

# Research Areas requiring ethics assessment

Appendix No. 7 to the Terms and Conditions of the  
PASIFIC Call 1



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Maria Skłodowska-Curie Actions

## Research Areas requiring ethics assessment:

### 1. Research on human embryos and fetuses

Research on human embryos and fetuses (mainly human embryonic stem cells (hESCs)). The following fields of research in this Area are not eligible for funding and may not be included in Proposals: research activities aiming at human cloning for reproductive purposes; research activities intended to modify the genetic make-up of human beings which could make such changes heritable (apart from research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed); research activities intended to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including the technique of somatic cell nuclear transfer; research activities which result in the destruction of human embryos.

### 2. Research with human beings

Research with human beings regardless of the nature or subject matter of the research, i.e., research involving interviews, observation or tracking of the participants, collection of biological samples, medical interventions. Categories of research participants that require a detailed description of the research procedure or certification are, for example children or minors, patients, volunteers participating in medical research, participants on whom medical interventions are to be performed.

### **3. Research on human cells/tissues**

Research that uses, produces or collects human cells or tissues that are obtained: from commercial sources, as a part of this research project, from another research project, laboratory or institution, from a biobank

### **4. Research related to the processing of personal data**

Research that involves the processing of personal data, regardless of the method used. "Personal data" means information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person. "Processing of personal data" means any operation (or set of operations) performed on personal data. This includes collection, recording, organising, structuring and storage; adaptation or alteration of data; retrieval and consultation of data; use of data; disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction of personal data.

### **5. Research involving animals**

Research involving animals, especially research involving the following groups, e.g. endangered species, genetically modified animals, non-human primates. Research involving animals includes, but is not limited to: studying emotional states, testing drugs, studying the effects of substances on animals.

## 6. Research involving non-EU countries (third countries)

Research carried out partly or entirely in a country outside the EU, as well as research in which participants or resources come from a country outside the EU; the material is imported from or exported to a country outside the EU. Funding may not be granted for activities carried out outside the EU if they are prohibited in all EU Member States.

## 7. Research that may adversely affect the environment, health and safety

This refers to research that may adversely affect the environment or the health and safety of researchers involved in the research. Negative impacts may be due to the experiments planned as part of the study or undesirable side effects of the technologies used.

## 8. Research involving dual-use items

Studies on items, software and technology covered by Council Regulation (EC) No. 428/2009 of 5 May 2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items and other items for which an authorisation is required. Dual-use items are those normally used for civilian purposes but which may have military applications or may contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Dual-use products include, for instance, toxic chemicals, human pathogens and diseases carried by animals.

## **9. Research that could raise concerns regarding the exclusive focus on civil applications**

Research carried out in collaboration with military partners or concerning the development of generic technologies, products or knowledge which may benefit both civil and military areas, provided that the research itself focuses exclusively and explicitly on civil applications. Research that could raise concerns regarding the exclusive focus on civil applications includes, for example, research involving defence industries or organisations, research in the field of defence: explosives, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence, or counter-terrorism.

The PASIFIC Programme only funds research that focuses exclusively on civil applications.

## **10. Research that could potentially be misused**

Research involving or generating materials, methods, technologies or knowledge that may be used for unethical purposes. Even if the primary aim of the research is ethical, there is a risk that it could harm people, animals or the environment.

## **11. Research that may give rise to other ethical issues not covered by the above points**

Research that may raise new ethical issues not currently addressed in the above-mentioned areas (e.g. new developments in neuroscience, human-machine interaction, development of nanotechnologies, research on androids/cyborgs, etc.).



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