

HORIZON EUROPE



EIROPAS SAVIENĪBAS PĒTNIECĪBAS UN
INOVĀCIJU PROGRAMMA **2021 - 2027**



#HorizonEU

Marie Skłodowska Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships proposal writing training For hosting organisations and supervisors Day 2

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National Contact Point



Līdzfinansē
Eiropas Savienība



Latvijas Zinātnes
padome

1.1.1. specifiskā atbalsta mērķa "Pētniecības un inovāciju kapacitātes stiprināšana un progresīvu tehnoloģiju ieviešana kopējā P&A sistēmā" 1.1.1.5. pasākuma "Latvijas pilnvērtīga dalība Apvārsnis Eiropa programmā, tajā skaitā nodrošinot kompleksu atbalsta instrumentu klāstu un sasaisti ar RIS3 specializācijas jomu attīstīšanu" projekts "Atbalsts Latvijas dalībai starptautiskās pētniecības un inovācijas programmās" ietvaros

9:50 – 10:00 Connecting

10:00 -11:30 Overview of Marie Skłodowska Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships, statistics

Break

11:45 -12:45 Submission, evaluation

Break

13:00-14:00 Template, Abstract, Key words

14:30 End of the first day

9:50 – 10:00 Connecting

10:00 -11:30 **How to write the Excellence part?/** Practical task

Break

11:45 -12:45 How to write the impact part? / Practical task

Break

13:00 -14:00 How to write the implementation part? /Practical task

14:00-14:30 Questions, answers, feedback

Why is it important to address all aspects? Pay close attention to the requirements?

- The competition keep increasing >17 000 applications last year
- Funding thresholds keep getting higher

Panel	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
CHE	92	91,8	93	93,6	96,4
ECO	83,8	81	89	92	93,4
ENG	92,8	92,4	94	94,8	96,4
ENV	93,6	92,6	95,2	95,2	96,8
LIF	94,4	92,6	94,4	94,2	95,8
MAT	92,4	90,8	92,2	91,4	97
PHY	92,6	92,4	92,8	92	97
SOC	92,8	93	94,6	94,2	96

- Increase a chance for funding: If not funded from MSCA, might be considered for ERA fellowship (only with Widening host&EF)

Excellence

Excellence = 50% of the final result

If several projects have the same number of points, it is primarily looked at who has a higher rating of the criterion "excellence"




Tip!

The evaluation criteria are integrated into the template B1!



Your task is to **precisely** fill out all the template (straightforward, quantified, realistic)!



Evaluators do NOT have a choice; they must strictly follow the evaluation grid.



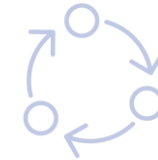
If you have not explained something accurately and understandably enough, even it CANNOT be put in maximum points!

#EXCELLENCE

research



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)



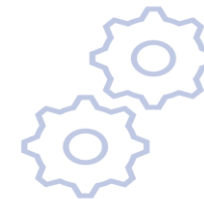
Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

supervision

training



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.

researcher

What is scored?



	Criterion	1/ Is this addressed in the proposal?	2/ Qualitative assessment					
			Fail	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
EXCELLENCE	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)	1,1							
How are the quality and pertinence of the research and innovation objectives?	1,1							
To what extent is the proposed work ambitious and goes beyond the current state-of-the-art in the field?	1,1							
Are the research and innovation objectives realistically achievable? Are they measurable and verifiable?	1,1							

How are the quality and pertinence of the research and innovation objectives?

S pecific	Who and what?
M easurable	What is the result?
A chievable	How?
R elevant	Why?
T ime bound	When?

Hypothesis

RO1, RO2, RO3

Goal, aim of the study, objective

Are the research and innovation objectives realistically achievable? Are they measurable and verifiable?

Result (measurable)

The proposed action contributes to tackling of a pressing challenge faced by the EU, which is **finding new birth policies** that would be effective in countering demographic decline.

It does so by evaluating the impact of a **new type** of family policy (pregnancy benefit) on fertility behaviour (births and abortions) and on child health at birth.

This is a unique research opportunity as pregnancy benefits **are very rare.** The evaluation will be conducted using high-quality, population-wide, administrative microdata and state-of-the-art microeconomic models.

How?
Achievable

What? Specific

Why?
Relevant

To what extent is the proposed work ambitious and goes beyond the current state-of-the-art in the field?

Find the knowledge GAP

Example:

Several regions experience depopulation, which threatens sustainability and creates financial, social and other challenges. Yet, present European family policies **appear only partially effective**.

Potential impacts on fertility and abortions **(an aspect that is rarely studied)** will be assessed using administrative microdata on the entire population and micro-econometric models.

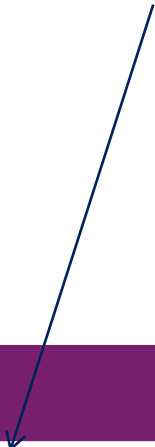
Novelty

First, it evaluates the impact of a novel prenatal cash transfer on fertility (as opposed to traditional postnatal policies).

Second, it contributes to understanding of abortion-seeking behaviour (which is rarely done).

Third, it evaluates the impact of an earmarked, non-means-tested transfer, on child health at birth (which has not been done previously).

Second evaluation question



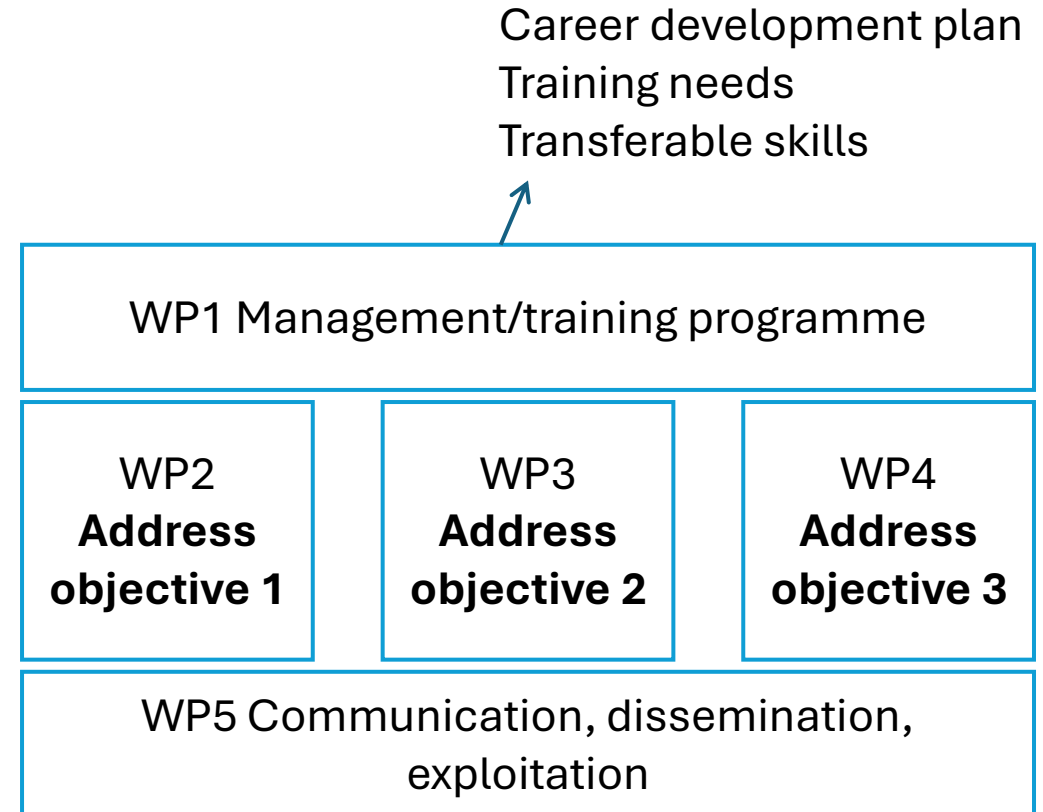
	Criterion
SOUNDNESS OF THE PROPOSED METHODOLOGY (INCLUDING INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES, CONSIDERATION OF THE GENDER DIMENSION AND OTHER DIVERSITY ASPECTS IF RELEVANT FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECT, AND THE QUALITY AND APPROPRIATENESS OF OPEN SCIENCE PRACTICES)	1,2
How sound is the proposed methodology, including concepts, models and assumptions that underpin the project? Are important methodological challenges identified and measures to tackle them proposed?	1,2
Is an interdisciplinary approach relevant for the research? If relevant, how well will expertise and methods from different disciplines be brought together and integrated? If not relevant, AND if this is sufficiently argued in the proposal, mark it as n/a.	1,2
Are the gender dimension and other diversity aspects relevant for the research? If relevant, how well are they taken into account in the project's research and innovation content? If not relevant, AND if a proper justification is provided in the proposal, mark it as n/a.	1,2
How are appropriate open science practices implemented as an integral part of the proposed methodology? If considered not appropriate in the context of the proposed work, AND if this is sufficiently argued in the proposal, mark it as n/a.	1,2

Overall methodology

(how the research project will be carried out.)

TIP! Relate your objectives to your scientific Work Packages (*addressed in Implementation section*).

- **Integrate open science practices** as part of your methodology;
- If a secondment, non-academic placement, or short visits are included, be specific about why they are needed in terms of the work being carried out.
- You can use graphics where appropriate to illustrate the methodological approach.
- Are important methodological challenges identified and measures to tackle them proposed? *Often not addressed by applicants!*



**Objectives are the backbone
of the project**

Is an **interdisciplinary approach relevant** for the research?



If relevant, how well will expertise and methods from different disciplines be brought together and integrated?

If not relevant, **must be justified**

Fields of science

social sciences> political sciences> political policies>
public policies

social sciences> sociology> demography> **fertility**

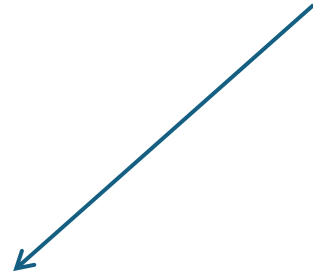
social sciences> sociology> gender studies> **gender equality**

medical and health sciences> clinical medicine> **obstetrics**

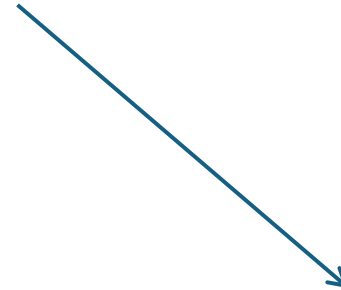
«The project is inherently interdisciplinary, as it connects **economics with demography, public policy, sociology, and women's reproductive rights**»

Interdisciplinarity: integration of information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories **from two or more** scientific disciplines.

Are the gender dimension and other diversity aspects relevant for the research?



If relevant, how well are they taken into account in the project's research and innovation **content**?



If not relevant, **must** be mentioned.

Applicants lose points here

Where to look for examples of gender mainstreaming in research content?

Training is provided by EC-funded projects, e.g. GenderAction (<https://genderaction.eu/>) presentation 28lpp

Policy review: GENDERED INNOVATIONS 2: How Inclusive Analysis Contributes to Research and Innovation: [HERE](#)

Other source (checklist available): [here](#)

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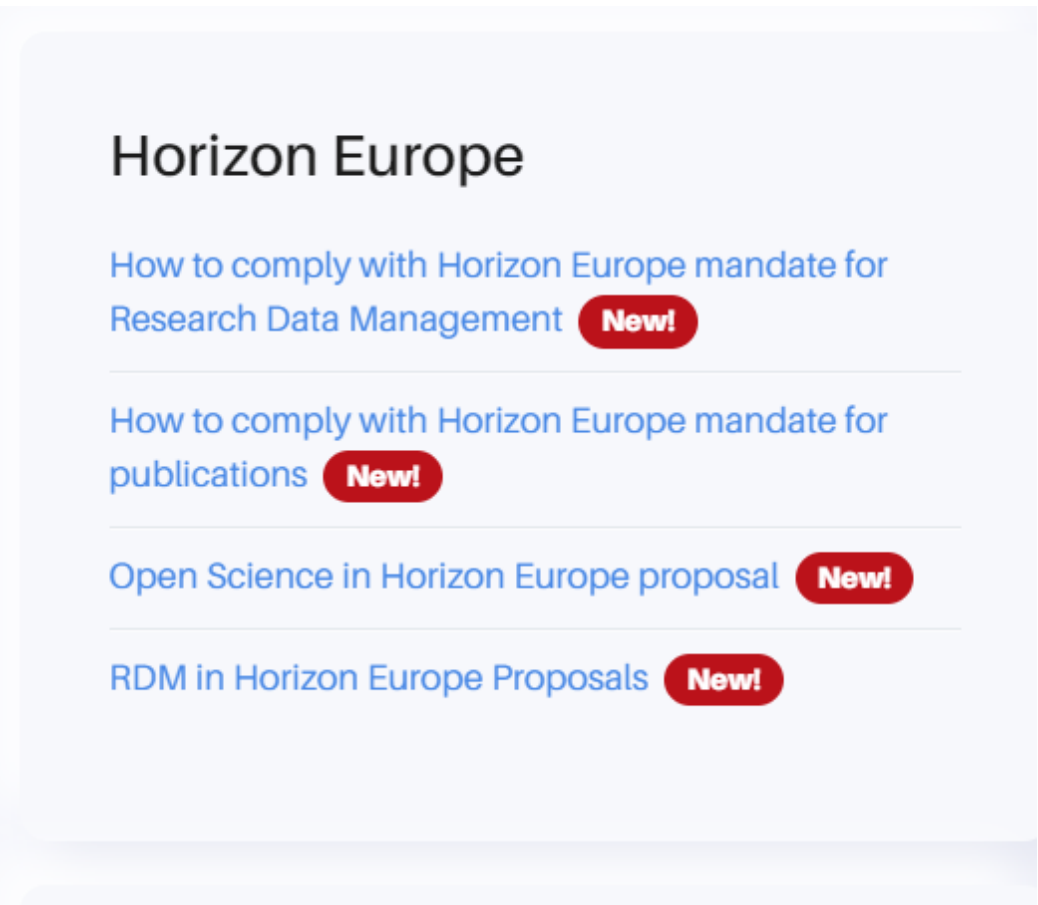
Open science practices: include early and open sharing of research (for example through preregistration, registered reports, pre-prints, or crowd-sourcing);

Need to address	Put in proposal
Research output management	Data management plan (mandatory by M6), electronic lab notebooks, management of metadata
Measures to ensure reproducibility of research outputs	"As open as possible, as closed as necessary" , FAIR principles
Providing open access to research outputs (such as publications, data, software, models, algorithms, and workflows);	Trusted repositories (Zenodo, DataverseLV etc); preregistration, Immediate open access licencing CC BY
Peer validation	Open peer-review (if relevant)
Involving all relevant knowledge actors <u>including</u> citizens, civil society and end users in the co-creation of R&I agendas and contents (such as citizen science).	If relevant, specify if you are doing co-design (workshops to shape research), co-creation (citizen science where citizens help gather or analyze data), or co-assessment (feedback on project outcomes).

Guidance for open science practices

HE Programme Guide 17.Open Science
page 42

Seminar in Latvian



Horizon Europe

How to comply with Horizon Europe mandate for Research Data Management **New!**

How to comply with Horizon Europe mandate for publications **New!**

Open Science in Horizon Europe proposal **New!**

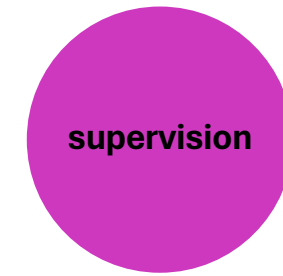
RDM in Horizon Europe Proposals **New!**

<https://www.openaire.eu/guides>

Data management plan

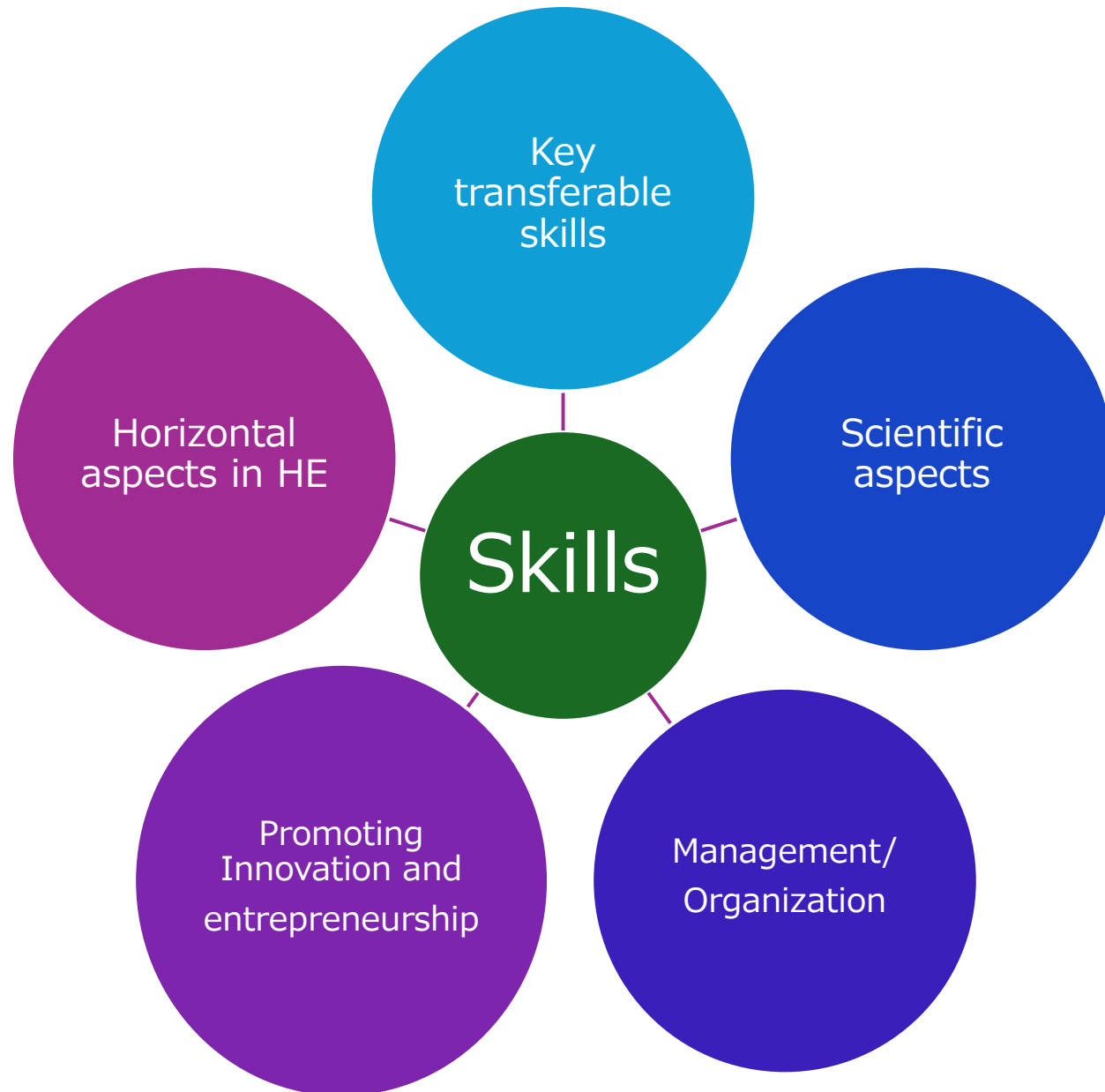
- Funding & Tenders Opportunity portal
 - Guidance & Documents
 - Guidance & Manuals
 - **Reference documents** (select 2021-2027; Horizon Europe)
 - Templates and Forms
 - Project reporting templates
 - Data Management plan template





	Criterion
<i>QUALITY OF THE SUPERVISION, TRAINING AND OF THE TWO-WAY TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE BETWEEN THE RESEARCHER AND THE HOST</i>	1,3
How effective are the planned training activities for the researcher (scientific aspects, management/organisation, horizontal and key transferrable skills...)?	1,3
For European Fellowships: how is the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and host organisation addressed?	1,3
For Global Fellowships: how is the three-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher, host organisation, and associated partner organisation for outgoing phase addressed?	1,3
[If applicable]: What is the rationale of the non-academic placement? Does it bring added value to the proposal?	1,3

How effective are the training activities for the researcher?



Your plan? Where would you like to be in 2, 5, 10 years in terms of career? What are the skills required for this? Evaluate your resume, find your strengths and weaknesses in skills, knowledge. Write a training plan to fill in the gaps

Two-way transfer of knowledge

Host to fellow

- Career Development plan
- Formal training
- Integration in the host team
- Networking

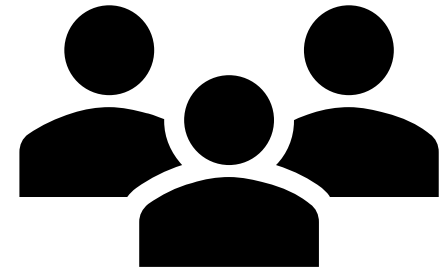
Fellow to host

- Expertise that host do not have;
- Knowledge in a field;
- Expend cooperation & networking;

For Global Fellowships: how is the **three-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher, host organisation, and associated partner organisation for outgoing phase addressed?

For Global Scholarships, explain: - how newly acquired skills will be transferred **back to the European host institution** and how they will be integrated.

For example, additional training for a team of researchers, new methods and techniques that you will use in your research, help networking between both hosts, new knowledge integrated into teaching, new proposal preparation etc.



Non academic placement (if applicable)

Why?

What is the added value?

Career Diversification: gain experience in industry, NGOs, government bodies, or international organizations.

Knowledge Transfer: It facilitates the flow of ideas from research labs into the "real world" (commercialization, policy-making, or social innovation).

Skill Acquisition: develop transferable skills like project management, IP law, or business development

Examples

Sustainability Research: A placement at an **environmental NGO** to help translate climate data into actionable policy briefs for local governments.

Biomedical Engineering: Spending six months at a **med-tech startup** to learn about the regulatory hurdles and clinical trial protocols for a new medical device.

Digital Humanities: Working with a **national museum or tech company** (like Google Arts & Culture) to apply AI algorithms to digital archiving and public engagement.

Social Sciences: A placement at a **think tank** or the **European Commission** to apply sociological findings to current migration policy frameworks.



	Criterion	1/ Is this addressed in the proposal ?	2/ Qualitative assessment					
			Fail	Poor	Fair	Good	Very good	Excellent
<i>QUALITY AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE RESEARCHER'S PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, COMPETENCES AND SKILLS</i>	1,4							
How would you consider the curriculum vitae of the researcher, their professional experience, competences and skills?	1,4							
How are the quality and appropriateness of the researcher's existing professional experience in relation to the research proposal?	1,4							

CV experience, competences and skills

Good Example	Bad Example
<p>List your Top 5 Publications and add 2 lines of text for each: <i>"I developed the core algorithm; this paper has x citations and changed how [Field X] approaches [Problem Y]."</i></p>	<p>A long, chronological list of 20 papers with no explanation.</p>
<p>Even if you stayed in one place, emphasize Short Stays, International Collaborations, or Fieldwork abroad. Show you have "intellectual mobility" by working with different teams.</p>	<p>Showing that you did your Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD at the same university in the same city.</p>
<p>Include sections for Supervision (even if you only helped one Master's student), Teaching, Peer Reviewing for journals, and Organizing Workshops. This proves you can manage people and projects.</p>	<p>Focusing 100% on lab work and forgetting "transferable skills."</p>
<p>MSCA encourages career breaks! Label them clearly: <i>"Career Break: Maternity/Paternity Leave,"</i> or <i>"Industry Experience: Working as a Data Analyst at Company X."</i> Diversity of experience is seen as a strength.</p>	<p>Career breaks without an explanation</p>
<p>Even small travel grants, fellowships, or prizes are listed as proof of competitiveness.</p>	<p>Nothing listed</p>
<p>Participation in Science Slams, blogs, or school visits to show communication skills.</p>	<p>Nothing mentioned</p>

How are the quality and appropriateness of the researcher's existing professional experience **in relation to the** research proposal?

Describe why you are the most suitable person to do this fellowship!

Tell us about your professional experience so far and what led you to this point.

Explain why your scientific experience is unique (think about transferring knowledge to the receiving organization and your supervisor),

Show how you have key transferable skills (leadership skills and independent thinking).

Choose the main most important aspects from your resume to show the evaluator your abilities (*research achievements, scholarships and awards received, major conferences, publications, experience in project management, experience in management, in the non-academic sector, etc.*).

If you have literature or fieldwork other than English or your native language, provide information that you have a basic knowledge of the language to understand literature.

Questions?



Think of your goal

Specific	What do I want to accomplish?	
Measurable	How do I know if I have reached my goal? What is the result?	
Achievable	Do I have the resources and capabilities to achieve the goal? Is the goal reachable, given the time and resources (knowledge)?	
Relevant	Why is this needed? What is the added value?	
Time-bound	2 or 3 years of a fellowship	



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