



*Sharing Expertise*

## Selection process and assessment methods

Project applications and assessment in European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

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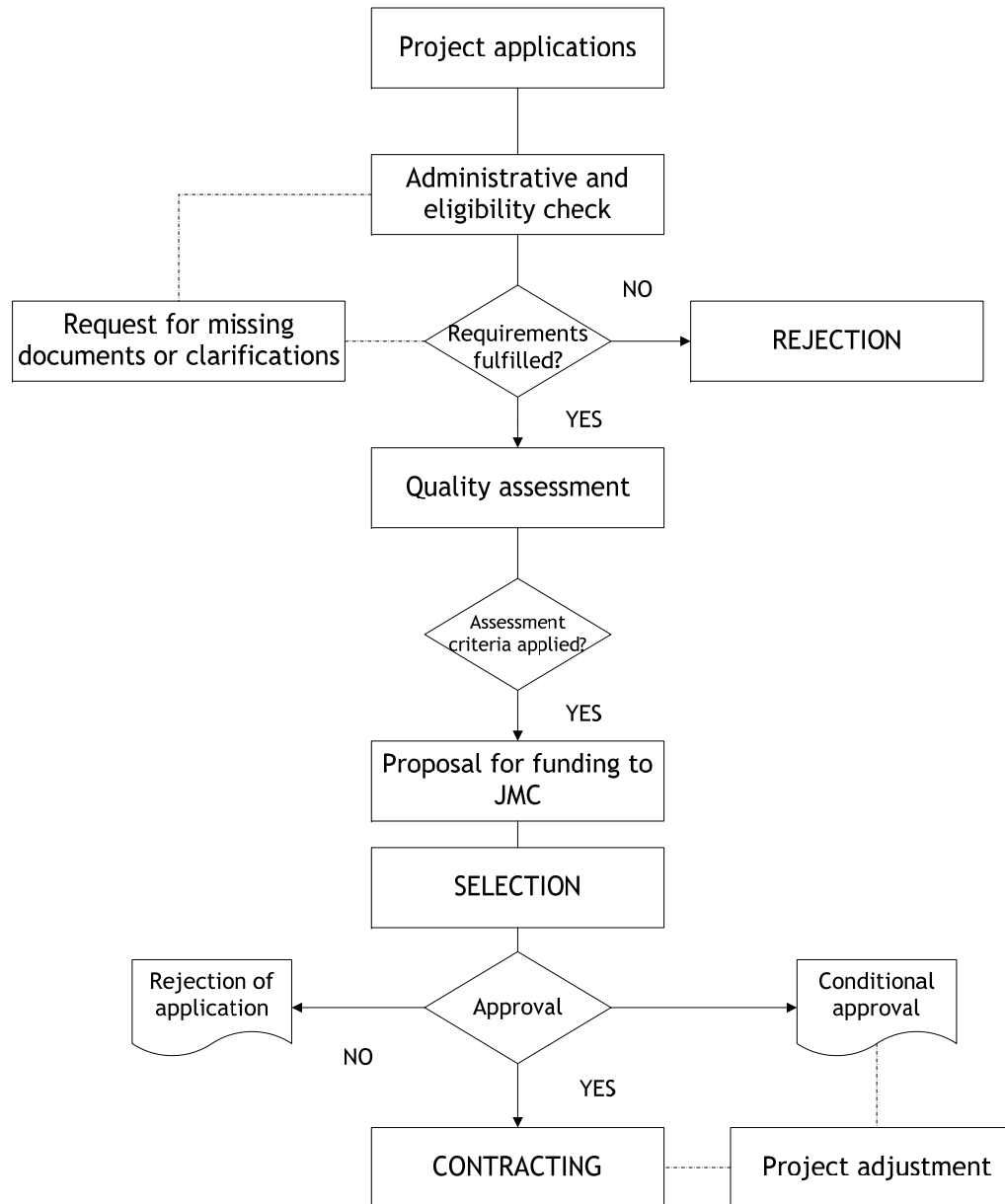
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## Selection process and assessment methods:

1. Selection process.
2. Is the project admissible?
3. Eligibility check.
4. Quality assessment.
5. Types of decisions.
6. Final documentation.

# GENERAL SELECTION PROCESS





## Why selection process?

To select high quality projects.

To discourage low quality ones.

To secure programme success!



PROJECT IN



- Was the project application received on time?
  - Is essential information missing?



LETTER OF RECEIPT



## Eligibility check - basics:

- Done by the JTS.
- Regards all the projects.
- Intended as a quick “yes” and “no” check.
- Projects rejected at this stage - not viewed by the MSC.
- Should be completed fairly quickly but...



## Some eligibility criteria may have quality implications:

- The base for quality considerations.
- Insufficient observations might be further confirmed/rejected under the quality check.
- Eligibility criteria - a signal of the programme's interest.



## Most common reasons of rejection at this stage:

- LP/partner not eligible.
- Activities are carried outside the eligible area.
- Lack of the documentation required.
- Submission after the deadlines.



## Quality assessment:

- Applied by core selection criteria.
- Carried out by the JTS; external experts, combination of both, sometimes by SC members.
- A recommendation is formed.
- Decision taken by SC.
- A letter is sent to the LP.
- The Secretariat or MA draws up a Contract.



## Examples of caring out the assessment:

By numerical scales (example)

Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
1 - poor / very poor	-2 - very poor	0 - insufficient
2 - fair / poor	-1 - poor	1 - sufficient
3 - good / adequate	0 fair	3 - appropriate
4 - very good / good	+1 - good	5 - completely appropriate
5 - excellent	+2 - excellent	



## Examples of caring out the assessment: Weighting and thresholds

Criterion	Max score	Weighting	Final Score
<b>CONTENT-RELATED CRITERIA</b>			
Relevance	10	x3	30
Contribution / consistency	10	x1	10
Value	10	x4	40
Outcomes	10	x4	40
Horizontal issues	10	x1	10
<b>IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED CRITERIA</b>			
Partnership / management	10	x1	10
Methodology (work plan)	10	x3	30
Budget	10	x2	20
Communication	10	x1	10
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>200</b>
<b>QUALITY THRESHOLD (65 %)</b>			<b>130</b>



## Examples of caring out the assessment:

By qualitative scales

Criteria	H	M	L	Comments
Contribution to transnational regional development			X	The project does not apply a comprehensible transnational approach as most of the pilot project activities contribute to limited urban but not transnational regional development. The actions taken to deliver an EU level Agenda are not convincing, benefits generated are not clearly defined.



## The final goal:

- Approve projects that suit the programme's goal.
- Secure transfer between preparation group and SC.
- The base for decision-making.
- SC aware of the implications of their decisions.

What to do in cases where decisions largely overturn recommendation?



## 4 types of decisions:

- Approval.
- Approval with conditions.
- Rejection with a recommendation to re-apply.
- Rejection.



## Approval with conditions:

- When afraid to loose applicants.
- Not having sufficient projects in the pipeline.
- Seen as a “life-saver” .
- Some reluctance to have conditional approvals.
- Strict procedure.

*Don't forget the de-commitment clock is ticking!*



## Recommendation to re-apply:

- The project's idea is good but there are concerns with:
  - Management structure.
  - Partnership structure.
  - Cooperation element.
  - Outputs delivered.
  - Proportionality of work to budget requested.
  - Other...

Clear rejection to “bad” projects



## Common reasons for rejection:

- Project idea versus programme and/or local/regional/national policies.
- Lack of cooperation.
- Weak partnership/management structures.
- Project results versus budget requested.
- No clear description of activities.
- Lack of links between activities and results.
- Project is a repetition.



## Sent to applicants:

- Decision of the SC.
- Reasons for the decision.
- Full text of the assessment.
- The new procedure (if conditional approval).
- Recommendation to re-apply.



## Subsidy Contracts/ Grant Offer Letters:

- Sent by the MA or the JTS.
- Covers the need to comply with rules and regulations.
- Allows projects to carry out the approved activities.
- Extra activities need advance approval.
- Timeframe.
- Implications of delays.