**Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity**

Directorate of Democratic Participation

*Observatory on History Teaching in Europe*

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**Call for Expression of Interest for**

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Deadline for applications 15/03/2024**

With this call, the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTE) aims to **create a pool of candidates for future membership of the Scientific Advisory Council (SAC)**. The Observatory is an Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe whose main purpose is to collect and make available, through a series of general and thematic reports, factual information on how history is taught in [all participating countries](https://www.coe.int/en/web/observatory-history-teaching/member-states). The SAC is mandated to ensure the academic, scientific, and methodological quality of the Observatory's work. It meets at least once a year and can also be consulted by electronic means.

This call is addressed to **experts on history teaching, practitioners as well as academic historians**, who wish to be considered for membership of the OHTE Scientific Advisory Council. Successful candidates will be entered into a pool of experts valid for five years, from which new members of the Scientific Advisory Council can be elected depending on their profiles and experience. 4 positions on the SAC will be opened in June 2024; the following elections will take place in June 2025 where at least 7 other positions will become available.

The term of office of the SAC members is two years, renewable once. Each member shall serve in an independent capacity and shall not represent individual countries or institutions, their authorities, or other external interests.

**About the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe**

Established in November 2020, the Observatory provides a clear picture of the state of history teaching in its member states, based on reliable data and facts on how history is taught. The aim is to promote practices encouraging history teaching and learning to strengthen and boost the values of the Council of Europe.

The Observatory works to ensure that its activities have a solid scholarly and academic basis, take due account of the diversity of the education systems of its member States, and complement the Council of Europe’s intergovernmental work on history education. It does not aim to harmonise curricula.

To achieve this, the Observatory in particular:

* conducts a series of general; longitudinal studies leading to reports on the ways in which history is taught in all of its member States;
* conducts thematic studies leading to reports on specific issues on history teaching, with a view to exploring these issues in more depth and to considering topics not included in regular studies;
* organises meetings and conferences in order to assist in the preparation and dissemination of reports;
* serves also as a platform for partner institutes and European professional associations.

The Observatory is supervised by its Governing Board made up of one representative of each member State, appointed by and representing the responsible public authorities. It elects the Scientific Advisory Council composed of independent experts highly qualified in the field of history education.

**The Scientific Advisory Council**

The Scientific Advisory Council has an **advisory function** and is not involved in the administration or the steering of the Observatory. It shall be consulted on the Observatory's programme to **ensure the academic, scholarly, and methodological quality of its work**, in particular its reports. The task of the Scientific Advisory Council is also to assist the Governing Board by delivering an opinion on any other matter concerning the Observatory’s activities which the Governing Board may submit to it.

The Scientific Advisory Council is **composed of up to 15 members** elected by the Governing Board, taking geographical, professional, and gender balance into account. To ensure the continuity of the Observatory's work and the regular inclusion of new perspectives, a rotation system is in place for members of the Scientific Advisory Council.

The pool of candidates, comprising experts and practitioners in the field of history education, will be created according to an assessment procedure and eligibility criteria decided by the Governing Board. The pool will remain valid for five years. Each time the election of SAC members is necessary, the most suitable candidates shall be selected from this pool.

In accordance with Article 4.3 of the Observatory’s Statute, **the term of office** of the members of the Scientific Advisory Council shall **be two years, renewable once.** The SAC members are appointed on an individual basis. Members shall undertake to act independently of any external influence.

The SAC shall hold at least **one meeting a year**. Further meetings may be convened by the Governing Board, either on its own initiative, or at the request of the Scientific Advisory Council itself. The venue of the meetings are usually the headquarters of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg). The Scientific Advisory Council may also be consulted between the meetings by electronic means.

In addition to the SAC meetings, members may also be invited to act as Ambassadors for the work of the Observatory and therefore may be asked to take part in speaking engagements promoting the reports or further activities of the OHTE, including during the Annual Conference.

The **Scientific Advisory Council is headed by its chairperson** elected from among its members. The Chair is invited to participate in the meetings of the Governing Board, without the right to vote.

Members of the Scientific Advisory Council **are not remunerated**. However, in the event of face-to-face meetings, they are entitled to an indemnity for each meeting, i.e. reimbursement of travel expenses, a daily allowance, and an accommodation allowance in accordance with the Council of Europe’s rules for reimbursement of expert’s expenses.

**Qualifications and experience required**

Candidates for membership of the Scientific Advisory Council shall fulfil the following criteria:

* Higher education degree in a relevant academic discipline of humanities or social sciences;
* At least 5 years of professional experience relevant to history education;
* Ability to work in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (English or French).

The following criteria shall be considered as advantages:

* Research experience in history, history teaching, or related disciplines, notably in the member States of the Observatory;
* Experience in teaching history at different levels within the education system, notably in the member States of the Observatory;
* Work experience in a multidisciplinary environment, especially in an international context.

**Assessment procedure and election**

The Governing Board shall assess the eligible candidates taking into account:

* Quality of candidacies based on established requirements;
* The need that the fields of expertise of the members of the Scientific Advisory Council shall cover the most relevant academic fields linked to history education, in accordance with the mission and the objectives of the Observatory;
* The need to ensure a diversity of professional backgrounds and specialisations;
* The need to ensure geographical and gender balance.

Based on the initial assessment the pool of candidates shall be created from which a shortlist of the most suitable candidates shall be drawn by the Governing Board before the election. The Governing Board may conduct online interviews with preselected candidates. The first election of new candidates will take place in June 2024, during which time 4 new members will be elected.

Those not elected can remain in the pool of eligible candidates for possible selection for any further elections over a period of 5 years. In the event of a vacancy, the Governing Board shall appoint a new member from the pool. The filling in of a vacancy shall be for the rest of the duration of the term left by the previous SAC member.

**Application procedure**

Candidates are requested to submit their applications **in English or French** by completing the online [**Application form.**](https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/BDRJXH5)

Further supporting documents may be requested at a later stage.

Clarification requests on the call and the application procedure can be sent to the following address: **OHTE@coe.int**