

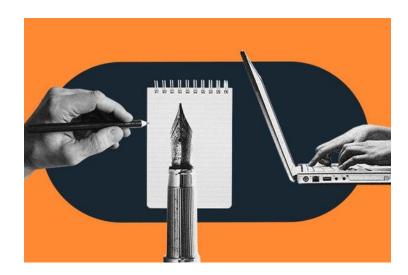
# **Understanding Proposal Writing Online Sessions for Research Staff 2025**

Dr Paolo Saporito EU Research Officer psaporito@ucc.ie 4th April 2025



#### **Key suggestions**

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



















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









#### **HORIZON EUROPE EURATOM SPECIFIC** SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT\* PROGRAMME: Exclusive focus on civil applications **EUROPEAN** Pillar I Pillar II Pillar III **DEFENCE** Fusion **EXCELLENT SCIENCE GLOBAL CHALLENGES &** INNOVATIVE EUROPE **FUND EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL** Exclusive focus on COMPETITIVENESS defence research **European Research Council** Health European Innovation & development · Culture, Creativity & Council Inclusive Society Marie Skłodowska-Curie · Civil Security for Society European innovation · Digital, Industry & Space Fission ecosystems Research Research Infrastructures · Climate, Energy & Mobility actions Food, Bioeconomy, Natural European Institute of Resources, Agriculture & Innovation & Technology\* Environment Joint Research Centre Joint Development Research actions Center WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA Widening participation & spreading excellence Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

<sup>\*</sup> The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme



# **Standard evaluation process**

Receipt of proposals

Individual evaluation

Consensus group

Panel review

**Finalisation** 

Admissibility/eligibility check

Allocation of proposals to evaluators

Experts assess proposals individually.

Minimum of three experts per proposal (but often more than three).

All individual experts discuss together to agree on a **common position**, including comments and scores for each proposal.

The panel of experts reaches an **agreement** on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking **consistency across** the evaluations.

If necessary, resolves cases where evaluators were unable to agree.

Ranks the proposals with the same score.

The Commission/Agency reviews the results of the experts' evaluation and puts together the **final ranking list**.



#### 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





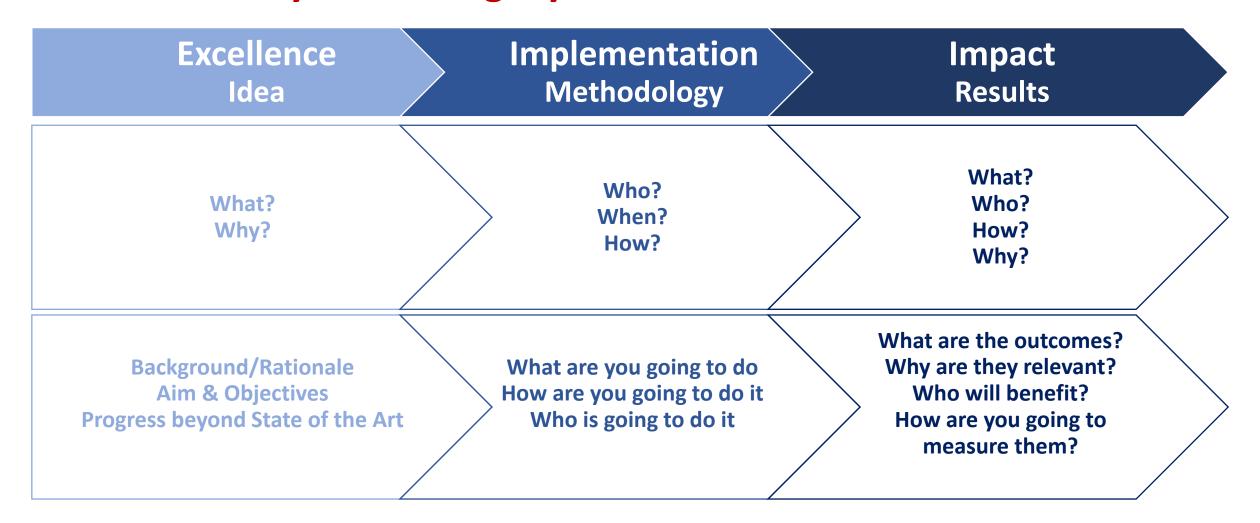
#### Research Ireland vs MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship







#### **#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!



SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▼ HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▼ PROJECTS & RESULTS

WORK AS AN EXPERT

SUPPORT ▼

#### 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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