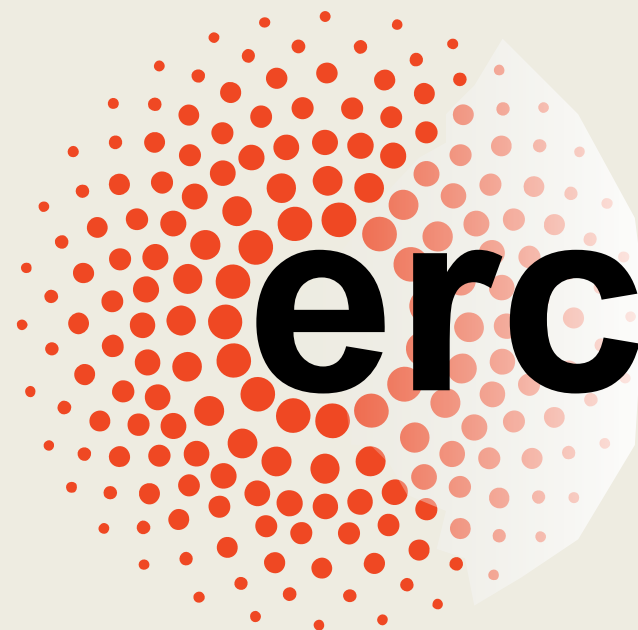


# European Research Council



**ERC  
KEYS**



**Prof. José L. García**



**The program we all dream**



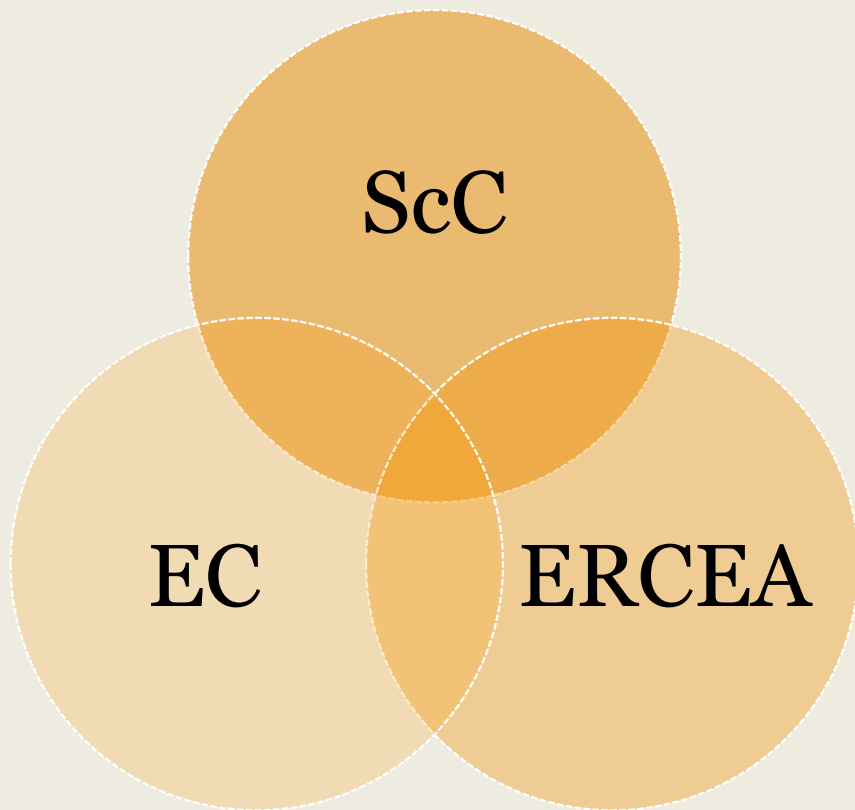
- ✓ **Big money**
- ✓ **A single partner (or SyG in cooperation)**
- ✓ **All disciplines**
- ✓ **Scientists from all countries**
- ✓ **Portability of money**
- ✓ **Short project templates**
- ✓ **Grants differentiated by experience**
- ✓ **Grants differentiated by disciplines**
- ✓ **No previous team required**
- ✓ **No previous lab required**
- ✓ **Long-term funding**
- ✓ **Equipment cost (see rules)**
- ✓ **Lump sum (AdG)**



European Research Council

Established by  
the European Commission

# European Research Council



President: M. Leptin

22 eminent scientists, covering all  
disciplines

# Why was the ERC created?



- **To lead science in the world  
(Increase the impact of EU  
publications)**
- **To incorporate 3R talent (Recruit,  
Rescue, Retain)**

# What is the main criterion?



## THE EXCELLENCE

### ON THE FRONTIERS OF KOWNLEDGE

# What do I have to ask myself before starting?



**If I am successful with my idea**

**Will I be able to publish  
the results in the best  
journal in my field?**

# What do I have to ask myself before starting?



**If I am successful with my idea**

**Will I be able to lead my  
field?**



# What do I have to ask myself before starting?



**Is my CV competitive in  
my field and correlate to  
my years of experience?**

# What do I have to ask myself before starting?



**Does my CV and my  
experience support my  
proposal?**

# What do I have to assume before starting?



**I will be responsible  
for managing one or  
more million euros**

# What do I have to assume before starting?



**I will compete with the  
best researchers in my  
field on a global scale**

# What do I have to assume before starting?



**The people who will  
evaluate my proposal are  
excellent scientists**

# What do I have to assume before starting?



**The main objective of the  
program is to increase  
scientific knowledge**

# What do I have to assume before starting?



**The main objective of the  
program is not to develop  
processes or products at  
TRLs > 3**

**(for higher TRLs there are other programs)**

# What do I have to assume before starting?



**StG, CoG and AdG**  
**individual projects**

(Collaborations are possible, but with restrictions)

**SyG**  
**coordinated projects**

**PoC only for grantees**



# Starting Grants



**BREAKING IDEA**

**GOOD CV**

**CERTAIN INDEPENDENCE**

**ORIGINALITY**

# Consolidator Grants



**BREAKING IDEA**

**VERY GOOD CV**

**OWN GROUP**

**ORIGINALITY**

# Advanced Grants



**INNOVATIVE IDEA**

**EXCELLENT CV**

**INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION  
IN THE FIELD**

# Synergy Grants



**INNOVATIVE IDEA**

**DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP INDIVIDUALLY**

**EXCELLENT OR VERY GOOD CVs  
(possibility of Co-IP outside the EU)**

**RECOGNITION IN THE FIELDS**

# What do you need to know about the panel?



- ✓ Each panel is made up of approx. 14 panelists (hidden) with a chair person (visible) chosen by the SC, who distribute the projects according to their experience.
- ✓ There is always an ERC officer/supervisor on the panels to ensure that standards and CoIs are met.
- ✓ A priori, 3 people can be refuted for the process, whether they are panelists or remote reviewers.
- ✓ Panelists are hired for 4 years and serve every other year. Their names can be seen on the ERC website but never in the same year of application.
- ✓ Panel selection is very important. If the project is multi-panel you can choose a secondary panel. Panels may claim experts from other panels or external reviewers in extreme cases.
- ✓ To choose the panel it is necessary to look at: i) sub-panels; ii) fields of the panelists; iii) type of projects financed; iv) type of publications of the beneficiaries.
- ✓ They can change the project panel if they want and without permission.

# What do you need to know about the 1st Step evaluation?



- ✓ Each project is evaluated by 4 panelists and perhaps another from a different panel in complex projects.
- ✓ There is a panelist responsible for your project (rapporteur) (closest to the field).
- ✓ The panelists are not necessarily experts in your field.
- ✓ A maximum of 44 projects per panel will go to the second step.
- ✓ If 120-150 projects enter the panel, each panelist will evaluate about 30-40 projects and of these they will have to discard about 2/3. They have little time to see each proposal and many are of advanced age/experience and do not feel like reading simple things.
- ✓ We have to hope that all 4 panelists find it interesting but above all that there is not one who is very against it and especially that it is not the rapporteur.
- ✓ The ranking of the first step is important but it is not the only determining factor in the end.

**YOU HAVE TO PASS STEP 1 ANY WAY**

# What do you need to know about the CV?



- **You must demonstrate in your CV that you have the skills to do what you propose.**
- **You have to present your best results and be somewhat pedantic.**
- **You should not throw stones at your own roof (hide the least good).**
- **You have to direct your CV so that it is valued well by those in your field.**
- **Independence must be demonstrated (especially young people).**
- **Great achievements must be highlighted.**
- **You have to show that you live in the world and not just in your country.**
- **Management capacity must be demonstrated.**
- **Training capacity must be demonstrated.**
- **Leadership ability must be demonstrated.**

# What should you know about the synopsis?



- ☐ You have to explain the limits of knowledge in the field
- ☐ You must show who are people working at the limit of knowledge.
- ☐ You must say why it is necessary to cross the limit.
- ☐ You have to explain how you want to cross the limit.
- ☐ You have to explain why you are the right person to cross the limit.
- ☐ You have to explain what you are going to do if I hit myself when I jump over the limit.
- ☐ You have to say if you need any help and why.
- ☐ You have to say if you have any prior results about what lies beyond the limit, especially if the project is extremely risky.
- ☐ Some of the methodology and resources to be used must be explained.
- ☐ Diagrams and tables help.
- ☐ The risk and benefits have to be visible at the end.
- ☐ Avoid jargon and highly specialized abbreviations.

**SIMPLICITY AND CLARITY**



# Possible synopsis scheme



## □ Abstract

- You have to present the challenge from the first sentence.
- You must avoid generalities.
- Acronyms in text should be avoided.
- A good summary is half the success.

## □ Synopsis

- **Idea** What I want to do?
- **State of the art** Why is it a new idea? Limits of knowledge. Competitors.
- **Hypotesis** Why can I contribute something new?
- **Objectives** What are the scientific challenges to be solved and their value?
- **Methodology/WPs** How do I technically solve the challenges?
- **Risks** How do I identify and resolve risks?
- **Benefits** Why is it groundbreaking? What impact will it have (various levels)? Because right now? Etc.

# What you need to know about the 2nd STEP evaluation?



- ❖ Each project is evaluated by 4 panelists, one acts as rapporteur.
- ❖ Remote experts are chosen by the panelists.
- ❖ It is necessary that everyone finds the project interesting and above all that there is no one who is very against it.
- ❖ They have very little time to see each proposal.
- ❖ The final decision is made by consensus.
- ❖ In the AdG and SyG if no one knows you, you have a problem.
- ❖ SyG are evaluated in a different way.
- ❖ The interviews in all cases are very decisive.

# What do you need to know about the B2 format?



- ✓The format is very similar to a conventional project.
- ✓It will be evaluated by 4-10 experts in the field from any country, so technically it has to be/appear very solid.
- ✓It is not necessary to repeat everything said in the synopsis, but it helps.
- ✓The state of the art must be expanded and must be very convincing.
- ✓Good organization and structure of the project with clear objectives must be demonstrated (**Challenges**).
- ✓It is not necessary to generate demonstrators or patents (PoC).
- ✓The tasks must be explained with their hypothesis, methodology and expected results.
- ✓Critical points and contingency plans must be exposed.
- ✓You have to be careful with interconnected or highly interdependent activities.
- ✓The possible risks and benefits must be explained and well balanced.
- ✓You must present an adequate budget (help from the entity).
- ✓Collaborations and human resources must be explained very well.
- ✓Extraordinary budget needs must be explained.

**ORGANIZATION AND TECHNICAL ROBUSTNESS IN THE APPROACH**

# What to know about interviews?



- ❖ A maximum of 44 projects will be submitted to the interview, of which between 15-20 projects will be financed.
- ❖ Interviews are online for StG, CoG and AdG, and in person for SyG.
- ❖ Online interviews require a certain technique that we are not used to.
- ❖ The interviews consist of a 5-10 minutes presentation plus 20-25 minutes of questions.
- ❖ There are different formats for the presentation according to each panel.
- ❖ The questions are usually asked by the rapporteur and by some panelists based on the comments of the remote evaluators.
- ❖ The presentation must show the most relevant aspects of the project so that the entire panel is aware, not only those who have read the project (neither CV nor budget).
- ❖ You must answer briefly and concisely so that the panelists can ask all the questions.
- ❖ New preliminary data not discussed in the project can be exposed.
- ❖ You have to prepare any type of question (technical or management).
- ❖ After the interviews, the ranking is decided, especially for the projects in the intermediate zone.
- ❖ Very well evaluated projects are difficult to fail and poorly evaluated projects are difficult to be approved, but nothing is impossible.
- ❖ The final decision is made by consensus of the entire panel, not just by those who have participated in the questions or read the project.
- ❖ SyG interviews are more complex.

# TAKE HOME MESSAGES



- ☐ **Read the guides to know what is requested and what will be evaluated.**
- ☐ **Review the ERC website and attend webinars/workshops.**
- ☐ **Choose the right panel.**
- ☐ **Analyze the evaluators from previous years.**
- ☐ **Analyze already awarded projects on the dashboard.**
- ☐ **Test the project by reviewers (idea, format, English) from others (institutions, colleagues, etc.).**
- ☐ **Don't leave the project to the last minute.**
- ☐ **Be careful with multidisciplinary projects.**
- ☐ **Prepare the interview well in advance.**

# Information



<http://erc.europa.eu>

**Demo on line/review services**

[http:// www.horizonteeuropa.es](http://www.horizonteeuropa.es)

[jlgarcia@cib.csic.es](mailto:jlgarcia@cib.csic.es) (NR)

[estefania.munoz@fecyt.es](mailto:estefania.munoz@fecyt.es) (NCP)

[leticia.riaza@fecyt.es](mailto:leticia.riaza@fecyt.es) (NCP)

**GRACIAS**

**Y**

GRACIAS

**ÁNIMO**