**COST Action FA1403 POSITIVe**

**STSM Proposals**

**A detailed list of evaluation criteria**

To ensure **fairness and impartiality** of the evaluation process STSM Committee has established **a set of criteria** to be applied in the evaluation of STSM proposals. These criteria are defined to respond to the main aim of the COST Action STSMs, namely: “to specifically **contribute to the scientific objectives of the COST Action**, whilst at the same time allowing those partaking in the missions **to learn new techniques, gain access to specific data, instruments and / or methods** not available in their own institutions / organisations”.

To enable **transparency** of the process, this document describes the criteria used for the evaluation. It provides **guidance** to the applicants in structuring their proposals for STSM and may help them to make a **self-evaluation** prior to final submission.

Evaluation criteria depend on the type of STSM.

According to MC decision in Norwich, from September 2016. POSITIVe Action recognises two different types of short-term scientific missions (STSMs): “regular” and “special”.

* **“Regular” STSMs**

Proposal **“regular”** STSMswill be evaluated using the following **criteria**:

I Research

II Training

III Researcher

IV Implementation

V Impact

Each criterion will be scored out of 4 and they will all be weighted equally. The maximum overall score is therefore 20.

**The following aspects** will be considered when assigning an overall score for each of the defined criteria:

**I Research**

1. Research/technological quality *(objectives of the proposed research clearly defined; timeliness and relevance*)
2. Appropriateness of research methodology and approach *(for the goals of the project as well as for the objectives of the action (state of the art))*
3. Host scientific expertise in the field

**II Training**

1. Clarity and quality of the research training objectives for the researcher

**III Researcher**

1. Research experience (priority will be given to ECI)
2. Potential to acquire new skills and knowledge during the mission

**IV Implementation**

1. Feasibility and credibility of the proposed work, including work plan
2. Quality of infrastructures/facilities of host (*on-site training and support*)

**V Impact**

1. Contribution to Actions objectives *(successful implementation and the outputs of the mission would likely contribute to produce knowledge that can be used to underpin the future work within the Action)*
2. Impact of competencies acquired (***in line*** *with the Actions objectives)*
3. Contribution to the scientific career of the applicant
4. Proposals in terms of dissemination of results or skills transfer

Submitted material (including all supporting documents) should contain information that enables evaluation against defined criteria and aspects.

Additional criteria applied include:

* Priority given to the proposals submitted by Early Career Investigator (ECI).

This additional criterion will be applied as part of the evaluation by scores given to the Researcher (criterion III) without an influence on scoring against other criteria

* Geographical and gender balance issues will be taken into consideration

If more than one proposal comes from the same country, all of them will be evaluated (scored) and included in the final rank list. However, if the budget for the call does not allow all submitted proposals to be granted, geographical balance will be obtained by selecting one proposal from each country with the highest final score.

Gender and geographical balance will be evaluated periodically (at the end of each granting period) and if appropriate should be considered for the following calls.

Applications for **“regular”** STSMs must follow the pre-defined deadlines.

POSITIVe STSM Application deadlines:

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| --- | --- |
| **CALL 1**  April 25th 2015 (extended to May 5th) | for STSM to start after July 1st 2015 (and end before October 31th 2015) |
| **CALL 2**  October 31th 2015 (extended to November 20th) | for STSM to start after January 1st 2016 |
| **CALL 3**  March 31th 2016 (extended to April 30th ) | for STSM to start after July 1st 2016 (and end before October 31th 2016) |
| **CALL 4**  October 31th 2016 (extended to November 25th) | for STSM to start after January 1st 2017 |
| **CALL 5**  March 31th 2017 | for STSM to start after July 1st 2017 (and end before October 31th 2017) |
| **CALL 6**  October 31th 2017 | for STSM to start after January 1st 2018 |
| **CALL 7**  March 31th 2018 | for STSM to start after July 1st 2018 (and end before October 31th 2018) |

Proposals for “regular” STSMs are evaluated by the STSM Committee.

POSITIVe STSM Committee

The STSMs coordinator and 5 other members of the Steering Committee constitute this committee

STSM Coordinator

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STSM Committee Members

1. Dr. Christine MORAND, INRA – France, Action Chair
2. **Prof. Francisco TOMAS-BARBERAN,** CSIC – Spain, Actions Vice Chair
3. Prof. Tom Van de WIELE, Univ. Ghent – Belgium, WG1 Leader
4. Dr. Ana RODRIGUEZ-MATEOS, Univ. Duesseldorf – Germany, WG2 Leader
5. Prof. Marina HEINONEN, Univ. Helsinki – Finland, WG3 Co-Leader

* **“Special” STSMs**

Applications for “special” STSMs are evaluated mostly based on research interests, experience and expertise of the candidates, and taking into account gender and geographical balance.

Evaluation for “direct” STSMs is performed by the host scientist (as an expert in the field) and the WG leader.