

# The European Research Council

Info Session on ERC funding opportunities for  
Statistics

Maria Gonzalez  
PE1 panel coordinator



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# ERC Basics – bottom up approach

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*The European Research Council Executive Agency is dedicated to selecting and funding the excellent ideas that have not happened yet and the scientists that are dreaming them up.*



# ERC Basics

**EXCELLENCE**

**ANY FIELD  
OF RESEARCH**

**PORTABLE**

**INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS FROM ALL  
OVER THE WORLD**

**LONG TERM  
GRANTS**

**HIGH-RISK/HIGH-GAIN  
GROUNDBREAKING**

**FRONTIER  
RESEARCH**

# ERC Scientific Council



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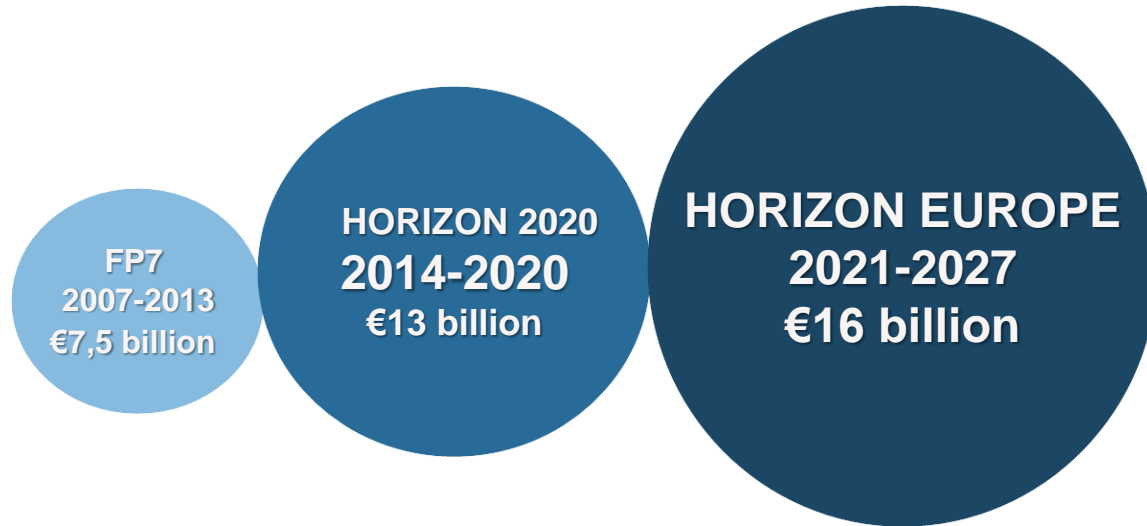
Prof. Alice  
VALKÁROVÁ  
(Physics)



Prof. Milena  
ŽIĆ FUCHS  
(Linguistics)

# New framework programme

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17%  
of the entire  
Horizon Europe budget

# ERC Grant Schemes



Extensions to eligibility window possible!

## Starting Grants

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



## Consolidator Grants

Consolidators (7-12 years after PhD) up to € 2 Mio for 5 years



## Advanced Grants

track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years up to € 2.5 Mio for 5 years



## Synergy Grants

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



## Proof-of-Concept

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

# Thinking on applying?

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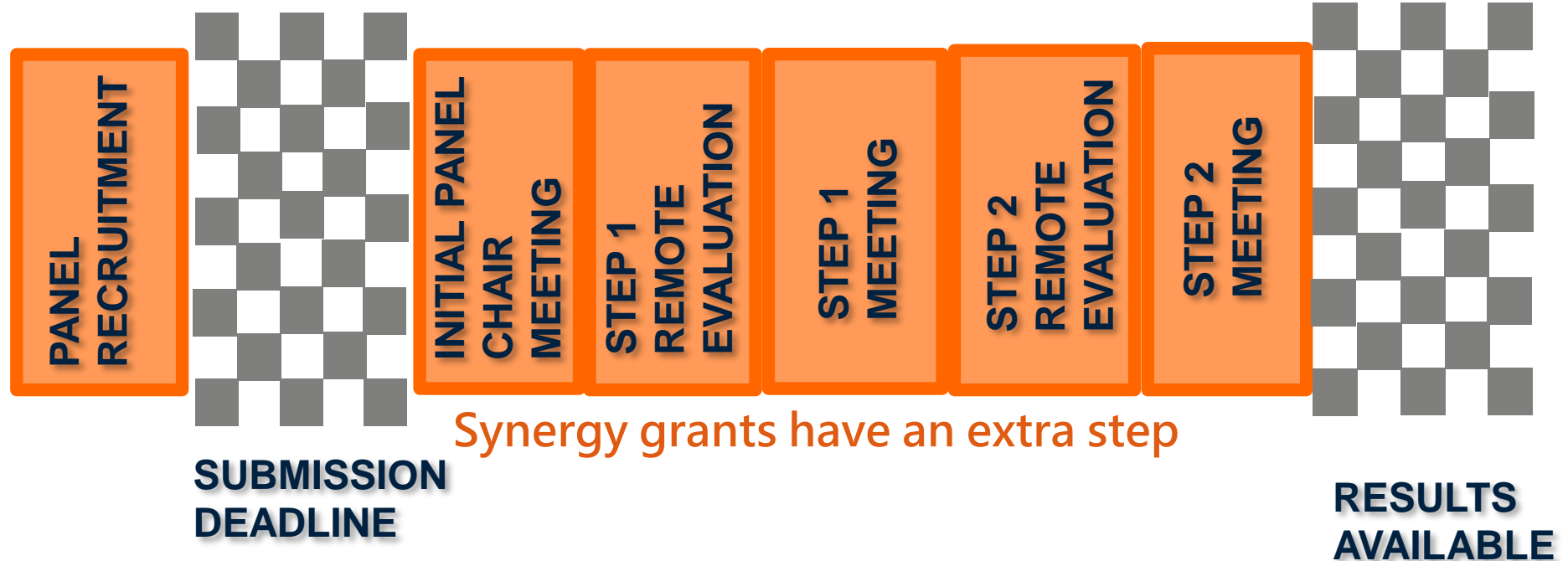
## **KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!**

Choosing panel

Evaluation process

Resources available

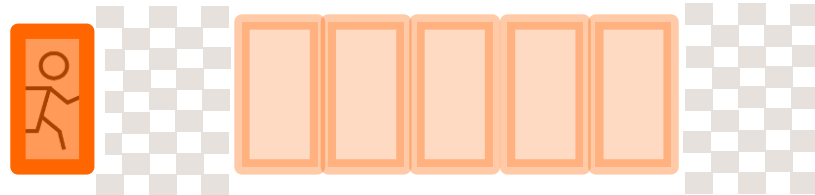
# Evaluation process overview - Regular calls



Single submission – two-step evaluation



# Panels



- Three domains, 27 panels



9



11



7

Each panel contains a series of descriptors

- Panel member recruitment – Scc

Ahead of time

Average of 15

Appointed chair  
public

Constraints

Choose the right panel  
Check ERC panel structure with all descriptors

# Evaluation Panel Structure (2021-2023)

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## 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 Process 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



# Statistics presence in ERC panels

**Panel: SH2**

**Title:** Peopling Europe:  
How data make a people

**Panel: LS7**

**Title:** Translational and  
Transdisciplinary  
research in Modeling  
Infectious Diseases

**Panel: SH4**

**Title:** Psychosystems:  
Consolidating Network  
Approaches to Psychopathology

**Panel: PE6**

**Title:** Rich, Structured and Efficient  
Learning of Big Bayesian Models

**Panel: SH4**

**Title:** Bayes or Bust: Sensible  
Hypothesis Tests for Social Scientists

**Panel: PE1-StG and LS8-AdG  
(same PI)**

**Title:**  
PE1- Intelligent Stochastic  
Computation Methods for Complex  
Statistical Model Learning

LS8 -Scalable inference algorithms  
for Bayesian evolutionary  
epidemiology

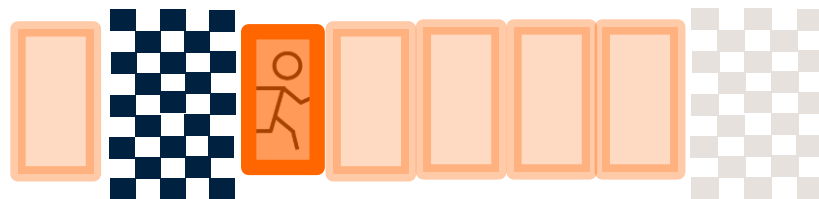
**Panel: SH1**

**Title:** Microeconometrics of  
Consumer and Labour  
Supply Behaviour



# Submission deadline reached

## Initial panel Chair meeting



- **Applicant:**

- Home panel and secondary panel
- ERC descriptors and keyword

**Elaborate your selection!**

- **Panel chair:**

- Transfers
- Cross panels
- Assignments

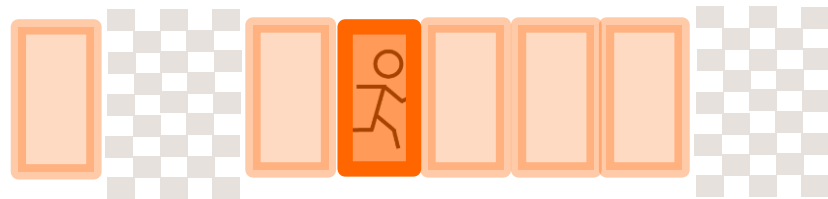
- At least 3 in panel
- If you are lucky one is close to field but rest are not!**

- **Panel members:**

- Declare expertise
- Declare Col
- In cases review preferences

**Agency further checks Col and eligibility**

# Step 1 remote evaluation



## WHO



## WHAT

Part B1 

## HOW

Research project



generalists

Excellence

Principal investigator



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission



# Evaluation Form: Research Project

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## ***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 high 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)?*

# Evaluation Form: Principal investigator

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*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?*

*To what extent has the PI demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists (**for Advanced Grant applicants**)?*

# Keep all this in mind when writing B1

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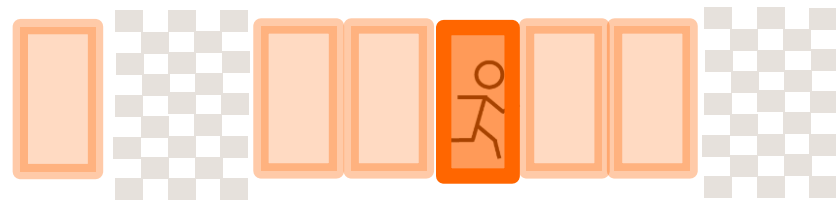
- Part B2 will only be assessed if you go to Step 2  
They are independent documents
- Panel members = generalists  
Convince all
- Clarity: structure, novelty, goals, why you...  
Don't make a PM's work harder than it already is  
Highlighted publications: Elaborate your contribution
- The panel needs to assess feasibility  
Detailed methodology is only in B2 but here you need to give the essential info
- Do not hide career breaks





# Step 1 panel meeting

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Ranked list



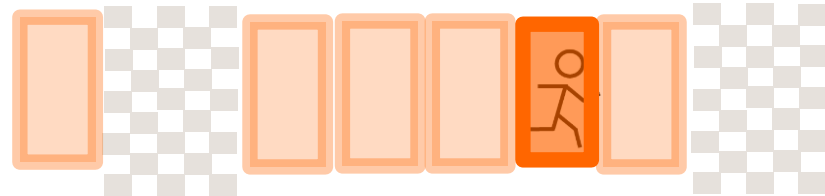
Nomination of RRs



Feedback



# Step 2 remote evaluation



## WHO



## WHAT

B1 & B2



Excellence

## HOW

Research project

Principal investigator



# Evaluation Form: what is new in Step 2?

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*To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?*

*To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?*

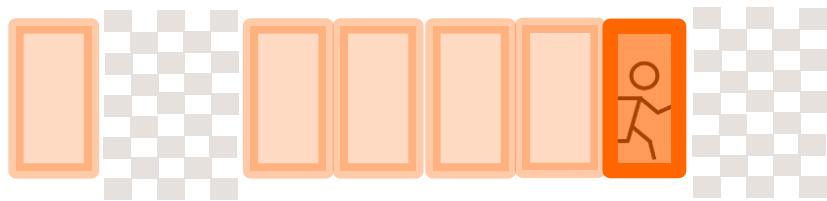
*To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?*

# For part B2 keep in mind

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- Clear structure
- Experts have access to B1 too
- Time for methodology and work plan
- Involvement of team members (do not overdo with collaborators)
- Acknowledge the work of others
- Justify requested resources
- Immediate open access is mandatory (only full OA venues are eligible for reimbursement)

# Step 2 panel meeting



Interviews

25 min



Now also in ADG!

Time is tight-Updates



Rehearse!

Budget

Ready to explain?

Ranked list



Feedback



# Some tips coming from our panel members interview

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- Answer honestly and as precisely as you can.
- Listen carefully to the questions and answer them directly. Give specific rather than general answers.
- It is perfectly OK to answer "I don't know" or "this point of my proposal is maybe overly optimistic".
- StG especially: be ready to argue your independence

# Maybe you did not know

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- Budget is allocated on demand
- Success rate is flat across eligibility window
- Quality/potential of applicant is evaluated in view of concrete career stage and local conditions
- Already having an ERC grant does not guarantee obtaining another one
- Resubmissions have a significantly higher success rate

# New deadlines

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ERC calls	Call Opening	Submission Deadline
Starting Grants ERC-2023-StG	12-07-2022	25-10-2022
Consolidator Grants ERC-2023-CoG	28-09-2022	02-02-2023
Advanced Grants ERC-2023-AdG	08-12-2022	23-05-2023
Synergy Grants ERC-2023-SyG	13-07-2022	08-11-2022



# Where can you find more information?

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## Videos - ERC Classes

- What to consider before applying
- How to fill in the application  
(Part B1 and B2)
- The interview
- How the evaluation works

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbFbzkVWgCU&list=PLtv6FnsXqnXAYRk6HCErwMxwML0ZKoMcy>

# Help available

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Info for applicants and work programme (also for peer reviewers!)

ERC website



Grantees experiences and funded projects

Additional opportunities

Questions?

THANKS

**Creative ideas have no limits**

ERC, funding blue sky research