



INVITATION

to become a member of the Team EUROPE DIRECT network

The European Commission Representation in *Ireland* ('Commission Representation') wishes to step up its information and engagement activities with citizens on the ground on topics relating to the European Union and its policies.

To this end, the Commission Representation is setting up Team EUROPE DIRECT, a network of independent, inspirational communicators, proficient both in EU topics and in communication, including participatory democracy approaches, capable of conveying the activities and the added value of the EU to a broad audience while assessing and gathering their feedback with a **view to stimulate public debate on the European Union**.

While working in close cooperation with the Commission Representation, Team EUROPE DIRECT members do not speak on behalf of the Commission. **They are independent**, eager to provide their audience with substantiated, objective and undistorted information about the European Union so to encourage and support citizens to better understand EU policies and be active within the democratic life of the EU.

1. Who are we looking for?

The Team EUROPE DIRECT network will consist of nationals of any of the Member States of the European Union with:

- solid knowledge of the EU, its functioning, its latest developments and its defining initiatives;
- expertise in one or more fields covered by an EU policy;
- communication skills, such as speaking at/animating, facilitating, moderating debates or conferences, events, panels, workshops, training sessions, including approaches of participatory democracy, presence in media (radio/TV broadcasts) and publication of newspaper articles.

Spoken English should be at C2 level and spoken Irish should be at least at B2 level and IT skills for access to information or training provided by the Commission.

2. What is the role of a Team EUROPE DIRECT member?

Team EUROPE DIRECT members participate and intervene according to their fields of expertise in **debates or conferences, events, panels, workshops, training sessions, radio/TV broadcasts, publication of newspaper articles** etc.

Participation of Team EUROPE DIRECT members in events may be requested by the Commission Representation, or proposed by the Team EUROPE DIRECT member. In the latter case, written acceptance by the Commission Representation is necessary before participation in any event takes place in the capacity of a Team EUROPE DIRECT member.

Team EUROPE DIRECT members are also encouraged to be active on **social media** to relay the messages of the European Commission and stimulate the debate on the EU.

In all occasions, the members are invited to make an explicit disclaimer that they do not speak on behalf of the Commission.

Team EUROPE DIRECT members should cooperate with local [EUROPE DIRECT centres](#) and other [EU outreach centres](#) in view of exploiting all possible synergies including the centres' logistical capacity to organise events and maximise audience.

Team EUROPE DIRECT members will fill in an annual survey set up by the European Commission on their activity.

3. What kind of assistance can be expected from the Commission Representation and Commission Headquarters in Brussels?

The Commission will make available relevant sources of information to Team EUROPE DIRECT members, for example in the form of online trainings, newsletters etc.

Annual meetings and/or trainings are organised in Ireland and meetings in Brussels may be organised occasionally. For both, the Commission covers the cost of travel and accommodation.

The activity of the Team EUROPE DIRECT network is promoted by the Representation via their website and other appropriate means.

The Commission Representation, when requesting a Team Europe Direct member to participate in an event, will normally, and depending on budget availability, offer the payment of a lump sum. When the participation is on the initiative of Team EUROPE DIRECT member, the Commission Representation determines on a case by case basis if the lump sum applies. In both cases, the Team Europe Direct member is informed prior to their participation and the lump sum is due only upon completion of the participation confirmed by the organiser of the event.

4. How to become a member of Team EUROPE DIRECT?

Individuals wishing to become a member of Team EUROPE DIRECT need to submit the following documents:

- application form (see Annex 1);
- a motivation letter setting out the applicant's geographical area of activity, topics of expertise and communication skills;
- a curriculum vitae (CV).

The documents must be sent by electronic means only to the following address:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Application-Form-Team-EUROPE-DIRECT-2023>

The deadline for submitting the application is 31 August 2023.

The Commission Representation will accept [x] candidates, based on their curriculum vitae, motivation letter and, if necessary, an interview. While setting up the network, the Commission Representation will strive to reach a balanced geographical coverage of the entire territory and gender balance, ensuring, at the same time and to the extent possible, that the main topics of expertise are available in an equally well distributed way. Each candidate will be personally informed by email of the outcome of his/her application.

Individuals to participate in the Team EUROPE DIRECT network will be asked to sign a Letter of Understanding on the membership in the Team EUROPE DIRECT network (see Annex 2).

Annex 1: Application form

Annex 2: Letter of Understanding/ Cooperation framework for Team EUROPE DIRECT membership

