



European Research Council
Scientific Council

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**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL
MINUTES
Online consultation
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Consultation to the members of the ERC Scientific Council regarding the organisation of the Step 2 of the StG 2020 call without interviews

The ScC members were consulted via email by the ERCEA Director as regards the StG Step 2 panel meetings, which were scheduled to take place in Brussels from 25 May to 12 June. The ERCEA Director noted that considering the current situation concerning the Covid-19 developments and the various lockdown measures in place around Europe and the world, on-site panel meetings and interviews are not possible. Therefore, in line with official European Commission guidance, it was decided that StG Step 2 panel meetings will take place remotely, similar to Step 1 PE meetings (using WebEx/Zoom conferencing software).

Based on the feedback from the Step 1 PE remote meetings, and the constraints and concerns linked with phone interviews under the current circumstances, the ERCEA recommended to organise these panel meetings without interviews.

Some issues and concerns raised with maintaining remote interviews (phone interview) related to the technical and other issues that would seriously jeopardise the basic principle of equal treatment of applicants were shared with the ScC. As a result, all 19 ScC members unanimously agreed with the proposed approach, namely to run the StG2020 Step 2 evaluations without interviews but only as the circumstances were exceptional.