



**JASPERS Networking Platform
Webinar on Good Practices and key lessons in Project
Assessment and Selection,
18 October 2024**

Results of registration questionnaire

Overview of the pre-webinar Questionnaire

- Target Audience: Managing Authorities, Implementing Bodies. relevant line ministries and other relevant institutions involved in the appraisal and selection of projects co-funded by Cohesion and other EU funding sources in the 2021-27 period.
- Respondents: 184 (@15.10.24)
- Questionnaire Focus:
 1. Expected takeaways from the webinar
 2. Role, sector, and expertise of the respondents
 3. Project appraisal experience and challenges



Registration Form

JASPERS Networking Platform

Webinar on Good Practices and key lessons in Project Assessment and Selection

Date: 18 October 2024, 13.30 - 16.30

Location: Virtual meeting - Webex

Deadline for registrations: Thursday 17 October 2024 at 12.00 (noon)

The webinar is offered to a limited number of participants. While some flexibility will apply, we might not be in the position to confirm registrations received after this deadline. JASPERS reserves the right to refuse admissions to participants outside the intended target audience.

10 key takeaways from the questionnaire

- 1. Diverse Experience Levels:** Nearly 60% of respondents are new to JASPERS workshops, and about 52% described their project appraisal knowledge as advanced or expert, while 32% had basic or no knowledge.
- 2. Adapting to New Regulations:** Over 70% identified challenges in complying with recent regulations, particularly around climate proofing and the DNSH principle. There is a need for clearer guidance to adapt to these requirements, as well as for engagement with EU to align assessment criteria.
- 3. Resource Constraints and Capacity Building:** Respondents emphasized limited budgets and staff capacities within implementing institutions, leading to delays. They identified a need for capacity building to manage new responsibilities in project assessment and to enhance the skills of MAs.
- 4. Complexity in Multi-Sector Project Evaluation:** MAs struggle to assess projects that span multiple sectors, highlighting the importance of a unified selection process that accounts for diverse sectoral needs.
- 5. Need for Improved Assessment Methodologies:** >50% requested more robust methodologies, such as incorporating Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) and climate proofing, to enhance the transparency and efficacy of project assessments. Practical tools to ensure compliance with DNSH were also a priority.
- 6. Streamlining Project Appraisal:** Simplifying administrative procedures for project appraisal and selection can reduce bureaucracy, improve efficiency, and expedite the overall process, as suggested by many respondents.
- 7. Emphasizing Climate Resilience:** Respondents stressed the need to integrate climate resilience measures into project designs, reflecting EU sustainability goals. This includes ensuring that climate considerations are embedded from the early stages of project planning.
- 8. Interest in Practical, Real-World Examples:** Participants indicated a preference for learning through case studies that illustrate successful project appraisal methodologies. Real-world examples help demonstrate best practices and common pitfalls, aiding better understanding and application.
- 9. Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration:** Participants expressed a desire to learn from best practices and collaborate with organizations like JASPERS and the EIB. Effective communication and clearer roles are needed to enhance coordination among stakeholders.
- 10. Ongoing JASPERS Support:** Majority of respondents recognized the value of continued support from JASPERS, particularly in navigating new requirements and methodologies. They emphasized the importance of JASPERS' role in providing ongoing training and advisory services.

What participants expect from the Webinar



- **Best Practices:** Emphasize learning from successful project appraisal and selection practices.



- **New Regulations:** Highlight the importance of adapting to the 2021-2027 programming period's requirements, especially climate proofing and the DNSH principle.



- **Multi-Sector Challenges:** Address how to effectively evaluate projects across different sectors in a unified selection process.



- **Collaboration:** Encourage knowledge sharing among Managing Authorities (MAs) to tackle common challenges in project assessment.



- **Practical Tools:** Provide actionable methodologies for MAs to ensure compliance with DNSH principle.



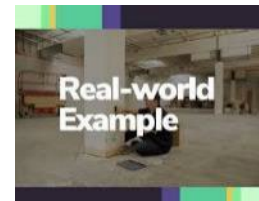
- **Capacity Building:** Recognize the need for enhancing MAs' capacity to manage new responsibilities in project assessment.



- **Simplifying Processes:** Discuss strategies to streamline project appraisal and selection to reduce bureaucracy.



- **Climate Resilience:** Stress the necessity of integrating climate resilience measures in project designs.



- **Real-World Examples:** Utilize concrete case studies to illustrate effective appraisal methodologies.



- **Ongoing JASPERS Support:** Reinforce JASPERS' commitment to continuous support for MAs in improving project assessment and selection processes.

What participants expect from the Webinar

Compliance and Tools for DNSH:

"How can MAs effectively assess projects for compliance with the 'do no significant harm' principle? What are some practical tools and methodologies that can be used?"

Project Documentation:

"At what level of detail should project documentation be prepared for project submission? Is there practice in other Member States?"

Preparedness for Restructuring:

"How to address preparedness for repurposing and restructuring under unexpected circumstances."

Environmental Challenges:

"Can you help with new environmental challenges, DNSH, carbon printing in infrastructure construction, or investments in green infrastructure?"

Best Practices and Support:

"What are some best practices that have been identified? How can JASPERS further support MAs in project assessment and selection, building on its experience from the previous programming period?"

Connecting Projects to Strategy:

"How do projects need to connect with strategic documents and financial parts? What are the main points to evaluate projects?"

Climate Proofing Analysis:

"What does the analysis look like for 'climate proofing'?"

Sector Evaluation:

"How to evaluate different sectors at the same selection procedure? How to choose between, for example, transport and housing projects?"

Joint Methodology for Multi-Sector Approach:

"What is the best way to ensure a joint methodology for project selection/assessment in a multi-sector approach?"

State Aid Application Systems:

"How do member states build their State Aid application systems and where do member states turn for help in evaluating new horizontal criteria (DNSH, NEB)?"

2. Role, sector, and expertise of the respondents

- **Many newcomers:** Almost 60% of responders have not participated in previous JASPERS workshops
- **Diverse Roles:** The majority of respondents are from managing authorities (56%), followed by implementing bodies (17%), a strong representation from institutions directly involved in project appraisal.
- **Government and Administrative Bodies:** Many participants belong to governmental organizations, including ministries and regional authorities
- **Central Coordination:** Several respondents identified their institutions as central coordination units, emphasizing the importance of centralized management in programming of EU funds.
- **Support and Advisory Roles:** Other participants include business support organizations, NGOs, and advisory authorities
- **EU Engagement:** Participants from the European Commission and EU Delegations are also registered










1. Have you participated at a previous JASPERS Networking Platform workshop?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	40.35%	69
2	No	59.65%	102
		answered	171
		skipped	13

What is the role of the institution you represent?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Managing authority	55.98%	103
2	Implementing body	16.85%	31
3	Municipality/Local Authority	3.80%	7
4	Bank/Financial Institution	1.63%	3
5	European Commission	9.78%	18
6	Consultancy company	1.09%	2
7	Other (please specify):	16.85%	31

Role, sector, and expertise of the respondents

In which sector do you mainly work?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Transport		17.93%	33
2	Energy		3.26%	6
3	Circular Economy/Waste management		7.07%	13
4	Urban development		4.89%	9
5	Research and Innovation		3.80%	7
6	ICT (including e-services), Broadband		0.54%	1
7	Education		1.63%	3
8	Multi-sector		36.41%	67
9	Other (please specify):		24.46%	45

- **Multi-Sector Engagement:** A significant portion of respondents (36.4%) indicated that they work across multiple sectors

- **Transportation Focus:** The transport sector is prominently represented, with 17.9% of participants

- **Limited Representation in Energy and Urban Development:** Only 3.3% and 4.9% of respondents work in energy and urban development, respectively

- **Health Sector Dominance in "Other" Responses:** The health sector was frequently mentioned in the "other" category

- **Environmental and Biodiversity Concerns:** Several responses highlighted water management, biodiversity, and circular economy initiatives

- **Government and Social Policy:** There is notable engagement from institutions related to social policy, employment, and welfare

3. Project appraisal experience and challenges

- Diverse Expertise Levels:** About 52% of participants have advanced or expert knowledge in project appraisal, while 32% have basic or no knowledge, underscoring the need for targeted training to build skills and confidence.
- Diverse Project Categories:** Responses highlight involvement in a range of project categories, including transport, energy, digital, circular economy and waste management.
- Project Evaluation and Criteria Development:** Numerous respondents are directly involved in evaluating project proposals, defining selection criteria, and preparing guidelines for applicants. They emphasize the importance of establishing clear and effective evaluation criteria to ensure high-quality project proposals.
- Challenges in Project Assessment:** Several responses indicate conflict of interest management and the need for efficient monitoring and evaluation processes.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks:** Respondents emphasize the importance of developing robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess project outcomes and ensure accountability in the use of EU funds.
- Role of Managing Authorities:** The Managing Authority is recognized by participants as crucial in developing operational program assumptions, selecting projects, and establishing criteria for project evaluation. They are responsible for preparing calls for funding applications, monitoring proposals, and ensuring alignment with European funding standards.
- Future Planning and Methodological Development:** Many participants are involved in future planning, methodology development, and the establishment of operational frameworks to ensure effective project preparation, assessment, and selection.

2. How familiar are you with project appraisal and related methodologies?

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Expert - work (almost) every day	20.59%	35
2	Advanced - have worked for some time	31.76%	54
3	Some experience - have recently started working	19.41%	33
4	Basic knowledge - have theoretical knowledge but have not applied it in practice	27.06%	46
5	None at all - new to the topic	4.71%	8

Project appraisal experience and challenges



3. Project appraisal experience and challenges



- **Regulatory Changes and Compliance:** Participants face challenges adapting to new environmental regulations, such as climate proofing and the "do no significant harm" (DNSH) principle, alongside navigating complex EU funding eligibility and application processes.

**INFORMATION
REQUIRED**



- **Insufficient Information and Capacity:** There is a lack of information from authorities, and limited resources within implementing institutions lead to delays. New beneficiaries often lack investment management experience, affecting project quality.

- **Quality of Projects and Proposals:** Many project proposals are poorly constructed, mixing incomplete ideas and lacking sufficient documentation, which hampers effective feasibility assessments.

**Resource
constraints**

- **Resource Constraints:** Budgets are limited relative to the number of applications, and time-consuming processes and uncertainty in funding can hinder thorough assessments.



- **Coordination and Engagement:** Synchronizing national priorities with EU requirements is challenging, compounded by difficulties in stakeholder engagement and communication among authorities.

- **Implementation Challenges:** Comprehensive planning and clear evaluation criteria are essential for aligning projects with national and EU strategies, especially regarding compliance with new indicators and evolving project goals.

**CHALLENGES
AHEAD**

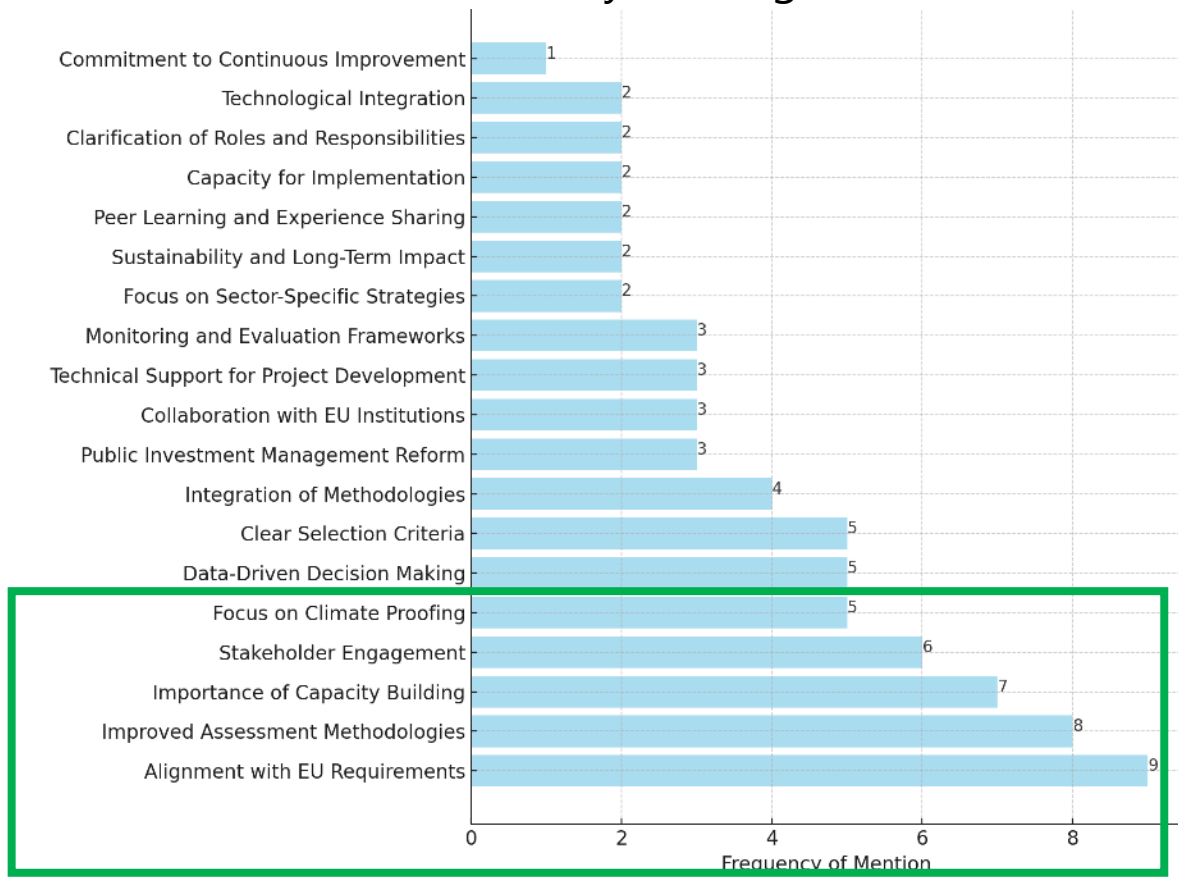


Project appraisal experience and challenges



- **Alignment with EU requirements:** Respondents emphasize adhering to EU regulations and the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle. Need to better engage with European institutions to align assessment criteria with EU funding objectives.
- **Climate Proofing:** Respondents emphasize the importance of integrating climate proofing into project assessment methodologies to ensure comprehensive evaluations and adherence to EU sustainability goals.
- **Improved Assessment Methodologies:** Need for incorporating methodologies like Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) and climate proofing in assessments.
- **Importance of Capacity Building:** There's a strong need for enhancing the skills of Managing Authorities in project assessment and selection. Effective implementation is as crucial as assessment and selection to ensure successful project execution.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Interest in learning from best practices and collaborating with organizations like JASPERS and the EIB to improve methodologies. Need for clearer roles and responsibilities to enhance coordination among stakeholders and focus on ensuring projects provide long-term benefits for communities

Key messages





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