

How to participate successfully in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

MCAA Conference, March 3rd 2016

Cristina Gomez, Spanish MSCA NCP



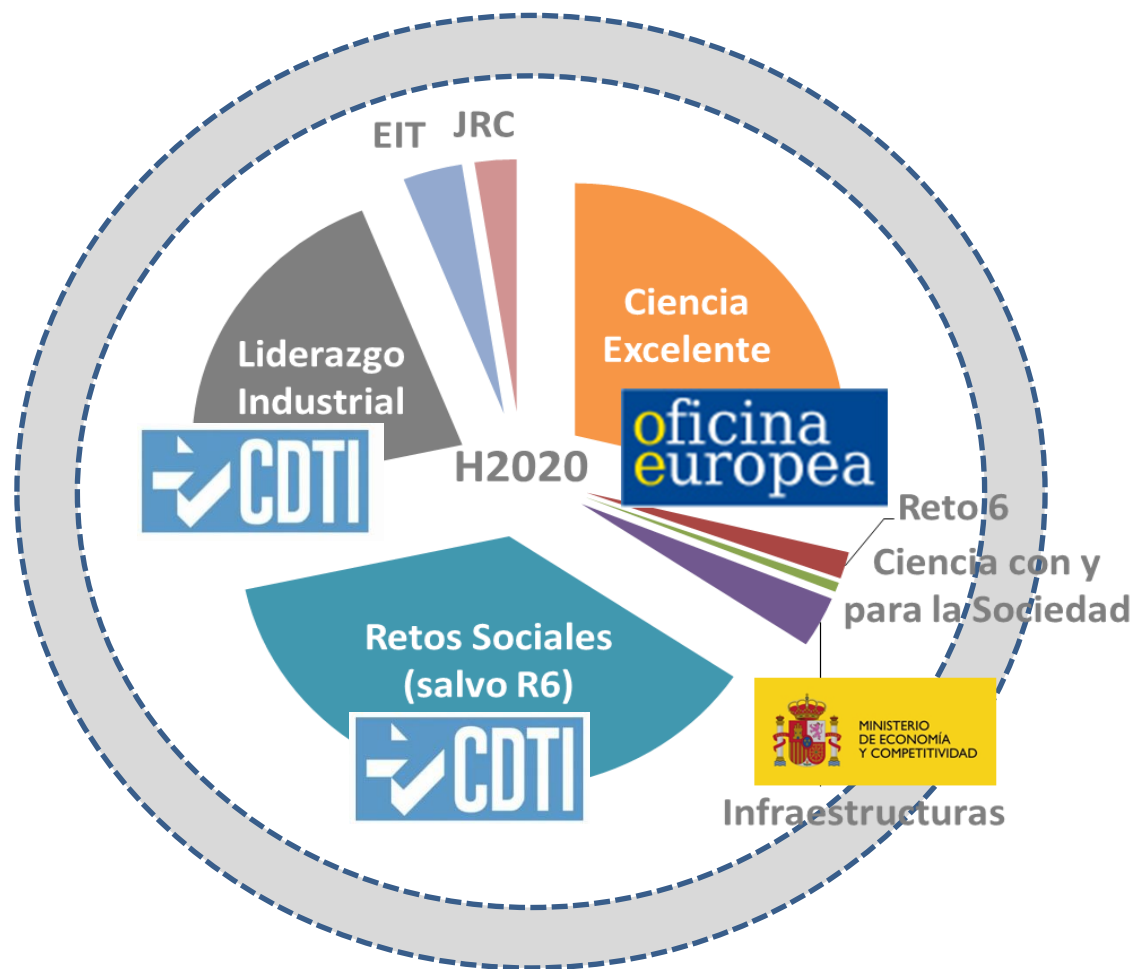
CONTENT

1. How to get support – The Spanish Example
2. MSCA main concepts
3. Evaluation Criteria
4. Important aspects

I. How to get support – The Spanish Example



I. The European Office of MINECO/FECYT



Objective

- Promote the participation and leadership of the Spanish R&I system in H2020.

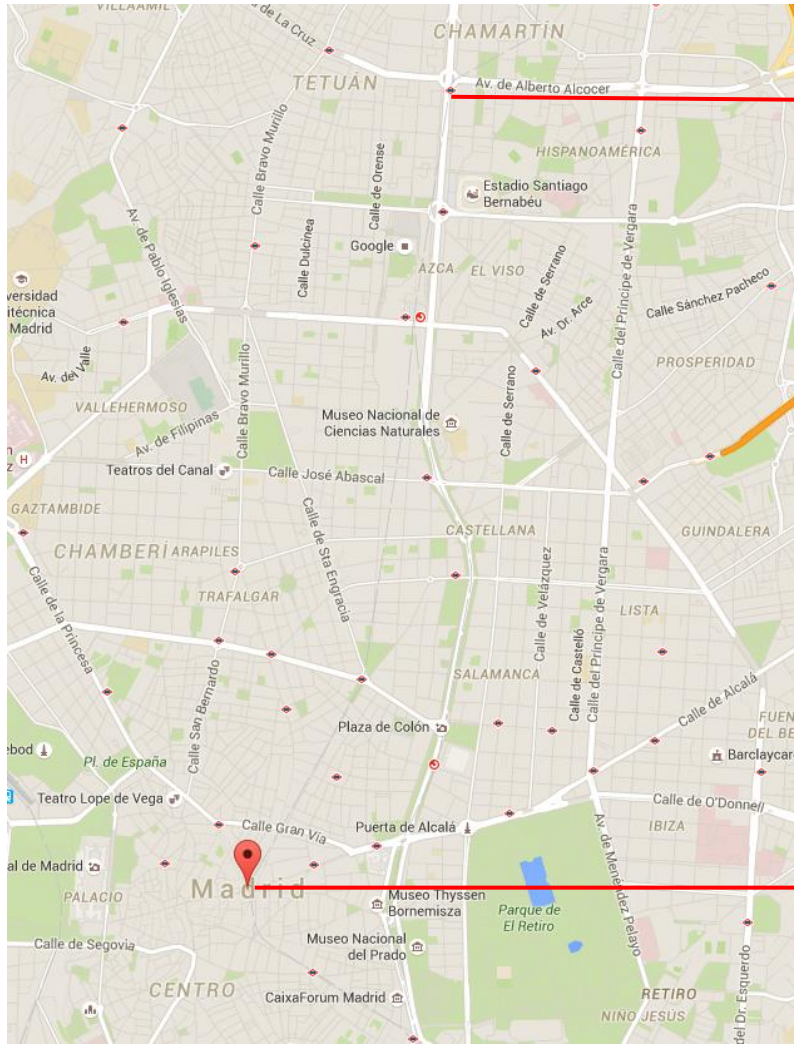
Areas

- EXCELLENT SCIENCE: ERC, MSCA, FET
- SWAFS
- Challenge 6
- COST

Target group

- OPIs, Universities, public R&I centres

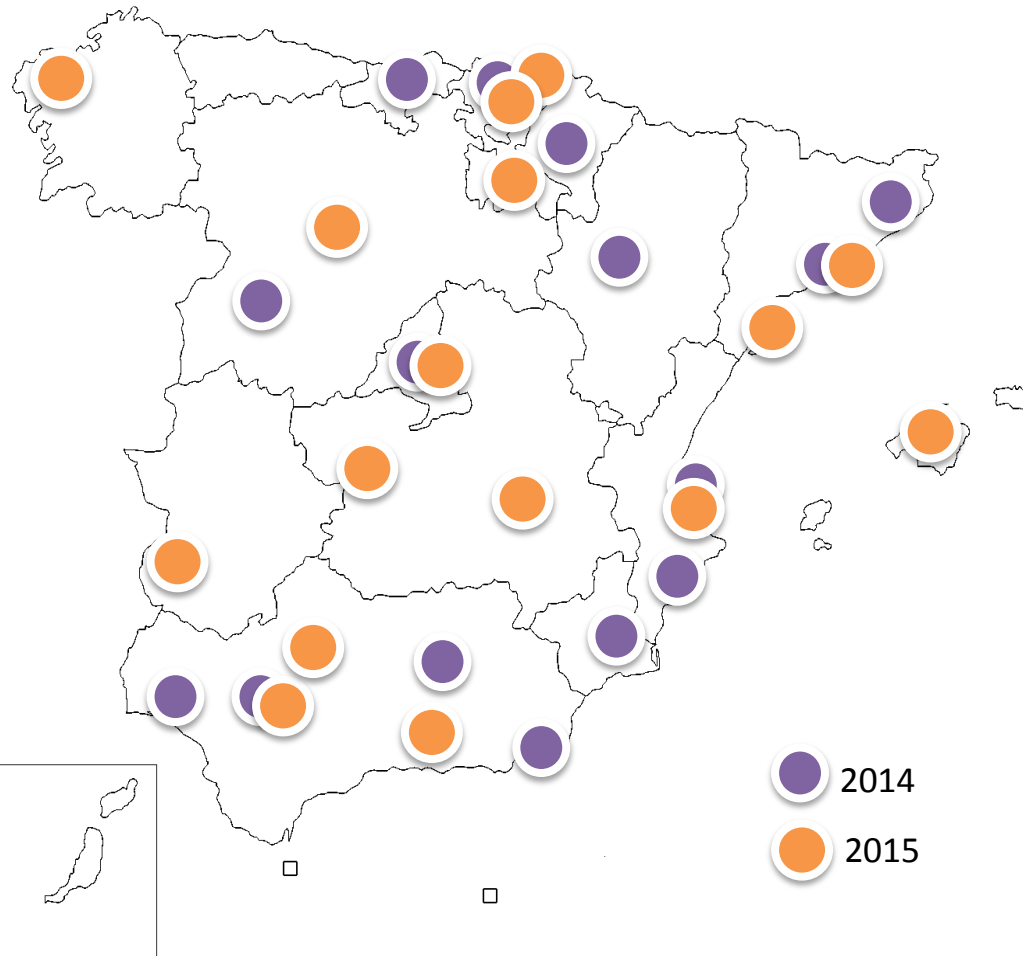
I. The Spanish MSCA National Contact Point Team ☺



4 metro stops



I. MSCA Events 2014/2015: events and workshops



2014

+ **30 promotional events / trainings** throughout 11 Autonomous Regions in Spain
+ **2.050** participants attended the sessions + online impact (webstreaming, youtube channel)

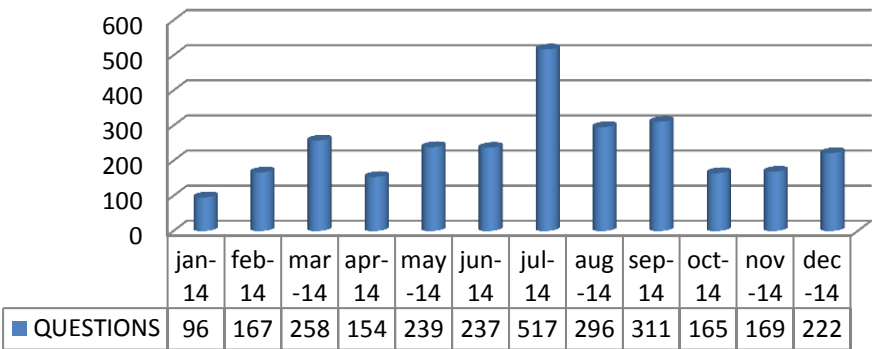
2015

+ **40 promotional events / trainings** throughout 11 Autonomous Regions in Spain
+ **2,000** participants attended the sessions + online impact (webstreaming, youtube channel)

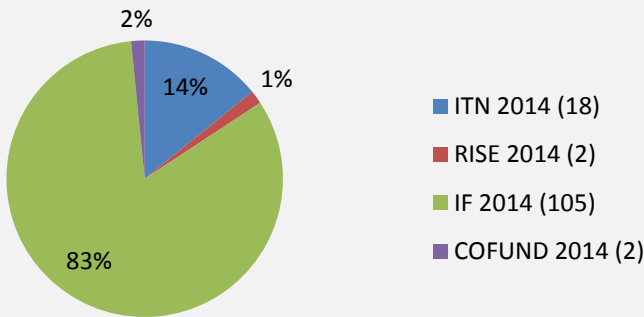
I. MSCA questions answered and pre-screening

2014

+ 2.800 questions answered

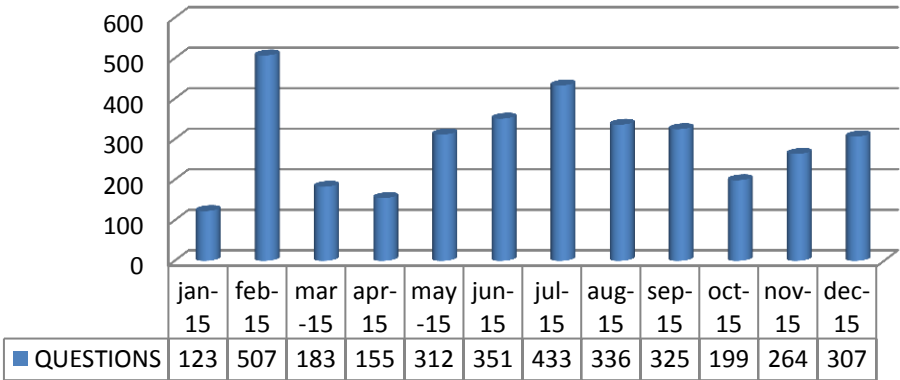


127 pre-screened proposals - 2014 Calls

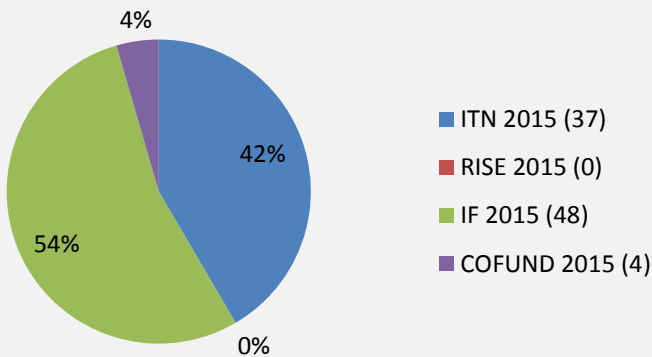


2015

+ 3.500 questions answered



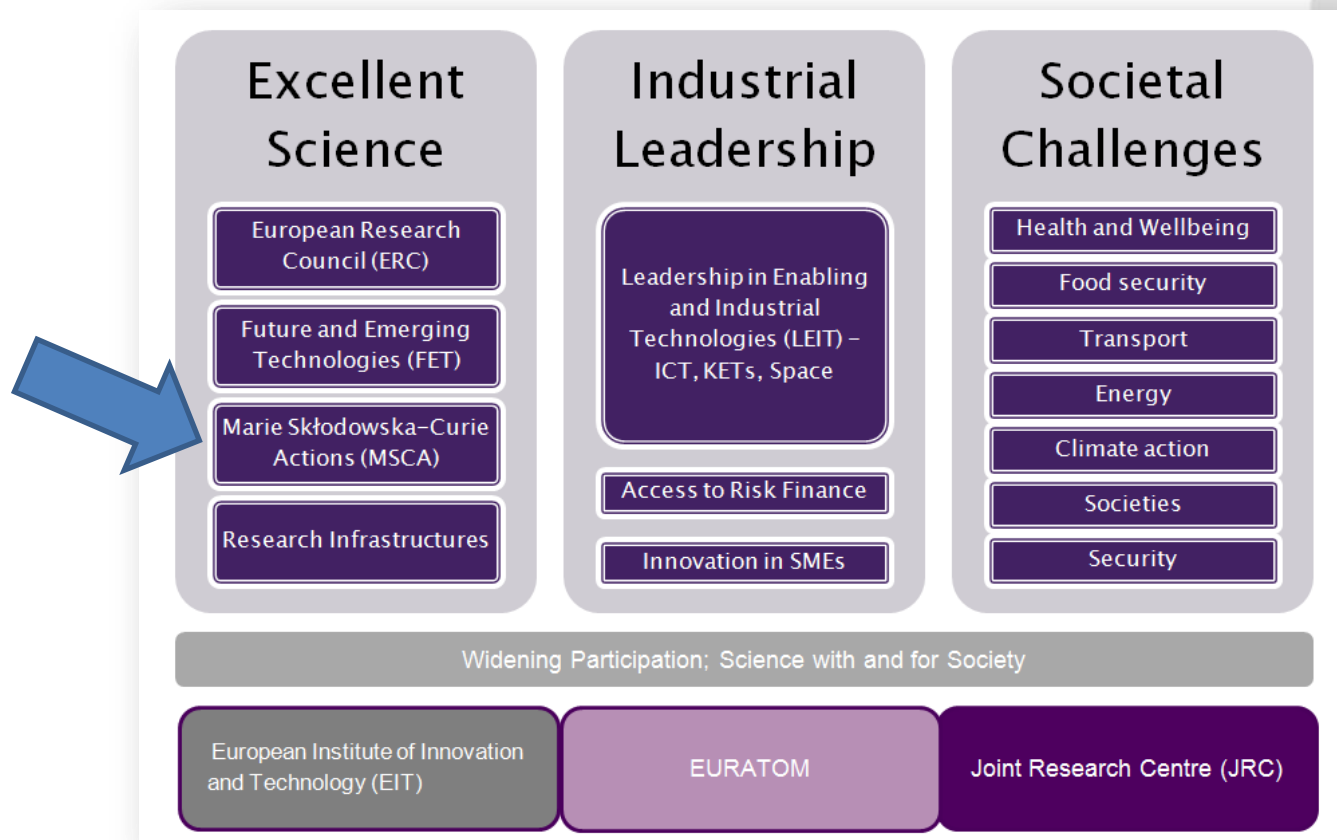
89 pre-screened proposals – 2015 Calls



II. Some MSCA concepts



II. MSCA in Horizon 2020



II. Important concepts

☐ Is a researcher eligible?

- ✓ Research Experience
- ✓ Mobility rule
- ✓ Nationality (Individual Fellowship)

☐ How can the institutions participate?

- ✓ Beneficiaries
- ✓ partner organisations

☐ Who can participate?

- ✓ Sectors: academic and non-academic
- ✓ Country participation



II. MSCA – ITN: Innovative Training Networks

- ❑ Train a new generation of **creative, entrepreneurial and innovative** early-stage researchers
- ❑ Raise **excellence and structure doctoral training** at European level

Early Stage Researchers recruited in the framework of an international and intersectorial network will:

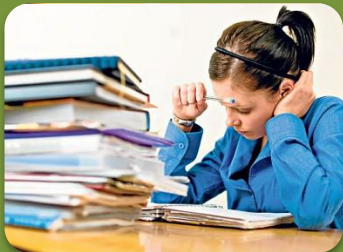
- ✓ Work on a common research project with their specific individual research projects
- ✓ Improve scientific skills and benefit from a complementary training on transferable skills
- ✓ Benefit from networking activities (summer courses, conferences ...)
- ✓ Duration: 48 months, recruitment of ESR: 3-36 months

**European Training
Networks
(ETN)**

**European Industrial
Doctorates
(EID)**

**European Joint
Doctorates
(EJD)**

II. What is an ITN about?



Research and Hands on Training

- Seminars and workshop
- Local PhD training
- Summer School



Additional Training (Transferable Skills)

- Finding funding possibilities// How to write a proposal
- Project management // Financial issues
- Knowledge Transfer: patents, IPR....// Entrepreneurship
- Scientific Articles writing // Public Talks



And more

- **Secondments (up to 30% of recruitment time)**
- Communication and Public Engagement
- Public Engagement
- Final users collaboration

II. MSCA ITN 2016: Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weight	Priority (ex.aequo)
Excellence	50%	1
Impact	30%	2
Implementation	20%	3

Parte B: technical proposal

Document 1

1. Excellence
2. Impact
3. Implementation

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Document 2

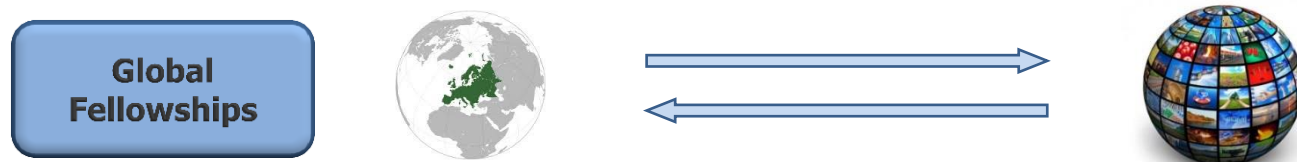
4. Gantt Chart
5. Capacities of the Participating Organisations (tables)
6. Ethical Aspects
7. Letters of Commitment

II. MSCA IF: Objectives and modes

- ❑ Enhance the **creative and innovative potential** of experienced researchers by providing them with opportunities to acquire new knowledge, work on research projects in a European context or outside Europe
- ❑ Special eligibility conditions for those **resuming a career, returning to Europe, moving sector**



For fellows from Europe going to Third countries and returning
(Duration: 12 to 24 TC + 12 return to Europe)



II. MSCA IF 2015: Evaluation criteria

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weight	Priority (ex.aequo)
Excellence	50%	1
Impact	30%	2
Implementation	20%	3

Threshold 70%

No individual threshold

Part B Technical Proposal

1. Excellence
2. Impact
3. Implementation

Page limit: 10
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4. CV of the experienced researcher
5. Capacities of the participating organisations
6. Ethical aspects
7. Letters of Commitment of Partner Organisations

III. Evaluation Criteria



III. The Individual Evaluation Reports (IER)

Preparing your individual evaluation report (IER)

- Under each criterion (Excellence, Impact and Implementation) **list strengths and weaknesses in bullet point format.**

➤ You should comment on each element.

Example: Criterion 1. EXCELLENCE



Element I:

- Strength A
- Weakness B

Element II:

- Strength X
- Weakness Y

Score: 3.5

III. The Consensus Report (CR)

Preparing the consensus report (CR)

- The rapporteur merges the IERs.
- The rapporteur creates a draft based on the comments from the IERs and identifies any points for discussion:

Strengths, Weaknesses, To be discussed.

- The experts agree on the strengths and weaknesses for the 3 evaluation criteria.
- The experts assign a score for each criterion.
- For the CR, experts must provide overall comments on the relative importance of the strengths and weaknesses.



✓ This proposal is very good overall on this criterion. Its strengths are A, B and C. Its shortcoming is D.'

Score = 4.0

III. Evaluation Criteria ITN 2016

Excellence 50%	Impact 30%	Implementation 20%
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme (including inter / multidisciplinary and intersectoral and, <u>where appropriate, gender aspects</u>)	Enhancing the career perspectives and employability of researches and contribution to their skills development	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources (including awarding of the doctoral degrees for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> projects)
Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and, <u>where appropriate, gender aspects</u>)	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 <i>EJD</i> projects only)	Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management (with a mandatory joint governing structure for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> projects)
Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> projects)	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and <u>disseminate</u> the project results	Appropriateness of the infrastructure of the participating organisations
Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations	Quality of the proposed measures to <u>communicate</u> the project activities to different target audiences	Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and their commitment to the programme

III. Excellence: Strengths and Weaknesses ITN 2015

- The proposed research is **innovative** and of **very high quality**. It addresses highly important aspects in the area of xxx towards the development of new xxx.
- Beneficiaries will contribute to research and training programmes with their expertise and commitment, and **their ESRs will be involved in secondments** with both academic and non-academic partner
- The content of the programme combines **training through research, education, and practice** in an efficient and innovative ways



- The **state of the art** is **not** described in **sufficient detail** and the **originality** of the research program is not demonstrated.
- The **methodology** is very general and does not provide sufficient evidence of **research rigour**
- The proposal does not describe clearly the **mechanism** by which the two SMEs will be able to provide **co-supervision** to the 10 ESRs based in academic institution.
- The proposal mainly focuses on training aspects, with too little emphasis being placed on closing technology gaps. Local training courses are not described in sufficient detail.
- The **collaboration** between **academic and non-academic** participants is insufficiently documented in the proposal. The role of the nonacademic sector is marginal as it is not clear from the proposal that the companies involved are significantly related to the scientific programme.



III. Impact: Strengths and Weaknesses ITN 2015

- It is well demonstrated that the proposed project will **strengthen the ESRs career perspectives** in the relevant scientific areas. The proposed **training scheme** will foster and enhance **opportunities** for academic and industrial careers.
- The project presents a well organised plan for the effective **communication and dissemination** of the results, targeting the **scientific community** and the **general public**.



- The **contribution to doctorate training** at a European level and to strengthening **European innovation policy** is not sufficiently evident in the proposal.
- The proposal does **not adequately address how** the training will enhance the career opportunities of the ESRs.
- Plans for **communication and dissemination** are too generic and unstructured. Moreover, scientific dissemination is not properly considered. The communication measures with respect to the **public engagement strategy** is not well presented in the proposal
- The proposal does not clearly present the expected **results, the exploitation strategy** and IPR issues.
- The plans for **dissemination** do not extend beyond a generic list of **standard instruments**



III. Implementation: Strengths and Weaknesses ITN 2015

- The **work plan** is effectively presented, and the research work packages are well integrated. The allocation of tasks and descriptions of the individual ESR projects are very good, the objectives are well-formulated, **cross-linkages through secondments are listed** and the expected results are identified.
- It is very relevant that a **Consortium Agreement** will be signed by each partner that will also govern IP issues.
- A very good **technical risk and contingency plan** has been provided.
- There is convincing information on the **recruitment strategy**.



- The effectiveness of the work plan is not sufficiently demonstrated.
- The list of deliverables is **generic** and it does not cope with the specificities of the expected outcomes of the research and training programmes.
- Infrastructures made available by beneficiary X are **not described** in detail.
- The **management structure** is too complex according to the number of beneficiaries.
- The methods of **progress monitoring** and reporting are not convincing.
- The **risk management** at the consortium level is not sufficiently detailed. The likelihood of risk occurrence and its potential impact are not considered



IV. Important aspects



IV. Important issues



Gender aspects



Ethical aspects



Communication, dissemination and public engagement



ERA and researchers

IV. Gender aspects

- ❑ Gender balance: horizontal to all programmes in Horizon 2020
- ❑ Make sure you have addressed in the proposal the following aspects:
 - ✓ Equal opportunities are to be ensured, both at the level of supported researchers and that of decision-making / supervision.
 - ✓ In research activities where human beings are involved as subjects or end-users, gender differences may exist.
- ❑ Links:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/gender/h2020-hi-guide-gender_en.pdf
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/gender/h2020-hi-guide-gender_en.pdf

IV. Ethical Aspects

All proposals will undergo an ethics review

- Human Embryos / Foetuses
- Humans
- Human Cells / Tissues
- Protection of Personal Data
- Animals
- Third Countries
- Environmental Protection and safety
- Dual Use
- Misuse
- Other Ethics Issues

Participants have to:

- **Identify** all potential ethical aspects
- Explain their future **management**
- Give a detailed explanation at **proposal stage**

Description on Ethics:

- Ethic Issues Table en part A
- Ethics Self-Assessment en part B

RTD-ETHICS-REVIEW-HELPDESK@ec.europa.eu

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/h2020-msca-itn-2015/1620147-h2020_-_guidance_ethics_self_assess_en.pdf
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/h2020-msca-itn-2014/1597698-itn_2014_-_ethics_issues_checklist_en.pdf

IV. Communication, Dissemination and Public Engagement

DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION OF RESULTS

- Should address different target groups (partner in the consortium, scientific community, industry, policy makers, public administrations, “think tanks”)
- Open Access!
- Establish plans to exploit IPR



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Explain: What - Who – When
- Participation in **European Researchers' Night**, Science Weeks, Visits to Schools....

....RRI embedded in the project



IV. ERA and Researchers

ARTICLE 32 GRANT AGREEMENT HORIZON 2020

- H2020 IN GENERAL
- MSCA

It is not an
evaluation
criterion for
H2020

H2020 GENERAL GRANT AGREEMENT

SECTION 4* - Other rights and obligations

Article 32: RECRUITMENT & WORKING CONDITIONS for researchers

32.1 OBLIGATION for the beneficiaries to take measures to implement the Charter & Code:

- ✓ working conditions
- ✓ transparent recruitment processes based on merit
- ✓ career development

32.2 CONSEQUENCES of non-compliance

If the beneficiary breaches its obligations under this Article, the Commission may apply any of the measures described in Chapter 6

IV. When preparing a proposal

☐ Read the Call Documents:

- Work Programme, Guide for Applicants, horizontal Issues: Gender / Ethic Issues, etc.
- FAQ

☐ Use the official template:

- Include the information where requested, evaluators will look at all headings and sub-headings
- Use visuals to provide global information at a glance.
- Be aware of all criteria weight, try to find a balance and do not forget that it is not all about Excellence!

☐ Ask for support:

- Own institution: European Projects Offices / Transfer of Technology Offices / HR Departments ...
- National Contact Points

☐ Do not leave it for the last minute!

- Get familiar with the Participants ' Portal
- Upload a version, you will be able to rewrite it.

Thank you!

R I S E
F U N D I N G
A C A D E M I C
N O N - A C A D E M I C
N E T W O R K
I N T E R - S E C T O R
T R A N S F E R

NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS MSCA IN SPAIN

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Fundación para el Conocimiento Madri+d

USEFUL LINKS

- Research and Innovation Participants ' Portal : <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>
- Web and Blog Marie Curie Sklodowska-Curie Actions: <http://mariecurieactions.blogspot.com.es/> - <http://www.madrimasd.org/blogs/msca>
- European Charter & Code: http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/brochure_rights/eur_21620_es-en.pdf
- EURAXESS Spain: <http://www.euraxess.es/> (noelia.romero@fecyt.es)
- Oficina Europea MINECO/FECYT: <http://eshorizonte2020.es>

