

should not act as an evaluator in the evaluation of their proposal⁵⁸.

At step 1, the extended synopsis of the scientific proposal and the Principal Investigators' CV and Track Records will be assessed. Proposals will be retained for step 2 based on the outcome of the evaluation at step 1 and a budgetary cut-off level of up to seven times the panel's indicative budget.

At step 2, the research proposal will be assessed. Proposals will be retained for step 3 based on the outcome of the evaluation at step 2 and a budgetary cut-off level of up to four times the panel's indicative budget.

At step 3, all Principal Investigators (forming the Synergy Grant Group) of the proposals retained for step 3 will be invited for an interview to present their proposal at the meeting of the evaluation panel.

The structure and membership of the panels at each step is not predefined but will be decided dynamically in relation to the proposals received. Step 1 panels will be formed from approximately 85 panel members and chairs. Five step 2 panels will be formed after the step 1 filtering to ensure the best expertise for a group of proposals. The five step 2 panels will be composed using the step 1 panel members, grouping them into panels of around 17 experts each. The panel to which a proposal is allocated may request additional reviews by appropriate members of other panel(s) or additional remote evaluators. At step 3, the interview panels may be reconfigured to ensure the best expertise for the proposals.

Evaluation Elements applying to Excellence

1. Research Project
Ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility
Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grants
<i>Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project</i>
<i>To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges?</i>
<i>To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development between or across disciplines)?</i>

Scientific Approach

To what extent is the outlined scientific approach feasible bearing in mind the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the proposed research (based on the Extended Synopsis)?

*To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone (**for Synergy Grants**, based on the Extended Synopsis)?*

*To what extent do the Principal Investigators succeed in proposing a combination of scientific approaches that are crucial to address the scope and complexity of the research questions to be tackled (**for Synergy Grants**, based on the Extended Synopsis)?*

To what extent are the proposed research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project (based on the research proposal)?

To what extent are the proposed timescales, resources, and PI commitment adequate and properly justified (based on the research proposal)?

2. Principal Investigator(s)

Intellectual capacity and creativity

Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grants

To what extent has/have the PI(s) demonstrated the ability to conduct ground-breaking research?

To what extent does/do the PI(s) provide evidence of creative and original thinking?

To what extent does/do the PI(s) have the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project?

Synergy Grant Group

Synergy

To what extent does the Synergy Grant Group successfully demonstrate in the proposal that it brings together the know-how – such as skills, experience, expertise, disciplines, teams – necessary to address the proposed research question (based on the Extended Synopsis)?