TEN-T Info Day for AP and MAP Calls 2013

EVALUATION PROCESS AND AWARD CRITERIA

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Contents of the session:

- Evaluation and selection process step-by-step
- Award criteria and how they are applied
- Application forms and guidelines
- Practical recommendations on the submission process
- How you can maximise your chance of getting EU support
Evaluation & selection of proposals: Principles

*Strict guiding principles are followed:*

- **Equal treatment:** All proposals evaluated against the same criteria. No preferential treatment to any candidate
- **Transparency:** Adequate feedback to applicants on the outcomes of the evaluation
External evaluation & selection of proposals

Shared responsibility and collaboration between the TEN-T EA and DG MOVE
External evaluation organised by TEN-T EA

The TEN-T EA is responsible for:

• checking the eligibility of the proposals (March 2014)
• conducting the external evaluation (April 2014)
... selection by DG MOVE

DG MOVE is responsible for the (May 2014):
• final selection of proposals (with the assistance of the TEN-T EA), based on:
  • recommendations of the external evaluation
  • available budget, strategic objectives of the calls and the policy relevance of the proposals
• consultation of other EU services (DG Environment, DG REGIO...)
• consultation of:
  • Financial Assistance Committee (Member States) (June 2014)
  • European Parliament (right of scrutiny) (June 2014)
• adoption of Framework Decision followed by Individual Financing Decisions (from September 2014)
External evaluation organised by TEN-T EA – Eligibility checking

- Applicants are not in an exclusion situation
- Applicants have the financial and technical capacity to carry out the project...
- Proposals arrived on time, are complete, signed by the applicant, approved by the Member State...
- Proposals in compliance with EU legislation (environment...)

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External evaluation - Objectives

- Provide sound technical advice on the proposals submitted
- Check that proposals address the objectives and priorities defined in the work programmes and calls for proposals
External Evaluation: Principles

**Objectivity:** each proposal is assessed strictly on the basis of the information submitted

**Accuracy:** each proposal is assessed against four official award criteria

**Consistency:** the same standard of judgment is applied to all proposals

**Transparency:** assessment is well justified and documented

**Confidentiality:** All actors involved are held by confidentiality rules
External evaluation:
The role of external experts

- Conduct an in-depth technical and impartial evaluation of proposals submitted on high professional standards
- Check that proposals address the objectives and priorities defined in the work programmes and calls for proposals
- Award, for each criterion, a score on a six-point scale from 0 to 5
Moderators: their role in external evaluation

• Ensure all principles are respected
• Facilitate the consensus among evaluators
• Perform quality control of reports and information produced
• Efficiency and speed
The Independent Observer

• An Independent Observer gives independent advice and recommendation to the Agency on:
  • the conduct and fairness of all phases of the evaluation
  • ways in which experts assess the evaluation
  • any possible improvements that could be put into practice immediately or in the future
• The Observer may not express views on the proposals under assessment or the experts’ opinions on the proposals
External evaluation – the award criteria

4 blocks of award criteria:

1. Relevance: contribution of the Action to the TEN-T policy and the objectives of the calls, and EU dimension

2. Maturity of the Action: is the Action ready to go?

3. Impact of the Action: anticipated socio-economic effects and impact on the environment

4. Quality of the Action: completeness and clarity of the proposal, description of the planned activities, coherence between objectives, activities and planned resources, soundness of the project management process
External evaluation

Step 1. Individual assessment

- Each proposal is assessed independently by at least three experts
- The experts first carry out individual readings
- No contact between experts
- Each expert completes the evaluation form in TENtec, commenting and scoring each block of criteria
- Scores must be in line with comments
External evaluation

Step 2. Consensus meetings

• The three experts meet in a consensus meeting moderated by an Agency staff to agree on:
  • comments and a score for each of the block of 4 criteria
  • a general recommendation
• A rapporteur is appointed to draft the Consensus Report
Evaluation of proposals against the award criteria

Only the best proposals are recommended for EU funding...

Experts will not recommend for funding proposals that score <3 points for one or more of the four blocks of award criteria!
Internal evaluation

An Internal Evaluation Panel composed of representatives of DG MOVE, TEN-T EA and DG ENV review each proposal individually to:

- consider each proposal in view of the TEN-T objectives, priorities and restrictions, as defined in the TEN-Guidelines, the work programmes and the call texts
- cut any costs and/or activities that would be not eligible or not recommended for funding
- recommend a selection of proposals for funding
Communication on the results

- **After the eligibility check:** Applicants whose proposals have *not* met the eligibility and selection criteria will be officially informed.
- **After the external evaluation and the internal selection:** Results will be submitted to and agreed with the Financial Assistance Committee (Member States) and scrutinised by the European Parliament.
- **Following the institutional agreement:**
  - Successful applicants will be invited to enter into discussions with the TEN-T EA to finalise their individual financing Decision.
  - The lists of successful proposals will be published on the TEN-T EA and DG MOVE websites.
Still have more questions?

- Read carefully the Guide for Applicants
- Consult the FAQ lists on the TEN-T EA website, which are regularly updated
- Send your questions before 26 February 2014 to the Helpdesks:
  AP: tenea-helpdesk-call-annual-2013@ec.europa.eu
  MAP: tenea-helpdesk-call-MAP-2013@ec.europa.eu

Please note that:

- To ensure equal treatment between applicants, only general questions will be answered and published in the FAQ list
- The FAQ list will be frozen on 04 March 2014
Thank you!

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