Legal Terms and Conditions
European City of Science 2026

1. Definitions

Awardee: Legal entity that has been awarded the title European City of Science
Call: A public document describing, among other matters, the ECoS title and the Selection Process, as well as a timeline and criteria for the selection of an ECoS Awardee
Candidate: A legal entity that has applied in response to the Call
Trademark License Agreement: An agreement signed by EuroScience and the designated ECoS Awardee that governs the collaboration required to use the title European City Of Science and to organise the program for the ECoS
ECoS: The European City of Science, a title for a legal entity awarded by EuroScience
EuroScience: The European Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology, a non-profit association founded in 1997 and registered at 1 Quai Lezay-Marnesia, F-67000 Strasbourg, France
First-Round Application: Initial first-round application of a legal entity in response to the Call
Governing Board: Elected governing body of the EuroScience association, comprised of twelve (12) full members of EuroScience. The Governing Board shall make the final decision on the selection of an Awardee
Second-Round Application: Second-round application of Short-Listed Candidates invited to respond to the Second Round of the Call
Selection Committee: A committee of six (6) external experts that assesses both First-Round and Second-Round Applications, provides feedback to the Candidates and makes recommendations to the Governing Board in the framework of the Selection Process
Selection Process: The process created to identify and select the ECoS Awardee
Short-Listed Candidate: A Candidate that has been invited to submit a Second-Round Application in response to the Call
Terms and Conditions: Legal obligations related to the Call and to the subsequent organisation and delivery of the ECoS programme

2. Introduction

1) The present document sets out the standard Terms and Conditions for the Selection Process and outlines, among other elements, the Call, the assessment procedure, the rules for disqualification, suspension or revocation of a Candidate application, as well as applicable principles of liability.

2) Submission of an application by a Candidate implies full acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.

3) Candidates are understood to be aware of their responsibilities and are bound by the Terms and Conditions. Failure to comply with the Terms and Conditions shall lead to disqualification, without prior notice, of the Candidate from the Selection Process as set out below.

4) The Terms and Conditions should be understood in conjunction with the Call and
the Trademark License Agreement, which together and jointly constitute the Terms and Conditions of the Selection Process.

5) An Awardee selected by the Governing Board is understood to be aware of its responsibilities and must comply with the Terms and Conditions and the Trademark License Agreement. Failure to comply with the Terms and Conditions and/or the Trademark License Agreement shall lead to the suspension or revocation, without prior notice, of the right to be the ECoS Awardee, and EuroScience reserves the right, among other courses of action, to recover in full or in part the expenses incurred by EuroScience.

3. The Selection Process

1) The Selection Process is organised by EuroScience.

2) The documentation of the Selection Process contains the following supporting elements:
   i. The Call
   ii. The First-Round Application Questionnaire
   iii. The Legal Terms and Conditions
   iv. The standard template of the Trademark License Agreement

3) The Selection Process consists of two (2) application rounds, which are further described in Sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 respectively of the Legal Terms and Conditions.

4) The final decision on the selection of an Awardee shall be taken by the Governing Board of EuroScience.

5) The vote of the Governing Board on a Candidate is final and EuroScience will not enter into any correspondence concerning the Selection Process with regard to, among other elements, the selection of the Awardee, any delays in the selection or Selection Process, the announcement of the results or any decisions with respect to eligibility or disqualification.

6) EuroScience reserves the right to request additional information from any Candidate throughout the entire application and Selection Process.

4. Candidates

1) Any legally incorporated city, municipality, metropolis or urban community located geographically in a Member State of the Council of Europe is eligible to submit a First-Round Application in response to the Call.

2) EuroScience shall make the final decision regarding the eligibility of a Candidate.

3) By submitting a First-Round Application in response to the Call, a Candidate recognises full acceptance of the present Terms and Conditions and acknowledges being bound by the Terms and Conditions for the entire Selection Process, as well as for the entire period of preparation, organisation and delivery of an ECoS year should the Candidate be selected as Awardee.

4) Candidates are liable for the information provided throughout the First-Round Application and Second-Round Application of the Selection Process. All information provided should be true, accurate and complete.

5) Candidates are committed to organising the program of an ECoS year on the basis
of the affirmations and proposals made and described in their respective applications.

6) By submitting a First-Round Application to the Call, a Candidate acknowledges and commits, in the event of selection as Awardee to the following:
   i. to cooperate closely with EuroScience in good faith at any stage of the period of preparation, organisation and delivery of the programme of the ECoS year;
   ii. to enter into a binding Trademark License Agreement with EuroScience within twenty-one (21) working days following the announcement of the selection of the Candidate as Awardee;
   iii. to prepare the programme of the ECoS year actively as set out in the Second-Round Application document and agreed upon in the Trademark License Agreement.

5. First-Round Application

1) A Candidate shall submit the First-Round Application by (i) completing the First-Round Application Questionnaire and (ii) signing the present Terms and Conditions prior to the deadline for the First-Round Application indicated in the Call. First-round applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

2) The First-Round Application and all complementary information must be provided entirely in English. No First-Round Applications received in any other languages will be accepted. The complete First-Round Application, the annexes thereto and the signed Terms and Conditions shall be sent by e-mail to ecos@eurosciences.org in both PDF and an editable format with the subject and file names "Application ECoS [year] [Applicant city]"

3) Original documents and printed paper copies may be requested later in the Selection Process.

4) Each First-Round Application submitted shall include an application fee of five hundred (500) euros (EUR), to be paid by the Candidate prior to the deadline for the First-Round Application. The Payment shall be made to the bank account specified in the First-Round Application Questionnaire. Applications for which the payment of the Application Fee has not been received prior to the deadline will not be considered.

6. Short-Listed Candidates

1) First-Round Applications fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in the Call shall be examined by the Selection Committee, whose members are chosen and convened by EuroScience. Following examination of the First-Round Applications, up to five (5) Candidates shall be short-listed by the Selection Committee and invited to present a Second-Round Application. The Short-Listed Candidates will be notified by EuroScience via e-mail on the date indicated in the Call.

2) The Short-Listed Candidates will receive recommendations from the Selection Committee to improve their offers in view of a Second-Round Application.
3) The Short-Listed Candidates will be invited to submit a Second-Round Application providing additional details and possible improvements.

7. Second-Round Application

1) Short-listed Candidates shall be invited to submit their Second-Round Application prior to the deadline for the Second-Round Application indicated in the Call. Second-Round Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

2) The Second-Round Application and all complementary information must be provided entirely in English. No Second-Round Applications received in any other languages will be accepted. The complete Second-Round Application and the annexes thereto shall be sent by e-mail to ecos@euroscience.org in both PDF and an editable format with the subject and file names "2. Application ECoS [Year] [Applicant city]".

3) Original documents and printed paper copies may be requested later in the Selection Process.

4) Each Second-Round Application submitted shall include an application fee of one thousand (1000) euros (EUR), to be paid by the Candidate prior to the deadline for the Second-Round Application. The Payment shall be made to the bank account specified in the First-Round Application Questionnaire. Applications for which the payment of the Application Fee has not been received prior to the deadline will not be considered.

8. Meeting of the Selection Committee and Governing Board Decision

1) The Selection Committee will meet physically (to the extent that a physical meeting is possible), following the deadline for Second-Round Application. The objective of the meeting of the Selection Committee is to prepare the final recommendation to the Governing Board.

2) Short-Listed Candidates shall be invited to the meeting of the Selection Committee to present their Second-Round Application to the Selection Committee.

3) Following the meeting, the Selection Committee shall provide a recommendation to the EuroScience Governing Board.

4) The Governing Board shall decide on the selection of the Awardee. The decision will take into account the recommendation of the Selection Committee.

9. Official Announcement of the Awardee and Handover Ceremony

1) The Candidate selected by the Governing Board must accept its selection within seven (7) working days in order to become the Awardee. Following acceptance, the selection of the ECoS Awardee will be announced publicly.

2) In the event of a selected Candidate not accepting the selection, the Governing Board shall meet again within seven (7) working days either in a physical or online
meeting to take a decision on the selection of a new Awardee from among the remaining Short-Listed Candidates.

3) Should a Candidate not accept its selection as Awardee, the Candidate declining selection shall pay an indemnity to EuroScience of one hundred thousand (100 000) euros (EUR).

4) By accepting the selection, the Candidate becomes the Awardee and commits to performing its obligations under the Terms and Conditions, the affirmations and proposals made and described in the Second-Round Application and the Trademark License Agreement.

5) A handover ceremony from the current ECoS Awardee to the selected ECoS Awardee shall take place at the final event of the current ECoS.

10. Trademark License Agreement

1) The selected Awardee commits to entering into a binding Trademark License Agreement with EuroScience within twenty-one (21) working days following the announcement of the selection or immediately prior to the handover ceremony on the final day of the current ECoS year, whichever is sooner.

2) The Trademark License Agreement aims at (i) planning and preparing the activities run by the Awardee during the period of preparation, organisation and delivery according to the affirmations and proposals described in the Second-Round Application and (ii) organising the relationship and collaboration between the Awardee and EuroScience.

11. Disqualification from the Selection Process

1) Any Candidate or Short-Listed Candidate shall be automatically and immediately disqualified from the selection process if:

   i. the First-Round Application or the Second-Round Application is not duly submitted or if required documents are missing;

   ii. the information contained in the First-Round or Second-Round Application documents is false or misleading;

   iii. the Candidate or Short-Listed Candidate fails to comply with its commitments and obligations under the Terms and Conditions;

   iv. the Candidate or Short-Listed Candidate contacts or attempts to contact, bribes or attempts to bribe, directly or indirectly, any member of the Selection Committee or member of the Governing Board, during the period between the publication of the Call and the public announcement of the selected ECoS Awardee;

   v. the Candidate or Short-Listed Candidate is in breach of any provision of the Terms and Conditions.

2) In the event of disqualification, the disqualified Candidate or Short-Listed Candidate shall be liable to EuroScience for any loss, damages or expenses
(whether direct or indirect) caused by the occurrence of any event including but not limited to the events of the disqualification. Furthermore:

i. Application fees shall not be refunded;

ii. The disqualified Candidate or Short-Listed Candidate shall agree to indemnify and hold EuroScience harmless against any loss, damage or expenses with respect to third-party claims of any kind arising in connection with the above-mentioned events.

12. Suspension and Revocation of ECoS

1) EuroScience may suspend or revoke the selection granted to the Awardee and all privileges and benefits connected to the selection as ECoS Awardee if:

i. Following investigation, it is determined that the Awardee has obtained selection as Awardee by fraud or deception, including any unfair practices or criminal offences under French law;

ii. The Awardee knowingly reports fraudulent or erroneous data;

iii. The Awardee uses ECoS in any manner that brings disrepute to EuroScience;

iv. The Awardee fails to comply with or is in breach of any provision of the Terms and Conditions and, in particular, with the commitments, obligations and financial contributions included in the framework of the Trademark License Agreement.

2) In the event of suspension or revocation of ECoS, the Awardee agrees to indemnify and hold EuroScience harmless against any loss, damages or expenses (whether direct or indirect) caused by the suspension or revocation, or by the occurrence of any event including but not limited to the above-mentioned events.

13. Intellectual Property

1) During the Selection Process, Candidates must make clear in all external communication and promotional material that they are only Candidates for ECoS. Once the Awardee has been selected, only the Awardee can publicly refer to itself as the ECoS.

2) Any violation of these standards, in particular in the case of Candidates using ambiguous or misleading language that might imply that they have already been selected as ECoS, shall be considered a breach of the Terms and Conditions. In the event of such a breach, EuroScience shall have the right to disqualify the Candidate from the Selection Process in accordance with the conditions put forth in Section 11.

14. Use of Images and Information

1) In its First-Round and/or Second-Round Applications, a Candidate or Short-Listed Candidate confirms (i) that it is the author of the application document and has not copied the content elsewhere, (ii) that the Candidate's application documents do
not infringe upon any third-party rights (including intellectual property and privacy rights) and (iii) that the information provided is true and accurate. In the event of any breach of third-party intellectual property or other proprietary rights, the Candidate shall indemnify and hold EuroScience harmless against any loss, damages or expenses (whether direct or indirect) and any third-party (legal) claims related to such breach.

2) EuroScience may also, if considered necessary, and at its sole discretion, reject, edit, remove or disable access to information provided in an Application that appears to be legally or otherwise problematic. This includes but is not limited to infringement of copyright or other intellectual property or privacy rights of others, defamatory remarks, or any other reason deemed justified by EuroScience.

15. Personal Data

1) Any data processing activities within the Selection Process will be carried out in accordance with currently applicable European data protection legislation.

2) Personal data collected during First-Round and Second-Round Applications will only be used by EuroScience for interacting with Candidates within the limits of the Terms and Conditions. In some cases, collected data may be processed in anonymized form. Personal data will not be disclosed to any third party without the prior written consent of the Candidate concerned.

16. Severability

1) If any provision in the Terms and Conditions should be held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, in whole or in part, under any applicable law, then that provision (or part thereof) will be deemed not to form part of the Terms and Conditions, and the legality, validity or enforceability of the remainder of the Terms and Conditions will not be affected.

17. Applicable Law and Jurisdiction

1) All issues, questions and disputes concerning the validity, interpretation, enforcement, performance or termination of the Terms and Conditions as well as all tort matters and other matters of pre- and extra-contractual liability between the parties shall be governed by and construed following French law, without giving effect to any other choice of law or conflict-of-laws rules or provisions (French, foreign or international) that would cause the laws of any jurisdiction other than that of France to be applicable.

2) All disputes concerning the validity, interpretation, enforcement, performance and termination of the Terms and Conditions shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts in Strasbourg.

Place, Date, Signature

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