



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

# An Introduction to the ERC

Vaida Bankauskaite  
Unit B3

An ERC information workshop in the Baltic  
countries

3 February, 2021



# Who can apply?

- **Excellent** Researchers
- **Any nationality, any age** or any current place of work
- In conjunction with a Host Institution based in Europe  
**EU or associated countries**
- If granted, you need to spend at least 50% of your working time in the EU or associated countries



# ERC Grant Schemes



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

## Starting Grants

starters  
(2-7 years after PhD)  
up to € 1.5 Mio  
(+ €1M)  
for 5 years

## Consolidator Grants

consolidators  
(7-12 years after PhD)  
up to € 2 Mio  
(+ €1M)  
for 5 years

## Advanced Grants

track-record of  
significant research  
achievements in the  
last 10 years  
up to € 2.5 Mio  
(+ €1M)  
for 5 years

## Proof-of-Concept

bridging gap between research - earliest stage  
of marketable innovation  
lump sum €150,000 for ERC grant holders

## Synergy Grants (re-launched 2018)

2 – 4 Principal Investigators  
up to € 10.0 Mio (+ €4M)  
for 6 years  
1 PI can be based outside EU/AC

# Online Submission

## Proposal structure



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

### Administrative forms (Part A)

- 1 – General information
- 2 – Administrative data of participating organisations
- 3 – Budget
- 4 – Ethics
- 5 – Call specific questions

**Administrative forms**

### Annexes

Commitment of the host institution  
PhD certificates, certificates on extension of eligibility, etc.

### Part B1 (submitted as pdf)

***Evaluated in Step 1 & Step 2***

Text box - Cross-domain nature explanation

- |                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| a – Extended synopsis | 5 pages |
| b – Curriculum vitae  | 2 pages |
| Appendix – Funding ID |         |
| c - Track-record      | 2 pages |

### Part B2 (submitted as pdf)

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

- |                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Scientific proposal                 | 15 pages |
| a – State-of-the-art and objectives |          |
| b – Methodology                     |          |
| c – Resources                       |          |

**→ Read the Information for Applicants**

# Evaluation Panel Structure (WP2021)



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

## Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems
- LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- 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

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

## Social Sciences and Humanities

- SH1 Individuals, 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

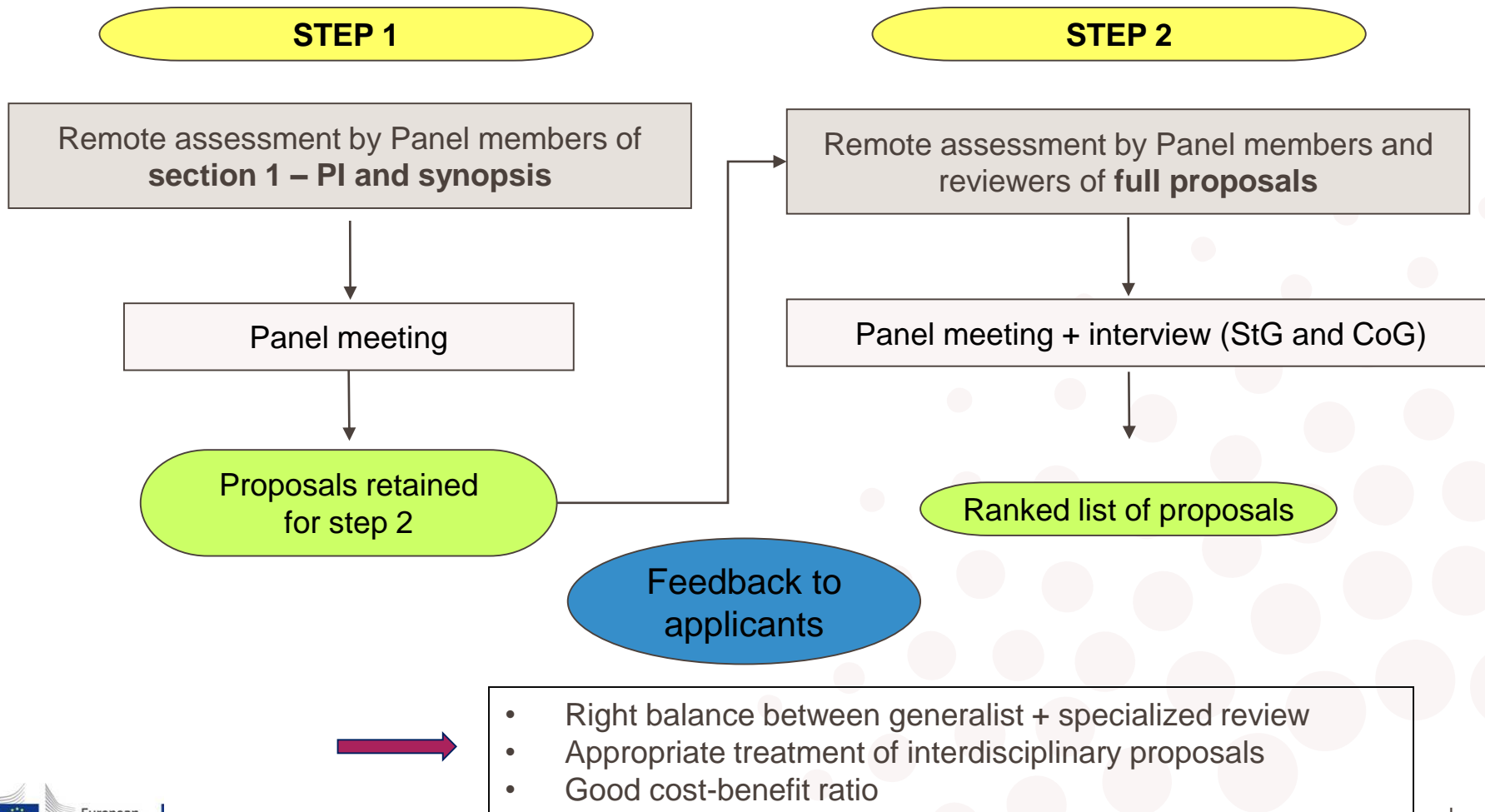
# Evaluation

## Review procedure (StG, CoG)



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission



# Evaluation- StG/CoG/AdG

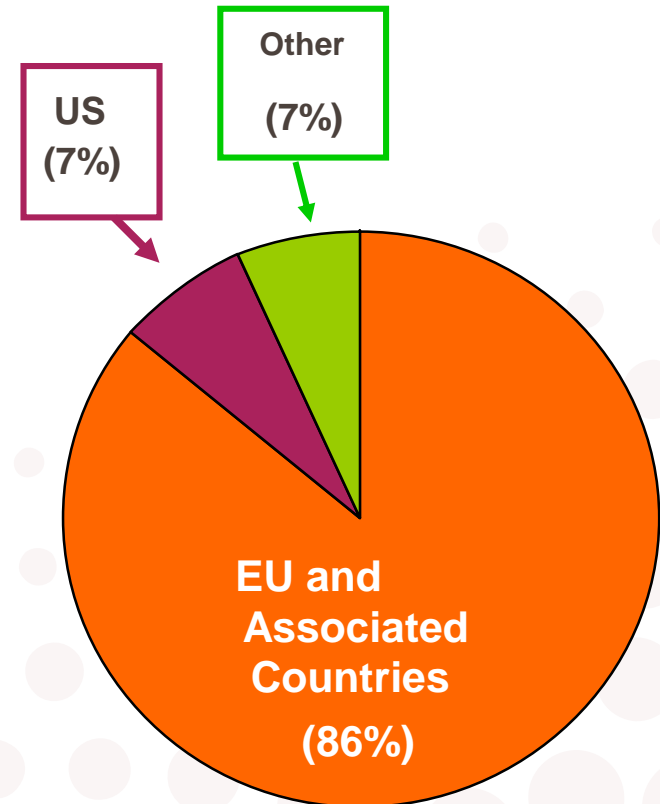
## Peers



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

- **Panel members:** typically 375 / call (SyG:~90)
  - High-level scientists
  - Recruited by ScC from all over the world: ~14% from outside Europe
  - About 12-16 members plus a chair person
- **Referees:** typically 2000 / call
  - Evaluate only a small number of proposals
  - Similar to normal practise in peer-reviewed journals



# Preparing your research proposal

## Choosing the Panel



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-and-results/erc-funded-projects>

### ERC Funded Projects

Prizes and Awards

ERC Stories

Statistics

### View projects by

Funding Scheme



Call Year



Domain/Panel



Country of Host Institution



Free text search



Clear all

## ERC Funded Projects

The ERC operates according to an "investigator-driven", or "bottom-up", approach, allowing researchers to identify new opportunities in any field of research. Accordingly the portfolio of ERC funded projects spans a wide range of topics and research questions.

Since 2007, more than 5,000 projects have been selected to receive ERC funding throughout the EU Member States and the associated countries. The ERC has received over 50,000 project proposals for its calls.

**You can use the menu on the left to search quickly and easy ERC funded projects.**

Projects can be filtered according to: Funding scheme, Research area ( Panel / Domain ), Country of Host Institution and/or free keyword(s).

Information displayed is automatically updated through the information available on the CORDIS platform.

*Please note that only funded projects, whose grant agreements have been signed, appear in this database. For this reason, the total number of projects in this database may differ from the figures provided in the statistics section which include also projects selected for funding whose grant agreements have not been signed yet.*

For specific queries, please use this [contact form](#) and select the category 'Web'.

# Preparing your research proposal

## Check past panel members for the call



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

ABOUT ERC

FUNDING

PROJECTS &  
FIGURES

NEWS & EVENTS

MANAGING YOUR  
PROJECT



### Who can apply?

Researchers of any nationality with **2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD** extensions are permitted to apply for an ERC Starting Grant (see also the ERC Starting Grant Programme), a so-called ERC Starting Grant proposal.



### What proposals

- Criteria Applications  
The ERC's grant

- Location

Research must be conducted at a Host Institution as a Host Institution

other HI located in one of the EU member states (see also eligibility of ERC legal entities) or **Associated Countries**

- Host Institution

Applications for an ERC grant must be submitted by a single Principal Investigator (PI) in conjunction with and on behalf of their Host Institution, called the applicant legal entity.

**IMPORTANT: You are not allowed to contact panel members about the evaluation! Any such contact can lead to exclusion from the call.**

### CHOOSE YOUR PANEL

ERC peer review evaluation panels (2019 calls)

### COMPOSITION OF EVALUATION PANELS

ERC Starting Grant 2019:

Panel Chairs

Panel Members

ERC Starting Grant 2018:

Panel Chairs

Panel Members

Click [here](#) to check Panel Chairs and Panel Members from previous calls

### RESULTS OF PREVIOUS

# How are ERC research proposals evaluated?

***Excellence* is the sole evaluation criterion**



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Evaluation of *excellence* at two levels:

- **Excellence of the Research Project**

- ✓ Ground breaking nature
- ✓ Potential impact
- ✓ Scientific Approach

- **Excellence of the Principal Investigator**

- ✓ Intellectual capacity
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Commitment

# Preparing your research proposal:

## Part B1: the principal investigator



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

- Why am I the **best/only person** to carry it out?
- Am I able to work **independently**, and to manage a 5-year project with a substantial budget?
- Am I **competitive**?
- Have I shown my **scientific leadership** in my CV?

*Rumour: One needs publications in Nature/Science/High Impact Factor journals to succeed.*

**✗NOT true**

# Contrary to what you may think.....

- ✓ ERC funds "frontier research", including applied research
- ✓ The budget is distributed among the scientific panels in proportion of the number of applications
- ✓ The panel descriptors do not represent ERC scientific priorities
- ✓ The Host Institution is not an evaluation criterion



# ERC StG/CoG/AdG

## The applicant's profile

- Subcriteria of evaluation:
  - To what extent the PI demonstrated the ability to conduct ground breaking research?
  - To what extent does the PI provides evidence of creative independent thinking?
  - To what extent does the PI have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?
  
- For StG and CoG: scientific independence
  - For example, at least one (StG) /several (CoG) publications without participation of PhD supervisor
  - Track-record of early achievements, e.g. Invited presentations in conferences, funding, patents, awards, prizes

# The European Research Council



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

More information on

[erc.europa.eu](http://erc.europa.eu)

National Contact Point in your country

[erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points](http://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points)

Follow us on



EuropeanResearchCouncil



ERC\_Research