

Evaluating EU Projects



Ute Linz

Evaluating EU Projects

- overview •

How to become an EU evaluator?

What are the tasks of an EU evaluator?

What happens after a proposal is submitted?

What is special in INFRASTRUCTURE projects?

Evaluating EU Projects

• registration with Cordis •

The call for experts for the seventh framework programme has been launched. Please see the EC Official Journal [2006/C 305/16](#) (for individuals) and [2006/C 305/17](#) (for organisations) for further information.

The personal data collected in the context of the present call will be processed in accordance with the Regulation (EC) n° 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies on the free movement of such data.

Click [here](#) to view the privacy statement.

For further information and help, please look at our Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQ](#) Last Update: 2008-07-09) or contact the [Helpdesk for expert registration](#) if the FAQ does not provide the answer.

Register

- [New Expert](#)
Click here to register for FP7 / non-FP activities
- [New Organisation](#)
Click here to register as an organisation

Existing Expert / Organisation / Member State

If you are already registered as an FP6 / FP7 / Non-FP expert, organisation or member state please log in here. Existing FP6 experts wishing to register for FP7 activities also log in here.

Entering a wrong password three times will block your account; hence please use the password reminder facility if you are unsure of your password.

Username * :

Password * :

<https://cordis.europa.eu/emmfp7/>

Evaluating EU Projects

- appointment conditions •



independent

free of conflict of interest



Evaluating EU Projects

• evaluation tasks I •

Review, analyze and rank proposals

Provide written reports on given criteria

Defend scores against co-evaluators

Formulate consensus reports as "rapporteur"

Make suggestions for negotiations of EC with applicants



Evaluating EU Projects

• evaluation tasks II •



5-10 proposals/evaluator (IE)

3-10 evaluators/proposal

3-10 individual reports/proposal (IER)

(mostly)
remote

1 consensus report/proposal (CR)

ranking of proposals in subpanel

ranking of proposals in panel

(mostly)
in
Brussels



Evaluating EU Projects

- evaluation criteria •



min. requirement

Scientific & Technical Quality

3/5

Implementation

3/5

Impact

3/5

} stage 1 of 2

Threshold for further consideration, $\Sigma \geq 10/15$

Realistic chance to get funding, $\Sigma > 12/15$



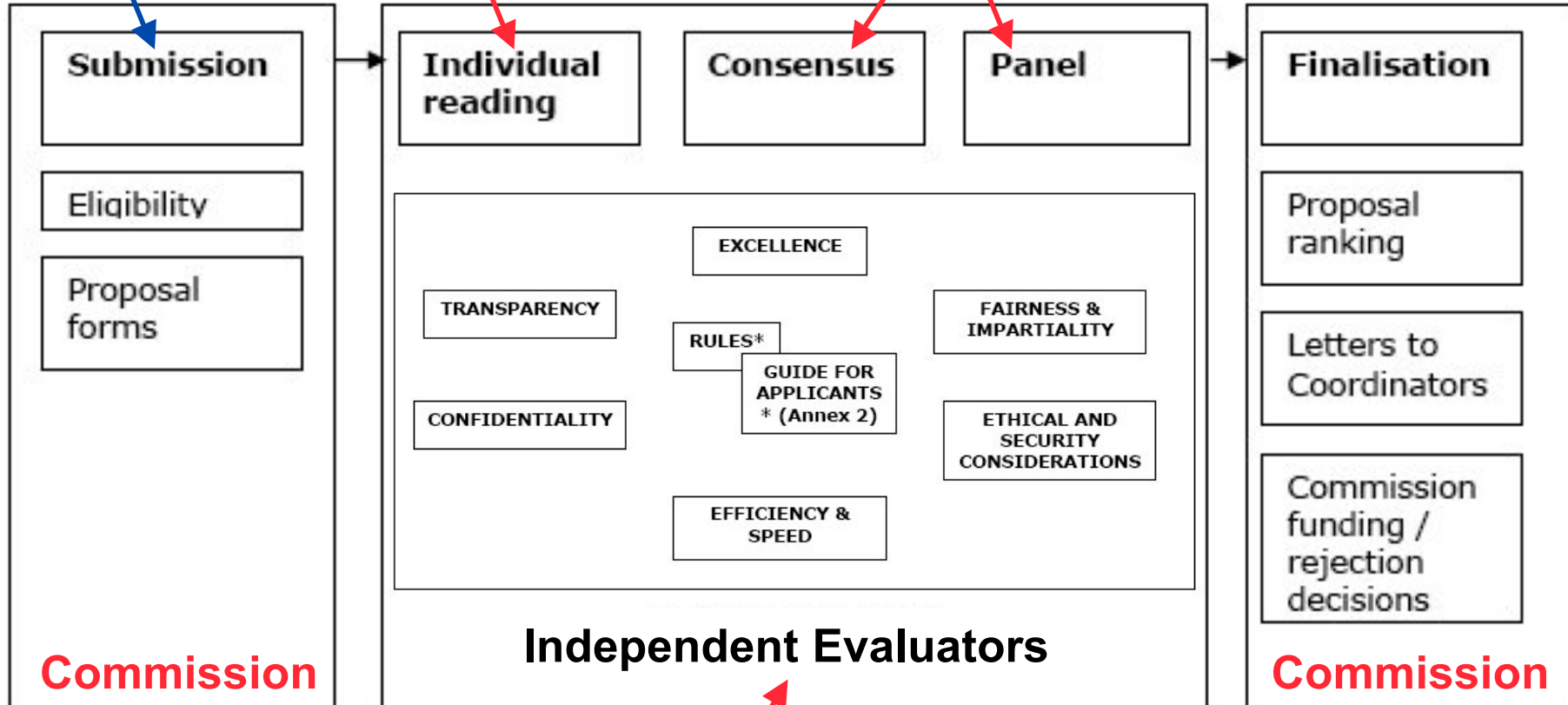
Evaluating EU Projects

• evaluation procedure I •

**Project
Coordinator**

off-site

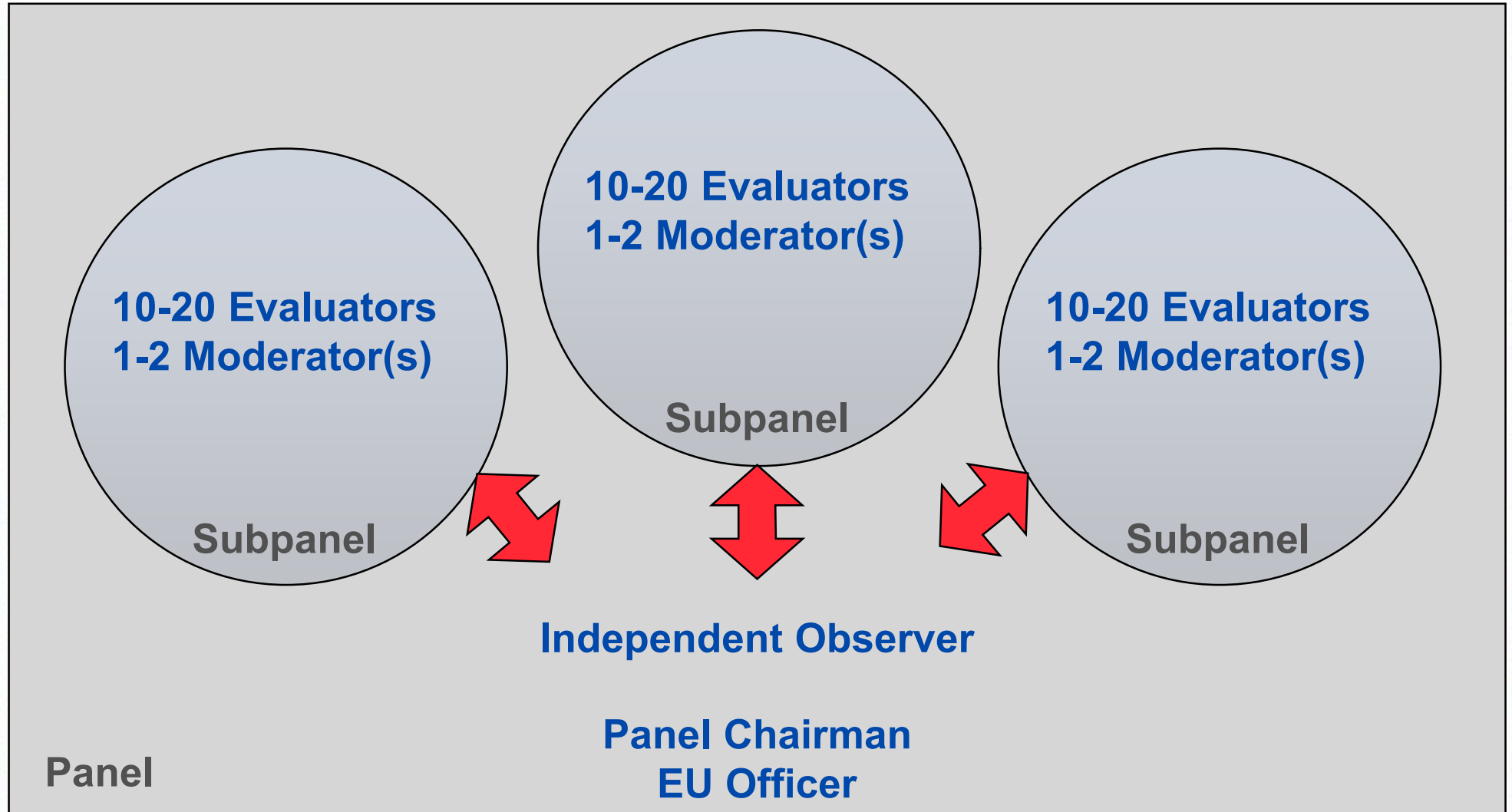
Brussels



**Scientific Experts
moderated by Commission**

Evaluating EU Projects

- on-site evaluation in Brussels •



Evaluating EU Projects

- check list for evaluators •

How well do I know the field?

How well do I know the applicants?

Do I have the necessary distance?

Are all proposals evaluated by the same standards?
parameters: PM/partner, Euro/PM, SMEs, F/M

Are the standards appropriate and fair?
score "average" 5 vs. 3, science vs. cost

Is there need for change after reading the reports of co-evaluators?

How much willingness to compromise is necessary and justified?



Evaluating EU Projects

• project types •

- **Collaborative Project: R&D, Demonstrators, Education, TNA**
(LS) Integrating Projects (CP-IP) 6-12 Mio Euro
(SMS) Focused Res. Projects (CP-FP) 3-6 Mio Euro
- **Coordination and Support Action: Networking, Guidelines,**
CSA-CA or CSA-SA ≤1 Mio Euro

1- or
2-stage

-
- **Networks of Excellence: European networks,**
virtual research centers, NoE
 - **Joint Technology Initiatives: industry-oriented projects, PPP**
 - **Coordination of non-Community Research Programmes**
ERA-Net

Evaluating EU Projects

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Infrastructure

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ERA-Net

Evaluating EU Projects

• Example 1 •

Proposal not in English or poorly translated

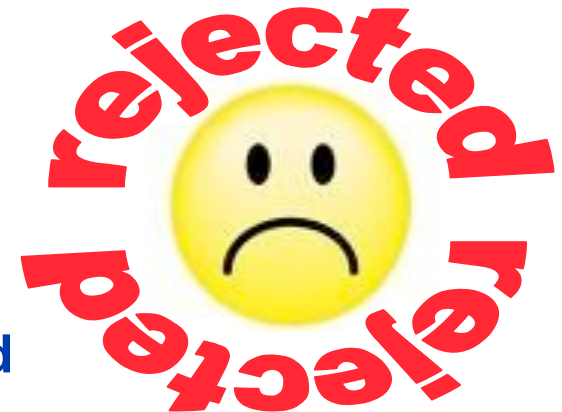
Inappropriate project structure: exaggerated or underdesigned management structure

Cooperation partners: unknown or not contacted

Independence or existence of institution doubtful:

Coordinator with 3 "hats"

Italian SME with Russian website



Evaluating EU Projects

• Example 2 •

Project fits the Call!

Consortium represents major groups in the field

Partners complement each other (added value)

Proposal consistent in content, language and form

Realistic assessment (staff, equipment, time, risk)

Balanced work load ($\geq 10\%$)

Clear guidelines to exploit and protect results and intellectual property

High-level publications, good media presentation, training and education



Evaluating EU Projects

• Example 3 •

Research topic: up-to-date, but scientifically controversial

Extremely divergent evaluations with persisting discrepancies after discussion due to different knowledge/background and differing scientific views

Overruling well-founded, severe/fundamental criticism

Increasing the score in the absence of the critic

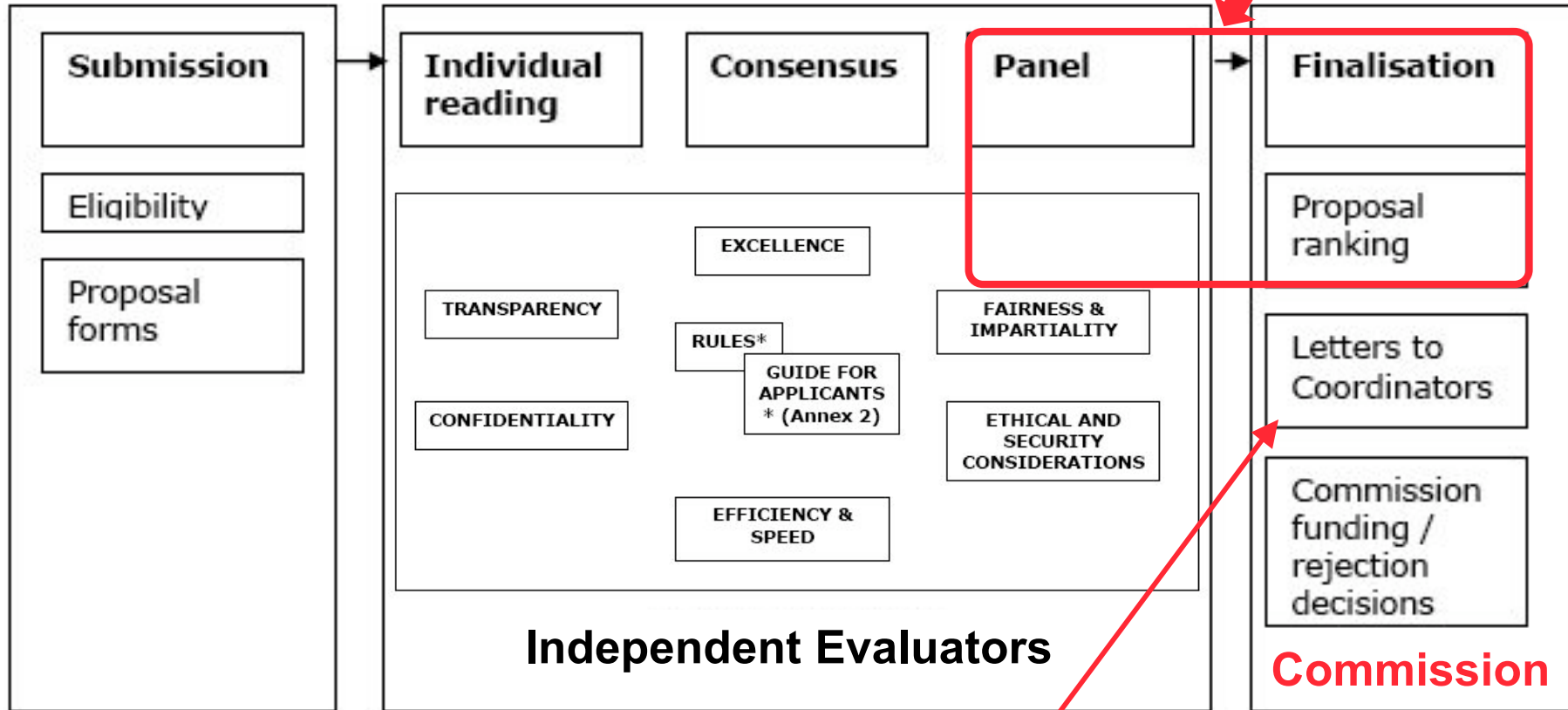
No mention of the severe criticism in the CR



Evaluating EU Projects

• evaluation procedure II •

decision making process lacks transparency



Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluating EU Projects

- considerations for I3 projects •

Consortium

critical mass, excellence, complementarity

6-10 partners

≥ 1 SME

work load per partner ≥10%

Distribution of resources:

Joined research activities/JRA 40-50%

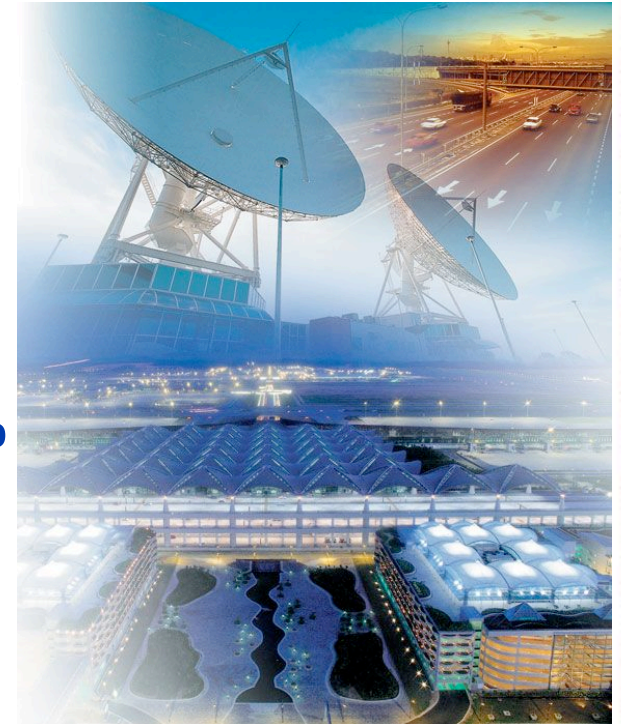
Transnational access/TNA 20-30%

Networking activities/NA 20%

Management < 10%

Additional entities:

External Advisory Board



Evaluating EU Projects

• role of management •

Ensure

- coordination of project activities
- progress control of work packages
- quality control
- economic efficiency
- routine decision making
- mastering difficult situations
- redirection strategies

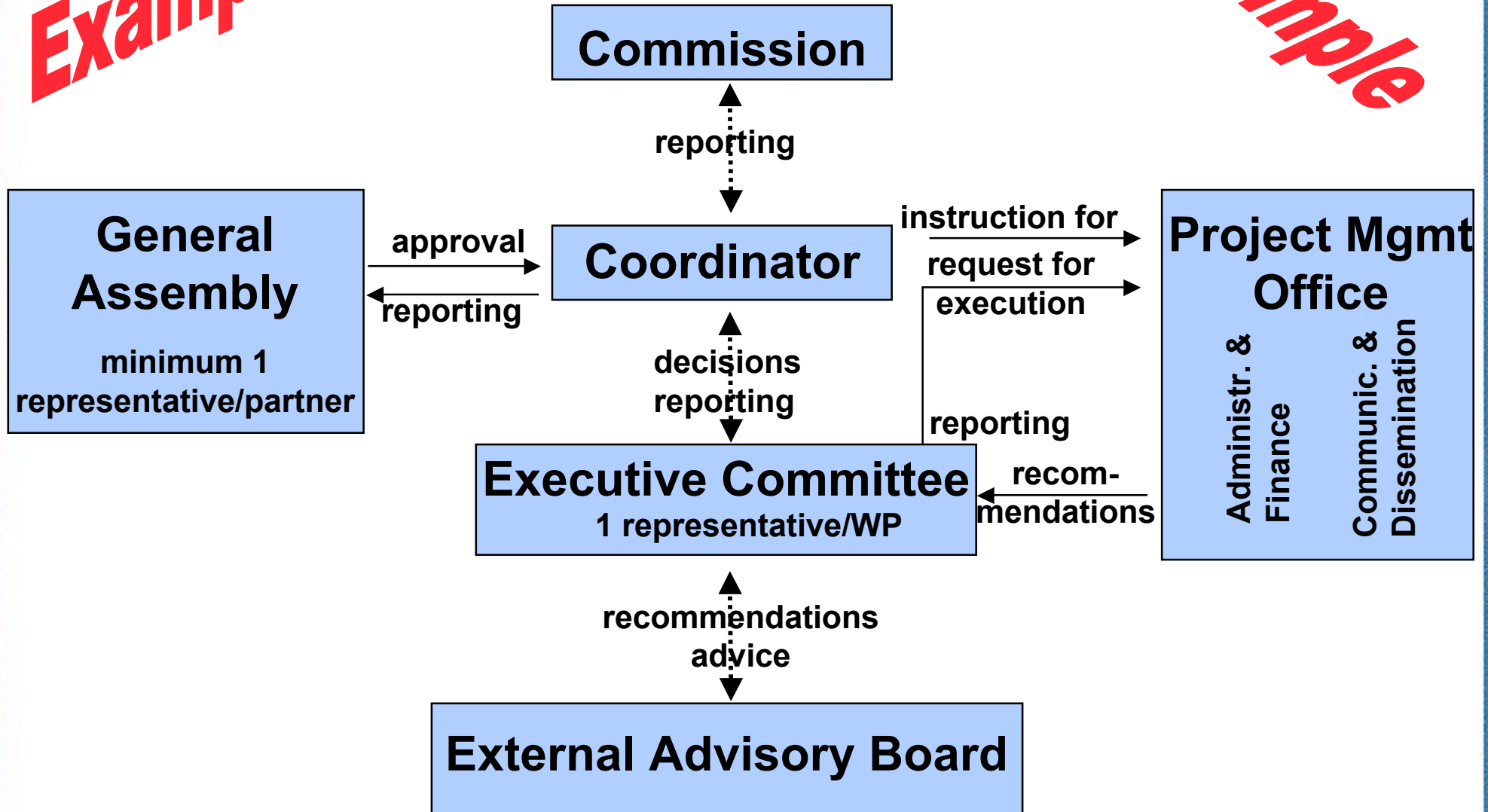


Evaluating EU Projects

- management structure •

Example

Example



Evaluating EU Projects

- check list for applicants •

Does the project fit the Call?

Is the proposal concise and convincing?

Is the work load evenly distributed among project partners?

Does the composition of the consortium meet the requirements (no. of countries, industry, SMEs)?

Does the management structure fit the size of the project?

Are the budget requests realistic (cost/PM)?

Are the numbers consistent in all parts of the proposal?

Are ethical issues taken care of?



Evaluating EU Projects

• pro and con evaluation process •



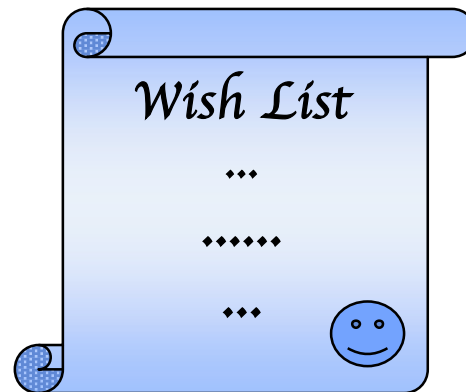
- International mix of scientists
- Struggling for scientific excellence
- Striving for fairness and objectivity
- Clear evaluation criteria
- Electronic support by RIVET
- Quality assurance (evaluating the evaluation)
- Choice of evaluators: home country vs. expertise
- Evaluation under time pressure
- Different personal evaluation standards
- Decision making after the evaluation rounds (Hearings, Panels, “Speakers”)
- Rule violations without consequences (format and budget limits)
- Inflated system (Observer, Panel Chairman)
- Lacking feedback (results of prior projects, final funding list)

Evaluating EU Projects

• wish list •

For applicants

- read the Call carefully!
- use self-explanatory graphs rather than lengthy text
- provide only relevant information rather than lifetime achievements



For evaluators

- careful consideration of reports of co-evaluators
- self criticism (knowing one's limits)

For EC

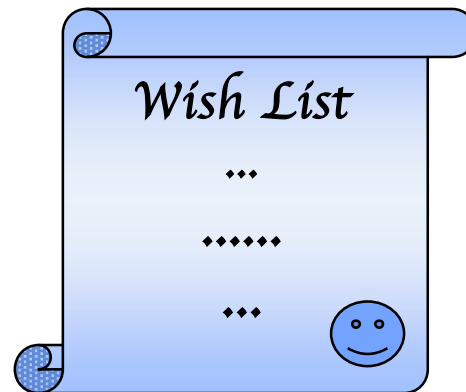
- information on prior projects for follow-up proposals
- guidelines for management structure and justification for deviations
- web presentations from templates
- improve selection and briefing of evaluators
- allocation formula for funding rather than pseudo-scientific competition between fields (Astronomy vs. Medicine)
- no retroactive change of scores
- consider minority votes

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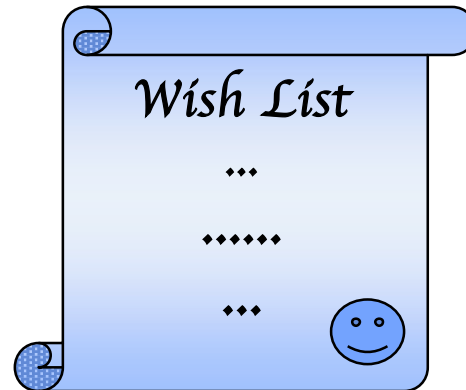
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Evaluating EU Projects

• gender aspects •

Women on evaluation boards:

routinely $\leq 25\%$

lacking availability?

lacking expertise?

Women in projects:

gender action plan required

not an official criterium

but can become an issue as tiebreak

New affirmative actions in FP7:

project extension possible in case of pregnancy or maternity leave (w/o additional allowance?)

*WE'RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE
BETTER GENDER
BALANCE...*



Evaluating EU Projects

- reimbursement •



Off-site evaluation

225-450 Euros/proposal

On-site evaluation

450 Euros/day

Allowance in Brussels

92 Euros/day



Evaluating EU Projects

• for further information •



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