



European Hydrogen Circularity & Sustainability Panel

Call for Expression of Interest for **Experts**

11th February 2026

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1. Context and background information for this call

1.1 Objectives, background and scope

The Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking¹ is an EU body in the form of an institutionalised European public-private partnership. The Members are the European Union (EU), represented by the European Commission, and the European hydrogen sector, represented by Hydrogen Europe and Hydrogen Europe Research. The overall goal of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (JU) is to support the research and innovation (R&I) activities in the field of hydrogen and to accelerate the development and deployment of the European value chain for safe and sustainable clean hydrogen technologies. The JU's R&I activities cover the entire hydrogen value chain from renewable hydrogen production, hydrogen storage and distribution to end-use applications in relevant sectors, as well as other horizontal activities mentioned in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).²

The Clean Hydrogen JU recognises the importance of keeping hydrogen development environmentally sustainable, socially responsible, and economically viable. This is especially important as the development and deployment of hydrogen technologies across Europe are rapidly accelerating. Consequently, the Clean Hydrogen JU, in line with its SRIA, launched the European Hydrogen Sustainability & Circularity Panel (henceforth referred to as 'the EHS&CP' or the Panel) in 2024.³

The EHS&CP is a multidisciplinary advisory body supporting the Clean Hydrogen JU in embedding sustainability and circularity (S&C) principles across hydrogen technologies, projects, and programmes, in line with the EU's climate neutrality and circular economy objectives. The mission of the EHS&CP is twofold: i) to ensure that sustainability and circularity aspects are embedded, monitored, and managed at both the JU's Programme and project level, encompassing environmental, social, and economic dimensions, and ii) to advocate and disseminate knowledge, promoting a sustainable and circular culture within and beyond the JU's Programme. Overall, the Panel plays a critical role as an independent advisory body, ensuring that technological progress aligns with Europe's broader sustainability, social, and resource efficiency goals. Building on the achievements and lessons of the Panel (February 2024 – February 2025), the EHS&CP that will be established through this call will continue to provide strategic advice, methodological guidance, and capacity building to ensure that hydrogen deployment in Europe is environmentally responsible, economically viable, and socially inclusive.

Ecorys Nederland B.V., in consortium with Grant Thornton, referred to together as the Contractor, have been contracted by the Clean Hydrogen JU, under a public procurement contract, to set up and coordinate the EHS&CP.

Against the above background, the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (JU), via its above-mentioned Contractor, is launching a call for independent experts to EHS&CP.

The purpose of this call is twofold:

- 1) to establish the experts composing the Panel, and
- 2) to create a (live) reserve list of potential future experts.

1.2 Full description of the fields covered by the Call for Expressions of Interest

We seek **15 independent experts** with proven experience in hydrogen sustainability and circularity, covering the entire hydrogen value chain, crosscutting disciplines such as lifecycle assessment, socioeconomics, critical raw material, and covering the following areas:

- **Eco-design & resource efficiency**, incl. environmental impacts, environmental Life Cycle Assessments (LCA), PFAS/chemical sustainability; lifecycle trade-offs.
- **Hydrogen technologies across the value chain**, from production to end-use integration, accounting for use-case sustainability and deployment constraints.

¹ https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/index_en

² https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/document/download/8a35a59b-a689-4887-a25a-6607757bbd43_en

³ https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/get-involved/european-hydrogen-sustainability-and-circularity-panel_en

- **Techno-economic assessment & cost modelling**, incl. Life Cycle Costing (LCC), CAPEX/OPEX, trade-offs.
- **Manufacturing, scale-up & industrial deployment** (e.g. automation, scale-up pathways, SME/industry perspectives).
- **Social sustainability & Social Life Cycle Assessment** (S-LCA), including methods/indicators to assess social impacts across the hydrogen value chain (e.g. labour conditions; value chain risks).
- **Social acceptance & governance** (e.g. stakeholders/public readiness; local impacts; distributional affects; just transition).
- **Critical raw materials** (CRMs) in hydrogen technologies and supply chains, including criticality risks, dependencies, substitution, and circular sourcing.
- **End-of-life strategies** of hydrogen technologies, incl. durability, reparability, recyclability, recycling and recovery of strategic materials.

The selected experts will be assigned to task forces and may be called upon to lead or contribute to cross-cutting activities. The proposed task forces are as follows:

- **Task Force 1 - Environmental LCA**: Environmental Life Cycle Assessment of hydrogen systems (GHG and environmental footprint).
- **Task Force 2 - Techno-economic LCC**: Economic performance assessments, life-cycle costing, cost-efficiency of technologies and supply chains.
- **Task Force 3 - Social sustainability and acceptance**: Social Life Cycle Assessment, just transition, job creation, skills, public acceptance and societal readiness; and
- **Task Force 4 - Criticality & circularity**: Resource efficiency, use of critical raw materials, recyclability, eco-design, end-of-life strategies.

Task Force Leaders will also be selected among the selected experts to lead the work of their task force, according to the main domain of expertise and tasks. Task Force leaders are responsible for coordinating and leading the work of the task force as well as ensuring that deadlines are met and that the work produced by the task force is of high quality.

The **Chair of the EHS&CP**, who will also be selected through this call, will guide and oversee the overall work and will act as the spokesperson of the EHS&CP and represent the EHS&CP in meetings, technical events, and workshops under the supervision of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking. The Chair of the Panel will ensure the strategic direction of the Panel and will ensure coordination between the EHS&CP, the Clean Hydrogen JU, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the Contractor. The Chair will also be responsible for ensuring cohesion between the work of the various task forces.

1.3 Panel Activities and Expert Role

The work of the Panel shall focus on the following areas under the support and guidance of the Contractor:

- Conduct data collection and analysis on the level of integration of the sustainability and circularity aspects by the Clean Hydrogen JU-funded projects⁴ and at the Programme level in relation to hydrogen technologies, the associated value chains, cross-cutting issues and other priorities identified in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.⁵
- Assess the state-of-play and propose a set of actions and guidance for better integration of the sustainability and circularity aspects in the activities of the JU, both at the Programme and project implementation level
- Support the Clean Hydrogen JU in defining a comprehensive strategy in relation to the hydrogen sustainability and circularity, identifying gaps and innovation potential for supporting the development of sustainable and circular hydrogen technologies, products and related supply chains.

⁴ Projects repository of the Clean Hydrogen JU: https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/projects-repository_en

⁵ Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the Clean Hydrogen JU: https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/about-us/key-documents/strategic-research-and-innovation-agenda_en

- Develop a methodology (e.g. KPIs, scoreboard, etc.) to monitor the advancements of the Clean Hydrogen JU-funded projects and their overall Programme, including the achievement of the overarching KPIs related to sustainability and circularity.
- Contribute to improving the understanding of the overall role of sustainability and circularity in the transition towards a hydrogen-based economy and strengthen the EU knowledge in this area.
- Support the Clean Hydrogen JU in knowledge-based decisions, including dealing with ad-hoc requests on hydrogen-related sustainability and circularity.
- Provide preliminary feedback on the impact of scaling up of hydrogen technologies and large adoption of hydrogen-based products and services vis-a-vis the three dimensions of sustainable development (i.e. the economic, social and environmental) and alongside the principles of the circular economy.
- Collaborate with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, which supports the Clean Hydrogen JU on hydrogen sustainability matters through a framework contract and Annual Rolling Plan (for more information, please refer to the JU's Annual Work Programmes⁶). This collaboration will help the assessment and implementation of the sustainability aspects of hydrogen-based technologies.
- Contribute to the definition and drafting of the Panel's work plan, which will guide the activities of the panel through its duration.

The work will build on the previous work implemented by the Panel.⁷

1.4 Place of delivery

As required, tasks may be carried out:

- remotely, using electronic communication tools, or
- at any other premises hosting meetings or workshops pertinent to the Panel's activities. When on-site participation is required, related travel and subsistence costs will be reimbursed in accordance with the applicable rules and agreed arrangements.

The work of the EHS&CP will require attending regular online meetings, which will be scheduled during regular working hours based on the Central European Time (CET) zone. Applicants from different time zones should take this into account before applying.

1.5 Duration of the Panel activities

The Panel's activities are expected to run until the end of 2029.

The 15 independent experts selected through this call will be engaged for an initial period from [April to December 2026](#).

After this initial period, in January 2027, the Panel's composition may be reviewed and modified. Similarly, at the beginning of each following year, the composition may be reviewed and modified. This may lead to situations in which some experts are invited to renew their mandates, while others join as new participants, replacing those whose mandates would have concluded.

1.6 Communication with the Contractor

Communications related to the status of your application, your contract, administrative documents or any other related matters should only be addressed to the following [dedicated email: EHS&CP@clean-hydrogen.europa.eu](#).

⁶ Clean Hydrogen JU Annual Work Programmes: https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/about-us/key-documents/annual-work-programmes_en

⁷ More information about the previous work of the EHS&CP can be found here: https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/get-involved/european-hydrogen-sustainability-and-circularity-panel/european-hydrogen-sustainability-and-circularity-panel-documents_en.

2. Application process

2.1 Application procedure

A. Timeline

Deadline: Applications must be received by Friday, 13th March 2026, 18:00 CET (GMT+1).

The selection process is expected to take place in [March](#).

After the closure of this call, [spontaneous applications](#) from interested candidates may be submitted at any time. To this end, the call shall remain open until 2029. Such applications may be taken into account during the annual revision of the Panel's composition and will be assessed through the selection process set out in this call. The Clean Hydrogen JU reserves the right to open new calls for experts should specific expertise be lacking and based on the evolving objectives of the panel.

B. Submission process - Documents

Expressions of interest should be submitted by electronic means at the following address: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EHSCP-2026>

Applicants should fill in the Survey Application Form in English, and provide the information and documents requested therein:

- [The Survey Application Form](#): Note that areas of expertise and professional experience should be adequately detailed and documented as requested in the application form.
- [A CV in English](#), using the [Europass CV](#) model (including a list of publications, research or industry projects and information to assess the selection criteria – see section 3.2).

Natural persons are invited to submit their expression of interest in accordance with the rules set out in this notice.

C. Results

All candidates shall be informed of the outcome of the panel of experts call.

Based on the applications received, the Contractor, in consultation with the Clean Hydrogen JU, will draw up a [main list](#) of up to 15 experts who meet the criteria and who will be selected to be part of the Expert Panel. In addition, a [reserve list](#) with experts who also meet the criteria will be built.

Selected panel experts on the [main list](#) will be notified via email, and a contract will be sent to them electronically, defining the applicable rights, obligations, terms and conditions. Please note that the contract will not, under any circumstances, form an employment relationship.

Experts on the [reserve list](#) might be contacted in the future to take a vacant position in the EHS&CP. The Panel also foresees regular rotation of experts, based on its evolving expertise needs and the performance of its members (see section 1.5 Duration of the Panel activities).

Please be aware that inclusion in the lists of experts entails no obligation on the part of the Contractor to conclude contracts with experts.

If you are [not selected](#) as a panel expert but would like us to retain your data for potential future involvement with the panel, you may express this intention by indicating [your consent within the Survey Application Form](#). If your profile matches the minimum requirements, you will then be considered for the reserve list of potential future panellists. Your data will be securely stored for this purpose for up to four years, and we will contact you accordingly if an opportunity arises.

You may also submit a new application at a later stage as a spontaneous application (see section 2.1.A).

The received applications resulting from this notice are valid until **31st December 2029**. Experts may withdraw their application at any time during the period of validity of the registration by written notice to the Contractor using this email: EHSCP@clean-hydrogen.europa.eu.

2.2 Conditions of remuneration and reimbursement of experts

Contracts signed under this Call for Expressions of Interest for Experts will be standard expert contracts with a fixed fee of **€750 flat rate** per working day per expert.

As a general indication, up to **25 working days** in total are allocated over the duration of an expert's assignment (8 to 12 months). This allocation may be increased when an expert is designated as a Task Force Leader or as Chair of the EHS&CP. The actual number of days to be mobilised will depend on the specific tasks to be performed and the Panel's needs.

The number of days may be broken down into half-day sessions each week or full-day bi-weekly sessions. Applicants will be requested to mention their interest in becoming a Task Force Leader or Chair in the Survey Application Form.

Travel and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed under the conditions set out in the contract.

2.3 Protection of personal data

The processing of the application form and documents submitted as part of the application package involves the collection and processing of personal data (such as your name, gender, address and CV). Such processing will be carried out pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679⁸. Unless indicated otherwise, your reply to this notice and any personal data requested are required for the purposes indicated above and will be processed solely for those purposes.

The data controller is the Clean Hydrogen JU, and the data processor is Ecorys.

Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available in the Privacy Statement accompanying the Call for Expression of Interest for Experts.

2.4 Ex-post transparency

The list of experts selected as panel members will be published on the Contractor's and the Clean Hydrogen JU's dedicated project webpage⁹. The information shall be removed after the expiry of the expert's assignment.

3. Evaluation Criteria

3.1 Exclusion criteria

As a prerequisite, the applicant shall be a natural person, not a legal entity.

Persons who are subject to EU administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion or financial penalty decision) or in one of the following exclusion situations that bar them from receiving EU funds can **NOT** work as experts:

- bankruptcy, winding up, court-ordered administration, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities or similar procedures
- in breach of social security or tax obligations
- guilty of grave professional misconduct
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar, guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2016/679, see here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

⁹ See here: https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/get-involved/european-hydrogen-sustainability-and-circularity-panel_en.

- have created an entity under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin.
- Experts will also be refused if it turns out that:
 - during the contract award procedure, they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
 - they are in a conflict of interest.¹⁰

Similarly, it is not possible for us to contract persons that are excluded from receiving EU funds on other legal grounds (e.g. entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)).

By submitting your application, you confirm that you are not in one of the situations of exclusion listed above. In case of doubt, you may be requested to provide supporting evidence of non-exclusion.

3.2 Eligibility and selection criteria

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

The following [eligibility criteria](#) shall apply:

- A University degree in Engineering/Science, Economics or any other domain that is deemed relevant to the Panel.
- Minimum of 8 years of experience in the field of activity related to hydrogen, renewable energy, circular economy, sustainable development or other closely linked fields of activity. This may include practical experience with EU-funded projects, business or industry experience, relevant academic work, contributions to conferences, participation in associations active in the areas for which they are applying or other experience relevant to the performance of the tasks.
- Ability to work and perform (read and write) in English (minimum C1 level).

Candidates selected on the basis of the above eligibility criteria will then be evaluated according to the following [selection criteria](#):

- Thematic expertise in various aspects of the hydrogen value chain, this includes hydrogen production, hydrogen transport and distribution, and hydrogen end-uses in the industry, transport and energy sectors.
- Professional and academic expertise in the fields listed under Section 1.2.
- Expertise in the hydrogen and energy business sectors.
- Methodological skills such as data collection, gap analysis, indicator development, recommendations, moderation, Life Cycle Assessment, Life Cycle Costing, Social Life Cycle Assessment, Criticality Analysis, and Do-No Significant Harm (DNSH) assessment.

¹⁰ Experts must perform their work impartially and take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the work could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests'). As an example, the following shall be considered a conflict of interest and would lead to exclusion:

- If the expert would benefit or be disadvantaged as a result of participation in the Panel
- If the expert has close family ties or other personal relationships with a person involved in an action that is being monitored by the Panel
- If the expert is employed or contracted by any of the beneficiaries in grants which are falling under the responsibility of the expert to verify in the framework of their duties within the Panel
- If the expert is involved in any way in the management of a beneficiary under an action funded by the JU, which is verified by the Panel.

Exclusion shall also be applied as a consequence, if the experts:

- have vested interests in relation to the questions on which they are asked to give advice
- are linked to an organisation or a person which would benefit (directly or indirectly) or be disadvantaged, as a result of the work of the expert
- are in another situation that compromises their ability to work impartially, independently and in the public interest.

Potential exclusion may arise, in view of the objective circumstances, the available information and the potential risks, if they:

- are in any other situation that could cast doubt on their ability to accomplish the work impartially, independently and in the public interest, or that could reasonably appear to do so in the eyes of an outside third party

- Expertise on and/or familiarity with Horizon Europe projects and/or JU tools¹¹.
- Communication and writing skills in English exemplified through past publications, speaking arrangements or similar.
- For experts applying as Task Force Leader or Chair of the Panel, excellent communication skills and leadership experience are required.

By submitting your application, you confirm that you will be available for up to **25 working days** in total for the expert's assignment (**7 - 12 months**). This allocation may be increased when an expert is designated as a Task Force Leader or as Chair of the EHS&CP.

The selection will also consider a balanced geographical representation, a mix of academic and industry backgrounds, gender balance, and the absence of conflicts of interest. In addition, a combination of expertise relevant to the four Task Forces referred to in Section 1.2 will be ensured.

All above requested experience and expertise will be assessed based on the information applicants must provide in their application form, as well as in their curriculum vitae, which must be attached to the application.

4. Ownership and use of the results — IPR

The results produced (including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights) will belong to the Clean Hydrogen JU. The rights will be obtained for the full term of intellectual property protection, from the moment the results are delivered and approved. Delivery and approval are considered to constitute an effective assignment of rights. This transfer of rights is free of charge.

5. Reduction — Suspension — Termination — Recovery of undue amounts

The Contractor may reduce the remuneration or costs (fees, honoraria, allowances, reimbursement of expenses, etc.) and recover undue amounts, if:

- the work was not implemented in accordance with the contract
- allowances or expenses are not eligible
- the expert has committed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or serious breach of obligations under the contract or during its award (including noncompliance with the call conditions, false declarations or breach of these terms and conditions or those of the contract).

The Contractor may suspend the contract if the expert has committed (or is suspected of having committed) substantial errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach of obligations under the contract or during its award (including non-compliance with the call conditions, false declarations or breach of these terms and conditions or of the contract).

Expenses incurred during suspension (including commitments to pay, such as flight or hotel reservations) will not be reimbursed.

Moreover, the Contractor may terminate the contract, if:

- the services are no longer needed, or the contract cannot (or can no longer) be fulfilled
- there were substantial errors, irregularities or fraud or serious breach of obligations under the contract or during its award (including non-compliance with the call conditions, false declarations or breach of the expert Terms of Reference or Code of Conduct), in particular:
 - the work is not being implemented, or implemented poorly or late
 - the expert was found guilty of grave professional misconduct, or any other of the exclusion grounds set out in section 4 are fulfilled.

¹¹ https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/knowledge-management_en