



Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste

EU grants to boost your career: ERC and MSCA

A. Overview of MSCA and ERC calls – C. Blasetti



B. Meet a winner – C. Vozzi



C. Interactive session !



PROs

- Get independent funding
- Build your own research team
- Relocate in the EU

- Improve soft skills
- Learn from the best
- Never try, never succeed 😊

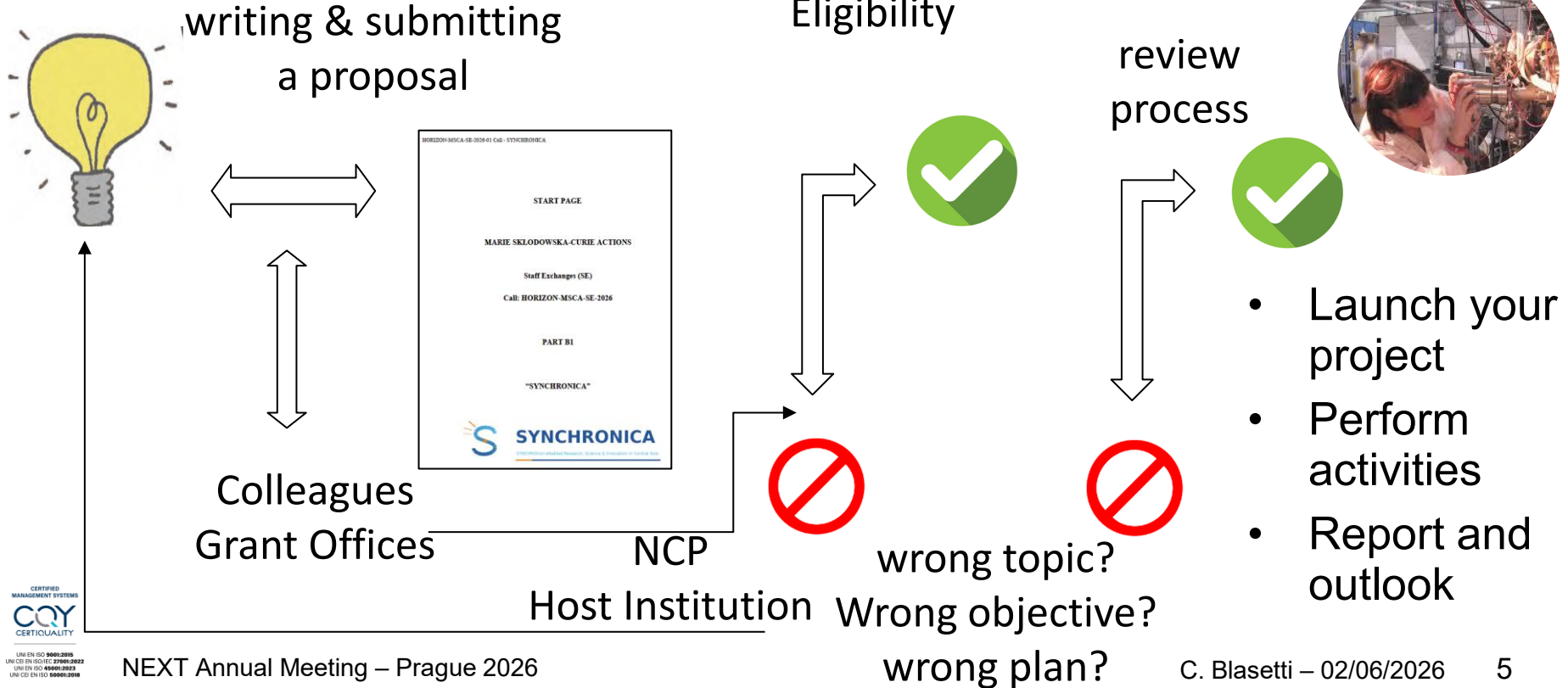
What's NEXT?

→ Give a boost to your career !

CONs

- It's hard work
- Can be frustrating

From idea to project (funded)



- Mobility at **any career stage** from early-stage doctoral candidates to experienced postdoctoral researchers
 - 8.000 researchers / year
 - Doctoral Networks → **MSCA-DN** → you can be a supervisor ;)
 - Post-doctoral Fellowships → **MSCA-PF**
 - Staff exchanges → **MSCA-SE** → get engaged
- Being a MSCA fellow is a quality label



150,000 researchers

were supported by MSCA at all career stages over three decades



23 Nobel Prize laureates

were involved in MSCA as fellows, supervisors or project coordinators



8,000 researchers

join doctoral programmes, postdoctoral fellowships and staff exchanges each year



Objective:

- support researchers' **careers** and foster **excellence** in research
- support PhD holders to carry out their research activities **abroad**
- acquire **new skills** and develop careers
- gain experience in **other countries, disciplines and non-academic sectors.**

2 types of post-doctoral fellowships:

- **European PFs:** any nationality, 1-2 years in EU Member State or HE Associated Country
- **Global PFs:** outside EU, 2-3 years of which 1-2 in a non-associated country
- Secondments all over the world
- Additional 6 months for non-academic placement



50%

of organisations taking part in the MSCA
are companies, including SMEs



45%

of supported researchers are women



40%

of supported researchers come from
outside the EU



- Must **have a PhD** at the time of the **call deadline**
- Must have a **maximum of eight years** **experience in research**, from the date of the award of their PhD degree, years of experience outside research and career breaks
- **Mobility rule:** they must **not have resided or carried out their main activity** (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the **beneficiary** (for European Postdoctoral Fellowships), or the host organisation for the outgoing phase (for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) for **more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline**

- Choose the right panel & keywords
- Follow the template

Radiance manual

- Guidance through form-filling
- Match evaluation criteria
- Examples of weak and strong points from previous Evaluation Summary Reports



STRENGTHS – EXAMPLES FROM PREVIOUS EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS

- The proposal presents convincingly the researcher's record, which includes publications in high impact-factor journals, a demonstrated capacity to attract funding, experience in supervising and mentoring activities, prizes and awards. This record renders the researcher's professional growth during the fellowship highly credible.
- The researcher's existing competency and skills as well as professional experience are in line with the proposal and will be fundamental to the planned achievement, which has been convincingly presented.
- The researcher's CV is very competitive, with high quality and impact publications, international mobility and a multitude of relevant transferable skills. The professional experience and competences of the researcher are highly appropriate for the proposal.
- The expertise of the main supervisor, of the host research group, and of the supervisor secondment institution is soundly documented, and in a very good match with the research proposed.
- The planned non-academic placement is well described and its value for the project is very convincingly demonstrated, enabling the researcher to gain experience beyond academia and acquire new competences relevant to their profile, especially through the training of teachers.

WEAKNESSES – EXAMPLES FROM PREVIOUS EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS

- The quality of the scientific output of the researcher is unconvincing for the time spent as a post-doc. The proposal does not fully consider how the researcher's existing professional experience is relevant to the proposed project.
- The researcher's track record in terms of publication output and visibility in the scientific community is low for their stage of career. The impact of their publications has been low.
- The administrative and leadership experience and skills of the researcher appear to be overstated as they are not based on evidence provided in the proposal or their CV.
- The plan for the supervisory meetings to create and monitor progress on the career perspectives is not sufficiently detailed to convincingly demonstrate adequate mentorship from the primary supervisor.

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01

Call open: apply [here](#)

Deadline: **September 9th, 2026, 17:00 CET**

February 2027: call results

April 2027: Grant Agreement signature

May 2027: first EU-funded projects start

ENIGMA MSCA-PF (Dr. S. Lemmers)

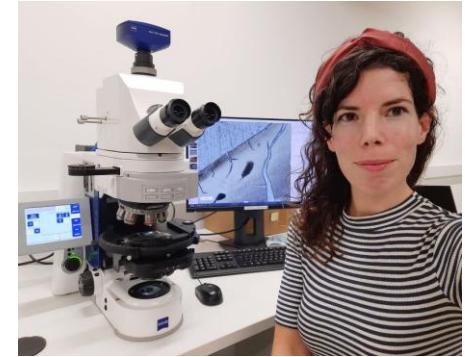
97.70/100 score

Descriptors (drop-down menu)

- Prehistory and protohistory
- Human life-span development
- Microscopy
- Biodiversity, comparative biology
- Systems evolution, biological adaptation, phylogenetics, systematics



ENIGMA



Keywords (freetext)

- Bone histology, life history, human evolution, ontogeny, Synchrotron radiation, physical activity, adaptation
- Tomography, science communication



Objective:

- fund **excellent** investigators for **ground-breaking and ambitious research**
- empower **individual** researchers and provide the best settings to foster their creativity
- **set up or consolidate their own independent research team or programme**, as well as
- support already established research leaders

What is an ERC idea? It can take different forms, e.g.:

- A bold hypothesis or theoretical framework (as expected by many panels)
- A creative solution to a persistent challenge
- A new conceptual or methodological approach

What matters is that **the idea reflects the unique ERC expectations**

Any age and career stage → **eligibility windows** for each call

StG – Starting Grant

- Individual grant
- Up to 1.5MEuro
- 5 years

CoG – Consolidator Grant

- Individual grant
- Up to 2MEuro
- 5 years

AdG – Advanced Grant

- Individual grant
- Up to 2.5MEuro
- 5 years

SyG – Synergy Grant

- 2 - 4 PIs
- Up to 10MEuro
- 6 years

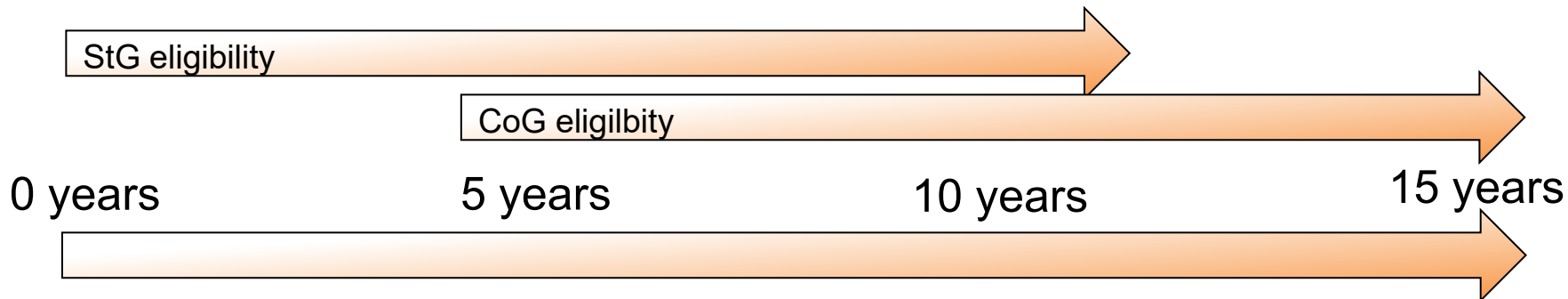
PoC – Proof of Concept Grant

- 150kEuro
- for ERC holders

StG – Starting Grant
from **0 to 10 years** after PhD
at 01/01/2027

NEW!

CoG – Consolidator Grant
from **5 to 15 years** after PhD
at 01/01/2027



WP 2027 not yet published
ERC [video](#) on new eligibility windows

- Eligibility period *may be extended* for parental leave or clinical training
- **At most 1 StG and 1 CoG during their career**

What's NEXT? Choose your panel(s) !

- 28 panels, 10-15 descriptors each
- Each panel is made by 12-18 members
→ > 450 per call and per year
- [Panel Chair is known](#), full composition public only once the results are published
- A panel may not include an expert in your discipline, they are **semi-generalists**

BUT

- ERC can establish collaborations between panels

AND

- The members of ERC panels **alternate** to allow panel members to apply to the ERC calls in alternate years

Review panels

(LS) Life Sciences ▼

(PE) Physical Sciences & Engineering ▼

(SH) Social Sciences & Humanities ▼

(SyG) Synergy Grants ▼

Apply

Reset

PE5 ✕

Showing results 1 - 50 of 285 Export as XLS

Review panel	Funding schemes	Review panel member name	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
PE5	AdG	Varinder Aggarwal										
PE5	AdG	Takuzo Aida										
PE5	AdG	Michelle Arkin										
PE5	AdG	Micha Asscher										
PE5	AdG	Jar Ba Screenshot										

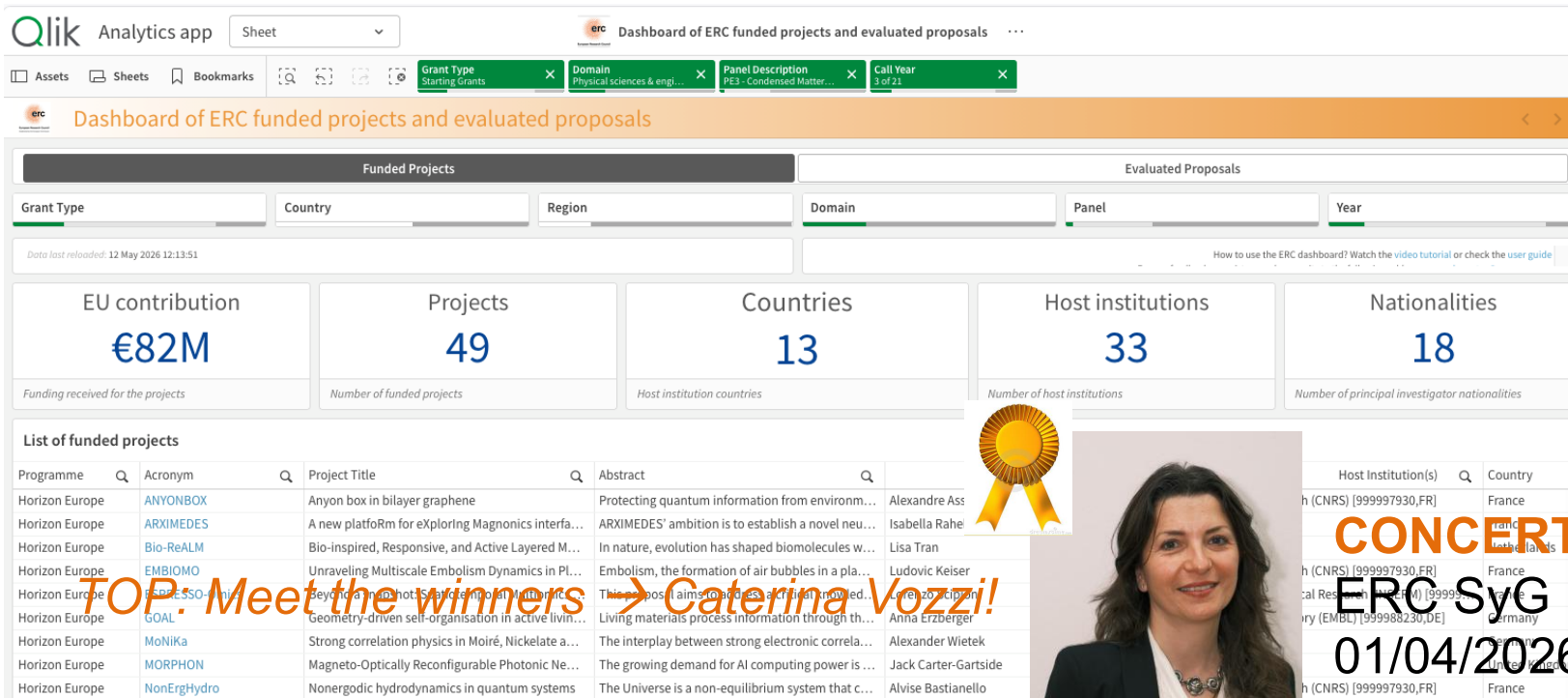
An ERC application is composed of:

- the administrative form (Part A) including budget table, resources, time commitment, etc
- completed **Part B1** template
 - Part I of the Scientific Proposal (5 pages) + Curriculum Vitae + Track Record (4 pages)
- completed **Part B2** template
 - Part II of the Scientific Proposal + funding ID table (7 pages except 10 pages for SyG)
- mandatory documentation: PhD certificate for StG and CoG, Host institution support letter, etc
- if applicable, additional supporting documentation related to ethics and security issues

Take-home message

- Intrigue (part B1)
 - Convince (part B2)
 - Inspire (B1 + B2 + interview)

0th order approximation: [ERC dashboard](#)



Dashboard of ERC funded projects and evaluated proposals

Funded Projects Summary:

- EU contribution: €82M
- Projects: 49
- Countries: 13
- Host institutions: 33
- Nationalities: 18

List of funded projects:

Programme	Acronym	Project Title	Abstract	Principal Investigator	Host Institution(s)	Country
Horizon Europe	ANYONBOX	Anyon box in bilayer graphene	Protecting quantum information from environm...	Alexandre Ass	h (CNRS) [999997930,FR]	France
Horizon Europe	ARXIMEDES	A new platfoRm for eXploring Magnonics interfa...	ARXIMEDES' ambition is to establish a novel neu...	Isabella Rahe	h (CNRS) [999997930,FR]	France
Horizon Europe	Bio-ReALM	Bio-inspired, Responsive, and Active Layered M...	In nature, evolution has shaped biomolecules w...	Lisa Tran	h (CNRS) [999997930,FR]	France
Horizon Europe	EMBIOMO	Unraveling Multiscale Embolism Dynamics in Pl...	Embolism, the formation of air bubbles in a pla...	Ludovic Keiser	h (CNRS) [999997930,FR]	France
Horizon Europe	EMBESSO-Flow	Beyond a man-made hot-spot: Minimal Mutualit...	This proposal aims to address critical knowled...	Lorena Cipione	cal Researc (EMBL) [999997930,FR]	France
Horizon Europe	GOAL	Geometry-driven self-organisation in active livin...	Living materials process information through th...	Anna Erzberger	ry (EMBL) [999998230,DE]	Germany
Horizon Europe	MoNiKa	Strong correlation physics in Moiré, Nickelate a...	The interplay between strong electronic correla...	Alexander Wietek	h (CNRS) [999997930,FR]	France
Horizon Europe	MORPHON	Magneto-Optically Reconfigurable Photonic Ne...	The growing demand for AI computing power is ...	Jack Carter-Gartside	h (CNRS) [999997930,FR]	France
Horizon Europe	NonErgHydro	Nonergodic hydrodynamics in quantum systems	The Universe is a non-equilibrium system that c...	Alvise Bastianello	h (CNRS) [999997930,FR]	France



Host Institution(s) Country

CONCERT SyG

01/04/2026



Upcoming ERC deadlines

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant
Call ID	ERC-2027-StG	ERC-2027-CoG	ERC-2026-AdG	ERC-2027-SyG
Opening	07/2026*	09/2026*	28/05/2026	07/2026*
Deadline	10/2026*	01/2027*	27/08/2026	11/2026*

* To be confirmed, ERC 2027 work programme not published yet

Don't be shy: exploit any support

- Ask colleagues for **proof—read**
- never underestimate an “external” review
- your colleague might have a relevant experience

English version for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) applicants

If you are a postdoctoral researcher submitting an **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026** proposal with an **Italian host institution** (beneficiary), please note that the **MSCA Thematic Team** offers a **free prescreening service**.

The prescreening may be requested **only once per proposal** and applies exclusively to the **final version of Part B1**.

Incomplete proposals or proposals that do not comply with the **formal requirements** set out in the official European Commission template will not be considered. This includes, for example: proposals exceeding the **10-page limit**, incomplete or missing sections, use of non-permitted fonts or page formatting, failure to use the official template, etc.

For prescreening purposes, it is **mandatory** to submit **Part B1 using exclusively the official template** available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, which can be accessed after clicking on “*Start submission*”. The official template in Word format can be downloaded here: [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026](#)

The official European Commission template must be used **without modifying the titles of sections, paragraphs, or headings**.

In the case of a **resubmission**, the **latest available version of the template** must be used.

Please note that the MSCA Thematic Team does not intervene in the scientific content of the project idea.

To benefit from the service, applicants must send the **complete and final version of Part B1** to msca@apre.it **no later than 5:00 p.m. CEST on 31 July 2026**.

Proposals that do not meet these requirements or that are received **after 5:00 pm**, on the indicated deadline will **not be accepted**.

- National Contact Points & Grant Offices often provide **pre-screening**
 - CV strength evaluation, call choice, B1 and B2
- ...and when in Step 3...**mockup interviews** are precious!

Horizon Europe National Contact Points Portal

Where the NCP knowledge meets your needs

 APRE

Agenzia per la Promozione
della Ricerca Europea



Training

Online and onsite training, courses
and workshops



Events

Key events like info-days,
brokerage and conferences



Tools

Tools and services useful for
participating in Horizon Europe



NCP Corner

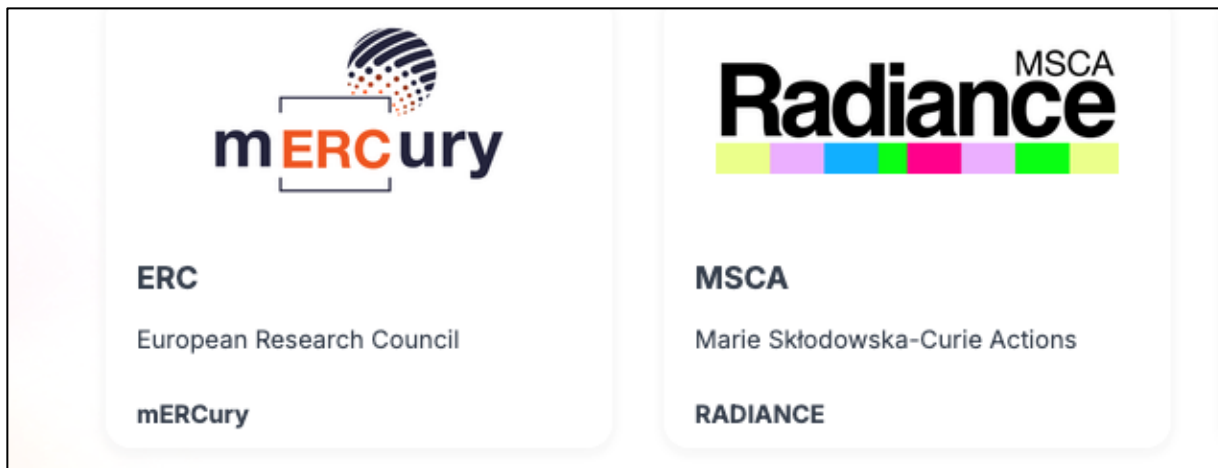
A workspace for appointed NCPs
across all functionalities

Search... 🔍

NCPs are also grouped in thematic projects (!)

[EU NCPs for ERC](#)

[EU NCPs for MSCA](#)



PROs - *if you're skilled*

- Can scan work programmes
- Can speed up summary
- Can summarize e.g. bullet points
- Can find inconsistencies in numbers e.g. person-months
- Needs strong content basis 😊
- ...

CONs

- Time needed to train the LLM
- Most powerful tools are pay-for
- Beware of intellectual property
- Biases / hallucinations
- Needs strong content basis 😞
- ...

Take a specific **course** (e.g. Regional ones)



MSCA website: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/>

ERC website: <https://erc.europa.eu/homepage>

Funding & tenders portal call page:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>

Cordis database: <https://cordis.europa.eu/>

NotebookLM: <https://notebooklm.google.com/?pli=1>

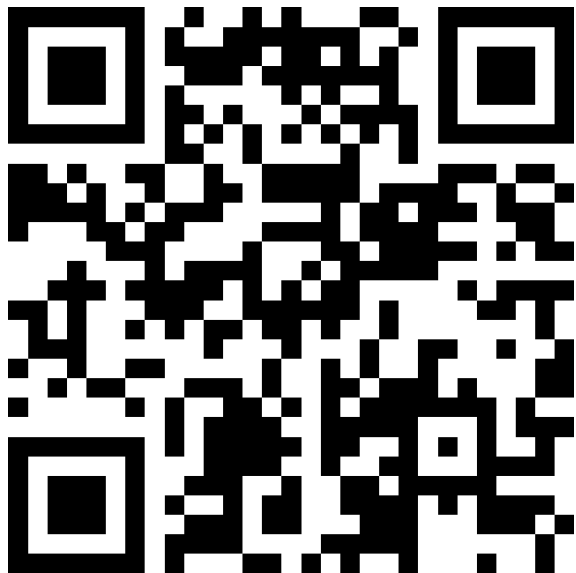
Perplexity: <https://www.perplexity.ai/>

LMStudio (GPT-OSS): <https://lmstudio.ai/>

Keep calm and...

What's NEXT?

KEEP CALM and...prepare your proposals (in due time)!



Sli.do:


1. Have you ever submitted an ERC or MSCA proposal?
2. Are you planning to do so in 2026-2027?
3. Whas this tutorial useful?



Do not edit
How to change the
design



Have you ever submitted an ERC or MSCA proposal?

 The Slido app must be installed on every computer you're presenting from

slido

Member States: 27

Third Countries Associated to HE: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Egypt, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Non-associated countries (for MSCA-PF Global): all other countries, but some low- to middle-income countries are **automatically eligible for funding** (e.g. Uzbekistan, Jordan, Argentina)

Extra slide(s)

Percentiles of MSCA-PF 2025 call

	MSCA-DN-2025: Cumulative percentage of proposals above threshold, with a given score or higher (with funding range marked in green)								
Number of eligible proposals	184	27	600	126	369	11	101	184	1602
Cut off score for funding	94.8	89.8	96.2	97.8	95.0	96.6	95.4	93.6	
Score equal to or above	CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC	Grand Total
100	0.00%	0.00%	1.17%	0.00%	0.80%	0.00%	1.98%	0.00%	0.75%
99	1.60%	0.00%	2.33%	1.59%	1.34%	0.00%	3.96%	1.07%	1.87%
98	3.21%	0.00%	4.83%	7.14%	2.41%	0.00%	4.95%	1.60%	3.81%
97	4.81%	0.00%	6.33%	12.70%	4.01%	0.00%	4.95%	3.21%	5.56%
96	8.02%	0.00%	10.33%	15.87%	5.61%	9.09%	6.93%	4.81%	8.43%
95	8.56%	0.00%	12.67%	18.25%	8.56%	9.09%	11.88%	5.88%	10.67%
94	12.30%	0.00%	17.00%	23.02%	10.96%	36.36%	14.85%	8.02%	14.04%
93	16.58%	3.70%	21.00%	27.78%	13.64%	54.55%	17.82%	10.16%	17.73%
92	18.18%	3.70%	25.67%	32.54%	18.18%	54.55%	20.79%	12.30%	21.47%
91	25.13%	3.70%	29.33%	38.10%	22.73%	54.55%	22.77%	12.30%	25.16%
90	28.88%	3.70%	34.67%	40.48%	27.27%	54.55%	27.72%	17.65%	29.59%
89	34.22%	7.41%	38.50%	44.44%	30.48%	63.64%	34.65%	20.32%	33.52%
88	37.43%	7.41%	43.17%	49.21%	35.03%	63.64%	37.62%	24.06%	37.89%
87	44.92%	14.81%	48.00%	53.97%	40.11%	72.73%	50.50%	27.27%	43.26%
86	47.59%	18.52%	51.83%	58.73%	44.39%	72.73%	52.48%	29.95%	46.44%
85	54.55%	18.52%	54.67%	65.08%	48.13%	81.82%	56.44%	35.29%	50.31%
84	60.96%	18.52%	59.17%	67.46%	54.28%	81.82%	59.41%	40.64%	54.99%
83	64.17%	22.22%	62.33%	69.05%	57.49%	81.82%	63.37%	44.92%	58.24%
82	67.38%	25.93%	66.33%	71.43%	60.96%	81.82%	66.34%	46.52%	61.30%
81	70.05%	29.63%	68.67%	73.81%	63.90%	81.82%	72.28%	50.27%	64.11%
80	72.73%	33.33%	73.17%	76.19%	68.98%	90.91%	75.25%	56.68%	68.29%
79	75.94%	37.04%	76.17%	78.57%	71.39%	90.91%	80.20%	59.89%	71.41%
78	78.61%	37.04%	79.00%	82.54%	72.46%	90.91%	82.18%	62.57%	73.72%
77	80.75%	48.15%	81.33%	83.33%	73.53%	90.91%	84.16%	65.78%	75.59%
76	82.35%	48.15%	84.33%	84.13%	76.20%	90.91%	85.15%	67.38%	77.78%
75	83.42%	51.85%	86.33%	84.13%	77.81%	90.91%	86.14%	67.91%	79.28%
74	84.49%	51.85%	88.17%	85.71%	80.75%	100.00%	88.12%	70.59%	81.65%
73	86.63%	55.56%	88.83%	86.51%	82.09%	100.00%	90.10%	71.66%	82.90%
72	87.70%	59.26%	90.17%	86.51%	84.49%	100.00%	92.08%	73.80%	84.52%
71	89.30%	59.26%	91.50%	88.89%	85.83%	100.00%	94.06%	75.94%	86.02%
70	89.84%	62.96%	92.00%	90.48%	86.90%	100.00%	94.06%	75.94%	86.64%
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<70	10.16%	37.04%	8.00%	9.52%	13.10%	0.00%	5.94%	24.06%	13.36%

Success rate(s) for ERC-StG and -CoG: <https://erc.europa.eu/statistics-0>

ERC 2027 Eligibility: Quick-Check Dashboard

Submission Limits: "The One Active Proposal" Rule

- Only **ONE proposal** under evaluation at any time.
- Exception:** Proof of Concept (PoC) Calls.

WP 2027 Submission Limit

- Max **ONE** submission for the entire ERC 2027 Work Programme.
- Resubmit **ONLY** if the first was declared officially **INELIGIBLE**. → Resubmit

Career & Cross-Call Restrictions

- NO 'Second Acts'** for StG or CoG:
- If you held StG or CoG, you cannot apply to the **SAME** scheme again.

AdG/Plus 2026 → SyG 2027 Block

- Applied for Advanced (AdG) or Plus Grant 2026?
- You are **INELIGIBLE** for **Synergy Grant 2027**.

FOCUS: SYNERGY GRANT (SyG) – THE 'DOMINO EFFECT'

PI 1 OK ✓ + PI 2 OK ✓ + PI 3 OK ✓

↓

ELIGIBLE GROUP

PI 1 OK ✓ + PI 2 OK ✓ + PI 3 INELIGIBLE ✗

↓

ENTIRE PROPOSAL INELIGIBLE

***Warning:** One PI failure sinks the whole team. No replacements allowed during evaluation.*
All PIs must remain eligible throughout the evaluation process.

Extra slide(s)

- <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/erc-scientific-council-readjusts-rules-reapplication>
- <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/applying-erc-grant-2027-competitions-what-you-need-know>
- <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/erc-president-explains-stricter-application-measures-amid-rising-demand-funding>
- <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/erc-president-explains-changes-erc-evaluation-procedures>
- https://erc.europa.eu/system/files/2025-09/Changes_to_ERC_evaluation_procedures_background_rationale.pdf