

SISSA FUNDING INCENTIVES TO PROJECTS UNDER THE ERC PROGRAMME

SISSA wishes to enhance its European project activity, particularly the ERC's proposals in relation to Horizon Europe, the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation, and to support its researchers competing at a European level.

SISSA intends to award funding to the Principal Investigators (PIs) who obtain an excellent evaluation in submitting a project proposal in response to a call within the framework of the following European Research Council programmes:

ERC Starting Grant
ERC Consolidator Grant
ERC Advanced Grant
ERC Synergy Grant

Lines of action

In particular, the following lines of action are suggested:

- a) Support in obtaining funding for SISSA PIs who have submitted an ERC project identifying SISSA as the Host Institution and have passed the first selection and have been invited to the interview.
- b) Support for unfunded research projects that, having passed all the evaluation stages, achieved an excellent (A) rating but were not granted any funding due to the lack of the financial resources allocated to the relevant call.

a)

In the first case, support will consist of a contribution of up to EUR 8,000 to cover the costs of preparing for the interview, with a view to strengthening skills through actions such as attending courses specifically dedicated to preparing for ERC interviews, specialised training, consultancy.

The funding is to be used, by way of example, to cover the following costs:

Missions

Participation in seminars

Training

Any expenses of a different nature may be submitted to the Director for authorisation.

b)

In the event that the PI has passed all the evaluation stages and has eventually obtained an excellent rating (A), support will consist of a maximum funding of EUR 50,000.00 and in any case within the limit of 10% of the submitted ERC project budget. This funding will be used to support the PI's research activity, which may further investigate/develop parts of the unfunded ERC project, also with a view to a new submission to a subsequent ERC call. In the case of researchers with a

fixed-term contract, the budget will be re-proportioned in relation to the researcher's actual work with SISSA, in relation to the duration of the contract, except in the event of a subsequent appointment as associate professor. In the event of an expected termination of the work relationship with SISSA (retirement, mobility), the same principle will apply.

The funding granted by SISSA shall be used within 3 years from the communication of acceptance of the application and, in case of winning another ERC grant, no later than the date of communication of the new grant or, in case of transfer to another university, no later than the date of the transfer itself.

Funding can be used for the following types of expenditure:

- Staff
- Missions
- Organisation of conferences and seminars
- Publications
- Other research expenses such as equipment and consumables

Any unforeseen expenses may be submitted to the Director for authorisation.

The PI will be eligible for this type (b) funding only once, regardless of them having received an excellent (A) rating without having been funded in more than one call.

Funding recipients

PIs working at SISSA on a full-time and fixed-term basis are the recipients of this initiative.

On an experimental basis, the funding applies for project proposals the outcome of which has been announced by the funder during the year 2026.

Submission of applications

In order to apply for the funding under lines of action a) and b), as referred to in the preceding paragraphs, the interested parties shall send a formal request to the Director, using the form specially prepared by the Research Office on the moment they become eligible.

For line of action a), acceptance of the application will be notified within 10 days of the request.

For line of action b), acceptance of the application and the actual amount of funding will be notified within the month of December, possibly re-calculated based on the available funds and the number of eligible applications received during the year.

In the event of funding obtained by the PI pursuant to Article 9 of Ministerial Decree 116/2023*, we reserve the right to assess any overlap/incompatibility with the funding (line b) awarded by SISSA.