# SIOR

# SOCIAL IMPACT OPEN REPOSITORY

**SIOR, Social Impact Open Repository,** is an initiative born under the IMPACT-EV (Evaluating the impact and outcomes of European Social Sciences and Humanities research) project, funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission and coordinated by the research centre CREA-UB, University of Barcelona.

The goal of IMPACT-EV is to create indicators and a system for monitoring and evaluating the scientific, political and social impact of research in social sciences and humanities.

Following the objectives set by Horizon 2020, IMPACT-EV has created a new repository, SIOR (Social Impact Open Repository), capable of displaying, citing and storing the social impact of research results. SIOR arises from the social and political need to know and to connect with the scientific projects in order to assess their social impact, promoting transparency of science and open access systems. This is how the new repository becomes a new unprecedented tool, and it means the first large register of social impact at international level.

In this repository, researchers and research institutions provide evidence of their impact with concrete data from reports, publications, databases, etc. However, one of the most important aspects of SIOR is the aim of providing not only a description of the evidence of social impact, but also to show contributions that may become useful tools for researchers to improve the impact of their current and future studies. Thus, SIOR helps boost the transformation of scientific research, developing a resource that enables viewing and valuing social improvements deriving from research projects.
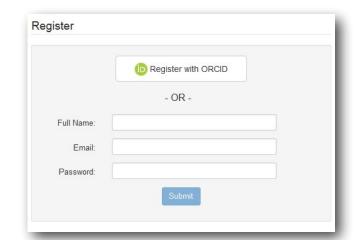
## To whom is it addressed?

SIOR allows to get a general and comprehensive overview of international research and its social impact, and therefore it addresses a very diverse audience:

- Academics and research staff: to show the social impact of the projects in which they have participated.
- Institutions: either research centres or foundations, to present the social impact of their projects.
- Funding agents: to have control over the social impact of the projects funded.
- Agencies responsible for the management and funding of research: to seek and find projects with impact in fields of their interest.
- General public: to enhance the transparency and openness of science.
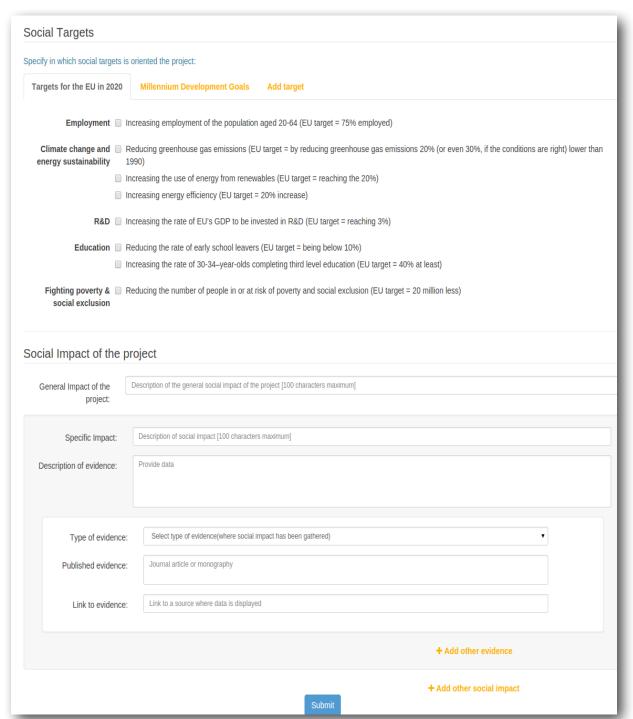
## General structure and relevance

SIOR, http://www.ub.edu/sior/index.php has a simple structure, through which we can: learn about the most recent projects that were introduced, enter new projects by means of a common register and participate by offering suggestions, etc. The repository is linked to ORCID profiles, allowing a more agile transfer of information and knowledge. Both the main registry and the forms for introducing projects' data are connected to ORCID databases. Thus, it also favors the development of international resources in open access.

SIOR displays the social impact of projects, first and more broadly, concerning international objectives approved by the representatives of the citizenry. The EU2020 objectives and the Millennium Goals of the United Nations are specified therefore, leaving the door open for others to be added depending on the demands of the users that are registered.

In a second section and much more concretely, the social impact is explicitly asked about. Firstly, a specific title that summarizes the social impact of the project is introduced. Secondly, the various social impacts that the project has are requested, needing to provide evidence that can show to the public each of these impacts and the reason why they are relevant. Evidence is explained and linked by offering the access to the article, report, etc. This way, not only the data is stored but the link to the evidence allows to know more about the project and its social significance.
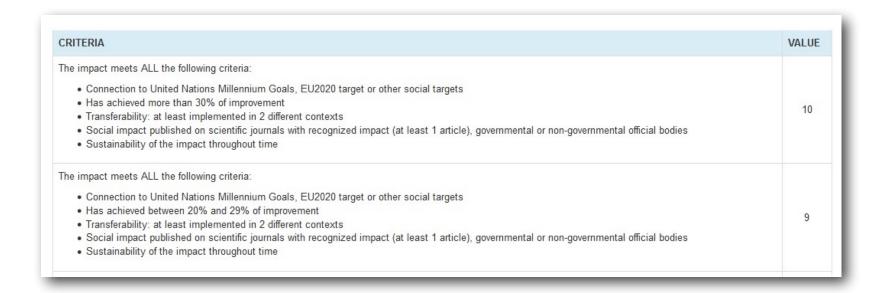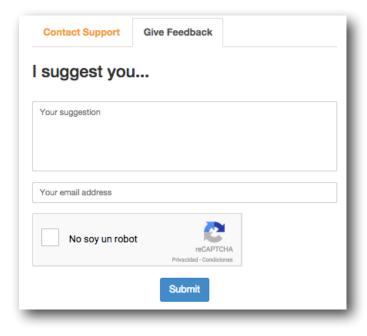
## Criteria:

In this repository only the researchers and studies that have had social impact appear. Even if their weight is 1 that means a good result, because many others are not good enough in social impact to be in this repository. This situation is similar to journal rankings; for instance, to be in the 4rt quartile in JCR means to have a scientific impact that most journals do not reach.

The criteria and weights assigned for the social impact of projects are related to the evidences of social improvements in relation to EU2020 targets, United Nations Millennium Goals or other social targets and the following criteria.

- Connection to United Nations Millennium Goals, EU2020 target or other social targets.
- Percentage of improvement achieved in relation to the starting situation. For instance, in the case of employment targets, it is the percentage of people who has showed certain improvement as the result of the actions developed based on the project's findings.
- Transferability of the impact, the actions developed based on the project's findings have been transferred to other contexts besides the original one.
- Publication on scientific journals (with a recognized impact), governmental or non-governmental official bodies, and
- Sustainability, the impact achieved by the action developed based on the project's findings has showed to be sustainable throughout time.

| CRITERIA | VALUE |
|---|---|
| The impact meets ALL the following criteria:<br>• Connection to United Nations Millennium Goals, EU2020 target or other social targets<br>• Has achieved more than 30% of improvement<br>• Transferability: at least implemented in 2 different contexts<br>• Social impact published on scientific journals with recognized impact (at least 1 article), governmental or non-governmental official bodies<br>• Sustainability of the impact throughout time | 10 |
| The impact meets ALL the following criteria:<br>• Connection to United Nations Millennium Goals, EU2020 target or other social targets<br>• Has achieved between 20% and 29% of improvement<br>• Transferability: at least implemented in 2 different contexts<br>• Social impact published on scientific journals with recognized impact (at least 1 article), governmental or non-governmental official bodies<br>• Sustainability of the impact throughout time | 9 |

Finally, SIOR is a project under construction drawing on international criteria and contributions, and it is open to suggestions and comments via the web: http://www.ub.edu/sior/index.php or next email electronic: sior@ub.edu

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