

Equal playing fields and guidelines for peer review

**ESF Member Organisation Forum “European Alliance
on Research Career Development”**

9-10 February 2011

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Brief Report from MO Forum on Peer Review

- ▶ Overall aims & achievements of the Peer Review Forum
- ▶ Specific results and statements with respect to research careers

A brief history

- ▶ PR Forum Started with the Int. conference, “Peer review: its present and future state” in October 2006. in **October 2006**, Prague
- ▶ 1st Workshop, March 2008, The Hague
- ▶ And a series of working group meetings, from 2007-today (10th WG meeting)

MO Forum on Peer Review

- ▶ **Aim of the Forum:** sharing of experiences and developing common good or better practices in PR
- ▶ **Participation:** About 30 Organisations in Europe, with observers from US, EC, ERC, Telethon

▶ **Original Action Plan drafted in 2007-2008:**

Action 1: ESF Peer Review Guide - A Management Tool Box for Research Funding Organisations

Action 2: A pilot study on practices regarding incentives for peer review

Action 3: Referee Databases: quality of contents

Action 4: Web Bank of Peer Review Practices on the ESF web site

▶ **ESF-EuroHORCs Roadmap (2-year extension)**

- Chapters 5 on Peer Review (and 6 on Evaluation)
- The Peer Review Guide

Roadmap and PR Mandate

▶ Two main thrusts:

1. **Creation of a European reference Body of Knowledge on Peer Review**
 - a. The Peer Review Guide
 - b. Web-based repository: surveys, tools, other resources
 - c. Role of Incentives for Peer Reviewers
 - d. Scope and application of *Bibliometrics*
2. **Creation of an International *assembly* of peer reviewers:**
 - a. A formally established entity managed by the ESF
 - b. Closely linked to the evolution of ESF Pool of reviewers
 - c. Project and implementation plans are being developed

Main Achievements

A Comprehensive Survey and Analysis

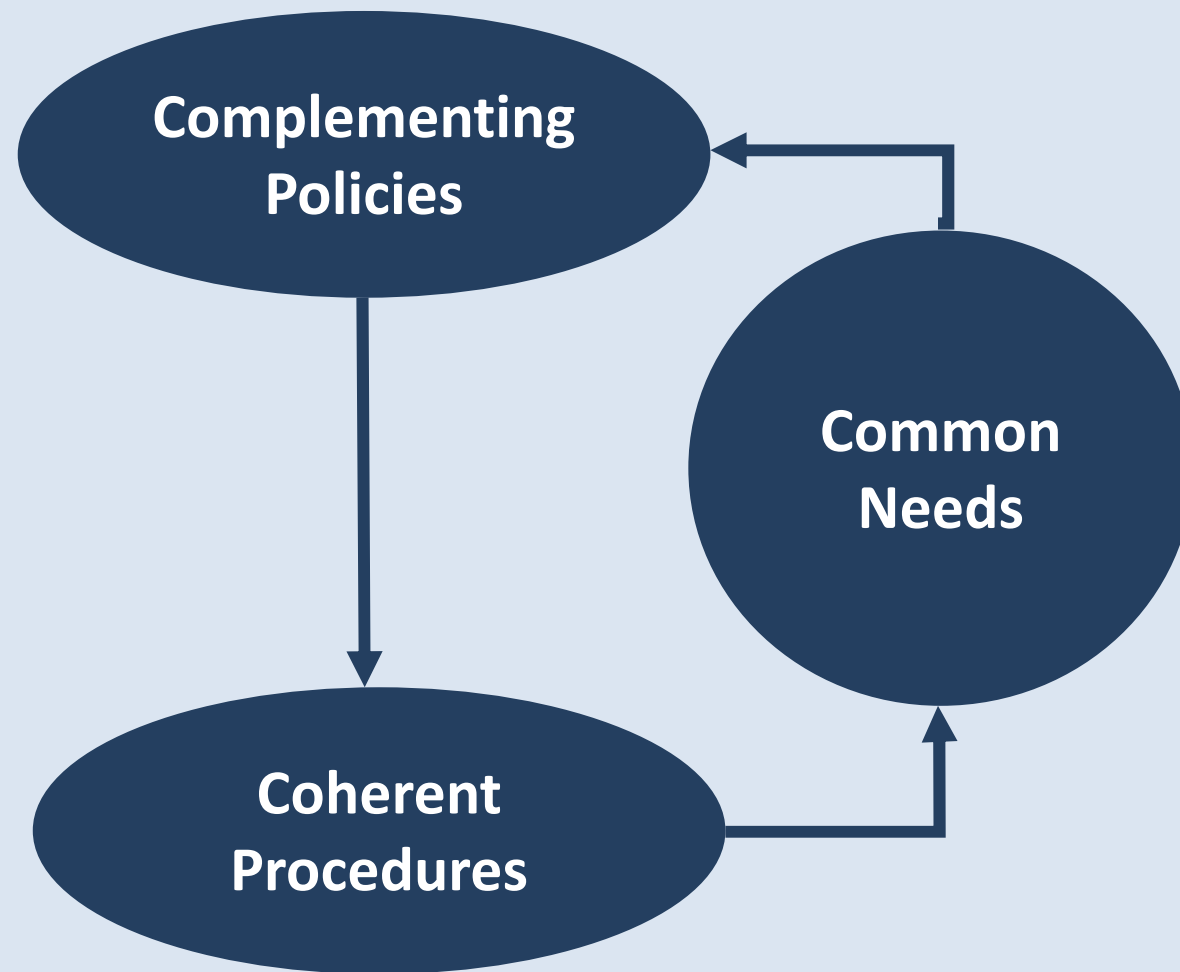
- Wide consultation on key issues
- A framework in which good practices can emerge

European Peer Review Guide

- A significant achievement!
 - Great milestone but the *landscape* is not *static*
 - Promotion and dissemination
 - What would be the “**identity**” of the Guide?
-



Peer Review and Evaluation: the landscape



(A) European Peer Review Guide:

Common Needs, Complementing Policies and Coherent Procedures

(B) European Peer Review Guide:

Reconciling-Integrating Policies and Practices into Coherent Procedures

Part 1: Overview of the Peer Review System

Introduction

Typology

Pillars of Good Practice

PR Methodology

Part 2: Guidelines for Specific Instruments

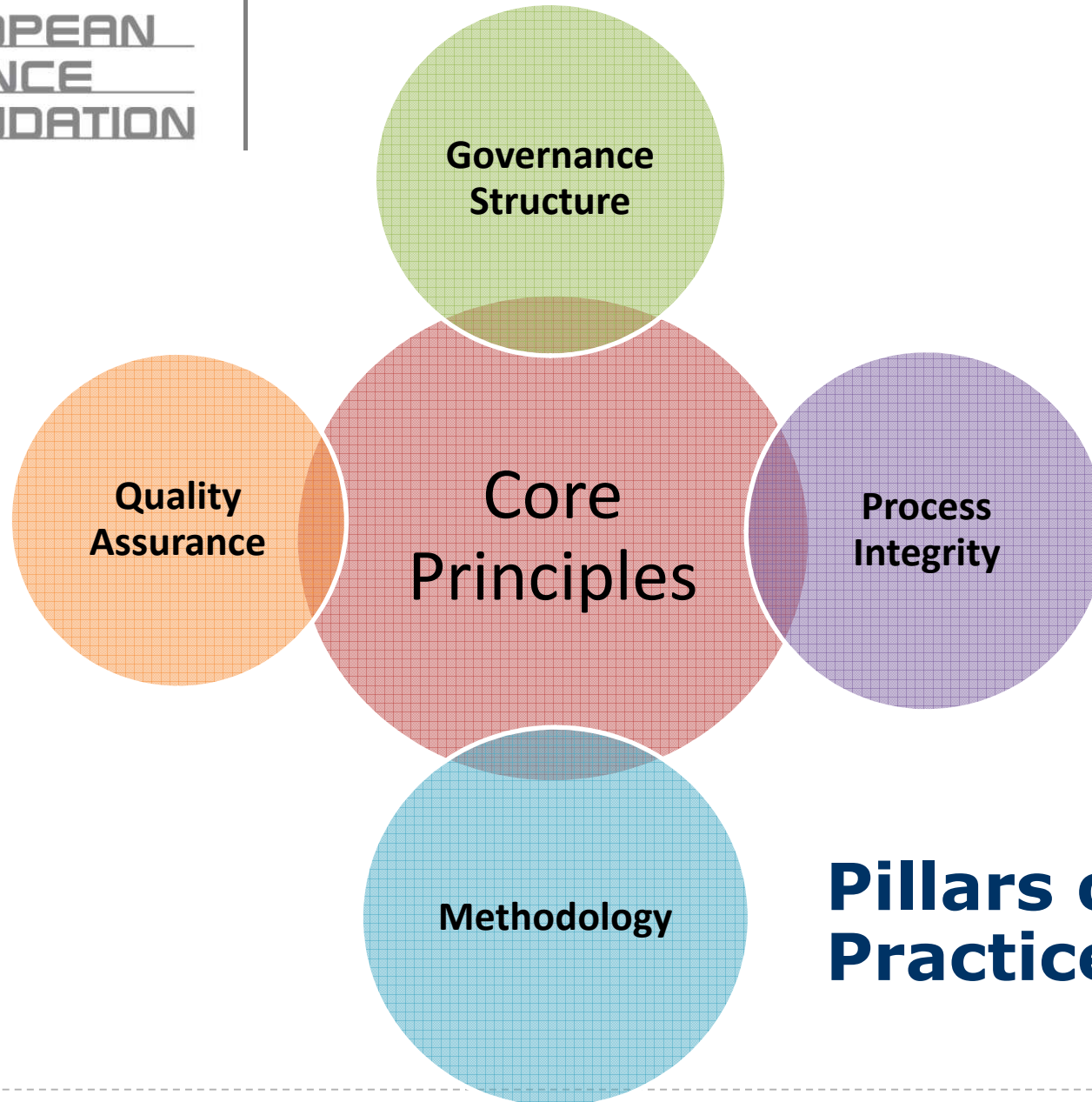
Individual Research and Career Development Opportunities

Collaborative Research Programmes

Creation or enhancement of Scientific Networks

Creation of Centres of Excellence

New Research Infrastructures Programmes



Pillars of Good Practice in PR

From the seven Core Principles:

2- Impartiality: *All proposals submitted must be treated equally. They should be evaluated on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants.*

From the Chapter 4 on methodology

Section 4.4.3: Criteria for the selection of experts

- Diversity (gender balance, scholarly thinking, background, geography, turnover);



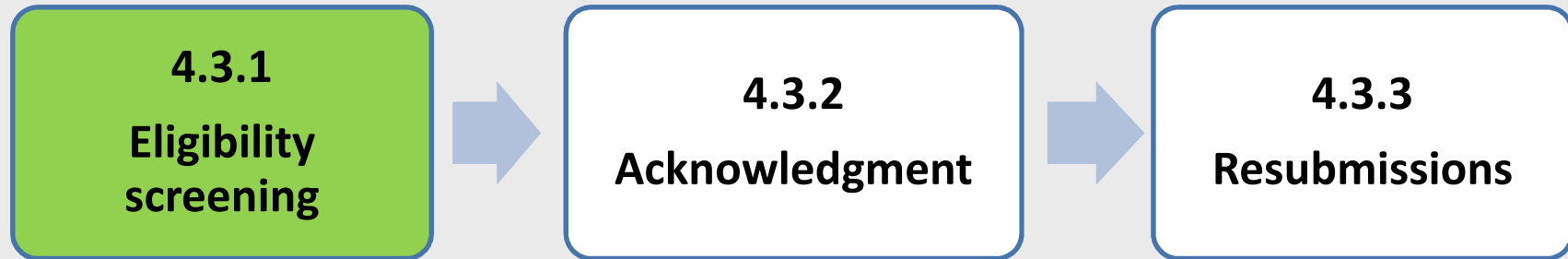
Section 4.4.3: Criteria for the selection of experts

- A solid record of publications: bibliometric indices are increasingly used for assessing publication track records. Care should be given when applying these quantitative measures, these must be used as complementing information and not as sole determining factors in valuing publication track records; An authoritative and elaborate set of recommendations on the usage of bibliometry in peer review and evaluation is provided in a ministerial report prepared by the French Academy of Sciences; Institute de France, Académie des Sciences, "Du Bon Usage de la Bibliometrie pour l'Evaluation Individuelle des Chercheurs", 17 janvier 2011

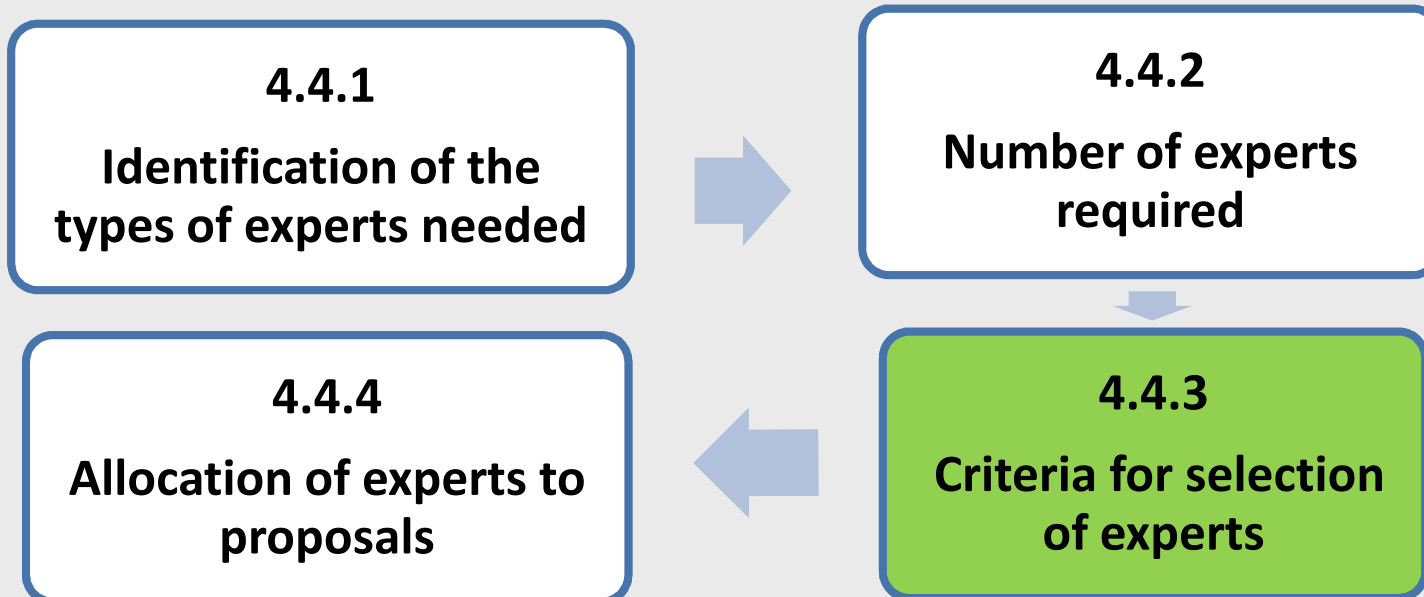


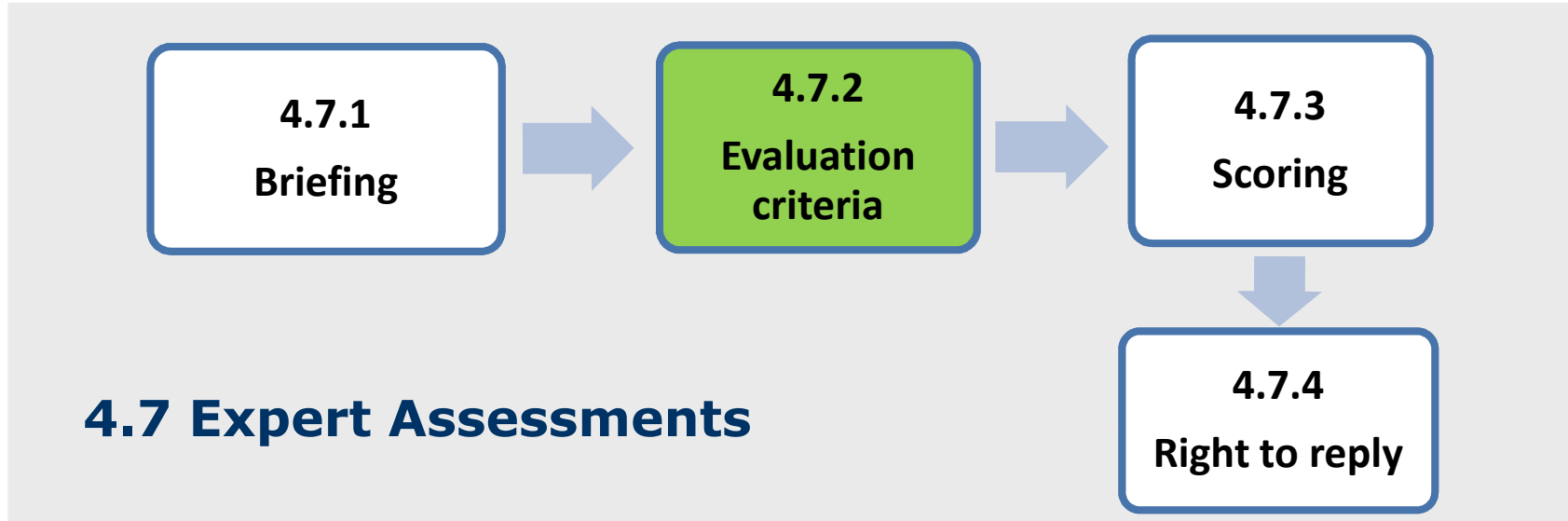
Recommendation: Effort should be made to consistently increase the number of representatives of the underrepresented gender in peer review activities where the percentage of the minority gender is less than 40% of the selected experts. For reviewers, it is therefore recommended that a gender ratio of at least 40% of women to men should be attained.

4.3 Processing of applications



4.4 Selection and allocation of experts





- ▶ **Chapter 5: Individual Research Programmes and Career Development Opportunities**
 - 5.1 Purpose and scope
 - *The same 4 stages used*
 - 5.2 Recommended peer review approaches specific to Individual Research and Career Development Opportunities