

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON PARTNERSHIP

1. Background

The partnership principle is one of the fundamental principles of cohesion policy. It ensures the participation of different partners, be it social, economic and civil society partners or regional and local authorities. We have collectively strengthened this principle in the last programming period by adopting the European code of conduct on partnership (ECCP) through the Commission Delegated Regulation 240/2014 that will continue to apply during the 2021-2027 period.

In order to further improve the quality of partnership across Europe and promote the exchange of good practices – in view of Article 18 of the aforementioned Delegated Regulation - Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, DG for Migration and Home Affairs and DG for Agriculture and Rural Development will set up the European community of practice on partnership (further referred to as ECoPP or “the group”).

The group’s tasks shall be to:

- (a) facilitate exchange of experience with regard to partnership;
- (b) stimulate capacity building;
- (c) disseminate relevant outcomes, in particular good practice and innovative approaches;
- (d) review the application and functioning of the European Code of Conduct and prepare proposals for its possible update.

The European Commission is calling for applications with a view to selecting members of the group **other** than Member States' authorities (coordinating bodies and managing authorities) in charge of the management of EU funds¹.

Features of the Group

2.1. COMPOSITION

The group will consist of up to 200 members ensuring proportional participation of specific groups (e.g. 81 coordinating bodies/ managing authorities, 119 local and regional authorities, social and economic partners and civil society organisations, universities/research organisations).

¹ Representatives of these authorities will be nominated through the Permanent Representations.

Members shall be Member States' authorities in charge of the management of EU funds (cohesion policy coordinating bodies, managing authorities of shared management funds, including cross-border programmes), as well as public entities and organisations referred to in Article 8 of the Common Provisions Regulation² (Regulation (EU) 2021/1060) (CPR), i.e.:

- (a) regional, local, urban and other public authorities;
- (b) economic and social partners;
- (c) relevant bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination;
- (d) research organisations and universities.

Member States' authorities and other public entities shall nominate their representatives and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise in the field of partnership.

Organisations shall each nominate one representative and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise.

2.2. APPOINTMENT

Members shall be appointed by the Director-General of DG Regional and Urban Policy. Applicants must comply with the requirements referred to in chapter 4 of this call.

Members shall be appointed for the duration of the group, i.e. until the end of 2027. They shall remain in office until replaced / until the end of their term of office.

Registration in the Transparency Register³ is required in order for organisations to be appointed.

Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the group's deliberations, who in the opinion of DG Regional and Urban Policy do not comply with the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European

² Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy. PE/47/2021/INIT , OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159–706 [EUR-Lex - 32021R1060 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do?locale=en#en>

Union or who resign, shall no longer be invited to participate in meetings of the group and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.

2.3 RULES OF ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE GROUP

The group shall be chaired by representatives of all Directorates-General under the CPR participating in the ECoPP.

The group shall act at the request of its chairperson with the agreement of the Commission.

In principle, the group shall meet at least once per year on Commission premises and/or online in order to discuss matters related to the tasks of the group. DG Regional and Urban Policy and Urban Policy unit 02 shall provide secretarial services, in agreement with DG Employment and Social Affairs unit G.1 (European Social Fund+).

Members should be prepared to attend meetings systematically, contribute actively to discussions in the group, be involved in preparatory work ahead of meetings, examine and provide comments on documents under discussion, and act, as appropriate, as 'rapporteurs' on an *ad hoc* basis.

As a general rule, working documents will be drafted in English and meetings will be conducted in English as well.

The group shall adopt its opinions, recommendations or reports by consensus.

In agreement with the involved Directorates-General, the group may, by simple majority of its members, decide that deliberations shall be public.

Participants in the activities of the group and sub-groups shall not be remunerated for the services they offer. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the group and sub-groups shall be reimbursed by the Commission. Reimbursement shall be made in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission and within the limits of the available appropriations allocated to the Commission departments under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

The members of the group, as well as invited experts and observers, are subject to the obligation of professional secrecy, which by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them applies to all members of the institutions and their staff, as well as to the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443⁴ and 2015/444⁵. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

On a proposal by and in agreement with the Commission, the group shall adopt its rules of procedure.

⁴ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

⁵ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

The Commission may invite experts with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the agenda to take part in the work of the group or sub-groups on an ad hoc basis.

The European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, and the European Economic and Social Committee are invited to the proceedings as observers. Public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the chair to take part in the discussions of the group and provide expertise.

The ECoPP may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific issues. Sub-groups shall report to the plenary group.

2.4. TRANSPARENCY

Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725.

3. Application procedure

Interested organisations and regional, local, urban and other public authorities are invited to submit their applications to the European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy by e-mail to the following e-mail address: EC-ECOPP@ec.europa.eu

Applications must be completed in English.

Organisations and public entities shall indicate the name of their representative in the group.

An application will be deemed admissible only if it is sent by the deadline and includes the documents referred to below. All documents submitted by applicants should be duly filled in, legible, signed and numbered sequentially.

Supporting documents

Each application shall include the following documents:

- a cover letter explaining the applicant's motivation for answering this call and stating what contribution the applicant could make to the group;
- a classification form duly filled in specifying the member category for which the application is made (Annex I);
- a selection criteria form duly filled in documenting how the applicant fulfils the selection criteria listed in chapter 4 of this call (Annex II).

For individuals indicated by public entities/organisations as their representatives, a *curriculum vitae* (CV) shall also be provided, preferably not exceeding three pages. All CVs shall be submitted in the European format (<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions>).

Additional supporting documents (e.g. publications) may be requested at a later stage.

Deadline for application

The duly signed applications must be sent by 31 December 2021 at the latest.

- Applications shall be sent by e-mail to the following e-mail address: EC-ECOPP@ec.europa.eu The date of the e-mail will be the date of sending.

4. Selection criteria

The Commission will take the following criteria into account when assessing applications.

- The need to ensure a balanced representation between and within the categories of partners and in terms of geographical and fund specific coverage within the EU;
- Proven and relevant competence and experience of the representatives of the organisations/ public entities, including at local, national and European level, in areas relevant to the tasks of the group, in particular in participating in monitoring committee(s) of EU-funded programmes from previous programming periods;
- Availability of the representatives of the organisations/ public entities to participate in meetings and commitment to work between meetings to prepare the output of the group, such as recommendations, reports or opinions;
- Sufficient knowledge of the English language of the proposed representative allowing active participation in the discussions.

5. Selection procedure

The selection procedure shall consist of an assessment of the applications performed by the Commission against the selection criteria listed in chapter 4 of this call, followed by the establishment of a list of the most suitable applicants, and concluded by the appointment of the members of the group.

When defining the composition of the group, the Commission shall aim at ensuring, as far as possible, a high level of expertise, as well as a balanced representation of relevant know how and areas of interest, while taking into account the specific tasks of the group, the type of expertise required, as well as the relevance of the applications received. Geo balance?.

For any further information please contact: *EC-ECOPP@ec.europa.eu*

ANNEXES:

- Annex I: Classification form
- Annex II: Selection criteria form
- Annex III: Privacy statement

Annex I - Classification form¹

To be filled in by all applicants

This application is made as: (*please select only one option*)

- A regional, local, urban or other public authority**
- An organisation.**

Transparency Register identification number: [...]

Nota Bene concerning organisations: although registration in the Transparency Register (TR) is required for an organisation in order to be appointed as a member of the group, it is not mandatory for the application procedure. Thus, interested organisations that at the time of the application are not featured yet on TR and, as a consequence, do not have a TR identification number, may still apply. However, should the applicant be selected as a result of the call for applications, it shall register in the Transparency Register as a condition to be appointed as a member.

To be filled in by representatives of regional, local, urban or other public authorities applying to be appointed as members

This application is made as the following **type of authority:** (*please select only one option*).

- a) Regional authority
- b) Local authority
- c) Urban authority
- d) other public authority

To be filled in by representatives of organisations applying to be appointed as members

This application is made as the following **type of organisation:** (*please select only one option*).

- a) economic and social partners
- b) environmental partners
- c) non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion
- d) non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting fundamental rights
- e) non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting rights of persons with disabilities
- f) non-governmental organisations and bodies responsible for promoting gender equality and non-discrimination
- g) research organisations and universities
- h) Other (please specify):

¹ This form must be filled in, signed and returned with the application.

To be filled in by representatives of organisations and public entities applying to be appointed as members

Please select one **or more funds** in which you/your organisation/ public entity operate(s) or may have an interest in:

- ERDF/ CF/ JTF
- ESF+
- AMIF/ ISF/ BMVI
- EMFAF
- EAFRD/EAGF

For organisations and public entities applying to be appointed as ECoPP members

Country

location (region and city):.....

Name of the organisation²:

Website of organisation:.....

Surname of the representative proposed:

First name of the representative proposed:

Gender:.....

E-mail (please type):.....

Date:

Signature

² Idem.

Annex II: Selection criteria form³

Applicants are requested to describe how they fulfil the selection criteria listed in this call.

Proven and relevant competence and experience of an organisation/ public entity and their representatives, including at local, national and European level, in areas relevant to the tasks of the group, in particular in participating in Monitoring Committee(s) of EU-funded programmes from previous programming periods;	
Availability of the representative of an organisation/ public entity to participate in meetings and commitment to work between meetings to prepare the output of the group, such as recommendations, reports or opinions;	
Sufficient knowledge of the English language of the proposed representative allowing active participation in the discussions.	

For representatives of organisations and public entities applying to be appointed as ECoPP members

Country

location (region and city):.....

Name of the organisation⁴:

Website of organisation:.....

Surname of the representative proposed:

First name of the representative proposed:

Gender:.....

E-mail:.....

Date:

Signature

³ This form must be filled in, signed and returned with the application.

⁴ Idem.

Annex III: Privacy Statement



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

This privacy statement provides information about the processing and the protection of your personal data.

Processing operation: *Selection of members of Commission expert groups and other similar entities⁵ and publication of personal data on the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ("the Register of expert groups").*

Data Controller:

- *Secretariat-General, Unit G4 (for the processing operation "Providing a public register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities", DPR-EC-00656), and*
- *DG REGIO, Unit 02 (for the processing operation "Selection of members of Commission expert groups and other similar entities", DPR-EC-01066).*

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⁵ Provisions included in this privacy statement referring to expert groups equally apply to their sub-groups.

1. Introduction

The European Commission (hereafter 'the Commission') is committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy. The Commission collects and further processes personal data pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

This privacy statement explains the reasons for the processing of your personal data, the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Data Controller with whom you may exercise your rights, of the Data Protection Officer and of the European Data Protection Supervisor.

This privacy statement concerns the following processing operations:

(1) "selection of members of Commission expert groups and other similar entities" undertaken by the Commission department which runs the selection process for your expert group and which is the Data Controller for the selection process, DG REGIO, Unit G1, and

(2) "publication of personal data on the Register of expert groups and other similar entities" undertaken by the Commission, Secretariat-General, Unit F.4 which is the Data Controller together with the Commission department managing your expert group.

As a rule, the selection of expert group members is carried out via public calls for applications, except for Member States' authorities and other public entities and for certain representative bodies established by Union legislation for advice in specific areas.

The Register of expert groups and other similar entities is a public database containing a list of Commission expert groups and other similar entities and their sub-groups. For each expert group, the Register provides valuable information including personal data on the members of the expert groups, and their alternate, if any, members' representatives, as well as of the groups' observers and their representatives. The Register also includes documents that are produced and discussed by expert groups and which can contain personal data.

For the purpose of this privacy statement and the corresponding records, the term "expert groups" describes Commission expert groups in the sense of Article 2(1) of Commission Decision C(2016)3301⁶ and their sub-groups, as well as other similar entities in the sense of Article 2(2) of Commission Decision C(2016)3301 and their sub-groups.

2. Why and how do we process your personal data?

Purpose of the processing operations:

The Data Controllers collect and use your personal data to manage Commission expert groups, in particular by selecting their members and observers, and to ensure transparency on expert groups' membership and activities. In that context, in order to select among the applicants who best fulfil the selection criteria mentioned in the call for applications, Commission services collect and assess

⁶ Commission Decision C(2016)3301 of 30 May 2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups.

personal information of candidate members and observers of the expert groups, of representatives of candidate members and observers, and of immediate family members of candidate members and observers appointed in personal capacity.

Furthermore, Commission services collect and assess personal information of observers and members' and observers' representatives of the expert groups which are not selected through a public call for applications.

For candidates, personal data is stored by the Commission service managing the expert group. Some types of personal data of individuals appointed as members (either appointed in personal capacity to act independently and in the public interest or to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area) are made publicly available on the Register of expert groups (as described under Headings 4 and 5 of this privacy statement). The names of the representatives of organisations, Member States and other public entities, as well as the name of specific national departments or other public authority which they represent may also be made publicly available on the Register of expert groups.

Your personal data will not be used for an automated decision-making including profiling.

3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data

We process your personal data, because processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725), since it allows for the selection of members of expert groups (individuals appointed as members in a personal capacity, individuals appointed to represent a common interest and organisations) and also increases the transparency on expert groups. Processing is also necessary to comply with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject (Article 5(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725). The Union act for such necessary processing under Article 5(1)(a) and (b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 is Commission Decision C(2016)3301 of 30 May 2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups and in particular Articles 10 and 22 thereof.

As regards, in particular, the declarations of interests filled in by candidate members to be appointed in a personal capacity in expert groups, the processing of personal data serves the public interest of enabling the Commission to verify in the process of selection the experts' independence in providing advice to the Commission. Furthermore, the public disclosure of declarations of interests of those experts once appointed allows for public scrutiny of the interests declared by these experts, which is necessary in order to ensure public confidence in the independence of these experts. The public disclosure of declarations of interests also ensures a high degree of transparency with respect to the membership of expert groups and aims at contributing to fostering the integrity of the experts in question.

Any publication of names of the representatives of organisations, Member States' authorities and other public entities in the Register of expert groups is based on consent (Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725).

4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?

In order to carry out these processing operations, the Data Controller may collect the following categories of personal data:

- *Name;*
- *Function;*

- *Contact details (for example, e-mail address, telephone number, mobile telephone number, fax number, postal address, company and department, country of residence, IP address);*
- *Information for the evaluation of selection criteria or eligibility criteria (for example, expertise, technical skills and languages, educational background, professional experience, including details on current and past employment);*
- *Nationality;*
- *Gender;*
- *Interest represented (only for individuals applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups representing a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area and for organisations applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups, as well as for their designated representatives);*
- *Information included in the declarations of interests, including personal data of immediate family members as required in the declaration of interests (only for individuals applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups in a personal capacity).*

The provision to the Commission service of the personal data required is mandatory to meet a legal requirement of selecting members of expert groups as set in Commission Decision C(2016)3301. In principle, the types of personal data listed above (with the exception of contact details and information for the evaluation of selection criteria or eligibility criteria) are made publicly available on the Register of expert groups, in order to comply with the legal requirement to ensure transparency on the composition and functioning of Commission expert groups. If you do not provide the personal data required, possible consequences are that you will not be considered for selection as a member of an expert group or, if already selected, your membership will be suspended.

With the prior freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous consent of the representatives of organisations, Member States' authorities and other public entities, their names may also be published on the Register.

5. How long do we keep your personal data?

The Data Controller only keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing. The following modalities apply:

- The competent Commission services keep personal data submitted to them as part of rejected applications for three years after the end of the selection process and do not process them for other purposes; these personal data are not published on the Register of expert groups.
- The expert group and some types of personal data of its members and observers, as described in Heading 4, are published on the Register of expert groups during the duration of existence of the expert group.
- When an individual is no longer member or observer or representative of a member or observer of an expert group listed in the Register of expert groups, all personal data related to this individual, including a declaration of interests, is removed from the Register and is therefore not public anymore.
- The competent Commission services keep personal data for the period during which the relevant individual is a member or an observer or a representative of a member or of an observer of the group and for five years after the date on which the individual is no longer member or observer or representative of a member or observer of the group.

- When a group is closed down, it remains published in the Register of expert groups for five years, with the indication 'Closed'. Those types of personal data other than the declarations of interests of members appointed in personal capacity that were published while the group was active remain visible on the Register of expert groups during these five years. On the contrary, the said declarations of interests are removed from the Register after closure of a group and are therefore not public anymore; they are however kept by the competent Commission service for a period of five years after the closure of the group.
- An XML file is created daily with all the information regarding active groups. All versions of this file, showing the situation of the Register of expert groups as of the day it was created, are stored in a file server for 5 years and are not public.

6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

Personal data submitted in paper form is stored in the competent Commission service. All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored on the servers of the Commission. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to the [Commission Decision \(EU, Euratom\) 2017/46](#) of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

[The Commission's contractors are bound by a specific contractual clause for any processing operations of your data on behalf of the Commission, and by the confidentiality obligations deriving from the General Data Protection Regulation in the EU Member States ('GDPR' [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#)).

In order to protect your personal data, the Commission has put in place a number of technical and organisational measures. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your personal data collected in the course of the process of selection of members of expert groups is provided to the Commission staff authorised for carrying out this processing operation and to other authorised Commission staff according to the "need to know" principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Certain personal data collected, as explained in Headings 4 and 5, is publicly available on the Register of expert groups.

The XML files referred to in Heading 5 are only accessible to a reduced number of users in the Secretariat-General (System Owner) and IT development team within the Commission (System Supplier).

Please note that pursuant to Article 3(13) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, public authorities (e.g. Court of Auditors, EU Court of Justice) which may receive personal data in the framework of a particular inquiry in accordance with Union or Member State law shall not be regarded as recipients. The further processing of those data by those public authorities shall be in compliance with the applicable data protection rules according to the purposes of the processing.

The information we collect will not be given to any third party, except to the extent and for the purpose we may be required to do so by law.

8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

You have specific rights as a 'data subject' under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access your personal data and to rectify them in case your personal data is inaccurate or incomplete. Under certain conditions, you have the right to erase your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing and the right to data portability.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data on grounds relating to your particular situation in accordance with Article 23(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

As indicated in Heading 4, if you are a representative of an organisation, Member State or another public entity, you may consent to have your name published on the Register of expert groups. You can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the Data Controller. The withdrawal will not affect the lawfulness of the processing carried out before you have withdrawn the consent.

Finally, and only as regards the publication of your name on the Register of expert groups, you may submit a request to the competent Commission service for a derogation where justified on compelling legitimate grounds in relation to your specific situation (such as the case where the publication of your name on the Register of expert groups could endanger your security or integrity).

You can exercise your rights by contacting the Data Controller or, in case of conflict, the Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given under Heading 9 below.

Where you wish to exercise your rights in the context of one or several specific processing operations, please provide their description (i.e. their Record reference(s) as specified under Heading 10 below) in your request.

Any request for access to personal data will be handled within one month. Any other request mentioned above will be addressed within 15 working days.

9. Contact information

- The Data Controller

Regarding the personal data collected in the course of the process of selection of the members of the expert groups, if you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint, please contact DG REGIO, Unit G1: REGIO-I3-EXPERT-GROUP@ec.europa.eu.

Likewise, as regards the data published on the Register of expert groups, please contact the corresponding Data Controller Secretariat-General, Unit F4: SG-EXPERT-GROUPS@ec.europa.eu.

- The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission

You may contact the Data Protection Officer (DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

- The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

10. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>.

These specific processing operations will be included in the DPO's public register with the following Record references: DPR-EC-01066 and DPR-EC-00656.