



Call for Expression of Interest

Expert evaluators for RFCS programme

The European Research Executive Agency is looking for independent experts to assist in the evaluation of proposals submitted for funding under the **Research Fund for Coal and Steel**, managed by the **Future Low Emission Industries** unit, REA B1.



2021-2027

Details

Status	OPEN
Publication date	21 February 2022
Deadline date	01 December 2027, 10:00 (CET)

Description

The European Research Executive Agency, and in particular the unit in charge of the Research Programme for Coal and Steel, is looking for independent experts to assist in the evaluation of proposals, in their personal capacity, assessing applications for funding. To this end, the Call for Expression of Interest for experts under RFCS for the programming period 2021-2027 is **now open**.

The [Research Fund for Coal and Steel](#) is an EU funding programme supporting research projects in the **coal and steel sectors**. The RFCS has its own legal and is funded via the revenues generated by the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in liquidation assets, which are exclusively devoted to research in the sectors related to the coal and steel industry, in accordance with the provisions of Protocol (37) to the Treaties.

In the implementation of the Programme, the experts appointed in the evaluation of the proposals will be chosen on the basis of their **skills, experience and knowledge relevant to the tasks** which will be assigned to them.

REA shall ensure that experts do not evaluate, advise or assist on matters with regard to which they have **any conflict of interest**.

They shall also have **appropriate language skills**, in particular in English, for the tasks to be carried out.

RFCS policy objectives

The [European Green Deal Communication](#) of the European Commission is the European growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use.

The Communication also states that all Union actions and policies should pull together to help the Union achieve a successful and just transition towards a sustainable future.

Within the European Green Deal objectives, applicants to the RFCS Calls are invited to consider the following elements when preparing their proposals:

- Energy-intensive industries, such as steel [...] are indispensable to Europe's economy, as they supply several key value chains. The decarbonisation and modernisation of this sector is essential.
- The Commission will support clean steel breakthrough technologies leading to a zero-carbon steel making process by 2030.

The latest (2011-2017) [Monitoring and Assessment of the RFCS Research Programme report](#) highlights the major challenges for the European coal and steel industry: (i) to cut greenhouse gas emissions, (ii) to make sustainable use of energy and resources, and (iii) to develop new competitive, high-performance products and processes.

The RFCS package adopted on 19 July 2021 is in line with the Von der Leyen Commission's objectives and therefore enables the fund to tackle the sectors' climate and environmental challenges. This means in particular assisting the EU's coal and steel industries to reduce their emissions, thus contributing to the European Green Deal's goals and achieving a [Just Transition](#) towards a climate neutral economy.

Fields of expertise

REA is looking for experts with a high level of expertise and professional experience in one or more of the following **RFCS research objectives**. Applications from experts with experience in **European Green Deal** assessment and relevant **socio-economic** expertise are also encouraged.

Coal

1. Supporting the just transition of the coal sector and regions;
2. Improving health and safety;
3. Minimising the environmental impacts of coal mines in transition.

Steel

4. New, sustainable and low-carbon steelmaking and finishing processes;
5. Advanced steel grades and applications;
6. Conservation of resources, protection of the environment and circular economy;
7. Management of work force and working conditions.

Application procedure

REA invites individuals to apply as independent experts registering into the [Portal Expert Database](#), which is the central database for all experts. Registration is a mandatory prerequisite for being contracted. Experts must register online.



Please note that registration does nothing more than declare your interest in working for us. We do not check your eligibility or any other conditions at that moment and registration does not entail any entitlement to receive assignments, which will depend on business needs and fulfilment of the formal requirements.

Experts who already registered in the database of experts and who wish to apply for the RFCS, are invited to declare their interest in being considered by entering the '[My Expert Area](#)' on the Portal Expert Database and duly updating all sections.

Areas of expertise and professional experience must be in line with the above mentioned research areas, adequately detailed and documented, avoiding including any sensitive information of any kind. It is also recommended to include 'open keywords' to further support the search in areas of expertise of relevance to the RFCS.

The RFCS is added to the list of programmes in the 'Programme selection' tab.

Please note that to be considered for the evaluation starting in the relevant year, interested experts are advised to update their profile no later than **end of March** of the same year. **After registration or update, experts are invited to express their interest by sending an e-mail to the address REA-RFCS@ec.europa.eu indicating their registration number.**

As the Commission service collects and further processes personal data, it is subject to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 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. Processing operations are under the responsibility of the data controller.

Selection procedure

The selection of experts will be made on the basis of selection criteria such as professional expertise and experience, language skills, geographical and thematic balance, gender balance, regular rotation and absence of conflict of interest.

The selection will be objective and follow the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment.

For the evaluation starting in a specific year, experts selected will be contacted no later than one month before the start of the evaluation process. The experts will be informed on the indicative timing and will be invited to confirm their interest and availability.

Prior to assigning a task, the experts will need to sign an EU expert contract. By signing the contract, experts will need to agree to perform the assignments to the **highest professional standards** and in **compliance with the conditions set out in the call, the Expert Terms of Reference** and the [Expert Code of Conduct](#).

To ensure the independence of the work that they are called upon to perform in their capacity as 'independent experts', prior to the signature of their contract, they will also be required to attest that they agree to abide by the terms of the code of conduct (including confidentiality aspects) in the electronic exchange system. In particular, they will be required to sign a declaration certifying that there is no conflict of interest at the time of contracting and that they undertake to inform the Commission or the relevant funding body if any conflict should arise in the course of their duties.

Please note that the work of the independent experts will be remunerated. Contracts will contain the details relating to the assignment (e.g. tasks and working arrangements, remuneration and payment arrangements). More information about the applicable ceilings and the payment of experts can be found in the general Call for Funding & Tenders Portal Expert Database ([Call for Expression of Interest 2021-2027](#)).

Important

IMPORTANT

- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, you **agree** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Profile** — All sections of the online form must be completed (and kept up-to-date). Areas of expertise and professional experience must be adequately detailed and documented. The registration will be considered complete only once it has been marked as valid. Contracts can only be signed after identity and bank account have been validated and compliance with the mandatory legal requirements has been checked.

Please note that we may use publicly available sources to confirm and cross-check the information you provide in the online form (*including internet, social media, etc*).

Please also be aware that we may use the email address used in your profile to contact you (including for formal notifications). Formal notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and deadlines will be counted from opening/access.

- **Confidentiality and conflict of interest** — You will be required to comply with the rules regarding confidentiality and conflict of interest set out in the Expert Code of Conduct and specifically confirm compliance for each assignment.
- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU expert contracts above EUR 15 000 (name, address/region and amount) is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

Experts evaluating proposals will also be published annually on the Funding & Tenders Portal (together with their area of expertise, if applicable).

Moreover, for prizes, the names of jury members may be disclosed.

Please also be aware that access to the Portal Expert Database may be given, on request, to certain research institutions that participate in the European Research Area (*e.g. public research bodies from EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries and entities set up involving the EU in joint research programmes with Member States*).