

Writing research grant proposals

Ana Marušić

University of Split School of Medicine

Overview

13:30 - 15:30

- Mad Minutes: 2-minute presentation of individual project ideas or 5-minute presentation of group project ideas
- Elements of research grant proposals (examples: MSCA Fellowships and ERC Starting Grants)
- Writing a one-page project proposal

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 - 18:00

- Writing a one-page project proposal (continued)
- Evaluation of project proposals
- Ethics requirements for project proposals

Overview

Mad Minutes

2-minute presentation of individual project ideas or
5-minute presentation of group project ideas

Tell us:

- What is your idea?
- What makes it new/important?
- What change will it bring?

Example: MSCA Fellowships

- A concrete plan of raining-through research for 12 – 24 months at the host organisation's premises under the direct supervision of the supervisor

- **Part B1**

- Start Page 1 whole page
- Table of Contents 1 whole page
- List of Participating Organisations 1 whole page
- Section 1: Excellence (starts on page 4)
- Section 2 : Impact
- Section 3 : Implementation



Max 10 pages

Example: MSCA Fellowships

Part B2

- Section 4: CV of the experienced researcher 5 pages MAX.
- Section 5: Capacities of the participating organisations 1 page / participating organisation.
- Section 6: Ethical aspects
- Section 7: Letter of commitment of the partner organisation (for GF only)

Example: MSCA Fellowships

Part B1 Section 1 – Excellence

- **Quality and credibility of the research/innovation action**
 - **State of the art, objectives, overview**
 - **Research methodology and approach**
 - **Originality and innovation**
 - **Gender dimension (if relevant)**
 - **Interdisciplinary aspects (if relevant)**
- **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**
- **Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence**

Example: MSCA Fellowships

Part B1 Section 2 – **Impact**

- **Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher**
- **Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the action results**
- **Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the action activities to different target audiences**

Example: MSCA Fellowships

Part B1 Section 3 – **Implementation**

- **Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan**
 - **Work Packages titles**
 - **List of major deliverables, if applicable**
 - **List of major milestones, if applicable**
 - **Secondments, if applicable**
- **Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources**
- **Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management**
- **Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)**

Example: MSCA Fellowships

A **deliverable** is a distinct output of the action, meaningful in terms of the action's overall objectives and may be a report, a document, a technical diagram, a software, etc.

Milestones are control points in the action that help to chart progress. Milestones may correspond to the completion of a key deliverable, allowing the next phase of the work to begin. They may also be needed at intermediary points so that, if problems have arisen, corrective measures can be taken. A milestone may be a critical decision point in the action where, for example, the researcher must decide which of several technologies to adopt for further development.

Example: MSCA Fellowships

Evaluation

<u>IF - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships</u>		
Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects	Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan
Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results	Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution	Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management
Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence		Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
50%	30%	20%
Weighing		
1	2	3
Priority in case of <i>ex aequo</i>		
NB: An overall threshold of 70% will be applied to the total weighted score.		

Example: MSCA Fellowships

Evaluation: 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.

Example: ERC

- The administrative form (Part A);
- The research proposal (Parts B1 and B2);
- Supporting documentation (PhD certificate, HI support letter, and any documentation needed on eligibility and ethics issues).
- **Part B1**
 - Cover page and proposal summary
 - Extended synopsis (5 pages)
 - CV (2 pages)
 - Track record (2pages)
- **Part B2 – Research proposal (15 pages)**
 - State of the art and objectives
 - Methodology
 - Resources (including project costs)
 - Ethical and security sensitive issues

Example: ERC

General advice – what to consider

- Have a clear vision and language (the proposal will be reviewed by generalists and specialists – they have to understand your proposal)
- Be enthusiastic and ambitious (not spin, but an engaging story)
- Start with basic information (for the generalist) and then go into details (for the specialist)
- Practical note – write part B2 first
- Mention the contribution of proposed research to EU policy objectives (currently H2020)
- Catchy acronym

Example: ERC

- **Hereditary cancer is an important cause of morbidity and mortality and over the last 20 years the majority of highly penetrant risk alleles such as xxx in breast cancer and xxx in colon cancer have been identified.** However, there are many men and women who have a strong family history of cancer for whom we cannot provide answers because no mutation is found in known genes
- *To overcome these challenges, we will focus on hereditary breast cancer (HBC) **and apply an innovative genome-wide approach** which combines exome sequencing technology (EST) with a highly sensitive platform that measures allele specific expression (ASE).*
- ***The current project takes a novel approach**, arguing that the economic newsroom should be studied as a knowledge site.*
- *Paleomagnetism has played a pivotal role in developing our modern understanding of the Earth, and remains one of the primary tools used to study the structure and dynamics of the Earth and other planets..... Adopting **cutting-edge techniques from physics and materials science** ...*
- *Some of the most interesting and controversial periods of Earth's history occur far beyond the current limits of our confidence in the paleomagnetic signals used to study them. xxx **will solve this problem by***

Example: ERC

Evaluation

- Intellectual capacity and creativity (Excellence)
 - Demonstrating the ability to propose and conduct a ground-breaking research
 - Providing evidence of creative independent thinking
 - Achievements typically beyond the state of the art
- Commitment
 - Demonstrating the necessary level of commitment to the project execution and willingness to de

Ground- breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of the project!

- Potential impact of the project (Impact)
 - Addresses important challenges and is high-risk/high-gain
 - Objectives are ambitious and beyond state of the art (novel concepts and approaches or development across disciplines)
- Scientific approach (Implementation)
 - Project feasible, methodology appropriate
 - Development of novel methodology
 - Timescales and resources necessary and properly justified

Fully agree

Agree partially

Disagree partially

Strongly disagree

Questions?



The research grant application process.

Your task

Write a one-page project proposal

- Title
- Aim and objectives
- Methodological approach and research plan
 - At least 2 workpackages
 - At least 1 milestone
 - At least 2 deliverable
- Impact

Your task

- 0
- 1- Poor
- 2- Fair
- 3- Good
- 4- Very Good
- 5- Excellent

Evaluate a proposal

- Excellence
 - Clarity and pertinence of the proposal to meet all key objectives of the topic
 - Credibility of the proposed approach
 - Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations, where relevant
- Impact
 - Contribution to existing knowledge
- Implementation
 - Coherence and effectiveness of the project work plan