



SAPIENZA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



## Programma HORIZON EUROPE

### Durata

**1 gennaio 2021- 31 dicembre 2027**

### Budget

**95 miliardi di euro** per il più ambizioso programma di ricerca e innovazione di sempre, finanziato dal tradizionale bilancio comune europeo e dal nuovo Recovery Instrument, Next Generation EU.

## Programma HORIZON EUROPE

### Pillar 1

Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie  
Actions

Research Infrastructures

### Pillar 2

Global Challenges and  
European Industrial  
Competitiveness

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

### Pillar 3

Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation  
ecosystems

European Institute of  
Innovation  
and Technology

### Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system



## IL PROGRAMMA ERC

<https://erc.europa.eu/>

- ERC finanzia **Principal Investigator di eccellenza** di qualsiasi età e nazionalità che intendono svolgere attività di **ricerca di frontiera** presso una Host Institution situata in uno degli Stati membri dell'UE o dei Paesi associati
- Gli schemi di finanziamento ERC supportano progetti di ricerca **ground-breaking**, innovativi, ad alto rischio e ad alto impatto scientifico
- Durata dei progetti: **fino a 5 anni (fino a 6 anni per i SyG grant)**
- **Ampia disponibilità finanziaria** (elevato valore economico del grant e rimborso al 100% dei costi)
- Possono essere presentate proposte in tutti i settori e le aree scientifiche (approccio **curiosity driven** e **bottom-up**)



## Profilo di un PI ERC Starting Grant

- The Starting Grant supports excellent Principal Investigators starting or **having recently started their own independent research team or programme**. A Starting Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of the potential for research independence, for example, by having produced at least one important publication as its main author or a publication without the participation of their PhD supervisor

**tra i 2-7 anni dopo il PhD  
(tra il 1 gennaio 2019 e il 31 dicembre 2023 incl.)**



## ERC Starting Grant call 2026

- Data pubblicazione call: **9 luglio 2025**
- Data scadenza call: **14 ottobre 2025**
- Budget totale call StG 2026: **750 mil euro**
- Numero stimato di grant finanziati: **450**
- Importo massimo per singolo grant: **1,5 mil euro**



## Profilo di un PI ERC Consolidator Grant

- The Consolidator Grant supports excellent Principal Investigators **who are consolidating their own independent research team or programme**. A Consolidator Grant Principal Investigator should have already shown evidence of research independence

**tra i 7-12 anni dopo il PhD  
(tra il 1 gennaio 2014 e il 31 dicembre 2018 incl.)**



## ERC Consolidator call Grant 2026

- Data pubblicazione call: **25 settembre 2025**
- Data scadenza call: **13 gennaio 2026**
- Budget totale call CoG 2026: **673 mil euro**
- Numero stimato di grant finanziati: **328**
- Importo massimo per singolo grant: **2 mil euro**





## Profilo di un PI ERC Advanced Grant

- The objective of the Advanced Grant is to support excellent Principal Investigators that **are established research leaders.**
- An ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigator is expected to be an active researcher with a **track record of significant research achievements.**



## ERC Advanced call Grant 2026

- Data pubblicazione call: **28 maggio 2026**
- Data scadenza call: **27 agosto 2026**
- Budget totale call AdG 2026: **747 mil euro**
- Numero stimato di grant finanziati: **294**
- Importo massimo per singolo grant: **2,5 mil euro**



## Synergy Grant

- The aim of the Synergy Grant is to support a **small group of two to four innovative and active Principal Investigators** jointly addressing ambitious research problems **that cannot be tackled by any single Principal Investigator and their team alone**
- Principal Investigators of any professional seniority, and with a competitive track record matching their career stage can apply
- One of the Principal Investigators (except the Corresponding Principal Investigator) of the Synergy Grant Group may be hosted and engaged by an institution outside of the EU or an Associated Country



## ERC Synergy call Grant 2026

- Data pubblicazione call: **10 luglio 2025**
- Data scadenza call: **5 novembre 2025**
- Budget totale call StG 2026: **500 mil euro**
- Numero stimato di grant finanziati: **48**
- Importo massimo per singolo grant: **10 mil euro**



## Ampliamento della finestra temporale

**Maternity:** 18 months extension for each child born before or after the date of the successful defence of their first PhD degree. If the applicant can document a longer total maternity leave, the eligibility period will be extended by the documented amount of actual leave(s) for all children taken before the call deadline.

**Paternity or parental leave:** extension by the documented amount of paternity or parental leave (or a combination thereof) taken for each child born before or after the Principal Investigator's PhD Defence Date.

**Long-term illness or national service:** extension by the documented amount of leave taken by the Principal Investigator for each occurrence.



**Disability:** extension corresponding to the reduced amount of working time (including leave taken) and/or the degree of disability of the Principal Investigator.

**Clinical training:** extension by the documented duration of clinical training (up to a maximum of four years) received by the Principal Investigator.

**Major disasters:** extension by the documented duration of the Principal Investigator's inability to work<sup>28</sup> resulting from a major disaster.

**Seeking Asylum:** extension by the documented duration of the Principal Investigator's inability to work due to seeking asylum.

**Gender-based Violence or Any Other Form of Violence:** extension by the documented duration of the Principal Investigator's inability to work due to being a victim of violence.



## Additional Funding

- + 1 mil per StG, Cog e AdG
- + 4 mil per SyG

Except for Principal Investigators in Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant **re-locating to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere** to take up their ERC grant. In this case, the maximum additional funding shall be 2 mil



## Additional Funding

- Can be requested to cover further eligible costs (e.g. start-up costs, major equipment, access to large facilities, major experimental and field work costs) when these are necessary to carry out the proposed work. The requests for additional funding must be duly justified in the proposal.
- Both the grant amount requested, as well as any additional funding are assessed during evaluation.





## Minimum percentage of the working time of a Principal Investigator that must be spent

On the ERC project:

- **50% StG**
  - **40% CoG**
  - **30% AdG**
  - **30% SyG**
- 
- In an EU Member State or Associated Country: **50%**



## PRESENTAZIONE DI UNA PROPOSTA ERC

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

- Call description, con link a topics e **submission service**
- Call documents, tra cui il WP e la **Guide for Applicants**
- Get support (help-desk, NCP, Partner Search ecc..)



- **Parte A**
  - Informazioni generali sul PI, dati amministrativi della Host Institution, budget, Ethic issues, ecc...
- **Parte I**
  - Sinossi della proposta scientifica (max. 5 pagine)
- **Parte II**
  - Proposta scientifica (max. 7 pagine, max 10 pagine per SyG)
- **Curriculum Vitae e Track record** (max. 4 pagine)
- **Documentazione di supporto**
  - Host Institution Binding Statement of Support (a firma Direttore di Dipartimento)
  - Certificato di Dottorato (per StG e CoG)
  - Certificati attestanti eventuali career break.

## PART I

- lay out the current state of knowledge
- explain the scientific question and the objectives of the project
- present the overall approach or research strategy to reach the goals of the project

La Parte I dovrebbe convincere i valutatori che la proposta presenta un'**idea originale e creativa** che affronta una questione importante nel campo di ricerca.

Dovrebbe spiegare in che modo il progetto farà **avanzare le frontiere della conoscenza** e quale contributo apporterà al campo di ricerca, ovvero cosa potrebbe essere cambiato, aperto, messo in discussione o in che modo i risultati del lavoro modificheranno l'attuale comprensione del settore.



**At Step 1 of the evaluation, only Part I and the Curriculum Vitae (CV) and Track Record are assessed by the evaluation panel.**

Part I forms the basis for the Panel's decision whether to evaluate the proposal in the next step.

Therefore, all essential information must be covered in this section

## PART II

Nella Parte II della proposta scientifica ci deve essere una spiegazione dettagliata **dell'implementazione del progetto**, inclusa la **metodologia** di ricerca, il **piano di lavoro**, la **valutazione del rischio** e le misure di mitigazione, la **giustificazione del budget** e delle risorse richiesti e qualsiasi ulteriore informazione necessaria non inclusa nella Parte I.

Sempre nella parte II è presente un **annex** che elenchi tutti i grant per la ricerca in corso e tutte le application presentate e in attesa di approvazione per ricerche correlate alla proposta.

| Cost Category                                                               |                                                      |                                                 | Total in Euro |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Direct Costs <sup>[1]</sup>                                                 | Personnel                                            | PI <sup>[1]</sup>                               |               |
|                                                                             |                                                      | Senior Staff                                    |               |
|                                                                             |                                                      | Postdocs                                        |               |
|                                                                             |                                                      | Students                                        |               |
|                                                                             |                                                      | Other                                           |               |
|                                                                             | <i>i. Total Direct Costs for Personnel (in Euro)</i> |                                                 |               |
|                                                                             | Travel                                               |                                                 |               |
|                                                                             | Equipment                                            |                                                 |               |
|                                                                             | Other goods and services                             | Consumables                                     |               |
|                                                                             |                                                      | Publications (including Open Access fees), etc. |               |
|                                                                             |                                                      | Other (please specify)                          |               |
|                                                                             | <i>ii. Total Other Direct Costs (in Euro)</i>        |                                                 |               |
| A – Total Direct Costs (i + ii) (in Euro)                                   |                                                      |                                                 |               |
| B – Indirect Costs (overheads) 25% of Direct Costs <sup>[1]</sup> (in Euro) |                                                      |                                                 |               |
| C1 – Subcontracting Costs (no overheads) (in Euro)                          |                                                      |                                                 |               |
| C2 – Other Direct Costs with no overheads <sup>[1]</sup> (in Euro)          |                                                      |                                                 |               |
| Total Estimated Eligible Costs (A + B + C) (in Euro) <sup>[1]</sup>         |                                                      |                                                 |               |
| Total Requested EU Contribution (in Euro) <sup>6</sup>                      |                                                      |                                                 |               |



- I costi sono rimborsati al 100% con il 25% di costi indiretti forfettari
- La rendicontazione è **Actual** per StG, CoG e SyG
- Per i progetto AdG la rendicontazione è **Lump Sum**





## **EVALUATION PROCEDURE**

For Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, and Synergy Grants, excellence is the sole criterion of evaluation.

- The panels will primarily evaluate:
  - the ground-breaking nature and ambition of the research project.
- At the same time, the panels will evaluate:
  - the intellectual capacity and creativity of the Principal Investigator(s), with a focus on the extent to which the Principal Investigator(s) has the required scientific expertise and capacity to successfully execute the project.



La procedura di valutazione è affidata a **28 panel** di valutazione articolati in **3 principali aree scientifiche** di ricerca:

- Life Sciences - LS
- Physical Sciences and Engineering – PE
- Social Sciences and Humanities – SH



## For Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grants

- The proposal is evaluated in **two steps** with **interviews** taking place at Step 2. The evaluation is carried out by peer review Panels. The panels may be assisted by independent external experts working remotely.
- The allocation of the proposals to the panels is based on the expressed preference of the applicant. Proposals may be allocated to a different Panel with the agreement of both Panel Chairs concerned.
- The Panel to which a proposal is allocated may request additional reviews from members of other Panel(s) or remote evaluators. Interdisciplinary research proposals are evaluated by the Panels with the help of external experts where necessary.



**At Step 1**, Part I of the Scientific Proposal and the Principal Investigator's CV and Track Record are assessed.

Based on the outcome of their assessment at Step 1, up to forty-four proposals per panel are retained for Step 2 of the evaluation.



**At Step 2,** the complete Research Proposal is assessed, and the Principal Investigator presents their proposal at an interview with the evaluation panel.

***SAPIENZA FINANZIA LA PARTECIPAZIONE A TRAINING COURSES  
PER LA SPECIFICA PREPARAZIONE DELL'INTERVIEW***



## **For Synergy Grants**

The proposal is evaluated in three steps with interviews taking place at Step 3. The evaluation is carried out by peer review panels. The Panels may be assisted by independent external experts working remotely.

- **At Step 1**, Part I of the Scientific Proposal and the Principal Investigators' CVs and Track Records are assessed. Proposals are 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 complete Research Proposal is assessed. Proposals are retained for Step 3 based on the outcome of the evaluation at Step 2 and a budgetary cut-off level of up to three times the Panel's indicative budget.
- **At Step 3**, all Principal Investigators of the proposals retained for Step 3 present their proposals at the interview with the evaluation Panel.



## DOMANDE CHE SI PONGONO I VALUTATORI - Step 1:

- To what extent does the research address important scientific questions?
- To what extent are the project's objectives ambitious and will it advance the frontier of knowledge?
- Synergy Grants only: To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone?



## **DOMANDE CHE SI PONGONO I VALUTATORI - Step 2:**

- To what extent does the research address important scientific questions?
- To what extent are the project's objectives ambitious and will it advance the frontier of knowledge?
- Synergy Grants only: To what extent does the proposal go beyond what the individual Principal Investigators could achieve alone?
- To what extent are the research methodology and working arrangements appropriate to achieve the goals of the project?
- To what extent are the timescales and resources adequate and properly justified?
- Synergy Grants only: 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?

# SCORES

At the end of **step 1** of the evaluation, the proposal will receive one of the following scores:

- **A invited** is of excellent quality and ranked sufficiently high to pass to step 2 of the evaluation;
- **A not invited** is of excellent quality but not ranked sufficiently high to pass to step 2 of the evaluation;
- **B** is of high quality but not sufficient to pass to step 2 of the evaluation;
- **C** is not of sufficient quality to pass to step 2 of the evaluation.



At the end of **step 2** of the evaluation the proposal will receive one of the following scores:

- **A** fully meets the ERC's excellence criterion and is recommended for funding if sufficient funds are available
- **B** meets some but not all elements of the ERC's excellence criterion and will not be funded



## Limiti alla risottomissione delle proposal

*Restrictions on applications will apply to the 2026 calls based on the outcome of the evaluation of previous calls*

**B** *allo step 1 -> non eligible alla call successiva*

**C** *allo step 1 -> non eligible alle call dei due anni successivi*



- **Read carefully the Guide for Applicants!!!**
- Start writing your proposal early enough to submit it to external opinions
- Make your application easy to read
  - Identify your aims and hypotheses right at the beginning
  - Use tables and diagrams (legible in black and white)
  - Emphasise particularly important sentences using appropriate formatting and highlighting
- Be ambitious, but avoid sounding unrealistic
- Follow the formatting rules and page limits



- Make yourself familiar with the Electronic Proposal Submission Service
- Find out, if possible, who has recently received funding in your field
- Choose a memorable acronym
- Provide a clear, concise work plan, giving details of intermediate goals. Use, if applicable, Work Package approach
- Provide alternative strategies to mitigate risks;
- Clearly explain how you will manage your project and disseminate the results
- Include a Gantt chart to illustrate the project schedule



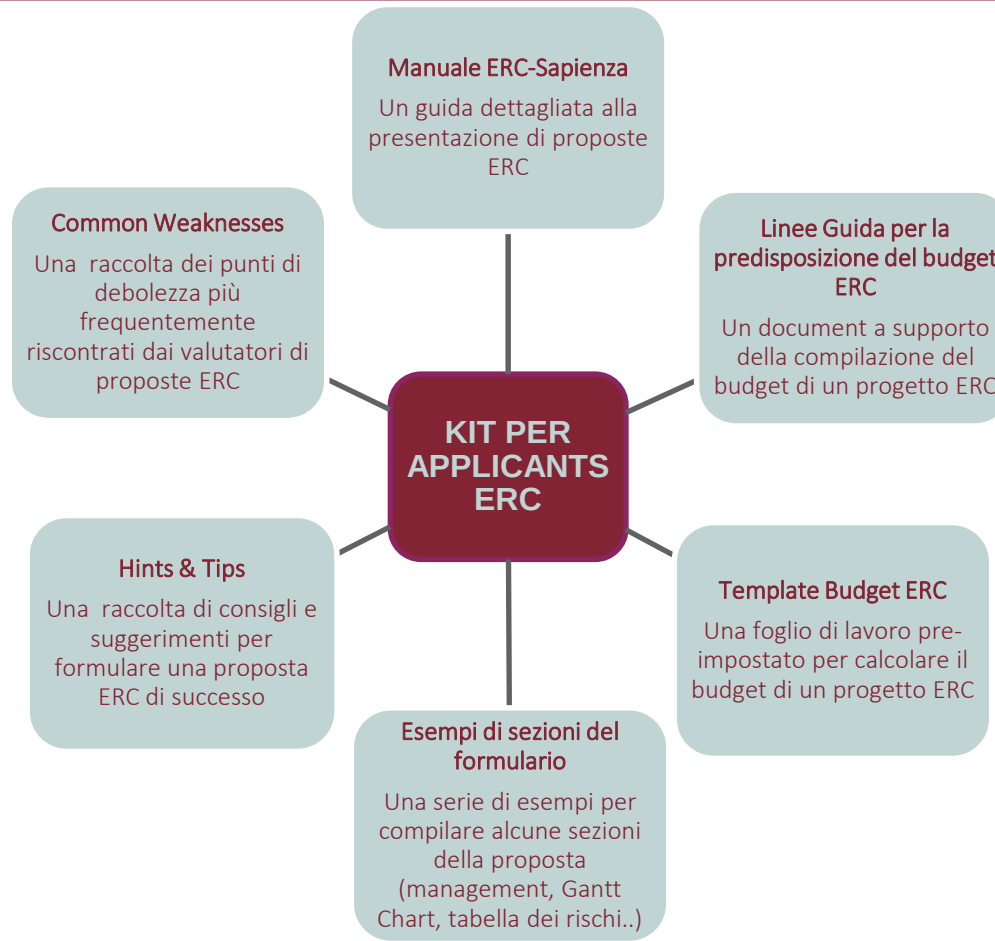
# **SAPIENZA'S SUPPORT SERVICES**

## SERVIZI PRE-AWARD

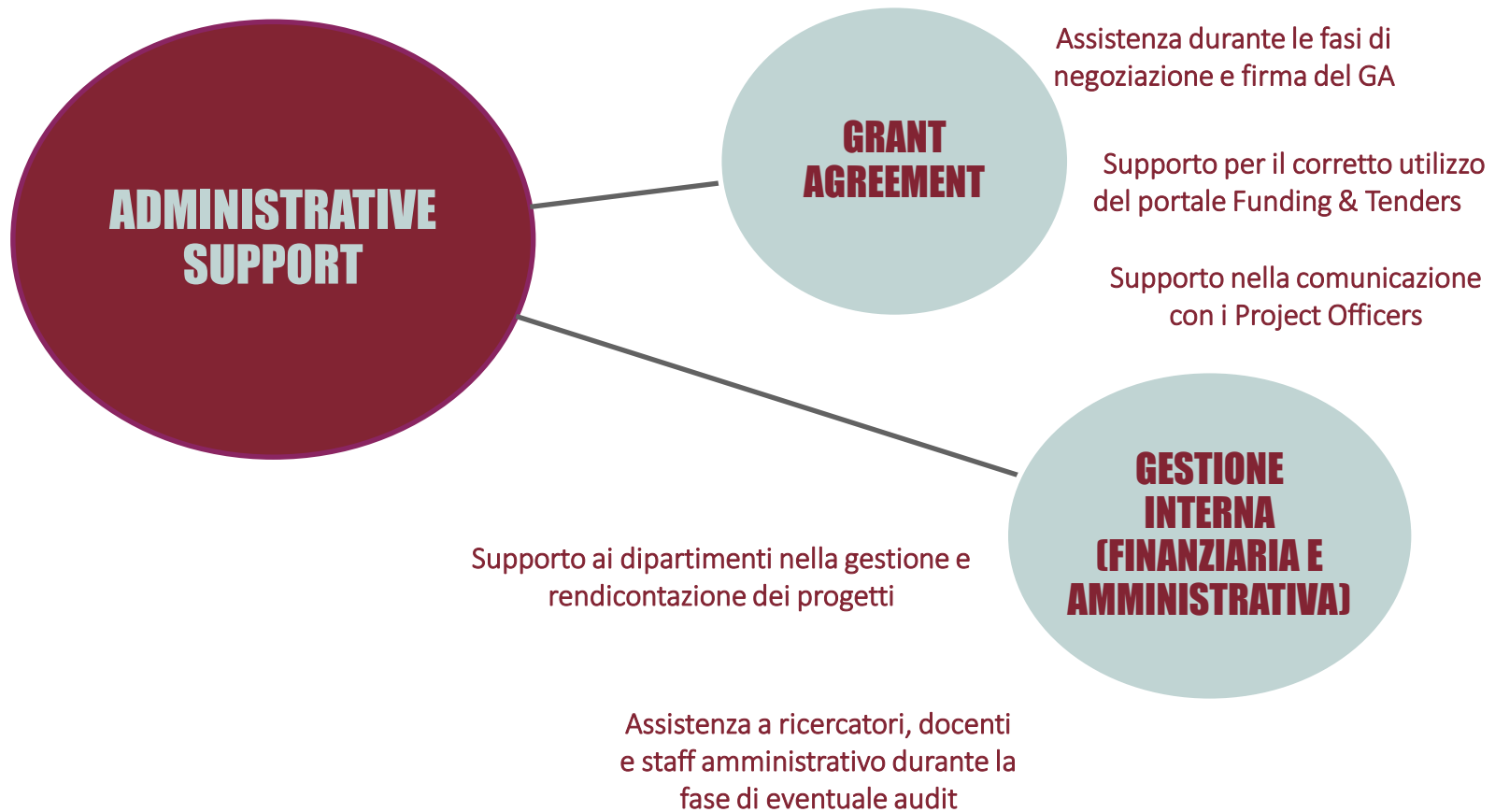




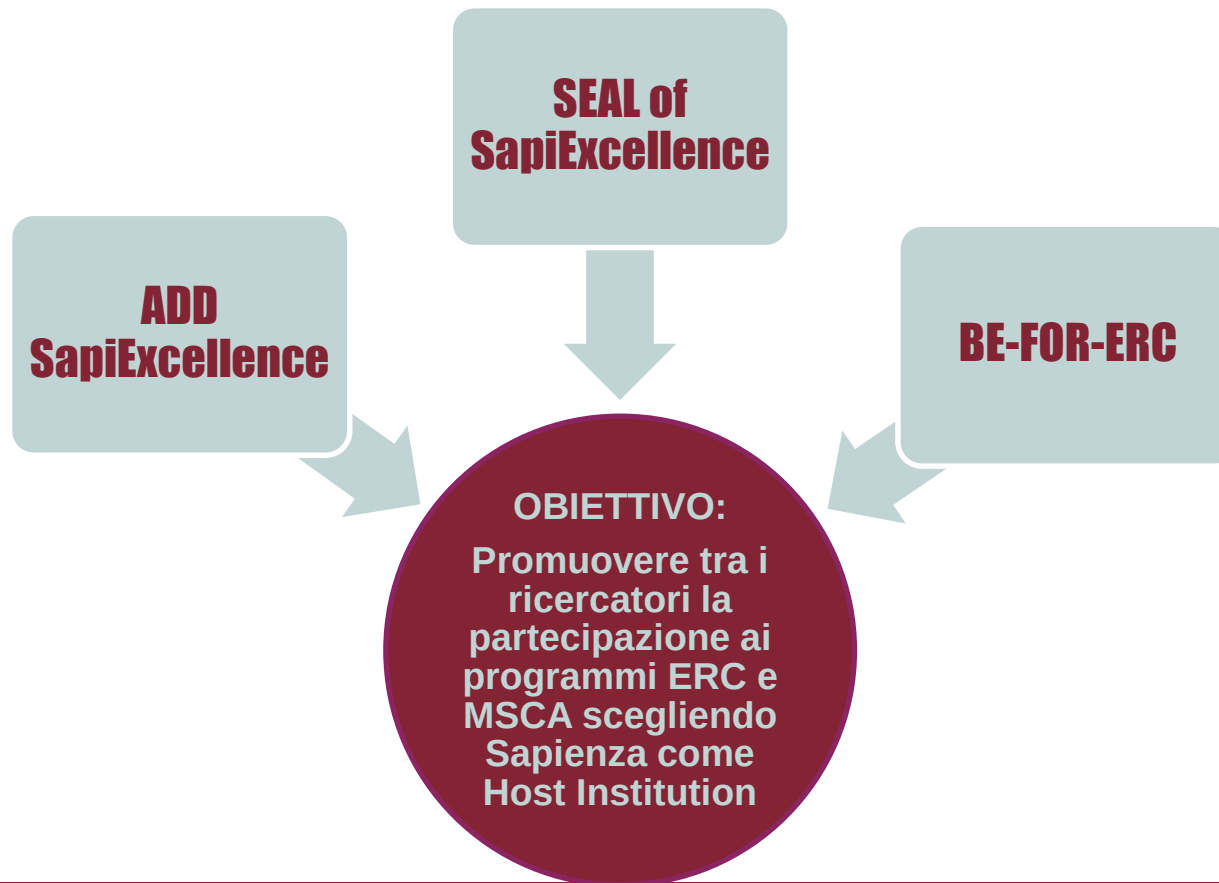
## SERVIZI PRE-AWARD



## SERVIZI POST-AWARD



## IL PROGRAMMA «SAPIEXCELLENCE»



## IL PROGRAMMA «SAPIEXCELLENCE»

### ADD SapiExcellence

Obiettivo: estendere di un anno la durata delle attività di ricerca di progetti MSCA (IF o ITN) in via di conclusione.

Allocazione: fellowships di € 50.000 ognuna (€40.000 per il salario + €10.000 per costi di ricerca)

PUBBLICAZIONE  
BANDO:

gennaio/febbraio

### SEAL of SapiExcellence

Obiettivo: finanziare la ricerca di applicants MSCA-IF che hanno ottenuto il Seal of Excellence (score>85)

Allocazione: fellowships di € 50.000 ognuna (€40.000 per il salario + €10.000 for costi di ricerca)

PUBBLICAZIONE  
BANDO:

marzo/aprile

### BE-FOR-ERC

Obiettivo: finanziare ricercatori di eccellenza senza una posizione permanente in Sapienza per sottoporre una proposta ERC con Sapienza come HI

Allocazione: fellowships di € 50.000 ognuna (€40.000 per il salario + €10.000 for costi di ricerca)

PUBBLICAZIONE  
BANDO:

aprile/maggio

## IL PROGRAMMA «SAPIEXCELLENCE»





## **NUOVA AZIONE SEED-ERC**

*A partire dal 2021 Sapienza ha implementato una nuova azione del programma Sapiexcellence, denominata **SEED-ERC**, che prevede l'erogazione di un finanziamento ad hoc per chi presenti, nell'ambito delle call ERC StG e CoG una proposal di eccellenza scientifica non finanziata per limiti di budget.*



***GRAZIE PER L'ATTENZIONE!***

**Giuditta Carabella**

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internazionali

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