

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



30
years

*Curiosity that changes
the world*





MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026

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European Research Executive Agency (REA)

9/04/2026



Content

1. **MSCA and the Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)**
2. Submitting a proposal; common errors / frequent mistakes; the evaluation process
3. Q&A

The MSCA in Horizon Europe



Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research
Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

Research Infrastructures



Pillar II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre



Pillar III INNOVATIVE EUROPE

European Innovation Council

European Innovation
Ecosystems

European Institute of
Innovation & Technology

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading
excellence

Reforming & enhancing the European R&I
system

The MSCA in Horizon Europe

Doctoral Networks

Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Nights)

Total indicative budget 2021-2027: €6.6 billion

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Indicative budget (2026): **€ 399.05 m** (€ 339.19 m for European, € 59.86 m for Global)
Call opening: **09 April 2025**
Call deadline: **09 September 2026**

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships aim to enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD, who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.

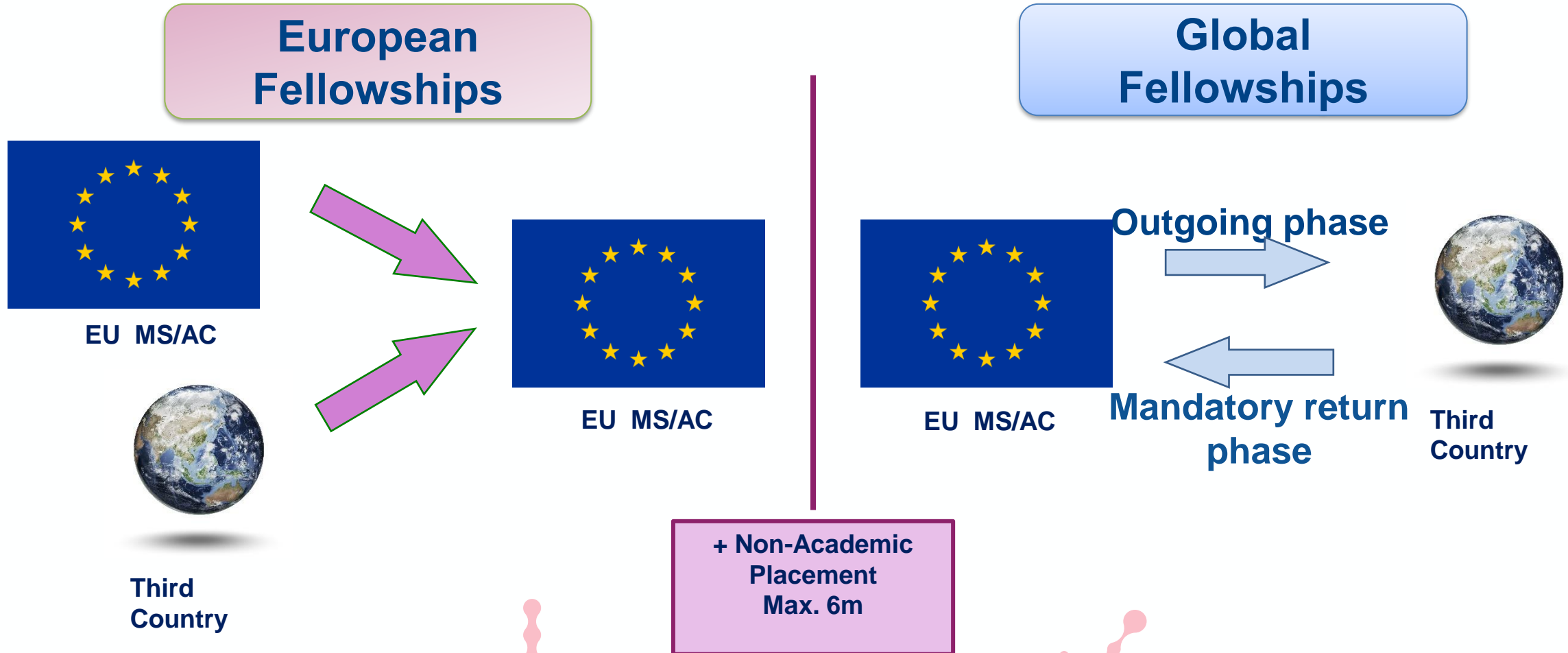
Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF): Objectives

Main Objectives

- Increased set of **research** and **transferable skills** and competences for researchers, leading to improved employability and **career prospects** 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
- Increased **alignment of working conditions** for researchers, including 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.

new

European vs Global Fellowships



Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF): Conditions

Participating organisations*

- A single, independent organisation in a EU Member State or HE Associated Country

Researchers

- in possession of PhD at the call deadline (or with a successful unconditional viva prior to call deadline)
- For a European Fellowship: of any nationality | for a Global Fellowship: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC*
- with up to 8 years research experience after PhD (with exceptions: career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers,...)
- mobility rule: not have resided or have had main activity in the country of the beneficiary (or TC host organisation for GF) more than 12 months 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*

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF): Conditions

Duration

- European Fellowships: 12-24 months
- Global Fellowships: 24-36 months (12 to 24-month outgoing phase in a third country*, followed by a 12-month mandatory return phase in Europe)

change

Secondments can be undertaken worldwide, in any sector; for up to **HALF** (1/2) of the total duration* (for EF) or up to **HALF** (1/2) of the outgoing phase (for GF)**.

* *excluding from the duration of the action any additional period for a NAP*

** *no secondments during the return phase of a GF*

Optional additional placement* in the non-academic sector, in an EU MS or HE AC country; for up to six months, taking place at the end of the fellowship (i.e. *after* the standard duration). A NAP should be part of the proposal and will be evaluated.

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF): Conditions

new

Training activities

Such activities 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, when applicable innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as good scientific conduct such as research integrity.

change

Resubmissions

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 2025 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, and having received a score of less than **80%** must not be resubmitted in the 2026 call.

All submitted proposals are checked, and if needed, be declared **ineligible**.

Budget

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	Contributions for the recruited researcher					Institutional unit contributions	
	Per person-month					Per person month	
2026	Living Allowance * updated	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
	€6 350	€710	€660	€7 600 x % covered by beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	€1 000	€650

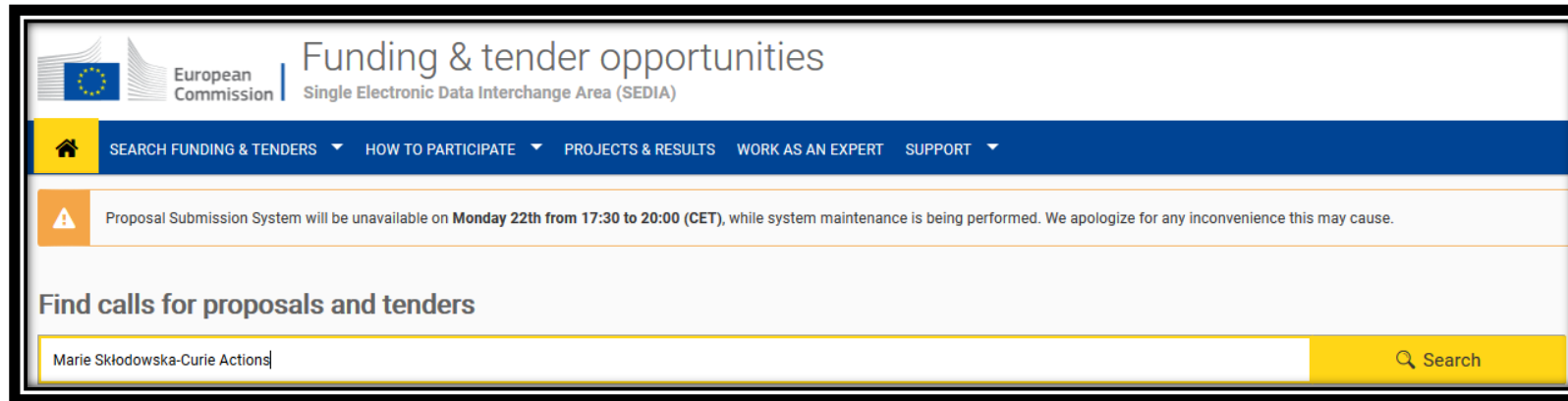
*corrected by a country correction coefficient

Details available in [WP2026-2027](#)

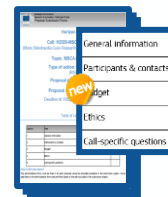
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Proposal Submission



Part A
(Application Forms)



Part B
(Technical Description - PDF)



**Use the
correct &
current
proposal
template for
the call**

*Using a template from another
action or call year could affect
the evaluation of your proposal !*



Part A - Application Forms

General Information

- Acronym and title for the project (the title is not the same as the acronym)
- The scientific area which is the best fit for the proposal (8 areas available)
- Up to 5 MSCA descriptors (=keywords) which best characterise the content of the proposal, in descending order of relevance
 - First 3 descriptors are mandatory
 - First 2 descriptors are linked to selected panel, other descriptors can come from other panel(s)
- Free keywords (optional; if needed or applicable to your proposal)
- Abstract: maximum 2,000 characters
- Resubmission info

Part A - Application Forms

Beneficiary Information (Participants)

- Participant Information Code (PIC) of main beneficiary
- Participant Information Code (PIC) of outgoing host (for GF only)
- Participant Information Code (PIC) of non-academic placement host (if applicable)
- Indicate if a secondment is planned, but outline this only in Part B (no PIC needed)

Researcher Information

- Personal details
- PhD award date (or date of successful defence)
 - If PhD awarded more than 8 years ago, complete the table for extensions to this period (be precise & ensure this is reflected in the CV)
- Countries of residence for past 5 years

Part A - Application Forms

Budget table

- Insert the project duration, incl. for any NAP period and GF outgoing phase (if applicable)
- Complete the information on the host country/ies
- Indicate whether a family allowance applies

Other data to complete

- Supervisor information
- Publications, achievements, datasets, infrastructure, ... relevant to the call content
- Information on the Gender Equality Plan
- Ethics & Security self-assessment - Guidance is available [online](#)
- Other questions related to eligibility
- Other questions related to communication & disclosure of results

Part B – PDF

core of the proposal

Part B of the Proposal consists of *two documents* (**Part B1** and **Part B2**), uploaded as separate PDF files. Ensure the correct document is uploaded in the correct space.

Part B1

- Technical description of the scientific work
- **Strict limit of 10 pages** (excess pages will not be visible to evaluators)
- **Minimum font size 11 points**, with standard spacing and a minimum of single line spacing. This applies to body text, including any text in tables
- Use the **Part B template** available on the MSCA-PF Call page and structure your proposal accordingly

Part B – PDF

core of the proposal

Part B2 (no formal page limit, but follow recommendations in the template)

- CV of the Researcher (ca. 5 pages)
- Capacity of the Participating Organisations (max 1 page per organisation)
- Letter of Commitment (for Global Fellowships) : from the future outgoing host organisation in the third country, in support of the researcher and the proposed project



Refer to the **Part B template** on the MSCA-PF 2026 call page for full information

common errors in proposals

- Missing the Call deadline
- Submitting under a wrong type of action
- Mixing up host organisation, third country host, and current organisation
- Not providing all required basic information for the proposal
- Not respecting eligibility requirements (e.g. PhD or max 8 years research experience)
- **Exceeding the page limit for the part B1**
- Missing Letter of Commitment (Global Fellowships)
- Confusing Secondments and Non-Academic Placements
- Requesting an ineligible Non-Academic Placement or secondment
- **Using a smaller-than-allowed font**

MSCA-PF Evaluation Process

Large-Scale Evaluation

Due to large number of proposals

Standard Peer-Review

≥ 3 experts per proposal

Bottom-up Programme

Proposals and Experts from all disciplines

Expert Balance

of experience, nationality, gender, age, sector, etc.

8 Scientific Panels

CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC

Single-Stage Evaluation

MSCA-PF Evaluation Process

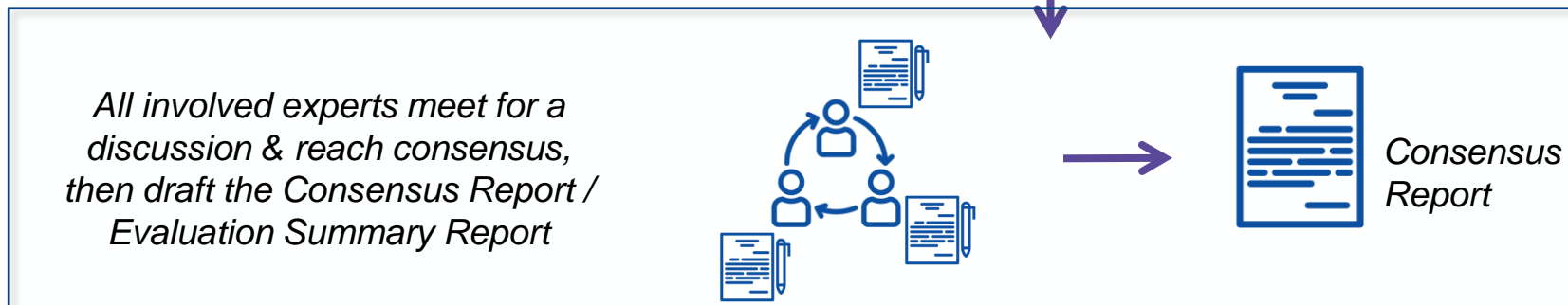


YOUR PROPOSAL

Proposals are in part assigned to experts based on your chosen descriptors and keywords => be precise in your selection!



Experts assigned: minimum 3, and up to 5



YOUR RESULT



Evaluation and Award 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 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 <i>interdisciplinary</i> approaches, consideration of the <i>gender</i> dimension and other <i>diversity</i> aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of <i>open science</i> 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%

Proposal Ranking

Proposals are evaluated within **one of eight main scientific panels** (CHE, SOC, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY)

Each panel creates two separate ranked lists: one for European Postdoctoral Fellowships, and one Global Postdoctoral Fellowships

- European and Global Fellowships have **separate budgets**. Funding per panel is distributed proportionally to the number of eligible proposals received.
- **Within each ranking list, proposals can be funded strictly according to their ranking until the allocated budget is used.**
- In case of equal scores, predefined criteria are applied to establish priority (e.g. Excellence score, Impact, and additional balancing measures).
- Proposals scoring 85% or higher but not funded due to budget limits receive a Seal of Excellence.

Evaluation Review procedure – applies in case of evaluation errors – does NOT apply in case of disagreement with expert opinion (i.e. NOT a rebuttal mechanism).

Call Planning

<i>Call Opening:</i>	09 April 2026
<i>Call Deadline:</i>	09 September 2026
<i>Evaluation period:</i>	Oct 2026 – Jan 2027
<i>Outcome made available:</i>	Feb 2027 (indicative)
<i>Project starting dates:</i>	Mar/Apr 2027 - Sept 2028

Resources and Guidance

[Funding & Tenders Portal - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships – call page](#)

The [European Research Executive Agency \(REA\)](#) publishes a series of essential resources for any applicant:

- The **guide for applicants** is the best starting point for any researcher interested in the scheme
- The **“Common mistakes in MSCA-PF proposal submissions”** guide
- A **self-assessment tool** and **guidelines on the calculation of 8-years research experience in Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe**
- Proposal templates, evaluation guidelines used by experts and many other resources

[MSCA Work Programme](#)

[Proposal templates](#)

[FAQs](#)

The [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#) : guidance on specific aspects being evaluated

Evaluators' briefing videos, including on [how to evaluate Open Science in Horizon Europe proposals](#), [how to evaluate dissemination, exploitation, and communication](#), [how to evaluate strategy for intellectual property management](#)

[MSCA Website](#)

[Research Enquiry Service](#)

[National Contact Points](#)

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Thank you



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