

THE EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

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In a nutshell

1. Panels
2. Experts
3. Evaluation process
4. Evaluation criteria
5. Attribution of scores
6. Suggestions



1. Panels

Chemistry (CHE)
Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
Economic Sciences (ECO)
Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
Life Sciences (LIF)
Mathematics (MAT)
Physics (PHY)

Think about the right panel!

Not always self-evident – cf. interdisciplinarity.

In which field do you aim to make the most notable/innovative contribution?

In which discipline are you likely to find the experts who will see the merit of your work?

Motivate your choice of the panel.



2. Experts: selected from EC database covering all disciplines

- Experts must demonstrate a high level of expertise in their relevant fields (usually senior researchers with proven track record of excellence).
- Potential experts are required to register in central EC database.
- Experts are selected by the EC administration, chair and vice-chairs.
- Experts are invited to review a number of proposals (10-15). Experts can accept or decline individual proposals.

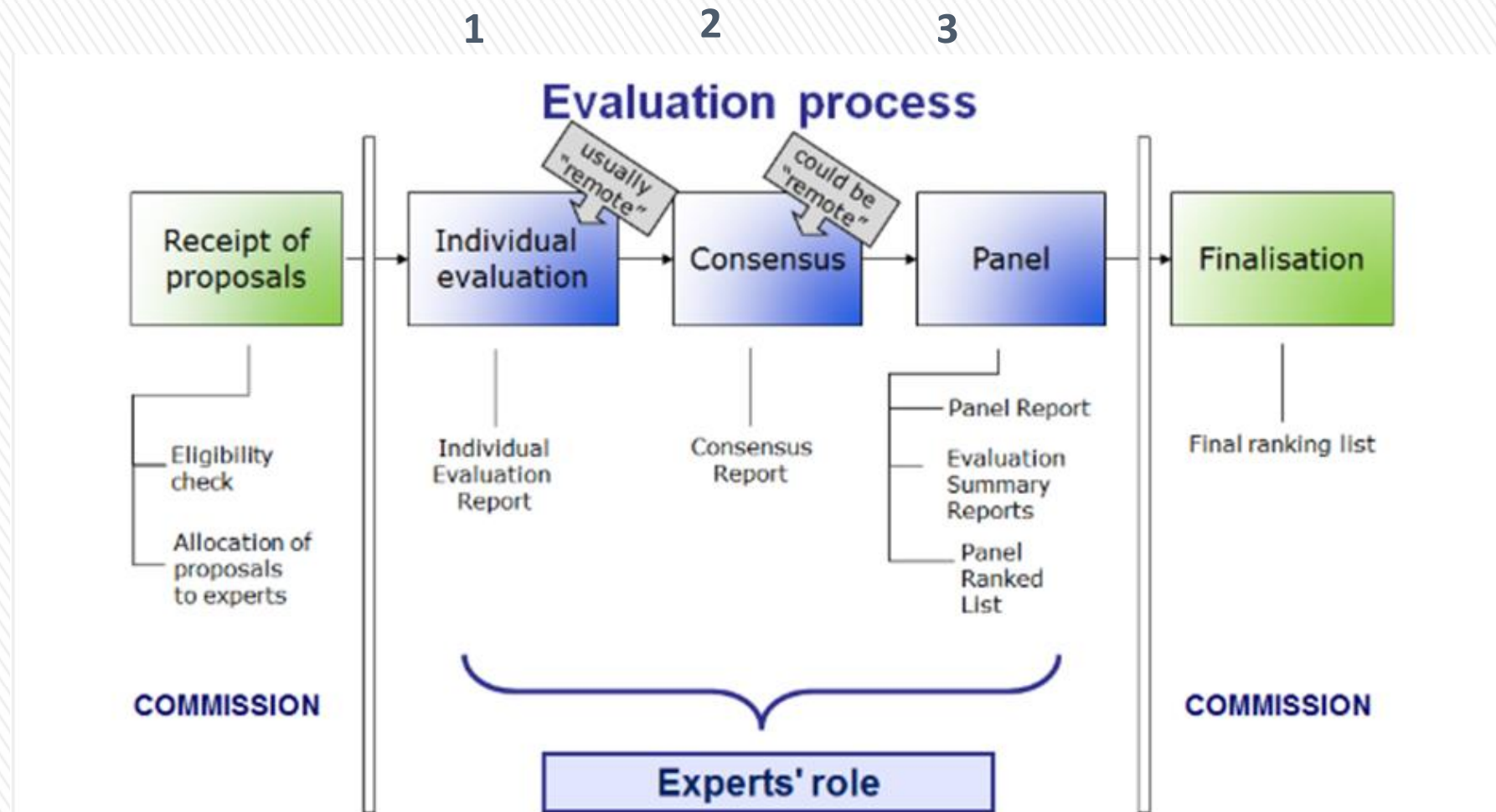
Briefing of Experts

Before starting the evaluation process, the experts are briefed on:

- the evaluation processes and procedures (including selection and award criteria);
- the content of the R&I topics under consideration;
- the terms of their contract (e.g. confidentiality, impartiality, conflicts of interest, completing tasks and approving reports, penalties for non-compliance);
- the need to evaluate proposals as they were submitted, rather than their potential should certain changes be made.

3. Evaluation process

General template for all H2020 applications (incl. MSCA):



Phase 1 — Individual evaluation (remote for MSCA)

- Each expert gives a score for a number of criteria, with explanatory comments, and prepares an ‘individual evaluation report’
- Reports are checked (usually by chair or vice-chair) for inconsistencies, inaccuracies and, if necessary, sent back to the expert for improvement

Phase 2 — Consensus group (remote for MSCA)

- The expert joins other experts who have evaluated the same proposal to agree on a common position, including comments and scores
- Each group is assisted by a moderator (usually a EC official) who:
 - seeks a consensus;
 - ensures that each proposal is evaluated fairly, according to the evaluation criteria.

Phase 3 — Panel review

- Administration, chair and vice-chair meet to reach an agreement on the scores and comments for all proposals, check consistency across the evaluations, resolve cases where evaluators were unable to agree, rank the proposals and give a priority order for proposals with the same score.

4. Evaluation criteria

For each of the three criteria, experts are asked to attribute a score (on 5)

For each of the ten sub-criteria, experts are asked to comment in clear and concise prose on:

- I. Strengths of the proposal
- II. Weaknesses of the proposal

IF: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships		
Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects	Enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results	Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution	Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
Potential of the researcher to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence during the fellowship		
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		
1	2	3
Priority in case of ex aequo		



CRITERION 1: EXCELLENCE (weight 50%)

Score: x/5

Sub-criterion 1.1

Quality and credibility of the research/innovation **project**; level of **novelty**, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects

Sub-criterion 1.2

Quality and appropriateness of the **training** and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host

Sub-criterion 1.3

Quality of the **supervision** and of the **integration** in the team/institution

Sub-criterion 1.4

Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of **professional maturity/independence**

Incl. **CV** and **track record** “in relation to the years of research experience”. What is an ‘excellent’ CV/what types of publications are valued most differs from discipline to discipline.



CRITERION 2: IMPACT (weight 30%)

Score: x/5

Sub-criterion 2.1 (*personal*)

Enhancing the potential and future **career prospects** of the researcher

Sub-criterion 2.2 (*academic*)

Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and **disseminate** the project results

Sub-criterion 2.3 (*societal*)

Quality of the proposed measures to **communicate** the project activities to different target audiences



CRITERION 3: IMPLEMENTATION (weight 20%)

Score: x/5

Sub-criterion 3.1

Coherence and effectiveness of **the work plan**, incl. the appropriateness of the allocation of **tasks and resources**

Sub-criterion 3.2

Appropriateness of the **management structure and procedures**, including risk management

Sub-criterion 3.3

Appropriateness of the **institutional environment** (infrastructure)



5. Attribution of scores

Experts score each criterion on a scale from 0 to 5 (half point scores may be given):

0 – Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1 – Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 – Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 – Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4 – Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5 – Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.



6. Suggestions

- Start early!
- Discuss project with supervisor/host and take feedback from colleagues.
- Think about innovative approach: avoid straightforward continuations of PhD diss. but build on its results and/or broaden/deepen on the basis of your current expertise (conceptually, methodologically, etc.).
- Address the right audience! You are writing for experts/peers (not laymen), but they may, of course, not all be specialists in every single aspect or detail of your topic/proposal. Be clear about definitions and intellectual premisses that you adopt.



- A good project text is also a rhetorical achievement – think of your proposal as an exercise in persuasion:
 - *'Inventio'* (heuristics): it all starts with a good idea, which may become more solid or more nuanced over time
 - *'Dispositio'* (structure): think about information distribution across your text. What to tell when? Make sure your text follows a logical argument and is internally consistent.
 - *'Elocutio'* (style):
 - Clarity: be explicit about your driving research hypothesis, methodological premisses, assumptions, etc.
 - Write correct English!



Thank you

&

good luck!

Sources

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