Call for Cumulus Working Groups 2026–2027

Now open!

New, Renew, Revive. Existing groups are invited to confirm and update their information; inactive groups can present a plan to revive their work; members with a new idea can propose a new group.

Submission deadline is Friday 15 January 2027

Proposals and updates will be reviewed by the Cumulus Executive Board at its first meeting after the deadline.

New, Renew, Revive

Why this call

Cumulus Working Groups (CWGs) are among the most valuable assets of our Association. Since the first one, X-Files, was founded in Prague in 1998 during the very first Cumulus conference, many groups have been born, have grown and have shaped the life of our community. Over time, however, some of them have become inactive, and the list of groups presented on our website no longer reflects the activity and real energy of our community.

This call has a simple purpose: to take stock together of which groups are active and wish to continue, to give inactive groups the chance to restart, and to welcome new ones. Existing groups are invited to confirm and update their information; inactive groups can present a plan to revive their work; members with a new idea can propose a new group. Groups that do not respond to this call will be considered inactive and will be moved to the archive of past Working Groups on the Cumulus website. They will always be welcome to return with a new proposal.

What is a Cumulus Working Group

A CWG is an open, bottom-up group of individuals from Cumulus member institutions who share their knowledge and experience on a particular field, discipline or topic, and who work together over time under the umbrella of Cumulus. CWGs strengthen the sense of community among our members, ensure continuity in the exchange of knowledge between conferences, and offer their expertise to the Association: the Executive Board and the Secretariat may invite a group to contribute to Cumulus activities, projects and partnerships, and a group may in turn propose projects in which Cumulus can play a role.

CWGs are open to colleagues from all Cumulus member institutions, and may welcome partners and external guests. They are committed to diversity of perspectives, backgrounds, cultures and geographical contexts, and they value the participation of colleagues who cannot attend every conference in person.

How a Cumulus Working Group works

Each CWG has a name (Cumulus "…" Working Group), a mission describing its thematic focus, goals and expected outcomes and how they relate to the Cumulus Strategic Plan and the Cumulus Design Declaration, and a plan of activities.

Each group is led by at least one chair from a Cumulus member institution, who takes care of the group, its programme and its continuity with an inclusive attitude. We recommend that each group has two chairs from different member institutions, so that the work can continue in case of absence, and that the group itself designates or renews its chairs at least every three years. The chairs are supported by a key group of members regularly working for the CWG; ideally, at least five colleagues from five different member institutions.

CWGs are asked to carry out at least one activity per year. This can take different forms, according to the nature and resources of each group: a session during a Cumulus conference, an online meeting, a seminar or workshop, a publication, a joint project, or any other initiative under the umbrella of Cumulus. Groups are warmly encouraged to meet during the Cumulus conferences, where a session of about two hours is the common format, but no group will be penalised if, in a given year, it chooses other ways to work together.

When meeting during a conference, CWGs are invited to respond to the conference theme and to the local context, opening their sessions where possible to local guests and

communities, and to stakeholders from industry, NGOs and public bodies. Whenever feasible, sessions are accessible online to Cumulus members, and meeting times take into account the diversity of time zones.

Sharing outcomes

CWGs share their activities and outcomes with the Cumulus community, mainly through their dedicated page on the Cumulus website and the Cumulus media channels, in collaboration with the Secretariat. As the new Cumulus website becomes available, we recommend announcing meetings in advance on the group's page and sharing a short report after each activity, possibly within one month: pictures, videos, presentations, notes or summaries, according to the character of the session. Outcomes may also take the form of a reference list, a repository of case studies, an online course or a publication, including through the Cumulus Think Tank series.

How Cumulus supports the Working Groups

The Secretariat supports the groups in the organisation of their sessions during the conferences and in the communication of their activities. Each Working Group can also count on a member of the Cumulus Executive Board as its referent, who follows its work and connects it with the Board. Once a year, the President and the Cumulus Executive Board, together with the Secretariat, invite all Working Groups to an online meeting, to share experiences, needs and proposals, to encourage exchange and cross-fertilisation between the groups, and to explore new opportunities of collaboration within the Cumulus community. The Cumulus Think Tank Publication Grant is another opportunity to support the publication of the work of the groups, and the Board will consider further forms of support for their dissemination activities.

Life cycle of a Working Group

Cumulus Working Groups are approved by the Cumulus Executive Board, which also carries out a formal review of their activity every three years, while the annual meeting remains an occasion for exchange and coordination. A group that has not carried out any activity for two consecutive years will be considered inactive: after hearing its chairs, the Board may move it to the archive of past Working Groups. An archived group can be revived at any time by presenting a new plan of activities.

After this call, proposals for new Working Groups can be submitted at any time through the Cumulus website, and the Board will consider them at one of its meetings.

What to submit

Please send, in a maximum of 3,000 characters in total, the following information.

A. New Working Group: name; mission (field, focus, goals and expected outcomes, and how they fit within the Cumulus strategy); plan of activities for the next three years, including how the outcomes will be shared; chairs (name, short bio, member institution, country, email); key people (name, member institution, country, email), aiming at five colleagues from five different member institutions and a diversity of regions.

B. Existing Working Group – confirm and update: the same information, with a short account of the activities carried out in recent years and the plan for the coming three years.

C. Inactive Working Group – revive: the same information, with a short explanation of how the group intends to restart its work.

Deadline and next steps

Please send your proposal or update to applications@cumulusassociation.org by 15 January 2027. The Secretariat may contact the groups to complete or clarify their material. The Cumulus Executive Board will review all submissions and decide on the approval of the Working Groups at its first meeting after the deadline, with the right to suggest improvements, collaborations or mergers between groups with similar topics. The updated list of Cumulus Working Groups will then be published on the Cumulus website and presented to the members at the General Assembly in Glasgow in June 2027.

For more information, please contact the Cumulus Secretariat at contact@cumulusassociation.org.