

Call for Expressions of Interest for experts to be appointed as members of the “Steering Group” of the European Partnership on Metrology

1. Context of the European Partnership on Metrology

Metrology, the science of measurement, is an enabler across all domains of R&I. For instance, metrology research supports the monitoring of

- the Emissions Trading System to protect our climate,
- smart grids to optimize energy supply and energy distribution
- and pollution of our environment.

Metrology research is for instance also important to meeting demands for measurement techniques from emerging digital and other breakthrough technologies, such as biotechnologies, new materials, health diagnostics or low carbon technologies.

Research programs in metrology are developed under the umbrella of a European partnership funded both by Horizon Europe¹ and by Member States. The European Partnership on Metrology (EPM) is an institutionalised public-public partnership of the Horizon Europe, managed centrally by EURAMET (European Association of National Metrology Institutes)². The EPM was established by the European Parliament and the Council Decision (EU) 2021/2084 of 24 November 2021, on the participation of the Union in the European Partnership on Metrology jointly undertaken by most of the Member States (hereinafter “Metrology Decision”)³. EPM is the successor of the European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR) funded under Horizon 2020. The EPM will be co-funded by Participating States⁴ and the EU with an expected budget of over 660 million EUR in total. The European Commission, namely DG Research&Innovation, is cooperating with EURAMET.

The EPM aims at accelerating Europe's global lead in metrology research. To make the partnership more impactful for national metrology institutes, the partnership works within self-sustaining European Metrology Networks (EMN)⁵. Such networks aim at supporting new innovative products, responding to societal challenges, such as health, environment or climate and enabling effective design and implementation of necessary regulation and standards. The Commission will cooperate with EURAMET to strengthen participation of academia and industry in the work programmes of this partnership.

The EPM provides for an important novelty: A steering group co-chaired by the Commission and by a Member State. The Steering Group should provide independent advice on the scientific industrial applications on Metrology and other relevant issues to be addressed in the Metrology Partnership's annual work programme, as well as on specific issues, as requested by the Metrology Partnership Committee, and shall monitor scientific achievements in adjacent sectors.

The present call is related to the selection of eight members, four representatives from different European Partnerships and four representatives from the European scientific community⁶ that will be appointed by the European Commission.

More information on the Metrology Partnership can be found on the EURAMET website www.metpart.eu.

¹ Regulation (EU) No /2021/695, OJ L170, 12/05/2021, p.1.

² <https://www.euramet.org/>

³ OJ L 427 of 30/11/2021, page 1-16.

⁴ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden

⁵ <https://www.euramet.org/european-metrology-networks/>

⁶ From EU and associated to the Horizon Europe countries

2. Objectives of the European Partnership on Metrology

The Metrology Partnership shall contribute to the implementation of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme⁷ for Research and Innovation, and in particular to Article 3 that describes its objectives.

2.1 General objectives of the European Partnership on Metrology

The three general objectives are focusing on a) scientific metrology capabilities and knowledge b) economic and c) social impact. Through the involvement and commitment of partners in designing and implementing an annual work programme, the Metrology Partnership will pursue the following general objectives:

- a) to develop a sustainable, excellent and coordinated metrology system at European level, thereby helping to bridge the investment gap between Europe and its global competitors;
- b) to ensure that state-of-the-art metrology capabilities are widely taken up by innovators in their ecosystems and beyond;
- c) to increase the impact of metrology on societal challenges in relation to the implementation of policies, standards and regulations, inter alia in the digital, economic, industrial and environmental areas, in order to make them fit for purpose.

2.2 Specific objectives of the European Partnership on Metrology

When implementing these general objectives, the EPM is invited to pursue the following specific objectives:

- a) to develop, by 2030, new research capabilities which are built within the framework of new European metrology networks and which perform in terms of calibration and measurement capabilities at least equally to the leading metrology institutes outside the Participating States;
- b) to support, by 2030, sales of new innovative products and services through the use and adoption of the new metrology capabilities in key emerging and enabling technologies;
- c) to contribute to the creation and diffusion of high-quality new knowledge, competences and skills across the Union in the context of lifelong learning and with a view to achieving societal transformation, including through enhancing capability for innovation;
- d) to contribute fully and effectively, by 2030, to the design and implementation of specific standards and regulations that underpin public policies addressing societal, economic and environmental challenges;
- e) to unleash the potential of metrology among end-users, including SMEs and industrial stakeholders, as an instrument which contributes to the achievement of the Union goals for the digital and green transitions.

2.3 Metrology Partnership Committee

The main decision-making body of the EPM is the Metrology Partnership Committee. It is composed of one representative and one alternate representative from each Participating State, mainly the Heads of National Metrology Institutes. The Committee takes decisions by vote of its members.

⁷ See Footnote 1

3. Steering Group

3.1 Composition of the Steering Group

- (a) The Steering Group – the main novelty under the EPM – will consist of fifteen members. It will have two chairs (one representative from the Commission, one representative from Member States). The Chair of EURAMET will also be a member. Four other representatives thereof will be designed by EURAMET and shall come from European standard setters and/or regulators. The European Commission intends designating the remaining eight members by this call. There are two type of members the Commission is looking for via this call:
- (b) four representatives from different European Partnerships with industry;
- (c) four representatives from the European scientific community.

The present call is therefore related to the selection of eight members, four representatives from different European Partnerships and four representatives from the European scientific community⁸.

At least 50 % of the representatives from the European standard setters and European Partnerships, shall be rotated at the latest by the end of 2024. Each member should serve in an independent scientific capacity and should not represent countries, employers nor similar interests.

3.2 The role of the Steering Group

The Steering Group is an advisory body of the Metrology Partnership established in accordance with Metrology Decision. It gives advice to the Metrology Partnership on the emerging priorities for metrology research at European level and on how to increase the impact of its research on European industry, economy and society. All recommendations made by the Steering Group shall be made publicly available on the website of the European Commission.

The Steering Group shall in particular carry out the following tasks:

- (a) identify emerging technologies, innovations, markets and industrial applications where metrology research and innovation could become relevant in the future;
- (b) identify research areas which contribute to the smooth functioning of the internal market and to the Union's goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest, including to relevant regulations and standards;
- (c) advise the Metrology Partnership on priorities for its future work programmes.

3.3 Meetings and indemnities

The members of Steering Group are expected to meet at least twice per year. Meetings of the Steering Group may be in-person or virtual. In-person meetings will be held at the premises of the European Commission except in exceptional cases. The date of such meetings should, except in exceptional cases, be known at least twenty calendar days in advance.

Members of the Steering Group do not receive remuneration but are entitled to an indemnity for each in person meeting, i.e. reimbursement of travel expenses, a daily allowance and an accommodation allowance in accordance with the European Commission rules for reimbursement of expert's expenses.

⁸ See Footnote 6

4. Scope of the Call for the Expression of Interest

The European Commission is organising this call for expression of interest to draw up a shortlist of candidates for appointment of 8 members of the Steering Group having expertise in one or more areas relevant to the work of the EPM.

The European Commission is looking for independent experts with an innovative vision and high-level expertise. Collectively, the Steering Group members shall have the necessary expertise covering all of the competences and expertise mentioned below.

4.1 Specific criteria for selection

A candidate member of the Steering Group for the sub-group of the representatives from different European Partnerships shall meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a) A representative of a European Partnerships that can be either co-programmed or institutionalised, according to the Horizon Europe regulation⁹. The representative must be mandated to represent the partnership as regards Metrology and provide evidence such as letter of support.
- b) Very good command of written and spoken English.

A candidate member of the Steering Group for the sub-group of the representatives from the European scientific community shall meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a) A university degree in a relevant scientific area, preferably at post-graduate level;
- b) Relevant professional experience in the relevant scientific area after having obtained the above mentioned degree;
- c) Proven competence and expertise in some or all of the following areas:
 - Metrology science
 - Industrial applications
 - Emerging technologies
 - Key Enabling Technologies
 - Research for achieving climate neutrality
 - Health science
 - Energy
 - Climate and environment
 - Social Sciences and Humanities
- d) Very good command of written and spoken English;
- e) Experience in assessing and peer-reviewing scientific work (in an academic or industrial research context) would be an asset.

In addition, the following competences will be considered as an asset for both sub-groups:

- Record of previous participation in other scientific and/or technological advisory bodies, demonstrating the ability to look for consensus and to provide synthetic, wide-spectrum analyses;
- Experience and knowledge about regulatory policies and standardization;
- Experience in activities of relevance to EU R&D Framework Programmes, including European partnerships (e.g. programming processes, evaluation and monitoring);

⁹ See Footnote 1

4.2 Application procedure

Members of the Steering Group will be selected from applicants who express their interest following an open call.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their expression of interest by providing a Curriculum Vitae. The CV should describe applicant's professional and academic experience preferably in English.

Candidates are requested to send their expression of interest with the enclosed CV to RTD-E3-METROLOGY-STEERING-GROUP@ec.europa.eu indicating for which group, European Partnerships or European Scientific community, by 27/04/2022 at 12.00 (noon) Central European Summer Time.

The Commission will carefully consider all applications received and may request additional supporting documents at a later stage. All expressions of interest will be treated as confidential. It will contact interested candidates no later than by 04/05/2022.

5. Selection process

The EC will prepare the list of all candidates eligible, in accordance with the requirements set out in this call. A candidate who does not meet all the eligibility criteria will be excluded from the next steps of the selection process.

An evaluation panel composed by representatives of the EC will be established to assess the eligible candidates on the basis of the specific criteria for selection mentioned under point 4.1 of this call and based on:

- The competencies and expertise covering the technical domain needed to make science-based recommendations to the EPM;
- The need to reflect a diversity of expertise and background;
- The need to ensure geographical and gender balance.

The EC shall establish a shortlist of eight candidates (four for each sub-group) who are considered best suited for appointment, as well as a reserve list of a maximum of twelve candidates (four for the representatives of the scientific community and eight for the representatives of the European Partnerships).

The EC will inform the applicants of the outcome of the process.

6. Appointment and term

The experts who best meet the selection criteria will be appointed for a term of maximum until the end of 2027. At least 50 % of the representatives of the European Partnerships, shall be rotated at the latest by the end of 2024 (after the interim evaluation). Each member serves in an independent scientific capacity and does not represent countries, employers nor similar interests.

7. Confidentiality

For each task they perform, the selected Members of the Steering Group shall demonstrate appropriate ethical conduct and must respect the confidentiality of the information and documents to which they will have access. They will be required to sign a declaration attesting to their commitment.

8. Independence and absence of conflict of interest

The selected members of the Steering Group will be appointed on a personal basis. They will be required to sign declaration of absence of conflict of interest as required under the Metrology Decision, as well as a declaration attesting to their commitment.

9. Equal opportunity

The EC applies the EU policy of equal opportunities and accepts applications without distinction on the grounds of age, race, political, philosophical or religious conviction, gender or sexual orientation and regardless of disabilities, material status or family situation.

10. Protection of personal data

The EC will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by 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, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC. You can find more information on how we treat your personal data in the privacy policy that can be found under the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/privacy-policy/protection-your-personal-data_en