



The CIVIS3i Alliance Programme

for Interdisciplinary, International, Intersectoral
Research and Training for experienced
Researchers



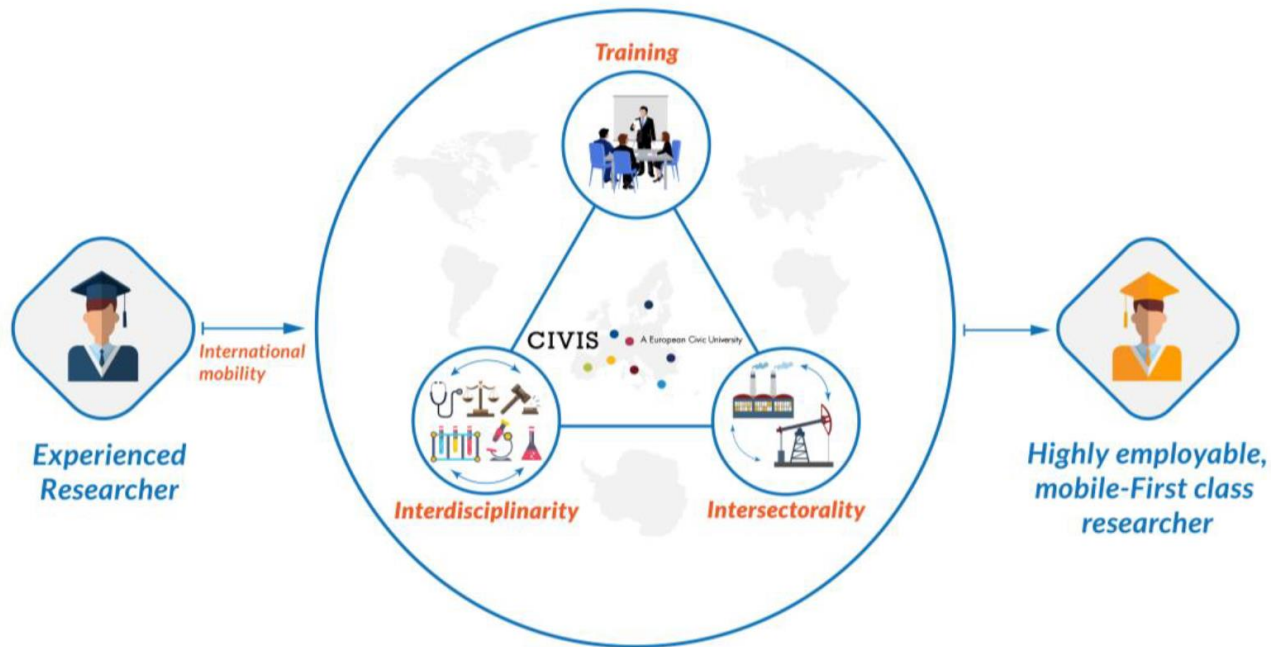


The European University CIVIS

- The CIVIS European University is among the 41 pilot alliances selected by the European Commission. Funded under Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020.
- **CIVIS is a partnership of ten universities**
- Primarily set up to increase student exchanges and mobility within the Alliance (Erasmus+ funding).
- **Research integrated with Education**
→ strengthening cooperation to reach academic excellence and a critical mass to address societal challenges + RIS4CIVIS project



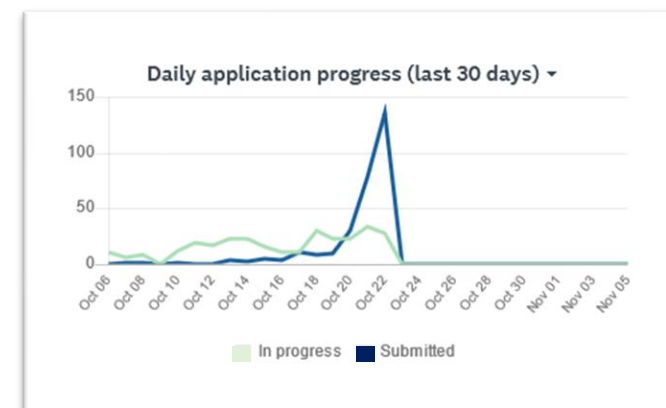
CIVIS3i Objectives



- Offer attractive research environment, train future generation **employable, mobile**, first-class researchers on an **interdisciplinary** and **intersectoral** level
- Promote best practices on recruitment conditions with “**Human Resources Excellence in Research**” label
- Contribute to the implementation of the European Research Area through **strengthened collaboration within the CIVIS Alliance**

Stats first Call

- Opened 23 July 2021, deadline 22 October (after EC MSCA-PF)
- **11 Q&A live sessions >200 participants**, different world timezones, 22h of in-person contact
- **300 proposals submitted** from nearly 800 registered applicants
- **About 40% proposals in Social Sciences & Economy**
- Hard sciences fields between 2%-15%
- Many are **interdisciplinary**
- Gender balance: **60% Men – 40% Women**
- **63 Nationalities**, top 5: Italy, France, Iran, India, Brazil
- **Most applications submitted at deadline**





Challenges & Lessons so far

- I. Project Submission
- II. Project Implementation: First call for proposal (2021)
 1. *Preparation*
 2. *Evaluation*
 3. *Communication*



Challenges & Lessons so far

I. Project Submission

- **THINK IMPEMENTATION !**

- *No room for changes*
- *Ideal vs. Real world*

- **MAIN POINTS OF ATTENTION:**

- *Call process*
- *Funding and co-funding balance*
- *Overall management and processes (for the project & for the calls)*
- *Communication and dissemination strategy*

→ *For us:*

- 2nd submission
- Experience from a COFUND PhD AMU coordinated





Challenges & Lessons so far

II. Project Implementation

1. Preparation

- **Allow enough time for preparation before the launch of the project.** For instance if you hire a dedicated project manager, give enough time for understanding all rules in GA, preparing the call guidelines, define strategies (partners, communications, evaluation), setting up and testing submission portal
- **Include supervisors early on** to avoid risk of proposals not matching supervisors' research interests
- **Explain everything with examples for candidates.** There's always someone who didn't understand and re-explaining will cost you time
- **Vulnerable to delays from other teams who need to deliver.** Website construction, Online submission portal, Communications team

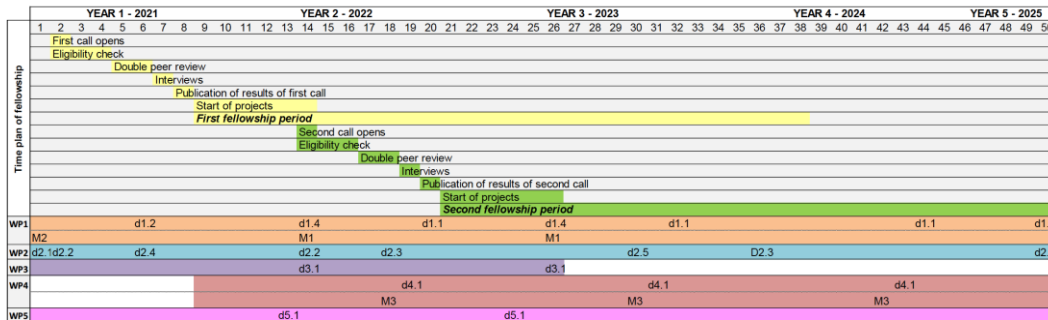


Challenges & Lessons so far

II. Project Implementation

1. Preparation

- **Plan deadline for submission at working days/working hours (incl. grace hour).** You will need to provide last minute assistance. Prepare for system bugs (for candidates and administrators)
- **Visualize and anticipate what information you will need to extract from the submission portal quickly (for Eligibility check, deliverables...).** Make sure you don't need to open each application's pdf files to extract information period



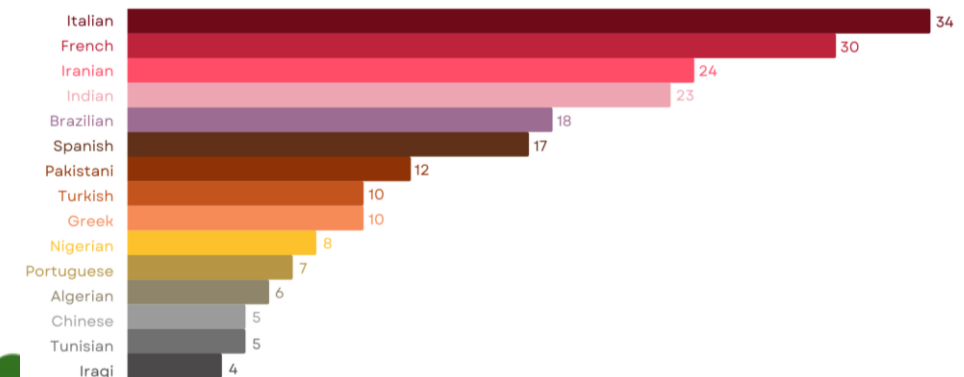


Challenges & Lessons so far

II. Project Implementation 2. Evaluation

- Ask applicants for key words to help match experts to the proposals
- Different paperwork for applicants from different countries and status, take time to get acquainted (eg, PhD certificates, id cards, rules on refugee & other status)
- Prepare for the eventuality of having hundreds of submissions
all proposals can take a lot longer

NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY
NATIONALITY

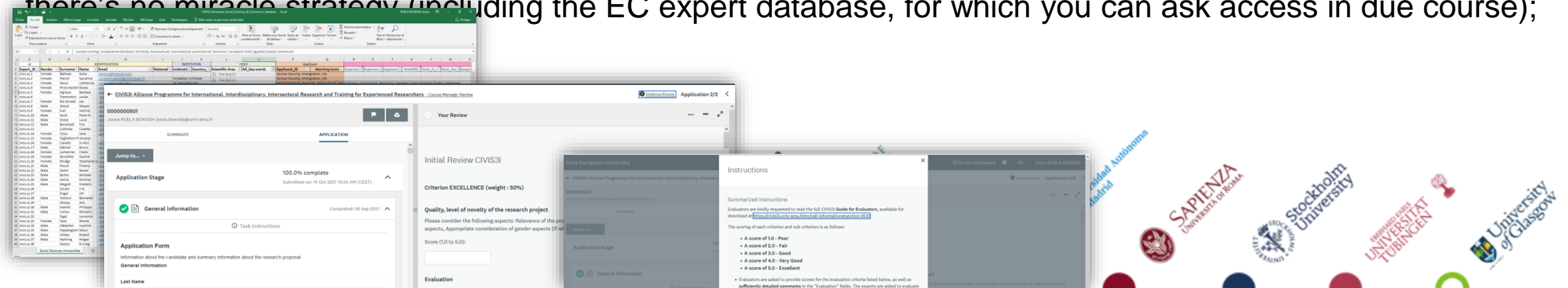




Challenges & Lessons so far

II. Project Implementation 2. Evaluation

- **Plan for a long evaluation period.** If you don't have a curated list of evaluators (H index, citations, email contact, etc) before the call is launched, a period of very few months for peer-revision may bring additional strain and burden on your team and may lead to an amendment for extension
- **Prepare the evaluation stage as early as possible**, including contacting experts and test the whole process of matching proposals to reviewers, email links and using the evaluators' online portal. It is time consuming and there's no miracle strategy (including the EC expert database, for which you can ask access in due course);



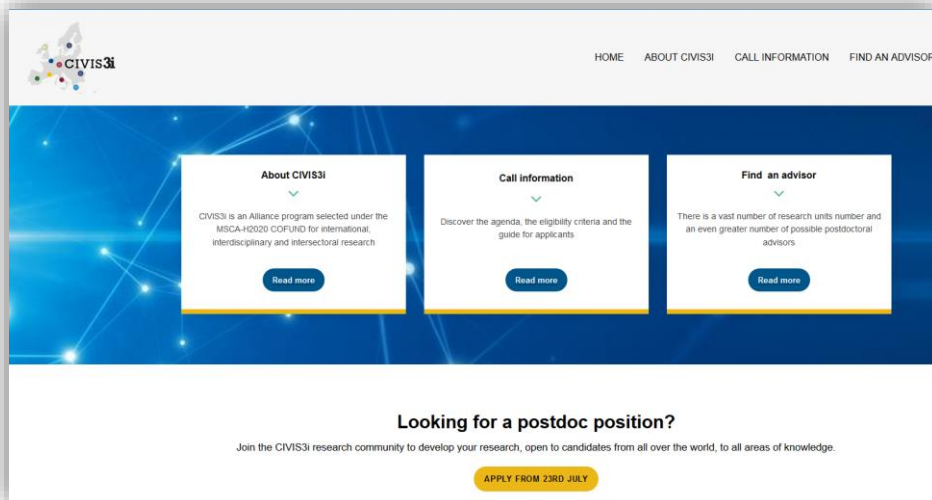


Challenges & Lessons so far

II. Project Implementation

3. Communication

- **Take time to communicate with applicants, supervisors and project partners.** User-friendly, applicant-oriented website with FAQ; clear Guidelines; Clear templates; Keep associated partners engaged with targeted/personal communication
- **Plan ahead** Chose the communication channels beforehand and learn about the rules of each one; Plan key



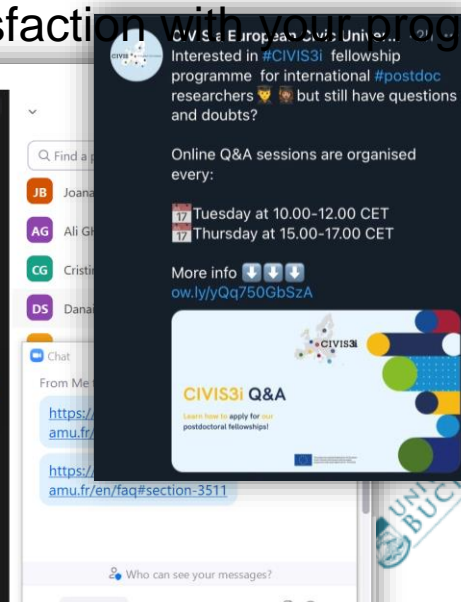
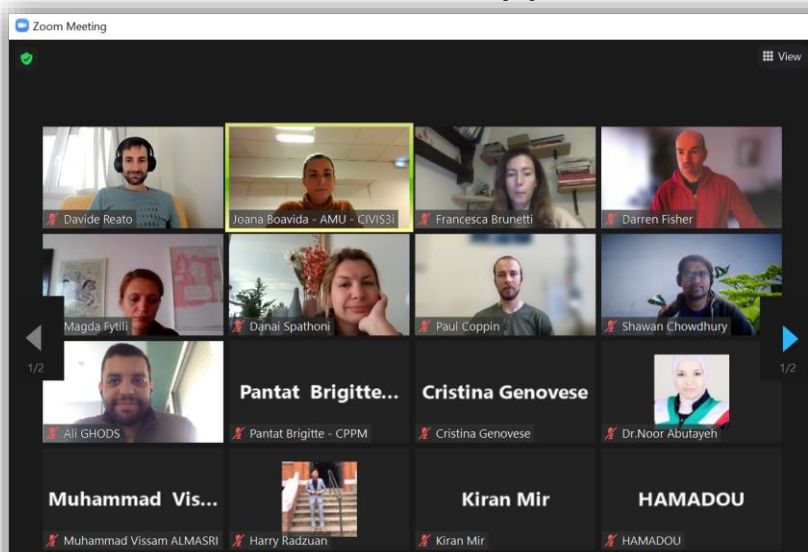


Challenges & Lessons so far

II. Project Implementation

3. Communication

- **Create an applicant registration field on your website early on**, to build a mailing list for important communications
- **Be ready to support applicants during the Call.** Quick email replies (same-day); quick problem solving (phone/zoom if needed); in-person meetings (eg, live Q&As; webinars; workshops/coaching sessions); These make a difference in applicant's satisfaction with your program and understanding the program's rules





Our experience with COFUND

Plus

- **Increased international visibility** of the Alliance and the partner universities;
- **Contribute to internationalization** of research at each partner university;
- **Improved recruitment** process with HRS4R;

Minus

- Recruitment at 4 universities means lots of rules and procedures;
- Similarities with MSCA-PF create confusion among applicants and supervisors;
- More challenging to create cohesion among fellows and sense of community within the Alliance COFUND (in-person events with fellows, etc);
- How to continue the programme sustainably?





Still need more information?

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