**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION**

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| This page is for information only and should not be included in the proposal!**Proposals must address each of the award criteria as outlined in the relevant sections and respect the following minimum standards:*** 10 pages limit
* a minimum font size of 11 points (text inside tables 9 points)
* single line spacing
* margins (top, bottom, left, right) of at least 15 mm (not including any footer or headers),
* recommended font Times New Roman
* hyperlinks in the core text will not be open by the evaluators (avoid using them)
* footnotes are to be used exclusively for literature reference, min. font size 8. They will count towards the page limit
* tables are only to be used for illustrating the core text of the proposal; they cannot be used to contain the core text itself

**Language**:* avoid jargon
* write in a style that is accessible using figures/tables/charts/diagrams to illustrate where appropriate.
* explain any abbreviations the first time you use them.
* use simple clear text, make sure that it ‘reads well’.
* avoid long sentences. Avoid too much repetition.
* do not copy and paste information from other documents/websites. Instead, tailor information to fit with your proposal. Try to make it relevant to your proposed fellowship.
* be consistent with terms used (for example, you can talk in 1st person (me), 3rd person (the researcher, the fellow), use the same term throughout.

**Since the technical proposal template is based on the MSCA PF we strongly suggest to the applicants to go over the** [**Handbook MSCA PF 2022**](https://msca-net.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/MSCA_PF_handbook_final.pdf) **to find useful recommendations and what are the strengths and weaknesses of an application. But pay attention that some of the award criteria are different!** |

**(Acronym of project proposal)**

**---------- Start page count – (max 10 pages) ----------**

**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).***

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.

***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).***

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 interdisciplinary 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 considered 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 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 considered, please refer to this page.
* 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 (up to half a page, including research data management). If you believe that none of these practices are appropriate for your project, please provide a justification here.
	+ *Open science:* is an approach based on open cooperative work and systematic sharing of knowledge and tools as early and widely as possible in the process. Open science practices include early and open sharing of research (for example through preregistration, registered reports, pre-prints, or crowd-sourcing); research output management; measures to ensure reproducibility of research outputs; providing open access to research outputs (such as publications, data, software, models, algorithms, and workflows); participation in open peer-review; and involving all relevant knowledge actors including citizens, civil society and end users in the co-creation of R&I agendas and contents (such as citizen science). Please note that this does not refer to outreach actions that may be planned as part of the communication, dissemination and exploitation activities. These aspects should instead be described below under ‘Impact’.
* 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.

***1.3 Quality of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host.***

 At a minimum, address the following aspects:

* Explain how the researcher will gain new knowledge during the fellowship at the hosting organisation (research and transferable skills).
* Outline the previously acquired knowledge and skills that the researcher will transfer to the Host Organisation.

***1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher’s professional experience, competences and skills.***

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

* Explain the quality and appropriateness of the researcher’s existing professional experience in relation to the proposed Host Organisation, research group, supervisor and the research project.

**2. 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.

***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.***

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.
* 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.
* All measures should be proportionate to the scale of the project, and should contain concrete actions to be implemented both during and after the end of the project.

***2.3 Sustainability of the candidates’ research project in the Region. Opportunities to continue the research through regional/international collaboration with relevant industry or academic sectors.***

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

* Explain how the project’s results are expected to make a difference in terms of impact at regional level (social, environmental, economic, technological, scientific, etc.).
* Describe the strategy to connect the project with relevant industry or academic sectors through regional/international collaboration.
* Explain how the research project can be sustainable in the region (further funding, investment, spin-off, etc.)

**3. IMPLEMENTATION**

***3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan and assessment of risks.***

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).

***3.2. Relevance, feasibility and benefit for the research project objectives of the planned secondment. Quality of the secondment choice in terms of at least one of the following principles: intersectorality, interdisciplinarity or international mobility.***

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

* Explain how the project objectives are in line with the planned secondment (in academic or non-academic sector) and how this adds significant value and/or impact to the fellowship.
* Explain what new knowledge will be gain during the fellowship at the secondment organisation and how it will be acquired, in terms of one or more of the following principles:
	+ *Intersectorality*: academic/non-academic mobility. The intersectoral experience during the secondments offers opportunities for testing technological development, for higher the impact of R&I outputs, to increase the applicable and market-oriented outcomes of the research project, among other prospects.
	+ *Interdisciplinarity:* applying the knowledge and skills from different academic disciplines or subjects that are normally regarded as distinct, to the same task or project.
	+ *International mobility:* a displacement experience that provides opportunities to get educational, professional, social and/or intercultural skills and increases employability as well as social cohesion.