Selection criteria for Innovation Challenges in LABS4SMEs

The following criteria are used to compare project proposals in the Labs.4.SMEs project and select projects/ Innovation Challenges that are going to be supported in kind.

Criterion 1 goes in line with the overall digitalization efforts in Austria and Italy, wherefore it is rated on a scale from 1 (very low) to 20 (very high) and thus has a stronger impact than criteria 2 to 4. Criterion 2 to 4 are each rated on a Scale from 0 (very low) to 10 (very high), with 10 being the neutral rating. Criterion 5 is rated either yes (if applicable) or no (if not applicable) and serves as a decision criterion in case of otherwise equal ratings. All criteria are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria for Labs.4.SMEs pilot projects/Innovation Challenges

Criterion	Criterion Title	Key Questions	Does not apply at all	Neutral Rating	Fully applies
1	Level of Innovation	• The project has a high level of innovation. The project follows a clear digitalization strategy. • The involved SME has never worked with a Lab before.	0	10	20
2	Level of mutual Benefits	• Both partners (SME and Lab) benefit from the project. • The project improves the SME performances (e.g. growth of [new] knowledge, reduction in time-to-market, creation of new professional relationships).	0	5	10
3	Probability of successful completion	• The project has a high feasibility to be successful. • The SME and Lab together have the required skills and/or technologies to successfully complete the project. • The project uses skills and/or technologies in a way that supports the project's objectives. • The project uses skills and/or technologies in a way that contributes to achieve the defined output.	0	5	10
4	Level of embeddedness	• The project involves other partners (than only the SME and Lab) and is embedded in a well-established ecosystem. • The project can be used as good example for similar cooperation projects.	0	5	10
5*	Added value in the region(s) involved	• The project is in line with regional specialization strategies. • The project contributes to Programme objectives	No	-	Yes

NB for L4S partners: The output of the Pilot projects/ Innovation Challenges contributes to the identification of enabling features for a successful cooperation model among the involved stakeholders (SMEs, labs, service agencies, etc…)