



#WORKING WITH EUROPE COMMENT#

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## GOODBYE TO HOLISTIC EVALUATION (2)

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So, goodbye to holistic evaluation in Erasmus minus...  
Rigid box ticking instead.

However, it gets worse: not only are NA's and evaluators not willing to or able to practice holistic evaluation, making sure that Europe gets the most innovative, frontline and experimentative projects; NA's and evaluators are not even able to create at least a common practice for this rigid, standardized and technical evaluation across Europe.

Even the standardized evaluation practice does not work.

So, not only are evaluators asked to stop thinking independently, they are also instructed how to practice the standardized evaluation.

One NA says: why didn't you subcontract this part?

Another NA says: you should not subcontract at all.

One NA says: you do not justify the funding of the multiplier event.

Another NA says: you should insert some kind of multiplier event.

One NA says: you have too many intellectual outputs.

Another NA says: you are not creating sufficient results from the project.

Who cares if there is a multiplier event or 3 or 5 intellectual outputs, or a small subcontract? That's not the point. Look at the innovation of the project and to what extent the partners can implement it.

So, not only has evaluation regressed from holistic evaluation, giving Europe what it needs; the standardized evaluation practice is not even European standards, but merely national ones.

From holistic European evaluation to rigid national "standards".

And even worse: sometime the standardized national evaluation practice is in itself contradictory...

Project creators should be invited to experiment with the application form: use the application form and its tools and elements to describe the project in the best ways possible. They should be celebrated for this...

Innovative and powerful projects do not necessarily fit into the technical forms and box ticking evaluations.

But, of course, if the NA's and evaluators are not able to perform such holistic evaluation, they need to regress to standardized box ticking...

There is a loooong way from the Commission's call for innovation, through the dark offices of policy implementation and operationalization, to the final box ticking in the evaluation process.

Most of the innovation energy disappears on the way...

The results: Europe gets mediocre projects designed to please the box tickers and European professionals working to create true innovation are treated disrespectfully.