

National Info Day on Horizon Europe

WIDERA & Research Infrastructures

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**Weaknesses of proposals/ applications to Horizon calls,
emerging from the evaluation process of “peer reviewing”**

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Research infrastructures (1)

Types of projects:

- Support to EC continued functions (i.e. ESFRI secretariat)
- Design and development of one site infrastructure, at various phases
- Design and development of distributed infrastructures, at various phases

Types of weaknesses

- Lack of clear description of the current situation, the achievements from previous projects related to the same infrastructure and of the starting point of the new project. Unclear as to the jobs to be repeated.
- Lack of clarity on the inter-linkages and complementarities with similar parallel projects
- Relative opacity on the planned-expected final deliverable of the new project and the intermediate steps. GANTT often is insufficient, a PERT needed. Sometimes, in order to achieve visible results a planning beyond two-three years is required.

Research infrastructures (2)

- Clear work hypotheses, avoid “self-evident” statements
- Openness of the consortium, mode of operation, terms for entry of new members
 - Data accessibility
 - Results availability, dissemination, OPEN data
 - Results translated into applications
- Risk analysis, realistic with equally feasible palliative measures
- **SUSTAINABILITY!** How the RI and its activities will be financed in the future. What is the “market” of its services

Widening (1)

- What is the rationale of the programme?
 - Increase the rate of success of the applications stemming from the researchers of the “new MS”, PT and GR – complement the ESIF when they don’t invest enough on RTDI



Accelerate the familiarisation of the researchers of the beneficiary countries with the requirements and specifications of project conception, design, drafting, presentation.

- What the WIDERA cannot do in the short time of the preparation of a proposal:
 - Train the researchers from “new MS” in scanning the S&T environment, gather relevant information, identify niches of future RTD opportunities and set clear objectives for own research
 - Network and cluster these researchers with researchers of “advanced” EU countries for “speaking the same language” and participate in a project at equivalent terms
 - Create conditions for the development of the demand for the RTD results in these countries

Widening (2)

- FOCUS research of each institution in these MS and focus the individual projects (applications are often vaguely orientated)
- Avoid confusing objectives and means
- Avoid the excessive use of the term “centre of excellence”
- Danger of having external consultants drafting proposals to be implemented if selected by the RTD entities
- Make clear where the foreign knowhow is required for improving analysis of the project
- Select the appropriate methodology, based on the up to date practices and the specifications of the project – do not try to do new things with old methods
- Some applicants just repeat in the proposal the requirements of the call with little more clarifications on the specificities of the project
- Provide for a convincing table of potential risks and the measures to face them

Widening (3)

- While the call requires the presentation of a strategy for the implementation of the project, the applicants include the preparation of the strategy as a work package or a task
- Develop a set of critical KPIs – it is a good way to clarify the strategy and the potential impact of the project
- Include the use of the project's results in the set of the KPIs and the analysis of the sustainability of the research

- TIME required for the enhancement of the research potential in these countries in order to be able to face these problems
- TIME for the conception and “maturation” of internationally competitive projects
- TIME required for the education or attraction of skilled researchers