



EVALUATION PROCESS

Annex No. 1 to the Call documentation
for the 2nd call under the National Centres of Competence programme

Ref. No.: TACR/74-41/2021

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Introductory information

This annex to the call documentation contains all information that you will need for the evaluation of project proposals submitted to this call. All documents related to the launch of this call, information on the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as “TA CR”), applicable legislation and on the terminology used can be found on the [TA CR website](#) or directly in the ISTA information system. The conditions of the 2nd call under the National Centres of Competence (NCC) programme are given in the [call documentation](#) or in other documents published on the day of the launch of the call.

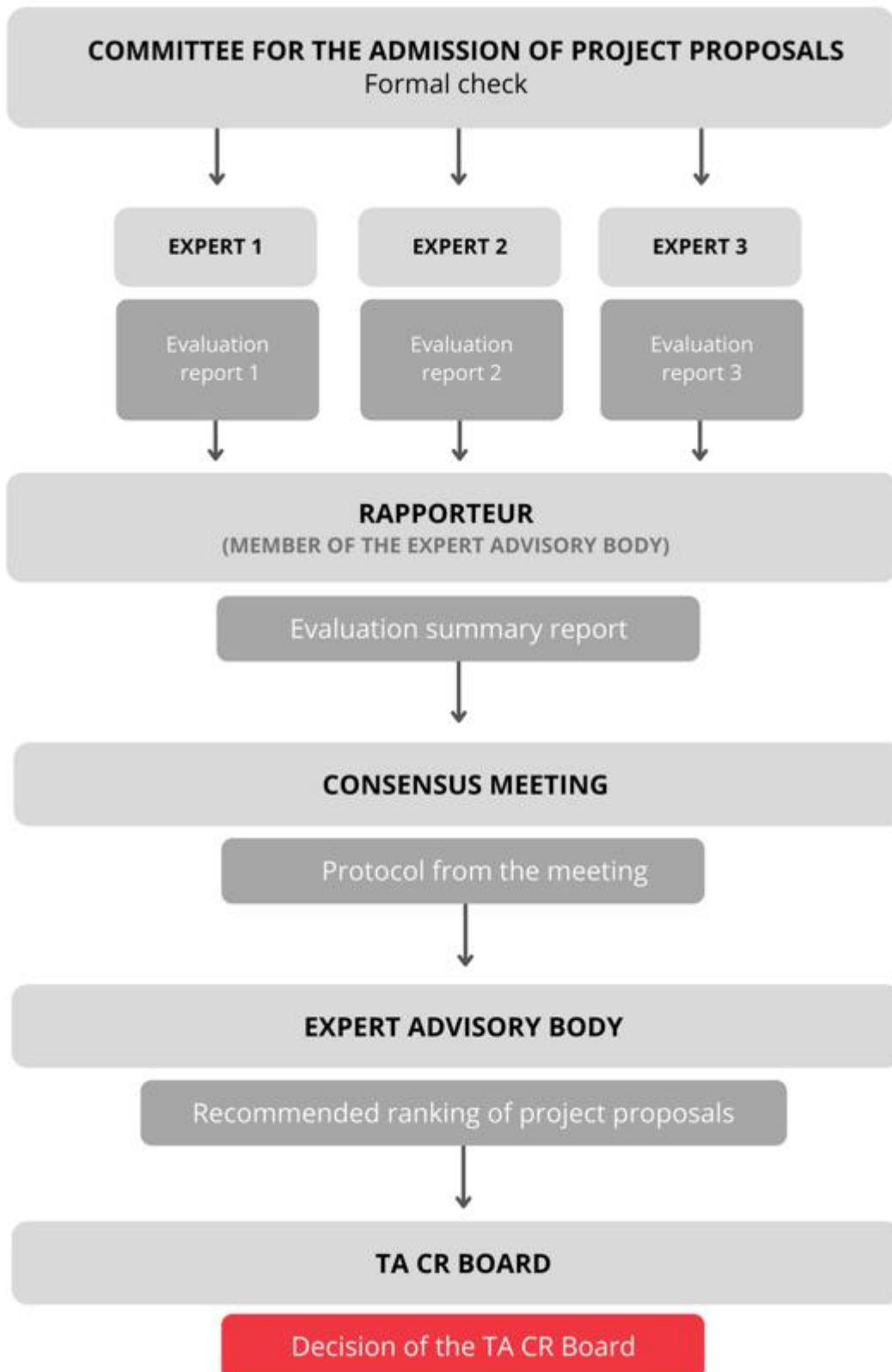
In case of divergence between the Czech version and the English translation of this document, the Czech version shall prevail.

Please note that the project proposals submitted to the 2nd call for proposals under the NCC Programme shall be in **English**. Please also note that after the evaluation process, all evaluation reports will be made available in an anonymous version to the applicants of the relevant project proposals.

Evaluation process

Each project proposal must be evaluated as follows:

1. **Committee for the admission of project proposals** – will check the formalities of the project proposal and the eligibility of all applicants. Project proposals that have met all the conditions of the call will be evaluated in the following evaluation stages.
2. **Experts** – each project proposal is evaluated independently by three experts (one foreign and two Czech experts) according to the evaluation criteria. Each expert will study the project proposal and draw up an evaluation report.
3. **Rapporteur** – will study the project proposal, the evaluation reports of individual experts and will draw up an evaluation summary report (hereinafter referred to as the “ESR”). In conclusion, they will state whether they recommend the project proposal for funding or not.
4. **Consensus meeting** – the aim is to consolidate the evaluations done by the experts and the rapporteur, with the output being a protocol serving as a basis for the expert advisory body.
5. **Expert advisory body** – will prepare a final opinion on each project proposal. When evaluating a project proposal, the expert advisory body uses as a basis individual evaluation reports from experts, the ESR and protocol from the consensus meeting. In conclusion, the expert advisory body will propose a preliminary ranking of project proposals for the TA CR Board.
6. **TA CR Board** – will use as a basis the opinion and ranking proposed by the expert advisory body and will decide on the granting of funding to selected project proposals.



1. Evaluation criteria

The evaluation under the call shall use **1 binary criterion** and **5 scored criteria**.

Binary criterion

For the binary criterion, please specify:

- YES, if the project proposal meets the binary criterion
- NO, if the project proposal does not meet the criterion

If the expert is convinced that the project proposal does not meet the binary criterion, they shall state this fact in the evaluation report and duly justify this opinion. If the binary criterion **is not met, the project proposal cannot be recommended for funding** regardless of the number of points that the project proposal receives in the evaluation.

Fulfilment of the conditions and objectives of the programme and the call (YES/NO)

Evaluate whether the project proposal meets the objectives of the NCC programme. That means that the project proposal fulfils the main objective of the programme, which is to increase the efficiency and quality of the results of applied research and technology transfer in key fields with growth prospects, to increase the competitiveness of enterprises and to strengthen the excellence and application relevance of research organisations. Further, evaluate whether in particular the basic conditions set out in the call documentation are met.

- the focus of the project proposal fulfils one main and one secondary research topic;
- the Centre's Council has been established in accordance with the terms of the programme and the call. Its responsibilities and powers are clearly defined;
- the composition of the applicants complies with the conditions in Chapter 1 of the call documentation;
- income from commercialisation is declared at a minimum of 19 % of the total funding, in accordance with the conditions set out in Chapter 3.3 of the call documentation.

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Objectives of the project and relevance to the programme

3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Research topic

3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Project management and research team – Centre Council

2. APPLICANTS

mandatory annex Proposal for composition of Centre Council

mandatory annex Agreement on the Establishment of the National Centre of Competence (or an amendment to an existing agreement of already established National Centre of Competence from the 1st call)

mandatory annex Income from commercialisation

Scored criteria

The maximum score that can be awarded by one expert is **70 points**. The project proposal can get from all experts a total of **210 points**.

If an expert evaluates any of the scoring criteria as not met (i.e. they award 0 points for the criterion), they **cannot recommend** the project proposal for funding. An expert also cannot recommend for funding a project proposal to which they awarded less than **45 points** in total.

For each scoring criterion there is a **maximum possible score** which an expert can award. The following table shows scores with corresponding verbal description. However, the expert may award **any number of points** and is limited only by the maximum score. The scores for each of the scoring criteria must always correspond to the written evaluation comments.

SCORING SCALE					CORRESPONDING VERBAL DESCRIPTION
MAXIMUM VALUE	20	15	10	5	met without reservations
SCALE VALUES	14	10	7	3	met with minor reservations
	7	5	4	2	met with major reservations
	0	0	0	0	not met

1. Excellence

1.1 Relevance, timeliness, and necessity of the project proposal in relation to the chosen topic and the objectives of the programme
a maximum of 20 points

Evaluate to what extent the following applies: Applicants have demonstrated that the focus of the centre is current and applicable. The research topics (main and secondary) are chosen appropriately with respect to the aim and focus of the project proposal. Assess whether the objectives stated in the project proposal are clearly defined, sufficiently specific, measurable, realistic, and traceable over time. Assess whether the activities of the NCC outlined in the project proposal are relevant and meaningful. The NCC will contribute to the development of the field and interdisciplinary cooperation at least in the context of the Czech Republic, but ideally in a European or a global context. In the mandatory Strategic outlook and prospects in the field annex, applicants have clearly and comprehensively set out the strategic plan and prospects of the field in which their project implementation will focus on. The strategic outlook shows that the project implementation will contribute to the development of the field in question. The project proposal meets the main objective of the programme as well as its individual sub-objectives. In the project proposal, the applicants have appropriately chosen the objectives of the National RDI priorities and the domains of research and

innovation specialization of the RIS III strategy. The applicants have sufficiently differentiated themselves from their own completed projects such as in particular the funded projects under the Centres of Competence programme, National Centres of Competence programme, and the Centres of Excellence programme. The applicants have presented and described the differences between their own projects that they are currently running primarily under the THÉTA programme (sub-programme 3) and the Environment for Life programme (sub-programme 3).

Hints for the evaluation: *Project proposals focusing on marginal topics and needs, with low potential for market uptake, or focusing on short-term problems or areas with no future will be negatively evaluated. The applicants must have a clear strategic plan. If the expert has assessed the binary criteria as fulfilled, then in this scoring criteria the expert will assess to what extent and how effectively and meaningfully the project proposal fulfils aspects of the main objective of the programme as well as its sub-objectives. The project proposal should fulfil at least one of the sub-objectives, but a comprehensive approach covering more than one sub-objective is welcomed. Here, therefore, "the more the better" applies in the evaluation (which should be reflected in the score). Assess to what extent the project proposal fulfils the chosen objectives of the National RDI priorities and the domains of research and innovation specialisation of the RIS III strategy, and whether these strategies are relevant in terms of fulfilling the objectives of the NCC programme. In addition, the applicants (the main applicant as well as other project partners) must make a proper differentiation from their own projects according to the conditions set out in chapter 3.7 of the call documentation. In the event that the project proposal fails to state on which own projects the NCC builds (mainly the ones completed under the Centres of Competence programme, the National Centres of Competence programme, and the Centres of Excellence programme) or fails to indicate differences from currently running projects (in particular projects funded under sub-programme 3 of the THÉTA programme and sub-programme 3 of the Environment for Life programme), the project proposal may not be recommended for funding due to non-compliance with the conditions of the call documentation (chapter 3.5).*

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

- 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Objectives of the project and relevance to the programme
- 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Research topic
- 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Fulfilment of the sub-objectives of the programme
- 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Activities of the NCC project
- 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Benefits and impacts – Benefits and impacts of the project proposal
- mandatory annex Strategic outlook and prospects in the field
- 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Definition of the project
- 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Similar and related projects, research plans and results

2. Technical, organisational and personnel arrangements, financial plan

2.1 Method how the Center NCC's activities are organised, how it is managed, and risk analysis
a maximum of 10 points

Evaluate to what extent the following applies: Applicants described the method of the NCC management in clear and detailed terms. The Centre Council is composed in accordance with the terms

of the call documentation and its composition and set-up give the expectation that it will effectively fulfil the obligations set out in the call documentation. The relationships between the Centre's Council and the individual applicants are clearly described and set out. The method of the NCC management, the level of communication with other participants, the definition and system of responsibilities for the tasks leading to the implementation of the project and the organisation of cooperation are described in detail. The NCC manager has the necessary experience and expertise. Evaluate whether the applicants made a detailed risk analysis in the project proposal, identified the possible risks associated with the implementation of the project, assessed the likelihood of their occurrence, proposed a way to address them, estimated the level of severity and described preventive steps to eliminate or reduce the risks.

Hints for the evaluation: *The method of the Centre's management should be appropriate for its size, the specifics of the field in question and the expected development of the Centre. According to the terms of the call documentation, the Centre's Council should be composed of representatives of the public administration, research, and application sphere. At least 50 % of its members must be external. A part of the members of the Centre's Council should be from foreign institutions (this representation should correspond to the planned international scope of the NCC's activities). The competences of the Centre's Council vis-à-vis the NCC and its individual applicants should be clearly defined and described so that the Centre's Council can effectively fulfil its role as defined in the programme description (the proposed system should be meaningful, efficient and in its application should contribute substantially to the achievement of the objectives of the NCC and the project proposal). The manager of the project should have experience in managing large R&D projects. The risk analysis should include the risks of the project proposal and demonstrate that the project proposal is comprehensive, complex, and well thought through. It should not be lacking in ways to address and prevent the risks. In the project proposal, the applicants fill in the identified risks in a table in which the following risks are already pre-filled: Personnel (turnover of important staff), Organisational (management of the researchers and other participants), Financial (loss of solvency of other participants), Loss of ability to implement the result, Change of the project (based on the investigation in the course of the project). Other risks may be added at the applicant's discretion. For each risk, the applicant shall fill in the probability that the risk will actually occur, on a scale of Very High = 5 (greater than 70 %), High = 4 (36-69 %), Medium = 3 (21-35 %), Low = 2 (11-20 %), Very Low = 1 (less than 10 %), and the impact should the risk occur: Very High = 16, High = 8, Higher = 4, Low = 2, Very Low = 1. The table also shows the automatically calculated Risk Level value, which is the product of the previous two values, and it serves as a guide. The higher this indicator is, the more attention should be paid to the analysis of these risks, measures to prevent them and contingency planning.*

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

- 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Project management and research team
- 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Analysis of risks to achieving the project objectives
- 4. PROJECT TEAM – Key persons – Project manager

mandatory annex Proposal for composition of Centre Council

mandatory annex Rules of procedure of the Centre

2.2 Quality of the research team and the institutions involved, their technical support, the extent/level of cooperation among the participants of the Center NCC

a maximum of 15 points

Evaluate to what extent the following applies: NCC applicants build on existing cooperation or the establishment of relationships with new entities is set up in a meaningful way so that all applicants are effectively involved in the cooperation within the NCC. Assess the technical facilities of the applicants, their initial know-how and other key capabilities of the applicants as prerequisites for achieving the objectives of the project proposal. At least one of the applicants is ideally an innovative leader in the field. The project team has the expertise to meet the set objectives. The competence of the researchers has been demonstrated. The researchers have a successful track record in R&D projects. The project team is appropriately balanced in terms of expertise and experience. The experience of the team members is appropriate to their role in the team.

Hints for the evaluation: *Applicants should describe how they will work within the NCC consortium. It will be negatively evaluated if they will be working just 'next to each other', i.e. there will be no collaboration between the different teams in the implementation of individual sub-projects. The experience and technical facilities of applicants should be of a sufficient level (this is described in a mandatory annex for each research group). In particular, it is necessary to focus on what the individual applicants bring to the Centre – know-how, infrastructure, own resources, experience in the implementation of R&D projects and the commercialisation of their results (including its success) or the extent of current activities relevant to the Centre's activities (projects funded from other sources, results, etc.). The evaluation should not reflect positively the experience/results generated outside of the particular research group taking part in the Center NCC (e.g. results of other parts of a faculty in case that only a distinct part of the faculty, e.g. a department, is taking part in the NCC project). On the other hand, the presence within the NCC of an innovation leader with a significant international standing should be viewed positively. Experts should be involved in the project whose input will contribute to the successful implementation of the outputs/results. These can be experienced academics, practitioners, or the upcoming generation of researchers without much professional experience. The size of the project team should be appropriate. It is important that the expertise or competences of the team members are necessary and justified for the project. The principal investigator should have a proven professional history in R&D and experience and erudition in the field of the main focus of the project.*

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Project management and research team

4. PROJECT TEAM – Key persons

mandatory annex for applicant's research group(s)

2.3 The extent to which the financial plan is realistic, balanced and adequate

maximum of 5 points

Evaluate to what extent the following applies: The project proposal costs correspond to the number of applicants, duration of the project, focus of the NCC and to the planned activities of the centre. The financial plan of the project proposal is designed in such a way so as to allow effective implementation of all the planned activities leading to the achievement of the project proposal objectives and the specified outputs/outcomes defined in the mandatory result of type “O-other results”.

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

1. IDENTIFICATION DETAILS – Project duration
2. APPLICANTS
3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Activities of the NCC project
5. OUTPUTS/RESULTS – Main outputs/results – Plan of results
6. FINANCIAL PLAN

3. Impacts, benefits, application potential**3.1 The application and commercial potential of the results, the ability to introduce the results into practice (the Centre's strategy, the commercialisation experience of the Centre's members) and the impacts and benefits of the project implementation**

a maximum of 20 points

Evaluate to what extent the following applies: Applicants clearly and meaningfully described the strategy for commercialisation of the know-how generated in the NCC. Applicants have documented previous experience in commercialisation and the market(s) for which their results are intended using specific examples. Both the description of the strategy and the documented experience indicate that prerequisites are met for practical application of the outputs/results of the project proposal (i.e. their successful commercialisation). The applicants have demonstrated knowledge of the market for which the solutions planned in the project proposal are intended and the application potential of the expected results can be inferred from this evidence. The market for the resulting products is sufficiently large and the applicants have described how the products will gain their place on the market (e.g. through cheaper production, better quality product, links to key distributors, etc.). Applicants have described how the enterprises that are part of the consortium will be involved in the practical exploitation of the outputs/results. The investigators have a good knowledge of the potential target user group and how the outputs/results will be used or have a good knowledge of the relevant market and demand. Applicants have described the impacts (e.g. economic, social) and benefits resulting from the implementation of their project proposal. The achievement of the 19 % share of income from commercialisation as presented by the applicants in their project proposal is realistic and in line with the recent track record of the participating research organisations.

Hints for the evaluation: *Experience with commercialisation and technology transfer needs to be assessed in the context of all participating research organisations. Project proposals in which none of the significantly involved applicants has experience in commercialising applied research can be assessed as unsatisfactory. The fulfilment of the criterion cannot be based on the experience of an applicant whose involvement and role in the Centre is only marginal and cannot be expected to make a significant contribution to the application of outputs/results. The existence of a functional system for commercialisation within the applicants' organisational structure constitutes a positive element. The most appropriate way of demonstrating market knowledge is to provide evidence of market research, but interest in the application of outputs/results can also be demonstrated through other relevant annexes. Specific and substantiated strategies are welcome in the case of describing the acquisition of a market share, e.g. through cheaper production, better quality product, links to key distributors, etc. The more objective and binding the information provided, the better. The mentioning of actual or potential competition for resulting produce should be viewed positively and not negatively. From a more specific and credible description of how the target market operates, one can assume that the applicants have a clear idea of how to capture a share of the market. Conversely, general formulations unsupported by any objective data cannot be assessed as valid mapping of the market. Ideally, the*

commercial potential of the outputs/results should be demonstrated in an international context. However, the market, or the proposed outputs/results, may not always be typically commercial in nature (for example, with application in the public sector). In any case, however, applicants must demonstrate their knowledge of the environment for which the outputs/results of the project proposal are intended (possibly including knowledge of the target groups, etc.) and demonstrate their competitiveness, i.e. how they will ensure the application of their outputs/results. The achievement of income from commercialisation activities amounting to 19 % of a total funding, which is a condition of the call, should be based on the success of the participating research organisations in previous years. If the projected income significantly exceeds the results of the previous three years, the applicant should explain this in the project proposal. Otherwise, the plan does not appear credible.

Relevant parts of the project proposal:

3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION – Project proposal – Benefits and impacts
mandatory annex Income from commercialisation

2. Experts

To ensure impartiality and objectivity, the TA CR Office will assign through the ISTA information system one foreign and two Czech experts who are not biased (they are not employees of the same organization or have no other connection to the main applicant or individual researchers) for each project proposal.

The system for assigning experts to project proposals is based on the choice of the CEP and FORD fields, which are chosen by the applicants in the project proposal, and by the expert according to their expertise. The expert is informed by e-mail that a project proposal was assigned to them. The expert is then obliged to confirm within three working days the acceptance of the project proposal for evaluation.

If the expert accepts the evaluation, they will have **twenty one** working days to draw up an evaluation report, starting from the day of the acceptance of the project proposal. If the comments on the individual criteria are too brief and do not correspond with the scored criterion in question or the awarded number of points, the evaluation report may be returned to the expert for completion. The expert then has **three calendar days** for this completion of the evaluation report. Please note that these deadlines may be shortened in exceptional cases.

For each project proposal, the expert:

- evaluate the **factual part** according to set evaluation criteria:
 - For the evaluation of each **scoring criterion** there is a **maximum possible score** which an expert can award. An expert may award **any number of points** and is limited only by the maximum score. The scores awarded to individual scoring criteria must always correspond to the written evaluation comments. The comments related to individual scoring criteria must clearly match the awarded score. The experts must make sure that **the scores awarded and the written commentary are consistent** (coherence of evaluation reports). If an expert awards a full score, the commentary should contain the positive aspects of the project proposal. If an expert reduces the score, the specific negatives must be stated so that the list of shortcomings corresponds to the reduction in the score.

- **The binary criterion** is evaluated by either YES or NO. Explicit comments are required especially in the case of a negative opinion for a binary criterion.
- summarise **the positives and the negatives** in conclusion of their evaluation report (a system of bullet points is suitable for better clarity and orientation in the text);
- draw up a **final evaluation** of the project proposal with a final opinion to recommend it for funding or not.

In the justification of their opinion, experts will clearly summarize their views on the project proposal. In the event of a **positive opinion**, they will state the main positives of the project proposal and other reasons relevant for its funding. Even a positive opinion can contain negatives, which should, however, be reflected in the awarded score. On the other hand, in the case of a **negative opinion**, they will state all the arguments why the project proposal should not be recommended for funding.

The expert bears full personal responsibility not only for meeting the deadlines and for good quality of the evaluation, but also for any potential damage. This may arise, for example, as a result of a breach of the conditions of confidentiality or protection of confidential information or due to a misuse of personal data. The information provided in the project proposal, to which the evaluators have access during the evaluation, is strictly confidential and must not be shared with anyone.

3. Rapporteur

The rapporteur will draw up the **evaluation summary report** in which they will express opinion on the evaluation of individual experts, will summarise the positives and negatives of the project proposal and will state whether they recommend the project proposal for funding or not.

The rapporteur, who prepared the ESR for a project proposal that is subsequently funded, automatically becomes the rapporteur for this project during its realization. Once a year, the rapporteur prepares an opinion on the project interim report, will express their views on possible changes and may be asked to cooperate in a check, monitoring visit or an evaluation of the given project. Furthermore, the rapporteur may be asked to cooperate in the ongoing evaluation after the 3rd year of the project solution.

Comments on differences in individual experts

In this box, the rapporteur will **comment on differences in the evaluation of individual criteria by individual experts**. Rapporteur also comments on any discrepancy in the final opinions of individual experts and the total awarded score. However, at their discretion, the rapporteur may also mention any other discrepancies considered significant for the overall evaluation (the experts, for example, may have awarded very similar scores, while having major differences in the related comments and arguments).

Comments on the binary criterion

The rapporteur comments on the binary criterion if:

- they have doubts about the fulfilment of the binary criterion (arguments should be provided why they marked the criterion as not met or why, despite doubts, they leaned towards the evaluation "met"); or
- any of the experts marked the binary criterion as not met.

Positives and negatives of the project proposal and its summary

In this part of the ESR, the rapporteur summarizes positives and negatives of the project proposal. For this summary, they can use the arguments given in the evaluations of individual experts. Positives and negatives of a project proposal should clearly reflect the project proposal relative to the evaluation criteria.

Rapporteur's recommendation of the project proposal for funding

In this box, the rapporteur will state whether they recommend the project proposal for funding or not.

Proposed score adjustment

In this field, the rapporteur will assess the adequacy of the scores awarded in all five scoring criteria. For each criterion, the rapporteur will use as a basis the sum of scores awarded by all three experts. In the event that the sum of scores awarded by all three experts for some scoring criterion does not match the quality of the project proposal, the rapporteur will propose an adjustment of the score and will duly justify this proposal.

The rapporteur may award to a project proposal the following scores for individual scoring criteria:

- **1. Relevance, timeliness, and necessity in relation to the chosen topic and the objectives of the programme** – a maximum of 60 points;
- **2.1 Method how the Center NCCs activities are organised, how it is managed, and risk analysis** – a maximum of 30 points
- **2.2 Quality of the research team and the institutions involved, their technical support, the extent/level of cooperation among the participants of the Center NCC** – a maximum of 45 points;
- **2.3 The extent to which the financial plan is realistic, balanced and adequate** – a maximum of 15 points;
- **3. The application and commercial potential of the results, the ability to introduce the results into practice (the Centre's strategy, the commercialisation experience of the Centre's members) and the impacts and benefits of the project implementation** – a maximum of 60 points.

At the end of this field, the rapporteur will give the final score he recommends to award to the project proposal. The total score after adjustment may not exceed a maximum of 210 points. This proposal will be used as a basis for the consensus meeting.

Final justification of project proposal evaluation

This is a draft of the final opinion serving as a basis for deliberations of the expert advisory body. The rapporteur writes this justification on behalf of the expert advisory body, in the third person singular, starting with the following sentence: The expert advisory body recommends/does not recommend the project proposal for funding under the NCC programme.

Subsequently, the rapporteur will state the main positives and negatives of the project proposal from which it must be clear why the project proposal is or is not recommended for funding.

Evaluation of experts

The rapporteur further makes an assessment of the quality of individual evaluation reports prepared for the given project proposal using two grades:

- for coherence – consistency of scoring and written comments;
- for credibility – the expertise and quality of the evaluation

These grades (and their justification) serve as a feedback for the experts and at the same time provide a basis for the assessment of the experts' work by TA CR. Therefore, this part of the evaluation summary report (ESR) should also be given due attention. The rapporteur rates on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being the best grade. If the rapporteur could not rely on some individual evaluation report, such evaluation report should be graded **3 or 4**.

4. Consensus meeting

For each evaluated project proposal that has passed the formal check, a **consensus meeting** shall be held which will take place before the meeting of the expert advisory body (EAB).

The domestic experts of the given project proposal, its rapporteur and other selected members of the expert advisory body will be invited to this meeting. At least one of the experts and two members of the expert advisory body must attend. The purpose of the consensus meeting is to consolidate the evaluations made by the experts and the rapporteur.

Participants of the consensus meeting will have access to the evaluation reports of individual experts and to the rapporteur's evaluation summary report. The protocol from the meeting will state the conclusion of the evaluation for all evaluation criteria and the score for each scoring criterion (this must be the sum of the scores awarded by all three experts). In addition, the protocol will contain a recommendation whether the project proposal should be funded or not, and the resulting score.

5. Expert advisory body

When evaluating a project proposal, the expert advisory body uses as a basis the individual evaluation reports and the ESR and the protocol from consensus meeting.

In its opinion, the expert advisory body may propose:

- **change of score** awarded to the project proposal by a maximum of **40 points (inclusive) from the points proposed at the consensus meeting**. The score awarded by the expert advisory body may not exceed the maximum possible score of **210 points**. If the change of score higher than 40 points is necessary, the expert advisory body may propose a further change of score to the TA CR Board.

The expert advisory body may recommend for funding only a project proposal which receives the score of at least **130 points (inclusive)**.

Any change in score must be **duly justified** (by mentioning a particular criterion, evaluation report, number of points and arguments why in the view of the expert advisory body a score was incorrectly awarded);

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- **reduction of the costs** of the whole project proposal or total costs of individual applicants. The proposal to reduce costs must be duly justified.

In its opinion, the expert advisory body may diverge from the protocol of consensus meeting. In such a case, the divergence must be duly justified. The output from the meeting of the expert advisory body is a **ranking list** of all evaluated project proposals.

6. TA CR Board

Based on the recommendation of the expert advisory body, the TA CR Board will decide which project proposals will be funded and which will not.

The output from the meeting of the TA CR Board is a ranking list of all evaluated project proposals.