

Horizon Europe - European Research Council (ERC)

Updated February 2026 (Work Programme 2026)

| Scheme | Starting Grants (StG) | Consolidator Grants (CoG) | Advanced Grants (AdG) | ERC Plus Grants (Plus) | Synergy Grants (SyG) |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| Aim | Support for promising researchers and the establishment of their research team | Support for promising researchers and the consolidation of their research team | Support for excellent, experienced researchers and their research team | Support for frontier research in any field of research that cannot be realised within a regular ERC grant | Support for substantial advances at the interface between established disciplines beyond the reach of a single PI |
| Target group | Researchers 2-7 years after PhD defence | Researchers 7-12 years after PhD defence | Established researchers with a track record of significant achievements | Researchers of any age, nationality and career stage who demonstrate exceptional scientific excellence at the forefront of their field | 2 - 4 researchers and their teams bringing together complementary skills |
| | Date of the certified successful defence of the first PhD degree (not awarding date) until 1 January of call year; extensions possible in documented cases such as maternity, paternity, long-term illness, national service, clinical training; special rules for MD | | | | |
| Time commitment | ≥ 50% of the total work time ≥ 50% in Europe | ≥ 40% of the total work time ≥ 50% in Europe | ≥ 30% of the total work time ≥ 50% in Europe | ≥ 30% of the total work time ≥ 50% in Europe | ≥ 30% of the total work time ≥ 50% in Europe |
| Host institution(s) | Located in EU Member States or Associated Countries to Horizon Europe | | | | 1 - 4 host institutions; Max. one host institution in a 3rd Country |
| Funding | Up to 1.5 million EUR | Up to 2 million EUR | Up to 2.5 million EUR | Up to 7 million EUR | Possibly + 4 million EUR for e.g. major equipment, researchers moving from Third Countries to Europe or major experimental or field work costs for max. 6 years |
| | Regular funding scheme | | Lump sum funding scheme | | |
| | Possibly + 1 million EUR for e.g. major equipment, experimental cost, access to large facilities, personal, or field work costs for max. 5 years Possibly + another 1 million EUR for researchers moving from Third Countries to Europe | | | No additional funding | |
| Procedure | One-stage electronic proposal submission and two-stage or three-stage (for SyG) evaluation, including an interview | | | | |
| Next call for proposals <small>(provisional dates from WP2026)</small> | Opening: 9 July 2025 Deadline: 14 October 2025 Estimated number of grants: 450 | Opening: 25 September 2025 Deadline: 13 January 2026 Estimated number of grants: 328 | Opening: 28 May 2026 Deadline: 27 August 2026 Estimated number of grants: 294 | Opening: 2 June 2026 Deadline: 2 September Estimated number of grants: 30 | Opening: 10 July 2025 Deadline: 5 November 2025 Estimated number of grants: 49 |