

ICOS Monitoring Station Assembly (MSA) for Atmospheric and Ecosystem stations

Terms of Reference – Proposal

- The MSA is constituted by maximum two station delegates per labeled ICOS member station as identified by the contributing country.
- During a transition period all sites of the initial list (see appendix) will be part of the MSA, independent of labelling;

Objectives:

The ICOS MSAs:

- Provide advice on all aspects of ICOS measurement protocols (definition, criteria of application, revision, etc);
- Provide suggestions to the ICOS Central Facilities (CF) and ICOS National Networks for considering new approaches, new sensors and measurement systems;
- Discuss technical and scientific matters, including data records of the station networks received and processed by the Thematic Centres, and services to further develop and improve ICOS and its networks;
- Constitute a space for exchange of experience between scientists and technicians of the different sites;

Functioning:

- The assembly will be chaired by its representative and his/her substitute, (re)elected by the MSA every two years;
- MSA elects a representative and his/her substitute in the RI Committee for the ICOS National Networks
- Following the decision of the ICOS ISIC Biarritz meeting in March 2013, until ICOS ERIC is established and starts its operation, the MSA will be represented at the Interim RI Committee for the Atmospheric MSA by Alex Vermeulen and substitute Martin Steinbacher; and for the Ecosystem MSA by Marc Aubinet and substitute Marian Pavelka.
- The MSA meets at least yearly;
- Virtual meetings (through e-mail or phone/web conference) can be organised when urgent decisions are needed;
- In principle the MSA will seek consensus after ample discussion of important issues. MSA defines its own rules of procedure;
- Issues for the agenda of the MSA for discussion or decision can be raised by the CFs or the MSA delegates through the MSA representative and/or substitute
- All relevant innovations (see Objectives), after MSA and CFs agreement, will be submitted to the notice of ICOS Director General;

Resources:

- No special resources are available at present. Sponsoring should be sought from national ICOS initiatives or relevant EU projects in order to allow the organisation of MSA and phone/web conference meetings.

Appendix

List of initial stations (ecosystem and atmospheric) (to be provided)