



## Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

The **Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)**, part of Horizon 2020, the EU Framework programme for research and innovation, support the human resources behind research and innovation. 65.000 researchers will benefit by 2020 from international and intersectoral mobility plus attractive working conditions. In addition, MSCA is the main EU programme for structured doctoral training, financing 25.000 PhDs over the next 7 years. DG EAC coordinates the programme and the Research Executive Agency (REA) manages it. Researchers of any field or nationality may be funded. Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, or international organisation may participate in MSCA. In addition, organisations in roughly [140 non-European countries](#) of low and middle income are eligible for EU financing for their participation.

In the **Innovative Training Networks (ITN)**, a number of European organisations (and optionally also organisations from outside Europe) are financed to provide structured doctoral-level training based on intersectoral secondments. The training includes exposure to the non-academic sector and develops both research skills and other transversal competences that support employability in any setting. The ITNs provide specific support for industrial doctorates and for the first time also for joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees (replacing the Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates).

The **Individual Fellowships (IF)** support the intra-European mobility of experienced researchers. They also enable mobility from and to Europe, including reintegration after a period elsewhere in the world. Non-academic organisations can host part or all of the fellowship, if this is appropriate for the particular field of research. Applicants apply directly to the Commission with their research proposal, in liaison with their prospective host institution.

The **Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)** action supports partnerships of European and/or international organisations to implement a joint research/innovation project through exchanging their staff, including for short-term placements. If the partnership is only European, the staff mobility must transfer knowledge and enhance cooperation between academia and other sectors.

The **Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)** supports organisations in Europe managing fellowship programmes at the regional, national or international level. For the first time, doctoral training programmes as well as fellowships for experienced researchers are supported. This will significantly increase the number of attractive, transnational research training opportunities in Europe. Furthermore, non-academic organisations are now also able to host COFUND Fellows, and the programmes may receive a contribution from the EU Structural and Investment Funds.

Finally, the **European Researchers' Night (NIGHT)** activity is a Europe-wide event, which brings together the general public and researchers every year on the fourth Friday of September. The aim is to attract young people into science by showing the fun side.

## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Alumni

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DG EAC recently created a network of Marie Skłodowska-Curie alumni which is rapidly growing. Currently the alumni association (<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/>) has over 5.000 members who are eager to foster global relationships as ambassadors of the MSCA with the wider research and innovation community through their experience of international and intersectoral mobility. They can, of course, be approached for promotional purposes at conferences and fairs. Your requests should be channelled through: [EAC-MSCA-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EAC-MSCA-COMMUNICATION@ec.europa.eu)

## National Contact Points for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

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National Contact Points dedicated to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions have been and continue to be established in a number of countries around the globe. Their main role is to guide potential applicants on choosing relevant types of action, advise on administrative procedures and contractual issues, provide training and assistance on proposal writing, distribute documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.) and assist in partner search. Their contact details can be found on the H2020 Participant Portal at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national\\_contact\\_points.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html)

## Timing of calls for proposals to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

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Action	Year	Budget available (in EUR millions)	Call opens	Call closes
Innovative Training Networks (ITN)	2015	370	02/09/2014	13/01/2015
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)	2015	80	06/01/2015	28/04/2015
Individual Fellowships (IF)	2015	215	12/03/2015	10/09/2015
Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)	2015	80	14/04/2015	01/10/2015

## Applications and further information

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### Applications:

The Participant Portal (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>) was established as an Internet portal for the stakeholders of the EU research and innovation programmes. It provides you a set of services to facilitate your participation in the programmes and related interactions with the Commission. On this site you can find and secure funding for projects under the following EU programmes:

- 2014-2020 Horizon 2020 - research and innovation framework programme
- 2007-2013 7th research framework programme (FP7) and Competitiveness & Innovation Programme (CIP)
- Research Fund for Coal & Steel, COSME, 3rd Health Programme, Consumer Programme

All ITN and COFUND projects publish calls and job opportunities for individuals on the **Euraxess Job Portal**: <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess>

**Website:** <http://ec.europa.eu/msca>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Marie.Curie.Actions>

