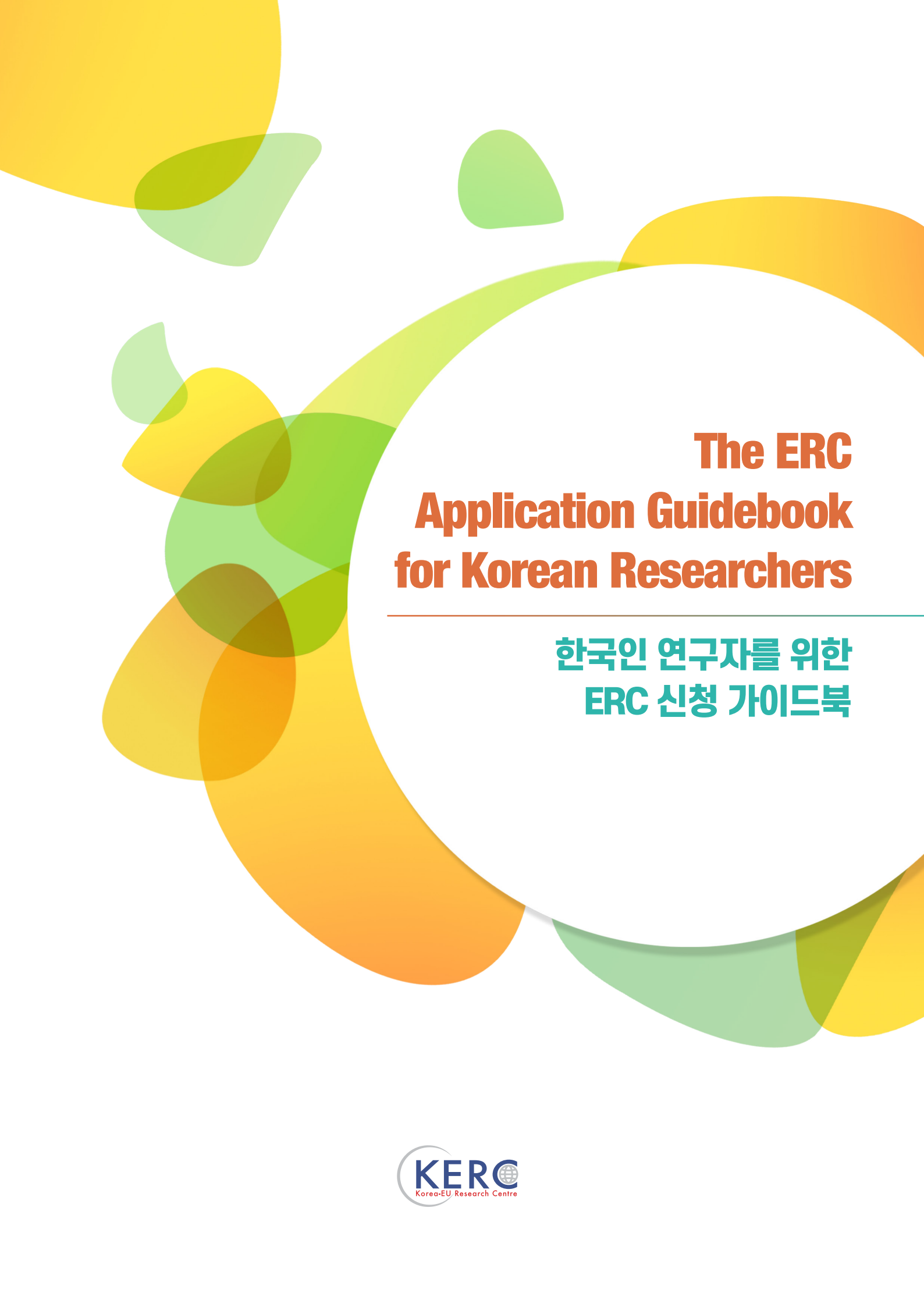




The ERC Application Guidebook for Korean Researchers

**한국인 연구자를 위한
ERC 신청 가이드북**

KERC

한국인 연구자를 위한 ERC 신청 가이드북 The ERC Application Guidebook for Korean Researchers

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유럽연구위원회(European Research Council, ERC)는 세계 최고 수준의 창의적이고 도전적인 기초 연구를 지원하는 프로그램으로, Horizon Europe의 핵심 구성 요소 중 하나입니다. ERC는 연구자의 국적에 관계 없이 개인 연구자의 아이디어와 역량을 중심으로 평가하며, 그만큼 높은 자율성과 명확한 연구 비전을 요구합니다.

한국 연구자들에게 ERC는 단순한 연구비 지원을 넘어, 국제적 연구 경쟁력과 리더십을 입증할 수 있는 소중한 기회입니다. 그러나 동시에 국내 연구자에게는 ERC와 같은 유럽연합 프로그램이 아직 생소할 수 있으며, 그 구조와 지원절차, 준비 과정에 대한 이해가 필요할 것입니다.

이에 본 핸드북은 ERC에 처음 도전하고자 하는 한국 연구자들에게 실질적인 도움을 드리고자 기획되었습니다. 이에 소중한 지식과 경험을 토대로 동 자료를 작성해주신 이세영 박사님께 감사 말씀드립니다.

앞으로 더 많은 한국 연구자들이 ERC에 도전하고, 글로벌 연구 무대에서 뛰어난 성과를 만들어 나가길 기대합니다. 본 자료가 그 여정에 작지만 실질적인 도움이 되기를 바랍니다.

감사합니다.

한-EU연구협력센터
이대명 센터장
Director General DaeMyung Lee

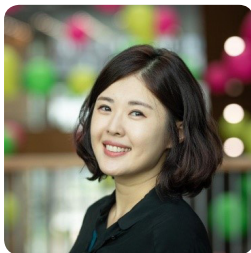
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The ERC Application Guidebook for Korean Researchers: **A Step-by-Step Handbook**



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1

Introduction to the ERC and Horizon Europe

The **European Research Council (ERC)** is the flagship funding organisation of the **European Union (EU)** for frontier research, operating under the **Horizon Europe Framework Programme (2021–2027)**. Established in 2007, the ERC supports excellent individual researchers to pursue bold, ground-breaking ideas at the frontiers of knowledge, across all scientific disciplines.

Why ERC?

1. Prestige & international recognition
2. Scientific freedom and independence
3. Substantial long-term funding (up to €2.5 million+ per project)
4. Career advancement opportunities
5. A strong entry point into European research networks

ERC grants are awarded solely based on **scientific excellence**, which is the only evaluation criterion. Unlike many other funding schemes, ERC calls have no pre-defined topics; researchers are free to propose projects in any field. This **bottom-up approach** encourages innovation across the full spectrum of science and scholarship. The funding is **Principal Investigator (PI)-centred**, meaning it follows the researcher rather than the institution, and offers applicants full autonomy over their research direction, team composition, and project execution.

As a result, ERC grants are highly attractive to researchers worldwide. They offer not only **substantial long-term funding** – up to €2.5 million per project, with potential top-ups – but also **scientific independence, international visibility**, and strong **career advancement opportunities**. Furthermore, ERC-funded researchers benefit from being embedded in vibrant European research environments and gain a strong foothold in international scientific networks.

Another distinctive feature of ERC funding is its **global accessibility**: researchers from any country, including Korea, are eligible to apply, provided the project is hosted by an institution located in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. Proposals are evaluated solely on their scientific quality, with **no assessment of societal impact or relevance**, in contrast to Horizon Europe's collaborative calls under Pillar II. ERC funding also includes support for salary, relocation and start-up costs, and provides indirect cost coverage through institutional overhead contributions.

By combining **scientific freedom, generous support**, and a **singular focus on excellence**,

ERC grants provide a unique opportunity for researchers to develop ambitious ideas and establish themselves as independent leaders at the cutting edge of their fields.

To meet the needs of researchers at different career stages and research ambitions, the ERC offers five distinct grant schemes. These vary in eligibility requirements, funding amounts, and project structure. The overview below summarises their core characteristics:

Grant Type	Eligibility Window	Max Funding	Duration	Key Characteristics
Starting Grant (StG)	2-7 years post-PhD	€1.5M (+€1M top-up)	Up to 5 years	» For early-career researchers establishing independence
Consolidator Grant (CoG)	7-12 years post-PhD	€2M (+€1M top-up)	Up to 5 years	» For mid-career researchers consolidating their research team
Advanced Grant (AdG)	No fixed window; based on research excellence	€2.5M (+€1M top-up)	Up to 5 years	» For established leaders with a significant research track record
Synergy Grant (SyG)	Any career stage; 2-4 PIs tackling a major joint challenge	€10M (+€4M top-up)	Up to 6 years	» For collaborative teams tackling ambitious scientific challenges
Proof of Concept (PoC)	For current ERC grantees only	€150K	Up to 18 months	» To explore innovation or commercial potential of ERC research

New for 2026 and beyond

As of the 2026 edition, significant updates have been introduced, including a revised evaluation format, updated proposal templates, and clearer separation between scientific ambition and feasibility assessments.

For 2027, further changes are expected, including a narrative-style CV and a review of eligibility windows for Starting and Consolidator Grants. Researchers planning submissions in 2026 or 2027 should consult Sections 4 and 5 for details and check the official ERC update.

Who is Eligible to Apply

ERC eligibility depends on the number of years since the applicant's PhD defence. Each grant scheme targets a specific career stage. For a breakdown of eligibility windows, see the table in Section 1. See the box below for specific guidance for Korean applicants.



Korean Researchers and ERC Participation

Korean researchers are fully eligible to apply for ERC grants. However, because **Korea is not an Associated Country under Horizon Europe Pillar I** (which includes ERC), **Korean institutions cannot act as host institutions** for StG, CoG, or AdG projects. For these schemes, applicants must be hosted by a legal entity in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. **There is no requirement to reside in Europe at the time of application**, but a significant physical presence in Europe is required during the grant period.

The SyG scheme is the only ERC scheme that allows **one PI to be hosted outside Europe**, providing a unique opportunity for Korean researchers to participate without relocating. Researchers planning to relocate can request **up to €1 million in additional start-up funding** to cover equipment, relocation and travel. Early coordination with your home institution (e.g., for leave or secondment) is strongly advised.

Applicants with career breaks (e.g., parental leave, national service) may request eligibility extensions when applying for StG or CoG – see Information for Applicants for details¹. To find a suitable host and prepare your proposal, Korean researchers are encouraged to:

- Explore** the **EURAXESS Korea**² platform, which provides updates on funding opportunities, mobility support, events, and practical relocation guidance for Korean researchers moving to Europe.
- Use** the **ERC Dashboard**³ to identify potential host institutions. It allows you to search all ERC-funded projects by topic, country, PI or host institution, helping you understand who has been funded and where.
- Connect** with European institutions via academic networks or open calls for expressions of interest.
- Seek** support from the **Korean National Contact Point (NCP)** at the National Research Foundation (NRF), which offers proposal guidance, information sessions, and mentoring.
- Engage** with the **Korea-EU Research Centre (KERC)**⁴ for additional resources, events, and networking opportunities related to ERC and Horizon Europe.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/information-for-applicants_he-erc-stg-cog_en.pdf

² <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/south-korea>

³ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>

⁴ <https://k-erc.eu/>

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How to Prepare your ERC Application

To apply for an ERC grant, the applicant must prepare a complete proposal and submit it via the **EU Funding & Tenders Portal** before the published deadline. The application process includes scientific, administrative, and institutional elements that must be coordinated in advance.

Host Institution Requirements

ERC proposals must be submitted in coordination with a **host institution (HI)** in Europe. While the PI remains the scientific lead, the host institution must formally commit to supporting the project by signing a **Host Institution Commitment Letter**. This letter confirms the institution will provide the PI with full scientific independence, including authority over the project's direction, team, budget, and publications. The host should also offer appropriate infrastructure, administrative support, and freedom to pursue additional funding or publications. The PI does not need to be employed by the host at the time of application but must be formally engaged if the project is funded.

Choosing the Right Host Institution

Although ERC grants are PI-centred, a strong and supportive host institution can significantly strengthen your application and help ensure smooth implementation. When selecting a host, consider the following:

1	Research environment	Ensure the institution has the infrastructure, technical expertise, and facilities required for your project.
2	ERC experience and support services	Hosts familiar with ERC grants often have dedicated support teams to assist with budgeting, internal reviews, and logistics.
3	Mentoring and proposal support	Some institutions offer pre-submission reviews, mock interviews, or access to ERC grantees for mentorship.
4	Institutional commitment	Check that leadership understands ERC expectations and will support your independence and scientific autonomy.
5	Relocation and practical considerations	If relocating from outside Europe, consider visa support, housing assistance, and cultural integration services – these can significantly ease your transition.

Tip

*If you don't yet have a potential host, you can search for institutions via the **ERC Dashboard**⁵⁾ or **EURAXESS Korea**⁶⁾.*



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

6 <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/south-korea>

Time Commitment Requirements

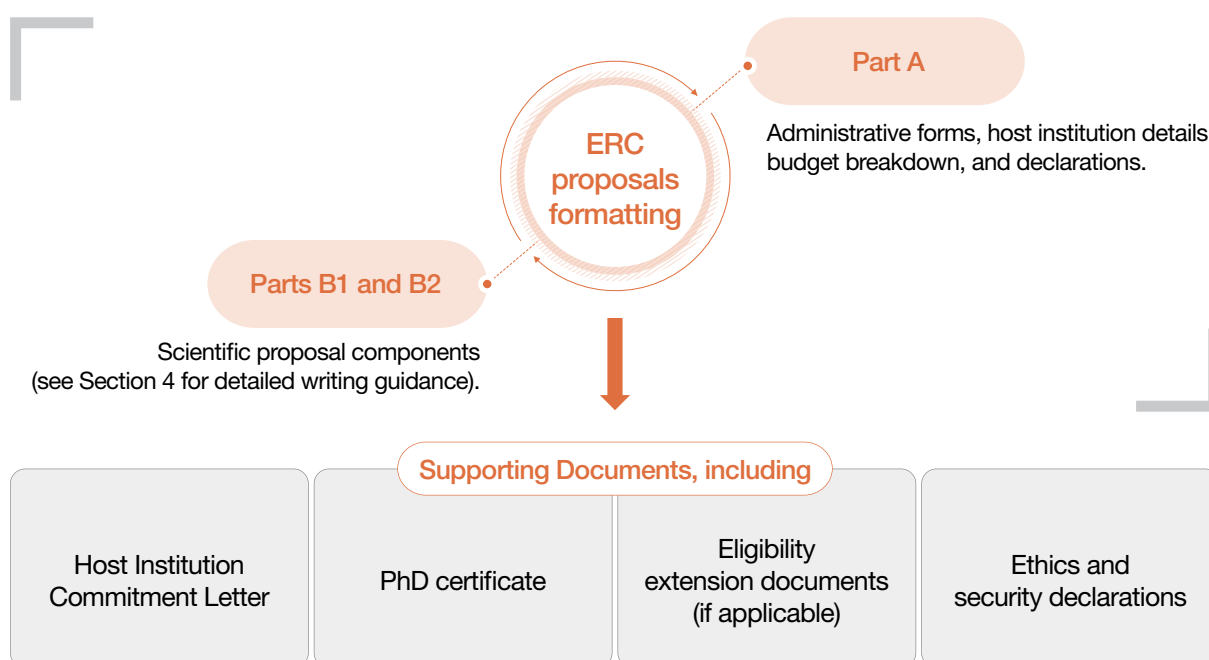
ERC PIs are expected to devote a substantial portion of their working time to the funded project and be physically present in Europe for most of its duration. The minimum time commitments are as follows:

Grant Type	Minimum Time on ERC Project	Minimum Time in Europe (EU/AC)
StG	At least 50%	At least 50%
CoG	At least 40%	At least 50%
AdG	At least 30%	At least 50%
SyG (Per PI)	At least 30%	At least 50% (if hosted in EU/Associated Country)

These requirements reflect the ERC's expectation that the PI will lead the project directly and be closely involved throughout.

Application Process Overview

ERC proposals must follow strict formatting and submission guidelines. A complete application consists of:



All sections must comply with ERC formatting and page limits. Proposals that are incomplete or submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

4

Writing a Competitive ERC Proposal

Writing a strong ERC proposal requires clarity, ambition, and alignment with the ERC's sole evaluation criterion: **scientific excellence**. Your proposal must convince reviewers on two fronts:

- The **project** – its originality, ambition, and feasibility
- The **PI** – your creativity, independence, and capacity to lead the research

ERC proposals consist of two main scientific sections – **Part B1** and **Part B2** – alongside administrative and supporting documents.

● **Part B1 – First Impressions Matter**

Part B1 is evaluated in both Step 1 and Step 2.

- At **Step 1**, it is the only part reviewers will read – therefore, it must stand entirely on its own and convincingly present the research vision.
- At **Step 2**, B1 is re-read alongside Part B2, allowing reviewers to assess how the proposed implementation plan supports the original ambition and concept.

It includes:

1	Extended Synopsis (max 5 pages)	A self-contained summary of your project's scientific vision, originality, and ambition. Clearly describe the research challenge, its relevance, and your bold idea to address it. A schematic figure can help make your concept visually memorable. Do not include methodology or feasibility details here.
2	Key References	New for 2026, a short list of essential references that support the state-of-the-art context and ground your proposal in current knowledge.
3	Curriculum Vitae and Track Record (max 4 pages)	Describe your academic background, career trajectory, and up to 10 key outputs (e.g., publications, patents). Briefly explain your contribution to each and its significance.

Tip

Ensure Part B1 includes all essential ideas – reviewers won't see Part B2 in Step 1.



● Demonstrating Scientific Independence and Leadership

For StG and CoG applicants, it is crucial to demonstrate independence from former supervisors and clear leadership potential. You can show this by:

- Highlight publications where you are **first/corresponding author without your PhD supervisor**. These are often interpreted as strong indicators of independence. Consider using an asterisk and noting this explicitly in your track record.
- Emphasize any **project leadership roles**, such as coordinating a study, supervising junior researchers, or managing collaborations.
- Include a **narrative** (in CV or B2) about your scientific vision and how you have developed it independently: e.g., “During my postdoc, I developed method X, which I now apply to address problem Y in this proposal.”
- Clearly describe your **intellectual ownership** of past work. If you conceived a method or led a project, say so directly.

● Crafting a Strong CV and Track Record

Your CV/Track Record is your opportunity to convince reviewers that **you can deliver the proposed project**. It should demonstrate leadership, productivity, and recognition appropriate to your career stage.

Tips for a strong CV:

1	Focus on quality, not quantity	Select 5-10 outputs that highlight breakthrough contributions or significant impact.
2	Explain relevance of outputs	Briefly describe the importance of each: “Developed a new material used in XX research (JOURNAL NAME, YEAR).”
3	Show trajectory and peer recognition	Include awards, fellowships, invited talks, or editorial roles.
4	Broader scientific contributions	Organising a conference, developing software, or curating datasets can all showcase leadership.
5	Explain gaps or unconventional paths	If you had a career break (e.g., maternity leave, national service, illness), include it. ERC panels consider achievements relative to opportunity.
6	Presentation matters	Use bullet points or tables to make your record easy to scan.

Tip

Avoid jargon. Make it bold but clear – think of it as your scientific “elevator pitch.” If the panel doesn’t understand or get excited here, they may not read further.





Highlight: Your Summary Is Your First (and Best) Pitch

The **Summary** (submitted as part of Part B1 and visible to reviewers early) is one of the most important sections of your ERC proposal. It's often the **first thing panel members read** – sometimes the **only section read in detail** at Step 1. Use this space to **pitch your idea with clarity and impact**. Your Summary should briefly but convincingly communicate:

- 🔗 **The problem or research gap:** What is the challenge or unmet need? Why is it urgent or timely?
- 🔗 **The state of the art:** What has been done so far, and what is missing?
- 🔗 **Your aim and objectives:** What are you proposing to do, and what will you achieve?
- 🔗 **Your approach:** What methods or work packages will you use to get there?
- 🔗 **The potential impact:** How will your work advance knowledge, enable new directions, or benefit broader fields?

Part B2 – Scientific Depth and Feasibility

Under the 2026 Work Programme, this section is limited to seven pages for Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant applications, and ten pages for Synergy Grants (excluding the budget justification). It must cover all feasibility-related content, as this is no longer assessed in Part B1.

The following elements should be addressed:

1	Methodology and Work Plan	Explain how you will execute the research, including theoretical approaches, experimental strategies, and data sources. Organise the plan by work packages or project phases if appropriate.
2	Timelines and Milestones	Provide a clear project timeline, outlining major phases, deliverables, and decision points. A simple Gantt chart or milestone table can help convey structure, though it is optional.
3	Risks and Contingency Plans	Identify key scientific or technical risks and explain how you will mitigate them. Show that you have considered uncertainties and developed fallback options where appropriate.
4	Resources and Budget Justification	While the budget breakdown is submitted in Part A, use B2 to briefly justify your requested resources – such as staff, equipment, infrastructure, travel, or relocation. Demonstrate that the scale of support aligns with the ambition and scope of your project.

Tip

Feasibility is a critical factor in Step 2 – reviewers must believe your project is not only bold, but also realistic and executable.





Strategic Tip: Think Beyond 5 Years

ERC reviewers don't just fund a "project" – they fund a **scientific vision**. Show how your proposal represents the **beginning of a long-term research programme**, with potential to:

- Open new research directions,
- Build a research group around a new methodology or theme,
- Influence other fields or applications.

If possible, include this broader outlook in your **Extended Synopsis** or **CV narrative**. Panels are looking to invest in **future leaders** of frontier science, not just one-time deliverables.

High-Risk / High-Gain Research

ERC encourages **bold ideas with high potential impact** – even if they involve scientific risk. Do not downplay or conceal uncertainties, instead:

- Be transparent about what aspects of your proposal are exploratory.
- Demonstrate that your idea pushes boundaries while remaining methodologically sound.
- Present clear fallback strategies to show that you are prepared for obstacles.

What Makes a Strong ERC Proposal

Successful proposals typically:

- Address a significant open question or gap in knowledge.
- Present a bold, original research vision with potential for high scientific impact.
- Combine ambition with a credible, well-reasoned plan.
- Clearly reflect the PI's intellectual leadership and independence.

A strong ERC proposal tells a compelling story – of an **bold idea**, a **credible plan**, and a **capable researcher ready to lead it**.

Tip

Avoid "safe" or incremental proposals – ERC panels seek visionary projects that can change the direction of a field.



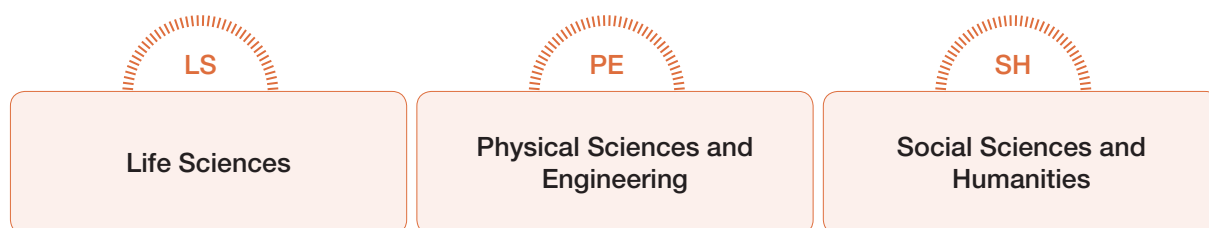
5

Understanding the ERC Evaluation Process

Submitting a proposal is only the first step. To succeed in the ERC competition, applicants must also understand **how proposals are evaluated**, **who evaluates them**, **what scores mean**, and **how interviews work** (for certain schemes). This section explains how ERC proposals are reviewed and what to expect after submission.

● Panel Structure and Domains

ERC proposals are reviewed by **peer-review panels** organised under three broad domains:



Each domain contains several panels (e.g., LS1-LS9, PE1-PE11, SH1-SH7), covering specific disciplines. Applicants must choose the most appropriate panel at the time of submission.

Panels consist of **scientific experts** from across Europe and beyond. Panel composition **changes annually**, and members typically rotate **every 2 years** to ensure diversity of perspective and prevent static expectations.

Tip

Panels often cover broad fields, so ensure your proposal is clearly written and compelling to non-specialists – especially in Step 1, when only Part B1 is reviewed.



Evaluation Steps and Timeline

ERC proposals are evaluated in **two stages**:

	What is Evaluated	Who Reviews	When
Step 1	Part B1 only (Extended Synopsis + CV/Track Record) Assesses ambition and scientific vision .	Panel Members	~3-4 months after deadline
Step 2	Part B1 + Part B2 (Full Proposal) Assesses feasibility.	Panel + External Experts	~6-7 months after deadline

Proposals rated highly in Step 1 are invited to Step 2. For StG and CoG, Step 2 includes an interview with the panel. From the 2026 Work Programme onward, Step 1 focuses only on the ambition and intellectual merit of the proposed research, based on the Extended Synopsis (Part B1). Feasibility, methodology, and resource planning are now evaluated only at Step 2. Applicants should present a bold, well-articulated research vision in Part B1, while all feasibility details must be included in Part B2. Final evaluation results are typically communicated 7-8 months after submission.

Step 2 Interviews (StG and CoG)

Applicants invited to Step 2 of **StG** or **CoG** must attend an **interview**, typically conducted **online via videoconference**.

The interview generally includes a **short presentation (5-10 minutes)** by the PI, followed by **Q&A with the panel**. Some panels permit slides; others prefer a purely oral format. The presentation should highlight your core idea, its significance, and why you are the right person to lead the project.

During the interview, panels assess:

Clarity of scientific vision

Communication skills and confidence

Ownership of the idea and intellectual leadership

Feasibility of the work plan and risk management

Tip

Practice your presentation with colleagues. Many host institutions offer mock interviews – use them to refine your message and delivery.



● Scoring System, Outcomes, and Resubmission Rules

ERC panels assign a score of A, B, or C to each proposal, based on both the project's and the PI's excellence:

Score	Outcome	Reapplication Restriction
A	Excellent and fundable (or high-ranked reserve list)	Can reapply next year
B (Step 1 or 2)	Not fundable	Cannot apply for any ERC scheme the following year
C (Step 1 only)	Below threshold	Cannot apply for any ERC scheme for 2 years

Note: These restrictions apply **across grant types** – e.g., receiving a B for a StG application bars you from applying for a CoG the following year, even if eligible.

Because of these rules, applicants should submit only when their proposal and profile are truly competitive. Submitting a weak or premature application may delay future opportunities. Many ERC grantees succeed on their second or third attempt, having strengthened their proposal and CV based on feedback.

Tip

If you are unsure whether your idea is ready, it may be better to wait and apply with a stronger concept and track record. A well-prepared first submission is better than triggering a reapplication block too early in your ERC trajectory.



Additional Resources

To prepare a strong ERC application, it is essential to consult the most current official documents and make use of the available support services. Below is a selection of key resources relevant to ERC applicants – particularly those applying from Korea.

Key ERC Documents

ERC Work Programme 2025⁷

Contains detailed descriptions of each grant scheme, eligibility rules, funding limits, call timelines, and resubmission policies.

Note: The 2026 Work Programme will be published at a later date. In the meantime, the ERC has issued a preliminary announcement outlining upcoming changes – see ERC news update for details.

Information for Applicants⁸ (StG, CoG, AdG, SyG)

Provides step-by-step application instructions, eligibility criteria, formatting rules, and evaluation guidance.

ERC Evaluation Forms and Scoring Criteria⁹

Explains how reviewers assess proposals and what they look for in both project and PI excellence.

ERC Proposal Templates (Parts B1, B2)

Official templates to structure your proposal submission.



All documents are available via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal¹⁰

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2025/wp_horizon-erc-2025_en.pdf

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/information-for-applicants_he-erc-stg-cog_en.pdf

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/erc-rules-for-submission-and-evaluation_he-erc_en.pdf

¹⁰ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents?programmePeriod=2021-2027&frameworkProgramme=43108390>

Online Platforms

EU Funding & Tenders Portal¹¹

The platform for ERC call announcements, submission, and proposal templates.

ERC Official Website¹²

Grant scheme summaries, news, success stories, FAQs, and calls.

EURAXESS Korea¹³

Updates on mobility support, funding calls, relocation tips, and events tailored to Korean researchers.

Additional Learning Resources

ERC Success Stories and Funded Project Summaries

Explore funded project examples from your field for inspiration and to understand the scope and ambition level expected by ERC panels. For more detailed insights, use the ERC Dashboard¹⁴ and ERC Projects & Statistics¹⁵ pages.

Workshops and Webinars

Watch for events hosted by EURAXESS, KEREC, European embassies, Korean universities, or ERC alumni networks.

Mentoring and Peer Review Opportunities

Seek informal feedback from colleagues or former ERC applicants; many institutions offer mock interviews or internal review panels.

Institutional Research Offices (in Europe)

Many European host institutions have dedicated research or grants offices that support ERC applicants. They can help with proposal formatting, budget preparation, internal reviews, and submission logistics. If you've identified a host, reach out early to understand their internal timelines and available support.

Tip

Even if you are not applying this year, begin reviewing these materials early to familiarise yourself with ERC standards and start preparing your research vision.



¹¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

¹² <https://erc.europa.eu/homepage>

¹³ <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/south-korea>

¹⁴ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics/erc-dashboard>

¹⁵ <https://erc.europa.eu/projects-statistics>

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The European Research Council (ERC)
Application Guidebook for Korean Researchers

APPENDIX

Useful tools

1 Quick Reference Tools

ERC Application Checklist

Task	Completed (✓)
Identify suitable ERC grant scheme based on career stage	
Confirm PhD eligibility window (see Section 1)	
Assess need for eligibility extension and collect documentation	
Identify and secure agreement from a host institution	
Prepare Host Institution Commitment Letter	
Draft Part B1 – Extended Synopsis, CV, Track Record	
Draft Part B2 – Full Scientific Proposal	
Complete Part A – Administrative forms and budget	
Upload all supporting documents (PhD certificate, extensions, ethics)	
Submit proposal via EU Funding & Tenders Portal before deadline	

Timeline Planning Guide

Activity	Recommended Timing
Start planning ERC application	12–18 months before deadline
Search for host institution	9–12 months before
Attend ERC info sessions or workshops	6–9 months before
Start writing Part B1 and CV	4–6 months before
Internal reviews / mentoring	2–4 months before
Final edits and formatting	1–2 months before
Submit via Funding Portal	At least 1–2 weeks before deadline

Proposal Checklist

Checklist Item	✓ / ✗
Have you written a clear and compelling Summary that pitches your idea effectively?	
Is your big idea clearly stated in the first page of Part B1?	
Does Part B1 stand alone and tell a coherent story?	
Is your project both ambitious and feasible?	
Have you highlighted your independence and leadership?	
Is your methodology specific and well-reasoned?	
Have you anticipated risks and provided fallback strategies?	
Is your budget and time commitment well-justified and aligned with your work plan?	
Have you consulted your host institution's research office for budget coordination, internal review, and submission support?	
Have you proofread and formatted your proposal according to ERC guidelines?	

2

Proposal template Part B1 (ERC Starting Grant 2025)

ERC Starting Grant 2025
Research proposal [Part B1]¹
(Part B1 is evaluated in Step 1 and Step 2,
Part B2 is evaluated in Step 2 only)

Proposal Full Title
PROPOSAL ACRONYM

Cover Page:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Name of the PI's Host Institution for the project
- Proposal duration in months

Please delete all text highlighted in grey in this template.

Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1).

The abstract (summary) should, at a glance, provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved. The abstract will be used as the short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process and in communications to contact in particular potential independent external experts and/or to inform the Commission and/or the programme management committees and/or relevant national funding agencies. It must therefore be short and precise and should not contain confidential information.

Please use plain typed text, avoiding formulae and other special characters. The abstract must be written in English. There is a limit of 2000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

Explain and justify the cross-panel or cross domain nature of your proposal, if a secondary panel is indicated in the online proposal submission forms. There is a limit of 1000 characters (spaces and line breaks included).

¹ Instructions for completing Part B1 can be found in the 'Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2025 Calls'.

Section a: *Extended Synopsis of the scientific proposal (max. 5 pages, references do not count towards the page limit)*

*[The Extended Synopsis should give a concise presentation of the scientific proposal, with particular attention to the ground-breaking nature of the research project, which will allow evaluation panels to assess, in Step 1 of the evaluation, the feasibility of the outlined scientific approach. Describe the proposed work in the context of the state of the art of the field. It is important that the extended synopsis contains minimum information relevant to the evaluation criteria, since the **Step 1 panel will have access only to part B1**. References to literature should also be included. Please use a reference style that is commonly used in your discipline such as American Chemical Society (ACS) style, American Medical Association (AMA) style, Modern Language Association (MLA) style, etc. and that allows the evaluators to easily retrieve each reference.]*

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margin sizes (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.

Section b: Curriculum vitae and Track Record (max. 4 pages)

[You may modify the below template if necessary.]

PERSONAL DETAILS

[Provide your personal details, your education and key qualifications, current position(s) and relevant previous positions you have held.]

Family name, First name:

Researcher unique identifier(s) (such as ORCID, Research ID, etc. ...):

URL for web site:

- Education and key qualifications**

DD/MM/YYYY PhD

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

Name of PhD Supervisor

YYYY

Master

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution, Country

- Current position(s)**

YYYY - YYYY Current Position

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

YYYY – YYYY Current Position

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

- Previous position(s)**

YYYY - YYYY Position held

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

YYYY - YYYY Position held

Name of Faculty/ Department, Name of University/ Institution/ Country

RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND PEER RECOGNITION**Research achievements**

[Provide a list of up to ten research outputs that demonstrate how you have advanced knowledge in your field with an emphasis on more recent achievements, such as publications, articles deposited in a publicly available preprint server, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, data sets, software, patents, licenses, standards, start-up businesses or any other research outputs you deem relevant in relation to your research field and your project.]

You may include a short, factual explanation of the significance of the selected outputs, your role in producing each of them, and how they demonstrate your capacity to successfully carry out your proposed project.]

Peer recognition

[Provide a list of selected examples of significant recognition by your peers if applicable, such as prizes, awards, fellowships, elected academy memberships, invited presentations to major conferences or any other examples of significant recognition you deem relevant in relation to your research field and project.]

You may include a short explanation of the significance of the listed examples.]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You may provide relevant additional information on your research career to provide context to the evaluation panels when assessing your research achievements and peer recognition as described above.

Career breaks, diverse career paths and major life events

[You may include a short factual explanation of career breaks or diverse career paths such as secondments, volunteering, part-time work, time spent in different sectors or the effects of major life events such as long term illness as well as the effects of pandemic restrictions on research productivity.]

Other contributions to the research community

[You may include a list of particularly noteworthy contributions to the research community you have made other than research achievements and peer recognition and a short explanation of these contributions. The purpose of this section is to allow the panels to take a more rounded view of your career and achievements and to ensure that any additional responsibilities, commitments and leadership roles that you have taken on beyond your individual research activities are recognised and taken into account.]

[(for more information see ‘Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2025 Calls’)]

Do NOT split the sections and/or references in Part B1 and do NOT upload them as separate documents. The peer reviewers will only receive one single document for evaluation at Step 1. Hence, Part B1 should contain all elements as explained in this template. If some parts of Part B1 are uploaded in the submission system as separate attachments, the peer reviewers will not have access to them.

3

Proposal template Part B2 (ERC Starting Grant 2025)

ERC Starting Grant 2025 Part B2¹ (not evaluated in Step 1)

Sections (a) and (b) of Part B2 should not exceed 14 pages. References do not count towards the page limits.

Text highlighted in grey should be deleted.

Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least font size 11, margins (2.0 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing. Do NOT split the sections, references and/or the appendix (Funding ID) and do NOT upload them as separate documents.

Section a. State-of-the-art and objectives

Section b. Methodology

Do NOT include any description of resources or budget table here (Part B2). The Resources section and the detailed budget table are part of the online submission form (Part A, Section 3 - Budget) which will be extracted and provided to the peer reviewers. If additional documents are uploaded in the submission system as separate attachments, the peer reviewers will not have access to them.

¹ Instructions for completing Part B2 can be found in the 'Information for Applicants to the Starting and Consolidator Grant 2025 Calls'.

***Appendix: All current grants and on-going / submitted grant applications of the PI
(Funding ID)***

Mandatory information (does not count towards page limits)

Current research grants (Please indicate "No funding" when applicable):

<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 proposal²</i>

On-going / submitted grant applications (Please indicate "None" when applicable):

<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 proposal²</i>

² Describe clearly any scientific overlap between your ERC application and the current research grant or on-going grant application.

Commitment of the Host Institution for ERC Calls 2025^{1, 2, 3}

The <<please fill in here the name of the legal entity that is associated to the proposal and may host the principal investigator and the project (action) in case the application is successful>>, which is the applicant legal entity,

confirms its intention to sign a supplementary agreement with
<<please fill in here the name of the principal investigator>>

in which the obligations listed below will be addressed should the proposal be retained.

Performance obligations of the *applicant legal entity* (Host Institution) that will become the coordinator of the HE ERC Grant Agreement (hereafter referred to as the Agreement), should the proposal be retained and the preparation of the Agreement be successfully concluded:

The applicant legal entity (Host Institution) commits itself to ensure that the action tasks described in Annex 1 of the Agreement are performed under the guidance of the principal investigator who is expected to devote:

- in the case of a Starting Grant at least 50% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country;
- in the case of a Consolidator Grant at least 40% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country;
- in the case of an Advanced Grant at least 30% of her/his working time to the ERC-funded project (action) and spend at least 50% of her/his working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country.

The applicant legal entity (Host Institution) commits itself to respect the following conditions for the principal investigator and their team:

- a) host and engage the principal investigator for the whole duration of the action;
- b) take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers⁴ — in particular regarding working conditions,

¹ A scanned copy of the signed statement should be uploaded electronically via the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) Submission Service in PDF format.

² The statement of commitment of the Host Institution refers to most obligations of the Host Institution, which are stated in the Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions (MGA). The [MGA](#) is available on the Funding & Tenders Portal. The reference to the time commitment of the Principal Investigator is stated in the ERC Work Programme 2025.

³ This statement (on letterhead paper) shall be signed (in blue ink or digitally) by the institution's legal representative indicating their name, function, email address and, in case of blue ink signature, along with the stamp of the institution.

⁴ [Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC of 11 March 2005](#) on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (OJ L 75, 22.3.2005, p. 67).

transparent recruitment processes based on merit and career development — and ensure that the principal investigator, researchers and third parties involved in the action are aware of them;

- c) enter — before grant signature— into a Supplementary Agreement with the principal investigator, that specifies the obligation of the applicant legal entity to meet its obligations under the Agreement;
- d) provide the principal investigator with a copy of the signed Agreement;
- e) guarantee the principal investigator scientific independence, in particular for the:
 - i) use of the budget to achieve the scientific objectives;
 - ii) authority to publish as senior author and invite as co-authors those who have contributed substantially to the work;
 - iii) preparation of scientific reports for the action;
 - iv) selection and supervision of the other team members, in line with the profiles needed to conduct the research and in accordance with the beneficiary's usual management practices;
 - v) possibility to apply independently for funding;
 - vi) access to appropriate space and facilities for conducting the research;
- f) provide — during the implementation of the action — research support to the principal investigator and the team members (regarding infrastructure, equipment, access rights, products and other services necessary for conducting the research);
- g) support the principal investigator and provide administrative assistance, in particular for the:
 - i) general management of the work and their team;
 - ii) scientific reporting, especially ensuring that the team members send their scientific results to the principal investigator;
 - iii) financial reporting, especially providing timely and clear financial information;
 - iv) application of the beneficiary's usual management practices;
 - v) general logistics of the action;
 - vi) access to the electronic exchange system;
- h) inform the principal investigator immediately (in writing) of any events or circumstances likely to affect the Agreement;
- i) ensure that the principal investigator enjoys adequate:
 - i) conditions for annual, sickness and parental leave;
 - ii) occupational health and safety standards;
 - iii) insurance under the general social security scheme, such as pension rights;
- j) allow the transfer of the Agreement to a new beneficiary, if requested by the principal investigator and provided that the objectives of the action remain achievable (portability; see Article 41 of the Agreement);
- k) respect the fundamental principle of research integrity and ensure that persons carrying out research tasks under the action follow the good research practices and refrain from the research integrity violations described in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity⁵. If any such violations or allegations occur, verify and pursue them and bring them to the attention of the Agency.

⁵ [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) – Revised Edition 2023. All European Academies, Berlin. DOI 10.26356/ECOC

For the applicant legal entity (Host Institution):

Date



Name and Function



Email and Signature (blue ink or digital) of legal representative

Stamp of the applicant legal entity (Host Institution)⁶**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

In order to be complete, all the above mentioned items are mandatory and shall be included in the commitment of the Host Institution.

If the letter is digitally signed, please do NOT lock it.

⁶ No need to stamp this letter of support when it is digitally signed.

