



## Update of the ECST Guidelines

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### Why an update is needed?

#### 3 reasons

1. **Because the right of use of the ECST logo and being part of the Charter network has costs.** Throughout the past years, many Protected Areas renewed their Charter applications with one, two- or three-years delay, or even more, benefiting from being in the Charter network with **all services for an extended period of recognition without having any extra cost.**
2. **Because the procedure should be rigorous enough in order to be fair with all ECST members.** Whilst some pay the regular fee for every 5-year period, others are not charged for the delay, encouraging a **less rigorous procedure.** This leads to a **certain unfairness** for those who always pay on time.
3. **To simplify the system.** In this way, it would be understood more easily and no *ad hoc* adaptations will be needed each year, which are time consuming and quite often confusing.

### What will the update consist in?

⇒ An update of the payment system.

1. **Any Charter dossier submission implies a registration administrative fee of € 500 whether it is a new or a re-evaluation dossier;**
2. **Each dossier submission has also a basic cost of € 5000 per Action Plan of 5-years term (plus a fixed verifier cost for travelling and accommodation of € 700). In practical terms there is an average cost of €1 000 per year for being a member of the Charter Network;**
3. **Each year of extension will have an additional cost of €1000. The fee will be invoiced at the end of the normal award term and be payable till March of the next year;**
4. **Other rules concerning the desk evaluation for 2<sup>nd</sup> re-evaluations, special term's cases and VAT calculation maintain the same conditions.**

## Summary Table

Concept	Cost (plus VAT if applicable)	Covers	Payment date
New or re-evaluation dossier <b>REGISTRATION</b>	<b>€ 500</b>	Application template, further instructions, administrative assistance for the submission period and to become a registered Charter candidate on the EUROPARC official website	When registering
Dossier <b>SUBMISSION</b> for a minimum of <b>5 yr term</b>	<b>€5 000</b>	All the administrative and verification costs and right of use of the logo if the candidate is successfully awarded the ECST for a <b>5 yr term</b>	Before the verification visit
Travel and accommodation <b>VERIFICATION</b>	<b>€700</b>	Fixed verifier cost for travelling and accommodation of the verifier	Before the verification visit
<b>+ extension 1 yr term</b>	<b>€1 000</b>	An extra <b>1 yr term</b> to be kept as a member of the Charter Network, the right of use of the Charter logo and access to all services included (training, newsletter, website, participation in Charter meetings, etc.)	Till March of the extra year term

## When will these modifications start to apply?

- ⇒ The updated Guidelines will fully apply for applications to be submitted in December 2022 and onwards
- ⇒ For those candidates expected to submit by December 2021 (and to be verified in 2022), there will be three cases:
  - A) **members with no delay**, no extra registration fee will be charged;
  - B) **members with one year of delay** (that have a 4-year term Action Plan), no extra registration fee will be charged, but there is the option to extend one year more the Action Plan with the payment of the correspondent extension of € 1 000;
  - C) **members with two or more years of delay** (that need to submit a new application), an extra registration fee will be charged of € 500 and there will be a single € 1000 fee covering the membership of all the previous delayed years.