Section 06

1. Introduction

Here we present the criteria used, in general, by section 6 of the National Committee (2016-2021) for all types of evaluation of researchers.

Note that section 6 of the national committee has only an advisory role, even though its opinions are, most often, followed.

This document may be updated.

No criteria (except scientific production) are absolutely essential, regardless of the level: If a researcher presents a result which is recognised as fundamental by the scientific community, we will support his or her recruitment or promotion.

2. Scientific production

Scientific production is the main aspect we consider, for all types of recruitment and promotion.

2.1 Publications of articles in journals and conference proceedings

The assessment is qualitative and takes into account all aspects: Originality and interest, difficulty, quality of journals and conferences, researcher contribution to results in the event of co-authors, etc. For promotions, publications since the last promotion or recruitment are predominant.

2.2 Software and experimental production

Some software productions and experimental productions are fully-formed scientific productions and are entirely taken into account by the section 6 committee. For the assessment of their quality and importance, researchers can, if they so wish, consult the specific site of section 6.

Hence, if an application includes details about such productions, they will be taken into account. To be able to evaluate a software, it must be testable or have been industrially exploited. This will allow us to assess its importance, originality and impact.

For free software, there must be a download address and an installation guide.

The complexity, interest, disseminated number of copies and their results of use for software, as well as their level of use for experimental platforms... are evaluation criteria.

2.3 Patents

Patents, if actually exploited, must appear in the “industrial exploitation” section. If they have not been used, they will be considered secondary publications.
3. Scientific impact

Scientific impact is a more important criterion for senior recruitment and promotions. It takes into account:

- Invitations to speak at major conferences, technical schools or visits abroad, prestigious seminars;
- Participation in conference program committees and editorial review committees;
- Participation in PhD thesis or HDR (“habilitation”) panels, particularly abroad;
- Prizes and distinctions;
- Prestigious projects, such as the ERC.

4. Collaborations

Several types of collaboration are taken into account by the section:

- Scientific collaborations;
- Implementation of projects;
- Participation in local, national or international collaborative projects;
- Participation in multi-, inter-, or cross-disciplinary projects.

5. Research Administration

Participation in responsibilities of collective interest, in particular the administration of research, is a criterion whose importance grows with the rank. These responsibilities may be more or less significant; we give examples below.

**Major responsibilities** (in particular for a DR1 or DRCE promotion):

- Participation as a member of national advisory and evaluation bodies (CNU, CoNRS, etc.)
- Membership of the Inria evaluation committee
- Management of a laboratory
- The management of a GdR or a scientific, national or international association
- The management of a Labex
- Coordinator of a multi-site European project.

**Other significant responsibilities** (in particular for DR2 recruitment):

- The management of a research team
- Coordinator of an ANR project (or another collaborative action)
- Responsibility for other institutional contracts
- Responsibility for industrial contracts
- Participation in representative bodies at universities
- Participation in recruitment panels

These two lists are not exhaustive. In addition, the quantification of the amount of work involved in the responsibilities presented is to be adjusted given the size of the projects and the teams.
6. Supervision, teaching

The supervision criterion is only really important from DR2 recruitment onwards, but will nevertheless be considered for CR recruitments. To be a DR2 candidate, an HdR [accreditation to supervise research] (or equivalent qualification) can attest to the candidate’s ability to perform a mentorship activity.

The assessment of mentorship is qualitative. For example: What has become of PhD students or postdocs? Was their work appreciated by the community? What is the duration of the thesis?

The teaching criterion mainly considers interventions from the Master’s onward on innovative subjects, interventions in schools for researchers, etc.

7. Industrial/societal exploitation and contracts

The aim is to evaluate the effort made to show the value of research work for society. Depending on the research area, the industrial exploitation effort can be an important evaluation criterion.

In other areas (e.g. quantum computing), we will ask rather for a dissemination and divulgation effort: Publication in general-interest magazines, speech in the media, public conferences, etc.

For the section 6 committee to be able to assess an industrial contract, it is necessary to specify the nature of the contract (who are the signatories), the participants, the subject of the contract, its duration and its results, with, if possible, pointers to the records and, where applicable, the amount.

For example, CIFRE contracts are considered positively. However, advisory activities that are not the subject of a contract involving one of the institutions with which the researcher is affiliated are not taken into account.

8. Mobility

The section 6 committee considers geographic mobility to be a positive evaluation aspect (in particular for a DR2 recruitment, at least at one time in their career), but also thematic mobility (not essential, but it is an additional asset) such as interdisciplinary actions or a change of research theme.

9. Research project

This rubric is essential for recruitment or promotion, but also very useful for periodic evaluations.

The criteria taken into consideration are the relevance, importance, originality, feasibility of the scientific project, its position in the local, national and international context.