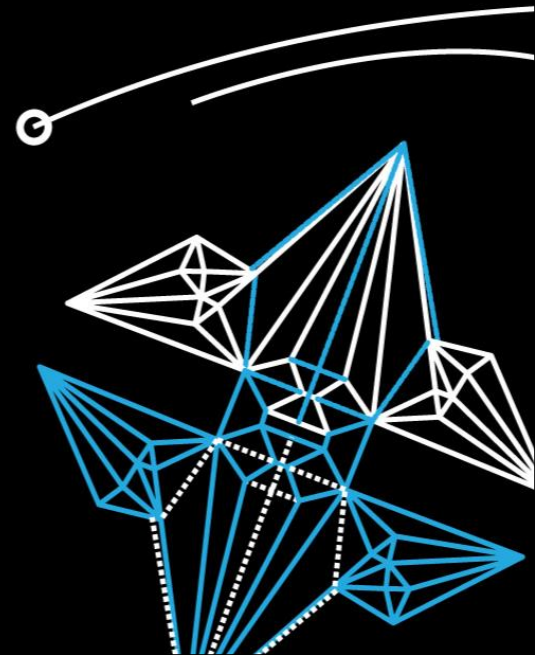
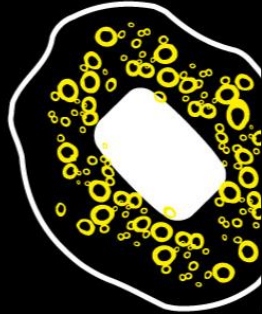


# How to prepare a successful MSCA IF proposal?

Melanie ten Asbroek, MA  
Grants Office - University of  
Twente -The Netherlands  
14 June 2017



# CONTENT WORKSHOP

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- Introduction trainer and affiliation
- Proposal writing preparation
- Marie Curie IF characteristics
- Marie Curie application insights



## ABOUT ME..



Melanie ten Asbroek, MA

[m.h.tenasbroek@utwente.nl](mailto:m.h.tenasbroek@utwente.nl)

**Linked in**

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/melanie-ten-asbroek-7398775/>

2012- present

### **Grants Advisor EU-Office**

University of Twente (UT), Enschede (NL)

Main tasks: Supporting UT researchers in acquiring EU and other international funding, providing training courses on various funding instruments, expert on Horizon 2020 MSCA-programme conditions, acting as institutional Confidential Advisor (ancillary activity)

Business or sector ***Higher Education***





ENSCHEDE

BEAUTIFULLY LOCATED  
IN THE NETHERLANDS,  
GATEWAY TO EUROPE

3

UNIVERSITY  
OF TWENTE.





Our very reason for existing is to

- Engage in ground-breaking research
- Have profound societal impact
- Construct multi-disciplinary answers to the grand challenges of tomorrow's world

**UNIVERSITY  
OF TWENTE.**



## EXCITING DOMAINS IN WHICH WE ARE SEIZING MANY NEW - GLOBAL - OPPORTUNITIES

- Health tech
- Safety & security
- Smart cities
- Energy
- Education

# EU-OFFICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE

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- Central services for strategic and tactical advice
- Finding funding opportunities
- Support for project building, writing and submission
- Evaluation results: feedback and negotiations
- Project management: help desk



# PROPOSAL WRITING PREPARATION

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- Prepare  
*strategic / tactical preparation*
- Link idea to opportunity  
*finding a grant*
- Writing  
*proposal structure (implementation, impact), administration*
- Examples  
*individual grant versus collaborative work*







# EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (after PhD)

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## Horizon2020

- Marie Curie IF
- ERC StG
- Collaborative projects

More info, see the [Participant Portal](#)

# NETWORKING AND LOBBY

- Spread ideas/research topics in community
- Link with existing activities + “applications” for society
- Visit network & social meetings
- Join relevant networks & communities



Anne Helmond, May 2009

# POLICY FRAMEWORK

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- Understanding the funding agency's agenda:
  - How do calls come to life?
  - Part of preparing for grant writing
- Refer explicitly to certain policies of the funder in your proposal



# THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CV

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**Exercise:** What defines an excellent researcher's CV?

Take 20 minutes to define the components of such a cv and discuss with your neighbor(s)

- About developing a good CV
  - Design: Europass [cv](#)
  - Content



# PREPARE

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- Publish in the right journals
  - Peer-review
- Independent thinking
  - Move to another environment
- International experience
  - Go abroad
- Reviewing
  - For journals, grants
- Writing skills
  - Courses, practice

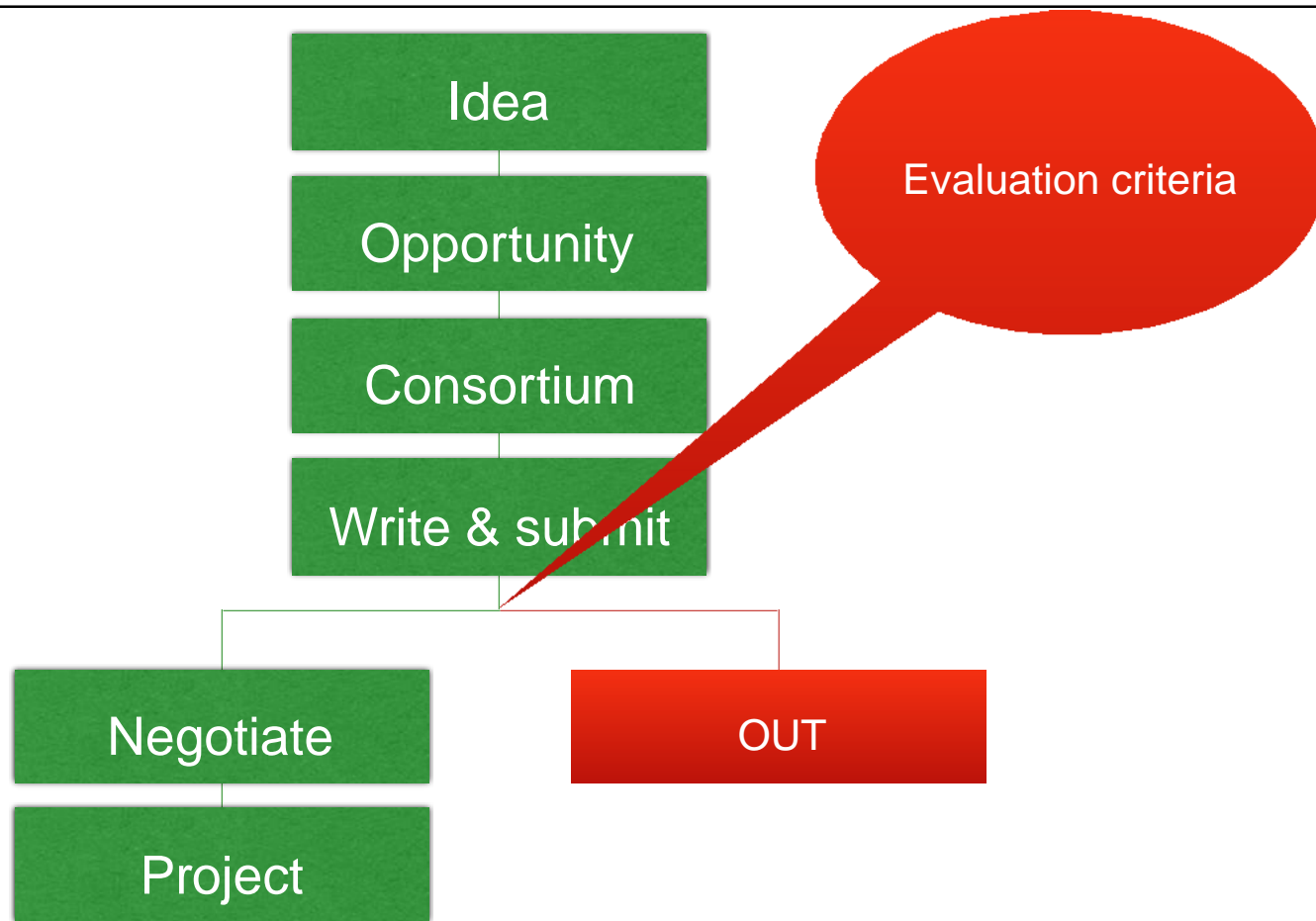
## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

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- Years of experience in research
- Nationality/Mobility
- Home/Host institution
- General: age, gender, discipline
- Also: check legal & financial aspects of grant



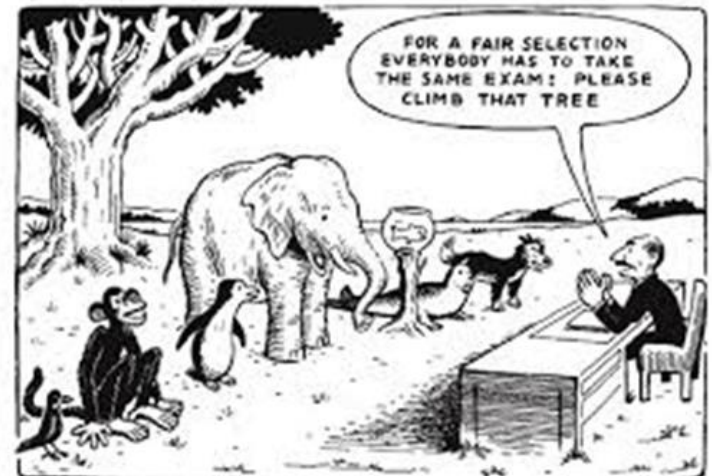
# EVALUATION CRITERIA



## EVALUATION CRITERIA II

---

- Write your proposal according to the evaluation criteria, not simply follow guideline to applicants or/ and the proposal template
- Start paragraphs/sections by “answering” to the evaluation criteria





## 2. IF - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action: Individual Fellowships

<b>Excellence</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research</b> (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects)	<b>Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives</b>	<b>Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan</b> , including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
<b>Clarity and quality of transfer of knowledge/training</b> for the development of researcher in light of the research objectives	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for <b>communication</b> and <b>results dissemination</b>	<b>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures</b> , including quality management and risk management
<b>Quality of the supervision</b> and the hosting arrangements		<b>Appropriateness of the institutional environment</b> (infrastructure)
<b>Capacity of the researcher</b> to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research		<b>Competences, experience and complementarity</b> of the participating organisations and <b>institutional commitment</b>
<b>50%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Weighting</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Priority in case of <i>ex aequo</i></b>		

# FROM IDEA TO CONCEPT, KEY QUESTIONS

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1. **Educate** the evaluator (Draw the big picture, 'facts and figures')
2. **Why bother?** (What problem are you trying to solve?)
3. Is it a **European priority**?
4. Is the **solution** already **available**?  
(product, service, transfer)
5. The killer question: **Why now?** (What would happen if we did not do this now?)
6. **Why you?** (Are you the best person to do this work?)

## WORK PLAN / FEASIBILITY

---

- **Divide your work** in activities, sub projects and/or tasks
- **Plot and plan the work in time** (Gantt chart) and identify interdependencies of subparts
- Describe **intermediate goals** (milestones) and **important outcomes** and interdependencies in wording.
- **Link** the **personnel** to the planned work
- Carry out an analysis indicating **feasibility**

# MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES

---

## Milestone

Is a point in time to measure progress

Adoption of a technology as a basis for the next phase of the project

## Deliverable

Tangible result to fulfill contractual obligations

Nature of a deliverable is a report, product, patent, prototype, etc





# WORK PACKAGES

<b>Work Package number</b>		<b>WP3</b>		<b>Start date: month 12</b>			
Work package title:		Analysis of existing technologies					
Activity type: RTD		WP leader: Twente					
Participants	Twente	Chalmers					
<b>WP objectives and description of work:</b> The objectives of WP3 are to benchmark the existing technologies in 5 countries and report on their relative qualifications. This WP will serve as input for WP5 and WP6							
<b>Tasks and role of participants:</b>							
T3.1 Collecting data on existing technologies							
T3.2 Collect data on test samples from actual users							
T3.3 Synthesize report on outcomes							
<b>Deliverables in work package:</b>							
D3.1 Report on existing technologies				Due date: month 16			
D3.2 Report on qualifications and comparison				Due date: month 30			



# RISK ASSESSMENT

Challenge	Impact	Novel & unconventional aspects	Risks (Low, Medium, High) and feasibility
A	New knowledge	New model	Medium Preliminary data
B			Low Feasible
C			High Backup plan

# IMPACT

---

- How to write the impact section?
  - Address the most important **challenges** as described by the funding agency
  - Demonstrate **how relevant** your project is to the challenges of the funding agency
  - Iterate between Scientific proposal and Impact
  - Describe your strategies with regard to **dissemination, further research** and **exploitation**

# IMPACT, ON WHO?

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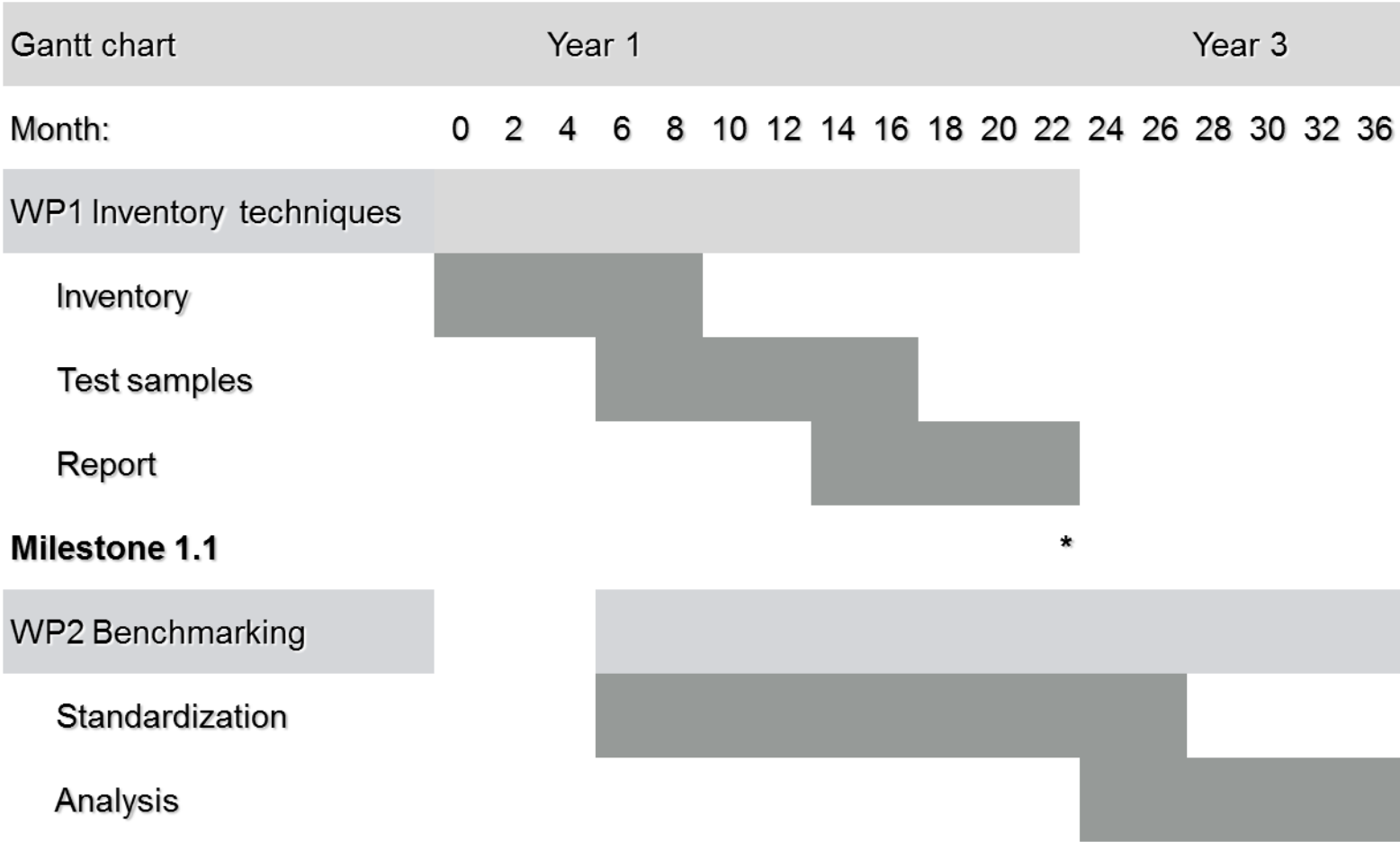


**Exercise:** How is your research related to these impact zones?

Take 20 minutes to connect your research to the various stakeholders in this circle



# GANTT CHART





## RECOGNIZE IN PROPOSAL

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### Intellectual property (IP)

- IP is a **legal concept** which refers to creations of the mind for which **exclusive rights** are recognized.
- discuss with partners, reach agreements

### Ethics

- ethics are often subject to specific reviewing process by funders
- annexes often requested upon submission

### Data Management

- the 'open access' trend
- data management plan (DMP): detail your plan of action





Netherlands Enterprise Agency



# Horizon 2020

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action  
Individual Fellowships 2017

THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

HORIZON 2020





## Individual Fellowships (IF) in a nutshell

- Individual, trans-national fellowships
- Awarded to the best or most promising researchers
- Employment in EU Member States or Associated Countries
- Based on joint application by researcher and host organisation
- In academic or non-academic sector
- Funding for salary (plus some institutional costs)



## European Fellowship



- 1-2 year Fellowship within EU
- 1 host institution (= beneficiary)
- Mobility rule: in the 3 yrs preceding the call deadline, you can not have spent more than 12 months in the country of the aimed host;
- Experienced Researchers: > 4 yrs research experience or in possession of PhD;
- Researcher can have any nationality.



# Evaluation Panels

## **8 disciplinary 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)



## Secondment option

- Researcher may be seconded to other institution in Europe
- Non-academic sector is highly appreciated
- Should add to impact of Fellowship
- Max. 6 months (3m if Fellowship  $\leq$  18 months)
- Can be single period or divided into shorter periods
- Institution of secondment is a partner organisation
- (Preferably) already clearly identified at proposal stage



## Funding model

**One unit is defined as one person-month. The unit costs are divided into two groups: researcher unit costs and institutional unit costs.**

	<b>Researcher unit cost in EUR</b>			<b>Institutional unit cost in EUR</b>	
	person/month			person/month	
	Living* Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs
<b>Individual Fellowships</b>	4,650*	600	500	800	650

- Note: living allowance is gross gross amount
- Ask your host institution what your salary will be





## Indicative timeline IF

- Call publication 11 April 2017
- Submission deadline **14 Sept 2017**
- Evaluation process Oct - Dec 2017
- Information on outcome February 2018
- Signing of GA March - May 2018
- Start of project May 2018 – May 2019





# Submission

- [Participant Portal](#): your gateway to Horizon 2020
- 'Electronic Proposal Submission System'
- Call open: 11 April 2017
- Deadline: **14 September 2017**
- Call budget 2017: < €200 million for European fellowships only
- Success rate > 15%

Archives (A-Z) Sitemap Ab

RESEARCH & INNOVATION  
Participant Portal

EUROPEAN COMMISSION > RESEARCH & INNOVATION > PARTICIPANT PORTAL > OPPORTUNITIES

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Search term   
Search in framework programme  and specific programme   
List topics in  Open,  Closed and  Forthcoming calls  
Order topics by  ▾

Search results  
3 items found

Topic: *Implementing innovative and green urban transport solutions in Europe*  
Proaent mattis, nisi eget ultrices tincidunt, mi metus iaculis risus.  
Aliquam congue, mauris elementum blandit cursus, libero felis cor  
arcu nec felis. Donec imperdiet mauris eget erat posuere, commo

Call: [H2020-EXS-IALCQA](#) Open - Deadline: 15 June 2014

Topic: *Innovative, cost-effective construction and maintenance for safer, effective construction and maintenance for safer, greener roads*  
Donec at placerat arcu. Aliquam a nisi sollicitudin, laoreet odio eg  
mauris sit amet sem molestie, ut ornare orci elementum. Curabitur  
egestas quis neque id, consequat gravida ligula. Nulla ac placera



## Relevant links & docs in Portal

- <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/msca-if-2017.html>

- [Guide for applicants](#)
- [Proposal template](#)
- [Evaluation form](#)

**Exercise:** Find your way in the Participant Portal

Take 20 minutes to explore the Marie Curie IF section of the Participation Portal and share your findings with your neighbor(s)

# MSCA IF PREPARATION INSIGHTS I

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## Prior to writing application

- Finding your right partner – meet with research teams/potential supervisors
- Discussing your idea with researchers – refining your ideas

## Writing the application

- Like writing a paper – draft, redraft, refine, every word matters
- Individual Fellowship – about you, your idea, your training

# MSCA IF PREPARATION INSIGHTS II

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Key words in application:

Advanced training and skill acquisition – what are you going to learn, why do you need to learn this, how will this be of benefit to you as a researcher and how will it benefit Europe



- Acquire and transfer new knowledge – what knowledge will you learn and what knowledge will you share in your host institution
- Creative and innovative – key European priorities
- Strengthen contact network of researcher and host organisation

# ON THE CAPACITY OF THE RESEARCHER

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- Sell yourself, don't be modest!
- Skills relevant for this application – why you should be awarded this, why you are the best to come to/in Europe
- How the fellowship will advance your career





# QUESTIONS?

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Please contact me if any  
further questions arise!

Melanie ten Asbroek  
[m.h.tenasbroek@utwente.nl](mailto:m.h.tenasbroek@utwente.nl)

