PEER REVIEW - INTRODUCTION

Imagine that you have a lot of money ….

you can sponsor the research, what a wonderful idea!

What do you do?

1. Asking for advice
2. Setting up a framework of expectations: whom would you like to support? Early careers? or senior researchers? Small tasks, or groundbreaking research? Any particular topic? Or research area?
3. Asking for help – inviting people from the research community to help you to distribute the money: they put up the list of criteria in order to meet the best choice

You are a prominent politician very active on political scene

What do you do?

- Asking for advice (e.g. the scientific community)
- Setting up a framework of expectations: whom would you like to support? Early careers? or senior researchers? Small tasks, or groundbreaking research? Any particular topic? Or research area?
- Asking for help – inviting people from the research community to help you to distribute the money: they put up the list of criteria in order to meet the best choice

All such scenarios involve the participation of the members of scientific community, the bigger the involvement of scientists is, the degree of objectivity rises (the possibility of intervention from the side of policy makers, or donors decreases)

Peer review

Peer review is the the evaluation of work by one or more people with similar competences as the producers of the work (peers). It functions as a form of self-regulation by qualified members of a profession within the relevant field.

Peer review methods are used to maintain quality standards, improve performance, and provide credibility. In academia, scholarly peer review is often used to determine an academic paper's suitability for publication (or grant application's suitability for funding).

PR system is based on the anonymity and on the independent status of the experts (reviewers), which should in principle allow for criticism and diminishing of the conflict of interests

Scholarly peer review (also known as **refereeing**) is the process of subjecting an author's scholarly work, research, or ideas to the scrutiny of others who are experts in the same field, before a paper describing this work is published in a journal, conference proceedings or as a book, etc. The peer review helps the publisher decide whether the work should be accepted, considered acceptable with revisions, or rejected.

Peer review requires **a community of experts** in a given (and often narrowly defined) field, who are qualified and able to perform reasonably **impartial** review. **Impartial review**, especially of work in less narrowly defined or interdisciplinary fields, may be difficult to accomplish, and the significance (good or bad) of an idea may never be widely appreciated among its contemporaries. Peer review is generally considered necessary to academic quality and is used in most major scholarly journals, but it by no means prevents publication of invalid research. Traditionally, peer reviewers have been anonymous, but there is currently a significant amount of open peer review, where the comments are visible to readers, generally with the identities of the peer reviewers disclosed as well.

The peer review process is used to assess, select, and finance research based on defined criteria (expectations) including the assessment of description of the research outcomes (predicted)

The peer-review process sets the standards for good research; varieties of peer-review are used by academic institutions to strengthen decisions related to recruitment and promotion in the academic hierarchy; this process is used by research funding agencies to achieve their specific organizational objectives (missions). It is also a tool commonly used at various stages of the knowledge production, including the selection of research proposals, while evaluating research outcomes and disseminating their results

The main aim of this system is to eliminate publications from journals, or prevent such proposals from funding which, for example, put forward theses that do not have support in the description of experiments carried out or in collected historical data.

the system does not detect frauds - reviewers usually only evaluate the text of publication (or grant proposal) and do not repeat described experiments

the scientific review system is based on the principle of presumed honesty of the authors of the work

The mechanism of peer-review is more or less the same, no matter whether used for reviewing the journal article, grant proposal or a book, however different types, used for different purposes do exist

SINGLE BLIND PEER REVIEW

the author doesn’t know the identity of the reviewers

Pro

- anonymity allows the reviewers to formulate direct, frank opinions, without being afraid of any direct criticism from the authors’ side
- knowing the author's identity (affiliation), reviewers can use external knowledge about other author's achievements

Con

- the author's identity may obscure the scientific quality of the planned research / article - resulting in the lack of criticism in relation to the "work" presented for the evaluation (the problem of so called "big names")
- possibility of discrimination based on sex, nationality, age, etc.

DOUBLE BLIND PER REVIEW

both the author does not know the identity of the reviewers, and the reviewers do not know the identity of the author

Pro

- only the scientific level is evaluated, and prejudices/bias are eliminated
- both the author and the reviewer are protected from non-scientific criticism

Con

- anonymity cannot be guaranteed, the author's identity can be easily guessed (research topics, bibliography, style)
- according to some, the knowledge of the author's identity helps reviewers achieve substantive judgment

Open Peer Review

both the author's and the reviewers' identities are known to both parties (journals often publish articles and reviews - the reader can read all the available material - this applies only to articles accepted for publication

Pro

- such transparency of the process affects the quality of publication and review
- the reviewers are better motivated, they do their job better because their names and written comments are publicly available

Con

- reviewers refuse to cooperate in such a system – they fear that their names will be identified as sources of negative review
- reviewers may be restrained in their assessments, especially in criticizing more senior scientists, especially if they feel that their own careers may depend on them (especially the case of narrow communities)

Transferable Peer Review

a new form of assessment - allowing for the transfer of scientific work between journals

(the editors decide not to publish the work in their own journal but they send it to another journal of more or less similar profile); just sending (with the consent of the author) a work to another periodical does not guarantee its publication in the latter one; if the author gives her/his consent then all data: article text, reviews, all other metadata are sent to the other journal

Pro

- the main advantage of this method is speeding up the publishing process (offering alternatives)
- reduction of the reviewers' work load (use of available reviews)

Con

- the editors of alternative journals may also want to limit the number of received manuscripts; they may also think that the work is inappropriate for the profile of their journal
- a potentially frustrating system for authors: especially if, after the transfer, the work will be assessed as not meeting the basic requirements of the journal

COLLABORATIVE PEER REVIEW

this term applies to various assessment methods done by a group; e.g. two or more reviewers work together on the evaluation of the publication (grant application), discuss their opinions and present a common position; or the reviewers cooperate with the author to make the publication meet the expected standards

Pro

- this way is perceived as being less restrictive and more constructive than other types of peer review, by removing barriers between the reviewer and the author

Con

- rejection of the value of two independent opinions
- the borders between the reviewer’s and the author's contribution are blurred

Post-publication review

Comments, discussions after the publication of the material; this case does not exclude other forms of evaluation before publication of the paper

Pro

- such point of view emphasizes the changing nature of science
- gives a margin for corrections

Con

- shortcuts and errors in published works are usually corrected in different forms: errata, proofreading, published voice in the discussion (letter to the editor, etc.).

An obvious crucial dimension in the peer-review process is the trust given in the reviewers; to help them and to make the process efficient (which is very disputable) the most important thing seems to be setting up criteria – we have to tell the peers what we are aiming at, what is important to us (as funders, or editors)

Review Form

Please enter the relevant information in the fields provided, or select yes/no.

Paper title

1. Should the submission be accepted for publication:

(a) yes

(b) **no**

(c) yes, but following a minor revision

(d) yes, but following a major revision

2. In your opinion, is the subject addressed in this submission worthy of investigation? **yes** no

3. Is the content new? yes **no**

4. Are the sources cited relevant to the topic? **yes** no

5. Are the sources cited up-to-date and complete? yes **no**

6. Are critical concepts defined appropriately? yes **no**

7. Is the theoretical background described? yes **no**

8. Are the predictions/hypotheses formulated appropriately (if applicable)? yes **no**

9. Is experimental methodology described appropriately (if applicable)? yes no

10. Are the data presented in an appropriate manner (if applicable)? **yes** no

11. Is the language of presentation appropriate? **yes** no

12. Is the structure of presentation appropriate? yes **no**

- Przegląd Rusycystyczny.pdf

Russian Studies Review

Jak ocenia Pan(i) ogólny pozom merytoryczny tekstu?

What is your assessment of the general quality of the submission?

Как Вы оцениваете уровень рецензируемого текста,

- ☐ wyróżniający / outstanding / очень высокий
- ☐ dobry / good / высокий
- ☐ do zaakceptowania po wprowadzeniu niezbędnych zmian / barely acceptable, to be modified and resubmited / можно принять при условии введения определенных изменений
- ☐ słaby / poor. unacceptable / непригодный для печати

Jak ocenia Pan(i) poziom językowy i stylistyczny tekstu i poziom jego komunikatywności? / What is your assessment of the style and intelligibility/comprehensibility of the submission? / Как Вы оцениываете языковой уровень статьи и ее коммуникативность,*

- ☐ Język i styl adekwatny do opracowywanego materiału i odpowiada standardom Przeglądu Rusycystycznego" / Style adequate for publication in "Russian Studies Review" / Язык соответсвует стандартам принятым в журнале
- ☐ Tekst napisany językiem zbyt hermetycznym, trudnym w odbiorze / Style is too complicated and difficult for readers / Стиль очень сложный, трудно понятный даже для специалистов
- ☐ Styl jest nadmiernie publicystyczny, popularny z licznymi uproszczeniami myślowymi / Style is too colloquial, too many simplification / Стиль публицистический с многочисленными упрощениями

Czy przedstawiony tekst wnosi samodzielny wkład do rozwoju badań nad zagadnieniem, które podejmuje? / Does the submission truly contribute to the development of the field it addressess? / Вносит ли данная статья серьезный вклад в изучение объекта, который в ней анализируется,*

- ☐ Tak, w znacznym stopniu / Yes, significantly / Да, безусловно
- ☐ Tak, lecz w niewielkim stopniu / Yes, but to a limited extend / Да, но в небольшой мере
- ☐ Raczej nie / Not really / Не особенно
- ☐ Tekst jest wtórny / The text is derivative, does not contribute any new knowledge, lacks originality / Статья повторяет избитые истины, не вносит ничего оригинального

Proszę krótko opisać zalety opiniowanego tekstu / **How would you describe the most interesting and the most valuable aspects of the submission**? / Укажите самые интересные элементы этого текста

Proszę krótko opisać wady tego tekstu / **Please describe the worst elements of the submission** / Укажите, пожалуйста, самые слабые элементы этого текста

Prosimy o jednoznaczną opinie o tekście / **Please, state your non-ambivalent recommendation** / Определите однозначно Ваше отношение к тексту*

- [ ] Tekst nadaje się do publikacji / **I recommend the text for publicarion** / Рекомендую текст в печать
- [ ] Tekst wymaga nieznacznych korekt, po wprowadzeniu których będzie się nadawał do publikacji / **The text requires some revisions: once the corrections have benn implemented, I will recommend the text for publication** / Текст требует некоторой доработки, после которой я рекомендую его в печать
- [ ] Tekst nie nadaje się do druku / **The text should be rejected** / Текст не годится в печать

Research Council of Lithuania

- RCL.pdf

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TABLE OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT QUALITY

Application code **09.33.6-LMT-K-715-01-0036**

Name of the Applicant

Project title

The project will be implemented:

☐ **with a partner (s)**

☐ **without a partner (s)**

☐ **PRIMARY** ☐ **REVISED**

Title of the priority criterion of the project selection (hereinafter – criterion)	Aspects and explanations of the criterion	Maximum score	Given score	Treshold	Comments
1. Novelty and feasibility of the research idea The novelty and feasibility of the idea of the proposed research project: potential contribution into the development of the research field, and to what extent the project will contribute to addressing the most relevant challenges in science, whether the project objectives are sufficiently ambitious and not limited to conventional research methods, materials and technologies, and the planned research methods, materials and technologies are appropriate for attaining the project objectives, and to what extent the project can be effective having regard to the related risks and a potential benefit.	The project contributes to resolving the most relevant challenges in science – 0–16;	16	[0967] 13.0 [0960] 10.0 [0981] 8.0 [x]		
	The objective of the project is sufficiently ambitious and is not limited to conventional research methods, materials and technologies – 0 –8;	8	[0967] 6.0 [0960] 5.0 [0981] 4.0 [x]		
	The proposed research methods, materials and technologies are appropriate to reach the objectives of the project – 0–8.	8	[0967] 7.0 [0960] 7.0 [0981]		

			6.0 [x]		
		32	[0967] 26.0 [0960] 22.0 [0981] 18.0 [x]	24	
2. The quality of the project maturity, and the feasibility of the project Assessment of the quality of the project maturity: reasonableness of the operating plan of the research, and the terms for its implementation, optimality and reasonableness of the composition of the research team of the project (correspondence with the needs and the scope of the projected research), necessity of the planned resources, projection of project-related risks and their management plan.	Reasonableness of the operational plan of the research project and the terms for their implementation – 0–7;	7	[0967] 4.0 [0960] 6.0 [0981] 4.0 [x]		
	Optimality and reasonableness of the composition of the research group of the project (matching the needs and the scope of the planned research) – 0–7;	7	[0967] 4.0 [0960] 7.0 [0981] 5.0 [x]		
	Necessity, sufficiency and reasonableness of the resources intended to be used for the project – 0–7;	7	[0967] 5.0 [0960] 7.0 [0981] 3.0 [x]		
	Projection of project-related risks and a plan for their management – 0–7.	7	[0967] 5.0 [0960] 2.0 [0981] 4.5 [x]		
		28	[0967] 18.0 [0960] 22.0 [0981] 16.5 [x]	14	
3. Scientific competence of the project leader Assessment of the international scientific achievements of the research leader, experience in carrying out and managing research, experience in training researchers and	Scientific accomplishments in the international context – 0–5;	5	[0967] 5.0 [0960] 5.0 [0981] 4.0 [x]		i

early-stage scientists and capacities to implement the proposed project. The scientific competence of the research leader is assessed on the basis of the documents submitted, such as the curriculum vitae of the research leader and the list of his publications.	Experience in carrying out and managing research – 0–5;	5	[0967] 5.0 [0960] 4.0 [0981] 4.0 [x]		
	Capacities to implement the project proposed – 0–5;	5	[0967] 5.0 [0960] 5.0 [0981] 4.0 [x]		
	Experience in training researchers and early-stage scientists – 0–5.	5	[0967] 2.0 [0960] 4.0 [0981] 3.0 [x]		
		20	[0967] 17.0 [0960] 18.0 [0981] 15.0 [x]	15	
4. Expected results of the research project, their significance and dissemination Assessment of expected results of the research project, the impact of the results upon the further development of science, the possibilities of their use, adequacy of the dissemination and communication means (research publications, presentations at scientific conferences, patents and other scientific production).	Benefit of the results of the project – 0–5;	5	[0967] 5.0 [0960] 3.0 [0981] 3.0 [x]		
	Impact of the results of the project to the further development of science – 0–5;	5	[0967] 4.0 [0960] 3.0 [0981] 2.0 [x]		
	Possibilities and prospects of using the results – 0–5;	5	[0967] 5.0 [0960] 3.0 [0981] 3.0 [x]		
	Adequacy of the dissemination	5	[0967]		

	and communication means – 0–5.		4.0 [0960] 4.0 [0981] 2.0 [x]		
		20	[0967] 18.0 [0960] 13.0 [0981] 10.0 [x]	15	
	Total	**100**	**[0967] 79.0 [0960] 75.0 [0981] 59.5 [x]**	**68**	

Final conclusion

[0967]

I recommend the project with some doubts related to the team construction and the timetable…..

[0960]

This project relies on a truly international team of expert researchers. The PI has an impressive CV and record of research funding, but it is a disappointing research proposal bereft of sharp research hypotheses, questions, and exploration of methods…..

[0981]

The project`s title refers to ……., but the text refers to ... There is lack of clarity about whether the focus is……

National Science Centre Poland

- opus16_3a_principles_of_evaluation.pdf

I. Principles of evaluating proposals submitted under the call for proposals, including purchase or construction of research equipment necessary for their completion – "OPUS."

- **Has the proposal been written with all due diligence?**[1]

  - yes
  - no

  In the case of "no" please justify.

- **Does the project meet the criteria of a scientific proposal?**[1]

  - yes
  - no

  In the case of "no" please justify.

- **Does the project meet the criteria of basic research[2]?**[1]

  - yes
  - no

  In the case of "no" please justify.

- **Does the project meet other eligibility criteria outlined in the call for proposals?**[1]

  - yes
  - no

  In the case of "no" please justify.

A. EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT (WEIGHTING 55%)

A.1. EVALUATION OF PLANNED RESEARCH OR PROJECT TASKS (WEIGHTING 40%)

5 Excellent. The project results are likely to be published in press/journals of the highest academic rank.

4 Very good. The project results are likely to be published in mainstream academic press/journals for a given field.

3 Good. The project results are likely to be published in international specialist academic press/ journals.

2 Average. The project results are likely to be published in minor academic press/ journals.

1 Poor.

0 Very poor.

Justification:

A.2. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT'S INNOVATIVE POTENTIAL AND IMPACT ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD/DISCIPLINE (WEIGHTING 15%)

- **Innovative nature of the proposed research:**

3 The project is innovative.

1 The project has innovative elements.

[1] This question applies at the first stage of the merit-based evaluation.

[2] Basic research is defined as experimental or theoretical endeavours undertaken primarily to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without concern for direct commercial use (art. 2(3)(a) of the act of 30th April 2010 on the principles of funding science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 87).

0 The project has no innovative elements.

- **Impact of the research project on the advancement of the scientific field/discipline:**

3 The project will have a substantial impact on the advancement of the scientific field/discipline.

1 The project will have some impact on the advancement of the scientific field/discipline.

0 The project will have no impact on the advancement of the scientific field/discipline or the project has been submitted to the wrong review panel.

Justification:

B. EVALUATION OF THE RESEARCH TRACK RECORD OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (WEIGHTING 40%)

- **Scientific achievements of the principal investigator, including publications in academic press/journals:**

5 Outstanding. The Principal Investigator is one of the world's top researchers in their particular field.

4 Very good. The Principal Investigator is an internationally recognised expert in their particular field.

3 Good. The Principal Investigator is internationally recognised in the field.

2 Moderate. The Principal Investigator has national recognition in the field.

1 Modest. The Principal Investigator lacks recognition in the field.

0 The Principal Investigator has no scientific achievements.

- **Evaluation of the results of research projects conducted by the Principal Investigator, funded from the budget for science; in the event of no previous projects, the mark from the section above should be applied in this section.**

5 The results of the completed projects have been published in academic press/journals of the highest rank.

4 The results of the completed projects have been published in mainstream academic press/journals in a given field of research.

3 The results of the completed projects have been published in international specialist academic press/journals.

2 The results of the completed projects have been published in specialist academic press/journals.

1 The results of the completed projects have been published in minor academic press/journals.

0 The results of the completed projects have not been published.

Justification:

C. ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT FEASIBILITY (WEIGHTING 5%)

- **Assessment of the feasibility of the proposed project, including the principal investigator's qualifications, the structure of the research team, research facilities etc.:**

3 Very good.

2 Good.

1 Poor.

0 The project is not feasible.

Justification:

- **Are the costs to be incurred well justified with regards to the subject and scope of the research?**[1]

-

  - yes
  - no

  In the case of “no” please justify.

- **Does the proposal meet the criteria allowing for its re-submission in a subsequent edition of the PRELUDIUM and OPUS calls?**[3]

  - yes
  - no

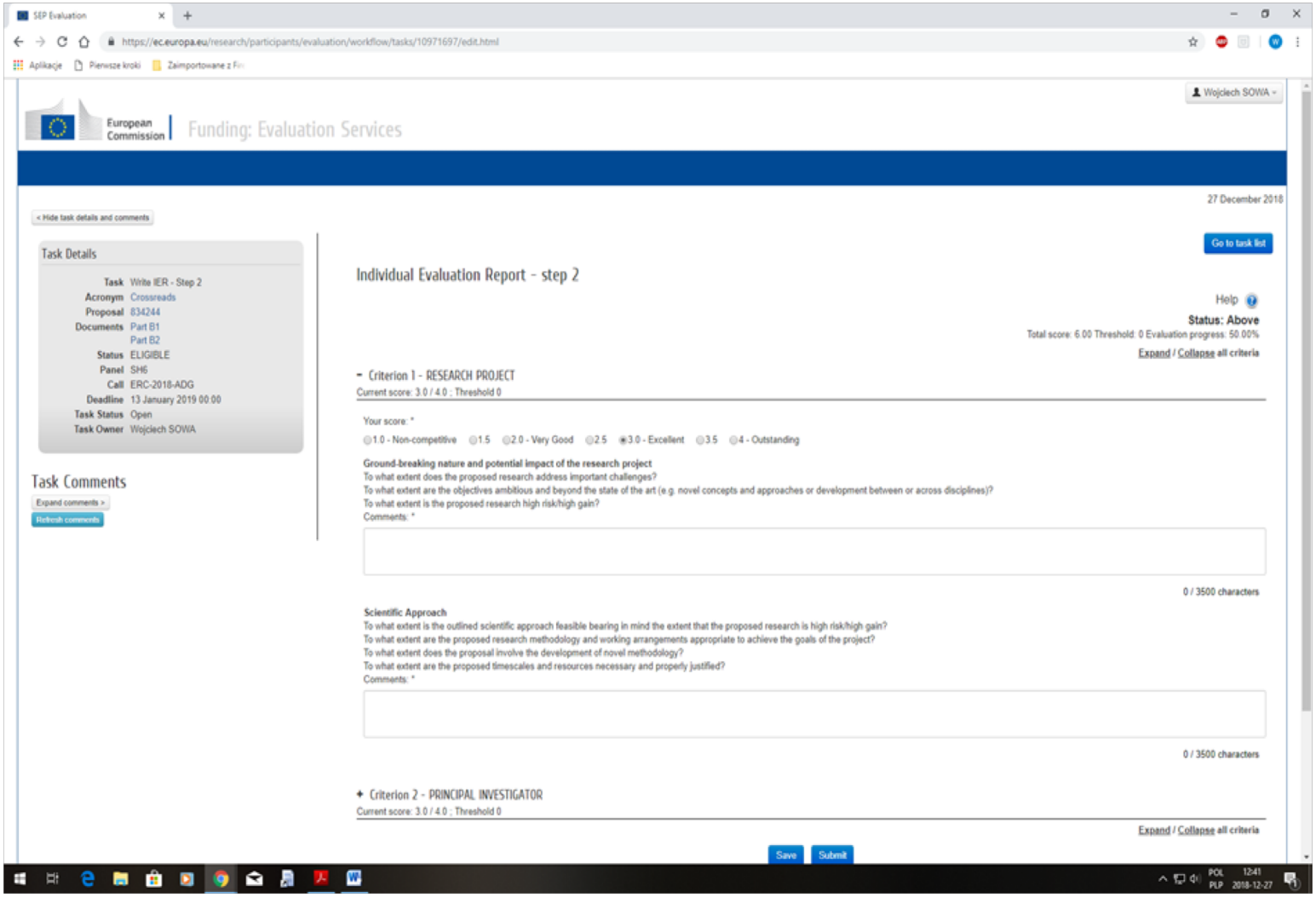
JUSTIFICATION FOR EVALUATION

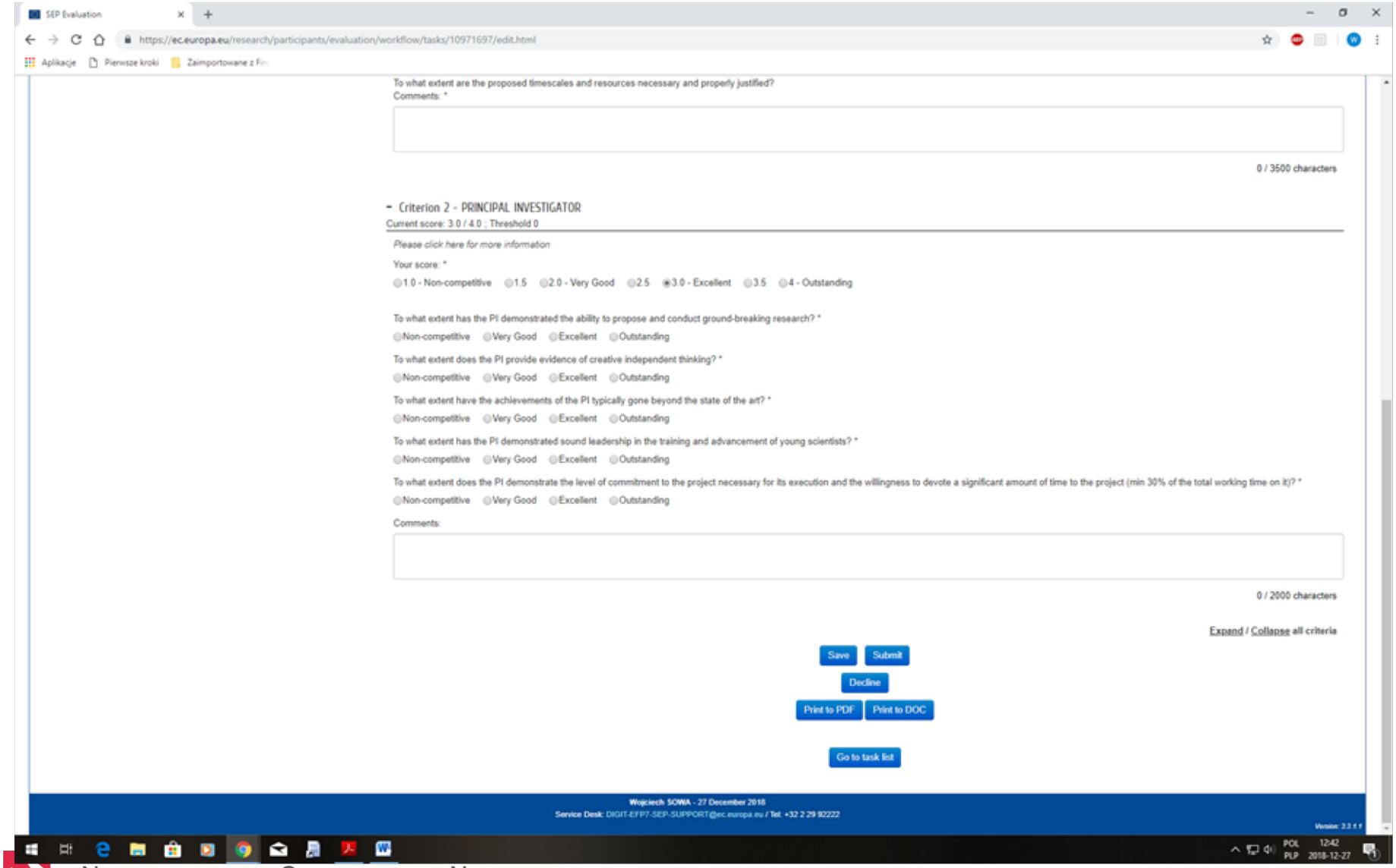
Strengths of the proposal:

Weaknesses of the proposal

[3] Settled by the Expert Team at the first stage of the merit-based evaluation.

European Research Council (ERC)




SEP Evaluation
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/evaluation/workflow/tasks/10971697/edit.html
Aplikacje
Pierwsze kroki
To what extent are the proposed timescales and resources necessary and properly justified?
Comments: *
0 / 3500 characters
- Criterion 2 - PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Current score: 3.0 / 4.0 ; Threshold 0
Please click here for more information
Your score: *
1.0 - Non-competitive
1.5
2.0 - Very Good
2.5
3.0 - Excellent
3.5
4 - Outstanding
To what extent has the PI demonstrated the ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research? *
Non-competitive
Very Good
Excellent
Outstanding
To what extent does the PI provide evidence of creative independent thinking? *
Non-competitive
Very Good
Excellent
Outstanding
To what extent have the achievements of the PI typically gone beyond the state of the art? *
Non-competitive
Very Good
Excellent
Outstanding
To what extent has the PI demonstrated sound leadership in the training and advancement of young scientists? *
Non-competitive
Very Good
Excellent
Outstanding
To what extent does the PI demonstrate the level of commitment to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project (min 30% of the total working time on it)? *
Non-competitive
Very Good
Excellent
Outstanding
Comments:
0 / 2000 characters
Expand / Collapse all criteria
Save
Submit
Decline
Print to PDF
Print to DOC
Go to task list
Wojciech SOWA - 27 December 2018
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2018-12-27