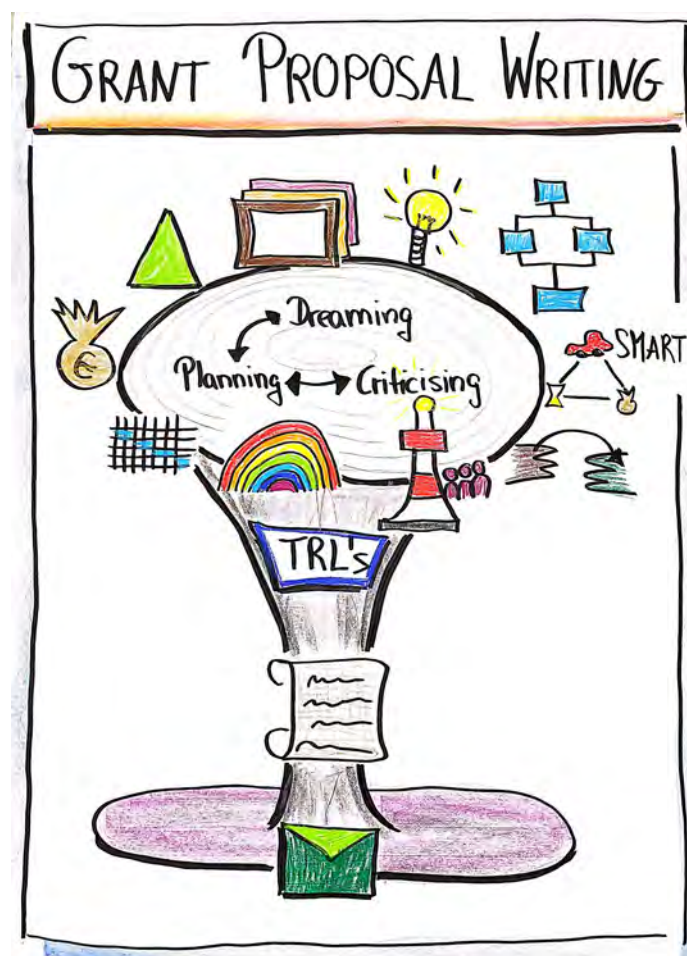


Boost Your Career Prospects: Funding Opportunities and Grant Proposal Writing

Prague

Photo Documentation



1st and 2nd September 2026

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Imprint

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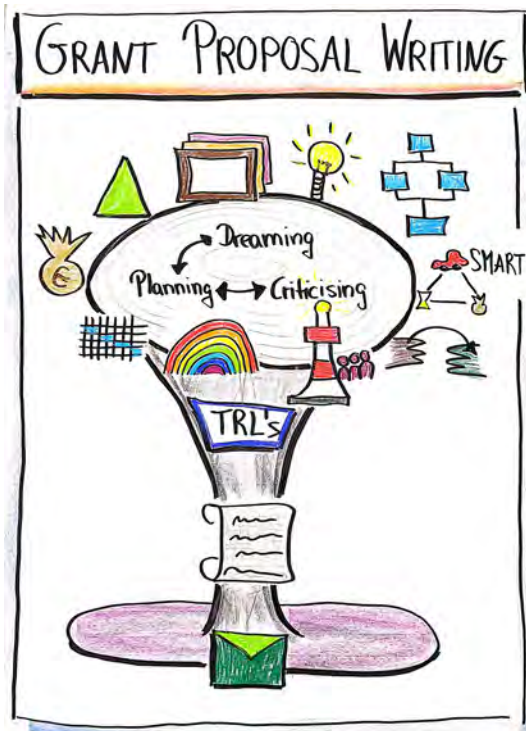
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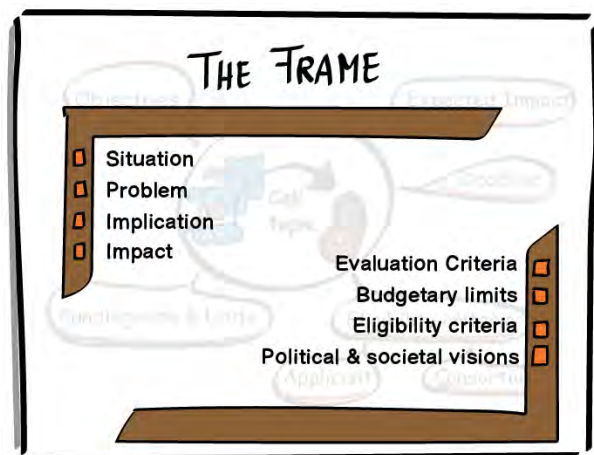
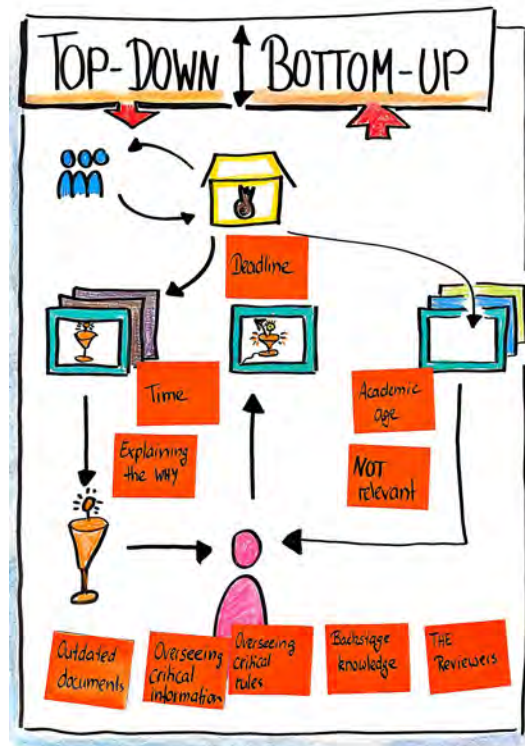
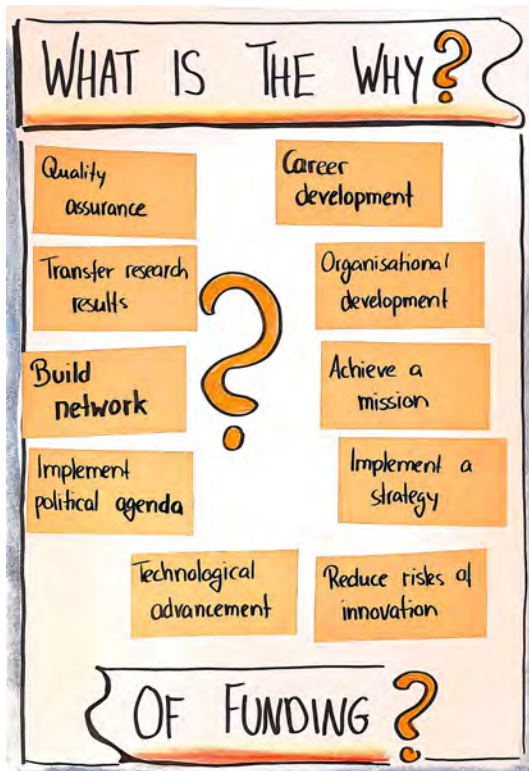
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1 Introduction



2 Funding programmes



2.1 Before obtaining the PhD

mystipendium.de: Database with more than 1.240 (20.06.2013) funding opportunities. Provides a comprehensive search function and advice on how to apply.

Link: <http://www.mystipendium.de/>

Database for stipends provided by thirteen organizations for the promotion of young talent

Link: <https://www.stipendiumplus.de/>

Information provided by the National Ministry for Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung): Holds more than 800 stipends and provides an extended search function

Link: https://www.bmbf.de/EN/Education/HigherEducation/Funding/funding_node.html

Database of Deutschlandstipendium

Link: <https://www.deutschlandstipendium.de/>

Portal for Foundations/Associations run by Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen: Comprises around 9.000 foundations/associations. The only option to run an extended search under the free version is to restrict the activity areas (Aufgabengebiete).

Link: <http://www.stiftungen.org/de/service/stiftungssuche.html>

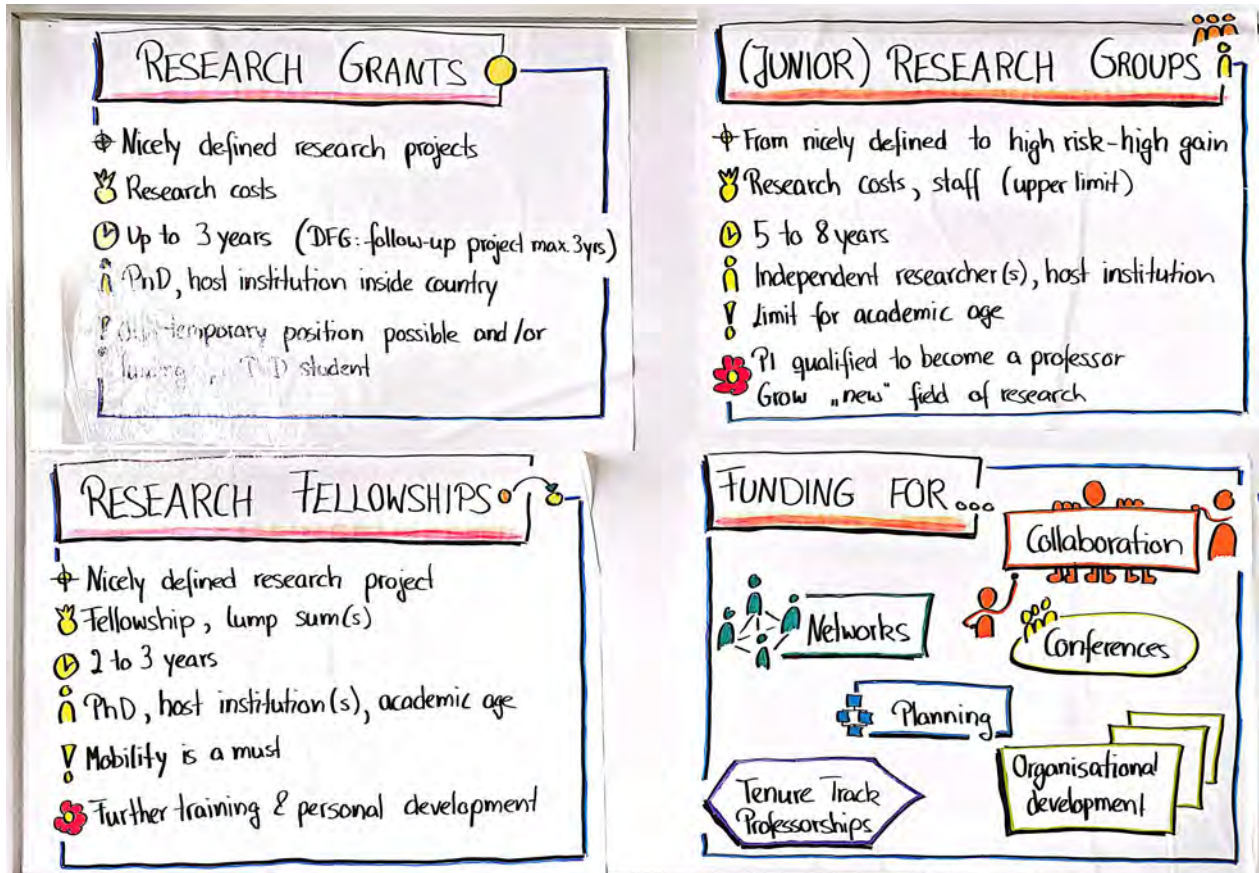
E-fellows.net – Das Online-Stipendium & Karrierenetzwerk:

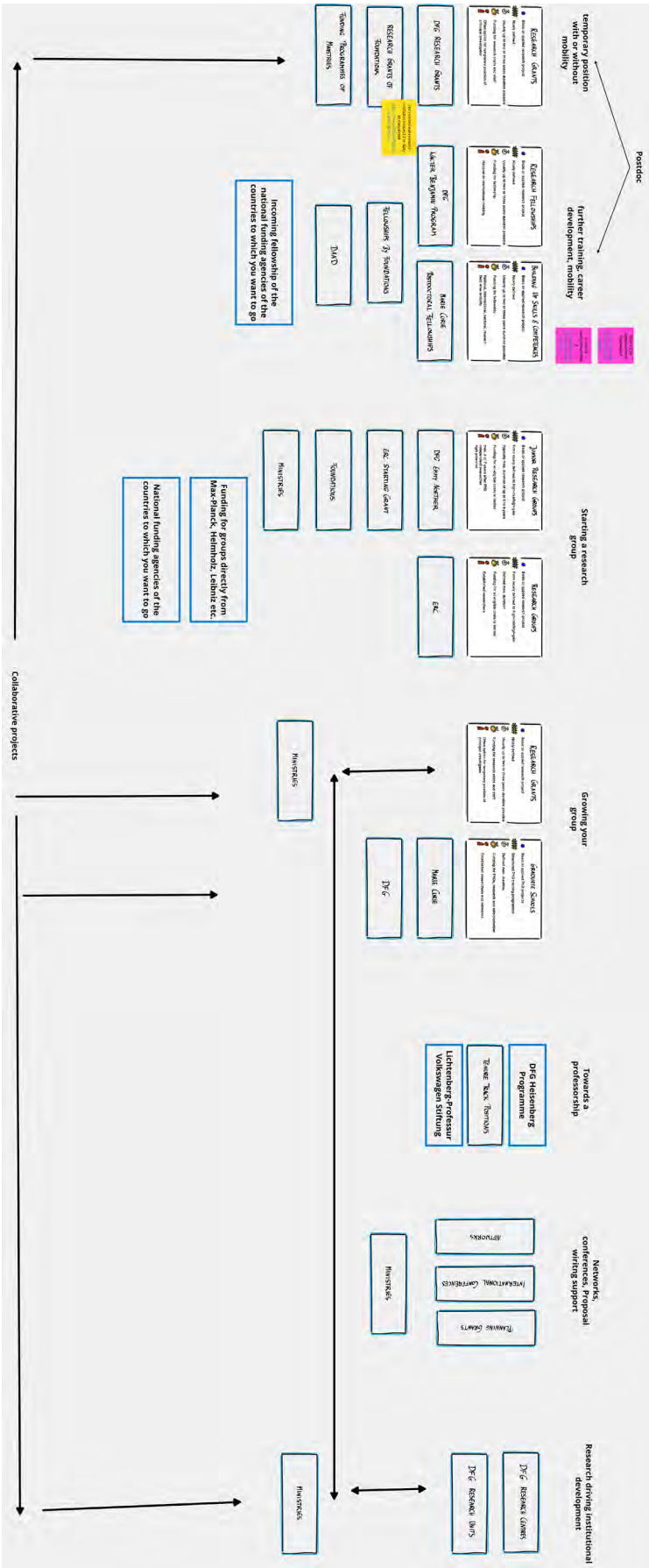
<https://www.e-fellows.net/e-fellows.net-Stipendium/Bewerben/Auswahlkriterien>

Academics.de: Portal of ZEIT and Forschung & Lehre for job offers in research including information on stipends, awards and funding-programmes

Link: <http://www.academics.de/>

2.2 After obtaining the PhD





2.3 Collaborative research

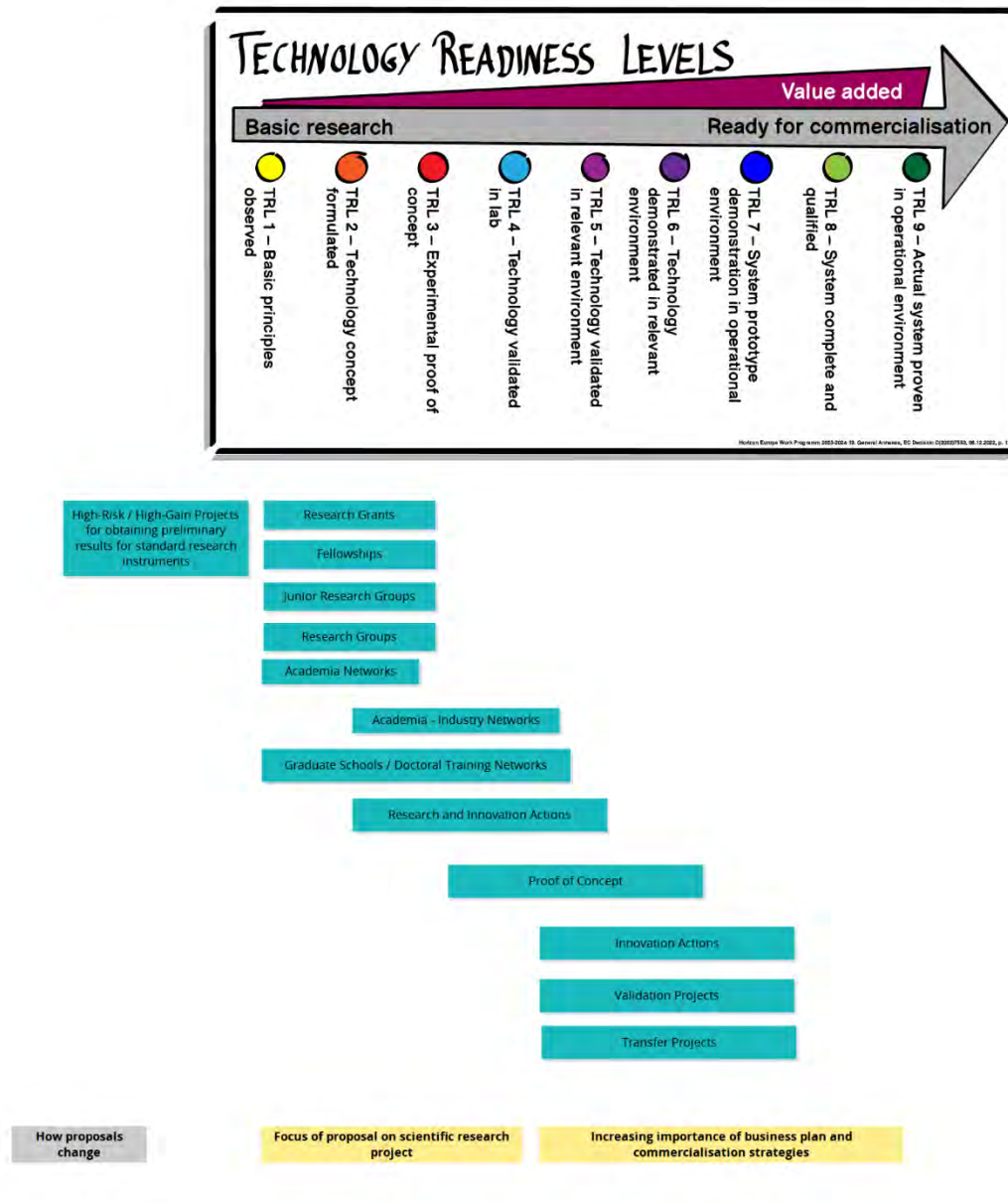


2.4 Horizon Europe

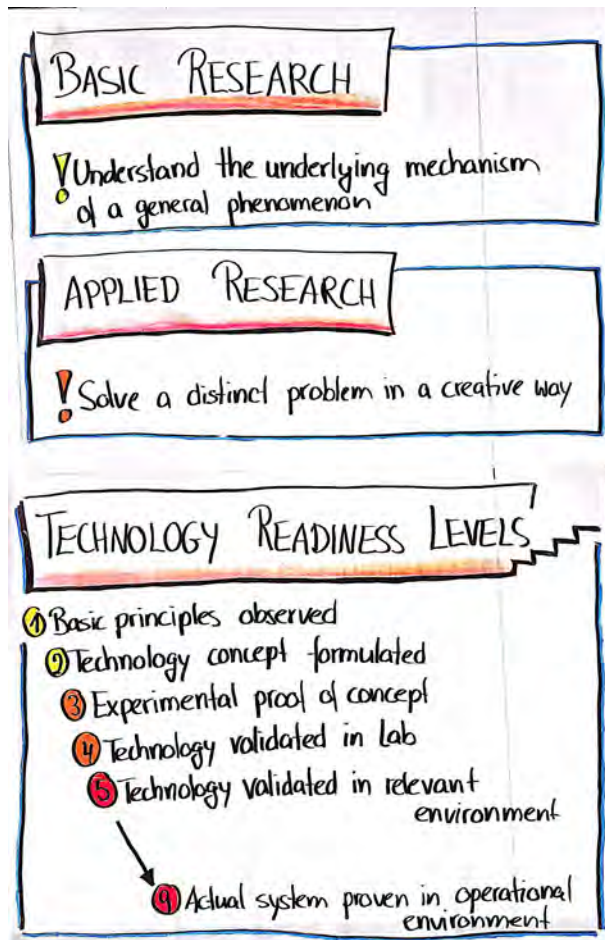
You will find detailed information here: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe_en

2.5 Technology readiness levels and how they are linked to funding programmes

Technology Readiness Levels and Funding Strategies



For a clear definition of basic research, applied research and experimental development see page 50 and following of the Frascati Manual https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/frascati-manual-2015_9789264239012-en#page52



University of Capetown Research Contracts & Innovation provides a nice systematic on Technology Readiness Levels: <https://www.uct.ac.za/rci/technology-readiness-levels> including a scheme of a innovation management journey in their flyer "Where your ideas take-off"

https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/uct_ac_za/190/Technology%20Readiness%20Levels%20Flyer.pdf

2.6 DFG Research Grant, DFG Emmy Noether, Walter Benjamin Programme

You will find a concise overview here:

DFG Research Grant:

https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/research_grants/index.html

DFG Emmy Noether:

https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/emmy_noether/index.html

The DFG Research Fellowship was replaced by the Walter Benjamin Programme:

https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/walter_benjamin/index.html

2.7 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships>

2.8 ERC Starting Grant

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/starting-grants>

2.9 Funding Programmes Worldwide for PostDocs

<https://asntech.github.io/postdoc-funding-schemes/>

2.10 BMBF VIP+

<https://validierungsfoerderung.de/foerderung/vip-kompakt>

2.11 Funding for Open Access

DFG Open Access Publication Funding: <https://www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/funding-opportunities/programmes/infrastructure/lis/funding-opportunities/open-access-publication-funding>

Open Access Directory list of funds to support OA journals:

https://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/OA_publication_funds

Radical Open Access Collective funding and publication opportunities for open access books:

<https://radicaloa.postdigitalcultures.org/resources/funding-opportunities/>

2.12 Competence models for describing your personal development

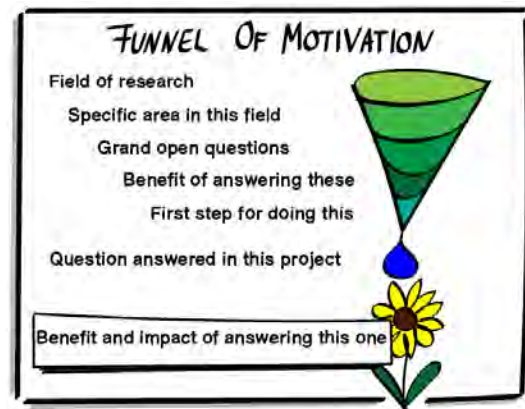
The Vitae Researcher Development Framework:

- <https://vitae.ac.uk/vitae-researcher-development-framework/>

UniWind Competence Model:

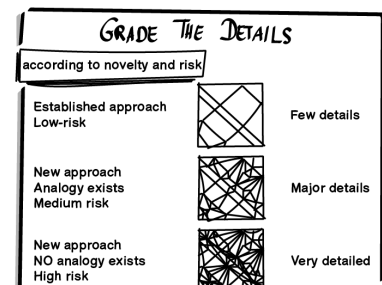
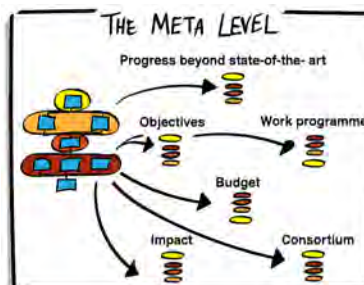
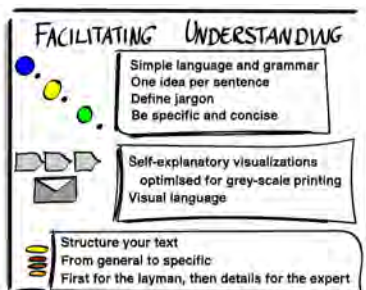
- https://www.uniwind.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/2017-UniWiND-Bd6_English_Druck.pdf
- https://www.uniwind.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/2019-UniWiND_Bd10_web.pdf

2.13 Communication with the reviewer



- COMMUNICATION WITH **
- ▢ first you need to understand yourself
 - ▢ same vocabulary
 - define
 - ▢ get feedback from a lay-person
 - ▢ big picture first → details
 - ▢ simplicity
 - ▢ visualization / stimulating elements
 - ▢ metaphors, examples
 - ▢ structure
 - ▢ conciseness

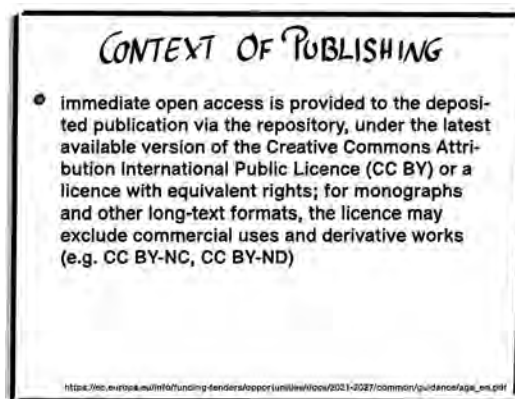
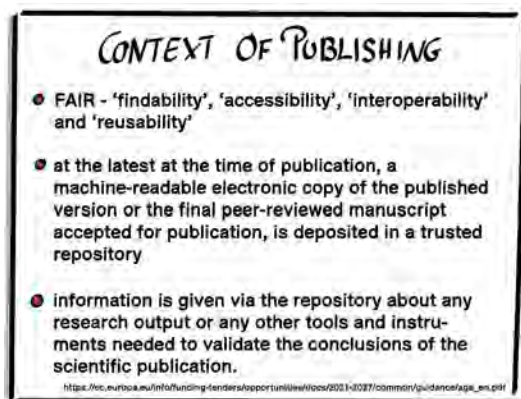
- COMMUNICATION** with the  reviewers
- ▢ metaphors, visualization, examples
 - ▢ choose words that look, understand
 - ↳ but also define them
 - ▢ big picture and then the details
 - ▢ specific
 - ▢ be concise
 - ▢ structure
 - ▢ simplicity



The understandability of texts is increased by

- simple language and simple grammar
- structure
- conciseness
- stimulating elements

3 Data handling



To benefit from the increasing amount of research data, data should be actionable both for humans as well as for machines. This can be achieved by publishing research data, metadata, as well as processing tools following the FAIR principle ensuring findability, accessibility, interoperability, and re-usability.

“This means that data should be:

- identified in a persistent manner using community conventions, and described by using sufficiently rich metadata;
- stored in such a way that they can be accessed by humans and machines;
- structured in such a way that they can be combined with other datasets;
- licensed or having terms-of-use that they can be combined with other datasets;” (Council, 20 April 2022 Version 4.1 S. 3)

In this document https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_info_document-Open_Research_Data_and_Data_Management_Plans.pdf you will also find information about field specific and general data repositories. The European Commission also runs their own platform Open Research Europe <https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/>.

The DFG provides checklists for the handling of research data https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/principles_dfg_funding/research_data/index.html. With the portal RIsources <https://risources.dfg.de/> the DFG provides information about scientific research infrastructures.

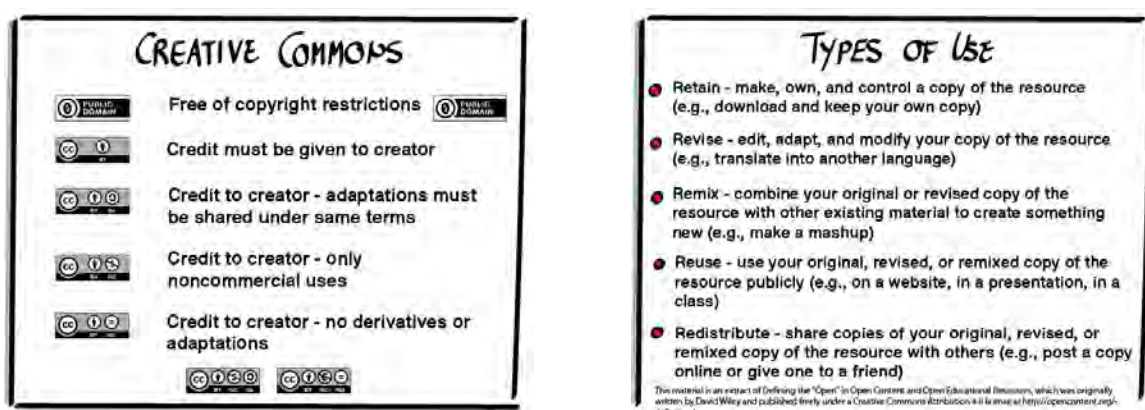
3.1 Data management plan

A data management plan might be mandatory already on submission of the proposal. This depends on the funding scheme. There are some annotated examples for the European Funding Programmes and diverse Tools which help you to establish your data management plan. The webpage [forschungsdaten.info https://forschungsdaten.info/english-pages/](https://forschungsdaten.info/english-pages/) provides helpful information and links.

3.2 Software licenses

If you use statistical procedures or software from open repositories you should acquaint yourself with the licenses under which the procedures and software have been published. Github has a standard license which can be changed, however. Often repository managers declare a common license for the repository which you adhere to by uploading your codes. It is important to familiarize yourself with the licenses as some open licenses require derivatives being published under the same license. Reviewers who are using the same repositories might be aware of this and might be looking for some respective comments in the data handling section.

3.3 CC-By licenses for publication



For funding agencies that have joined up in the Coalition S <https://www.coalition-s.org/> open access publishing is not open enough. The European Commission demands "immediate open access is provided to the deposited publication via the repository, under the latest available version of the Creative Commons Attribution International Public Licence (CC BY) or a licence with equivalent rights; for monographs and other long-text formats, the licence may exclude commercial uses and derivative works (e.g. CC BY-NC, CC BY-ND)" (Commission, 2021 S. 151)

This open licensing plays an important role in teaching as Open Educational Resources:

"Open Educational Resources (OER) are learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others.

Open license refers to a license that respects the intellectual property rights of the copyright owner and provides permissions granting the public the rights to access, re-use, re-purpose, adapt and redistribute educational materials." (UNESCO)

Following up on a preceding funding period, the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung - BMBF) has finally published its OER-Strategy 29.07.2022 pushing Open Educational Resources. This is going to increase the importance of Open Educational Resources in the teaching context. To facilitate publishing OER by their employees, many universities are

developing and implementing OER policies. Thus, you should consider open licensing as an essential part of your dissemination activities.

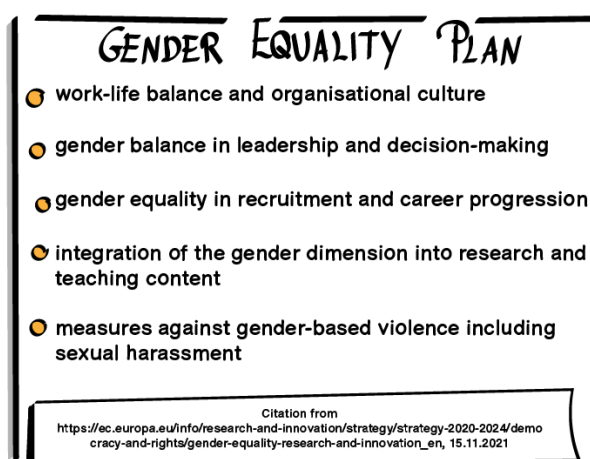
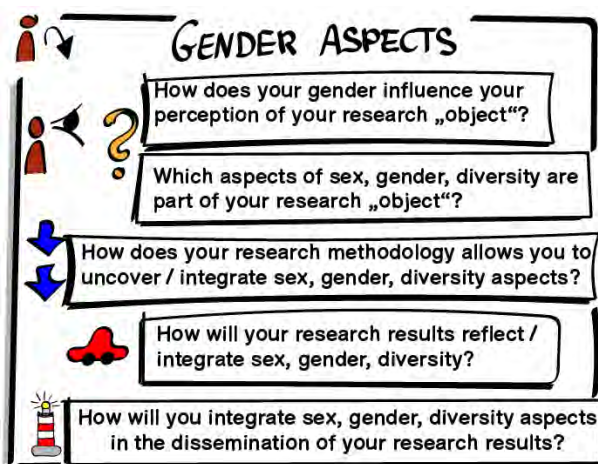
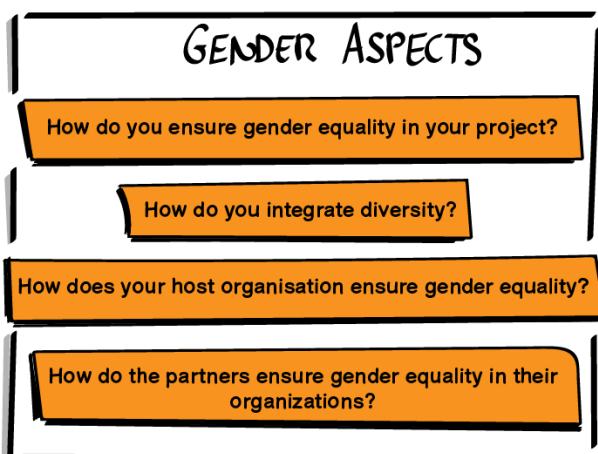
3.4 Funding opportunities for open access and open access cc-by publishing

Open access with a cc-by license is more costly than open access. If the funding for publication costs is limited by a lump sum, you will probably need additional resources. First of all, I recommend to look for internally for institutional funding. Some universities have received funding by the DFG under the "Open Access Publication Funding" <https://www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/funding-opportunities/programmes/infrastructure/lis/funding-opportunities/open-access-publication-funding>.

You could also look for funding opportunities here:

- Radical Open Access Collective: <https://radicaloa.postdigitalcultures.org/resources/funding-opportunities/>
- Open Access Directory: https://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/OA_publication_funds

4 Gender aspects



The consideration of gender aspects is a key to a winning grant proposal. The European Commission follows a strict policy here: “Under Horizon Europe the integration of the gender dimension into R&I [Research and Innovation] content is mandatory, unless it is explicitly mentioned in the topic description...” This policy also includes that public bodies, research organisations or higher education establishments are required to have published a gender equality plan in order to be eligible for funding from 2022 onwards (Horizon Europe – Work Programme 2021-2022 General Annexes https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf, p. 12-13). Furthermore, gender balance among the personnel named in the proposal may be used as a factor for prioritisation if proposals achieve the same scoring in the evaluation process (Horizon Europe – Work Programme 2021-2022 General Annexes https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf, p. 23) The DFG also showed the importance of gender aspects by adding a new and related section to the proposal templates in November 2020.

Gender aspects in a research project have two dimensions: Gender aspects within the research project itself and gender aspects on organisational level of the host and partner institutions. Within the research project gender aspects may play a role in

- Your personal relation with your research project: How is it influenced by your sex and gender? Is there a potential bias in the way how you phrase your research questions or design your project? Would a researcher of a different sex or gender phrase or design them differently?
- The “object” of your research: What sex and gender does your research “object” have? Which requirements does this pose for the research design?
- The way, how you implement your research: How exactly can you uncover sex and gender aspects? What does it take so that the results you obtain with respect to sex and gender are valid and representative? What does it take so that you level potential biases by your own sex or gender?
- The results themselves: How might they differ depending on sex and gender?
- The research outputs: How can you design your outputs in such a way, that different sex and gender will benefit equally?
- The outcome and/or impact: Which differences are there due to different sex or gender in the opportunity to benefit from your research results? Are there differences in the different gender getting access to your research outputs? How exactly are you going to take this into account in your dissemination activities?

If you have analysed gender aspects in your research design and you concluded that there are none, explain this in detail in the respective chapter. Gender aspects need only to be considered if they are relevant.

See also:

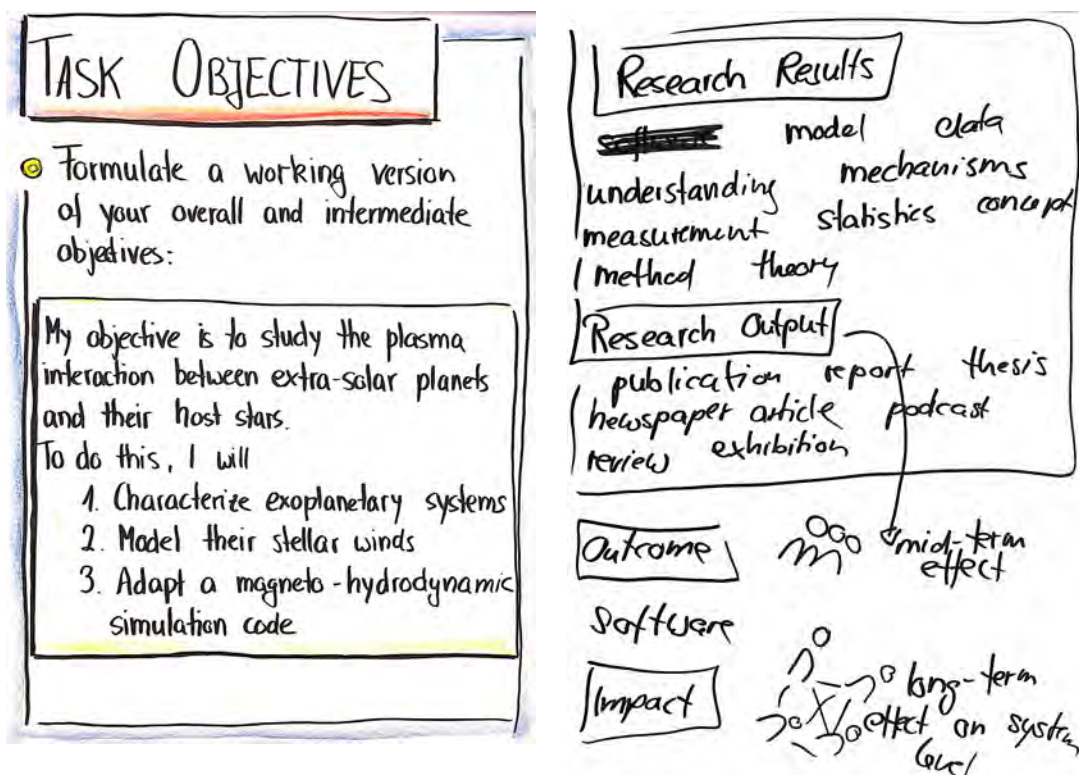
- EC - Gendered Innovations 2 https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/gendered-innovations-2-2020-nov-24_en

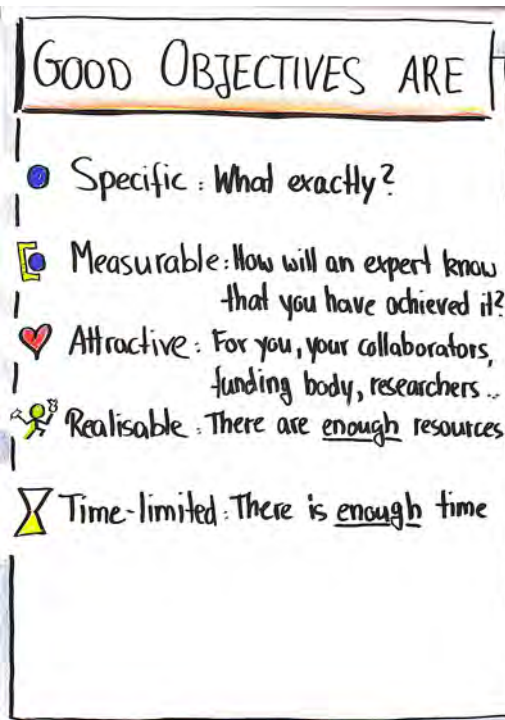
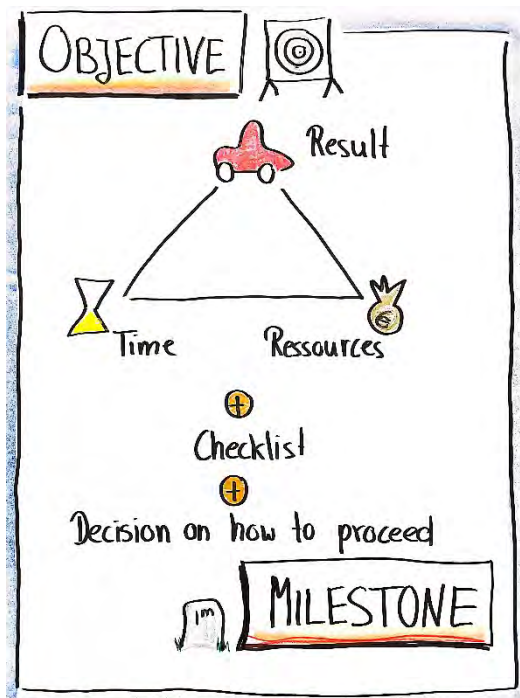
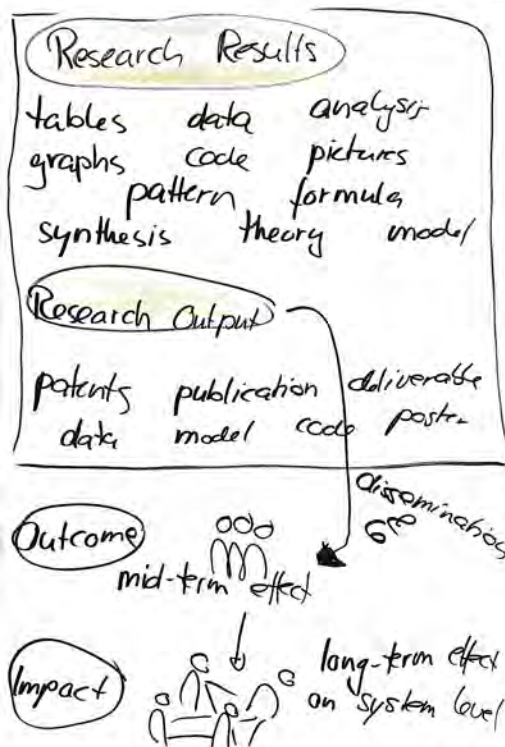
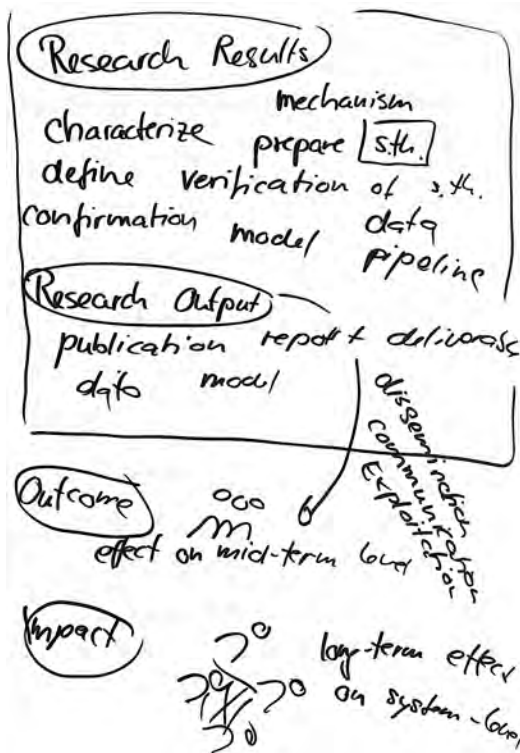
- EC - Gendered Innovations 2: How inclusive analysis contributes to research and innovation (November 2020): https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/gendered-innovation-2-how-inclusive-analysis-contributes-research-and-innovation_en
- EC - Gendered innovations factsheet: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/667d9e3e-2e03-11eb-b27b-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>
- DFG - Relevance of Sex, Gender and Diversity in Research https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/principles_dfg_funding/diversity_dimensions/index.html
- DFG Checklist https://www.dfg.de/download/pdf/foerderung/grundlagen_dfg_foerderung/vielfaeltigkeitsdimensionen/checkliste_en.pdf

5 Feature – Advantage – Benefit – Impact

Your project is funded for the innovative aspects. After formulating a specific and measurable result you know what exactly is new with respect to the state-of-the-art. Think about different target groups. Which features of your result create an advantage in whatever the target group is doing? Now imagine, the target group will exploit this advantage. What benefit will the target group have?

5.1 Define your research result





The objective is to ^{what is a model?} model ^{what is an interaction?} the plasma interaction ^{what means end?} of exoplanets and their solar-like host stars.

To do this, I will

1. Characterise exoplanetary systems
2. Develop a stellar wind model
3. Develop a magnetohydrodynamic simulation code,

The objective is to ^{what exactly is this model?} model ^{what is a plasma?} the plasma interaction ^{what needs to be fulfilled min.} between exoplanets and their host stars

To do so, I will

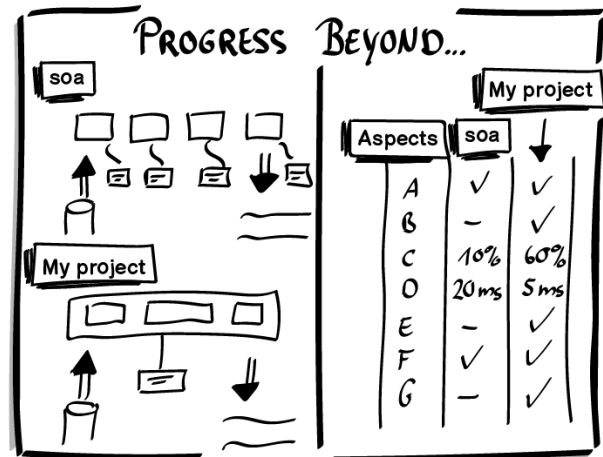
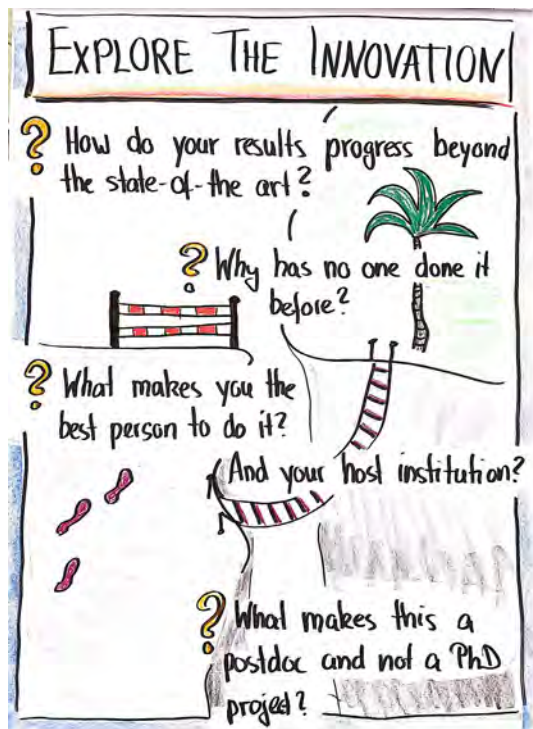
1. Characterise exoplanetary systems ^{what is the challenge you need to solve?}
2. Develop a stellar wind model
3. Adapt a simulation code

The objective of my project is to ^{what can the model do?} model ^{what goes into it? what comes out of it?} the plasma interaction ^{based on what do you describe?} of exoplanets ^{which kind of plasma?} and their solar-like host stars. ^{what needs to be fulfilled minimum?} ^{which ones do you consider?} ^{what makes them the best to further generalize your insights?}

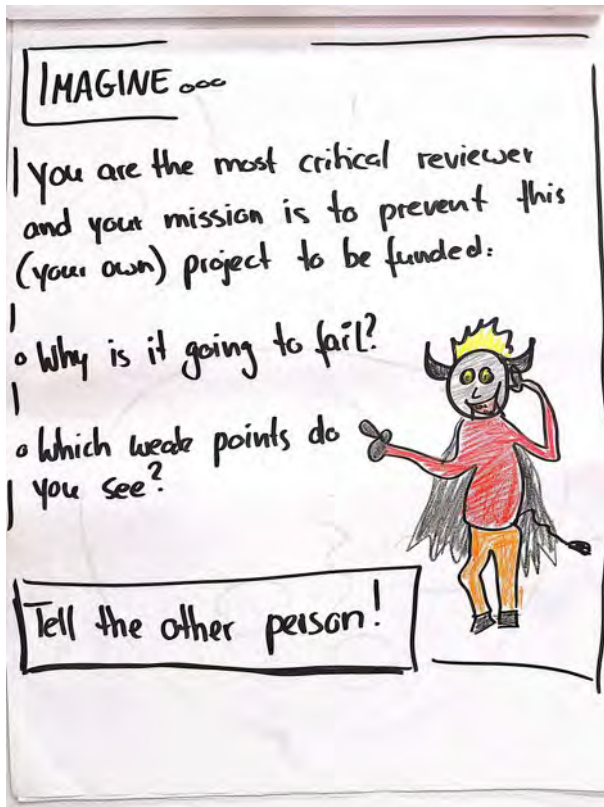
To do this I will

1. Characterise exoplanetary systems ^{which information will be there?} ^{what is the challenge you will need to solve?}
2. Develop a stellar wind model ^{which challenges do you need to solve?} ^{which physics what kind of model goes into it?} ^{which assumptions exactly?}
3. Adapt a simulation code ^{what kind of adaptations?} ^{what can it do?} ^{which limitations?} ^{how are you going to validate it?} ^{what is the best strategy for simulation so that you can further generalize your insights?}

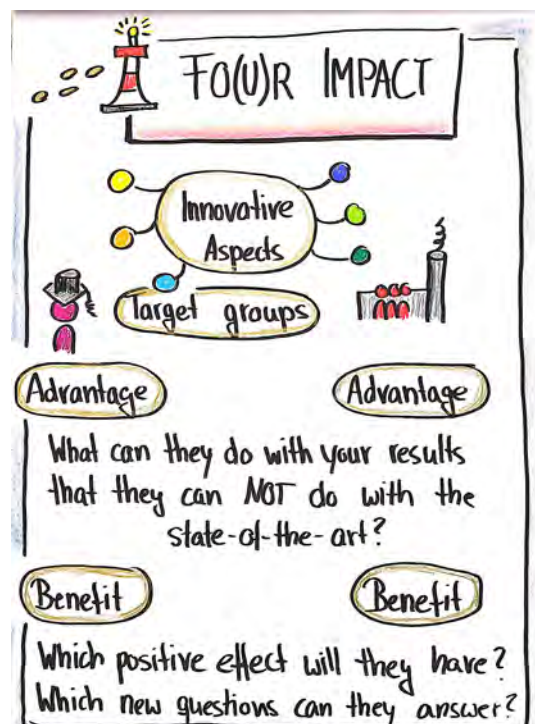
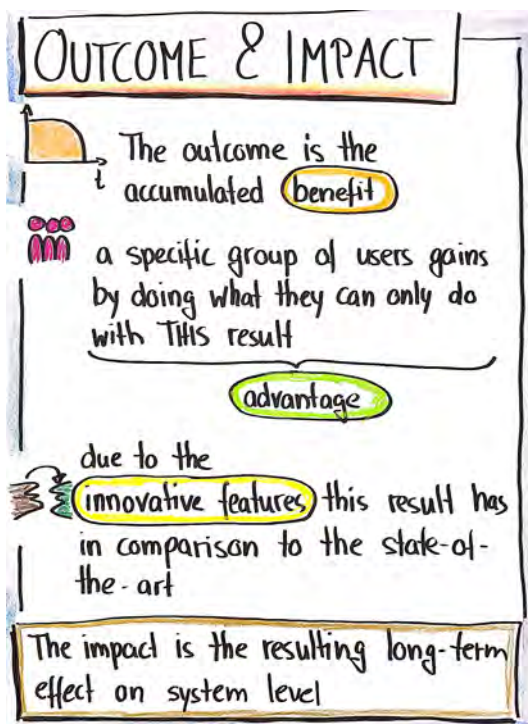
5.2 Innovative aspects and where to put which information in the proposal



A nice approach to explore the barriers and critical aspects in your project is to imagine yourself as the most critical reviewer in the world and to write down all those points you would list why this project is not going to work. The most critical aspects are challenges you need to solve. They should be connected to objectives and work packages.

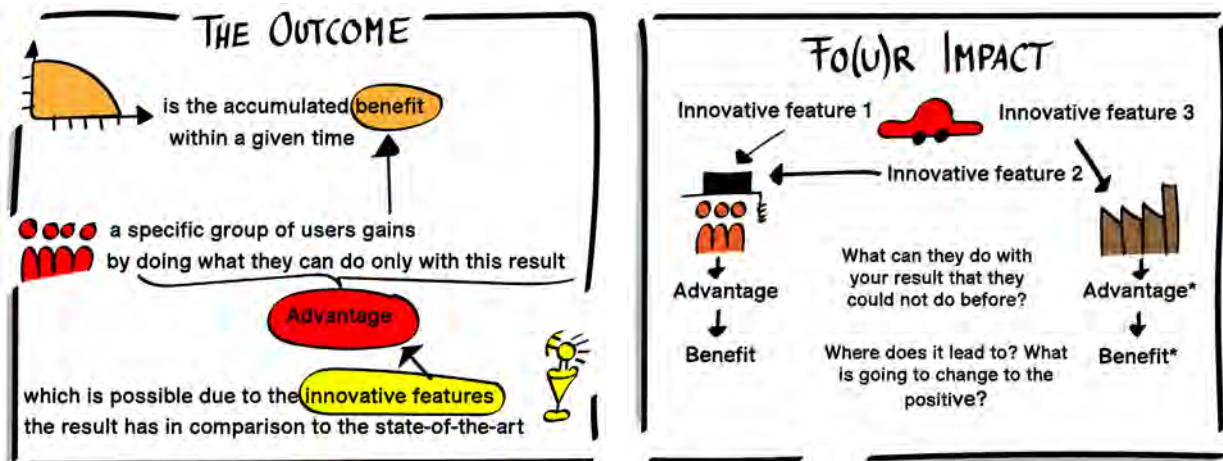


5.3 Impact



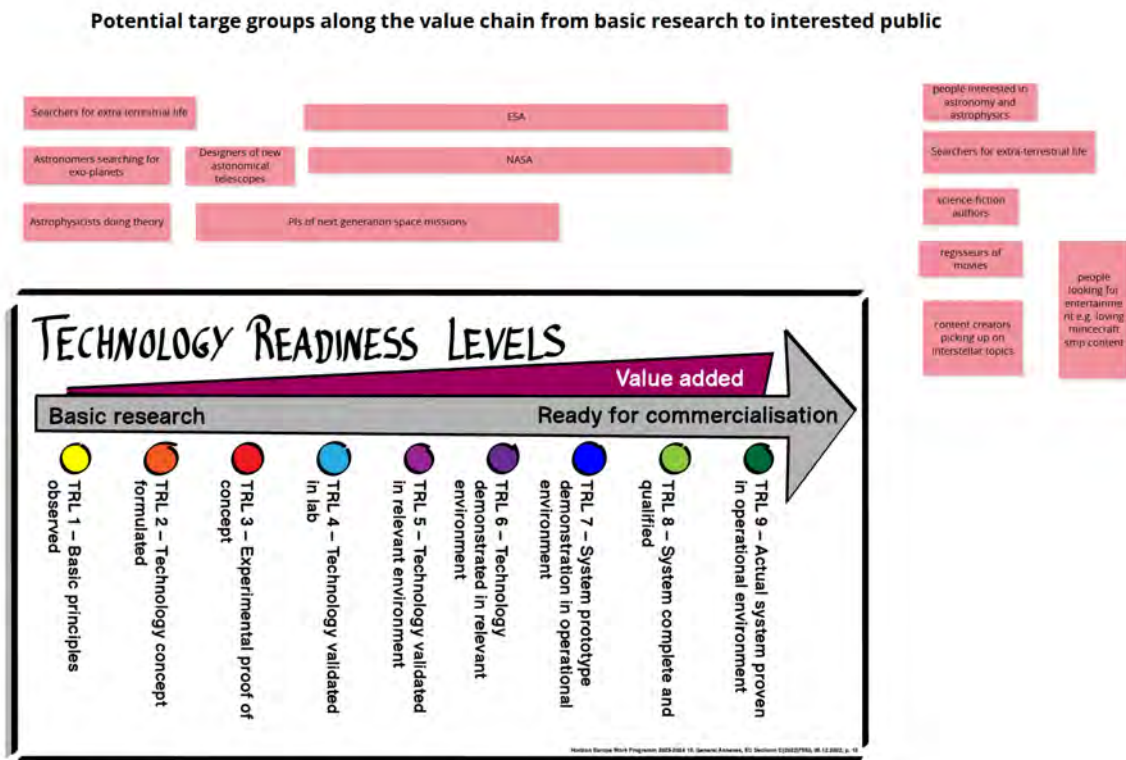
5.3.1 Step 1: Dreaming

Follow the definition and the structure on the Fo(u)r Impact Slide. Identify all the innovation you are going to achieve during your project. Identify target groups for your dissemination activities, which advantages they perceive of which innovation and the benefit they will have, if they use the innovation.

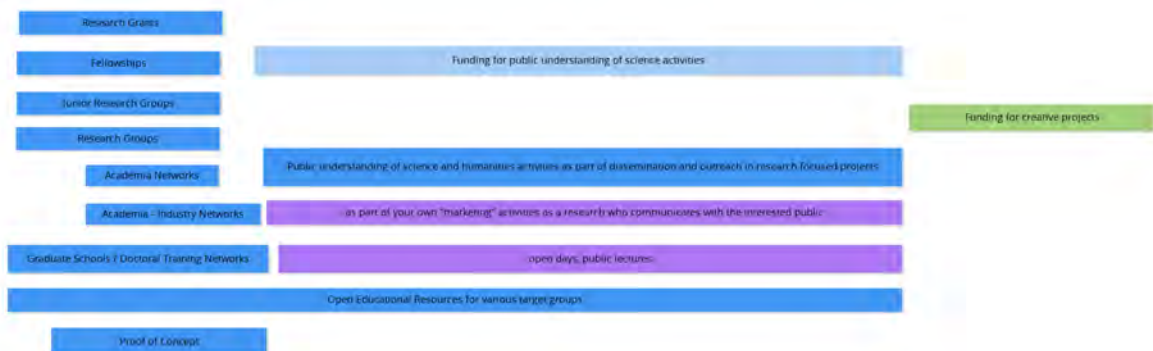


5.3.2 Step 2: Planning

1. First review your target groups with the backdrop of the Technology Readiness Levels. Do you need to add any target groups? Which further funding opportunities could you tap for further transferring your research results into potential products or services? If you add more target groups, do Step 1 also for them.
2. Look at the words for advantages and benefits: Do they describe something that is already there at the end of your project? **If yes**, congratulations: You have found something else to present as results of your project. Move these words to the innovative aspects and do step 1 again.
If no, you can use these words for describing what will happen, if the respect target group really would use your research results.



Funding opportunities for me as the researchers or potential collaborators

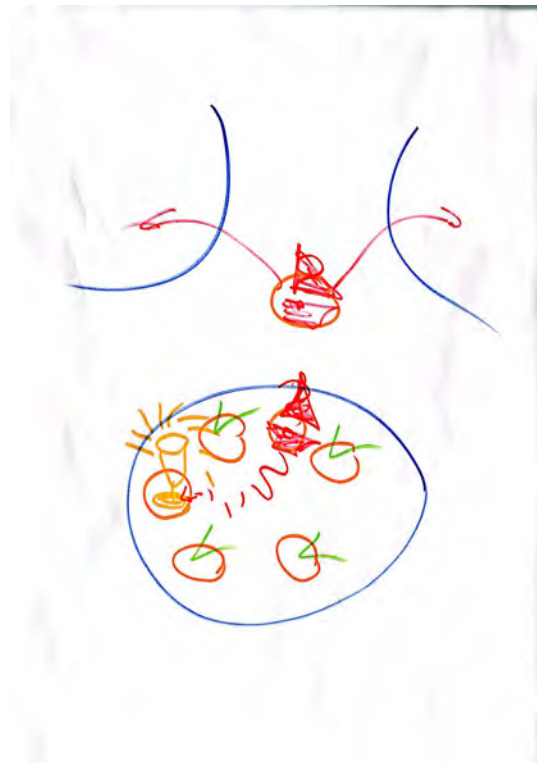
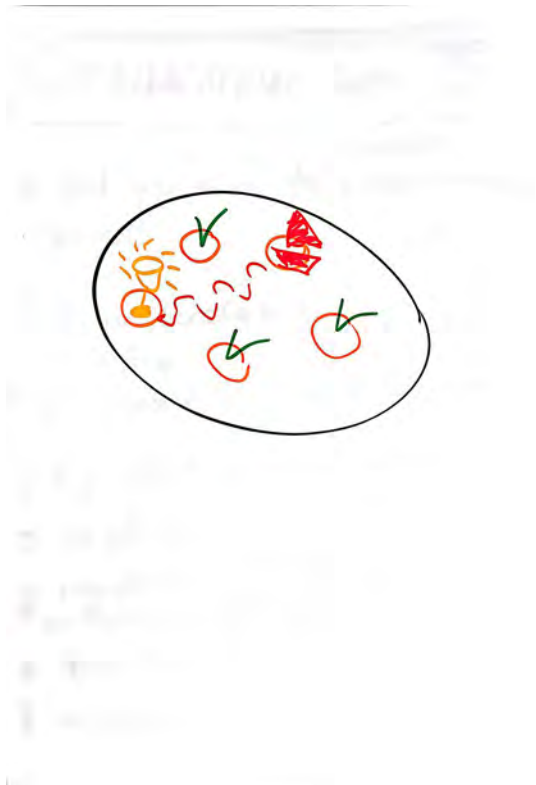


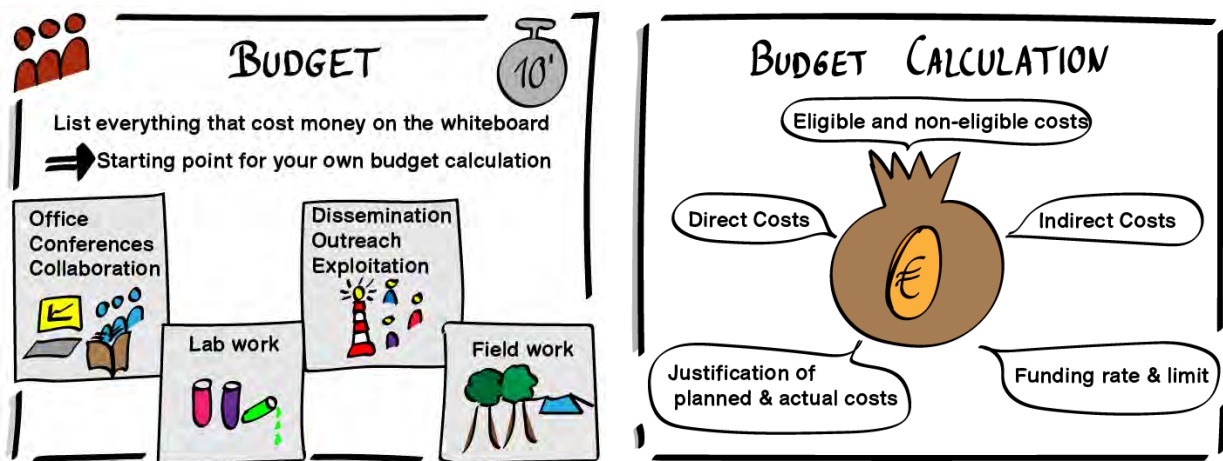
5.3.3 Step 3: Criticising

Check, whether the words describing your innovation and project results fit to the wording of the Technology Readiness Levels covered by the funding programme. If they are too far along the line, use these words to make the outcome more specific.

Do you need to provide any numbers for market shares, turnover or whatsoever? If yes, make sure to justify them in detail.

And remember, your project results will be the first step towards the holy grail of your discipline and of course the connected disciplines.



[illegible]

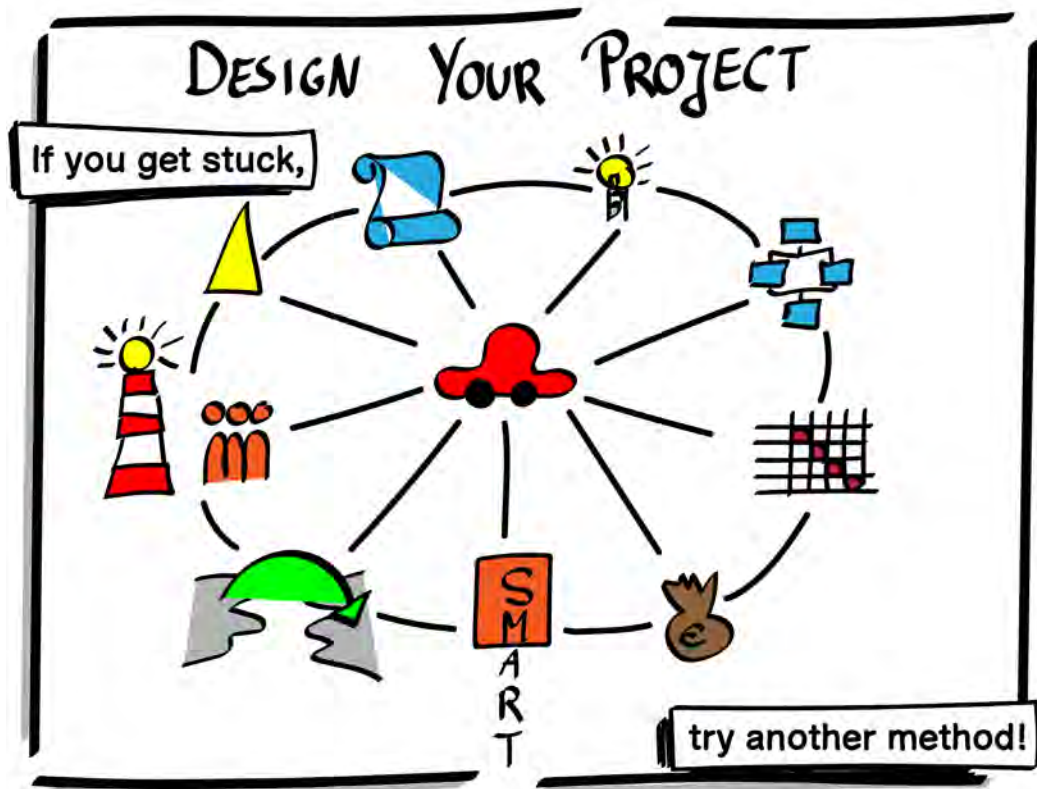
	How to justify costs in the proposal	How to justify costs in the cost statements
 PERSONNEL COSTS	 Effort table	 Time sheets Payment slips Contracts
 TRAVEL COSTS	 Number persons travelling Places Durations X lump sums	 Travel cost statements
 CONSUMABLES	 „Eaten up by using them“ List items and lump sums	 Invoices
 EQUIPMENT	 Stand-alone device with a lifetime List items and quotes	 Invoices Depreciation
 PUBLICATION COSTS	 Lump sums / quotes	 Lump sums / actual costs
 OTHER COSTS	 List items Lump sums / quotes	 Invoices
 SERVICES & SUB-CONTRACTS	 Public procurement law List items Quotes	 Invoices

The different categories in a budget calculation:

- *Personnel costs* are salaries for any staff that is hired for the project or has a working contract with the organisation and is working just some hours (to be shown in time-sheets) of the working time on the project.
- *Consumables* include true **consumables** and the so called **GWG** (Geringwirtschaftliche Wirtschaftsgüter) which can be moved, can be used independently and show wearing. In other words, this is equipment with a price up to 800 € net, i.e. without VAT. In true accounting consumables and GWG are separated as consumables and GWG are listed in different accounts (GWG are depreciated fully at the end of the year) but for the budget calculation we put them together.
- *Equipment* is depreciated according to its lifetimes which is defined in the AFA-Tables http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Standardartikel/Themen/Steuern/Weiter_e_Steuertemen/Betriebspruefung/AfA-Tabellen/afa-tabellen.html?_act=renderPdf&_iDocId=166058. However, universities and research institutes might be excepted from this or handle things differently. So please ask your administration.
- *Travel Costs* are the costs that you need for travelling including hotel costs.
- *Other Costs* usually comprise any other costs. Here you can put also fees for organising meetings such as rent of rooms and catering.
- *Publication costs* are your costs for publishing.
- *Services / Subcontracting*: These costs are charged with a bill to your organisation. They usually need to be defined in the budget separately. There are general rules to obey for subcontracting. Sometimes you will also need to decide between having the organisation as a partner in the consortium or subcontracting. If the activities are an essential part of your project and include further development or research it is wise to include the organisation as a partner (if possible). If not, subcontracting is the choice. There are specific funding programmes for small and medium sized enterprises in which research can only be subcontracted. Subcontracting/ Services are added to the budget after calculating the amount of indirect costs.
- *Indirect Costs* cover all the costs for the administration, rent, rooms, electricity and water and whatever cannot be charged in discrete numbers to a project. In most funding programmes this is covered by a percentage of the total direct costs (except subcontracting), which is defined by the funding authorities. This percentage usually differs from the percentage an organisation calculates for itself based on its actual costs.
- *Funding rate* defines how much of the total costs will be funded. In many funding programmes this is 100%, in others research institutes and universities will be funded by 100% and other organisations will be funded less, e.g. only 50% or 75%.

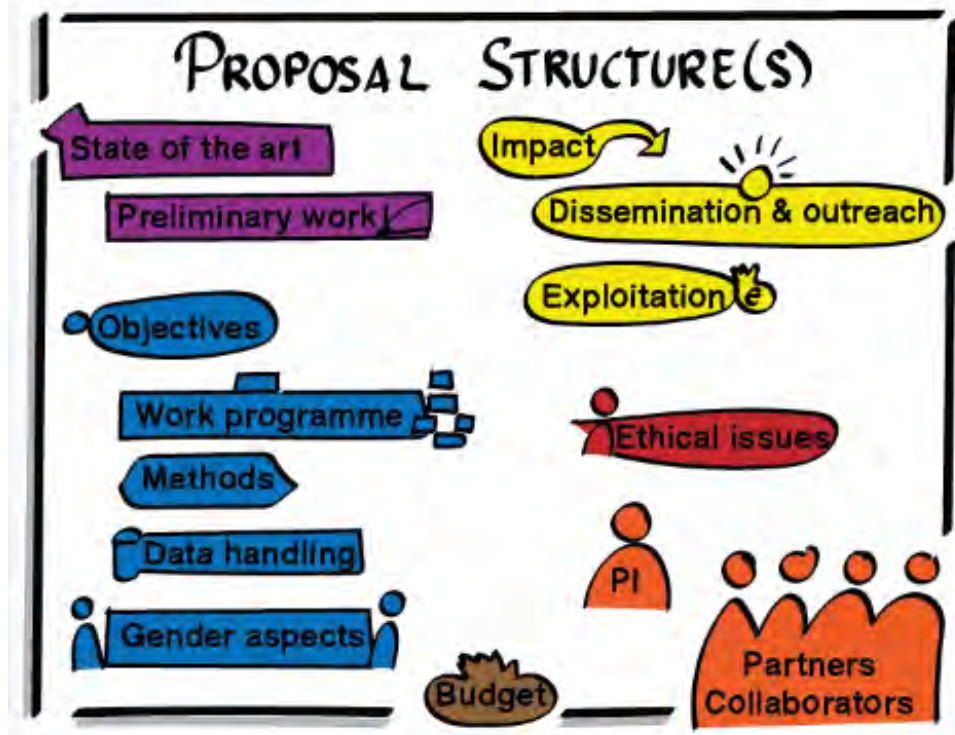
7 Design your project and only then approach the proposal template

Start with any method, which we have discussed during the workshop.



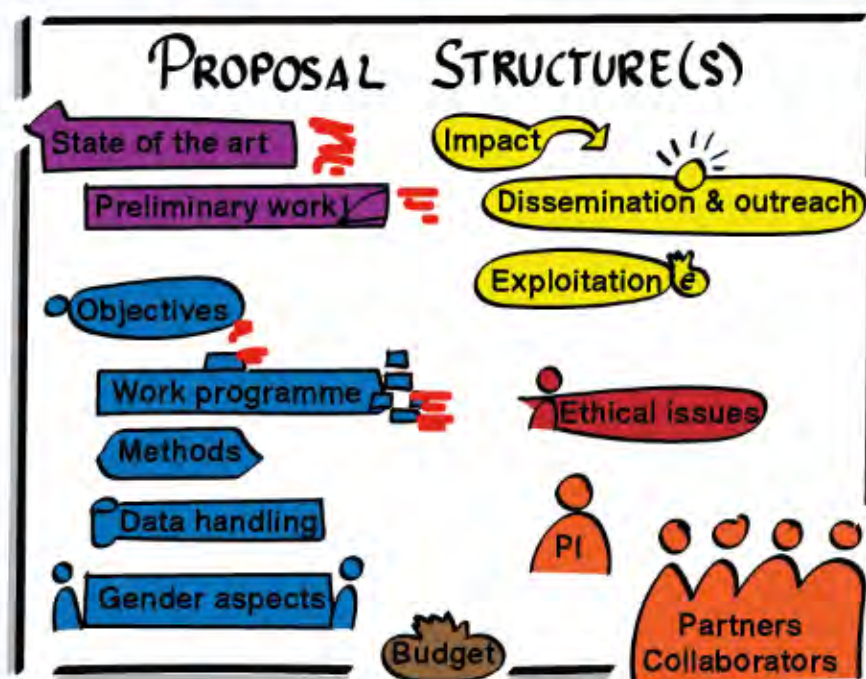
Step 1: Create the proposal template

- Use the most up to date existing template if available. Do NOT change the titles
- Create a template from the instructions in the official documents



Step 2: Insert instructions under each section title / chapter

- Which information needs to go here?
- How do the reviewers look at this section?
- What do I want to communicate



I use red font for these instructions and I will only take them out just before I am polishing the text so that it fits into the page limits. These instructions have different sources. Different original documents, my strategic considerations on what needs to go where.

Example:

The red text is taken copy and paste from the proposal preparation instructions. There are many more documents you can take into account!

Some things, that I have added. Definitely NOT complete.

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page 1 of max. 17

Project Description – Project Proposals**[First name last name, city of all applicants]****[Project title]**

Project Description*Sections 1-3 must not exceed 17 pages in total.***1 Starting Point****State of the art and preliminary work**

For new proposals please explain briefly and precisely the state of the art in your field in its direct relationship to your project. This description should make clear in which context you situate your own research and in what areas you intend to make a unique, innovative, promising contribution. Indicate the current state of your preliminary work. This description must be concise and understandable without referring to additional literature. For renewal proposals, please report on your previous work. This report should also be understandable without referring to additional literature.

Barriers which kept others from doing what I want to do, the challenges that need to be solved to overcome these

State of the art and preliminary work

My expertise on magneto-hydrondynamic modelling, exoplanets

[Text]

2 Objectives and work programme**2.1 Anticipated total duration of the project**

Please state

- ☐ the project's intended duration¹ and how long DFG funds will be necessary,
- ☐ for ongoing projects: since when the project has been active.

[Text]

2.2 Objectives

Please give a concise description of your project's research programme and scientific objectives.

Please indicate if you anticipate results that may be relevant to fields other than science (such as science policy, technology, the economy or society).

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page 2 of max. 17

For each barrier one objective

Impact on the research community: For which overarching research questions will my project deliver the "vessel/key" to get there?

[Text]

2.3 Work programme incl. proposed research methods

For each applicant

For each applicant

Please give a detailed account of the steps planned during the proposed funding period. (For experimental projects, a schedule detailing all planned experiments should be provided.) The quality of the work programme is critical to the success of a funding proposal. The tasks to be performed within the work programme should correspond to the funds requested. The work programme should therefore indicate and justify what types of funding will be needed and how the funds will be used, providing details on the individual items requested where applicable.

Provide a detailed description of the methods that you plan to use in the project: What methods are already available? What methods need to be developed? What assistance is needed from outside your own group/institute? Concepts and starting points for quality-promoting measures that specifically contribute to the validity or plausibility of your research results are welcome here. For more in-depth and subject-specific recommendations, see the "Research Integrity" portal.

Feasibility of the project

Quality and scientific excellence

[Text]

2.4 Handling of research data

If your project uses, generates and/or processes data, then use this section to record key information on the handling of this data (and any underlying objects). Please ensure your descriptions follow the points in the relevant questionnaire (www.dfg.de/research_data/checklist) and use the checklist to address the following aspects in particular:

- ☐ Characteristics and scope of the data
- ☐ Documentation and data quality
- ☐ Storage and technical archiving
- ☐ Legal obligations and conditions
- ☐ Enabling of subsequent reuse and long-term accessibility
- ☐ Responsibilities and resources

Please also describe how the institutions involved in the project will contribute to data and information management. If you have already provided more detailed information on the handling of research data in an explanation as part of your preliminary work, work programme or elsewhere, you may refer to those descriptions and limit yourself to supplementary information at this point. Should your project not use or generate data to a relevant extent, please explicitly state this to be the case. Please also note that you can apply for funding to cover project costs associated with the effort involved in collecting research data.

For further information on this topic, see:

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Licenses of tools I am using and my licensing philosophy I my project: open access cc-by
[Text]

2.5 Relevance of sex, gender and/or diversity in the research project

Where applicable, please describe whether and if so to what extent the sex, gender and/or diversity

- ☐ of persons under study,
- ☐ of individuals affected by the implementation of research results,
- ☐ of animals under study,
- ☐ with regard to samples taken from humans or animals,
- ☐ of researchers,
- ☐ or in other respects

is relevant to the research project (methods, work programme, objectives, etc.). The relevance may vary depending on the subject area, project topic or methods and according to the different stages of the research project (ranging from the development of research questions through to application), for instance.

Additional information is available at: www.dfg.de/diversitaetsdimensionen

[Text]

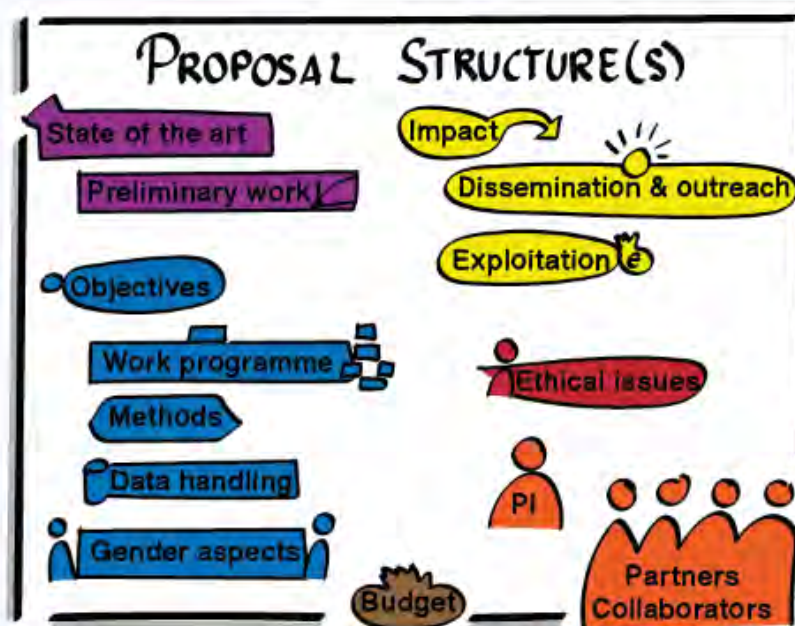
3 Project- and subject-related list of publications

*Works cited from sections 1 and 2, both by the applicant(s) and by third parties. Please include DOI/URL if available. A maximum of ten of your own works cited may be **highlighted**; font at least Arial 9 pt.*

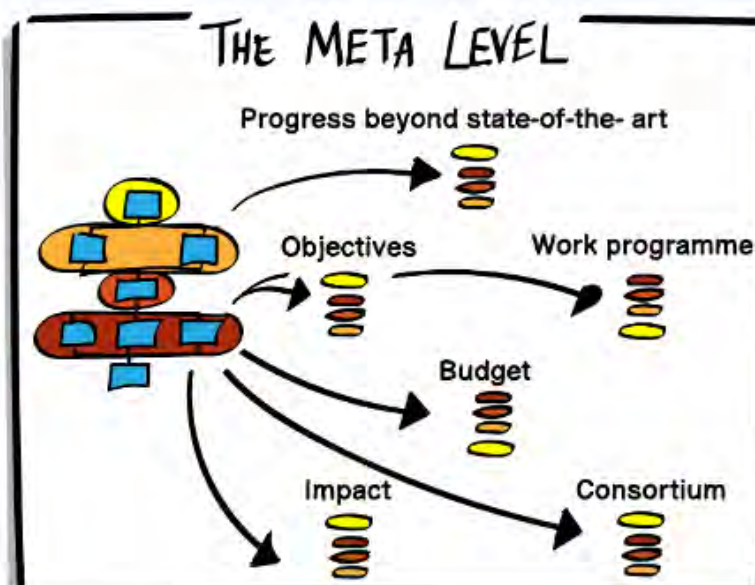
[Text]

Step 3: Individualize the template by inserting the subsection titles in bold font using the meta-level of your project

- The work package titles as subsubsection titles



Example:



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Project Description – Project Proposals

[First name last name, city of all applicants]

[Project title]

Project Description
Sections 1-2 must not exceed 17 pages in total.

Since 1995 XXX exoplanets have been detected around solar-like stars. These planetary systems are very different from the solar-systems as they have planets bigger than Jupiter in orbits closer than Mercury. This rises the question, whether planets and star will show similar plasma interaction like Jupiter and it's moon Io, which exhibits a radiation footprint in the Jovian Aurora and whether this could be used for gaining information about potential planetary magnetic fields. These are unaccessible with today's observational methods. But from today's understanding they are crucial to making a planet habitable for life.

Therefore, the overall objective of this project is to model the plasma interaction between close-in exoplanets and their solar-like host stars. To do so we will

1. Characterise exoplanetary systems
2. Develop a 3D magneto-hydrodynamic stellar wind model
3. Adapt a magneto-hydrodynamic simulation code for simulating plasma interaction in the sub-Alfvenic stellar wind regime

1 Starting Point
State of the art and preliminary work
For new proposals please explain briefly and precisely the state of the art in your field in its direct relationship to your project. This description should make clear in which context you situate your own research and in what areas you intend to make a unique, innovative, promising contribution. Indicate the current state of your preliminary work. This description must be concise and understandable without referring to additional literature. For renewal proposals, please report on your previous work. This report should also be understandable without referring to additional literature.

Barriers which kept others from doing what I want to do, the challenges that need to be solved to overcome these

1.1 State of the art
My expertise on magneto-hydrodynamic modelling, exoplanets

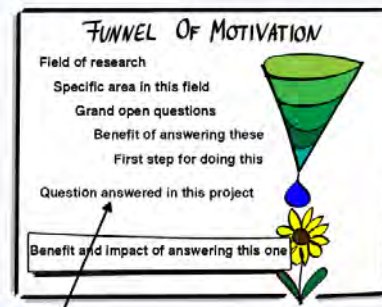
Plasma interaction in planetary systems
- Examples from the solar-system

Characteristics of exoplanetary systems
- What is known so far
- Planetary magnetic fields of short-periodic planets

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Stellar wind models
Which models are available, what are their limitations, challenges

Magneto-hydrodynamic simulation
- Challenges
- Available codes
- Barriers when adopting them to the short-periodic planets
- Mathematical approaches



The objectives but only in the short version of my work package titles as part of the funnel of motivation

I use my work-package titles without identifiers or even shorter versions for structuring the state-of-the-art as bold-font subsubsection titles. Here the sequence follows the structure of the objective section:

First State-of-the-art in the context of the overall objective
Then first intermediate objective
Then second intermediate objective...

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Stellar wind models

- Which models are available, what are their limitations/ challenges

Magneto-hydrodynamic simulation

- Challenges
- Available codes
- Barriers when adopting them to the short-periodic planets
- Mathematical approaches

1.2 Preliminary work

[Text]

2 Objectives and work programme

2.1 Anticipated total duration of the project

Please state

- ☐ the project's intended duration¹ and how long DFG funds will be necessary,
- ☐ for ongoing projects: since when the project has been active.

[Text]

2.2 Objectives

Please give a concise description of your project's research programme and scientific objectives.

Please indicate if you anticipate results that may be relevant to fields other than science (such as science policy, technology, the economy or society).

For each barrier one objective

Impact on the research community: For which overarching research questions will my project deliver the "vessel/key" to get there?

The overarching research question of this research project is, whether the plasma interaction of short-period planets and their solar-like host stars may result in an Auroral footprint in the magnetic field in the vicinity of the star alike the Io-Jovian plasma interaction. Thus, the overall objective is to model the plasma interaction between close-in exoplanets and their solar-like host stars.

To do this,

1. I will characterize exoplanetary systems integration observational data from publications, astronomical databases and extrapolated data from models describing the stellar parameters into a database. Based on this we will identify those planets which are located in the sub-Alfvénic stellar wind environment.
2. I will develop a 3D magneto-hydrodynamic stellar wind model covering the space between the stellar surface and the planets.
3. I will adopt a magneto-hydrodynamic simulation code to enable the simulation of reconnection events within the sub-Alfvénic stellar wind environment between the

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planetary orbit and the stellar surface. For this we are using a simulation code which was originally developed for the Io-Jovian plasma interaction tracing the Io's footprint in the Jovian aurora.

Then first intermediate objective
Then second intermediate objective...

In a nicely done proposal you will find the SMART objectives here

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planetary orbit and the stellar surface. For this we are using a simulation code which was originally developed for the Io-Jovian plasma interaction leading like to's footprint in the Jovian aurora.

2.3 Work programme incl. proposed research methods
For each applicant:
Please give a detailed account of the steps planned during the proposed funding period. (For experimental projects, a schedule detailing all planned experiments should be provided.) The quality of the work programme is critical to the success of a funding proposal. The tasks to be performed within the work programme should correspond to the funds requested. The work programme should therefore indicate and justify what types of funding will be needed and how the funds will be used, providing details on the individual items requested where applicable.

Provide a detailed description of the methods that you plan to use in the project: What methods are already available? What methods need to be developed? What assistance is needed from outside your own group/institute? Concepts and starting points for quality-promoting measures that specifically contribute to the validity or plausibility of your research results are welcome here. For more in-depth and subject-specific recommendations, see the "Research Integrity" portal.

Feasibility of the project
Quality and scientific excellence
[Text]

WP1: Characteristics of exoplanetary systems
[text]

WP2: 3D magneto-hydrodynamic stellar wind model
[text]

WP3: Adaptation of a magneto-hydrodynamic simulation code for simulating plasma interaction in the sub-Alfvénic stellar wind regime
[text]

WP4: Simulation of plasma interaction for different close-in exoplanets and their solar-like host stars
[text]

My work package titles are a short version of my objectives. The sequence of the work packages reflects the way how the work is organised in the project, so the last work package with the overall objective comes last. However, if I put my research design, this will be upside-down

WP4: Simulation of plasma interaction for different close-in exoplanets and their solar-like host stars

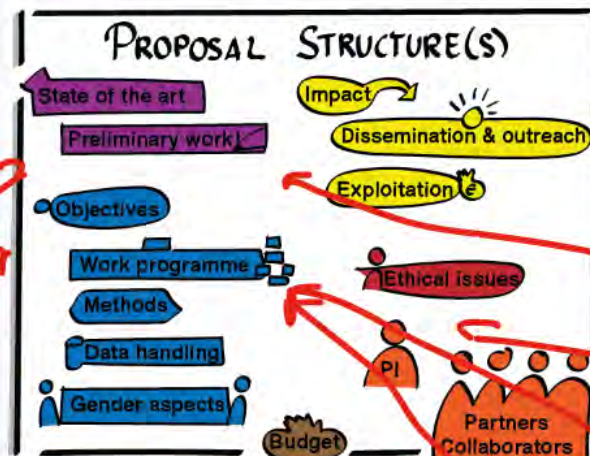
WP2: 3D magneto-hydrodynamic stellar wind model

WP3: Adaptation of a magneto-hydrodynamic simulation code for simulating plasma interaction in the sub-Alfvénic stellar wind regime

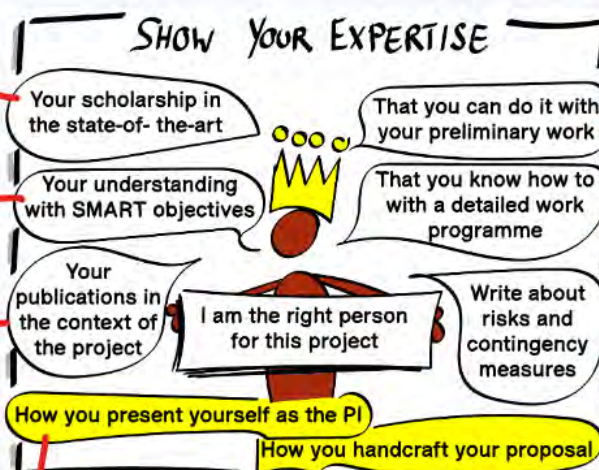
WP1: Characteristics of exoplanetary systems

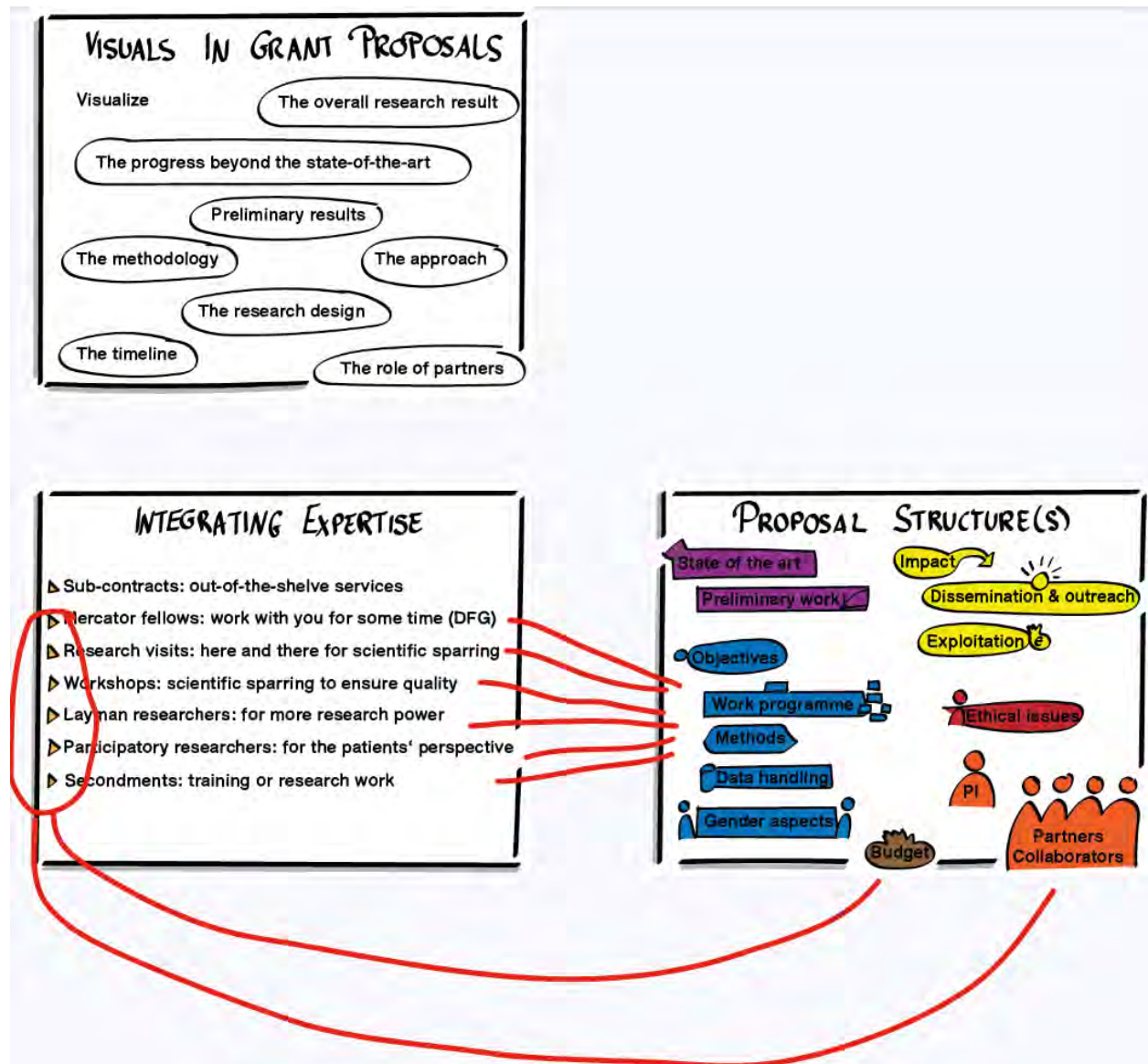
Step 4: Filling in keywords, half-sentences from my creative approach with the RaumZeit Toolkit

- I decide strategically where to put which information and how to talk about it



Example:



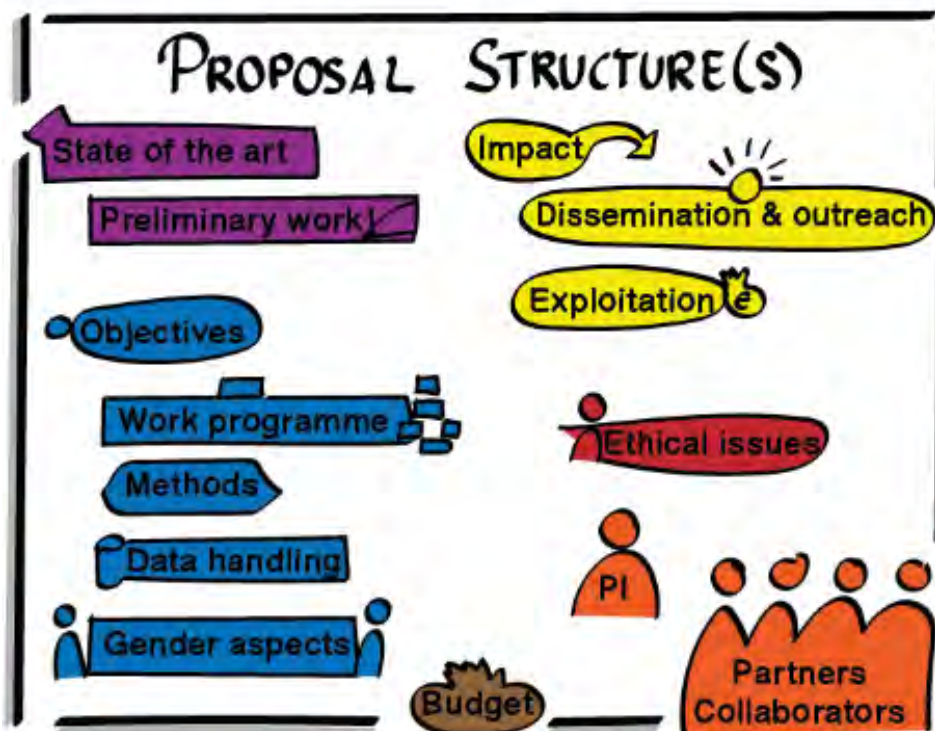




**This is done inside the
proposal template from
Step 3!**

Step 4: Create a consistent text in each section

- First step is just creating a full text
- Second step is turning long sentences into short ones
- Third step polishing words
- Fourth step polishing text lengths



**This is done inside the
proposal template from
Step 3!**

8 Some concluding remarks

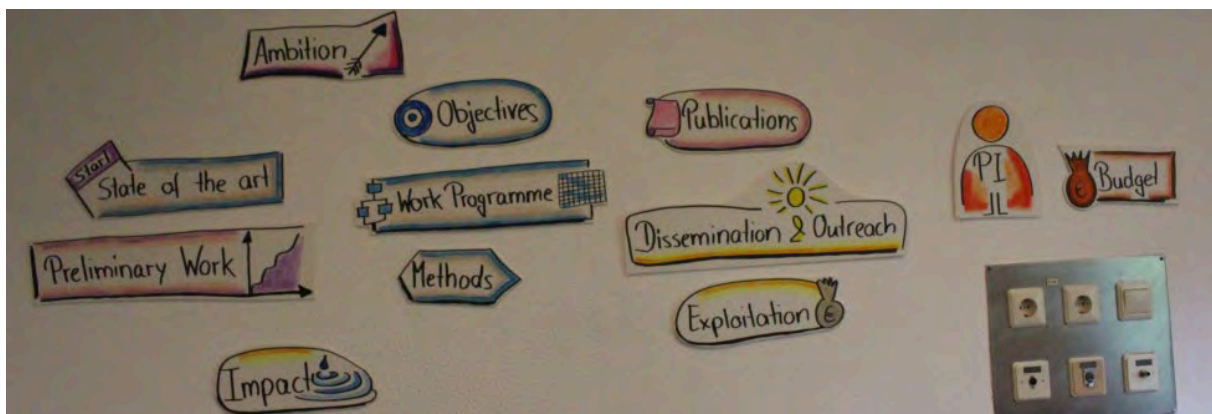
This is a collection of questions and answers which came up during the last years and which might be interesting for you.

8.1 Funding opportunities

Have a look in the List of links to funding programmes.

8.2 Structure

The next photo shows the core elements of grant proposals. The items to be addressed explicitly as well as their order differ from funding programme to funding programme. You will find some examples with a discussion on challenges and how to deal with them in chapter 9 of the training manual.



8.3 How to format

Respect the formatting advice given in the documents or templates

8.4 How to read the calls

You read them word by word. I copy all important phrases and parts of phrases into a mind map in order to have them ready for formulating the proposal. I reproduce them in the proposal and add specific information on how my project will achieve this.

8.5 What are they looking for?

It differs from funding programme to funding programme. You can find it out by reading the official documents and the FAQ (if available) carefully. It is useful to ponder on what the words mean and to ask s.o. from the national contact points or secretaries who might know the details. It is also useful to talk to these persons or others with experience in the funding programme in order to get information on the hidden agenda of the evaluation process. Sometimes this does not match the information provided in the official documents.

8.6 What do they want to come out of “development targeted” projects

If the development is targeted to your personal development as a researcher you will need to be specific on the benefit of the training for your career as a researcher. If the development is targeted at methods or equipment, many funding programmes would like to see lab prototypes or demonstrators which have been tested in the field.

8.7 How to avoid pit-falls

- Read the documents carefully
- Respect any requirements stated in the official documents
- Read the guidelines carefully
- Respect any advice given in the guidelines
- Respect formatting and structure of templates
- Be aware of “political” aspects of your research idea. Try to balance them by a good proposal design.
- Have a good proof reading, better one too many than one too less.
- Have s.o. else correct the language in your proposal. You will not see the mistakes after writing everything up.
- Have several s.o. else to discuss the scientific content.
- Send me your grant proposal before submission.

8.8 Difference research statement and grant proposal

In principal the research statement is a synopsis of a complete grant proposal. Though you do not provide all the details, you should have them ready for discussion in the job interview.

8.9 The little sexy musts for the reviewer

- The project topic and idea have to be interesting and exciting. This is about creating positive emotions and telling a good story.
- Embed the tricky expert details into an easy to understand structure. This will make it easy to read.
- The proposal needs to be well structured and nicely formatted by respecting the minimum font size as defined by the funding programme. If this does not exist, stick to 11 points.
- Figures need to be clear and easy to understand. Check if it still conveys the message in greyscale printing.
- Answer to the criteria that are defined with respect to evaluation. And tell the reviewer what you are writing about so that he does not have to think about to which criteria the information belongs.
- Have a good proof reading which eliminates spelling errors, grammar mistakes and unclear sentences.

- Provide as many numbers, references supporting your assumptions, justifications for resources as possible. Remember, the reviewer has to evaluate whether your project is feasible or not on the basis of what you present in your proposal.

8.10 How to be more innovative?

There are natural limits to an idea with respect to the degree of innovation. There are different ways of being innovative:

- Do something that no one has done before.
- Adopt something that has already been done to a new field of research or application.
- Integrate an existing method into a new process.
- Change some aspects/ process steps/ data sources/ outputs
- Combine your research field with another one: If you collect data and put it into a database, the innovative aspect of your project may be about the kind of database which is used, about analysing algorithms, services around the database, collection of types of data...

However, some ideas just cannot be fitted into a Volkswagen Freigeist or ERC starting grant. Therefore, take some time to find the right funding programme.

8.11 Redundancy of research topics

Before writing your grant proposal it makes sense to browse the world of research projects. Are there similar ones? If yes, write about them and use them in order to highlight your unique aspects. They should be part of the section about the state-of-the-art and preliminary work. You will not be funded for doing the same unless you will use it for establishing a method at your research institute in order to calibrate the new things you are doing. In this case you should ask yourself if it is good to collaborate with the others. You should have a good reason if you do not collaborate.

However, redundancy cannot be cut out completely because reviewers rely very much on their knowledge about existing research projects and what you tell them in the grant proposal. And sometimes it is a political thing to establish an existing research field again.

8.12 DFG Schwerpunktprogramm / DFG Priority Programme

You have the option to propose a priority programme. They will run for 6 years and are coordinated by those who propose them. During these 6 years there will be two calls for research grant proposals which will fit into this priority programme. They have deadlines, therefore check the DFG webpage

http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/list/index.jsp?id=SPP

8.13 Funding programmes for applied research

You will have many opportunities here if you are willing to collaborate to different extent with partners from the industry. Horizon 2020 offers different funding instruments in different thematic calls. The ministries publish calls for proposals which you will find here:

<http://www.foerderdatenbank.de/>

In many of these funding programmes the impact plays a much stronger role than in the DFG grants. Here you will have to think about the impact on e.g. the future of the participating organisations, the impact for society and the impact for the environment. Furthermore, you will have to provide a convincing explanation on how you will achieve any impact that has been asked for explicitly. Have a look in the training manual for finding out how you can do this.

8.14 CV and expertise of the researcher

If the funding programme asks for a CV, use the structure that is defined. Try to point out in this structure those aspects, that show that you are the one and only person to run the project. If there is anything you cannot put into the CV, try to point it out in your grant proposal, either by pointing to it directly or by hiding it in your previous work and showing related publications.

Please observe, that expertise is not only about methodological skills but also about leadership, financing, communication etc. If you need to get an idea, which skills are of interest for a career in research, have a look at the Vitae Researcher Development Framework

<https://www.vitae.ac.uk/vitae-publications/rdf-related/researcher-development-framework-rdf-vitae.pdf/view>

This is also very helpful for preparing yourself for a job interview.

8.15 DFG Emmy Noether and other junior research group leader programmes

In preparation of your funding programme ask whether your university will grant you the right to graduate PhD-students.

8.16 Interdisciplinarity

This can be a very attractive feature of your project. However, it should be justified. In order to do so focus on the contribution your interdisciplinary approach will have. How does it contribute in a way, a one-field approach cannot?

If you are anticipating problems with potential reviewers, maybe the following ideas will help you:

- Contact them, talk about your research project and ask what a project should look like so that they would be in favour of the approach.
- Some funding programs allow you to exclude some reviewers. Maybe you can make use of this rule.

- Identify the critical points as seen by the reviewers. Design your project in an open research way, so that it is left open, which result you will anticipate. This will turn your project more into the study of an approach with a dedicated application.

8.17 How to find partner

Have a look at the database of the Enterprise Europe Network: <https://een.ec.europa.eu/partnering-opportunities>

9 Bibliography

Commission, European. 2021. EU Grants: AGA- Annotated Model Grant Agreement. [Online] 21. 11 2021. [Zitat vom: 22. 03 2023.] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf.

Council, ERC Scientific. 20 April 2022 Version 4.1. Open Research Data and Data Management Plans - Information for ERC grantees. [Online] 20 April 2022 Version 4.1. [Zitat vom: 22. 03 2023.] https://erc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/document/file/ERC_info_document-Open_Research_Data_and_Data_Management_Plans.pdf.

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Taxis, Tim. 2011. *Heiß auf Kaltakquise - So vervielfachen Sie Ihre Erfolgsquoten am Telefon*. Freiburg : Haufe-Lexware GmbH & Co. KG, 2011.

UNESCO. Open Educational Resources. [Online] [Zitat vom: 22. 03 2023.] <https://www.unesco.org/en/open-educational-resources>.