



European Research Council
Executive Agency

Established by the European Commission

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Seconded National Experts for the ERCEA

ERCEA/SNE/191/2021

The European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA) is organising a Call for Expression of Interest in view of establishing a Reserve List of approximately five (5) candidates for each profile:

Seconded National Experts - Research Programme Experts in Unit B.2 and Unit B.4

For the following profiles:

- 1. Unit B.2 Management of scientific evaluation and peer review processes**
- 2. Unit B.2 Quantitative and statistical analysis of peer review evaluation data**
- 3. Unit B.4 Computer Science AND/OR Mathematics**

The Applications **MUST** be forwarded by the Permanent
Representations, the EFTA Secretariat or the Permanent Delegation of
Turkey

By Friday, 16 April 2021, at 12:00 (midday) Brussels time.



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1 Who we are

The ERCEA is dedicated to selecting and funding the excellent ideas that have not happened yet, and the scientists that are dreaming them up.

In practice, the ERCEA supports the work of the ERC, the first pan-European funding body sustaining excellent frontier research in Europe, set up by the European Union in February 2007. The ERCEA was created in order to manage the Ideas Programme, part of the EU's Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7). Its mandate was renewed until 2024, for the implementation of part of the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). It is expected that the ERCEA will also be responsible for managing the ERC programme under Horizon Europe (2021-2027).

In order to achieve the ERC's objectives, the ERCEA manages several frontier research grants: 'Starting Grants' targeted at early-career, emerging research leaders, 'Consolidator Grants', aimed at excellent researchers who are already independent, 'Advanced Grants' that support established top researchers, as well as 'Synergy Grants' for groups of two to four Principal Investigators to jointly address ambitious research projects. The grants fund projects in any field of research, with excellence as the sole selection criterion. Since the creation of the Agency, more than 10,000 top researchers at various stages of their careers have been supported. Under Horizon 2020, the ERCEA has a total budget of some €13 billion.

The ERCEA is dedicated to excellence in research and in all aspects of its work, and seeks to attract professional, highly-motivated staff with the right qualifications and expertise. The ERCEA's working environment is modern, dynamic, inspiring and engaging.

Department B carries out the tasks of the ERC that require an understanding of the scientific subject matter. It implements the peer review process for the selection of ERC grants and the processes for scientific monitoring of grants. The Department advises the Scientific Council in areas related to scientific matters. Unit B.2 plans and coordinates the execution of the calls for proposals and evaluation, as well as the scientific monitoring of, and follow-up to, the funded research projects. Unit B.4 covers all areas of physical sciences and engineering research.

The Agency is situated in the heart of Brussels and expected to count a total staff of 528 by the end of 2021. For more details on the ERC and ERCEA, please visit our website: <http://erc.europa.eu/>.



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SNE Research Programme Experts in Unit B.2 and Unit B.4

2 What we offer

The purpose of this Call for Expression of Interest is to draw up a Reserve List of approximately five (5) candidates for positions as Seconded National Experts (SNEs) for specific scientific profiles.

Candidates will have one of the following profiles:

- 1. Unit B.2 Management of scientific evaluation and peer review processes**
- 2. Unit B.2 Quantitative and statistical analysis of peer review evaluation data**
- 3. Unit B.4 Computer Science AND/OR Mathematics**

Candidates may only apply to one profile. Candidates must make their choice when they apply and will not be able to change it after they have validated their application. If they encounter difficulties in choosing one of these profiles, they should select the profile that best matches with their main area of expertise.

Rules applicable to National Experts seconded to the ERCEA ("SNE Rules") may be found [here](#). The SNE shall be entitled, throughout the period of the secondment, to a daily subsistence allowance (currently €144,31 per diem) and a monthly subsistence allowance depending on the distance between the place of origin and the place of secondment.

The initial duration of secondment is typically two years. The secondment may be renewed up to a total period not exceeding four years (see Article 4 of the SNE Rules).

The place of secondment is Brussels, Belgium.

The secondment is expected to start in the second half of 2021.



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3 Selection Criteria for each profile

The duties of the successful candidate, **per profile**, will be the following:

3.1 Unit B.2 Management of scientific evaluation and peer review processes

a) Job Description

Coordination of the Evaluation and Selection of Research Proposals

- Provide support to the overall management and coordination of the ERC peer review process of submitted applications;
- Provide support to the documentation of the evaluation process and the drafting of guidance documents for applicants;
- Provide support in the analysis of the eligibility of submitted proposals;
- Provide support and work with the evaluation panels and the follow-up of funded projects in areas close to the background and expertise of the candidate;
- Contribute to the development of guidelines, orientations and new approaches relating to the proper implementation of the programme.

Project/Process Management

- Assess the scientific implementation of projects;
- Contribute to the analysis of the ERC portfolio of funded projects;
- As appropriate, analyse and assess the results and impacts of the programme, provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

External Communication

- Present the programme and project results at workshops, seminars, conferences and other public events, to both internal and external stakeholders;
- Contribute to publications produced by the programme intended for external stakeholders;
- Extract and disseminate best practices and facilitate exchange of experiences;
- Collate information and draft replies to questions from external stakeholders;
- Produce reports/minutes on high level meetings as required.

b) Main skills and Qualifications

- Candidates should have a level of education which corresponds to having completed university studies of at least three years attested by a diploma. Further relevant research qualifications at PhD level is an asset;
- Professional experience as a researcher in one or more scientific/technical area(s) is also an asset;
- Experience, knowledge and understanding of peer review processes in a funding agency or other academic setting is also an asset;
- Very good command of written and spoken English;



- A thorough knowledge of one of the European Union languages and a satisfactory knowledge of another European Union language to the extent necessary for the performance of their duties;
- Excellent interpersonal skills (including the ability to work in a team and exercise diplomatic skills);
- Excellent communication and drafting skills (including the capacity to communicate technical or specialised information).

3.2 Unit B.2 Quantitative and statistical analysis of peer review evaluation data

a) Job Description

Quantitative and Qualitative analysis of the ERC Evaluation process

- Provide support to the monitoring and evaluation of the ERC peer review evaluation process. This includes statistical analysis, regression analysis, querying and developing databases, and other relevant and appropriate techniques related to submission and evaluation data, and data on funded projects;
- Provide quantitative and qualitative support to the overall management and coordination of the peer review process of submitted applications; this may include the development of scripts and programming to facilitate the processes;
- Provide support to the ex-post assessment of completed projects by external experts;
- Contribute to the drafting of reports and the preparation of presentations on the results obtained.

Project/Process Management

- Assess the scientific implementation of projects;
- Contribute to the analysis of the ERC portfolio of funded projects;
- As appropriate, analyse and assess the results and impacts of the programme, provide feedback and suggestions for improvement;
- Provide quantitative and statistical analysis of data related to the evaluation of applications in order to improve and optimise the peer review process.

External Communication

- Present the programme and project results at workshops, seminars, conferences and other public events, to both internal and external stakeholders;
- Contribute to publications produced by the programme intended for external stakeholders;
- Extract and disseminate best practices and facilitate exchange of experiences;
- Collate information and draft replies to questions from external stakeholders;
- Produce reports/minutes on high level meetings as required.



b) Main skills and Qualifications

- Candidates should have a level of education which corresponds to having completed university studies of at least three years in a scientific/technical area relevant for this profile, attested by a diploma. Further relevant research qualifications at PhD level are particularly recommended;
- Appropriate professional experience as a researcher in a scientific/technical area relevant for the profile for at least five years is an asset. Experience in the management of research projects is also an asset;
- Experience, knowledge and understanding of peer review processes in funding agencies or other academic settings is also an asset;
- Very good command of written and spoken English;
- A thorough knowledge of one of the European Union languages and a satisfactory knowledge of another European Union language to the extent necessary for the performance of their duties;
- Excellent interpersonal skills (including the ability to work in a team and exercise diplomatic skills);
- Excellent communication and drafting skills (including the capacity to communicate technical or specialised information).

3.3 Unit B.4 Research Programme Expert Computer Science and/or Mathematics

a) Job Description

The successful candidates will play a central role in two key tasks: the coordination of the evaluation and selection of research proposals submitted to the ERC grant schemes; and the scientific monitoring of funded projects. Candidates should have a strong academic background in either computer science OR mathematics OR both computer science and mathematics.

Coordination of the Evaluation and Selection of Research Proposals

- Provide support to meetings of scientific panels for the selection of research proposals in the area of computer science and/or mathematics by external experts, including the preparation, organisation, operation of the meetings and the documentation of results;
- Provide support to the ex-post assessment of completed projects by external experts;
- Contribute to the development of guidelines, orientations and new approaches relating to the proper implementation of the programme.

Project/Process Management

- Assess the scientific implementation of projects primarily in computer science and/or mathematics through periodic reviews, reporting etc.;
- Contribute to the analysis of the ERC portfolio of funded projects;
- As appropriate, analyse and assess the results and impacts of the programme, provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.



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External Communication

- Present the programme and project results at workshops, seminars, conferences and other public events, to both internal and external stakeholders;
- Contribute to publications produced by the programme intended for external stakeholders;
- Extract and disseminate best practices and facilitate exchange of experiences;
- Collate information and draft replies to questions from external stakeholders;
- Produce reports/minutes on high-level meetings as required.

b) Main Skills and Qualifications

- Candidates should have a level of education that corresponds to having completed university studies of at least three years, attested by a diploma in any area of computer science and/or mathematics. Further research qualifications in computer science and/or mathematics at PhD level are particularly recommended;
- Very good command of written and spoken English and a satisfactory knowledge of another European Union language to the extent necessary for the performance of their duties;
- Candidates should have appropriate professional experience as a researcher in computer science and/or mathematics for at least five years. Experience in the management of research projects would also be an asset.

4 Eligibility criteria - Secondment requirements

Please carefully read the SNE Rules before applying, to ensure you fulfil the eligibility criteria for secondment.

In particular, please note the following requirements for secondment:

- An SNE must be a national of an EU Member State or of a European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Member State (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) or a national of a country with which the Council has decided to open accession negotiations and which has concluded a specific agreement on staff secondments (Turkey);
- An SNE must have at least three years' experience of administrative, legal, scientific, technical, advisory or supervisory functions;
- SNEs are employed by a national, regional or local public administration or an intergovernmental organisation (IGO) and seconded to the ERCEA so that the Agency can benefit from their expertise in a particular field;
- The SNE's employer shall continue to pay the SNE's salary, maintain their administrative status, and be responsible for all social rights, particularly social security and pensions. On this basis, the secondment is not an employment, nor does it lead to an employment;
- An SNE must have worked for their employer on a permanent or contract basis for at least 12 months before the secondment and remain in the service of that employer throughout the period of secondment;
- An SNE must have a thorough knowledge of one EU language and satisfactory knowledge of a second EU official language. An SNE from a non-member state shall



have thorough knowledge of one EU official language necessary for the performance of his/her duties. English is the predominant working language at ERCEA and generally considered the *lingua franca* of the scientific community;

- During the secondment, SNEs are subject to the obligations of confidentiality, loyalty and the absence of conflict of interest as provided in Article 7 of the SNE Rules.

5 Submission of applications

Each application shall contain the following documents:

- a) A detailed Curriculum Vitae in English, preferably in *Europass* format, which can be obtained at the following address: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae>;
- b) A motivation letter in English clearly mentioning the reference of the Call, the profile you apply for and your e-mail address for correspondence.
- c) Your current contract stating that you are "employed by a national, regional or local public administration" and "have worked for your employer on a permanent or contract basis for at least 12 months before your secondment".
- d) A [declaration on your current status of employment](#), indicating that you "shall remain in the service of that employer throughout the period of secondment". **Specifically, your employer "shall thus undertake to continue to pay [your] salary, to maintain [your] administrative status throughout the period of secondment [and] shall also continue to be responsible for all [your] social rights, particularly social security and pension".**

Moreover, candidates are asked to provide **three professional references**. These may be consulted should candidates be included on a Reserve List of the ERCEA (and thus have been successful in this selection), and should a recruiting service have shortlisted them in view of a secondment and wish to confirm the statements made in the selection process. Please note that in order to comply with rules on personal data protection, **the names and contact data should be provided with consent of the persons whose name is listed.**

Please mention in the subject line of the application your family name, the reference, followed by the title of the profile for which you wish to apply: **FAMILY NAME** – ERCEA/SNE/191/2021 – **PROFILE**.

The Permanent Representation, the EFTA Secretariat or the Permanent Delegation of Turkey must send your application to the ERCEA before the deadline to the following e-mail address: ERC-SELECTION@ec.europa.eu.

The ERCEA will only take into account applications received from the Permanent Representation, the EFTA Secretariat or the Permanent Delegation of Turkey by the deadline, which is **Friday, 16 April, 2021 at 12:00 (midday) Brussels time**. Please liaise with your Permanent Representation, the EFTA Secretariat or the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to ensure that your application reaches us well on time.

REMINDER:

Candidates MUST send their Applications to the Permanent Representations, the EFTA Secretariat or the Permanent Delegation of Turkey. Applications sent directly to ERCEA will NOT be taken into account.



6 Selection procedure

6.1 Selection Committee

A Selection Committee will be appointed for these profiles and will comprise four members.

Under no circumstances should candidates approach the Selection Committee themselves, either directly or indirectly concerning this selection. The Director of the ERCEA reserves the right to disqualify any candidate who disregards these instructions. In assessing candidates' merits, the Selection Committee shall observe the principle of equal treatment.

6.2 Admission to the selection process

Once the deadline for the submission of applications through the Permanent Representations, the EFTA Secretariat or the Permanent Delegation of Turkey has elapsed, the Selection Committee will check the applications submitted for their profiles against the **eligibility criteria** as detailed above under Section 4.

Candidates may be disqualified at any stage prior to the completion of the secondment process should any information provided during the selection and pre-secondment phase prove to be manifestly untrue, inaccurate, incomplete, falsified, deliberately inconsistent or misleading.

6.3 Initial assessment of the applications

The Selection Committee will assess the applications of eligible candidates with reference to the **selection criteria** as detailed above under section 3.

6.4 Invitation to interview

Upon completion of the assessment, the Selection Committee will establish a shortlist of candidates best matching the needs of each of the three profiles. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview by e-mail from ERC-SELECTION@ec.europa.eu. Should candidates' e-mail address change prior to the completion of the selection process, they are asked to inform ERC-SELECTION@ec.europa.eu.

Please note that, as a general rule, for organisational purposes, the appointments set by ERCEA cannot be changed at the candidate's request.

6.5 Interview

The interview will finalise the assessment of candidates according to the selection criteria. The interview will be conducted remotely in English, and may include alternative forms of assessment, which would be communicated to candidates prior to the interview.

6.6 Reserve List

The Selection Committee will include on the Reserve List approximately five (5) candidates per profile. The draft unranked Reserve List, in alphabetical order and broken down by profiles, will be submitted to the Director of the ERCEA for approval.

Candidates should note that inclusion on a Reserve List does not imply any entitlement to secondment.

The Reserve List will be valid for a period of 12 months from the date of its establishment. The validity of the Reserve List may be extended at the discretion of the ERCEA Director.



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7 Notification to candidates

All candidates will be notified about the outcome of their application from ERC-SELECTION@ec.europa.eu. In order to facilitate the selection process, all correspondence with candidates concerning this vacancy will be carried out in English.

8 Equal opportunities

The ERCEA values difference and promotes equality. We apply a policy of equal opportunities and accept applications without discrimination on any grounds (such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation). We offer flexible family-friendly working arrangements (flexitime, teleworking) in consideration of operational needs.

9 Protection of personal data

The ERCEA ensures that applicants' personal data are processed as required by Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council 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.

A Data Protection Notice is published on the ERC's website at the following address: https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/erc_sps_SNEs.pdf.

Candidates are invited to carefully read it, as it provides useful information about the processing of their personal data and relevant rights.

10 Request for review

The ERCEA and the Selection Committee operate in the context of the general principles of European Union law as interpreted by the courts. In assessing candidates' merits, Selection Committees observe the principle of equal treatment.

If you nevertheless believe that one of these principles has not been applied in your case, you have the right, **within 10 calendar days** from the date when the letter notifying you of the decision was sent to you, to request a review by sending a letter stating your reasons to the e-mail address: ERC-SELECTION@ec.europa.eu.

Please quote in the subject line of your letter:

- The reference of the concerned Call and, if applicable, the profile;
- Your name;
- 'Request for review';
- The stage of the selection concerned in your complaint.

The ERCEA will forward it to the Chairperson of the Selection Committee if it comes within the Committee's remit, and you shall receive a reply as soon as possible.