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ERC Panel PE5:
 (St+Co) active 2011, remote 2012
 Co active 2013, 2015, remote 2014, 2016
Co Panel Chair 2017, remote 2018

European Research Council 

Overall Goal St & Co Grants

- Support *ground-breaking, high-risk/high-gain* research that opens new opportunities and directions including those of a multi- and inter-disciplinary nature
- Not looking for “*incremental*” research
- Aimed at young investigators *starting or consolidating* their own independent research team or independent research programme
- **Significant** awards: clear impact on the PIs career i.e. up to a max. of 2 M Euro per grant for up to 5 years

ERC CoG 2015 evaluation Overall calendar



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

Domain	Physical Sciences	Life Sciences	Social Sciences
Deadline	March 12, 2015		
Initial Panel Chairs meeting	April 14, 2015		
Step 1 Panel meetings (2 to 3 days)	June 2-4, 9-11	June 16-18	June 22-24
Step 2 Panel meetings (3 to 4 days)	October 13-16, 20-23	October 27-30	November 10-13
Final Panel chairs meeting	3 February 2016		



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Evaluation process (panelist perspective)

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- Step 1 remote evaluation (B1)
- Step 1 panel meeting (B1, individual evaluation reports step 1 remote)
- Step 2 remote evaluation (B1 + B2)
- Step 2 panel meeting (B1 + B2 + interview + individual evaluation reports step 2 remote)

Process, panel chair perspective

- **Submission**
 - **Eligibility check**, preliminary panel vs **keywords** assignment (ERC staff)
 - Total panel budget → proportional to # applications (ERC staff/scicom)
- * **Initial panel chairs meeting**
 - Matching proposals to panels and panelists, securing cross-panel reviews, planning of step 1 meeting (PC aided by ERC staff)
- **Evaluation individual (remote) and panel meeting**
 - step 1 B1 → 2-3 x budget to step 2**
 - Conflict of interest, depth of competence
 - "Remote": Individual evaluation (ca 3 PM /application)
 - Panel meeting: Cat A → Step 2
 - step 2: B1+B2 + interview → 1 x budget + reserves**
 - "Remote": Individual evaluation, 2-4 PM + 2-5 external experts for each application
 - Panel meeting with interviews.
 - Fundable/non-fundable and ranking
- **Wrapup: panel chairs meeting**

What is evaluated?

Eligibility criteria

- Everything submitted?
- PhD 2-12 years?
- Valid "time off"?
- Other formal stuff

Checking by ERC staff

Evaluation criteria

EXCELLENCE

- Principal investigator
- Research project

- Evaluted by panel, support from research community in step 2

What is evaluated?

Research project (0-X)

non-competitive
good (very good)
excellent
outstanding

Principal investigator (0-X)

non-competitive
good (very good)
excellent
outstanding

Text comments justifying preliminary numerical scoring
Numerical remote phase scoring only for panel internal use
Panel ranking translate to A, B, C

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Step 1

- Paper evaluation (panel) :
 - Research project + Principal investigator
 - Panel meeting → 2-3 x budget to step 2



Step 2

- Paper evaluation (panel + externals):
 - Research project + Principal investigator
- Interview: To clarify *existing* proposal
 - Not to re-define a new project
 - Not for budget negotiation
 - Equal chance/time for all applicants
 - Questions based on / related to evaluation criteria

Presentation of proposal 10 min (ppt with handout, some were quite elaborated...)
 Questions 15 min

- Panel meeting → 1 x budget

Panel members (PE5)

Generalists (= more than one subfield)

- Stating depth of competence for set keywords relating to the field of the panel. All applications to be evaluated by at least 3 panel members with different profile.

Typically 35-45 proposals/panelist in step 1,

Typically 10 proposals/panelist in step 2

- Organic chemistry (synthesis, catalysis, "green"...)
- Supramolecular chemistry
- Organometallic chemistry (catalysis, MOF...)
- Polymer chemistry
- Inorganics (materials synthesis, QD, LED...)
- Bio/med/chem
- Phys/med/chem

CoI decl.

What the evaluator want

- Clear, readable information addressing what is to be evaluated: see instructions for applicants, pay attention to the boxes!
Do not hide information!
Use all templates provided, even if not mandatory
Ensure super readability with attention to
 - subheadings
 - illustrations
 - abbreviations
- **FONT SIZE** (suggested min is 11, try 12 instead!). Figure legends not less than 10
- colour schemes readable also in B/W printout

What is evaluated?

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Research project (step 1 and 2)

a) *Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research.*

To what extent do the proposed research address challenges at the frontiers of the field(s) addressed?

To what extent does it have suitably ambitious objectives, which go substantially beyond the current state of the art, including inter-and trans-disciplinary developments and novel or unconventional concepts and/or approaches?

b) *Methodology*

To what extent does the possibility of a major breakthrough with an impact beyond a specific research domain/discipline justify any highly novel and/or unconventional methodologies (“high-gain/high-risk balance”)?

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible?

What the evaluator want about the Research project

Step 1: only B1 Step 2: B1+B2

Short summary (first page of B1):

- What? How? What/how "groundbreaking"?

What the evaluator want about the Research project

Step 1: only B1 Step 2: B1+B2

Short summary (first page of B1):

- What? How? What/how "groundbreaking"?

Extended Synopsis (last in B1), do not forget

- Step 1: The evaluator is generalist and reads MANY proposals.
- Groundbreaking, innovative... What border to move, in what direction, how far? Give a resonably detailed background.
- DIG THE LITERATURE also for neighbouring fields, non-familiar journals and **way** back in time
- Picures are good.
- Avoid emtpy phrases ("... xx will result in a gigantic step change and paramount paradigm shifts in yy", do not brag/oversell.
- Discuss methods, time planning, risk/gain, feasabiliy. Make sure all vital components for a feasible program are there.
- Summary <-> Extended synopsis <-> Full proposal (B2)

What the evaluator want about the Research project

Step 1: only B1 Step 2: B1+B2

Short summary (first page of B1):

- What? How What/how "groundbreaking"?

Extended Synopsis (last in B1), do not forget

- Groundbreaking, innovative... What border to move, in what direction, how far? Give a reasonably detailed background.
- DIG THE LITERATURE also for neighbouring fields, non-familiar journals and way back in time
- Avoid empty phrases and do not oversell
- Pictures are good.
- Discuss methods, time planning, risk/gain, feasibility. Make sure all vital componets for a feasible program are there.
- Summary <-> Extended synopsis <-> Full proposal (B2)
- Step 1: The evaluator is generalist and reads MANY proposals.

B2: Full proposal.

- As for B1, more room for details. Expand on
 - "Groundbreaking" with relevant survey on the field. Where is the main competition? References.
 - Risk/gain, En route outcomes? "Emergency exits"?
- Avoid introducing suptopics not covered in B1!**
- Budget, time planning, ethics.....
- The evaluators are generalists as well as specialist



What is evaluated?

Principal investigator (step 1 and 2)

- To what extent are the achievements and publications of the PI ground-breaking and demonstrative of independent creative thinking and capacity to go significantly beyond the state-of-the art?
- How well qualified is the PI to lead & conduct the project?
- To what extent will an ERC starting grant make a significant contribution to the establishment or consolidation of independence?
- Is the PI strongly committed to the project and willing to devote a significant amount of time to it (they will be expected to devote at least 50% of their working time to the ERC-funded project)?

What the evaluator want about the Principal investigator (Step 1 & 2)

Evaluators only see B1 in the fist step!

- **Why you? What makes you unique on a global scale?**
- PhD with whom? When? Where? Contents and results!
- Postdoc with whom? When? Where? Contents and results!
- More senior positions. When, where, tasks? Grants as PI? Supervision?
- Career breaks (military service, parental leave...). Documentation to be uploaded but are not seen by evaluators.
- Publications.
 - From what carer stage, placement, visibility,
 - co-authors (if NOT listed, evaluator gets suspicious...)
- Conferences: When, where, what kind of contribution
-

*Do not hide information!
Use the templates provided*

Feedback

→ Step 1

- Panel ranking (ABC? AC?). "C" definitely.
- For "Non-A", panel comments and comments from individual pre-meeting remote evaluation of B1

→ Step 2

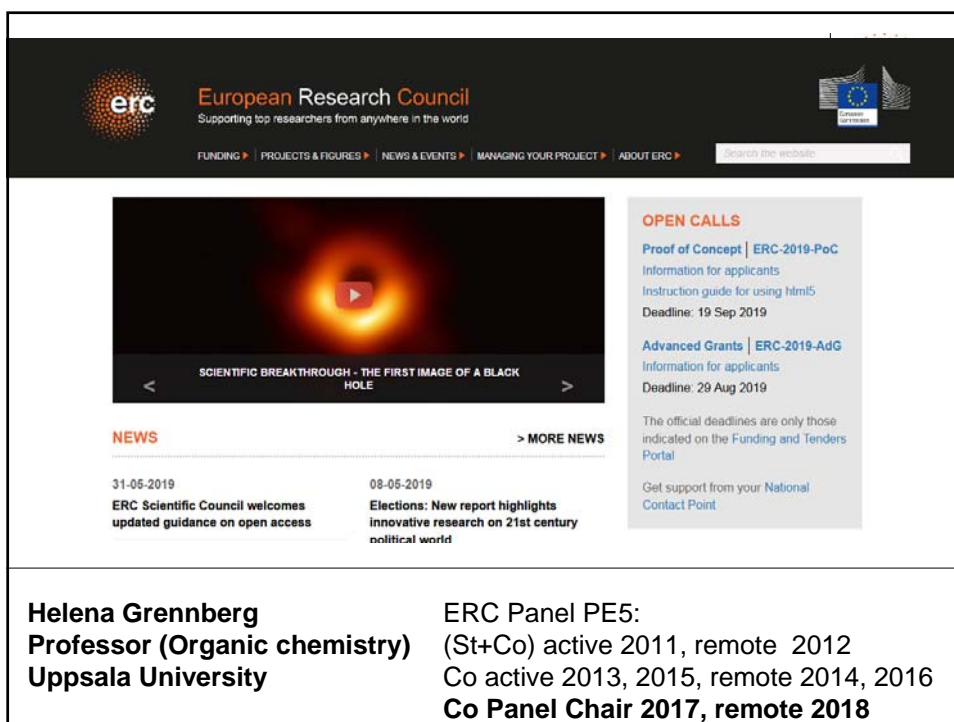
- Panel rank fundable /non-fundable
- Panel comments, from interview and second panel meeting
- Individual reviewer (panel + external) comments from pre-meeting remote evaluation of B1+B2

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NEWS > MORE NEWS

31-05-2019
ERC Scientific Council welcomes updated guidance on open access

08-05-2019
Elections: New report highlights innovative research on 21st century political world

OPEN CALLS

Proof of Concept | ERC-2019-PoC
Information for applicants
Instruction guide for using htm5
Deadline: 19 Sep 2019

Advanced Grants | ERC-2019-AdG
Information for applicants
Deadline: 29 Aug 2019

The official deadlines are only those indicated on the Funding and Tenders Portal

Get support from your National Contact Point

Helena Grennberg
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