MSCA PF evaluation criteria

What makes the difference ?

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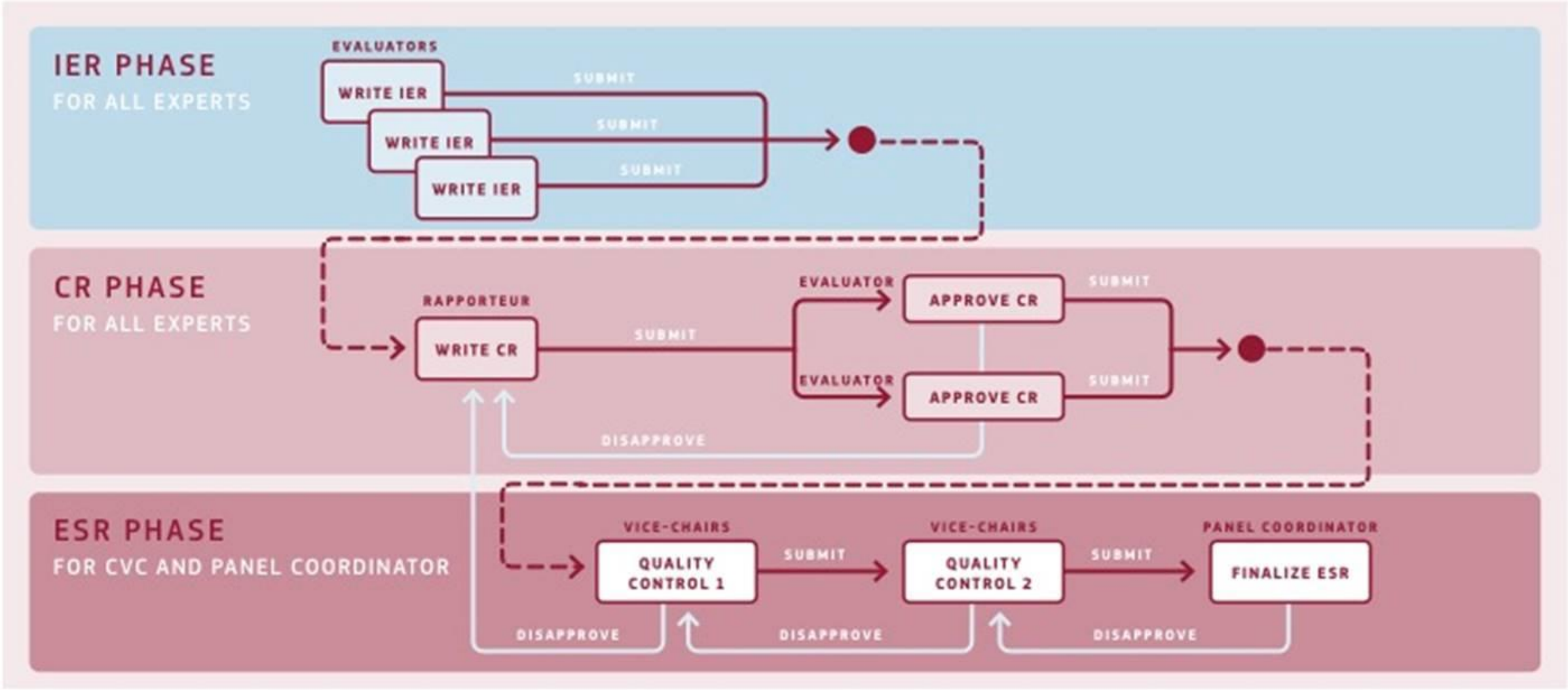
Evaluation


IER PHASE
FOR ALL EXPERTS
EVALUATORS
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FOR ALL EXPERTS
RAPPORTEUR
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APPROVE CR
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APPROVE CR
SUBMIT
SUBMIT
DISAPPROVE
ESR PHASE
FOR CVC AND PANEL COORDINATOR
VICE-CHAIRS
QUALITY CONTROL 1
SUBMIT
VICE-CHAIRS
QUALITY CONTROL 2
SUBMIT
PANEL COORDINATOR
FINALIZE ESR
DISAPPROVE
DISAPPROVE
DISAPPROVE

PF project

The goal of the Postdoctoral Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, International, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.

- **Concrete plan of training-through-research**
- **Supervisor(s) and Host Institution(s)**
- Realistic and well-defined objective in terms of **career advancement** or **resuming a research career after a break**

- **Typical training activities**

- Hands-on training activities for developing scientific (new techniques, instruments ...) and transferable skills (e.g. IPR management, exploitation of research results, task coordination, supervising & monitoring, grant application...)
- Inter-sectoral and/or interdisciplinary transfer of knowledge (e.g. through secondments)
- Organisation of scientific/dissemination events
- Communication, outreach activities

Excellence

- Quality and pertinence of the **project's research and innovation objectives**
  State of the art, objectives, methodology, training
  (be concrete but not too detailed)
- **Host institution** (excellence, size, experience with EU projects, number of post-docs, importance of secondments and partner organization)
- **Supervisor and team (**excellence in the field, publications, PhD students and post docs (foreign), grant projects (international +EU), collaborations, size of the team, expertise of the team etc.)
- **Transfer of knowledge** (**both directions !!!**)
- **Researcher's professional experience, competences and skills, motivation**

Evaluation

Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project
novelty, appropriate inter/multidisciplinary

Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the
two way transfer of knowledge

Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution

Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position
of professional maturity/independence (CV) through the project

Impact

- **Credibility** of the measures to enhance the **career perspectives** and **employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her **skills development**

  Effect of acquired new research (new techniques etc.)**, soft- and complementary skills** (teaching, management, IPR, grants, conference organization etc.)

- Suitability and quality of the **measures to maximise expected outcomes** and impacts, as set out in the **dissemination** and **exploitation** plan, including **communication** activities

  Project outputs dissemination (**all levels** – seminars at the host, international conferences (specify if possible), publications (specify journals if possible), and **exploitation** (patents, industry)

  Communication/Outreach activities – for general public, schools, stakeholders, politicians, relevant industry, stakeholders, politicians etc. - use of „modern media“ (not only activities of the host but your personal involvement)

- The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**

Evaluation

Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher

Quality of the proposed measures

to **exploit** and **disseminate** the project results

to **communicate** the project activities to different target audiences

Implementation

FEASIBILITY

- Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of **risks** and appropriateness of the effort assigned to **work packages**
  - **Work plan -** not only research, also training, secondments, conferences, papers etc., WPs, milestones and deliverables, outreach etc.
  - **Risks and their mitigation** (research, training, others)
  - **Supervision–** management (meetings, scientific advisors, control points) Team – help of the other members of the team; acting as a supervisor/tutor of students,
- Quality and capacity of the **host institutions and participating organisations**, including **hosting arrangements**

Infrastructure, facilities (at the host and at the secondment partner**)**

Activities for foreign researchers (language courses, kindergarten etc.)

Evaluation

Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan

Appropriateness of

allocation of tasks and resources

management structure and procedures, including risk management

institutional environment (including infrastructure)

Host institution, second host (secondments), return institution (GF)

- **Excellence in research**
- **Excellent supervisor(s) and advisors –** show synergy among them
- **Experience in post-doc supervision, international (EU) projects**
- **Transfer of knowledge** (possibilities of special research training, courses etc.)
- **Help for foreigners (**language courses, accommodation, seminars and courses at the host, family help**)**
- **Collaborations and networking**
- **Necessary infrastructure, facilities**

Researcher

- **University studies, degrees, subjects/disciplines, titles of thesis**
- **Projects as a PI**
- **Participation in project teams** (**specify your role**)
- **Main research achievements (complex with emphasizing your role)**
- **Papers, conferences**
- **International experiences** (abroad, at home)
- **Teaching, tutoring, supervision**
- **Outreach, volunteer activities**
- **Awards, competitions!!!**
- **Motivation and plans for the future career**

Missing in most CVs

- **Besides excellent knowledge of the field, show creativity, independence, leadership qualities**

Prepare project and CV according to the evaluation (sub)criteria

Make the life of evaluators easy

Thank you for your attention

Good luck with your applications!

WORKSHOP ON HOW TO WRITE A COMPETITIVE PROPOSAL FOR MSCA PF
DATE: 24 JUNE 2021

Opportunity for postdocs to boost their career, opportunity for host institutions to attract excellent researchers

MSCA IF success story (Marie Curie fellow)

Eva Baldassarre Švecová, Institute of Botany CAS

INSTITUTE OF BOTANY CAS

Motivation to apply for MSCA IF

- unsure career position (post doc)
- limited opportunities to reach a permanent research position
- limited possibilities of further professional development
- overall socio-economic situation in the work location (Italy)
- family reasons

Steps for MSCA IF application

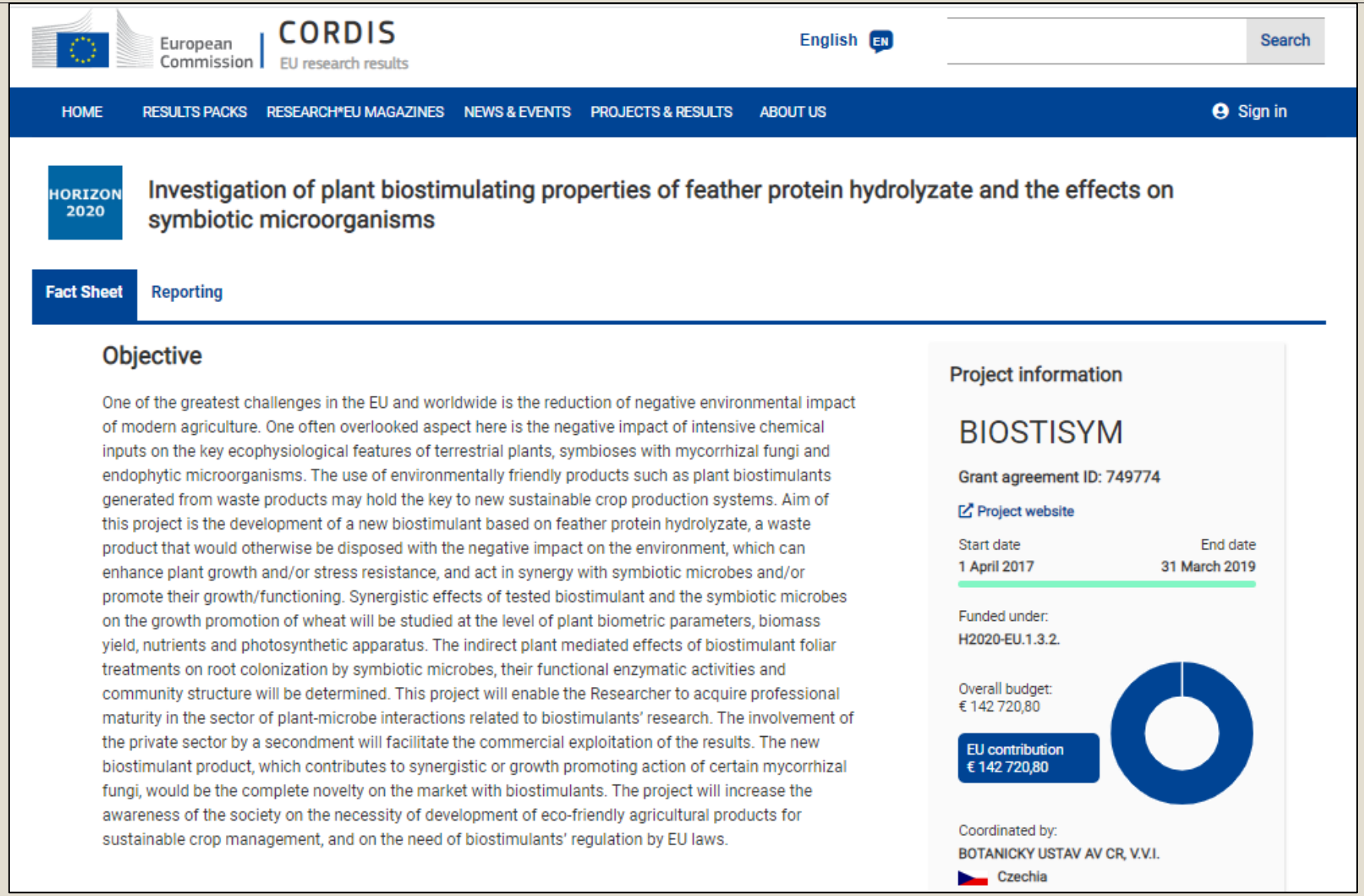
- Contact the Supervisor with the specific experience in the area of your interest.
- Expect that you will need to adapt your initial project idea to the environment of the hosting institution and to the scientific interest of the host research team.

- Find a knowledge gap in the expertise of the Researcher and connect it to a novel research.
- Have very clear ideas on what the Researcher would like to reach through the fellowship – it is strongly supported by the overall motivation, actual career stage and work position.
- Provide as many details, explanations and examples as possible in the proposal.
- Emphasize that the fellowship is essential for the Researcher's career - the reasons must be sound and tailored to the Researcher, not generic.

Tips for the CV

- Highlight your strengths, for example:
  - Specific aspects of your particular expertise
  - International experience
  - Teaching/mentoring activities
  - Project management

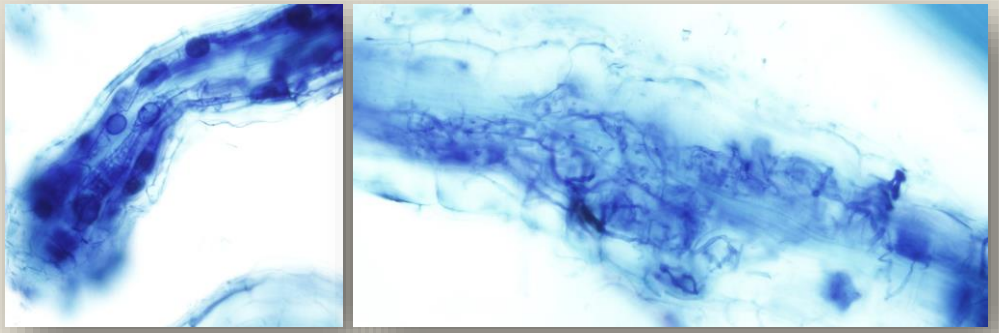
  ➡ show that you are active also in activities other than research
- Be clear and specific
- Describe your major achivements, focus on those relevant to the proposal
- Demonstrate that your experience and expertise is exactly what is needed for the implementation of the proposed research activities
- The added value of the host's expertise to your CV must be convincing



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 749774.

Project implementation

- easy project administration - budget, only one report after the project completion (standard fellowship)
- well planned overall project implementation due to the detailed work plan requested in the proposal but with a tight schedule (a little margin for unforeseen events, article publication, patent application etc.)
- implementation may be flexible following well justified changes, e.g. minor changes in the experimental design, methods applied, performed analyses based on the actual situation
- **emphasis on the training and professional development of the fellow**



Microscope images of mycorrhizal fungi in plant roots

Expectations vs. reality

- ✓ learning new things
- ✓ autonomous work
- ✓ professional development
  - scientific training courses
  - language course (academic writing)
  - soft skills training
  - mentoring of the students
  - conference participation
  - publication writing
- ✓ new contacts and opportunities
  - membership in Marie Curie Alumni Association

- ✗ common difficulties related to the transfer and new work place
- ✗ permanent work position

Overall benefits and impacts on the career

- unique opportunity for professional and personal development
- career consolidation: from a post doc to an independent researcher
- experience with the EU project handling
- new working opportunities
  - autonomous grant application incl. EU grants
  - EU project proposals' evaluation

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

TECHNOLOGY CENTRE CAS

Applicants´ on-line workshop on MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Zuzana Čapková, MSCA and ERC NCP
24 June 2021

NETIQUETTE

Keep your microphone off when not interacting with us.

If you want to ask a question, „raise your hand“ or let us know via chat.

Those who have selected this workshop in the registration form will participate actively.

During breakout sessions, you will work in groups, turn on your microphone and keep your camera on.

Those who have not selected this workshop in the registration form can watch us (participate passively).

With more specific questions, do not hesitate to contact me (capkova@tc.cz).

24 JUNE - AFTERNOON SESSION
(ENVIRONMENT AND GEOSCIENCES, LIFE SCIENCES)

Introduction
Zuzana Čapková, MSCA NCP, *Technology Centre CAS*

Feedback from the evaluator on CVs and abstracts, panel specificities
Hana Sychrová, *Institute of Physiology of the CAS*

Interactive part: evaluating a MSCA proposal
Zuzana Čapková, *Technology Centre CAS*
Petra Fedorová, *Technology Centre CAS*
Ilona Skordis Gottwaldová, *Institute of Physics CAS*
Adéla Jiroudková, *Charles University*
Klára Sobotíková, *Charles University*
Ludmila Součková, *Charles University*

Break

MSCA grant holder – success story
Eva Baldassarre Švecová, *Institute of Botany of the CAS, project BIOSTISYM (ENV, 2016)*

Discussion

Introduction

Objectives:

- To learn how to prepare a competitive CV and abstract
- To get familiar with award criteria under Horizon Europe
- To be advised by/discuss potential issues with a MSCA fellow (a successful applicant)

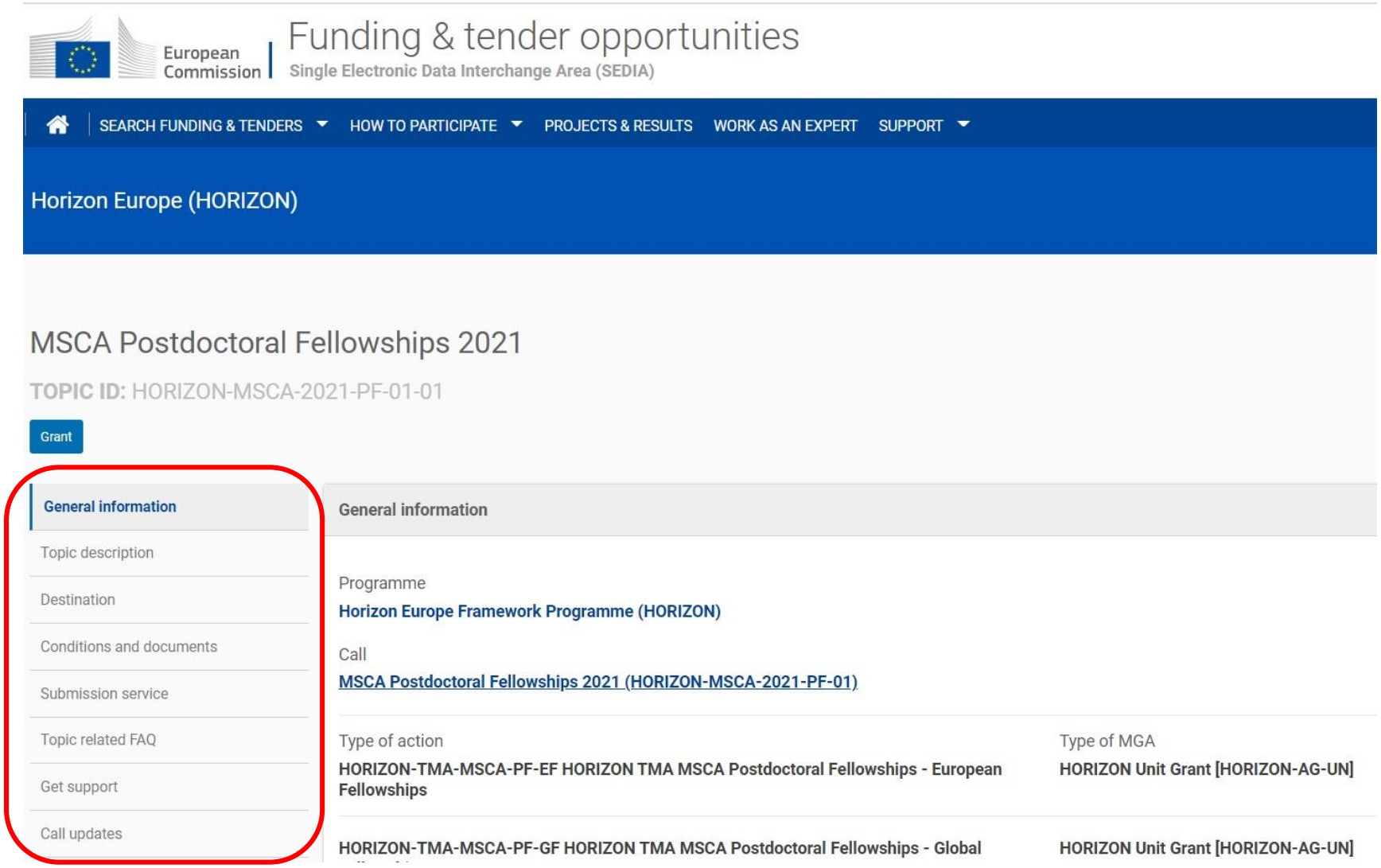
Key sources of information:

- Work Programme 2021-2022 (published on 15 June)
- Webpage of the Call MSCA-PF-2021 (opened on 22 June)
- Presentations and recording from the Information day on MSCA PF (held on 21 May)

National support to MSCA applicants in 2021:

- 21 May: Information Day on MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
- 24-25 June: Applicants´ on-line workshop on MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
- 15 September: Pre-screening

FUNDING & TENDER OPPORTUNITIES PORTAL



PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Part A: use of submission wizard (same principle as H2020)

- **Researcher information:**
  - PhD award date only, no other qualification fields available
  - Residency and activity table : same principle as H2020
  - Table for extensions on the 8-year post PhD limit – number of days/category only, beneficiary to keep relevant records
- **Beneficiary information:**
  - PIC based: same principle as H2020
  - Non-academic placement host and secondment host
  - Gender Equality Plan
- **Budget:**
  - Family allowance (selection box as H2020)
  - Long term leave allowance and special needs allowance (not visible in proposal as cannot be requested at that stage)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

- Ethics self-assessment
- Security self-assessment (corporate approach)
- Call specific questions (non-exhaustive)
  - Euratom: applicant to confirm if they qualify for the Euratom topics/conditions
  - ERA Fellowships: applicant to confirm if they wish to be considered for ERA call (question appears based on qualifying PIC country)
  - Secondment information
  - Optional non academic placement information
- Keywords are updated for HE
  - main principle remains: KW's 1, 2 mandatory and of selected scientific panel, KW 3 mandatory and of any panel, KW's 4 and 5 optional and of any panel
- Resubmissions
  - question will appear in the forms, however resubmission restrictions do not apply for HE-MSCA-PF-2021 call

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

- **Part B-1 is strictly restricted to 10 pages:**

  => a cover page, table of contents, …on page 1, 2, will count towards the page limit and automatically result in excess pages that cannot be evaluated

  => the Part B-1 should start with “1. Excellence” (instructions, definitions to be deleted before submission)

- **Part B-2 (no page restriction):**
  - Researcher’s CV
  - Letters of commitment (host for outgoing phase of GF or non-academic placement host)
  - Participating organisations (max 1 page for beneficiary, max ½ page others)
  - Ethics & Security (additional info, if needed)

Proposal structure*

Part A - administrative forms

Part A (electronically)

General Information about the Proposal including Abstract (max. 2 000 characters), Administrative data on participating organisations, Budget, Ethics issues table, Call specific questions

Part B – the proposal

Part B1 (PDF upload)

- **Excellence**
- **Impact**
- **Implementation**

- **10 pages** total
- No section page limit
- excess pages will automatically be disregarded

Part B2 (PDF upload)

No overall page limit applied

- **CV** (indicative length: 5 pages)
- **Capacities of the participating organisations**
- **Ethical aspects**
- **Letter of commitment**

* to be checked when the template for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships is available

MSCA INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP PROPOSAL:

EXCELLENCE (50%)
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects
Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way **transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution
Potential of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence during the fellowship

Your tasks

- Individual work: **read the Excellence Part** of the proposal
- You will be transferred to breakout rooms, you need to accept by clicking on „JOIN NOW“
- Group work: **discuss** your thoughts and write them down
  - What are the strengths?
  - What are the weaknesses?

  5 = excellent, 0 = fails to address the criterion
- Come up with a **score** for this section

→ **plenary discussion**

SCORING

- 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.

EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT

- **Call/Activity:** H2020-MSCA-IF-2016 / ENV
- **Proposal Acronym:** BIOSTISYM
- **Proposal Title:** Investigation of plant biostimulating properties of feather protein hydrolyzate and the effects on symbiotic microorganisms
- **Host Institution:** BOTANICKY USTAV AV CR
- **Abstract:** https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/749774 (CORDIS database)

Excellence

Horizon 2020

- Quality and credibility of the **research/innovation project**; level of **novelty**, appropriate consideration of **inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects.**
- Quality and appropriateness of the **training** and of the **two way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host.
- Quality of the **supervision** and of the integration **in the team/institution.**
- **Potential** of the researcher **to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence** during the fellowship.

Horizon Europe

- Quality and pertinence of the **project's research and innovation objectives** (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art).
- Soundness of the proposed **methodology** (including **interdisciplinary approaches**, consideration of the **gender dimension** and other **diversity** aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of **open science** practices).
- Quality of the **supervision**, **training** and of the **two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host.
- Quality and appropriateness of the **researcher's professional experience, competences and skills**.

Horizon Europe: Excellence

1.1 Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Describe the quality and pertinence of the R&I objectives; are the objectives measurable and verifiable? Are they realistically achievable?
- Describe how your project goes beyond the state-of-the-art, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious.

IMPORTANT
✓Formulate an overarching aim of your project
✓Fine-tune the general goal through specific objective/aims/research questions
✓Ensure a good state of the art, focus on your topic
✓Original, ambitious but also feasible!

Horizon Europe: Excellence

1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users, where appropriate)

- At a minimum, address the following aspects:
- Overall methodology: Describe and explain the overall methodology, including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin your work. Explain how this will enable you to deliver your project's objectives. Refer to any important challenges you may have identified in the chosen methodology and how you intend to overcome them.
- Integration of methods and disciplines to pursue the objectives: Explain how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be brought together and integrated in pursuit of your objectives. If you consider that an inter-disciplinary approach is unnecessary in the context of the proposed work, please provide a justification.
- Gender dimension and other diversity aspects: Describe how the gender dimension and other diversity aspects are taken into account in the project's research and innovation content. If you do not consider such a gender dimension to be relevant in your project, please provide a justification.
  - Remember that that this question relates to the content of the planned research and innovation activities, and not to gender balance in the teams in charge of carrying out the project.
  - Sex, gender and diversity analysis refers to biological characteristics and social/cultural factors respectively. For guidance on methods of sex / gender analysis and the issues to be taken into account, please refer to this page.

Horizon Europe: Excellence

1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology (…)

- Open science practices: Describe how appropriate open science practices are implemented as an integral part of the proposed methodology. Show how the choice of practices and their implementation is adapted to the nature of your work in a way that will increase the chances of the project delivering on its objectives *[e.g. up to 1/2 page, including research data management]*. If you believe that none of these practices are appropriate for your project, please provide a justification here.
- Research data management and management of other research outputs: Applicants generating/collecting data and/or other research outputs (except for publications) during the project must explain how the data will be managed in line with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).

IMPORTANT

✓ Prepare your proposal in compliance with the principles of Open Science, Responsible Research & Innovation

✓ New publishing platform and open peer review: https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/

Horizon Europe: Excellence

1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Describe the qualifications and experience of the supervisor(s). Provide information regarding the supervisors' level of experience on the research topic proposed and their track record of work, including main international collaborations, as well as the level of experience in supervising/training, especially at advanced level (i.e. PhD and postdoctoral researchers).
- Planned training activities for the researcher (scientific aspects, management/organisation, horizontal and key transferrable skills…).
- For *European Fellowships*: two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and host organisation.
- For *Global Fellowships*: three-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher, host organisation, and associated partner for outgoing phase.
- Rationale and added-value of the non-academic placement (if applicable).

Horizon Europe: Excellence

Examples of advanced research skills:

- Training in new techniques, instruments, equipments..
- Open Science
- Big data
- Scientific writing
- Experimental design
- Quantitative and Qualitative methods
- User design....

Examples of Transferable Skills:

- Entrepreneurship and innovation
- Grant writing
- Patent applications
- IPR Management and Patenting
- Leadership / Influencing courses
- Project Management
- Gender training (gender isues /gender innovation)
- Presentation Skills
- Communication training of research to non-specialists
- Ethics in Research (RRI)
- CV presentation, interview skills....

Examples taken from the MSCA IF Handbook 2020 (Net4mobility+ project)

Horizon Europe: Excellence

1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host

IMPORTANT

- ✓ Demonstrate that the supervisors are experts in their areas (include track record and **international collaborations**, **experience in supervising**/training especially at advanced level (PhD, postdoctoral researchers), participation in projects, publications, patents, etc.)
- ✓Explain the training objectives (list them, make a table, timing, duration…)
- ✓Indicate the activities to be carried out during secondments (if any)
- ✓Include the preparation and use of a **Personal Career Development Plan (PCDP)**: must be submitted at the beginning of the project (no later than 6 months after its start) and updated if needed throughout the project)
- ✓See MSCA guidelines on supervision

Horizon Europe: Excellence

1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills

- Discuss the quality and appropriateness of the researcher's **existing** professional experience in relation to the proposed research project.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ Include all the relevant experience (teaching, consultancy, supervision,etc.): show your leadership /independent thinking skills…
- ✓ Evaluators have to be convinced that you are the right person to carry out the activities planned and you will still gain new skills/knowledge
- ✓ This section needs to be coherent with your CV

SHORT BREAK

MSCA INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP PROPOSAL:

IMPACT (30%)
Enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship
Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and **disseminate** the project results
Quality of the proposed measures to **communicate** the project activities to different target audiences

Your tasks

- Individual work: **read the Impact Part** of the proposal
- You will be transferred to breakout rooms, you need to accept by clicking on „JOIN NOW“
- Group work: **discuss** your thoughts and write them down
  - What are the strengths?
  - What are the weaknesses?

  5 = excellent, 0 = fails to address the criterion

- Come up with a **score** for this section

→ **plenary discussion**

Impact

Horizon 2020

- Enhancing the **future career prospects** of the researcher **after the fellowship**.
- Quality of the proposed **measures to exploit and disseminate the project results**.
- Quality of the proposed **measures to communicate the project activities** to different target audiences.

Horizon Europe

- Credibility of the measures to enhance the **career perspectives and employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development.
- Suitability and quality of the **measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the **dissemination and exploitation plan**, including **communication activities** (to be submitted towards the end of the project).
- The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**.

Horizon Europe: Impact

2.1 Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- **Expected** skill development of the researcher.
- **Expected** impact of the proposed research and training activities on the researcher's career perspectives inside and/or outside academia.

IMPORTANT

- ✓ Present the way in which the fellowship will contribute in the medium and long term to the development of your career.
- ✓ How the training received will help broaden – diversify your career and skillset.
- ✓ What's the next step in your career and what you will learn in the PF to get there.

Horizon Europe: Impact

2.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities (to be submitted towards the end of the project)

What are the audiences we are addressing our messages to?

- **Scientific Community**
- **Stakeholders**
- **Policy makers**
- **Final Users**
- **Industry…**

DISSEMINATION
EXPLOITATION
(papers at conferences, publications in journals, open data…)

- **General Public / Society**

COMMUNICATION
OUTREACH
(press articles, researchers´night, blogs and videos…)

Horizon Europe: Impact

2.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities (to be submitted towards the end of the project)

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Plan for the dissemination and exploitation activities, including communication activities: Describe the planned measures to maximize the impact of your project by providing a first version of your '**plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities'**. Describe the **dissemination, exploitation measures** that are planned, and the target group(s) addressed (e.g. scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large). Regarding **communication measures and public engagement strategy**, the aim is to inform and reach out to society and show the activities performed, and the use and the benefits the project will have for citizens. Activities must be strategically planned, with clear objectives, start at the outset and continue through the lifetime of the project. The description of the communication activities needs to state the main messages as well as the tools and channels that will be used to reach out to each of the chosen target groups. In case your proposal is selected for funding, a more detailed **Dissemination and Exploitation plan** will need to be provided as a mandatory project deliverable during project implementation
- Strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures: if relevant, discuss the strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures, such as patents, design rights, copyright, trade secrets, etc., and how these would be used to support exploitation.

Horizon Europe: Impact

2.3 The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts

- Provide a narrative explaining how the project's results are expected to make a difference in terms of impact, beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project. The narrative should include the components below, tailored to your project.
- Be specific, referring to the effects of your project, and not R&I in general in this field. State the target groups that would benefit.
- Expected scientific impact(s): e.g. contributing to specific scientific advances, across and within disciplines, creating new knowledge, reinforcing scientific equipment and instruments, computing systems (i.e. research infrastructures);
- Expected economic/technological impact(s): e.g. bringing new products, services, business processes to the market, increasing efficiency, decreasing costs, increasing profits, contributing to standards' setting, etc.
- Expected societal impact(s): e.g. decreasing CO2 emissions, decreasing avoidable mortality, improving policies and decision-making, raising consumer awareness.
- Only include such outcomes and impacts where your project would make a significant and direct contribution. Avoid describing very tenuous links to wider impacts.

Horizon Europe: Impact

2.3 The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts

- Give an indication of the magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts, should the project be successful. Provide **quantified estimates** where possible and meaningful. 'Magnitude' refers to how widespread the outcomes and impacts are likely to be. For example, in terms of the size of the **target group**, or the **proportion of that group**, that should benefit over time; 'Importance' refers to the **value of those benefits**. For example, number of additional healthy life years; efficiency savings in energy supply.

MSCA INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIP PROPOSAL:

QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION (20%)
Coherence and effectiveness of **the work plan,** including appropriateness of the allocation of **tasks and resources**
Appropriateness of the **management structure and procedures**, including risk management
Appropriateness of the **institutional environment** (infrastructure)

Your tasks

- Individual work: **read the Implementation Part** of the proposal
- You will be transferred to breakout rooms, you need to accept by clicking on „JOIN NOW“
- Group work: **discuss** your thoughts and write them down
  - What are the strengths?
  - What are the weaknesses?

  5 = excellent, 0 = fails to address the criterion
- Come up with a **score** for this section → **plenary discussion**

Implementation

Horizon 2020

- Coherence and effectiveness of the **work plan**, including appropriateness of the **allocation of tasks and resources**.
- Appropriateness of the **management structure** and procedures, including **risk management**.
- Appropriateness of the **institutional environment (infrastructure)**.

Horizon Europe

- Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of **risks** and appropriateness of the effort assigned to **work packages**.
- **Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations**, including **hosting arrangements**.

Horizon Europe: Implementation

3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Brief presentation of the overall structure of the work plan, including deliverables and milestones.
- Timing of the different work packages and their components;
- Mechanisms in place to assess and mitigate risks (of research and/or administrative nature).
- A Gantt chart must be included and should indicate the proposed Work Packages (WP), major deliverables, milestones, secondments, placements. This Gantt chart counts towards the 10-page limit.
- The schedule in the Gantt chart should indicate the number of months elapsed from the start of the action (Month 1).

Horizon Europe: Implementation

3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

IMPORTANT

✓2-4 research packages only, consistent with Excellence section

✓WP Management: meetings with supervisor / reports to EU at the end of the PF

✓ WP Training (and knowledge transfer): consistent with activities in Excellence section

✓ WP Dissemination/Exploitation and Communication/Public Engagement: consistent with Impact section

✓Remark possible risks for project objectives and concrete contingency plan and mitigation actions

✓ Adapt to project!

✓ Make sure it is readable when printed

✓ Careful with colours

✓ Ask your Host Institution for support

Horizon Europe: Implementation

3.2 Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- Hosting arrangements, including integration in the team/institution and support services available to the researcher.
- Quality and capacity of the participating organisations, including infrastructure, logistics and facilities should be outlined in Part B-2 Section 5 ("*Capacity of the Participating Organisations*").
- Note that for GF, both the quality and capacity of the outgoing Third Country host and the return host should be outlined.

IMPORTANT
✓ Work together with your colleagues from Project Office or Technology Transfer Office.
✓ Section Capacities of the participating organizations is evaluated here.

Mandatory deliverables

- **Mobility declaration** submitted within 20 days of the start of the research training activities and updated (if needed) via the Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool
- **Career development plan** of the recruited researcher, submitted at the beginning of the action (not later than 6 months after its start) and updated if needed throughout the project
- **Evaluation questionnaire** completed by the recruited researcher and submitted at the end of the research training activity; a **follow-up questionnaire** submitted two years later
- **Data management plan** submitted within the first 6 months of the project
- **Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results** submitted towards the end of the project

MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

EUROPEAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS		
STANDARD DURATION		From 12 to 24 months
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		
RESEARCHER	Nationality	Any
	Mobility	The researcher **cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity** (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary **for more than 12 months in the 36 months** immediately prior to the call deadline.
	Research experience (full-time equivalent)	**Maximum 8 years from date of award of the (first) doctoral degree.** This limit can be extended (in days) for the following reasons: – **Maternity leave** (18 months – i.e. 548 days) per child born after the PhD award date, or the exact duration of leave taken, whichever is longest); – **Paternity leave** (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date); – **Research in a non-associated TC** (only for nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC, wishing to reintegrate in Europe); – **Compulsory national service**; – **Time spent not working in research** (also applies to part-time contracts); – **Long-term sick leave** (periods > 30 days).
PARTICIPATING ORGANISATION	Beneficiary	Single independent legal entity established in an EU MS or HE AC.

GLOBAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS		
STANDARD DURATION		From 24 to 36 months: • Outgoing phase of minimum 12 and maximum 24 months in a non-associated Third Country; • Mandatory 12-month return phase in MS / AC.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		
RESEARCHER	Nationality	Nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC.
	Mobility	The researcher **cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity** (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase **for more than 12 months in the 36 months** immediately before the call deadline.
	Research experience (full-time equivalent)	**Maximum 8 years from date of award of the (first) doctoral degree**. This limit can be extended (in days) for the following reasons: – **Maternity leave** (18 months – i.e. 548 days) per child born after the PhD award date, or the exact duration of leave taken, whichever is longest); – **Paternity leave** (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date); – **Compulsory national service**; – **Time spent not working in research** (also applies to part-time contracts); – **Long term sick leave** (periods > 30 days)
PARTICIPATING ORGANISATION	Beneficiary	Single independent legal entity established in MS or AC.
	Associated partner hosting the outgoing phase	Single independent legal entity established in a non-associated Third Country.

Source: Guide for Applicants

SECONDMENTS

	Secondment	Non-Academic Placement
Maximum Duration	European Postdoctoral Fellowships: **Up to 1/3 of the normal project duration**. Global Postdoctoral Fellowships: Optional secondments are permitted for **up to 1/3 of the outgoing phase**.	**Up to 6 months duration**.
Timing	European Postdoctoral Fellowships: At any time during the standard project duration. Global Postdoctoral Fellowships: Optional secondments cannot take place during the mandatory 12 month return period to the host organisation in a MS or AC. They may take place at the start of the outgoing phase (up to three months, to be included within the 1/3 maximum duration). Note that all optional secondments can be divided into several shorter periods.	Additional period after the standard duration of the fellowship.
Mobility	**Any country worldwide**	**MS or AC**
Sector	Any sector	Non-academic sector only
Encoding in Part A	Yes. In "Call Specific Questions" complete all required information.	Yes. The associated partner must be encoded as a participating organisation.
Description in Part B-1	Yes. The relevance and quality will be assessed by the evaluators.	Yes. The relevance and quality will be assessed by the evaluators.
Supporting Document in Part B-2	None.	Yes. A **letter of commitment** is required.

Source: Guide for Applicants

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

- **ERA Fellowships in Widening countries** (Widening Fellowships under H2020)
- **„MSCA PF CZ“ Calls** (Operational Programme John Amos Comenius, MEYS) to be continued under HE
- **Gender Equality Plans:**
  - Transition/grace period before full enforcement for calls with deadlines in 2022
  - At first proposal submission stage, a self-declaration will be requested through a dedicated questionnaire
  - An organisation may not yet have a GEP at proposal submission stage, but it must have a GEP in place at the time of the Grant Agreement signature

Ethical aspects

- Applicants should demonstrate proactively that they are aware of and will comply with European and national legislation and fundamental **ethical principles**
- Clearly identify potential ethical issues in the proposal and detail how these will be addressed!
- **Ethics Issues Table in Part A** → if ethical issue is flagged, **Ethics self-assessment** is necessary **in Part B**

  - Human embryonic stem cells and human embryos
  - Humans
  - Human cells or tissues
  - Personal data
  - Animals
  - Non-EU countries
  - Environment, health and safety
  - Artificial intelligence
  - Other Ethics Issues
  - Crosscutting issue: potential misuse of results

- Contact Eva Hillerová hillerova@tc.cz

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Read all the documents you need to read
- Check your **eligibility criteria.** Remember: annual calls!
- Talk to your **host institution and your supervisor:** preparing a good PF proposal needs time and dedication
- It is about **research, training and career development**, not just an individual research project
- Bottom up yes, but keep in mind **the goals of the EC**
- **Re-submissions**: evaluators will not know until after the evaluation has been done:
  - Is it not only about improving the weaknesses
  - Check the state of the art and if your project /approach / methodology is still innovative
- **Perseverance:** maybe not the 1st time…..but you don´t lose, you learn!

Institutional support to MSCA applicants

- Close cooperation with your supervisor
- Contact your future host institution in time to get the consent
  - Implementation criterion
  - Capacities of participating institutions
  - Letter of commitment
- Your current institution might be also willing to help
- Before sending us your proposal for pre-creening, use the support at institutional level

USEFUL LINKS

- Webpage of the Call MSCA-PF-2021
- Work Programme 2021-2022
- Guide for Applicants (types of projects, eligibility criteria etc.)
- Project proposal – Technical description (guidelines on Award criteria)
- Information day on MSCA PF held 21 May (presentations and recording)
- National Portal Horizon Europe
- Marie Curie Actions Website (European Commission)
- Research Executive Agency (responsible for management of MSCA)
- CORDIS (funded projects)
- Net4Mobility+ (MSCA NCP project)
  - Net4Mobility+ Handbook (Call MSCA-IF-2020)
- Euraxess Portal (vacancies, COFUND Programmes)
- Research Enquiry Service (questions)
- MSCA Green Charter
- Guidelines on Supervision
- MSCA newsletter: Subscribe

15 September 2021:

- Deadline for sending MSCA PF proposals for pre-screening to capkova@tc.cz
- We accept only complete version of your proposals!

QUESTIONS?

SOURCES: European Commission, Net4Mobility+

Many thanks to all MSCA fellows and evaluators who work with us!
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Good luck with your proposal.

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