

INFO SESSION ON MSCA 2021: an «expert»'s point of view

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Experts for MSCA evaluations

- ♦ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html>
- ♦ Must be an «expert» in a relevant field (in higher education or private sector)
- ♦ Must register in EU database
- ♦ If selected, must declare any Conflict of Interest issues
- ♦ Guiding principles: Independence, impartiality, objectivity, accuracy, consistency

Experts for MSCA evaluations

- ♦ Chair - oversees the process - helps the Vice-Chairs
- ♦ Vice-Chairs: allocate the proposals to experts - help the experts - monitor the expert's work
- ♦ Experts: read the proposals, evaluate the proposals, reach consensus with the other experts (usually 3 experts per proposal).
- ♦ Chair, Vice-Chairs, and experts are all « experts » and are independent from REA

The evaluation process

- ♦ Allocation of experts (REA, Chairs, VCs): match proposals with evaluators's expertise
- ♦ Remote Individual Evaluations (Experts, assisted by VCs)
- ♦ Remote Consensus Phase (Experts, assisted by VCs): all experts now see each other's comments and scores; they discuss and reach consensus on comments and scores
- ♦ Panel Meeting in Brussels (or remote) (REA, Chairs, VCs): Quality check, ex-aequos, etc...

The evaluation process

Guiding principles

- ***Independence***
 - You are evaluating in a personal capacity
 - You represent neither your employer, nor your country!
- ***Impartiality***
 - You must treat all proposals equally and evaluate them impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants
- ***Objectivity***
 - You evaluate each proposal as submitted; meaning on its own merit, not its potential if certain changes were to be made
- ***Accuracy***
 - You make your judgment against the official evaluation criteria and the call or topic the proposal addresses, and nothing else
- ***Consistency***
 - You apply the same standard of judgment to all proposals

Guide for Applicants

- ♦ THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT !!!!
- ♦ Contains ALL the IMPORTANT and NECESSARY information!
- ♦ Read it COMPLETELY and CAREFULLY
- ♦ USE IT!!!

Eligibility

- ♦ Read carefully the eligibility criteria!
- ♦ **EVERYTHING IS CHECKED BY REA AND BY THE EXPERTS!**
- ♦ If not eligible, proposal is not evaluated!

European - Global

- ♦ Fewer schemes than in H2020: only two schemes
- ♦ Different schemes, different eligibility criteria!

Proposals

- ♦ Follow the guidelines from the Guide for Applicants!
- ♦ **Address EVERY criteria and sub-criteria!**
- ♦ Explain everything in your proposal (**experts evaluate each proposal as submitted**) - even «negative» events such as a small break in your career (maternity leave, sickness, failure to get a job, etc...), a drop in your publication rate (can be due to lots of reasons), any unusual circumstances...: the experts are humans!

Evaluation criteria (example)

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects	Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan
Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results	Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution	Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures , including risk management
Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence		Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
50%	30%	20%
Weighing		
1	2	3
Priority in case of <i>ex aequo</i>		

Experts are asked to evaluate every **CRITERIA** and

SUB-CRITERIA

Slightly different for the different schemes

Evaluation criteria

Ask someone else to evaluate your proposal following the evaluation criteria used by the experts (available).

Evaluation criteria

2. IMPACT

The following aspects will be considered when assigning an overall score for this criterion:

- ☐ Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher
- ☐ Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the action results
- ☐ Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the action activities to different target audiences

Examples of target audiences: scientists, industries, children, general public, students, etc...

Be inventive, creative, imaginative ... but realistic!

Use the social media

DO NOT simply propose to participate in existing activities at the host!!!

Re-submissions

- ♦ Do not simply re-submit last year's proposal!
- ♦ Different call => different eligibility criteria, slightly different evaluation criteria,...
- ♦ UPDATE CV and research project !!!!!

- ✦ Proposals are evaluated criteria per criteria, not just on the scientific quality of the research project or on the applicant's CV
- ✦ The project should never be a «simple continuation of the applicant's current project», even if going to an excellent institution or facility: it should increase the future employability of the applicant by broadening his research experience, and by providing him with new skills.

AGAIN:

Guide for Applicants

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- ♦ USE IT!!!