

Experience as member of VENI committees

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First round

- Varying quality
- Clearly different criteria across different disciplines (e.g., size of CVs)
- Too often poorly written (“elevator pitch”?)
- Own discipline first

Screening by experts

- Sometimes very mild, in other cases overly critical
- Guaranteed success seems to prevail over risky and uncertain outcomes
- The acclaimed experts are often clearly not the real experts

Interviews

- Collegial and accurate committees
- Presentations by candidates is the life line
- Many candidates cannot handle unexpected questions
- Responses to experts' comments are very important

Epilogue

- Candidates should prepare better
- Better selection of experts (perhaps have just a few and pay an hourly fee)
- How about evaluating projects after 4 years?
- Is compiling NWO grants good or not?