

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Staff Exchanges 2024

Session 2: Submission & Evaluation

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November 2024

Agenda

- 1 Introduction
- 2 UK Participation
- **3 MSCA Staff Exchanges Submission Process**
- **4 Evaluation Criteria and Evaluation Process**





About UKRO

We support UK based organisations involved in EU R&I

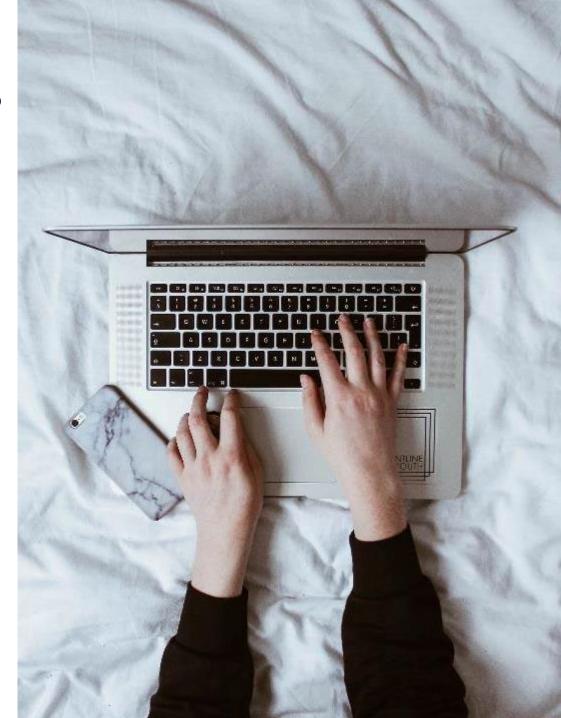
- Maximise UK participation in Horizon Europe
- Part of UKRI's wider International team
- UKRO Portal
 - Dedicated news articles, events and factsheets to support participation
 - Alerts to upcoming opportunities and call updates
- UK National Contact Point for:
 - <u>European Research Council</u>, <u>Marie Sklodowska-Curie</u>
 <u>Actions programmes</u>, <u>Widening Participation and COST</u>



Dedicated MSCA, ERC, WIDERA and COST Resources

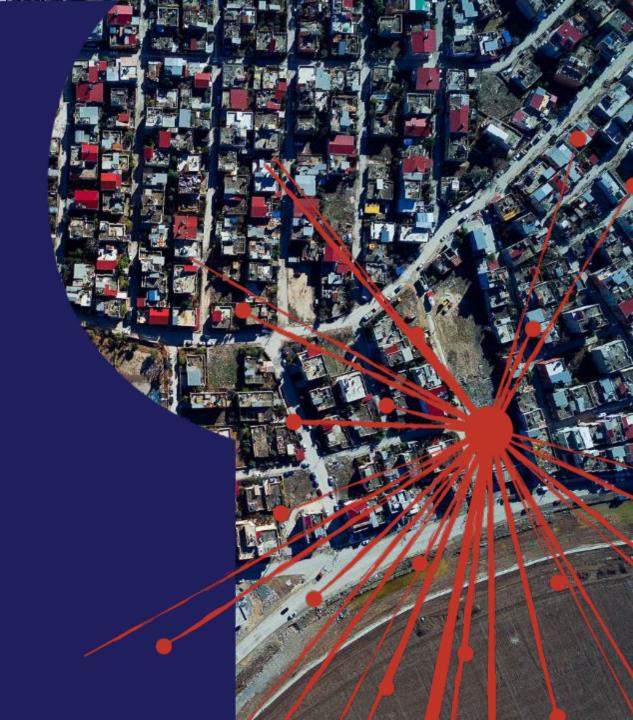
- Sign up for NCP newsletters delivered straight to your inbox
- > Register for an event on the <u>UKRO events page</u>
- Find out more about MSCA, ERC, WIDERA and COST funding opportunities
- Contact the UK National Contact Points





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 <u>announcement</u> 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





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

<u>as beneficiaries</u> 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.



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					

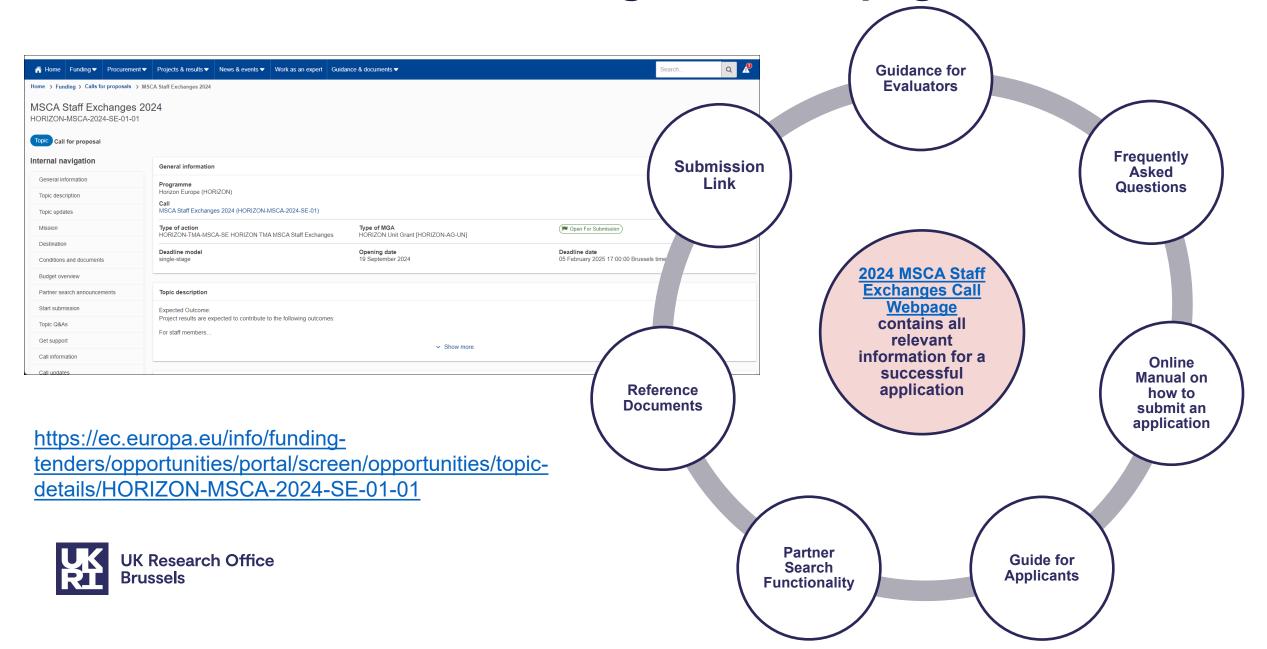
Call documents (guide for applicants, MSCA work programme, etc.) and the submission system are all available on the MSCA Staff Exchange 2024 call page.



Submission of SE Proposals



The 2024 MSCA Staff Exchange Call Webpage



Proposal: two parts

Part A – Administrative Forms

- Filled out online in the FTOP Submission Portal
- Administrative information about the applicants

Part B - 'Standard Application Template'

- Must be downloaded from the Submission Portal; uploaded as two .pdf documents
- Technical description of the project
- Follow the standard application template (structure, formatting rules)

Part B1 - the proposal, <u>max 32 pages (PDF uploaded)</u>

Three sections, corresponding to the evaluation criteria

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

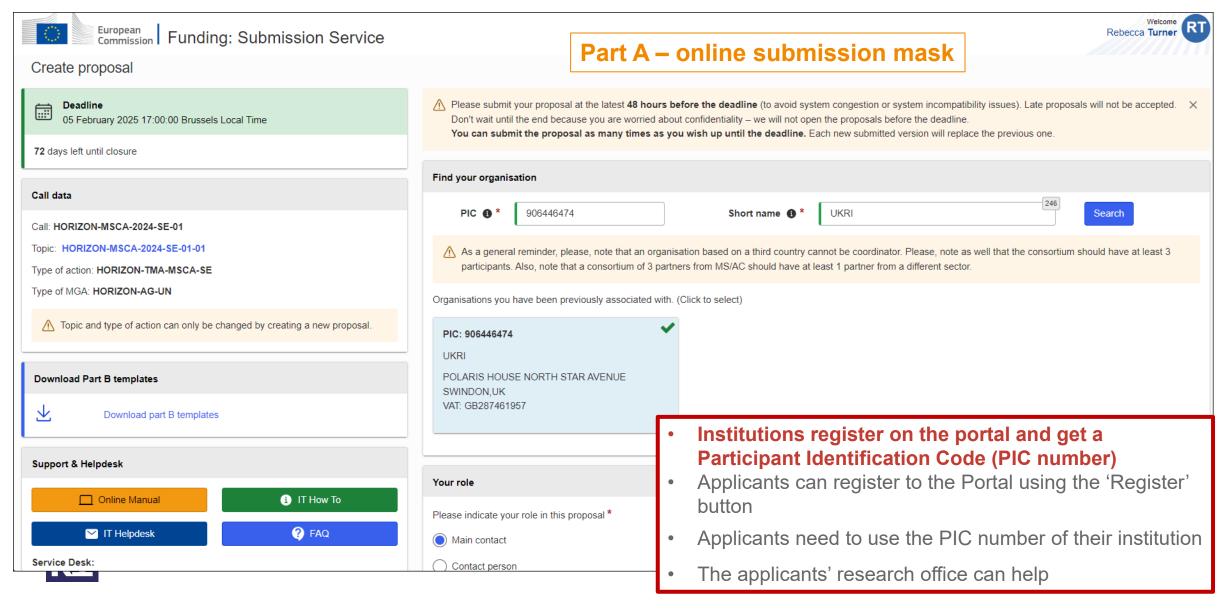
Excess pages will be disregarded

Part B2 - no page limit, PDF uploaded

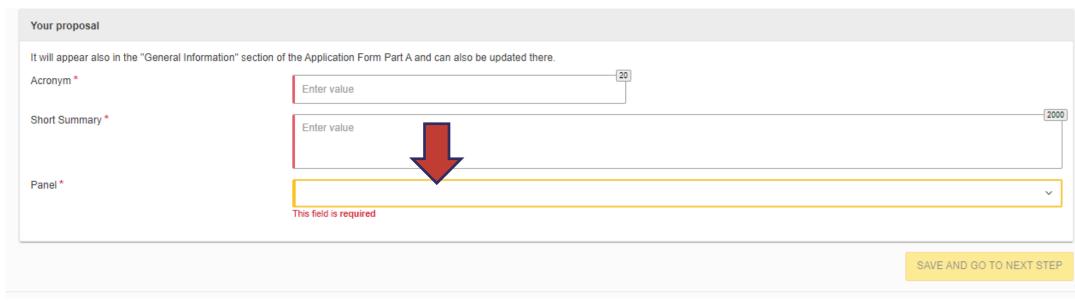
- Participating organisations
- Inter-relationship declaration
- Scanned Letters of Commitment (compulsory for Associated partners)



Start your application on FTOP



Choosing the Scientific Panel (Part A)

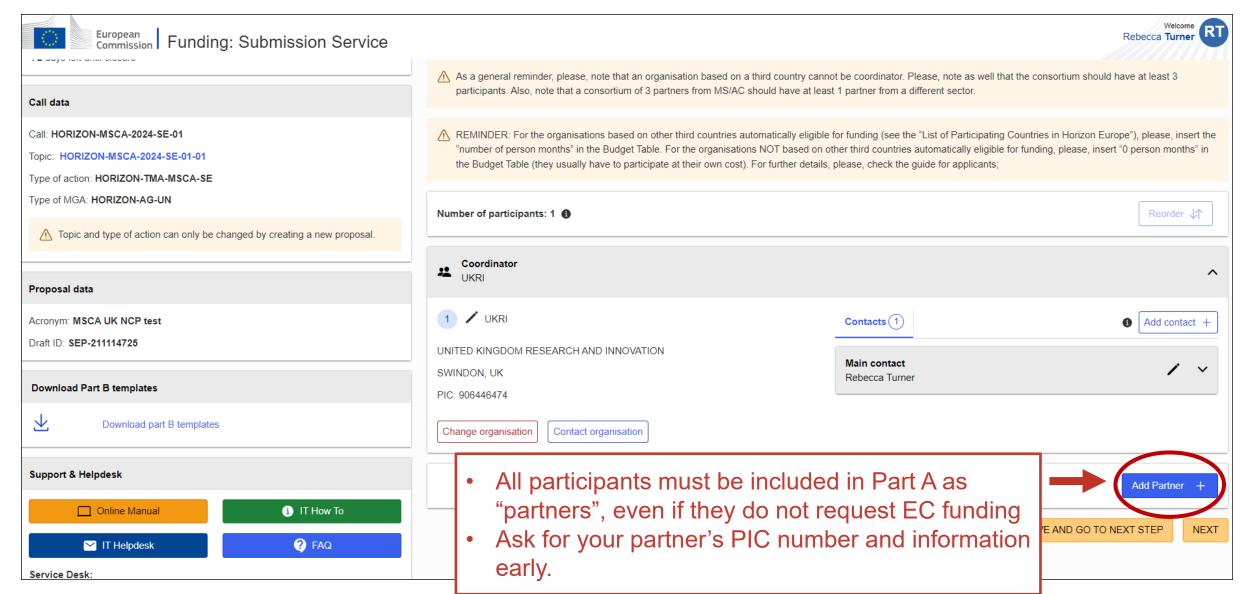


Each proposal must be submitted to only one Scientific Panel

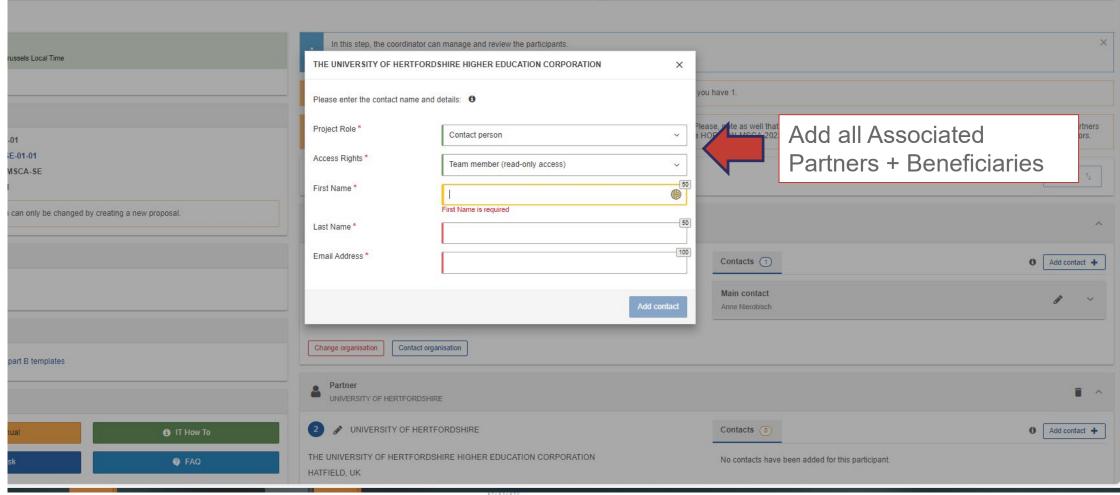
- Chemistry (CHE)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
- Environment and Geo-Sciences (ENV)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Physics (PHY)



Filling out Part A – Adding partners



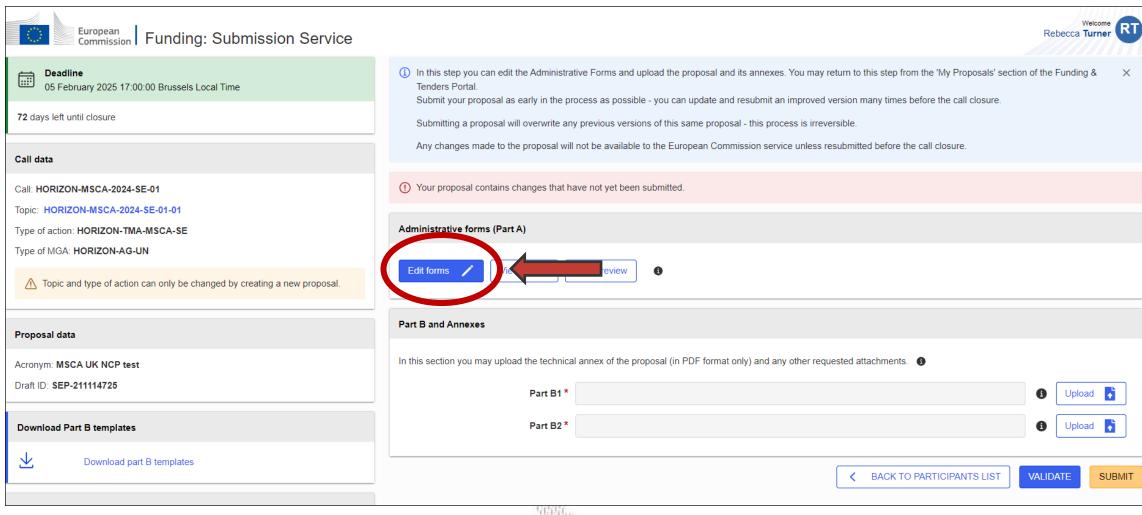
Filling out Part A – Adding partners







Filling out Part A





Filling out Part A

- ✓ Participants and contacts
- ✓ Budget based on personmonths requested
- ✓ Gender Equality plan
- ✓ Ethics and Security questionnaire

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01

(MSCA Staff Exchanges 2024)

Topic: HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01-01

Type of Action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-SE (HORIZON TMA MSCA Staff Exchanges)

Proposal number: SEP-211114725

Proposal acronym: MSCA UK NCP test

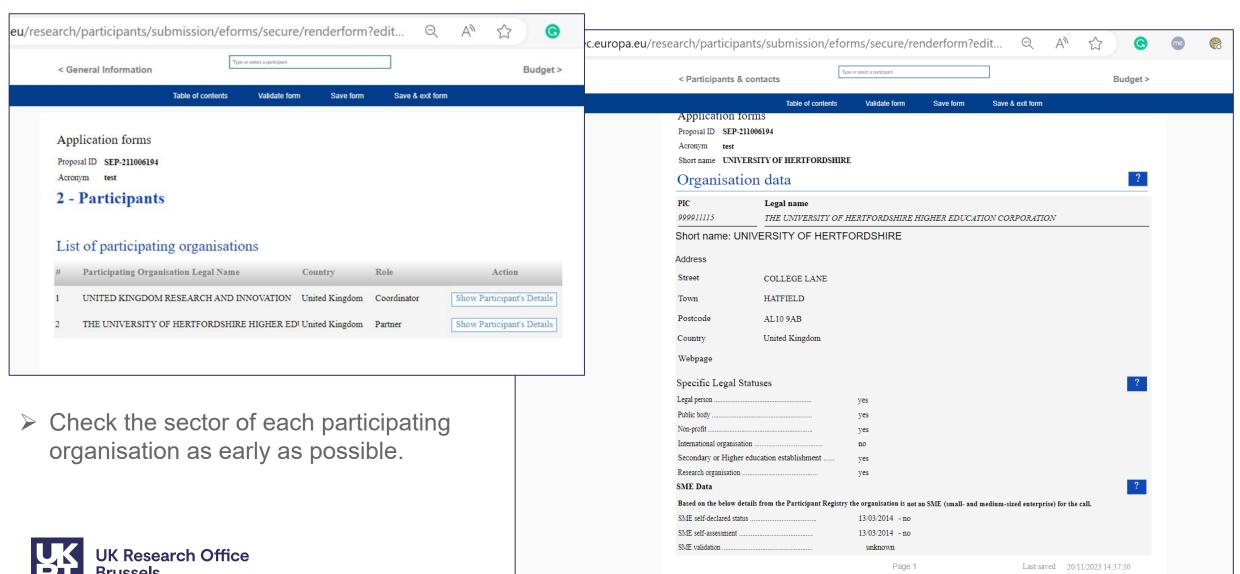
Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Unit Grant

Table of contents

General information	Show
Participants	Show
Budget	Show
Ethics and security	Show
	Participants Budget



Filling out Part A - Participants



Filling out Part A - Participants

Application forms		
Proposal ID SEP-211006194		
Acronym test		
Short name UKRI		
List of up to 5 publications, wic	ely-used datasets, software, goods, services, or any other achievements releva	nt to the call content.
Type of achievement	Short description (Max 500 characters)	Add
~		
	l	
List of up to 5 most relevant prev	rious projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.	
Name of Project or Activity	Short description (Max 500 characters)	Add
B : .:	rastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the pro	
Description of any significant in	rastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proj	posed work.
Name of infrastructure of equipment	Short description (Max 300 characters)	posed work.
Name of infrastructure of		



▲ IMPORTANT: List of publications: In part A, neither the beneficiaries, nor the associated partners, need to fill in the list of up to five publications, relevant previous projects, or significant infrastructure. This information however will need to be described in the relevant sections of part B2.

Filling out Part A – Ethics and Security

UK applicants should answer 'yes' on questions about non-EU activity

- Follow Horizon Europe guidance document:
 'How to complete your ethics selfassessment'
- This will not affect eligibility.
- Answering 'yes' on certain questions may require a brief text response from the applicant.
- Applicants may be requested to upload documents related to particular questions.
- Page references to relevant sections of proposal for each issue if you answer 'Yes' (part B1 and B2)



		Ethics & a	Security			Validation res	ult >
	Table of contents	Validate form	Save form	Save & exit form	1		
4. Personal Data						Page	
Does this activity involv	e processing of personal d	lata?		○ Yes	No		
	e further processing of projects or sources, merging ex		personal data (incl	uding Yes	No		
Is it planned to export pe	ersonal data from the EU t	o non-EU countries	?	○ Yes	No		
Is it planned to import pe country to another non-E	ersonal data from non-EU EU country?	countries into the E	U or from a non-l	EU Yes	No		
Does this activity involv offences?	re the processing of persor	nal data related to c	riminal conviction	or Yes	No		
5. Animals						Page	
Does this activity involve	e animals?			○ Yes	No		
6. Non-EU Countries						Page	
Will some of the activitie	es be carried out in non-EU	U countries?		Yes	○ No		
Specify the countries United Kingdom							
United Kingdom In case non-EU countries	es are involved, do the a	ctivities undertake	n in these counts	ries raise (Yes	No		•
United Kingdom In case non-EU countrie potential ethics issues? It is planned to use local	es are involved, do the a resources (e.g. animal an nains, materials of historic	d/or human tissue	samples, genetic	material, Ver	NoNo		
In case non-EU countrie potential ethics issues? It is planned to use local live animals, human remetc.)?	resources (e.g. animal an	d/or human tissue al value, endanger data) from non-EU	samples, genetic ed fauna or flora J countries into t	material, samples, Yes			
United Kingdom In case non-EU countrie potential ethics issues? It is planned to use local live animals, human remetc.)? Is it planned to import from a non-EU country to	resources (e.g. animal an nains, materials of historic any material (other than to another non-EU country any material (other than	d/or human tissue al value, endanger data) from non-EU 17 For data imports,	samples, genetic ed fauna or flora J countries into ti see section 4.	material, samples, Yes he EU or Yes	No		

Filling out Part A – Budget Table

All participant organisations must be encoded in the budget table as "Partner", except the coordinator ("Coordinator").

Application forms

Proposal ID SEP-211006194

Acronym test

3 - Budget

They must be encoded regardless of:

- whether they are beneficiaries or associated partners
- whether they request EC funding or not

						No of		Contributions for seconded researchers	Institutional contributions		
Participant number	Organisation short name	Role	Country	Academic sector	IO	seconded	Number of person months	Staff Member Unit Costs	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	Total
1	UKRI	Coordinator	UK	Yes	No	4	36	82800	46800	36000	165600.00
2	UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE	Partner	UK	Yes	No	3	14	32200	18200	14000	64400.00
Total						7	50	115000	65000	50000	230000.00





Filling out the budget table in Part A

Application forms

Proposal ID SEP-211006194

Acronym test

UKRI requests funding to second three of its researchers for a total of 36 months, e.g.

- 2 researchers for 24 months to an academic institution in Kenya
- 2 researcher for 8 and 4 months to non-academic institutions in Germany and France

3 -	Βı	ud	g	et

						No. of		Contributions for seconded researchers	Institutional c	ontributions	
Participant number	Organisation short name	Role	Country	Academic sector	IO	No of seconded researchers	Number of person months	Staff Member Unit Costs	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	Total
1	UKRI	Coordinator	UK	Yes	No	4	36	82800	46800	36000	165600.00
2	UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE	Partner	UK	Yes	No	3	14	32200	18200	14000	64400.00
Total						7	50	Maximum number of secondments eligible for 115000	65000	50000	230000.00

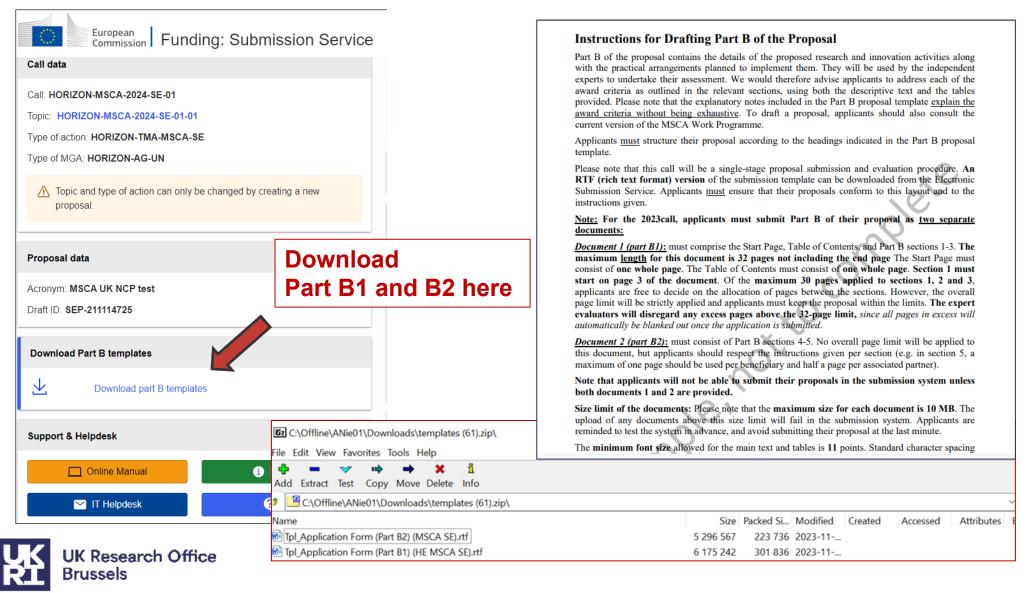
funding is 360 person-months

Beneficiaries from EU Member States; Horizon Europe Associated Countries and Associated Partners from countries eligible for funding ("low to middle-income countries" list) must list in the budget table:

- The number of researchers they second to an eligible country ("number of seconded researchers")
- The number of person-months requested.

Associated Partners from countries not eligible for EC funding, and not requesting exceptional funding, must encode zero (0) "number of seconded researchers" and zero (0) "number of person months".

Filling out and Uploading Part B



Filling out and Uploading Part B

- Follow the guidance provided in the Standard Application Template, Part B1 and B2
- Write your proposal with the subheadings in the Standard Application Template in mind
- Read the Standard Application Template as early as possible and detail how your proposal addresses the criteria

Follow the formatting rules listed in the Standard Application Template and adhere to the page limit.

- Any excess pages will be removed!



- 2. Impact #@IMP-ACT-IA@#
- 2.1. Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge between participating organisations and contribution to

Part B1 - Page 10 of 17

Call: [insert call identifier] - [insert call name]

EU Grants: Application form (Part B1) (HE MSCA SE): V4.0 - 19.09.2024

improving research and innovation potential at the European and global level

Required sub-headings:

- Describe the development and sustainability of new and lasting research collaborations resulting
 from international, interdisciplinary and/or inter-sectoral secondments and the networking
 activities implemented.
- Describe how the project will generate knowledge transfer that will benefit the participating organisations
- Describe the contribution of the action to the improvement of the research and innovation potential within Europe and/or worldwide.
- 2.2. Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives of staff members and contribution to their skills development

Required sub-headings:

- <u>Describe how the action contributes to realising the potential of individuals</u> and provides new skills, enhances their knowledge and career perspectives.
- 2.3. Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities #@COM-DIS-VIS-COV-@#

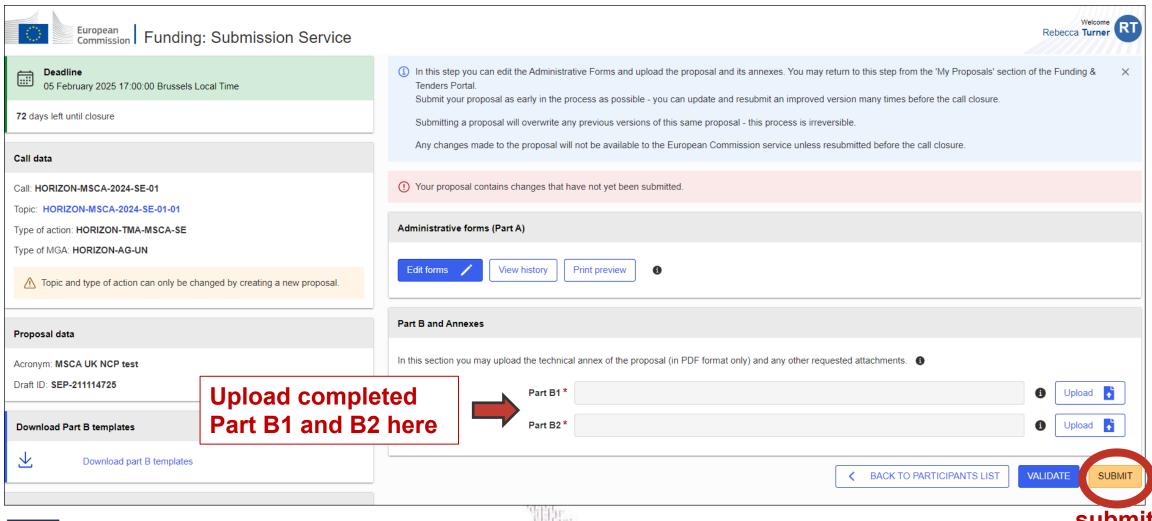
Required sub-headings:

Plan for the dissemination and exploitation activities, including communication activities:

Describe the planned measures to maximise the impact of your project by providing a first version of your 'plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities'. Regarding communication measures and public engagement strategy, the aim is to inform and reach out to society and show the activities performed, and the use and the benefits the project will have for citizens. Activities must be strategically planned, with clear objectives, start at the outset and continue through the lifetime of the project. The description of the communication activities needs to state the main messages as well as the tools and channels that will be used to reach out to each of the chosen target groups.

- In case your proposal is selected for funding, a more detailed plan will need to be provided as a mandatory project deliverable submitted at mid-term stage with an update towards the end of the project.
- All measures should be proportionate to the scale of the project, and should contain concrete

Filling out and Uploading Part B



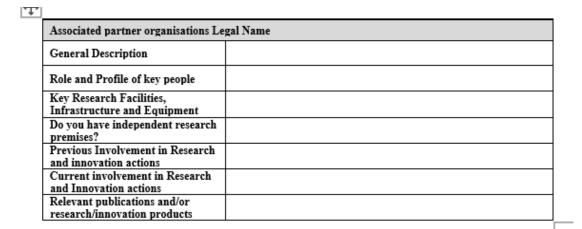


- > You can submit as many times as you like before the deadline.
- Only the final submission is counted.

Check list - including Associated Partners in the proposal

- Must be included as a 'Partner' in Part A (even if not requesting EC funding)
- Associated Partners from countries eligible for EC funding must be included in the budget table
- Associated Partners from countries not eligible for EC funding, or not requesting exceptional funding, must encode zero (0) "number of seconded researchers" and zero (0) "number of person months".
 - If Associated Partners not eligible for EC funding are requesting exceptional funding, they must justify this in Part B1, Section 3.2.
- Must be fully integrated throughout ALL of part B1
- Must be included in Table 7 of part B2
- No longer need letter of commitments if included, they will be disregarded







- Section 4: Updated Unit Contributions.
- Section 5: Information clarifying how to input 0 personmonth for Associated Partners in the budget table (Part
- Section 5: Removal of references to the Letter of
- Section 5: Update of Information for completing Part A and Part B of the proposal concerning the keywords and Artificial Intelligence (A.I.).

Evaluation Criteriaand Process



Evaluation Criteria

- Three weighted evaluation criteria
- Outlined in the 2024-25 MSCA Workprogramme, p.114-115
- Guidance for Evaluators is published on the Call Webpage.

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of the project's	Developing new and lasting research collaborations,	Quality and effectiveness of the
research and innovation objectives	achieving transfer of knowledge between participating	work plan, assessment of risks,
(and the extent to which they are	organisations and contributing to improving research	and appropriateness of the effort
ambitious, and go beyond the state of	and innovation potential at the European and global	assigned to work packages
the art)	level	
Soundness of the proposed	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career	Quality, capacity and role of each
methodology (including interdisciplinary	perspectives of staff members and contribution to their	participant, including hosting
approaches, consideration of the gender	skills development	arrangements and extent to which
dimension and other diversity aspects if		the consortium as a whole brings
relevant for the research project, and the		together the necessary expertise
quality and appropriateness of open		
science practices)		
Quality of the proposed interaction	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise	
between the participating	expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the	
organisations in light of the research	dissemination and exploitation plan, including	
and innovation objectives	communication activities	
	The magnitude and importance of the project's	
	contribution to the expected scientific, societal and	
	economic impacts	
50%	30%	20%

Evaluation Criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)	Developing new and lasting research collaborations , achieving transfer of knowledge between participating organisations and contributing to improving research and innovation potential at the European and global level	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan , assessment of risks , and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality and appropriateness of open science practices)	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives of staff members and contribution to their skills development	Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations in light of the research and innovation objectives	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	
50%	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts 30%	20%



Horizon Europe Proposals must take the Gender Dimension of the Research, Open Science Practice and Scientific, Societal and Economic Impacts into account.

→ Refer to Session 2 : Submission

Excellence

1.1. Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)

Detail the research and innovation objectives. Are the objectives measurable and verifiable? Are they realistically achievable?

- Describe research objectives using SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-Bound).
- Why is your consortium the best suited to take them on?

Pertinence and innovative aspects of the research programme (in light of the current state of the art and existing programmes / networks).

Describe how your project goes beyond the state-of-the-art, and the extent the proposed work is ambitious (delivering scientific breakthroughts).

- Expand on the state of the art to explain why the research is original, innovative and timely compared to the state of the art in the research area.
- Use footnotes to cite key relevant bibliography if applicable, make sure to cite consortium members' work and showing the high level expertise within consortium.
- Benchmark against other EU funded projects in the same/similar field but do not limit your benchmarking to EU funded consortia.
- Relation to the scope of the call why you need to work together, innovative nature (topics, consortium, synergies...)



1.1. Excellence – Evaluators' feedback

STRENGTHS

- The project objectives are clearly formulated and extremely relevant from both theoretical and policy points of view. Concrete indicators for their measurement are properly defined.
- The research and innovation objectives are very well specified and convincing. The specific training, dissemination and collaboration objectives are also carefully prepared and detailed, which is further clarified by providing a comprehensive breakdown of each type of objective with some level of quantification.
- The theoretical framework of the project is sound and of high quality. The proposal presents a convincing state-of-the-art analysis, providing a contextual background to the research.
 Advancements beyond state-of-the-art have also been sufficiently developed.
- The interdisciplinary, intersectoral and multidisciplinary nature of the proposal is adequately demonstrated and necessary for achieving the scientific objectives.

WEAKNESSES

- The research and innovation objectives are defined only in broad terms, without going into detail about possible measurable outcomes for the individual goals.
- The proposed goals and the related work seem overambitious regarding the many different methods and materials.
- The state-of-the-art is not elaborated and referred to the latest literature in sufficient detail. It is not fully clear how the proposed studies will go beyond the state-of-the-art as the specific materials and foreseen applications are not well defined.
- The innovative nature of the project has not been explained thoroughly enough as the proposed research has not been fully linked to the state of art in the field.
- The level of novelty of the proposed methodology is relatively limited.

Excellence – 1.2

1.2. Soundness of the proposed methodology (including international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)

- Overall methodology: Describe and explain the overall methodology including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin your work. How will this enable you to deliver your project's objectives?
- Integration of methods and disciplines to pursue the objectives: Explain how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be brought together and integrated in pursuit of your objectives.
- **Gender dimension and other diversity aspects:** Describe how the gender dimension and other diversity aspects are taken into account in the project's research and innovation content.
- Open science practices: Describe how appropriate open science practices are implemented as an integral part of the proposed methodology. Show how the choice of practices and their implementation are adapted to the nature of your work, in a way that will increase the chances of the project delivering on its objectives.
- Research data management and management of other research outputs
- Artificial Intelligence (if applicable)



1.2. Excellence – Evaluators' feedback

- The overall methodology is appropriate and very well describes the challenges to be faced.
 Integration of methods and disciplines to pursue the objectives is well above average.
- The project benefits from a very good methodology. It emphasizes the challenges which could be met during the realization of the foreseen tasks.
- The interdisciplinary and intersectoral nature of planned activities is well demonstrated: the proposed activities will bring together a comprehensive international multidisciplinary network of experts, and will be supported by a well-structured secondment programme.
- The gender dimension is well addressed in terms of the research with consideration of female preferences and requirements being considered, and also in terms of project implementation through a gender equality plan.
- Open data sharing between partners has been adequately described based on previous experiences and development of tools for dana sharing. An extensive data management plan according to the FAIR principles is provided.

- The intersectoral, international and interdisciplinary aspects of the proposed secondments between participants are not sufficiently demonstrated.
- The different methodologies to be used have not been sufficiently illustrated and, it is not sufficiently clear and specific how they can be linked to the identified scientific objectives to guarantee their achievement. The provided description does not offer sufficiently convincing evidence that all the defined objectives can be realistically achievable.
- The gender dimension of the research topic is not taken into account and a justification for this is missing from the proposal.
- Diversity issues beyond gender are not addressed.
 - Open science is discussed in a short and not very detailed format. A data management plan is only superficially addressed and no dana handling according to the FAIR principles is mentioned. The concrete measures to adapt these practices to the activity are missing. For example; open access tools, reproducible research, open science evaluation and citizen science are neither adequately presented nor explained.

Excellence – 1.3

1.2. Soundness of the proposed methodology (including international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)

- Overall methodology: Describe and explain the overall methodology including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin your work. How will this enable you to deliver your project's objectives?
- Integration of methods and disciplines to pursue the objectives: Explain how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be brought together and integrated in pursuit of your objectives.
- Gender dimension and other diversity aspects: Describe how the gender dimension and other diversity
 aspects are taken into account in the project's research and innovation content.
- Open science practices: Describe how appropriate open science practices are implemented as an
 integral part of the proposed methodology. Show how the choice of practices and their implementation are
 adapted to the nature of your work, in a way that will increase the chances of the project delivering on its
 objectives.
- Research data management and management of other research outputs
- Artificial Intelligence (if applicable)

1.3. Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations in light of the research and innovation objectives

Contribution of each participating organisation in the activities planned, with particular emphasis on the scientific objectives described in section 1.1.

- Clearly state what each participating organisation will contribute towards achieving the research and knowledge transfer objectives
- Include their expertise, their contribution to networking events, and their level of participation in the secondment

UK Research Office Brussels Justification of the main networking activities (e.g. workshops/trainings/conferences, etc.).

- Describe the **networking activities** that will be organised to **share knowledge** e.g. workshops, meetings, trainings, online networking and knowledge sharing
- Justify how these will contribute to the knowledge-sharing objectives explain why you have chosen these particular activities

1.3. Excellence – Evaluators' feedback

- A proper approach ensuring adequate knowledge sharing is well explained, pertinent, and in line with the objectives, including a description of the knowledge and expertise delivered by the participating organisations.
- Main networking activities are well described.
- The proposal demonstrates a broad interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral network for research and knowledge sharing, achieved through well balanced and welljustified secondments in terms of the MSCA - SE scheme.
- The proposal provides credible details on the expertise of each participant and how they are brought together to achieve the project's objectives.
- The contribution of each participating organization to the planned activities and suitable knowledge sharing is well balanced and of good quality.
- The benefits of the main networking activities via training, courses, and seminars are well justified by the proposal.

- The approach ensuring knowledge sharing between participants is not explained with the necessary level of detail and activities devoted to knowledge transfer are not clearly described.
- The proposal does not sufficiently demonstrate the interactions that could lead to interdisciplinarity. The potential interactions are listed generically; these do not convincingly demonstrate the integration of the current expertise and methods with the disciplines mentioned.
- The interactions between participating organisations, particularly between academic and non-academic beneficiaries, and for staff exchanges, are insufficiently elaborated. Specifically, networking activities, including the workshops and thematic schools, are not sufficiently detailed in relation to individual contributions.
- The challenges for each WP and the means to be used by the participants to address and overcome these possible challenges are not credibly identified.
- The proposed contribution of critical resources for industry and evidence-based information for policymakers is somehow overstated.
- The justification of networking activities is offered in general terms, mainly presenting the expected activities rather than their purpose.

Impact

2.1. Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge between participating organisations and contribution to improving research and innovation potential at the European and global level

<u>Describe the development and sustainability of new and lasting research collaborations</u> resulting from international, interdisciplinary and/or inter-sectoral secondments and the networking activities implemented.

How will the secondments and networking activities and the knowledge-transfer achieved via those mechanisms help to develop a lasting collaboration between the participants?

<u>Describe how the project will generate knowledge transfer</u> that will benefit the participating organisations.

Describe the overall strategy for knowledge-sharing and provide an explanation about the secondment programme and networking events. Think about:

- how will the secondments will contribute to the knowledge sharing objectives?
- How will knowledge be gained
- Who is the knowledge provider and recipient
- How will transfer of knowledge be achieved?
- How will knowledge be transferred to the sending institution?

<u>Key question:</u> How will the participating organisations benefit from the secondments and knowledge transfer?

<u>Describe the contribution of the action to the improvement of the research and innovation potential</u> within Europe and/or worldwide.

Show the importance of the research in addressing a challenge/priority at a European/Global level



2.1. Impact – Evaluators' feedback

- The proposal credibly addresses a strategy that will support lasting research collaborations. Existing collaborations and new opportunities for partnerships among the partners are well explained. The interaction with non-EU partners will promote research and innovation worldwide.
- The consortium brings together participants with different profiles, involving experts from different areas, which makes the project interesting for both academia and industry.
- The proposal shows a good plan of action that will result in knowledge transfer between organizations, including event details, scope and delivery plans, locations, and a Work Package shared for all partners. Academic partners will also benefit from new training course development
- The proposal clearly shows the short-term and longterm collaboration perspectives of the participants. The measures taken to sustain the long-term collaboration between participants through a sound sustainability plan are exceptionally well presented.
- The proposal has great potential to impact the research and innovation capacity at the European and global level.

- It is evident that some partners have been made to fit into the project but with a weak connection.
- The sustainability of the research collaborations beyond the duration of the proposed activities is not convincingly demonstrated. No future scientific plans are presented, and the proposal does not indicate any concrete strategies and actions expected to secure the sustainability of the newly created collaborations.
- The knowledge sharing during the secondments and the distribution of the knowledge and skills between the partners have not been sufficiently described. It is not clear how the TC partners will benefit from the knowledge transfer, as no secondments are planned to the European partners (except for one TC partner).

Impact

2.2. Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives of staff members and contribution to their skills development

<u>Describe how the action contributes to realising the potential of individuals</u> and provides new skills, enhances their knowledge and career perspectives

How will participating in the project will help the Staff to enhance their potential and improve their career prospects?

- New knowledge gained (e.g. research skills, transferable skills)
- Mobility to academic/non-academic sector
- Mobility to organizations outside Europe (i.e. experiencing different research environments);
- New career options, particularly outside academia
- Raising their profile through networking, research outputs and communication activities to different target groups (including the media & general public)

Link your project with the EU policies about research careers/employability, showcasing that your project is in line with EU needs, priorities and long-term goals..





2.2. Impact – Evaluators' feedback

- The proposal clearly defines how the project will enhance the career perspectives of involved staff, considering the sector, country, and stage of the staff member, and will provide a diverse training program for the staff.
- A concrete list of skills that will improve the career perspectives of the staff members involved is appropriately described.
- The workshops and events arranged during the project will enable the researchers to widen their network and improve communication skills, which will have a positive impact on their careers.
- The potential impact of the project on the researchers' career perspective is well described. The early-stage researchers will have access to very good scientific and soft skills training. The project will enhance their employability both in the public and private sectors.

- The proposal does not clearly describe how the collaboration and training during the project will enhance the knowledge and the career perspectives of the staff members.
- The new career perspectives are not appropriately addressed, without a clear indication of what new opportunities in the job market will be result from this work.



Impact

2.3. Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

Plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities'.

- Describe the planned measures to maximise the impact of your project through dissemination, exploitation and communication.
- They must be strategically planned, with clear objectives, start at the outset and continue through the lifetime of the project. Give due consideration to possible follow-up activities of your project.
- The description of the communication activities needs to state the main messages as well as the tools
 and channels that will be used to reach out to each of the chosen target groups.
- All measures should be proportionate to the scale of the project, and should contain concrete actions to be implemented both during and after the end of the project, e.g. standardisation activities.
- In the justification, explain why each measure chosen is best suited to reach the target group addressed. Where relevant, describe the measures for a plausible path to commercialise the innovations.

<u>Strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures</u>, such as patents, design rights, copyright, trade secrets, etc., and how these would be used to support exploitation.

- At proposal stage, think about Intellectual Property Rights
- If project is successful, you will need an appropriate consortium agreement to manage (amongst other things) the ownership and access to key knowledge (IPR, research data etc

2.4. The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts.

Provide a narrative explaining how the project's results are expected to make a difference in terms of impact, beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project?

- Be specific, and only provide cases where your project would make a direct, significant impact
- Impacts: (1) scientific impact, (2) economic/technological impact(s), (3) societal impact

2.3. Impact – Evaluators' feedback

- The proposal considers a wide range of mechanisms to generate the maximum possible benefits not only for all the participating organizations, academic and industrial but worldwide.
- The proposal has a detailed plan for dissemination and exploitation, which includes a wide variety of appropriate actions and communication channels. This will be used to improve the visibility of the results and maximize the impact of the project.
- The IP management plan is relevant to the objectives of the proposal and adequately considered.
- The dissemination of the scientific results through articles, conferences, workshops, and public discussions have been presented in detail, and the main events have been listed.
- The plan to exploit results is sufficiently described and relevant.

- It is described only in generic terms how the scientific results will generate an impact beyond the goals and duration of the project.
- The different stakeholder groups and specific outreach activities to them have not been adequately discussed. It is not clear how the stakeholders will find these outreach activities and how the success of these outreach activities will be monitored-
- The plan for participation in conferences and publications in scientific journals is not sufficiently detailed.
- The result exploitation plans lack a description of how the potential beneficiaries, such as SMEs and other industry sectors, will be involved in realizing the potential applications. This aspect is especially important as no intersectoral mobility is planned.
- The communication strategy is not fully convincing: the target audiences are insufficiently identified, and a structured approach, with tailored measures, to address various audiences or the timeline to reach each different audience are insufficiently developed.
- Intellectual property (IP) aspects lack convincing details. A concrete plan for managing potential IP issues within a large network, including also third countries is missing in the proposal

Implementation

3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

- Complete pre-defined tables:
 - Work Packages description
 - List of major deliverables
 - List of risks
- <u>Consistency and adequacy of the work plan</u> and the activities proposed to reach the action objectives (research/innovation activities, training, transfer of knowledge, etc.).

How are the proposed secondments necessary to implement the activities described? Is their duration is appropriate to achieve the objectives?

• <u>Credibility and feasibility of the allocation of secondments proposed to reach the action objectives</u> (research/innovation activities, training, transfer of knowledge, etc.).

How is the number of staff available and the staff member profiles appropriate to implement the activities linked to the different secondments?

- 3.2 Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
- Appropriateness of the infrastructure and capacity of each participating organisation, in light of the tasks allocated to them in the action;
- Consortium composition and exploitation of participating organisations' complementarities: explain
 the compatibility and coherence between the tasks attributed to each beneficiary and associated partner in
 the action, including in light of their experience;
- Any request for exception flunding.
- Remember scanned level commitment for each Associated Partner must be provided in Part B2 (outside of page limit)

3.1. Implementation – Evaluators' feedback

- The work packages are clearly presented in terms of objectives, tasks and deliverables and the project is credible and feasible through the proposed activities.
- The various stages in project development are appropriately represented in the proposal. There is satisfactory detail to show how each element connects to others; the sub-tasks are legitimate and connected to the objective of each of the work packages and to relevant outputs. The work plan is consistent and feasible.
- The project schedule is well detailed and guarantees that interrelationships between the WPs and partners will be carried out effectively. Also, the duration of the proposed secondments is appropriate to achieve the objectives. The work plan in terms of tasks and deliverables is very well detailed and coherent.
- The person-months allocated to each work package are sufficient and the secondments are directly related to concrete tasks.
- The project management structure, progress monitoring measures, and practical arrangements in the participating institutions are very well outlined, supporting the action's feasibility.
- The capacity of the coordinating organisation to manage an international/intersectoral consortium funded by an EU grant is convincingly demonstrated.
- Both technical and administrative risks are considered in detail, and their mitigation plan is well presented.

- The role of every partner in each work package is not evident. The work packages and task leaders (persons in charge) are not clearly specified.
- The distribution of the secondments (personmonths) is unbalanced with some partners assigned a high number of secondments without convincing justification.
- Scientific deliverables are not adequately defined. Most are presented as activities with no quantitative/qualitative indicators or clearly specified means of verification.
- The supervision, support, and hosting arrangements provided to the seconded researchers have not been adequately discussed.
- The risks related to the project management or success of the secondments and/or potential delays have not been adequately considered, and the mitigation of these risks has not been explained well.

Implementation

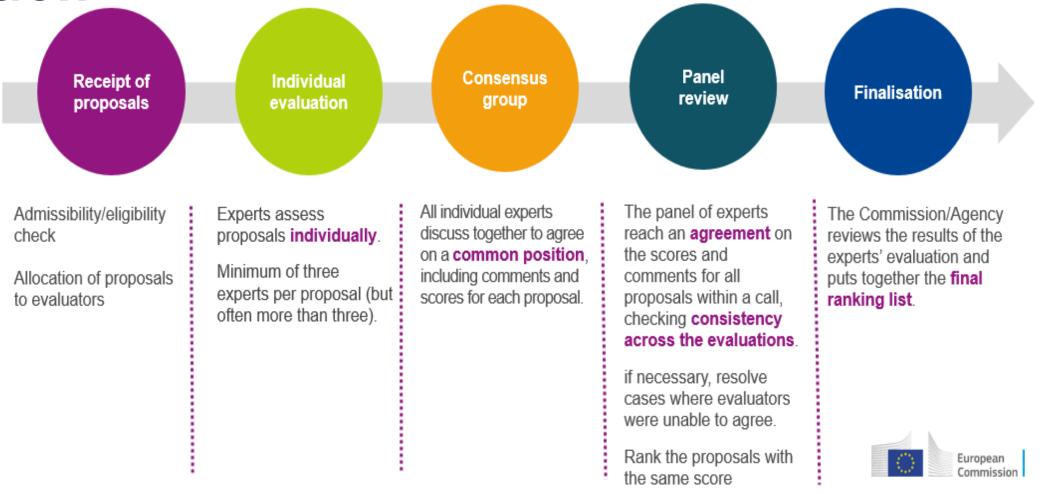
- 3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
- Complete pre-defined tables:
 - Work Packages description
 - List of major deliverables
 - List of risks
- <u>Consistency and adequacy of the work plan</u> and the activities proposed to reach the action objectives
 (research/innovation activities, training, transfer of knowledge, etc.).
 How are the proposed secondments necessary to implement the activities described? Is their duration is
 appropriate to achieve the objectives?
- Credibility and feasibility of the allocation of secondments proposed to reach the action objectives
 (research/innovation activities, training, transfer of knowledge, etc.).
 How is the number of staff available and the staff member profiles appropriate to implement the activities linked to the different secondments?
- 3.2 Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
- Appropriateness of the infrastructure and capacity of each participating organisation, in light of the tasks allocated to them in the action;
- Consortium composition and exploitation of participating organisations' complementarities: explain the compatibility and coherence between the tasks attributed to each beneficiary and associated partner in the action, including in light of their experience;
- Any request for exceptional funding.

3.2. Implementation – Evaluators' feedback

- All the participants have the appropriate facilities to carry out the work and to host seconded participants.
- The number of staff available for the project is justified, and the staff member profiles have been carefully considered to support the project. The tasks assigned to participants are aligned with their relative expertise.
- The necessary infrastructures and major items of technical equipment relevant to the proposed programme are well described.
- The synergies and complementarities of participants cover all scientific and technological aspects of the proposed work
- Consortium participants have extensive experience working on EU funded projects. The expertise of all participants is compatible and very complementary, allowing the effective delivery of the project objectives.

- The capacity of the consortium is not clearly described in the proposal. For example, the proposal insufficiently justifies some of the academic partners' workload balance and the proposed human resources.
- The capacity of the coordinator to manage an EC funded project is not convincingly demonstrated.
- The appropriateness of the institutional infrastructure has been insufficiently addressed.
- The infrastructures of some non-academic participants are only briefly described. Some necessary equipment is not fully described.
- It is not sufficiently demonstrated that the participating organisations possess a sufficient breadth of expertise to achieve all of the scientific objectives.
- The complementarity of the different partners is not adequately detailed.

Evaluation



- Max 5 months from submission for evaluation outcomes, and 3 months to sign the grant agreement.
- Each proposal will be evaluated in one of the eight different Scientific panels.
- Each panel will establish a ranked list of proposals for funding.
- The call budget will be distributed between the panels based on the proportion of eligible proposals received in each panel.

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-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

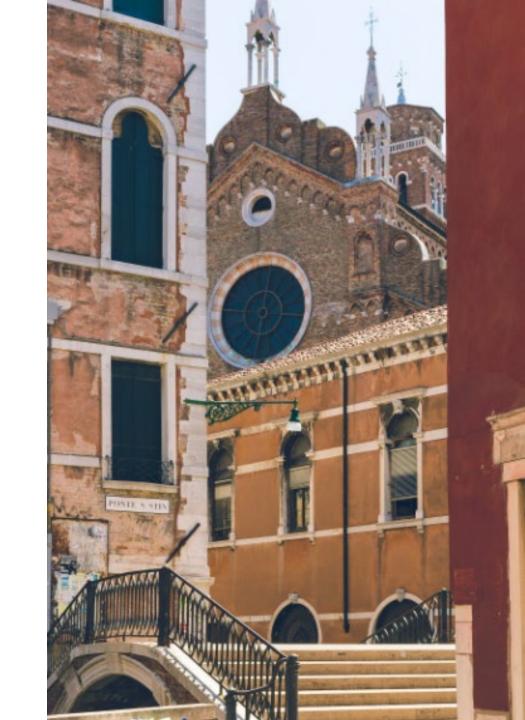




MSCA Related EU Policies

- Contribution to the <u>European Research Area</u> and <u>European Education</u>
 <u>Area</u>
- Committed to the <u>EU Charter for Researchers</u>, <u>The Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers</u> and <u>Innovative Doctoral Training</u>
 <u>Principles</u>
- Supports underlying principles of <u>Open Science</u>, <u>Responsible Research &</u>
 Innovation
- Support and encourage good supervision <u>MSCA Guidelines on</u> <u>Supervision</u>
- Promotes sustainable behaviours and policies MSCA Green Charter
- Development of synergies <u>MSCA-NET Synergies Brief</u>
- Innovation Agenda <u>MSCA-NET Non-Academic Sector Engagement</u>









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