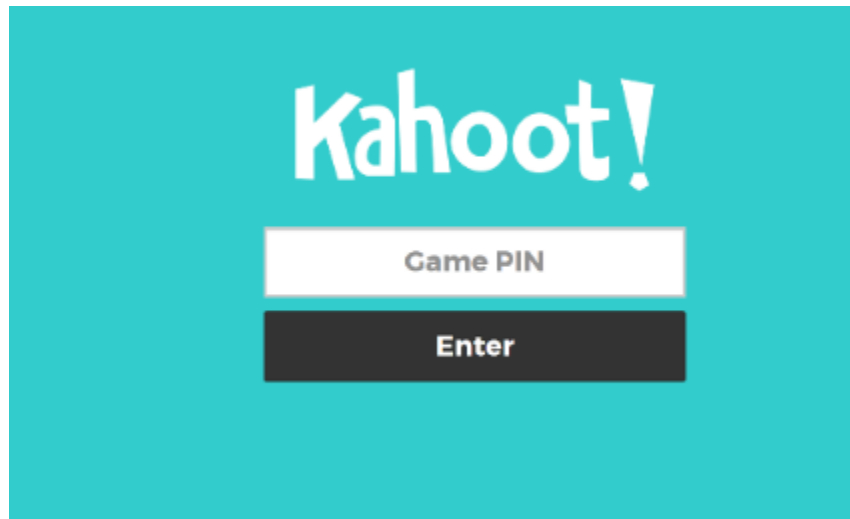# MSCA ITN Training

Ankara July 2017

Introduction and repetition with Kahoot

Use your smartphone/tablet – go to Kahoot.it – enter the PIN and a name (nothing will be registered)

ITN Objectives

Horizon 2020

The specific objectives of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks (ITN) are:[2]

- to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit

- to raise excellence and structure research and doctoral training, extending the traditional academic research training setting, incorporating the elements of Open Science and equipping researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competences

- to provide enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and non-academic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.

ITN Purpose

Institutions which are actively involved in research and (research) training (e.g. universities, public or private non-commercial research centres, large enterprises, SMEs, non-profit or charitable organisations, etc.) can propose a research training network and apply for funding. If selected they will cooperate to recruit researchers and provide them with opportunities to undertake research in the context of **a joint research training or doctoral programme**. These programmes should respond to well-identified multi- and inter-disciplinary needs in defined scientific or technological areas, **expose the researcher to the academic and non-academic sectors**, and offer a comprehensive set of **transferable skills** relevant for innovation and long-term employability (entrepreneurship, commercialisation of results, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), communications etc.). Proposals should reflect existing or planned research cooperation among the participating organisations in which the researchers will take part through **individual, personalised research projects**.
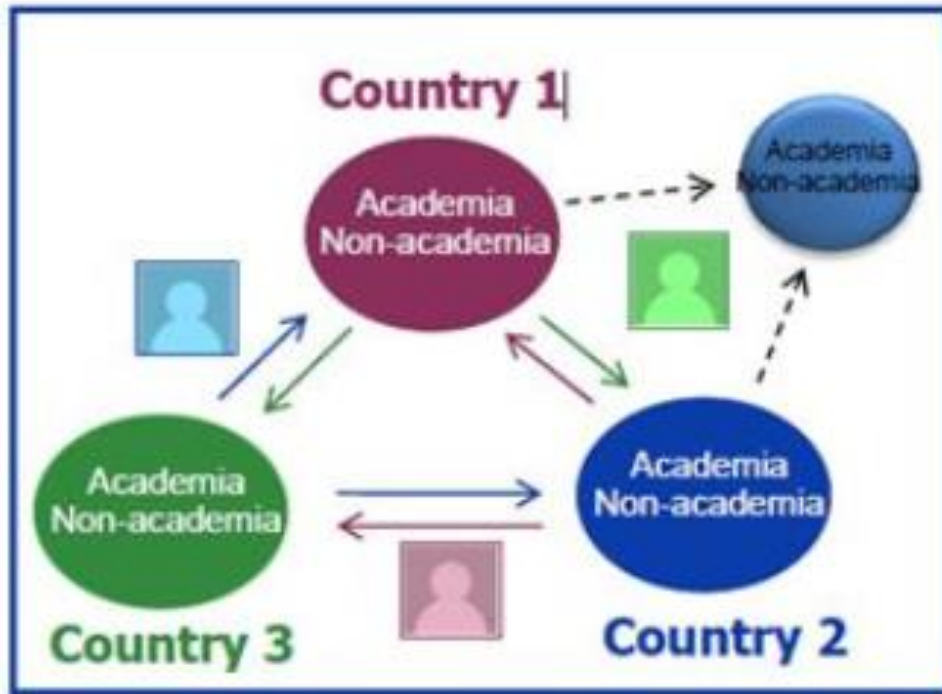
Modes

Modes: European Training Networks (ETN) | European Industrial Doctorates (EID) | European Joint Doctorates (EJD)

Call budget and time

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2018	
Opening: 12 Oct 2017		
MSCA-ITN-2018 (MSCA-ITN-ETN)	375.00	17 Jan 2018
MSCA-ITN-2018 (MSCA-ITN-EID)	32.00	
MSCA-ITN-2018 (MSCA-ITN-EJD)	35.00	
Overall indicative budget	442.00	

Modes

- ETN European Training Network

- At least 3 different institutions from 3 different countries
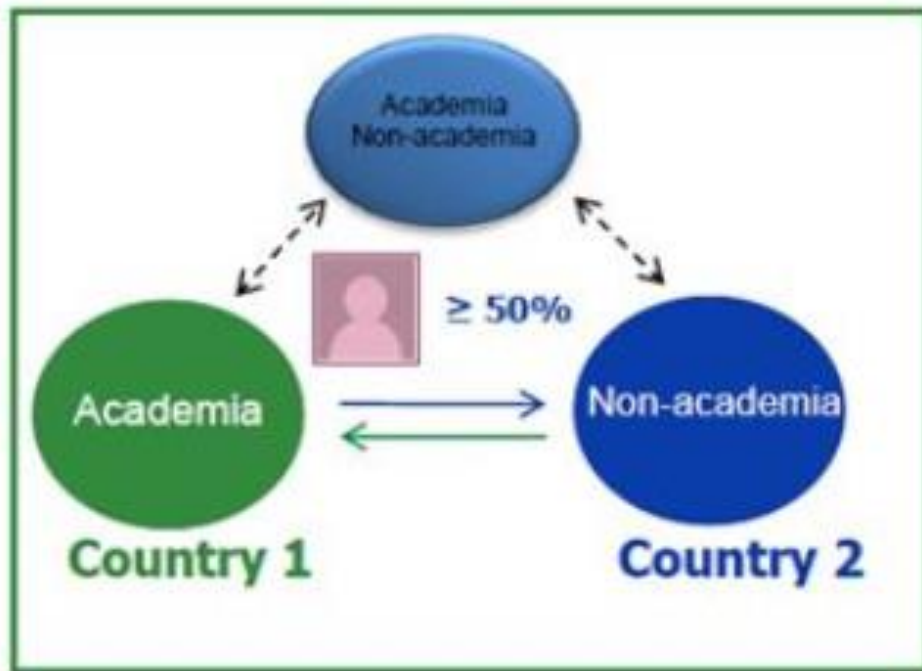
- Exchange via secondments of ESRs

Modes
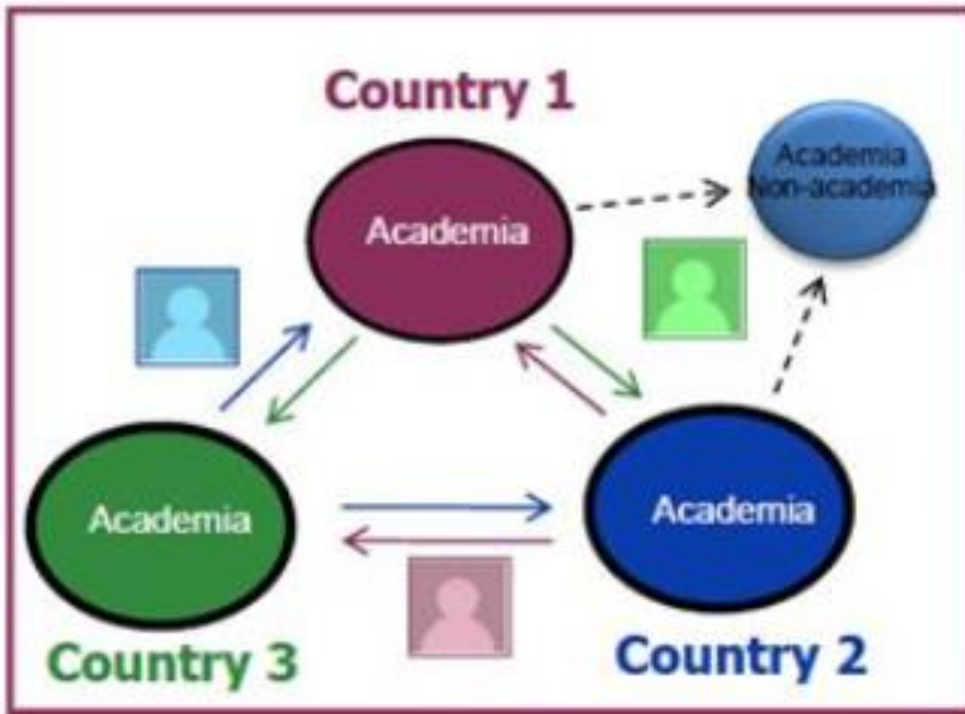
- EJD European Joint Doctorate

- At least 3 institutions from 3 different countries

- Exchange via secondments of ESRs AND jointly awarded doctorates!

Modes

- EID European Industrial Doctorate

- At least 2 institutions from 2 different countries

- ESRs need to be at least 50% in the non-academic sector

General Tips and Tricks at the beginning

- Plan early on

- Decide upon the scheme: What makes most sense for you?

- Build up the knowledge: start as consortium partner

- Identify possible consortium partners early on

- Stay realistic: ITN is competitive, it takes several tries

- Collaborate with experts

Innovation Aspects

There is no single definition of innovation.

- "But innovation as described in the Innovation Union plan broadly means **change that speeds up and improves** the way we conceive, develop, produce and access **new products, industrial processes and services**. Changes that create **more jobs, improve people's lives and build greener and better societies.**"
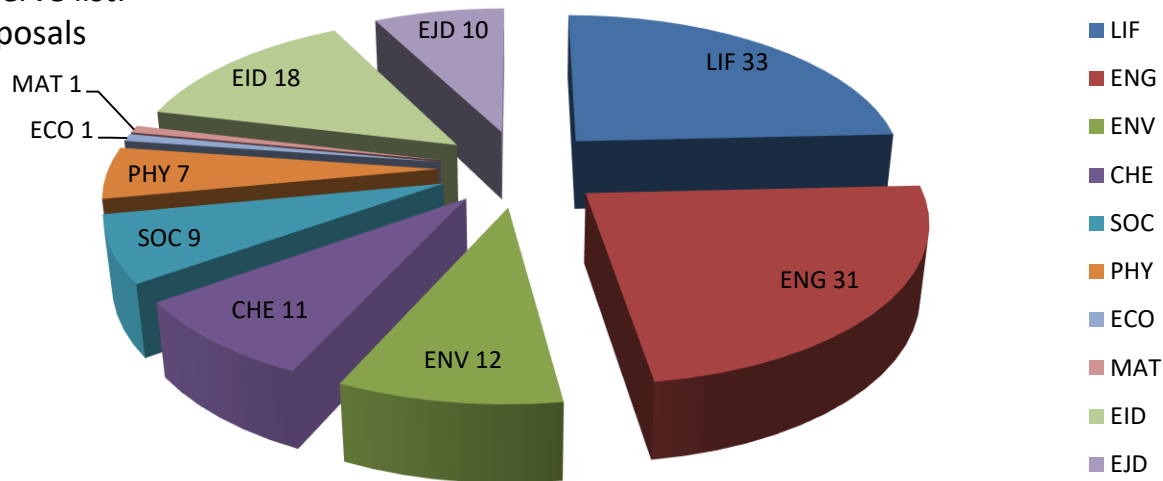
  "Turning Europe into a true Innovation Union, European Commission - MEMO/10/473 06/10/2010"

- Extend the frontiers of scientific knowledge: Train people!

- Tackle global challenges: Scientific Excellence!

- Invest in competitive industries: Collaborate with companies!

Statistics Call 2017
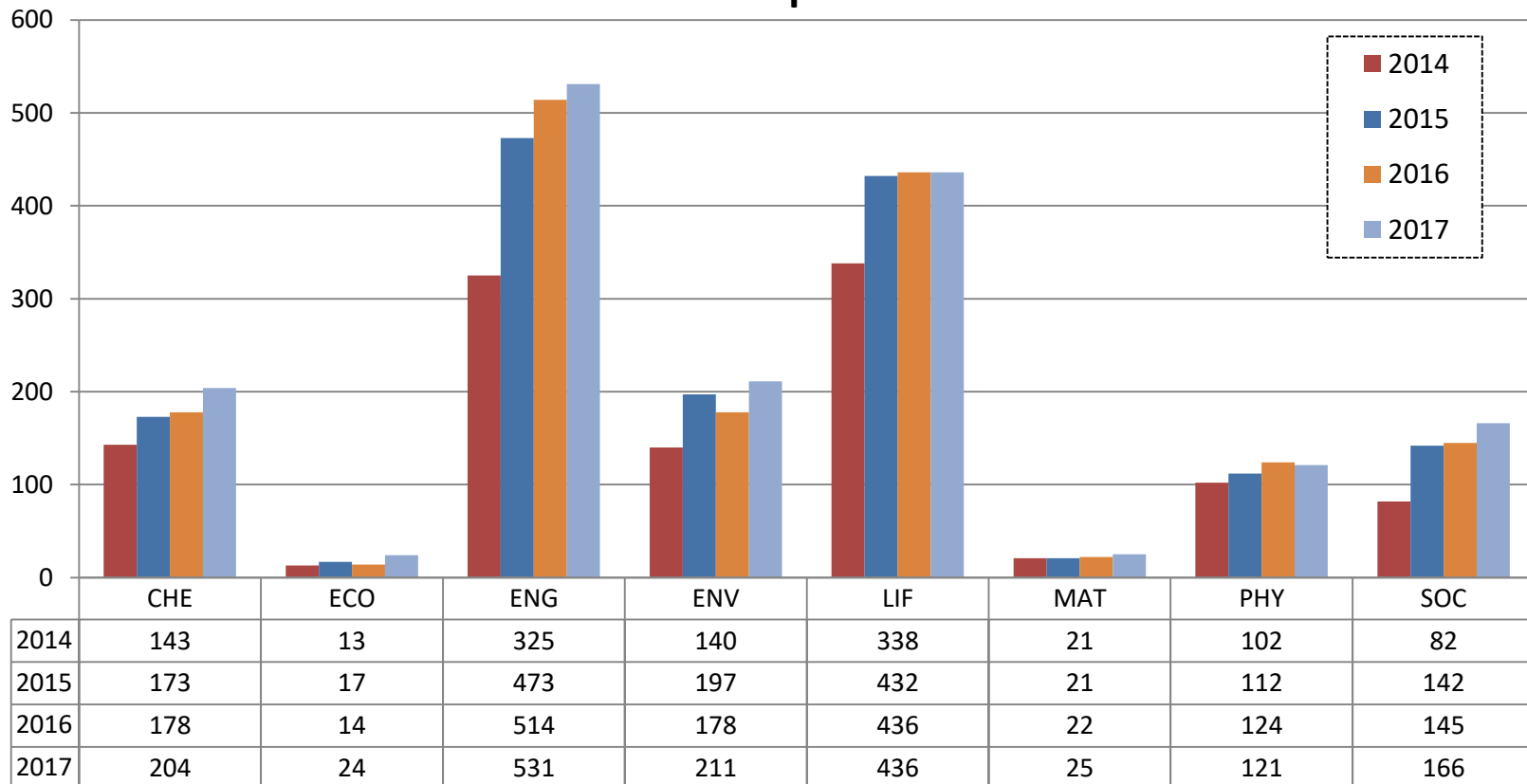
A-list & reserve list:
133 proposals

LIF 8,4%	ENG 7,6%	ENV 7,8%	CHE 7,5%	SOC 7,4%	PHY 6,5%	ECO 8,3%	MAT 6,3%	Total ETN 7,7%	EID 14,4%	EJD 12,2%	Total ITN 8,5%

Statistics

	EID	EJD	ETN	Total	(%)
CHE	30	8	166	**204**	11,9%
ECO	3	1	20	**24**	1,4%
ENG	98	25	408	**531**	30,9%
ENV	11	16	184	**211**	12,3%
LIF	34	13	389	**436**	25,4%
MAT	4	3	18	**25**	1,4%
PHY	6	7	108	**121**	7,0%
SOC	9	15	142	**166**	9,7%
Total	**195**	**88**	**1435**	**1718**	100,0%
(%)	11,4%	5,1%	83,5%	100,0%	

Statistics

Submitted Proposals in ITN

	CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC
2014	143	13	325	140	338	21	102	82
2015	173	17	473	197	432	21	112	142
2016	178	14	514	178	436	22	124	145
2017	204	24	531	211	436	25	121	166

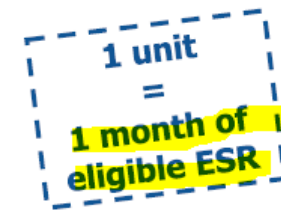# Some Statistics

EID; 195 (11,4%)

EJD; 88 (5,1%)

ETN; 1435 (83,5%)
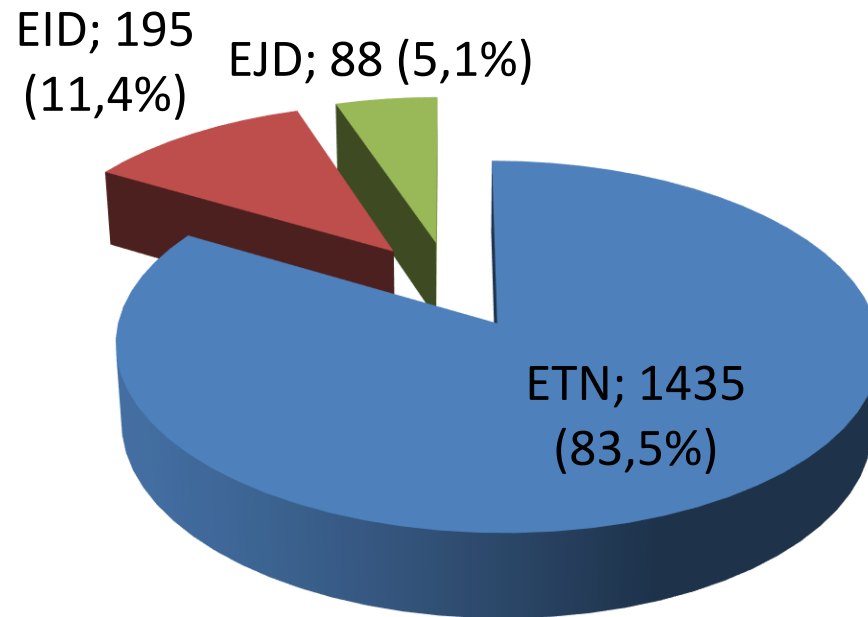
Financial Aspects

Funding mechanism

- Fully based on unit costs
- Unit cost is a pre-calculated cost
  for the implementation of the action
- Amounts in EURO per unit cost
- Total = unit costs* x number of units
- All unit costs are fixed in the work programme

Advantage when applying

Automated calculation of budget when computing ESR months in your proposal part A

1 unit
=
1 month of
eligible ESR

Financial Aspects

- Country coefficient for Living allowance
- Family allowance if applicable
- Top-ups from other sources permitted
- Researcher Allowances include employer contributions
- ESR allowances are taxed

1 unit = 1 month of eligible ESR

| Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action	Researcher unit cost person/month			Institutional unit cost person/month	
	Living allowance*	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs
Innovative Training Networks	3270	600	500	1 800	1 200
Individual Fellowships	4880	600	500	800	650

Financial Aspects

Applying for a proposal

- Max. 40% of EU contribution to the project allocated to one country (ETN+EJD only)

Implementing your project

- Institutional costs can be redistributed:
  - Between partners
  - Provisions covered in **consortium agreement**
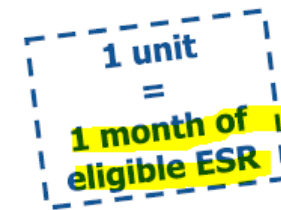
3rd parties and subcontracts not applicable

1 unit
=
1 month of
eligible ESR

Financial Aspects

- Proposal submission Forms – simply enter no of researcher months

A success story

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bVCOMwoUtw

MSCA Success Story - Aleksandar Pajkanovic
Servia

Award Criteria

- 3 award criteria: Excellence, Impact and Implementation

- Overall threshold of 70% applies to total score

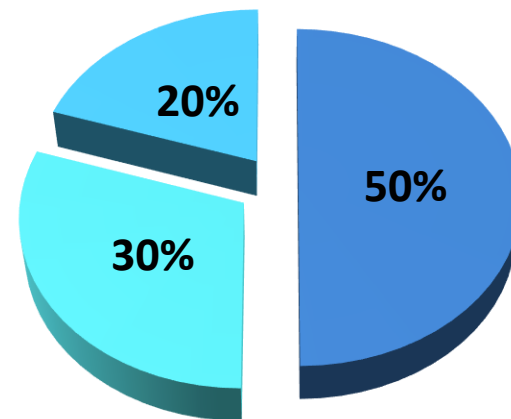- Proposals ranked within panels by overall score

- Proposals funded in ranking order

- No restrictions on reapplying

- Evaluation summary reports provided

20%

50%

30%

From submitting to evaluation

Each proposal will be assessed independently by at least three experts chosen by the REA from the pool of experts

An expert will be designated as the proposal "rapporteur" and will assume additional responsibilities

The proposal will be evaluated against the pre-determined award criteria, applying weighting factors and thresholds, scores from 0-1

0 -	Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1 -	**Poor.** The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2 -	**Fair.** Proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3 -	**Good.** Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4 -	**Very Good.** Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5 -	**Excellent.** Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Proposal structure

- Part A (contact data, ethics,…) and Part B
- This may change from call to call – verify it!
- Partner Organisations need a PIC!

NB: Part B must be submitted as two separate documents:

Document 1 must comprise of the Start Page, Table of Contents, List of Participating Organisations data (including non-academic sector beneficiaries and declarations tables), and sections 1-3. The maximum total length for this document is 34 pages (1 page for the Start Page, 1 page for the Table of Contents, 2 pages (max) for List of Participating Organisations data, and 30 pages for sections 1 to 3: section 1 must start on page 5). The page limits will be strictly applied. Expert evaluators will be instructed to disregard any excess pages.

Document 2 must consist of sections 4-7 of Part B. No overall page limit is applicable to this document, but applicants should respect the instructions given per section (e.g. in section 5, a maximum of one page should be used per beneficiary and half a page per partner organisation).

Part B

DOCUMENT 1

START PAGE (*1 page*)

TABLE OF CONTENTS (*1 page*)

LIST OF PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS (max 2 pages)

START PAGE COUNT (MAX 30 PAGES SECTIONS 1-3)

1. **EXCELLENCE** (*starting page 5*)
2. **IMPACT**
3. **QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION**

STOP PAGE COUNT (MAX 30 PAGES SECTIONS 1-3)

DOCUMENT 2 (*NO OVERALL PAGE LIMIT APPLIED*)

4. **GANTT CHART**
5. **CAPACITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS**
6. **ETHICAL ISSUES**
7. **LETTERS OF COMMITMENT**

Proposal parts -Excellence

Evaluation Criterion 'Excellence' – in general

Excellence of <mark>research</mark> – is it innovative, inter-/multi-disciplinary, intersectoral?

Excellence of <mark>training</mark> – is it innovative, does it include transferable skills, does it include exposure to other sectors, is supervision high quality?

Provide detail on how beneficiaries and partners will interact and collaborate

Proposal parts -Excellence

Evaluation Criterion 'Excellence' – in general

In training section refer to ESRs personal career development plans

Provide details of the complementary skills (ethics, IPR, grant writing) and transferable skills (public engagement, communication, management, entrepreneurship) training

Look at documents from graduate education and research development offices – for information on experience, quality of supervision, training courses

Proposal parts -Excellence

Always remember to ==address EU added value== – how does EU benefit? Why is EU level action required?

Research Development Framework (==RDF==)
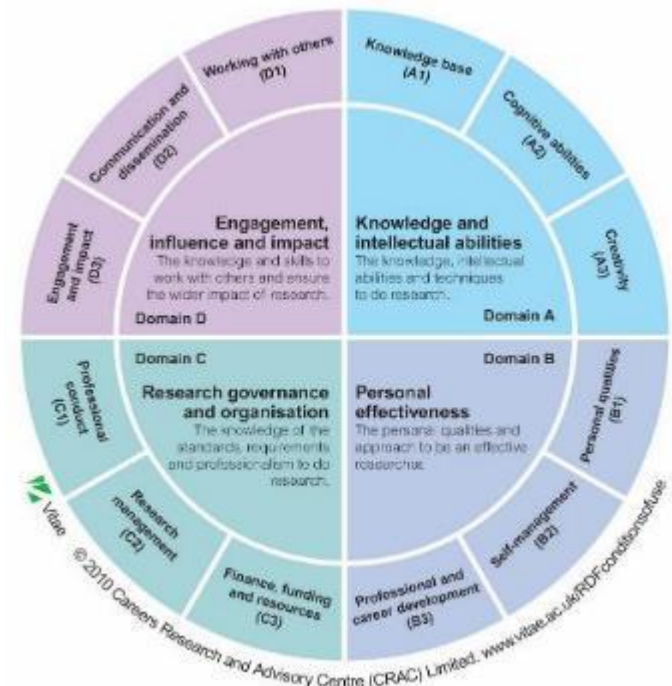
Proposal parts –Excellence – Research

Precise & detailed research work plan		Interdisciplinarity is not strong
Scientific quality & originality are excellent		A precise description of methodology is missing
Research method is appropriate, innovative and well described	**+** **−**	Reference to originality is missing
Excellent overview of state of the art		Role of academic partners is not well explained
Series of well defined and relevant project objectives		Final research outputs and results should be more clearly described

Proposal parts -Excellence

Evaluation Criterion 'Excellence' – Training Quality

Exercise:

–Split in groups
–Read the Training Quality part of the example proposal   20'
–What do you consider positive, negative?   15'

Proposal parts –Excellence – Training

+

> Training is well structured & consistent with the research

> Exploitation of the network training potential is adequately considered and discussed

> Complementary training is well thought out

> Local and network training will be provided

—

> Training topics are not well defined

> Description of the training for the researcher is too vague

> Monitoring training should be better explained

> Role of partners and their participation in the training should be more clearly defined

Proposal parts -Impact

Think about impact on several different levels, for example:

Impact on research field – why EU level approach needed, why do you need trained researchers in your research field

Impact on individuals – career development and what added value do they gain from network compared with PhD single institution

Proposal parts -Impact

Impact on <mark>institution</mark> – is it strategic, are you aiming to shape doctoral training in Europe

Impact at <mark>European level</mark> –what is added value to Europe, show the sustainability of the collaboration. Important for EJDs to show how you will sustain joint degree structures

In this section include <mark>concrete plans</mark> for communication, public engagement and dissemination

Proposal parts -Impact

Exercise:

– Split in groups
– Read the Impact part of the example proposal   20'
– What do you consider positive, negative?   15'

Proposal parts -Impact

+

Good prospects for potential long term collaborations

The involvement of non academic partners will be mutually beneficial for them and the ESRs

The training proposed by the network is such that probably no single institution in Europe would be capable of providing it on its own

The project can offer great career opportunities to ESRs

–

The proposed impact on the field of science is not convincing

Plans on communication with wider audiences are not clear

Lack of training in a non-academic context is a major drawback

Description of the impact on the scientific community outside the network should be elaborated

Proposal parts -Implementation

Coherence of the <mark>work plan</mark> – appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources

Appropriateness of <mark>management structures</mark> and procedures including quality management and risk management – look at previous proposals to see what works;

Ensure you refer to European <mark>Code of Conduct for</mark> the Recruitment of Researchers

Proposal parts -Implementation

Appropriateness of ==infrastructure== of the participating organisations

Competences, experience and ==complementarity of participating organisations== and their commitment to the work programme

Also include in this section the ==role of partner== (LEVEL 2) organisations and their active contribution to the research and training. A letter of commitment should then match this section

Smart workpackages

- What makes a good work package?

- Rule of thumb: 3 to 4 scientific workpackages, 1 for management and one for training/career development

- Rule of thumb: not more than 4 tasks per WP

- Rule of thumb: one deliverable per task, 1 to 2 Milestones per WP

- Workpackages should not overlap but complement each other

- Chose smart and capable workpackage leader

Proposal parts -Implementation

Exercise:

- Split in groups
- Read the Implementation part of the example proposal   30'
- What do you consider positive, negative?   15'

Proposal parts -Implementation

+

> The type and frequency of meetings seem appropriate

> The non academic partners play an essential and active role both in the training and research aspects of the proposal

> The consortium is well balanced and the specific competences of the organisations are clearly described

> Recruitment strategy is clearly defined

−

> Description of a research PhD theme for each ESR is not provided

> Limited rules for decision making

> More details should be provided on milestones and deliverables within the workplan

> Industry involvement is poor in comparison to the industrial importance of the project theme and potential results

Submission Process

- A Kahoot ☺

Responsible Research and Innovation + Cross Cutting Issues

	What it is	How to incorporate it
Gender dimension	Incorporate Gender Balance and Gender dimension into your ITN	Adapt recruitment strategy Collaborate with EO Officer Offer Gender Training for ESRs At what point down the line will your research output affect the two sexes differently?
Open Access	Part of 'Open Science' – Give open access to the results of publicly–funded research.	Chose if you wish to take part in the open data pilot If so, make a data management plan a Milestone Offer training on Open Access publishing
Social Sciences and Humanities	Full Integration of Social Sciences and Humanities Research – in order to get a social perspective of the different projects and initiatives, and contribute to the evidence base for policy making at international, Union, national, and regional levels.	Check if your research topic has a societally relevant outcome and if the topics can be contextualised in EU policy
Innovation	breaking boundaries and setting new standards in a variety of fields, in order to advance the quality of both the public and private sector.	Have a solid exploitation strategy Point out innvoation potential in Excellence Criterion Offer training on Innovation Management

Responsible Research and Innovation + Cross Cutting Issues

Ethics	The most common ethical issues include: the involvement of children, patients, vulnerable populations, the use of human embryonic stem cells, privacy and data protection issues, research on animals and non-human primates. It also includes the avoidance of any breach of research integrity, which means, in particular, avoiding fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or other research misconduct.	Fill in table A4 correctly and in time It should correspond to the content of Part B 6 Offer training on research integrity/scientific misconduct for the ESRs.
Science Education and public engagement	Engage in a dialogue with stakeholder of your ITN on differrent levels as part of your outreach strategy .	Approach them now and propose mutual activities: Civil society organizations and NGO's, industry, policy-makers, professors, teachers, students and pupils, science museums etc.
International Cooperation and Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation	Horizon 2020 sees great importance in international cooperation, + including states which until now show lower participation. Making the EU an attractive partner in research and innovation by strengthening excellence, Raising societal challenges, Supporting the EU foreign politics.	Add third country partners for your training and networking activities where useful scientifically. Point out any policy backed up evidence which shows the importance of training ESRs in your research field

Tips and Tricks

- Clear evidence of partner' organisations commitment
- Capacity of the participant to be clearly demonstrated
- For EJD, letter of commitment to award joint degrees
- Involvement of non-academic sector
- Pay attention to mandatory requirements of particular modes
- Compliance with ethical principles
- Resubmission possible
- Make it easy for the evaluators to find the information in the proposal!!!
- Structure and organize the information well
- Be precise – less is sometimes more
- Start writing the proposal early on
- Avoid last minute submission
- Impartial view…ask your colleagues to read your proposal

Coordinators' Tips and Tricks

- «The key is the consortium – if you have a good, well balanced consortium with synergies it will reflect well in all criteria»

- «If possible, have a real physical meeting with the consortium before the actual start»

- «It takes time to write a good project. Help the consortium by keeping deadlines, providing constructive input, involve external feedbacks (NCPs or other sources)»

- «Management and indirect costs: Discuss the allocation beforehand! 30-50% usually go to the coordinator, the rest depends on the tasks of the beneficiaries»

- «Conflict management and discussion culture: These vary! Set a rule for how to resolve issues in the Consortium Agreement (CA).»

- «Base the CA on the LERU template and sign it before the start of the project.»

- «Intercultural communication: Some cultures are more direct than others – take this into account. If in doubt, pick up the phone! Email is a 'bad advisor'!» ☺

- «Useful platforms: E.g. https://campfire.ch/»

Our Tips and Tricks

Useful reference documents

- Participant Portal call page
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html

- MSCA Work Programme 2016-2017 – new issue expected any day now
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-msca_en.pdf

- Horizon 2020: How to Complete Your Ethics Self-Assessment
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf
  Horizon 2020: Guidelines on Data Management in Horizon 2020
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf

Tips and Tricks

Useful reference documents

- European Charter and Code for Researchers
  http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/european
  Charter

- List of Countries Associated to Horizon 2020
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020
  /grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf

- Gender Equality in Horizon 2020
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020
  /grants_manual/hi/gender/h2020-hi-guide-
  gender_en.pdf

- Horizon 2020 Online Manual
  https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/deskto
  p/en/funding/guide.html

Tips and Tricks

General Sources of Help

- MSCA website
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/

- EURAXESS
  http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/

- The European Commission's Horizon 2020 Enquiry Service
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=enquiries

- National Contact Points
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html

- Net4Mobility
  http://www.net4mobility.eu/

Tips and Tricks

Specialised and Technical Assistance

- Submission Service Help Desk
  http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/api/contact/index.html

- IPR help desk
  http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org

Contact

Juliane Sauer
julie@oxygeneum.ch

Turkey in Horizon 2020 Project International Development Ireland (IDI) Ltd.

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E-Mail: info@TurkeyinH2020.eu

Tubitak
https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/en

Key messages ☺

- Communicate well with the consortium

- Get feedback from multiple sources

- Read all the documents – also as a partner/beneficiary

- Involve administrative/legal experts in your institution

- Try again if at first you don't succeed

- IT IS WORTH IT. ☺