



PRECISEU

PRECISEU OPEN CALL

Information on the Evaluation Process

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PURPOSE OF THIS NOTE

This note provides a practical overview of the evaluation and selection process under the PRECISEU Open Call. It explains how proposals are assessed, ranked and selected for funding, and clarifies how regional budget constraints and oversubscription may affect the final outcome of the process.

The note also addresses **possible scenarios** in which a proposal is positively evaluated but cannot be funded as originally submitted because of regional funding constraints or the ineligibility of one of its partners.

GENERAL EVALUATION PROCESS

Following the submission deadline, all proposals are subject to an admissibility and eligibility screening carried out by PRECISEU Call Secretariat. Only those proposals that comply with the formal and eligibility requirements are transmitted to the evaluators.

Eligible proposals are then assessed through an independent expert evaluation process, based on the three published award criteria:

- Relevance
- Quality
- Impact

Each proposal is evaluated by at least three experts. The process includes:

1. an individual evaluation phase, in which each expert assesses the proposal independently;
2. a consensus phase, the expert panel, in which the evaluators agree consolidated assessment and final scores.

Only proposals that meet the minimum thresholds may proceed to the ranking stage. Proposals are then ranked based on their final consensus evaluation results.

Scoring and thresholds

The PRECISEU Open Call applies a 0 to 5 scoring scale for each of the three evaluation criteria, with half marks allowed.

The minimum thresholds are:

- 3 points per individual criterion
- 10 points overall across the three criteria

This means that a proposal must not only achieve a sufficiently high total score but must also meet the minimum quality threshold under each criterion separately.

In the event of a tie, proposals are ranked first according to their Impact score, and then according to their Relevance score. If a tie remains, additional considerations aligned with the objectives of the call may be applied.

Ranking and funding **recommendation**

Proposals that pass the thresholds are ranked based on final consensus results. However, passing the thresholds and obtaining a good ranking does not automatically guarantee funding, because the outcome also depends on:

- the regional budgets available,
- the regional eligibility and funding conditions,
- the overall distribution of resources across participating Funding Agencies.

The ranking therefore constitutes the main basis for the funding recommendation, but the final selection may also require a review of regional feasibility and budget availability. The ranking will not necessarily be published, as the considerations above might apply and not be translated into the ranking. Hence, a pool of recommended for funding projects will be invited to proceed to grant agreement.

OVERSUBSCRIPTION: GENERAL LOGIC

In case of oversubscription or need to reach a funding balance, PRECISEU Call Secretariat and Funding Agencies might apply agreed adjustments to the first quality-based evaluation and ranking. If a proposal cannot be fully funded because one or more of the regions involved do not have sufficient available budget, the call framework allows possible solutions to be explored with the concerned Funding Agencies and the consortium.

This means that oversubscription is handled in two stages:

- first, through a quality-based ranking;
- second, through a budgetary and regional feasibility review.

Where a proposal cannot be funded as originally submitted, the process may, as indicated, involve discussions on possible adjustments. In such cases, the PRECISEU framework allows room for possible adjustments to the budget and/or the consortium composition, provided that the

proposal continues to comply with the central call rules and that any changes are accepted by the relevant Funding Agencies and the Call Secretariat. If no viable solution can be found, the selection process may continue down the list of recommended for funding proposals.

Possible scenarios in case of oversubscription

The following scenarios may occur when a proposal is affected by regional oversubscription or regional funding constraints:

Scenario	What happens	Main implication
1. Proposal recommended for funding and can be fully funded as submitted	The proposal is recommended for funding, and all participating regions have sufficient available budget.	The proposal proceeds to grant preparation without major changes.
2. Proposal recommended for funding but not fully fundable in its original form	The proposal is recommended for funding, but one or more regional budgets cannot fully cover the requested amounts.	The Call Secretariat, Funding Agencies and consortium may explore possible adjustments.
2A. Budget adjustment	The consortium keeps the same partners, but the requested budget is reduced or rebalanced.	The proposal may still be funded if the project remains coherent and feasible.
2B. Consortium adjustment	One or more partners may need to change their status, reduce their role, become self-funded, or in some cases leave or be replaced, provided the call rules remain respected.	The proposal may remain fundable if the consortium still meets the minimum composition requirements and the project remains credible.
	A maximum of one partner can be replaced from an underrepresented or undersubscribed regions.	
3. Proposal becomes ineligible after attempted adjustment	Changes introduced to solve funding or eligibility issues affect the core consortium rules, partner roles or project structure too significantly. Or no acceptable solution is found for a	The proposal may be declared ineligible. The process continues with the next proposal on the ranking list.

	fundable but regionally blocked proposal.	
4. Proposal recommended for funding but is not funded	The proposal is positively evaluated and remains eligible, but no budget-compatible solution can be found.	The proposal is not funded, even though it has passed evaluation.
5. Proposal is not recommended for funding	The proposal will not be funded.	The proposal is rejected.

Table 1. Possible scenarios in case of oversubscription

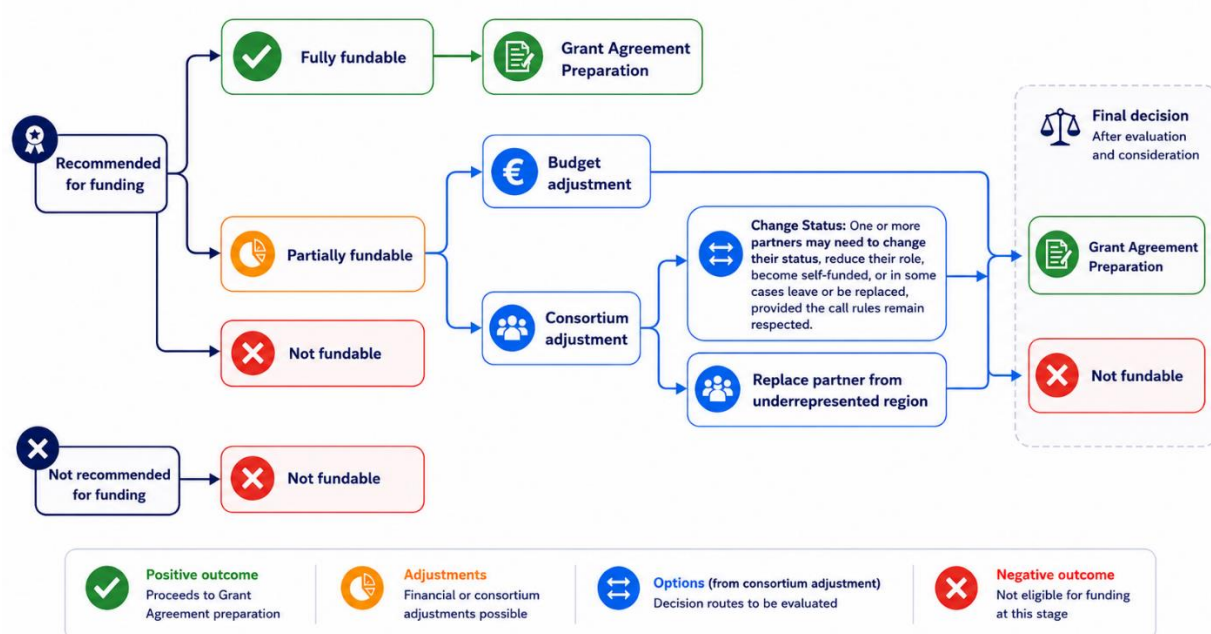


Figure 1. Possible scenarios in case of oversubscription

Considerations:

1. Major changes to the work plan are not acceptable
2. A replacement partner must have the required expertise to take over the tasks
3. The impact of introducing a new partner must be explained
4. If the consortium does not provide the requested feedback, the proposal may fail to proceed

Practical interpretation

In practice, this means that a proposal affected by regional funding constraints or by the ineligibility of one partner may remain fundable, but only if:

- the central consortium rules remain fulfilled;

- the work plan, expertise and implementation logic remain credible;
- the budget adjustments are coherent and acceptable;
- and the relevant Funding Agencies confirm the revised configuration.

If these conditions are not met, the proposal may either be rejected during the post-evaluation stage, or the selection process may continue with the next proposal in the ranking.

This is important because in PRECISEU **the final selection is not determined by scientific or technical quality alone. It also depends on whether the proposal can be matched with the available regional budgets and with the regional funding rules applicable to each beneficiary.**

Potential use of **remaining budgets**

Following the completion of the selection process, some Funding Agencies may retain uncommitted budget due to lower-than-expected demand, regional eligibility limitations, or the inability to allocate all available resources through the initial ranking process. Subject to the agreement of the participating Funding Agencies, the Call Secretariat and the PRECISEU governance bodies, such remaining budgets may be used through additional funding mechanisms, including the organisation of a second PRECISEU Open Call. Any decision to launch a further call would be subject to the availability of resources, compliance with the Grant Agreement and applicable programme rules, and would be communicated through the appropriate PRECISEU governance and dissemination channels.