

Individual Fellowships Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions MSCA IF 2020 Call

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III. Preparing an IF

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I. The Spanish NCP Team:

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Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología

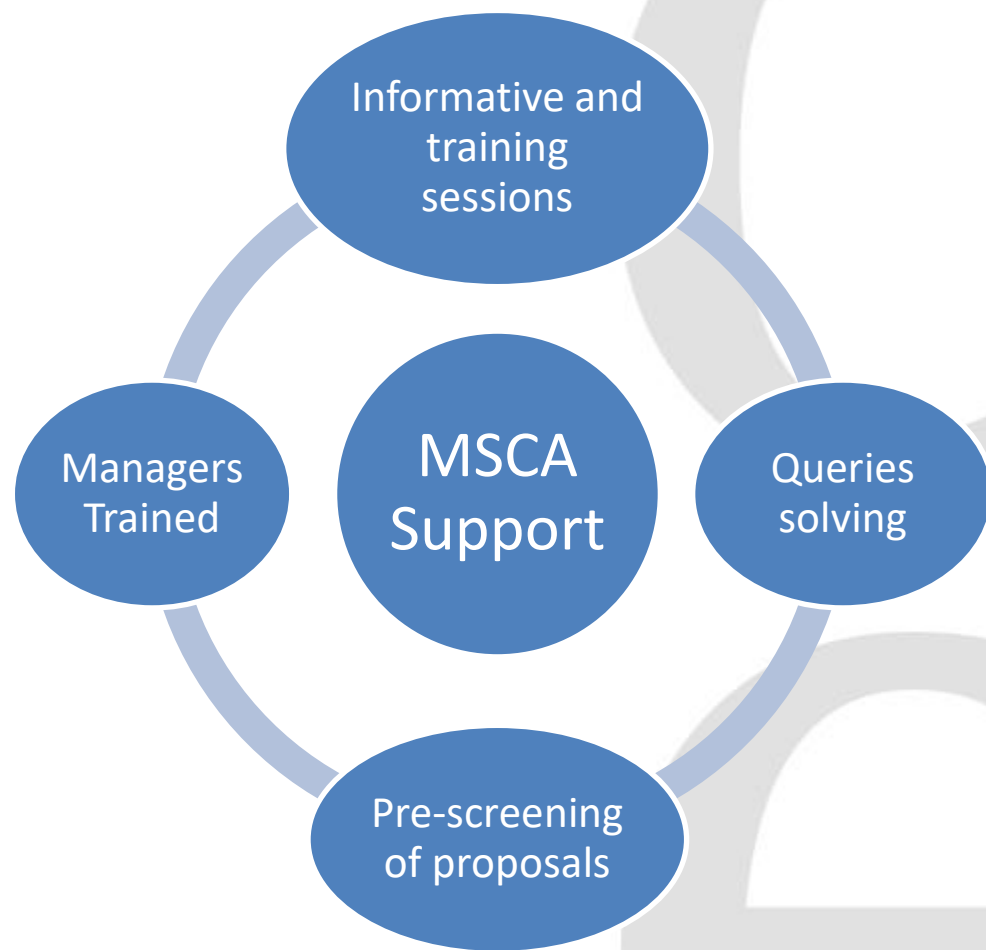
Cristina.gomez@fecyt.es



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Fundación para el Conocimiento madri+d

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II. MSCA Basics

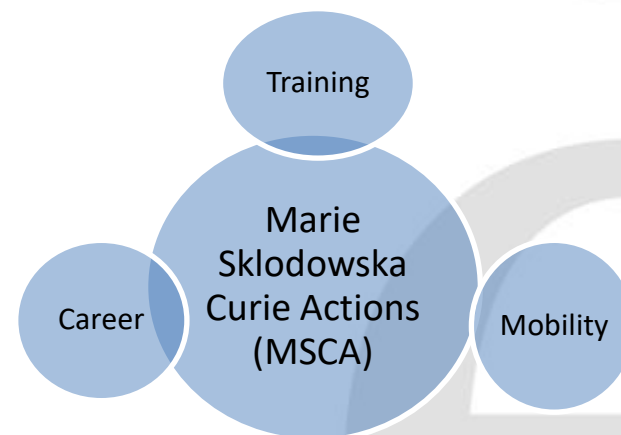
Training for researchers 'at all stages



- **Excellent Science Pillar – Horizon 2020 (6,1M€)**
- Funding based on **Unit Costs**
- **Bottom-up** approach



- Some key concepts:
 - **Triple “i” Mobility**
 - **Strong industry participation**
 - Acquisition of **new** and **complementary skills**
 - Emphasis on communication and **public engagement activities**
 - **Excellent working conditions**, gender balance and open recruitment



II. MSCA Individual Fellowships

II. MSCA Objectives

Objective:

Enhance the **creative and innovative potential** of experienced researchers by providing them with opportunities to acquire new knowledge, work on research projects in a European context and outside Europe.

- **Fully-funded monobeneficiary fellowships** (salary + research and management costs)
- For research-focused organizations, from **academic and non-academic sector**
- To incorporate an **experienced researcher** in a **period of mobility** at **all stages of his/her career path**, for a 12-36 months period
- To provide them with **career development opportunities** through **training and a research project** in any scientific area (**bottom-up approach**).

II. IF Timing

Call IF 2020: 328.00M€

Call ID	Opens	Closes	Budget
H2020-MSCA-IF-2020	8-APRIL-2020	9-SEPTEMBER-2020	EF: 263.00M€ SE: 10.00M€ GF: 55.00M€

Timetable for the H2020-MSCA-IF-2020 Call (8 months TTG)



Possible start date for MSCA IF Action: 1 March 2021 – 1 september 2022

II. Eligible researchers: candidates

Candidates must, by the call deadline 09/09/2020:

Be experienced researchers:



have a doctoral degree or at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience.



Comply with a mobility rule:

Candidates must not have **lived and/or worked** in the country of the host institution for a certain period of time.

- No age restriction
- Nationality restrictions apply only in some cases



II. MSCA Actors



FELLOW/CANDIDATE

- The researcher appointed by the beneficiary to implement the research project described in the application.
- A candidate **can only submit one proposal**.

SUPERVISOR

- The scientist appointed at the beneficiary to supervise the researchers throughout the whole duration of the action.
- For GF a co-supervisor must be appointed at the partner organization.
- A supervisor can supervise several fellows.

II. 1 call, different options **WHERE?**

EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS

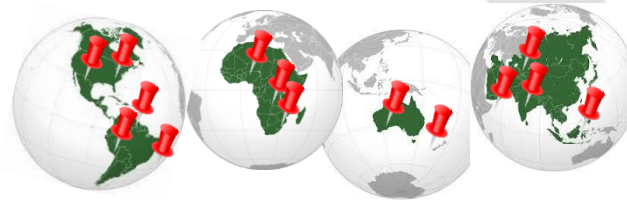
MS/AC



- For fellows coming to or moving within European countries.
- If moving to a Widening country there will be a second chance to be funded.

GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS

TC



- For fellows from Europe* going to a third country.
- Transfer of knowledge, through a Return Phase to Europe is mandatory.

II. MSCA Actors

HOST INSTITUTION



BENEFICIARY

- **Recruits, Hosts, and trains the fellow,**
- Must be located in a Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC).
- Receives funding from EC.
- Signs the Grant Agreement with the EC.

Academic
host

Non –
academic host
(SE Panel)

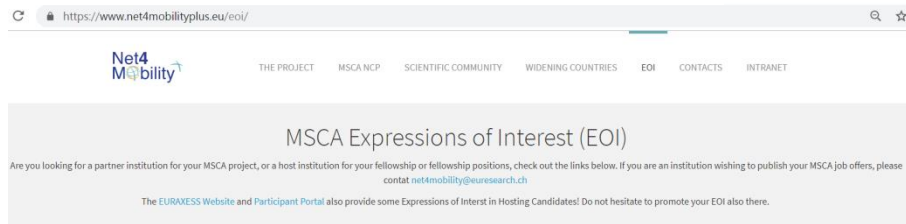
PARTNER ORGANISATION: Does not recruit the fellow, offers **additional training** and hosts the researcher during his / her:

Secondment	GF outgoing phase
Located in MS or AC	Located in a TC
	Letter of commitment

II. How to look for a Host Institution?

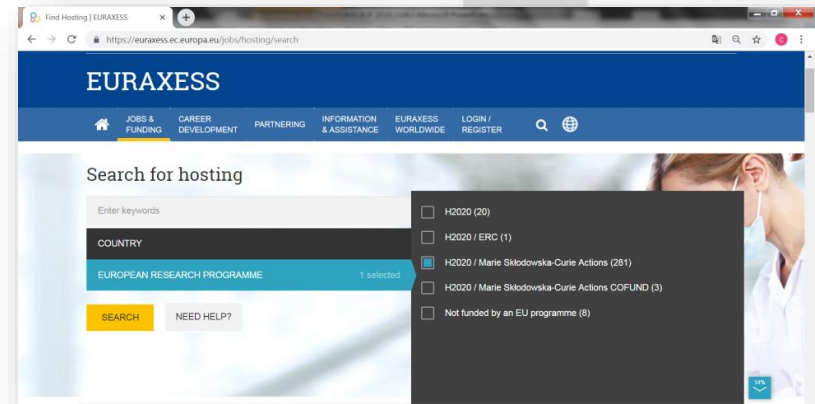
NET4MOBILITY+ PROJECT

<https://www.net4mobilityplus.eu/eoi/>



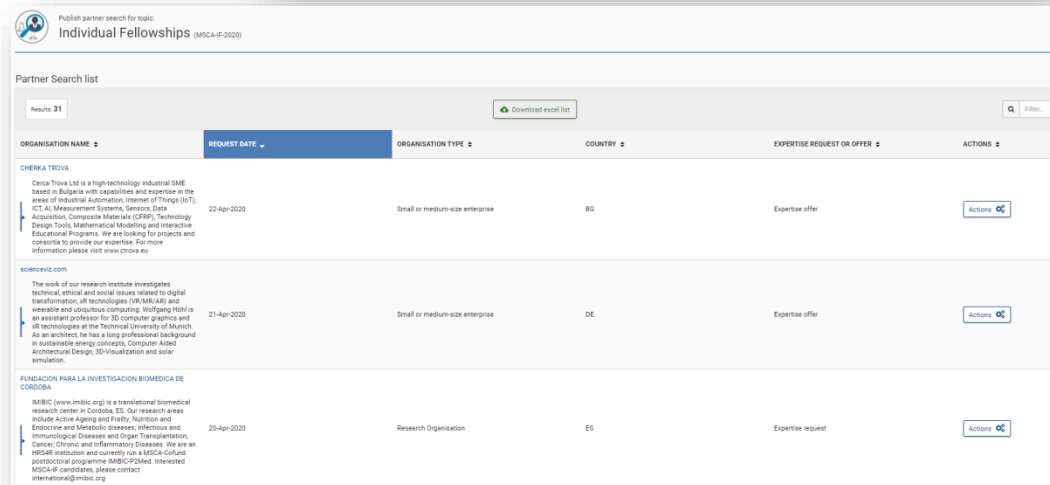
EURAXESS HOSTING Offers (+300 offers)

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/hosting/search>

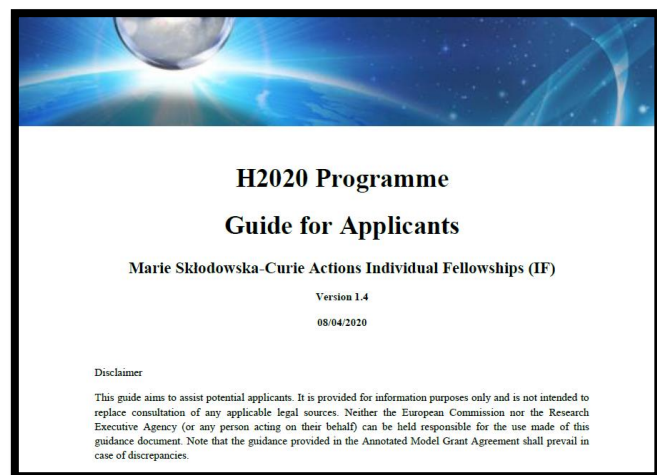


MSCA IF Call: FUNDING and TENDER Partner Search List (31)

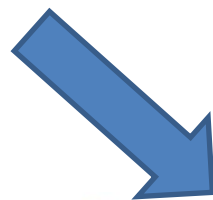
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/interested-organisation/31115387>



II. News Guide for Applicants IF 2020



HISTORY OF CHANGES			
Version	Publication Date	Change	Page
1.0	12.04.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial version 	
1.1	29.05.2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification in the definition of short stays Clarification in the definition of length of career break for Career Restart Panel Reference to the mandatory system requirements, the operating systems and browsers actively supported by the system Indication to reverse chronological order in the CV Correction in reference to the call IF 2018 Correction in the ethics section 	10, 11, 12, 13, 15 11 27 37 38 43
1.2	11.04.2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification about complaints for failed submission Clarification on disagreement among supervisors for multiple proposals submitted by the same beneficiary Clarification on transfers of proposals to/from the Society and Enterprise Panel Clarification on Widening Fellowships Clarification on resubmissions Applicants to declare whether a similar proposal in terms of research objectives was submitted in the same call Additional details on the evaluation (including pre-allocation of proposals to experts) and review process Clarification about Ethical Issues 	
1.3	03.07.2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifications due to the amendment to the MSCA Work Programme (definition of research institutes under Academic Sector, budget of the Society and Enterprise Panel) Additional details to the definition of the non-Academic sector Deleting one sentence under "Resubmission" 	4, 5 4 34
1.4	08.04.2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research experience definition Clarifications on entities with legal/capital link, partner organisations, long term residence, secondments in GF, contract type, mobility allowance Clarification on how to complete the research experience table Non-binding template for Letter of Commitment 	3 8, 13, 20, 22 43 51



II. MSCA IF: European Fellowships

	Standard Fellowship	Career Restart Panel	Society and Enterprise Panel	Reintegration Panel
What it is about?	Mobility within countries	Inactivity in research for a continuous period 12/18 months *	Non-academic sector beneficiaries	Coming from TC to reintegrate in EU/AC
Nationality	ANY	ANY	ANY	MS/AC national or long-term residents (**)
Duration	12-24 months	12-36 months	12-24 months	12-24 months

* Active in research means being employed or holding a scholarship in research. Publication activities or mere association to a university are not considered as periods of active engagement (inactivity between 10/03/2019 – 09/09/2020)

** A period of legal and continuous residence within 1 or more EU MS or Horizon 2020 AC of at least 5 consecutive years. Periods of absence from the territory of the MS or AS shall be taken into account for the calculation of this period where they are shorter than 6 consecutive months and do not exceed in total ten months within this period of five years.

II. MSCA IF: European Fellowships

	Standard Fellowship	Career Restart Panel	Society and Enterprise Panel	Reintegration Panel *
Mobility rule	12 months / 3 years	36 months / 5 years	36 months / 5 years	36 months / 5 years

The researcher cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary for more than X more in the X years immediately before the call deadline.

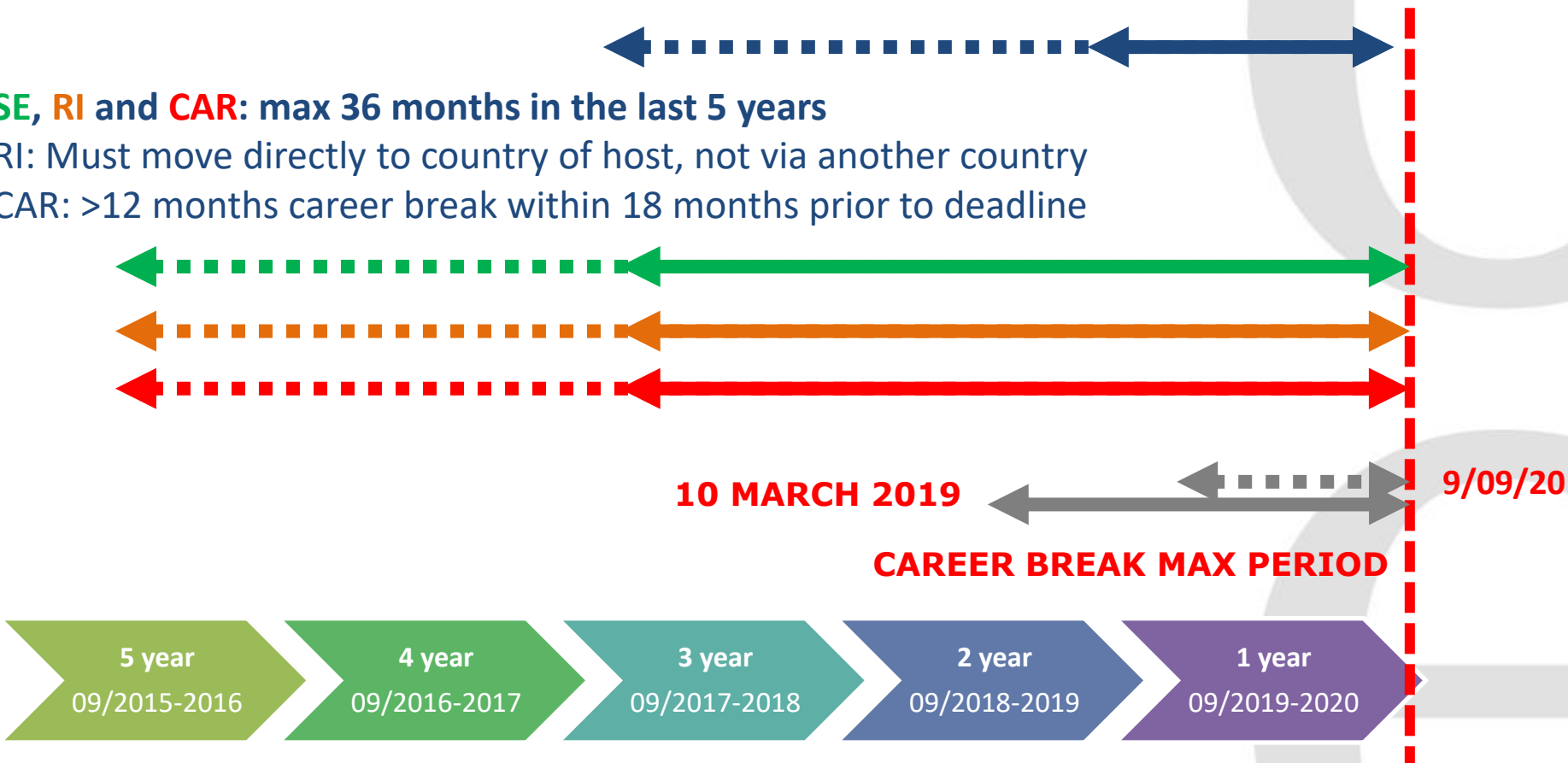
Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status are not taken into account

* Mobility must be direct from a Third Country to a MS / AC

II. MSCA IF: Mobility rule explanation

ST and **GF**: max 12 months in last 3 years
GF: Mobility rule applies to outgoing host country

SE, RI and CAR: max 36 months in the last 5 years
RI: Must move directly to country of host, not via another country
CAR: >12 months career break within 18 months prior to deadline



II. MSCA IF – Widening Fellowships (WF)



MSCA IF-EF applications (**GF are excluded**) to a **widening country not awarded** will have the chance to be funded through Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation Work program.

Applicants can only be considered for this additional funding opportunity (see **Annex 3**), by ticking "YES" to the question *"Do you wish to participate to the Widening Fellowships and thus increase your chances of being funded?"* in the application form.

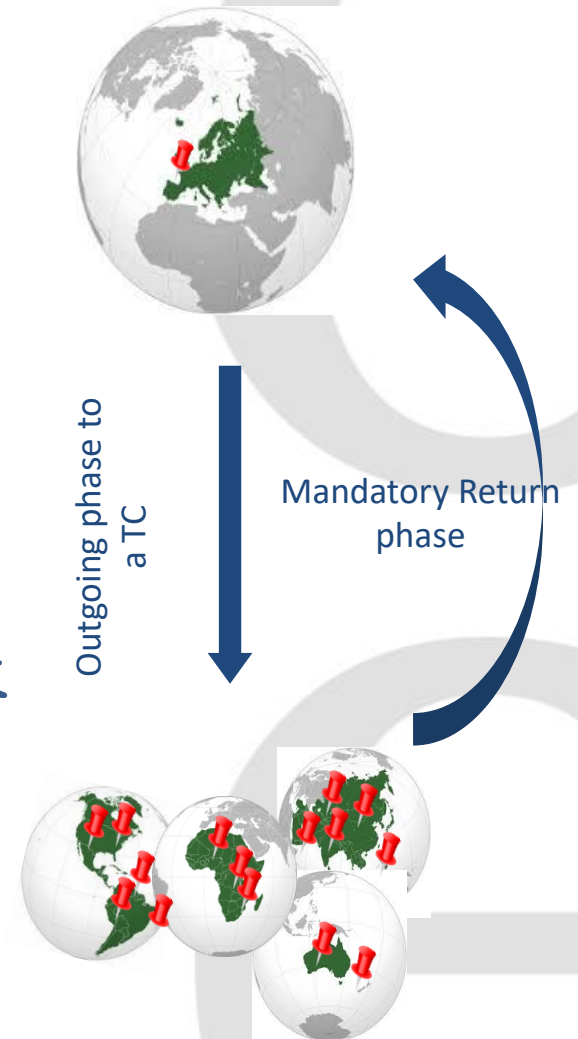
Applicants who do not reply, or tick "NO" to the above question, will not be considered for the WF call (but will be evaluated and ranked under the IF call, if eligible).

- No restriction to nationality applies.
- Normal award criteria, scoring and thresholds for MSCA – IF will apply.
- Single ranking list.

★ Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Associated Countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

II. MSCA IF – Global Fellowships (GF)

- For **fellows going to a Third Country (TC)** for 12 to 24 months (outgoing) + **12 months mandatory return phase in Europe**
- The researcher must be **national or long-term resident**.
- Comply with the **mobility rule at the TC**:
The researcher must not have lived or worked in this TC for more than 12 months in the last 36.
- An **up-to-date letter of commitment** from the partner organisation is **needed**: non-bidding template
- **Flexibility**:
 - *The fellowship can start with a justified maximum-3-months-stay at a European institution*
 - *Secondments can take place at any time.*



II. MSCA IF: Optional Secondments

- ✓ **Have to take place in a Partner Organisation in a MS / AC**
- ✓ **Meaningful** and **appropriate** to the type of fellowship and research field
- ✓ Importance of the involvement of the non-academic sector
- ✓ Partner Organisations: no need to include a letter of commitment
- ✓ **Differ from short visits** and field work (possible anywhere in the world)

IF Duration	Duration max. secondment
≤ 18 months	3 months
> 18 months	6 months

- ✓ **Important:** Short visits/stays differ from Secondments

II. IF Funding

MSCA	Researcher Unit Cost (person/month)			Institutional Unit Cost (person/month)	
	Living Allowance *	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking	Management and overheads
IF	4.880	600	500	800	650

RESEARCHER UNIT COST

Living Allowance:

- CCC: country correction factor applies (host country)
- Gross EU contribution living allowance: 58.560€/ year (- cuota patronal, - taxes, - S.S...) before taxes!

Family Allowance: determined at the submission deadline

INSTITUCIONAL UNIT COST

Research, training and networking costs:

- Purchase of material, organisation and travel to events, payment of conferences fees, etc.

Management and overheads:

- Indirect costs for institutions

- ☐ Budget pre-calculated by EC, base on unit costs
- ☐ 100% financing
- ☐ Additional 60.000€ per project possible to support researchers with special needs

II. Data: some perspective

MSCA	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of evaluated proposals	7.409	8.380	8.829	8.957	9.676	9.709	
Number of retained proposals	1.305	1.163	1.188	1.348	1.351	1.475	
Success rates %	17,6	13,9	13,5	15	14,6	15,1	
Budget in mio EUR	240.5	215	218	248.7	273	296.5	328

Cut-off scores high!

Success rates vary among Panels, vary Research Experience

Re-submission statistics are better (22% S.R)

See <https://eshorizonte2020.es/ciencia-excelente/acciones-marie-sklodowska-curie/noticias/documentacion-de-apoyo-para-la-preparacion-de-propuestas-msca-if-2020>

III. Preparing an IF Proposal

III. A typical Individual Fellowship Proposal

- ❖ **Individual research project:** training-through-research under the direct supervision of the supervisor / key staff of the institution.
- ❖ **Hands on training:**
 - ❖ for developing scientific skills (new techniques, instruments, etc.)
 - ❖ For developing and acquiring transferable skills:
 - ❖ Proposal preparation to request funding
 - ❖ Patent applications, management of IPR, take up and exploitation of results,
 - ❖ Action management, task coordination, how to properly communicate
 - ❖ Gender issues, research integrity, Open Science, etc.
- ❖ **Intersectoral or interdisciplinary** transfer of knowledge (**secondments...**). Secondments can take place in MS / AC .
- ❖ Organization of scientific / Training / dissemination events
- ❖ Communication, outreach activities, public engagement

III. Parts of a proposal

Part A (electronically)

Read Guide for Applicants!

Form	Title	Content
Section 1	General Information about the Proposal	e.g. Acronym, Title, Selection of Evaluation Panel, Project Duration...
Section 2	Data on Participating Organisations	e.g. PIC, legal name, contact details, name of <i>person-in-charge at the host organisation</i>
Section 3	Budget	Request for funding in terms of researcher months
Section 4	Ethics Table	Yes/No answers to series of questions re. ethical issues
Section 5	Call specific question	Open access

Part B1 (PDF upload)

- 1. Excellence
 - 2. Impact
 - 3. Implementation
- } • **10 pages total**
• **No section page limit**
• **excess pages will automatically be disregarded**

NO COVER PAGE AND NO TABLE OF CONTENTS!

Part B2 (PDF upload)

No overall page limit applied

- 4. CV of the experienced researcher (**indicative length: 5 pages**)
- 5. Capacities of the participating organisations (1 page for the overview and 1 page for each participating organisation - **indicative**)
- 6. Ethical aspects
- 7. Letter of commitment of the partner organisation (for GF only)

III. Evaluation criteria ...

Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Implementation (20%)
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects	Enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including the appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results	Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution	Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
Potential of the researcher to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence during the fellowship		

What

Why

How

III. ... and more...

Cross cutting issues

- International cooperation
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Open access & Data management
- Climate action & Sustainable development
- Ethics
- Gender
- SMEs
- ERA-NETs
- Links to regional policy
- Intellectual property
- Innovation procurement

Responsible research and innovation



Focus on 6 policies:

1. **Public engagement**
2. **Gender equality**
3. Science education
4. **Open access**
5. **Ethics**
6. Governance

Most of these have to be addressed within the proposal

III. Take-home messages

Not evaluated but it makes life easier for the evaluators

Template

- Use the Correct Template
- Use the Template sub-headings (provides good structure)
- Provide a Table of Contents with page numbers
- Use the Full Page Limit
- Put the proposal acronym in the Header
- Put Page Numbers (format Page X of Y) in the Footer

Format

- Use charts, diagrams, tables, text boxes, figures.
- Use appropriate font size, line spacing, page margins
- Ensure any colour diagrams etc. are understandable when printed in black and white
- Use highlighting where appropriate (bold, underline, italics) but don't overdo it!

Language

- Avoid jargon
- Explain any abbreviations
- Simple clear text
- Avoid long sentences
- Get rid of repetitions (refer to other parts of proposal if necessary)
- Don't copy text from other documents or websites
- Be consistent with language (UK/US English)



SMART

Simple – Measurable - Achievable –Relevant - Timely

III. Take-home messages

- Your proposal is **not a research proposal** as such, but a proposal for training in research
- The **weighting of criteria** is 50% -30% -20%. You need to perform at close to 100% on each
- Your **employability** after the fellowship is key
- Your CV doesn't have to be perfect, but the **training should mend any shortcomings**
- **Follow the template** –the evaluators need to find all key points
- **Impact at 3 levels** in all MSC Actions
The Guide for Applicants is a must-read
- **Don't be over-ambitious** –it is a common flaw that the work plan is not realistic
- Don't be boring
- **Your reviewers may not be specialists** in your field

III. When preparing a proposal

❑ Use the official template: and help evaluators:

- ✓ Include the information where requested, evaluators will look at all headings and sub-headings
- ✓ **“Una imagen vale más que mil palabras”**: use visuals to provide global information at a glance.
- ✓ Be aware of all criteria weight, it is not all about Excellence!
- ✓ Be precise – less is sometimes more; structure the proposal well

❑ Involve as many actors as possible:

- ✓ It is an individual project but a collaborative work.
- ✓ Try to have the best match researcher/supervisor/Host Institution
- ✓ **Involve your own institution: European Projects Offices / Transfer of Technology Offices / HR Departments, other colleagues...**
- ✓ National Contact Points...

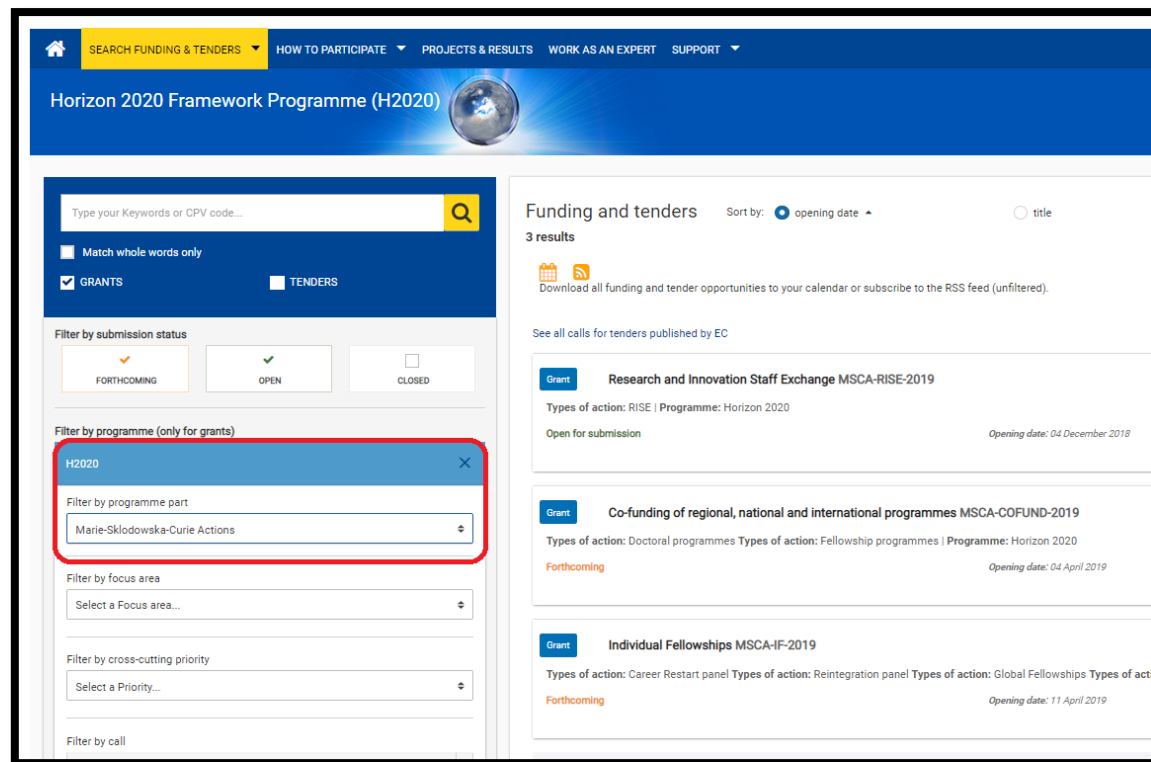
❑ Do not leave it for the last minute!

- ✓ Get familiar with the Participants ' Portal, upload a version, you will be able to rewrite it.

IV. Available resources

IV. Get familiar with the programme!

Funding and Tenders Participant Portal



IV. Use all additional information!

Documentación de apoyo para la preparación de propuestas MSCA IF 2019

29 de mayo de 2019

La Oficina Europea ha preparado documentación de apoyo para aquellos investigador@s y centros de acogida que estén actualmente preparando propuestas para la Convocatoria [Acciones Individuales MSCA 2019](#).

La convocatoria MSCA Individual Fellowships 2019 cuenta con un presupuesto de 294,49M€ y está abierta hasta el próximo 11 de septiembre 2019. Su finalidad es la de fomentar la contratación de investigadores con experiencia para la realización de proyectos de investigación de 12 a 36 meses en universidades, centros de investigación, infraestructuras de investigación, empresas, PYME y otros grupos socio-económicos de toda Europa y de fuera de ella.

A continuación facilitamos una serie de herramientas y documentación práctica para que los solicitantes de Individual Fellowships MSCA 2019 puedan adecuar su propuesta a los objetivos y requisitos de este programa de financiación.

WEBINARIOS Y JORNADAS INFORMATIVAS ON LINE:

Puede acceder a los recursos on-line realizados por los diferentes puntos nacionales de contacto (NCPs) MSCA:

- Webinar realizado por los NCPs de España: [video](#) (español) y [presentación](#) (inglés)
- Webinar realizado por los NCPs de Italia en el marco del proyecto Net4mobility+ : [video](#) (inglés) y [presentación](#) (inglés)
- Sesión informativa realizada por los NCPs de Noruega: [video](#) (inglés) y [presentaciones](#) (inglés)

DOCUMENTACIÓN DE APOYO

- [Guía del Participante Individual Fellowships 2019](#): documento facilitado por la Comisión Europea, en el que se especifican los objetivos del programa, las modalidades de participación, criterios de elegibilidad, criterios de evaluación, modelo de propuesta técnica a presentar.
- [Presentaciones IF 2019](#): presentaciones generadas en la sesión informativa celebrada en Madrid el 27 de mayo con información extensa sobre la convocatoria y aspectos prácticos de preparación de propuestas.
- [Net4mobility+ IF 2019 Handbook](#): documento de apoyo con recomendaciones prácticas para la preparación de propuestas a la convocatoria IF 2019, preparada por los Puntos Nacionales de Contacto europeos en el proyecto Net4mobility+.
- Documentación adicional informativa (casos de éxito, estadísticas de participación, etc.) sobre la convocatoria, disponible en la sección '[Scientific Community](#)' de la web Net4mobility+, proyecto transnacional para apoyar el servicio ofrecido por los Puntos Nacionales de Contacto MSCA.

MSCA Individual Fellowships Action (IF)



Deadline: 9 Sept. 2020
 EC Website

Net4MobilityPlus Material

Handbook with tips to write Part B2

Flyer for IF

Expressions of Interest in Hosting Fellows

Success Story Video & Success Stories for Widening Countries

FAQ Blog

IF Statistics 2017 2018

IF & COFUND 2019 Webinar

Net4Mobility+
Network of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions National Contact Points for the mobile scientific and innovation community

Deliverable No. 3.2
MSCA-Individual Fellowship Handbook 2019

Issued by: Geraldine Canny & Chiara Loda, Irish Universities Association, IE
Issued date: 13 June 2019
Work Package Leader: ISERD, IL

<https://eshorizonte2020.es/ciencia-excelente/acciones-marie-sklodowska-curie/noticias>
<https://www.net4mobilityplus.eu/scientific-community/>

**Nothing in life is to be feared, it is
only to be understood. Now is the
time to understand more, so that
we may fear less**

¡Muchas gracias!

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