

# Evaluation form for external reviewers

August 2022

You are requested to provide a **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 main criterion guiding the evaluation of the proposals is **scientific quality**. It is applied to the assessment of the proposed research as well as the scientific achievements and potential of each applicant. The assessment questions to all criteria are given in the next tab. Comments should set out the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal. They should refer neither to the applicant's age, gender, nationality or any other personal matters, nor to other proposals and other assessments. **Overly positive or critical reviews with no justification cannot be taken into account**. In addition, please note that the **review must be written in English**.

## 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 and presents a novel approach, it 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 or beyond academia.

## 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 are resources necessary and properly justified?

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 (max.))	 <div style="height: 100px;"></div>
Specific strengths * (4000 characters (max.))	 <div style="height: 100px;"></div>
Specific weaknesses * (4000 characters (max.))	 <div style="height: 100px;"></div>

- |                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> | 9 | Strong in all relevant aspects. No or negligible weaknesses.               |
| <input type="radio"/> | 8 |  |
| <input type="radio"/> | 7 | Strong in most relevant aspects. Few clearly identified weaknesses.        |
| <input type="radio"/> | 6 |  |
| <input type="radio"/> | 5 | Strong in several relevant aspects. Some clearly identified weaknesses.    |
| <input type="radio"/> | 4 |  |
| <input type="radio"/> | 3 | Some strengths in relevant aspects. Several clearly identified weaknesses. |
| <input type="radio"/> | 2 |  |
| <input type="radio"/> | 1 | Few or no strengths in relevant aspects. Many serious weaknesses.          |

## 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 (max.))	 <div style="height: 100px;"></div>
Specific strengths * (4000 characters (max.))	 <div style="height: 100px;"></div>
Specific weaknesses * (4000 characters (max.))	 <div style="height: 100px;"></div>

- |                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> | 9 | Strong in all relevant aspects. No or negligible weaknesses.               |
| <input type="radio"/> | 8 |  |
| <input type="radio"/> | 7 | Strong in most relevant aspects. Few clearly identified weaknesses.        |
| <input type="radio"/> | 6 |  |
| <input type="radio"/> | 5 | Strong in several relevant aspects. Some clearly identified weaknesses.    |
| <input type="radio"/> | 4 |  |
| <input type="radio"/> | 3 | Some strengths in relevant aspects. Several clearly identified weaknesses. |
| <input type="radio"/> | 2 |  |
| <input type="radio"/> | 1 | Few or no strengths in relevant aspects. Many serious weaknesses.          |

## 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 (max.))	
Specific strengths * (4000 characters (max.))	
Specific weaknesses * (4000 characters (max.))	

- |                       |   |  |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> | 9 | Strong in all relevant aspects. No or negligible weaknesses.               |
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| <input type="radio"/> | 3 | Some strengths in relevant aspects. Several clearly identified weaknesses. |
| <input type="radio"/> | 2 |  |
| <input type="radio"/> | 1 | Few or no strengths in relevant aspects. Many serious weaknesses.          |

## 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 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 (max.))	
Specific strengths * (4000 characters (max.))	
Specific weaknesses * (4000 characters (max.))	

- 9 Strong in all relevant aspects. No or negligible weaknesses.
- 8
- 7 Strong in most relevant aspects. Few clearly identified weaknesses.
- 6
- 5 Strong in several relevant aspects. Some clearly identified weaknesses.
- 4
- 3 Some strengths in relevant aspects. Several clearly identified weaknesses.
- 2
- 1 Few or no strengths in relevant aspects. Many serious weaknesses.

## Overall Assessment

Please summarise the main reasons for your overall rating by pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal.

Please note that your review, except the part « comments and personal declaration », will be forwarded to the applicants, anonymously and possibly in abridged form.

Please provide a rating on the following scale for your overall assessment of the proposal, considering the strengths and weaknesses in the criteria-based assessment. Use 5 as the entry point from which to develop your arguments to grade lower or higher.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rating	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Main reasons for your overall assessment *	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px;"></div>								