

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DRAWING-UP OF
THE FIRST GENERAL-PURPOSE AI CODE OF PRACTICE**

1. SUBJECT

The [European AI Office](#) opens a call for expression of interest to participate in the drawing-up of the first Code of Practice on detailing out rules for providers of general-purpose AI models in the context of the AI Act. Following Article 56 of the AI Act, the call is addressed to general-purpose AI model providers and other stakeholders, such as downstream providers integrating a general-purpose AI model into their AI system, other industry organisations, civil society organisations, rightsholders organisations, academia and other independent experts.

This contributes to the proper application of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689, referred to as AI Act.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 AI ACT RULES AND THE CODE OF PRACTICE

The [AI Act](#) provides, in Article 53 and following, rules for providers of general-purpose AI models and for general-purpose AI models with systemic risk, which will become effective 12 months following the entry into force of that Regulation on 1 August 2024.

Obligations for providers of all general-purpose AI models include, according to Article 53 of the AI Act, the keeping up-to-date technical documentation and making such documentation available, upon request, to the AI Office and national competent authorities, as well as providing certain information and documentation to downstream providers integrating the model into their AI system. Providers shall also put in place a policy to comply with Union copyright law, as well as make publicly available a summary about the content used for model training, according to a template to be provided by the AI Office.

For general-purpose AI models with systemic risk, the AI Act provides in Article 55 for additional rules, including the obligation to assess and mitigate possible systemic risks, perform model evaluation and adversarial testing, ensure an adequate level of cybersecurity protection for the general-purpose AI model and the physical infrastructure of the model, and keep track of, document, and report serious incidents and possible corrective measures.

In order to detail out the above-mentioned rules for providers of general-purpose AI models, Article 56 of the AI Act requires the European AI Office to encourage and facilitate the drawing-up of a Code of Practice.

The Code of Practice should represent a central tool for the proper compliance with the obligations under that Regulation, as providers of general-purpose AI models should be able to rely on the Code of Practice to demonstrate compliance. The Code should take into account international approaches, such as the Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems.

The process of drawing up the first Code of Practice will start immediately after the AI Act enters into force and will last for 9 months, in view of enabling providers to demonstrate compliance on time.

At the end of the drafting process, the AI Office and the AI Board will assess the adequacy of the Code and will publish their assessment. Following that assessment, the Commission may decide to approve a Code of Practice and give it general validity within the Union by means of implementing acts. If by the time the Regulation becomes applicable, the Code of Practice is not deemed adequate by the AI Office, the Commission may provide common rules for the implementation of the relevant obligations.

Providers of general-purpose AI models may therefore rely on the Code of Practice to demonstrate compliance with the obligations set out in the AI Act. Once a harmonised standard is published and assessed as suitable to cover the relevant obligations by the AI Office, compliance with a European harmonised standard should grant providers the presumption of conformity. Providers of general-purpose AI models should furthermore be able to demonstrate compliance using alternative adequate means, if Codes of Practice or harmonised standards are not available, or they choose not to rely on those.

In light of the 9-month timeline, the process of drawing up the first Code of Practice needs to be efficient and streamlined. It will be facilitated by the AI Office, from the launch of the work until its finalisation. The AI Office will closely follow the development of the Code. Eligible general-purpose AI model providers and other stakeholders can participate in the drawing-up of the Code of Practice as detailed in the following section.

The AI Office will also work in parallel on the development of the template for the summary about the training content and accompanying guidance that should be provided early enough in the process for general-purpose AI model providers to be able to take them into account as a minimum baseline for further details that can be provided for the summary in the Code of Practice.

2.2 DEFINITION OF GENERAL-PURPOSE AI MODELS AND PROVIDERS

The AI Act defines a ‘general-purpose AI model’ as ‘an AI model, including where such an AI model is trained with a large amount of data using self-supervision at scale, that displays significant generality and is capable of competently performing a wide range of distinct tasks regardless of the way the model is placed on the market and that can be integrated into a variety of downstream systems or applications’.

The AI Act defines a ‘provider’ as a natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body that develops a general-purpose AI model or that has a general-purpose AI model developed and places it on the market.

Models with at least a billion of parameters and trained with a large amount of data using self-supervision at scale should be considered a general-purpose AI model. Large generative AI models are a typical example of a general-purpose AI model, given that they allow for flexible generation of content, such as in the form of text, audio, images or video, that can readily accommodate a wide range of distinctive tasks.

General-purpose AI models are typically trained on large amounts of data, through various methods, such as self-supervised, unsupervised or reinforcement learning. General-purpose AI models may be placed on the market in various ways, including through libraries, application programming interfaces (‘APIs’), as direct download, or as physical copy. These models may be further modified or fine-tuned into new models.

Providers of general-purpose AI models that are released under a free and open-source license, and whose parameters, including the weights, the information on the model architecture, and the information on model usage, are made publicly available should be subject to exceptions as regards the documentation and information requirements imposed on general-purpose AI model providers, unless the model can be considered to present a systemic risk.

AI models used before their placing on the market for the sole purpose of research, development and prototyping activities should not be covered by this definition and are therefore excluded from application of the relevant provisions of the AI Act.

Some general-purpose AI models could pose systemic risks, which should be understood to increase with model capabilities and model reach.

‘Systemic risks’ refer to risks that are specific to the high-impact capabilities of general-purpose AI models (matching or exceeding the capabilities of the most advanced general-purpose AI models); have a significant impact on the Union market due to their reach; or are due to actual or reasonably foreseeable negative effects on public health, safety, public security, fundamental rights, or society as a whole, that can be propagated at scale across the value chain. A general-purpose AI model should be considered to present systemic risks if it has high-impact capabilities, evaluated on the basis of appropriate technical tools and methodologies, or significant impact on the internal market due to its reach.

A general-purpose AI model should be presumed to be with systemic risk when the cumulative amount of computation used for its training measured in floating point operations is greater than 10^{25} . This threshold should be adjusted over time to reflect technological and industrial changes. If a model meets the requirements that lead to the presumption, a provider should be able to demonstrate that a general-purpose AI model exceptionally does not present systemic risks, and that it thus should not be classified as a general-purpose AI model with systemic risks. Where the Commission concludes that the arguments submitted are not sufficiently substantiated and the relevant provider was not able to demonstrate that the general-purpose AI model does not present systemic risks, it should reject those arguments.

Additionally, the Commission has the ability to take individual decisions designating a general-purpose AI model as a general-purpose AI model with systemic risk if it is found that such a model has capabilities or an impact equivalent to those captured by the set threshold. That decision should be taken on the basis of an overall assessment of the criteria for the designation of a general-purpose AI model with systemic risk set out in Annex XIII to the AI Act, such as quality or size of the training data set, number of business and end users, its input and output modalities, its level of autonomy and scalability, or the tools to which it has access.

3. PARTICIPATION IN THE CODE OF PRACTICE DRAWING-UP

To foster an inclusive and transparent approach, an iterative drafting process is established to ensure that the first Code of Practice effectively addresses the obligations of general-purpose AI model providers, and benefits from the input of all relevant stakeholders. The AI Office oversees and facilitates the entire drafting process with a view to ensuring its delivery with clear objectives, measures, and, as appropriate, key performance indicators.

The AI Office launches in parallel to this call for expression of interest a [multi-stakeholder consultation](#) to collect views and inputs from all interested stakeholders on the first Code of Practice. The consultation consists of targeted questions and allows for submissions of additional material relevant for drawing up the Code. Answers and submissions will form the basis of the first drafting iteration of the Code of Practice. From the start, the Code is therefore informed by a broad array of perspectives and expertise. In addition, the consultation results will also be used by the AI Office for the development of the template and the accompanying guidance which will set the framework and the minimum level of detail to be covered in the summary about the content used for model training, that can be further specified in the Code of Practice.

A Code of Practice Plenary will be established to facilitate the iterative drafting process, consisting of all interested and eligible general-purpose AI model providers, downstream providers integrating a general-purpose AI model into their AI system, other industry organisations, other stakeholder organisations such as civil society or rightsholders organisations, as well as academia and other independent experts. The AI Office will verify eligibility on the basis of the submitted and publicly available information and confirm participation to respective stakeholders.

The Plenary will be structured in four Working Groups to allow for focused discussions on specific topics relevant to detail out obligations for providers of general-purpose AI models and general-purpose AI models with systemic risk. Plenary participants are free to choose one or more Working Groups they wish to engage in. Working Groups meet during Plenary meetings to facilitate discussions. Meetings are conducted exclusively online.

The AI Office will appoint **Chairs and, as appropriate, Vice-Chairs** for each of the four Working Groups of the Plenary, selected from interested independent experts. The Chairs will synthesise submissions and comments by Plenary participants to iteratively draft the first Code of Practice.

One chair will be designated to take on a central coordination role for ensuring coherence and consolidating drafts across all Working Groups, in close cooperation with the AI Office. It can be expected that the drafting process will be logistically supported by a contractor chosen by the AI Office.

A **Kick-off Plenary**, expected to take place in September 2024, will inform participants about further details of the iterative drafting, including comprehensive topics to be discussed per Working Group. Based on the submissions from the consultation, Chairs will develop a first draft of the Code of Practice and share it with the respective Working Group in the Plenary.

The Plenary will then convene three times virtually for drafting rounds with discussions organised in Working Groups focused on specific topics to refine the initial draft. Participants can express comments during each of those meetings or within two weeks in writing.

As main addressees of the Code following Article 56, providers of general-purpose AI models will be invited to dedicated workshops with the Chairs and, as appropriate, Vice-Chairs to contribute to informing each iterative drafting round, in addition to their Plenary participation. The AI Office will ensure transparency into these discussions, such as by drawing-up meeting minutes and making these available to all Plenary participants.

This iterative process will lead to a final Code which should reflect the different submissions as far as possible while ensuring a convincing implementation of the legal framework.

The AI Office will also share the draft template and accompanying guidance for the summary about the training content with the participants of the Code of Practice Plenary to collect feedback and stakeholder input. Once adopted by the AI Office, the final template and guidance will be presented to Plenary, providing a structure and baseline that can be further specified in the Code of Practice.

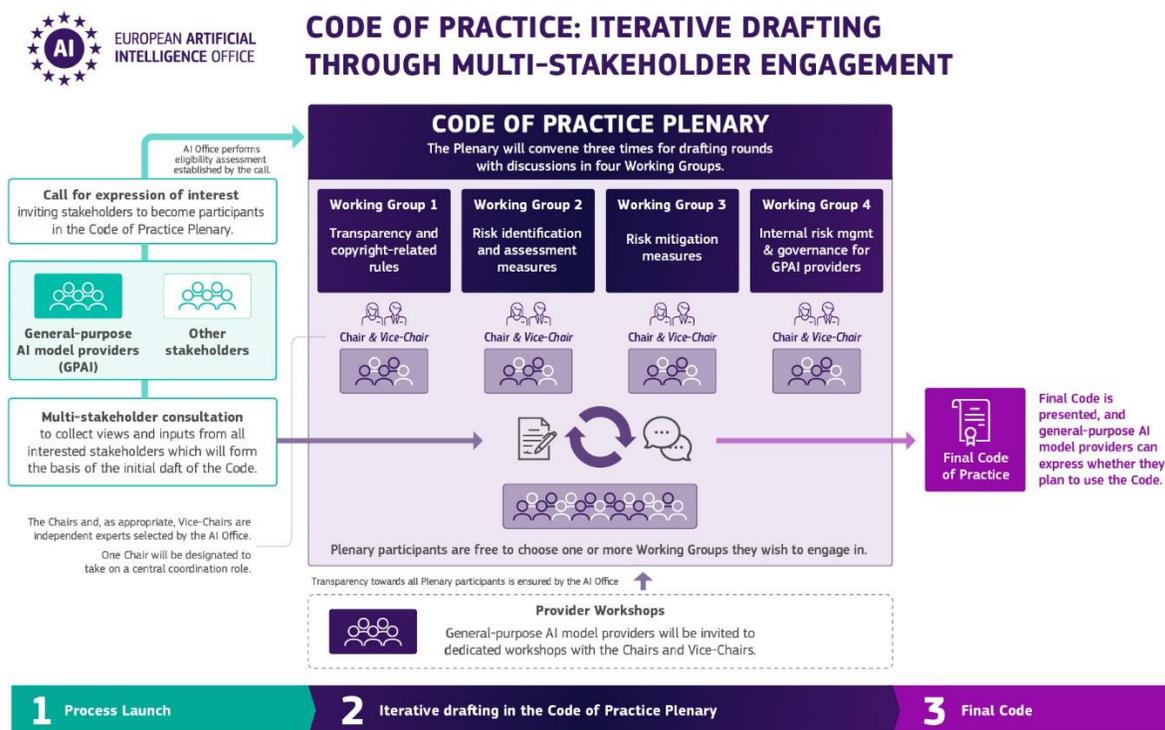
The work across all Working Groups can be accompanied by dedicated workshops on specific topics where a better understanding on specific items should be reached.

The AI Office will ensure a close involvement of Member States' representatives in the drawing-up of the first Code of Practice all along the process.

Other public bodies and agencies working on risk assessment and mitigation for general-purpose AI models in light of potential systemic risks may be invited by the AI Office to participate in the Plenary as observers.

After 9 months, the final version of the first Code of Practice will be presented in a Closing Plenary, expected to take place in April, and published. The Closing Plenary gives general-purpose AI model providers the opportunity to express themselves whether they would envisage to use the Code.

After publication of the Code, the AI Office and the AI Board will assess its adequacy and publish this assessment. Following this assessment, the Commission may decide to approve the Code of Practice and give it a general validity within the Union by means of an implementing act. If the Code of Practice is not deemed adequate, the Commission will provide common rules for the implementation of the relevant obligations.



3.1. Participation in the Code of Practice Plenary

General-purpose AI model providers are the main addressees of the Code as they will be able to rely on it to demonstrate compliance if the Code is approved by the Commission after its finalisation. Following Article 56 of the AI Act, the AI Office may invite all providers of general-purpose AI models to participate in the drawing-up of the Code of Practice. The AI Act also foresees that civil society organisations, industry, academia and other relevant stakeholders, such as downstream providers and independent experts, may support the process.

General-purpose AI model providers and other relevant stakeholders are therefore invited to express interest to participate in the Code of Practice Plenary as the forum to facilitate the drawing-up of the first Code of Practice to detail out AI Act rules for providers of general-purpose AI models.

The AI Office will establish four Working Groups within the Plenary to facilitate the drafting:

- **Working Group 1: Transparency and copyright-related rules**

Detailing out documentation to downstream providers and the AI Office on the basis of Annexes XI and XII to the AI Act, policies to be put in place to comply with Union law on copyright and related rights, and making publicly available a summary about the training content.

- **Working Group 2: Risk identification and assessment measures for systemic risks**

Detailing the risk taxonomy based on a proposal by the AI Office and identifying and detailing relevant technical risk assessment measures, including model evaluation and adversarial testing.

- **Working Group 3: Risk mitigation measures for systemic risks**

Identifying and detailing relevant technical risk mitigation measures, including cybersecurity protection for the general-purpose AI model and the physical infrastructure of the model.

- **Working Group 4: Internal risk management and governance for general-purpose AI model providers**

Identifying and detailing policies and procedures to operationalise risk management in internal governance of general-purpose AI model providers, including keeping track of, documenting, and reporting serious incidents and possible corrective measures.

Following the present call for expression of interest, all eligible general-purpose AI model providers, downstream providers integrating a general-purpose AI model into their AI system, other industry organisations, other stakeholder organisations, such as civil society or rightsholders organisations, as well as academia and other independent experts will be invited to the Plenary.

Participants can choose to which Working Groups they wish to contribute. Participants are not limited in the number of Working Groups in which they participate, but commitment is expected to actively follow the Working Group meetings in the Plenary and contribute to the iterative drafting process of the respective topics.

By expressing comments specifically during each of the three Working Group meetings within the Plenary or within two weeks in writing on the basis of iterative drafts of the Code, providers and other stakeholders can contribute their diverse perspectives and expertise on the topics covered in the respective Working Groups. The results of these regular consultations will be synthesised by the Chairs and, as appropriate, Vice-Chairs of each Working Group to inform the iterative drafting.

In addition, all general-purpose AI model providers and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to have their say on the topics covered by the first Code of Practice in the multi-stakeholder consultation of which the results will form the basis of the first drafting iteration of the Code and the template for the summary about the training content to be developed by the AI Office.

3.2 Participation as Chairs or Vice-Chairs of the Working Groups

To facilitate the iterative drafting process, the AI Office will appoint Chairs and, as appropriate, Vice-Chairs for each of the four Working Groups. They shall be responsible for detailing the transparency and copyright-related commitments for providers of general-purpose AI models and to discuss the risk identification, assessment and mitigation for providers of general-purpose AI models with systemic risk.

Academics or other independent experts can volunteer for this role through the expression of interest and will be selected and appointed by the AI Office as Chairs, including one central coordinating Chair, and, as appropriate, Vice-Chairs based on their expertise, ability to effectively fulfil the role and the tasks of the Chair, and independence.

Their main task will be to synthesise submissions by other Plenary participants, to moderate the discussions in the Working Group, and to facilitate the delivery of quality and efficient drafting. Other responsibilities may include setting agendas, scheduling and facilitating discussions, participating in separate workshops, monitoring progress, and regularly reporting on relevant activities.

The work of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs can be expected to require weekly time commitments and intensive working periods during the iterative drafting process. It can be expected that they will be logistically supported by a contractor chosen by the AI Office. The AI Office and the contractors will work with the Chairs to ensure consistency. Working group meetings between the Chairs and Vice-Chairs will take place on a regular basis between September 2024 and April 2025.

4. ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION PROCESS

4.1 ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CODE OF PRACTICE PLENARY

Following the present call for expression of interest, all eligible general-purpose AI model providers, downstream providers integrating a general-purpose AI model into their AI system, and other industry organisations, other stakeholder organisations, such as civil society or rightsholders organisations, as well as academia and other independent experts or related organisations with relevant expertise are invited to the Plenary.

The AI Office will base the eligibility assessment on the requirements outlined in the following sections, which vary for different groups of interested parties.

It is for the interested party to provide relevant evidence to demonstrate they fulfil the respective eligibility requirements in their expression of interest.

Organisations are only eligible if they are registered in the [Transparency Register](#).

4.1.1 ELIGIBILITY OF GENERAL-PURPOSE AI MODEL PROVIDERS

Codes of Practice contribute to the proper application of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689, the AI Act, to providers of general-purpose AI models and of general-purpose AI models with systemic risk. The Regulation lays down a uniform legal framework for the placing on the market of general-purpose AI models in the European Union. The AI Act defines general-purpose AI models with systemic risk as general-purpose AI models having a significant impact on the Union market.

In this context, it is appropriate to limit participation in the drawing-up of the Code of Practice to **general-purpose AI model providers with existing or planned operations in the Union**, which must be demonstrated.

- **Existing operations** in the Union may be substantiated by providing a general-purpose AI model to the market of the European Union, or similar.
- In the absence of existing operations, **planned operations** in the Union may be substantiated by demonstrating genuine steps to providing a general-purpose AI model to the market of the European Union, such as through having developed and released a general-purpose AI model outside of the Union and genuine steps taken to setting up an establishment in the Union or to designate a legal representative, or similar.

Through the expression of interest, general-purpose AI model **providers are asked to assess whether they fulfil the criteria for a general-purpose AI model provider** according to the relevant definitions of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689, also outlined in chapter 2.2 of this call, and provide relevant evidence to demonstrate they fulfil them. This self-assessment allows providers to be invited to dedicated workshops with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs to contribute to informing each iterative drafting round, and it allows providers to express in the closing Plenary of the Code of Practice drawing-up whether they would envisage to use the Code.

4.1.2 ELIGIBILITY OF DOWNSTREAM PROVIDERS AND OTHER INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS

Given the internal market rationale of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 outlined above, it is also appropriate to limit participation in the drawing-up of the Code of Practice to **downstream providers** integrating a general-purpose AI model into their AI system **and other industry organisations**, such as associations, **with existing or planned operations in the Union**, which must be demonstrated, **and with legitimate interest** to contribute to the process of the drafting of the Code.

- **Existing operations** in the Union may be substantiated by demonstrating a physical presence or establishment in the Union, partnerships with organisations or commercial agreements in the Union, or similar.

- In the absence of existing operations, **planned operations** in the Union may be substantiated by demonstrating genuine steps taken, such as steps to set up an establishment or to designate a legal representative, or similar.
- **In addition, legitimate interest** must be demonstrated. Other industry organisations must demonstrate that their members or activities are affected or have direct link with the objectives and the content of the future Code of Practice to be substantiated through relevant documents such as the articles of association, mission statement or proven track record in the area. Legitimate interest by downstream providers is recognized as they integrate a general-purpose AI model into their AI system and must also be substantiated through relevant documents.

4.1.3 ELIGIBILITY OF ACADEMIA, OTHER INDEPENDENT EXPERTS OR RELATED ORGANISATIONS WITH RELEVANT EXPERTISE

Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2024/1689, relevant stakeholders may support the process of drawing up the Code of Practice. In this context, it is appropriate to limit participation to **academia, other independent experts or related organisations with relevant expertise that possess expertise relevant to contribute to the proper application of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689** to providers of general-purpose AI models and of general-purpose AI models with systemic risk. No presence in the European Union or similar is required.

Relevant expertise must be substantiated for at least one topic covered by the Code of Practice Working Groups through related publications, academic qualifications or faculty appointments, research projects, participation in research programs, awards or recognitions, or similar.

Individuals from academia and other independent experts will participate in the drawing-up as individuals rather than as representatives of their respective organisation.

4.1.4 ELIGIBILITY OF OTHER STAKEHOLDER ORGANISATIONS

Given the internal market rationale of Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 outlined above, other stakeholder organisations are only affected by the commitments laid out in the Code of Practice if they are present in the European Union. Relevant stakeholders can support the Code of Practice drawing-up.

It is therefore appropriate to limit their participation in the drawing-up of the Code of Practice to **other stakeholder organisations** than the ones outlined in 4.1.1 to 4.1.3 above, such as civil society organisations or organisations representing rightsholders, to those **that are present in the European Union, demonstrating a legitimate interest** to contribute to the process of the drafting of the Code, and that are **representative for the relevant stakeholder group** that will be affected by the future Code of Practice.

- **Presence in the Union** must be substantiated by demonstrating an establishment or physical presence in the Union.
- **In addition, legitimate interest** must be demonstrated through activities of the stakeholder organisations that are affected or have direct link with the objectives and the content of the future Code of Practice, to be substantiated through relevant documents such as the articles of association, mission statement or proven track record in the area.
- **In addition, representation for the relevant stakeholder group** must be substantiated through articles of association, documentation of the organisation membership or the group it represents, evidence of representative efforts, or similar.

Individual organisations, including rightsholders, that wish to contribute to the drawing-up of the Code of Practice but are not representative for a wider stakeholder group, are encouraged to coordinate with a stakeholder organisation that represents their interest.

4.2. SELECTION AS CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

Individuals from academia and independent experts can declare that they would like to be considered as Chair of any of the four Working Groups within the Plenary. The AI Office will select between all interested individuals Chairs and, as appropriate, Vice-Chairs that will be appointed to the respective Working Groups. One Chair will be designated to take on a central coordination role for ensuring coherence.

The criteria that will be considered for the selection include:

- **Expertise in relevant areas:**
 - In light of the need to synthesise highly technical submissions and comments by Plenary participants and to facilitate related discussions, the individual should demonstrate expertise in the topics covered by any of the four Working Groups.

- This can be substantiated with related professional experience, publications, academic qualifications or faculty appointments, research projects, participation in research programs, awards or recognitions, or similar.
- **Ability to effectively fulfil the role and the tasks:**
 - In light of the complexity of the drafting process with a variety of stakeholders involved, the individual should demonstrate the ability to effectively fulfil the role and the tasks.
 - This can be substantiated with professional experience in effectively carrying out similar processes or related tasks, such as synthesising submissions and comments by a variety of stakeholders, facilitating and moderating large-scale discussions, monitoring progress, or regularly reporting on relevant activities, or similar. The individual must be available for weekly time commitments and intensive working periods between September 2024 and April 2025.
- **Independence:**
 - The individual must have no financial interest or other interest, which could affect their independence, impartiality and objectivity. They should undertake to act in the public interest and in an independent manner.
 - With their expression of interest, individuals have to declare any direct or indirect interests they may have related to the Code of Practice drawing-up.

Along with their expression of interest, individuals have to submit their Curriculum Vitae (CV). The declarations of interests of the appointed Chairs and Vice-Chairs along with their CV might be made publicly available.

5. WAYS OF WORKING

Plenary participants shall aim to find common ground among diverse perspectives, with the support of the AI Office, as this will be essential for reaching consensus during the development of the Code of Practice. Meetings will be generally held online to facilitate participation from across and outside the European Union.

Participants are not paid for their input, for participating in the Plenary or the related Working Groups. Chairs and Vice-Chairs are not paid for performing their role and tasks.

The AI Office will facilitate the efficient and streamlined development of the Code of Practice, from launch to finalization, and may, as needed, engage external support from contractors to assist with logistical and administrative tasks, such as consolidating inputs and coordinating stakeholder engagement, to ensure a timely and effective outcome.

6. TRANSPARENCY

As regards the Plenary composition, the name of the individual participants and participating organisations might be made publicly available.

7. HOW TO MANIFEST INTEREST

Interested parties that would like to get involved in the drawing up of the first Code of Practice for providers of general-purpose AI models are invited to express their interest to the AI Office to become participants of the Code of Practice Plenary.

Expressions of interest shall be submitted **by Sunday, 25 August 2024, 18:00 CET** via this [application form](#). **The form also allows interested individuals to apply for the role of Working Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs.**

In case of questions, interested parties are encouraged to reach out for further information to the Commission through the email address:

CNECT-AIOFFICE-CODES-OF-PRACTICE@ec.europa.eu

TIMELINE OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE DRAFTING PROCESS

