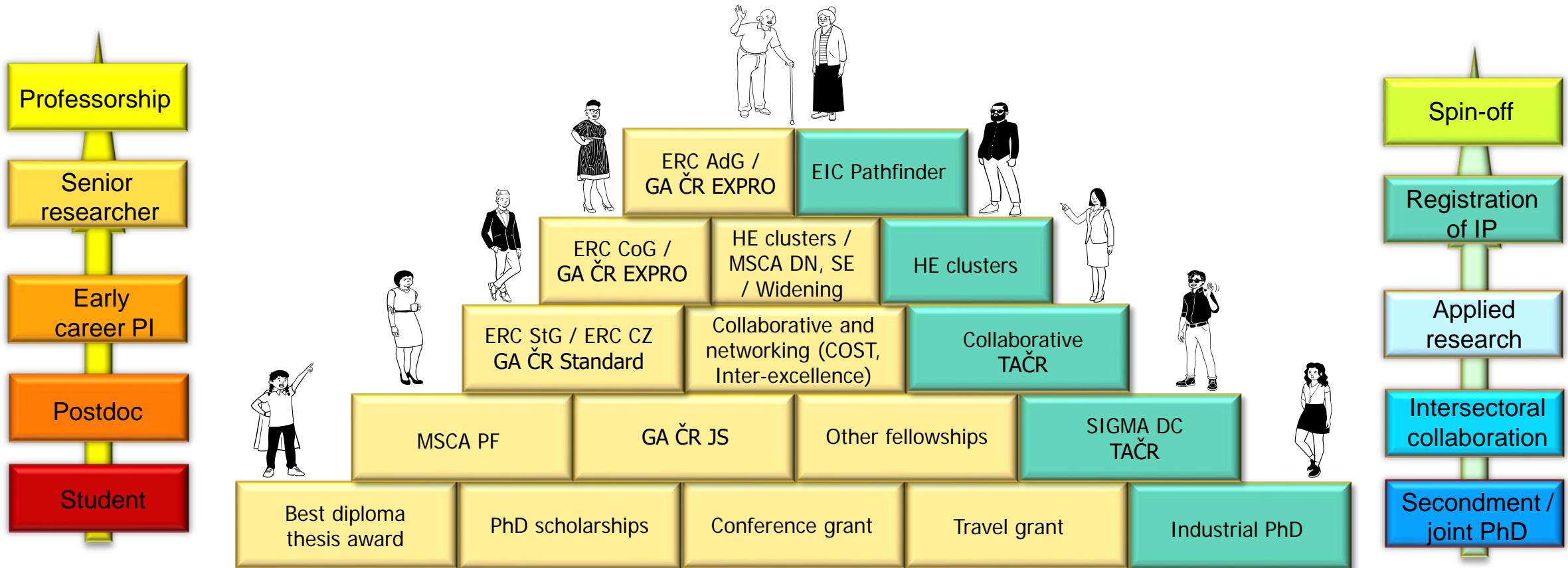


**M U N I**

# **Funding opportunities for Early Career Scientists**

Grant Office, Research and Development Office, MU Rectorate

# The journey to (non-)academic success



**MUNI**

# **Czech funding schemes for postdocs**

# Standard projects

Provider: GA ČR

## Aim

- Standard projects for support of basic research
- Advanced scientific projects with the potential to achieve international significance results

## Priority areas

- All scientific fields

## Eligibility

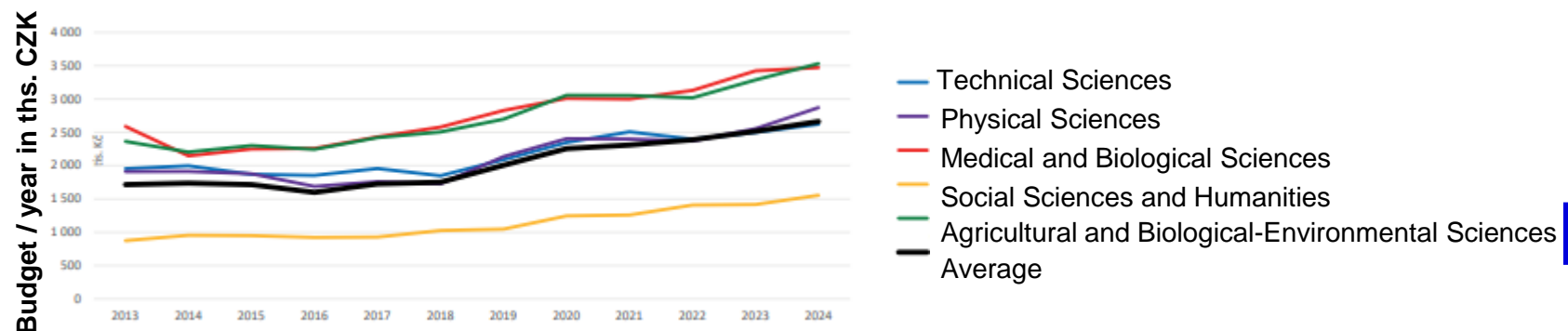
- Applicants at any stage of career, without any age limitation



## Next Call in February 2025

Call ID	Standard projects
Applicants	research organizations, other specified by Call
Expected results*	$J_{imp}$ , $J_{sc}$ , $J_{ost}$ , Monograph, chapter in monograph, article in proceedings
Duration	2-3 years
Funding	Not specified
Funding rate	100 %
Call allocation	TBA

[\\*Definition of types of results](#)

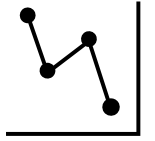


# Standard projects - statistics

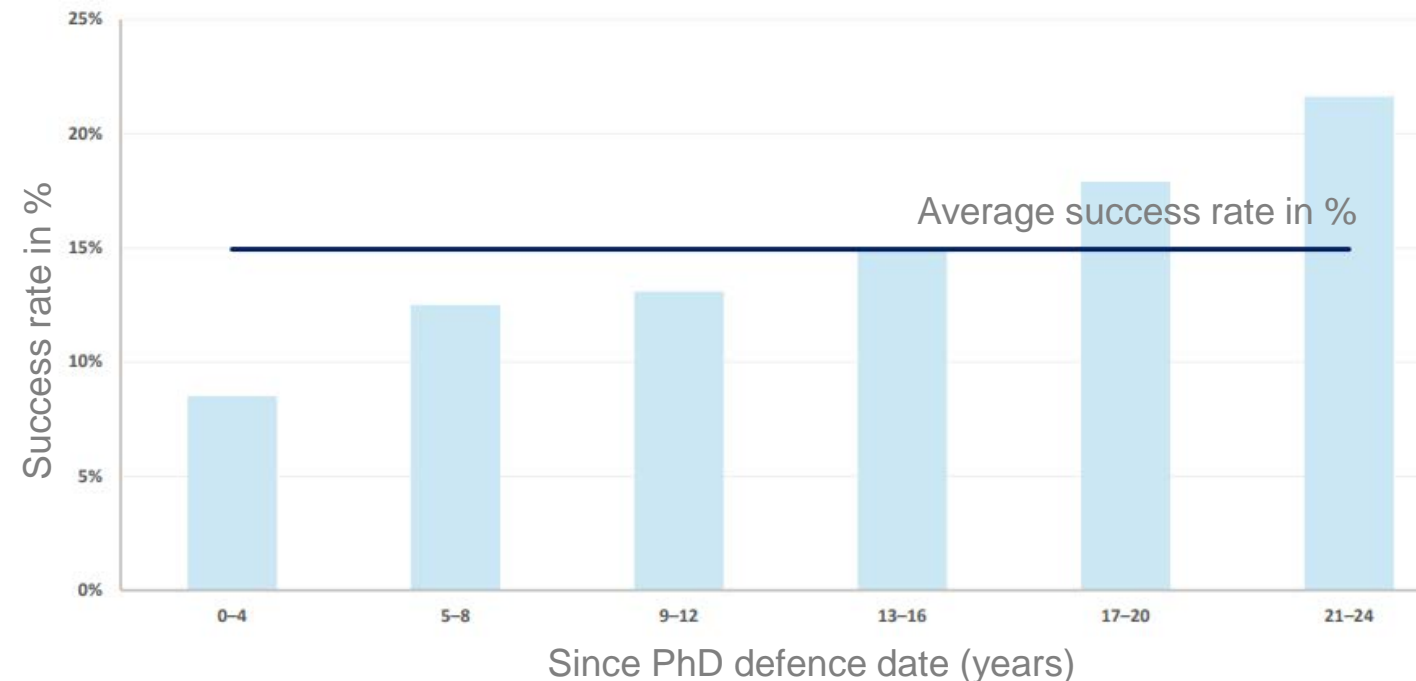
Provider: GA ČR

- **2-3 PhD students and 1-2 postdocs** are involved in an average of **one funded project**
- **29%** of the project **costs** are for the **salaries** of students and postdocs
- **59** standard projects have been awarded to **postdoctoral researchers** for 2024 (total 332 STD grants awarded in 2024)

Almost 18%  
of awarded  
projects for  
postdocs



Standard grants 2024 – success rate



# POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP (PIF) - Incoming

Provider: GA ČR

## Aim

- To motivate outstanding scientists with long-term international experience in their early careers to undertake their own, high-quality scientific project at an institution in the Czech republic

## Priority areas

- All scientific fields

## Eligibility

- Limited up to 4 years after Ph.D
- Applicant may not be employed by the organization or any other scientific institution in Czechia from the date of announcement till the Call deadline
- Min. 2 of the last 3 years as a doctoral student abroad or employment with scientific institution abroad

Ph.D. title and experience abroad may be completed to 30th September, that means 6 months after Call deadline



Next Call in February 2025

Call ID	PIF Incoming
Applicants	research organizations, other specified by Call
Expected results*	$J_{imp}$ , $J_{sc}$ , $J_{ost}$ , Monograph, chapter in monograph, article in proceedings
Duration	3 years
Funding	Not specified
Funding rate	100 %
Call allocation	TBA

[\\*Definition of types of results](#)

# POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP (PIF) - Outgoing

Provider: GA ČR

## Aim

- Is to make it possible for Czech scientists in their early careers to pursue their own scientific aim involving a long-term fellowship abroad, followed by the completion of the project at a Czech institution

## Priority areas

- All scientific fields

## Eligibility

- Limited up to 4 years after Ph.D (cut off date 30th September)
- Scientific fellowship abroad 730 days; then min. 365 days at the institution of beneficiary

Ph.D. title may be completed to 30th September, that means 6 months after Call deadline

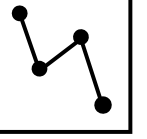


Next Call in February 2025

Call ID	PIF (Outgoing)
Applicants	research organizations, other specified by Call
Expected results*	$J_{imp}$ , $J_{sc}$ , $J_{ost}$ , Monograph, chapter in monograph, article in proceedings,
Duration	3 years
Funding	Not specified
Funding rate	100 %
Call allocation	TBA

[\\*Definition of types of results](#)

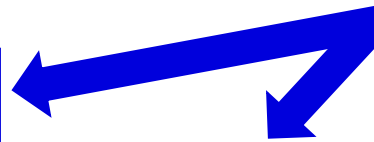
# PIF In/Out – statistics



Provider: GA ČR

– Average costs CZK 1,6 mil. / year

Questions  
to focus on:



How scientifically sound is the content of the project proposal (originality, quality and professional standard of the grant project proposal)?

What is its potential contribution to the discipline?

How big a step forward will it be for world science if the project is a success?

How likely is the Applicant able to achieve the proposed objectives?

Is it reasonable to assume that the project will be completed?

<b>POSTDOC INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS (Incoming, Outgoing)</b>	<b>In 2022</b>	<b>Out 2022</b>	<b>In 2023</b>	<b>Out 2023</b>	<b>In 2024</b>	<b>Out 2024</b>
Number of proposals – GA ČR	54	53	34	47	25	55
Number of granted projects – GA ČR	8	19	7	17	8	17
Success rate in % – CZ in total	14.8	35.9	20.6	36.2	32	30.9



# Who decides (STD and PIF)

38 evaluation panels grouped into 5 Discipline Committees (8-15 scientists / evaluation panel):

## Technical Sciences

P101 Mathematics  
P102 Electrical and electronic engineering  
P103 Computer and information engineering  
P105 Civil engineering  
P106 Chemical engineering  
P107 Inorganic materials science and engineering  
P108 Organic materials and biomaterials science and engineering  
P109 Advanced materials science and engineering

## Physical Sciences

P202 Mathematics and Computer Science  
P203 Nuclear and Particle Physics, Astronomy and Astrophysics  
P204 Condensed Matter and Material Physics, Plasma Physics and Low Temperature Physics  
P205 Biophysics, Macromolecular Physics and Optics  
P206 Analytical and Physical Chemistry  
P207 Chemical and Biochemical Transformations  
P209 Atmospheric Sciences, Hydrology, Physical Geography and Geophysics  
P210 Geochemistry, geology and mineralogy, hydrogeology

## Medical and Biological Sciences

P301 Biochemistry, Molecular and Structural Biology, Genetics, Genomics and Bioinformatics  
P302 Microbiology, Parasitology, Immunology and Biotechnology  
P303 Cell, Developmental and Evolutionary Biology, Regeneration and Reproduction  
P304 Tumor Biology, Experimental Oncology  
P305 Neurosciences  
P306 Medical Sciences - Physiology and Biophysics, Pathology and Pathophysiology, Diagnostics and Therapy, Pharmacology and Toxicology

## Social Sciences and Humanities

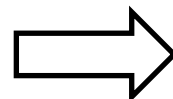
P401 Philosophy, Theology, Religious Studies  
P402 Economic Sciences, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Econometrics except Financial Econometrics, Quantitative Methods in Economics except Operational Research  
P403 Business and Management Science, Finance, Financial Econometrics and Operational Research  
P404 Sociology, Demography, Social Geography, Media Studies and Social Work  
P405 Archeology and Pre-Modern History until 1780  
P406 Linguistics and Literature  
P407 Psychology, Pedagogy, Kinanthropology  
P408 Juridical Science and Political Science  
P409 Art Sciences  
P410 Modern History (since 1780) and Ethnology

## Agriculture and Biological-Environmental Sciences

P501 Plant Physiology and Genetics, Plant Medicine  
P502 Animal Physiology and Genetics, Veterinary Medicine  
P503 Food science, Ecotoxicology and Environmental Chemistry  
P504 Landscape Management, Forestry and Soil Biology, Ecosystem Ecology  
P505 Animal and Plant Ecology  
P506 Botany and Zoology



**1st stage**  
2 panel members



**2nd stage**  
2 external reviewers  
(for projects which are placed in the better half of their rating)

# JUNIOR STAR

Provider: GA ČR

## Aim

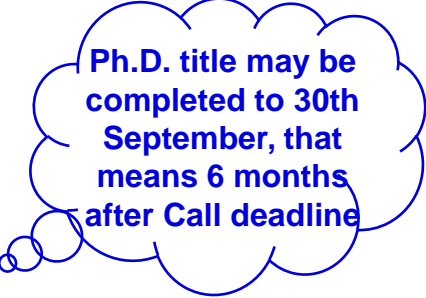
- Aims at excellent scientists at the beginning of their career to establish an independent group

## Priority areas

- All scientific fields

## Eligibility

- Limited up to 8 years after Ph.D
- Applicant must already have substantial international experience
- Min. workload 0.5 FTE



Ph.D. title may be completed to 30th September, that means 6 months after Call deadline

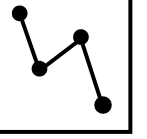


## Next Call in February 2025

Call ID	JUNIOR STAR
Applicants	research organizations, other specified by Call
Expected results*	$J_{imp}$ , $J_{sc}$ , $J_{ost}$ , Monograph, chapter in monograph, article in proceedings
Duration	5 years
Funding	25 mil. CZK/project
Funding rate	100 %
Call allocation	TBA

[\\*Definition of types of results](#)

# JUNIOR STAR - statistics



Provider: GA ČR

– All evaluators are international scientists

Questions  
to focus on:

How scientifically sound is the contents of the project proposal (originality, quality and professional standard of the grant project proposal)?

What is its potential contribution to the discipline?

How big a step forward will it be for world science if the project is a success?

How excellent is the applicant?

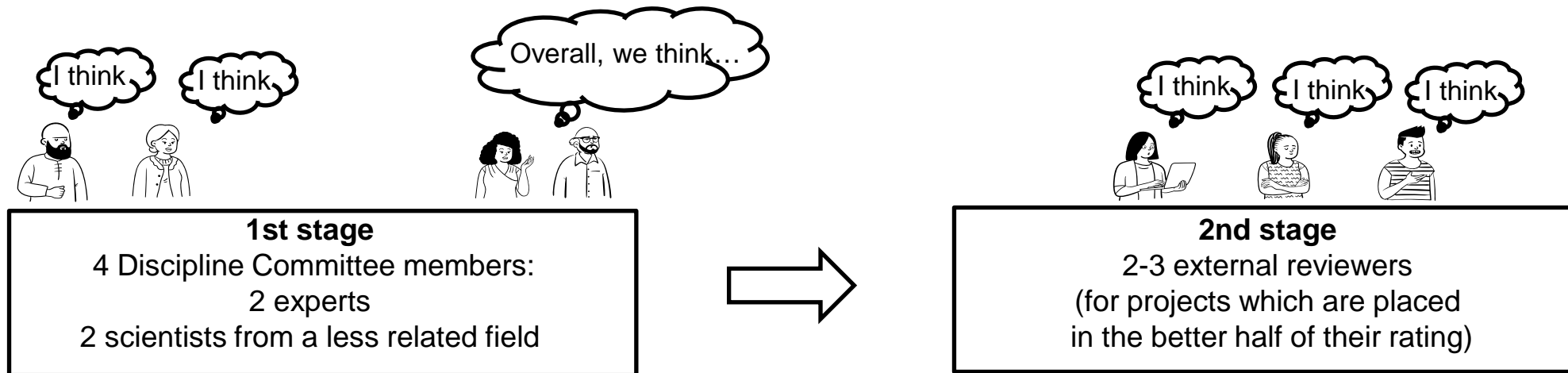
How likely is the Applicant able to achieve the proposed objectives?

<b>JUNIOR STAR</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Number of proposals – GA ČR	133	123	227	175
Number of granted projects – GA ČR	22	16	23	17
Success rate in % – CZ in total	16.5	13.0	10.1	9.7

# Who decides (JUNIOR STAR)

## 12-20 panel members in each Discipline Committee:

- EX1 Mathematics, Physics 1
- EX2 Physics 2
- EX3 Chemistry
- EX4 Human Biology and Medical Sciences
- EX5 Biological and Environmental Sciences
- EX6 Social Sciences
- EX7 Humanities
- EX8 Technical Sciences and Informatics



# Evaluation Criteria

## INDIVIDUAL GRADING SCALE

The quality of the project proposal/ Applicant/Co-Applicant(s)/their publication level/institutional resources are considered to be:

- A1 - outstanding**
- A2 - excellent**
- B - very good**
- C1 - average**
- C2 - poor**

## PANEL GRADING SCALE

- A - top quality** project proposal, recommended to proceed to Phase 2
- B - a quality** project proposal, recommended to proceed to Phase 2
- C - the project proposal is not recommended** to proceed to Phase 2
- Cn - poor quality** project

## QUALITY OF THE PROJECT

### Aims of the Project Proposal

- Definition of clear and specific aims, and how demanding, relevant, and feasible they are
- Proportionality of the scope of the problem to be examined relative to the funding and time required

### Project Approach and Methodology

- Contribution to the relevant scientific field
- The pathway to the achievement of the aims and results as set out by the Applicant (i.e. the concept, preparation and appropriateness of the proposed methodology, including the project timeline)
- Adequacy of resources (particularly in terms of the amount of time and the contribution of the individual team members in the expected outputs), qualifications represented in the team, and the definition of the roles of its members

## Project Outputs

It is the quality, not the quantity, of the expected results that is assessed, in the context of the expectation of excellence in the relevant field.

## International Cooperation

- The expected involvement of institutions from other countries in the project, use of each other's equipment and resources of the cooperating institutions, and the use of complementary approaches and methodologies
- For PIF OUTGOING projects, the quality and readiness of the institution hosting the 730-day fellowship in the other country

## The Results of Previous Projects

The evaluation may take into account the results or evaluation of completed or currently ongoing grant projects.

## THE APPLICANT

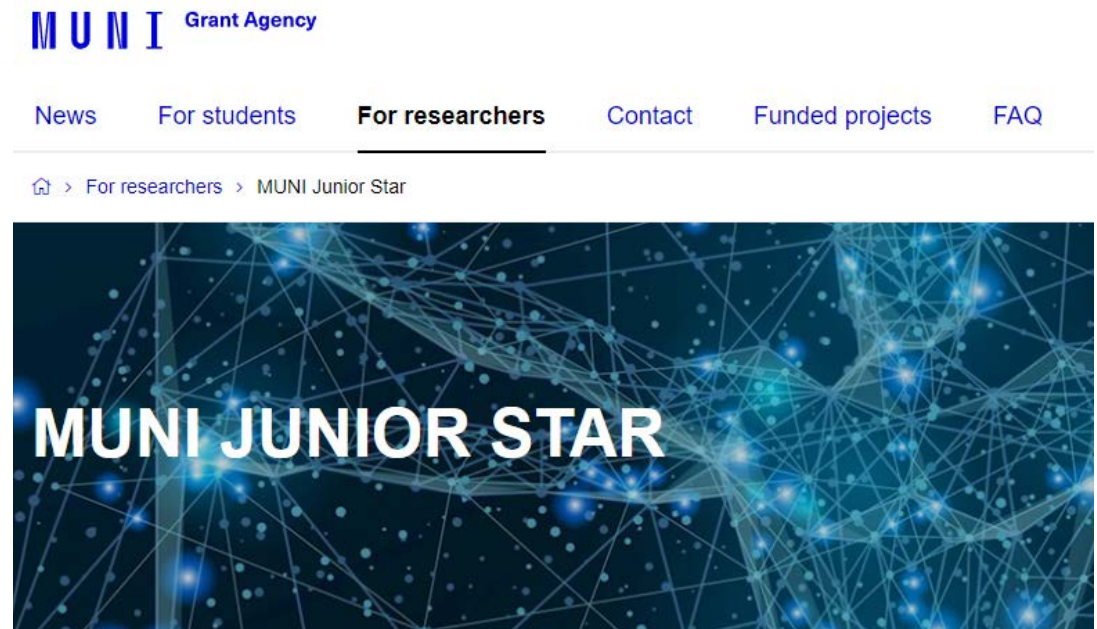
- The contribution of the Applicant to the present knowledge in the field as well as beyond
- The quality of scientific publications and the Applicant's contribution to their development
- Other activities, such as educational and training activities, lectures by invitation, prestigious awards, major projects, memberships in peer-review systems, etc.

## PROJECT COSTS

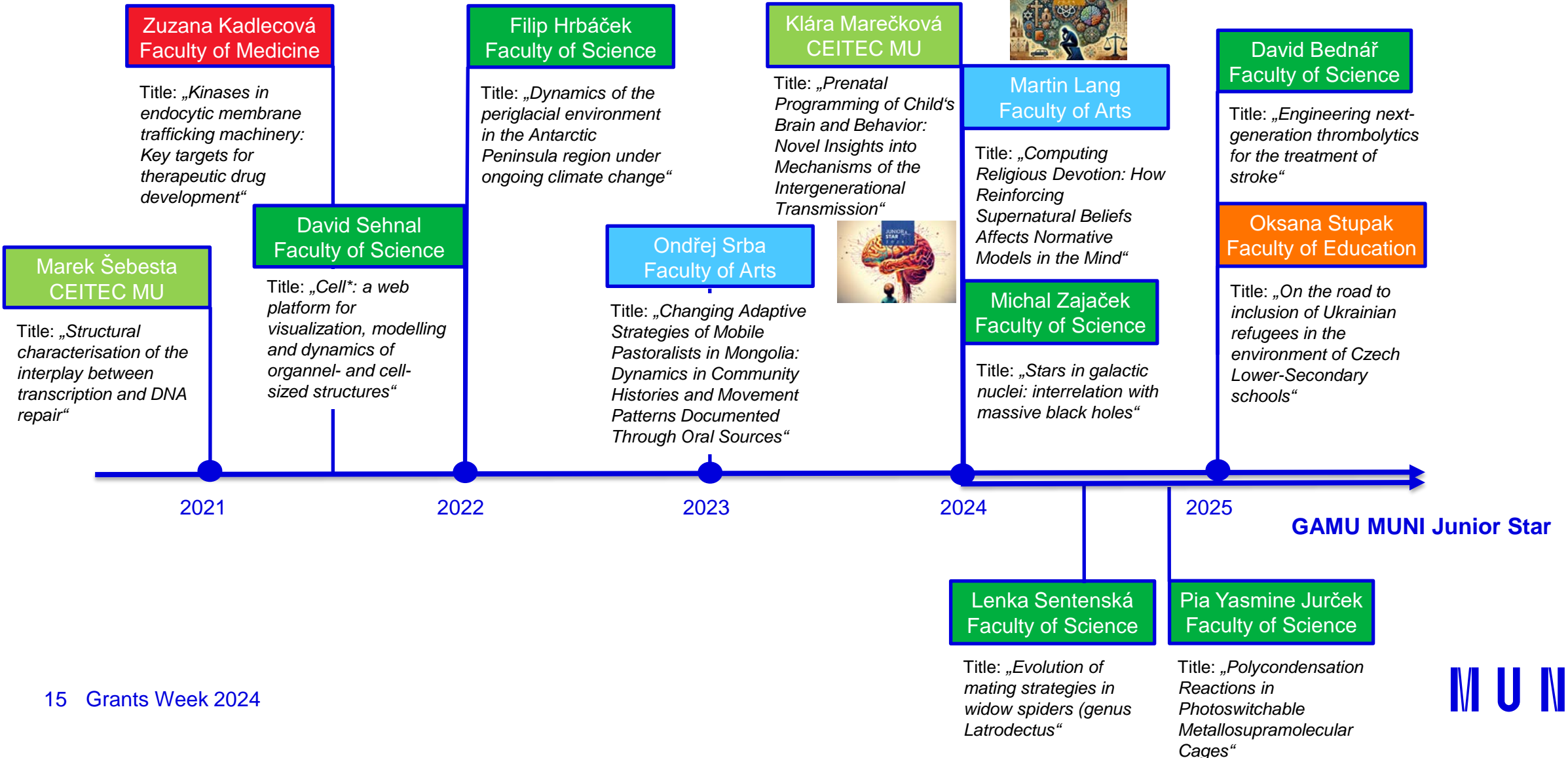
- Are the proposed costs and the workloads reasonable to the project proposal and the expected results?
- Are the individual proposed items well explained and justified?

# Alternative funding to JUNIOR STAR

- **Seal of Excellence**
- Scientists ranked among the top 20% of applicants who did not received funding from GA ČR
- 2 mil. CZK/year for 2 years



# JUNIOR STAR grants at MU



# AZV (2024-2030)

Provider: Ministry of Health

## Aim

- To ensure an internationally comparable level of medical research and the use of its results to improve the health of the Czech population and to secure the current needs of the health service in the Czech Republic

## Priority areas

- Incidence and development of diseases
- New diagnostic and therapeutic methods
- Epidemiology and prevention of the most serious diseases

## Subprogrammes

- I. Further development of the existing platform of applied medical research in the Czech Republic
- **II. Support of young researchers**
- **III. European Partnerships**



Next Call in February 2025

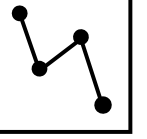
Call ID	AZV
Applicants	research organizations, companies
Expected results*	main results - $J_{imp}$ , utility model, prototype, functioning sample, methodologies, patent, software, pilot plant, verified technology secondary results – $J_{imp}$ (Review, Letter), $J_{sc}$ , book, chapter in book
Duration	48 months
Funding	not limited (subp. I), <b>max. 7 mil. CZK/project (subp. II)</b>
Funding rate	up to 100 %
Call allocation	TBA

\*Definition of types of results

MUNI

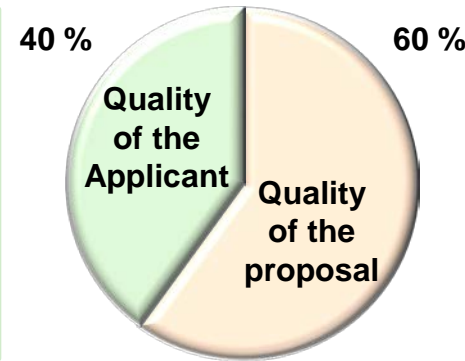


# AZV – statistics



– 10 evaluation panels (7-20 scientists / evaluation panel)

Overall contribution to the field, taking into account previous results, the extent of applicant's active research activities over the last 5 years, International cooperation, expertise of the research team, involvement of young researchers...



Project focus; Originality; State of the art; Expected benefits; Hypothesis and aims; Experimental design; Methodology, Pilot data, Quality of technical language (wording, number of typos); timeline and feasibility; Risk Analysis...

## AZV – Young Scientists

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of proposals – AZV	35	56	60	51	78
Number of granted projects – AZV	10	17	12	12	15
Success rate in % – CZ in total	28.6	30.4	20.0	23.5	19.2

# ERDERA

Provider: Ministry of Health (European Partnerships)

**1<sup>st</sup> Call in December 2024**

## Aimed at

- Rare diseases

## Priority areas of the 1st Call

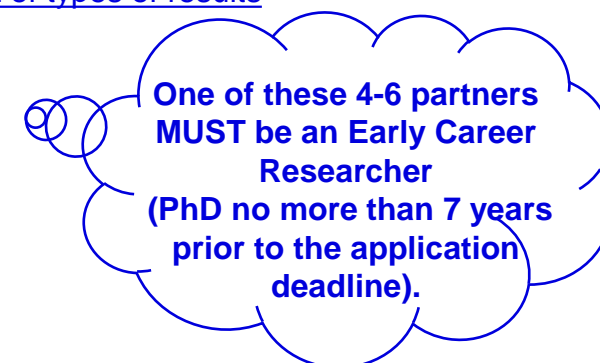
- Development of pre-clinical therapies using cell, organoid, or animal models
- Biomarker identification that correlates with therapeutic efficacy
- Biomarker identification that correlates with therapeutic efficacy

## Countries involved

- Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey

Call ID	ERDERA
Deadline	13. 02. 2025 (pre-proposal)
Applicants	research organizations, companies
Expected results*	TBA
Duration	24 or 36 months
Funding	TBA
Funding rate	TBA
Call allocation	EUR 500 ths. (for Czech part)

\*Definition of types of results



**MUNI**

# SIGMA DC2

Provider: Technology Agency of the Czech Republic

## Aim

- to increase the involvement of early-stage researchers and to provide equal opportunities for men and women in the competition of applied research
- practical application of results

## Priority areas (previous Call)

- Telemedicine
- AI and sustainable mobility
- Production technologies and materials
- Community energy and its management systems, small-scale energy storage scale

T A  
Č R

## Next Call in spring 2026

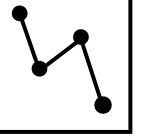
Call ID	SIGMA DC2 (Previous Call)
Applicants	companies, research organizations
Expected main results	prototype, functioning sample, pilot plant, verified technology, software, industrial and utility design, results reflected in directives and non-legislative regulations, specialized map, conservation procedure, methodologies
Duration	12-24 months
Funding	CZK 5mil./project
Funding rate	85 %
Call allocation	CZK 230 mil.

[\\*Definition of types of results](#)

[\\*Specification of TA ČR requirements for results](#)

M U N I

# SIGMA DC2



## Eligibility

- Key persons of the research team - at least 3 early career researchers (up to 35 years old or students or max 5 years after finishing the highest university degree)
- Max 1 mentor per applicant (not directly involved in project implementation, only leading, motivating and sharing of professional experience)
- Gender balanced team – not necessary, but it needs to be explained

## Statistics

<b>TA ČR – Early-stage Researchers</b>	<b>2017*</b>	<b>2018*</b>	<b>2019*</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Number of proposals	249	237	386	562	240
Number of granted projects	47	121	63	57	64
Success rate in % - CZ in total	18.9	51.1	16.3	10.1	26.7

\* till 2019 called „ZÉTA“

# Evaluation criteria

## Binary

- R&D&I project (novelty, research uncertainty, creativity, systematicity, reproducibility)

## Scored (0; 6; 12; 18 points)

1. Project proposal objectives, alignment with the research topic, and alignment with NPOV.
2. Time feasibility, schedule, and appropriateness of the methods used.
3. Knowledge of the current state of research, originality, and benefits of the proposed solution.
4. Relevance, applicability, potential undesirable social impacts of the outcomes/results, and gender dimension in the research content.
5. Organizational and technical management of the project, risk identification.
6. Research team (composition and expertise).
7. Financial plan, adequacy of planned costs of the project proposal, and incentive effect of the support.

# ERC CZ

Provider: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

## Aim:

- support "frontier research" projects

## Eligibility

- Researchers who submitted ERC and the proposal has been classified in the 2nd round in category A or B, but did not receive financial support from the ERC
- Submitted ERC to the Calls with results after *DD MM YYYY* (one year before ERC CZ Call opening)
- Beneficiary is research organization (University) or companies



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
YOUTH AND SPORTS

## Next Call expected in February 2025

Call ID	ERC CZ
Applicants	research organizations, companies
Expected results	$J_{imp}$ , $J_{sc}$ , $J_{ost}$ , Monograph, chapter in monograph, article in proceedings
Duration	2 – 5 years*
Funding	According to ERC proposal
Funding rate	100 %
Call allocation	TBA

\*grade B = 2Y, grade A = 5Y

**M U N I**

# **Internal funding opportunities at MU**

# Grant Agency of Masaryk University

Internal grant agency supports:

- **Excellent researchers** (junior and senior) – MASH, MASH StG/CoG, MASH JUNIOR, MUNI JUNIOR STAR, DIOSCURI
- Integration of researchers **after a career break** – CAREER RESTART
- Preparation of **international grants** – HORIZONS
- **Interdisciplinary** cooperation – INTERDISCIPLINARY
- Award for **outstanding research results** – MUNI SCIENTIST (108 researchers or teams 2021-2023)
- Support for **students**: Excellent diploma Thesis



# MUNI JUNIOR STAR

Provider: GAMU

## Aim:

- Support excellent young researchers to prepare an application for a prestigious individual grant (GA ČR JUNIOR STAR, ERC, or others)

## Eligibility

- Junior scientist who submitted an application to the GA ČR JUNIOR STAR
- Ranked among the top 20 % of applicants but did not receive funding from the GA ČR

MUNI Grant Agency

Next SofE in November 2024

Call ID	MUNI Junior Star
Applicants	Junior scientist
Expected results	Submission of application for a prestigious individual grant
Duration	2 years
Funding	4 mil. CZK
Funding rate	100 %



# MASH StG/CoG

Provider: GAMU

## Aim:

- create conditions for the early achievement of autonomy in research for exceptionally promising researchers f. e. shortly after Ph.D. or later in research career, accelerating the career progression of talented scientists

## Eligibility

- external applicants provided that the applicant's employment relationship with MU has not exceeded 12 of the last 36 months
- who completed a Ph.D. degree or its equivalent no more than 10 years before the Call deadline

**MUNI** Grant Agency

**Call 2025 now open**

Call ID	MASH StG/CoG*
Applicants	external applicants, researchers
Expected results	submit an ERC grant application or implement ERC project
Duration	4 years
Funding	3 mil. CZK
Funding rate	100 %

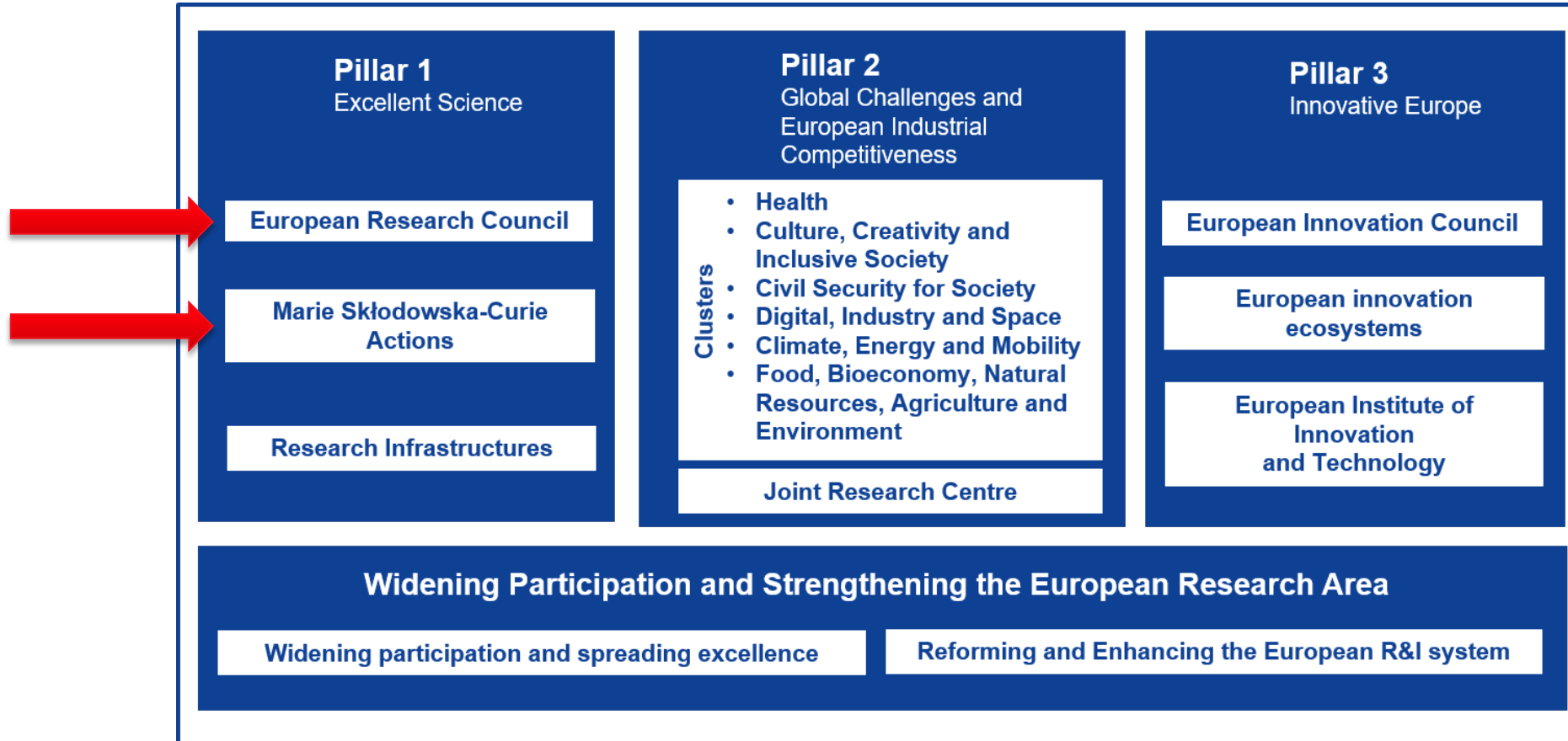
\*MUNI Award is Science and Humanities, StG – Starting Grant, CoG – Consolidator Grant

**M U N I**

# **Research grants & fellowships from foreign providers**

# Horizon Europe

2021-2027

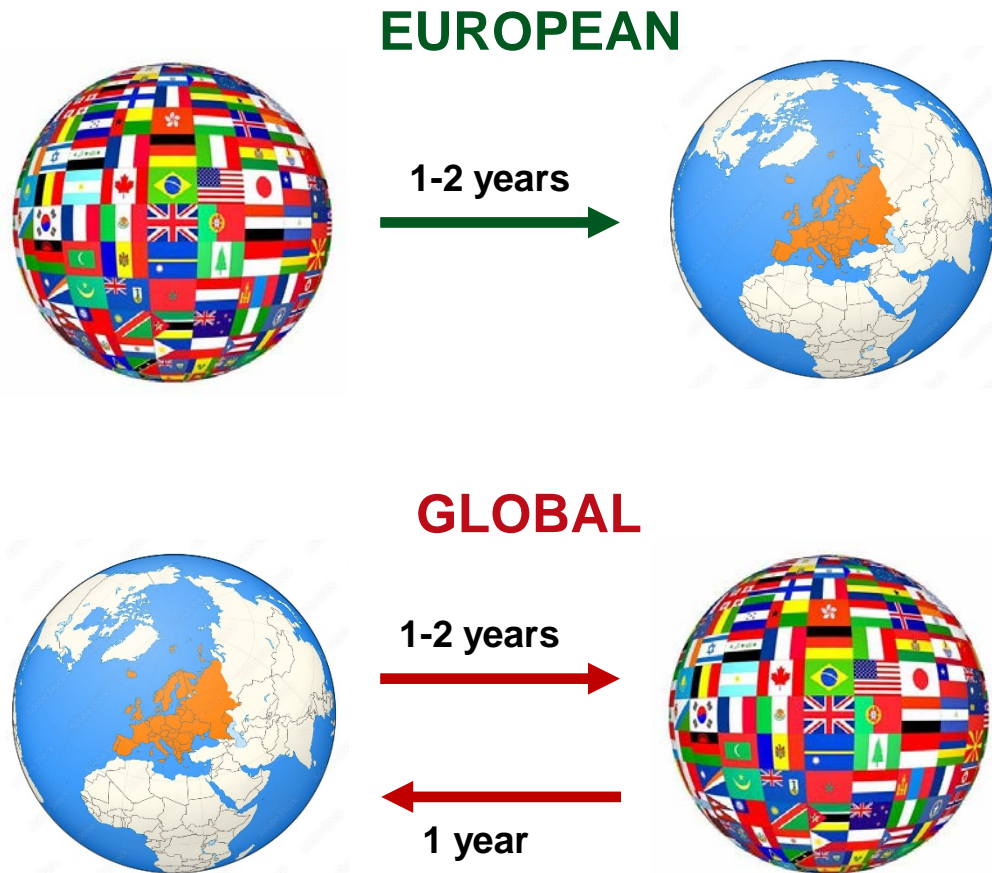


# MSCA postdoctoral fellowship



- Personal fellowship for the period of mobility
- Min. 1 year
- For PhD holders,  $\leq 8$  years after PhD
- Fully funded fellowships (salary, mobility allowance, family allowance, long-term leave and special needs allowances & research, training and networking costs & management and indirect costs)
- Call deadline in September each year
- Success rate: cc. 14%
- Time for grant preparation: cc. 3 months

# Two types of MSCA postdoctoral fellowship



## MOBILITY RULE!

Cannot apply for a fellowship in a country where you have lived for > 12 months in the last 3 years before the Call deadline

- Short-term secondment
- Non-academic placement

# What in fact is MSCA postdoctoral fellowship?



# What is MSCA postdoctoral fellowship?

## Aims of MSCA as whole

Equip researchers with the necessary skills and international experience for a successful career

Develop new knowledge – not only for fellow but also to ingrate it into entire HEU

Enhance skills of people behind research and innovation

Ensure research training is excellent and innovative

Ensure attractive career and knowledge- exchange opportunities

Build Europe ´s capacity for research and innovation

Develop long-term career sustainability

Support diversity and equal opportunities

Contribute to the EU external policy objectives

## Aims of MSCA postdoctoral fellowships

Enhance the creative and innovative potential – of the fellow, supervisor and HI

Fostering excellence in science

Support intersectoral, interdisciplinary and international mobility (3I approach)

Provide opportunities to acquire and transfer new knowledge

Bridge and encourage exposure to the non-academic sector – long-term career sustainability

Supporting the return and (re)integration of researchers from outside Europe and those who has a career break

Support researchers displaced by conflict

Increase in high impact R&I outputs and greater contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society



# MSCA PF grant application

## **Part A** (online in FTOP)

- General information about project, early career researcher, supervisor, HI, budget, ethics

## **Part B1** (max. 10 pages)

- Scientific proposal itself

## **Part B2** (no page limit)

- CV of early career researcher, profile of HI, additional ethics and security information, Letter of commitment from HI hosting outgoing phase, environmental considerations in light of the MSCA Green Charter

# Part B1 structure

## EXCELLENCE

### R&I OBJECTIVES

Are they clearly defined, verifiable and measurable and of high quality?  
How far they go beyond the state of the art?  
Are they ambitious but achievable?

### METHODOLOGY

Is methodology coherent and UpToDate?  
Does it enable to deliver project's objectives?  
Does it integrate interdisciplinary approaches?  
Does it consider gender dimension and other diversity aspects?  
Does it apply principles of open science?

### TRAINING & SUPERVISION

What is the quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host?

### PROFESSIONAL MATURITY

Are the researcher's experiences and skills appropriate and sufficient for the project?

## IMPACT

### CAREER PERSPECTIVES

How will the project enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher  
How will the project contribute to researcher's skills development?

### IMPACT OF PROJECT'S OUTCOMES

What are the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts?  
How do plan to disseminate your research and exploit its outcomes?  
How will you communicate the project's aims, progress and results to various target groups?

### OVERALL PROJECT'S IMPACT

How will the project contribute to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts?

## IMPLEMENTATION

### WORKPLAN AND FEASIBILITY

What the overall structure of the workplan, incl. Deliverables and milestones?  
Is the workplan efficiently organized into workpackages?  
Is the timing of WPs and their components appropriate and indicated in the Gantt chart?  
Does the proposal identify risks and considers mitigation plans?

### CAPACITY OF THE HOST INSTITUTION

Are the quality and capacity of the HI sufficient to assure successful implementation of the project?  
How are organized facilities, infrastructure, and logistics necessary for the project?  
Which hosting arrangements, support services and mechanisms to secure smooth integration of the researcher in the team/HI are in place?

# Evaluation: scoring system



- Reviewers score each evaluation criterion on a scale from 0 to 5 (half point scores may be given)

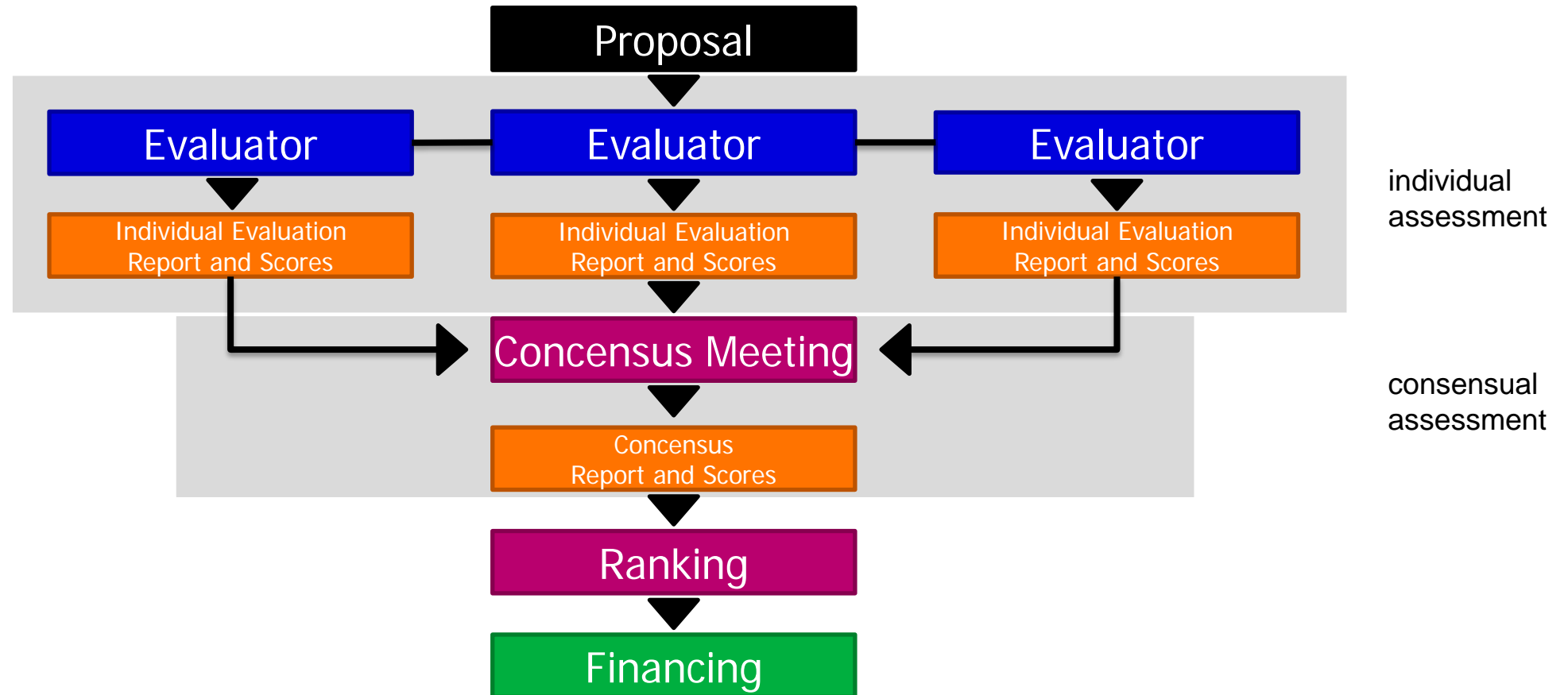
- Each criterion has a different weight, which affects the final ranking

# Who are the evaluators of MSCA PF?




- **Scientists** working more as **generalists**, from the same research field but not necessarily familiar with your specific research topic, from academia or industry, also young postdocs (MSCA PF holders)
- Grouped in 8 scientific areas/panels
- Single evaluator gets 5-15 proposals to assess in 3-4 weeks (depending on field).
- > 3 evaluator as per single project



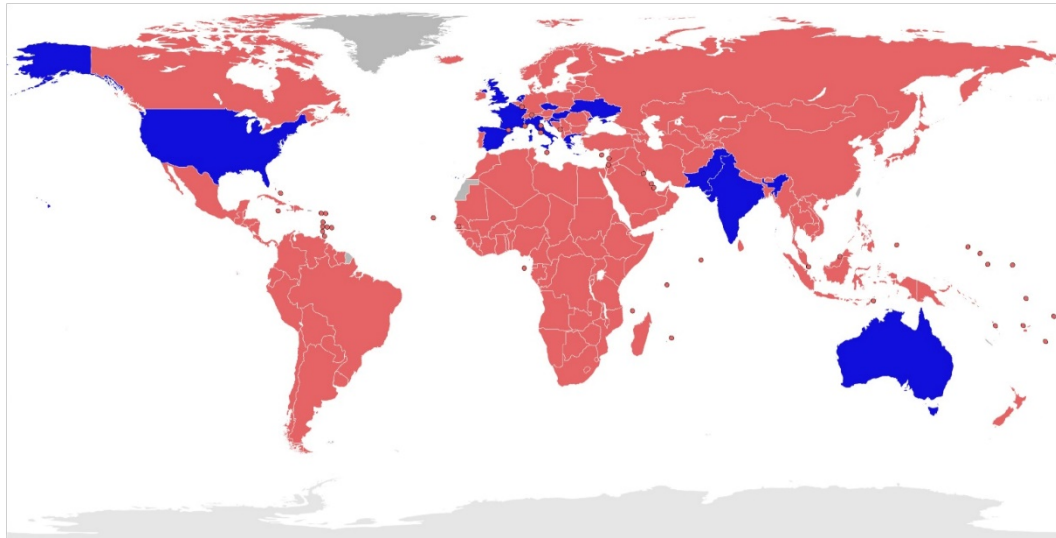
# Evaluation system of MSCA



# Alternative funding to MSCA PF

MSCA-IF (MSCA-PF)	Widening Fellowship (ERA Fellowship)	Seal of Excellence – Structural Funds (OP VVV → OP J.A.C.)
		
Required score <b>&gt;93 %</b>	<b>&gt;91 %</b>	<b>&gt;70%</b>
Achieved by <b>10-15 %</b> proposals	<b>20-25 %</b>	<b>80 %</b>

# MSCA PF at MU



- Within the Horizon Europe and H2020, MU has received **23 MSCA PF grants**, which were implemented by young researchers of **13 nationalities** who arrived at MU from **11 countries**.
- MU has received **30 MSCA-CZ grants** (OP JAC)

# Support to MSCA PF applicants

## TRAINING

- [Grants Week](#) - Kick-starting a research career with Horizon Europe - 20.11. 2024, UKB
- Seminars for Supervisors – February
- Workshops for MSCA applicants - March-May

## REVISIONS

- for proposals prepared in tight collaborations with Supervisor and Faculty

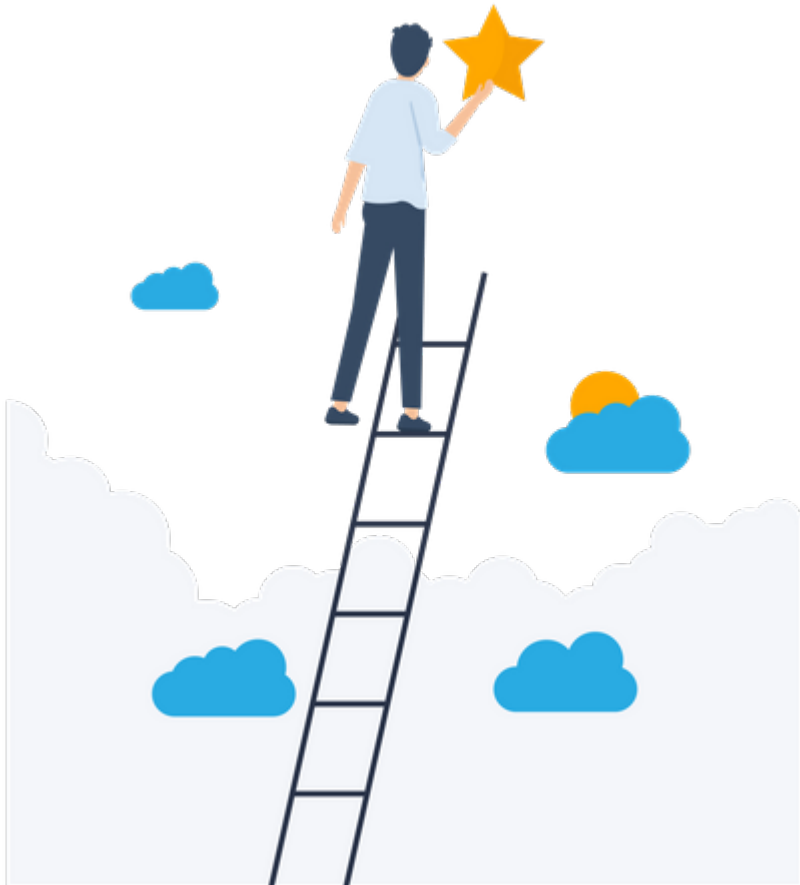


# Other funding for postdocs

- [HFSP postdoctoral fellowship](#) - long-term or cross-disciplinary
- [EMBO postdoctoral fellowship](#) – Life Sciences
- [Visegrad scholarship](#) - short-term stays
- [Azieli international postdoctoral fellowship](#) – in Israel
- [DFG](#) (German research Foundation) – Emmy Noether Programme, in Germany
- [Humboldt Research fellowship](#) – in Germany
- [JSPS postdoctoral standard](#) – in Japan
- [Simons Foundation](#) - maths, physical sciences
- [Schmidt Science fellowship](#) - maths, engineering, computing
- [Newton International fellowship](#) – in UK

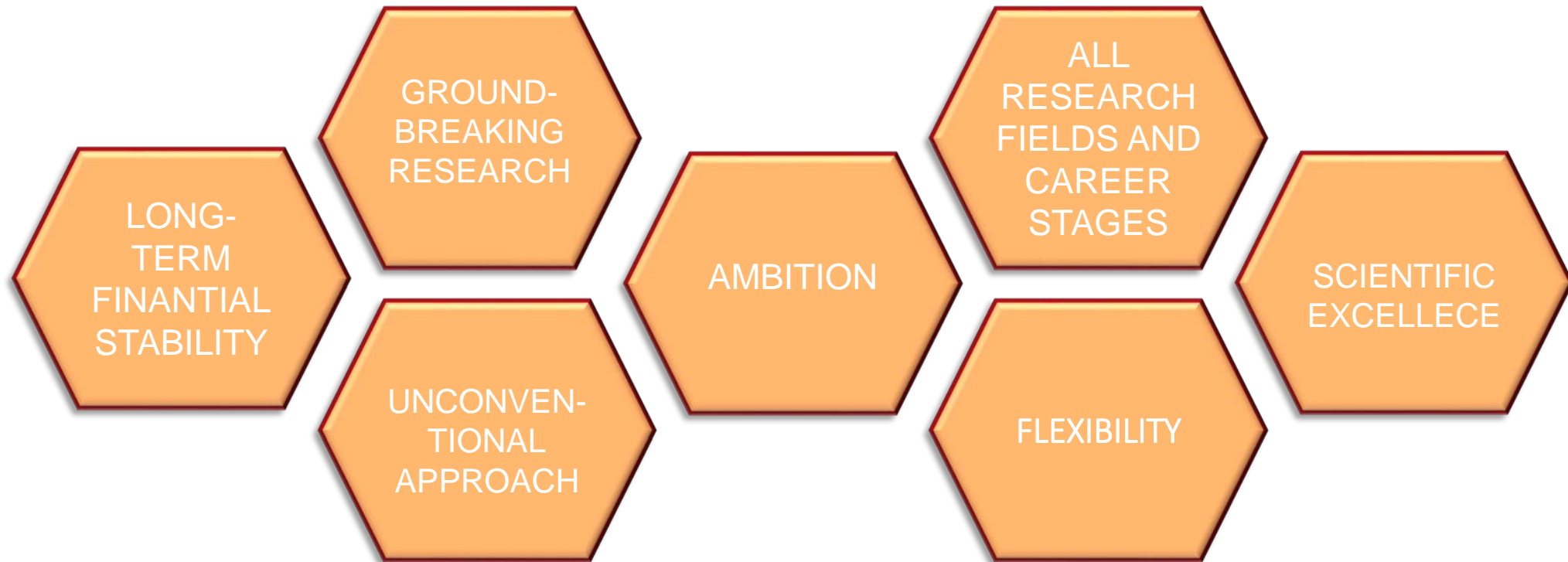


# European Research Council Starting Grants



- Support to young researchers to establish new team and conduct frontier research that can lead to paradigm shifts, groundbreaking discoveries and scientific breakthroughs
- Up to 5 years
- $> 2$  and  $\leq 7$  years since PhD defence
- 1,5 mil. EUR for 5 years (+ 1 mil. EUR) – personal costs, other goods and services, internal services, equipment and indirect costs
- Call deadline: October 2025
- Time for grant preparation: min. 5-6 months

# Fundamental features of ERC grants



# ERC StG grant application

## **Part A** (online in FTOP)

- General information about project, principle investigator, HI, budget, ethics

## **Part B1**

- Short scientific proposal – Extended Synopsis (max. 5 pages)
- CV and track record (max. 4 pages)

## **Part B2** (max. 14 pages)

- Full scientific proposal

## **Annexes**

- HI Commitment Letter + PhD diploma

# Evaluation Criterion: Scientific Excellence

## PROJECT

### Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

- To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?
- 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)?

### Scientific Approach

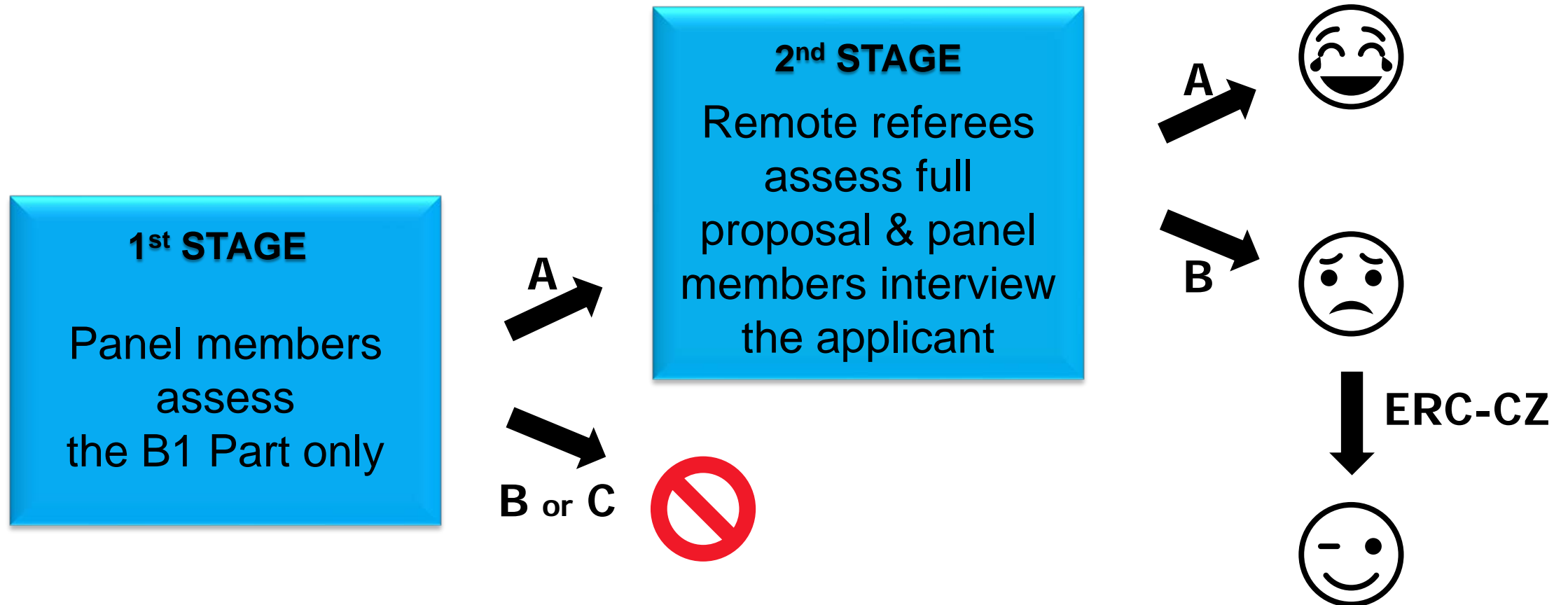
- To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the proposed research (based on the Extended Synopsis)?
- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project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

## PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR

### Intellectual capacity and creativity

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

# Evaluation – scoring system



# Who decides

## Physical Sciences & Engineering

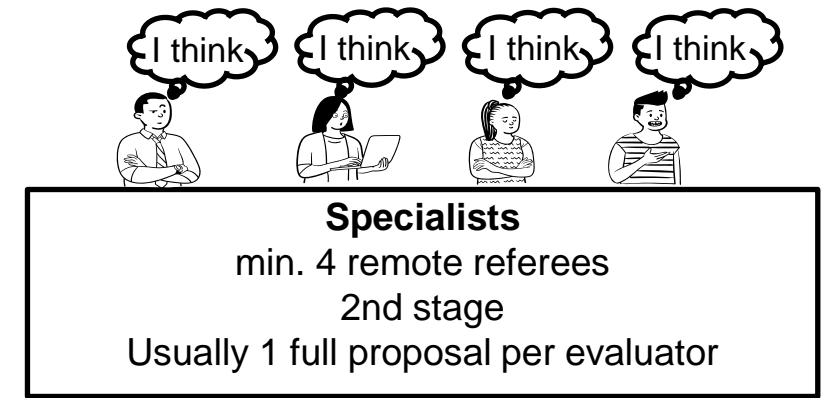
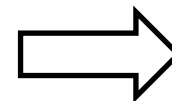
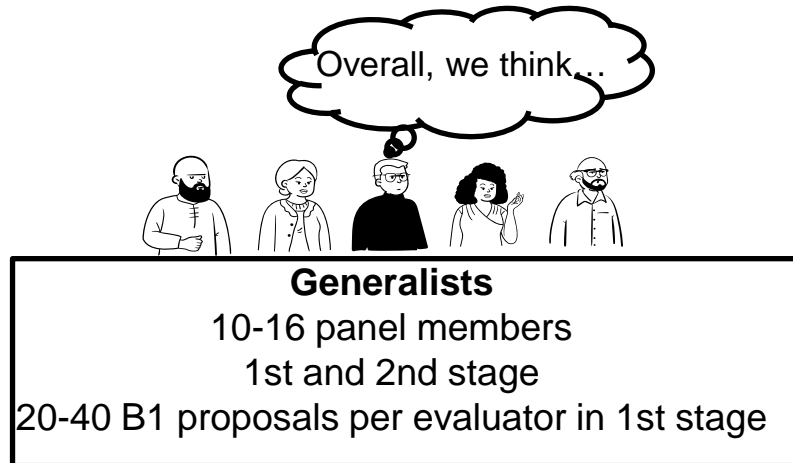
PE1 Mathematics  
PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter  
PE3 Condensed Matter Physics  
PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences  
PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials  
PE6 Computer Science and Informatics  
PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering  
PE8 Products and Processes Engineering  
PE9 Universe Sciences  
PE10 Earth System Science  
PE11 Materials Engineering

## Life Sciences

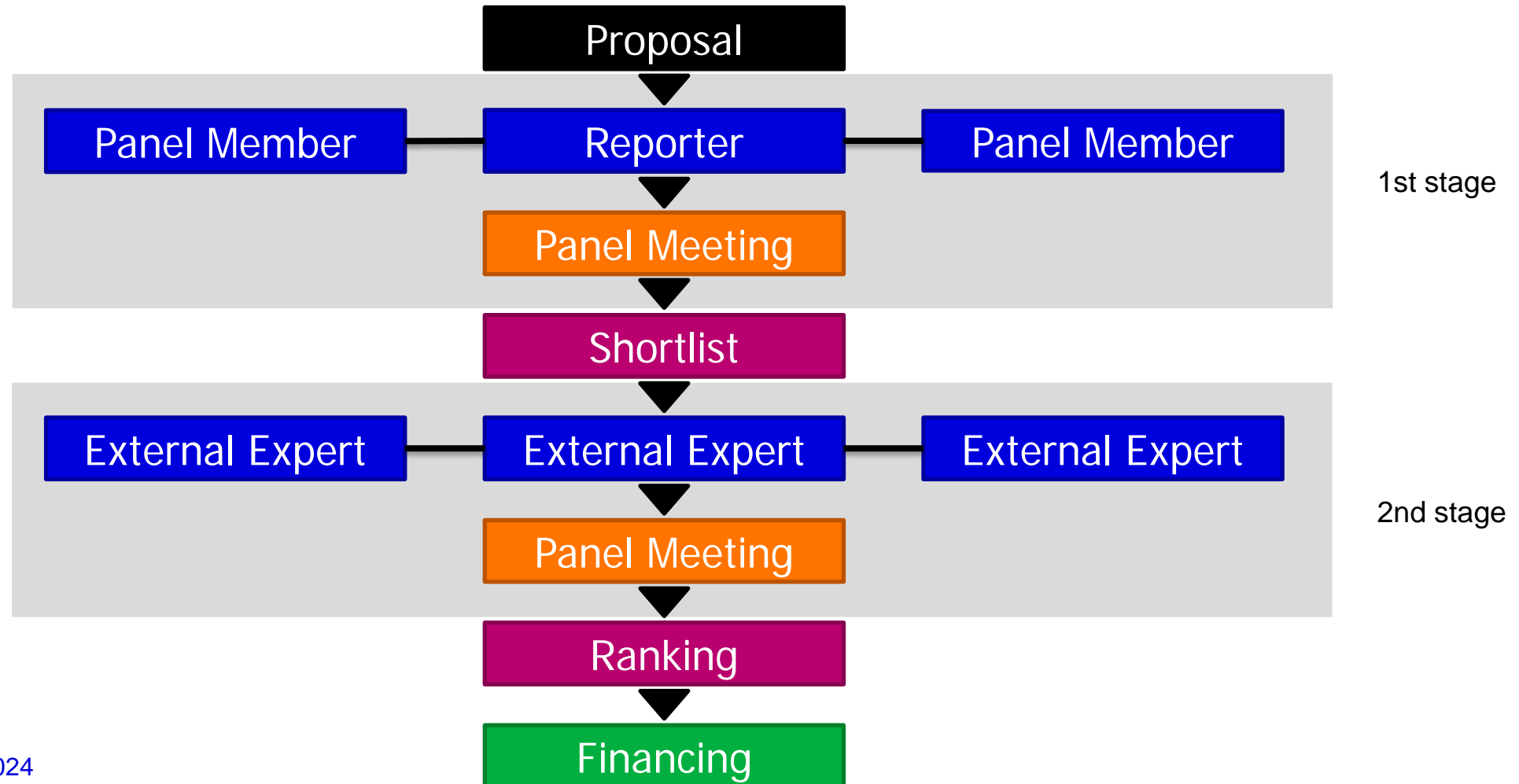
LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions  
LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems  
LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration  
LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing  
LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System  
LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy  
LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases  
LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution  
LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

## Social Sciences & Humanities

SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations  
SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems  
SH3 The Social World and Its Interactions  
SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity  
SH5 Texts and Concepts  
SH6 The Study of the Human Past  
SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space  
SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts



# Evaluation system in ERC StG



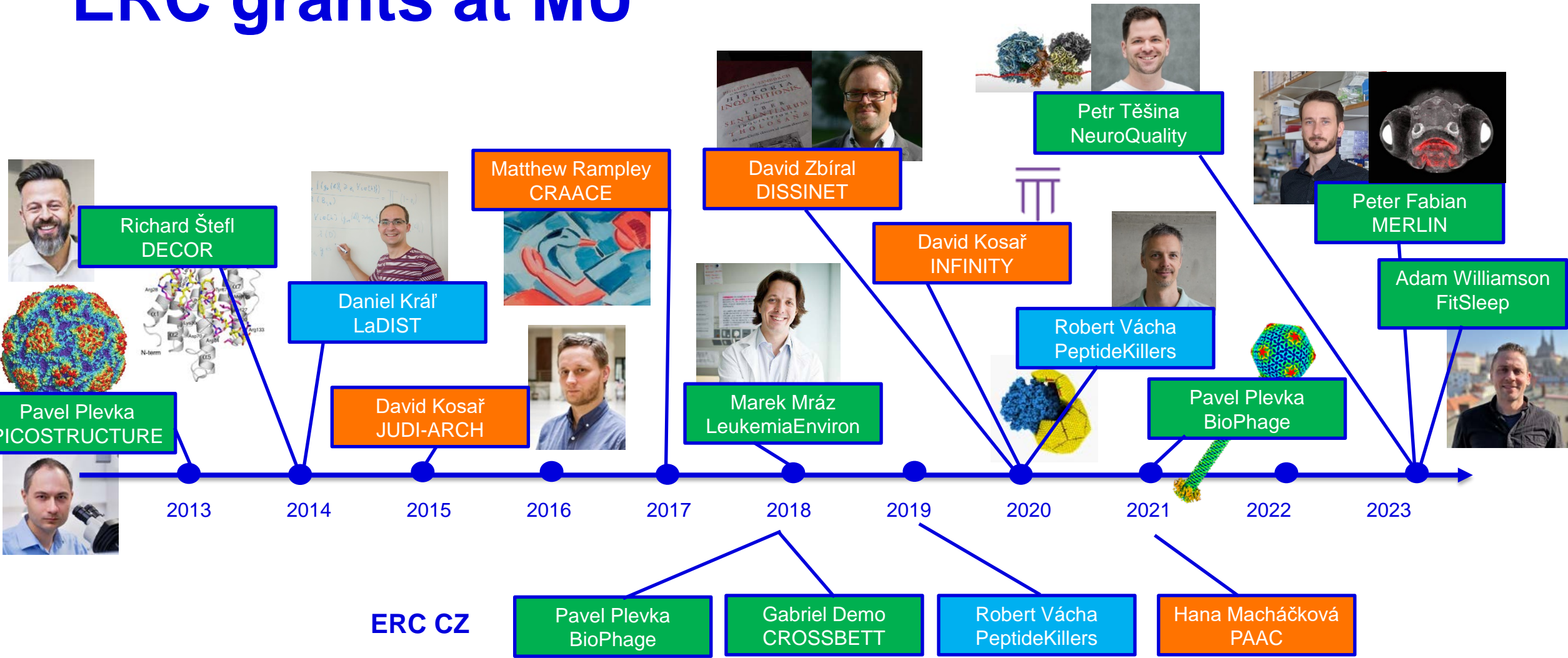


# ERC grants at MU

Social Sciences and Humanities **5x**

Life Sciences **9x**

Physical Sciences and Engineering **3x**



ERC CZ

Pavel Plevka  
BioPhage

Gabriel Demo  
CROSSBETT

Robert Vácha  
PeptideKillers

Hana Macháčková  
PAAC

# ERC support at MU

## INFORMATION SERVICE

- [ERC on MUNI Portal](#) – in CZ

and ENG

- [GO Newsletter at MUNI Portal](#)

– in CZ

## ERC

### WHAT IS ERC

ERC are frontier research grants that provide prestigious, long-term funding to support excellent scientists (Principal Investigators) and their research teams to pursue ground-breaking and ambitious research. Research funded by the ERC is expected to significantly advance the frontiers of current knowledge and to set a clear and inspirational target for breakthrough research across Europe.

The ERC grants are evaluated based on the sole criterion of excellence, comprising a set of detailed evaluation elements decided by the ERC Scientific Council and described in the Guide for Peer Reviewers (for [StG](#), [CoG](#), [AdG](#), and [SyG](#)).

### TYPES OF GRANTS

#### ERC Starting Grants (StG)

– up to €1.5 million for 5 years for researchers with 2-7 years of experience since the defence of their PhD to gain independence and establish a team with ambitious goals.



ERC STARTING GRANT

#### ERC Consolidator Grants (CoG)

– up to €2.0 million for 5 years for researchers with 7-12 years of experience since the defence of their PhD to consolidate an independent team.



ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANT

#### ERC Advanced Grants (AdG)

– up to €2.5 million over 5 years, allows leaders in their fields with more than 10 years since the defence of their PhD to strengthen their research and focus on new ambitious research goals.



ERC ADVANCED GRANT

#### ERC Synergy Grants (SyG)

– collaborative grant for 2-4 Principal Investigators, up to €10 million for 8 years for researchers to address a research problem so ambitious, that cannot be dealt with a single PI alone.



ERC SYNERGY GRANT

#### ERC Proof of Concept (PoC)

– to €150,000 over 18 months for all Principal Investigators in the main ERC grants (StG, CoG, AdG, SyG) to further explore the commercial or societal potential of their work previously supported by ERC.



ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANT

It is possible to apply for "top-up" funding of up to €1 million (for StG, CoG, AdG) or €4 million (for SyG) for major equipment (mainly in relation to transfers from a third country or an associated country to EU) and/or access to large facilities and/or other major experimental and field work.

### NEWS

#### NEWS:

• [Overview of Czech implemented ERC grants](#) - interesting analyses from TC Praha, only in Czech

#### OPEN CALLS:

• [ERC\\_Synergy](#) – deadline for submission 8. 11. 2024  
• [ERC\\_Consolidator](#) – deadline for submission 14. 1. 2025

#### EVENTS:

• TC Praha: [National Information Day about ERC Grants](#) (22. 10. 2024) – in Prague

### ERC GRANTS AT MUNI

#### 1. Starting Grant 2013: Pavel Plevka – Structural studies of human picornaviruses ([PICOSTRUCTURE](#))

#### 2. Consolidator Grant 2014: Richard Štefl – Dynamic assembly and exchange of RNA polymerase II CTD factors ([DECOX](#))

#### 3. Consolidator Grant 2014: Daniel Král – Large Discrete Structures ([LaDIST](#))

#### 4. Starting Grant 2015: David Kosař – The Rise of Judicial Self-Government: Changing the Architecture of Separation of Powers without an Architect ([JUDI-ARCH](#))

#### 5. Advanced Grant 2017: Matthew Rampley – Continuity and Rupture in Central European Art and Architecture, 1916–1939 ([CRAACE](#))

#### 6. Starting Grant 2018: Marek Mráz – Signaling Propensity in the Microenvironment of B Cell Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia ([LeukemiaEnviron](#))

#### 7. Consolidator Grant 2020: David Zbíral – Networks of Dissent: Computational Modelling of Dissident and Inquisitorial Cultures in Medieval Europe ([DISSINET](#))

#### 8. Consolidator Grant 2020: Robert Vácha – Peptide Killers of Bacteria ([PeptideKillers](#))

#### 9. Consolidator Grant 2020: David Kosař – Informal Judicial Institutions: Inevitable Determinants of Democratic Decay ([INFINITIVITY](#))

#### 10. Consolidator Grant 2021: Pavel Plevka - Phase infection of bacterial biofilm ([BioPhase](#))

#### 11. Starting Grant 2023: Petr Těšina - Mechanisms of human co-translational quality control and its role in neural tissue (NeuroQuality)

#### 12. Starting 2023: Peter Fabian - Metabolic regulation of the skeletal stem cell niche (MERLIN)

#### 13. Proof of Concept 2023: Adam Williamson - Fabricating Non-Invasive Temporal Interference Devices for Obstructive Sleep Apnea which Electrically activate the Hypoglossal Nerve ([EHSleep](#))

### AM I A SUITABLE ERC CANDIDATE?

If you have doubts of whether you and your project idea are suitable and competitive at the ERC level, you can try to answer the questions from the ERC evaluation reports (split into two major elements – research project and Principle Investigator):

#### 1. Research Project (Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility)

##### 1.1. Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project

• To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?  
• 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)?

##### 1.2. Scientific Approach

• 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)?  
• To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the research proposal)?  
• To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources, and PI's commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal)?

#### 2. Principal Investigator

##### 2.1. Intellectual capacity and creativity

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

### EXPERT GROUP FOR ERC

We strongly encourage the applicants for ERC StG and CoG to participate on [Workshops for ERC applicants](#), organized by the [Expert Group for ERC](#) organized by Technological Centre in Prague. The Workshops are interactive and provide excellent training and valuable feedback on your project idea from ERC experts. The registration for workshops opens during early spring and the capacity is limited only to those who deliver the required documents on time and exactly according to instructions presented at the opening of registration.

The Expert Group for the ERC also organizes [training/mock interview](#) for scientists whose project application has progressed to the second round of evaluation. Applicants have the opportunity to practice their presentation and get advice from experts in their field and other scientists with extensive ERC experience.

Podcast about the Expert group for ERC [HERE](#) (in Czech only).

If you want our help with preparation of the registration materials for these workshops, contact us as soon as possible.

### ERC SUPPORT SCHEME AT MUNI

The pipeline of internal project support for ERC applicants offered by RMU:

#### 1. Introductory meeting with the applicant to discuss:

- the plan, expectations and needs of the given scientist,
- basic principles and rules of the ERC,
- project evaluation system and provider expectations (Do's and Don'ts)
- the process of preparing and creating a schedule.

#### 2. Applicant's package – based on the agreement resulting from the introductory meeting. Typically, it includes key documents such as project proposal templates (B1 and B2 with adequate instructions and comments that should help applicants write the project), guidelines and links to other very important information sources (database of supported projects, lists and descriptions of evaluation panels, etc.).

#### 3. Assistance with the preparation of materials required for registration to [Workshops of Expert Group for ERC](#).

#### 4. Sharing the contacts to ERC holders and other scientists with real experience with ERC who could provide useful feedback.

#### 5. Proposal review (B1 and B2) by experienced project manager.

#### 6. Troubleshooting related to the budgeting, ethics and other parts in part A.

#### 7. Securing a signature on the mandatory Host Institution Support Letter attachment.

To get appropriate support, please contact us as soon as possible.



Mgr. Veronika Mikitová, PhD.  
Phone: +420 581 45 848  
E-mail: [mikitova@rcs.muni.cz](mailto:mikitova@rcs.muni.cz)

### USEFUL LINKS

• [ERC Proposal templates](#), including Part B1, Part B2, Part A and Letter of Commitment of the Host Institute, available via the online submission tool after registration [HERE](#) or from your project support at MUNI

• [List of evaluation panels](#) with keywords describing each panel – in ERC Work Programme on pages 63-66 [HERE](#)

• [List of panel members](#) for individual years and type of calls [HERE](#)

• [Database of funded ERC projects](#). You can filter specific type of call (StG, CoG, ...), research domain and evaluation panel. You will see title, abstract of the project, name of ERC holder and overall project budget [HERE](#)

• [ERC Infoday from 2023](#) – record available [HERE](#)

• [Serial of instructive videos](#) on how to prepare an ERC proposal, made by ERCEA Scientific Offices [HERE](#)

• [ERC web on Open Science](#) [HERE](#)

• [ERC proposal published online](#) (please use only as inspiration. Do not copy structure, content, nothing) [HERE](#)

• [Budgeting recommendations for ERC grant applicants](#) – from TC Praha, only in Czech, available [HERE](#)

# Support to ERC applicants

## TRAINING

- [Grants Week](#) - Kick-starting a research career with Horizon Europe - 20.11. 2024, UKB
- ERC Grant Applications: Strategies, Pitfalls, and Best Practices for Researchers and Project Managers - 5. 2. 2025, UKB

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

- Assistance with preparation of B1, B2 and A parts of the proposal (ethics,...)
- Selection of evaluation panel
- Contact with ERC experts (ERC holders, evaluators etc.)
- Organisation of mock interviews

# Expert group for ERC

– [Workshops for ERC applicants](#) – interactive training, set of three online meetings focused on:

**Day 1** – feedback on 5 min the presentation of project idea and applicant's CV and track record

**Day 2** - evaluation of successful proposal from the scientific domain of applicant's preference

**Day 3** – individual presentations of B1 and discussion with members of Expert Group and other ERC evaluators

- [Mock interviews](#) - for applicants in 2nd stage of evaluation

**M U N I**


**Tips**

# EU Funding and Tenders Portal

Topic: [ERC-2025-COG](#)

Type of action: **HORIZON-ERC**


Type of MGA: **HORIZON-AG**

 Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.


## Proposal data

Acronym: **test proposal**

Draft ID: **SEP-211109746**

 Your proposal contains changes that have not yet been submitted.

## Administrative forms (Part A)


Edit forms 

View history

Print preview



## Part B and Annexes

In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments. 



Funding: Submission Service

Welcome   
Veronika Mikitova

## Support & Helpdesk

 Online Manual

 IT How To

Part B2 \*



Upload 

HI support letter \*



Upload 

PhD certificate \*



Upload 

# Check proposal layout

- Page size A4, usual length is max. 10 pages
- Minimum font size allowed is 11 points
- Avoid hyperlinks (evaluators are usually instructed to ignore them)

Abstracts, Aims	
Abstract in Czech	The abstract may be from 10 to 1100 characters.
Project Aims in Czech	The abstract may be from 10 to 300 characters. <b>MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP</b>
Abstract in English	The abstract may be from 10 to 1100 characters.
Project Aims in English	The abstract may be from 10 to 300 characters.
Research Fields Classification, Priorities	

## (7) Part A – The Abstract states:

- a) Categorization of the Project within the OECD discipline code;
- b) Designation of the relevant thematic sub-objective of the Program according to Article 3.3 of the TD;
- c) An abstract in Czech and English, expressing the nature of the proposed Project and the specific results expected; the abstract, neither in Czech nor in English, must not exceed 2 000 characters including spaces and is intended for publication;

## Abstract

- ✓ The abstract is a short description of your project (maximum 2000 characters including spaces).
- ✓ The main elements are:
  - 1-2 sentences that put your project into context
  - Your research objective
  - Background information on the state of the art
  - Specific aims and details of your project plan, including e.g. planned secondments.
  - Expected impact on the fellow.

# How long does it take to complete the online application?

GRIS

Projects | Persons and Organizations | News | Account | FAQ

My Projects  
New Project  
Calls for Proposals

Show All | Project Detail | Project Versions

Project Detail

Call	Lead Agency
Year: 2026	
Title (Czech): Poland	
Title (English): Poland	

Size of Attachments included in PDF (Parts C, D1) 0 B

Attachments Part C1 and Part D1 (see below) will be automatic

Applicant

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Home | Funding | Procurement | Projects & results | News & events | Work as an expert

Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

## ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

ERC-2025-COG

Topic Call for proposal

Internal navigation

- General information
- Topic description
- Topic updates
- Mission
- Destination
- Conditions and documents
- Start submission

General information

**Programme**  
Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

**Call**  
Call for Proposals for ERC Consolidator Grant (ERC-2025-COG)

<b>Type of action</b> HORIZON-ERC HORIZON ERC Grants	<b>Type of MGA</b> HORIZON Action AG]
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**Deadline model**  
single-stage

**Opening date**  
26 September 2025



MUNI