

The European Research Council

ERC Work Programme 2012

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Support to the Scientific Council Unit
ERC Executive Agency

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Revision to WP2011

Adopted on 24 March:

- Introduction for ERC Grantees of "Proof of Concept" funding to establish the innovation potential of ideas arising from the ERC-funded frontier research projects;
- Support to the ERC Scientific Council Standing Identification Committee as recommended by the ERC Review Panel;
- Introduction of honoraria for ERC Scientific Council Members as recommended by the ERC Review Panel.

- Total budget €1,578m.
- Starting Grant now largest share of budget: €730m
- Advanced Grant: €680m
- Proof of Concept retained: €10m
- **NEW!** Synergy Grant: €150m

ERC Synergy Grant

- Under the 2012 work programme a third type of grant will be available on a pilot basis for exceptional proposals.
- ERC Synergy Grants will enable small groups of Principal Investigators and their teams to bring together complementary skills, knowledge, and resources, in order to jointly address research problems at the frontier of knowledge going beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone.

ERC Synergy Grant

- 2 – 4 Principal Investigators (with one designated lead Principal Investigator).
- Upto €15m for upto six years.
- €150m budget.

ERC Synergy Grant

Expected (**but not required**) that ERC+ groups will be:

- Interdisciplinary, often using multidisciplinary approaches;
- Physically located in the same place to ensure face to face contact for significant periods of "core time" over the course of the project;
- Built around specialized infrastructure, new combinations of skills and disciplines, or bringing together researchers from different institutions, sectors or countries.

ERC Synergy Grant

Based on ERC principles:

- Bottom-up;
- Sole criterion of excellence;
- Empowerment of individual researchers;
- Fosters competitive dynamic
- Meets scientific demand.

ERC Synergy Grant

Synergy Grant is different from FP7 collaborative projects because:

- Sole criterion of excellence – not interested in collaboration for its own sake;
- No preset themes or priorities;
- No transnationality requirement, groups can be from same country, city, campus or even institution;
- 2-4 PIs vs 11-16 organisations typical in Cooperation project;
- No complicated consortium negotiations or agreements.

WP 2012

other main changes

- Single section on common requirements for main grant schemes.
- No domain 4 - cross panel proposals to be evaluated through regular panels.
- New « scoring » to provide better feedback to applicants.

WP 2012

other activities

- Two new studies (gender aspects in career paths and characteristics of ERC Host Institutions).
- Support to chair and vice chairs of Scientific Council.
- Honoraria for Scientific Council members.
- ID Committee.

WP adoption: **19 July 2011**

Publication of the fifth StG call ERC-2012-StG: **20 July 2011**
Deadlines October - November 2011

Publication of the first SyG call ERC-2012-SyG: **25 October 2011**
Deadline 25 January 2012

Publication of the fifth AdG call ERC-2012-AdG: **16 November 2011**
Deadlines February - April 2012