



Call for Expressions of Interest – Independent Expert Evaluators

Evaluation Criteria for the Panel of Independent Expert Evaluators

Overview

The following criteria apply to all individuals applying to join Xjenza Malta's (XM) pool of Independent Expert Evaluators. All applications will be assessed against these criteria to determine eligibility and suitability for inclusion in the evaluator pool. Applicants must satisfy all mandatory criteria; preference criteria will be used to prioritise candidates where the pool is oversubscribed in a given thematic area.

Evaluation Criteria

A. Professional Experience	
Minimum Experience	At least five (5) years of professional experience in the relevant thematic area(s), if in possession of a postgraduate qualification.
PhD/Doctoral Holders	At least two (2) years of professional experience in the relevant thematic area(s), if in possession of a PhD or doctoral degree.
Evaluation Experience	Preference will be given to Evaluators holding prior evaluation experience at both a national and international level.
B. Educational Qualifications	
Minimum Qualification	Evaluators must hold, at minimum, a tertiary-level qualification (bachelor's degree or equivalent).
Preferred Qualification	Postgraduate qualifications (Master's or PhD/Doctoral degree) are preferred, particularly for senior or complex evaluation assignments.
Language Proficiency	Evaluators must demonstrate a good command of the English language, both spoken and written, at EU level C1/C2 or equivalent.

C. Thematic Area Coverage	
Eligible Areas	Evaluators must declare and provide evidence of expertise in at least one of the thematic areas listed in the call (e.g., Energy, Health, Digital Technologies, Engineering, Marine and Maritime, Social Sciences, Business, Cultural Heritage, etc.). See “Eligibility of Experts” Table.
Multiple Areas	Applicants may propose to provide services in more than one area of expertise, subject to evidencing the required experience in each declared area.
Sub-area Specificity	Where relevant, applicants should indicate specific sub-areas of expertise within their declared thematic area(s) to enable accurate matching to evaluation assignments.
D. Documentation Requirements	
Curriculum Vitae	A detailed and up-to-date CV must be submitted, clearly demonstrating qualifications, professional experience, and evaluation history.
Qualifications Evidence	Copies of relevant academic qualifications must be provided. Where certificates are in a language other than English, a certified translation into English must be included.
Professional Summary	A written summary of the applicant's professional background in English, including their declared thematic area(s) of expertise. The summary must not exceed 300 words.
Entity Applications	If evaluation services are being provided under the auspices of an entity, a profile of the entity must be submitted alongside the professional profile and CV of the designated Evaluator.
Declaration Form	A declaration form and a proof of EU/EEA residency document must be included with the application.

E. Eligibility Conditions	
Nationality / Residency	Evaluators must be residents of one of the 27 EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic (Czechia), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden or from European Economic Area (EEA) members: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are eligible to apply.
Individual Capacity	Applications must be submitted by candidates in their individual capacity and not on behalf of, or in affiliation with, any organisation, entity, or third party.
F. Selection Preference Criteria	
Prior Evaluation Record	Demonstrated experience in the peer review or evaluation of research proposals, business plans, or grant applications will be considered an advantage.
Interdisciplinary Expertise	Evaluators with cross-disciplinary expertise spanning two or more thematic areas will be given additional consideration.
EU Funding Familiarity	Familiarity with European or national research and innovation funding frameworks (e.g., Horizon Europe, ERDF) is considered an asset.

Notes

- Evaluators are selected based on the documentation provided at the time of application. XM reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation
- Submission of false or misleading information will result in immediate disqualification and/or termination of the contractual agreement.
- Inclusion in the evaluator pool does not guarantee the allocation of evaluation assignments. Assignment decisions are at the sole discretion of XM and are binding.
- The above criteria apply to both cut-off dates: 31 August 2026 (23:59 CET) and 20 December 2026 (23:59 CET).

For queries, contact XM via the clarification request mechanism outlined in the call documentation.