ITN

Innovative Training Networks Call 2015

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NCP & ND
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

During webinar please email queries to
mariecurie@iua.ie

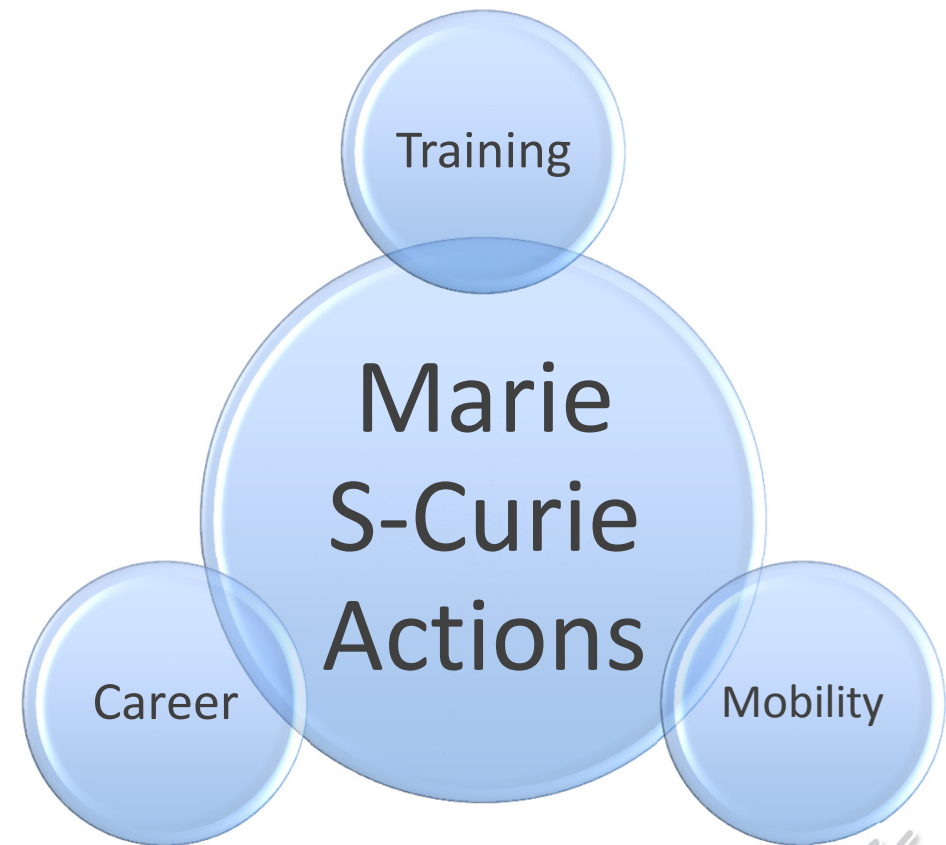Presentation and Q&A report will be available online

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions in Horizon 2020:

€6.2 billion budget

Funds **ALL RESEARCH AREAS** ("Bottom up" with no thematic calls or priorities)

Implemented via Annual Calls for Proposals

Training

Marie S-Curie Actions

Career

Mobility

ITN: Innovative Training Networks

Quality of Research Training

- Objective: to train a new generation of **creative**, **entrepreneurial** and **innovative** researchers
- A Research Training Programme for Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs)
  - Less than 4 years' research experience after undergrad
- **Mobility Rule** To be eligible to join a MSCA ITN a researcher cannot have resided in the country of host organisation for > 12 months in the last 3 years prior to the recruitment/Call deadline.
  - No nationality/citizenship requirements

Two types of Sector

Academic <-> Non-Academic

- **Academic:** consists of public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations whose primary mission is to pursue research, and international European interest organisations

- **Non-Academic:** includes any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

  e.g. Industry (incl. SMEs), charities, NGOs, government/public bodies, national archives, libraries…………

A Typical ITN

- Consortium of organisations from different countries and **sectors**
    1. **Beneficiaries**: recruit researchers
    2. **Partner Organisations**: host secondments/provide training
- Propose a joint research programme
- Recruit researchers across the consortium– each researcher has an Individual Research Project
- Advanced **research** skills and **transferable** skills training
- Networking events
- Secondments for each researcher **to another sector** (academic to non-academic, or vice-versa)

3 ITN Modes

European Industrial Doctorate (EID)	European Joint Doctorate (EJD)	European Training Network (ETN)

Duration 48 Months

Min.

2 beneficiaries 2 countries 2 sectors	3 degree-awarding beneficiaries 3 countries	3 beneficiaries 3 countries

Partner Organisations from any sector (no min or max)

ESRs funded 3 to 36 months

5 ESRs* / 15 ESRs	15 ESRs

PhD (50% of time in non-academic sector)	Joint or Double PhD	No educational degree reqd. (PhD typical)

* For a two-beneficiary project

Consortium Tips and Pitfalls

- No maximum consortium size – **6 to 10** beneficiaries is considered manageable

- Must have non-academic sector participating (beneficiaries)

- Ok to have more than one partner from same country **but** no more than **40%** of the budget can go to one country

- ESRs must be recruited by a named beneficiary
  - One Irish organisation cannot participate "on behalf" of other members of a Centre/Cluster and recruit the ESRs across the members of the Centre/Cluster
  - All members of the Centre/Cluster must be Beneficiaries

- Ok to include many non-European countries as beneficiaries or partner orgs – but "high income" countries (e.g. US) are better off applying as **Partner Organisations**.

2014 Success Rates

Coordinator	ETN	EJD	EID	ALL
IE Success Rate	18.5%	n/a	0.0%	17.9%
EU Success Rate	9.4%	15.4%	18.8%	10.5%
2013 ITN Call IE	13.6%	n/a	0.0%	7.5%

Partner	ETN	EJD	EID	ALL
IE Success Rate	10.2%	0%	27.3%	11.4%
EU Success Rate	10.2%	15.8%	23.6%	10.8%
2013 ITN Call IE	18.4%	n/a	33%	18.9%

Cut off scores for funding typically 93 marks out of 100 (mid-80s for EJD/EID)
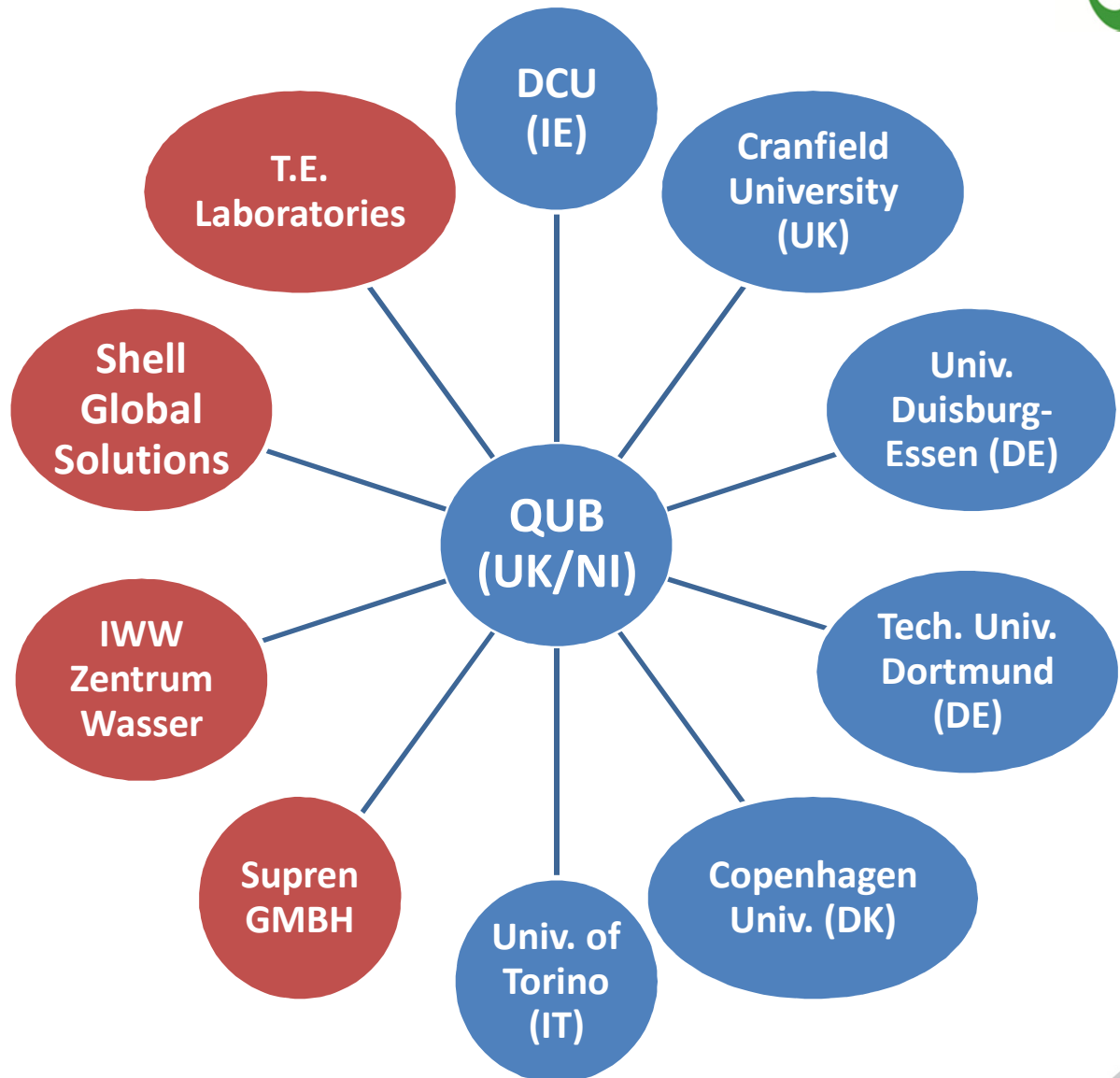
ITN 2014 Funded ETN Project:

REMEDIATE – "Improved decision-making in contaminated land site investigation and risk assessment

€3.9 million

13 Partner Organisations (1 each from US and CA)

IRISH UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION

DCU (IE)

T.E. Laboratories

Cranfield University (UK)

Shell Global Solutions

Univ. Duisburg-Essen (DE)

QUB (UK/NI)

IWW Zentrum Wasser

Tech. Univ. Dortmund (DE)

Supren GMBH
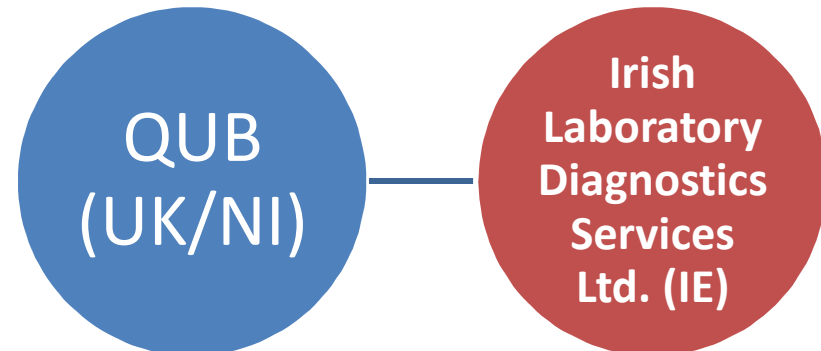
Univ. of Torino (IT)

Copenhagen Univ. (DK)

ITN 2014
Funded EID Project:

MET-A-FOR – "Metabolomic analysis for the forensic detection of drugs of abuse in performance and food producing animals "

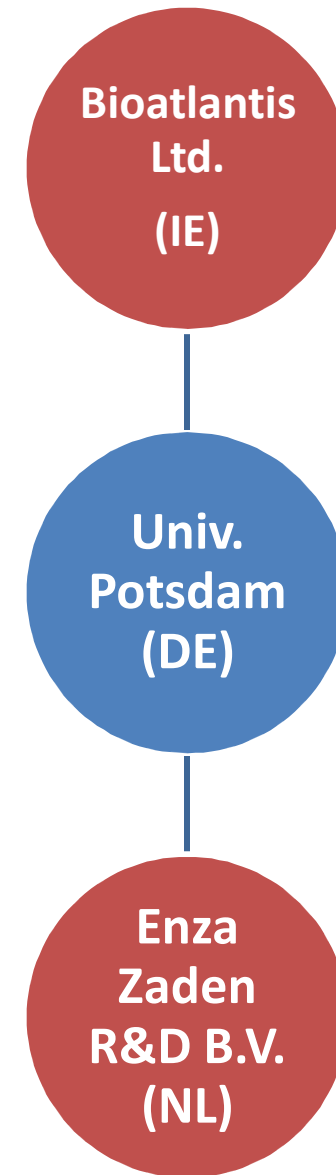# €820k

No Partner Organisations

QUB (UK/NI)

Irish Laboratory Diagnostics Services Ltd. (IE)

ITN 2014
Funded <u>EID</u> Project:

CropStrengthen– "Genetic and molecular priming approaches to increase crop strength and stress tolerance"

€1.3 million

No Partner Organisations

Bioatlantis Ltd. (IE)

Univ. Potsdam (DE)

Enza Zaden R&D B.V. (NL)

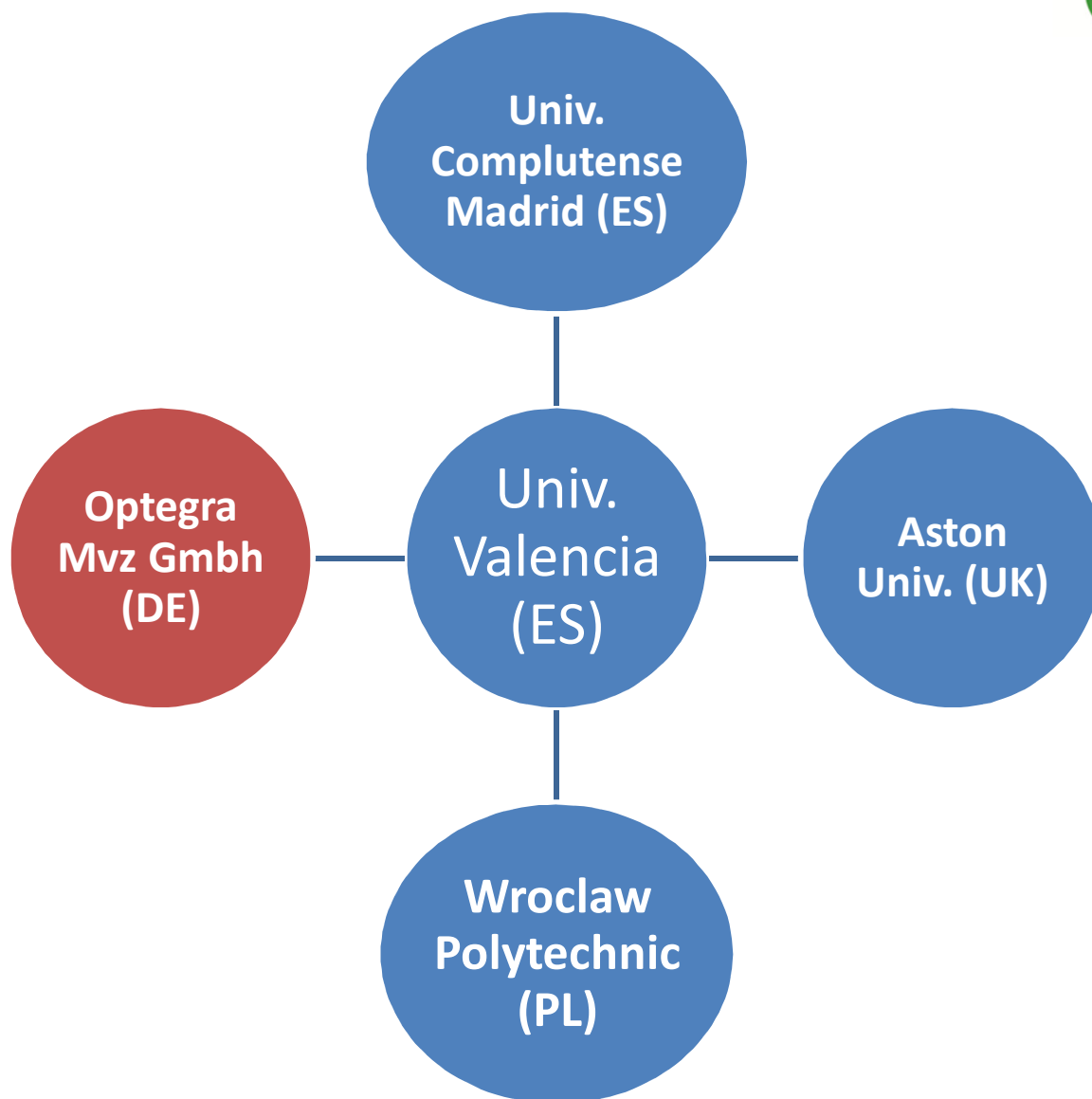**All successful 3-Beneficiary EIDs involved 3 different countries**

ITN 2014
Funded <u>EJD</u> Project:

EDEN – "European Dry Eye Network"

€2.5 million

3 Partner Organisations (incl. Bausch and Lomb)

Univ. Complutense Madrid (ES)

Optegra Mvz Gmbh (DE)

Univ. Valencia (ES)

Aston Univ. (UK)

Wroclaw Polytechnic (PL)

Writing an Application:
The Basics

Preparing to Write

- Download the call documents from the Participant Portal*
  - 2014/2015 MSCA Work Programme
  - Guide for Applicants

- Read them from cover to cover!
  - Evaluation Criteria
  - Overall objective of the Action (Opening pages of GfA and Work Programme)

Preparing to Submit

- E-submission using Submission & Evaluation of Proposals Service (SEP)
- Register with SEP for the correct ITN Mode (ETN/EJD/EID)*
  - Download Proposal Template
- **Must** have the Participant Identification Code (PIC) for your organisation
  - Use Search Facility or ask your research office
  - Organisation can apply for PIC (temporary one issued to allow submission)
  - Get PIC validated ASAP after submission!
- SME beneficiaries should do the financial viability self-check**
- The deadline is 17:00 **Brussels time**!

* http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html
** http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html

Proposal Content

Administrative Forms

Part B (Proposal)

Part B - Proposal Content

1. Excellence
2. Impact
3. Implementation

Overall page limit of 30 pages
No section page limits

4. Gantt Chart
5. Capacities of the Participating Organisations (tables)
6. Ethical Aspects
7. Letters of Commitment

Evaluation of your Application

Evaluation Panels

- Chemistry (CHE)
- Physics (PHY)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- ICT and Engineering (ENG)
- Social Sciences & Humanities (SOC)
- Earth & Environmental Sciences (ENV)

Proposals are read by at least 3 disciplinary experts

ETN – proposals are ranked by Panel, e.g. CHE, and the distribution of awards across Panels is proportional to # of proposals received

EID and EJD – final ranking in separate EID and EJD panels

Indicative Call Timetable

Activity	Date
Publication of Call	2-Sep-2014
Deadline	13-Jan-2015
Evaluation of Proposals	March 2015
Evaluation Outcome	June 2015
Signing of Grant Agreements	September 2015

Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Weighting	Priority (ex-aequo)
Excellence	50%	1
Impact	30%	2
Implementation	20%	3

Overall threshold of 70%
No individual thresholds

Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Implementation (20%)
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the **research programme** (including inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)	Enhancing research- and innovation-related **human resources**, skills, and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide **new career perspectives**	Overall coherence and effectiveness of the **work plan**, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources (including awarding of the doctoral degrees for EID and EJD projects)
Quality and innovative aspects of the **training programme** (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)	Contribution to **structuring doctoral / early-stage research training** at the European level and to strengthening European **innovation capacity**, including the potential for: a) meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral/research training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field b) developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures (for EJD projects only)	Appropriateness of the **management structures** and procedures, including quality management and risk management (with a mandatory joint governing structure for EID and EJD projects)
Quality of the **supervision** (including mandatory joint supervision for EID and EJD projects)	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for **communication** and **dissemination** of results	Appropriateness of the **infrastructure** of the participating organisations
Quality of the proposed **interaction** between the participating organisations		**Competences**, **experience** and **complementarity** of the participating organisations and their **commitment** to the programme

The "Charter and Code" and Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R)

Embedded in Evaluation Criteria for all MSCA

- **Charter**: researchers' career management

- **Code**: open and transparent recruitment and appraisal

HRS4R: mainstreaming **C&C** in institutions

- Awarded the right to use "HR Logo"

- In UCD, UL, NUIG, WIT and UCC are awardees (to-date).

- If applicable, should be included in proposal

Writing an Application: Getting the Impact Right

Expected impact of ITN 2014-2015

- Creating and contributing to high-quality **innovative research and doctoral training**, building capacity, having a **structuring effect** throughout Europe and beyond.

- Triggering **cooperation** between organisations from the **academic** and **non-academic** sectors via research training provided by institutions from different **countries**, **sectors** and **disciplines**.

- Enhancing **skills development** and knowledge-sharing, researchers' **employability** and providing them with **new career perspectives**.

- Shaping future generations of **entrepreneurial researchers** capable of contributing effectively to the knowledge-based **economy** and **society**.

- In the long term, raising the attractiveness of **research careers** and encouraging young people to embark on this career path.

What's the Impact of your ITN?

Example: *"Delivering a research training programme to train a new generation of researchers in the fields of X and Y, which are important to European economy and society. Researchers will be equipped with key research and complementary skills, and will have the opportunity to work across disciplines, countries and sectors, broadening their career perspectives."*

In order achieve this impact……

Consortium and Complementarity

Which participants (Beneficiaries and Partner Organisations) do you need? How will you harness the competencies and complementarities of these participants?

Research Programme

How do you shape the research programme?

Training Programme

How do you shape your training programme?

Supervision

How will you ensure the researchers are properly supported?

Dissemination, Exploitation and Public Engagement

How will you disseminate and exploit the results from the programme? How will you explain the outcomes to the general public?

Implementation

How will you manage the programme?

Tips and Tricks!

Common weaknesses document available for download after webinar on same webpage

Proposal Template Changes/Updates

"Summary" section has been removed
- Still worthwhile to put a one-paragraph summary of proposal at start of Excellence section (within the page limits)

1.1 Research Programme
- Mandatory division of project into Work Packages

1.3 Supervision
- Required sub-heading "non-academic contribution to the supervision" removed – still need to include this information

3.1 Work-plan
- Division of Deliverables table into "Scientific" and "Management, Training, Recruitment and Dissemination" Deliverables

3.3 and 3.4
- Improved explanatory text – now much clearer

General Comments

- Use a self-explanatory title and a memorable acronym
- Use the proposal template:
  - It matches the evaluation criteria and helps you to put the right information in the right place for the evaluators to find it.
  - Some evaluators use a "checklist" approach to marking – if the information is not in the correct section, they will give you "zero" for that sub-criterion.
- "A picture is worth a thousand words"
  - Use Diagrams, Charts, Tables or Figures where possible - easy to evaluate
- Be aware of the overall weighting of each criterion
  - You need to score well in all sections in order to be funded – don't spend all your time writing the Excellence section!
  - Address all the sub-criteria equally

Abstract (Admin forms)

Provided to evaluators to help them choose the proposals they will evaluate

- Be concise
- Reflect the whole proposal including proposed impact
- Identify precise & concrete objectives for the whole proposal, not just the research
- But....provide enough technical/research information to help an evaluator with knowledge of the field to select it

Layout of Proposal

Not evaluated but it makes life easier for the evaluators

Template

- Use the Correct Template
- Use the Template sub-headings (provides good structure)
- Provide a Table of Contents with page numbers
- Use the Full Page Limit
- Put the proposal acronym in the Header
- Put Page Numbers (format Page X of Y) in the Footer

Format

- Use charts, diagrams, tables, text boxes, figures.
- Use appropriate font size, line spacing, page margins
- Ensure any colour diagrams etc. are understandable when printed in black and white
- Use highlighting where appropriate (bold, underline, italics) but don't overdo it!

Language

- Avoid jargon
- Explain any abbreviations
- Simple clear text
- Avoid long sentences
- Get rid of repetitions (refer to other parts of proposal if necessary)
- Don't copy text from other documents or websites
- Be consistent with language (UK/US English)

1.1 Quality of research programme

- Educate the Evaluator
  - Majority of evaluators will not be expert in the specific subject area so….write in a style that is **accessible to the non-expert** using figures/tables/charts/diagrams to illustrate where appropriate
- Research objectives
  - Make them clear, focused and up front
  - Relate them to the state-of-the-art and make sure the 'state of the art' is up to date
  - Include a list of bibliographic references (**in footnotes**)
- Don't ignore gendered innovations

1.1 Quality of research programme

- Provide a clear, focused, **detailed** description of the research methodology
  - What techniques, methods, assays, instrumentation will be used in addressing the research objectives
- Highlight originality and innovative aspects of the proposal
  - In terms of the research, but also in terms of existing research/doctoral training programmes
  - **Why does Europe need an ITN in this research area?**
  - Check for similar ITNs – need to differentiate yours
  - Use a list, table, text box etc. to make them stand out

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/advanced_en

1.2 Quality of the Training Programme

- Spell out the training objectives – remember to explain why this programme is innovative

- Need a good balance of individual training and network-wide training events:
  - Acquisition of advanced research skills, and transferable/complimentary skills must be demonstrated
  - Use of Personal Career Development Plan is required
  - Open up some network events to attendees from outside the Network
  - Explain how any graduate studies programme in the hosts ("local training") will be incorporated into the training

- Secondments: every researcher must get at least one secondment of reasonable duration (>3 months) in another sector (academic to non-academic, or vice-versa)

- Clearly articulate the role of the non-academic sector in the training (both Beneficiaries and Partner Organisations)

1.3 Quality of the supervision

- Clearly demonstrate, with hard evidence, the quality of the research supervisor(s)/institution(s) with regard to the training of researchers
  - Include number of PhDs graduated, numbers of postdocs mentored, and where they are now
- Spell-out the joint supervision arrangements, particularly for EJD and EID
- Each researcher should have a non-academic co-supervisor

2.1: Research HR and new career perspectives

In all sections, be specific: provide details of how the impact will be achieved.

- Explain the impact of the research and training on the fellow's careers, e.g.
    - Research skills, transferable skills gained
    - Exposure to non-academic sector
- Look to EU policies on research which refer to training/careers for researchers
    - Summarised in **ITN Research Policy Brief** document – available after webinar from same webpage
- Don't simply cut and paste from EU docs or "pay lip service" by naming them in the document – present an analysis of how the ITN fits in with their objectives

2.2: Structuring research training and EU Innovation Capacity

- Spell-out the contribution of the non-academic sector to the research training and the impact it will have
  - Refer to EU policies again
- For EJD – you need to articulate how the programme will contribute to developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures
  - E.g. Salzburg II principles - EUA Council for Doctoral Education http://www.eua.be/cde/Home.aspx
- Innovation capacity – refer to the impact of the research – link to Innovation Union objectives, research roadmaps, European Standardisation,……
- Does your programme build on existing ITNs?

2.3: Communication and Dissemination

- Dissemination & Exploitation
  - Ensure you target multiple audiences, e.g. other researchers, policy makers (can link to European excellence), industry, government science advisors, "think tanks", legislative bodies…..
  - Outline impact of plans to exploit any IP arising from the programme
- Public Engagement
  - Do not underestimate its importance – see Guidelines doc at http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/documents/documentation/publications/guidelines_en.pdf for details.
  - Include specifics (**what – who – when**) in a readable format (e.g. table)
  - Target different groups (students at all education levels and the general public) – participation in a **European Researchers' Night**

Remember to explain the Impact of these activities

3.1: Workplan

- Must have a clear work plan

- Use the standard tables provided, which use the standard EU format of Work Packages, deliverables and milestones – be clear and concise

- Must complete the required Gantt Chart to illustrate timelines

- Don't just have research Work Packages, include, e.g.:

  - Management

  - Training

  - Dissemination, Exploitation and Public Engagement

  - For EJD and EID, **must include** plans for awarding the PhDs

3.2: Management Structure & Procedures

- Must have a clear management plan, to explain who will do what and when. Tasks include:
    - Recruitment (must be open and transparent – link to Charter & Code)
    - Supervisory board – all Beneficiaries must be represented. Good to have external members
    - Management of risk in the consortium (research and project management risks)
    - Gender aspects – decision making, and recruitment
    - IPR
    - Quality management was a focus during 2014 Evaluation
- You can use a **PERT chart** to illustrate who will be responsible for what - templates available at http://www.hyperion.ie/templates.htm

3.3: Infrastructure

Who is doing what, and do they have the necessary infrastructure to do it?

- Infrastructures: technical and other such as office space, access to library and IT facilities etc.

- Include info. on which institutional departments will help with managing the programme (Finance, HR etc.) and what their experience is (could go in section 3.2 instead, either is appropriate)

- Have the organisations endorsed the **Charter & Code** – if yes, say so!
  - List at http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/charterAndCode

- Have the organisations earned the **"HR Excellence in Research"** logo? If yes, say so!
  - List at http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/strategy4ResearcherOrgs

  But….don't assume that evaluator knows what this means. Explain it to them.

EURAXESS

- 'One-stop-shop' centralised support on issues related to mobility, incl. immigration
- Linked to central EU EURAXESS Site
- Website in each European Country (and beyond)
- Jobs Portal
- CV Database
- Most Irish HEIs are **EURAXESS Local Contact Points** (list on website) – mention this in the proposal

www.euraxess.eu   www.euraxess.ie

3.4: Competences, Complementarity, Commitment

- Clearly explain the complementarities between **all participants** and how these will be exploited (use a diagram or table)

- If you have a Beneficiary from a country who cannot automatically get funding from Horizon 2020, need to explain why they are necessary

- Particularly important to show the commitment of the non-academic sector to the programme

- For Partner Organisations, ensure that the content of their Letter of Commitment matches their stated tasks in the programme

6: Ethics Issues

- All proposals will be checked for ethics issues
- A separate Ethics Review will be performed if necessary
- Ethics Table is in the Administrative Forms
- If you indicate Ethics Issues in the Table:
  - Clearly describe how Ethical Issues will be managed
  - How does the proposal meet national legal and ethical requirements of the host country?
  - Who will oversee the project's ethical aspects? E.g. institutional ethics committee, Data Protection Officer
  - Provide sample consent forms etc.
  - There is no page limit, so provide as much relevant information as possible

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf

7. Letters of Commitment

For Partner Organisations

- Content is important
- Generic letters are not useful
- Must contain specifics about role and participation of Partner Organisations (tasks allocated) and their commitment to do so

In EJD, must include Letters from the academic beneficiaries that will award the doctoral degrees (signed by a high-level person)

Gender

- Gender Equality and Gendered Innovations are mainstreamed throughout Horizon 2020

- Gender experts on every Evaluation Panel

- In your proposal, describe
  - Gender equality in decision making, recruitment, supervisory arrangements
  - Any gender aspects in relation to the research e.g. cardiovascular research, crash-test dummies

- Ireland has joined up to Athena SWAN Charter
  - http://www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charter-marks/athena-swan/

ITN 2015 Supports

- ITN Policy Brief
- Analysis of weaknesses in Irish proposals in 2014 Call

Available at http://www.iua.ie/webinar-for-itn-proposal-writing/ a few days after the webinar

Want details of the other MSCA?

Visit www.iua.ie/mariecurie

Download the Work Programme (2014 and 2015) and Call Documentation at
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html

Questions?

Please email your queries to
mariecurie@iua.ie

All material will be made available for download afterwards

Join our Linkedin Group
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Office Ireland

Watch video testimonials on YouTube Channel 'MarieCurieActionsIre'

Deadlines 2015

CALL	Opening Date	Closing Date
ITN-2015	2-Sep-2014	13-Jan-2015
RISE-2015	6-Jan-2015	28-Apr-2015
IF-2015	12-Mar-2015	10-Sep-2015
COFUND-2015	14-Apr-2015	1-Oct-2015

Download the Work Programme and Call Documentation at
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html

Work Programme covers Calls in 2014 and 2015

Funding Model

Categories of eligible costs	Costs of researchers (1) PER MONTH				Institutional costs (2) PER MONTH	
Marie Skłodowska-Curie action	Living allowance (a)	Mobility allowance (b)	Family allowance (c)	Top-up allowance (d)	Research, training and networking costs (a)	Management and indirect costs (b)
ITN (100%)	3 110	600	500	--	1 800	1 200

Rates for LA, MA & FA are inclusive of employer's costs (PRSI, pension)
All ESRs are employees of their host and receive a salary

Stage	Gross Salary (without family)	Gross Salary (with family)
ESR	€39,000 p.a.	€44,000 p.a.

Administrative Forms

- Prepared electronically within SEP system

Form	Title	Content
Section 1	General Information about the Proposal	e.g. Acronym, Title, Selection of Evaluation Panel, Project Duration………
Section 2	Data on Participating Organisations	e.g. PIC, legal name, contact details, name of *person-in-charge at the host organisation*
Section 3	Budget	Request for funding in terms of researcher months
Section 4	Ethics Table	Yes/No answers to series of questions re. ethical issues
Section 5	Information on Partner Organisations	Name, PIC, Country, Academic/Non-Academic, Role: Training and/or secondments