



# **LDT4SSC**

## **Call for Evaluators - Information for Prospective Experts**

November 2025



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## Abbreviations and acronyms

| Abbr.        | Description                                                                                                                                                                             | Abbr.   | Description                                           |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| AI           | Artificial Intelligence                                                                                                                                                                 | LDT     | Local Digital Twins                                   |
| Cerema       | Centre d'études et d'expertise sur les risques, l'environnement, la mobilité et l'aménagement (Centre for Studies and Expertise on Risks, the Environment, Mobility and Urban Planning) | LDT4SSC | Local Digital Twins for Smart Sustainable Communities |
| DEP          | Digital Europe Programme                                                                                                                                                                | NEB     | New European Bauhaus                                  |
| DGA          | Data Governance Act                                                                                                                                                                     | OASC    | Open & Agile Smart Cities                             |
| DS4SSC C     | Data Space for Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities project (preparatory action)                                                                                                | PDF     | Portable Document Format                              |
| DS4SSC C-DEP | European data space for smart communities project (deployment action)                                                                                                                   | TalTech | Tallinn University of Technology                      |
| EC           | European Commission                                                                                                                                                                     | TGB     | Technopolis Consulting Group Belgium                  |
| EOI          | Expression of Interest                                                                                                                                                                  | VAT     | Value Added Tax                                       |
| EU           | European Union                                                                                                                                                                          | WS      | Work Strand                                           |
| GDPR         | General Data Protection Regulation                                                                                                                                                      |         |                                                       |

## Glossary

| Term.                            | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Call for Pilots Manual           | The document providing guidance for applying to the LDT4SSC Calls for Pilots.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Consensus meeting group          | An online meeting among members from an Evaluation Committee and Ethical Board, who reviewed the respective Call for Pilots application(s) to discuss the individual evaluation reports and agree on comments and scores. That means that the evaluation follows the principle of consensus-based decision-making. The consensus group discussion is facilitated by a moderator (Evaluation Team's representative). |
| Ethical Board                    | A distinct group of experts that is established to assess ethical issues in the LDT4SSC Project. They will be asked to propose mitigation measures when ethical issues are identified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Evaluation Committee             | A dedicated group of experts from the LDT4SSC consortium and external stakeholders who are responsible for evaluating the Call for Pilots applications. The intention is to have different Evaluation Committees task to evaluate the different Call for Pilots which happens across three waves.                                                                                                                   |
| Evaluation Framework             | The methodology, processes and criteria used to assess and select pilot applications under the LDT4SSC project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Evaluation Team                  | The Evaluation Team is made up of selected people from the LDT4SSC project partners who have been assigned responsibility for organising the whole evaluation process and running the pre-screening of applications. Similarly, the Evaluation Team is tasked to provide both the final ranking and selection of the pilots.                                                                                        |
| Evaluation Report                | Standard form used by evaluators in order to evaluate pilot applications by assigning scores based on evaluation criteria and providing justification thereof.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Guidelines for Evaluators        | The document providing instructions and practical guidance for experts evaluating applications to the LDT4SSC Calls for Pilots.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| LDT4SSC Consortium               | The LDT4SSC consortium includes a total of 10 partners: Open & Agile Smart Cities (OASC), FIWARE Foundation (FIWARE), Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), The European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), Technopolis Consulting Group Belgium (TGB), Kereval (KEREVAL), The Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST), Cerema, Libelium (LIBELIUM LAB) and UGent-IDLab (UGent).                   |
| LDT4SSC granting partner/LDT4SSC | Technopolis Consulting Group Belgium (TGB), i.e. the LDT4SSC consortium partner responsible for organising the open call for pilots, the cascade funding and the call                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

| Term.                          | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| consortium contracting partner | for evaluators. It is also the Party that is responsible for the Funding Support under the Grant Agreement 101226211.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Moderator                      | A member from the Evaluation Team who organises and moderates the consensus group meeting of a particular Evaluation Committee. Only representatives from private entities can moderate the consensus group meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Pool of evaluators             | List of internal and external expert evaluators from which are selected the members of the Evaluation Committees by matching the content and domains of the applications with the profiles and expertise of the evaluators listed in the pool. The Pool of Internal Evaluators includes experts nominated by eligible LDT4SSC consortium members. The Pool of External Evaluators includes external experts who have been selected by the LDT4SSC consortium from among the individuals who submitted applications through the Expression of Interest (EoI) form to become evaluators of the CfP proposals. |
| Quadruple stakeholder Helix    | An actor from one of the four key sectors (public sector, private sector, academia, and civil society) that collaborate in innovation processes, according to the innovation helix framework theory.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Scope of the document

This document provides guidance to experts interested in applying and participating as evaluators in the Local Digital Twins for Smart and Sustainable Cities (LDT4SSC) project. The document describes the principles and procedures of the Call for Evaluators, detailing the scope of the evaluator's work, the application process and the material to consult for more information.

The LDT4SSC project aims to identify and select 15-20 high-quality pilot projects that will contribute to building an interconnected LDT ecosystem, foster collaboration among stakeholders, and accelerate the deployment and adoption of advanced digital twin services across Europe.

This document offers a brief overview of the LDT4SSC project, the Call for Evaluator's structure & timeline and the application processes. It is designed to help experts understand how to apply for the evaluator role and how to carry out their assessment of pilot applications.

For more details about the open calls for pilots, please refer to the Call for Pilots (CfP) Manual available on the website<sup>1</sup>.

## 1.2 Structure of the document

This document<sup>2</sup> is organised as follows:

- **Section 1 - Introduction** presents this document and the LDT4SSC project.
- **Section 2 - Evaluator's role and responsibilities** sets out the evaluator's role, tasks and ethical obligations.
- **Section 3 - Application, selection and contracting evaluators** explains the stages of the processes involving the evaluators, from the Expression of interest (EOI) to assignment and contracting, detailing the selection criteria, the contractual documentation and remuneration arrangements.
- **Section 4 - How to apply** contains the information required for prospective experts to apply for the evaluator role.
- **Section 5 - Support contact points** provides the relevant contacts for guidance and technical assistance.

## 1.2 About the Local Digital Twins for Smart and Sustainable Communities

The LDT4SSC project is a European project that supports cities and communities in using Local Digital Twins (LDTs) to address shared challenges such as energy efficiency, climate resilience, pollution reduction and better public services.

The project funds and guides pilot projects that develop Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven solutions, interconnect existing digital platforms across Europe, and demonstrate how

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ldt4ssc.eu/>

<sup>2</sup> Parts of this document build on the Evaluators Guidebook from the European data space for smart communities project (DS4SSCC-DEP), adapted to the context of LDT4SSC

interoperable digital twins can support smarter decision-making. By promoting open standards, ethical AI and cross-border collaboration, LDT4SSC is building a resilient digital ecosystem that helps cities of all sizes work together towards Europe's green and digital goals.

The key objectives of the project are:

1. **Connecting existing LDTs from cities and communities** to create a federation of LDTs across the EU. Reinforced interoperability through the aggregation of LDTs at a larger scale (cross-sectors, cross-cities and cross-borders) will help in scaling up European common data sets and open-source solutions. It will also facilitate less advanced cities and communities joining the existing EU LDT ecosystem.
2. **Expanding existing local LDTs with new open-source LDT services based on shared needs of cities and communities.** These services should aim to improve decision-making processes and citizen interaction, reduce risks, costs, downtime and enhance resilience and sustainability of LDT platforms while enabling new value creation.
3. **Complementing the EU LDT Toolbox launched under WP2021-22 with additional AI-based and innovative services** (e.g. for adaptable multi-sector considerations, advanced simulation and modelling approaches including bottom-up self-organised models). The AI services will be developed and tested within existing cities/communities and be replicable in other contexts.

These objectives form the foundation of an LDT ecosystem that empowers communities to collaborate effectively while advancing Europe's digital transformation.

## 1.3 About the Call for Pilots

### 1.3.1 Scope and structure

The aim of the open calls for pilots is to engage European local and regional authorities and its various stakeholders, ranging from public administrations at local, regional and national levels, businesses, technology developers, suppliers, research institutions, and academia to participate in building a networked ecosystem of LDTs. The calls are designed to ensure transparency, equal treatment, and compliance with EU standards, including legal, financial, ethical, and technical requirements.

The aim of the Open Calls is further structured around **three specific work strands (WSs)**, each targeting a key aspect of the LDT ecosystem:

**Work Strand 1 (WS1)** focuses on interconnecting existing LDTs to create a federated EU-wide network supporting seamless data exchange and interoperability.

**Work Strand 2 (WS2)** aims at creating new LDTs based on common urban challenges like mobility, energy, and sustainability to foster replicable solutions.

**Work Strand 3 (WS3)** develops advanced AI-based tools and innovative open-source components to enhance LDT capabilities with immersive and predictive services.



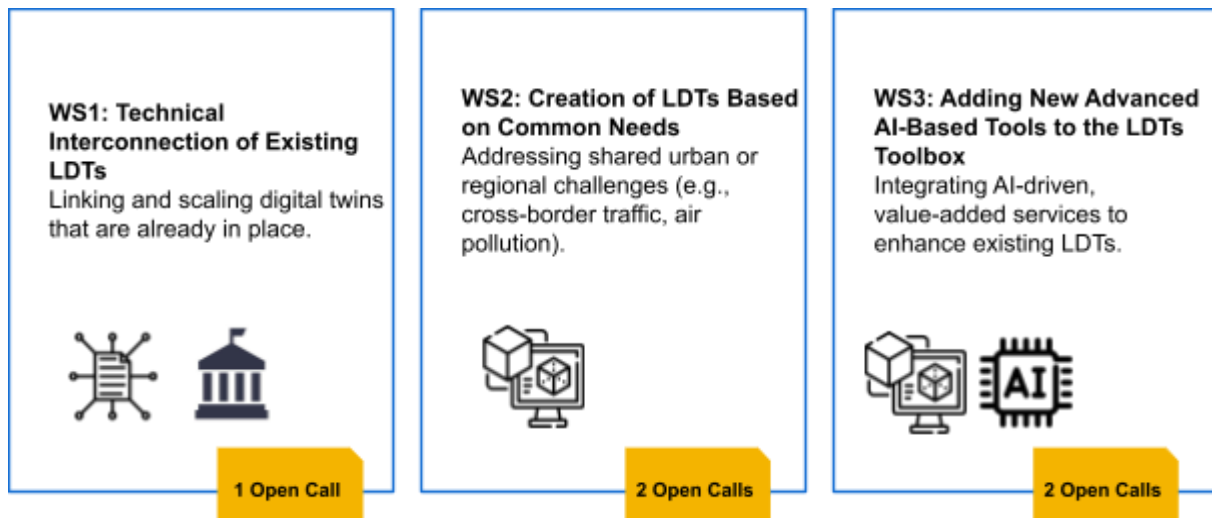


Figure 1. LDT4SSC three WSs across five Open Calls

Ultimately, the calls aim to select 15-20 high-quality pilot projects that can contribute to creating an interconnected LDT ecosystem, promote collaboration among stakeholders, and accelerate the deployment and adoption of advanced digital twin services across Europe.

For more details about the open calls, please refer to the CfP Manual for WS 1 available on the website<sup>3</sup>. While more detailed specifications for WSs 2 and 3 will be made available subsequently, experts are already welcome to apply to evaluate pilots in these areas.

## 2. Call for Evaluators

### 2.1 About the call for evaluators

The LDT4SSC consortium is launching a call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to select a diverse group of subject-matter experts to evaluate and select the most promising CfP applications submitted to the LDT4SSC consortium. These applications are expected to address a wide range of aspects, including legal and financial issues, technical solutions, business and organisational needs, and ethical considerations across sectors.

Applications will be assigned to the most suitable experts selected to be included in the pool of (internal and external) evaluators and will be evaluated through a peer-review process.

To safeguard integrity, all evaluators must sign a conflict of interest declaration and adhere to the EU Experts Code of conduct<sup>4</sup> before participating in the evaluations.

**Experts interested in serving as evaluators for the LDT4SSC Open Calls are invited to apply through the EOI Form<sup>5</sup>.**

<sup>3</sup> <https://ldt4ssc.eu/call-one/>

<sup>4</sup> The EU Experts Code of Conduct is available on the Funding & Tender portal at [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/experts/code-of-conduct\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/experts/code-of-conduct_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/87d34dd5-db87-3db4-2046-2c2a54f7527f>

In this form, they will be required to provide information on professional background, areas of expertise, and availability. The survey requires applicants to upload their Europass CV in PDF format.

## 2.2 Evaluator application periods

The open calls for pilots supporting the **three targeted WSs** will be launched in **five open calls** to deploy LDTs in smart communities.

The **application periods** for evaluators are scheduled as follows:

*Table 1. WS application periods for evaluators*

| WS                      | Evaluators application period       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| WS 1 (open call 1)      | 14 November 2025 - 15 December 2025 |
| WS 2 (open calls 2 & 3) | 14 November 2025 - 27 February 2026 |
| WS 3 (open calls 4 & 5) | 14 November 2025 - 27 February 2026 |

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

For each open call, the evaluators' application period starts with the launch of the first open CfP. **The open call for the selection of evaluators ends on 15 December 2025 at 23:59h CET for the first open call covering WS 1** and on 27 February 2026 at 23:59h CET for the remaining open calls covering WSs 2 and 3, followed by structured review.

The figure below provides a detailed overview of the key milestones for evaluators in relation to each open CfP.

| Open calls         | Open Call for Pilots – Start | Open Call for Pilots – End | Open Call for Evaluators – Start | Open Call for Evaluators – End | Evaluator Selection | Evaluation Process – Start | Evaluation Process – End | Selection of Pilots | Pilot Start Date |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Open call 1 (WS 1) | 14 Nov 2025                  | 15 Jan 2026                | 14 Nov 2025                      | 15 Dec 2025*                   | 05 Jan 2026         | 20 Jan 2026                | 11 Mar 2026              | 12 Mar 2026         | 14 May 2026      |
| Open call 2 (WS 2) | 02 Feb 2026                  | 02 Apr 2026                | 14 Nov 2025                      | 27 Feb 2026*                   | 23 Mar 2026         | 06 Apr 2026                | 30 Jul 2026              | 31 Jul 2026         | 31 Aug 2026      |
| Open call 3 (WS 2) | 11 May 2026                  | 13 Jul 2026                | 14 Nov 2025                      | 27 Feb 2026*                   | 01 Jul 2026         | 15 Jul 2026                | 09 Sep 2026              | 10 Sep 2026         | 10 Nov 2026      |
| Open call 4 (WS 3) | 02 Feb 2026                  | 02 Apr 2026                | 14 Nov 2025                      | 27 Feb 2026*                   | 23 Mar 2026         | 06 Apr 2026                | 30 Jul 2026              | 31 Jul 2026         | 31 Aug 2026      |
| Open call 5 (WS 3) | 11 May 2026                  | 13 Jul 2026                | 14 Nov 2025                      | 27 Feb 2026*                   | 01 Jul 2026         | 15 Jul 2026                | 09 Sep 2026              | 10 Sep 2026         | 10 Nov 2026      |

\*The application deadline for evaluators to apply under WS1 is earlier than for WS2 and WS3.

*Figure 2. Milestones for Evaluators*

## 2.3 Evaluator's responsibilities and process

Expert evaluators play a central role in the evaluation of pilot applications submitted under LDT4SSC open calls. The applications to the CfP will go through a thorough review process, ensuring compliance with the set requirements and quality assurance. Pilot applications that

have passed the eligibility check are matched with evaluators according to their fields of expertise. Each pilot application will be reviewed by at least three evaluators (two external and one internal evaluator to the project consortium), using the predefined evaluation structure found in the **Guidelines for Evaluators**. This document will be provided to selected evaluators during the onboarding stage.

For each WS, consortia will have **two months to apply** after the launch of the open calls.

After the deadline, the review period **will last two months**, including both pre-screening of applications and the evaluation by Evaluation Committee and Ethical Board.

After the pilots are ranked and selected, the winning consortia and the LDT4SSC granting party will have **one month** to finalise contract negotiations and sign the agreements, followed by **an additional month** for the consortia to prepare before the project launch.

The figure below illustrates the overall pilot proposal evaluation process that the evaluators will contribute to once their contracts are finalised.



*Figure 3. Overview of the pilot proposal evaluation process*

After the pre-screening stage, applications will be assigned to evaluators, who will assess them based on the criteria specific to each WS. First, evaluators will review pilot proposals individually, after which they conduct a consensus-group meeting to agree on a final score and feedback to the pilot applicants. For more detailed information on the Evaluation Framework and process, please refer to the CfP Manual available on the website. All evaluators engaged in the CfP evaluation are expected to:

- participate in the onboarding session of evaluators and get acquainted with the Guide for Evaluators;
- sign a contract with the LDT4SSC granting partner TGB, including the Non-Disclosure Agreement and Conflict of Interest Declaration<sup>6</sup>;
- ensure that information from the applications will be handled with care and kept confidential;
- provide quantitative and qualitative assessment data against the agreed assessment criteria;
- assess the applications fairly and transparently;
- submit the assessments on time;
- participate in consensus group meeting(s);
- stay responsive and collaborative with the Evaluation Team throughout the CfP evaluation process.

The expected output is the production and signing of an Evaluation Report that includes justification of scores and dissenting views, if any.

<sup>6</sup> All documents will be shared with the selected experts upon signing the contract.

By default, **each evaluator will review three proposals**. If possible, the applications are distributed to the same *Evaluation Committee* to foster efficiency. However our priority is to ensure that all applications will be matched with the relevant expertise, which might entail that evaluators will be part of different Evaluation Committees.

### 3. Application, selection and contracting of evaluators

The *LDT4SSC Evaluation Team* will assess submissions received via the application survey<sup>7</sup> and select relevant profiles for the pool of external evaluators. The LDT4SSC consortium will also set up a pool of internal experts selected from the LDT4SSC consortium partners. Once the application round is closed and the final number and focus of eligible applications is known, the Evaluation Team will confirm the selected evaluators and sign service contracts with each expert.

For contracting purposes, evaluators must be able to issue an invoice to a for-profit company indicating whether they are subject to Value Added Tax (VAT) and if not, the fiscal rule which exempts them from VAT registration.

#### 3.1 Overview of recruitment and contracting process for evaluators

The evaluator selection and contracting process consists of three main stages, as outlined below: **the formation of the pool of evaluators**, **assignment of evaluators to applications** and **contracting**. The figure below illustrates the preparatory stages of the evaluation process, from submission of EOI to the start of the pilot proposal evaluation.

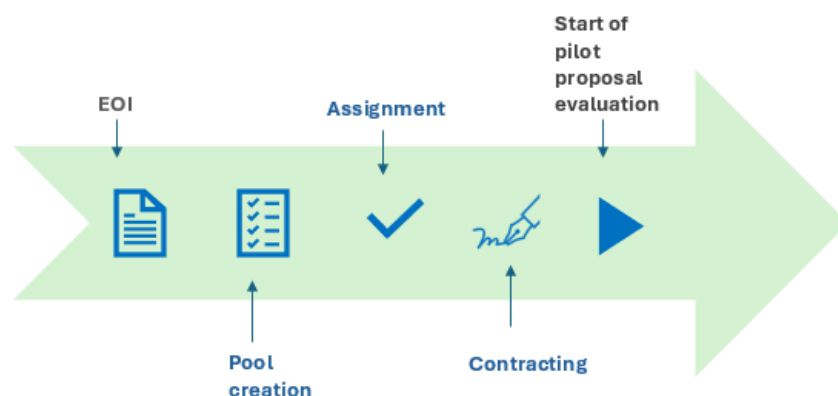


Figure 4. Overview of stages of evaluator contracting process

##### 3.1.1 Formation of the pool of evaluators (external & internal evaluators)

The LDT4SSC consortium has launched a Call for Evaluators to establish a pool of qualified experts who may be selected to assess applications submitted to the CfP. The pool will

<sup>7</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/87d34dd5-db87-3db4-2046-2c2a54f7527f>

include both external evaluators (independent experts) and internal evaluators (staff from consortium partners).

To be admitted to the *Pool of Evaluators*, applicants must confirm that they meet all the eligibility requirements, as detailed in section 3.2 Eligibility conditions below.

Once the number and thematic scope of eligible pilot applications are known, the Evaluation Team will identify the evaluators who best fit the requirements of each WS.

The LDT4SSC consortium contracting partner will formalise the engagement of the selected external evaluators through individual service contracts.

Being included in the Pool of Evaluators does not guarantee participation in the Evaluation Committee. Selection will depend on the number, type and technical focus of the pilot applications received.

### 3.1.2 Assignment of evaluators to applications

The Pool of Evaluators will be used to form *Evaluation Committees*, ensuring that each proposal is assessed by a balanced and qualified group of experts. For each pilot application, the LDT4SSC consortium will match the content, thematic focus and technical domains of the proposal with the competencies, experience and availability of the evaluators in the pool.

Each Evaluation Committee will consist of at least three evaluators: one internal evaluator, nominated by a consortium partner, and two external evaluators, selected from the pool of independent experts who must collectively cover the following expertise:

1. Evaluation expertise
2. Technical expertise
3. Governance expertise
4. Domain expertise, based on the selected Green Deal domains and New European Bauhaus values that the applicant has proposed;

Once each call closes, the LDT4SSC consortium will map the domains and technical scope of all eligible pilot applications against the evaluators' profiles in the pool. Expertise in several Green Deal domains and the aforementioned expertise categories increases the likelihood of being selected as an evaluator, as evaluators are typically expected to review three proposals.

In parallel to the Evaluation Committee, Ethical Board members will independently review the applications for ethical considerations, along with the Ethics and Data Protection Self-Assessment submitted with the application.

### 3.1.3. Contractual documents

All external experts invited to be part of the Evaluation Committee(s) must sign a service contract and be able to issue an invoice to a for-profit company. The contract also includes a Non-Disclosure Agreement and a Conflict of Interest Declaration<sup>8</sup>. Note that as the individual evaluator should represent themselves, the contract can be signed only in the two following ways:

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<sup>8</sup> Available on the website [www.ldt4ssc.eu](http://www.ldt4ssc.eu)

1. A direct contract signed between the LDT4SSC consortium contracting partner and you as natural person (not through another legal entity; e.g. a temporary work agency), or
2. A contract signed between LDT4SSC consortium contracting partner and a legal entity, fully owned by you as a natural person, and which has no other staff than the natural person being hired.

Experts are requested to send the signed contractual documentation no later than three (3) days after receipt.

When signing the contract, experts agree to the following points, among others:

- You may not delegate another person to carry out the evaluation or be replaced without the prior written agreement of the LDT4SSC consortium contracting partner.
- The relationship between you and the LDT4SSC consortium contracting partner is not that of an employer and employee. Instead, you shall be regarded as an independent third party in relation to the LDT4SSC consortium partner and the LDT4SSC project.
- The appointment and any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with the contract will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Belgium.

#### *3.1.3.1 Conflict of Interest Declaration*

Expert evaluators invited to evaluate the proposals have to declare that they have no pecuniary or other personal interest, direct or indirect, in any matter that raises or may raise a conflict with their duties as Evaluation Committee members for the evaluation of the LDT4SSC CfP proposals assigned to them. If particulars of such matters arise, they must be stated in the contract.

The full list of potential conflicts of interest is set out in the Conflict of Interest Declaration based on which the final decision on the expert's involvement in the evaluation process is made. Additionally, evaluators must provide further details of the initial declaration if requested by the LDT4SSC consortium.

#### **Potential exceptions**

It should be noted that current employment or involvement with organisations that have submitted pilot proposals for evaluation will directly disqualify experts from evaluating those proposals in the respective evaluation round where a conflict of interest is identified. Exceptions may apply if the expert works in a different department with a high degree of autonomy and is one of the very limited number of qualified individuals in the specific field of expertise needed. In such cases, the expert may be allowed to participate as an evaluator, provided that the other experts are informed of the situation.

If experts are not currently employed by or involved in collaborations (e.g., as a member of management or advisory board, or through contracts or grants) with the participating organisations, but have been within the past three years, this is considered a potential conflict of interest and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. As a result, the experts



may either not be selected or be removed from the evaluation process if there is an appearance of impropriety.

### **Becoming aware of a conflict of interest**

If an evaluator becomes aware of any additional potential or actual conflicts of interest, these must be disclosed to the LDT4SSC consortium contracting partner immediately at [info@ldt4ssc.eu](mailto:info@ldt4ssc.eu). The evaluator must seek LDT4SSC consortium contracting partner's agreement to continue their appointment. If a conflict is confirmed, the evaluator will be removed from the process. If the appointment continues, evaluators must acknowledge that they are required to make a new declaration to disclose any changes to the matters contained in the initial declaration promptly after the change occurs.

It must be noted that the LDT4SSC consortium retains the right to exclude evaluators if there is an appearance of impropriety.

#### ***3.1.3.2 Non-Disclosure Agreement***

While signing the contract, evaluators acknowledge that all information acquired during their appointment is confidential and should not be released, communicated, or disclosed to third parties or used for any reason, either during the appointment or following termination (by whatever means), without prior clearance from the LDT4SSC consortium contracting partner and the LDT4SSC consortium partners. This restriction shall cease to apply to any confidential information which may (other than by reason of the evaluator's breach) become available to the public generally.

While signing the contract, evaluators acknowledge the need to hold and retain any information related to the LDT4SSC project (in whatever format they may receive it) under appropriately secure conditions.

As part of their contractual obligations, evaluators shall promptly advise LDT4SSC consortium contracting partner in writing of any unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation, or misuse of confidential information after they become aware of such incidents.

## **3.2 Eligibility conditions for evaluators**

Eligibility criteria ensure that all evaluators engaged in the assessment of the LDT4SSC pilot applications meet the necessary administrative and professional requirements.

All applicants undergo an eligibility verification covering the following aspects:

- Residence or employment in an eligible country
- C1 or higher English proficiency
- Ability to issue compliant invoices to a for-profit company<sup>9</sup>
- Absence of affiliation with any applicant to the LDT4SSC Open Calls

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<sup>9</sup> Selected evaluators must be able to issue an invoice to a for-profit company for their services. The invoice must comply with the applicable fiscal regulations of the evaluator's country of fiscal residence and must clearly indicate the evaluator's VAT status (whether subject to VAT or exempt, and, if exempt, the legal basis for the exemption).

- At least 5 years of relevant experience in data spaces or have undertaken or are currently undertaking a PhD in the subject matter.
- At least 2 years of experience in evaluating open calls or grant proposals at European, national, or international level.

Only applicants who meet all mandatory eligibility conditions proceed to the technical and thematic assessment.

### 3.3 Criteria for selection of evaluators

To ensure a high-quality and fair evaluation of pilot applications under the LDT4SSC Open Calls, evaluators will be selected according to specific requirements.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate experience evaluating EU projects, as well as strong expertise in **at least one** of the following areas: **technical expertise, governance, and Green Policy-related expertise**.

Experience across multiple domains will increase the likelihood of selection for an Evaluation Committee.

These thematics are outlined as follows:

#### 3.3.2 Technical expertise

Across all **Work Strands (WS)**, the following **core knowledge** is required.

Evaluators should demonstrate expertise in **at least one** of the following thematic areas:

##### 1. Good knowledge of Local Digital Twins (LDT) Architectures

- **Hands-on Experience:** Deployment of **at least one LDT in a city** (minimum descriptive level; more advanced experience preferred).
- **Key Components:** Understanding of **data contextualisation and semantisation** (context brokers, ontologies, data pipelines, graph visualisations, etc.).

##### 2. Proficiency in Linked Data Principles and Technologies

- **Formats & Standards:** Strong understanding of **JSON-LD, knowledge graphs, ontologies, and semantic alignments**.
- **Data Model Evaluation:** Ability to assess the **consistency of a data model** with an existing ontology and **MIM1 requirements** (semantic interoperability).
- **Practical Knowledge:** Experience with at least one **Linked Data-based interoperability standard or ecosystem** (e.g., **NGSI-LD, RDF/SPARQL, schema.org, DCAT-AP, OGC Features-API**).

##### 3. Ability to Analyse technical architectures and data flows

- **Critical Review:** Ability to **read and assess diagrams** (ingestion, transformation, storage, exposure, sharing).



- **Risk Detection:** Identification of **inconsistencies, technical weaknesses, and unrealistic assumptions.**

#### 4. Mastery of Interoperability Standards

- **MIMs Plus:** Familiarity with **MIM1 + API standards.**
- **EIF Layers:** Understanding of the **semantic and technical layers of the European Interoperability Framework (EIF).**

#### 5. Experience with Relevant Open-Source Solutions

- **Tools & Frameworks:** Experience with **context brokers (Stellio, Orion-LD), data space connectors, catalogs, and frameworks.**
- **Sustainability Assessment:** Ability to evaluate the **long-term technical viability of open-source choices or, in the case the pilot proposes the use of proprietary components, the ability to assess if the pilot contains a clear development plan describing how the solution can be deployed using purely open-source technology.**

#### 6. Knowledge of Modern Identity Management Mechanisms

- **Standards:** **OAuth2, OpenID Connect, Verifiable Credentials.**
- **Architecture Coherence:** Ability to assess whether the proposed **identity management system** aligns with **interconnection/data space architectures.**

Evaluators should also consider the following Work Strand-specific expertise:

#### *3.3.2.2 Work Strand 1 specific expertise: Technical interconnection of existing LDTs:*

##### **Deep Understanding of data spaces and local digital twins**

- **Core components:** Practical knowledge of **connectors, policy engines, catalogs, and trust frameworks.**
- **Key tools:** Clear understanding of the role of **SIMPL** and the **Data Space Governance Authority Agent.**

#### *3.3.2.2 Work Strand 2 specific expertise: Creation of new LDTs based on common needs:*

- Advanced services in sectoral areas (e.g., energy, mobility, climate resilience)
- Knowledge of the specific issues related to public information systems, and of the internal workings of local authorities

#### *3.3.2.3 Work Strand 3 specific expertise: Development of advanced AI services for LDTs:*

- AI-driven services for cities and communities
- Virtual worlds, simulation environments, and immersive technologies

- **Use Case Evaluation:** Ability to assess whether **AI applications are relevant, realistic, and resource-efficient.**
- Responsible & ethical AI practices

### 3.3.3 Governance expertise

Evaluators should demonstrate expertise in the organisational, legal or strategic/policy governance of data relevant to the creation or deployment of LDTs, data infrastructures, platforms or AI services.

Relevant governance expertise includes expertise related to good governance practices, standardised processes and frameworks that define role responsibilities and decision-making structures for developing digital commons (e.g. data spaces or jointly created digital twins) in line with EU regulations such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Governance Act (DGA).

Evaluators should be able to assess the adequacy and sustainability of governance frameworks proposed by applicants.

### 3.3.4 Green Policy-related expertise

Evaluators should demonstrate Green Policy-related expertise relevant to the thematic areas addressed by the Call for Pilot applicants which align with the European Green Deal priority policies and the New European Bauhaus (NEB) values.

Such expertise enables evaluators to assess the relevance, feasibility and potential impact of the proposed pilot use cases within the relevant policy areas.

Evaluators are expected to be familiar with one or more of the following domains:

- **European Green Deal policy areas**
  - Clean energy
  - Sustainable industry
  - Building and renovation
  - Farm to Fork
  - Eliminating pollution
  - Sustainable mobility
  - Biodiversity and ecosystem health
  - Sustainable finance
- **NEB initiative values**
  - Sustainability, from climate goals to circularity, zero pollution, and biodiversity
  - Inclusion, from valuing diversity, accessibility, and affordability
  - Aesthetics and quality of experience for people through integrating design, creativity, and cultural benefits

Evaluators should demonstrate experience working with various Quadruple Helix stakeholder categories (public sector, private sector, academia and research, and civil society).

### 3.4 Remuneration

A total of **up to 21 hours** is allocated for the review of 3 applications per round, covering the full range of tasks, including application evaluation, scoring, feedback, and participation in onboarding and consensus meetings where required.

Please see a detailed estimation of the time commitment per task in Table 2.

*Table 2. Estimated Time Commitment for the Evaluation Committee*

| Evaluation task                                   | Estimated time                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Preparation / Onboarding</b>                   | 2-3 hours                                      |
| <b>Individual evaluation (for 3 applications)</b> | up to 12 hours (up to 4 hours per application) |
| <b>Consensus group meeting</b>                    | 2-4 hours                                      |
| <b>Producing the Evaluation Report</b>            | 1 hour                                         |
| <b>Administrative tasks</b>                       | 1 hour                                         |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>up to 21 hours</b>                          |

The budget fee for the efforts of individual external evaluators is a maximum of **450 euros** (inclusive of all taxes and other costs) for reviewing three (3) proposals per round. In case evaluators will be assigned less than three proposals, the fee will be adjusted.

All meetings of experts take place online via Microsoft Teams.

## 4. How to apply

**Experts interested in serving as evaluators for the LDT4SSC Open Calls are invited to apply through the Expression of Interest (Eoi) Form in the link provided<sup>10</sup>.**

Here, they will be required to provide information on professional background, areas of expertise, and availability. The survey requires applicants to upload their Europass CV in PDF format.

## 5. Support contact points

For any questions or issues related to the evaluator application process, evaluation tasks, or contractual matters, evaluators can reach out to the LDT4SSC coordination team at [info@ldt4ssc.eu](mailto:info@ldt4ssc.eu)

<sup>10</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/87d34dd5-db87-3db4-2046-2c2a54f7527f>