

GUIDANCE

Conflicts of interest in the peer review process

Objectivity, transparency, fairness and impartiality are the cornerstones on which the Anniversary Fund's decision-making process rests. Given that its decisions to grant funds are based primarily on the external peer review process, the Anniversary Fund verifies whether there are any potential conflicts of interest in any of the individual procedural steps.

Both applicants and reviewers play an important role in helping the Anniversary Fund to consider conflicts of interest; the former by indicating names of reviewers that might be biased and the latter by declaring any conflict they might have.

Applicants' right to indicate reviewers with potential conflicts of interest

When submitting their application on the OeNB website, applicants may indicate up to three reviewers who are very likely to have potential conflicts of interest.

Precluding conflicts of interest for selected reviewers

The Anniversary Fund relies on the selected reviewers' judgment and due care to assess the existence of any conflicts of interest. Should reviewers have the slightest perception of a conflict of interest, they are asked to inform the Anniversary Fund before drafting their review.

According to the Anniversary Fund, a conflict of interest exists if the reviewer

- is a relative or (marital) partner of or has some other personal relationship with the applicant or a member of the project team in question
- works at the same research institution as the applicant(s) or has been assured of, or aspires to, future employment at said research institution (appeals procedure)
- has a self-serving stake (be it professional, financial or personal) in the approval or rejection of the application
- has worked at the same institution as or has co-published or been involved in some other type of research cooperation with the applicant or a member of the project team in question in the past five years or plans to co-publish or cooperate in research projects with the applicant or a member of the project team in question
- has scientific views that are in direct conflict with the opinions of the applicant or a member of the project team in question (competitive relationships)
- has other professional and/or personal close links (especially a previous dependency or professor-student relationship) with the applicant or a member of the project team in question which might represent a conflict of interest

The Anniversary Fund would like to express its gratitude to all applicants and reviewers for full disclosure of potential conflicts of interest. This helps us uphold our commitment to objectivity, transparency, fairness and impartiality in our decision making.