



WHAT MAKES AN MSCA-PF PROPOSAL SUCCESSFUL

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A Small Note



Thanks to TUBITAK

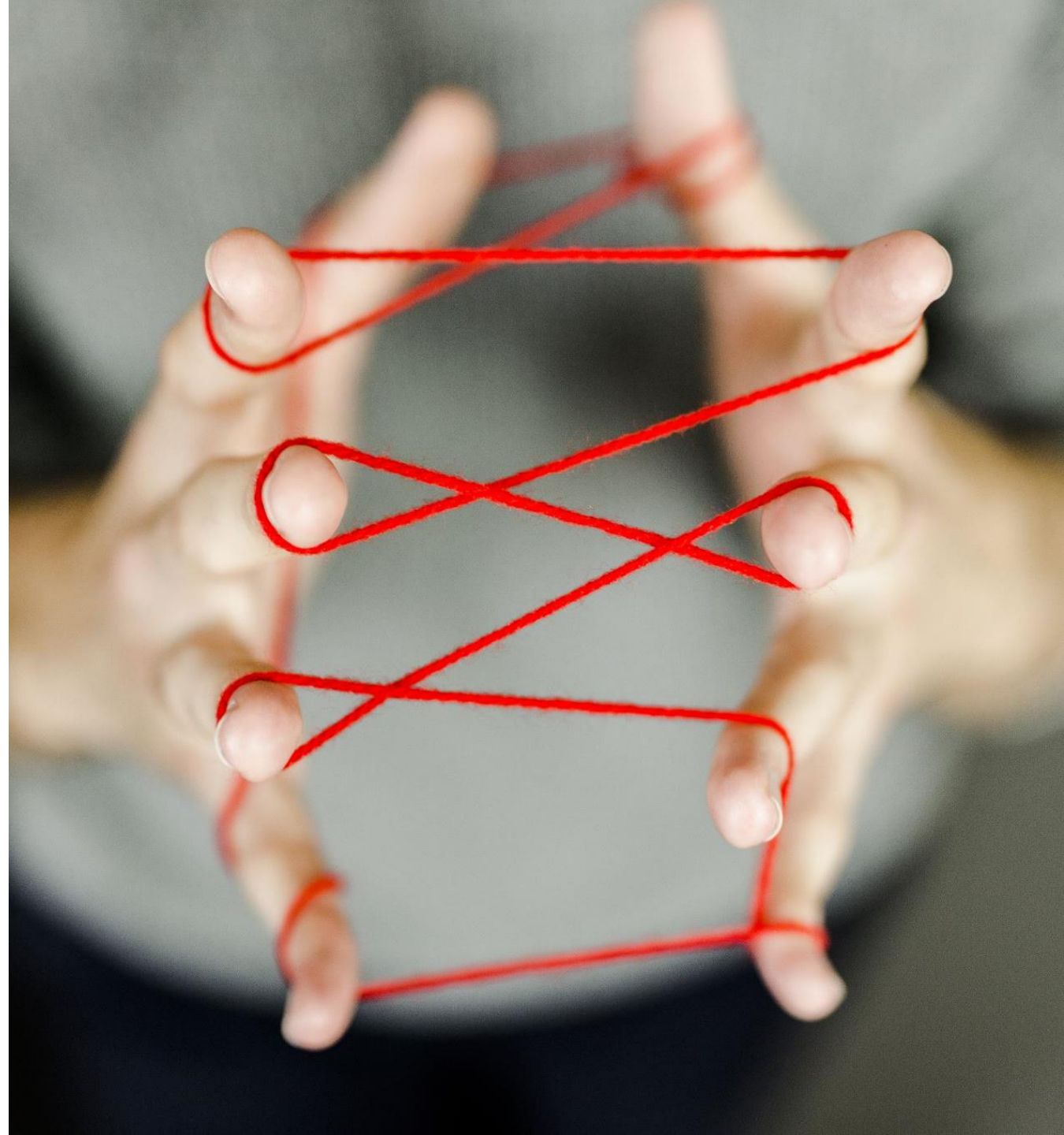


Sharing only my personal
experience

Stick to the Guidelines

Do not underestimate the importance of non-technical sections

e.g. gender and diversity, career development, open science practices, etc.



A Good Structure - Trio



Project



Researcher



Host / Secondment

A Good Structure - Trio



Project



Researcher



Host / Secondment

Project: Objectives



Project: Objectives



Novelty: clear comparison to the state of the art



Risks: be aware of potential risks and define mitigation strategies



Feasibility: be realistic and support your claims with scientific facts

A Good Structure - Trio



Project



Researcher



Host / Secondment

Researcher: Your Background and Skills

Purpose: convince reviewers that you are capable of doing the proposed study

Cite your studies if relevant and applicable

Mention similar methods you have previously used

Highlight your solutions in your previous studies

Researcher: Your Career Development

Purpose: convince reviewers that you will learn and develop

Clearly emphasise new skills/techniques you will learn

Highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the project and how you will benefit from it

Mention the soft skills that will contribute to your independence

A Good Structure - Trio



Project



Researcher

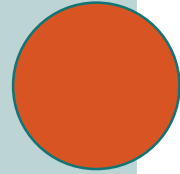


Host / Secondment

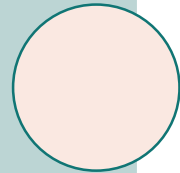
Host / Secondment: Infrastructure and Supervisor(s)

Feasibility

Infrastructure and Facilities:



Be specific and highlight the technical capacity of the host or secondment

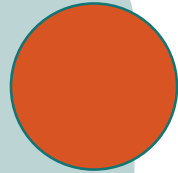


Connect these to the project

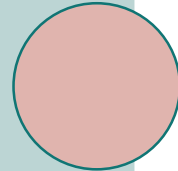
Host / Secondment: Infrastructure and Supervisor(s)

Feasibility

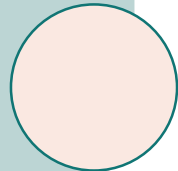
Supervisor(s)



Current research and areas of expertise of the supervisor(s)



Cite any relevant studies



Bonus: any previous MSCA or EU projects

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Avoid unclear statements

Do not be too generic

Always relate to your background/career development/supervisor/host

Ensure good and consistent connections (avoid conflicts between ideas)

Simplify complicated workflows/processes with illustrations (be aware of page limit)



EVALUATION REPORT OF VAL- PLAS

Val – PLAS: Intelligent
Microbial Platform for Plastic
Valorisation via AI-Guided
Synthetic Biology

Proposal (concept) – plastic types: PET and PLA / enzymes: PETase, cutinase, PLAase

Comment: The diversity of plastics and the properties of the target enzymes are not fully described.

Proposal (methodology) – enzymatic degradation will be simulated, and the degradation performance will be predicted

Comment: Lack of validation of the computational predictions of insoluble plastics

Proposal (risks and measures) – if the system is inefficient, processed plastics and two-stage processes could be tested

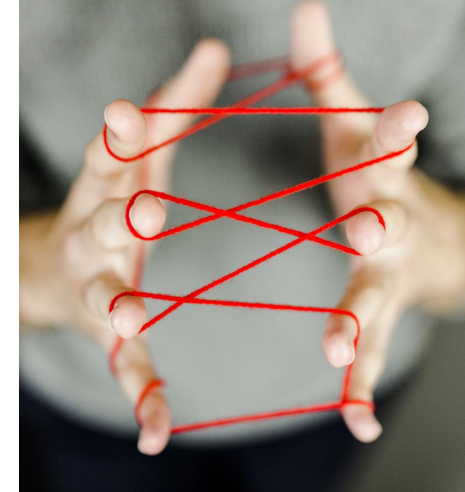
Comment: Some of the proposed mitigations (pretreatment of plastics and two-stage cultivation) are not aligned with the project objectives.

Analogy



Football Game

- Know your opponent
- A good tactic
- Connection between fields
 - defence, midfield, forward
- 90 minutes - every minute and second counts
- Mistakes lead to scores against you



Proposal

- Know expectations/rules
- A good strategy
- Connection between sections
 - excellence, impact, implementation
- 10 pages - every line and sentence counts
- Mistakes lead to losing points

A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a large number of wooden question marks. The question marks are made of light-colored wood and are scattered across the frame, some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the natural grain of the wood. The overall composition is a textured, monochromatic field of question marks.

Questions