

MSCA Academy

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026:

Essential Overview for Applicants

University of Maribor, 29 May 2026, 10:00 – 11:30



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Think before you write – project design



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Evaluators



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Objective of MSCA-PF: career development

FOR YOU

- new skills and competences
- creative and innovative potential
- foster excellence



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Objective MSCA-PF: benefits for Europe

FOR EUROPE

- identify solutions to challenges
- facilitate knowledge transfer and brain circulation across the ERA



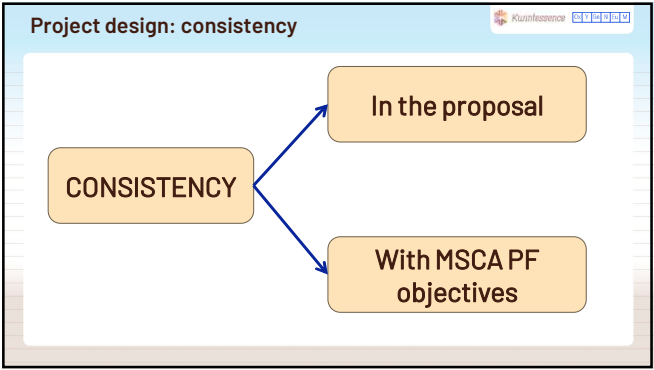
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Project elements

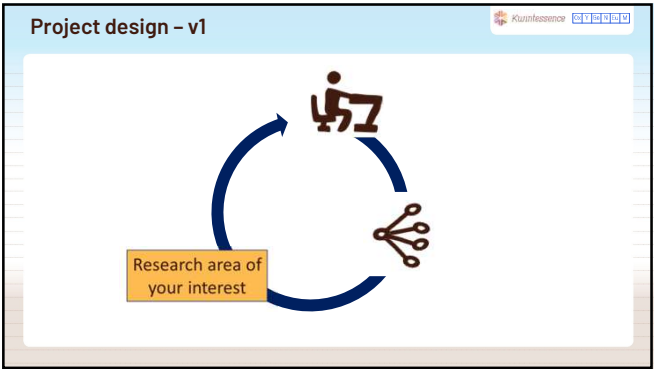
HOW

- advanced training
- innovative research project
- triple 'i' mobility
- engage with other scientists and with the public

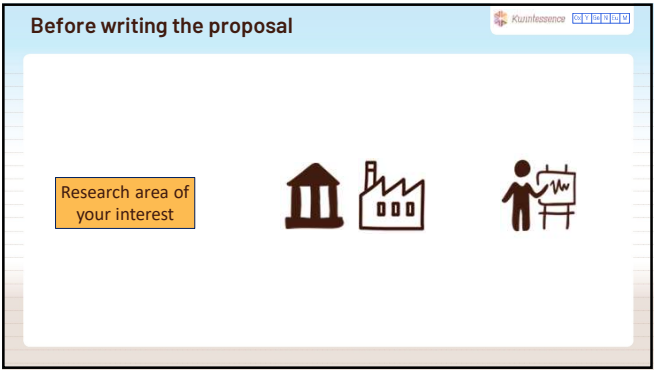
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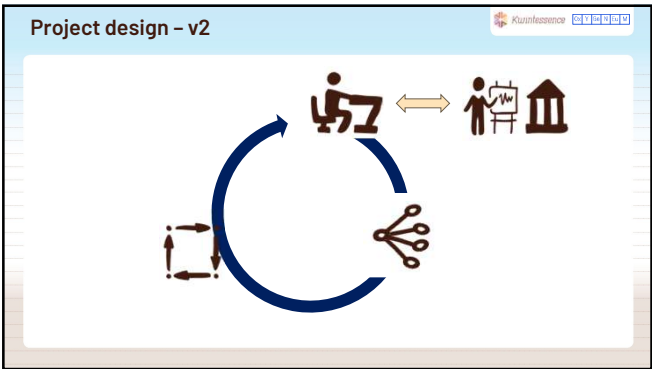
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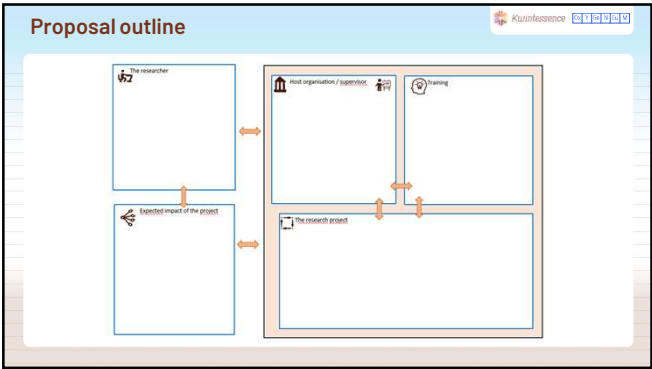
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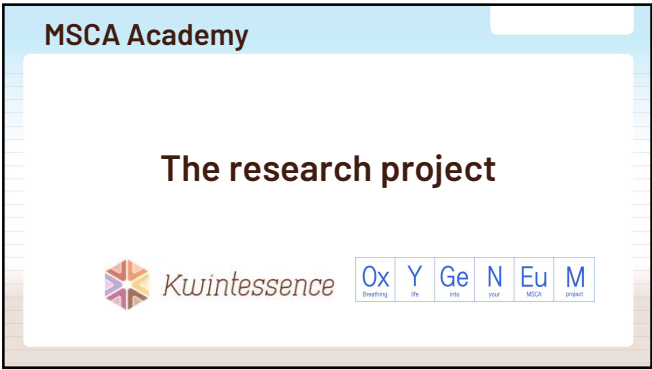
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1. Excellence

1.1 Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives

1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology

1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge

1.4 The researcher's professional experience, competences and skills

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1.1.1 Quality and pertinence of the R&I objectives: the What

What (Quality)

Why (Pertinence)

Specific

Measurable

Achievable

R&I objective

European/global level

Big picture?

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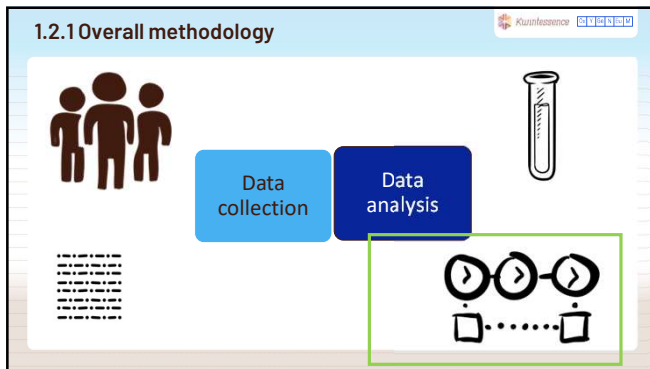
1.1.2 Beyond the state of the art

State of the art

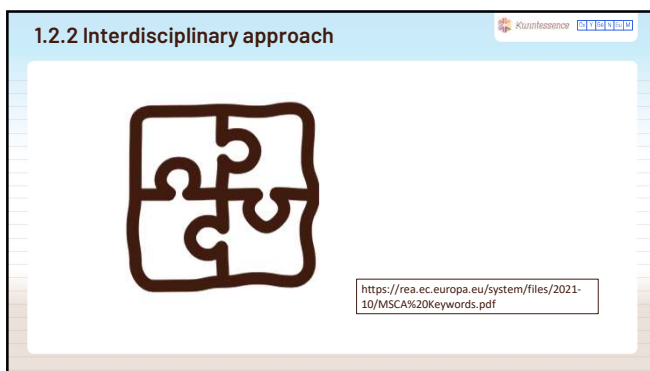
Fill the gap: Your project

R&I Objective

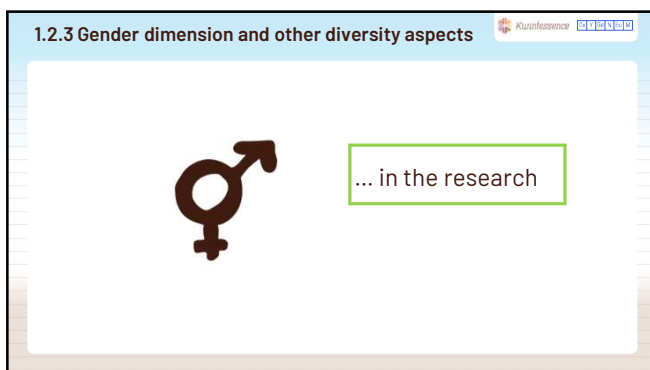
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1.2.4 Open Science practices




https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

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1.2.5 Research data / outputs management

FAIR

F_{indable}

A_{ccessible}

I_{nteroperable}

R_{eusable}

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1.3 Training and supervision

1.4 Researcher's experience ...



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1. Excellence

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1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the transfer of knowledge

1.3.1 Qualifications and experience of the supervisor(s)

1.3.2 Planned training activities for the researcher

1.3.3 Two- or three-way transfer of knowledge

1.3.4 Non-academic placement (if applicable) and secondment (if applicable)

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1.3.1 Qualifications and experience of the supervisor(s)


main supervisor


secondment supervisor


outgoing host supervisor

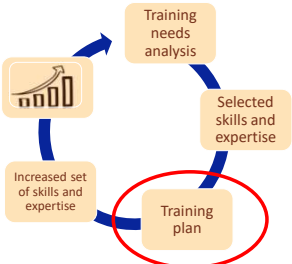
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1.3.1 Supervision arrangements



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1.3.2 Planned training activities

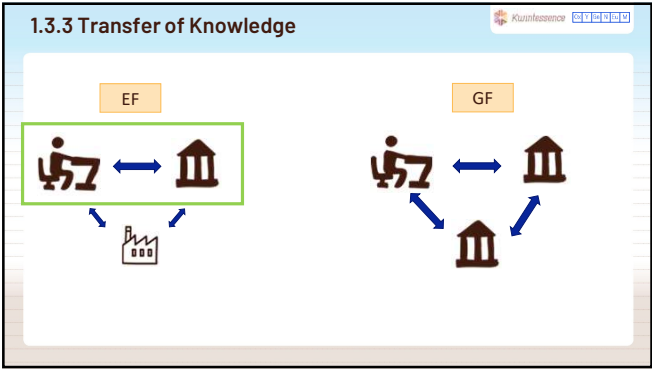


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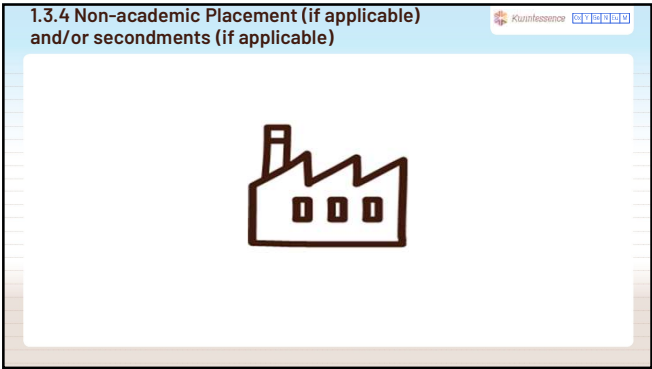
1.3.2 Planned training activities

Scientific skills	Imaging techniques	Hands-on collaboration with Dr. X to learn ... course Advanced Imaging Techniques at host organisation	M5 M6
	Drug innovation	Hands-on collaboration with supervisor Dr. Y Secondment to X, collaboration with Dr. Z	M7 - 12 M13 - 15
	Teaching and supervision	course 'Advanced teaching skills' (1d) at host organisation	M10
		Teach course 'Basic statistics' to 1st year PhD students	M11 - M12
Transferable skills		Co-supervise 2 Master students	M18 - M24
Project management	Course 'Project Management' (4 days) at host	M2	
	Project management and reporting own project	M1 - M24	
Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication	Course 'Use of social media to present science', online (Nature Masterclass)	M12	
	Course 'Presenting for lay audiences' (0.5 day) at host organisation	M12	
	Implementing 4 talks for lay audiences, part of DEC plan	M13 - M24	

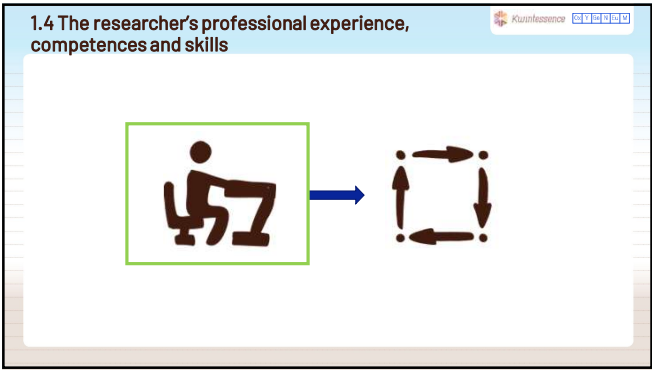
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2.1 Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development



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Proposal subchapters Impact

2.1 Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development

2.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

2.3. The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts

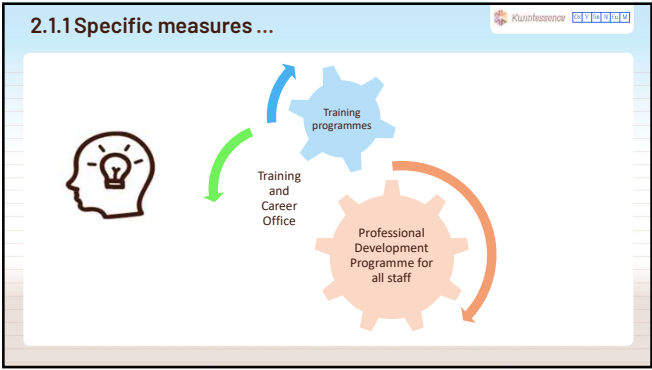
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2.1 Subchapters

2.1.1 Specific measures to enhance career perspectives and employability of the researcher inside and/or outside academia.

2.1.2 Expected contribution of proposed skills development to the future career of the researcher.

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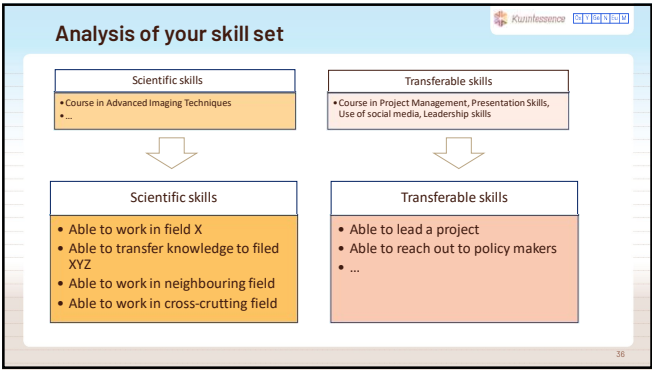


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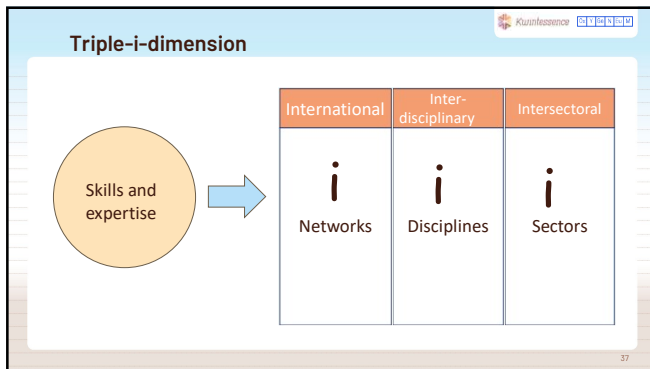
2.1.2 Translating your training plan into impact...

Scientific skills	Imaging techniques	Hands-on collaboration with Dr. X to learn ... course Advanced Imaging Techniques at host organisation	M5 M6
	Drug innovation	Hands-on collaboration with supervisor Dr. Y Secondment to X, collaboration with Dr. Z course 'Advanced teaching skills' (1d) at host organisation	M7 - 12 M13 - 15 M10
Transferable skills	Teaching and supervision	Teach course 'Basic statistics' to 1st year PhD students Co-supervise 2 Master students	M11 - M12 M18 - M24
	Project management	Course 'Project Management' (4 days) at host Project management and reporting own project	M2 M1 - M24
	Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication	Course 'Use of social media to present science', online (Nature Masterclass)	M12
		Course 'Presenting for lay audiences' (0.5 day) at host organisation Implementing 4 talks for lay audiences, part of DEC plan	M12 M13 - M24

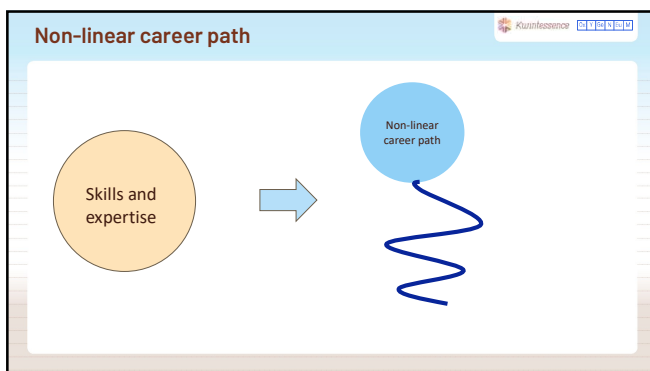
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2.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

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Proposal subchapters Impact

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Section 2.2

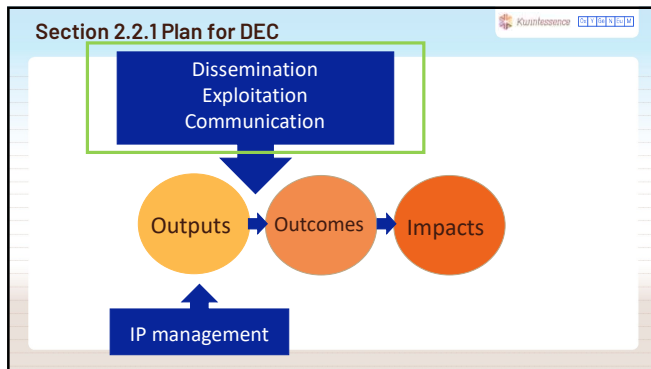
- 2.2.1 Plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities'
- 2.2.2 Strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures

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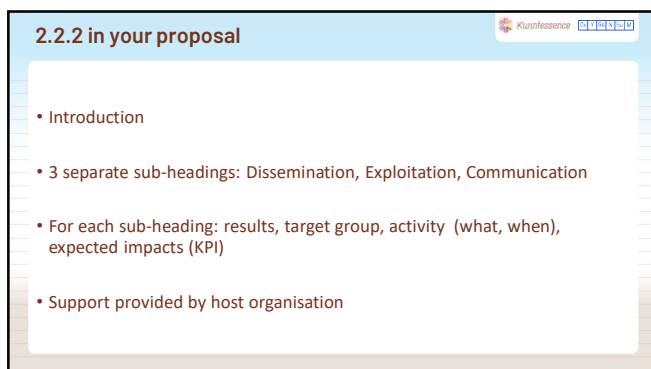
Definitions

	Dissemination	Exploitation	Communication
What	the public disclosure of the results by appropriate means	The use of results in further research and innovation activities	Taking strategic and targeted measures for promoting the action itself and its results
When	When results are available		From the project start on
Why	Knowledge transfer, enable further use of results	Enable use and uptake of results	Inform and reach out to society, show the benefits of research
How	Publications, posters,...	Patents, policy guidelines,...	Social media, events,...
Target audiences	Audiences who can continue using the results, e.g. scientific peers	Audiences who can make use of the results for scientific, societal, economic purposes or for policy making	Multiple audiences beyond the project's community, e.g. media, broad public

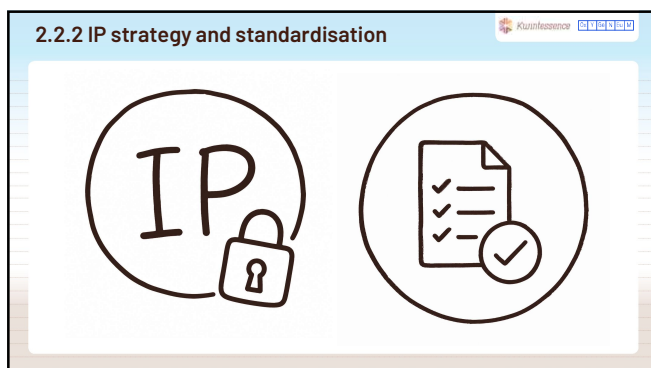
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2.3 The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impact

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Proposal subchapters Impact

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3 Expected impacts in Horizon Europe

Pathway to Impact

Expected Impact

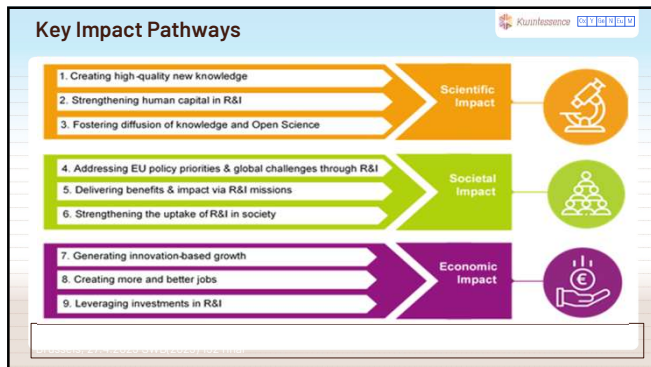
Outputs → Outcomes → Impacts

 scientific

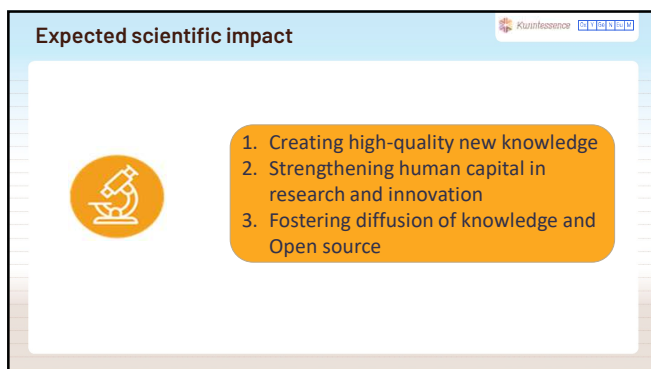
 societal

 economic & technological

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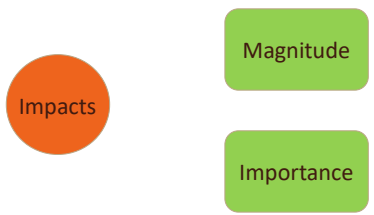
Expected Economic & Technological Impact



7. Generating innovation-based growth
8. Creating more and better jobs
9. Leveraging investments in research and innovation

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Magnitude and importance



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Section 2.3 in your proposal



narrative
specific
stakeholders
significant and direct contribution
magnitude and importance

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Section 2.3 in your proposal

a. Expected scientific impact

-

b. Expected societal impact

- Societal impact 1 – Key Impact Pathway
Target group to benefit
magnitude and importance, provide proof
- Societal impact 2 – Key Impact Pathway
Target group to benefit
magnitude and importance, provide proof

c. Expected economical/technological impact

- no economical impact expected because ...

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3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

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Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation

3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

3.2 Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements

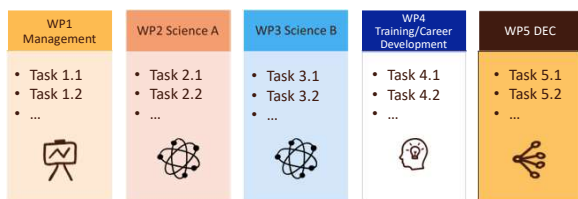
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3.1 The Work Plan etc.

- 3.1.1 Brief presentation of the overall structure of the work plan, including deliverables and milestones
- 3.1.2 Timing of different WPs and their components
- 3.1.3 Mechanisms in place to assess and mitigate risks
- Gantt chart

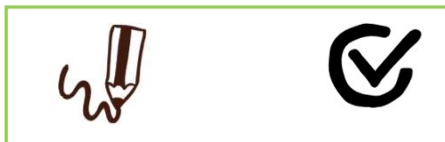
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3.1.1 Overall structure of the work plan



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3.1.1 Deliverables and Milestones



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3.1.1 Work Plan in your proposal

WP

• Task

• Task

• ...

Title

Duration

Content (tasks)

Deliverables

Milestones

Other specifics if relevant

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3.1.2 Duration of different WPs and their components

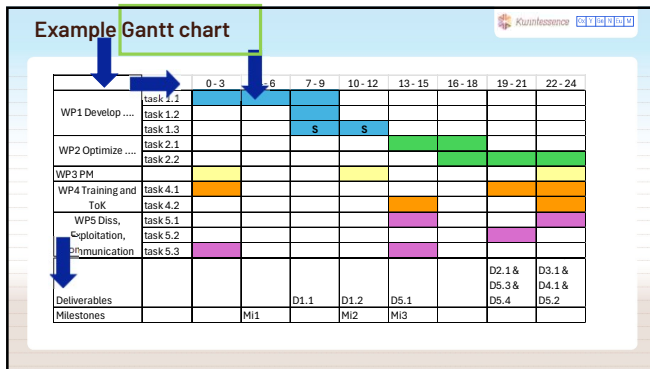


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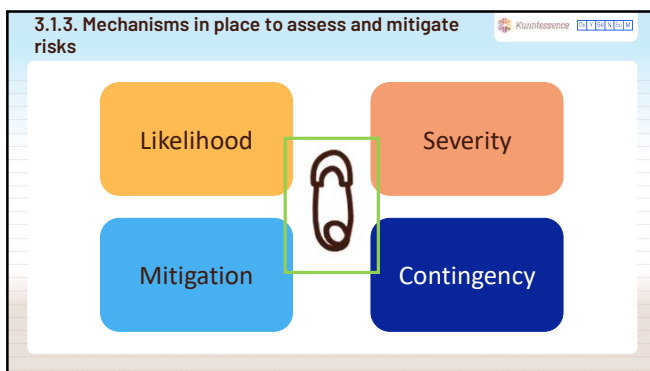
3.1.2 Timing of different WPs and their components



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**3.2 Quality and capacity of the institutions
Hosting arrangements**

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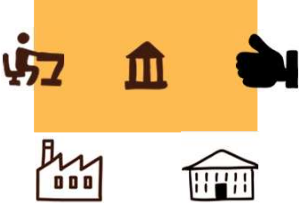
Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation

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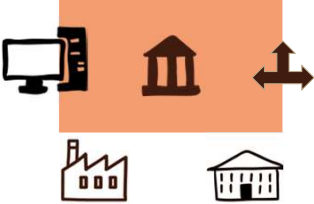
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3.2.1 Hosting Arrangements



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3.2.2 Quality and capacity of participating organisations



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3.2.3 Associated partners linked to beneficiary



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Thank you!

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