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MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships : tool for international mobility of researchers

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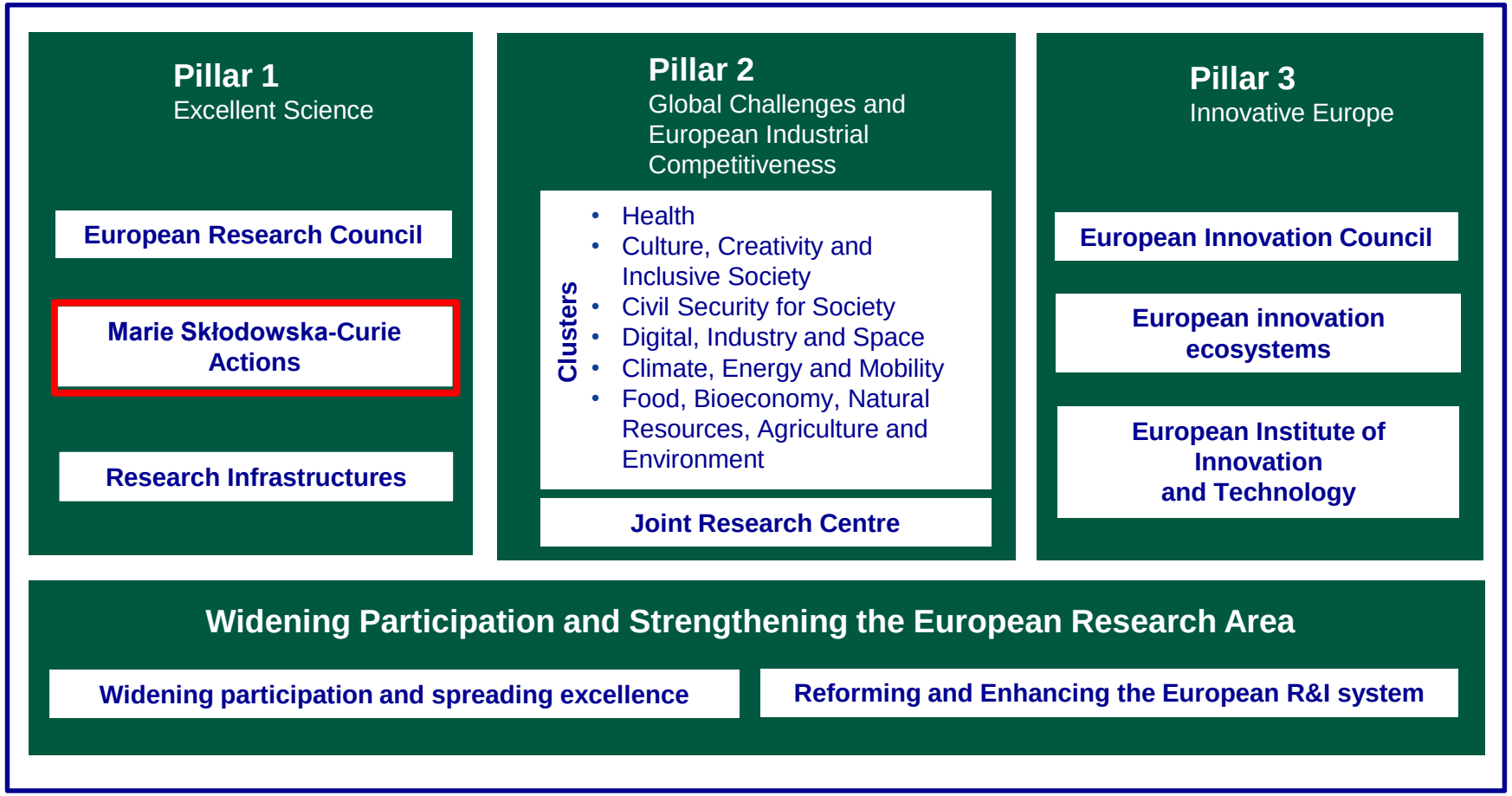
Horizon Europe structure



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

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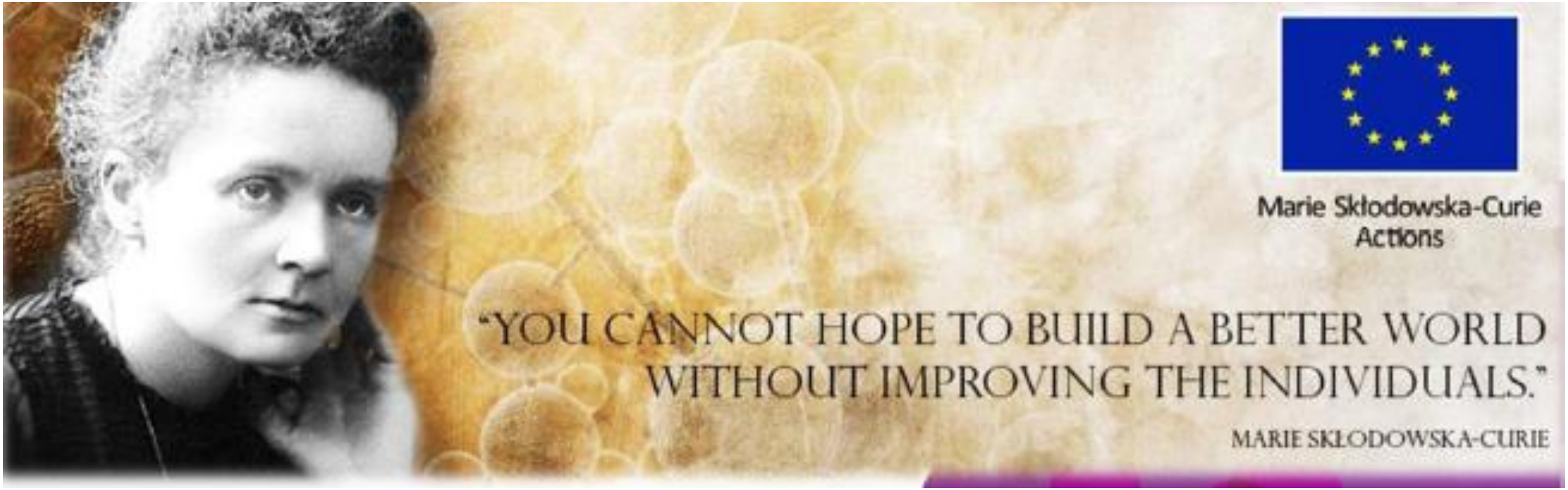

MSCA key features

- **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%)

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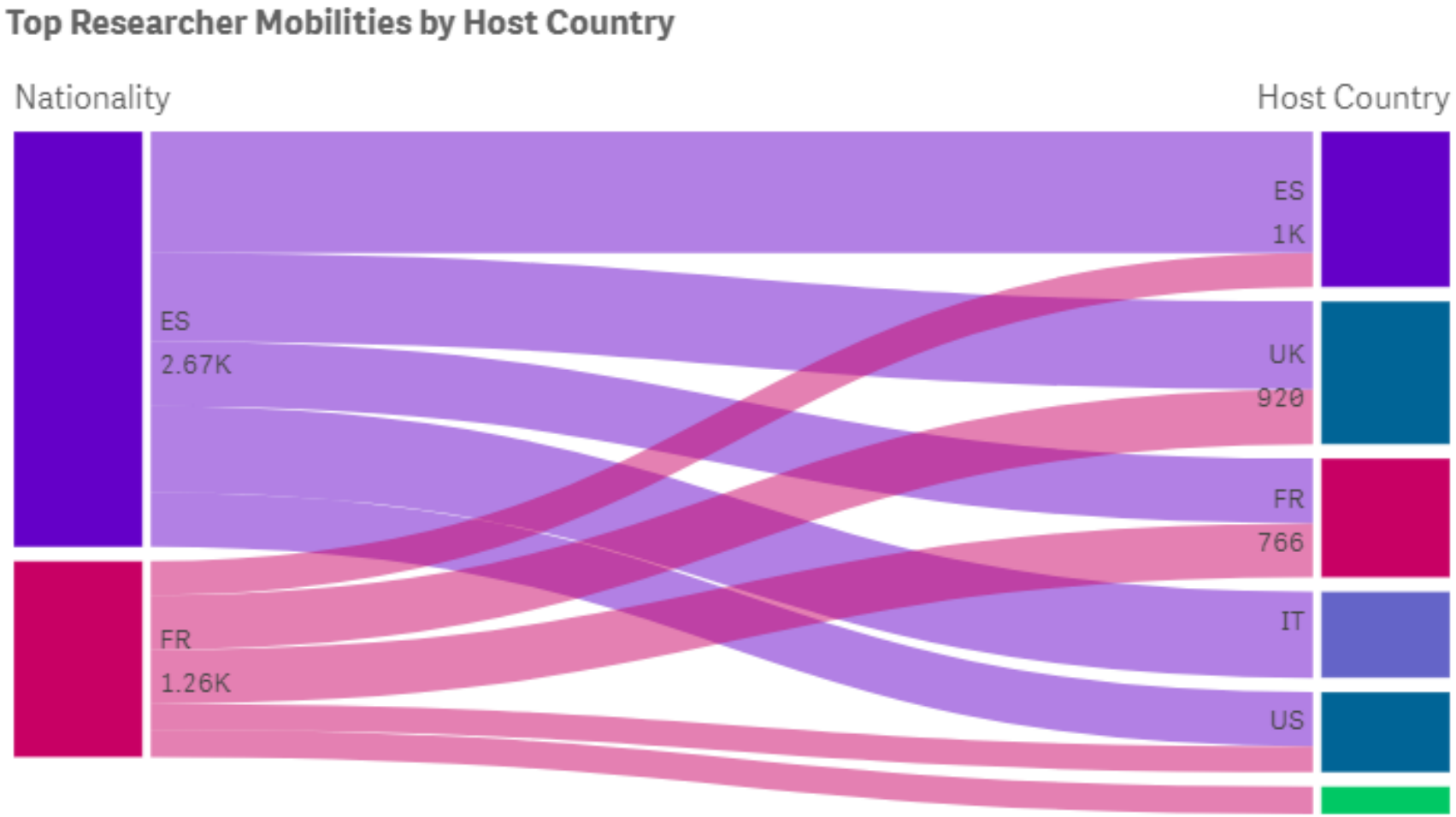
Researchers' flows between France and Spain within MSCA H2020 (1/2)



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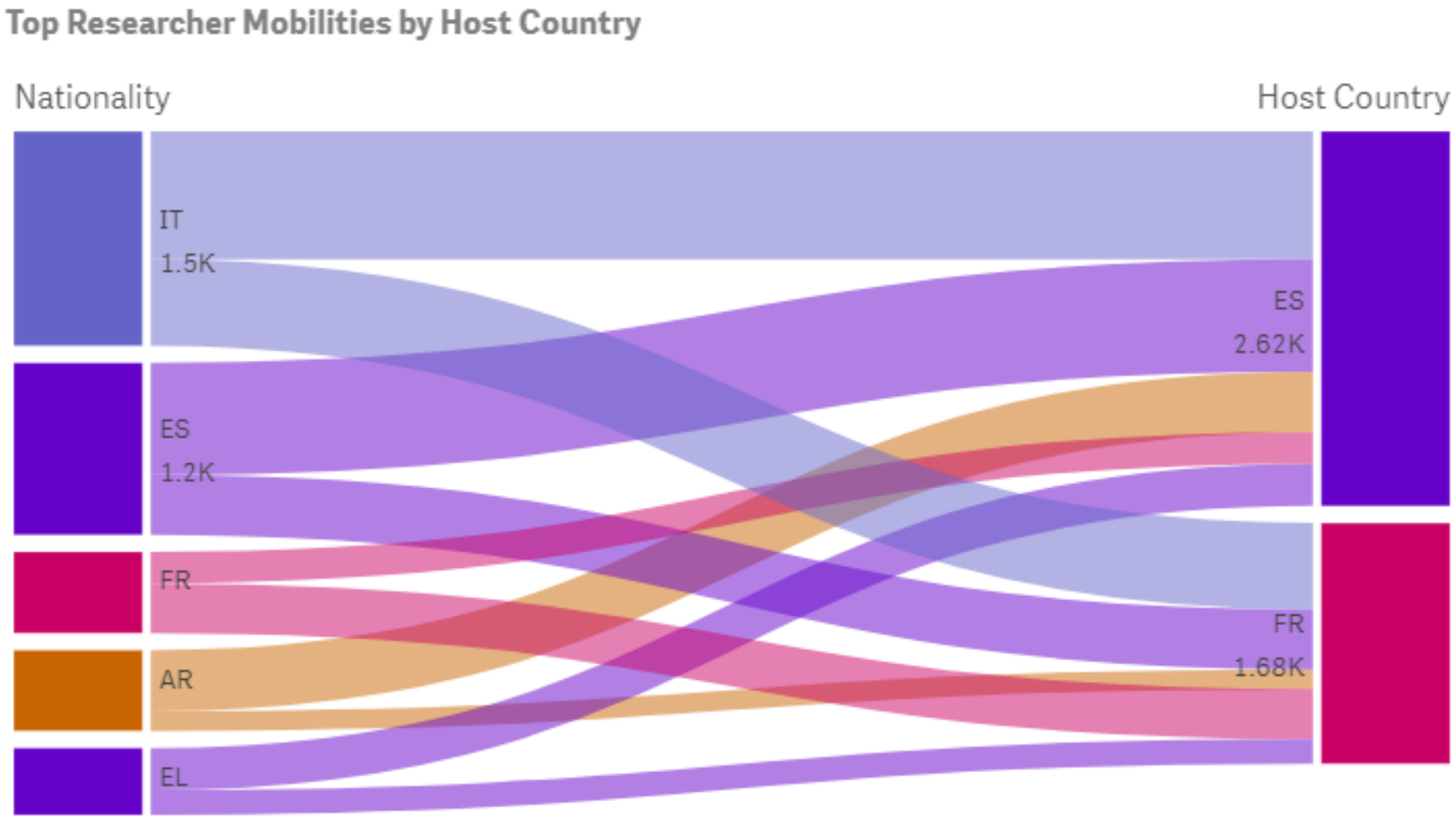
Researchers' flows between France and Spain within MSCA H2020 (2/2)



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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: main features

- **Mono-beneficiary** action (supporting individual projects)
- Support **post-doctoral research** and **careers**
- Cover **all research domains** (bottom-up approach**)**
- **8 scientific panels:** *CHE, SOC, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY*

- 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)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: main features

Two types of fellowships:

European Fellowships (EF)

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

Global Fellowships (GF)

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

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European Postdoctoral Fellowships

For fellows coming to
or
moving within Europe

12-24 months

A researcher may submit only one proposal per call

… before call deadline

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

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Global Postdoctoral Fellowships

12-24 months

12 months

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

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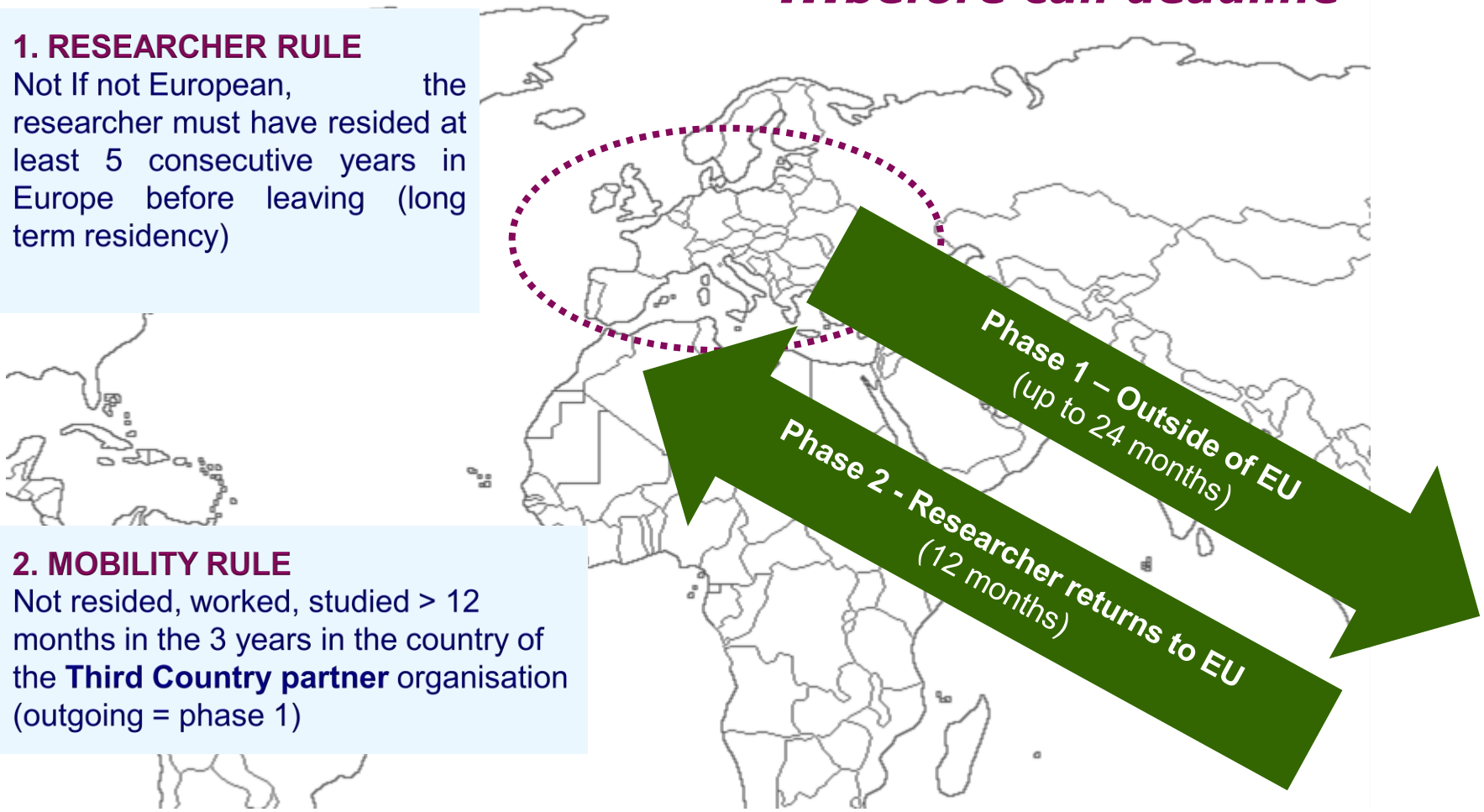
Global Postdoctoral Fellowships

…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)



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

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)*

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: main features

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)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: main features

Which countries?

EU Member States (MS):
27 countries

Associated Country(AC): Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom

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

List of participating countries in Horizon Europe :
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: funding

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.

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MSCA PF call 2024

Call Opening:	**10 April 2024**
Call Deadline:	**11 September 2024**
Evaluation of proposals:	**November 2024 - January 2025**
Launch Grant preparation:	**Early March 2025**
Starting dates:	**1 April 2025 - 1 September 2026**
Call budget :	**270,7 M€**

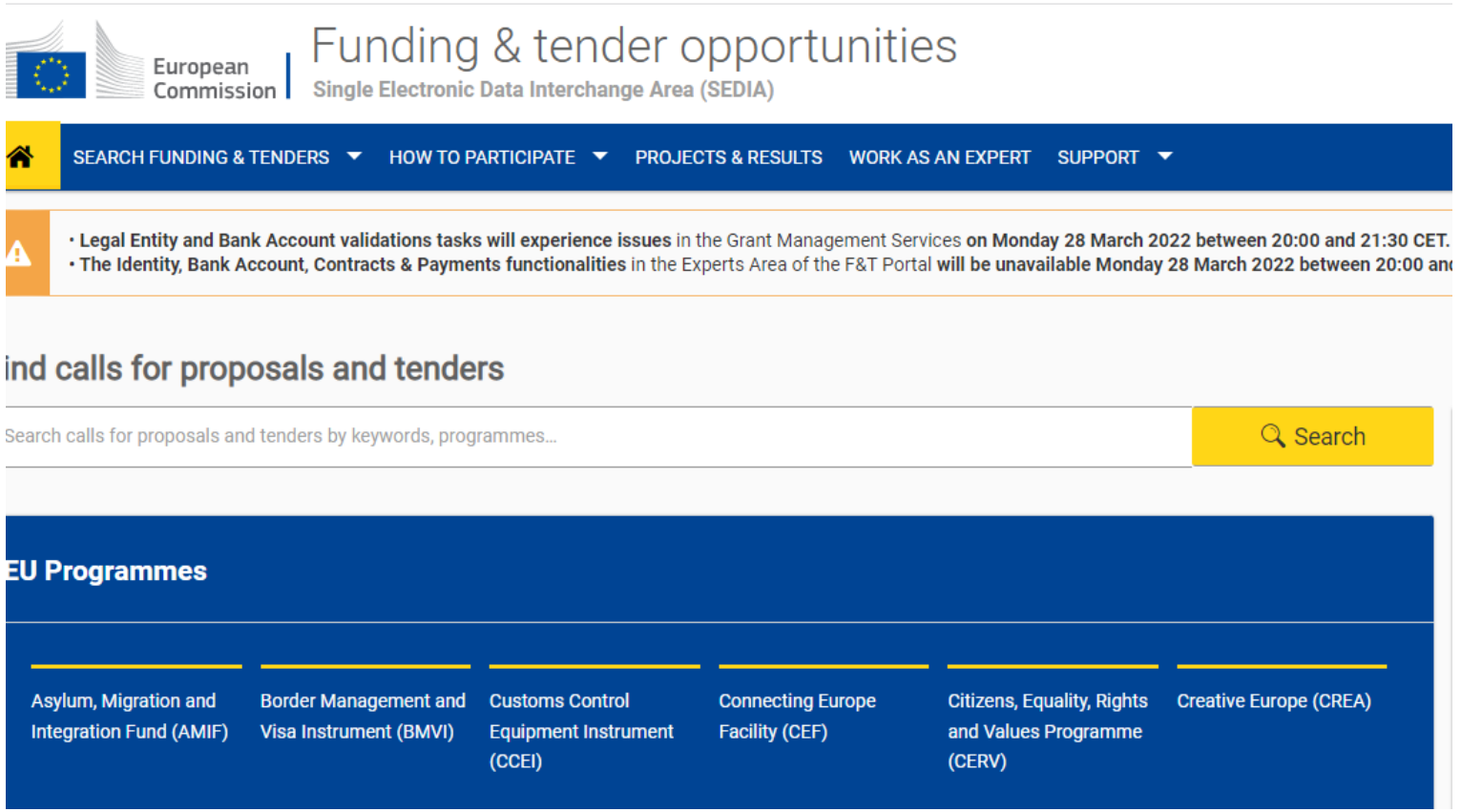
Evaluation criteria

Excellence | 50%	Impact | 30%	Implementation | 20%
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		

How to apply ?

Step 1: Calls for proposals are published on the European Commission Funding and Tenders Portal

Check your eligibility: read carefully the call text and the Guide for Applicant



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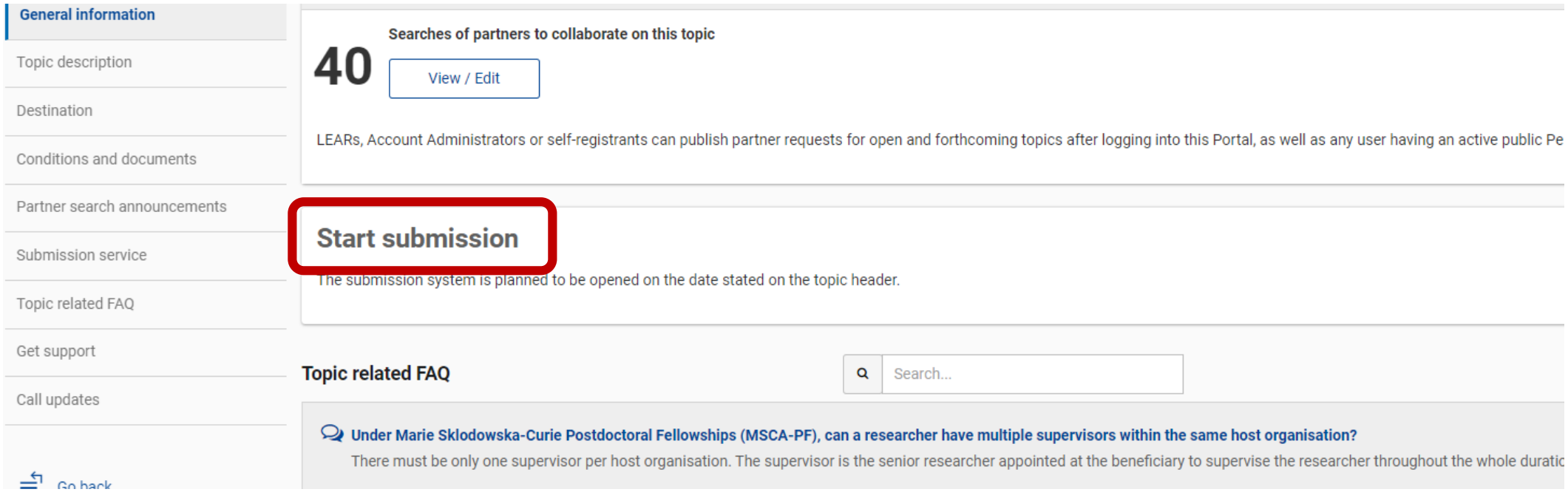
How to apply ?

Step 2: Identify your future host institution and your supervisor, and get in contact with them (both the supervisor and the grants support office)

Step 3: Register your proposal through the call page, by using the Participant Identification Code (PIC) of your future Host Institution



How to apply ?

Step 4: Download the proposal Template (Part B), write your project proposal with the support of your supervisor and your Host Institution EU Grants Office

Step 5: Fill in administrative forms online (Part A) with the support of your EU Grants Office, upload your proposal (Part B) in PDF, and submit it before the call deadline (11 September 2024)

Proposal structure

ONLINE

PART A – Administrative forms

- **General information**

Acronym, title, duration, scientific panel, « descriptors » and keywords, abstract, declarations

- **Participants**

Information concerning the beneficiary and the associated partners

- **Budget**

EU contribution calculated on the basis of person-month

- **Ethics et Security**

Ethics and security questionnaire, self-evaluation

- **Other Questions**

PDF TO SUBMIT ONLINE

PART B1 – Scientific project - 10 pages

- **Section 1 : Excellence**
- **Section 2 : Impact**
- **Section 3 : Implementation**

PDF TO SUBMIT ONLINE

PART B2 - Annexes - No page limit

- **Section 4 - CV of the researcher** (5 pages max.)
- **Section 5 - Capacity of participating organisations**
- **Section 6 - Additional information concerning ethics**
- **Section 7- Additional information concerning security**
- **Section 8 – Letters of commitment (only for Global Fellowships)**

Starting from 2023, only required from the outgoing phase host in Global Postdoctoral Fellowships.

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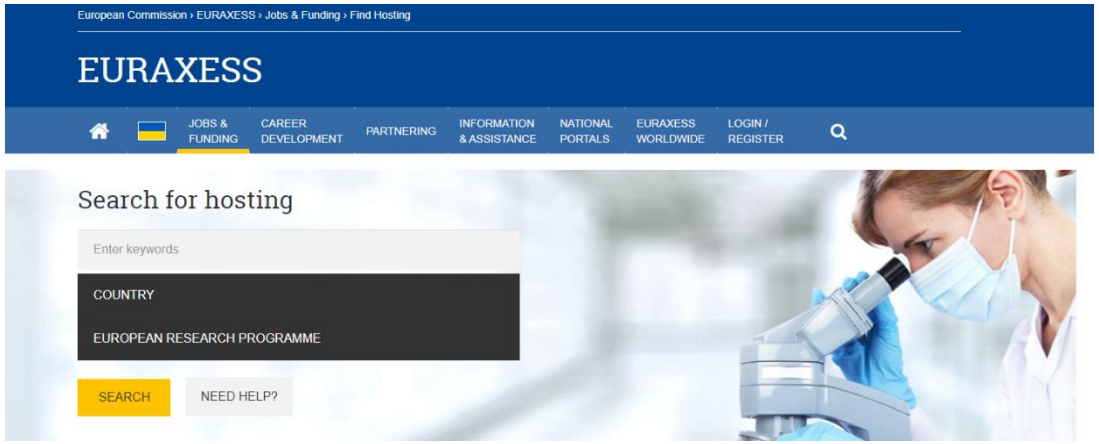
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships : How to find a host institution

Postdoctoral applicant: How to find a host institution?

- **Tip 1:** Activate your professional networks and existing collaborations
- **Tip 2:** Check publications in your research area. Who is the specialist/the lab you would like to work with?
- **Tip 3:** Search though Hosting offers on Euraxess Jobs portal : https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/hosting/search or on MSCA-NET match-making platform.



- **Tip 4:** Check Partner Search Announcements on the Funding & Tenders Portal, on the call page
- **Tip 5:** Interested by a fellowship in a private company? Check companies' profiles on the Enterprise Europe Network partner search platform : https://een.ec.europa.eu/partners?f%5B0%5D=field_country%3A298

I have identified a possible host. And now?

Contact them

- Send a short e-mail explaining who you are, your motivations and why you want to work with them and why this institution
- Specify that you want to apply with them to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (include a link to the call page)
- Attach your CV and a short summary of your project (one-page-proposal)
- Make sure you are clear in what you are asking from them

Make sure you are visible

- Make sure your research pages/web site are up-to-date
  - What you have done: current CV
  - Include all activities: demonstrate that you are the right candidate for a PF
  - Research interests: what you would like to work on in the future
- Social media: personal vs professional

PF : a tool for international cooperation

You are a Host Institution (university, research center)?

Develop your existing scientific partnerships or create new ones through :

- Hosting a research fellow from Spain in a French lab (1-2 years)
- Hosting a research fellow from France in a Spanish lab (1-2 years)

Only one proposal may be submitted by postdoctoral applicant by call.
Several proposals may be submitted by the same supervisor or Host Institution.

How to attract postdoctoral candidates ?

- Activate your professional networks (e.g. in the frame of PHC)
- Ask the French or the Portuguese Embassy for support
- If relevant, make use of short mobility to identify candidates and discuss with them their projects
- Register your Hosting offers on Euraxess : https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs
- Make sure your research pages/web sites are visible and up-to-date
- Get informed about support to applicants provided by your institution (EU Grants office) and your National Contact Point and inform your candidates of it
- Prepare the PF applications **with** your postdoctoral candidate(s)

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French Research and Innovation landscape

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Research landscape in France

- 75 public Universities
- 150 Grandes Ecoles
- 26 public research organisations (CNRS, INSERM, CEA, INRA, INRIA, IFREMER, CNES, IRD, CIRAD etc.)
- 2 private foundations (Institut Pasteur and Institut Curie)
- 295 754 researchers among which 28% are women
- 1,6M students and 71 159 PhD students
- 71 competitiveness clusters
- 2,2% of GDP dedicated to research (49,5 billion €)
- **France's population = 67,8 million**

https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/grands-chiffres-de-rd-45890
https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/fr/ou-se-fait-la-recherche-46533

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7 good reasons to choose France for your research

1. ***Excellent research*** : France takes 2nd world place for the number of Fields medals (11) and 2nd world place for Nobel prizes (65). It is the 3rd nation in Shanghai ranking (2021) and it takes the 4th world place for the impact of its scientific publications (H-index)
2. ***A country of innovation*** : France is the 2nd EU country for the number of patents
3. ***Attracting researchers from all over the world*** : with 42% of foreigners among its PhD students, France is the 3rd host country in EU for young researchers
4. ***A global network*** : French R&I institutions are set in more than 250 destinations in the world, and more than 63% of French publications are made in collaboration with foreign researchers
5. ***At the heart of international research projects*** : French research is involved in large European and international research projects : particle physics with CERN, Arianespace, ITER project on nuclear fusion etc.
6. ***Dynamic R&I ecosystem*** : 2/3 of French research is operated by the non-academic sector. 600 000 people work for R&I in enterprises.
7. ***Top level research infrastructures*** : 108 RI, including large research infrastructures are listed in the national roadmap 2021, in different areas : astronomy and astrophysics, health and life sciences, human and social sciences, physics and engineering sciences etc.

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Organisation of research and innovation in France

Academic sector

Non-academic sector

Universities

Grandes Ecoles

Large enterprises

SMEs

NGOs

Hospitals

Public Agencies

Museums

Etc.

UMR

UPR

UMR

UMR

UMR

UMR

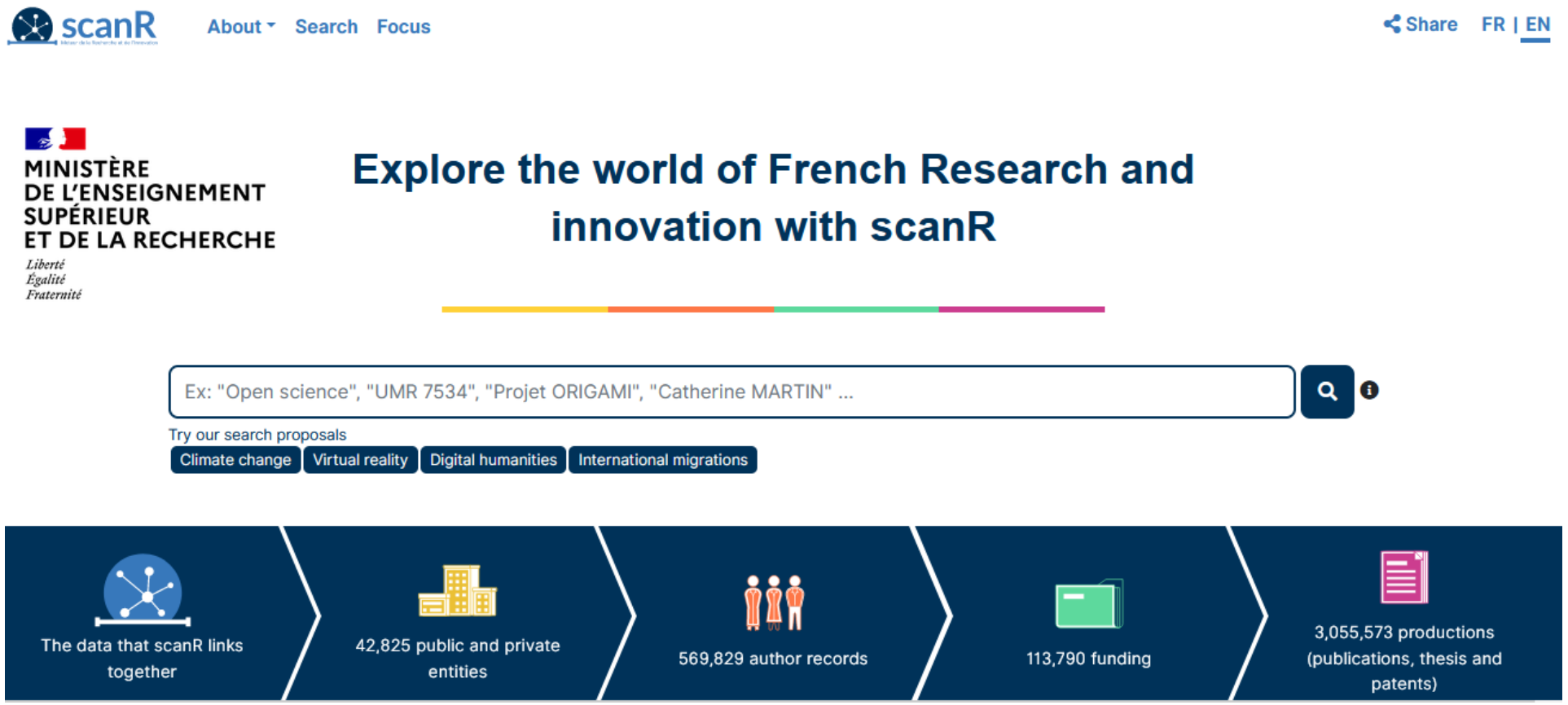
UMR

Research Units - Laboratories

ScanR: Search Engine for French Research and Innovation

https://scanr.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/

Search by keywords, publications, authors' names, projects' names, types of entity, sectors, location etc.



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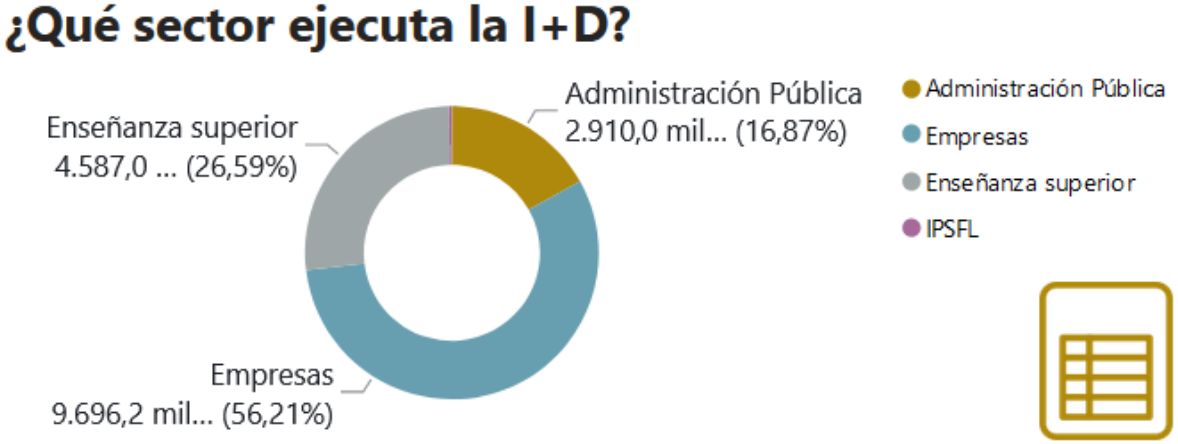
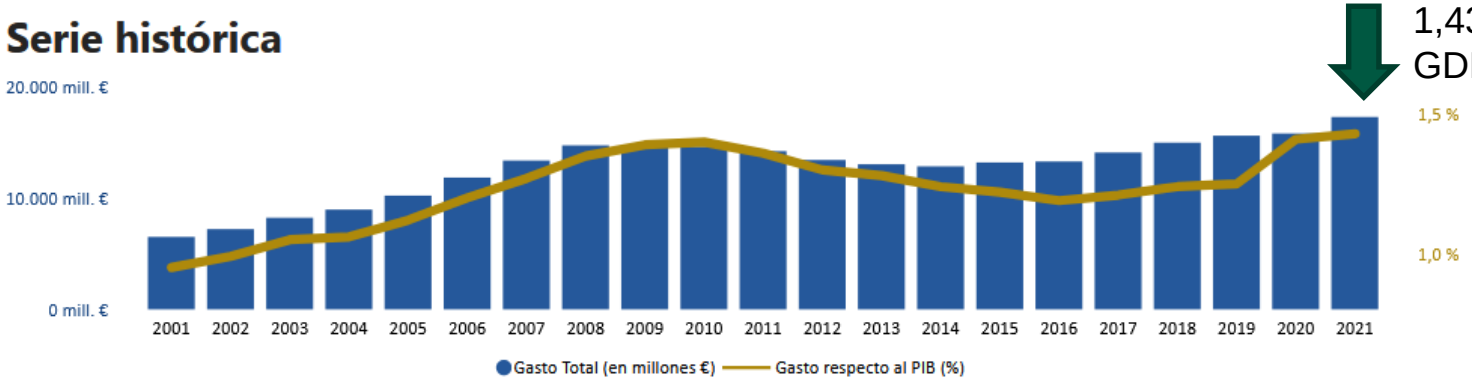
Spanish Research and Innovation landscape

Spanish R+D+I System

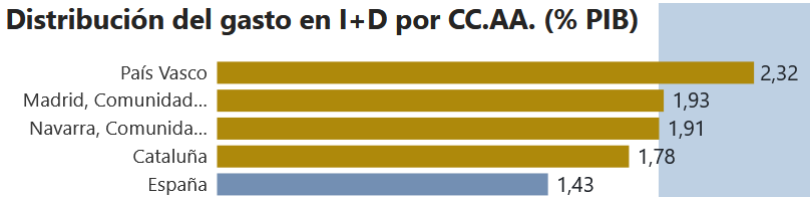


Reform of Science Law 14/11 (2022)

- Improve the professional career in the field of R&D&I providing stability
- Reduce administrative burdens
- Reinforce the transfer of knowledge
- Guarantee 1,25% of GDP Public Investment by 2030
- Measures to attract, retain and recover talent (e.g., recognition of research experience)



1,43% GDP



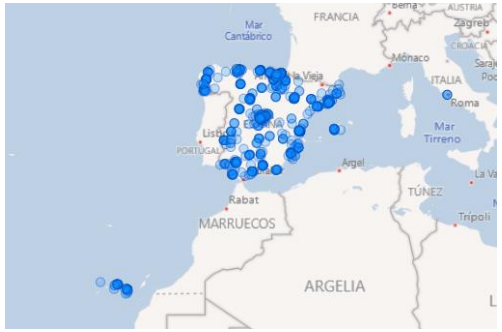
Spanish Network of R+D+I Centres

Public Research Organisms	Regional R+D Organisms	Universities	Health Research Institutes	Singular Scientific And Technical Infrastructures (ICTS)	Technological Centres	Scientific /Technological Parks	Clusters Platforms	Centres /Units of Excellence SOMMA
5	*	88	40	29	147	78	162	57

* https://www.ciencia.gob.es/en/Estrategias-y-Planes/Sistema-de-Informacion-sobre-Ciencia--Tecnologia-e-Innovacion--SICTI-/Red-Espanola-de-Centros-de-I-D-I--RECIDI-.html

SOMM EXCELLENCE ALLIANCE

https://www.somma.es/



Science in Spain

INTRODUCTION | SPANISH RESEARCH CAREER PATH | FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES | PUBLIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS & UNIVERSITIES | MSCA-COFUND PROGRAMMES IN SPAIN

Are you a researcher looking for opportunities in Spain?

Then check the following sections in this page:

- If you want to explore the different positions and working contracts in the Spanish public research and academic system
- If you want to search how to fund your career position
- If you want to understand the Spanish ecosystem of research organizations
- If you want to apply for a specific ongoing MSCA-COFUND programme

euraxess
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

Important information to understand the spanish public research career

- What are EU Research Career stages?
- Understanding positions at the public Spanish research system
- R3 Certification and reserved permanent positions
- Accreditation of positions at universities

https://www.euraxess.es/spain/science-spain

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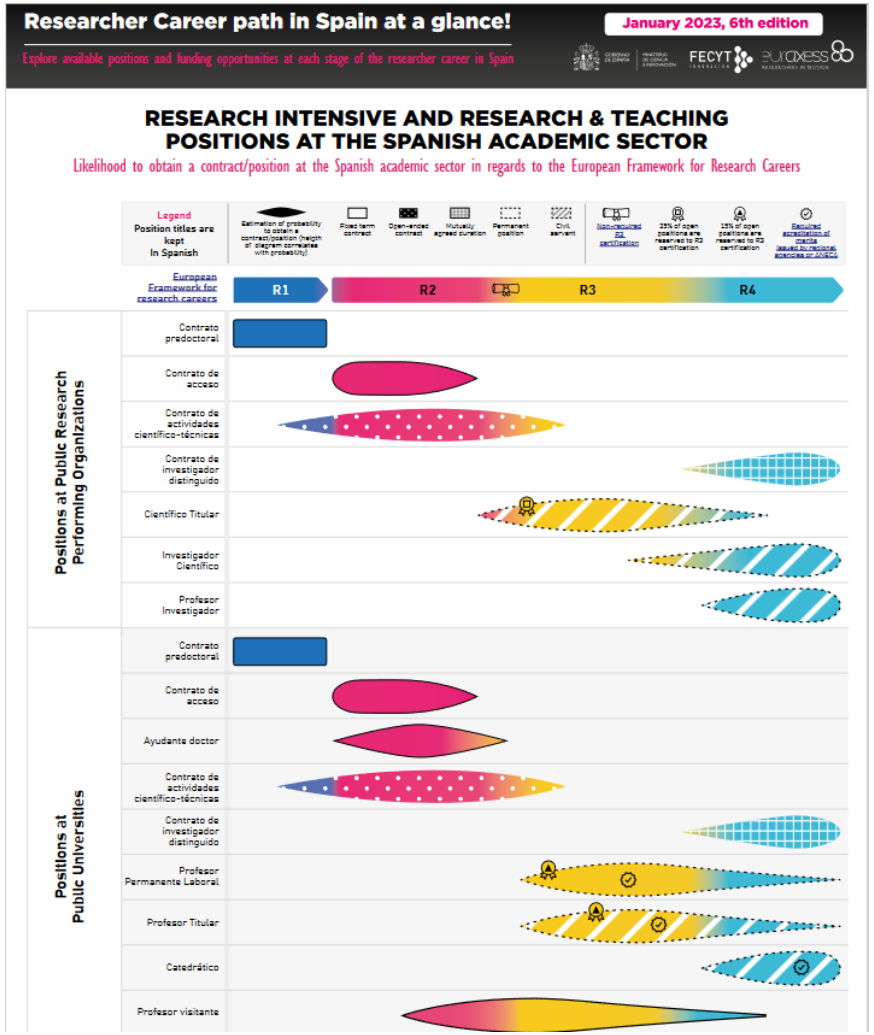
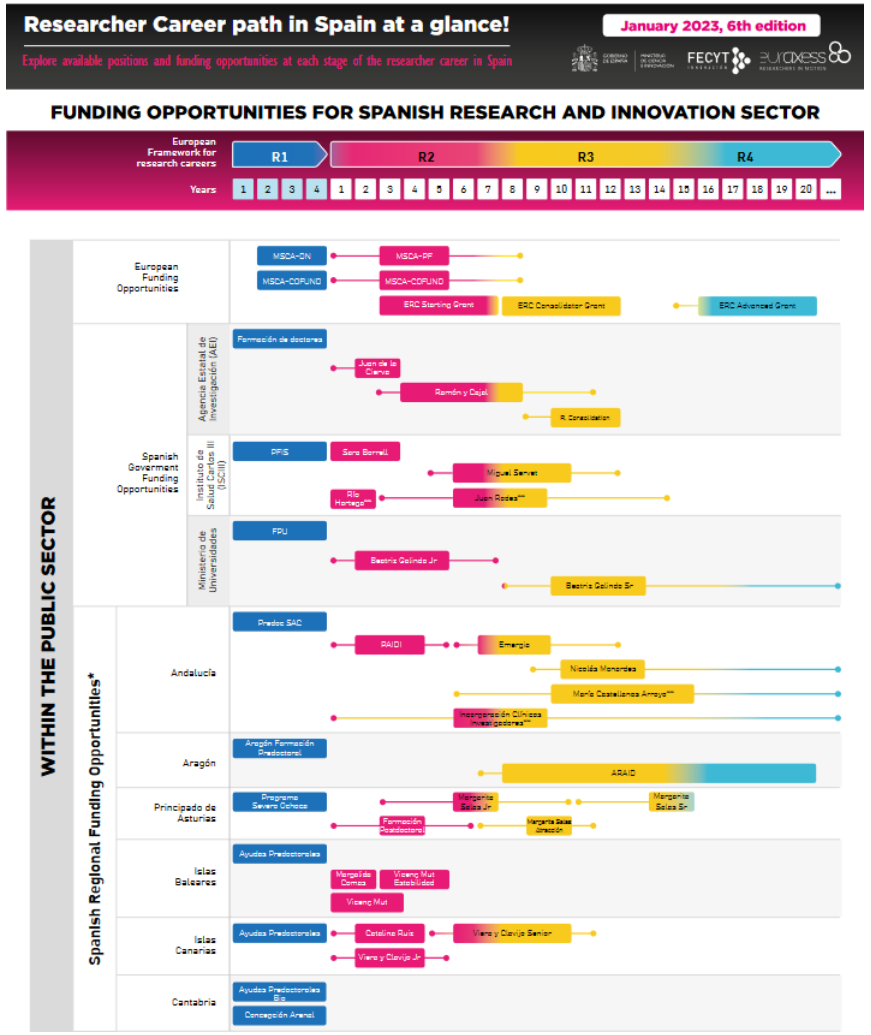
Science in Spain





Available support to applicants

- **Your Host Institution**. Most host institutions have dedicated support both on proposal preparation stage (coaching sessions, proofreading, proposal writing assistance, etc.) and on project implementation stage (reporting, feedback and assistance with project implementation, training, communication, practical aspects).
  - As soon as possible, contact the **EU Grants Office** of your future Host Institution

- **The NCP**. National Contact Points provide advices and resources to applicants and supervisors (guidelines, coaching sessions, etc.).
  - If you have questions on the programme rules or need advice on proposal writing, you can send your questions by e-mail or ask an individual online interview with the NCP

- **MSCA page** on the French national platform dedicated to Horizon Europe : https://www.horizon-europe.gouv.fr/amsc
  - Find information, resources and register for the next events organised by the NCP
- **MSCA page** on the Spanish national platform dedicated to Horizon Europe :

- **Euraxess:**
  - **France** https://www.euraxess.fr/information/centres/search/country/france-1104
  - **Spain** https://www.euraxess.es/information/centres/search?f%5B0%5D=country%3A788
  - Information on visa, accommodation, health insurance and other practical aspects on life the country

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French portal dedicated to Horizon Europe :

www.horizon-europe.gouv.fr

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Jesús Rojo

Fundación Madri+d