



EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC)

**Rules for participation, proposal structure,
evaluation process & criteria**

—
Petra Fedorová

Presentation of Horizon Europe,
ELI ERIC/ELI Beamlines, 11 May 2022

1

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What is ERC?
(rules for
participation,
competitive CV,
evaluation
procedure and
criteria, proposal
structure)



2

—
Main novelties of
the ERC 2023 Work
Programme



3

—
Services of TC CAS
for applicants and
their host
institutions



4

—
Planned events and
useful links



EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC)

Encouraging the highest quality research in Europe ...

- ❑ Supporting **investigator-driven frontier research** across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence
- ❑ **Bottom-up approach** - PI's own choice of topic & team
- ❑ **Scientific governance** - independent Scientific Council with 22 members incl. the ERC President (full authority over funding strategy), support by the ERC Executive Agency (autonomous)
- ❑ Individual **researchers of any nationality, host institution in EU MS/AC**
- ❑ **Scientific excellence (PI & project)** – the sole evaluation criterion
- ❑ 5-year financial autonomy, **portability** of grants
- ❑ International visibility, **a quality label**



highly competitive, success rate ~ 10-12%

<http://erc.europa.eu>, **ERC classes** (videos)

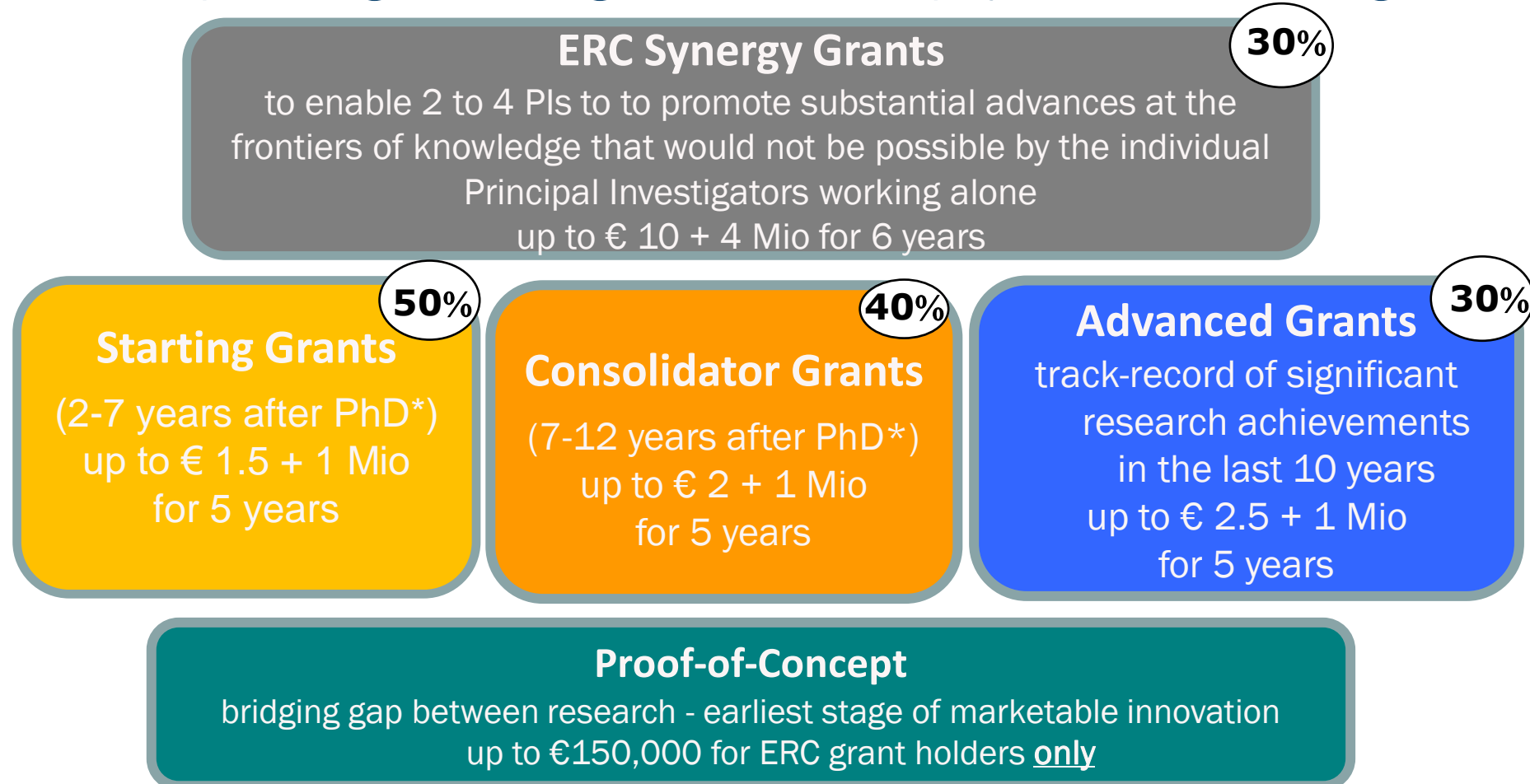
ONLY FRONTIER RESEARCH PROJECTS ARE FUNDED ...

- ❑ novel, original, innovative ideas,
- ❑ very often of an interdisciplinary nature,
- ❑ use novel, unconventional methods & approaches,
- ❑ are addressing questions **beyond the frontiers of knowledge**,
- ❑ **can open new horizons or new directions** in the research field,
- ❑ **have significant expected impact** on science, scholarship or engineering,
- ❑ often are „**high-risk/high-gain projects**“ (significant payoffs).

 Do not propose „me too“research. No reason to ask for funding of the continuation of the work done for decade(s) without any substantially new idea (incremental research).

ERC FUNDING SCHEMES

PI: Min. percentage of working time on the ERC project + 50% of working time in a MS/AC

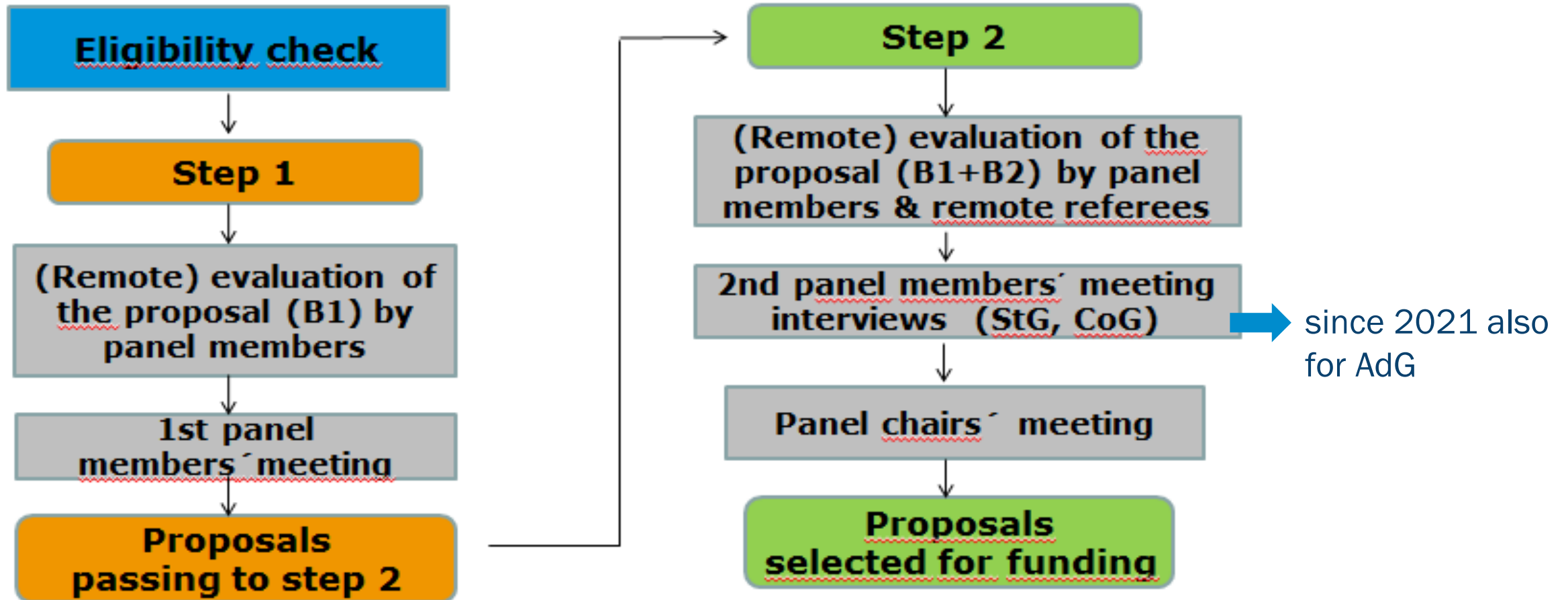


WP 2023: PIs who have **successfully defended! their first PhD degree prior to 1 January 2023*

Cut-off dates: StG: Successful defence of PhD between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2020 (inclusive)

CoG: Successful defence of PhD between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2015 (inclusive)

EVALUATION PROCEDURE (STG, COG, ADG)



27 panels (panel chair + 10-16 members): PE (11), LS (9), SH (7)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Principal Investigator(s)

Intellectual capacity & creativity

Starting and Consolidator

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?

Advanced and Synergy

To what extent has/have the PI(s) demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?

To what extent does/do the PI(s) has/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)?

Synergy

To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the know-how – such as skills, experience, expertise, disciplines, teams – necessary to address the proposed research question (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

Research Project

Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

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)?

To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone (**for Synergy Grants**, based on the Extended Synopsis)?

To what extent do the Principal Investigators succeed in proposing a combination of scientific approaches that are crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research questions to be tackled (**for Synergy Grants**, based on the Extended Synopsis)?

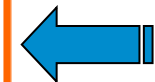
To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the research proposal)?

To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the research proposal)?

To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal)?

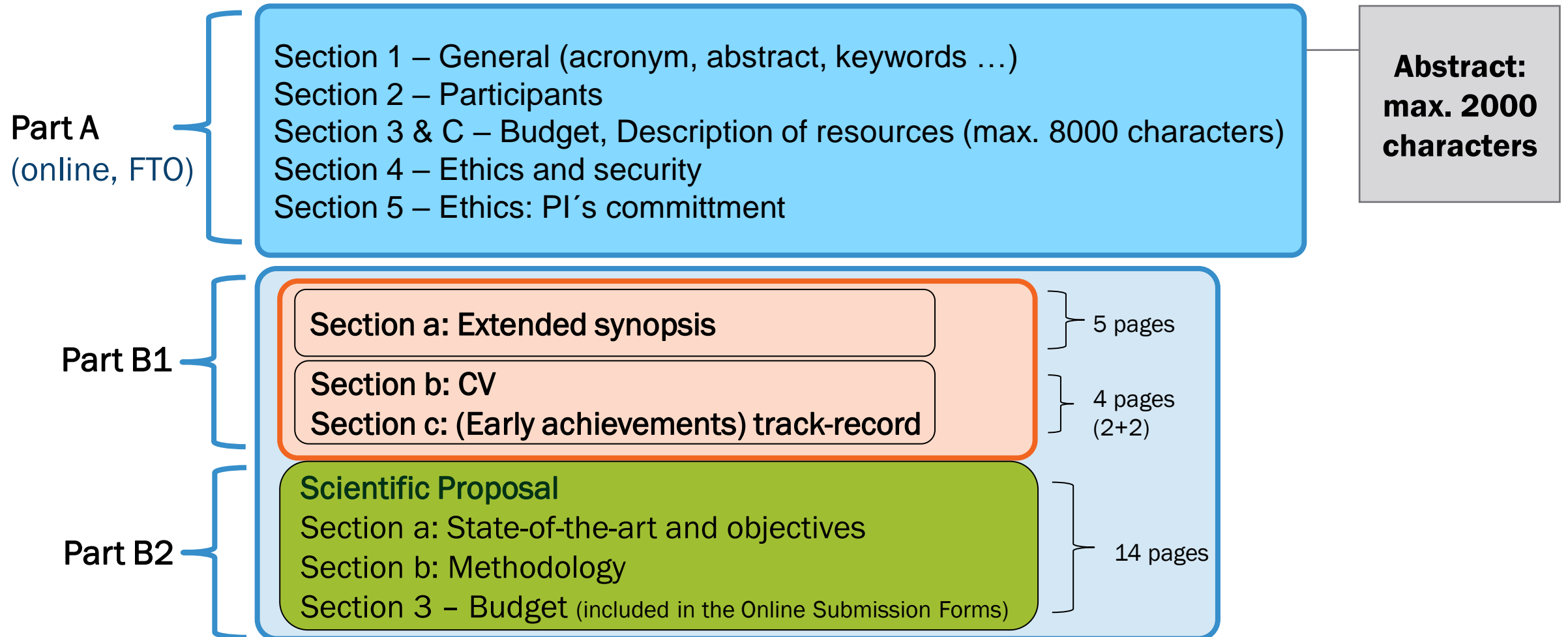


Step 1



Step 2

PROPOSAL STRUCTURE



- Mandatory supporting documentation: PhD certificate for StG/CoG, HI support letter
- If applicable: additional supporting documentation related to eligibility, ethics and security issues

RESTRICTIONS ON RESUBMISSION

Call to which the Principal Investigator applied under previous ERC Work Programmes and proposal evaluation outcome		2023 ERC calls to which a Principal Investigator is <i>not</i> eligible
2021 and 2022 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant or 2022 Synergy Grant	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity	Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grant
2021 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant
2022 Synergy Grant	A or B at Step 3	No restrictions
	B at Step 1 or 2	No restrictions
	C at Step 1	Advanced and Synergy Grant
2022 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant	A or B at Step 2	No restrictions
	B or C at Step 1	Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant

ERC Work Programme 2023 (draft)

MAIN NOVELTIES OF THE WORK PROGRAMME 2023

Starting/Consolidator grants:

- eligibility criteria - the reference date towards the calculation of the eligibility period is the **certified date of the successful defence** (and not the award) of PhD degree
- two additional grounds for extension of the PhD eligibility window - PI's inability to work before the call deadline due to a **natural disaster** (min. 30 days) **or for seeking asylum**

Proof of Concept grants:

- evaluation elements of the Proof of Concept Grant slightly modified

Capital equipment:

- equipment, infrastructure, or other assets **purchased specifically for the action (or developed as part of the action tasks)** may **exceptionally** be declared as **full capitalised costs**
- normally they must be declared as **depreciation costs**

2023 CALLS (DRAFT WP 2023)

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>	<i>Proof of Concept Grant</i>
<i>Call opens</i>	12/07/2022	28/09/2022	08/12/2022	13/07/2022	20/10/2022
<i>Call deadline (cut-off date)</i>					24/01/2023
	25/10/2022	02/02/2023	23/05/2023	08/11/2022	20/04/2023
					14/09/2023
<i>Budget (m EUR)</i>	628	595	597	300	30



- WP expected to be published at the end of June 2022, first calls mid July 2022



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

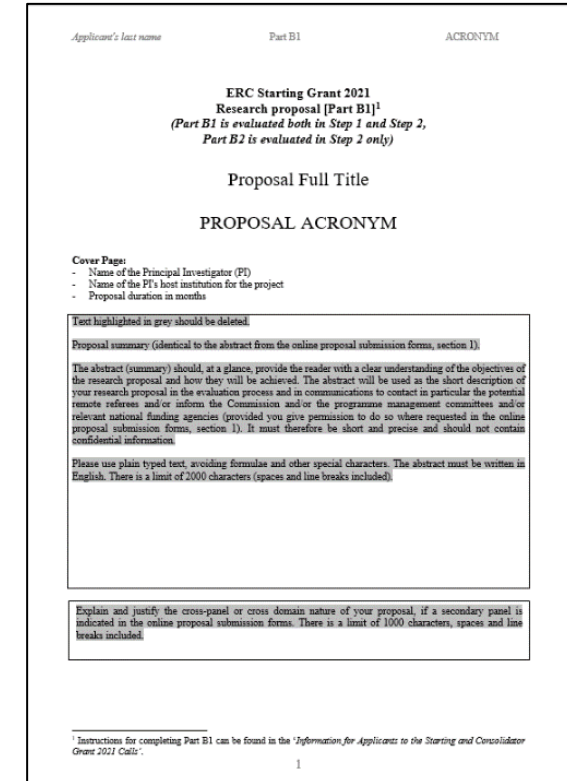


Work Programme

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Information for Applicants



Proposal template
Part B1, Part B2
HI support letter



TC CAS SERVICES TO ERC APPLICANTS & HOST INSTITUTIONS

- **Regular information and training events**
 - National Information Days on the ERC grants
 - ERC Applicants´ workshops (3 rounds)
 - Seminars for project managers & management of host institutions supporting ERC applicants
 - Mock interviews for ERC StG/CoG/AdG/SyG applicants
- **Ad hoc events or on demand**
- **Individual consulting** (incl. financial and legal aspects)
- **Proposal pre-screening** (formal not scientific issues)
- **Publication activities** – ERC brochure (in preparation, **echo** journal)
 - National HE Poratl www.horizontevropa.cz (Newsletter, News)
 - How to prepare budget of an ERC project? (Information leaflet)
- **Cooperation with key stakeholders**
 - Expert group for support of ERC applicants (EG): coordinator prof. Zdeněk Strakoš (Charles University)
 - ERC (ERC CZ) grantees, evaluators and experts, prof. T. Jungwirth, dr. A. Valkárová ...



WEBSITE OF THE EXPERT GROUP SUPPORTING ERC APPLICANTS

<http://www.horizontevropa.cz/en/he-programme-structure/excellent-science/european-research-council/erc-expert-group/>

HORIZONT
EVROPA



Excelentní věda

Evropská rada pro výzkum:

Informace

Informace

Kalendář

Dokumenty

Odkazy

FAQ

Spolupracující instituce

Složení expertní skupiny:

Koordinátor:

- [prof. Ing. Zdeněk Strakoš, DrSc.](#), Matematicko-fyzikální fakulta, Univerzita Karlova

Členové:

- [doc. Mirjam Friedová, Ph.D.](#), Filozofická fakulta, Univerzita Karlova
- [prof. Ing. Michal Hocek, CSc., DSc.](#), Ústav organické chemie a biochemie, AV ČR a Přírodovědecká fakulta, Univerzita Karlova
- [doc. Ing. Pavel Jelínek, Ph.D.](#), Fyzikální ústav AV ČR
- [prof. Mgr. Michal Koucký, Ph.D.](#), Matematicko-fyzikální fakulta, Univerzita Karlova
- [doc. RNDr. Filip Matějka, Ph.D.](#), CERGE-EI
- [prof. RNDr. Vojtěch Novotný, CSc.](#), Biologické centrum, AV ČR
- [Mgr. Pavel Tomančák, Ph.D.](#), MPI-CBG/CEITEC
- [prof. Tomáš Jungwirth, Ph.D.](#), Fyzikální ústav AV ČR
- [prof. RNDr. Julius Lukeš, CSc.](#), Biologické centrum AV ČR

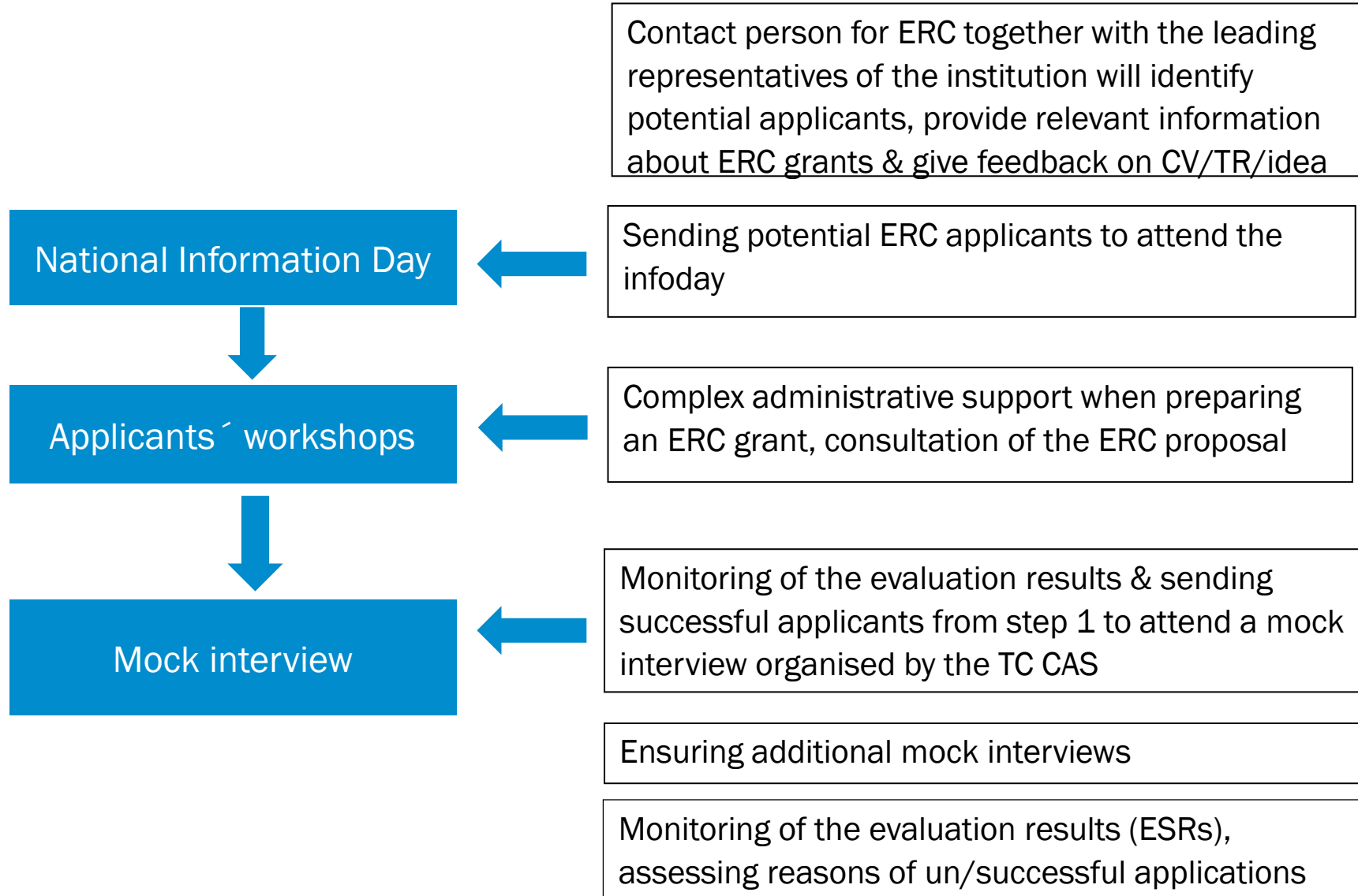
National Portal Horizon Europe
(Czech/English version)
horizontevropa.cz

General mailbox: erc.es@tc.cz

[Přehled Aktivit Expertní skupiny na podporu žadatelů ve výzvách ERC a Technologického centra AV ČR od roku 2021](#)



INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR ERC GRANT APPLICANTS



- Requirements for applicants' workshop:
- ✓ Name of the project
 - ✓ Panel
 - ✓ Abstract
 - ✓ CV and track record
 - ✓ Confirmation of the future host institution

Zdroj: [Účast ČR v soutěžích o granty ERC: Strategická doporučení pro podporu žadatelů o granty ERC na institucionální a národní úrovni](#)

PLANNED EVENTS

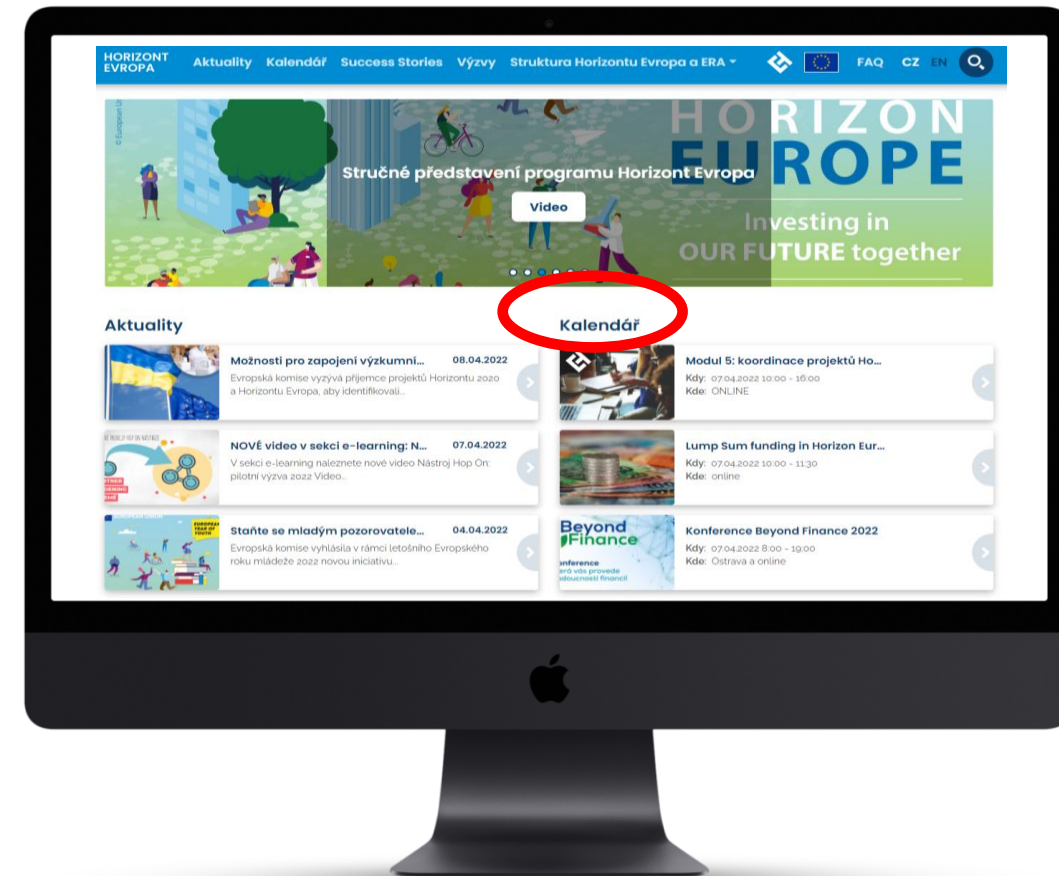
ERC 2023 Applicants ´ Workshops

(TC CAS in cooperation with the [Expert group to support ERC applicants](#)):

- ❑ [1st Workshop: 25-27 May 2022](#) online (registration till April 11)
- ❑ [2nd Workshop: 27-29 June 2022](#)
- ❑ [3rd Workshop: beginning of September 2022](#)

ERC National Information Day

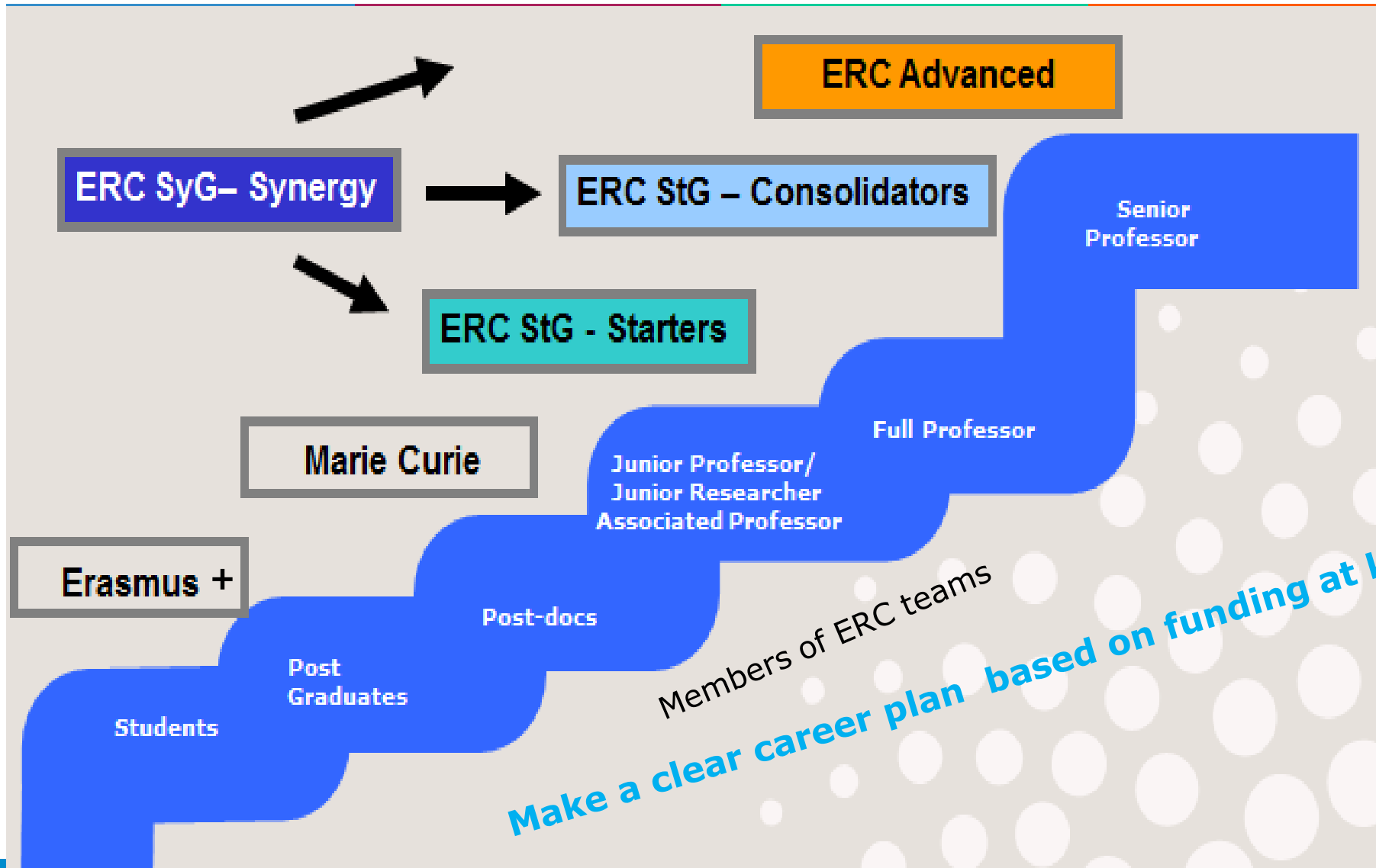
- ❑ autumn 2022



Portal Horizon Europe: <http://www.horizontevropa.cz>

SCIENTIFIC CAREER & INDIVIDUAL-DRIVEN GRANTS

Build up an excellent track-record!



Make a clear career plan based on funding at key stages!

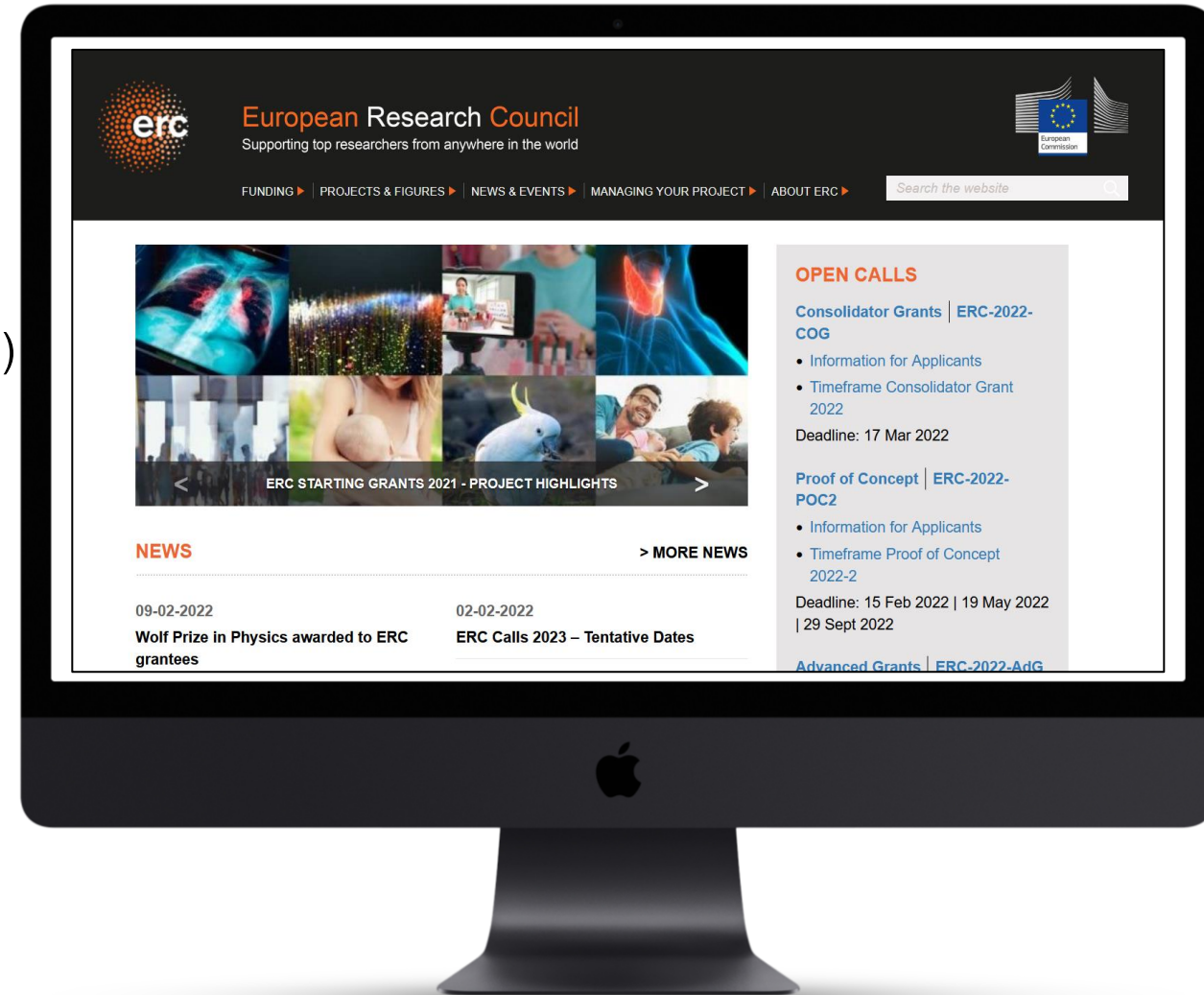
EURAXESS - RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

BECOME AN ERC TEAM MEMBER

The screenshot shows the EURAXESS website interface. At the top left is the European Commission logo. Below it is a breadcrumb trail: European Commission > EURAXESS > Jobs & Funding > Jobs Search. The main header area contains the word 'EURAXESS' in large white letters. Below the header is a navigation menu with several items: 'JOBS & FUNDING' (circled in red), 'CAREER DEVELOPMENT', 'PARTNERING', 'INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE', 'NATIONAL PORTALS', 'EURAXESS WORLDWIDE', and 'LOGIN / REGISTER'. A search icon is also present. Below the navigation menu is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Enter keywords'. To the left of the search bar are several filter categories: 'RESEARCH FIELD', 'RESEARCHER PROFILE', 'SECTOR', and 'COUNTRY'. Below these is a blue button labeled 'EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROGRAMME' (circled in red). To the right of the search bar is a list of checkboxes with corresponding labels: 'FP7 (21)', 'FP7 / Ideas-ERC (2)', 'FP7 / People-Marie Curie Actions (1)', 'H2020 (265)', 'H2020 / EIT (3)', 'H2020 / ERC (142)' (circled in red), 'H2020 / Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (46)', and 'H2020 / Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND (100)'. At the bottom left of the search area are two buttons: 'SEARCH' and 'NEED HELP?'. The background of the page features a blurred image of a person's legs standing on a rocky surface.

USEFUL LINKS

- [ERC Website](#)
- [ERC Classes](#) (videos)
- [EURAXESS](#) (job offers in ERC teams)
- [CORDIS](#) (EU-funded projects since 1990s)
- [FTO Portal](#) (proposal submission, documentation)
- [Research Enquiry Service](#) (questions)





**GOOD LUCK
WITH YOUR PROPOSAL ! 😊**

Petra Fedorová

fedorova@tc.cz

www.tc.cz