



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate C - Public Health and Risk Assessment
Unit C4 – Health Determinants

**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENCE GROUP
OF THE EUROPEAN ALCOHOL AND HEALTH FORUM**

This call is addressed to scientists who wish to be considered for membership of the Science Group of the European Alcohol and Health Forum. This Forum was established by the European Commission on 7 June 2007 as one cornerstone for the implementation of the strategy outlined in the Commission's Communication of 24 October 2006 on a European strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol related harm (COM(2006) 625 final) ¹.

The selection criteria are described in Annex 1. Applicants should consult the above Communication as well as the Charter establishing the European Alcohol and Health Forum ², and in particular Annex 3 of this Charter which sets out the mandate of the Science Group, before applying.

The call for expressions of interest is open to scientists from the European Union and elsewhere.

Members are appointed to the Science Group for an initial term of two years; beginning after the 2nd year of its existence, one third of the members will be renewed every year. Renewal is made by the same method as initial appointment, whether from the lists of the present call for expressions of interest, or on the basis of a new call.

The role of the Science Group

The main tasks of the Science Group are to stimulate cross-EU networking of scientific activities around the issues before the European Alcohol and Health Forum and, on request, to:

- provide scientific guidance to the members of the European Alcohol and Health Forum;
- offer guidance on monitoring/evaluation and, on the basis of output from monitoring, as to areas where action by Forum members would have potential for reducing alcohol-related harm, and the forms of action;
- provide in-depth analyses of key issues identified by the European Alcohol and Health Forum.

The scope of activities of the Science Group can be further developed, by decision of the European Alcohol and Health Forum.

The work of the Science Group shall be based on the principles of excellence, independence and transparency.

The agenda, documents tabled and results of the meetings will be available to the public and posted on the Commission's websites.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/alcohol_com_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/documents/Alcohol_charter2007.pdf

Composition and remit of the Science Group and expertise required from its members

Permanent members

The Science Group shall consist of a maximum of 20 permanent members. They shall be appointed on the basis of the broadest possible representation of scientific expertise and, consistent with this, a geographical distribution that reflects the diversity of scientific problems and approaches in the EU.

The members shall be experienced scientists whose expertise reflects some aspect of the scope of the European Alcohol and Health Forum (*cf. Annex 2*) and may encompass both research and field work.

Additional experts

The present call for expressions of interest shall also serve to establish a list of a maximum of 20 additional experts who may be involved by the group of permanent members whenever necessary to ensure adequate knowledge of relevant issues.

The indicative list of fields of expertise includes: medical, clinical and toxicological expertises related to the causes and effects of alcohol-related harm, including psychology, behavioural science and marketing. More information on the remit of and expertise required from the permanent members and additional experts is detailed in Annex 2.

Eligibility

Applicants must have:

- a university degree in a relevant scientific area, preferably at postgraduate level;
- at least 10 years' experience at a level to which these qualifications give admission.

Independence

The permanent members and additional experts of the Science Group will be appointed on a personal basis. Applicants are required to include a declaration of commitment to act independently of any external influence and a declaration of any interests which might be considered prejudicial to their independence. They will be asked to confirm that, if appointed, they will agree to make annual declarations of interest knowing that these will be made public. The declaration of independence will be made in line with the Guidance Document on Declarations of Interest established by the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumer Protection.

Equality between men and women

The Commission applies a policy of equality between men and women.

Attending meetings

Applicants should be prepared to attend meetings on a regular basis. It is estimated that the Science Group will meet in plenary sessions between two and four times per year. The working language of the meetings will be English; interpretation will not be provided. Also, all working documents will be in English only.

Permanent members and additional experts of the Science Group will be entitled to travel and subsistence allowances, in accordance with the rules laid down by the Commission. A decision on the possible payment of honoraria to the permanent members and additional experts of the Science Group will be taken at a later stage.

Electronic working methods

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

Application procedure

Interested individuals are required to submit an application form to the European Commission. The standard and obligatory application form and the declaration of interest form are available electronically at the following web address:

http://www.ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol_forum_en.htm

or, if necessary, from the address below:

European Commission, Directorate-General Health and Consumer Protection, Directorate C, Unit C-4, Mr. Stefano Vettorazzi, Office HTC 01/070, Kirchberg, L-2920 Luxembourg

or by e-mail from:

stefano.vettorazzi@ec.europa.eu

Closing date

The closing date is 31 January 2008.

The application may be submitted:

- *by e-mail*, sent not later than 17:00 hours Luxembourg time on 31 January 2008, to the following mail box: SANCO-EAHFSG@ec.europa.eu;
- *by registered mail*, posted not later than 31 January 2008 (date of the postmark) to: European Commission, Directorate-General Health and Consumer Protection, Directorate C, Unit C-4, Mr Stefano Vettorazzi, Office HTC 01/070, Kirchberg, L-2920 Luxembourg;
- *by delivery* (in person or by an authorised representative or courier service) to the above address, not later than 17:00 hours Luxembourg time on 31 January 2008, in which case a receipt must be obtained as proof of submission, signed and dated by the official who took the delivery.

The Commission reserves the right to disregard any expressions of interest received after the above date.

Envelopes must be marked "confidential" and specify:

"Alcohol Forum Science Group / call for expressions of interest"

An application will be deemed admissible only if it includes:

- the completed obligatory application form
- a curriculum vitae preferably not exceeding three pages;
- a declaration of interests (on form provided).

Supporting documents may be requested at a later stage.

Although applicants may apply in any of the official languages of the European Community, applications in English or French would facilitate the evaluation procedure. If another language is used, it would be desirable to include a summary of the applicant's CV in English.

ANNEX 1 - SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE

Selection criteria

Preference will be given to candidates who possess:

- professional experience of relevance for application to the Science Group;
- experience in providing scientific advice in fields related to the reduction of alcohol-related harm;
- analytical skills: analysing complex information and dossiers and peer reviewing scientific work and publications;
- proven scientific excellence in one, or preferably several fields linked to the main areas for action identified in the Charter establishing the European Alcohol and Health Forum;
- professional experience in a multi-disciplinary and international environment.

Selection procedure

The selection procedure will consist of three stages:

1. verification of the admissibility of the applications;
2. comparative evaluation and establishment of a list of the most suitable applicants by a selection board;
3. the appointment of permanent members and additional experts from these lists.

A selection board comprising, inter alia, representatives of Commission departments responsible for health, consumer protection and scientific advice will be appointed for the present call for expressions of interest. The board will be chaired by the Commission services.

Appointment of members

The Chair of the European Alcohol and health Forum will appoint the permanent members and additional experts of the Science Group from the list of candidates established by the selection board, after consultation of the Forum.

The appointments will take into account the need to ensure balance within the Science Group, in particular in terms of scientific disciplines and geographical areas within the EU.

Candidates found suitable for the position but not appointed shall be invited to be included on a reserve list which may be used by the Commission to identify suitable candidates to replace members. This reserve list shall be published on the European Commission's website.

Applicants will receive an acknowledgement of receipt of their application.

The Commission will inform the scientific experts of the result of the selection procedure as soon as possible. The names of the permanent members and additional experts of the Science Group shall be published on the European Commission's website.

ANNEX 2 - FIELDS OF COMPETENCE

The Science Group shall stimulate cross-EU networking of scientific activities around the issues before the Forum and, on request:

- provide scientific guidance to the members of the European Alcohol and Health Forum;
- offer guidance on monitoring/evaluation and, on the basis of output from monitoring, as to areas where action by Forum members would have potential for reducing alcohol-related harm, and the forms of action;
- provide in-depth analyses of key issues identified by the European Alcohol and Health Forum.

The scope of activities of the Science Group can be further developed, by decision of the Forum.

The areas of expertise to be covered by the permanent members and additional experts relate to the main areas for action identified in the Charter establishing the European Alcohol and Health Forum:

- strategies aimed at curbing under-age drinking;
- information and education programmes on the effect of harmful drinking and on responsible patterns of consumption;
- possible development of efficient common approaches throughout the Community to provide adequate consumer information;
- actions to better enforce age limits for selling and serving alcohol;
- interventions promoting effective behavioural change among children and adolescents;
- cooperation to promote responsibility in and prevent irresponsible commercial communication and sales.

These areas of expertise therefore include: public health, health promotion, health education, disease prevention, occupational health, epidemiology, consumer safety and consumer information, psychology, psychiatry, behavioural science, mental health, addictology, criminology, sociology, anthropology, health economics, health outcomes research, marketing research, social marketing, pharmacology, injury and accident prevention.