

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR EVALUATORS

This document contains the eligibility criteria for Science4Policy experts taking part in the written (individual) evaluation and the panel interview evaluation phases of the procedure.

For each Science4Policy Full Proposal, an individual written evaluation will be performed by a set of 3 **international (non-Belgian) independent** experts having an adequate combined expertise to evaluate the research proposal. **BELSPO is responsible for composing this remote 'written evaluation team'** with experts from BELSPO's own database and experts suggested by the applicants.

The names of the evaluators will not be made known to the other evaluators or to the applicants until the panel interview takes place.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The experts must meet the following criteria:

- Be outstanding and internationally (well) recognised in their knowledge of Science for Policy and the relevant topic
- Be able to evaluate (as much as possible) all the aspects covered by the proposal
- Be free of conflict of interest (see 'Conflict of interest')
- If employed, be employed in a non-Belgian institution at the time of the evaluation

BELSPO will not consider experts who fail to comply with all criteria.

### 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 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.

Any other potential conflict of interest will be disclosed by the evaluators.

No evaluator having declared a conflict of interest for a specific proposal will be in charge of drafting the Consensus Report of that proposal.