

Definition of a Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest exists when an individual's personal, financial, professional, or other interests interfere, or could reasonably be perceived to interfere, with the impartial and objective performance of their responsibilities.

If a person feels their impartiality may be endangered, e.g. by a close relationship to any team member of the applicant other than kinship or professional, they should also declare a Col.

Members of the International Expert Panel (IEP) are required to declare any actual or potential Conflict of Interest (Col) with respect to the Proposals. The following situations are considered as Col:

- Being involved in (the preparation of) any pre- and/or full proposal submitted to the call.
- Being director, trustee, partner or in any way involved in management of an applicant's organisation.
- Being employed or contracted by an applicant's organisation (now or in the last 3 years):
 - for organisations >150 employees: the department (and equivalent) and not the organization.
 - Thus, an evaluator from department A of an organisation could evaluate a proposal with an applicant from department B of that organisation.
- Having (or having had in the last 3 years):
 - close family ties (spouse, domestic or non-domestic partner, child, sibling, parent etc.) or other close personal relationship with
 - an applicant of the proposal submitted to the call, or with
 - a person close to an applicant of the proposal submitted to the call, or with
 - a person who would benefit if such a proposal is accepted or rejected or
 - a close scientific collaboration / professional proximity with an applicant of the proposal
 - co-authored/published articles with the applicant,
 - been involved in the same group as the applicant
 - been a superior, subordinate or instructor of the applicant
 - a relationship of personal or scientific rivalry or professional hostility with an applicant of the proposal
 - a mentor/mentee relationship with a principal investigator, or other personnel mentioned in the proposal.
 - an activity in advisory bodies of the applicant's institution, e.g. scientific advisory boards.
- Having direct or indirect benefit (e.g., economic) if any proposal submitted is accepted or rejected.

If a person feels their impartiality may otherwise be endangered, e.g., by a close or adversarial relationship to any team member of the applicant other than kinship or professional, they should also declare a Col.