

**“Scientific Tolerable Risk of Error” (STRE)
and the inconclusive assessment procedures**

The improvement of scientific excellence is connected to the simplification of rules and procedures. The document COM(2010)187 clearly identifies several paths to achieve this main goal in different areas. However the success of each project depends primarily on the outcome of its evaluation and the selection procedures which are guaranteed by international panels of experts.

Experience has shown that the activity of these panels is essentially unbiased and reflects the deep conviction of each member.

However there is a shadow area that corresponds to projects that receive the best and worst individual assessments simultaneously and for which the arithmetic mean does not have, from the scientific point of view, any relevance

In these cases the application of the concept of Scientific Tolerable Risk of Error (STRE) would not mean the exclusion of projects that received high ratings by the panel members.

This approach would rely on the self-control and the motivation and incentive structure inherent in the scientific community.

One should create two possibilities:

- 1 The STRE applied automatically recognizing the higher ratings by the precautionary principle in order to make projects viable.
- 2 Face-to-face defence of the projects before specially-created arbitration panels

The ranking of the projects thus recovered should be complementary to the overall higher evaluations.

This procedure would have the advantage of not excluding, by virtue of applying a mathematical average, what was objectively, at the first stage, subject to a blatant double appreciation.