CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR INCLUSION ON THE LIST OF EXPERTS TO BE USED BY THE EMCDDA DIRECTOR TO EXTEND THE EMCDDA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE RISKS POSED BY NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5C OF THE EMCDDA REGULATION

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), based in Lisbon, Portugal, was established to provide the European Union and its Member States with 'factual, objective, reliable and comparable information at European level concerning drugs and drug addiction and their consequences' (1). In addition, the EMCDDA plays a central role in the information exchange, early warning, and risk assessment of new psychoactive substances. For additional information on the EMCDDA, please see http://www.emcdda.europa.eu

In order to ensure a balanced assessment of the risks posed by a new psychoactive substance, the EMCDDA Scientific Committee may be extended as deemed necessary by the EMCDDA Director, acting on the advice of the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, by including additional experts. These experts are designated by the Director from a list of experts approved by the Management Board of the EMCDDA in view of their expertise related to the areas assessed during a risk assessment.

This call is addressed to experts who wish to be considered for inclusion on a list of experts to be used by the Director to extend the Scientific Committee for the purposes of ensuring a balanced assessment of the risks posed by new psychoactive substances.

The risk assessment of new psychoactive substances is carried out by the Scientific Committee extended as required, in accordance with Article 5c of the EMCDDA Regulation (as amended) (2). During a risk assessment, the Scientific Committee is required to assess the following areas:

(a) Available information on the chemical and physical properties of the new psychoactive substance and the methods and the precursors used for its manufacture or extraction.

(b) Available information on the pharmacological and toxicological properties of the new psychoactive substance.

(c) An analysis of the health risks associated with the new psychoactive substance, in particular with respect to its acute and chronic toxicity, abuse liability, dependence-producing potential, and physical, mental and behavioral effects.

(d) An analysis of the social risks associated with the new psychoactive substance – in particular its impact on social functioning, public order and criminal activities, and the involvement of criminal groups in the manufacture, distribution and distribution methods, and trafficking of the new psychoactive substance.

(e) Available information on the extent and patterns of use of the new psychoactive substance, its availability and potential for diffusion within the Union.

(f) Available information on the commercial and industrial use of the new psychoactive substance, the extent of such use, as well as its use for scientific research and development purposes.

(g) Other relevant information, where available.

Therefore, the expertise required for the list includes experts from the following scientific fields and areas: chemistry; pharmacology; toxicology; (neuro)biological and behavioural sciences; medicine; public health; risk management; botany; psychology; sociology; prevention; treatment; regulation; crime; and, economics.

The selected experts will be included, in a personal capacity, on a list to be approved by the EMCDDA Management Board for a three year period. They will give their opinions completely independently of the Member States and the European Union Institutions. The EMCDDA Management Board may decide to extend the validity of the approved list of experts for further three years.

Risk assessment meetings are held on an ad hoc basis in accordance with Article 5c of the EMCDDA Regulation (as amended) at the EMCDDA premises in Lisbon. The vehicular working language of the risk assessment procedure and risk assessment meetings is English.

Each expert designated by the Director to extend the Scientific Committee for the purpose of a risk assessment will be entitled to receive an indemnity for each day of attendance to the meeting held for this assessment. Furthermore, they will be entitled to the payment of the travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses exposed for this attendance. The conditions and terms of the above-referred entitlements will be the ones applied for the appointed members of the Scientific Committee, in accordance with the rules in force at the EMCDDA for this purpose.

Each expert designated by the Director to extend the Scientific Committee for the purpose of a risk assessment shall sign a declaration of independence in relation to the performance of his/her duties in and for this body, and shall fill in and sign a written declaration of interest covering current and past interests up to five years before the date of the declaration. These declarations will be made available for public scrutiny on the EMCDDA website, with due respect to EU rules on protection of personal data.

Pursuant to the rules applicable for the definition of the list of experts to be used to extend the EMCDDA Scientific Committee for the purposes of the assessment of the risks posed by new psychoactive substances, these experts must be nationals of a Member State of the European Union (EU) or of a Country which has concluded an agreement with the latter for
the purpose of the participation in the work of the EMCDDA. This requirement is a condition of eligibility for the selection and the inclusion on the above referred list. If this condition is not met, this will determine the exclusion of the concerned person from the selection process and/or from the approved list of experts, as from the moment when this condition is not met.

With regard to the above, and by taking into account the on-going process concerning the withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the EU (Brexit), United Kingdom’s nationals will no longer satisfy this condition as of the date of this withdrawal, to be determined in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union (TFEU). However, if at this date the Agreement to be concluded between the EU and the UK on this withdrawal (Withdrawal Agreement, as endorsed by the European Council on 25 November 2018) enters into force, United Kingdom’s nationals will be considered to meet the aforementioned condition of nationality during the transition period established by this Agreement.

Applications shall be submitted via email to: expertlist19@emcdda.europa.eu

The closing date for submission of applications is 17.05.2019 at 23h59, Lisbon time (date and hour of e-mail). The EMCDDA reserves the right to disregard any expressions of interest sent after that date. The list will be valid from 01 01 2020 to 31 12 2022.
Procedure for the selection and inclusion on the list of experts to be used by the EMCDDA Director to extend the EMCDDA Scientific Committee for the purposes of the assessment of the risks posed by new psychoactive substances, in accordance with Article 5c of the EMCDDA regulation

**Article 1**

**Requirements for eligibility**

By the deadline for submission of applications, candidates must have:

1. University degree in a relevant scientific field. An academic education of postgraduate level will be considered as an asset.
2. Seven years of experience after obtaining the above mentioned degree.
3. National of one of the EU Member States or of countries with which an agreement with the EU in view of its participation in the work of the EMCDDA has entered into force.

**Article 2**

**Requirements for selection**

1. Proven expertise and scientific excellence in one or more of the areas/topics to be covered by the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances, pursuant to Article 5c.3 of the EMCDDA Regulation.
2. Experience in providing scientific advice in one or more of the above-referred areas/topics.
3. Knowledge and understanding of the principles of scientific risk assessment.
4. Professional experience in a multidisciplinary environment, preferably in an international context.
5. Thorough knowledge of English and satisfactory knowledge of another EU official language. The knowledge of further EU languages will be considered as an asset.

**Article 3**

**Pre-selection**

1. The selection of candidates for the list of experts to be used to extend the EMCDDA Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances, hereinafter referred to as the ‘list of experts’, shall be advertised through a call for expressions of interest in accordance with the present procedures. This call for expressions of interest shall be published in the EU Official Journal (OJ) at the latest six months before the end of the three-year validity of the existing list of experts. Furthermore, the call shall be made public through the EMCDDA website, via the members of the EMCDDA Management Board, Scientific Committee and the Reitox network, and in relevant scientific publications.

2. The closing deadline for submission of candidates’ expressions of interest shall be fixed six weeks after the date of the above-mentioned publication.
3. The EMCDDA Director shall prepare and organise the work for the pre-selection of the candidates for the list of experts. For this purpose he will appoint a pre-selection panel, composed of the EMCDDA Scientific Director, who will act as the Chairperson of the panel, one member of the EMCDDA senior scientific staff, and two external independent senior scientific experts with expertise in the risk assessment of psychoactive substances. The EMCDDA shall ensure the secretariat, namely receiving, registering and filing all applications and other relevant documents.

4. The pre-selection panel shall verify the eligibility of the candidates in accordance with the eligibility requirements. Failure to comply with one of these requirements will result in the exclusion of the concerned candidate from the next steps of the selection process.

5. The pre-selection panel shall then assess the file presented by each eligible candidate, in accordance with the established requirements for selection (see Annex I). It will draw up an ‘Individual Assessment Form’ for each assessed candidate which will include a short description of the result of the assessment carried. On this basis it will indicate to the Director the candidates who meet the established requirements for selection and therefore are considered suitable for inclusion into the list of experts. Candidates scoring less than 70 percent of the total points available for the assessment will not be considered suitable for inclusion into the list of experts.

6. The Director will approve the list of candidates who are considered suitable for inclusion into the list of experts and will present it to the EMCDDA Executive Committee for validation, along with the list of the candidates that have been considered not eligible or not suitable.

Article 4
Selection

1. On the basis of the list presented by the Director, the Executive Committee will validate the list of candidates who are considered suitable for inclusion into the list of experts by taking into account the following elements:
   • the work of the pre-selection panel;
   • the need that the list of experts covers scientific fields relevant to ensure a balanced assessment of the risks posed by the new psychoactive substance;
   • the need to ensure geographical and gender balance.

2. With regard to the above, the Executive Committee will validate and submit to the Management Board the list of suitable candidates proposed for inclusion into the list of experts to be approved by the latter. Along with this proposal, the Executive Committee will also present for information the list of candidates that have been considered not eligible or not suitable.

3. The Chair of the Executive Committee will present the validated list to the Management Board.

4. The Director will ensure the technical and logistic support to the above-referred operations.
Article 5
 Approval of the list of experts

• On the basis of the list of suitable candidates submitted by the Executive Committee, the Management Board shall approve the list of experts to be used by the Director, acting on the advice of the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, to extend, as deemed necessary, the Scientific Committee for the purposes of the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances.

• The approved list shall be valid for a three-year period. Upon recommendation by the Executive Committee, the Management Board may decide to extend validity of the existing list of experts for a further three years.

• The experts from the approved list who will be designated by the Director to extend the Scientific Committee for the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances will be entitled to receive an indemnity for each day of attendance to the meeting held for this assessment. Furthermore, they will be entitled to the payment of the travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses incurred for this attendance. The conditions and terms of the above-referred entitlements will be the ones applied for the appointed members of the Scientific Committee, in accordance with the rules in force at the EMCDDA for this purpose.
ANNEX I

CRITERIA AND SCALE TO ASSESS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SELECTION AND INCLUSION ON THE LIST OF EXPERTS TO BE USED BY THE EMCDDA DIRECTOR TO EXTEND THE EMCDDA SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE RISKS POSED BY NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5C OF THE EMCDDA REGULATION

1. Proven expertise and scientific excellence, both in terms of experience and expertise, in one or more of the areas to be covered by the risk assessment of new psychoactive substances, pursuant to Article 5c.3 of the EMCDDA Regulation (0–25 points)
   • The experience in scientific areas relevant to risk assessment of psychoactive substances.
   • Reputation of place of work.
   • Membership in scientific/professional associations.
   • Scientific publishing:
     • scientific publications;
     • relevance and topicality; and,
     • experience as peer reviewer and editor.

2. Experience in providing scientific advice in one or more of the above-referred areas (0–5 points)
   • Adviser to policymakers.
   • Member of an advisory board.

3. Knowledge and understanding of the principles of scientific risk assessment (0–10 points)
   • Protecting health as a primary objective.
   • Effective use of scientific data and evidence.
   • Use of the ‘precautionary’ approach.
• Integrated and multidisciplinary approach.
• Impartiality and transparency.

4. Professional experience in a multidisciplinary environment, preferably in an international context (0–5 points)

• Experience in working with EU Institutions and agencies or international organisations.
• Membership in international scientific/professional associations.
• Participating in international networks and/or working groups.
• Participating in multidisciplinary projects.

5. Thorough knowledge of English and satisfactory knowledge of another EU official language. The knowledge of further EU languages will be considered as an asset (0–5 points)

• Proficiency in EU languages.