

**Information on the NWO Code of Conduct Regarding Conflict of Interest, for evaluation committee members of an NWO research institute**

NWO's main task is granting subsidies for scientific research from public funds. Therefore, the Code specifically addresses reviewers who will be reviewing a grant application for NWO. The Code is, however, equally applicable to other reviewers, such as the members of the external evaluation committees of the NWO research institutes.

We herewith send you the NWO Code of Conduct Regarding Conflict of Interest. When reading this Code, you should realize that instead of reviewing a grant application, you will be reviewing an NWO research institute. Please consider the Code from that point of view. Crucial elements of the text including the examples of potentially biasing affiliations or relationships listed in paragraph 2 are equally applicable to you.

NWO must ensure a transparent and independent evaluation process. At the same time, NWO aims to have experts in the evaluation committees, who know the research field of the NWO institute to be evaluated. It is highly likely that working relations exist. However, these should not cause any bias in the evaluation process.

We trust your integrity and kindly ask you to please inform us of your potentially biasing affiliations or relationships. Essential is that you feel that you will be able to perform an independent and impartial review of the institute.

We kindly ask you to fill in the NWO Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality statement included ('Declaration of involvement/non-involvement', page 4).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.