



UK Research Office
Brussels

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Staff Exchanges

Session 1: Overview,
Eligibility & Funding

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November 2024

Agenda

1 Introduction

2 Introduction to Staff Exchange

3 Eligibility Criteria

4 Calculating the Budget



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About UKRO

We support UK based organisations involved in EU R&I

- Maximise UK participation in Horizon Europe
- 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 for:
 - [European Research Council](#), [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programmes](#), [Widening Participation](#) and [COST](#)

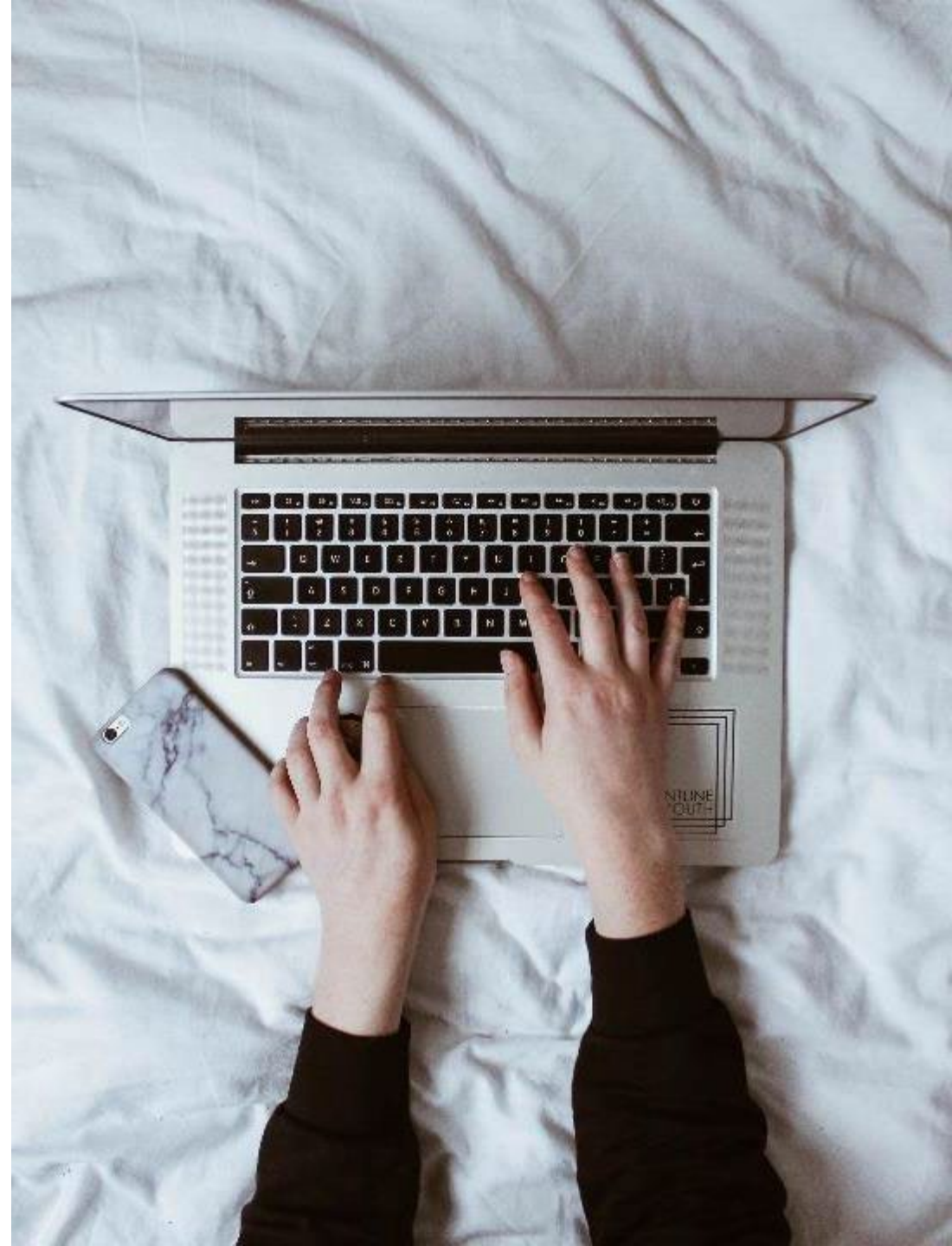


Dedicated MSCA, ERC, WIDERA and COST Resources

- [Sign up for NCP newsletters](#) delivered straight 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 UK National Contact Points](#)



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UK's Relationship with the EU

Participation in Horizon Europe



Horizon Europe Participation

UK Association

- On 24 December 2020, the negotiations on the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement concluded
- The [announcement](#) confirmed **the UK's intention to associate to Horizon Europe**
- **As of the 1 January 2024, the UK associated to the Horizon Europe programme**
- This includes **full participation in the programme** (except for the EIC Fund)
- UK entities can participate in/coordinate projects and receive funding from Horizon Europe, **incl. all MSC Actions**
- [European Commission's Q&A](#) confirms UK eligibility
- UKRO [website](#) provides latest information on UK participation



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Horizon Europe participation

All 2024 (and subsequent) MSCA Work Programme calls will be covered by the UK's association to Horizon Europe, with applicants receiving their funding directly from the European Commission.

They will be able to participate **as beneficiaries** with the same rights and obligations as EU MS, including the possibility to coordinate consortia.

“UK researchers will be able to fully participate in the Horizon Europe programme on the same terms as researchers from other associated countries, including leading consortia, from the 2024 Work Programmes and onwards – including any 2024 calls opening this year.”

Joint Statement by the European Commission and the UK Government,
7 September 2023.

Introduction to MSCA

Policy Overview



Horizon Europe

Pillar 1: Reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Unions science base



* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

MSCA sets out to:

- Equip researchers with **new knowledge and skills** through **mobility and training**
- Create impact on researchers, institutions and systems
- Contribute to EU priorities with a bottom-up approach, including through
 - The **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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How Does MSCA Do This?

- Encourages people to become researchers and innovators
- Equips researchers with the necessary skills and international experience
- Supports long term employability
- Develops attractive career opportunities
- Fosters an innovation and develop entrepreneurial mindset
- Promotes the EU's global attractiveness for talents

Enhance the skills of people in research and innovation

Contribute to excellent research through a 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



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.



MSCA Staff Exchanges

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01



Call details

MSCA Staff Exchanges 2024 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01)

Indicative timeline

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Call opens | 19 September 2024 |
| Call deadline | 05 February 2025 4pm UK time (5pm Brussels time) |
| Notification of results | July 2025 (TBC) |
| Earliest project start date | November 2025 |
| Budget | EUR 99.47 million |

Call documents (guide for applicants, MSCA work programme, etc.) and the submission system are all available on the [MSCA Staff Exchange 2024 call page](#).

MSCA Staff Exchanges

Collaborative R&I project implemented through secondments

- Building new & developing existing networks & collaborations
- Increasing global cooperation
- Increasing collaborations between sectors (including SMEs)
- Enhancing knowledge transfer between participants
- Building long-term collaborations
- Developing research and transferable skills
- Supporting long-term employability
- Encourages the three dimensions of mobility: inter-sectoral, international and interdisciplinary
- Sharing of knowledge and ideas for the advancement of science and the development of innovation



Objectives of Staff Exchanges

Facilitated by mobility

- International, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of R&I staff (“secondments”)
- Knowledge transfer between participating organisations
- Collaboration between the academic and non-academic sectors (including SMEs)
- Cooperation across the globe



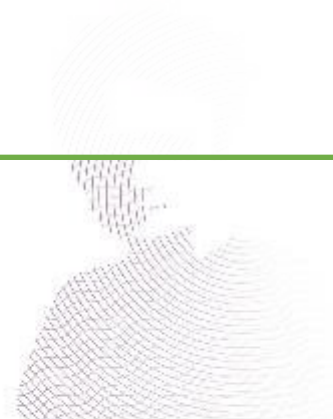
Mobility

Through secondments

- The partners (consortium) contribute directly to the implementation of a joint R&I project by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members.
- Such a project should go beyond previous work and generate or strengthen long-term collaborations.
- Secondments must always take place between legal entities independent from each other.
- The secondments must be essential to achieve the joint project's R&I objectives.

Dimensions of mobility

- Inter-sectoral
- International
- Interdisciplinary



The benefits...

Staff Members

Develop transferable skills and competencies

Increase employability and career prospects

International exposure

Enhance existing and build new collaborative networks

Organisations

Transfer of knowledge

Develop and build sustainable international partnerships with partners all over the world

Attract top researchers

Increase R&I capacity

Build and enhance intersectoral relationships

The Project should...

- Have clear R&I objectives and deliverables
 - **Secondments should be essential to achieve the joint project's R&I activities**
- Exploit complementary competencies of the participating organisations
- Support networking activities and the organisation of workshops and conferences
- Facilitate the sharing of knowledge and testing of innovative approaches for specific R&I topics
- Create synergies between partners
- Offer new skills acquisition and career development perspectives

Eligibility

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01



Eligibility

Broken down into three categories:

1. Eligibility of the consortium (the participants)
2. Eligibility of the staff going on secondment
3. Eligibility of the secondments themselves



In a nutshell...

All countries and nationalities can participate

All institutions fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon Europe Rules for Participation can participate

Project implemented through the **secondment of staff** for a period between **1 and 12 months**

Max size and duration of project is **360 person months over 4 years**

Consortium is composed of beneficiaries in EU MS/AC and third country associated partners

Eligible Participants

Any legal entity established in the academic or non-academic sector.

Consortium minimum:

- **3 different legal entities** established in **3 different countries**
 - 2 of which must be based in different EU member states or associated countries
- If the organisations are from the same sector, at least 1 of them must be from a Third Country



Academic sector:

- Public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations and International European Research Organisations (IERO)

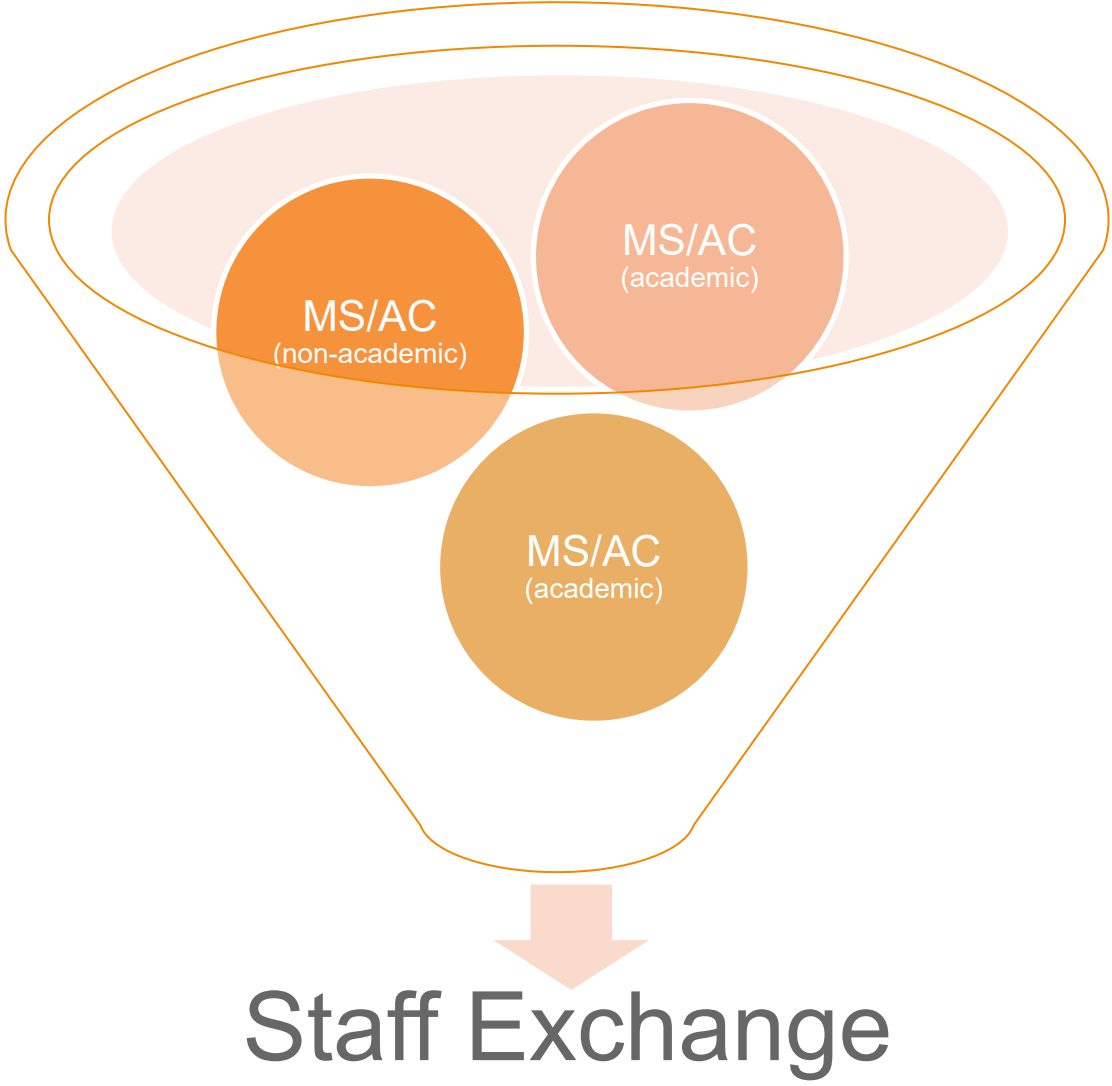
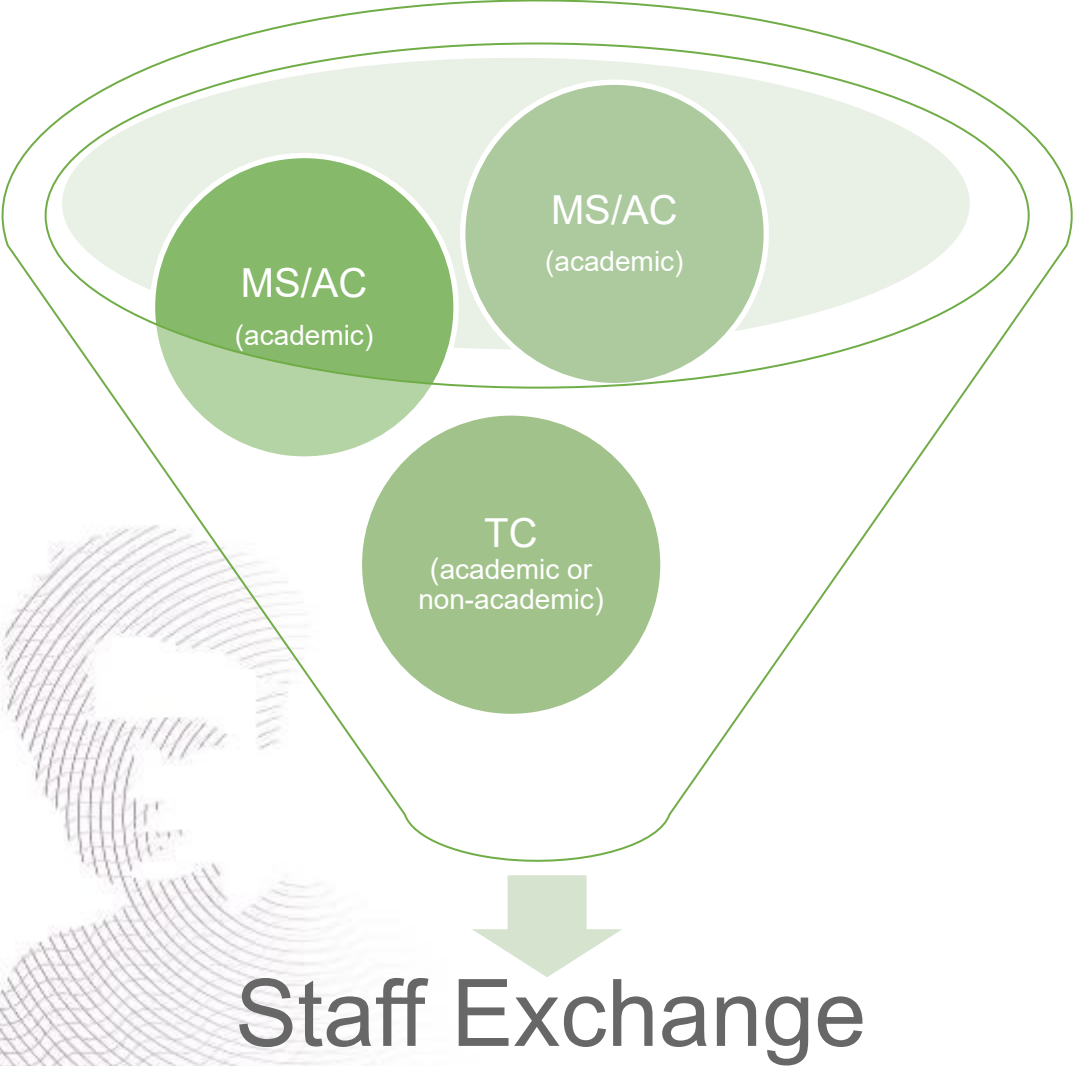
Non-academic sector:

- Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon Europe (HE) Rules for Participation

Academic vs Non-Academic:

- Determined by EC during the validation process
- Important to check with the organisation in advance to understand which sector they are in.

Consortium Composition



Consortium Composition

No 'typical' consortium size

- Often range from 3 to > 20 organisations
- Depends on the needs of the individual project
 - Recommended between 6 to 10 organisations
- Two types of participants
 - beneficiaries (sign the GA)
 - associated partners (do not sign the GA)
- Number of associated partners should be reasonable and in-line with project size

Beneficiary

- Located in an EU Member State or associated country
- Can send staff on secondments
- Can host seconded staff
- Can provide training opportunities

Associated Partner (AP)

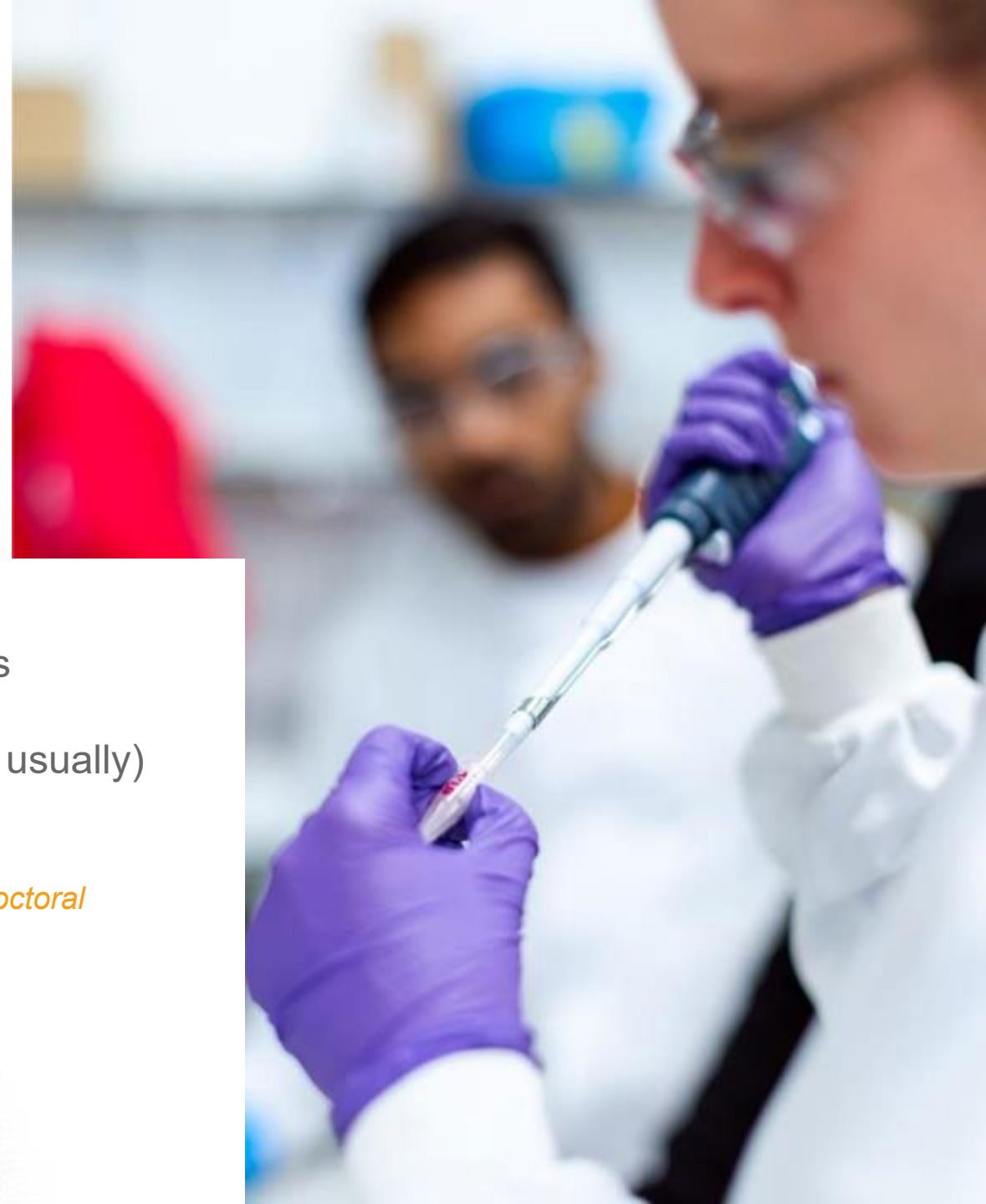
- Located in a Third Country (TC)
- Or just the host of seconded staff
- Can provide training opportunities
- Can send staff on secondments (but specific funding eligibility rules apply)



Seconded Eligibility

The staff going on secondment must meet specific criteria:

- Be under the direction and instructions of the sending organisation for the duration of the secondment
- Actively engaged in or linked to R&I activities at the sending institution for at least 1 month prior to first secondment (pro-rata for part time)
- Have the appropriate experience to undertake the activities
- Must work full time while on secondment (even if part-time usually)
- Seconded staff members do not have to be researchers
 - *E.g., can be PhD students, technical staff, research assistants, postdoctoral researchers, senior researchers, managerial and administrative, etc.*



Secondment Eligibility

Key Features

- A secondment must last between 1-12 months (counted from the day of departure to the day of return)
- At least one month must be completed, after which funding is pro-rata
- A secondment may be split into several stays with one or several beneficiaries or associated partners
- Staff must work full time on secondment, even if they normally work part time
- An in-built return mechanism must be foreseen



Secondment Eligibility

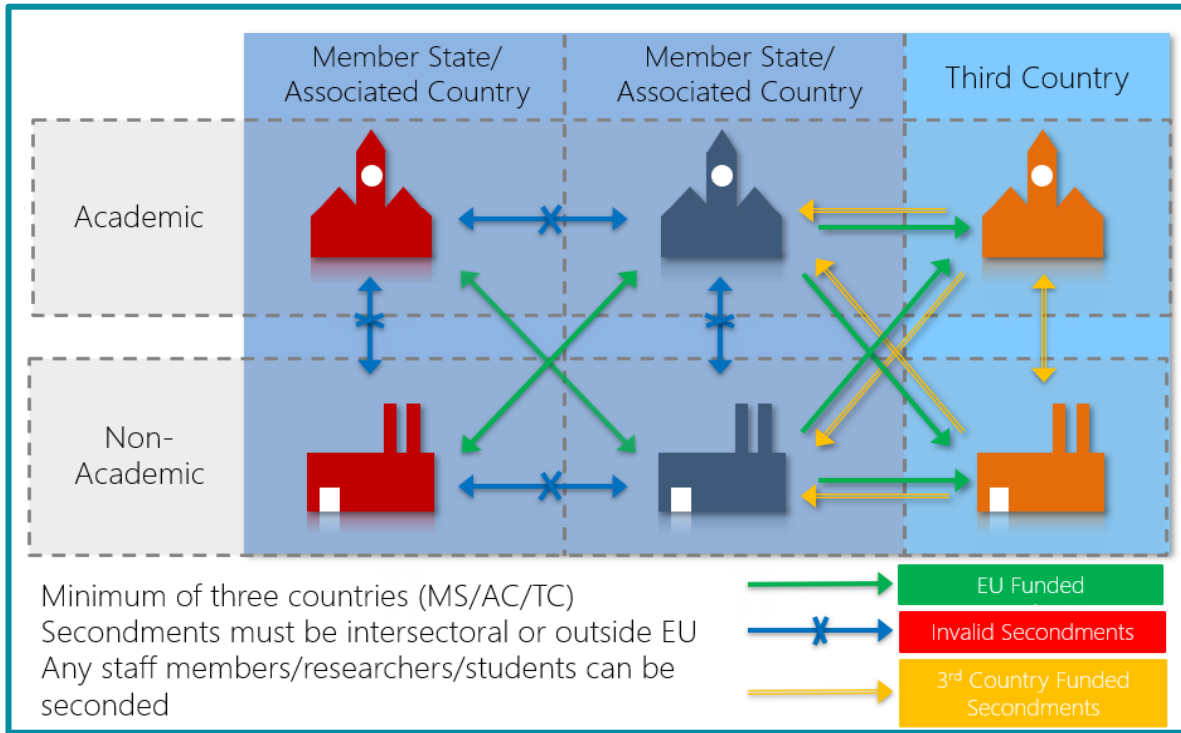
Eligible Secondments

- From a MS/AC institution → TC institution (any sector)
- From an academic institution → non-academic institution in MS/AC's
- From a non-academic → academic institution in MS/AC's
- From a TC institution eligible for EC funding → MS/AC institution (any sector)
- MS/AC institution ↔ MS/AC institution in the same sector if interdisciplinary (max 1/3)

❖ Intersectoral and international secondments are encouraged!



Secondment Eligibility



"HOSTING"
(receiving seconded staff members)

| | Academic organisation in MS/AC (1) | Non-academic organisation in MS/AC (2) | Organisation in TC* |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Academic organisation in MS/AC (1) | 1/3 | ✓ | ✓ |
| Non-academic organisation in MS/AC (2) | ✓ | 1/3 | ✓ |
| Organisation in TC* | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |

1/3 This symbol refers to same sector secondments up to 1/3 of the total implemented secondments funded by the EU as long as they are demonstrated to be interdisciplinary.
 * denotes TC partners that are eligible for automatic funding

"SENDING"
(seconding staff members from organisation)

Interdisciplinary Secondments

Can be up to 1/3 of the total secondments

Considered interdisciplinary if:

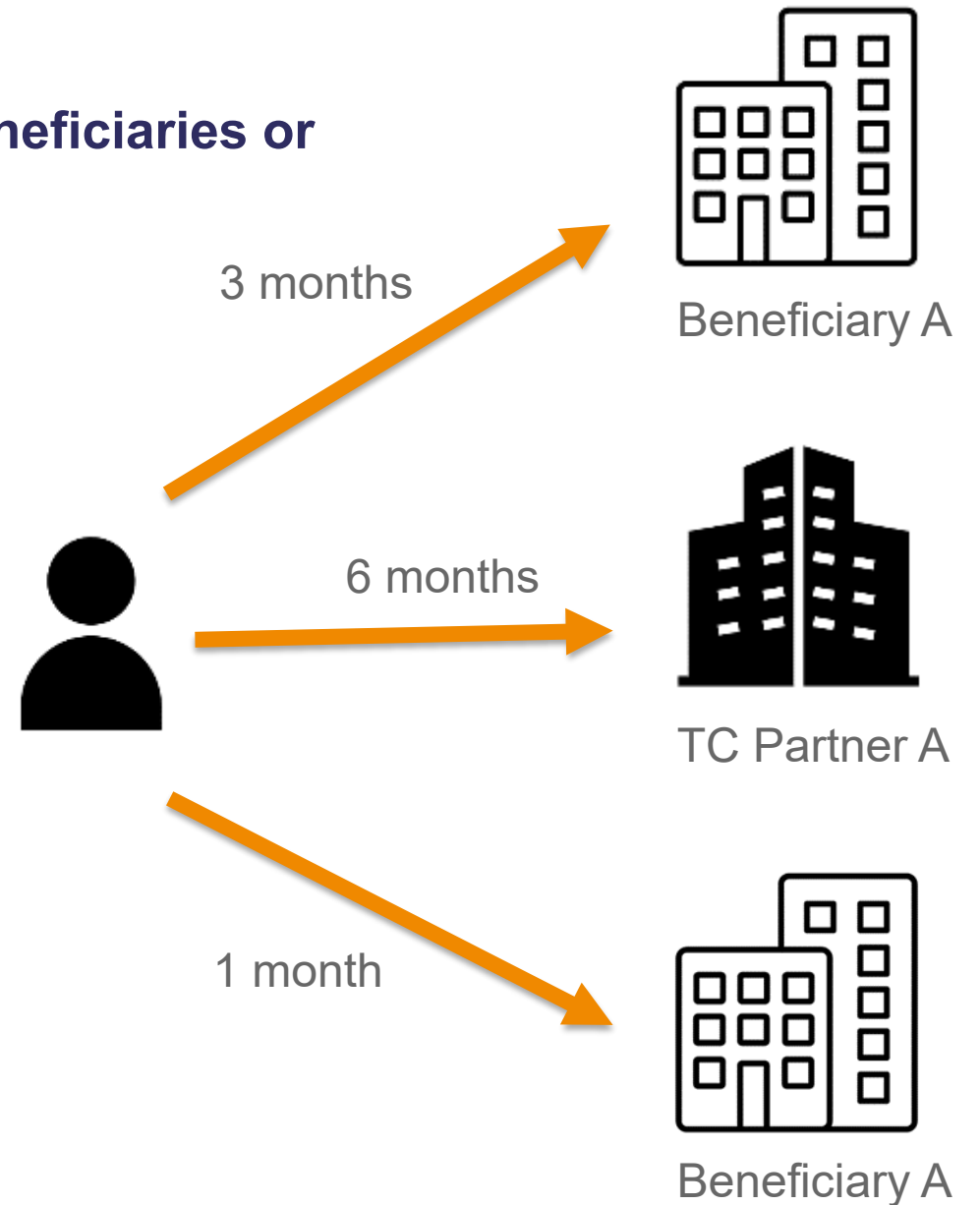
- The activities undertaken during the secondments are **from two or more different scientific disciplines**
- Based on the level 1 [MSCA key words](#) used in part A of the proposal
 - *Look at the level 2 key words and then look at which level 1 key word they fall under*
 - [Dedicated FAQ 17021](#)

| MSCA KEYWORDS | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Scientific panel | Level 1 keywords | Level 2 keywords |
| Chemistry (CHE) | C1-Inorganic Chemistry | Catalysis Coordination chemistry Inorganic and nuclear chemistry NMP Non-Metallic Materials & basic processes Organometallic chemistry Radiation and nuclear chemistry |
| | C2-Organic, Polymer and Molecular Chemistry | Carbonhydrates Combinatorial chemistry Heterocyclic chemistry Macromolecular chemistry Molecular architecture and structure Molecular biology Molecular chemistry Natural product synthesis Organic chemistry Organic reaction mechanism Peptide chemistry Polymer chemistry Stereochemistry Supramolecular chemistry Synthetic Organic chemistry |
| | C3-Physical and Analytical Chemistry | Analytical chemistry Chemical instrumentation Chemical reactions: mechanisms, dynamics, kinetics and catalytic reactions Chemistry of condensed matter Chromatography Colloid chemistry Corrosion Crystallography and X-ray diffraction Electrochemistry, electrodialysis, microfluidics, sensors Forensic chemistry Heterogeneous catalysis Homogeneous catalysis Ionic liquids Mass Spectrometry Method development in chemistry Microscopy |

Split secondments

Secondments can be split between one or several beneficiaries or associated partners

- Must still respect the maximum and minimum duration rule
- All the secondments must take place within the duration of the action
- At least one month (30 days) must be completed, after which funding is pro-rata



Funding

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01



What does it fund?

Maximum EC funding: 360 person months

Funding is not meant to replace salaries of seconded staff

- unit costs are meant to cover travel, accommodation, subsistence and other costs associated with the secondment/exchange

Funding is not based on real costs

- Use of MSCA unit costs
- One unit = one month of eligible staff

Country coefficient

- Does not apply to MSCA SE

Full amount can be used flexibility

- But the researcher MUST receive the full amount of the researcher allowance

No detailed financial reporting

- Simply report on completed secondment months

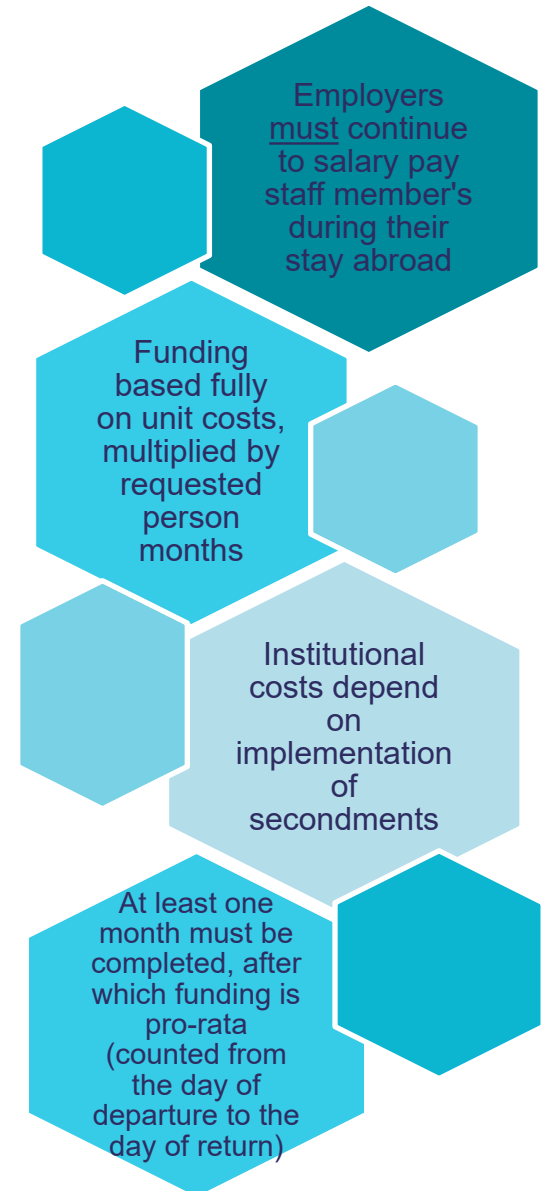
TC participants from low-middle income countries are automatically eligible for EC funding

Ensure all participants understand the financial rules



How much funding?

Maximum EC funding: 360 person months



The Funding Categories

Top-up allowance for the seconded staff member

- Contributes to travel, accommodation and subsistence costs related to the secondment
- Must be fully used for the benefit of the seconded staff members
- Paid according to usual internal policies (the amount can be managed by the institution or paid directly to the researcher; in accordance with national rules)

Special Needs Allowance contributes to the additional costs incurred by staff members with physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments

- 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

Research, training and networking unit cost

- contributes to the costs for training, transfer of knowledge and networking activities, as well as research expenses

Management and indirect unit cost

- contributes to the beneficiary's costs in relations with the action
- Often 'top-sliced' by the coordinator to cover network wide activities

How does the funding work in practice?

! If the secondment is not implemented none of the 3 categories are paid!

Beneficiaries declare all costs in individual financial statements for:

- Outgoing secondments of its own staff
- Incoming secondments from a TC partner (if eligible for funding)

Beneficiaries must complete a mobility declaration for:

- Outgoing secondments of its own staff
- Incoming secondments from a TC partner (if eligible for funding)

If agreed by the consortium, there can be a different distribution of institutional costs

- But this should not be reported in the financial statements

*If you are hosting staff from partner Third Country organisations eligible for funding, **you are responsible** for declaring costs linked to incoming secondments.*



Funding For Associated Partners (APs) hosting Secondments

APs hosting secondments can receive funding to cover research costs

- Funding will come from the beneficiary sending the staff on secondment
- Available funding is based on the SE unit costs
- May also include contribution to management and indirect (e.g., overheads)
- Amount available will depend on the arrangement with the sending beneficiary

If providing network-wide training and activities, APs may be able to receive funding from the coordinator to cover the associated costs

- Amount available will depend on the arrangement with the coordinator

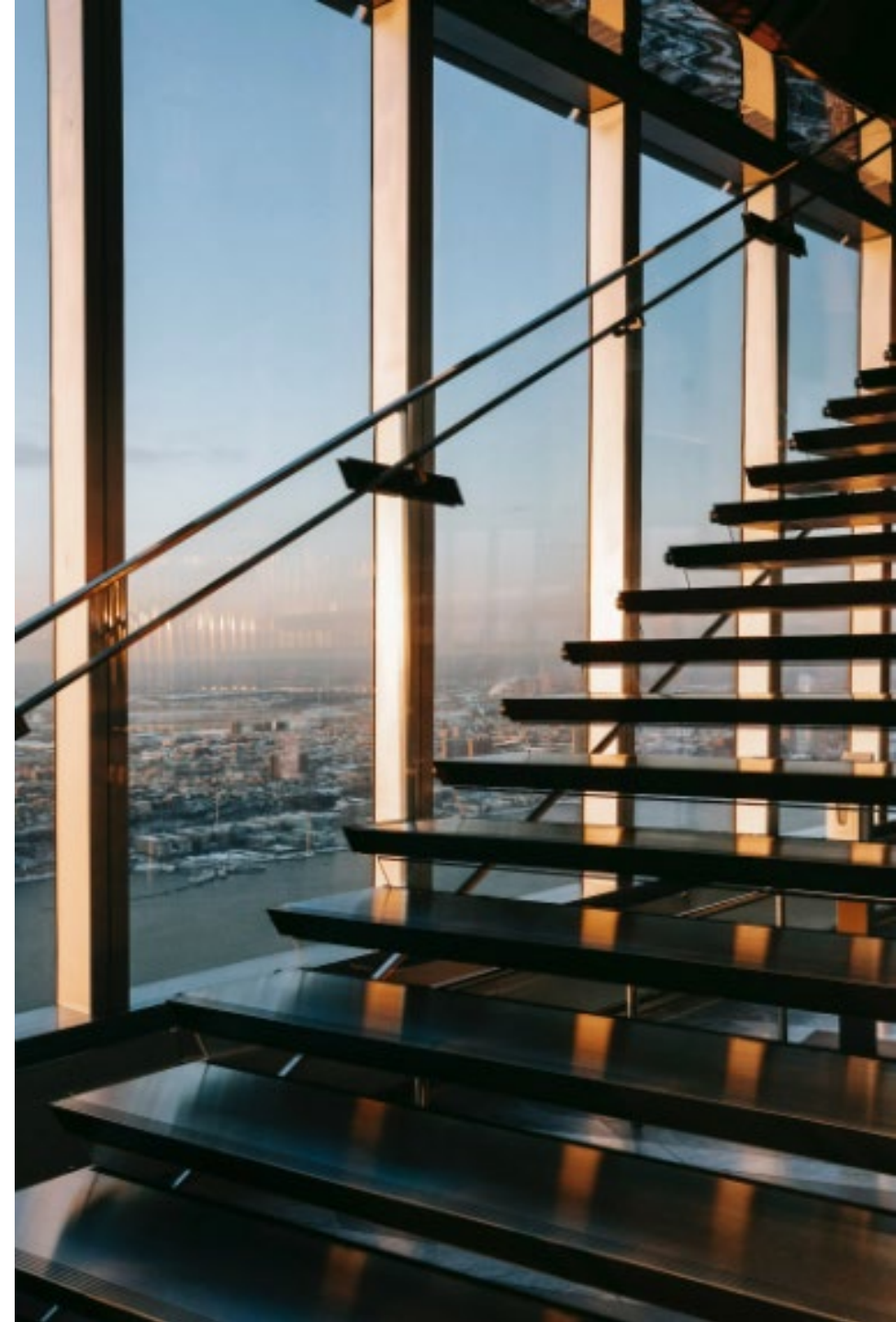
Best to discuss these arrangements as early as possible

How can Third Countries (TC) be involved?

International mobility is key to Staff Exchanges

TC's can:

- Host secondees
- Send staff on secondments (funding rules apply here)
 - *Only TCs from low-middle income countries*
- Provide training and networking opportunities
- Contribute to advisory committees and/or project boards
- Participate in network-wide activities
- Participate as a key stakeholder and/or end user
- Provide background expertise or other resources



SE Guidance and Resources

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01



Letters of Commitment?



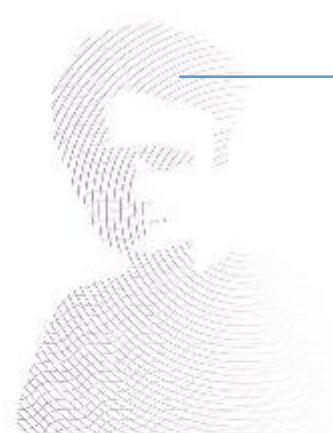
- **No longer needed!**
- **The mandatory requirement to include a letter of commitment was removed for the 2024 call and is no longer necessary**
- **Whilst we understand that including one will not harm your application, it will be disregarded by the evaluators**

| | |
|----------|--|
| 4.0 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Section 1: Inclusion of link to definitions of Academic Sector, Non-academic sector, Associated partners, Beneficiaries and other useful definitions in the Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2025 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.▪ Section 1: Addition of a link to Horizon Europe guidance on gender equality plans and related FAQs.▪ Section 3: Footnote added to clarify the full-time work.▪ Section 4: Updated Unit Contributions.▪ Section 5: Information clarifying how to input 0 person-month for Associated Partners in the budget table (Part A).▪ Section 5: Removal of references to the Letter of Commitment.▪ Section 5: Update of Information for completing Part A and Part B of the proposal concerning the keywords and Artificial Intelligence (A.I.). |
|----------|--|

Success rates – 2023 call

- 73 projects funded out of 233 submitted proposals (31% success rate)
- UK involved in 31 funded projects (42.5% UK success rate)

| Panel | Number of successful proposals |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Engineering and ICT | 24 |
| Chemistry | 7 |
| Social Sciences and Humanities | 10 |
| Environment and Geosciences | 10 |
| Life Sciences | 11 |
| Physics | 4 |
| Mathematics | 3 |
| Economics | 4 |



Resources

MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025 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>

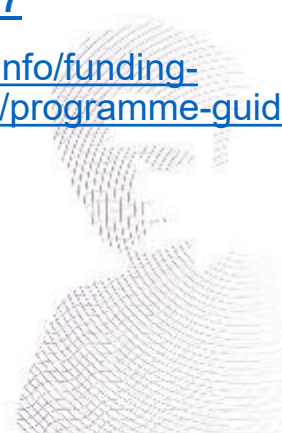
2024 MSCA SE Call Webpage – <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01-01>

Horizon Europe Strategic Plan [2021-2024](#) and [2025-2027](#)

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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Call details

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Session 2: Submission & Evaluation

Will cover:

- The submission process
- Tips for proposal development
- The evaluation process and evaluation criteria





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Thank you

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