Revision of ERC panel structure for the 2024 calls

Rationale and main changes

March 2023
Main principles of ERC panel structure setup…

…reflect overriding principles of ERC evaluation policy:

• Coherence
  • ERC covers all fields of research in a whole science approach
• Forward-looking:
  • Focus on frontier research and emerging scientific areas
• Evolving nature of disciplines:
  • Regular revision of panel remits
• Appreciation of interdisciplinarity:
  • Wide breadth of viewpoints within panels
Function of panel structure

- Provide guidance to applicants
- Not meant to be a complete scientific classification
- Panel titles, subtitles, descriptors do not reflect priorities
- Any topic is welcome, regardless of whether it is explicitly stated
- Proposals can fall in between panels; evaluation will be adapted
- Panel structure is revised regularly (scientific and/or operational reasons)
Rationale for revision

- Life Sciences: changes in LS3 title and LS5 subtitle/descriptors:
  - make coverage more explicit to encourage applicants
- Social Sciences and Humanities: addition of a new panel (SH8) to:
  - restore balance between social sciences and humanities coverage
  - limit size of SH3, SH4, SH5 (not targeted by previous revision)
- Physical Sciences and Engineering: no change
  - all panels are sufficiently well defined and balanced
Changes - Life Sciences

Panel level

• LS3: new panel title
  • Change from « Cellular, developmental and regenerative biology » to « Cell biology, development, stem cells and regeneration »
  • Rationale: the regenerative biology field is smaller than the stem cell field; previous wording may not sufficiently attract the stem cell research community

• LS5: addition to subtitle
  • Add « in humans and all other organisms » to specify that the panel covers studies in humans as well as in all other organisms
Changes - Life Sciences

Descriptor level

- LS5: additions to descriptors to clarify remit
  - LS5_8: add fields as examples related to cognition ("e.g. sleep, consciousness, addiction")
  - LS5_9: add fields as examples related to behavioural sciences ("e.g. learning, memory, attention, emotions, speech")
  - LS5_16: add relevant examples ("e.g. modelling, simulation, brain oscillations, connectomics")
Changes - Social Sciences and Humanities

Panel level

- New panel SH8 « Studies of Cultures and Arts »
  - combines cultural studies, art history, architecture, music, performing arts, museum studies, cultural heritage and other fields (from SH5) with social anthropology (from SH3)

- Philosophy (so far split between SH4 and SH5) fully incorporated in SH5

- SH3, SH4, SH5 each lose disciplines but remain multidisciplinary:
  - SH3 « The Social World and Its Interactions » covers sociology, social psychology, education sciences, communication studies
  - SH4 « The Human Mind and Its Complexity » covers cognitive science, psychology, linguistics
  - SH5 « Texts and Concepts » covers literary studies, literature, philosophy
Changes - Social Sciences and Humanities

Descriptor level

• SH1:
  • better balance between economics, finance, management;
  • attract more applicants from finance and management in addition to economics
  • move law and economics to SH2

• SH6:
  • even out granularity between history and archaeology;
  • channel life-science based proposals linked to «palaeoanthropology to relevant LS panels (« palaeoanthropology » removed from SH6)

Further updates in all panels
Impact for Applicants

- New panel structure applicable to all 2024 calls
- Overriding aim is to engage applicants in all areas of research
- Publication well ahead of time to allow for preparation
- Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the changes
- No change in evaluation process linked to this revision
Evaluation panel structure (2024 calls)

**Physical Sciences and Engineering**
- PE1 Mathematics
- PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- PE3 Condensed Matter Physics
- PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
- PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials
- PE6 Computer Science and Informatics
- PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering
- PE8 Products and Processes Engineering
- PE9 Universe Sciences
- PE10 Earth System Science
- PE11 Materials Engineering

**Life Sciences**
- LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions
- LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems
- LS3 Cell Biology, Development, Stem Cells and Regeneration
- LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing
- LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System
- LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy
- LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases
- LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution
- LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

**Social Sciences and Humanities**
- SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations
- SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems
- SH3 The Social World and Its Interactions
- SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity
- SH5 Texts and Concepts
- SH6 The Study of the Human Past
- SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space
- SH8 Studies of Cultures and Arts
Link to full panel structure for the 2024 calls

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Thank You!

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