

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) in Horizon Europe –Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Uppsala University

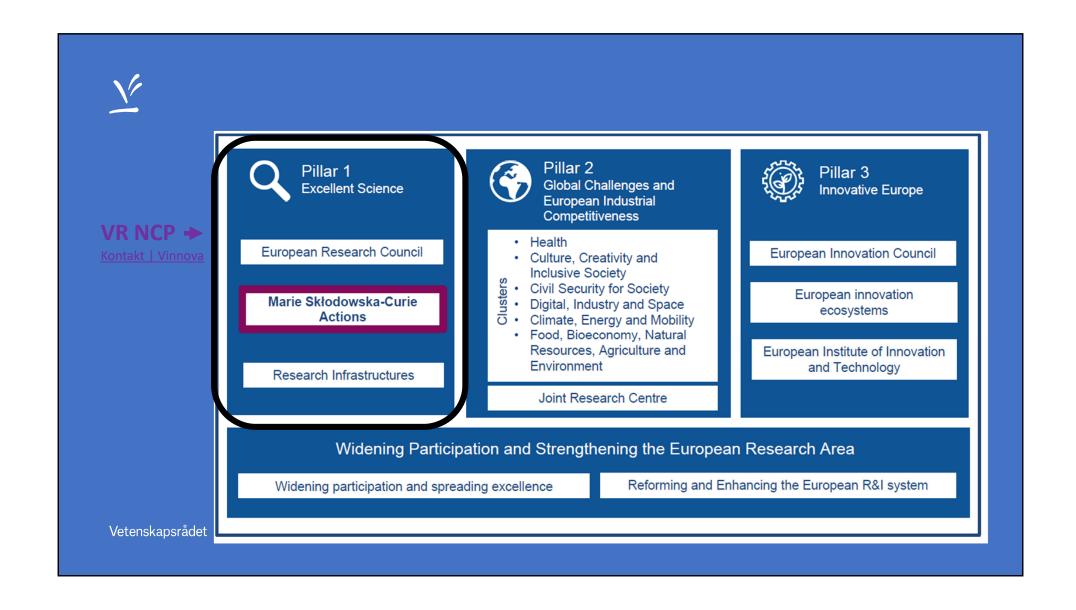
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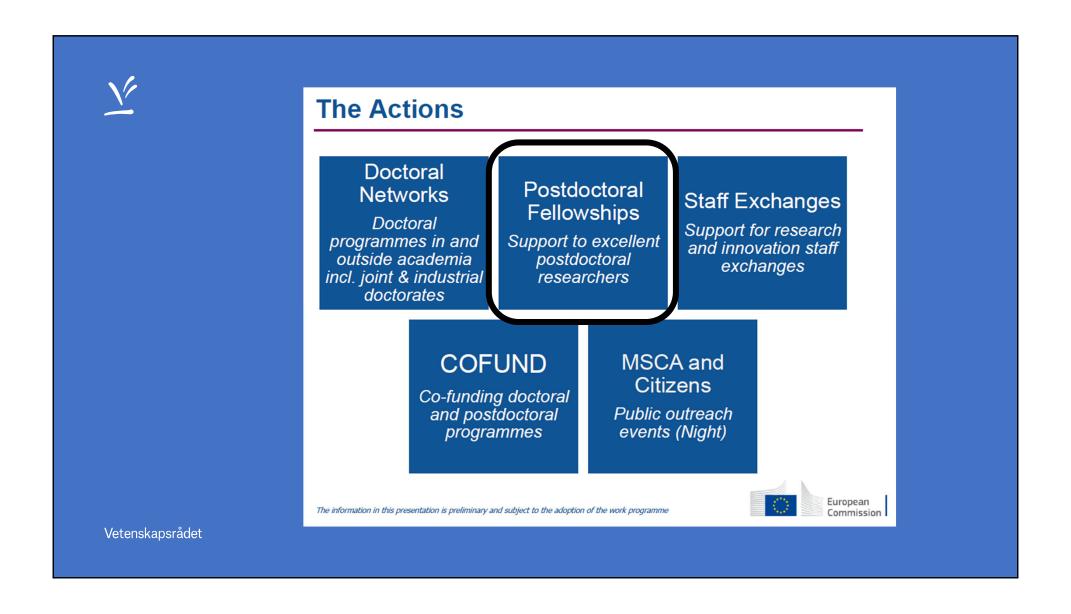
Dr. Isabel Dellacasa Lindberg, National Contact Person (NCP)

Picture 2-5 kind courtesy of Dr. Erik Litborn, Vinnova

Vetenskapsrådet







What is the objective with MSCA?



- finance ± 65000 researchers including 25000 doctoral candidates.
 - EU will need at least one million new research jobs in order to reach political goals
- high-quality professional opportunities open to researchers of any age, nationality or discipline.



HORIZON 2020



\mathbf{EN}

Horizon Europe

Work Programme 2021-2022

2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

(European Commission Decision C(2021)4200 of 15 June 2021)



wp-2-msca-actions horizon-2021-2022 en.pdf (europa.eu

Political instrument

"The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions ensure excellent and innovative research training as well as attractive career and knowledge-exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers, to better prepare them for current and future societal challenges."



HORIZON 2020

Key features MSCA

- > Open to all domains of research and innovation from basic research up to market take-up and innovation services
- **Entirely bottom-up**
- > International mobility as the key requirement
- Promotion of attractive working and employment conditions
- Particular attention to gender balance
- > Public engagement of supported researchers
- Participation of **non-academic sector** strongly encouraged, especially industry and SMEs



DISCLAIMER Information based on MSCA work programme (WP) <u>recently opened for Horizon Europe</u>

MSCA PF call *announced* to open June 22

- Calls
 - > 2021: 22 June 12 Oct (tentative); 242 M€ [+indicative EUR 1 million for Euratom]
 - > 2022: 13 Apr 14 Sept (tentative); 257 M€ [+indicative EUR 1 million for Euratom]



Introduction to the MSCA

- EU's reference programme for doctoral and postdoctoral training, contributing to:
 - A highly skilled research-based human capital able to detect and tackle upcoming challenges, communicate scientific evidence to policy-makers and the public, and work across disciplines
 - Provide researchers with skills needed in the labour market, to innovate and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit
 - Develop excellent doctoral programmes enhancing the global attractiveness and visibility of institutions involved in them
 - Promote the EU's global attractiveness for talents
- Budget under Horizon Europe: 6.6€ billion
- Geographic coverage



Evolution not revolution < **Key figures (2014-2020)** +65,000 37% 6.2 billion € Researchers, Researchers including Under from outside 25,000 PhD Horizon 2020 of the EU candidates +1,000 +4,500 42% **Doctoral** Companies Female supported researchers programmes European The information in this presentation is preliminary and subject to the adoption of the work programme

Key features





Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)



International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility



Attractive working and employment conditions



Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes



Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs



Policy background, principles and priorities

- Contribution to the European Research Area (ERA) and European Education Area (EEA)
- Contribution to the EU external policy objectives
- Committed to the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers + Innovative Doctoral Training Principles
- Underlying Principles: Open Science, Responsible Research & Innovation
- New publishing platform and open peer review: <u>https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/</u>

Guidelines on Supervision (MSCA).pdf

Charter & Code for Researchers | EURAXESS (europa.eu)





Principles and novelties

- Streamlined actions, clearer identity
- Simpler rules, harmonised conditions
- Demand management to maintain high quality
- Reinforced synergies within Horizon Europe and with other EU funding programmes
- New guidelines on supervision to ensure that researchers are adequately supervised
- Towards "greener MSCA" to promote sustainable behaviors and policies, support policy and decision making, through MSCA Green Charter, Green Deal thematic clustering events...

<u>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Green Charter - Publications</u> <u>Office of the EU (europa.eu)</u>

European Commission

Coming soon



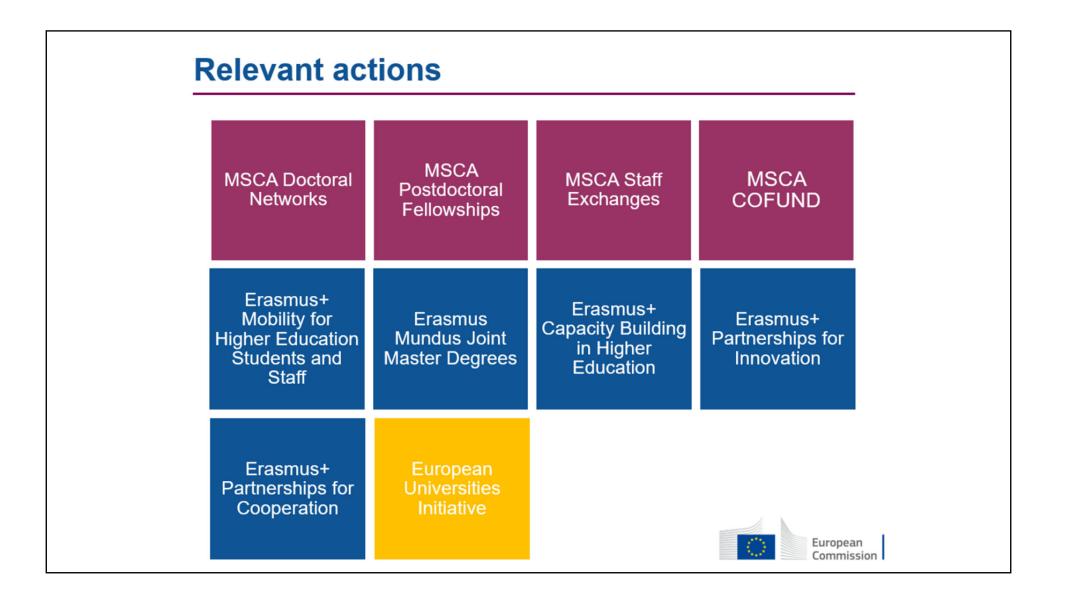
- MSCA Doctoral Networks MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships MSCA Staff Exchanges MSCA COPUND Erasmus* Mobility for Higher Education Students and Staff Brasmus - Mobility for Inigher Education Students and Staff Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degrees Brasmus - Capacity Building in Higher Education Brasmus - Pannerships for cooperation Erasmus - Pannerships for Innovation Brasmus - Support to Policy Development and Cooperation - European Universities Initiative institutions can choose to apply to one or more of these actions, as long as there is no double funding, and participants (Alfif the requirements linked to the different actions (e.g. mobility, rule or time spent under the action in case of the MSCA). The below is but a small number of examples of possible synergies and complementarities. Synergies and complementarities Erasmus+ Mobility projects for Higher Education Students and Staff These projects fund the mobility of university students and staff, both within Europe and beyond. Participants return to their sending institution after their period abroad (e.g. to obtain their degree). Individual Erasmus+ participants (at Bachelor, Master or Doctoral level) or higher education staff - participate in the work of MSCA research teams through traineeship mobility (2 to 12 months), staff mobility (2 days to 2 months), or short term mobility (5 to 30 days), funded by the Erasmus+ Programme; - Invite MSCA researchers to teach or take part in interdisciplinary Brasmus+ projects; apply for PhD positions in MSCA Doctoral Networks and COFUND $^{\rm I}$ following the successful completion of their Masters: individuals holding a PhD). To be eligible for MSCA funding, mobility requirements apply to individual researchers⁴. Organisations, in particular those involved in mobility projects with third countries, could use Organisations, in particular price involved in mobility projects with third countries, could use their networks and estimp settembers to set up collaborative research and inhostent sucharge projects under MSCA Staff Enthanges, which fund the shin-term mobility of staff Li-21 morths. Enthanges need to be international, fetramental and/or insteadoplinax, and we open to any topic of staff combituing to research and innovation activities (researchers, administrative internageal/stativities Lie 1998).

The most relevant actions in terms of synergies between higher education, research and

Annex I - Examples of synergies UNAACAREER UNA Europa, an alliance of universities for the emergence of talent and the development of research CAREERs (MSCA COFUND 2018) . International programme developed in the context of the UNA EUROPA ALLIANCE. Open network enabling 40 experienced researchers to combine their work in an international (6 countries), cross-sectoral (possibility to interact with over 500 actors through the UNA Europa Alliance) and interdisciplinary (4 scientific areas) framework, it. aims to help spreading the best practices of the Marie Skiodowska-Curie Actions. https://www.una4caceer.eu/ EUTOPIA-Science and Innovation Fellowship (MSCA COPUND 2019) Strategic programme launched by the EUTOPIA Alliance, a network of six universities that has been awarded an Erasmus* "European Universities" pilot project 76 post-doctoral researchers will receive 24-months fellowships to work in 5 interdisciplinary key research areas: 1) Materials engineering: 2) Data & Intelligence: 3) Health; 4) Sustainability; 5) Welfare & Inclusion https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/945380 CVISS:- The CVIS Alliance Programme for International, Interdsciplinary, Intersectoral Research and Training for Experienced Researchers (MSCA COPUND 2020) International programme developed in the context of the European University CIVIS 32 Experienced Researchers will receive 24-months postdoctoral fellowships to work on five important global societal challenges: 1) Health; 2) Climate, Environment, Energy; 3) Digital and Technological Transformation; 4) Cities, Tenteries and mobilities; 5) Society, Culture, Heritage https://www.univ.amu/fr/fripublic/actualites/nov/eau/succes-pour/universite; guropeenne-civis OEduverse (Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership for Higher Education 2019) The Officerse Project focuses on three, overarching modules: Mental Wellbeing, Open Science, and Communication. These modules will equip early-stage researchers with the most desired skills set for their career. The project involves many MSCA partners, including the Marie Curie Alumni Association (ACAA), and builds off the successful EDUA/DBISS MSCA innovative training Network (ITN), aiming to establish a consortium focused on addressing this key labour market shifts shortage. https://pedcverse.eu/ FONTE (MSCA Innovative Training Network 2017) . The FONTE project coordinated by Aston University (UK) gathered the students from the three following Enamus Mundus Joint Master Degree programmes in photonics and communication technologies - EMIMEO (2018), PONET (2017) and SMARTNET (2017) - to discuss about the opportunities for post-Master degree programmes, and in particular

Note on synergies & complementarities





Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Green Charter



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Green Charter¹

- Code of Good Practice for all recipients of MSCA funding researchers and Institutions
- Mainstreaming of environmental considerations in implementation
 - - reduce environmental foot-print
- Adhere by "best-effort" basis but not compromise on bottom-up nature –e.g. mobility

MSCA Green Charter | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (europa.eu)



We invite you to join this online event

How can Research & Innovation help achieve climate neutrality?



Register for the event

Information - MSCA Green Deal (msca-greendeal.eu)

Political objective of mobility

Physical mobility

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.

Virtual mobility

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, the pan-European research and education network.

http://www.geant.org

More gender-friendly and inclusive MSCA

- Horizon 2020: 41% of female fellows (from 38% in RISE to 44% in ITN)
- In line with the Charter and Code, all MSCA projects are encouraged to embrace diversity
- In the interest of non-discrimination and equal opportunities:
 - ✓ Family allowances will be accessible to all, even if their parental status changes during the duration of the project
 - ✓ Long-term leave allowance in case of the researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave
 - ✓ Broader definition of family to ensure full access to these allowances (recognised LGBTI+ couples)



Academia-non academia collaboration

- Encourage inter-sectoral exposure through incentives
- With the aim to develop transferable skills (e.g. innovation, entrepreneurship) leading to improved employability and career prospects within and outside academia
- Incentives:



✓ **Industrial Doctorates:** max 540 person-months instead of 360 for standard doctoral networks; academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervising can be in the same country



✓ Postdoctoral Fellowships: incentive: additional 6 months for placements in the non-academic sector at the end of the project



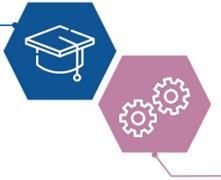
- Main Objectives:
 - > Foster excellence through implementation of research project
 - ➤ Enhance the **creative and innovative potential** of researchers holding a PhD (training on transferable skills & career development)
 - > Focus on i3 (international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary) mobility
 - Bridges and exposure to the non-academic sector
- Research areas:
 - All scientific fields
 - Including Euratom areas (indicative amount EUR 1 million annually) within existing scientific panels - novelty



Academic and non-academic sectors

Academic sector

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



Non-academic sector

✓ any socioeconomic actor not included in the academic sector



- Activities:
 - Mono-beneficiary action to support post-doctoral research and careers with:
 - European Postdoctoral Fellowships: coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe
 - No separate panels mainstreamed incentives– novelty
 - Global Postdoctoral Fellowships outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe AC.

* Widening activities: "ERA Fellowships" will be aligned with the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call



Eligible organisations:

European Fellowships:

One host organisation in EU MS / AC (any sector)

Global Fellowships:

- One host organisation in EU MS / AC (any sector)
- One associated partner organisation in a TC (any sector)

Optional for EF and GF: non-academic partner organization in view of an optional placement at the end of the project



Eligible researchers – European Fellowships:

| Nationality | Any | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Mobility | The researcher cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary for more than 12 months in the three years immediately prior to the call deadline | | | |
| Research experience (FTE) | Maximum 8 years from date of award of the (first) doctoral degree This limit can be extended for the following reasons (to be encoded in submission forms): - Maternity leave (18 months – i.e. 548 days) per child born after the PhI award date, or exact duration of leave taken, whichever is longest); - Paternity leave (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date) - Research in a non-associated TC (only for nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC, wishing to reintegrate in Europe); - Compulsory national service; - Time spent not working in research (also applies to part-time contract - Long-term sick leave (periods longer than 30 days). | | | |



Doctoral Degree (or, date of successful defense) should be obtained before call deadline



Eligible researchers – Global Fellowships:

| Nationality | Nationals or long-term residents of EU MS or HE AC. | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Mobility | The researcher cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (wo studies, etc.) in the country of the associated partner (in the third country) more than 12 months in the three years immediately prior to the call deadline | | | | |
| Research experience (FTE) | Maximum 8 years from date of award of the (first) doctoral degree This limit can be extended for the following reasons (to be encoded in the submission forms): - Maternity leave (18 months – i.e. 548 days) per child born after the PhD award date, or exact duration of leave taken, whichever is longest); - Paternity leave (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date); - Research in a non-associated TC (only for nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC, wishing to reintegrate in Europe); - Compulsory national service; - Time spent not working in research (also applies to part-time contracts); - Long-term sick leave (periods longer than 30 days). | | | | |



Doctoral Degree (or, date of successful defense) should be obtained before call deadline



- Who applies? Participating Organisations*:
 - ➤ Legal entity in an EU Member State or HE Associated country
- Recruited Researchers- Target Groups:
 - any nationality (Global Fellowships: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC) *
 - ➤ in possession of PhD at the call deadline novelty
 - up to 8 years research experience after PhD (with exceptions= career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers) – novelty
 - mobility rule: not resided /main activity in the country of the beneficiary (or host organization for GF) more than 12 in the 36 months before call deadline
 - *Specific eligibility criteria for PFs supported by Euratom:
 - Organisation: legal entity established in an EU Member State or Euratom AC
 - Researcher: nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or a Euratom AC

Euratom is a complementary research programme for nuclear research and training.

Euratom | Horizon 2020 (europa.eu)



- Duration
 - > European Fellowships: 12-24 months
 - ➤ Global Fellowships: 24-36 months (12-24 outgoing phase & 12 months mandatory return phase in Europe)
- Secondments worldwide up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration— (novelty: worldwide secondments)
- Optional additional placement of up to 6 months in a nonacademic European organization (novelty)
 - > at the end of the fellowship applicable to both European and Global PF

Resubmission restrictions applying as of 2022 for applications receiving a score below 70%

The information in this presentation is preliminary and subject to the adoption of the work programme

European

(Optional) Secondments vs placements:

| | | Secondment | Non-academic placement | new |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|-----|
| Maximum Duration new | EF: Up to 1/3 of the normal project duration | GF: Up to 1/3 of the duration of the outgoing phase | Up to 6 months duration | |
| Timing | EF: At any time during the during the standard project duration | GF: - up to three months possible at the start of the outgoing phase, to be included within the 1/3 maximum duration - not allowed during the mandatory 12 month return phase new | Additional period after the standard duration of the fellowship | |
| | Can be divided in several smaller periods | | | |
| Mobility | Any country worldwide new | | EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country | |
| Sector | Any sector | | Non-academic sector only | |
| Encoding in part A | Yes. In "Call Specific Questions" - complete all required information. | | Yes. The associated partner must be encoded as a participating organisation. | |
| Description in part B1 | Yes. Its relevance and quality will be assessed by the evaluators. | | Yes. Its relevance and quality will be assessed by the evaluators. | |
| Supporting Doc in part B2 | None. | | Yes. A letter of commitment is required. | |

PF – budget structure



^{*} Living allowance is adapted with the country correction coefficient listed in the WP EF= 1 coefficient for the country of the beneficiary
GF= 1 coefficient for the country of the beneficiary + 1 coefficient for the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase



PF – budget structure

Living allowance to cover personnel costs for the employment of researchers with full social security coverage.

Mobility allowance to cover additional, private (not professional) mobility-related costs, e.g. travel and accommodation costs.

Family allowance covers mobility-related costs of researchers with family obligations – defined by:

- (i) marriage
- (ii) relationship with equivalent status to marriage (under the law of the country or region in which this relationship was formalised)
- (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher

The allowance is due if the researcher has or *acquires* family obligations during the action's implementation.

| 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 his/her 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 | The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts | |
| 50% | 30% | 20% |



