



Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Postdoctoral Fellowship 2021



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Outline

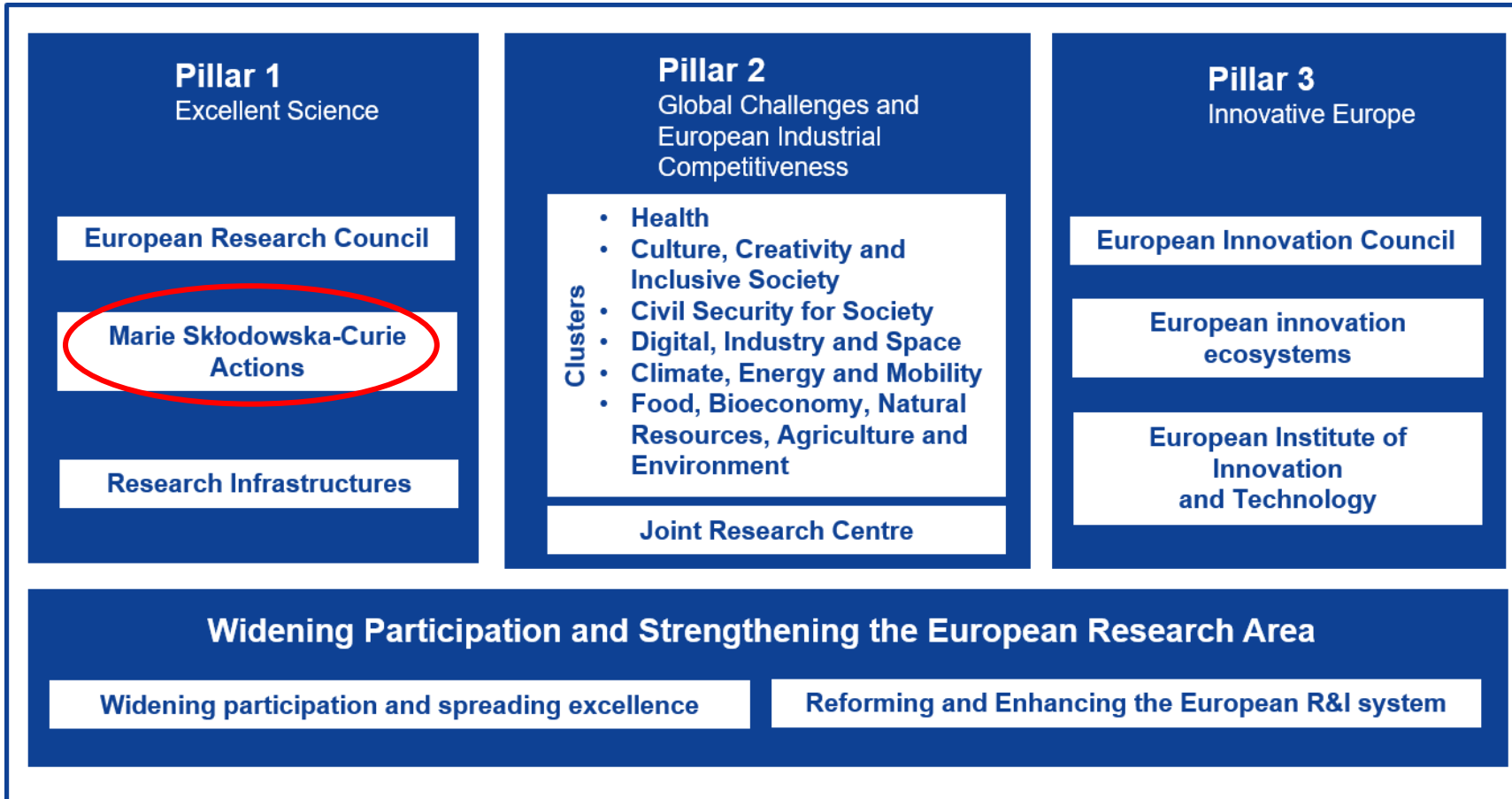
- MSCA under Horizon Europe
- MSCA-Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Host Countries & Host Institute
- Application Formalities
- ERA - Fellowships
- Evaluation Criteria
- Tentative Timeline

What is MSCA?

- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)**
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie**
- Excellence & Mobility
- MSC Action for every stage of career
- Career development and training for excellent researchers
- Website: <https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>



MSCA in Horizon Europe (2021-2027)



MSCA Actions under Horizon Europe

6.6 billion Euros

Doctoral Networks

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

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Main Objectives:
 - **Foster excellence** through implementation of an original and personalised research project
 - Enhance the **creative and innovative potential** of researchers holding a PhD (training on research + transferable skills) + support to career development
 - Focus on **i3** (international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary) mobility
 - Bridges and **exposure to the non-academic sector**

Research areas

- **All scientific fields: bottom up** (including Euratom areas*)
- Proposals evaluated and ranked in **8 Scientific panels:**
 - 1) Chemistry (CHE)
 - 2) Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
 - 3) Economic Sciences (ECO)
 - 4) Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
 - 5) Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
 - 6) Life Sciences (LIF)
 - 7) Mathematics (MAT)
 - 8) Physics (PHY)

*Indian applicants are, however, not eligible for Euratom research

Type of Postdoctoral Fellowships

- **Mono-beneficiary actions** to support postdoctoral research and careers
- Architecture simplification – **Two types of Fellowships**

➤ **European Postdoctoral Fellowships ***

Coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe

➤ **Global Postdoctoral Fellowships**

Outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe AC to any Third Country.

* **ERA Fellowships** - aligned with the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call. Spreading excellence and contribute fostering balanced brain circulation in Widening Countries

Eligible researchers – European Fellowships

Nationality

Any nationality

Age

No age limit

Mobility

The researcher **cannot** have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for **more than 12 months** in the **three years** immediately prior to the call deadline

Research experience (FTE)

- **Must hold PhD:** successfully defended (even if not awarded) the degree at the time of call deadline.
 - **Maximum 8 years** from date of award of the (first) doctoral degree
- This limit can be extended for the following reasons (to be encoded in the submission forms):
- **Maternity leave** (18 months – i.e. 548 days) per child born after the PhD award date, or exact duration of leave taken, whichever is longest);
 - **Paternity leave** (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date);
 - Compulsory national service;
 - **Time spent not working in research** (also applies teaching and working in industry on non-research areas will not count for the number of years).
 - Long-term sick leave (periods longer than 30 days).

Host Institution



Academic sector

- ✓ public or private higher education establishments
- ✓ public or private non-profit research organisations
- ✓ International European Research Organisations

Non-academic sector

- ✓ any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector

Host Countries

27 EU Member States (MS):

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden

18 upcoming Horizon Europe Associated Countries (AC)* :

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo** , Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom*** .

* Please see the [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#) on the Portal for up-to-date information on the current list and on the position for country associated to Horizon Europe.

**This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

***The UK is associating to the full Horizon Europe programme with the only exception of the EIC Fund (which is the loan/equity instrument of the EIC).

Legal entities established in Switzerland are currently not covered by these transitional arrangements.

Who is involved in the application?

- **Applicant** (called 'Fellow'): in possession of PhD at the call deadline – no more than 8 years research experience after PhD.
- **Supervisor** (or 'Primary Coordinator Contact'): experienced researcher who will be supervising the fellow and the project. The fellow should develop the project proposal in liaison with the supervisor. To ensure that Supervisor fulfils supervision in compliance with highest standards and that researcher can benefit from best environment to work in, the European Commission has issued some guidelines to that effect.
- **Beneficiary** (also called 'Host Institution'): this is the European university or institute or industry, validated by the EC as a 'legal entity' with Participant Identification Code (PIC).
- **Administrative Coordinator Contact**: the administrative person responsible on behalf of the beneficiary.

How does European PF work?

- 1. Find Host Institute:** PF candidate to find European Host Institute/Supervisor (academic or non-academic sector)
- 2. Proposal writing:** jointly written by the PF candidate and European Supervisor
- 3. Submission of Proposal:**
 - **Only the European Host supervisor** should press the "**submit**" button and take any other actions in the name of the organisation → electronic submission system of the Funding and Tenders Portal.
 - **Only one proposal per individual** researcher can be submitted. In case of several proposals involving the same individual researcher, only the last submitted one will be considered eligible.
 - Successful proposal receive funding between **12 and 24 months**.
 - **European host** institute **receives** the **funding** and **recruits** the awarded researcher.

Novel features

- Option to include a **secondment phase**, within the overall duration of the fellowship in any country **worldwide**. Max. 1/3 of the fellowship duration.
- Additional **six months** at the end of the project to work on R&I projects in the non-academic sector established in an EU MS or HE AC.
- **Seal of Excellence**: applications with a total score equal to or higher than **85%**, but not funded due to lack of budget (provided above threshold in the three criteria). Adds weight to researcher's application, when they seek to apply to other funding sources offered by EU MS.

ERA Fellowships

- **European Research Area (ERA) Fellowships** aligned with the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021 – funded through the **Widening part of the Horizon Europe WP**
- Offering a “**second chance**” of funding for fellows with host institutions in widening countries
- The best ranking MSCA-PF proposals with host institution in one of the “Widening countries” that are not funded due to lack of budget (and are just under the “cut-off-score”) will be **funded from the ‘Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence’ part in of Horizon Europe**
- In the application for MSCA-PF, the fellow **must indicates** that if not selected for funding, he/she wants to **apply for the ERA Fellowship**
- After the MSCA-PF evaluation is completed, if the proposal is not selected for lack of funding, but is eligible for ERA Fellowship, it is **automatically “resubmitted”** to the ERA Fellowship call (with the score the proposal received in the MSCA-PF evaluation).

***ERA - Widening Countries**

15 EU Member States are eligible for Widening support:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

14 upcoming Associated Countries eligible for Widening support*:

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

* Please see the [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#) on the Portal for up-to-date information on the current list and on the position for country associated to Horizon Europe.

ERA - Widening Fellowships

4 - Ethics

5 - Call-specific questions

Validation result >

2. Some national and regional public research funding authorities run schemes to fund MSCA applicants that score highly in the MSCA evaluation but which cannot be funded by the MSCA due to their limited budget. In case this proposal could not be selected for funding by the MSCA, do the researcher and supervisor consent to the European Commission disclosing to such authorities the results of its evaluation (score and ranking range) together with their names and contact details, non-confidential proposal title and abstract, proposal acronym, and host organisation?

Yes No

3. Do you wish to participate to the Widening Fellowships and thus increase your chances of being funded?

Yes No

If you don't reply or if you maintain 'No' as your answer, be aware that your proposal will not benefit from an extra chance of being funded under the Widening Fellowships call in case it cannot be funded under the MSCA-Individual Fellowships call.

The country of the selected PIC belongs to the list of widening countries. A dedicated budget (EUR 6 million) has been set aside under the Work Programme "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation" to fund EF proposals submitted to the MSCA-IF-2019 call but which cannot be funded under the EF lists of the MSCA-IF-2019 call due to a lack of budget. EF proposals where the host organisation is located in an eligible widening country will be automatically duplicated into the Widening call only if you express your wish to do so. Your decision not to participate in the Widening call will not affect your chances of being funded directly under the MSCA-IF-2019 call.

Funding

- Living Allowance is the **GROSS amount**
- All eligible Researcher unit costs can be subjected to taxation
- Candidates strongly advised to check with the host institution how the salary will be calculated (national and internal rules, exchange rate policy, etc.)

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month					Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance (if applicable)	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 5 080	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 5 680 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit ¹ x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

* Living allowance is adapted with the country correction coefficient listed in the WP
EF= 1 coefficient for the country of the beneficiary

Funding & Tender Portal

Call ID **HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01**



SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▾

HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▾

PROJECTS & RESULTS

WORK AS AN EXPERT

SUPPORT ▾

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021

TOPIC ID: HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01-01

Grant

General information

Topic description

Destination

Conditions and documents

Submission service

Topic related FAQ

Get support

Go back to search results

General information

Programme

Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

Call

[MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021 \(HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01\)](#)

See budg

Type of action

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-EF HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships

Type of MGA

HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

Forthcoming

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-GF HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships

HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

Deadline model

single-stage

Planned opening date

22 June 2021

Deadline date

12 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

Application Form (1/2)

Part A: use of submission wizard (same principle as H2020)

Researcher information:

- PhD award date only, no other qualification fields available
- Residency and activity table : same principle as H2020
- Table for extensions on the 8-year post PhD limit – number of days/category only, beneficiary to keep relevant records

Beneficiary information:

- PIC based: same principle as H2020
- Non-academic placement host and secondment host: in development
- **Gender Equality Plan**

Budget:

- Family allowance (selection box as H2020)
- Long term leave allowance and special needs allowance (not visible in proposal as cannot be requested at that stage)

Ethics self-assessment

Security self-assessment (corporate approach)

Call specific questions (non-exhaustive)

Keywords

Resubmissions

Application Form (2/2)

Part B – Download

- **Part B1** – is strictly restricted to **10 pages**.
 - Excellence
 - Impact
 - Implementation
- **Part B2** – (no page restriction)
 - Researcher's CV
 - Letters of commitment (host for non-academic placement host)
 - Participating organisations (max 1 page for beneficiary, max ½ page others)
 - Ethics & Security (additional info, if needed)

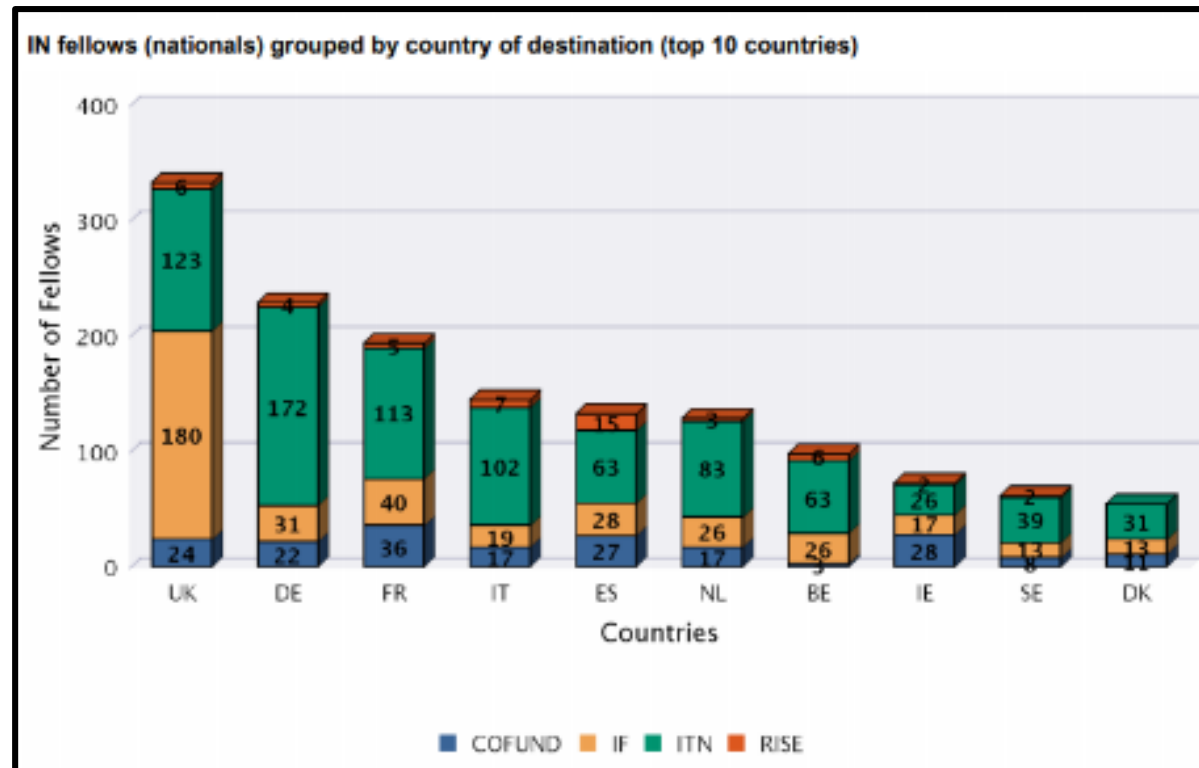
Evaluation Criteria

Three evaluation criteria:

- **Excellence** (50%) - quality, pertinent, ambitious, soundness of the methodology, interdisciplinary, quality of the supervision, and quality and appropriateness of researcher's background.
→ Gender dimension and open science to be addressed.
- **Impact** (30%) - Career enhancement, contribution to skill development, maximise outcomes and impact, and overall contribution to science and society
- **Implementation** (20%) - Work plan (quality, risks) and host institution (quality and capacity).

Success rate

- **14%-18%** overall success rate under H2020-MSCA- European Fellowship
- **>1900** Indian researchers (31% are women) funded by H2020 – MSCA
- **449** IND recipients of H2020-MSCA-IF –EF
- **2nd** rank: among non-European countries, IND ranked just behind China in terms of number of researchers



Tentative Timeline

- Invitation to Submit Proposal: **22 June 2021**
- Deadline for Submission: **12 October 2021** 17:00 Brussels Time
- Evaluation of Proposals: **October-December 2021** (TBC)
- Information on Outcome of Evaluations: **February-March 2022** (TBC)
- Indicative Date for Signing the Grant Agreement: **March-April 2022** (TBC)
- Prospective Start Date **April-September 2022** (TBC)

MSCA-PF -2022

Opening 13/04/2022 (TBC)

Deadline 14/09/2022 (TBC)

Tips

- **Read the Call Documents:**

- Work Programme, Policy background, Guide for Applicants, Horizontal Issues: Open Science, Gender/Ethic Issues, FAQ, RRI documents, etc.

- **Use the official templates:**

- Include the information where requested, evaluators will look at all headings and sub-headings

- **“A picture speaks a thousand words”**: use visuals to provide global information at a glance.

- Be aware of all criteria weight, it is not all about Excellence!

- **Ask for support:**

- Host institution: European Projects Offices / Transfer of Technology Offices / HR Departments ...

- National Contact Points

- **Do not leave it for the last minute!**

- Get familiar with the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

- Upload a version, you will be able to rewrite it

Useful links

- Euraxess Portal (PhD and postdoctorate vacancies, more information)

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

- List of National Contact Points

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

- Research Inquiry Service

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service-and-participant-validation_en

- Funding and Tenders Portal (calls, applications, etc.)

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

- MCAA (Alumni association)

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu>

PF – New contact mailboxes

REA-MSCA-HE-PF-EUROPEAN@ec.europa.eu

REA-MSCA-HE-PF-GLOBAL@ec.europa.eu

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Thank you!