

## Council of Europe Observatory on History Teaching in Europe

### Call for Expression of Interest for

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Deadline for applications 5 April 2021**

With this call, the [Observatory on History Teaching in Europe](#) is opening **11 positions** on its Scientific Advisory Council (SAC). The Observatory is a new Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe established in November 2020 by 17 member States.<sup>1</sup> Its main purpose is to collect and make available, through a series of regular and thematic reports, factual information on how history is taught in all participating countries.

This call is addressed to **experts on history teaching, practitioners as well as academic historians**, who wish to be considered for membership of the Observatory Scientific Advisory Council. The SAC is mandated to ensure the academic, scientific, and methodological quality of the Observatory's work. It will meet at least once a year and can also be consulted by electronic means.

The term of office of the new SAC members will start on **7 June 2021 and end on 6 June 2023**. The members will be eligible for a second term of office of two years. Each member shall serve in an independent capacity and shall not represent individual countries or institutions, their authorities or other interests.

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

On 12 November 2020, the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers adopted [Resolution CM/Res\(2020\)34](#) establishing the Enlarged Partial Agreement on the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe.

The aim of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe shall be to promote practices encouraging history teaching and learning to strengthen and promote the values of the Council of Europe. Specifically, the task of the Observatory shall be to collect, process, and make available factual information on the ways in which history is taught in all countries of the Enlarged Partial Agreement (EPA). In doing so, the Observatory shall pay particular attention to ensuring that its activities are based on a solid scholarly and academic basis, take due account of the diversity of education systems in member States of the EPA and ensure complementarity with the Council of Europe's [intergovernmental work on history education](#). It does not aim to harmonise curricula.

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<sup>1</sup> Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, and Turkey.

To perform this task, the Observatory shall in particular:

- conduct a series of regular studies leading to reports on the ways in which history is taught in all member States of the EPA;
- conduct thematic studies leading to reports on specific issues of history teaching, with a view to exploring these issues in more depth and to considering topics not included in regular studies;
- organise meetings and conferences in order to assist in the preparation and dissemination of reports;
- serve also as a platform for the Observatory's partner institutes and European professional associations.

The Observatory is supervised by its Governing Board made up of one representative of each member State of the Partial Agreement, appointed by and representing the competent public authorities in the field of history teaching. It elects the Scientific Advisory Council composed of 11 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 and 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 shall be **composed of 11 members** elected by the Governing Board, taking geographical, professional, and gender balance into account. The list of candidates, comprising renowned persons in the field of history teaching and learning, will be drawn up according to a selection procedure and eligibility criteria decided by the Governing Board.

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 a personal basis. Members shall undertake to act independently of any external influence.

It 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. The venue of the meetings is the headquarters of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg). The Scientific Advisory Council may also be consulted between the meetings by electronic means. The first SAC meeting is likely to take place end June – early July in Strasbourg or online.

The **Scientific Advisory Council is headed by its Chairperson** elected from among its members. The Chair will be assisted by a contact-point within the Observatory Secretariat. He/she 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, preferably in an international context.

## **Assessment procedure and election**

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

- Eligibility of candidates 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.

A list of the most eligible candidates will be drawn up, including between twelve and twenty-two names. The Governing Board may conduct online interviews with preselected candidates. On the basis of the list, the Governing Board will elect the members of the Scientific Advisory Council at its meeting on 7 June 2021.

The candidates not elected shall be put on a reserve list by the number of votes received. The reserve list shall be valid for the duration of the term of the elected Scientific Advisory Council. In the event of a vacancy, the Governing Board shall appoint a new member from the reserve list. The filling of a vacancy shall be for the rest of the duration of the term of the Scientific Advisory Council.

## **Application procedure**

Candidates are requested to submit their applications **in English or French** by completing the online [Application form](#).

Further supporting documents may be requested at a later stage.

Clarifications on the call and the applications procedure can be requested at the following address: [OHTE@coe.int](mailto:OHTE@coe.int)

**The closing date** for submission of applications is **5 April 2021 at 13:00** (Central European Time). The Observatory Secretariat reserves the right to disregard any expressions of interest submitted after that date and time.