

Applying for a MSCA Individual Fellowship

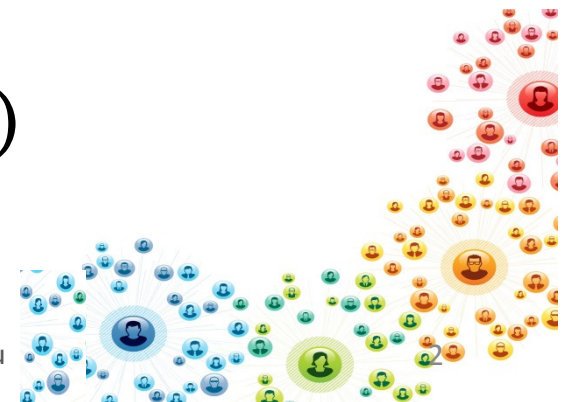
Dr Valerie Heffernan
National University of Ireland Maynooth

May 2016



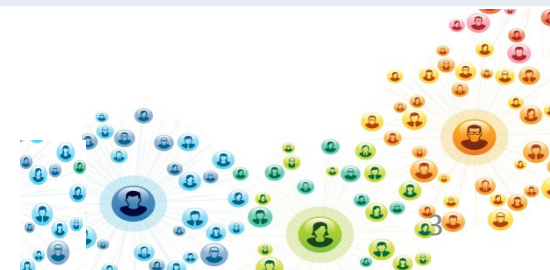
Evaluation Process

- **Individual Phase**
At least 3 evaluators allocated
3 x Individual Assessment Reports (IAR)
- **Consensus Phase**
Consensus Meeting
Rapporteur prepares Consensus Report (CR)
- **After the Consensus Phase**
Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)

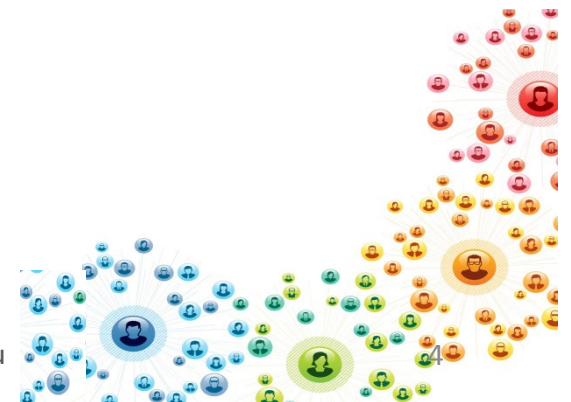


Evaluation Criteria

Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Implementation (20%)
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects	Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan
Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results	Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution	Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures , including risk management
Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence in research		Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)



Preparing your Application for a **MSCA IF**



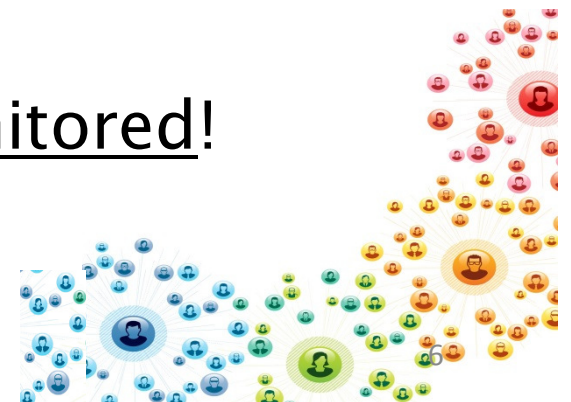
Research

- Clear description of your research project.
- Clear explanation of the methodologies involved.
- Clear explanation of current research in the field and an explanation of how your project will both build on and further that research.
- Relevance: Why should this project be funded?
- Timeliness: Why should it be funded now?



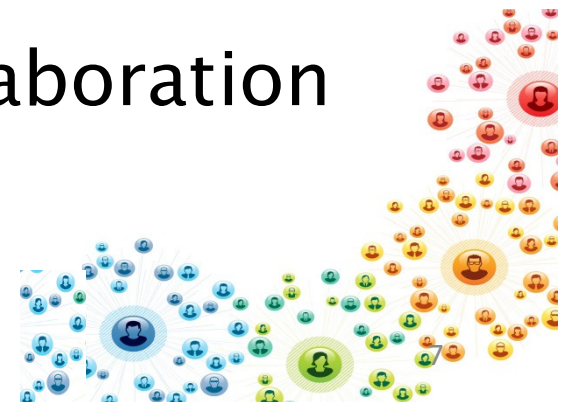
Training

- Question: Where are the gaps in your CV/profile?
- There should be a clear training plan!
- All training should be aligned to
 - the project goals and
 - the researcher's training needs!
- Training through research AND formal training courses!
- Transferable skills!
- Explain how the training will be monitored!



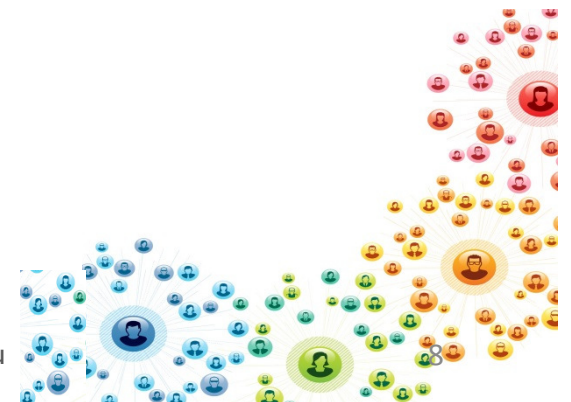
Transfer of Knowledge

- Question: What expertise is the fellow bringing to the host group/institution?
- Question: How will ToK take place?
- Project
- Workshops, courses, taught modules, research supervision, etc.
- Opportunities for long-term collaboration



Supervision

- Demonstrate the expertise of the host institution/s and supervisor/s in this particular field.
- Infrastructure/Collaborations: Avoid generic! Rather: Be specific to project!
- Be clear about practicalities/arrangements for supervision. How? How often? etc.



Researcher

- Best and brightest scholars!
- Use all pages available!
- Use the suggested categories.
- Identify clearly peer-reviewed articles.
- Clarify both
 - why you are the best possible candidate to carry out this particular research project and
 - how this project broadens/deepens your research expertise.



Impact

- **Fellow** – Profile, Training, Career development (Value for money? Result?)
- **Research in the field** (Publication/s? Result/s? New knowledge?)
- **Universities involved** (Networks? Long-term collaboration? Mutual benefit?)
- **Europe / ERA** (excellence AND competitiveness)
- **General Public** (interest & engage public)

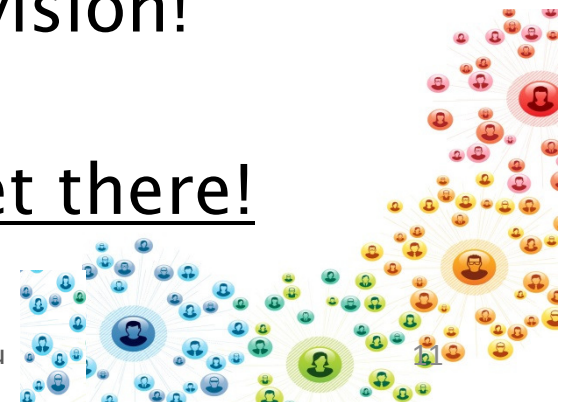
WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF THIS PROJECT?



Implementation

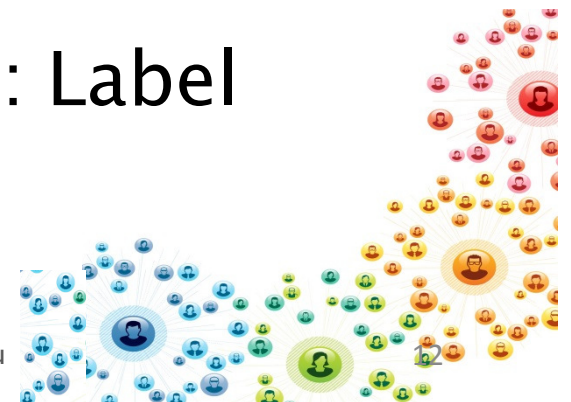
- Question: What will you be working on at every stage of the project?
- Clear work plan (with Gantt chart)
- Clear, measurable milestones
- Deliverables:
 - plans for publication/s (dates & details);
 - plans for courses to be taught (dates & details);
 - plans for dissemination events (dates & details).
- Arrangements for monitoring & revision!

Not just a goal,
but a clear plan for how to get there!



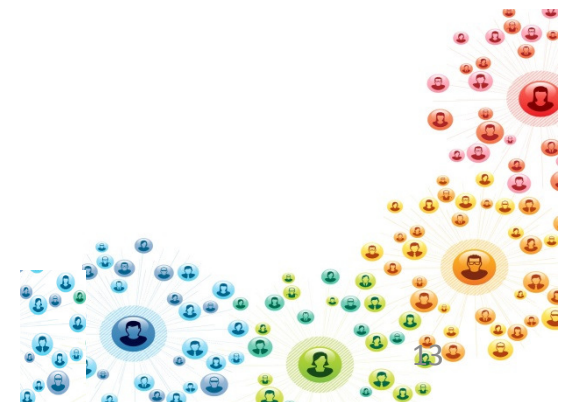
Some final pointers

- Register soon and download templates!
- Adhere to suggested font and margin sizes!
- Do not exceed the page limits!
- Pitch your application at an educated reader who may not be an expert in your field.
- It is important to address all of the subcriteria in your proposal.
- Make life easy for the evaluators: Label everything clearly!



Bear in mind:

- Not all of the expert evaluators will be subject experts.
- Not all of the expert evaluators will be native speakers of English.
- Get feedback on your application before you submit it!



And finally...

**Don't be put off
if you don't get the grant
first time!**

Reapply!

