

***EURIZON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME:
“Remote Research Grants for Ukrainian Researchers”***

Call for Research Reviewers



INTRODUCTION

This Call is aimed at finding additional external reviewers who will be invited to support the evaluation process of the applications submitted in the framework of the EURIZON Fellowship programme: Remote Research Grants call: https://www.eurizon-project.eu/news/calls/call_for_applications/.

The EURIZON Secretariat is currently looking for additional independent external reviewers to support the evaluation of the proposals in a broad range of scientific and technical topics, across the following ESFRI thematic areas:

- DATA, COMPUTING & DIGITAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES;
- ENERGY;
- ENVIRONMENT;
- HEALTH & FOOD;
- PHYSICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING;
- SOCIAL & CULTURAL INNOVATION;

BACKGROUND

The EU funded project EURIZON (European network for developing new horizons for RIs: <https://www.eurizon-project.eu/about/>) is about European scientific and technical collaboration in the field of research infrastructures (RIs) and it includes in addition a special focus on coordination and support measures dedicated to Ukrainian scientists and RIs.

EURIZON is indeed the second phase of a project that started in February 2020. Since the military aggression against Ukraine, the project has been substantially revised, and it offers now within WP9 “Fellowship and training Programme” and WP10 “Sustainability of RIs” a bundle of training and support measures for Ukrainian scientists and for the sustainability of Ukrainian research infrastructures, especially in view of their better integration into the European Research Area. This Remote Research Grants Fellowship Programme is one element of these measures, and **its goals are: to support Ukrainian researchers in this emergency situation and to start and/or strengthen collaborations between Ukrainian and European scientists.**

EURIZON CALL AND SELECTION PROCESS

The EURIZON Fellowship Program: “Remote Research Grants for Ukrainian Researchers” is dedicated to supporting Ukrainian researchers whose work is hampered or prevented by Russia’s war against Ukraine. The programme is addressing teams of vulnerable researchers and other relevant staff from Ukrainian research institutes (PhD students, engineers, technicians, etc.) from all scientific domains.

These temporary grants, funded by the European Union (through EURIZON H2020 project, grant agreement 871072) are intended to enable research teams **in Ukraine** to continue their scientific work, remotely, by **carrying on research projects in collaboration with partners from European research institutes**. The proposed research projects can have a duration of 6 or 12 months. Research teams can be composed by 2 to 5 (and more¹) members. Teams must be led by an experienced researcher, but the other team members may include PhD students, post-graduates,

¹ Teams can include also more than 5 members, but the maximum amount per research grant will not exceed the maximum amount foreseen (6500€ monthly per teams of 5 or more members, more information in the Terms of Reference).

research scientists, assistant researchers, engineers, research assistants, technicians and other relevant staff from Ukrainian research institutes and academia (team members can be affiliated to different research organizations in Ukraine). All research team members must have a meaningful function, and their roles be justified and accounted for in the proposal.

The research projects must be carried out (also remotely) **from any place in Ukraine**. The EURIZON fellowship programme will provide support in the form of research grants only to Ukrainian applicants (not to their European partners).

The call was opened on April 1st via the EURIZON website: https://www.eurizon-project.eu/news/calls/call_for_applications/ and closed on May 8th.

The **selection process** includes (1) an eligibility check, (2) an evaluation procedure carried out by a multidisciplinary panel of international independent reviewers and (3) the confirmation of the European partners (parallel to the evaluation process indeed, the European partners, nominated by the Ukrainian teams, will be asked to evaluate the research project and to confirm their willingness to participate in it) and (4) the final approval of the EURIZON WP9 Scientific Review Panel (SRP)².

After the eligibility check, the valid applications will go through the next steps of the selection process and will be evaluated by external independent international reviewers from all scientific domains based on a combination of several scientific and technical criteria, pre-established by the Scientific Review Panel (SRP).

The assessment performed by the external reviewers, specifically will focus on the scientific excellence of the proposal, on the level of planned cooperation and synergy with the European partners, the potential of the proposed project to boost the future integration of Ukrainian RIs with the European Research Area (ERA) and the potential of the proposed project of contributing to the capacity building and to restoring the operations of the Ukrainian Research Infrastructures (RIs).

ROLE OF EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

Within the EURIZON project, the external evaluators will support the review process of the applications received under the Remote Research Grants Fellowship programme. They will provide an individual, remote, neutral and objective scientific/technical review of received applications.

The external reviewers will evaluate the **SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE** and the **POTENTIAL IMPACT** of applications according to the criteria and scoring system pre-established by the SRP. Their evaluation will be one of the main contributions guiding the SRP final decision concerning the award of the fellowship.

External reviewers are selected from a list of high-profile international reviewers.

Before accepting the role of reviewers, the external reviewers will first receive and agree on the guidelines and code of conduct for evaluators and later on they will need to sign the declaration of non-conflict of interest and the declaration of confidentiality.

Before receiving the applications, they will also agree with the EURIZON Secretariat the time schedule to provide the evaluation reports, based on the personal availabilities and on the number of applications they can evaluate.

² For the composition of the SRP : https://www.eurizon-project.eu/sites/sites_custom/site_eurizon/content/e102473/e110284/e110285/infoboxContent197332/EURIZON-ScientificReviewPanelSRPMembers.pdf

After the signature of the declaration of confidentiality, reviewers will get access to the research applications that they will evaluate. They will then send the evaluation report to the EURIZON Secretariat.

External reviewers will work remotely. They will process their assessment based on their professional background, capacity and judgement and based on the guidance offered in the supporting documents they will receive from the EURIZON secretariat. They won't liaise with each other. No physical meetings are foreseen. The reviewers are expected to respect the fundamental principles of good research practice and research integrity.

CODE OF CONDUCT for evaluators

Fundamental principles of good research practice and peer-review are essential for research integrity. All parties involved directly or indirectly in the evaluation must ensure the transparency of the process as well as that the evaluation criteria published in this document are respected equally for all proposals and that public European funds are well used:

1. Evaluators are chosen for their technical and scientific expertise and/or for their knowledge of the European and/or Ukrainian research systems;
2. All parties involved directly or indirectly in the evaluation must act objectively, with no self-interested motives. They do not represent their organisation or establishment;
3. The evaluators shall evaluate the applications based solely upon the information contained in the proposals and following the guidance given by the EURIZON Secretariat in the supporting documents that will be provided;
4. Evaluators must not contact applicants directly. In case of doubts the evaluators shall contact the EURIZON Secretariat;
5. If any evaluator is the object of any pressure whatsoever from a project applicant or from any other individual/organisation, she or he must notify immediately the EURIZON Secretariat.
6. If upon receipt of the application document an evaluator suspects that there could be a conflict of interest (see Declarations in Annex), the concerned evaluator must inform the EURIZON secretariat as soon as possible and should step back from the evaluation of that proposal.

PRINCIPLES, CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All evaluations must comply with the following four principles:

- **Independence**, i.e. involved persons carry out the evaluations in a personal capacity and they represent neither their employer nor their country.
- **Impartiality**, i.e. persons must treat all proposals equally and evaluate them impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants and the Principal Investigator and/or the European partners.
- **Objectivity**, i.e. involved persons evaluate each proposal; meaning on its own merit, not its potential if certain changes were to be made.
- **Accuracy**, i.e. involved persons make their judgment solely against the formal evaluation criteria.

PROCEDURE TO ONBOARD THE EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

- The expert expresses his/her interest to support the evaluation process of the EURIZON

Fellowships for remote research grants along with his/her CV by applying on the dedicated indico page or by contacting evaluation@eurizon-project.eu ;

- He/she will be contacted by the EURIZON Secretariat and will receive the invitation to act as an external expert together with the documents related to the Call (ToR, application template example, declarations of confidentiality and of non-conflict of interest) and the guidelines for external reviewers;
- The expert will agree with the EURIZON Secretariat the number of applications he/she is available to assess and the amount of time needed, based on his/her availabilities;
- The expert has 5 working days to accept or decline the evaluation support invitation.

If accepted:

- The expert will send to evaluation@eurizon-project.eu the signed declaration of confidentiality;
- The expert will receive the application documents and the templates for the evaluation;
- The expert will have the agreed amount of time to perform the assessment of the received applications;
- The expert will send to evaluation@eurizon-project.eu the final report and the Declaration of Non conflicts of interest signed;