Proposals, continued.

Focus on the ARRS post-doc call.

ARRS Post-doc call

- https://www.arrs.si/en/progproj/rproj/razpisi/19/razp-proj-19.asp
- Included in call for other research projects.
- Can be applied or basic projects.
  - Applied projects require co-financing, usually from industry.
- Fund a researcher for 2 years.
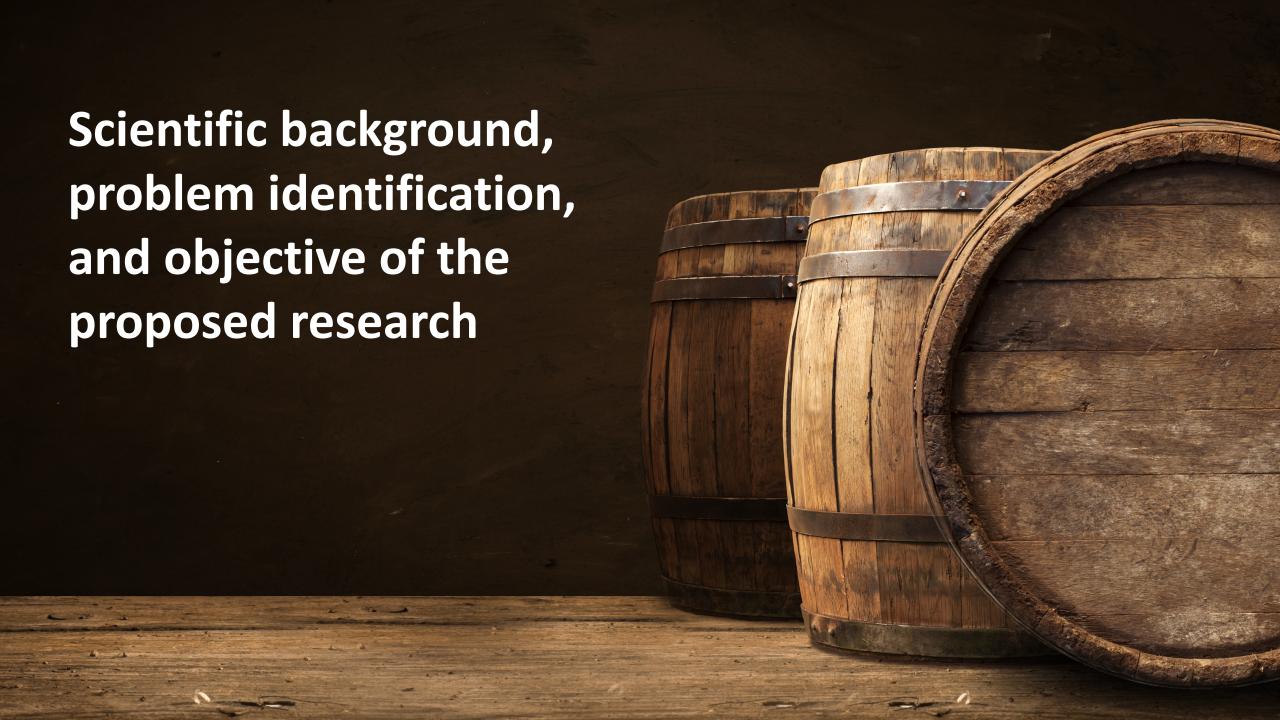- Eligibility is tricky to determine; read closely, talk with your mentors.

KNOW THE RULES!

Post-doc application

- 2 main components to the application
  - A form with details about the applicant, the institution, and short information about the project.
  - The text part (this is what we will work on).

Post-doc application sections (text)

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT (section 27)

- Scientific background, problem identification and objective of the proposed research

- State-of-the-art in the proposed field of research and survey of the relevant literature

- Detailed description of the work programme

- Available research equipment over 5.000 €

- Project management: Detailed implementation plan and timetable

Scientific background, problem identification, and objective of the proposed research

Post-doc application sections (text)

Scientific background – the beginning of the narrative story

- Description and history of the scientific field
- What lead to the emergence of the field
- Why is it important
- Some elements of a literature review (most of it goes elsewhere)
- What gaps/shortcomings/opportunities have developed or been identified.
- Lead in to the next section: problem identification

Post-doc application sections (text)

Problem identification

- What obstacle will you overcome?

- What issues will you resolve?

- What are the current limitations?

- Why is the problem relevant? (Policy objectives, changing demographics, new tools available...)

- Remember to support your claims with literature, policy documents, evidence.

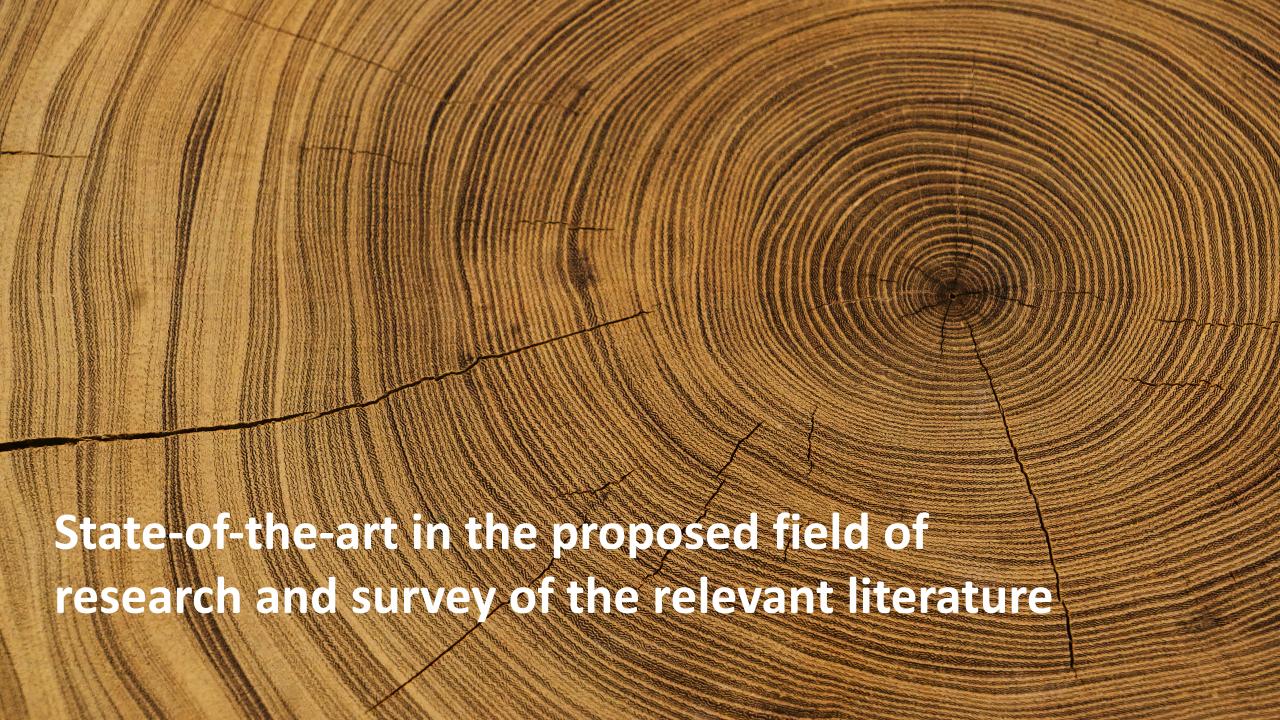- The presentation of the problems should support your objectives...

Post-doc application sections (text)

Objectives

- Objectives should be stated succinctly and can be pulled from the narrative to be presented in a table or list so they that are obvious.
- Probably a good idea to have multiple objectives that are highly specified. Can be linked to research questions or sub-objectives to provide further specificity.
- After the bluntly stated objectives, return to the narrative to tie the objectives together and to illustrated the narrative link to the identified problem.
- Consider giving a general description of how the objectives will be achieved.

Post-doc application sections (text)

Other topics for this section

- Originality of the expected results
  - Novelty, innovation – what is new and shiny about what you will produce? Is it an iterative step or a leap forward?
- Relevance and potential impact of the results
  - How will your results improve: other research, related topics, society.

State-of-the-art in the proposed field of research and survey of the relevant literature

Post-doc application sections (text)

State-of-the-art & survey of literature

- Describe the most recent work, current best-practices, any industrial use (if applicable)
- Break it into subsections that link to objectives and narrative breaks in the previous section
- Remember to maintain the narrative thread that links the story
- Cite your contributions to the state-of-the-art to demonstrate your capacity to advance the field.
  - (self citations are often a 'necessary evil' in papers, but in proposals showcase your position in the field and capacity for success).

Post-doc application sections (text)

State-of-the-art & survey of literature

- For the lit survey – focus on synthesis of key contributions. This isn't a paper, and you don't need EVERY related paper.

Detailed description of the work programme

Post-doc application sections (text)

Work programme
- This is the detailed description of the work, grouped into work packages.
- Each work package has a short overview of the work that will be done, a set of objectives, a detailed description of work, divided into tasks, and a set of related deliverables.
- Lots of organizational approaches to organizing your work…

Post-doc application sections (text)

Work programme

- As a default consider this format:

1. Management and Coordination
2. Science part A (any background or establishing work not done before the project)
3. Science part B (Initial experiments / data gathering / pilot studies)
4. Science part C (Validation)
5. Dissemination and Communication activities

Post-doc application sections (text)

Work programme

- If working on an applied project or something with higher TRL, consider including tasks or a full work package on *Impact Assessment*

Example work package(s)

WP1: Management & Coordination

Description: This work package will ensure the scientific and supporting activities, including financial tasks, reporting, and risk management run efficiently.

Objectives:

- Ensure efficient project management
- Maintain a high level of quality control and closely monitored risks
- Manage operations and reporting activities on time and on budget
- Ensure responsible data management

Example work package(s)

WP1: Management & Coordination

Tasks:

- *Project administration [start date – end date*]*
  - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*

- *Quality assurance & risk management [start date – end date]*
  - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*

- *Data management [start date – end date]*
  - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*

Example work package(s)

WP3: Pilot studies

Description: This work package will oversee the planning and implementation of pilot studies to isolate and verify the experimental design for the validation studies in WP4.

Objectives:

- Recruit participants, gather informed consent, schedule testing
- Executing testing in small subsets to select test procedures
- Identify and refine the analytical process for the validation study

Example work package(s)

WP3: Pilot studies

Tasks:

- *Participant recruitment and scheduling [start date – end date*]*
  - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*

- *Pilot experiments [start date – end date]*
  - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*

- *Pilot analytics [start date – end date]*
  - *Description of activities leading to deliverable x, y.*

High-value equipment

Post-doc application sections (text)

Equipment valued over 5,000 EUR

- List the relevant equipment you will have access to while you conduct your research
- Don't list equipment you won't use

Project management: Detailed implementation & timetable

Post-doc application sections (text)

Project management
- Text description of the overall project management
- Highlight institutional capacities to support the feasibility of achieving your goals
- Consider an advisory board of internal and external experts - (try to get members prior to submission – list them)
- Provide a short summary of the work programme

Post-doc application sections (text)

Project management

- Itemise deliverables with due dates - make sure you think the work is feasible… if you have 18 deliverables in 2 years… that's one every 6 weeks.
- List Milestone – Major project steps
- Provide a Gantt chart

Assignment: Final project step 1

- Write a concept note for your proposal.
  - Speak with your advisor about this.
  - Remember it's a draft.
  - Its okay if it changes a lot after you turn it in.
  - Use the template provided - lets look now.