

Annex 4 ERC Synergy Grant Call for Proposals

Call Title: Call for proposals for *ERC Synergy Grant*

Call identifier: ERC-2012-SyG

Date of publication⁵⁰: 25 October 2011

Electronic proposal submission deadline⁵¹ (single submission of full proposal): 25 January 2012 17.00.00 (Brussels local time)

Indicative budget: EUR 150m from 2012 budget⁵².

The final budget awarded to this call, following the evaluation of projects, may vary by up to 10% of the total value of the call.

Union contribution: The Union financial contribution will take the form of the reimbursement of up to 100% of the total eligible and approved direct costs and of flat-rate financing of indirect costs on the basis of 20% of the total eligible direct costs⁵³. The level of the awarded grant represents a maximum overall figure – the final amount to be paid must be justified on the basis of the costs actually incurred for the project⁵⁴.

Objective: European Research Council ERC Synergy Grants will enable small groups of Principal Investigators and their teams bringing together complementary skills, knowledge, and resources, to jointly address research problems at the frontier of knowledge *going beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone*.

Minimum number of participants: At least one independent legal entity established in one of the Member States, or one of the associated countries (in the case of the participation of more than one legal entity the participants are not obliged to establish a consortium agreement).

Eligibility criteria: Groups applying for ERC Synergy Grants should be made up of a minimum of two and a maximum of four Principal Investigators and, as necessary, their teams. One of the Principal Investigators must be designated as the Lead Principal Investigator. See eligibility criteria in the work programme section 3.4.

Evaluation criteria: Excellence is the sole criterion of evaluation. It will be applied to the evaluation of both the Principal Investigators and the research project in conjunction. For the

⁵⁰ The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of publication.

⁵¹ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

⁵² Under the condition that the draft budget for 2012 is adopted without modifications by the budgetary authority.

⁵³ Excluding the direct costs for subcontracting and the costs of resources made available by third parties which are not used on the premises of the host institution.

⁵⁴ Commission Decision (C(2009)1942) of 23 March 2009 on the use of flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions shall apply to grants awarded under this work programme.

detailed elements applying to the two Sections of the proposal see section 6.7 of the work programme.

Evaluation procedure: The evaluation will be conducted by means of dedicated high level peer review panels. Panels will be assisted by independent experts as necessary⁵⁵. Principal Investigators whose proposals will be retained for the second step of the evaluation may be invited for an interview to present their project to the evaluation panel meeting in Brussels. They will be accordingly reimbursed for their travel and subsistence expenses⁵⁶. See section 6.6 and Annex 9 of the work programme.

Grant starting date: Due to the ground-breaking nature of frontier research projects, it is expected that all projects start within 6 months from the award of the grant. ERC reserves the right to cancel a grant if the proposed start date goes beyond this limit

Information on the modalities of the call and guidance to applicants on how to submit projects is available on:

<http://erc.europa.eu>

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/appmanager/participants/portal>

⁵⁵ According to section 3.1.6.3 of the ERC Rules for the submission of proposals peer reviewers will be compensated on the evaluation tasks they perform. Additional reimbursement of travel and subsistence will be made for assignments involving travel.

⁵⁶ In duly justified and exceptional cases, the ERCEA may agree, subject to technical feasibility, on other ways of interviewing successful Principal Investigators such as video link, teleconference or similar means, and on the reimbursement of their possible related travel and subsistence expenses. Relevant provisions for the reimbursement of expenses incurred in relation to Principal Investigators' interviews are included in the ERC Rules for submission of proposals and the related evaluation, selection and award procedures for indirect actions under the Ideas Specific Programme of the 7th Framework Programme.