The European Research Council

Revision of ERC panel structure

for the 2024 calls

Rationale and main changes

March 2023

European Research Council

Established by the European Commission

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 sufficently 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)

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

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

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

https://europa.eu/!X6ffxq

Thank You!

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