



TECHNOLOGY  
CENTRE PRAGUE

# EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC):

## Rules for participation

—  
Lyudmyla Tysyachna  
National Information Day on ERC grants  
15 November 2023



# ERC RATIONALE

Bottom-up curiosity-driven research

→ no pre-defined topics

Exclusive focus on **Excellence**

→ no Impact or Implementation criteria

Support individual **Principal Investigators**

→ portability

Open to scientists of **any nationality**

→ BUT the host institution in an EU MS/AC

# ERC SCHEMES

## ERC Starting Grants (StG)

2-7 years after PhD  
min. 50 % time commitment  
up to 1.5 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Consolidator Grants (CoG)

7-12 years after PhD  
min. 40 % time commitment  
up to 2 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Advanced Grants (AdG)

min. 30 % time commitment  
up to 2.5 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Synergy Grants (SyG)

2-4 PIs  
min. 30 % time commitment  
up to 10 mil. EUR  
for 6 years

## ERC Proof of Concept (PoC)

for ERC PIs only  
150.000 EUR  
for 18 months

# ERC SCHEMES

## INDIVIDUAL SCHEMES

### ERC Starting Grants (StG)

2-7 years after PhD  
min. 50 % time commitment  
up to 1.5 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

### ERC Consolidator Grants (CoG)

7-12 years after PhD  
min. 40 % time commitment  
up to 2 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

### ERC Advanced Grants (AdG)

min. 30 % time commitment  
up to 2.5 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

### ERC Synergy Grants (SyG)

2-4 PIs  
min. 30 % time commitment  
up to 10 mil. EUR  
for 6 years

### ERC Proof of Concept (PoC)

for ERC PIs only  
150.000 EUR  
for 18 months

# ERC SCHEMES

## ERC Starting Grants (StG)

2-7 years after PhD  
min. 50 % time commitment  
up to 1.5 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Consolidator Grants (CoG)

7-12 years after PhD  
min. 40 % time commitment  
up to 2 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Advanced Grants (AdG)

min. 30 % time commitment  
up to 2.5 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Synergy Grants (SyG)



2-4 PIs  
min. 30 % time commitment  
up to 10 mil. EUR  
for 6 years

## ERC Proof of Concept (PoC)

for ERC PIs only  
150.000 EUR  
for 18 months

# ERC SCHEMES

## ERC Starting Grants (StG)

2-7 years after PhD  
min. 50 % time commitment  
up to 1.5 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Consolidator Grants (CoG)

7-12 years after PhD  
min. 40 % time commitment  
up to 2 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Advanced Grants (AdG)

min. 30 % time commitment  
up to 2.5 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Synergy Grants (SyG)

2-4 PIs  
min. 30 % time commitment  
up to 10 mil. EUR  
for 6 years

## ERC Proof of Concept (PoC)

for ERC PIs only  
150.000 EUR  
for 18 months



# PI'S OBLIGATIONS



min. 50% of time in an EU MS/AC



min. time commitment for the project

# TIME COMMITMENT

## ERC Starting Grants (StG)

2-7 years after PhD  
min. **50 %** time commitment  
up to 1.5 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Consolidator Grants (CoG)

7-12 years after PhD  
min. **40 %** time commitment  
up to 2 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Advanced Grants (AdG)

min. **30 %** time commitment  
up to 2.5 mil. EUR  
for 5 years

## ERC Synergy Grants (SyG)

2-4 PIs  
min. **30 %** time commitment  
up to 10 mil. EUR  
for 6 years

## ERC Proof of Concept (PoC)

for ERC PIs only  
150.000 EUR  
for 18 months



# ERC CALLS



Calendar and eligibility rules

# ERC 2024 CALLS

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant	Proof of Concept Grant
Call opens	11/07/2023	12/09/2023	29/05/2024	12/07/2023	16/11/2023
Deadline to submit applications	24/10/2023	12/12/2023	29/08/2024	08/11/2023	14/03/2024
	extended till 07/11/2023			extended till 15/11/2023	17/09/2024
Budget	€601m	€584m	€578m	€400m	€30m

Source: [erc.europa.eu](https://erc.europa.eu)



# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE 2024 CALLS

Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant
> 2 and $\leq$ 7 years	> 7 and $\leq$ 12 years	
prior to 1 January 2024	prior to 1 January 2024	
Cut-off dates: PhD defence between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021 (inclusive)	Cut-off dates: PhD defence between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016 (inclusive)	No specific criteria

\* Since the ERC WP 2023: change from the date of the actual award to the **date of the successful PhD defence**

# EXTENSIONS OF ELIGIBILITY PERIODS

- Under the following properly documented circumstances
  - **Maternity leave:** 18 months for each child before or after the PhD defence (or the actual leave taken)
  - **Paternity leave:** documented leave taken
  - **Long-term illness:** over 90 days for the PI or a close family member (child, spouse, parent, sibling)
  - **National service:** documented leave taken after the PhD defence
  - **Clinical training:** documented period after the PhD defence (up to a max. of 4 years)
  - **Natural disaster:** inability to work due to a natural disaster after the successful PhD defence
  - **Seeking asylum:** inability to work due to seeking asylum after the PhD defence

# RESTRICTIONS ON THE (RE)SUBMISSION

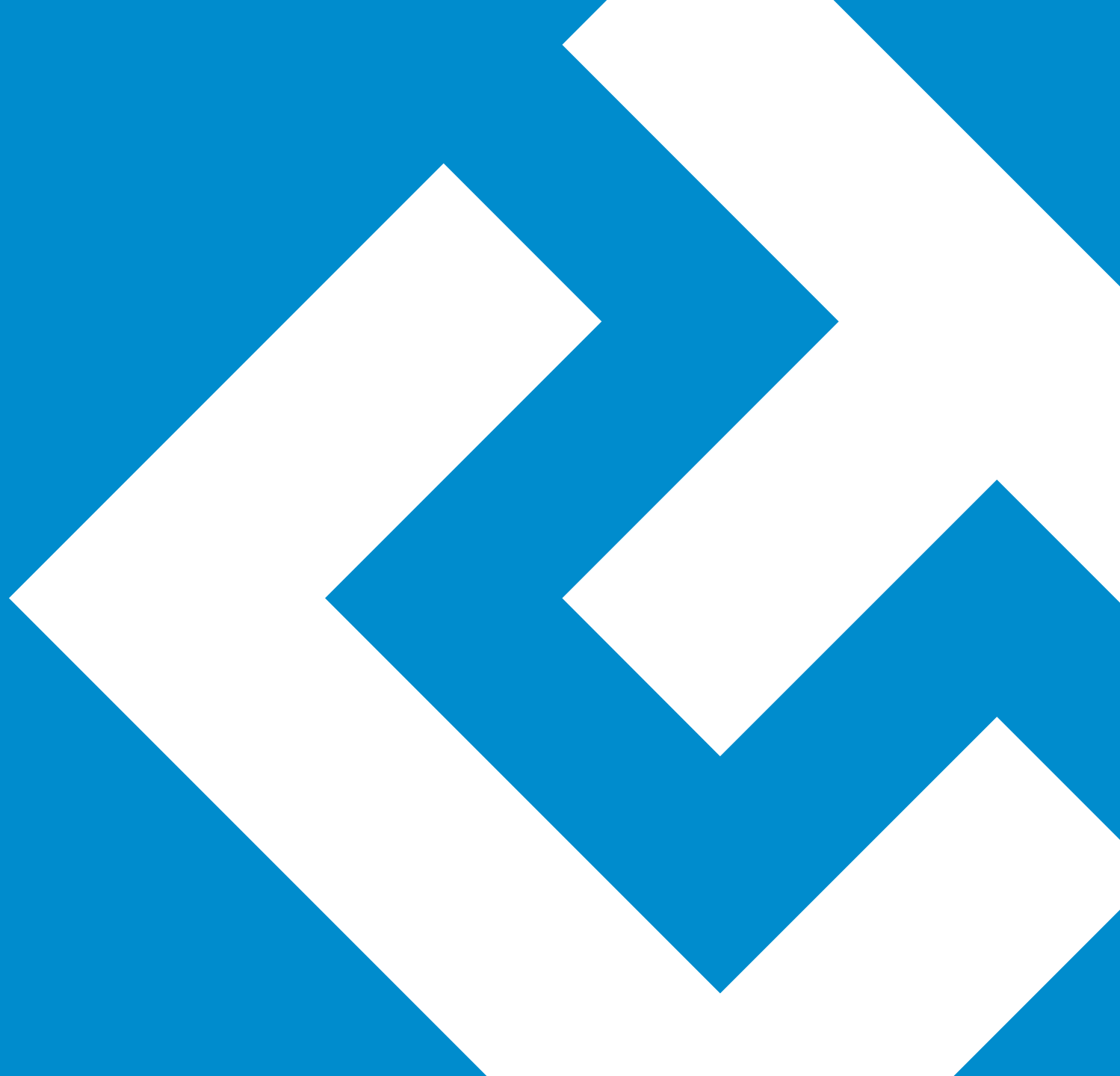
- Only the first eligible proposal will be evaluated
- Resubmission restrictions linked to the PI, not the proposal content:

Previous application	Result	Restriction on resubmission
Individual ERC schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breach of research integrity</li><li>• C in Step 1</li><li>• B in Step 1</li><li>• A not invited in Step 1</li><li>• B in Step 2</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 years StG, CoG, AdG, SyG</li><li>• 2 years StG, CoG, AdG</li><li>• 1 year StG, CoG, AdG</li><li>• no restriction</li><li>• no restriction</li></ul>
ERC Synergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Breach of research integrity</li><li>• C in Step 1</li><li>• B or A not invited in Step 1</li><li>• B in Step 2</li><li>• B in Step 3</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 years StG, CoG, AdG, SyG</li><li>• 2 years SyG</li><li>• no restriction</li><li>• no restriction</li><li>• no restriction</li></ul>

# ERC PROPOSAL

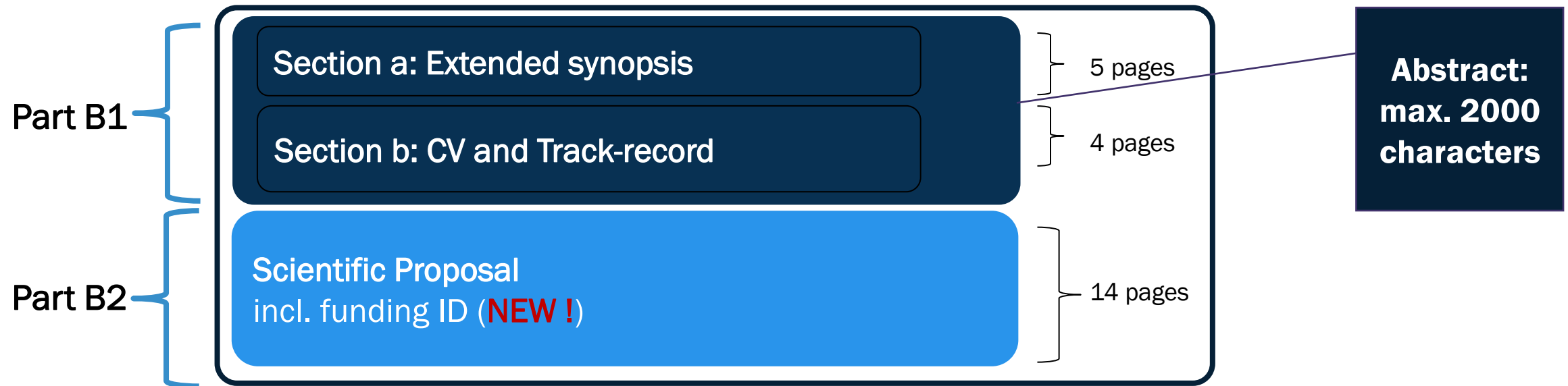


Proposal structure



# PROPOSAL STRUCTURE

**PART A:** online administrative form submitted via the FTOP – incl. **budget** (Section 3 – Budget, max. 8000 characters, incl. spaces), **ethics and security issues** tables, **time commitment** (section 5 – Other questions), etc.



- Mandatory supporting documentation (**PhD certificate** indicating the date of PhD defence, **HI support letter**, and, if relevant, any documentation needed on eligibility)
- If applicable, additional supporting documentation related to ethics and security issues

# ERC APPLICANT'S PROFILE (CV AND TRACK RECORD)

- Personal details, education, key qualifications, current and previous positions
- **Up to 10 research outputs** advancing knowledge in the field with an explanation of the significance of each output and the applicant's role in producing them
- **Peer recognition** - prizes, fellowships, etc.
- Additional information on **events and circumstances affecting the applicant's career track** (maternity and parental leaves, career breaks, other life events), but also **other noteworthy contributions to the research community**



# ERC SCIENTIFIC PANELS

## Physical Sciences & Engineering

### PE1 Mathematics

All areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics, and statistics.

### PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter

Particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics.

### PE3 Condensed Matter Physics

Structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences, biological physics.

### PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences

Analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics.

### PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials

New materials and new synthetic approaches, structure-properties relations, solid state chemistry, molecular architecture, organic chemistry.

### PE6 Computer Science and Informatics

Informatics and information systems, computer science, scientific computing, intelligent systems.

### PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering

Electrical, electronic, communication, optical and systems engineering.

### PE8 Products and Processes Engineering

Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods.

### PE9 Universe Sciences

Astro-physics/-chemistry/-biology; solar system; planetary systems; stellar, galactic and extragalactic astronomy; cosmology; space sciences; astronomical instrumentation and data.

### PE10 Earth System Science

Physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, cryology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management.

### PE11 Materials Engineering

Advanced materials development: performance enhancement, modelling, large-scale preparation, modification, tailoring, optimisation, novel and combined use of materials, etc.

## Life Sciences

### LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions

*For all organisms:* Molecular biology, biochemistry, structural biology, molecular biophysics, synthetic and chemical biology, drug design, innovative methods and modelling.

### LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems

*For all organisms:* Genetics, epigenetics, genomics and other 'omics studies, bioinformatics, systems biology, genetic diseases, gene editing, innovative methods and modelling, 'omics for personalised medicine.

### LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration

*For all organisms:* Structure and function of the cell, cell-cell communication, embryogenesis, tissue differentiation, organogenesis, growth, development, evolution of development, organoids, stem cells, regeneration, therapeutic approaches.

### LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing

Organ and tissue physiology, comparative physiology, physiology of ageing, pathophysiology, inter-organ and tissue communication, endocrinology, nutrition, metabolism, interaction with the microbiome, non-communicable diseases including cancer (and except disorders of the nervous system and immunity-related diseases).

### LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System

Nervous system development, homeostasis and ageing, nervous system function and dysfunction, systems neuroscience and modelling, biological basis of cognitive processes and of behaviour, neurological and mental disorders.

– *In humans and all other organisms*

### LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy

The immune system, related disorders and their mechanisms, biology of infectious agents and infection, biological basis of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, innovative immunological tools and approaches, including therapies.

### LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases

Medical technologies and tools for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases, therapeutic approaches and interventions, pharmacology, preventative medicine, epidemiology and public health, digital medicine.

### LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution

*For all organisms:* Ecology, biodiversity, environmental change, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology, marine biology, ecophysiology, theoretical developments and modelling.

### LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

Biotechnology using all organisms, biotechnology for environment and food applications, applied plant and animal sciences, bioengineering and synthetic biology, biomass and biofuels, biohazards.

## Social Sciences & Humanities

### SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations

Economics, finance, management.

### SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems

Political science, international relations, law.

### SH3 The Social World and Its Interactions

Sociology, social psychology, education sciences, communication studies.

### SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity

Cognitive science, psychology, linguistics.

### SH5 Texts and Concepts

Literary studies, literature, philosophy.

### SH6 The Study of the Human Past

Archaeology and history.

### SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

Human geography, demography, health, sustainability science, territorial planning, spatial analysis.

### SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts

Social anthropology, studies of cultures, studies of arts.



# BUDGET



ERC financial rules

# ERC FUNDING

## ERC Starting Grants (StG)

2-7 years after PhD  
min. 50 % time commitment  
**up to 1.5 mil. EUR**  
for 5 years

## ERC Consolidator Grants (CoG)

7-12 years after PhD  
min. 40 % time commitment  
**up to 2 mil. EUR**  
for 5 years

## ERC Advanced Grants (AdG)

min. 30 % time commitment  
**up to 2.5 mil. EUR**  
for 5 years

## ERC Synergy Grants (SyG)

2-4 PIs  
min. 30 % time commitment  
**up to 10 mil. EUR**  
for 6 years

## ERC Proof of Concept (PoC)

for ERC PIs only  
up to 150.000 EUR  
for 18 months

# ERC ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- Possibility to obtain so-called additional funding:
  - 1 mil. EUR for individual grants
  - 4 mil. EUR for ERC Synergy projects
- Reasons to request additional funding:
  1. *Reallocation costs*
  2. *Equipment*
  3. *Access to large infrastructures*
  4. *Experimental and field work*

# ERC BUDGET

## ACTUAL COSTS

- Starting
- Consolidator

## LUMP SUM

- Advanced – **NEW !**
- Proof-of-Concept

F&L NCP:  
[finance-pravo@tc.cz](mailto:finance-pravo@tc.cz)

- Based on the actually incurred eligible costs claimed in the periodic reports

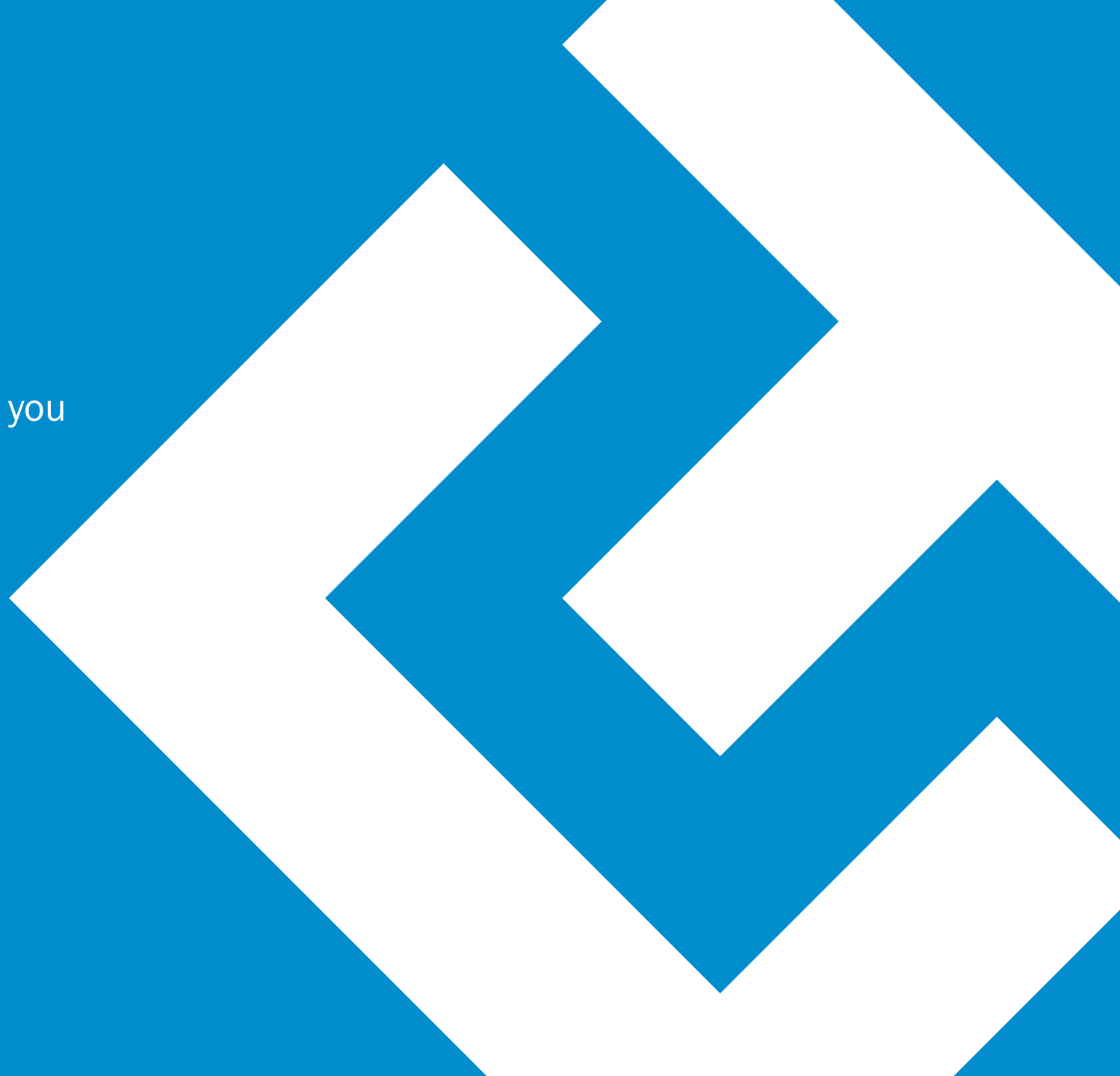
- Beneficiaries do not have to submit cost claims, but they do have to report on the scientific progress and implementation of the project. There will be no financial audits of invoices, personnel costs, time sheets, etc.
- Single lump sum contribution: payment done in two instalments (80% at the start, 20% upon completion)
- More details in the budget on the **personnel costs** (to be specified in person-months in each staff category), and **equipment costs** (information on the depreciation rules that have been applied)

- Fixed lump sum model where every funded project has the same budget, currently € 150,000

# SUPPORT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

---

What activities are there in place to help you  
with the preparation?



# EXPERT GROUP FOR SUPPORTING ERC APPLICANTS

Established by the **Joint Declaration of Charles University and Czech Academy of Sciences** from January 2021

Coordinator: prof. Ing. **Zdeněk Strakoš**, DrSc., Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University

Members:

**PE:**

doc. Ing. **Pavel Jelínek**, Ph.D., Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences  
prof. Mgr. **Pavel Jungwirth**, DrSc., Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences  
prof. **Tomáš Jungwirth**, Ph.D., Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences  
prof. Mgr. **Michal Koucký**, Ph.D., Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University

**LS:**

prof. Ing. **Michal Hocek**, CSc., DSc., Inst. of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry CAS; Faculty of Science, Charles University  
prof. RNDr. **Julius Lukeš**, CSc., Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences  
prof. RNDr. **Vojtěch Novotný**, CSc., Biology centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences  
Mgr. **Pavel Tomančák**, Ph.D., MPI-CBG/CEITEC

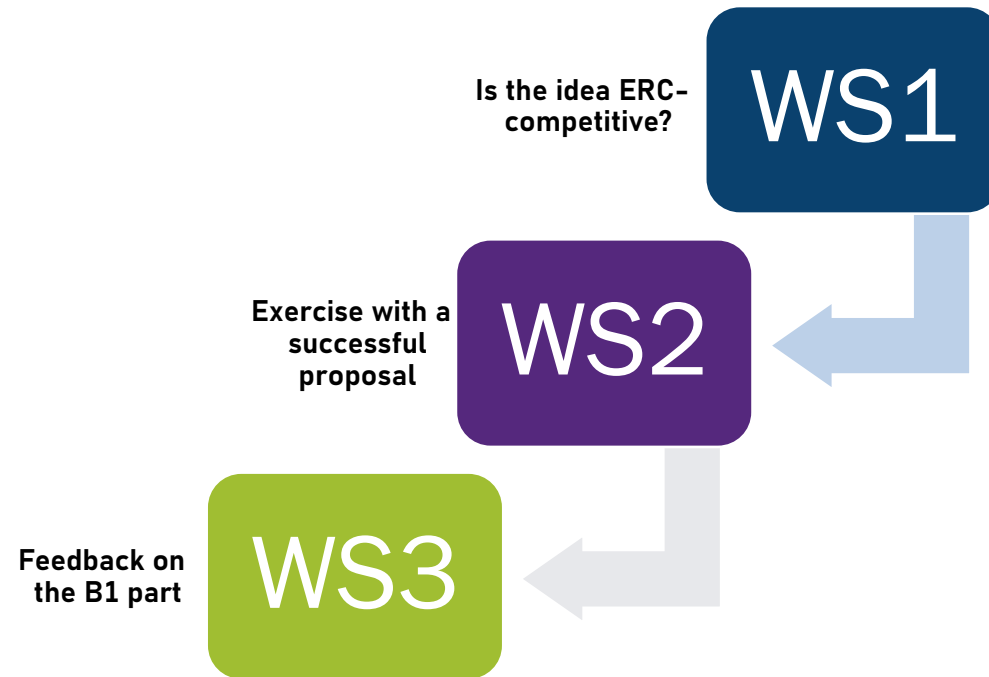
**SH:**

doc. **Mirjam Fried**, Ph.D., Faculty of Arts, Charles University  
prof. PhDr. **Tomáš Havránek**, Ph.D., Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University  
Prof. **Matthew Rampley**, B.A., Ph.D., Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University



# ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF ERC APPLICANTS

1. **NATIONAL INFORMATION DAY:** in autumn, 1 year before the submission
2. **WORKSHOPS FOR ERC APPLICANTS:** 3-part interactive training in Q2-Q3



3. **MOCK INTERVIEWS:** for ERC applicants invited to the Step 2 of evaluation



# ERC CZ

- Programme financed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic
- Aimed at **ERC applicants who passed to the Step 2** of the ERC evaluation but could not be funded by the ERC due to budgetary constraints
- Financial support: 5 years for „A” projects, 2 years for „B” projects
- Condition: **ERC CZ holders are obliged to submit a new ERC proposal within 2 years** after starting the ERC CZ project



# ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTATION



[Work Programme 2024](#)



[Information for Applicants](#)

Applicant's last name | Part B1 | ACRONYM

ERC Starting Grant 2024  
Research proposal [Part B1]<sup>1</sup>  
(Part B1 is evaluated in Step 1 and Step 2,  
Part B2 is evaluated in Step 2 only)

Proposal Full Title  
PROPOSAL ACRONYM

Cover Page:  
- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)  
- List the other PI's Host Institution for the project  
- Proposal duration in months

Please delete all text highlighted in grey in this template

Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1)

The abstract (summary) should, at a glance, provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved. The abstract will be used as the short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process and in communications to contact in particular potential independent external experts and/or to inform the Commission and/or the programme management committees and/or relevant national funding agencies. It must therefore be short and precise and should not contain confidential information.

Please use plain typed text, avoiding formulae and other special characters. The abstract must be written in English. There is a limit of 2000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

Explain and justify the cross-panel or cross domain nature of your proposal, if a secondary panel is indicated in the online proposal submission forms. There is a limit of 1000 characters, spaces and line breaks included.

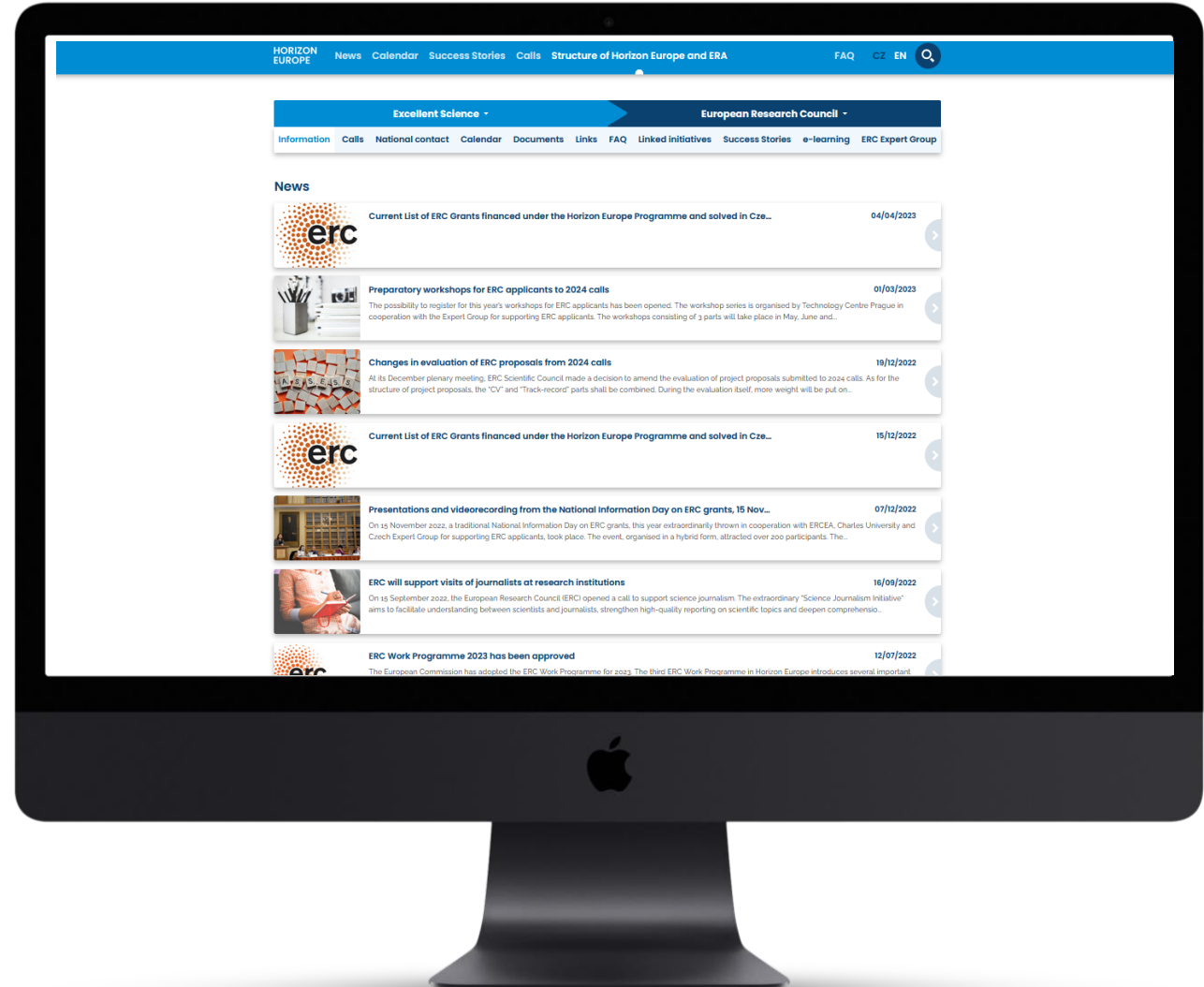
<sup>1</sup> Instructions for completing Part B1 can be found in the 'Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2024 Calls'.

1

[Proposal template \(in the FTOP\)](#)  
B1, B2, HI support letter

# FURTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

- ▶ [Czech Expert Group for Supporting ERC Applicants](#)
- ▶ [Handbook about ERC grants \(2022, in Czech\)](#)
- ▶ [Video on how to prepare an ERC budget \(in English\)](#)
- ▶ [Leaflet with recommendations on the preparation of an ERC budget \(in Czech\)](#)





# THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION.

---

**Lyudmyla Tysyachna**

*ERC and MSCA NCP*

+420 607 006 110

tysyachna@tc.cz

[www.tc.cz](http://www.tc.cz)