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European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism

Scientific advice on the topic:

**Successful and timely uptake of Artificial Intelligence in science in the EU**

**Call for nominations of experts**

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SAPEA call for nominations of experts

Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Margrethe Vestager, responsible for the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) and [A Europe fit for the digital age](#), has asked the Group of Chief Science Advisors to deliver advice on the topic of 'Successful and timely uptake of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in science in the EU' by the first quarter of 2024. The main question to be answered by the Scientific Advice Mechanism is:

*How can the European Commission accelerate a responsible uptake of AI in science (including providing access to high quality AI, respecting European Values) in order to boost the EU's innovation and prosperity, strengthen EU's position in science and ultimately contribute to solving Europe's societal challenges?*

The **Scoping Paper** for the current request can be found attached to this email (confidential until published).

To answer this question, the Advisors will prepare a Scientific Opinion containing policy recommendations. In order to inform this Opinion, SAPEA is requested to assemble a **working group** of experts and to organise **several expert workshops** to gather the relevant evidence. The evidence will be synthesised by the working group in an **evidence review report** containing conclusions and evidence-based options for EU policy.

This call for nominations offers to the academies the opportunity to exclusively nominate experts for these activities (participation in the working group and in the expert workshops) and could raise the visibility of your academy's work on a European level. You can nominate fellows or members of your academy as well as experts who are not fellows or members your academy. In addition, please send us recent publications of your academy relevant to the topic.

**Please address your nominations to [CarrascosaMarzoR@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:CarrascosaMarzoR@cardiff.ac.uk) by the deadline of 14 August 2023.** Nominations of experts should please be accompanied by:

- a detailed curriculum vitae.
- a short explanation on how the nominee's experience meets the areas of expertise needed.
- letting us know whether you have checked your experts' availability (to participate as working group members or experts in an expert workshop) before nominating them.

Non-exclusive examples of **areas of expertise** that may be of relevance are provided below:

- application of AI to disciplines ranging from the STEM fields (physics, chemistry, nanotechnology...), to medicine and health sciences, and social sciences, economics and the humanities.

- application of AI to interdisciplinary topics and grand challenges (e.g. climate change modelling).
- AI-related fields such as data science, statistics, modelling, automation and robotics.
- Epistemology and foundations of science in the context of AI.
- Research assessment and evaluation, scientific publishing, copyright and intellectual property, peer review.
- Education about information and data literacy for the digital age.
- Human-Computer Interaction.
- Cognitive adaptations to AI.
- AI policy and legislation.
- AI application to research and innovation.
- Geopolitical science in the context of AI (e.g., geopolitical implications of AI).
- Cybersecurity and defence.

Through this call for nominations, SAPEA will identify experts with applied knowledge in the areas of expertise described above to participate in evidence-gathering **expert workshops**. In addition, through this call for nominations, SAPEA will also identify experts with a very wide knowledge and understanding of the use of AI in science to assemble a **small working group**.

Timeline: Expert workshops will take place between October 2023 and January 2024. The evidence review report will be published at the end of February 2024. For more details, please see **ANNEX 2**.

Selection of experts: A SAPEA appointed Selection Committee will be responsible for the composition of the working group. The working group will select the experts for the expert workshop. Criteria for selection are detailed in **ANNEX 3**.

Participating experts will not receive any fee. Travel costs to the in-person meetings will be reimbursed. Members of the working group are required to complete a Declaration of Interests form that will be assessed by SAPEA before contributing to the scientific report (experts participating in expert workshops will not be required to fill out this form before participating in the activities).

The organisational lead network for the topic is Euro-CASE, working closely with AE, ALLEA, FEAM and YASAS, the other European Academy Networks in SAPEA.

If you have questions or would like further information, please email [CarrascosaMarzoR@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:CarrascosaMarzoR@cardiff.ac.uk).

Thank you very much in advance and we look forward to hearing from you,



Professor Antonio Loprieno

Chair of the SAPEA Board, President of ALLEA

## Annex 1. The Science Advice Mechanism and SAPEA

SAPEA is part of the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism. Together with the [Group of Chief Scientific Advisors](#), we provide independent scientific advice to European Commissioners to support their decision-making. We also work to raise awareness of scientific advice and evidence in policymaking, and to stimulate debate in Europe about these issues.

SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) is a consortium of 5 European Academy Networks: [AE](#), [ALLEA](#), [Euro-CASE](#), [FEAM](#) and [YASAS](#) and brings together outstanding expertise in natural sciences, engineering and technology, medical, health, agricultural and social sciences, and the humanities from over 110 academies, young academies and learned societies in more than 40 countries across Europe.

SAPEA is funded by the European Union. The activities of associated partners Academia Europaea and Cardiff University are funded by United Kingdom Research and Innovation (grant number 10033786).

## Annex 2. Expected workload, support and timeline

### **Members of the Working Group (WG) are expected to:**

- Meet before and after each expert workshop, or as appropriate, between September 2023 and February 2024;
- WG members will be expected to support one of the evidence-gathering expert workshop related to their area of expertise;
- Oversee the writing of relevant chapters of the Evidence Review Report, based on published evidence and the evidence collected through the relevant evidence gathering workshops. The first draft of the Evidence Review Report is expected by January 2024;
- Comment and review the whole report as a group at meetings and between meetings;
- Consider the results of structured literature and policy landscape reviews on the topic, carried out in coordination with the WG, to inform their writing;
- Write up conclusions and evidence-based policy options;
- Respond to the comments made by the peer reviewers of the Evidence Review Report in February 2024;
- Be involved in stakeholder and public engagement work (such as meetings, conferences, events), as appropriate and upon request, following delivery of the report.

### **Experts invited to the expert workshops are expected to:**

- Attend one or two of the expert workshops;
- Prepare a presentation, based on their expertise, answering the main questions posed in the workshop;
- Participate in the discussion during the workshop;
- Review drafts of the workshop reports.

### **In support, SAPEA staff will:**

- Administratively manage the project, organise the meetings, draft the meeting minutes and follow up with agreed actions;
- Administratively coordinate the literature reviews that will be undertaken;

- Provide professional science writing support;
- Undertake editorial work on drafts of the Evidence Review Report, in liaison with the Chair(s) and working group members;
- Support the logistics of the organisations of the evidence gathering expert workshops;
- Coordinate a formal peer review of the final draft of the Evidence Review Report;
- Support to finalise the Evidence Review Report by February 2024;
- Coordinate appropriate stakeholder and public engagement work associated with the topic after publication;

An *indicative* timeline is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Task</b>
<i>September 2023</i>	Final formation of working group Working group meeting
<i>October 2023</i>	Evidence Gathering Expert Workshop (Key Area 2 – Scientific process) Evidence Gathering Expert Workshop report (Key Area 2 – Scientific process)
<i>November 2023</i>	Working group meeting Evidence Gathering Expert Workshop (Key Area 3 – People) Evidence Gathering Expert Workshop report (Key Area 3 – People)
<i>December 2023</i>	Working group meeting Advisors’ first statement
<i>January 2024</i>	Evidence Gathering Expert Workshop (Key Area 4 – Policy design) Evidence Gathering Expert Workshop report (Key Area 4 – Policy design) Working group meeting
<i>February 2024</i>	<i>First solid draft of rapid ERR</i> Peer review <i>Production of final draft</i> Report endorsement by SAPEA Board

### Annex 3. Criteria for selection of experts

Experts will be selected according to two main criteria, scientific excellence and the relevance of the expertise for the scientific topic, in addition to the criteria described in the strategy for diversity and inclusiveness which are:

- Inter- and multi-disciplinarity, all relevant disciplines should be included;
- Wide geographical coverage of Europe;
- Gender;
- Inclusion of early- and mid-career researchers;
- Involvement of experts from the wider scientific community, who are not Fellows of Academies.

Commitment and time-availability will also be considered when selecting experts.

Please note that nomination does not guarantee selection to the working group or the participation in an expert workshop.

SAPEA working group members will need to fill in the standard Declaration of Interests form of the European Commission. Further information about SAPEA quality assurance procedures can be found on the website [www.sapea.info](http://www.sapea.info).