ERC Starting Grant Call 2022
Notes and Tips for Applicants

The information provided in this compilation is based on several sources, in particular on key documents published by the ERC, such as the ERC Work Programme and Information for Applicants, as well as suggestions by ERC Panel members and evaluation comments.

Content

Quick Overview for Starting Grant Call 2022

Deadline: Jan 13, 2022 17:00 CET

— **Reference date** for the "Starter" and "Consolidator" eligibility window: **January 1st, 2022.**

— **MD/PhD-equivalency**: M.D. + clinical training alone does not render a M.D. degree a PhD-equivalent; a proof of an appointment that requires doctoral equivalency is necessary in addition.

— **Clinical training** can lead to a prolongation of the eligibility time window of **up to 4 years maximum.**

— **Waiting time** for **resubmission** of ERC proposals that failed **in step 1** of the evaluation: 1 year for proposals evaluated as category B, 2 years for category C proposals, except for the Synergy Gran Call (most likely). Proposals that proceed to **step 2** but are not funded can most probably be resubmitted "immediately" to ERC calls of Work programme 2023.

— The previous **section c) resources of part B2 is part of the online submission form** (section 3, max 2 pages/8000 characters in total). Part B2 is limited to **14 pages.**

— **Additional funding of up to 1 Mio EUR** possible in exceptional, defined circumstances.

— A brief explanation on **COVID-19 impact to scientific productivity** can be included in the CV.

— **Literature references** do **not count towards page limits** (B1+B2).

— **Track Record:** Presentation of **up to 5** publications, **Journal Impact factors** should not be indicated anymore in the Track Record.

— Dedicated **textbox to explain cross-panel/cross-domain nature** of proposal – only to be used if a second panel is selected (on cover page of B1).

— **Mandatory Funding ID annex** to indicate ongoing, submitted and previous grants.

— Request for **exclusion of up to three reviewers** is possible without justification.

— **Open Access** for peer-reviewed publications is mandatory (without embargo period); related costs can be charged to the project.

— **Provisions on research data sharing apply** also for ERC grants. Therefore, a Data Management Plan (DMP) is a mandatory deliverable of the ERC grant (6 months after project start).

— **Ethical issues table** and **Security issues table** need to be completed online.

— **Minimum 50% of the PI's total working time** needs to be committed to the ERC project, and PIs need to spend minimum 50% of their total working time in Europe or a Horizon Europe-Associated Country, even if their salary is not charged to the project.

— **Written consent by all participants named in the proposal needs to be documented,** e.g. by an email dated before the call deadline (not to be submitted with the application).

Important Documents and Useful Links

Please read the following two documents:
ERC Work Programme 2022 (legally binding)
Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant Call 2022
→ *includes details on the ERC panels (expertise keywords)*

— Link to previous **ERC panel members (frequently generalists)**:
https://erc.europa.eu/document-category/evaluation-panels

We recommend to use the lists of previous panel members to understand the different backgrounds and perspectives from which panel members may view your proposal. ERC panel members alternate between even and odd years, while several of the panel members will usually be replaced by new ones.

The **Panel Chairs** for the Starting Grant Call 2022 are listed here:
https://erc.europa.eu/content/panel-chairs-erc-starting-grant-2022

— Link to **database of ERC-funded projects**:
https://erc.europa.eu/projects-figures/erc-funded-projects

Here you can search for ERC project summaries and Principle Investigators of ERC grants. Search results can be filtered e.g. by panel and keywords. This may also be helpful for deciding on the most suitable evaluation panel. Please take into account, however, that the panel configurations may have changed over the years.

— ERC webpage on **open access**:
https://erc.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/managing-project/open-access

"Submit early, submit often"
Online submission of ERC proposals

*We strongly recommend to **submit a first version of the proposal around 1 week before the deadline**, in order to check for any browser problem or other technical issues that may block proposal submission, or lead to layout changes in the submitted proposal. Up to the call deadline, you can **continuously modify your proposal** by submitting (not just uploading) a new version, which will overwrite the previous one.*

— In case of technical problems with the online submission system, please **contact your host institution** (grant management/researchers´ service), the National Contact Points for ERC at **FFG** (ylva.huber@ffg.at, lil.reif@ffg.at) or directly the **Helpdesk**: **EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu** or **+32 (2) 29 92222**

— Information on how to use the online submission system is also available via the proposal submission service user manual:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/sep_usermanual.pdf

— Please ensure that all the **required supporting documents are obtained and submitted** via the submission tool in time (**Commitment letter of the Host Institution in the current template** [older versions are not accepted], ethical issues annex [ethical self-assessment and any additional documents related to ethics], other supporting documents as applicable)

— Also, please note the remark on "**consent obtained**" in the online forms ("other questions"):
*Please confirm that you (as PI) have the written consent of all participants on their involvement and the content of this proposal, as well as of any researcher mentioned in the proposal on their participation in the project (either as team member, collaborator, other PI or member of the advisory board). We may request you to provide proof of the written consent obtained at any time during the evaluation.**

The written consents should however not be submitted with the application. Consent can e.g. be documented by an **email** by the participant, which is **dated before the call deadline**.

Ethics and Security

— An **ethics issues table** has to be completed in the online submission forms. The page numbers in the ethics table refer to part B2. It is possible to indicate several page numbers divided by '/' (e.g. 12/14).

— If any of the ethics issues listed in the table applies to your proposal, **an ethics self-assessment** should be provided as well, within the corresponding online template (one text box each for Ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology and likely impact; and Compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislations). The ERCEA has provided some further explanation:

  "The Ethics self-assessment text boxes have a character limit. The automatic limit is currently set to 5000 characters/box = 10000 in total. We suggest that PIs make use of the both boxes. If the detailed explanation goes beyond the limit (10000 characters), our recommendation is to provide the detailed explanation in a separated document and uploaded the pdf file as one of the optional annexes. Please inform PIs to make a reference to the annex in the Ethics text box (application form)."

  "Applicants should only respond to the questions as displayed in the online submission form – they prevail over the ones presented in the general guidelines".

— The **ethical issues section will not be evaluated** during proposal evaluation, as communicated to FFG by the ERCEA previously:

  "Any document related to ethics (including the ethics issues table) will <u>not</u> be made available to the ERC reviewers during the evaluation. Hence, they will not be instructed to look at them. The evaluators are not supposed to take ethic issues into account during evaluations. The ethics clearance is done by the ethics review after evaluation is final."

  For proposals with immediate ethics issues, it is nonetheless "*advisable to include a short paragraph summarising how they will be dealt with and refer to the ethics self-assessment.*"

— In Horizon Europe, applicants are also requested to identify if the proposed activity will use and/or generate information which might raise **security concerns.** This occurs by completing a **security issues table** in the online proposal submission form. If applicable, available supporting documentation should be provided as well (as separate annexes). For proposals selected for funding, additional information regarding security issues may be requested at a later stage.

Evaluating Scientific Excellence: Questions that Starting Grant Reviewers Need to Answer

Source: ERC Work Programme 2022, p. 38

Research Project – Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

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)?

— To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain (i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims)?

Scientific Approach

— To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the extent that the proposed research is high risk/high gain (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 does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?

— To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal)?
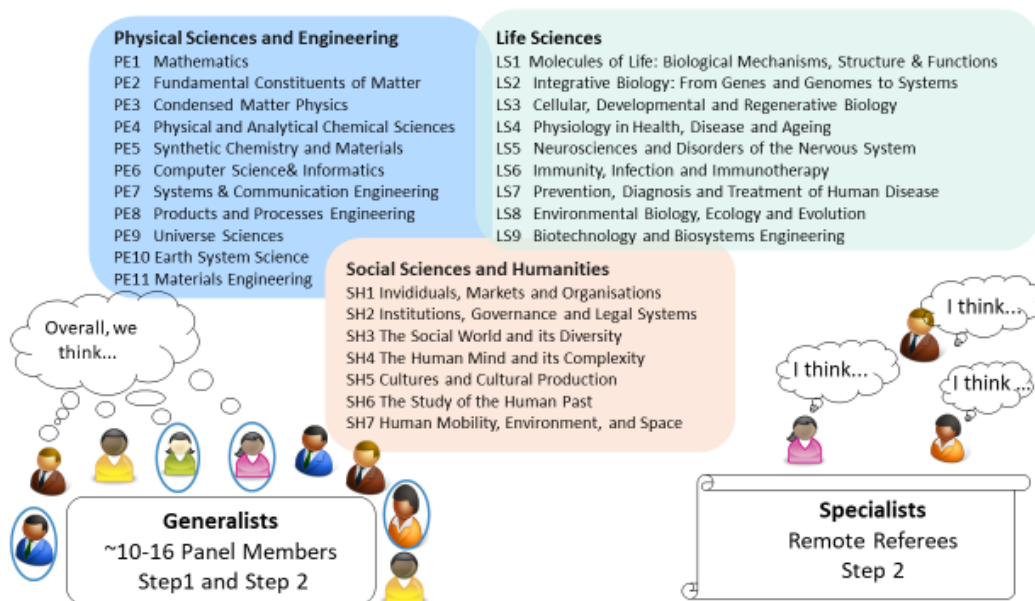
Principal Investigator – Intellectual capacity and creativity

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

— To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking?

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

The Evaluation Process – Generalists and Specialists

Which panel?

— Consider which panel is likely in the best position to understand the ground-breaking nature of your project, and to appreciate your previous achievements.

— While the ERC welcomes interdisciplinary projects, they constitute a challenge for the evaluation process, as these proposals need to be rated as excellent in every discipline they cover. If you consider your proposal to be interdisciplinary (cross-panel/cross-domain), you can indicate a secondary panel in the online-submission system. In this case, please describe the cross-panel/cross-domain nature in the dedicated text box on the B1 cover page. However, we recommend to give some extra thought to this question. So far, the success rates of explicitly cross-panel proposals apparently has been lower at least in the first step of the evaluation (while success rates for cross-panel proposals are higher in the second stage, according to information by the ERCEA). One reason for the lower success rate at step 1 might be that panel members from the secondary panel (usually one panel member) are not physically present during panel meetings, but only submit their written comments to the panel. As an alternative to selecting two panels, you can choose only one panel, and add keywords from other relevant panels (as well as free keywords).

— Exceptionally, the ERC may also allocate a proposal to a different panel than the one indicated by the PI.

Physical Sciences and 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& Informatics
PE7 Systems & Communication Engineering
PE8 Products and Processes Engineering
PE9 Universe Sciences
PE10 Earth System Science
PE11 Materials Engineering

Life Sciences
LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structure & Functions
LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems
LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing
LS5 Neurosciences and Disorders of the Nervous System
LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy
LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Disease
LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

Social Sciences and Humanities
SH1 Invididuals, Markets and Organisations
SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
SH3 The Social World and its Diversity
SH4 The Human Mind and its Complexity
SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production
SH6 The Study of the Human Past
SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

Overall, we think...

I think...

Generalists
~10-16 Panel Members
Step1 and Step 2
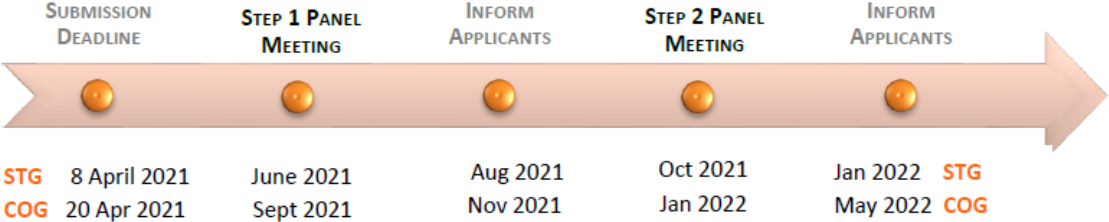
Specialists
Remote Referees
Step 2

Evaluation step 1

Usually **four Panel Members** (out of approximately 14-16) **read part B1 only**. The majority may often be **generalists rather than specialists** in the area(s) of your project. The success rate of proposals in step 1 is typically around 30%.

Evaluation step 2

The **full proposal (B1 and B2) becomes accessible** to the **panel members and** to **specialist remote referees** (selected by the panel members based on part B1 only). The final decision on the recommendation of a project for funding lies with the panel members. The success rate of proposals in step 2 ranges approximately between 30% and 50%.

Indicative Evaluation Schedule for the Starting Grant Call 2022

SUBMISSION DEADLINE	STEP 1 PANEL MEETING	INFORM APPLICANTS	STEP 2 PANEL MEETING	INFORM APPLICANTS
STG 8 April 2021	June 2021	Aug 2021	Oct 2021	Jan 2022 **STG**
COG 20 Apr 2021	Sept 2021	Nov 2021	Jan 2022	May 2022 **COG**

Considerations and Tips for a
Convincing ERC Starting Grant Proposal

Questions and critical comments of colleagues (both within and beyond your research field, ideally with a background similar to that of potential panel members) on the proposal will be highly valuable.

Structure

— Provide a **clear, coherent structure** ("everything on a silver platter").

— Your proposal should read as a compelling, **authentic narrative**.

— **Present the big picture early to** put your research into a broader **context.** This will help to **motivate your research goals** and to capture the interest also of reviewers who are **non-specialists** in the field (often the majority).

— The introduction/motivation should, however, not dominate the proposal: The **major part** of the grant application should explain concretely your **novel approach and planned work**. (As a rule of thumb for B1: minimum 50 % of the extended synopsis).

— Present the concrete **aims/objectives** of your project rather early and in a highly visible manner (e.g. bullet points, bold fonts, text box). Panel Members like to see them at the first glance.

— The **perfect match between aims/objectives, the methodology and the workplan** of the project should be easy to perceive. For instance, you can refer to aim(s) 1,2 when describing method x or research line/workpackage y). This will support the impression of a coherent proposal.

— It may helpful in the writing process to read parts of your proposal out loud.

B1 – Extended Synopsis

Part B1 is your "ticket to the interview". It is important to write it in a clear, succinct manner attractive also to non-experts in the field - possibly a majority of the panel members. Only part B1 is read at step 1 of the evaluation. It should contain all essential information, and communicate the ambition and the feasibility of your project.

We suggest to consider in particular the following aspects:

— Key **preliminary data**/results/**proof of principle** already obtained, e.g. in a pilot study. Ideally, a first publication demonstrating the high promise of your approach can be presented.

— **Risks and contingency strategies** (what are significant risks and your plan B, why does the project have a favourable risk-gain-balance).

— Explaining how you will **validate** the results of your project. E.g. how will you determine causality, as opposed to "only" correlation? → to show the **explanatory power** of your approach.

— Any other important information to underscore the breakthrough potential of your proposal. For instance, reviewers frequently ask whether the results obtained in the ERC project will be **generalizable**.

— One or a few high quality **figure(s)** can also be very helpful for B1, e.g. a flowchart to illustrate your approach.

— Based on evaluation comments, we strongly recommend to also include a paragraph/sentence on the **team composition** in B1 (message: the necessary expertise will be assembled in your team), as well as a **brief timeplan** (1-2 sentences, or putting timing information in brackets, e.g. "aim 1… [Year 1-3]" / "key intermediate goal x [Year 3]"). More details on these aspects should be provided in B2.

— **References to literature** should be included. They do not count towards the five pages-limit. The references in B1 may also support Panel Members in selecting the external referees to evaluate the proposal in step 2 of the evaluation.

B2 – Scientific Proposal

Part B2 should present the required details for the evaluation by specialist reviewers in step 2. This concerns in particular the methodology, preliminary data, and risks and contingency plans.

— **Avoid unnecessary repetition between part B1 and B2**. As part B1 should capture the essence of the entire proposal, B1 and B2 need to be mutually consistent. However, some panel members may disprove of longer sections with identical wording in B1 and B2. In part B2, you can also refer to figures/text presented in part B1. This can save valuable space in B2 to provide more detailed information e.g. on methodological aspects for specialist reviewers.

— We recommend to maintain the overall structure of B2 provided for in the B2 template with two sections: a) State of the art and objectives; b) Methodology.

— Where applicable, present important **intermediate goals** and any intermediate stages where results may require adjustments to your planning.

— Highlight any **novel/unconventional methodology.**

— **Deal appropriately with significant risks** (contingency plans, alternative strategies; promising preliminary data), in order to further bolster the message of a favourable risk-gain-balance.

— Reviewers will likely expect a reasonable **time plan** for an ERC project. It has meanwhile become standard in part B2 of ERC proposals to present e.g. a Gantt chart or overview table on key intermediate goals/milestones (see example in figure 1 below). However, the time plan should not be too detailed to be credible for a ground-breaking research agenda.

— **References to literature** should be included, but will not count towards the 14 pages-limit.

	Aim 1	Aim 2	Aim 3
Years 1-2	Analysis of… Publication 1…	Purify…	Visualize… Conference…
Years 3-4	Maps…	Integration of…	…
Year 5	Model…	Correlation of findings…	…Publications,…

Figure 1 Fictitious example table for key intermediate goals

Further Suggestions with Relevance both for B1 + B2

Novelty and unique features

— Address explicitly the **ground-breaking nature** of the project. What is the currently intractable research problem? What is the core novelty of your approach? What will be the main contribution of your project, how will it change the field/open up a new field?

— We recommend to explain the "immediate" impact of the project on your field/other fields and also to outline your more **long-term-vision beyond the project** (e.g. 5-10 years from now).

— It should be evident for reviewers that your approach is genuinely novel, timely, and not an incremental extension of (your) previous research.

— Explain the **unique features** and the advantages of your approach compared to **competing approaches.**

Hypothesis-driven project/clearly defined research questions

— While there can be differences between research fields/disciplines, ERC reviewers frequently comment positively on the fact that a project is hypothesis-driven. In any case, however, the overarching research questions should be crystal clear. Proposals that lack such question(s) and come across as largely technology- or methodology-driven will likely be at a disadvantage.

Scope of the project

— As with any research proposal, also the scope of an ERC project can be questioned by reviewers – either as being too broad or too narrowly focused/incremental. It is therefore important to explain why the approach you have chosen is the best strategy to achieve a breakthrough.

Clarity

— Your proposal needs to be **well understandable** also for **reviewers that are not specialists** in your own research field/topic.

— **Important:** Precise wording/descriptions, clear (working) definitions, concrete examples, high quality figures.

— Ensure a **reader-friendly layout**. It can be helpful to highlight key messages, e.g. by a short summary of a section in a text box, bullet points, selective use of bold fonts.

Collaborations

— Strive for a good balance when describing collaborations for the project: explain their importance for the project, but without giving the impression of the PI being "too dependent" on them. Messages: Due to the excellent network of the PI, s/he will have access to all required complementary expertise and infrastructure. The collaborations are well-defined and targeted. This should avoid a potential impression of a project based on a consortium, as the ERC explicitly does not fund consortia (see ERC Work Programme). If you think your project would actually require several PIs, the ERC Synergy Grant call (for a group of 2-4 PIs) could be an interesting option.

Demonstrating a competitive Starter profile

— CV, Track Record, State of the art: Make sure that your **own contributions** (e.g. in important co-authored papers) are **clearly visible**.

— The potential for research independence of the PI should be evident throughout the proposal, i.e. not only shown in the CV and Track Record, but also in B1 and B2, for instance when presenting preliminary work/data (e.g. "As we could show in [ref.x]…").

— Your **leadership potential** should be clearly reflected in the CV/Track record, e.g. , if applicable, in terms of [co-]supervision/guidance of Master/PhD students. The requirement of a habilitation in Austria for formal supervision can be explained briefly.

— **Up to 5 representative publications** should be listed in the track record for Starters (see Work Programme 2022).

Picture the interview

— We strongly recommend to picture the interview situation when writing the proposal. This should help to ensure that the main messages you would pitch to generalist panel members in a 5-10minutes presentation are highly visible in your proposal and well understandable also to non- specialists in the field.

The Proposal Abstract

The abstract is an important part of the proposal, also during panel discussions. Therefore, it should not be underestimated.

— The majority of panel members may only read the abstract and possibly leaf through the proposals when they are discussed in the panel meetings. The abstract should therefore present the essence of your project, including the scientific challenge/knowledge gap, novel approach, objectives, potential impact, unique features.

Remarks on CV and Track Record

Curriculum Vitae (B1, Section b, max. 2 pages)

— Overall, it is recommended to **maintain the structure of the CV template,** as applicable; panel members seem to appreciate it (see also Information for Applicants, p20: "Curriculum vitae …should follow the suggested template").

— In addition to the examples provided by the CV template, please present also key activities as **reviewer for journals.**

— Provide the **name of your PhD supervisor and the title of your thesis.**

— Ensure an impeccable and reader-friendly **layout** also of the CV and Track Record section.

— **Appendix to the CV: All ongoing and submitted grants and funding of the PI (Funding ID***)* Mandatory information not counting towards page limits.

According to information by the ERCEA, the information in this table is also used to support the selection of reviewers for the proposal (avoiding potential conflicts of interest with reviewers that might be involved in running/submitted projects with the applicant).

However, if several ongoing grants are listed which will temporally overlap with the ERC project, it is advisable to also demonstrate that **the PI will be able to fulfil his/her time commitment to the ERC project**, e.g. by indicating the percentage of time commitment of the PI for the other grants in the table.

For submitted grant proposals which **strongly overlap with the content of the ERC project** (e.g. in the case of an FWF START application)**, we recommend to add an explanatory sentence**, e.g.: "In case both the X grant application and the ERC Starting grant application are successful, I shall accept the ERC Grant and decline the X grant".

— You can also present the total amount of funding obtained by the PI so far (CV or Track record).

— A brief explanation on **COVID-19 impact to scientific productivity** can be included in a dedicated section of the CV with maximum 300 characters. Any specific situation caused by the pandemic with a negative impact on the curriculum vitae or track record should be mentioned under this section.

Early Achievements Track-Record (B1, Section c, max. 2 pages)

— The overall **structure** of the early achievements track record is provided in the **ERC Work Programme 2022, p19.**

— Your most important publications (**up to five**) should be presented, highlighting those as main author and/or without the co-authorship of your PhD supervisor. You can also add field relevant bibliometric indicators, e.g. citations without self-citations (see ERC Work Programme 2022; Information for Applicants 2022). However, **journal impact factors should not be mentioned** anymore. **Preprints** may be included, if freely available from a preprint server and should be properly referenced and either a link to the preprint or a DOI should be provided.

— We recommend to provide **summary/overview information** for the reviewers (e.g. total number of publications, contributions to conferences, citations, h-index etc as applicable; **plus weblink to full list of publications and talks**), and to provide examples ("highlights").

— For the list of five top publications in the track record, we highly recommend to **describe their significance and your contribution in a brief narrative** ("Here, we could show for the first time…"). This option is also mentioned in the Information for Applicants, p 20.

— We also suggest to refer to **any further important papers of particular relevance for your ERC project** (i.e. in addition to the top five) in the proposal as well, in particular by integrating such information in the extended synopsis and part B2.

— A short narrative on your research interests/scientific profile in the track record section can also be helpful.

Ressources

Online Submission Form Section 3: Budget Table + Text

— The **budget table and description of resources** are part of the **online submission form (Section 3 – Budget table and text box "Section C" below). They should therefore not be included in Part B2.** However, we would expect that a note we received by ERCEA for the last calls in Horizon 2020 is still valid, which confirmed that some information regarding resources, i.e. "*regarding the role of team members and collaborators, may be added in the usual (B2) sections a and b"*. This would seem reasonable, as the text box in section 3 does not allow for figures, e.g. Ganntt charts, which also may include information on team members. That said, section 3 is clearly also intended for information on the team (please see further below).

— The budget table and description of resources will be made available to panel members and remote referees. The **description of resources, without the budget table, is limited** 8.000 characters (corresponding to two pages). It does not count towards the 14 pages-limit for B2.

— Apart from explaining the project costs in the adequate detail, section 3 – resources is also designed to present information on the "size and nature of the team, indicating, where appropriate, the key team members and their roles" (see ERC Information for Applicants). We recommend to include the expertise requirements for Post Docs and PhD students that will be hired for the project, as well as information on **working arrangements** (e.g. supervision of PhD students supported by Post Docs, overall supervision and guidance by PI).

— Reviewers may question whether certain tasks could be "too demanding for a PhD student" and should rather be allocated to a Post Doc; or conversely whether the presented tasks constitute a convincing PhD project.

— We also recommend to present relevant information on the **host institution/research environment** here, to strengthen the message of "the right project and team in the right place".

— Explain your **commitment** to the project as PI, including the percentage of total working time. If you think there could be reasonable doubts on whether you will be able to fulfil the time commitment due to other duties, describe your strategy up front.

Budget Table – Remarks on Specific Cost Categories

Please contact the grant management office at your ERC host institution for support.

— **Other goods, works and services** (with overhead flat rate): As explained in the [Model Grant Agreement](#), this category includes contracts to purchase goods, works or services, e.g. contract for a computer; for an audit certificate on the financial statements; for the publication of brochures; for the creation of a project website, for the organization of the rooms and catering for a meeting, for hiring IPR consultants/agents. These costs do not arise from directly implementing the action tasks of the ERC project, but they are necessary to implement these tasks. Overheads apply to these costs, as opposed to subcontracts.

— **Subcontracting costs** (without overheads): Costs for subcontracts arise from contracts for goods, works or services that are part of the action tasks.

— **Audit costs** should be included in the **other goods, works and services** category, subcategory "other additional direct costs" (see above). In Horizon Europe, only one audit (certificate of the financial statement) is required at the end of the project, if the funding (direct costs)

amounts to ≥ 430.000 EUR. A special threshold applies for beneficiaries with a systems and process audit (requested EU contribution ≥ EUR 725 000).

— **Equipment:** Please note that typically, only **depreciation rates** (according to national rules) can be charged to the ERC for equipment (with some possible exceptions). If the depreciation period of the equipment in question exceeds the duration of the ERC project, the remaining costs have to be carried by other means. Please contact your host institution in case of questions in this context.

— The category for **internally invoiced goods and services** refers e.g. to access to internal services that are charged as unit costs (no overheads apply).

— Do not forget the possibility to include costs for publications, including **open access fees**. In Horizon Europe, as each ERC beneficiary must ensure open access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to its results. Also costs related to the management of research data / **open access to research data** can be charged.

— **Other direct costs with no overheads:** This category includes costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on the premises of the beneficiary (= host institution), e.g. access to large research facilities owned by a third party and not used on the premises of the beneficiaries.

— **PI salary:** As a PI, you may request funding for your salary corresponding to the percentage of total working time dedicated to the ERC project (or a smaller fraction of that amount), even if you already receive a salary by your host institution. Funding of (part of) the PI's salary can e.g. support the host institution in hiring a teaching replacement in case there is an agreement to reduce teaching obligations of a PI during the ERC project. Please consider, however, whether funding of the PI salary could negatively affect the composition of the team due to budget constraints.

— In case you consider a **100% time commitment as PI** to the ERC project, we recommend to give this some extra thought since it implies that for the duration of the project no time is foreseen for any other activities such as teaching, writing grant proposals, etc.. A slight reduction of your time commitment can provide you with more flexibility, also for a possible transfer of the ERC grant to another host institution.

— While the administrative requirements for ERC projects are comparatively slim, please note that you also may include personnel costs for **administrative support**. This could be discussed with your host institution.