

Call for facilitators: online industry and innovation workshop on advanced materials

About Euro-CASE and SAPEA

The European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering (Euro-CASE) is an independent non-profit organisation of national academies of Engineering, Applied Sciences and Technology from 23 European countries. Euro-CASE acts as a permanent forum for exchange and consultation between European Institutions, Industry and Research. Euro-CASE is a partner in the SAPEA consortium (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies), which provides independent scientific advice to European Commissioners to support their decision-making.

The SAPEA consortium is part of the Scientific Advice Mechanism of the European Commission. At the request of the EC, it provides targeted scientific evidence in a timely and transparent manner to inform the production of science advice by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors while ensuring the highest scientific quality, developed by complete and independent evidence analysis and synthesis. SAPEA comprises six European Academy Networks: Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE, FEAM and YASAS. It contributes to widening participation by mobilising its network of some 120 academies from more than 40 countries across Europe, each with hundreds of Fellows. SAPEA aims to strengthen the links between European science academies and to ensure their active participation in its activities.

SAPEA assembles interdisciplinary working groups of scientific experts. The working groups produce Evidence Review Reports or other scientific inputs for the Advisors. SAPEA organises an inclusive dialogue about major societal challenges. These activities contribute to increasing awareness of the significance of science advice for policy and to improving transparency of the EU policy-making process. More information can be found on the project's website: <https://scientificadvice.eu/>.

Background to the workshop

Advanced materials are considered strategic to the EU's competitiveness and are of growing importance to EU industry. The Scientific Advice Mechanism, as detailed in [this scoping paper](#), is thus working on strengthening the role of advanced materials to enhance innovation, facilitate sustainable development, and increase industrial competitiveness.

On behalf of SAPEA, Euro-CASE will host an online industry and innovation workshop to explore how innovative products can be developed following materials research, addressing the gap from laboratories to industrial manufacturing. This workshop will bring together stakeholders across the value chain to identify industry needs and opportunities for innovation in advanced materials.

Euro-CASE is seeking facilitators for this workshop, to take place on **4 June 2025**.

Objectives

The main objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- To understand how innovative products can be developed from advanced materials research, addressing the gap between academic laboratories and industrial manufacturing.
- To evaluate the risks regarding investment in advanced materials research.
- To identify mechanisms to tap the potential of new innovative functionalities across sectors and applications, and ways to stimulate new business models and innovation markets, and
- To identify ways to facilitate alignment and feedback loops between basic research and industrial needs for advanced materials, and support the uptake of these materials by industry.

Expected outcomes

Specific outcomes include the following:

- A clear set of best practices for developing innovative products from advanced materials research, and key barriers in bridging the gap between laboratories and manufacturing.
- Identification of specific challenges related to investment risks in advanced materials research and strategies to address them.
- Mechanisms to tap the potential of new innovative functionalities across sectors and applications, and ways to stimulate new business models and innovation markets.
- Best practices for improving alignment and feedback loops between basic research and industrial needs, and strategies to support the uptake of advanced materials by industry.

Stakeholders

Workshop stakeholders will include the following:

- Practitioners along the value chain
- Stakeholders who identify challenges and bottlenecks
- Scientific experts who experience these bottlenecks
- Experts who research start-up failures or successes and associated reasons
- Stakeholders from large companies and SMEs, start-ups, and spin-offs should be represented
- Specific fields (health, mobility, electronics, construction, energy) should be represented, including experts in biomaterials, nanomaterials, graphene, polymers, electronics (in particular chips and semiconductors), and batteries.

Main deliverables and time frame

- Co-development of a participatory workshop agenda, to be finalised by mid-May, via 2 one-hour preparation meetings with project staff in early May, email exchanges with SAPEA staff, and further exchanges, if necessary
- Facilitation of a maximum one-day workshop on 4 June
- Review the final workshop report in the third and fourth weeks of June to ensure discussion points are accurately reflected

The entire task is expected to take approximately 6-7 working days between early May and early July 2025.

Scope of work

The facilitator will be responsible for the following:

- Co-developing a participatory agenda aligned with the workshop's objectives
- Supporting smooth technological set-up and running of the workshop (e.g., via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, and/or using other online workshop tools)
- Providing necessary workshop materials, if necessary
- Moderating the workshop discussions to ensure alignment with the set objectives, ensuring balanced participation from all actors and stakeholders, encouraging the expression of different points of view, and ensuring timely completion of agenda points
- Review the workshop report (approx. 30–50 pages) to ensure accurate reflection of the discussions

Main requirements for applicants

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- At least two years of experience facilitating online events (e.g., for actors in industry and science)
- Preferably a background in advanced materials, science policy, or industry and/or innovation
- Strong organisational skills and experience in managing virtual events
- Experience in moderating discussions in international, interdisciplinary, and cross-sectoral settings
- Familiarity with (online) participatory methods and interactive facilitation techniques
- Technical proficiency with online platforms such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams

Language requirements

Fluency in English, with excellent communication skills, both written and spoken.

How to apply

Please send the following documents to mariana.rei@sapea.info:

- A cover letter (2 pages or less) detailing you/your company's: 1/ experience in the field of advanced materials, science policy, or industry and/or innovation 2/a summary of the approach you would take to this workshop design and delivery 3/the names and profiles of the suggested facilitators for the workshop exercise itself.
- A portfolio of examples of past workshops and activities that demonstrate your/your company's experience in the field of advanced materials, science policy, or industry and/or innovation workshops.
- A detailed quote estimating the costs for the services detailed above.

Application deadline: **2 May 2025** at midnight.

Please contact mariana.rei@sapea.info for any questions regarding this call.

Evaluation of proposals

The proposal will be evaluated by Euro-CASE, on behalf of SAPEA, according to the following criteria:

- Quality and innovativeness of the proposal.
- Qualifications and experience of the team (including facilitators).
- Demonstrated understanding of the scope and suggested approach to the workshop.
- Availability and capacity to perform within schedule.
- Demonstration of value for money

The assessment period shall take a maximum of 10 days starting from the closing date of the call.