MSCA PF webinar series: 1

Structure of the MSCA PF application. Ethics, Open science, gender aspects in research. CV

Estonian Research Council

MSCA postdoctoral fellowships

Estonian Research Council

EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP

1-2 y in Europe

Possible worldwide secondments

1 organisation, 1 (main) supervisor

Possible 6-month placement in a non-academic sector organisation

8 evaluation panels

GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP

1-2 y outside Europe, then 1 y in Europe

Possible worldwide secondments

2 organisations, 2 (main) supervisors

Possible 6-month placement in a non-academic sector organisation

8 evaluation panels

Evaluation criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of **the project's research and innovation objectives** (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)	Credibility of the measures to **enhance the career perspectives and employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development	Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements
Quality of the **supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**	
Quality and appropriateness of the **researcher's professional experience**, competences and skills		
50%	**30%**	**20%**

Proposal for MSCA postdoctoral fellowships

Estonian Research Council

Part A administrative forms are filled on-line:

- General information
  - Title, scientific area, keywords, abstract, declarations

- Information on participants
  - Beneficiary, supervisor, researcher

- Budget (is generated automatically)

- Ethics and Security

- Other questions

Part B of the proposal consists of two PDF documents:

- *Document 1 – max 10 pages*

1. EXCELLENCE: research, training, supervision, researcher
2. IMPACT: impact on career; scientific, economic, societal impact; dissemination and communication
3. IMPLEMENTATION: work plan, infrastructures

- *Document 2 – no overall page limit*

4. CV OF THE RESEARCHER: max 5 p
5. CAPACITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS: max 1 p for beneficiary and max ½ p for associated partner
6. ADDITIONAL ETHICS INFORMATION
7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SECURITY SCREENING
8. LETTERS OF COMMITMENT OF ASSOCIATED PARTNERS (GF + PLACEMENT): *only for Global Fellowship and placement*
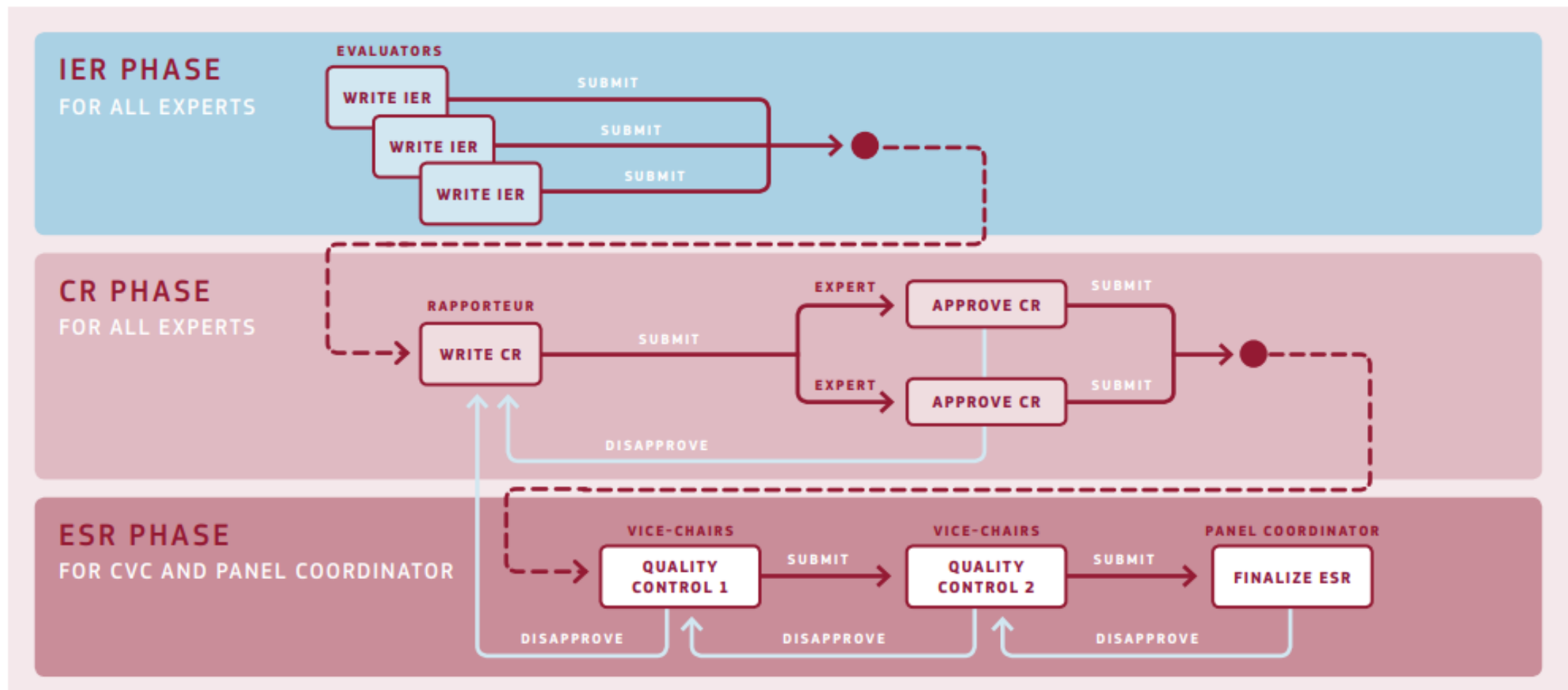
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/af_he-msca-pf_en.pdf

MSCA PF evaluation

EXCELLENT. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.	**5**		**Excellent**
VERY GOOD. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.	**4**	4.9 ↕ 4.0	**Very Good**
GOOD. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.	**3**	3.9 ↕ 3.0	**Good**
FAIR. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.	**2**	2.9 ↕ 2.0	**Fair**
POOR. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.	**1**	1.9 ↕ 1.0	**Poor**
The proposal **FAILS** to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.	**0**		

How to write for the evaluator?

Evaluators are researchers in your field
- They know what is expected and reasonable in your research field
- They don't know the system in Estonia (or your country of origin)

- One evaluator will read ca 10 proposals
  - They are generalists rather than narrow specialists

- Evaluators are human
  - They have little time, they read the proposals in non-ideal conditions
  - Raise interest, impress the reader
  - Make it pleasant to read and evaluate your proposal
  - Make it easy to find the necessary information

Proposal for MSCA postdoctoral fellowships

Part A administrative forms are filled on-line:

- General information
  - Title, scientific area, keywords, abstract, declarations

- Information on participants
  - Beneficiary, supervisor, researcher

- Budget (is generated automatically)

- **Ethics and Security**

- Other questions

Part B of the proposal consists of two PDF documents:

- *Document 1 – max 10 pages*

1. **EXCELLENCE**: research, training, supervision, researcher
2. IMPACT: impact on career; scientific, economic, societal impact; dissemination and communication
3. IMPLEMENTATION: work plan, infrastructures

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4. **CV OF THE RESEARCHER**: max 5 p
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https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/af_he-msca-pf_en.pdf

ETHICS & SECURITY

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How to deal with Ethics and Security issues in the proposal

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- Start early – these issues need consideration and input from the host institution!
- Check the Ethics issues table in the proposal template – Part A section 4
- Read about Ethics issues and how to address them in the HE programme guide and practical guide on How to complete your ethics self-assessment
- Familiarize yourself with the legal/regulatory framework of your Host country and institution, and the necessary procedures
- Describe them in the Ethics self-assessment box in Part A of the proposal (5000 characters)
- If necessary, add further information in Part B2, section 6

OPEN SCIENCE

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How to deal with Open Science practices in the proposal

Definitions

Open Science is an approach based on open cooperative work and systematic sharing of knowledge and tools as early and widely as possible in the process.

Open science practices include early and open sharing of research (for example through preregistration, registered reports, pre-prints, or crowd-sourcing); research output management; measures to ensure reproducibility of research outputs; providing open access to research outputs (such as publications, data, software, models, algorithms, and workflows); participation in open peer-review; and involving all relevant knowledge actors including citizens, civil society and end users in the co-creation of R&I agendas and contents (such as citizen science).

[HE programme guide](#) is a good source of information on mandatory and optional (recommended) OS practices

Describe how you are going to comply with mandatory OS practices

- Research output management through a **Data Management Plan** (DMP) in line with FAIR principles

- **Open Access to research data** (where possible)

If applicable, explain **any other open science practices** you are going to implement

Open Access to peer reviewed publications is a contractual obligation and is mandatory by default.

GENDER ASPECTS IN RESEARCH

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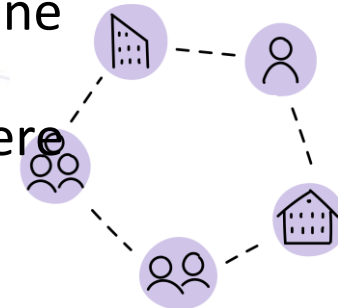
How to deal with gender issues in the proposal

Definitions

Gender balance refers to share of different genders in a research team; NOT applicable to PF

Gender equality refers to equal treatment of men and women (for example by employers) – Gender equality plan is an eligibility criterion for public bodies, HE institutions and RES organisations. You do not have to address this in your proposal.

Gender dimension and other diversity aspects in R&I content refers to the integration of sex and/or gender analysis through the entire R&I cycle, from the setting of research priorities through defining concepts, formulating research questions, developing methodologies, gathering and analysing sex/gender disaggregated data, to evaluating and reporting results and transferring them to markets into products and innovations which will benefit all citizens and promote gender equality. This applies to PF proposals.

HE programme guide is a good source of information and contains links to further sources, including examples

Describe how you are going to integrate gender dimension into your research – or why you consider that this is not relevant for your research.

How to write your CV for the proposal

- CV is presented in Part B2, section 5, but assessed under the Excellence criterion, 4th sub-criterion: *Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills*

- A **hybrid approach** of standard CV + narrative CV is recommended: follow the structure given in template section 5, but add narrative explanations where appropriate

- CV should be in reverse chronological order and use exact dates in dd/mm/yyyy format

Examples of narrative components:

- Provide information on the duties and skills you have acquired in **previous positions**; mention interdisciplinary, international and inter-sectorial mobility, if relevant;

- Explain reasons for career breaks;

- Add a few lines after each **publication**, where you provide a brief context, explain the authorship position and explain your contribution (e.g. idea and/or protocol design, concept, experiment, analysis of results, writing, supervision of work, editing, etc.)

- Be precise about your **role in the organization of conferences/workshops** (e.g. initiator, organizer, session chair, panel chair, member of the programme committee, local organization chair, technical programme committee, special chair in a particular area…);

- Concerning **awards and prizes**, list them with an explanation describing the nature of the award and why it is important;

- Describe your role in attracting **funding**;

- Clearly state what kind of **supervision** you have conducted: day-to-day, project work, bachelor, master or PhD thesis, field work supervision, experimental work. When and where? Where you the primary and direct supervisor? Were you asked for advice? Have "your" students chosen a research career? Where are they now?

Series of webinars in 2022

Estonian Research Council

1. Wednesday, **18 May**, at 15-17:
   Structure of the MSCA PF application. Ethics, Open science, gender aspects in research. CV.

2. Thursday, **19 May**, at 15-17:
   "Excellence" chapter of the MSCA PF application.

3. Thursday, **26 May**, at 15-17:
   "Impact" chapter of the MSCA PF application.

4. Friday, **27 May**, at 15-17:
   "Implementation" chapter of the MSCA PF application.

5. Wednesday, **1 June**, at 14-16:
   Evaluators' view on MSCA PF applications. Evaluators of MSCA PF proposals share their experience.