# Building and writing a competitive Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (ITN) project proposal

Module 1
General Understanding of the programme

The Innovative Training Networks (ITN) aim to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit.
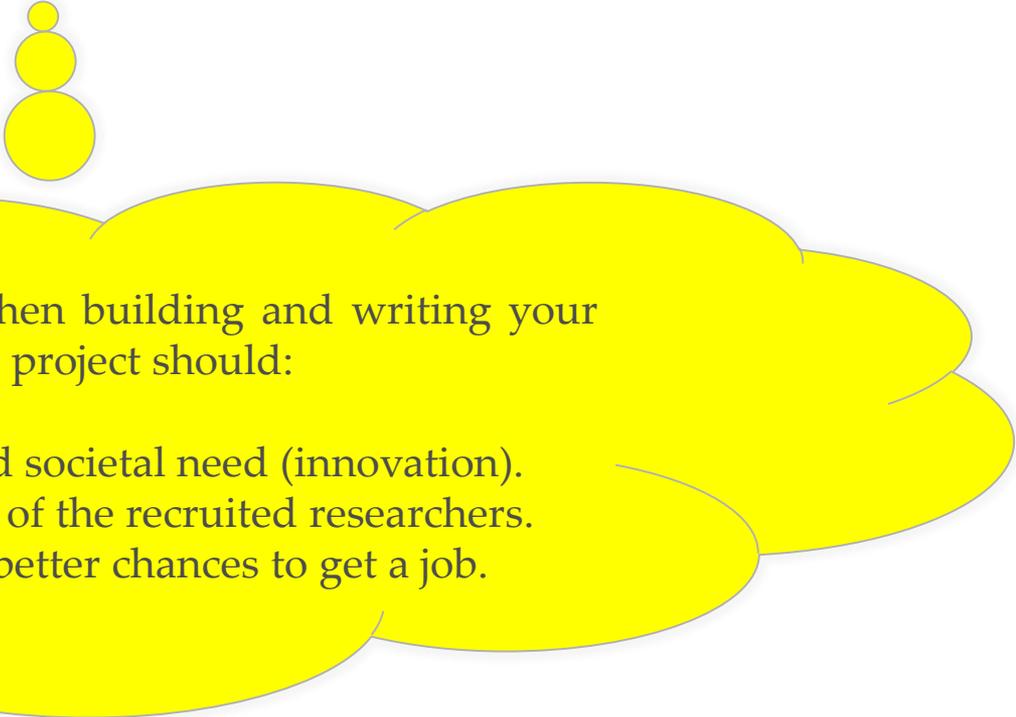
ALWAYS keep in mind this when building and writing your proposal…this means that your project should:

- Respond to an industrial and societal need (innovation).
- Serve to enhance the careers of the recruited researchers.
- Serve to provide them with better chances to get a job.

Same in "Brussels English"

ITN Objectives

- Train innovative early-stage researchers
- Excellence in doctoral/early-stage research training
- Provide skills to match public and private sector needs

ITN Expected impact

- Improved career perspectives of researchers
- Structured high-quality research / doctoral training
- Collaboration academia with non-academic sectors

Main characteristics of an ITN

o **Excellence**: International network of organisations applies and proposes a joint research training or doctoral programme

o **Bottom-up** (no pre-defined topics)

o **Multidisciplinary approach**

o **Meaningful** exposure to **non-academic sector**

Main characteristics of an ITN

o Strong **networking** within the consortium

o **Mobility** across countries /disciplines

o **Career guidance and supervision** arrangements

o **Supervisory Board**

o Project duration typically **48 months**

o only for **Early Stage Researchers (ESRs)**

Typical ITN activities

o **<u>Core activity</u>**: Training through individual research projects.
o Network-wide training activities (e.g. seminars, workshops, summer schools).
o Training in key transferable skills (e.g. entrepreneurship, management, IPR, communication, ethics, grant writing).
o Collaboration and exchange of knowledge within the network.
o Communication & Dissemination.
o Public engagement.

Who can apply?

Academic sector

o Public /private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees.

o Public / private non-profit research organisations whose primary mission is to pursue research.

o International European interest organisations (e.g. CERN, EMBL, etc).

Non-academic sector

o Any entity not included in the academic sector: e.g. large companies, SMEs, NGOs, museums, hospitals.

o International organisations (e.g. UN, WHO).
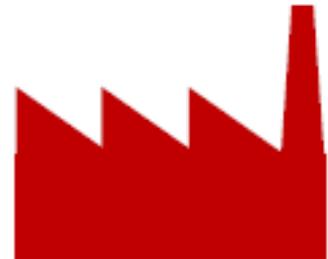
What roles the partners might have?

Role	Beneficiaries	Partner Organizations
Signs Grant Agreement	✔️	❌
Recruits and Hosts Researchers	✔️	❌
Trains/Hosts Researchers on secondment	✔️	✔️
Participates in Supervisory Board	✔️	✔️
Directly Claims Costs	✔️	❌

ITN has three implementation modes

	European Training Networks	European Industrial Doctorates	European Joint Doctorates
	ETN	**EID**	**EJD**
Beneficiaries	≥3 from 3 diff. MS/AC Any type	≥2 from 2 diff. MS/AC: (≥1 acad. award. PhD + ≥1 non-academic)	≥3 (acad. award PhD) from 3 diff. MS/AC
Person-months	Max. 540	Max. 180 / 540	Max. 540
Researchers	ESRs only (3-36 months)		
Partner Organ.	Not pre-defined (any country / sector / discipline)		
PhD enrolment	typically expected	**mandatory**	**mandatory**
Non-academic participation	essential	**mandatory**	essential
Inter-sectoral exposure	possible through secondments	≥50% in non-academic	possible through secondments

Focus of the course

MS = Member State
AC = Associated Country
ESR = Early Stage Researcher

ETN main characteristics

Main Purpose

Participants implement a joint research training programme for Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) along a main research project.

Mandatory

- ✓ Min. 3 beneficiaries from 3 different MS/AC.
- ✓ Each beneficiary recruits and hosts at least 1 ESR.
- ✓ Max 540 person-months (e.g. 15 ESRs x 36 months).

Other features

- ➢ Non-academic participation essential.
- ➢ PhD enrolment typically expected (not mandatory).
- ➢ Secondments to other countries/sector/disciplines (not exceed 30% of an ESR's appointment period).
- ➢ Joint supervision recommended.
- ➢ Partner organisations (any country/sector).

ETN configuration example

Beneficiaries

Partner organisations
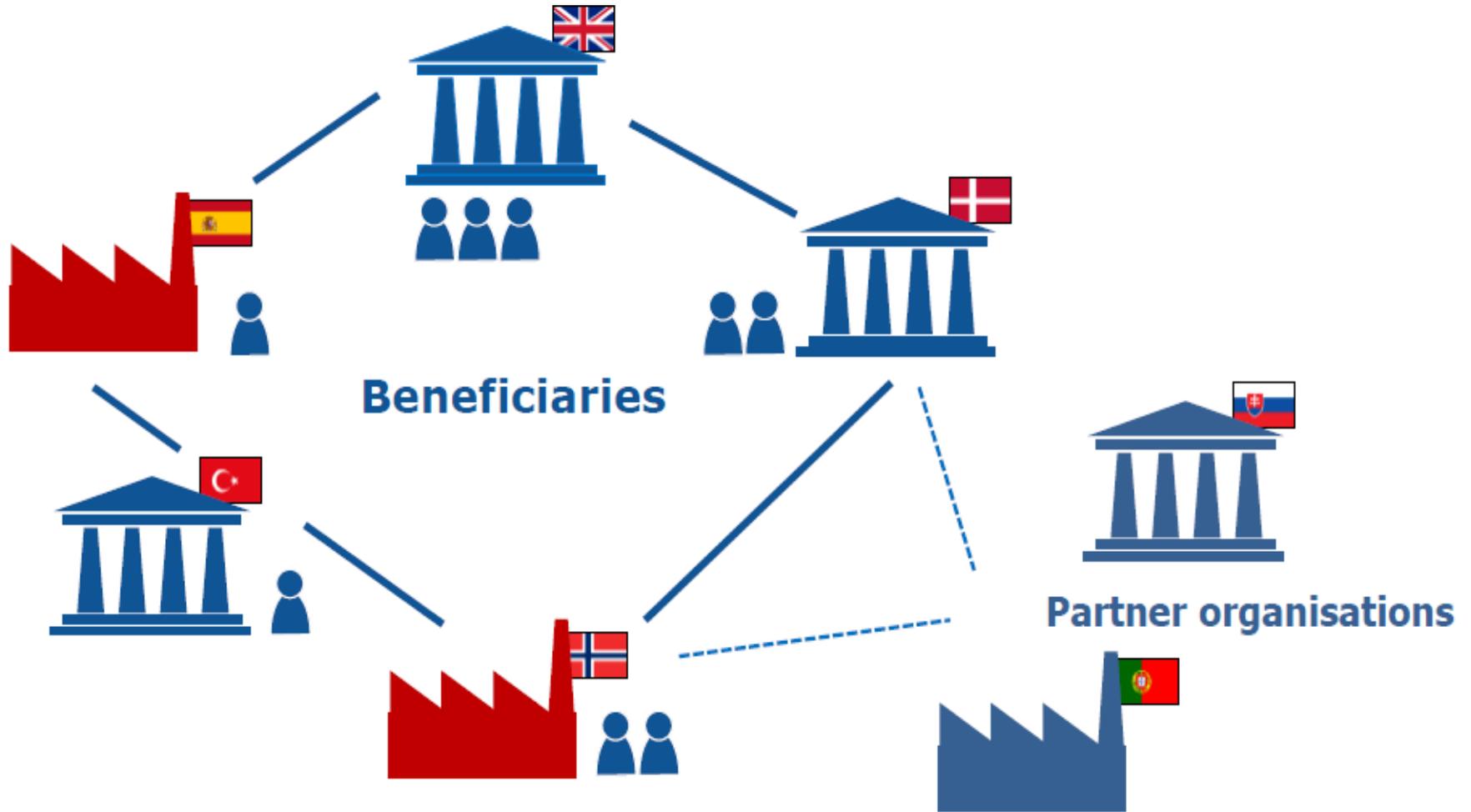
ETN: ESRs and mobility

- All beneficiaries must recruit and host at least 1 ESR.

- ESRs shall at the time of recruitment be in the first four years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers and have not yet been awarded a doctoral degree.

- At the time of the relevant deadline for recruitment by the host organisation researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date.

- As far as international European interest organisations or international organisations are concerned, this rule does not apply to the hosting of eligible researchers. However, the appointed researcher must not have spent more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment at the host organisation.

- The mobility rule applies to the beneficiary where the researcher is recruited, and not to beneficiaries to which the researcher is sent or seconded.

ETN: What the EC funds?

Unit costs/1 researcher month

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions	Researcher unit cost [person/month]			Institutional unit cost [person/month]	
	Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs
Innovative Training Networks	3 110	600	500	1 800	1 200

Basic, gross amount (including employer costs) for the benefit of the researcher to be paid to the researcher in monthly instalments. Each country has a correction coefficient due to living costs.

Additionally paid to recruited researchers.

Paid taking due account of the researcher's family situation.

This is a unit cost per researcher-month managed by the host beneficiaries to contribute to expenses related to, for example: training activities for the researcher, attendance to conferences, research costs, etc.

Unit cost per researcher-month that is to be used towards the management of the project.

Funding of other organizations not MS or AC

❑ Organisations in those Third Countries not listed in the general annex to the MSCA Work Programme 2014-2015 may receive funding only in exceptional cases:

  o essential to the action
  o endorsed by evaluators

❑ The application shall explain in terms of the objectives of the project why such funding would be essential.

❑ Only in exceptional cases will these organisations receive EU funding.

Example of countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia, United States…

Thanks for your attention
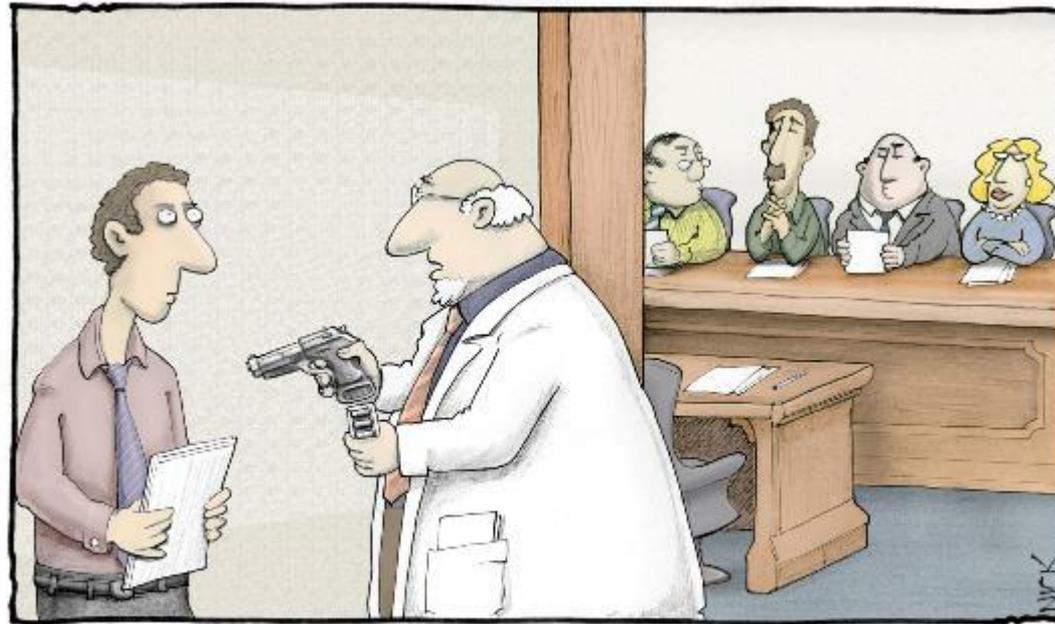
"Change of plan. The policymakers say they're only willing to listen to the science if we can present our ideas in simple bullet-point format."