



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Deputy Director-General 1 - SCIENCE & POLICY TRANSITIONS  
DDG1.03 - "Science Policy, Advice and Ethics"

## **Standing Identification Committee for the ERC Scientific Council**

### **Statement on methodology**

#### **1. Introduction**

ERC Scientific Council members are appointed by the European Commission on the basis of a search process carried out by an independent Identification Committee for the selection of future members of the ERC Scientific Council (referred to hereafter as ‘the Identification Committee’). The search process includes a consultation of the scientific community, according to the provisions of the Horizon Europe Specific Programme<sup>1</sup>. The Identification Committee carries out its work independently and transparently.

The current identification process relates to the appointment of members of the ERC Scientific Council that was established on 12 May 2021 at the start of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme<sup>2</sup>. The consultation exercise will contribute to this and possibly future identification processes. The Committee is publishing this methodology that will govern the consultation, and which is similar to the approach it followed on previous occasions.

#### **2. Consultation of the research community**

The Committee works on the basis of a pool of possible candidates for membership of the Scientific Council covering all fields of science and scholarship. The pool is updated regularly to renew the membership of the Scientific Council, including to address retirements and resignations.

The Committee consults the main organisations representative of the various segments of the research community at European level (see below) by means of a letter from its Chair to the President of each organisation.

That consultation is not the only source of candidates, because other representative organisations can also nominate candidates, and members of the Committee can propose candidates for consideration. Self-nominations are not allowed. All candidates, regardless

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<sup>1</sup> Article 9.1 of the Council Decision (2021/764/EU) of 10 May 2021, establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe - the Framework programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027)

<sup>2</sup> [CI2021234EN.01000501.xml \(europa.eu\)](#)

of the source of nomination, will be considered by the Committee following the process as described in Section 4.

### **3. Factors and criteria to be taken into account**

The composition of the Scientific Council must be such that the Council can exercise authoritative and absolutely independent scientific leadership, combining wisdom and experience with vision and imagination.

Its credibility is built on the balance of qualities amongst the men and women who make it up. An appropriate gender balance is a must.

The membership of the Scientific Council should reflect the full breadth of the research community across Europe. Each member must have an undisputed reputation as research leader, be independent and committed to research. Members must be current or recent research practitioners that exercised scientific leadership at European or global level. Proper consideration should be given to younger, next-generation leaders.

Members must reflect the broad disciplinary scope of research, embracing the exact sciences and engineering, as well as the social sciences and humanities. However, they should not be considered as representatives of a discipline or of a particular line of research and should not perceive themselves as such; they should have a broad vision which reflects an understanding of important developments in research, including inter and multidisciplinary research, and the needs for research at European level.

For example, it is crucial that relevant expertise is represented when the Council is considering the increasing role played by computational techniques (for instance machine learning and database management) in both the sciences and the humanities. This includes the integration of such techniques into relevant scientific domains, implications for methodological integrity and considerations of further ethical, economic and political impact.

Beyond their proven reputation as scientists and researchers, members should collectively encompass a broad range of experience, acquired across Europe or in other research-intensive parts of the world. Experience should include support and promotion of basic research or organisation and management of research or knowledge transfer in universities, academies, business and industry, and understanding of national and international research activities, research funding schemes and the wider political context in which the European Research Council is situated.

The membership should reflect the various components of the research community and the range of scientific institutions which carry out research; it should include those with experience in universities, research institutes, academies, funding bodies or research in business and industry and those who have experience in more than one country. Some members may also be drawn from the research community outside Europe.

### **4. Methodology**

To draw up the list of candidates, the organisations consulted (and others who wish to nominate individuals) will be asked to nominate persons who in their estimation:

- have the highest eminence as research leaders and the qualifications and experience reflecting the criteria set out above;

- are available and willing to work as a member of the ERC Scientific Council independently of any other interest, and
- have the trust and confidence of the scientific community.

Organisations are asked to consider gender and geographical balance when making suggestions in this exercise.

The Committee will treat names and personal information as confidential. It will only consider nominations that are accompanied by a statement of qualifications and broader profile of candidates signed by the representative of the nominating organisation, adequate for it to make an informed judgement.

The statement is expected to include:

- A synopsis of the candidate's background and curriculum vitae;
- Relevant professional experience (e.g. universities, scientific institutions, business, government, including administrative or science policy experience);
- Research interests and experience (indicating the major research projects in which the candidate has been involved);
- Major publications and other significant works and prizes;
- Other relevant information pertaining to the candidate (e.g. country of residence, experience abroad, nationality);
- Indication of the research field of the candidate, using the referencing code of the ERC Panel Structure<sup>3</sup>.

**It is recommended to use the attached template 'Statement of the qualifications and broader profile of candidate' to provide information about candidates.**

The Committee recognises that the availability of persons to participate in the Scientific Council will be affected by the precise duties of the latter. It should be noted that the Scientific Council currently meets typically 5 times per year for 2-day meetings which are held normally in Brussels. The latter are conducted in English.

While nominations of individual candidates would not be any guarantee of selection, the Committee expects that the nominating bodies establish the willingness of candidates to serve, prior to forwarding their names.

## **5. Main representative organisations to be consulted**

- **Academia Europaea**
- **ALLEA** (European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities)
- **BUSINESSEUROPE**
- **CESAER** (Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research)
- **EARTO** (European Association of Research and Technology Organisations)
- **EASAC** (European Academies Science Advisory Council)
- **EIRMA** (European Industrial Research Management Association)
- **EUA** (European University Association)

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<sup>3</sup> [ERC\\_Panel\\_structure\\_2020.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/erc-panel-structure-2020.pdf)

- **Euro-CASE** (European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering)
- **LERU** (League of European Research Universities)
- **The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities**
- **Science Europe** (Association of European Research Funding Organisation and Research Performing Organisations)

As indicated above, the Committee also invites other interested representative organisations of the scientific community to put forward high-level nominations during the period of consultation (8 calendar weeks).

## **6. Provisional timetable for the further work of the Committee**

The provisional schedule for the next stages of the Committee's work is as follows:

- Early March 2022 – consultation letters sent to representative organisations
- End of April 2022 – receipt of proposed candidates and relevant information
- May-June 2022 - evaluation of candidates
- June 2022 – confidential proposal to the European Commission
- June 2022 – report of the Identification Committee

## **7. Electronic address for the consultation**

Organisations should send the nominations together with an up-to-date *curriculum vitae* and list of publications at the latest on **06 May 2022 noon CET** to the following electronic address: [RTD-ERC-ID@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-ERC-ID@ec.europa.eu)

## **8. Members of the Identification Committee:**

- **Carl-Henrik HELDIN** (chair) - Uppsala University, Chairman of the Board of the Nobel Foundation, Sweden
- **Heleen MURRE-VAN DEN BERG** – Radboud University, the Netherlands
- **Kirsten GRAM-HANSEN** – Aalborg University, Denmark
- **Michal KAROŃSKI** – Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
- **Carlos MARTINEZ-A.** – Spanish National Research Council
- **Mira MEZINI** – Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany