

Succeeding with Marie S. Curie Actions. Methods and experiences from the Technical University of Denmark
Is there a recipe for success?

Barbara Spanó, spano@adm.dtu.dk

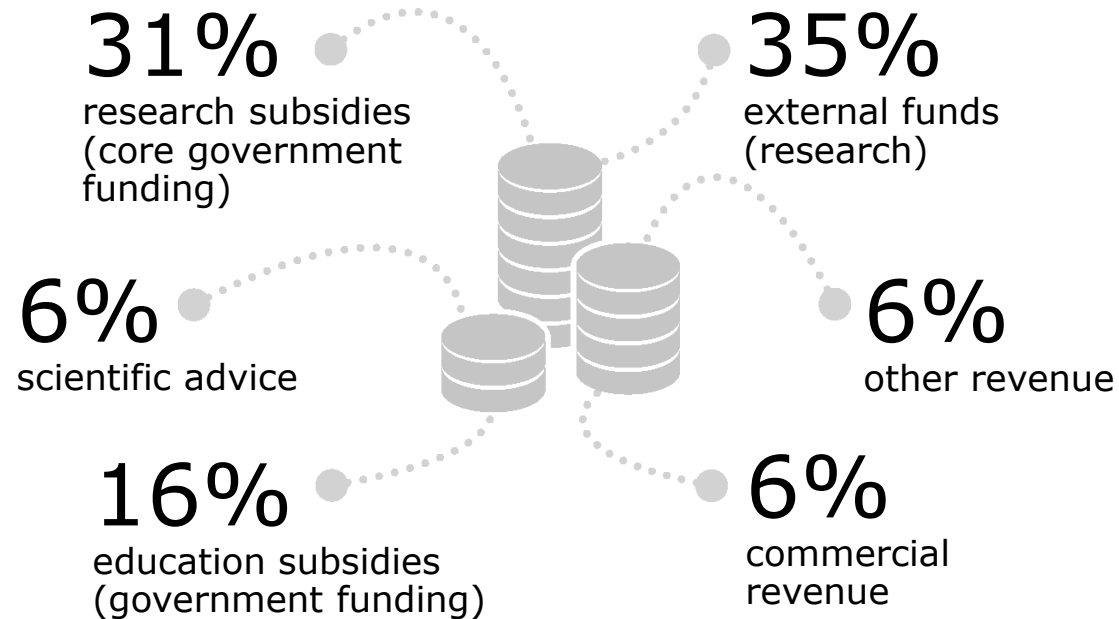
Frants von Lüttichau, fpsl@adm.dtu.dk



Finances

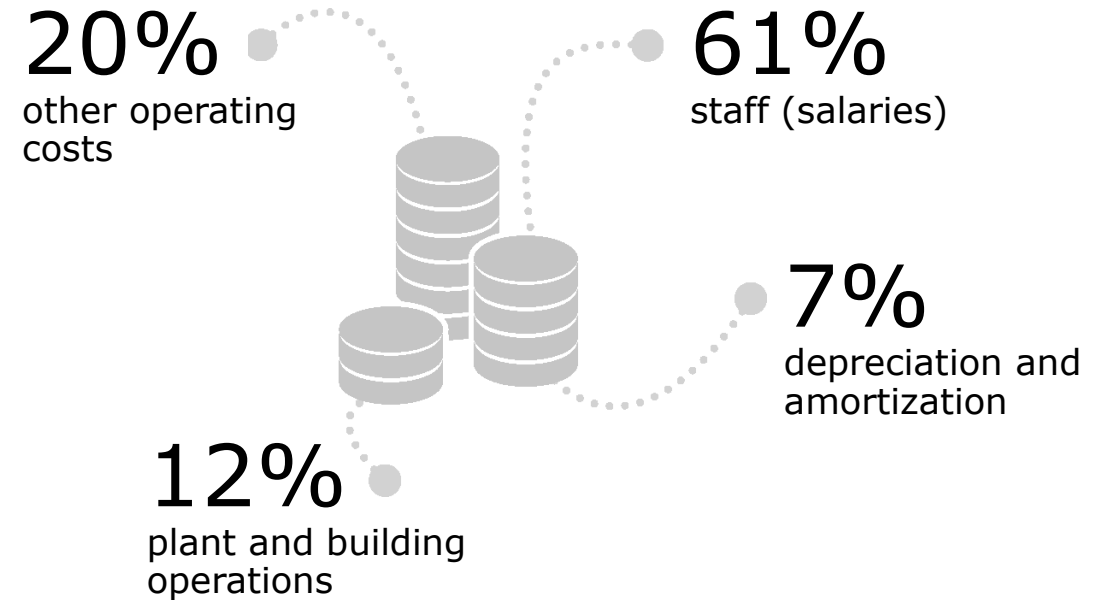
Income

€670 million



Ordinary operating costs

€660 million



Staff and students

Human resources (FTEs)

5,895



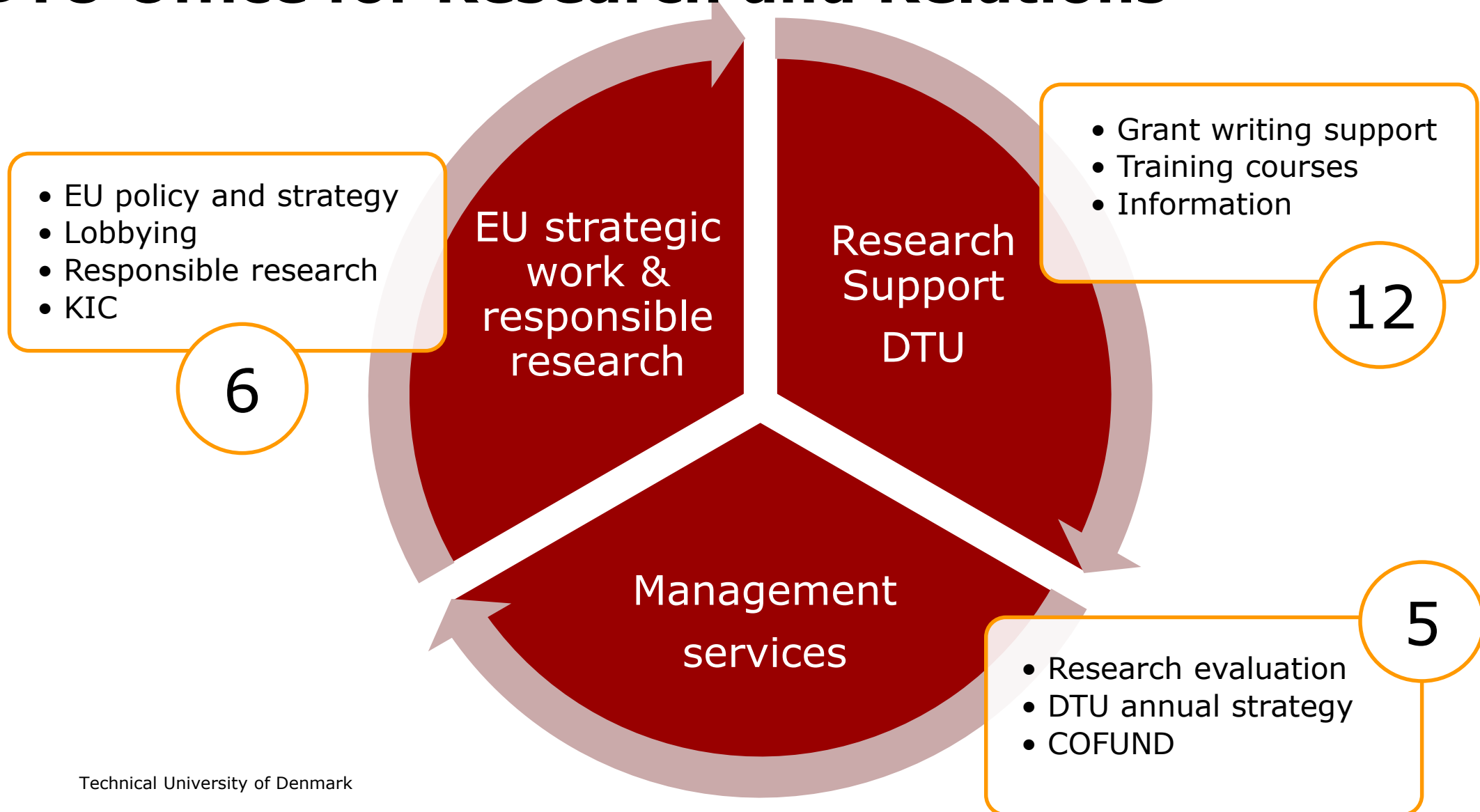
* Employees only

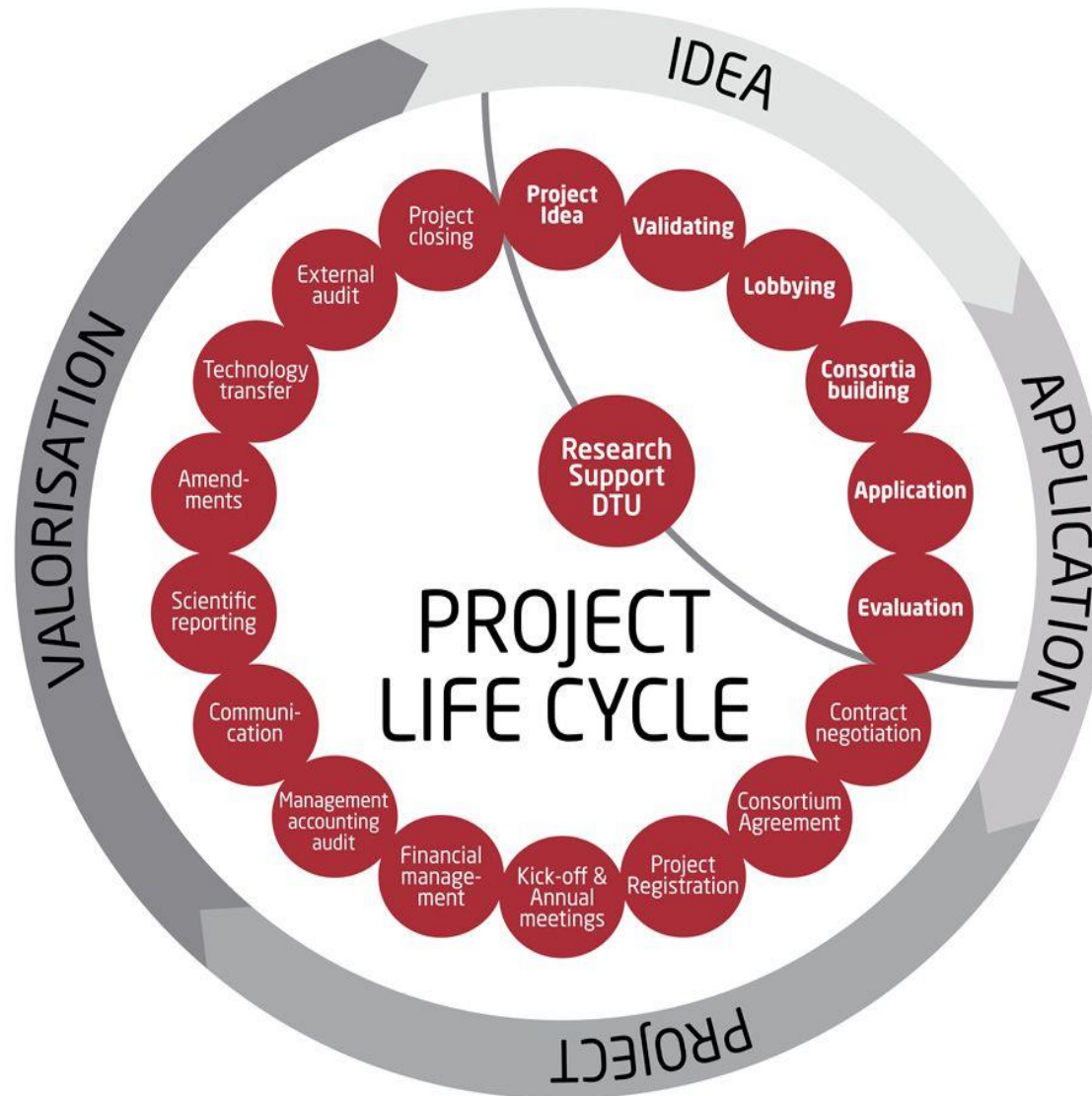
Full-time students

11,031



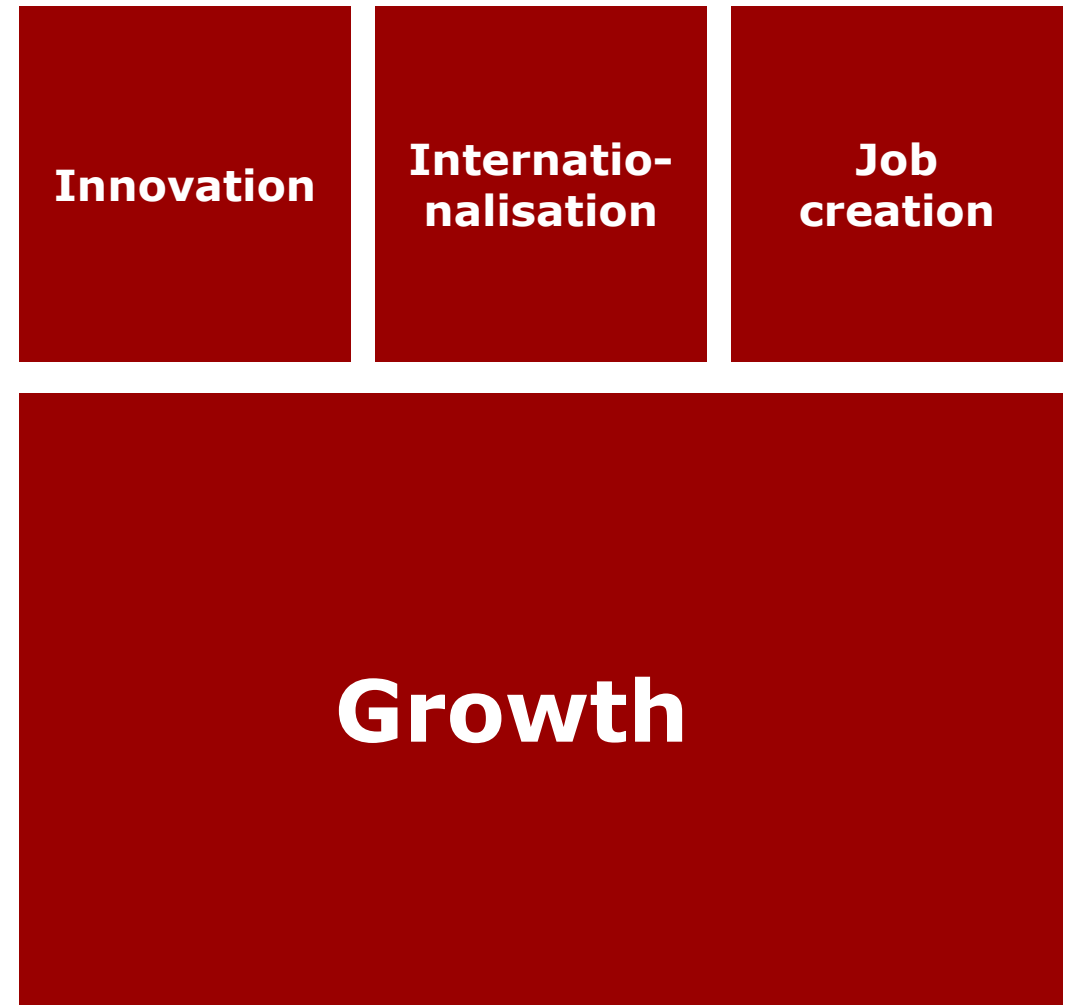
DTU Office for Research and Relations





Why the focus on MSCA at DTU?

- Recrutiment, internationalisation, research mobility and talent development
- Collaboration across countries, disciplines, universities and companies
- The bottom-up approach



The Danish success within the MSCA programme

MSCA	Europe		Denmark	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
COFUND	26.9%	20.4%	100.0%	45.1%
ITN	6.9%	7.4%	9.3%	9.6%
IF	13.6%	15.3%	15.8%	17.8%

Let's have a look at the
Danish universities that
have focus on MSCA

DENMARK

*Aarhus
University*

DTU

*Copenhagen
University*

MSCA IF at UCPH-SCIENCE – Background and structure

Background

- UCPH-SCIENCE was keen to build upon existing success in the MSCA IF programme (over 80 fellowships under FP7) by helping new supervisors in previously inactive research groups. The masterclass concept was inspired by the Center for Textile Research at UCPH-HUM in 2012.

Target Audience:

- Primarily external European Fellowship applicants
- Newly employed postdocs fulfilling the mobility requirement
- Global Fellowship applicants

Framework and objectives:

- 2-3 day programme in May/June every year
- Thorough introduction to the MSCA IF programme and interactive workshop activities in relation to the application
- Time to discuss and work on the application with the potential host research group
- Individual meetings between fellow, supervisor and research support office to make a plan of action for the application up until deadline.

MSCA IF at UCPH-SCIENCE – Statistics and lessons learned

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of applications from Masterclass	9	23	19	25	19
Number of grants from Masterclass	0	7 (6*)	6 (3*)	8 (5*)	6 (5*)
Total number of applications from UCPH-SCIENCE	65	92	78	83	83
Total number of grants from UCPH-SCIENCE	14	28	14	27	18

* Number of fellowships for new supervisors

- Communication of event must happen as early as possible and the importance of an active supervisor in the application process must be crystal clear as well as how they can best contribute.
- Screening of candidates is crucial to avoid wasting the time of applicants, supervisors and the research support office.
- A masterclass is a very useful tool - but is not adequate on its own. Individual support up to deadline is as important.
- Masterclass is an excellent way to help new supervisors looking to get their first MSCA fellows.

MSCA ITN at DTU - Background and structure

Background

- DTU has been quite successful in the MSCA ITN programme since the starting of H2020. The programme is well known by the researchers and they are interested in both applying for the first time and in resubmitting their proposals.

Target Audience:

- Primarily Associate Professors and Full Professors
- Both researchers with or without experience in the framework programme
- DTU's strategic partnerships

Framework and objectives:

- 1 information day in the Spring
- 2-3 workshops in the Autumn
- Thorough introduction to the MSCA ITN programme and interactive workshop activities in relation to the application
- Individual meetings with the applicants and feedback to the application up until deadline.

MSCA ITN at DTU - Statistics and lessons learned

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Applications	62	83	93	99	112
Grants	8	6	9	10	-

- Many applications, need to prioritise
- Focus on inter-sectoral aspects and close to market research
- Relations with the private consultants involved in the application phase
- Similar programme at Innovation Fund Denmark: make it easier for the researchers to apply

MSCA IF at DTU - Background and structure

Background

DTU was successful in FP7 and at the starting of H2020, but is falling behind in the last years.

Target Audience:

- Excellent senior researchers, who recruits excellent young researchers
- Postdocs already employed at DTU for less than 12 months (eligible)
- Rejected applicants to the DTU MSCA Postdoc Cofund programme (the best ones)

Framework and objectives:

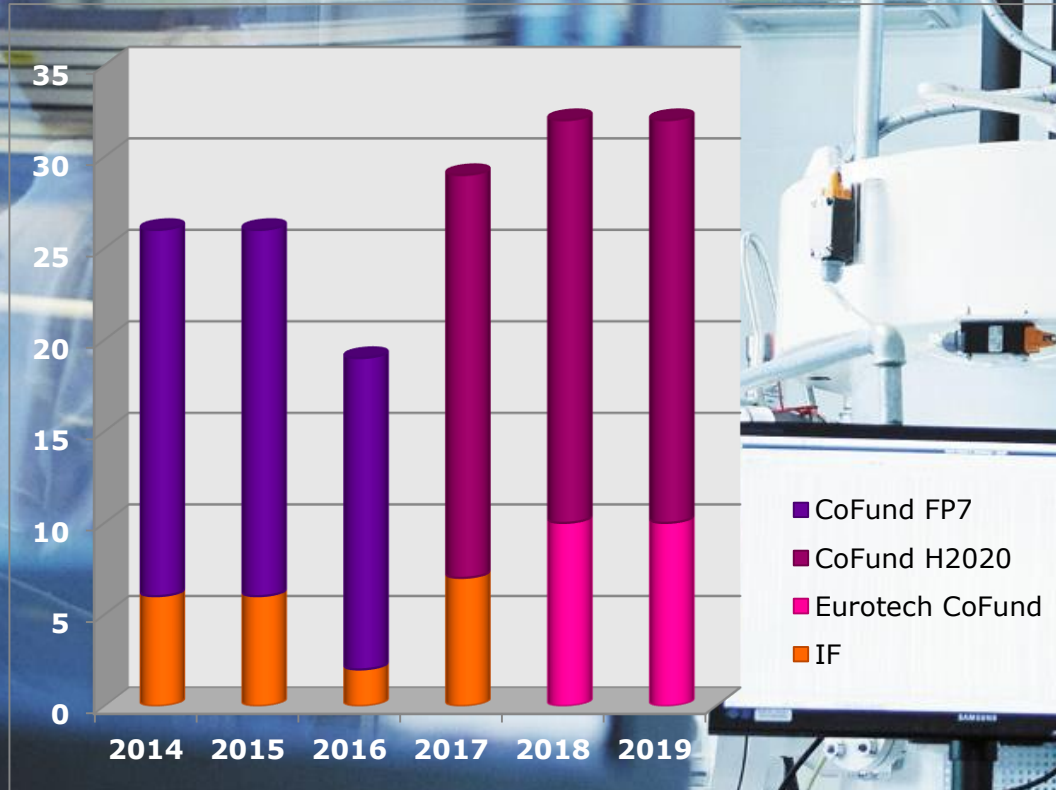
- 1 information day in the spring
- 2 Masterclass/workshops in the spring
- Travel grants for the fellows attending the workshops
- Individual meetings with the applicant and feedback to the application up until deadline
- Informative flyer about the IF programme at DTU (for recruitment purpose)
- Invitation to potential fellows to come to DTU prior to the deadline

MSCA IF at DTU - Statistics and lessons learned

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Applications	24	48	42	65
Grants	6	6	2	7

- Many applications, need to prioritise
- The best supervisors get the best fellows
- Encourage the best supervisors to apply every year
- Close collaboration with supervisors at DTU
- Participation in Masterclass at DTU
- Commit the fellows to start working on their proposals before the masterclass
- Possible correlations with DTU MSCA Postdoc Cofund

What happens at DTU when we fail



Studying
Evaluation
Summary
Reports

Level of support
giving to the
applicants

Looking at other
programmes
canabalising IF

Take home message for MSCA

- The discussion about how the proposals can be prioritised is still open and it can be quite controversial
- The relation between the support given and the results obtained requires constant adjustments
- The MSCA IF programme is not necessarily the first and only choice for successful researchers in many fields

Questions?

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