

Observatory on History Teaching in Europe
Spontaneous Interest for
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

With this call, the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTe) invites experts in history education – both practitioners and academic historians – to express their interest in joining the pool of candidates for membership of the **Scientific Advisory Council (SAC)**. This call is not for any immediate appointment; rather, it seeks to identify qualified experts who may be included in a pool from which future vacancies on the SAC may be filled.

Applications to this call will be reviewed periodically by the OHTe Governing Board, and profiles that match the current or future needs of the Observatory may be added to the pool of eligible candidates. The pool of candidates was established on 1 June 2024 and is valid for five years, i.e. until 31 May 2029, with new candidates added being valid for the remainder of life of the pool. After this date, a new call will be issued and a new pool of experts will be composed.

About the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe

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](#).

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, which is made up of one representative of each member state appointed by and representing the responsible public authority. The Scientific Advisory Council is 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**, particularly 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 always ensure the presence of both experienced members with knowledge of existing working methods and the renewal of expertise, SAC members are elected at **different stages**.

The term of office for 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.

The SAC holds 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.

Pool of candidates for SAC membership

Members of the Scientific Advisory Council are elected by the Governing Board from a pool of candidates composed of experts and practitioners in the field of history education. The pool was established on 1 June 2024 for a period of five years and **remains open to spontaneous applications**.

Applications are **reviewed periodically** by the OHTE Governing Board, in line with the established assessment procedure and eligibility criteria (see below). Profiles that correspond to the current or anticipated needs of the Observatory may be added to the pool.

When an election to the SAC becomes necessary, the Governing Board will select the most suitable candidates from this pool. Once added, candidates remain eligible for the entire duration of the pool's validity, i.e. until **31 May 2029**.

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.

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