



European Research Council
Executive Agency

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Professor Anastasios Nikolaidis
University of Crete
EL

Subject: Invitation to take part as Panel Member in the ERC Consolidator Grants evaluation panel

Dear Professor Nikolaidis,

As you have already participated in previous ERC evaluations, you are familiar with the work of the European Research Council that has been promoting outstanding frontier research in all areas of science and humanities throughout Europe for the last eight years. Our goal is to develop a world-class research-funding agency whose decisions for funding are based exclusively on the scientific quality.

The ERC Consolidator Grants scheme provides significant support to the most promising researchers of the next generation who are either establishing their first research group and scientific independence or consolidating their research career.

Your previous contribution as Panel Member has been very much appreciated by the ERC and its Scientific Council. The appointment is confirmed by the Scientific Council on an annual basis. Ultimately, the composition of the panels also depends on the adequate coverage of expertise needed in each call, and the necessity to regularly recompose parts of the panel. However, the overall mandate would normally not exceed 4 active calls (and 3 active calls in the role of Panel Chair).

I am now contacting you as President of the ERC to invite your participation again in this exciting endeavour **by acting as Panel Member for the *panel* SH5–Cultures and Cultural Production in the Consolidator Grant 2016 evaluation.**¹

Please note that, if you participate as a panel member in the ERC-2016-CoG call, it will not be possible for you to submit a proposal to any of the panels of this call. Because of the alternating nature of the ERC panels, please take into account that this restriction might also apply to the ERC-2018-CoG call.

The planning for the evaluation is provided in the Annex. This includes a two-to-three day meeting for the first evaluation step followed by a three-to-four day meeting with interviews with the finalists for the second step. Both panel meetings take place at the ERC offices in Brussels, and **all panel members are expected to be available for the full duration of both**

¹ Please note that the panel structure for the 2016 calls has been revised as reflected in new panel titles approved by the Scientific Council. They will be published only later, as part of the 2016 ERC Work Programme; please keep them confidential for the time being.

meetings. This is indispensable in view of the multidisciplinary nature of the panels on the one hand and the limited number of panel members on the other, each of whom represents a unique field of expertise, as well as for the integrity of the evaluation process.

Depending on the number of proposals received for each panel, the expected annual workload for Panel Members will be around 12 days (with about 25-35 10-page applications to be assessed during Step 1 and about 5-10 15-page applications to be assessed during Step 2). The written assessments are done remotely ahead of the panel meetings. As you know, Panel Members receive an honorarium for their work as well as travel and accommodation allowances and a per diem for their participation in the meetings.

I very much hope that you will accept this invitation. At a later stage you will receive the formal contract and further administrative documents regarding your reimbursement by the ERC Executive Agency. As we are working under a tight schedule to establish the panels, we would appreciate if you could let us know by email at your earliest convenience, possibly **within five days** at the latest, whether you are able to accept this invitation.

In case you accept the invitation, the ERC Executive Agency administrative services will contact you by email indicating the next steps to be followed.

Should you have any further questions regarding any evaluation related issue, please do not hesitate to contact the ERC Executive Agency under the functional mailbox:

ERC-EXPERTS@ec.europa.eu.

With thanks for your consideration and my best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'J.P. Bourguignon'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'P'.

Professor Jean-Pierre BOURGUIGNON
President of the European Research Council