



TECHNOLOGY
CENTRE PRAGUE

EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

-

Rules for participation according to the ERC 2025 Work Programme

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Lyudmyla Tysyachna
National Information Day on ERC grants
22 October 2024



ERC KEY CHARACTERISTICS

Bottom-up frontier 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



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC INDIVIDUAL SCHEMES



ERC Starting Grants

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

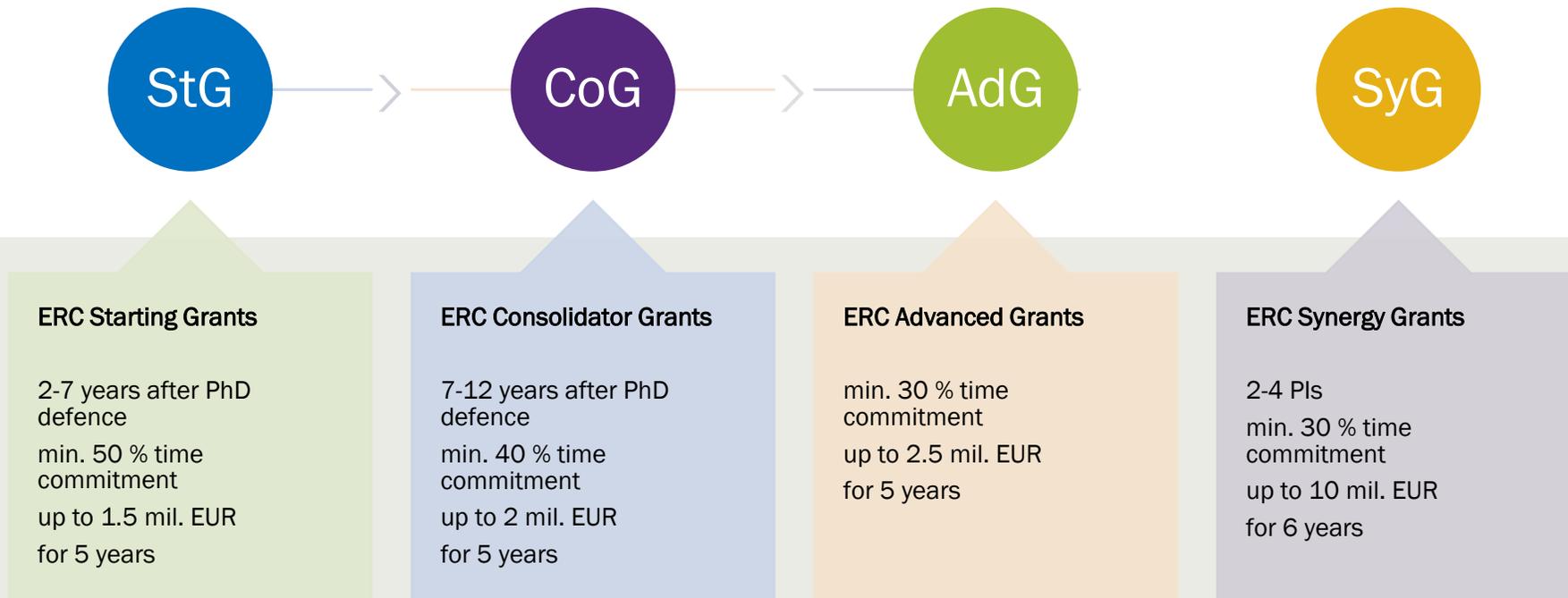
ERC Consolidator Grants

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

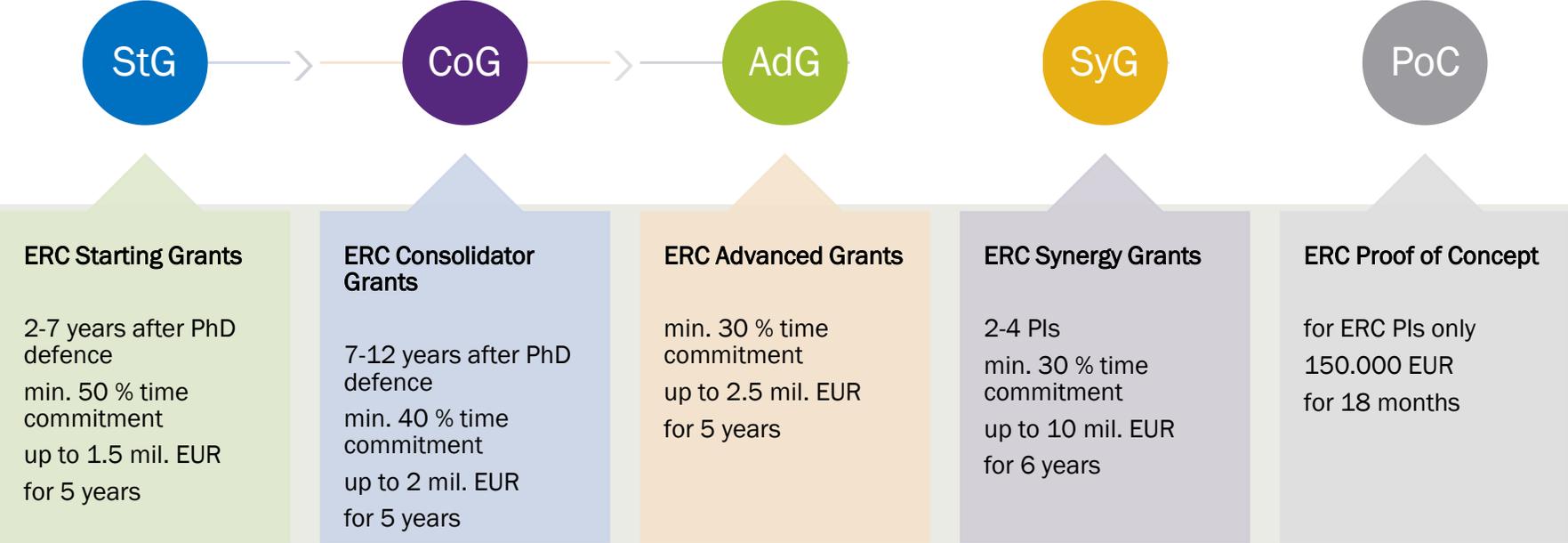
ERC Advanced Grants

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

ERC SYNERGY



ERC COMPLEMENTARY FUNDING



PI'S OBLIGATIONS



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



min. time commitment working for the project (30-50%)

ERC CALLS

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Calendar and eligibility rules

ERC 2025 CALLS

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>
<i>Call identifier</i>	ERC-2025-StG	ERC-2025-CoG	ERC-2025-AdG	ERC-2025-SyG
<i>Call opens</i>	10 July 2024	26 September 2024	22 May 2025	11 July 2024
<i>Call deadline</i>	15 October 2024	14 January 2025	28 August 2025	6 November 2024
<i>Budget million EUR²¹ (estimated number of grants)</i>	751 (483)	719 (354)	683 (276)	500 (48)
<i>Planned dates to inform applicants after each step</i>	5 May 2025 22 August 2025	18 July 2025 12 December 2025	30 January 2026 12 June 2026	14 April 2025 15 August 2025 27 October 2025
<i>Indicative date for signature of grant agreements</i>	21 December 2025	12 April 2026	17 November 2026	24 March 2026

	<i>Proof of Concept Grant (call)</i>
<i>Call identifier</i>	ERC-2025-PoC
<i>Type of action</i>	ERC frontier research grant
<i>Opening of the call</i>	13 November 2024
<i>Cut-off dates or deadline(s) for application</i>	13 March 2025 18 September 2025
<i>Budget EUR (estimated number of grants)</i>	30 000 000 (200)
<i>Planned dates to inform applicants</i>	26 June 2025 14 January 2026
<i>Indicative date for signature of grant agreements</i>	24 October 2025 14 May 2026

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE 2025 CALLS

Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant
> 2 and \leq 7 years	> 7 and \leq 12 years	
prior to 1 January 2025	prior to 1 January 2025	
Cut-off dates: PhD defence between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022 (inclusive)	Cut-off dates: PhD defence between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2017 (inclusive)	No specific criteria

EXTENSION OF THE ELIGIBILITY PERIOD FOR STG AND COG

- 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)
 - **Disability:** documented reduced amount of working time (incl. leave taken) and/or the degree of disability which occurred after the date of the successful PhD defence
 - **National service:** documented leave taken after the PhD defence
 - **Clinical training:** documented period after the PhD defence (up to a max. of 4 years)
 - **Major disaster:** documented time of inability to work due to a natural disaster after the successful PhD defence
 - **Seeking asylum:** documented time of inability to work due to seeking asylum after the PhD defence

ELIGIBILITY EXTENSION REQUEST

THE ELIGIBILITY CALCULATION WILL BE BASED ON THE SUCCESSFUL PHD DEFENCE DATE; PLEASE ATTACH THE REQUESTED DOCUMENTS TO PROVE YOUR PHD DEFENCE DATE AND THE DOCUMENT(S) SUPPORTING YOUR EXTENSION REQUEST.

In connection with my proposal [call identifier: STG 2025/ COG 2025] acronym [indicate acronym], I am requesting an extension of the eligibility window period due to:

Maternity /parental leave

Paternity / parental leave

Long-term illness*

Disability

National service

Clinical training

Major disaster

Seeking asylum

Calculation of the extension period for the applicable circumstances [each event should be listed separately]:

No.	Leave/event	[if applicable] Short description (e.g. taking care of a sick family member)	Start date (not needed for a flat rate)	End date (not needed for a flat rate)	Calculated number of days/months/years	Supporting document(s) (type)
1.						
2.						
3.						
Total extension request [1+2+3+{...}]:						

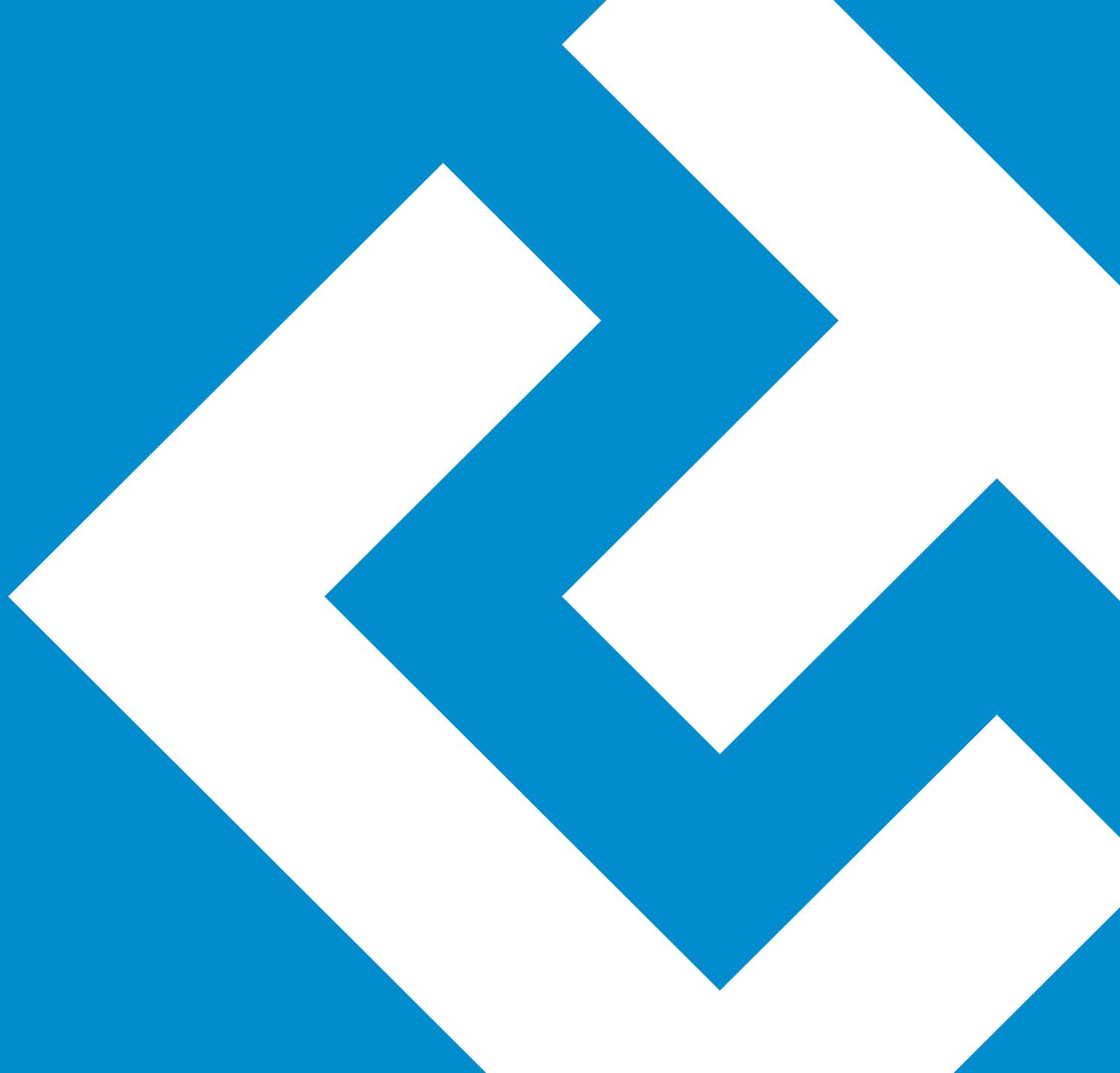
RESTRICTIONS ON THE (RE)SUBMISSION

- 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	• Breach of research integrity	• 2 years StG, CoG, AdG, SyG
	• C in Step 1	• 2 years StG, CoG, AdG
	• B in Step 1	• 1 year StG, CoG, AdG
	• A not invited in Step 1	• no restriction
	• B in Step 2	• no restriction
ERC Synergy	• Breach of research integrity	• 2 years StG, CoG, AdG, SyG
	• C in Step 1	• 2 years SyG
	• B or A not invited in Step 1	• no restriction
	• B in Step 2	• no restriction
	• B in Step 3	• no restriction

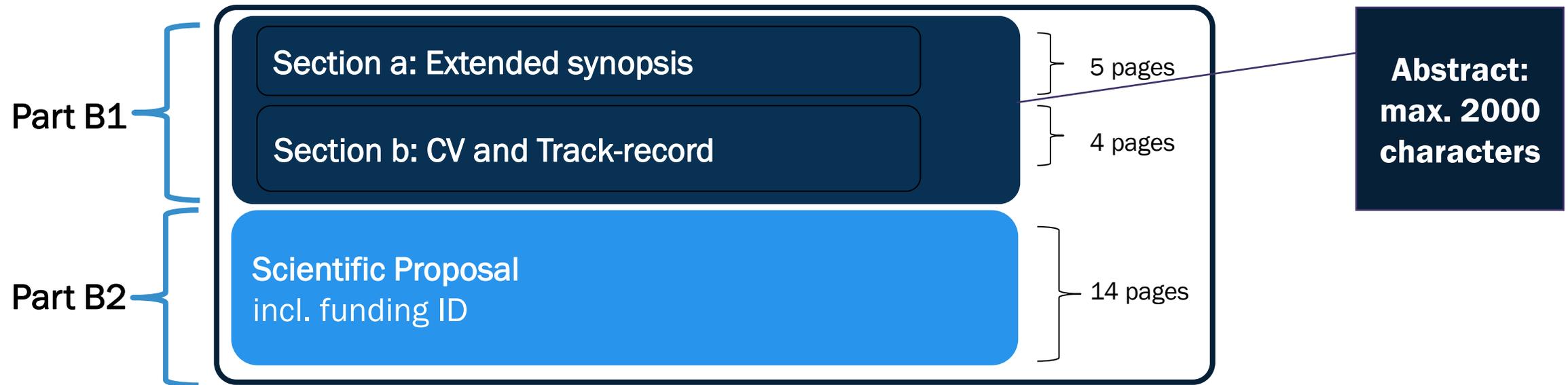
ERC PROPOSAL

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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 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

Theoretical and experimental computer science, information processing, 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.





EVALUATION: WHAT IS NEW FROM 2025 CALLS?

- **More selective and more flexible evaluation of ERC Synergy proposals:**

The budgetary cut-off level to pass to Step 3 is set to three times the panel's indicative budget.

The number of panels in Step 2 will range from five to seven.

- **Evaluation questions:**

To what extent does the proposed research address important scientific challenges?

- **Excellence must be demonstrated throughout the proposal:**

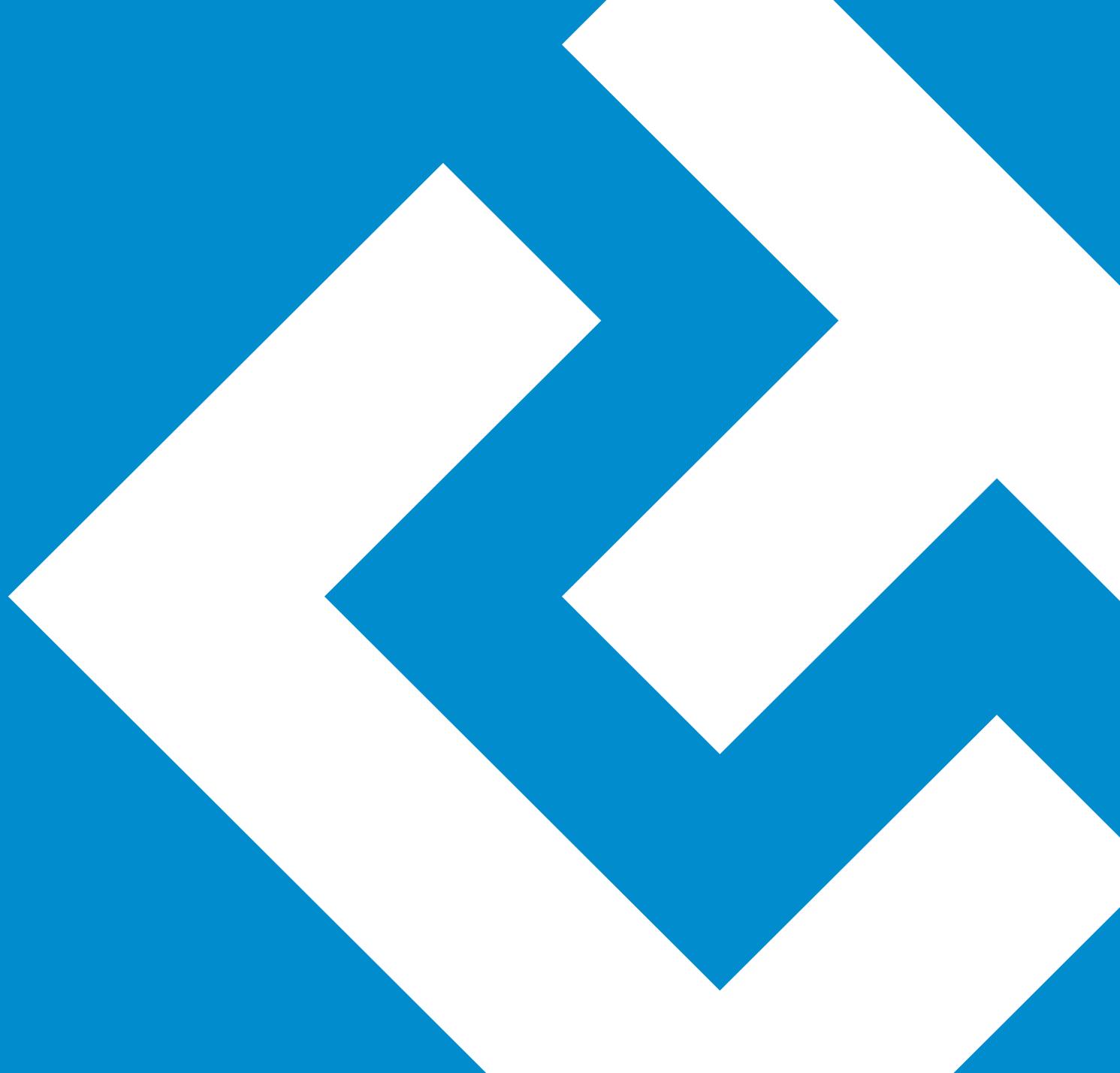
ERC evaluation panels are instructed to approve or reject proposals as a whole, and they may not select parts of a proposal for funding.

- **Multiple ERC Proof-of-Concept applications in ERC Synergy projects allowed:**

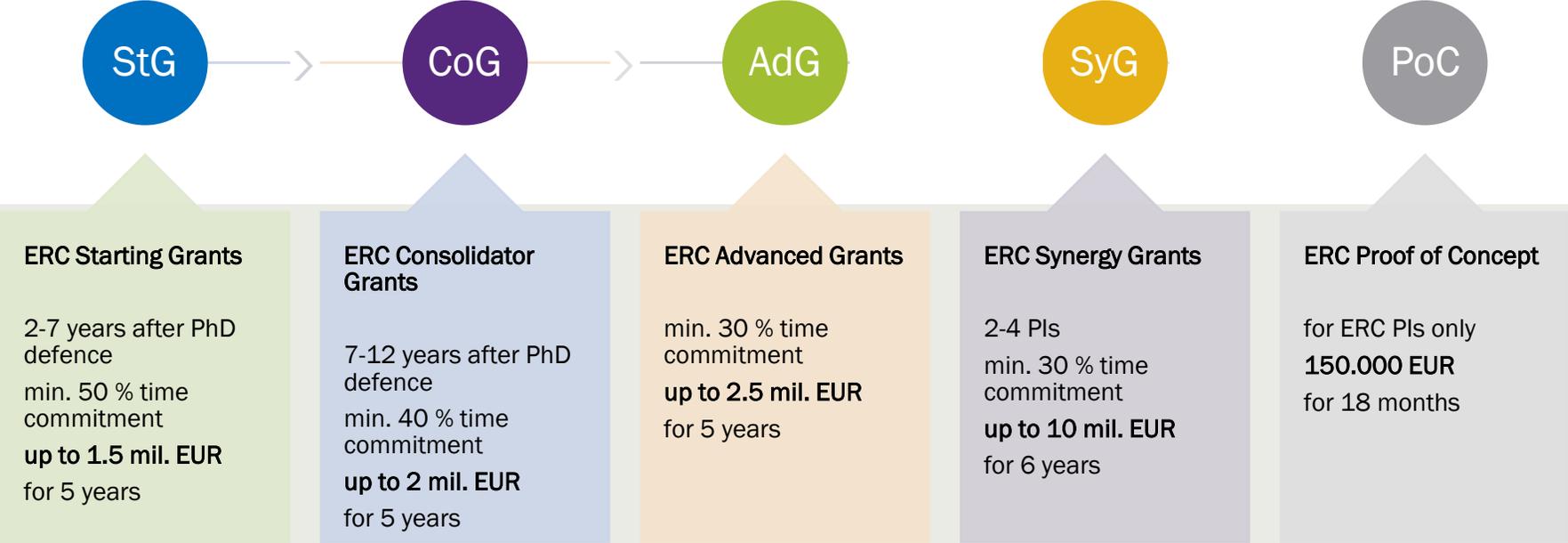
Principal Investigators in the same Synergy Grant project can each submit one Proof of Concept application under this Work Programme.

BUDGET

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ERC financial rules



ERC FUNDING



ERC ADDITIONAL FUNDING

- **Possibility to obtain 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
- Proof-of-Concept

F&L NCP:
finance-pravo@tc.cz

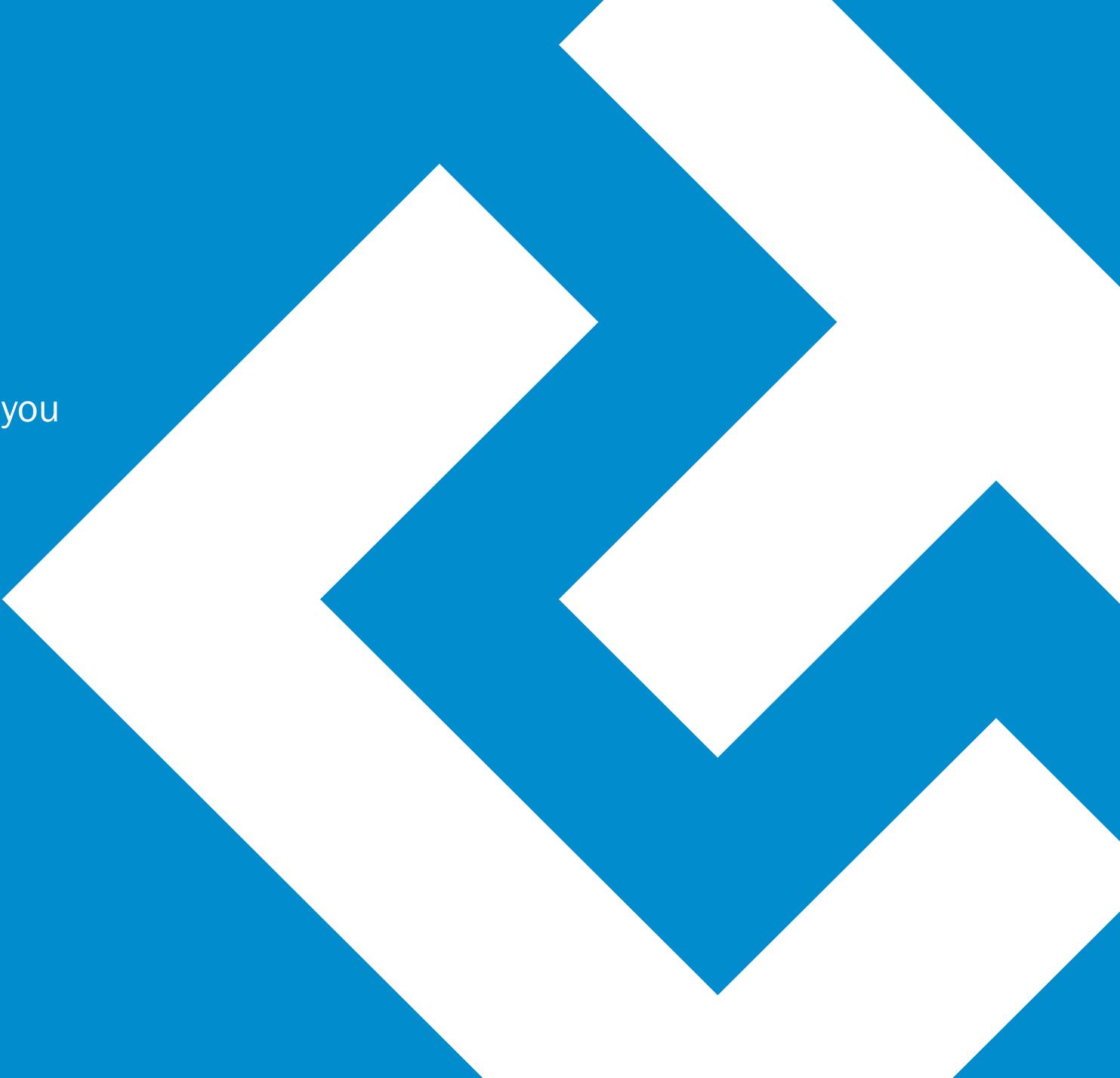
- Based on the actually incurred eligible costs claimed in the periodic reports

- Single lump sum contribution
- 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.
- 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

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



SUPPORT TO ERC APPLICANTS IN CZECHIA



CZECH EXPERT GROUP FOR SUPPORTING ERC APPLICANTS

- **Coordinator:** prof. Ing. Zdeněk Strakoš, DrSc.

- **PE:**

Chair: doc. Ing. Pavel Jelínek, Ph.D.
prof. Mgr. Pavel Jungwirth, DrSc.
prof. Tomáš Jungwirth, Ph.D.,
prof. Mgr. Michal Koucký, Ph.D.

- **LS:**

Chair: Mgr. Pavel Tomančák, Ph.D.
prof. Ing. Michal Hocek, CSc., DSc.
prof. RNDr. Julius Lukeš, CSc.
prof. RNDr. Vojtěch Novotný, CSc.

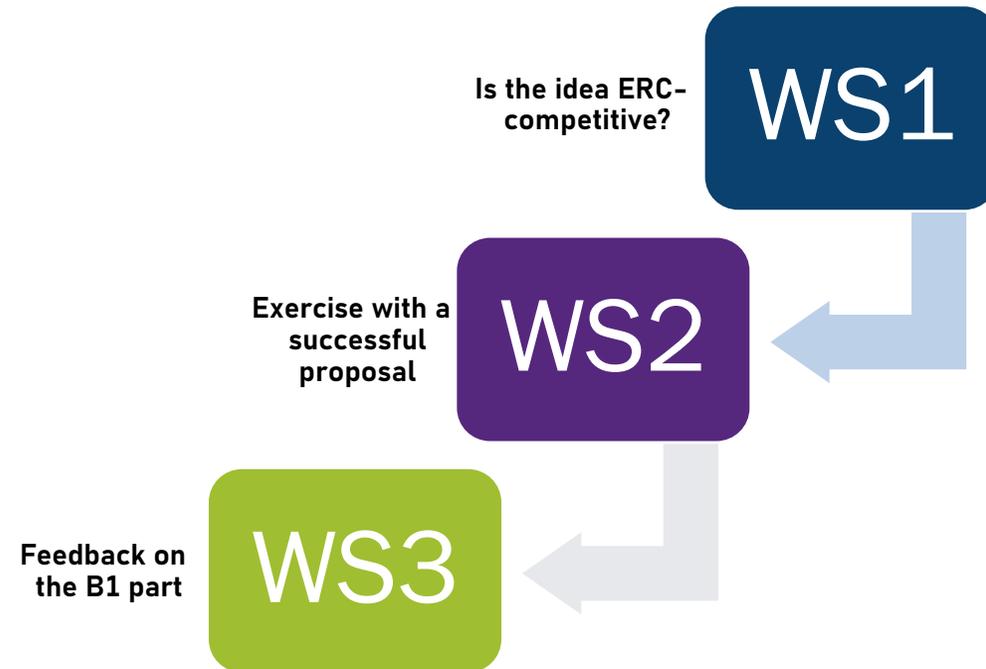
- **SH:**

Chair: Prof. Matthew Rampley, B.A., Ph.D.
doc. Mirjam Fried, Ph.D.
prof. PhDr. Tomáš Havránek, Ph.D.



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 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
- Requirement to **submit a new ERC proposal in case of „B” projects**



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

ESSENTIAL DOCUMENTATION



[Work Programme 2025](#)



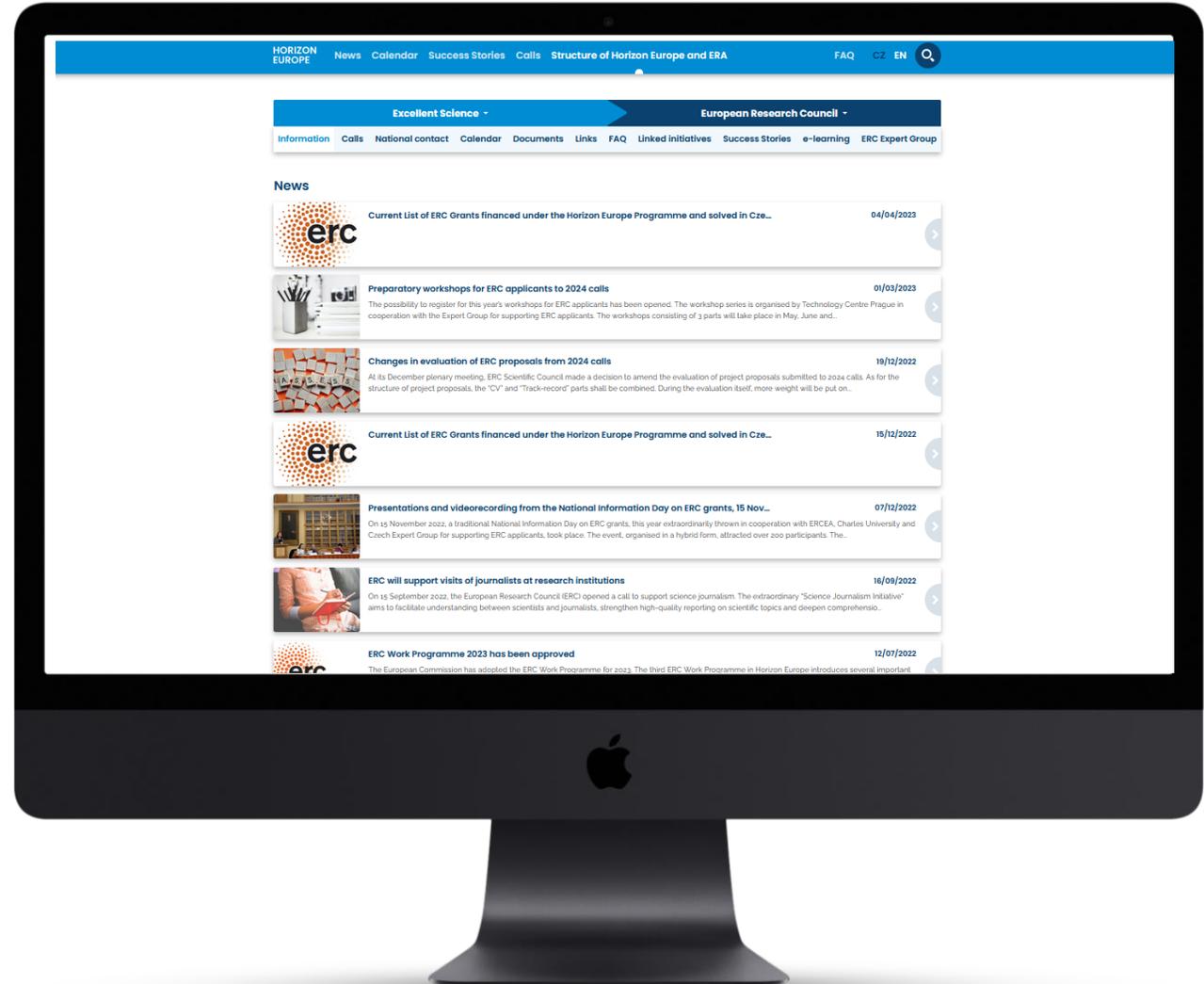
[Information for Applicants](#)

Applicant's last name	Part B1	ACRONYM
ERC Starting Grant 2025 Research proposal [Part B1]¹ <i>(Part B1 is evaluated in Step 1 and Step 2, Part B2 is evaluated in Step 2 only)</i>		
Proposal Full Title		
PROPOSAL ACRONYM		
Cover Page:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)- Name of the PI's Host Institution for the project- Proposal duration in months		
<i>Please delete all text highlighted in grey in this template.</i>		
Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1)		
<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>		
<p>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).</p>		

[Proposal template \(in the FTOP\)](#)
B1, B2, HI support letter, form for requesting an extension

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.

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