



POLARIN

POLAR
RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE
NETWORK

Webinar for POLARIN TA Applicants

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How to prepare a successful proposal? Scientific evaluation perspectives

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OGS



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Scientific evaluation



Scientific Liaison Panel (SLP), supported by the Scientific Evaluation Secretariat

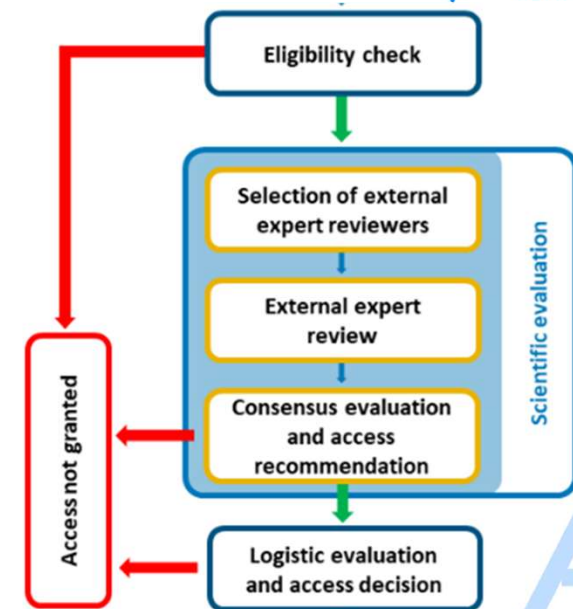
Each proposal is assigned to:

- a Watchdog (from SLP)
- internal reviewer (from SLP)
- at least 1 external reviewer

Internal and external reviewers evaluate the proposal according to the criteria

SLP prepares Scientific Evaluation Statements and access recommendation

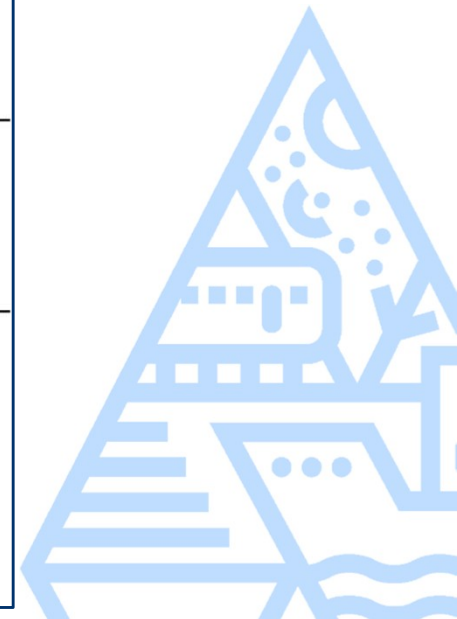
Recommended proposals move to logistic evaluation



Evaluation Criteria¹



Criteria	Scoring	Weight			
1. Background and objectives: Scientific quality of the planned research - Is the current state of knowledge in the research area well described? - Will the proposal substantially contribute to knowledge beyond the state of the art? - Is the research innovative? - Are the research objectives and expected deliverables clearly stated and realistic from a scientific point of view?	1-5	25%	- Does the proposed project maximize the use of the requested infrastructure(s), also considering if remote access is suitable? - Is the number of users accessing the infrastructure and their contribution justified? - Are potential risks and contingency plans well addressed?		
2. Scientific and societal impact - Is the expected scientific and societal impact well addressed? - Is the proposed research contributing to addressing the POLARIN key research priorities? Is this clearly explained? - To what extent is the proposed project embedded and contributing into larger research programs on a national, EU or international level? Note: Absence of this is not regarded as a weakness in applications from early career researchers.	1-5	10%	4. Scientific competence of the user-group leader and user-group (presence of ECR is a positive aspect, but please evaluate the proposal for itself without raising the score in case of ECR leadership) - Is the background/track record of the user-group leader sound enough, in proportion to his/her career stage? - Are the roles and responsibilities of the user-group clearly stated? - Is the user-group solid, complementary and suitable to achieve the objectives of the proposed research? - Are early career researchers included in the user-group?	1-5	15%
3. Quality of the work plan and possible risks - Are the methodology and the work plan clearly described and adequate for the objectives? - Is the work plan feasible considering resources (manpower/equipment) and time? - Are ethical issues, logistic needs and research permits required clearly identified? - Is the proposed work multidisciplinary and/or requiring multiple Ris?	1-5	25%	5. Expected results - Are the expected results and deliverables achievable and adequately described? - Has the research potential for scientific breakthroughs? - Is there a realistic plan for scientific publications?	1-5	10%
			6. Exploitation of results - Is there funding or other kind of support available or being requested for a proper exploitation of gathered data and samples? - Will the project contribute to making data FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable)? - Are dissemination activities and public outreach planned, during and after the access, to rise awareness among potential end-users, the scientific community and the general public?	1-5	15%



Slide 3

- 1 metterei questa slide subito dopo alla slide 2 (dove citi glie valuation criteria). e forse a slide 3 può invece andare proprio all'inizio di tutto?
Giulia Matilde Ferrante; 13.9.2026

Reviewer Mindset

While writing your proposal consider looking it through the lens of the evaluators scoring high-volume applications.

The most you simplify their life, the best!



POLARIN Strategic Alignment



2. Scientific and societal impact

- Describe the expected scientific and societal impact of the proposed research.
- Describe how the proposed research contributes to addressing the key research priorities in the polar regions.

Map project objectives directly to POLARIN's 8 Research Priorities!

Proposals must contribute to addressing at least one of the following key research priorities in the polar regions:

1. Sea Ice and Polar Oceans in the Climate System
2. Polar Ice Sheets, Glaciers and Sea Level
3. Terrestrial Carbon Cycle and Permafrost
4. Polar Ecosystems and Biodiversity
5. Atmosphere Dynamics and Chemistry
6. Paleoclimate Processes and Variability
7. Humans, Societies and Global Changes
8. Closing Polar Knowledge Gaps.

  TAP

 Open

POLARIN Transnational Access Call 2026

Open at September 01, 2026

1 Before you start

2 Project

3 User Group

4 Logistic information

5 Travel and logistic costs

6 Publications 

7 Appendices 

8 Review

Which of the following polar key research priorities is your proposal related to? Choose one or more. *

Choose from the list

The select is required.

How does the proposal contribute to addressing the key research priorities in the polar regions? *

Filling in this field is mandatory to make the application eligible for funding

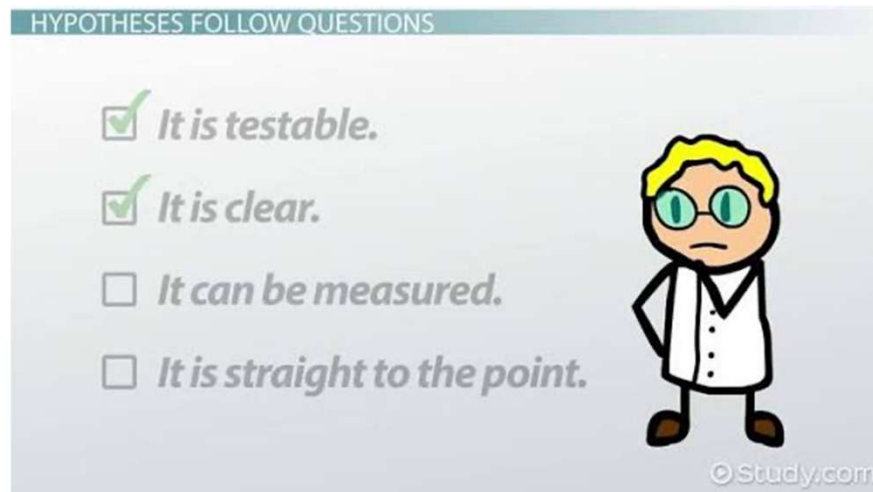
The requirements is required.

Planned publication, if already known

Foremost Criterion : Scientific Excellence



Crafting high-impact hypotheses,
clear methodologies,
and innovative polar research gaps.



1. Background and objectives:

- Describe the state of knowledge in the research area.
- Describe how this project will contribute to knowledge beyond the state of the art. Highlight any innovation aspects.
- Describe the research objectives and what are you expecting to obtain.



Fundamental Criterion : Feasibility & Logistics

Demonstrating RI operator pre-contact,
realistic field/remote work plans,
And risk mitigation.



Work plan and possible risks

- Describe the methodology
- Add a station list with a timetable
- Add a map of your study area
- Describe the possible risks, and a contingency plan.



Particularly significant Criteria



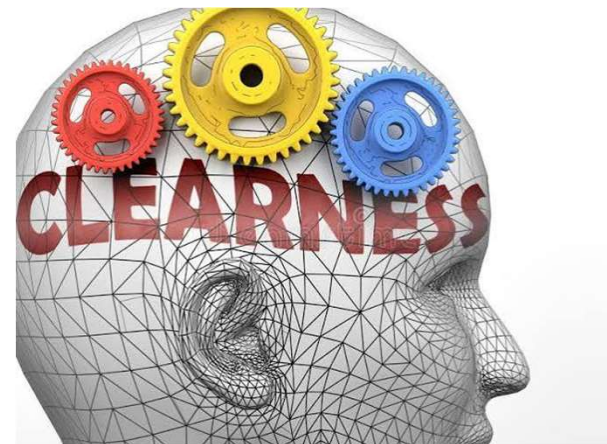
Articulating:

Societal/scientific impact,

Team complementarity and early-career integration,

FAIR data and Preliminary DMP,

Funds for data/sample exploitation



- **Describe the expected scientific and societal impact of the proposed research**
- **Explain number of users, roles, multi-disciplinarity**
- **preliminary TA Data Management Plan**
- **funding or other kind of support available or being requested**



Slide 8

- 2 questa slide mi sembra un pò troppo piena di testo tutto 'allo stesso livello'. ma forse è google doc...

Giulia Matilde Ferrante; 13.9.2026

Top Red Flags & Checklist



Quick-fire summary of common application errors that trigger score deductions or disqualification:

- A Visiting Fellow position does not generally confer employee status.

Acronym	Title	Research keys	Project Summary
TBD	TBD	Polar Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Sea Ice and Polar Oceans in the Climate System	TBD
BIOSCAPE	The Biosynt	Polar Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Polar Ice Sheets, Glaciers and Sea Level; Terrestrial Carbon Cycle and Permafrost	Polar terrestrial ecosystems host unique microbial communities that
FIRMit	Winter mas	Polar Ice Sheets, Glaciers and Sea Level	Knowledge about snow cover, firn properties and winter surface mas
AMIGO	Arctic Meth	Humans, Societies and Global Changes; Sea Ice and Polar Oceans in the Climate System; Terrestrial Carbon Cycle and Permafrost	The AMIGO project examines methane (CH ₄) fluxes across the glacier-
MicroNorth	The Undisc	Polar Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Polar Ice Sheets, Glaciers and Sea Level; Terrestrial Carbon Cycle and Permafrost	Pigmented algae have been found to bloom on glacier bare ice or sno
ECOMOS	Unravelling	Humans, Societies and Global Changes; Polar Ecosystems and Biodiversity	Most pathogen transmission routes are sensitive to environmental ch
GLACIER-W	Glacier retr	Polar Ecosystems and Biodiversity; Polar Ice Sheets, Glaciers and Sea Level	Polar regions are experiencing unprecedented climate warming, driv

- maximum number of pages exceeded
- templates (proposal, CV, DMP) not followed
- missing parts (e.g. DMP, or Letter of Recommendation for ECRs)
- vague, ineffective statements (about objectives, impact, data management..



Conclusions



Summary of recommendations:

- Use the lens of the evaluators;
- Follow the guidelines;
- Explain the key research priority;
- Point out hypotheses, objectives and innovation;
- Describe work plan, risks and contingency plan;
- Bring out impact, team, data, funds.



Thanks for your attention

