

# Criteria and recommendations for the evaluation, the recruitment, the promotion of CNRS researchers

CID 53

“Science in society: the production, circulation and uses of knowledge and technology”

December 1st 2022

Interdisciplinary Commissions (CIDs) are intended to cover emerging fields of knowledge or those that do not (yet) correspond to the division of disciplinary sections. The CID 53 covers research on the relations between science and society. As an indication, we copy below the current keywords of the interdisciplinary commission.

- **Scientific practices and methods:** epistemology; regimes of scientific proof; participatory science; the circulation and publication of knowledge; scientific integrity and research ethics; science and technology law.
- **Health and environmental risks:** emerging risks and weak signals; warning systems; assessment, measurement and modelling; social perceptions and impacts; prevention, precaution and regulation.
- **Life sciences and technologies:** the construction of knowledge; political, economic and social uses; gender and science; health data; digital health.
- **Digital technologies and society:** political, economic and social issues; governance and regulation; digital networks; artificial intelligence; algorithms; digital data.
- **Science, expertise and decision-making:** public controversies; public debate about knowledge; collective expertise; decision-making in uncertain situations.

## 1 General criteria (for recruitment and evaluation)

CID 53 focuses on the scientific quality of applications, that are assessed **qualitatively**. All dimensions of the applicant’s work are taken into account, including the originality, interest, importance and scope of contributions, quality of scientific output, etc. As practices differ among disciplines, it considers a plurality of publication medias as they are used in different fields: articles, books, software, etc. Candidates are expected to include in their application enough information for the panel to be able to situate and assess their contributions<sup>1</sup>.

CID 53 attaches great importance to the explicitly **interdisciplinary** dimension of the work it assesses. Interdisciplinarity can take several forms, relating to the career, approaches, or objects of research, but also to its uses. CID 53 expects researchers to justify the interdisciplinary nature of their work.

The section values the **international dimension** of the researchers’ activities, as manifested through their publications, international guest fellowships, collaborations with research teams, involvement in scientific networks, the organization of panels or colloquia, participation in conferences, expert work for institutions, etc.

CID 53 also takes into account the ability to coordinate projects and to participate in teaching and the administration of research.

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<sup>1</sup>For instance, software contributions could be presented following the criteria outlined in the document produced by the INS2I scientific council: <https://cn6.fr/documents/logiciels-csi-ins2i.pdf>

Finally, CID 53 appreciates the ability of researchers to reach out to audiences beyond their own discipline, both academic and non-academic (expert work for public administrations, media presence, public engagement in schools, associations, etc.).

**In addition, for the evaluation and recruitment of senior positions (DR):**

- Collective responsibilities (management and leadership of units, teams, platforms, etc.); research leadership (thematic networks, learned societies, editorial boards of journals, etc.). Since a given position does not represent the same level of commitment depending on the structure, it is expected that candidates provide sufficient elements for the CID to appreciate the workload involved (for example, by including a description of the tasks, a quantitative evaluation of the associated workload, etc.).
- Outreach and recognition at the national and international levels (plenary conferences, participation in program committees, invitations, etc.). Here again, applicants are expected to be sufficiently specific for the CID to evaluate the elements provided.
- Involvement in research training, for instance experience in (co-)supervising research at the PhD, post-doctorate, or MA levels. For candidates whose career have predominantly taken place in France, a habilitation to direct research (HdR) or an equivalent foreign qualification can attest to such an ability.

## **2 General advice to candidates for recruitments at CR and DR levels**

*CID 53 recommends that applications that may have been submitted to other, disciplinary, sections as part of the CNRS concours should not simply be resubmitted unchanged. Applications to positions within the remit of CID53 should be reworked to justify their thematic relevance and interdisciplinarity with regard to the criteria of CID 53 as detailed here.*

The originality and importance of past and planned research work, particularly beyond the original discipline (including for non-academic audiences where appropriate) should be clearly stated. The discipline(s) to which the candidate belongs should be stated upfront.

CID 53 appreciates well-organized, clearly written and clearly-presented reports and presentations. These will be specific about the level and type of involvement in the various tasks, and will prioritize the productions and activities in a clear and coherent manner.

For junior positions (CR) applications, the length of the project will be approximately 30-40 000 characters, the length of the report on previous work will be approximately 20-30 000 characters.

For senior positions (DR) applications, the length of the project will be about 30-40 000 characters, the length of the report on previous work about 30-40 000 characters.

Since CID 53 is composed of experts from different disciplines, it encourages candidates to prepare their reports and presentations in such a way that they are accessible and understandable to colleagues from other fields of research.

CID 53 does not consider letters of recommendation, for example from directors of units. A formal letter attesting to the interest of the unit in hosting the candidate, should they be recruited, may however be included in the application.