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Horizon 2020

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Innovative Training Networks

Information Session

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Session Overview

- **Overview** – Policy Background to EU Funding and MSCA
- **Practicalities** – What is an ITN & How to Apply
- **Hints and Tips** – Evaluation of Your Proposal
- **Case Study –** FungiBrain ITN led by Professor Nick Read
- **Question and Answer Session**

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Overview – Policy Background

- Horizon 2020 is the EU's funding instrument for research and innovation from 2014 – 2020.
- Overarching priority – exiting economic crisis through sustainable growth.
- Three pillar structure.

Excellent Science	Industrial Leadership	Societal Challenges
European Research Council Future & Emerging Technologies Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Research Infrastructures	Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT), ICTs, Key Enabling Technologies, Space Access to Risk Finance Innovation in SMEs	Health & Wellbeing Food Security Transport Energy Climate action Societies Security
Widening Participation, Science with and for Society		

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Overview – Policy Background

- MSCA sits within the Excellent Science Pillar.
- Excellent Science pillar has 30% of H2020 budget.
- Overall objective of this pillar "to strengthen the excellence of European research" to be achieved via:
  - Funding new research and ideas.
  - Attracting and retaining high potential individuals.
  - Funding most talented and creative researchers.

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Overview – Policy Background

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Ensure excellent and innovative research training as well as attractive career and knowledge exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers to best prepare them to face current and future societal challenges.

MSCA Actions Contributing to wider EU Policies and Strategies

Europe 2020 - http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

Innovation Union - http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm

Youth on the Move - http://ec.europa.eu/youthonthemove/

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Overview – MSCA Schemes

- Operate on a bottom-up basis.
- Open to all research & innovation domains – from basic research to market take up.
- Mobility both cross-border and cross-sector is a key requirement.
- Aim is to both develop new knowledge and enhance skills of people carrying out the research and innovation.
- Strong participation across sectors.
- Dissemination and public engagement through public outreach.
- Gender balance – equal opportunities but also gender dimension in the research context.
- Total budget €6.2bn compared with €4.7bn in FP7.

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MSCA– Three Key Schemes	
Innovative Training Networks	2014 Deadline 9th April 2014 2015 Deadline 13th Jan 2015
Individual Fellowships	2014 Deadline 11th Sept 2014 2015 Deadline 10th Sept 2015
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange	2014 Deadline 24th April 2014 2015 Deadline 28th April 2015

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Practicalities

What is an Innovative Training Network (ITN)

Different Types of ITNs

How to Apply

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What is an Innovative Training Network

- Competitively selected joint research training/doctoral programmes implemented by partnerships of academic and non academic from different countries across Europe.
- Focus on advancing scientific/technological knowledge through research on individual projects.
- Networks have overarching aims and objectives which are met by different partners in different carrying out individual research projects.
- Individual research projects are carried out under supervision by early stage researchers that are recruited to the network.

Definition early stage researcher – at the time of recruitment by the host organisation must be in the first four years of their research careers and NOT been awarded a doctoral degree.

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What is an Innovative Training Network

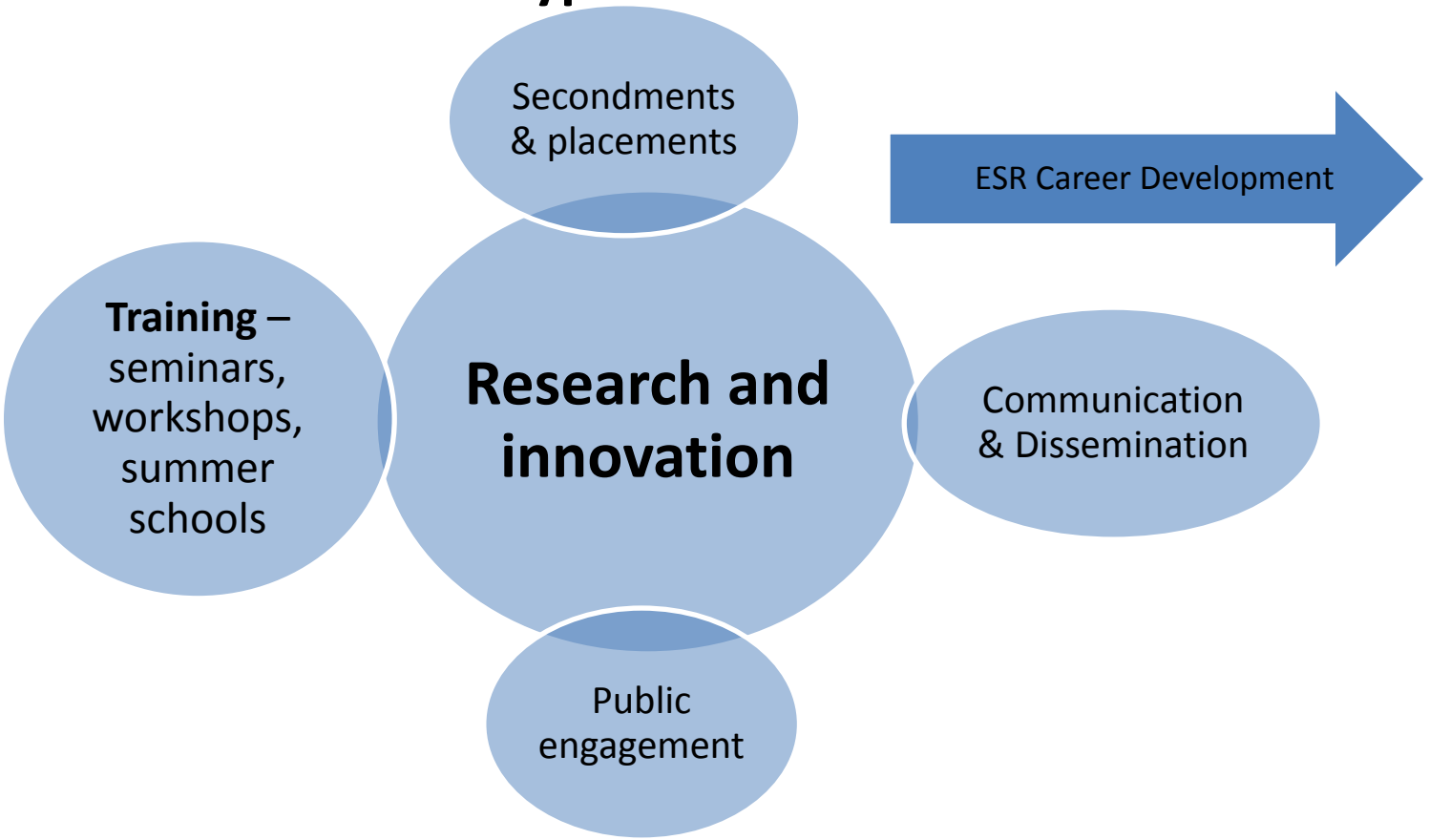
- Neither a research project NOR a training programme - it is combination of both – advancing an area of research whilst at the same time training early stage researchers (ESR).
- ESRs may register on a PhD programme.
- Key element - transferable skills training for ESRs in addition to standard PhD training.
- Key element –inclusion of non academic sector.
- Focus on the Triple I - international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral.

Definitions

Non-academic sector – includes any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector.

Academic sector – includes universities and HEIs awarding degrees, non-profit research institutions and international European interest organisations.

What Does an ITN Do - Typical ITN Activities



Aim to train a new generation of creative, **entrepreneurial** and innovative researchers able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit.

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European Training Networks (ETN)

- Min 3 beneficiaries from 3 different MS/AC
- Up to 540 researcher months
- Apply to one of eight scientific panels
- 2014 budget €349.7m

European Industrial Doctorates (EID)

- Min 1 academic and 1 non academic beneficiary from 2 different MS/AC
- Up to 180 researcher months if 2 beneficiaries but increases to 540 researcher months if 3 beneficiaries
- 2014 budget €25.5m

European Joint Doctorates (EJD)

- Min 3 academic beneficiaries from 3 different MS/AC
- Up to 540 researcher months
- 2014 budget €30m

Only recruit ESRs, Max duration 48 months, Max ESR contract is 36 months

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What is a Beneficiary?

Beneficiary (LEVEL 1)

- Signs the Grant Agreement.
- Full partner.
- Recruits, supervises, hosts and trains ESRs.
- Provides secondment opportunities.

Partner Organisations (LEVEL 2)

- Do not sign the grant agreement.
- Provide training and hosts ESRs during secondments.
- Do not have their own budget.

KEY DIFFERENCE – Beneficiaries recruit ESRs and Partners (LEVEL 2) do not.

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European Training Networks (ETN)

- Min is 3 but average size 6 to 10 beneficiaries.
- Academic and non academic sectors.
- Each beneficiary hosts at least one ESR.
- ESR contract 3 – 36 months.
- ESR can spend up to 30% of contract on secondment to other beneficiaries or partners.
- Max 40% of budget to one country.
- Joint supervision encouraged.

European Industrial Doctorates (EID)

- Obligatory non academic beneficiary usually industry.
- ESRs are for 36 months and must be enrolled on PhD at academic beneficiary.
- ESRs must spend at least 50% of their time in the non-academic sector.
- Mandatory joint selection, training & supervision of ESRs.

European Joint Doctorates (EJD)

- Focus is on shaping European doctoral training landscape.
- Participation of non academic sector is essential.
- Creation of coherent joint doctoral programmes that deliver joint, double or multiple degrees.
- Joint governance structure.
- ESR is 36 months, PhD mandatory.

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ITN Funding

Researcher unit cost [person/month]			Institutional Unit Cost [person/month]	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and overheads
3110	600	500	1800	1200

- Funding based on unit costs, multiplied by requested ESR months.
- Budget is calculated when ESR months completed in application.
- Country co-efficient applies to living allowance.
- Common UK practice - Living, mobility and family allowances combined into salary.
- ESR allowances cover employer and employee contributions of NI and pension and are taxed.
- Institutional costs can be moved between partners.

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Sample Budget

UK HEI with Two ESRs			
Living allowance	269,375.76	3110*1.203*72	A total of €52095.96 per annum to cover salary and on costs of one ESR without family and €58095.96 for ESR with family. Lower than 2012 and 2013 because of reduced country coefficient.
Mobility allowance	43,200	600*72	
Family allowance	36,000	500*72	
Research, training & networking	129,600	1800*72	If you do not meet requirement of recruiting and completing 72 months then budget drops accordingly.
Management & overheads	86,400	1200*72	If you are the coordinator need to agree with partners that you take a greater share of management & overheads as you will need project manager.
TOTAL BUDGET	**564,575.76**		

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How to Apply

Via participant portal
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html

Key Documents

- MCSA Work Programme
  - European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researcher
  - EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training
- Specific Guide for Applicants – Manual

ALSO Look At

Previously funded ITN projects under FP7 (under theme choose FP7 People)
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html

For EJD, Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_action_1_joint_doctorates_en.php

a.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html

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European Commission

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Participant Portal

ropean Commission > Research & Innovation > Participant Portal > Home

HOME | FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES | HOW TO PARTICIPATE | EXPERTS | SUPPORT | LOGIN | REGISTER

On this site you can find and secure **funding** for research & innovation projects under the following EU programmes:

- **2014-2020** Horizon 2020 - research and innovation framework programme
- **2007-2013** 7th research framework programme (FP7) and Competitiveness & Innovation Programme (CIP)

Non-registered users

- search for funding
- read the funding guide & download the legal documents
- check if an organisation is already registered
- contact our support services or check our FAQs

Registered users

- submit your proposal
- sign the grant
- manage your project throughout its lifecycle

Calls - Research Participar ×

ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/index.html

Calls

Search Topics

Call Updates

FP7 & CIP Programmes

Calls

Call Updates

COSME

Other Funding Opportunities

Horizon 2020

Excellent Science

- [ ] European Research Council
- [ ] Future and Emerging Technologies
- [x] Marie Sklodowska-Curie actions
- [ ] Research infrastructures

Industrial Leadership

- [ ] Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies(LEIT)
- [ ] Access to risk finance
- [ ] Innovation in SMEs

Filter a call FILTER

Sort by ○ Title ○ Call Id ◉ Publication Date ○ Deadline Dat

Excellent Science
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)
H2020-MSCA-RISE-2014
Pub.Date: 10/12/2013 Deadline: 24/04/2014

Excellent Science
Trans-national cooperation among Marie Skłodowska-Curie National ...
H2020-MSCA-NCP-2014
Pub.Date: 10/12/2013 Deadline: 02/04/2014

Excellen
Europea
(NIGHT)
H2020-M
Pub.Date:

Excellent Science
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTION: INNOVATIVE TRAINING NETWORKS (ITN)
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014
Pub.Date: 10/12/2013 Deadline: 09/04/2014

In addition to the search facilities, the full list of H2020 Calls can be found **here**.

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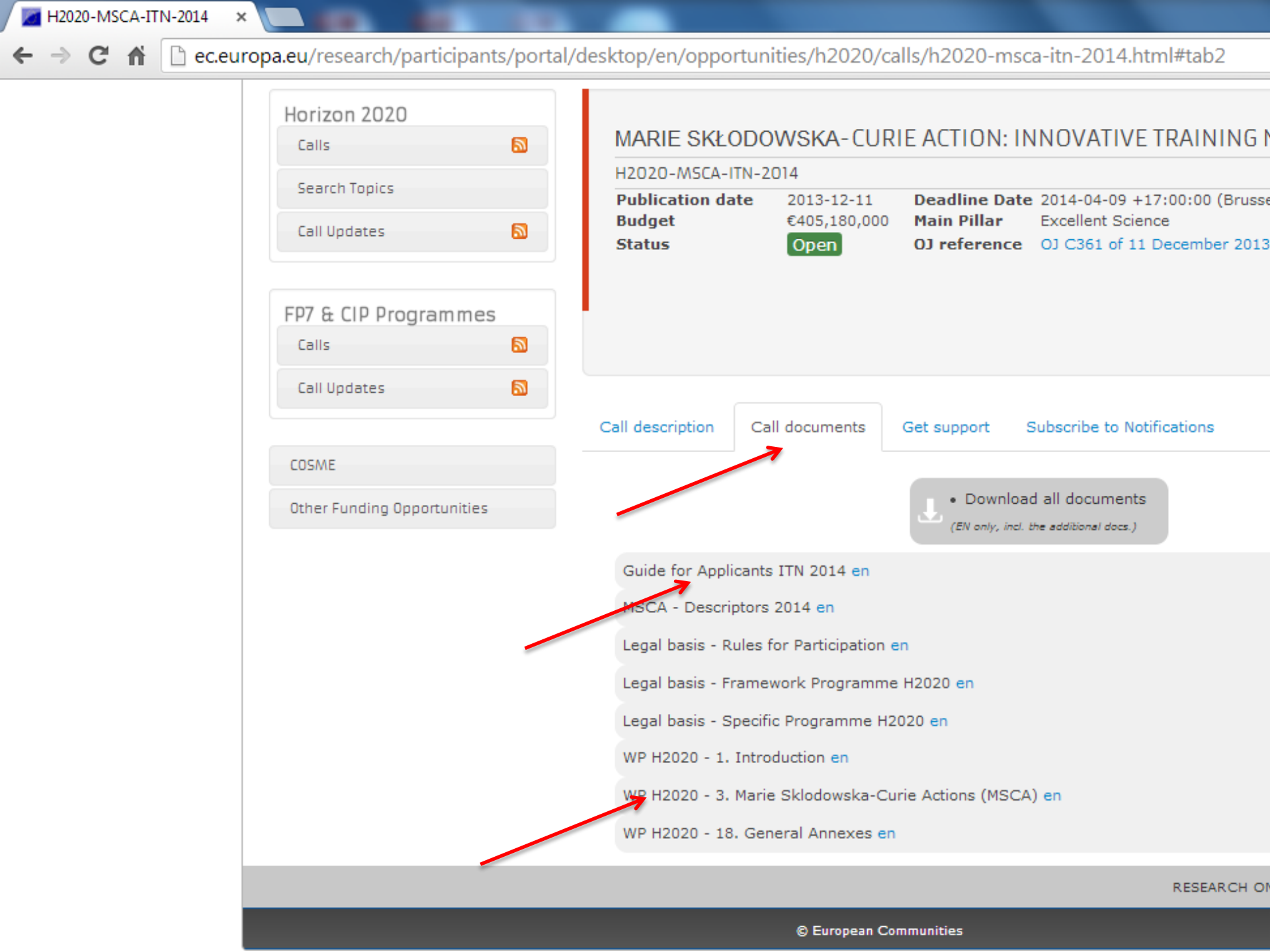
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014
ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/calls/h2020-msca-itn-2014.html#tab2
Horizon 2020
Calls
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FP7 & CIP Programmes
Calls
Call Updates
COSME
Other Funding Opportunities
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTION: INNOVATIVE TRAINING N
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014
Publication date 2013-12-11
Deadline Date 2014-04-09 +17:00:00 (Brusse
Budget €405,180,000
Main Pillar Excellent Science
Status Open
OJ reference OJ C361 of 11 December 2013
Call description
Call documents
Get support
Subscribe to Notifications
• Download all documents
(EN only, incl. the additional docs.)
Guide for Applicants ITN 2014 en
MSCA - Descriptors 2014 en
Legal basis - Rules for Participation en
Legal basis - Framework Programme H2020 en
Legal basis - Specific Programme H2020 en
WP H2020 - 1. Introduction en
WP H2020 - 3. Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) en
WP H2020 - 18. General Annexes en
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How to Apply

- Coordinator registers the proposal in the portal.
  - PIC code
  - Draft acronym, draft summary, choice of panel
- Coordinator adds beneficiaries – need PICs and email addresses.
- Proposal is completed.
  - Administrative forms (Edit forms)
  - Part B (‘Download template’ and ‘Upload’)
- Proposal is submitted.
  - System checks – validate form and print preview
  - Submit as many times – final part B upload will always override

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How to Apply – Administrative Forms

- Section 1 – abstract, acronym, panel.
- Section 2 – data on participating organisations, beneficiaries only. Need to ask them to check, complete and validate.
- Section 3 – budget, no actual figures just number of researcher months per beneficiary.
- Section 4 – ethics table.
- Section 5 – information on partner organisations i.e. not beneficiaries.

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PART B Structure

Cover Page, Table of Contents

List of Participants

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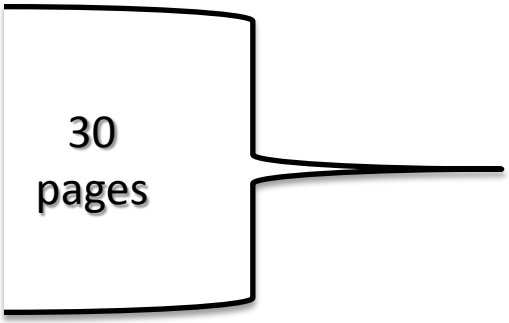
Summary

Excellence

Impact

Implementation



Detailed outline of what is required within each section including tables is detailed in the guide for applicants.

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GANTT chart

Capacities of the participating organisations

Ethical aspects

Letters of commitment Note+ for EJD: Letters of institutional commitment

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Hints and Tips

Evaluation and Scoring

Evaluation Criteria

Positive and Negative Evaluation Comments

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Evaluation and Scoring

Scored on a scale of 0 to 5	Weighting	Priority in case of ex aequo
Excellence	50%	1
Impact	30%	2
Implementation	20%	3

- Overall threshold of 70% applies to total score.
- Proposals ranked within panels by overall score.
- Proposals funded in ranking order – need to aim at a score of at least 90+.
- No restrictions on reapplying.
- Evaluation summary reports provided.

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Evaluation Criteria

Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme. Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme. Quality of the supervision. Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations.	Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills, and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives. Contribution to structuring doctoral / early-stage research training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity. Communication & dissemination of results.	Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan. Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures. Appropriateness of the infrastructure of the participating organisations. Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and their commitment.

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Hints and Tips

Evaluation Criteria 1 – Excellence

- Excellence of research – is it innovative, inter/multi disciplinary, intersectoral.
- Excellence of training – is it innovative, does it include transferable skills, does it include exposure to other sectors, is supervision high quality
- Provide detail on how beneficiaries and partners will interact and collaborate.
- In training section refer to ESRs personal career development plans - provide details of the complementary skills (ethics, IPR, grant writing) and transferable skills (public engagement, communication, management, entrepreneurship) training.
- Look at documents from graduate education and research development offices – for information on experience, quality of supervision, training courses.
- Always remember to address EU added value – how does EU benefit, why is EU level action required.

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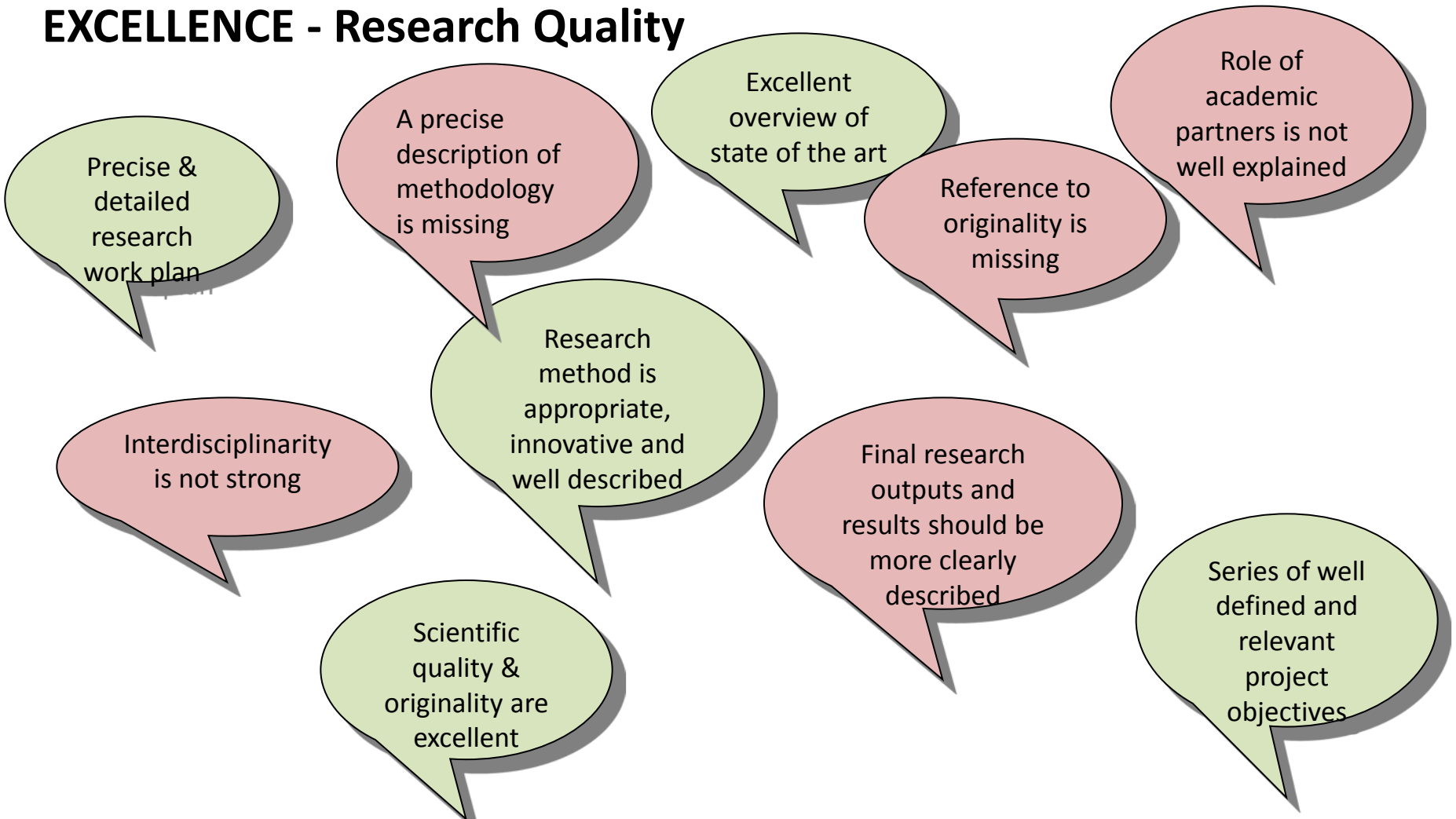
Evaluation – Positive and Negative Comments on EXCELLENCE - Research Quality



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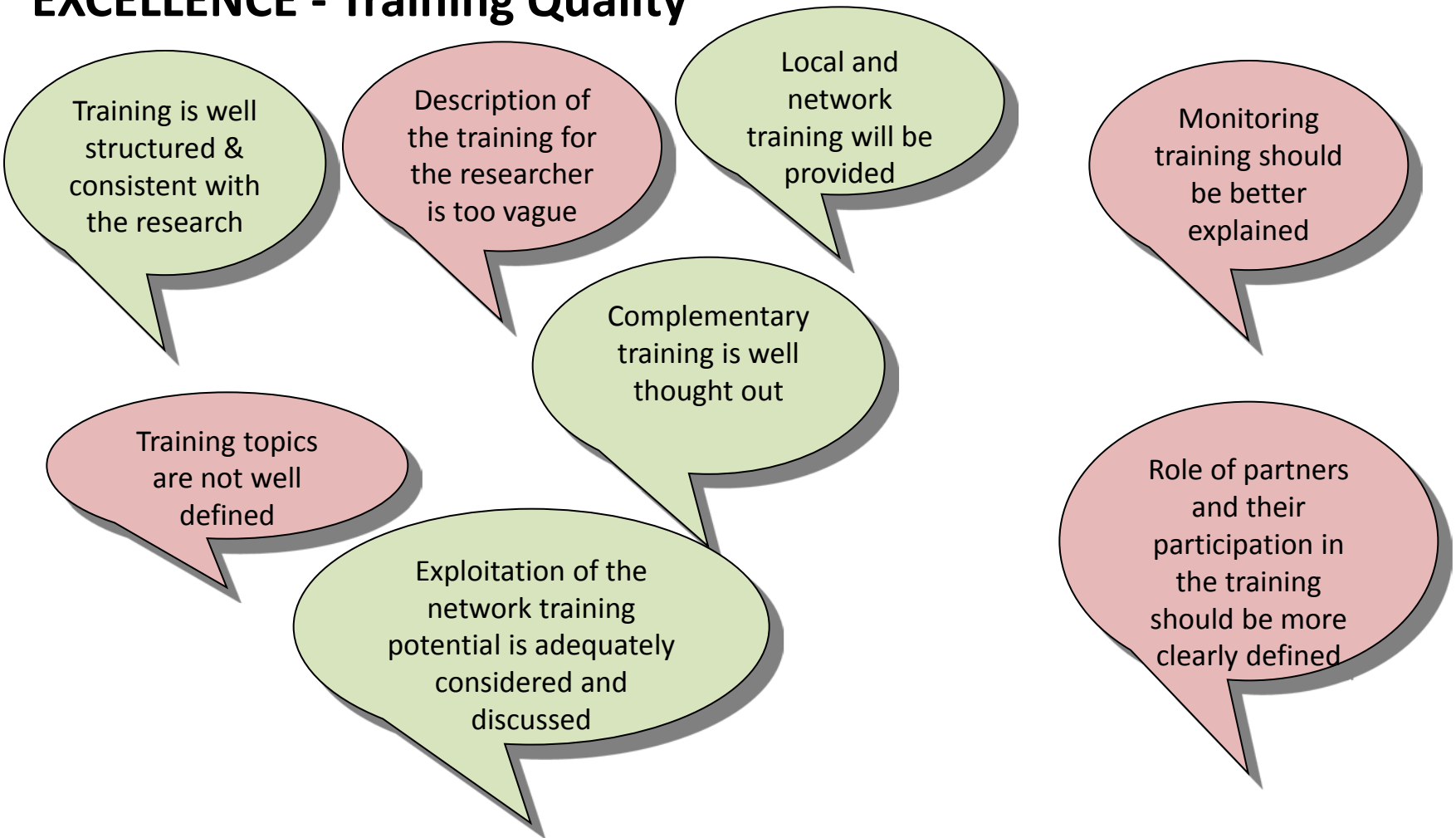
Evaluation – Positive and Negative Comments on EXCELLENCE - Training Quality



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Hints and Tips

Evaluation Criteria 2 – IMPACT

Think about impact on several different levels, for example:

- Impact on research field – why EU level approach needed, why do you need trained researchers in your research field.
- Impact on individuals - career development and what added value do they gain from network compared with PhD single institution.
- Impact on institution – is it strategic, are you aiming to shape doctoral training in Europe.
- Impact at European level – address fragmentation, what is added value to Europe, show the sustainability of the collaboration. Important for EJDs to show how you will sustain joint degree structures.
- In this section include concrete plans for communication, public engagement and dissemination.

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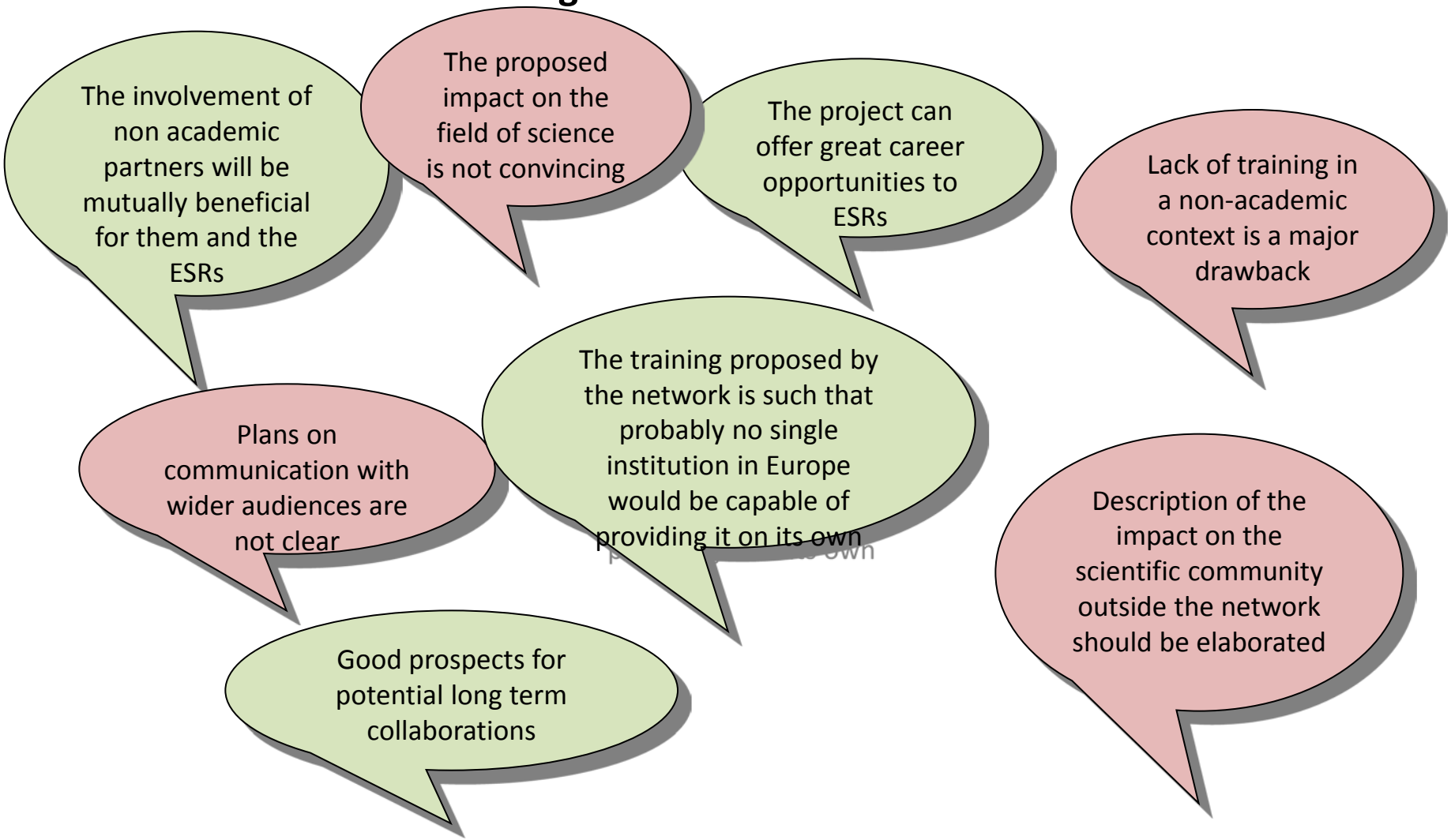
Evaluation – Positive and Negative Comments on IMPACT



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Hints and Tips

Evaluation Criteria 3 – IMPLEMENTATION

- Coherence of the work plan – appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources.
- Appropriateness of management structures and procedures including quality management and risk management – look at previous proposals to see what works; ensure you refer to European Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.
- Appropriateness of infrastructure of the participating organisations.
- Competences, experience and complementarity of participating organisations and their commitment to the work programme.
- Also include in this section the role of partner (LEVEL 2) organisations and their active contribution to the research and training. A letter of commitment should then match this section.

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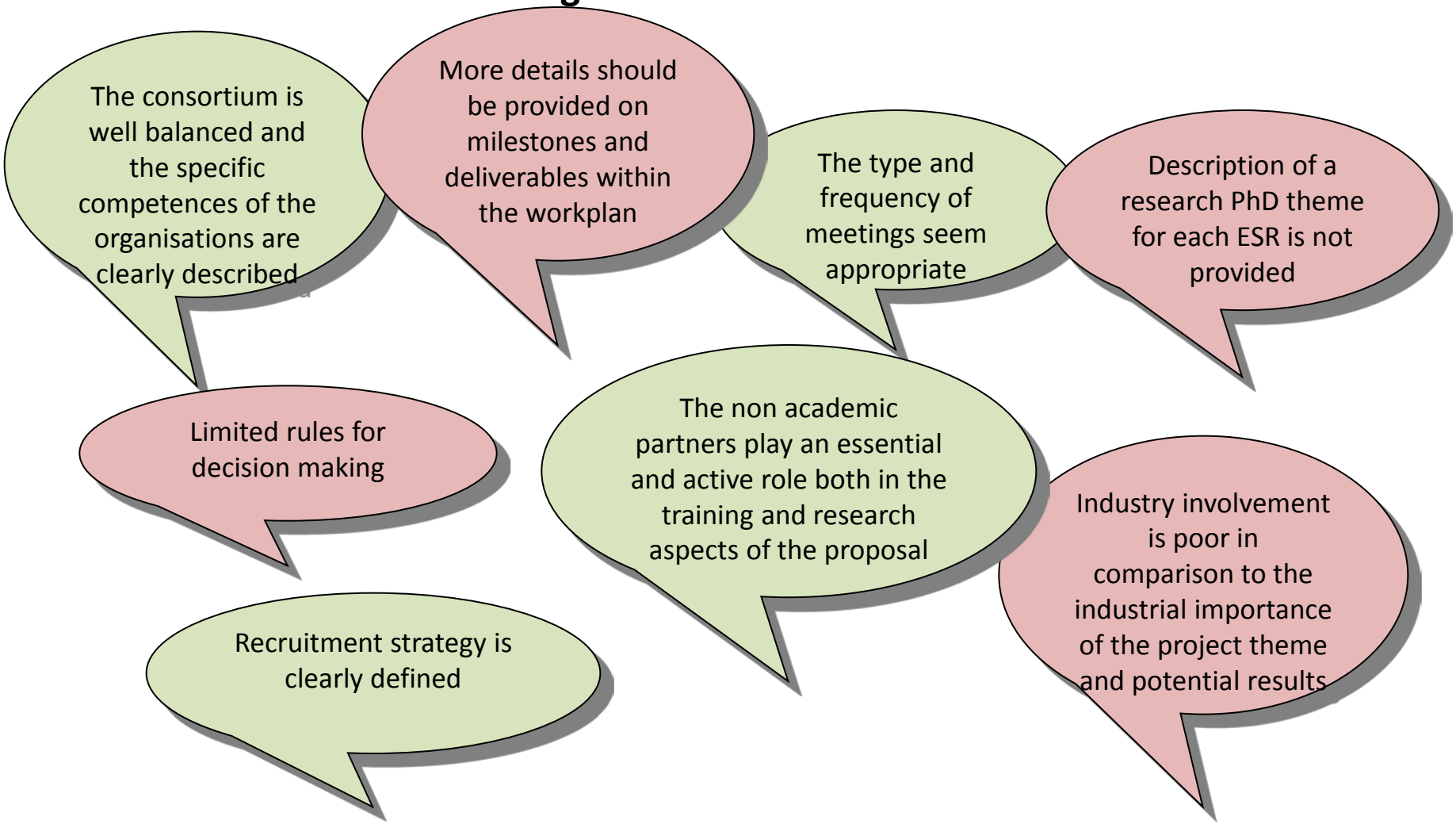
Evaluation – Positive and Negative Comments on IMPLEMENTATION



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Final Tips

- **Non academic participation is key**
  Specifically addressed under the evaluation criteria. Aspects that are assessed under more than one criteria will count under each.
- **Evaluation Criteria**
  Address thoroughly – make sure you cover each one. Highlight the right words – make the evaluators job easy.
- **Clarity of presentation**
  Present case clearly and summarise where appropriate – use tables, diagrams.
- **Different Schemes**
  Aware of focus of different schemes and make sure you have addressed the requirements of the relevant strand.
- **Remember to contact your local RSS staff.**

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Further Information

EU Marie Curie Actions webpage (FP7)
http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/index_en.htm

Participant Portal
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html

UKRO
MSCA national contact point for UK
www.ukro.ac.uk/mariecurie
mariecurie-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk

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