My experience as evaluator

Testimonial

Dr Ariel Beresniak MD, MPH, PhD

Euresearch workshop March 12th 2024

Who am I ?

My background and expertise

- MD specialized in Public Health & Infectious Diseases
- PhD applied mathematics in Economics
- Accreditation to supervize research in Public Health and Health Economics

My activity: CEO of Data Mining International (SME)

DATA MINING INTERNATIONAL

- Value demonstration of innovative solutions
- Advanced data analytics and modelling
- Outcome research
- Health Economics
- Advanced methodologies in clinical research
- Risk Assessment

Involvement in 7 EC projects

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

ECHOutcome — Tests the methodological robustness of the QALY indicator

flu resp — Cost-effectiveness Models Development of European Influenza Human Pandemic Response Strategies

EHR4CR — A joint undertaking between Academia & Industry — Electronic Health Records for Clinical Research

SemanticHealthNet — Semantic Interoperability for Health Network

VALUeHEALTH — Establishing the value and business model for sustainable eHealth services in Europe

ASSET — SHARE AND MOVE TO FACE NASTY BUGS — Action plan on Science in Society related issues in Epidemics and Total pandemics

REMEDIA — Impact of the exposome in pulmonary diseases

DATA MINING INTERNATIONAL

Acting as evaluator

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

imi innovative medicines initiative

HORIZON 2020

DATA MINING INTERNATIONAL

Evaluation process

Individual Evaluation Reports

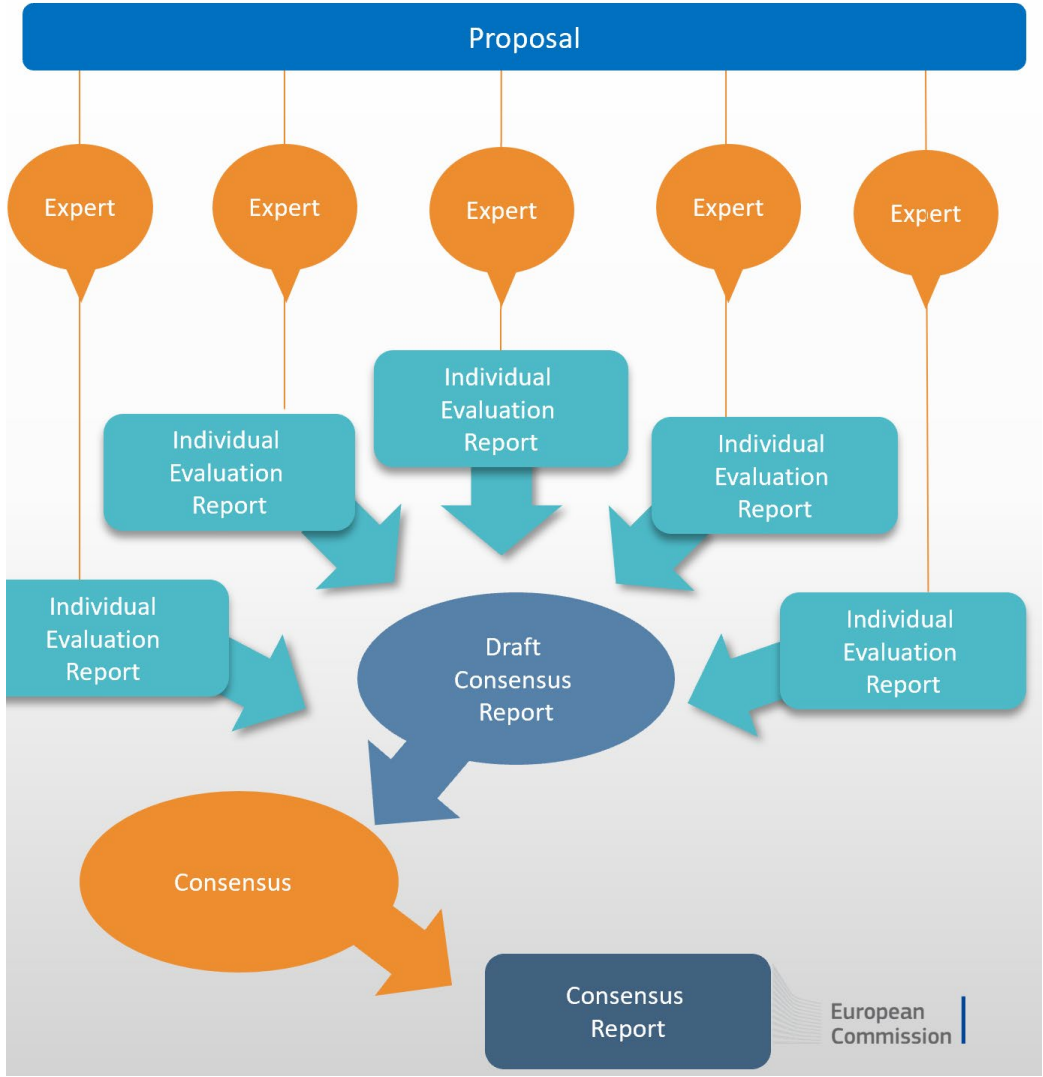
- 3 experts evaluator receive about 10 proposals
- Each evaluator complete one full assessment

Draft consensus report

- 1 of the 3 evaluators is appointed rapporteur
- Discussion between the 3 evaluators and the project officer
- Drafting the consensus report

Final ranking of all proposals

- All evaluators + project officer
- Discussion about consistancy of the final project ranking



Evaluator guidelines

Please respect the following principles:

- Provide clear feedback on **the proposal's weaknesses and strengths**, of an adequate length, and in an appropriate tone.
- If you identify **shortcomings** (other than minor ones and obvious clerical errors), reflect those **in a lower score for the relevant criterion**.
- Explain the shortcomings **without recommendations for improvements**.
- For **proposals with significant weaknesses** that prevent the project from achieving its objectives, **please do not score these above-threshold**.
- When scoring, verify that **the wording and the chosen attributes** (and the retained shortcomings) **match the score**.

Final proposal's ranking in case of similar total score

Method to establish the priority order

For each group of proposals with the same score, starting with the group achieving the highest score and continuing in descending order:

1) **Proposals** that address **aspects** of the call that have **not been covered** by more highly ranked proposals.
2) **The scores** for '**Excellence**' and then '**Impact**'.
3) **Gender balance** among the personnel named in the proposal who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the research and/or innovation activities, and who are included in the **researchers table** in the proposal.
4) **Geographical diversity**, defined as the number of Member States or Associated Countries represented in the proposal, not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).
5) **Other factors** set by the panel.

The topic

- The call for proposals involves representatives of the 27 EU member states
- Each MS representative try to pusch one aspect
- This pose challenges in terms of coherence, consistency, and clarity, ultimately impacting the document's comprehensibility for potential participants.
- Various key words and tasks according to each country interest
- Difficulty to address all ideas included into one topic

Example :

Development of new effective therapies for rare diseases

TOPIC ID: HORIZON-HLTH-2022-DISEASE-06-04-two-stage

The proposals should address most of the following research activities:

•Establish multidisciplinary collaborations between all relevant stakeholders by integrating disciplines, technological developments and existing knowledge. Integrate harmonised data from multiple sources (i.e. natural history studies/clinical trials, multi-omics, medical imaging, registries etc.) by utilising data analytics and/or other suitable methods, with the aim to understand the pathophysiology/heterogeneity of the rare diseases concerned and to identify therapeutically actionable mechanisms.

•Develop and utilise relevant preclinical models and/or innovative tools/technologies to: verify molecular/cellular pathways/genes that can be therapeutically targeted, increase the confidence in the targets selection and/or perform toxicity studies. When using disease models the applicants should describe how well the model replicates the pathology or the human condition.

•Develop and/or execute innovative clinical trials designs for small populations and novel approaches to assess and monitor the safety and efficacy of the proposed interventions. Such approaches may include but are not limited to: biomarkers defining robust surrogate and clinical endpoints; artificial intelligence tools/medical devices/biosensors/ companion/ complementary diagnostics for defining reliable patient reported outcomes; modelling and simulation and in-silico trials methodologies.

•Carry out preclinical proof-of-concept (PoC) studies and/or multinational interventional clinical studies[3] to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of the therapeutic interventions under study. Preclinical PoC studies should include late-stage preclinical studies (i.e. toxicological properties, adverse effects etc.). Clinical studies may cover all necessary development stages. Applicants should propose a clear exploitation pathway through the different necessary steps (research, manufacturing, regulatory approvals and licensing, IP management etc.) in order to accelerate marketing authorisation and uptake by the health systems.

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Recommendation: Proposal building

- Track and select the KEY words and KEY sentences
- Address every KEYwords and KEY sentences of the topic
- Help the evaluator
  - Explain how each key sentences has been taken into account
  - Clear style and presentation: use colors and figures
- One single writer for homogeneous and consistant style
- A proposal is a **convincing promess**
  - Promess, promess, promess
- Choose an easy-to-memorize project acronym in relation to the topic
  - MYHEALTH better than ACTHOMG

Proposal scoring and interpretation

- ***Scores** must be in the range **0-5**.*
- *The **threshold** for individual criteria will be **3**. The whole range of scores should be used. Use steps of 0.5.*
- *The **overall threshold**, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be **10**.*

0 The proposal **fails to address the criterion** or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1 **Poor.** The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are **serious inherent weaknesses.**

2 **Fair.** The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are **significant weaknesses.**

3 **Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion well, but **a number of shortcomings** are present.

4 **Very Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, **but a small number of shortcomings** are present.

5 **Excellent.** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. **Any shortcomings are minor.**

My recommendations

- Best consortium size between 7 and 15 partners
- Good balance of Academic, SME, Industry
- Good balance of European countries
- Enrich consortium with one national, european or international organisation
- Each partner should be able to present at least 5 scientific publications
- Interest of administrative partner for handling the submission
- The coordinator write the proposal supported by WP leaders
- Develop potential work experience or synergies between partners
- Obtain a copy of a successful proposal as a model for overall presentation and gen sections
- Submit 2 days before the deadline

THANK YOU

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