

POST-COVID Programme

Call for research proposals 2023

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR POTENTIAL EVALUATORS

1. FOREWORD

This document contains the eligibility criteria for potential evaluators.

Applicants are requested to provide from 4 to 6 potential foreign reviewers with appropriate expertise in the research area(s) covered by their proposal(s). These experts may be contacted by BELSPO in order to evaluate their proposal(s). Applicants also have the right to exclude a maximum of 2 reviewers (non-grata experts) from the evaluation of their proposal(s).

The names and contact details of the proposed and non-grata experts must be provided within the Expression of Interest (EoI); this information will no longer be required within the Full proposal. BELSPO will begin to prepare the evaluation process immediately after the EoI submission deadline, therefore, the project description in the Full proposal must not diverge from the EoI to the point that the expertise mobilised for the evaluation becomes irrelevant.

Brief recall of the Evaluation Procedure

The "POST-COVID" research Call " evaluation procedure consists of a scientific peer review evaluation in 2 steps:

- Step 1: Individual written evaluation
- Step 2: Panel meeting: formulation of the Selection proposal

The proposed experts, who may be called on by BELSPO, will either participate on the Individual written evaluation or the panel meeting¹.

¹ Only in case of need and as a last resource BELSPO may call upon Panel members to perform remote evaluations, in the same way that if some Panel member finds him/herself unable to attend, we may invite a remote expert to the Panel.

2. ELIBIGILITY CRITERIA

The experts must meet the following criteria:

- Be outstanding and internationally (well) recognized in their research field
- Be able to evaluate (as much as possible) all the aspects covered by the proposal
- Be foreign experts (preferably European), neither working, nor living in Belgium
- Be free of conflict of interest (see Regarding conflict of interest, infra)

BELSPO will not consider any expert who fails to comply with all criteria.

Regarding Conflict of interest

Experts are considered to have a conflict of interest if they stand to profit professionally, financially or personally from approval or rejection of an application.

More specifically, this means eligible experts must:

- have no direct link with the project.
- not be involved in the preparation of the EoI and/or the full proposal.
- not benefit from the acceptance of the proposal.
- not be a family member or partner relative to the first degree of any of the applicants.
- not belong to applicants' institutions.
- not be a director, a trustee or a partner of the applicants' institutions.
- not have been employed within the applicants' institutions in the past 5 years.
- not have held a contract or collaborated in any way with any of the applicants or their research groups in the past 5 years.
- have no common projects or co-publications with any of the applicants or their research groups within the last 5 years.
- not be in any other situation which compromises or casts a doubt on his or her ability to evaluate the proposal impartially, or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an external third party.