



НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКИЙ
УНИВЕРСИТЕТ



National Contact Point “Mobility”

The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “HORIZON 2020” (2014-2020)

This Newsletter contains an overview of a new European fellowship programme for researchers Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) that will be held in 2014-2020. The first calls under MSCA were announced on 11 December 2013.

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) is a key element of Horizon 2020, the next EU research and innovation framework programme (2014-2020)¹, which was adopted on 10 December 2013. MSCA is a new version of previously implemented FP7² Marie Curie Actions (2007-2013)³. It will continue to support training, career development and mobility of researchers.

MSCA are aimed to contribute to the optimum development and dynamic use of Europe’s intellectual capital in order to generate new skills, knowledge and innovation, as well as to create international networks that would ensure the best world research flows into the European Research Area. Within Horizon 2020 (hereinafter referred to as H2020), MSCA will provide a greater support for doctoral training, enhance international and intersectoral mobility of fellows within and beyond Europe, and will help them to acquire new skills necessary for further improvement of their careers and the modern economy. Particular emphasis will be placed on combining research with other skills that maximise employability of fellows.

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions are open to researchers and innovation staff of all ages, levels of experience and nationalities, as well as to universities, research institutions, research infrastructures, businesses, and other socio-economic actors from EU Member States (MS), Associated Countries (AC), and third countries. Attention is paid to encouraging active involvement of industrial enterprises, in particular SMEs, for the successful implementation and impact of this subprogramme.

Third countries (including Russia) are welcome to participate in this subprogramme under the conditions defined in the H2020 Rules for Participation⁴ and in the General Annexes to the H2020 Work Programme (2014-2015)⁵ (hereinafter referred to as H2020 WP). As seen from these documents, some categories of third countries (including Russia), not listed in H2020 WP, can participate in H2020 projects, but are not eligible for funding from the budget of the programme.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020>

² [The EU’s Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration \(2007-2013\)](#)

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions>

⁴ [Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation](#), Chapter II: Grants, Article 10: Eligibility for funding, p. 31

⁵ [Horizon 2020 Work Programme \(2014-2015\), Part 18. General Annexes](#), Part A: List of countries, and applicable rules for funding, p. 3-4.

The H2020 WP General Annexes and H2020 Rules for Participation allow the following three exceptions, according to which participants established in such third countries (including Russia) may be funded under H2020¹:

- funding is explicitly foreseen in the relevant call,
- funding is provided under a bilateral scientific and technological agreement or any other arrangement with the EU,
- the European Commission (EC) deems participation of the entity essential for carrying out the action funded through H2020.

MSCA, in particular such actions as Innovative Training Networks (ITN), Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE), Global Fellowships (GF) and Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND), have the same rules for funding Russian organisations.

Participants are organisations from academic and non-academic sectors:

- *Academic sector* consists of public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit organisations whose primary mission is to pursue research, and international European interest organisations;
- *Non-academic sector* includes any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the H2020 Rules for Participation and H2020 WP General Annexes.

These institutions can be divided in two groups based on their level of involvement:

- *Beneficiaries* – organisations signing grant agreements, full partners with complete responsibility for the implementation of a joint project. They employ and supervise eligible researchers, provide training in research and in transferable skills, as well as secondment opportunities.
- *Partner organisations* – non-beneficiary organisations not signing grant agreements, but providing training and hosting researchers (or staff members in cases under RISE action) during secondments. They do not recruit researchers within the project (this restriction does not apply to COFUND action), but provide training in research and transferable skills, as well as secondment opportunities

Consortia involving partner organisations are encouraged to sign a partnership agreement to regulate the relationship between participants.

It is also possible to submit a project proposal as an individual organisation, team or a researcher.

Eligible researchers are classified into two categories based on their level of experience and education:

- *Early-Stage Researcher*: shall be in the first four years of their research career full-time equivalent, and have not been awarded a doctoral degree at the time of recruitment (ITN, COFUND) or secondment (RISE) by the host organisation.
- *Experienced Researcher*: shall have at least four years of full-time postgraduate research experience and be in possession of a doctoral degree at the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals (IF), recruitment (COFUND) or secondment (RISE) by the host organisation.

They should be available to move from one country to another to broaden or deepen their competences

¹ [Horizon 2020 Work Programme \(2014-2015\), Part 18. General Annexes](#), Part A: List of countries, and applicable rules for funding, p. 4; [Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation](#), Chapter II: Grants, Article 10: Eligibility for funding, 10.2 (a), (b), p. 31.

The Key Features of MSCA:

- Fostering key skills and competences for research and innovation; ensuring attractive career and knowledge-exchange opportunities;
- Development of state-of-the-art, innovative training schemes, consistent with the highly competitive and increasingly inter-disciplinary requirements of research and innovation. Main EU programme providing structured doctoral training;
- Open to all domains of research and innovation from basic research up to market take-up and innovation services;
- Bottom-up approach: the research topic is freely chosen by the researcher in collaboration with the host institution;
- Active involvement of the non-academic sector, especially industry and in particular, SMEs, in a research training programme is considered essential to ensure that researchers are trained in a suitably intersectoral environment;
- Mobility, both international and intersectoral, is a key requirement: researchers receive funding on the condition that they move from one country:
 - Opening research careers at European and international level;
 - Enhanced cooperation between the academic and non-academic sector and staff exchange;
- Excellent employment and working conditions, in line with the EU Charter and Code for Researchers;
- Particular attention to gender balance: equal opportunities are to be ensured, both at the level of supported researchers and that of decision making supervision;
- Stronger emphasis on communicating results and public engagement: MSCA beneficiaries are required to plan suitable public outreach activities.

The MSCA budget is €6.162 billion (for 2014-2020), and will support more than 65 000 researchers, of which almost 40% will be PhD candidates.

Individual fellowships will be provided through four actions. The four MSCA will maintain continuity from the current eight MCA although they will be reduced in the number by merging some of them into one.

Action 1: Innovative Training Networks (ITN) – structure research and doctoral training for creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers aimed at improvement of their skills and career in both academic and non-academic areas through international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility.

ITN will create and contribute to high-quality innovative research and doctoral training, and have a structuring effect in Europe and beyond. Through the support to research training provided by organisations from different countries, sectors and disciplines, the ITN scheme will help to develop cooperation between them. It will also raise the attractiveness of research careers for young people.

Each training programme should be aimed at establishing effective communication and exchange of best practice among the participants of partnerships. It also should exploit of complementary competences of the participants, enable networking activities, organisation of workshops and conferences to facilitate sharing of knowledge, new skills acquisition and the career development of researchers.

Training should be based on interdisciplinary approach and focused on acquiring scientific and technological knowledge through research on individual projects. To maximise employability of researchers, each programme should include training to key transferrable skills used in the non-academic sector activities (e.g. entrepreneurship, management and financing of research

activities and programmes, management of intellectual property rights, ethical aspects, communication, etc.)

The action will provide support to competitively selected joint research training and/or doctoral programmes, proposed by partnerships of organisations from the academic and non-academic sector.

Partnerships can be created in the form of European Training Networks (ETN), European Industrial Doctorates (EID) or European Joint Doctorates (EJD).

The networks must be created by at least three beneficiaries (or at least two for EID) located in three different EU Member States and/or Associated Countries. Above this minimum, the involvement of institutions from any country (including Russia) is possible under the conditions defined in the H2020 Rules for Participation and in the H2020 WP General Annexes.

In the case of EID, one of three beneficiaries must be entitled to award doctoral degrees and one of them must come from the non-academic sector, primarily enterprises.

For EJD, three full partners must be entitled to award doctoral degrees.

In EID and EJD, enrolment in a doctoral programme and the creation of a joint governance structure - is mandatory. In the case of EJD, the successful completion of the programme must result in the award of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees.

For ITN, at the time of recruitment by the host organisation, researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date.

The overall EU 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.

The funding under Action 1 covers the period of 3 to 36 months.

The Call for Proposals announced under ITN action:

Call Identifier:	H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014
Call Title:	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action: Innovative Training Networks (ITN)
Budget:	€405,180,000
Publication Date:	11 December 2013
Deadline:	9 April 2014, 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

More detailed information on the open call has been published on the [Participant Portal](#) of the European Commission.

Action 2: Individual fellowships (IF) – individual, transnational fellowships awarded to most promising experienced researchers for employment in EU MS or AC and in order to enhance and maximise their contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society.

The action will support the academic mobility within Europe (EU MS and AC) and beyond. It will contribute to realising the full potential of the best researchers and helps them develop their careers in both academic and non-academic sectors. IF will provide opportunities to work on research and to share acquired knowledge in EU MS and AC or in third countries. The scheme will particularly support the return and reintegration of fellows from outside Europe, who have previously worked there, as well as will help researchers with great potential, considering their academic experience, to resume their career in Europe after a break.

Proposals for funding under IF shall be submitted by individual fellows in liaison with their planned host organisation in the academic or non-academic sectors. The beneficiary shall be a

participant institution established in an EU MS/AC and employing the researcher during the project. At the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals, fellows shall not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date.

Researchers receiving IF may plan a secondment phase elsewhere in Europe, notably in the non-academic sector, within the overall duration of their fellowship, if this would boost impact, and those restarting their career in Europe benefit from special eligibility conditions. 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.

There are two types of Individual Fellowships:

- European Fellowships (EF): shall be held in EU MS or AC and awarded to researchers
 - working on individual projects and moving inside Europe to help them to enhance their academic career and to encourage them in attaining a senior position in organisations of academic or non-academic sector;
 - wishing to move to Europe to develop their career and work on their projects there;
 - wishing to resume their work in Europe after a career break. This is ensured via a separate multi-disciplinary career restart panel of the EF. Candidates must not have been active in research for at least 12 months immediately prior to the deadline for submission;
 - wishing to return and reintegrate in a longer term research position in Europe, including their country of origin (this supported via a separate multi-disciplinary reintegration panel of the EF).

The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the European Fellowship is held.

- Global Fellowships (GF): based on a secondment to a third country and a mandatory 12 month return period to a European host; provide support for
 - researchers moving away from Europe by giving them the opportunity to be trained and acquire new knowledge in a high-level research organisation, established in a third country. That will help to improve knowledge sharing and reinforce the international dimension of career of European researchers.

A 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.

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

In the Career Restart Panel and the Reintegration Panel, 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.

The duration of funding under for EF is 12-24 months, and under GF - 12-36 months, including 12-24 months of outgoing phase plus 12 month return phase in Europe.

A Call for Proposals under IF action will be announced on 12 March 2014. Applications will be accepted until 11 September 2014.

Action 3: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) - support for the development of partnerships, knowledge sharing and collaboration between participants through international and intersectoral mobility, based on secondments (exchanges) of their research and innovation staff.

The action will help to facilitate new skills acquisition and career development of the staff members, involved in research projects, as well as will help to turn creative ideas into innovative products, services or processes. Key activities are aimed to support short-term staff exchanges among partnerships of organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors, based both within and beyond Europe, as well as to facilitate the enhancement of intersectoral and international collaboration.

Staff members in RISE are early-stage and experienced researchers; administrative, managerial and technical staff. They shall be actively engaged in or linked to research and/or innovation activities of the project for at least six months (full-time equivalent) at the sending institution prior to the first period of secondment.

Eligible organisations shall be established in at least three different countries of which at least two must be EU MS and/or AC. If all the institutions are from the same sector, at least one of them must be from a third country. Above this minimum, the participation of institutions from any country (including Russia), not included into the List of countries eligible for funding under H2020¹, is possible under the conditions provided by the H2020 Rules for Participation and H2020 WP General Annexes.

The proposed projects should exploit complementary competences of the participants, as well as 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.

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

The duration of funding is 1-12 months. Secondments may be split into several stays not exceeding 12 months in total.

The Call for Proposals announced under this action:

Call Identifier	H2020-MSCA-RISE-2014
Call Title	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)
Budget	€70,000,000
Publication Date	11 December 2013
Deadline	24 April 2014, 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

More detailed information on the open call has been published on the [Participant Portal](#) of the European Commission.

Action 4: Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND) - co-financing of regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary training, mobility, and in career development.

Participants in the COFUND shall be legal entities established in an EU MS or AC, which fund or manage doctoral or fellowship programmes for researchers. International European interest organisations running similar activities can also participate in this action.

¹ [Horizon 2020 Work Programme \(2014-2015\), Part 18. General Annexes](#), Part A: List of countries, and applicable rules for funding, p.3-4.

Participants submit multi-annual proposals for new or existing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes that may be run at regional, national or international level.

Doctoral programmes shall be focused at the development and broadening of the research competencies of early-stage fellows. Each researcher must be enrolled in a doctoral programme. Collaboration with a wider set of partners, including non-academic organisations, is encouraged.

Fellowship programmes will fund individual research training and career development grants for experienced researchers. Applicants are encouraged to include both transnational and intersectoral mobility into their training programmes. Researchers should be able to freely choose a research topic and the appropriate host organisation fitting their individual needs.

Support under COFUND cannot be awarded to researchers who are already permanently employed at the host organisation. Limitations regarding the researchers' origin and destination should be avoided. Fellowships will be provided for financial support to individual fellows, and research teams will not be funded.

Duration of the support granted under this Action is minimum 3 months; i.e. researchers in COFUND shall not be recruited for less than 3 months.

More details on MSCA subprogramme and its open calls are available on the web-sites:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-sections>

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

Sources:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/marie-sk%C5%82odowska-curie-actions>

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference_docs.html

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-13-1021_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-1021_en.htm)

Presentation "Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under Horizon 2020", Kamila Partyka, DG Education and Culture, European Commission

[\[http://www.uasnet.eu/News/presentationhorizon2020andmariecurieprogrammes\]](http://www.uasnet.eu/News/presentationhorizon2020andmariecurieprogrammes)