



Business Participation in MSCA under Horizon Europe

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) key features

- **Support the mobility, training and career development** of researchers from **all over the world** through excellent doctorates, postdoctoral fellowships and collaborative projects
- For researchers at **every stage** of their career
- Stimulating **international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary** cooperation
- Promotion of **attractive working and employment** conditions (financing rate of up to 100%, Charter and Code)
- Support excellent research in all domains (**bottom-up**)
- Open to all organisations. Participation of **non-academic sector** strongly encouraged, **especially industry and SMEs**
- Impacting **researcher careers, organisations, structures**



MSCA in H2020: key figures (2014-2020)

+65,000

Researchers,
including
25,000 PhD
candidates

+8,900

joint public-
private peer-
reviewed
publications

6.2 billion €

Under
Horizon 2020

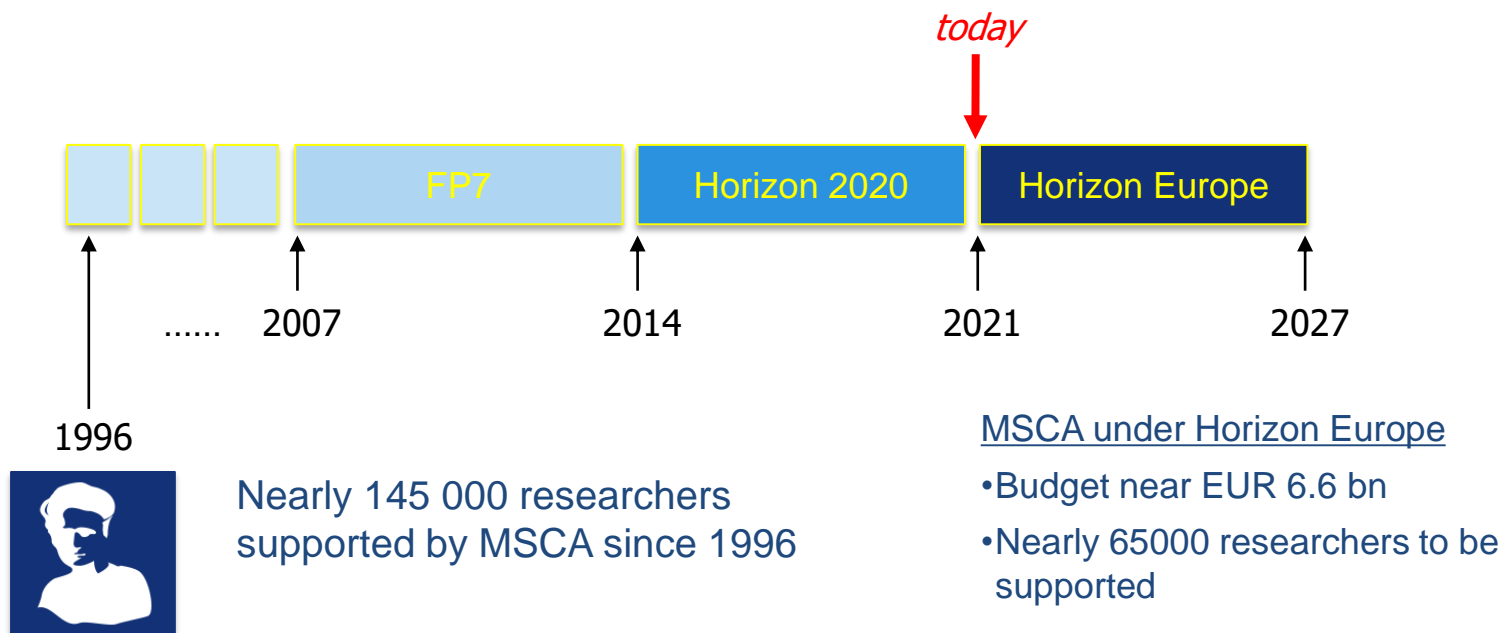
+4,500

Private
organisations
supported
(+2000 SMEs)

**+800 patent
applications
(FP7 &
H2020)**

High
satisfaction of
training on
transferable
skills

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)



The MSCA under Horizon Europe



Pillar 1
Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures



Pillar 2
Global Challenges and
European Industrial
Competitiveness

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre



Pillar 3
Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation
ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation
and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

Why business participation in MSCA- policy context

- **European Research Area:**
 - building a common scientific and technological area for the EU
 - Creating a single market for research and innovation fostering free movement of researchers, scientific knowledge and innovation,
 - encouraging a more competitive European industry
- **Commission's plan for a new ERA**
 - enhance cooperation among universities, business and other research and innovation actors
- **HE Strategic Plan:**
 - cooperation between universities, scientific communities and industry, including small and medium enterprises, and citizens

Positive impact of business participation in MSCA

For the researcher	For the organisation
Development of transferable skills	Funded recruitment/hosting of world class researchers
Improved employability	Access to state of the art technologies & infrastructures
Expand employment opportunities outside academia	Help building strong and active networks
Increased impact of their research	Help produce marketable innovations
Enhanced entrepreneurial spirit	Contribute in researchers' training programmes/ curricula

Evolution in the MSCA's implementation

- **Streamlined actions**, clearer identity and target groups
- **Simpler** rules, **fine-tuned** definitions (doctoral/postdoctoral), **harmonised** conditions (e.g. single mobility rule, duration of secondments)
- Strengthening **inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary and international** dimensions. Incentives for **building bridges between academia and non-academic sector**.
 - Reference in the **expected impact and outcome**, in **award criteria & priority order for ex-aequo proposals**
- **Demand management** to maintain high-quality and attractiveness (maximum limits in eligibility of researchers, resubmission restrictions from 2022)
- Guidelines on **supervision** and **environmentally responsible practices** (MSCA Green Charter)
- Reinforced synergies within Horizon Europe and between programmes: **Euratom, ERC, Research Infrastructures, EIT, EIC, Erasmus+, COST, ...**
- Synergies between funding instruments: **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); European Social Fund (ESF+), Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**
- Increase of and more flexibility for the family allowance
- New allowances: long-term leave and special needs

Academic and non-academic sector definitions

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
 - ✓ Including industry, business, SMEs

The Actions

Doctoral Networks

Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

MSCA Doctoral Networks

- **Multi-beneficiary action** to set up innovative **doctoral programmes**:
 - **Doctoral Networks**
 - ✓ Training highly-skilled doctoral candidates
 - **Industrial Doctorates**, achieving the objectives above by
 - ✓ Training in **academia and industry**
 - ✓ Joint supervision
 - **Joint Doctorates**
 - ✓ Joint collaborations leading to a joint/double/multiple doctoral degree
 - ✓ Joint selection, supervision and governance structure
- **Target group**
 - **doctoral candidates**, i.e. researchers without a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment; mandatory enrolment in a doctoral programme
- **Who applies?**
 - **consortia** of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, **businesses including SMEs**, and other socio-economic actors; each of them to recruit at least 1 researcher
 - Minimum country participation: at least **three independent legal entities**, each established in a different MS or AC; minimum of 1 beneficiary from a MS (on top of this minimum, any entity from any third country can join)
- **Programme Duration: max. 48 months**



MSCA Doctoral Networks- *opportunities for business*

- **Possibility for DN and JD – focus of Industrial Doctorates**

- Minimum 3 beneficiaries (min 1 from academic and **min 1 from non-academic**)
- Incentive : **size up to max 540 person-months** (360 for standard DNs + 180 person-months for joint & industrial doctorates)
- **Researchers step outside academia** and develop skills in industry and business
- **Min. 50% of total fellowship duration in non-academic sector**
- **Joint supervision** by academic/non-academic organisations. Both participating organisations can be in the same country (EU MS or AC)



- **Secondments**

- Inter-sectoral secondments of researchers ...are encouraged when relevant, feasible and beneficial for the researchers and in line with the project objectives.

- **Priority order for *ex-aequo* proposals**

- Inter alia...participation of the non-academic sector (including involvement of SMEs) ...

Postdoctoral Fellowships



- **Focus**

- Enhance the **creative and innovative potential** of researchers holding a PhD (training on transferable skills & career development)
- Bridges and **exposure to the non-academic sector**

Who applies? Legal entity in an EU Member State or HE AC- Applications will be made jointly by the researcher and a beneficiary in the academic or non-academic sector

Recruited Researchers- Target Groups:

- any nationality (GF: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC) / in possession of PhD / up to 8 years research experience after PhD (with exceptions= career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers)/ mobility
- **European Fellowships** (12-24 months) – discontinuations of panels
- **Global Fellowships** (outgoing 12-24 months; return 12 months)

Postdoctoral Fellowships- *opportunities for business*



- **Placement in the non-academic sector**
 - Optional placement with max. duration of **up to 6 months** at the end of the project to work on R&I projects in an organisation from the non-academic sector (EU/AC) – letter of Commitment
- **Inter-sectoral secondments**
 - Max. 1/3 of total duration of fellowship (For participants in the Global Fellowship: outgoing phase only)
- **Priority order for *ex-aequo* proposals**
 - Inter alia ...participation of the non-academic sector (including involvement of SMEs)...

Staff Exchanges

- **Multi-beneficiary Action** to support collaborative R&I activities through staff exchanges.
- **Scope**
 - MSCA Staff Exchanges involve organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (including SMEs) from across the globe.
 - Support is provided for international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of R&I staff leading to knowledge transfer between participating organisations.
- **Duration** : 4 years for project implementation/ max. 360 person-months per project / secondments from 1 to 12 months;
- **Target group**: any type of staff at any stage of career contributing to research activities (researchers, administrative & managerial staff, technicians, infrastructure operators,...)
- **Who applies**:
 - consortia of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, **businesses including SMEs**, and other socio-economic actors

Staff Exchanges- *opportunities for business*

- **Inter-sectoral secondments**

- Inter-sectoral secondments (worldwide) are possible & encouraged
- Secondments between organisations within the EU and Associated Countries should mainly **be inter-sectoral**. Same sector (e.g. university-university) exchanges are also possible, provided they are interdisciplinary and do not exceed 1/3 of the total months spent under the action (i.e. max 120 out of 360 person-months)

- **Priority order for *ex-aequo* proposals**

- Inter alia... participation of the non-academic sector (including involvement of SMEs)...

MSCA COFUND

- **Mono-beneficiary action** to **co-fund** new or existing national, regional, institutional schemes – complementary funding
 - for **doctoral training and postdoctoral programmes**
- **Duration**
 - Programme: max. 60 months - Fellowship: min 3 months
- **Target groups**
 - **Doctoral candidates**, i.e. researchers without a doctoral degree at the deadline of the co-funded programme's call; mandatory enrolment in a doctoral programme
 - **Postdoctoral researchers**, i.e. researchers with a doctoral degree at the deadline of the co-funded programme's call
- **Who applies?**
 - Single legal entity established in an EU Member State or HE Associated country
- **Focus**
 - Spread **best practices** of the MSCA by promoting **high standards** in the recruitment process and **excellent working conditions**
 - Introduce **sustainable structuring effects**.

COFUND- *opportunities for business*

- in **doctoral** training programmes and **postdoctoral** fellowships
- Cross-sectoral mobility encouraged. **Intersectoral secondments**
max 1/3 duration
- **Priority order for ex-aequo proposals**
 - Inter alia ...participation of the non-academic sector (including involvement of SMEs)...

Tentative Call Calendar

Year	Action	Estimated opening*	Estimated deadline*
2021	Doctoral Networks	22 June 2021	16 November 2021
	Postdoctoral Fellowships	22 June 2021	12 October 2021
	Staff Exchanges	7 October 2021	9 March 2022
	COFUND	12 October 2021	10 February 2022
	MSCA and Citizens (covers 2 editions)	22 June 2021	7 October 2021
2022	Doctoral Networks	3 May 2022	15 November 2022
	Postdoctoral Fellowships	13 April 2022	14 September 2022
	Staff Exchanges	6 October 2022	8 March 2023
	COFUND	11 October 2022	9 February 2023
	MSCA and Citizens	No call foreseen in 2022	

**Dates to be confirmed with the adoption of the Work Programme*

The information in this presentation is preliminary and subject to the adoption of the work programme

Thank you

Links

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Website

https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/node_en

MSCA Pocket Guide

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/758a6af6-82ad-11ea-bf12-01aa75ed71a1>

Funding and Tenders Portal (applications, documents, partner search)

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/h2020>

Euraxess (PhD and postdoctoral vacancies, more information)

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

European Charter and Code for Researchers

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/euraxess/charter-code-researchers>

MCAA (Marie Curie Alumni association)

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu>

National Contact Points

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

Enterprise Europe Network

<https://een.ec.europa.eu/>

Research Enquiry Service

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service_en