

MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Developing talents, advancing research



Other opportunities under MSCA 2025 calls

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

MSCA: A world reference for research and training





Key figures (2014-2020)

+65	,000

Researchers, including 25,000 PhD candidates

> +1,000 Doctoral programmes

Over 5000 Companies supported

50% of all third

countries' participations

in H2020

~40% of researchers

from outside of the EU

6.5 billion € Under Horizon 2020

42%

Female

researchers



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions





MSCA Staff Exchanges (SE)

Main Objective

"Promote innovative international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration in research and innovation through exchanging staff and sharing knowledge and ideas at all stages of the innovation chain"

Budget (SE-2025): EUR 97.71 million (TBC, pre-published WP available here)

Call opening : 27 March 2025 Call deadline: 8 October 2025





What is Staff Exchanges?

Research & Innovation **mobility** action



It equips researchers and organisations **worldwide** with advanced skills and cutting knowledge







Can be combined with other programmes (**synergy**)



Objectives





International, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of R&I staff (secondments) Knowledge transfer between participating organisations





Cooperation across the globe



MSCA Staff Exchanges : Expected impact

- Increase international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of research staff within Europe and beyond through collaborative research networks and activities;
- Strengthen the R&I human capital base in Europe and beyond;
- Increase **Europe's attractiveness** as a leading destination for R&I;
- Contribute to Europe's competitiveness and growth through high-quality R&I;
- Foster the culture of open science, innovation and entrepreneurship.



MSCA SE 2025: Expected outcomes

Staff members



Organisations





Who can participate in MSCA-SE projects?

Consortium of min. **3 legal entities in 3 different countries,** 2 of which in a different EU Member State or HE Associated Country

Academic sector





Non-academic sector



Eligible SE research consortia (for min of 3 entities)

If all 3 entities are **European (MS/AC)**, one should be **from a different sector**



If all 3 entities from same sector (e.g. academic) one must be located outside Europe





Eligible staff



Seconded staff members



Any type of staff involved in R&I activities (researchers, administrative staff, managerial staff, technical staff) Each staff member is seconded for a period of **1 to 12 months** (may be split into several stays)

Researchers at any career stage (e.g. from doctoral candidates to postdoctoral researchers)

Staff needs to be devoted **full-time** to the action during the secondment

Actively engaged in research and/or innovation activities for at least **1 month** prior at the sending institution

After the secondment, staff should **return to their sending institution**



Eligible secondments in Europe & AC







<1/3, if interdisciplinary

Guidance/programme-guide_horizon_countries.pdf



Same-sector secondments in Europe (MS/AC)

- ≤ 1/3 of the total secondments funded by the EU, if considered **interdisciplinary**
- Interdisciplinary secondments integrate aspects from two or more different scientific disciplines
- Important: scientific panels + descriptors/MSCA keywords from proposal form part A (see <u>REA</u> <u>Website</u>)







What does Staff Exchanges fund?





Budget of SE project based on the Nr of planned secondments

Key features









BOTTOM UP with different scientific panels

TOP UP ALLOWANCE 5010 €: 2710 € - staff allowance 2300 € - organisation

SECONDMENTS

- **1-12** months per staff
- Interdisciplinary
- Intersectoral
- International

DURATION 4 years **Max 360** personmonths per project



Staff Exchanges - making a difference









WORLD-WIDE The highest participation of non-EU countries in MSCA

BUSINESS PARTICIPATION Businesses receive an estimated 30% of the available funding

PATENTS Significant share of all patents in MSCA actions

SUCCESS RATE Between 20 & 40% depending on the discipline and on the year



HORIZON-MSCA-2025-SE-01 – Indicative timeline

THE	Launch of the call for proposals	Deadline for submitting proposals	Notification of call results to applicants (TBC)	Grant agreement signature for successful projects (TBC)	First EU-funded projects start (TBC)
	27 March 2025	8 Oct. 2025	Early 2026	June 2026 (Indicative)	Nov. 2026



Reference documents



SCA Work Programme annexes

Proposal templates

Frequently Asked Questions



Evaluation criteria



Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation	
research and innovation objectives (and	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	assessment of risks, and appropriateness of	
	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives of staff members and contribution to their skills development		
	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts , as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities		
	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific , societal and economic impacts		
50%	30%		

How to find partners?



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NETWORKING EVENTS (CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, ETC.) FORMER OR CURRENT COLLABORATIONS



JOINT

PROJECTS



FUNDING AND TENDER OPPORTUNITIE S PORTAL





EUROPEAN ENTERPRISE <u>NETWORK</u>



NATIONAL CONTACT POINT



How to find partners F&T opportunities







Tips and tricks



Closely follow the call requirements



Follow available guidelines



Highlight the EU dimension



Get a second opinion





Contact your National Contact Point



Synergies between MSCA SE and other grants

A synergetic MSCA SE project

Another grant





Research Enquiry Service

For questions about research and Horizon Europe please contact the <u>Research Enquiry Service (europa.eu)</u>



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MSCA SE – Success Rate



European Commission

MSCA SE – TR Success Rate



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions





What is MSCA COFUND?

Monobeneficiary action: new or existing national, regional, institutional schemes for <u>doctoral</u> training & <u>postdoctoral</u> fellowships

Focus:

 best practice, high standards & excellent working conditions, sustainable structuring effects





Main Objective

"co-finance new or existing doctoral programmes and postdoctoral fellowship schemes at national, regional or international level with the aim to spread the best practices of the MSCA including international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as international and crosssectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career"

Budget (COFUND-2025): EUR 105.56 million (TBC, pre-published WP available <u>here</u>)

Call opening: 23 January 2025

Call deadline: 24 June 2025



MSCA COFUND : Expected impact

- Enhance talent and knowledge circulation across the R&I landscape, through international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility, including by supporting regional or national smart specialisation strategies when appropriate;
- Align practices with MSCA policies based on the European Charter for Researchers;
- Improve the **attractiveness of researchers' careers** notably through better working and employment conditions;
- Strengthen Europe's human capital base in R&I by training highly-skilled researchers;
- Increase **Europe's attractiveness** as a leading R&I destination;
- Enhance the quality of R&I contributing to Europe's sustainable competitiveness;
- Establish sustainable collaboration between academic and non-academic organisations;
- Foster the culture of open science, innovation and entrepreneurship



MSCA COFUND 2025: Expected outcomes

For doctoral candidates and researchers:

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

For PF participating organizations:

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



MSCA COFUND – Eligible participants



Single legal entity established in an EU Member State



Single legal entity established in HE associated country



MSCA COFUND – Partners

Participating Organisations							
Summary of Tasks							
Role in the Doctoral or Postdoctoral Programme	Recruitment of researchers	Training and/or hosting of seconded researchers	Directly claim unit costs				
Beneficiary	~	✓	\checkmark				
Associated Partner	x	\checkmark	x				
Implementing Partner	~	\checkmark	x				

No letters of commitment are required at the evaluation stage for any partner

If the proposal is shortlisted for funding, **Implementing partners** identified in the proposal will be asked to provide a letter of commitment before the grant signature.




COFUND – Possible structures 2 - Horizontal





COFUND – Possible structures 3 – Single Point

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We do everything



COFUND	
	Doctoral or Post-Doctoral
Scope	programmes
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Co-funding	Max. EUR 10m/beneficiary/call
Duration	Programme: max. 60 months Fellowship: min. 3 months
Recruitment	Fellows: min. 3 fellows must be recruited



COFUND – Eligible researchers







Doctoral candidates

Postdoctoral researchers

Any nationality

Mobility rule



COFUND – Project implementation





Employment contract or equivalent direct contract

No fixed-amount fellowships





Part-time allowed for personal, family, or professional* reasons (*upon approval)



Secondments up to 1/3 of fellowship duration



COFUND Seal of Excellence

for applications scoring $\geq 85\%$



COFUND – **Project** implementation

Independent experts involved at every stage of selection process

The selection of the researchers

Project implementation

Training programme

Postdoctoral programmes must involve independent international experts



COFUND – Supervision arrangements

Rationale to be specified for contact with supervisor at application stage

No involvement in the drafting of proposal and no approval required before submission

No role in recruitment process or decision making



COFUND – Selection and Recruitment

International advertisement of vacancies

Open, transparent, merit-based, impartial and equitable recruitment process

Assurance of no conflict of interest and no preselection

Doctoral programme: independent panel outside the partnership

Postdoctoral programme: independent international panel



COFUND – Use of artificial intelligence

Use of generative AI tools permitted

Applicants bear legal responsibility for their proposal

No role in recruitment process or decision making

Inaccurate/erroneous data generated by AI tools to be penalised

Plagiarism may lead to proposal rejection



COFUND Budget – EU contribution



Doctoral programmes EUR 3,300**

rate

Postdoctoral programmes EUR 4,700**

Any cost item of the programme supported

* For more details:

unit-mga_he_en.pdf

** Fixed-amount fellowship: 50% of the standard



COFUND budget - Conditions

Total cost of programme to be specified

Amounts for researchersAmounts for organisation(s)

Minimum monthly gross remuneration + mobility costs

Doctoral candidates: EUR 3,300*
Postdoctoral candidates: EUR 4,700*

*Min. EUR 1,650 (doctoral) & EUR 2,350 (postdoc) if fixed-amount fellowship



COFUND budget – Part A

412	111.														
							No of	Number of	Number of	Contributions for recruited researchers					
	Participant number	Organisation short name	Role	Country	Academic sector	Ю	recruited	person months (Employment)	person months (Fellowship)	Employment Contract	Fixed amount fellowship	Total	Own resources	Financia contributio	
	1				No	No									
	Total														

Hamment

Cost categories	EU contribution (A) (EUR/person-month)	Own resources (B) (EUR/person-month)	Total cost = EU contribution + own resources (A+B) (EUR/person- month)
Number of fellows			·
Number of fellow months			
Total amount		1 1	

<u>Beneficiary</u> and (if appl.) <u>Associated Partners</u> (APs) involved in the proposal. <u>Implementing Partners</u> (IPs) are not listed.

The beneficiary is 'Participant number 1' followed by the APs.

<u>Beneficiary</u> must encode in the column **'Own resources'** its own financial input to the programme, and in the column **'Financial contribution**' the financial support coming from IPs (if applicable).

<u>Beneficiary</u> must indicate for the APs – each in its relevant row - under the column '**Financial contribution'** any financial support (if appl.).



European Commission

COFUND BUDGET - Part B1

COFUND budget – Part B1

Cost categories	EU contribution (A) (EUR/person- month)	Own resources (B) (EUR/person- month)	Total cost = EU contribution + own resources (A+B) (EUR/person-month)
COFUND allowance	3 300 (for Doctoral)*		***
	4 700 (for Postdoctoral)*		
Mobility allowance**			****
Family allowance**		-6	****
Travel allowance**		CO.	***
Research costs**		0	
Other (training, etc.) **			
Management costs **	~°`		
Indirect costs**	all?		
Number of fellows	10		
Number of fellow months			
Total amount			

Please make sure that the Total cost (including EU contribution and Own resources) declared in section 3 of Part A of the proposal matches exactly what is presented in Part B1.

- Choose applicable rate
- ** If applicable

*

- *** Monthly gross remuneration
- **** Total amount of allowance, if provided



COFUND – Award criteria

Excellence (50%)

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Impact (30%)

Implementation (20%)



MSCA COFUND – Success Rate





MSCA COFUND – TR Success Rate



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions





MSCA Choose Europe for Science

Mono-beneficiary Action to co-fund programmes in which academic or non-academic or ganisations recruit and train researchers with a vision to employment beyond the project period

• Target group: researchers at post-doctoral level who comply with the mobility rule

- Focus:
 - to increase the attractiveness of the European R&I ecosystem by tackling precarity in research careers
 - spread best practices of the MSCA by promoting high standards in the recruitment and evaluation process and excellent working conditions
 - introduce lasting impact, through risk-sharing and by promoting excellent and sustainable accession and progression systems



MSCA Choose Europe for Science

• Structure

- 1st phase: 24-36 months in which the EU will provide funding in the form of a Choose Europe for Science allowance which can be used to cover any cost category and is equivalent to the minimum gross monthly remuneration of recruited researchers amounting to 6700 EUR
- **2nd phase:** 24 months funded entirely by the beneficiary with remuneration rates to be set at a level that is nationally or regionally competitive
- Partners
 - **Beneficiary :** single legal entity established in an EU Member State or HE Associated country that will recruit selected researchers
 - NO Implementing partners
 - Associated partners : based anywhere and be in any sector
 → cannot recruit and receive funds from the beneficiary
- Co-funding
 - Beneficiaries are responsible for sourcing complementary funds for implementing their programme if selected, deploying
 institutional, regional, national or European level resources
 - No double funding



MSCA Choose Europe for Science





DURATION

COMPOSITION

Max 6 years including recruitment 2-3 years first phase 2 years second phase

1 beneficiary from EU MS or HE AC (no implementing partners)



RECRUITMENT

For at least 3 researchers at postdoctoral level



BUDGET

Co-funding with a frontloaded EU contribution Max EUR 3.5 million per beneficiary per call

Next Call: 1 October – 3 December 2025 22.5M €



MSCA Choose Europe for Science – Unit contributions

Contributions for recruited researchers and institutional contributions Per person-month <u>in the first phase of the project</u>

Choose Europe for Science allowance	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)
EUR 6 700 ¹	EUR 6 700 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit ² x (1/number of months)

¹These amount are also the minimum gross remuneration applicable for researchers recruited under the programmes



MSCA Choose Europe for Science: award criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality of the selection / recruitment process for the researchers (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities, the gender dimension and other diversity aspects)	Contribution to addressing local human resource needs, to advancing regional/national specialisation strategies, and to strengthening European research, innovation and teaching capacity	Quality, credibility and effectiveness of the recruitment plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned towards offering concrete career prospects for recruited researchers
Quality and attractiveness of the appointment conditions , including inclusive working conditions, quality and attractiveness of the research environment and the resources, training and career development opportunities provided, and remuneration offered in the second phase of the fellowship	Strengthening human resources good practices at institutional, regional, national, or international level, in particular through aligning the practices of participating organisations with the principles set out by the EU for human resources development in research and innovation	Quality and capacity of the recruiting institutions, including hosting arrangements and institutional procedures' alignment with the European Charter for Researchers (institutions with the HRS4R label are exempted from providing further justification for this criterion) and the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment
Quality and attractiveness of the concrete long- term career prospects that extend beyond the duration of the fellowship		
Quality and ambition of the research, innovation		

and/or academic objectives of the recruitment

50%

programme



20%

Threshold for all criteria categories (excellence, impact and implementation) = 3

30%

Best Practices and Resources

- <u>European Charter for Researchers</u>
 - provides a set of principles underpinning the development of attractive research careers to support excellence in research and innovation across Europe
 - offers guidance on research assessment, recruitment and progression as well as on working conditions
- <u>Sustainable Careers for Researcher Empowerment</u> (SECURE) project
 - developed a Research Career Framework as well as a range of Tenure Track-Like Models based on a study of existing initiatives across Europe
- <u>Coalition for the Advancing Research Assessment</u> and the projects funded through the associated CoARA Boost initiative
 - focuses on creating more equitable and transparent research assessment systems
- OECD report on reducing the precarity of academic research careers
 - examines the challenges and instability faced by researchers in academic careers, offering insights and recommendations to enhance job security and career development
 - proposes policy frameworks and best practices to reduce precarity and improve the overall working conditions for researchers globally



MSCA & CITIZENS 2025

Main Objective

"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"

Budget (CITIZENS-2025): EUR 16.25 million (TBC, pre-published WP available <u>here</u>)

Call opening : 17 June 2025 Call deadline: 22 October 2025



MSCA & CITIZENS – Objectives

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Bring research and researchers closer to the public.

Show the role of the researcher for the society and economy. Raise the interest of young people in research careers.

Address the general public, with a specific focus on families, pupils, students.

A **wide geographic coverage** that reflects the European nature of this initiative is key.



MSCA & CITIZENS – Expected Impacts

Enhance engagement with citizens. Increase awareness among the general public of the importance and benefits of R&I. Especially EU-funded research.

Diffusion and promotion of excellence research projects across Europe and beyond by reaching citizens in as many participating countries as possible.

Raise interest of young people in science and research careers. Support schoolteachers and educators in developing a scientific approach around priority topics.



European Commission

MSCA & CITIZENS – Expected Outcome

For researchers

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- Enhanced **opportunities to interact with citizens** and local, regional and national authorities.
- Improved communication skills and competences to interact with a non-research audience.

For organisations

- Increased **reputation and visibility** of participating organisations.
- Researchers' work made more tangible.
- Improved outreach to all audiences across Europe, and notably those who do not have an easy access to science and research activities.
- Better communication of R&I results and activities to society.



MSCA & CITIZENS – Scope

Proposals should cover both the organisation of the European Researchers' Night and the implementation of the Researchers at Schools initiative.

The European Researchers' Night takes place every year, on the last Friday of September. Pre-events, and post-events can also be organised.

The European Researchers' Night targets the general public, addressing people regardless of the level of their scientific background, special focus on young people and their families, pupils and students

The Researchers at Schools initiative brings school classes to research facilities and researchers to schools any time during the project duration.



MSCA & CITIZENS - EU Researchers' Night activities

Activities can combine education with entertainment.

They can take various forms, such as exhibitions, handson experiments, science shows, simulations, debates, games, competitions, quizzes, etc

Where appropriate, engagement with educational institutions should be sought



MSCA & CITIZENS - Researchers at Schools activities

Activities will allow researchers to showcase their work and interact with pupils

They can take various forms, such as presentations, discussions, speed-dating, citizen science, science shows, summer schools, nature walks or visits to research facilities



MSCA & CITIZENS – Other Features

The European Researchers' Night should be highlighted as a European (and European wide) event and each proposal should promote the European Union and its impact on citizens' daily life

The Researchers at Schools activities should take place at any time during the project duration and should be subject to a dedicated promotion

Involvement of researchers funded by Horizon Europe or previous Framework Programmes is encouraged.

Both type of activities have to promote gender balance, diversity and inclusiveness in science.

Partnerships and coordination at regional, national or cross-border levels are encouraged.

High-quality applications not retained due to lack of funding may be granted the status of associated events.



MSCA & CITIZENS – Eligible Participants

Applications may be submitted by one or more legal entities established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country

Activities carried-out in non-associated third countries are not eligible for funding



MSCA & CITIZENS – Project Duration

24 months from the starting date

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Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals covering two successive editions (2026 and 2027) during the project duration.



MSCA & CITIZENS – Funding

The maximum requested EU contribution per proposal should not exceed EUR 350 000.

All proposals are encouraged to bring additional sources of funding. The budget will be evaluated under the criterion 3 "Quality and efficiency of the implementation". Proposals exceeding max EU contribution might be penalised during evaluation unless a strong justification is provided.



MSCA & CITIZENS – Funding Mechanism

Eligible costs will take the form of lump sum contributions

The expected EU contribution per project is between EUR 50 000 and 175 000 per annual edition

The expected EU contribution requested for a proposal covering 2026 and 2027 would be between EUR 100 000 and 350 000

Applicants propose a **lump sum based on a detailed estimation of costs.** Following evaluation of the proposal an individual lump sum is fixed in each grant agreement



MSCA & CITIZENS – Funding Mechanism (2)

Proposals must contain a detailed budget per beneficiary:

Direct Costs: Personnel costs; Subcontracting costs; Purchase costs; and Other cost categories

Indirect costs: 25% flat rate to the direct costs that qualify

The lump sum is calculated by applying the applicable reimbursement rate, 100% in this case

In addition, applicants must provide a split of the lump sum per beneficiary and per work package.



Award criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation		
Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives.	Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project.	plan, assessment of risks, and		
	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.	the extent to which the consortium as a		
50%	30%	20%		
		European Commission		

MSCA & CITIZENS – Evaluation procedure

The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply:

To ensure a balanced portfolio covering the widest geographical coverage, grants will be awarded not only in order of ranking but also to the **top-ranked application from each country** based on the coordinator's location (including trans-national consortia), provided that the applications attain all thresholds.



MSCA & CITIZENS – TR Success Rates



European Commission



#MSCA #HorizonEU

European Research Executive Agency

<u>https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe</u> <u>-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions_en</u>



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