The next RISE call: elements for success

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6 October 2017
JENNIFER Consortium General Meeting

MSCA RISE: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

Objective: implement research projects through own staff exchange

- Promote international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges

- Sharing of knowledge and ideas for the advancement of science and the development of innovation

- New skills

- Support is provided for the development of partnerships (e.g. **joint** research and innovation activities)

- Bottom-up approach: set of clear research and innovation objectives and deliverables

- **Project implemented through secondment of staff** (no recruitment)

No major changes in the call requirements, but improvement in the "implementation"

MSCA: Maria Sklodowska Curie Actions

Eligibility conditions

✦ At least 3 independent participants in 3 different countries

✦ At least 2 participants from 2 different MS/AC
  If all in MS/AC: at least 1 academic and 1 non-academic: only inter-sector exchanges are allowed within Europe (not within same countries)

In practice
2 possible minimum settings
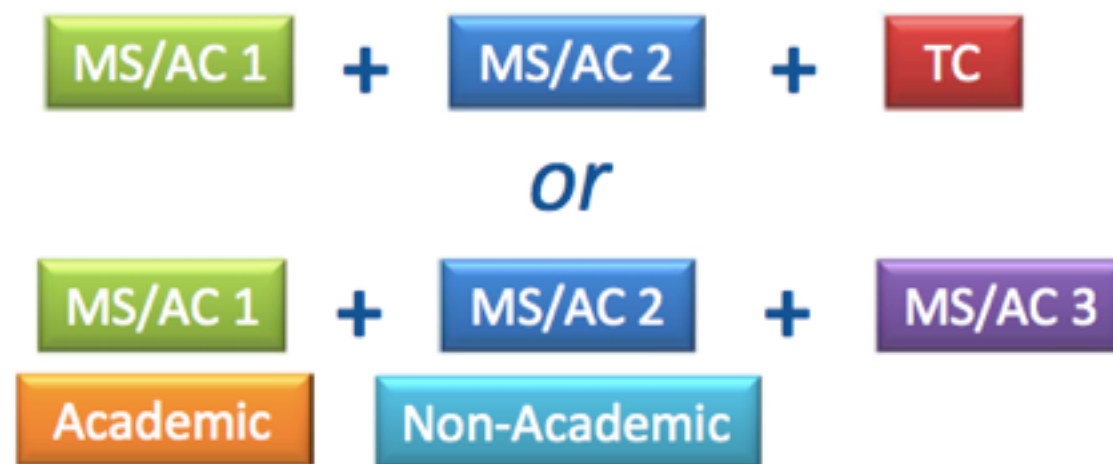
✦ Eligible staff: Actively engaged in or linked to research/innovation activities for **at least 6 months** prior to first secondment

- Type of staff:
  - ESR (< 4 years experience and no PhD)
  - ER (> 4 years experience or PhD)
  - Technical, managerial and administrative staff <u>involved in research</u>

MS: Member States
AC: Associated Countries
TC: Third Countries

EU Funding contribution

Unit costs per researcher per month of secondment
For secondments eligible for funding

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action	Staff member unit cost * person/month	Institutional unit cost * person/month	
		Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange	**2 000**	**1 800**	**700**

*These unit costs are subject to a funding rate of 100% and no country coefficients apply.

Travel accommodation and subsistence costs

Purchasing of consumables, laboratory costs, participation to conferences, workshops and networking activities, coordination and review meetings

Administrative and financial management, logistics, ethics, human resources, legal advice, documentation, etc

Maximum of 540 months of secondment => 2.4 M€

The payment of each categories is linked to the implementation of the secondment. If the secondment is not implemented none of the 3 categories is paid.

Evaluation criteria…

RISE: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange		
Excellence	**Impact**	**Quality and efficiency of the implementation**
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty and appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and gender aspects	**Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the staff members**	**Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan,** including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Quality and appropriateness of knowledge sharing among the participating organisations in light of the research and innovation objectives.	**Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge** between participating organisations and contribution to improving research and innovation potential at the European and global levels	**Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures,** including quality management and risk management
Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and **disseminate** the project results	**Appropriateness of the institutional environment** (hosting arrangements, infrastructure)
	Quality of the proposed measures to **communicate** the project activities to different target audiences	**Competences, experience and complementarity** of the participating organisations **and their commitment to the project**
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		
1	2	3
Priority in case of *ex aequo*		

You need to score well in all sections in order to be funded: don't spend all your time writing the Excellence section!

Proposal Template

Now applicants must submit **Part B** of their proposal as two separate documents:

Part B1

✦ Start Page (1 page)

✦ Table of Contents (1 page)

✦ 1. Excellence

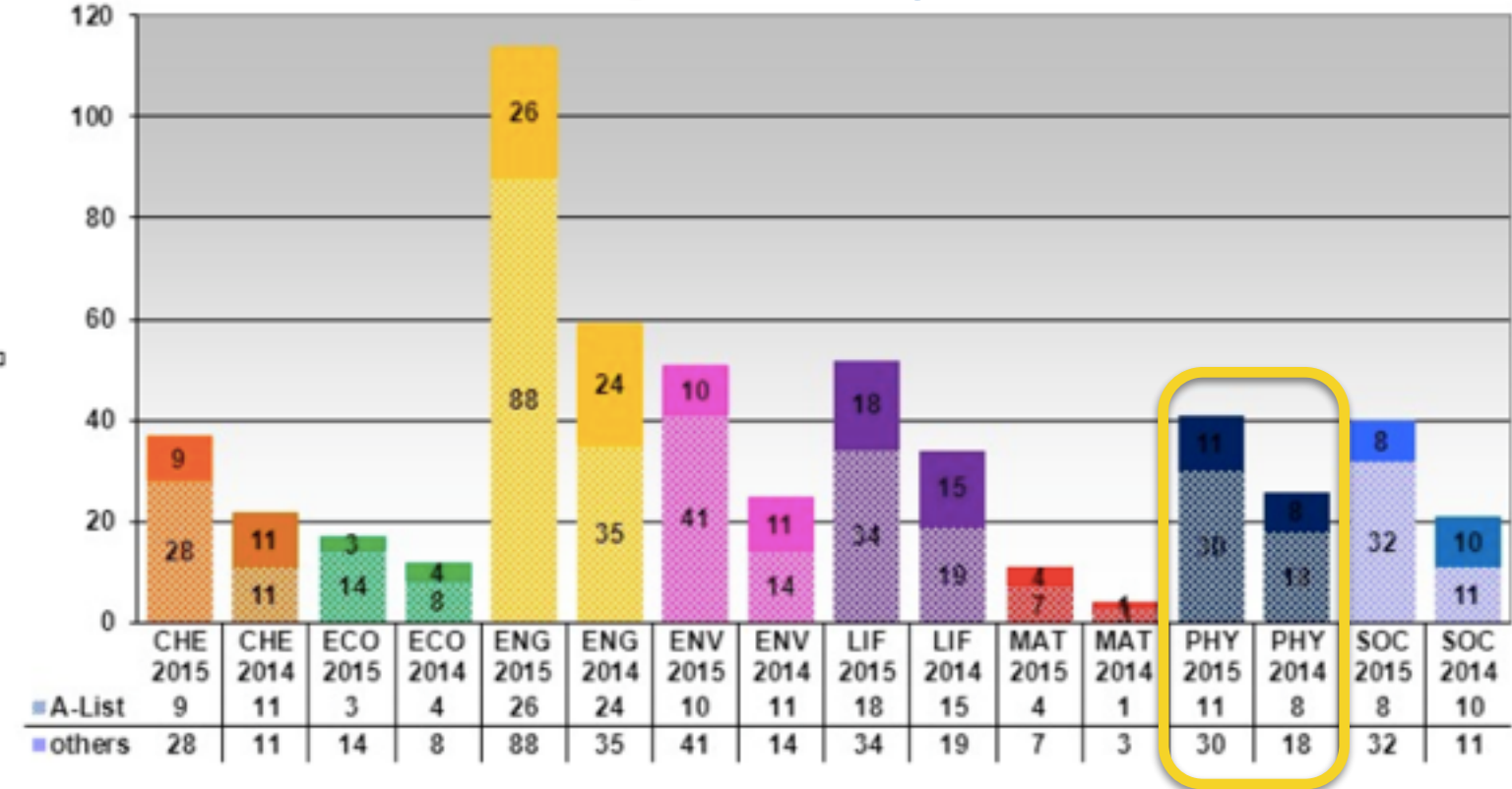✦ 2. Impact

✦ 3. Implementation

MAX 30 PAGES SECTIONS 1-3

Part B2 (No overall page limit)

✦ 4. References

✦ 5. Participating Organisations Tables

 ✤ Data for non-academic beneficiaries

 ✤ Beneficiaries (MS/AC) 1 page maximum

 ✤ Partner Organisations (TC) 0.5 page maximum

✦ 6. Ethics Issues

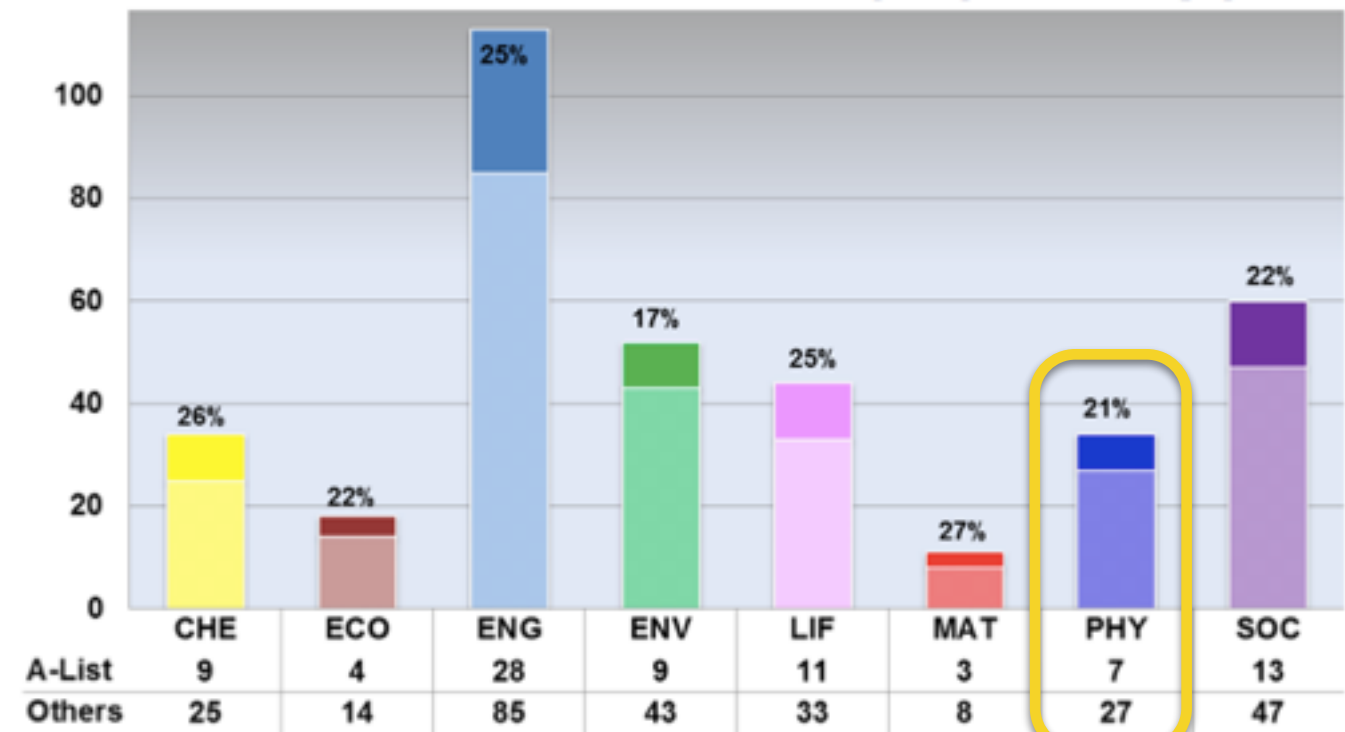✦ 7. Letters of Commitment from Third Country Partner Organisations

Calls RISE 2014-2016:Some numbers

Panels	2016	2015	2014
CHE	34	37	22
ECO	18	17	12
ENG	113	114	59
ENV	51	51	25
LIF	45	52	34
MAT	11	11	4
PHY	**34**	**41**	**26**
SOC	61	40	21
Total submitted	367	363	203
Total funded	84 (A-list)	93	89
Success rate	22.9%	25.6%	43.8%

Submitted and funded proposals by panel for 2014 and 201

	CHE 2015	CHE 2014	ECO 2015	ECO 2014	ENG 2015	ENG 2014	ENV 2015	ENV 2014	LIF 2015	LIF 2014	MAT 2015	MAT 2014	PHY 2015	PHY 2014	SOC 2015	SOC 2014
A-List	9	11	3	4	26	24	10	11	18	15	4	1	11	8	8	10
others	28	11	14	8	88	35	41	14	34	19	7	3	30	18	32	11

RISE 2016: Submitted and A-list proposals by panel

	CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC
A-List	9	4	28	9	11	3	7	13
Others	25	14	85	43	33	8	27	47

Overall success rate 23%

Calls RISE 2014-2016: Cut off scores and n. of funded projects

RISE 2014		RISE 2015		RISE 2016	
CHE	82,6 (11)	CHE	86,4 (9)	CHE	89 (9)
PHy	81,4 (8)	PHY	88,6 (11)	PHY	87,6 (7)
MAT	76,4 (1)	MAT	84,6 (4)	MAT	83,2 (3)
LIF	78,2 (15)	LIF	81,4 (18)	LIF	82,8 (11)
ECO	70,6 (4)	ECO	88 (3)	ECO	81 (4)
ENG	78,6 (24)	ENG	84,6 (26)	ENG	83,2 (28)
SOC	77,2 (10)	SOC	88,2 (8)	SOC	90,8 (13)
ENV	78,4 (11)	ENV	90,8 (10)	ENV	91,2 (9)

MSCA Work Programme 2018-2020: next RISE calls

WP in pre-publication.
Official adoption expected in a month

- Call H2020-MSCA-**RISE-2018**
  Opens 22 November 2017 - Deadline: **21 March 2018**
  Overall indicative budget: 80M €

- Call H2020-MSCA-**RISE-2019**
  Opens 4 December 2018 - Deadline: **02 April 2019**
  Overall indicative budget: 80M €

- **Results of the evaluation:** 5 months after the call deadline

- **Signing of grant agreements:** 8 months after the call deadline

New proposal preparation

An annotated template is provided by the Commission

with a defined sub-sections structure.

Use it & read it carefully!

1. Excellence

Please note that the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers promoting open recruitment and attractive working conditions are recommended to be endorsed and applied by all the funded participating organisations in the MSCA.

In all cases, the beneficiaries must take all specific steps and measures to implement the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers[22] and the Code of Conduct for their Recruitment[23].

1.1 Quality and credibility of the research/innovation action; level of novelty and appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and gender aspects

Please develop your proposal according to the following lines:

- *Specific objectives and the relevance of the research and innovation action* to the scope of the call and in relation to the "state of art".
- *Methodological approach* highlighting the types of research and innovation activities proposed and their originality.
- *Inter/multidisciplinary types of knowledge involved, if applicable.*
- *Gender aspects* (in the research content, at the level of secondments and that of decision-making within the action).

Each section in the proposal must be developed according to **all** the outlined points

The devil is in the details!
and so is success!

Excellence: selected advices

Describe how the objectives relate to the "scope of the call"
  - ✦ Why do you need to **work together** on this research?
  - ✦ How will the project "foster a shared culture of research and innovation"?

Spell out the **knowledge-sharing** objectives w.r.t. the research objectives, i.e. what knowledge will you share with each other and how will these help you achieve the research objectives?

Describe the overall strategy for knowledge-sharing and explain why the elements of the strategy are appropriate to facilitate knowledge-sharing:
- ✦ Secondment programme
- ✦ Networking events e.g. workshops/training/conferences

Common weaknesses are often on different aspects of "interactions"

- ✦ The quality of interaction between the participating organisations is poorly addressed
- ✦ Limited information is provided on how the knowledge will be spread between the partners, since it does not explain the methodology used for knowledge sharing and the presentation of interactions is confusing and not sufficiently consistent
- ✦ The research method does not provide a clear explanation of the interaction between the different work packages lacking of focus due to the large number of heterogeneous tasks and the significant dispersion of resources

Impact: selected advices

How participating in the RISE project will help the Staff to **enhance** their **potential** and **improve** their **career prospects**?
Pay attention to duration of secondments: secondments could be deemed too short to create an impact in terms of providing new skills and career perspectives

Dissemination - Exploitation- Communication

Remember that H2020 is about **bringing research "closer to the user"**, so activities in must target a broader audience than just your peers in your own research area.

Communication means promoting the programme and its results to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a **strategic and effective manner**.

Describe the potential impact of the activities
(try to include **quantifiable targets** for measuring the impact)

Common weaknesses

✦ It has not been convincingly described how the project will contribute to realising the potential of practitioners with new skills and career perspectives.
✦ he proposed measures for dissemination are not described in a sufficient manner.
✦ Dissemination activities are listed but the proposal **lacks a clear dissemination strategy**.
✦ The communication strategy and the planned outreach activities envisaged to engage the public and enhance the impact of the proposed measures have not been elaborated in sufficient detail.

Implementation: selected advices

Keep the number of Deliverables to a minimum and fix reasonable delivery dates. You will have to actually deliver each Deliverable if the project is funded and implemented, and too many Deliverables will make the admin workload very high.

Management
Describe clearly the management structure (board, committees,etc..)
Explain <u>who</u> is responsible for <u>what</u> and <u>how</u> they have the skills/expertise to do it well

(Don't forget gender balance…)

Describe clearly implementation of **monitoring progress and quality**

Operational capability
Explain who is doing what, and show that they have the necessary infrastructure to do it

How the consortium are the best people to implement this programme including: Complementarities/ synergies

Common weaknesses
✦ The mechanisms for the monitoring of the progress of the project are not sufficiently developed/ not supported by adequate milestones.
✦ The distribution of the secondments (person-months) is unbalanced with some partners assigned a high number of secondments without convincing justification
✦ The management structures and procedures/decision making mechanism are not sufficiently detailed.
✦ The risk management and contingency plans lack detail or are missing.

Again on Secondments...

> **Secondment plan is the backbone of a RISE project**

✦ <u>Plan it early on and think it through carefully</u>

✦ Each secondment should be meaningful in scientific terms

✦ It has to be clear which tasks will be carried out where and when and why

✦ Try to not make too many short secondments – focus instead on longer ones but less often (especially for ESR)

   ✤ Splits should be justified and considered beneficial for the transfer of knowledge activities.

✦ Prepare the staff on what a secondment implies!
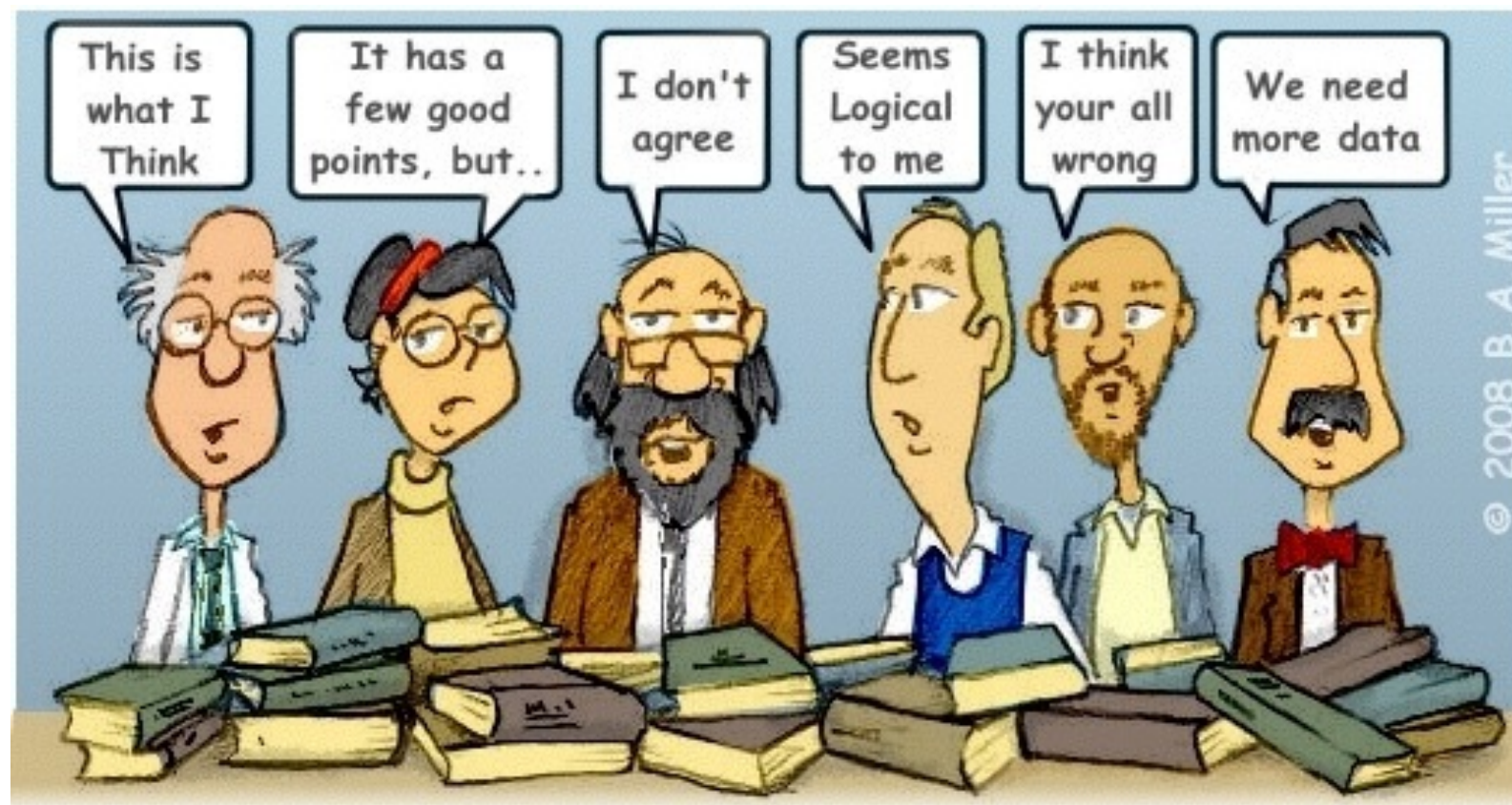
Focus on JENNIFER

First, keep in mind the weaknesses identified in the ESR you received

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…even if you don't agree too much with the evaluators comments

Gridlock among the severely educated

Focus on JENNIFER

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- **Excellence**
  - It is unclear how the partners from Belle II and T2K will **interact** and **benefit** from **sharing knowledge**

- **Impact**
  - The **dissemination strategy** towards the scientific community and towards industry is not explained in sufficient detail in view of the size of the project.
  - The cooperation with Japan is well described, but the **cooperation between other partners** is not sufficiently addressed

- **Implementation**
  - All work packages are running in parallel; **dependency and interconnectivity of tasks and work packages** is not evident.
  - The **progress monitoring tools** are insufficient in view of the complexity of the projects.
  - The provided risk management plan is only very briefly described and not deemed sufficient for such an ambitious project.
  - Gender aspects are not considered sufficiently.

New RISE project: JENNIFER II?
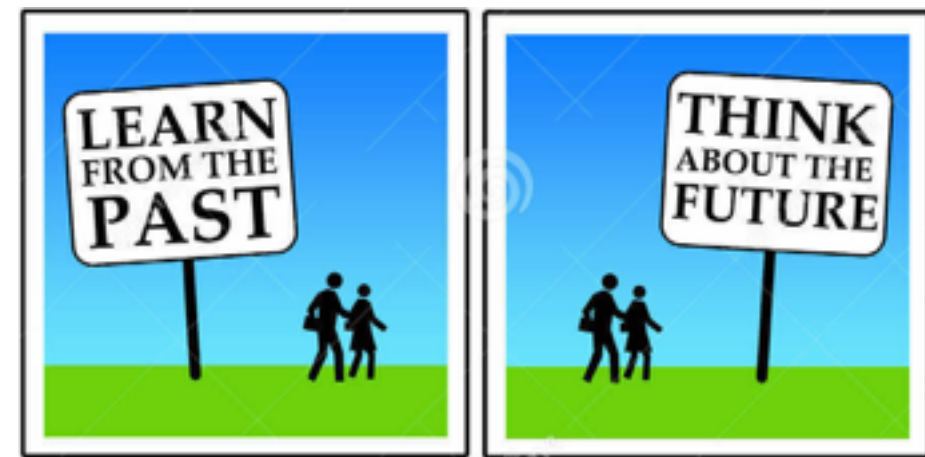
Starting point

Do you want to continue with the same JENNIFER configuration (BELLE II and T2K) or do you want to go for different projects for the 2 Collaborations?

Just my opinion

RISE projects scope is to promote collaboration and sharing of knowledge.
If you split, *it could be like to say that JENNIFER didn't work*.
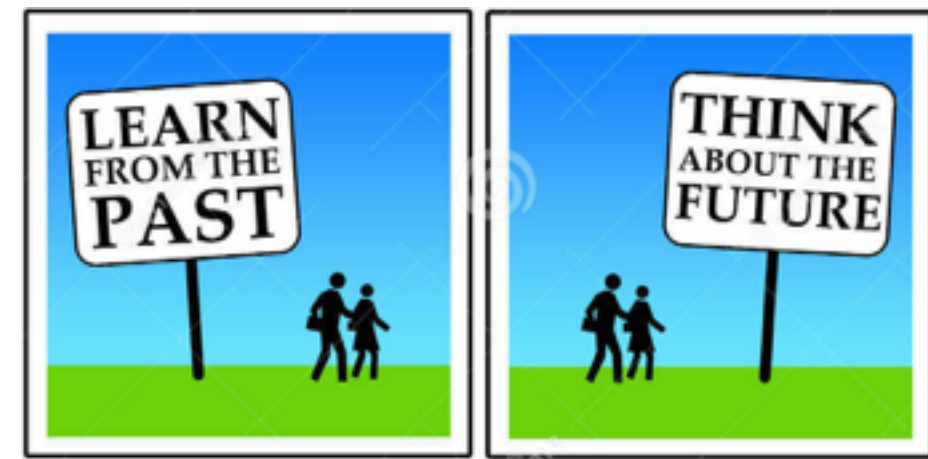In case, make ready to justify your splitting choice.

If you stay together:
How could you benefit from co-operation between T2K and Belle II ?
Try to think about possible way to **improve sharing-knowledge between the 2 communities**

New RISE project: JENNIFER II?

What will be the **added value** of JENNIFER II, also w.r.t. JENNIFER?

Try to add something new:
- Interdisciplinary application?
- New lines of research. If you want to add computing/big data, think careful about the way it will be integrated in the project.
- Inter-sectoral secondments?
- Longer secondments?
- Stronger dissemination strategies toward industries?

Other points of discussion
- Composition of the consortium? Change or not?

Other main opportunities in H2020: mainly individual

MSCA - Individual Fellowships (IF)

Fund **post-doctoral researchers** (at any stage in their career) for a research fellowship.

Fellowships are intended to enhance and broaden skills through international and/or inter-sectoral mobility, and the inclusion of personal development opportunities in the design of the research fellowship.

Fellowship opportunities exist both for researchers wishing to move within Europe (**European Fellowships**), and for researchers wishing to spend some time (12-24 months) outside Europe before returning to Europe (**Global Fellowships**).

The ERC funds talented Principal Investigators and their teams to carry out 'frontier research' in any discipline:

✦**Sole selection criterion: scientific excellence** (50% excellence of the PI, and 50% excellence of the proposed research project)

✦**Bottom-up** (no thematic approach)**, any field of research, curiosity driven approach**

✦Long-term, **individual** grants (StG,CoG,AdG) for **ground-breaking, high-risk and high-gain research**

ERC Synergy Grant reintroduced in WP2018-2020:

Highly ambitious research goals that cannot be achieved by a single PI.
For increased and/or unconventional collaborations between institutions