European Funding Opportunities for Doctoral Researchers in Horizon 2020

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships and ERC Starting Grants

Dunja Hofmann & Martin Winger, KoWi
KoWi – EU Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations

**Information, consulting & training on EU research & innovation funding**

“one-stop-shop” for Horizon 2020

**Service platform for our supporting association* focussing on universities**

financed by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

**Connected on European level offices in Bonn & Brussels**

* “Association for the Promotion of European and International Cooperation in Science e.V.”
Content

1. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks
2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships
3. European Research Council (ERC)
4. KoWi Services

**Part I – Excellent Science**
1. European Research Council (ERC)
2. Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)
3. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
   - 4. European Research Infrastructures, including e-infrastructures

**Part II – Industrial Leadership**
1. Leadership in Enabling & Industrial Technologies (LEIT)
   - Information and Communication Technologies
   - Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Advanced Manufacturing and Processing and Biotechnology
   - Space
2. Access to Risk Finance
3. Innovation in SMEs

**Part III – Societal Challenges**
1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing
2. Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine, maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy
3. Secure, clean and efficient energy
4. Smart, green and integrated transport
5. Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials
6. Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
7. Protecting freedom and security

**Part IV**
Spreading excellence & widening participation

**Part V**
Science with & for Society

**Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)**

**The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**
Horizon 2020 Budget – Excellent Science

Source:
REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the European Fund for Strategic Investments

Total: ~ 24,3 billion
MSCA key features

- Mobility of researchers from all over the world
- Focus on training and career development
- Coverage all domains of research (bottom-up approach)
- Fellowships of 3-36 months
- Attractive working and employment conditions
- Financing rate of 100%
- Host institution in EU Member States (MS) or Associated Countries (AS)
Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Innovative Training Networks (ITN)
## Innovative Training Networks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>ETN</strong></th>
<th><strong>EID</strong></th>
<th><strong>EJD</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Training Networks</td>
<td>European Industrial Doctorates</td>
<td>European Joint Doctorates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Duration max. 48 months**
  - 3 beneficiaries
  - 3 different MS/AC
  - 2 beneficiaries
  - 2 different MS/AC
  - 2 different sectors
  - 3 beneficiaries
  - 3 different MS/AC

- **Additionally partner organisations from any sector/country**

- **ESR funded 3-36 months**
  - 540 person months
  - 180 or 540 person months
  - 540 person months

- **Training**
  - PhD
  - Joint PhD
ITN Training

Training through Research
individual PhD projects

Local Training
scientific training, transferable skills

Secondments
to well-targeted partners
Conditions

- Students cannot apply, only institutions
- You can apply for vacancies in funded ITN-projects
- You need to be an “Early Stage Researcher” (ESR)
  - less than 4 years of research experience after graduation
  - no PhD
- Nationality or age not relevant
- You need to follow the “Mobility Rule”
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Mobility Rule

Fellow has lived or worked \( \leq 12 \) months within the last 3 years in the potential host country.

A French researcher has lived in Germany for the last 4 years

Not eligible for a Fellowship in Germany!

Eligible for a Fellowship in France and other countries
MSCA Basic Contracts*

EC/REA

Grant Agreement

Beneficiary

Host Institution (MS/AC)

Work contract (100%)

Fellow

*without partner organisations
Funding within an ITN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding 100%</th>
<th>Researcher unit cost (person/month)</th>
<th>Institutional unit cost (person/month)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Living allowance*</td>
<td>Mobility allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN (ESR)</td>
<td>EUR 3,270</td>
<td>EUR 600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Application of the country correction factor: Germany 2019: 97,0%

**Employer’s gross salary
Advantages

- Funded PhD positions for up to three years
- Topic of the PhD project already defined
- You can start very soon
- Employment contract including social contributions
- 100% working time on your project
- Training within an international network
- Part of a structured training program
- Contact to the non–academic sector and potential future employers
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

Part I – Excellent Science

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Part IV
Spreading excellence & widening participation

Part V
Science with & for Society

Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
Horizon 2020 Budget

Excellent Science: 24.4 billion

Source: REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the European Fund for Strategic Investments

Total: ca. 74.8 bn.
Individual Fellowships – Principles

Who?
- Experienced Researchers or Postdocs with at least 4 years of research experience ("experienced researchers – ERs")

What?
- Implementation of an independent research project in Europe (MS or AC) or in a Third Country (TC)

How?
- Fellow writes individual application jointly with Host Institution; proposal is submitted jointly with supervisor
- Research & skills training at Host Institution
- Optional secondment(s)
Country Categories in Horizon 2020

- Europe:
  - 28 EU Member States (MS), including their overseas departments
  - 16 associated countries (AC): Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia

- Third countries: all other countries
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Mobility Rule

Fellow has lived or worked \(\leq 12\) months within the last 3 years in the potential host country.

A French researcher has lived in Germany for the last 4 years. Not eligible for a Fellowship in Germany!

Eligible for a Fellowship in France and other countries.
Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Individual Fellowships

Global Fellowship

European Fellowship
European Fellowships (EF)
Research project in Europe
(EU Member State or FP-Associated Country)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible</th>
<th>Postdocs or researchers with at least 4 years of research experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nationality</td>
<td>No restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility rule</td>
<td>May not have lived/worked more than 12 months within the last 3 years in host country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Secondments       | • Optional for 3 to 6 months to the academic or non-academic sector in Europe  
                    • Can be split (e.g. 2 x 3 months)                                      |
| Project           | 1 – 2 years                                                         |
MSCA Evaluation Criteria and Panels

- **Excellence** (weighting: 50%)
  1. Chemistry (CHE)
  2. Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
  3. Economic Sciences (ECO)

- **Impact** (weighting: 30%)
  4. Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
  5. Environment and Geosciences (ENV)

- **Implementation** (weighting: 20%)
  6. Life Sciences (LIF)
  7. Mathematics (MAT)
  8. Physics (PHY)
European Fellowships (EF): Multidisciplinary Panels

- **CAR - Career Restart**
  > Researchers who have not been active in research for **at least 12 months** within the **last 18 months** before the call deadline

- **RI - Reintegration**
  > Researchers **returning to Europe** after a research phase in a Third Country

- **SE - Society & Enterprise**
  > Applicants with a **non-academic Host Institution**

Fellow has lived or worked **≤ 3 years** within the last **5 years** in the potential host country
## Global Fellowships (GF)

Research project in a Third Country and Europe (MS/AC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Eligible</strong></th>
<th>Postdocs or researchers with at least 4 years of research experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nationality</strong></td>
<td>MS/AC nationals and long-term residents (must have lived/worked ≥5 years in MS/AC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mobility rule</strong></td>
<td>May not have lived/worked more than 12 months within the last 3 years in host country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Secondments** | • Optional for 3 to 6 months to the academic or non-academic sector in Europe  
• Can be split (e.g. 2 x 3 months) |
| **Project** | 1 – 2 years  
+ 1 year mandatory return phase to Europe |
MSCA Evaluation Process

- Each proposal will be evaluated by at least three reviewers (selection by Research Executive Agency, REA)
- Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5: Excellence, Impact, Implementation
- 3 phases of evaluation:
  1. Individual evaluation (Individual Evaluation Report + comments and points for each criterion)
  2. Consensus meeting (Agreement of the experts + Consensus Report)
  3. Panel review (Evaluation Summary Reports + Panel Ranked List)
MSCA Basic Contracts IF

**EC/REA**

**Grant Agreement**

**Beneficiary**

**Host Institution (MS/AC)**

**Partnership Agreement**

**Partner organisation(s) (MS/AC/TC)**

**Work contract (100%)**

**Fellow**
IF Financing

- Living allowance ER (*country correction coefficient)
- Mobility allowance
- Family allowance (if applicable)
- Research, training and networking costs
- Management & overhead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellow</th>
<th>4,880 x 12 M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>600 x 12 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>500 x 12 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>800 x 12 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>650 x 12 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>EUR 89,160 /y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employer's gross

- e. g. Belgium (*100 %) 5,980 EUR/M
- e. g. Germany (*correction co-efficient 97.0 %) = 5,833.60 EUR/M

NEW: Special Needs Allowance (max. 60,000€ per Fellow)
Preparation of the proposal

- Work Programme
- Guide for Applicants
- Templates

From Submission to Funding (IF)

Call opening (~ April)
Proposal preparation
Evaluation
Grant preparation

Deadline (~ September)
Results (~ February)
Signature Grant Agreement (~ May)

ca. 8 months

Information

~ April
~ September
~ February
~ May

ca. 8 months
## Success Rates 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSCA</th>
<th>Proposals retained for funding</th>
<th>Success rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITN-ETN</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>6.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN-EJD</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN-EID</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISE</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>24.9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF-EF</td>
<td>1.211</td>
<td>14.9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF-GF</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>16.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COFUND-DP</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COFUND-FP</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17.1 %</td>
</tr>
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</table>
IF Success Rates 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSCA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EF (ST)</td>
<td>1.029</td>
<td>14.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF (RI)</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>14.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF (CAR)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>14.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EF (SE)</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>28.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GF</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>16.4 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MSCA Calls 2018/2019*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Budget (million)</th>
<th>Opening</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITN</td>
<td>EUR 470</td>
<td>13 Sep 2018</td>
<td>15 Jan 2019*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISE</td>
<td>EUR 80</td>
<td>04 Dec 2018</td>
<td>02 Apr 2019*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COFUND</td>
<td>EUR 80</td>
<td>12 Apr 2018</td>
<td>27 Sep 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF</td>
<td>EUR 273</td>
<td>12 Apr 2018</td>
<td>12 Sep 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information online
Marie S.-Curie Resources

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Success Stories
Related to Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Testimonials
From Fellows and Researchers

Library
Legal documents, Policy documents, Reports, Publications, Guides, Factsheets and more

Projects funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
This is just a small sample of the projects funded
KoWi Services on Marie Skłodowska-Curie

**Information**
- Information events and workshops
- Newsletter „Active Information Service“ (AiD), factsheets, MSCA Host Offers, etc.

**Consulting**
- Individual consulting and support for applicants
- Tailored advice for small groups
- Advice on legal and financial project management

**Training**
- Workshops on application and grant management
- Workshops on legal and financial project management
European Research Council

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Part I – Excellent Science</strong></th>
<th><strong>Part II – Industrial Leadership</strong></th>
<th><strong>Part III – Societal Challenges</strong></th>
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- Space | 1. Health, demographic change and wellbeing  
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4. Smart, green and integrated transport  
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6. Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies  
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**Spreading excellence & widening participation** |
| 3. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) | 3. Innovation in SMEs |  
**Part V**  
**Science with & for Society** |
| 4. European Research Infrastructures, including e-infrastructures | | **Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)** |

**The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**
ERC Funding Schemes

**Starting Grant**
- 2 – 7 years after PhD

**Consolidator Grant**
- 7 – 12 years after PhD

**Advanced Grant**
- 10 years track record

**Proof of Concept**
- Preparing ideas from ERC Grant for the market

**Synergy Grant**
- Teams of 2-4 PIs pursuing highly ambitious research goals
European funding of basic research (“frontier research”)

Open to all fields of research: bottom-up, investigator-driven, annual calls for proposals

Open for researchers of any age and nationality

Funding of individuals: Principal Investigator + project

Funding: 100 % direct + 25 % indirect project costs

Scientific excellence is the sole criterion for evaluation
ERC Grantees – Profile Features

- Starting-Grantees usually have longer (and often several) “mobility experiences”
- Solid third-party funding (DFG, BMBF, EU etc.)
- Publications in the most high-ranking international journals
- Memberships in academies and editorial boards, review activities
- Distinct (inter)national research cooperation with leading scientists
# ERC Starting Grants – Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Target group</strong></th>
<th>2-7 years after PhD (extensions possible in exceptional cases; special rules for MD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>max. EUR 1.5 million for max. 5 years (exception: + EUR 500,000 for major equipment or for PIs from Third Countries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Host institution</strong></td>
<td>in EU Member State or Associated Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time commitment</strong></td>
<td>≥ 50% (≥ 50% in Europe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application procedure</strong></td>
<td>single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation (incl. interview)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call</strong></td>
<td>annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ERC application process

- Calls for proposals
  - Annually
  - Specific deadline
- The proposal
  - submitted by the PI
  - together with a Host Institution (Host Support Letter)
- Online submission
Evaluation (StG, CoG, AdG)

- Peer-review: Evaluation panels (10-15 members)
- Applicants choose panel(s)
- Up to 3 reviewers can be excluded in advance
- Three scientific domains:
  - Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE): 10 Panels
  - Life Sciences (LS): 9 Panels
  - Social Sciences & Humanities (SH): 6 Panels
- Reviewers give marks for PI and project, respectively
# ERC Success Rates 2015-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting Grants</td>
<td>12 %</td>
<td>11 %</td>
<td>13.3 %</td>
<td>12.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidator Grants</td>
<td>15 %</td>
<td>13.8 %</td>
<td>13.2 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Grants</td>
<td>14 %</td>
<td>9.6 %</td>
<td>12 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ERC Information Online

National Contact Point (NCP)

European Research Council (ERC)
KoWi Services on the ERC*

**Information**
- Information events and workshops
- NCP ERC website, incl. ERC-FAQs): [nks-erc.de](nks-erc.de)
- Newsletter: [eubuero.de/newsletter](eubuero.de/newsletter)

**Consulting**
- Individual consulting and support for applicants
- Tailored advice for small groups
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**Training**
- Interview trainings for Starting und Consolidator Grants in Bonn + on-site support in Brussels
- Workshops on application and grant management

* Cooperation with the EU-Bureau of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (EU-Büro des BMBF)
Contact

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+32 2-54802-21