European Research Council (ERC)
Proof of Concept (PoC)

Updated September 2023

Aim	• Exploring the commercial or societal potential of an ERC project
Target group	• Dedicated to researchers (Principal Investigators) already holding an ERC grant (ongoing or has ended less than 12 months before 1 January of call year)
Host institution	• Located in EU-Member States or Associated Countries to Horizon Europe
Funding	• Funding for a period of up to 18 months • Lump sum of 150.000 EUR
Budget	• 30 million EUR (estimated number of grants: 200)
Conditions	• A maximum of 3 PoC Grants may be awarded per ERC funded Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant • A maximum of 6 PoC Grants may be awarded per ERC funded Synergy Grant
Application	• Annual call for proposals with three evaluation rounds • Principal Investigators may submit only one proposal per call • Electronically via the Funding and Tenders Portal
Evaluation	• Single-step evaluation process (peer review)
Next cut-off dates	• Opening: 16 November 2023 • Cut-off dates: 14 March 2024, 17 September 2024
Success rates	• 2022: 1. Call: 48%; 2. Call: 1. cut-off 57.3% • 2020: 1. cut-off 37.2%; 2. cut-off 36.4%; 3. cut-off 28.2% • 2019: 1. cut-off 39.4%; 2. cut-off 46.2%; 3. cut-off 31.9%