

M U N I

MSCA-PF preparation support at MUNI

Jakub Zeman - pre-award coordination of MSCA-PF at MUNI
Research Office, Masaryk University

20. 11. 2024
Grants Week 2024

M U N I

Briefly on MSCA-PF-2024 at MUNI

Our submissions last year

Total number of MSCA-PF submissions in 2023 and 2024



The overall submission increased by 29%, while the budget increased by 60%.

However, the unit costs and CCC have been substantially increased, too.

Practically, the budgets of individual proposals are substantially higher this year than in the previous years.

17



21



MUNI needs to be submitting more

Comparison of individual MSCA-PF Budgets - 2023 vs. 2024 (Czechia)

Is the Researcher eligible for family allowance?* Yes No

Duration of fellowship *	Country in which fellowship will take place
24	Czechia

2023

	Country Coefficient	Number of Months	Contributions for recruited researchers			Institutional contributions		Total
			Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
Fellowship	0.791	24	96438.72	14400.00	0.00	24000.00	15600.00	150438.72
Total			96438.72	14400.00	0.00	24000.00	15600.00	150438.72

Is the Researcher eligible for family allowance?* Yes No

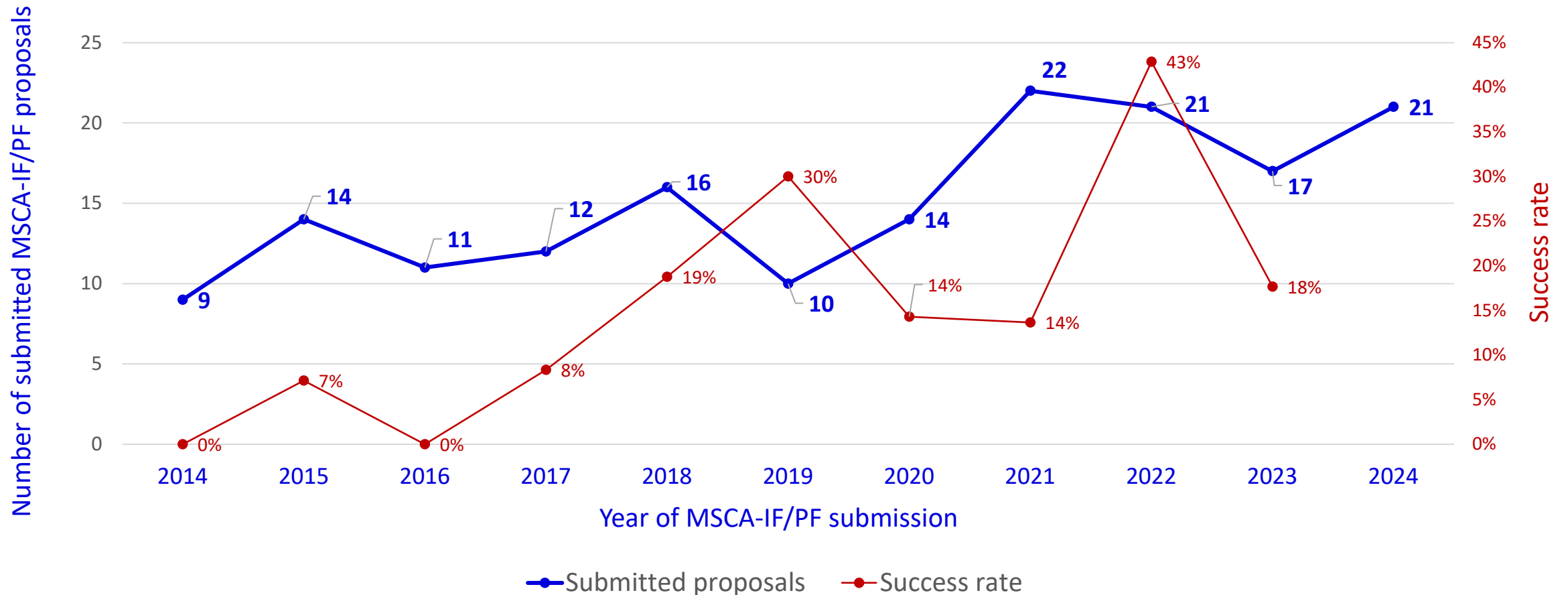
Duration of fellowship *	Country in which fellowship will take place
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2024

	Country Coefficient	Number of Months	Contributions for recruited researchers			Institutional contributions		Total
			Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
Fellowship	0.941	24	135278.16	17040.00	0.00	24000.00	15600.00	191918.16
Total			135278.16	17040.00	0.00	24000.00	15600.00	191918.16

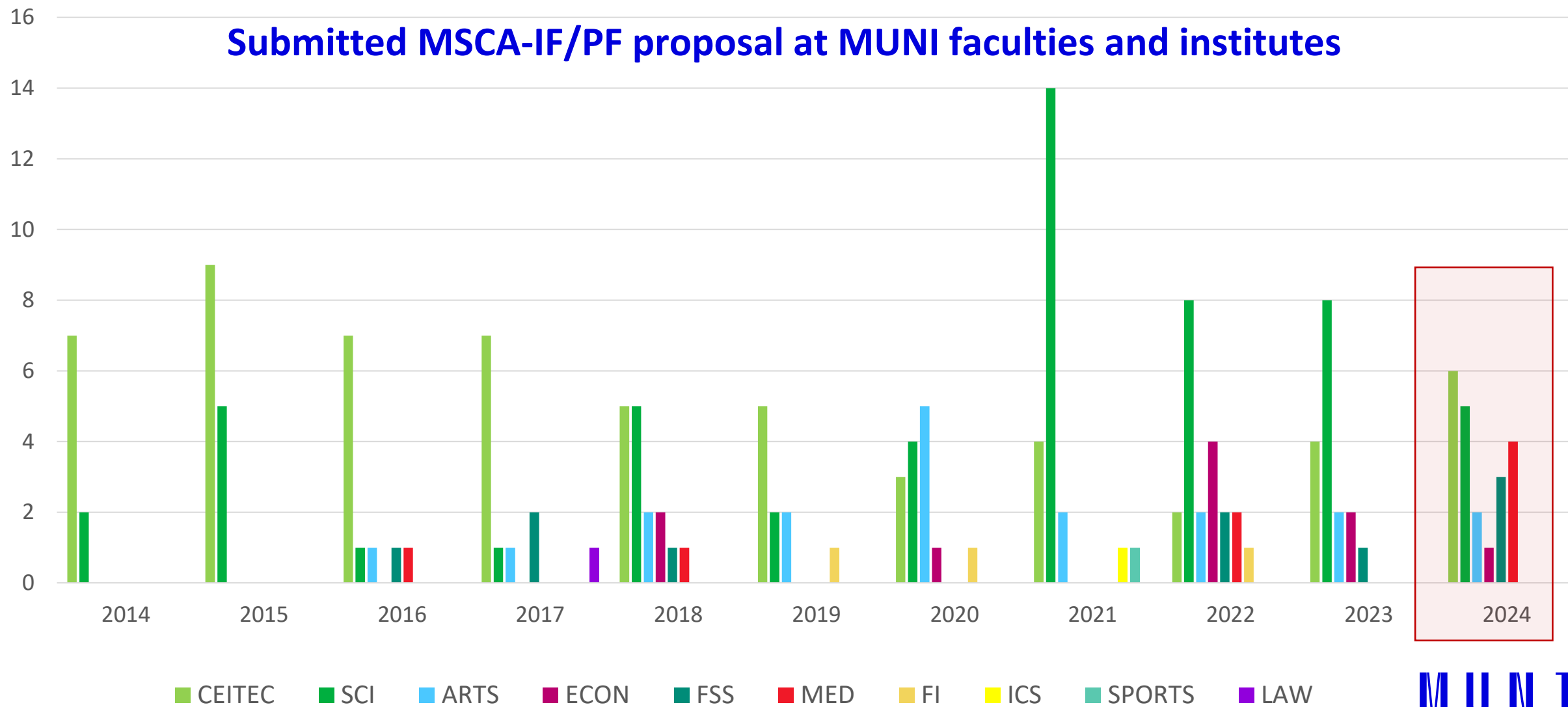
MSCA-PF at MUNI in perspective

Number of submitted MSCA-IF/PF proposals at MUNI in H2020/HE and success rates



MSCA-PF 2024 call – submitted proposals

Submitted MSCA-IF/PF proposal at MUNI faculties and institutes



How to further optimise the MSCA-PF support?

Main issues

- Drop-out of candidates
- Lack of grant writing experience
- Sometimes lack of involvement on the part of supervisors
- Investment of **time** and **effort** into the (consultancy, support, writing)

How we react

- Close focus on recruitment – addressing potential supervisors, working with their networks
- Building relationship with the candidates and the supervisors
- Providing customised and coordinated support and advice
- ... thus increasing motivation and engagement
- Option to stop or reduce support of a candidates (for their insufficient collaboration)

Structure & content of support

Learn & teach, share information & experience, think about it...



MSCA-PF seminar for future supervisors



MSCA-PF Training Day for candidates



MSCA-PF Workshop



MSCA-PF Individual consultations



MSCA-PF seminar for future supervisors

- First MSCA-PF support event each year (February)
- The aim is to:
 - Explain what is the **grant scheme MSCA-PF** about and its **benefits**
 - Explain **supervisor's role** = what they should really do **specifically**
 - Explain that this is a continuous effort – **recruiting** never ends
 - Relation to an individual or a team (department / faculty) **strategy**

1.3 *Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host*

1.3 *Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the institution*

I will benefit greatly from the first-rate quality mentoring of **I. Foletti, Full Professor of Medieval art**, whose competence is demonstrated by his prolific scientific production and by his involvement, often in a leading role, in **national and international projects**, conferences, and activities addressed to broader public. The supervisor is a specialist in medieval art and culture. His interests focus on art and society around the Mediterranean and beyond in a broad chronological perspective from Late Antiquity to the late Middle Ages, and, most importantly, for the present project, he is dealing since many years on the **interaction between visual art and rhetoric**. During the academic year 2018-2019 he was moreover **Adjunct Professor at Ca' Foscari**, University of Venice, and had thus **exceptional relationship with local Venetian institutions**. Since 2013, the supervisor has secured more than 3,8 M € as PI or co-investigator on grants, including as leader of several international projects. He is also **the director and co-founder of the periodical *Convivium*** (WOS, SCOPUS, ERICH), whose editorial board includes prominent international scholars. The supervisor is also **founder and director of the CEMS and director of the Hans Belting Library**. He is author of **several monographs**: his publication list includes 30 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He has organized or co-organized more than 30 international scientific events and edited more than 35 collective monographs. It is therefore certain that he could provide me with **outstanding mentorship** and give me the chance to take part in **high-level events and publications**. These include workshops that I will have the opportunity to organize myself, with related proceedings, but also the possibility to participate in the many conferences and public lectures organized by the CEMS. His **research group** includes six post-doctoral researchers, 10 PhD students, three editors, four graphic designers, one project manager, one secretary, and one specialist in communication. Since autumn 2017, the CEMS

regularly hosts ***Hans Belting fellows*** who are working on the cultural interplay in the Medieval Mediterranean. Thus, I would be integrated in a highly international, dynamic, and **gender balanced** environment where I look forward to fruitful interaction. The supervisor also engages in **extensive didactic activity**. He taught courses of Medieval and Byzantine Art in Switzerland, Czech Republic, Italy, France, Finland, and Russia. He has supervised 70 **BA and MA** theses, three **PhD** and seven post-docs. Since 2016, he has worked on a series of multimedia outputs dedicated to wide audiences. The CEMS have produced more than **25 short movies** aimed at broad audience. Since September 2020, in collaboration with Czech TV Art, he is launching a monthly series of short movies about medieval art. Its goal is to promote art historical research to broad audience, with the ambition to show its relevance to local communities and policymakers. I will be fully included in the CEMS media communication projects.

Your role & contribution

- **Write the profile** of yourself/provide inputs, include **quantifications** to the attributes
- make it fitting the project proposal and indicate **complementarity of your profiles...**
- ... or opportunities for **knowledge transfer**

Part B1

EXCELLENCE

1.3 *Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host*

Your role & contribution

- **Options** of research skills trainings related to the project
- **Mapping local colleagues** for the applicant – who can they interact with? Train/be trained?
- Opening doors – **international networks** and collaboration
- Get to know your applicant – what can you (team) learn from them?
- **TRAINING PLAN review** – is it feasible? Does it match the project? Is it matching/relevant to your applicant career goals and current profile (2.1 + 1.4)



MSCA-PF Training Day for candidates

- **An on-line one-day event in March / April (or even earlier)**

Morning - on Part A & Part B1 (Excellence)

- Block I - 9:00 – 10:20
 - 10 min break
- Block II - 10:30 – 12:00
 - 1 hour Lunch break

Afternoon - on Part B1 (Impact, Implementation) + Part B2

- Block III - 13:00 – 14:20
 - 10 min break
- Block IV - 14:30 – 16:00



MSCA-PF Training Day for candidates

The character of this MSCA-PF seminar...

- This is going to be a „frontal teaching“ session with minimum interaction... but -
- **Prepare your draft to be allowed to participate in the MSCA-PF WORKSHOP 2024**

... and its content

- Explaining the *purpose & basics* of MSCA-PF
- Securing resources – *what (for), where & how*
- **The proposal template** – how to approach it + *tips & examples*
 - Writing style and examples
 - Basic PM concepts and how to use them
 - Approach to preparation – plan, attitude, communication
 - Project managed proposal preparation
 - How *we* do support the proposal preparation

MOBILITY

Essential and mandatory aspect of any MSCA

Two types of *Postdoctoral Fellowships* – EF & GF with separate budgets

Option of **SECONDMENTS** within EF, GF

- **anywhere** in the world
- EF – **up to 1/3** of the EF
- GF – **up to 1/3** of the outgoing phase, max 3 months can be spent at the start of the project at HI or other organization being part of the project
- Short visits possible, too...

Optional **ADDITIONAL PERIOD** – N.A.P.

- Up to 6 months in non-academic sector in an **EU MS or AC**
- Letter of commitment mandatory

European Fellowships (EF)

- within EU member states of Associated countries (including UK)
- 12-24 months
- Any nationality
- Part time possible (min 50% on action)

Global Fellowships (GF):

- 12-24 outgoing (= in a Third country) &
- 12 months **mandatory** return phase in MS/AC (any organisation!)
- For MS/AC nationals and long-term residents
- Part time possible except for outgoing phase

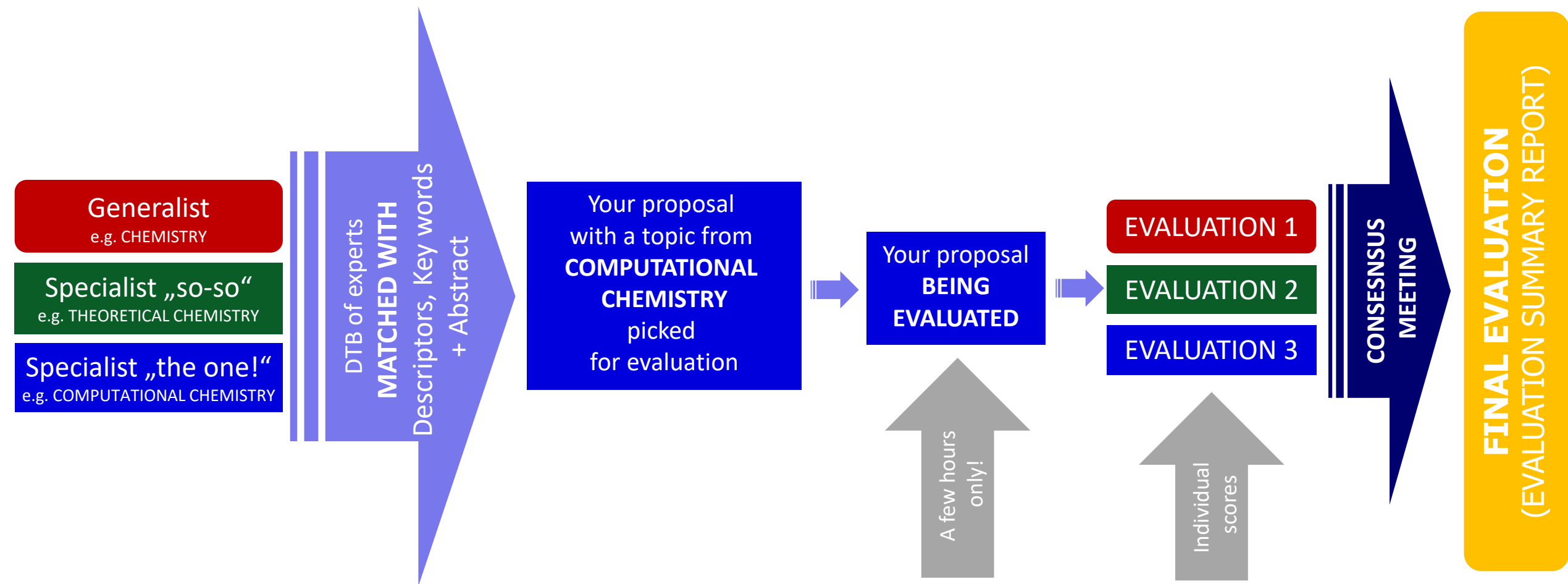
ANY Third country (12-24 MONTHS)

Mandatory return to the EU/AC (12 MONTHS)

8 EVALUATION PANELS:

- Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY).
- Each panel will establish **two ranked lists**, one for **European** and one for **Global Postdoctoral Fellowships**.

EVALUATION – who reads your proposals?



ABSTRACT – AN EXAMPLE

- The way the text unfolds is important everywhere – not only in the abstract – develop gradually your ideas, invite kindly into the story, avoid jumping like crazy! Tell it is important.
- **Generalist colour**, „**unfolding**“ **colour**, **specialist colour**, emotional/(sense of) urgency

Plants constitute an essential pillar of earth's ecosystem and they are the most important source for human nutrition. If we want to understand how plants evolve, how to utilize their valuable traits and how to devise smart plant breeding programs we have to study the molecular **mechanisms of meiosis**.

Meiosis is a specialized, two-step cell division that ensures the reduction of the genome prior to the formation of generative cells. It is during meiosis, that genetic information between maternal and paternal Chromosomes is mutually exchanged, leading to **novel combinations** of genetic traits in the following generation.

Meiotic recombination is initiated by DNA double strand breaks (DSBs). Specific DSB promoting proteins, among them the topoisomerase-related SPO11, introduce DSBs at various positions throughout the genome. Dedicated DNA repair mechanism ensure that the breaks are repaired in such a manner that maternal and paternal chromosomal parts become mutually exchanged. **Given the importance** of the DSB forming complex in determining the sites and the frequency of genetic exchange **it is surprising that the biochemical characteristics of this complex have not yet been elucidated.**

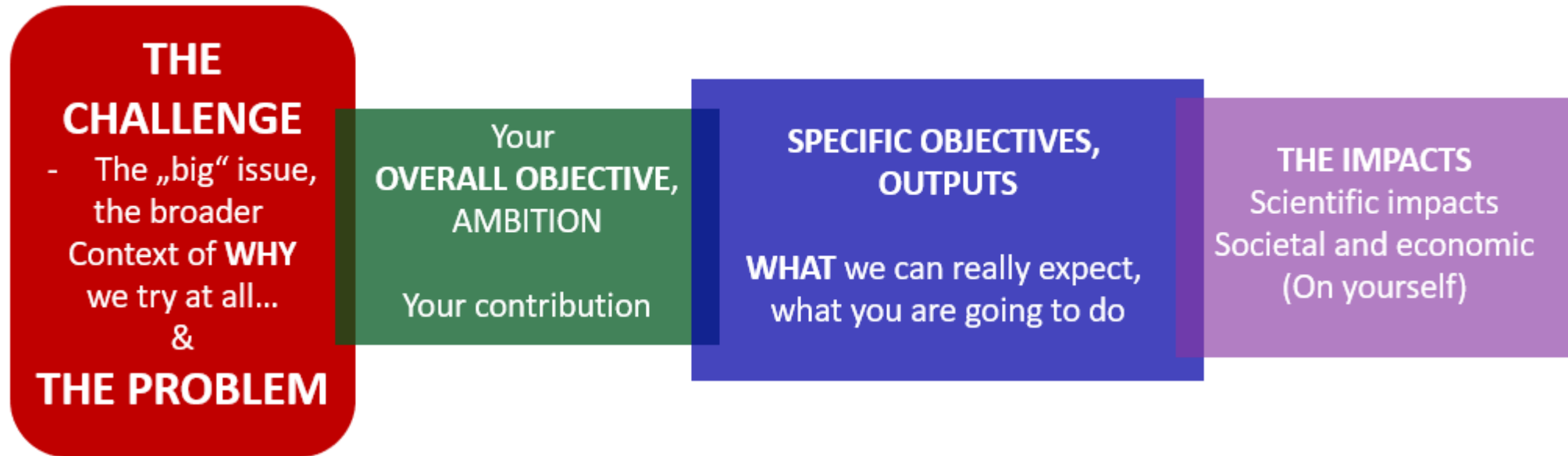
The proposed project aims at the thorough characterisation of the meiotic DSB complex of the model plant Arabidopsis thaliana.... ETC. ETC.

Your tasks & tips

- Test the text on non-expert readers – do they understand what it is about and for? Nd why they should care? Is it exciting for them? What makes them confused or lost, or indifferent?
- Contact your supervisor, and other (senior) colleagues and ask them for their comments and reflections, ideally, meet them in person (or on-line)
- Reflect what kinds of abstracts make you intrigued and excited to read on!

The main axis of a research project

Or what's in it for anyone, why should we care...?!



Remember? Develop the text from generalist's to specialist's language! Applicable throughout the proposal!

MORE A TECHNICAL DOCUMENT THAN AN ESSAY



MSCA-PF Workshop

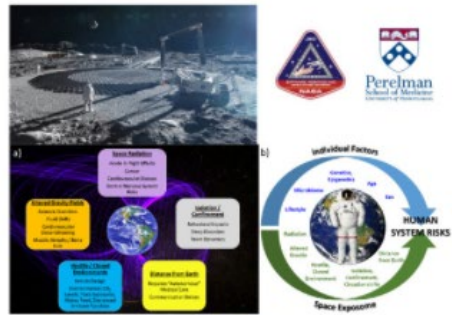
- In recent years **on-line** only, advantageous if motivated participants
- Only for **serious candidates** who have *decided* to apply
- ... and who have prepared a project **canvas**...
- ... or at least a good **synopsis** of the project...
- ... as it substantially increases **effectiveness** of the workshop for all
- Since 2024 in **MIRO** – great enhancement of clarity and interactions



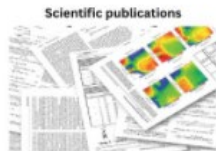
The whole session of the first run of MSCA-PF Workshop 2024

The image shows a Miro digital workspace with a grid background. At the top left, the Miro logo is visible, followed by the board title "MSCA Workshop 22.-23.5.2024" and an "Upgrade" button. On the top right, there are icons for erasing, commenting, and presenting, along with a user profile icon and a "Share" button. A vertical toolbar on the left contains various drawing tools like selection, pan, and text. The main workspace contains a mind map with a central node and several branches. The nodes are represented by rectangular cards of different colors: green, orange, yellow, and white. The cards contain text and some images, representing the agenda of the workshop sessions.

Details of the session...



SOL, SO2



ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

- Scholars and students to gain future research (research).

PROFESSIONAL SECTOR

- Architects and urban planners to adopt innovative design principles.
- Architecture firms to implement sustainable and inclusive strategies.

POLICY MAKERS AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

- EU policy makers to inform policy adjustments and legislative frameworks.
- Local government agencies to integrate findings into urban planning.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- UNESCO for projects on cultural and environmental sustainability.
- World Bank for international development projects.
- Local communities to benefit from sustainable and inclusive urban spaces - *Local council projects, etc.*
- Non-profit organizations to support urban development and cultural preservation.

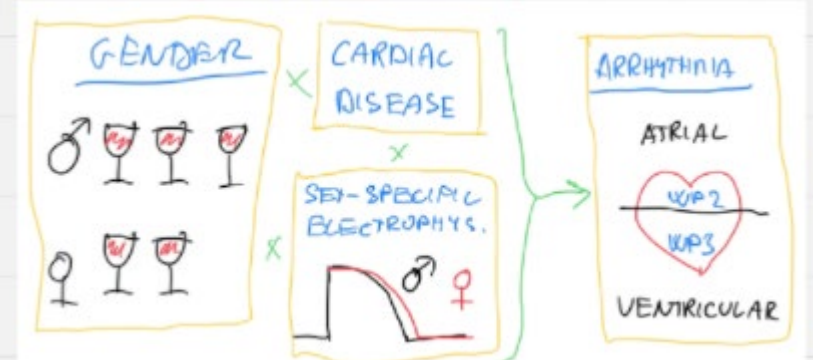
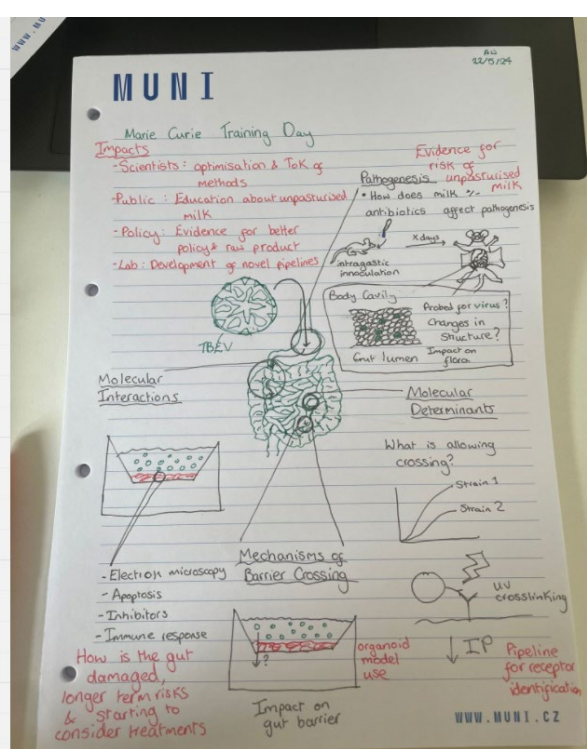
COMMERCIAL UTILIZATION

ARCHITECTURE FIRMS AND URBAN PLANNING COMPANIES

- Development of new sustainable and inclusive architectural solutions.
- Enhanced marketability of projects that align with contemporary sustainability standards.
- Creation of innovative urban planning strategies that meet NEB and EU guidelines.
- Increased demand for expertise in culturally responsive and sustainable urban development.**

CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS

- Adoption of eco-friendly building materials and techniques inspired by Arie Sharon's



Year	1												2												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
Work packages																									
WP1 - Single-cell pharmacokinetics																									
WP2 - Atrial simulations																									
WP3 - Ventricular simulations																									
Task #1 - cellular models																									
Task #2 - 3D models																									
Milestones																									
Milestones																									
Training																									
Secondments																									
Courses																									
Impact																									
Publications																									
Conferences																									



Key Projects: Kibbutzim designs, University of Ife, Israel Central Bank



How the legacy of Bauhaus architectural principles, as interpreted by Sharon, remains relevant in contemporary architectural practices?



SUSTAINABILITY, CULTURAL EMPATHY, DIVERSITY, GLOBAL AND LOCAL CONTEXTS
Arie Sharon's application of Bauhaus principles with modern needs



Objective 1: Cultural Empathy and Diversity
Objective 2: Sustainable and Inclusive Design



Activity GC MSCA-IF – TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH

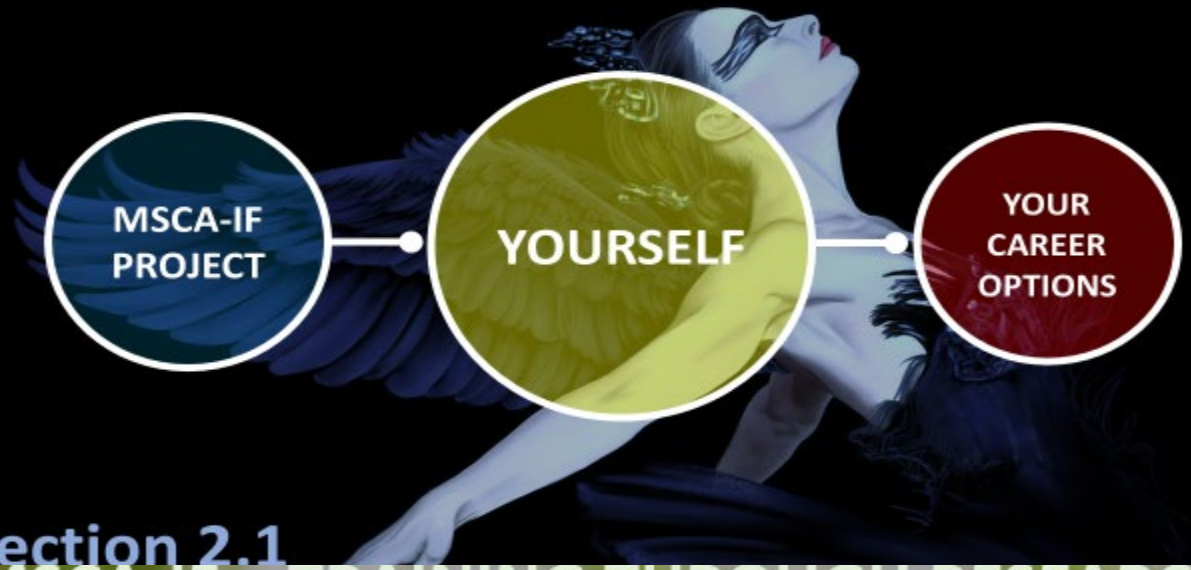
MSCA-PF Workshop



...plementary project management
... of activities, no "rocket science"
... already defined your WPs, perhaps even

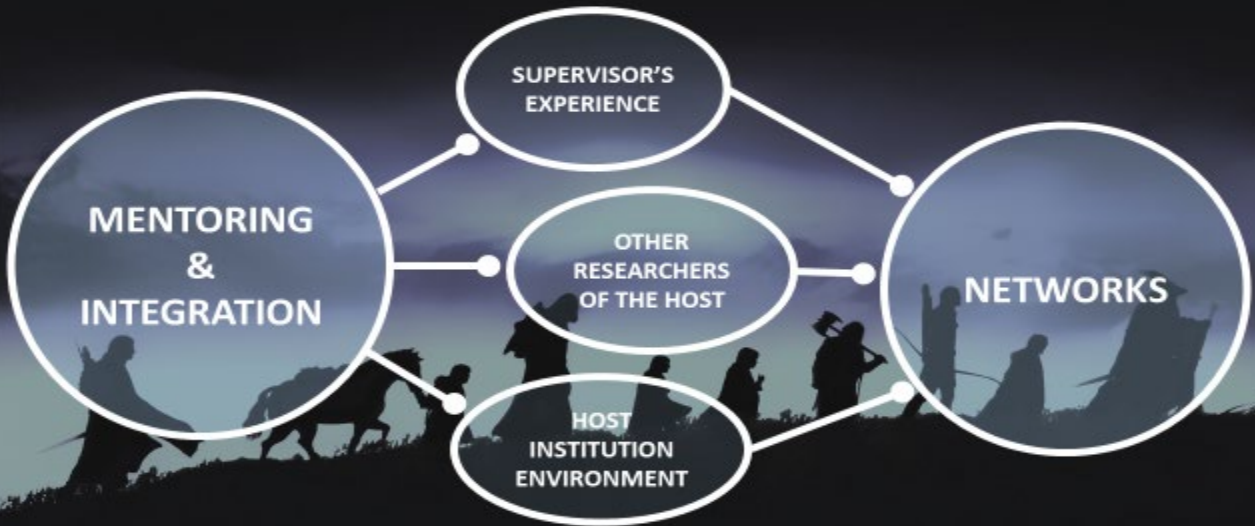
You have planned your **trainings**, your **dissemination and public outreach activities**

- Put it all into the Gantt chart – set it on a timeline
- Define key **milestones** of the project (not more than 3)
- Formulate **deliverables** of the project – usually a report, but specify its content



Section 3.1

MSCA-IF – TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH



Section B1.3

Section 2.1

MSCA-IF – TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH



Section 2.2

WORKSHOP means working *actively* on the proposal preparation



THE STORY OF YOUR (RESEARCH) LIFE



Why are you the right person to tackle this research problem, why this constellation, and why you?

- Identify all the major **changes** of your research focus
- Development of your **motivation**, the decisive moments – factors to take career of a researcher
 - Major **achievements** and their impacts on your thinking and work
 - Your **ambition** on the background of your past
- All the information should **converge to the topic of this project** – do not worry to mention the gaps you will address



MSCA-PF Individual consultations

- Both **meetings** and **written comments**
- The **decisive** stage of the proposal preparation
- A key feedback for the **authors** = the applicants and supervisors
- Basically also a **feedback** for us on the previous parts

MSCA-PF Individual grant writing & consultations – we

provide many examples of how individual sections can be prepared.

Emphasis is on original approach, though.

We need to introduce more of **personal communication** and **regular meetings** to keep the momentum and monitor the proposal preparation (to help prevent the drop-out)

Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
WP1 – Enrich the study method (Months 1-12)																									
M1.1																									
		M1.2																							
				D1.1	D1.2																				
WP2 – Identify the different communities of practice and modelling the transmission processes (Months 13-19)																									
																		M2.1							
																			M2.2						
																			D2.1						
WP3 – Investigate inter-regional and inter-generational patterns of transmission (Months 20-24)																									
																					M3.1				
																								D3.1	
							O1			O2											O3				
																					L3				
																								W2	
													S1												S3
EV=Evaluation)																									
													MR												FR
																									EV

the two years of MSCA are also indispensable in this perspective. **The foundations of this major project must be laid from the outset by creating contacts and collaborations with academic institutions and research centers in Europe and beyond.** Potential poles of research which I would like to interweave ties with are the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociale* in Paris and the Rutgers University, NJ, in the USA. The dissemination of the project results is fundamental to create these synergies and will be guaranteed through the following outputs. 1) **The publication of three articles** (see 3.1: GC D3.1-D4.1) to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals of high international quality and relevant to my research topics, ideally ranked in Q1 or Q2, such as *Art Bulletin*, *Early Medieval Europe*, and *Convivium*. Besides, in collaboration with CEMS I will organize 2) **an international workshop in Brno, MU, “Lombardy in the Middle Ages as an Intersection: between East, West, North, and South”**, (see 3.1: GC W1). Among the invited scholars are envisaged M. Bacci, H. Kessler, F. Dell’Acqua, M. Rossi. The proceedings will be published as *Supplementum* of the peer-reviewed journal *Convivium* in 2023. Finally, so that the impact of my research may also reach a non-European audience, I intend to participate 3) **to the Medieval International Congress in Leeds** (see 3.1: GC C1) and **to the International Congress of Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo** (see 3.1 GC C2).

2.3 Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences

As stated above, my project aims to produce a wide-spectrum impact, capable of creating bridges between today and yesterday, between historical and social disciplines, between science and politics, and between the academic and non-academic worlds. The measures I will take to communicate with the different target audiences are rich and varied and involve different media.

A) **In the context of the series StredověC JinaX (the Middle Ages Differently), organized monthly by the CEMS for students of humanities (approx. 60 persons), I will deliver two lectures** on some of the macro themes of the project. Their working titles are “Lombard medieval artifacts as a place of identity construction” and “From Europe to Constantinople and back. The circulation of literary and visual themes in the Lombard space” (see 3.1: GC L2-L3). B) There are the main actions that I have planned in collaboration with the supervisor to reach a broader audience in the Czech Republic. 1) **I will deliver a lecture at a widely popular institution Brno taking recourse to the Planetarium and Observatory entitled “Female patronage. In the shadow of Theophano”** (see 3.1: GC P1). This

Training-thought-Research Transferable and soft skills

Ok, I understand now – when I realized I have not read much on exploitation... you “dissected” it into exploitation / dissemination... and that was the “exploitation” But for exploitation it is again not very specific. You have introduced some plans in the previous section, but giving more details – what expertise, knowledge, people you want to address and combine and invite and specifically FEED them with your results would be much better.

By the way, we might mention IPR, too. Some reviewers take a missing IPR as an opportunity to put down points.

SO a regular formula is that you do not expect results that can be commercialized, as well as no commercialisation of the knowledge (monograph, I do not know what) so not protection of IPR is needed. Nevertheless, in case there is an option for commercial exploitation/need for IPR protection IPR and commercial exploitation will be consulted with MU TTO (Technology Transfer Office) who provide full guidance and support. (only make it shorter and relevant to your case – Ivan+Adrien will know)

Jakub Zeman
Maybe those are from Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociale in Paris and the Rutgers University, NJ, in the USA? Maybe it is generally known – sorry, I do not know it.

Jakub Zeman
Very strong section. What I especially like that it is not only about local public outreach and local “entities”, but also about the embassies, film with wider impact, etc...

To sum up the impact of the project will be very high touching many different target audiences – from high schools to the university of the third age, and to the international groups of pilgrims and tourists reaching Conques. The dissemination activities of the CONQUES project will answer, in Conques, to a burning social and cultural need: the publications and dissemination outputs we aim to produce are simply missing. These outputs will answer to a double necessity. On the one hand First, they are crucial to protect and promote European and World cultural heritage. Moreover, it will enable the large audience to experience past cultures and to understand in a different way the current ones. The past cultural heritage has also always been a way of constructing present identities. In this sense the project will challenge both past nationalistic constructions, opening the path to a much more global and shared understanding of the past. This is particularly relevant today, with the spread of COVID-19, reminding us of “black swans” that can unexpectedly and instantly test cohesiveness and viability of humankind. Novel findings on our distant past are important contribution to forthcoming reconsiderations of our society, and may help us to react knowingly on present challenges. be it, when some political groups are using the crisis of the diffusion of COVID-19, to bring back – revival of nationalistic ideas-tendencies, or any other slip towards ends that justify means and closing borders. A project on the past may thus give keys to react on present challenges.

1. 4. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

4.1 Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources

The workplan of the whole project has been constructed in a very rational way, following two major criteria: 1) the necessity of a preliminary collection of archival and archaeometrical data; 2) the structure of the secondments, following the general pyramidal structure of the proposed project. This will permit to the project a coherent movement across countries and continents.

The first year (2021) will thus be mainly concentrated around Conques, and more generally France. During this year, a summer school and a meeting will be organized in Conques, during which a proper field research will be accomplished: the abbey-church will be measured for the auralization, the interior and exterior surfaces will be video-scanned, the floor will be scanned with the GPR (WP1). During the same period, 3 scholars (MU, BHR) will spend in all 5 months in Conques in order to be trained into the dissemination skills, doing in parallel research. This will lead to the publication of 2 small booklets targeting pilgrims and tourists (WP4). In addition to that, the 2 media specialists from MU will spend 1 month

Jakub Zeman We will... or MU will... or consortium

Jakub Zeman It seems clear, that writing a text help

Jakub Zeman 27. března 2020

This could be really defined as a kind of communication objectives. Without too much indoctrination of people, simply explain how identities have been constructed, and that they are constructed, at all. That is own of the roles of SSH – explain these processes that ordinary people do not reflect, but often can be made aware of, for their benefit and for the benefit of more aware and wise society. It is valuable.

And if you decide to incorporate this message in public outreach, you will obviously have ONE topic of a public lecture, or ONE short movie, or ONE chapter in a booklet – and, from my perspective, will write a more specific, credible, exciting and funding-worthy proposal.

Jakub Zeman Gantt chart is essential tool you are

Jakub Zeman Generally, I like how your though it

Jakub Zeman English. The whole sentence. Not clear

Jakub Zeman

Jakub Zeman It really should not talk too much about

Jakub Zeman It reminds me much more of the section

MUNI MSCA Working Group

Research Office RMU
A DEDICATED SUPPORT PERSON



COMMUNICATIONS

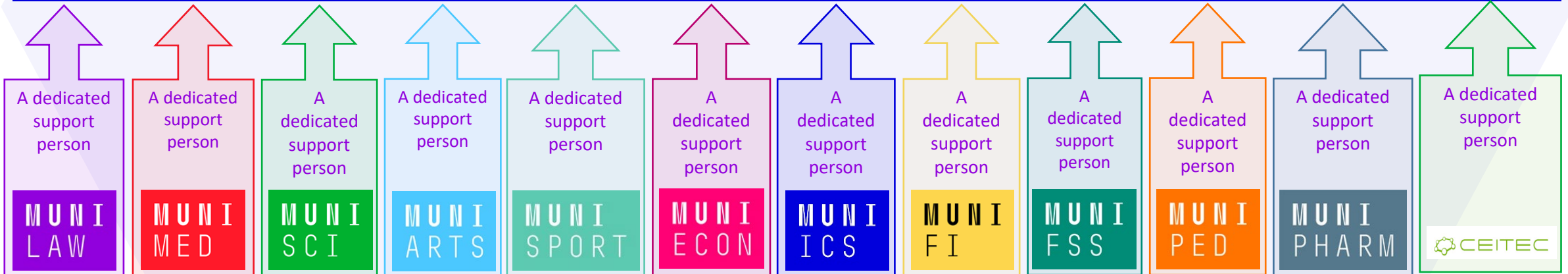
Supervisors, applicants, MUNI management, internal grant writing consultants,
A thorough work with potential supervisors, using more support tools at MUNI

TRAININGS

MSCA for Supervisors; MSCA Training Day; MSCA WORKSHOPS; WG sharing of experience and approach; training through common consultations (for PMs)

CONSULTATIONS

Individual consultations; a time-line of preparation; Co-consultations; Supervisions on consulting, **co-creating innovations**



A sustainable WG to continuously develop MSCA knowledge and competences at MUNI

Communication and information sharing platforms (Teams, SharePoint)

Promotion of the scheme to PhD students
– recruitment opportunities

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship

a grant to kick-start your independent research

Next one –
MUNI Career Days for PhD – **21. 11. 2024**

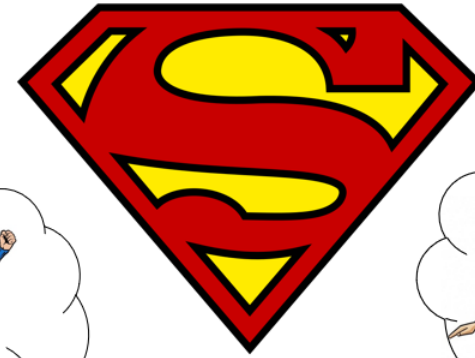


The Seal of synergy

Creating **synergies** between Framework Programmes and Structural Funds means using taxpayers' money more efficiently.



% indicate the threshold for SoE funding



SYNERGIES

Make them happen... Now!

MUNI

80%

Gregor Johann Mendel,
Funder of genetics
worked and died in **Brno (CZ)**

Look, I love my *inbreeding*, no matter what...



What d'you think, Greg?

They do not understand our specific situation...

We do not write European projects...

Not now, maybe next year, or the next...

Too difficult...and weird....
progressivistic...

LOL young girl trying to impress us with her statistics... pathetic...



A naïve, but persistent research support manager



Professors! There is an extremely high probability of getting the grant!

Brno!? MUNI?
No way! ...

Weeeeell... what did you say about the **70% Seal of Excellence funding?**

... **BRNO**...ok... let me google that d---ed place...

Wickeeed! Vienna is just next door!!!



Thank you!

M U N I

zeman@rect.muni.cz