



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

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## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE SELECTION OF EXPERTS FOR THE HORIZON 2020 ADVISORY GROUPS

### 1. Background

Horizon 2020, the European Union's new funding programme for research and innovation for the period 2014-2020 reflects the ambition to deliver ideas, growth and jobs for the future. It represents a clear break from the past as it brings together all existing Union research and innovation funding, including the Framework Programme for Research, the innovation related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), into one single framework programme.

For the implementation of Horizon 2020, the European Commission is responsible for drawing up work programmes. In doing so, the Commission wishes to take account of advice and inputs provided by several advisory sources, including Advisory Groups of high level experts. The first Horizon 2020 calls are expected to be published by the end of 2013. The Commission services plan to set up a number of Advisory Groups covering the Societal Challenges and other specific objectives of Horizon 2020.

**Important Notice: The composition of the groups and the topics they will address may need to be adjusted to be fully in line with the final versions of the Horizon 2020 legislative acts.**

### 2. Scope of the call

To reach the broadest range of individuals and actors with profiles suited to contribute to the European Union's vision and objectives for Horizon 2020, including striving for a large proportion of newcomers, and to gain consistent and consolidated advice of high quality, the Commission is calling for expressions of interest with the aim of creating lists of experts that will participate in each of these groups.

Each group shall consist of 20-30 experts that will be representative of the broad constituency of stakeholders, including industry and research actors as well as representatives of civil society, for each of the Horizon 2020 challenges/objectives that will be part of this call for expressions of interest.

Expertise is called for within the following areas:

- 'Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)';
- 'Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions on skills, training and career development';
- 'Research infrastructures (including e-Infrastructures)';
- 'Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies' within the following areas:
  - 'Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)<sup>1</sup>';
  - 'Nanotechnologies';
  - 'Advanced materials';
  - 'Biotechnology';
  - 'Advanced manufacturing and processing';
  - 'Space';
- 'Access to risk finance (debt or equity financing)';
- 'Innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)';
- 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing';
- 'Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research and the bio-economy';
- 'Secure, clean and efficient energy';
- 'Smart, green and integrated transport';
- 'Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials';
- 'Inclusive, innovative and secure societies'.

Expertise will also be required on cross cutting issues such as innovation, responsible research and innovation, and international cooperation.

### **3. Mandate of the Groups**

The Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation provides the context under which the advisory role will be carried out. More generally, Horizon 2020 will contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Innovation Union, and other relevant EU policies. The advice provided will take place within this broader policy context.

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<sup>1</sup> The ICT area has been subject to a separate procedure - see call for Expressions of Interest for CAF - CONNECT Advisory Forum published in EUROPA and CORDIS. Experts selected by this procedure will be integrated in the common pool of experts for advisory groups.

The main mandate of the Advisory Groups under Horizon 2020 will be as follows:

- To give consistent and consolidated advice to the Commission services during the preparation of the Horizon 2020 work programmes, regarding the relevant challenge/objective of the Specific Programme. Advice should be provided on relevant objectives and scientific, technological and innovation priorities;
- Advice should pertain to all activities under the relevant challenge/objective, including, where relevant, international cooperation; multidisciplinary, including social and economic sciences and humanities, and cross-cutting research and innovation; responsible research and innovation including gender; research career development, doctoral training, and skills; bridging from discovery to market application; responding to emerging needs and unforeseen policy needs; sustainable development and climate change; dissemination, knowledge transfer and broader public engagement; SME participation; and societal and economic impact;
- Experts commit themselves to discuss questions put forward and provide advice in their relevant field of expertise to the best of their ability and in the best interest of EU research and innovation. They also commit themselves to respect the rules related to confidentiality and conflicts of interest;

As well as bringing forward their own collective expertise, the groups may also be a focal point for processing inputs from across society related to the challenge/objective in question. The groups will therefore support outreach and strengthening of the Commission services' dialogue with a wider group of stakeholders.

#### **4. Composition of the groups**

The Advisory Groups will be composed of 20-30 individual experts and representatives of public and private organisations (universities, research, industry) having a prominent role in the related activities of each challenge/objective as well as representatives of civil society organisations, including public organisations, concerned by these matters.

The experts of the groups will be designated in accordance with the Commission rules on expert groups<sup>2</sup>. More specifically they may be:

- Individuals appointed in their personal capacity – i.e. experts with outstanding knowledge in their areas acting independently and in the public interest, who cannot represent collective interests nor being affiliated with private organisations which may benefit from the work of the group;
- Individuals appointed to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area; they shall not represent an individual stakeholder, or
- Individuals appointed to represent organisations, in the broad sense of the word including companies, associations, Non-Governmental-Organisations, trade unions, universities, research institutes, international organisations.

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<sup>2</sup> Commission communication establishing the Framework for Commission Expert Groups (C(2010) 7649 / SEC(2010) 1360).

Participation in the groups will not be compatible with:

- Assisting the Commission in evaluating proposals and monitoring projects, in the implementation of activities in the specific areas of research, innovation and technological development covered by the Advisory Group in question;
- Acting as Member State delegates/representatives or experts/advisers accompanying Member States delegates/representatives, or Associated State observers, in the Programme Committee assisting the Commission.

Due to the objectives of Horizon 2020, the broadest possible representativeness in each group should be ensured in order to reflect the full scope of the challenge/objective concerned. Candidates are therefore called for from a wide range of actors. The composition of the groups will be based on the following profiles, while taking into account the different characteristics of the specific challenge/objective in question:

- Experts with **scientific expertise related to the societal challenge/objective** in question, including expertise in social sciences and the humanities and those with a **multi-disciplinary perspective**, open to the further cross-fertilisation of ideas between disciplines and sectors.
- Experts focused on the **technological aspects** of the challenge/objective in question, **including key enabling technologies**, with a strong presence of **industry** representatives, including well-established companies and **innovative SMEs** in the relevant sector(s).
- Experts focused on **non-technological innovation**, social innovation as well as innovation processes and management.
- Experts having a good understanding and experience of the relevant marketplace, including experienced **entrepreneurs** and **end-users**.
- Experts with knowledge and experience in the research and innovation field of **debt financing** (loans, guarantees, counter-guarantees and other forms of debt and risk finance) and **equity financing** (notably venture capital and quasi-equity including mezzanine capital, and of funds-of-funds).
- Experts with experience of **research and innovation policy development**.
- Experts with experience of promoting research and innovation with a business-driven agenda, including experience in **knowledge transfer and intellectual property management** and innovation brokers, and communicating their results to the society.
- Experts with relevant expertise in multi-disciplinary, long-term, **transformative frontier research** addressing activities dealing with future technologies and/or trends under the challenge/objective in question.
- Experts representing **market development** actors playing a role in the dissemination, transfer and take-up of new developments and having an influential role in the adoption and wide deployment of new products, services

and processes via activities such as spin-outs, piloting, demonstration and test-beds.

- Experts with relevant expertise regarding the **impact on climate change and on sustainable development**, in particular the environmental and resource efficiency dimension, of research and innovation (within the Horizon 2020 challenge/objective in question and as a cross-cutting priority in the programme).
- Experts with experience in the area of **research career development, doctoral training**, and enhancement of **skills** for researchers and innovators.
- Experts with experience of promoting **gender equality** in research and innovation.
- Experts representing **the views of public end-users of technologies** (relevant for the challenge/objective in question) – i.e. organisations using technologies, such as for example first responders, border guards etc.
- Experts representing **the views of civil society** relevant for the challenge/objective in question – i.e. organisations and individuals that present citizens' expectations and concerns about the role of science, research and innovation in the construction of the future specially on topics such as technology and society, education and jobs, privacy, quality of life.

## 5. Appointment

The mandate of the selected experts will be for a period of 2 years with the possibility of renewal for a final period of maximum 2 years. During the first meeting of each group, an agreement amongst the selected experts should take place on the Chair for the 2-year period. The Chair can thereafter change each time the membership is renewed.

Experts who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the deliberations of the groups, who resign or who no longer fulfil the conditions that established their selection may be replaced for the remainder of their mandate.

The Commission may, during the implementation of Horizon 2020, establish ad-hoc groups for a limited time period in order to advice on specific issues.

## 6. Terms of participation

In general, each group will meet at least 2 times a year to discuss the general orientations and documents as well as questions put forward. Working groups composed of a sub-set of experts may be created for specific purposes. Additional experts may be invited to the meetings of a group to take part in discussions on a particular subject. The working language of the groups will be English.

Candidates should be prepared to attend meetings systematically, to examine and provide comments on documents under discussion, to contribute actively to discussions in the group and the possible preparation of working documents, and to act, as appropriate, as "rapporteurs" on an ad-hoc basis. Candidates should also take into account that meetings generally involve preparatory work.

The European Commission will make public relevant information and documents, while excluding confidential information, concerning each group either by publishing it in the Register of expert groups<sup>3</sup> or by providing a link from the Register to a specific website.

Exception to systematic publication applies only where disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation EC 1049/2001<sup>4</sup>.

Personal data will be collected, processed and published in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001<sup>5</sup>.

Advisory Groups experts as well as experts' representatives and invited experts shall comply with the obligations of professional secrecy laid down by the Treaties and their implementation rules, as well as with the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of EU classified information<sup>6</sup>. Should they fail to comply with these obligations the Commission may take appropriate measures.

Experts who are appointed in their personal capacity and have accepted to become a member commit themselves to act independently and in the public interest.

Advisory Groups experts may participate in consortia under Horizon 2020. However, should any item of the agenda or any subject discussed in a given meeting of an Advisory Group be of relevance for projects or proposals under Horizon 2020 that an expert, or the organisation to which he/she belongs, has submitted or is likely to submit, the expert in question should inform the Commission services and the Advisory Group of the situation.

In general, should a conflict of interest arise an advisory group expert may be excluded from the group or a specific meeting thereof.

## **7. Procedure for the expression of interest**

It will only be possible to express an interest electronically. Each candidate is therefore requested to fill in the expression of interest PDF form, which can be found on the official Horizon 2020 website by using the following link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index\\_en.cfm?pg=h2020-experts](http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020-experts)

In addition to the requested personal details and contact details, the PDF form is needed for candidates to clearly indicate the area(s) of interest that match their profiles by

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<sup>3</sup> Members who do not wish to have their names disclosed may apply for derogation from this rule. The request not to disclose the name of a member of an expert group shall be considered justified whenever publication could endanger his or her security or integrity or unduly prejudice his or her privacy.

<sup>4</sup> These exceptions are intended to protect public security, military affairs, international relations, financial, monetary or economic policy, privacy and integrity of the individual, commercial interests, court proceedings and legal advice, inspections/investigations/audits and the institution's decision-making process.

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8 of 12.1.2001, p. 1).

<sup>6</sup> Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ESC, Euratom of 29 November 2001 amending its internal Rules of Procedure - <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:317:0001:0001:EN:PDF>

ticking off one or several of the listed Horizon 2020 challenges/objectives. Candidates must also clearly indicate by ticking off whether they apply as an individual in their personal capacity, individuals appointed to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders or for an organisation.

In the case where an individual is appointed to represent an organisation, the name and references of the organisation must be clearly indicated in the form. All organisations wanting to express their interest must provide for their representative(s) the same information being requested for candidates expressing their individual interest.

Regardless of whether candidates apply as individuals, representatives of collective interests or as organisations, it is expected that the background, expertise, experience and level of seniority of the candidates will be commensurate with the high prominence of advisory tasks assigned to the Horizon 2020 Advisory Groups.

Any potential expert can express his or her interest, but please note that the Horizon 2020 Advisory Groups are expected to have a predominance of experts coming from the Member States of the European Union and Associated Countries.

## **8. Deadline for registration**

This is an open call to be used throughout Horizon 2020. Experts can register at any time; however only candidates having registered no later than **Wednesday 6 March 2013 at 17.00.00, Brussels local time**, will be taken into account for the setting up of the first Horizon 2020 Advisory Groups. Registrations received after this date may be considered for the replacement of resigning experts and the overall renewal of the Advisory Groups at the end of each mandate.

## **9. Selection**

The Commission services will take the following criteria into account when assessing the registered candidates individually:

- Proven competence and experience of the individual candidate or, of the designated representatives from organisations, including at European and/or international level, in areas of relevance to the challenge/objective concerned;
- Proven competence and experience of the individual candidate or, of the designated representatives from organisations, in horizontal expertise, including cross-cutting issues of relevance to Horizon 2020;
- In addition, for individuals appointed to represent a stakeholders' interest, the proven capacity of the candidate to represent effectively the position shared by stakeholders; and for individuals appointed to represent an organisation, the competence, experience and hierarchical level of the proposed representative.

For achieving a balanced membership in each group, the following selection criteria will be taken into account:

- The need to strike a balance within the Advisory Groups in terms of representativeness of stakeholders, gender, age and geographical origin (without calling into question the necessary level of expertise and insight).

In justified cases, where essential expertise at a sufficient level as set out in section 2 is lacking, the European Commission may decide to nominate experts from outside the database of registered candidates. In such cases the selection would also be made on the basis of the above criteria.

#### **10. Logistical and operational aspects**

The Horizon 2020 Advisory Groups shall meet in Brussels on European Commission premises or in another place announced in accordance with the procedures and schedule established by the Commission.

The activities of each of the Advisory Groups will be supported by a secretariat put in place by the relevant Commission service.

Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the Advisory Groups shall be reimbursed by the European Commission in accordance with the provisions in force at the Commission within the limits of the available budgetary appropriations. Participants in the activities of the Advisory Groups shall not be remunerated for their duties.

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