EUROPE

European RDI Support

European Research Council webinar

23 July 2024

LUXINNOVATION

#MakingInnovationHappen

European RDI Support Team

National Contact Point for Horizon Europe

Understand your research focus and priorities

Training and workshops (public or tailor-made)

- Monitor European RDI policies and agendas
- Identify and suggest most relevant funding opportunities

- Concept validation of EU RDI projects
- Search for partners and consortia

Support and monitor grant applications

Legal and financial support

Agenda

- ERC overview and the 2025 work programme
- Evaluation and proposal development
- ERC Starting Grantee: Camille Perchoux (LISER)
- Q&A

Housekeeping

This webinar is being recorded

Slides will be shared after the webinar

Microphones are muted by default

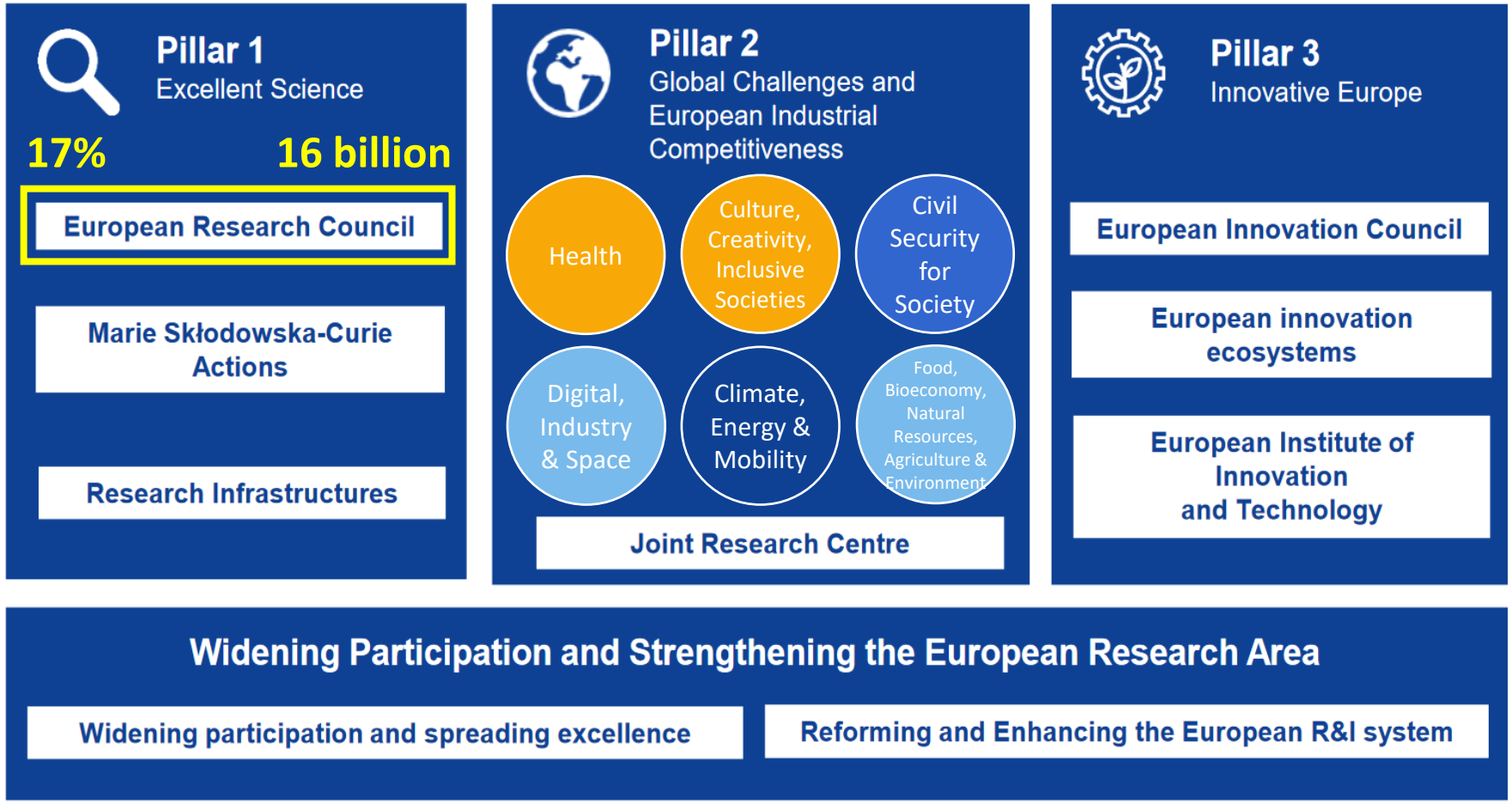
Please use the “Questions” tab to submit questions

A chat function is available for comments

ERC overview

ERC within Horizon Europe

EU R&I funding programme 2021-2027: €95.5 B€ for 7 years



ERC: excellence in research

Mission

- Encourage the highest quality research in Europe
- Support investigator-driven frontier research across **all fields**
- Based on scientific **excellence**

ERC main features

- Excellence is the only criterion of evaluation
- Fully bottom-up
- It's a quality label
  - Leads to attracting additional funding and gaining recognition
- Funding is split based on the number of applications and not topic

European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC Grant Schemes

Starting Grants
2-7 years after PhD
up to €1.5 M
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants
7-12 years after PhD
up to €2 M
for 5 years

Advanced Grants
track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years
up to €2.5 M
for 5 years

Synergy Grants
2-4 Principal Investigators
up to €10 M
for 6 years

Proof-of-Concept
bridging the gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation
Lump sum €150.000 for 1.5 years
for ERC grant holders

Starting Grant

ELIGIBILITY RULES

- Support for excellent Principal Investigators starting their independent research team or programme (2-7 years after PhD)
- **Research independence:** at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor
- **Maximum amount and duration of the grant:**
  - Up to **EUR 1.5M**
  - **5 years**
  - Additional funding up to **EUR 1M**
- **Type of Funding**: Actual Costs

Guide for Peer Reviewers

Consolidator Grant

ELIGIBILITY RULES

- Support for excellent Principal Investigators consolidating their independent research team or programme (7-12 years after PhD)
- **Research independence:** have already shown evidence of research independence
- **Maximum amount and duration of the grant:**
  - Up to **EUR 2M**
  - **5 years**
  - Additional funding up to **EUR 1M**
- **Type of Funding**: Actual Costs

Advanced Grant

ELIGIBILITY RULES

- Support for excellent Principal Investigators already established as research leaders. An ERC Advanced Grant PI is an active researcher with a recognised track record of significant research achievements.
- **Maximum amount and duration of the grant:**
  - Up to **EUR 2.5M**
  - **5 years**
  - Additional funding up to **EUR 1M**
- **Type of Funding**: Lump sum

Synergy Grant

ELIGIBILITY RULES

- Ambitious research problems that an individual Principal Investigator could not address
- Group of **2 to 4** innovative and active Principal Investigators. The group should bring together those elements necessary to address the scope and complexity of the proposed research
  - One PI can be based outside the EU/Associated Countries
- **Maximum amount and duration of the grant:** Up to **EUR 10M** for **6 years**. Additional funding up to EUR **4M**.
- **Type of Funding**: Actual cost

Synergy Grant Administrative form
Research proposal (Part B1 and Part B2)

Eligibility

Eligibility window reference date for calculation: **1st January of the call year**

Starting Grant

- 2 and ≤ 7 years prior to 1 January 2025
- Successful defence of first PhD: 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022 *(inclusive)*

Consolidator Grant

- 7 and ≤ 12 years prior to 1 January 2025
- Successful defence of first PhD: 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2017 *(inclusive)*

Extensions of eligibility are possible under certain circumstances

Advanced and Synergy Grants: no specific criteria

Eligibility

Principal Investigator, host institution and time commitment

Who?

- No restrictions based on nationality, current location or current employment/contract status

Where?

- Institution based in EU MS/AC willing to host them

Calculated as an average across the entire project duration

Minimum % of time working on Grant	Starting	Consolidator	Advanced	Synergy
On ERC Grant	50%	40%	30%	30% for each PI
In EU MS/AC	50%	50%	50%	50% for each PI engaged and hosted by an institution in EU MS/AC

The ERC 2025 Work Programme

Work Programme 2025

Changes from 2024 remain

Assessment	No prescriptive PI profiles	Evaluation procedure	Lump sum pilot (AdG only)	Panels	Eligibility
• Ground-breaking • Ambitious • Feasible	• Up to 10 research outputs • Short narrative • Career breaks, diverse paths	• Up to 44 proposals in step 2 (except SyG) • "A not invited" can reapply next year	• One amount • Payment based on the work done (not success) • Additional funding and portability	• New Panel: SH8 (Studies of Cultures and Arts) • Change in PE6 panel description	• Extensions for disability and major disasters

Research assessment → More **emphasis on the idea/project** rather than the PI profile

CV and Track Record

3 sections (max 4 pages)

- **Personal details**: education, employment
- **Research achievements** (up to 10) **and peer recognition**:
  - demonstrating advancement in the field, with emphasis on more recent achievements
  - short narrative on the significance of achievements
  - prizes, fellowships, academy membership, etc.
- **Additional information**:
  - career breaks, diverse career paths, life events
  - other contributions to the research community

Evaluation of research proposals: the why and what of ERC's recent changes
(Maria Leptin, ERC President)

Starting and Synergy Grants are open: check section B

AdG lump sum

- Lump sum contribution for the project's entirety defined upfront and by project:
  - budget based on **estimated costs**
  - assessed during the evaluation (**justification**/plausibility)
  - broken down **by beneficiary**
- **Personnel**: The panel (and applicants) have access to historical ERC personnel cost data to serve as a benchmark (ERC website)
- Scientific mid-term report and a single payment at the end of the project
- Payment based on **completion of activities**, not on successful outcome
- Additional funding and portability available

ERCEA AdG lump sum webinar

Evaluation

StG, CoG, AdG

- Up to 44 proposals per panel in Step 2

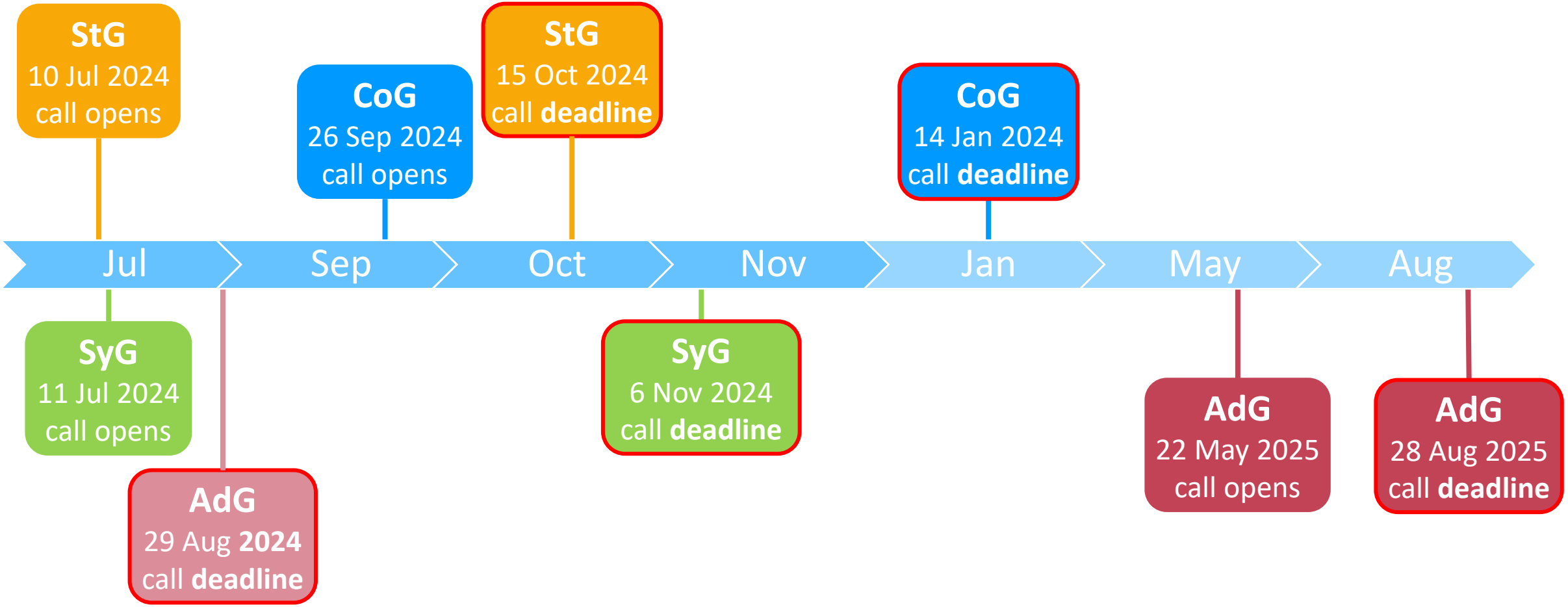
StG, CoG, AdG, SyG: A-score at Step 1

- 'A invited' – excellent quality proposals to pass to Step 2
- 'A not invited' – excellent quality proposals but not ranked sufficiently high to pass to Step 2. No resubmission restrictions.

Resubmission limits

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome		2025 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is *not* eligible
2023 and 2024 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant, or Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grant
2023 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2024 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 2	No restrictions
	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2023 and 2024 Synergy Grant	A or B at Step 3	No restrictions
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	C at Step 1	Synergy Grant

2025 calls


StG
10 Jul 2024
call opens
CoG
26 Sep 2024
call opens
StG
15 Oct 2024
call deadline
CoG
14 Jan 2024
call deadline
Jul
Sep
Oct
Nov
Jan
May
Aug
SyG
11 Jul 2024
call opens
AdG
29 Aug 2024
call deadline
SyG
6 Nov 2024
call deadline
AdG
22 May 2025
call opens
AdG
28 Aug 2025
call deadline

The evaluation process and proposal preparation

Evaluation Principle

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

Research Project

- Groundbreaking nature
- Ambition
- Feasibility

Principle Investigator

- Scientific capacity
- Creativity and expertise
- Capacity to execute the project

Proposal Structure

Part A

Administrative forms and abstract

- General information
- Participating institutions
- Budget (resources/time)
- Ethics and security questionnaire

Part B1

Proposal overview and Principal Investigator profile

- Cover page with abstract
- Extended synopsis (5 pages) + references
- CV and track record (4 pages)

Part B2

Detailed research proposal

- Scientific proposal (14 pages)
  - State of the art and objectives
  - Methodology
- Funding ID

Supporting documentation

PhD certificate (StG & CoG), Host Institution support letter, annexes (extension eligibility window request documents, ethics and security documents, etc.

Evaluation steps

Assign reviewers
Abstract + Keywords

STEP 1

Remote assessment by **Panel members**
see ONLY section 1: Synopsis and CV
(Part B1)

Panel meeting

C	B	A	A
Wait for 2 years	Wait for 1 year	**not invited** Can apply next year	**invited** Max. 44

STEP 2

Remote assessment by **Panel members**
and **Remote Reviewers** of **full proposals**
(Part B1+B2)

Panel meeting
+ interview StG, CoG and AdG

A	A	B
Funded	**Not funded**	**No submission restriction**

Feedback to applicants

Panel Structure

Life Sciences	Physical Sciences and Engineering	Social Sciences and Humanities
LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures & 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	**PE1** Mathematics **PE2** Fundamental Constituents of Matter Particle **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	**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

*Description change since 2024

Panel Selection

Choose the panel that is **right for your proposal**

- **Descriptors**
  - Are indicative of the **expertise** in the Panel
  - Influence **which Panel will evaluate** your proposal
- Descriptors and free **keywords**
  - Used by the Panel chair to assign reviewers → **choose carefully**
- If the proposal is **across panels**, reviewers from both panels are used.
  - The PI can flag one "Secondary Review Panel"
  - **Explain** why the proposal is interdisciplinary (i.e., "cross-panel") in Part B1

Use the right keywords in your **abstract**, those that define your project.

Proposal Structure

Part A

Administrative forms and abstract

- General information
- Participating institutions
- Budget (resources/time)
- Ethics and security questionnaire

Part B1

Proposal overview and Principal Investigator profile

- Cover page with abstract
- Extended synopsis (5 pages) + references
- CV and track record (4 pages)

Part B2

Detailed research proposal

- Scientific proposal (14 pages)
  - State of the art and objectives
  - Methodology
- Funding ID

Supporting documentation

PhD certificate (StG & CoG), Host Institution support letter, annexes (extension eligibility window request documents, ethics and security documents, etc.

Preparing your Proposal: B1

Step 1: Panel members only see **Part B1** (cover page + abstract – 1 page)

The abstract contains a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved
(2000 characters)

Content:
- Challenges
- Overall objective
- Approach – methodology
- Potential impact

Check abstracts of
ERC funded projects

It is used to assign the project proposals to panel members

Evaluation Criteria: B1

Step 1: Panel members only see **Part B1**

Extended synopsis – 5 pages

Ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility

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 outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the groundbreaking nature and ambition of the proposed research?*

CV and Track record – 4 pages

Intellectual capacity and creativity

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

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

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

Preparing your Proposal: B1

Step 1: Panel members only see **Part B1** (extended synopsis – 5 pages)

Find the right balance

- Describe the **innovation**
  - Does your project bring new solutions or theories?
  - Does it promise to go beyond state-of-the-art?
- Show **feasibility** of the scientific approach and know-how
- Outline the **state of play** (including competition)
- Include **all essential information**
  - Add references – they do not count towards the page limit

Be concise and clear

- Avoid jargon
  - Think about **generalists** at Step 1
- Persuade evaluators that the **idea** and scientific **approach** are **feasible**
  - Don’t give more than needed (i.e., reason to reject)
- Are the goals **realistic**?
  - Think about risk mitigation

Evaluation criteria

Step 2: Panel members evaluate **Part B1, B2** and **Budget**

Ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility

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 outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the groundbreaking nature and ambition of the proposed research?*

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

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

Intellectual capacity and creativity

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

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

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

Budget

Unexplained costs **can be cut**, Open access funding

- **Justify** requested resources: Panels must ensure that the requested resources are reasonable

Preparing your Proposal

Part B2 – what to consider

Fill in the details

- Do not repeat the synopsis, rather **expand** it
  - Make it coherent with Part B1 and make clear links (e.g., aims to budget via methodologies)
- A remote expert review will be provided to the generalist panel
  - Add technical detail
- Detail the **current state-of-the-art**, **methodology** and **work plan**
- Discuss the challenges and unconventional aspects of your project
- Provide **risk mitigation** strategies
- Explain involvement of **team** members

Preparing your Proposal

Be mindful of the reader

- Ensure the project is **easy to read** and attractive
- Use paragraphs and correct grammar and typos
- **Avoid jargon**
- Use highlights but don’t abuse them
- Do not oversell it
- Figures/tables
  - Check their coherence
  - Make sure that there are proper legends
  - Ensure they are clearly visible (e.g., figure axes)

Typical reasons for rejection

Research project

- Scope: too narrow or too broad/unfocused
- Incremental research
- Work plan not detailed enough or unclear
- Insufficient risk management
- Part B2 didn't give sufficient information on the methodology

Principle Investigator

- Insufficient track-record

If rejected, **keep trying**!

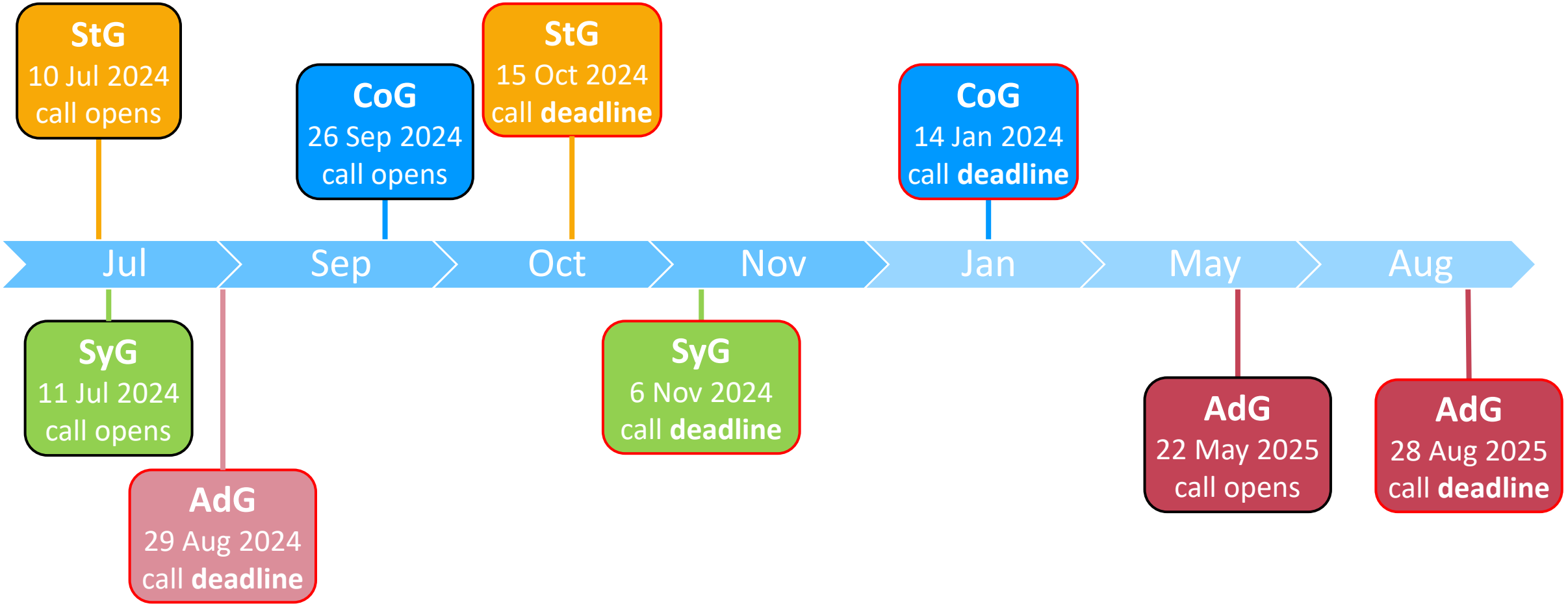
- Reapplications have a **higher success rate**
- Use the evaluation reports feedback

ERC resources and documents

- Work Programme 2025
- Videos -ERC Classes
  - What to consider before applying
  - How to fill in the application
  - The interview
  - How the evaluation works
- Evaluation of research proposals: the why and what of the ERC's recent changes (Maria Leptin)
- Q&A on Lump Sum

- Data on ERC grants and proposals
- Panel members from ERC calls under H2020&Horizon Europe
- Funding Portal: Open ERC Grants

Key dates


StG
10 Jul 2024
call opens
CoG
26 Sep 2024
call opens
StG
15 Oct 2024
call deadline
CoG
14 Jan 2024
call deadline
Jul
Sep
Oct
Nov
Jan
May
Aug
SyG
11 Jul 2024
call opens
AdG
29 Aug 2024
call deadline
SyG
6 Nov 2024
call deadline
AdG
22 May 2025
call opens
AdG
28 Aug 2025
call deadline

Luxinnovation Support

Horizon Europe NCP in Luxembourg – ERC Personalised support

Information
- Webinars
- Newsletter
- Trainings

Proposal support
- Pre-proposal check
- Advice
- Support mock interviews

Grant support
- Legal and financial issues
- Grant Agreement

Visit: horizoneurope.lu & Inscribe to Luxinnovation's newsletter

Thank you!

European RDI Support Team

Francesca Borrelli

+352 621 356 549 francesca.borrelli@luxinnovation.lu

Clarissa Gomes

+352 621 697 679 clarissa.gomes@luxinnovation.lu

LUXINNOVATION GIE
5, avenue des Hauts-Fourneaux
L-4362 Esch-sur-Alzette

www.luxinnovation.lu

Luxinnovation

@Luxinnovation
@LuxTradeInvest

@Luxinnovation
@LuxTradeInvest