

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN GROUP ON ETHICS IN SCIENCE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES (EGE)

1. BACKGROUND

The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) is an independent advisory body appointed by the President of the European Commission. The mandate of the Group has recently been renewed by Commission Decision.

This call is addressed to individuals who wish to be considered for membership of the EGE under its new mandate 2016 – 2021.

Successful candidates will serve in their personal capacity to provide independent ethical advice of the highest quality for a term of at least two and a half years.

2. OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE GROUP

The EGE is an independent, multi-disciplinary body appointed by the President of the European Commission, a high-level expert group which advises on all aspects of Commission policies and legislation where ethical, societal and fundamental rights dimensions intersect with the development of science and new technologies. The new EGE mandate was established by Commission Decision (EU) 2016/835 of 25 May 2016 and has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

The EGE provides guidance to the highest political level of the European Commission, reporting to the Commission President, and to the College of Commissioners as a whole, and acting under the direct responsibility of Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research and Innovation.

The EGE plays a crucial role in the embedding of ethics in EU policies and in furthering the Union as a community of values by applying and interpreting EU principles of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, solidarity, equality, and the rule of law to ethical problems facing European societies from an independent, pluralist and multidisciplinary perspective.

Principal tasks of the EGE include clarifying ethical problems, with due regard to the regulatory and scientific state of the art, developing normative frameworks with respect to emerging ethical dilemmas, and outlining possible courses of action via policy recommendations addressed to the European institutions, national policymakers, and other stakeholders. The EGE provides its advice either at the request of the European Commission or on request by its chair with the agreement of the Commission services. Examples of earlier EGE advice to the Commission can be found on the EGE website at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/ege/index.cfm>

A cross-cutting objective of the EGE's tasks is to advance the EU's global cooperation on ethics. Within the international ethics framework and the European Commission's International Dialogue on Bioethics, the EGE supports the elaboration of norms and principles applied to societal developments and policy challenges impacted by scientific and technological changes.

3. THE COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP

The EGE will consist of up to 15 members. The composition of the Group shall ensure that independent advice of the highest quality can be provided, combining wisdom and foresight.

The credibility of the Group shall be built on the balance of qualities amongst the women and men who make it up, and they shall collectively reflect the breadth of perspectives across Europe and a good balance of disciplinary backgrounds.

Gender balance shall be strictly taken into account, and due consideration accorded to age balance and geographical distribution. Religious or personal beliefs will not be taken into account for the selection.

Members of the EGE are appointed in a personal capacity and shall act independently and in the public interest. Applicants will be required to include a declaration of a commitment to act independently of any external influence and to make annual declarations of interest knowing that these will be made public.

4. OPERATION OF THE GROUP

The Group shall provide ethical advice, following a formal letter addressed to the Group from the President of the European Commission. The request shall specify the parameters of the advice required, and shall set a time limit within which such advice shall be given. The Group may also propose own-initiative topics for ethical analysis to be agreed with the Commission.

The Group shall elect a Chairperson from amongst its members and a deputy-chairperson from among its members for the duration of their terms by a simple majority. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) shall coordinate and organise the work of the Group and provide its Secretariat.

4.1. Role and obligations of EGE members

EGE membership implies a substantial level of commitment. Each EGE member is expected to make an active contribution to meeting discussions and to work in a direct and practical way on the elaboration of ethical advice.

Each member is expected to act as Rapporteur at least once during the mandate of the EGE, requiring the research and drafting, on behalf of the Group and in collaboration with co-Rapporteurs, of an EGE Opinion on a given topic in English. Members will also be expected to be involved in preparatory work ahead of meetings and to provide comments on documents under discussion.

EGE members may also be required to form and participate in working parties assigned specific, shorter-term tasks. By presenting an application for membership, applicants commit to the above-described obligations.

4.2. Meetings and working methods

Applicants should be prepared to attend meetings on a regular basis. The EGE will meet at least 6 times during a 12 month period involving around twelve working days a year.

Applicants should also be prepared to attend additional meetings of Rapporteurs and working parties when acting in such a role. Members should be prepared to attend meetings systematically.

The Commission will reimburse travel and subsistence expenses in connection with the activities of the EGE in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission. There will be no remuneration for the performance of the members' duties.

The working language of the EGE is English. As a general rule, working documents will be drafted, and meetings conducted, in English.

Candidates should be willing to work with electronic methods for the management and exchange of documents.

EGE meetings and deliberations are based on a working culture of mutual respect and collaboration to facilitate full and frank discussion. Members must be willing to work in a multicultural and inter-disciplinary environment, in a spirit of collaboration, trust and confidence. The Group's deliberations shall be confidential, unless the Group decides through a simple majority of its members to open its deliberations to the public.

5. REQUIRED EXPERTISE

5.1. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must have:

- **A university degree or diploma** in one of the following three broad categories:
 - Ethics and philosophy (including moral philosophy, philosophy of science, applied ethics, political theory)
 - Natural sciences and social sciences and humanities (including medicine, bio-engineering, computer science, economics, anthropology, sociology)
 - Law (including human rights law, international law, European law)
- **Professional experience:** candidates must have at least 10 years professional experience at a level to which the qualifications referred to above give admission. They should also have documented experience in an ethics advisory board or equivalent experience in ethical analysis.
- **Languages:** An excellent oral and written knowledge of the English language is required. Knowledge of other languages will be taken into account.

- **Absence of conflict of interest:** Absence of circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest, including circumstances that could undermine an applicant's independence.

5.2. Specific Criteria

The European Commission is looking for ideal candidates who have:

- Substantial, high level experience, relevant to the activities of the EGE, with a track record of excellence at the European and global, as well as the national level.
- A broad understanding of current and emerging ethical developments (including an understanding of the role and future of ethics in the EU context), combined with the capacity to engage with inter, trans, and multi-disciplinary perspectives when addressing contemporary ethical dilemmas.
- Experience in providing ethical, scientific or other advice to policy, at national, European or international levels and an understanding of the European policy context.
- Proven experience in ethics bodies, such as advisory councils and committees, government advisory functions, national ethics councils, universities and research institutes or other documented practical experience in ethical analysis.
- A high motivation to serve as member of the EGE during its 2016 – 2021 mandate, including an ability and willingness to provide wisdom, foresight and vision, to build working relationships of trust, confidence and collaboration and to serve independently of other interests.

5.3. Exclusion Criteria

In addition to the above requirements, the following exclusion criteria will be applied where:

- The candidate has been convicted of an offence concerning his or her professional conduct by a judgement that has the force of *res judicata*;
- The candidate has been guilty of grave professional misconduct;
- The candidate has been the subject of a judgment that has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests.

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All applicants must document their professional experience and expertise in full by means of the online application form and a curriculum vitae. The application must include:

- A completed application form
- A curriculum vitae (preferably in English as indicated below)
- A completed and signed Declaration Form
- A copy of one single-authored written text in English, published in the last 36 months

The curriculum vitae must indicate clearly:

- name
- nationality
- level of education, international experience and experience in ethical analysis
- capacity to use English as a working language
- a list of publications

Although applicants may apply in any of the official languages of the European Union, applications in English would facilitate the evaluation procedure. If another language is used, it would be desirable to include the CV in English.

Applications should be submitted via the online application form available at the EGE website. The closing date for applications is midnight on the date indicated.

7. SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

Upon submission of applications, the European Commission will perform an eligibility check and produce a preliminary list of candidates on that basis.

The preliminary list of eligible candidates will be assessed by an external Identification Committee according to the set of criteria laid down in the Commission Decision (EU) 2016/835 and in this call for applications.

Based on this assessment, the Identification Committee will submit its recommendation to the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation and the President of the European Commission. The President will appoint the 15 EGE members.

Upon completion of the selection, candidates will be informed about the outcome of appointments by the European Commission.

The list of members of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies appointed by the President of the European Commission will be published in the register of Commission expert groups.

Each member of the EGE shall be appointed for a term of two and a half years. At the end of such a term, appointment may be renewed. Membership of the EGE shall be limited to a maximum of three terms.

Suitable candidates who are not appointed shall be placed on a reserve list.

8. DATA PROTECTION

The European Commission will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by 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. This applies in particular to the confidentiality and security of such data (Official Journal of the European Union L 8 of 12 January 2001).

Detailed information on data processing is provided in the application form.

9. CONTACT

Any questions should be submitted by email to the EGE Secretariat at EC-ETHICS-GROUP@ec.europa.eu.

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