

The European Research Council

Lump Sums in the 2024 ERC Advanced Grant call

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24th May 2024

Jornada informativa

ERC Advanced Grant 2024



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

ERC AdG 2024 Lump Sum – General principles

- Evaluation criteria remains **Scientific Excellence only**
- Proposals include a **budget based on estimated costs** related to activities
- Budget is **assessed during evaluation** (resources justification and costs plausibility)
- Lump sum **amount defined by project** (different for each project) and **capped at funding scheme ceiling** (2,5 mio + 1 mio **additional funding**)



ERC AdG 2024 Lump Sum – General principles (2)

- 1 single lump sum contribution for the entirety of the project (broken down by beneficiary only – NOT per work package)
- Once Lump Sum contribution established, **costs actually incurred are not relevant** (budget table (not included in the grant agreement) - **Full flexibility**)



ERC AdG 2024 Lump Sum – General principles (3)

- EU contribution **paid on basis of activities completion**. Not linked to successful outcome
- Ex-post **audits only on proper implementation** (not costs) & **compliance with non-financial obligations** (e.g. ethics, procurement procedures, PI time commitments)
- Right for **grant portability** remains for Principal Investigators



Proposal Submission - Budget

Budget must only include costs estimates that are:

- **Eligible** (same eligibility conditions as actual costs)
- **reasonable, non-excessive** costs
- in line with the **beneficiaries' normal practices** (Declaration 10)

‘For Lump Sum Grants with a detailed budget table: We understand and accept that the EU lump sum grants must be reliable proxies for the actual costs of a project and confirm that the detailed budget for the proposal has been established in accordance with our usual cost accounting practices and in compliance with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (see AGA - Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6) and exclude costs that are ineligible under the Programme. Purchases and subcontracting costs must be done taking into account best value for money and must be free of conflict of interest.’ This tick box is mandatory for all lump sum calls of the European Commission family.



Changes to the Submission Forms - Budget table (Person-Month)

	PI			Senior staff			Postdocs			Students			Other staff			A. Total personnel costs/€
	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	Person Months	Total amount	Average monthly cost	
Beneficiary Short Name																
Participant X																
Participant Y																
Linked 3rd party X																
Linked 3rd party Y																
Total																

New cost fields for AdG 2024

- Person months
- Average monthly costs (automatic calculation)

B. Subcontracting Costs/€ (No indirect costs)	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	Consumables incl. fieldwork and animal costs	Publications (incl. Open Access fees) and dissemination	Other additional direct costs	C.3 Total other goods, works and services	C. Total Purchase costs/€	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services/€ (No indirect costs)	E. Indirect Cost/€	Total Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution /€
		Equipment costs (including major equipment under additional funding)									



All other cost categories remain the same



Changes to the Submission Forms - Equipment depreciation table (New annex)

- Excel template will be a **mandatory attachment** to be uploaded at submission (*IT development to have it as part of the online submission forms and linked to budget table not ready*)
- Guidance *to be provided* to list items for which several units may be requested (i.e., centrifuges, laptops)
- Guidance *to be provided* on how to encode fully capitalized costs items

Beneficiary's/affiliated entity's name	Short name of the asset	Purchase cost per item (a)	Depreciation time (months) (b)	Expected percentage of usage for the grant (c)	Expected use time during the grant (months, cannot exceed the duration of the grant) (d)	Estimated depreciation costs per item (cannot exceed the purchase costs) $(a/b)*c*d$	Comments (e.g. depreciation policy, grouped items, full capitalised costs, etc.....)
Example 1	Equipment 1	€ 100,000.00	60	100%	48	€ 80,000.00	
Example 2	Equipment 2	€ 10,000.00	36	100%	36	€ 10,000.00	
Example 3	Equipment 3	€ 50,000.00	60	50%	48	€ 20,000.00	

Changes to the Submission Forms - Narrative section (New structure)

Section C. Resources	
A. Personnel	D. Internally invoiced goods and services
Maximum 2500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed
B. Subcontracting (if applicable)	Request for additional funding justification
Maximum 1000 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed
C. Purchase cost (<i>Travel - Equipment - Consumables - Field work - Animal costs - Publications - Other additional direct costs</i>)	Funding from other sources
Maximum 3500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed

- Single box split in 6 sub-sections (text boxes) to provide a more structured format for PIs to justify
- Overall character limit to justify resources extended from 8.000 to 10.000 character

Proposal Evaluation – Evaluation of resources & costs requested by applicants

Evaluation criteria remains **Scientific Excellence only**

Resources needed for the project & **plausibility of costs estimates** are assessed during the evaluation

In-depth assessment of costs estimates (i.e. reasonable and non-excessive) **only at evaluation** to define Lump Sum Contribution (sound financial management):

- **eligibility** of costs
- **reasonable, non-excessive** costs



Proposal Evaluation – ERC Dashboard (Personnel Costs)

ERC Dashboard will be made available for applicants and panel members

In line with RTD Dashboard, except:

- Based on **ERC historical data** - actual personnel costs paid since 2018 (to be updated for each Advanced Grant call)
- Displayed **by Country and Staff Category**



Proposal Evaluation – ERC Dashboard (Personnel Costs)

Average personnel costs per month- Utilize filters to segment by country, and type of personnel expenses.

Select a country

Select a Personnel Cost Type



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ERC historical data on personnel costs for ADG calls

20th Percentile

€2,750.00

50th Percentile-Median

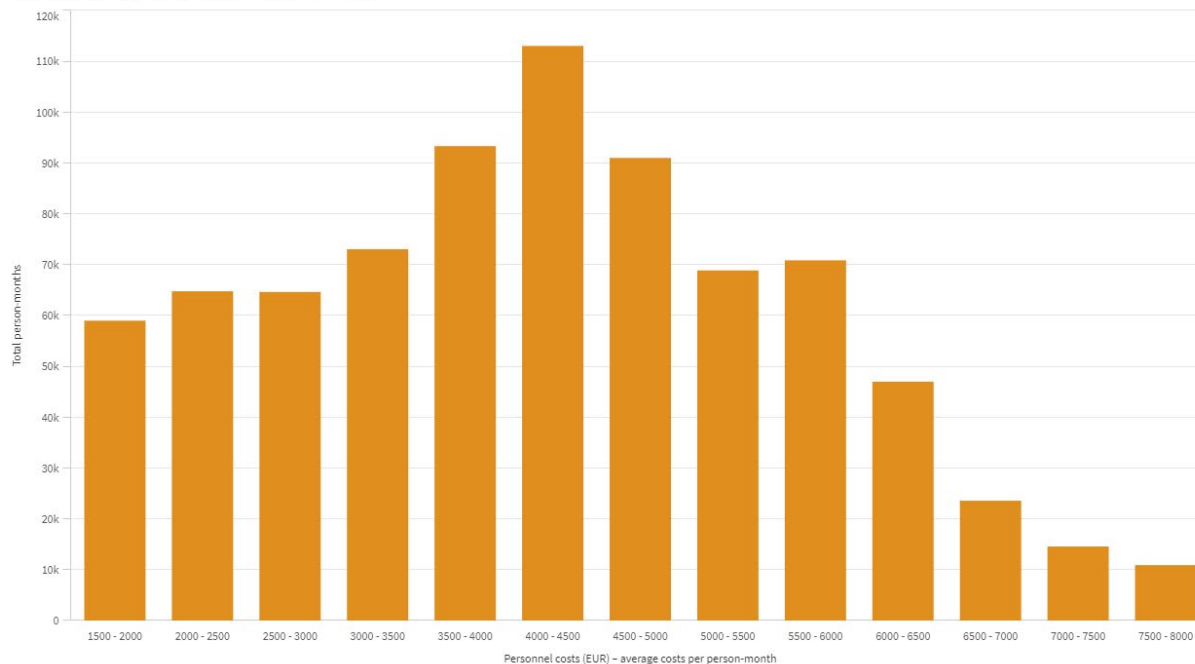
€4,420.00

80th Percentile

€6,200.00

No Country Selected: All Countries

No Personnel Cost Type Selected: All Types of Personnel Costs



Reporting/payment

- **80% prefinancing to ensure cash-flow**
- **1 scientific mid-term report to assess progress and deviations**
- **1 single payment at the end of the project**



ERC Lump Sum funding – Reporting/payment (2)

Lump sum fully paid when all the work has been carried out, and also if

- All essential tasks completed, and/or
- Equivalent tasks have been carried out, and/or
- Deviations have been duly justified.

Otherwise partial completion:

Lump sum **paid partially** in line with the degree of completion (contradictory procedure) **at the end of the project**



ERC Lump Sum funding – Ex-post Audits

Only proper implementation (not on costs) & compliance with non-financial obligations (e.g. ethics, procurement procedures, PI time commitments)

Keeping records:

- Technical documents
- Publications, prototypes, deliverables
- Documentation required by good research practices (e.g. lab books)

Document proving implementation in line with DoA



ERC Lump Sum funding - simplifications

Major reduction of administrative burden:

- Remove all obligations on costs reporting (incl. personnel costs)
- No more time-sheets or other document supporting actual costs incurred
- No more financial audits

ERC AdG 2024 Lump Sum – Timeline ERC WP 2024

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>
<i>Call identifier</i>	ERC-2024-StG	ERC-2024-CoG	ERC-2024-AdG	ERC-2024-SyG
<i>Call opens</i>	11 July 2023	12 September 2023	29 May 2024	12 July 2023
<i>Call deadline</i>	24 October 2023	12 December 2023	29 August 2024	8 November 2023
<i>Planned dates to inform applicants after each step</i>	10 May 2024 23 August 2024	21 June 2024 13 December 2024	31 January 2025 13 June 2025	3 May 2024 30 August 2024 4 November 2024
<i>Indicative date for signature of grant agreements</i>	21 December 2024	12 April 2025	18 November 2025	24 March 2025

Evaluation Process:

STEP1: Nov-Dec. 2024

STEP2: March 2025