

Understanding Proposal Writing

Online Sessions for Research Staff 2025

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HORIZON EUROPE

Key suggestions

1. Know your funding body
2. Customize your writing style
3. Manage your time strategically



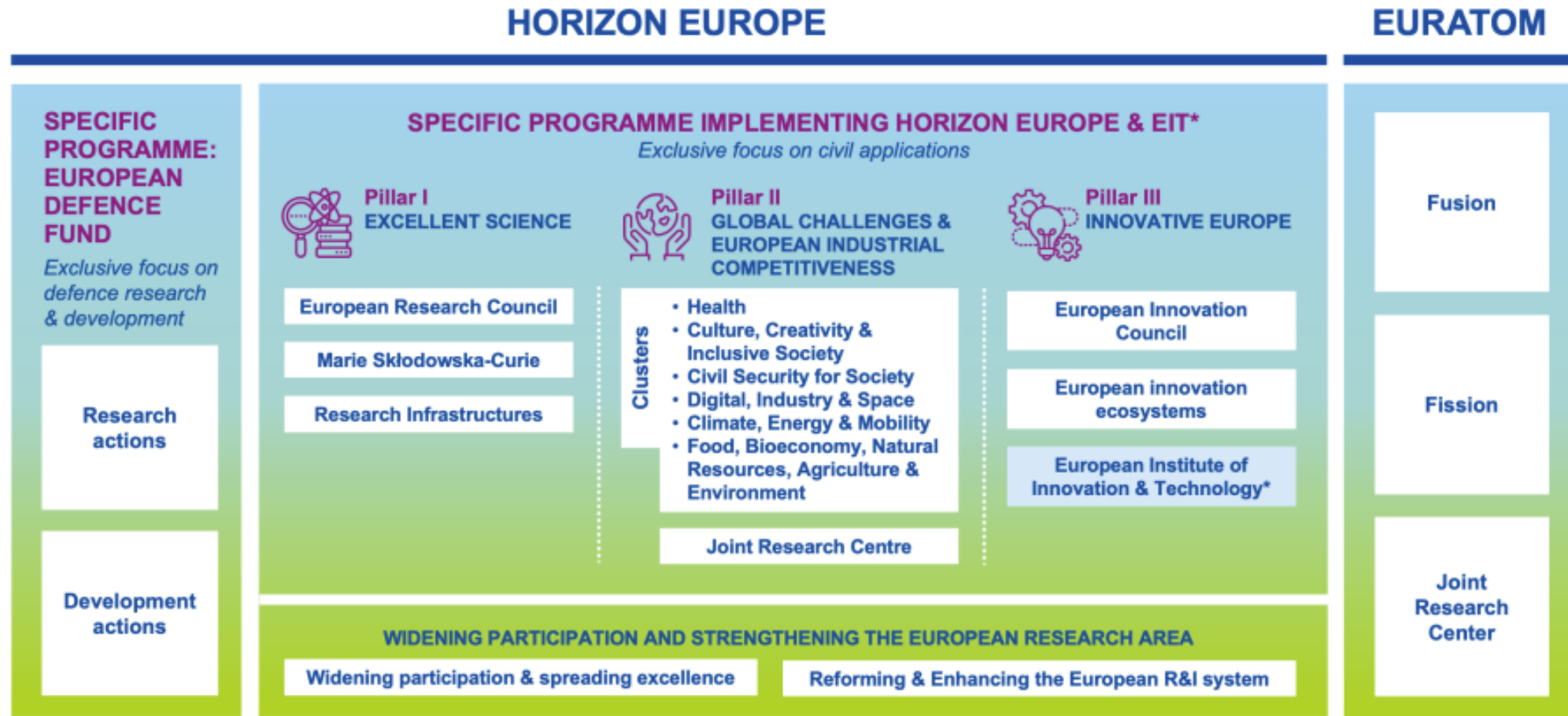
#1: Know your funding body



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



#1: Know your funding body



* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

#1: Know your funding body



Standard evaluation process



#1: Know your funding body

Do

- Use funding search platforms or AI (i.e. Perplexity AI, ChatGPT)
- Reach out to a Research Officer for advice
- Check funders' website
- Understand funders' mission and remit
- Read support documentation (i.e. Call Programme, Guide for Applicants)

Don't

- Use same proposal for different funding bodies
- Overlook relevant policies
- Underestimate differences between programme
- Go in solo mode

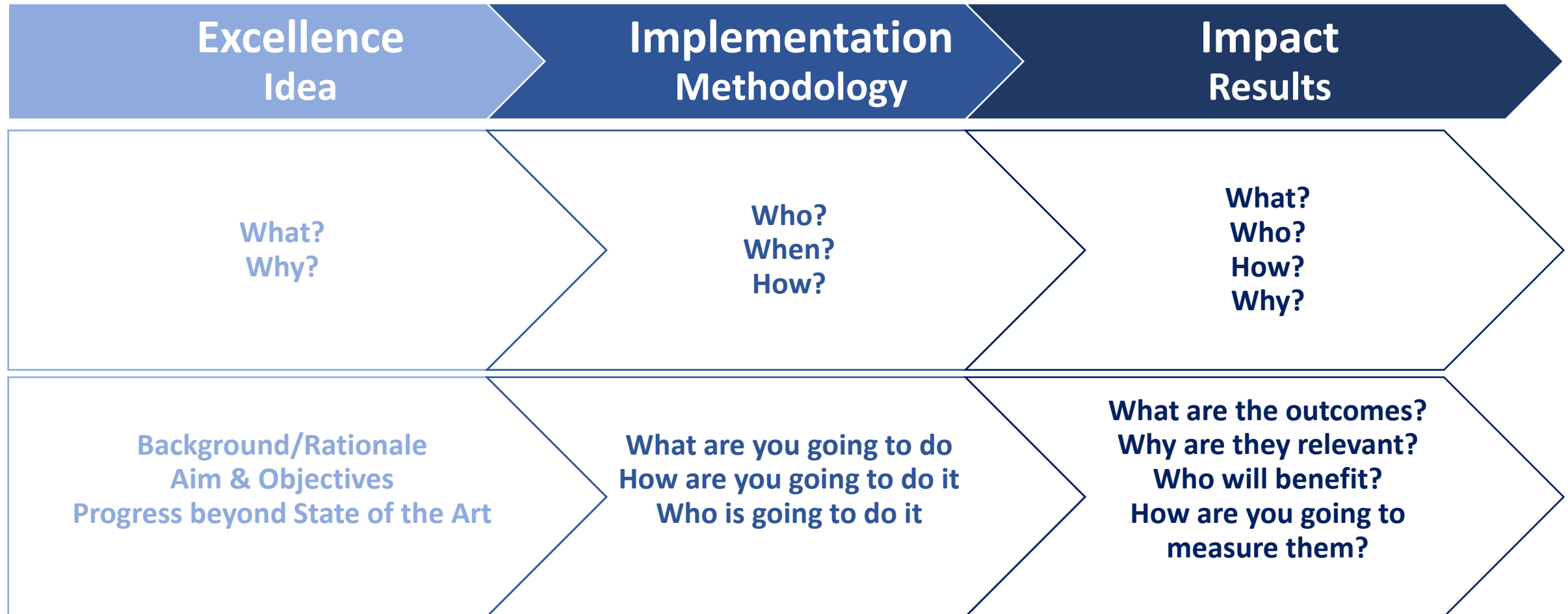


#1: Know your funding body

Research Ireland vs MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship



#2: Customize your writing style



#2: Customize your writing style

Do

- Respect page limits & formatting rules
- Keep guidelines handy & refer to relevant policies
- Be specific, but keep it simple and clear
- Answer the questions
- Make it easy to remember
- Use diagrams and chart

Don't

- Use abbreviations, acronyms, jargon
- General references to policies
- Use academic English (you are not writing a paper!)
- Concentrate on a specific section (i.e. science) → every section counts
- Make assumptions or take info for granted



#3: Manage your time strategically

Do

- Plan ahead
- Take the time to understand the funder and the call
- CV development (in some cases)
- Identify funding pipelines

Don't

- Leave it to the last minute
- Start writing immediately





Funding & tender opportunities

Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

[Register as an expert!](#)

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Work as an expert

The European Union Institutions appoint external experts to assist in the evaluation of grant applications, projects and tenders, and to provide opinions and advice in specific cases.



In particular, experts assist in:

- **Evaluation** of proposals, prize applications and tenders
- **Monitoring** of actions, grant agreements, public procurement contracts

In addition, experts provide opinion and advise on:

- **Preparation, implementation and evaluation of EU programmes and design of policies.**

In order to select experts, the European Union Institutions publish regularly calls for expression of interest (see list below) detailing the selection criteria, the required expertise, the description of the tasks, their duration and the conditions of remuneration.

Interested? Please join the database of external experts!

[Register as expert](#)

As new expert, you will be first requested to create your EU login account and register your profile.

Registered experts can update the profile via the My Expert Area after [login](#).

UCC Research – EU Funding Team

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