ERC Starting and Consolidator grants

Funding for excellent ideas

EUROPEAN UNION

#HorizonEU

HORIZON EUROPE

Who are we?

Organisation:	National Contact Point Horizon Europe Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (Netherlands Enterprise Agency)
Goal:	Encourage NL participation in Horizon Europe
Tools:	Information Advice Training Results analyses

Horizon Europe

- The next EU Framework programme for research and innovation
- 2021-2027
- Budget: 95 billion euro
- ERC share: 16 billion euro

ERC grants

- A frontier research project
- Centered around Principal Investigator(s) pursuing a *ground-breaking high-risk* project
- At a host organization in Europe

ERC – main grant types

- Personal frontier research grants
- ERC Synergy Grant
- Proof of Concept grants (for ERC laureates)

ERC- three types of personal grants

ERC STARTING grant	2-7 years after PhD *PI is **starting** first research team* *transition to independence*
ERC CONSOLIDATOR grant	7-12 years after PhD *PI is **consolidating** team* *consolidation of independence*
ERC ADVANCED grants	internationally recognized research leaders

Eligibility window

Starting grant: PhD 2-7 years prior to 1 January of the call year

StG-2023: PhD defence date between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2020 (inclusive)

Consolidator grant: PhD 7-12 years prior to 1 January of the call year

CoG-2023: PhD defence date between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2015 (inclusive)

Extensions to eligibility window*:

- Maternity leave: 18 months per child;
- Paternity leave: accumulation of actual time taken off

before/ after PhD

- Long-term illness (PI or direct family >90 d), national service
- Clinical training: maximum of 4 years
- Inability to work due to a natural disaster or for seeking asylum

after PhD

ERC grants- what is allowed?

- Budget: **StG**: up to **1,5 M€** **CoG**: up to **2 M€** **AdG**: up to **2,5 M€**

Top up of max 1 M€

in case of:

- *access to large facilities*
- *purchase major equipment*
- *PI moving to Europe*
- *major experimental or field work costs*

- Up to 5 years
- Min. 50% /40%/30% of time dedicated to the project
- Including *portability*

ERC grants- frontier research

- Any field of research*

- High risk – high gain
- Opening new horizons of knowledge
- Interdisciplinary, crossing boundaries between different fields
- Pioneering
- New and emerging fields
- Unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions

** Except nuclear energy and unacceptable ethical issues*

PI – Who are they looking for?

- Someone who can succesfully guide and inspire a team of researchers
- Someone who can successfully carry out their own frontier research project
- Someone who can have a big impact on their research field
- In short: A future research leader

Submission

- Single submission – two step evaluation
- Budget division over panels based on number of applications received
- Strict resubmission rules

The proposal

Single submission – two-step evaluation

PART A	ANNEXES	PART B1	PART B2
Web forms A1-A3 forms	Host Inst. Binding statement of support	**Section 1 PI & Synopsis**	**Section 2 Scientific proposal** *14 p.*
Ethics table	PhD certificate	a.Extended synopsis *5p.*	a.State of the art & objectives
Resources	(Extension documents)	b.CV *2p.*	b.Methodology
	Ethical annexes	c.Track record *2p.*	
		Funding ID (appendix)	

Eligibility check step 1 step 2 (incl. interview)

Different proposal parts – different audiences

Step 1	B1	panel	25-30% success
Step 2	B1 + B2 + interview	panel + external experts	40-50% success

Final decision by panel after interview

3 domains – 27 panels

Life Sciences

- LS1 Molecules of life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Interactive 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 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

Examples of panels

Choose the right panel and key words

SH4: the human mind and its complexity

Cognitive science, psychology, linguistics, theoretical philosophy

PE10: Earth system science

Physical geography, geology, geophysiscs, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, cryology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management

LS8: Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution

Ecology, biodiversity, environmental change, evolutionary biology, behavioral ecology, microbial ecology, marine biology, ecophysiology, theoretical developments and modelling

Resubmission rules

First-step score

B score: may not submit for next call

C score: may not submit for coming **2** calls

Strategic planning crucial

How are you evaluated?

Excellence of the PI

- Intellectual capacity and creativity

Excellence of the project

- Ground-breaking nature and potential impact
- Methodology (step 1: feasible / step 2: appropriate)
- High risk/High gain balance

PI - What do evaluators want to know?

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?

StG and CoG - Profile of PI

- Promising track record of early achievements, including:

  Significant publications as main author in:

  - *major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journals*

  and/or

  - *the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field*

  and/or

  - *Monographs of their respective research field*

- Important publications (as main author) **without PhD supervisor** (***StG***: at least 1; ***CoG***: several)

- Invited presentations, grants, awards, patents

Evaluation criteria research project

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact

- To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?
- To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art?
- 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 (*B1*)?
- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?
- To what extent does the proposal involve development of novel methodology?
- To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified?

ERC panel member:

"We are looking to fund excellent scientists with a vision and brilliant plans to achieve that vision, rather than individual research projects..."

Your vision and creativity

- Information on your methodology
- Preliminary data
- Proven expertise
- Contingency plan

Credibility…

Go/ no-go?

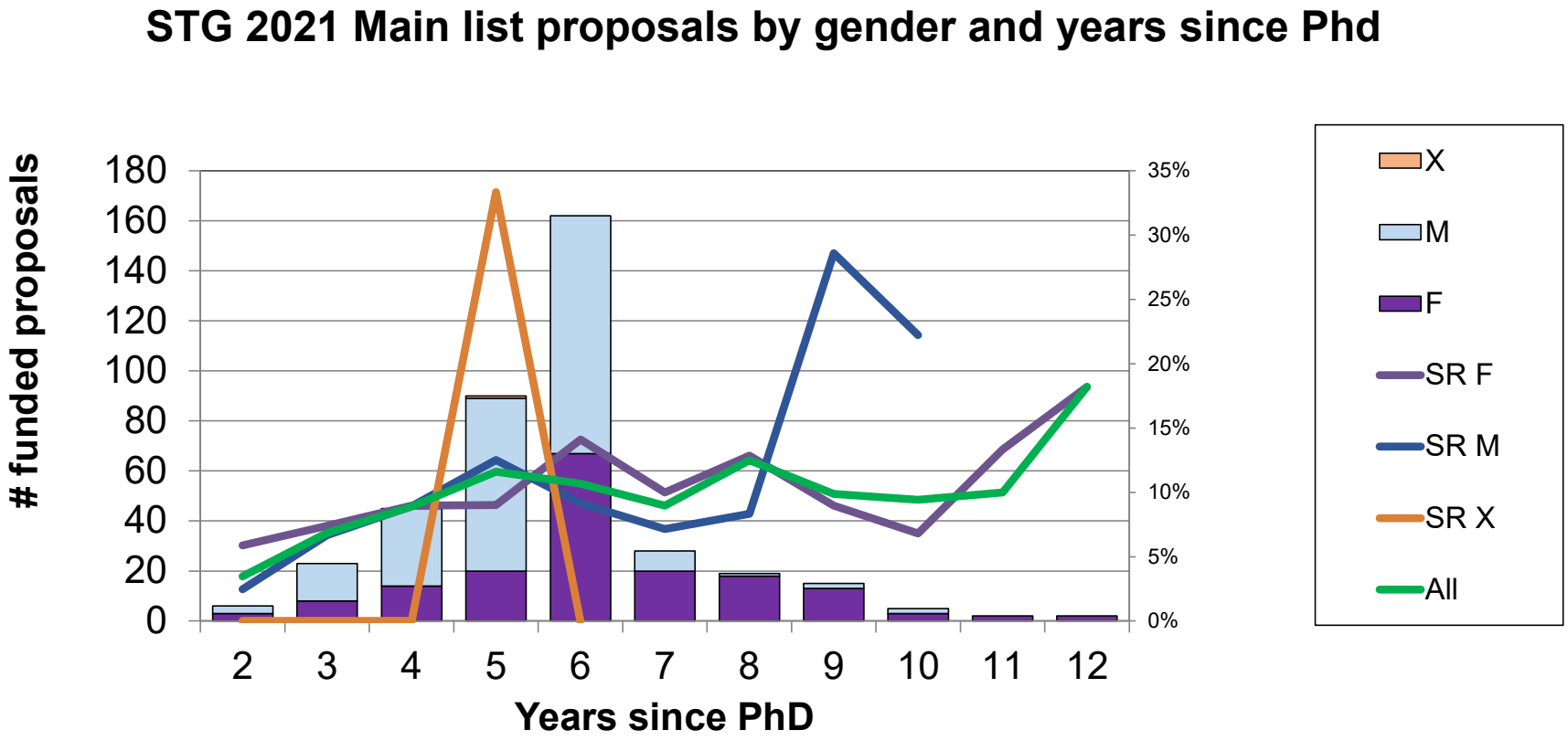
Go, if:

- Your frontier research idea is mature enough
- You have well thought-out plans to achieve your research goals (feasibility)
- Your cv shows leadership skills, scientific impact, international recognition and independence.

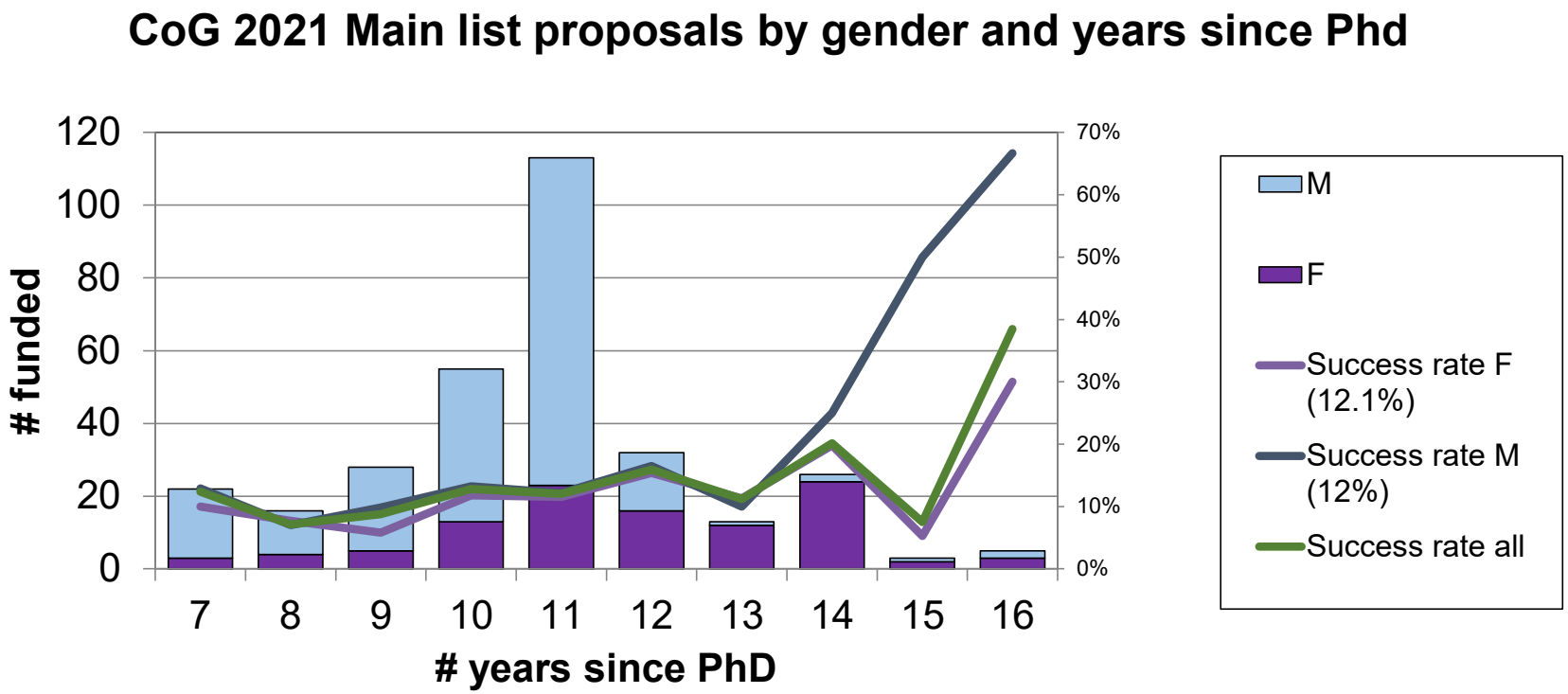
No-go (wait) if:

- You need more proof in your cv (publications without PhD supervisor)
- Your idea is still too general, it is hard to become concrete

Go/no-go: optimal timing? (StG)



Go/no-go: optimal timing? (CoG)



Call deadlines

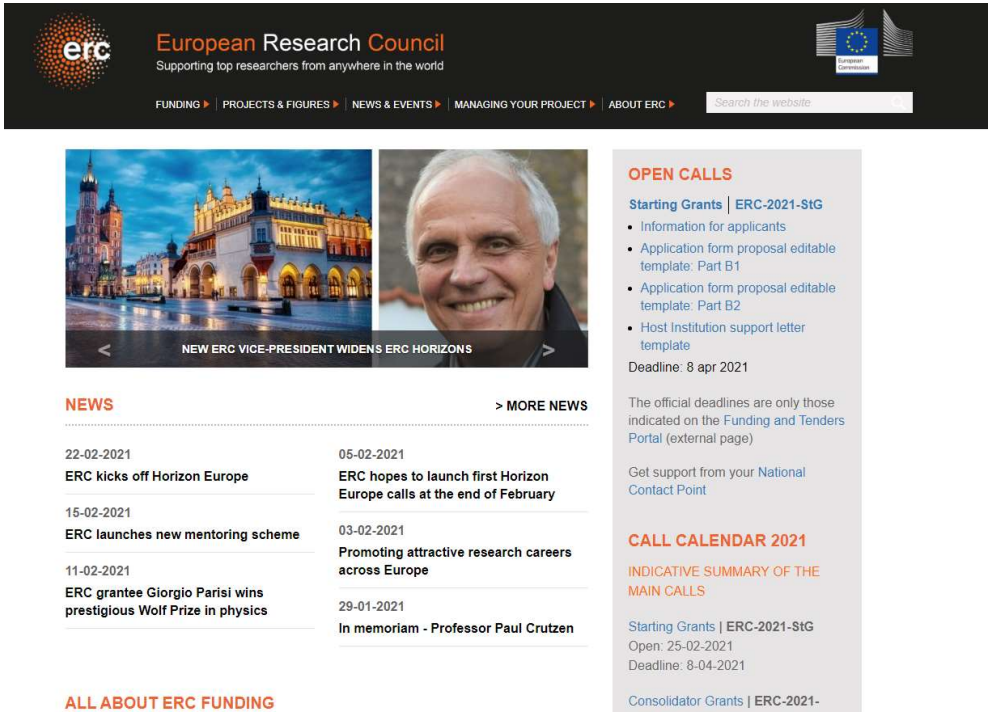
Upcoming call deadlines:

Starting grant 2023	Opening: 12 July 2022 Deadline: 25 October 2022
Consolidator Grant 2023	Opening: 28 September 2022 Deadline: 2 February 2023
Advanced grant 2023	Opening: 8 December 2022 Deadline: 23 May 2023

Some final words of advice...

- Take sufficient time to develop your scientific idea
- Assess your impact on research field and independence
- ‘Get to know’ your panel(s)
- Arrange for feedback

More information



erc.europa.eu

- Calls
- Panels
- News alerts
- Funded projects

Need support?

Your local EU support office

National Contact Point for ERC:
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