



Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend
Nederland



ERC grants

Funding for excellent ideas

» *Als het gaat om duurzaamheid,
innovatie en internationaal*



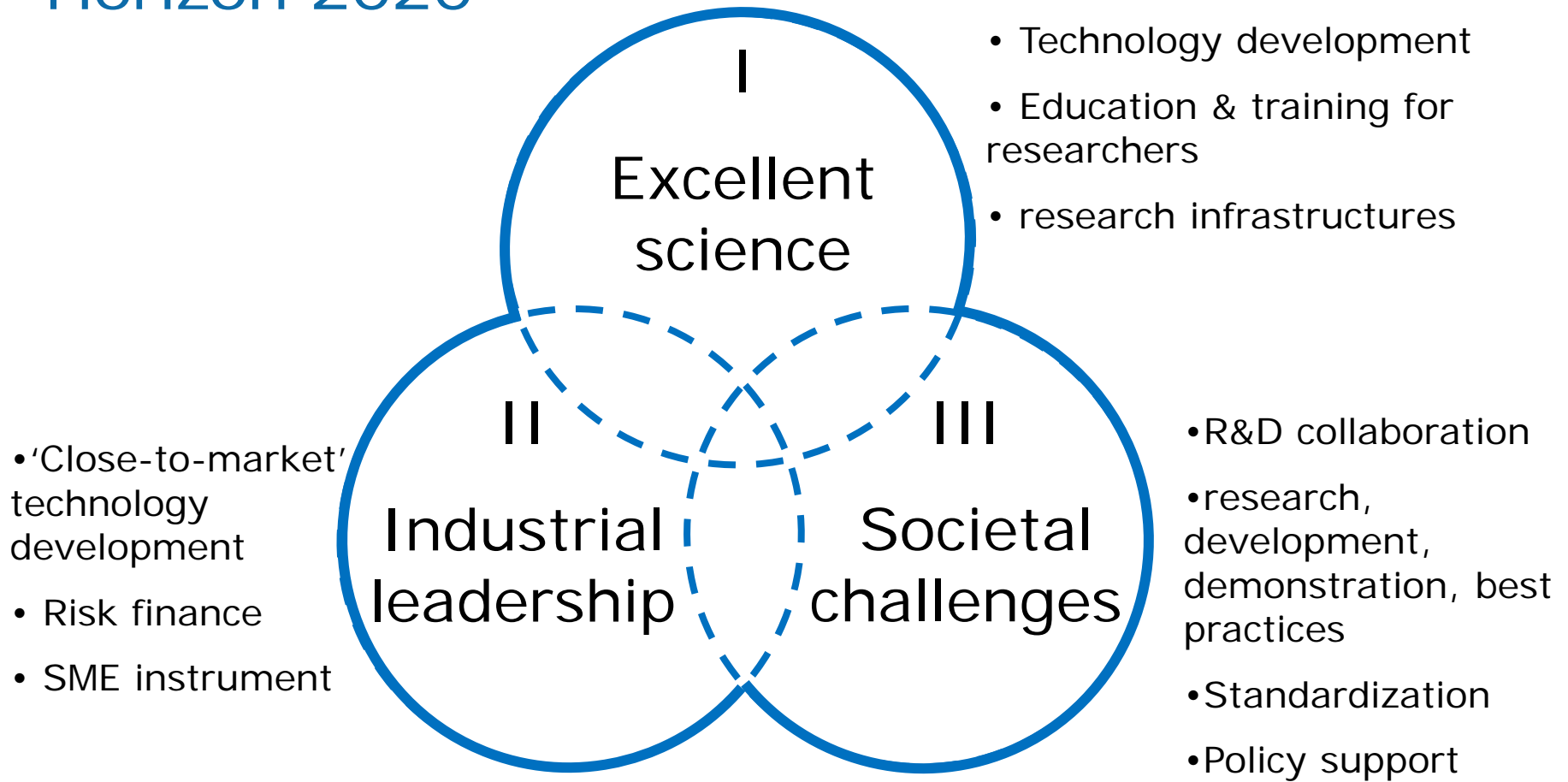
Horizon 2020

- The EU Framework programme for research and innovation
- 2014-2020
- Total 70 billion euro
- ERC: 13.1 billion euro



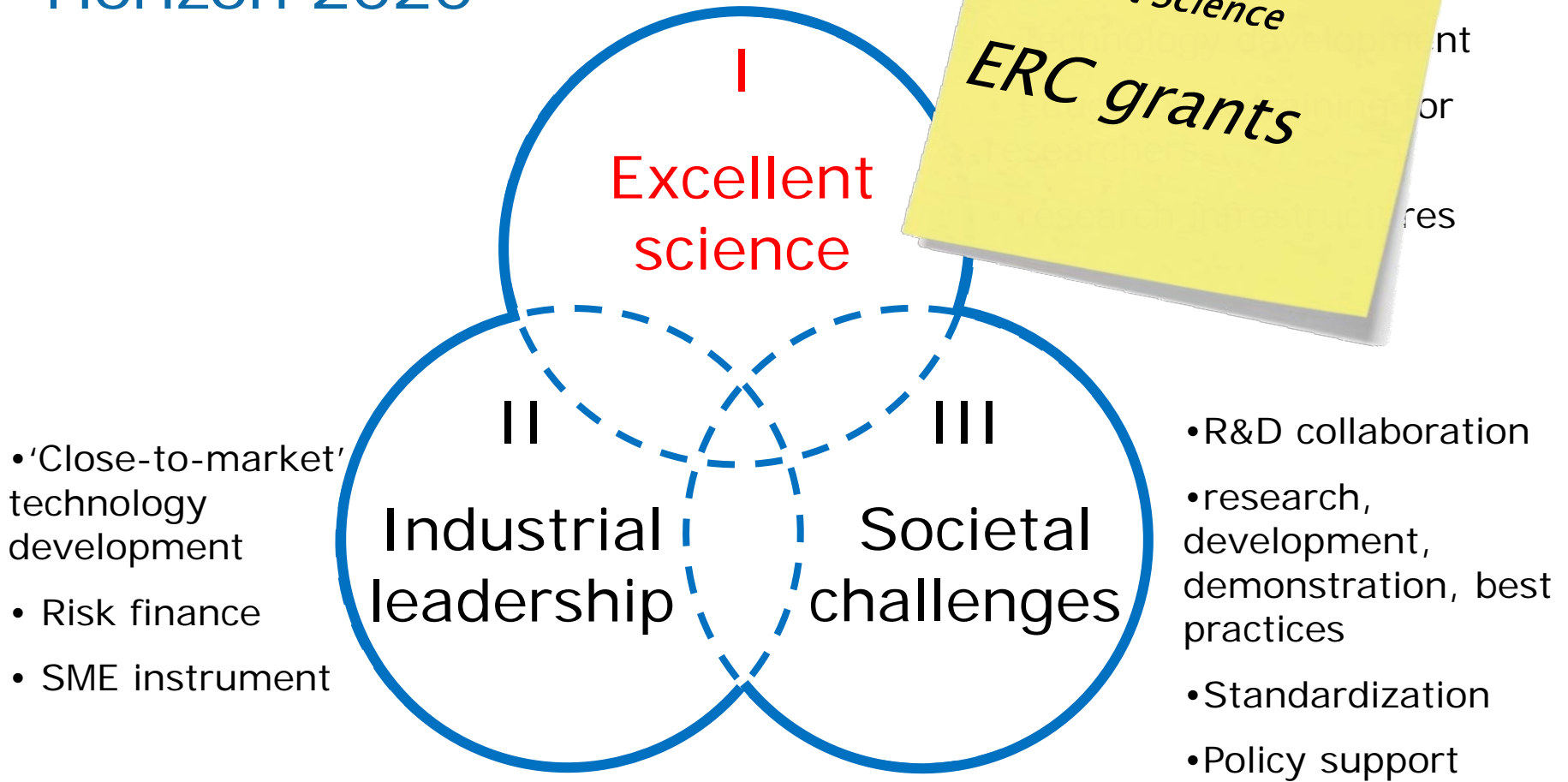


Horizon 2020





Horizon 2020



- 'Close-to-market' technology development
- Risk finance
- SME instrument

- R&D collaboration
- research, development, demonstration, best practices
- Standardization
- Policy support



ERC Starting/Consolidator grant

ERC **STARTING** Grant

2-7 years after PhD

*PI is **starting** first research team
transition to independence*

ERC **CONSOLIDATOR** grant

7-12 years after PhD

*PI is **consolidating** team
consolidation of independence*



Eligibility window (*StG and CoG*)

Starting grant (PhD 2-7 years prior to 1 January of call year)

Consolidator grant (PhD 7-12 years prior to 1 January of call year)

Extensions to eligibility window:

- Maternity leave: 18 months per child;
- Paternity leave: accumulation of actual time taken off
- Long-term illness, clinical qualification, obligatory national service

} before/
after PhD

} after PhD



Yearly calls... similar timing

Starting grant 2018

Opening: 18 July 2017
Deadline: 17 October 2017

Consolidator grant 2018

Opening: 24 October 2017
Deadline: 15 February 2018

Expected...

Starting grant 2019

deadline Oct 2018

Consolidator grant 2019

deadline February 2019



ERC StG/CoG grant - What is allowed?

- Starting grant: up to **1,5 M€**
- Consolidators grant: up to **2 M€**
- **Top up** in case of:
(0,5 M€ StG; 0,75M€ CoG)
 - PI moving to Europe*
 - purchase major equipment*
 - access to large facilities*
- Up to 5 years
- Min. 50% (StG) and 40% (CoG) of time dedicated to the project
- Including *portability*



Profile of PI (*StG* and *CoG*)

- Promising track record of early achievements, including:
 - Significant publications as main author in:
 - *major international peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journals*
 - or**
 - *the leading international peer-reviewed journals of their respective field*
- Important publications without PhD supervisor
 - StG***: at least 1; ***CoG***: several
- Invited presentations, awards, granted patents



ERC grants- Frontier research

- Any field of research*
- Interdisciplinary, crossing boundaries between different fields
- Pioneering
- New and emerging fields
- Unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions
- High risk – high gain
- Opening new horizons of knowledge



** Except nuclear energy and unacceptable ethical issues*



Submission and evaluation

- Single submission – two step evaluation
- Step 1: Short proposal (5p) and profile assessed by panel
- Step 2: full proposal (15p) assessed by panel and expert referees, interview



3 domains - 25 panels

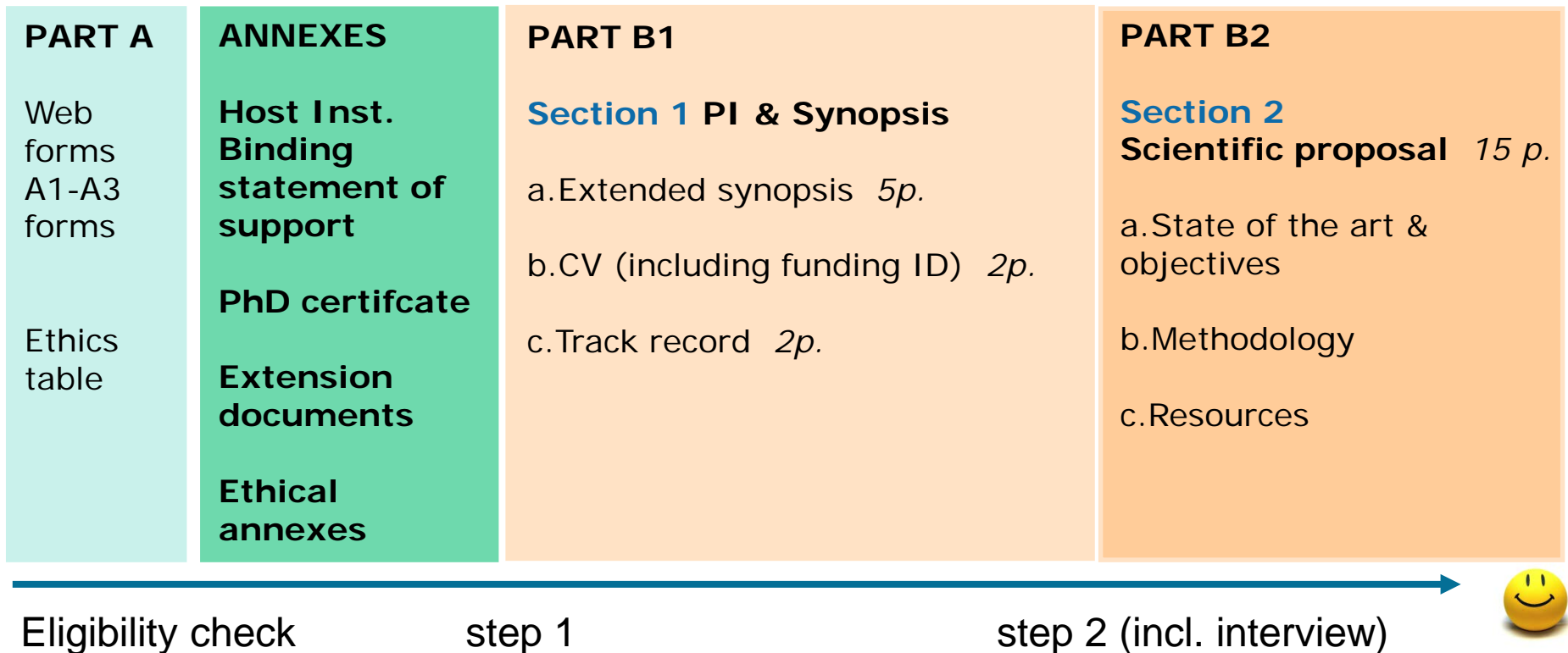
- Physical Sciences and Engineering
- Life Sciences
- Social Sciences and Humanities

Budget division over domains and panels based on No. of applications received



The proposal

Single submission – two-step evaluation





Different proposal parts – different audiences

Step 1	B1	panel	25-30% success
Step 2	B1+B2 + interview	panel + external experts	40-50% success

Final decision by panel after interview



Examples of Panels

PE5: Synthetic chemistry and materials

Materials synthesis, structure-properties relations, functional and advanced materials, molecular architecture, organic chemistry

SH4: the human mind and its complexity:

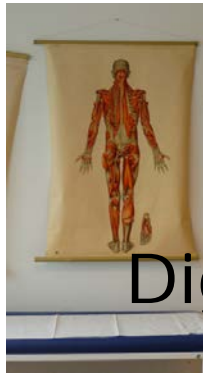
Cognitive science, psychology, linguistics, philosophy of mind

LS8: Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology

Population, community and ecosystem ecology, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology

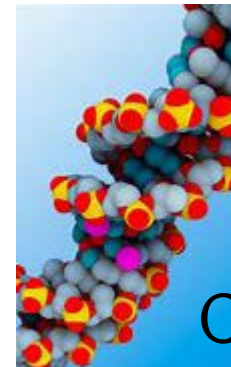


Some examples...



Digital Doctors

SH3



ChemEpigen

PE5

The

Psych  Systems

SH4

Project



Interdisciplinary research?



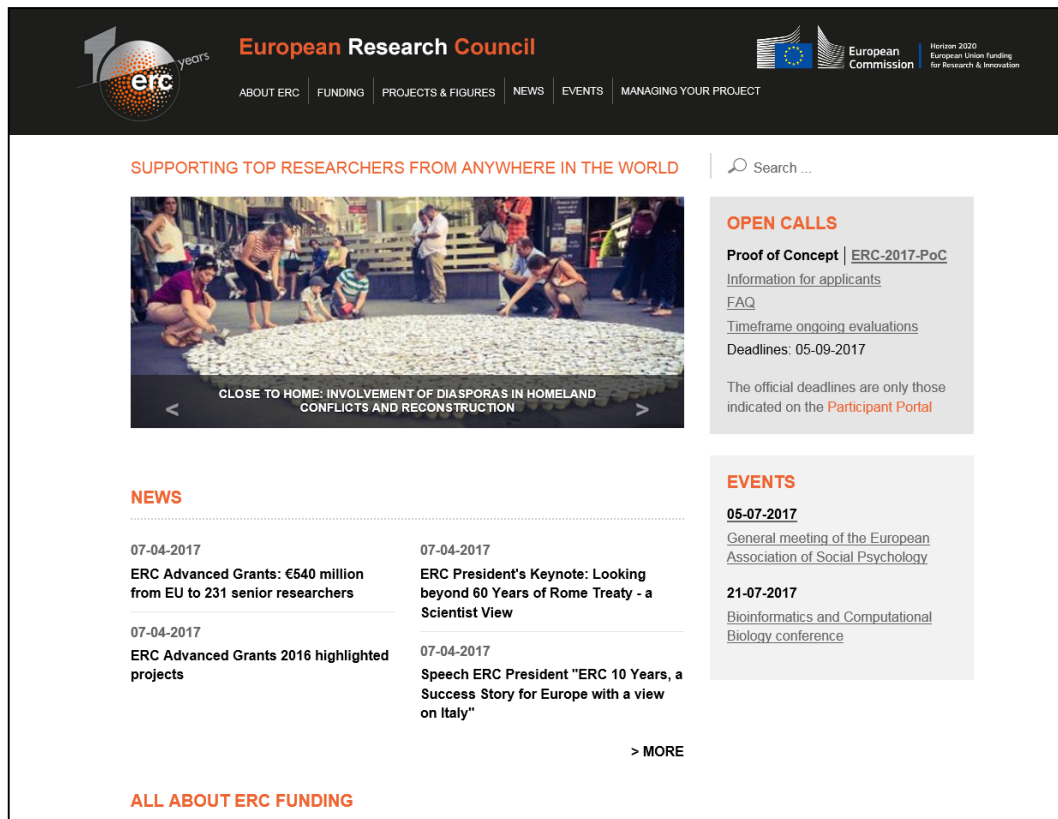


Some considerations...

- You need an excellent track record in all relevant disciplines
- Don't indicate a secondary panel; use keywords instead
- Clearly explain scientific need for interdisciplinarity
- Methodology/scientific approach important factor for panel choice



Important source of information



The screenshot shows the homepage of the European Research Council (ERC). At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ERC logo (10 years), the text "European Research Council", and the European Commission logo. Below the navigation bar, there are several sections: "SUPPORTING TOP RESEARCHERS FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD" with a search bar, "OPEN CALLS" featuring a "Proof of Concept | ERC-2017-PoC" call with links for information, FAQ, and deadlines, and "EVENTS" listing a general meeting of the European Association of Social Psychology and a bioinformatics conference. A "NEWS" section is also visible, listing several articles from April 2017. At the bottom, there is a link for "ALL ABOUT ERC FUNDING".

erc.europa.eu

- Calls
- Panels
- News alerts
- Funded projects



Need support?

Your local EU support office

National Contact Point for ERC:
Esther Verhoeven and Doenja Koppejan



www.rvo.nl/horizon2020



horizon.erc@rvo.nl



088-6024210



Lessons learned



Lessons learned – *Life Sciences*

Frequent remarks in rejected proposals

- Not enough high impact papers without PhD supervisor (StG/CoG)
 - PI remained in lab of PhD supervisor (StG)
 - No proven expertise on risky/groundbreaking parts of project
 - Publications with high number citations are reviews
 - Recent scientific output of lower quality compared to earlier work (AdG)
-
- Project is standard continuation of previous work
 - Project not hypothesis-driven
 - Coherence between subprojects unclear
 - Proposed experiments not suited to answer research questions



Lessons learned – *Physical sciences & engineering*

Frequent remarks in rejected proposals

- High impact publications only from collaborations and leading role of applicant not clear
- Not enough experience supervising PhD students

- Absence of project planning
- Too much focus on technological development/engineering without considering scientific questions
- Doubts regarding technological feasibility
- Not enough information provided on methodology



Lessons learned – *Social sciences & Humanities*

Frequent remarks in rejected proposals

- Not enough experience supervising PhD students
 - No external funding acquired
 - No experience managing large grant (AdG)
 - Books published in Dutch (no other language)
 - No peer reviewed articles
-
- Theoretical framework not sufficiently addressed
 - Workplan not clear
 - No innovative research methodologies
 - Project doesn't add to theory formation/new conceptual development



ERC panel member:

"We are looking to fund excellent scientists with a vision and brilliant plans to achieve that vision, rather than individual research projects..."



Start early...

