

The European Research Council

Introduction to Lump Sum

Lawrence THIRIAR
Assistant to the Head of the Grant Management
Department

ERC grant management event for
Principal Investigators and Host Institutions
26th May 2026



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Presentation

1. Introduction and main principles of lump sums
2. Submission and evaluation
3. Granting and implementation



Introduction and main principles of lump sums



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ERC Lump Sum funding – Lump Sum type

2 main options:

1. **Fixed lump sum amount** (in Call for proposals). Same amount for all projects => **ERC Proof of Concept (since ERC WP 2019)**
2. **Lump sum amount** is defined by the proposals activities and resources needed (**different for each project**) => **AdG (since ERC WP 2024) & ERC PLUS (since ERC WP 2026)**

Main simplification:

Once Lump Sum contribution established, costs actually incurred are not relevant (not reported, not documented, not audited)



ERC Lump Sum (AdG & ERC+) – General principles

- Evaluation criteria remains **Scientific Excellence only**
- Proposals include a **budget based on estimated costs** related to activities
- Budget is **assessed during evaluation** (resources justification and costs plausibility)
- Lump sum **amount defined by project** (different for each project) and **capped at funding scheme ceiling**
- Right for **grant portability** remains for Principal Investigators



ERC Lump Sum (AdG & ERC+) – General principles (2)

- 1 single lump sum contribution for the entirety of the project (broken down by beneficiary only – NOT per work package)
- EU contribution **paid on basis of activities completion**. Not linked to successful outcome (nor to costs incurred)
- Ex-post **audits only on proper implementation** (not costs) & **compliance with non-financial obligations** (e.g. ethics, procurement procedures, PI time commitments)



Submission and evaluation

ERC Lump Sum funding – Submission & Evaluation

Proposal submission:

- **No change to Part B1 and Part B2** as a consequence of lump sum model
- **Additional details on budget** (person-month & depreciation table, use of resource section more structured)

Proposal Evaluation:

- **Same evaluation criteria:** scientific excellence only; focus remains on scientific merits of proposal
- **Assessment of costs** estimates (i.e. reasonable and non-excessive) to ensure sound financial management



Importance of a well-done budget, but within limit of what makes sense for a 5-year frontier research project



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 in the administrative Form A)

'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.



Proposal Submission - Budget table (Personnel costs)

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

- 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

Proposal Submission (AdG 2026) - Equipment depreciation table (mandatory annex)

- Excel template is a **mandatory attachment** to be uploaded at submission

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 Submission (AdG 2026) - 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

ERC Plus 2026 call – transition to dynamic forms

→ Budget calculation interface looks different; straightforward to fill in

→ Separate budget for each participating entity in drop down sections

→ Narrative part of the budget with 4+2 sections remains the same

Section C: Resources

A. Personnel

B. Subcontracting (if applicable)

C. Purchase costs

D. Internally invoiced goods and services (if applicable)

Funding from other sources (if applicable)

Budget calculation sheets

Search Tool X Q Sort By Sort By /

Order no.	Participant name	Role	Participant total costs	Total requested EU contribution
1	Baird Consulting SCS	Coordinator	0 €	0 €

Order no.	Participant name	Role	PIC
1	Baird Consulting SCS	Coordinator	95944445

Participant name	Work package number	Work package name	Work package total costs	Requested EU contribution
Baird Consulting SCS	WP1	Introduction	0 €	0 €

Participant name: Baird Consulting SCS, Work package number: WP1, Work package name: Introduction

Comments

A. Direct personnel costs

A.1 Employees (or equivalents), A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons (actual costs) (€1)*

Principal investigators	0 person month	x	0 €	=	0 €
Senior Staff	0 person month	x	0 €	=	0 €
Post docs	0 person month	x	0 €	=	0 €
Students	0 person month	x	0 €	=	0 €

ERC Plus 2026 call – Depreciation costs integrated in the dynamic forms (no equipment table to be uploaded as an annex)

Depreciation costs

The resulting amount is NOT automatically transferred to the 'Budget Calculation Sheets'. You must add it manually under the cost category 'C.2 Equipment' in the appropriate work package of the beneficiary concerned.

Search Text

Sort By

Participant short name	Work package	Resource type	Charged depreciation costs per investment	<input type="button" value="refresh"/> <input type="button" value="add"/>
Baird Consulting SCS	Introduction	Equipment	5,000 €	<input type="button" value="delete"/>
Participant short name*	Work package*	Resource type	Short name of investment	
<input type="text" value="Baird Consulting SCS"/> <input type="button" value="x"/>	<input type="text" value="Introduction"/> <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="text" value="Equipment"/> <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="text" value="Computer"/> <input type="button" value="x"/>	
Date of purchase (real or planned date of purchase)	Purchase cost*	% used for the project*	% of useful life of the equipment in the project*	
<input type="text" value="01/06/2026"/> <input type="button" value="x"/> <input type="button" value="calendar"/>	<input type="text" value="10,000"/> <input type="button" value="x"/> <input type="text" value="€"/>	<input type="text" value="50"/> <input type="button" value="x"/>	<input type="text" value="100"/> <input type="button" value="x"/>	
Comments <input type="button" value="help"/>			Charged depreciation costs per investment	
<input type="text"/>			5,000 €	

Items per page:

Showing 1 of 1



Proposal Evaluation – Evaluation of resources & costs

Evaluation criteria remains **Scientific Excellence only**

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

In-depth assessment of costs estimates (i.e. reasonable and non-excessive) **only at evaluation** to define Lump Sum Contribution (sound financial management):

- **eligibility** of costs
- **reasonable, non-excessive costs (ERC Dashboard)**



Proposal Evaluation – ERC Dashboard (Personnel Costs)

ERC Dashboard available for **applicants and panel members**

In line with RTD Dashboard, except:

- Based on **ERC historical data** - actual personnel costs paid within the 6 last year preceding the call (updated for each Advanced Grant call)
- Displayed by **Country and Staff Category**



Proposal Evaluation – ERC Dashboard (Personnel Costs)

Average personnel costs per month- Utilize filters to segment by country, and type of personnel expenses.

Select a country Select a Personnel Cost Type



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ERC historical data on personnel costs for ADG calls

20th Percentile

€2,750.00

50th Percentile-Median

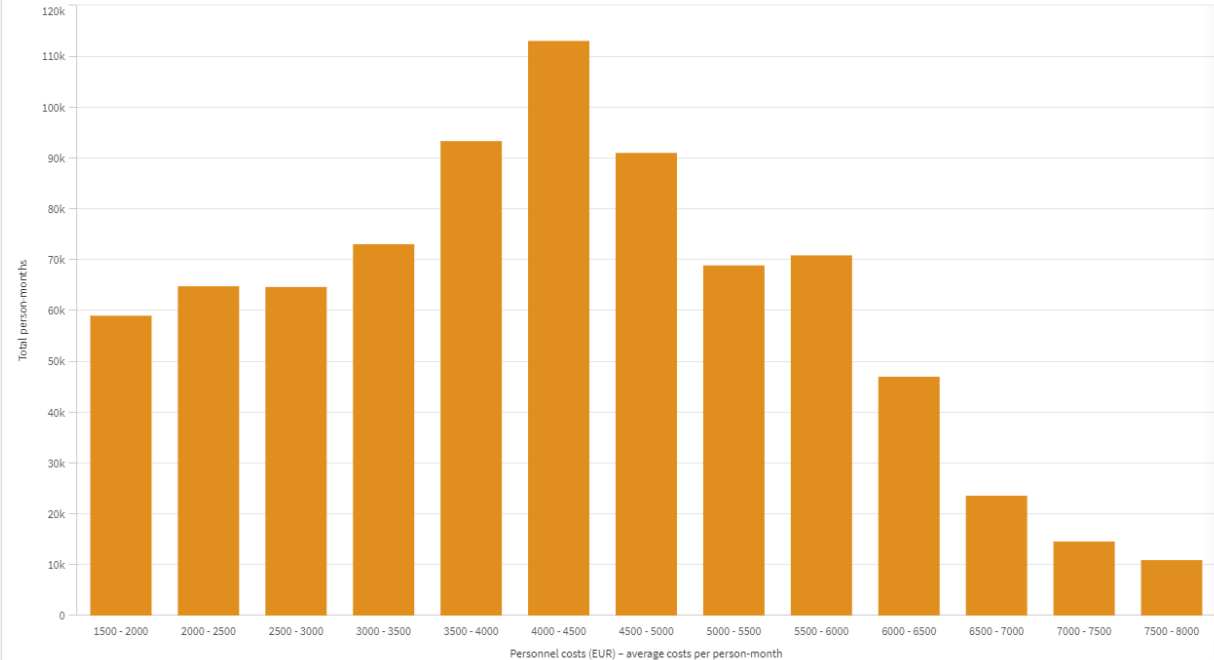
€4,420.00

80th Percentile

€6,200.00

No Country Selected: All Countries

No Personnel Cost Type Selected: All Types of Personnel Costs



Granting and implementation



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ERC Lump Sum funding – Grant Preparation & Implementation (incl. amendments)

GAP process remain **similar to actual costs model, except**

- Detailed budget table included in the proposal is removed from the GA (full flexibility)
- Ineligible costs/resources cut cannot be replaced at GAP (financial impact)

Deviations during implementation (flexibility/equivalence)

- Deviations are reported in the scientific reports
- Amendments are handled similarly to actual cost grants: only for significant changes to the DoA, extensions, new beneficiary, etc.



ERC Lump Sum funding – 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, 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 (contradictory procedure) **at the end of the project**



ERC Lump Sum funding – Ex-post Controls

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



Evaluation QR code



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