ERC Proposal Reading Days

2022 – 2ª edición

27 de octubre de 2022
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• Programa del ERC y sus convocatorias
• ¿Cómo son los proyectos ERC?
• Servicios nacionales de ayuda
• Consejos y sugerencias
Índice

• Programa del ERC y sus convocatorias
• ¿Cómo son los proyectos ERC?
• Servicios nacionales de ayuda
• Consejos y sugerencias
¿Qué es el ERC?

17% of the entire Horizon Europe budget

EUR 16 billion

ERC budget in Horizon Europe
¿Qué es el ERC?

The Scientific Council

22 eminent researchers appointed by the EU Commission

ScC governs the ERC, and is responsible for setting the ERC’s scientific strategy.

ERCEA

Implements the ERC strategy as set by the Scientific Council and manages ERC operations.

It is responsible for executing the annual work programme, implementing calls for proposals, providing information and support to applicants, organising peer review evaluation, establishing and managing grant agreements, providing assistance to the ERC Scientific Council and communicating about the ERC.
¿Qué es el ERC?

- Abierto a investigadores de todo el mundo
- Proyectos individuales, innovadores, ambiciosos que no sean incrementales
- Sin prioridades temáticas, en cualquier campo de Investigación con naturaleza multi o interdisciplinar
- Investigación de frontera, “alto riesgo/alto beneficio” en cualquier campo científico
- Único criterio de evaluación: excelencia científica de la propuesta de investigación y del investigador principal
- Evaluación por científicos de alto prestigio internacional
- Ofrece al personal investigador: Independencia, reconocimiento y visibilidad
Esquemas de financiación

**Starting Grant**
Up to €1.5 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
2-7 years of experience after PhD

**Consolidator Grant**
Up to €2 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
7-12 years of experience after PhD

**Advanced Grant**
Up to €2.5 million + up to €1 million
Duration: up to 5 years
An excellent scientific track record of recognized achievements in the last 10 years

✓ Extensions eligibility window
✓ Minimum 50% of PI working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country
Esquemas de financiación

Synergy grant
Size of the grant: €10 million + up to €4 million
Duration: up to 6 years
2 to 4 researchers and their research groups
(one researcher can be based outside EU/AC)

Proof of Concept
Size of the grant: €150 000
Duration: up to 18 months
Demonstrate that the idea funded by the original ERC grant has innovation potential and significant economic or societal benefits
ERC extensions to the eligibility window

_Ejemplo_ Consideration of achievements over a longer period than:

**Consolidator Grants | ERC-2023-CoG**

Entre > 7 y ≤ 12 años de experiencia posdoc antes del 01/01/2022.

Fechas de corte: PhD awarded from _01/01/2011 – 31/12/2015_ (incluidos).

**Circumstances:**

- **Maternity:** 18 months extension for each child born. Longer maternities also considered.
- **Paternity:** elapsed time of paternity leave taken until the call deadline for each child born.
- **Long-term illness, clinical qualifications or national service:** amount of leave taken by the Principal Investigator until the call deadline for each incident which occurred after the PhD award.
- **Clinical training:** extension by the documented amount of clinical training received by the PI after the award of the first eligible degree and until the call deadline, _up to a maximum of 4 years._

+ **2 new grounds** for extensions from WP2023
  - seeking asylum
  - being a victim of a natural disaster
PhD reference date

! WP2023: PhD reference date for the calculation of the eligibility period from the date of the actual award according to the national rules of the country where the degree was awarded to the date of the successful PhD defence.

De acuerdo con el Real Decreto 1002/2010, de 5 de agosto, sobre expedición de títulos universitarios oficiales, en su artículo 3, punto 4 establece lo siguiente:

4. Los títulos universitarios oficiales, expedidos de conformidad con lo previsto en este real decreto, surtirán efectos plenos desde la fecha de la completa finalización de los estudios correspondientes a su obtención. La fecha de expedición del título se corresponde con la fecha de abono de las tasas para su expedición. La legislación española dice, por tanto, que es la fecha de completa finalización (cumplimiento del último de los requisitos = día de lectura), no el de expedición, lo que hay que considerar.

Por tanto, para el caso de los títulos de PhD expedidos en España, no cambia nada. Se seguirá considerando el día de defensa del título, como hasta ahora.
Calendario WP 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Starting Grant</th>
<th>Consolidator Grant</th>
<th>Advanced Grant</th>
<th>Synergy Grant</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call identifier</strong></td>
<td>ERC-2023-StG</td>
<td>ERC-2023-CoG</td>
<td>ERC-2023-AdG</td>
<td>ERC-2023-SyG</td>
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<td><strong>Call opens</strong></td>
<td>12/07/2022</td>
<td>28/09/2022</td>
<td>08/12/2022</td>
<td>13/07/2022</td>
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<td><strong>Call deadline</strong></td>
<td>25/10/2022</td>
<td>02/02/2023</td>
<td>23/05/2023</td>
<td>08/11/2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POC
24/01/2023
20/04/2023
21/09/2023
CRITERIO DE EVALUACIÓN

Excellence is the sole evaluation criterion

Excellence of the Research Project

- Ground breaking nature
- Potential impact
- Scientific Approach

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- Intellectual capacity
- Creativity
- Commitment

No industrial impact needed
No need for an EU dimension
Less money same chances
La excelencia del PI se evalúa en función de la experiencia postdoctoral.

La experiencia del PI avala el componente high-risk de la propuesta.
Research Project - Ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility

• **Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project (B1+B2)**
  • does the proposed research address important challenges?
  • are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art?
  • are there novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines?
  • is the proposed research high risk-high gain?

• **Scientific Approach**
  • is the outlined scientific approach feasible....high risk/high gain? (B1)
  • are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate? (B2)
  • does the proposal involve the development of novel methodology? (B2)
  • are the proposed timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate? (B2)
Principal Investigator - Intellectual capacity and creativity

• demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?

• evidence of creative independent thinking? Only for StG and CoG

• required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

• demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists? Only for AdG
PROCESO DE EVALUACIÓN

For individuals calls: a single submission but a two step evaluation

**STEP 1**
Remote assessment by **Panel members**
see ONLY section 1: Synopsis and CV (Part B1)

- Panel meeting
  - Proposal Rejected (Scores B&C)
  - Proposal Retained For step 2 (Score A)

**STEP 2**
Remote assessment by **Panel members**
and **Remote Reviewers** of full proposals (Part B1+B2)

- Panel meeting + interview StG, CoG and AdG
  - Ranked list of proposal (Scores A&B)

Feedback to applicants
Restrictions on submission of proposals

- A “C” score in Step 1 as outcome of ERC 2023 call may prevent you from resubmitting until 2026 calls.
- A “B” score in Step 1 as outcome of ERC2023 call may prevent you from resubmitting until 2025 calls.
- A “C” score in Step 1 as outcome of SynergyGrant call may prevent you from resubmitting to the following AdG and SyG call

**Step 1 restrictions**

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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
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</table>

**Step 2 NO restrictions**

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants may also be subject to restrictions on submitting proposals to future ERC calls based on the outcome of the evaluation. Applicants will need to check the restrictions in place for each call.

Restriction related to PIs holding an ongoing grant (except PoC) must end within 2 years after the call deadline.

Restrictions for PIs who served as panel members under previous calls apply.
Evaluation: Panel Structure (2021-2023)

27 panels (11 PE, 9 LS, 7 SH)
Each panel covers a given breath of research topics, further detailed with its descriptors

15–20 subfields/descriptors per panel

When you submit, you need to indicate:

• Primary ERC Review Panel: which will in principle evaluate the proposal
• Secondary ERC Review Panel: if applicable

ERC Keyword 1: must be linked to the Primary Review Panel.
ERC Keyword 2-4: if applicable, from any panel

Free keywords: FREE text, they guide (but do not determine) the allocation of proposals to reviewers
Evaluation: Panel Structure (2021-2023)

Life Sciences
- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems
- LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology
- 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

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

Social Sciences and Humanities
- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- SH3 The Social World and Its Diversity
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
How to choose submission panel?

1. **You are presenting a proposal involving (potentially) an important scientific advance**

2. **In which field?**

3. **Which panel is covering that field?**
   - This is the panel which will have the evaluators best suited to appreciate the work you propose.

4. **Which descriptor(s) best cover it?**
   - Note that the panel should correspond to the first descriptor (or vice-versa)

5. **Do not** indicate a secondary panel or descriptors for: an instrument or technique *used* (and not developed)

6. Choose descriptors significant to the advances your proposal will bring
The interview

Presentation (3-10 min.) + Question (15 min) = Total 30 min
Panel members: Top Science Experts, but possibly no expert in your field
Reports from Top Science Experts in your field
**Consensus** must be reached

Challenges:
Present your project to general audience
Answer technical questions from experts
Answer broad questions from non-experts
Remote format
ERC Guides – 3 essential documents

**ERC Work Programme**
1 / calls calendar

**Information for Applicants**
- IfA to StG & CoG calls
- IfA to AdG call
- IfA to SyG call

**Guide for Peer Reviewers**
- GfPR StG & CoG calls
- GfPR AdG call
- GfPR SyG call
- GfPR PoC call
Índice

• Programa del ERC y sus convocatorias
• ¿Cómo son los proyectos ERC?
• Servicios nacionales de ayuda
• Consejos y sugerencias
Propuesta

Presupuesto

Equipo investigador

Institución de acogida
ERC 2023 Proposal – individual Schemes

One deadline | 2 steps evaluation process

The ERC full proposal = B1 + B2 + PartA*

Part B1 – documento pdf
- Cover Page and summary
- Extended Synopsis (5pags)
- Curriculum vitae (2pags)
- Track-record (2p)

Part B2 – documento pdf (14pags)
- SoA & objectives
- Methodology

Parte A – Formularios online
A1 General Information
A2 Participants (GEP)
A3 Budget *: table + description (8.000c)
A4 Ethics and security
A5 Other questions
  % Time commitment*
  Exclusión hasta 3 evaluadores

Annexes
- HI support letter
- PhD certificate
- Ethics issues and security
- Eligibility window
ERC 2023 Proposal – Forms A

**Parte A – Formularios online**
- A1 General Information
- A2 Participants
- A3 Budget: table + description (8000c)
- A4 Ethics and security
- A5 Other questions

**Exclusión hasta 3 evaluadores**

**Annexes**
- HI support letter
- Ethics issues and security
- Eligibility window
- PhD certificate

**Gender Equality Plan**
Does the organization have a Gender Equality Plan (GEP) covering the elements listed below? Yes No

- Minimum process-related requirements (building blocks) for a GEP
  - Publication: formal document published on the institution’s website and signed by the top management
  - Dedicated resources: commitment of human resources and gender expertise to implement it.
  - Data collection and monitoring: sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel (and students for establishments concerned) and annual reporting based on indicators.
  - Training: Awareness raising/trainings on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision makers.
  - Content-wise, recommended areas to be covered and addressed via concrete measures and targets are:
    - work-life balance and organisational culture;
    - gender balance in leadership and decision-making;
    - gender equality in recruitment and career progression;
    - integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content;
    - measures against gender-based violence including sexual harassment.

**Ethics issues table + Ethics Self-Assessment**
- Ethical dimension of the objectives, methodology and likely impact
- Compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislations

**Security issues table**
ERC achievements track record*

(Record of achievements appropriate to the field and at least matching one or more of the following benchmarks)

- **Up to five (StG)/up to ten (CoG)** publications in major international peer-reviewed (p-r) multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international p-r journals, p-r conferences proceedings and/or monographs of their respective research fields, highlighting those as main author or without the presence as co-author of their PhD supervisor
- **Up to ten (AdG)** representative publications, from the last ten years, as main author (or in those fields where alphabetic order of authorship is the norm, joint author) in major international p-r multi-disciplinary scientific journals and/or in the leading international p-r journals and p-r conference proceedings of their respective research fields.
  (properly referenced, field relevant bibliometric indicators may also be included); **preprints** may be included, if freely available from a preprint server (preprints should be properly referenced and either a link to the preprint or a DOI should be provided);
- **Research monographs** and any translations thereof **Up to three (AdG)**
- **Granted patents** **Up to five (AdG)**
- **Invited presentations to internationally established conferences** and/or international advanced schools **Up to ten (AdG)**
- **Prizes, awards, academy memberships**
- **Research expeditions** that the applicant PI has led **Up to three (AdG)**
- **Organisation of international conferences** in the field of the applicant (membership in the steering and/or organising committee) **(AdG)**
- **Major contributions to the early careers of excellent researchers (AdG)**
- **Examples of innovation leadership (AdG)**

* (last 10 Years AdG)
Writing the CV: Hints and tips

• Remember that the CVs/Track Records are as important as the project!
• Explain what your own contribution to your key publications has been
• Explain publishing habits in the field and country if needed.
• If the PI knows that he/she has gaps or other issues in the CV, explain them.
• Describe activities which can indicate scientific maturity.
• Follow the CV template provided by the ERC in the submission system.
PRESUPUESTO DE LA PROPUESTA

100% of the total eligible direct costs of the research + 25% contribution towards indirect costs.

Direct costs:
✓ Personnel costs (PI + research team)
✓ Equipment (depretiation according HI rules & capitalised costs)
✓ Consumables
✓ Travels, publications,…

- Se aplican las reglas de la Host Institution
- Flexibilidad: se aceptan modificaciones mediante enmiendas al acuerdo de subvención
- Las ayudas reciben entre 25-40% de pre-financiación
- Gestión de los fondos por parte del IP
- Las ayudas son portables
Additional Funding

Up to $[1.5; 2; 2.5]$ million euros for 5 years (60 months)

+ Additional funding up to 1M€ when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work:

  • "start-up" costs for PIs moving to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant and/or
  • the purchase of major equipment and/or
  • access to large facilities and/or
  • other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs.

All funding requested is assessed during evaluation.

These costs are justified separately in the proposal. There is no definition of “equipment” or “facilities” and all requests will be evaluated by the peer review panel.
Financial aspects:  

Explicit provision for possibility of equipment to be declared as capitalised costs

Purchases of equipment, infrastructure, or other assets for the actions must be declared as depreciation costs. Moreover, an applicant can request to include in the GA equipment, infrastructure, or other assets purchased specifically for the action that may exceptionally be declared as full capitalised costs.

(Pendiente de más detalles.)
Equipo investigador

PI

PI + Research Team

PI + Research Team with Experts / workshops

Statistics of ERC project teams in Horizon 2020
(1,994 reporting projects; about 12,500 team members)

Team composition (excluding Principal Investigator)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% reported staff</th>
<th>notDeclared</th>
<th>other incl admin</th>
<th>(Senior) technical staff</th>
<th>senior researcher/staff</th>
<th>researcher</th>
<th>postdoc</th>
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<td>8%</td>
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</table>
The Host Institution (HI)

Any type of legal entity, private or public (universities, research centres, business,...)

Based in one of the EU Member States, or one of the Associated Countries.

The PI does not necessarily need to be working at the Host Institution at the time when the proposal is submitted.

The HI is not an evaluation criteria, but a HI commitment letter is needed with the proposal.

Must have a Gender Equality Plan (at the time of GA signature)

Must host and engage the PI for the whole duration of the action

Must guarantee the PI scientific independence

Must provide research support and administrative assistance (if granted)
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• **Servicios nacionales de ayuda**
• Consejos y sugerencias
PERSONAL APOYO ESTATAL (desde octubre 2022)

Representante Comité de Programa ERC

Jose Luis García
CIB-CSIC

Estefanía Muñoz
FECYT, MCIN

Esther Guirado
Fundación Pública Andaluza Progreso y Salud

Leticia Riaza
FECYT, MCIN

Puntos nacionales de contacto ERC
erc@fecyt.es

Técnica soporte a servicios ERC

Carmen Estévez
FECYT, MCIN
Servicios estatales ERC

https://www.horizonteeuropa.es/erc

Árbol de servicios ERC: https://www.horizonteeuropa.es/arbol-de-servicios-de-apoyo-al-programa-european-research-council-erc

• Jornadas informativas
• Talleres de preparación propuestas
• Revisión propuestas
• Simulacros de entrevistas
• ERC Proposal Reading Days 2022: https://www.horizonteeuropa.es/erc-proposal-reading-days-2022
• Asesoramiento fase propuesta y fase contrato
• Soporte al tramitar la portabilidad a una institución española
• Europa Excelencia (AEI) para las ERC individuales con A sin financiar
Árbol de servicios ERC

ERC Starting Grant
Si estás preparando tu solicitud a ERC-StG 2023
•ERC Reading Days (lectura de propuestas financiadas) 02-Nov-2022 - 25-Nov-2022
•Webinars ERC-StG enlace a grabación y presentaciones
•Revisiones de propuesta ERC-StG abierto hasta 05-Sept-2022 a 08.00h
Si has sido invitado a segunda fase en ERC-StG: simulacros de entrevista: en marcha ERC-StG2022

ERC-Consolidator Grant
Si estás preparando tu solicitud a ERC-CoG 2023
•ERC Reading Days (lectura de propuestas financiadas) 02-Nov-2022 - 25-Nov-2022
•Webinars ERC-CoG webinars 06/10/2022 y 24/11/2022
•Revisiones de propuestas ERC-CoG se anunciará próximamente, el cierre para recibir las propuestas será 8 semanas antes del cierre oficial
Si has sido invitado a segunda fase en ERC-CoG: simulacros de entrevista: en marcha ERC-CoG2022

ERC-Advanced Grant
Si estás preparando tu solicitud a ERC-Advanced Grant 2023
•ERC Reading Days (lectura de propuestas financiadas) 02-Nov-2022 - 25-Nov-2022
•Webinars ERC-AdG se realizarán en torno a enero 2023
•Revisiones de propuesta ERC-AdG se anunciará más adelante; el cierre para recibir las propuestas será 8 semanas antes del cierre oficial
Si has sido invitado a segunda fase en ERC-AdG: simulacros de entrevista: próximamente ERC-AdG2022

ERC-Synergy Grant
Si estás preparando una solicitud a ERC-Synergy Grant 2023
•Webinar ERC-SyG 2023 enlace a presentaciones
Si habéis sido invitados a segunda fase en ERC-SyG: simulacros de entrevista: previstos para verano 2023

https://www.horizonteeuropa.es/arbol-de-servicios-de-apoyo-al-programa-european-research-council-erc
Servicios estatales ERC año 2021

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Índice

• Programa del ERC y sus convocatorias
• ¿Cómo son los proyectos ERC?
• Servicios nacionales de ayuda
• Consejos y sugerencias
¿Frontera del conocimiento?

- Propuestas multi o interdisciplinares que cruzan las fronteras entre diferentes campos de investigación, o
- Propuestas pioneras que aborden campos de investigación nuevos y emergentes, o
- Propuestas que introduzcan enfoques no convencionales e innovadores e invenciones científicas.
1. You can only apply for an ERC grant if you are a highly accomplished scientist

2. To be successful, you need to continue on an established research line, to prove continuity and credibility

3. If you have already obtained an ERC grant you are less/more likely to get another one.

4. The more socially or medically relevant a grant proposal is, the higher the chances of it getting funded.
• No te excluyas de participar en las convocatorias de ERC porque pienses que no tienes un CV competitivo aún.

• Si crees que tienes una gran idea que supondrá un cambio significativo en tu campo de investigación o en alguna otra área, considera la posibilidad de escribir una propuesta y enviarla al ERC.

• Durante la ideación de la propuesta: asume riesgos (te darán 1,5-2,5 M€!), explica el alto impacto científico de tu proyecto en caso de alcanzar los objetivos y proporciona evidencias de que puedes ejecutar este trabajo.

• Planifica tu propuesta ERC con tiempo (mucho tiempo: 9 meses, ideal).

• Si no te sale a la primera, vuelve a intentarlo.

• Cuenta desde el principio con la oficina de apoyo de tu institución
• Research topic of own choice, with a team of own choice
• True financial autonomy for 5 years
• Negotiate with the host institution the best conditions of work
• Attract top team members (EU and non-EU) and collaborators
• Portability of grants within Europe
• Attract additional funding
• ERC funds "frontier research", including applied research.
• The budget is distributed among the scientific panels as a function of demand.
• The panel descriptors do not represent ERC scientific priorities.
• The success rate is virtually flat across the eligibility window (StG, CoG).
• Publication record is not decisive in selection decisions.
• The Host Institution is not an evaluation criterion.
• PIs from all over the World Can Apply to ERC
Tu propuesta
¿Qué puedo obtener de leer otras propuestas

- Narrativa (fácil y ameno de leer = panelista contento/a)
- Qué información está y qué no es necesario que aparezca
- High risk / high gain
- No hay una estructura ganadora
- No hay números mágicos
- ¿Por qué crees que ha sido financiada?
ENLACES DE INTERÉS
Enlaces de interés

Base de datos de todos los **proyectos financiados** por año y umbral/convocatoria

https://erc.europa.eu/projects-figures/erc-funded-projects
Enlaces de interés

ERC website: Apply for a grant
https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant

How to complete your ethics self-assessment:

Open Research Data and Data Management Plans
https://ec.europa.eu/thematic-working-groups/working-group-open-access
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/open-access-dissemination_en.htm

General Model Grant Agreement Horizon Europe
Videos series of videos – ERC Classes – for potential applicants:

Step-by-step to the ERC application process (5:19 min)  
https://youtu.be/xbFbzkVWgCU

How to get started with your ERC grant? (11:37 min)  
https://youtu.be/O7mOFL2tlQ8

How to write part 1 of your ERC proposal? (14:33 min)  
https://youtu.be/HsmQRM88yyM

How to write part 2 of your ERC proposal? (8:26 min)  
https://youtu.be/NnDLnabEpxQ

How do we evaluate your ERC proposal? (11:48 min)  
https://youtu.be/FFhZX00AUv4

How to prepare for your ERC interview? (9:02 min)  
https://youtu.be/F4qXVGcdH5w

How to apply for your ERC Proof of Concept Grant  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_WAkrKgWKs

¿Dónde encontrar más información?
Muchas gracias