# Kako napisati dobar projekt

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http://zprojekti.mzos.hr/formulari/obrazacProj_HR.doc

# Projekti su važni

- Projekti (research grants) su glavni izvor financiranja znanstvenog istraživanja (oprema, potrošni materijal, plaće)

- **Zajednička karakteristika**: nikad dovoljno novca

# Stanje stvari

- Čak i dobri projekti su lutrija, slabi su osuđeni na propast

- Mnogi projekti su slabi

- Većina slabih projekata bi se mogla relativno jednostavno 'popraviti'

# Research Plan Tips

- **Text must be logical, easy-to-read, and well-written**
- **Grant must appeal to reviewer within the first page**
- **Use diagrams and tables**
- **Avoid page after page of text only and unbroken paragraphs**
- **Do not fill up every space on every page**
- **Use Arial font 11**
- **Include letters from all consultants and individuals who supply needed reagents, animals, etc**
- **Justify numbers of human subjects/animals for each aim (power analysis)**

# Part I. Formulation

- Early development can be key to the success of your proposal. Before you begin writing, think critically about your project.

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- The best research topic, however, will be the one you're most excited about. If you aren't fascinated and galvanized by your research topic, your readers won't be excited either.

# Tip #2: Do your preliminary research.

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- Consider what contribution your research will make. By the time you sit down to write your proposal, you should know what you want to research.

# Tip #3: Envision the final product.

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- Although you cannot fully anticipate what final form your project will take, it is important to have a vision of what it might be.

# Part II. Composition

- Writing the proposal is often the most difficult component of a research project. Be prepared: give yourself enough time to write, rewrite, and revise.

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- Freewrite as a way of getting your ideas on paper. Get your ideas down first; then think about how to organize them!

# Tip #5: Study successful proposals.

- Browse through the files, and copy two or three proposals on topics similar to yours.
-  Study them carefully to get ideas for ways of presenting your project.

# Tip #6: Be specific.

- Take time to consider your research methods and plan a budget.
- Go to the travel center or get online for a realistic estimate on airline tickets, accommodations, and other expenses.
- Approach your methodology and research timeline in the same way; if you need to make adjustments later, you can.
- It is important, though, that you convince the committee that not only is your project doable-you've figured out how to do it.

# Part III. Revision

- Revision is critical. Don't expect to write one draft of your proposal and be awarded a grant. A good proposal will take several revisions; be sure to give yourself time.

# Tip #7: Be concise and organized.

- Clearly differentiate the various parts of the proposal.

- For instance, in your methodology section, talk only about your methodology. Leave out extraneous information.

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- On the other hand, don't dumb your language down so that you insult the educated reader. If necessary, the committee will ask a specialist for an opinion on the project's viability. As you revise, consult a variety of readers, both in your discipline and outside it.

# Part IV. Editing

- Reread your proposal several times before submitting to the committee.

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- Because errors are easily introduced during the revision process, be sure to reread your text carefully each time you make changes.

- There is no excuse for grammatical and spelling errors in a grant proposal. Use spell checker by all means, but don't rely on it completely. There's no substitute for careful proofreading.

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- A good layout is easier on the eyes of committee members who will be reading many proposals.

- Word of warning: don't go cutesy, with bright-colored paper and fancy fonts.

# The ideal proposal

1. Here is a well-defined problem
2. It's an important problem (evidence...)
3. We have a promising idea (evidence...)
4. We are a world-class team (evidence...)
5. Here is what we hope to achieve
6. Here is how we plan to build on our idea to achieve it
7. **Give us the money.  Please.**

# One page, please

- Start with a **one-page summary**, that tells the whole story

- Remember: most of your readers will only read this page

- **NO BOILERPLATE**: "The XYZ institute has a vigorous research programme in many important fields…". This page is worth **10x** the other pages. Every word is precious.