

Cómo preparar una propuesta ERC exitosa

Ana Martínez Vicente
Leticia Ríaza Gambero

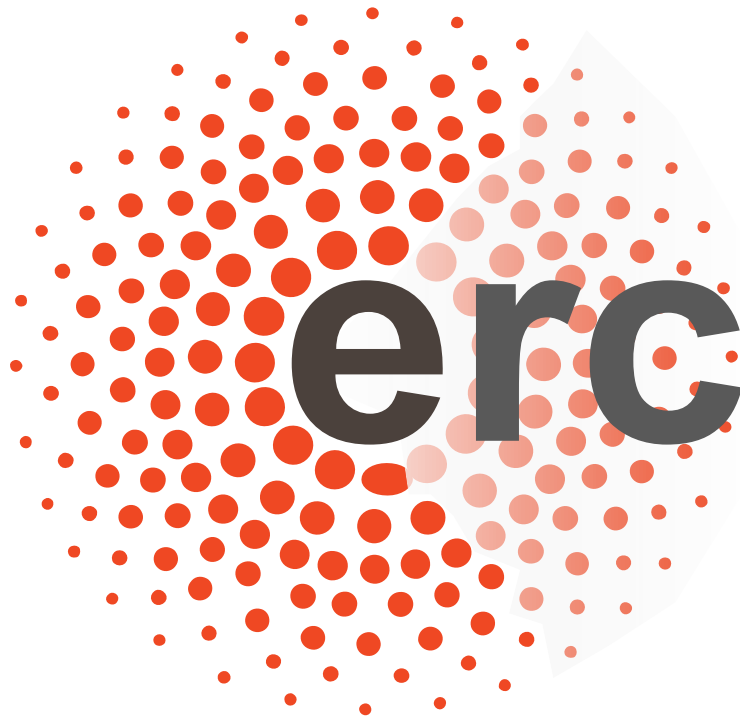
CNIC - Madrid, 12 de noviembre de 2025

Criterios de evaluación y consejos prácticos para la escritura

ÍNDICE

1. Introducción
2. Criterios y proceso de evaluación
3. Consejos prácticos
4. Recursos y apoyo

At a glance



- Pillar I of **Horizon Europe**: Excellent Science
- Open to researchers from **all over the world**
- Long-term **individual projects**
- **No thematic priorities**
- **Frontier research** in any scientific field
- Sole evaluation criterion: **scientific excellence** of the research proposal and the Principal Investigator
- **Evaluation by** internationally renowned **scientists**
- Offers researchers: **independence, recognition, and visibility**

ERC President & Scientific Council

Life Sciences



Geneviève
Almouzni
Molecular Cell
Biology



Liselotte
Højgaard
Medicine



Leszek
Kaczmarek
Neurobiology



Dirk
Inzé
Plant Biology



Luke
O'Neill
Biochemistry and
Immunology



Jesper
Svejstrup
Vice-President
Biochemistry



Maria Leptin
ERC President
Cell Biology



Gerd
Gigerenzer
Vice-President
Psychology



Eystein
Jansen
Vice-President
Earth Science

Social Sciences and Humanities



Harriet
Bulkeley
Geography



Mercedes
García-Arenal
History



Torsten
Persson
Economics



Giovanni
Sartor
Law



Milena
Žic Fuchs
Linguistics

Physical Sciences and Engineering



Conny
Aerts
Astrophysics



Tom
Henzinger
Computer
Science



Maarit
Karppinen
Chemistry



Sylvie
Lorente
Mechanical
Engineering



Björn
Ottersten
Electrical
Engineering



Tomaž Prosen
Physics



Nicola
Spaldin
Materials Theory



András
Stipsicz
Mathematics

ERC main grant schemes



Starting Grant

Up to €1.5 million + up to €1 million

Duration: up to 5 years

2-7 years of experience after PhD



Consolidator Grant

Up to €2 million + up to €1 million

Duration: up to 5 years

7-12 years of experience after PhD



Advanced Grant

Up to €2.5 million + up to €1 million

Duration: up to 5 years

An excellent scientific track record of recognized achievements



Synergy grant

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

Duration: up to 6 years

2 to 4 researchers and their research groups
(one researcher can be based outside EU/AC)



Proof of Concept

Size of the grant: €150 000

Duration: up to 18 months

Demonstrate that the idea funded by the original ERC grant has innovation potential and significant economic or societal benefits

ERC plus – to be added to the 2026 ERC Work Programme

New funding Instrument

The ERC Scientific Council is currently working on a new instrument to offer ambitious researchers substantial funding for up to seven years, as part of the **Choose Europe for Science** initiative announced by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. More details about the modalities will follow in due course. The new funding instrument will be included in an amended version of the ERC Work Programme 2026 that is expected to be adopted by the end of 2025.

**Up to 7 years
Up to €7 million**

**Details to be
published
later in 2025
as an amendment to
ERC Work
Programme 2026**

<https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/choose-europe-science-erc-welcomes-new-budget-super-grants>

Evaluation: Principle



Excellence
is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Ambition

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity

The panels will **primarily evaluate the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the project.**
At the same time, the panels will evaluate the intellectual capacity and creativity of the PI, with a focus on the extent to which the PI has the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project (no numerical scoring of PI)

Structure of the proposal (StG, CoG and AdG – 2026)

One deadline | 2 steps evaluation process

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

Part B1 - pdf

Cover Page and summary
(1p)

Part I of the Scientific
Proposal (5p)

Curriculum vitae +
Track-record (4p)

Evaluated in Step 1

Part B2 - pdf

Part II of the Scientific
Proposal **(7p)**

Appendix: funding ID

***NOT evaluated in Step
1 (only in Step 2)***

Part A – online forms

A1 General Information

A2 Participants

A3 Budget: table + description (Section C.
Resources)

A4 Ethics and security

A5 Other questions

% Time commitment

Excluded Reviewers (up to 3)

Annexes

HI support letter

Ethics and security issues

PhD certificate (StG, CoG)

Eligibility Extension Request (StG, CoG)

Criterios y proceso de evaluación

Research Project – Evaluation Elements

At Step 1

- To what extent does the research address **important scientific questions**?
- To what extent are the **project's objectives ambitious** and will it advance the frontier of knowledge?
- *Synergy Grants only*: To what extent does the proposal go **beyond** what the individual Principal Investigators **could achieve alone**?

At Step 2

- To what extent are the research **methodology** and **working arrangements** appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?
- To what extent are the **timescales and resources** adequate and properly justified?
- *Synergy Grants only*: 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?

Scientific Proposal (StG, CoG and AdG – 2026)

	Part I (5 pages)	Part II (7 pages)
Objective	To convince the evaluation panel that the proposal presents an original and creative idea addressing an important scientific question , with the potential to advance the frontiers of knowledge	Explain how the project will be implemented in detail.
Content	- State of the knowledge - Scientific question and objectives - Overall approach or research strategy - <i>Expected contribution to the field</i>	- Detailed methodology - Work plan and timeline - Risk assessment and mitigation - Additional background (if needed)
Tone	- <i>Visionary, conceptual, persuasive: focused on scientific ambition, without technical detail.</i>	- <i>Precise, technical, and implementation-focused — aimed at experts in the field.</i>

** Assumed by the Spanish NCPs*

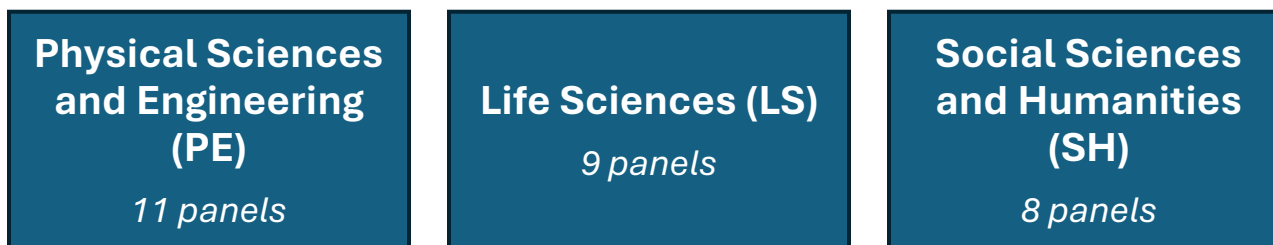
Principal Investigator - Intellectual capacity and creativity

At Step 1 and Step 2:

- 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 Grants only**: To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group demonstrate that it **brings together the know-how necessary** to address the proposed research question(s)?

Evaluation panels

28 panels divided into 3 domains. Each panel covers a number of research topics, detailed with their descriptors.



When you submit, you need to indicate:

Primary ERC Review Panel : which will in principle evaluate the proposal

Secondary ERC Review Panel: *if applicable*

Please select, if applicable, the ERC keyword(s) that best characterise the subject of your proposal in order of priority.

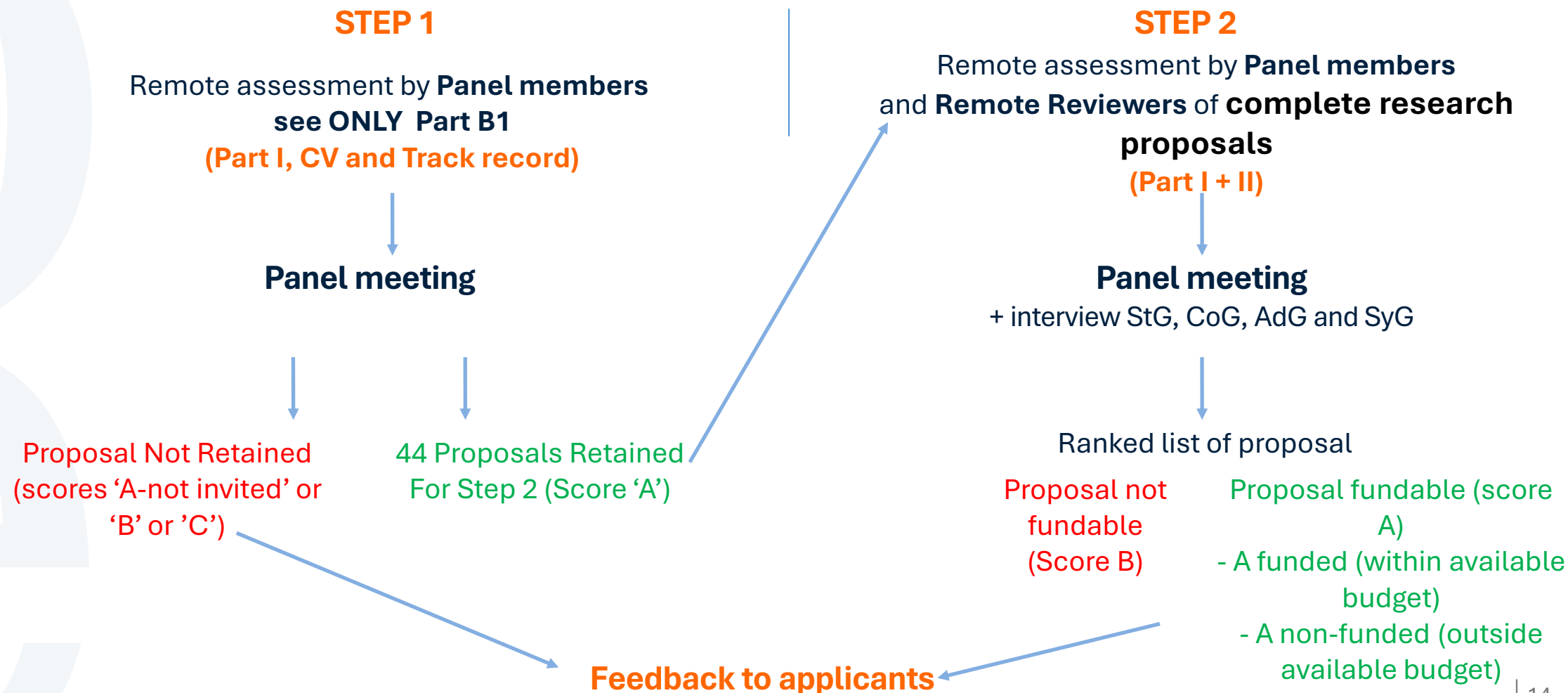
ERC Keyword 1: As first keyword, choose one which is linked to the Primary Review Panel.

ERC Keyword 2-4: *if applicable, from any panel*

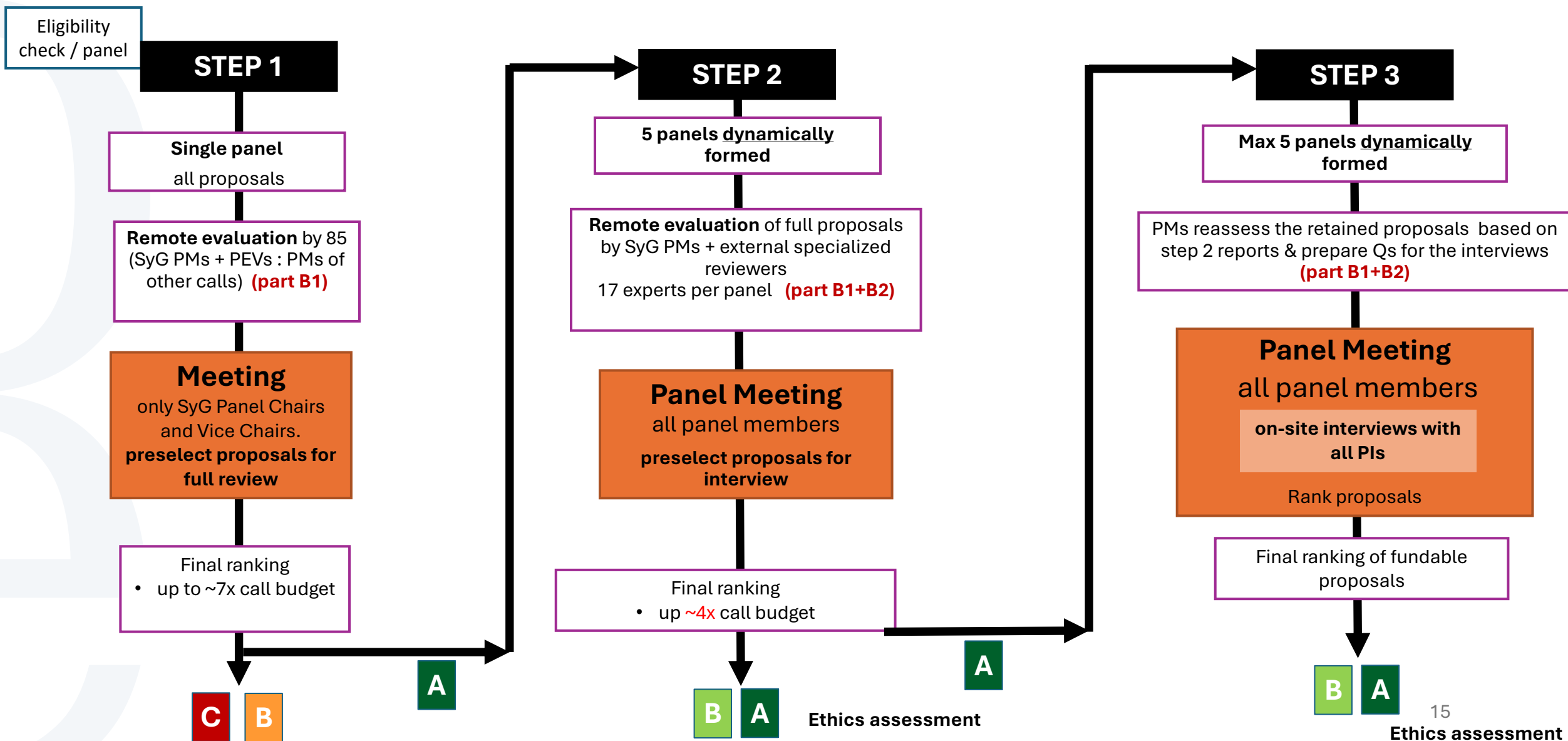
Free keywords: FREE text, they guide (but do not determine) the allocation of proposals to reviewers

Evaluation process (StG, CoG and AdG)

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

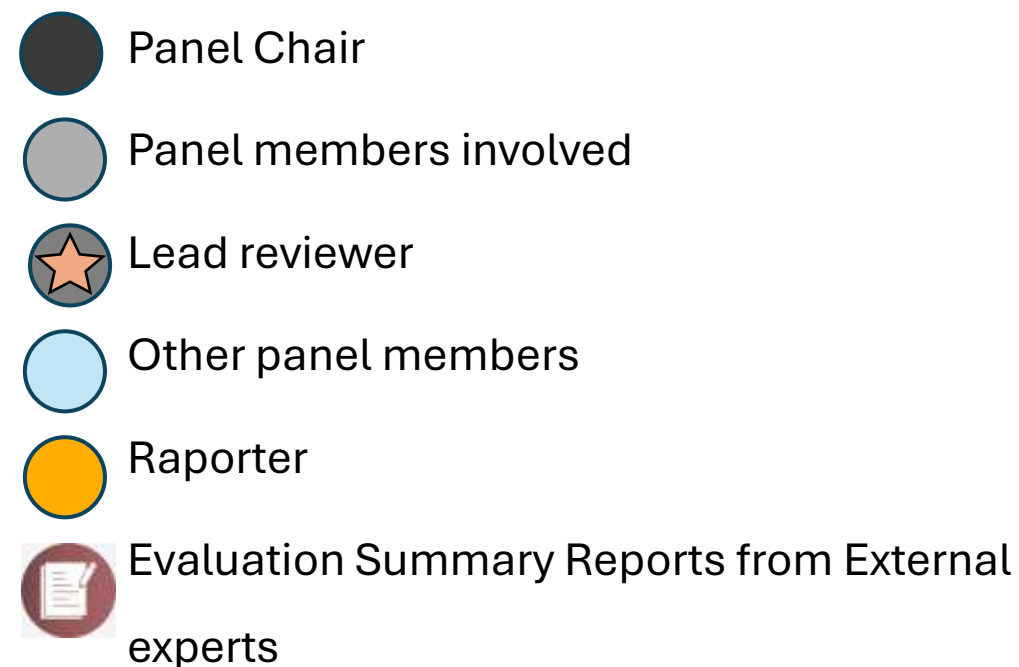
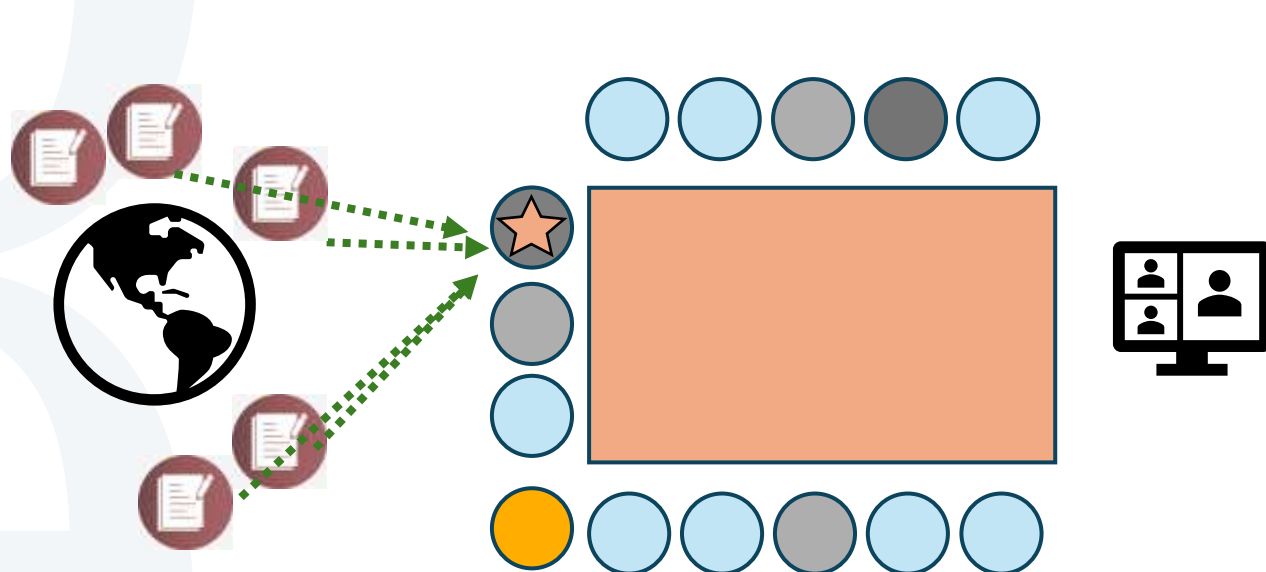


ERC SyG Grant



La entrevista

- Presentation (3-10 min.) + Question (15-25min) = Total 30min
- Panel members: Top Science Experts, but possibly no expert in your field
- Reports from Top Science Experts in your field
- **Consensus** must be reached



Consejos Prácticos

Write your proposal so that a few experts can defend it and the full panel can support it.

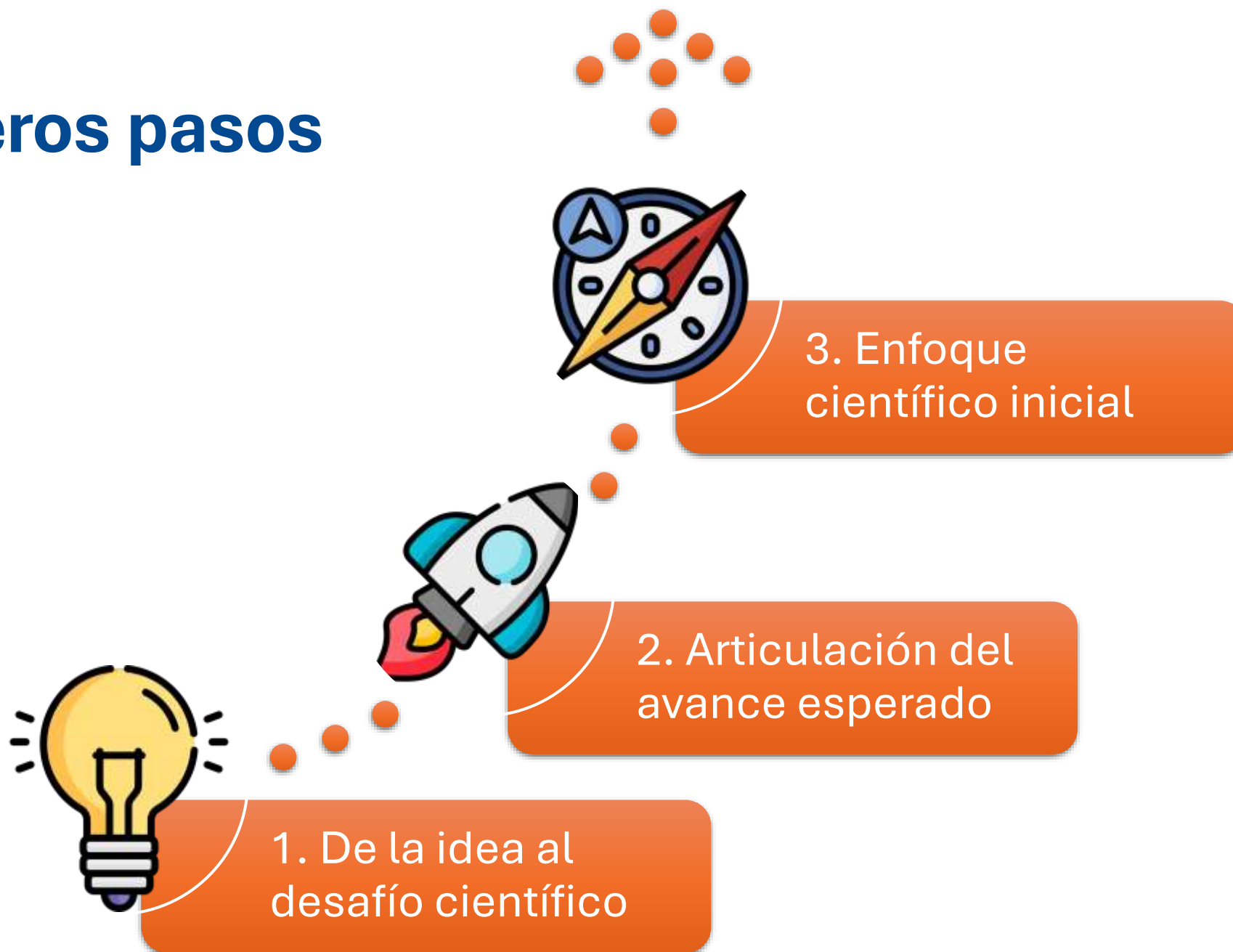
- Each ERC panel includes 12–18 members, [collectively covering all disciplines](#) represented by the panel's keywords.
- In [Step 1](#), your proposal is read in detail by 2–3 panel members—those most familiar with your field.
- If you reach [Step 2](#), it means you've convinced those experts (during the interview and final discussion)
- There are [no quotas by discipline](#): all proposals compete equally, regardless of topic.

Scientific Proposal (StG, CoG and AdG – 2026)

	Part I (5 pages)	Part II (7 pages)
Objective	To convince the evaluation panel that the proposal presents an original and creative idea addressing an important scientific question , with the potential to advance the frontiers of knowledge	Explain how the project will be implemented in detail.
Content	- State of the knowledge - Scientific question and objectives - Overall approach or research strategy - <i>Expected contribution to the field</i>	- Detailed methodology - Work plan and timeline - Risk assessment and mitigation - Additional background (if needed)
Tone	- Visionary, conceptual, persuasive: focused on scientific ambition, without technical detail.	- Precise, technical, and implementation-focused — aimed at experts in the field.

** Assumed by the Spanish NCPs*

Primeros pasos



1. De la idea al desafío científico



Todo
empieza con
una gran
pregunta

- Una buena pregunta científica es ambiciosa y clara, no necesariamente compleja.
- Curiosidad y relevancia deben ir de la mano: la pregunta debe importar para el conocimiento.
- El punto de partida no es un problema técnico, sino una laguna conceptual.
- Una idea ERC no busca confirmar algo, sino cambiar la forma de entenderlo.
- Si la pregunta puede responderse con un proyecto nacional o colaborativo estándar, probablemente no es aún “ERC level”.

2. Articulación del avance esperado



La ambición
está en el
avance
conceptual,
no en la
complejidad

- “Avanzar el conocimiento” no significa hacer más de lo mismo, sino abrir una nueva perspectiva o explicar lo que antes no se entendía.
- Ambición no significa complejidad técnica: se trata de un salto conceptual, no de añadir capas de detalle.
- Lo que diferencia una buena idea de una ERC idea es su capacidad transformadora.
- Hay que evitar frases genéricas (“será innovador”) y mostrar en qué consiste el avance.
- Los evaluadores buscan proyectos que cambien las reglas del juego en su campo.

3. Enfoque científico inicial



La
excelencia
también
está en el
cómo

- La excelencia también está en el cómo: una idea fuerte requiere una estrategia coherente y pensada.
- El enfoque no es una lista de métodos, sino una traducción conceptual de la idea a la acción.
- Un buen “cómo” inspira confianza: muestra que el PI ha reflexionado sobre el camino, sin perder la ambición.
- En SyG, el valor añadido está en cómo los diferentes enfoques se necesitan mutuamente para avanzar.

Resumen



Todo empieza con una gran pregunta

Una pregunta que desafíe lo establecido y busque ampliar las fronteras del conocimiento.



La ambición está en el avance conceptual, no en la complejidad

El ERC premia las ideas que cambian la forma de entender un fenómeno, no las que suman más datos o técnicas.



La excelencia también está en el cómo

Una estrategia coherente, rigurosa y bien pensada demuestra liderazgo científico y capacidad de ejecución.



Tu voz y tu visión importan

El panel quiere ver la mente creativa detrás del proyecto: tu forma única de pensar y de hacer ciencia.



En SyG, la sinergia es el motor del descubrimiento

El valor añadido surge de combinar perspectivas que, juntas, pueden hacer posible lo que ningún equipo lograría por separado.

Recursos y apoyo

Delegación española del programa ERC

**Representante
Comité de
Programa ERC**



Gonzalo Arévalo
AEI

National Contact Points ERC
erc@fecyt.es

**Técnica soporte
a servicios ERC**



Leticia Riaza
FECYT, MCIU, ISCIII



Ana Martínez
Univ. Alicante



Julio Marchamalo
FECYT, MCIU, ISCIII



Carmen Estévez
FECYT, MICIU

Expertos/as en el Comité de Programa del ERC

- Jose Luis García (CSIC)
- Cristina Espa (AEI)
- Amaia Esquisabel (Gobierno Vasco)



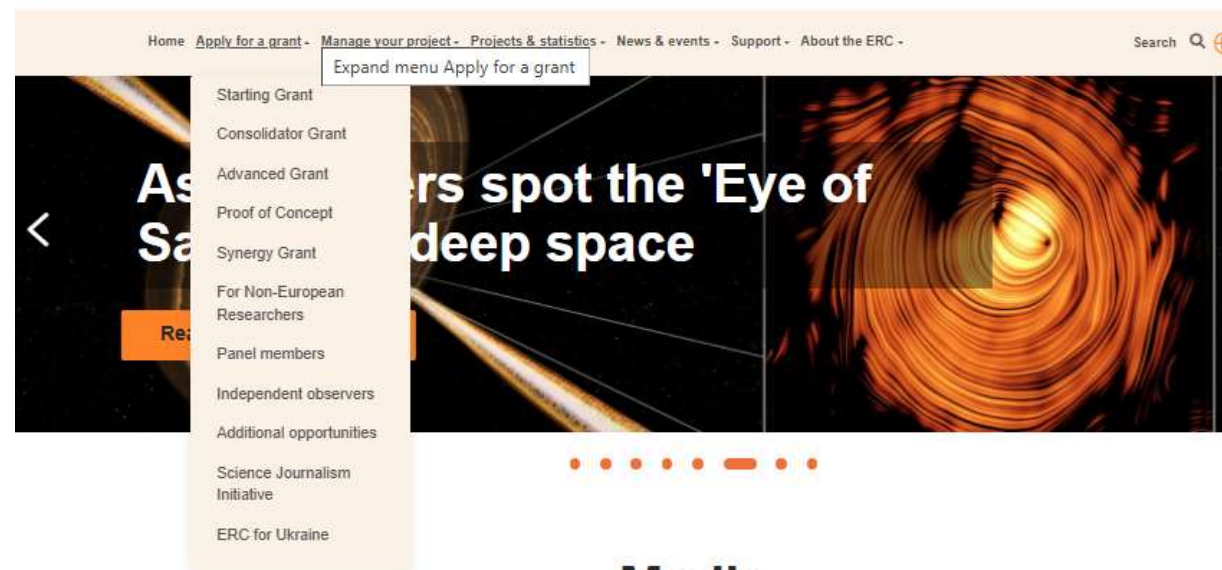
ERC

- 1  **How can you get started with your ERC proposal?**
European Research Council • 6,1 K visualizaciones • hace 1 mes
- 2  **How can you write your ERC proposal?**
European Research Council • 7,1 K visualizaciones • hace 1 mes
- 3  **How do we evaluate your ERC proposal?**
European Research Council • 2,6 K visualizaciones • hace 1 mes
- 4  **What do you need to know about the ERC Synergy Grants?**
European Research Council • 2,1 K visualizaciones • hace 1 mes
- 5  **How can you best prepare for your ERC interview?**
European Research Council • 1,5 K visualizaciones • hace 1 mes
- 6  **Why care about ethics in your ERC proposal?**
European Research Council • 951 visualizaciones • hace 1 mes
- 7  **How to communicate on your ERC science project?**
European Research Council • 2,9 K visualizaciones • hace 1 año



 **European Research Council**
Established by the European Commission

<https://erc.europa.eu/homepage>



Media

News

Magazine

Science stories

Events



<https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant>

HORIZONTE EUROPA



GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA



MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA, INNOVACIÓN Y UNIVERSIDADES

CIENCIA EXCELENTE

DESAFÍOS MUNDIALES

EUROPA INNOVADORA

WIDENING+ERA

MÁS EUROPA

Inicio

Ciencia Excelente

Consejo Europeo de Investigación (ERC)

enlaces

Consejo Europeo de Investigación (ERC)

Convocatorias ERC (visión general)

- ERC Proposal Reading Days 2025
- Webinar ERC Work Programme 2026 por ERCEA 10/07/2025)
- Webinar ERC 2025 - IKERBASQUE (07/05/2025)
- Primera jornada online de la ERCEA sobre el WP 2026 (conceptos básicos) - 10/07/2025

ERC Starting Grant

- ERC Proposal Reading Days 2025
- Webinar ERC-StG 2026 (22/07/2025) - Grabación y presentaciones

ERC-Advanced Grant

- ERC Proposal Reading Days 2025
- Presentaciones y grabaciones Jornada informativa nacional ERC-AdG-2025. 20/05/2025

Si has sido invitado a segunda fase en ERC-AdG-2025: simulacros de entrevista *(sin anunciar)*

ERC-Consolidator Grant

- ERC Proposal Reading Days 2025
- 3 Webinars ERC-CoG 2025 (27/09/2024, 18/10/2024, 11/12/2024)

ERC-Synergy Grant

- Si estáis preparando una solicitud a ERC-Synergy Grant 2026 (webinar 23 de julio de 2025 de 10 a 12h)

Propuestas ERC financiadas y en abierto

- Propuestas ERC financiadas y en abierto

NUESTROS SERVICIOS ESTÁN RECOGIDOS EN
“ENLACES DE INTERÉS”



¡Suscríbete al boletín de Horizonte Europa!

Correo electrónico

Comunidad Autónoma

Perfil

Subscribe to our
newsletter



Gracias

