

C4T

Community
of Practice



C4T Groundwork – Guidelines for experts

This document provides information and guidelines to **support experts in the submission of their application** to provide **technical assistance through C4T Groundwork**. The objective of the call for expressions of interest is to set up a list of external senior and junior experts to support the implementation of technical assistance for selected projects through the C4T Groundwork. The background of the initiative and its objectives are detailed below, alongside more information on the applications modalities.

Both the Cohesion for Transitions (C4T) Community of Practice and C4T Groundwork are delivered by the C4T Secretariat under the overall coordination of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO). The C4T Secretariat is led by COWI A/S supported by Ecorys, Prognos and Gopa.Com.

BACKGROUND

Delivering the **climate neutral and circular economy** ambition of the European Green Deal and related EU policies has become an urgent task to accomplish. EU Member States, regions and local authorities are faced with significant risks posed by climate change and often lack sufficient resources to address them. To that end, EU funds, and in particular the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) can provide the necessary support for transitioning to sustainable and green economy. This is tackled under Policy Objective 2 (PO2) of 2021-2027 programming period, titled “*A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe*”.

The concept of **sustainability transitions**¹ is fundamental in this process. It is understood as the needed systemic changes to phase-out unsustainable practices such as pollution of ecosystems or emitting greenhouse gases while mobilising sustainable ones, i.e. improved energy efficiency, renewable energy deployment or sustainable climate adaptation, among others. C4T Community of Practice has been launched precisely to help Member States, regions and local authorities in the implementation of such changes.

WHAT IS C4T COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE?

The **C4T Community of Practice** is a community-based platform designed to support EU regions in the use of cohesion policy funds for the implementation of sustainability transitions. It will do so by providing tailor-made technical assistance for the implementation of PO2 investments and developing a forum for the exchange of good practices, and experiences among institutions and stakeholders.

¹ The concept of sustainability transitions is explained in the detail in the European Commission’s toolkit - available in all EU27 languages in this [link](#).

Ultimately, C4T is aimed at creating collaborations and partnerships that transcend sectors and disciplines to implement sustainability transitions with cohesion policy.

WHAT IS C4T GROUNDWORK?

C4T Groundwork is a technical assistance, delivered through a pool of experts, that will provide tailor-made advice to EU Member States, regions and local managing authorities in addressing specific issues in the implementation of cohesion policy investments supporting the European Green Deal. The associated experts will work together with the beneficiaries in addressing their specific concerns on the implementation of investments under PO2 in the 2021-2027 programming period of the cohesion policy programmes.

What expertise is needed C4T Groundwork?

The expert support can cover all thematic areas under PO2 “*A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe*” under the ERDF and/or CF programmes.

Technical assistance is mainly expected in the area of transition governance (strategies, programming and planning) and on project identification and development (for more details on specific services, see next section). Table 1 below presents an indicative list of relevant expertise across topic.

Table 1 Examples of expertise relevant for C4T Groundwork

Type of expertise	Examples of expertise
Thematic / sector specific expertise	
Energy efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Demonstration projects › Renovation of building stock › Construction of energy efficient buildings › Energy efficiency of public infrastructure
Decarbonisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Decarbonisation › Industry › Transport
Renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Energy supply › Wind › Solar › Biomass › Marine › Geothermal › Renewables in transport
District heating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › District Heating/Cooling › Cogeneration › Infrastructure
Smart grids and energy networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Energy Infrastructure › Smart Grids › Energy Storage
Climate adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Disaster resilience › Floods and landslides › Storms › Droughts › Fires › Earthquakes › Disaster response coordination
Water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Drinking water extraction, treatment, storage, distribution › Wastewater collection, treatment › Water resource conservation (River Basin Management)
Circular economy and resource efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Waste management › Municipal waste collection & treatment › Commercial & hazardous waste collection & management › Reuse & recycling
Environmental protection and preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Environmental pollution › Rehabilitation of industrial sites & contaminated land › Resource-efficient production processes › Air quality › Noise pollution › Environmental preservation › Natura 2000 sites › Biodiversity protection › Natural heritage › Green/Blue infrastructure

Type of expertise	Examples of expertise
Skills and social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Economic diversification › Education, reskilling and training for green technologies › Reskilling in declining and transforming sectors
Horizontal expertise	
Governance of sustainability transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Development of sustainability transition strategies (e.g. S4) › Identification of transition needs and pathways › Development and implementation of thematic and horizontal enabling conditions (in line with the CPR) › Institutional capacity building and preparedness for planning of transition › Application of the EU taxonomy and Do-No-Significant-Harm principle › Green and circular public procurement › Analysis and development of policies (e.g. needs assessments, socioeconomic analyses)
Sustainability transition project identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identification of transition project concepts (e.g. promotion of research and innovation and demonstration / piloting projects) › Assessment of transition project concepts
Sustainability transition project design and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Transition project capacity building for development and planning (e.g. business case planning and development, procurement) › Transition project promotion and communication › Transition project funding and financing
Just transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Supporting implementation of just transitions

Source: C4T Secretariat

What types of services are covered by C4T Groundwork?

The services provided may focus on transition governance (strategies, programming and planning) or project identification and development, with the aim of speeding up investments towards the implementation of PO2. The list below presents a non-exhaustive list of possible areas of type of technical support that can be provided.

Transition governance (strategies, programming and planning):

- Support to the identification of needs and regional potential / opportunities related to innovation in green transition, decarbonisation and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change impacts.
- Support to the identification and analysis of successful transition strategies and good practices that can provide inspiration to the beneficiary.
- Support to the development and update of strategies, roadmaps and action plans.

- Support to the development of financing programmes and financial instruments able to leverage private investments, in particular in the area of energy efficiency, renewable deployment and building renovations.
- Support to implementation of EU clean energy, climate and environmental frameworks to ensure alignment between strategies, plans, programmes, and the European Green Deal, Fit for 55, the Repower EU plan and other EU policies.
- Support to ensuring that programmes are integrating environmental considerations and the do-no-significant-harm principle while contributing to the clean energy and climate objectives.
- Support to integrating climate, disaster and environmental proofing in programming and calls for projects, respecting environmental hierarchies and mitigating possible negative impacts of investments.
- Support in generating common visions and consensus around sustainability transition for the main impacted groups.
- Support in establishing cross-region and cross-border cooperations on sustainability transition.

Project identification and development:

- Support related to the development of new project ideas (e.g., innovative solutions to delivering energy transition).
- Support for the development of bankable projects in the areas of clean energy transition, adaptation to climate change and circular economy.
- Support in building capacity related to project preparation.
- Support in the identification of other sources of funding and financing for sustainability transition projects to complement EU funding.

How will C4T Groundwork be delivered?

The technical assistance of C4T Groundwork will be delivered in close dialogue with the beneficiary and DG REGIO to ensure that the approach chosen is the most appropriate and well-tailored to the beneficiaries' needs. The delivery modes can consist of studies and field visits, workshops, trainings, job-shadowing webinars, co-thinking labs and hands-on-expert support.

The scope of the support will be defined in dialogue with the beneficiary and the European Commission during the inception of each assignment for support. The expected level of resources allocated to individual expert assignments is expected to be in the range of 10-15 expert-days over a period of 2-3 months. This range may differ depending on the technical assistance needed and the overall demand for the support.

Who are the beneficiaries of C4T Groundwork?

The target group for the support are managing and implementing authorities of ERDF and CF programmes that are responsible for implementing investments related to PO2 “A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe”

under the ERDF and/or CF programmes.² Other public authorities involved in the implementation of investments (e.g. environment and energy authorities, local and regional governments) may also receive support as long as their proposed investments contribute to the implementation of PO2.

HOW TO JOIN THE POOL OF EXPERTS?

What are the expert profiles targeted?

Expertise falling within any of the types presented above is of relevance for C4T Groundwork. Experience in working with public institutions in EU Member States and supporting them in their investments is of special relevance.

Depending on the expert's experience, they fall into two levels of expertise:

- **Senior experts:** Seven years of relevant professional experience or more.
- **Junior experts:** Three years of relevant professional experience or more.

Experts should also be able to demonstrate a C1 level of English, and at least a B2 level in another EU language.

As a general rule, this call is open to natural and legal persons. Legal persons must apply with an identified expert ad personam. Experts will be contracted ad personam.

How to apply?

The only valid way to apply to join the pool is via [the EU-Survey questionnaire](#). Please complete the application form in English.

In the questionnaire, the applicants will provide the following elements:

- Personal details and contact information
- Professional experience and skills
- Detail of the thematic expertise
- CV in Europass format

Further supporting evidence may be requested during the selection phase.

By submitting their information, the applicants agree to the processing of their personal data. The protection and processing of that data is further detailed in the data processing agreement, available at in the EU-survey questionnaire.

Step 1: inclusion in the pool of experts

The evaluation of applications to join the pool will be performed on ongoing basis by C4T Secretariat under the steering of DG REGIO.

² More information on the EU Cohesion Policy in the 2021-2027 period can be found in this [link](#).

This evaluation will assess whether the application is relevant and adequate to the call. If the assessment is positive, the experts will be included in the pool. The selected experts will be notified by email that they have been included in the pool.

However, being selected to join the C4T Groundwork pool of experts does not guarantee being selected to carry out a technical assistance assignment. This is subject to a second selection based on the requirements of each project as set out below.

Step 2: selection for technical assistance projects

For each project and based on the needs of the Managing Authorities who successfully applied for technical assistance, the C4T Secretariat, DG REGIO and the beneficiary will jointly decide which profile of expertise best answer(s) the technical assistance requirements. It will be assessed which expert(s) in the pool are best suited to deliver the services, based on project-specific requirements and a review of the approved CVs and potential follow-up interviews.

The relevant expert(s) selected for the project will be contacted to join the technical assistance project. This will be subject to the signing of a contract with COWI A/S as a representative of the C4T Secretariat, setting out the terms for the assignment.

Step 3: delivering the technical assistance

Following the signature of the contract, the expert(s) will start designing and implementing the technical assistance approach, in collaboration with the beneficiary's own teams, and C4T and DG REGIO.

Tasks shall be carried out at the expert's premises, using electronic communication tools. As will be set out in the contract specifications, the tasks could also include potential travel for meetings with the European Commission, and/ or visits to the beneficiaries to implement technical assistance. Exceptionally, tasks may be required to be carried out at the European Commission's premises.

Whilst maintaining the principle of choosing the most qualified expert for a specific task requested, the contracting authority will also take into account, where possible, an appropriate rotation of experts.

Remuneration and contractual arrangements

The remuneration is based on fixed day-rates and depends on the experience level of the expert:

- **Senior experts** (7 years of experience): EUR 700/day
- **Junior experts** (4 years of experience): EUR 450/day

The eventual travel expenses will be reimbursed separately on top of the daily fee upon approval of the C4T Secretariat.

Upon selection for an assignment, the expert will sign a contract with the COWI A/S consortium as a representative of the C4T Secretariat. In that case, the expert will be requested to confirm the absence of conflict of interest.

Further information that may be requested from applicants

Following the assessment of the applications, further evidence could be requested to support the application. This could include the following elements:

- Past/current employment certificates
- Diplomas
- List of projects, studies & publication
- Other relevant documents

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to contact us directly via secretariat@cohesion4transitions.eu.