

ICOS



INTEGRATED
CARBON
OBSERVATION
SYSTEM

ICOS Station labelling process

Rationale and procedure

ICOS mission

“To provide harmonised high precision data on carbon cycle and greenhouse gas budgets in Europe and adjacent regions”

ICOS quality label

Key characteristics of ICOS are:

- **high quality and standardization** of measurements
- Network design to **cover as much as possible variability in climate and land use** throughout Europe

ICOS quality label

An ICOS station must therefore

- perform at the required quality level
- fit into the ICOS network design

ICOS station labelling process

- A procedure has been created to assess the suitability of a station to become an ICOS station and receive “ICOS label”
- Aim to have as many stations as possible in the ICOS networks while guaranteeing high quality and standardization

Application

- Consists of three steps:
 - STEP 1 : formal application & station construction (1-4 weeks)
 - STEP 2: test period (4-6 months)
 - STEP 3: Formal decision by the ICOS General Assembly
- 6 months to 1 year to complete
- ICOS requests a financial contribution of applicant to cover analysis and administrative costs

Before applying

It is required that a station is

1. Approved by it's host institution
2. Approved by the national government

Before applying

- The **country's GA representative** sends a letter to ICOS Head Office stating that
 1. there is a **long-term commitment of financial resources**
 2. the station is consistent with national Research Infrastructure strategy

This to avoid that after the station labelling process the station isn't able to obtain the necessary funding

The process in short

The labelling process consists of three steps:

STEP 1 : formal application & station construction

STEP 2: test period

STEP 3: formal decision by the GA

The process in short

STEP 1 : formal application

PI submits application form describing site characteristics to TC.

TC evaluates the application and writes proposal on station acceptance for Director General.

DG informs applicant about GO/NOGO statement

Followed by station construction

STEP 2: test period

Period to familiarize station staff with ICOS methodologies, quality systems, data transmission, rights and responsibilities etc.

Period may be extended if needed.

TC writes a report containing final recommendations and confirmation of station class (1 / 2).

STEP 3: Formal decision by the GA

Based on TC report DG prepares decision proposal for the GA.

ICOS station label is granted by formal decision of the GA

DG informs all involved actors of final decision

Roles

- **Station Principal Investigator (PI):** submits an application with written approval of *host institution* and *Focal Point*
- **Thematic Centre (ATC, ETC, OTC):** evaluates application and test period and reports to ICOS Director General
- **ICOS Director General (DG):** informs all actors (*PI, FP and Monitoring Station Assembly - MSA, Research Infrastructure committee - RI Com*) about the report. Prepares a decision proposal for the ICOS General Assembly
- **ICOS General Assembly (GA):** only body habilitated to deliver the *ICOS label*.

Role of the Focal Point

- Focal Point acts as go-between during process:
 - providing information on available long-term national funding
 - checking consistency with national Research Infrastructure strategy
 - providing information on construction and operational costs estimates
 - communicating with ICOS Head Office and General Assembly representative
 - Support in administrative steps

Last recommendations

- It is recommended to contact the TC and discuss the station in terms of **network design** and **terrain characteristics** first.
- TC can consult PI in preparing the best possible application.

Thematic Centre Contacts

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