

SME Instrument scoring and selection of proposals

- Grant proposals are evaluated by 4 independent experts, on the basis of the **award criteria** 'impact', 'excellence' and 'quality and efficiency of the implementation' (Annex H of the H2020 Work Programme 2016-2017, Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013).
- Evaluation scores of up to 5 points are awarded for each criterion, giving a total score of maximum 15. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, is 13 for Phase 1 and 12 for Phase 2.
- The **overall score** is established as follow:
 - for each criterion, a median score (*the median is the mean of the two "middle" scores, e.g. median of scores 1; 5; 7; 10 is (5+7)/2 = 6*) across the 4 evaluators is established;
 - the overall score of a proposal - "**ESR score**" - is then calculated by adding up the median scores of all three criteria. This score serves to decide if proposals are above or below threshold.
- The **ranking list** is established based on the normalised score, i.e. giving a weight of 1.5 to the score for the criterion 'impact'. The normalised score is calculated as follows: score for "impact" multiplied by 1.5, plus score for "excellence", plus score for "implementation". Proposals are then selected for funding according to the available budget by topic.
- In case of a group of **ex-aequo proposals (whose "normalised scores" are equal)**, proposals are ranked based on the higher score on "impact". If proposals have the same score for "impact", then the score for "excellence" is used to rank the proposals and finally the score for "implementation" is taken into consideration. (Part H of the General Annexes of the Work Programme).

Example (phase 1)

Rank	Proposal Acronym	Median Impact	Median Excellence	Median Implementation	ESR Score	Normalized Score
1	AAA	4.82	4.60	4.63	14.05	16.5
2	BBB	4.57	4.64	4.80	14.01	16.3
3	DDD	4.51	4.59	4.61	13.71	16.0
5	EEE	4.48	4.71	4.45	13.64	15.9
6	FFF	4.52	4.65	4.36	13.53	15.8
7	HHH	4.66	4.23	4.51	13.40	15.7
8	JJJ	4.50	4.43	4.56	13.49	15.7
9	GGG	4.50	4.36	4.60	13.46	15.7
10	III	4.45	4.50	4.54	13.49	15.7
below threshold	NNN	4.15	4.15	4.19	12.49	na
below threshold	ZZZ	4.19	4.10	4.15	12.44	na