

# **Focus on European funds for individual researchers: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA-PF) and European Research Council (ERC) Starting grants**

**Ferrara, SIBE Summer School  
11/09/2025**



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## Short CV:

- 1995 Master degree in International and Diplomatic Sciences at University of Trieste
- 1996-98: Bruxelles, employee in JP Morgan, and, after, parliamentary assistant to a Member of European Parliament;
- 1998-2010: Trieste City Council, European affairs office;
- 2010-2024: University of Trieste, senior expert in Research and Grant Office;
- June 2024: PhD in Political and Social Sciences at University of Bologna - Alma Mater. Research title: *«Italian Public Universities Facing the Challenge of European Funds for Scientific Research: The Importance of Organizational Dynamics»*
- From September 2024: Adjunct professor of Project Management at Department of Political and Social Sciences of University of Trieste
- From January 2025: Research manager at University of Ferrara



## Acknowledgements

This seminar benefits of some of the contents of a previous workshop hold by the National Contact Point (NCP) for MSCA actions. A great thank to **Angelo D'Agostino**, NCP, for making available updated contents of exceptional quality, completeness and clarity.



**Angelo D'Agostino, APRE (Agency for the Promotion of the European Research)**

**Head of Research career and NCPs coordination Unit**

Horizon Europe competence team: MSCA, ERC, L&F, Widening & European Research Area

National Contact Point - NCP



# Agenda

- Introduction
- MSCA postdoctoral fellowship (PF) general overview: objectives, eligibility criteria, structure, fellowship types: European and Global, evaluation
- European Research Council (ERC) ERC funding schemes: Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grants – Focus on Starting grants – general overview





# Horizon Europe structure





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## Before starting, something about Marie Skłodowska Curie

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- ✓ Marie Curie was born on the 7th of November 1867 and grew up in Russian Poland; since women could not be admitted to higher education there, she moved to Paris and in 1891 began attending the Sorbonne, where she graduated in physics and mathematics. In December 1897 she began to study radioactive substances, which would remain at the center of her interests from then on.
- ✓ In 1903, at the age of 36, she was the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize. She received the Nobel Prize in Physics, together with her husband Pierre Curie and Antoine Henri Becquerel, for her studies on radiation.



- ✓ In 1906, after her husband Pierre Curie died, she was allowed to teach at the Sorbonne. Two years later, she was appointed to the chair of general physics, becoming **the first woman to teach at the Sorbonne**.
- ✓ In 1911, she received another Nobel Prize, **this time in Chemistry for the discovery of radium and polonium**, the name of which was chosen in honor of her homeland. She was one of five Nobel laureates to have received two Nobel Prizes and is the only one to have won the prize in two distinct scientific fields.



- ✓ In 1906, after her husband Pierre Curie died, she was allowed to teach at the Sorbonne. Two years later, she was appointed to the chair of general physics, becoming **the first woman to teach at the Sorbonne**.
- ✓ In 1911, she received another Nobel Prize, **this time in Chemistry for the discovery of radium and polonium**, the name of which was chosen in honor of her homeland. She was one of five Nobel laureates to have received two Nobel Prizes and is the only one to have won the prize in two distinct scientific fields.



- ✓ In 1911, she began an affair with fellow scientist Paul Langevin, the two were colleagues in Paris. The affair became scandalous because Langevin was the father of four children and his marriage fell apart, precisely because of this affair.
- ✓ The love affair between the widow Curie Skłodowska and the married Langevin caused a public outcry.
- ✓ She died in France in 1934 from aplastic anemia, caused by radiation to which her body had been exposed for a long time.
- ✓ Her eldest daughter, Irène Joliot-Curie, also won a Nobel Prize in Chemistry (together with her husband Frédéric Joliot-Curie) in 1935.



- ✓ Since 1996, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) have been the European Union's flagship programme for doctoral and postdoctoral training.
- ✓ MSCAs focus on excellence in many respects: not only in individual researchers, collaborations and knowledge exchange, but also in methodologies, research, training and supervision.
- ✓ MSCAs are based on the principle of physical mobility: researchers who receive funding must move from one country to another to acquire new knowledge and skills in order to develop their research career. With MSCAs, researchers are also strongly encouraged to move between different sectors and disciplines.



## **MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS (MSCA-PF)**



## Main Objective



To enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers **holding a PhD**, wishing to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.

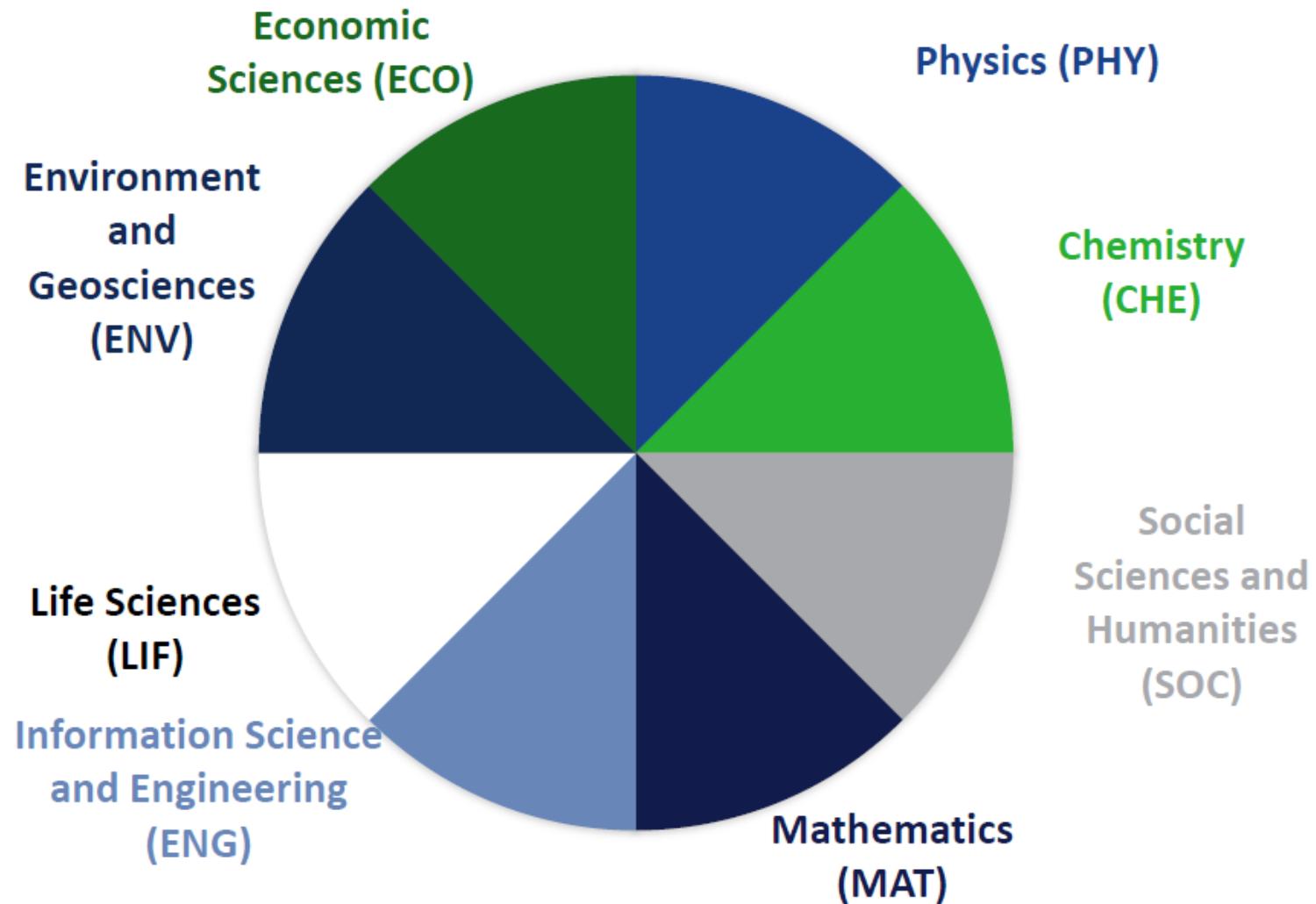


## Key messages



- an original and personalised research project
- to foster excellence through training and mobility
- to equip researchers with new skills and competences in order to identify solutions to current and future challenges
- Postdoctoral researchers are encouraged to engage with society at large to make the results of their research visible to citizens and to involve citizens, civil society and end-users in co-creation of research content when relevant.

## Bottom-up





## Who is eligible?

- ¶ Postdoctoral researchers
- ¶ Mobility rule
- ¶ Supported researchers can be of any nationality
  - Global Postdoctoral Fellowship: nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries
- ¶ Supported researchers must have a **maximum of 8 years full-time equivalent experience in research**
  - Years **outside research and career breaks** will not be counted





## Maternity & Paternity



Maternity: for each child born prior to the call deadline, 18 months will be deducted from the experience in research unless the applicant can document a longer parental leave prior to the call deadline.

Paternity: for each child born prior to the call deadline, the documented time of parental leave taken until the call deadline will be deducted from the experience in research.

## Mobility rule



Researchers they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary (for European Postdoctoral Fellowships), or the host organisation for the outgoing phase (for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.



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Country of the main activity: the country where the researcher is physically based when carrying out the main activity and the country of the institution for which the main activity is performed (e.g., employer).



## Postdoctoral Fellowship



**European**  
Postdoctoral  
Fellowship



**Global**  
Postdoctoral  
Fellowship



## European Postdoctoral Fellowships

### Rules of participation



Any nationality

From any country

Duration: **12/24 months**





# Postdoctoral Fellowships Types – European Fellowship



## RESEARCHER ELIGIBILITY

- Researchers of **any nationality and from any country** with a PhD by the call deadline;
- **Mobility rule:** Cannot have resided or carried out their main activity in the **country of the beneficiary** for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before to the call deadline;
- **Research experience:** **Max 8 years from the first PhD** (extensions allowed for maternity/ paternity leave, career break, compulsory national service, time spent not working in research, long-term sick leave, research in a non-associated Third country only for nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC wishing to reintegrate in Europe).

## BENEFICIARY / HOST ORGANISATION

Single independent legal entity established in Member State (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Country (AC).

## LOCATION

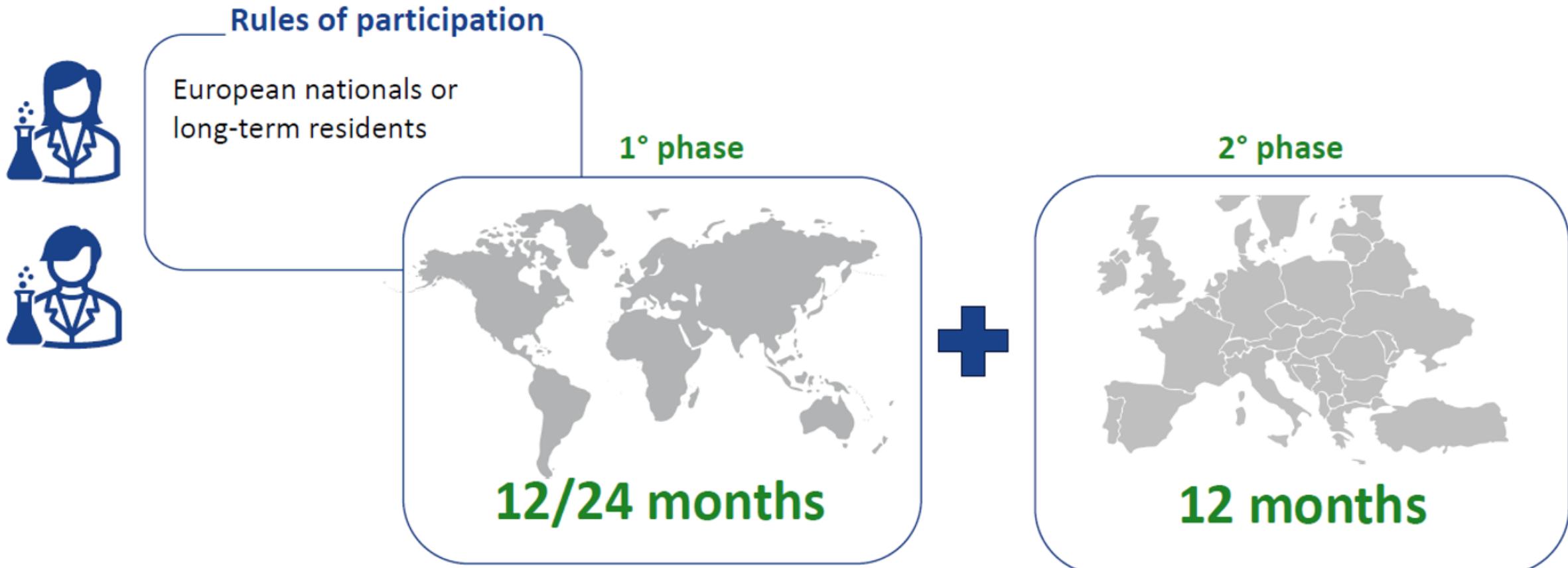
Mobility to any EU MS or AC.

## DURATION

Between 12 and 24 months.



## Global Postdoctoral Fellowships





# Postdoctoral Fellowships Types – Global Fellowship



## RESEARCHER ELIGIBILITY

- European **nationals or long-term residents of MS or AC with a PhD by the call deadline**;
- Mobility rule: Cannot have resided or carried out their main activity in the **country of the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase** for more than **12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline**;
- Research experience: **Max 8 years from the date of the first PhD** (extensions allowed for maternity/paternity leave, career break, compulsory national service, time spent not working in research, long-term sick leave).

## STRUCTURE

- **Beneficiary/Host Organisation**: Single independent legal entity established in MS or AC;
- **Associated partner hosting the outgoing phase**: Single independent legal entity established in a Non-associated Third Country.

## DURATION

Between 24 and 36 months:

- **Outgoing phase**: minimum 12 and maximum 24 months in a Non-associated Third Country;
- **Return Phase**: Mandatory 12-month return phase to a Beneficiary in a MS or AC.

## LOCATION

Mobility to Non-associated Third Country.



# Researcher Eligibility – Practical cases

**Researcher with a Phd and maximum 8-year experience in research**

I want to apply for a **fellowship with the University of Ferrara as the Host Institution**

## EUROPEAN

Have I worked/lived in Italy for more than 12 months in the 36 months before the call deadline?

YES

NO

**NOT eligible in Italy**

**Eligible in Italy**

## GLOBAL

Mandatory period in a non-EU country before being able to go/return to Unife.

Am I an EU or AC national or long-term resident?

YES

NO

Have I worked/lived in the chosen non-EU country for more than 12 months in the 36 months before the call deadline?

YES

NO

**NOT eligible for the Global Fellowship scheme**

Always check the Mobility Rule, the Nationality Rule and the 8-year Rule together

All three must be met to ensure eligibility



To find the list of eligible countries:

# International cooperation

 European Commission | Funding & tender opportunities  
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

English EN  
Register Login

Home SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS HOW TO PARTICIPATE PROJECTS & RESULTS WORK AS AN EXPERT SUPPORT Get started  
clear filter

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Programming period  
2021-2027

Reference Documents

Grants

This page includes reference documents of the programmes managed on the EU Funding & Tenders portal starting with legal documents and the Commission work programmes up to model grant agreements and guides for specific actions.

Please select the programme to see the reference documents.

Procurement

Reference Documents related to tendering opportunities are published on TED eTendering in the calls for tenders.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)



## Secondments

Proposals may **include** optional secondment during the fellowship and/or **add** an optional non-academic placement period provided they are **in line with the project objectives** and **add significant value** and/or impact to the fellowship.

**Any country worldwide.**

European Postdoctoral Fellowships	Global Postdoctoral Fellowships
<b>1/3 of the fellowship duration</b>	<b>1/3 of the outgoing phase</b>  A maximum of three months of such secondments can be spent at the start of the project at the beneficiary (or associated partners linked to the beneficiary), allowing the researcher to spend time there before going to the associated partner in the Third Country. This period of maximum three months will be considered as part of the outgoing phase.



## Placements in the non-academic sector

<b>Definition</b>	Postdoctoral Fellowships can provide an <b>additional period of up to six months</b> to support researchers opting for a placement at the end of the project to work on R&I projects.
<b>How it works</b>	<p>It must be spent in an organisation from the <b>non-academic sector</b> established in an <b>EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country</b>.</p> <p>The request must be included as integral part of the proposal and the organisation must be included as Associated Partner.</p>



## Training activities



The training activities implemented under the Postdoctoral Fellowships must include training for key **transferable skills**, foster innovation and entrepreneurship, (e.g. commercialisation of results, Intellectual Property Rights, communication, public engagement and citizen science) and promote Open Science practices (open access to publications and to research data, FAIR data management, etc).

## What are transversal skills?

**ResearchComp** is a tool developed by EC that helps:

- researchers assess and develop their own transversal skills
- higher education institutions and training providers adapt their offer to researchers
- employers to be aware of the wide set of competences of researchers

By supporting the development of researchers' transversal skills, it fosters inter-sectoral careers.

[https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-04/ec\\_rtd\\_research-competence-presentation.pdf](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-04/ec_rtd_research-competence-presentation.pdf)



# Career development plan & Training activities

## Career Development Plan

- Created **jointly** by the **supervisor(s) and the researcher**
- Includes **training needs** (transferable skills, teaching) and **career planning** (publications, conferences, citizen science activities)
- Must be **submitted at the start** of the project as a **deliverable**
- Can be **updated during the action** if necessary

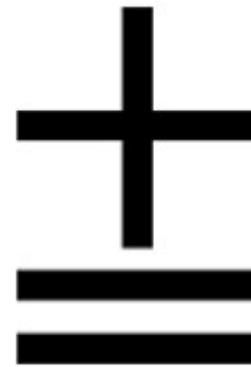
## Training activities

- Focus on **transferable skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship** (e.g., commercialisation, Intellectual Property Rights, communication, public engagement, citizen science)
- Foster **good scientific conduct** (e.g., research integrity)
- Promote **Open Science practices** (open access to publications, research outputs, FAIR data management, societal engagement)



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# Seal of Excellence





## Opportunities with the Seal of Excellence



EN English

Search

[Home](#) > [Research and innovation](#) > [Funding](#) > [Funding opportunities](#) > [Seal of Excellence](#) > [Funding opportunities under MSCA](#)

# Funding opportunities under Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

List of national and regional support programmes for Seal of Excellence holders under Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Actions

## PAGE CONTENTS

### What you can find on this page

[Belgium \(Flanders\)](#)

[Bulgaria](#)

[Czechia](#)

### What you can find on this page

The list below provides regularly updated information we receive about available support at national/regional level for MSCA proposals with a Seal of Excellence.

A number of other countries have suggested that recipients may wish to contact the National Contact Point in your host country to check if there are funding possibilities available.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/seal-excellence/funding-opportunities-under-msca\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/seal-excellence/funding-opportunities-under-msca_en)

## Resubmission



Proposals involving the same recruiting organisation (and for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships also the associated partner of the outgoing phase) and individual researcher should not be resubmitted the following year.

< 70%

**No resubmission**

## Award criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
50%	30%	20%
<b>Weighting</b>		



Proposals will be evaluated by experts on the basis of the award criteria 'excellence', 'impact' and 'quality and efficiency of the implementation'.

Proposals scoring **equal to or above 70% will be considered for funding.**



### **EXCELLENCE (50%)**

Assessment of the quality and relevance of the **research objectives, methodology** (including interdisciplinarity, gender, and open science), **supervision, training, knowledge transfer**, and the **researcher's professional experience and skills**.

### **IMPACT (30%)**

Assessment of the credibility of **career development measures**, the quality of **dissemination, exploitation, and communication plans**, and the significance of the project's scientific, **societal, and economic impacts**.

### **QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY (20%)**

Assessment of the quality and effectiveness of the **work plan, risk management, allocation of efforts**, and the **capacity and hosting quality of the institutions involved**.

## Evaluation panels

In Postdoctoral Fellowships, proposals will be evaluated by one of **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).

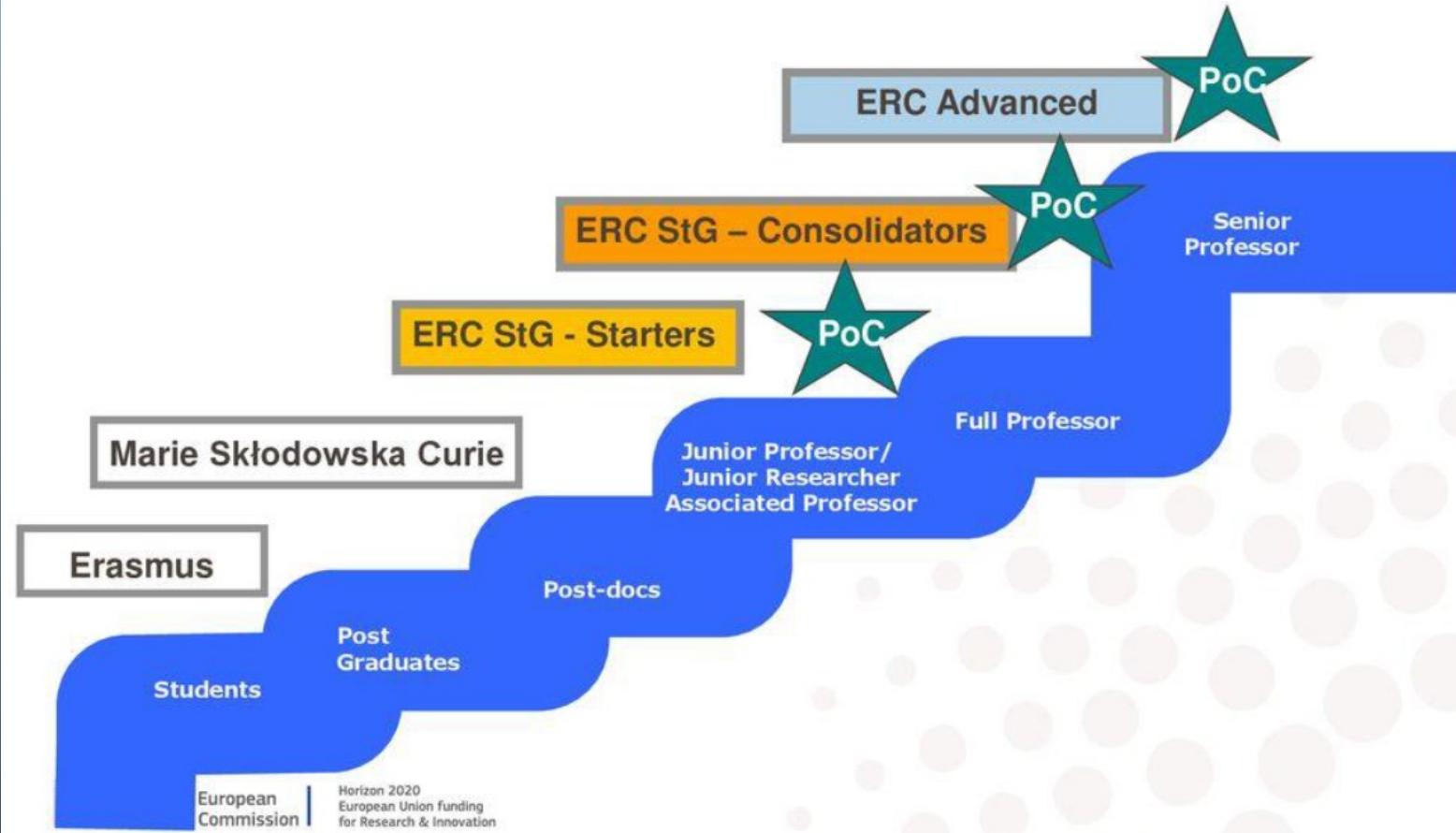


**Each panel will establish two ranked lists, one for European and one for Global Postdoctoral fellowships.**

<b>MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships</b>	<b>Contributions for the recruited researcher per person-month</b>					<b>Institutional unit contributions per person-month</b>	
	<b>Living allowance</b>	<b>Mobility allowance</b>	<b>Family allowance (if applicable)</b>	<b>Long- term leave allowance (if applicable)</b>	<b>Special needs allowance (if applicable)</b>	<b>Research, training and networking contribution</b>	<b>Management and indirect contribution</b>
	EUR 5990	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 6700 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit <sup>137</sup> x (1/number of months)	EUR 1000	EUR 650

**AMENDMENT**

# Researchers career development and complementary funding schemes





# Steps to Apply

**1. Eligibility Check:** Ensure you meet all requirements (nationality, experience, mobility criteria) and decide whether you are eligible for the European or Global Fellowship.

## 2. Selecting the Host Organisation

- European: Any research organisation in an EU MS or AC
- Global: A Non-associated Third Country for the outgoing phase, with compulsory return to the EU beneficiary

**3. Ensure all necessary documents are provided to the Host Organisation:** Check if specific approvals are needed (e.g., Decision of the Department's Council)

## 4. Preparing the Proposal

- Collaborate with potential hosts to create a competitive research proposal
- Align the research objectives with the MSCA goals of innovation, knowledge exchange, and career development

## 5. Application Submission

- Apply via the European Commission's portal ([link](#))
- Pay attention to deadlines and required documentation.



General information

Programme  
HORIZON

Call  
[MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 \(HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF\)](#)

Type of action  
HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-GF HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships

Deadline model  
single-stage

Type of action  
HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-EF HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships

Deadline model  
single-stage

Type of MGA  
HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

Opening date  
09 April 2025

Type of MGA  
HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

Opening date  
09 April 2025

Open For Submission

Deadline date  
10 September 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time

Open For Submission

Deadline date  
10 September 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time

# Opening and deadlines

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF-01-01?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&status=31094503,31094502,31094501&programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027&frameworkProgramme=43108390&callIdentifier=HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF>



# Expression of Interest

Participation with **Unife as host institution** must be approved by a Decision of the Department's Council.

The Decision must include the following information:

- Name Surname of the applicant
- Funding scheme: call to which the proposals is referred
- Research Title
- Project Description
- Position granted to the researcher
- Duration
- Budget (as automatically calculated on the Funding & Tender Portal)



# Links

- MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025 ([link](#))
- MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships – overview ([link](#))
- MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships – 6 steps to prepare your application ([link](#))
- MSCA Guidelines on supervision ([link](#))
- MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Call 2025 ([link](#))
- Guide for applicants Call 2025 ([link](#))
- Standard Application Form Call 2025 ([link](#))
- Guidelines 8-year rule 2025 ([link](#))
- Eligibility support to tool for 8-year rule ([link](#))



# European Research Council Grants



## Acknowledgements

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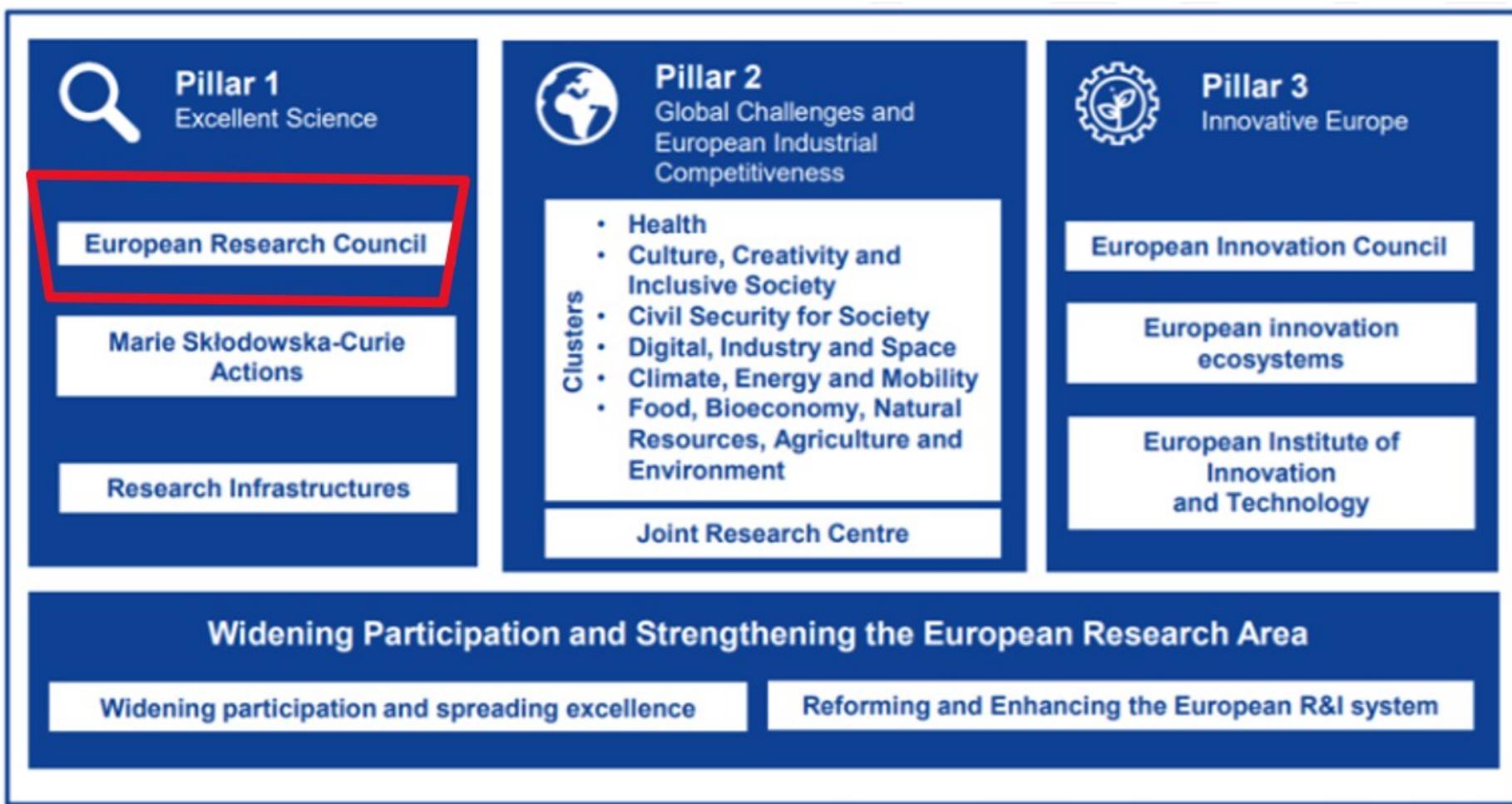
**Marco Ferraro, APRE (Agency for the Promotion of the European Research)**

National Contact Point – NCP for:

ERC – European Research Council

MSCA – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

## Horizon Europe structure





## Before starting, something about ERC Programme

The ERC, set up by the European Union in 2007, is the top European funding organisation for excellent frontier research. **It funds creative researchers of any nationality and age, to run projects based across Europe.**

The ERC offers 4 core grant schemes: **Starting Grants, Consolidator Grants, Advanced Grants and Synergy Grants**. With its additional **Proof of Concept Grant scheme**, the ERC helps grantees to explore the innovation potential of their ideas or research results.

The ERC is led by an independent governing body, the Scientific Council. Since 1st November 2021, Maria Leptin is the President of the ERC.

The overall ERC budget from 2021 to 2027 is **more than €16 billion**, as part of the Horizon Europe programme.



## ERC mission

The ERC's mission is to [encourage](#) the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, based on scientific excellence.

## Structure and Governance

The ERC is composed of an [independent Scientific Council](#), its [governing body](#) consisting of distinguished researchers, and an [Executive Agency \(ERCEA\)](#), in charge of implementation.



## Key figures

Budget: **€ 16 billion (2021-2027) - 17% of the overall Horizon Europe budget**

Since 2007, ERC funded more than 16.000 projects and over 10.000 researchers. It evaluated more than 130 000 research proposals.

**Each ERC grantee employs on average 7 team members.** Currently **over 75.000 postdocs, PhD students and other staff** are working in their research teams.

ERC projects have so far led to over **2.200 patents** and other IPR applications and ERC grantees **founded or co-founded over 400 start-ups**.



## Key figures

More than **200.000 articles** published in scientific journals

**14 Nobel Prizes, 7 Fields Medals, 11 Wolf Prizes** and dozens of important prizes awarded to ERC grantees

Over 850 research institutions are hosting ERC grantees who hold more than 97 nationalities

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## OBJECTIVES

The ERC encourages proposals that:

- cross traditional barriers between disciplines
- address new and emerging areas
- high-risk, high-reward
- submitted by outstanding researchers





## CHARACTERISTICS OF ERC GRANTS

- Funding awarded to **individual researchers**
- 1 Project, 1 researcher, 1 institute, 1 evaluation criterion**
- Single selection criterion: **excellence**
- Substantial funding (1.5 mln € -> 3.5 mln )
- No pre-defined thematic priority ('researcher-driven' – bottom-up);
- Open to all sectors of science
- No network but TEAM
- Portability of funding



## WHAT DOES "FRONTIER RESEARCH" MEAN?

Today the distinction between 'basic' and 'applied' research has become blurred, due to the fact that emerging areas of science and technology often cover substantial elements of both.

As a result, the term '[frontier research](#)' was coined for ERC activities since [they will be directed towards fundamental advances at and beyond the 'frontier' of knowledge](#).



## Which sectors?

- ✓ All subjects **except nuclear energy and ethically sensitive topics**

For practical reasons divided into:

- ✓ Natural, physical and engineering sciences (PE)
- ✓ Life sciences (LS)
- ✓ Social sciences and humanities (SH)



## INDEPENDENCE, RECOGNITION AND VISIBILITY

The ERC offers:

- Free choice of research area, host institution and team members (European and non-European)
- Mobility of researchers anywhere in Europe (portability of grants)
- A "quality label" to attract additional funding and gain recognition
- Simple procedures and "light" bureaucracy



## Funding schemes

### STG

**Starting Grants**  
(2-7 years after PhD)  
up to €1.5 Million  
for 5 years  
+ up to €1 Million

### COG

**Consolidator Grants**  
(7-12 years after PhD)  
up to €2 Million  
for 5 years  
+ up to €1 Million

### ADG

**Advanced Grants**  
up to €2.5 Million  
for 5 years  
+ up to €1 Million

### SYG

**Synergy Grants**  
2-4 PIs at any career stage  
up to €10 Million  
for 6 years  
+ up to €4 Million



## Key elements of an ERC project

### Principal Investigator (PI)

- Any nationality, age, job/contractual status

### Host Institution (HI)

- Entity located in a European Union member country or a HE associated country

### Individual Research Team

- The Principal Investigator has freedom to choose the members of his team



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## ERC Starting Grants





## BUDGET AND DURATION - How big is a project?

- ✓ Duration up to 5 years
- ✓ Financing up to €1.5M
- ✓ Additional funding up to € 1.000.000 can be requested in the proposal to cover:
  - (a) "start-up" costs for Principal Investigators moving to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant, and/or
  - (b) the purchase of major equipment, and/or
  - (c) access to large facilities, and/or
  - (d) other major experimental and field work costs,  
excluding personnel costs.



## Principal Investigator (PI)

- The PI does not necessarily have to be “employed” or “structured” by the Host Institution at the time of the proposal submission, but employed/hired (“engaged”) by the HI for the entire duration of the Grant
- The PI must **dedicate a significant part of his/her time to the project: at least 50% working time** and at least 50% spent in MS or AC.
- Solely responsible for the project, both for the scientific activity and for the management



## PI: THE COMPETITIVE CANDIDATE

- ❖ Must be **between 2 and 7 years post-doc**
- ❖ Must have already demonstrated the **ability** to carry out research independently
- ❖ Have a certain maturity in research: **at least one important publication without the PHD supervisor**
- ❖ Have a “**promising**” **track record** of early successes achieved in their field of research
- ❖ **Significant publications** (up to 5 to be included in the track record)
- ❖ Invited presentations in conferences
- ❖ Patents, awards, competitions



## Principal Investigator (PI)

\_\_\_\_\_

### Starting Grant

The first PhD shall have been successfully defended

> 2 and  $\leq$  7 years  
prior to 1 January 2025

Cut-off dates:  
**Successful defence of first PhD**

**from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022  
(inclusive)**



## EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

### Before, during and after the PhD:

- Maternity (18 months per child – minimum)
- Paternity leave (actual time)

### After the PhD:

- Illness (more than 90 days) of the PI or family members (child, spouse, parent or sibling).
- Military service (actual time)
- Disability

- Medical specialization extension by the documented amount of clinical training received by the Principal Investigator after the reference date of the first eligible degree and before the call deadline, up to a maximum of 4 years.

- Major disasters
- Seeking Asylum



## SUBMISSION RESTRICTIONS

- A researcher may participate as a Principal Investigator **in only one ERC main frontier research grant project at any one time**. A new project can only start after the duration of the project fixed in a previous grant agreement for one of the main frontier research grants has ended;
  
- A researcher participating as a Principal Investigator in one of the main frontier research grants may not submit another proposal for a main ERC grant, **unless the existing project ends less than two years after the call deadline**;



## SUBMISSION RESTRICTIONS

- A researcher **who is a serving Panel Member** for a 2025 ERC call or who served as a Panel Member for a 2023 ERC call may not apply to a 2025 ERC call for the same type of grant;
- If a researcher **applies to more than one main ERC frontier research grant call published under the same Work Programme** (i.e. from the same ‘call year’), only the first eligible proposal will be evaluated;
- A researcher, whose proposal has been selected for funding and **who is preparing a grant agreement under a 2023 or 2024 ERC call, may not apply** for a Starting, Consolidator, Advanced or Synergy Grant under a 2025 ERC call.



# SUBMISSION RESTRICTIONS

Call to which the PI applied under previous ERC WPs and proposal evaluation outcome	2025 Calls to which a PI is <i>NOT</i> eligible
<b>2023 and 2024 Starting, Consolidator, Advanced Grant, or Synergy Grant</b>	Rejected on the grounds of a breach of research integrity
<b>2023 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant</b>	C at Step 1
<b>2024 Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced Grant</b>	A or B at Step 2
	B or C at Step 1
<b>2023 and 2024 Synergy Grant</b>	A or B at Step 3
	B at Step 1 or Step 2
	C at Step 1



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## Host Institution





## HOST INSTITUTION

- ✓ Research Institution, University but also Industry
- ✓ Located in a Member or Associated Country
- ✓ Meets the criterion of excellence (research environment, management capacity, contacts, know-how,..etc)
- ✓ Formally it is the contractor with the EC
- ✓ Must make a formal commitment to grant the researcher (PI)
- ✓ independence in the management of funds for the entire duration of the project
- ✓ Accepts the “portability” of the Grant
- ✓ Signs the letter of commitment



## HOST INSTITUTION

### PI Independence Conditions: What are they?

- ✓ Apply for funding independently
- ✓ Manage the research and funding of the project and make decisions on resource allocation
- ✓ Publish as senior author independently and invite as coauthors only those who have contributed to the work
- ✓ Supervise team members
- ✓ Have access to adequate space and facilities to carry out research

## CHANGE of HOST INSTITUTION

### Portability – Change of HI (1)

- As indicated in Article II.3 of the *Annex II – General conditions*, the Principal Investigator has the possibility to **transfer the project to a new Host Institution**.





## ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS

In special cases, other institutions may be involved in the project:

- ✓ Motivated and justified participation
- ✓ They constitute a clear added value to the project



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## The Research Team





## RESEARCH TEAM: WHO CAN JOIN IT?

- ✓ Flexible constitution: post-doc, graduate and PhD students, senior researchers. No limits of age, nationality and country of residence (**no PhD supervisor in the StG and CoG teams**)
- ✓ National or trans-national composition: team members coming from the research group of the PI/same Institution, but also from other Institutions in different countries (additional participants -> exception)
- ✓ For additional participants: case-by-case evaluation, justified and essential participation in terms of scientific skills and abilities



## The Project





## TO START:

- ✓ Calculate the timing well, start as early as possible, at least six months before
- ✓ Download and study the documents (Work Programme, Information for Applicants)
- ✓ Create an ECAS account (login account for Participant Portal)
- ✓ Use the official templates (download from Participant Portal)
- ✓ Start procedures for supporting documents (HI letter, Annex Ethical Issues – if applicable)
- ✓ Check that any Additional Participants has the PIC
- ✓ If in doubt, contact the NCPs immediately!



## TO START:

- ✓ Check databases of funded projects, patents, etc. at an international level
- ✓ <http://erc.europa.eu>, section “funded project” or «stories» or «publications»
- ✓ Verify the list of evaluators:  
<https://erc.europa.eu/documentcategory/evaluation-panels>



## **TO START:**

It is very important to understand the value of your proposal and answer the following questions honestly:

- 1. What is the problem that needs to be solved?**
- 2. Why is it significant?**
- 3. What makes my solution/approach to the problem groundbreaking?**

And it is also necessary to clearly describe the groundbreaking nature of the project:

- 4. Why will my project make a decisive difference?**

# Tips & Tricks - What to Focus on When Preparing Your Proposal

- Propose an Innovative and Feasible Project**

Design cutting-edge research with clear objectives, a realistic methodology, and a well-structured work plan. Include a risk analysis, and, if possible, a fallback plan.

- Highlight Career and Societal Impact**

Demonstrate how the fellowship will advance your career and benefit science, society, or the economy.

- Strong Collaboration with the Supervisor**

Align with the Host's expertise and show how your profile complements the supervisor's strengths.

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for  
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- Integrate Open Science and Inclusivity**

Apply Open Science practices (e.g., open access, FAIR data) and, where relevant, foster inclusivity, citizen science, and public engagement.

- Follow the Template and Call Guidelines**

Strictly adhere to the official structure, page limits, and requirements.

- Highlight interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary aspects**

Show how your project crosses disciplinary boundaries, if applicable.

# Tips & Tricks – Practical Advice for Writing a Proposal

- **Start Early**

Give yourself time to draft, revise, and get feedback. Rushed work risks missing key points.

- **Know your audience**

Write clearly and avoid jargon. Evaluators may not be specialists in your exact field.

- **Stick to the structure**

Follow the template step-by-step. Use headers, bullet points, and formatting to guide evaluators. Answer every question.

- **Focus on Coherence and Flow**

Connect sections logically (e.g. objectives - impact - methods). Build a clear, compelling narrative.

- **Be Precise and Concise**

Use short, impactful sentences. Simplify where possible. Highlight key ideas and use visuals or schemes if helpful.

- **Use Active Language**

Prefer active voice ("*This project will develop...*" rather than "*This will be developed...*") to sound confident and action-oriented.

- **Ask for Feedback**

Ask peers or mentors — even outside your field — to review your draft.

- **Proofread Carefully**

Check spelling, grammar, and formatting. A polished proposal builds trust.



# Expression of Interest

Participation with **Unife as host institution** must be approved by a Decision of the Department's Council.

The Decision must include the following information:

- Name Surname of the applicant
- Funding scheme: call to which the proposals is referred
- Research Title
- Project Description
- Position granted to the researcher
- Duration
- Budget

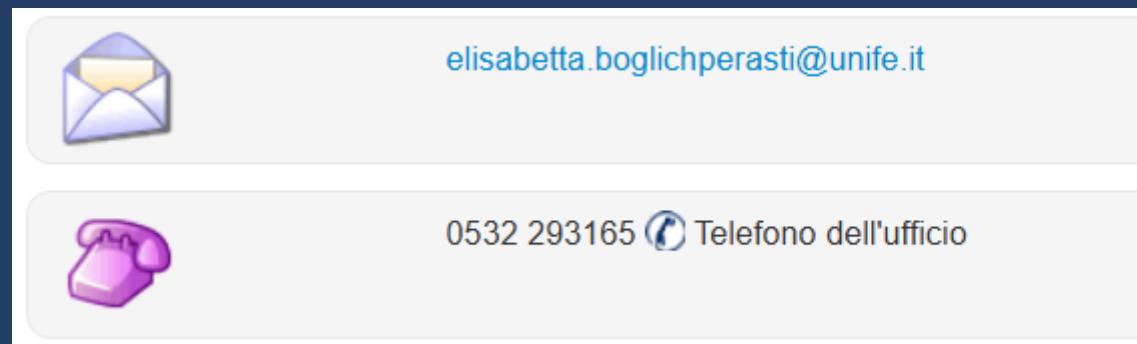
# Research manager pre-award contacts

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# *Thank you for your attention!*

*Elisabetta Boglich Perasti, PhD*

*Research Manager Network – Post award*



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