**Annex 7**

*to the long-term State Research Programme*

*“Innovation Fund – Long-term Research Programme”*

*Regulations for the Open Call for Platform Applications*

**Methodology for Carrying Out the Platform Expert Evaluation**

**(for the Platform Application, Mid-term/Final Report of the Platform)**

**Contents**

[Introduction 1](#_Toc174520113)

[1 Terms Used 2](#_Toc174520114)

[2 Expert Evaluation of the Platform Application 4](#_Toc174520115)

[2.1 Individual Evaluation of the Platform Application 4](#_Toc174520116)

[3 Platform Expert Evaluation of the Platform Mid-term and Platform Final Report 9](#_Toc174520117)

[3.1 Individual Evaluation of the Platform Mid-term Reports and Platform Final Report 9](#_Toc174520118)

[3.2 Consolidated Evaluation of the Platform Mid-term and Platform Final Report 10](#_Toc174520119)

[3.3 Evaluation of the Objective of the Platform Final Report 11](#_Toc174520120)

# Introduction

The methodology for carrying out an evaluation (hereinafter – the platform expert evaluation) for the platform application and the platform mid-term/final report (hereinafter – the Methodology) has been developed in accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 560 of 4 September 2018, Procedures for the Implementation of State Research Programme Projects, (hereinafter – the Cabinet Regulation) and in compliance with the Regulations for the Open Call for Platform Applications (hereinafter – the open call) (hereinafter – the Regulations) of the Long-term State Research Programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Research Programme” approved on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2024 by the Implementation and Monitoring Commission of the Long-term State Research Programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Research Programme”.

The Methodology has been developed for independent foreign experts (hereinafter – the platform expert) who carry out the evaluation of the platform application, the platform mid-term reports, and the platform final report by preparing an individual evaluation of the platform application/platform mid-term report/platform final report by the platform expert and a consolidated evaluation of the platform application/platform mid-term report/platform final report by the platform expert.

The Methodology for the preparation and submission of the platform application, platform mid-term reports, platform final report (hereinafter – the Methodology) has been developed in accordance with Cabinet Regulation No. 560 of 4 September 2018, Procedures for the Implementation of State Research Programme Projects, (hereinafter – the Cabinet Regulation) and in compliance with the Regulations for the Open Call for Platform Applications (hereinafter – the open call) of the Long-term State Research Programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Research Programme” approved on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2024 by the Implementation and Monitoring Commission of the Long-term State Research Programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Research Programme” (hereinafter – the long-term programme).

According to Section 35, Paragraph one of the Law on Scientific Activity, State research programmes are State commissions for the performance of scientific research in a specific economic, educational, cultural, or other sector of priority to the State with the purpose of promoting the development of such sector.

As a public service, the long-term programme is a policy implementation mechanism that identifies and researches issues of importance for Latvia’s sustainability and development, which require the strengthening of scientific capacity (including the involvement of young scientists and students) and knowledge base development facilitation by focusing the work of Latvian scientific institutions. In view of the above, the programme creates favourable conditions for achieving sustainable development goals of Latvia. At the same time, the long-term programme aims to strengthen the collaboration and capacity of research organisations to carry out research projects jointly commissioned by the State and industry.

The long-term programme intends to select a platform, i.e. an association of research organisations and platform collaboration partners, which will select platform projects in the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) areas “Biomedicine, Medical Technologies, Biopharmaceuticals and Biotechnologies” and “Smart Materials, Technologies and Engineering Systems” and apply flexibility in monitoring their implementation.

The long-term programme is established and financed by the Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia. The total State budget funding available for the 2024–2026 open call under the long-term programme is EUR 20,900,000.00

In 2026, the long-term programme and the operation of the platform may be extended for further implementation until 2029 and in 2029 the long-term programme and the operation of the platform may be extended for further implementation until 2032, subject to the funding envisaged for this purpose under the State budget programme 35.00.00 “State aid programmes” of the Ministry of Economics, provided that the specified intermediate results of the long-term programme are achieved during the previous implementation period of the long-term programme.

The overarching objective of the long-term programme is to develop new knowledge and also products and technology solutions in the long-term in the smart specialisation strategy areas “Biomedicine, Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals” and “Photonics and Smart Materials, Technologies and Engineering Systems” approved in Latvia.

The objective of the long-term programme is to develop academic research and applied science competences for the development of innovative and commercialisable products and technologies in close collaboration with the Latvian biomedical, medical technology, pharmaceutical, photonics, smart materials, electronics, electrical engineering, technology and engineering systems industries.

The tasks defined for the achievement of the objective of the long-term programme:

1 RIS3 area “Biomedicine, Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals” – improvement of access to therapies in order to increase survival and working capacity by developing technologies for the production of medicines, their transporters and vaccines, implementation of reprofiling of medicines, discovery of new medicine and development studies, and also identification of new biomarkers and development of precision medicine solutions;

2 RIS3 area “Photonics and Smart Materials, Technologies and Engineering Systems” – development of optics, photonics, microelectronics, microfluidic devices, smart materials, data transmitting and communication technologies, sensors and engineering systems, robotics and future Internet of Things (IoT) solutions.

The implementation of the platform shall ensure the fulfilment of the horizontal tasks listed in Paragraph 7 of Cabinet Order No. 474 of 18 June 2024, Regarding the Long-term State Research Programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Research Programme”, (hereinafter – the Cabinet Order regarding the long-term programme) and the achievable results listed in Paragraph 8 by 2032: 1) to develop at least 45 technologies, including prototypes, that meet Technology Readiness Levels 3, 4 (according to ISO 16290:2013), whereof at least 30 technologies meet Technology Readiness Levels 5, 6 (according to ISO 16290:2013); 2) at least five new technologies, including prototypes, transferred for commercialisation.

# 1 Terms Used

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Term** | **Definition** |
|  | Platform | An association of research organisations and platform collaboration partners, bound by contractual obligations, where one of the contracting parties is the lead partner of the platform. |
|  | Platform project manager | A scientist who manages the platform project and ensures its implementation, plans and supervises the performance of the platform project tasks, is responsible for the actions of the persons involved in the platform project in accordance with the tasks set out in the platform project and scientific research ethical criteria and for the preparation and submission of the documentation describing the progress of the platform project in accordance with these regulations and the procedures laid down for the platform. |
|  | Platform project management group | The platform project management group established within the scope of the platform that is comprised of invited scientific and sectoral experts (including foreign experts) with voting rights. The platform project management group is open to non-voting representatives of the platform, subject to the principles of avoidance of conflict of interest, transparency and equality. |
|  | Platform leader | A scientist or a specialist who manages the platform and ensures the operation thereof, plans and supervises the performance of the platform tasks, is responsible for the actions of the persons involved in the platform (including the platform projects) in accordance with the tasks set out in the platform and the norms of scientific ethics, and also ensures the preparation and submission of the documentation describing the operation of the platform in accordance with these regulations. |
|  | Platform lead partner | A research organisation rated ‘3’, ‘4’, or ‘5’ in the most recent international evaluation of the performance of scientific institutions. |
|  | Specialist | A person with at least a master’s degree and sufficient skills and experience to provide sound judgements, recommendations, and solutions for managing the platform and achieving its objectives (e.g. a person with experience in business development or commercialisation). |
|  | Project collaboration partner – scientific institution | The platform collaboration partner is a scientific institution registered in the Register of Scientific Institutions of the Republic of Latvia (body governed by public or private law) or an institution of higher education that meets the definition of a research organisation. The property, intellectual property, funding, or human resources in the possession or ownership thereof are involved in the operation of the platform. When making these investments, the platform applicant may not enter into a legal relationship with the collaboration partner that would constitute a public procurement contract in accordance with the laws and regulations regarding public procurements. |
|  | Project collaboration partner – public institution | A public body which is required to carry out scientific activities by an external legal enactment, its regulations or its articles of association, and is engaged in the operation of the platform with property, intellectual property, funding or human resources in its possession or ownership. |
|  | Responsible contact person of the platform applicant on the platform (hereinafter – the platform contact person) | A natural person who is registered in the Information System, fills in information on the platform application, uploads its annexes, and also, where necessary, maintains contact with the staff of the Latvian Council of Science (hereinafter – the Council) (the platform contact person may also be the platform leader) during the platform submission. The platform applicant indicates the platform contact person in Chapter 1 “General information” of Part A of the platform application. If the platform has collaboration partners, their contact persons are likewise indicated. The contact person and the platform leader may be the same person. |
|  | Platform results | Scientific results of the platform projects implemented within the scope of the platform in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Cabinet Regulation and the outcomes of the platform in accordance with Paragraph 8 of the Cabinet Order regarding the long-term programme. |
|  | Platform expert | An expert who independently evaluates the platform application, the platform mid-term report and the platform final report, and whose qualifications, evaluation expertise, and experience are relevant to the scientific field and topic of the specific platform application, platform mid-term/final report. |

# 2 Expert Evaluation of the Platform Application

1 The evaluation process of all the platform applications submitted under the open call shall be organised by the Latvian Council of Science (hereinafter – the Council).

2 If the platform application fulfils the criteria for administrative evaluation, the Council shall, on the basis of Paragraph 25 of the Regulations, call upon two or more suitably qualified platform experts to carry out the expert evaluation of the platform application.

3 Prior to obtaining access to the platform application in the Information System, the platform expert shall:

3.1 declare that he or she has no conflict of interest and also undertake to comply with confidentiality requirements by signing and sending to the Council, by electronic mail, Annex 5 “Declaration of Absence of Conflict of Interest and Maintenance of Confidentiality” to the Regulations (hereinafter – the declaration of the platform expert);

3.2 conclude a contract with the Council – Annex 6 “Contract for Expert Evaluation of the Platform” to the Regulations (hereinafter – the platform expert evaluation contract).

4 The Council shall, upon receipt of the declaration of the platform expert and after conclusion of the platform expert evaluation contract, give the platform expert access to the platform application and to all the necessary information in the Information System to carry out an appropriate evaluation of the platform application.

5 The platform expert shall evaluate the platform application by applying his or her professional qualifications and experience in the relevant field of science and by justifying his or her evaluation with scientific evidence.

6 In the course of the platform expert evaluation, the expert shall cooperate with the Council and also comply with the instructions given by the Council pertaining to the performance of the platform expert evaluation in accordance with the Regulations and the platform expert evaluation contract.

7 In accordance with Paragraph 31 of the Regulations, the platform expert is allowed to evaluate only 20 pages of the platform application and up to three additional pages if there are declarations from the social partners, letters of recommendation on cooperation, etc.

## 2.1 Individual Evaluation of the Platform Application

The platform expert shall complete and approve the individual evaluation of the platform expert platform application (hereinafter – the Individual Evaluation) which has been drawn up in accordance with Annex 8 “Form of Individual/Consolidated Platform Expert Evaluation of the Platform Application” to the Regulations in the Information System within two calendar weeks after concluding the platform expert evaluation contract and obtaining access to the platform application and all necessary information, unless another time limit is specified in the platform expert evaluation contract.

9 In the Individual Evaluation, the platform expert shall evaluate each criterion and provide a score in points, taking into account the considerations set out in Paragraph 13 of the Methodology.

10 The platform expert shall evaluate the criteria and assign a score from 1 to 5 points for each criterion where:

10.1 excellent – 5 points (excellent platform application, meets or exceeds the highest standards in the relevant field of science, any shortcomings in the platform application are minor);

10.2 good – 4 points (good platform application, meets the requirements of the criterion in the relevant field of science, but there are some shortcomings);

10.3 satisfactory – 3 points (satisfactory platform application, generally meets the requirements of the criterion in the relevant field of science, with some shortcomings that will make it difficult to ensure the operation of the platform and achieve high results);

10.4 weak – 2 points (weak platform application, partial or only general compliance with the requirements of the criterion in the relevant field of science, identifiable shortcomings that make it difficult to ensure successful operation of the platform and achieve its objectives);

10.5 unsatisfactory – 1 point (unsatisfactory platform application, does not meet the requirements of the relevant field of science for the criterion, and the information provided is insufficient for the assessment under the criterion, and there are significant shortcomings that make the operation of the platform and the achievement of the objectives questionable);

10.6 if the score of the platform application in a given criterion exceeds the requirements of the previous lowest score but does not fully meet the requirements of the next highest score, half point scores, i.e. 0.5, may also be given.

11 The platform expert shall provide a reasoned justification for the score given under each criterion. The platform expert shall explain in the justification the score awarded, using his or her professional qualifications and experience in the relevant field of science.

12 Within three calendar days following the date of receipt of the Individual Evaluation, the Council shall verify the compliance of the Individual Evaluation with the considerations referred to in Paragraphs 69.184., 69.185, and 69.186 of the Cabinet Regulation, and also with the Methodology, where necessary, returning the Individual Evaluation to the platform expert for updating/revision/improvement, justifying the reasons for the return thereof. In the event of such return, the platform expert shall update, revise, and validate the Individual Evaluation in the Information System within three calendar days following the date of receipt of the notification from the Council, sent by electronic mail, of the return of the Individual Evaluation of the platform expert.

13 The platform expert shall complete the Individual Evaluation in the Information System (see Annex 8 “Form of Individual/Consolidated Platform Expert Evaluation of the Platform Application” to the Regulations) according to the following criteria and considerations:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Individual/Consolidated Platform Expert Evaluation of the Platform Application** | | |
| Platform title:  Platform expert(s): | | |
| **1** | **Criterion: Scientific and innovative quality of the platform** | Maximum score: 5 points |
| **1.1** | Consideration: clarity and relevance of the objectives of the platform to the defined tasks and outcomes, consistency with the objectives and tasks of the long-term programme | *The platform expert shall justify the score given by taking into account the fulfilment of the criterion as a whole and of each criterion consideration.*  Specific information for the criterion is given in Chapter 1 “Scientific and innovative quality” and also in Sub-chapter 2.4 “Results of the platform” and Sub-chapter 3.1 “Platform Applicant”, but **it is the platform application as a whole that should be taken into account** when assessing the criterion.  *The platform expert evaluates the overall idea and concept of the platform (the platform implementation model, the internal collaboration within the platform between all parties involved in the platform, the internal operating conditions), the relevance of its activities to the objectives and outcomes of the platform, to the long-term objectives and tasks of the State research programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Research Programme”, its ability to achieve the latter, the novelty and originality of the platform, its added value,* *relevance to the relevant smart specialisation area.*  *It is necessary to evaluate the scientific and innovative quality of the activities intended within the scope of the platform and also the clarity of the methodology used and its relevance to the objectives set. The platform expert evaluates whether the proposed activities and actions are appropriate to promote scientific research and innovation within the scope of the objective of the platform and to ensure that the activities of the platform are carried out to a high quality standard. Based on the information contained in the platform application, the platform expert evaluates the extent to which the scientific and innovative quality of the platform has been demonstrated (publications and citations; Hirsch index; awards and recognitions; patents and technologies; commercialisation efforts, i.e. licensing, spin-offs; collaborations and networks; impact of the platform on society and its challenges; vision of the ability of the platform to attract funding outside the State budget (EU and international R&D funding, research grants, etc.), available human resources and infrastructure (e.g. laboratories, technology, and equipment, etc.) and whether these are adequate to achieve the objectives and tasks of the platform.*  *The platform expert evaluates the scientific quality of the platform, its potential contribution and role in the development of the Smart Specialisation Strategy areas “Biomedicine, Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals” and “Photonics and Smart Materials, Technologies and Engineering Systems” in Latvia, and also in the context of the overarching objective and goals of the long-term programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Programme”. In addition the following aspects shall be evaluated: the need for the establishment and operation of the platform, its originality and novelty in the context of the task of the operation of the platform, its priorities, including the feasibility and complementarity of interdisciplinarity and novelty of the research paths of the platform, and also the main challenges of the platform.*  *Also, the contribution of all parties involved in the platform, their scientific capacity and the quality of the planned collaboration, whether the resources available in the platform are sufficient to achieve the objective of the platform and to fulfil both the objectives set out in the platform and the objectives, tasks and outcomes set out for the long-term programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Programme”.* |
| **1.2** | Consideration: scientific and innovative quality of the platform, including the justification of the methodology used and the relevance to the objectives pursued |
| **1.3** | Consideration: scientific quality and capacity to generate new knowledge and innovation in the fields of research and innovation, interdisciplinarity and novelty of the research paths of the platform |
| **1.4** | Consideration: contribution of the platform collaboration partners, their scientific capacity and the quality of the collaboration envisaged |
| **2** | **Criterion: Impact of scientific results generated within the scope of the platform** | Maximum score: 5 points |
| **2.1** | Consideration: credibility of the expected outcomes, their impact and the means for achievement thereof, and also the potential scale and significance of the contribution of the platform | *The expert shall justify the evaluation thereof with points, taking into account the fulfilment of the criterion in general and the fulfilment of the considerations of each criterion.*  *1 Criteria-specific information is given in Chapter 2 “Impact” of the platform application, but it is the platform application as a whole that should be taken into account when assessing the criterion.*  *2 The expected outcomes and their expected impact, including the planned transfer of results in further activity and the development of scientific capacity, the possibilities for further development of research shall be evaluated according to the specificities of the relevant field or fields of science and also the specificities of the institutions of the parties involved in the operation of the platform and the platform collaboration partners (if any), and also the specific tasks of the long-term programme.*  *3 The platform expert evaluates the intended outcomes of the platform and the plan to achieve them, how realistic and credible they are, including the credibility of their achievement and impact, and the plan to consolidate the outcomes achieved by the platform.*  *The platform expert evaluates the action plan on how the knowledge and innovations generated by the platform will be disseminated and used, whether the activities to be carried out are appropriate and sufficient, whether the platform demonstrates in a sufficiently clear and understandable manner how the platform will manage the technology transfer and commercialisation processes, how the dialogue and involvement of the Latvian industry in the dissemination and commercialisation of the platform results will be maintained in a systematic and systemic manner.*  *It is evaluated whether the communication plan is sufficiently effective in informing the public* *of the activities and results of the platform, the lessons learned from its activities (including the promotion of the Smart Specialisation Strategy areas “Biomedicine, Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals” and “Photonics and Smart Materials, Technologies and Engineering Systems” in general), the publicity activities for the identified target group, the planned publicity activities (e.g. popular science articles, awareness raising campaigns, public discussions, the website and social networks of the platform, etc.). It is evaluated whether the activities foreseen under the platform are sufficiently clear and effective to ensure the transfer of the results of the platform, involving the public and raising their awareness of the role and contribution of research to society, with particular emphasis on the social networking agenda.* |
| **2.2** | Consideration: relevance and quality of the activities identified under the platform to maximise the expected outcomes and impacts, the work plan for dissemination and use of the knowledge and innovations developed, including communication activities |
| **3** | **Criterion: Platform feasibility and provisions** | Maximum score: 5 points |
| **3.1** | Consideration: quality and effectiveness of the work plan of the platform have been assessed, the planned work steps and tasks are clearly defined, relevant and credible | *The platform expert shall justify the score given by taking into account the fulfilment of the criterion as a whole and of each criterion consideration.*  *Criteria-specific information is given in Chapter 3 “Implementation” of the platform application, but it is the platform application as a whole that should be taken into account when assessing the criterion.*  *The work plan of the platform, intended platform management and quality management thereof, intended resources, available infrastructure are evaluated in accordance with the specific nature of the relevant science sector or sectors and the specific nature of the platform and also the specific nature of the parties involved in the operation of the platform and collaboration partners (if any).*  *It is evaluated whether the work plan of the platform or contingent risk management plan provides for a procedure to address the risks of conflict of interest, corruption, and fraud in the work of the platform, in particular in the selection, monitoring, and evaluation of platform projects, and whether the procedures provided are sufficient.*  *At the same time, the capacity and role, professional qualifications, and innovation experience of the platform lead partner and platform collaboration partners is evaluated, and also the extent to which they are sufficient for the achievement of the objectives and tasks of the platform, and the complementarity and ability of all parties involved in the platform to work together in the platform to achieve the envisaged objectives and tasks.* |
| **3.2** | Consideration: platform management, including quality management, is in place to monitor the progress of the platform, and potential risks to the platform have been assessed and a plan has been developed to prevent or mitigate them |
| **3.3** | Consideration: capacity and role of the platform lead partner and platform partners, professional qualifications and experience in the field of innovation, and experience necessary for the operation of the platform |
| **3.4** | Consideration: infrastructure and resources available for the operation of the platform |

14 The consolidated platform expert evaluation of the platform application is an agreement between all platform experts on the final evaluation of the platform application, so the platform expert who drafts the consolidated evaluation of the platform application shall consult with other platform experts on:

14.1 score of each criterion in points;

14.2 the justification for the scores in points for each criterion, compiled from the justifications provided by all platform experts in their individual evaluations.

15 The Council shall, within three working days, verify the conformity of the consolidated evaluation with the Methodology and validate it in the Information System. If the consolidated evaluation does not comply with the Methodology or does not provide a fully reasoned justification for the evaluation given in relation to the weaknesses and shortcomings identified in the platform application, it shall be returned to the platform expert responsible for consolidating all individual evaluations for clarification/improvement.

16 The platform expert responsible for consolidating all individual evaluations shall, in the event of a return of the consolidated evaluation of the platform application, clarify/improve the consolidated evaluation of the platform application in the Information System within three working days following the date of receipt of the return notification by electronic mail and submit it to the Council for approval in the Information System, following coordination with other platform experts in accordance with Paragraph 14 of the Methodology. If the platform experts are unable to agree on a consolidated evaluation of the platform experts due to a difference of opinion, the platform experts shall inform the Council and the Council shall engage another platform expert in accordance with Paragraph 30 of the Regulations.

# 3 Platform Expert Evaluation of the Platform Mid-term and Platform Final Report

17 Within one month of the platform mid-term, i.e. 12 months from the launch date of the operation of the platform, the platform applicant must complete and submit the platform mid-term report (hereinafter – the mid-term report) and within one month of each previous platform mid-term, i.e. every 12 months, the platform applicant must complete and submit a regular mid-term report, and within one month after the end of the operation of the platform, the platform applicant must complete and submit the final platform report (hereinafter – the final report). For the mid-term and final reports (hereinafter jointly referred to as the mid-term and/or final reports), the Council shall ensure the platform expert evaluation carried out by at least two platform experts.

18 The Council shall give each platform expert access to the respective platform mid-term or final report and to the application for the same platform. In the event of the evaluation of the final report, the Council shall additionally provide the platform expert with access to the mid-term reports of the same platform. Prior to obtaining access to the abovementioned reports in the Information System, the platform expert shall declare that he or she has no conflict of interest and shall undertake to comply with the confidentiality requirements by signing the platform expert declaration and send the latter via electronic mail to the Council.

## 3.1 Individual Evaluation of the Platform Mid-term Reports and Platform Final Report

19 Within two weeks following the date of concluding the platform expert evaluation contract with the Council, the platform expert shall carry out an individual evaluation of the platform mid-term report or the platform final report (hereinafter jointly referred to as the mid-term/final scientific report) by completing Annex 10 “Individual/Consolidated Evaluation Form for the Mid-term/Final Report of the Platform” to the Regulations in the Information System and validating thereof in the Information System.

20 The platform expert shall provide one of the following two types of evaluation for the platform mid-term report:

20.1 continue the platform;

20.2 not to continue the platform.

21 The platform expert shall provide one of the following two types of evaluation for the platform final report:

21.1 platform objective has been achieved;

21.2 platform objective has not been achieved.

22 The platform expert shall evaluate the platform mid-term/final report according to the following criteria:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Individual/Consolidated Evaluation of the Platform Mid-term/Final Report** | |
| Platform title:  Platform expert(s): | |
| **1** | **Criterion: Scientific and innovative quality of the platform** |
| *The platform expert shall evaluate the following:*  *1) as at the relevant platform expert evaluation stage, the implementation of the platform and the internal collaboration within the platform between all parties involved in the platform (platform lead partner, research organisations, platform collaboration partners (if any), platform project management group, and also platform projects), including the involvement and role of the Latvian industry (its representatives) in the activities of the platform; at the same time, the current roles, tasks, collaboration, contribution and complementarity of all parties involved in the platform, including the representatives of the Latvian industry, in achieving the overarching objective and goals of the long-term programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Research Programme”;*  *2) how the platform has achieved the outcomes set out in the platform application within the platform mid-term/final stage. Basically, Chapter 1 “Scientific and innovative quality” of the platform mid-term/final report shall be taken into account, while linking it to the platform mid-term/final report as a whole and to the platform application. Here, the expert provides comments and suggestions to fully achieve the objective of the platform and to complete the tasks in the highest scientific and innovation quality. When providing comments, the task, horizontal objectives, and results of the long-term State research programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Research Programme” shall be taken into account and also it shall be evaluated whether the platforms are progressing towards achieving the overarching objective and goals of the long-term State research programme “Innovation Fund – Long-term Research Programme”.* |
| **2** | **Criterion: Impact of platform results** |
| *The platform expert evaluates the progress made by the platform, taking into account the content of the platform application until the platform mid-term/final stage. Basically, Chapter 2 “Impact” of the platform mid-term/final report shall be taken into account, while linking it to the platform mid-term/final report as a whole and to the platform application. In this section, the platform expert shall provide comments and recommendations to fully achieve the intended impact and ensure the dissemination of the knowledge gained to the scientific community and communication to the public at large, or for activities after ending the operation of the respective platform. At the same time, the work of the platform is evaluated in terms of the management and supervision of the results of the platform projects until the platform mid-term/final stage.* |
| **3** | **Criterion: Platform feasibility and provisions** |
| *The platform expert evaluates how the platform has achieved the outcomes set out in the platform application within the platform mid-term/final stage. Basically, Chapter 3 “Implementation” of the platform mid-term/final report shall be taken into account, while linking it to the platform mid-term/final report and to the platform application. In this section, the platform expert provides comments and suggestions for adjustments to the work plan or operational options after the ending the operation of the platform.*  *The platform expert evaluates whether the management of the platform has been effective, including taking into account the overall progress of the operation of the platform. Whether the risk plan planned in the platform description, Sub-chapter 3.3 “Platform management, including quality management, procedures for monitoring platform projects, governance and risk plan of the platform, and also preparation of a plan to prevent conflict of interest, corruption, and fraud risks” has been implemented in cases where risks materialised and whether their solutions are credible.* |

## 3.2 Consolidated Evaluation of the Platform Mid-term and Platform Final Report

23. One all platform experts carrying out the platform expert evaluation of the platform mid-term/final report have completed and validated each of their individual evaluation of the platform mid-term/final report in the Information System, the Council shall give all platform experts access to the individual evaluations completed by other platform experts and also shall disclose to each platform expert the identity of other platform experts.

24 One of the platform experts shall complete the consolidated evaluation of the platform mid-term/final report in the Information System in accordance with Annex 10 “Individual/Consolidated Evaluation Form for the Mid-term/Final Report of the Platform” to the Regulations and in compliance with the conditions set out in Paragraphs 23 to 26 of the Methodology, all platform experts shall, by mutual agreement, within one calendar week after submission of the draft consolidated evaluation of the mid-term/final report by one platform expert to the other platform experts in the Information System, validate the report in the Information System.

25 In the consolidated evaluation of the platform mid-term/final report, the platform experts agree on a single evaluation of the platform mid-term/final report in accordance with Paragraphs 23 to 26 of the Methodology, summarising the comments made in the individual evaluations of the platform mid-term/final report.

## 3.3 Evaluation of the Objective of the Platform Final Report

26 In the consolidated evaluation of the final report, both platform experts shall agree on a consolidated percentage score with the following meaning:

Entirely compliant, i.e. the overall score as a percentage is between 85% and 100% or more. The score is awarded if the platform operates excellently or well, and if the planned objectives and expected outcomes have been achieved or exceeded. In the event of non-achievement of certain outcomes or other minor shortcomings, but for the most part the expected outcomes are of good quality, these shortcomings have not affected the achievement of the objective. If recommendations are given in the mid-term quality evaluation of the platform for further operation of the platform, the recommendations have been taken into account or a reasoned justification is given for disregarding them.

Partially compliant, i.e. the overall score as a percentage is between 25% and 84%. The score is awarded if the platform operates well enough, the expected outcomes of the platform have been partially achieved, which has affected the overall achievement of the platform objectives. If recommendations are given in the mid-term evaluation of the platform for further operation of the platform, the recommendation have been taken into account partially or not at all, and the reasons for not taking them into account are not sufficiently substantiated.

Non-compliant, i.e. the overall score as a percentage is between 0% and 24%. The score is awarded if the platform operates not well enough, the expected outcomes have been entirely or almost entirely not achieved, and the overall objective of the platform has therefore not been achieved, or has been achieved to an insufficient extent. If recommendations are given in the mid-term evaluation of the platform for further operation of the platform, the recommendations have not been taken into account and also no reasoned justification is given for disregarding them.

27 Taking into account Paragraph 21 of the Methodology, the Council shall calculate the refundable part of the funding as follows:

27.1 if the percentage of the objective score of the platform experts referred to in Sub-clause 2.20 of the Contract is between 60% and 65%, a flat rate of 5% shall be applied;

27.2 if the percentage of the objective score of the platform experts referred to in Sub-clause 2.20 of the Contract is between 50% and 59%, a flat rate of 10% shall be applied;

27.3 if the percentage of the objective score of the platform experts referred to in Sub-clause 2.20 of the Contract is below 50%, a flat rate of 25% shall be applied.