NKS ERC
Nationale Kontaktstelle zum EU-Programm Horizont Europa

Horizon Europe - European Research Council (ERC)

Updated November 2026 for ERC Work Programme 2027

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	Addressing a major scientific-challenge that cannot be carried out with a regular ERC grant	Support a group of researchers and their teams working together with complementary skills on an interdisciplinary and ground-breaking research project
Target group	Researchers 0 - 10 years after PhD defence date	Researchers 5 - 15 years after PhD defence date	Active researcher with a track record of significant research achievements	Scholars at all career stages with an outstanding record of scientific achievement at the forefront of their field	2 - 4 innovative and active researchers of any nationality and age with competitive track records as appropriate to their research career stage jointly addressing ambitious research questions that cannot be tackled by any single PI and their team alone
	Date of the certified successful defence (not awarding date) of the first PhD degree until 1 January of call year; Extensions possible in documented cases such as maternity, paternity, long-term illness, national service, clinical training, natural disaster, seeking asylum, victims of gender-based violence or any other form of violence; special rules for medical doctors				
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) (HI)	Located in EU-Member States (MS) or Associated Countries (AC) to Horizon Europe				2 - 4 HIs; one HI allowed outside the EU or an Associated Country
Funding	Up to 1.5 million EUR (Actual Cost)	Up to 2 million EUR (Actual Cost)	Up to 2.5 million EUR (Lump sum)	Up to 7 million EUR (Lump sum)	Up to 10 million EUR (Actual Cost)
	Additional funding (requests for additional funding shall be duly justified in the proposal): + max, 1 million EUR can be requested to cover further eligible costs (e.g. start-up costs, major equipment, access to large facilities, major experimental and field work costs) when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work + max. 2 million EUR can be awarded to Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grant applicants moving ("re-locating") to the EU or an Associated Country to take up their ERC grant; Maximum project duration: 60 months / 5 years			No additional funding Min. project duration: 48 months / 4 years Max. project duration: 84 months / 7 years	Additional funding: possibly + 4 million EUR to cover further eligible costs for any cost category when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work Max. project duration: 72 M/6 years
Procedure	One-stage electronic proposal submission and two-stage (or three-stage for SyG) evaluation, including an interview; Statement of Vision needed only for ERC PLUS				
Next call for proposals	Opening: 22 July 2026 Deadline: 14 October 2026 Budget: 594 million EUR estimated number of grants: 373	Opening: 24 September 2026 Deadline: 12 January 2027 Budget: 618 million EUR estimated number of grants: 296	Opening: 27 May 2027 Deadline: 26 August 2027 Budget: 798 million EUR estimated number of grants: 311	Opening: 1 June 2027 Deadline: 1 September 2027 Budget: 210 million EUR estimated no. of grants: 30	Opening: 17 February 2027 Deadline: 11 May 2027 Budget: 500 million EUR estimated number of grants: 48