The expert’s point of view

Ciro Franco

SiS.net Brokerage Event
Brussels, 14th December 2018
Agenda

1. From the “Funder” perspective
2. The evaluation process
3. From the expert perspective
4. Tips for candidates
From the “Funder” perspective
Recommendation n. 8:
MOBILISE AND INVOLVE CITIZENS

Action:
STIMULATE CO-DESIGN AND CO-CREATION THROUGH CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT
The added value of project proposals within H2020

Projects need to demonstrate:

• How their objectives and planning are targeted to the needs/problems and opportunities of end-users;
• Complementarity with existing research and best practices;

What is the project added value? Avoid recycling projects: repetition or continuation of former projects.

• Sufficient involvement of key actors with complementary types of knowledge (scientific and practical) should be reflected in the composition of the project consortium to reach the project objectives and make its results broadly implemented.

Include partners beyond scientists, such as end users.

Consider the involvement of multipliers to strengthen impact.
The evaluation process
The evaluation flow

Just one Evaluation Panel

Wide and multidisciplinary expertises, intersectoral feature of the Panel composition
The main principles of the evaluation process

Objectivity

• Each proposal has to be evaluated only on the basis of the text of the proposal

Accuracy

• The only references of the evaluation are represented by the criteria set by the EU

Consistency

• Coherent and consistent evaluation standards have to be applied for all the proposals
# The evaluation criteria – RIA and IA schemes

| Excellence | To the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description in the work programme:  
| Clarity and pertinence of the objectives  
| Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology  
| Extent that proposed work is beyond the state of the art, and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)  
| Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge |
| Impact | The expected impacts listed in the work programme under the relevant topic  
| Any substantial impacts not mentioned in the WP, that would enhance innovation capacity; create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, address issues related to climate change or the environment, or bring other important benefits for society  
| Quality of proposed measures to exploit and disseminate project results (including IPR, manage data research where relevant); communicate the project activities to different target audiences |
| Implementation | Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which resources assigned to work packages are in line with objectives/deliverables  
| Appropriateness of management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management  
| Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise  
| Appropriateness of allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfill that role |
Cross-cutting issues: Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI)

- **Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI)** is cutting across Horizon 2020, many SwafS topics have a direct relation with RRI as a cross-cutting issue.

- **RRI is an inclusive approach to R&I**: it implies that societal actors work together to better align both the R&I process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society.

- In practice, under Horizon 2020, RRI is implemented as a package of actions across RRI dimensions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RRI dimensions</th>
<th>Ethics</th>
<th>Open Access</th>
<th>Public Engagement</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Science Education</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>Take into account the ethical dimension</td>
<td>Increase access to scientific results</td>
<td>Engage society more broadly in its R&amp;I activities</td>
<td>Ensure gender equality, in both the research process and research content</td>
<td>Promote formal and informal science education</td>
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To be assessed in Excellence under 'concept and methodology'
From the expert perspective
Main focuses and most frequent comments by the experts
Gender aspects of the area to be researched are not sufficiently taken into account.

The planned case studies are often focused on specific problems and circumstances of particular countries, with consequent doubts about the actual replicability of the project results to the whole EU.

Interdisciplinary and innovative aspects of the proposed research are not sufficiently presented.
The impact section lacks specific and measurable indicators.

The plans related to activities to reach non-specialist and non-scientific audiences are not satisfactorily presented and their benefits to society not clearly explained.

The question of the expected impact of the proposed dissemination measures is insufficiently addressed with respect to professional organisations and policymakers.

The issues of dissemination and communication are overlapping in the proposal.
IMPLEMENTATION - Weaknesses

1. **The deliverables and milestones are not defined** with sufficient specificity.

2. There is not a **clear chronogram** by tasks.

3. The details of the **work packages are not sufficiently explained**. So the **feasibility** of WPs is not demonstrated.

4. **The quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations** is insufficiently demonstrated...
4 Tips for candidates
The main rules

- Being credible
- Being consistent
- Being clear and concise
Some final tips for the candidates (1/2)

Change perspective

- Your proposal must be written in order to solve European problems identified in EU policies *(never give the impression that you are writing a project because trying to get funding!)*

Clarity

- Fluent and concise English
- Make the text clear and well-structured
- Use short paragraphs and highlight key steps of the project, outline the concepts and key words *(BOLD)*
- Make the *proposal readable*: the evaluator has a few hours to analyse the proposal
Some final tips for the candidates (2/2)

**Formal aspects**

- Proposals must strictly adhere to the requirements stated in the **call** and in the **specific topic**
- Include only information relevant to the project
- Answer all the points listed in the form

**Original and Innovative aspects**

- Carefully analyse the state of the art research in the field
- Point out the **added value of the proposal** and explain why the project is innovative and **original**
- Attention to the clear description of the research methodology
- Highlight **interdisciplinary** and intersectoral aspects
Thanks for your attention!

Ciro Franco
Head of Fund Raising Office
Research and Technology Transfer Area
Sapienza Università di Roma
ciro.franco@uniroma1.it