

AUDIT UNIT CERTIFICATION
INPhINIT Fellowships Programme
2017 call for applications

We, Giovanna Maracchia, with national identification number YA0687030 and Andrés Moya Simarro, with national identification number 19829106R, have been invited to be part of the external audit unit with the task of supervising the INPhINIT Fellowships Programme selection process from the onset to the end.

In order to properly assess the selection process operation, we had access to all the information and documents related to the process and we participated as observers in the face-to-face interviews that took place on 16 and 17 May 2017 in Barcelona. Additionally, we have been provided with statistics information regarding the call (see Statistics report enclosed).

We hereby certify the compliance of the core principles established by the European Science Foundation¹ that govern the whole recruitment and selection process for the assignation of the INPhINIT fellowships. Specifically, the process complied with the following criteria:

1. Open procedure: the call have been internationally advertised and published, including on the EURAXESS website.
2. Transparency: the candidates have got access to a full description of the selection process and governing protocols (principles, selection of experts, selection workflows, and evaluation criteria). Additionally, candidates have received timely information on the status of their application at every stage of the process and feedback on the outcome of the evaluation.
3. Fairness: the selection procedure has been merit-based, impartial and equitable. Applications has been scrutinized by independent evaluators, according to the evaluation criteria of each stage of the selection process, without taking into consideration any other factor. All applications have been equally considered. Procedures to anonymize applicants' documentation, addressed to avoid unintended gender or any other bias (age, race), and redressing procedures has been established.

¹ European Science Foundation. European Peer Review Guide. Integrating Policies and Practices into Coherent Procedures. P. 8 (2011) Available at:
http://www.esf.org/fileadmin/Public_documents/Publications/European_Peer_Review_Guide_01.pdf

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4. Efficiency and speed: the compliance with the procedures has been rigorous, especially in respecting published deadlines. The process is designed so that experts can have enough time to carry out an evaluation of quality but also to guarantee reasonable timelines and a rapid outcome in every stage of the submission and selection process.
5. Confidentiality: the experts participating in the selection process have been disclosed only after the final outcome have been published. On the other hand, the collaboration contract with the experts assessing the proposals ensures that all information provided by candidates are dealt with confidentially.
6. Ethics and security: Fellows' research proposals are reviewed by an external ethics committee not to contravene fundamental ethical principles or relevant security procedures.

8 August 2017

Giovanna Maracchia



Andrés Moya Simarro

