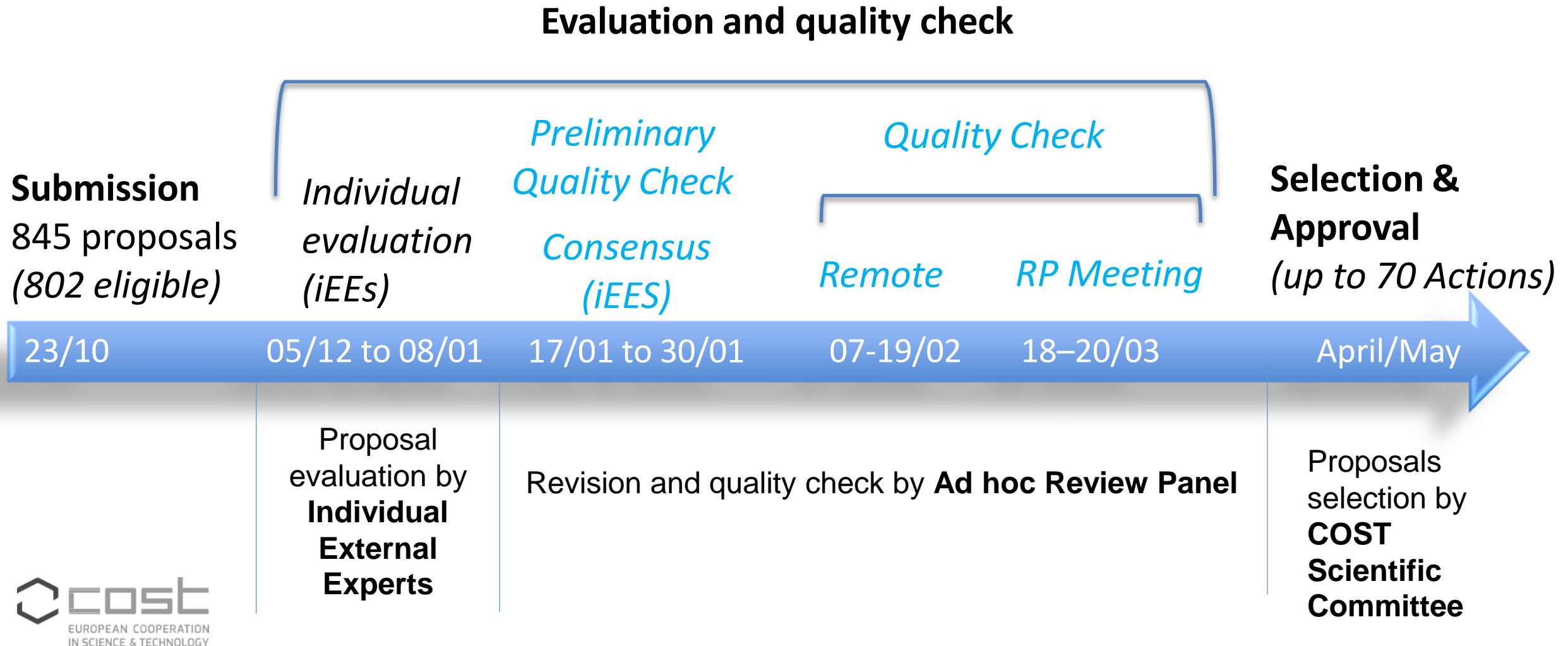


Impressions from a Belgian evaluator

Rafiq.Hamdi@meteo.be

OC-2024-1: Evaluation Procedure and timeline



Individual External Experts

- Identified taking into account Research Areas and keywords
- Double-blind peer review
- At least **three Experts** -> Individual Evaluation Reports (IER)
- One appointed as Rapporteur -> Consensus Evaluation Report (CER)

Questions

- Q1. Does the proposal demonstrate a comprehensive command of the state of the art in the field and present a relevant and timely challenge?
- Q2. Does the proposal describe an innovative approach to the challenge that advances the state of the art in the field?
- Q3. Are the objectives presented relevant to the challenge, clear and ambitious?
- Q4. Does networking bring added value in tackling the challenge in relation to existing efforts at the European and/or international level?
- Q5. Does the proposed network contain, or present a credible plan for securing, the critical mass and expertise for achieving the objectives and thus addressing the challenge?
- Q6. Does the proposal identify the most relevant stakeholders and present a clear plan to involve them as Action's participants?
- Q7. Does the proposal clearly identify relevant and realistic impacts for science, society and/or competitiveness (including potential innovations and/or breakthroughs)?
- Q8. Does the proposed networking clearly contribute to knowledge creation, transfer of knowledge and career development?
- Q9. Is the plan for dissemination and/or exploitation of results clear and attainable and does it contribute to the dialogue between science and the general public or policy?
- Q10. Is the work plan (WGs, tasks, activities, timeframe, deliverables and risk analysis) appropriate to ensure the achievement of the objectives?

Marks

E	Excellent (The proposal addresses this question in an excellent manner.)
VG	Very Good (The proposal addresses this question in a very good manner.)
G	Good (The proposal addresses this question in a good manner.)
F	Fair (The proposal addresses this question in a fair manner.)
P	Poor (The proposal addresses this question in a poor manner.)



PART B: EVALUATION

SUMMARY TABLE

S&T EXCELLENCE			NETWORKING EXCELLENCE			IMPACT			IMPLEME NTATION
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
G	G	VG	G	F	VG	G	VG	VG	VG

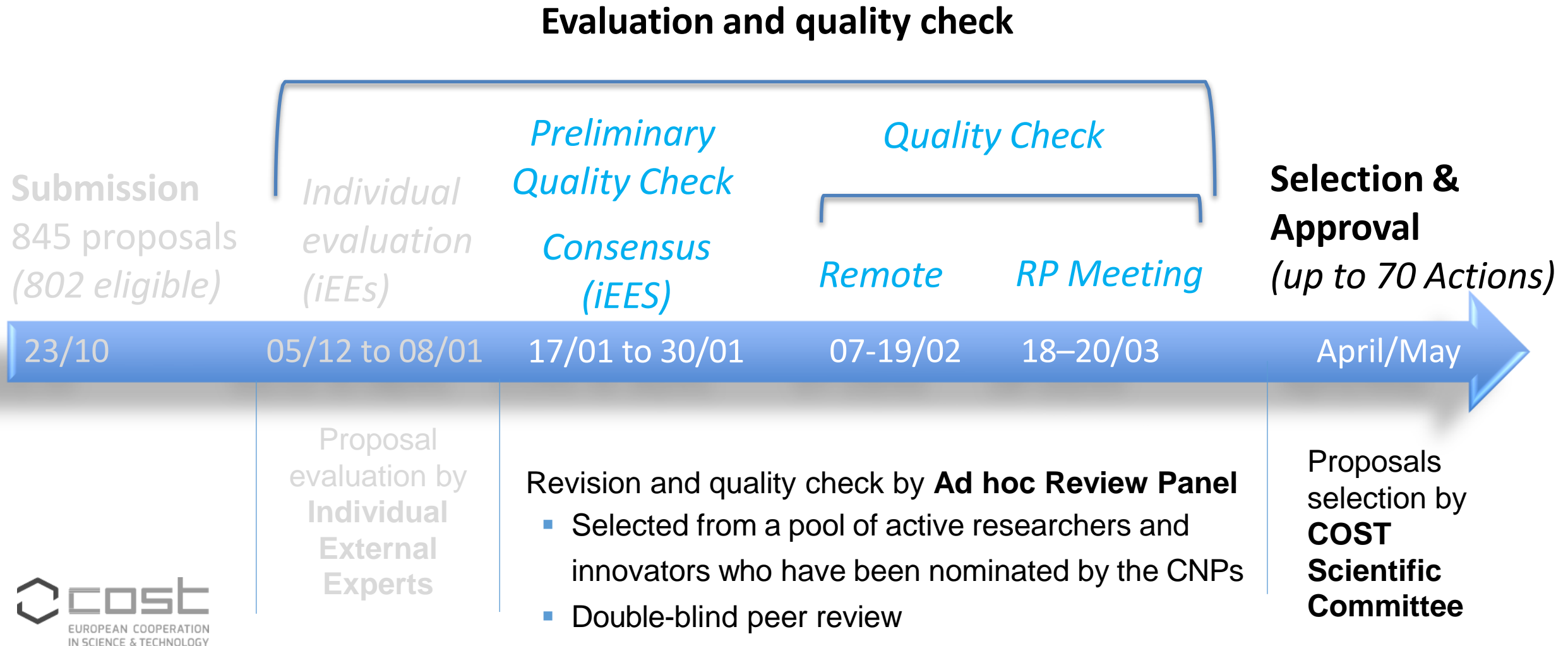
COMMENTS

S&T EXCELLENCE

Soundness of the Challenge

Q1 - Does the proposal demonstrate a comprehensive command of the state of the art in the field and present a relevant and timely challenge?	Mark
<p>The proposal addresses this question in a good manner.</p> <p>Main strengths:</p> <div></div> <p>The proposal has some weaknesses and the following improvements are necessary:</p> <div></div>	G

OC-2024-1: Evaluation Procedure and timeline



Consensus Evaluation Report (CER)

- 1 iEE is designated as Rapporteur for the CER
- 1 RP Member is assigned for preliminary quality check – not re-evaluation
- CER to be submitted by the iEE Rapporteur
- Voting (approved / not approved) by the 2 other IEEs and the RP member
- Flag the controversial/difficult CERs to the Science Officers assigned to the RP as soon as identified

Tip: introduce yourself and your role with the iEEs shortly after the start of the CER phase



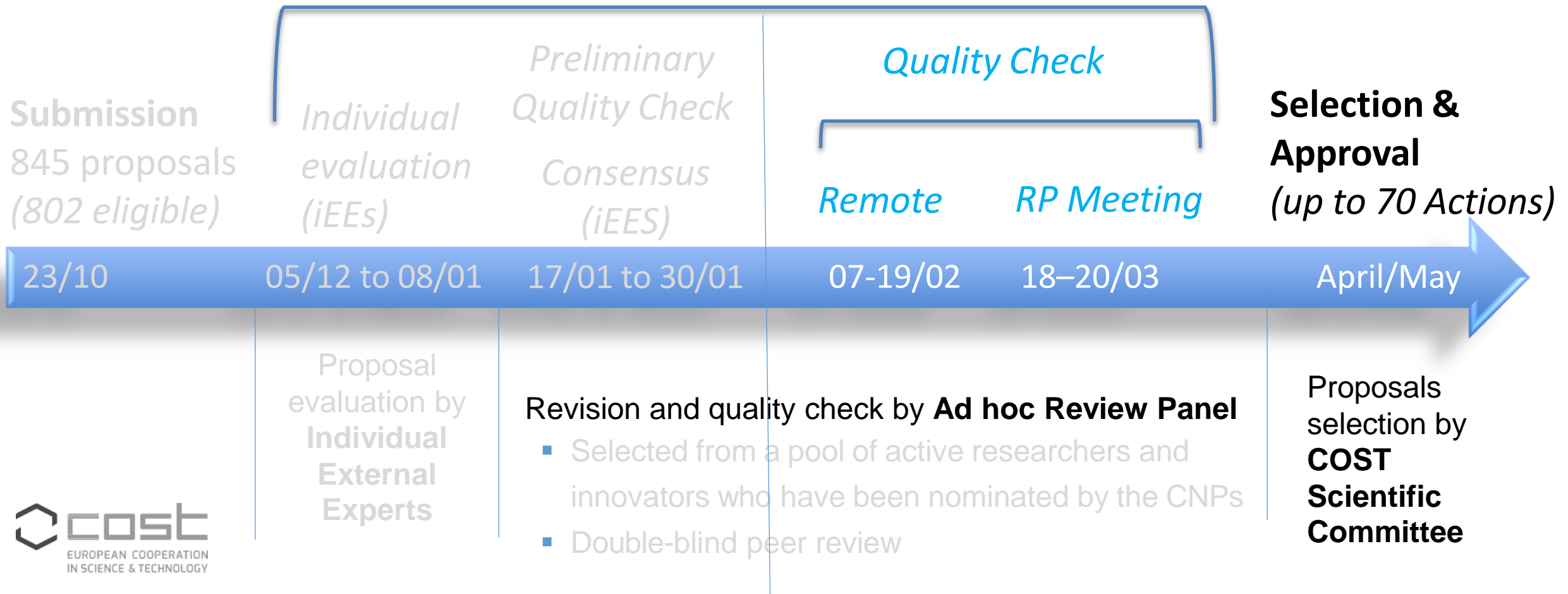
Why is quality check important?

- We need to have a fair and transparent evaluation, and we want proposers to receive comments that:
 1. Are clear and substantiated
 2. Without contradictory statements (consensus!)
 3. Implicitly acknowledging the efforts put by Main Proposers
 4. Without any factual errors (potentially leading to redress)



OC-2024-1: Evaluation Procedure and timeline

Evaluation and quality check



CER Revision and quality check



Deadline for quality
check submission:
19th February 2025

Two possible outcomes for the vote:

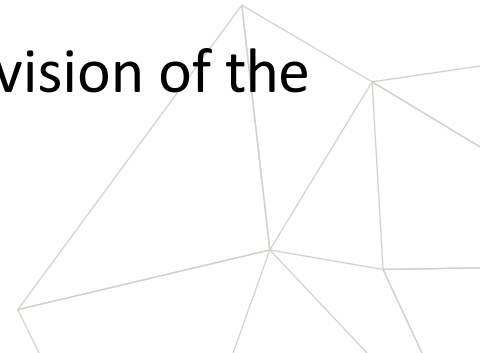
1. **Approved** Consensus Evaluation Reports (app)

- The IEEs and RP Member approved the CER comments and scores
- **One** RP member assigned

2. **Non-approved** CER (nap)

- At least one person did not approve the CER or the Rapporteur did not submit on time
- **Two** RP members assigned



After the vote, the RP Member(s) autonomously carry out the remote revision of the CERs of the assigned proposals.




CER access and quality check on e-COST




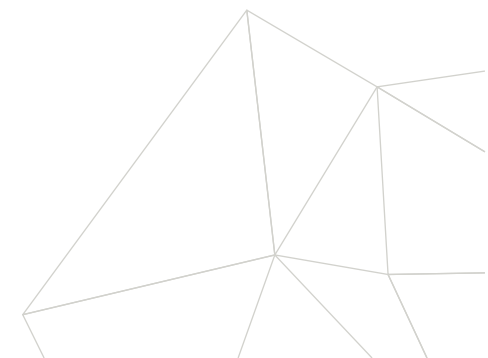
Approved CER (app)

Consensus Status	Options
Approved	 

Evaluator	Report Status	Options	S&T Excellence			Networking Excellence			Impact			Implementation
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Consensus	Approved		E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
Review panel report	Incomplete		N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C	N/C

Questions in grey need to be completed. The triangle indicates the current position.

S&T Excellence			Networking Excellence			Impact			Implementation
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
									





Non-approved CER (nap)

- The CER is assigned to one additional RP member;
- The two RP members have access to the proposal, the CER comments (if available) and to the IERs.
 - The two RP members draft *collaboratively* the CER based on the information available;
 - The RP members perform *together* the quality check on each question;
 - They choose the mark corresponding to their comments within the given range of marks;





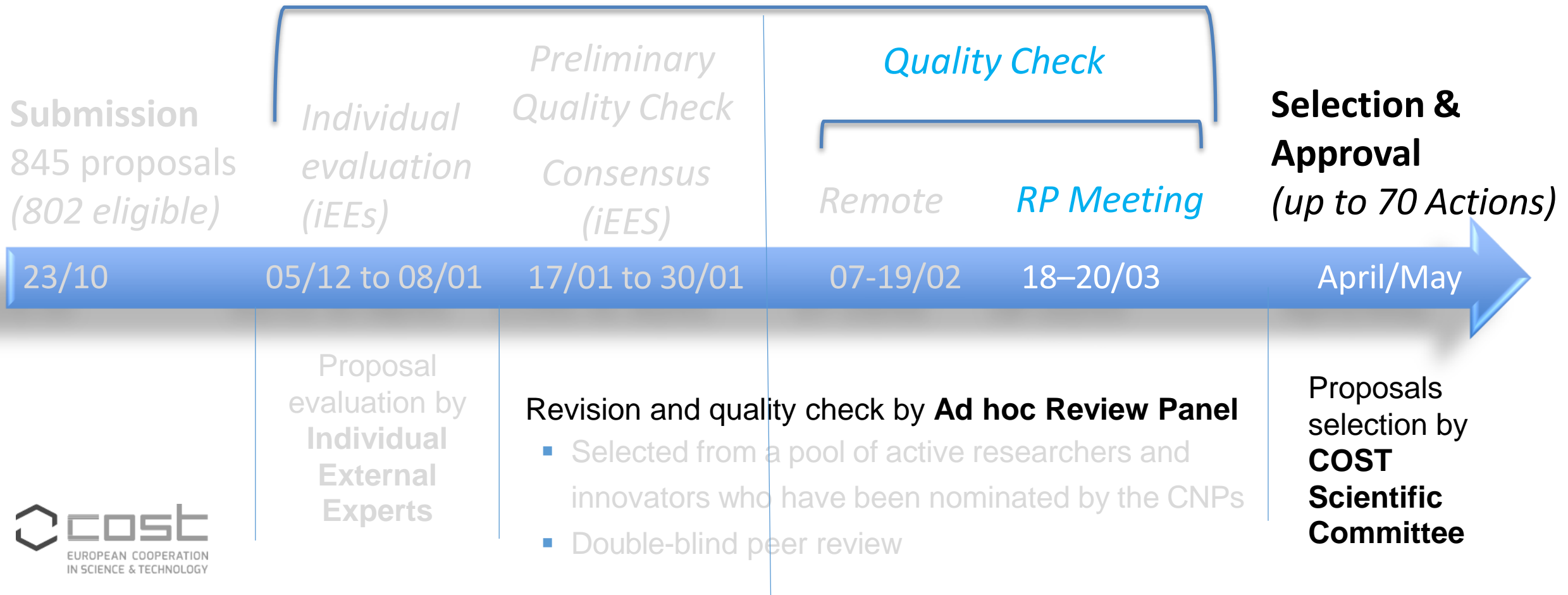
Confidentiality

- The information obtained during the whole process must be kept **confidential**, in particular no disclosure of:
 - Content of the proposal
 - Content of the IERs and CERs
 - Experts' identities for both IEEs and RP Members (name, e-mail, etc.)



OC-2024-1: Evaluation Procedure and timeline

Evaluation and quality check

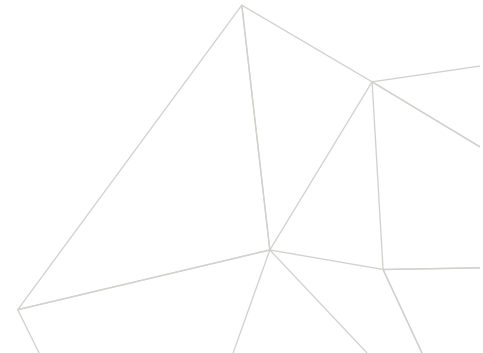


Tasks at RP meeting



- ✓ finalise all reviews of the CERs -> ranking of proposals based on CER marks
 - strive for **consistency of marking** across the proposals within the **Review Panel**
- ✓ analyse trends, early signals and overall quality
- ✓ draft the RP report to the Scientific Committee for selection (RP Rapporteur).

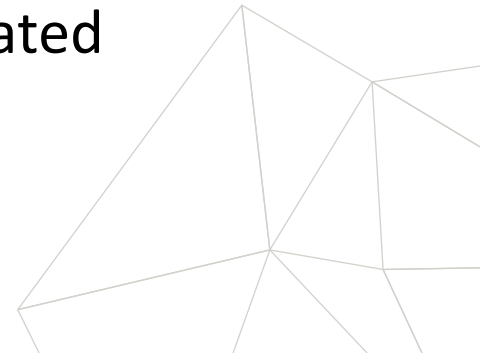
Note: the RP Rapporteur is appointed by the COST RP Science Officers to coordinate the preparation of the report during the meeting



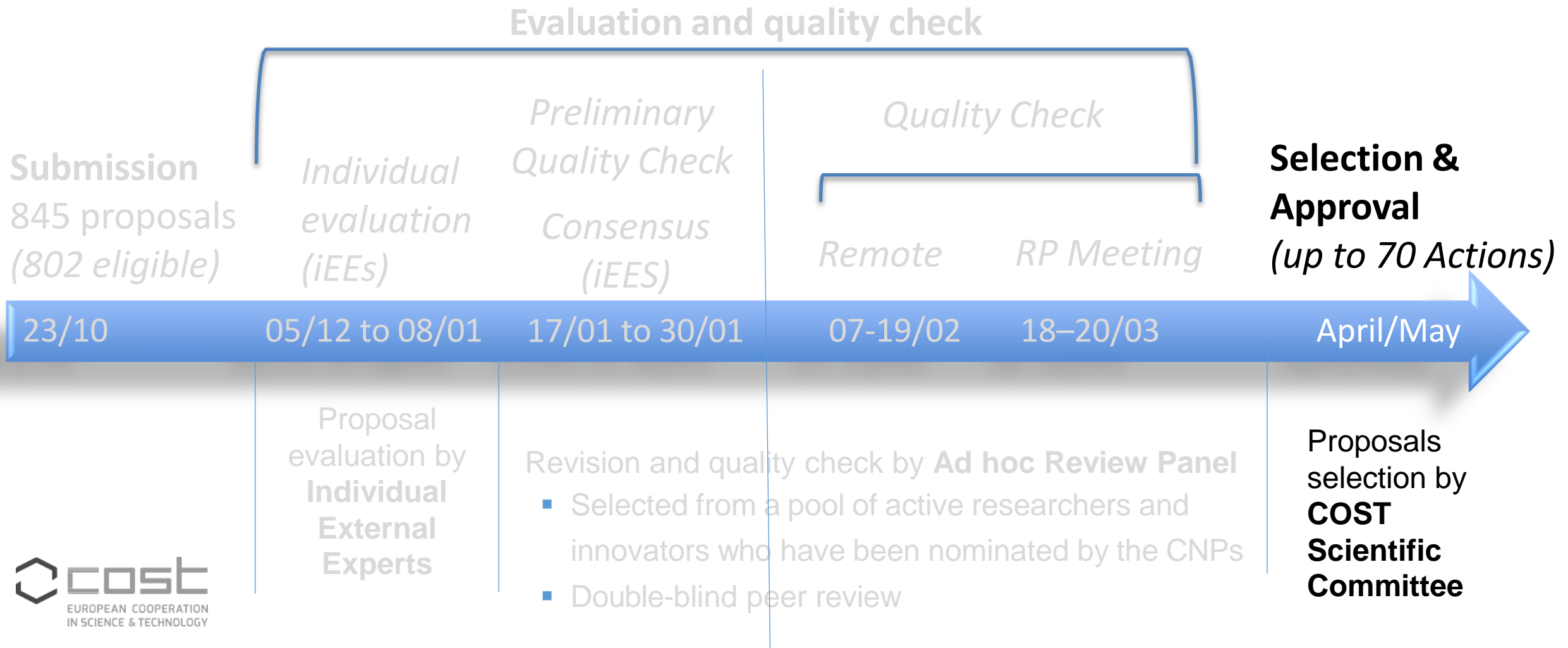
Scientific quality of the proposals / General comments and suggestions



- **Too many proposals** given the time available, creating extraordinary workload and impacting quality
=> **Time to redesign the open call process?**
- **Reviewers** looking for perfection and "needles in the haystack", biased by their areas. Scientific esteem and silos in contrast to innovation and interdisciplinarity. New approaches suppressed by reviewers. Reviewers are looking for post-COST Action plans.
- **Rapporteurs** that are non-cooperating and unaware of their tasks. Make sure that all views are represented. (Risk of rapporteur bias towards the own view.)
- **Factual errors** (by reviewer confusion or AI hallucination) entails unmotivated penalties.



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Thank you