

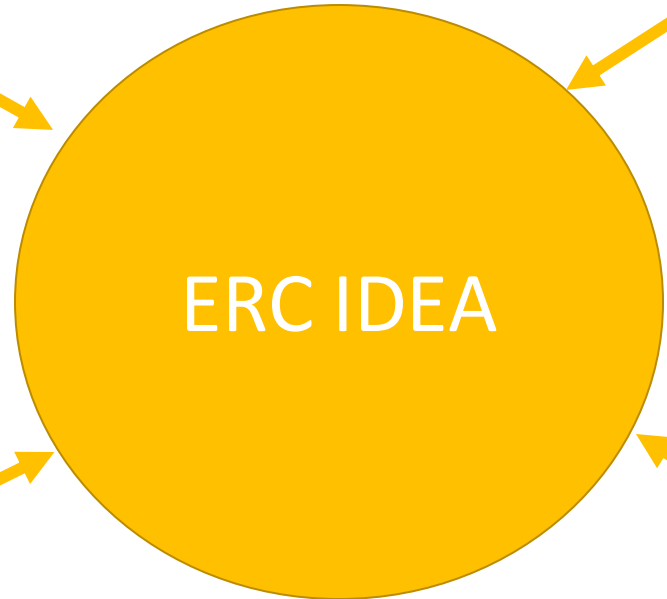
Is my idea an ERC idea?



Components of an ERC Idea

PI excellence
“ERC supports excellent investigators...” Both the excellence of the project AND the proposing researcher are evaluated.

High Risk/High gain
ERC formal definition of high risk/high gain: “if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims”



Interdisciplinary
Not essential but can be advantageous if it is genuine. Do not “force” your project to appear interdisciplinary and do not rely heavily on the expertise of others to make it interdisciplinary.

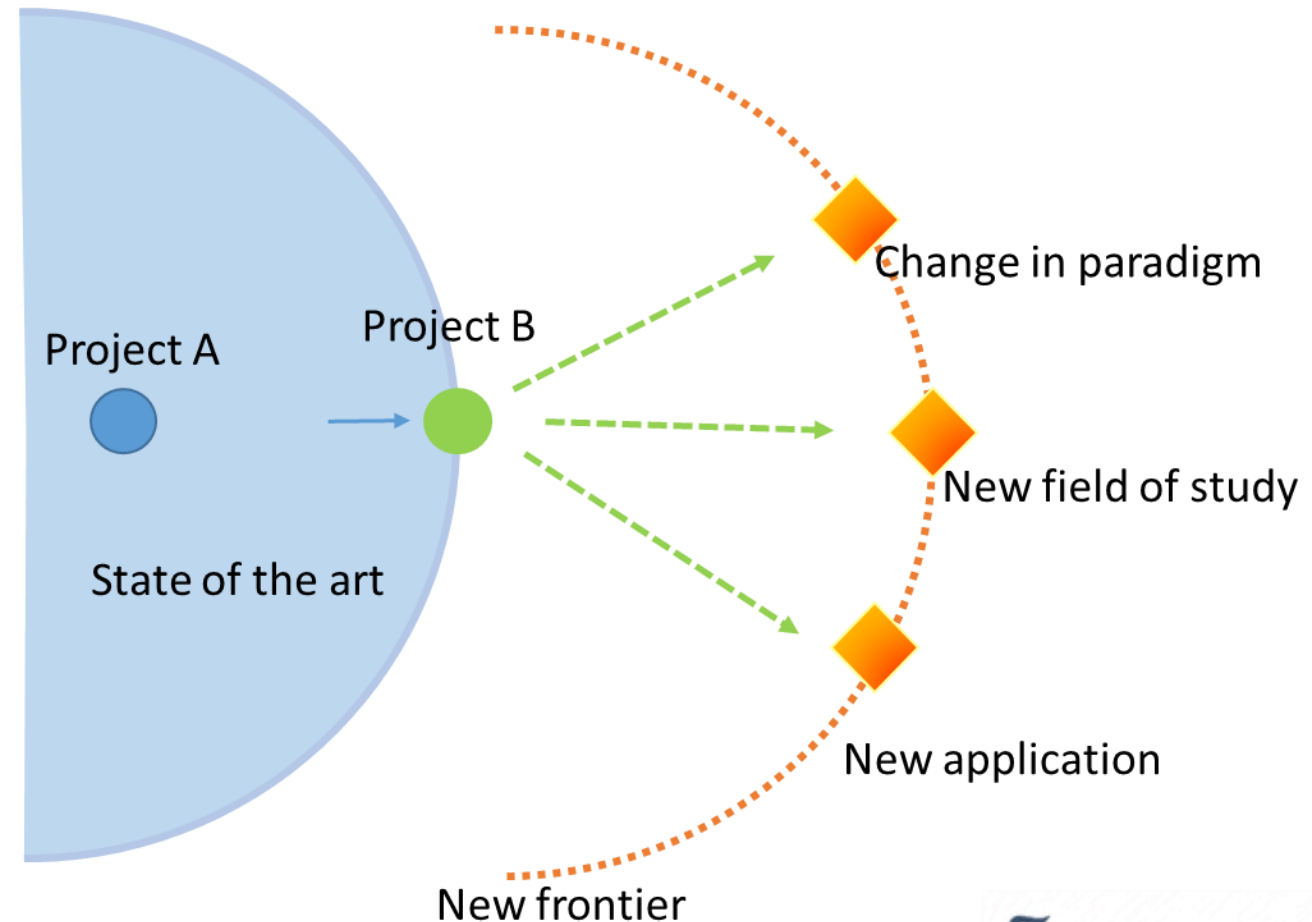
Groundbreaking or Innovative

What is innovative/groundbreaking/....?

Innovation can be at the level of the approach or the concept or both.

Innovation will:

- Open new ways of looking at something
- Lead to a paradigm change
- Create new targets, methods or lines of study
- Combine existing elements (e.g. tools, research fields, techniques, concepts) in completely new ways
- Create a new frontier in science



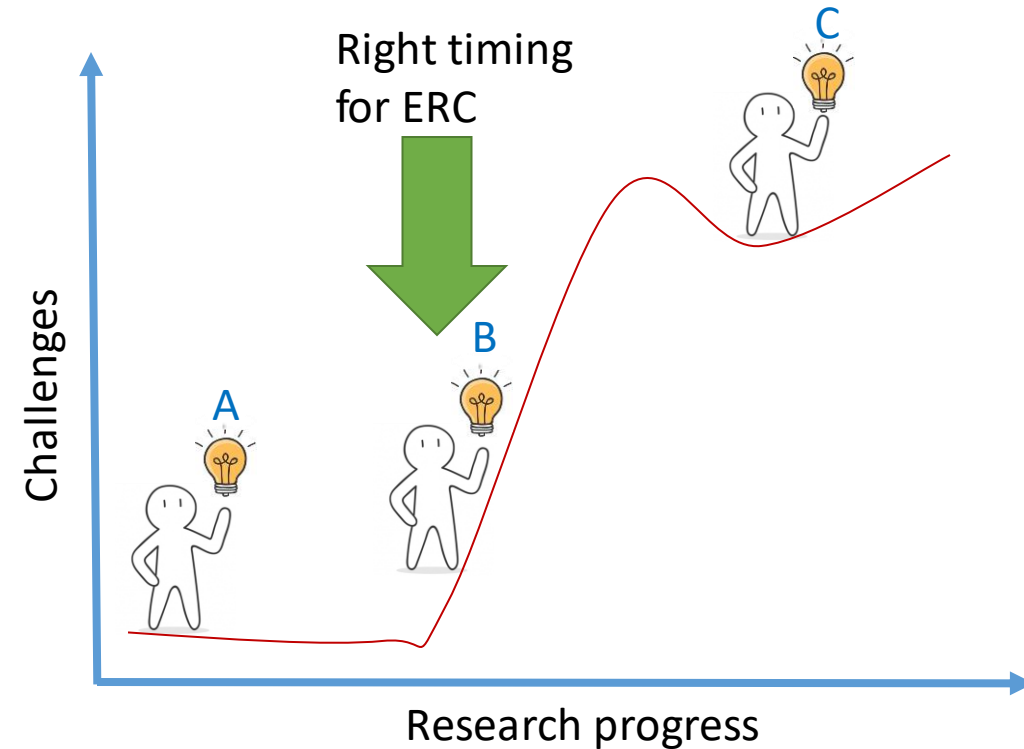
Is my idea an ERC idea?

- Is my approach unique/exceptional/innovative?
- Will results of the project significantly advance the current state of the art?
- Is the problem being addressed important?
- Do you have the required expertise to lead this project alone? **You can bring in expertise or collaboration on specific tasks but they should not have a central role.**
- Do you have a plan for a project of the scale of 5 years and 1.5-2.5million Euro funding?. **The project parts should integrate together and not be a collection of smaller projects.**
- Is the project high risk/high gain; would this project be too risky to be funded by more traditional short term grants?



Is the timing right?

- Once you have an idea, you need to turn it into a project.
- You need to have a concrete basis for the idea/hypothesis including preliminary data either published or unpublished.
- Published data, as long as it remains preliminary in the context of the ERC idea, is an advantage since it has already been peer reviewed
- **The main challenge of your project must still be ahead of you.**
- Continuation vs experience: An ERC idea should not be a direct continuation of your previous work. It should use your expertise to address new major challenges and open up new research directions.



- A:** Has an idea, but no supporting data
- B:** Has an idea and some supporting/preliminary data but the major challenge is still ahead.
- C:** Has already developed the most challenging part of an idea and the project is now a continuation

Still not sure?

- Read the summaries of “ERC funded projects”

<https://erc.europa.eu/projects-figures/erc-funded-projects>

- Talk to colleagues with “ERC experience”; submitted/won ERC, sat on ERC panels, reviewed ERC proposals etc.
- Contact the Technion proposal consultants:

Dr Ailie Marx

ailie@trdf.technion.ac.il

Dr Shunit Ben-Ari

shunitb@trdf.technion.ac.il

Michal Lotem

michall@trdf.technion.ac.il