GOOD GRANTMANSSHIP AGROECOLOGY

PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

The purpose of today's presentation is that you:

▶ Understand the difference between a scientific article and a research propsosal

▶ Know the elements of the proposal

▶ Feel ready to start writing a proposal

ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL

▶ Title

▶ Abstract/summary

▶ Project description

    › Aim, expected results and perspectives

    › Background/theory/state-of-the-art

    › Methods/research design

    › Feasibility (incl. timeplan)/actitivity plan

    › Dissemination, internationalisation, educational aspects

    › Ethics/gender

    › References

Workshop focus

▶ Appendices – budget, CV/publications

A NEW WAY OF COMMUNICATING

	Scientific Writing	Proposal Writing
Subject	Communication of scientific **results**	Communication of scientific **ideas**
Author	The researcher and his/her group	The researcher (and the institution)
Audience	Peers; experts	Evaluators; Other scientists who are not necessary experts within your field; layman
Language	Correct; jargon; technical language; detailed	Correct; easy to understand; simple
Circumstances	After the fact	Before the fact

A NEW WAY OF PRESENTING

| Results	Ideas
Title	Title
Abstract	Abstract
Background (hypothesis)	Aims, problem, expected results and perspectives
Materials and Method (research design, techniques, methods)	Background/State-of-the-art
Results (data, statistics)	Methods
Discussion	Time and activity plan
	Feasibility
	Dissemination
	Ethics/gender
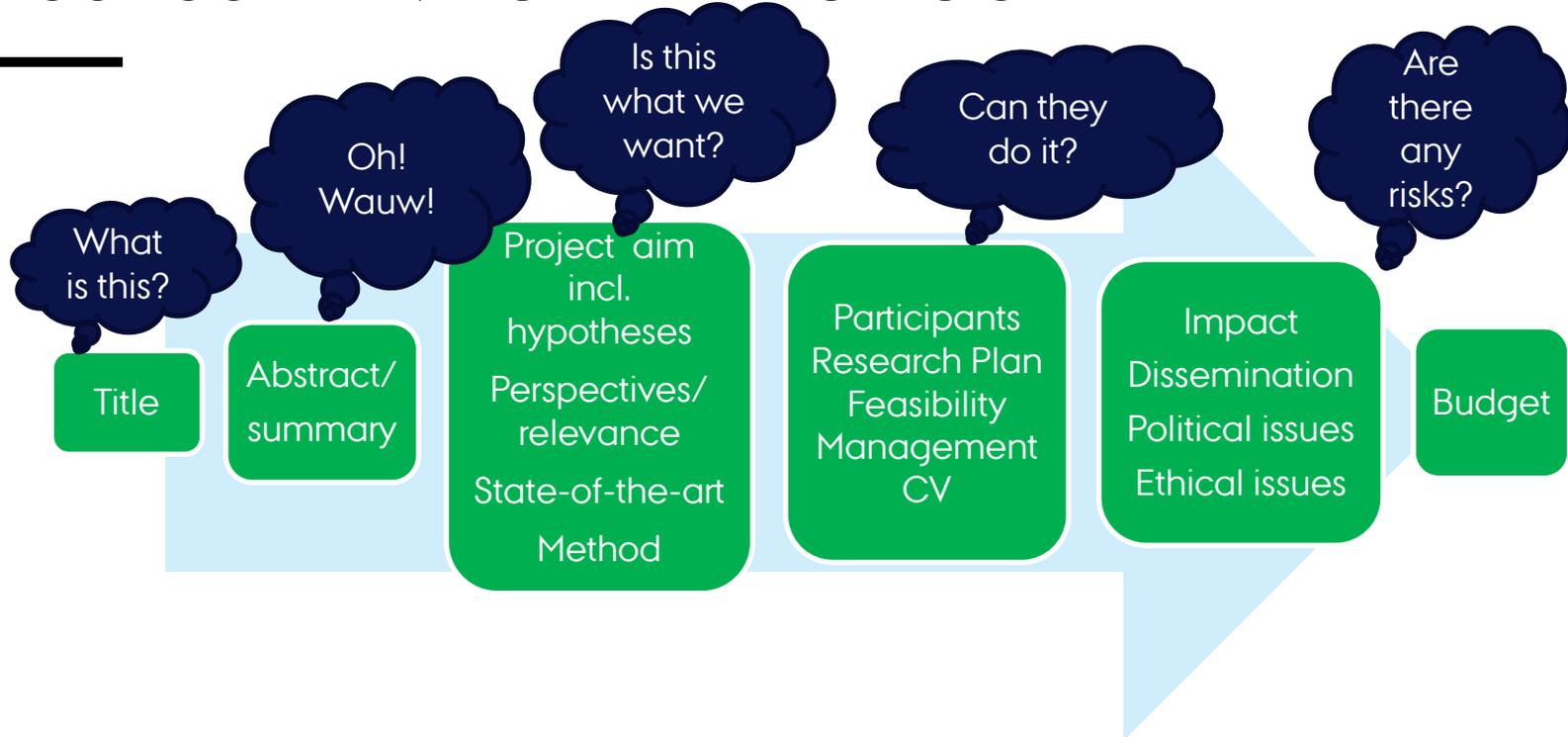
AIM

▶ Begin with an **overall** formulation of the project **aim/objective**
▶ Break down into specific aims/objectives

▶ Be sharp, precise and clear!

▶ Must show **coherence** between the project aim and the **aim of the call/foundation**
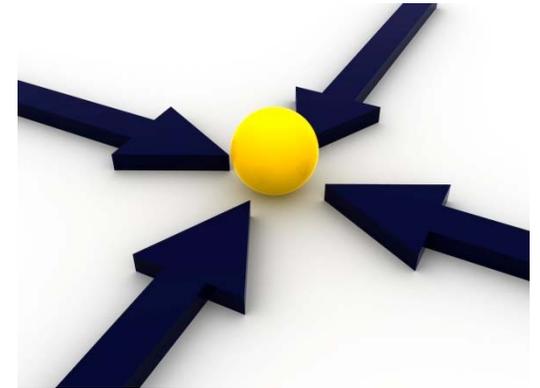
PERSPECTIVES

- What are the expected results/outcome of the project?
- Why is the project important?
- Why needs the project to be done now?
- Who are interested in the project results and why?
- Do the project match the contents of the call?

- Strengthen your argument by using recognised sources, e.g.:
  - › Political documents from government, EU, UN
  - › Industrial organisations, NGO's
  - › Other interest organisations

TYPES OF IMPACT
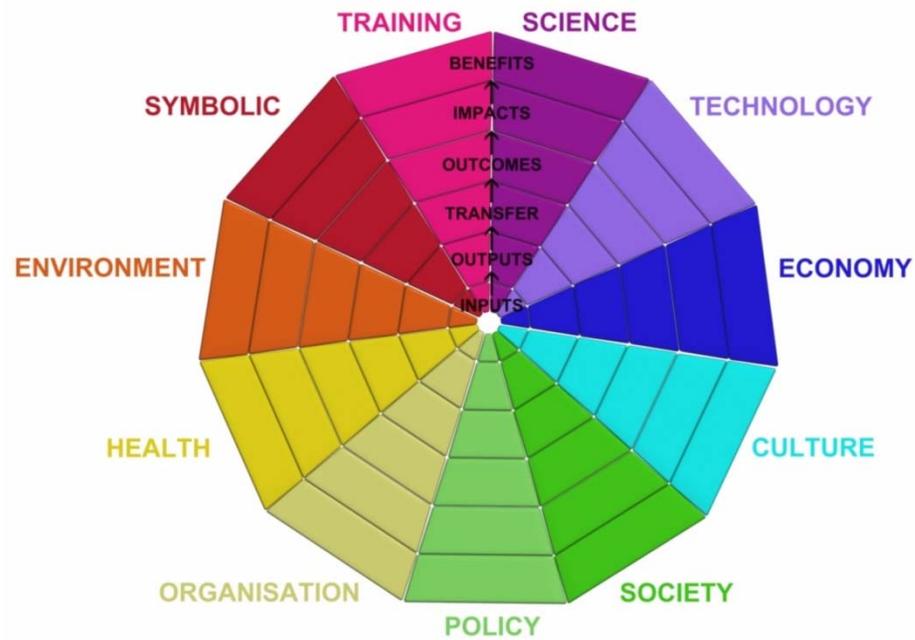
BACKGROUND/STATE-OF-THE-ART

▶ Description of state-of-the-art

▶ Identify the "gap" in existing knowledge

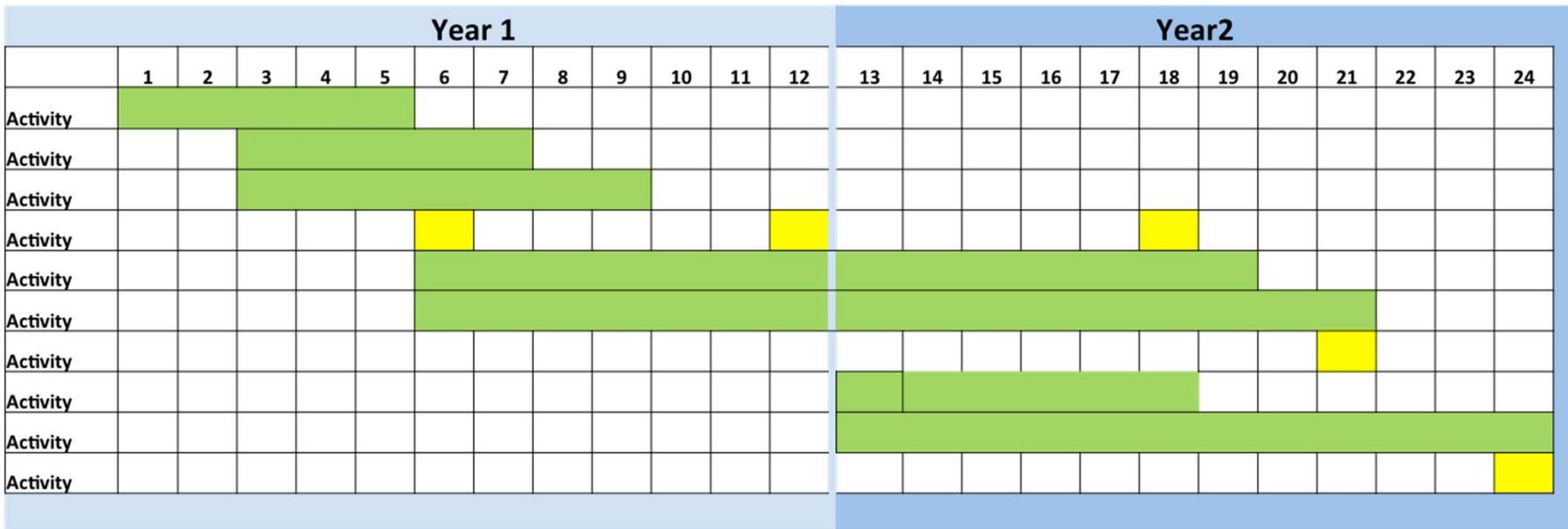▶ How does the project reach beyond the state-of-the-art

METHODS

▶ The method-section explains how you will reach your specific aims. Structure the section according to these aims

▶ Explain essential concepts and techniques

▶ Can be illustrated in various charts

RESEARCH PLAN

▶ Describe when the activities in the method section takes place and the necessary allocation of time

▶ Use a Gantt chart to illustrate the time plan

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RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE

GANTT CHART

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
								Year 1										Year2						
Activity	██	██	██	██	██																			
Activity			██	██	██	██	██																	
Activity			██	██	██	██	██	██	██															
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FEASIBILITY

▶ Describe the necessary ressources and explain how they are build into the project

▶ Describe who is responsible for doing the tasks of the project

▶ Describe collaborations

▶ If relevant, describe meeting and management structure
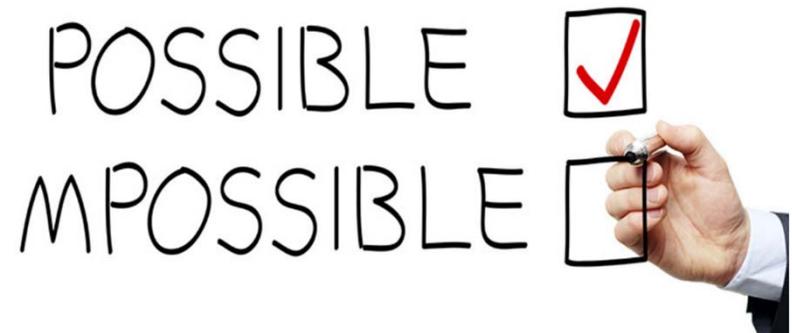
DISSEMINATION

Scientific dissemination

- ▶ How you plan to share your results with scientific peers

- ▶ *This could be through scientific papers, conferences, teaching.*

Exploitation

- ▶ How you will share your results with stakeholders

- ▶ Examples of stakeholders could include industry, policymakers, NGOs

Popular science

- ▶ How do you plan to reach a wider audience?

- ▶ Popular science magazines, social media, mainstream media, AU outreach acitivities.

INTERNATIONALISATION, ETHICS, GENDER

▶ The requirements vary from programme to programme

▶ Depends on the project

▶ Projects in health science should always consider ethics and gender. BUT other disciplines should also be aware of any ethics or gender aspects

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY

▶ Short description (200-300 words)

▶ Must convey:

▶ What do you intend to do?

▶ Why is the work important/new/groundbreaking?

▶ What scientific impact will it have?

▶ How are you going to do the work and why are you the best person to do this?

▶ Does not include references, budget information or personal information

▶ Has to be both concise and complete

BUDGET

▶ Must match project activities

▶ Must include the amount of detail asked for in the call

▶ Typical specifications:

  VIP- and TAP-salaries
  Equipment
  Operating expenses (travel, materials, books, study fee, small equipment, meetings, etc.)
  Audit (revisionsudgifter)
  Overhead
  Total

▶ Approval/signatures

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

▶ Is the aim and perspectives of the project clearly presented?

▶ Is the contribution to state-of-the-art clearly presented?

▶ Is it clear how the aims of the project will be achieved?

▶ Is it clear who will do what in the project?

▶ Have the qualifications of the applicant in relation to completing the project been adequetaly adressed?

▶ Is the connection between methods and the research plan realistic?

▶ Are the dissemination activities relevant for the users/stakeholders of the project?

PREPARATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Before you begin writing:

▶ Make an overview of relevant foundations

▶ Read thoroughly the <u>advice and tools</u> provided by RSO

▶ Make a timeplan for the writing proces that allows time to for editing your project description

▶ Get feedback on the proposal:

    › Ask your supervisor or a colleague providing you to give feedback on the proposal

    › Make sure the person reviewing the proposal has all the application material incl. the call

PREPARATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Before you start writing the proposal read the **call text thoroughly**:

▶ Apply only, if your project falls within the scope of the call

▶ Comply with all the formalities of the call

▶ Read the evaluation criteria and take all of them into account

▶ Find out who will be evaluating the proposal in order to be able to tailor the text to the reader

WHEN YOU START WRITING, THEN...

Make your proposal interesting to read:

▶ Use clear, accessible language
▶ Avoid esoteric terms, abbreviations and acronyms
▶ Use active voice instead of passive

Compare e.g.:

Following administration of the third dosage, measurements will

vs.

After dosage three, we will measure...

RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE TOOLBOX

▶ We have a toolbox with advice and tools for you at our web page

▶ Go to **www.au.dk/fse**

You are here: AU › Staff › Staff Service › Research support and collaboration › **Research Support Office**

RESEARCH SUPPORT AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Help with your proposal

Advice and tools for your grant proposal. ❯

EU research funding

Overview of EU research funding opportunities. ❯

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TOOLBOX

Find foundations	⊕
The proposal - an overview	⊕
The proposal summary	⊕
The project description	⊕
The Laysummary	⊕
The CV	⊕
Bibliometrics	⊕
The list of publications	⊕
The budget	⊕
Tips on language	⊕

The project description

The project description must describe the objectives, perspectives, background, method and scope of the project. It must also explain why you are the right researcher carry out the project, why it should be carried out now, and why your method is the best one to address the problem addressed by the project

Remember who your audience is
Always keep the identity of your target audience in mind

› Who will be evaluating your proposal? (Laypersons, researchers, experts?)

› What does the evaluator already know about your field?

› What does the evaluator need to know in order to understand and evaluate your project?

› How can you convince the evaluator that your project should be awarded funding?

Always investigate who is on the grant committee and adapt the language of your project description to this specific audience. You should also familiarise yourself thoroughly with the foundation's objectives and any publically available evaluation criteria. Use this information to tailor your project description to the specific foundation.

Structure your project description
Always follow the foundation's guidelines for structuring the project description.

If the foundation does not have specific formal requirements for the proposal, we recommend that you structure your proposal as follows:

› Title
› Summary/abstract
› Objectives and perspectives
› Background/state-of-the-art
› Method
› Time and activity plan
› Practical feasibility
› Publication and communication
› Ethical aspects
› References

Research Professional is an external funding database with a comprehensive coverage of especially European and other international funding opportunities within all research areas.

All employees at Aarhus University have access to the database, and the search results can be saved, downloaded or shared with colleagues.

When signing up, you will continuously be notified of funding opportunities that are relevant to you or your research group.

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