



February 2016

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE
HIGH LEVEL ADVISORY GROUP
'OPEN SCIENCE POLICY PLATFORM'**

The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) intends to establish a Commission Expert Group to get advice about the development and implementation of open science policy in Europe.

DG RTD is therefore calling for expressions of interest with a view to selecting members of the **High Level Advisory Group 'Open Science Policy Platform'** (OSPP). The group will consist of 20 to 30 high level representatives of the broad constituency of European (open) science stakeholders (see paragraph 2).

1. Mandate of the 'Open Science Policy Platform'

The OSPP will advise the Commission on how to further develop and practically implement open science policy, in line with the priority of Commissioner Moedas to radically improve the quality and impact of European science. Commissioner Moedas has made Open Science one of the three policy priorities of his mandate¹. There are currently a few concrete policy actions underway which will contribute to the development of Open Science in Europe, such as the development of a European Open Science Cloud, as part of the Digital Single Market Initiative². For all Open Science initiatives, stakeholder engagement is a crucial precondition for the success. A structured dialogue with the main stakeholders on the draft European Open Science Agenda (see below and annex) is needed in order to develop open science policy in Europe.

The OSPP will also function as a dynamic, stakeholder-driven mechanism for bringing up and addressing issues of concern for the European science and research community and its representative organisations, in relation with the development of Open Science in Europe. In that sense it is a 'brokering' mechanism expected to actively and widely engage with science stakeholders, including via digital means.

In support of policy formulation, it will help identify the issues to be addressed and provide recommendations on the policy actions required. In support of effective policy implementation, it will contribute to reviewing best practices, drawing policy guidelines and encouraging their active uptake by stakeholders. The OSPP will also provide advice and recommendations on any cross-cutting issue affecting Open Science.

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-15-5243_en.htm

² Commission Communication on DSM Strategy, 6 May 2015

Draft European Open Science Agenda

The broad consultation process carried out over the last 18 months³ made clear that there is a broad consensus on the following five broad lines for actions which are presented in the draft European Open Science Agenda (see annex):

- Fostering Open Science, by spreading best practices and extending the input of knowledge producers in a more open science environment (citizen science). It is also about guaranteeing the quality, impact and research integrity of (Open) Science;
- Removing barriers for Open Science, which implies among other a review of curricular and training to include Open Science in education programmes and of researchers' careers evaluation systems with a view on creating incentives and rewarding researchers for engagement with Open Science;
- Developing research infrastructures for Open Science, to improve data hosting, access and governance; and implementing data-sharing principles
- Mainstreaming open access to research results; including the exploration of alternative ways of knowledge distribution
- Embedding Open Science in society, whereby Open Science becomes instrumental in making science more responsive to societal and economic expectations, notably by addressing the grand societal challenges.

2. Composition of the 'Open Science Policy Platform'

The OSPP will be composed of top level representatives of European branch stakeholders with the required decision power, including universities, research organisations, academies of sciences, research funding bodies, citizen science organisations, scientific publisher associations, private or public open science platforms and intermediaries, and (research) library organisations.

The members of the OSPP will be designated in accordance with the Commission rules on expert groups.⁴ More specifically they may be:

- Individuals appointed to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area; they shall not represent an individual stakeholder, or
- Organisations, in the broad sense of the word.

Appointment

The members of the OSPP will be appointed by the Director General of DG RTD among the applicants to this call for expression of interest. The mandate of the members will be for a

³ See also public consultation report: http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/science-2.0/science_2_0_final_report.pdf

⁴ Commission communication establishing the Framework for Commission Expert Groups (C(2010) 7649 / SEC(2010) 1360), currently subject to revision; see also: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=faq.faq&aide=2>

period of 24 months. The Chair of the 'Open Science Policy Platform' will be designated by DG RTD among the members.

Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the deliberations of the group, who resign or who no longer fulfil the conditions that established their selection may be replaced for the remainder of their mandate.

3. Rules of engagement

The OSPP will meet bi-annually in plenary meeting with all its members to discuss the general orientations and the documents that will be provided by the Commission based on e.g. the outcome of other expert groups, taking also utmost account of the input of the wider European science and research community. It will seek consensus to propose best practices and policy recommendations.

Members and members' representatives should be prepared to attend meetings systematically, to examine and provide comments on documents under discussion, to contribute actively to discussions in the group, to prepare working documents, and to act, as appropriate, as advocates of identified best practices among the respective member organisations they represent.

DG RTD will make public all relevant documents, such as agendas, minutes and participants' submissions, about the OSPP either by publishing it in the Register of Commission expert groups or by providing a link from the Register to a specific website. Access to dedicated websites shall not be submitted to user registration or any other restriction. Exceptions to publication shall be foreseen where disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001⁵. The documents used for discussion should be disseminated to a wider public.

4. Application procedure

Each application may be completed in one of the official languages of the European Union. However, applications in English are encouraged as they facilitate the evaluation procedure. If another language is used, it would be desirable to include a summary of the CV in English.

Applicants must clearly indicate whether the application is made for an individual appointed to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders or for an organisation. Applicants are also asked to indicate which stakeholder group mentioned above (see section 2) best describes their profile.

The applications from individuals representing a common interest shared by stakeholders must include an informative overview of the applicant's professional experience and expertise by means of a curriculum vitae and a letter in support of their application.

Regardless whether you apply as representative of a common interest or as organisation, DG RTD expects that the background, expertise, experience and level of seniority of the

⁵ 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.

applications will be commensurate with the high prominence of advisory tasks assigned to the OSPP.

For individuals appointed to represent a common interest and organisations the application must indicate the respective name and references as well as the pertinent information of the designated representative (i.e. respective curriculum vitae). Organisations who apply to be appointed members of the OSPP are invited to express their interest and indicate their representative.

In particular, each application should include the following information:

- In which capacity the application is being made (representative of a common interest or organisation);
- The profile of the applicant (for organisations this should reflect also the designated representative);
- The name of the applicant (for organisations this corresponds to the name of the organisation);
- For common interests a brief description of which interests are represented (representativeness);
- For organisations a brief description of its activity and size;
- For individuals representing a common interest and for organisations' representatives:
 - the authorities/organisations for which they have worked and the length of time they worked there
 - Their specific competences
 - The specific projects and/or tasks they have been involved in
 - Any experience they have acquired at EU and international level

The application has to be sent by email to:

RTD-Open-Science@ec.europa.eu by 22/03/2016

Only applications which also include the nomination of a representative are valid.

5. Selection criteria and procedure

The Commission services will take the following criteria into account while assessing the applications:

- Affiliation to one of the stakeholder groups mentioned (see section 2);
- European representativeness and geographical coverage in Europe;
- Degree of involvement in Open Science Policy and advocacy;
- Proven competence and experience, including at European and/or international level, in areas relevant to the mandate of the group;
- The proven capacity to represent effectively an organisation or a common interest shared by stakeholders;
- where relevant, the hierarchical level of the proposed representative within the organisation;

- The need to strike a balance within the members of the group in terms of stakeholders represented, gender, age and geographical origin.

The Commission will rank and prioritize the applications in accordance with the above mentioned criteria.

6. Logistical and operational aspects

The OSPP shall meet in Brussels on Commission premises or in another place announced in accordance with the procedures and schedule established by the Commission.

The European Commission will reimburse the travel and subsistence expenses for the meetings according to the applicable Commission rules for the reimbursement of experts' expenses.

The activities of the OSPP will be supported by a secretariat put in place by DG RTD.

Please forward any queries on the nomination and selection procedure by email to: RTD-Open-Science@ec.europa.eu.