

“Stakeholder workshop shaping how Horizon Europe is implemented”

Brussels 30 January 2019

Stream I: “An accessible Horizon Europe Programme: Proposal submission, evaluation and selection”

As confirmed by the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, the report by the Lamy Group and other stakeholder feedback, the Horizon 2020 system for evaluating proposals is highly appreciated and one of the reasons of the widely acknowledged successful implementation of Horizon 2020.

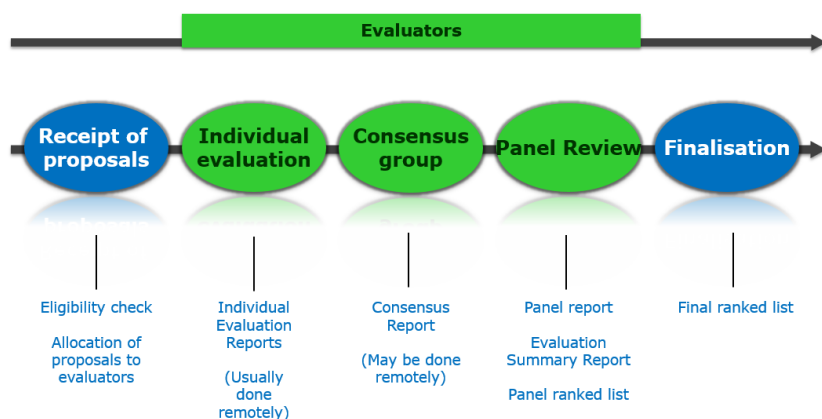
The evaluation process in Horizon Europe (HE) will maintain the key principles of the proposal evaluation and selection process of Horizon 2020, with its particular focus on excellence. Proposals should continue to be selected based on the evaluation made by independent experts.

However, the HE proposal adds some novelties (e.g., the missions and the European Innovation Council’s requiring a 'portfolio approach') that will require some adaptation of the selection process. In addition, some participants - in particular newcomers and small actors - often perceive the preparation and submission of proposals as burdensome. There has also been criticism by some stakeholders of aspects of the evaluation process itself, in particular regarding feedback to applicants.

As we prepare to update the system for Horizon Europe, stakeholders are requested to express their views on the current arrangements, and how perceived shortcomings can be improved in the future, including any adaptations needed to accommodate novel components of the new programme such as missions and the EIC.

Overview of the evaluation process in H2020

Overview of the Evaluation Process



In the table below we have already identify a number of issues where we believe we would need to make some adaptations in the future submission and evaluation process.

In this stream of the stakeholder workshop we would like to discuss with you all these issues, including those where improvements may be incremental, and those where more ambitious changes may be possible. You will also have the opportunity to raise any other issue related to the preparation of the submission and evaluation process in Horizon Europe.

<i>Evaluation policy and procedures for Horizon Europe</i>	
Issue	Comment
Evaluation criteria	Need simple but meaningful formulations for excellence, impact and implementation
Submission – proposal structure and content.	<p>We need to find the right balance between, on the one hand, reducing the burden for applicants, and on the other, capturing sufficient information for a sound evaluation, and data needed to speed up subsequent steps, and possible policy needs.</p> <p>To what extent should the proposal template be structured (web forms), as opposed to narrative.</p>
Selection and allocation of experts to proposals	<p>How can we better select the right experts to proposals, whilst avoiding any type of conflict of interest?</p> <p>How can we attract the best experts? Is our expert remuneration appropriate? How to optimise the workload of experts?</p>
Evaluation sequence (individual – consensus-panel).	<p>Variations and possible new approaches (and when to use them)?</p> <p>Measure for minimising reputational bias?</p> <p>Increase the remote consensus meetings?</p> <p>More frequent use of interviews/hearings (e.g. Videoconferencing)?</p> <p>Multi stage/step evaluations?</p> <p>Procedure for portfolio approach?</p>
Quality of the evaluation results sent to applicants	How can we improve the quality of the Evaluation summary reports?