

Proposal Evaluation Form

	EUROPEAN COMMISSION Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Framework Programme	Evaluation Summary Report - Research and innovation actions/Innovation actions
---	--	---

Call: H2020-SC6-REV-INEQUAL-2016
Funding scheme: RIA
Proposal number: 727097
Proposal acronym: RELOCAL
Duration (months): 48
Proposal title: Resituating the local in cohesion and territorial development
Activity: H2020-REV-INEQUAL-2016

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total Cost	%	Grant Requested	%
1	ITA-SUOMEN YLIOPISTO	FI	779,375	15.95%	779,375	15.95%
2	ILS - INSTITUT FUR LANDES- UND STADTENTWICKLUNGSFORSCHUNG gGMBH	DE	350,000	7.16%	350,000	7.16%
3	UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE	UK	440,000	9.01%	440,000	9.01%
4	STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET	SE	451,000	9.23%	451,000	9.23%
5	NORDREGIO	SE	327,875	6.71%	327,875	6.71%
6	THE JAMES HUTTON INSTITUTE	UK	305,000	6.24%	305,000	6.24%
7	MAGYAR TUDOMANYOS AKADEMIA KOZGAZDASAG- ES REGIONALIS TUDOMANYI KUTATOKOZPONT	HU	339,750	6.95%	339,750	6.95%
8	TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT DELFT	NL	422,500	8.65%	422,500	8.65%
9	MCRIT, S.L	ES	287,000	5.87%	287,000	5.87%
10	UNIVERSITE DU LUXEMBOURG	LU	412,500	8.44%	412,500	8.44%
11	UNIWIERSYTET LODZKI	PL	305,000	6.24%	305,000	6.24%
12	Fundatia Desire pentru Deschidere si Reflectie Sociala	RO	209,000	4.28%	209,000	4.28%
13	PANEPISTIMIO THESSALIAS	EL	256,750	5.26%	256,750	5.26%
Total:			4,885,750		4,885,750	

Abstract:

There is an increasing need for developing European Union Cohesion Policy in terms of greater sensitivity towards territorial specificities, more supportive of community-based development and the facilitation of greater civic participation. This also relates to the concern over decreasing identification with the European project among the population. Place-based development, endogenous regional development and territorial capital are some of the policy approaches that have been invoked to facilitate a reorientation of Cohesion Policy and territorial development policy. These need to be connected more specifically to notions of the local and localism. RELOCAL will target this objective by exploring in depth the two dimensions underlying the challenge described in the Call text. The project will be based on case studies of local contexts (e.g. cities and their regions) that exemplify development challenges in terms of spatial justice. Among the research questions that have been identified are the following: - How can spatial justice be conceptualised, operationalised, adapted? - How processes of territorial inequalities in different localities be understood and analysed? - How does the local relate to cohesion in an EU context? - What factors and filters are operating that enhance or limit the relation between the local and cohesion? What might bridge abstract notions of spatial justice and local practises on the one hand and CP on the other? - Is there a territorial trap in thinking locally, endogenously? Can enhanced autonomy contribute to spatial justice? How can processes of place-making be related to spatial justice? - What is the scope for alternative development, stabilisation, sustainability, solidarity models/scenarios?

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 14.50 (Threshold: 10)

Form information

SCORING

Scores must be in the range 0-5.

Interpretation of the score:

- 0-** The **proposal fails to address the criterion** or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1- Poor.** The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2- Fair.** The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3- Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- 4- Very good.** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 5- Excellent.** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Criterion 1 - Excellence

Score: **5.00** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description in the work programme:

Clarity and pertinence of the objectives

The objectives of the proposal are clearly stated, and are in line with the two dimensions of the call. The objectives demonstrate an appropriate integration of theoretical considerations, empirical research and policy recommendations. There is a very clear and convincing case for the way in which the project relates to the call challenges and scope. The proposal therefore demonstrates a thorough understanding of the issues underlying the call, and responds with appropriate objectives.

Soundness of the concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology

The clear conceptualisation provides a solid framework on which to build the project. The research assumptions and research questions are well articulated. The study employs a mix of qualitative and quantitative approaches in terms of methodology. The strength of the proposed work is the development of a large number of case studies in carefully selected areas across the EU as well as a longitudinal analysis of survey data such as the EU-SILC. The complexity of a multi-case study methodology is addressed taking a robust comparative approach to address the empirical challenges. The suggested methodology builds on existing knowledge and provides a synthesis of techniques that are well tested in other studies. Gender analysis has been sufficiently considered as the proposal reflects on specific vulnerable groups. One minor issue is data availability for the longitudinal studies, which varies considerably across member states.

Extent that proposed work is beyond the state of the art, and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)

The proposed work demonstrates an excellent knowledge of the state of the art of EU policies and the expectations of the topic call and thus, builds on and extends existing knowledge of the issues in question, which is persuasively justified. The proposed work goes beyond the state of the art by developing new frameworks and neatly integrating various methodological tools into a pragmatic study of spatial injustice and territorial cohesion. Case studies for areas where spatial injustice prevails and knowledge from areas where local actions reduced spatial injustice, combined with the opinions of experts, is a novel approach that deserves exploring. In summary, the proposal clearly adds valuable insights into the complexity of the socio-economic production of spatial justice.

Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge

The wide range of methodologies proposed constitutes a convincing approach which integrates inter-disciplinary work and methods. The proposed work demonstrates an understanding of the interactions between both social and spatial processes. Furthermore, it is evident that rural-urban divides, North-South and East-West differentials as well as vulnerability of certain population groups and gender inequalities are taken into account in the research. Of particular interest is the identification of the problem of youth unemployment and opportunities for young unemployed people to prosper locally. The use of stakeholder knowledge is part of the methodological strategy.

Criterion 2 - Impact

Score: **5.00** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account:

The extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to each of the expected impacts mentioned in the work programme under the relevant topic

The outputs of this project contribute very convincingly to each of the expected impacts mentioned in the work programme under the relevant topic. For example, they enhance the knowledge base of territorial cohesion and its contribution to the European Social Model and they provide policy recommendations based on empirical findings from the case studies.

Any substantial impacts not mentioned in the work programme, that would enhance innovation capacity, create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, address issues related to climate change or the environment, or bring other important benefits for society

A number of more global and high-level impacts are also articulated. The project will contribute to the development and advancement of the Partnership Principle. It will also study the potential outcome of investments in care (health, children, elderly) and education. The proposed data management strategy is an innovative action and combined with training actions and policy seminars would create new market opportunities. The impacts of the proposed project create benefits for society because of the increased participation of local community in local decision making.

However, the proposal does not discuss the role of environmental factors in creating spatial injustice across Europe.

Quality of the proposed measures to:

- exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant
- communicate the project activities to different target audiences

The proposed project presents an excellent strategy to disseminate the project's results. The consortium proposes to move beyond traditional modes of delivery (project reports, journal papers, conference and policy presentations) and provide web seminars, stakeholder consultations and training as well as dissemination in social media (Facebook), Youtube and through the project's dedicated website. Data and IPR management plans are satisfactorily covered in the proposal, setting out the protocols for handling data and IP generated during the project's lifetime.

Criterion 3 - Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Score: **4.50** (Threshold: 3/5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account:

Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables

The work plan convincingly reflects the translation of objectives into concrete tasks and research activities. It is clearly structured, meaningful and adequately presented. Each work-package is structured around its underlying objectives, tasks and deliverables, with WPs interlinked to build on previous outcomes as the project progresses. The resources assigned to each WP are entirely reasonable. A minor shortcoming is the lack of detail regarding the number of stakeholder seminars and webseminars to be conducted.

Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management

The consortium is relatively large (13 partners) and this necessitates a tight project management structure to keep the project on track and resolve any difficulties. This is convincingly argued in the proposal, which makes a credible case for its management structure, headed up by UEF, a University that is highly experienced in managing EU projects. The tasks related to the leadership role (strategic, communication and financial) are clearly defined and the proposal makes a strong case that UEF will be able to fulfil them. Other management structures, if only briefly described, are also appropriate (PEG, WP leaders) and the two separate Project Advisory Boards add further credibility to the project. The critical risks for implementation are clearly set out, however the risks related to methods and data availability are not sufficiently addressed.

Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise

This is an outstanding consortium in terms of country participation and expertise. It has a very good geographical representation and wide multidisciplinary. The consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise to implement the work plan. Many of the key personnel are leading figures in their fields, and bring high level expertise to the project. At the same time, there is also a good mix of young scholars on the research teams, and a good representation of female scientists. It is also an advantage for the consortium to include a consultancy company and a not-for-profit organisation.

Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role

There is a good distribution of resources in terms of person-months in relation to the tasks allocated across partners. All participants have a valid role and the balance between partner effort is coherent with the WP descriptions. However, the number of person months for project management is relatively limited. Given the experience of managing EU projects this is a minor shortcoming.

Scope of the proposal

Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

Not provided

Operational Capacity

Status: **Operational Capacity: Yes**

If No, please list the concerned partner(s), the reasons for the rejection, and the requested amount.

Not provided

Exceptional funding of third country participants/international organisations

A third country participant/international organisation not listed in [General Annex A to the Main Work Programme](#) may exceptionally receive funding if their participation is essential for carrying out the project (for instance due to outstanding expertise, access to unique know-how, access to research infrastructure, access to particular geographical environments, possibility to involve key partners in emerging markets, access to data, etc.). (For more information, see the [Online Manual](#))

Based on the information provided in the proposal, I consider that the following participant(s)/international organisation(s) that requested funding should exceptionally be funded:

(Please list the Name and acronym of the applicant, Reasons for exceptional funding and the Requested grant amount.)

Not provided

Based on the information provided in the proposal, I consider that the following participant(s)/international organisation(s) that requested funding should NOT be funded:

(Please list the Name and acronym of the applicant, Reasons for exceptional funding and the Requested grant amount.)

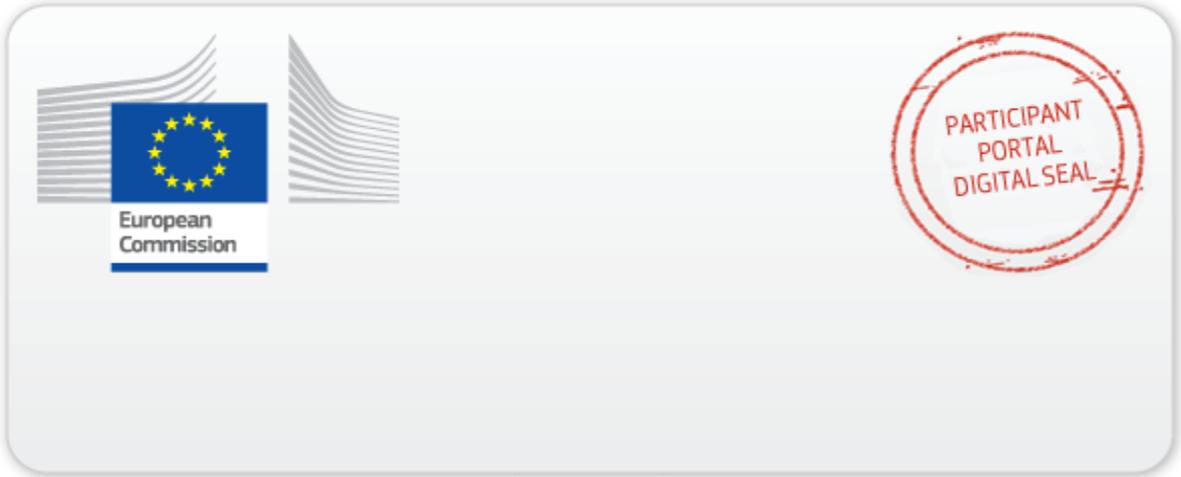
Not provided

Use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC)

Status: **No**

If yes, please state whether the use of hESC is, or is not, in your opinion, necessary to achieve the scientific objectives of the proposal and the reasons why. Alternatively, please also state if it cannot be assessed whether the use of hESC is necessary or not because of a lack of information.

Not provided



This document is digitally sealed. The digital sealing mechanism uniquely binds the document to the modules of the Participant Portal of the European Commission, to the transaction for which it was generated and ensures its integrity and authenticity.

Any attempt to modify the content will lead to a breach of the electronic seal, which can be verified at any time by clicking on the digital seal validation symbol.