Directives for the composition of the candidacy exam committee

**Usual composition (at least 4 members):**

1) **President:** An actual or past member of the EDMS program committee (tenured EPFL professor) must act as president. There is 1 past member of the committee: Prof. Cathrin Brisken.

2) **Thesis director (co-director if applicable):** EPFL-accredited professor or MER (Ordinance Art.10)

3) **One expert from within EPFL/ETHZ:** typically from ISREC/GHI

4) **External expert:** must be from outside of EPFL/ETHZ

5) **Eventual additional external expert:** if wanted and if available, must be from outside EPFL/ETHZ

The candidacy exam committee must be composed by experts who are not members of the same family. If an expert is post-doc, she/he must be a post-doc since min. 5 years.

**Only needed if the thesis director is not an EPFL-accredited professor:**

Co-director: must be an EPFL-accredited professor

**Other requirements/information:**

- President must be impartial and not involved in project.
- EPFL-accredited professors include assistant professors.
- EPFL PhD program representative (mentor) may act simultaneously as president and co-director but should not be involved in thesis project.
- PhD program representative (mentor) typically may act as ‘internal expert’ if he is not nominated as president.
- All members of the committee should be entitled to direct a thesis.
- At least two committee members should not be scientific collaborators on the thesis project.
- Maximally two experts from outside EPFL are allowed (exceptions can be requested in case of interdisciplinary projects).
- Note that the size of the committee is limited to five people (Ordonnance Art. 14), except if a co-director is present! As a consequence the PhD program representative and/or the ‘expert within EPFL/ETHZ’ typically take on several functions.