



GREEN ERA-HUB
on Agri-Food and Biotechnology

GEH MasterClass on Best Practices for Call Mechanisms

Redress procedure for transnational joint projects

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Outline

- I. My background
- II. Call structures and procedures
- III. Complexity of Calls with multiple funding organisations (incl. non-EU countries)
- IV. What to redress (re-address) in transnational Calls?
(Examples)
- V. Must do's & Must not do's – recommendations for a fair and smooth Call procedure

My background

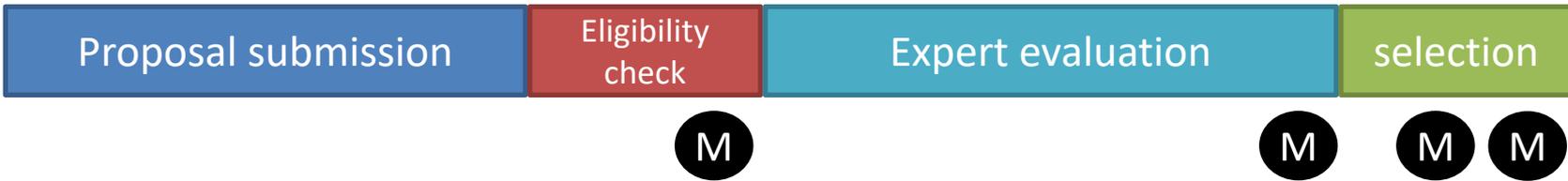
- 8 years at PtJ, Bioeconomy support and advise for BMBF
- Coordination of an ERA-Net Cofund Action (2018-2023)
- 8 national/international BMBF Calls (BMBF only and bilateral)
 - 1-step
- 7 transnational ERA-Net-type Calls (2017-2023)
 - 1-step and 2-step procedure



Call structures and procedures

- transnational ERA-Net-type Calls

1-step



2-step

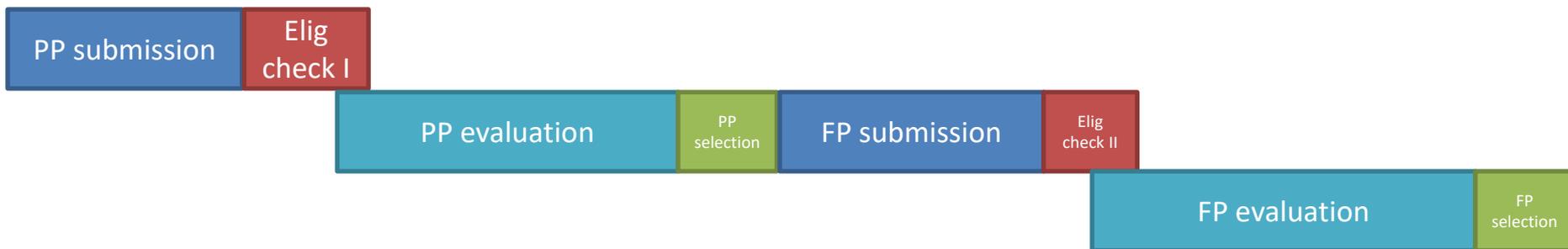




Call structures and procedures

- transnational ERA-Net-type Calls

2-step



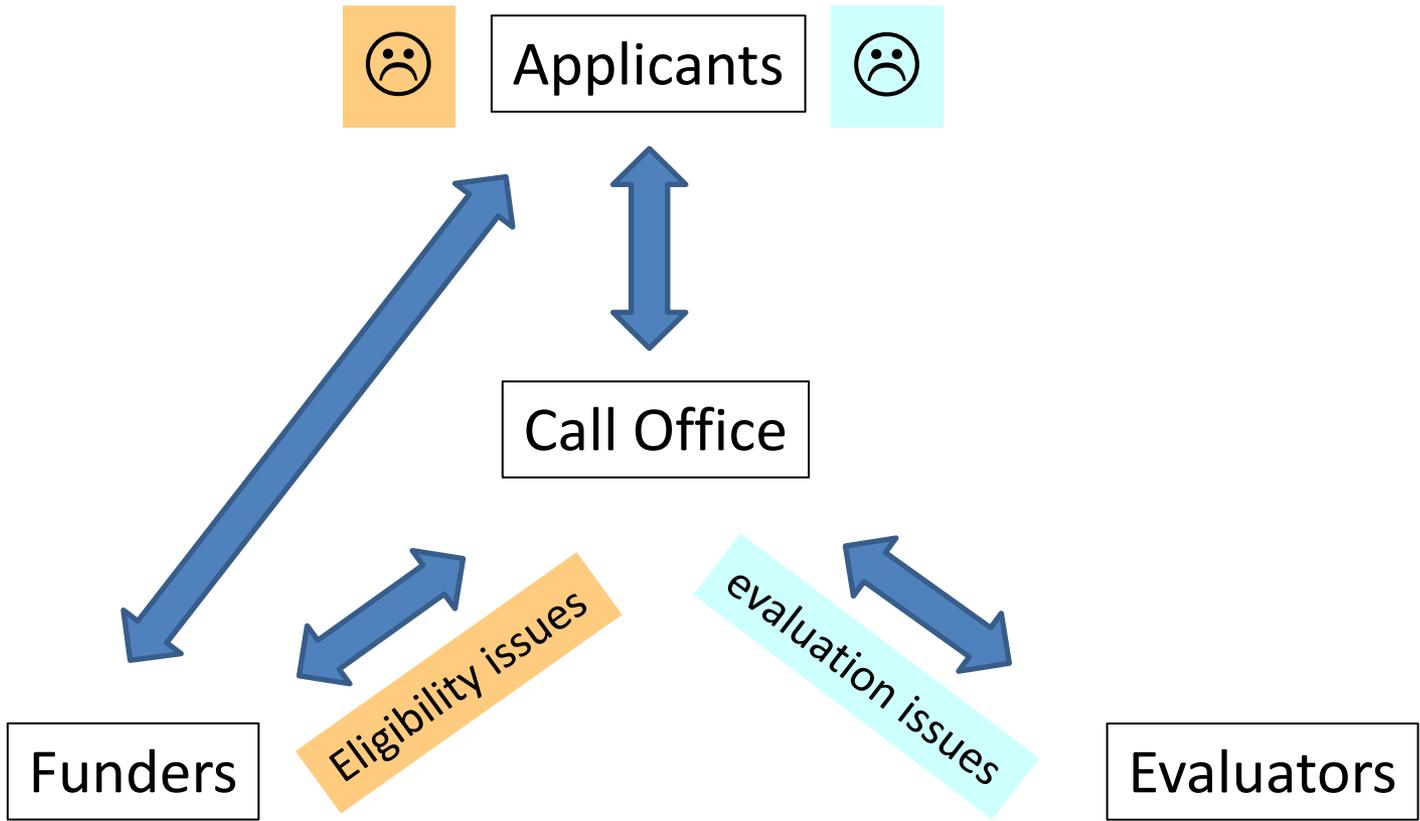
Complexity of Calls

III. Complexity of Calls with multiple funding organisations (incl. non-EU countries)

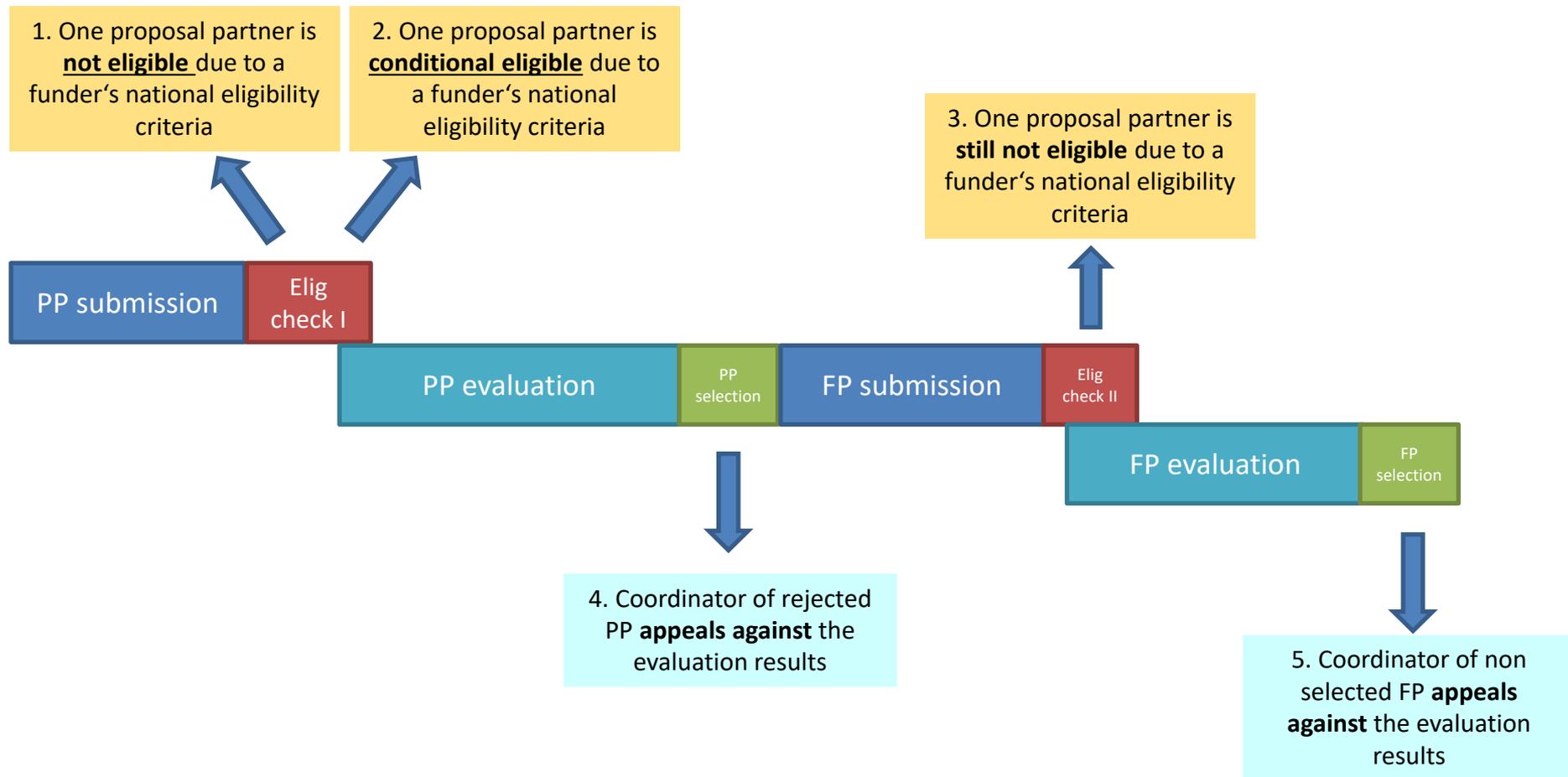
- General eligibility criteria
- National/regional funding regulations & criteria:
 - Topic restriction
 - Exclusion of scientific areas
 - Type of applicants
 - Funding rate
 - Overhead calculation
 - Additional national registration documents
 - Mandatory contact between applicant and funding organization
 - Academic degree of applicant
 - etc
- **Many formal or scientific issues are possible for submitted proposals!**



Redress



What to redress?



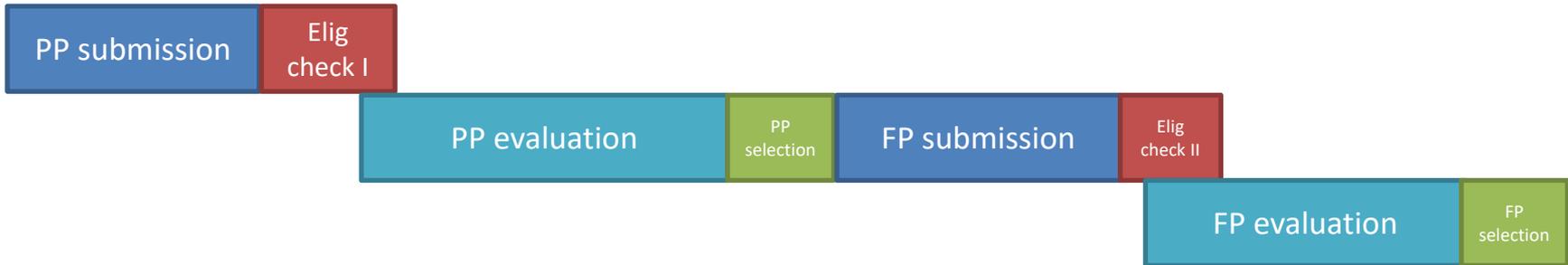
Examples

1. One proposal partner is **not eligible** due to a funder's national eligibility criteria

Reason: -partner cannot be funded (wrong type of partner)
-the proposal addresses the wrong topic



Redress almost impossible (removal of partner?)

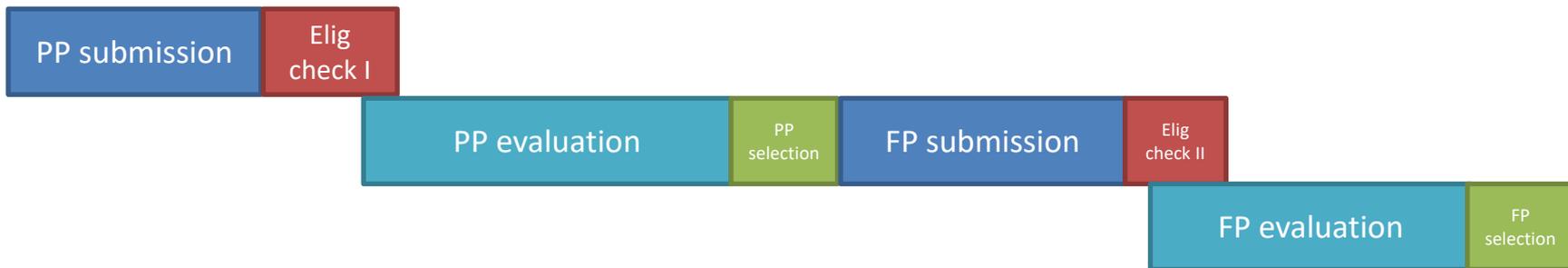


Examples

Example SusCrop 2018: partners in several proposals used a methodology that was not accepted by one funder.

Problem: This was not clearly stated in the national funding regulation of the funder!!!

1. One proposal partner is **not eligible** due to a funder's national eligibility criteria



„Solution“: The funder apologized to the group of funders and promised to deal with the complaints.

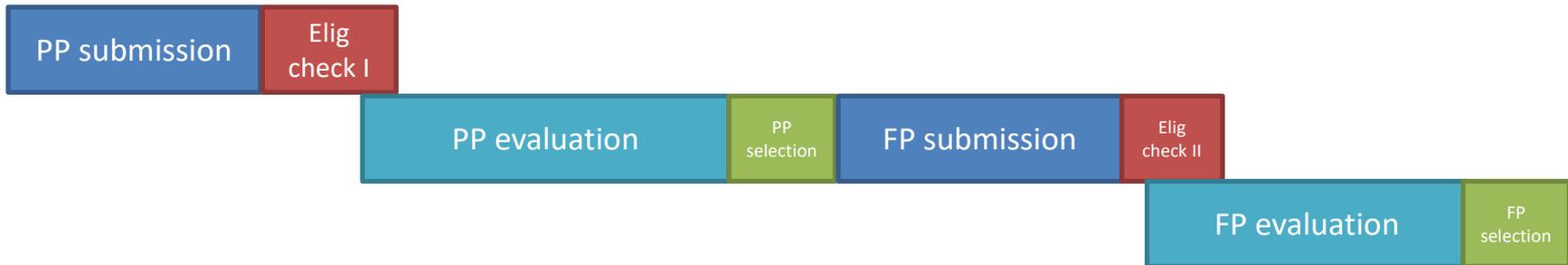
Recommendation: Clear national funding regulations on what can be funded and what not. Avoid grey zones.

Examples

2. One proposal partner is **conditional eligible** due to a funder's national eligibility criteria

Reason: -wrong budgets (funding limit, overheads, funding rates) etc
- missing national documents

→ Redress procedure: bilateral discussion (funder and applicant), very common

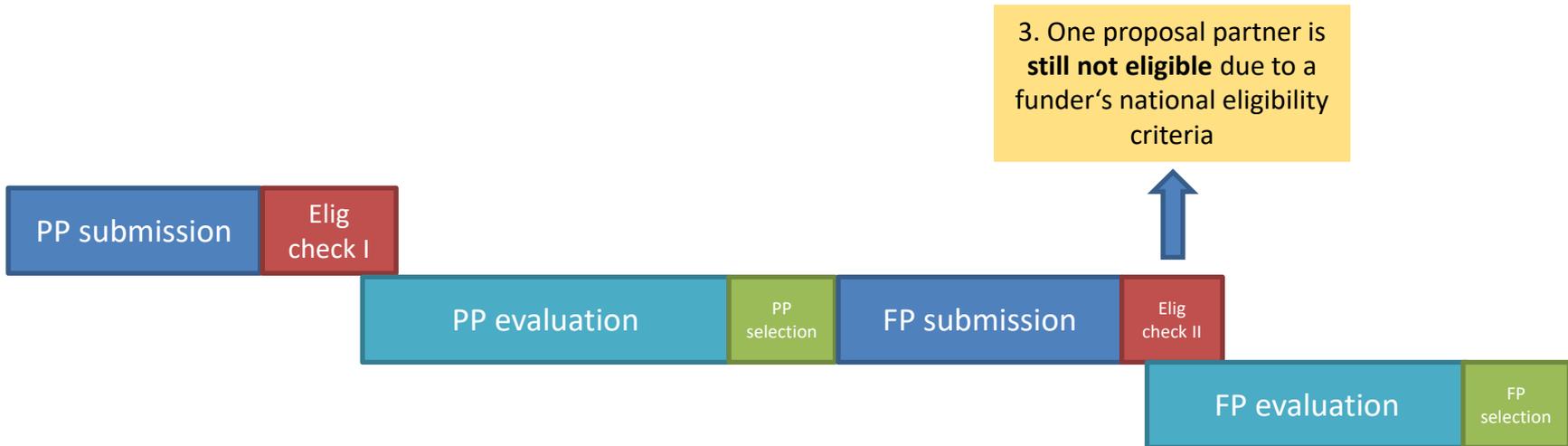


Solution: - revision of budget at FP stage
- delayed submission of national documents often accepted

Examples

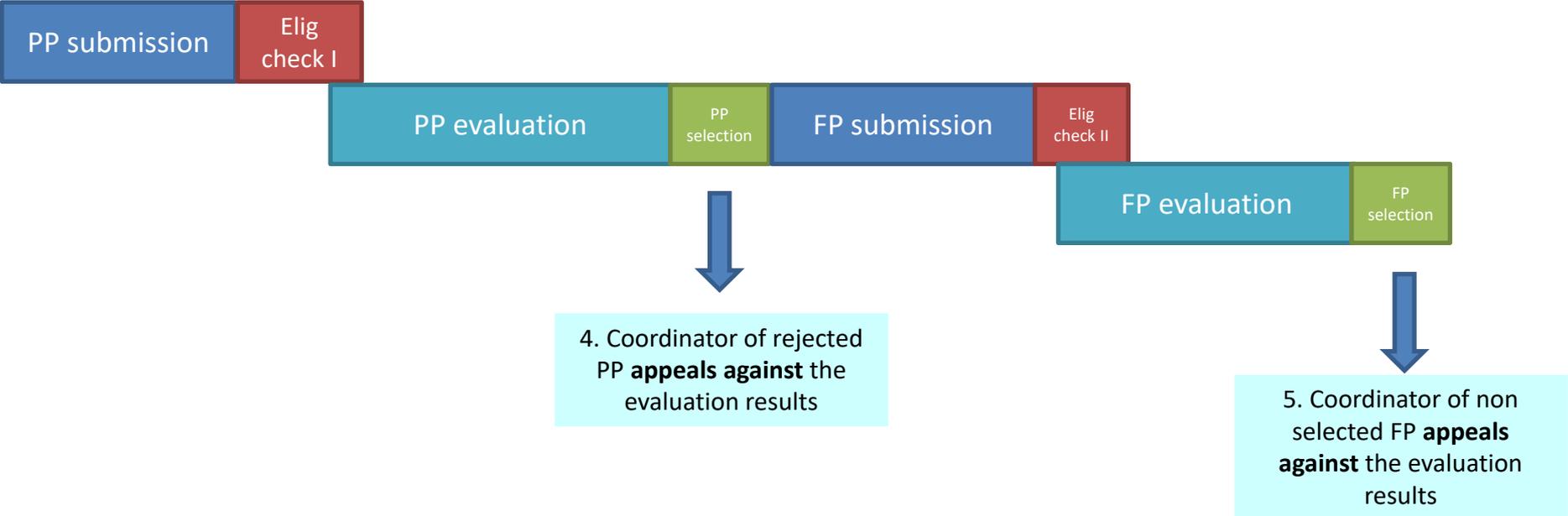
No correction or revision of the issue

 Disqualification of proposal





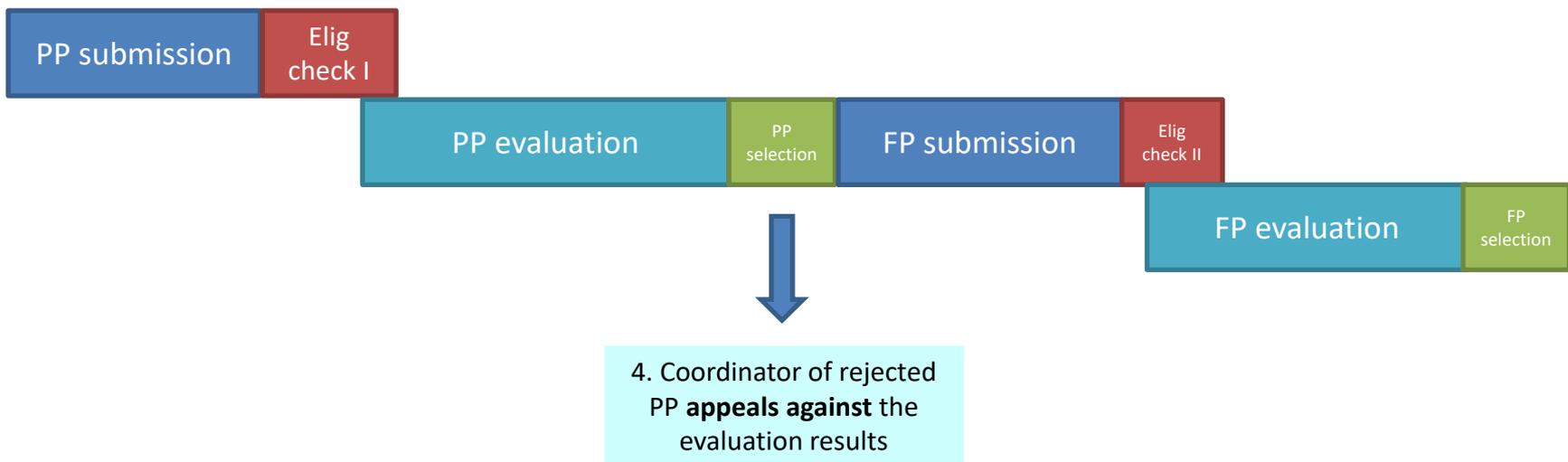
Examples



Examples

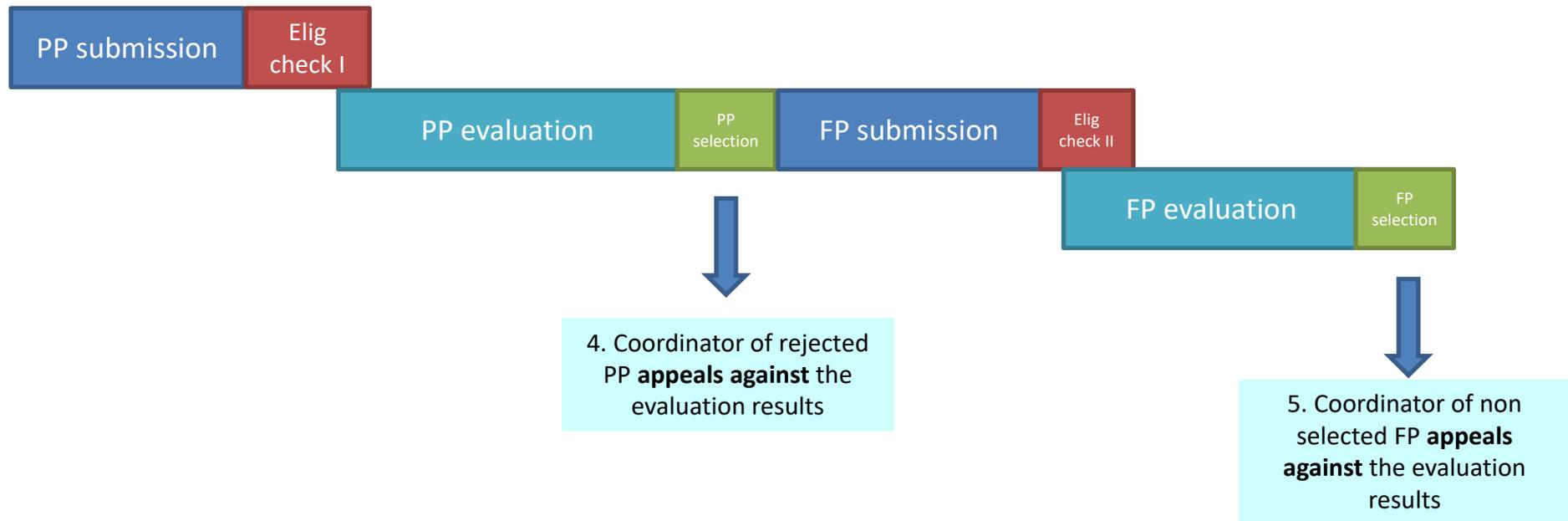
A proposal received low scores because the evaluators identified that the proposal was lacking a certain competence (e.g. an experienced partner for bioinformatics). The coordinator appealed against this weakness and requested a re-evaluation based on the information included in the proposal.

Redress: We asked the three evaluators to look at the proposal again, discuss this issue with the Chair of the expert panel and provide a statement for the coordinator. If the scores are changed, the proposal could have been still invited for the full proposal stage.



Examples

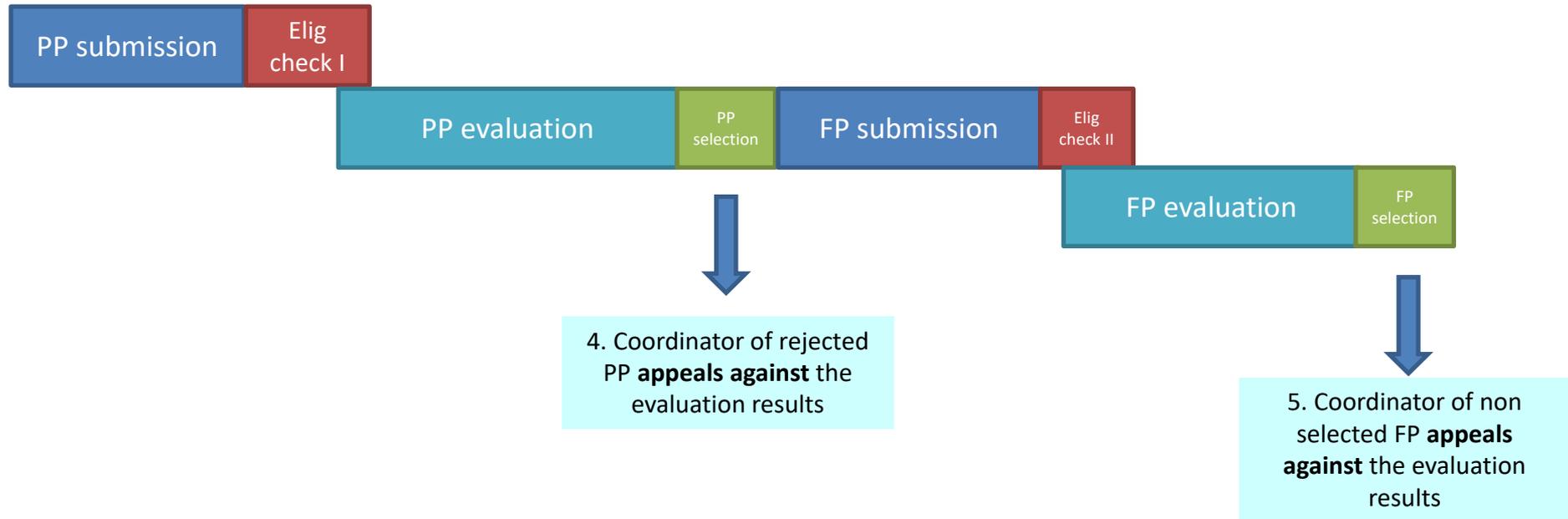
How to avoid that an appeal against the evaluation results occurs after full proposal selection?



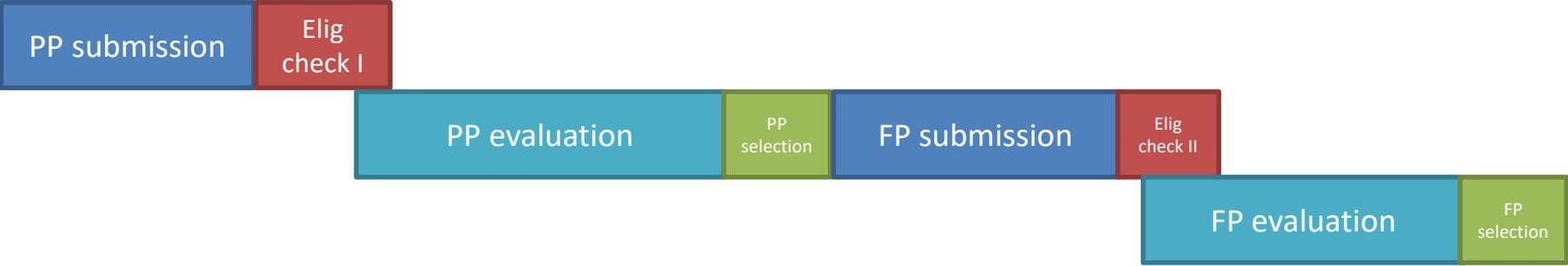
Examples

How to avoid that an appeal against the evaluation results occurs after full proposal selection?

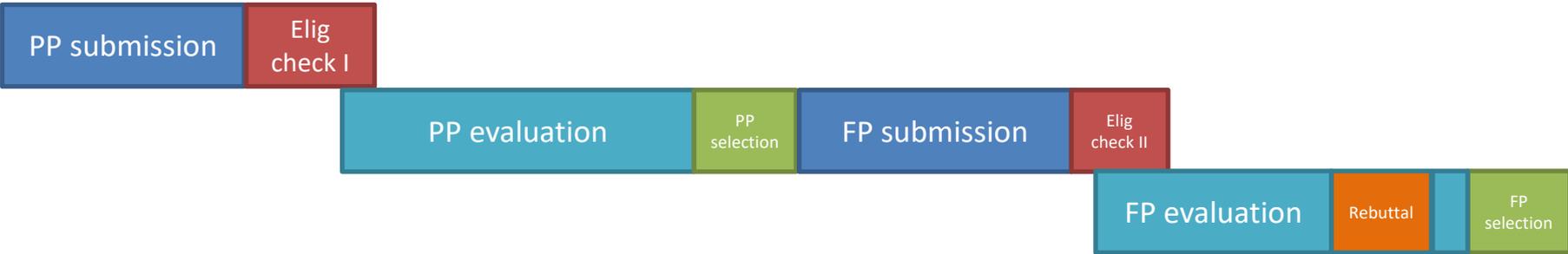
Rebuttal



Examples



Rebuttal

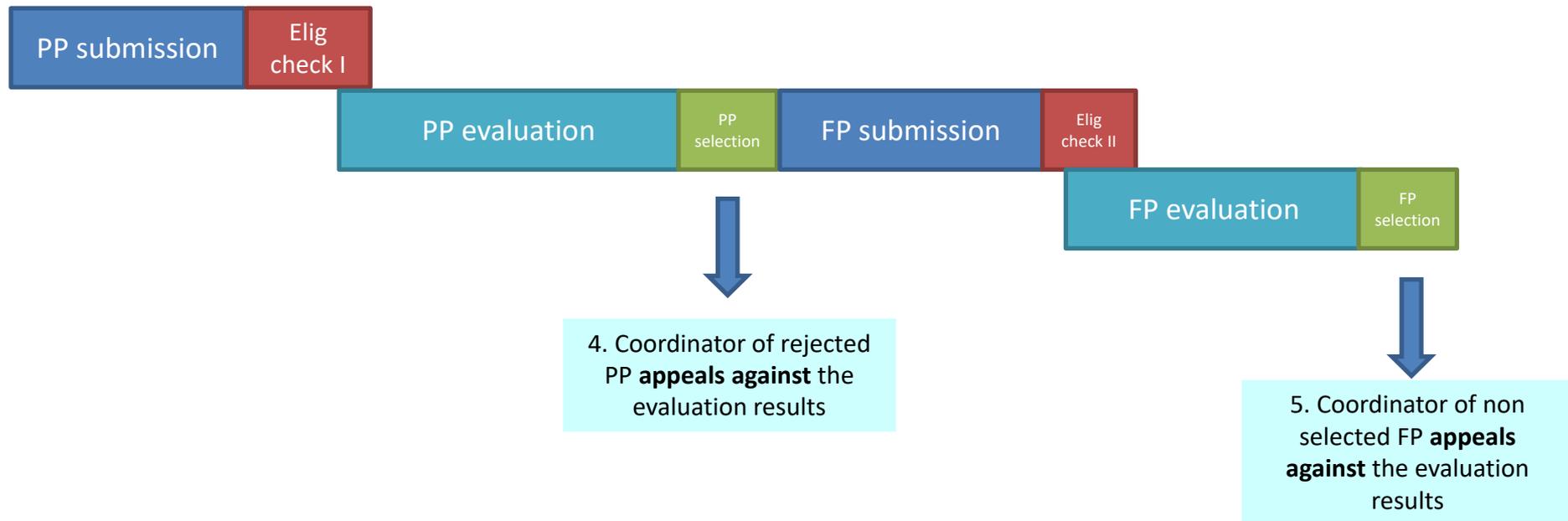


Important: Rebuttal statement from the applicant **must** have a character limit!!!!

Examples

How to avoid appeals against the evaluation results in general?

- The more evaluators the better
Upon an appeal mention that the evaluation result is based on 3 or even 4 experts assessments plus a Chairperson, usually nobody will appeal.
- Also in the notification letter use the sentence „This result is irrevocable.“



Recommendations

Make funders aware to provide clear national regulations

Make funders aware to be available for questions from applicants

Encourage funders and applicants to discuss their proposal ideas and content

Encourage funders to perform their national eligibility checks quickly to find solutions

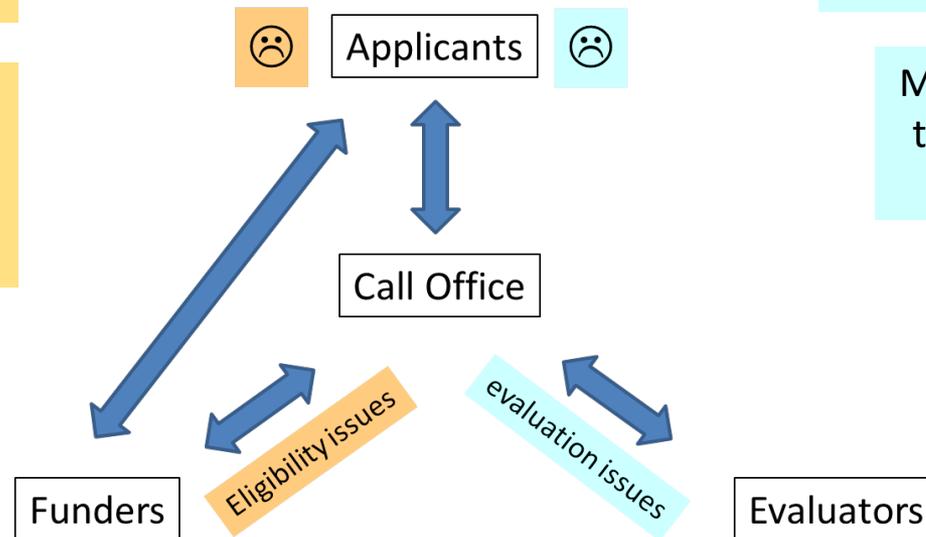
Try rebuttal (often difficult because of timeline)

Set a strict character limit for rebuttal statements

Make sure you have the right people in the expert panel

Make sure you have an experienced person chairing the panel

Increase the number of assigned experts





Thank you!

Outline

II. Call structures and procedures

national/international BMBF Calls (BMBF only and bilateral)

1-step

– Funder only BMBF



– Bilateral Calls (BMBF and non-EU country)

