

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

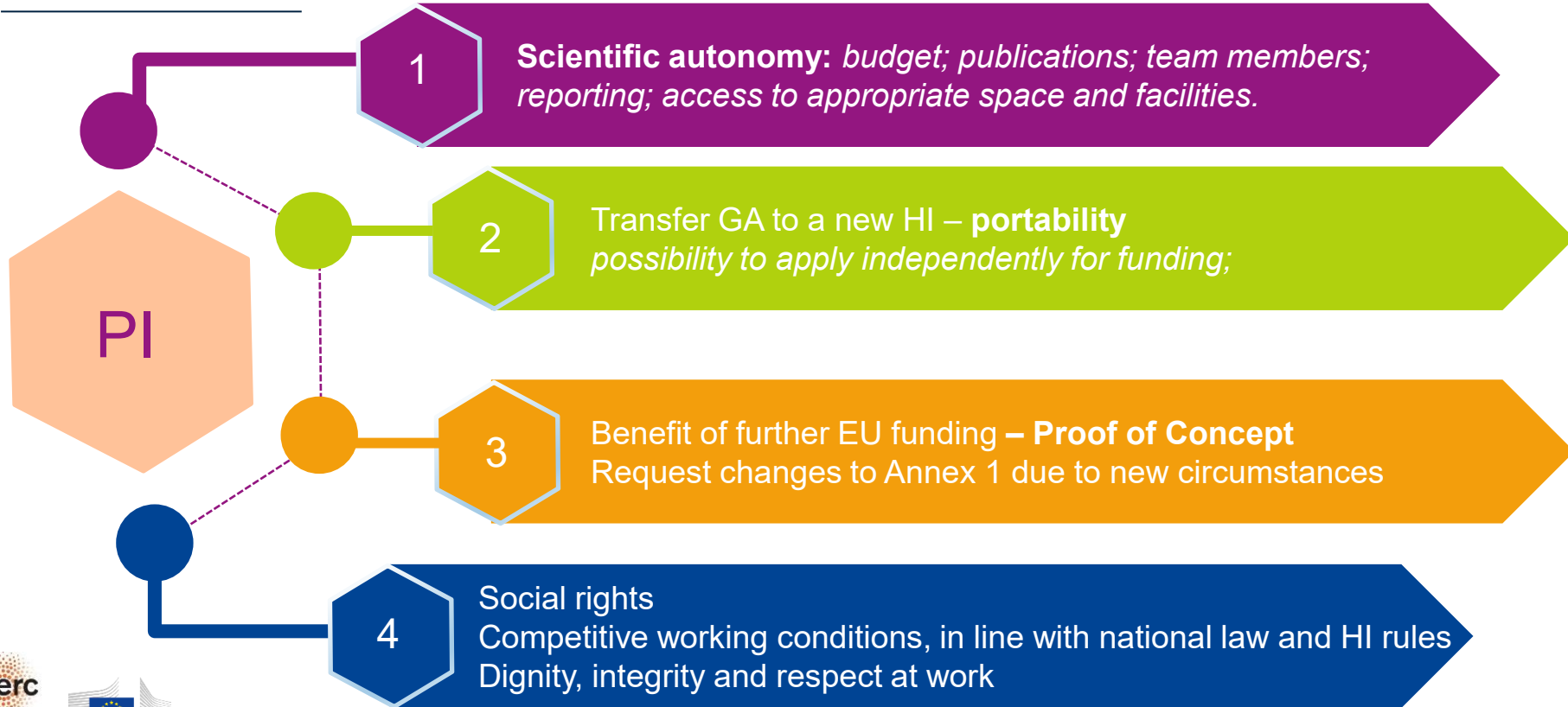
- **Model Grant Agreement:** contract signed by the **Agency and the Host Institution** – the Principal investigator is actually a 3rd party to the contract (does not sign the contract)
- **Supplementary agreement:** a contract signed by the **Host Institution and the Principal investigator** to reflect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



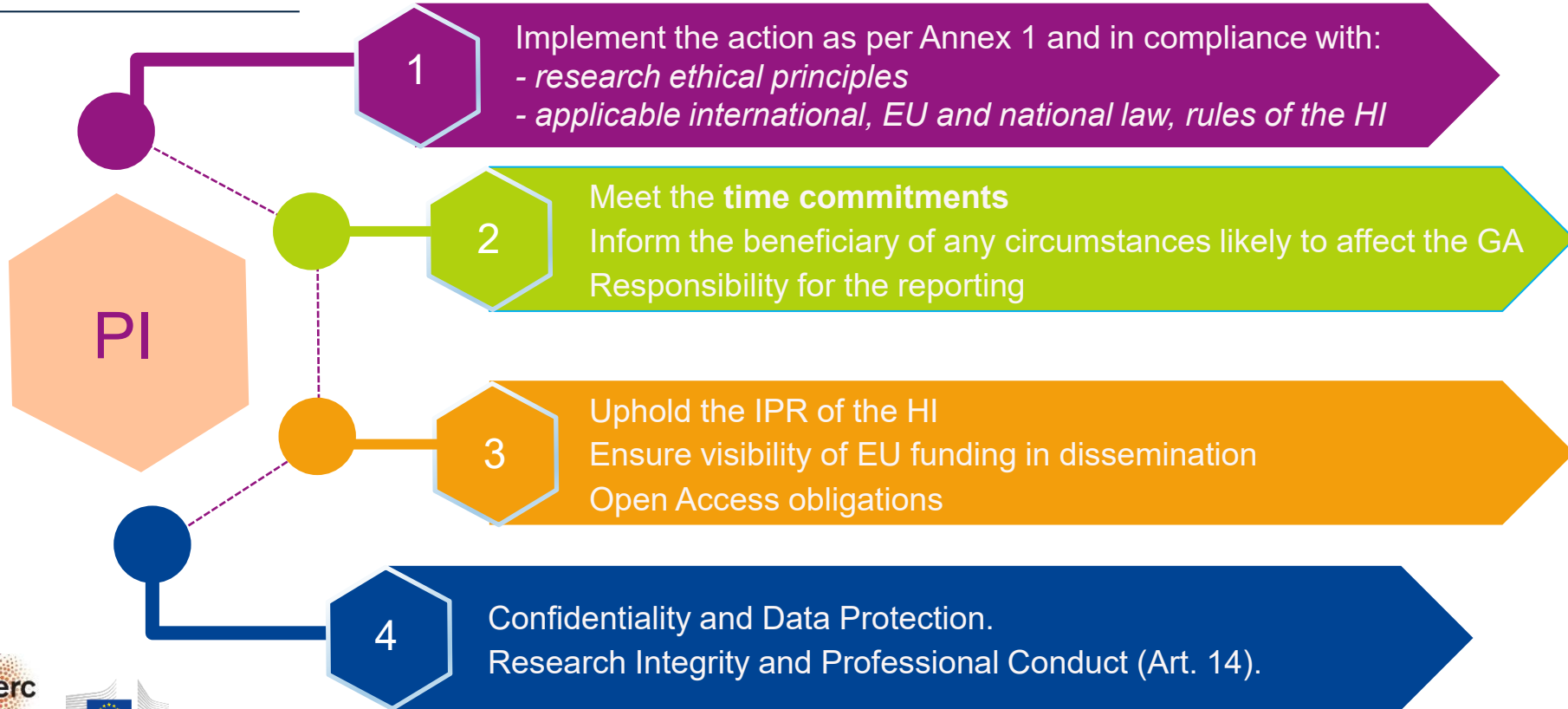
Agenda



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
- 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 **field work or other research activities** may count as time spent in the EU or the Associated Countries



PI – Obligations: Communication & Dissemination

- **Communicate** on results, **report back** to the Agency on outreach activities, **acknowledge the ERC funding** in all communication materials and activities, use ERC/EU visual identity.
- Contact ERC if you are planning activities with a **major media impact** (compulsory for Horizon 2020 beneficiaries).
- The **ERC Communication team** can relay your news and results through its own and EC channels. Send us your material at erc-project-promotion@ec.europa.eu

Data Management Plan = Dissemination plan (compulsory at month 6)



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

- Be **reimbursed** for the incurred costs
- Own the results** generated by the project
- 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

Assess financial and scientific reports in due time

Reimburse the HI for the costs incurred

Reply in a **reasonable time**

Ensure a **fair and non-discriminatory treatment** among all the beneficiaries

Process any personal data under the relevant GDPR v | 14

Agenda



Checks and Audits

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

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

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

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

Follow us on



www.facebook.com/EuropeanResearchCouncil



twitter.com/ERC_Research



www.linkedin.com/company/european-research-council



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



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

