



# Individual Funding Opportunities in Horizon Europe

## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Motivation and application – experiences of successful fellow

***Dr. Cleis Santos***

*Uni Bremen, Faculty of Production Engineering*

Energy Storage and Conversion Systems Group. Prof. La Mantia

## Content

**...a little bit about myself...**

previous background & MCSA-IF context

**...my MCSA-IF experience...**

### **Key Points and Tips for a Successful Application**

**...the Proposal Preparation**

**...the Evaluation Summary Reports**



...a little bit about myself...

PhD Student (2013-2017)



institute  
**imdea**  
energy



IIEnergy – **Electrochemical Processes Unit** (Dr. Jesús Palma – Dr. Rebeca Marcilla)



[https://www.energia.imdea.org/research\\_units/electrochemical-processes-unit/research-topics/](https://www.energia.imdea.org/research_units/electrochemical-processes-unit/research-topics/)

*Study of the CDI for the brackish water treatment*

*Performance Evaluation and Energy Efficiency*

Supervisors: Dr. Garcia-Quismondo, Dr. Palma



3-months stay in Fraunhofer Chile

*Capacitive Deionization*  
water treatment (desalination) technology  
based on supercapacitors



Prof. M.A. Anderson, Dr J. Palma  
Dr. E. Garcia-Quismondo, Dr. J. J. Lado



### ...a little bit about myself...

then...what??? **Perspectives after the PhD**

Scientific Career in Europe

PostDoc **Abroad?**

3-months gap before the PhD Defence



July'17

*A Desalination Battery*



Prof. La Mantia: "What about trying to get a MCSA-IF???"

*Problem...just 2 months for the preparation but...*

**I'll give it a try!!**

**June'17**

PhD Student  
Contract expired!

**Sept'17**

PhD Dissertation (6<sup>th</sup>)  
Deadline MCSA-IF (12<sup>th</sup>)



### ...a little bit about myself...



Research Associate (2017-2019)

IIMaterials – Multifunctional Nanocomposites Group

Dr. Juan José Vilatela

*Carbon Nanotube Fibers*

- *in situ SAXS/WAXS + Charge Mechanisms Tracking*
- *Innovation Award-Metal free CDI devices/reactors*

institute  
**imdea**  
materials



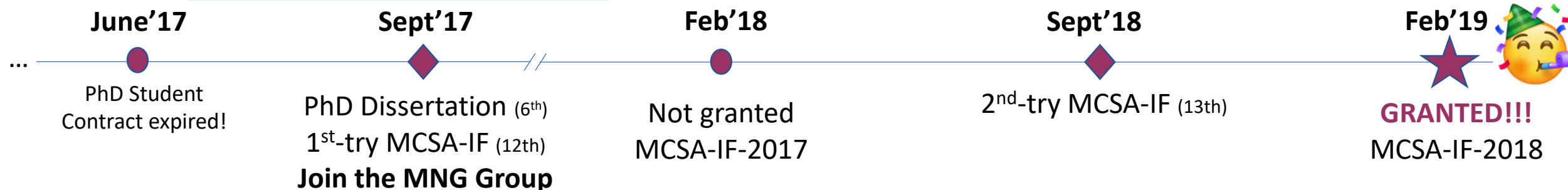
<https://www.materials.imdea.org/groups/mng/>

Revamping the Desalination Battery  
Submitted under the Horizon 2020's Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions:  
call H2020-MSCA-IF-2017 of 14 September 2017  
by  
Cleir SANTOS  
and  
UNIVERSITÄT BREMEN  
Bibliothekstrasse 1  
28359 BREMEN  
Germany  
  
following evaluation by an international panel of independent experts  
**WAS SCORED AS A HIGH-QUALITY PROJECT PROPOSAL  
IN A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE EVALUATION PROCESS\***

Feb'18 – Sept'18

- ✓ More time to rewrite it!
- ✓ The Evaluation Summary Report!!

88% scored  
*Seal of Excellence*

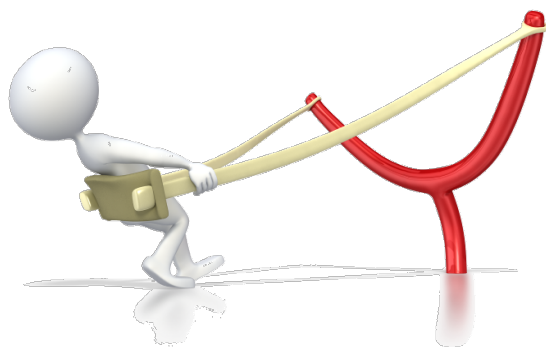


**...my MCSA-IF experience...**

## **Key points and Tips for a Successful Application**



## ...my MCSA-IF experience...



### 1<sup>st</sup>...Get Ready



### Choose a Topic – Motivation

- Do you have a topic in mind? propose a topic & ask for guidance
- **Two-Way transfer of knowledge:** researcher-hosting group

### Check the Deadline

- And...SET YOUR OWN DEADLINE! ...set the **deadline 5 days before the official day**
- Consider the **last week for minor corrections** and external help!
- ...include **2 days-off** → last reads & changes with a fresh mind
- Could you ask someone to read it?



### Check the Documents required and...extension! & Check the Evaluation Criteria

- Use template forms since the beginning → Content organization // check guidelines in internet!!! it will save time!!
- ...what is going to be more important in the evaluation??
- Better to spend more time in preparing literature, SoA → Choose the most **relevant publications** (10-20)





### Working Plan / Schedule

Try to prepare a **Realistic Schedule** according to your personal life

Stablish a **Motivating & Inspiring** routine!

- ✓ Music?
- ✓ At home? Library?

...my MCSA-IF experience...



### Write...Write...and...Write!?

- Although you are not inspired...?

change the section to write, drafting pictures...but work on your project...

- Clarity, Concise, Precise, Attractive, Credible and Style...Format!

Try to explain everything everywhere → Create so much information

- **Logic, Clear and Simple Story**
- **Beginnings and endings** of each section are crucial (Circular writing)





## ...my MCSA-IF experience...

Meetings with the hosting supervisor → Preparation together

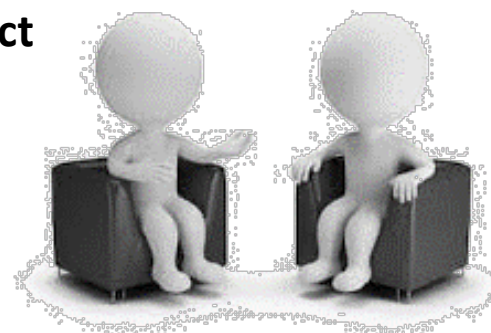
Follow your schedule but...

### Feedback Loop: Synergetic Effect



- ✓ Coordination!
- ✓ Solving Doubts
- ✓ Ideas

Implementation Section



don't forget to **Enjoy** the creation moment!

there will be *days-not-to-remember...* but...of course...

there will be fantastic days...extremely productive!

If you lose the perspective while preparing the proposal...



<https://twitter.com/MSCActions>

<https://www.facebook.com/Marie.Curie.Actions>

Guide for Applicants –FAQ Doc

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about/individual-fellowships\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about/individual-fellowships_en)



1<sup>st</sup> ESR ~88%

Evaluation Summary Report

2<sup>nd</sup> ESR ~93% **GRANTED!**

**Criterion 1 (50%) - Excellence 4.30/5**

- Strengths: interdisciplinary&SoA/2-way transfer/supervisor expertise
- Weaknesses: **novelty/reaching independence**

**Criterion 2 (30%) - Impact 4.80/5**

- Strengths: future career prospects/dissemination
- Weaknesses: No significant weaknesses identified

**Criterion 3 (20%) - Implementation 4.10/5**

- Strengths: work plan-objectives-methodology of the project/institutional facilities
- Weaknesses: **Gantt** (training&outreach) / **Milestones** (measurable targets)/Project management aspects/Plan to minimise technical risks



- Publishing
- Course

*Professional management of R&I projects under H2020 collaborative schemes*

**Criterion 1 (50%) - Excellence 4.70/5**

- Strengths: **novelty**/Research objectives/SoA/ Promising researcher
- Weaknesses: publications track record

**Criterion 2 (30%) - Impact 4.70/5**

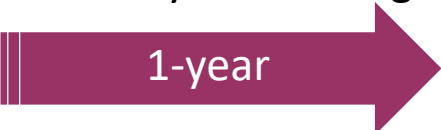
- Strengths: future professional career/communication
- Weaknesses: **the exploitation and IPR strategies**

**Criterion 3 (20%) - Implementation 4.50/5**

- Strengths: work plan-objectives/well-structured **Gantt Chart & optimally-planned deliverables & milestones**
- Weaknesses: risks assessment is too generally described, and the contingency plan is not sufficiently discussed

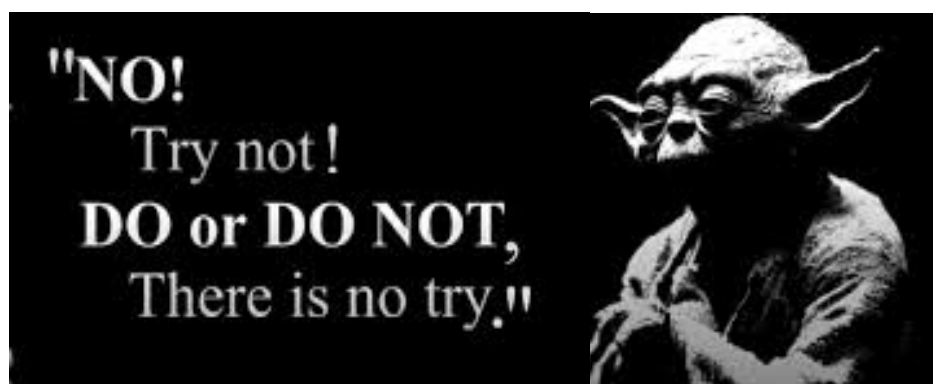


Flexibility for starting



*The goal of the Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers, wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility*

MCSA-IF a huge opportunity to define and create your own project for an international experience!!!



**avoid *False Limitations*** (we wrongfully inflict upon ourselves!)  
***why your IF-proposal wouldn't be granted??***



THANK  
YOU



## Kontakt

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1.5.17

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