

Research Integrity Funder Requirements Guidance Document: European Commission (EC) Horizon 2020 European Research Council (ERC) – At Application Stage

In addition to the below guidance, for existing grant holders, please also refer to the contract of your grant's terms and conditions for any additional or superseding potential requirements on these topics.

Conflict of Interest:

Please familiarise yourself with the policy and annotations located here:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/mga/erc/h2020-mga-erc-multi_v2.0_en.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

Of note in Article 35 'conflict of interests' on pages 63 to 64 of 142 it states: "*35.1 Obligation to avoid a conflict of interests*

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the action is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests'). They must formally notify to the Agency without delay any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The Agency may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

35.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 43) and the Agreement or participation of the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 50)."

Research Misconduct:

Please familiarise yourself with the policy and annotations located here:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/mga/erc/h2020-mga-erc-multi_v2.0_en.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

Of note in Article 34.1 'Ethics' on page 62 it states:

"The beneficiaries must carry out the action in compliance with:

(a) ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity — and including, in particular, avoiding fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or other research misconduct)"

Research and Professional Misconduct:

Please familiarise yourself with the policy and annotations located here:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/mga/erc/h2020-mga-erc-multi_v2.0_en.pdf

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

Of note in Article 50.3 'Termination of the Agreement or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, by the Commission' on page 338 of 846 it states: *"50.3.1 Conditions The Commission may terminate the Agreement or the participation of one or more beneficiaries, if: ... f) a beneficiary (or a natural person who has the power to represent or take decisions on its behalf) has been found guilty of professional misconduct, proven by any means;"*

Of note on page 338 of 846 it states:

"Professional misconduct

The Commission/Agency may terminate the participation of a beneficiary, if it (or one of its representatives) has been found guilty of professional misconduct (proven by any means).

Example: A legal entity's participation in a GA is terminated when a national investigation uncovers that it falsified the results of its clinical studies."

This clause provides an option of termination if the legal entity (e.g. a University) is found guilty or one of their authorised persons is found guilty. The annotations about the Procedure and effects are included from pages 345 – 346.