# Experiences from coordinating a recent Horizon 2020 consortium project

Piled Higher and Deeper Publishing L.L.C.

Gabriele Messori
Inst. f. Geovetenskaper, Uppsala universitet

UPPSALA UNIVERSITET

# H2020-MSCA-ITN-2020:

- 9 Beneficiaries, 10 Partner Organisations.
- Budget ~4m EUR.
- 14 Ph. D. students.
- Coordinated by GEO at UU.

# Preparing The Consortium

- Network vs. functionality
- Laying out clear terms

## Preparing The Consortium

- Network vs. functionality
- Laying out clear terms

## Working Towards Submission

- Relate to evaluation criteria
- Plan plan plan

## Preparing The Consortium

- Network vs. functionality
- Laying out clear terms

## Working Towards Submission

- Relate to evaluation criteria
- Plan plan plan

## Managing the Consortium

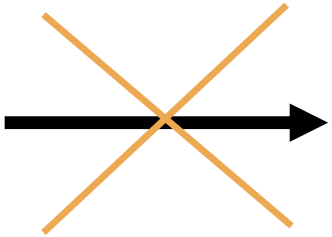
- Management and Reporting
- Doing the science

# Preparing the Consortium

First impulse was to pick from my existing network, before having a clear project outline.

After an initial outline formed, spent ~6 months making new contacts by leveraging my network.

**In hindsight:** NOT a good strategy.

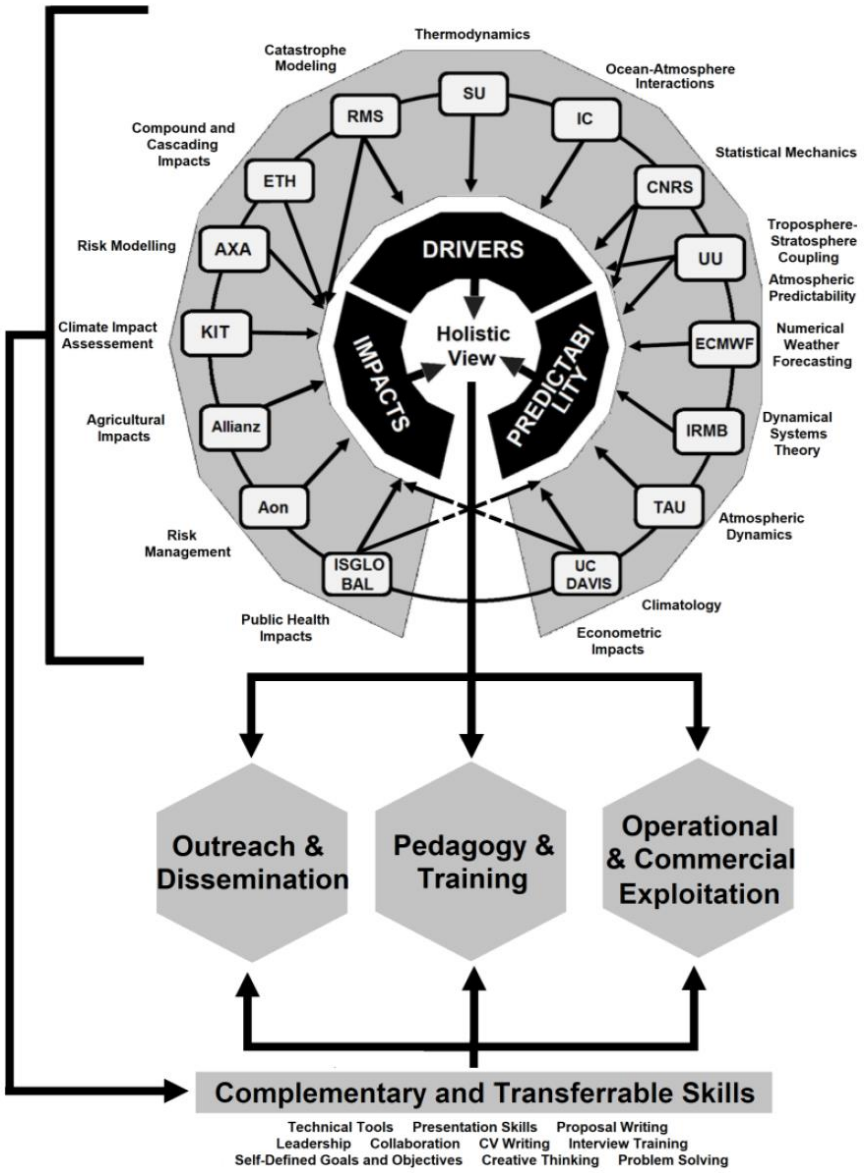


# Preparing the Consortium

Some colleagues joined without having a clear picture of expectations.

**In hindsight:** be clear on who you expect will do what and when.

# Preparing the Consortium




1st submission was not funded.

2nd submission: clear picture of what everyone was contributing with.

# Preparing the Consortium

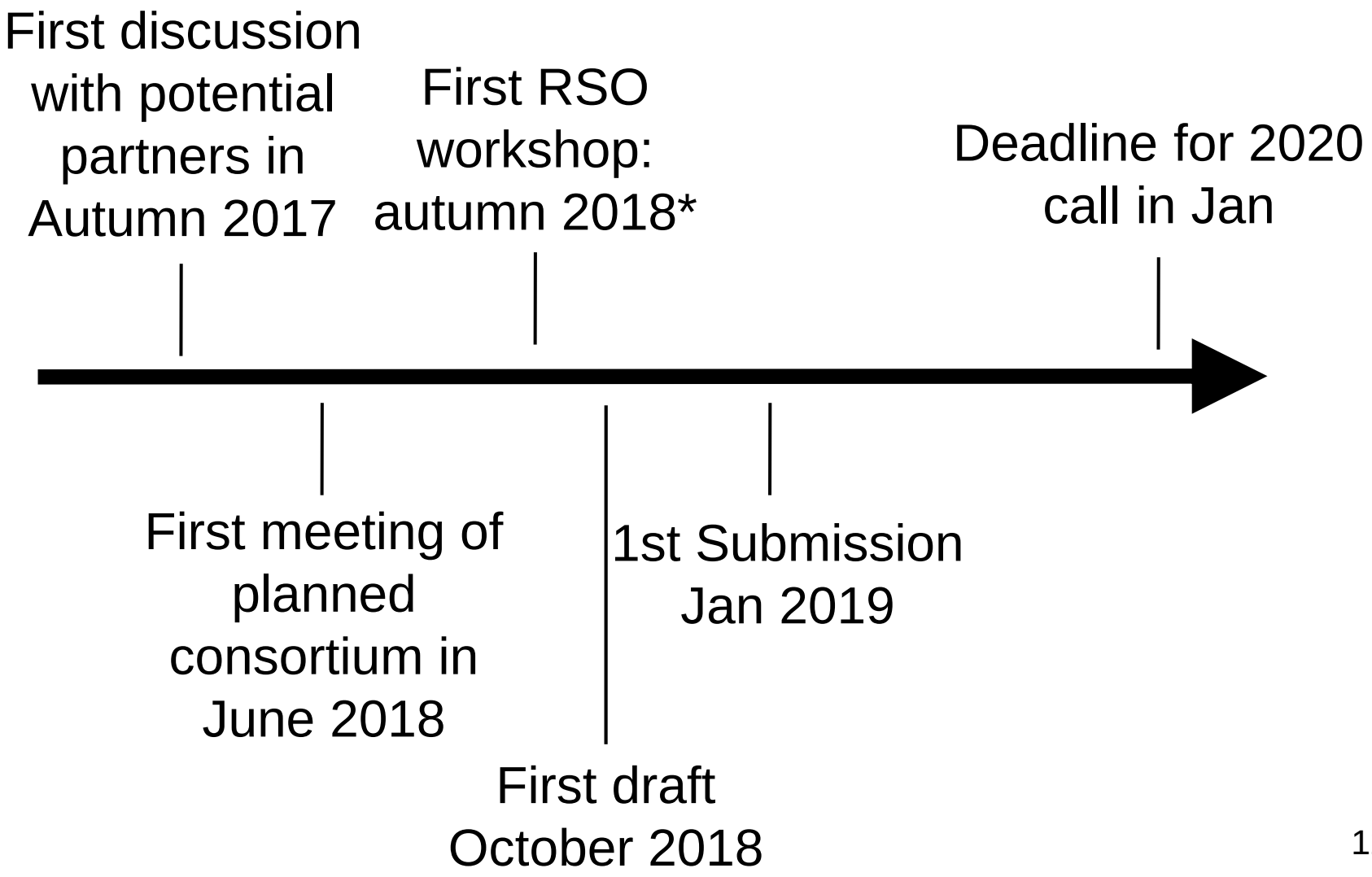
”Internal” preparations: agree with department on funding of 4th year of Ph. D., administrative support, overheads etc.

UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

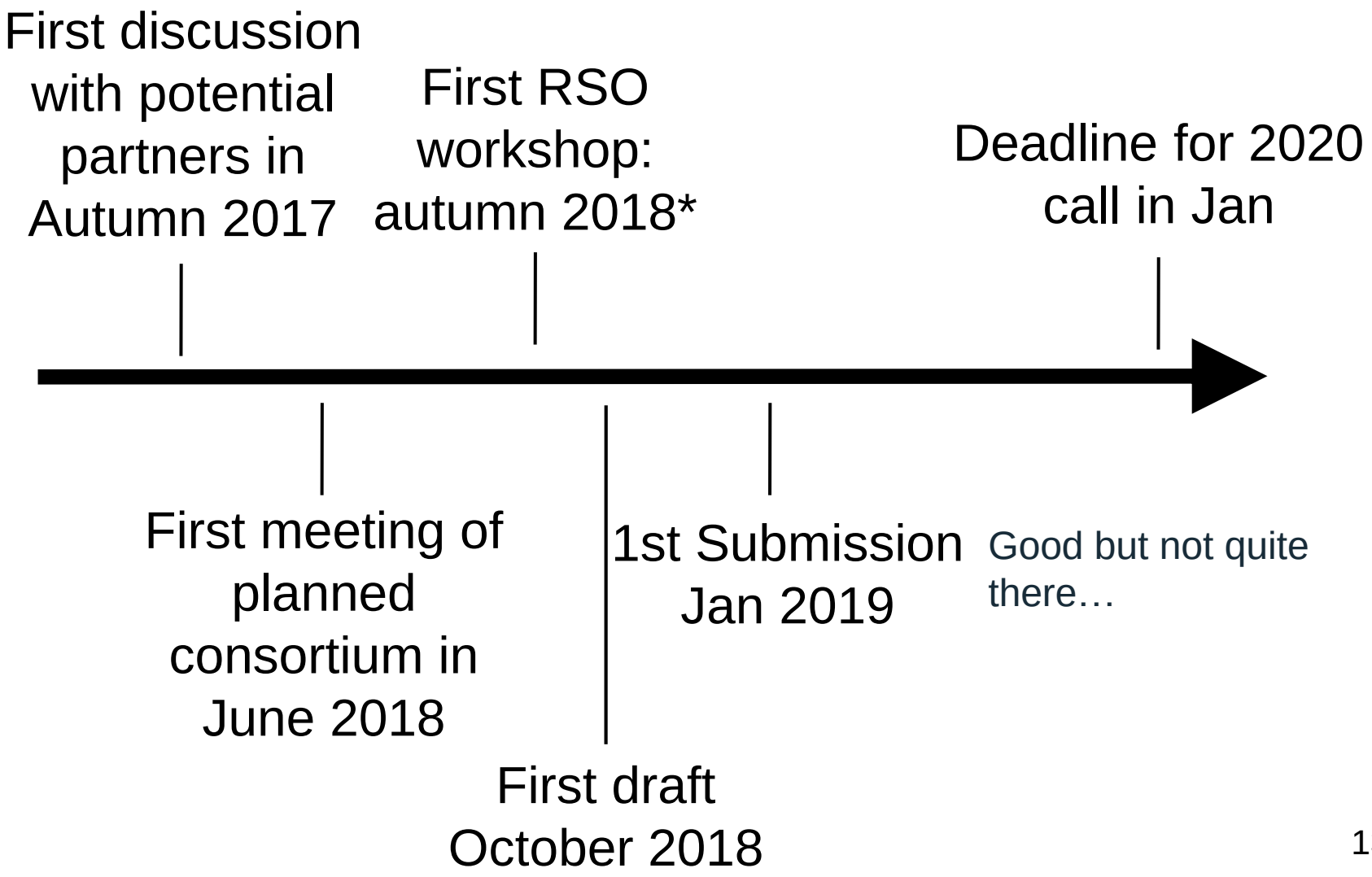
# Working Towards Submission

# Working Towards Submission

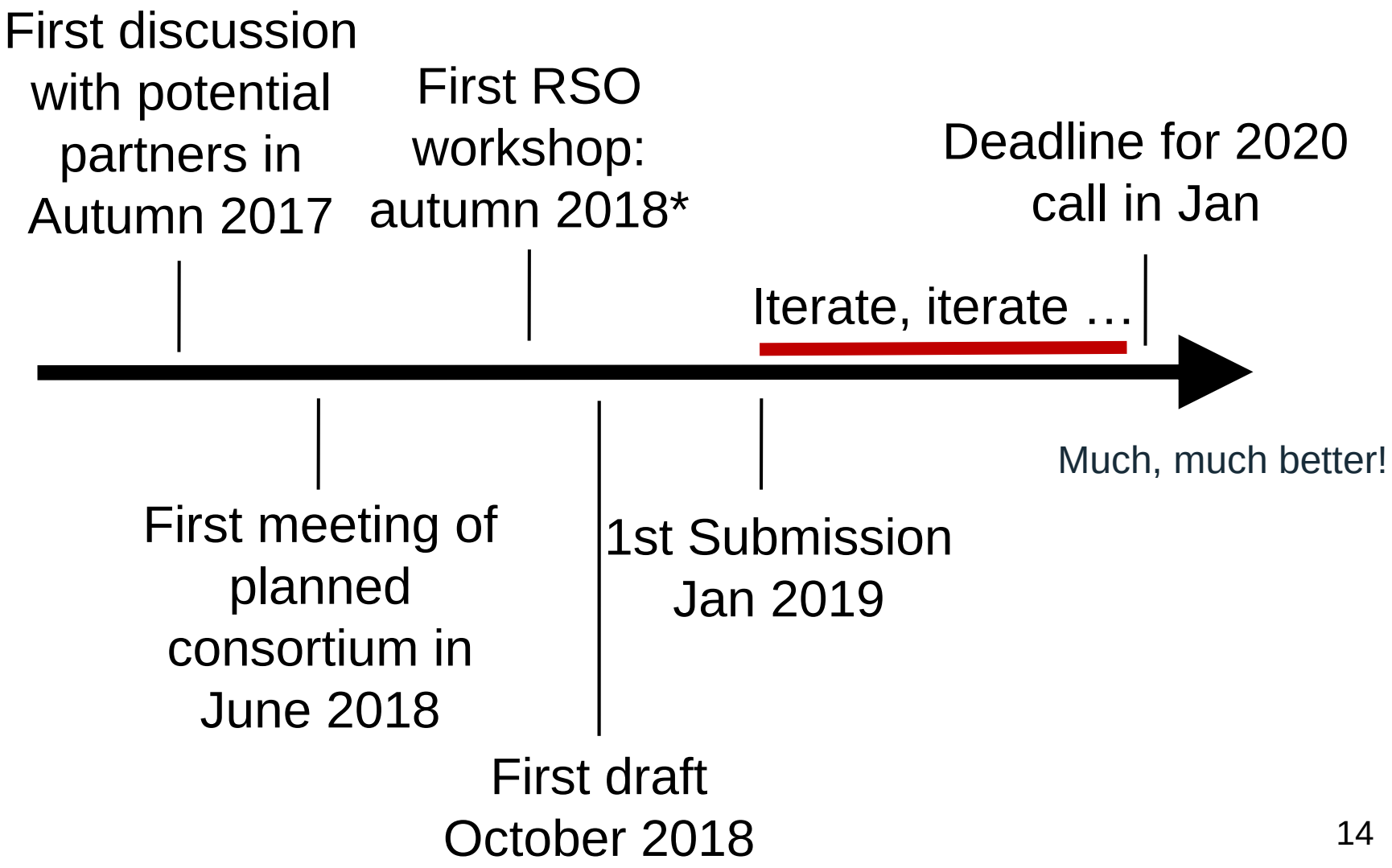
# Working Towards Submission



# Working Towards Submission



# Working Towards Submission



# Working Towards Submission

In parallel:

- Email exchanges and in-person meetings with RSO.
- Feedback and individual discussions both in group and individually with each and every consortium member (20 of them including UU…).
- Read through the somewhat dry PDFs with evaluation criteria, guidelines etc., from both the RSO and the REA.

# Working Towards Submission

Gathering feedback and contributions from everyone took a **looooong** time, spread over a few months.

**Reviewing** the project for the second submission took ~75% as long as getting together the first draft.

# Working Towards Submission

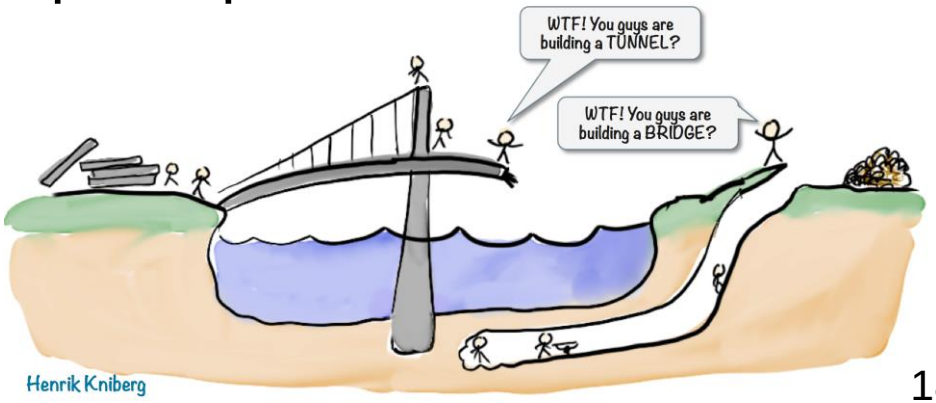
1st submission was not funded, despite starting early and dedicating a lot of time to it.

# Working Towards Submission

1st submission was not funded, despite starting early and dedicating a lot of time to it.

In hindsight:

- A lot of small inconsistencies in the project (could tell it was a first submission).
- Mediocre alignment to EC policies and objectives.
- Limited contact between participants.
- Late contact with RSO.



# Working Towards Submission

**Main criticism:** connection between different methods and approaches/Ph. D. projects ”not seamless”.

Getting 14 Ph. D. projects and a multidisciplinary toolbox to ”click” together is not easy...

# Working Towards Submission

**Main criticism:** connection between different methods and approaches/Ph. D. projects ”not seamless”.

Getting 14 Ph. D. projects and a multidisciplinary toolbox to ”click” together is not easy...

Second time round, we had a first complete draft of all projects which made the iteration process easier.

# Managing the Consortium

Some lessons learnt:

- Your sanity depends on having **administrative support.**

# Managing the Consortium

Some lessons learnt:

- Your sanity depends on having **administrative support.**
- Someone needs to do the boring reading.

# Managing the Consortium

Some lessons learnt:

- Your sanity depends on having **administrative support.**
- Someone needs to do the boring reading.
- Establish good communication from day 1.

# Managing the Consortium

Some lessons learnt:

- Your sanity depends on having **administrative support.**
- Someone needs to do the boring reading.
- Establish good communication from day 1.
- The PO is your friend. Speak to him/her!

# MANAGING THE CONSORTIUM

Some lessons learnt:

- Don’t forget the **science.**

From my perspective: Very time consuming but a potentially huge reward if successful. Extremely valuable for expanding your network.

If you apply, plan to dedicate **plenty** of time to the process, which is a lot more complex than ”just” writing a research proposal.

If you apply, be sure you actually want to do what you write.

# Lycka till!