



Call for Scientific and Technical Support Scheme

at the European Food Safety Authority

Frequently Asked Questions



This document is designed to be a reference for all applicants and potentially interested aspirants for the Call for Scientific and Technical Support Scheme at the European Food Safety Authority.

It seeks to provide answers to the most frequently asked questions related to the Call in subject.

We recommend that you read this document carefully and in case your answer cannot be found here, write to us at EFSAProcurement@efsa.europa.eu and we would be happy to deal with your query.



Disclaimer: *The information provided herein is for general informational purposes only.*



Call for Scientific and Technical Support Scheme

Q1 - Why is EFSA launching this scheme? And what is the objective of the call?

This scheme will allow EFSA to rely on additional and flexible scientific expertise from individual scientists (natural persons) in the execution of specific tasks. Similar schemes are already used by other EU Agencies.

The objective of this call for expressions of interest is to establish a list of individuals (natural persons) with scientific expertise to assist EFSA in carrying out the preparatory work in the areas indicated in the Notice of call for expression of interest.

Q2 - What is the difference between this call compared to procurement procedures?

The call for scientific and technical support scheme is similar to a procurement call (as covered by a specific provision in the Financial Regulation), but it does not foresee competitive price tendering and is not open to companies/institutions (legal persons).

It is targeted to individuals ("natural persons") who are selected "*ad personam*" on the basis of their professional capacity.

Q3 - Who can apply?

Any individual (natural person, no need to register as "professional" with VAT) with the required profile can apply.¹

Q4 - I am involved with EFSA as a member of a scientific working group and/or panel, am I eligible to apply?

Yes. Individuals including experts from EFSA's scientific working groups and /or panels can apply. They will be selected "*ad personam*" on the basis of their professional capacity and other requirements with regards to eligibility and strict selection criteria. Please see Q12 and Q14 for related information.

¹ Please note, that it is the responsibility of the individual to comply with the national tax rules applicable in the country of her/his residence.



Q5 - I am an ex-staff member of EFSA or of another EU Agency or EU Institution (EUI). Am I eligible to be hired under the scientific and technical support scheme?

Yes, under certain conditions:

- If I am on retirement as an statutory staff member at an EUI, the remuneration I can receive as an expert hired by means of a contract under the scheme must not exceed the difference between the total annual amount of my last salary when I was still in service and my retirement pension for the year in question;
- If I am a former statutory staff member (i.e. Temporary Agent or Contract Agent) at an EUI, I cannot be hired and awarded a contract under the scheme if I am receiving an unemployment allowance from the EU budget.

Prior to the award of a contract, EFSA will ask me to sign a relevant declaration.

Q6 - I am a national of a country that is not a Member State of the EU. Am I eligible to apply for the scientific and technical support scheme call advertised by EFSA?

Yes. Applicants must be citizens of a Member State of the European Union (EU), or of a country of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) or of an EU Candidate country. Experts from third countries may also apply, and will be considered, if the required level of expertise may not be found among nationals of EU, EFTA or EU Candidate countries.

Q7 - Can an institution or a company apply?

No. Only individuals (natural persons) are eligible to apply for the call.

Q8 - I am interested in applying. How can I apply?

The application shall be submitted via the [online application tool](#).

Please note that EFSA does not consider unsolicited/spontaneous applications, and the online application tool is the only acceptable means of submitting an application for the Scientific and Technical Support Scheme call.

Q9 - How long is the call open for applications?

Applications may be submitted at any time during the period of validity of the call for expression of interest (maximum 5 years), with the exception of the last three



months of that period. However, we advise you to apply as early as possible, as assignments can arise at any point in time during the validity of the list.

Applications will be evaluated on a need basis by EFSA, and suitable candidates will be placed on the list of individuals with scientific expertise to assist EFSA.

Q10 - Are all applications treated in the same way?

EFSA applies a policy of equal opportunities and accepts applications without bias on the basis of the criteria specified in the call.

Q11 - How will I know whether I am placed on the list of individuals with scientific expertise?

Individuals will be notified of the outcome of their application as soon as possible after the evaluation is finished.

Q12 - I am on the list of individuals with scientific expertise, when will EFSA contact me for the task?

Where EFSA needs a particular task described in the call to be performed by an individual, EFSA will contact the individual scientist from the reserve list on *ad hoc* basis.

EFSA will assign the task to individuals on the basis of the skills, experience and knowledge necessary and in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination, equal treatment and absence of conflict of interest. A contract will be signed by EFSA and the individual scientist for each assignment.

EFSA applies strict selection criteria, monitor quality of deliverables and allows flexibility to change the contractor if the deliverables quality is low.

Inclusion on the list of individuals with scientific expertise entails no obligation on the part of EFSA to award a contract.

Q13 - If I am called to perform the task, what is the remuneration?

Individuals shall be remunerated at a fixed fee of 360 euros per day worked. Pending on the task to be executed a fixed price will be calculated and specified in the contract.



Q14 - What is the difference between the work done under this scheme compared to the work done EFSA Panel/working group?

The task of this scheme entails preparatory work.

The Working group is drafting the opinion, discusses and concludes on the findings.

The Panel is reviewing and adopting the final opinion.

The tasks carried out by a working group and a panel are not performed under this scheme.

Q15 - How much time will I have to perform the task?

Depending on the task to be executed, the required timeframe will be specified in the contract.

Q16 - Will I need to perform my tasks at EFSA premises?

In most cases, these support tasks will be carried out remotely and the results delivered electronically. In certain cases, EFSA may request that specific tasks are carried out at EFSA premises.