

Interreg



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IPA ADRION

IPA ADRION 1st Call for proposals

Overview of quality assessment process

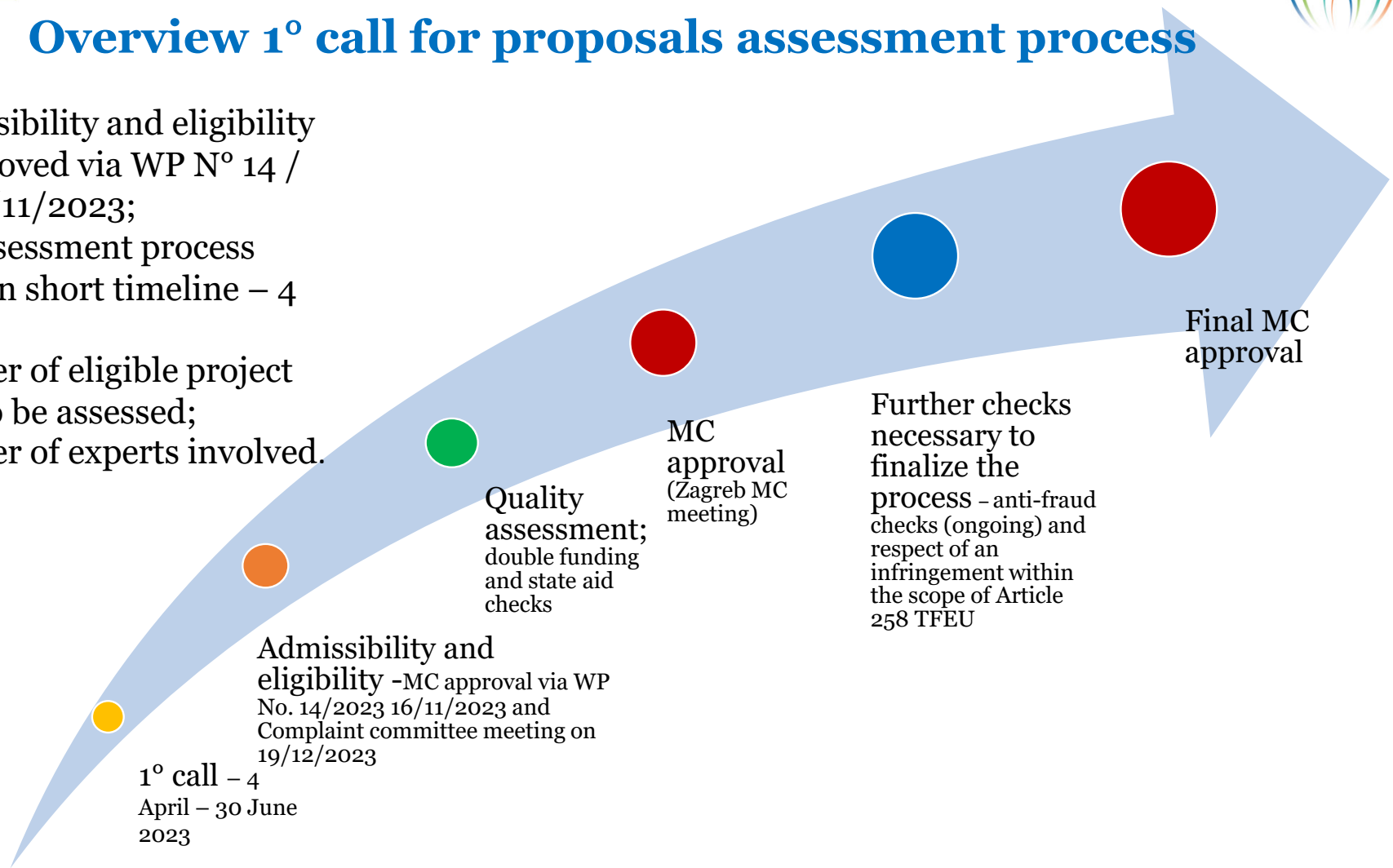
19/02/2024
Zagreb





Overview 1° call for proposals assessment process

- Long admissibility and eligibility checks approved via WP N° 14 / 2023 on 16/11/2023;
- Complex assessment process performed in short timeline – 4 months;
- High number of eligible project proposals to be assessed;
- High number of experts involved.



1° call – 4
April – 30 June
2023

Admissibility and
eligibility -MC approval via WP
No. 14/2023 16/11/2023 and
Complaint committee meeting on
19/12/2023

Quality
assessment;
double funding
and state aid
checks

MC
approval
(Zagreb MC
meeting)

Further checks
necessary to
finalize the
process - anti-fraud
checks (ongoing) and
respect of an
infringement within
the scope of Article
258 TFEU

Final MC
approval



Overview 1° call for proposals assessment process: CC

- Overall, **20 complaints** received out of 33 project proposals rejected at the admissibility and eligibility checks and 20 eligible ones suffering from the loss of a project / associated partner
- Complaint Committee set up, which met online on 19/12/2023
- All received complaints have been analysed in accordance with MC Rules of Procedure and with the support of National Contact Point, if necessary
- **All received complaints were rejected as considered as not grounded.**

Admissibility/eligibility criterion

Criterion number	Description	No of complaints received
1.2	Completeness of the AF and Declarations	15
2.1	Partnership requirements	9
2.2	LP is eligible	1

In case of **electronic signature**, it has to be compliant with all the necessary quality standards: the minimum ones are those present in the **PADES** signature, which is also the most commonly used.

It has to be checked, in view of next call for proposals, whether the use of PADES electronic signature can be commonly accepted in all programme participating countries.



Overview 1° call for proposals assessment process: EE

Dedicated
expression of
interest -
June 2023

**70 EE
identified -**
mostly within
IPA ADRION
region

Selection and
contracting
procedure
Max 10 projects
per each EE

**37 EE
involved,**
covering all
6 S.O.s



Online meeting
21 September 2023



Overview 1° call for proposals assessment process

Quality assessment process has been implemented on the basis of the **criteria included in Annex 4 of the Programme Application Manual** and the methodology of **Quality Assessment Manual: both documents have been approved by IPA ADRION Monitoring Committee.**

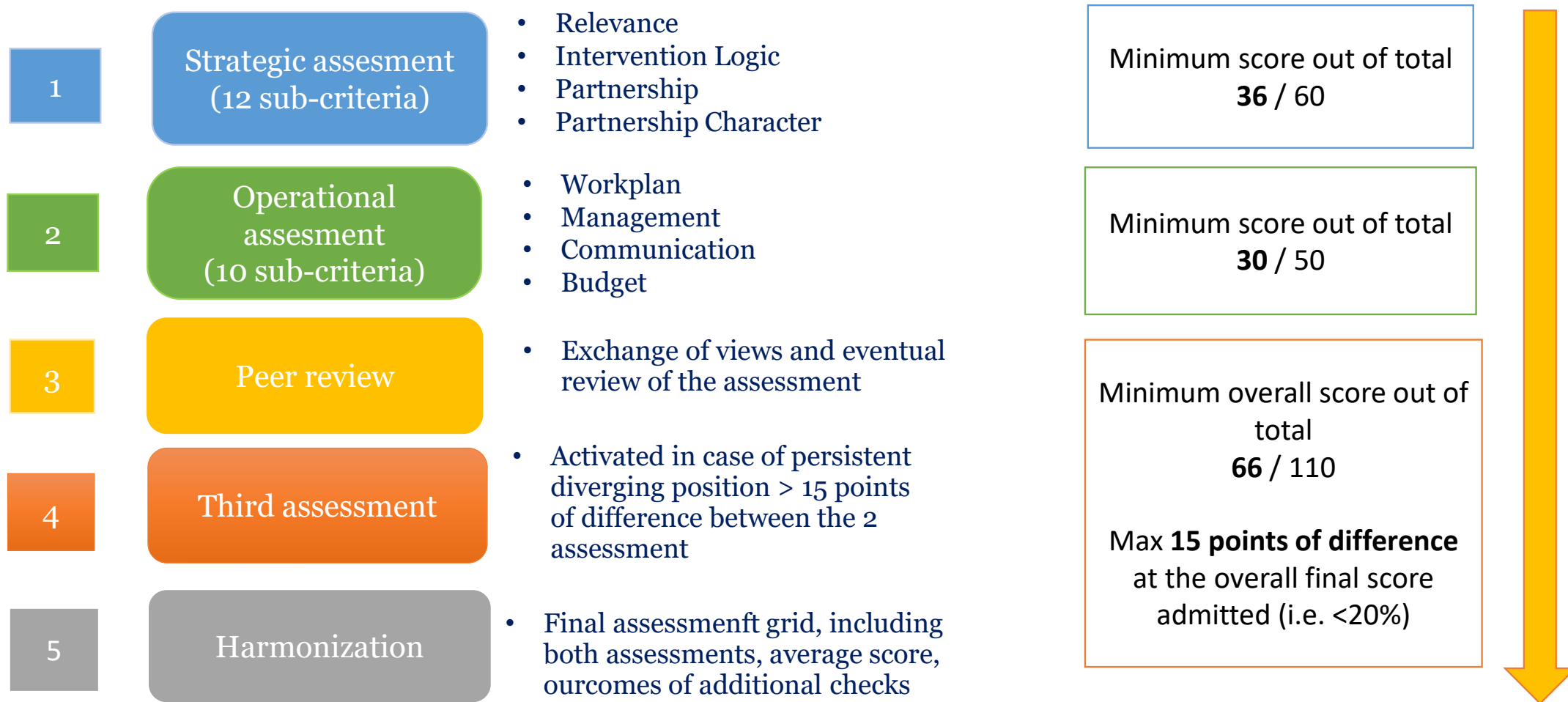
Each eligible project proposal has been assessed twice by:



In some cases, in order to cope with set short timeline, some proposals have been assessed by 2 independent assessors; the process has been supervised by JS



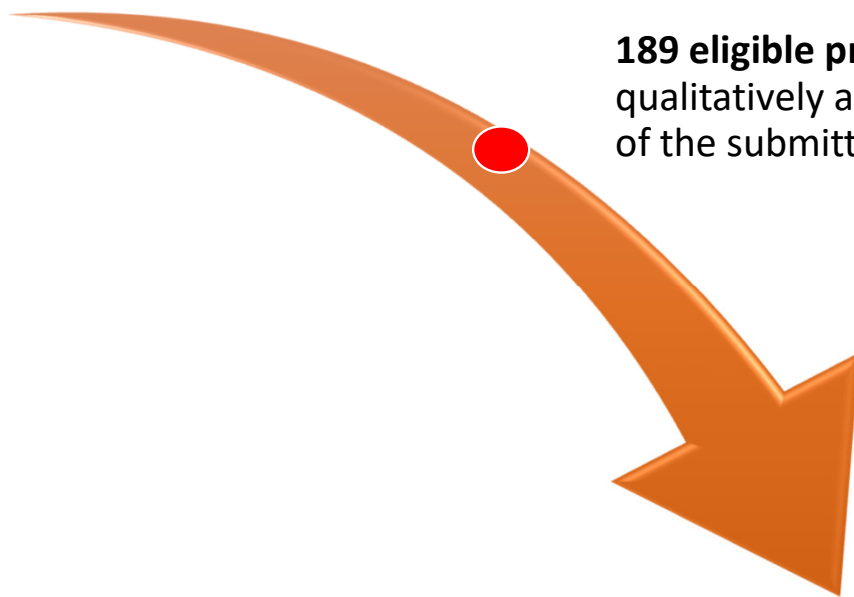
Overview 1° call for proposals assessment process





Overview 1^o call for proposals assessment process

222 submitted
applications



189 eligible project proposals
qualitatively assessed - 85%
of the submitted projects

96 recommended for funding -
51% of eligible projects

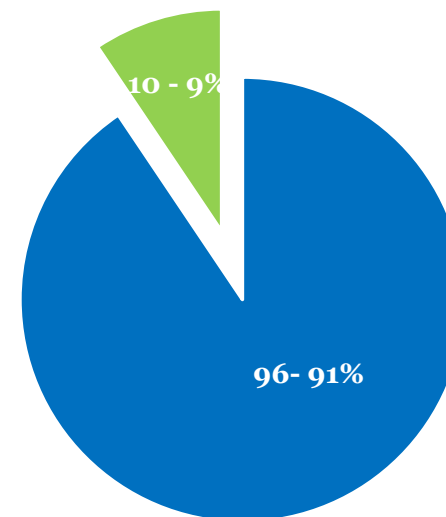
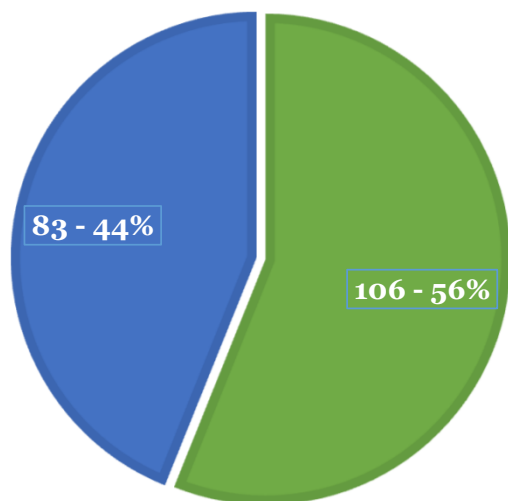
93 rejected - 49% of eligible
projects



Overview 1° call for proposals assessment process

189 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

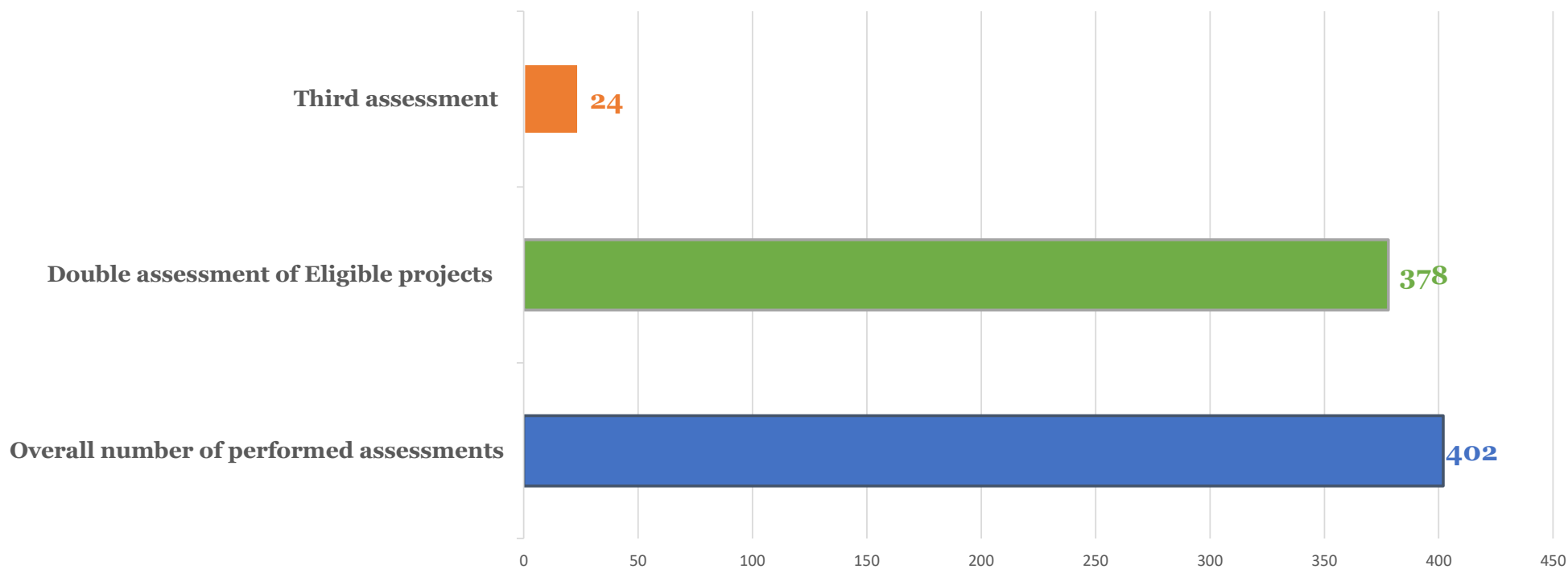
■ Fully assessed (strategic&operational) ■ Assessed only at the strategic level



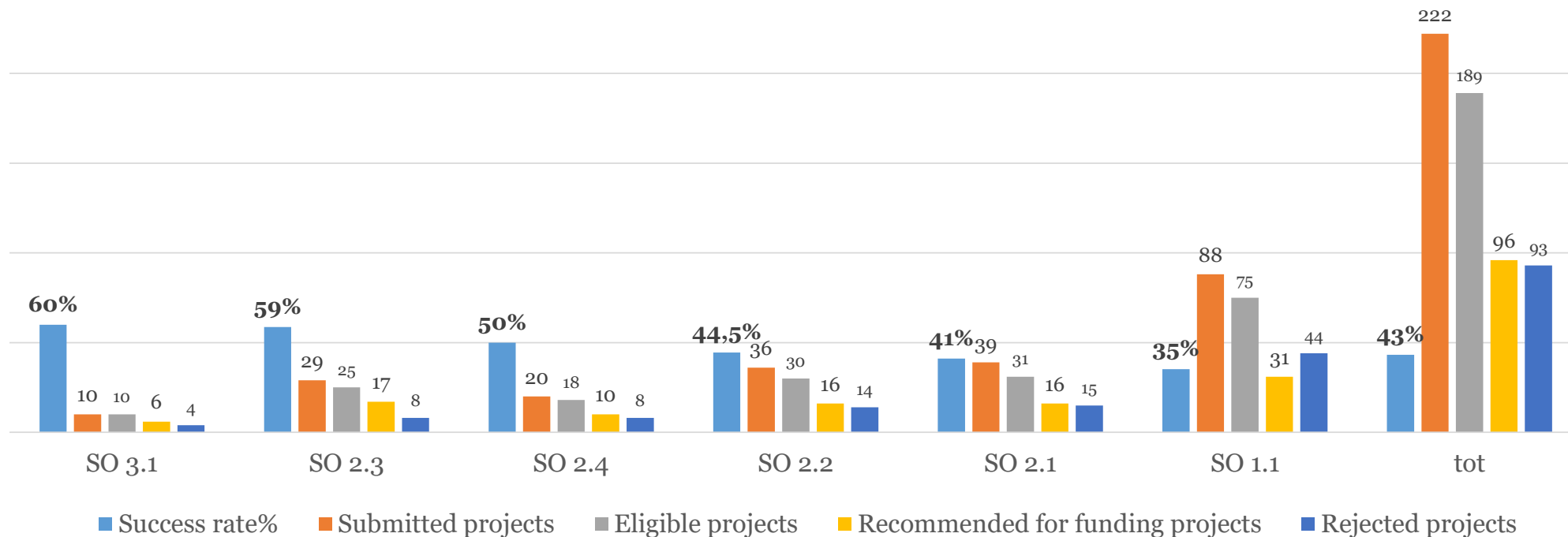
■ Approved under conditions ■ Rejected at the operational step



Overview 1° call for proposals assessment process



Overview 1° call for proposals assessment process: S.O.



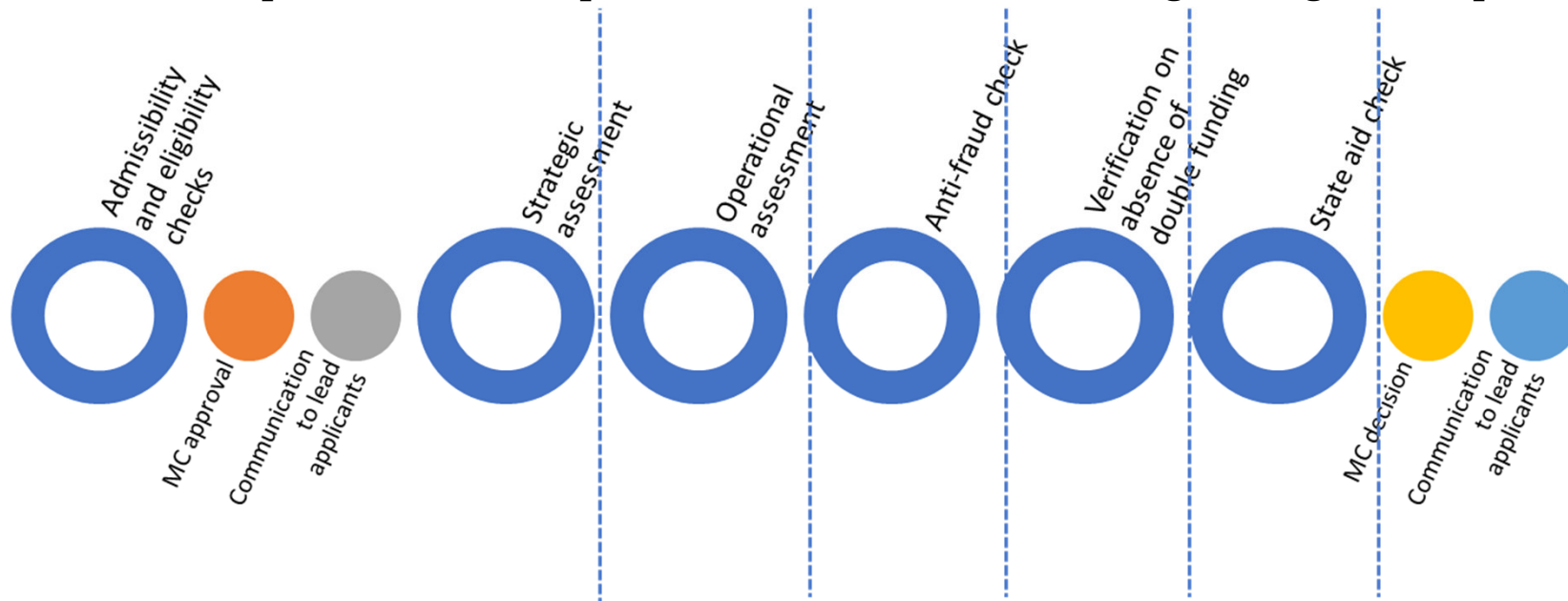
- Overall, 43% of the **submitted** projects and 51% of the eligible applications positively passed the strategic & operational assessment and are proposed for funding
- Increased overall project performance respect to previous ADRION 2104-2020 thanks to improved capacity and know-how of potential beneficiaries
- Best performance: S.O. 3.1 Strengthening a carbon neutral smart mobility in the Adriatic- Ionian region - 60%%
- Weakest performance: S.O. 1.1 **Strengthening innovation** capacities in the Adriatic - Ionian region - 35%



Overview 1° call for proposals assessment process

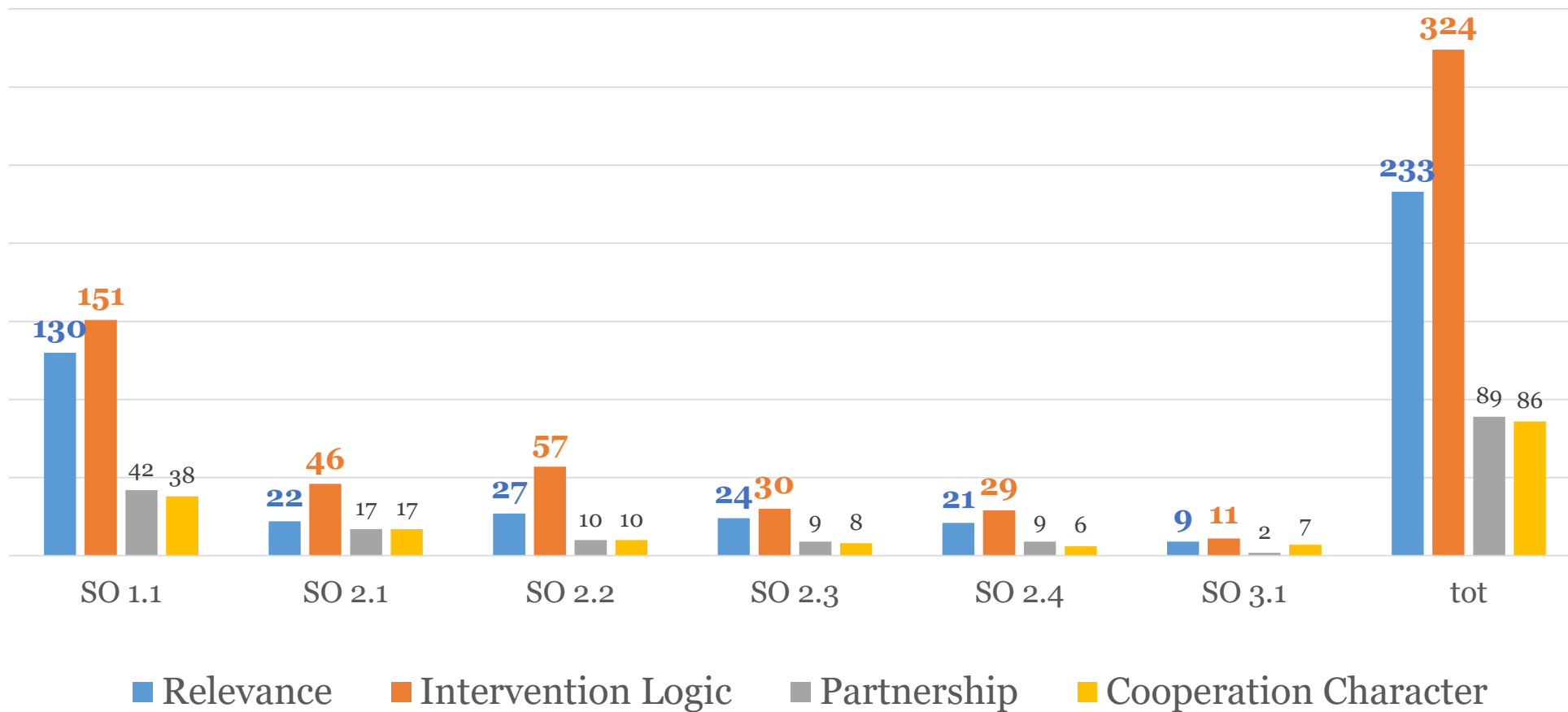
On recommended for funding projects the following checks have been performed:

- **Verification on absence of double funding (EURO MED and DANUBE Programmes):** no risk highlighted; some cases with Horizon and Central Europe will be counterchecked in the negotiation process;
- **State Aid checks:** detected issues related to State Aid checks, affecting overall 6 projects, are object of ad hoc conditions for improvement; the topics shall also be discussed during the negotiation process.





Detected main weaknesses – strategic step





Detected main weaknesses – strategic step

RELEVANCE

- Weak alignment to the 1st call thematic focus and indicative actions (e.g. focus on tourism issues)
- Lack of territorial analysis and identification of territorial needs
- Research oriented project proposals – in particular within SOs 1.1 and 2.1
- Unclear benefit for the Programme area, due to missing links to regional-national-local policymakers
- Low innovation level of the proposed solutions

INTERVENTION LOGIC

- Project intervention logic not aligned to the programme intervention logic
- Not clear definition of the project outputs and results poor alignment to related indicators leading to high number of outputs indicators; wrong quantification of related target
- Lack of future sustainability (especially, but not only, political/institutional sustainability, for example for the adoption and implementation of Strategies/Action plans);
- Ownership, durability and transferability of the outputs and results not clearly presented and not guaranteed



Detected main weaknesses – strategic step

PARTNERSHIP

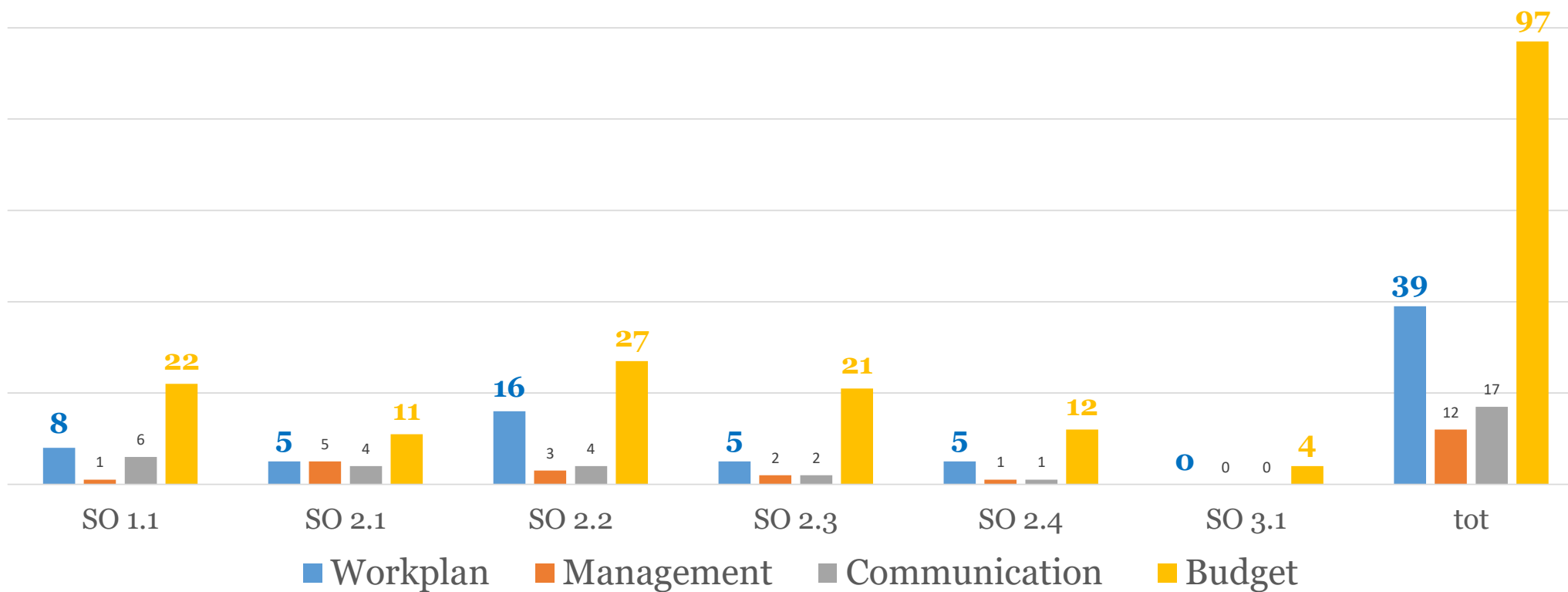
- Not appropriate partnerships to manage the selected topic and related objectives – among which: private partners being service providers; high concentration of academic and research institutions; lack of competent institutions in the thematic domains tackled- e.g. 1.1 quadruple helix ties or 2.4 cities / local administrations
- Unclear financial and institutional capacity of the proposed partnership

COOPERATION CHARACTER

- Unclear added value of the transnational cooperation approach
- Reference to CBC dimension
- Unfair distribution of roles and responsibilities within the partnership



Detected main weaknesses – operational step





Detected main weaknesses – operational step

WORKPLAN

- Workplan not properly and clearly designed
- Pilot actions not sufficiently described
- Risky time plan (concentration of activities within the last period)
- Loss of a partner undermining in some cases the feasibility of the project activities

BUDGET

- Budget not proportionate to the partner roles and project activities
- Overestimation of costs, in particular staff costs and external expertise and services
- Lack of adequate description and details at the budget level (in particular staff costs equipment) preventing correct interpretation of value for money
- High costs for project management and coordination
- Unclear costs for equipment along with poor description of pilot actions