Webinar II: Cómo preparar una propuesta ERC - Starting Grant 2024

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA E INNOVACIÓN
FECYT INNOVACIÓN
oficina europea

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Horizon Europe

European Research Council (ERC)
Frontier Research Grants

Application Forms
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European Research Council
Executive Agency

Established by the European Commission

Horizon Europe

European Research Council (ERC)
Frontier Research Grants

Information for Applicants to the
Starting and Consolidator Grant Calls

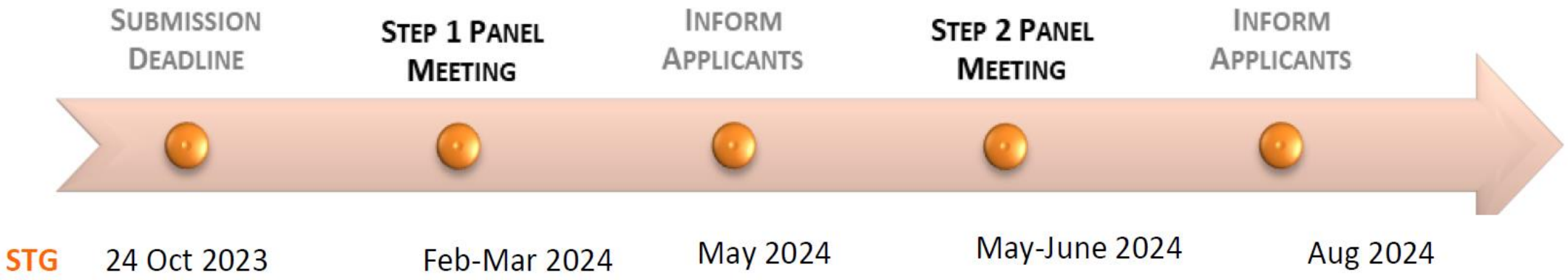
European Research Council
Executive Agency

Established by the European Commission

¿Qué ha pasado desde el Webinar I?

- WP fue adoptado por la CE
- Starting Grant 2024 ha abierto
- Han publicado las plantillas y la guía del solicitante

Timeframe Starting Grant 2024



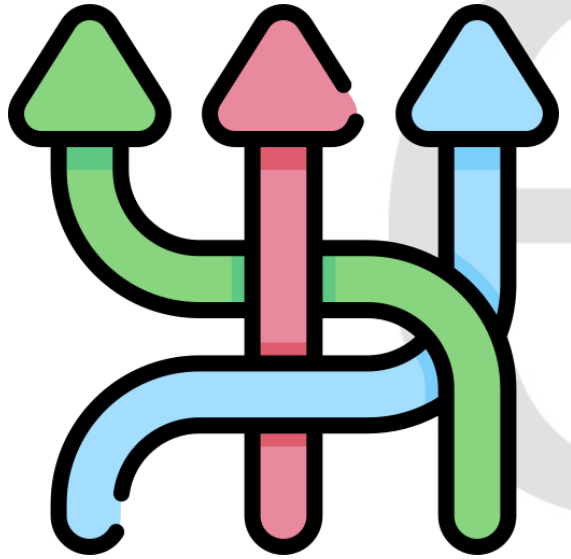
STG	24 Oct 2023	Feb-Mar 2024	May 2024	May-June 2024	Aug 2024

ENCAJE ERC

Tenemos una idea de proyecto, ¿podría ser un proyecto ERC?

¿Investigación incremental?

- Si tiene que ver con nuestro trabajo diario, entonces suena a incremental.
- Hay publicaciones en el campo que están aplicando un enfoque diferente, pero obteniendo malos resultados.
- Si lo puedes presentar a otras convocatorias (fraccionando el presupuesto).
- Paso natural vs. paso original: producto de tu experiencia o idea.
- Debemos presentar la idea de proyecto como un gran paso hacia adelante en comparación con el estado del arte.
- INCREMENTAL ≠ RIESGO

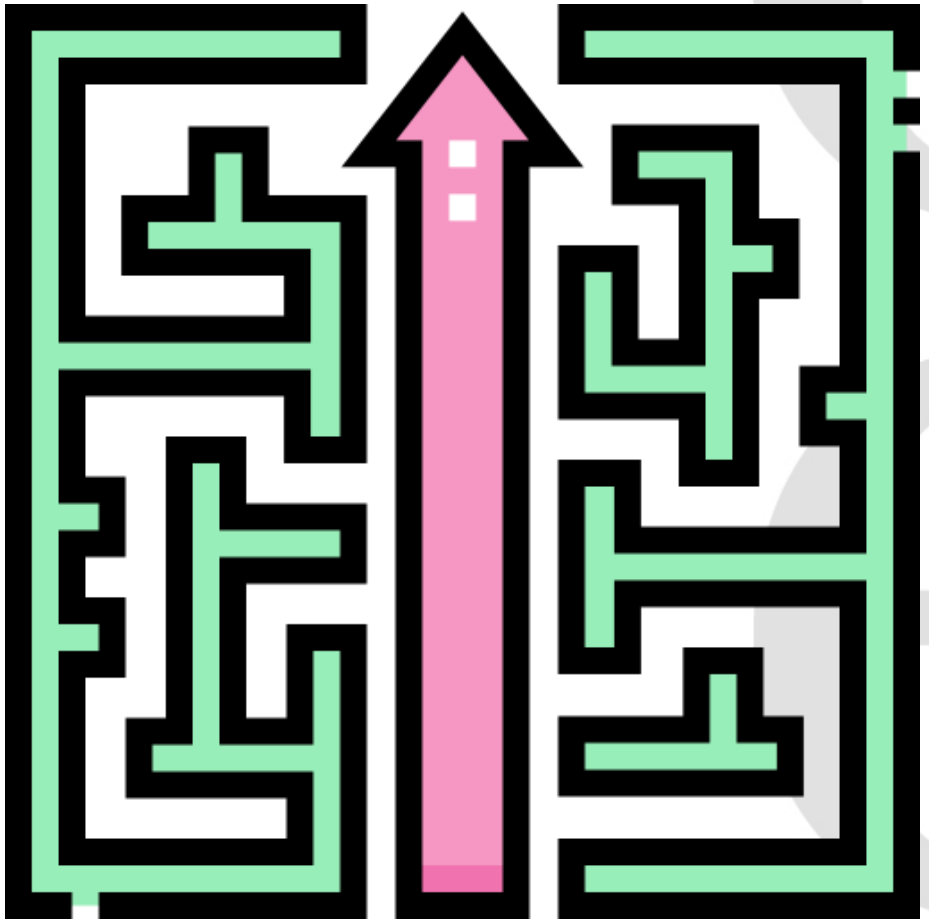


Es normal que lo que propongáis esté relacionado con vuestra trayectoria, experiencia y logros.

La clave es que todo esto es lo que hará avanzar la investigación y el conocimiento mucho más allá del estado del arte = High Gain

Impacto. ¿A qué hace referencia el High gain?

- Impacto transformador: abres uno o varios nuevos campos donde se publicará en el futuro. Otros investigadores seguirán este camino.
- Ambición. No significa plantear una experimentación muy compleja (batería de ensayos, trabajo de campo, etc…), sino Gran paso adelante
- ¿Es un problema real, de peso, recurrente que afecta al campo?
- Potencial de vuestra idea. A lo mejor vuestro proyecto es la llave para el avance que se necesita.



- Presentársela a nuestros colegas (cuantos más mejor)
- Leer otras propuestas: propuestas en abierto, Reading Days, pedirlas directamente a los Grantees, ¿hay en mi institución?...
- ¿Potencial para cambiar la forma de pensar de su campo científico? Identificar qué campos y cómo los vas a hacer cambiar, los nuevos horizontes que abrirás
- Una idea no convencional:
  - nuevos conceptos que no existían antes
  - uso de conceptos existentes a un contexto o campo diferente
  - nuevas combinaciones de principios científicos relacionados
  - nuevas combinaciones de principios científicos no relacionados hasta ahora

NORMAS DEL JUEGO

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

Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project ***B1 + B2***

- 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 – B1)***?
- To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project *(**based on the research proposal – B2**)*?
- To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources, and PI's commitment adequate and properly justified *(**based on the research proposal – B2**)?*

¿Cómo se la adjudica un panel a una propuesta?

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

By default, the proposal is allocated to the panel indicated at submission

- **Your choice** is respected as much as possible but…
- The panel chair can decide to **transfer** a proposal (with the agreement of the receiving panel chair)
- Once transferred, it is treated **the same** as the other proposals in the (new) panel

ERC 2024 - Evaluation panels

28 paneles divididos en 3 dominios

Cada panel cubre un determinado número de temas de investigación, detallados con sus descriptore

Physical Sciences and Engineering (PE)	Life Sciences (LS)	Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)
11 paneles	*9 paneles*	*8 paneles*

SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

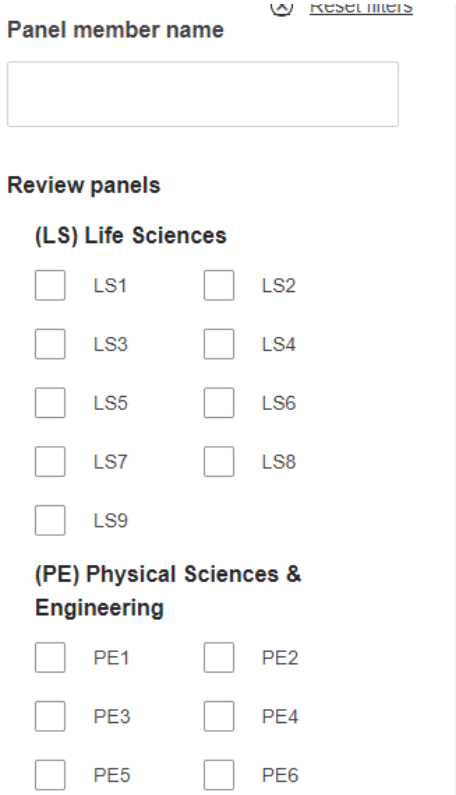
- SH7_1 Human, economic and social geography
- SH7_2 Migration
- SH7_3 Population dynamics: households, family and fertility
- SH7_4 Social aspects of health, ageing and society
- SH7_5 Sustainability sciences, environment and resources
- SH7_6 Environmental and climate change, societal impact and policy
- SH7_7 Cities; urban, regional and rural studies
- SH7_8 Land use and planning
- SH7_9 Energy, transportation and mobility
- SH7_10 GIS, spatial analysis; big data in geographical studies

¿Quiénes son los miembros del panel?

Panel Chair y panel members

- Cada panel está compuesto por 12 – 18 personas.
- Durante la fase de evaluación solo se conoce el nombre del panel chair.
- La lista completa de miembros del panel y revisores externos se publica después de la resolución de la convocatoria.
- Los miembros de los paneles del ERC se alternan cada año, para permitirles que puedan ser candidatos también del programa.
- Sus perfiles son variados y pueden no ser expertos en tu disciplina.
- *Pero entre todos cubren los temas expresados a través de la keywords.*

Pero en serio, ¿quiénes son los miembros del panel?



Review panel	Funding schemes	Review panel member name	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
LS	SyG	Ruben Abagyan										
LS	SyG	Kari Alitalo										
LS	SyG	Genevieve Almouzni										
LS	SyG	Rudolf Amann										
LS	SyG	Bruno Amati										
LS	SyG	Dora Angelaki										
LS	SyG	Tamas Bartfai										
LS	SyG	Carmen Birchmeier										
LS	SyG	Dries Bonte										
LS	SyG	Dimitrios Boumpas										

https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/panel-members?IPGWtPdOmn

Panel members play a vital role in the ERC's peer-review evaluation of grant proposals. They are top scientists and scholars coming from all over the world to help ERC select best scientific ideas and excellent principal investigators. The ERC's peer review is one of the most diverse and inclusive of its kind, ensuring a comprehensive and robust assessment of research proposals. It is organised in three research domains and, currently, in 27 panels.

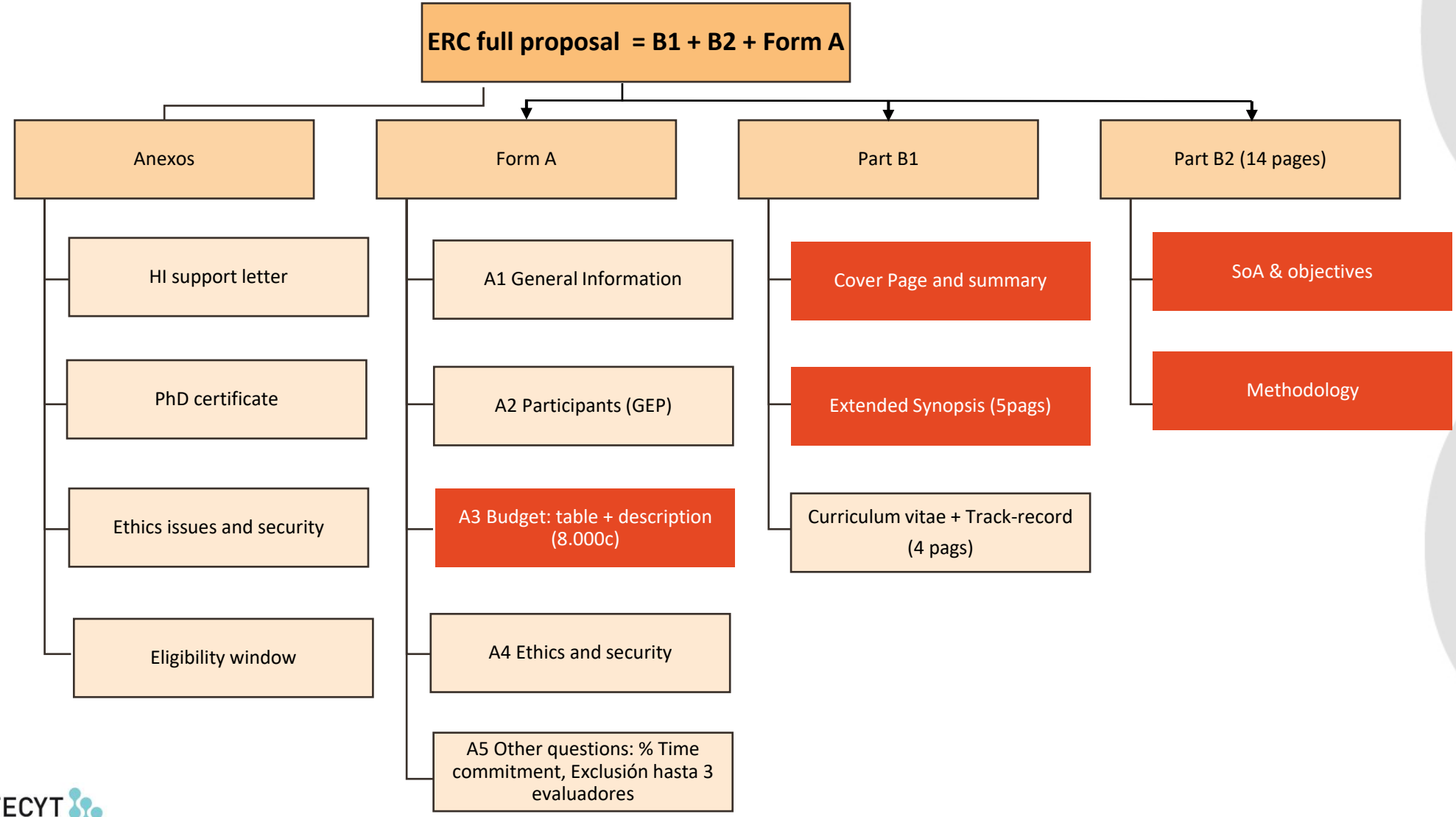
This webpage provides information about the panel members who took part in the finished ERC grant competitions, and about researchers chairing the panels, including those in the ongoing calls.

Acércate la diana

- Elegir bien las keywords
- Pensar (y escribir) en quién puede leer tu propuesta
- Pensar (y escribir) en los revisores externos
  - Escribir para quien no entenderá tu propuesta
  - Escribir para quien va a adorar tu propuesta

PLANTILLAS

Individual Schemes




Intrigue (part B1)
Convince (part B2)
Inspire (Parts B1+B2+ interview)
CRITERIOS DE EVALUACIÓN

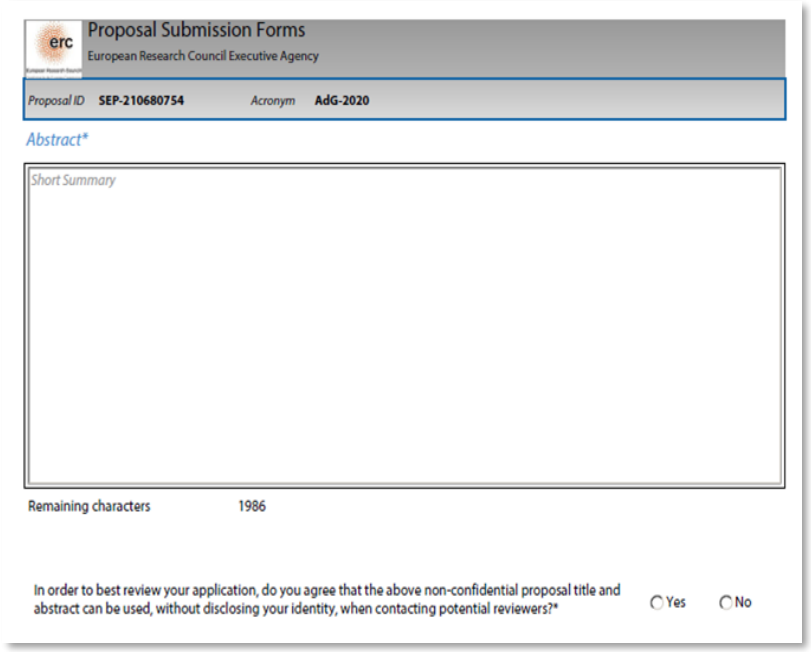
¿Por dónde empiezo a escribir?

Proponente: Orden más habitual de escritura: B2 > B1 > Abstract

Revisor primera fase: Orden más común de lectura: Abstract > B1

Revisor segunda fase: Orden más común de lectura: Abstract > (B1) > B2

B1 - Summary (y Abstract)


Proposal Submission Forms
European Research Council Executive Agency

Proposal ID SEP-210680754 Acronym AdG-2020

Abstract*

Short Summary

Remaining characters 1986

In order to best review your application, do you agree that the above non-confidential proposal title and abstract can be used, without disclosing your identity, when contacting potential reviewers?* ○ Yes ○ No

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- List the other PI's Host Institution for the project
- Proposal duration in months

Proposal summary (identical to the abstract from the online proposal submission forms, section 1).

The abstract (summary) should, at a glance, **provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the research proposal and how they will be achieved**.

The abstract will be used as the short description of your research proposal in the evaluation process and in communications to contact in particular **potential independent external experts** and/or to inform the Commission and/or the programme management committees and/or relevant national funding agencies.

It must therefore be short and precise and should not contain confidential information.

Ejemplo

Endure

Summary:

Extreme events often cause local-initial damage to the critical elements of building structures, followed by a cascade of further failures in the rest of the building; a phenomenon known as "progressive collapse". Current design philosophies are based on giving buildings extensive continuity, so that when a critical element fails its load can be re-distributed among the rest of the structure. *However, in certain situations (e.g. initial failure of several columns) this extensive continuity introduces undesirable effects and actually increases the risk of progressive collapse.*

Segmenting a building into individual units connected only by means of fuses would avoid a failure in one zone propagating to others. While such fuses would provide continuity for normal loads or small local-initial failure, they would "isolate" the different parts of the building when otherwise the forces generated by the initial failure would pull down the rest of the structure. *Although fuse segmentation is probably the only alternative that can fill the gaps in the present design philosophies, so far, no studies have been carried out on the possibility of applying it to buildings.*

***Endure*'s overall aim is to develop a novel fuse-based segmentation design approach to limit or arrest the propagation of failures in building structures subjected to extreme events.**

The project will be multidisciplinary and highly ambitious, and will achieve its overall aim by: 1) Developing a performance-based approach for the design of fuse-segmented buildings; 2) Designing, manufacturing and testing fuses for segmenting buildings; and 3) Implementing fuses in segmented realistic building prototypes and testing and validating the new fuse-based approach in these structures.

Endure will open up a new research area and design approach, and also deliver novel construction procedures. The project will lead to safer buildings, especially in the case of extreme events with severe consequences for building integrity.

The context of the proposal ('what' and 'why')

The aim of the proposal

How we will achieve the aim

The expected outcomes and scientific impact

B1. a: *Extended Synopsis of the scientific proposal* *(max. 5 pages, references do not count towards the page limit)*

The Extended Synopsis should give a concise presentation of the scientific proposal, with particular attention to the ground-breaking nature of the research project, which will allow evaluation panels to assess, in Step 1 of the evaluation, the feasibility of the outlined scientific approach. Describe the proposed work in the context of the state of the art of the field.

It is important that the extended synopsis contains minimum information relevant to the evaluation criteria, since the ***Step 1 panel will have access only to part B1****.*

References to literature should also be included.

Please use a reference style that is commonly used in your discipline such as American Chemical Society (ACS) style, American Medical Association (AMA) style, Modern Language Association (MLA) style, etc. and that allows the evaluators to easily retrieve each reference.]

B1 & B2 – first page of your proposal

Description of the State of the Art

vs.

What we want to achieve

Extended Synopsis

- LO QUE NO SE VE: Descripción del proyecto, atendiendo a los aspectos clave del ERC como la novedad, high-risk, high gain, non-incremental, idea dirigida por el investigador.
- POSIBLE ESTRUCTURA:
  - **Important challenges**
  - **Objectives (beyond the state of the art)**
  - **Feasible scientific approach**

Extended Synopsis

Building Resilient - ICITECH
@BldgResilient

🆕@ERC_Research has just opened the new #StartingGrant call 👇

First page of your proposal ➡️The key to success
How we made it attractive:
1️⃣A figure showing what we wanted to solve
2️⃣Clearly define the overall aim of the project
3️⃣Objectives associated with the overall aim

The overall aim of *Endure* is to develop a novel fuse-based segmentation design approach to limit or arrest the propagation of failures in building structures subjected to extreme events.

To achieve its defined overall aim, ***Endure*** will have four **specific objectives**:

⇒ **Objective 1**: To develop a performance-based approach for the design of fuse-segmented buildings.
⇒ **Objective 2**: To design, manufacture and test fuses for segmenting buildings.
⇒ **Objective 3**: To implement fuses in segmented building structures and to validate and test the new fuse-based approach in realistic building prototypes.
⇒ **Objective 4**: To engage with industry experts and code-issuing entities, and disseminate-communicate the project's outcomes.

Part B2 - *research proposal*

Section a: State-of-the-art and objectives. Specify the proposal objectives in the context of the state of the art in the research field. It should be clear how and why the proposed work is important for the field, and what impact it will have if successful, such as how it may open up new horizons or opportunities for science, technology or scholarship. Specify any particularly challenging or unconventional aspects of the proposal, including multi- or inter-disciplinary aspects.

Section b: Methodology. Describe the proposed methodology in detail including any key intermediate goals. Explain and justify the methodology in relation to the state of the art. Highlight any intermediate stages where results may require adjustments to the project planning. In case you ask that team members are engaged by another host institution, their participation has to be fully justified by the scientific added value they bring to the project.

Part B2 should also include a succinct "Funding ID" which must specify any current research grants and their subject, and any on-going application for work related to the proposal

Section a: State-of-the-art and objectives.

Specify the proposal objectives in the context of the state of the art in the research field.

It should be clear how and why the proposed work is important for the field, and what impact it will have if successful, such as how it may open up new horizons or opportunities for science, technology or scholarship.

Specify any particularly challenging or unconventional aspects of the proposal, including multi- or inter-disciplinary aspects.

Section b: Methodology

- Describe the proposed methodology in detail including any key intermediate goals.
- Explain and justify the methodology in relation to the state of the art.
- Highlight any intermediate stages where results may require adjustments to the project planning.

In case you ask that team members are engaged by another host institution, their participation has to be fully justified by the scientific added value they bring to the project.

Ambitios objectives beyond SoA (B1 + B2)

- Demostrar por qué los objetivos del proyecto son ambiciosos con respecto a lo que se ha hecho hasta ahora (**POR TI**/por otros)
- El SoA ayuda a clarificar conceptos y términos usados durante la escritura del proyecto
- Ayuda a entender cuáles son los gaps del campo y, por tanto, ayuda a entender la necesidad de responder AHORA y **POR T**I a esa Gran Pregunta de Investigación
- Demuestra el conocimiento del PI en los problemas metodológicos, conceptuales, teóricos de campo
- Demuestra el **sentido crítico o la creatividad del PI** con sus aportes previos al SoA
- **Cada objetivo debería de ser (de producir) una contribución destacada al campo de conocimiento**

Feasibility- Evidencias o datos preliminares

- Publicados o no, pero siempre el PI debe haber tenido un papel importante.
- Especial atención a aquellos que susciten controversia en la comunidad científica.

- Preliminary data
- Validation of hyphotesis via recent publication
- Access to data set
- HI + Team

DOs & DONTs

Indicaciones generales

Part B1: Find the right balance

- ✓ Innovative? Beyond state-of-art? Realistic/feasible?
- ✓ Outline state of play (incl. competition)
- ✓ Goals realistic? Think about risk mitigation
- ✓ Be concise & clear (also for generalists)
- ✓ Feasibility (scientific approach)

Part B2: Fill in the details

- ✓ No verbatim repetition of synopsis
- ✓ Detailed state-of-art
- ✓ Extensive methodology and work plan
- ✓ Provide risk mitigation strategies
- ✓ Explain involvement of team members & collaborators
- ✓ Justify requested resources - Panels have to ensure that the requested resources are reasonable and well justified.

DON'TS

- Texto claro y está bien enfocado. (Estás contando una historia)
- Dedícale tiempo a elegir bien las keywords y escribir el abstract.
- Ponle cariño (e intencionalidad) a las primeras páginas (primera impresión)
- Aspectos visuales de la presentación del texto.
- Keep in mind panel members and external reviewers
- Son generalistas, pero no tanto. No escribas la B1 para un público en general. No dejar cuestiones críticas para tu propuesta para la B2.
- Abstenerse de hacer referencias cruzadas entre la B1 y B2
- No digas que tu propuesta es [novedosa, ambiciosa, high-gain, etc.]. ¡DEMUÉSTRALO!
- No tienes 2ª oportunidades. Si sabes que algo puede necesitar una aclaración, hazlo en la propuesta.

...

- Evitar redactar un proyecto que parezca claramente una extensión del tema de investigación actual del PI
- Evite introducir demasiados tecnicismos en la parte B1
- Evite un formato complicado
- No utilice - en exceso - buzzwords
- No sobredimensione los objetivos o la ambición del proyecto, ya que esto llevará a cuestionar su viabilidad
- Evite una lista de tareas inconexas
- Tanto en B1 como en B2, asegúrese de que la atención se centra en el PI y no en el equipo, ni en los colaboradores.
- Evita ambigüedades
- Evita información trivial.

Muchas gracias

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