EN

Annex II

Horizon Europe

Work Programme 2026-2027

2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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Introduction

The European Union needs a strong, resilient, flexible and creative workforce, with the right combination of skills to match the future needs of the labour market, to innovate and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit. The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted once more the importance of the Union's reliance on **a highly skilled research-based human capital** that is able to detect and tackle upcoming challenges, to communicate scientific evidence to policymakers and the public at large, and to work across disciplines.

In this context, and in line with the Union of Skills strategic framework, the Union must reinforce its efforts to encourage more young women and men to make a career in research, promote its attractiveness for top talents from around the world, retain its own researchers and reintegrate those working elsewhere. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are the main instrument at Union-level to do so. Since their launch in 1996, they have become the **Union's reference programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training**. Between 2014 and 2020, in the context of Horizon 2020, the MSCA have supported 65 000 researchers in Europe and beyond, both doctoral candidates and more experienced researchers, and have funded over **1 000 excellent international doctoral networks**.

The MSCA strongly contribute to excellent research, boosting jobs, growth and investment by equipping researchers with **new knowledge and skills, including transferable ones**[1] and providing them with **an international as well as inter-sectoral exposure** (including through academia-business collaboration**),** to fill the top positions of tomorrow.

The MSCA do not only have a positive impact on individual researchers, they also contribute to the development of **excellent doctoral programmes, postdoctoral training programmes and collaborative research projects**. They have a **structuring impact** on higher education institutions and other entities way beyond academia by widely spreading excellence and setting standards for high-quality researcher education and training, not only across the European Research Area (ERA), but also worldwide. Positive structuring effects on organisations include:

- increasing the quality of researchers' training and supervision offered;
- strengthening research capacity (e.g. ability to attract funding);
- improving human resources practices and procedures, and providing fairer and more attractive working conditions for researchers, including through career guidance and development;

[1] As an illustration, Eurodoc published a list of such transferable skills at: http://eurodoc.net/skills-report-2018.pdf; see also the European Competence Framework for Researchers, ResearchComp at: ec_rtd_research-competence-presentation.pdf (europa.eu)

- building new and sustainable international and inter-sectoral partnerships and networks; better transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines, enhancing their global reputation and visibility.

Main principles applying to the MSCA

Excellence

The MSCA focus on **excellence** in various aspects: excellence does not only apply to the individual fellows supported or the collaborations fostered and knowledge transferred, but also to the R&I methodologies applied, the research conducted as well as the training, supervision and career guidance provided. Long-term investment in people pays off, as indicated *inter alia* by the number of Nobel Prize winners who have been either former MSCA fellows or supervisors.

Mobility

The MSCA are based on the principle of **physical mobility**: researchers who receive funding have to move from one country to another to acquire new knowledge, skills and competences, and develop their research career. Researchers are also strongly encouraged to move between sectors and disciplines.

While **virtual mobility** does not have the same multifaceted impact on the development of individuals and sustainable cooperation among organisations as physical mobility, it can however complement it, facilitate long-distance collaboration and be an effective means to faster achieving research and training objectives. In this regard, all MSCA proposals are encouraged to explore opportunities offered by e-infrastructures and related services, in particular those provided through GEANT[2], the pan-European research and education network.

Bottom-up and open to the world

The MSCA are **open to all domains** of research and innovation, chosen freely by the applicants in a fully bottom-up manner, addressed under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. In addition, Postdoctoral Fellowships can also address domains covered by the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom Research and Training Programme). All MSCA will complement top-down collaborative research activities, notably contributing to the EU Missions.

The MSCA have also a **strong international dimension**: international cooperation is particularly encouraged as it allows institutions to set-up strategic collaborations worldwide, attracts foreign talents to Europe and provides European researchers with access to unique expertise, facilities, testing environments or data available only outside Europe. At the same time, it is essential to ensure the protection of the European Union from undesired technology leakage or transfers that impact security, problematic dependencies and foreign interference,

[2] http://www.geant.org

by implementing targeted security safeguards in line with the 2023 European Economic Security Strategy and the 2024 Council Recommendation on enhancing research security.

Choose Europe for Science

The MSCA are a key instrument for implementing the Choose Europe for Science initiative by attracting and supporting excellent researchers through high-quality training, supervision and mobility opportunities.

In response to the significant increase in international demand for MSCA funding, an additional Choose Europe boost of 70 million EUR and 141.5 million EUR is allocated to the MSCA budget in 2026 and 2027 respectively. The additional funding will strengthen the Postdoctoral Fellowships and Doctoral Networks actions, allowing more excellent researchers to undertake research and training activities in Europe.

Recruitment, working/employment conditions and inclusiveness

The principles of the **European Charter for Researchers** (Charter) promoting open, merit-based and transparent recruitment and attractive working and employment conditions are a cornerstone of the MSCA and all funded host organisations must put effort into applying them. The MSCA pay particular attention to **equal opportunities and inclusiveness**. In line with the Charter, all MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to embrace diversity and take measures to facilitate mobility and counter-act gender and disability-related barriers to it.

MSCA projects are also encouraged to facilitate access by **researchers at risk**[3], through tailored support and career services, including job search assistance in the researcher's new geographical area.

Supervision

The MSCA promote effective supervision, which contribute to creating a supportive environment for the researchers to conduct their work. In line with the principles set out in the Charter, MSCA beneficiaries must ensure **adequately supervision or mentoring and appropriate career guidance**. Supervision is one of the crucial elements of successful research. Guiding, supporting, directing, advising and mentoring are key factors for a researcher to pursue their career path. In this context, all MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to follow the recommendations outlined in the **Guidelines for MSCA supervision**[4].

Open Science and Responsible Research and Innovation

The MSCA endorse **Open Science** and **Responsible Research and Innovation** (RRI) through engaging society at large, integrating the gender and ethical dimensions, promoting

[3] The term 'researcher at risk' refers to researchers at all stages of their career who are experiencing threats to their life, liberty, or research career, and those who are forced or have been forced to flee because of such threats.

[4] https://ec.europa.eu/msca/supervision. While the Guidelines for MSCA supervision are non-binding, funded-projects are strongly encouraged to take them into account.

Open Science practices through targeted training activities, ensuring open access to research outcomes, including FAIR [5] data handling, supporting methods that enhance research reproducibility, encouraging formal and informal science education and feeding back research results into teaching and education.

The European Commission has also signed the **Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment**[6], which establishes a common direction for research assessment reforms, while respecting organisations' autonomy.

European Green Deal

The MSCA support **bottom-up and frontier/applied research** contributing directly to the European Commission's commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges. Under Horizon Europe, the MSCA will significantly contribute to promote sustainable research in line with the European Green Deal, the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. All MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to address the principles of the **MSCA Green Charter**[7] and implement measures to minimise the environmental footprint of their activities.

Synergies

The MSCA promote the creation of strong links with the cohesion policy funds[8] and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)[9], notably by creating synergies through its COFUND action and enabling complementarities via awarding a Seal of Excellence[10] certificate to proposals submitted to mono-beneficiary MSCA calls. The Seal is awarded to proposals that exceed all the evaluation thresholds set out in this work programme but cannot be funded due to lack of budget. The MSCA also encourage complementarities with other parts of Horizon Europe, such as the European Innovation Council[11] and European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)[12], and synergies with other Union programmes, notably Erasmus+[13], including its European Universities Initiative.

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5 FAIR = Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable.

6 agreement_final.pdf (coara.eu)

7 https://ec.europa.eu/msca/green_charter. While the MSCA Green Charter is non-binding, funded projects are strongly encouraged to take into account the principles it sets out.

8 "Synergies between Horizon Europe and ERDF programmes (Draft Commission Notice)" C(2022) 4747 final. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2022/synergies-between-erdf-programmes-and-horizon-europe

9 The Recovery and Resilience Facility supports reforms and investments undertaken by Member States. The aim is to mitigate the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions.

10 https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/seal-excellence/funding-opportunities-under-msca_en

11 See particularly "Next generation Innovation Talents" under "Other actions" of the 2023 Work Programme of the EIC.

12 "Synergies between the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology". https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/40f1a820-2cc2-11ed-975d-01aa75ed71a1/language-en

MSCA intervention areas

There are five main MSCA intervention areas as set out in the Council Decision establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe (Annex 1, page 11-13). All individual Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions contribute to these intervention areas to one extent or the other:

1. Nurturing Excellence through Mobility of Researchers across Borders, Sectors and Disciplines;
2. Fostering new Skills through Excellent Training of Researchers;
3. Strengthening Human Capital and Skills Development across the European Research Area;
4. Improving and Facilitating Synergies;
5. Promoting Public Outreach.

The following Actions within the MSCA are implementing these intervention areas:

Action	**Main Objective**
MSCA Doctoral Networks	The MSCA Doctoral Networks aim to train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit. The MSCA Doctoral Networks will raise the attractiveness and excellence of doctoral training in Europe. They will equip researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competences and provide them with enhanced career perspectives in both the academic[14] and non-academic sectors through international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	The goal of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD, wishing to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to excellent researchers of any nationality, including researchers wishing to reintegrate in Europe, researchers who are displaced by conflict as well as researchers with high potential aiming for a career restart in research. The scheme also encourages researchers to work on research and innovation projects in the non-academic sector.

[13] "Synergies between the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and Erasmus+ in the area of higher education". https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/f4d7d733-19ba-11ec-b4fe-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/

[14] See definitions at the end of the Work Programme part

MSCA Staff Exchanges	MSCA Staff Exchanges 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. The scheme fosters a shared culture of research and innovation that welcomes and rewards creativity and entrepreneurship and helps turn ideas into innovative products, services or processes. It is open to research, technical, administrative and managerial staff.
MSCA COFUND	MSCA COFUND co-finances 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 cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career. MSCA Choose Europe for Science co-funded programmes additionally aim to address brain drain and precarity of researchers' careers in order to make Europe more attractive to the most promising young talents.
MSCA and Citizens	MSCA and Citizens, through the European Researchers' Night, aims to bring research and researchers closer to the public at large, to increase awareness of research and innovation activities and to boost public recognition of science and research education. It will also show the role of the researcher for the society and economy, as well as the impact of researchers' work on citizens' daily lives and aim at raising young people's interest for research and scientific careers.

Please note that the 'Horizontal Activities' work programme part also includes topics relevant to the areas covered in this work programme part

MSCA Doctoral Networks

The MSCA Doctoral Networks aim to train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit.

The MSCA Doctoral Networks will raise the attractiveness and excellence of doctoral training in Europe. They will equip researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competences and provide them with enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and non-academic sectors through international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.

Expected impact

Proposals under this Action should contribute to the following expected impacts:

- Strengthen Europe's human capital base in R&I by training highly-skilled doctoral candidates;
- Improve the attractiveness of researchers' careers notably through better working and employment conditions of doctoral candidates in Europe;
- Enhance talent and knowledge circulation across the R&I landscape, through international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility;
- Increase Europe's attractiveness as a leading research 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.

The following call(s) in this work programme contribute to this Action:

Call	Budgets (EUR million)		Deadline(s)
	2026	2027	
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01	628.03		24 Nov 2026
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-DN-01		645.99	23 Nov 2027
Overall indicative budget	628.03	645.99	

Call - MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[15]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 28 May 2026 Deadline(s): 24 Nov 2026				
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01-01	TMA Doctoral Networks	628.03		Not relevant
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01-01	TMA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates			Not relevant
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01-01	TMA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates			Not relevant
Overall indicative budget		628.03		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part.
Eligibility conditions	The general conditions are described in General Annex B. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Financial and	The criteria are described in General Annex C.

[15] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

operational capacity and exclusion	
Award criteria	For application of the general award criteria, including weighting and thresholds, see the specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The general procedure is described in General Annex F. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Expected EU contribution per project	The expected EU contribution depends on the number of person-months requested. For the applicable unit contributions, see specific conditions for MSCA at the end of this Work Programme part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The general conditions are described in General Annex G. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01-01: MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For supported doctoral candidates

- New research and transferable skills and competences, leading to improved employability and career prospects within and outside academia;
- New knowledge allowing the conversion of ideas into products and services, where relevant;
- 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 participating organisations

- Improved quality, relevance and sustainability of doctoral training programmes and supervision arrangements;
- Enhanced cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines;
- Increased integration of training and research activities between participating organisations;

- Boosted R&I capacity;
- Increased internationalisation and attractiveness;
- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organisations.

Scope: MSCA Doctoral Networks will implement doctoral programmes, by partnerships of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond. MSCA Doctoral Networks are indeed open to the participation of organisations from third countries, in view of fostering strategic international partnerships for the training and exchange of researchers.

These doctoral programmes will respond to well-identified needs in various R&I areas, expose the researchers to the academic and non-academic sectors, and offer training in research-related, as well as transferable skills and competences relevant for innovation and long-term employability (e.g. entrepreneurship, commercialisation of results, Intellectual Property Rights, communication). Proposals for doctoral networks can reflect existing or planned research partnerships among the participating organisations.

The selection procedure for doctoral candidates must be open, transparent and merit-based, in line with the European Charter for Researchers. The vacancy notice (to be widely advertised internationally, including on the EURAXESS[16] website) must mention if the published rates include all employer and employee's taxes and contributions. If possible, the gross salary (net salary + employee's taxes and contributions) should be published.

MSCA Doctoral Networks are encouraged to lead to Industrial or Joint Doctorates.

Industrial Doctorates

Through Industrial Doctorates, doctoral candidates will step outside academia and develop skills in industry and business by being jointly supervised by academic and non-academic organisations, both of which can be established in the same EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Joint Doctorates

Joint Doctorates represent a highly integrated type of international, inter-sectoral and multi/interdisciplinary collaboration in doctoral training. They lead to the delivery of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees[17] recognised in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Supervisory Board

16 https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/

17 Every time this Work Programme part refers to doctoral degrees, this means that the degrees have to be recognised as such by the relevant authorities of the country or countries concerned.

Each MSCA Doctoral Network should have a clearly identified supervisory board co-ordinating network-wide training, research and in particular supervision activities in line with the Guidelines for MSCA supervision, while establishing continuous communication and exchange of best practice among the participating organisations to maximise the benefits of the partnership.

Training activities

MSCA Doctoral Networks should exploit complementarities between participating organisations and foster sharing of knowledge and networking activities for example through the organisation of workshops and conferences. Proposed training activities should respond to well identified needs in various R&I areas, with appropriate references to inter- and multidisciplinary fields and follow the EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training[18]. They should be primarily focused on developing new scientific knowledge through original research on personalised projects.

Inter-sectoral secondments of researchers to other participating organisations, including in third countries, are encouraged when relevant, feasible and beneficial for the researchers and in line with the project objectives. This will increase the employability of the researchers outside academia.

Doctoral Networks should develop substantial training modules, addressing key transferable skills and competences common to all fields, including digital ones (e.g. generative AI) and foster the culture of Open Science, knowledge valorisation[19], and when applicable innovation and entrepreneurship as well as good scientific conduct such as research integrity. In particular, Doctoral Networks should adequately prepare doctoral candidates to pursue a career in research and for increased research collaboration and information-sharing made possible by new (digital) technologies (e.g. collaborative tools, opening access to publications and to other research outputs including data, FAIR data management, societal engagement and citizen science, etc.).

Supervision

Particular attention is paid to the quality of supervision and mentoring arrangements as well as career guidance. Joint supervision of the researchers is mandatory for Industrial and Joint Doctorates.

Career Development Plan

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18 principles_for_innovative_doctoral_training.pdf

19 "Knowledge valorisation" is the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by linking different areas and sectors and by transforming data, know-how and research results into sustainable products, services, solutions and knowledge-based policies that benefit society" (EUR-Lex - 32022H2415 - EN - EUR-Lex).
For more guidance on specific areas of knowledge valorisation, see the European Commission's Codes of Practice on intellectual assets management, on standardisation, on industry-academia co-creation and on citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation

A Career Development Plan must be established jointly by the supervisor and each recruited doctoral candidate. In case of joint supervision, such a plan should be established involving all supervisors. In addition to research objectives, this plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences and events aiming at opening science and research to citizens. The plan, established at the beginning of the recruitment, should be revised (and updated where needed) within 18 months.

RAISE Doctoral Networks

The RAISE Doctoral Networks, implemented through Work Programme Annex 14, Horizontal Activities, provide specific support to networks with primary focus on the use of AI in science.

Call - MSCA Doctoral Networks 2027

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-DN-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[20]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 26 May 2027 Deadline(s): 23 Nov 2027				
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-DN-01-01	TMA Doctoral Networks	645.99		Not relevant
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-DN-01-01	TMA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates			Not relevant
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-DN-01-01	TMA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates			Not relevant

[20] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

Overall indicative budget		645.99		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part.
Eligibility conditions	The general conditions are described in General Annex B. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	For application of the general award criteria, including weighting and thresholds, see the specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The general procedure is described in General Annex F. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Expected EU contribution per project	The expected EU contribution depends on the number of person-months requested. For the applicable unit contributions, see specific conditions for MSCA at the end of this Work Programme part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The general conditions are described in General Annex G. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-DN-01-01: MSCA Doctoral Networks 2027

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For supported doctoral candidates

- New research and transferable skills and competences, leading to improved employability and career prospects within and outside academia;
- New knowledge allowing the conversion of ideas into products and services, where relevant;

- 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 participating organisations

- Improved quality, relevance and sustainability of doctoral training programmes and supervision arrangements;
- Enhanced cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines;
- Increased integration of training and research activities between participating organisations;
- Boosted R&I capacity;
- Increased internationalisation and attractiveness;
- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organisations.

Scope: MSCA Doctoral Networks will implement doctoral programmes, by partnerships of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond. MSCA Doctoral Networks are indeed open to the participation of organisations from third countries, in view of fostering strategic international partnerships for the training and exchange of researchers.

These doctoral programmes will respond to well-identified needs in various R&I areas, expose the researchers to the academic and non-academic sectors, and offer training in research-related, as well as transferable skills and competences relevant for innovation and long-term employability (e.g. entrepreneurship, commercialisation of results, Intellectual Property Rights, communication). Proposals for doctoral networks can reflect existing or planned research partnerships among the participating organisations.

The selection procedure for doctoral candidates must be open, transparent and merit-based, in line with the European Charter for Researchers. The vacancy notice (to be widely advertised internationally, including on the EURAXESS[21] website) must mention if the published rates include all employer and employee's taxes and contributions. If possible, the gross salary (net salary + employee's taxes and contributions) should be published.

MSCA Doctoral Networks are encouraged to lead to Industrial or Joint Doctorates.

Industrial Doctorates

[21] https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/

Through Industrial Doctorates, doctoral candidates will step outside academia and develop skills in industry and business by being jointly supervised by academic and non-academic organisations, both of which can be established in the same EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Joint Doctorates

Joint Doctorates represent a highly integrated type of international, inter-sectoral and multi/interdisciplinary collaboration in doctoral training. They lead to the delivery of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees[22] recognised in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Supervisory Board

Each MSCA Doctoral Network should have a clearly identified supervisory board co-ordinating network-wide training, research and in particular supervision activities in line with the Guidelines for MSCA supervision, while establishing continuous communication and exchange of best practice among the participating organisations to maximise the benefits of the partnership.

Training activities

MSCA Doctoral Networks should exploit complementarities between participating organisations and foster sharing of knowledge and networking activities for example through the organisation of workshops and conferences. Proposed training activities should respond to well identified needs in various R&I areas, with appropriate references to inter- and multidisciplinary fields and follow the EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training[23]. They should be primarily focused on developing new scientific knowledge through original research on personalised projects.

Inter-sectoral secondments of researchers to other participating organisations, including in third countries, are encouraged when relevant, feasible and beneficial for the researchers and in line with the project objectives. This will increase the employability of the researchers outside academia.

Doctoral Networks should develop substantial training modules, addressing key transferable skills and competences common to all fields, including digital ones (e.g. generative AI) and foster the culture of Open Science, knowledge valorisation[24], and when applicable innovation

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22 Every time this Work Programme part refers to doctoral degrees, this means that the degrees have to be recognised as such by the relevant authorities of the country or countries concerned.

23 principles_for_innovative_doctoral_training.pdf

24 "Knowledge valorisation" is the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by linking different areas and sectors and by transforming data, know-how and research results into sustainable products, services, solutions and knowledge-based policies that benefit society" (EUR-Lex - 32022H2415 - EN - EUR-Lex).
For more guidance on specific areas of knowledge valorisation, see the European Commission's Codes of Practice on intellectual assets management, on standardisation, on industry-academia co-creation and on citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation

and entrepreneurship as well as good scientific conduct such as research integrity. In particular, Doctoral Networks should adequately prepare doctoral candidates to pursue a career in research and for increased research collaboration and information-sharing made possible by new (digital) technologies (e.g. collaborative tools, opening access to publications and to other research outputs including data, FAIR data management, societal engagement and citizen science, etc.).

Supervision

Particular attention is paid to the quality of supervision and mentoring arrangements as well as career guidance. Joint supervision of the researchers is mandatory for Industrial and Joint Doctorates.

Career Development Plan

A Career Development Plan must be established jointly by the supervisor and each recruited doctoral candidate. In case of joint supervision, such a plan should be established involving all supervisors. In addition to research objectives, this plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences and events aiming at opening science and research to citizens. The plan, established at the beginning of the recruitment, should be revised (and updated where needed) within 18 months.

Choose Europe for Science

The MSCA Doctoral Networks are a key instrument for implementing the Choose Europe for Science initiative by attracting and supporting excellent researchers through high-quality training, supervision and mobility opportunities.

In response to the significant increase in international demand for MSCA funding, an additional Choose Europe boost of 70.75 million EUR is allocated to the Doctoral Networks Call, allowing more excellent researchers to undertake research and training activities in Europe.

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

The goal of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD and who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships will be open to excellent researchers of any nationality. The scheme also encourages researchers to work on research and innovation projects in the non-academic sector and is open to researchers wishing to reintegrate in Europe, to those who are displaced by conflict, as well as to researchers with high potential who are seeking to restart their careers in research.

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 engage with society at large to make the results of their research visible to citizens and to involve citizens, civil society and end-users in co-creation of research content when relevant.

Expected impact

Proposals under this Action 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;
- 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.

The following call(s) in this work programme contribute to this Action:

Call	Budgets (EUR million)		Deadline(s)
	2026	2027	
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01	434.05		09 Sep 2026

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01		459.70	08 Sep 2027
Overall indicative budget	434.05	459.70	

Call - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[25]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 09 Apr 2026 Deadline(s): 09 Sep 2026				
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01-01	TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships	368.94		Not relevant
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01-01	TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships	65.11		Not relevant
Overall indicative budget		434.05		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part.
Eligibility conditions	The general conditions are described in General Annex B. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Financial and operational capacity	The criteria are described in General Annex C.

[25] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

and exclusion	
Award criteria	For application of the general award criteria, including weighting and thresholds, see the specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The general procedure is described in General Annex F. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Expected EU contribution per project	The expected EU contribution depends on the number of person-months requested. For the applicable unit contributions, see specific conditions for MSCA at the end of this Work Programme part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The general conditions are described in General Annex G. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01-01: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026

Specific conditions	
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 368.94 million.
Type of Action	TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 65.11 million.
Type of Action	TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For supported postdoctoral fellows

- Increased set of research and transferable skills and competences, leading to improved employability and career prospects of MSCA postdoctoral fellows 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 participating organisations

- Increased alignment of working conditions for researchers in accordance with the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers;
- Enhanced quality and sustainability of research training and supervision;
- Increased global attractiveness, visibility and reputation of the participating organisation(s);
- Stronger R&I capacity and output among participating organisations; better transfer of knowledge;
- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organisations.

Scope: Fellowships will be provided to excellent researchers undertaking international mobility. Applications will be made jointly by the researcher and a beneficiary in the academic or non-academic sector.

Postdoctoral Fellowships either can take place in Europe (i.e. in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country) or in a Third Country not associated to Horizon Europe:

- European Postdoctoral Fellowships are 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 Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to European nationals or long-term residents[26] who wish to engage in R&I projects with organisations outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries. These fellowships require an outgoing phase of minimum 12 and maximum 24 months in a non-associated Third Country, and a mandatory 12-month return phase to a host organisation based in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Specific eligibility conditions apply to MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships in the research areas covered by the Euratom Research and Training Programme [27].

Secondments

Researchers receiving a Postdoctoral Fellowship may opt to include a secondment phase, within the overall duration of their fellowship in any country worldwide. The secondment phase can be a single period or be divided into shorter mobility periods.

For European Postdoctoral Fellowships, secondments cannot exceed half of the requested duration of the action (excluding from the duration of the action any additional period for a

[26] See eligibility conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.
[27] See eligibility conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

non-academic placement) and should be in line with the project objectives, adding significant value and impact to the fellowship.

For Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, optional secondments are permitted for up to half of the outgoing phase. A maximum of three months of such secondments can be spent at the start of the project at the beneficiary (or associated partners linked to the beneficiary), allowing the researcher to spend time there before going to the associated partner in the Third Country. This period of maximum three months will be considered as part of the outgoing phase.

Secondments cannot take place during the mandatory twelve-month return period to the host organisation in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Placements in the non-academic sector

Postdoctoral Fellowships can provide an additional period of up to six months to support researchers opting for a placement at the end of the project to work on R&I projects in an organisation from the non-academic sector established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country[28]. While this possibility is also available to fellows recruited in the non-academic sector, such a placement must be implemented at a different non-academic host organisation established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country[29]. The request for such a non-academic placement must be an integral part of the proposal, explaining the added-value for the project and for the career development of the researcher, and will be subject to evaluation. This incentive aims at promoting career moves between sectors and organisations and thereby stimulate innovation and knowledge transfer while expanding career opportunities for researchers.

If the placement does not meet the requirements (taking place in an academic organisation or in a Third Country), the proposal will be evaluated without taking into account the placement. This might affect the final score.

Training activities

The training activities implemented under the Postdoctoral Fellowships should integrate key transferable skills and competences common to all fields, including digital ones (e.g. generative AI), and foster the culture of Open Science, knowledge valorisation[30], and when applicable innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as good scientific conduct such as research integrity. In particular, the Postdoctoral Fellowships should empower fellows to

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28 For proposals in the research areas covered by the Euratom Research and Training Programme, the organisation from the non-academic sector must be established in an EU Member State or a country associated to the Euratom Research and Training Programme

29 idem

30 "Knowledge valorisation" is the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by linking different areas and sectors and by transforming data, know-how and research results into sustainable products, services, solutions and knowledge-based policies that benefit society" (EUR-Lex - 32022H2415 - EN - EUR-Lex).
For more guidance on specific areas of knowledge valorisation, see the European Commission's Codes of Practice on intellectual assets management, on standardisation, on industry-academia co-creation and on citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation

pursue a career in research and adequately prepare them for increased research collaboration and information-sharing made possible by new (digital) technologies (e.g. collaborative tools, opening access to publications and to other research outputs including data, FAIR data management, societal engagement and citizen science, etc.).

Career Development Plan

In order to equip MSCA postdoctoral fellows with skills that enhance and expand their career opportunities inside and outside academia, a Career Development Plan should be established jointly by the supervisor(s) and the researcher. In addition to research objectives, this plan should comprise the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences and events aiming at opening science and research to citizens. The Plan will have to be submitted as a project deliverable at the beginning of the action and can be updated when needed.

Euratom

Aiming to enhance nuclear expertise and excellence as well as synergies between Programmes, organisations active in nuclear research established in one of EU Member States or countries associated to the Euratom Research and Training programme, are eligible to participate[31]. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships in this area of research will be supported by the Euratom Research and Training Programme through an indicative annual financial contribution of EUR 1 million to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call[32].

ERA Fellowships

The ERA Fellowships implemented through Work Programme Annex 11, Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area, provide specific support to researchers to undertake their fellowship in a widening country[33]. This will help spread excellence and contribute to fostering balanced brain circulation in widening countries.

Call - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2027

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[34]

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31 See eligibility conditions at the end of this Work Programme part

32 As indicated in the Euratom Work Programme

33 These countries are aligned with Work Programme part 11, Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

34 The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 07 Apr 2027 Deadline(s): 08 Sep 2027				
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01-01	TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships	390.74		Not relevant
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01-01	TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships	68.95		Not relevant
Overall indicative budget		459.70		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part.
Eligibility conditions	The general conditions are described in General Annex B. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	For application of the general award criteria, including weighting and thresholds, see the specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The general procedure is described in General Annex F. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Expected EU contribution per project	The expected EU contribution depends on the number of person-months requested. For the applicable unit contributions, see specific conditions for MSCA at the end of this Work Programme

	part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The general conditions are described in General Annex G. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01-01: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2027

Specific conditions	
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 390.74 million.
Type of Action	TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 68.95 million.
Type of Action	TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For supported postdoctoral fellows

- Increased set of research and transferable skills and competences, leading to improved employability and career prospects of MSCA postdoctoral fellows 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 participating organisations

- Increased alignment of working conditions for researchers in accordance with the principles set out in the European Charter for Researchers;
- Enhanced quality and sustainability of research training and supervision;
- Increased global attractiveness, visibility and reputation of the participating organisation(s);
- Stronger R&I capacity and output among participating organisations; better transfer of knowledge;

- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organisations.

Scope: Fellowships will be provided to excellent researchers undertaking international mobility. Applications will be made jointly by the researcher and a beneficiary in the academic or non-academic sector.

Postdoctoral Fellowships either can take place in Europe (i.e. in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country) or in a Third Country not associated to Horizon Europe:

- European Postdoctoral Fellowships are 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 Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to European nationals or long-term residents[35] who wish to engage in R&I projects with organisations outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries. These fellowships require an outgoing phase of minimum 12 and maximum 24 months in a non-associated Third Country, and a mandatory 12-month return phase to a host organisation based in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Specific eligibility conditions apply to MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships in the research areas covered by the Euratom Research and Training Programme [36].

Secondments

Researchers receiving a Postdoctoral Fellowship may opt to include a secondment phase, within the overall duration of their fellowship in any country worldwide. The secondment phase can be a single period or be divided into shorter mobility periods.

For European Postdoctoral Fellowships, secondments cannot exceed half of the requested duration of the action (excluding from the duration of the action any additional period for a non-academic placement) and should be in line with the project objectives, adding significant value and impact to the fellowship.

For Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, optional secondments are permitted for up to half of the outgoing phase. A maximum of three months of such secondments can be spent at the start of the project at the beneficiary (or associated partners linked to the beneficiary), allowing the researcher to spend time there before going to the associated partner in the Third Country. This period of maximum three months will be considered as part of the outgoing phase.

Secondments cannot take place during the mandatory twelve-month return period to the host organisation in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

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35 See eligibility conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

36 See eligibility conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

Placements in the non-academic sector

Postdoctoral Fellowships can provide an additional period of up to six months to support researchers opting for a placement at the end of the project to work on R&I projects in an organisation from the non-academic sector established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country[37]. While this possibility is also available to fellows recruited in the non-academic sector, such a placement must be implemented at a different non-academic host organisation established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country[38]. The request for such a non-academic placement must be an integral part of the proposal, explaining the added-value for the project and for the career development of the researcher, and will be subject to evaluation. This incentive aims at promoting career moves between sectors and organisations and thereby stimulate innovation and knowledge transfer while expanding career opportunities for researchers.

If the placement does not meet the requirements (taking place in an academic organisation or in a Third Country), the proposal will be evaluated without taking into account the placement. This might affect the final score.

Training activities

The training activities implemented under the Postdoctoral Fellowships should integrate key transferable skills and competences common to all fields, including digital ones (e.g. generative AI), and foster the culture of Open Science, knowledge valorisation[39], and when applicable innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as good scientific conduct such as research integrity. In particular, the Postdoctoral Fellowships should empower fellows to pursue a career in research and adequately prepare them for increased research collaboration and information-sharing made possible by new (digital) technologies (e.g. collaborative tools, opening access to publications and to other research outputs including data, FAIR data management, societal engagement and citizen science, etc.).

Career Development Plan

In order to equip MSCA postdoctoral fellows with skills that enhance and expand their career opportunities inside and outside academia, a Career Development Plan should be established jointly by the supervisor(s) and the researcher. In addition to research objectives, this plan should comprise the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences and events aiming

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37 For proposals in the research areas covered by the Euratom Research and Training Programme, the organisation from the non-academic sector must be established in an EU Member State or a country associated to the Euratom Research and Training Programme

38 idem

39 "Knowledge valorisation" is the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by linking different areas and sectors and by transforming data, know-how and research results into sustainable products, services, solutions and knowledge-based policies that benefit society" (EUR-Lex - 32022H2415 - EN - EUR-Lex).
For more guidance on specific areas of knowledge valorisation, see the European Commission's Codes of Practice on intellectual assets management, on standardisation, on industry-academia co-creation and on citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation

at opening science and research to citizens. The Plan will have to be submitted as a project deliverable at the beginning of the action and can be updated when needed.

Euratom

Aiming to enhance nuclear expertise and excellence as well as synergies between Programmes, organisations active in nuclear research established in one of EU Member States or countries associated to the Euratom Research and Training programme, are eligible to participate[40]. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships in this area of research will be supported by the Euratom Research and Training Programme through an indicative annual financial contribution of EUR 0.8 million to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call[41].

ERA Fellowships

The ERA Fellowships implemented through Work Programme Annex 11, Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area, provide specific support to researchers to undertake their fellowship in a widening country[42]. This will help spread excellence and contribute to fostering balanced brain circulation in widening countries.

Choose Europe for Science

The MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships are a key instrument for implementing the Choose Europe for Science initiative by attracting and supporting excellent researchers through high-quality training, supervision and mobility opportunities.

In response to the significant increase in international demand for MSCA funding, an additional Choose Europe boost of 70.75 million EUR is allocated to the Postdoctoral Fellowships Call, allowing more excellent researchers to undertake research and training activities in Europe.

40 See eligibility conditions at the end of this Work Programme part

41 As indicated in the Euratom Work Programme

42 These countries are aligned with Work Programme part 11, Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

MSCA Staff Exchanges

MSCA Staff Exchanges 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. The scheme fosters a shared culture of research and innovation that welcomes and rewards creativity and entrepreneurship and helps turn ideas into innovative products, services or processes. It is open to research, technical, administrative and managerial staff supporting R&I activities.

Expected impact

Proposals under this Action should contribute to the following expected impacts:

- 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.

The following call(s) in this work programme contribute to this Action:

Call	Budgets (EUR million)		Deadline(s)
	2026	2027	
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01	97.92		16 Apr 2026
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-SE-01		95.15	13 Apr 2027
Overall indicative budget	97.92	95.15	

Call - MSCA Staff Exchanges 2026

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[43]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 16 Dec 2025 Deadline(s): 16 Apr 2026				
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01-01	TMA Staff Exchanges	97.92		Not relevant
Overall indicative budget		97.92		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part.
Eligibility conditions	The general conditions are described in General Annex B. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	For application of the general award criteria, including weighting and thresholds, see the specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

[43] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The general procedure is described in General Annex F. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Expected EU contribution per project	The expected EU contribution depends on the number of person-months requested. For the applicable unit contributions, see specific conditions for MSCA at the end of this Work Programme part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The general conditions are described in General Annex G. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01-01: MSCA Staff Exchanges 2026

Expected Outcome:

Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For staff members

- Increased set of research and transferable skills and competences, leading to improved employability and career prospects within and outside academia;
- More knowledge and innovative ideas converted into products, processes and services;
- More entrepreneurial mind-sets, testing new and innovative ideas;
- Increased international exposure leading to extended networks and opportunities;
- 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 participating organisations

- Innovative ways of cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines;
- Strengthened and broader international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaborative networks;
- Boosted R&I capacity

Scope: MSCA Staff Exchanges involve organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (including SMEs) from across the globe. International cooperation through the participation of organisations from non-associated third countries is strongly encouraged.

Support is provided for international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of R&I staff leading to knowledge transfer between participating organisations.

Mobility through secondments

The organisations constituting the partnership contribute directly to the implementation of a joint R&I project by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members. Such a project must explore activities that can be based on previous work but should go beyond and generate or strengthen long-term collaborations. Secondments must involve physical mobility[44] of the eligible staff members and must always take place between legal entities independent from each other.

MSCA Staff Exchanges can address different dimensions of mobility: international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary[45]. Exchanges between organisations within EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries should mainly be inter-sectoral, but same-sector exchanges are also possible. Interdisciplinarity is particularly encouraged for secondments between academic organisations.

The collaborative approach of MSCA Staff Exchanges should exploit complementary competences of the participating organisations and create synergies between them. The secondments should be essential to achieve the joint project's R&I activities. The project should *inter alia* enable networking activities and the organisation of workshops and conferences, to facilitate sharing of knowledge and testing of innovative approaches for specific R&I topics.

Skills' development

For participating staff members, the project should offer new skills acquisition and career development perspectives. Participating organisations must ensure that the seconded staff are adequately mentored. Proposals should clearly describe how planned international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary secondments will expose seconded staff to different skills, working cultures or career trajectories.

Call - MSCA Staff Exchanges 2027

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-SE-01

[44] Virtual mobility is not allowed for secondments.

[45] Interdisciplinarity means the integration of information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories from two or more scientific disciplines (see definitions at the end of this Work Programme part).

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[46]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 15 Dec 2026 Deadline(s): 13 Apr 2027				
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-SE-01-01	TMA Staff Exchanges	95.15		Not relevant
Overall indicative budget		95.15		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part.
Eligibility conditions	The general conditions are described in General Annex B. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	For application of the general award criteria, including weighting and thresholds, see the specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The general procedure is described in General Annex F. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part

[46] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

Expected EU contribution per project	The expected EU contribution depends on the number of person-months requested. For the applicable unit contributions, see specific conditions for MSCA at the end of this Work Programme part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The general conditions are described in General Annex G. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-SE-01-01: MSCA Staff Exchanges 2027

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For staff members

- Increased set of research and transferable skills and competences, leading to improved employability and career prospects within and outside academia;
- More knowledge and innovative ideas converted into products, processes and services;
- More entrepreneurial mind-sets, testing new and innovative ideas;
- Increased international exposure leading to extended networks and opportunities;
- 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 participating organisations

- Innovative ways of cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines;
- Strengthened and broader international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaborative networks;
- Boosted R&I capacity.

Scope: MSCA Staff Exchanges involve organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (including SMEs) from across the globe. International cooperation through the participation of organisations from non-associated third countries is strongly encouraged.

Support is provided for international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of R&I staff leading to knowledge transfer between participating organisations.

Mobility through secondments

The organisations constituting the partnership contribute directly to the implementation of a joint R&I project by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members. Such a project must explore activities that can be based on previous work but should go beyond and generate or strengthen long-term collaborations. Secondments must involve physical mobility[47] of the eligible staff members and must always take place between legal entities independent from each other.

MSCA Staff Exchanges can address different dimensions of mobility: international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary[48]. Exchanges between organisations within EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries should mainly be inter-sectoral, but same-sector exchanges are also possible. Interdisciplinarity is particularly encouraged for secondments between academic organisations.

The collaborative approach of MSCA Staff Exchanges should exploit complementary competences of the participating organisations and create synergies between them. The secondments should be essential to achieve the joint project's R&I activities. The project should *inter alia* enable networking activities and the organisation of workshops and conferences, to facilitate sharing of knowledge and testing of innovative approaches for specific R&I topics.

Skills' development

For participating staff members, the project should offer new skills acquisition and career development perspectives. Participating organisations must ensure that the seconded staff are adequately mentored. Proposals should clearly describe how planned international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary secondments will expose seconded staff to different skills, working cultures or career trajectories.

47 Virtual mobility is not allowed for secondments.

48 Interdisciplinarity means the integration of information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories from two or more scientific disciplines (see definitions at the end of this Work Programme part).

MSCA Co-funding of regional, national and international programme

MSCA COFUND co-finances new or existing doctoral programmes and postdoctoral fellowship schemes with the aim of spreading the best practices of the MSCA including international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as international and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career.

In practice, MSCA COFUND provides complementary funding for doctoral or postdoctoral programmes managed by entities established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries. Those co-funded programmes must follow MSCA's good practice in terms of international recruitment and minimum standard of employment for the recruited fellows as described in the European Charter for Researchers.

MSCA Choose Europe for Science co-funded programmes additionally aim to address brain drain and precarity of researchers' careers in order to make Europe more attractive to the most promising young talents. The scheme will allow applicants to link MSCA grants to competitions leading to long-term attractive positions in universities and other research performing organisations.

Expected impact

Proposals under this Action should contribute to the following expected impacts:

- 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 as well as access to concrete long-term career prospects;
- 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.

The following call(s) in this work programme contribute to this Action:

Call	Budgets (EUR million)		Deadline(s)
	2026	2027	

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-COFUND-01	105.46		08 Apr 2026
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-01		51.32	06 Apr 2027
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-02		51.32	06 Apr 2027
Overall indicative budget	105.46	102.64	

Call - MSCA COFUND 2026

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-COFUND-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[49]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 16 Dec 2025 Deadline(s): 08 Apr 2026				
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-COFUND-01-01	TMA-Cofund-Doctoral	105.46		Not relevant
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-COFUND-01-01	TMA-Cofund-Postdoctoral			Not relevant
Overall indicative budget		105.46		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part.
Eligibility conditions	The general conditions are described in General Annex B. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	For application of the general award criteria, including weighting

[49] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

	and thresholds, see the specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The general procedure is described in General Annex F. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Expected EU contribution per project	The expected EU contribution depends on the number of person-months requested. For the applicable unit contributions, see specific conditions for MSCA at the end of this Work Programme part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The general conditions are described in General Annex G. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-COFUND-01-01: MSCA COFUND 2026

Expected Outcome: Projects results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For supported doctoral candidates or postdoctoral 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 participating organisations

- 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 socio-economic ecosystems;

- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organisations

Scope: Applicants submit proposals for new or existing doctoral or postdoctoral programmes with an impact on the enhancement of human resources in R&I at regional, national or international level. These programmes will be co-funded by MSCA COFUND.

Proposed programmes can cover any research disciplines ("bottom-up"), but exceptionally can also focus on specific disciplines, notably when they are based on national or regional Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3 strategies). In this case, the range of covered disciplines should allow reasonable flexibility for the researchers to define their topic.

Funding synergies with Cohesion Policy Funds and other EU funding sources are strongly encouraged.

A Career Development Plan must be jointly established by the supervisor and each recruited researcher upon recruitment. In addition to research objectives, this Plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences and events aimed at opening science and research to citizens. The Plan must be established at the beginning of the recruitment and should be revised (and updated where needed) within 18 months.

COFUND takes the form of:

A) Doctoral programmes

Doctoral programmes offer research training activities to allow doctoral candidates to develop and broaden their skills and competences. They will lead to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. The training activities should be based on the EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training.

The doctoral programmes should develop substantial training modules, addressing key transferable skills and competences common to all fields, including digital ones (e.g. generative AI) and fostering the culture of Open Science, knowledge valorisation[50], and when applicable innovation and entrepreneurship as well as good scientific conduct such as research integrity. In particular, doctoral programmes should adequately prepare doctoral candidates to pursue a career in research and adequately prepare them for increased research collaboration and information-sharing made possible by new (digital) technologies (e.g. collaborative tools, opening access to publications and to other research outputs including data, FAIR data management, societal engagement and citizen science, etc.).

[50] "Knowledge valorisation" is the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by linking different areas and sectors and by transforming data, know-how and research results into sustainable products, services, solutions and knowledge-based policies that benefit society" (EUR-Lex - 32022H2415 - EN - EUR-Lex).
For more guidance on specific areas of knowledge valorisation, see the European Commission's Codes of Practice on intellectual assets management, on standardisation, on industry-academia co-creation and on citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation

On top of compulsory international mobility, applicants are encouraged to include elements of cross-sectoral mobility and interdisciplinarity into their programmes. Collaboration with a wider set of associated partners, including from the non-academic sector, will be positively taken into account during the evaluation. These organisations may provide hosting or secondment opportunities or training modules in research or transferable skills.

Particular attention is paid to the quality of supervision and mentoring arrangements as well as career guidance. The selection procedure for doctoral candidates must be open, transparent and merit-based, in line with the European Charter for Researchers. The vacancy notice (to be widely advertised internationally, including on the EURAXESS[51] website) must mention if the published rates include all employer and employee's taxes and contributions. If possible, the gross salary (net salary + employee's taxes and contributions) should be published.

B) Postdoctoral Programmes

Postdoctoral programmes fund individual advanced research training and career development fellowships for postdoctoral researchers. The programmes should offer training to develop key transferable skills and competences common to all fields, including digital ones (e.g. generative AI), and foster the culture of Open Science, knowledge valorisation[52], and when applicable innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as good scientific conduct such as research integrity. In particular, the postdoctoral programmes should empower fellows to pursue a career in research and adequately prepare them for increased research collaboration and information-sharing made possible by new (digital) technologies (e.g. collaborative tools, opening access to publications and to other research outputs including data, FAIR data management, societal engagement and citizen science, etc.).

Postdoctoral programmes should have regular selection rounds following fixed deadlines or regular cut-off dates, allowing fair competition between researchers. The selection procedure for postdoctoral candidates must be open, merit-based and with a transparent international peer review, in line with the European Charter for Researchers. The vacancy notice (to be widely advertised internationally, including on the EURAXESS website) must mention if the published rates include all employer and employee's taxes and contributions. If possible, the gross salary (net salary + employee's taxes and contributions) should be published.

On top of compulsory international mobility, applicants are encouraged to include elements of cross-sectoral mobility and interdisciplinarity into their programmes. Researchers will be able to freely choose a research topic and the appropriate organisation to host them, fitting their individual needs.

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51 https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/

52 "Knowledge valorisation" is the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by linking different areas and sectors and by transforming data, know-how and research results into sustainable products, services, solutions and knowledge-based policies that benefit society" (EUR-Lex - 32022H2415 - EN - EUR-Lex).
For more guidance on specific areas of knowledge valorisation, see the European Commission's Codes of Practice on intellectual assets management, on standardisation, on industry-academia co-creation and on citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation

Call - MSCA COFUND 2027

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[53]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 08 Dec 2026 Deadline(s): 06 Apr 2027				
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-01-01	TMA-Cofund-Doctoral	51.32		Not relevant
Overall indicative budget		51.32		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part.
Eligibility conditions	The general conditions are described in General Annex B. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	For application of the general award criteria, including weighting and thresholds, see the specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.

[53] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

Procedure	The general procedure is described in General Annex F. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Expected EU contribution per project	The expected EU contribution depends on the number of person-months requested. For the applicable unit contributions, see specific conditions for MSCA at the end of this Work Programme part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The general conditions are described in General Annex G. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-01-01: MSCA COFUND 2027

Expected Outcome: Projects results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For supported doctoral candidates

- 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 participating organisations

- 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 socio-economic ecosystems;
- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organisations.

Scope: Applicants submit proposals for new or existing doctoral programmes with an impact on the enhancement of human resources in R&I at regional, national or international level. These programmes will be co-funded by MSCA COFUND.

Proposed programmes can cover any research disciplines ("bottom-up"), but exceptionally can also focus on specific disciplines, notably when they are based on national or regional Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3 strategies). In this case, the range of covered disciplines should allow reasonable flexibility for the researchers to define their topic.

Funding synergies with Cohesion Policy Funds and other EU funding sources are strongly encouraged.

A Career Development Plan must be jointly established by the supervisor and each recruited researcher upon recruitment. In addition to research objectives, this Plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences and events aimed at opening science and research to citizens. The Plan must be established at the beginning of the recruitment and should be revised (and updated where needed) within 18 months.

Doctoral programmes offer research training activities to allow doctoral candidates to develop and broaden their skills and competences. They will lead to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. The training activities should be based on the EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training.

The doctoral programmes should develop substantial training modules, addressing key transferable skills and competences common to all fields, including digital ones (e.g. generative AI) and fostering the culture of Open Science, knowledge valorisation[54], and when applicable innovation and entrepreneurship as well as good scientific conduct such as research integrity. In particular, doctoral programmes should adequately prepare doctoral candidates to pursue a career in research and adequately prepare them for increased research collaboration and information-sharing made possible by new (digital) technologies (e.g. collaborative tools, opening access to publications and to other research outputs including data, FAIR data management, societal engagement and citizen science, etc.).

On top of compulsory international mobility, applicants are encouraged to include elements of cross-sectoral mobility and interdisciplinarity into their programmes. Collaboration with a wider set of associated partners, including from the non-academic sector, will be positively taken into account during the evaluation. These organisations may provide hosting or secondment opportunities or training modules in research or transferable skills.

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[54] "Knowledge valorisation" is the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by linking different areas and sectors and by transforming data, know-how and research results into sustainable products, services, solutions and knowledge-based policies that benefit society" (EUR-Lex - 32022H2415 - EN - EUR-Lex).
For more guidance on specific areas of knowledge valorisation, see the European Commission's Codes of Practice on intellectual assets management, on standardisation, on industry-academia co-creation and on citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation

Particular attention is paid to the quality of supervision and mentoring arrangements as well as career guidance. The selection procedure for doctoral candidates must be open, transparent and merit-based, in line with the European Charter for Researchers. The vacancy notice (to be widely advertised internationally, including on the EURAXESS[55] website) must mention if the published rates include all employer and employee's taxes and contributions. If possible, the gross salary (net salary + employee's taxes and contributions) should be published.

Call - MSCA Choose Europe for Science 2027

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-02

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[56]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 08 Dec 2026 Deadline(s): 06 Apr 2027				
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-02-01	TMA-Cofund-Postdoctoral	51.32		Not relevant
Overall indicative budget		51.32		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part.
Eligibility conditions	The general conditions are described in General Annex B. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Financial and	The criteria are described in General Annex C.

55 https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/

56 The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

operational capacity and exclusion	
Award criteria	For application of the general award criteria, including weighting and thresholds, see the specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The general procedure is described in General Annex F. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this work programme part
Expected EU contribution per project	The expected EU contribution depends on the number of person-months requested. For the applicable unit contributions, see specific conditions for MSCA at the end of this Work Programme part.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The general conditions are described in General Annex G. See exceptions and specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-02-01: MSCA Choose Europe for Science 2027

Expected Outcome: For supported researchers:

- Concrete career prospects and increased career stability;
- Deeper and more diverse set of research-related, academic and transferable skills and competences, leading to greater autonomy.

For participating organisations:

- Better alignment of research and Human Resources practices, including recruitment, career accession and progression systems, at participating organisation(s) with the European Charter for Researchers and the Council Recommendation of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe and the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment;
- Increased global attractiveness, visibility and reputation of the participating organisation(s);
- Stronger R&I and teaching capacity and output;
- Increased contribution to the local, regional and/or national socio-economic ecosystems;

- Stronger synergies across institutional research, management and teaching structures.

Scope: The objective of this scheme is to tackle brain drain and precarity of researchers' careers to make Europe more attractive to the most promising young talents. Applicants submit proposals for talent recruitment programmes that will provide researchers holding a doctoral degree with excellent research and academic opportunities, potentially coupled with management activities, to lead them to concrete and attractive career prospects. This will have an impact on the enhancement of human resources in R&I at institutional, regional, national or international level. These programmes will be co-funded by MSCA Choose Europe for Science.

The programmes will be divided into two phases. An EU-funded phase (24-36 months) in which the EU funding will cover direct and indirect costs related to the implementation of the programme and a phase funded fully by the beneficiary (24 months) in which the applicant is expected to set salaries attractive at a national level and ensure availability of the necessary internal or external funds to implement the project. Applicants should specify the order of the two phases in their proposals.

Proposed programmes can cover any research disciplines. The selection procedure for candidates must be open, merit-based and with a transparent international peer-review in line with the European Charter for Researchers[57]. Alignment with the principles outlined in the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment[58] is also encouraged. Selection criteria should be based primarily on excellence. Additional selection criteria require clear alignment with local human resources needs identified in the relevant institutional, regional or national strategies. These must be described in the proposal and must be listed in the vacancy notice (to be widely advertised internationally, including on the EURAXESS website[59]) alongside the gross salaries applicable to the two programme phases (net salary + employee's taxes and contributions). Selected fellows will be able to define their own research topic at their host institution(s) and take on teaching or management tasks where relevant. The programmes should aim at offering excellent working conditions to researchers, including salary, professional resources, and career development.

The career development should incorporate transversal skills but also job-specific skills and, where relevant, language courses to ensure that the training is in line with the career opportunities offered following the fellowship. These opportunities must include concrete and attractive long-term career prospects, such as pathways towards open-ended contracts, which can be subject to assessment and evaluation. There must be a fair, equal, inclusive, transparent, structured career accession and progression system providing access to these opportunities in line with the Council Recommendation of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe, the

57 Council Recommendation of 18 December 2023 on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe

58 agreement_final.pdf (coara.eu)

59 EURAXESS |

European Charter for Researchers in its annex and the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment.

A Career Development Plan must be maintained throughout the period of the Choose Europe for Science programme. This Plan comprises the researcher's career development needs, including training on languages, transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences and events. The Plan should outline the projected career progression paths in the host institution.

MSCA and Citizens

MSCA and Citizens aims to bring research and researchers closer to the public at large, to increase awareness of research and innovation activities and to boost public recognition of science and research education. It will show the role of the researcher for the society and economy, as well as the impact of researchers' work on citizens' daily lives. It also aims to raise the interest of young people in research and scientific careers.

MSCA and Citizens will address the general public, attracting people regardless of the level of their scientific background, with a specific focus on families, pupils, students, and notably those who do not have easy access to, and thus are less inclined to engage in, STEAM fields (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) or research activities. Inclusiveness should be key, in view of broadening access to science and research to all.

MSCA and Citizens should also promote gender balance and inclusiveness in science, Open Science, and Responsible Research and Innovation.

These objectives will be pursued through the organisation of the European Researchers' Night and the implementation of the Researchers at Schools initiative.

The European Researchers' Night is the largest research communication and promotion event taking place across EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries. A wide geographic coverage that reflects the European nature of this initiative is key.

The Researchers at Schools initiative aims to strengthen the connection between research and education. It brings school classes to research facilities and researchers to schools or other pedagogical and educational centres, encouraging interaction with pupils at all levels of education. Researchers and pupils will meet to talk about current and future challenges of our societies and the related key role of research. Pupils will learn directly about research projects and activities addressing the EU priorities and main orientations.

Expected impact

Proposals under this Action should contribute to the following expected impacts:

- Enhance engagement with citizens on R&I;
- Increase awareness among the general public of the importance and benefits of R&I, especially EU-funded research, and its concrete impact on citizens' daily life;
- Contribute to the diffusion and the promotion of excellence research projects across Europe and beyond by reaching citizens in as many participating countries as possible;
- Raise the interest of young people in science and research careers;

- Support school teachers and educators by showcasing real-life applications of research projects and creating a learning opportunity for pupils through a direct interaction with researchers.

The following call(s) in this work programme contribute to this Action:

Call	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadline(s)
	2027	
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-CITIZENS-01	15.73	08 Jun 2027
Overall indicative budget	15.73	

Call - MSCA and Citizens 2027

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-CITIZENS-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[60]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)[61]	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 09 Mar 2027 Deadline(s): 08 Jun 2027				
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-CITIZENS-01-01	CSA	15.73	0.10 to 0.35	50
Overall indicative budget		15.73		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
Documents	The documents are described in General

60 The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

61 Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

	Annex E.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-MSCA-2027-CITIZENS-01-01: MSCA and Citizens 2027

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 0.10 and 0.35 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 15.73 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: Activities carried-out in non-associated third countries are not eligible for funding.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: To ensure a balanced portfolio covering the widest geographical coverage with events and activities held in as many eligible countries as possible, grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of ranking but at least also to each application that is highest ranked per country based on where the coordinator is established (including trans-national consortia), provided that the applications attain all thresholds
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs may take form of lump sum contributions as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For researchers

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

For organisations

- Increased reputation and visibility of participating organisations in terms of hosting excellent research projects towards the general public and possible future students;
- Researchers' work made more tangible, concrete, accessible, and thus opening research and science to all;
- 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, increased and strengthened opportunities for citizens' engagement.

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. It supports events that can last up to two days: they can start on Friday and continue the following day. Pre-events, prior to the main event, and related post-events, such as wrap-up meetings or small-scale follow-up events, can also be organised. It is the occasion for a Europe-wide public and media event for the promotion of research careers.

The European Researchers' Night targets the general public, addressing and attracting people regardless of the level of their scientific background, with a special focus on young people and their families, pupils and students, and notably those who do not have easy access to, and thus are less inclined to engage in STEAM fields (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) or research activities.

The Researchers at Schools initiative brings school classes to research facilities and researchers to schools or other pedagogical and educational centres. This allows researchers to interact with pupils on societal challenges and on the key role of research to address them. Pupils will thus learn directly about research projects.

Types of activities

European Researchers' Night activities can combine education with entertainment, especially when addressing young audiences. They can take various forms, such as exhibitions, hands-on experiments, science shows, simulations, debates, games, competitions, quizzes, etc. Where appropriate, engagement with educational institutions should be sought in order to encourage formal and informal science education with the aim of improving the scientific knowledge base. The European Researchers' Night should be highlighted as a European and Europe-wide

event. Additionally, each proposal should promote the European Union, EU-funded research and its impact on citizens' daily life in the most appropriate way, according to the set-up and the configuration of the event, its location and its activities.

Researchers at Schools 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. Where appropriate, researchers should receive training ahead of the activities on science communication, especially targeting a young audience. The Researchers at Schools activities should take place at any time during the project duration and should be subject to a dedicated promotion, particularly towards schools and other pedagogical and educational centres.

Involvement of researchers funded by Horizon Europe or previous Framework Programmes, notably by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, is highly encouraged.

Both the European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools initiative should promote gender balance, diversity and inclusiveness in science in terms of planned activities and researchers involved.

Partnerships and coordination at regional, national or cross-border levels will be strongly encouraged aiming at a good geographical spread and avoiding overlaps.

Where appropriate, synergies should be sought with the newly created Science Comes To Town initiative, implemented through Work Programme Annex 11, Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area.

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

Eligible costs will take the form of lump sum contributions as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

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 that exceed this maximum EU contribution might be penalised during the evaluation unless a strong justification is provided.

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals covering activities for both 2028 and 2029, including the organisation of two successive editions (2028 and 2029) of the European Researchers' Night and implementation of Researchers at Schools activities during the project duration. Applicants should clearly state how they will communicate and promote the European nature of this action.

Other Actions not subject to calls for proposals

Grants not subject to calls for proposals

1. MSCA Irish Presidency event 2026

On the 30th anniversary year of the Marie Sklodowska-Curie Programme, this conference will explore the impact of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and how the MSCA can evolve to support resilient, attractive, and future-proof research careers amid growing global uncertainty. With geopolitical tensions and shifting global alliances, Europe's ability to attract, develop, and retain top research talent is more vital than ever. This conference will work towards building cohesion and collaboration within the European research ecosystem as well as across the global system.

Key themes will include:

- Building research careers that can withstand external shocks and systemic volatility
- Ensuring and strengthening mobility and collaboration across borders
- Enhancing the attractiveness of European research careers to global talent
- An inclusive research environment that supports European innovation and competitiveness
- Strengthening institutional support systems to empower researchers in uncertain times
- Recognising the realities of precarity and the need to strengthen long-term career pathways across academia and industry.

The event will bring together policymakers, MSCA fellows and alumni, institutions, and international partners to shape a talent strategy that not only responds to today's challenges but positions Europe as a global leader in research excellence and career development for the decade ahead.

Legal entities:

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland, Three Park Place, Hatch Street Upper, Dublin 2, Ireland, D02 FX65

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Fourth quarter 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 0.20 million from the 2026 budget

2. MSCA Lithuanian Presidency event 2027

As the European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda 2025–2027 advances and Horizon Europe enters its final year in 2027, this is a timely opportunity to engage in strategic dialogue on how the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) can continue to support and shape the future ERA.

This high-level conference will bring together policymakers, research institutions, and key stakeholders to reflect on the achievements of the current ERA framework and explore MSCA's critical role in implementing the ERA Pact and realising renewed ERA priorities.

The event will emphasise MSCA's longstanding contribution to Europe's global competitiveness in research and innovation. In a rapidly evolving global environment, the MSCA remains a cornerstone of EU efforts to attract and retain top talent, promote research excellence, and support systemic capacity building across Member States and Associated Countries. The scheme's bottom-up, researcher-driven approach ensures that curiosity-led research continues to thrive, fostering innovative solutions to current and future societal challenges.

The conference will serve as a policy-focused forum to assess the strategic alignment between MSCA and ERA goals, particularly in relation to balanced talent circulation, brain gain, and institutional excellence. It will explore how MSCA can further reinforce the ERA Pact's shared values, commitments, and monitoring tools, and how it can remain a central instrument in the next Framework Programme for supporting an open, cohesive, and competitive European Research Area.

Legal entities:

Research Council of Lithuania (RCL), Gedimino pr. 3, Vilnius, 01103, Vilniaus m. sav., Lithuania

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Second quarter of 2027

Indicative budget: EUR 0.20 million from the 2027 budget

3. Support to the Marie Curie Alumni Association

This grant will be awarded without a call for proposals according to Article 198(e) of the Financial Regulation and Article 24(3)(b) of the Horizon Europe Regulation. The use of a grant to identified beneficiary is justified by the particular role and purpose of the MCAA, its unique nature and the fact that the association gathers around 20.000 MSCA alumni.

This action should support the MCAA in achieving the following objectives:

- Supporting the functioning of the MCAA, foster its expansion and growth on the European and international stage;
- Facilitating professional networking and career development of former and current MSCA fellows;
- Encouraging networking and cooperation among members from different countries, sectors of the economy and across scientific disciplines;
- Enabling alumni to act as MSCA ambassadors and promoters within the global research and innovation community, but also for the European Commission and EU Delegations throughout the world;
- Provide feedback to the European Commission on the MSCA to constantly improve its success, relevance and impact; and provide feedback on relevant EU policies.

The beneficiary may provide financial support to third parties (including individual members of the MCAA as well as Working Groups and Chapters). The support to third parties can be provided in the form of grants, prizes or similar forms of support. The support should be at least 30% and no more than 50% of the maximum grant amount for activities such as travel, development and production of media materials related to the MCAA. The condition for financial support to third parties outlined in General Annex B requiring that all calls for third parties must be published on the Funding & Tenders Portal, does not apply.

Eligible activities under this grant include *inter alia*:

- Organisation of physical and virtual MCAA governance body meetings according to the need of the MCAA;
- Organisation of General Assembly meetings of the MCAA and annual MCAA Conference;
- Support for Alumni, Chapters and Working groups;
- Maintenance and continuous development of the MCAA's IT infrastructure and website, including the membership database;
- Data collection and provision of structured feedback on the MSCA, including online surveys, in agreement with the Commission, to obtain feedback on EU policy topics, on the MSCA, on the development of the network or any other topic of interest to both parties.

The following deliverables will have to be submitted:

- Yearly work plans on the functioning and growth of the MCAA submitted at month 12 and updated at month 24;

- A long-term plan for the evolution of the MCAA submitted at month 15, and updated at month 28;
- A communication plan to be submitted 10 months after the beginning of the grant;
- A progress report at month 14 and month 26.

The expected duration of the action is 36 months.

The evaluation committee will be composed fully by representatives of EU institutions. The evaluation committee can be assisted by external experts if required.

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, and procedure are provided in parts A to G of the General Annexes.

Eligible costs may take form of lump sum contributions as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

Legal entities:

MCAA-Marie Curie Alumni Association, MCAA, c/o Inovamais, Avenue des Arts, 24, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative budget: EUR 4.00 million from the 2027 budget

4. MSCA Special needs Allowances to Horizon 2020 legacy projects

The MSCA pay particular attention to accessibility and inclusiveness and foresee financial support for the additional costs entailed by recruited or seconded researchers/staff members with disabilities whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments[62] are as such that their participation in MSCA would not be possible without extra financial support.

Beneficiaries of Horizon 2020 ITN, IF, RISE and COFUND grants can continue to apply for a dedicated special needs grant. This grant will cover the additional costs that researchers/staff members with disabilities face due to the increased costs of their mobility. It can also be used to ensure necessary assistance by third persons or for adapting their work environment[63]. It

62 See Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

63 See Article 5 of the Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation.

cannot cover costs which are already covered by another source, such as social security or health insurance.

The support will be granted based on the request submitted by the coordinator of the MSCA grant (Horizon 2020 ITN, IF, RISE and COFUND grants) to the granting authority. The request can be submitted at any moment during the implementation of the MSCA grant, when the need arises. The request should contain a description of the special needs, the type of support and the budget requested. The request will be evaluated by the granting authority and, if needed, an assistance by external experts may be requested.

Once agreed, the MSCA grant agreement will be formally amended and the requested amount for the special needs will be covered by the increase of the budget in the Management cost category. This extra amount will be paid together with the payment of the balance. The support will be limited to a maximum of EUR 60 000 per researcher/staff member.

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Throughout 2026 and 2027

Indicative budget: EUR 0.20 million from the 2026 budget

Procurements

1. Public Procurement for Events and Outreach

During 2026 and 2027, the Commission will organise several events (conferences and workshops) dedicated to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and to contribute to leading research conferences. Moreover, a dedicated campaign will be organised to ensure the visibility of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and funded projects to the general public.

Form of Funding: Procurement

Type of Action: Public procurement

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2026 budget and EUR 0.50 million from the 2027 budget

Other budget implementation instruments

1. External Expertise

This action will support the use of appointed independent experts for the monitoring of ongoing actions (grant agreements, grant decisions, public procurement actions, financial instruments) funded under Horizon Europe and previous Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation and where appropriate include ethics checks, as well as compliance checks regarding the Gender Equality Plan eligibility criterion.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2026 budget and EUR 0.50 million from the 2027 budget

Budget[64]

	Budget line(s)	2026 Budget (EUR million)	2027 Budget (EUR million)
Calls			
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01		628.03	
	from 01.020102	*628.03*	
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-DN-01			645.99
	from 01.020102		*645.99*
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01		434.05	
	from 01.020102	*434.05*	
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01			459.70
	from 01.020102		*459.70*
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01		97.92	
	from 01.020102	*97.92*	
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-SE-01			95.15
	from 01.020102		*95.15*
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-COFUND-01		105.46	
	from 01.020102	*105.46*	
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-01			51.32

[64] The budget figures given in this table are rounded to two decimal places.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

	from 01.020102		*51.32*
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-02			51.32
	from 01.020102		*51.32*
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-CITIZENS-01			15.73
	from 01.020102		*15.73*
Other actions			
Grant awarded without a call for proposals according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e)		0.40	4.20
	from 01.020102	*0.40*	*4.20*
Public procurement		0.50	0.50
	from 01.020102	*0.50*	*0.50*
Expert contract action		0.50	0.50
	from 01.020102	*0.50*	*0.50*
Estimated total budget		1266.86	1324.41

Specific conditions for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions[65]

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply:

'Academic sector' means public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations[66] and International European Research Organisations (IERO)[67].

'Non-academic sector' means any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon Europe Rules for Participation.

'Associated partners' are entities which participate in the action, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions. They contribute to the implementation of the action, but do not sign the grant agreement. Associated partners may not employ the researchers under the action[68].

'Associated partners linked to a beneficiary' are organisations with an established capital or legal link with the beneficiary, which is not limited to the action nor specifically created for its implementation. These entities implement action tasks described in Annex 1 of the grant agreement, i.e. hosting and training of researchers in Doctoral Networks and Postdoctoral Fellowships and hosting and seconding staff in Staff Exchanges. The associated partners linked to a beneficiary do not have the right to claim unit contributions and may not employ the researcher under the action. In addition, they must fulfil the eligibility conditions[69] for participation and funding applicable to the beneficiary they are linked to. The type of link and involvement of such entities must be clearly described in the proposal and will be assessed as part of the evaluation.

'Beneficiaries' are the legal entities that sign the grant agreement (either directly or through an accession form) and have the responsibility for the proper implementation of the action. They contribute directly to the implementation of the research, transfer of knowledge and

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65 These specific conditions apply to the 2027 calls, for specific conditions applying to 2026 calls, see European Commission Decision C(2025) 8493 of 11 December 2025.

66 If requested by the granting authority, institutions with self-declared research organisations status must provide evidence that their main objective is to carry out research and/or technological development. An assessment will be made on the basis of indicators such as share of research budget, volume of scientific publications and/or registered patents.

67 'International European Research Organisation' (IERO) means an international organisation, the majority of whose members are EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe (see Article 2(15) of the Regulation establishing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination.

68 For Global Postdoctoral Fellowships and COFUND Postdoctoral Programmes outgoing phase, this restriction does not apply. The associated partner hosting the outgoing phase can conclude an additional employment contract with the researcher to ensure adequate medical/social insurance in the outgoing country.

69 See specific conditions at the end of this Work Programme part.

training activities. Depending on the type of MSCA action, this involves recruiting, supervising, hosting, training or seconding researchers/research staff or managing and/or funding programmes.

'Implementing partners' means third parties implementing the MSCA COFUND doctoral or postdoctoral Programmes and MSCA Choose Europe for Science Programmes by recruiting researchers. Implementing partners can receive financial support from the beneficiary.

For MSCA COFUND, implementing partners that are identified in the proposal must include a letter of commitment before the signature of the grant agreement to ensure their active participation in the action. The involvement of any implementing partner for which no such evidence of commitment is submitted will not be taken into account.

For MSCA Choose Europe for Science, all implementing partners must be identified in the proposal. All implementing partners identified in the proposal must include a letter of commitment before the signature of the grant agreement to ensure their active participation in the action. If such evidence is not submitted, this may put into question the award decision and may lead to the termination of the grant agreement preparation phase. Any change in the composition of the implementing partners after evaluation and grant signature will be accepted only in duly justified very exceptional circumstances.

'Interdisciplinarity' means the integration of information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories from two or more scientific disciplines. The term discipline refers to the first level of MSCA keywords[70].

1. MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS

1.1. Applicable unit contributions

The EU contribution for MSCA Doctoral Networks will take the form of unit contributions, as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme[71].

The following budget categories apply:

MSCA Doctoral Networks	**Contributions for recruited researchers per person-month**					**Institutional unit contributions per person-month**	
	Living allowance	**Mobility allowance**	**Family allowance** (if	**Long-term leave allowance**	**Special needs allowance**	**Research, training and networking**	**Management and indirect**

70 MSCA Keywords.pdf (europa.eu)

71 The indicative budget includes budget provisions for the increase of the maximum EU contribution for grants funded under Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks calls in line with the provisions of the decision authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

			applicable)	(if applicable)	(if applicable)	**contribution**	**contribution**
	EUR 4250	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 4960 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit[72] x (1/number of months)	EUR 1600	EUR 1200

A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers. This coefficient is the one applicable to the country of the recruiting beneficiary (see Table 1 at the end of this Work Programme part). The living allowance is a gross amount, including compulsory deductions under national law, such as employer and employee social security contributions and direct taxes. The beneficiary must recruit each eligible doctoral candidate under an employment contract or equivalent direct contract, including an instrument of appointment (e.g., for permanent staff and/or officials), with full social security coverage (including sickness, parental, unemployment and invalidity benefits, pension rights, benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases). An exemption from this rule can be accepted only in cases where national legislation or the equivalent internal regulations of International European Research Organisations (IERO), entities created under Union law, or an international organisation, prohibit this possibility and subject to the prior agreement of the granting authority.

When an employment contract or instrument of appointment cannot be provided, the beneficiary may exceptionally recruit the doctoral candidate under a 'fixed-amount fellowship'. In this case, the living allowance will be halved, and the beneficiary must ensure that the doctoral candidate enjoys minimum social security coverage (including sickness, parental and invalidity benefits, and benefits for accidents at work and occupational diseases).

The beneficiary must pay to the doctoral candidates at least the amount of the **living allowance** (minus all compulsory deductions under national legislation). A top-up may be paid to the researchers in order to complement this contribution. In addition to the living allowance, all doctoral candidates must receive a **mobility allowance**. This allowance covers their additional, private mobility-related costs (e.g. travel and accommodation costs), not their professional costs under the action, which are covered by the research, training and networking contribution.

If the recruited doctoral candidate has or acquires family obligations during the action duration, i.e. persons linked to them by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country or region where this

[72] The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher, the **family allowance** must be paid to them as well.

The **long-term leave allowance** contributes to the personnel costs incurred by the beneficiaries in case of the researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave, longer than 30 consecutive days. The **special needs allowance** contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities, whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments[73] are certified by a competent national authority, and of such nature that their participation in the action may not be possible without them (e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel/transportation costs). These special needs items or services must not have been funded from another source (e.g. social security or health insurance). Both long-term leave and special needs allowances should be requested when the need arises. The **research, training and networking contribution** should cover, for example, costs for training and networking activities that contribute directly to the researchers' career development (e.g. participation in conferences, trips related to work on the action, training, language courses, seminars, lab material, books, library records, publication costs), research expenses, visa-related fees and travel expenses, additional costs arising from each secondment of six months or less, which require mobility from the place of residence (e.g. travel and accommodation costs).

The **management and indirect contribution** should cover the beneficiary's additional costs in connection with the action (e.g. personnel costs for project management/coordination, indirect costs).

The above rates apply to doctoral candidates devoting themselves to their project on a full-time basis. Researchers may, in agreement with the supervisor and beneficiary and with prior approval by the granting authority, implement their project on a part-time basis. Such a request is limited to personal or family reasons. In cases of part-time work, the doctoral candidates must work at least 50% of the full working time in their recruiting organisation for the action funded by the MSCA[74]. The recruiting beneficiary should report costs as pro rata of the applicable full-time unit contributions.

1.2. **Admissibility**

The following exception to the General Annex A applies:

- The page limit of the application is 30 pages (excluding annexes).

1.3. **Eligibility**

Given the specific nature of MSCA Doctoral Networks, the following exceptions and additional eligibility criteria apply. This section also contains eligibility conditions for unit

[73] See Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

[74] An exception to this limit may be granted for medical reasons.

contributions, which apply during action implementation but cannot be verified at proposal stage.

- All proposals must indicate if they are resubmitted from the previous MSCA Doctoral Networks call under Horizon Europe.

- Proposals submitted to the previous call of MSCA Doctoral Networks under Horizon Europe and having received a score of less than 80% must not be resubmitted the following year.

- Any proposal involving 70% or more of the same recruiting organisations as in another proposal submitted to the previous call of the MSCA Doctoral Networks under Horizon Europe that has received a score of less than 80% will be assessed for whether it is a resubmission, irrespectively of the applicants' self-declaration. The assessment will be carried out by external expert evaluators based on the similarity of objectives as well as on the similarity of the scientific approach proposed to reach such objectives.

1.3.1. Participating organisations

- Applications must be submitted by a consortium including at least three independent legal entities, each established in a different EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country and with at least one of them established in an EU Member State. Should none of them be entitled to award a doctoral degree, a university or a consortium/grouping of academic/research institutions entitled to award a doctoral degree must be added to the project as an associated partner or an associated partner linked to a beneficiary.

- Not more than 40.0% of the EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country or to a single International European Research Organisation (IERO) or international organisation.

- International organisations with headquarters in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country will be deemed to be established in this Member State or Associated Country.

- Affiliated entities are not allowed to participate as they cannot claim costs in MSCA Doctoral Networks.

- All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate. They are required to host at their premises and supervise recruited researchers, or use associated partners linked to them to do so[75].

- In order to reach the objectives of Joint Doctorates, at least three independent legal entities must be entitled to award doctoral degrees. At least one of the institutions

[75] In exceptional cases, where a beneficiary is established in a country different from the place where the recruited researcher is hosted, the country correction coefficient of the hosting entity is taken into account during the grant agreement preparation process, in order to ensure the correct budget calculation.

conferring a joint, double or multiple doctoral degree must be established in an EU Member State and/or Horizon Europe Associated Country. An applicant from the academic sector, which has transferred the right of awarding a doctoral degree to a consortium/grouping of academic/research institutions to which it belongs to, is also eligible. Applicants must provide, at the time of the submission of the proposal, a pre-agreement to award a joint, double or multiple degree to the doctoral candidate(s). The proposal should indicate from which institutions a researcher is expected to receive the degree(s).

- Joint Doctorates must set up a joint governance structure with joint admission, selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures.

- Eligibility to participate is also subject to the 'Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks' and 'Participation of Chinese universities linked to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)' eligibility conditions (see General Annex B of the General Annexes).

1.3.2. Recruited researchers[76]

- Supported researchers must be **doctoral candidates**, i.e. not already in possession[77] of a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment.

- Researchers must be enrolled in a doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. By way of exception, where researchers are recruited by beneficiaries established in non-associated third countries, enrolment may take place solely in a doctoral programme offered in the country of the beneficiary.

- Recruited researchers can be of any nationality and must comply with the following **mobility rule**: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity[78] (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date.

  For 'International European Research Organisations' (IERO), 'international organisations', or entities created under Union law, the researchers must not have spent more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment in the same appointing organisation.

- Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, time spent by the researcher as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention[79] and time spent for obtaining EU temporary protection[80] are not taken into account.

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76 Eligibility conditions for unit contributions.

77 Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will not be considered eligible.

78 Country of the main activity: the country where the researcher is physically based when carrying out the main activity and the country of the institution for which the main activity is performed (e.g., employer)

79 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

- Researchers who, at the date of their recruitment date have refugee status under the Geneva Convention, or benefit from the EU temporary protection are exempt from the mobility rule.

- Secondments are eligible for up to half of the actual months spent implementing the research training activities under the action. This limitation does not apply in the case of Industrial Doctorates and Joint Doctorates.

- In case of industrial doctorates, doctoral candidates must spend at least 50% of their fellowship duration in the non-academic sector.

1.3.3. Duration of the action

- The duration of the action must not exceed 48 months from the starting date set out in the grant agreement (including the time needed to recruit and select the doctoral candidates), except in the case of joint doctorates where this maximum duration is 60 months.

- The duration of each fellowship (on the basis of full-time employment) is minimum 3 and maximum 36 months, except in the case of joint doctorates, where this maximum duration is 48 months.

- The overall EU contribution for MSCA Doctoral Networks actions is limited to a maximum of 540 person-months.

1.4. **Award criteria**

- Proposals will be evaluated by experts on the basis of the **award criteria** 'excellence', 'impact' and 'quality and efficiency of the implementation'.

- Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of these criteria, and not for the different aspects listed in the table below. Each criterion will be scored out of 5. Scores will be awarded with a resolution of one decimal place and will be subject to a weighting factor as indicated in the table below.

- The threshold for individual criteria will be 3.

- Proposals scoring equal to or above 70% will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

Excellence	**Impact**	**Quality and efficiency of the implementation**

80 Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof; OJ L 212, 7.8.2001

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)	Contribution to structuring doctoral training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity, including the potential for: a) meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field b) developing sustainable elements of doctoral programmes	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 of open science practices)	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers 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 and credibility of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	
Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for industrial and joint doctorate projects)		
50%	**30%**	**20%**

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Weighting		

1.5. **Procedure**

- Proposals must be submitted to only one of eight 'main evaluation panels': Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY). Industrial and joint doctorates will be ranked in the scientific panel of submission. Each panel will establish a ranked list.

- The distribution of the indicative budget of the call will be proportional to the number of eligible proposals received in each panel. If the budget allocated to any panel exceeds the requirements of all proposals positively evaluated[81] in that panel, the excess budget will be reallocated to the other panels based on the distribution described above. Equally, if the allocated funding to a panel is insufficient to fund the highest ranked proposal in that panel, the necessary budget will be transferred from the other panels based on the distribution described above, in order to ensure that the highest ranked proposal can be funded. In order to ensure budget optimisation and an equitable success rate across panels, the excess budget remaining after the initial allocation of funding to the proposals in the panels may be transferred between panels.

- *Ex-aequo Proposals*

- When the total scores of two or more proposals are equal (ex-aequo cases), the priority order will be established as follows:

    1. The proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion 'Impact'.

    2. If necessary, the gender balance among the supervisors named in the proposal will be used as a factor for prioritisation.

    3. If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors such as gender and other diversity aspects in the research activities, participation of the non-academic sector (including involvement of SMEs), geographical diversity[82], international cooperation, favourable employment and working conditions or relationship to the Horizon

81 Measured as proposals having passed all relevant evaluation thresholds.

82 Defined as the number of EU Member States or Associated Countries represented in the proposals, not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).

Europe objectives in general. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

1.6. **Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements**

The following exceptions and additional conditions apply:

- Eligible costs must take the form of unit contributions, as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.
- When associated partners are involved, beneficiaries are encouraged to sign a partnership agreement with them to regulate the internal relationship between all participating organisations. The partnership agreement(s) must comply with the grant agreement.
- Beneficiaries must ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the recruited researchers to background and results needed for their activities under the action.
- The following deliverables will have to be submitted for grants awarded under this topic:
  - establishment of a **supervisory board** of the network;
  - **progress report** submitted within 30 days after one year from the starting date of the action;
  - **mid-term meeting** organised between the participants and the granting authority;
  - **mobility declaration** submitted within 20 days after the recruitment of each researcher and updated (if needed) via the Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool;
  - **career development plan:** a document describing how the individual Career Development Plans have been established (listing also the researchers for whom such plans have been put in place), submitted before the mid-term meeting;
  - **evaluation questionnaire** completed by each recruited researcher and submitted at the end of the research training activity; a **follow-up questionnaire** submitted two years later;
  - **data management plan** submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project if needed;
  - **plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities,** submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project.

2. <u>MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS</u>

2.1. **Applicable unit contributions**

The EU contribution for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships will take the form of unit contributions, as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme[83].

The following budget categories apply:

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	**Contributions for the recruited researcher** **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 6350	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 7060 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit[84] x (1/number of months)	EUR 1000	EUR 650

A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers[85]. For European Postdoctoral Fellowships, this coefficient is the one applicable to the country of the beneficiary. For the Global Postdoctoral Fellowships two different country correction coefficients apply:

- For the outgoing phase: the coefficient of the country where the postdoctoral researcher is hosted (i.e. the country of the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase);
- For the return phase: the coefficient of the country where the postdoctoral researcher returns to (i.e. the country of the beneficiary).

[83] The indicative budget includes budget provisions for the increase of the maximum EU contribution for grants funded under Horizon Europe MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships calls in line with the provisions of the decision authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

[84] The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

[85] In exceptional cases, where a beneficiary is established in a country different from the place where the recruited researcher is hosted, the country correction coefficient of the hosting entity is taken into account during the grant agreement preparation process, in order to ensure the correct budget calculation.

The country correction coefficients are listed in Table 1 at the end of this Work Programme part. The living allowance is a gross amount, including compulsory deductions under national law, such as employer and employee social security contributions and direct taxes.

The beneficiary must recruit the postdoctoral researcher under an employment contract or equivalent direct contract, including an instrument of appointment (e.g., for permanent staff and/or officials), with full social security coverage (including sickness, parental, unemployment and invalidity benefits, pension rights, benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases). An exemption from this rule can be accepted only in cases where national legislation or the equivalent internal regulations of International European Research Organisations (IERO), entities created under Union law, or an international organisation, prohibit this possibility and subject to the prior agreement of the granting authority.

When an employment contract or instrument of appointment cannot be provided, the beneficiary may exceptionally recruit the postdoctoral researcher under a 'fixed-amount fellowship'. In this case, the living allowance will be halved, and the beneficiary must ensure that the postdoctoral researcher enjoys minimum social security coverage (including sickness, parental and invalidity benefits, and benefits for accidents at work and occupational diseases).

The beneficiary must pay to the postdoctoral researcher at least the amount of the **living allowance** (minus all compulsory deductions under national legislation). A top-up may be paid to the researcher in order to complement this contribution. In addition to the living allowance, the postdoctoral researcher must receive a **mobility allowance**. This allowance covers their additional, private mobility-related costs (e.g. travel and accommodation costs), not professional costs under the action, which are covered by the research, training and networking contribution.

If the postdoctoral researcher has or acquires family obligations during the action duration, i.e. has persons linked to them by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country or region where this relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher, the **family allowance** must be paid to them as well.

The **long-term leave allowance** contributes to the personnel costs incurred by the beneficiary in case of the researcher's leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave, longer than 30 consecutive days. The **special needs allowance** contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities, whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments[86] are certified by a competent national authority, and of such nature that their participation in the action may not be possible without them (e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel/transportation costs). These special needs items or services must not have been funded from another source (e.g. social security or health insurance). Both long-term leave and special needs allowances should be requested when the need arises.

[86] See Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The **research, training and networking contribution** should cover, for example, costs for training and networking activities that contribute directly to the researchers' career development (e.g. participation in conferences, trips related to work on the action, training, language courses, seminars, lab material, books, library records, publication costs), research expenses, visa-related fees and travel expenses, additional costs arising from optional secondments (e.g. travel and accommodation costs).

The **management and indirect contribution** should cover the beneficiary's additional costs in connection with the action (e.g. personnel costs for project management, indirect costs).

The above rates apply to postdoctoral researchers devoting themselves to their project on a full-time basis. Researchers may, in agreement with the supervisor and beneficiary and with prior approval by the granting authority, implement their project on a part-time basis. In addition to the possibility to request part-time work for personal or family reasons, postdoctoral fellows may opt to work part-time for professional reasons. These might include creating a company, pursuing another research project[87], or engaging in advanced studies not related to the MSCA grant. Part-time work for professional reasons is not allowed during the outgoing phase of the Global Postdoctoral Fellowships. Any professional activities carried out part-time in parallel with the MSCA action must be agreed upon by the researcher and the beneficiary and approved by the granting authority.

If the action is implemented on a part-time basis, the researcher must dedicate at least 50% of their working time to the action funded by the MSCA[88]. The beneficiary should report costs as pro rata of the applicable full-time unit contributions.

2.2. **Admissibility**

The following exceptions to the General Annex A apply:

- The page limit of the application is 10 pages (excluding annexes).

2.3. **Eligibility**

Given the specific nature of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, the following exceptions and additional eligibility criteria apply. This section also contains eligibility conditions for unit contributions, which apply during action implementation but cannot be verified at proposal stage.

- All domains of research and technological development are eligible for funding (including areas of research covered by the Euratom Research and Training Programme).

- 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

[87] Part-time work cannot be requested in order to participate in another MSCA grant at the same time.
[88] An exception to this limit may be granted for medical reasons.

Horizon Europe and having received a score of less than 80% must not be resubmitted the following year.

- 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.

- If proposals with the same research objectives and work plan are submitted for different researchers, only the first submitted one will be considered eligible.

2.3.1. Participating organisations

- Applications must be submitted by a single independent legal entity, established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. This is a mono-beneficiary action.

- The associated partner hosting the outgoing phase in Global Postdoctoral Fellowships must include a letter of commitment in the proposal to ensure their active participation in the action.

- Applications in the research areas of research covered by the Euratom Research and Training Programme must be submitted by a single independent legal entity, established in an EU Member State or a country associated to the Euratom Research and Training Programme. Nuclear-related proposals submitted by entities established in other countries will be ineligible[89].

- Affiliated entities are not allowed to participate as they cannot claim costs in MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships.

- International organisations with headquarters in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country will be deemed to be established in this Member State or Associated Country.

- The beneficiary must employ and supervise the researcher during the action[90].

- Eligibility to participate is also subject to the 'Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks' and 'Participation of Chinese universities linked to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)' eligibility conditions (see General Annex B of the General Annexes).

2.3.2. Recruited researchers

89 See Euratom Work Programme and the Horizon Europe Programme guide available on the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON) for up-to-date information on the current list of countries associated to the Euratom Programme.

90 Eligibility condition for unit contributions.

- Supported fellows must be **postdoctoral researchers** at the date of the call deadline, i.e. in a possession of a doctoral degree[91]. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered as postdoctoral researchers and will be considered eligible to apply. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline. Supporting documentation may be requested.

- 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[92]), 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.

- Recruited researchers must comply with the following **mobility rule**: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity[93] (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.

  Researchers wishing to reintegrate from a third country must either be based in a third country at the call deadline or have moved directly from a third country to an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country within the last 12 months before the call deadline.

  For 'International European Research Organisations' (IERO), 'international organisations', or entities created under Union law, the researchers must not have spent more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline, in the same appointing organisation.

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91 A medical doctor degree will be accepted only when it corresponds to a doctoral degree or if the researcher can demonstrate their appointment in a position that requires doctoral equivalency (e.g. professorship appointment). Medical doctor degrees corresponding to basic medical training as defined in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC will not be considered a doctoral degree

92 Maternity: for each child born within the above-mentioned eligibility period of 8 years, 18 months will be deducted from the experience in research unless the applicant can document a longer parental leave prior to the call deadline. Paternity: for each child born within the above-mentioned eligibility period of 8 years, the documented time of parental leave taken until the call deadline will be deducted from the experience in research.

93 Country of the main activity: the country where the researcher is physically based when carrying out the main activity and the country of the institution for which the main activity is performed (e.g., employer).

- Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, time spent by the researcher as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention[94] and time spent for obtaining EU temporary protection[95] are not taken into account.

- Researchers who, at the date of the call deadline have refugee status under the Geneva Convention, or benefit from the EU temporary protection are exempt from the mobility rule.

- Supported **researchers can be of any nationality**. However, researchers going to a third country ('Global Postdoctoral Fellowship) or researchers who wish to reintegrate to Europe (i.e. in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country), must be nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries. Long-term residence means a period of legal and continuous residence within EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries of at least five consecutive years. Absences of less than six consecutive months and no more than ten months over the whole period are permitted when calculating the five years.

  Researchers who are refugees in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country according to the Geneva Convention or beneficiaries of EU temporary protection[96] may also apply to both European and Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, irrespective of whether they are long-term residents or not, if they fulfil the other eligibility conditions.

- Applicants in the research areas covered by the Euratom Research and Training Programme must recruit nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or a country associated to the Euratom Research and Training Programme.

2.3.3. Duration of the action

- European Postdoctoral Fellowships should last between 12 and 24 months. Global Postdoctoral Fellowships should last between 24 and 36 months, consisting of 12 to 24 months for the outgoing phase and 12 months for the return phase.

- If requested and justified in the proposal, an **additional period of up to six months at the end of the project** can be awarded to researchers who will spend that period in a non-academic organisation established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

2.4. **Award criteria**

94 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

95 Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof; OJ L 212, 7.8.2001

96 *Ibid footnote 97*

- Proposals will be evaluated by experts on the basis of the **award criteria** 'excellence', 'impact' and 'quality and efficiency of the implementation'.

- Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of these criteria, and not for the different aspects listed in the table below. Each criterion will be scored out of 5. Scores will be awarded with a resolution of one decimal place and will be subject to a weighting factor as indicated in the table below.

- The threshold for all criteria (Excellence, Impact and Implementation) will be 3.

- Proposals scoring equal to or above 70% will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

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)	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to their skills development	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 of open science practices)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements
Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host		
Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills		
50%	**30%**	**20%**

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Weighting		

2.5. **Procedure**

- In Postdoctoral Fellowships, proposals will be evaluated by one of eight 'main evaluation panels': Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY). Each panel will establish two ranked lists, one for European and one for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships.

- European and Global Postdoctoral Fellowships will have separate budgets. The distribution of respective available funds will be proportional to the number of eligible proposals received in each main evaluation panel. If the budget allocated to any panel exceeds the requirements of all proposals positively evaluated[97] in that panel, the excess budget will be reallocated to the other panels based on the distribution as above. Equally, if the allocated funding to a panel is insufficient to fund the highest ranked proposal in that panel, the necessary budget will be transferred from the other panels based on the distribution as above, in order to ensure that the highest ranked proposal can be funded. In order to ensure budget optimisation and an equitable success rate across panels, the excess budget remaining after the initial allocation of funding to the proposals in the panels may be transferred between panels.

Ex-aequo Proposals

- When the total scores of two or more proposals are equal (ex-aequo cases), the priority order will be established as follows:

    1. The proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion 'Impact'.
    2. If necessary, the gender balance among successful applicant researchers will be used as a factor for prioritisation.

If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors such as gender and other diversity aspects in the research activities, participation of the non-academic sector (including involvement of SMEs), geographical diversity[98],

[97] Measured as proposals having passed all relevant evaluation thresholds.

[98] Defined as the number of EU Member States or Associated Countries represented in the proposal, not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).

favourable employment and working conditions or relationship to the Horizon Europe objectives in general. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

Seal of Excellence

- Seals of Excellence will be awarded to applications with a total score **equal to or higher than 85%**, but which cannot be funded due to lack of budget available to the call.

2.6. **Legal and Financial set-up of the Grant Agreements**

The following exceptions and additional conditions apply:

- Eligible costs must take the form of unit contributions, as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

- When associated partners are involved, the beneficiary is encouraged to sign a partnership agreement with them to regulate the internal relationship between all participating organisations. The partnership agreement(s) must comply with the grant agreement.

- The beneficiary must ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the recruited researcher to background and results needed for their activities under the action.

- The following deliverables will have to be submitted for grants awarded under this topic:

  - **mobility declaration** submitted within 20 days of the start of the research training activities and updated (if needed) via the Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool;
  - **career development plan** of the recruited researcher, submitted at the beginning of the action (not later than 6 months after its start) and updated if needed throughout the project;
  - **evaluation questionnaire** completed by the recruited researcher and submitted at the end of the research training activity; a **follow-up questionnaire** submitted two years later;
  - **data management plan** submitted within the first 6 months of the project;
  - **plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results** submitted towards the end of the project.

3. <u>MSCA STAFF EXCHANGES</u>

3.1. **Applicable unit contributions**

The EU contribution for MSCA Staff Exchanges will take the form of unit contributions, as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme[99].

The following budget categories apply:

MSCA Staff Exchanges	**Contributions for seconded staff members per person-month**		**Institutional contributions per person-month**	
	Top-up allowance	**Special needs allowance** (if applicable)	**Research, training and networking contribution**	**Management and indirect contribution**
	EUR 2870	requested unit[100] x (1/number of months)	EUR 1300	EUR 1000

The **top-up allowance** for the seconded staff member contributes to travel, accommodation and subsistence costs related to the secondment.

The **special needs allowance** contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for staff members with disabilities, whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments[101] are certified by a competent national authority, and of such nature that their participation in the action may not be possible without them (e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel/transportation costs). These special needs items or services must not have been funded from another source (e.g. social security or health insurance). The special needs allowance should be requested when the need arises.

The **research, training and networking contribution** should cover costs for training, transfer of knowledge and networking activities, as well as research expenses.

The **management and indirect contribution** should cover the beneficiary's additional costs in connection with the action (e.g. personnel costs for project management/coordination, indirect costs).

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99 The indicative budget includes budget provisions for the increase of the maximum EU contribution for grants funded under Horizon Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges calls in line with the provisions of the decision authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

100 The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

101 See Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

3.2. **Admissibility**

The following exception to the General Annex A applies:

- The page limit of the application is 30 pages (excluding annexes).

3.3. **Eligibility**

Given the specific nature of MSCA Staff Exchanges, the following exceptions and additional eligibility criteria apply. This section also contains eligibility conditions for unit contributions, which apply during action implementation but cannot be verified at proposal stage.

3.3.1. Participating organisations

- Applications must be submitted by a consortium including at least three independent legal entities in three different countries, two of which established in a different EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
- The consortium must include participating organisations from both academic and non-academic sectors.
- International organisations with headquarters in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country will be deemed to be established in this Member State or Associated Country.
- The European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.
- Affiliated entities are not allowed to participate as they cannot claim costs in MSCA Staff Exchanges.
- Only legal entities that are established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries can be beneficiaries.
- For secondments from associated partners linked to a beneficiary, only the sector (academic or non-academic) of the beneficiary counts; the linked associated partners will be considered to belong to the same sector as their beneficiary.
- Secondments must be between different countries[102]; secondments between non-associated third countries are not eligible.[103]
- Secondments must be performed on a full-time basis[102].

[102] Secondments to and from branches and departments without separate legal personality that are part of legal entities established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries can take place with entities established in any country other than the country where they are physically located and the country of their mother legal entity.

[103] Eligibility condition for unit contributions.

- Eligibility to participate is also subject to the 'Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks' and 'Participation of Chinese universities linked to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)' eligibility conditions (see General Annex B of the General Annexes).

- In line with Article 22(6) of the HE Regulation, legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in MSCA Staff Exchanges, if the proposed project concerns one or more of the 10 critical technology areas identified in the Annex to the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/2113 of 3 October 2023[104]. The verification of the eligibility against this condition will be done during the grant preparation phase. This takes into account the broader EU-China policy in science, technology, and innovation, the European economic security strategy, concerns relating to the undesired transfer of IP, and wider China-related risks[105].

3.3.2. Seconded staff members

- Secondments are open for researchers at any career stage (from doctoral candidates to postdoctoral researchers[106]), as well as administrative, managerial and technical staff supporting R&I activities under the action.[102]

- After the period of secondment, seconded staff should return to their sending institution, thus maximising the impact of the action for knowledge sharing and long-term collaboration.[102]

3.3.3. Duration of the action

- The maximum duration of the project is 48 months from the starting date set out in the grant agreement.

- The overall EU contribution for MSCA Staff Exchanges amounts to a maximum of 360 person-months per project.

- Secondments must last at least one month and cannot be longer than 12 months for the same staff member (independently of the number of organisations the staff is seconded to).[102]

- The secondment of a staff member may be split into several stays with one or several beneficiaries or associated partners.[102]

- Secondments beyond the project duration cannot be funded.

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104 Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/2113 of 3 October 2023 on critical technology areas for the EU's economic security for further risk assessment with Member States

105 China's civil-military fusion policies, National security law, the National Defence law, the State Secrets Law, the cybersecurity law, the data security law, and a number of other measures aimed at bolstering China's technological apparatus in both civil and military domains.

106 In possession of a doctoral degree. Possession of a doctoral degree is defined as a successfully defended doctoral thesis, even if the doctoral degree has yet to be awarded.

3.4. **Award criteria**

- Proposals will be evaluated by experts on the basis of the **award criteria** 'excellence', 'impact' and 'quality and efficiency of the implementation'.

- Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of these criteria, and not for the different aspects listed in the table below. Each criterion will be scored out of 5. Scores will be awarded with a resolution of one decimal place and will be subject to a weighting factor as indicated in the table below.

- The threshold for all criteria (Excellence, Impact and Implementation) will be 3.

- Proposals scoring equal to or above 70% will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

Excellence	**Impact**	**Quality and efficiency of the implementation**
Quality and pertinence of the project's research/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 approach to foster international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaborations	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
Soundness of the proposed methodology (including consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations in light of the research and innovation objectives.		
50%	**30%**	**20%**
Weighting		

3.5. **Procedure**

- Proposals will be evaluated by one of eight 'main evaluation panels': Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY). Each panel establishes a ranked list.

- The distribution of the indicative budget of the call will be proportional to the number of eligible proposals received in each panel. If the budget allocated to any panel exceeds the requirements of all proposals positively evaluated[107] in that panel, the excess budget will be reallocated to the other panels based on the distribution as above. Equally, if the allocated funding to a panel is insufficient to fund the highest ranked proposal in that panel, the necessary budget will be transferred from the other panels based on the distribution as above, in order to ensure that the highest ranked proposal can be funded. In order to ensure budget optimisation and an equitable success rate across panels, the excess budget remaining after the initial allocation of funding to the proposals in the panels may be transferred between panels.

- *Ex-aequo Proposals*

- When the total scores of two or more proposals are equal (ex-aequo cases), the priority order will be established as follows:

    1. The proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion 'Impact'.

    2. If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors such as gender and other diversity aspects in the research activities, participation of the non-academic sector (including

[107] Measured as proposals having passed all relevant evaluation thresholds.

involvement of SMEs), geographical diversity[108], international cooperation, favourable working/secondment conditions or relationship to the Horizon Europe objectives in general. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

3.6. **Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements**

The following exceptions and additional conditions apply:

- Eligible costs must take the form of unit contributions, as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.
- When associated partners are involved, beneficiaries are encouraged to sign a partnership agreement with them to regulate the internal relationship between all participating organisations. The partnership agreement(s) must comply with the grant agreement.
- Grants awarded under this topic might be linked to other actions funded by Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe.
- Beneficiaries must ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the staff members to background and results needed for their activities under the action.
- The following deliverables will have to be submitted for grants awarded under this topic:
  - **mid-term meeting** organised between the participants and the granting authority;
  - **progress report** submitted within 30 days after one year from the starting date of the action;
  - **mobility declaration** submitted within 20 days of the secondment of each seconded staff member, and updated (if needed) via the Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool;
  - **evaluation questionnaire** completed by the seconded staff members and submitted at the end of their secondments; a follow-up questionnaire submitted two years later;
  - **data management plan** submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project if needed;
  - **plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities** submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project.

[108] Defined as the number of EU Member States or Associated Countries represented in the proposal, not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).

4. MSCA COFUND[109]

4.1. **Applicable unit contributions**

The EU contribution for MSCA COFUND will take the form of unit contributions, as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme[110].

The following budget categories apply:

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="4">MSCA COFUND</td><td colspan="3">Contributions for recruited researchers and institutional contributions

per person-month</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">COFUND allowance</td><td>Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)</td><td>Special needs allowance (if applicable)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Doctoral programmes</td><td>EUR 3500</td><td>EUR 3500 x % covered by the beneficiary</td><td rowspan="2">requested unit[111]

x (1/number of months)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Postdoctoral programmes</td><td>EUR 4980</td><td>EUR 4980 x % covered by the beneficiary</td></tr>
</table>

The **COFUND allowance** contributes to:

- costs of the researchers including the remuneration payable to the individual doctoral or postdoctoral researchers recruited under an employment contract/equivalent direct contract with full social security coverage and complying with the applicable social security legislation, as well as the mobility costs and, if applicable, the family costs, and/or

- costs related to the training, research expenses, transfer of knowledge and networking activities of researchers, costs of managing the action and indirect costs.

The **long-term leave allowance** contributes to the personnel costs incurred by the employer in case of the researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave, longer than 30 consecutive days. The **special needs allowance** contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities,

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109 Note that the 2027 COFUND Call (HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-01) will only cover doctoral programmes.

110 The indicative budget includes budget provisions for the increase of the maximum EU contribution for grants funded under Horizon Europe MSCA COFUND calls in line with the provisions of the decision authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

111 The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments[112] are certified by a competent national authority, and of such nature that their participation in the action may not be possible without them (e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel/transportation costs). These special needs items or services must not have been funded from another source (e.g. social security or health insurance). Both long-term leave and special needs allowances should be requested when the need arises.

The beneficiary or implementing partner must recruit each eligible researcher under an employment contract or 'equivalent direct contract' with full social security coverage (including sickness, parental, unemployment and invalidity benefits, pension rights, benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases). An exemption from this rule can be accepted only in cases where national legislation or the equivalent internal regulations of International European Research Organisations (IERO), entities created under Union law, or an international organisation, prohibit this possibility and subject to the prior agreement of the granting authority.

When an employment contract cannot be provided, the beneficiary or the implementing partner may exceptionally recruit the researcher under a 'fixed-amount fellowship'. In this case, the COFUND allowance will be halved, and the beneficiary must ensure that the researcher enjoys minimum social security coverage (including sickness, parental and invalidity benefits, and benefits for accidents at work and occupational diseases).

In principle, researchers should be employed full-time. The above rates apply to researchers devoting themselves to their project on a full-time basis. Researchers may, in agreement with the supervisor and beneficiary and with prior approval by the granting authority, implement their project on a part-time basis. In addition to the possibility to request part-time work for personal or family reasons, postdoctoral fellows may opt to work part-time for professional reasons. These might include creating a company, pursuing another research project[113], or engaging in advanced studies not related to the MSCA grant. Any professional activities carried out part-time in parallel with the MSCA action must be agreed upon by the researcher and the beneficiary and approved by the granting authority.

In cases of part-time work, researchers must work at least 50% of the full working time in their recruiting organisation for the action co-funded by the MSCA, whether they are working part-time for family or other reasons[114]. The beneficiary should report costs as pro rata of the applicable full-time unit contributions.

The EU contribution is limited to EUR 10 million per beneficiary per call. If an applicant submits two or more successful applications totalling more than EUR 10 million within one call, the applicant will be required to decide which of these proposals to implement.

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112 See Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

113 Part-time work cannot be requested in order to participate in another MSCA grant at the same time.

114 An exception to this limit may be granted for medical reasons.

The table above specifies the unit contributions for the co-funding of regional, national and international programmes. The EU contribution can be used to support any cost items of the programme (remuneration costs, mobility costs, family costs, research, training and networking costs, management and indirect costs). Individual cost items may be fully or partially funded through other resources including EU programmes other than Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe, such as the Cohesion policy funds, provided that double funding is avoided.

Applicants must specify in their proposal the total cost of their proposed programme and in particular the amounts that will be provided for the benefit of the researchers and for the organisation(s) that will implement the programme. This information will be needed to evaluate the adequateness of employment and working conditions of the researchers. The monthly gross remuneration, i.e. salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs or compulsory deductions under national legislation linked to in the remuneration, and the mobility costs for the benefit of the researchers must be:

- For researchers recruited under an employment contract: not lower than EUR 3500 (for doctoral candidates) and EUR 4980 (for postdoctoral researchers);
- For researchers recruited under a fixed-amount fellowship: not lower than EUR 1750 (for doctoral candidates) and EUR 2490 (for postdoctoral researchers).

4.2. **Admissibility**

The following exceptions to the General Annex A apply:

- The page limit of the application is 30 pages (excluding annexes).

4.3. **Eligibility**

Given the specific nature of MSCA COFUND, the following exceptions and additional eligibility criteria apply. This section also contains eligibility conditions for unit contributions, which apply during action implementation but cannot be verified at proposal stage.

4.3.1. Participating organisations

- Applications must be submitted by a single entity established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
- Affiliated entities are not allowed to participate as they cannot claim costs in MSCA COFUND.
- The conditions for financial support to third parties defined in General Annex B do not apply.
- International organisations with headquarters in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country will be deemed to be established in this Member State or Associated Country.

- The beneficiary will be responsible for the availability of the necessary complementary funds to implement the proposal.

- In each COFUND action, a minimum of three researchers must be recruited. COFUND proposals foreseeing research training for fewer than three researchers will be deemed ineligible.

- Implementing partners must be established in one of the countries eligible for funding listed in the General Annexes.[115]

- Eligibility to participate is also subject to the 'Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks' and 'Participation of Chinese universities linked to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)' eligibility conditions (see General Annex B of the General Annexes).

4.3.2. Recruited researchers[116]

- Recruited researchers can be of any nationality (see also specific condition for COFUND postdoctoral programmes below) and must comply with the following **mobility rule**: they must not have resided or carried out their main activity[117] (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary or implementing partner for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline of the co-funded programme's call.

  For International European Research Organisations' (IERO), 'international organisations' or entities created under Union law, the researchers must not have spent more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline of the co-funded programme's call, in the same appointing organisation.

- Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, time spent by the researcher as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention[118] and time spent for obtaining EU temporary protection[119] are not taken into account.

- Researchers who, at the date of their recruitment date have refugee status under the Geneva Convention, or benefit from the EU temporary protection are exempt from the mobility rule.

- Supported researchers must be either doctoral candidates or postdoctoral researchers, depending on the action:

115 Eligibility condition for unit contributions.
116 Eligibility conditions for unit contributions.
117 Country of the main activity: the country where the researcher is physically based when carrying out the main activity and the country of the institution for which the main activity is performed (e.g., employer)
118 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol.
119 Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof; OJ L 212, 7.8.2001

- For COFUND doctoral programmes, researchers must be doctoral candidates, i.e. hold a degree which qualifies them for enrolment in a doctoral programme and not be already in possession[120] of a doctoral degree at the deadline of the co-funded programme's call.

  Recruited researchers must be enrolled in a doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

- For COFUND postdoctoral programmes, researchers must be in possession of a doctoral degree[121] at the deadline of the co-funded programme's call. Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will also be considered as postdoctoral researchers and will be considered eligible to apply. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline. Supporting documentation may be requested.

- For COFUND postdoctoral programmes: researchers must be nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country, in case the main part of the research training activities is carried out in a country other than an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

- Limitations regarding the researchers' origin and destination should be avoided. Researchers who are already permanently employed by the organisation hosting them cannot be funded by COFUND.

4.3.3. Duration of the action

- The maximum duration of the action must be 60 months from the starting date set out in the grant agreement. It also includes the time that is needed to select and recruit the researchers.

- The minimum duration of each fellowship (on the basis of full-time employment) must be three months.

- For postdoctoral programmes where the main part of the research training activity does not take place in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated Country (i.e. outgoing phase), the researcher should carry out a mandatory return period of 12 months at the premises of the beneficiary or the recruiting implementing partner. A maximum of three months can be spent at the start of the action at the beneficiary (or

120 Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will not be considered eligible.

121 A medical doctor degree will be accepted only when it corresponds to a doctoral degree or if the researcher can demonstrate their appointment in a position that requires doctoral equivalency (e.g. professorship appointment). Medical doctor degrees corresponding to basic medical training as defined in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC will not be considered a doctoral degree.

any other organisation mentioned in the description of the action), allowing the researcher to spend time there before the outgoing phase. Secondments cannot take place during the mandatory twelve-month return period to the host organisation in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.[112]

- The duration of the secondments should be limited to a maximum of half of the actual months spent implementing the research training activities under the action or, if applicable, of the duration of the outgoing phase for postdoctoral programmes.[112]

4.4. **Award criteria**

- Proposals will be evaluated by experts on the basis of the **award criteria** 'excellence', 'impact' and 'quality and efficiency of the implementation'.
- Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of these criteria, and not for the different aspects listed in the table below. Each criterion will be scored out of 5. Scores will be awarded with a resolution of one decimal place and will be subject to a weighting factor as indicated in the table below.
- The threshold for all criteria (Excellence, Impact and Implementation) will be 3.
- Proposals scoring equal to or above 70% will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

Excellence	**Impact**	**Quality and efficiency of the implementation**
Quality and pertinence of the programme's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)	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 effectiveness of the work plan, management structures, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Quality and novelty of the selection / recruitment process for the researchers (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities, the gender	Credibility of the proposed measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development	Quality and capacity of the host institution(s) and participating organisations (where appropriate), including hosting arrangements and extent to which they bring together the necessary expertise to successfully implement the research

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
dimension and other diversity aspects) and quality and attractiveness of the appointment conditions, including competitiveness of the salary for the standards of the hosting countries		training programme
Quality and novelty of the research options offered by the programme in terms of interdisciplinarity, inter-sectorality and level of international mobility. Quality of open science practices	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise the expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	
Quality, novelty and pertinence of the research training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects)		
Quality, novelty and pertinence of the supervision, career guidance and career development arrangements		
50%	**30%**	**20%**
Weighting		

4.5. **Procedure**

- In 2026, the evaluation of the call HORIZON-MSCA-2026-COFUND-01 will be organised in two different panels, doctoral programmes and postdoctoral programmes, but a single ranking list will be produced.

- In 2027, the evaluation of the call HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-01 will be organised in a single panel, doctoral programmes.

Ex-aequo Proposals

- When the total scores of two or more proposals are equal (ex-aequo cases), the priority order will be established as follows:

The proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion 'Impact'. If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors such as gender and other diversity aspects in the research activities, participation of the non-academic sector (including involvement of SMEs), geographical diversity, synergies with Cohesion policy funds, support to Smart Specialisation Strategies, or relationship to the Horizon Europe objectives in general. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

Seal of Excellence

Seals of Excellence will be awarded to applications with a total score **equal to or higher than 85%**, but which cannot be funded due to lack of budget available to the call.

4.6. **Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements**

The following exceptions and additional conditions apply:

- Eligible costs must take the form of unit contributions, as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

- When implementing partners are involved, the beneficiary should sign a partnership agreement with them to regulate the internal relationship between all participating organisations. The partnership agreement(s) must comply with the terms of the grant agreement.

- When associated partners are involved, the beneficiary is encouraged to sign a partnership agreement with them to regulate the internal relationship between all participating organisations. The partnership agreement(s) must comply with the terms of the grant agreement.The beneficiary may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants, based on the

MSCA unit contributions. Implementing partners are considered recipients of financial support to third parties.

- Grants awarded under this topic may be linked to actions funded under the Cohesion policy funds.
- The beneficiary must ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the recruited researchers to background and results needed for their activities under the action.
- The following deliverables will have to be submitted for grants awarded under this topic:
  - **mid-term meeting** organised between the participants and the granting authority;
  - **mobility declaration** submitted within 20 days of the start of the research training activities, for each researcher, and updated (if needed) via the Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool;
  - **career development plan:** a document describing how the individual Career Development Plans have been established (listing also the researchers for whom such plans have been put in place), submitted towards the end of the project;
  - **evaluation questionnaire** completed by each recruited researcher and submitted at the end of the research training activity; a follow-up questionnaire submitted two years later;
  - **data management plan** submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project if needed;
  - **plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities** submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project.

5. MSCA CHOOSE EUROPE FOR SCIENCE

5.1. Applicable unit contributions

The EU contribution for MSCA Choose Europe for Science will take the form of unit contributions, as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme[122].

The following budget categories apply:

MSCA	Contributions for the recruited researcher	Institutional unit

122 The indicative budget includes budget provisions for the increase of the maximum EU contribution for grants funded under Horizon Europe MSCA Choose Europe for Science calls in line with the provisions of the decision authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

Choose Europe for Science	per person-month (only applicable in the EU-funded phase)					contributions per person-month (only applicable in the EU-funded phase)	
	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 6350	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 7060 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit[123] x (1/number of months)	EUR 1000	EUR 650

The monthly gross salary (net salary + employee's taxes and contributions) for the two phases[124] of each Choose Europe for Science programme, should be clearly communicated in the vacancy notice.

Applicants must specify in their proposal the total cost of their proposed programme and in particular the amounts that will be provided for the benefit of the researchers in each phase. This information will be needed to evaluate the adequateness and attractiveness of employment and working conditions of the researchers.

The EU contribution is limited to EUR 10 million per beneficiary for this call. If an applicant submits two or more successful applications totalling more than EUR 10 million within this call, the applicant will be required to decide which of these proposals to implement.

The implementation of the project can be co-funded through other sources including EU programmes, such as the Cohesion policy funds, provided that double funding is avoided.

During both phases:

The beneficiary or implementing partner must recruit the researcher under an employment contract or equivalent direct contract, including an instrument of appointment (e.g., for permanent staff and/or officials), with full social security coverage (including sickness, parental, unemployment and invalidity benefits, pension rights, benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases). An exemption from this rule can be accepted only in cases where national legislation or the equivalent internal regulations of International European Research Organisations (IERO), entities created under Union law, or an

123 The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

124 See eligibility section 5.3

international organisation, prohibit this possibility and subject to the prior agreement of the granting authority.

Both phases should contribute to the longer-term career prospects and employability of the recruited researcher after the project end.

During the EU-funded phase:

The beneficiary must pay to the researcher at least the amount of the **living allowance** (minus all compulsory deductions under national legislation). A top-up may be paid to the researcher in order to complement this contribution. In addition to the living allowance, the researcher must receive a **mobility allowance**. This allowance covers their additional, private mobility-related costs (e.g. travel and accommodation costs), not professional costs under the action, which are covered by the research, training and networking contribution.

A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers[125].

The country correction coefficients are listed in Table 1 at the end of this Work Programme part. The living allowance is a gross amount, including compulsory deductions under national law, such as employer and employee social security contributions and direct taxes.

If the researcher has or acquires family obligations during the action duration, i.e. has persons linked to them by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country or region where this relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher, the **family allowance** must be paid to them as well.

The **long-term leave allowance** contributes to the personnel costs incurred by the beneficiary in case of the researcher's leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave, longer than 30 consecutive days. The **special needs allowance** contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities, whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments[126] are certified by a competent national authority, and of such nature that their participation in the action may not be possible without them (e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel/transportation costs). These special needs items or services must not have been funded from another source (e.g. social security or health insurance). Both long-term leave and special needs allowances should be requested when the need arises.

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125 In exceptional cases, where a beneficiary is established in a country different from the place where the recruited researcher is hosted, the country correction coefficient of the hosting entity is taken into account during the grant agreement preparation process, in order to ensure the correct budget calculation.

126 See Article 1 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The **research, training and networking contribution** should cover, for example, costs for training and networking activities that contribute directly to the researchers' career development (e.g. participation in conferences, trips related to work on the action, training, language courses, seminars, lab material, books, library records, publication costs), research expenses, visa-related fees and travel expenses, additional costs arising from optional secondments (e.g. travel and accommodation costs).

Researchers receiving a Choose Europe for Science Fellowship may opt to include a secondment phase, within the overall duration of their fellowship in any country worldwide. The secondment phase can be a single period or be divided into shorter mobility periods.

The secondments cannot exceed half of the requested duration of the action and should be in line with the project objectives, adding significant value and impact to the fellowship.

The **management and indirect contribution** should cover the beneficiary's additional costs in connection with the action (e.g. personnel costs for project management, indirect costs).

The above rates apply to researchers devoting themselves to their project on a full-time basis. Researchers may, in agreement with the beneficiary and with prior approval by the granting authority, implement their project on a part-time basis. In addition to the possibility to request part-time work for personal or family reasons, researchers may opt to work part-time for professional reasons. These might include creating a company, pursuing another research project[127], or engaging in advanced studies not related to the MSCA grant. Any professional activities carried out part-time in parallel with the MSCA action must be agreed upon by the researcher and the beneficiary and approved by the granting authority.

If the action is implemented on a part-time basis, the researcher must dedicate at least 50% of their working time to the action funded by the MSCA[128]. The beneficiary should report costs as pro rata of the applicable full-time unit contributions.

During the phase fully funded by the beneficiary:

The monthly gross remuneration can differ from the EU-funded phase but must remain attractive and competitive at national level. The beneficiary will be responsible for the availability of the necessary funds to cover all costs during this phase including the monthly gross remuneration and research, training and networking costs.

The beneficiary should follow the applicable national legislation regarding remuneration of researchers on leave and provisions for researchers with special needs.

5.2. **Admissibility**

The following exceptions to the General Annex A apply:

- The page limit of the application is 30 pages (excluding annexes).

127 Part-time work cannot be requested in order to participate in another MSCA grant at the same time.
128 An exception to this limit may be granted for medical reasons.

- Applications do not need to include a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results, including communication activities.

5.3. **Eligibility**

Given the specific nature of MSCA Choose Europe for Science, the following exceptions and additional eligibility criteria apply. This section also contains eligibility conditions for unit contributions, which apply during action implementation but cannot be verified at proposal stage.

5.3.1. Participating organisations

- Applications must be submitted by a single entity established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
- Affiliated entities are not allowed to participate as they cannot claim costs in MSCA Choose Europe for Science.
- International organisations with headquarters in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country will be deemed to be established in this Member State or Associated Country.
- The beneficiary will be responsible for the availability of the necessary complementary funds to implement the proposal and ensure the coverage of the phase fully funded by the beneficiary as described in the proposal.
- In each Choose Europe for Science programme, a minimum of three researchers must be recruited. Proposals foreseeing recruitment for fewer than three researchers will be deemed ineligible.
- Implementing partners must be established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
- When implementing partners are involved in an MSCA Choose Europe for Science programme, they must all be identified in the proposal.
- Eligibility to participate is also subject to the 'Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks' and 'Participation of Chinese universities linked to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT)' eligibility conditions (see General Annex B of the General Annexes).

5.3.2. Recruited researchers[129]

- Recruited researchers can be of any nationality and 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 recruiting beneficiary or implementing partner for

[129] Eligibility conditions for unit contributions.

more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline of the vacancy notice.

- For International European Research Organisations' (IERO), 'international organisations' or entities created under Union law, the researchers must not have spent more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline of the vacancy notice, in the same appointing organisation.

- Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, time spent by the researcher as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention[130] and time spent for obtaining EU temporary protection[131] are not taken into account.

- Researchers who, at the date of their recruitment date have refugee status under the Geneva Convention, or benefit from the EU temporary protection are exempt from the mobility rule.

- Researchers who are already permanently employed by the organisation hosting them cannot be funded by MSCA Choose Europe for Science.

- Researchers who are temporarily employed by the organisation hosting them and who adhere to the mobility requirement can be funded under MSCA Choose Europe for Science.

- Limitations regarding the researchers' origin and destination should be avoided.

- Supported researchers must be in possession of a doctoral degree at the vacancy notice deadline.[132]

5.3.3. Duration of the action

- The maximum duration of the action must be 60 months from the starting date set out in the grant agreement for a 48-month fellowship and 72 months for a 60-month fellowship. It also includes the time that is needed to select and recruit the researchers.

- Researchers must be recruited within the first 12 months of the action duration.[133]

5.4. **Award criteria**

130 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

131 Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof; OJ L 212, 7.8.2001

132 A medical doctor degree will be accepted only when it corresponds to a doctoral degree or if the researcher can demonstrate their appointment in a position that requires doctoral equivalency (e.g. professorship appointment). Medical doctor degrees corresponding to basic medical training as defined in Annex V of Directive 2005/36/EC will not be considered a doctoral degree.

133 Eligibility condition for unit contributions.

- Proposals will be evaluated by experts on the basis of the **award criteria** 'excellence', 'impact' and 'quality and efficiency of the implementation'.
- Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of these criteria, and not for the different aspects listed in the table below. Each criterion will be scored out of 5. Scores will be awarded with a resolution of one decimal place and will be subject to a weighting factor as indicated in the table below.
- The threshold for all criteria (Excellence, Impact and Implementation) will be 3.
- Proposals scoring equal to or above 70% will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

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 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 throughout the project, and the competitiveness of remuneration rates for the standards of the hosting countries offered in the phase of the fellowship fully funded by the	Strengthening human resources good practices at institutional, regional, national, or international level as appropriate to the scale of the hosting institutions	Quality and capacity of the recruiting institutions, including hosting arrangements and alignment of institutional procedures 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

beneficiary		
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 programme		
50%	**30%**	**20%**
Weighting		

5.5. **Procedure**

- For MSCA Choose Europe for Science, the evaluation will be organised in a single panel.

Ex-aequo Proposals

- When the total scores of two or more proposals are equal (ex-aequo cases), the priority order will be established as follows:

  The proposals will be prioritised first according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion 'Excellence' and if these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion 'Impact'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based specifically on the career prospects offered to the recruited researchers. If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering geographical diversity. This will be documented in the panel report.

Seal of Excellence

Seals of Excellence will be awarded to applications with a total score **equal to or higher than 85%**, but which cannot be funded due to lack of budget available to the call.

5.6. **Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements**

The following exceptions and additional conditions apply:

- Each Choose Europe for Science programme is made up of an EU-funded phase of 24 months for a 48-month fellowship or 36 months for a 60-month fellowship, and a phase fully covered by the beneficiary of 24 months.

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- The minimum duration of each fellowship (on the basis of full-time employment) must be 48 months[134]and the maximum duration is 60 months[135].

- Eligible costs must take the form of unit contributions, as stipulated in Decision of 11 March 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions and unit contributions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon Europe Programme.

- When implementing partners are involved, the beneficiary should sign a partnership agreement with them to regulate the internal relationship between all participating organisations. The partnership agreement(s) must comply with the grant agreement.

- When associated partners are involved, the beneficiary is encouraged to sign a partnership agreement with them to regulate the internal relationship between all participating organisations. The partnership agreement(s) must comply with the grant agreement.

- The beneficiary may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants, based on the MSCA unit contributions. Implementing partners are considered recipients of financial support to third parties.

- Grants awarded under this topic may be linked to actions funded under the Cohesion policy funds.

- The beneficiary must ensure full access — on a royalty-free basis — for the recruited researchers to background and results needed for their activities under the action.

- The following deliverables will have to be submitted for grants awarded under this topic:

  – **mid-term meeting** organised between the participants and the granting authority;

  – **career development plan:** a document describing how the individual Career Development Plans have been established (listing also the researchers for whom such plans have been put in place), submitted towards the end of the project;

  – **evaluation questionnaire** completed by each recruited researcher and submitted at the end of the research training activity; a follow-up questionnaire submitted two years later;

  – **data management plan** submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project if needed.

134 24 months of the initial stage and 24 months of the second phase

135 36 months of the initial stage and 24 months of the second phase

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

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

Country Code[136]	CCC
EU Member States	
AT	109,4%
BE	100%
BG	70%
CY	81,2%
CZ	97,4%
DE	101,5%
DK	131,3%
EE	95,2%
EL	87,7%
ES	94,2%
FI	116,4%
FR	116,6%
HR	82,2%
HU	78,7%
IE	135,8%
IT	93.8%
LT	89,8%
LU	100%
LV	85,6%
MT	91,8%
NL	111,8%
PL	77,5%
PT	94,6%
RO	72,6%
SE	119,3%
SI	88%
SK	82,9%
Third Countries	
AE	106,6%
AL	70%
AM	120,7%
AO	145%
AR	86,9%
AU	102,8%
AZ	104,7%
BA	70%
BB	123,8%
BD	85%
BF	90,8%
BI	87,9%
BJ	97,3%
BO	79,1%
BR	101,7%
BQ	111,8%
BW	70,3%
BZ	79,9%
CA	105,9%
CD	142,2%
CF	102,2%
CG	137,3%
CH	163,7%
CI	87,3%
CL	77,5%
CM	91,4%
CN	88,3%
CO	78,9%
CR	91,4%
CU	160,7%
CV	70%
DJ	107,3%
DO	76,8%
DZ	70%
EC	85,9%
EG	70%
ER	110,8%
ET	93,7%
FJ	79,2%
FO	131,3%
GA	109,1%
GE	84%
GH	76,6%
GL	131,3%
GM	94,2%
GN	129,4%
GT	101%
GW	87,6%
GY	97,5%
HK	117,7%
HN	89,7%
HT	130,3%
ID	70%
IL	109,8%
IM	143,5%
IN	95,2%
IS	137,4%
JM	117,5%
JO	93,7%
JP	146,6%

[136] ISO 3166 alpha-2, except for Greece and the United Kingdom (EL and UK used respectively instead of GR and GB).

KE	93,8%
KG	87,7%
KH	89,2%
KM	75,7%
KR	117,2%
KZ	86,7%
LA	70%
LB	116,2%
LI	163,7%
LK	82,2%
LR	132%
LS	70%
MA	79,7%
MD	91,6%
ME	70%
MG	85,5%
MK	70%
ML	94,5%
MM	70%
MR	96,4%
MU	74,8%
MV	95.2%
MW	70%
MX	77,5%
MY	77,8%
MZ	111,4%
NA	71,2%
NC	95%

NE	89,1%
NG	70%
NI	89,8%
NO	127%
NP	71,3%
NZ	94,8%
PA	104,9%
PE	92,3%
PF	116,6%
PG	97,4%
PH	85,5%
PK	70%
PS	109,8%
PY	70%
QA	115,4%
RS	74,5%
RW	87,7%
SA	97,9%
SB	112,7%
SD	89%
SG	124,5%
SL	95,5%
SN	85,2%
SR	70%
ST	106,4%
SV	86,4%
SZ	70%
TD	102,8%

TG	96,9%
TH	78%
TJ	74,3%
TL	86,5 %
TM	150,5%
TN	76,4%
TR	70%
TT	100,6%
TW	78,9%
TZ	94,9%
UA	80,2%
UG	87,1%
UK	143,5%
US	149,1%
UY	98%
UZ	72%
VA	93,8%
VN	71,2%
VU	104,8%
WS	82,2%
XK	70%
ZA	70%
ZM	90,7%
ZW	98,3%