Strategic orientations in selection process

'Ideal' selection process:

- technically simple (online, straight forward language towards applicants, EU jargon to be avoided)

- transparent

- well governed (possibility to submit questions, reasonable time for replies, appeal procedures in place etc.)

- establishing clear rules of procedures, which allow efficient and timely decision making

- clear tasks distribution: what should be decided at MA level and what should be decided at monitoring/steering committee level

Strategic choices

❑ Competitive/non-competitive (actions in sectors where only a certain type of operators is mandated e.g navigation on the Danube)

❑ Open call (with/without deadline)

❑ Targeted call (with/without deadline)

❑ One step/two steps procedure

Questions to ask:

❖ Do we want many applications or do we prefer less but higher quality? How to find the right balance?

❖ How to reduce the duration of the evaluation process and its costs?

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General considerations on the process

❑ Information/guidance to applicants

❑ Calendar and duration of the calls

❑ Budget for the calls

❑ Assessment (appointment, training and guidance)

❑ Procedure for arbitration in cases of important divergences between assessors

❑ Monitoring Committee decision-making (guidance, capacity building, support from DG REGIO programme manager)

❑ Effective appeal procedures

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Publicity of the calls / Attracting new partners

❑Use of several targeted tools to promote a call to potential applicants

❑Involvement of multipliers (e.g Chambers of Commerce, networks, associations, NGOs and online tools)

❑Use programme partners to circulate information on upcoming calls within their networks

❑Use of Technical Assistance for capacity building actions
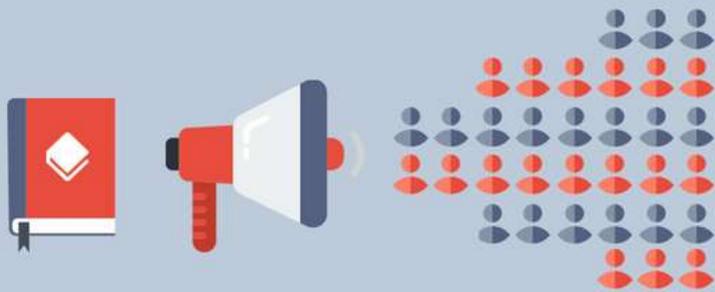
Guidance to applicants

- ❏ Simple in form
- ❏ Precise
- ❏ Clear
- ❏ Different communication channels to consider
- ❏ Availability of experts to reply questions
- ❏ Transparency – all Q&As published
- ❏ Effective and transparent appeal procedure
- ❏ Logical
- ❏ Good design
- ❏ Based on ex post evaluations (taking into account feedback)

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Who should assess?

Internal:

✓ Understanding Interreg

✓ Knowledge of the programme specific objectives

✓ Committed

✓ Available
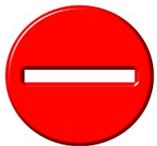
✓ Risk of being not impartial

✓ Lack of sectoral experience

✓ Capacity issues

External:

✓ Specialised knowledge

✓ Independence (not guaranteed)

✓ Different perspective

✓ anonymous to the applicants
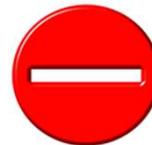
✓ Limited knowledge of territorial cooperation and programme

✓ focus on their expertise area

✓ Costs and availability

Decisive criteria, scoring and weighting system

INTERact EUROPEAN UNION

Events

Event Details

Focus on selection! Vol 1 - building blocks

Thursday, 12 May, 2022
Online 10:30 - 15:00 CET

European Commission

ECA SR 14/2021: Interreg V-A for internal-border regions

Recommendation 2: Prioritise and award support to projects based on merit using scores

Selection procedures: Good and weak practice examples

A transparent and structured selection procedure

- Participating regions develop a list of experts in each area of support;
- Each project is assessed by four external experts, two from each Member State;
- The cross border effect is assessed by the two external experts and one staff member from the JS;
- The cross border cooperation is evaluated by two staff members of the JS, one from each Member State;
- Projects must achieve an overall minimum threshold of 70 % of the total score, including a minimum of 70 % in some specific areas;
- The JS ranks the projects in terms of points gained; and
- Submits them to the monitoring committee for selection.

A vague selection procedure

- Procedure carried out on a continuous basis, without competitive calls;
- The programme authorities did not score the applications, but assessed their 'adequacy' against a few qualitative criteria;
- A project proposal was rejected as 'inadequate' when 'The applicant has provided incomplete or insufficient responses against many of the listed evidence requirements thereby demonstrating an unacceptable level of risk'; and
- As a result, it was not possible to rank the projects based on their merit and priority.

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Decision-making process

❑ Consensus versus majority when voting

❑ Threshold on quality criteria

❑ Ranking (recommendation ECA)

❑ Managing conflict of interest

❑ Practical application of partnership at this stage

Our main recommendation
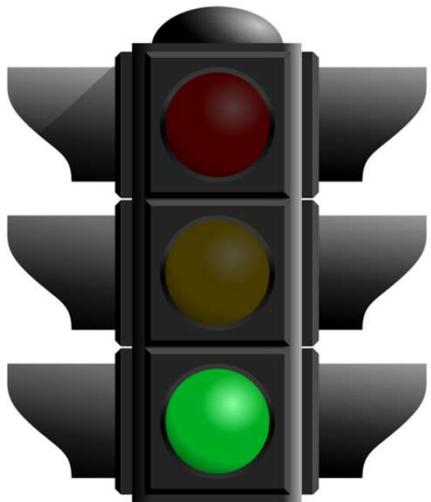
Focus on results!

(Not only on absorption and outputs)

Thank you

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