

Tips for Writing a Successful MSCA-PF Proposal

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The Application Form

- 1- Excellence (50%)
- 2- Impact (30%)
- 3- Implementation (20%)

But Before...

- Manage your time wisely (this means organizing your and your family's summer plans). Deadline for proposal submission: 13 September 2023
- Apply for TÜBİTAK's pre-evaluation support (the first step to forming your ideas about the research question)
- Save the date for TÜBİTAK's pre-evaluation support
 - The call is open between 12 April - 28 July 2023
- Contact your supervisor regularly, let them know about your progress (this means ASAP)

You Need A **GREAT** Supervisor

- Should have an excellent research record (proven by their publications and citations)
- Should have experience in managing research projects (highlight if funded by the EU)
- Have a relevant research agenda (could provide technical training)
- Have the qualities of a good mentor (advising MA, Ph.D. thesis, having a network of business-academic-interdisciplinary collaborators)
- Be flexible, and **SUPPORTIVE**

Excellence

Quality of the Research Objectives

- Form your one-sentence research question
 - Topics that could be considered *timely* for EU's current policy concerns is a strength
- Explain and *frame* your research question very well
- RO's should sound ambitious but also *realistic & achievable & verifiable*
- Explain why the project is beyond the current state-of-the-art in *sufficient detail*
 - Clearly explain *the originality and innovative aspects of the project*

Excellence

Soundness of the Proposed Methodology

- Provide a *methodological perspective* that presents measures for achieving the RO's
 - Should be adequately specified in a credible way
 - Should convince the reader *for the feasibility of the suggested approach*

One of the Weaknesses from my proposal's Evaluation Report:

- « *The proposal does not adequately justify how mechanisms and policy suggestions that are derived from an analysis of the data of the country of focus would be applicable to European countries in general.* »

Excellence

Soundness of the Proposed Methodology

- Interdisciplinary Approaches
- Gender Dimension (and other diversity aspects)
- Quality of Open Science Practices

Excellence

Quality of the Supervision and Transfer of Knowledge

- Have separate plans for the training in your outgoing & incoming phases
- Include training on the *transferable skills*
- Sound convincing
- Find what knowledge you can transfer to the host (could be harder)
- Do not forget to incorporate the roles of both of your supervisors into the proposed research in sufficient detail (for GFs only)

Excellence

Quality and Appropriateness of the Researcher's Professional Experience, Competences and Skills

- Talk about your skills that are *evidenced by*
 - publications in peer-reviewed journals,
 - grants and awards received from national and international research institutions,
 - the teaching and supervision of graduate students,
 - networking,
 - media coverage

Impact

Career Perspectives, Employability of the Researcher, Skills Development

- State your career goals (think big)
- Is the proposed project a *credible step* in this direction?
 - *conducting multidisciplinary research*
 - *employing innovative methodologies*
 - *accessing international networks*
 - *improving their transferable skills*
 - *and approaching non-academic stakeholders*

Impact Dissemination and Exploitation Plan

- For Dissemination:
 - Select general interest journals as potential outlets to reach audiences from other fields
 - Consider researchers from the EU-funded projects as invited speakers for your seminars/workshop organizations (which will serve for your exploitation plan)
 - <https://cordis.europa.eu/projects/en>
 - Provide a plan that links every communication and public engagement activity with a target audience, and key indicators

Impact

Contribute to the Scientific Community, Societal and Economic Impact

- How does the project contribute to the EU's Sustainable Development Goals targets (indicate openly by referring to a specific target(s))
- *The impact of the research would go beyond the immediate scope and duration of the proposal*

Implementation

Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

- Workplan (tasks, milestones, deliverables)
- Gantt chart
- Risk management plan

Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organizations, including hosting arrangements

- Talk about the hosting arrangements, infrastructures, research capacity, and other EU projects in the host institution in the incoming phase (GFs only)

Final Words

- Apply to many other national-international projects (TÜBİTAK 1001-3501)
- Use your experience with approved/rejected proposals
- Sit in TÜBİTAK's project evaluation meetings (as an observer or reviewer)