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## **Horizon 2020**

### **Work Programme 2016 - 2017**

#### *3. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

**Important notice on the second Horizon 2020 Work Programme**

**This Work Programme covers 2016 and 2017. The parts of the Work Programme that relate to 2017 are provided at this stage on an indicative basis. Such Work Programme parts will be decided during 2016.**

*(European Commission Decision C (2015)6776 of 13 October 2015)*



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## **Introduction**

This part of the Work Programme contributes to developing the new knowledge and enhancing the skills of people behind research and innovation, this being one of the key drivers identified in the strategy for the first three years of Horizon 2020.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions ensure excellent and innovative research training as well as attractive career and knowledge-exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers, to better prepare them for current and future societal challenges.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions are open to all domains of research and innovation addressed under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, from basic research up to market take-up and innovation services<sup>1</sup>. Research and innovation fields as well as sectors are chosen freely by the applicants in a fully bottom-up manner.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions are open to researchers and innovation staff at all stages of their career, irrespective of age. They are open to universities, research institutions, research infrastructures, businesses, and other socio-economic actors, including civil society organisations, from all countries, including third countries under the conditions defined in the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013 and in part A of the General Annexes to the Work Programme. Attention is paid to encouraging the strong participation of industry, in particular SMEs, for the successful implementation and impact of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions support researchers to establish themselves on a more stable career path and to ensure that they can achieve an appropriate work/life balance, taking into account their family situation.

Mobility is a key requirement in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions. Researchers receive funding on the condition that they move from one country to another to broaden or deepen their competences.

The principles of the [European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers](#)<sup>2</sup> (Charter and Code) promoting open recruitment and attractive working and employment conditions are recommended to be endorsed and applied by all the funded participants.

Principles of research integrity - as set out, for instance, in the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#) – will apply throughout all Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions endorse the [Horizon 2020 Responsible Research and Innovation](#) (RRI) cross-cutting issue, engaging society, integrating the gender and ethical

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<sup>1</sup> Proposals entering into the scope of the Annex I of the Euratom Treaty shall be submitted to relevant calls under the Euratom Framework Programme.

<sup>2</sup> Commission recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, C(2005) 576 of 11.3.2005.

dimensions, ensuring the access to research outcomes and encouraging formal and informal science education. All applicants to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie calls are encouraged to adopt an [RRI approach](#) into their proposals.

The ethical dimension of the activities undertaken should be analysed and taken into account, including relevant socio-economic implications. This implies the respect of ethical principles and related legislation during the implementation. Whenever possible, the activities should also include in their objectives a better understanding and handling of the ethical aspects as well as the promotion of the highest ethical standards in the field and among the actors and stakeholders.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions pay particular attention to gender balance. In line with the Charter and Code, all Marie Skłodowska-Curie proposals are encouraged to take appropriate measures to facilitate mobility and counter-act gender-related barriers to it. Equal opportunities are to be ensured in the implementation of the actions by a balanced participation of women and men, both at the level of supported researchers and that of decision-making/supervision/management structure. In research activities where human beings are involved as subjects or end-users, gender differences may exist. In these cases the gender dimension in the research content has to be addressed as an integral part of the proposal to ensure the highest level of scientific quality.

As training researchers on gender issues serves the policy objectives of Horizon 2020 and is necessary for the implementation of R&I actions, applicants may include in their proposals such activity.

To further enhance dissemination and public engagement, beneficiaries of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions are required to plan suitable public outreach activities. In this way, they can also contribute to the cross-cutting objectives of Horizon 2020, such as climate action, sustainable development and biodiversity.

A novelty in Horizon 2020 is the Pilot on Open Research Data which aims to improve and maximise access to and re-use of research data generated by projects. Applicants to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions may participate in the Open Research Data Pilot on a voluntary basis. Participation in the Pilot is not taken into account during the evaluation procedure. In other words, proposals will not be evaluated favourably because they are part of the Pilot.

A further new element in Horizon 2020 is the use of Data Management Plans (DMPs) detailing what data the project will generate, whether and how it will be exploited or made accessible for verification and re-use, and how it will be curated and preserved. The use of a DMP is required for projects participating in the Open Research Data Pilot. Other projects are invited to submit a DMP if relevant for their planned research. Only funded projects are required to submit a DMP.

Further guidance on the Pilot on [Open Research Data](#) and [Data Management](#) is available on the Participant Portal.

## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks**

*H2020-MSCA-ITN-2016*

### **MSCA-ITN-2016: Innovative Training Networks**

Objective: The Innovative Training Networks (ITN) aim to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit.

ITN will raise excellence and structure research and doctoral training, extending the traditional academic research training setting, incorporating the elements of Open Science and equipping researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competences. It will provide enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and non-academic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.

Scope: ITN supports competitively selected joint research training and/or doctoral programmes, implemented by partnerships of universities, research institutions, research infrastructures, businesses, SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

Partnerships take the form of collaborative European Training Networks (ETN), European Industrial Doctorates (EID) or European Joint Doctorates (EJD).

Each programme should have a clearly identified supervisory board co-ordinating network-wide training and establishing active and continuous communication and exchange of best practice among the partners to maximise the benefits of the partnership.

The programme should exploit complementary competences of the participating organisations, and enable sharing of knowledge, networking activities, the organisation of workshops and conferences.

Training responds to well identified needs in defined research areas, with appropriate references to inter- and multidisciplinary fields and follows the [EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training](#). It should be primarily focused on scientific and technological knowledge through research on individual, personalised projects.

In order to increase the employability of the researchers, the research training should be complemented by the meaningful exposure of each researcher to the non-academic sector.

Secondments of the researcher to other beneficiaries and partner organisations are encouraged.

Substantial training modules, including digital ones, addressing key transferable skills common to all fields and fostering the culture of Open Science, innovation and entrepreneurship will be supported.

In order to reflect on the changing nature of research, training should prepare early-stage researchers for an increased research collaboration and information-sharing made possible by new technologies (e.g. collaborative tools, open access, raw data, etc.).

A Career Development Plan should be established jointly by the supervisor(s) and the early-stage researcher recruited by the selected network. In addition to research objectives, this plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs, including planning for publications and participation in conferences.

Attention is paid to the quality of supervision and mentoring arrangements as well as career guidance. Joint supervision of the researchers is mandatory for EJD and for EID, and encouraged in ETN. In EID, the joint supervision of the researcher must be ensured by at least one supervisor from the academic sector and one supervisor from the non-academic sector. These arrangements will be taken into account during the evaluation of the proposal.

In EID and EJD, fellowships offered to early-stage researchers should lead to a doctoral degree. EJD result in joint<sup>3</sup>, double or multiple doctoral degrees<sup>4</sup> awarded by institutions from at least two different countries.

In EID and EJD, enrolment in a doctoral programme and the creation of a joint governance structure - with joint admission (EJD only), selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures - is mandatory. These arrangements will be taken into account during the evaluation of the proposal.

#### Expected Impact:

At researcher level:

- Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia (leading in the longer-term to more successful careers)
- Increase, in the longer-term, in higher impact R&I output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services
- Greater contribution, in the longer term, to the knowledge-based economy and society

At organisation level:

- Enhanced cooperation and better transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines
- Improvement in the quality of training programmes
- Creation of new networks and enhanced quality of existing ones
- Boosting R&I capacity among participating organisations
- Increased internationalisation of participating organisations

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<sup>3</sup> Joint degree – a single diploma issued by at least two higher education institutions offering an integrated programme and recognised officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located.

<sup>4</sup> Double or multiple degree - two or more national diplomas issued by two or more higher education institutions and recognised officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located.

At system level:

- Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Europe
- More structured and innovative doctoral training, enhanced implementation of the European Charter and Code and the EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training
- Stronger links between the European Research Area (ERA) and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), notably through supporting the knowledge triangle between research, innovation and education
- Improvement in the working and employment conditions for doctoral candidates in Europe
- Increased societal and economic relevance of European higher education
- Strengthening Europe's human capital base in R&I with a new generation of more entrepreneurial and highly-skilled early career researchers
- Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading research destination, accompanied by a rise in the numbers of talented researchers retained and attracted from abroad
- Better quality research and innovation contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

Type of Action: European Industrial Doctorates, European Joint Doctorates, European Training Networks

**Conditions for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks call**

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):<sup>5</sup>

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2016	
Opening: 15 Oct 2015		
MSCA-ITN-2016 (MSCA-ITN-ETN)	317.00	12 Jan 2016
MSCA-ITN-2016 (MSCA-ITN-EID)	25.00	
MSCA-ITN-2016 (MSCA-ITN-EJD)	28.00	
Overall indicative budget	370.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The admissibility conditions are described in part B of the General Annexes to the work programme. The eligibility conditions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The selection criteria are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme. The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

<sup>5</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The budget amounts for the 2016 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2016 after the adoption of the budget 2016 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

Evaluation Procedure: The evaluation procedure for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions applies. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

	The maximum length of a proposal is 30 pages, excluding the annexes.
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Consortium agreement: Members of consortium are required to conclude a consortium agreement, in principle prior to the signature of the grant agreement.

## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships**

*H2020-MSCA-IF-2016*

### **MSCA-IF-2016: Individual Fellowships**

Objective: The goal of Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers, wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility.

Individual Fellowships provide opportunities to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research and innovation in a European context (EU Member States and Associated Countries) or outside Europe. The scheme particularly supports the return and reintegration of researchers from outside Europe who have previously worked here. It also develops or helps to restart the careers of individual researchers that show great potential, considering their experience.

Scope: Support is foreseen for individual, trans-national fellowships awarded to the best or most promising researchers of any nationality, for employment in EU Member States or Associated Countries. It is based on an application made jointly by the researcher and the beneficiary in the academic or non-academic sectors.

Only one proposal per individual researcher will be evaluated.

Fellowships take form of European Fellowships or Global Fellowships. European Fellowships are held in EU Member States or Associated Countries and are open to researchers either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the European Fellowship is held.

Return and reintegration of researchers into a longer term research position in Europe, including in their country of origin, is supported via a separate multi-disciplinary reintegration panel of the European Fellowships. For the reintegration panel, there shall be mobility into Europe.

Support to individuals to resume research in Europe after a career break, e.g. after parental leave, is ensured via a separate multi-disciplinary career restart panel of the European Fellowships. To qualify for the career restart panel, researchers must not have been active in research for at least 12 months immediately prior to the deadline for submission.

Researchers seeking to work on research and innovation projects in an organisation from the non-academic sector will be supported via a separate multi-disciplinary society and enterprise panel of the European Fellowships. The objective of this panel is to facilitate career moves between the academic and non-academic sectors and to open attractive career opportunities for researchers outside academia.

Global Fellowships are based on a secondment to a third country and a mandatory 12 month return period to a European host. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the

country where the Global Fellowship secondment takes place, not for the country of the return phase.

Researchers receiving an Individual Fellowship may opt to include a secondment phase in Europe, notably in the non-academic sector, within the overall duration of their fellowship. For a fellowship of 18 months or less, the secondment phase may last up to three months. For a fellowship of more than 18 months, the secondment phase may last up to six months. The secondment phase can be a single period or be divided into shorter mobility periods. The secondment should significantly add to the impact of the fellowship.

A Career Development Plan should be established jointly by the supervisor(s) and the researcher. In addition to research or innovation objectives, this plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, planning for publications and participation in conferences.

Expected Impact:

At researcher level:

- Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia
- Increase in higher impact R&I output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services
- Greater contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society

At organisation level:

- Enhanced cooperation and stronger networks
- Better transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines
- Boosting of R&I capacity among participating organisations

At system level:

- Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Europe
- Strengthening of Europe's human capital base in R&I with more entrepreneurial and better trained researchers
- Better communication of R&I results to society
- Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading destination for R&I
- Better quality research and innovation contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

Type of Action: CAR – Career Restart panel, RI – Reintegration panel, Society and Enterprise panel, Standard EF, Global Fellowships

**Conditions for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships call**

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):<sup>6</sup>

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2016	
Opening: 12 Apr 2016		
MSCA-IF-2016 (MSCA-IF-EF-CAR)	179.50	14 Sep 2016
MSCA-IF-2016 (MSCA-IF-EF-RI)		
MSCA-IF-2016 (MSCA-IF-EF-ST)		
MSCA-IF-2016 (MSCA-IF-EF-SE)	10.00	
MSCA-IF-2016 (MSCA-IF-GF)	29.00	
Overall indicative budget	218.50	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The admissibility conditions are described in part B of the General Annexes to the work programme. The eligibility conditions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The selection criteria are described in part H of the

<sup>6</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The budget amounts for the 2016 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2016 after the adoption of the budget 2016 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

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*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

General Annexes to the work programme. The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

Evaluation Procedure: The evaluation procedure for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions applies. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

	The maximum length of a proposal is 10 pages, excluding the CV of the researcher and the annexes.
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Consortium agreement: Not applicable - this is a mono-beneficiary action.

## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange**

*H2020-MSCA-RISE-2016*

### **MSCA-RISE-2016: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange**

Objective: The RISE scheme will promote international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges, and sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa).

The scheme fosters a shared culture of research and innovation that welcomes and rewards creativity and entrepreneurship and helps to turn creative ideas into innovative products, services or processes.

Scope: RISE involves organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (in particular SMEs), based in Europe (EU Member States and Associated Countries) and outside Europe (third countries).

Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of a joint research and innovation project. This is aimed at knowledge sharing via international as well as intersectoral mobility, based on secondments of research and innovation staff (exchanges) with an in-built return mechanism.

The organisations constituting the partnership contribute directly to the implementation of a joint research and innovation project by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members. Secondments shall always take place between legal entities independent from each other<sup>7</sup>.

RISE should exploit complementary competences of the participating organisations, as well as other synergies, and enable networking activities, organisation of workshops and conferences to facilitate sharing of knowledge, new skills acquisition and career development for research and innovation staff members.

RISE projects can focus either on one dimension of mobility (intersectoral / international), or include a combination of both.

Exchanges can be for both early-stage and experienced researchers' levels and can also include administrative, managerial and technical staff directly involved in the research and innovation activities of the proposal.

Support for the exchanges between institutions within Europe (EU Member States and Associated Countries) covers only intersectoral secondments.

Exchanges with institutions from and to third countries can be intersectoral as well as within the same sector.

Secondments between institutions located in third countries or within the same EU Member State or Associated Country will not be supported.

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<sup>7</sup> Independence in the meaning of Article 8 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

Expected Impact:

At staff member level:

- Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia
- Increase in higher impact R&I output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services
- Greater contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society

At organisation level:

- Enhanced cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines
- Strengthening of international and intersectoral collaborative networks
- Boosting of R&I capacity among participating organisations

At system level:

- Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Europe
- Strengthening of Europe's human capital base in R&I
- Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading destination for R&I
- Better quality R&I contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

Type of Action: RISE

## **Conditions for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange call**

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):<sup>8</sup>

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2016	
Opening: 08 Dec 2015		
MSCA-RISE-2016 (MSCA-RISE)	80.00	28 April 2016
Overall indicative budget	80.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The admissibility conditions are described in part B of the General Annexes to the work programme. The eligibility conditions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The selection criteria are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme. The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

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<sup>8</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The budget amounts for the 2016 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2016 after the adoption of the budget 2016 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

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*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

Evaluation Procedure: The evaluation procedure for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions applies. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

	The maximum length of a proposal is 30 pages, excluding the annexes.
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Consortium agreement: Members of consortium are required to conclude a consortium agreement, in principle prior to the signature of the grant agreement.

## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes**

*H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2016*

### **MSCA-COFUND-2016: Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes**

Objective: The COFUND scheme aims to stimulate regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development, spreading the best practices of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

This will be achieved by co-funding new or existing regional, national, and international programmes to open up to, and provide for, international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as transnational and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career.

Scope: Each proposal funded under the COFUND scheme shall have a sole beneficiary that will be responsible for the availability of the necessary matching funds to execute the proposal.

Applicants submit multi-annual proposals for new or existing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes which are expected to have an impact on enhancing research- and innovation related human resources on regional, national or international level.

Researchers supported under this scheme shall comply with the mobility rules of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

Limitations regarding the researchers' origin and destination should be avoided. Support cannot be awarded to researchers who are already permanently employed by the organisation hosting them.

Proposed programmes are encouraged to cover all research disciplines ("bottom-up"), but can also focus on specific disciplines. In this case the range of covered disciplines should allow reasonable flexibility for the researchers.

Programmes that prioritise specific research disciplines based on national or regional Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3 strategies) can also be supported. Synergies with the European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF) are encouraged.

COFUND takes the form of:

#### A) Doctoral programmes

Doctoral programmes address the development and broadening of the research competencies of early-stage researchers. The training follows the [EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training](#). Collaboration with a wider set of partner organisations, including from the non-academic sector, which may provide hosting or secondment opportunities or training in

research or transferable skills, as well as innovative elements of the proposed programme, will be positively taken into account during the evaluations.

Each researcher must be enrolled in a doctoral programme. Attention is paid to the quality of supervision and mentoring arrangements as well as career guidance.

#### B) Fellowship programmes

Fellowship programmes fund individual research training and career development fellowships for experienced researchers. The programmes supported should have regular selection rounds following fixed deadlines or regular cut-off dates, allowing fair competition between the researchers applying. The selections should be based on open, widely advertised competition, with transparent international peer review and the selection of candidates on merit. Mobility types supported by fellowship programmes may be similar to the ones supported under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships. On top of transnational mobility, applicants are encouraged to include elements of cross-sectoral mobility into their programmes. Fellowship programmes should be based on individual-driven mobility, i.e., researchers should be able to freely choose a research topic and the appropriate organisation to host them, fitting their individual needs.

Given that the aim of the co-funded fellowship programmes is the support of individual fellows, research teams will not be funded.

#### Expected Impact:

At researcher level:

- Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia (leading in the longer-term to more successful careers)
- Increase in higher impact R&I output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services
- Greater contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society

At organisation level:

- Development of high quality human resources
- Boosting R&I capacity among participating organisations
- Enhanced cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines
- Strengthening of international and intersectoral collaborative networks

At system level:

- Aligning of practices and policies in the context of the EU Human Resources Strategy for Researchers, enhanced implementation of the European Charter and Code and the EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training at regional, national or international level
- Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Europe

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*

*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

- Improvement in the working and employment conditions for researchers in Europe at all levels of their career, starting from the doctoral stage
- Strengthening of Europe's human capital base in R&I
- Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading destination for R&I
- Better quality R&I contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

Type of Action: Doctoral programmes, Fellowship programmes

**Conditions for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes call**

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):<sup>9</sup>

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2016	
Opening: 14 Apr 2016		
MSCA-COFUND-2016 (MSCA-COFUND-DP)	30.00	29 Sep 2016
MSCA-COFUND-2016 (MSCA-COFUND-FP)	50.00	
Overall indicative budget	80.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The admissibility conditions are described in part B of the General Annexes to the work programme. The eligibility conditions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The selection criteria are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme. The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

<sup>9</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The budget amounts for the 2016 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2016 after the adoption of the budget 2016 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

Evaluation Procedure: The evaluation procedure for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions applies. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

	The maximum length of a proposal is 30 pages, excluding the annexes.
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Consortium agreement: Not applicable - this is a mono-beneficiary action.

## **European Researchers' Night**

***H2020-MSCA-NIGHT-2016***

### **MSCA-NIGHT-2016: European Researchers' Night**

Objective: The European Researchers' Night aims to bring researchers closer to the general public and to increase awareness of research and innovation activities, with a view to supporting the public recognition of researchers, creating an understanding of the impact of researchers' work on citizen's daily life, and encouraging young people to embark on research careers.

Scope: The European Researchers' Night takes place yearly, typically on the last Friday of the month of September, and is the occasion for a Europe-wide public and media event for the promotion of research careers, in particular towards young people and their families. Supported events can start early Friday afternoon and last until early morning the following day.

Activities focus on the general public, addressing and attracting people regardless of the level their scientific background, with a special focus on pupils and students. Activities can combine education aspects with entertainment, especially when addressing young audience. They can take various forms, e.g. hands-on experiments, science shows, simulations, debates, games, competitions, quizzes, etc.

Where appropriate, engagement with educational institutions should be sought in order to encourage formal and informal science education with the aim to improve the scientific knowledge base.

Each proposal should set up at least one European corner. Activities should be organised with researchers actively involved and directly in contact with the public. They should promote the European dimension and gender balance in research and innovation. Involvement of researchers funded by Horizon 2020, including the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, is encouraged.

Participants can be any legal entity in the EU Member States and Associated Countries, and/or if relevant, constitute a partnership at regional, national or international level. The maximum duration of support will be two years from the starting date specified in the grant agreement. Proposal should cover two editions of the Night, in successive years. One single edition of the Night may also be considered.

Applicants not retained due to lack of funding may be granted the status of associated events.

#### Expected Impact:

- Increased awareness among the general public of the importance of research and innovation and more favourable general attitude towards its funding
- Better understanding of the key benefits that research brings to society
- Reduction in the stereotypes about researchers and their profession

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

- Increase, in the long term, of people taking up research careers

Type of Action: Coordination and support action

**Conditions for the European Researchers' Night call**

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):<sup>10</sup>

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2016	
Opening: 15 Oct 2015		
MSCA-NIGHT-2016 (CSA)	8.00	13 Jan 2016
Overall indicative budget	8.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in parts B and C of the General Annexes to the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The criteria, scoring and threshold are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme

Evaluation Procedure: The procedure for setting a priority order for proposals with the same score is given in part H of the General Annexes.

The full evaluation procedure is described in the relevant [guide](#) published on the Participant Portal.

<sup>10</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The budget amounts for the 2016 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2016 after the adoption of the budget 2016 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

	The maximum length of a proposal is 30 pages, excluding the annexes.
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Consortium agreement: Members of consortium are required to conclude a consortium agreement, in principle prior to the signature of the grant agreement.

## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks**

*H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017*

### **MSCA-ITN-2017: Innovative Training Networks**

Objective: The Innovative Training Networks (ITN) aim to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit.

ITN will raise excellence and structure research and doctoral training, extending the traditional academic research training setting, incorporating the elements of Open Science and equipping researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competences. It will provide enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and non-academic sectors through international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.

Scope: ITN supports competitively selected joint research training and/or doctoral programmes, implemented by partnerships of universities, research institutions, research infrastructures, businesses, SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

Partnerships take the form of collaborative European Training Networks (ETN), European Industrial Doctorates (EID) or European Joint Doctorates (EJD).

Each programme should have a clearly identified supervisory board co-ordinating network-wide training and establishing active and continuous communication and exchange of best practice among the partners to maximise the benefits of the partnership.

The programme should exploit complementary competences of the participating organisations, and enable sharing of knowledge, networking activities, the organisation of workshops and conferences.

Training responds to well identified needs in defined research areas, with appropriate references to inter- and multidisciplinary fields and follows the [EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training](#). It should be primarily focused on scientific and technological knowledge through research on individual, personalised projects.

In order to increase the employability of the researchers, the research training should be complemented by the meaningful exposure of each researcher to the non-academic sector.

Secondments of the researcher to other beneficiaries and partner organisations are encouraged.

Substantial training modules, including digital ones, addressing key transferable skills common to all fields and fostering the culture of Open Science, innovation and entrepreneurship will be supported.

In order to reflect on the changing nature of research, training should prepare early-stage researchers for an increased research collaboration and information-sharing made possible by new technologies (e.g. collaborative tools, open access, raw data, etc.).

A Career Development Plan should be established jointly by the supervisor(s) and the early-stage researcher recruited by the selected network. In addition to research objectives, this plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs, including planning for publications and participation in conferences.

Attention is paid to the quality of supervision and mentoring arrangements as well as career guidance. Joint supervision of the researchers is mandatory for EJD and for EID, and encouraged in ETN. In EID, the joint supervision of the researcher must be ensured by at least one supervisor from the academic sector and one supervisor from the non-academic sector. These arrangements will be taken into account during the evaluation of the proposal.

In EID and EJD, fellowships offered to early-stage researchers should lead to a doctoral degree. EJD result in joint<sup>11</sup>, double or multiple doctoral degrees<sup>12</sup> awarded by institutions from at least two different countries.

In EID and EJD, enrolment in a doctoral programme and the creation of a joint governance structure - with joint admission (EJD only), selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures - is mandatory. These arrangements will be taken into account during the evaluation of the proposal.

#### Expected Impact:

At researcher level:

- Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia (leading in the longer-term to more successful careers)
- Increase, in the longer-term, in higher impact R&I output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services
- Greater contribution, in the longer term, to the knowledge-based economy and society

At organisation level:

- Enhanced cooperation and better transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines
- Improvement in the quality of training programmes
- Creation of new networks and enhanced quality of existing ones
- Boosting R&I capacity among participating organisations
- Increased internationalisation of participating organisations

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<sup>11</sup> Joint degree – a single diploma issued by at least two higher education institutions offering an integrated programme and recognised officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located.

<sup>12</sup> Double or multiple degree - two or more national diplomas issued by two or more higher education institutions and recognised officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located.

At system level:

- Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Europe
- More structured and innovative doctoral training, enhanced implementation of the European Charter and Code and the EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training
- Stronger links between the European Research Area (ERA) and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), notably through supporting the knowledge triangle between research, innovation and education
- Improvement in the working and employment conditions for doctoral candidates in Europe
- Increased societal and economic relevance of European higher education
- Strengthening Europe's human capital base in R&I with a new generation of more entrepreneurial and highly-skilled early career researchers
- Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading research destination, accompanied by a rise in the numbers of talented researchers retained and attracted from abroad
- Better quality research and innovation contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

Type of Action: European Industrial Doctorates, European Joint Doctorates, European Training Networks

**Conditions for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks call**

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):<sup>13</sup>

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2017	
Opening: 15 Sep 2016		
MSCA-ITN-2017 (MSCA-ITN-ETN)	370.00	10 Jan 2017
MSCA-ITN-2017 (MSCA-ITN-EID)	28.00	
MSCA-ITN-2017 (MSCA-ITN-EJD)	32.00	
Overall indicative budget	430.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The admissibility conditions are described in part B of the General Annexes to the work programme. The eligibility conditions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The selection criteria are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme. The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

<sup>13</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The deadline(s) in 2017 are indicative and subject to a separate financing decision for 2017.

The budget amounts for the 2017 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2017.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

Evaluation Procedure: The evaluation procedure for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions applies. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

	The maximum length of a proposal is 30 pages, excluding the annexes.
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Consortium agreement: Members of consortium are required to conclude a consortium agreement, in principle prior to the signature of the grant agreement.

## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships**

***H2020-MSCA-IF-2017***

### **MSCA-IF-2017: Individual Fellowships**

Objective: The goal of Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers, wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced training, international and intersectoral mobility.

Individual Fellowships provide opportunities to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research and innovation in a European context (EU Member States and Associated Countries) or outside Europe. The scheme particularly supports the return and reintegration of researchers from outside Europe who have previously worked here. It also develops or helps to restart the careers of individual researchers that show great potential, considering their experience.

Scope: Support is foreseen for individual, trans-national fellowships awarded to the best or most promising researchers of any nationality, for employment in EU Member States or Associated Countries. It is based on an application made jointly by the researcher and the beneficiary in the academic or non-academic sectors.

Only one proposal per individual researcher will be evaluated.

Fellowships take form of European Fellowships or Global Fellowships. European Fellowships are held in EU Member States or Associated Countries and are open to researchers either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the European Fellowship is held.

Return and reintegration of researchers into a longer term research position in Europe, including in their country of origin, is supported via a separate multi-disciplinary reintegration panel of the European Fellowships. For the reintegration panel, there shall be mobility into Europe.

Support to individuals to resume research in Europe after a career break, e.g. after parental leave, is ensured via a separate multi-disciplinary career restart panel of the European Fellowships. To qualify for the career restart panel, researchers must not have been active in research for at least 12 months immediately prior to the deadline for submission.

Researchers seeking to work on research and innovation projects in an organisation from the non-academic sector will be supported via a separate multi-disciplinary society and enterprise panel of the European Fellowships. The objective of this panel is to facilitate career moves between the academic and non-academic sectors and to open attractive career opportunities for researchers outside academia.

Global Fellowships are based on a secondment to a third country and a mandatory 12 month return period to a European host. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the

country where the Global Fellowship secondment takes place, not for the country of the return phase.

Researchers receiving an Individual Fellowship may opt to include a secondment phase in Europe, notably in the non-academic sector, within the overall duration of their fellowship. For a fellowship of 18 months or less, the secondment phase may last up to three months. For a fellowship of more than 18 months, the secondment phase may last up to six months. The secondment phase can be a single period or be divided into shorter mobility periods. The secondment should significantly add to the impact of the fellowship.

A Career Development Plan should be established jointly by the supervisor(s) and the researcher. In addition to research or innovation objectives, this plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, planning for publications and participation in conferences.

Expected Impact:

At researcher level:

- Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia
- Increase in higher impact R&I output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services
- Greater contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society

At organisation level:

- Enhanced cooperation and stronger networks
- Better transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines
- Boosting of R&I capacity among participating organisations

At system level:

- Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Europe
- Strengthening of Europe's human capital base in R&I with more entrepreneurial and better trained researchers
- Better communication of R&I results to society
- Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading destination for R&I
- Better quality research and innovation contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

Type of Action: CAR – Career Restart panel, RI – Reintegration panel, Society and Enterprise panel, Standard EF, Global Fellowships

**Conditions for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships call**

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):<sup>14</sup>

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2017	
Opening: 11 Apr 2017		
MSCA-IF-2017 (MSCA-IF-EF-CAR)	205.00	14 Sep 2017
MSCA-IF-2017 (MSCA-IF-EF-RI)		
MSCA-IF-2017 (MSCA-IF-EF-ST)		
MSCA-IF-2017 (MSCA-IF-EF-SE)	10.00	
MSCA-IF-2017 (MSCA-IF-GF)	33.00	
Overall indicative budget	248.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The admissibility conditions are described in part B of the General Annexes to the work programme. The eligibility conditions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The selection criteria are described in part H of the

<sup>14</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The deadline(s) in 2017 are indicative and subject to a separate financing decision for 2017.

The budget amounts for the 2017 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2017.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*

*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

General Annexes to the work programme. The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

Evaluation Procedure: The evaluation procedure for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions applies. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

	The maximum length of a proposal is 10 pages, excluding the CV of the researcher and the annexes.
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Consortium agreement: Not applicable - this is a mono-beneficiary action.

## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange**

*H2020-MSCA-RISE-2017*

### **MSCA-RISE 2017: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange**

Objective: The RISE scheme will promote international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges, and sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa).

The scheme fosters a shared culture of research and innovation that welcomes and rewards creativity and entrepreneurship and helps to turn creative ideas into innovative products, services or processes.

Scope: RISE involves organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (in particular SMEs), based in Europe (EU Member States and Associated Countries) and outside Europe (third countries).

Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of a joint research and innovation project. This is aimed at knowledge sharing via international as well as intersectoral mobility, based on secondments of research and innovation staff (exchanges) with an in-built return mechanism.

The organisations constituting the partnership contribute directly to the implementation of a joint research and innovation project by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members. Secondments shall always take place between legal entities independent from each other<sup>15</sup>.

RISE should exploit complementary competences of the participating organisations, as well as other synergies, and enable networking activities, organisation of workshops and conferences to facilitate sharing of knowledge, new skills acquisition and career development for research and innovation staff members.

RISE projects can focus either on one dimension of mobility (intersectoral / international), or include a combination of both.

Exchanges can be for both early-stage and experienced researchers' levels and can also include administrative, managerial and technical staff directly involved in the research and innovation activities of the proposal.

Support for the exchanges between institutions within Europe (EU Member States and Associated Countries) covers only intersectoral secondments.

Exchanges with institutions from and to third countries can be intersectoral as well as within the same sector.

Secondments between institutions located in third countries or within the same EU Member State or Associated Country will not be supported.

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<sup>15</sup> Independence in the meaning of Article 8 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

Expected Impact:

At staff member level:

- Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia
- Increase in higher impact R&I output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services
- Greater contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society

At organisation level:

- Enhanced cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines
- Strengthening of international and intersectoral collaborative networks
- Boosting of R&I capacity among participating organisations

At system level:

- Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Europe
- Strengthening of Europe's human capital base in R&I
- Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading destination for R&I
- Better quality R&I contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

Type of Action: RISE

## Conditions for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange call

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):<sup>16</sup>

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2017	
Opening: 01 Dec 2016		
MSCA-RISE 2017 (MSCA-RISE)	80.00	05 Apr 2017
Overall indicative budget	80.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The admissibility conditions are described in part B of the General Annexes to the work programme. The eligibility conditions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The selection criteria are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme. The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

<sup>16</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The deadline(s) in 2017 are indicative and subject to a separate financing decision for 2017.

The budget amounts for the 2017 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2017.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

Evaluation Procedure: The evaluation procedure for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions applies. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

	The maximum length of a proposal is 30 pages, excluding the annexes.
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Consortium agreement: Members of consortium are required to conclude a consortium agreement, in principle prior to the signature of the grant agreement.

## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes**

*H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2017*

### **MSCA-COFUND-2017: Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes**

Objective: The COFUND scheme aims to stimulate regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development, spreading the best practices of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

This will be achieved by co-funding new or existing regional, national, and international programmes to open up to, and provide for, international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as transnational and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career.

Scope: Each proposal funded under the COFUND scheme shall have a sole beneficiary that will be responsible for the availability of the necessary matching funds to execute the proposal.

Applicants submit multi-annual proposals for new or existing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes which are expected to have an impact on enhancing research- and innovation related human resources on regional, national or international level.

Researchers supported under this scheme shall comply with the mobility rules of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

Limitations regarding the researchers' origin and destination should be avoided. Support cannot be awarded to researchers who are already permanently employed by the organisation hosting them.

Proposed programmes are encouraged to cover all research disciplines ("bottom-up"), but can also focus on specific disciplines. In this case the range of covered disciplines should allow reasonable flexibility for the researchers.

Programmes that prioritise specific research disciplines based on national or regional Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3 strategies) can also be supported. Synergies with the European Structural & Investment Funds (ESIF) are encouraged.

COFUND takes the form of:

#### A) Doctoral programmes

Doctoral programmes address the development and broadening of the research competencies of early-stage researchers. The training follows the [EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training](#). Collaboration with a wider set of partner organisations, including from the non-academic sector, which may provide hosting or secondment opportunities or training in

research or transferable skills, as well as innovative elements of the proposed programme, will be positively taken into account during the evaluations.

Each researcher must be enrolled in a doctoral programme. Attention is paid to the quality of supervision and mentoring arrangements as well as career guidance.

#### B) Fellowship programmes

Fellowship programmes fund individual research training and career development fellowships for experienced researchers. The programmes supported should have regular selection rounds following fixed deadlines or regular cut-off dates, allowing fair competition between the researchers applying. The selections should be based on open, widely advertised competition, with transparent international peer review and the selection of candidates on merit. Mobility types supported by fellowship programmes may be similar to the ones supported under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships. On top of transnational mobility, applicants are encouraged to include elements of cross-sectoral mobility into their programmes. Fellowship programmes should be based on individual-driven mobility, i.e., researchers should be able to freely choose a research topic and the appropriate organisation to host them, fitting their individual needs.

Given that the aim of the co-funded fellowship programmes is the support of individual fellows, research teams will not be funded.

#### Expected Impact:

At researcher level:

- Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia (leading in the longer-term to more successful careers)
- Increase in higher impact R&I output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services
- Greater contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society

At organisation level:

- Development of high quality human resources
- Boosting R&I capacity among participating organisations
- Enhanced cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines
- Strengthening of international and intersectoral collaborative networks

At system level:

- Aligning of practices and policies in the context of the EU Human Resources Strategy for Researchers, enhanced implementation of the European Charter and Code and the EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training at regional, national or international level
- Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Europe

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*

*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

- Improvement in the working and employment conditions for researchers in Europe at all levels of their career, starting from the doctoral stage
- Strengthening of Europe's human capital base in R&I
- Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading destination for R&I
- Better quality R&I contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

Type of Action: Doctoral programmes, Fellowship programmes

**Conditions for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes call**

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):<sup>17</sup>

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2017	
Opening: 05 Apr 2017		
MSCA-COFUND-2017 (MSCA-COFUND-DP)	30.00	28 Sep 2017
MSCA-COFUND-2017 (MSCA-COFUND-FP)	50.00	
Overall indicative budget	80.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The admissibility conditions are described in part B of the General Annexes to the work programme. The eligibility conditions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The selection criteria are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme. The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

<sup>17</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The deadline(s) in 2017 are indicative and subject to a separate financing decision for 2017.

The budget amounts for the 2017 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2017.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

Evaluation Procedure: The evaluation procedure for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions applies. Please read the dedicated section in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie part of the work programme.

	The maximum length of a proposal is 30 pages, excluding the annexes.
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Consortium agreement: Not applicable - this is a mono-beneficiary action.

## **Trans-national cooperation among Marie Skłodowska-Curie National Contact Points**

*H2020-MSCA-NCP-2017*

### **MSCA-NCP-2017: MSCA National Contact Points**

Objective: Facilitate trans-national co-operation between National Contact Points (NCPs) for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA), with a view to identifying and sharing good practices and raising the general standard of support to applicants, taking into account the diversity of actors.

Scope: Support will be given to a consortium of formally nominated NCPs in the area of MSCA. The activities will be tailored according to the nature of the area, and the priorities of the NCPs concerned. Various mechanisms may be included, such as benchmarking, joint workshops, enhanced cross-border brokerage events, training sessions linked to MSCA as well as to [Responsible Research and Innovation](#), twinning schemes, etc. Special attention will be given to enhancing the competence of MSCA NCPs, including helping less experienced NCPs rapidly acquire the know-how accumulated in other countries. It will also be encouraged to build up cooperation with other networks to increase visibility to potential beneficiaries, especially in the non-academic sector.

The focus throughout should be on issues specific to MSCA and should not duplicate actions foreseen in the NCP network for quality standards and horizontal issues under 'Science with and for Society'.

Only NCP organisations from EU Member States, Associated Countries, and third countries which have been officially appointed by the relevant national authorities are eligible to participate in and receive funding for this action.

The consortium should have a good representation of experienced and less experienced NCPs.

Submission of a single proposal is encouraged. NCPs from EU Member States, Associated Countries or third countries choosing not to participate as a member of the consortium are nevertheless invited and encouraged to participate in the project activities (e.g. workshops), and the costs incurred by the consortium for such participation (e.g. travel costs paid by the consortium) may be included in the estimated budget and be eligible for funding by the Commission.

The Commission will only fund one proposal under this topic. The maximum duration of support will be three years from the starting date specified in the grant agreement.

#### Expected Impact:

- An improved and professionalised NCP service across Europe, therefore helping simplify access to Horizon 2020 calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raising the average quality of submitted proposals.
- A more consistent level of NCP support services across Europe.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
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Type of Action: Coordination and support action

**Conditions for the Trans-national cooperation among Marie Skłodowska-Curie National Contact Points call**

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):<sup>18</sup>

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
	2017	
Opening: 10 Jan 2017		
MSCA-NCP-2017 (CSA)	1.50	04 May 2017
Overall indicative budget	1.50	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in parts B and C of the General Annexes to the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The criteria, scoring and threshold are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme

Evaluation Procedure: The procedure for setting a priority order for proposals with the same score is given in part H of the General Annexes.

The full evaluation procedure is described in the relevant [guide](#) published on the Participant Portal.

<sup>18</sup> The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

The deadline(s) in 2017 are indicative and subject to a separate financing decision for 2017.

The budget amounts for the 2017 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2017.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

	The maximum length of a proposal is 30 pages, excluding the annexes.
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Consortium agreement: Members of consortium are required to conclude a consortium agreement, in principle prior to the signature of the grant agreement.

## **Other actions<sup>19</sup>**

### **1. Evaluation of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions**

To assess the long-term impact of the Marie Curie Actions under the Seventh Framework Programme and the first results and outcomes of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under Horizon 2020.

One specific contract will be concluded.

Type of Action: Public Procurement – existing Framework Contract

Indicative timetable: First quarter of 2016

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2016 budget

### **2. Alumni services**

To further increase the impact of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, networking between Marie Skłodowska-Curie researchers (current and past) will be enhanced through the implementation of alumni services. This could be extended to include Marie Skłodowska-Curie supervisors.

For this purpose, one renewable service contract will be concluded.

Type of Action: Public Procurement

Indicative timetable: Second quarter of 2016

Indicative budget: EUR 1.10 million from the 2016 budget and EUR 1.10 million from the 2017 budget

### **3. Events and outreach**

During 2016 and 2017, the Commission intends to organise several events (conferences and workshops) dedicated to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, and to contribute to leading research conferences. Moreover, a dedicated campaign will be organised to take a novel approach in communication of research and to disseminate results of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie-funded projects to the general public.

For this, maximum 10 specific contracts will be concluded.

Type of Action: Public Procurement – existing Framework Contract(s).

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<sup>19</sup> The budget amounts for the 2016 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2016 after the adoption of the budget 2016 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

The budget amounts for the 2017 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2017.

Indicative timetable: Throughout 2016 and 2017.

Indicative budget: EUR 0.57 million from the 2016 budget and EUR 0.32 million from the 2017 budget

#### **4. Studies**

To provide in-depth analysis of various aspects relevant for the successful implementation of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions: mobility aspects, multi- and interdisciplinarity, impact of the SME participation in the programme, identification of best practices in supervision.

Maximum four specific contracts.

Type of Action: Public Procurement – existing Framework Contract.

Indicative timetable: Throughout 2016 and 2017.

Indicative budget: EUR 0.40 million from the 2016 budget and EUR 0.40 million from the 2017 budget

**HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017**  
**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**

**Budget<sup>20</sup>**

	Budget line(s)	2016 Budget EUR million	2017 Budget EUR million
<b>Calls</b>			
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2016		370.00	
	<i>from 15.030101</i>	<i>370.00</i>	
H2020-MSCA-IF-2016		218.50	
	<i>from 15.030101</i>	<i>218.50</i>	
H2020-MSCA-RISE-2016		80.00	
	<i>from 15.030101</i>	<i>80.00</i>	
H2020-MSCA-COFUND- 2016		80.00	
	<i>from 15.030101</i>	<i>80.00</i>	
H2020-MSCA-NIGHT-2016		8.00	
	<i>from 15.030101</i>	<i>8.00</i>	
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017			430.00
	<i>from 15.030101</i>		<i>430.00</i>
H2020-MSCA-IF-2017			248.00
	<i>from 15.030101</i>		<i>248.00</i>

<sup>20</sup> The budget figures given in this table are rounded to two decimal places.

The budget amounts for the 2016 budget are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2016 after the adoption of the budget 2016 by the budgetary authority or, if the budget is not adopted, as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

The budget amounts for the 2017 budget are indicative and will be subject to a separate financing decision to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2017.

**HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017**  
**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2017			80.00
	<i>from 15.030101</i>		<i>80.00</i>
H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2017			80.00
	<i>from 15.030101</i>		<i>80.00</i>
H2020-MSCA-NCP-2017			1.50
	<i>from 15.030101</i>		<i>1.50</i>
<b>Other actions</b>			
Public Procurement		2.57	1.82
	<i>from 15.030101</i>	<i>2.57</i>	<i>1.82</i>
<b>Estimated total budget</b>		<b>759.07</b>	<b>841.32</b>

## Eligibility conditions for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

### Proposal

A proposal will only be considered eligible if it complies with the eligibility conditions set out in this section, depending on the type of MSC action.

### Participating organisations

1. Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions must fulfil the **minimum conditions concerning participating organisations**:

- For **IF**:

The beneficiary must be a legal entity located in an EU Member State or Horizon 2020 associated country and must employ and supervise the researcher during the action.

In addition to the above, for IF European Fellowship (EF) **Society and Enterprise Panel**, the beneficiary must be an entity from the non-academic sector.

- For **ITN**:

For **ITN European Training Networks (ETN)** and **ITN European Joint Doctorates (EJD)**: the consortium must be composed of at least three beneficiaries located in three different EU Member States or Horizon 2020 associated countries. All three legal entities shall be independent of each other.

In order to reach the objectives of EJD, at least three beneficiaries must be entitled to award doctoral degrees.<sup>21</sup> Letters of commitment to award the joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees must be included in the proposal.

For **ITN European Industrial Doctorates (EID)**: the consortium must be composed of at least two independent beneficiaries located in two different EU Member States or Horizon 2020 associated countries.

Given the nature of EID, at least one beneficiary must be from the academic sector and at least one beneficiary must come from the non-academic sector, primarily enterprises. Should none of the academic beneficiaries be entitled to award a doctoral degree<sup>22</sup>, a university entitled to award a doctoral degree must be associated to the project as a partner organisation. However, the obligation of the beneficiary to recruit, host and train the researcher remains unchanged.

For all ITN: all beneficiaries are required to host at their premises and supervise recruited researchers.

The overall EU contribution for ITN actions is limited to a maximum 540 person-months. For EID with only two beneficiaries, this limit is set to 180.

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<sup>21</sup> For EJD, at least two institutions conferring a joint, double or multiple doctoral degree must be established in an EU Member State and/or Associated Country.

<sup>22</sup> Every time the document refers to doctoral degrees, this means that the degrees have to be recognised as such by the relevant authorities of the country or countries concerned.

Not more than 40% of the requested EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country or to any one international European interest organisation or international organisation (except for EID with only two beneficiaries).

- For **RISE**: the consortium must be created by at least three legal entities, independent of each other and established in at least three different countries. At least two of them must be beneficiaries located in an EU Member State or Horizon 2020 associated country. If all participating organisations are from the same sector (i.e. either only academic or only non-academic), there must be at least one partner organisation from a third country. Above this minimum, the participation of beneficiaries/partner organisations from any country is possible under the conditions provided by the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013.

For RISE actions, only legal entities that are established in EU Member States or Horizon 2020 associated countries can be beneficiaries; only legal entities that are established in third countries can be partner organisations.

The overall EU contribution for RISE actions is limited to a maximum 540 person-months.

- For **COFUND**: the beneficiary must be a legal entity established in an EU Member State or Horizon 2020 associated country that funds or manages doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes for researchers.

2. In addition, the following rules apply:

- The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission notice Nr 2013/C 205/05 (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11) apply for all actions under this part of the Work Programme, including to partner organisations and to third parties that receive financial support under the action (in accordance with Article 137 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012), notably COFUND.
- Natural or legal persons, groups or non-State entities which are covered by the Council sanctions in force are not eligible to participate in EU programmes. (Please see the consolidated list of persons, groups and entities subject to EU sanctions, available at: [http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/consol-list\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/consol-list_en.htm).)
- Given that the EU does not recognise the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol, legal persons established in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or the city of Sevastopol are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This criterion also applies in cases where the action involves financial support given by grant beneficiaries to third parties established in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or the city of Sevastopol (in accordance with Article 137 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012). Should the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol end, this Work Programme will be revised.

 **Note:**

1. Once the minimum eligibility conditions are fulfilled and provided that the conditions laid down in this Work Programme are met, any other organisation from any country may participate – under the conditions set out in Part A of the General Annexes to the Work Programme.

2. For the minimum eligibility conditions: if one of the participants is an **international European interest organisation**, the EU's **Joint Research Centre (JRC)** or an **'entity created under Union law'** (see Article 9(2) of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation), it shall be considered to be established in an EU Member State or Horizon 2020 associated country other than the EU Member States / Horizon 2020 associated countries in which the other participants are established.

3. The following **definitions** apply:

**'Beneficiaries'** are the legal entities that sign the grant agreement and have the responsibility for the proper implementation of the action. They contribute directly to the implementation of the research, transfer of knowledge and training activities. Depending on the type of MSC action, this involves recruiting, supervising, hosting or seconding researchers or managing and funding programmes.

**'Partner organisations'** contribute to the implementation of the action, but do not sign the grant agreement. Partner organisations may not employ the researchers under the action<sup>23</sup>.

Partner organisations identified in the proposal must include a letter of commitment (with the proposal) to ensure their real and active participation in the network. (The contribution of any partner organisations for which no such evidence of commitment is submitted will not be taken into account during evaluation).

When partner organisations are involved, beneficiaries are encouraged to sign a partnership agreement with them (for the internal relationship between participating organisations). These partnership agreements must comply with the grant agreement.

**'Academic sector'** means public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research institutes whose primary mission is to pursue research, international organisations and international European interest organisations<sup>24</sup>.

**'Non-academic sector'** means any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation. This includes all fields of future workplaces of researchers, from industry to business, government, civil society organisations, cultural institutions, etc.

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<sup>23</sup> For COFUND, this restriction does not apply.

<sup>24</sup> 'International European interest organisation' means an international organisation, the majority of whose members are EU Member States or Horizon 2020 associated countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe (see Article 2.1(12) of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013).

### **Recruited researchers / seconded staff**

1. ITN, IF and COFUND actions must include the recruitment of researchers (for ITN and IF: they must be recruited by the beneficiary; for COFUND: they can be recruited by a partner organisation).

RISE actions must include the secondment of staff members.

2. Supported researchers and staff members may be of any nationality. They must move from one country to another to broaden or deepen their competences.

For IF Global Fellowships (GF) and the European Fellowships (EF) Reintegration Panel: the researchers must be nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States and Horizon 2020 associated countries. Long-term residence means a period of full-time research activity in the EU or Horizon 2020 associated countries of at least 5 consecutive years.

3. For ITN, IF and COFUND: supported **researchers must be** either early-stage or experienced researchers, depending on the action:

- For ITN and COFUND Doctoral Programmes (DP): researchers must be **early-stage researchers (ESR)**, i.e. at the time of recruitment, be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.
- For IF and COFUND Fellowship Programmes (FP): researchers must be **experienced researchers (ER)**, i.e. at the time of the call deadline (for IF) or recruitment (for COFUND), be in possession of a doctoral degree<sup>25</sup> or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

For RISE: supported **staff members must be** (early-stage or experienced) researchers or administrative, managerial or technical staff supporting the research and innovation activities under the action. They must be actively engaged in or linked to research and/or innovation activities for at least six months (full-time equivalent) at the sending institution, before the first period of secondment.

 *Note:*

*'Full-time equivalent research experience' is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate (either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited or seconded) – even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged.*

4. For ITN, IF and COFUND: researchers must comply with the **mobility rule**<sup>26</sup>.

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<sup>25</sup> A medical doctor degree will not be accepted by itself as equivalent to a doctoral degree. To be considered as experienced researchers, medical doctors need to provide the certificates of a doctoral degree or information on their research experience.

<sup>26</sup> Existing programmes applying for COFUND can deviate from this rule if duly justified in the proposal by the applicant.

Researchers may not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the reference date: the call deadline (IF), or recruitment (ITN/COFUND Doctoral programmes (DP)) or either of these two points in time (COFUND Fellowship programmes (FP)). Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

For 'international European interest organisations' or 'international organisations', the researchers may not have spent more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the call deadline/recruitment, in the same appointing organisation.

For IF Society and Enterprise Panel, Career Restart Panel and Reintegration Panel or equivalent activities under COFUND, researchers may not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their host organisation for more than 3 years in the 5 years immediately before the reference date.

For RISE: secondments are not subject to a mobility rule.

5. The minimum/maximum duration of the funded recruitment/secondment is:

- For ITN:

Recruitment/fellowship duration: 3-36 months

Secondments are possible for up to 30% of the fellowship duration (except for EID and EJD – where time spent at other participating organisations, in line with the proposal description, is not affected by this limitation).

For ITN EID, researchers must spend at least 50% of their time in the non-academic sector. The inter-sectoral mobility has to be between beneficiaries located in different countries.

- For IF:

IF European Fellowships (EF): recruitment/fellowship duration: 12-24 months

IF Global Fellowships (GF): recruitment/fellowship duration: 24-36 months (12-24 months for the outgoing phase plus 12 month return phase in Europe)

- For RISE:

Secondment duration: 1-12 months

Secondments may be split into several stays not exceeding 12 months in total and not going beyond the project duration. The splits must be justified and considered beneficial for the transfer of knowledge activities.

The exchanged staff members must be guaranteed reintegration into the sending institution, thus maximising the impact of the action for knowledge sharing and long-term collaboration.

- For COFUND:

Recruitment/fellowship duration: minimum 3 months

For fellowships where the main part of the research training activity does not take place in an EU Member State or an Horizon 2020 associated country, the return phase to a Member State/associated country may not be more than 50% of the total duration of the research training activity.

### **Duration of the action**

The maximum duration of the action will be the following:

- For ITN: 48 months from the starting date set out in the grant agreement.
- For IF: equals the duration of support granted to the researcher.
- For RISE: 48 months from the starting date set out in the grant agreement.
- For COFUND: 60 months from the starting date set out in the grant agreement.

For ITN and COFUND, the maximum duration also includes the time that is needed to recruit or select the researchers.

## **Evaluation rules for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions**

### **Award criteria, scores and weighting**

1. Proposals will be evaluated by experts, on the basis of the **award criteria** 'excellence', 'impact' and 'quality and efficiency of the implementation' (see Article 15 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013).

The aspects to be considered in each case and the **weighting** depend on the type of Marie Skłodowska-Curie action as set out in the tables below.

2. Evaluation **scores** will be awarded for each of the criteria, and not their individual elements. Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5. Scores with a resolution of one decimal place may be awarded. The total score will be subject to a threshold of 70%.

3. If necessary, the panel will determine a **priority order** for proposals which have been awarded the same score within a ranked list. When the total scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for individual award criteria. For each action the priority order of the criteria is detailed in the tables below.

If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on other appropriate characteristics, to be decided by the panel, related to the contribution of the proposal to the European Research Area (ERA) and/or general objectives mentioned in the work programme (e.g. intersectoral mobility, international co-operation, favourable employment and working conditions).

Whether or not such a prioritisation is carried out will depend on the available budget or other call conditions.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

<b>ITN: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks</b>		
<b>Excellence</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</b>
<b>Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme</b> (including inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and, where appropriate, gender aspects)	Enhancing the <b>career perspectives</b> and <b>employability</b> of researchers and contribution to their <b>skills</b> development	<b>Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan</b> , including appropriateness of the allocation of <b>tasks and resources</b> , (including awarding of the doctoral degrees for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> projects)
<b>Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme</b>  (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and, where appropriate, gender aspects)	Contribution to <b>structuring doctoral / early-stage research training at the European level</b> and to strengthening <b>European innovation capacity</b> , including the potential for:  <b>a)</b> meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral/research training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field  <b>b)</b> developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures (for <i>EJD</i> projects only)	<b>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures</b> , including quality management and risk management (with a mandatory joint governing structure for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> projects)
<b>Quality of the supervision</b> (including mandatory joint supervision for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> projects)	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and <b>disseminate</b> the project results	Appropriateness of the <b>infrastructure</b> of the participating organisations
<b>Quality of the proposed interaction</b> between the participating organisations	Quality of the proposed measures to <b>communicate</b> the project activities to different target audiences	<b>Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and their commitment to the programme</b>
<b>50%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Weighting</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Priority in case of ex aequo</b>		

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

<b>IF: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships</b>		
<b>Excellence</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</b>
<b>Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project;</b> level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects	<b>Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher</b>	Coherence and effectiveness of <b>the work plan</b>
<b>Quality and appropriateness of the training</b> and of the two way <b>transfer of knowledge</b> between the researcher and the host	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and <b>disseminate</b> the project results	Appropriateness of the allocation of <b>tasks and resources</b>
<b>Quality of the supervision</b> and of the integration in the team/institution	Quality of the proposed measures to <b>communicate</b> the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the <b>management structure and procedures</b> , including risk management
<b>Capacity of the researcher</b> to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity/independence		Appropriateness of the <b>institutional environment</b> (infrastructure)
<b>50%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Weighting</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Priority in case of ex aequo</b>		

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

<b>RISE: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange</b>		
<b>Excellence</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</b>
<b>Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project;</b> level of novelty and appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and gender aspects	<b>Enhancing the potential and future career perspectives of the staff members</b>	<b>Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan,</b> including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
<b>Quality and appropriateness of knowledge sharing</b> among the participating organisations in light of the research and innovation objectives.	<b>Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge</b> between participating organisations and contribution to improving research and innovation potential at the European and global levels	<b>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures,</b> including quality management and risk management
<b>Quality of the proposed interaction</b> between the participating organisations	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and <b>disseminate</b> the project results	<b>Appropriateness of the institutional environment</b> (hosting arrangements, infrastructure)
	Quality of the proposed measures to <b>communicate</b> the project activities to different target audiences	<b>Competences, experience and complementarity</b> of the participating organisations <b>and their commitment to the project</b>
<b>50%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Weighting</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Priority in case of ex aequo</b>		

<b>COFUND: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes</b>		
<b>Excellence</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</b>
<b>Quality of the selection / recruitment process for the researchers</b> (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities)	Enhancing the <b>potential and future career perspectives</b> of researchers; <b>Strengthening human resources</b> on regional, national or international level	<b>Coherence, effectiveness and appropriateness of the work plan</b>
<b>Quality of the research options offered by the programme</b> in terms of science, interdisciplinarity, intersectorality and level of transnational mobility	<b>Aligning practices of participating organisations with the principles set out by the EU for human resources development in research and innovation</b>	<b>Appointment conditions of researchers</b>
<b>Quality of career guidance and training</b> , including supervision arrangements, training in transferable skills	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and <b>disseminate</b> the results	<b>Competence of the participant</b> to implement the programme
	Quality of the proposed measures to <b>communicate</b> the results to different target audiences	
<b>50%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Weighting</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Priority in case of ex aequo</b>		

### Evaluation procedure

1. In ITN, IF and RISE, proposals will normally be **evaluated by** one of eight 'main evaluation **panels**': Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY).

For ITN European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and European Joint Doctorates (EJD), proposals will be ranked in specific multidisciplinary panels.

For IF, there are – in addition to the main evaluation panels – three separate multidisciplinary panels: Society and Enterprise Panel (SE), Career Restart Panel (CAR) and the Reintegration Panel (RI).

In COFUND, the evaluation will be organised in two different panels: Doctoral programmes (DP) and Fellowship programmes (FP).

Each panel establishes a ranked list.

The distribution of the indicative budget of the call will be proportional to the number of eligible proposals received in each panel, except where a specific budget for a multidisciplinary panel has been fixed in the call. If the budget allocated to any panel exceeds the requirements of all proposals positively evaluated<sup>27</sup> in that panel, the excess budget will be reallocated to the other panels based on the distribution as above. Equally, if the allocated funding to a panel is insufficient to fund the highest ranked proposal in that panel, the necessary budget will be transferred from the other panels based on the distribution as above, in order to ensure that the highest ranked proposal can be funded.

2. Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously.
3. Proposals may be evaluated remotely.
4. In ITN and IF, the consensus score for each award criterion may be the average of the corresponding scores attributed by the individual expert evaluators.
5. As part of the evaluation by independent experts, a panel review will recommend one or more ranked lists for the proposals under evaluation, following the scoring systems indicated in this work programme.

The full evaluation procedure is described in the [relevant guide](#) published on the Participant Portal.

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<sup>27</sup> Measured as proposals having passed all relevant evaluation thresholds.

## **EU contribution and applicable unit costs**

The EU contribution under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions is based on unit costs expressed in person-months. They have been established in line with the methodology set up by Commission Decision No C(2013) 8194<sup>28</sup>.

### **1. ITN / IF / COFUND**

The beneficiary (beneficiary or partner organisation in COFUND) must recruit each eligible researcher under an employment contract or 'equivalent direct contract' with full social security coverage (including sickness, parental, unemployment and invalidity benefits, pension rights, benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases) except where national legislation prohibits this possibility.

When an employment contract cannot be provided, the beneficiary (beneficiary or partner organisation in COFUND) must recruit the researcher under a 'fixed-amount fellowship'. In this case, the living allowance<sup>29</sup> will be halved and the beneficiary must ensure that the researcher enjoys minimum social security coverage.

#### *ITN / IF*

The yearly reference rates for calculating the living allowance of researchers recruited under an employment contract/ equivalent direct contract are:

- for early-stage researchers (ITN): 37 320 EUR/year
- for experienced researchers (IF): 55 800 EUR/year

The above amounts include all compulsory deductions under national legislation. Rates for individual countries are obtained by applying the country correction coefficients of table 2.

The beneficiary must pay to the recruited researchers at least the reference allowances (minus all compulsory deductions under national legislation in the context of the project). A top-up may be paid to the researchers in order to complement this contribution.

In addition to the living allowance, the beneficiary must pay a mobility allowance and for some categories of researchers, a family allowance, as specified in table 1. In this context family is defined as persons linked to the researcher by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognised by the legislation of the country where this relationship was formalised; or (iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher.

The rates from table 1 apply to researchers devoting themselves to their project on a full-time basis (pro-rata for parts of years). In exceptional cases where researchers, in agreement with the beneficiary and with prior approval by the Research Executive Agency (REA), implement

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<sup>28</sup> COMMISSION DECISION authorising the use of reimbursement on the basis of unit costs for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme

<sup>29</sup> Researcher unit cost in case of COFUND

their project on a part-time basis, the rates will apply proportionally without the possibility that the total amounts will exceed those that apply for full-time equivalent periods. The same principle will also apply in case of split of a project into several distinct periods.

### *COFUND*

Table 1 specifies the researcher unit cost and the institutional unit cost for the co-funding of regional, national and international programmes. The EU contribution must be used exclusively as contribution to the management of the programme and to the living allowance of the researchers, which is solely for the benefit of the researchers appointed under the programme and includes all compulsory deductions under national legislation. Other cost items (such as research costs, travel, family and mobility allowances, indirect costs) may be funded through other resources including EU programmes other than Horizon 2020.

Applicants must specify in their proposal the total cost of the proposal and in particular, the amounts that will be provided for the benefit of the researcher and for the organisation that is hosting the researcher. This information will be needed to evaluate the adequateness of employment and working conditions of the researchers.

The remuneration costs (salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs included in the remuneration) for the benefit of the researchers must be:

- for researchers recruited under an employment contract: not lower than EUR 2 597 (for early-stage researchers) and EUR 3 675 (for experienced researchers);
- for researchers recruited under a fixed-amount fellowship: not lower than EUR 1 298.50 (for early-stage researchers) and EUR 1 837.50 (for experienced researchers).

## 2. RISE

The top-up allowance specified in table 1 must be solely for the benefit of the seconded staff member.

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*  
*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

**Table 1: EU contribution [in EUR]**

<b>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action</b>	<b>Researcher unit cost</b> person/month			<b>Institutional unit cost</b> person/month	
	<b>Living allowance*</b>	<b>Mobility allowance</b>	<b>Family allowance</b>	<b>Research, training and networking costs</b>	<b>Management and indirect costs</b>
<b>Innovative Training Networks</b>	<b>3 110</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1 800</b>	<b>1 200</b>
<b>Individual Fellowships</b>	<b>4 650</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>650</b>

\* A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance. This coefficient is the one applicable to the country of the beneficiary, as listed in Table 2. The only exception are IF Global Fellowships with two different country correction coefficients:

- for the outgoing phase: the coefficient of the country where the researcher is hosted (i.e. the country of the partner organisation)
- for the return phase: the coefficient of the country where the researcher returns to (i.e. the country of the beneficiary).

*HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017*

*Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action	Staff member unit cost	Institutional unit cost	
	Top-up allowance person/month	person/month	
		Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange	2 000	1 800	700

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action	Researcher unit cost		Institutional unit cost
	person/month		person/month
Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes	Early-stage researchers	1 855**	325****
	Experienced researchers	2 625***	

\*\* This figure represents 50% cofunding of 3710 EUR, the amount established in Commission Decision No C(2013) 8194

\*\*\* This figure represents 50% cofunding of 5250 EUR, the amount established in Commission Decision No C(2013) 8194

\*\*\*\* This figure represents 50% cofunding of 650 EUR, the amount established in Commission Decision No C(2013) 8194

**Table 2: Country correction coefficients (CCC) for ITN and IF living allowances**

For countries where the correction coefficient is not indicated, the Commission will decide on a case-by-case basis.

Country Code <sup>30</sup>	CCC
<b>EU Member States</b>	
AT	104.8%
BE	100.0%
BG	71.5%
CY	91.8%
CZ	83.8%
DE	98.8%
DK	135.3%
EE	78.3%
EL	92.7%
ES	97.6%
FI	116.6%
FR	111.0%
HR	97.5%
HU	76.2%
IE	113.5%
IT	106.7%

LT	73.1%
LU	100.0%
LV	75.9%
MT	89.6%
NL	104.3%
PL	76.4%
PT	89.1%
RO	68.3%
SE	111.7%
SI	86.1%
SK	82.6%
UK	120.3%
<b>Horizon 2020 associated countries</b>	
AL	76.1%
BA	73.6%
CH	113.1%
FO	134.1%
IL	108.7%
IS	116.6%
MD	61.1%
ME	66.9%
MK	68.4%
NO	131.9%
RS	67.1%

TR	86.6%
UA	92.3%
<b>Third countries</b>	
AM	89.9%
AO	114.6%
AR	58.5%
AU	105.0%
AZ	93.0%
BB	116.6%
BD	47.2%
BF	93.8%
BJ	92.6%
BM	151.5%
BO	51.3%
BR	92.0%
BW	55.3%
BY	65.0%
BZ	75.3%
CA	86.4%
CD	127.6%
CF	114.3%
CG	124.9%
CI	102.0%
CL	67.1%

CM	103.3%
CN	85.0%
CO	76.6%
CR	76.7%
CU	83.8%
CV	76.4%
DJ	93.4%
DO	66.9%
DZ	81.7%
EC	68.8%
EG	48.6%
ER	61.2%
ET	85.2%
FJ	68.1%
GA	113.1%
GE	89.5%
GH	68.2%
GM	67.7%
GN	60.4%
GT	78.8%
GW	102.7%
GY	58.9%
HK	93.8%
HN	69.0%

<sup>30</sup> [ISO 3166 alpha-2](#), except for Greece and the United Kingdom (EL and UK used respectively instead of GR and GB).

**HORIZON 2020 – Work Programme 2016-2017**

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**

HT	108.7%
ID	75.3%
IN	52.8%
JM	94.9%
JO	75.5%
JP	115.9%
KE	78.1%
KG	83.1%
KH	70.5%
KR	105.2%
KZ	100.2%
LA	77.7%
LB	86.4%
LI	110.0%
LK	61.6%
LR	100.1%
LS	56.7%
LY	60.0%
MA	83.5%

MG	80.0%
ML	90.4%
MR	64.5%
MU	72.7%
MW	76.0%
MX	70.4%
MY	71.6%
MZ	71.6%
NA	68.3%
NC	128.9%
NE	87.9%
NG	92.4%
NI	57.3%
NP	73.5%
NZ	94.1%
PA	57.0%
PE	75.5%
PG	83.0%
PH	65.8%

PK	49.4%
PS	100.4%
PY	71.9%
RU	115.5%
RW	87.3%
SA	84.8%
SB	93.3%
SD	65.1%
SG	102.5%
SL	85.2%
SN	86.2%
SR	50.6%
SV	74.3%
SY	74.8%
SZ	56.8%
TD	125.3%
TG	88.7%
TH	65.0%
TJ	64.9%

TL	78.3%
TN	70.5%
TO	85.0%
TT	74.1%
TW	83.6%
TZ	65.2%
UG	65.7%
US	99.4%
UY	75.3%
UZ	51.4%
VE	70.0%
VN	51.1%
VU	112.6%
WS	75.8%
XK	58.6%
YE	68.1%
ZA	55.8%
ZM	66.4%
ZW	47.2%