

**Interreg  
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European Union | European Regional Development Fund



*Sharing solutions  
for better regional policies*

# Making your project happen

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# Summary

- Insight into assessment
- Lessons learnt from assessment
- Final tips and recommendations



# **SELECTION PROCEDURE**



# Overview of assessment

## 2-step procedure

I. eligibility assessment (7 'formal' criteria)  
fulfilment of technical requirements

II. quality assessment (6 quality criteria)  
2-stage qualitative evaluation

Detailed description in the programme manual  
(§5.3)



# Eligibility principles & criteria

- Technical yes or no process, **no correction possible**
- Only eligible applications are further assessed

Eligibility criteria
1. Respect of deadline
2. Completeness of the application
3. Correctness of the application form
4. Correctness of the partner declaration
5. Correctness of the support letter
6. Geographical coverage
7. Focus on Structural Funds



# Quality assessment

## 2-stage approach

### 1. **strategic assessment**

3 criteria: Relevance, results, partnership

### 2. **operational assessment**

3 criteria: coherence, communication /  
management, budget

## Scoring system 0 – 5

- Challenge: to pass the strategic assessment
- Check carefully assessment questions  
(manual section 5.3.2)



# HOW TO AVOID COMMON PITFALLS



# Pay attention to eligibility

**One 'NO' disqualifies whole project → no assessment**

- High rate of ineligibility (28.6%)
- Main causes of ineligibility: compulsory annexes
  - Letters of support
  - Partner declaration

Make sure all documents are provided and correct.  
Don't prepare them at the last minute!





# Lessons learned on strategic assessment

## **Common challenges related to the topic addressed**

- Relevance to the selected specific objective
- Exact focus and scope of the issue addressed
- Relevance of the policy instruments and territorial context to the topic / coherence of the approach



# Lessons learned on strategic assessment

## Challenges related to the policy instruments

- Precise definition of the policy instruments addressed (to be as specific as possible)
- For Structural Funds: only the Operational / Cooperation programmes are possible
- Relevance of the choice of the policy instrument (structural funds are not compulsory)



# Lessons learned on strategic assessment

## Common challenges related to the policy relevance of partners

**Policy relevance** = link of an organisation with the policy responsible body and capacity to influence the policy instrument addressed

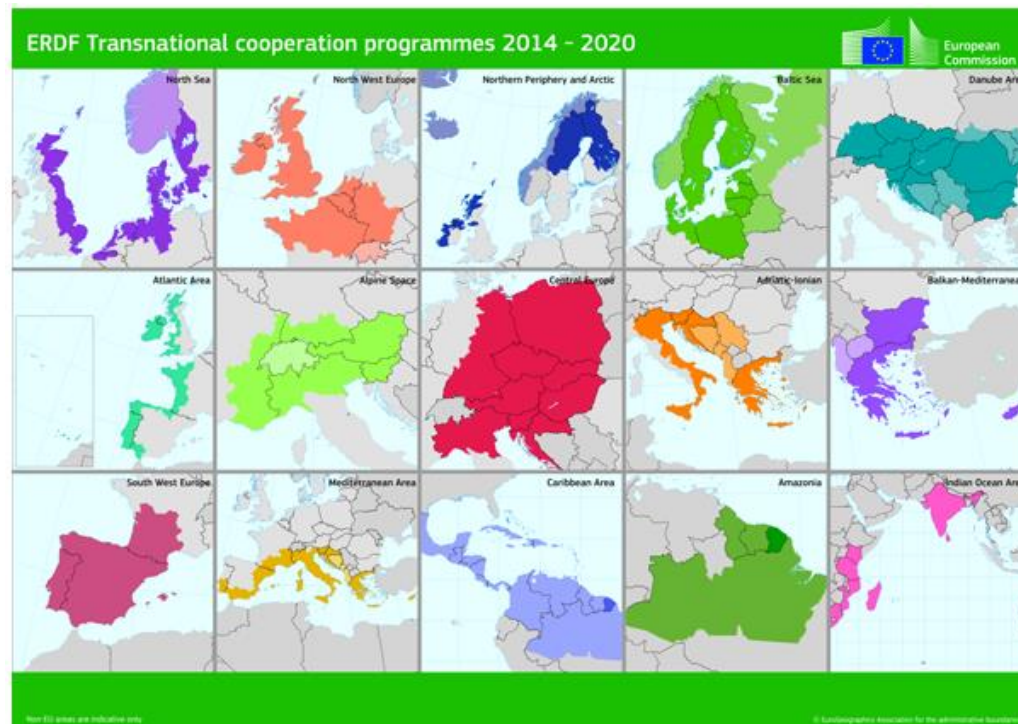
- Core elements of the quality of partnership (dedicated question in section B.2 of the application form)
- Necessity to be as specific as possible
- Letter of support not sufficient to demonstrate policy relevance of a partner



# Lessons learned on strategic assessment

## Common challenges related to the geographic coverage

- Importance to go beyond transnational area (80% rule)



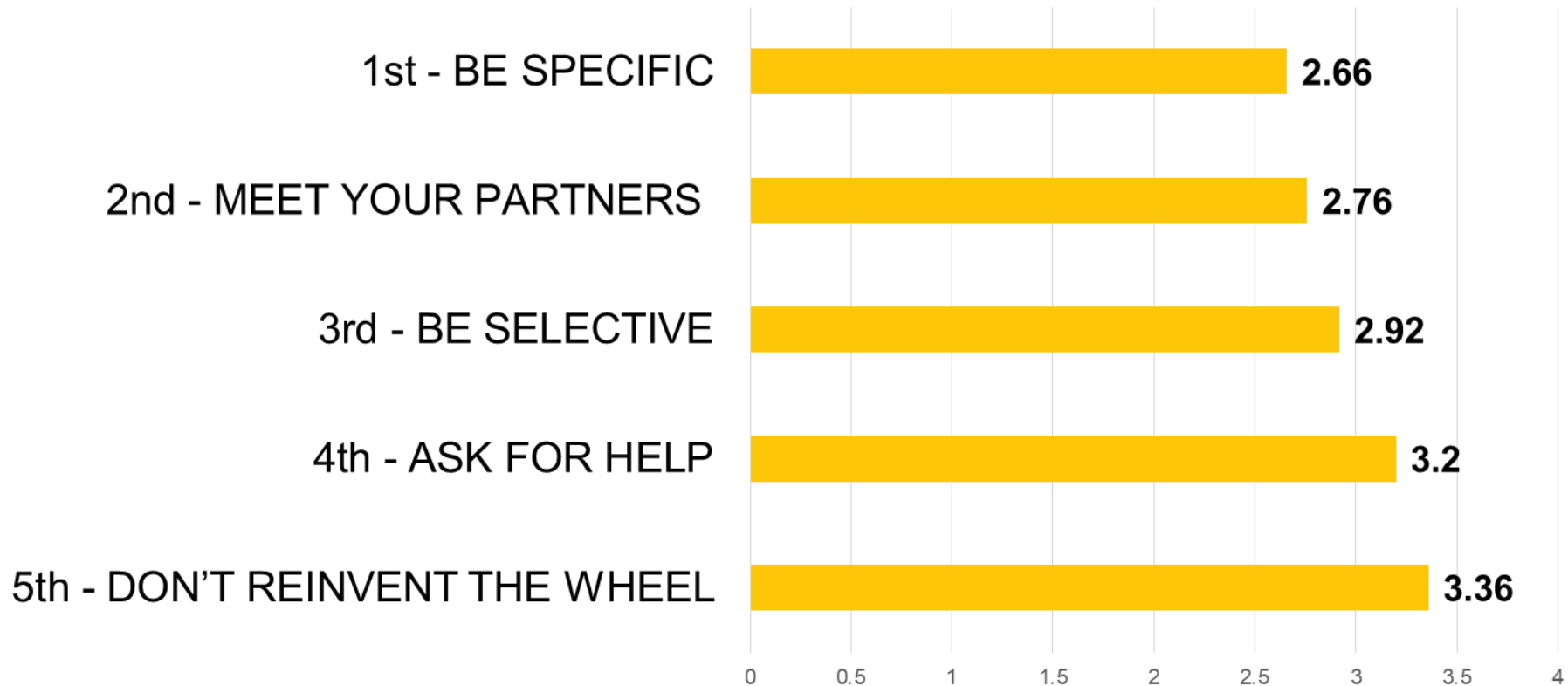


# **FINAL TIPS & RECOMMENDATIONS**



# Best tips according to partners

**Average rating of usefulness  
1(most) to 5 (least)**



105 answers ■ February 2017



**Tip 1: be specific**





# Tip 1: be specific

**Good application** = unique + reflecting partners needs

- Provide **concrete details & examples**  
**Facts and figures when possible**
- Show in-depth knowledge of **policy instruments** addressed
- Avoid general and vague information



## Tip 2: meet your partners





# Tip 2: meet your partners

**Preparation** is key to success

Time needed to check:

- Motivation & commitment
- Common interest
- Benefit a contribution to the project

# **Tip 3: be selective**

A hallway with five doors set into a wall with ornate, repeating brown and gold wallpaper. The floor is made of polished wooden planks that reflect the light. Four of the doors are white with black frames and handles. The second door from the left is a bright yellow color, standing out from the others. The perspective is from the end of the hallway, looking down its length.

**Lead partner responsibility**



## Tip 3: be selective (in your partnership)

**Partnership:** project core element which determines policy instruments & regional context

- Involve **policymakers** directly as partners
- Demonstrate **policy relevance** of organisations who are not policymakers
- Ensure a **wide geographical coverage**



## **Tip 4: ask for help**





# Tip 4: ask for help

**We are there to help!**

- Use the **assistance** offered by the JS (ask questions, check project idea, use partner search tool)
- Contact your **national point of contact**



# Tip 5: don't reinvent the wheel





# Tip 5: don't reinvent the wheel

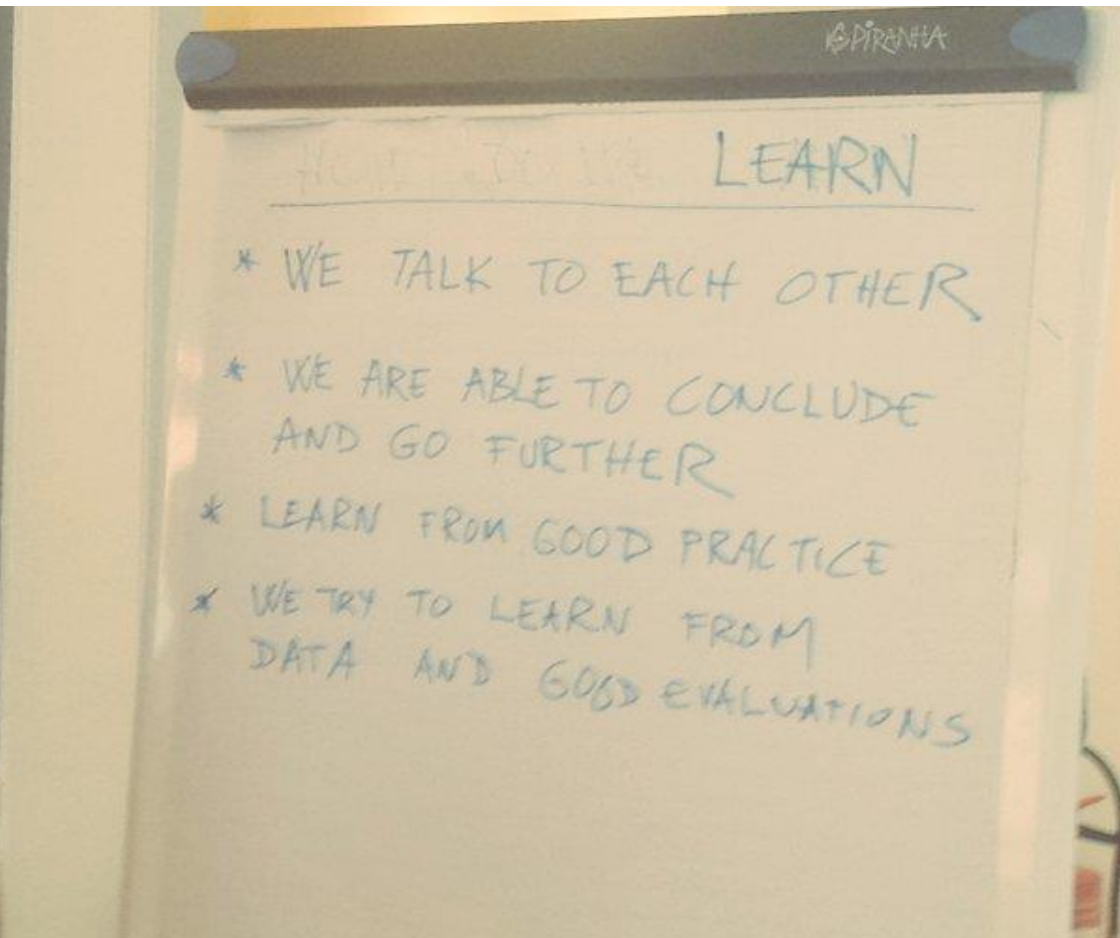
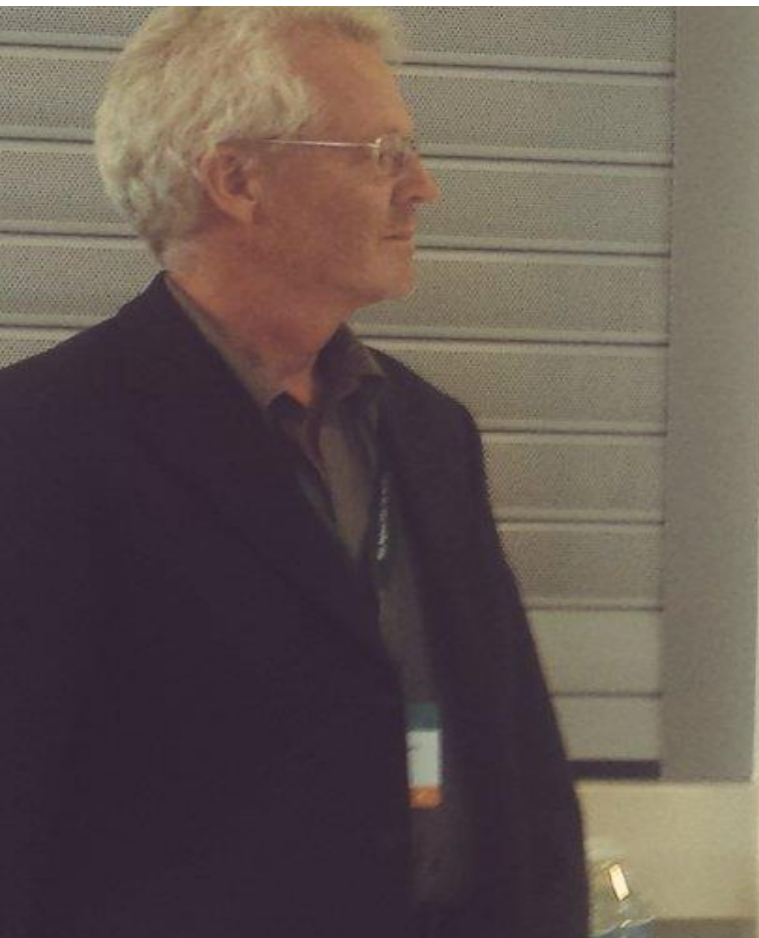
- Position yourself compared with the 130 running projects
- Explain your differences (topics? partners?)
- Pay attention to general or 'successful' topics



# Start from your challenges



# Take the learning process seriously



# Read the programme manual





# Pay attention to the application form

## **Fairness** and **equal treatment** principles

- Application Form = the **only basis** for assessment
  - same information requested from all
  - same technical requirements for all (e.g. text limits)
- Application form has to be **self-explanatory**  
Additional information / clarification not possible after submission

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# Thank you!



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