

# WHY and HOW TO JOIN COST

Reflections of 20+ years of COST  
experience

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# WHY TO JOIN COST

COST: A unique science collaboration program

- Bottom up
- Open
- Networking of nationally funded research

→ New science through collaborations / synergy

→ Platform for interdisciplinary research

→ Broad training and experience

## **Important aspect of COST:**

### **Networking of nationally funded research:**

- Efficient: strongly increases research productivity
- COST outcomes limited by national funding

### **Czech national COST funding (Ministry of Education):**

#### **Relatively small grants with very high leverage:**

- Optimize contributions of Czech participants to COST
- Outcome of projects is multiplied by COST-collaborations
- Enables entirely new research by Czech participants

# HOW TO JOIN COST

## 1) Join existing Action:

Contact Action chair, WG coordinator

- Specify your research project
- Stress your collaboration potential, existing links to action participants

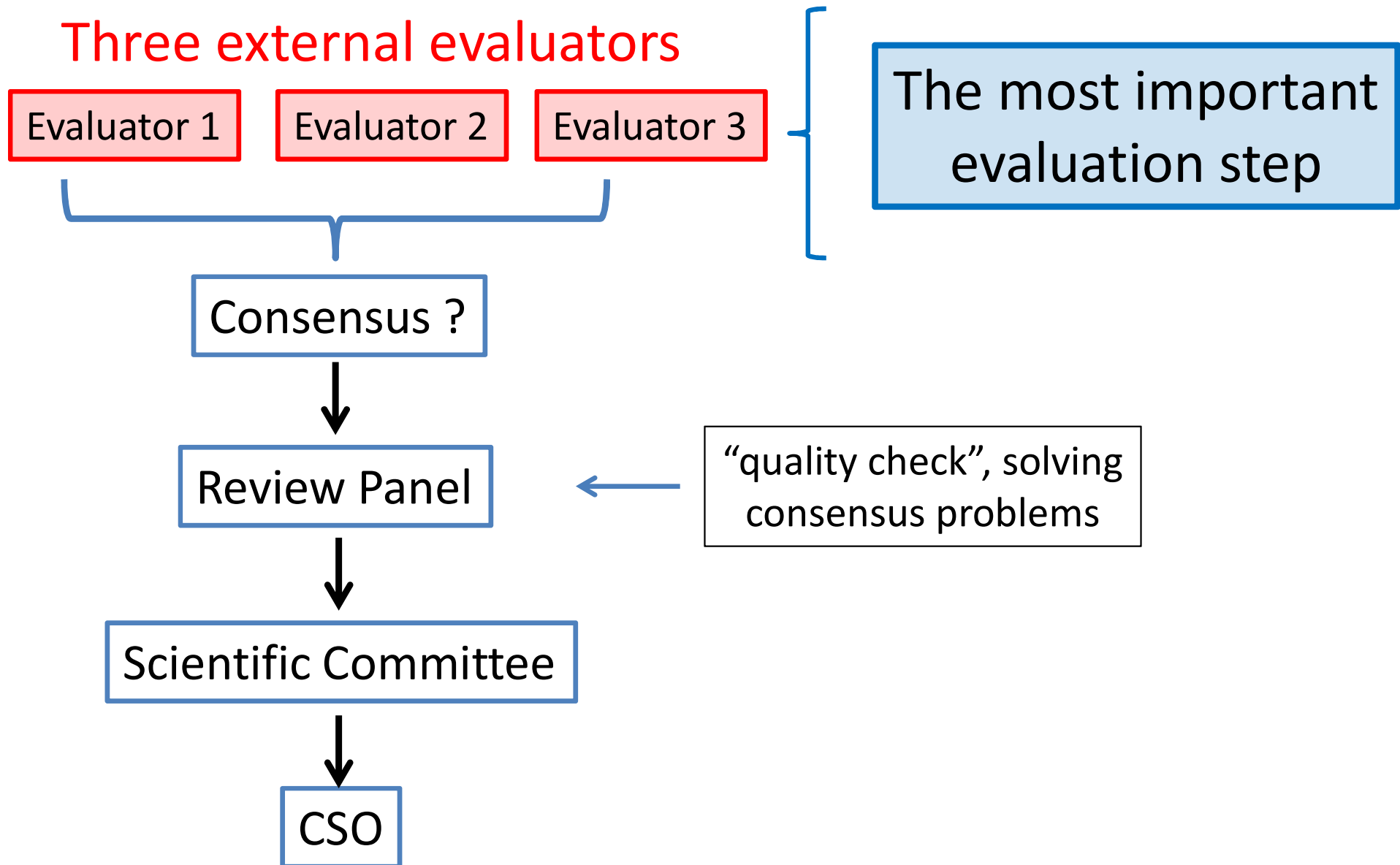
## 2) Propose a new Action

Open Calls:

March

September

# Proposal Evaluation



# Highs and Lows of External Evaluation

Independent , however:

Evaluation outcome depends on the choice of evaluators:

- Competence
- Understanding COST

COST proposals are difficult to evaluate:

Networking matters!

Achievable results (deliverables) depend on national funding!

- Some evaluators treat COST proposals as research projects, not as networking proposals, too specific objectives required
- Proposers cannot respond to comments

# Highs and Lows of External Evaluation:

How to succeed??

Evaluators assess 13 different aspects! To avoid common criticism:

- Be specific about outcomes, impact, stakeholders, ...
- If possible, state measurable objectives, deliverables, impact
- Don't propose too general, broad research (?!)
- Stress and specify added value of networking
- Consider both short- and long-term impact
- Research for and differentiate from other projects in related fields
- Don't underestimate dissemination, exploitation plans, risk assessment and contingency measures
- Define well working groups including their interrelations
- Have a balanced team (complementary expertise, critical mass, geography, gender, age,...) and stress openness to new participants