

EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL Synergy Grant

ERC Synergy Grants bring together **between two and four Principal Investigators (PIs)** and their teams. Applications are expected from a group of innovative and active PIs who demonstrate the synergies, complementarities, and added value necessary to achieve **breakthroughs that would not be possible if the PIs were working individually.**

Highlight **SYNERGY**, and clearly demonstrate that:

- all PIs have outstanding track records and distinct but complementary skills, knowledge, and resources (e.g., they have already published several papers together in highly ranked journals);
- the transfer of knowledge between the PIs and their teams will lead to an added value in terms of developing new approaches and methodologies beyond the state of the art;
- the various expertises combined will be greater than just the sum of their parts;
- the PIs are closely connected, as each has unique expertise needed by the others to succeed;
- the flow of information within the PI group and the distribution of tasks is clear;
- the project and PI group is interdisciplinary;
- all synergy partners have a suitable research environment and a network of good collaborators to support the development.

Eligibility criteria:

- Any field of research can apply on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined topics.
- All PIs are on equal footing, but one of them must be designated as the **Corresponding Principal Investigator (CoPI)**, who submits the proposal as the primary contact person for the ERC.
- All PIs can be of any nationality, but the **Host Institution (HI) of the CoPI must be established in an EU member state or associated country.** One of the other HIs may be an organization outside the EU.
- All PIs have to present a track record appropriate to their career stage.
- **PIs can be at any career stage.** There is no eligibility window or "age limit".
- **Working time commitment:** All PIs must spend at least 30% of their total working time for the ERC Grant and 50% in an EU member state or associated country.
- **Re-submission restrictions:** Rating B or C in step 1 for an ERC Synergy Grant proposal submitted in 2025, rating C for a Synergy Grant proposal submitted in 2024.

Funding:

- Up to a **maximum of EUR 10 000 000 for a period of max. 6 years.**
- Additional funding: up to EUR 4 000 000 to cover, e.g., major equipment or field work costs.
- If the project duration is less than 6 years, the Grant will be proportionally reduced.
- Actual costs: You will be reimbursed for the actual costs incurred up to the total budget limit.

Submission deadline: 5 November 2025

Contact:

Dr. Adriana Wipperling-Klepke
Email: adriana.wipperling@uni-potsdam.de
Phone: +49. 331.977.1190
Office: Am Neuen Palais, Building 8, Room 1.34