



# Applying for an ERC grant - introduction

*ERC Information Session, May 23rd 2025*

Stéphanie van der Pas, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



## Today's program

14.00-14.30: introduction

14.30-15.00: David Holmes

*Break*

15.30-16.00: Jan Vonk

16.00-16.30: Johannes Schmidt-Hieber

*Drinks*

# PWN ERC Working Group



Interview Support



Information  
Sessions



Information on  
Website

<https://platformwiskunde.nl/onderzoek/erc-workinggroup/>

# ERC grant schemes

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## Starting Grant

2-7 years after PhD

Up to € 1.5 Mio for 5 years



## Consolidator Grant

7-12 years after PhD

Up to € 2 Mio for 5 years



## Advanced Grant

Significant track-record in the last 10 years

Up to € 2.5 Mio for 5 years



## Synergy Grant

2 – 4 Principal Investigators

1 PI can be based outside EU/Associated Countries

Up to € 10.0 Mio for 6 years



## Proof-of-Concept

For ERC grant holders

Bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation

Lump sum €150,000



# Profile of an applicant – StG & CoG



A competitive Starting Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown **evidence of the potential for research independence**, for example by having produced at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of their PhD supervisor.



A competitive Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown **evidence of research independence**.

# Profile of an applicant - AdG



A competitive Advanced Grant Principal Investigator is expected to be an **active and established research leader with a track record of significant research achievements**. No specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are foreseen.

# Next submission deadlines



**Starting Grant 2026:** expected October 2025



**Consolidator Grant 2026:** expected January 2026



**Advanced Grant 2025:** 28 August 2025

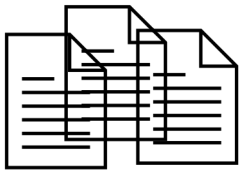
# What do you need to submit?



## **Part B1:**

extended synopsis (max 5 pages)

curriculum vitae and track record (max 4 pages)



## **Part B2:**

scientific proposal (max 14 pages excluding references).



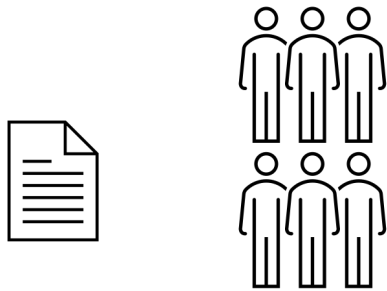
## **Budget.**

**All documents** need to be submitted by the deadline (one-step submission).

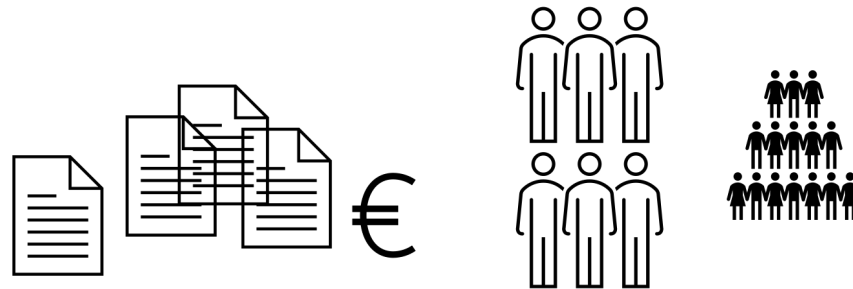


# Evaluation process

One-step submission, two-step evaluation.



**Step 1:** ONLY B1 is evaluated, by the panel members.



**Step 2:** B1, B2 and budget are evaluated, by the panel members and referees. PI invited for interview.

Up to 44 proposals per panel move to step 2.

## Evaluation criteria



“Scientific excellence is the sole criterion of evaluation.”

# Evaluation criteria – research project

## **Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the project:**

1. To what extent does the proposed research address **important challenges**?
2. 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)?

# Evaluation criteria – research project

## **Scientific approach:**

1. To what extent is the outlined scientific approach **feasible** bearing in mind the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the proposed research (based on the Extended Synopsis)?
2. To what extent are **the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate** to achieve the goals of the project (based on the research proposal)?
3. To what extent are the **proposed timescales, resources, and PI's commitment adequate** and properly justified (based on the research proposal)?

# Evaluation criteria – principal investigator

## **Intellectual capacity and creativity:**

1. To what extent has the PI demonstrated the **ability to conduct ground-breaking research**?
2. To what extent does the PI provide evidence of **creative and original thinking**?
3. To what extent does the PI have the **required scientific expertise and capacity** to successfully execute the project?

EN  
ANNEX

*European Commission Decision C(2025) 2916*

# ERC Work Programme 2025



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission



**Horizon Europe**

**European Research Council (ERC)  
Frontier Research Grants**

Information for Applicants to the  
Starting and Consolidator Grant Calls



European Research Council  
Executive Agency  
Established by the European Commission

Version 8.0  
10.07.2024



# Choosing the panel

For mathematicians, panel 'PE1 – Mathematics' is a common choice.

But mathematics proposals have been successful at other panels as well, including:

PE6 – Computer Science and Informatics

PE7 – Systems and Communication Engineering

PE8 – Products and Process Engineering

PE11 – Materials Engineering

# Selecting your panel

Find your idea, and select the best panel for it.

- Use panel keywords
- Discuss with colleagues
- Look up abstracts of funded research in your field

<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics>



# Keywords for PE1

All areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics.

PE1\_1 Logic and foundations

PE1\_2 Algebra

PE1\_3 Number theory

PE1\_4 Algebraic and complex geometry

PE1\_5 Lie groups, Lie algebras

PE1\_6 Geometry and global analysis

PE1\_7 Topology

PE1\_8 Analysis

PE1\_9 Operator algebras and functional analysis

PE1\_10 ODE and dynamical systems

PE1\_11 Theoretical aspects of partial differential equations

PE1\_12 Mathematical physics

PE1\_13 Probability

PE1\_14 Mathematical statistics

PE1\_15 Generic statistical methodology and modelling

PE1\_16 Discrete mathematics and combinatorics

PE1\_17 Mathematical aspects of computer science

PE1\_18 Numerical analysis

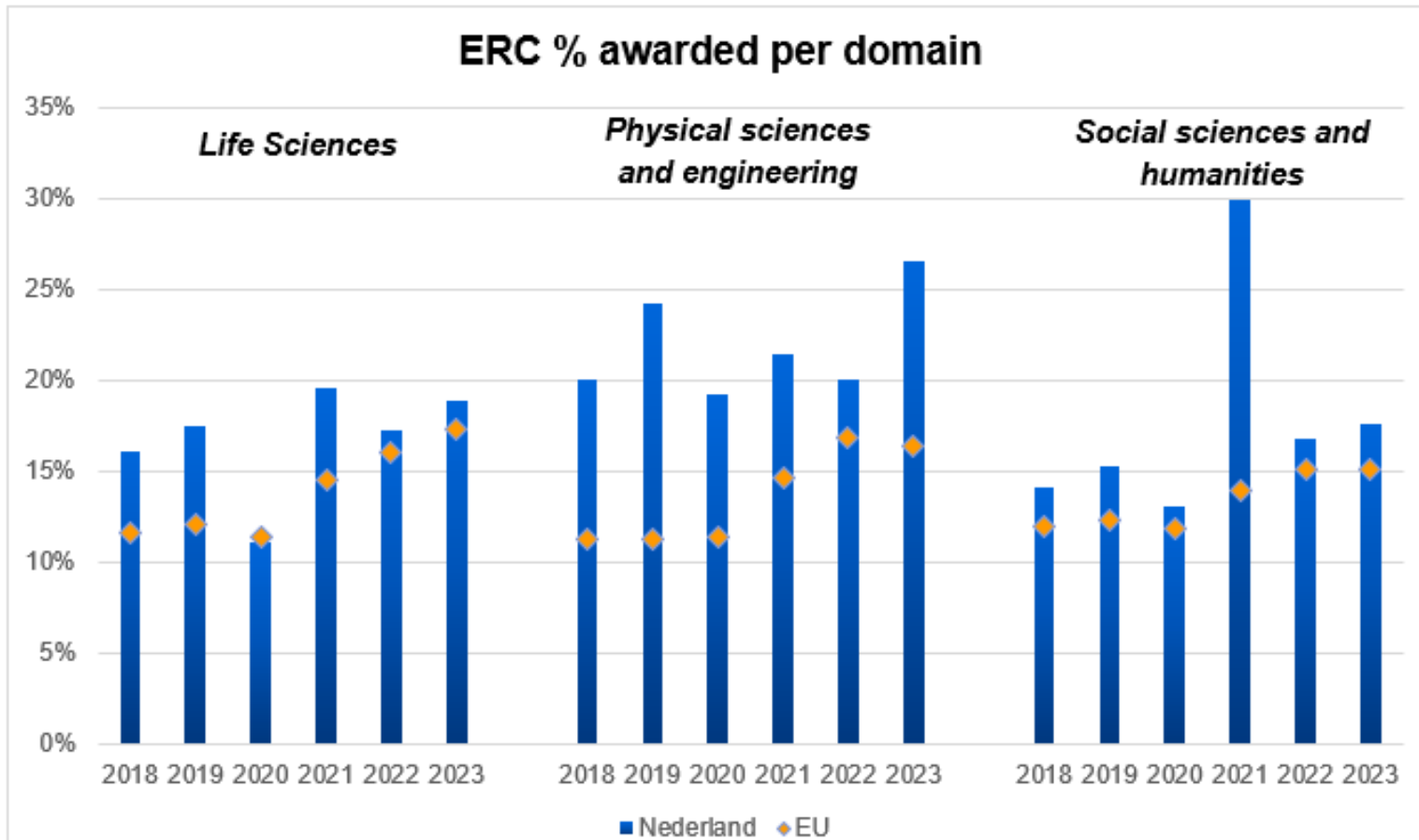
PE1\_19 Scientific computing and data processing

PE1\_20 Control theory, optimisation and operational research

PE1\_21 Application of mathematics in sciences

PE1\_22 Application of mathematics in industry and society

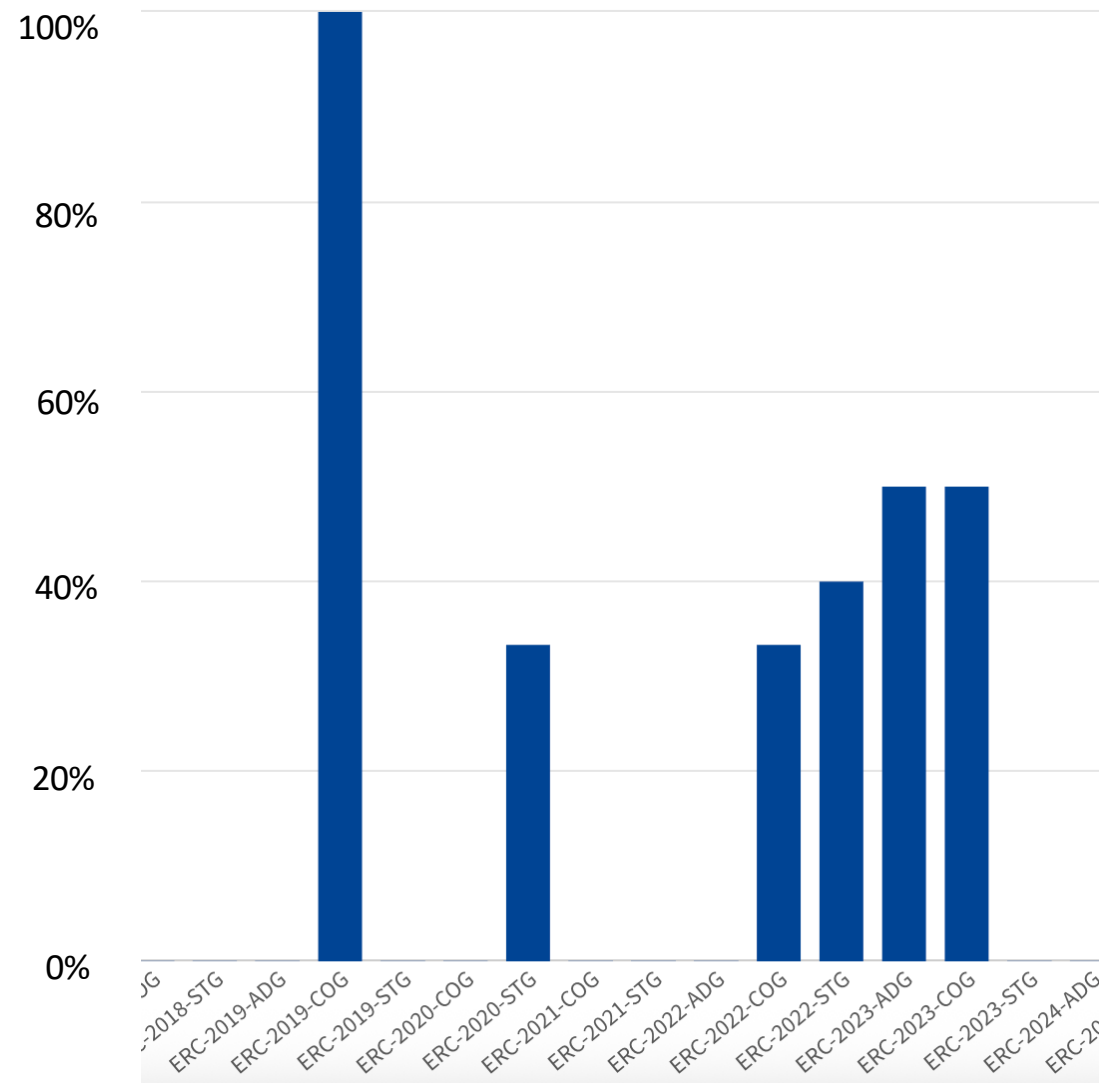
# Success rates – the Netherlands



<https://www.rathenau.nl/en/science-figures/process/excellence/erc-research-grants-country-university-and-domain>

Stéphane van der Pas - Applying for an ERC grant - Introduction

Recent success  
rates – PE1 Panel,  
PI's from NL





# More information?

Check out the PWN ERC Working Group website:

<https://platformwiskunde.nl/onderzoek/erc-workinggroup/>

With links to extra information and webinars.