

Tips on the MSCA Application Process

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(MSCA project: DIS2)



General timeline

- Short proposal and Skype interview March/April 2018
- Workshop in Oslo in May
- First draft of section #1 mid-June
- Second draft all sections late July
- Mid-August
 - Skype with grant team
 - Revised draft + abstract and CV
- Early September
 - Another draft Aug 30
 - In person meeting with team (not typical – conference)
 - Final-ish draft, CV, ethics statement
- Mid-September push to submit

Key points:

1. Multiple drafts and revisions
2. Close work with grant advisors & supervisor



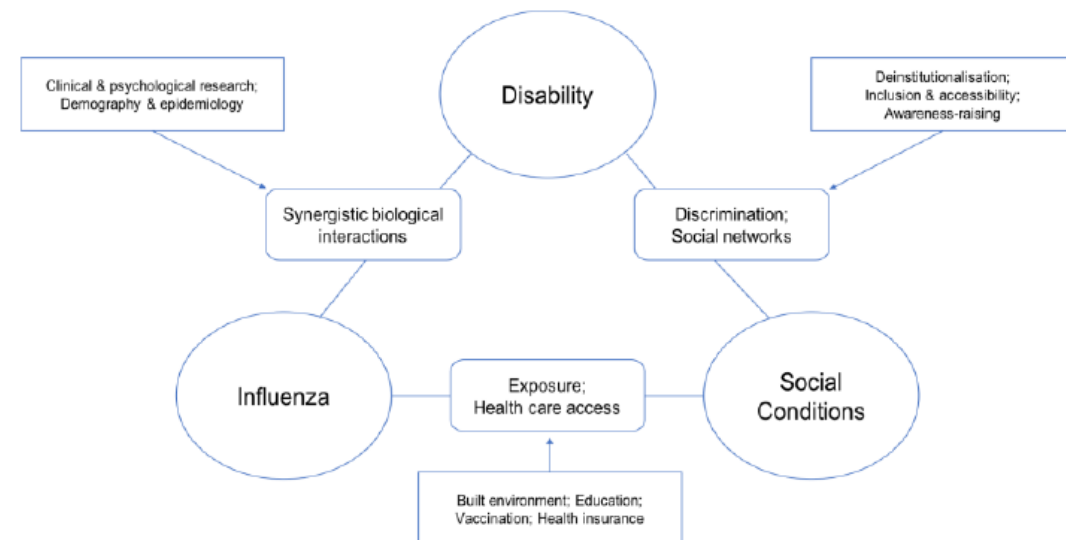
The Whys

- Why this project?
- Why now?
- Why you?
- Why Norway/host/supervisor?
- Why should EU/MSCA fund it?



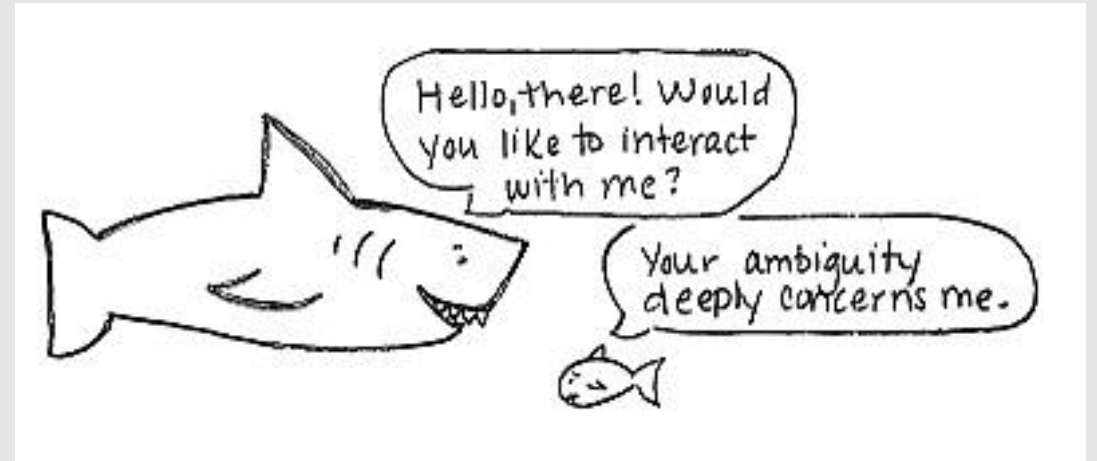
Section 1: Excellence

- Up to you to convince reviewers you have a “hot topic”
- Logical connections to previous work – demonstrate skill & fit
- Big but not exaggerated ambitions for new work
- Figures/visual aids help
- Bullet points and other “signposts”



Section 2: Impact

- Not JUST a research project
- Different levels of impacts:
 - Your field/discipline
 - Stakeholders in academia, industry, etc.
 - People you study (if applicable)
 - Supervisor & host institute
 - Host country & EU
 - YOU AND YOUR CAREER



BE SPECIFIC!



Section 3: Implementation

- HOW are you going to do it?
 - Gantt chart
 - Logistical concerns

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Work Package	1. Setup		2. Data Collection & Analysis									3. Synthesis & Simulation									4. Policy Dev.			
Milestone	1	2			1					2				1		2			3					
Deliverable	1							1									1				2			1
Dissemination/ Communication					C1					C2									C3			C4		
Community Engagement		E1, *						*			*			*	E2						*		E3	*
Mobility & Training									T1			T2												
Career Development		WIP									WIP				ABM Workshop						WIP			Final Report

Table 3: Gantt Chart DIS3



It's all connected



Professional Impact

Training-through-research, grant management, publication record, public engagement, applied/policy experience, etc.

Academic and Societal Impact

Excellence

Understand/Explain Observed Patterns
ID needed info and future research directions

Historical Demography & Archival/Literature Review

Quant & Qual Data
(develop & verify)

Agent-Based Simulation

Pandemic preparedness

Disability Advocacy

Interdisciplinary research on social impacts of disease

Implementation

Work Project 2

Work Project 3

WP 4, Deliverables, Communication



Additional tips

- Clear, straightforward, non-expert language
- During revisions, put your ego aside.
- Set proposal aside for other things (including resting), but not for too long
- Keep focused on positives
- “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again!”





Good luck!

Questions or advice? Feel free to contact me! jessicad@oslomet.no

