



SBS Webinar – Call for experts 2025

29 August 2024

Q&A

Question asked by attendee	Answer
<p>Concerning Section G of the application template which reads ‘Please specify the details of the recognized SME organisation supporting your candidature (the support from a recognized SME association is a precondition for the selection of experts)’:</p> <p>1) Does it need to be an ‘association’ as in the second sentence or any SME organization/company as in the first sentence?</p> <p>2) What does ‘supporting your candidature’ mean exactly? Only a reference or the financial support mentioned in Section H of the template?</p>	<p>1) Yes, it has to be an SME association, and not a company. This is because SBS experts represent the common interests of SMEs, and not the ones of specific companies. Thus, it’ll be ascertained that the expert candidate has a link to an SME association and is thereby linked to SMEs, and that he or she’ll be able to represent a common SME view.</p> <p>2) The term ‘supporting’ means that the SME association will sign the letter – and not that the SME association will pay the co-funding. Besides, even if the SBS expert candidate wants a contract as an independent one, he or she will still need an SME association to support his or her candidacy.</p>
<p>Head of national delegations (HoDs) are not eligible for applying, but successful SBS applicants are expected to attend Technical Committee/Standing Committee (TC/SC) plenaries. This is incompatible since only HoD are eligible to attend TC/SC plenaries/meetings. Please elaborate what this means?</p>	<p>If you’re a head of delegation, you represent the position of your national mirror committee that might or might not be in line with SBS’ position. This is why these two positions aren’t compatible. This doesn’t mean that an SBS expert can’t participate in a national committee – he or she can -, but an SBS expert can’t be the head of delegation and represent SBS at the same time in the TC.</p>

<p>Standards are often required for harmonisation and the interoperability of complex technologies. SMEs often have no competence for those technologies, like for EFFRA for instance. Then, SMEs are often into a supply-chain. Wouldn't it be useful to validate standards in terms of supply-chain compatibility more than with regard to SMEs?</p>	<p>SBS' mission is to represent SMEs' interests and there are SMEs which are part of the supply chain. So, if SMEs are represented and if they have a role in the supply chains, it is their interests that should be considered first. For us within SBS, as SME representatives, it's essential that our experts represent the interests of SMEs, whether they're manufacturers, users or part of a bigger supply chain.</p>
<p>Is there a way to be registered both as a national expert and as an SBS representative in one Working Group (WG), or do we have to ask our national body to unregister us in order to be able to represent SBS?</p>	<p>If you're already appointed in a WG by a national body, you'll have to choose. Either you're there as an SBS expert or you're an expert appointed by a national body – you can't have both roles. Nevertheless, it's possible that an expert is nominated in a WG by a national body and appointed in another one by SBS. But, in a single Working Group, you'll need to decide if you want to be appointed by SBS or by a national body.</p>
<p>Apart from the Working Group for Experts within SBS, do we have access to other SMEs representatives to benchmark and/or validate further positions to be advocated in the TCs/WGs?</p>	<p>Yes. Through SBS, experts have access to a wider network. In addition to the SBS Experts Working Groups, they have contact with SBS' members, the members of SBS' members, and other stakeholders to get further feedback and represent the position of SMEs.</p>
<p>If my own micro-company (one-person company) is the one providing the co-funding, is it acceptable that I sign the commitment to co-fund (as there is no one to sign anyway)?</p>	<p>In this case, the contract and co-funding has to be provided by the party providing the co-funding – if it's yourself, it makes sense you're the one signing the contract and providing the co-funding. What wouldn't be deemed acceptable is that you sign the support letter yourself since it is actually to be signed by the SME association supporting your candidacy.</p>

<p>There are only national positions; there is no European position in international standards. Please elaborate how you do pursue different European national bodies to support the same harmonised European position supported by SBS?</p>	<p>The development of standards European and international deliverables is based on consensus between the various stakeholders. It's the task of the SBS expert to represent the interests of European SMEs and influence the discussions within technical bodies.</p>
<p>If we belong already to a given TC/SC, not as an national body delegate, but as an ISO Internal Liaison with other TC/SC, is this compatible with representing SBS also?</p>	<p>It could be compatible. You'd need to check if there's any incompatibility related to the position you're supposed to represent. That's why you have to read carefully the declaration of honour and be aware that, if you get appointed and paid by SBS, you'll represent SBS and the position of European SMEs. You need to check if this is compatible with your current assignments.</p>
<p>If the contract is with the employer, then will the employer receive the funding and then in turn fund the expert themselves?</p>	<p>Yes, we're paying the organisation we conclude the contract with. If we conclude the contract with you as an independent expert, you'll get the money directly. If it's with your employer, your employer will get the money – this is up to you to agree with your employer. This is important because SBS is audited every year and obviously we at SBS can't give money to organisations or people we don't have a contract with.</p>
<p>Is the co-funding required in any case before the application is accepted? Even if it's unsuccessful?</p>	<p>The co-funding is only asked to the experts who are paid and selected; you won't have to pay the co-funding if your application as a paid expert hasn't been accepted.</p>
<p>The grant is the same value independently of the number of TCs/SCs/WGs. What about the co-funding? Is it also the same amount no matter how many TCs/SCs/WGs, or does the amount depend on the number of technical bodies?</p>	<p>The co-funding is the same for all the experts, just like the lump sum, no matter how many technical bodies you've requested to get appointed to. The co-funding is one specific amount. We're asking for it because the cost and</p>

	the funding we receive from the Commission and EFTA doesn't cover 100% of the lump sum.
Is it one physical travel per expert per year? What is the lump sum for Japan or Korea?	See just above.
Where can we find this table? Will the slides be distributed to the participants of this webinar?	The table can be found in the presentation whose link appears next to the one of this file on the dedicated page of the SBS website.
If an expert needs to attend a meeting in Brussels, but does not live in Brussels, which lump sum will apply? 500 or 900?	The 'Brussels rate' of 500 euros is dedicated to attending SBS' annual experts meeting. If you lived for instance in Portugal and came to Brussels for a meeting, you'd get 900 euros as a lump sum for this trip as this would be considered a European travel.
What 'negotiation skills' are necessary? Please can you give an example?	Defending SMEs' interests during meetings of standards technical bodies requires negotiation skills as these interests may not be the same ones as other participants'. An SBS expert needs to get his message across during discussions, e.g., so that this or that draft standard meets SMEs' needs.