



unIMC
UNIVERSITÀ DI MACERATA



KICK-OFF MEETING

University of Macerata's Horizon Europe Roadmap

10.00 - 11.00

KICK-OFF MEETING

**University of Macerata's
Horizon Europe Roadmap**

Presentation of the
ERC Coaching Programme
by BRUNA VIVES
External advisor

Welcome by

Prof. JOHN MC COURT
Rector

**Presentation of the
consulting project**

**University of Macerata's
Horizon Europe Roadmap**

by Prof. JESSICA PICCININI
/ Delegate for EU Project Planning

Open Discussion, Q&A

Focus on

the needs and barriers
for the participation
in Horizon Europe

4th July 2023 / 10.00 am

SALA SBRICCOLI

BIBLIOTECA DIDATTICA DI ATENEO / CASB

PIAZZA OBERDAN, 4

MACERATA

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1. Welcome and Presentation

A Few Words about Myself...



Bruna Vives



Multidisciplinary and international academic background in European Studies, Law and Translation & Interpreting



2001
European
Commission
Internship

2002-2005
LMU München
EU Grants Advisor

> 20 years experience in international leading universities and research institutes: Research / EU Funding (15 years) & Executive Management in research (7 years)

2007-2021
Center for Genomic Regulation (CRG)
Head Grants Office (2007-2015)
Managing Director (2015-2021)

2009-2015
Training in
Grant Writing

Currently strategic & executive management advisor in the field of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (capacity building, proposal development -EC & Excellence initiatives-, research strategy, executive coaching, interim management)
Expert evaluator for the European Commission.

2. UNIMC's Horizon Europe Roadmap

University of Macerata's Horizon Europe Roadmap

Main Objective



Support the University of Macerata in developing a strategy and building the necessary capacities to enable the active and successful participation in research's calls within Horizon Europe, with a specific focus on ERC grants.



University of Macerata's Horizon Europe Roadmap



**It's a
Marathon,
not a sprint**

University of Macerata's Horizon Europe Roadmap

Project Timeline



3. UNIMC's ERC Coaching Programme

ERC Coaching Programme

Get Expert Support for your next ERC Research Proposal

Objective

- UNIMC's ERC Coaching Programme aims to support and coach a number of researchers (max. 5) who are well positioned to apply for an ERC grant.
- Further activities to strengthen UNIMC'S future pool of ERC candidates will be designed in the framework of '**UNIMC's Horizon Europe Roadmap**'.

Main Features

- Supported ERC Schemes: StG, CoG, AdG.
- Proposals (up to 5) will be selected by an external panel of experts using the ERC evaluation criteria (scientific excellence).
- Selected researchers will receive external support from an external advisor, **from the proposal idea to the submission, incl. advice, coaching & review of the research proposal, VC session at the beginning and end.**

ERC Coaching Programme

Requirements

- Candidates should meet the eligibility requirements established by the selected ERC scheme and commit to submit a proposal (**well in advance**) in reply to the upcoming ERC call with UNIMC as host organisation.

Starting Grants

starters
(2-7 years after PhD)
up to € 1.5 Mio
for 5 years

Consolidator Grants

consolidators
(7-12 years after PhD)
up to € 2 Mio
for 5 years

Advanced Grants

track-record of
significant research
achievements in
the last 10 years
up to € 2.5 Mio
for 5 years

Extensions of eligibility for documented cases such as maternity/paternity leave, military service (for details see Guide for Applicants)

ERC Coaching Programme

Application Process:

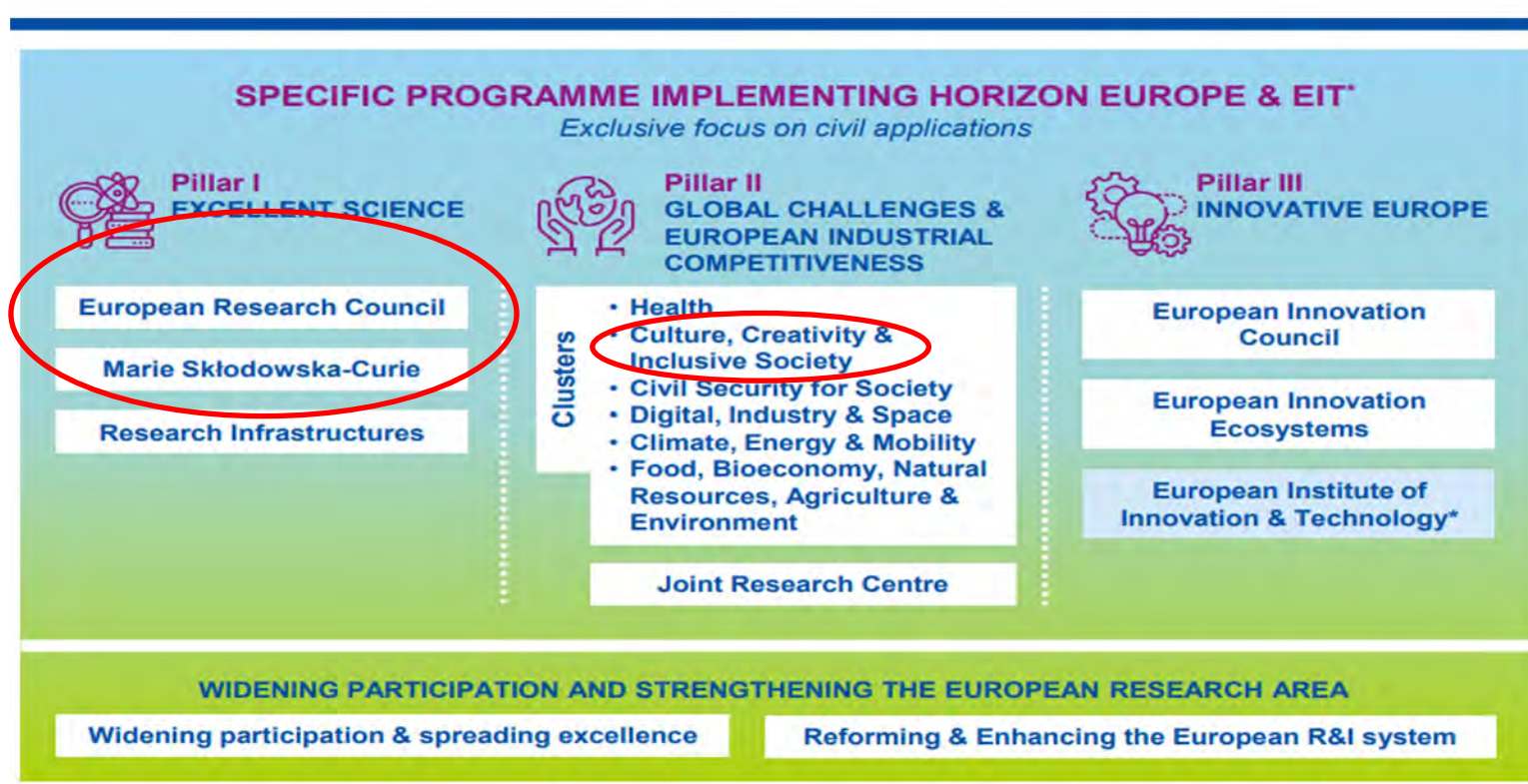
- **Application Deadline:** 28th of July 2023, 1 pm (Rome time).
- **Applications Documents** to be submitted online:
 - Part B1 (Abstract, **5-pages Extended Synopsis** & 2-pages CV) of specific ERC call & Commitment Letter.
- **Link:** <https://www.unimc.it/it/ricerca/finanziamenti-1/finanziamenti-internazionali/bandi-per-la-progettazione/erc-coaching/erc-coaching>
- **Contact:** Grant office, Laura Concetti – ricerca.internazionale@unimc.it
- **Outcome:** Beginning of September 2023

4. About Horizon Europe & ERC Programme



Horizon Europe

EU Funding



7 years
95.5 billion €



European Research Area

ERA Policy Agenda: 20 Actions in 4 Priority Areas

DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. **Open sharing of knowledge**, incl. EOSC
2. **Data legislation** fit for research
3. Reform of **research assessment**
4. Strengthen **research careers**
5. **Gender equality** and inclusiveness
6. **Protect academic freedom**
7. Better **knowledge valorisation**
8. **Research infrastructures**
9. **International cooperation**, reciprocity

TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. **Green energy** transformation
12. Transition of industrial ecosystems
13. **Empower higher education institutions**
14. **Bring science closer to society**



AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. EU-wide access to excellence
17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs

ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms



ERC Programme

The European Research Council (ERC) is amongst the most prestigious and competitive EU funding schemes, providing researchers with the opportunity to pursue ambitious, curiosity-driven projects that could lead to major scientific breakthroughs. **It funds creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based across Europe.**

Highly competitive! Success rate around 12%

Indicative deadlines for the ERC grant schemes supported by UNIMC's ERC Coaching Programme:

[ERC-2024-StG:](#)

- Opening: 11.07.23 / Closing: 24.10.23

[ERC-2024-CoG:](#)

- Opening: 12.09.23 / Closing 12.12.23

[ERC-2024-AdG:](#)

- Opening: 29.05.24 / Closing 29.08.24



ERC Programme

One-step submission with two-step evaluation

Administrative forms (Part A)

- 1 – General information
- 2 – Administrative data of participating organisations
- 3 – Budget
- 4 – Ethics
- 5 – Call specific questions

Administrative forms

Annexes

Commitment of the host institution
PhD certificates, etc

Part B1 (submitted as pdf)

Evaluated in Step 1 & Step 2

Text box - Cross-domain nature explanation

- a – Extended synopsis 5 pages
- b – Curriculum vitae 2 pages
- Appendix – Funding ID
- c - Track-record 2 pages

Part B2 (submitted as pdf)

Not evaluated in Step 1 (Step 2 only)

- Scientific proposal 15 pages
- a – State-of-the-art and objectives
- b – Methodology
- c – Resources

Changes in the 2024 Workprogramme published on 10th of July 2023

- Changes to the structure of the CV and Track Record, as well as to the evaluation procedure, have been introduced.
- For StG, CoG, and AdG, a maximum of 44 proposals per panel will be assessed at step 2 of the evaluation.
- A distinction in the scoring at step 1 will be made between proposals obtaining a score of A and invited to step 2 of the evaluation, and proposals obtaining a score of A but not ranked sufficiently high to be invited to step 2.



ERC Programme

Scientific excellence is the sole criteria:

Excellence of the Research Proposal

- ✓ *Ground-breaking nature*
 - ✓ *Ambition*
 - ✓ *Feasibility*

Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- ✓ *Intellectual Capacity*
 - ✓ *Creativity*
 - ✓ *Commitment*

Updated with 2024 Workprogramme published on 10th of July 2023



ERC Programme

A small appetizer of tips for the ERC:

1. **Ground-breaking**, "thinking out of the box", "think big" – incremental projects will fail inevitably in Step 2 (high-quality incremental research can be funded at national level).
2. **PI-driven**: it is about "I" rather than "we". Demonstrate that you are the best/only person to carry it out. Ask yourself if you are internationally competitive as a researcher at your career stage and discipline.
3. Clearly state how the **project goes beyond the PI's previous research** – should not be a continuation of the on-going work of the department.
4. **High-risk/High-gain**: is the risk justified by a substantial potential gain? Aim for balance of high-risk but solid and feasible work with risk management plan – one of the biggest challenges!
5. **Opens new horizons beyond the existing state-of-the art** – does it substantially go beyond the state of the art? Which changes/benefits is it bringing to the field?

Write the project with the evaluation criteria in mind and walk the evaluators through your proposal – make it easy for them to read it and get excited about your proposal! Talk to colleagues who have been in ERC panels & hold ERC projects.



ERC Programme

Tips for writing 5-page synopsis

B1 is only read by panel members (generalists, not specialists in the field). Write the proposals for evaluators who are not necessarily experts in the field and in a concise and clear way. Focus on the big picture!

Possible proposal structure:

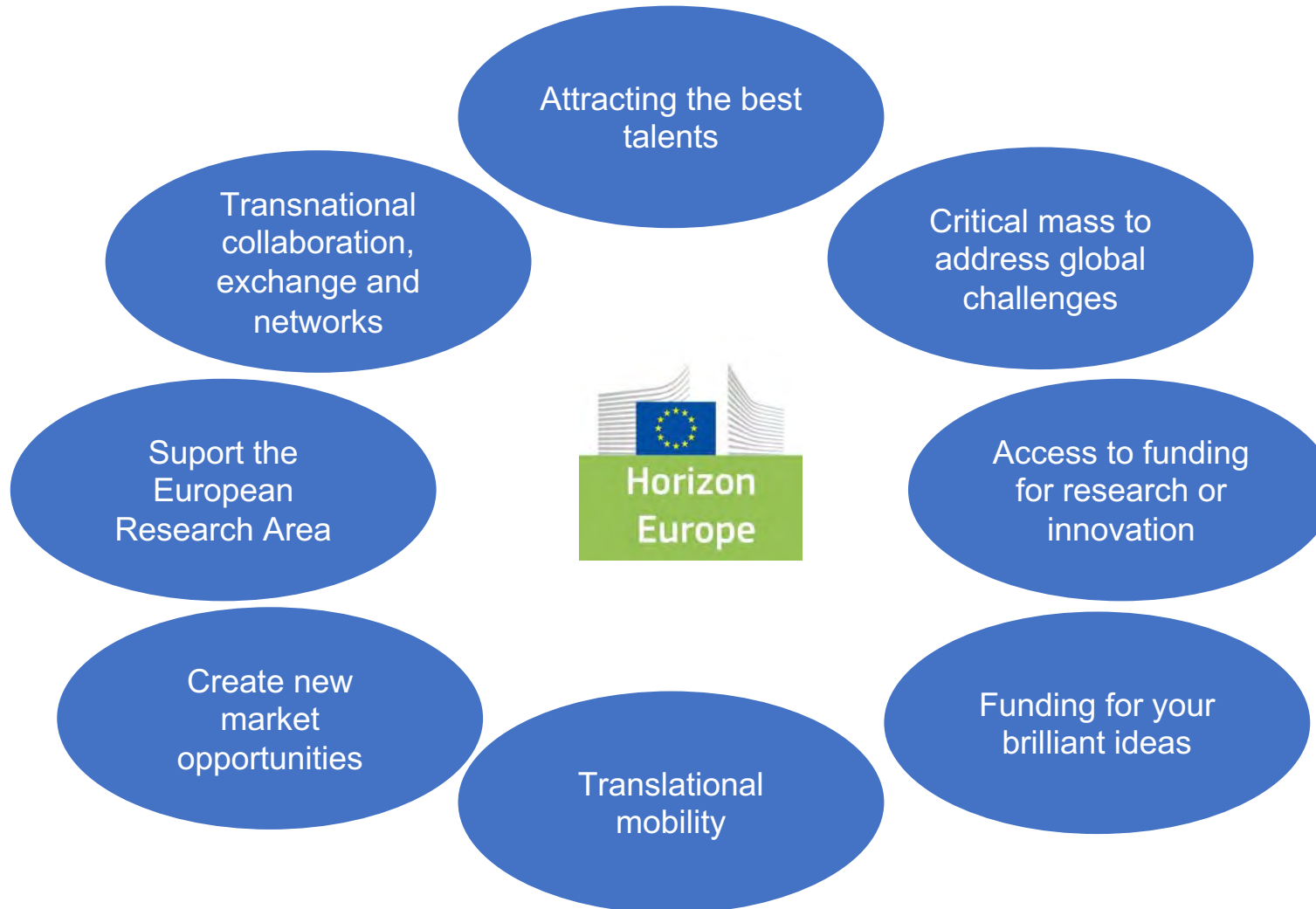
- **Background & Relevance:** Vision for solving grand challenge/problem with emphasis on ground-breaking nature of proposal – no incremental research. Why bother and why now?
- **Proposal objectives:** State the objectives needed to reach the overarching goal of the proposal.
- **State of the Art:** Describe the framework of recent developments to understand to what extent your work represents an improvement on the current best solutions.
- **Methodology:** Outline your scientific approach and work plan, highlighting any novel methodology. Also explain your choice of methodology and matching with proposal objectives.
- **Feasibility and risk analysis:** Explain what makes the project feasible (e.g. preliminary results, new technologies) in addition to your track-record. Also argue why now is the perfect time. Present major risks and mitigations.
- **Impact:** Link the proposal outcome to the main challenge/overarching aim. Explain how it will contribute to your and other fields. Explain how it will open up novel research avenues for years to come.



ERC Programme



What's in there for you?



Which are the barriers?



Useful Links

ERC Apply for a grant

<https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant>

ERC funded projects

<https://erc.europa.eu/project-statistics/project-database>

ERC Panel members 2023

[ERC StG](#)

[ERC CoG](#)

[ERC AdG](#)

5. Open Debate



Needs and Barriers for the Participation Horizon Europe

Grazie!

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