Three most common problems in applications and how to avoid them

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Agenda

+ Overview of Call 1 and Call 2 statistics

+ Three most common problems in applications (EOIs and Full Applications)
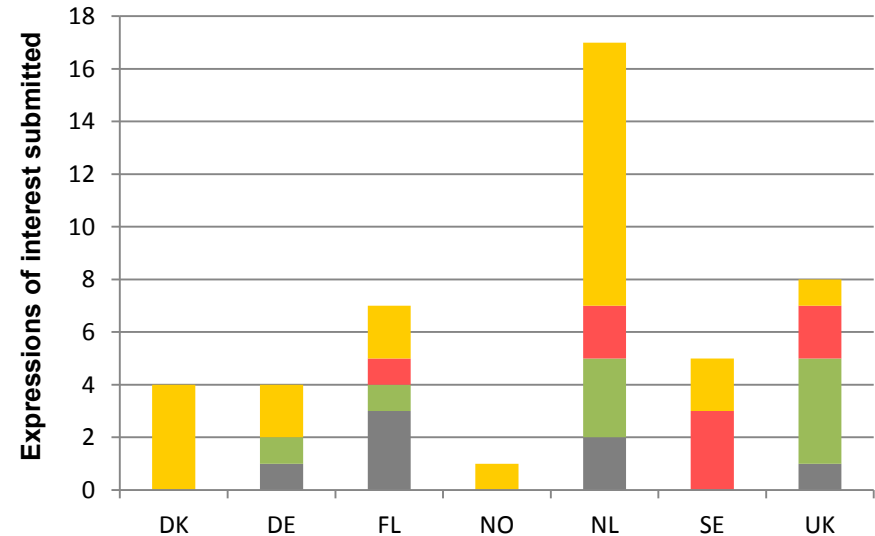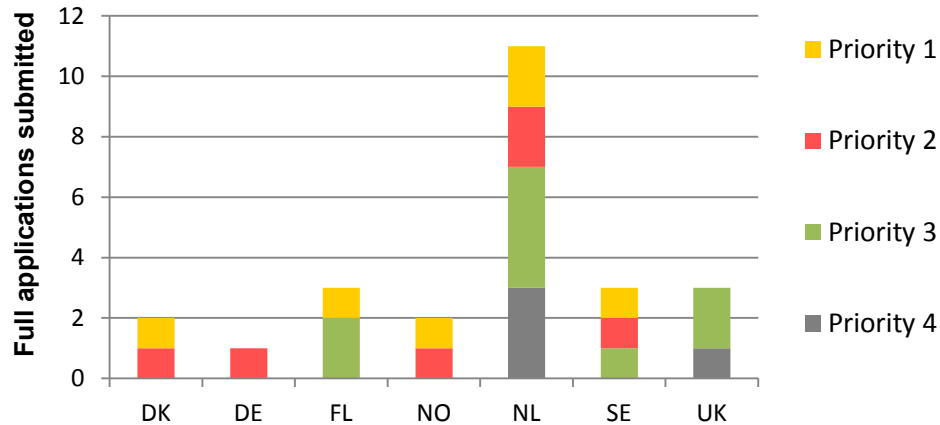
+ Tips on what you can do to avoid them

#NSRbuildingblocks

Overview of Call 1

+ What we received: 78 applications (50 EOIs and 28 full applications)

+ What the SC decided:

  + 12 full applications approved (43%)

  + 3 invited to re-apply through Written Procedure

  + 5 full applications invited to re-apply in a later call

  + 25 EOIs approved and invited to submit as full applications in a later call (50%)

Overview of Call 2

+ What we received: 71 applications
  + 25 full applications
  + 46 expressions of interest

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Three most common problems with applications

1. **Lack of realistic, specific, durable, transferable results**

    1. Mis-label outputs or deliverables as results
    2. List results that do not have a quantifiable value attached to them
    3. Do not provide a unit, baseline, target AND definition
    4. Do not reflect how the project will capture progress

Three most common problems with applications

2. **Vague, general arguments of project's transnational relevance**

   1. Fail to show that the project cannot succeed unless there is cooperation among at least two of the NSR countries

   2. Make statements like 'we will share experience and knowledge' but do not go beyond that, do not explain in detail how they will do that

   3. Describe pilots and investments that are only beneficial to local area

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Three most common problems with applications

3. **Weak (or absent) explanation of how project provides a new solution to a problem – or how it adapts an existing one**

   1. Applications say 'we have a new approach' but do not explain HOW it is new or WHY they are using it
   2. Applications say 'we will borrow from and build on the results of Project X' but do not describe HOW or WHY they are doing this
   3. Applications list several projects they are building on but do not explain how or why they list THESE projects

What you can do to avoid these pitfalls

+ Get to know your Fact Sheets!
+ Submit a project idea and communicate with a project advisor about it
+ Pay attention to suggestions in approved EOIs
+ Get the strongest writer in your partnership to write the text of the proposal
+ Watch the project intervention logic video and familiarize yourself with the difference between deliverables, outputs, and results (as well as other online tutorials and videos)
+ Attend InterWork event before the next call opens