



Deadline	Thur 13 Mar 2025 17:00 Brussels time (IOCB deadline Thur 6 Mar 2025)
Call name	ERC Proof of Concept Grant 2025 cut-off 1
www	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/ERC-2025-POC https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/proof-concept
Focused on	Verification of innovation potential, commercial or societal applications of ideas during the pre-demonstration phase.
PI	ERC Grant holder of project that is ongoing or has ended after 01 Jan 2023
Eligible organisation	One institution established in an EU Member State or Associated Country: any type of legal entity: research organisation / public higher education institution / private law subject PI can submit the PoC proposal with a different HI than the one where the ERC main frontier research grant is currently (or was) implemented.
Target group	Individual research teams headed by a single PI
Expected outputs	Commercialisation of innovations through licenses to a new or existing company or through a venture funded start-up
Call opens	13 Nov 2024
IOCB deadline	Thur 7 Mar 2024 (1 st) Tue 10 Sep 2024 (2 nd)
Final deadline	Thur 13 Mar 2025 17:00 Brussels time (1st cut-off) Thur 18 Sep 2025 17:00 Brussels time (2nd cut-off)
Evaluation results	26 Jun 2025 (1 st) 14 Jan 2026 (2 nd)
Signature of agreement	25 Oct 2025 (1 st) 14 May 2026 (2 nd)
Earliest date of implementation	NA
Latest date of implementation	NA
Sustainability	None
Reporting	One report every 18 months (1.5 years)
Project duration (min-max)	12–18 months (1.5 years) (12-month project + 6-month integrated extension)
Allocation for the call	30 M EUR (200 projects in 2024 Call, approximately half of the funds will be awarded in each of the two cut-off dates)
Project budget (min-max)	150 000 EUR lump sum
Success rate	43% (2023), 48% (2021), 32% (2020)
Eligible costs	Direct costs: personnel costs, travel expenses, equipment, goods & services, open access, outsourcing (subcontracting), indirect costs: overheads (max 25% of direct costs) The ERC PoC Grant would help among others: > testing, experimenting, demonstrating, and validating the idea and enable further research covering exploitation aspects as well as research to carry these activities out and to address the weaknesses uncovered by them > establishing viability, technical issues and overall direction > clarifying IPR position and knowledge-transfer strategy > providing feedback for budgeting and other forms of commercial discussion > providing connections to later stage funding > providing connections to potential stakeholders and end users > covering initial expenses for establishing a company, or cost of other types of agreements
Reimbursement	100 % The lump sum offered will cover the beneficiaries' eligible (direct and indirect) costs for the project. If the project is implemented properly, the amounts will be paid regardless of the costs actually incurred.
Mode of funding	Ex-ante
Language of	English

application	
Provider	European Research Council, https://erc.europa.eu/ , ERC-PoC-APPLICANTS@ec.europa.eu , ERC-ETHICS-REVIEW@ec.europa.eu , ERC-OPEN-ACCESS@ec.europa.eu NCP: Technology Centre Prague, https://www.horizontevropa.cz/cs/struktura-programu-he/excelentni-veda/evropska-rada-pro-vyzkum/narodni-kontakt , Lyudmyla Tysyachna, tysyachna@tc.cz , +420 234 006 161, +420 607 006 110
Call identifier	ERC-2025-PoC-1 ERC-2025-PoC-2
Call info	The ERC Proof of Concept Grants aim to maximise the value of the excellent research that the ERC funds, by funding further work to verify the innovation potential of ideas arising from ERC funded projects. The objective is to provide funds to enable ERC-funded ideas to be brought to a pre-demonstration stage where potential commercialisation or societal opportunities have been identified. Innovations can be commercialised through licenses to a new or existing company or through a venture funded start-up, depending on the nature of the invention/idea, its potential markets, and the inventor's plans for future involvement in the commercialisation. Innovations can also feed into ventures aimed at addressing social and environmental goals including by social entrepreneurs and the voluntary and not-for-profit sectors.
Conditions / Restrictions	<p>The PI has to be ERC Grant holder of project that is ongoing or has ended after 01 Jan 2024. The PI has to demonstrate the relation between the idea to be taken to proof of concept and the ERC frontier research project (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced or Synergy) in question. The PI may submit only one proposal under each call of WP2025.</p> <p>The PI can submit the PoC proposal with a different HI than the one where the ERC Frontier Research Grant is being currently implemented.</p> <p>The PI whose proposal was rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity in the calls for proposals under WP 2023 or 2024 may not submit a proposal to the calls under the ERC 2025 PoC call.</p> <p>A maximum of three Proof of Concept Grants may be awarded per StG, CoG, AdG funded grant and a maximum of six Proof of Concept Grants per Synergy Grant, PoC projects for the same ERC main frontier research project can run in parallel.</p> <p>There is no minimum commitment percentage of the working time required to the PI. The cumulative % commitment that the PI spends on the ERC PoC action and on the main ERC StG/CoG/AdG/SyG Grant does not exceed 100%.</p> <p>The host institution support letter needs to be printed on the paper with the official letterhead of the Host Institution, originally signed, stamped and dated by the institution's legal representative. Document(s) in any language other than the EU official languages must be provided together with a certified translation into English or into any other official EU language.</p> <p>Provide only the documents requested in the call. Unless specified in the call, any hyperlinks to other documents, embedded material, and any other documents (company brochures, CVs of team members, reports, audio, video, multimedia etc.) will be disregarded.</p>
Proposal consists of	<p>On-line application in the EU Funding and Tenders Portal: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/login</p> <p>1) Administrative form (Part A, on-line on the Participant Portal): (i) General information: Data related to the ERC project, Abstract & objectives (will be publicly available), Declarations; (ii) Participants & contacts: PI & HI, Gender Equality Plan; (iii) Budget; (iv) Ethics and security; (v) Call specific questions (applicant & Project Office)</p> <p>2) Research proposal (Part B, use template, upload in PDF, max 10 pages + references): (1a) The idea – breakthrough innovation potential (max 3 pages excluding the proposal title, reference to the PoC call and name of the Part B present on the first page, above the section): (a.i) Brief description of the idea to be taken to PoC, the problem, the solution, the origin; (a.ii) Demonstration of breakthrough innovation potential; (a.iii) Demonstration of the high-risk/high-gain idea, including risk and contingency measures; (1b) Approach and methodology (max 6 pages): (b.i) approach and methodology to explore the innovation potential of your ERC-funded research; (b.ii) activities exploring pathway from ground-breaking research towards innovation; (b.iii) plan of the PoC, including description of the Action and timescale, description of the resources, description of the team; (1c) The Principal Investigator – strategic lead and project management (max 1 page excluding the risk mitigation table): the strategic lead, the project management, risk mitigation table (applicant & Project Office)</p> <p>3) Commitment of the Host Institution (use template) (Project Office & Director)</p> <p>4) Other documentation needed on eligibility and ethics issues, i.e. ethical and security self-assessment tables, letters of intent from stakeholders if relevant (applicant & Project Office)</p>
Evaluation criteria	<p>Single-step evaluation: The sole evaluation criterion of excellence consists of the following evaluation elements:</p> <p>Project</p>

	<p>1.a Breakthrough innovation potential</p> <p>1.b Approach and methodology</p> <p>Principal Investigator</p> <p>1.c Principal Investigator – strategic lead and project management</p> <p>Experts will evaluate independently each admissible and eligible proposal and mark it as “very good”, “good” or “fail” for each of the three evaluation elements. In order to be considered for funding, proposals will have to be awarded a pass mark (“very good” or “good”) by a majority of independent experts on each of the three evaluation elements.</p>
Research areas	<p>Life Sciences (9 panels): (LS1) Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions; (LS2) Integrative Biology: from Genes and Genomes to Systems; (LS3) Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration; (LS4) Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing; (LS5) Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System; (LS6) Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy; (LS7) Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases; (LS8) Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution; (LS9) Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering</p> <p>Physical Sciences & Engineering (11 panels): (PE1) Mathematics; (PE2) Fundamental Constituents of Matter; (PE3) Condensed Matter Physics; (PE4) Physical & Analytical Chemical Sciences; (PE5) Synthetic Chemistry & Materials; (PE6) Computer Science & Informatics; (PE7) Systems & Communication Engineering; (PE8) Products & Processes Engineering; (PE9) Universe Sciences; (PE10) Earth System Science; (PE11) Materials Engineering</p> <p>Social Sciences & Humanities (8 panels): (SH1) Individuals, Markets & Organisations; (SH2) Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems; (SH3) The Social World and its Interactions; (SH4) The Human Mind and its Complexity; (SH5) Texts and Concepts; (SH6) The Study of the Human Past; (SH7) Human Mobility, Environment and Space; (SH8) Studies of Cultures and Arts</p>
Call workshop	<p>How to apply for your ERC Proof of Concept grant ERC video https://youtu.be/v_WAkrKgWKs?si=vJ9XLBpcMgQ2oG_y</p>
IOCB contact	<p>Please inform the IOCB Project Office about your intention to apply. Do not hesitate to contact us anytime for consulting, discussion or help. Jitka Šílerová, projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 229 Veronika Palečková, projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 266 Lenka Štěrbová, projectoffice@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 179</p>
Download documents	<p>ERC-PoC-2025 summary cut-off 1 ERC-PoC-2025 guidelines for applicants ERC-PoC-2025 part A and template B example ERC-PoC 2025 Part B template ERC Rules for Submission May 2024 ERC PoC Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement Nov 2024 ERC Work Programme 2025</p>