



HORIZON EUROPE

THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

Research and
Innovation



HORIZON EUROPE

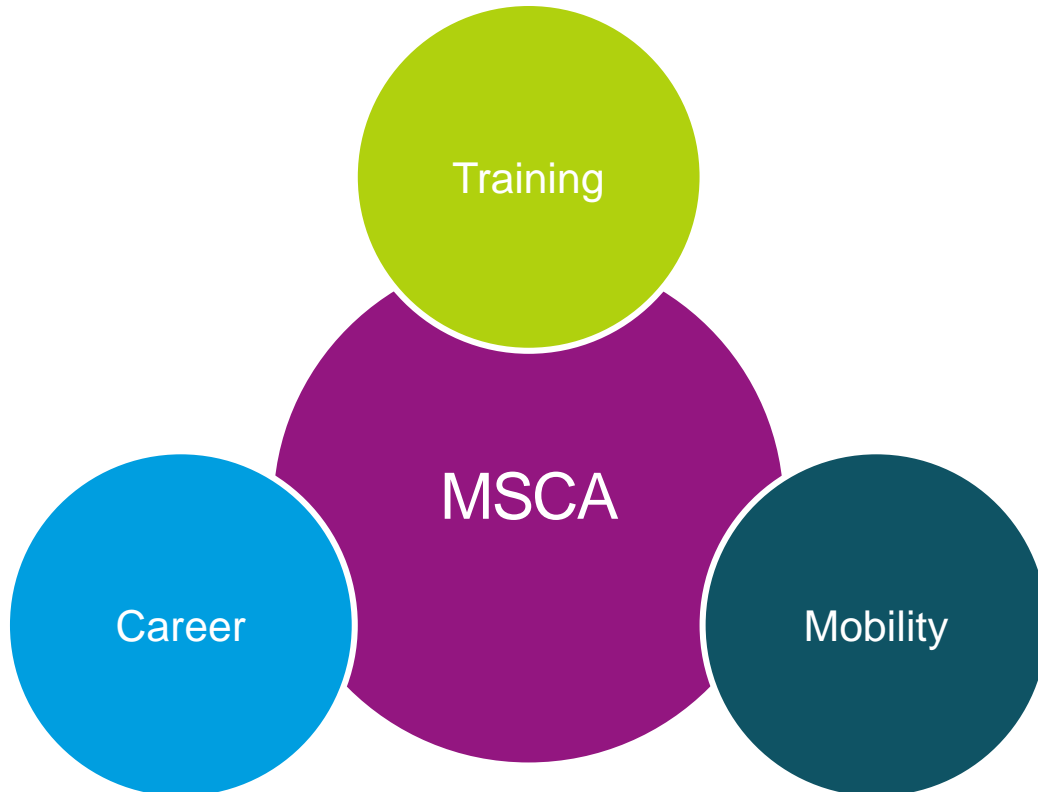
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)



Overview of MSC Actions

- **Doctoral Networks (DN)**
Research training of doctoral candidates
- **Postdoctoral Fellowships (IF):**
Career development of Postdocs
- **Staff Exchanges (SE):**
Cooperation by means of staff exchange
- **Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND):**
Co-Funding of Doctoral or Fellowship Programmes
- **MSCA and Citizens:**
Pan-European Researchers' Night to promote research careers

MSCA: Basic Principles



- **Scientific excellence**
- **Career development** and **innovative research training**
- **Bottom-up approach**
- **Transnational mobility** is the key element
- Open to hosts from **academic and non-academic sector** > career perspectives in academia **AND** industry

TRAINING OF DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)



DN: General Information

- Institutions from EU Member States and Associated Countries to HE (MS/AC) form a network with a **research training programme, including individual projects for doctoral candidates** and apply for funding
- **Innovative Training** of doctoral candidates, each with a maximum of 36 months
- **Recruitment and employment** of doctoral candidates of any nationality with employment contract including social security coverage
- **Doctoral candidates** must, at the date of recruitment by the beneficiary, have not been awarded a doctoral degree

DN: Minimum Participation

- At least **three** (also for Industrial Doctorates) independent legal entities, each established in a different EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country and with at least one of them established in an EU Member State
- All beneficiaries must **recruit at least one** doctoral candidate
- Doctoral Candidates can be of **any nationality**

DN: Types of Networks

- **Doctoral Networks**
max. of 360 person months (10 doctoral candidates for 36 months each)
- **Industrial Doctorates**
up to 540 person months
 - doctoral candidates have to spend time in the non-academic sector (min. 50%)
 - min. 1 academic and 1 non-academic entity (can be in the same country)
- **Joint Doctorates**
up to 540 person months
 - joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees
 - entities must be entitled to award doctoral degrees
 - at least two of the institutions must be established in a MS/AC

DN: Mobility Rule

- Doctoral Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date

DN: Funding

- Only unit costs
- Living Allowance is multiplied by correction coefficient of the host country (e.g. Georgia: 62.2%)
- Allowances are employer's gross amount

Researcher unit costs [person/month]				Institutional unit costs [person/month]	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Long-term leave allowance	Research, Training and Networking	Management and indirect contributions
3400 €* 600 €	600 €	660 €	4000 € x % covered by the beneficiary	1600 €	1200 €

Family Allowance: Can be adapted now if the researcher acquires family obligations during the action duration

Vacancies – PhD position

- DN vacancies have to be published on the EURAXESS portal:

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs>

The screenshot shows the EURAXESS portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with options: Home, Jobs and Funding, Career Development, Partnering, Information and Assistance, National Portals, and Worldwide. Below the menu, a breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Jobs & Funding > 10 PhD positions in the Doctoral Network 'Quantum and Classical Ultrasoft Matter' (QLUSTER, HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN). The main heading is "10 PhD positions in the Doctoral Network 'Quantum and Classical Ultrasoft Matter' (QLUSTER, HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN)". A notice box contains the text: "Dear user, the EURAXESS portal has been renewed to offer you a better and more secure experience. You might encounter minor inconveniences as we are concluding the upgrade and migration to a new content management system." Below the notice, there is a table of job information.

Organisation/Company	CFM (CSIC-UPV/EHU)
Department	Polymers and Soft Matter (Cluster project)
Research Field	Physics » Other
Researcher Profile	First Stage Researcher (R1)

DN: Panels

Applications are submitted & evaluated in eight scientific panels:

- Chemistry (CHE)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
- Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Physics (PHY)

DN: Evaluation Criteria

- Excellence (50%)
- Impact (30%)
- Quality and efficiency of the implementation (20%)
- Proposals submitted to the previous call of MSCA Doctoral Networks under Horizon Europe and **having received a score of less than 80%** should not be resubmitted the following year

DN Call 2023

Open	Budget	Deadline
30. May 2023	434.8 Mio. €	28. November 2023

- Call 2021: **1076** proposals, **144** projects funded, budget: **405** Mio. €
- Success rate: **13.4** %

CO-FUNDING OF DOCTORAL AND FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAMMES

Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes (COFUND)





Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)

Two different funding lines:

- Doctoral Programme (for doctoral candidates; Allowance: 2800 €)
- Fellowship Programme (for Postdocs; Allowance: 3980 €)

Requirements:

- Project proposals are submitted by host organisations
- Resulting jobs are published on the EURAXESS portal
- Researchers apply directly at the selected organisations

COFUND – Funding

COFUND Allowance must be spent for the salary of the researcher

Other costs occur:

- Research, networking and knowledge transfer
- Management and overheads, top-up for salary

→ The beneficiary pays at least the same amount the EC provides

Researcher Unit Costs + Institutional Unit Costs [person/month]		
	COFUND Allowance	NEW! Long-term leave allowance
Doctoral Programmes	2800 €	2800 € x % Share of the grant recipient
Postdoctoral Programmes	3980 €	3980 € x % Share of the grant recipient

Except for Horizon Europe other EU funding sources (e.g. Structural Funds) can be used for own contributions

COFUND Call 2023

Open	Budget	Deadline
10. October 2023	96.57 Mio. €	8. February 2024

- Call 2021: **116** proposals, **26** projects funded, budget: **89** Mio. €
- Success rate: **22.41** %

CAREER DEVELOPMENT OF
POSTDOCS

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)



General Information Postdoctoral Fellowships

- **Research areas:** No pre-defined research topics (»bottom-up«)
- Eligibility:
 - Postdocs only:** successfully defended doctoral thesis at the call deadline
 - Scientific age:** up to 8 years full-time equivalent experience in research after PhD career breaks (e.g. due to parental leave), will not be taken into account
- **Working conditions:** Generally full-time employment contract including social security benefits
- **Application:** researcher with the host institution active in Research & Development

PF Programme Lines: an Overview



Possibility for additional period of up to six months to support researchers seeking a placement at the end of the project to work on R&I projects in an organisation from the non-academic sector established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Panels

Postdoctoral Fellowships will be evaluated in eight scientific panels:

- Chemistry (CHE)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
- Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Physics (PHY)

European Fellowship

- 1 to 2-year **research stay in Europe**
(MS/AC) + optional additional placement in non-academic sector (MS/AC; max. 6 months)
- Postdocs of **any nationality**
(→ mobility rule)
- **Host institution:**
must be active in Research & Development,
e.g. university, research organisation, company (incl. SMEs), NGO, ...
- Submission and evaluation in eight **scientific panels**: CHE, SOC, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY



Global Fellowships

- One to two-year **research stay outside of Europe** (→ mobility rule) + **mandatory** one-year **return phase in Europe** (MS/AC) + optional additional placement in non-academic sector (MS/AC; max. 6 months)
- **Postdocs** with **MS/AC nationality or MS/AC long-term residents** (at least five consecutive years; absence: max. 6 consecutive months + 10 months in total)
- **Two host institutions:**
 - One in a Third Country (partner organisation)
 - One in MS/AC (return phase), contractual partner of the EU (employer for the whole time)
- Submission and evaluation in eight scientific panels: CHE, SOC, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY

Postdoctoral Fellowships – Funding

- Only unit costs
- Living Allowance is multiplied by correction coefficient of the host country (e.g. Georgia 62.2%)
- Allowances are employer's gross amount

Researcher unit costs [person/month]				Institutional unit costs [person/month]	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Long-term leave allowance	Research, Training and Networking	Management and indirect contributions
5080 €* 5080 € x 62.2%	600 €	660 €	5680 € x % covered by the beneficiary	1000 €	650 €

Family Allowance: can be adapted, if the researcher acquires family obligations during the action duration.

Application and Submission

- Call for applications once a year, dates can be found in the respective work programme
- Proposals submitted to the previous call of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe and having received a score of less than 70% should not be resubmitted the following year
- The Research Executive Agency prefers the host organisation to submit the proposal
- The host organisation will sign the Grant Agreement and the fellow will be employed with a working contract (social security) by the host organisation
- Proposals are submitted in a single stage and evaluated in one step

Submission and Time Frame

- Evaluation: max. 5 months
- Grant Preparation: max. 3 months to sign the grant agreement

Earliest possible starting date: beginning of the following month after signing the grant agreement

Latest possible starting date: 12 months after signing the grant agreement (exceptions are possible)

Postdoctoral Fellowships Call 2023

Open	Budget	Deadline
12. April 2023	260.47 Mio. €	13. September 2023

- Call 2021: **8,356** applications, **1,156** projects funded, budget: **242** Mio €
- Success rate: **13.8** %

COOPERATION THROUGH STAFF EXCHANGES

MSCA Staff Exchanges



MSCA Staff Exchanges – Aims and Conditions

- Funding of **international** and **intersectoral** (academic – non-academic) cooperation
- **Knowledge transfer** from research to market (and vice versa)
- Common **research and innovation culture**
- At least **3 institutions from 3 different countries**, at least two of them from MS/AS
- If all institutions from the same sector, one should be from a **Third Country (TC)**

MSCA Staff Exchanges research and innovation projects

- **Secondments** for researchers (from PhD candidates to postdocs) as well as for administrative, managerial and technical staff supporting R&I activities with mandatory **returning phase** to sending institutions
- Creating **complementary competences** of the participating organisations
- **Career development** of the involved staff
- **Networking:** Workshops, Conferences, ...
- **Funding:** 4 years – max. of 360 PM

MSCA Staff Exchanges – Funding

- „Unit costs“ only
- The top-up allowance for the seconded staff member covers travel, accommodation and subsistence costs related to the secondment.

Contributions for seconded staff members [person/month]	Institutional contributions [person/month]	
Top-up allowance	Research, Training and Networking	Management and indirect contributions
2300 €	1300 €	1000 €

Staff Exchanges Call 2023

Open	Budget	Deadline
5. October 2023	78.5 Mio. €	28. February 2024

- Call 2021: **209** applications, **71** projects funded, budget: **72** Mio €
- Success rate: **34** %

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MSCA job search & career development support via EURAXESS



MSCA Jobs:

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/search>

Search for jobs

i Dear user, the EURAXESS portal has been renewed to offer you a better and more secure experience. You might encounter minor inconveniences as we are concluding the upgrade and migration to a new content management system.

Filter by

Keywords

Country

European Research Programme

Select all

HE / MSCA

Search for jobs (133)

EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROGRAMME

HE / MSCA

HE / MSCA COFUND

Showing results 1 to 10

30

JAN

2023

BELGIUM

DE DUVE INSTITUTE

1 PhD position in the MSCA Doctoral Network "BREAKthrough"

DC03: Identification of new OM destabilizers by targeting RcsF-Bam and the crosslinking of Lpp to the PG Project description Antimicrobial resistance, which is caused by multi-drug-resistant bacterial pathogens is a global health emergency. Gram-negative bacteria notably hinder effective treatment...

Application Deadline

17/02/2023 - 20:00 (Europe/Brussels)

Career Development resources for researchers at EURAXESS

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/career-development/researchers>



Home > Career Development > for researchers

i Dear user, the EURAXESS portal has been renewed to offer you a better and more secure experience. You might encounter minor inconveniences as we are concluding the upgrade and migration to a new content management system.

**Career development resources
for researchers**

FIND PERSONALISED ASSISTANCE **FIND INFORMATION**

NEW TO CAREER DEVELOPMENT **INDUSTRY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP** **TOOLS AND RESOURCES** **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

A banner image showing a group of diverse researchers smiling and collaborating. The text "Career development resources for researchers" is overlaid in white. Below the text are two yellow buttons: "FIND PERSONALISED ASSISTANCE" and "FIND INFORMATION". At the bottom of the banner are four dark grey buttons with white text: "NEW TO CAREER DEVELOPMENT", "INDUSTRY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP", "TOOLS AND RESOURCES", and "POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS".

International Mentoring Programme

Take part in the Mentoring Programme "Shape the future of a researcher coming to Europe" and sharpen your professional and interpersonal skills



HORIZON EUROPE

ERC BASICS

European Research Council



Scientific Excellence as sole criterion

- Scientific Autonomy
- Portability of grants
- Ground-breaking
- Frontier Research
- Investigator-driven
- High risk – high gain
- All research fields “Bottom-Up”

ERC target groups

- Starting Grants: excellent PIs at the career stage at which they are starting their own independent research team/programme
- Consolidator Grants: excellent PIs at the career stage at which they may still be consolidating their own independent research team/programme
- Advanced Grants: excellent PIs at the career stage of already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements

ERC Grant Schemes (I/II)

	Starting Grants	Consolidator Grants	Advanced Grants	Synergy Grants	Proof of Concept
Target group	scientists 2-7 years after PhD	scientists 7-12 years after PhD	Established scientists	2-4 scientists	ERC Grantees
Max. duration	5 years	5 years	5 years	6 years	18 months
Max. budget	1.5 Mio. € (2.5 Mio.€)*	2 Mio. € (3 Mio.€)*	2.5 Mio. € (3.5 Mio.€)*	10 Mio. € (14 Mio. €)*	150 000 €

* Additional costs in case of high equipment costs or PI from Third Country, other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs

ERC Grant Schemes (II/II)

	Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant	Advanced Grant	Synergy Grant
On the ERC project	50%	40%	30%	30% (each PI)
In the EU / AC	50%	50%	50%	50% (for each PI with a Host Institution in the EU/AS)

ERC Starting Grants – Overview

Target group	2-7 years after PhD (extensions possible in exceptional cases; special rules for MD)
Funding	max. EUR 1.5 million for max. 5 years (exception: + EUR 1 million e.g. for major equipment or access to large facilities)
Host institution	in EU Member State or Associated Country
Time commitment	≥ 50% (≥ 50% in Europe)
Procedure	single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation (incl. interview)
Call	annually

ERC Consolidator Grants – Overview

Target group	7-12 years after PhD (extensions possible in exceptional cases)
Funding	max. EUR 2 million for max. 5 years (exception: + EUR 1 million e.g. for major equipment or access to large facilities)
Host institution	in EU Member State or Associated Country
Time commitment	≥ 40% (≥ 50% in Europe)
Procedure	single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation (incl. interview)
Call	annually

ERC Advanced Grants – Overview

Target group	1 PI (and team) – from anywhere in world
Benchmark / eligibility	Established researcher, outstanding 10 yr record
Funding	max. € 2.5 Mio. for max. 5 years (exception: + EUR 1 million e.g. for major equipment or access to large facilities)
Host institution	EU Member State or associated country
Time commitment	≥ 30% time, min. 50% in EU / AC
Submission / evaluation	Single Stage Submission / Two-Stage evaluation Submit via Portal*, using current call documents!
Submission deadline	Annually

Extensions of the eligibility period

- Maternity before/after PhD: 18 months per child
- Extension by the documented time:
 - Maternity before/after PhD leave > 18 months
 - Paternity before/after PhD
 - Military/civil service after PhD
 - Long-term illness of the PI or a close family member (>90 days) after PhD
 - Clinical training after the award of the first eligible degree (up to 4 years)

Funding Modalities



- Direct eligible costs, 100%
- Salary of PI and project team (Postdocs, PhD Students, Technicians etc.) (partly/full)
- Consumables
- Equipment Costs (depreciation rates apply)
- Travel Costs
- Publications Costs (including open access)
- Subcontracts and other
- Indirect costs, 25% of direct costs

ERC Call calendar 2022/2023

Indicative summary of calls from the 2023 budget¹⁹

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>
<i>Call identifier</i>	ERC-2023-StG	ERC-2023-CoG	ERC-2023-AdG	ERC-2023-SyG
<i>Call opens</i>	12/07/2022	28/09/2022	08/12/2022	13/07/2022
<i>Call deadline</i>	25/10/2022	02/02/2023	23/05/2023	08/11/2022

ERC Call statistics 2022

ERC Starting Grants 2022

Submitted and Selected Proposals by Domain

	Submitted Proposals	Selected Proposals
Life Sciences	860	124
Physical Sciences and Engineering	1224	168
Social Sciences and Humanities	848	116
TOTAL	2932	408
Success rate ~ 13.9 %		

Main Documents to be used

- [ERC work programme 2023](#)
- [ERC Rules of submission and evaluation under Horizon Europe](#)
- Information for Applicants: call specific, e.g. [Advanced Grant 2023](#)
- Familiarize yourself early with the evaluation sub-criteria and the [electronic submission system](#)





One Evaluation Criteria: Excellence

Research Project:

Ground-breaking nature , ambition and feasibility

- Address important challenges
- Ambitious objectives & beyond the state of the art
- High risk / high gain

Scientific Approach

- Feasibility
- Appropriateness of research methodology to achieve goals
- Development of novel methodology
- Timescales, resources & time commitment

Principal Investigator

- Ability to conduct ground-breaking research
- Evidence of creative independent thinking
- Scientific expertise & capacity to execute the project

Evaluation Basics

- 2 stage evaluation, stage 1 only B1 will be reviewed
- Peer-review: research field specific evaluation panels consisting of 1 panel chair and 10-15 members
- Three scientific domains:
 - Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE): 11 panels
 - Life Sciences (LS): 9 panels
 - Social Sciences & Humanities (SH): 7 panels
- Applicants choose panel and indicate one or more keywords
- Up to 3 reviewers can be excluded in advance
- + External reviewers in Stage 2 of the evaluation + Interviews for StG,CoG, AdG and SyG

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

For questions and advice please contact your
National Contact Points MSCA & ERC

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/support>

Please find the work programme and calls in the Funding &
Tenders Portal <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon>



Contact us!

- Trainer 1
- Trainer 2
- eu-eap_sticooperation@servicefacility.eu



Thank you!

#HorizonEU

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>



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