

MSCA Staff Exchange

Perspectives from an Expert Evaluator

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The evaluator's role is to assess proposals allocated to them
against **pre-defined evaluation criteria**,
making sure that **the proposal complies with the requirements**
which are specific for MSC action
under which a proposal is submitted.

Evaluators are:

Independent → assess proposals on a personal basis

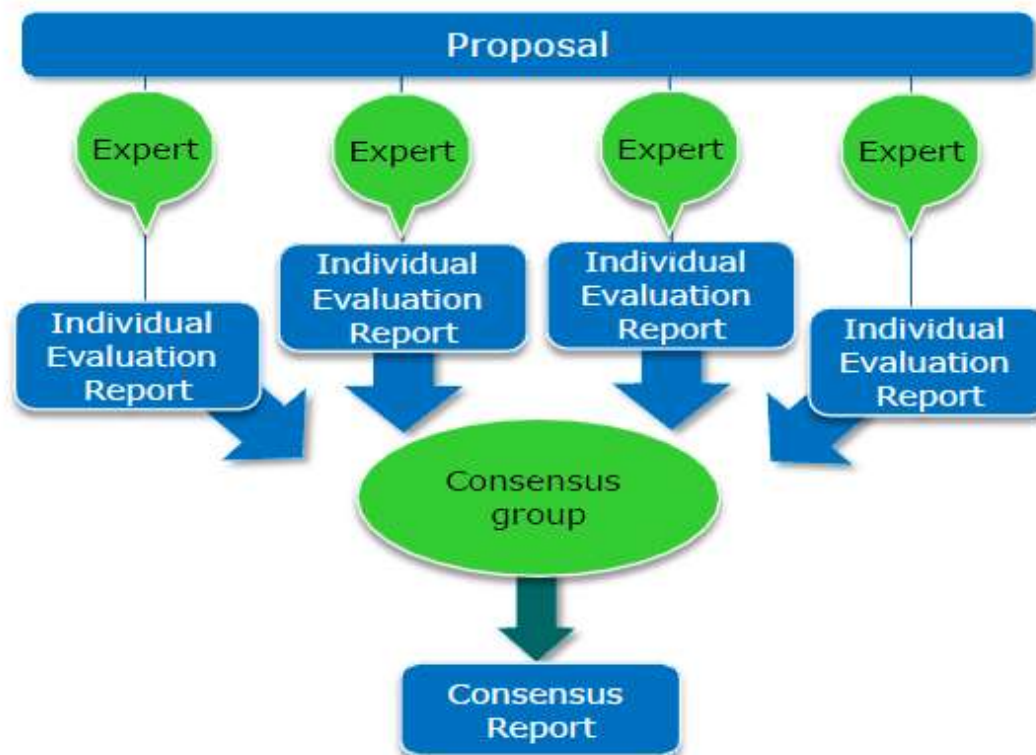
Impartial → evaluators treat all proposals equally and evaluate them impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants

Objective → assess each proposal as submitted not on its potential if certain changes were to be made

Accurate → make their judgment against the official evaluation criteria of the call the proposal addresses, and nothing else

Consistent → apply the same standard of judgment to all proposals

Trained by the EC on how to evaluate proposals according to the defined principles



Proposal is a writing exercise to answer four questions:

What? – research&innovation + transfer of knowledge

Who? – research team

Why? – impact

How? – implementation

What? research&innovation:

- Provide clear introduction
- The state of the art must clearly describe current work in the field, and links to the research proposed.
- An innovation statement needs to clearly describe how your research will advance the field, and the possible outcomes.
- Research methodology needs to be well described, research outcomes – specified.

What? transfer of knowledge :

- The transfer of knowledge (ToK) plan should clearly present how it addresses knowledge and capability gaps of the participants, and how it links in with the skills development of the staff involved
- All KoT activities should link directly to the needs of the research
- Secondment plan should be link to the ToK
- Focus on the outcomes of the knowledge transfer: benefit for the participants and European/global competences.
- Provide a concrete plan of secondments and knowledge being transferred, and how it relates to knowledge gaps, skills development, and research programme

Who? team:

- Present a clear statement why about why each participant in the consortium is necessary and is highly qualified to participate.
- Introduce each participant (Part B1 + Part B2), underline its expertise and competences.
- The consortium partners have complementarity, that is, they each have a necessary activity in research and in the knowledge transfer.

Table B5: Organisations (beneficiaries and partners) data

Beneficiary (Organisations in EU MS/AC) Legal Name	
General Description	
Role and Profile of key people	Include names, qualifications of the person(s) s
Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment	Demonstrate that the team has sufficient resour environment to seconded staff and to significant research/innovation activities proposed.
Independent research premises?	Please explain the status of the beneficiary's res they owned by the beneficiary or rented by it? A wholly independent from other beneficiaries and in the consortium?
Previous Involvement in Research and innovation projects	Describe relevant research/ innovation projects took part
Current involvement in Research and Innovation projects	Describe relevant research/ innovation projects is currently participating
Publications and/or research/innovation products	Max 5

Why? - impact:

- Impact on the European level should be linked to declared EU development goals
- Impact on the careers and organisations of those involved need to be specific.
- Impact on the public and scientific community needs details: what journals, what conferences, what public events, for what audience, and for what outcome.
- Three types of expected impact need to be addressed scientific, economic/technological, and societal.

How? - implementation:

- Work packages and tasks have timings, dependencies, outcomes, and rationale linked to the research programme.
- Require resources and staff are defined for work packages/tasks.
- Secondments are linked to work packages and/or tasks
- Proposal clearly addresses issues of quality management and risk management, and how unforeseen challenges will be addressed (risk are identified, and contingency measures are provided)
- Check all the numbers twice (secondments, person months, participants involved). Avoid discrepancies between Part A and Part B.

General tips

- **Keep it simple.** Write for two levels of audience: an expert in the domain, and an intelligent researcher from different field. Keep sentences short.
- **Address all criteria** by name required by the call text.
- **Be clear and concise.** Write in thesis style. *“The proposal is innovative. It will advance the state of the art by...”*
- **Be specific.** Provide necessary details of every activity/tasks: who, when, where, how, why: for what purpose/outcome/impact.
- **Keep the page limit** (do not cheat by reducing margins, font size, etc.).

Conclusions:

- Read the call carefully and make a list of all issues to be explicitly addressed. Do not miss any requirement (as defined in the call)
- Be realistic about goals, deliverables and impacts.
- Keep it simple. Use thesis style.
- Check the consistency (numbers!) between Part A and Part B.

Thank you!



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