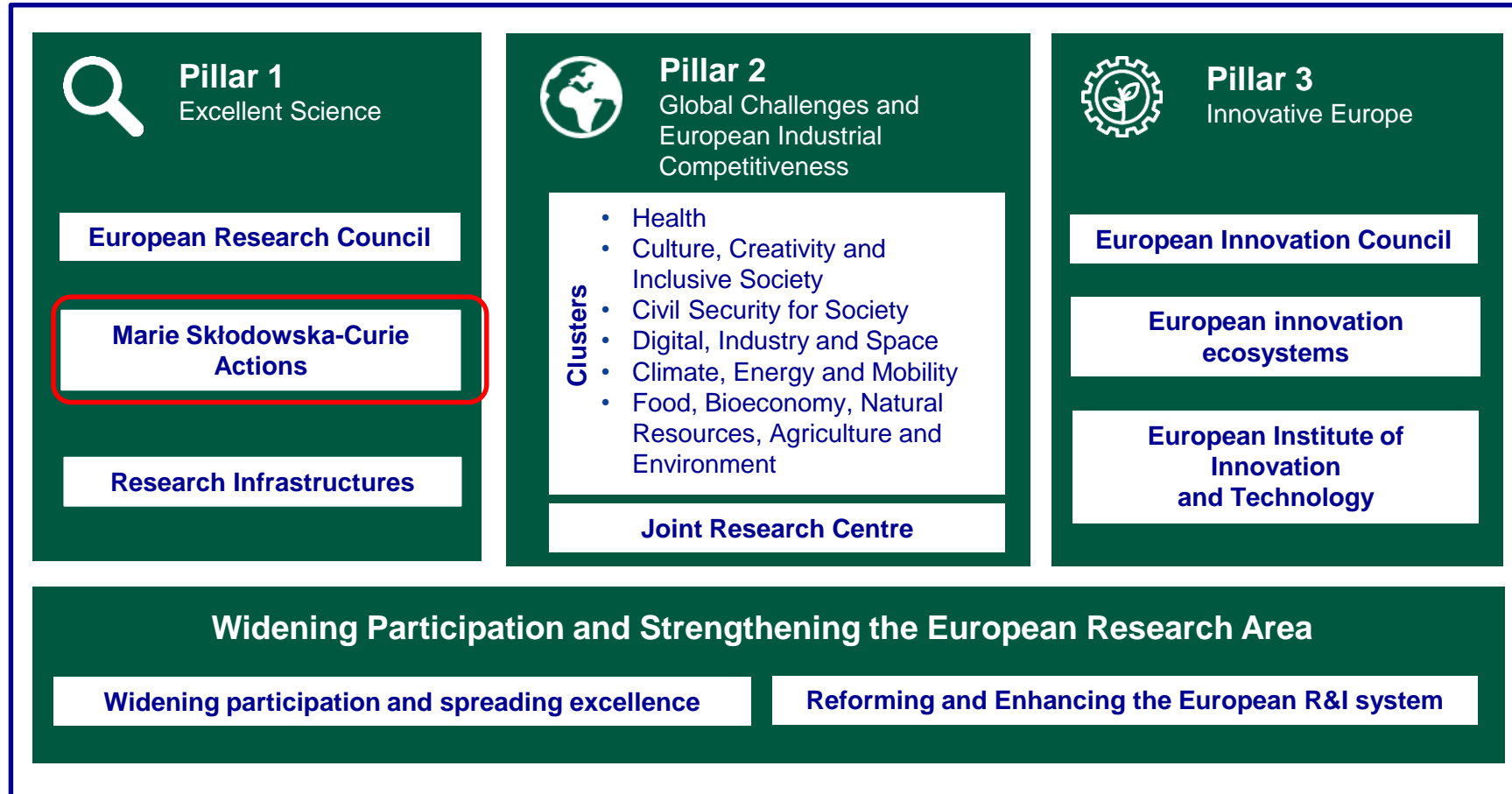






MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

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Excellent Science (Pillar 1): reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union's science base



Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

“YOU CANNOT HOPE TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD
WITHOUT IMPROVING THE INDIVIDUALS.”

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE

- Support the training and career development of researchers from **all over the world** through excellent doctorates, postdoctoral fellowships and collaborative projects
- Stimulating **international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary** cooperation. Participation of **non-academic sector**, especially industry and SMEs
- For researchers at **every stage** of their career
- Support excellent research in all domains (**bottom-up approach**)
- Promotion of **attractive working and employment** conditions (financing rate of up to 100%)
- Impacting **researcher careers, organisations, structures**





MSCA 2021-2027



1. MSCA Doctoral Networks

→ *networks training doctoral candidates*

2. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

→ *postdoctoral researchers*

3. MSCA Staff Exchanges

→ *any type of research(-related) staff*

4. MSCA COFUND

→ *co-funding training programmes*

5. MSCA and Citizens

→ *public outreach events*



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships : Horizon Europe novelties and main features

- Enhance the creative and innovative potential of **researchers holding a PhD**, wishing to acquire **new skills** through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility
- 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
- **Encourage** researchers **to work** on research and innovation projects **in the non-academic sector**



- Support **post-doctoral research and careers**
- Continue funding **all research domains** - as of 2021 for PFs areas covered by **the Euratom Treaty**
- **8 scientific panels:** *CHE, SOC, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY*
 - Discontinuation of panels Career Restart, Reintegration, Society and Enterprise – mainstreaming- replacement **with incentives**
- Unique **mobility rule** : not resided, worked, studied **> 12 months in the 3 years** in the country of the Host Institution (Third country host for the GF)
- Develop skills for academia and beyond – build bridges with academia
 - additional up to 6 months **placements in the non-academic sector** at the end of EF and GF projects
- **Secondments worldwide** (except for the return phase of the GF)



- **Managing the increasing demand** to maintain high-quality selection & improve success rate
 - Require **PhD** degree at the call deadline
 - Limit research experience – **up to 8 years** of research experience after PhD at the call deadline, with **exceptions**
 - Years **outside research and career breaks** will not be counted
 - For nationals & long-term residents of EU MS and AC, who wish to **reintegrate from a TC to Europe** (i.e. direct mobility to an EU MS or AC within the last 12 months before the call deadline), time of research experience in the TC will not be counted
 - **Restrict resubmissions** with score less than 70% (as of 2022) to the following year

Two types of fellowships :

European Fellowships (EF)

- HI located in a Member State or Associated Country
- Duration : 12 to 24 months

Global Fellowships (GF)

- Mobility towards a third country
- 24 to 36 months (including a mandatory 12 months return phase in a Member State or Associated Country)

European Fellowships (EF)

A researcher may submit only
one proposal per call

For fellows
coming to
or
moving within
Europe



12-24 months

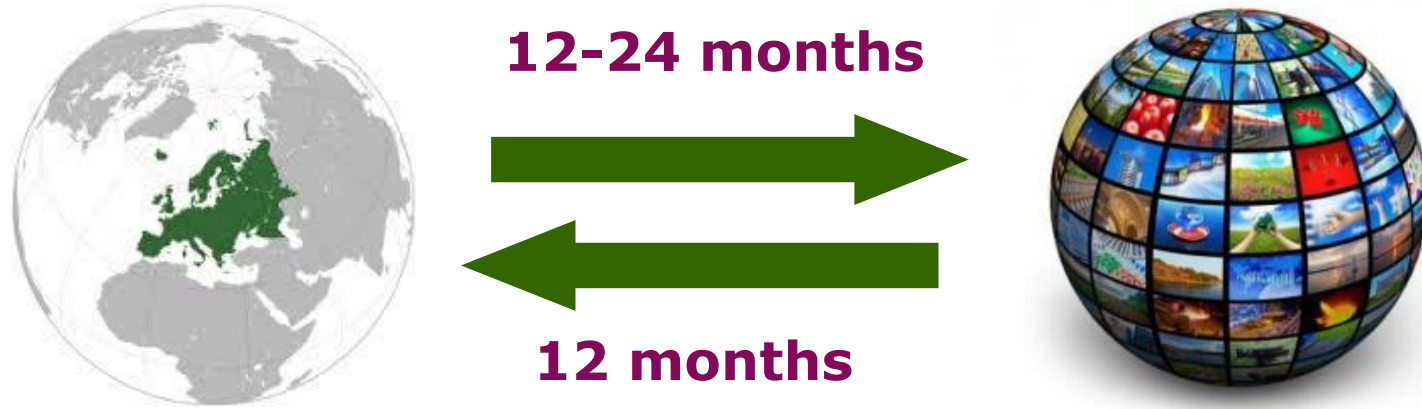


... before call deadline

MOBILITY RULE

Not resided, worked, studied > 12 months
in the 3 years in the country of the
beneficiary

Global Fellowships (GF)



**For fellows from Europe going to TC
and then
returning to Europe**

Global Fellowships (GF)

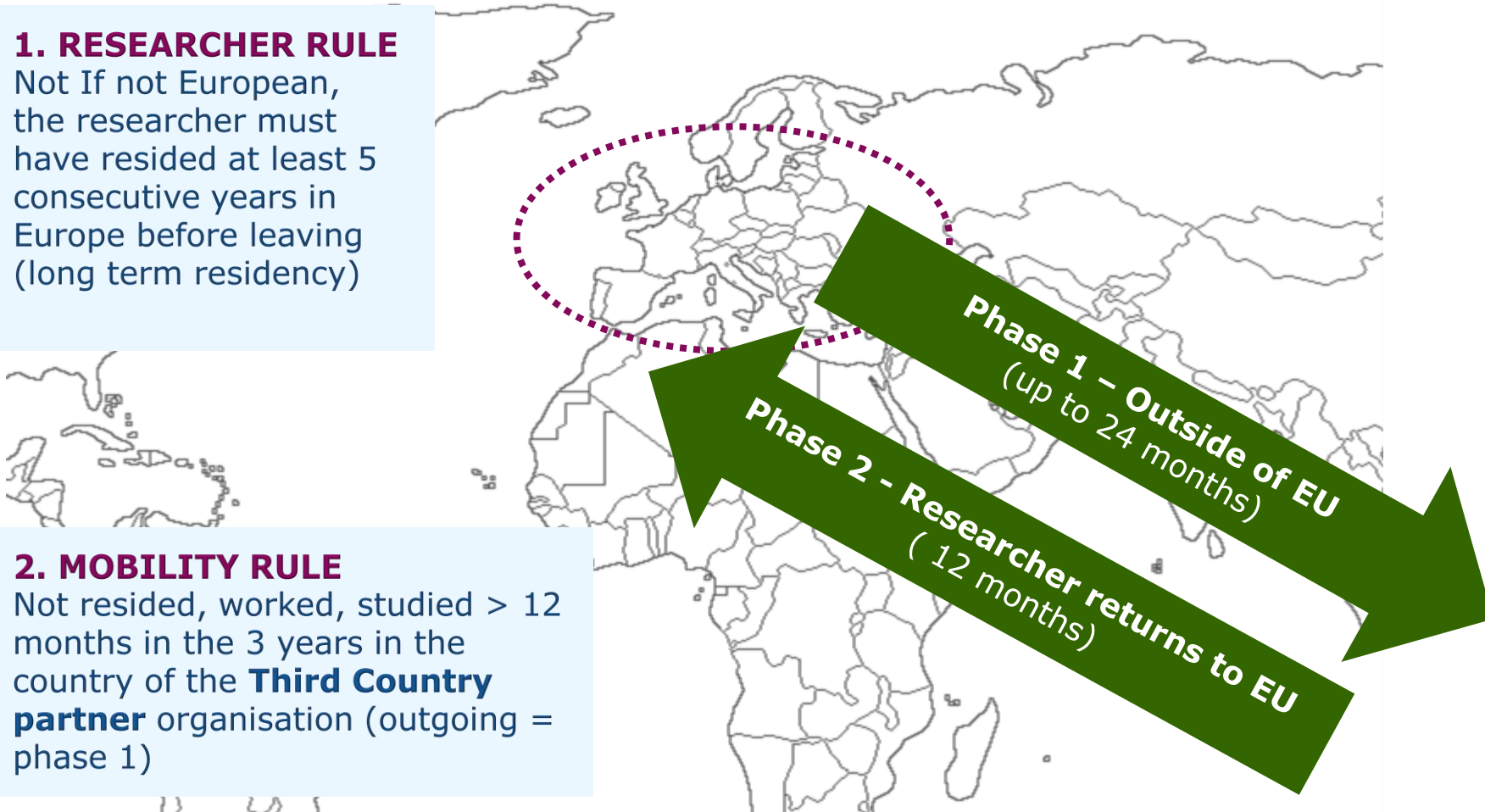
...before call deadline

1. RESEARCHER RULE

Not If not European, the researcher must have resided at least 5 consecutive years in Europe before leaving (long term residency)

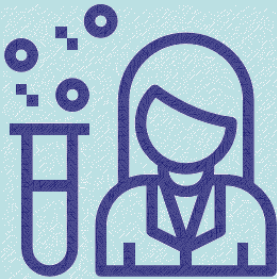
2. MOBILITY RULE

Not resided, worked, studied > 12 months in the 3 years in the country of the **Third Country partner** organisation (outgoing = phase 1)



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships : main features

Which researchers?



Postdoctoral Researchers

- Have successfully defended a PhD at the call deadline
- <8 years of research experience after the PhD



Any Nationality *

** (residency condition for nationals of non-Member States/Associated countries for Global fellowships)*

Which organisations?



Academic sector

- Higher education establishments (awarding academic degrees)
- Non-profit research organisations (primary mission research)
- International European interest organisations (e.g. CERN, EMBL)



Non-academic sector

- Any entity not included in the academic sector:
- e.g. large companies, SMEs, NGOs, museums, hospitals, international organisations (e.g. UN, WHO)

Which countries?

EU Member States (MS):

27 countries

Associated Country(AC): association agreements under negotiation (UK, Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia ...)

Third Countries (TC): any other country (only as partner organization under Global Fellowships)

- written by the **researcher** in liaison with the **host institution**
 - includes a concrete plan of **training-through-research** activities
 - executed at the **host institution's** premises
 - under the direct supervision of the **Supervisor(s)**
-

Typical MSCA PF project activities:

- **Training-through-research**: individual personalised action
- Hands-on training activities for developing **scientific** (new techniques, instruments) and **transferable skills** (proposal preparation, IPR management, task coordination, supervising & monitoring, exploitation of research results)
- Inter-sectoral or interdisciplinary **transfer of knowledge** (secondments)
- Organisation of scientific/training/dissemination **events**
- **Communication, outreach** activities
- **Training** dedicated to gender issues

Secondments worldwide

(except for the return phase of the GF)



Maximum 1/3 of the total project duration

Transfer of knowledge to contribute significantly to the impact of the fellowship

Not mandatory

Short stays are also possible



Unit contributions

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 contributions	Management and indirect contributions
	EUR 5 080	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 5 680 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit ⁵² x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

⁵² 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.

MSCA PF call 2022



Call Opening:	13 April 2022*
Call Deadline:	14 September 2022
Evaluation of proposals:	November 2022 - January 2023
Launch Grant preparation:	Early March 2023
Starting dates:	1 April 2023 - 1 September 2024

- Evaluation by independent experts : 3 evaluators and one “rapporteur” by proposal
- Award criteria : 'excellence', 'impact' and 'quality and efficiency of the implementation'
- Each criterion is scored out of 5
- Applications scoring equal to or above 70% will be considered for funding (within the limits of the available budget)



Tips to write a successful proposal

Evaluators will choose proposals based on the **Abstract**.
They will have to evaluate a fairly large number of proposals in a
fairly short time.

Be concise!
Shorter is better!

The composition of the evaluation panel :

- Balance between industry and research institutions
- Balance between different Member States

Address your proposal to a fairly broad audience!



Evaluation : ponderations

Criterion	Weight
1. Excellence	50%
2. Impact	30%
3. Implementation	20%

A common mistake: Most attention is paid to Excellence (scientific project + researcher).
But this criteria counts only 50% of the total score.

Pay equal attention to the other parts of the proposal!

Evaluation criteria

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	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts	
Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills		
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		

- **Training** is a key element in your proposal. Think it over in advance with your future supervisor and prepare a draft training program. This programme should include scientific training and training on « complementary skills », e. g. Management, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, IP etc. Ask your **host institution** for help!

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- **Transfer of knowledge** is another important criteria. It should **be two ways**.
 What can you learn from your host laboratory team?
 And vice versa – what can you teach to them?
 What will you, concretely, do to facilitate this transfer of knowledge? (workshops, laboratory seminars, specific trainings etc.)

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Weighting		

- International leadership in the field? Publications with high impact factor (Nature, Science, etc.)? Highly cited publications? Awards for research? Collaborations with top researchers in the field?

What happened to his/her previous PhD students and Postdocs?

What will be the practical arrangements for the supervision?

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Weighting

➤ What impact on your future career?

What doors will this project further open to you?

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Weighting

- **Exploitation** : further use of the project results by you and your host institution (both commercial and for research, education etc.)
- Dissemination** : transmission of the project results to the end users outside of the project (both academia and industry)
- Communication** : bring the research to the attention of the society, show its impact on our daily lives.

You should propose **targeted** draft plans for dissemination & exploitation and for communication!

- Ask for help you future supervisor and the administration (European Affairs office) of your host institution. They might have ready pieces of text for these parts.

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The redundancy problem...

Do not leave anything blank!

You could write something like...

„I have already described these activities under B1 ‚Quality of the group/supervisors‘. In brief,...“

It is important that you tell the reviewers where to find the appropriate information in the proposal!

- Take care of the deadlines
- Carefully read all call documents (Work Programme, Guide for Applicant)
- Take care of page limits
- All parts of the proposal are equally important
- Don't wait for the last moment to submit your proposal!

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Website

<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>

 [@MSCActions](https://twitter.com/MSCActions)

Participant Portal (applications, documents)

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal>

 [marie.curie.actions](https://www.facebook.com/marie.curie.actions)

French MSCA National Contact Points (NCP)

pcn-mariescurie@recherche.gouv.fr

French Portal dedicated to Horizon Europe :

<https://www.horizon-europe.gouv.fr/>

Webinar MSCA in Horizon Europe (in French) – May 26, 9h30-11h
(part of national Horizon Europe launch event)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, online info-day – May 25, 9h-12h
(part of national Horizon Europe launch event)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, Proposal Writing webinar :

- June 11 (in English)
- June 17 (in French)

More information and registration (coming soon):

<https://www.horizon-europe.gouv.fr/>