

Train To Move (T2M) - Call for Proposals 2015

Review Process - Stage 1

CONSENSUS STATEMENT

Review Panel: 03 - Social Sciences

ESF internal Project Ref Number: 15-T2M-182

Project Title: The Value Of Alternative Food Networks After The Crisis: An Italian Case Study

P.I.: Dr. Giovanni Ettore Orlando

UniTo Project number ref: 53

Total Score:

19 /20

Proceeding to Stage 2

Overall threshold set at 12/20

Researcher

1. Researcher

Sub-criteria addressed: Research experience; research results; independent thinking and leadership quality; interdisciplinary approach

Comments:

Score: 4,5/5

The applicant has strong academic credentials: a first class undergraduate degree, Masters level distinction and a PhD from a good department completed in just about 4 years after the Master. Even though the list of publications is not that extensive, there is a forthcoming paper in one of the top international journals in the discipline, plus 4 others in Band A Italian journals. The applicant has earned one post PhD grant and has had several post-doc positions/attachments in good international universities. His research findings are clearly presented in relation to the evolving issues and literature, and from a grounding in Classics/Ethnology and then several branches of anthropology, he has clearly developed an interdisciplinary capacity within the field of food studies.

Proposal

1. Scientific and/or Technological Quality

Sub-criteria addressed: Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects of the proposal; Appropriateness of research methodology and approach; Originality and innovative nature of the proposal and coherence with the research areas; Relevance of the proposal in relation to the state of the art

Comments:

Score: 5/5

The proposed project is a development of several studies which the candidate has already undertaken, but novel in relation both to the questions asked and the economic and geographic contexts in ways that are well explained and justified. The project is well-grounded conceptually and in the research literature, and genuinely multidisciplinary. The methodology is thoughtfully designed and multi-faceted in a well justified way.

2. Implementation

Sub-criteria addressed: Coherence between research proposal and hosting departments; Management of the Research Project; Feasibility of the project, including work-plan assessment; Interdisciplinary approach

Comments:

Score: 5/5

The proposal is unusually well prepared, in terms of the intellectual, practical relations and synergies with members of the host department. Taking a career development plan as a framework for managing the project is a good and encouraging one, and everything about the proposal suggests a very strong capacity to manage the process. The project is deemed both feasible and interdisciplinary.

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3. Impact

Sub-criteria addressed: Potential for acquiring new competences; Potential for acquiring complementary skills, in particular through the exposure to the industry sector; Contribution to European excellence and competitiveness; Relevance of the proposal in relation to the state of the art

Comments:

Score: 4,5/5

The proposal is clear and convincing about the way that new competences and skills should be developed through the research and interaction with Turin colleagues. The project can also have a clear impact on the state of the art in this area of food studies. More open questions remain as to the importance of the alternative food networks as such.

Panel Overall Recommendation

This is a very well formulated project by an evidently strong, professional and interdisciplinary scholar, on a subject which is quite widely regarded as of real importance, but rarely approached in such an intellectually rigorous fashion. The proposal is very well fitted to the research profile of the proposed host department.

Specific questions to be raised at the interview (if applicant proceeding to interview stage)

Q1. You talk about uncovering the interaction between agency, meaning and structure as determinants of people's behaviour, but it is not clear what you actually mean by these three concepts, or which research traditions you see them as connected with. Can you explain ?

Q2. You also refer to using (secondary) quantitative data, in conjunction with your (primary) qualitative material, but it is not clear what data you envisage using, from what sources. Can you explain this - and what kind of textual analysis are you actually envisaging?

Q3. Roughly how many AFNs do you expect to find operating in the region, with how many members? And how many would you expect to be interviewing during the project?

Q4. How far (and how) do you think your findings in this region could be translated to other European settings (e.g. in Spain, Norway or other parts of Italy) ?

Q5. How do you intend to monitor and ensure data quality?



UNIVERSITA'
DEGLI STUDI
DI TORINO
ALMA UNIVERSITAS
TAURINENSIS

Train To Move (T2M) - Call for Proposals 2015

Interview Process - Stage 2

CONSENSUS STATEMENT

ESF internal Project Ref Number: 15-T2M-182

Project Title: The Value Of Alternative Food Networks After The Crisis: An Italian Case Study

P.I.: Dr. Giovanni Ettore Orlando

UniTo Project number ref: 53

Total Score:

10 /10

Selected

Overall threshold set at 7/10

Quality of the candidate

CV (researcher): compliance of the competences with the chosen research area, ability to perform research independently, potential of career development through the fellowship

Comments:

Score:

5 /5

Highly rated through shortlisting assessment as an interdisciplinary scholar, what the interview added was to show more clearly the continuity of development of his career and of his capacity to work on independent lines. His clear answer to the Panel's question about conceptual bases, in particular, showed a coherent and very well grounded intellectual framework.

Quality of the research proposal

Proposal: coherence of the proposal within the European research framework set in Horizon 2020 and potential impact of proposal on local (brought by the UNITO representative attending the interview) and international context, excellence of scientific research proposal

Comments:

Score:

5 /5

The shortlisting assessment had found this a very well formulated project, which the interview confirmed. What it added particularly was more extended solid information about methods, a recognition of the network/environment interface as a key subject for exploration, and that he had a prepared basis for thinking about issues of comparison, in order to address the question of transferability of findings beyond his case study contexts.

Overall comments

The well-prepared presentation provided very satisfactory answers to the questions posed and confirmed that this project would be an excellent fit with the University of Torino host department.