

## ERC Synergy Grant Call 2018: Notes and Tips for Applicants

Version Oct 2017

**Quick overview: Synergy (SyG) Grant Call 2018**  
**Deadline: November 14th, 2017, 17:00 CET**

- Minimum 2, maximum 4 Principal Investigators (PI) jointly submit a proposal
- 1 PI is designated as administrative contact (Corresponding PI)
- 3 step evaluation, interview with all PIs of proposals retained for step 3
- **“Waiting time“** for **resubmission** of ERC proposals that failed in **step 1** or **step 2** of the evaluation (1 year or 2 years depending on evaluation category)
- **Literature References** do **not count towards page limits** (B1+B2)
- **Track Record:** Presentation of up to 5 publications (Starters) or up to 10 publications (Consolidator- or Advanced-level) according to career stage of PI
- **Model CV-Template** provided by ERC
- **Mandatory “Funding ID“** annex to indicate running and submitted grants
- **MD/PhD-equivalency:** M.D. + **clinical training** alone does not render a M.D. degree a PhD–equivalent; a post-doctoral fellowship or professorship appointment is required in addition
- **Maternity:** if leave taken for more than 18 months is documented, corresponding prolongation of „Consolidator eligibility window“ is possible
- Request for **exclusion of up to three reviewers** possible without justification
- **“Avoid a repetition of the extended synopsis in B2“**
- **Ethical issues table** needs to be completed online; **ethics self-assessment document** to be provided if any issue in the ethical issues table applies
- **Open Access** is mandatory as in other Horizon 2020 programmes, related costs can be charged to the project
- ERC beneficiaries will automatically be covered by the H2020 provisions on **research data sharing** unless they specifically decide to opt-out
- **“No contact with peer reviewers“** rule during the evaluation process
- **Minimum 30% of the total working time of every PI** needs to be committed to the ERC project
- All ERC SyG PIs need to spend minimum 50% of their total working time in the EU or Associated countries
- Link to recording of FFG Academy **Webinar** on the ERC Synergy Grant:  
[https://www.ffg.at/europa/veranstaltungen/ffg-akademie\\_2017-09-26](https://www.ffg.at/europa/veranstaltungen/ffg-akademie_2017-09-26)

## Important documents and weblinks

Please read carefully the following two documents:

- **ERC Work Programme 2018 (legally binding)**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018\\_2020/erc/h2020-wp18-erc\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018_2020/erc/h2020-wp18-erc_en.pdf)
- **Information for applicants to Synergy Grant Call 2018**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides\\_for\\_applicants/h2020-guide18-erc-syn\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/guides_for_applicants/h2020-guide18-erc-syn_en.pdf)

- Participant Portal: Link to proposal submission for **SyG2018**:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/erc-2018-syg.html>
- **ERC Standard Proposal template** (pdf) for the Synergy Grant, including administrative forms and Letter of Commitment of the Host Institute  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call\\_ptef/pt/2018-2020/h2020-call-pt-erc-syn-2018\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call_ptef/pt/2018-2020/h2020-call-pt-erc-syn-2018_en.pdf)  
 → **rtf.-versions** available via online-submission tool (Participant Portal) after registration
- ERC Homepage: [erc.europa.eu](http://erc.europa.eu)
- ERC Starting Grant 2018 Applicant Mailbox for queries related to the call: [ERC-2018-SYG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERC-2018-SYG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu)
- Link to previous **ERC panel members**: <https://erc.europa.eu/document-category/evaluation-panels>
- Link to previous **ERC external referees („specialists“)**:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference\\_docs.html#fp7](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference_docs.html#fp7) (→ „Ideas“, FP7)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference\\_docs.html#h2020-expertslists-excellent-erc](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference_docs.html#h2020-expertslists-excellent-erc) (Horizon 2020; 2014/2015)
- Link to ERC **database of ERC-funded projects**:  
<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-figures/erc-funded-projects>  
 In this database you can search for abstracts and principle investigators of ERC grants, including 24 funded Synergy projects from the pilot calls. Search results can be filtered to free keywords and according to ERC evaluation panel (the latter is not relevant for Synergy grants).  
 The CORDIS database also provides access to abstracts of funded ERC Synergy projects, and also displays the names of all PIs involved:  
[http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html)

- Revised **open access guidelines** by the ERC (Feb 2016):  
[https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC\\_Open\\_Access\\_Guidelines-revised\\_feb\\_2016.pdf](https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_Open_Access_Guidelines-revised_feb_2016.pdf)

## “Submit early, submit often“: The online submission system for ERC proposals

We strongly recommend to **pre-register early** in order to get acquainted with the system and check for potential technical issues.

In case of problems with the PPSS, please **contact your host institution** (grant management/researchers´ service), **FFG** ([ylva.huber@ffg.at](mailto:ylva.huber@ffg.at)) or directly the **PPSS Service Desk**: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/api/contact/index.html> or +32 (2) 29 92222.

Information on how to use the online submission system is also available via the submission service user manual:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/sep\\_usermanual.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/sep_usermanual.pdf)

We recommend to **submit a first version of your proposal around 1 week before the deadline**, in order to check for any „validation errors“, browser problems or other technical issues that may block proposal submission, or layout changes in the uploaded versions, etc. Up to the call deadline, **you can continuously modify your proposal by submitting (not just uploading) a new version, which will overwrite the previous one.**

Please ensure that all the **required supporting documents are obtained** and submitted via PPSS in time (Commitment letter of the Host Institution, ethical issues annexes [ethical self-assessment and any additional documents related to ethics], PhD certificate, other supporting documents as required)

## Ethical issues

The **ethical issues table** needs to be completed online in the Participant Portal (PPSS). For each item that applies to your proposal, please tick the appropriate box in the list and add information on your approach to these issues in the so-called „**ethics self-assessment**“. As there is **no template** for the ethics self-assessment, we suggest to use a plain word-document indicating the topic(s) from the online-ethics section in question and describe your strategy to deal diligently with these issues (e.g. which ethic approvals will you obtain, compliance with relevant national and European law/directives, anonymization of data, insurance, etc). Please convert the document into pdf format and upload it as „ethical self assessment“ annex in the PPSS. Furthermore, you can upload additional **annexes** with ethics-related documents (e.g. examples of informed consent forms)

A **guideline** on how to fill the ethical self assessment is available at

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/ethics/h2020\\_hi\\_ethics-self-assess\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf)

**Please note:** The “ethical self assessment guide” also refers to documents that may not be available at the stage of proposal submission but need to be provided at the stage of preparing the grant management (e.g. ethics approvals).

The **ethical issues section will not be evaluated** during proposal evaluation (see below).

We received some additional information by the ERC Executive Agency on ethical issues:

*“Any document related to ethics (including the ethics issues table) will not be made available to the ERC reviewers during the evaluation. Hence, they will not be instructed to look at them. The evaluators are not supposed to take ethic issues into account during evaluations. The ethics clearance is done by the ethics review after evaluation is final.”*

For proposals with immediate ethics issues, it is nonetheless “*advisable to include a short paragraph summarising how they will be dealt with and refer to ethics self assesement/annexes.*”

The page numbers to be indicated in the ethics table (online) refer to part B2. It is possible to indicate several page numbers divided by '/' (e.g. 12/14).

## Scientific Excellence: Subcriteria for SyG proposal evaluation

### 1. Research Project

#### Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

#### Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and Synergy

##### *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?*

##### *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 does the proposal require and demonstrate significant synergies, complementarities and scientific added-value to enable it to achieve its objectives (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 full Scientific Proposal)?*

*To what extent does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?*

*To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?*

## 2. Principal Investigator

### Intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment

#### Advanced and Synergy

##### *Intellectual capacity and creativity*

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

*To what extent does/do the PI(s) provide evidence of creative independent thinking?*

*To what extent have the achievements of the PI(s) typically gone beyond the state of the art?*

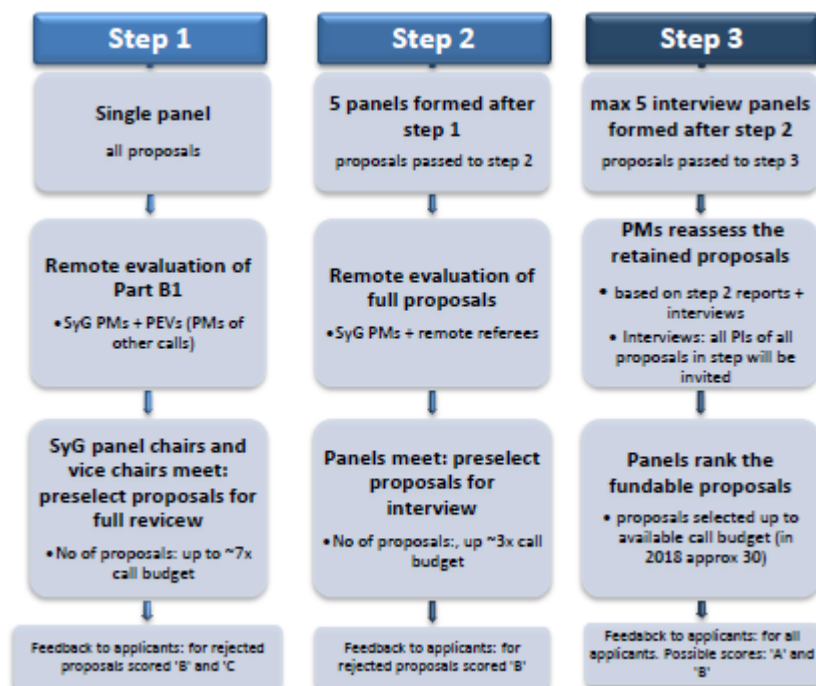
*To what extent has the PI demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists (for Advanced Grant applicants)?*

##### *Commitment*

*To what extent does the PI demonstrate the level of commitment to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (minimum 30% for Advanced and Synergy of the total working time) (based on the full Scientific Proposal)?*

(ERC Work Programme 2018, 37/38)

## Evaluation process for the Synergy Grant



**Step 1:** A single panel formed by Synergy Panel Members and Panel Members of other ERC calls will assess **part B1 only** (B2 is not available to reviewers in step 1). Based on 3 to 4 independent reviews per proposal (i.e. the synopsis + CVs + track records of the 2 to 4 Principal Investigators) panel chairs and vice chairs would meet to select proposals that would pass to step 2.

**Step 2:** After proposal are selected for step 2, the chairs will form 5 step 2 panels, allocating the proposals and the panel members to the 5 panels based on the subject of the applications and on the expertise of the panelists. The **full proposal (B1 and B2) becomes accessible** to Synergy panel members and “specialist“ external referees. At the end of the remote assessment the 5 panels meet in Brussels. Based on the individual reviews provided and on a panel discussion, the number of proposals would be reduced. Proposals are selected for an interview in step 3 (up to 3x more proposals proceed to step 3 than can be funded).

**Step 3:** 5 interview panels are formed dynamically. Proposals retained in step 2 are reassessed based on evaluation reports from step 2 and interviews with all PIs in Brussels. Panels rank the fundable proposals.

PM: panel member; PEV: panel evaluator. PEV is an ERC term used for panel members of the other ERC frontier calls reviewing ERC SyG proposals.

## Considerations for a competitive Synergy Grant proposal

Typically, evaluators want to quickly understand the core aspects of your proposal:

- What is the research challenge?
- Why is this research challenge important?
- Why was it not tackled until now?
- What is the new idea/approach?
- What are the concrete aims of the project?
- Is this groundbreaking, transformative research?
- Is the collaboration of these PIs indeed unique and necessary to tackle the challenge?
- Does this project demonstrate real synergies?
- Is this group of PIs likely to succeed with the project?

### Structure

- Provide a **clear structure** and **narrative** throughout your proposal, so that your project reads as a compelling story.

To demonstrate the synergetic nature of your project, the proposal should be well integrated, „all of piece“, and not come across as separate projects by 2-4 PIs

- **Introduction/state of the art** are important sections to provide the „big picture“, describe the research challenge and to motivate your research goals. They should, however, not dominate the proposal (B1 and B2):

→ The **major part** of the proposal should explain your **novel approach**

- Present the concrete **aims/objectives** of your project early and in a highly visible manner (e.g. bullet points, bold fonts, text box). Reviewers like to see them at first glance.

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Aim 1: Understand...</li> <li>– Aim 2: Identify...</li> <li>– Aim 3: ....</li> </ul> |
|---|

- The perfect **match of aims/objectives** with the **methodology and the workplan** of the project should be easily evident to the reader (e.g. by referring to aims 1& 2 when describing method x or workpackage y). This will support the notion of a well integrated, coherent proposal.
- Describe the **significant synergies, complementarity and added value of the group** beyond the current work of the PIs to enable it to jointly achieve the project's scientific objectives.

**Part B1 is a crucial element of the proposal**, as only this part is read at step 1 of the evaluation. The extended synopsis in B1 should therefore contain **all important information** to evaluate both the “breakthrough character” and the feasibility of the project. This includes:

- key **preliminary data/results/proof of principle**
- risk management** (what are significant risks and your contingency plans)
- information on how you will **validate** the results of your project

- Based on ERC evaluation comments, we strongly recommend to also include a paragraph/sentence on the **team composition** in B1 (message: the necessary expertise will be assembled in your team), as well as **brief timing information** (1-2 sentences, or e.g. adding timing information in brackets: „Aim/Workpackage 1... [Year 1-3]“ / „key intermediate goal x [Year 3]“).
- 1 or a few high quality **figure(s)** can also be very helpful for B1.
- **References** to literature should be included, but they do not count anymore towards the 5 page-limit. The references in B1 may also support Panel Members in selecting the external „specialist“ referees to evaluate the proposal in step 2 of the evaluation
- The ERC currently anticipates a success rate of approximately 25% in step 1. The overall success rate for the Synergy Grant Call is expected/hoped for to be around 6% (the pilot calls with less budget had a success rate of approximately 1,5 – 3%)



**Part B2: This part is evaluated only in step 2 and step 3 of the peer review evaluation (together with B1)**

- B2 should provide the required details for the evaluation by "specialist" reviewers in step 2. This concerns in particular the methodology, preliminary data, risks and contingency plans, resources/time planning, but also the team composition and information on infrastructure/scientific environment at the host institution. Part B2 also contains the budget table, which counts towards the 15 pages limit (see template)
- Please consider that the specialist external referees in step 2 of the evaluation read the proposal for the first time and might thus question "everything" again (including the groundbreaking nature of the project).
- Present also your **key intermediate goals** and expected **results** and how you will **validate/ interpret** results in more detail
- Highlight any **novel/unconventional methodology**
- Deal **appropriately with significant risks** (risk management/"plan B"). The essence of this information is also important for B1 to demonstrate feasibility
- At least in most cases, reviewers will likely expect a credible **timeplan** for an ERC project, it has meanwhile become standard in ERC proposals, e.g. Gantt chart, overview tables on key intermediate goals/milestones (see also example below). The time plan should however not be too detailed to be credible for a groundbreaking research agenda.
- Present the composition and expertise requirements for your **team** (PhDs, Post Docs), as well as **working arrangements** (e.g. co-supervision of PhDs/PostDocs by different PIs; supervision of PhD students supported by Post-Docs; overall supervision and guidance by PIs). Please consider: What is the ideal combination of PhD students and PostDocs for your project, how should e.g. PhD students overlap timewise to ensure optimal continuity of the project, etc? Reviewers may question whether certain tasks could be „too demanding for a PhD student“ and should rather be allocated to a Post Doc; or conversely, whether the selected tasks constitute a convincing PhD project.
- Include a **time plan/overview** on timing of „key intermediate goals“ in B2 (e.g. Gantt chart and/or table, see below)

	<b>Aim 1</b>	<b>Aim 2</b>	<b>Aim 3</b>
Years 1-2	Analysis of... Publication 1...	Purify...	Visualize... Conference...
Years 3-4	Maps...	Integration of...	...
Year 5	Model...	Correlation of findings...	...Publications,...

- Emphasize your **commitment** to the project as group of PIs, including the percentage of total working time devoted to the project for each PI, in the running text (in addition to the „time commitment“ line in the budget table)
- As part B1 should capture the essence of the entire proposal, B1 and B2 need to be consistent. However, panel members seem increasingly likely to disapprove of longer sections with identical wording in B1 and B2 (see “Information for Applicants, p 25: “Avoid a repetition of the extended synopsis in Part B2. At step 2 and 3 of the evaluation process part B2 is evaluated together with part B1“). We therefore recommend ensuring **consistency between B1 and B2 while avoiding “unnecessary” repetition**. You can e.g. refer to a figure in B1 instead of repeating it in B2.
- **Proposal Abstract**  
The abstract is an important part of the proposal, particularly during panel discussions. The majority of panel members may only read the abstract and possibly leaf through the proposals when they are discussed in the panel meetings. The abstract should therefore present the essence of your project: scientific challenge, innovative approach, objectives, potential impact, unique features of the project
- **References** to literature should be included (they do not count towards the 15 pages-limit).

## Clarity

- Your proposal needs to be **well understandable** also for **reviewers that are not specialists** in the research fields/topic concerned. This is particularly relevant for step 1 of the evaluation process, where only part B1 is read by ERC panel members (frequently “generalists”) only.
- Important: **Precise wording**/descriptions, clear (working) **definitions**, concrete **examples**
- Helpful: high quality figure(s), including e.g. flow charts to support an intuitive understanding of the project

- Ensure a **reader-friendly layout**, with sufficient spaces, highlighting key messages (e.g. short summary of a section in a text box, bullet points; balanced use of bold fonts,...)

### Novelty/Originality/Competition

- Explain the groundbreaking, transformative nature of the project (what is the “core novelty”?) and its potential **impact** - both the short-term impact as well as your joint more **long-term vision** (~10 years).
- It should become evident for reviewers that the approach of your group of PIs is **really novel** (i.e. not an "extension" of previous research by the PIs) and also **timely**. Explain the **unique features** of your project and the advantages of your synergistic approach compared to **competing approaches** worldwide.

### Hypothesis-driven project/clearly defined research questions?

- While there can be differences between research fields/disciplines, ERC reviewers frequently comment positively on the fact that a project is hypothesis-driven. In any case, however, the overarching research questions should be highly visible in the proposal. Proposals that apparently lack such question(s) and are perceived as largely technology-driven or methodology-driven can be at a disadvantage.

### Explanatory power/significance

- Critical comments/questions on the explanatory power of project results may come from various angles, depending on the field – e.g. correlation vs. causality, descriptive vs. experimental

### Scope of the project? - Justifying the approach

- As for any research proposal, also the scope of an ambitious ERC Synergy Grant project can be questioned by reviewers – either as being too broad/unfocused or too narrowly focused. It is therefore advisable to clearly explain the approach you have chosen together - why are you convinced that this is the best approach, and that it is feasible within 6 years?

### Collaborations

- Provide a good balance when describing collaborations for the project: explain their importance for the project, but without giving the impression of being "too dependent" on them (message: due to excellent connections of the PIs, they will have access to all required complementary expertise and infrastructure; targeted collaborations instead of a 'consortium')

### Demonstrating a competitive „Advanced“, Consolidator“ or „Starter“ profile (see also below)

- **CV, Track Record, State of the art:**

Important contributions by the PIs should not only be presented in the CV and Track Record, but also in the running text of the extended synopsis or B2, e.g. when presenting preliminary work („As we could show in [ref.x]...“)

- **Depending on the career stage, up to 5 (Starter) or 10 (Consolidator, Advanced) representative publications** should be listed in the track record for each PI (see Work Programme 2018 and comment below).
- The PIs' **experience in team leadership** should be reflected in the CV/Track record (e.g. [co-]supervision of PhD students; major contributions to launching the careers of outstanding researchers)
- Based on the experience from the pilot calls, it seems advisable that the Corresponding PI is at „Advanced“ career level.

### Benefit from input by colleagues

Critical comments and questions of colleagues (both within and beyond your research field) on your proposal will be of enormous value. Ideally, colleagues evaluate your application using the evaluation subcriteria as presented in the ERC Work Programme.

## Specific remarks on B1-CV, Track Record and B2-resources

### B1, Section b: Curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages per PI)

- A model CV Template, for guidance only, is contained in the B1 template
- Education (Starter/Consolidator): Indicate also the title of your PhD thesis, and the name of your PhD supervisor for easier orientation of reviewers (→ comparing with list of papers without PhD supervisor as co-author)
- In addition to the suggestions provided by the CV template, present also any activities as reviewer for **journals**
- **Appendix: All ongoing and submitted grants and funding of the PI (Funding ID) - Mandatory information not counting towards page limits**

According to information by the ERCEA, the information in this table is used to support the selection of reviewers for the proposal (avoiding potential conflicts of interest with reviewers that might be involved in running/submitted projects with the applicant).

However, if several ongoing grants are listed which will temporally overlap with the ERC project, it is advisable to also demonstrate that each PI will definitely be able to fulfill his/her time commitment to the ERC project, e.g. by indicating the % of time commitment of the PI for the other grants in the table.

- Either in the CV or the Track Record , we recommend that PIs also present **concluded grants** (full list, or selection), and possibly also the amount of funding they raised so far

### On-going Grants

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Amount (Euros)</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Role of the PI</i>	<i>Relation to current ERC proposal</i>

### Applications

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Funding source</i>	<i>Amount (Euros)</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Role of the PI</i>	<i>Relation to current ERC proposal</i>

### **B1, Section c: Early achievements track-record or 10 years track record** (max. 2 pages per PI)

For CV and track record, we recommend to provide „**summary/overview information**“ for the reviewers (e.g. total number of publications, contributions to conferences, citations, h-index etc as applicable; weblink to full list of publications), as well as specific „**highlight information**“. For the list of 5/10 of publications in the track record/10 years track record, it is advisable to **describe the key content and impact of selected publications and your contribution in 1-2 sentences** , e.g. in a textbox („Here, we could show for the first time...“)

We do not know how much attention ERC reviewers give to the provision of listing only "up to 5/10 publications" in the Track Record. At any rate, this limit is no formal criterion, but we would expect that reviewers appreciate a focus on 5 top papers in the track record. On this issue, we have received the following comment by the ERC Executive Agency: *“The ‘up to 5 publications’ is not an eligibility issue but how strictly each panel will look at this in the evaluation is their own decision and cannot be predicted.”*

### **B2, Section c: Resources (not counting towards 15 pages limit in B2)**

➔ Please contact the grant management office at your ERC host institution for support with the budget calculation

- **Other direct costs („with overhead flat rate“):** This category includes contracts to

purchase goods, works or services, e.g. contract for a computer; contract for an audit certificate on the financial statements; contract for the publication of brochures; contract for the creation of a project website, contract for organization of the rooms and catering for a meeting, contract for hiring IPR consultants/agents. These costs do not arise from directly implementing the „action tasks“ of the ERC project, but they are necessary to implement these tasks. Overheads apply to these costs in Horizon 2020, as opposed to the case for subcontracts ([http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/amga/h2020-amga\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf), p97/98)

- **Subcontracting costs („without overheads“):** Costs for subcontracts arise from the implementation of specific tasks which are part of the action (ERC project) by a third party. No overheads can be charged for these costs.
- **Equipment:** Please note that only **depreciation rates** (according to national rules) can be charged to the ERC for equipment
- Do not forget the possibility to include costs for publications, including **open access fees** (Article 29.2 of the ERC Model Grant Agreement: under Horizon 2020, each beneficiary must ensure open access to all peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to its results). Also costs related to **open access to research data** (Article 29.3. of the ERC Model Grant Agreement) can be charged ([http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference\\_docs.html#h2020-mga-erc](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference_docs.html#h2020-mga-erc))
- **Other direct costs with no overheads :** This category includes costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on the premises of the beneficiary (= host institution)
- **PI salary:** PIs may request funding for their salary corresponding to the percentage of total working time dedicated to the ERC project (or a smaller fraction of that amount), even if they already receive a salary by their host institution. Funding of (part of) the PI's salary can also support the host institution in hiring a teaching replacement in case there is an agreement to reduce teaching obligations of a PI during the ERC project. Please consider, however, whether funding of the PI salary could result in a less-than-optimal number/experience level of team members due to budget constraints, this should of course be avoided.
- There is an additional short budget table in the template only to be used for requesting additional funding above EUR 10,000.000 EUR. If the table is not applicable, it should be deleted.
- For Synergy Grant proposals, the resources section (c) does not count towards the page limit in B2 (see template B2 and Information for Applicants to the Synergy Grant 2018 call, p25)

## Indicative evaluation schedule

### TIMEFRAME SYNERGY GRANT 2018 EVALUATION (ERC-2018-SYG)

This timeframe indicates dates when we expect to have sent evaluation results to applicants after each evaluation step.

Timeframe for sending information to applicants (ERC-2018-SyG)	
Results of Step 1	23/04/2018
Results of Step 2	29/08/2018
Step 3 Interviews	4-7/9/2018
Results of Step 3	19/10/2018

If you have not heard from us within this timeframe, please check this website for an update.  
Please note also that this timeframe is **preliminary** and may be subject to changes.

\*<https://erc.europa.eu/timeframe-synergy-grant-2018-evaluation-erc-2018-syg>

