


Proposal Evaluation Form

Associated with document Ref. Ares(2018)122148 - 09/01/2018

	EUROPEAN COMMISSION Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Framework Programme	Evaluation Summary Report
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Call: H2020-MSCA-IF-2017
Funding scheme: MSCA-IF-GF
Proposal number: 792809
Proposal acronym: WHEREAL
Duration (months): 36
Proposal title: World Heritage and East Asian Literature – Sinitic writings in Japan as Literary Heritage
Activity: GF-SOC

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total Cost	%	Grant Requested	%
1	UNIVERSITA CA' FOSCARI VENEZIA	IT	90,138.6	32.11%	90,138.6	32.11%
2	WASEDA UNIVERSITY	JP	190,544.4	67.89%	190,544.4	67.89%
Total:			280,683		280,683	

Abstract:

In the last 20 years, world heritage and world literature have drawn much attention because they represent a convenient framework for visualising and promoting a certain numbers of selected 'items' acknowledged as the best achievements of human creativity, in response to a growing interest about foreign cultures. However, the concepts of world heritage—especially the recent declaration of intangible cultural heritage (ICH)—and world literature have been harshly questioned: Is it correct to delegate to an international community that is identified with the cultural elites of developed countries the power to judge and “edit the cultural diversity of the world” such as UNESCO’s list of ICH, or to arrange and create a new canon of “what is literary and what is not” such as in anthologies of world literature? These questions are tied to problems of the ownership of cultural heritage and of authorship of certain literary works that are translated from peripheral languages to hegemonic, international ones. Regarding these problems, the discourses of East Asia and Japan are interesting objects of study not only because they are both ‘peripheral’ from the traditional, Eurocentric point of view but also because their cultural and literary heritage is often older and richer than that of many European countries. This action will allow the candidate to apply an interdisciplinary approach to merge the different debates on ownership and authorship, and to formulate a new definition of ‘literary heritage’ that presents an alternative to the dichotomy of tangible/intangible. The case study will focus on the role of Sinitic writing (jp.: kanbun) in pre-modern Japan as part of the shared cultural heritage of East Asia and its historical development, reception, diffusion and eventual abandonment. This research will stimulate the dialogue on the role of literary heritage among multicultural societies with shared traditions and languages, such as East Asia and the European Union.

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 96.20% (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: **4.90** (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

- This is a ground-breaking proposal that combines the disciplines of literary studies, Japanese studies and heritage studies in a dynamic interdisciplinary project and promises to fill an important gap with respect to current definitions and understandings of literary heritage.
- The state-of-the-art is precisely specified and comprehensive.

- The transfer of knowledge between researcher and host institutions (outgoing and incoming) is well demonstrated, and training activities are very well formulated.
- The proposal argues persuasively that the outgoing host will provide advanced training-through research in philological and digital methods that is very appropriate to the proposed project.
- The proposal demonstrates that the researcher would bring substantial literary and theoretical expertise to the outgoing host institution based on the researcher's recent doctoral and postdoctoral work and, in the final year of the GF, would bring distinctive expertise back to the incoming host through new knowledge acquired in the outgoing host institution.
- The quality of proposed supervision is very high: the outgoing supervisor leads a research team whose work is of direct relevance to the proposed project and has extensive experience in supervising international fellows and students.
- The proposal shows convincingly that the supervisor in the incoming institution has a skill-set suitable to the reintegration of the researcher's expertise after the outgoing period.
- The researcher's CV shows a strong publication record commensurate with stage of career, with two monographs to date and a substantial number of peer-reviewed articles
- The researcher's postdoctoral project demonstrates strong expertise in comparative methodologies and an ability to pursue independent research.
- The researcher's CV shows good evidence of the researcher's strong professional standing, including experience in international research collaboration and many invited presentations.

Weaknesses:

- The specific methodological approach to some key research questions in the project is not adequately defined.

Criterion 2 - Impact

Score: **4.60** (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 opportunities presented by this project to enhance the interdisciplinary character of the researcher's career profile are well demonstrated.
- The proposal argues persuasively that the research work undertaken in the outgoing host institution offers the opportunity to consolidate the researcher's expertise in the field of Japanese studies and to advance significantly on a career path in the incoming host country on completion.
- The proposal demonstrates well that the project would position the researcher as a leading expert in the newly emergent area of literary heritage studies and as a strong candidate for future funding opportunities, including an ERC Starting Grant.
- The proposed measures for dissemination and exploitation of newly acquired knowledge amongst the academic community are appropriately and realistically designed, including journal articles and an edited conference proceedings. Potential outlets for academic publication are clearly identified and the proposed textbook for students offers strong potential for dissemination of the project results.
- Potential collaboration with the public initiative "European Cultural Heritage Year 2018" is well identified.
- Communication measures include good strategies to achieve public outreach through media interviews and publications in non-academic magazines.
- Further means to achieve public communication through collaboration with the public initiative "European Cultural Heritage Year 2018" are convincingly identified.

Weaknesses:

- The particular role of the scientific associations identified as part of the dissemination strategy is not adequately explained.
- The specific user-groups to be targeted within public communication measures are not fully elaborated.

Criterion 3 - Implementation

Score: **4.90** (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


- The work packages are well delineated, and their development over the life of the project (from training through project activities to dissemination) is plausibly and coherently outlined. The feasibility of tasks, deliverables and milestones is credibly shown.
- The Gantt chart is coherently designed and identifies clearly both the outgoing host and incoming host activities.
- The work plan is coherent and well formulated; respective times and workloads related to tasks are well considered.
- The task schedule is well planned to include some flexibility and potential additional costs have been well anticipated.
- The management structure, supervisory procedures and progress monitoring mechanisms for the project are well considered.
- The proposal shows clearly that both the outgoing and incoming host institutions have strong monitoring and management procedures.
- The proposal adequately presents the risk management plan and prevention measures, and suitable measures to minimize risks are plausibly identified.
- The proposal demonstrates convincingly that both outgoing and incoming host institutions offer very good research facilities and have a first-class research environment.
- The appropriateness of the outgoing host institution is clearly shown, including its role in fostering European-Japanese research collaborations and joint initiatives which render it especially appropriate to this proposed project.

Weaknesses:

- The arrangements for the two short stays (Boston, Hangzhou) are not adequately elaborated.

Scope of the proposal

Status: **Yes**

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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)

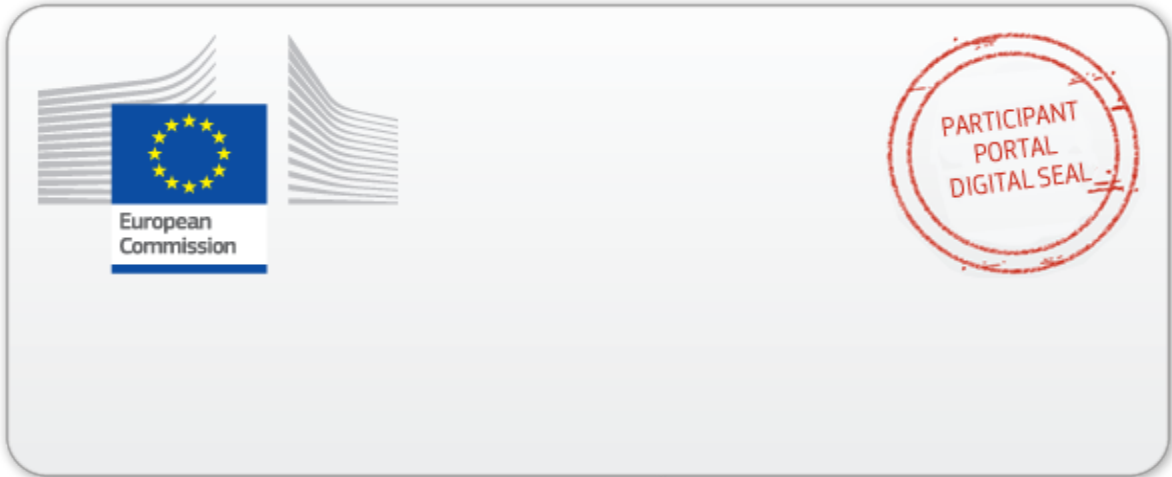
Status: **No**

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

Not provided



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