The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in Horizon Europe

32. KoWi-Bundestagung zur EU-Forschungs- und Innovationsförderung
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Bodo Richter
European Commission
DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
MSCA unit
MSCA key features

• Support the mobility, training and career development of researchers from all over the world through excellent doctoral programmes, postdoc fellowships and collaborative projects

• Participation of non-academic sector strongly encouraged, especially industry and SMEs

• For researchers at every stage of their career

• Coverage for all domains of research (bottom-up approach)

• Promotion of attractive working and employment conditions (financing rate of up to 100% )
The von der Leyen Commission:
A Union that strives for more

6 Headline Ambitions

• A European Green Deal
  Europe to strive for more by being the first climate-neutral continent

• An economy that works for people
  Europe to strive for more when it comes to social fairness and prosperity

• A Europe fit for the digital age
  Europe to strive for more by grasping the opportunities from the digital age within safe and ethical boundaries

• Promoting our European way of life
  Europe to strive for more when it comes to protecting our citizens and promoting our values

• A stronger Europe in the world
  Europe to strive for more by strengthening our unique brand of responsible global leadership

• A new push for European democracy
  Europe to strive for more in nurturing, protecting and strengthening our democracy

Mariya Gabriel: Commissioner for Research, Innovation, Education, Culture & Youth
Horizon Europe: Preliminary structure

**Excellent Science (Pillar 1):** reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union’s science base
The MSCA in Horizon Europe

- Overall: continuation
- Creating impact on researchers, institutions, systems
- Building upon the strong international dimension of the programme and reinforcing its inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary characters
- 5 areas of intervention:
  - mobility of researchers
  - training of researchers
  - strengthening human capital across the ERA (by spreading best practices across institutions and systems)
  - facilitating synergies
  - promoting public outreach

The Commission proposes a budget of **EUR 6.8 billion** for the MSCA.
The MSCA in Horizon Europe:
Policy Background, Guiding principles and Priorities

- Contribution to the European Research Area (ERA) and European Education Area (EEA)
- Contribution to the EU external policy objectives and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Commitment to the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers + Innovative Doctoral Training Principles
- Underlying Principles: Open Science, Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI)
- Contribution to the European Green Deal objectives
- Contribution to the Climate Action target of Horizon Europe (35% of budget)
Towards greener MSCA in Horizon Europe

• MSCA: bottom-up programme with a tangible *impact at policy level* by setting standards and driving structural change

• **Objectives:**
  • strive for a significant reduction in the carbon footprint of MSCA projects
  • increase awareness on environmental issues
  • promote sustainable behaviors and policies
  • support policy and decision making

• **Possible actions:**
  • MSCA portfolio analysis
  • Thematic clustering
  • MSCA Green Charter
  • Green edition of the European Researchers’ Night
  • MSCA Green Awards
  • Guidance and training, etc.
Evolution in the MSCA’s implementation

- Streamlined actions, clearer identity
- Simpler rules, fine-tuned definitions, harmonised conditions
- Continuation and expansion of simplified form of grants
- Demand management to maintain high-quality and attractiveness
- Strengthen structuring effects on host institutions
- More guidance on supervision and exposure beyond academia
- Improved internal coherence between actions
- Reinforced synergies within Horizon Europe and between programmes: Erasmus+, ERC, EIT, COST, EIC, Research Infrastructures, …
- Synergies between funding instruments: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); European Social Fund (ESF+)
MSCA 2021-2027

1. MSCA Doctoral Networks
2. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
3. MSCA Staff Exchanges
4. MSCA COFUND
5. MSCA and Citizens

→ networks training doctoral candidates
→ postdoctoral researchers
→ any type of research(-related) staff
→ co-funding training programmes
→ public outreach events

The information in this presentation is still subject to change
MSCA Doctoral Networks (1/2)

• MSCA will continue to support doctoral candidates and programmes

• Integrating objectives of 3 sub-actions into a single action
  
  ➢ Incentives for industrial or joint doctorates
    
    o Increased number of person-months
    
    o Industrial doctorate possible between entities in one country
  
  ➢ Pre-agreement for joint degrees required

• 4 years for project implementation (no change)

• All fellows enrolled in a doctoral training

• Funding for max. 36 researcher-months per individual doctoral candidate (no change)
MSCA Doctoral Networks (2/2)

• Manage demand, improve success rates
  ➢ Reduced number of fellow-months in project
    o 360 person months
    o up to 540 in case of industrial or joint doctorates
  ➢ Restricted resubmissions below quality threshold
    o Less than 80% in previous call evaluation
    o Resubmission: 70% of the consortium composition and 70% of the application text

• Guidelines for supervisors

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MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (1/2)

• Continue supporting post-doctoral research and careers

• Continue funding all research domains including areas of research covered by the EURATOM Treaty

• Clarify and simplify, a single action
  • Two destinations: European and Global
  • Replacement of panels (Career Restart, Reintegration, Society and Enterprise) with incentives

• Duration (no change): European Destination: 12-24 months (additional up to 6 months for non-academic sector)
  Global destination: 24 -36 (12-24 outgoing & 12 months return phase in Europe)

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MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (2/2)

• Develop skills needed for academia and beyond
  - Intensify exposure/secondments to training in entities beyond academia
  - Improved guidance towards career development (plan & supervision)

• Managing the increasing demand to maintain high-quality selection & improve success rate
  - Limit research experience – up to 6 years of research experience after PhD (with possible exceptions)
  - Require PhD degree
  - Restrict resubmissions below quality threshold
MSCA Staff Exchanges

- Most international action under MSCA
- Continue supporting staff exchanges, open to any type of staff
- International, intersectoral, interdisciplinary secondments
- Emphasis on the added-value of the collaboration itself
- Lean and flexible tool to support collaborative R&I projects
- 4 years for project implementation (no change)

What’s new?

- Interdisciplinary secondments possible within Europe (max 1/3 of project’s person-months)
- Number of person-months reduced to 360 (to make projects more manageable)
MSCA COFUND

- Continue co-funding national, regional, institutional schemes for doctoral training and postdoctoral fellowships
- Introduce sustainable structuring effects, spread best practice
- Greater focus on new beneficiaries and new training programmes
- Encourage synergies with Structural Funds

EU contribution:
- Simplification - it will cover minimum remuneration (70% living + mobility allowance)
- Limited to EUR 10 million per beneficiary per call (unchanged)
- Maximum duration: 60 months (unchanged)
Simplification and harmonisation

• **Single mobility rule**
Researchers may not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their (main) host organisation for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the applicable reference date.

• **Fine-tuned definitions**
Doctoral candidates (instead of ESR) & postdoctoral researchers (instead of ER)

• **1/3 maximum duration of secondments**
Harmonisation across the schemes

• **Alignment with the rest of Horizon Europe**
Associated partners (instead of partner organisations) & affiliated entities (instead of entities with a capital or legal link)
MSCA and Citizens

- Continuation of the European Researchers' Night
- Extension to existing outreach events
  - Supporting also other science festivals and outreach events with EU-added value

in 2019: 1.6 million visitors
Other activities

- Study analysing brain drain and propose appropriate solutions
- Researchers at Schools
- Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)
- Continued support to the MSCA NCPs network
- Researchers @ Risk
- MSCA international support
- Seal of Excellence for MSCA Postdocs and MSCA COFUND

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WP 2021-22 timetable

Mid-June 2020
Draft WP outline

Mid-July 2020
Preliminary draft WP text

September-October 2020
Consultation of Shadow PC on draft WP text

November 2020
Inter-service consultation

tbc*
Formal adoption of MFF + Horizon Europe

By Q4/2020
Set-up of formal HE PC configurations, followed by formal opinions on Strategic Plan 2021-2024

Q4 2020
Formal adoption of Strategic Plan

End February-early March 2021
Formal opinion of HE PC configuration on the WP

By end-March 2021**
Formal Adoption of WP

* Timing dependent upon adoption of Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF)
** Timing dependent upon adoption of MFF, Horizon Europe Framework Programme and Specific Programme and Horizon Europe Strategic Plan
Links

Marie Curie Actions Website
http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions

Participant Portal (applications, documents)
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal

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