I. Basic Assessment		Definition of an "Excellent" Project
B.1	Well-balanced partnership?	– There is a well-balanced division of workload and budget between the participants. – The participants possess necessary and complementary key qualifications to meet project objective and results. – All participants have strategic interests in achieving the results. – Successful completion of the project requires contribution from all participants. – Each participant has a well defined role in the project and there are no overlapping activities.
	Added value through co-operation	– Project demonstrates clear sharing of development risks, of costs, of know-how, of benefits. – Project objectives and results give synergy to the partnership. – Participation supports and expands qualifications and knowledge of each participant beyond project results (e. g. new technology and new skills).
	Technological capacity of all project partners carrying out R&D, personnel structure	– Each participant carrying out R&D has sufficient, qualified technical personnel to participate as planned. – Each participant carrying out R&D possesses adequate systems and equipment to participate in the activities.
	Managerial capacity of all participants, but esp. of coordinating project partner	– The coordinating participant and/or project manager has all the relevant experience, including experience of multi-partner projects. – The proposed staffs from each of the participants have adequate managerially skills for implementing the project and all activities. – The participants have the managerial capacity to disseminate the results.

B.2a	Methodology and planning approach, division of tasks	– Adoption of a problem-solving approach – The participants execute balanced activities. – From the outset, key issues to be addressed and project objective(s) are fully identified and precisely formulated. – The project activities are logically set out, well described and are relevant to the expected results. – Resources and costs related to each activity are identified. – The technological assumptions and risks are identified and the methods to handle them are specified. – The total project organisation is well defined and is appropriate to managing resources and activities in a successful way.
	Milestones and deliverables	– The project plan includes clearly defined activities with well-defined milestones and deliverables. – Monitoring indicators are identified, if possible as quantitative measures that facilitate verification of progress during project implementation.
B.2b	Cost and financing structure, appropriateness of: – Personnel expenditures (quantity and qualification of staff, person-months, employment level) – Technical equipment (if requested) – Subcontracting (if requested; only services aside R&D) – Co-financing (e. g. budget supplied by industry)	– The cost breakdown is well-structured and corresponds to the activities to be implemented by each participant. – The financing is broken down in sufficient detail to identify own contributions / external support for each participant. – Substantial purchase of materials and technical equipment, if required, are well motivated. – Subcontracting, if required, is well motivated and displays only services, not R&D activities. – The project plan includes a realistic calculation of the manpower needed.

II. Technology and Innovation		Definition of an "Excellent" Project
T.1	Clarity of innovation objectives and research methodology (according to state of the art?)	– The project has a clearly defined and measurable innovation goal. The proposed research methodology is adequate and feasible for the applicants to reach the innovation goal. – The state of the art of technology is clearly described and a clear research strategy is defined to reach the project innovation goal.
	Appropriateness of referred literature (international sources?)	– The referred literature covers all technological fields relevant for projects execution, international publications have been analysed and considered, and conclusions for the project are well described.
	Scientific demand of the project	– The project is scientifically demanding, performing R&D at the cutting edge of technology.
T.2	Relevance of intended technological achievements	– The R&D activities in the project will contribute to important leaps in the performance of the technology itself. – The technological results represent new solutions, a base for new generations of industries or transformation of current infrastructures. – The technology will be at the forefront of the technological area in question and thus well beyond the present state of the art.
	Degree of innovation	– The results of the project aim at product, process or service represent a radically new application of existing technology or of the technology developed in the project. – The innovation will be a basis for a product, process or service which is superior to alternative solutions which could meet the same market opportunities. – The innovation forms a basis for the generation of new industries.

III. Market and Competition		Definition of an "Excellent" Project
M.1	Representativeness of associations in the sector	– The involved associations can be considered as representative for the sector, and this is valid for all participating countries/regions.
	Representativeness of users committee for the sector	– The SMEs in the Users Committee can be considered as representative for all of the involved countries/regions.
	Dissemination strategy	– The project has a dissemination plan to spread the results to SMEs in the sector in the countries/regions involved. – The dissemination strategy is well prepared and goal oriented. – Different ways are shown and different activities are planned to reach most of the SMEs in the countries/regions involved, which might use the results. – The schedule for the dissemination reflects the potential of each participant.
	Economic potential	– The project is very relevant within its industrial sector, and it will result in substantial economic advantages for the sector.
	Potential impact on SMEs	– The potential added value for the SMEs in the sector in the countries/regions involved is substantial, clearly described and realistic.
M.2a	Strategic importance of the project	– The long-term achievements of the project will lead to a long-lasting enhancement of the competitive position(s) of the SMEs in the sector. – The long-term achievements will result in substantial job creation or prevent substantial job losses in the sector. – The project opens the way for creation of new product families/improvements that extends the total cycle time of the existing product, process or service.

M.2a	Valorisation strategy	– The strategy for valorisation of project results on national/regional level is well described. – Steps and milestones are included and clearly defined.
M.2b	Trans-national added value	– The trans-national consortium has a clear added value versus comparable national projects. – The project creates through collective R&D activities a strong foundation for sustainable competitiveness. – Collective activities in the project will result in an enhancement of the skills and knowledge levels of the participants. – The project gives access to networks of scientific/technological and/or organisational character of importance for the growth and competitiveness of the SMEs in the sector. – The project opens the way for good-will and image creation that could not be obtained in traditional ways.