

Research Engagement Policy

Purpose of the policy:

This policy explains how East European Advice Centre engage with research activities, conducted by universities, research groups, think tanks and other relevant agencies.

Statement of interest:

East European Advice Centre recognises importance of research and evidence of practice on advancing welfare and wellbeing of Eastern European residents of the United Kingdom. For this reason the EEAC is keen to engage with research units or projects in order to support research activities with unique expertise and experience the organisation has in terms of engaging with Eastern Europeans, supporting them and providing opportunities to have their voices heard.

Areas of interest:

Our research interests sit predominantly in areas important for welfare, wellbeing, safety, social inclusion and participation, and voice of Eastern European residents of the United Kingdom. We encourage research projects with similar interests to approach us in pursuit of partnership to conduct such research.

Principles of research engagement:

Our keen interest is underpinned by a set of rules that we ask research partners to take into consideration when approaching us in relation to their research activities:

1. The best interest of Eastern Europeans as individuals taking part in research activities lies at the heart of our approach and we will make all reasonable efforts to protect their interests, safety and wellbeing, especially if participants are our users
2. We have an obligation and duty to protect privacy of our users and we will refuse engagement in any research activity that may jeopardize their privacy if such protection is their wish
3. We encourage research teams to engage with us at the planning stage of research activities so that we can advise on best engagement approaches, coordination of activities and safeguarding interests of involved individuals if participants are our users
4. Our pro-active approach to research planning means that we are unlikely to engage in research projects that have not been consulted with us on the planning stage
5. We will not mediate between the research project and our users without our prior involvement with the project; it means that we will not collect their responses, organise focus groups, provide respondents to individual or group interviews or in any other way engage our users in the project unless we are in partnership with the research project from the beginning

Participation in research projects

We are very keen to participate in research projects that have real potential of positively impacting our constituent communities in London and the rest of the United Kingdom. Due to limited capacity of our staff and volunteers, we are unable to engage with more than two research projects a year.

Research units or teams are welcome to approach the EEAC Director Barbara Drozdowicz to pursue partnership in research projects.