



Rev. 2

Participation of experts in Commodity Expert Groups (CEGs) and the Horizontal Expert Group (HEG)

The EU Minor Uses Coordination Facility should develop clear rules on the composition of and the number of attendees in the Expert Groups.

Commodity Expert Groups

The term “Commodity Expert Group” refers to a platform to close in a joint effort minor use gaps at EU level by finding chemical or non-chemical solutions within an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) framework.

The Commodity Expert Group consists of national minor use experts and representatives of the respective growers’ associations or grower groups and ‘individual crop protection companies attend upon invitation’.

Regarding the expertise of participants’ information can be taken from the Terms of Reference in which it is stated that “Participants should have expertise in one or more of the following fields: crops/pests and needs, regulatory aspects, incl. basic knowledge on the requirements for a minor use application, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), performing efficacy and residual trials, communication”.

The Terms of Reference also contain a paragraph about the obligations for the members of the Commodity Expert Groups, which are:

- Active and constructive participation in the meetings.
- Help to achieve the duties of the Commodity Expert Group.
- Commit to add relevant information to EUMUDA with the assistance of the Coordination Facility.
- EU mind set.
- Willingness to act as a project leader.
- Willingness of working on projects with other Member States and feeling responsible on the outcome.
- Willingness to exchange information and results of trials.
- Respect the terms of reference.

The following aspects, that relatively easily can be assessed, will be considered in appointing and reviewing stakeholders as experts in Commodity Expert Groups:

- Expertise (according to Terms of Reference).
- Active and constructive participation in the meetings.
- Adding relevant information to EUMUDA.

- Acting as a project leader.
- Participating in projects with other Member States.

Horizontal Expert Group

The term “Horizontal Expert Group” refers to a platform that discusses general issues related to minor uses, as identified by the Commodity Expert Groups, the Steering Group or its members, aiming at harmonised procedures and at creating a level playing field among Member States.

The Horizontal Expert Group consists of national minor use experts (related to regulatory procedures) from all Member States, high level representatives of the respective growers’ associations or grower groups, representatives of the European crop protection industry, representatives of the European Commission and representatives of international organisations such as the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO).

Regarding the expertise of participants’ information can be taken from the Terms of Reference in which it is stated that “Participants should have expertise in the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 related to minor uses and processes related to mutual recognition, comparative assessment, the renewal of the approval of active substances and the authorisation of minor uses. In addition, participants should be familiar with the key principles of Directive 2009/128/EC and Regulation (EC) No 396/2005”.

The Terms of Reference also contain a paragraph about the obligations for the members of the Horizontal Expert Group, which are:

- Active and constructive participation in the meetings.
- Provide agenda items, including supporting documents.
- Help to achieve the duties of the Horizontal Expert Group.
- EU mind set.
- Create an atmosphere to stimulate harmonisation of procedures related to minor uses (mutual recognition, zonal evaluation, etc.).
- Commit to add relevant information to EUMUDA with the assistance of the Coordination Facility.
- Disseminate the information and conclusions within their respective organisations.
- Respect the terms of reference.

The following aspects, that relatively easily can be assessed, will be considered in appointing and reviewing stakeholders as experts in the Horizontal Expert Group:

- Expertise (according to Terms of Reference).
- Active and constructive participation in the meetings.
- Providing agenda items, including supporting documents.
- Adding relevant information to EUMUDA.
- Responding to requests from the MUCF (e.g. survey).

Selection of participants to CEG and HEG expert meetings

Participants will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

1. Affiliation (company, organization, etc.);
2. Expertise (according to Terms of Reference);
3. Involvement in projects (CEGs);
4. Providing and adding relevant information to EUMUDA.

The national minor uses contact points¹ -in collaboration with the chairs CEGs, respectively chair HEG- will be responsible for the appointment of participants to CEG and HEG. The affiliation and area of expertise will be the main criteria. There should be at least two minor uses contact points per Member State.

Now that the new EU Minor Uses Database has been launched, a clear overview of minor uses projects is available and the willingness of participants to act as a project leader can be evaluated. The Coordination Facility will review the involvement in projects (for CEGs members) and the commitment to add relevant information to EUMUDA

In all cases, when organising Expert Group meetings, the need has been recognised to keep numbers within the limits of the budget and working as efficiently as possible. This will be evaluated regularly.

If necessary, Terms of Reference will be amended and/or the composition of Expert Groups will be adjusted based on the outcome of the evaluation and review of the participation to Expert Groups.

¹ A list of National Minor Use Contact Points is in preparation.