

OPEN CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM ORGANISATIONAL ENTITIES TO BECOME MEMBERS OF FRONTEx'S TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON STRATEGIC RISK ANALYSIS (SRA)

Frontex hereby launches a call for expression of interest from academic institutions and research institutes to become members of a technical expert group on Strategic Risk Analysis (SRAN-EEG) (hereinafter 'SRAN External Expert Group') for a period of three years, from 1 September 2024 until 31 August 2027.

1. Background

Every two years Frontex prepares a Strategic Risk Analysis (SRA) for European Integrated Border Management (EIBM) in close cooperation with EU Member States. The SRA report is submitted to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission, as stipulated in Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896¹ (hereinafter referred to as 'EBCG Regulation').

The SRA is a strategic foresight report² that aims at identifying threats, challenges and opportunities in the area of EIBM over a 10-year horizon. It has an extensive scope, assessing megatrends³, their interplay, and their effects on the thematic areas of interest to Frontex (e.g., migration, returns, cross-border crime, hybrid threats, terrorism). The assessment covers all relevant EIBM dimensions in line with the legal framework of the EBCG Regulation and juxtaposes the findings of megatrend analysis with existing and emerging security issues at the EU's external borders to anticipate possible future developments. It is an ambitious exercise in futures thinking which aims to provide long-term foresight and future scenarios for effective policymaking, strategic decision-making, and capability development planning in a turbulent global environment.

The establishment of EIBM is stipulated in the EBCG Regulation. The European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) implements EIBM as a shared responsibility of the Agency and all national authorities responsible for border management (Article 7 of the EBCG Regulation). Effective management of the external borders is of crucial importance for the EU, and specifically, for the protection of Schengen as an area of freedom, security and justice. External border security shields the EU from various threats and ensures a high level of internal security within the Union. Irregular migration, cross-border crime, terrorism, and any future risks must be managed at the external borders in full respect of fundamental rights and criminal law - consistent with national and international legislation as appropriate - safeguarding the abolition of internal borders and the right of free movement within the EU.

In total, EIBM consists of 15 components of which fundamental rights, education and training, and research and innovation are overarching components for its implementation (Article 3 of the EBCG Regulation). The effectiveness of EIBM is ensured by the European Commission and EBCG through the 'Multiannual strategic policy cycle for European integrated border management' (Article 8 of the EBCG Regulation). To further promote and support this integrated process, EBCG also establishes a 'technical and operational strategy for European IBM'.

Strategic foresight and future thinking are of crucial importance for the policy cycle on EIBM. In this framework, the SRAN Expert Group will serve as a knowledge and advisory resource established with the purpose of providing long-

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624.

² The first two SRA reports are publicly available at https://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Risk_Analysis/strategic-risk-analysis-2022.pdf and https://www.frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Risk_Analysis/Strategic_Risk_Analysis_2020.pdf

³ See 14 megatrends https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/foresight/tool/megatrends-hub_en

term foresight and helping identify future threats and challenges for EIBM. Frontex therefore wishes to benefit from specialist knowledge and comprehensive advice on the 14 megatrends and thematic areas of interest with a view to enhance the quality and usefulness of its strategic foresight reports.

With this in mind, the Agency encourages organisations with requisite expertise and experience on megatrends and the mandated areas of Frontex to become members of the SRAN Expert Group.

2. Features of the SRAN Expert Group

2.1. Composition

The SRAN Expert Group will contribute expertise and advice to the work of the Strategic Risk Analysis Network (SRAN), which comprises members of national authorities as well as Frontex analysts of the Analysis Unit (ANALYSIS) and Fusion Unit (FUSION). The SRAN Expert Group is envisaged to bring together various academic institutions and research institutes.

A SRAN Expert Group Secretariat will be established within the Fusion Unit to provide essential administrative support to the SRAN Expert Group and facilitate their work.

These organisations contribute their work on a voluntary basis in accordance with the principles of independence, transparency, mutual respect, informed participation, and collegiality. Given its diverse composition, the strength of the SRAN Expert Group lies on its ability to provide comprehensive expertise and advice that may be used for the preparation of the biennial Strategic Risk Analysis (SRA) report of Frontex.

Frontex is now opening a new public call for expression of interest for up to ten organisations to participate in the SRAN Expert Group from 1 September 2024 until 31 August 2027.

2.2. Appointment of members of the SRAN Expert Group

Expressions of interest will be assessed by a Selection Committee, which will be composed of:

- A representative of Frontex European Integrated Border Management (EIBM) Intelligence Division (INTEL)
- The Head of Frontex Fusion Unit (FUSION)
- The Head of Frontex Analysis Unit (ANALYSIS)
- The Head of Frontex Foresight and Stakeholder Management (FSM) Sector in the Fusion Unit
- The Head of Frontex Thematic Analysis Sector (TAS) in the Analysis Unit
- 2 Analysts of the Frontex Fusion Unit
- 2 Strategic Analysts of the Frontex Analysis Unit

A proposal of shortlisted candidate organisations will be made by the Selection Committee after consulting the Executive Director. The Executive Director will decide on the final composition and inform the Management Board accordingly.

Members of the SRAN Expert Group shall be appointed for three years. They shall ideally remain members until the end of their term of office. Their term of office may be renewed by Frontex.

2.3. Functioning of the SRAN Expert Group

The SRAN Expert Group shall operate according to the principles of independence, transparency, mutual respect, open process, informed participation, collegiality and consensus with the aim of providing essential expertise and advice for the strategic risk analysis processes of Frontex as laid down in the EBCG Regulation.

Specifically, its functioning will be as follows:

- **Provision of knowledge and advice:** The SRAN Expert Group will share expert knowledge and advise Frontex SRAN in line with a *Programme of Work* that will be defined by the Chair of SRAN Expert Group and the Strategic

Risk Analysis Network (SRAN) that comprises FUSION, ANALYSIS, a representative of the European Commission, representatives of EU Agencies and Member States' experts). The SRAN Expert Group will share key research findings and expertise and offer recommendations to inform policy and practice and enhance the quality of strategic foresight.

- The SRAN Expert Group will prepare an *Annual Report* that describes its activities, offers recommendations and proposes a programme of work the Chair of SRAN Expert Group and SRAN for consideration, discussion and adoption.
 - To support the Agency with tailored technical advice or to provide expertise, the SRAN Expert Group can undertake *research activities* using different methodologies, as required.
 - The SRAN Expert Group may be requested by the SRAN Expert Group Chair to provide *specific thematic reports*. These reports will be presented to SRAN and inform the biennial SRA report as deemed appropriate.
- **Thematic rapporteurs:** Thematic rapporteurs may be nominated to lead the SRAN Expert Group on specific fields of knowledge according to the programme of work.
 - Thematic rapporteurs represent the SRAN Expert Group and contribute substantially to the setting up of the SRAN Expert Group programme of work per subject area. They coordinate all substantive/technical issues among the SRAN Expert Group members, facilitate distribution of tasks in relation to the implementation of the programme of work, contribute to the preparation of meetings, organise the provision of input per thematic area, and contribute to the drafting of the Annual Report.
 - Thematic rapporteurs may call for meetings with the SRAN Expert Group as a whole or with some of its members as deemed necessary and may take initiative when required in coordination with the SRAN Expert Group Chair and Secretariat.
 - Thematic rapporteurs will report on the outcomes of certain activities and meetings to the plenary of the SRAN Expert Group.
- **Meetings:** The SRAN Expert Group shall meet with the SRAN (FUSION, ANALYSIS, European Commission, EU Agencies and Member States' experts) at least three times per year.
 - Thematic and working level meetings with SRAN may also be held in line with the SRAN Expert Group programme of work and/ or emerging needs.
 - The SRAN Expert Group can invite the ANALYSIS staff, other Agency staff or SRAN experts to attend these meetings if deemed relevant. The SRAN Expert Group Chair will decide on the attendance of the SRAN Expert Group.
 - SRAN Expert Group members may discuss and exchange views and information amongst them in any other way to facilitate their activities in line with the programme of work.

3. Procedure to submit expressions of interest

Organisations are invited to submit their expressions of interest (Annex IV form) by email at SRAN@frontex.europa.eu

Expressions of interest must be completed in English language.

An expression of interest will be deemed admissible only if it is sent by the deadline and includes the required documents.

Deadline for the submission of expressions of interest

The deadline for submitting expressions of interest and sending the supporting documents is **extended until 31 May 2024 (17:00, Warsaw time)**.

Information about the outcome

All applicants will be informed about the outcome of their expressions of interest via e-mail.

The list of SRAN External Expert Group members (only the names of academic/research institutes) will be made publicly available on the Agency website.

Candidates included in the reserve list, which may be called upon for specific advice according to future needs, will also be formally notified.

For any further information, please contact: SRAN@frontex.europa.eu

4. Eligibility and selection criteria

The Selection Committee will take the following eligibility and selection criteria into account when assessing expressions of interest:

Eligibility criteria

1. **Legal status of organisation:** the applicant should be registered as an academic institution or research institute in one of the Member States of the EU or Schengen Associate Countries.
2. **Professional secrecy:** the applicant shall ensure commitment to the principles of professional secrecy. Academic institution and its representatives should seek Frontex's prior consent in order to use any information gathered in the framework of the SRAN-EEG for any academic purposes (e.g., publications, teaching). Frontex reserves the right to decline such requests with proper justification.
3. **Transparency and accountability:** also, due to the potentially sensitive character of certain documents, the applicant should commit that in case of selection its nominated representatives will produce, before commencing group-related activities, a criminal record certificate (not older than 6 months) and a declaration of conflict of interest that might be prejudicial to their independence. Also, the organisation may be asked to disclose information about its stakeholders/beneficial owners.

Selection criteria

1. **Knowledge and experience:** a high level of knowledge in the areas relevant to the SRAN Expert Group, namely advising Frontex on megatrends and mandated areas of Frontex (migration, returns, border management, cross-border crime, hybrid threats, terrorism).

Thematic knowledge and experience for the purposes of this Open Call includes *inter alia*: futures thinking, strategic foresight, global risks, crisis management, megatrends and interplay of megatrends, geopolitics, national and international security, demographics, environment and climate change, resource scarcity, economics and geoeconomics, technology (incl. artificial intelligence), influence of global east and south, urbanisation, consumerism, education and learning, inequalities, nature of work (and future developments), governance systems, health challenges, integrated border management, fundamental rights, migration, returns, cross-border crime, hybrid threats, terrorism.
2. **Proven track record:** extensive knowledge and experience in any of the subjects under point 1 above. Relevant publications, provision of advice in the fields of migration, border management and/or law enforcement, involvement in EU projects / 'science-for-policy' initiatives, as well as advisory experience (e.g., sharing of research findings, consultancy and training) will be considered as advantageous criteria.
3. **Network collaboration:** experience of working with different organisations including public institutions (border management, law enforcement), international organisations and non-governmental organisations.
4. **Recognition of work:** degree of recognition of its work by other relevant actors. This includes professional accomplishments and reputation in their fields of knowledge and practice. For example, academic leadership, scientific publications, innovative research programs/projects, consultancy, educational activities, and policy advice will be considered as advantageous criteria.
5. **Geographical scope of work:** The organisation's geographical scope of work and presence at the national, regional, European and/or international level.
6. **Independence:** neutrality, impartiality and abstention from any political affiliations.

5. Selection procedure

The selection procedure shall consist of an assessment of the expressions of interest against the selection criteria listed in point 4 of this open call by the Selection Committee, followed by the establishment of a list of the most suitable applicants.

The selection procedure may include an exchange of views with representatives of candidate organisations.

The selection procedure is concluded by a decision on the composition of the SRAN Expert Group by the Executive Director.

For any further information please contact SRAN@frontex.europa.eu

ANNEXES:

- Annex I: Privacy statement
- Annex II: Declaration of Adherence to the Obligations of Professional Secrecy
- Annex III: Declaration of Interest
- Annex IV: Expression of Interest

Annex I - Privacy Statement

This privacy statement provides information about the processing and the protection of your personal data.

Processing operation: Selection of academic institutions and research institutes for membership in the SRAN Expert Group.

Data Controller: European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex). Responsible Unit: Analysis Unit (ANALYSIS).

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1. Introduction

Frontex is committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy. Frontex collects and further processes personal data pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data (repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001).

This privacy statement explains the reasons for the processing of your personal data, the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Data Controller with whom you may exercise your rights, of the Data Protection Officer and of the European Data Protection Supervisor.

2. This privacy statement concerns the following processing operation: the selection and appointment of academic institutions and civil society organisations for membership in the SRAN Expert Group. The Responsible Unit is the Fusion Unit and the Contact Point is the Head of Fusion Unit. Why and how do we process your personal data?

The Data Controller collects and uses your personal data to manage the selection process of academic institutions and civil society organisations for membership in the SRAN Expert Group. In this context, Frontex collects and assesses personal data of natural persons representing or associated with those applicants with the purpose of selecting the applicants (legal persons) who best fulfil the eligibility and selection criteria mentioned in the open call.

Personal data is stored by the Frontex services engaged in the selection process of academic institutions and civil society organisations to the SRAN Expert Group.

Frontex will not process your personal data for any other purposes. Your personal data will not be used for an automated decision-making, including profiling.

3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data

Processing of your personal data is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest in accordance with Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 and for the purpose of administrative tasks Article 87(1)(h) of Regulation (EU) No 2019/1896, since it allows for the selection of academic institutions and civil society organisations to the SRAN Expert Group.

4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?

In order to carry out this processing operation, the Data Controller may collect the following categories of personal data:

- Name and surname of an applicant representative(s).
- Contact details (for example, e-mail address, postal address, telephone number, mobile telephone number, function in the academic institution and research institute, country of residence).
- Roles of the representative(s) in the structure of the academic institution or research institute.
- Information for the evaluation of eligibility and selection criteria (for example expertise, publications, previous working relationships with Frontex, information on cooperation with other associated organisations or applicant's employees and representative(s)).

Upon selection, Declaration of Interest regarding direct interests, indirect financial interests, interests deriving from affiliation with any individuals or entities, interests deriving from professional activities of the household members and other interests considered pertinent and related to Frontex activities, should any activities as such exist. The provision to Frontex of the personal data required is mandatory to meet a legal requirement of selecting members to the SRAN Expert Group. By not providing the required personal data, your candidacy will not be processed as not meeting the minimum legal requirements for this selection procedure (Article 15(2)(e) Reg. (EU) 2018/1725).

Any communications with applicants will preferably be carried out through functional mailboxes (nor individual ones)

5. How long do we keep your personal data?

The Data Controller keeps your personal data only for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of processing. The following modalities apply:

- For applications received from rejected applicants: the data is filed and stored for 3 months after the end of the selection process, time after which the data is deleted.

6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

Personal data submitted in paper form is stored in the Data Controller. All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc) are stored either on the servers of Frontex or of its contractors.

Frontex's contractors are bound by specific contractual clauses and by the confidentiality obligations deriving from the General Data Protection Regulation in the EU Member States ('GDPR' [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#)).

In order to protect your personal data, Frontex has in place a number of technical and organisational measures. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need-to-know for the purposes of this processing operation.

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your personal data collected in the course of the process of selection is provided to the Frontex staff responsible for carrying out this processing operation and to authorised staff according to the "need-to-know" principle. Such staff abide by statutory obligations of confidentiality. Your data will not be disclosed to third parties nor transferred to third countries or international organisations.

8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

You have specific rights as a data subject under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to be informed about your personal data that's being processed, right to access your personal data, right to erasure, right to restrict and to object the processing, right to rectify the personal data in case it is inaccurate or incomplete, as applicable-

You can exercise your rights by contacting the Data Controller or the Frontex Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given under section 9 below.

9. Contact information

- The Data Controller

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) is the Data Controller. Regarding the personal data collected in the course of this selection process, if you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint, please contact the Head of Fusion Unit, HoU.FUSION@frontex.europa.eu, Plac Europejski 6, 00-844 Warsaw, Poland.

- The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of Frontex

You may contact the Data Protection Officer (DPO@frontex.europa.eu) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

- The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)

You can lodge a complaint to the European Data Protection Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

Annex II - Declaration of Adherence to the Obligations of Professional Secrecy

(to be signed upon selection to become a SRAN Expert Group member)

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that Frontex may disclose information of a sensitive or non-public nature to members of the Frontex SRAN Expert Group for the purpose of receiving advice for the preparation of its biennial Strategic Risk Analysis (SRA) report,

in my capacity as the _____ [Director, Chair, Representative] of _____ [ORGANISATION] being a member of Frontex SRAN Expert Group, I, the undersigned,

AGREE THAT

1. the organisation that I represent is under obligation of confidentiality and may not disclose or make accessible to any unauthorised person or to the public any information of a sensitive or non-public nature which come to our knowledge through the membership in the Frontex SRAN Expert Group;
2. any disclosure of information of a sensitive or non-public nature to any person outside my organisation or to the public requires the prior explicit written consent of Frontex;
3. the organisation that I represent adheres to the rules foreseen in the Working Methods of the Frontex SRAN Expert Group and the terms of transmission of information to the Frontex SRAN Expert Group;
4. the organisation that I represent adheres to the applicable regulations on data protection and security.

UNDERSTAND THAT

1. The obligations of this declaration are unlimited in time and continue to apply even after the termination of membership in the Frontex SRAN Expert Group;
2. In case of breach of these obligations the organisation I represent will immediately be excluded from membership of the Frontex SRAN Expert Group.

AGREED AND SIGNED IN DUPLICATE

NAME:

Date:.....

Signature:

Annex III - Declaration of Interest

(to be signed upon selection to become a SRAN Expert Group member)

I THE UNDERSIGNED

Surname/ First name:

Position:

Organisation:

Hereby declare on my honour that, to the best of my knowledge, the only direct or indirect interests I have in are those listed below:

(1) Direct interest (financial benefits arising from, for example, employment, contracted work, investments, fees, etc.)

(2) Indirect financial interests e.g. grants, sponsorships, or other kind of benefits.

(3) Interests deriving from affiliation with any individuals or entities.

(4) Interests deriving from professional activities of the household members and other family members.

(5) Other interests or facts that the undersigned considers pertinent.

I declare on my word of honour that the information provided above is true and complete.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

Annex IV - Expression of Interest from academic institution or research institute to become member of the SRAN Expert Group

To fill in the form please refer to Section 4 above (eligibility and selection criteria)

General information	
Type of organisation	<i>Academic institution or research institute</i>
Name of organisation	
Address	<i>Street, number, postcode, city, country, email, telephone, website</i>
Brief description of organisational structure and mission	
Contact unit/person for SRAN Expert Group	<i>Name/role, telephone, email address</i>
Eligibility criteria	
Legal status of organisation	<i>Please indicate whether the organisation is registered as an academic institution or research institute in one of the Member States of the EU or Schengen Associate Countries</i>
Professional secrecy	<i>Please state that your organisation can and will commit to the principles of professional secrecy</i>
Transparency and accountability	<i>Please state your commitment that in case of selection your nominated representatives will produce, before commencing group-related activities, a criminal record certificate (not older than 6 months) and a declaration of conflict of interest that might be prejudicial to their independence. Also, the organisation should commit to disclose information about its stakeholders/beneficial owners if so requested by Frontex.</i>
Selection criteria	
Knowledge and experience	<i>Please provide information about level of knowledge in areas relevant to the SRAN Expert Group such as megatrends and/or mandated areas of Frontex (migration, returns, border management, cross-border crime, hybrid threats, terrorism)</i>
Proven track record	<i>Please provide evidence of knowledge and experience in any of the subjects mentioned above (e.g., publications, advisory experience in relevant fields of knowledge, involvement in specific EU projects / 'science-for-policy' initiatives)</i>
Network collaboration	<i>Please state your experience in working with different organisations (e.g., public institutions, international organisations and non-governmental organisations)</i>
Recognition of work	<i>Please provide information about your achievements and reputation in your field (e.g., academic leadership, publications, innovative research, consultancy, educational activities, policy advice)</i>
Geographical scope of work	<i>Please provide information about your organisation's geographical scope of work and presence (e.g., national, regional, European and/or international level)</i>
Independence	<i>Please state your commitment to neutrality, impartiality and abstention from any political affiliations</i>