

# EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL



Claudia ALVES DE JESUS

# 9 Years of existence



- Evaluated ~ **50 000 proposals**



- More than **60 nationalities** represented
- Working in > **670 different institutions** in **33 countries**
- Agreements: US, Korea, Argentina, Japan, China and Mexico



- Funded **5 000 top researchers** (~2/3 at early-career stage)
- Funded close to **30 000 team members**

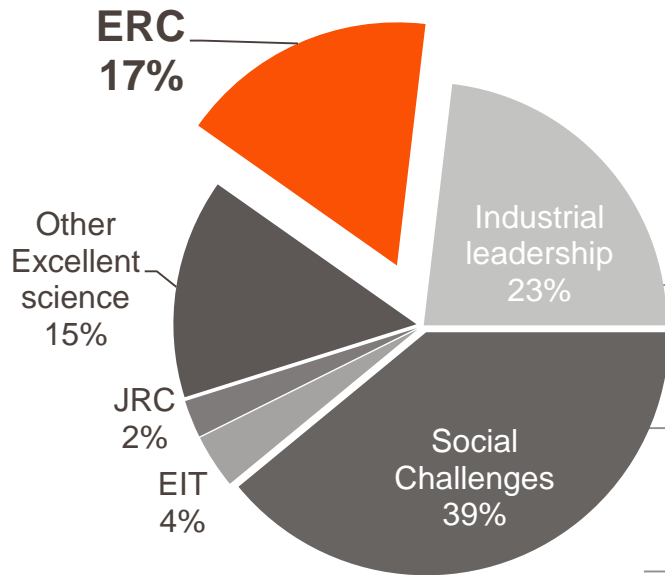


- **Highly competitive** (success rate ~12%)
- **Highly recognised** by the research community

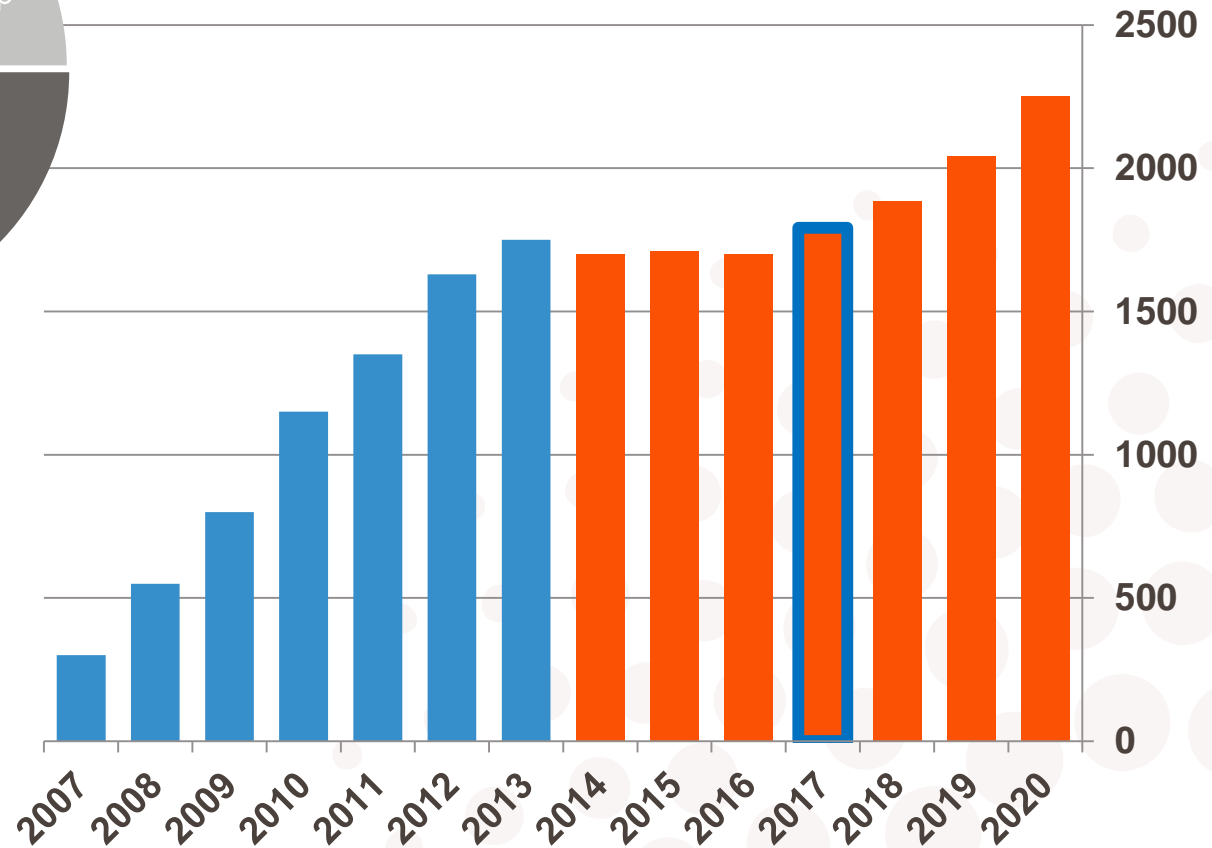
# H2020 (2014-2020)



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**€13**  
billion





- “... to support researchers (Principal Investigators) at the stage at which they are **starting** their own independent research team or programme”

## STARTING GRANTS



- “...to support researchers (Principal Investigators) at the stage at which they are **consolidating** their own independent research team or programme”

## CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS



- “... to **promote substantial advances in the frontiers of knowledge**, and to encourage new productive lines of enquiry and new methods and techniques including unconventional approaches and investigations”

## ADVANCED GRANTS



### PhD acquired 2-7 years

Counting from 1<sup>st</sup> January Call's year

**Extensions** to this period are possible

paternity leave, maternity leave, long-term illness, national military service

minimum of **50% time** in **Europe** (MS + AC)  
minimum of **50% working time** on ERC project

### PhD acquired 7-12 years

Counting from 1<sup>st</sup> January Call's year

**Extensions** to this period are possible

paternity leave, maternity leave, long-term illness, national military service

minimum of **50% time** in **Europe** (MS + AC)  
minimum of **40% working time** on ERC project

### Open to all senior scientists

Track-record of **significant research achievements** (last 10 years, extension in case of career breaks possible)

minimum of **50% time** in **Europe** (MS + AC)  
minimum of **30% working time** on ERC project



## Possible requested amount

→ €2.5M for 5 years

→ extra €1M

- "start-up" costs PI moving from outside EU+AC
- purchase of major equipment
- access to large facilities

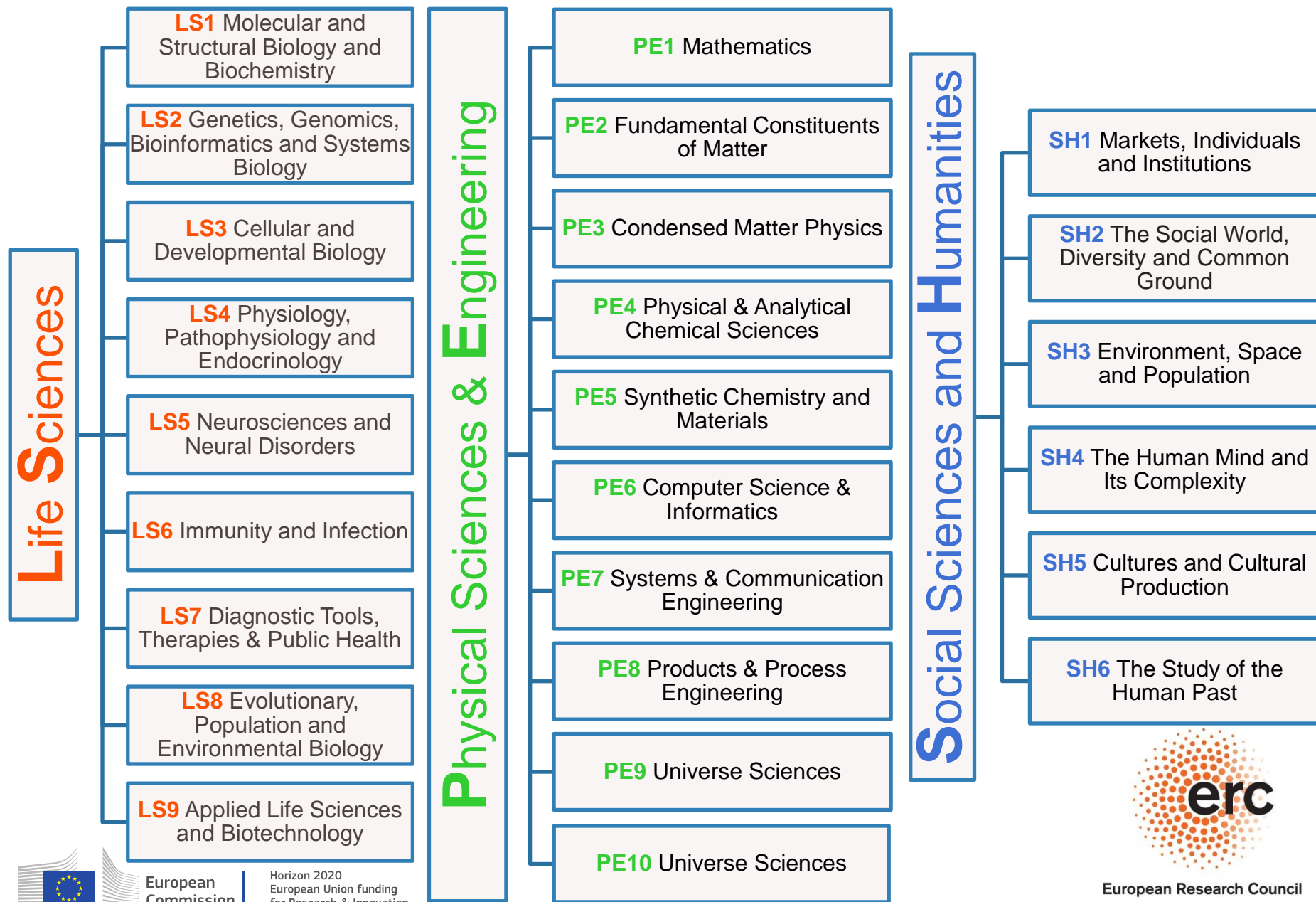
**100% eligible direct costs (salaries, equipment, etc.)**



## Profile

- Active researchers (any age, nationality, and current place of work)
- Track-record of **significant research achievements** (last 10 years, extension in case of career breaks possible)
- Exceptional leaders in terms of the originality and significance of their research contribution

# ERC PANEL STRUCTURE



# Submission to Panels

- Proposals are submitted to a *Targeted Panel* (PI's choice)
  - ➔ Can flag one “*Secondary Review Panel*”
- **Applicant chooses his/her panel**, this panel is “responsible” and takes ownership for the evaluation of the particular proposal
- Switching proposals between panels not possible unless clear mistake on part of applicant, or due to the necessary expertise being available in a different panel
- **But:** In case of cross-panel or cross-domain proposals, evaluation by members of other panels possible



# Online Submission

## Proposal structure



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### Administrative forms (Part A)

- 1 – General information
- 2 – Administrative data of participating organisations
- 3 – Budget
- 4 – ...
- 5 – Call specific conditions

**Administrative forms**

### Annexes

Commitment of the host institution

### Part B1 (submitted as pdf)

***Evaluated in Step 1 & Step 2***

Text box - Cross-panel explanation

- a – Extended synopsis 5 pages
- b – Curriculum vitae 2 pages
- c - Track-record 2 pages
- Appendix – Funding ID

### Part B2 (submitted as pdf)

***Not evaluated in Step 1 (Step 2 only!!)***

- Scientific proposal 15 pages
  - a – State-of-the-art and objectives
  - b – Methodology
  - c – Resources

***Guidelines and Recommendations in the 2016 "Information for Applicants"***

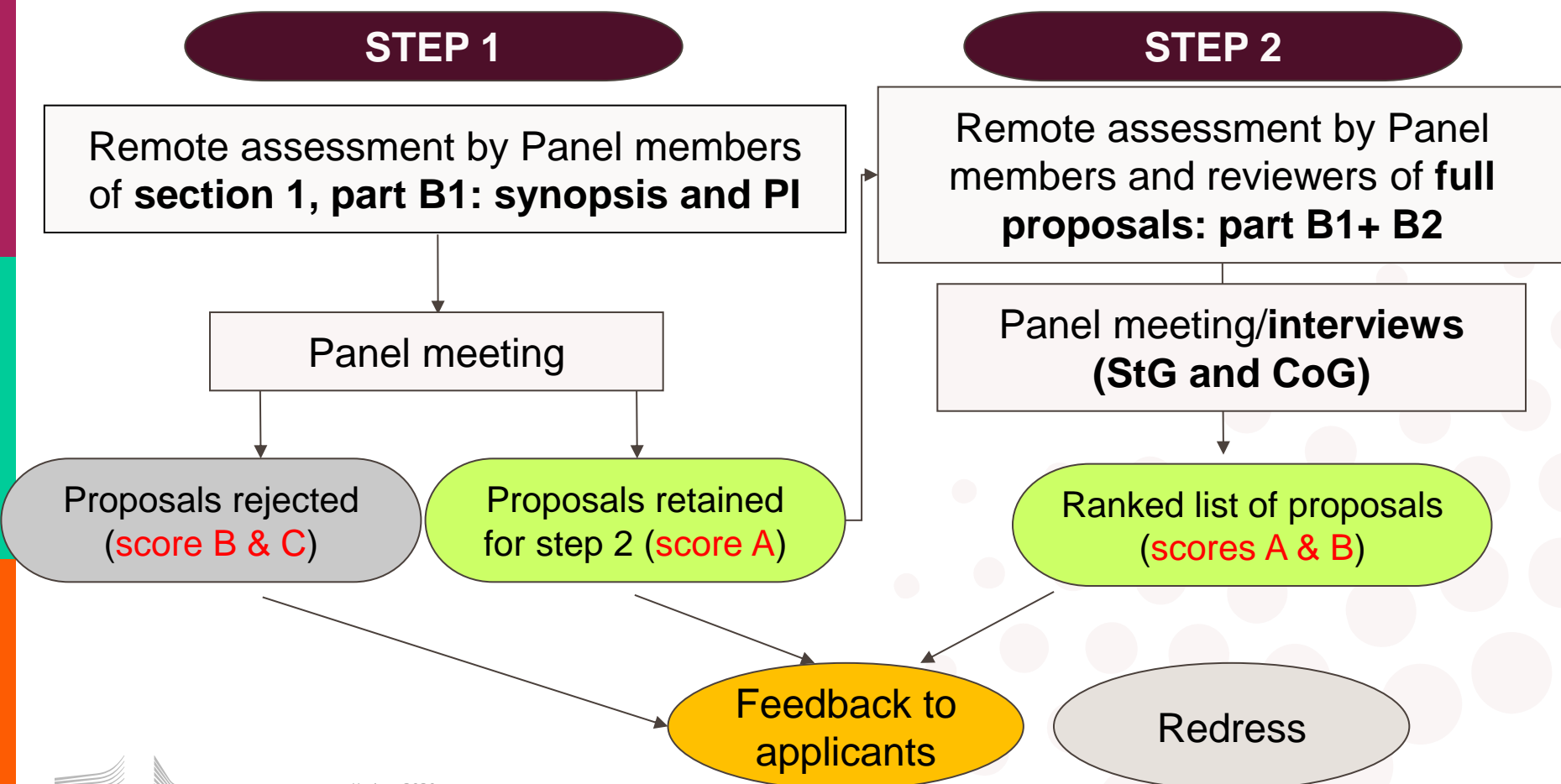
# How are the proposals evaluated?

## Evaluation procedure

Single submission, but a two-step evaluation



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# Resubmission rules\*



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Restrictions on submitting proposals to future ERC calls based on the outcome of the evaluation.

SCORE	STEP 1	STEP 2
<b>A</b>	May submit proposal to Call 2017	
<b>B</b>	May <b>NOT</b> submit proposal to Call 2017	May submit proposal to Call 2017
<b>C</b>	May <b>NOT</b> submit proposal to Call 2017 nor 2018	

Applicants need to check the restrictions in place for each call!

# PROPOSAL REVIEWING



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~14 members per panel

Each **proposal** gets about

- 3-4 reviews at **Step 1** (remote work)
- 5-6 reviews at **Step 2** (remote work)

Panel members are asked to familiarise with  
**ALL proposals remotely**  
All decisions are made as a panel

# Submission of Proposals

## Differences in Part B1 and Part B2

In Step 1: **Panel members** (generalists and with multidisciplinary approaches) see only **Part B1** of your proposal: Prepare it accordingly!

- Pay attention to the **ground-breaking nature** of the research project – no incremental research. State-of-the-art is not enough. Think big!
- Know your competitors – what is the **state of play** and why is your idea and scientific approach outstanding?
- Only the extended Synopsis is read at Step 1: **concise and clear presentation** is crucial (evaluators are not necessarily all experts in the field)
- Outline of the **methodological approach** (feasibility)
- Show your **scientific independence** in your CV (model CV provided in the part B1 template)
- Funding ID to be filled in



# Submission of Proposals

## Differences in Part B1 and Part B2



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In Step 2: Both **Part B1 and B2** are sent to specialists around the world (**specialised external referees**)

- Do not just **repeat the synopsis**
- Provide **sufficient detail** on methodology, work plan, etc. (15 pages)
- Check coherency of figures, **justify requested resources**
- Explain **involvement of team members**
- Provide alternative strategies to **mitigate risk**

# Proposal budget considerations

- Budget analysis carried out in **Step 2 evaluation** (meeting)
- Panels assess that resources requested are reasonable and well-justified
- Panels to recommend a final maximum budget based on the resources allocated/ removed
- Panels do not “micro-manage” project finances
- Awards made on a “take-it-or-leave-it” basis: no negotiations

# Questions to ask yourself as an applicant



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- Am I internationally competitive as a researcher at my career stage and in my discipline?
- Did I already obtain since the beginning of my career some significant research achievements/ground-breaking advances
- Am I able to work independently, and to manage a 5-year project with a substantial budget?
- Why is my proposed project important?
- Does it promise to go substantially beyond the state of the art?
- Why am I the best/only person to carry it out?
- Is it timely? (Why wasn't it done in the past? Is it feasible now?)
- What's the risk? Is it justified by a substantial potential gain? Do I have a plan for managing the risk?

# Typical reasons for rejection

## Principal investigator

- Insufficient track-record
- Insufficient (potential for) independence
- Insufficient experience in leading projects

## Proposed project

- Scope: Too narrow  $\leftrightarrow$  too broad/unfocussed
- Incremental research
- Work plan not detailed enough/unclear

## Insufficient risk management

# Submission of Proposals

## ERC Work Programme 2016: Calendar



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ERC calls	Submission Deadlines	Budget Million EUR (estimated grants)
<b>Starting Grants</b> ERC-2016-StG	Closed. Next deadline autumn 2016	<b>tba</b>
<b>Consolidator Grants</b> ERC-2016-CoG	Closed. Next deadline winter 2017	<b>tba</b>
<b>Advanced Grants</b> ERC-2016-AdG	1 September 2016	<b>540 (235)</b>
<b>Proof of Concept Grants</b> ERC-2016-PoC	16 February 2016 26 May 2016 4 October 2016	<b>20 (130)</b>



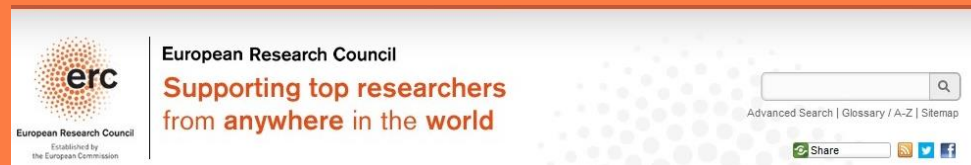
# BE UP to date!



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- General Information
  - [ERC Website](#)
- Guide for Applicants for ERC
- ERC Work Programme 2016
- Funded Projects



## ERC Work Programme 2016



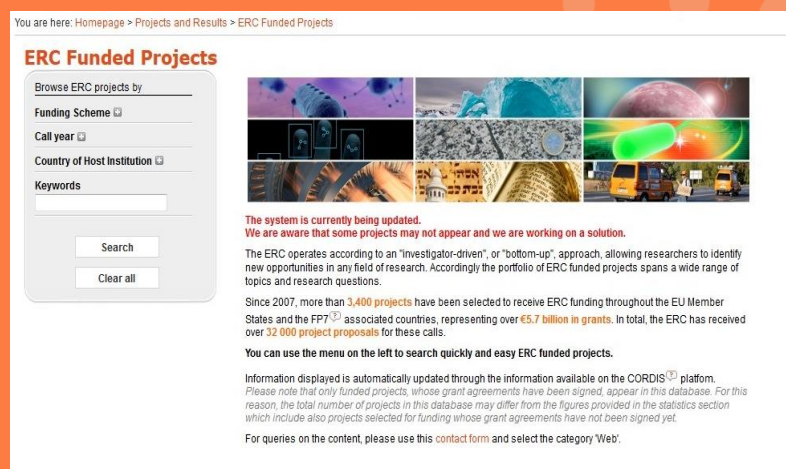
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(European Commission C(2015) 5086 of 28 July 2015)

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Menu allows to search ERC projects by Funding Scheme, Call year and Country of Host Institution



European  
Commission

Horizon 2020  
European Union funding  
for Research & Innovation

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