Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) & European Research Council (ERC)

Programmes overview and funding opportunities

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Research Executive Agency
H2020: World class Science & Enabling Innovation - 80 billion EUR

MSCA: 6,1 b€
ERC: 13,1 b€
MSCA basics

- **Funding** (grants) = all career stages, all nationalities, all fields of research

- **Training** = unique skills and experience for career in public or private sector

- **Opportunities** = Good working conditions/benefits, mobility countries, sectors, disciplines

- **Sustainability** = collaboration between individuals and institutions
MSCA overview

- Innovative Training Networks
- Individual fellowships
- Research and Innovation Staff Exchanges
- Cofunding of research programmes
MSCA Participating Countries

**EU Member State (MS):** 28 countries/ overseas territories

**Associated Country (AC):** Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia

**Third Country (TC):** any other country (n.b. Annex A list of countries that can receive funding)
## Which organisations?

### Academic sector
- Higher education establishments (awarding academic degrees)
- Non-profit research organisations (primary mission research)
- International European interest organisations (e.g. CERN, EMBL)

### Non-academic sector
- Any entity not included in the academic sector:
- e.g. large companies, SMEs, NGOs, museums, hospitals, international organisations (e.g. UN, WHO)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which researchers?</th>
<th>ITN</th>
<th>COFUND</th>
<th>RISE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early stage researcher (ESR)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ≤ 4-year in research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• no PhD awarded</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Experienced researcher (ER)</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• &gt; 4-year in research or</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have obtained PhD</td>
<td></td>
<td>RISE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other staff</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Managers, technicians, administrators (involved in research activities)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RISE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**MSCA as substantial long-term grants...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MSCA</th>
<th>Duration (years)</th>
<th>Staff member unit cost (€)</th>
<th>Institutional unit cost (€)</th>
<th>Average total budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Living allowance*, mobility allowance, family allowance</td>
<td>Research, training and networking</td>
<td>Manageme nt and indirect costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3270*, 600, 500</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF</td>
<td>2 (3 for GF)</td>
<td>4880*, 600, 500</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISE</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2100*</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COFUND</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1935*/2740*</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
...awarded based on 3 Evaluation criteria (MSCA)

- 50% Excellence
- 30% Impact
- 20% Implementation
Why should one apply for a MSCA grant?

MSCA offers unique opportunities to

- move across Europe or beyond
- increase your research network in all scientific domains
- develop your scientific career
- attract top early-stage & experienced researchers and enhance their career perspectives and employability
- offer innovative & high-quality training (research and soft skills)
- create cooperation between industry and academia

Structuring impact on ERA by setting standards for quality training, attractive working conditions and open recruitment for all EU researchers.
MSCA Key Figures (2014-2020)

- **TOTAL BUDGET**: €6.162 billion
- **BUDGET INCREASE**: ~30% from 2007-2013 to 2014-2020
- **SPIN-OFFS**: ~100
- **PATENT APPLICATIONS**: ~1,500
- **EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS’ NIGHT**: ~350 events a year attended by over 1 million people/year
- **INTERNATIONAL AND INTERSECTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES**: ~1,200
- **ALL RESEARCHERS**: ~65,000
- **Support**:
  - Female Researchers: 40%
  - Non-EU Researchers: ~16,000
  - PhD Candidates: ~25,000
What does ERC offer?

**ERC Grant Schemes**

**Starting Grants**
- Starters
- 2-7 years after PhD
- (≥ 50% commitment)
- up to €1.5 Million
- for 5 years

**Consolidator Grants**
- Consolidators
- 7-12 years after PhD
- (≥ 40% commitment)
- up to €2 Million
- for 5 years

**Advanced Grants**
- Track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years
- (≥ 30% commitment)
- up to €2.5 Million
- for 5 years

**Proof-of-Concept**
- Bridging gap between research - earliest stage of marketable innovation
- up to €150,000 for ERC grant holders only

**Synergy Grants**
- 2-4 PIs up to €10 million for 6 years
- to lead to breakthroughs that cannot be achieved by a PI working alone
Design of the Synergy call in a nutshell

- **Grant size:**
  - 2018: up to 250 M€
  - 2019: up to 10 M€ + 4 M€ for 6 years

- **2018:** 25-30 projects
- **2019:** 45-50 projects

- **HI to be in EU or Associated Country**

- **SyG2019:** possible for one PI to be outside of EU or AC

- **No restrictions on their location**

- **SyG2019 call open for submission until 8/11/2018**

- **SyG2019:** 3 step evaluation to finish in September 2019

- **≥50% of working time in EU or AC and ≥30% of working time on the ERC project**

- **SyG2019:** it does not apply to the PI applying with a third country HI

- **3 Step evaluation: with interviews for all PIs in step 3**
Grants that go to the very best scientists...

OPEN TO EXCELLENT & INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS

REGARDLESS NATIONALITY, AGE & GENDER

NO THEMATIC PRIORITIES
NO CONSORTIA
NO CO-FINANCING
... with excellence as the sole evaluation criterion!
Why should one apply for an ERC grant?

ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- research topic of **own choice**, with a team of **own choice**
- true **financial autonomy** for 5 years
- negotiate with the host institution the **best conditions** of work
- attract **top team members** (EU and non-EU) and collaborators
- **portability of grants** within Europe
- attract additional funding
ERC Key figures

Two-thirds of ERC grants have gone to early-stage Principal Investigators.

The ERC tackles the brain-drain by making Europe a more attractive place for bright minds - around 17% of ERC team members are from non-EU countries!

> 50 000 PhD and post-doc researchers working in ERC teams.
Thank you for your attention!

MSCA website: http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions

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

Funding and Tenders Portal (applications) https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home

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