



#InvestEUresearch

Horizon 2020 Work Programme for Research & Innovation 2018-2020

MSCA applications & ERC Session 10

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Research and
Innovation

Session overview

1. Overview of MSCA, including funding lines
2. ERC Grants



1. Overview of MSCA



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Key features



All domains of
**RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION**



European
Commission



European
Commission

What do Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) offer?

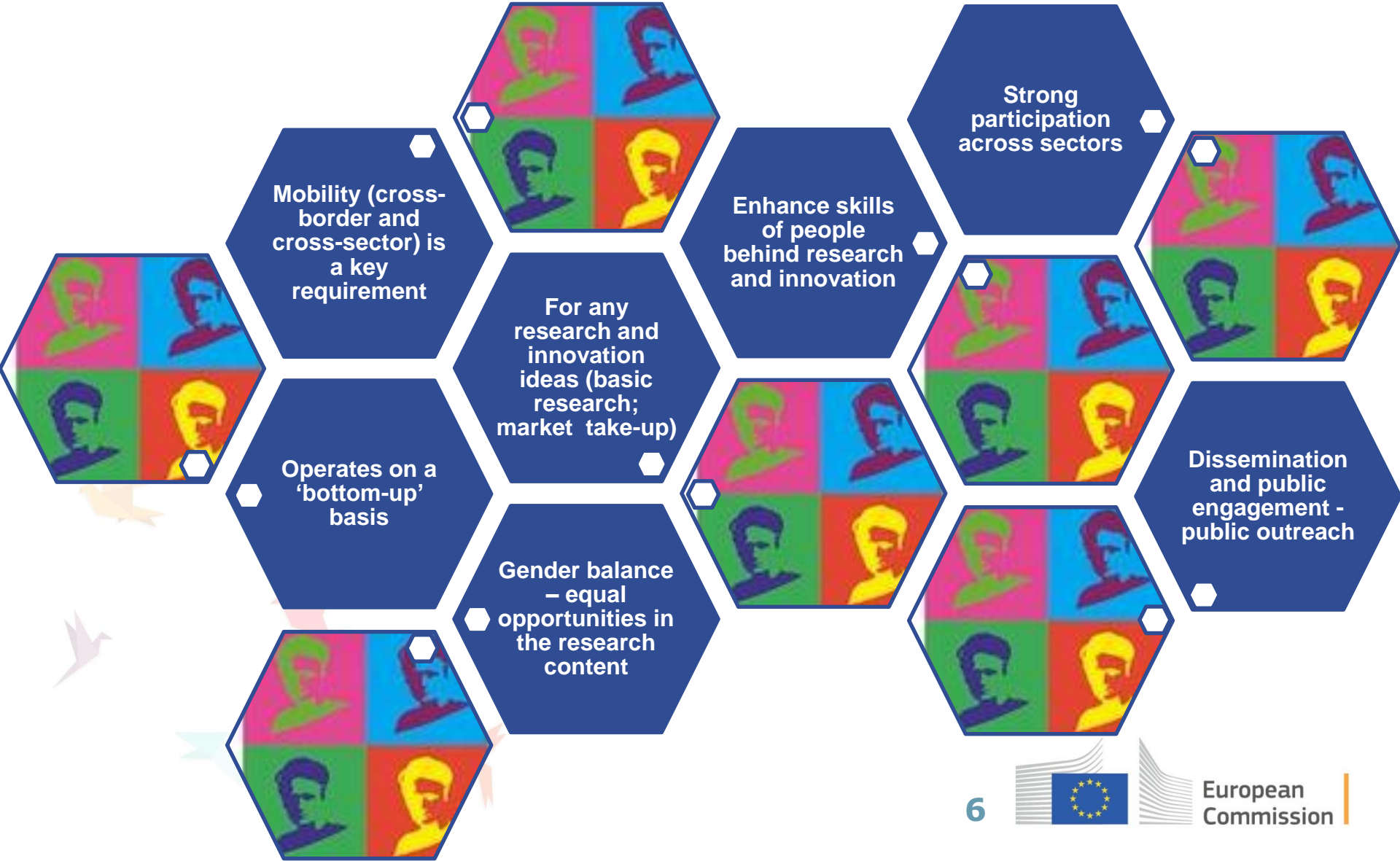
- Opportunities for training and career development
- **Mobility of researchers is mandatory**

MSCA principles:

- Open to all career stages and nationalities
- Bottom-up approach
- International, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary career and knowledge-exchange

Excellent
Science

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



MSCA: Scope of activities

Innovative Training Networks	ITN	International and interdisciplinary consortia for doctoral and early-stage research training Ca. 6-7% success rate (2018)
Individual Fellowships	IF	Grants for post-doctoral researchers undertaking international and inter-sector mobility Dedicated support for career restart and reintegration of researchers Ca. 12-15% success rate (2018)
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange	RISE	International and inter-sector cooperation and transfer of knowledge through the exchange of staff Ca. 21-27% success rate (2018)
Co-funding of programmes	COFUND	Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes Ca. 13% success rate (2017)
Policy support actions	NIGHT NCP	European Researchers' Night (NIGHT) NCP support

MSCA funding lines

Individual Fellowships (IF):

- Supporting experienced researchers of any nationality to do research in Europe for 12-24 months
- Host institutions: from academia or industry
- Demonstration of outreach/impact very important

Innovative Training Networks (ITN):

- Networks of organisations offering research and training to early-stage researchers

Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE):

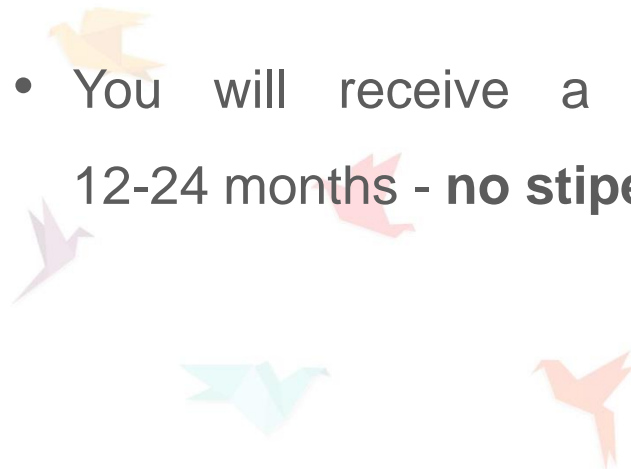
- International and *inter-sectoral* cooperation

IF: Individual Fellowships (European Fellowship)



As an **experienced researcher (postdoc)** of any nationality you can apply with your individual research project to be conducted at a European organisation

- An individual fellowship provides tailored training for your career in research
- You will receive a work contract including social security for 12-24 months - **no stipends/scholarships**



IF: Individual Fellowships (Global Fellowships)



- One to two-year research stay outside of Europe (→ mobility rule), mandatory one-year return phase in Europe (MS/AC)
- **Experienced researchers with MS/AC nationality or MS/AC long-term residence** (at least five consecutive years)
- Two host institutions:
 - in a third country (partner organisation)
 - in MS/AC (return phase),
contractual partner of the EU (employer for the whole time)

IF: Individual Fellowships



Submission and evaluation in eight scientific panels:

- Chemistry (CHE)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
- Environmental and Geosciences (ENV)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Physics (PHY)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)

IF: Individual Fellowships (Secondments)

- Optional secondment phase in **MS/AC**, preferably *intersectoral*
- Dividable into several shorter stays
- Significant contribution to the fellowship's impact
- To be justified in the proposal
- 2014/15: only 33% of successful applications included a secondment

Fellowship duration

≤ 18 month

> 18 month

Secondment duration

≤ 3 month

≤ 6 month

ITN: Innovative Training Networks



- As an early-stage researcher (ESR) you can participate in existing joint research training or doctoral programmes of international networks in Europe
- As a network of organisations you can apply for funding within the following funding schemes:

ETN

**European
Training
Networks**

*Participants implement
a joint research
programme*

EID

**European
Industrial
Doctorates**

*Doctoral programme
with the non-academic
sector*

EJD

**European
Joint
Doctorates**

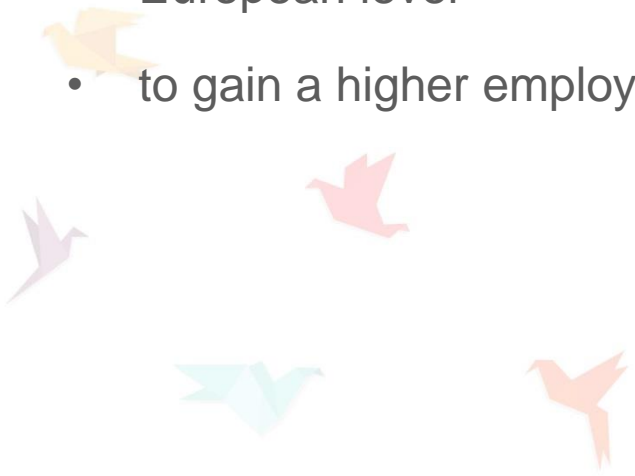
*Doctoral programme to
deliver joint degrees*

ITN - General information and definitions

- No pre-defined research topics ("**bottom-up**")
- Funding of all scientific disciplines
- Transnational mobility of recruited ESR is the key
- *Participation of the non-academic sector is considered essential*
- Generally **full-time employment contract** including social security – **no stipends/scholarships**

ITN Objectives

- to conduct first-class research → **excellent research** is the most important feature of any ITN
- to train a new generation of **creative, entrepreneurial and innovative researchers**
- to contribute to structuring doctoral/early-stage research training at the European level
- to gain a higher employability in both sectors (academic/non-academic)



Duration and Budget of ITN

- Duration of an ITN: max. 4 years
- Budget allocation: not more than 40% of the budget allocated to one single Member State/Associated Country (exception: EID with only 2 beneficiaries)
- Funding for ESR: 3-36 months (in ETN), 36 months in EID and EJD
- Max. amount of person months: 540 → 15 ESR for 36 months each (exception: EID with only 2 beneficiaries: max. amount 180 months → 5 ESR for 36 months each)

RISE: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange



- As a university, research centre or company you can conduct short term staff exchanges within a joint research project.
- Staff (research or technical) of **any nationality** can participate.
- Sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market through trans-border and inter-sectoral collaboration with Europe.
- Promoting international and inter-sectoral collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges
- Transfer of knowledge from research to market and vice versa
- Fostering a shared culture of research and innovation

RISE: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange



Conditions:

- At least 3 entities from 3 different countries out of which 2 should come from the EU
- Staff should be engaged in or linked to research and innovation activities for at least one month prior to the secondment
- Duration of the action: Up to 4 years
- Costs covered: Secondment of staff members for one month up to one year
- Must be reintegrated after secondment (no defined mechanism)

Openings and deadlines under WP 2018-2020

Funding scheme	Publication	Budget	Deadline
ITN 20	12.10.2019	525 Mio. €	09.01.2020
RISE 20	05.12.2019	80 Mio. €	07.04.2020
IF 20	08.04.2020	325 Mio. €	09.09.2020
COFUND 20	08.04.2020	100 Mio. €	29.09.2020



2. ERC grants



Four ERC main funding lines



European Research Council

- 
- Starting Grant (StG)
 - Consolidator Grant (CoG)
 - Advanced Grant (AdG)
 - Synergy Grant (SyG)
 - Very competitive!
 - Funding success rates typically around 9-13%



What does the European Research Council (ERC) offer?



European Research Council

- For **excellent** researchers wishing to conduct their **groundbreaking** research in Europe – excellence driven projects
- No thematic priorities → bottom-up approach
- Investigator-driven

More than 500 grants to non-EU/AC Principal Investigators

ERC Principles:

- 1 Principal Investigator and team
- 1 Host institution in the EU/country associated to Horizon 2020
- 1 Selection criterion: **EXCELLENCE**
- At least 50% of the research has to be done in EU/associated countries
- Project duration: Up to 5 years

Four ERC main funding lines



Starting Grant:

Early career top researchers, 2-7 years after PhD | € 2 mio.

Consolidator Grant:

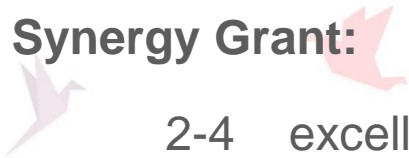
Top researchers, 7-12 years after PhD | €2.75 mio.

Advanced Grant:



Senior researchers with significant research achievements | €3.5 mio.

Synergy Grant:



2-4 excellent researchers and their teams, researchers with complementary skills, knowledge and resources, project duration max. 6 years | €14 mio.



Starting and Consolidator Grants: eligibility

- 2-7 or 7-12 years after first PhD - strict
- Date on PhD certificate → 1 January of Call year
- Certain career breaks accepted
 - Maternity leave: 18 months per child or exact number of days taken
 - paternity leave: exact number of days taken
 - military/civil service after PhD
 - long-term illness of the PI or a close family member after PhD (>90 days)
 - clinical training after PhD

Specific Rules
for Medical
Doctors

Profile of Principle Investigator (PI)

- Promising CV and *Track Record*
- At least one (Starting) or several (Consolidator) important publications *without* PhD supervisor
- Starting: At least 50% of working time on the ERC project
- Consolidator: At least 40% of working time on the ERC project
- Advanced: At least 30% of working time on the ERC project

- All: At least 50% of working time in Europe

Bottom-Up

- All fields of science, all topics
- 3 scientific domains:
 - Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE)
 - Life Sciences (LS)
 - Social Sciences and Humanities (SH)
- In total 25 Panels with high-class scientists that evaluate your proposal – assisted by remote specialists

Funding

Direct Costs– 100%

- (partly) Salary of the PI
- Salaries for PostDocs, PhD Students, Technicians etc.
- Consumables
- Equipment Costs
- Travel Costs
- Publication Costs
- Subcontracts
- Other

+ **25% Overhead** (to cover indirect costs)

Calculate the budget together with your European host institution!

What is evaluated?

1. Excellence of the research project

- Ground-breaking nature and potential impact
 - Address important challenges
 - Objectives ambitious & beyond the state of the art
 - High risk / high gain
- Scientific approach
 - Feasibility
 - Research methodology appropriate to achieve goals
 - Development of novel methodology?
 - Timescales & resources necessary & properly justified?

ESR (Evaluation Summary Report):

"The panel considers that the project, though interesting and of good quality, does not clearly represent *frontier research of international impact* with major scientific breakthroughs."

What is evaluated?

2. Excellence of the Principle Investigator (PI)

- Ability to propose and conduct ground-breaking research
- Evidence of creative independent thinking
- Achievements typically beyond the state-of-the-art
- Commitment to the project necessary for its execution and the willingness to devote a significant amount of time to the project

Step 2 of the evaluation includes an interview in Brussels

ESR:

"The PI has a good track record in terms of publications and citations, **but has not yet received the international exposure and recognition in her field** that would ... be expected by a person receiving an ERC Starting Grant."



European Research Council

Researchers can join running ERC projects as a team member

- Individual researchers can apply to join existing ERC-funded teams in Europe
- Possibility to pay short or long-term visits to ERC-funded teams

- More information about Implementing Agreements can be found:

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding/additional-opportunities>

Useful links and ERC promotional video

Helpful links

ERC:

<https://erc.europa.eu/>

ERC videos:

<https://vimeo.com/28818767>

<https://vimeo.com/31716309>



Indicative summary of main calls from the 2020 budget*

	<i>Starting Grant</i>	<i>Consolidator Grant</i>	<i>Advanced Grant</i>	<i>Synergy Grant</i>	<i>Proof of Concept Grant</i>
<i>Call opens</i>	17/07/2019	24/10/2019	14/05/2020	18/07/2019	05/11/2019
<i>Budget million EUR</i> <i>(estimated number of grants)</i>	677 (455)	657(343)	492 (209)	350 (39)	25 (167)
<i>Planned dates to inform applicants</i> <i>(after each step or cut-off date)</i>	20/05/2020 07/08/2020	17/07/2020 11/12/2020	25/01/2021 23/04/2021	20/04/2020 17/08/2020 09/11/2020	02/05/2020 31/07/2020 18/12/2020
<i>Indicative date for signature of grant agreements</i> <i>(by cut-off date for PoC)</i>	05/12/2020	03/04/2021	21/08/2021	19/03/2021	30/08/2020 28/11/2020 17/04/2021

Source: ERCEA



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www.ec.europa.eu/research

Participant Portal

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

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