# Inspireurope, 31 March 2025

*Applying for EU funding opportunities as an at-risk researcher*

> Application strategies: tips for success

université
de **BORDEAUX**

Jennifer Borde, international career officer

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**
Developing talents, advancing research

To support researchers' **careers** and foster **excellence** in research.

The action targets researchers who wish to carry out their **research activities** abroad, acquire **new skills** and develop their **careers**.

# 2/ KNOW THE FUNDING PROGRAMME

**Read the call documents:**
- Work programme
- Guide for applicant
- Templates of the application
- Handbook about MSCA Postdoc

**Don't forget to read documents about:**
- Open science
- Data management
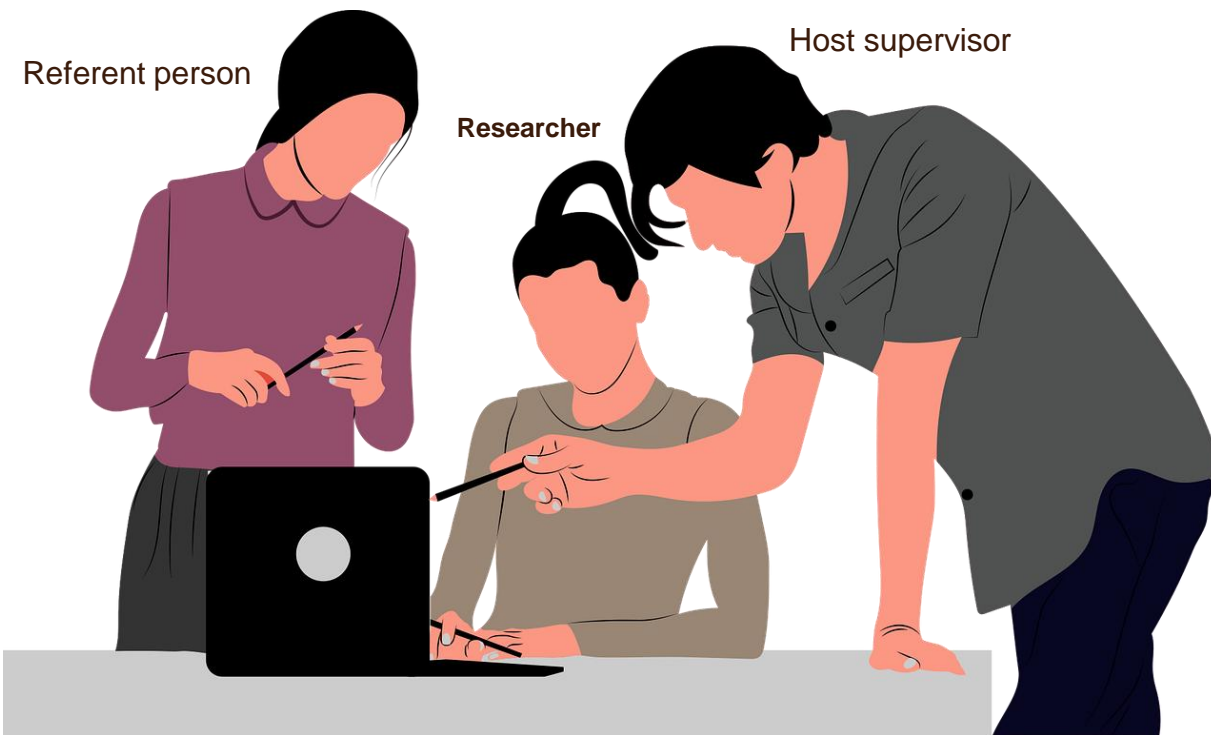- Interdisciplinarity
- Gender dimension
- MSCA Green deal

*Pixabay*

# 3/ ASK FOR HELP



Referent person

**Researcher**

Host supervisor

# 4/ SHOW A PERFECT MATCH BETWEEN…

**RESEARCHER**



**HOST INSTITUTION, SUPERVISOR**

**PROJECT**

# 5/ DON'T START BEFORE DOING THE EXERCICE 1

## 1 PAGE

- **Project title**
- **General objective and context**
- **Specific objectives** (that will make it possible to achieve the general objective)
- **List of the worpackages** (groups of activities for achieving a specific objective)
- **Duration** of the project, planned **start date**
- **Main steps** / draft a first **Gantt Chart**
- List of the **partner**(s) institution(s) **+ secondment** (if relevant)

➢*Agree with all the information before starting the application work!*

# 6/ MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

- Originality and innovative aspects of the planned research

- Novel concepts, approaches or methods

- Contribution to European excellence

- State of the art, and how the project will go beyond the state of the art

- Impact of the project (at several levels)

- Results of the projects (ambitious AND realistic)

*ADD DETAILS ABOUT THE PROJECT*

# 7/ ORGANIZE YOUR PROJECT
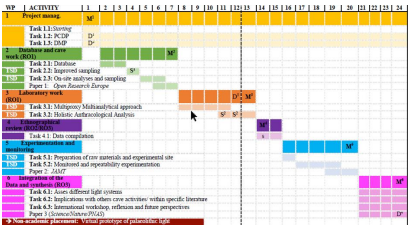
**Maximum 6 workpackages (WP = group of activities) :**

**2/3 scientific WP**
These can run sequentially or concurrently and can be interconnected

**1 WP for Management**
Meetings with supervisor, standard reports to EU

**1 WP for Training, Career Development and Transfer of Knowledge**
Tasks/events (training, seminars, workshops…), job application, grant writing, career development plan

**1 WP Dissemination/Exploitation, Communication/Public Engagement**
Publications, conferences, wide-public outreach, press release

**Major deliverables (= outputs)**
**Major milestones (= steps)**
**Secondment (if applicable)**

GANTT CHART

**GANTT CHART**

**Chart 1 — Outgoing phase (Stanford University) / Incoming phase (Bordeaux University)**

Legend: ■ Milestone  ■ Deliverable

| / Month | WP1 Milestones | WP1 Deliverables | WP2 Milestones | WP2 Deliverables | WP3 Milestones | WP3 Deliverables |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outgoing (1–24) | 1.1 (m1), 1.2 (m6), 1.3 (m10), 1,4 (m21) | 1 (m21) | 2.1 (m20) | | | |
| Incoming (25–36) | | | 2.2 (m26), 2.3 (m28), 2.4 (m30), 2.5 (m33) | 2 (m33) | 3.1 (m30), 3.2 (m32), 3.3 (m35) | 3 (m35) |

**Project Management**
- Risk management
- Meetings, progress monitoring
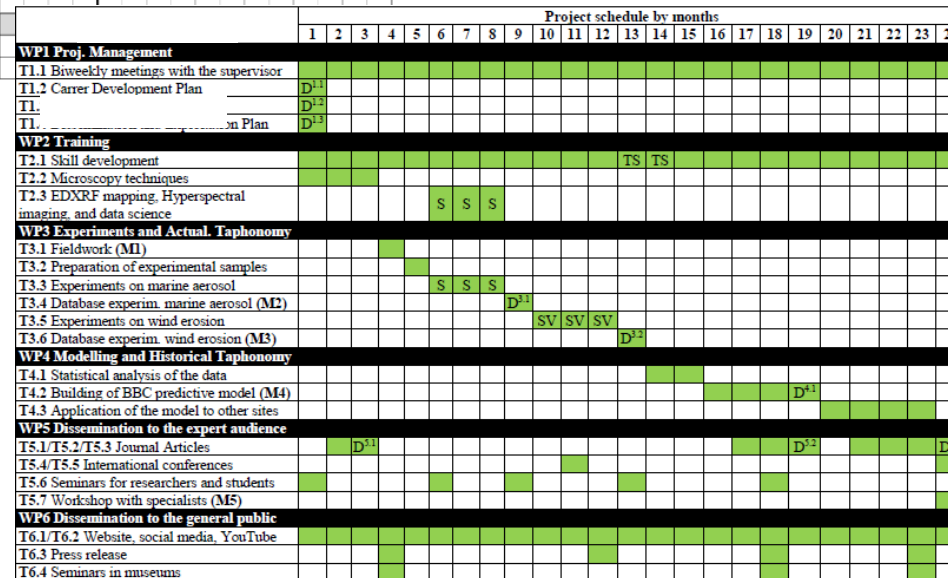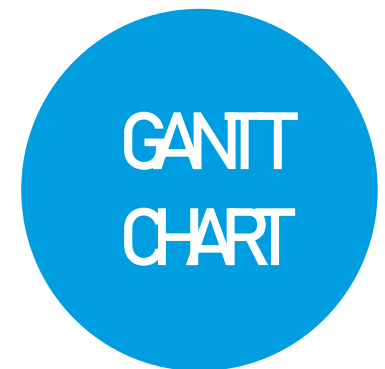- Students supervision
- MSCA reports

**Career development**
- Scientific trainings
- Courses
- Tenure job application/grant writing

**Communication & dissemination**
- Articles
- Conferences
- Public engagement

**Chart 2**

| WP | ACTIVITY | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Project manag. | M¹ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Task 1.1: *Starting* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Task 1.2: PCDP | D¹ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Task 1.3: DMP | D² | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Database and cave work (RO1) | | | | | | | | | | | | | M² | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Task 2.1: Database | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TSD | Task 2.2: Improved sampling | | | | | | | | | | S¹ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TSD | Task 2.3: On-site analyses and sampling | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Paper 1: *Open Research Europe* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Laboratory work (RO1) | | | | | | | | | | | | D³ | M³ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TSD | Task 3.1: Multiproxy Multianalytical approach | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TSD | Task 3.2: Holistic Anthracological Analysis | | | | | | | | | | S² | S² | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Ethnographical review (RO2/RO3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | M⁴ | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Task 4.1: Data compilation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Experimentation and monitoring | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | M⁵ | | | | | |
| TSD | Task 5.1: Preparation of raw materials and experimental site | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TSD | Task 5.2: Monitored and repeatability experimentation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Paper 2: *JAMT* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Integration of the Data and synthesis (RO3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | M⁶ | |
| | Task 6.1: Asses different light systems | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Task 6.2: Implications with others cave activities/ within specific literature | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Task 6.3: International workshop, reflexion and future perspectives | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Paper 3 (*Science/Nature/PNAS*) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D⁷ |

➔ Non-academic placement: Virtual prototype of palaeolithic light

**Chart 3 — Project schedule by months**

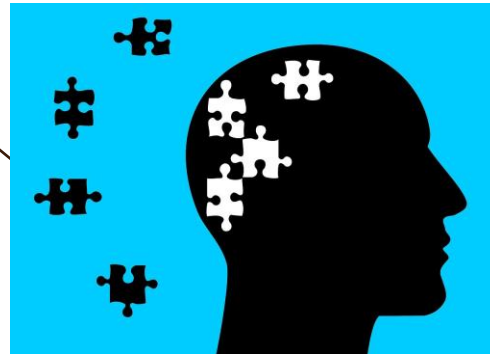| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WP1 Proj. Management** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T1.1 Biweekly meetings with the supervisor | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T1.2 Carrer Development Plan | D¹·¹ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T1. | D¹·² | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T1. Communication and Exploitation Plan | D¹·³ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **WP2 Training** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T2.1 Skill development | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TS | TS | | | | | | | | |
| T2.2 Microscopy techniques | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T2.3 EDXRF mapping, Hyperspectral imaging, and data science | | | | | | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **WP3 Experiments and Actual. Taphonomy** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T3.1 Fieldwork (M1) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T3.2 Preparation of experimental samples | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T3.3 Experiments on marine aerosol | | | | | | | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T3.4 Database experim. marine aerosol (M2) | | | | | | | | | | D³·³ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T3.5 Experiments on wind erosion | | | | | | | | | | SV | SV | SV | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T3.6 Database experim. wind erosion (M3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | D³·² | | | | | | | | | | |
| **WP4 Modelling and Historical Taphonomy** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T4.1 Statistical analysis of the data | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T4.2 Building of BBC predictive model (M4) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D⁴·¹ | | | |
| T4.3 Application of the model to other sites | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **WP5 Dissemination to the expert audience** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T5.1/T5.2/T5.3 Journal Articles | | | | | | D⁵·¹ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | D⁵·² | | | D |
| T5.4/T5.5 International conferences | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T5.6 Seminars for researchers and students | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T5.7 Workshop with specialists (M5) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **WP6 Dissemination to the general public** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T6.1/T6.2 Website, social media, YouTube | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T6.3 Press release | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T6.4 Seminars in museums | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

# 8/ LIST ACHIEVEMENTS REFLECTING YOUR TRACK RECORD

*A list of experiences, knowledge, skills that* **you need to develop** *during the project (thanks to the host institution)*
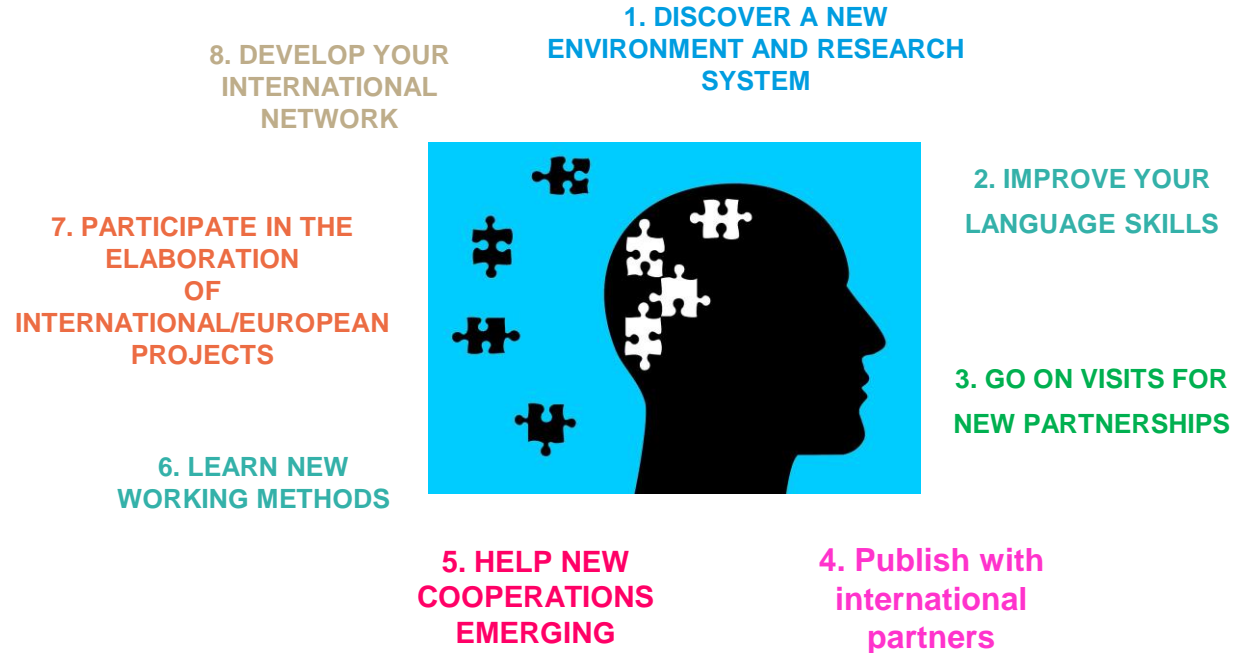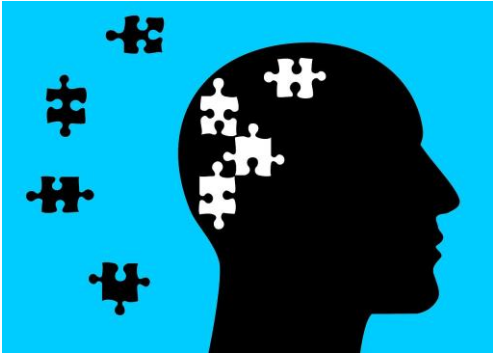
**CV**

A list of experiences, knowledges, skills that **you can transfer** during the project (*thanks to your own profile*)

➢*Demonstrate the usefulness of the fellowship*

# **FOCUS ON** "Why add international in your career?"



1. DISCOVER A NEW ENVIRONMENT AND RESEARCH SYSTEM

8. DEVELOP YOUR INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

2. IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS

7. PARTICIPATE IN THE ELABORATION OF INTERNATIONAL/EUROPEAN PROJECTS

3. GO ON VISITS FOR NEW PARTNERSHIPS

6. LEARN NEW WORKING METHODS

5. HELP NEW COOPERATIONS EMERGING

4. Publish with international partners

# **FOCUS ON** "How using university strengths to boost your CV"



10. Be in contact with the actors of the research

1. Be part of an European project

2. Be trained on European programmes, innovative pedagogy

9. Explore the strategic projects of the host institution

3. Be involved in the writing process of an European project

8. Learn and develop an expertise

4. Know information about the organisation of the institution, about the team

7. Be coached for public competitions, european programmes

6. Be actor of teaching and mentoring activities

5. Participate to local, regional, national, international events

# **FOCUS ON** "THE CAREER DRIVERS"

Quality of training, research supervision received

Having access to high quality research facilities and laboratories

The complementary skills and competences developed

International mobility experience / Participation to European projects

Productivity in terms of research output (publications, patents, keynote papers…)

A strong research network

NEWS ARTICLE | 9 February 2023 | European Research Executive Agency | 7 min read

# Common mistakes to avoid when applying for Horizon Europe funding

Submitting a project proposal under Horizon Europe is a challenging task that requires careful planning, precise budgeting, and a seamless collaboration with partners. We have prepared some Dos and Don'ts to help you prepare a quality proposal.

Mistakes to avoid when applying for funding

Dos and Don'ts

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POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS
HANDBOOK

CALL 2024

NETWORK OF THE MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS
NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

# Thank you !

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Jennifer Borde, international career officer