

Instructions to Reviewers and Evaluation Groups

Field: Biomedicine

Project Reviews (Forms A and B)

The forms that you received for the evaluation of projects contain six items for the project evaluation. Each item should be given a numerical grade and a descriptive clarification of the grade. The descriptive clarification must be in accordance with the numerical grade. At the end of the form, the reviewer gives a recommendation to the Evaluation Group about the acceptance of the project financing in the requested amount; acceptance of the project financing in the reduced amount with the estimation of feasibility and non-acceptance of the project. The Evaluation Group analyses the enclosed reviews and makes a final decision about the project. The reviewers are obliged to do a review in accordance with the professional and scientific standards. The reviewers who do not comply with these standards will be excluded from the list of the reviewers of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports. If there is a significant difference between the reviews (usually two reviews), the so-called «super review» by an additional expert in the project field will be requested and the Evaluation Group will make a final decision after the super review has been carried out.

In the evaluation the reviewer should consider the following directives adopted by the Scientific Area Council for Biomedicine.

I. ASSUMPTIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSED RESEARCH

- Are the assumptions and objectives clearly set and explained?
- Are they based on the relevant scientific discoveries and personal results of the suggested group of researchers (including the main researcher)?
- Do the objectives and assumptions emphasise the potential applicability of the proposed research (e.g. new diagnostic & therapeutic approaches, new vaccines, medications etc.)?

II. PLAN AND METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

1. Scientific and technological quality of the project:

- Focus on the basic objectives suggested in the project.
- Use of modern research techniques and technology.
- Are the suggested methods clearly explained, do they represent a modern approach to research in accordance with the existing worldwide research methods in the suggested field and also in accordance with the existing possibilities in the Republic of Croatia?
- It is necessary to point out to which extent the expected results can be applied to the development of biotechnology and pharmacology (if applicable).
- The quantity of work planned per year should be equally distributed, feasible and well planned.

2. The potential importance of the proposed project in the modern science:

- Emphasise how the suggested research contributes to the development of the science in Croatia.
- Point out the contribution of the suggested research to the world science.
- The issues of interdisciplinary and universal approach in the proposed project can have positive influence on the evaluation in this part.

3. To which extent are the processes of work, education and research of the junior researchers (scientific novices) and assistants foreseen and planned in the course of the project?

III. SENIOR RESEARCHER'S COMPETENCE

- Previous management and participation in the projects in the Republic of Croatia.
- Previous management and participation in the international projects.
- Publications (papers indexed in CC, papers published in journals indexed in other databases, also, obligatorily use the data in the Croatian Scientific Bibliography (<http://bib.irb.hr>); put emphasis on previous publications that appeared in the field of the suggested research, especially those cited in CC and SCI.
- Senior researcher's citation rate.
- Education abroad.
- National and international awards for scientific work.

IV. COMPETENCE OF RESEARCH TEAM

- Do the project collaborators represent a high-quality group of researchers that is a guarantee of the project implementation (experience in the suggested subject, previous cooperation, international recognition of collaborators, previous publications on the suggested subject, joint publications of collaborators in the past on this and similar subjects, collaborators' citation rate)?
- What is the professional and scientific competence of the collaborators for the implementation of the planned researches?
- Involvement of Croatian scientists abroad and other world scientists who have collaborated/are collaborating on the suggested subject, joint publications and potential joint projects (during the implementation or evaluation) can have a positive influence on the grade in this part.

V. FEASIBILITY OF PROJECT WITH USE OF EXISTING EQUIPMENT AND SPACE

- Can the suggested researches be completely conducted with use of the stated equipment and is the suggested space appropriate?
- Is there an inter-institutional cooperation in the use of the capital and medium-value equipment?

VI. BUDGET EVALUATION

- To which extent is the budget realistic for the project feasibility?
- Is the distribution of funds per item appropriate?
- Additional project financing can have a positive influence on grade in this part.

Instructions to Reporters and Evaluation Groups

Field: Biomedicine

Review of Programs (Form C)

The forms that you received for the evaluation of projects contain five items for the numerical and descriptive evaluation of programs and two additional items with a descriptive grade. The descriptive explanations must be in accordance with the numerical grades. The reporter is obliged to make a review in accordance with all professional and scientific standards and submit this review to the Evaluation Group. The Evaluation Group makes a final decision about the project. If no agreement has been reached within the Evaluation Group, the final decision will be made by the Scientific Area Council.

In the evaluation the reporter and the Evaluation Group should consider the following directives adopted by the Scientific Area Council for Biomedicine.

I. ASSUMPTIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSED RESEARCH

- Are the assumptions and objectives clearly set and explained?
- Are they based on the relevant scientific discoveries and personal results of the suggested group of researchers (including the main researcher)?
- To which extent is the suggested research in accordance with the strategic goals of development of science in the Republic of Croatia adopted by the National Council (see General Instructions for Reviewers and Evaluation Groups http://zprojekti.mzos.hr/upute/Upute_R&PS-opce_EN.pdf)?
- Do the objectives and assumptions emphasise the potential applicability of the proposed research (e.g. new diagnostic & therapeutic approaches, new vaccines, medications etc.)?

II. PLAN AND METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCH

1. Scientific and technological quality of the project:

- Focus on the basic objectives suggested in the program.
- Use of modern research techniques and technology.
- Are the suggested methods clearly explained, do they represent a modern approach to research in accordance with the existing worldwide research methods in the suggested field and also in accordance with the existing possibilities in the Republic of Croatia?
- It is necessary to point out to which extent the expected results can be applied to the development of the biotechnology and pharmacology (if applicable).
- The quantity of work planned per year should be equally distributed, feasible and well planned.

2. The potential importance of the proposed project in the modern science:

- To emphasise how the suggested studies contribute to the development of the science in Croatia.
- To point out the contribution of the suggested research to the world science.
- The issues of interdisciplinary and universal approach in the proposed projects and focus on the specific issue can have positive influence on the evaluation in this part.

III. COOPERATION OF PROJECTS

- Show how the project collaborators represent a high-quality group of researchers that is a guarantee of the project implementation (experience in the suggested subject, previous cooperation, international recognition of collaborators, previous publications on the suggested subject, joint publications of collaborators in the past in this and similar subjects).
- Are the tasks of each group, their professional and scientific competence to conduct a part of research they proposed, infrastructure and equipment that is available for the execution of the planned researches clearly presented?
- Interdisciplinarity and interconnection of the proposed projects and focus on the specific issue can have a positive influence on the evaluation in this part.

IV. EVALUATION OF INTEGRATION OF PROJECTS INTO THE PROGRAM

- Evaluate with a high grade interdisciplinarity of the projects within the program as well as cooperation in different research phases, use of achieved results of a project for a research in another joint project etc.
- Evaluate with a high grade the maximum level of integration of the appropriate number of collaborators in the projects and appropriate number of projects for the proposed research in the programme.
- Evaluate with a high grade the inter-institutional cooperation and projects that include various scientific fields or areas.
- Evaluate with a low grade programs that encompass projects with a minimum (inappropriate) number of collaborators from the same institution, thus forming a joint program within a single institution. However, be careful not to evaluate with a low grade such joint projects if they represent very rare researches which are of a strategic interest for the Republic of Croatia, where collaborators have an international reputation and good results and for which there is only a small number of collaborators in the Republic of Croatia.

V. SENIOR RESEARCHER'S COMPETENCE

- Organisational skills.
- Previous management and participation in the projects in the Republic of Croatia.
- Previous management and participation in the international projects.
- Publications (papers in the CC, papers published in other databases, also obligatorily use the data from the Croatian Scientific Bibliography (<http://bib.irb.hr>), put emphasis on the previous publications that appeared in the field of the suggested research, especially those cited in the CC and SCI.
- Senior researcher's citation rate.
- Education abroad.
- National and international awards for scientific work.

V. FEASIBILITY OF ALL THAT IS PROPOSED

- Do the project collaborators represent a high-quality group of researchers that is a guarantee of the program implementation (experience and expertise in the suggested subject, previous cooperation, international recognition of collaborators, previous publications in the suggested subject, joint publications of collaborators in the past in this and similar topics)?

- What is the professional and scientific competence of the collaborators in the implementation of the planned researches?
- Can the suggested researches be completely conducted with the stated equipment and space?
- Are the suggested researches, methods, equipment and procedures available in the Republic of Croatia and if not, will researches be conducted in cooperation with international institutions?