



European Research Council
Executive Agency

Established by the European Commission

Essential guidance for ERC panel members

ERC Panel members are expected to contribute to the evaluation process by delivering concise and substantial reviews based on their specialist expertise as well as their generalist competence, which should reflect openness to inter- and multi-disciplinary research perspectives, and by actively participating in the panel meetings. Panel members are also expected to be available for reviews requested for proposals submitted to other panels, if their expertise is required.

Given the broad scientific coverage of each panel and the limited number of panel members per panel, each panel member represents an important area of research. Funding decisions are taken by the panel as a whole and it is therefore crucial for the quality of the evaluation process that panel members are fully available for both panel meetings. It is the Scientific Council's expectation that, once a panel member accepted to serve on a panel, they keep their agendas free to be able to participate in person for the full duration of the panel meetings.

As of Work Programme 2025, panel member names are published on the ERC website at the beginning of the evaluation for reasons of transparency, if active consent was obtained. To protect ERC panel members, applicants (or potential applicants, or potential host institutions) **must not contact reviewers**. If they do so, the application may be rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity. In case you are contacted by an applicant, please inform the ERC Executive Agency.

To safeguard the reputation of the ERC for the benefit of all researchers associated with it, we expect that panel members who are under official investigation for reasons relating to scientific integrity will inform the ERC Executive Agency.

To avoid potentially serious conflict of interest situations that could impact the capacity of a panel member to participate in the evaluation, panel members should not help applicants in preparing a proposal to a call on which they serve as reviewer. The Expert Code of Conduct stipulates that if a panel member was involved in the preparation of any proposal assigned to the same panel in which the panel member is serving, they will be excluded from this panel.

A conflict of interest situation resulting in exclusion from the panel may also arise if a panel member is named in a proposal as team member, remunerated visiting fellow, or member of the advisory board. If you are aware that this is the case, please inform the ERC Executive Agency at your earliest convenience.

For more information, please consult the Expert Code of Conduct which specifies further potential conflict of interest situations: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/experts/code-of-conduct_en.pdf

A dedicated website with information for ERC experts can be found here: <https://erc.europa.eu/erc-experts/service>