

EU project proposal writing

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Information, consultancy and training activities for the presentation of project proposals in European research and innovation funding programs

Support in all phases of project management including reporting and audit response by the European Commission

European Research Office – APRE Liguria also promotes events aimed at the territory to deepen specific financing tools and meetings between stakeholders to facilitate the creation of partnerships

Let's break the ice

slido.com
2610585



Basic principles

Project idea



The project idea can arise from:

- scientific curiosity
- idea for development a new product / service / process that can improve productive activities, services or the quality of life of citizens
- face global challenges
- ...

To get funding, you have to convince the European Commission that **your project** is just what it needs

All you need is...



To carry out the project activities you need **funding!**

The main funding sources are:

- ✓ National and local funding agencies (e.g. MIUR, Region)
- ✓ National and international foundations and organisations
- ✓ European Commission

The project logic



To pass from the initial idea to the project hypothesis it is necessary to summarize:

✓ **main objective**

Contribution of the project to the **objectives of the funding programme**

✓ **specific objectives**

Sub-objectives through which the final result is intended – They must be SMART

Specific – target a specific area for improvement

Measurable – quantify or at least suggest an indicator of progress

Achievable – Realistic

Relevant – coherent both with your mission and with the funder's one

Time-bound – specify when the result(s) can be achieved

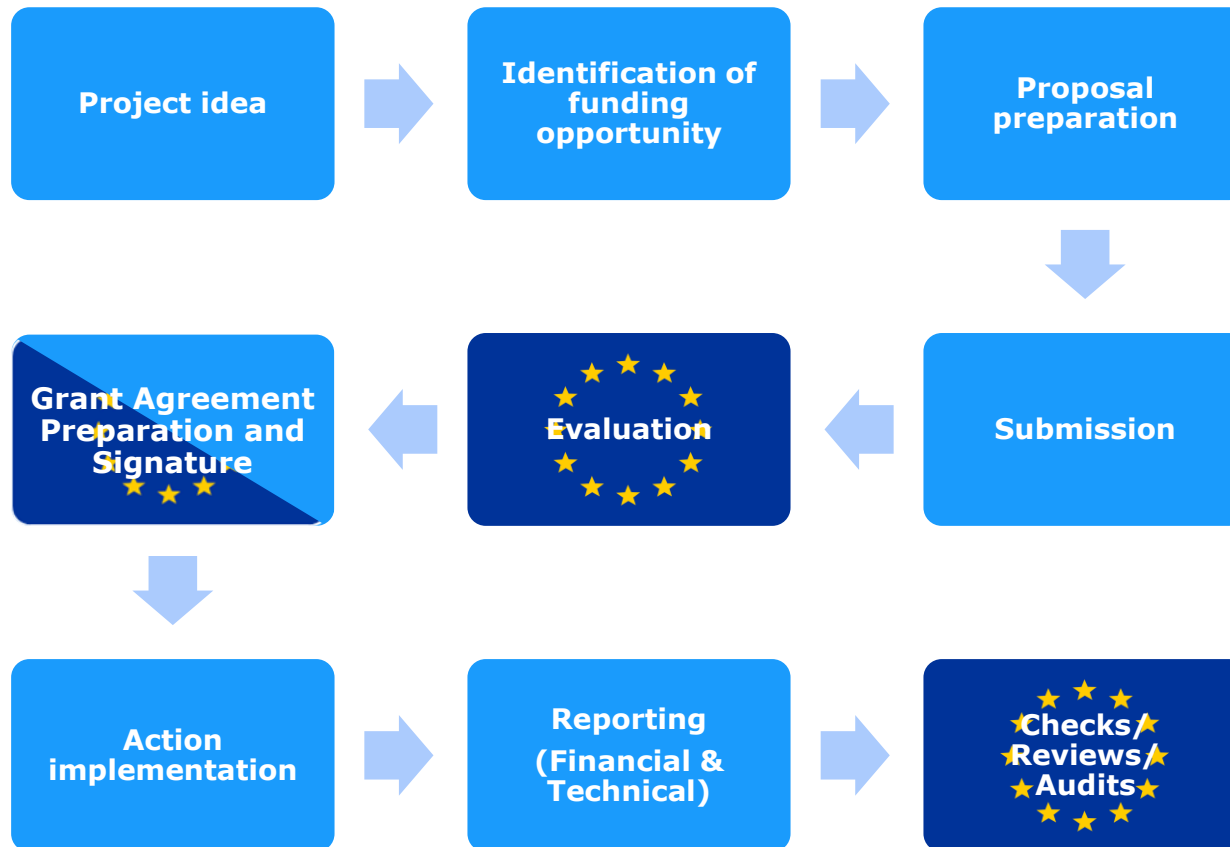
✓ **expected results**

Outputs that allow to verify the achievement of the objectives

✓ **activities**

Concrete actions to produce the expected results

Project Lifecycle



Aims and objectives of the EC



EC is not the researchers' good fairy



It finances projects for the pursuit of **its own institutional goals**

It is important to be familiar with the **strategic objectives of EC funding programs** in order to be able to write competitive project proposals



Horizon Europe is the EU's **key funding programme** for research and innovation with a [budget of €95.5 billion](#) (2021-2027)

The programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. It supports creating and better dispersing of excellent knowledge and technologies.



February 2021



"With Horizon Europe, the European research community, research organizations and our citizens can count on one of the world's largest research and innovation Programmes. It is our main tool to strengthen our scientific and technological base, develop solutions for healthier living, drive digital transformation and fight climate change, for our collective resilience."

Mariya Gabriel *Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth*



Our Vision

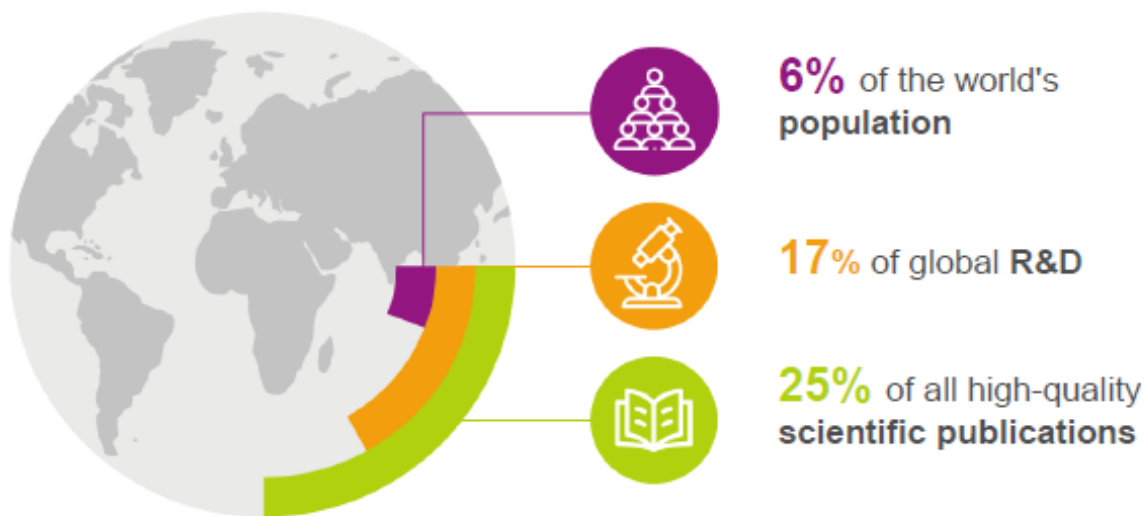
The EU's key funding programme for research and innovation:

- Tackles climate change
- Helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals
- Boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth
- Facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges
- Supports the creation and better diffusion of excellent knowledge and technologies
- Creates jobs, fully engages the EU's talent pool, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness and optimises investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area.



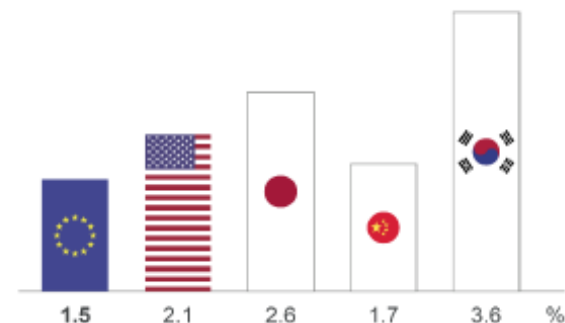
Credit to: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/what-are-the-17-sustainable-development-goals/>

While benefiting from world-class research and strong industries... Our knowledge and skills are our main resources



...Europe can do better at transforming this into **leadership in innovation and entrepreneurship**

1.5% EU business R&D investment



*EU figure is for 2019
Figures for USA, Japan, China and South Korea are for 2018. Figures represent R&D as % of GDP*

HE - For a green, healthy, digital and inclusive Europe

Research and innovation provide **new knowledge** and **innovative solutions** to overcome our **societal, ecological and economic challenges**.

Horizon Europe helps **researchers and top class innovators** to develop and deploy their ideas.

It **teams** up the **best talent** and equips them with world-class **research infrastructures**.

Moreover, it supports **breakthrough innovations** and helps to create **new services** and **markets**.

HE – Key elements

- ✓ **Missions:** Sets of measures to achieve bold, inspirational and measurable goals within a set timeframe. There are 5 main mission areas as part of Horizon Europe
- ✓ **Open science policy:** Mandatory open access to publications and open science principles are applied throughout the programme [Factsheet: Open science in Horizon Europe](#)
- ✓ **European Innovation Council:** Support for innovations with potential breakthrough and disruptive nature with scale-up potential that may be too risky for private investors. This is 70% of the budget earmarked for SMEs
- ✓ **New approach to partnerships:** Objective-driven and more ambitious partnerships with industry in support of EU policy objectives

HE - Missions

Horizon Europe incorporates research and innovation missions to increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets.

5 mission areas have been identified:

- ✓ [Adaptation to Climate Change](#)
- ✓ [Cancer mission](#)
- ✓ [Restore our Oceans and Waters mission](#)
- ✓ [Climate-neutral and smart cities mission](#)
- ✓ [Soil Deal for Europe mission](#)

Open Science



“The idea behind Open Science is to allow scientific information, data and outputs to be more widely accessible (**Open Access**) and more reliably harnessed (**Open Data**) with the active engagement of all the stakeholders (**Open to Society**).

By encouraging **science** to be more **connected** to **societal needs** and by promoting **equal opportunities** for all (scientists, policy-makers and citizens), Open Science can be a true game changer in bridging the science, technology and innovation gaps between and within countries and fulfilling the human right to science.

...The recent response of the scientific community to the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated very well, how open science can accelerate the achievement of scientific solutions for a global challenge”

<https://en.unesco.org/science-sustainable-future/open-science>

Open Science

"Horizon Europe will set a new standard for dissemination of knowledge and new skills across European societies. With clear and immediate open access requirements for beneficiaries, the Open Europe Research publishing platform and a strengthened European Open Science Cloud, we are well underway in making truly open science a reality"

*Mariya Gabriel Commissioner for Innovation, Research,
Culture, Education and Youth*

Open Science practices

- **Open access to research outputs** such as publications, data, software, models, algorithms, and workflows;
- **Early and open sharing of research**, for example through preregistration, registered reports, pre-prints, and crowd-sourcing of solutions to a specific problem;
- Use of **open research infrastructures** for knowledge and data sharing;
- Participation in **open peer-review**;
- Measures to ensure **reproducibility of results**; and
- **Open collaboration within science and with other knowledge actors**, including involving citizens, civil society and end-users, such as in **citizen science**

Open Science in Horizon Europe

Legal provisions in the grant agreements will strengthen open access rights and obligations for beneficiaries. Horizon Europe will require immediate open access to all scientific publications and responsible research data management so that data are **Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable (FAIR)**

Data will be made *'as open as possible, but will be allowed to stay as closed as necessary'*, safeguarding legitimate interests or constraints.

A tool: [Open Research Europe - The new EU open access publishing platform](#)



OPEN VS CLOSED SCIENCE?

OR JUST

GOOD VS BAD SCIENCE?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66oNv_DJuPc

OS in proposals evaluation



The **criteria for evaluating research proposals** under Horizon Europe will take into account the **quality and appropriateness** of the open science practices in the submitted proposals

This will be assessed as part of the project's methodology, under the **excellence** award criterion

This will provide a strong incentive for applicants and beneficiaries to practice open science

Open Science @UniGe

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Open Science website at UniGe. The header is orange and contains the UniGe logo, the text 'Università di Genova | Open Science', and social media icons for search, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Telegram, Twitter, and YouTube. Below the header is a white navigation menu with links for 'Open SCIENCE', 'Open RESEARCH', 'Open ACCESS', 'Open EDU', 'Open DATA', 'IRIS UniGe', and 'Notizie & Eventi'. The main content area features a large banner for 'GenOA week 2023' with a large '5' in the background. Below the banner, there is a paragraph of text about the 2023 theme, a quote, and a list of previous GenOA weeks.

Università di Genova | Open Science

Open SCIENCE Open RESEARCH Open ACCESS Open EDU Open DATA IRIS UniGe Notizie & Eventi

GenOA week 2023

La **GenOA week 2023** si concentrerà sul tema: **Community over Commercialization**

"This theme encourages a candid conversation about which approaches to open scholarship prioritize the best interests of the public and the academic community—and which do not. When commercial interests are prioritized over those of the communities that research seeks to serve, many concerning issues arise. This year's theme provides an opportunity to join together, take action, and raise awareness around the importance of community control of knowledge sharing systems."

- GenOA week 2019
- GenOA week 2020
- GenOA week 2021
- GenOA week 2022
- GenOA week 2023**

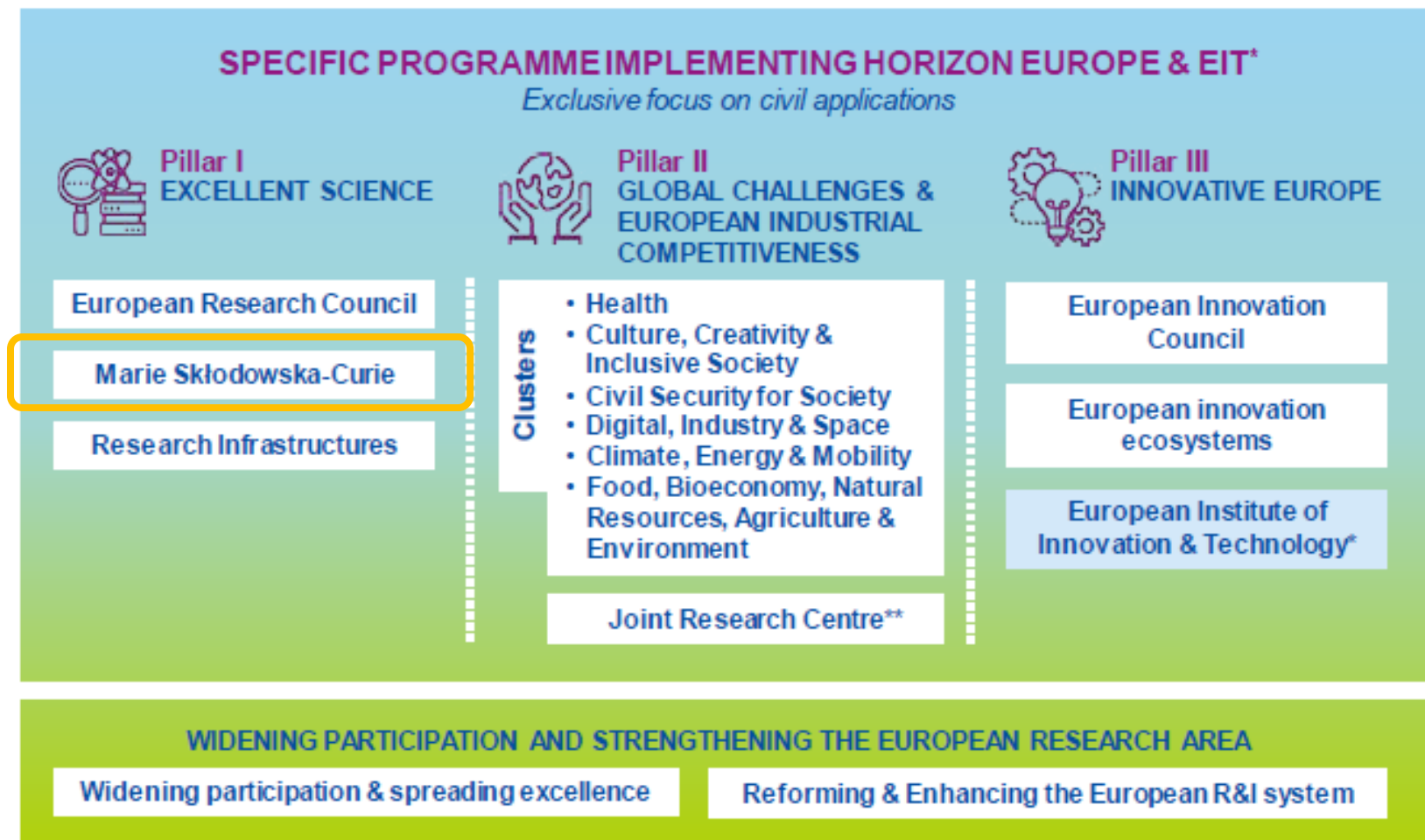
Agenda degli eventi

<https://openscience.unige.it/>



The structure of Horizon Europe

HE – The structure



Excellent science



The **Excellent Science pillar** aims to increase the EU's global scientific competitiveness

It supports frontier research projects defined and driven by top researchers themselves through the **European Research Council**, funds fellowships for experienced researchers, doctoral training networks and exchanges for researchers through **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**, and invests in **world-class research infrastructures**

Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness



The **Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness** pillar supports research relating to societal challenges and reinforces technological and industrial capacities through clusters. It sets **EU-missions** with ambitious goals tackling some of our biggest problems

Clusters

1. Health
2. Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
3. Civil Security for Society
4. Digital, Industry and Space
5. Climate, Energy and Mobility
6. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Innovative Europe



The Innovative Europe pillar aims to make Europe a frontrunner in market-creating innovation via the **European Innovation Council**.

It also helps to develop the overall European innovation landscape through the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)** which fosters the integration of the knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation.

How to find the call



Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

[clear filter](#)

Type your Keywords...

Match whole words only

GRANTS

TENDERS

Submission status

Forthcoming (183) Open for submission (275) Closed

Programming period

Funding and tenders (458)

Need help?



Sort by:

Title desc



Grant eXtended Reality Technologies (RIA)

Forthcoming

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Programme | Horizon Europe (HORIZON) | Deadline model | single-stage |
| ID | HORIZON-CL4-2022-HUMAN-01-14 | Opening date | 21 December 2021 |
| Types of action | HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions | Deadline date | 05 April 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time |

Grant eXtended Reality Learning - Engage and Interact (IA)

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

How to find the call



Horizon Europe calls for proposals can have:

Bottom up approach

There are **no predefined themes**, it is possible to present proposals in **any disciplinary field**

Measures that work with the bottom-up approach:

- ERC
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action
- EIC Pathfinder Open

Top down approach

The Commission identifies the TOPICs covered by the calls, described in the Work programmes

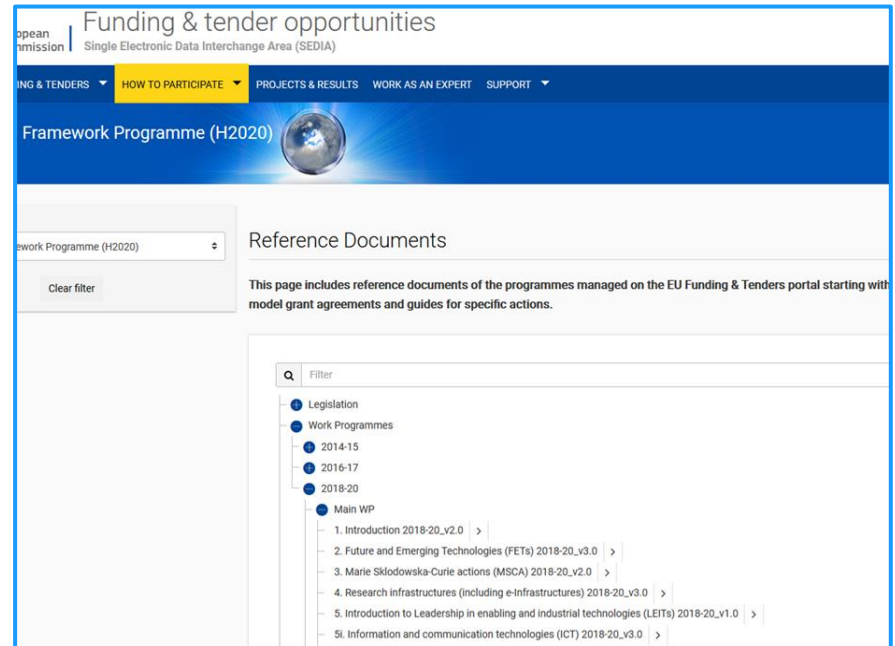
Prevailing in:

- Global challenges

Work Programmes

Funding opportunities under Horizon Europe are established in multiannual Work Programmes (WPs)

WPs are prepared by the EC through a strategic planning process that integrates EU policy objectives in setting priorities



The opportunities for young researchers

After all, science is essentially international, and it is only through lack of the historical sense that national qualities have been attributed to it

Marie Skłodowska-Curie



MSCA Actions

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions fund excellent research and innovation and **equip researchers** at all stages of their career with **new knowledge and skills, through mobility** across **borders** and exposure to different **sectors** and **disciplines**

The MSCA help build Europe's capacity for research and innovation by investing in the **long-term careers** of excellent researchers

The MSCA **promote excellence and set standards** for high-quality researcher education and training in line with the *European Charter for Researchers* and the *Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers*

MSCA Principles - I

Excellence

- The MSCA support excellent researchers. They also foster excellence in research and innovation collaborations, knowledge transfer, methodologies and content, as well as in training, supervision and career guidance

Mobility

- The MSCA support the mobility of researchers between countries, sectors and disciplines to acquire new knowledge, skills and competences

MSCA Principles - II

Effective supervision and career guidance

- The MSCA promote effective supervision and adequate mentoring and career guidance. This contributes to creating a supportive environment for the researchers to work. [The Guidelines for MSCA Supervision](#) provide recommendations in this regard.

Open science and responsible research and innovation

- The MSCA support Open Science and Responsible Research and Innovation.

MSCA Principles - III

Bottom-up and open to the world

- The MSCA are open to all domains of research and innovation and encourage international cooperation to set-up strategic collaborations.

Excellent recruitment, working conditions and inclusiveness

- The MSCA promote the principles of the [European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#) for the recruitment, working and employment conditions of researchers.

MSCA Principles - IV

European Green Deal

- The MSCA support bottom-up and frontier/applied research supporting the [European Green Deal](#) and tackling climate and environmental-related challenges. The [MSCA Green Charter](#) provides recommendations in this regard.

Synergies

- The MSCA promote strong links with the [Cohesion policy funds](#) and the [Recovery and Resilience Facility](#).

MSCA in Horizon Europe

Following feedback from various stakeholders, there are a number of changes to the MSCA under Horizon Europe (2021-2027), compared to the previous programme Horizon 2020 (2014-2020). The budget for the MSCA under Horizon Europe is €6.6 billion.

Some of the main changes include

- ✓ streamlined actions
- ✓ harmonizes rules
- ✓ stronger emphasis on supervision
- ✓ greener MSCA

5 Types of MSCA Actions

- [Doctoral Networks \(DN\)](#)

Supporting programmes to train doctoral candidates in academic and non-academic organisations

- [Postdoctoral Fellowships \(PF\)](#)

Supporting career perspectives and excellence of postdoctoral researchers

- [Staff Exchanges \(SE\)](#)

Encouraging collaborations between organisations through staff exchanges

- [COFUND](#) Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes

- [MSCA and Citizens](#)

Bringing research and researchers closer to the public at large

Focus on MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship

The goal of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships is to enhance the **creative and innovative potential** of researchers holding a PhD (no more than 8 year after obtaining the PhD) and who wish to acquire **new skills** through **advanced training, international, interdisciplinary** and **inter-sectoral mobility**



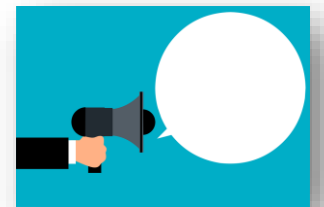
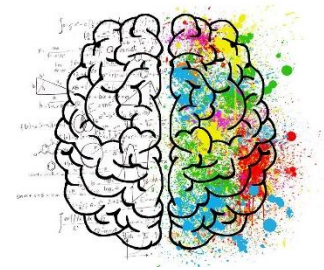
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships will be open to excellent researchers of **any nationality**



Focus on MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship

Through the implementation of an original and **personalised research project**, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships aim to foster excellence through training and mobility and to equip researchers with **new skills and competences** in order to identify **solutions** to **current** and **future challenges**

Postdoctoral researchers are encouraged to **reach out to society at large** to make the results of their research visible to citizens.



MSCA PF – 2 Types

European Fellowship

Open to researchers of any nationality who wish to engage in R&I projects by either coming to **Europe** from any country in the world or moving within Europe

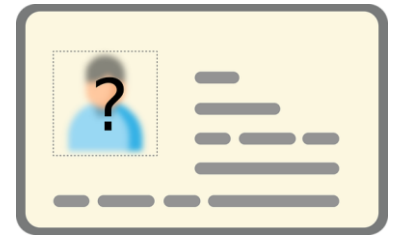
The **standard duration** of these fellowships must be between 12 and 24 months

Global Fellowship

Open to European nationals or long-term residents who wish to engage in R&I projects with organisations outside EU MS and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

Outgoing phase of min. 12 and max. 24 months in a non-associated Third Country, and a **mandatory 12-month return** phase to a host organisation based in an EU MS or AC

MSCA PF – Who can apply?



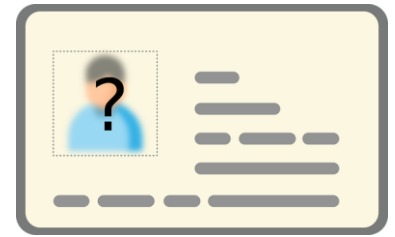
Supported fellows must be **postdoctoral researchers** at the date of the call deadline, i.e. in a possession of a doctoral degree

At the call deadline, supported researchers must have a **maximum of 8 years full-time equivalent experience in research**, measured from the date of award of the doctoral degree.

Years of experience **outside research and career breaks** (e.g. due to parental leave), **will not count** towards the amount of research experience

For nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries who wish to reintegrate to pursue their research career in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries, years of experience in research in third countries will not be considered in the above maximum.

MSCA PF – Who can apply?



For nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries who wish to reintegrate to pursue their research career in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries, years of experience in research in third countries will not be considered in the above maximum.

Recruited researchers must comply with the following **mobility rule**: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary (for *European Postdoctoral Fellowships*), or the host organisation for the outgoing phase (for *Global Postdoctoral Fellowships*) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline

MSCA PF – What is funded?

Table 1: Country correction coefficients (CCC) for Doctoral Networks and Postdoctoral Fellowships living allowances

For countries where the correction coefficient is not indicated, the Commission will decide on a case-by-case basis.

| Country Code ⁶⁷ | CCC |
|----------------------------|--------|
| EU Member States | |
| AT | 106,3% |
| BE | 100,0% |
| BG | 54,8% |
| CY | 77,5% |
| CZ | 79,1% |
| DE | 98,3% |
| DK | 132,0% |
| EE | 80,3% |
| EL | 81,6% |
| ES | 91,3% |

| MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships | Contributions for the recruited researcher per person-month | | | | | Institutional contributions per person-month | | unit |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|------|
| | Living allowance | Mobility allowance | Family allowance (if applicable) | Long-term leave allowance (if applicable) | Special needs allowance (if applicable) | Research, training and networking contributions | Management and indirect contributions | |
| | EUR 5 080 | EUR 600 | EUR 660 | EUR 5 680 x % covered by the beneficiary | requested unit ⁵² x (1/number of months) | EUR 1 000 | EUR 650 | |

Impacts - MSCA PF



Projects should contribute to the following expected **impacts**:

- Enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD and wishing to diversify their individual competences and skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility while implementing excellent research projects across all sectors of research
- Strengthen Europe's human capital base in R&I with better trained, innovative and entrepreneurial researchers

Impacts - MSCA PF



- Enhance the **quality of R&I** contributing to Europe's **competitiveness and growth**
- Contribute to **Europe's attractiveness** as a leading destination for R&I and for good working conditions of researchers
- Facilitate **knowledge transfer and brain circulation** across the ERA
- Foster the **culture of open science, innovation and entrepreneurship**

NEW in HE - MSCA PF



Proposals involving the same recruiting organisation (and for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships also the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase) and individual researcher submitted to the previous call of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe and having received a **score of less than 70%** must not be resubmitted the following year

Proposal template structure



[Standard application form \(HE MSCA PF\)](#)

1. 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**)
- 1.2 **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 of **open science practices**, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users, where appropriate)
- 1.3 Quality of the **supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host
- 1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills

2. Impact

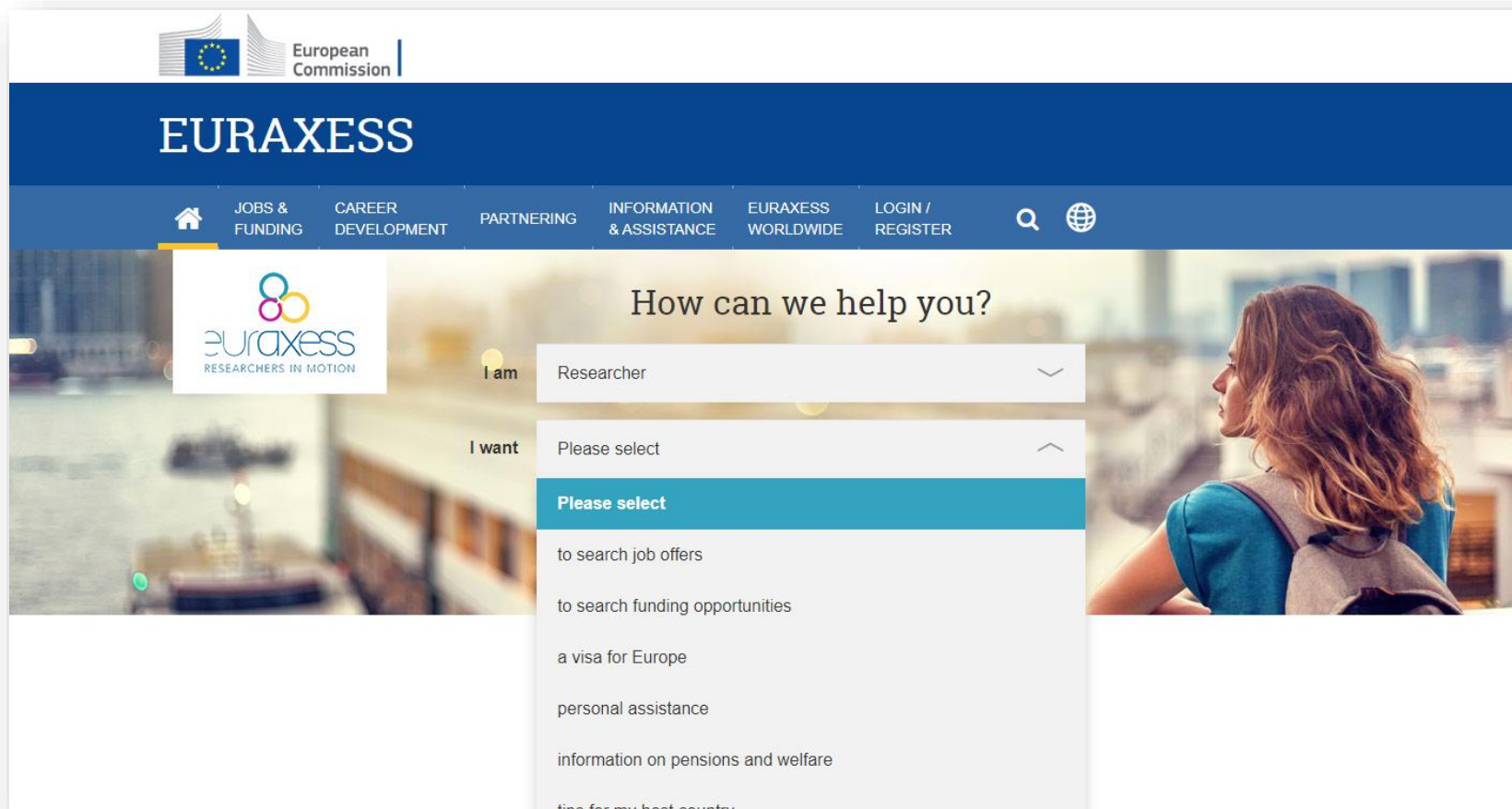
- 2.1 **Credibility of the measures** to enhance the **career perspectives** and **employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her **skills development**
- Suitability and quality of the measures to **maximise expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the **dissemination and exploitation plan**, including **communication activities**
- 2.3. The magnitude and **importance** of the **project's contribution** to the expected **scientific, societal and economic impacts**

3. Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation

- 3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of **risks** and appropriateness of the **effort** assigned to **work packages**
- 3.2 **Quality and capacity of the host institutions** and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements

+ Researcher's CV and description of Host Organisation(s)

More opportunities...



The image shows a screenshot of the EURAXESS website. At the top, there is the European Commission logo and the text 'European Commission'. Below this is the EURAXESS logo and the tagline 'RESEARCHERS IN MOTION'. The navigation menu includes: HOME, JOBS & FUNDING, CAREER DEVELOPMENT, PARTNERING, INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE, EURAXESS WORLDWIDE, and LOGIN / REGISTER. A search icon and a globe icon are also present. The main content area features a large image of a woman looking out over a city. Overlaid on this is a form titled 'How can we help you?'. The form has two sections: 'I am' with a dropdown menu set to 'Researcher', and 'I want' with a dropdown menu set to 'Please select'. A list of options is visible below the 'I want' dropdown:

- Please select
- to search job offers
- to search funding opportunities
- a visa for Europe
- personal assistance
- information on pensions and welfare
- tips for my host country

EURAXESS lists thousands of vacancies and fellowships from more than 40 European countries and other regions in the world <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

Thank you for your attention!

Claudia Sanguineti

Capo settore ricerca europea – *European Research Office*

Responsabile Sportello APRE Liguria

Servizio supporto alla ricerca

Area ricerca e trasferimento tecnologico

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