

Personal experience as evaluators of Marie Curie Fellowships

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How I became an evaluator



- Previously participated as evaluator in other FP7 programs – “informal” request from EC officer to update my profile to be considered for new calls. Huge increase in applications.
- IEF-IIF-IOF 2013 in ECO and SOC panels (before the process starts, you have to indicate potential conflict of interest and your research specialization)
- Benefits:
 - Gain insight about the whole process (excellent proposals but also how the evaluation process works)
 - Networking

The evaluation process



- Individual assessment (remote)

Each proposal is read independently by three evaluators, who assign the scores for each section of the application that must be justified (strengths and weaknesses). Each evaluator has more than 20 proposals.

- Consensus (Brussels)

The three evaluators meet in a half-hour meeting to agree the final score for each criteria. One of them, previously designated as a rapporteur, writes the evaluation report that must be validated by the other two. The report is also revised by the vice-chair of the panel who checks for consistence.

The evaluation process



- Rank of proposals (evaluators not involved – automatic)
Proposals are ranked within each panel according to the consensus score.
- Time is limited and the number of proposals is high. Evaluators' background is very heterogeneous. However, in most cases, we all agree on good and not good proposals ... The main difficulty is to distinguish between very good and excellent proposals (the ones that will get the money).
- Redress procedure & Resubmissions (new from 2013)

FP7-PEOPLE-2013-IEF-IIF-IOF	IEF	IIF	IOF	TOTAL
Number of proposals submitted:	4939	1959	1225	8123
Number of ineligible proposals:	13	8	16	37
Number of withdrawn proposals:	10	9	2	21
Number of proposals above the threshold:	3856 (80%)	1353 (70%)	983 (81%)	6192
Budget requested (Mio Eur)	815	305	274	1394
Budget available (Mio Eur)	134	45	45	224
Funded proposals	14%	10%	13%	

ECO	12 (+6)	3 (+5)	4 (+3)
SOC	131 (+39)	22 (+8)	38 (+11)

Some tips



- Strictly follow the guidelines!
- All parts of the proposal count:
 - Scientific & Technology, usually very good
 - Researcher: you cannot change your past, but you can put more emphasis on your best qualities (professional maturity)
 - Training/Transfer of Knowledge, Implementation (contingency plan) & Impact (i.e., outreach activities) make the difference
- Good match between the host institution and the candidate. Previous experience of host institution and of the supervisor (excellent CV) is a clear asset. True mobility & long-lasting collaborations.

Some tips



- Strictly follow the guidelines!

Criterion 1. S&T QUALITY (3/5 – 0.25) (in 2013)

- Research/technological quality, including any interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects of the proposal
- Appropriateness of research methodology and approach
- Originality and innovative nature of the project, and relationship to the 'state of the art' of research in the field
- Timeliness and relevance of the project
- Host research expertise in the field
- Quality of the group/scientist in charge

Criterion 2. TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE/TRAINING (no threshold – 1.15) (in 2013)

- Clarity and quality of the transfer of knowledge objectives
- Potential of transferring knowledge to European host and/or bringing knowledge to Europe

Some tips



Criterion 3. RESEARCHER (4/5 – 0.25) (in 2013)

- Research experience
- Research results including patents, publications, teaching etc.
- Independent thinking, leadership qualities, and capacity to transfer knowledge
- Match between the fellow's profile and project

Criterion 4. IMPLEMENTATION (no threshold – 0.15) (in 2013)

- Quality of infrastructure / facilities and International collaborations of host
- Feasibility and credibility of the project, including work plan (i.e. Gantt Chart)
- Practical and administrative arrangements, and support for the hosting of the fellow

Some tips

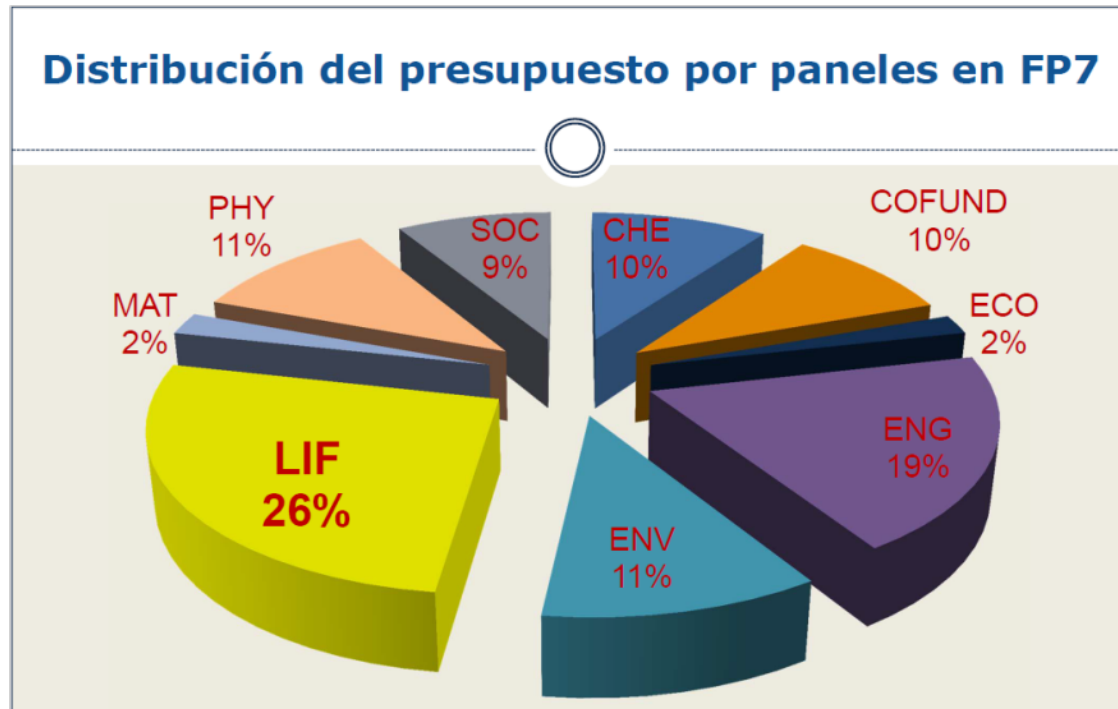


Criterion 5. IMPACT (3.5/5 – 0,2) (in 2013)

- Potential for creating long term collaborations and mutually beneficial co-operation between Europe and the other third country
- Contribution to European excellence and European competitiveness through valuable transfer of knowledge
- Impact of the proposed outreach activities

Some tips

- English checked by native speaker (comparative advantage). Use technical but non too technical language
- Choose your panel carefully



Work hard and be patient!



- Not all accepted proposals submitted August 2013 have already started ...
 - ⇒ Proposal preparation (6 months)
 - ⇒ Information Letter Evaluation Report (3 months)
 - ⇒ Invitation to Negotiation (3 months)
 - ⇒ Grant Agreement (3 months)
 - ⇒ Contract (3 months or more)
- All communication is held with the supervisor (host institution)
- H2020-MSCA-IF-2014: 12/03/14 to 11/09/14 (245 Mio EUR)

Good luck with your application!