



Cluster: Environmental Risks

Title: [REDACTED]

P.I.: [REDACTED] S. [REDACTED]

Project Ref Number: 14-AXA-PDOC-237

Panel Consensus Decision: Not invited to proceed to Stage 2

Panel Consensus Statement:

This project would assess the risks of increased mobilization of soil bound PCB due to a temperature rise in the Polar Regions. It will also bring essential knowledge required to design sustainable bioremediation practices in these vulnerable areas. The project focuses on the change of temperature as the driving force of mobilization. However, the Panel notices the importance of climate change, which induces also other changes, such as rainfall and extreme weather events.

The laboratory measurements seem feasible, although the scientific background of what is actually measured and what the governing processes are that stimulate leaching are not described. The project will benefit in that plants can be used to clean the soils in polar areas. The project, in the form of laboratory experiments is certainly feasible. Whether the ability to use these plants for natural will be conclusively demonstrated is not certain. The Panel sees major problems arising with the fieldwork where contaminated soil cores are planted in forest areas.

The candidate is due to get her PhD in [REDACTED]. She has published four articles. Her overall research ability is assessed as good. The host institute BOKU has a good reputation.

The Panel regards the candidate as a capable scientist and project comes off as well formulated and relevant, but not innovative enough to be competitive.

In view of the above, the Panel does not recommend the proposal for further evaluation.