The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Marie-Curie Actions

How to make a proposal stand out from the crowd

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The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions provide training and career opportunities through mobility programmes for researchers in Europe. The Actions are part of Horizon 2020, the European Union’s framework programme for research and innovation for the period 2014-2020. In particular, the Marie Curie Individual Fellowships (IF) support individual researchers at postdoctoral level and beyond to work on a research project of their own design that advances their careers. Mobility between countries is required in order to acquire new skills and experience, as well as to enhance the employability of the supported researcher in the future. The IF programme is included in the “Excellent Science” part of Horizon 2020, which indicates the high standards required from researchers to be awarded grants. Not surprisingly, the competition for funding is fierce: over 80,000 researchers have benefited from it since its inception, and the programme continues to attract a large amount of applications to each annual call for proposals. This means that in order to be successful, it is therefore crucial to know how to make a successful proposal, keeping always in mind that the intrinsic quality of the planned research project and the applying researcher’s records are certainly key factors for success. During this meeting we will walk through the IF proposal submission template, briefly summarising each section, focusing on the key aspects to keep in mind in order to strengthen your project.