

## Form referee recommendation Criteria-based assessment

Based on the assessment of the reviews, you are requested to provide your own criteria-based assessment, according to the criteria specified by the Sinergia funding instrument. Sinergia aims to promote **the interdisciplinary collaboration of two to four research groups that propose breakthrough research**. The assessment questions to each criterion are given in the tab "Criteria-based assessment". Comments should set out the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal.

According to the SNSF definitions:

- **Interdisciplinary research is defined as** research across disciplinary boundaries. In order to achieve the research objectives, it is necessary to integrate elements (theories, methods, concepts, etc.) from two or more disciplines. A similar degree of importance is attached to all the disciplines involved. Proposals that involve only one discipline or one main discipline supported by auxiliary disciplines are not to be funded by Sinergia.
- **Collaborative research means that** the expertise and knowledge of the applicants is complementary and that the collaboration of the different applicants is essential to achieve the research goals and creates an added value. .
- **Breakthrough research** addresses important challenges, questions or goes beyond existing models, theories, doctrines, research approaches, methods, etc. It opens up new lines of research and has a high potential for impact.

In general, consider the scientific expertise of applicants based on their entire research outputs (including datasets, software, prototypes, etc., when applicable). In this context the **scientific quality and relevance of a paper is deemed much more important than publication metrics or the name of the journal in which it was published**.

Furthermore, **the evaluation should be done against the background of the scientific discipline, academic age, personal situation of each applicant** (e.g. child care duties, career breaks, etc.). Comments should refer neither to the applicant's age, gender, nationality or any other personal matters, nor to other proposals and other assessments.

## Preliminary comments on the proposal and its assessment

Here you have the option to enter general comments.

### Declaration concerning conflicts of interests

I have no conflicts of interests or have declared any conflicts of interests below  
By crossing the box, you confirm that your assessment has not been affected by any conflict of interests or that you have declared any potential conflicts of interests by inserting a comment.

**Potential conflicts** of interests can be deemed to exist if a referee/co-referee

- is a co-applicant of the project or a mentioned collaboration partner;
- has jointly published with the applicants in the last five years;
- professionally depends on or competes with the applicants, or has done so until recently or will do so in the foreseeable future;
- works at the same institute as the applicants (or in the same or in a closely linked organisational unit);
- has close personal ties with the applicants (partnership, family ties, friendship);
- is otherwise biased.

### Assessment of the proposed research approach and risk management

To what extent are the research approach, methodology and organisation sound and convincing? To what extent is the proposed schedule realistic?

To what extent is the level of risk balanced with the anticipated goals of the project? Which are the riskiest and most critical parts of the project that may lead to failures?

To what extent is the provided risk management plan convincing? Note that the availability of preliminary data for risk mitigation is not a requirement in itself.

Is the requested personnel justified with regard to the proposed research and are the consumables and the requested equipment or other research costs reasonable?

Comments  
(8000 Characters)

Specific strengths  
(4000 Characters)

Specific weaknesses  
(4000 Characters)

Based on your above comments, rate the project with respect to the following statement:

**The research approach described in the proposal is well-conceived, consistent and risk-balanced.**

fully agree  mostly agree  partly agree  partly disagree  mostly disagree  totally disagree  Not considered

### Assessment of the qualification of the applicants

To what extent are the researchers convincing as a team? Is the expertise of each applicant adequate and complementary to successfully carry out the project? Are there additional qualifications that the team needs to acquire during the project?

Comments  
(8000 Characters)

Specific strengths  
(4000 Characters)

Specific weaknesses  
(4000 Characters)

Based on your above comments, rate the project with respect to the following statement:

**The researchers are convincing as a team and they have the necessary expertise to carry out the project.**

- fully agree     mostly agree     partly agree     partly disagree     mostly disagree     totally disagree     Not considered

**Assessment of the interdisciplinary character of the research project and the added value of the collaboration**

Is it necessary to combine the proposed theories, methods and/or concepts of two or more disciplines in order to reach the research goals? To what extent are all the required disciplines involved and connected within the research approach? Is the collaboration of the different applicants essential to achieve the research goals and does it create an added value? To what extent is the project more than the sum of its parts?

Comments  
(8000 Characters)

Specific strengths  
(4000 Characters)

Specific weaknesses  
(4000 Characters)

Based on your above comments, rate the project with respect to the following statement:

**The proposal presents an interdisciplinary approach and the collaboration of the applicants creates an added value.**

- fully agree     mostly agree     partly agree     partly disagree     mostly disagree     totally disagree     Not considered

**Assessment of the proposal's breakthrough character and potential for impact**

To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges and present a novel approach?

Does the proposed research go beyond existing models, theories, doctrines, research approaches, methods, etc? Does it open up new lines of research and does it have a high potential for impact in or beyond academia?

Do you agree with the self-assessment of the potential impact of the project in or beyond academia as described by the participants?

Do you see less potential or more? In which parts/areas?

Comments  
(8000 Characters)

Specific strengths  
(4000 Characters)

Specific weaknesses  
(4000 Characters)

Based on your above comments, rate the project with respect to the following statement:

**The proposed research addresses important challenges, presents a novel approach and has a potential for impact in or beyond academia.**

- fully agree  mostly agree  partly agree  partly disagree  mostly disagree  totally disagree  Not considered

## Comparative ranking

Rank here the proposal in comparison to the other proposals you have assessed or you are currently assessing as member of the Sinergia Evaluation Commission

\*

- A  AB  B  BC  C  D
- The proposal is among the strongest 10%    75% of the proposals are weaker, 10% stronger    50% of the proposals are weaker, 25% stronger    50% of the proposals are stronger, 25% weaker    75% of the proposals are stronger, 10% weaker    The proposal is among the weakest 10%

Summarise on what grounds you have made the above ranking.

Differentiate the rating by explicitly highlighting the proposal's strengths and weaknesses against the background of the Sinergia criteria (breakthrough, interdisciplinary, collaborative).

Note that in case of negative decision, the administrative offices will address a rejection letter to the applicant based on the arguments exposed in this section, in the section "Criteria-based assessment", as well as on the discussion conducted during the evaluation meeting.

## Funding conditions

Assess here whether the requested budget is adequate to ensure the execution of the project. In case you judge the budget to be inadequate, propose and justify cuts accordingly.

Requested duration

Proposed project duration (num. of months) \*

Reasons

### Conditions

Conditions

### Authorisations and reportable experiments

Might other documents be needed for this project besides the authorisations and notifications declared in the application?

Yes

Additionally required authorisations or notifications