

<p>CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SECONDED NATIONAL EXPERTS (SNE) AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESERVE LIST REF: EURAIL.2024.02</p>	
Type of publication	External
Title of function	Seconded National Experts (SNE) in the Research and Innovation team of EU-RAIL JU
Closing date	31 July 2024

1. ABOUT EU-RAIL

Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-RAIL) is established by Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021. It is the new European partnership on rail research and innovation established under the Horizon Europe programme (2020-2027) and the universal successor of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking.

The vision of EU-RAIL is to deliver, via an integrated system approach, a high capacity, flexible, multi-modal and reliable integrated European railway network by eliminating barriers to interoperability and providing solutions for full integration, for European citizens and cargo.

This partnership aims to accelerate research and development in innovative technologies and operational solutions. This will support the fulfilment of European Union policies and objectives relevant for the railway sector and the competitiveness of the rail sector and the European rail supply industry. In this way, EU-RAIL will accelerate the penetration of integrated, interoperable and standardised technological innovations necessary to support the Single European Railway Area (SERA). For further information, please consult the following website: <https://rail-research.europa.eu>

EU-RAIL values are an important part of our culture. Candidates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with [the eight ingredients of the EU-RAIL way](#).

2. JOB DESCRIPTION:

White Atrium Building, 2nd Floor
Avenue de la Toison d'Or 56-60
B1060, Brussels - Belgium

Direct line +32 2 541 83 76
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The SNE will reinforce the Research and Innovation team and will be working on several or all aspects dealt with by the unit depending on the specific fields of expertise brought by the candidate.

The SNE will report to the Head of Programme. He/She will help the team achieve an integrated and system view on the evolution of the Programme activities towards the next steps – higher TRL activities and future deployment.

A possible focus could be automation. Additionally, the candidate could map national and regional activities and funding scheme and support the implementation of cooperation with entities and organizations at national or regional level.

The candidate will contribute in particular to:

- Providing support to the identification of demonstration activities (supporting market uptake) and ensure the adequate management of interdependencies between projects;
- Contributing to EU-RAIL's Research and Innovation activities, including working with the Senior Programme Manager by contributing to the design and implementation of the EU-Rail R&I Programme;
- Acting as contact point for preparation of demos and deployment activities, in particular for the digital systems and innovations developed by the EU-Rail integrated Programme;
- Supporting the cooperation at European, national and regional level with other funding instruments, in order to create synergies and Programme value;
- Contributing to the promotion of EU-Rail activities in line with the established communication strategy;
- Preparing input for the EU-Rail bodies, support the preparation of replies to EC policy requests, draft reports and meeting minutes;
- Acting as business partner and keep constructive and professional relations with the EU-Rail Members and stakeholders, as relevant;
- Executing any other tasks as deemed necessary in the interest of the service.

3. ELIGIBLE EMPLOYERS

SNE can be seconded from Intergovernmental Organisations (IGO) or national, regional or local public administrations of EU Member States or Member States of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA).

“Public administration” means all State administrative services at central, federal, regional or local level, comprising ministries, government and parliament services, the courts, central banks, and the administrative services of local authorities, as well as the decentralised administrative services of the State and of such authorities. The SNE's employer shall undertake to continue to pay their salary, to maintain their administrative status throughout the period of secondment and to inform the Joint Undertaking of any change in the SNE's situation in this regard. The SNE's employer shall also continue to be responsible for all their social rights, particularly social security and pension.

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Before the period of secondment begins, the national public administration or IGO from which the SNE is to be seconded shall certify that they will remain, throughout the period of secondment, subject to the social security legislation applicable to the public administration that employs them and is responsible for expenses incurred abroad.

4. WE LOOK FOR:

A) Eligibility criteria

Candidates will be considered eligible for selection on the basis of the following formal criteria to be fulfilled by the deadline for applications:

1. The applicant must have worked for their employer on a permanent or contract basis for at least 12 months before their secondment and shall remain in the service of that employer throughout the period of secondment;
2. Be a national of a Member State of the European Union or EFTA Member State;
3. Possess at least 3 years of professional experience in the field relevant to the duties to be carried out during the secondment;
4. Have a thorough knowledge of one of the languages of the European Union and a satisfactory knowledge of another language of the European Union to the extent necessary for the performance of his/her duties.

B) Selection criteria

Successful candidates should have:

1) Essential qualifications and experience

- University degree;
- Relevant professional experience in railways business (research, operational, technical, maintenance, economics, etc.);
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English

2) Advantageous qualifications and experience in one or more of the following fields

- FP7, H2020, CEF or other EU and/or national programmes;
- Proven knowledge (by experience and/or relevant academic studies) of the rail sector;
- Professional accreditation for project management;

3) Behavioural competences

- Motivation – open, flexible and positive attitude;
- Excellent stakeholder management skills;
- Excellent inter-personal and communication skills;
- Excellent analytical, planning and organizational skills and ability to define priorities;

- Service-oriented, results-driven and flexible attitude;
- Sense of initiative, responsibility, commitment and team spirit.

5. INDEPENDENCE AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

EU-RAIL, the SNE's employer and the SNE must confirm that there is no conflict of interest in relation to the SNE's duties while being seconded to the Joint Undertaking. The confirmation is done in writing before the start of the secondment based on the intended duties during secondment.

SNEs will be required to carry out their duties and conduct themselves solely with the interests of the European Union in mind; they shall neither seek nor take instruction from any government, authority, organisation or person outside the Joint Undertaking.

6. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The received applications will be screened against the eligibility criteria listed in the vacancy notice. The hiring department will carry out the evaluation of the eligible applications against the selection criteria.

Shortlisted candidates may be required to undergo a telephone and/or face-to-face interview. Suitable candidates will be placed on a reserve list initially for one year, which may be renewed.

Depending on the JU's budgetary situation and needs, and provided that the JU receives the acceptance from the candidates' employer, an SNE agreement on secondment may be offered to successful candidates.

The secondment is authorised by the Executive Director and effected by an exchange of letters between the Executive Director and the seconding authority, specifying the details of the Secondment as described in the Decision of the Governing Board of the EU-RAIL JU laying down the rules on the secondment of national experts to the EU-RAIL JU.

7. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants shall send their applications only to the Permanent Representation to the EU of their country.

More information on the Permanent Representations can be found [here](#).

The Permanent Representations shall, within the deadline set in this vacancy notice, forward the applications to the following address: jobs@rail-research.europa.eu

EU-RAIL JU will only take into account applications received before the deadline stipulated in the vacancy notice (point 10 of this vacancy notice). Candidates are invited to liaise with their Permanent Representation to ensure that their application reaches the Joint Undertaking well on time.

For an application to be considered valid it shall consist of:

- A Curriculum Vitae of the candidate, in the European CV format (see <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>)

- A letter of motivation of the candidate highlighting the suitability and strengths of the candidate in relation to the post;
- The letter from the public administration authorizing the candidate to lodge his/her application to the post. If this is unavailable by the closing date of this vacancy notice but underway/agreed, the JU can also accept evidence of the upcoming authorization pending the delivery of the official letter. In any case, no appointment will be made without this official letter.

The subject of the e-mail and the forms must mention the reference number and the title of the post for which the application is submitted (e.g. SURNAME_Firstname_EURAIL.2024.02).

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

EU-RAIL, as a European Union body, applies a policy of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in accordance with Article 1d of the Staff Regulations.

9. CONDITIONS OF THE SECONDMENT

The initial period of secondment is 2 years¹

The secondment will be governed by the Decision of the Governing Board of the S2R JU laying down the rules on the secondment of national experts to the S2R JU (http://shift2rail.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Decision-20_2016-national-experts.pdf)

The SNE will remain employed and remunerated by his/her employer during the secondment. He/she will also remain covered by the national social security.

In addition, an SNE shall be entitled to daily and monthly subsistence allowances provided for in Article 16 of the SNE Decision².

During the secondment, SNEs are subject to confidentiality, loyalty and absence of conflict of interest obligations.

The final stage to secure the secondment will be confirmed by an exchange of letters between the Executive Director of EU-RAIL and the Permanent Representation of the Member State concerned.

The initial period of secondment may not be less than six months or more than two years. It may be renewed once or more, up to a total period not exceeding four years. Exceptionally, where the interests of the service warrant it, EU-RAIL'S Executive Director may authorise one or more extensions of the secondment for a maximum of two more years at the end of the four-year period.

The total period of engagement shall not exceed the lifetime of the Joint Undertaking. The place of secondment is Brussels, Belgium.

¹ See also Article 4 of the Decision of the Governing Board of the Shift2Rail JU laying down the rules on the secondment of national experts to the S2R JU

² Please refer to Shift2Rail JU's website for updated information on the allowances.

10. CLOSING DATE

Applications must be sent no later than 31 July 2024, 17h00 Brussels time. Applications sent after this date will not be considered.

11. IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants are reminded that the work of the selection committee is confidential. It is forbidden for applicants to make direct or indirect contact with members of these committees, or for anybody to do so, on their behalf.

12. Appeal procedure

Within three months of the date written on the notification of the decision, the applicant may lodge a complaint under Article 90(2) of the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Union, at the following address by registered mail only : Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EURAIL) Human Resources Department [Title and reference number of the selection] Avenue de la Toison d'Or, 56-60 B-1060 Brussels Belgium The time limit for initiating this type of procedure starts to run from the time the candidate is notified of the action adversely affecting him/her. Within three months of the date written on the notification of the decision, the applicant may submit a judicial appeal under Article 270 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (ex Art. 236 of the EC Treaty) and Article 91 of the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union to the General Court of the European Union: General Court Rue du Fort Niedergrünwald L-2925 Luxembourg tel.: (+352) 4303 1 fax: (+352) 4303 2100 e-mail: GeneralCourt.Registry@curia.europa.eu URL: <http://curia.europa.eu> The time limits for initiating this type of procedure (see Staff Regulations as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 723/2004 of 22 March 2004, published in Official Journal of the European Union L 124 of 27 April 2004 — <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>) start to run from the time the candidate becomes aware of the act allegedly prejudicing your interests.

Complaint to the European Ombudsman: like all citizens of the European Union, an applicant can make a complaint to the: European Ombudsman 1 avenue du Président Robert Schuman CS 30403 <http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu> 67001 Strasbourg Cedex FRANCE Please note that complaints made to the European Ombudsman have no suspensive effect on the period laid down in Articles 90(2) and 91 of the Staff Regulations for lodging complaints or for submitting appeals to the General Court of the European Union under Article 270 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (ex Art. 236 TEC). Please note also that, under Article 2(4) of the general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties, any complaint lodged to the Ombudsman must be preceded by the appropriate administrative approaches to the institutions and bodies concerned.

13 PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 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, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (hereinafter "the Regulation") applies to the processing of personal data carried out by EU-RAIL. EU-RAIL protects the fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons and in particular their right to privacy with respect to the processing of personal data.

The [EU-RAIL Privacy Policy](#) describes the measures taken to protect your personal data with regard to the data processing operations in the context of the recruitment of staff, SNE and trainees. Furthermore, it describes the rights you have as a data subject and how you can exercise these rights. More information on Data Protection at EU-RAIL can be obtained in the [Data Protection Register](#) and in the [Privacy Notices](#) published in the EU-RAIL website.

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