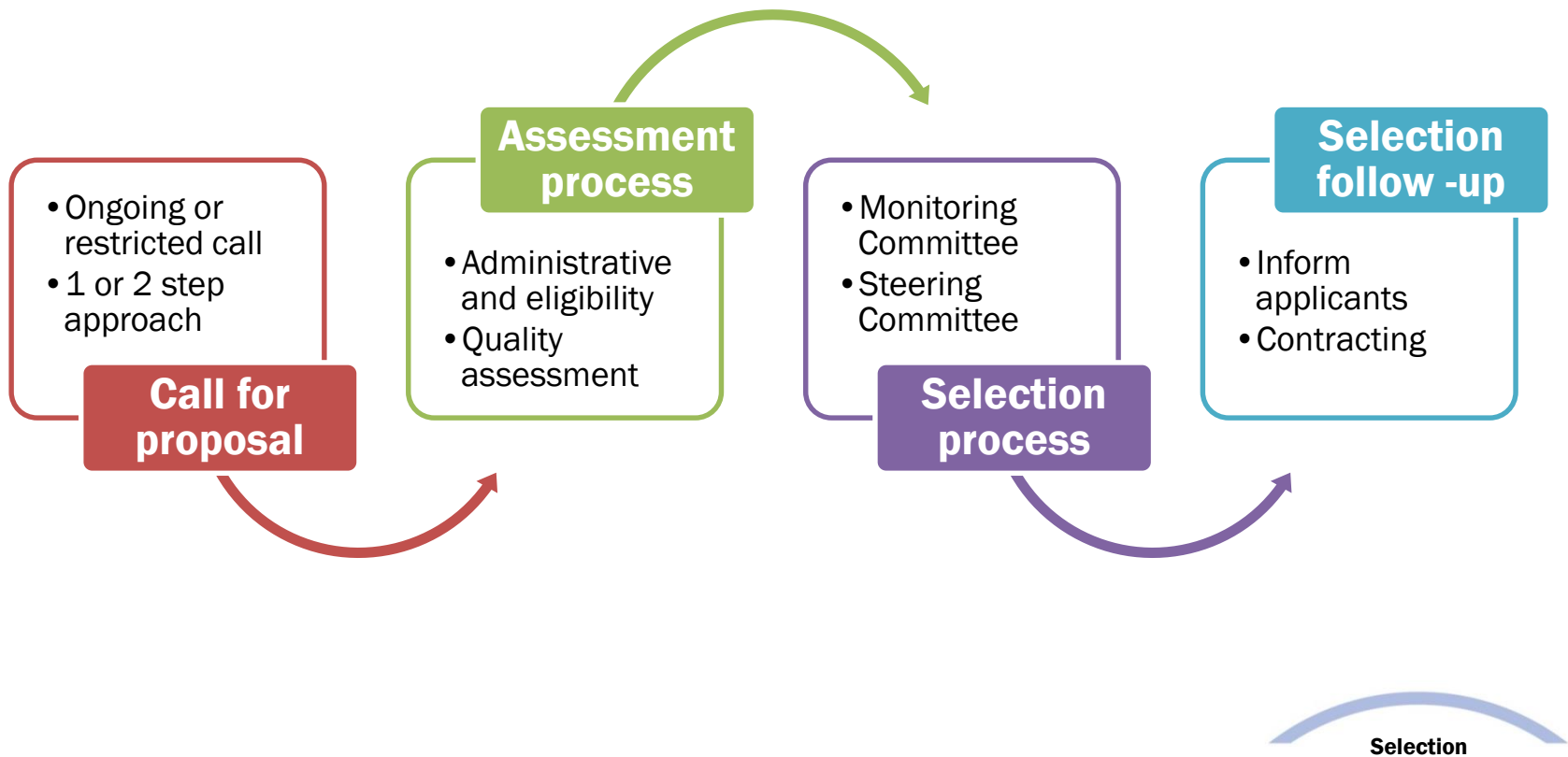# Selection procedures

Interreg Programme Management for Beginners
19 – 20 April 2017 | Stockholm, Sweden
@InteractEU

Ivana Lazic, Interact Programme

Project selection process

Call for proposal
- Ongoing or restricted call
- 1 or 2 step approach

Assessment process
- Administrative and eligibility
- Quality assessment

Selection process
- Monitoring Committee
- Steering Committee

Selection follow -up
- Inform applicants
- Contracting

Selection

Main bodies involved

Programme Monitoring/Steering Committee

National/Regional Committees

Contact Points

Joint Secretariat / Managing Authority

Selection

Joint Secretariat

- Provides information on scoring and ranking on projects after assessment.

- Provides recommendations on which projects are good enough to be approved

Selection

National subcommittees/Regional bodies

- Allow relevant actors to express opinion regarding the projects

- Formulate national/regional opinion and priorities

- Consultative body

- Who can participate?

- How does it work?

Selection

National subcommittees/Regional bodies – How does it work?

Pros

- Allows for a health-check against national/regional priorities and relevance to national/regional debates

- Allows additional expert opinions to be expressed and considered

- Improves transparency of programme procedures and decision-making

- Improves the sense of ownership among stakeholders

- Can provide an indication of the perceived relevance of project objectives and results – i.e. an indication about the real strategic value of the project

Selection

National subcommittees/Regional bodies – How does it work?

… But

- Could undermine the programme's decision-making structure.

- Not all actors participating in sub-committees are familiar with the principles/nature of Interreg programmes/projects.

- Opens the door for national lobbying by project partners.

- If the final decision is different to the sub-committee opinion, this can lead to tension, requests for appeal, etc

Selection

Programme Monitoring / Steering Committee

Regulation 1299/2013 in the article 12 (1) says that operations under cooperation programmes shall be selected by a monitoring committee which may set up a steering committee that acts under its responsibility for the selection of operations.

Monitoring Committees are **the ultimate programme's decision-maker on project selection.** They act on behalf of the Member States. As such they have a key quality assurance role!

Selection

Programme Monitoring / Steering Committee – What is the difference

Monitoring Committee

- Decion-making body
- Compulsory for each programme
- Secures and oversees programme implementation
- Each contry/region of the programme is represented
- Takes decision on list of projects to be funded
- Takes decision about programme management issues, e.g. discusses and reviews criteria for selecting of projects; reviews criteria following the programme needs; reviews progress on targets, etc.

Steering Committee

- Optional programme body
- Set at the first meeting of the MC
- Responsible for the selection of projects
- Reports its task to the MC
- Usually implies wider representation
- Decision is sent to MC for final approval

Selection

Programme Monitoring / Steering Committee – How does it work

Monitoring Committee

- MC gets together after recommendations have been formed (usually 2 times per year);
- They receive the full applications together with the recommendations prior to the meeting;
- Representatives are formed from the national, regional and local level;
- It is also possible to involve other socio-economic actors;
- There are participants with no-voting status (eg. JS, MA, EC, etc.);
- Decisions should be reached on each project that has passed eligibility check;

Single or separate body?

Steering Committee

- Optional programme body
- Set at the first meeting of the MC
- Responsible for the selection of projects
- Reports its task to the MC
- Usually implies wider representation
- Decision is sent to MC for final approval

Selection

Selection follow up and complaints procedures

Selection

Types of selection decisions

- Approved

- Rejected (not approved)

- Approved with conditions

- Rejected with a recommendation to re-apply

- Any other types?

Decisions

Approval with conditions

Why?

Are we afraid to loose applicants?

Do we have sufficient projects in the pipeline?

Is this seen as a "life-saver"?

When?

Many programmes feel quite reluctant to have conditional approvals;

Conditional approval linked to formal project issues;

Strict procedure (e.g. final approval by written procedure) and deadlines should be in place;

Decisions

Recommendation to re-apply

The project idea is good but there are serious concerns with:

- Management structure;

- Partnership structure;

- Cooperation element;

- Outputs delivered;

- Proportionality of work to budget requested

- Other…

Again, is this a "life-saver"?

Clear rejection to "bad" projects

Decisions

Transperency requirements

Following standard transparency requirements, the selection decisions need to be communicated to all projects assessed and to the general public.

The projects are notified by the Joint Secretariat about the selection decisions made at the Monitoring/Steering Committee meeting

Decisions

Transperency requirements

- Lead Partners of the approved projects will receive a letter stating the decision of the Monitoring/Steering Committee, As well as the total ERDF fund approved.

- Applicants of the rejected applications will receive a notification letter together with a summary of the Assessment results, listing the reasons why their application has failed.

- Similarly projects approved with conditions will receive explanations of conditions and deadlines for their fulfilment.

Decisions

Transperency requirements

In addition, programmes need to ensure access to assessment documents, if requested by project (promoters). In 2014-2020, all programmes need to have in place (and inform the applicants about) an effective arrangement for the examination of complaints (CPR Art. 74(3).

Decisions

Negotiations before signing the contract

- Negotiations typically take place after the approval letter

- is sent and before the contract is signed and can relate to:

- Budget

- Content related

- Timing

Decisions

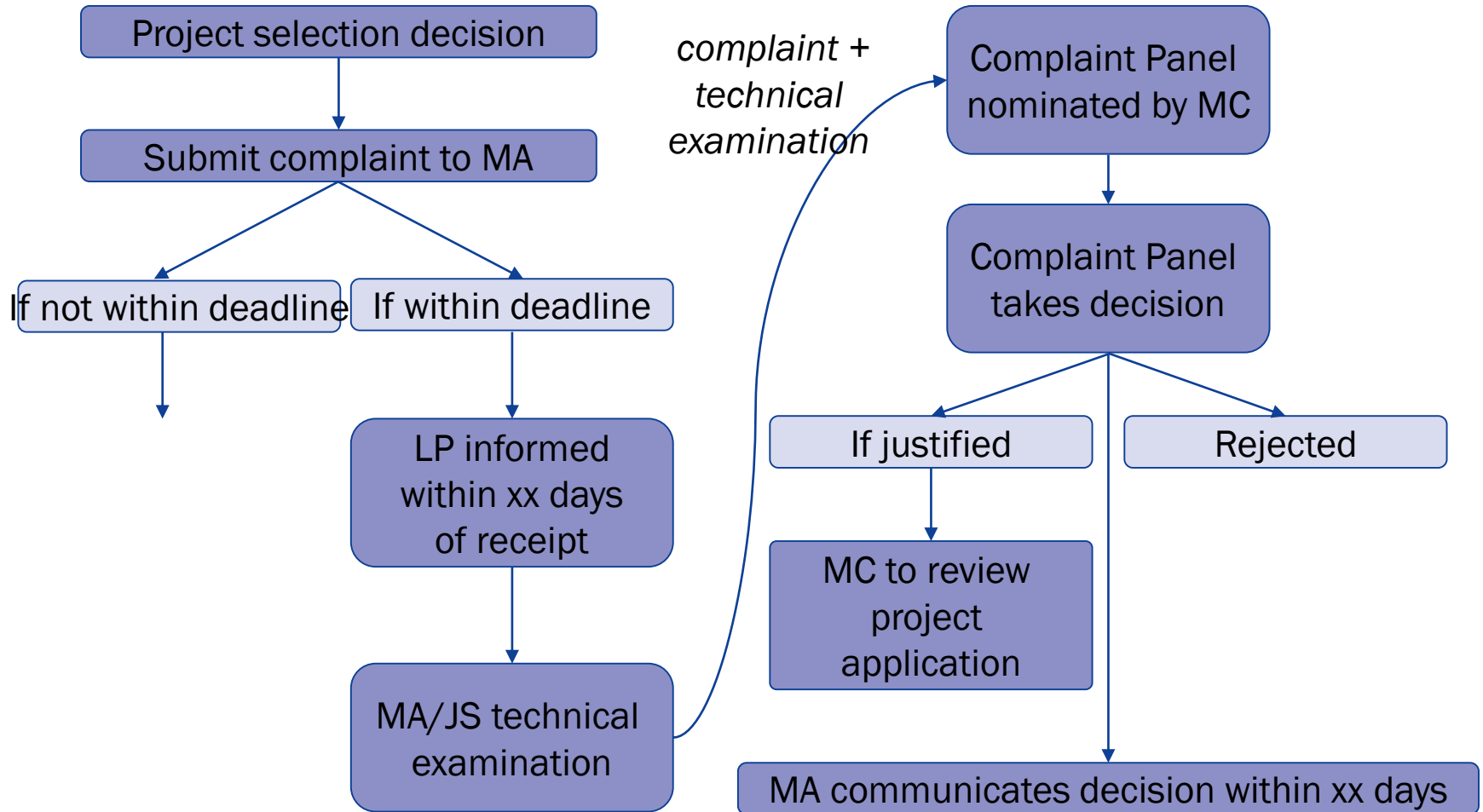# Complaint procedure CPR Art. 74(3)

"Member States shall ensure that effective arrangements for the examination of complaints concerning ESI Funds are in place."

- Complaints procedure to be set up within the programme

- Not replacing (national) court procedures, but in the best case rather avoiding such

- Therefore, CPR Art. 74(3) providing degree of freedom to MS to decide on a procedure

Complaints

Types of complaints

- Complaint against MC/SC funding decision → internal programme procedure

- Complaint against a decision of the MA/CA during project implementation → follows the rules laid down in the subsidy contract

- Complaints related to FLC, Second Level Control and Audit → responsible national authority according to the applicable national rules

Complaints

Complaints process

```
Project selection decision
        │
        ▼
Submit complaint to MA
       ╱        ╲
      ╱          ╲
If not within    If within deadline
deadline              │
   │                  ▼
   ▼           LP informed
               within xx days
               of receipt
                     │
                     ▼
               MA/JS technical
               examination
```

complaint + technical examination

```
Complaint Panel
nominated by MC
        │
        ▼
Complaint Panel
takes decision
      ╱        ╲
     ╱          ╲
If justified    Rejected
     │
     ▼
MC to review
project
application
```

MA communicates decision within xx days

Complaints

Cooperation works

All materials will be available on:

www.interact-eu.net