UK Research Office
Brussels

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Dr Anja Berndt & Dr Peter Buchanan

Interim MSCA NCPs

mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk

MSCA: A world reference for research and training

Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stages of career)

Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)

International, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral mobility

Attractive working and employment conditions

Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes

Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs

European Commission

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Doctoral Networks

Supporting programmes to train doctoral candidates in academic and non-academic organisations

Next call opens on **28 May 2025**

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Supporting career development and training of postdoctoral researchers

Next call opens on **8 May 2025**

Staff Exchanges

Encouraging collaborations between organisations through staff exchanges

Next call opens on **27 March 2025**

COFUND

Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes

Deadline on **24 June 2025**

MSCA and Citizens

Bringing research closer to the public via European Researchers' Nights

Next call opens on **17 June 2025**

European Commission

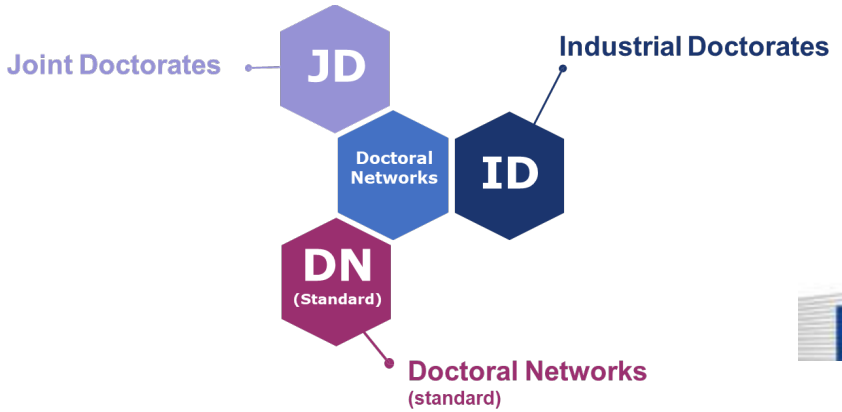
MSCA-Doctoral Networks (DN)

Objectives

- ✓ **Implement doctoral programmes** by partnerships of organisations from different sectors across Europe and beyond
- ✓ **Train highly skilled doctoral candidates**, stimulate their creativity
- ✓ **Enhance their innovation capacities**
- ✓ **Boost their employability** in the long-term

Implementation

- ✓ **One consortium** proposing a research project
- ✓ With **interlinked individual PhD research projects**
- ✓ For **doctoral candidates**



European Commission

Doctoral Networks

Basic Features

- **Scope** | All areas of research may be funded
- **Project duration** | up to **4 years** (up to 5 years for JD projects)
- **Fellowship duration** | min 3 /**max 36 months** (between 3 and 48 months in the case of JD fellowships)
- **Secondments** | Worldwide, **up to 1/3** of the fellowship duration

Who can apply?

At least 3 independent legal entities:

- Each established in a different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Country
- Minimum of 1 beneficiary from an EU Member State

All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate

No more than 40.0% of the EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country

- ✓ Specific eligibility conditions for Industrial and Joint Doctorates
- ✓ Re-submission restrictions for proposals scoring below 80%

European Commission

MSCA-Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Objectives

- ✓ **Support researchers' careers** and foster excellence in research
- ✓ **For PhD wishing to carry out their research abroad,** acquire new skills and develop their careers
- ✓ **Help researchers gain experience in other countries,** disciplines and non-academic sectors

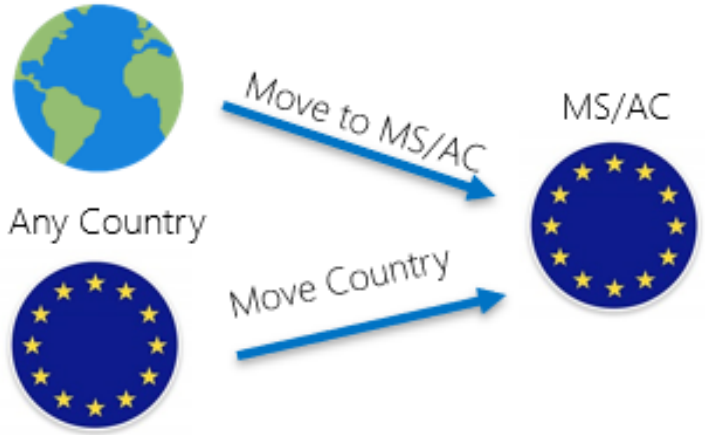
Implementation

- ✓ **Individual, bottom-up** research project - funds all research areas!
- ✓ For **individuals holding a PhD**
- ✓ Two types of implementation: *European* and *Global* Postdoctoral fellowships
- ✓ Fellowships **last between 12-36 months,** depending on the type of fellowship
- ✓ All fellowships **can include short stays, research trips, field work, secondments and placements** in the non-academic sector - *all are optional*

European Commission

2 types of MSCA Fellowships

European Fellowships
(12-24 months)



Mobility rule applies to the host organisation (the beneficiary)

Global Fellowships
(12-24 months) + (12 month return phase)

Mobility rule applies to the organisation hosting the **outgoing phase** (the associated partner)

**applicants must be considered a long-term resident of one or more EU Member States (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Countries (AC) of at least 5 consecutive years.*

UK Research Office Brussels

European Commission

MSCA-COFUND (COFUND)

Objectives

- ✓ **Implement doctoral and postdoctoral training programmes** through co-funding between EC and beneficiaries
- ✓ **Develop and train doctoral candidates**, leading to PhD award
- ✓ **Provide research training and career development** for postdoctoral researchers

Implementation

- ✓ **Single legal entity** (e.g. university, enterprise, research organisation, government entity) in an EU Member State or Associated Country
- ✓ **Proposal for new or existing** doctoral or postdoctoral training programmes
- ✓ EC provides fixed minimum contribution

European Commission

The Two Types

Programme	Objective
Doctoral Programmes (DPs)	• offer research training activities to allow doctoral candidates to develop and broaden their skills and competences • Should **lead to the award of a doctoral degree** in at least one EU MS or HE AC • training activities should be based on the EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training. • **Must provide for call(s),** which would allow the **researchers to propose their own project or to choose among research projects** proposed to them
Fellowship Programmes (FPs)	• fund individual research training and career development fellowships for postdoctoral researchers • Researchers are **expected to write their own proposals and choose their host institution** • **individual fellowships vary from 12 to 36 months** • If fellowship includes an outgoing phase, must include a mandatory 12 month return phase (Similar to the Global Fellowships)

MSCA STAFF EXCHANGE

Objectives

- ✓ International, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary **mobility of R&I staff**
- ✓ **Knowledge transfer** between participating organisations
- ✓ **Collaboration** between the **academic and non-academic sectors** (including SMEs)
- ✓ **Cooperation** across the globe

Implementation

- ✓ **One consortium** from different sectors and/or countries
- ✓ **Collaborative R&I project** implemented through **secondments**
- ✓ EC unit contribution to support secondments

European Commission

Striving for excellence with ERC funding

Long-term grants to conduct pioneering research projects

Over **13,000**
top researchers funded since the ERC creation in 2007

Over **90,000**
researchers and other professionals employed in ERC research teams

Over **2,400**
patents and other IPR applications generated by ERC funding

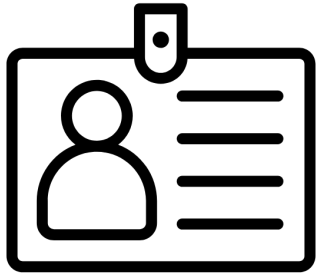
Over **400**
start-ups identified as founded or co-founded by ERC grantees

Over **250,000**
articles from ERC projects published in scientific journals

Over **900** research institutions hosting ERC grantees – universities, public or private research centres in the EU or Associated Countries

93
nationalities of grant holders

12 Nobel Prizes, **6** Fields Medals, **11** Wolf Prizes and other prizes awarded to ERC grantees



Who?

No restrictions based on age, nationality, current location or current employment/contract status

Where?

Must have an institution **based in an EU member state or associated** country willing to host them

Any field of science

No thematic restrictions

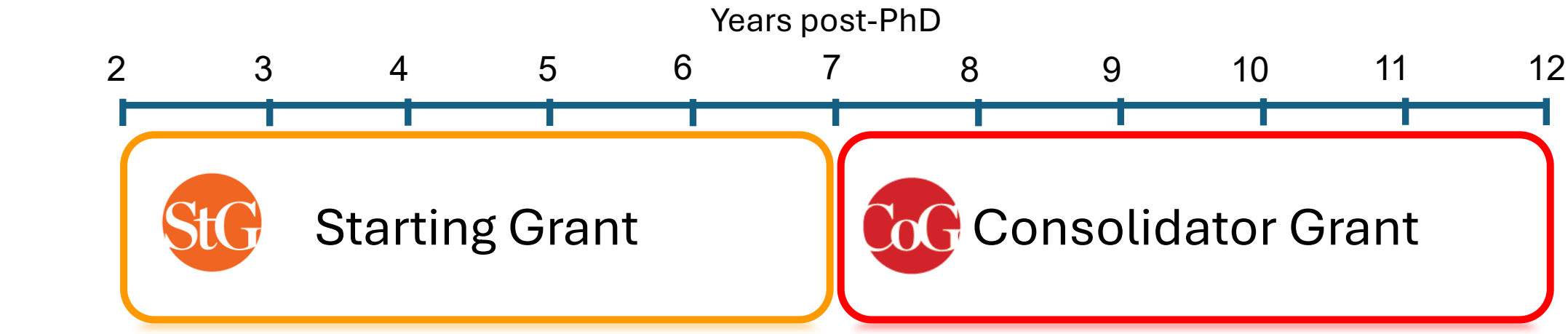
No consortium required

No co-financing needed

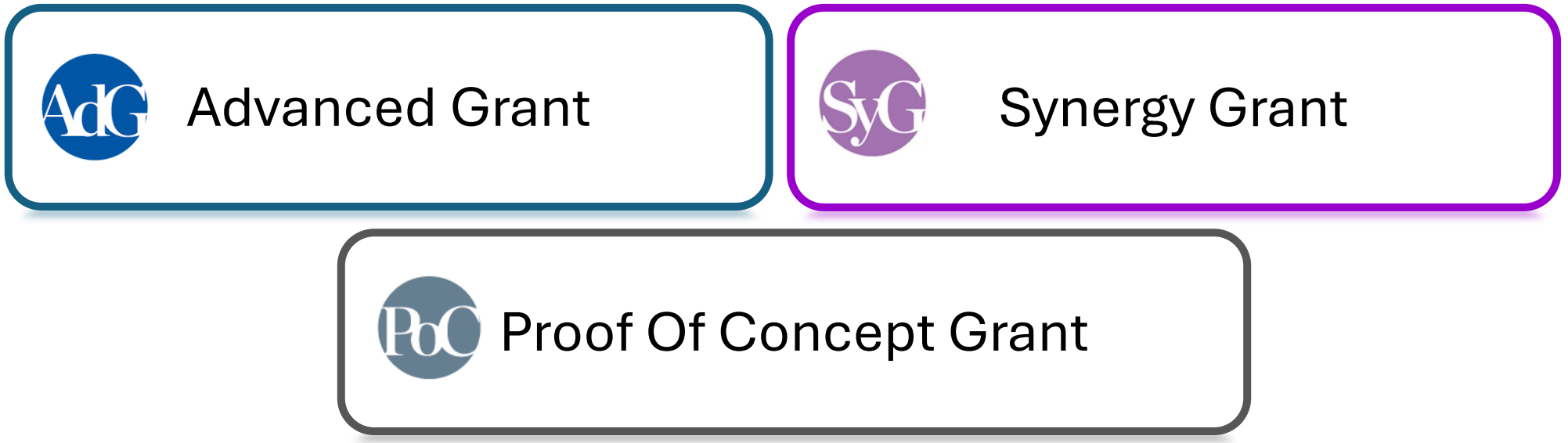
Scientific excellence of both yourself and your **ambitious** pioneering research proposal

Ready

ERC Grant Opportunities



No PhD Requirements



Starting Grant

1.5 Million euros | Up to 5 years

Your PhD between 2 and 7 years ago

At least one important publication

Supports researchers at the early stage of their careers to become independent research leaders

Consolidator Grant

2 Million euros | Up to 5 years

Your PhD between 7 and 12 years ago

Several important publications

Support researchers who are at the early stage of their careers and are often already working with their own group

Advanced Grant

2.5 Million euros | Up to 5 years

Proven track record of significant research achievement

Supports outstanding and established research leaders to continue their work in expanding the frontiers of scientific knowledge

Synergy Grant

10 Million euros | Up to 6 years

Up to 4 PIs

Enables small groups of researchers to bring together complementary skills, knowledge and resources to address ambitious research problems

Funding rate

Up to 1.5 million euros
up to 5 years

Up to 2 million euros
up to 5 years

Up to 2.5 million euros
up to 5 years

Up to 10 million euros
up to 6 years

+ 1 million of additional funding

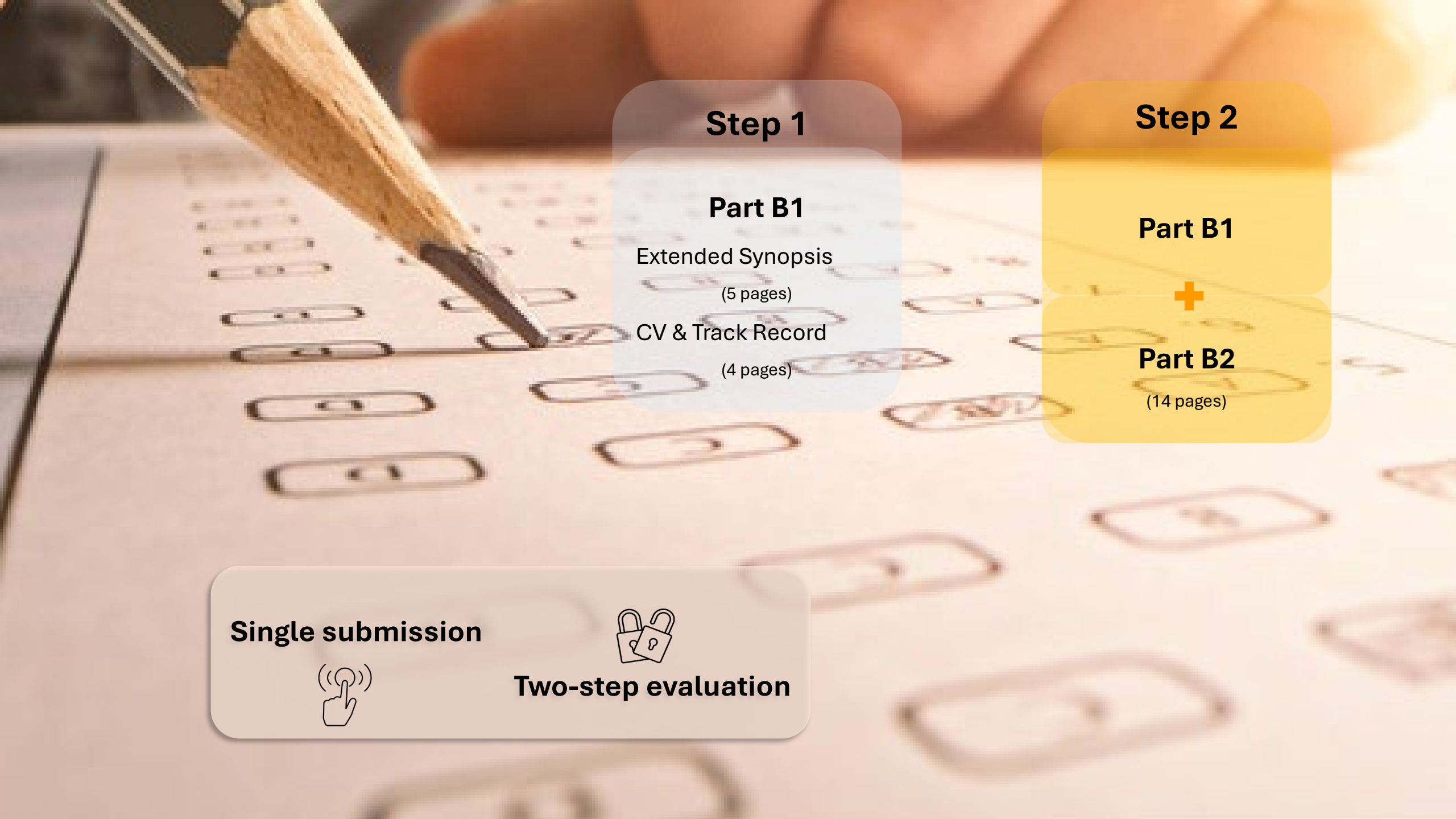
- “Start-up" costs
- Purchase of major equipment
- Access to large facilities
- Other major experimental and field work costs

Excluding personnel costs

Proof of Concept

150 k euro over 18 months

Support ERC grantees in bridging the gap between their research ideas and potential social or commercial innovation



Step 1

Part B1

Extended Synopsis

(5 pages)

CV & Track Record

(4 pages)

Step 2

Part B1

+

Part B2

(14 pages)

Single submission

Two-step evaluation

Step 1

A

B or C

Restrictions apply for resubmission

B stopped for 1 year
C stopped for 2 years

Step 2

A

If sufficient funds are available

B

No restrictions for resubmission

- Excellent Research Idea
- Rigorous scientific approach
- Exceptional track record
- Outstanding knowledge
- Devote their time
- Creativity, ambition and boldness

Best of luck with your frontier research!

erc-uk@ukro.ac.uk

Research Infrastructure Programme

Claire Devereux

Research Infrastructure Programme Committee

UK representative & UK ESFRI Delegate

RI NCP contact email: **alice.chadwick@stfc.ukri.org**

What do we mean by research infrastructure?

"Facilities, resources and services used by the research and innovation communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields"

These can include:

- large-scale physical research facilities, equipment and sets of instruments, e.g. synchrotrons, research ships, scientific satellites and 'living labs'
- knowledge-based resources, including scientific, cultural and artistic collections and archives
- networks of technologies and e-infrastructures including data and computing systems and communication networks

UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council
ISIS Neutron and Muon Source

instruct ERIC

European Social Survey

elixir STEERS

Laserlab Europe

The purpose of the Horizon RI Programme

Is not:

- **building** RIs. Member State and third countries come together to build RIs with Structural Funds and National Funding/in-kind contributions.

- Funding capital costs (with some exceptions)

It is aiming to:

- Develop an **advanced RI system** for the European Research Area
- Support **Trans-National & Virtual Access** to RI **"Erasmus for RIs"**
- Consolidate and enhance the EU RI landscape (ESFRI)
- Foster **international cooperation** of facilities, links with the private sector, and support Open Science and data-driven research through **European Open Science Cloud**
- Push the limits of **frontier research**
- Develop **cutting-edge technologies** for RIs and foster innovation
- Enhance the **international dimension** of RIs
- Enable and drive **green and digital transformations** through RI services

Opportunities to engage in Horizon RI

Researchers

- Transnational and Virtual Access ensures free of charge access
- Can include T&S as well as access costs
- Open to all European researchers and to some extent to researchers from non-EU countries, to facilities participating in the scheme

Research groups, organisations, institutes, community networks, Industry including SMEs, Research Infrastructures, ERICs

- Partnering in consortia: whether Research and Innovation Actions or Coordination and Support Actions
- Challenge-driven and curiosity/excellence-driven call topics
- ESFRI project consortia

Eligibility

- Typically, 3 member states, associated countries or EIRO Forum members (international organisations like CERN)
- Some call topics require an ESFRI project or infrastructure established under the ERIC mechanism to be involved

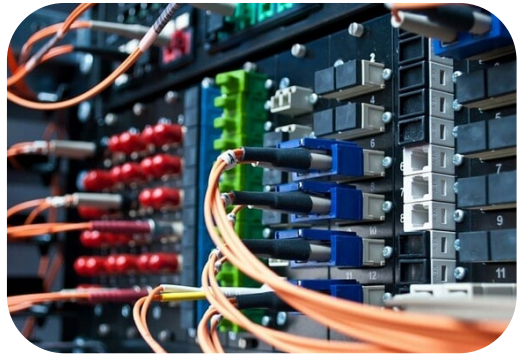
Research Infrastructure programme's 5 destinations:

INFRADEV

INFRAEOSC

INFRASERV

INFRATECH



INFRANET