



Special announcement for setting-up the High Level Group on maximizing the impact of EU Research and Innovation programmes as part of the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.

Investments in Research and Innovation are widely recognised as contributing significantly to competitiveness, sustainable economic growth and job creation, and the well-being of citizens¹. Horizon 2020 is the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation². It runs for a period of seven years, from 2014 to 2020, and has been endowed with a budget of close to EUR 80 billion.

The European Commission has committed itself to evaluating whether Horizon 2020 is making progress with respect to the achievement of its objectives. In accordance with the Regulation establishing Horizon 2020, the Commission, assisted by independent experts selected on the basis of a transparent process, shall carry out by the end of 2017 an interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, including the European Research Council and the activities of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology³. This interim evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the Commission's Better Regulation Agenda⁴, which requires addressing questions of efficiency, effectiveness, EU added value, relevance and coherence. The Commission services will present the evidence gathered in the interim evaluation in a Staff Working Document.

The Horizon 2020 interim evaluation process will be concluded with a Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions reporting on the key interim evaluation results, the conclusions and recommendations formulated by a High Level Group, and the Commission's observations on those.

The interim evaluation will constitute a unique opportunity to inform the general public and key stakeholders about the mid-term achievements of Horizon 2020. It will contribute to improving the implementation of Horizon 2020 and the formulation of the 2018-2020 Work Programme of Horizon 2020. It will provide an evidence base for designing EU Research and Innovation Framework Programmes as part of the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework.

¹ See Council Conclusions on FP7 and the future outlook: research and innovation investments for growth, jobs and solutions to societal challenges of 20 May 2016.

² Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014 to 2020) and repealing Decision 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104).

³ Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/evaluation/index_en.htm

The Commission will invite a High Level Group of personalities and authoritative experts to draw strategic conclusions on maximising the impact of EU Research and Innovation programmes in the future and formulate a vision for future EU Research and Innovation. The High Level Group will base its report, amongst others on (i) the available Horizon 2020 interim evaluation results and factual evidence, (ii) the results of a European foresight exercise for future Research and Innovation policy, and (iii) an assessment of the economic rationale for public investment in Research and Innovation and its expected impact on jobs and growth. It may take into account any other input it considers appropriate.

The High Level Group is expected to start its work in January 2017 for a period of 6 months. Its final report should be transmitted to the Commission by the end of June 2017. The High Level Group is expected to comprise up to 12 personalities, including a chair and a rapporteur.

Members of the High Level Group should have appropriate language skills for the tasks to be carried out and have substantial professional experience, of which at least 5 years in one or more of the following positions:

- High-level policy position(s) at national or international organisations (e.g. Ministerial, Secretary-General, Director-General level) or positions of high-level independent scientific advice to national or international political decision-makers (e.g. Chief Scientific Advisor) or similar;
- High-level position(s) at universities or research organisations (e.g. executive decision-making or similar);
- High-level executive decision-making position(s) in private sector organisations/industry/SMEs (e.g. CEO or CTO) or similar;
- High-level position(s) in civil society organisations/end-user/citizens organisations (e.g. President or Secretary-General) or similar.

Provided that the above requirements are satisfied, the following qualifications will be taken into account for the selection of candidates for the High Level Group:

- higher education qualifications of at least doctoral level or proven experience with research and innovation at strategic or policy level;
- public recognition of authority and/or achievements, for example in the form of prizes and awards obtained at national, European or international level;
- demonstrated evaluation and/or analytical skills, including in fields of research and technological development and innovation in order to assess the societal dimension and strategic relevance of EU framework programmes for research and innovation.

The Commission seeks a balanced composition in terms of skills, experience, knowledge obtained in the public or private sector, geographical diversity, gender and age and will take these criteria into consideration for the final composition of the High Level Group.

The Director-General of DG Research and Innovation will appoint candidates complying with these requirements. The Members of the High Level Group shall be remunerated for the work they will perform and will be entitled to a payment of a maximum of EUR 450 per working day. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred will be reimbursed in accordance with the Commission provisions in force.

The High Level Group, including the name of its members, will be registered in the *Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities*⁵. The Commission will make available all relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants' submissions, either on the Register of expert groups or *via* a link from the Register to a dedicated website, where this information can be found. Access to dedicated websites will not be submitted to user registration or any other restriction. Exceptions to publication shall only be foreseen where it is deemed that disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001⁶. The Personal data will be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

If you are interested in participating in this High Level Group, please register through the following website:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal4/desktop/en/experts/index.html>

AND

Send an e-mail by **9 September 2016** to RTD-A5-SUPPORT@ec.europa.eu confirming your interest with your Name, Surname, Expert ID (starting with EX...)⁷ and fill out this short survey: [https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/HLG Interim evaluation H2020](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/HLG_Interim_evaluation_H2020)

DG Research and Innovation (unit RTD.A.5) will then contact you to provide some documents that are necessary to complete your application (e.g. declaration of interests⁸).

Please note that this announcement does not constitute any commitment from the side of the Commission.

⁵ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/>

⁶ 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.

⁷ Candidates meeting the profile above will be asked to register in a list that is continually updated by an open-ended call for applications (call addressed to individuals for the establishment of a database of prospective independent experts to assist Commission services with tasks in connection with Horizon 2020 — the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (OJ C342 of 22 November 2013): http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/h2020_call-individual_experts_oj_c342_03.pdf

⁸ Individuals applying to be appointed as members of the group in a personal capacity must disclose any circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest by submitting the basis of the standard DOI form. Submission of a duly completed DOI form is necessary in order to be eligible to be appointed in a personal capacity. DG Research and Innovation departments will perform the conflict of interest assessment in compliance with the Commission horizontal rules.