EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

The incoming applications are first checked for eligibility by the INTERACT Transnational Access Coordination. After that, the selection of user groups for Transnational Access (both physical Transnational Access and Remote Access) is a two-step process. First, the applications undergo scientific evaluation by the TA Selection Board that consists of external experts and representatives of INTERACT stations representing different geographical regions.

Each application is graded for several evaluation criteria:

- Scientific quality of the planned research
- Scientific merits of the user group leader
- Relevance of the planned research for INTERACT goals
- Value for money.

Each criteria is scored from 1-5, where 1=poor, 2=satisfactory, 3=average, 4=good, 5=excellent. Ranking of applications is made based on the total scores (max. 20) received from the criteria, and the TA Selection Board recommends user groups that they decide merit access to the research stations.

The decisions are then finalized by the research stations, based on the TA Board's recommendations, feasibility of the projects at the station, station strategy etc.

The recommendations to the stations, and access decisions to the applicants are communicated via the INTERACCESS system by the INTERACT Transnational Access Coordination, that does not take part in the evaluation and selection process of individual applications.

INFORMATION TO SELECTED USER GROUPS

After receiving a positive access decision, the user groups can start preparing for their Transnational Access visit or Remote Access by contacting the relevant station manager. Detailed information about travel reimbursements and other practical matters related to the granted access can be found from the Information for User Groups.