



Detailed Evaluation and Selection Process Description

Submitting to a Conference or Symposium

Potential presenters are asked to submit extended Outlines by the respective date. The decision to accept a submission is based solely on evaluation of the Outline, after which a paper is sought, which itself is not evaluated. The Scientific Panel (<http://www.ispim.org/#about>), which contains academic, scientific and industry expertise, is responsible for all evaluations and decisions.

The process is as follows:

Stage 1: Desk Evaluation

All Outlines are inspected by a sub-group of the Scientific Panel for completeness, relevance and adherence to submission guidelines. We find that about 10-15% of submissions are incomplete, not directly related to innovation management or fail to comply with the stipulated Outline structure. The authors of such submissions are informed and the Outlines rejected.

Stage 2: Peer Evaluation

The remaining Outlines are distributed on a double-blind basis to two or three Scientific Panel Members according to the area of expertise required. Care is taken to avoid Panel Members being able to identify the author of any given submission through prior affiliation. The primary criteria for evaluation are:

1. Is the submission topic relevant to the themes?
2. Contribution to current understanding (degree of newness for an audience of expert innovation professionals).
3. Scholarly/scientific quality for academics; practical implications and foundations for practitioners.
4. Probability of stimulating debate/insight.

Panel Members are asked to provide a recommendation and score (typically on a scale from 1 to 7 (best)). They are also asked to write justification for their score and a useful amount of textual feedback to help the author further improve the Outline. This usually results in two sets of feedback per Outline.

Stage 3: Homologation

The sub-group from Stage 1 inspects all evaluation comments and scores. The scores are standardised in each group and acceptance rates balanced where necessary. Submissions with clear evaluator agreement are accepted and rejected. Submissions that are either borderline or where the evaluators have widely differing views are re-evaluated on a double-blind basis by the sub-group and a decision taken.

Typically, less than half of the Outlines submitted make it through the process to the event. Authors should remember that ultimately, despite the structure that is in place, the process relies on the judgement of experts and opinions will sometimes differ. This is a human process with the attendant shortcomings and benefits. ISPIM is always happy to provide clarification, or even further comment, on Outlines where there is strong disagreement. This is undertaken in the spirit of improving the submission or justifying reviewers' decisions or comments. It is, however, not a vehicle for extended debate about the relative merits of a submission. Opinions will differ.

Evaluation for Best Paper Prizes and Journal Special Issue Publications based on papers from a Conference or Symposium

The process is as follows:

Stage 1: Preliminary Evaluation

All full papers received by the full paper submission deadline (this is not the same deadline as for the Outline) are considered. The set is inspected by a sub-group of the Scientific Panel for adherence to submission guidelines and potential impact. The weakest are removed.

Stage 2: ISPIM Evaluation

The sub-group selects a shortlist of approximately 10-12 papers from the remainder, and from these, the best three student papers and best three regular papers are shortlisted for the respective prizes. The criteria used are: 1. Topic: originality and importance to further the field of innovation management, 2. Quality of the research and the paper itself, and 3. Potential for practical application and further research.

Stage 3: Further Journal Evaluation

Authors will be contacted regarding the journal and best papers process. If an author has not heard from ISPIM before the event in question, they can assume that their paper is not in consideration.

International Journal of Innovation Management

Following author approval, the subset of 10-12 papers is sent to the Special Issue Journal Editor who then works directly with the authors to produce a final issue of 6-10 papers depending on quality and publishing factors. This final step includes double-blind reviews with feedback and iterative revision. The Special Issues will appear in print within six months of the Conference or Symposium date.

Thematic Special Issues in other Associated Journals

Papers on a specific theme are drawn from one or multiple ISPIM events about three times a year for consideration for publication in an associated journal. Following author approval, they are sent to the Special Issue Editor who then works directly with the authors to produce a final issue of 5-8 papers depending on quality and publishing factors. This final step includes double-blind reviews with feedback and iterative revision. The Special Issue Editors are always members of the ISPIM Scientific Panel and the final decision for all matters rests with the Head of the ISPIM Scientific Panel. The Special Issues will appear in print within the usual timeframe of the journal in question.