



Open call for experts to represent SMEs in standardisation work at European and international level

Applicants and supporting organisations are advised to carefully read the whole call before applying.

Deadline for applications: 18 September 2026, 12 am, i.e. midnight (CET)
To apply as an SBS expert, please fill in the electronic application [here](#).

The appointment of experts is contingent to the conclusion of grant agreements with the EISMEA and EFTA, the establishment of required co-funding arrangements and the final approval of SBS's governing bodies.

A. Background

Small Business Standards (SBS) aims to represent small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the standardisation process, motivate them to get involved and raise their awareness about standardisation. In this framework, SBS is launching an open call to appoint experts to represent the interests of SMEs in Technical Committees (TCs), Sub-Committees (SCs) and Working Groups (WGs) of CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, ISO and IEC (see page 6 for links to the lists of technical bodies of the respective organisations). Experts will be appointed for one year, with the possibility of renewal. The call will be co-funded by the European Union and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

This call is open to candidates with technical expertise in standardisation areas relevant for SMEs. **Applications on topics included in the [2026 Annual Union work programme for European standardisation](#) are strongly encouraged.**

SBS expects to be able to fund approximately 70 experts in 2027. This figure is indicative, as the final number of appointments will depend on the confirmation of the available budget, co-funding and the evaluation of the applications received.

B. TCs eligible for funding and tasks to be performed by the experts

B.1. TCs eligible for funding

TCs eligible for funding are the ones within the following standards developing organisations: CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, ISO and IEC.

Applicants may propose any TCs/SCs/WGs to which they wish to be appointed. The applicant's choice must be **well justified from an SME perspective**. It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate the SME relevance of their proposed participation in the application form. This justification requirement applies both to applications for TC/SC/WG topics included in the [2026 Annual Union work programme for European standardisation](#) and to applications for other TCs/SCs/WGs.

In all cases, the applicant must also **indicate at least one specific Working Group (WG)** within each TC/SC in which they wish to participate.

B.2. Tasks to be performed by the experts

Selected experts are expected to:

- Represent the **European SME position** and be the representative of **European SMEs** in their technical body and/or working group. They will work as an SME spokesperson and not as the representative of a single organisation/company/country.
- Attend the meetings of the technical body for which they are selected and contribute to the standardisation work by submitting technical comments and proposals. While many meetings are held online or in hybrid format, willingness to travel is required, as physical presence may be necessary for certain key meetings.
- Report to and liaise with the relevant SBS Expert Coordinator. Experts are expected to develop an Action Plan at the beginning of the year providing an overview of the main work and objectives for 2027 and two Activity reports. During their work they are also required to use the **SBS SME Compatibility Test** on draft standards and other documents under development and review in their WG.
- Exchange information with SBS member organisations and other experts as needed. Experts are expected to participate in relevant SBS Working Groups (or set up their own Mirror Committee) to gather inputs and agree on the European SME position. These SBS WG meetings will be organised virtually whenever possible. In the absence of a relevant SBS WG, the expert shall autonomously set up and manage his/her own Mirror Committee which will help identify the European SME position.
- Participate in the annual Expert Meeting organised by the SBS Secretariat at the beginning of the year, as well as in online training sessions and other coordination or exchange meetings with fellow SBS experts, as relevant.
- Contribute to the SBS newsletter or other SBS activities when appropriate.

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C. Eligibility and Selection criteria

C.1. Eligibility criteria

Candidates shall be based in EU Member States, EFTA countries or EU candidate countries.

The application of the expert must be backed by a recognised SME association. A support letter from this SME association will need to be submitted together with the candidate's application.

Applicants must declare the absence of double-funding and the absence of conflict of interest.

Candidates are encouraged (but it is not mandatory) to be a member of the national mirror committee of the technical body they are applying for. This can support the consideration of SME positions at national, European and/or international level. Nevertheless, **some appointments may be incompatible with being appointed as an SBS expert**, e.g., the appointment as head/part of the national delegation to the plenary of the same European or International technical committee to which the expert has been appointed by SBS.

C.2. Selection criteria

The selection of experts will be based on the following criteria:

- knowledge and technical expertise of the subject within the scope of the TC/SC/WG for which the expert is applying,
- importance of the proposed TC/SC/WG and standardisation area for SMEs,
- relevance of the topic in relation to European policy priorities (2026 Annual Union Work Programme for European Standardisation),
- SME- / craft-oriented background of the applicant, which includes providing a support letter from an SME organisation,
- knowledge of the standardisation system,
- excellent knowledge of English (written and verbal), good communication and negotiation skills and computer literacy,
- in the case of re-applying experts, the quality of the work, organisation and participation in SBS mirror committees/Working Groups and timely delivery of reports of the previous year will be considered.

The support letter from an SME organisation, the SME-/craft-oriented background and a good level of written and verbal English are essential eligibility requirements. Applications not fulfilling these requirements will not be considered for further evaluation.

Applications for TCs/SCs only are not admitted, unless the TC/SC has no WGs. Experts must indicate at least one WG for each application to a TC or SC. As a general rule, SBS expects the appointed experts to attend their TC (or SC) plenary **and** WG meetings, i.e. not only the WG meetings. In case of several applications from different experts to different WGs under the same TC (or SC), SBS will appoint one of those experts to participate in the TC/SC plenary meetings.

In principle, two or more experts cannot be appointed to the same body (TC, SC or WG). However, two or more experts can be appointed to different SCs/WGs under the same TC.

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C.3. Evaluation Process

All eligible applications will be evaluated by a dedicated Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will assess applications based on the criteria listed above and may consult external expertise if needed.

The final list of selected experts will be approved by the SBS Board, ensuring alignment with strategic priorities and budgetary constraints. **All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by December 2026.**

D. Content of the application

Applicants must use the [electronic application form](#) and **fill in all the requested information**. The documents to be submitted together with the form are mentioned at the end of it, i.e.:

- For new applicants: a letter of support from a recognised SME organisation and a CV;
- For reapplying experts: a letter of support from a recognised SME organisation.

Please note that all documents submitted (including the support letter) must be in English.

Experts may apply to as many TCs/SCs/WGs as they wish or indicate whether they are willing to be nominated to (an)other technical body(-ies) as a second preference. In such cases, the application form

must clearly specify whether the applicant wishes to be considered for both appointments if possible, or whether the second preference should only be considered if the main choice cannot be accommodated. **Only one lump sum amount will however be granted, no matter how many TCs/SCs/WGs the expert is appointed to.**

D.1. New applicants

The term 'new applicants' refers to candidates that were not appointed as SBS experts in 2026. In the application form, applicants are asked to indicate the following information:

- **Number and title of the TC/SC/WG** to which the applicant wishes to be appointed (and any second choices if applicable),
- Indicative list of meetings of the above-mentioned TCs/SCs/WGs,
- Choice for a position as a paid or as an unpaid expert,
- Motivation to become an SBS expert and justification of the importance of the chosen TC/SC/WG for SMEs and in relation to the European context,
- Detailed description of the required skills and expertise (see section C.2. above),
- Details of the recognised SME organisation supporting the candidacy,
- Details of the person/organisation concluding the contract (see section F),
- Signature of the applicant (confirming the absence of conflict of interest and the absence of double funding¹).

Candidates are requested to submit the following documents together with the application form:

- A supporting letter from a recognised SME organisation² supporting the candidate's application, including:
 - support for the candidate's application,
 - the TC, SC(s) and WG(s) for which the application is made,
 - the status of the organisation (e.g., not-for-profit association),
 - the name, phone and email of the contact person in the SME organisation,
- A detailed curriculum vitae.

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D.2. Re-applying 2026 SBS experts

In the application form, applicants are asked to indicate the following information:

- **Number and title of the TC/SC/WG** to which the applicant wishes to be appointed (and any second choices if applicable),
- Indicative list of meetings of the above-mentioned TCs/SCs/WGs,
- Choice for a position as a paid or as an unpaid expert,
- Motivation to remain an SBS expert and justification of the importance of the chosen TC/SC/WG for SMEs and in relation to the European context,

¹ Double-funding means the candidate would get paid twice for the same activity (e.g., paid by SBS and by another entity or European funded programme for carrying out the same task or for travelling).

² The SME organisation can be European or national. If the organisation also represents large companies, the organisation needs to demonstrate the majority of members are SMEs and it must explain, in its supporting letter, how it ensures the representation of SMEs in its activities.

- In case the TC/SC/WG for which the applicant wishes to be appointed is different from the one in 2026, a detailed description of the expertise of the subject within the scope of the new TC/SC/WG,
- Details of the recognised SME organisation supporting the candidacy,
- Details of the person/organisation concluding the contract (see section F),
- Signature of the applicant (confirming the absence of conflict of interest and the absence of double funding³).

Candidates are requested to submit the following documents together with the application form:

- A supporting letter from a recognised SME organisation⁴ supporting the candidate's application, including:
 - support for the candidate's application,
 - the TC, SC(s) and WG(s) for which the application is made,
 - the status of the organisation (e.g., not for profit association),
 - the name, phone, and e-mail of the contact person in the SME organisation.

E. Submission of applications

All applications need to be submitted electronically by **18 September 2026 at 12 am, i.e. midnight (CET) (CET)** at the latest.

Incomplete or unclear applications (including not signed applications or applications not indicating a specific TC, SC or WG) and applications received later than the above-mentioned deadline will not be considered. It is the responsibility of the applicant to supply all the information required.

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F. Funding and contract

F.1. Funding

Selected experts will be offered a contract for one year, from January to December 2027. Experts will be paid a lump-sum of **€ 10,500** for their work. Additionally, a lump-sum payment covering person-days, travel, accommodation and subsistence costs will be provided for physical meetings attended. The travel lump-sum amounts are fixed per geographical destination. The payment of travel lump-sums will be subject to the maximum available budget for experts' travel and to prior approval by SBS. The aim is to allow for at least one physical travel per expert.

Independently of the number of TCs/SCs/WGs the expert is appointed to, only one lump sum amount can be granted per expert. Applicants are allowed to seek a completely unfunded appointment (should they wish to be appointed as an unfunded expert, please indicate it in the dedicated section in the application form). Unfunded experts must undertake the same work planning and reporting activities as funded experts and they will receive the same support than any other expert from the SBS Secretariat.

³ Double-funding means the candidate would get paid twice for the same activity (e.g., paid by SBS and by another entity or European funded programme for carrying out the same task or for travelling).

⁴ The SME organisation can be European or national. If the organisation also represents large companies, the organisation needs to demonstrate the majority of members are SMEs and it must explain, in its supporting letter, how it ensures the representation of SMEs in its activities.

F.2 Contract

The contract can be either concluded:

- between SBS and the company/organisation of the expert; or
- between SBS and the expert directly as a natural person

Candidates shall indicate in their application the legal entity or person with whom the contract should be concluded and the person that should be addressed for signature of the contract. **The party signing the contract will be responsible for issuing the invoices to SBS.** Selected experts and/or the organisations contracting with SBS are responsible for ensuring that they meet all national legal and fiscal requirements necessary to issue invoices under the contract.

G. Data protection

The invitation to tender involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data (GDPR). Any personal data will be processed solely for evaluation purposes under the call for tender.

The information provided by applicants to SBS is necessary to process the application which, if successful, may lead to the signature of a contract. Applicants will have to declare that they have taken note of our Privacy Policy. By applying you agree with our use of your personal information as described in our Privacy Policy available [here](#).

H. Further information

SBS reserves the right to contact candidates and their organisations directly if further information is required.

A **webinar will be organised on 27 August 2026** to introduce SBS and present the call for experts. This will allow interested candidates to ask questions about the calls and the role of SBS experts. You may already register to it [through this link](#).

For any questions or further information, please contact the SBS Secretariat (info@sbs-sme.eu).

This call is also available on the [SBS website](#).

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Links to Technical Bodies

SBS welcomes applications for Technical Committees (TCs), Sub-Committees (SCs) and Working Groups (WGs) in CEN, CENELEC, ETSI, ISO and IEC. The links below provide further information on existing technical bodies in these Standards Developing Organisations:

European level:

[CEN](#)

[CENELEC](#)

[ETSI](#)

International level:

[ISO](#)

[IEC](#)