Subject: Aggressive marketing from publishing houses

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

The European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) would like to alert its grant holders on the practices of certain publishing houses and online publications that try to make profit out of publishing articles or interviews by featuring researchers funded from the EU budget, either by the European Research Council (ERC) or by the European Commission (EC).

The ERCEA wants to underline that none of these publishing houses has been endorsed by the EC or the ERC, and we wish to avoid that grant holders feel obliged, often put under time pressure, to accept requests from them.

The commonly adopted tactics of such publishers to secure business by including vague references - usually by telephone - to any sort of official recognition by the ERC, the EC or the EU, are to be considered an attempt to fraud and consequently reported to the ERCEA immediately.

Parallel approach strategies, including reference to contributions from decision-makers or high-level personalities or making the project participant believe that his or her activities have been identified on the basis of special merit, should be considered with equal caution.

Some commercially oriented publishing houses and online publications use these tactics as well as many other ways of promoting their services. Grant holders remain free to decide which type of external service is needed and are responsible for the choice of the selected publisher. The costs of such services are eligible as long as they meet the conditions set out in the annexes of their grant agreement.

Please inform the ERCEA grant management service at your earliest convenience if you as a grant holder or your host institution have been or would in the future be subject to these practices:

ERC-C2-PI-HELPDESK@ec.europa.eu

They may also be contacted to receive further advice on this matter.

Thank you for attention.

Yours sincerely,

Mechtild MAY
Head of Department C
(signed)