as additional legal entities in the research proposal and their details should be given in the administrative proposal submission form (Part A) in the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Q17. Are applicants with Swiss Host Institutions eligible to apply to the ERC 2024 Advanced grant call (ERC-2024-ADG)?

Yes, as announced in the [ERC communication of 18 March 2024](#), legal entities established in Switzerland will be treated as entities established in an Associated Country under the [ERC Work Programme 2024](#) for calls opening in 2024, i.e. for the Advanced Grant call. However, grant agreements can only be signed with successful applicants if the association agreement with Switzerland applies at that time.