

EU Public Health Programme An Evaluator's View

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Overview

Probably the fairest evaluation process I have encountered

Evaluators

- Panel of experts
- Any expert can apply
- Indicate skills, competencies, areas of expertise
- Genuinely Europe-wide
- I have never met a non-expert on a Panel

Evaluation Process - Initiation

- CHAFEA selects Panel for relevant skills and spread
- Members confirm availability – reading + attendance on set date(s)

(Previous) Evaluation Criteria

1. Contribution to Public Health in Europe /10
2. Technical Content /10
3. Management Quality /10
4. Overall and Detailed Budget /10
5. Operational Capacity Yes/No

Threshold per Criterion >>> Ranked Score

Pre-process

- On-line briefing
- Allocated a set of Proposals to read on-line
- Declare No Conflict (or decline specific one)
- Bring Scores and Rationale to the Luxembourg days

On Site Process - 1

- Evaluators meet, and are Briefed
- Speed dating – time slots for each Proposal
- Per Proposal – 3 Evaluators with 1 CHAFEA officer
- Experts (and officer) different trio for each proposal
- CHAFEA officer silent – referee and rapporteur role
- Discuss scores and comments, resolve differences
- Reach consensus

- Sign every evaluation

On Site Process - 2

- Evaluators meet in Plenary
 - Scrutinise resultant ranked list, and cut-off
 - Seek to resolve any anomalies
 - Justify any modifications

Final Process

- Subsequent process
- Representative Board receives final list
- Formal sign-off

Observations of an Evaluator

1. Think 28 Member State Europe – not Atlantic fringe
2. No tokenism with other countries, but appreciation of skills, knowledge, culture, methods
3. Avoid inside jargon – e.g. HSE, NUI, Tusla, garda, Dail
4. Relate your proposal to wider Europe needs, culture
5. The part funding is a problem – but if it puts off big players it can help your opportunity (especially NGOs)
6. Make sure that your proposal is clear to someone who does not know Ireland nor the technical detail
7. Make sure your proposal is **credible, clear, persuasive**

Last Words

- The majority of evaluators have been new to me
- I have only once been worried about a fellow evaluator's knowledge and competence
- I have been regularly disappointed with the quality of proposals – often with gaps or assume unrealistic knowledge of project setting.
- I feel that Ireland seldom punches its weight.