



## Application Assessment

The overall criteria for selection process are defined in the Annex III of the FP 7 Grant Agreement. In particular, they are intended to increase the scientific output (qualitatively and quantitatively), international cooperation and optimize the use of local expertise, ongoing research activities and facilities, and fostering lasting international science cooperation.

The selection thus is primarily based on the scientific quality. This in turn depends on the originality of the scientific idea, as well as the level of expertise available in the user and host groups, to set up, conduct and analyze the proposed experiment and samples.

Priority will be given to collaborative projects promoting science, methodology and technology transfer and advancement. Since the successful completion of a mesocosm experiment and publication of the data do not only depend on a successful field period (supported under e.g. MESOAQUA TA), but is also dependent on further support to complete the following analysis of data and publishing process, users/user groups that can show a sufficient funding for such completion of the experiment should be given priority over users that can not.

The independent Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) therefore evaluate three items as selection criteria:

1. Innovation of the objectives
2. Work plan & methods
3. CVs of the individual users /group leader and the participants

Each of the selection items listed above is scored from 0 to 5, by each of the three SAB members and each criterion must achieve an average score of 3 or more for the application to be recommended (giving a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 15). Applications below a total of 9 will not be funded. Selected applications (9-15) will be ranked by scores considering selection criteria 1-3 and by additionally considering other aspects such as equal opportunities, European dimension, balance between the various mesocosm facilities, previous support by MESOAQUA, training benefit to young researchers, interest to the scientific community, involvement of new users, etc.

After scoring and ranking the applications the SAB writes a consensus report that is sent to the MESOAQUA Coordinator to be announced to the applicants as described above.

The evaluation of transnational access activity will also include the expertise of the user group in the research field OR training benefit to young researchers. Priority will be given to new users, i.e. researchers who have not previously used the facility before and who would normally not have access to it.