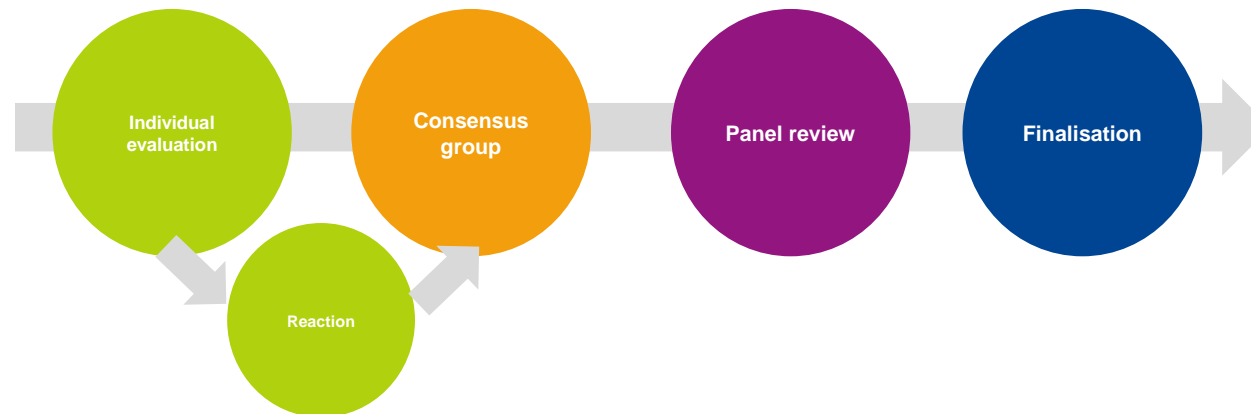

HORIZON EUROPE

Pilot on Right-to-react (rebuttal)- state of play



Pilot analysis - introduction

- **Four calls** across the **HE work programme 2021-2022** were selected to participate in the pilot.
- The objective of the rebuttal mechanism is to increase **transparency**, to **correct any factual or major misunderstandings** by experts at an early stage, and to provide **more detailed feedback** to applicants during the evaluation process.
- The mechanism was introduced as **an addition to the standard evaluation process**, leaving the existing formal complaint options (redress, Ombudsman etc) intact.
- After the individual evaluation, **comments from experts were sent to applicants** (without scores and anonymously), who then were able to react to those comments. During the consensus phase, experts were advised to take into consideration their individual comments and the reactions from participants.



Pilot overview

Number of proposals that made use of the rebuttal mechanism			
Call	N. of proposals evaluated	N. of rebuttal-replies received	%
HORIZON-EIC-2021-PATHFINDEROPEN-01	868	846	97.5%
HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-02	1	0	0%
HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-TALENTS-01	88	87	99%
HORIZONCL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-02	16	16	100%

Pilot analysis

- We are finalising the analysis of the pilot and expect a decision on the future of the rebuttal mechanism in the coming months.
- Analysis does not give clear indications to decide one way or another:
 - Applicants are strongly in favour of the rebuttal mechanism to be maintained. However, only a small percentage of them believes that their reactions helped evaluators to clarify possible misunderstandings.
 - The majority of experts agree to maintain the rebuttal mechanism in the future, although not in all calls. However, half of them consider not being influenced in the way they perform their evaluation.
 - Internal resources needed to include the rebuttal mechanism in the evaluations are substantially high in some calls (difficult to maintain time-to-inform).