



INTERact

Sharing Expertise

Assessment criteria and links to application form

Project applications and assessment in European Territorial Cooperation Programmes

18 -19 February 2010 | Venice, Italy



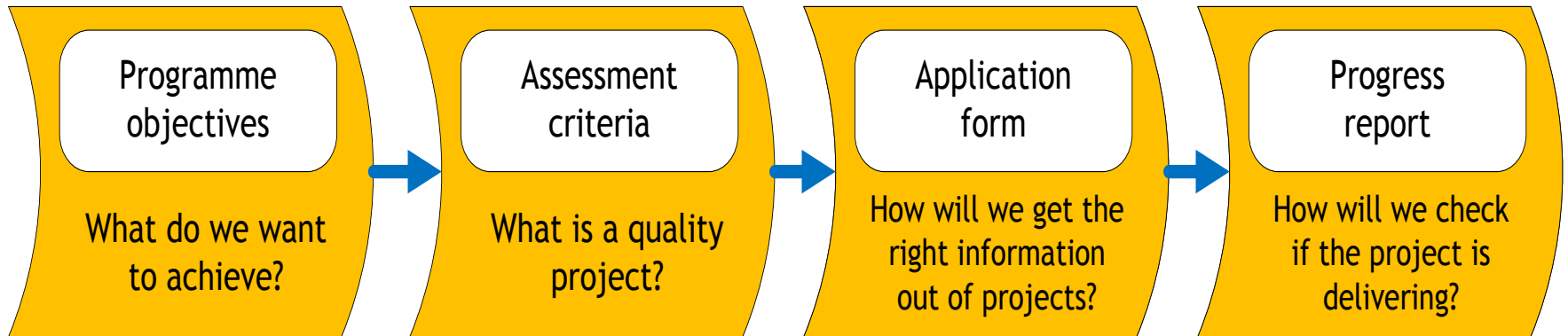


The scope

1. The process
2. Application and assessment methodology
3. Core assessment questions
4. Core assessment criteria & links to application form
 - a) Content related
 - b) Implementation related



The process



Finding the right balance between focus and need for details!



Application and assessment methodology

- The way of asking questions (“is it” versus “how is it”)
- Clear difference between questions (what is required in each section, not to repeat answers)
- Coherent terminology (objective, goal, aim)
- User-friendly terminology
- Language issues (both for CB, EN, multiple)
- Overview tools (tables, summaries)
- Space limits
- Technical format

Can we KISS?



Assessment questions - How to ask?

- a) Is the project contributing to the achievement of the programme's objectives?
- b) To what extent is the project contributing to the achievement of the programme's objectives?

- c) Is there a clear description of results?
- d) Are results clearly defined, realistic and precisely quantified?
- e) To what extent are the proposed results relevant to the achievement of programme's objectives?

- a) Does a project have a time plan?
- b) Is the time plan realistic and have any potential difficulties and delays been correctly assessed?



Assessment questions - How to ask?

- a) To what extent ...?
- b) In how far does the project ...?
- c) How well ...?
- d) How significant ...?
- e) Is there any evidence that ...?
- f) Is it demonstrated how the project will ...?
- g) What evidence is there that ...?



Core assessment questions

1. Is the project relevant?
2. What will be delivered?
3. Is the project feasible?

Does the project make sense?



Core assessment criteria

CONTENT-RELATED CRITERIA	IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED CRITERIA
Relevance	Partnership / Management
Contribution / Consistency	Methodology (work plan)
Value	Budget
Outcomes	Communication
Horizontal issues	



CONTENT-RELATED CRITERIA



Relevance

How and why is the project relevant to the programme / programme area?

- ⇒ Background
- ⇒ Target groups
- ⇒ Objectives

WHAT? WHY? FOR WHOM?



Contribution / Consistency

How will the project contribute to the wider objectives?

⇒ **Strategies and policies**: Cohesion policy; Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas; national, regional, local strategies and policies; EU policies

⇒ **Other programmes**

⇒ **Other projects**



Value

How valuable is the project for the programme area?
Where does it make a difference?

⇒ **Added value**: in terms of investment, in terms of innovation, of the cooperation, of the partnership, to the completed projects

⇒ **Cooperation element** (need, durability, value)

⇒ **Innovative approach** (character and/or outcomes) -
Could all projects have innovative aspects?



Outcomes

Will the project deliver useful outcomes contributing to the programme's objectives?

⇒ **Outcomes** - outputs, results, impacts

⇒ **Indicators** - quantitative and/or qualitative indicators



Outcomes and indicators links

Priority result	Project result	Project result indicators
<p>Strengthened international performance of innovation sources and improved links to SMEs</p>	<p>Increased transnational research activity of SME employers in different fields of energy techniques in the project area</p>	<p>Number of entrepreneurs and SME employers taking part in transnational research and development projects carried out by the R&D organisations participating in the project</p>
		<p>Increased amount of transnational research or development projects in the participating R&D organisations designed in co-operation with SMEs</p>



Horizontal issues

Are the project activities in line with horizontal issues?

- ⇒ **Equal opportunities and non-discrimination**
- ⇒ **Sustainable development**
- ⇒ **Area specific** - mountain, maritime etc.
- ⇒ **Other** - human resource development, innovation, information and communication technology



IMPLEMENTATION-RELATED CRITERIA



Partnership / Management

Is the partnership competent to deliver envisaged outcomes?

⇒ **Partners and partnership** (experiences, relevance, involvement)

⇒ **Project management** (structures, procedures)



Methodology (work plan)

Will the chosen methodology enable successful implementation of the project?

- ⇒ Strategy and methodology
- ⇒ Work packages and activities
- ⇒ Time plan

NEEDED, LOGICAL, FEASIBLE



Budget

Is the budget requested in reasonable relation with proposed outcomes?

Budget details

- Per WP, per partner, per period, per budget line
- Separately for: ERDF, IPA and/or ENPI partners and partners outside programme area or EU
- Budget for activities implemented outside EU or eligible area
- Budget explanation / justification - if needed

Budget lines



Communication

Will the project be effectively communicated?

Consistency of communication activities

- Project theme
- Target groups needs
- Proposed activities
- Proposed outcomes

Communication strategy

- Communication objectives
- Target audiences of the project and their main messages
- Communication tools and actions
- Evaluation tools



Discussion

- What are the main challenges when assessing the topic and/or developing questions in the application form in your programme? → Feedback: max three per group
- Do you have an interesting example in your programme of how do you approach this topic? → Feedback: one example per group
- Is there any other aspect (assessment or application question) that cannot be found in the categories presented and you consider as important?



Discussion - topics

Relevance

- How to assess to what extent is project contributing to the achievement of programme objectives?
- To what extent is it necessary for a project to include target groups already at the project development stage?

Value

- What do you consider as added value of the cooperation project?
- Do all projects need innovative aspects?



Discussion - topics

Outcomes

- What to do if the chosen indicators do not correspond with the proposed activities and outcomes?
- What do you do if the indicator targets are too high or too low?

Partnership / Management

- How much information is needed to assess if it is the right partnership for the proposed project?
- How detailed should be the description of management procedures and structures to be certain that the partnership will work well together?



Discussion - topics

Budget

- How detailed should be the budget?
- How can you effectively assess project budget (methods, tools)?

Communication

- Could excessive communication also be a problem?
- Do you encourage the use of innovative and progressive communication techniques? Which?
- Should be the target groups the same as in relevance or somebody needs to be added (general public)?