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MSCA-PF Workshop 2026

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Workshop agenda

4th June 9:00-14:30/15:00

- **Introduction** - Overview of the MSCA-PF proposal structure and evaluation logic
- **Excellence – Research Aspects**
 - Overall concept and framing of the project
 - How to clearly articulate research objectives
 - Developing a credible and coherent methodology
 - How to write a strong and engaging abstract
- **Excellence – Training Aspects**
 - Presenting the supervisor and supervisory system effectively
 - Defining and aligning professional goals
 - Identifying training needs and formulating training objectives

5th June 9:00-14:00

- **Impact** - How to identify and articulate meaningful impact pathways
- **Implementation** – How to design a credible and realistic work plan, structuring WPs, deliverables, and milestones

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INTRODUCTION

MSCA-PF grant application

Part B1 – uploaded as PDF (max. 10 pages):

- proposed research and training activities in three sections. Excellence, Impact, Implementation.

Part B2 – uploaded as PDF (no page limit):

- CV of the researcher,
- Capacity of the participating organization(s),
- Additional information on ethics,
- Security screening
- Environmental considerations - the MSCA Green Charter
- Letter of commitment from the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase in case of Global Fellowships

Part A - online admin. form:

- General information about the project (panels, key words, title, duration, abstract etc.)
- Contact details to PI and HI
- Budget table and justification (max. 8000 characters)
- Ethics and security
- Other call-related questions

Part B1 structure

EXCELLENCE

R&I OBJECTIVES

Are they clearly defined, verifiable and measurable and of high quality?
How far they go beyond the state of the art?
Are they ambitious but achievable?

METHODOLOGY

Is methodology coherent and UpToDate?
Does it enable to deliver project's objectives?
Does it integrate interdisciplinary approaches?
Does it consider gender dimension and other diversity aspects?
Does it apply principles of open science?

TRAINING & SUPERVISION

What is the quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host?

PROFESSIONAL MATURITY

Are the researcher's experiences and skills appropriate and sufficient for the project?

IMPACT

CAREER PERSPECTIVES

How will the project enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher
How will the project contribute to researcher's skills development?

IMPACT OF PROJECT'S OUTCOMES

What are the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts?
How do plan to disseminate your research and exploit its outcomes?
How will you communicate the project's aims, progress and results to various target groups?

OVERALL PROJECT'S IMPACT

How will the project contribute to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts?

IMPLEMENTATION

WORKPLAN AND FEASIBILITY

What the overall structure of the workplan, incl. Deliverables and milestones?
Is the workplan efficiently organized into workpackages?
Is the timing of WPs and their components appropriate and indicated in the Gantt chart?
Does the proposal identify risks and considers mitigation plans?

CAPACITY OF THE HOST INSTITUTION

Are the quality and capacity of the HI sufficient to assure successful implementation of the project?
How are organized facilities, infrastructure, and logistics necessary for the project?
Which hosting arrangements, support services and mechanisms to secure smooth integration of the researcher in the team/HI are in place?

Part B1

- Use the 2026 proposal template and headings.
- Do not delete codes.
- Address all points in the questions
- Emphasize key points in bold or highlighted text
- Break up blocks of text with diagrams and tables
- Keep technical jargon to a minimum – your reviewer may not be expert in your precise area
- Avoid long sentences
- Put literature references at bottom or in footnotes, font size 8 or 9.

PART B TEMPLATE

----- Start of page count (max 10 pages) -----

Part B-1

1. 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)

Insert here text for your proposal

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).

Insert here text for your proposal

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

Insert here text for your proposal

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

Insert here text for your proposal

MSCA-PF evaluator is...



MSCA-PF evaluator is...



your grant application

If you do not wish to participate in research studies, you may wish to appear in management journals. Each review should be approximately typed, 12pt Times Roman font, 1 inch margins on all sides. A title

Content

The article review should be written in appropriate style, with an audience. Each article review should include the following:

- The full citation in APA style.
- The main points including theories and hypotheses tested.
- A summary of the methods used to test the theories and hypotheses.
- A summary of the main findings.
- An evaluation of the contribution of the article to the field of management behavior and theory. This evaluation should take into consideration methodology (if applicable), and the conclusions.
- Accurate grammar and spelling.

Information about articles

Acceptable journals may include:

- Academy of Management Journal
- Academy of Management Review
- Journal of Organizational Behavior
- Harvard Business Review
- Journal of Management

- Leadership Quarterly
- Human Relations
- Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Performance

More information about a list of acceptable journals, can be obtained from the Research Coordinator.

How to submit

If you decide to complete the Article Review option instead of the Research Experience option, you must enroll in Research Experience on Turnitin.com.

- The course ID for Research Experience is: 3077578
- The enrollment password is: fall

ARTICLE REVIEW

By Babaaradio Kombui

Article Info:

Essel, H. B., Nunoo, F. K. N., Tachie-Menson, A., & Amankwa, J. O. (2018). Higher education students' ownership and usage of smart phones. *Journal of Educational Technology*.

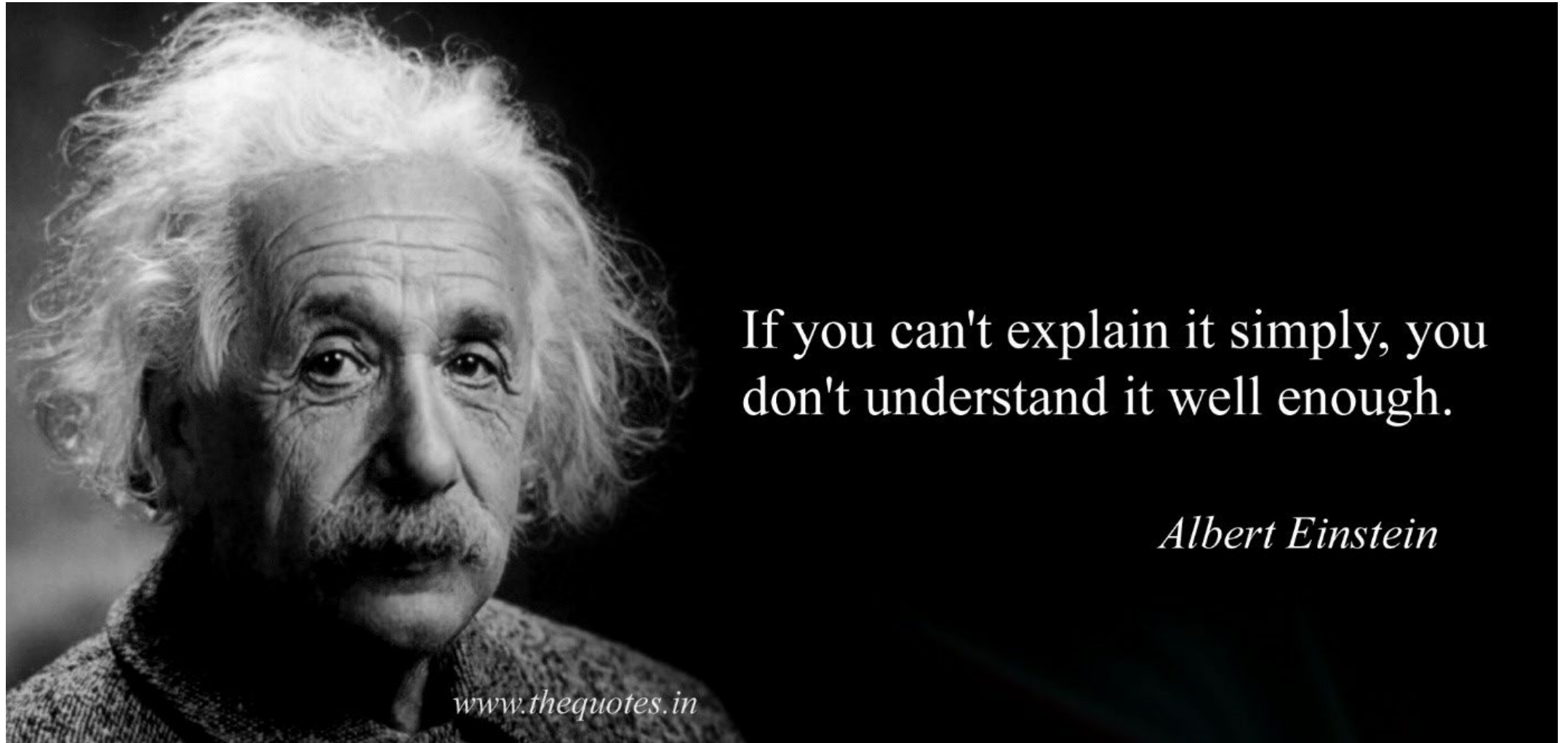
occurred in every sphere of the world. Their accompanying applications vary as the continues growth in ownership and uses have had a significant impact on phones have become an integral part of in developing countries (Hossain & Woodcock et al., 2012).

improves access to higher education, learners, allows for the discovery and associated the mortar made it imperative education. It is in the and Usage of Smart of Science and and usage of the experiences in the aimed to identify



MSCA-PF evaluator is...



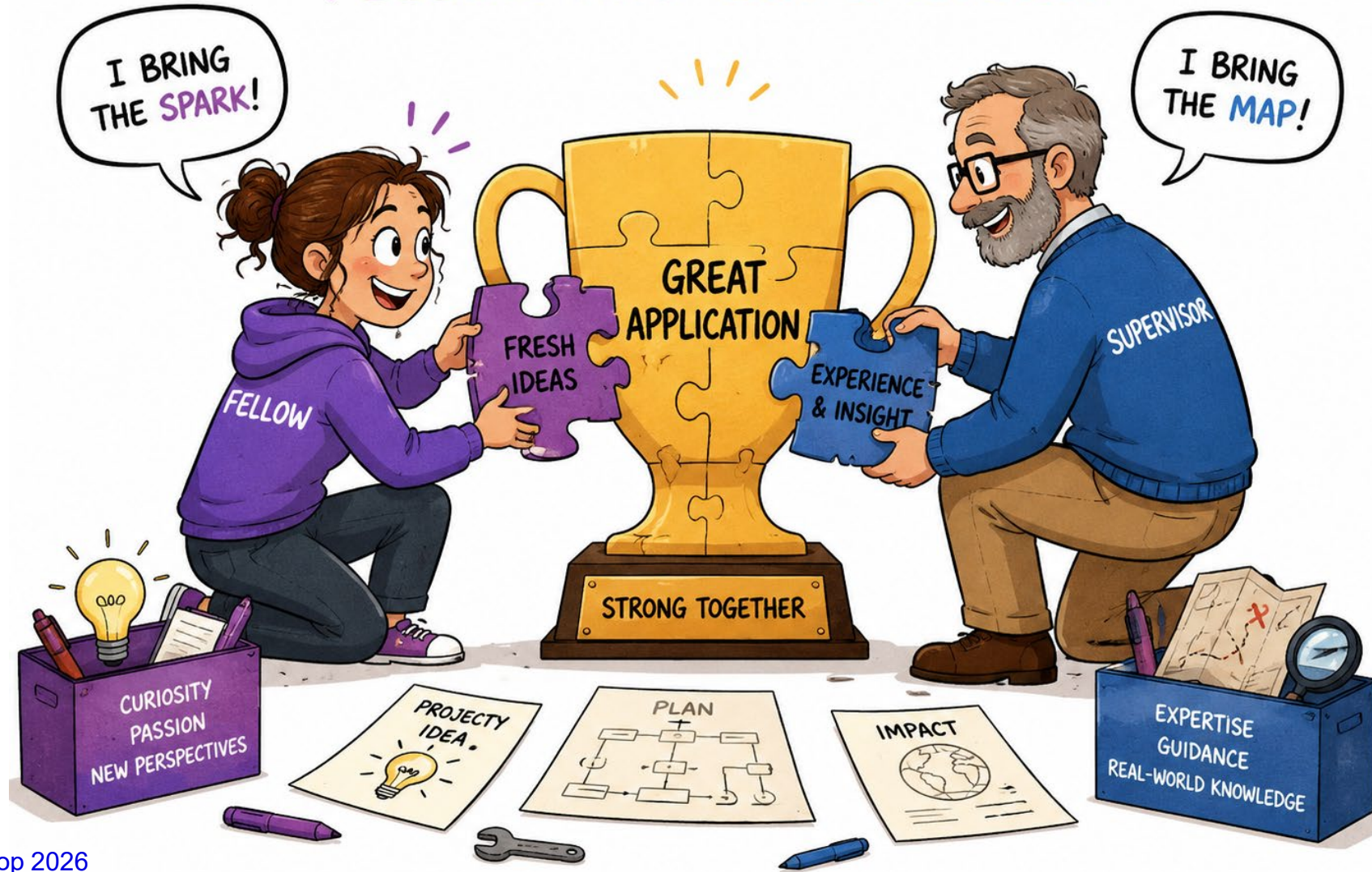


If you can't explain it simply, you
don't understand it well enough.

Albert Einstein

www.thequotes.in

BEST APPLICATIONS ARE CO-DEVELOPED BY FELLOW AND SUPERVISOR



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ABSTRACT

Abstract

- Max. 2000 characters, with spaces
- Used in the evaluation process, for communications with the programme management committees.
- Explain the **WHAT** are the objectives of your proposal → **HOW** they will be achieved → **WHY**, describe their relevance to the workprogramme.
- Do not include confidential information, use plain typed text and avoid using formulae and other special characters.
- Consider presenting this in visual format - graphic abstract or summary at the beginning of the proposal.

Building block of a good abstract

- **Introducing problem and context** → motivation, relevance and urgency.
- **Gap in knowledge** → novelty and the unmet need.
- **Overall goal/objectives** → define the project clearly and specifically.
- **Scientific approach and key methodology** → feasibility and scientific quality.
- **Research outcome and impact** → connects outcomes to science, society, Europe, and stakeholders.
- **Training and mobility** → demonstrates mutual benefit between fellow and host.
- **Career goal** → links the fellowship to long-term researcher development.

These elements are often interwoven rather than separated into explicit blocks.

Reviewers ideally want to identify all of them very quickly.

Abstract structure - DIGITRUST

Artificial intelligence (AI) increasingly shapes citizens' access to information, public services, and political participation. As AI systems become embedded in democratic governance, concerns are growing about transparency, accountability, and public trust. While existing research has examined technological and regulatory aspects of AI, little is known about how AI-driven decision-making affects citizens' trust in democratic institutions and public authorities.

DIGITRUST aims to address this knowledge gap through three interrelated objectives: (1) identify the factors shaping public perceptions of AI in governance; (2) analyse how AI-mediated interactions influence institutional trust; and (3) develop policy recommendations for responsible and citizen-centred AI implementation.

The project will employ an innovative interdisciplinary framework combining political sociology, science and technology studies, and public policy research. Using a mixed-methods approach, it will integrate comparative case studies, surveys, interviews, and policy analysis across three European countries. The project will generate novel empirical evidence and advance theoretical understanding of the relationship between AI governance and democratic legitimacy.

The expected outcomes include a new conceptual model of AI-related trust formation, high-quality scientific publications, and practical recommendations for policymakers and public organisations. By supporting more transparent and inclusive governance practices, the project will contribute to European priorities on trustworthy AI and democratic resilience.

Hosted by a leading European centre in digital governance, the fellowship will provide advanced training in comparative research design, mixed-methods analysis, science communication, research leadership, and stakeholder engagement. International mobility and interdisciplinary collaboration will strengthen the fellow's research profile and enable the transition to an independent research career.

The fellowship will position the researcher as a leading expert on AI governance and democratic trust within the European Research Area.

Abstract structure – SMART-PEP

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major global health threat, particularly in infections caused by multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria. Although artificial intelligence (AI) has accelerated antimicrobial peptide discovery, the mechanisms governing peptide–membrane interactions remain poorly understood, limiting clinical translation. Existing studies mainly rely on population-average assays and fail to capture bacterial responses at the single-cell level.

The SMART-PEP project aims to develop an integrated platform combining AI-driven peptide design, live-cell super-resolution microscopy, and biophysical modelling to identify membrane-targeting antimicrobial peptides with improved efficacy against resistant pathogens. The fellow will combine deep-learning-based peptide generation with microbiological screening at the host institution. Candidate peptides will be tested against clinically relevant bacterial strains, while advanced microscopy and microfluidic systems will quantify membrane disruption dynamics in real time. The resulting datasets will be integrated into explainable AI models to establish predictive structure–activity relationships.

The project will generate mechanistic insight into antimicrobial peptide activity and establish transferable methodologies for AI-guided antibiotic discovery, contributing to European efforts to combat AMR. The fellowship will provide advanced interdisciplinary training in machine learning, translational microbiology, high-resolution imaging, Open Science, and research management. Mobility to Denmark and a secondment in a German biotechnology company will strengthen the fellow's international and intersectoral profile. Overall, this fellowship will equip me with new skills, foster strategic collaborations, and advance my transition towards an independent research career in AI-assisted anti-infective discovery.

Abstract structure - example

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IN MIRO,
PLEASE

Read the abstract carefully and, using different colours, highlight the parts that address the following aspects:

- **Introducing problem and context** → demonstrates relevance and urgency.
- **Gap in knowledge** → shows novelty and the unmet need.
- **Overall goal/objectives** → defines the project clearly and concretely.
- **Scientific approach and key methodology** → proves feasibility and scientific quality.
- **Research result and impact** → connects outcomes to science, society, Europe, and stakeholders.
- **Training and mobility** → demonstrates mutual benefit between fellow and host.
- **Career goal** → links the fellowship to long-term researcher development.

Abstract from the evaluator's perspective

Criteria	How it is addressed
SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE	
IMPACT	
IMPLEMENTATION	
TRAINING	

Abstract from the evaluator's perspective

Criteria	DIGITRUST - How it is addressed
SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE	• Clear and relevant research challenge Highly topical issue: the implications of AI for democratic governance and public trust. The societal relevance is immediately apparent. • Well-defined knowledge gap <i>"little is known about how AI-driven decision-making affects citizens' trust..."</i> The gap is specific and logically connected to the broader challenge. • Clear objectives The three objectives are coherent, measurable, and directly linked to the gap. • Interdisciplinary approach Combining political sociology, STS, comparative case studies, surveys, interviews, and policy analysis across three European countries - appropriate and potentially innovative. • Methodological coherence The methods (comparative case studies, surveys, interviews, policy analysis) align with the objectives.

Abstract from the evaluator's perspective

Criteria	DIGITRUST - How it is addressed
TRAINING	• Clear training components: - comparative research design - mixed-methods analysis - science communication - research leadership - stakeholder engagement • Mobility explicitly mentioned <i>"International mobility and interdisciplinary collaboration..."</i> • Career progression clearly articulated <i>"transition to an independent research career"</i> • Skills include both research and transferable skills.

Abstract from the evaluator's perspective

Criteria	DIGITRUST - How it is addressed
IMPACT	• Scientific impact New empirical evidence and advance understanding of the relationship between AI governance and democratic legitimacy. New conceptual model of AI-related trust formation. Publications • Policy impact Practical recommendations for policymakers and public organizations Citizen-centred AI implementation • Societal relevance – alignment with European priorities Trustworthy AI Democratic resilience • Career impact The fellowship's contribution to the fellow's career is clearly stated.

Abstract from the evaluator's perspective

Criteria	DIGITRUST - How it is addressed
IMPLEMENTATION	• Multi-country design suggests feasibility and comparative value. • Host institution is presented as relevant: <i>"leading European centre in digital governance"</i>

Design your abstract skeleton

1. *Draft your own abstract outline using this structure:*
 - *1 sentence on the problem/topic*
 - *1 sentence on the knowledge gap*
 - *2–3 sentences on objectives and methods*
 - *1–2 sentences on impact and EU priorities (if you know)*
 - *2 sentences on training and mobility plan*
 - *1 sentence on career goals*
2. Choose 1-2 contributions of other colleagues and drop comments on their work

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EXCELLENCE: RESEARCH ASPECTS

OVERALL GOAL

The long-term scientific ambition
of the fellowship

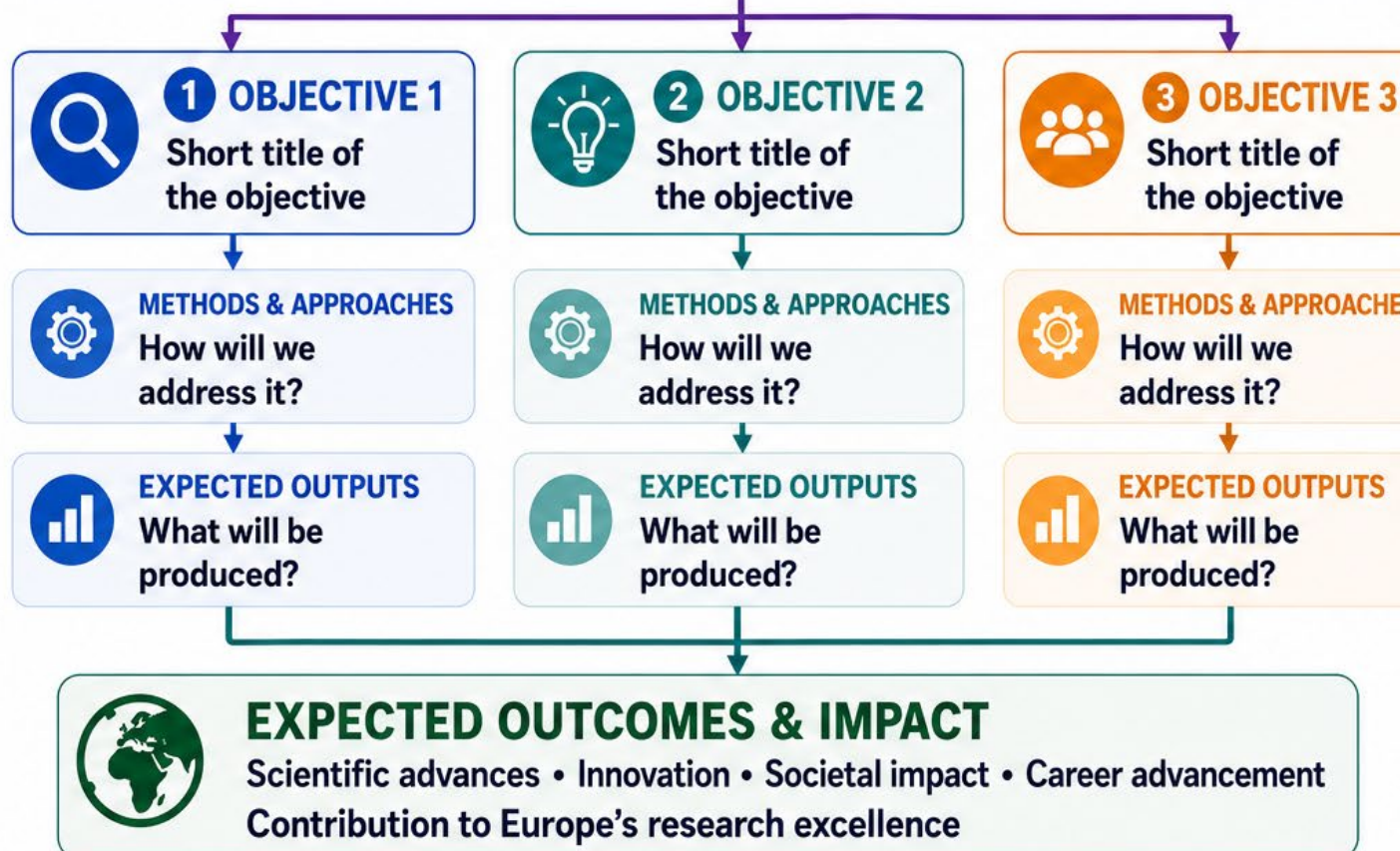
PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Specific, measurable steps that
contribute to the overall goal



OVERALL GOAL EXAMPLE

To advance knowledge and develop innovative solutions in
[research area] that address [key challenge] and create
scientific and societal impact.



GOOD OBJECTIVES ARE...



SMART

Specific, Measurable,
Achievable, Relevant,
Time-bound



AMBITIOUS

Go beyond the
state of the art



FEASIBLE

Realistic within the
PF timeframe and
available resources



**PROBLEM /
HYPOTHESIS
DRIVEN**

Address a clear
knowledge gap



IMPACTFUL

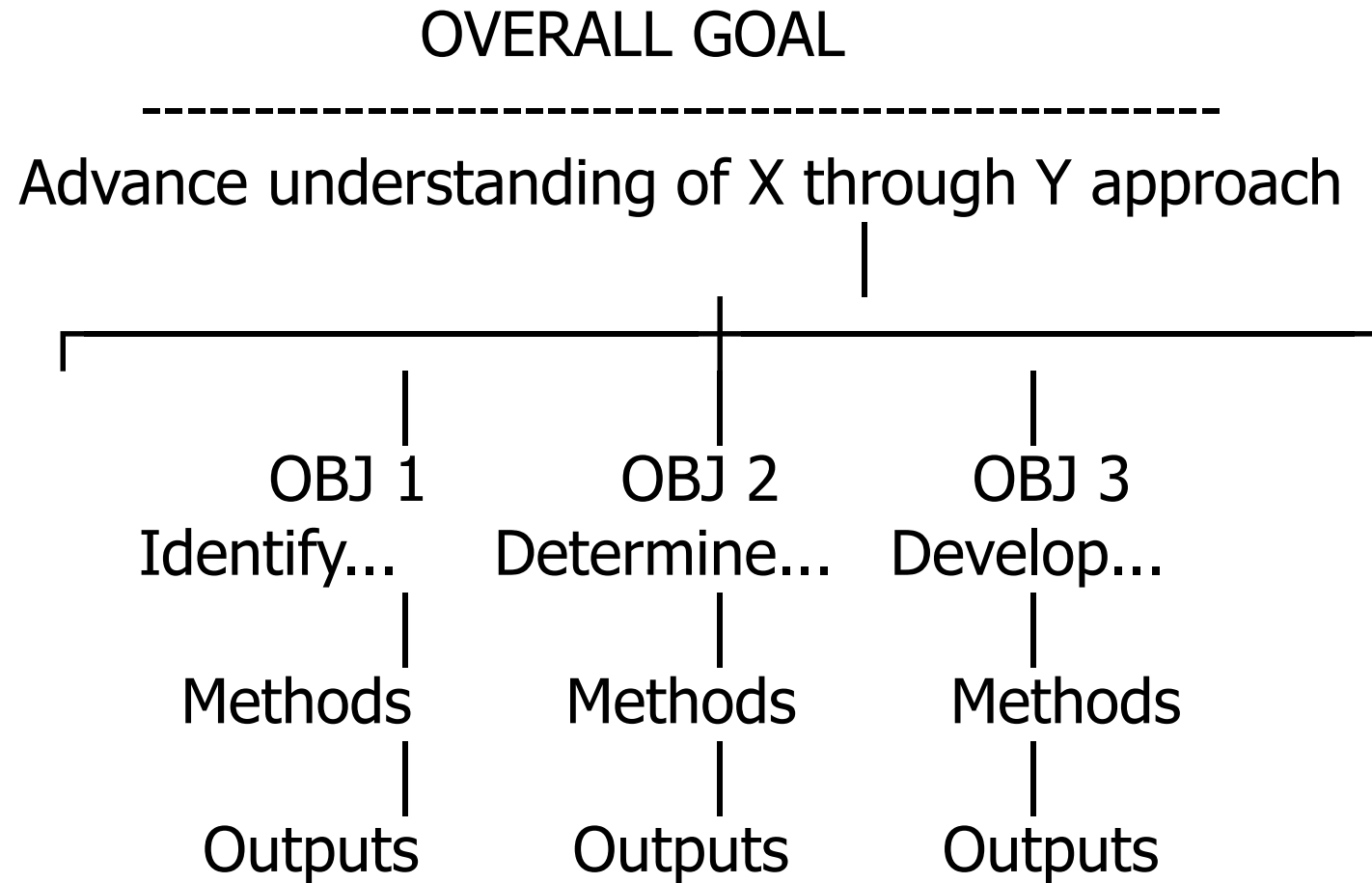
Generate scientific,
societal and career
impact

Overall goal and project objectives

- Each objective must clearly and logically contribute to the overall goal and together deliver the intended outcomes and impact.
- Can evaluators see overall logic of your project at a glance?

Funnel scheme for your project

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Examples of project aim statement

- The aim of this project is to explore artificial intelligence in education.

- ✓ Too vague, too generic
- ✓ Lacks hypothesis/research direction
- ✓ Not measurable
- ✓ No timeframe

- The aim of this project is to investigate how generative AI-assisted feedback influences critical thinking development among undergraduate students in STEM education using a longitudinal experimental design.

Examples of project aim statement

- The aim of this project is to determine how environmental stressors alter gene expression patterns in marine phytoplankton and their implications for ecosystem resilience.

- ✓ **Clear and specific research question**
- ✓ **Scientific purpose**
- ✓ **Measurable**
- ✓ **Realistic**

Examples of project aim statement

- The aim of this project is to describe the current state of renewable energy adoption in Europe.

- ✓ **No scientific ambition and innovation**
- ✓ **Descriptive**
- ✓ **Does not go beyond the state of the art**

- The aim of this project is to analyse the socio-political drivers of uneven renewable energy adoption across European regions and develop a predictive model to inform policy design.

Methodology

- Use the most appropriate methods
- Ensure feasibility and access to resources
- Always link methods with project objectives
- Be specific and clear
- Highlight the novel, most original and innovative elements
- Demonstrate interdisciplinarity where relevant

Interdisciplinary perspective

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- **Knowledge** of which disciplines do you use?
- What interdisciplinary **methods** do you combine?
- How the methods **interact**? (do not just list them!)
- Does interdisciplinarity improve the quality, novelty, or applicability of the results? Highlight benefits or broader **impact** of using multiple disciplines?
- A short paragraph

HOW TO ADDRESS GENDER AND DIVERSITY IN YOUR MSCA-PF PROPOSAL

IS GENDER/SEX RELEVANT TO YOUR RESEARCH?



- ✓ Are you studying people, animals, cells, or data that may vary by sex or gender?
- ✓ Could outcomes or impacts differ between women and men?

ARE THERE OTHER RELEVANT DIVERSITY DIMENSIONS?



- ✓ Age, ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic status, etc.
- ✓ Do these intersect with gender in your research population?

HOW WILL YOU ADDRESS IT IN YOUR RESEARCH DESIGN?



- ✓ Will you use sex-disaggregated data or gender-sensitive methods / tools?
- ✓ Are both sexes represented in your data, samples, or subjects?
- ✓ Will you analyze results for gender/sex-based differences?



HOW DOES THIS IMPROVE YOUR RESEARCH?



- ✓ More accurate and applicable outcomes
- ✓ Fewer assumptions or hidden biases
- ✓ Increased societal impact and policy relevance



WHY IT MATTERS



Improves scientific rigor and validity



Enhances inclusiveness and fairness



Supports societal impact and policy relevance



Aligns with MSCA values: excellence, responsibility, impact

Gender & other diversity aspects

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- When relevant integrate gender and other diversity aspects throughout the proposal (research objectives, methodology, data, ethics, training, and impact).
- Explain clearly how and why they are addressed.





INTEGRATE OPEN SCIENCE IN YOUR MSCA-PF PROJECT

OS should be presented as an **integral part of the methodology**,
not as a generic statement.

Which Open Science practices will be used?



Preprints / pre-registration /
registered reports



Open access publications



FAIR data management



Sharing data, software,
protocols, workflows



Reproducibility measures
(version control, documentation)



Open peer review



Citizen science /
stakeholder involvement



Open Science and
research integrity training



Explain clearly in your proposal



WHAT will be shared?

e.g., data, code, protocols, methodologies, publications



WHERE will it be shared?

e.g., institutional repository, Zenodo, OSF, GitHub, arXiv,
open access journals



WHEN will it be shared?

e.g., early (preprints, pre-registration), during/after
data collection or analysis, at project end



HOW will it be shared?

e.g., using open formats, metadata, version control,
documentation, licences



WHY does it matter?

Explain how OS practices support your objectives, improve
transparency, reproducibility and impact, and foster
collaboration and trust.

Open Science

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- **Fit it to the methodology** – choose OS practices that are feasible, appropriate and meaningful for your type of research
- **Ask your supervisor and admin staff** for advice in OS practices policies, training and support available at the HI
- **Be responsible and ethical** – respect legal, ethical and privacy requirements. Not everything can or should be open. Justify restrictions where needed.

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EXCELLENCE: SUPERVISION & TRAINING

Host institution challenge

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- Write the name of your supervisor and faculty and answer these questions:
 1. Why THIS supervisor/institution? What do you expect from your supervisor?
 2. Could this be done elsewhere? What is unique here?



SUPERVISOR'S QUALIFICATIONS & QUALITIES



1. CURRENT POSITION(S) AND ROLE(S) IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

- Current academic/professional position(s)
- Roles in the scientific community (e.g. editorial boards, societies, committees)
- Contribution to research strategy and policy



2. MAIN SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS

- Key research contributions and breakthroughs
- Publications, citations, h-index
- Patents, innovations, societal impact



3. INTERNATIONAL, INTERSECTORAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATIONS

- Collaborations across countries, sectors and disciplines
- Leadership in networks and consortia
- Building bridges and fostering partnerships



4. AWARDS AND MAJOR FUNDING GRANTS

- Prestigious awards and recognitions
- Principal investigator of major research funding (e.g. ERC, MSCA, national, industry)
- Track record of successful projects



5. MENTORING SKILLS AND SUPERVISING EXPERIENCE

- Number of PhD students and (MSCA) postdocs supervised
- Track record of successful training and career development
- Achievements of alumni and examples of particularly successful careers



6. CO-SUPERVISOR, MENTOR AND/OR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Suggested co-supervisor, mentor and/or advisory committee
- Interdisciplinary, intersectoral and/or international expertise
- How they will collaborate and add value to the project and your training



7. SUPERVISOR'S INVOLVEMENT ON THE PROJECT

- Regular individual and group meetings
- Continuous feedback and guidance
- Support for career development plan alignment and progress

Perfect supervisor's profile

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- **Specific and quantifiable** - it includes clear data (specific research achievements, number of publications, number of supervised fellows, etc.).
- **Evidence-based** - titles of grants, real names and outcomes of alumni.
- **Aligned with fellow's project** - clearly links the supervisor's expertise with the fellow's proposed topic.
- **Demonstrates mutual benefit and engagement** with more than one senior scientist who will contribute to both the scientific success and the researcher's career.
- **Clear supervision plan** - specific and measurable activities (e.g., weekly meetings, bi-monthly reviews).
- **Holistic**: it doesn't just describe the supervisor—it describes a system of support around the fellow.

Skills audit

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NOW Skills that I have now. <i>(all specific research/technical and transferable skills you are competent in or have received training in...)</i>	FUTURE Where I want to be? What is my training objective? <i>(skills that you need in your future professions to be successful in long-term...)</i>	MY MSCA-PF How will the fellowship contribute to close this gap? <i>(skills and training activities you will gain during your MSCA-PF...)</i>
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Proposed training must align with your long-term career plan.



SPECIFIC RESEARCH SKILLS

Gaining new expertise through the research project and the research environment



New expertise, knowledge and scientific advances



Qualitative and quantitative methods and techniques



Expertise of supervisor (co-supervisor) and research group



Resources, infrastructure and environment of host institution



Short stays, secondments, collaborations



Wider research community (courses, conferences, workshops,...)



TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

Building competencies for a versatile and impactful career



Communication (oral, written, science outreach)



Grant writing and proposal development



Entrepreneurship and innovation



IPR management and technology transfer



Project management and planning



Supervisory, leadership and teamwork



Teaching experience and mentoring



Ethics in research and research integrity



Open science and data management



Interview skills and career planning

ToK from researcher to HI

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- Do you have any specific expertise/knowledge NOW that might be beneficial for the host research group/institution? What do you offer?
- What specific measures will you use to embed your current knowledge into the host organization e.g., mentoring students, delivering workshops, attending conferences, building collaborations within the host organization, teaching etc.? Demonstrate the ability to transfer the knowledge.

Fellow's professional experience and skills

- How will your current personal and professional experience and the proposed research contribute to your further development DURING the fellowship.
- Identify your CURRENT most important skills, knowledge and experience and put them in the contexts of what is required for excellence in your field and what is needed to achieve this project's goal.

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Fellow's professional experience and skills

- Keep it aligned with the project topic – connect previous experience with the proposed fellowship topic.
- Showcase the range of your disciplinary and methodological expertise.
- Maintain a balance between research and transferable skills.
- Highlight specific achievements – publications, collaborations, participation in projects, and other activities (e.g. outreach, teaching, mentoring, open science, etc.).
- Present yourself confidently but avoid exaggeration.
- Emphasize training-through-research and career progression.

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IMPACT

Perception of the impact in MSCA-PF

≠ why the science matters

VS.

- ✓ how the fellowship **changes the researcher**
- ✓ how results will be **disseminated/exploited/communicated**
- ✓ why the project creates **value for Europe and society**
- ✓ whether the proposed activities are **credible and concrete**

→ **What changes because this fellowship happens?**

How to enhance career perspectives and employability

1. ADVANCED RESEARCH EXPERTISE

- Work on ambitious, frontier research
- Develop new methodologies and technical skills
- Publish in high-impact journals
- Build a solid scientific reputation



2. TRANSFERABLE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Strengthen communication, leadership and teamwork
- Project management and problem-solving
- Data management & Open Science
- Prepare for diverse career paths



3. INTERDISCIPLINARY & INTERSECTORAL EXPERIENCE

- Collaborate across disciplines and sectors
- Gain complementary perspectives
- Enhance creativity and innovation
- Increase your flexibility in different contexts



4. MOBILITY & INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE

- Gain experience in a new country, culture and research environment
- Broaden your scientific network
- Increase intercultural awareness and adaptability



5. NETWORKING & COLLABORATION

- Build a strong professional network
- Collaborate with leading researchers and institutions
- Open doors to future opportunities
- Increase visibility in your field



6. CAREER PLANNING & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

- Set clear career goals and plan your development
- Showcase your achievements and impact
- Increase your competitiveness in the job market



Outcome: A stronger profile, broader opportunities and the skills to shape your future

YOU
MSCA PF Fellow

Stronger skills
Wider perspective
Greater impact

How to enhance career perspectives and employability

GO AND WORK
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1. What is your long-term **career goal**? How do you envision your future career trajectory?
2. Which **new expertise** will you gain, particularly in relation to gaps in your current expertise?
3. What specifically will you learn from the host institution, and how will the **quality of supervision** support your development?
4. Do you expect **interdisciplinary growth**, for example through collaborations, secondments, or exposure to the non-academic sector?
5. Which **transferable skills** do you expect to acquire and why are they important for your career development?
6. How will you expand your professional **network**?
7. What aspects of the fellowship will help you gain greater research **independence**?

Causal logic between project and impact

- Distinguish between results, outcomes and impacts – evaluators want to see if you connect these levels logically.

Level	Meaning	Example
Results	What the project produces	dataset, protocol, algorithm, publication
Outcomes	What changes immediately after use of results	researchers adopt method
Impacts	Wider long-term benefits	faster diagnosis, better policy, reduced costs

Impact chain

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- Create concrete, credible pathway:

Research result → Who benefits → How → Why it matters

Project Result	Who Uses It?	What Changes?	Wider Impact
New biomarker panel	Clinical researchers	Better patient stratification	Improved treatment precision
Open-source workflow	Research labs	Faster data analysis	Accelerated reproducibility in field
Policy recommendations	Municipal authorities	Evidence-based planning	Improved environmental resilience

Impact outside academia

SOCIETAL IMPACT

- It is not „saving the world“.
- Specify your: end-users, stakeholders, decision-makers, indirect beneficiaries.
- Quantify them whenever possible: number of patients, target population, affected sector, geographic scope, expected efficiency gain.

ECONOMIC/TECHNOLOGICAL IMPACT

- Does not require commercialization.
- Think of efficiency, workflows, protocols, standards, software, interoperability, reduced resource use, translational potential.
- Could this reduce time/cost/labour? Could it improve reproducibility? Could it support future innovation? Could industry, hospitals, NGOs use it?

Assessing impact

MAGNITUDE

- How broad?
 - How many people/institutions could benefit?
 - Is impact local, European, global?
 - Is it niche or cross-disciplinary?

Examples:

- The project will establish a standardized image-analysis workflow that could be adopted by more than 300 European neuroscience laboratories.
- The project may improve diagnostic precision for a rare pediatric mitochondrial disorder affecting approximately 1 in 100,000 children.
- The project could reduce processing time for industrial wastewater analysis by approximately 40%, potentially decreasing operational costs for environmental monitoring facilities.

IMPORTANCE

- How valuable?
 - How meaningful is the benefit?
 - Does it improve survival, efficiency, sustainability, policy quality, scientific capability?

Alignment with EU Policies and SDGs

- Horizon Europe Strategy Plan (2025-2027):
 - **key global challenges**: climate change; pollution; the loss of biodiversity; the digital transition; an ageing population; and building a more resilient, competitive, democratic and inclusive Europe.
 - **EU strategic priorities**: (i) the green transition; (ii) the digital transition; and (iii) building a more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe.
- HE Main Workprogramme 2026-2027 – general introduction
- Commission's Political Guidelines for 2024-2029
- Competitiveness Compass for the EU – EU's main policy priorities

Alignment with EU Policies and SDGs

- 17 Sustainable Development Goals of United Nations ([SDGs](#))



Impact of your project research

**GO AND WORK
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- One sentence describing the main project result
- Three beneficiary groups
- One quantified estimate
- One scientific impact
- One societal/economic impact
- One sentence on alignment with EU Policies and SDGs

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IMPLEMENTATION

What the evaluators want to see..



*„Can this Fellow
realistically deliver the
promised excellence within
24 months, in this host
environment,
with manageable risk?“*

Typical evaluators reactions

“Too ambitious for PF”

“Training disconnected”

“WP structure confusing”

„Work packages are descriptive
rather than functional.“

“Milestones and deliverables are
weak or artificial.”

“Risks generic”

“Timeline unrealistic”

“The Gantt chart does not match the
narrative.”

„Institutional support is not
convincing“

Workplan

GO AND WORK
IN MIRO,
PLEASE



Example of workplan structure

WP	Suggested Title	Example Deliverable	Example Milestone
WP1	Fabrication and Optimization of Two-Dimensional Magnetic Heterostructures	D1.1: Optimized fabrication protocol for two-dimensional magnetic heterostructures (M4)	MS1: Stable and reproducible heterostructure fabrication achieved
WP2	Ultrafast Spectroscopic Investigation of Spin Dynamics	D2.1: Dataset of time-resolved spin dynamics measurements under variable experimental conditions (M12)	MS2: Completion of benchmark and validation measurements
WP3	Computational Modelling of Spin Transport Mechanisms	D3.1: Computational model correlating experimental and simulated spin transport properties (M18)	MS3: Integration of experimental datasets with quantum simulations during secondment at Max Planck Institute for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter
WP4	Integrated Analysis of Spin Transport in Quantum Materials	D4.1: Comparative interpretation framework for spin transport mechanisms in two-dimensional quantum materials (M24)	MS4: Comprehensive model of spin transport mechanisms established
WP5	Advanced Research and Transferable Skills Training	D5.1: Individual training and career development portfolio documenting completed scientific and transferable skills activities (M24)	MS5: Completion of advanced training in computational methods and research leadership
WP6	Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation	D6.1: Dissemination and communication package including open-access publications, conference presentations and outreach activities (M24)	MS6: Submission of first peer-reviewed open-access publication
WP7	Project Coordination and Research Data Management	D7.1: Data Management Plan and periodic risk-monitoring reports (M6, updated throughout project)	MS7: FAIR-compliant data management and project monitoring procedures fully implemented



LEGEND

WP duration

◆

Milestone (MS)

○

Deliverable (D)

MILESTONES OVERVIEW

◆ MS1 (M4): Stable and reproducible fabrication achieved

◆ MS2 (M12): Benchmark and validation measurements completed

◆ MS3 (M18): Experimental–simulation integration achieved

◆ MS4 (M24): Comprehensive spin transport model established

◆ MS5 (M24): Advanced training and leadership development completed

◆ MS6 (M12): First open-access publication submitted

◆ MS7 (M24): FAIR data management and project monitoring procedures fully implemented

DELIVERABLES OVERVIEW

○ D1.1 (M4): Optimized fabrication protocol for 2D magnetic heterostructures

○ D2.1 (M12): Dataset of time-resolved spin dynamics measurements

○ D3.1 (M18): Computational model of spin transport mechanisms

○ D4.1 (M24): Integrated analysis report and validated spin transport model

○ D5.1 (M24): Training and career development portfolio

○ D6.1 (M24): Dissemination and communication package

○ D7.1 (M6, M12, M18, M24): Data management plan and risk monitoring reports (updated)

MUNI

Question?

Grant Office, Research and Development Office, MU Rectorate