# Proposal Evaluation Form

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Framework Programme

## Evaluation Summary Report

**Call:** H2020-MSCA-IF-2017
**Funding scheme:** MSCA-IF-EF-ST
**Proposal number:** 789616
**Proposal acronym:** Parasites of MPA
**Duration (months):** 24
**Proposal title:** Evaluating the effects of the protected area on species assemblages, population genetics and dynamics of marine organisms: a parasite community approach
**Activity:** ST-ENV

| N. | Proposer name | Country | Total Cost | % | Grant Requested | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | UNIVERSITE PIERRE ET MARIE CURIE - PARIS 6 | FR | 185,076 | 100.00% | 185,076 | 100.00% |
| | Total: | | 185,076 | | 185,076 | |

**Abstract:**
The project will estimate the effects of the Natural Marine Reserve of Cerbère-Banyuls on grey mullet fish and their parasites in the Mediterranean. The project aim is threefold: to assess the protection on maintaining molecular and taxonomic diversity of marine parasites; to evaluate the effect of the marine reserve on the stock recovery of grey mullets in open Mediterranean areas; and to estimate reasonable fishing rate based on epidemiologic and demographic indicators to ensure that stock rebuilding is progressing and it is efficiently using. This project proposes a new approach that relies on fish parasites, using their community structure, population dynamics and genetic diversity to assess conservation efficiency and spillover benefits in fishery-dependent areas. The novelty of the study is to focus on fish early life-history stages. This will provide a good opportunity for understanding the processes influencing individuals survive to reproduction. The methodology of the study will place emphasis on: a) quantitative approach: assessment of diversity, abundance and dispersion patterns of fish parasites; b) comparative approach: application of integrated, multi-species, large-scale, ecosystem-level approach to understand the ecology and potential population-level effects of the protected area; c) age approach: tracking parasite dynamics over fish growth beginning from the first days of post-settlement to assess the influence of parasites on the host mortality rate; d) multidisciplinary approach: use of parasite infra-community data and population genetics as biological tags; e) forecasting approach: development of a predictive model of parasite dynamics. The project addresses the lack of knowledge about parasite communities and host-parasite relationships in marine protected areas to maintain a broad ecosystem-based framework for management of marine biological resources.

## Evaluation Summary Report

### Evaluation Result

**Total score: 78.20% (Threshold: 70/100.00)**

### 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.*

* - mandatory fields

### Criterion 1 - Excellence

Score: **3.90** (Threshold: 0/5.00 , Weight: 50.00%)

**• Quality and credibility of the research/innovation action (level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects)**
**• Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host**
**• Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution**
**• Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence**

*Strengths*
*- The project has innovative aspects and it is clearly multidisciplinary.*
*- The two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host institution bears the potential for excellence and for further collaborations. The researcher has a strong expertise in fish parasites identification and taxonomy that represents a sought and significant*

*added value for the host.*
*- The transfer of skills (molecular genetics, (mullet) fisheries management) and opportunities at the host are most relevant to allow the researcher to pursue an original and quality research path in marine interactions, evolution and adaptation of marine organisms.*
*- The supervisor is well qualified for the project and has a high level of experience.*
*- The host research group is of high quality, with international collaborations that should foster networking opportunities for the researcher.*
*- The supervisor, together with some colleagues, staff and students, will be engaged into training and collaborating with the researcher, making the best of the hosting environment. These multiple collaborations will guarantee the integration of the researcher in the different areas of expertise at the host.*
*- The researcher has 20 years of research experience, qualitative and quantitative scientific output, specific expertise, international experience, and evidence of independence and leadership in research that is relevant to the project.*
*- The researcher already holds a mature position in academia which makes statements for further career development convincing. The targeted career development under the form of a habilitation thesis (high academic qualification) towards a more secure and funded position is relevant and achievable.*

*Weaknesses*
*- The introduction and state of the art are insufficiently clear. Insufficient information is provided to explain the overall link between parasites (what parasites, in which hosts) and marine protected areas MPA (what type, are they representative), and the relevance and need of hypotheses connecting these issues. The role of parasites in the management of fishery resources based on the current knowledge is also insufficiently demonstrated.*
*- The objectives are insufficiently explained, e.g. it is not clear whether the aim is to evaluate the effectiveness of MPAs in protecting fish (mullet) populations or in protecting the diversity of their parasites, because in places parasites are inferred to be a problem and in other places they are inferred to be a component of biodiversity requiring protection.*
*- The list of methodological approaches lacks clear structure (the approaches partly overlap). With 9 objectives and 6 approaches described only briefly, it is difficult to understand how they link to each other (the proposal is not insufficiently clear to judge that the approach and methods are complete and appropriate).*

**Criterion 2 - Impact**

Score: **3.80** (Threshold: 0/5.00 , Weight: 30.00%)

**• Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher**
**• Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the action results**
**• Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the action activities to different target audiences**

*Strengths*
*- The project will potentially open future opportunities for assessing other marine protected areas.*
*- A good dissemination strategy is planned towards the scientific community, including clearly planned publication and conferences. The strategy is both diverse and practical.*
*- Overall very good measures are proposed to target the general public, policymakers and conservation bodies. The proposal lists numerous communications actions, which are broadly appropriate.*

*Weaknesses*
*- The specific competencies to be acquired during the project are very close to the researcher's existing expertise, so there may be less impact than wished on the future career prospects.*
*- The overall communication and dissemination actions are scheduled in the Gantt Chart as a dedicated work package. However, the nature and frequency of specific actions is insufficiently detailed and insufficient information is given about some specific target audiences, e.g. school children, amateur and professional fishermen groups.*

**Criterion 3 - implementation**

Score: **4.10** (Threshold: 0/5.00 , Weight: 20.00%)

**• Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan**
**• Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources**
**• Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management**
**• Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)**

*Strengths*
*- A detailed and structured work plan is presented with a description of 9 ambitious work packages, deliverables, objectives and milestones that should ensure that the objectives are achieved.*
*- The Gantt chart adequately times the work packages, milestones, deliverables and relevant secondment.*
*- The resources necessary to carry out the research are well indicated.*
*- Appropriate organisation and management structures are in place.*
*- The beneficiary and partners have very good infrastructure, logistics and facilities matching the needs for the good implementation of the action.*
*- The detailed progress-monitoring strategy is clearly described and bears the potential to be revised and amended as the project develops.*
*- A whole set of dedicated analytical tools will be learnt and used by the researcher to investigate many variables simultaneously and their potential interactions.*
*- Two main types of scientific risks are addressed (sampling and molecular analyses), with likelihood, impact of risks, and the associated contingency plans.*
*- The active contribution of the participating organisations to the research, training and administrative activities are stressed.*

*Weaknesses*
*- The high number of variables that will be investigated will impact on the required sample size, which is insufficiently addressed.*
*- Insufficient information is provided to fully assess if the amount of person-months is appropriate for the activities proposed. Many actions will be co-occurring, with substantial reliance on contributions by the staff and students of the host institution, and the concrete division of tasks between the researcher and collaborators is unclear.*
*- Risks other than scientific (e.g. administrative, other) are not addressed.*

## 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*

## Use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC)

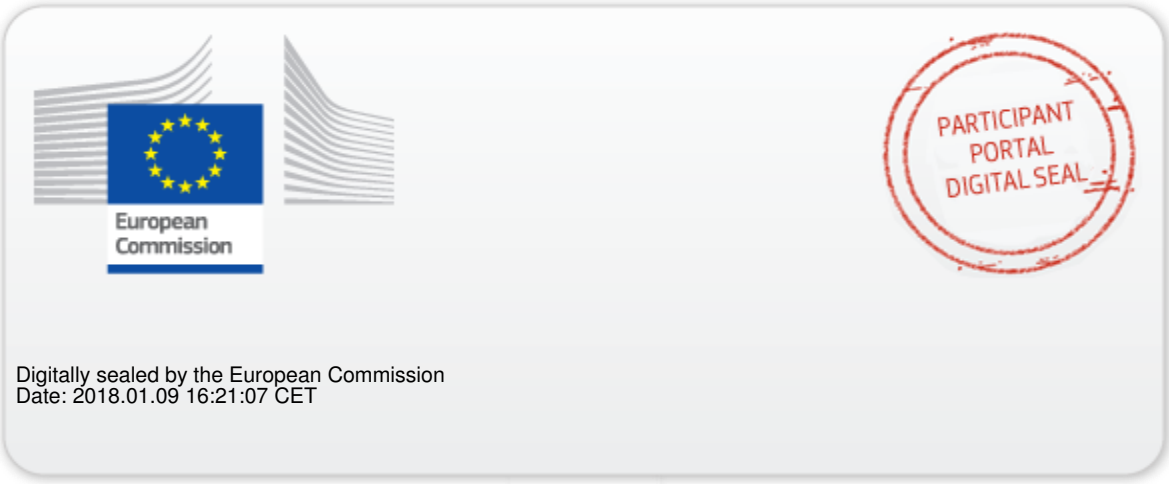
Status: **No**

**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*

## Overall comments

*This proposal was declared as a resubmission from IF-2016. During the consensus stage of the evaluation, evaluators were given access to the previous evaluation summary report.*

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