

EXPERT EVALUATORS PARTICIPATION AT NCPs INFO EVENTS

Some NCPs have requested experts to give a presentation about their role as evaluators in the Horizon Europe during their info events

In principle it could be possible to give a general presentation, but there are risks for the expert:

- Confidentiality obligations stipulated in the Code of Conduct of the [expert contract](#) limit strictly the information that can be shared.
- Retention rate for experts is high so they could in the future evaluate proposals from applicants participating in the event with whom they could have interacted. This might create a conflict of interest for the experts. NCPs are often aware of concrete experts evaluating for specific fields and if they give a presentation in events organised for applicants in those areas the risks multiply as the pool of experts and potential applicants maybe reduced.
- There is a problem if during or after an evaluation complaints are received from other applicants who are aware of the participation of the experts in NCPs info events to which successful applicants may have attended. This may jeopardise the results of the evaluation, increase the administrative burden on the Commission services and will in any case require further investigation of the circumstances to assess the circumstances (e.g. mere presence in the information event might not be an issue but any detailed or even general advice would raise questions if the expert was not *“involved in the preparation of the proposal”*)

Conclusion: the participation of experts should be limited to general advise, avoiding participation in events targeting specific calls or to pre-screen or advise on pre-proposals or full proposals, as well as bilateral iterations with potential applicants.