Horizon Europe Pillar 2 Webinar - Work Programme 2026-2027

27 January 2026, 4.30 PM (Korea)/7.30 AM (UK)

MY EXPERIENCE AS A HORIZON EUROPE EXPERT EVALUATOR

What would make proposals succeed in Horizon Europe?
How to transform applications into funded projects.

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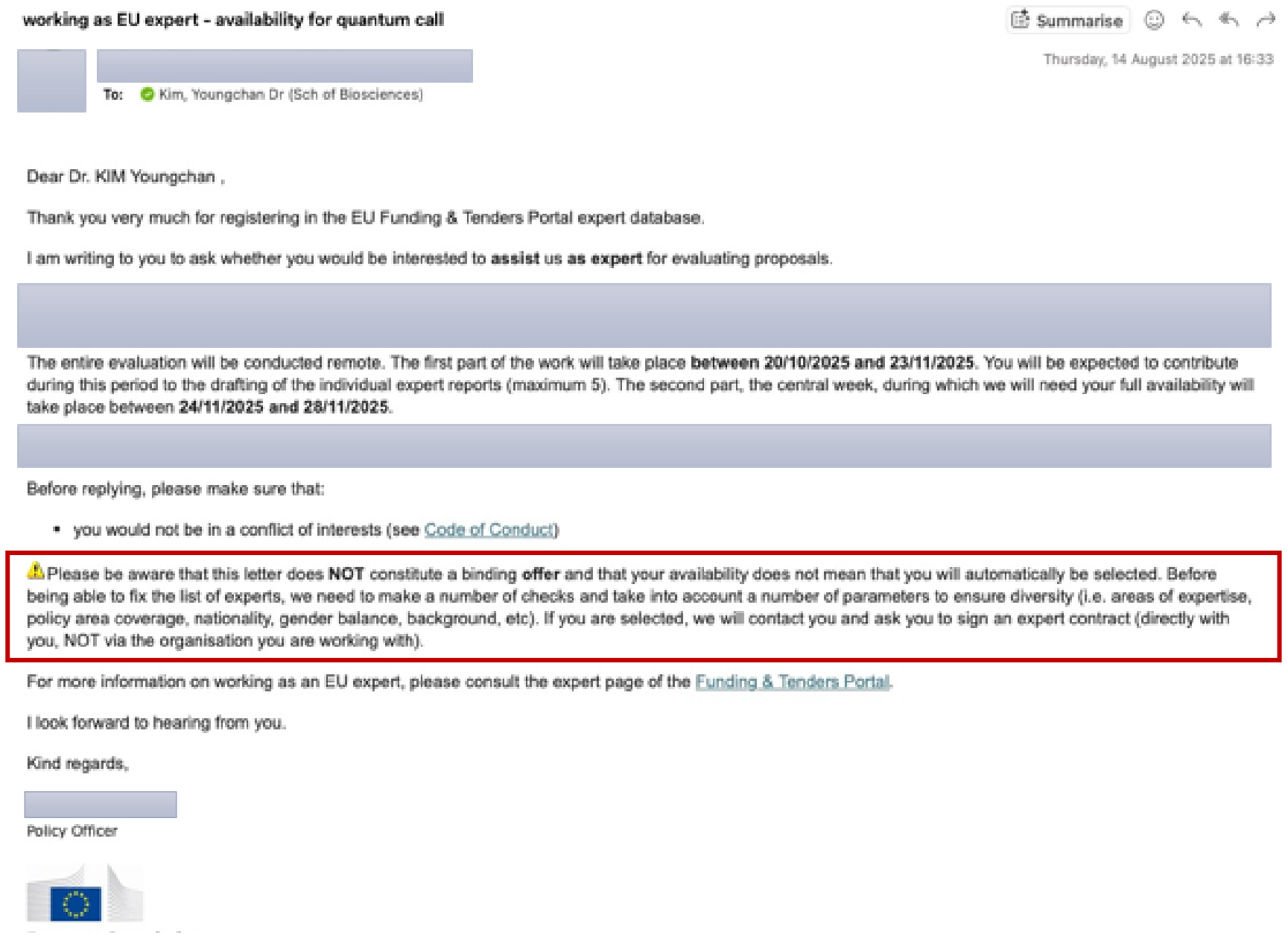
EXPERIENCE AS EXPERT FOR EVALUATING PROPOSALS

Horizon Europe Pillar 2,

Cluster 4 Digital Call 2025



working as EU expert - availability for quantum call

Summarise

Thursday, 14 August 2025 at 16:33

[redacted]

To: Kim, Youngchan Dr (Sch of Biosciences)

Dear Dr. KIM Youngchan ,

Thank you very much for registering in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal expert database.

I am writing to you to ask whether you would be interested to **assist** us **as expert** for evaluating proposals.

[redacted]

The entire evaluation will be conducted remote. The first part of the work will take place **between 20/10/2025 and 23/11/2025**. You will be expected to contribute during this period to the drafting of the individual expert reports (maximum 5). The second part, the central week, during which we will need your full availability will take place between **24/11/2025 and 28/11/2025**.

[redacted]

Before replying, please make sure that:

- you would not be in a conflict of interests (see Code of Conduct)

⚠ Please be aware that this letter does **NOT** constitute a binding **offer** and that your availability does not mean that you will automatically be selected. Before being able to fix the list of experts, we need to make a number of checks and take into account a number of parameters to ensure diversity (i.e. areas of expertise, policy area coverage, nationality, gender balance, background, etc). If you are selected, we will contact you and ask you to sign an expert contract (directly with you, NOT via the organisation you are working with).

For more information on working as an EU expert, please consult the expert page of the Funding & Tenders Portal.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

Policy Officer

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Research and innovation action (RIA)

Activities to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution.

Innovation action (IA)

Activities to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services.

EXCELLENCE

- ✓ Clarity and pertinence of the **project's objectives**, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art.
- ✓ Soundness of the proposed **methodology**, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the **gender dimension** in research and innovation content, and the quality of **open science practices** including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

IMPACT

- ✓ Credibility of the **pathways** to achieve the expected **outcomes and impacts** specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.
- ✓ Suitability and quality of the **measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

- ✓ Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.
- ✓ Capacity and role of each **participant**, and extent to which the **consortium** as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Proposals aspects are assessed to the extent that the proposed work is within the scope of the work programme topic

European Commission

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Coordination and support actions (CSA)

Activities that contribute to the objectives of Horizon Europe. This excludes R&I activities, except those carried out under the 'Widening participation and spreading excellence' component of the programme (part of 'Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area').

EXCELLENCE

- ✓ Clarity and pertinence of the **project's objectives**.
- ✓ Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures, including soundness of methodology.

IMPACT

- ✓ Credibility of the **pathways** to achieve the expected **outcomes and impacts** specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.
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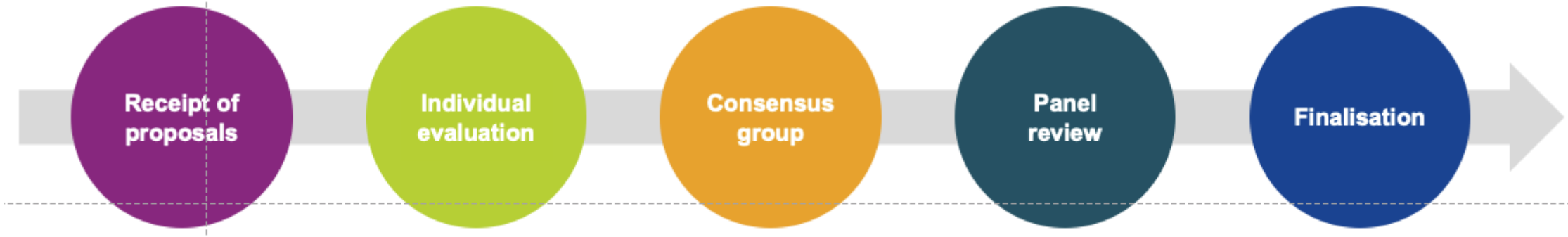
European Commission

STANDARD EVALUATION PROCESS



Receipt of proposals

Admissibility/eligibility check

Allocation of proposals to evaluators

Individual evaluation

Experts assess proposals **individually**.

Minimum of three experts per proposal (but often more than three).

Consensus group

All individual experts discuss together to agree on a **common position**, including comments and scores for each proposal.

Panel review

The panel of experts reaches an **agreement** on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking **consistency across the evaluations**.

If necessary, resolves cases where evaluators were unable to agree.

Ranks the proposals with the same score.

Finalisation

The Commission/Agency reviews the results of the experts' evaluation and puts together the **final ranking list**.

European Commission

FROM THE EVALUATOR'S ANGLE

- You need to excel in all and each of the criteria.

EXELLENCE

What Evaluators Scrutinise:

- Clear, measurable objectives with quantified targets.
- Well-defined Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) matching the call type
- Innovative and sound methodology going beyond state-of-the-art
- Ambitious yet achievable scientific approach

IMPACT

What Evaluators Scrutinise:

- Credible pathways linking outputs to EU policy goals
- Quantified environmental, social, and economic benefits
- Clearly identified target groups and uptake mechanisms
- Strategic dissemination and exploitation plans

IMPLEMENTATION

What Evaluators Scrutinise:

- Coherent work plan with logically interlinked work packages
- Comprehensive risk management with mitigation strategies
- Balanced consortium with complementary expertise
- Realistic timeline and resource allocation, credible progress monitoring

INTERPRETATION OF SCORES

- **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.

- A '**minor shortcoming**' is an issue that relates only to a marginal aspect of the proposal with respect to the criterion and/or can easily be rectified (it will not impact the scoring).
- A '**shortcoming**' is a problem that relates to an important aspect of the proposal. It impacts the scoring but does not render the proposal inappropriate for funding, i.e. the proposal is still expected to lead to useful results with positive impact.
- A '**significant weakness**' means that the proposal addresses the criterion in a limited and/or not sufficiently effective way (will lower the score below threshold). This can also be the case when the proposal includes a large number of shortcomings, each one of them not rendering the proposal inappropriate for funding, though all together make the proposal not addressing the criterion sufficiently in an effective way.

HOW TO STAND OUT IN EVALUATIONS

1. Mirror Call Language

- Use the call's terminology and keywords throughout your proposal and show immediate, literal alignment with EU priorities to simplify the evaluation process.

2. Prove Your Track Record

- Evidence Past Success and justify how your experience guarantees future delivery and minimizes risk.

3. Bridge the Gap to Market

- Including an innovation Advisory Board with industry leaders and end-users early in the process strengthens exploitation credibility and market update pathways.

4. Quantify Your Impact

- Create Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) with realistic timelines for achieving outcomes. Note that vague promises of "significant impact" don't score points.

5. Champion open science, gender & ethics

- Address Open Science, Gender Equality, and Ethics in research content, team composition, and impact assessment, not as afterthoughts.

6. Craft a Compelling Summary

- Treat the abstract as your most critical sales pitch. Clearly define the innovation and its impact potential to set a positive tone for the rest of the read.

[FIANL THOUGHTS] PATH TO SUCCESS: HORIZON EUROPE

- **Start early:**

  Don’t wait for the call. Align your concept with the draft Work Programme now. Good proposals are rarely done at once. Plan for numerous revisions and external peer reviews. Account for time zone variation and cultural differences.

- **Assemble a strong consortium:**

  Every partner must have a clearly defined, non-overlapping role. Establish a dedicated group of core partners early, while the coordinator leads, success is collective effort. Create your own professional Gantt and PERT chart to support guiding accurate planning.

- **Design for “Impact-First”:**

  Prioritise measurable impact and explicitly connect every technical objective to EU policy goals and real-world change. Clearly define your starting benchmarks and assumptions. If you can’t measure it, you can’t claim it.

- **Write for the evaluators:**

  Eliminate ambiguity. If a detail is important, state it explicitly. Do not expect evaluators to “read between the lines”, they will not. Proposals are assessed “as submitted”.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Impacts	Wider long-term effects on society (including the environment), the economy and science, enabled by the outcomes of R&I investments (long term). It refers to the specific contribution of the project to the work programme expected impacts described in the destination. Impacts generally occur some time after the end of the project.
Objectives	The goals of the work performed within the project, in terms of its research and innovation content. This will be translated into the project's results. These may range from tackling specific research questions, demonstrating the feasibility of an innovation, sharing knowledge among stakeholders on specific issues. The nature of the objectives will depend on the type of action, and the scope of the topic.
Outcomes	The expected effects, over the medium term, of projects supported under a given topic. The results of a project should contribute to these outcomes, fostered in particular by the dissemination and exploitation measures. This may include the uptake, diffusion, deployment, and/or use of the project's results by direct target groups. Outcomes generally occur during or shortly after the end of the project.
Pathway to impact	Logical steps towards the achievement of the expected impacts of the project over time, in particular beyond the duration of a project. A pathway begins with the projects' results, to their dissemination, exploitation and communication, contributing to the expected outcomes in the work programme topic, and ultimately to the wider scientific, economic and societal impacts of the work programme destination.
Research output	Results generated by the action to which access can be given in the form of scientific publications, data or other engineered outcomes and processes such as software, algorithms, protocols and electronic notebooks.
Results	What is generated during the project implementation. This may include, for example, know-how, innovative solutions, algorithms, proof of feasibility, new business models, policy recommendations, guidelines, prototypes, demonstrators, databases and datasets, trained researchers, new infrastructures, networks, etc. Most project results (inventions, scientific works, etc.) are 'Intellectual Property', which may, if appropriate, be protected by formal 'Intellectual Property Rights'.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

The winning formular: Quality | Clarity | Credibility.