

Notice of call for expressions of interest for expert economic advice to DG GROW

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1. Contracting authority

European Commission
Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)
Unit GROW.A1
BREY 06/201
B-1049 Brussels (Belgium)
Email: GROW-A1-EXPERTS@ec.europa.eu

2. Registration procedure

The objective of this call for expressions of interest is to set up a list of external experts in the field of economics.

Expressions of interest should be submitted in one of the official working languages of the European Union (English, French or German) by electronic means at the following address: GROW-A1-EXPERTS@ec.europa.eu.

Inclusion on the list entails no obligation on the part of the contracting authority concerning the conclusion of contracts.

3. Information and documents to be provided

Interested parties should provide their full contact details in their expression of interest.

Experts shall provide a declaration on honour stating that they are not in one of the situations of exclusion listed at point 9 and that they fulfil the selection criteria listed at point 10. Concerning the former (exclusion criteria) they may be requested to provide supporting evidence, in case of doubt. Concerning the latter (selection criteria) the supporting evidence shall be provided with the declaration on honour.

4. General description of the procedure

Natural persons are invited to submit an expression of interest in accordance with the rules set out in this notice.

The contracting authority will draw up a list of experts who meet the criteria set out at point 10.

Where a particular task relating to the field described at point 6 is to be performed by an external expert, the contracting authority will assign experts to the task on the basis of the skills, experience and knowledge necessary and in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and absence of conflict of interests.

5. Use of the list resulting from this notice

The list resulting from this notice will be used exclusively for the execution of the tasks within the fields described at point 6, below the threshold of 15.000,00 EUR of total payments per expert per year.

6. Full description of the fields covered by the call for expressions of interest

The mandate of the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) covers a set of economic areas, that can be encapsulated under internal market and industrial policy. As a support to its reflection, its analysis and its policy making, DG GROW aims to regularly seek expert opinion and advice from top economists/academics of recognized reputation.

The latest communication on industrial policy strategy ([COM\(2021\) 350 final](#)) has shifted the attention towards an ecosystem approach to industrial policy, focusing on industrial ecosystems and their complex interconnections related, among other things, to entrepreneurship (and SMEs), innovation, skills, value creation and social impact.

This reflection has now to be seen in the perspective of an environment that has changed and keeps on changing, also as a consequence of disrupting events such as health crises and conflicts at the EU borders. Such a changing environment has brought quite some volatility into the process of recovery from the pandemic, and this emerges across industrial ecosystems. This represents a tremendous challenge as far as disruptions in global supply chains risk becoming permanent and no longer limited to casualties related to the pandemic. On top of that, energy crises and inflation (or stagflation) and the mounting concerns about an economic recession are adding to the complexity of finding adequate solutions. Definitely, a reactive stance is not sufficient and needs to be complemented by a forward-looking reflection aimed at properly considering externalities and risk factors to be prepared for - and therefore more and more resilient against - possible additional challenges (for instance in terms of disruptions and shortages but also new, far from impossible health crises), remaining consistent with crucial long-term objectives. Progress is more than innovation and EU competitiveness, more than continuous growth and geopolitical predominance. It is also quality of life, sustainable production and energy generation, digitally advanced (but also digitally safe and fair) infrastructure, “enlightened” decision-making at corporate level eventually influenced by well-informed choices at consumer level.

This may imply putting into question traditional policy yardsticks such as the focus on industrial sectors as done with the shift towards an ecosystem approach, on the overarching principle of economic efficiency as a first best for resources allocation e.g. by factoring in risks associated to critical strategic dependencies, or the focus on traditional stakeholders (for instance, by including a wider set of actors, in a truly ecosystem mindset going beyond industrial activity and including other relevant players, such as universities, research centres, and even the role of local communities). This may be more effectively inspired by policy missions, rather than sectoral or even social cleavages.

This may also imply some reshuffling in policy priorities, for instance by having some ethical yardsticks considered upfront (namely, but not only, with respect to innovation), by enshrining sustainability considerations (and related externalities often ignored in the past) in trade-offs underlying corporate choices, by thoroughly considering social impact of public and private investment as a major element of choice. “Social cheerleading” and “greenwashing” should become strictly unfeasible, starting from becoming easily detectable. This may imply rethinking the incentives and mechanisms to better align public goals and private behaviour. It may also imply refining our metric to measure progress.

If addressed only from a national perspective, all the challenges and reflections above would seem and would be unsurmountable. A truly coordinated European approach exploiting the potential of the Single Market would be of the utmost importance to boost resilience, to address dependencies, to strength strategic capacities, etc.

The role of top economists/academics of recognized reputation acting as experts will be to support the economic and policy analysis of DG GROW by providing academic advice on key topics related to how the Single Market and Industrial Policy evolve and adjust to the changing environment and how they can support shared, purposeful and sustainable progress.

The expertise developed within DG GROW and the consolidated approach to the related policies can only benefit from being complemented (and eventually constructively challenged) with the support of external, scientific expertise.

The work of the experts would not only be instrumental in complementing the expertise existing in DG GROW, but also in feeding and stimulating policy elaboration with independent advice, as well as analytical and scientific contributions. In this framework, an active and open interaction process between the expert(s) and DG GROW management and economists will be beneficial to the profile of DG GROW and will generate extensive knowledge spillovers.

The specific scope of the interaction with the experts within the broad area just described will be identified in the individual (annual) contracts and discussed in an inception meeting at the beginning of the contractual period. The set of topics covered by the contracts of a given year may (and will in principle) differ from those of the previous year, in line with evolving policy priorities that will be identified both on the basis of internal reflection following previous expert contributions and of the changing environment (and related challenges) in which policymaking will have to be developed.

What follows is a non-exhaustive list of examples of themes of interest to DG GROW within the broad areas defined above:

- Industrial policy and the Single Market against the global trends: globalization, “slowbalization”, digitalization, geopolitical shifts, etc.
- Industrial policy in the Single Market: moving forward avoiding fragmentation and minimising short-term losses
- Industrial policy in the context of recent health and geopolitical shocks: do we need new tools?
- A mission-oriented Single Market to increase ownership, generate momentum and help prioritising actions aimed at improving its functioning
- The Single Market economy as a business case for investment in EU capacities
- Strategic dependencies, monitoring risks and building supply chains resilience
- Energy shortages and inflation: energy prices and disruptions along international supply chains
- Industrial supply chains adjustment: does the public sector have a role?
- Dependencies and the search for new economic models
- Alternative purposeful business practices
- Unlocking the green business case; the role of the Single Market
- Investment needs to leap forward
- The stabilisation role of the Single Market for the Economic and Monetary Union
- Ecosystems and the pathway towards the green and digital transition goals
- Resilience to shocks and SMEs’ flexibility
- New metrics to measure economic progress

The expert(s) will assist DG GROW in particular with opinions and advice on the specific issues identified in their individual contract. The specific tasks to be implemented will also be specified in the expert contract, and may involve, for instance:

- occasionally providing ad-hoc, punctual advice either in writing or verbally
- analysing information provided by DG GROW as a background for the advice
- participating in meetings (inception meeting and a workshop at the end of the yearly mandate)
- submitting their views / opinions in written format, for instance in view of a workshop.

The precise scope of the work will be determined by DG GROW and may include other specific tasks identified in the contract and to be discussed in detail in the inception meeting.

7. Place of delivery

Written deliverables will have to be delivered to the email address indicated under point 1. In case physical presence of experts is required for the provision of services (such as participation to meetings or workshops), it will have to take place in the Commission premises in Brussels.

8. Expiry date of the list resulting from this call for expressions of interest

The list resulting from this notice is valid for four years from dispatch of this notice. Interested parties may submit an expression of interest at any time prior to the last three months of validity of the list.

9. Exclusion criteria

Experts shall be excluded from participation if:

- (a) the economic operator is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, where its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors, where its business activities are suspended, or where it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under national laws or regulations;
- (b) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the economic operator is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the law of the country in which it is established, with those of the country in which the contracting authority is located or those of the country of the performance of the contract;
- (c) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the economic operator is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the economic operator belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:
 - (i) fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of selection criteria or in the performance of a contract;
 - (ii) entering into agreement with other economic operators with the aim of distorting competition;
 - (iii) violating intellectual property rights;
 - (iv) attempting to influence the decision-making process of the contracting authority during the procurement procedure;
 - (v) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the procurement procedure;

- (d) it has been established by a final judgment that the economic operator is guilty of any of the following:
- (i) fraud, within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the [Council Act of 26 July 1995](#);
 - (ii) corruption, as defined in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, drawn up by the [Council Act of 26 May 1997](#), and in Article 2(1) of [Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA](#), as well as corruption as defined in the law of the country where the contracting authority is located, the country in which the economic operator is established or the country of the performance of the contract;
 - (iii) participation in a criminal organization, as defined in Article 2 of [Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA](#);
 - (iv) money laundering or terrorist financing, as defined in Article 1 of [Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council](#);
 - (v) terrorist-related offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of [Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA](#), respectively, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as referred to in Article 4 of that Decision;
 - (vi) child labour or other forms of trafficking in human beings as defined in Article 2 of [Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council](#);
- (e) the economic operator has shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations in the performance of a contract financed by the budget, which has led to its early termination or to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties, or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by an authorizing officer, OLAF or the Court of Auditors;
- (f) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the economic operator has committed an irregularity within the meaning of Article 1(2) of [Council Regulation \(EC, Euratom\) No 2988/95](#).

10. Selection criteria

The expert should be highly recognised in the field of economics and have proven expertise in providing policy advice at EU, national or regional level, namely in the field of industrial, trade and innovation policy, as well as policies related to market integration and, more generally, mission-oriented policy design. Attention for more unorthodox profiles could be advisable, in view of specific needs related to new, emerging issues such as impact investment and alternative business models, human-centred innovation, role of vocational skills, the ecosystem approach and how to go beyond mere industrial actors, etc.

On this basis, the criteria relating to technical and professional capacity in the fields described above will be the following:

- Criterion 1: Academic record
 - At least five years of professional experience at full teaching / confirmed researcher level in the economic field
 - Supporting evidence: detailed CV
- Criterion 2: Publication record

- At least ten publications in refereed economic journals
- Supporting evidence: List of publications
- Criterion 3: Extra-academic record
 - At least two appointments in policy-making positions (for instance in institutions or task forces or high-level groups) or assignments as expert or advisor to policymakers.
 - Supporting evidence: detailed CV specifying relevant positions covered and/or proven policy advice expertise

11. Conditions of remuneration and reimbursement of experts

The contract with the expert will be annual, with the possibility (but no guarantee) of one renewal. The contract will be based on the [model contract for experts](#).

Some of the terms and conditions in the contract will vary, depending on the type of expert activity that the expert will be asked to carry out.

The contract will indicate

- whether or not the work will involve travel,
- the maximum number of days of work that it will be paid for and
- the planned calendar.

Experts shall be remunerated at a fixed price of €450 for each full day of work for 15.000,00 EUR maximum. The travel and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed separately under the conditions set out in the contract.

12. Ex-post transparency

A list of experts who have concluded a contract following the procedure set out at point 4 shall be published on the website of the contracting authority. This list has to contain the name of the expert and a short description of the topics tackled / tasks executed.

13. Protection of personal data

If processing your expression of interest involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name, address and CV), such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 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. Unless indicated otherwise, your reply to this notice and any personal data requested are required for the purposes indicated above in point 4 and will be processed solely for those purposes by the contracting authority indicated in point 1, which is also acting as data controller.

Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available on the privacy statement at: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/explained/management/protecting/privacy_statement_edes_en.pdf

Your personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) by the responsible Authorizing Officer of the Commission, should you be in one of the situations mentioned in Article 106 of the Financial Regulation (regulation EU/EURATOM 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 as amended).