Description for the general public

We live in times where the amount of information, the number of choices that we have to make each day, is so big that in order to be able to function normally we have to learn to deal with this flood. This excess is called **overflow** and it is known to adversely affects information processing, Reviews and evaluations are examples of domains, where the amount of analyzed information is increasing constantly. Since many decisions concerning allocations of financial resources are based on the assessment of reviewers it is important to better understand the process of overflow and how it contributes to distortions in the process of evaluation. The primary objective of the proposed project is to examine how professionals cope with the problem of **overflow** and how the mechanisms by which they cope affect outcomes. The research program includes four interrelated studies: one qualitative and three series of experimental studies. Qualitative study is aimed at cataloging assessment strategies used by reviewers to cope with the problem of information excess. Experimental studies are aimed to examine whether the use of appropriate assessment procedures can eliminate the important effects resulting from in overflow and time pressure: (a) the halo effect (no differentiation of dimensions), (b) the serial position effect (less favorable evaluation of objects in the beginning of the series), (c) influence of the position of the reference in the text.