

HORIZON 2020
WORK PROGRAMME 2016 – 2017
DRAFT

3. *Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions*

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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 services¹. 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, as well as to universities, research institutions, research infrastructures, businesses, and other socio-economic actors from all countries, including third countries under the conditions defined in Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation 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.

The principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers² (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.

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.

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, both at the level of supported researchers and that of decision-making/supervision. 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

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

² 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.

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.

The Open Research Data Pilot aims to improve and maximise access to and re-use of research data generated by projects. Applicants to Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions can choose to participate in the Pilot on a voluntary basis. The use of a Data Management Plan is required for projects participating in the Open Research Data Pilot. Further guidance on the Open Research Data Pilot is made available on the Participant Portal.

DRAFT

Call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

H2020-MSCA-ITN-2016

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, 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 Training³. 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.

Substantial training modules, including digital ones, addressing key transferable skills common to all fields and fostering the culture of 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.).

³ http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Principles_for_Innovative_Doctoral_Training.pdf.

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.

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.

Secondments of the researcher to other beneficiaries and partner organisations are encouraged, up to a maximum of 30% of the researcher's recruitment period.

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. In the case of EJD, the successful completion of the programme must result in the award of joint⁴, double or multiple doctoral degrees⁵.

Expected impact:

- ITN will create and contribute to high-quality innovative research and doctoral training, build capacity, and have a structuring effect throughout Europe and beyond.
- Through research training provided by the institutions from different countries, sectors and disciplines, this action will trigger cooperation between organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors.
- It will enhance skills development and knowledge-sharing, enhancing researchers' employability and providing them with new career perspectives.
- ITN will shape future generations of entrepreneurial researchers capable of contributing effectively to the knowledge-based economy and society.
- In the long term, it will also raise the attractiveness of research careers and encourage young people to embark on this career path.

Type of action: European Training Networks, European Industrial Doctorates, European Joint Doctorates.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

Call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF)

H2020-MSCA-IF-2016

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 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 for employment in EU Member States or Associated Countries, based on an application made jointly by the researcher and host organisation in the academic or non-academic sectors.

An individual researcher may submit only one proposal to this call.

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

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 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 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:

- Individual Fellowships are expected to add significantly to the development of the best and most promising researchers active in Europe, in order to enhance and maximise their contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society.
- The action will also strengthen the contact network of both the researcher and the host organisation.
- The fellowship will contribute to realising the full potential of researchers and to catalysing significant development in their careers in both the academic and non-academic sectors.
- Some researchers will be resuming a research career in Europe after a break, or reintegrating within Europe after living abroad.

Type of action: European Fellowships – Standard, European Fellowship – Career Restart, European Fellowship – Reintegration, Industrial Fellowship, Global Fellowship.

Call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2016

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 should always take place between legal entities independent from each other⁶.

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 supporting the research and innovation activities of the proposal.

Support for the exchanges between institutions in the 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.

⁶ Independence in the meaning of Article 8 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

Expected impact:

- Research and innovation activities under RISE are expected to build or enhance new and existing networks of international and intersectoral cooperation. They will significantly strengthen the interaction between organisations in the academic and non-academic sectors, and between Europe and third countries.
- In terms of knowledge sharing and broad skills development, they will better align different cultures and expectations, with a view to a more effective contribution of research and innovation to Europe's knowledge economy and society.

Type of action: RISE.

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Call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)

H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2016

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 at the host organisation.

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 host organisation 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.

Proposed fellowship 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.

Expected impact:

The COFUND scheme will on a voluntary basis exploit synergies between European Union actions and those at regional and national level, as well as with other actions at international level. The scheme will have a leverage effect on regional, national or international funding programmes for early-stage researchers and experienced researchers. This impact is expected to extend to:

1. enabling the relevant regional, national and international actors to contribute significantly to the development within their own setting of high quality human resources, by introducing and/or further developing the trans-national dimension of their offers;
2. increasing the numerical and/or qualitative impact, in terms of supported researchers or working/employment conditions;
3. combating fragmentation in terms of objectives, evaluation methods and working conditions of regional, national or international offers in this area.

Type of action: COFUND-Doctoral Programme, COFUND-Fellowship Programme (Programme Co-fund Action).

Call for European Researchers' Night (NIGHT)

H2020-MSCA-NIGHT-2016

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 parents. 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.

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 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.

Expected impact:

- The European Researchers' Night will raise awareness of the importance of research careers. It will make the general public better understand the central role of researchers and the key benefits that they bring to society.
- The scheme will help to tackle the existing stereotypes about researchers and their profession.
- In the long term, it will convince young people that research careers are fascinating and will stimulate them to embark on research careers.

Type of action: Coordination and support action. The funding rate for this call is provided in part D of the General Annexes.

Call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017

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, 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 Training⁷. 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.

Substantial training modules, including digital ones, addressing key transferable skills common to all fields and fostering the culture of 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.).

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/pdf/research_policies/Principles_for_Innovative_Doctoral_Training.pdf.

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.

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.

Secondments of the researcher to other beneficiaries and partner organisations are encouraged, up to a maximum of 30% of the researcher's recruitment period.

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. In the case of EJD, the successful completion of the programme must result in the award of joint⁸, double or multiple doctoral degrees⁹.

Expected impact:

- ITN will create and contribute to high-quality innovative research and doctoral training, build capacity, and have a structuring effect throughout Europe and beyond.
- Through research training provided by the institutions from different countries, sectors and disciplines, this action will trigger cooperation between organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors.
- It will enhance skills development and knowledge-sharing, enhancing researchers' employability and providing them with new career perspectives.
- ITN will shape future generations of entrepreneurial researchers capable of contributing effectively to the knowledge-based economy and society.
- In the long term, it will also raise the attractiveness of research careers and encourage young people to embark on this career path.

Type of action: European Training Networks, European Industrial Doctorates, European Joint Doctorates.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

Call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF)

H2020-MSCA-IF-2017

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 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 for employment in EU Member States or Associated Countries, based on an application made jointly by the researcher and host organisation in the academic or non-academic sectors.

An individual researcher may submit only one proposal to this call.

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

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 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 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:

- Individual Fellowships are expected to add significantly to the development of the best and most promising researchers active in Europe, in order to enhance and maximise their contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society.
- The action will also strengthen the contact network of both the researcher and the host organisation.
- The fellowship will contribute to realising the full potential of researchers and to catalysing significant development in their careers in both the academic and non-academic sectors.
- Some researchers will be resuming a research career in Europe after a break, or reintegrating within Europe after living abroad.

Type of action: European Fellowships – Standard, European Fellowship – Career Restart, European Fellowship – Reintegration, Industrial Fellowship, Global Fellowship.

Call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2017

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 should always take place between legal entities independent from each other¹⁰.

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 supporting the research and innovation activities of the proposal.

Support for the exchanges between institutions in the 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.

¹⁰ Independence in the meaning of Article 8 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

Expected impact:

- Research and innovation activities under RISE are expected to build or enhance new and existing networks of international and intersectoral cooperation. They will significantly strengthen the interaction between organisations in the academic and non-academic sectors, and between Europe and third countries.
- In terms of knowledge sharing and broad skills development, they will better align different cultures and expectations, with a view to a more effective contribution of research and innovation to Europe's knowledge economy and society.

Type of action: RISE.

DRAFT

Call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)

H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2017

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 at the host organisation.

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 host organisation 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.

Proposed fellowship 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.

Expected impact:

The COFUND scheme will on a voluntary basis exploit synergies between European Union actions and those at regional and national level, as well as with other actions at international level. The scheme will have a leverage effect on regional, national or international funding programmes for early-stage researchers and experienced researchers. This impact is expected to extend to:

1. enabling the relevant regional, national and international actors to contribute significantly to the development within their own setting of high quality human resources, by introducing and/or further developing the trans-national dimension of their offers;
2. increasing the numerical and/or qualitative impact, in terms of supported researchers or working/employment conditions;
3. combating fragmentation in terms of objectives, evaluation methods and working conditions of regional, national or international offers in this area.

Type of action: COFUND-Doctoral Programmes, COFUND-Fellowship Programmes (Programme Co-fund Action).

Call for Trans-national cooperation among Marie Skłodowska-Curie National Contact Points (NCP)

H2020-MSCA-NCP-2017

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 be also 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 host 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.

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.

Type of action: Coordination and support action. The funding rate for this call is provided in part D of the General Annexes.

Other actions (not subject to calls for proposals)

1. External expertise

This action will support the use of appointed independent experts for the evaluation of project proposals and, where appropriate, for the monitoring of running projects.

Type of action: Expert contracts

2. 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.

Type of action: Public Procurement – use of framework contracts. Maximum four specific contracts.

3. 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.

Type of action: Public Procurement – use of framework contract.

4. 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.

Type of action: Public Procurement – existing framework contract. Maximum two specific contracts.

5. 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 – Through framework contracts or direct contracts.

6. Platform for Marie Skłodowska-Curie supervisors

The aim is to create and manage a web site and interface allowing sharing best practices and discussing on the Marie Skłodowska-Curie supervision arrangements.

Type of action: Public Procurement.

DRAFT

Eligibility conditions

PROPOSAL

A proposal will only be considered eligible if it complies with the minimum participation and any other eligibility conditions set out below, depending on the type of action.

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Participating organisations will comply with the applicable rules for funding as set out in part A of the General Annexes to the work programme.

The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission notice Nr 2013/C 205/05 (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11) shall apply for all actions under this part of the Work Programme, including with respect to partner organisations, third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries in accordance with Article 137 of the EU's Financial Regulation, notably Programme Co-Fund action.

Some entities/persons from third countries are covered by the EU sanctions in place and are not eligible to participate in Union 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.

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 respective 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 EU's Financial Regulation. Should the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol end, this Work Programme shall be revised.

For the purpose of determining eligibility, where one of the participants is an international organisation, an international European interest organisation or the EU's Joint Research Centre or an entity created under Union law, it shall be deemed to be established in an EU Member State or Associated Country other than any EU Member State or Associated Country in which another participant in the same proposal is established.

Participating organisations are from the academic or the non-academic sector. These two sectors are defined as follows:

Academic sector

Academic sector consists of 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 organisations¹¹.

Non-academic sector

Non-academic sector includes any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

Participating organisations can be divided in two groups based on their level of participation:

- **Beneficiaries: signatory to the Agreement**

Beneficiaries are full partners with complete responsibility for executing the proposed programme and other requirements of the project. They contribute directly to the implementation of the research training programme by appointing, supervising, hosting and training researchers.¹² They may also provide secondment opportunities.¹³

- **Partner organisations: non-signatory of the Agreement¹⁴**

Partner organisations are non-beneficiary organisations contributing to the project by providing training and hosting researchers¹⁵ during secondments. Partner organisations do not employ researchers within the project¹⁶. Partner organisations shall include a letter of commitment in the proposal to ensure their real and active participation in the proposed network¹⁷. The experts will be instructed to disregard the contribution of any partner organisations for which no such evidence of commitment is submitted.

Consortia involving partner organisations are encouraged to sign a partnership agreement to regulate the relationship between participating organisations. These partnership agreements shall be in compliance with the obligations laid down in the Agreement.

In **Individual Fellowships (IF)**, the beneficiary shall be a legal entity located in an EU Member State or Associated Country and employing the researcher during the project.

¹¹ For the purpose of this document, international European interest organisations shall be understood as defined in article 2 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

¹² In the framework of COFUND, beneficiaries may also fund doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes for researchers.

¹³ In the framework of RISE, beneficiaries are legal entities established in EU Member States or Associated Countries which provide secondment opportunities by hosting or sending staff members.

¹⁴ In the framework of RISE, partners are legal entities established in a third country, which provide secondment opportunities by hosting or sending staff members.

¹⁵ In the framework of RISE, "researchers" refers to staff members.

¹⁶ In the framework of COFUND, this restriction does not apply.

¹⁷ Except for European Fellowships under IF call.

In the case of Industrial Fellowships, the beneficiary shall be an entity from the non-academic sector located in an EU Member State or Associated Country and employing the researcher during the project.

Innovative Training Networks (ITN) can take the form of collaborative European Training Networks (ETN), European Industrial Doctorates (EID) or European Joint Doctorates (EJD). ETN and EJD must be composed of at least three beneficiaries located in three different EU Member States or Associated Countries. All three legal entities shall be independent of each other. EID must be composed of at least two independent beneficiaries located in two different EU Member States or Associated Countries. Above this minimum, the participation of institutions from any country or organisation is possible under the conditions provided by the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

In the case 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 degree¹⁸, a university entitled to award a doctoral degree must be associated to the project as a partner organisation.

For EJD, at least three beneficiaries must be entitled to award doctoral degrees.¹⁹ Letters of commitment to award the joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees must be included in the proposal.

The overall Union contribution for ITN is limited to the recruitment of a maximum 540 person-months. For EID with only two participants, this limit is set to 180.

Not more than 40% of the requested EU contribution shall 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).

Consortia in the **Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)** shall 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 EU Member States or Associated Countries. If all participating organisations are from the same sector (either only academic or only non-academic), at least one participant must be from a third country. Above this minimum, the participation of institutions from any country or organisation is possible under the conditions provided by the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

The overall European Union contribution for RISE is limited to the secondment of a maximum 540 person-months.

Beneficiaries in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie **Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)** shall be legal entities established in an EU Member State or Associated Country that fund or manage doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes for researchers. International European interest organisations that fund or

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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.

manage doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes for researchers can also participate in this action.

RESEARCHERS

Researchers may be of any nationality. Researchers receive support on the condition that they move from one country to another to broaden or deepen their competences.

Global Fellowships and the Reintegration Panel in IF are open to nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States and Associated Countries. Long-term residence means a period of full-time research activity in the EU or AC of at least 5 consecutive years.

Supported researchers fall into two categories: early-stage or experienced researchers:

Early-stage researchers (ESR) shall at the time of recruitment (ITN, COFUND) or secondment (RISE) by the host organisation, be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.

Experienced researchers (ER) shall, at the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals (IF), recruitment (COFUND) or secondment (RISE) by the host organisation, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or 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, irrespective of whether or not a doctorate is or was ever envisaged.

Mobility rules:

At the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals (IF), or recruitment by the host organisation (ITN/COFUND-Doctoral programmes²⁰) or either of these two points in time (COFUND-Fellowship programmes²¹), researchers shall 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 prior to the reference date. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account. As far as international European interest organisations or international organisations are concerned, this rule does not apply to the hosting of eligible researchers. However the appointed researcher shall not have spent more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date, depending on the action, in the same appointing organisation.

In the Career Restart Panel and the Reintegration Panel in IF, researchers shall 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 prior to the relevant deadline for submission of proposals.

²⁰ Existing programmes can deviate from this rule if duly justified in the proposal by the applicant.

²¹ Existing programmes can deviate from this rule if duly justified in the proposal by the applicant.

Staff members in RISE are researchers (ESR and ER), administrative, managerial and technical staff supporting the research and innovation activities of the project. They shall be actively engaged in or linked to research and/or innovation activities for at least six months (full-time equivalent) at the sending institution prior to the first period of secondment. Secondments in RISE are not subject to the mobility rules.

Duration of support

The support granted to eligible researchers (including staff members in RISE) will cover the following periods:

1. ITN: 3-36 months
Researchers in EID shall spend at least 50% of their time in the non-academic sector
2. IF European: 12-24 months
IF Global: 12-24 months for the outgoing phase plus 12 month return phase in Europe
3. RISE: 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 should be guaranteed full reintegration into the sending institution thus maximising the impact of the action for knowledge sharing and long-term collaboration.
4. COFUND: minimum 3 months
Researchers in COFUND shall not be recruited for less than 3 months. For fellowships where the main part of the research training activity does not take place in an EU Member State or an Associated Country, the return phase to an EU Member State or an Associated Country may not be more than 50% of the total duration of the research training activity.

Award criteria

The award criteria against which proposals will be judged are set out in Article 14 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

The purpose of this section is to set out specifications for the criteria, weightings and ex-aequo priority order applied to calls for proposals in Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

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%.

A proposal that contravenes fundamental ethical principles, fails to comply with the relevant security procedures, or which does not fulfil any other of the conditions set out in the specific programme, the work programme or in the call for proposals shall not be selected. Such a proposal may be excluded from the award procedure at any time. Details of the procedure to be followed are given in the Commission rules mentioned above.

Table 1: Award Criteria, Weightings and ex-aequo Priority Order

1. ITN - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks		
Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme (including inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)	Enhancing the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan , including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources , (including awarding of the doctoral degrees for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> projects)
Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)	Contribution to structuring doctoral / early-stage research training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity , including the potential for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral/research training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field b) developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures (for <i>EJD</i> projects only) 	Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures , including quality management and risk management (with a mandatory joint governing structure for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> projects)

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Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> projects)	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results	Appropriateness of the infrastructure of the participating organisations
Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations	Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences	Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and their commitment to the programme
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		
1	2	3
Priority in case of <i>ex aequo</i>		

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

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

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

Evaluation procedure

In Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN, IF and RISE, proposals are allocated to one of the 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). In ITN, separate multidisciplinary panels will be created for the European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and the European Joint Doctorates (EJD). In IF, separate multidisciplinary panels will be created for the Industrial Fellowships (InF), Career Restart Panel (CAR) and the Reintegration Panel (RI). COFUND evaluation will be organised in two different panels: Doctoral programmes and Fellowship programmes.

For each panel a ranked list is established. 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 evaluated²² 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.

Proposals will not be evaluated anonymously. Proposals may be evaluated remotely.

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.

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 table 1 of the section on award criteria.

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 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 conditions set out in the call fiche.

The full evaluation procedure is described in the relevant guide²³ published on the Participant Portal.

²² Measured as proposals having passed all relevant evaluation thresholds.

²³ See: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse_en.pdf

European Union contribution and applicable rates

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 the Commission Decision n° C(2013) 8194²⁴.

ITN / IF /COFUND

The host organisation shall appoint each eligible researcher under an employment contract / 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 regulation prohibits this possibility.

When an employment contract cannot be provided, the host organisation shall recruit the researcher under a status equivalent to a fixed-amount fellowship. The rates applicable to living allowances²⁵ in these duly justified cases will be 50% of the rates for researchers under an employment contract. The host organisation shall ensure that researchers enjoy minimum social security coverage.

ITN / IF

The yearly reference rates for calculating the living allowances of each eligible researcher recruited under an employment contract/ contract with full social security coverage complying with the social security legislation applicable²⁶:

Early-stage researchers (ITN): 37 320 EUR/year

Experienced researchers (IF): 55 800 EUR/year

The above amounts include all compulsory deductions under national applicable legislation. Rates for individual countries are obtained by applying to these reference rates the respective correction coefficients as listed in Table 3.

The host organisation shall pay to the selected researchers a minimum contribution according to the reference allowances, taking into account all compulsory deductions under national legislation in the context of the project. The host organisation may pay a top-up to the eligible researchers in order to complement this contribution.

²⁴ COMMISSION DECISION authorising the use of reimbursement on the basis of unit costs for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme

²⁵ Researcher unit cost in case of COFUND

²⁶ Council Regulation (EC) N° 883/2004 of 29 April 2004, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 988/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009, Commission Regulation (EU) No 1244/2010 of 9 December 2010 and Corrigendum, OJ L 200, 7.6.2004, p. 1 (883/2004)

In addition to the living allowance, a mobility allowance and a family allowance will be paid for some categories of researchers as specified in Table 2. 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 2 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 host organisation and with prior approval by the Research Executive Agency, execute 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 2 specifies the researcher unit cost and the institutional unit cost for the co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND). The EU contribution shall 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 shall 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 for the expert evaluators to assess 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) provided by the programmes for the benefit of the researchers

- recruited under an employment contract shall in no case be lower than EUR 2 597 (ESR) and EUR 3 675 (ER);
- recruited under a status equivalent to a fixed-amount fellowships shall in no case be lower than EUR 1 298.50 (ESR) and EUR 1 837.50 (ER).

RISE

The top-up allowance specified in Table 2 is solely for the benefit of the seconded staff member.

Table 2: Structure of the European Union contribution [in EUR]

Subject to a funding rate of 100% (Article 28.4 of the Rules for Participation):

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

* A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance. This coefficient is the one applicable to the country of the researcher's host organisation as listed in Table 3.

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Subject to a funding rate of 100% (Article 28.4 of the Rules for Participation):

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**	align="center">325****
	Experienced researchers	2 625***	

** This figure represents 50% cofunding of 3710 EUR, the amount established in Commission Decision n° C(2013) 819454

*** This figure represents 50% cofunding of 5250 EUR, the amount established in Commission Decision n° C(2013) 819454

**** This figure represents 50% cofunding of 650 EUR, the amount established in Commission Decision n° C(2013) 819454

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

TABLE 3: COUNTRY CORRECTION COEFFICIENTS (CCC) APPLYING TO 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 ²⁷	CCC
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%

IL	108.7%
IS	116.6%
LI	110.0%
MD	61.1%
ME	66.9%
MK	68.4%
NO	131.9%
RS	67.1%
TR	86.6%

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%

²⁷ [ISO 3166 alpha-2](#), except for Greece and the United Kingdom (EL and UK used respectively instead of GR and GB).

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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%
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%

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%
UA	92.3%
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%