Where AI helps in proposal writing (and where to draw the line)

Use AI for	Draw the line
1. Understanding the call	
From the Funding & Tenders portal, Summarising the topic text: expected outcomes, scope, type of action, budget, TRL for you to better understand the call.	Always read the original topic text yourself. AI can merge or drop points. Always check manually the eligibility conditions and deadlines. They should come from the Funding & Tenders portal, not from AI.
2. Planning and organisation	
AI helps you build a timeline backwards from the deadline. AI helps you to draft meeting agendas, email invitations to partners or gather structured information.	Check every date against the official call on the Funding & Tenders portal. Keep CVs, PIC numbers, and budget input private, as this may be confidential information you don´t want to share with AI that trains models on your input.
3. Structure	
Building an outline from the official template, with page limits per section as a writing guide. Enter your messy brainstorm notes and let AI turn it into a first ordering of arguments.	Writing is yours. The project's logic (the problem, why this approach, why this consortium) should never be written by AI.
4. Writing support	
In iterations and feedback rounds, AI can help you to make **your own** text clearer and shorter, and cutting it to fit the page limit. Language polishing, especially for non-native writers	The content, the claims and the novelty must come from you. **Never** use AI for state of the art, references or impact figures. **AI invents references and numbers that look real.** One fabricated citation can damage your credibility with evaluators.

5. Consistency checks	
Let AI check that work package numbers, deliverables, milestones, months and partner names match across all sections and tables. Let AI check that every expected outcome of the call is addressed somewhere in the proposal. Let it check for consistent terminology and acronyms used in the proposal text. Let AI check for gaps between person-months in the tables and the task descriptions in the text.	Let budget rules and numbers come from your back-up Excel files, not from AI's memory. Don´t let AI fil your tables.
6. Review before submission	
AI can draft the abstract or lay summary from your finished text. Brainstorm for titles and acronyms with AI is an excellent and fun thing to do. A mock review: "Score this section against the Excellence / Impact / Implementation criteria and list its weaknesses".	Check that the acronym isn't already used by another project (search CORDIS). Be careful to not think of AI as the real evaluator. If they score you high, it´s not a guarantee for a great proposal. It tends to be generic or too positive. Have a real person review the final version.

Never put into a public AI tool

- Unpublished results, confidential partner information, or anything that might be patented.

Disclosure rules

The European Commission's proposal guidelines now state that applicants are fully responsible for all content, including AI-generated parts, and should disclose AI use.

The information explaining the use of generative AI systems in the preparation of the proposal should be included in the Section "Ethics", even if this section is marked as "Not applicable" in the Application Form.

Contact information

Are you curious about how both AI and I can help you on your next proposal?

Reach me via email: ***wit-scienceconsulting@outlook.com***