

# The European Research Council

## Lump Sums in the 2024 ERC Advanced Grant call

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**European Research Council**

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## Lump Sums in the 2024 ERC Advanced Grant call

# 1. General principles

# Lump Sum models in ERC

**1. Fixed lump sum amount** → same amount for all projects indicated by the EC (only for **ERC Proof of Concept-POC** since calls for proposals 2019)

**2. Lump sum amount** defined by the proposal activities and resources needed (i.e., **different for each proposal**) (only for **ADG as from ERC WP 2024**)

All other ERC instruments, i.e., STG, COG, SYG use actual costs in 2024 applications.

# Lump Sum principles

- **Proposals' budget based on estimated costs** related to activities
- **Budget assessed during evaluation** (resources & costs)
- **Lump sum amount defined by project** (different for each project) and **capped at funding scheme ceiling** (2,5M Euro + 1M Euro additional funding)
- **Payment based on work completion.** Not linked to successful outcome
- **No financial reporting anymore** (e.g., submission of cost claims, time sheets etc.)

# ERC ADG 2024 Lump Sum

- **1 single lump sum EC contribution** for the entirety of the project (only broken down per team members and/or subcontractors – **NOT per work package**)
- No change to evaluation criteria: **Scientific excellence only!**
- Right for **grant portability** remains for PIs
- Except financial reporting/payment process, other **processes remain the same** (e.g., evaluation criteria, scientific reporting, project amendments)

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## 2. Proposal submission

# Minor changes to application forms

- **More structured information on budget**
  - Budget table: person-months per staff category (PI, researcher type A, B, C, D) *(below)*
  - Budget narrative: structured in six boxes *(below)*
  - Equipment depreciation table *(below)*
- **Additional Declaration 10 (NEW)** → Applicants to declare that cost estimates have been established in compliance with:
  - usual accounting practices of their Host Institution  
&
  - basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants

# Budget table

Beneficiary Short Name	PI			Senior staff			Post docs			Students			Other staff			A. Total personnel costs/€
	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	Person Months	Cost/€	Average Monthly Cost	
Participant X																
Participant Y																
Affiliated entity X																
Affiliated entity Y																
<b>Total</b>																

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 /€



# Budget narrative

Section C. Resources	
<b>A. Personnel</b>	<b>D. Internally invoiced goods and services</b>
Maximum 2500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed
<b>B. Subcontracting (if applicable)</b>	<b>Request for additional funding justification</b>
Maximum 1000 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed
<b>C. Purchase cost</b> ( <i>Travel - Equipment - Consumables - Field work - Animal costs - Publications - Other additional direct costs</i> )	<b>Funding from other sources</b>
Maximum 3500 characters allowed	Maximum 1000 characters allowed

# Equipment depreciation table

<i>Beneficiary's/ affiliated entity's short name</i>	<i>Short name of the asset</i>	<i>Purchase cost per item (a)</i>	<i>Deprecia- tion time (months) (b)</i>	<i>Expected percentage of usage for the grant (c)</i>	<i>Expected use time during the grant (months, cannot exceed the duration of the grant) (d)</i>	<i>Estimated depreciation cost per item (cannot exceed the purchase cost) (a/b)*c*d</i>	<i>Comments (e.g. depreciation policy, grouped items, full capitalized costs, etc.)</i>
						Calculated cell	
						Calculated cell	

- **Excel table mandatory attachment to be uploaded at submission**
- **Guidance provided on how to fill it in. (e.g., several units of same equipment, fully capitalised cost items)**

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# 3. Evaluation

# Evaluation

- Evaluation criteria remain **Scientific Excellence** only
- **Assessment of costs estimates** to define Lump Sum Contribution at evaluation stage (Stage 2), by panel members and experts (sound financial management):
  - **eligible** (same eligibility conditions as actual costs)
  - **reasonable, non-excessive**

# Personnel costs assessment

- Panel members will not only assess resources (i.e., number of staff and persons-month), but also personnel cost (**NEW**)
- Panel members (and applicants) have access to **historical ERC personnel cost data** to serve as benchmark ([ERC website](#))
- Applicants don't need to follow historical data, but should plan according to what they expect to incur
- Personnel costs **significantly higher** than historical data **are acceptable if justified** (e.g., nature of the tasks, need for senior or highly qualified staff, significant increases in personnel costs)

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## 4. Implementation & payment

# Implementation phase

## Grant Preparation:

- Ensure compliance with rules
- **Budget table** included in the proposal is removed from the GA (full flexibility regarding transfer between costs categories)

## Amendments:

- **Deviations are possible** (grant agreement can be amended the same way as actual cost grants, if it doesn't call into question the award decision)

# Reporting & payment

- **80% pre-financing to ensure cash-flow**
- **1 scientific mid-term report to assess progress and deviations**
- **1 single payment at the end of the project**





# Final reporting & payment

Lump sum fully paid when all the work has been carried out as described in the DoA, and if:

- all essential tasks completed, and/or
- equivalent tasks have been carried out, and/or
- deviations have been duly justified

In cases where a project could not be conducted as planned (e.g., due to early termination), the PI can declare partial completion.

Lump sum is paid in line with the degree of completion declared by PI/PI and accepted by ERCEA

## Ex-post control

- **No financial audits**, no certificate of financial statements (CFS)
- **Technical reviews possible only on proper implementation & compliance with non-financial obligations**  
(e.g., ethics, procurement procedures, PI's time commitments)

## Keeping records

- **Technical documents, publications, prototypes, deliverables, and documentation required by good research practice (e.g., lab books etc.)**



## More information:

[ERC website](#)

[Info for Applicants - Advanced Grant 2024](#)

[ERC personnel costs data for lump sum evaluations](#)

[Multi & Mono Grant Agreement for Lump Sum Grants](#)

[Q&A on lump sum funding](#)

[Webinar on lump sums](#)