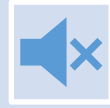# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) COFUND

mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk

19 October 2023

Housekeeping

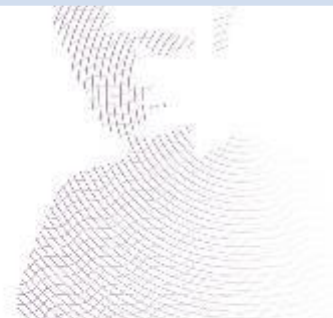All participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar.

A chat function is available and will be monitored.

The session is **recorded**

Please use the Q&A function to submit questions. Up voting is available

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Agenda

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About UKRO

We support UK based organisations involved in EU R&I

- Maximise UK participation in Horizon Europe

- A Brussels-based team of advisors

- Part of UKRI's wider International team

- UKRO Portal

  - Dedicated news articles, events and factsheets to support participation

  - Alerts to upcoming opportunities and call updates

- UK National Contact Point

  - European Research Council, Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions programmes , Widening Participation and COST

Dedicated MSCA, ERC, WIDEAR and COST Resources

Sign up for NCP newsletters delivered to your inbox

Register for an event on the UKRO events page

Find out more about MSCA, ERC, WIDERA and COST funding opportunities

Contact the National Contact Points

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UK's Relationship with the EU

Participation on Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe Participation

UK Association

On 24 December 2020, the negotiations on the [UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) concluded

Included the intention of the UK to associate to Horizon Europe

[Announcement on 7 September 2023](#), **confirmed association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus programmes from 1 January 2024**

This includes full participation in the programme (with the exception of the EIC Accelerator Investment Fund)

UK entities can participate in/coordinate projects and receive funding from Horizon Europe

[UKRO website provides latest information](#)on UK participation

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What does this mean for the 2023 MSCA COFUND call?

For the 2023 MSCA COFUND call the [EC Transition Measures Apply](#)

At the proposal stage UK based organisations and researchers can
• Can coordinate the project (including mono-beneficiary actions) • Can participate as an implementing partner • Can recruit researchers • Can train and host seconded researchers

If successful UK beneficiaries will
• Become Associated Partners during the grant agreement preparation phase • No longer be able to coordinate the project • Will be funded by the [UK government's Horizon Europe guarantee](#) • Guarantee will cover the EC contribution in line with the original budget • Guarantee will cover mono-beneficiary projects

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Introduction to MSCA

Policy Overview

Horizon Europe

Pillar Reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Unions science base

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

MSCA sets out to

- To support researcher training and career development

- To create impact on researchers, institutions and systems

- Contribute to EU priorities

  - European Green Deal objectives
  - The Climate Action target of Horizon Europe
  - The European Research Area (ERA)
  - The European Education Area (EEA)

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It Does This By:

- **Encouraging people to become researchers and innovators**

- Equipping researchers with the necessary skills and international experience

- **Supporting long term employability**

- Developing attractive career opportunities

- Fostering an innovation and develop entrepreneurial mindset

- Promote the EU's global attractiveness for talents

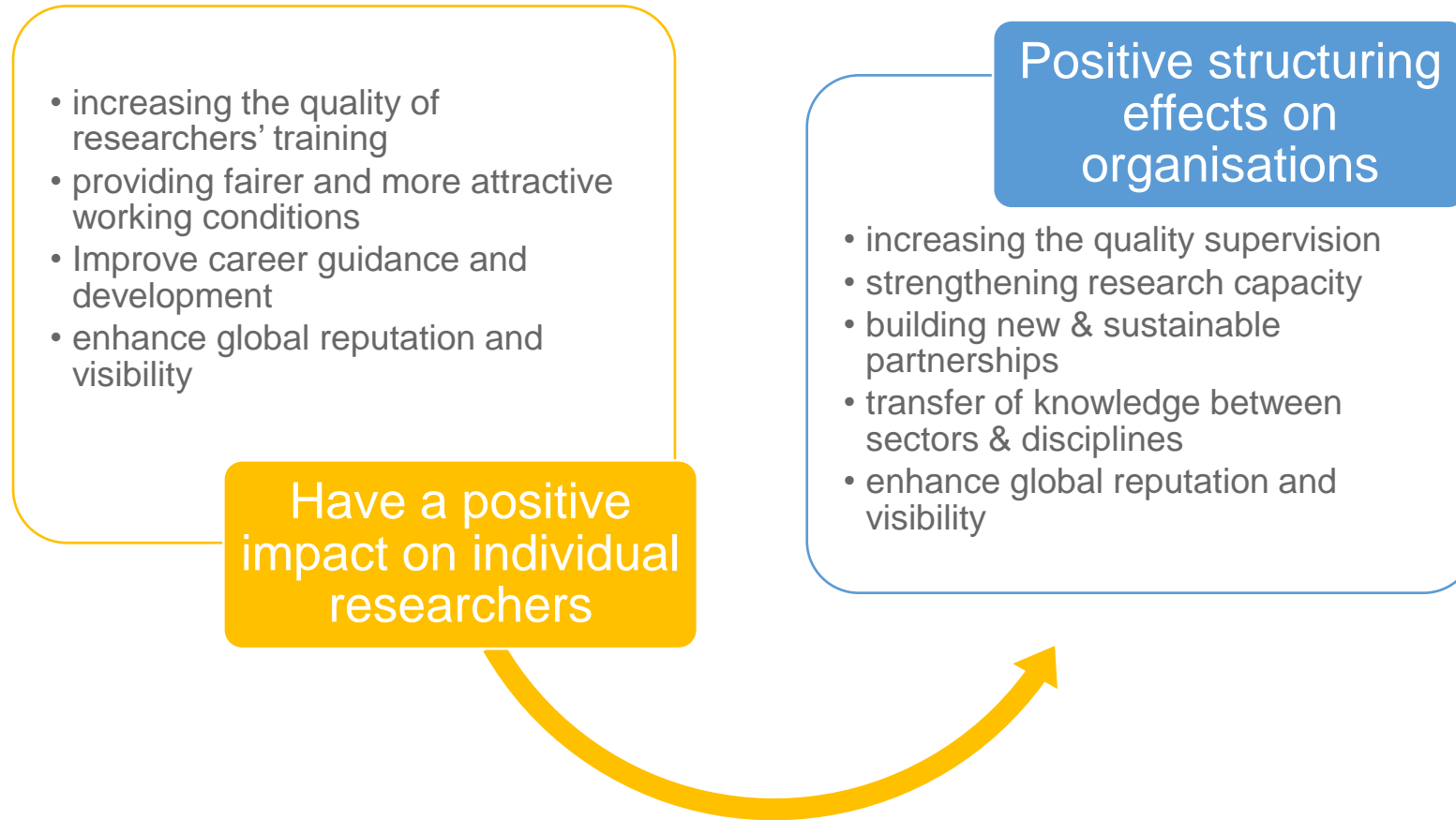|	
Enhance skills of people behind research and innovation	Contribute to excellent research - Bottom-up approach
Mobility (International, intersectoral and interdisciplinary)	Attractive Working and employment conditions
Structuring effect on organisations	Strong collaboration with industry, SME and other non-academic sector actors

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MSCA Structuring Effect

Contributing to the development of excellent doctoral programmes and postdoctoral training programmes

- increasing the quality of researchers' training
- providing fairer and more attractive working conditions
- Improve career guidance and development
- enhance global reputation and visibility

Have a positive impact on individual researchers

Positive structuring effects on organisations

- increasing the quality supervision
- strengthening research capacity
- building new & sustainable partnerships
- transfer of knowledge between sectors & disciplines
- enhance global reputation and visibility

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MSC Actions

Doctoral Networks

- Supports doctoral programmes, developed by universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Enhances the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD.

Staff Exchanges

- Promote innovative international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration in research and innovation.

COFUND

- Co-finances new or existing doctoral programmes and postdoctoral fellowship schemes.

MSCA and Citizens

- Aims to bring research and researchers closer to the public at large, to increase awareness of research and innovation activities and to boost public recognition of science and research education.

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COFUND

MSCA COFUND 2023 (HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01)

Call details

MSCA COFUND 2023 (HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01)

Indicative timeline

Call opens	10 October 2023
Call deadline	**8 February 2024 4pm UK time** (5pm Brussels time)
Notification of results	July 2024
Earliest project start date	December 2024
Budget	EUR 96.57 million

Call documents (**guide for applicants, MSCA work programme** etc) and submission system available on the MSCA COFUND 2023 call page

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COFUND

Co-funds new or existing national, regional, institutional schemes for doctoral training and postdoctoral fellowships

- Spreads best practices of the MSCA
- Promotes high standards in the recruitment process and excellent working conditions
- Introduce sustainable structuring effects
- Promotes excellent and sustainable research training,
- Promotes international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation and mobility
- Encourage synergies
- Increases long term employability
- Allow researchers to develop and broaden their skills and competences
- Provide training to develop key transferable skills and competences common to all fields
- Foster innovation and entrepreneurship and promote and (where appropriate) reward Open Science practices
- Two Types: Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Programmes

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Expected Impact of the COFUND Call

Need to be explicit about how your programme will meet/achieve these expected impacts

For supported doctoral candidates or postdoctoral researchers

- Deeper and more diverse set of research-related and transferable skills and competences
- Improved employability and career prospects within academia and beyond
- New mind-sets and approaches to R&I work forged through international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary experience
- Enhanced networking and communication capacities with scientific peers, as well as with the public that will increase and broaden the research and innovation impact

For participating organisations

- Enhanced quality and sustainability of research training
- Increased global attractiveness, visibility and reputation of the participating organisation(s)
- Stronger R&I capacity and output among participating organisations
- Increased contribution of the participating organisations to the local, regional and/or national socio-economic ecosystems
- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organisations

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Eligibility

Two components:
1. Eligibility of the project
2. Eligibility of the recruited researchers

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Project Eligibility

- Single legal entity established in an EU Member State or HE Associated country – **Mono-beneficiary**

- Projects can include Implementing Partners and Associated Partners

- At least 3 researchers must be recruited

- EC contribution max 10 M€ per beneficiary per call

- Programme duration : max. 60 months

- Fellowship duration : min 3 months

- Legal entities can be from any sector

- Beneficiary must host & supervise the recruited researchers at their premises (or use implementing partners to do so)

Academic and non-academic sectors

Academic sector
- ✓ public or private higher education establishments
- ✓ public or private non-profit research organisations
- ✓ International European Research Organisations

Non-academic sector
- ✓ any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector

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Implementing Partners and Associated Partners

Implementing Partners	Associated Partners
• Can recruit researchers • Can employ researchers on behalf of the beneficiary • Must be established in an EU Member State, Associated Country or Third Country eligible for EC funding • Can be from any sector • Do not sign the grant agreement • Claim EC costs from the beneficiary	• providing training and or host secondments • Do not sign the grant agreement • Can be established anywhere in the world • Can be from any sector • Funding is based on an agreement with the beneficiary

- Can provide financial contributions
  - Can be added at anytime
- **Must provide letters of commitment**
- Associated partners are included in part A
- If know at proposal stage must be included in relevant sections including section 5 of the part B2

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The Set up – Some Examples

Freedom and flexibility in setting up the programme

Beneficiary* → Implementing Partner 1, Implementing Partner 2, Implementing Partner 3

Associated Partner 1

Associated Partner 2

Beneficiary — Different departments in the organisation

Associated Partner 1

Associated Partner 2

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*Could be a single department/faculty or include different parts of the organisation
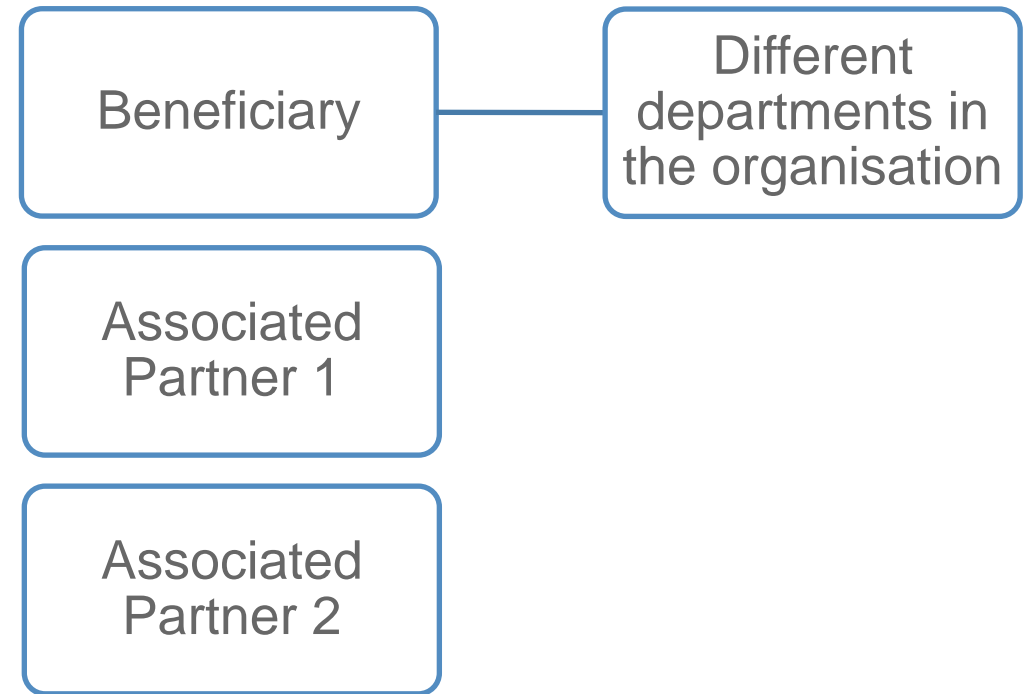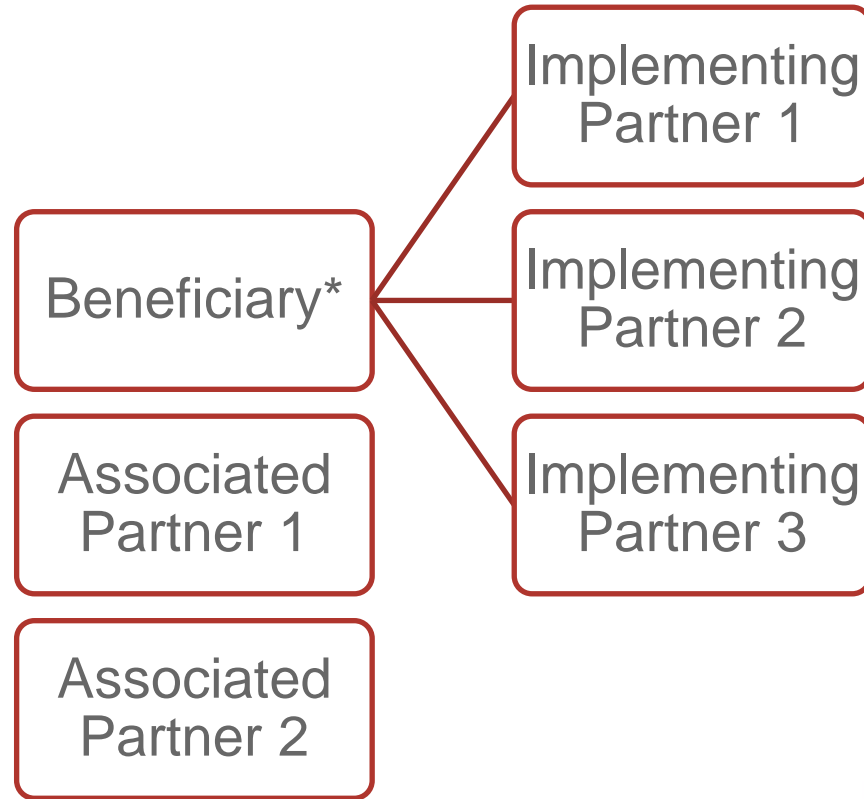
Overview of the Participating Organisations

	Participating Organisations			
	Summary of Tasks			Location
Role in the training programme for Doctoral and Post	Recruitment of Researchers	Training and/or Hosting of Seconded Researchers	Directly claim unit costs	
Beneficiary	✓	✓	✓	EU MS HE AC
Implementing Partner	✓	✓	✗	EU MS HE AC Third country eligible to receive funding
Associated Partner	✗	✓	✗	EU MS, HE AC Third countries

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Secondments

Are optional

- Must add significant value and impact to the researchers
- Must be in line with the project objectives and training needs of the research
- Evaluated
- Inter-sectoral secondments encouraged
- Host organisation (Associated Partner) can be located anywhere in the world
- Clear supervisory arrangements
- Must be an integral part of the programme

Maximum of one third individual research project duration

For Postdoctoral fellowships with significant time spent outside of the host, max one third of the duration of the outgoing phase

❖ If relevant they must be fully justified and integrated into all relevant parts of the proposal including section 5 of the part B2

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Short Stay (research visits, Field work etc.)

In line with the research and training needs of the researcher

- No definition of 'short stay'

- Are optional

- Must be in line with the project objectives and training needs of the researcher

- No defined duration but should only represent a small part of the action

- Can take place anywhere including third countries

- Can take place at any time of the fellowship

- No defined supervisor arrangements

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The Two Types

Programme	Objective
Doctoral Programmes (DPs)	• offer research training activities to allow doctoral candidates to develop and broaden their skills and competences • **lead to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU MS or HE AC** • training activities should be based on the EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training. • **Must provide for call(s),** which would allow the **researchers to propose their own project or to choose among research projects** proposed to them • **Must be recruited for the duration of the PhD programme**
Fellowship Programmes (FPs)	• fund individual research training and career development fellowships for postdoctoral researchers • Researchers are **expected to write their own proposals and choose their host institution** • **individual fellowships vary from 12 to 36 months** • If fellowship includes an outgoing phase, must include a mandatory 12 month return phase (Similar to the Global Fellowships)

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Researcher Eligibility

Doctoral Programmes

- Any nationality
- Researchers must be doctoral candidates ie. not in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment (the starting date indicated in the employment contract or equivalent direct contract
- Must meet the mobility rule

Postdoctoral Programmes

- Any nationality
  - If there is an outgoing phase the researcher must be nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country
- Must be in possession of a doctoral degree deadline of the co-funded programme's call
  - The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline
  - Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered as postdoctoral researchers and will be considered eligible to apply
- Must meet the mobility rule

Mobility rule

- Researchers may not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies etc.) in the country of their (main) host organisation for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the recruitment date

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Researchers who are already permanently employed by the organisation hosting them cannot be funded by COFUND

The Budget

The Budget Table – Part A

3 - Budget

Participant number	Organisation short name	Role	Country	Academic sector	IO	No of recruited researchers	Number of person months(Employment)	Number of person months(Fellowship)	Contributions for recruited researchers		Total EU Contributions	Own resources	Financial contributions	Total estimated project income [7]
									Employment Contract	Fixed amount fellowship				
1	UKRI	Coordinator	UK	Yes	No	3	108	0	302400	0	302400.00			302400.00
2	QMUL	Associated	UK	Yes	No	0		0		0	0.00			0.00
Total						3	108	0	302400	0	302400.00	0.00	0.00	302400.00

Total Budget is composed of :

- EC contribution known as the COFUND allowance
- Match funding though direct financial contributions and in-kind contributions (own resources)

COFUND allowance

EC funding contribution that is equivalent to the minimum gross salary

- Beneficiary has complete freedom on how to use the allowance

- Can contribute to:
  - gross salary, which may or may not including mobility and family allowance
  - costs related to the training, research expenses, transfer of knowledge and networking activities of researchers
  - management and indirect (overheads)

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Match Funding

Own resources and financial contributions

- There is no expectation that the match funding will equate to a certain % of the total budget

- Needs to be sufficient to meet the research and training needs of the project

- If involving Implementation Partners and or Associated Partners, they can contribute to the match funding element

- **Will cover/contribute to costs not covered by the COFUND Allowance**

- Recommendation: Look at the EC contributions for Doctoral Networks and Postdoctoral Fellowships for indications of cost categories and amounts

- Match funding can come from a variety of sources, including other funding sources, donations, internal funding, contributions by implementing and associated partners etc.
  - Match funding cannot come from another EU funding sources, with the exception of, European Structural and Investment Funds

Own Resources – In-kind contributions

- Such as waived tuition fees, supervisors time, waived internal charges, etc.
- Will be given a monetary amount for the budget table

Financial contribution

- Cash contribution available to spend against the project needs
- Such as research, training and networking costs, salary costs, mobility allowance, family allowance, tuition fees, visa costs

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This information will be used to evaluate the adequateness of employment and working conditions of the researchers

Salary of the recruited researchers

The EC stipulate the minimum monthly gross salary of the recruited researchers

- **Doctoral candidates**
  - Gross monthly renumeration cannot be less than EUR 2800

- **Postdoctoral researchers**
  - Gross monthly renumeration cannot be less than EUR 3980

- All national deductions, such as social security contributions, taxes and other costs or compulsory deductions are applied to give the final net take home salary

- Researchers must be recruited on a full employment contract and treated the same or better than current staff

- Can offer a higher gross renumeration package

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The Budget Table Part B

Table 1.1 Amounts provided to researchers and hosting organisations

Cost categories	EU contribution (EUR/person-month)	Total cost = EU contribution + own resources (EUR/person-month)
COFUND allowance	2 800 (for Doctoral) 3 980 (for Postdoctoral)	monthly gross remuneration
Mobility allowance**	N/A	monthly gross remuneration
Family allowance**	N/A	
Travel allowance**	N/A	
Research costs**	N/A	
Other (training, etc.) **	N/A	
Management costs **	N/A	
Indirect costs**	N/A	
Number of fellows		
Number of fellow months		
Total amount		

➢ Add more lines in necessary
➢ ** if applicable, otherwise delete
➢ Applicants can choose include additional allowances, such as as the mobility or family allowance, or they can be included as part of the overall gross renumeration

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Other EC contributions

Long-term leave allowance

- contributes to the personnel costs incurred by the employer in case of the researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave, longer than 30 consecutive days

Special needs allowance

- contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities, whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments
- The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

❖ Added during project implementation as and when needed
❖ Not included in the budget tables

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EC Applicable unit contributions

	Contributions for recruited researchers and institutional contributions per person-month		
	COFUND Allowance	Long-term Leave Allowance (if applicable)	Special Needs Allowance (if applicable)
COFUND-Postdoctoral Fellows	EUR 3 980	EUR 3 980 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)
COFUND-Doctoral Researchers	EUR 2 800	UR 2 800 x % covered by the beneficiary	

- The country correction coefficient from other MSCA schemes does not apply
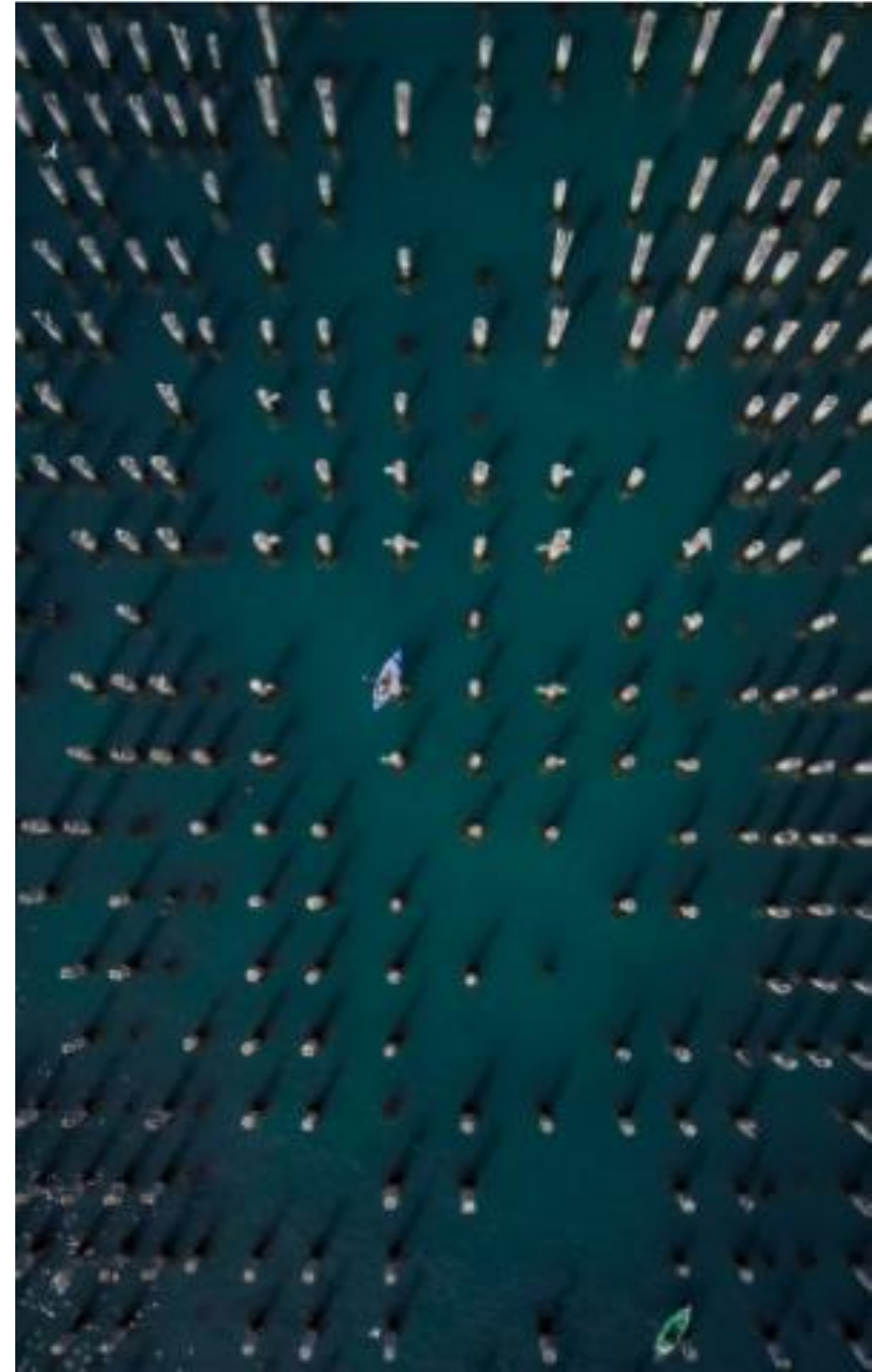- However, you could choose to apply, but it is not mandatory

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Addressing the Evaluation Criteria

Remember

It is about developing a new or existing doctoral or postdoctoral programmes

- Think of the expected impact of the call
- Particular attention is paid to:
  - quality of supervision and mentoring arrangement
  - selection procedure - it must be open, transparent and merit-based, in line with the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers
  - Appointment conditions of researchers
  - Quality and novelty of the research options
  - Open science practices
  - Quality, novelty and pertinence of the research training programme
  - Role of the non-academic sector in the training programme
- Include elements of cross-sectoral mobility and interdisciplinarity

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Evaluation Criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and novelty of the selection / recruitment process for the researchers (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities, **the gender dimension and other diversity aspects)** and quality and attractiveness of the appointment conditions, including competitiveness of the salary for the standards of the hosting countries	**Strengthening human resources** good practices at institutional, regional, national or international level, in particular through aligning the practices of participating organisations with the principles set out by the EU for human resources development in research and innovation	Quality and **effectiveness of the work plan**, management structures, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Quality and novelty of the research options offered by the programme in terms of science, interdisciplinarity, inter-sectorality and level of international mobility. Quality of **open science practices**	Credibility of the **proposed measures to enhance the career perspectives** and **employability of researchers** and contribution to their skills development	**Quality and capacity of the host institution**(s) and participating organisations (where appropriate), including hosting arrangements and extent to which they bring together the necessary expertise to successfully implement the research training programme
Quality, novelty and pertinence of the **supervision, career guidance and career development arrangements**		
50%	**30%**	**20%**

Section 1 Excellence – Some Tips

Be clear on the number of researchers to be recruited, how long the programme will run for, how many calls, the duration etc.	Describe the beneficiary and the partner organisations (brief as the full details are in section 3)	Demonstrate the transparency of the selection process of the researchers	Describe how the programme will support the practice of Open Science
List the Evaluation Criteria to be used for selection and scoring system	Demonstrate how equality and diversity will be championed during recruitment	Describe the Excellence of the research programme	Clearly detail the appointment conditions
Demonstrate the range and quality of the research options (in terms of interdisciplinary research options, intersectorality, and international networking)	Describe the supervision arrangements – MSCA Guidelines on Supervision	Describe the training opportunities	Describe the dissemination Strategy, activities and target audience for the open calls

Section 1 Impact – Some Tips

Link to the expected outcomes for the COFUND call set out in the MSCA Work Programme

Think about research, organisational and systems level

Describe how the potential and future career perspectives of selected researchers will be enhanced – what are the skills they will get and how does this relate to career prospects

Describe how the programme will be increasing the attractiveness of the participating organisations towards talented researcher

How the programme will contribute to the implementation of principles set out by the EU for the human resources development in R&I at the participating organisations – HR in excellence awards etc.

Describe how the programme will impact on better quality research and innovation contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

Describe plans and procedures for exploitation and dissemination of results towards the research and innovation community and other relevant stakeholders

Section 3 Implementation – Some Tips

Describe the central services / offices / expertise of the beneficiary and partner organisations will be made available to the programme e.g. Research office, Graduate Studies office, communication office, marketing, international affairs and what experience do they already have in H2020 or MSCA?

Describe the management plan of the programme and the resources; define the work packages and deliverables

Describe the financial management and risk management/contingency plans of the programme

Describe the appointment conditions of researchers including allowances, working conditions etc.

Description of how the administrative, technical and human resources will be used to implement the programme

Description of partner organisations hosting and training the researchers if known

Describe how the funding will be distributed to the fellows (i.e: monthly, etc), and to all the partner organisations

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Feedback - Doctoral Programme

Strengths	Weakness
• The quality of the research options offered by the programme is well described.	• The list of transferable skills courses provided in the proposal is very limited
• The program reveals good level of intersectorality, internationality and transnational mobility	• There is little information about the selection procedures
• The impact of the research and training programme on enhancing the ESRs careers is high.	• Employment conditions for support of ESRs with special needs are insufficiently addressed
• The appointment conditions of ESRs are adequately described	• The intersectoral dimension of the project is in practice limited
• The information provided to the applicants is thoughtfully formulated.	• The dissemination and communication strategies are described only in general term
• The financial management is transparent and appropriately planned.	• The administrative capacity and support for the implementation of the project is not sufficiently argued by the proposal
• The planned budget is sufficient and considers the major expenses	• The composition of the selection committee is generically described
• The information provided to the ESR candidates is well described and supports the transparency of the recruitment procedure.	• Involvement of the academic partners for implementation of the project are missing
• The eligibility criteria and the application requirements are clearly formulated.	• There is no actual plan by which to encourage female applicants
• The appeal and redress procedures are considered at sufficient depth	

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Feedback – Postdoctoral Programme

Strengths	Weakness
• Application requirements are clear overall • A clearly international peer review is foreseen with experts to be selected using a rich database. • The host provides a comprehensive catalogue of soft skills training courses, available to fellows • Equal opportunities are well considered • Special attention is paid to gender balance. • A detailed and coherent work plan with outlined work packages • The beneficiary and the partner organisations are competent to run the programme • The capacity of the Fellowship Programme to enhance researchers' potential and their future career prospects is convincing • The management structure and procedures for the Fellowship Programme are addressed appropriately • The dissemination of the calls for the fellowship programme is very efficient and wide-reaching	• The evaluation criteria lack clarity without justification given for the widely differing weights • Both the type and content of the information to be provided to the candidates are addressed insufficiently. • A redress procedure is not addressed in sufficient detail. • The supervision arrangements presented in a too generic manner, - lack of clarity regarding the responsibilities of supervisors and fellows. • The monitoring of fellows' progress, their career development promotion and guidance are addressed insufficiently. • IPR procedures and management are addressed insufficiently • Support services/facilities offered to the fellows not addressed in the proposal • The selection process for identifying international experts is not convincing • The proposal does not present the specific sub criteria for each award criterion • The programme's impact on regional, national or international level beyond the impact on the host institution is not convincingly addressed

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Further Considerations
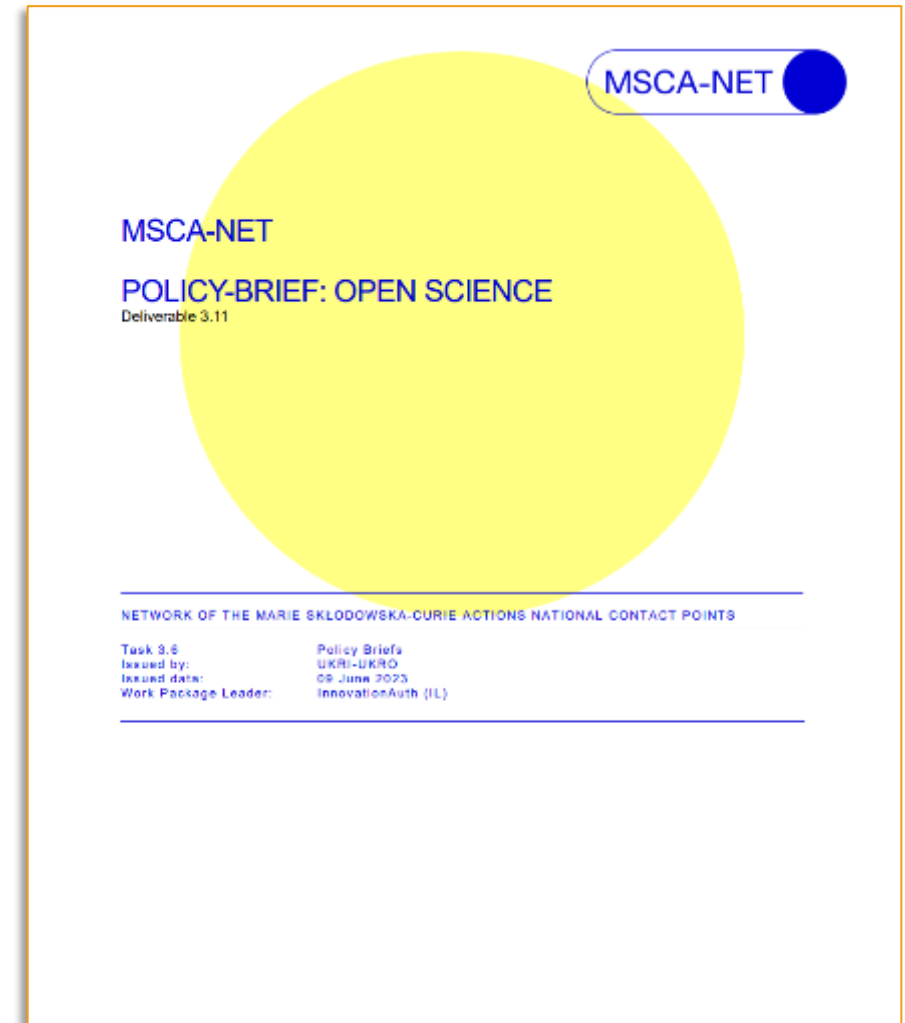
MSCA Related EU Policies

- Contribution to the [European Research Area](#) and [European Education Area](#)

- Committed to the [EU Charter for Researchers](#), [The Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#) and [Innovative Doctoral Training Principles](#)

- Supports underlying principles of [Open Science](#), [Responsible Research & Innovation](#)

- Support and encourage good supervision – [MSCA Guidelines on Supervision](#)

- Promotes Sustainable behaviours and policies – [MSCA Green Charter](#)

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Addressing Open Science

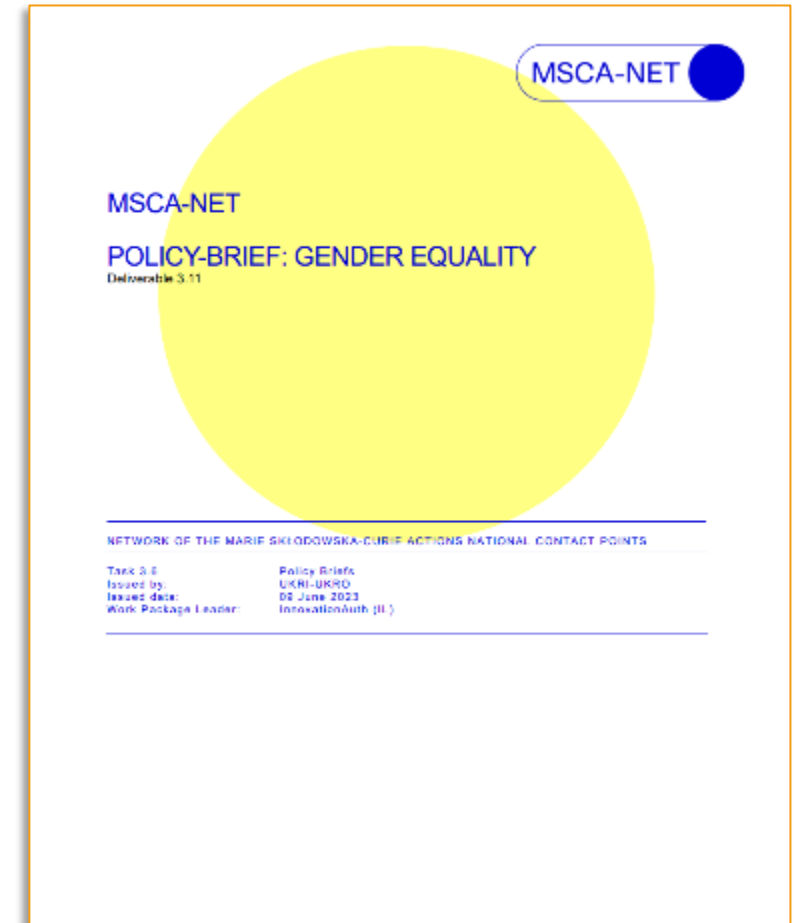Needs to be considered in terms of the research and the way it is undertaken as well as training

➢ Using open knowledge sources, e.g., open data, open publications, samples etc.

➢ Early and open sharing of research e.g., pre-registration, registration of reports, pre-prints, crowdsourcing etc.

➢ Providing open access to all research results and outputs including software, models, algorithms, and workflows

➢ Participating in open peer review

➢ Involving all relevant knowledge actors including citizens, civil society, and end users in the co-creation of research and innovation agendas and contents (such as citizen science)

➢ Using appropriate licenses to support reusability of data and other outputs such as Creative commons, Open data Commons etc

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POLICY-BRIEF: OPEN SCIENCE
Deliverable 3.11

NETWORK OF THE MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

Task 3.6   Policy Briefs
Issued by: UKRI-UKRO
Issued date: 09 June 2023
Work Package Leader: InnovationAuth (IL)

UK Research Office Brussels

https://msca-net.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Task-3.6-Open_science_Brief.pdf

Addressing gender and intersectionality

Needs to be considered in terms of the research, training, personnel involved in the project

➢ Are gender norms embedded in the concepts, theories and models used by your research field? If so, how do these gender norms/assumptions influence the research area?

➢ How do gender and interconnected social categorizations, such as race, class etc. shape your research question and desired outcomes?

➢ Do the chosen methodology(ies) ensure that gender, and other connected social characterizations, are considered and investigated?

➢ Have you explained the project's approach to gender and intersectionality throughout the research life cycle?

➢ Have you explained how including sex and gender findings will increase the quality of the research and enhance the impact and relevance of the results?

➢ Do you have a divers panel of external/independent evaluators?

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POLICY-BRIEF: GENDER EQUALITY
Deliverable 3.11

NETWORK OF THE MARIE SKLODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

Task 3.6   Policy Briefs
Issued by: UKRI-UKRO
Issued date: 02 June 2023
Work Package Leader: InnovationAuth (IL)

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Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication

Includes communicating about the programme (awareness raising, structural impact), communication, dissemination and exploitation of results, and communication skills of the researchers

- **The programme**
  - ✓ Who are the key stakeholders that need to know about your programme and why?
    - ▪ Structural change vs recruiting talented researchers
  - ✓ Where do I need to direct my activities to reach these audiences?
    - ▪ Which websites/publication tools will I use to advertise the vacancies (must advertise on <u>EURAXESS</u> as a minimum)
  - ✓ What communications skills do the researchers need?
    - ▪ How will the training provided/partners included help to ensure these skills are met?

MSCA-NET ●

MSCA-NET

COFUND HANDBOOK
CALL 2022
Deliverable 3.4.

NETWORK OF THE MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

Task 3.4.	Handbooks
Issued by:	Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes, Croatia
Issued data:	21 December 2022
Work Package Leader:	InnovationAuth (IL)

UK Research Office
Brussels

<u>https://msca-net.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/MSCA_COFUND_Handbook_2022.pdf</u>

Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication

Individual Project Results

Dissemination

Promotion and raising awareness of project results

Exploitation

Using the results, such as for commercial purposes or in public policymaking

Communication

Making your research activities known to society throughout project life span – Public Engagement

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https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/58ad3394-0a63-11ee-b12e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-287940279

Addressing D,E & C

	Objective	Focus	Target Audience
Communication	Researching out to society Demonstrating impact and benefits	Informing about and promoting the project and the results/successes	Multiple audiences
Dissemination	Transfer of knowledge and results Aim to enable others to use and take up results	Ensure results are available and able to be used by others	Those that are interested in the potential use of the results
Exploitation	Use of project results through scientific, economical, political or societal exploitations Turn R&I actions into concrete value and impact for society	Make concrete use of results	People/organisations, including project partners that can make concrete use of the results User groups

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Proposal Advice

- Read all call documentation and the evaluation criteria on the 2023 MSCA COFUND Call Webpage.

- Closely follow the call requirements and the proposal template

- Be in line with the action's objectives and expected outcomes

- Describe the benefits of cooperation and how they can go beyond this project

- Make it easy for the evaluators to find the information

- Use clear and concise language

- Include diagrams, images, tables if appropriate

- Research previous and current projects

- Find colleagues to proofread drafts with the evaluation criteria in mind

- Consider any relevant EU policy documents and highlight that your proposal addresses EU policy priorities and/or societal challenges

Q&A Session

Selected questions asked by the participants

Examples of funded projects

Funded projects can be found on the [CORIDS website](#) .

Some examples include:

- [Centre for Applied Creative Technologies](#)
  - recruited 6 Postdoctoral Researchers
  - Mono-beneficiary with NO implementation partners
  - Led by Bournemouth University
  - Funded under H2020
  - EC contribution: 441 360,00 EUR

- [Strengthening International Research Capacity in Wales](#)
  - recruited 90 Postdoctoral Researchers
  - Managed by the Welsh Government
  - Funded under H2020
  - EC Contribution: 9 558 000,00 EUR

- [Doctoral training in fundamental quantum science and technologies](#)
  - Will recruit 36 PhD students

- Involves 30 associated partners, academics and industry professionals and 17 laboratories
- Led by Grenoble Alpes University
- Funded under Horizon Europe
- EC Contribution: 3 628 800,00 EUR

- [Australia-France Network of Doctoral Excellence](#)
  - Will recruit 64 PhD students
  - Involves 22 French partners and 15 Australian universities
  - Led by Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Spain SL
  - EC Contribution: 7 526 400,00 EUR

- [Young International Academics Postdoctoral Programme](#)
  - Will recruit 10 Postdoctoral Researchers
  - Led by University of Luxembourg
  - EU Contribution: 1 432 800,00 EUR

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Success rates

2022 MSCA COFUND call

- 107 applications
- Will fund 30 MSCA COFUND projects: 16 doctoral training and 14 postdoctoral fellowship
- This corresponds to a total funding of €95 million, and a success rate of 28.6%.
- UK entities are involved in 114 evaluated proposals as a partner. Of these , 21 projects are on the main list (funded) and 11 projects are on the reserve list.

2021 MSCA COFUND call

- 116 applications
- Will fund 26 MSCA COFUND projects: 13 doctoral training and 13 postdoctoral fellowship
- This corresponds to a total funding of €89 million, and a success rate of 22.4%.
- 15 UK organisations are involved in eight successful COFUND post-doctoral fellowship programmes and ten UK organisations are involved in six COFUND doctoral training programmes.

- There are currently no resubmission restrictions

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Large or Small Project?

- The size of the project will depend on the identified training and research needs and available match funding

- There is no bias towards larger or smaller sized projects

- Important to read and understand the evaluation criteria and expected outcome (impact) of the call

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Scope of the project – the research programme and selection of individual research projects

- The COFUND project can be targeted towards a specific research area/disciple or have a broader remit
  - The decision must be explained keeping in mind the evaluation criteria and overall aims (expected impact) of the call
  - Address under Section 1 Excellence
    - 1.2 Quality and novelty of the research options offered by the programme in terms of science, interdisciplinarity, inter sectorality, and level of transnational mobility…
      - Describe the research options offer by the programme
      - Excellence of the research programme
      - Quality of the research options in terms of interdisciplinary research options, intersectorality (mobility between the academic and non-academic sector) and international networking

- Recruited researchers need to propose their own research topics
  - This can be done as part of the selection process, or at a later date
  - This should be described as part of section 1.2
  - If it will be part of the selection process, it should also be included under section 1.1 Quality and novelty of the selection / recruitment process for the researchers (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities, the gender dimension and other diversity aspects) and quality and attractiveness of the appointment conditions, including competitiveness of the salary for the standards of the hosting countries
    - Demonstrate the transparency of the selection process of the researchers

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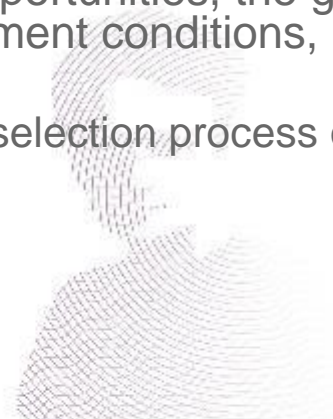
Resources to support proposal development

- MSCA-NET handbook
  - [COFUND](), [Doctoral Networks](); Postdoctoral Fellowships
- MSCA-NET Policy Briefs
  - [Missions](), [Green Deal](), [Open Science](), [Gender](), [Synergies]() (coming)
- MSCA documentation
  - [COFUND guide for applicants, instructions on how to fill in the template, guidance on the steps to prepare your applications, evaluation forms, MSCA work programme]()

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Resources

MSCA Work Programme 2023-2024 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Website https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/

Horizon Europe MSCA - How to apply https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en#ecl-inpage-293

MSCA-NET project https://msca-net.eu/

UKRO Portal https://www.ukro.ac.uk/

Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home

Horizon Europe Strategic Plan https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/3c6ffd74-8ac3-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1

Horizon Europe Programme Guide https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

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Thank you

Questions?

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