PITHIA-NRF

Trans-National Access

Proposals for access to any of the PITHIA-NRF nodes should be requested and submitted via a written standardized application. It consists of a fixed part (principal investigator information, CV, references, project information, and comments) and a free part (scientific project description), allowing a fair evaluation of the proposal. The application form is found here.

Whether a user will be granted access or not is based on the feasibility, excellence and technical merit of the proposed project. A **selection procedure** is required also due to limited resources for the physical and remote access. The selection process consists of three stages.

1) Eligibility check: A general check that the application form is filled in correctly and that all required confirmation is present.

2) Feasibility check: Is the proposed project feasible? This is evaluated by the access provider who needs to confirm that the requested project fits timely, is logistically and technically feasible, etc. If the project is scientifically feasible but not possible to realize due to other reasons, the users can be asked to revise their application.

3) Review: The scientific and technical merits of the project proposal will be evaluated by a selection panel, consisting of experts from the PITHIA-NRF nodes.

Access:

Users can apply for a physical access (one week visit with full support) or a one month remote access (with weekly support). In addition there is virtual access – typically referring to access to data and digital tools – with no restrictions to the number of simultaneous users, and therefore no selection process is necessary for this type of access.

Granted users will be provided training by the operators. The training will include user manuals, guidance to perform joint experiments with other nodes, to analyze data and use e-science center tools to publish data. There will be on-site training guides, including basic instrumentation, data and model descriptions, and simple use cases to introduce the user to basic procedures.

During the access, the access provider shares expertise and offers direct support for running experiments, data analysis, scientific and technical discussions, database searching etc. For the rest of the time of the six month project remote support is provided to the user, for example by scheduled weekly meetings or some other interaction agreed upon. Before the physical visit this support could include experiment planning and set up, whereas after the visit the remote support will naturally be directed more towards data analysis and scientific discussions.

Project report and evaluation:

When a successful project has been concluded, the users are – latest at the end of the 6 month project – required to write and submit an executive **report** with the preliminary outcome of the project. Users are also required to submit an **evaluation** of their experiences when the projects are concluded. The feedback is important for the access providers in order to be aligned with user needs and have a strategy to meet user demands. All reports and evaluations will be collected by the TNA support center into two EU-reports.

The **project report** will contain the scientific and technical results, data analyses, datasets, figures, tables, interpretations, conclusions, etc. In addition, they are also required to write an evaluation of the project experience.

The report is to follow a specific structure:

Objective
Project process
Data and analyses
Results
Added value gained from the TNA
Summary
Acknowledgement

In the **Objective** the user motivates the project and what their expectations were, whereas in the **Project process** describes and explains the different steps taken in the process of executing the project, divided into *before*, *during* and *after* the actual access. In **Data and analyses** the collected data and analyses of the same are described and explained, and the result and interpretations are presented in **Results**. In Discussions and conclusions are given in **Summary** and in the **Acknowledgement** the user is required to give an to the hosting RI(s), the PITHIA-NRF project and EU:

> *"We acknowledge the research infrastructure(s) and the access provider(s) [node(s)] of the PITHIA-NRF project (https://www.pithia-nrf.eu/). The PITHIA-NRF project has received funding from European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101007599."*

Publications and data:

Any results in the form of peer-reviewed and published scientific and technical articles should acknowledge the PITHIA-NRF nodes involved in the project, the PITHIA-NRF project itself and the European Commission with the same statement as is in the project report as given above. The users are encouraged to disseminate their scientific results, for example at conferences and relevant workshops or similar, but also via social media in order to reach non-scientific communities.

Dissemination:

The project reports and information of any other publication or presentation of the Project should be submitted via the TNA Dissemination From.