

# The European Research Council

## PI/HI/ERCEA Rights and Obligations

05/2026, Paris



**European Research Council**

Established by the European Commission

# Agenda

---



# ERC MGA – Contractual parties

---

- **Grant Agreement:** contract signed by the **Agency and the Host Institution** – the Principal investigator is actually a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to the contract (does not sign the contract)
  - ✓ The Host institution **must host and engage** (employ) the principal investigator
- **Supplementary agreement:** a contract signed by the **Host Institution and the Principal investigator** to reflect the rights and obligations stemming from the grant agreement

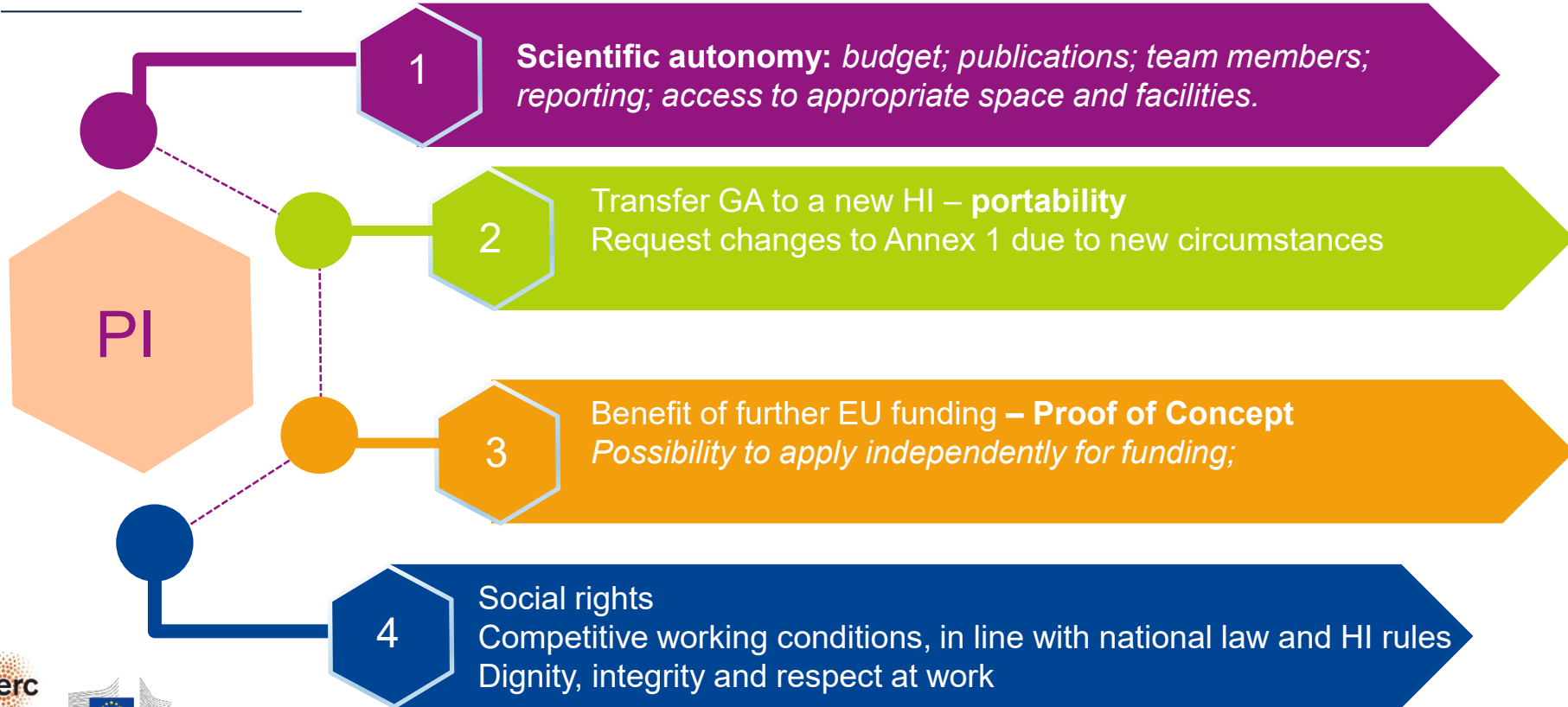


# Agenda

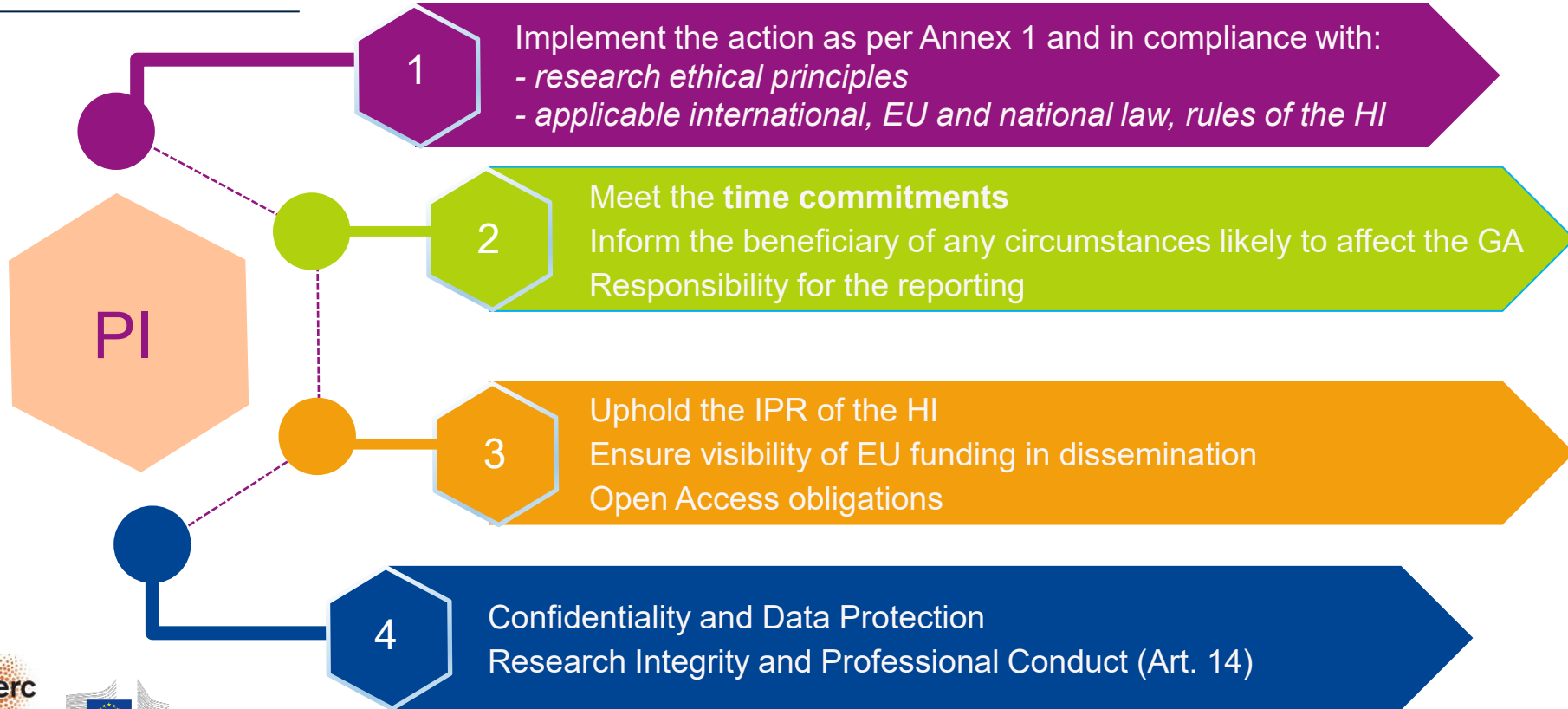
---



# PI – Rights H2020 & HE



# PI – Obligations H2020 & HE



# PI – Obligations: Time commitment

---

- Established in the Work Programme
- Devote at least **50% (StG)**, **40% (CoG)** and **30% (AdG & SyG)** of the total working time to the ERC-funded project (can be higher in Annex 1)
- At least **50%** of the total working time in EU/AC
- The time commitment should be respected for the **overall duration** of the project
- Time spent by the PI on **fieldwork or other research activities** may count as time spent in the EU or the Associated Countries



# PI/HI - Obligations - IPR: Protection & Exploitation

---

- The PI/HI must adequately **protect** results of their research (trademarks, patents, copyrights) for an appropriate period/territory, considering its legitimate interests.
  - ✓ Good practice: keeping laboratory records, diaries, opting for non-disclosure agreements, train the teams on security best practices
- The beneficiaries (result owners) must be proactive and take specific measures to try to ensure that their results are **exploited** (to the extent possible and justified): in future research activities, commercialization and marketing of a product...
  - ✓ **Novelty HE:** If despite efforts the results are not used within 1 year, then they must be made visible on **HORIZON RESULTS PLATFORM**



# PI/HI - Obligations - Social Package HE

## ARTICLE 18

- The beneficiaries **must** take all measures to implement the principles set out in the Commission Recommendation on the **European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers**, in particular regarding:
  - ✓ working conditions
  - ✓ transparent recruitment processes based on merit, and
  - ✓ career development

## ARTICLE 14 Gender mainstreaming – *best effort obligation*

- The beneficiaries must take all measures to **promote equal opportunities between men and women** in the implementation of the action and, where applicable, in line with the **gender equality plan**. They must aim, to the **extent possible**, for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

## ARTICLE 14.2 Values

- The beneficiaries must **commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values** (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).



# Agenda

---



# HI – Rights & Obligations H2020 & HE



## Main rights

Own the **results** generated by the project

Be **reimbursed** for the eligible costs incurred

Apply its **usual management & accounting practices**

Be informed by the PI of any events or circumstances likely to affect the GA



## Main obligations

Meet its **obligations under the Agreement**

- *Implementation; PI's guidance; reports*
- *Inform ERCEA*
- *Keep records*
- *Ensure 'exploitation' and dissemination of results*
- *Ensure Open Access*

Guarantee **PI's scientific independence**

Provide **research & administrative support**

Provide **appropriate and competitive social rights**

Have a **Gender Equality Plan (HE)**

# Agenda

---



# ERCEA – Rights & Obligations H2020 & HE



## Main rights

Carry out checks, reviews, audits, investigations

Evaluate the **impact** of the action

Assume ownership to ensure the **protection of the results** if the HI fails to protect them.

**Object to a transfer** of ownership or the exclusive licensing of results



## Main obligations

Support PIs and HIs

Reply in a **reasonable time**

**Assess** financial and scientific reports in due time

**Reimburse** the HI for the eligible costs incurred

Ensure a **fair and non-discriminatory treatment** among all the beneficiaries - process any personal data under the relevant GDPR

# Agenda

---



# Checks and Audits

---

- The ERCEA promotes a **trust-based** project management policy
- **Checks** can be done in **different forms**:
  - ✓ Request to provide supporting documents or alternative evidence
  - ✓ Scientific visits
  - ✓ Audits by the Granting Authority and/or other bodies (Art. 25 of the GA)



# Consequences of non-compliance

---

- Any breach of the HI/PI obligations may lead to :
  - ✓ Termination due to serious breaches
  - ✓ Rejection of costs not linked to the action or not foreseen
  - ✓ Recovery orders following an audit
  - ✓ Reduction of grant
  - ✓ Suspension

# ERC services

- ✓ Daily support (administrative, financial, scientific, ethic procedures)
- ✓ Support to communication & dissemination activity
- ✓ Reporting templates (all info on Portal and ERC website)
  - Scientific reporting
  - Financial reporting
  - Amendments
  - Data Management Plan
- FAQs
- Outreach events for PIs

Main contact

PO

Scientific Officer

Ethic Officer

Legal Officer

Auditor

Communication team



# Evaluation QR code

---



# Thank You!

More Information: [erc.europa.eu](http://erc.europa.eu)

National Contact Point: [erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points](http://erc.europa.eu/national-contact-points)

Sign up for news alerts: [erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc](http://erc.europa.eu/keep-updated-erc)

Financial and administrative matters explained in 6 [videos](#)

Follow us on



[www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil)



[twitter.com/ERC\\_Research](https://twitter.com/ERC_Research)



[www.linkedin.com/company/european-research-council](http://www.linkedin.com/company/european-research-council)



<https://www.youtube.com/c/EuropeanResearchCouncil>

