BRIEF GIVEN TO SERVICE PROVIDER IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2007 REVIEW OF THE NRF SYSTEM FOR THE EVALUATION AND RATING OF INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHERS

The system of rating individuals for funding purposes is often regarded as a uniquely South African innovation. A comparative study of other national systems for the evaluation of individuals is required. In this study it will be important to compare “apples with apples” since the NRF rating system is based on the rating of individuals whereas other systems may be rating proposals, departments and/or institutions. In this case the unit of analysis will be the rating of the individual or the individual’s contribution to the rating of the department/institution/proposal. (In other words, the unit of analysis has to be the individual which may include the track record or the proposal. Whereas the track record is about history, the proposal is in essence a promise of a track record in that the individual proposed a project and its outcomes.)