

Rules for Conflicts of Interest (Col)

The following situations will **automatically** be considered as **conflict of interest**:

(a) for a proposal(s) s/he is requested to evaluate, if s/he:

(i) was involved in the preparation of the proposal(s);

(ii) is a director, trustee or partner or is in any way involved in the management of an applicant (or linked third party or other third party involved in the action);

(iii) is employed or contracted by one of the applicants (or linked third parties, named subcontractors or other third parties involved in the action) . In this case, the expert must be excluded from the evaluation of the proposal(s) concerned (and may not take part in the consensus group, panel review or hearings when the proposal(s) is being discussed). Part(s) of an evaluation to which the expert already participated must be declared void. Comments and scores already given must be discounted. If necessary, the expert must be replaced and the proposal(s) concerned must be re-evaluated.

However, in exceptional and duly justified cases, the responsible Joint Undertaking staff may decide to nevertheless invite the expert to take part in the panel meeting, if:

- the expert works in a different department/laboratory/institute from the one where the action is to be carried out and

- the departments/laboratories/institutes within the organisation concerned operate with a high degree of autonomy and

- the participation is justified by the requirement to appoint the best available experts and by the limited size of the pool of qualified experts.

In this case, the other experts in the group of evaluators will be informed about the situation of the expert.

(b) for a proposal(s) s/he is requested to evaluate AND for all proposal(s) competing for the same call budget-split, if s/he:

(i) was involved in the preparation of any proposal(s) submitted to the same topic/other topic within the same call budget-split;

(ii) would benefit if any proposal(s) submitted to the same topic/other topic within the same call budget split is accepted or rejected;

(iii) has close family ties (spouse, domestic or non-domestic partner, child, sibling, parent etc.) or other close personal relationship with a person (including linked third parties or other third parties) involved in the preparation of any proposal(s) submitted to the same topic/other topic within the same call budget-split, or with a person which would benefit if such a proposal(s) is accepted or rejected.

In this case, the expert must be excluded from the evaluation of the proposal(s) concerned AND from all the proposal(s) competing for the same call budget-split. Part(s) of an evaluation to which the expert already participated must be declared void. Comments and scores already given must be discounted. If necessary, the expert must be replaced and the proposal(s) concerned must be re-evaluated.

(c) for ALL proposal(s) under the call in question, if s/he:

(i) is a member of an advisory group set up by the Commission to advise on the preparation of EU or Euratom Horizon 2020 work programmes or work programmes in an area related to the call in question;

(ii) is a National Contact Point (NCP) or is working for the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN);

(iii) is a member of a programme committee.

In this case, the expert must be excluded from the evaluation of the call concerned. Part(s) of an evaluation to which the expert already participated must be declared void. Comments and scores already given must be discounted. If necessary, the expert must be replaced and the proposal(s) concerned must be re-evaluated.

The following situations **may be** considered as **conflict of interest** if the responsible Joint Undertaking staff so decides, in view of the objective circumstances, the available information and the potential risks:

(a) employment of the expert by one of the applicants (or linked third parties or other third parties involved in the action) in the last three years;

(b) involvement of the expert in a contract, grant, prize or membership of management structures (e.g. member of management or advisory board etc.) or research collaboration with an applicant, a linked third party or another third party involved in the action in the last three years;

(c) any other situation that could cast doubt on his/her ability to participate in the evaluation impartially, or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an outside third party.

In this case, the responsible Joint Undertaking staff may decide to exclude the expert from the evaluation (and on the scope, i.e. only for the proposal(s) concerned or also for competing proposal(s) or the entire call) and, if necessary, to replace him/her and organise a re-evaluation.