



#WORKING WITH EUROPE COMMENT#

AS BAD AS IT CAN GET!

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We all know the old Nicholson movie “As good as it can get”. Now we have a new movie, this time a European one, called “As bad as it can get!”

Recently I posted a serious comment “Who is evaluating?” about strange and disturbing things happening in the Erasmus+ evaluation processes. As I stated in that comment, only rumors.

Now these strange things have been evidenced, put into the open. You will not believe this.

One of the big National Agencies in Europe has now openly declared that they violate the most basic rules and ethics in European collaboration. Some days ago they simply openly stated: in this country we only want small projects! So we instruct the evaluators to evaluate accordingly, cutting all sorts of things in the budgets.

And, more. After the evaluation by the so-called independent evaluators, this NA overrules the evaluators and as a NA simply cuts a large proportion of the application budgets.

How can you do that? a participant asked? Overruling the evaluators? Well, the NA replied: First, we only want small projects in this country, and second, the level of our evaluators are so low (!) that we don't trust them; therefore we have to overrule them and cut all the budgets!

Do you believe what you just read? Read it again. I have never heard anything like this in my 15 years in Europe.

So, this NA is simply violating the most basic rules and ethics in European collaboration: the independency of evaluators, on which the credibility of the entire system is based. First we instruct, then we overrule. Then we call them incompetent.

Dear colleagues. This is just the worst example. The NA is interpreting Erasmus+ and the rules and regulations in the strangest ways, but I will spare you all this.

Erasmus+ has gone totally out of hand, as expected. NA's can do what they like. Who's responding to this? The DGEAC, the Commission? Where are you? What is your reaction?

Or is this just the 2015 version of the fading European Project, overruled by the new neo-nationalistic waves..?

This is as bad as it gets!