Call for RDA External Evaluators

Evaluators pool:

For EOSC Future RDA Open Calls

Opening date:

15 June 2021

Closing date:

30 June 2023

Become an External Evaluator for the RDA Open Calls in the EOSC Future project

The Research Data Alliance ([RDA](#)) - in the context of EOSC Future - is seeking applications for experts to become **external evaluators** for a series of diverse grants to be funded over the duration of the EOSC Future project (April 2021 - September 2023). Evaluators will be responsible for evaluating applications in response to RDA's Open Calls. EOSC Future aims to have a pool of international external evaluators to support its decision-making processes for the award of these grants.

This is a continuous call and will remain open according to the project's needs. Review of initial applications for evaluators will begin in late July 2021. Submit your application as soon as possible for early consideration.

Background:

EOSC Future will develop an environment consisting of data, professionally provided services, and open research products and infrastructure that will be accessed and used by the European researchers who will be engaged, facilitated, trained and supported to utilise the EOSC resources and solutions.

In the context of EOSC Future, RDA will be running a rich set of regular open calls to enable the co-creation of EOSC via early adoption, technical and domain solution development and interoperability as part of its engagement programme.

The RDA Open Calls mechanism - with a €1000 000 grant fund - will be used to engage with multiple stakeholders, including, but not limited to, **targeted scientific communities, technical experts, Early Career Researchers**. It will be complemented by a series of activities and channels such as **events, use cases, info packages, and best practices**. The creation of a **Scientific Ambassador Network** and **dedicated RDA groups** will further strengthen these activities. This will lead to a continual innovation workflow and engagement with science projects to support the implementation of EOSC.

As part of RDA's principles of transparent and community-driven action, the project will use **external expert evaluators** to support its decision-making processes for the award of RDA Open Calls grants in Europe.

For further information or queries please contact RDA using the [form below](#).

Apply now

FAQs

Being an External Evaluator - what is involved?

- Evaluators will have to apply via the EOSC Future Grants Platform. This call will remain open until June 30 2023. Evaluators will be routinely selected from the pool according to the expertise required and to ensure that no conflict of interest exists in their duties as evaluators. The first call to be evaluated will be early October 2021.
- External evaluators will operate remotely via the EOSC Future Grants Platform and will be responsible for evaluating the applications in response to RDA Open Calls. RDA aims to have a wide pool of external evaluators with differing expertise to enable flexibility when assigning applications.
- Evaluators will be asked to sign a non-conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement before being accepted to perform their evaluation duties.
- Selected evaluators will be contracted until the end of the EOSC Future project (Sept 2023) and the number of applications to be evaluated will be based on the expertise required, lack of conflict of interest, etc.
- For each individual evaluation the compensation for drafting the individual evaluation report will be €150 (which equals a fixed number of 0.3 working day(s)). In some, exceptional, cases applications may require more time and experts will be notified in writing of this when contacted for evaluation duties

What will you be evaluating?

The planned grants are varied and diverse in order to engage diverse stakeholders to be active in and to contribute to EOSC. They will include a focus on disciplinary and domain-specific support, support for RDA / EOSC meetings as well as standards and adoption grants, early career researcher studies and activities, community of practice and domain ambassadors as well as calls for open and community-led technical solutions to maintain and curate RDA outputs within the context of EOSC. The grants range from € 7k – € 50k depending on the call, the announcements will be multiple and numerous with expected regular calls each month over the duration of the project.

Selection criteria for Evaluators

- Have a strong demonstrated expertise in an area relevant to RDA's mission;
- Have good insights into the European Open Science Cloud or other international open science and research commons developments;
- Be actively involved in RDA as a contributor to a Working Group, Interest Group or some other activity, especially in the past 12 to 18 months;
- Active engagement in RDA plenaries, national, and/or regional workshops is desirable;
- Previous experience as an evaluator (e.g. for the European Commission, other funding bodies / agencies) is desirable;
- Have a good understanding of the European Commission's processes and procedures, irrespective of affiliation and nationality;
- Applications from beyond Europe are strongly encouraged, reflecting the global mission of RDA;
- Selection of evaluators will include criteria to establish balanced representation: Geographical balance ·

Gender balance · Domain expertise balance

Selection process

The call for external expert evaluators to support RDA Open Calls is continuously open during the EOSC Future project. Due to the large number of calls over the next 26 months, some more specific than others, expert evaluators will be identified and selected based on their area of expertise and availability. For this reason, please give as much detail on your expertise and domain area in the application form.

Each evaluator will be assigned a call on a case-by-case basis. The team will ensure a regular change of evaluators to ensure both a spread of expertise and diversity.

Eligible participants

RDA welcomes a diverse set of international expert evaluators. While the actual calls and grant funding will be open to European organisations and individuals only, we encourage applications from expert evaluators **from around the world**. Requirements to be an evaluator are previous or current active involvement in RDA Working and Interest Groups and expertise in a relevant research area. Knowledge of EOSC is a bonus.

Applicants will ideally have previous experience as an EC or other funding agency evaluator. For cases of non-eligibility, please below read our Guidelines for conflict of interest FAQ

How to apply

To become a member of the External Pool of Evaluators (EPE), please complete the application form and upload your CV. You will need to have at hand the following documents and links:

- your CV
- a link to your own website, where applicable
- be able to select your domain of [expertise](#) within the application form

Your application form should explicitly address your qualifications, and directly reference the relevant aspects of your CV (i.e. make sure to guide us through your CV). You will receive a notification of receipt of your application.

Please also note that in order to proceed with your application you will be asked to register to the EOSC Future Grants website.

We encourage early submissions and your details will be in the system until you are contacted when a relevant call application becomes available.

The first call is due to be evaluated at the start of October 2021. Please note the timeline for the calls runs for 26 months, and it might be some time before you are asked to evaluate depending on your expertise.

How does the evaluation work?

External evaluators will operate remotely via the EOSC Future Grants Platform and will be responsible for evaluating the applications to cascading grants in response to RDA Europe's Open Calls. The project aims to have a pool of international external evaluators with differing expertise to enable flexibility when assigning applications. Evaluators will be routinely selected from the pool to ensure that no conflict of interest exists in their duties as evaluators. Consequently, evaluators will be asked to sign a non-conflict of interest and confidentiality agreement, before being accepted to perform their duties.

Evaluators will be given guidelines for evaluation and be expected to review the proposals and complete an assessment form for each based on 5 criteria. Evaluators will have to rank each proposal from 1-10.

Compensation

For each individual evaluation, the compensation for drafting the individual evaluation report will be €150 (which equals a fixed number of 0.3 working day(s)). In some exceptional cases applications may require more time and experts will be notified in writing of this when contacted for evaluation duties.

A standard contract will be signed. Successful evaluators will be contracted by the Technopolis Group on behalf of the EOSC Future Consortium. The contract will be with the lead application directly and you will be asked to agree with the general terms and conditions.

Guidelines for Conflicts of Interest

- Staff working on the EOSC Future project (i.e. directly funded through a beneficiary (it's department or unit executing EOSC Future activities), as an LTP or seconded personnel) are not eligible to apply for grants under the RDA Open Calls and will be asked to tick a Declaration of Honour box upon application. Other staff of these participating institutions are eligible.
- If the evaluator's institution applies for an RDA Open Call, the evaluator should declare their conflict of interest in reviewing the application. Evaluators will be asked to sign a non-conflict of interest agreement before being accepted to perform their duties for a specific RDA Open Call evaluation. A conflict of interest exists if an evaluator: (a) was involved in any way in the preparation of the proposal or submitted the proposal itself (b) stands to benefit directly or indirectly if the proposal is accepted (c) has a close family or personal relationship with the applicant or the applicant's organisation (d) is a director, trustee or partner or is in any way involved in the management of the applicant's organisation (e) is employed or contracted by one of the applicant's organisation or any named subcontractors (f) has submitted a proposal for the same domain and in response to the same call.

About RDA

RDA (Research Data Alliance) is a bottom-up, international organisation with multi-disciplinary and multi-domain data experts collaborating to identify and create research data interoperability solutions, and provides a neutral forum for the creation of open, international agreements on technical, social, and governance focusing on data and related services. RDA in EOSC Future will act as a community enabler by leveraging on its global perspective

and reach, and will advocate for and support open science, open research, and open data. Additionally it will engage with research communities that are not traditionally represented by research infrastructures and clusters.

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