

From Calls for Proposals to Decisions: Calls, Evaluation, Selection Process & Decisions

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**TEN-T EA Project Management Workshop
12-13 January 2010**



Background

- 2009: First year of the administration of the Calls for Proposals under the TEN-T EA's responsibility
- Feedback obtained and lessons learnt
- Future challenges: apply lessons learnt in the 2010 Calls for Proposals



Overall expectations

- Enable applicants to prepare higher quality proposals and thereby maximise their chances of being selected for funding
- Better understand the difficulties encountered by applicants, in order to clarify procedures and guidance for them



Objectives for the applicants

Better understanding of:

- different steps in the project selection process
- evaluation process (external and internal evaluation)
- award criteria used to evaluate the proposals
- some good practices to develop a solid proposal



Objectives for the Agency

- **Receive higher-quality proposals leading to higher quality projects**
- **Better understand the difficulties encountered by applicants, notably in:**
 - understanding the evaluation and selection process
 - preparing and submitting a proposal
- **Improve its way of working and communicating with applicants/beneficiaries - in particular on issues related to Calls for Proposals - on the basis of:**
 - the 2009 Call for Proposals experience
 - the conclusions of today's Workshop



Meeting these objectives...thanks to

- A break-out session, with ample time for discussion and sharing/exchanging ideas with participants
- A discussion focused on three main topics:
 - 1.Preparation and timing of work programmes and Calls for Proposals
 - 2.Evaluation and selection of proposals
 - 3.Good practices/how to maximise your chances of getting TEN-T funds



Topic 1: Preparation and timing of work programmes and Calls for Proposals

Issues:

- Clarify the different steps from a work programme to an individual financing decision
- Explain the annual planning of the Annual and Multi-Annual Calls
- Describe the Call for Proposal process, the work involved and the ideal timing
- Brainstorm on how to better inform potential applicants of the foreseen timing of the Calls



Topic 2: Evaluation and selection of proposals

First, the presentation will look at:

- Experts: how are they selected?
- Administration of calls
 - the external evaluation, the internal evaluation and the selection: how it works, who is involved in the selection and at what stage?

... and continue with a discussion on:

- Award criteria: what do they mean exactly?
- Compliance with EU law, notably environmental legislation



Criteria 1: relevance

- Is the Action meeting the objectives of the call?
- Is the Action meeting the priorities of the EU in transport?
- Does the Action have a direct positive contribution to the TEN-T network?
- Will the EU contribution make a difference?



Criteria 2: maturity

Is the Action ready to go?

- Technical and financial readiness (soundness of the package)
- Political commitment
- Advancement of procurement procedures
- Advancement of administrative procedures (public consultations, building permits, EIA etc)
- Risks/factors of uncertainty



Criteria 3: impact

- Anticipated direct and indirect socio-economic effects (as reflected in the results of ex-ante evaluation(s), socio-economic and/or cost/benefit analyses):
Impact on traffic growth, multimodal split, inter-operability, regional or national competition, service quality, safety, regional and / or local development and land use, impact on neighbouring regions, competition
- Impact on the environment (only for works):
 - Rebalancing of transport modes in favour of the most environment-friendly ones,
 - When negative impact: measures of prevention / mitigation / monitoring



Criteria 4: quality

- completeness and clarity of the proposal
- description of the planned activities
- coherence between objectives
- activities and planned resources
- soundness of the project management process



General Environmental Requirements

- Consultation of environmental authorities
- Development Consent
- EIA Directive
- SEA Directive
- Natura 2000
- Water Framework Directive



Environmental requirements: Frequent issues

- Date of development consent missing
- Contradictory information
- Difficulty in choosing between (EIA) Annex I and Annex II projects
- EIA documents not included
- Annex II-B (Natura) not signed, stamped or dated
- Natura 2000 map not included
- Poor understanding of SEA question



Topic 3: Good practices/how to maximise your chances of getting TEN-T funds

Presentation of two high-quality proposals submitted in 2009 (EERP/ERTMS Calls):

- What made the proposals successful?
- Which good practices did the applicants develop during the proposal preparation?
- Which difficulties did they encounter and how did they overcome them?



Topic 3: Good practices/how to maximise your chances of receiving TEN-T funds

To discuss:

- What are the key elements and main drawbacks to pay attention to when preparing and submitting a proposal?
- Which information is necessary and essential in the application form?
- What makes up a good proposal?
- Did applicants encounter specific difficulties in filling in the 2009 application forms?
 - If so, which ones and how could the TEN-T EA improve the process in 2010?
 - How could the application forms and other Call-related documents be improved?



Cross-cutting questions

- Do we provide the right assistance during the proposal preparation phase?
- Are there any issues to be reviewed?
- To what extent do we address the needs of the applicants?



Thank you for your attention!

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