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**WORTH**  
**PARTNERSHIP**  
**PROJECT**

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# WORTH

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## Partners Selection Criteria



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## Introduction

The present guide describes the 'Partners and Partnerships Selection Criteria' of the Call for Expression of Interest within the framework of Worth Partnership Project and illustrates clearly and transparently the project selection system. This system is made public to make all Key Players and project partners aware of the selection procedure and criteria before preparing their applications.

## Assessment and decision-making process

After submission, all partners and proposals will be evaluated based on specific selection criteria and subjected to a two-phases selection procedure carried out by the Consortium with the support of a group of external experts that consists of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee will evaluate the technical content of the applications (2<sup>nd</sup> phase of evaluation) in coordination with the pre-evaluation performed by the selection panel made up of consortium members. The Steering Committee must be independent of the applicant.

### The selection process consists of two different stages:

#### *Stage 1: Administrative and Eligibility check*

The first phase consists of the administrative and eligibility criteria of applicants. Applicants will be checked for their administrative compliance to confirm that are eligible and can take part in a WORTH partnership project.

Applicants will be checked for their compliance with the eligibility criteria to confirm that the minimum requirements are met. These criteria examine whether the partner fulfills the minimum requirements on e.g. the legal status, the country of origin etc. Eligibility criteria can be answered with a "Yes" or "No". This check will be carried out by the Consortium and is an on/off procedure.

**Applications that do not meet the administrative and eligibility criteria are rejected.**

**Only eligible applicants will get access to the Gallery to form a profile and search for partners to co-develop and submit a joint Partnership Proposal.**

**Results of the administrative and eligibility assessment will be approved by the Consortium via a written procedure.** The partners of the rejected applications will be informed accordingly, in case they want to resubmit their expression of interest.

After this 1st stage, the eligible partners will gain access to the partner search page of the gallery, where they will be able to form a partnership and collaborate with



maximum 2 additional partners from different target group (designers/Design Labs/start-ups, Manufacturing SMEs/Crafters, and tech providers companies/start-ups) to co-develop the project application (2nd application). Consortium Partners will provide assistance and support to partners – when needed/ requested- to facilitate the partner search process.

This is also an ongoing procedure, and as shown in the diagram, the partner can keep searching for partners for the next cut-off. Same way, if a partnership is formed on-time to catch a cut-off deadline but finally loses it, of course, they can keep on drafting their idea for the next cut-off.

### *Stage 2: Quality assessment*

Formed partnerships will send the full proposal before the end of the cut-off date. The second phase consists of the quality criteria, an in-depth assessment of the application, namely the quality and operational capacity assessment.

Only applications that demonstrate administrative compliance and satisfy the eligibility criteria will be subjected to quality assessment.

This phase will be carried out by the Consortium and assisted by the Steering Committee.

These criteria form the basis for an assessment of the application with the aim of bringing the partners into a certain ranking for selection based on a scoring system. Quality criteria are supplementary grouped into two categories:

- 1) Quality of the content and
- 2) Operational Capacity.

All applicants will be informed about the result of the assessment only after the Steering Committee's decision.



## Eligibility criteria

### 1st STAGE

Administrative and eligibility criteria		
Criteria	Compliance	Comments
Is the applicant registered in an EU member state or a COSME associated country?	Y/N	
Is the applicant active in an eligible WORTH sector?	Y/N	
Is the applicant legally established for at least six months prior to the date of submission of the application?	Y/N	
Was the application form completed and arrived prior the deadline of the cutoff date?	Y/N	
Eligible legal status?	Y/N	
Was the Declaration of honor – signed - submitted?	Y/N	

### 2nd STAGE

Quality and Operational Capacity Criteria				
Criteria Group	Assessment Questions	Analysis	Numerical Assessment	Comments/Justification
Organizational and technical capacity of the partnership  <u>Max: 10 points</u>  <b>Min points to be eligible: 5</b>	To what extent applicant has the experience and competence in the thematic field concerned, as well as the necessary capacity to successfully implement the idea (human resources, etc.)?  <b>Questions: (2)</b>	Excellent (5 points) High (4 points) Very Good (3 points) Adequate (2 points) Basic (1 points) No experience (0 points)		
	Applicant's potential for growth  <b>Questions: (1), (6)</b>	Excellent (5 points) High (4 points) Very Good (3 points) Adequate (2 points) Basic (1 points) No experience (0 points)		
Skills and experience of the partnership  <u>Max: 10 points</u>  <b>Min points to be eligible: 5</b>	Portfolio of the applicant <b>Questions: (2)</b>	Excellent (5 points) High (4 points) Very Good (3 points) Adequate (2 points) Basic (1 points) No experience (0 points)		
	Credentials and track record of the Applicant  <b>Questions: (2)</b>	Excellent (5 points) High (4 points) Very Good (3 points) Adequate (2 points) Basic (1 points) No experience (0 points)		
Commitment  <u>Max: 10 points</u>	Attitude and motivation of the consortium	Excellent (10 points) High (8 points)		



<p><b>Min points to be eligible: 5</b></p>	<p><b>Questions:</b> (6), (11) Video or audio recording</p>	<p>Very Good (6 points) Adequate (4 points) Basic (2 points) No (0 points)</p>		
<p>Innovation and creativity Degree</p> <p><u>Max: 30 points</u></p> <p><b>Min points to be eligible: 15</b></p>	<p>Innovativeness of proposed project</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> (4), (5), (7), (9)</p>	<p>Excellent (10 points) High (8 points) Very Good (6 points) Adequate (4 points) Basic (2 points) No (0 points)</p>		
	<p>Technology and/ or technique maturity</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> (4), (5), (8), (9)</p>	<p>Excellent (10 points) High (8 points) Very Good (6 points) Adequate (4 points) Basic (2 points) No (0 points)</p>		
	<p>Benefits to potential clients</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> (4), (5), (9)</p>	<p>Excellent (10 points) High (8 points) Very Good (6 points) Adequate (4 points) Basic (2 points) No (0 points)</p>		
<p>Added-value, scalability, and durability of the potential results</p> <p><u>Max: 10 points</u></p> <p><b>Min points to be eligible: 5</b></p>	<p>Merit and potential of proposal</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> (4), (5), (6), (9)</p>	<p>Excellent (10 points) High (6 points) Very Good (6 points) Adequate (4 points) Basic (2 points) No (0 points)</p>		
<p>Social and/ or environmental and/or economic impact</p> <p><u>Max: 5 points (Extra points)</u></p>	<p>Does this project address typical problems in an innovative way with regard society?</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> (4), (11)</p>	<p>Excellent (2,5 points) High (2 points) Very Good (1,5 points) Adequate (1 points) Basic (0,5 points) No (0 points)</p>		
	<p>Does this project address typical problems in an innovative way with regard to environment?</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> (4), (11)</p>	<p>Excellent (2,5 points) High (2 points) Very Good (1,5 points) Adequate (1 points) Basic (0,5 points) No (0 points)</p>		
<p>Market potential</p> <p><u>Max: 25 points</u></p> <p><b>Min points to be eligible: 12,5</b></p>	<p>Potential for commercialization</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> (4), (5), (9), (10)</p>	<p>Excellent (10 points) High (8 points) Very Good (6 points) Adequate (4 points) Basic (2 points) No (0 points)</p>		



	<p>Potential for brand creation/plans for internationalisation)/ new market orientation</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> (4), (5), (9), (10)</p>	<p>Excellent (10 points) High (8 points) Very Good (6 points) Adequate (4 points) Basic (2 points) No (0 points)</p>		
	<p>Market Impact</p> <p><b>Questions:</b> (4), (5), (9), (10)</p>	<p>Excellent (5 points) High (4 points) Very Good (3 points) Adequate (2 points) Basic (1 points) No (0 points)</p>		
<p>Maximum total: <b>100 points</b></p> <p>Threshold: <b>60 points</b></p>				

## SCORING

The aforementioned criteria will be taken into account by the evaluators to assess the application. The purpose of the quality criteria is to assess the quality of the eligible partners. The quality assessment is based on a scoring system. Each criteria group (“Content related” and “Capacity related”) is assessed according to a qualitative and quantitative scoring based on six levels (see column “analysis” in the table).

The assessment criteria are defined using a set of assessment questions for the evaluator to answer together with specific guiding principles for the assessment. An overall assessment score is set for the project application.

The maximum total score a project may achieve for the content related criteria and the implementation related criteria is 100 points. Only proposals with a threshold above 60 points can be proposed for funding. Quality criteria are closely linked to the nature and objectives of the Worth Partnership Project.

Two evaluators will be assigned for the evaluation of each project and the final score shall be the average of two scores.

If there is deviation by more than 20% between the two scores, the project will be reevaluated by a third assessor.

The Steering Committee will score each sub-criterion in the range 0-5 (in the most important criteria the range is double 0-10). This process will be performed during the Worth Weekend Evaluation session by 2 members of the Steering Board with each application.

- 0- Inadequate. Proposal fails to address the criterion
- 1 - Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
- 2 - Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion but there are serious inherent weaknesses



- 3 - Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present
- 4 - Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion well with few shortcomings
- 5 - Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion.

Additional points will be given to projects with social and environmental value.

According to the ranking of the proposals, the applications are divided into three categories:

- Applications proposed to be accepted;
- Applications proposed to be rejected;
- Applications proposed to be discussed for approval under conditions or proposed for the next cut off.

### **Selection decisions, confidentiality, and independence**

Ideas and Application Forms submitted by applicants will be kept confidential. The content of project proposals and application forms should not be published or forwarded to persons or institutions which are not directly engaged in the applications assessment procedure or decision making. The project idea itself, as well as the description and concept of the project and the structures of the applications, remain the property of the project applicants.

All actors included (Consortium members, EASME and Steering Committee) participating in the assessment procedure must guarantee that the privacy and confidentiality of all applications submitted in the framework of the call for proposals will be kept and that all national privacy laws and EU Directive related to the protection of personal data (95/46/EC) will be respected.

It is not allowed to forward applications and assessment documents to actors outside the regular assessment procedure, project applicants or the wider public.

Furthermore, the Consortium members and Steering Committee members will declare that they do not have a conflict of interest and/or political influence. All actors involved in assessment, evaluation, and selection must sign a declaration of Confidentiality.