

The European Research Council

Lump Sums in the 2024 ERC Advanced Grant call

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Unit B.2. - Call & Project Follow-up Coordination

14th May 2024

ERC-PI/HI event Ljubljana



European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

Lump Sum AdG 2024

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ERC AdG 2024 Lump Sum – General principles

- **No change to the evaluation criteria**
- Minimal change to the evaluation process
- The ERC project will be granted as **one formal work package**
- **1 single lump sum contribution** for the entirety of the project (broken down by beneficiary if multi-beneficiary)
- Lump sum **request defined by each project** and **capped at funding scheme ceiling** (2.5 M€ + 1 M€ of **additional funding**)
- Proposals include a **budget based on estimated costs** for the project activities
- Budget is **assessed during evaluation** (justification of resources and plausibility of costs)



ERC AdG 2024 Lump Sum – General principles (2)

- Once the lump sum contribution is established, **costs actually incurred are not relevant** (budget table not included in the grant agreement) - **Full flexibility** (transfer between costs categories)
- EU contribution **paid on basis of completion of the work as described in the DoA** (incl. deviations/equivalent tasks). 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

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

Proposal Submission - Budget

Budget must only include estimated costs on items 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 per staff category)

Beneficiary Short Name	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	
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 - including major 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. Internally invoiced goods and services/€ (No indirect costs)	E. Indirect Cost/€	Total Eligible Costs	Requested EU contribution /€

➔ All other cost categories remain the same

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



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* on how 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	

Proposal evaluation – Evaluation of resources & costs requested by applicants

No change to the proposal Part B1 or Part B2 templates as a consequence of the change in funding model – changes only as a consequence of the general changes of ERC WP 2024 as for StG and CoG – no change to the evaluation criteria!

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

Assessment of costs estimates (i.e. reasonable and non-excessive) **only at evaluation** to define the lump sum contribution (sound financial management):

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



Proposal Evaluation – ERC Dashboard (Personnel Costs)

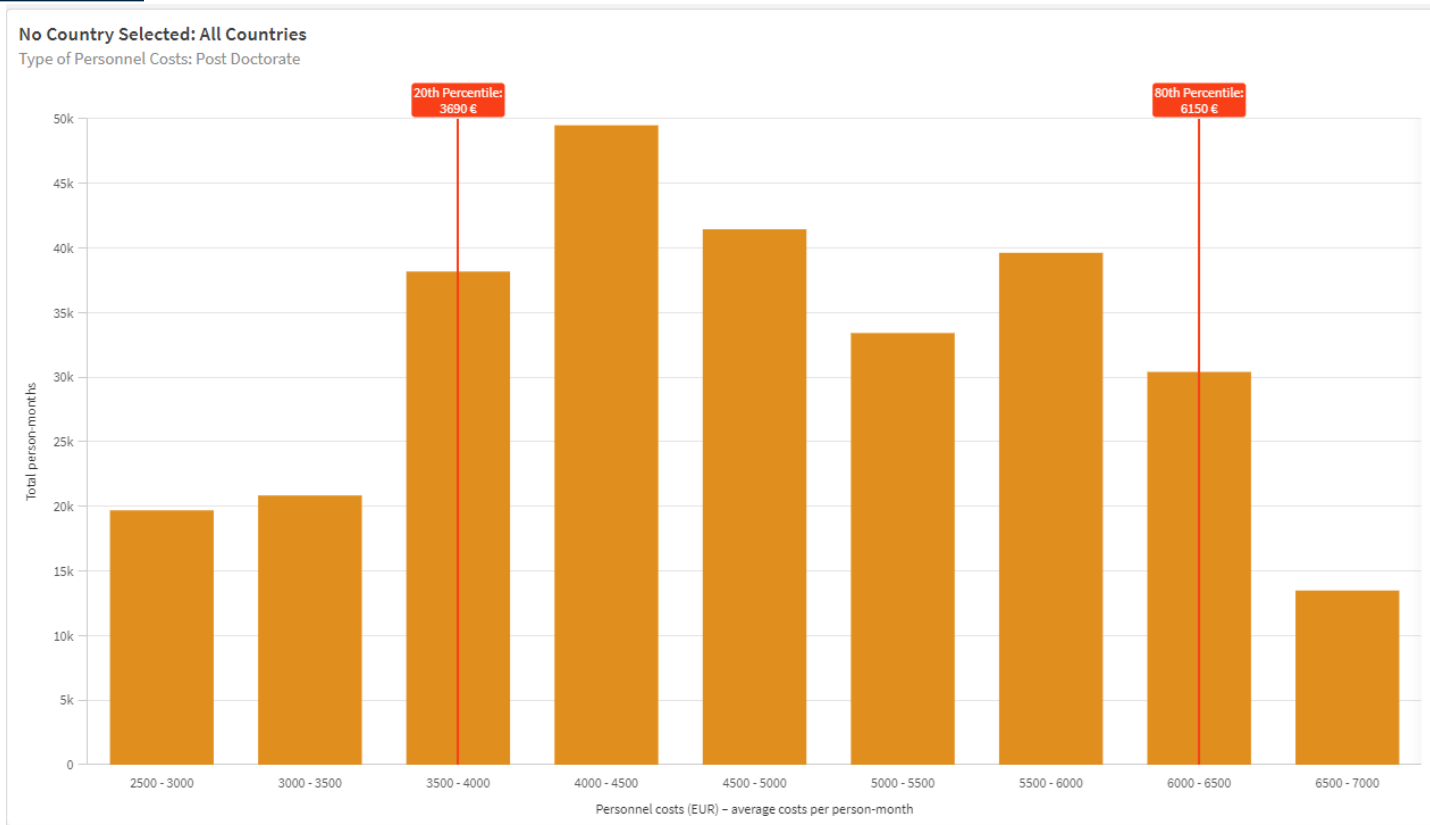
ERC Dashboard for personnel costs will be made available for applicants and panel members

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)



Communication activities

Objectives

- Information and exchange on 2024 AdG call
 - lump sum cost model
 - differences with current grants

Actions completed in 2023

- PI / HI / NCP events, Q&A on ERC website, YouTube webinar

Upcoming actions:

- ERCEA internal communication sessions
- **Specific lump sum webinars** after call opening: June + August 2024
- **Initial Panel Chairs Meeting**: September 2024
- **Support** to applicants (applicants mail-box) and panels (briefings, guidance)
- **Events**, social media

Target audiences

- National Contact Points
- Applicants
- Host Institutions
- Panel Chairs
- Panel members
- ERCEA staff (*continuous training*)

General announcements,
info to NCPs, HIs

Guidance to panel chairs
& panel members

Reporting for PIs and HIs

Info to applicants

Announcement of call
results

2024 Q1-Q2

2024 Q2 - 2025 Q1

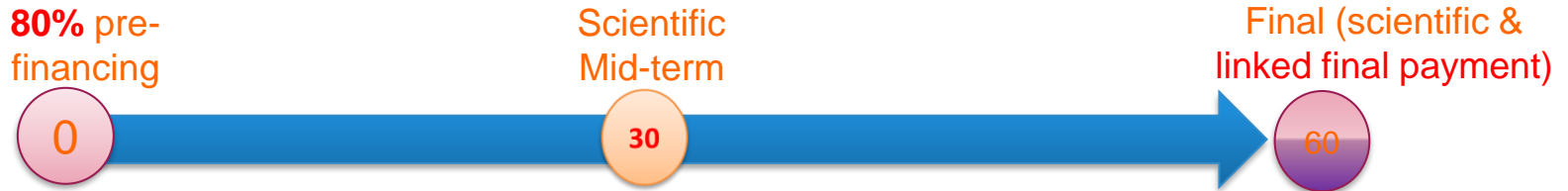
2025 Q2

2025 / 2028 / 2030



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 (as described in the DoA), 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 as declared by the PI/PI at the end of the project (contradictory procedure)

ERC Lump Sum funding – Ex-post Audits

Only on 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 requests for time-sheets or other document supporting actual costs incurred
- No more financial audits

Thank You!

More information: erc.europa.eu And ERC-2024-ADG-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu

National Contact Point: erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points

Sign up for news alerts: erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc

Funding & Tender Opportunities: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

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