

# Webinar I

## ERC-Advanced Grant 2023

January, 25th 2022  
FECYT, MCIN



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
DE CIENCIA  
E INNOVACIÓN



oficina  
europea

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- ¿Cómo es una propuesta ERC?
- ¿Cómo es un grantee del ERC?
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# Spanish delegation ERC Programme



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**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# OVERVIEW OF THE ERC



# What is ERC mission?



EUR 16 billion  
ERC budget in Horizon  
Europe

17%  
of the entire  
Horizon Europe  
budget

The ERC is based on a simple idea:  
ERC supports the best researchers to work in Europe on their best ideas.  
The sole criterion for selection is scientific excellence.

# What makes the ERC unique?

1

## Creative **freedom** of the individual grantee.

- > Work on any research topic: completely bottom-up, with a team of your own choice (nº people, background, career stages, locations...)
- > No consortia required

2

## Long-term grants

- > Gain generous **financial autonomy** for up to 5 years (6 SYGs)
- > Attract top team members and collaborators from worldwide
- > Management freedom of PIs to lead their project with anyone in the world in their team

3

## **Excellence** is the only evaluation criteria (of both yourself and your research project)

Evaluations made by scientists of high international prestige

4

## **No thematic priorities** and no thematic restrictions

- > Funding is distributed on researcher community demand
- > Same opportunities for all scientific fields

# What makes the ERC unique?

5

The **host institution** can be established in any EU Member State or Associated Country  
> But you don't have to work in Europe full time

6

**Portability of grants:** negotiate the best work conditions with the Host Institution.

7

**No co-financing needed**  
No need of a permanent position to apply  
Personal costs of PI covered by the grant

8

Light bureaucracy once awarded.  
Flexibility to changes in budget distribution

9

Attract additional funding and **gain recognition:** ERC is a quality label

10

.....

# ERC-2023-ADG





# ERC Guides – 3 essential documents

## ERC Work Programme

1 / calls calendar



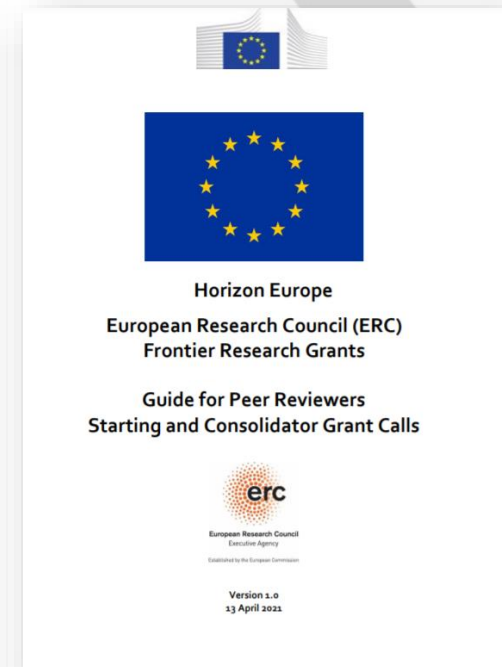
## Information for Applicants

- IfA to StG & CoG calls
- **IfA to AdG call**
- IfA to SyG call
- IfA to PoC call



## Guide for Peer Reviewers

- GfPR StG & CoG calls
- **GfPR AdG call**
- GfPR SyG call
- GfPR PoC call



# ERC Advanced Grant 2023

## ADVANCED GRANTS 2023

Grants up to **2.5€ million** for 5 years  
For **established research leaders** with a recognised 10 years track record of research achievements

**ERC-2023-ADG**

**Open:** 08-12-2022

**Deadline:** 23-05-2023

597 million EUR (246 grants)



The aim is to promote **substantial advances** in the **frontiers of knowledge**, and to encourage **new productive lines** of enquiry and **new methods and techniques**, including **unconventional approaches** innovative projects, with the aim of a far-reaching impact for the long-term benefit of all.

Devote at least 30% of their working time to the ERC-AdG project

Spend at least 50% of their working time in EU/AC

No PhD or seniority experience (years) needed

To develop a new and outstanding project

- ✓ **1 M€ of additional funding.** Page 17. ERC WP2023
- ✓ **Extensions eligibility window.** Page 28. ERC WP2023

# ERC AdG achievements track record (last 10 Years)

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

**Up to 10** representative publications as main 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

**Up to 3** major **Research monographs** and any translations thereof

+

**5** Granted **patents**

**10** Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools

**3** Research expeditions that the applicant PI has led

- **International recognition** through scientific or artistic prizes/awards or membership in well-regarded Academies or **artefact with documented use** (for example, architectural or engineering design, methods or tools);
- **Organisation of international conferences** in the field of the applicant (membership in the steering and/or organising committee)
- **Major contributions to** launching the careers of outstanding Researchers
- **Examples of innovation leadership**

# ELEGIBILITY CRITERIA ERC-2023-ADG

# Type of research

**Frontier research:** basic and applied research

- **Multi- or interdisciplinary proposals which cross boundaries between different fields of research, or**
- **Pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research, or**
- **Proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions.**

**ERC is PI centric:** Principal Investigator is central to the project. They can be supported by as many “team members” as they need.

**ERC** ≠ HE, AEI and other funding agencies

Must be very ambitious in risk and in scope

**\*\*\*THINK BIG \*\*\*\* OUT-OF-THE BOX \*\*\*\* DREAM\*\*\***

# 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 **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)



Signature of the Grant Agreement

Signature of a Supplementary Agreement with the PI

# ADG eligibility window & extensions


## Advanced Grants | **ERC-2023-AdG**

No PhD or seniority experience (years) needed

Active researcher during the last 10 years

**Principal investigator:** no restrictions based on age, gender, nationality, current location or current employment/contract status.

## Consideration of achievements over a longer period than the past ten years. 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 (*COVID-19 pandemic is not considered as a natural disaster*)

# Project Budget

Up to **[2,5]** million euros for 5 years + Additional funding up to **1M€**

An ERC grant can cover up to **100% of the total eligible direct costs** of the research **plus 25%** contribution towards **indirect costs**.

Direct costs:

- Personnel costs (PI + research team)
- Equipment (depreciation according HI rules **& capitalised costs**)
- Consumables, travels, publications,...

NEW

+ **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.**



# EVALUATION PROCESS ERC-2023-ADG

# ERC 2023 Proposal – individual Schemes

One deadline | 2 steps evaluation process

The ERC full proposal = B1 + B2 + **PartA\***

Applicant's surname      Part B1      ACRONYM

Section 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 groundbreaking nature of the research project, which will allow evaluation panels to access to Step 1 of the evaluation, the feasibility of the intended research approach. Describe the proposed work in the context of the state of the art of the field. 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), American Medical Association (AMA), IEEE, Modern Language Association (MLA), etc. Do not include the references in this section unless otherwise stated.*

*Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least 10pt size, 22 margins (2.8 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.*

**B1**  
Extended Synopsis  
5 pags

Applicant's surname      Part B2      ACRONYM

ERC Advanced Grant 2020  
Part B2  
(not evaluated in Step 1)

Sections (a) and (b) of Part B2 together with sections (c) Researcher grant and References do not count towards the page limit.

*Not highlighted in grey should be deleted.  
Please respect the following formatting constraints: Times New Roman, Arial or similar, at least 10pt size, 22 margins (2.8 cm side and 1.5 cm top and bottom), single line spacing.*

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

Section b. Methodology

*Do NOT include any description of research budget table here (Part A2). The Researcher section and the detailed budget table are now part of the online submission (Part A, Section 3 – Budgets. This section 3 will be accessed and provided in the grant contract).*

**B2**  
Scientific proposal  
14 pags

\* Instructions for completing Part B2 can be found in the "Information for Applicants to the Advanced Grant 2020 Call".

- Parte A – Formularios online
- A1 General Information
- A2 Participants
- 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

- 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

# ERC Panel Structure



**Open to any field  
of research**

## Physical Sciences & Engineering

- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical & Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- PE6 Computer Science & Informatics
- PE7 Systems & Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products & Process 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 Cellular and Developmental 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

## 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 & Cultural Production
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

[https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC\\_Panel\\_structure\\_2021\\_2022.pdf](https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_Panel_structure_2021_2022.pdf)

# ERC Evaluation panels

**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

# How to choose submission panel?

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

- **In which field?**
- **Which panel is covering that field?**  
This is the panel which will have the evaluators best suited to appreciate the work you propose
- **Which descriptor(s) best cover it?**  
*Note that the panel should correspond to the first descriptor (or vice-versa)*
- **Do not** indicate a secondary panel or descriptors for: **an instrument or technique *used*** (and not developed)
- Choose descriptors significant to the **advances** your proposal will bring

The screenshot displays the 'Proposal Submission Forms' page for the European Research Council Executive Agency. It shows the proposal ID 'SEP-210680754' and acronym 'AdG-2020'. The section '1 - General information' includes a table with the following data:

Topic	ERC-2020-ADG	Type of Action	ERC-ADG
Call Identifier	ERC-2020-ADG	Deadline Id	ERC-2020-ADG

Below the table, the form fields are as follows:

- Acronym: AdG-2020
- Proposal title: *The title should be no longer than 200 characters (with spaces) and should be understandable to the non-specialist in your field.* Note that for technical reasons, the following characters are not accepted in the Proposal Title and will be removed: < > \* &
- Duration in months: [Empty field]
- Primary ERC Review Panel\*: LS6 - Immunity and Infection
- Secondary ERC Review Panel: [Empty field] (if applicable)
- ERC Keyword 1\*: As first keyword please choose one which is linked to the Primary Review Panel. Please select, if applicable, the ERC keyword(s) that best characterise the subject of your proposal in order of priority.
- ERC Keyword 2: Not applicable
- ERC Keyword 3: Not applicable
- ERC Keyword 4: Not applicable
- Free keywords: In addition, please enter free text keywords that you consider best characterise the scope of your proposal. Choice of keywords should take into account any multi-disciplinary aspects of the proposal.

# ERC Evaluation panels > subfields or keywords

## LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution

*For all organisms:*

Ecology, biodiversity, environmental change, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology, marine biology, ecophysiology, theoretical developments and modelling

- LS8\_1 Ecosystem and community ecology, macroecology
- LS8\_2 Biodiversity
- LS8\_3 Conservation biology
- LS8\_4 Population biology, population dynamics, population genetics
- LS8\_5 Biological aspects of environmental change, including climate change
- LS8\_6 Evolutionary ecology
- LS8\_7 Evolutionary genetics
- LS8\_8 Phylogenetics, systematics, comparative biology
- LS8\_9 Macroevolution and paleobiology
- LS8\_10 Ecology and evolution of species interactions
- LS8\_11 Behavioural ecology and evolution
- LS8\_12 Microbial ecology and evolution
- LS8\_13 Marine biology and ecology
- LS8\_14 Ecophysiology, from organisms to ecosystems
- LS8\_15 Theoretical developments and modelling in environmental biology, ecology, and evolution

# ERC Evaluation panels + Panel Members

## Panel members ERC-2021-CoG

### LS8 Evolutionary, Population and Environmental Biology

Lead reviewer ← → Principal investigator

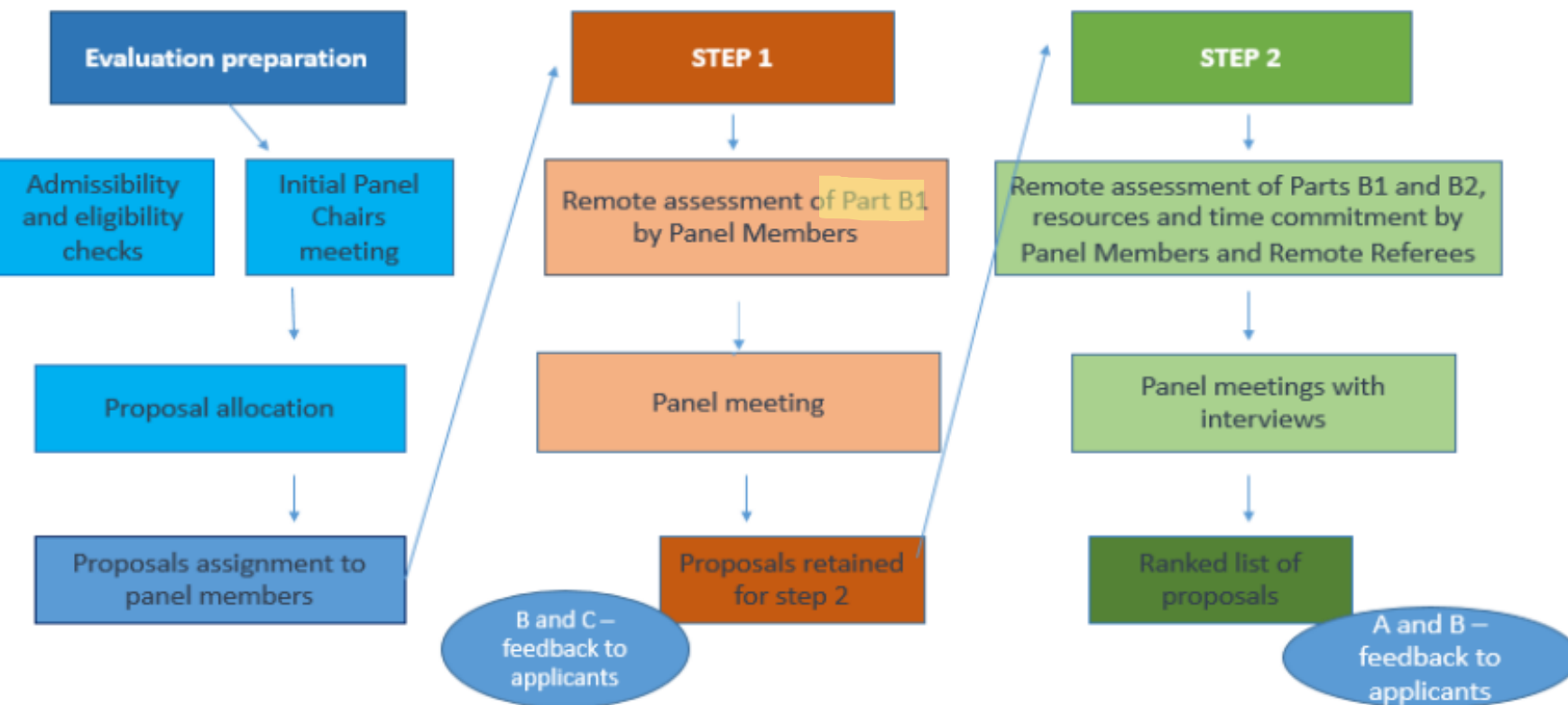
Susan Healy (Panel Chair)	LS8_1	Ecosystem and community ecology, macroecology
Toni Gabaldón	LS8_2	Biodiversity
Lars-Anders Hansson	LS8_3	Conservation biology
Robert Holt	LS8_4	Population biology, population dynamics, population genetics
Philippe Lemey	LS8_5	Biological aspects of environmental change, including climate change
Johanna Mappes	LS8_6	Evolutionary ecology
William Martin	LS8_7	Evolutionary genetics
Meelis Pärtel	LS8_8	Phylogenetics, systematics, comparative biology
Jacek Radwan	LS8_9	Macroevolution and paleobiology
Paul Rainey	LS8_10	Ecology and evolution of species interactions
Marcelo Sanchez	LS8_11	Behavioural ecology and evolution
Inger Kappel Schmidt	LS8_12	Microbial ecology and evolution
Victoria Sork	LS8_13	Marine biology and ecology
Montserrat Vilà Planella	LS8_14	Ecophysiology, from organisms to ecosystems
	LS8_15	Theoretical developments and modelling in environmental biology, etc.

# ERC Evaluation process AdG

Single deadline  
2 steps on the  
evaluation

STEP 1 evaluation  
Based on Part B1

STEP 2 evaluation  
Based on Part B1 + Part B2 + resources  
+ % time commitment + **interview**





# ERC Evaluation process AdG – The interview

Presentation (3-10 min.) + Question (15-25 min) = Total 30min

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:

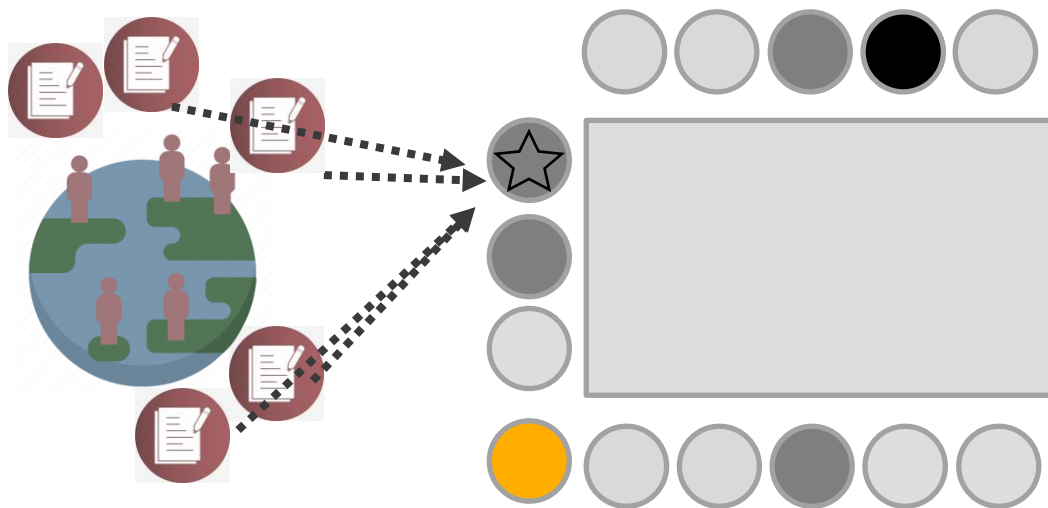
Present your project to general audience

Answer technical questions from experts

Answer broad questions from non-experts

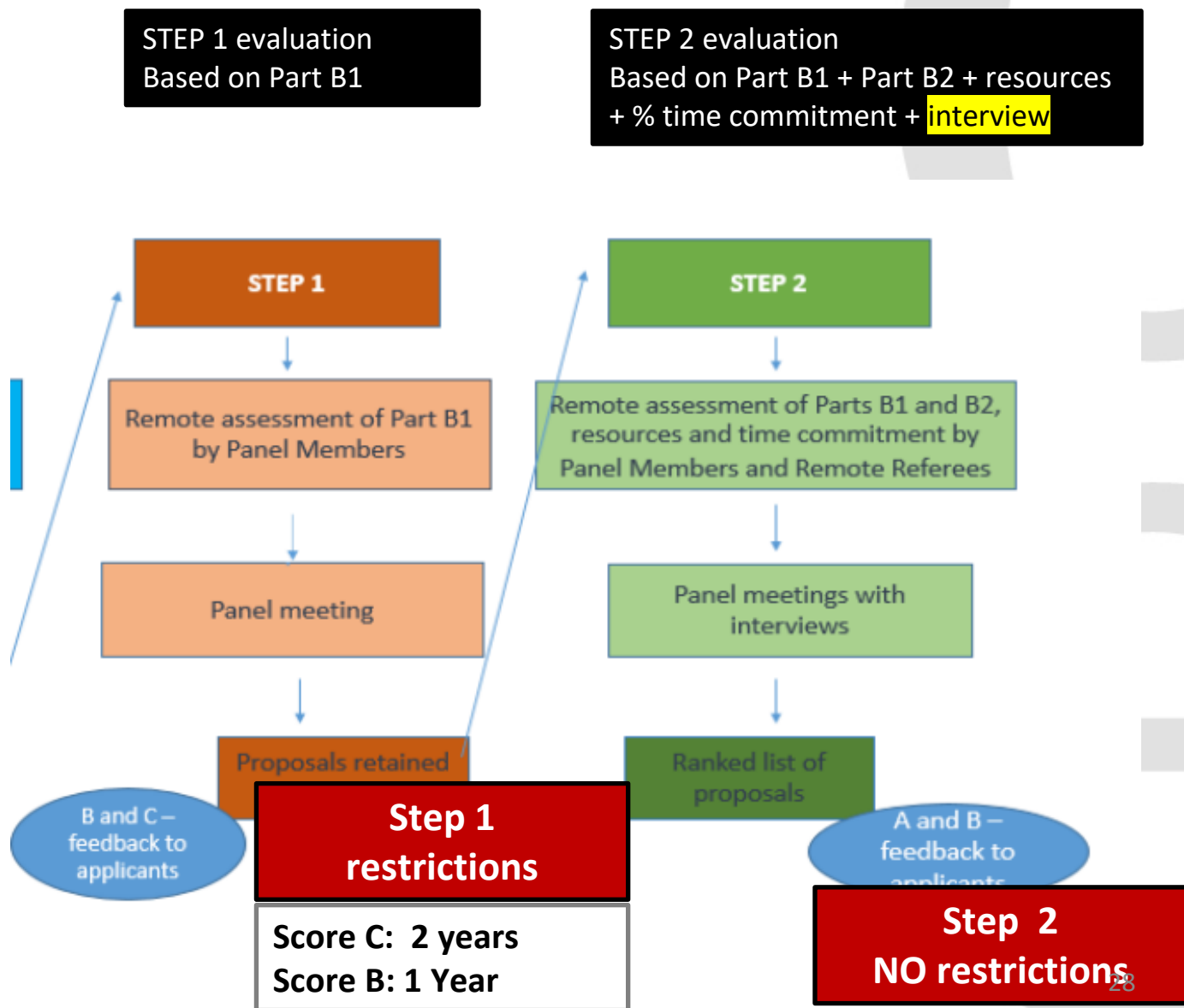
**ADVANCED GRANTS 2023  
INTERVIEWS**

LS: end January 2024  
SH: end January 2024/  
beginning February 2024  
PE: beginning February 2024



- Panel Chair
- Panel members involved
- ☆ Lead reviewer
- Other panel members
- Reporter
- External experts
- ☆ PI

# ERC Restrictions on submission of proposals



**MUCHAS GRACIAS**