

ERC Starting Grant & MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Funding opportunities for researchers Katharina Spannhake, KoWi

Bonn, 16/11/2022





Horizon Europe – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027)





Horizon Europe – Country Categories

- Funding from Horizon Europe
 - EU Member States (MS): including their overseas departments
 - Associated Countries (AC): Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Northern Macedonia, Norway, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Ukraine, Tunisia, Faroe Islands
 - Third Countries (TC): selected countries from Asia, Africa and South America
- Participation without funding from Horizon Europe: further Third Countries e.g. Japan, USA, China, Brasil etc.
- Special arrangement with Switzerland:
 - Switzerland counts as a third country, as exploratory talks on association are suspended
 - Swiss institutions cannot be selected as host institutions
- Special arrangement with the United Kingdom:
 - Association through the Protocol to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement
- Special arrangement Ukraine:

 Ukraine is AC, but without financial contribution to be made (at least in 2021 and 2022)

European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant



ERC Underlying Principles and Funding Modalities

- Underlying Principles:
 - European funding of basic research ("frontier research")
 - Development of funding schemes is science-driven (Scientific Council)
 - Open to all fields of research: bottom-up, investigator-driven, annual calls for proposal
 - Open for researchers of any age and nationality
 - → Scientific excellence is the sole criterion for evaluation!
- Funding Modalities:
 - Funding of individuals: Principal Investigator (PI) + project
 - Support for researchers to start or consolidate their own independent research team in Europe (MS or AC)
 - Funding: 100 % + 25
 - All direct project costs: living allowance, travel expenses, consumables, publication costs (incl. Open Access), research-related costs, purchase of major equipment (within the limits of depreciation rules)



Additional financing of indirect costs: 25 % overhead

ERC Funding Schemes



European Research Council (ERC)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Research Infrastructures

- Starting Grants2-7 years after PhD
- Consolidator Grants7-12 years after PhD
- Advanced Grants10 years Track-Record
- Synergy GrantsTeams with 2-4 PIs
- Proof of Concept
 Preparing ideas from ERC
 Grants for the market



ERC Starting Grants – Overview

- Target group
 - 2 7 years after PhD (Date of the defence decisive)
 - (extensions possible in exceptional cases; special rules for MD)
- Funding
 - Max. EUR 1.5 million for max. 5 years
 - (exception: + EUR 1 million for major equipment, field work or for PIs from Third Countries)
- Host istitution
 - In EU Member State or Associated Country
- Time commitment.
 - ≥ 50% (≥ 50% in Europa)
- Procedure
 - Single submission of full proposal, two-step evaluation (incl. Interview)
- Call
 - annually



Extended Eligibility

- Calculation of the eligibility time window:
 - Time elapsed between date of defence and 1 January of the call year
- Prolonged eligibility for documented parental leave
 - Mothers 18 months per child
 - Fathers documented time or leave taken
- Other reasons after PhD:
 - Documented elapsed time for long-term illnesses (< 90 days)
 - Clinical training (4 years maximum)
 - National service



Eligibility to apply for medical doctorates

- Principal Investigators who are MDs have to have:
 - Additional PhD (after acquiring the MD)

OR

- Appointment that requires doctoral equivalency (postdoc fellowship, professorship, ...)
- Eligibility time-window:
 - 4 9 years past MD for Starting Grants
 - 9 14 years past MD for Consolidator Grants
- Attention: For applicants who have a "Dr. med." degree instead of a MD, the "3. Staatsexamen" is considered
 the reference date.



Eligibility – Work Programme 2023

Starting Grant	Consolidator Grant		
2 and ≤ 7 years	7 and ≤ 12 years		
prior to	prior to		
1 January 2023	1 January 2023		
Cut-off dates: PhD awarded from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020 (inclusive)	Cut-off dates: PhD awarded from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2015 (inclusive)		



Evaluation Criteria Project

- Ground-breaking research?
- Beyond the state-of-the-art?
- Important challenges?
- Novel concepts?
- Approaches across disciplines?
- High risk / high gain?
- Feasibility:
 - Methodology appropriate?
 - Timescales, resources and PI commitment adequate?



Picture: © iStock





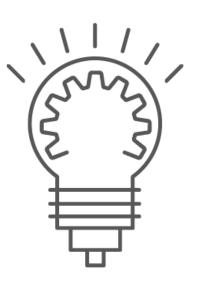
Evaluation Criteria PI

- Ability to conduct ground-breaking research?
- Creative independent thinking?
- Required scientific expertise and capacity?



First Reflections on Your Project

- Can you explain your project idea briefly and concisely?
- Which important (societal / scientific) challenges will you tackle?
- Which are the ground-breaking or novel aspects?
- What is the expected impact on your research field?
- Why are you the right person to carry out the project?





Proposal Parts

Part A

Part B

Administrative Forms / Proposal Submission Forms

General Information

Participants & Contacts

Ethics

Call-specific questions

Time commitment

Budget / Resources

B1

Extended Synopsis

CV

Track record

B2

Scientific Proposal

Annexes

Host Institution Support Letter (Host Institution Binding Statement of Support)

PhD-Certificate

Further documents (if applicable)



Part B in Detail

Evaluation step 1

B1

Extended Synopsis (5 pages)

CV (2 pages)

Track record (2 pages)

Evaluation step 2

B1 & B2

B1

B2: Scientific Proposal (14 pages)



B1

Extended synopsis (5 pages)

CV

Track record

Part B in Detail

- Concise presentation of scientific project
- Particular attention to the ground-breaking nature of the research
- Demonstration of the feasibility of the scientific approach



B1

Extended synopsis

CV (2 pages)

Track record

Part B in Detail

- Standard academic and research record
- Clear explanation of research career gaps and / or unconventional paths
- + Funding ID



B1

Extended synopsis

CV

Track record (2 pages)

Part B in Detail

- Publications in peer-reviewed international journals (including freely available preprints)
- Conference proceedings
- Monographs
- Granted patent(s)
- Invited presentations
- Prizes, awards, memberships



B1

B2 Scientific proposal (14 pages)

Part B2 in Detail

- State of the art and objectives
 - Clear objectives in the context of the field
 - Impact (new horizons)
 - Challenging aspects (incl. multi- or interdisciplinarity)
- Methodology
 - Key intermediate goals & stages
 - Novel or unconventional aspects
 - "high risk / high gain" balance
- Resources (Section C of the Online Submission Form: mx. 8000 letters)
 - Reasonable and fully justified

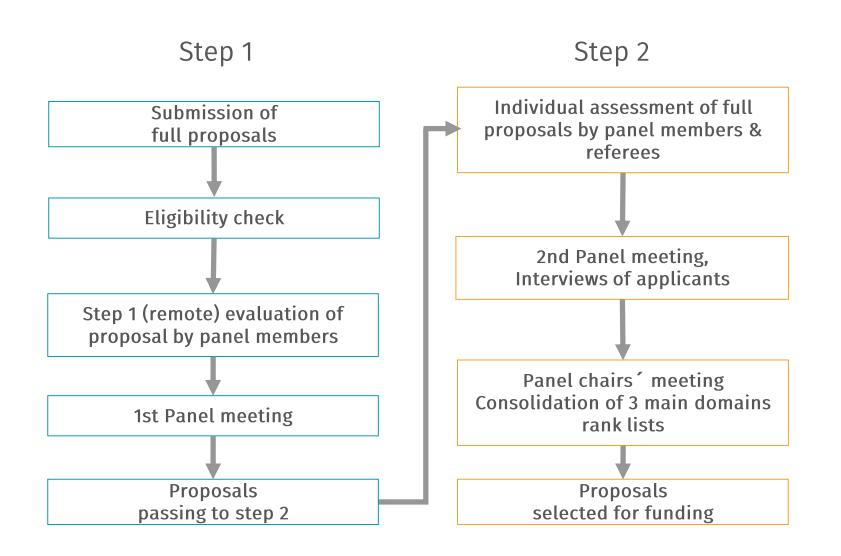


Evaluation Basis (StG)

- Peer-review: research field specific evaluation panels consisting of 1 panel chair and 10-15 members
- Three scientific domains:
 - Physical Sciences & Engineering (PE): 11 Panels
 - Life Sciences (LS): 9 Panels
 - Social Sciences & Humanities (SH): 7 Panels
- Applicants choose panel and indicate one or more keywords
- Up to 3 reviewers can be excluded in advance



Evaluation Process (StG)





From Submission to Funding

	UBMISSION DEADLINE	STEP 1 PANEL MEETING	INFORM APPLICANTS	Step 2 Panel Meeting	INFORM APPLICANTS	
	0	<u></u>	0	0	<u></u>	
STG COG	25 Oct 2022 02 Feb 2023	Mar 2023 Apr-May 2023	May 2023 July 2023	June 2023 Sept-Oct 2023	Aug 2023 ST Dec 2023 CO	





Resubmission for Call 2023 (StG)

- The rules depend on the WP under which you submit your new proposal and may change every year.
- Applications that have been rejected for formal reasons (ineligible proposals) can be resubmitted.
- Resubmission conditions:

Results step 1	2020 and before	2021	2022
А	Yes	Yes	Yes
В	Yes	Yes	NO
С	Yes	NO	NO

- Applications that have been awarded a A or B rating at step 2 may be resubmitted in the following call.
- Applications that have been awarded a B rating at step 1 must suspend a call and can only resubmit under the next work programme.
- Applications rejected under a C-rating must suspend two rounds of calls (two work programmes).



ERC Success rates 2018-2022

Funding scheme	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Starting Grants	Starting Grants 12,7% 13,1%		13,3%	9,8%	-	
Consolidator Grants	12,2%	12,3%	13%	11,8%	-	
Advanced Grants	10,8%	9,8%	8%	14,6%	-	
Synergy Grants	8,8%	13%	7,7%	no call	-	
Proof of Concept	_	 cut-off: 39,4% Cut-off: 46,2% Cut-off: 31,9% 	 cut-off: 37,2% Cut-off: 36,4% Cut-off: 28,2% 	no call	1. cut-off: 48% 2. Cut-off: 57,3% 3. Cut-off: ?%	



ERC Work Programme 2023 – dates

Funding line	Reference date	Call Opening	Call-Deadline	Budget (EUR)
		_		
Starting Grants	01 January 2023	12 July 2022	25 October 2022	628 million
Consolidator Grants	01 January 2023	28 September 2022	02 February 2023	595 million
Advanced Grants		08 December 2022	23 May 2023	597 million
Synergy Grants		13 July 2022	08 November 2022	300 million



How is the ERC Application Process organised?

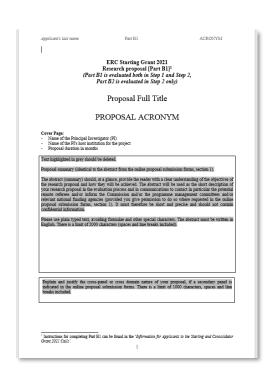
- Calls for Proposal
 - Annually
 - Specific deadline
- The Proposal
 - Submitted by the PI
 - Together with a Host Institution (Host Support Letter)
- Online submission
 - Funding and Tenders Portal of the European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home











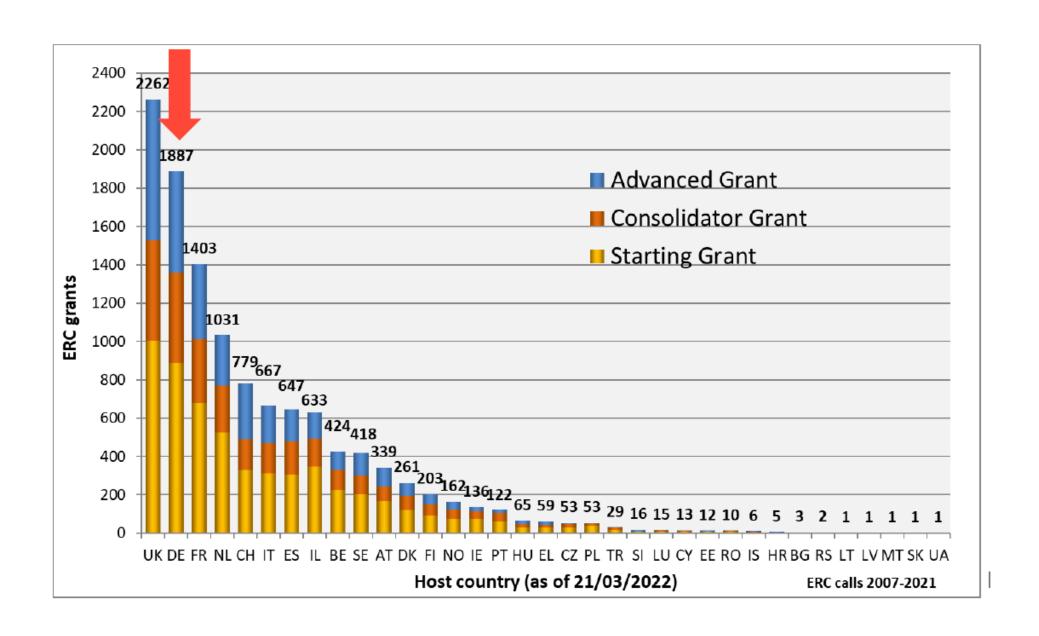
Important Documents

- ERC Work Programme
- ERC Rules for Submission and Evaluation
- Information for Applicants
- Research Proposal Template



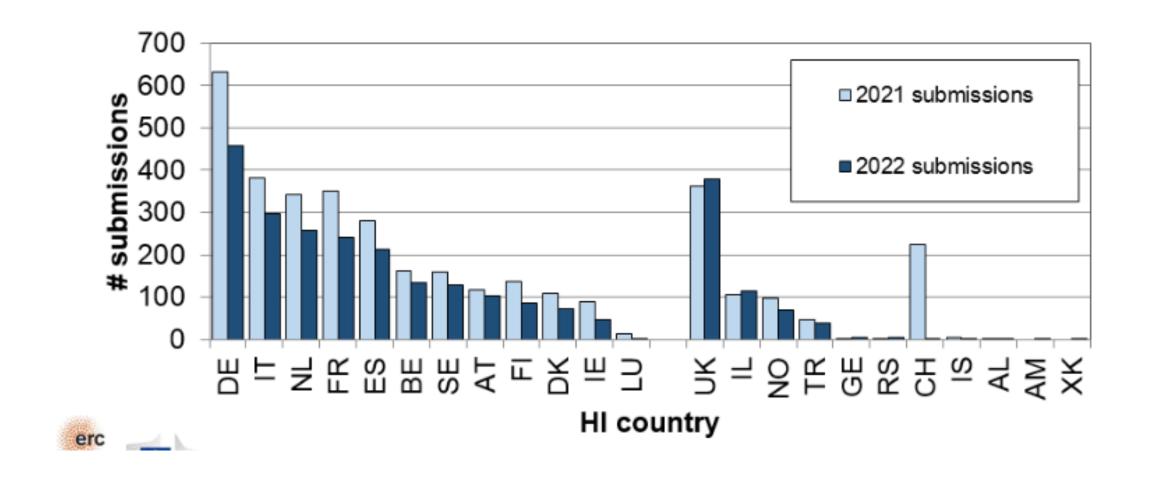
https://ec.europa.eu/info/fundingtenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home

ERC grants by country and call



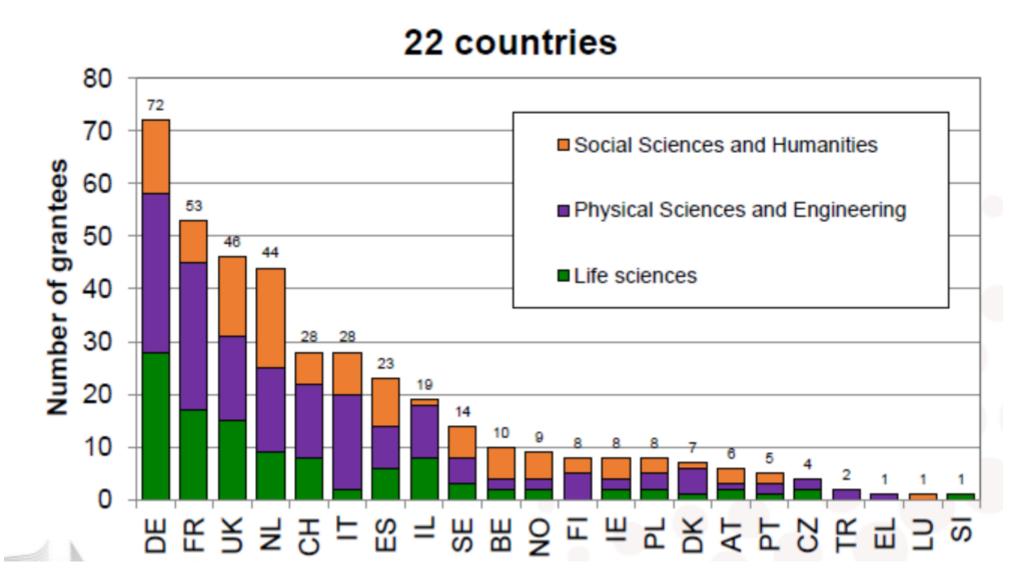


StG 2021-2022: Submissions from host institutions countries (excl. Horizon Europe Widening)





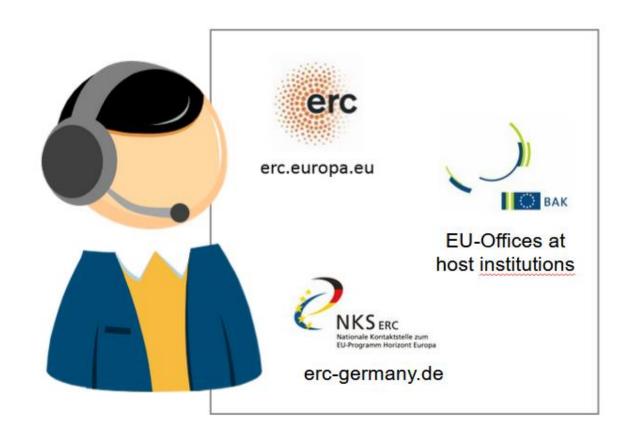
StG 2021 Grantees by country of host institution and domain





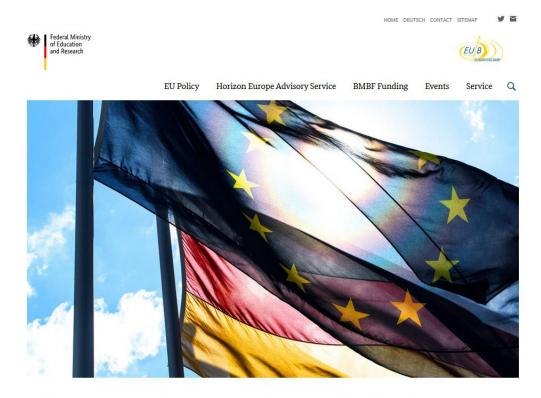
NCP ERC Service

- General information on the ERC
- Advice on grant application and grant management
- Individual proposal check
- Events
- Newsletter & website (german & english)





ERC Information online

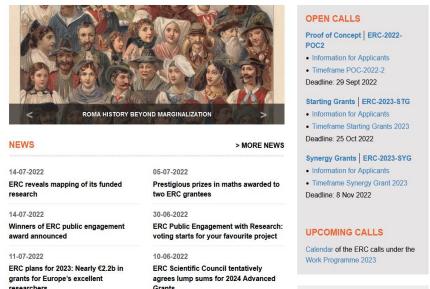


Welcome to the website of the EU Bureau of the BMBF!

We offer information and advice on European research and innovation policy and the corresponding EU Framework Programme.

NCP: https://www.eubuero.de/nks.htm



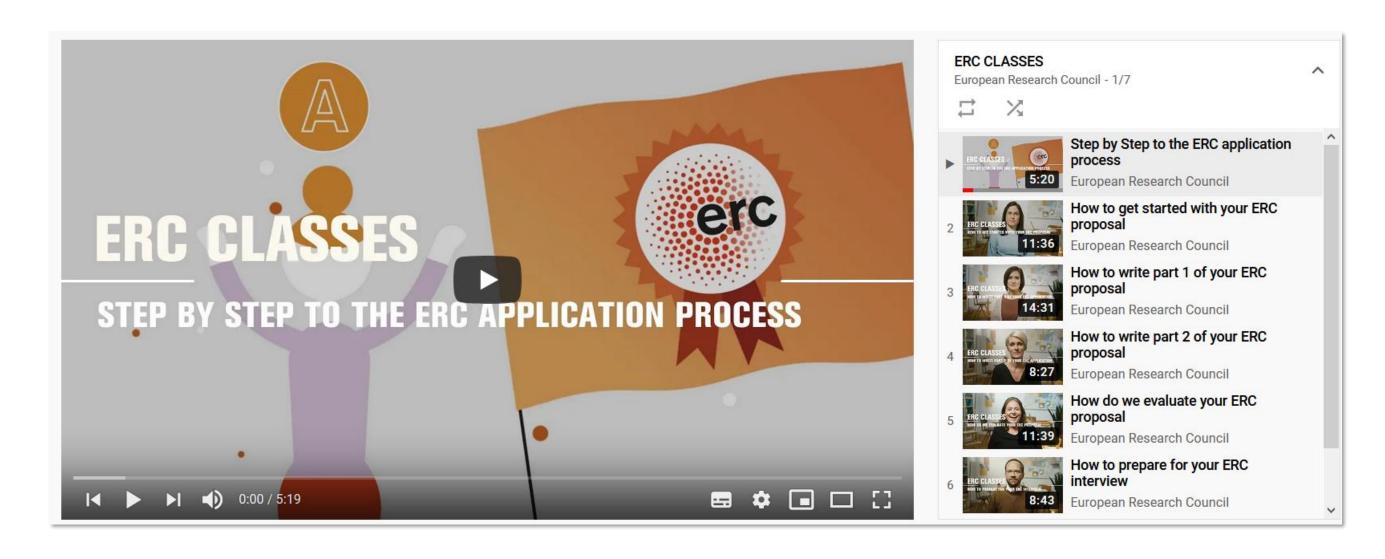


ERC FUNDING EXPLAINED

ERC: https://erc.europa.eu/

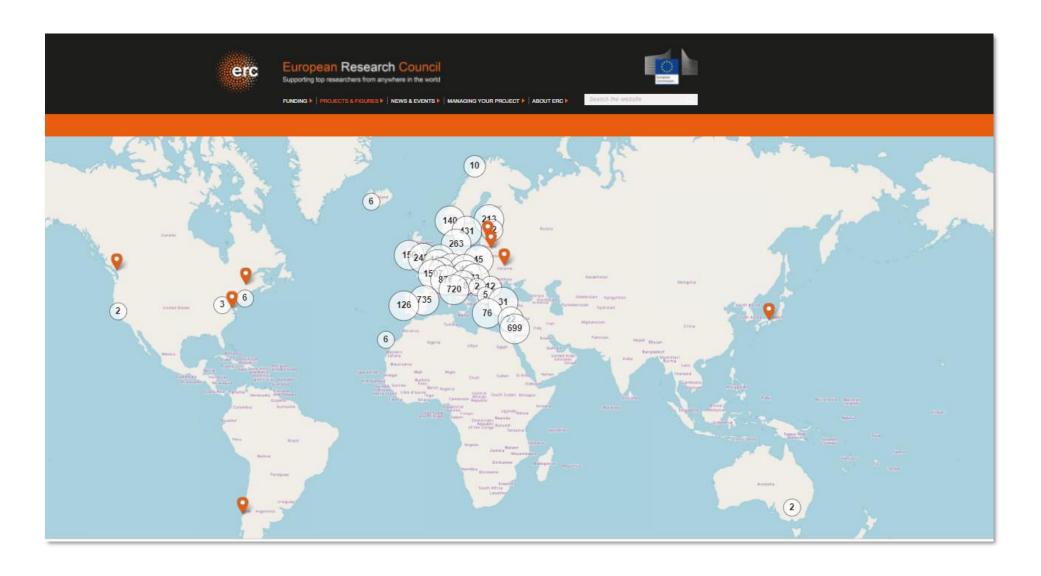


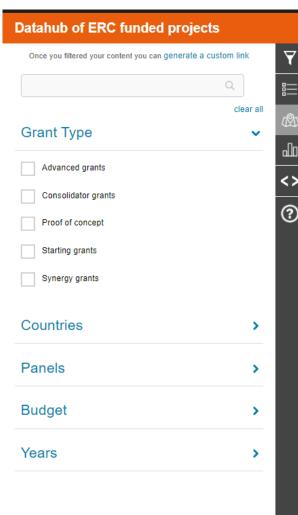
ERC Classes – Step by Step ERC Application





Funded Projects and Pls: ERC Website







Panel structure ERC Calls 2023

Physical Sciences & Engineering

PE1 Mathematics

All areas of mathematics, pure and applied, plus mathematical foundations of computer science, mathematical physics and statistics.

PE2 Fundamental Constituents of Matter

Particle, nuclear, plasma, atomic, molecular, gas, and optical physics.

PE3 Condensed Matter Physics

Structure, electronic properties, fluids, nanosciences, biological physics.

PE4 Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences

Analytical chemistry, chemical theory, physical chemistry/chemical physics.

PE5 Synthetic Chemistry and Materials

New materials and new synthetic approaches, structure-properties relations, solid state chemistry, molecular architecture, organic chemistry.

PE6 Computer Science and Informatics

Informatics and information systems, computer science, scientific computing, intelligent systems.

PE7 Systems and Communication Engineering

Electrical, electronic, communication, optical and systems engineering.

PE8 Products and Processes Engineering

Product and process design, chemical, civil, environmental, mechanical, vehicle engineering, energy processes and relevant computational methods.

PE9 Universe Sciences

Astro-physics/-chemistry/-biology; solar system; planetary systems; stellar, galactic and extragalactic astronomy; cosmology; space sciences; astronomical instrumentation and data.

PE10 Earth System Science

Physical geography, geology, geophysics, atmospheric sciences, oceanography, climatology, cryology, ecology, global environmental change, biogeochemical cycles, natural resources management.

PE11 Materials Engineering

Advanced materials development: performance enhancement, modelling, large-scale preparation, modification, tailoring, optimisation, novel and combined use of materials, etc.

Life Sciences

LS1 Molecules of Life: Biological Mechanisms, Structures and Functions

For all organisms: Molecular biology, biochemistry, structural biology, molecular biophysics, synthetic and chemical biology, drug design, innovative methods and modelling.

LS2 Integrative Biology: From Genes and Genomes to Systems

For all organisms: Genetics, epigenetics, genomics and other 'omics studies, bioinformatics, systems biology, genetic diseases, gene editing, innovative methods and modelling, 'omics for personalised medicine.

LS3 Cellular, Developmental and Regenerative Biology

For all organisms: Structure and function of the cell, cell-cell communication, embryogenesis, tissue differentiation, organogenesis, growth, development, evolution of development, organoids, stem cells, regeneration, therapeutic approaches.

LS4 Physiology in Health, Disease and Ageing

Organ and tissue physiology, comparative physiology, physiology of ageing, pathophysiology, inter-organ and tissue communication, endocrinology, nutrition, metabolism, interaction with the microbiome, non-communicable diseases including cancer (and except disorders of the nervous system and immunity-related diseases).

LS5 Neuroscience and Disorders of the Nervous System

Nervous system development, homeostasis and ageing, nervous system function and dysfunction, systems neuroscience and modelling, biological basis of cognitive processes and of behaviour, neurological and mental disorders.

LS6 Immunity, Infection and Immunotherapy

The immune system, related disorders and their mechanisms, biology of infectious agents and infection, biological basis of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, innovative immunological tools and approaches, including therapies.

LS7 Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Human Diseases

Medical technologies and tools for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases, therapeutic approaches and interventions, pharmacology, preventative medicine, epidemiology and public health, digital medicine.

LS8 Environmental Biology, Ecology and Evolution

For all organisms: Ecology, biodiversity, environmental change, evolutionary biology, behavioural ecology, microbial ecology, marine biology, ecophysiology, theoretical developments and modelling.

LS9 Biotechnology and Biosystems Engineering

Biotechnology using all organisms, biotechnology for environment and food applications, applied plant and animal sciences, bioengineering and synthetic biology, biomass and biofuels. biohazards.

Social Sciences & Humanities

SH1 Individuals, Markets and Organisations

Economics, finance, management.

SH2 Institutions, Governance and Legal Systems

Political science, international relations, law.

SH3 The Social World and its Diversity

Sociology, social psychology, social anthropology, education sciences, communication studies.

SH4 The Human Mind and Its Complexity

Cognitive science, psychology, linguistics, theoretical philosophy.

SH5 Cultures and Cultural Production

Literary studies, cultural studies, study of the arts, philosophy.

SH6 The Study of the Human Past

Archaeology and history.

SH7 Human Mobility, Environment, and Space

Human geography, demography, health, sustainability science, territorial planning, spatial analysis.



Source: FRC

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowships



Beneficiaries vs. Associated Partners

Beneficiaries	Associated Partners
Have responsibility for executing the proposed programme	May not employ researchers under the action
Contribute directly to the training programme	Offer training and secondment opportunities
May provide secondment opportunities	Charge their costs to beneficiaries
	Provide a Letter of Commitment for proposal
Sign Grant Agreement	Do not sign Grant Agreement



Definition of Sectors

Academic Sector	Non-academic sector		
Public or private higher education establishments	Any socio-economic actor not included in academic sector		
Public or private non-profit research organisations			
International European Interest Organisations (IERO)			



MSCA - Aims

- Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA)
 - Encouraging people to embark on research careers in Europe
- Increasing Mobility through exchanging staff, knowledge and technology
 - International
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Intersectoral
- Promotion the researchers' career development
 - Providing training for key competences in science and industry
 - Creating fair and attractive working conditions



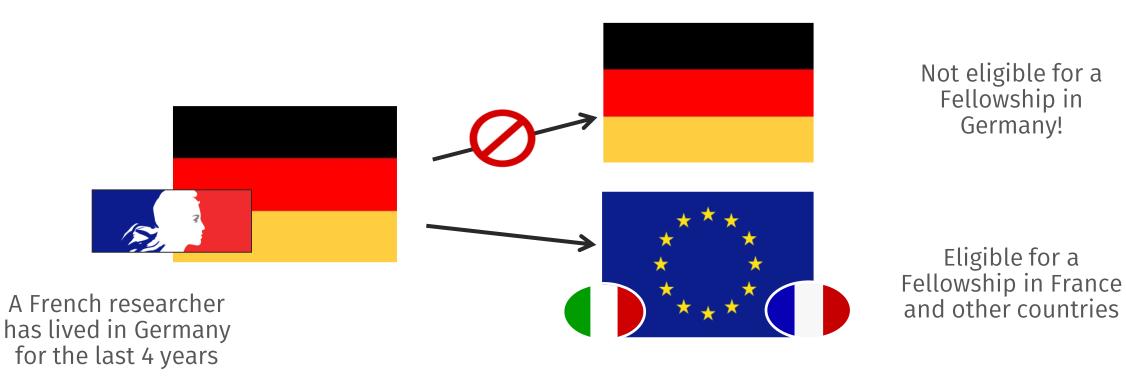
Classification by Research Experience

MSCA Classification	Status
Doctoral Candidates	Must not have been awarded a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment
Postdoctoral Researchers	Must be postdoctoral researchers at the date of the call deadline (successfully defended doctoral thesis)



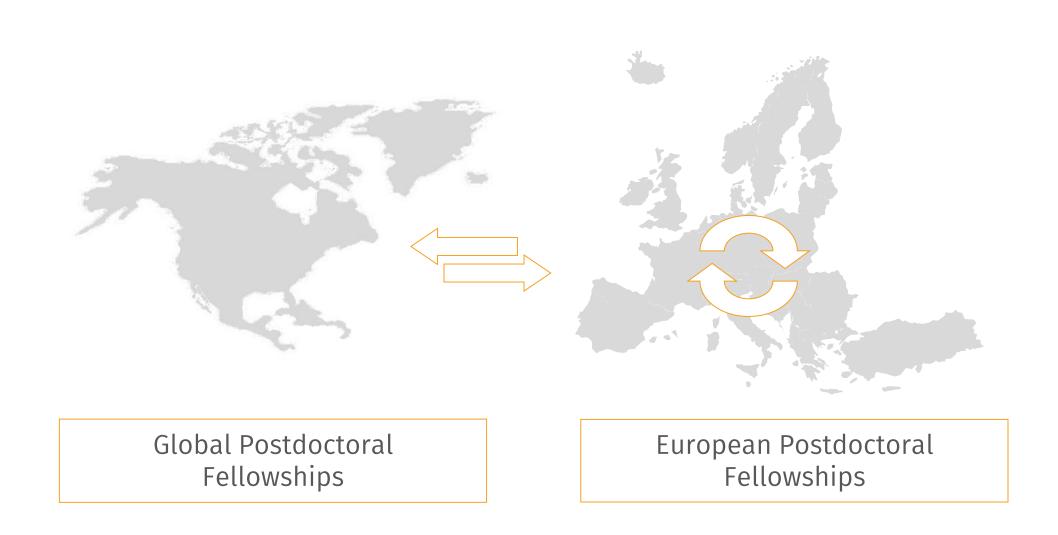
MSCA - Mobility Rule

Fellow has lived or worked ≤ 12 months within the last 3 years in the potential host country





Postdoctoral Fellowships – Global and European Fellowships





Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) – Who can be your Host Institution?

- Any public or private institution conducting research in or outside Europe
 - Universities
 - Higher Education Institutions
 - Research centres or institutes
 - Industry companies (e.g. SME)
 - Non-profit organisations
 - Governmental organisations
 - International European Interest Organsiations (e.g. CERN, EMBL)



European Postdoctoral Fellowship – Research Project in Europe (MS or AC)

- Eligible
 - Postdoctoral researchers with ≤ 8 years* of full-time postdoctoral research experience, no nationality restriction
 - The application must have reached the quality threshold of 70% for resubmission
- Mobility Rule: Stay in the host country not longer than 12 months within the last 3 years
- Secondment phase: Optionally worldwide for max. 1/3 of the project duration
- Project duration: 1-2 years (placement optional: +6 months in the non-academic sector in Europe)
- Procedure and contents of the Fellowship:
 - Fellow writes individual application jointly with Host Institution
 - Research & skill training at Host Institution

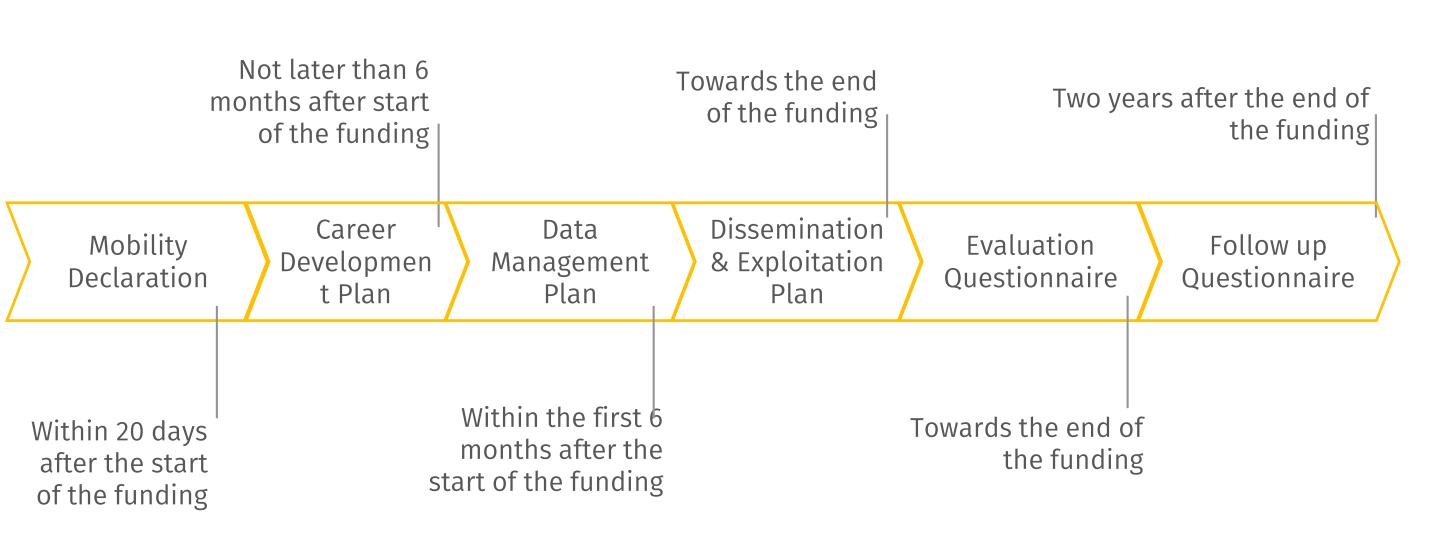


Global Postdoctoral Fellowship – Research Project in Third Country (TC) and Europe

- Eligible
 - Postdocs with ≤ 8 years* of research experience after PhD (full-time)
 - The proposal must have reached the quality threshold of 70% for resubmission
- Researchers Nationality: MS / AC or at least 5 years of residence in MS /AC ("long-term residents")
- Mobility Rule: Stay in the host country not longer than 12 months within the last 3 years
- Secondment phase: Optionally worldwide for max. 1/3 of the outgoing phase
- Project duration
 - 1-2 years in TC (outgoing phase) + 1 year obligatory return phase in MS /AC (placement optional: +6 months in non-academic sector in Europe)
- Procedure and contents of the Fellowship:
 - Fellow writes individual application jointly with Host Institution

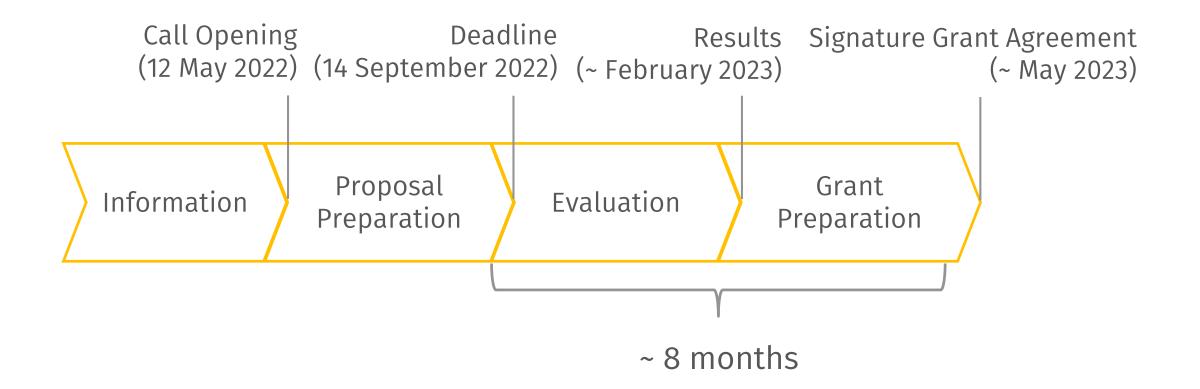


Postdoctoral Fellowships – Legal and Financial Deliverables for the Grant Agreement





Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) – From Submission to Funding





MSCA Financing

In EUR; Funding 100%, in gross	Research unit cost (person/month)				Insitutional unit cost (person/month)		
	Living allowance*	Mobility allowance	Family allowance*	Long-term leave allowance	Special- needs allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management & Overhead
Postdoctoral Fellowships	5.080	600	660	5.680**	Depending on request	1.000	650

Application of the country correction coefficient: for Germany 98.3%.

* If applicable, can also be applied for after project start

** If applicable (4.000 / 5.680 x % covered by the beneficiary)



Evaluation Process

- Each proposal will be evaluated by at least three reviewers (selection by European Research Executive Agency)
- Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5
- If necessary, the panel will determine a ranking for proposals which have been awarded the same score
- 3 phases of evaluation:
 - 1. Individual evaluation
 - Individual evaulation report + comments and points for each criterion
 - 2. Consensus meeting
 - Agreement of the experts + Consensus Report
 - 3. Panel Review
 - "Evaluation Summary Reports" + "Panel Ranked List"



Excellence

(weighting: 50%)

Impact

(weighting: 30%)

Implementation

(weighting: 20%)

Evaluation Criteria and Panels

- 8 Main Evaluation Panels
 - Chemistry (CHE)
 - Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
 - Economic Sciences (ECO)
 - Information Sciences and Engineering (ENG)
 - Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
 - Life Sciences (LIF)
 - Mathematics (MAT)
 - Physics (PHY)

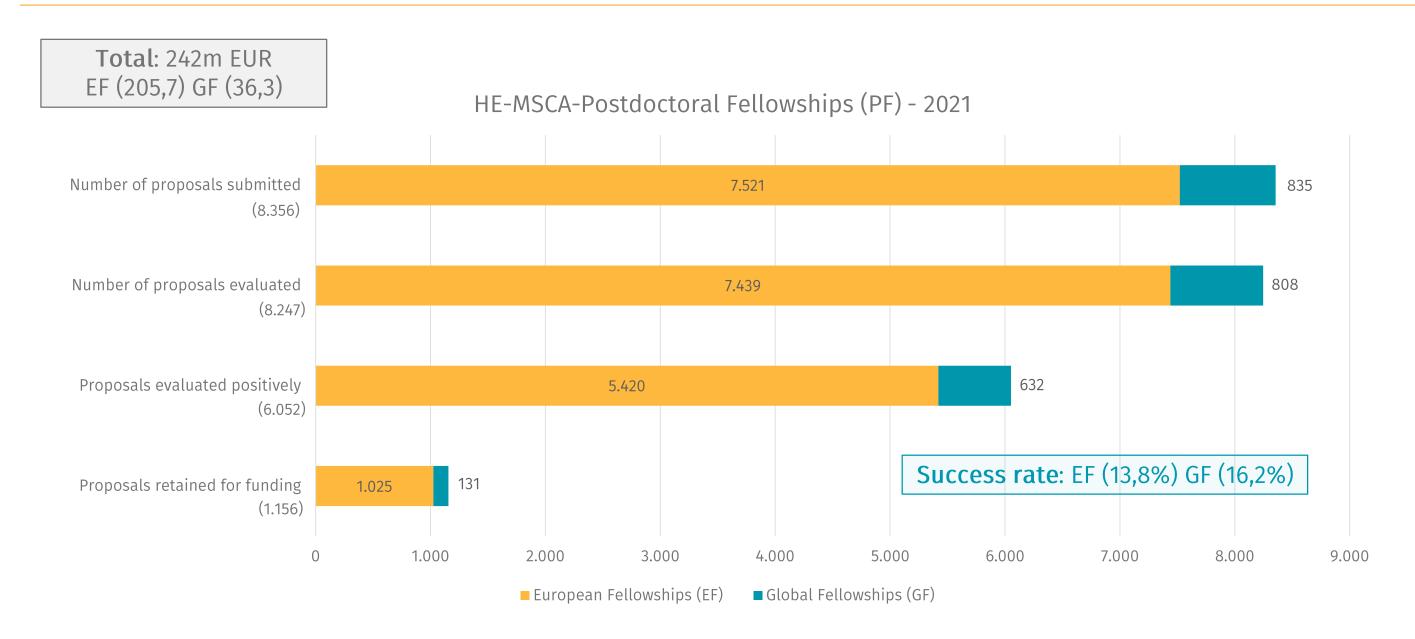


Calls for Proposal 2022

Actions	Opening	Deadline	Budget
Doctoral Networks	12.05.2022	15.11.2022	427 million
Postdoctoral Fellowships	12.05.2022	14.09.2022	257 million
Staff Exchanges	06.10.2022	08.03.2023	77,5 million
COFUND	11.10.2022	09.02.2023	95 million
MSCA and Citizens	22.06.2021	07.10.2021	15,5 million

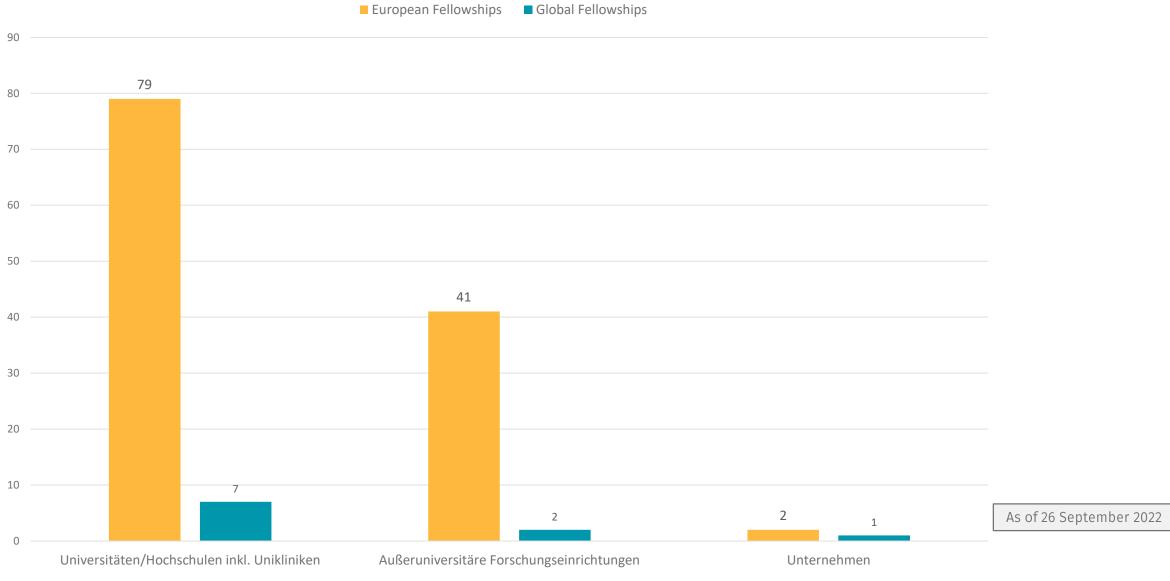


HE-MSCA-Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) - 2021





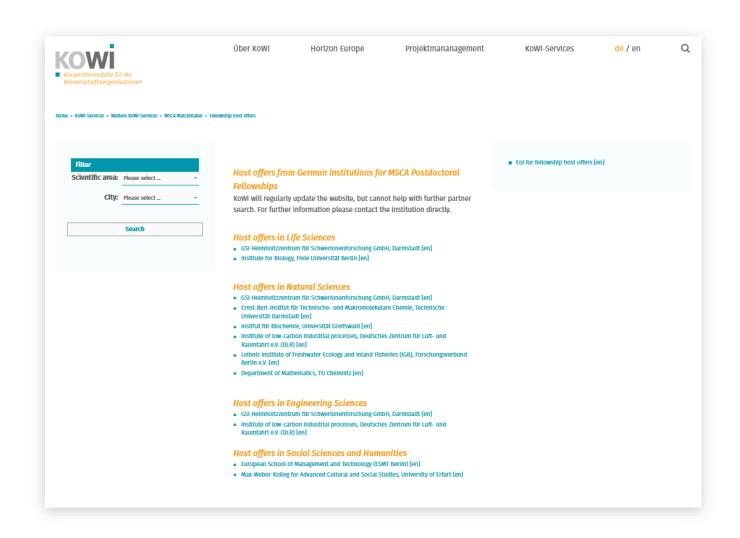
Horizon Europe – MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) with German Beneficiaries





Soure: Horizon Europe Dashboard

KoWi Service: MSCA Matchmaker



Virtual "Bulletin board"

- Express your interest in MSCA fellows (For Host institutions)
- Find host institutions (For Postdocs)
- Filter by scientific area and city

www.kowi.de/msca-host-offers



MSCA Online

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research

Home About MSCA ▼ Actions ▼ Funding Jobs Resources ▼ What's new ▼

You are here: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions / Actions

About actions Doctoral Networks Postdoctoral Fellowships Staff Exchanges COFUND MSCA & Citizens How to apply Jobs funded from our actions

About Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Use this guide to learn about the different types of MSCA funding supports and to learn which one is most suitable for you. You can learn about how to apply and individuals can learn how to search for a job advertised by an MSCA funded project.

The information provided in this guide is a summary of the main rules and requirements.

Please note that the information in this guide is preliminary and subject to the final adoption and publication of the Horizon Europe Work Programme by the legislative authority.

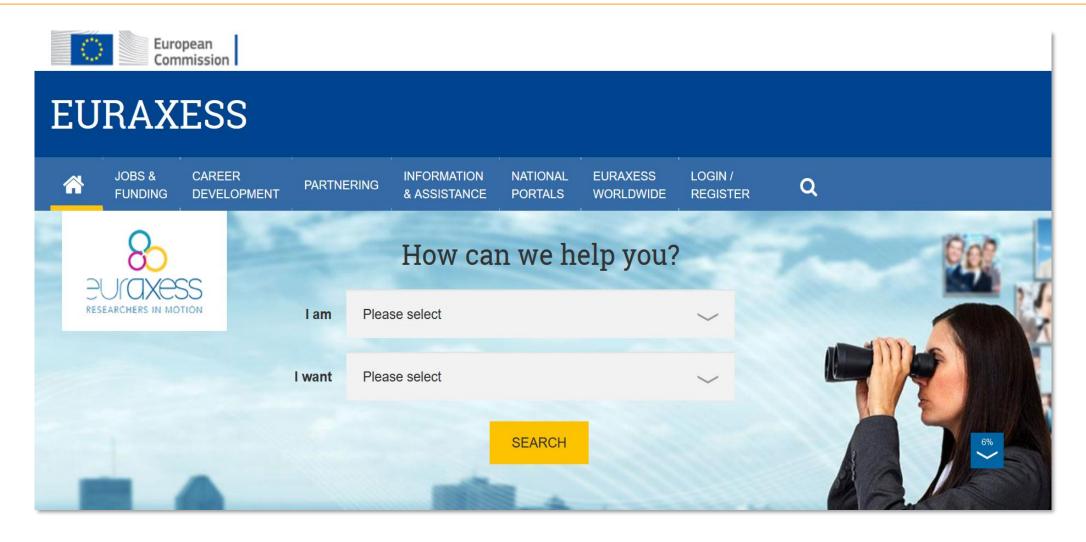
Related links will be added below as soon as available. Please refer to the Funding & Tenders Portal of for the latest information on calls.

Types of MSCA funding

There are 5 types of MSCA targeting different objectives:



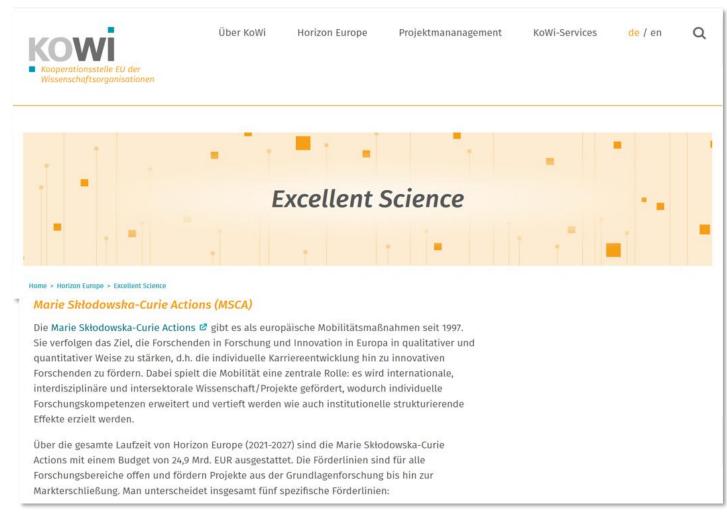
EURAXESS – Jobs & Services



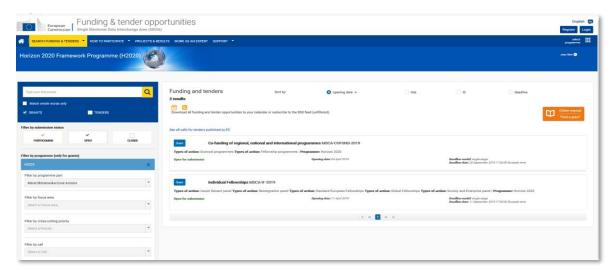
Jobs and Funding (e.g. MSCA, ERC) Assistance concerning mobility https://euraxess.ec.europa.de/



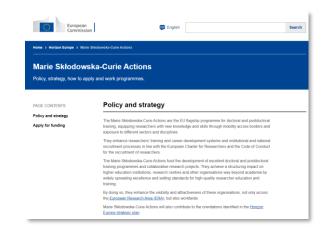
Information online



KoWi Website



Funding & Tenders Portal





European Commission

NCP MSCA



Preparation of the Proposal



Work Programme



Guide for Applicants



Template



Contact

Katharina Spannhake

Beraterin NCP ERC & MSCA Advisor NCP ERC & MSCA

Katharina.spannhake@kowi.de Tel +49-(0)228-95997-17

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