PROGRAMA ACCIONES MARIE SKLODOWSKA –CURIE (MSCA) - Acciones Individuales MSCA IF 2020

¿Cómo escribir una propuesta competitiva?

Cristina Gómez, Representante y Punto Nacional de Contacto MSCA España

Webinario 2 de julio 2020

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA E INNOVACIÓN

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CONTENT

I. Cómo conseguir una buena propuesta

- Aspectos generales a recordar
- Algunos datos estadísticos
- Entendiendo los criterios de evaluación

II. Documentos Part B1 y B2: ¿Cómo escribirlos?

III. Algunas conclusiones finales

I. Una propuesta MSCA IF típica

- **Proyecto individual de investigación:** formación a través de la investigación contando con la supervisión de personal científico en la entidad de acogida
- **Formación "hands on":**
  - Para desarrollar habilidades científicas (nuevas técnicas, instrumentos, etc.)
  - Para desarrollar y adquirir habilidades transversales:
    - Preparación de propuestas y búsqueda de fondos de I+D
    - Gestión de las patentes, aspectos de explotación de resultados científicos
    - Gestión de proyectos, aspectos de coordinación, cómo comunicar en público, etc.
    - Aspectos de género en investigación, Ciencia Abierta, integridad científica, investigación e innovación responsable, etc.
- **Transferencia de conocimiento intersectorial / interdisciplinar** a través de "secondments" estancias de investigación en Europa.
- Organización y asistencia a eventos de difusión científica
- Aspectos de divulgación y comunicación, compromiso público

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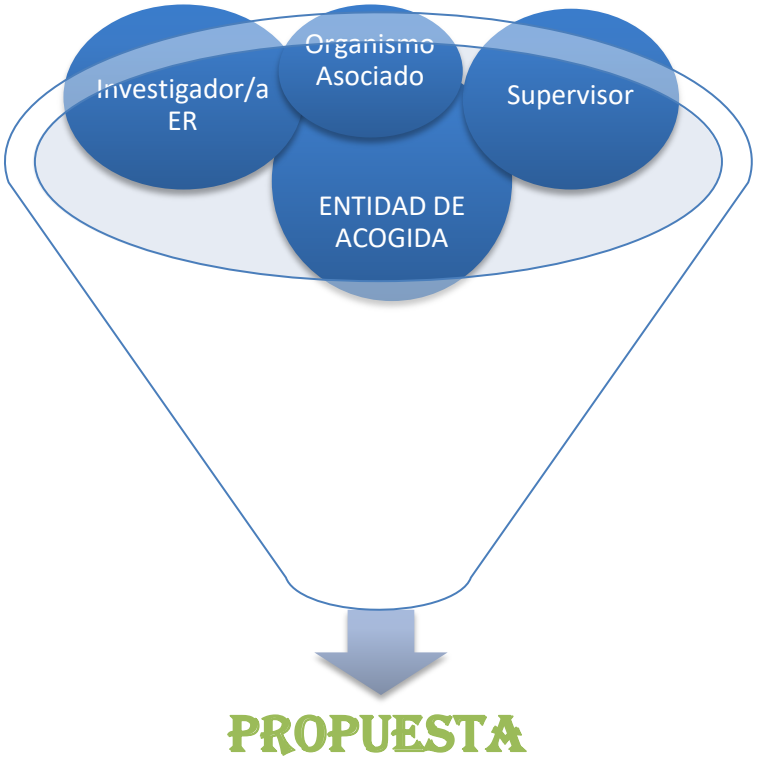
I. ¿Quién participa?



INVESTIGADOR/A EXPERIMENTADO/A (ER)

- Investigador que va a desarrollar el proyecto de investigación IF que se va a financiar.
- Un candidato puede enviar una sola propuesta a la convocatoria .

SUPERVISOR

- El personal científico en la entidad de acogida que tutoriza /mentoriza al investigador/a experimentado/a (ER) durante la duración del proyecto.
- Un supervisor puede supervisar a vario/as candidato/as.

Entablad contacto HOY MISMO con vuestra entidad de acogida: Oficinas de Proyectos

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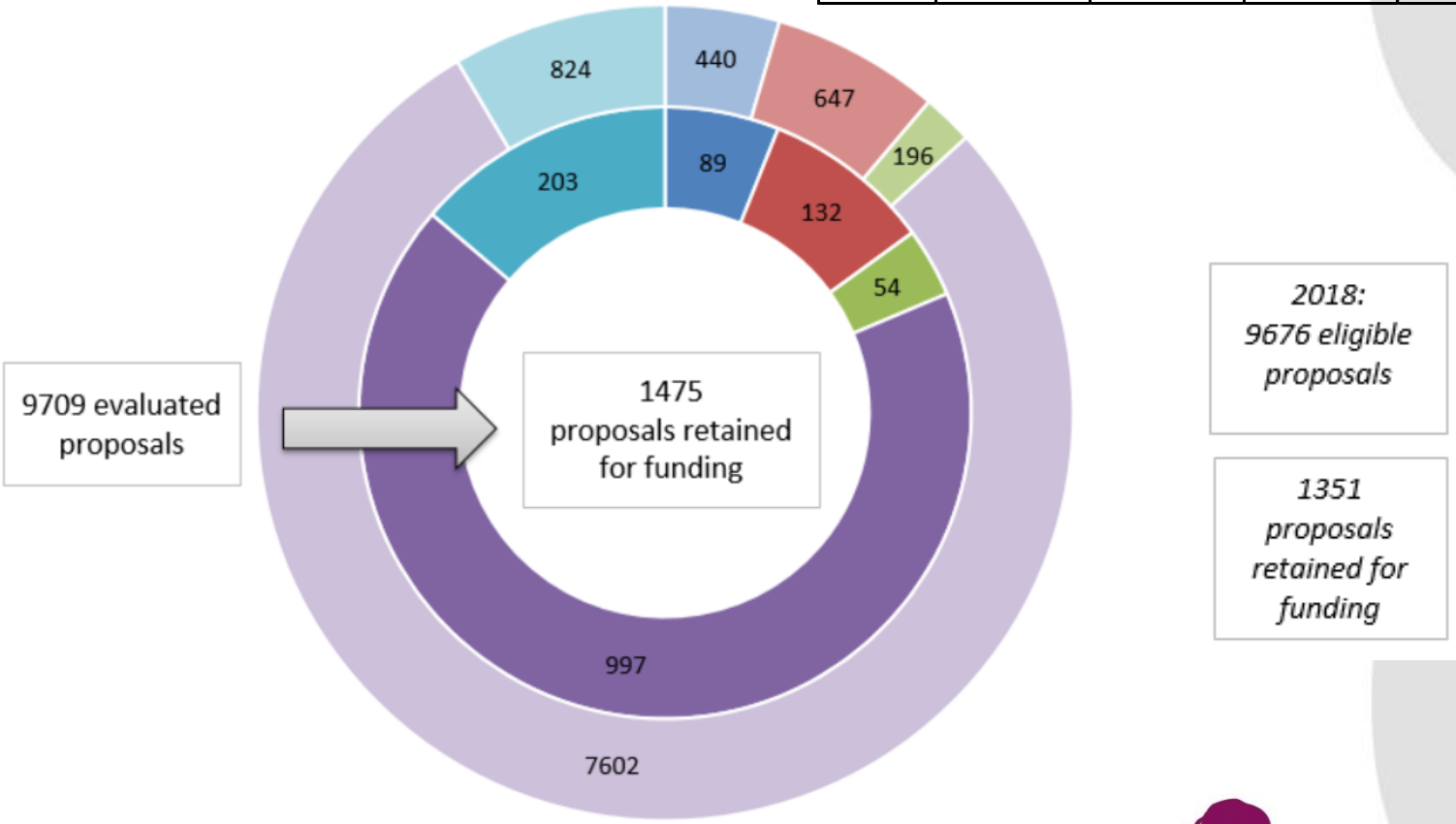
I. Datos: algo de perspectiva

MSCA	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Number of evaluated proposals	7.409	8.380	8.829	8.957	9.676	9.709	
Number of retained proposals	1.305	1.163	1.188	1.348	1.351	1.475	
Success rates %	17,6	13,9	13,5	15	14,6	15,1	
Budget in mio EUR	240.5	215	218	248.7	273	296.5	328

I. Proyectos enviados y financiados: MSCA IF 2019

	Eligible	Main List
MSCA-IF-EF	8885	1272
MSCA-IF-GF	824	203

	Success Rate				
	ST	CAR	RI	SE	GF
2019	**13,08%**	**20,14%**	**20,37%**	**27,55%**	**24,64%**
2018	*12,40%*	*17,97%*	*19,39%*	*15,29%*	*21,68%*



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I. Data: Becas Europeas (EF) Notas de corte

AREA/PANEL	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Chemistry (CHE)	89,6	90,8	91,8	91,4	92,8	**92,4**
Physics (PHY)	90,4	91,2	91,2	90	90,8	**91,4**
Mathematics (MAT)	80,2	91	91,6	91,6	92,6	**91,2**
Life Sciences (LIF)	90,6	92,4	92,2	93	93,6	**92,6**
Economic Sciences (ECO)	86,6	89,8	90,6	89	89,4	**91,6**
ICT and Engineering (ENG)	88,6	90,8	91,8	91,4	93	**92,4**
Social Sciences & Humanities (SOC)	92,8	92,2	92,8	91	92,6	**93,0**
Earth & Environmental Sciences (ENV)	90,4	92,2	92	92,2	92,4	**93,4**
Career Restart Panel (CAR)	87,2	91,2	90,8	91,4	91,2	**89,4**
Reintegration Panel (RI)	90,8	92,2	92,6	93,4	92,4	**93**
Society and Entreprise Panel (SE)	NA	NA	80,6	83,6	87	**82,2**

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I. IF 2019: Re-envíos

Resubmissions	TOTAL
declared:	1825
confirmed:	1584
confirmed & eligible:	1576
retained for funding:	347
success rate:	**22,02%**

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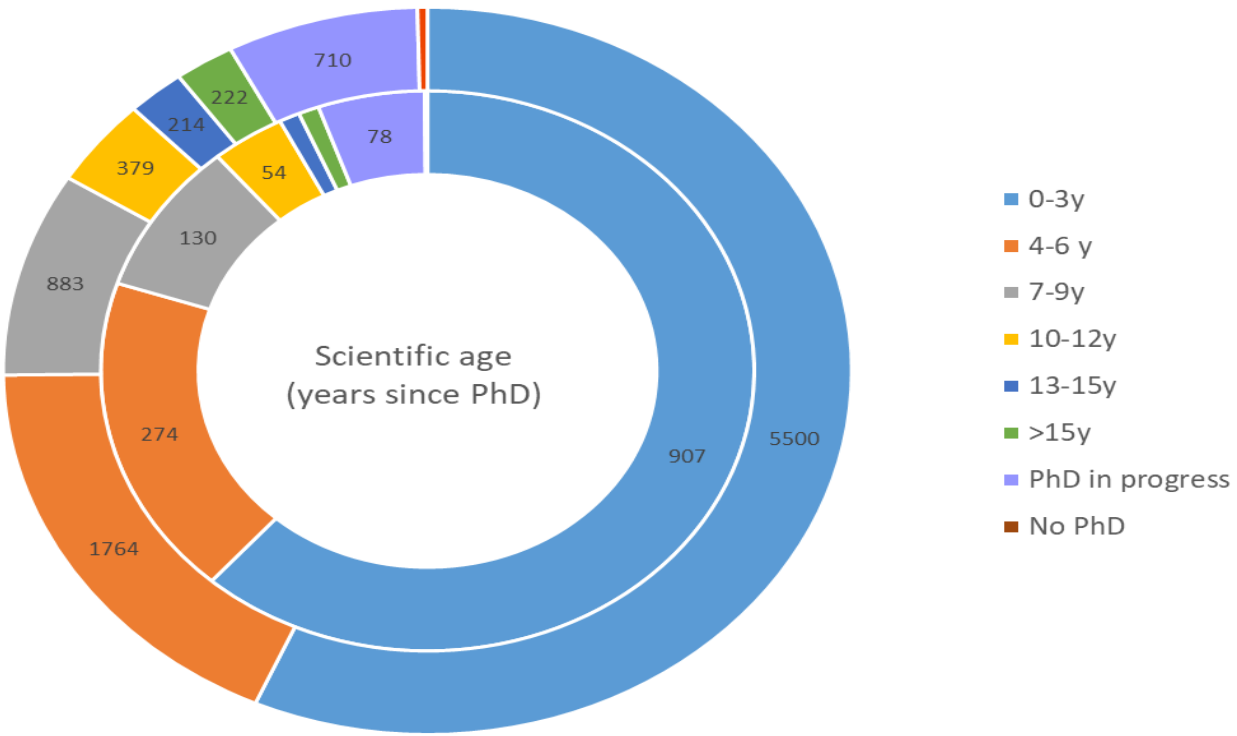
I. Estadística IF 2019: Experiencia investigadora



Success rate							
0-3y	4-6 y	7-9y	10-12y	13-15y	>15y	PhD in progress	No PhD
16,49%	15,53%	14,72%	14,25%	7,01%	6,76%	10,99%	5,41%

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I. Criterios de evaluación

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Weight	Priority (ex.aequo)
Excellence	50%	1
Impact	30%	2
Implementation	20%	3

Threshold: 70%

No individual thresholds

II. Son estos 3…

Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Implementation (20%)
Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects	Enhancing the future career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including the appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
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 management structure and procedures, including risk management
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 institutional environment (infrastructure)
Potential of the researcher to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence during the fellowship		

QUÉ **PORQUÉ** **CÓMO**

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I. … y más …

Cross cutting issues

- International cooperation
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Open access & Data management
- Climate action & Sustainable development
- Ethics
- Gender
- SMEs
- ERA-NETs
- Links to regional policy
- Intellectual property
- Innovation procurement

Responsible research and innovation

Focus on 6 policies:

1. **Public engagement**
2. **Gender equality**
3. Science education
4. **Open access**
5. **Ethics**
6. Governance

Most of these have to be addressed within the proposal

I. Partes de la propuesta

Part A (electronically)

Read Guide for Applicants!

Form	Title	Content
Section 1	General Information about the Proposal	e.g. Acronym, Title, Selection of Evaluation Panel, Project Duration…
Section 2	Data on Participating Organisations	e.g. PIC, legal name, contact details, name of *person-in-charge at the host organisation*
Section 3	Budget	Request for funding in terms of researcher months
Section 4	Ethics Table	Yes/No answers to series of questions re. ethical issues
Section 5	Call specific question	Open access

Part B1 (PDF upload)

- 1. Excellence
- 2. Impact
- 3. Implementation

- **10 pages** total
- No section page limit
- excess pages will automatically be disregarded

NO COVER PAGE AND NO TABLE OF CONTENTS!

Part B2 (PDF upload)

No overall page limit applied

- 4. CV of the experienced researcher (indicative length: 5 pages)
- 5. Capacities of the participating organisations (1 page for the overview and 1 page for each participating organisation - indicative)
- 6. Ethical aspects
- 7.Letter of commitment of the partner organisation (for GF only)

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II. Sección de Excelencia

3.2.1 CRITERION 1: EXCELLENCE

EXCELLENCE is about:

- the quality and novelty of the research;
- the training activities in the project;
- the capacity of the researcher, the scientific supervisor and their interaction.

EXCELLENCE SUB-CRITERIA	WHAT TO EVALUATE
1.1 QUALITY AND CREDIBILITY OF THE RESEARCH/INNOVATION PROJECT; LEVEL OF NOVELTY, APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION OF INTER/MULTI-DISCIPLINARY AND GENDER ASPECTS	State of the art, objectives and overview of the action Completeness and appropriateness of the research methodology and approach Originality and innovative aspects of the research programme Gender aspects (if relevant) Interdisciplinary aspects of the action (if relevant)
1.2 QUALITY AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE TRAINING AND OF THE TWO-WAY TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE BETWEEN THE RESEARCHER AND THE HOST	Assess the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host institution, in view of their future development and past experience: How will the researcher gain new knowledge during the fellowship at the hosting organisation(s) Transfer from the researcher to the host organisation of the previously acquired knowledge and skills Global Fellowships: how will the new skills and knowledge acquired in the third country be transferred back to the host institution in Europe?

II. Sección de Excelencia

EXCELLENCE SUB-CRITERIA	WHAT TO EVALUATE
1.3 QUALITY OF THE SUPERVISION AND OF THE INTEGRATION IN THE TEAM/INSTITUTION	I. The qualifications and experience of the supervisor(s): ➚ The supervisor's level of experience on the research topic proposed and his/her track record II. The hosting arrangements: ➚ Integration of the researcher within the team/institution ➚ The nature and quality of the research group/environment as a whole ➚ Measures taken to integrate the researcher in the different areas of expertise and disciplines ➚ International networking opportunities the host could offer ➚ Global Fellowships: assess hosting arrangements for both outgoing AND return phases.
1.4 CAPACITY OF THE RESEARCHER TO REACH OR REINFORCE A POSITION OF PROFESSIONAL MATURITY/INDEPENDENCE	➚ How will the researcher's past personal experience and proposed research contribute to his/her professional development as an independent/mature researcher during the fellowship? ➚ Look at the curriculum vitae (section 4 of the proposal) and evaluate the track record of the researcher in relation to the level of experience.

What is the difference between sub-criterion 1.3 and sub-criterion 3.4?

*The **hosting arrangements**, which are part of sub-criterion 1.3, refer to the integration of the researcher in his/her new environment at the host's premises. This does not refer to the **infrastructure of the host,** as described in the implementation sub-criterion 3.4.*

Gender Dimension

Applicants are invited to explore whether and how the gender dimension is relevant to their research. A topic is considered **gender relevant** where human beings are involved as subjects or end-users and it can be expected that its findings will affect groups of women and men differently. In such cases, applicants should integrate gender issues as part of their proposals. Evaluators should consider this under 'excellence' (sub-criterion 1.1).

Please note that in MSCA-IF, the **gender balance** in research teams is not relevant.

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II. Impacto en MSCA

Increased **set of skills** - research-related and transferable ones - leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia

Researcher

Enhanced **cooperation and stronger networks** – better transfer of knowledge between sector and disciplines – boosting of R&I capcatities among participating organisations

Organisation

Increase in 'triple i' mobility of researchers in **Europe** – strengthening of Europe's human capital base in R&I with more entrepreneurial and better trained researchers – better communication of R&I results to society – Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading destination for R&I – better quality research and innovation contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

System

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II. Sección de Impacto

3.2.2 CRITERION 2: IMPACT

IMPACT refers to the impact on the fellow's career development and the dissemination and communication activities.

IMPACT SUB-CRITERIA	WHAT TO EVALUATE
2.1 ENHANCING THE RESEARCHER'S POTENTIAL AND FUTURE CAREER PROSPECTS	Assess the expected impact of the planned research and training on the experienced researcher's career prospects after the fellowship What new competences and skills will be acquired? Assess the added value of the fellowship on the future career Opportunities of the researcher
2.2 QUALITY OF THE PROPOSED MEASURES TO EXPLOIT AND DISSEMINATE THE ACTION RESULTS	How will the new knowledge generated by the action be disseminated and exploited? The dissemination strategy Check whether the concrete planning is included in the Gantt chart.
2.3. QUALITY OF THE PROPOSED MEASURES TO COMMUNICATE THE ACTION TO DIFFERENT TARGET AUDIENCES	How is the action and its results being communicated? Check the frequency and nature of communication activities Check whether the concrete planning is included in the Gantt Chart

What is the difference between sub-criterion 1.4 and sub-criterion 2.1?

- ***Sub-criterion 1.4 "Capacity of the researcher to reach or reinforce a position of professional maturity/independence"****: applicants should demonstrate how their past personal experience and the proposed research will contribute to their professional development as independent/ mature researchers* ***during the fellowship****.*
- ***Sub-criterion 2.1 "Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher"****: the proposal should explain the expected impact of the planned research and training on the career prospects of the experienced researcher* ***after the fellowship****.*

II. Eficiencia y calidad de la implementación

IMPLEMENTATION	WHAT TO EVALUATE
3.1. COHERENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE WORK PLAN, INCLUDING APPROPRIATENESS OF THE ALLOCATION OF TASKS AND RESOURCES	✓ How the **work planning and the resources** mobilised will ensure that the research and training objectives will be reached ✓ Wheter the **amount of PM** planned is appropriate in relation to the proposed activities ✓ A **Gantt Chart** must included: ✓ Work Packages titles (at least 1 WP) ✓ List of major deliverables, if applicable ✓ List of major milestones, if applicable ✓ Secondments, if applicable
3.2. APPROPRIATENES OF THE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES, INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT	✓ The **organisation and management structure**, as well as the **progress monitoring mechanisms** put in place, to ensure that objectives are reached ✓ The research and/ or administrative risks that might endanger reaching the action objectives and the **contingency plans** to be put in place should risks occur
3.3. APPROPRIATENESS OF THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONEMENT (INFRASTRUCTURE)	✓ The beneficiary ´s active contribution to the **research and training activities** ✓ The **main tasks and commitments** of the beneficiary and partners (if applicable) ✓ The **infrastructure, logistics and facilities** offered and needed for the good implementation of the action ✓ For **Global Fellowships**, indicate the role of the partner organisation in Third Countries.

II. Partes de la propuesta

Part A (electronically)

Form	Title	Content
Section 1	General Information about the Proposal	e.g. Acronym, Title, Selection of Evaluation Panel, Project Duration…
Section 2	Data on Participating Organisations	e.g. PIC, legal name, contact details, name of *person-in-charge at the host organisation*
Section 3	Budget	Request for funding in terms of researcher months
Section 4	Ethics Table	Yes/No answers to series of questions re. ethical issues
Section 5	Call specific question	Open access

Part B1 (PDF upload)

- 1. Excellence
- 2. Impact
- 3. Implementation

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Part B2 (PDF upload)

No overall page limit applied

- 4. CV of the experienced researcher (maximum length: 5 pages)
- 5. Capacities of the participating organisations (1 page for the overview and 1 page for each participating organisation)
- 6. Ethical aspects
- 7.Letter of commitment of the partner organisation (for GF only)

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II. Documento B2

Part B-2

Part B-2 Section 4 - CV of the experienced researcher (indicative length: 5 pages)

The CV is intrinsic to the evaluation of the whole proposal and is assessed throughout the three evaluation criteria by the expert evaluators. Ensure that the information provided in Parts A and B is fully consistent. Always mention full dates (dd/mm/yyyy). The CV should include **the standard academic and research record**. The indicative length of the CV is 5 pages. Any research career gaps and/or unconventional paths should be clearly explained so that this can be fairly assessed by the independent evaluators. At a minimum, the CV should contain:

a) the **name** of the researcher,

b) **professional experience** (in reverse chronological order, using **exact** dates),

c) **education** (in reverse chronological order, using **exact** dates).

The CV should also include information on:

1. **Publications** in peer-reviewed scientific journals, peer-reviewed conference proceedings and/or monographs of their respective research fields, indicating also the number of citations (excluding self-citations) they have attracted.
2. Granted **patent**(s).
3. **Research monographs, chapters** in collective volumes and any translations thereof.
4. **Invited presentations** to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools.
5. **Research expeditions** led by the experienced researcher.
6. **Organisation of international conferences** in your field(s) of research, including membership in the steering and/or programme committee.
7. Examples of **participation in industrial innovation**.
8. **Prizes and Awards**.
9. **Funding** received so far.
10. **Supervising and mentoring** activities.

In addition, researchers without a doctorate at the call deadline must clearly explain how the full-time equivalent research experience is calculated, adding the table below.[25] Please do not indicate periods before the University degree giving access to PhD or after the call deadline. In case of overlapping periods when several activities are carried out in parallel, applicants should only indicate a cumulative percentage up to 100% (e.g. 50% Doctorate + 50 % research assistant).

Academic qualifications counting towards the Total Full time postgraduate research experience			
University degree giving access to PhD[26]:	Institution name and country	Date of award (a)	Type of awarded degree
		DD/MM/YYYY	[free text]
Other university degree(s)/master(s), if any, obtained after the award of the university degree giving access to PhD:	Institution name and country	From	To
		DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY
	Full time research experience	Proportion of research activities as a percentage of the duration of the Master	Duration of research activities expressed in months
		xx %	(b)[27] = xx% * duration of Master
Doctorate:	Institution name and country	From	To (Date of expected Award)
		DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY
	Full time research experience[28]		Duration of research activities expressed in months
			(c)
Other research activities counting towards the total full-time postgraduate research experience			
Position:	Institution name and country	From	To
		DD/MM/YYYY	DD/MM/YYYY
	Full time research experience		Duration of research activities expressed in months
			(d)
Total full-time postgraduate research experience: number of months			= (b)+(c)+(d)

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II. Documento B2

Part B-2 Section 5 - Capacity of the Participating Organisations

List of participating organisations (one page)

Please provide a list of all participating organisations (the beneficiary and, where applicable, the entity with a capital or legal link to the beneficiary and the partner organisation[29]) indicating the legal entity name, the department carrying out the work and the supervisor.

The purpose of this table is to allow experts assessing whether the participating organisations have - or will have by the time of implementation - the operational resources and capacity to implement the action, i.e. sufficient professional competencies and qualifications. A proposal may be rejected on the grounds that the beneficiary does not have the operational capacity to implement the action.

If a secondment in Europe is planned but the partner organisation is not yet known, as a minimum the type of organisation planned (academic/non-academic) must be stated.

Any inter-relationship between the participating organisation(s) or individuals and other entities/persons (e. g. family ties, shared premises or facilities, joint ownership, financial interest, overlapping staff or directors, etc.) must be declared and justified in this part of the proposal.

Applicants should provide detailed information regarding the administrative/legal relations between the department carrying out the work as described in the below table and the entity mentioned in Part A of the proposal (i.e. linked to the given Participant Identification Code - PIC).

Participating organisations	Legal Entity Short Name	Country	Supervisor	Role of partner organisation[30]
Beneficiary				
- NAME				
Entity with a capital or legal link				
- NAME				
Partner Organisation				
- NAME				

List + tables:
Institutional information: ask your European Project Manager at the Host Institution

II. Documento B2

Las propuestas susceptibles de ser financiadas serán evaluadas para verificar que se cumplen medidas de aspectos éticos

Part B-2 Section 6 Ethical Issues

Compliance with the relevant ethics provisions is essential from the beginning to the end of the action and is an integral part of research funded by the European Union within Horizon 2020.

Applicants submitting research proposals for funding for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions in Horizon 2020 should demonstrate proactively in their proposal that they are aware of, and will comply with, ethical principles and applicable International, European and national law. Key sources of EU and international law are the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols. Another important source is the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

Main ethical principles:

- Respecting human dignity and integrity,
- Ensuring honesty and transparency towards research subjects and notably getting free and informed consent (as well as assent whenever relevant),
- Protecting vulnerable persons,
- Ensuring privacy and confidentiality,
- Promoting justice and inclusiveness,
- Minimising harm and maximising benefit,
- Sharing the benefits with disadvantaged populations, especially if the research is being carried out in developing countries,
- Maximising animal welfare, in particular by ensuring replacement, reduction and refinement ('3Rs') in animal research,
- Respecting and protecting the environment and future generations.

Participants have to:

- **Identify** all potential ethical aspects
- Explain their future **management**
- Give a detailed explanation at **proposal stage**

Description on Ethics:

- Ethic Issues Table en part A
- Ethics Self-Assessment en part B

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II. Documento B2

Part B-2 Section 7 - Letter of commitment (Global Fellowship only)

For GF proposals only, a *letter of commitment* **of the partner organisation** (hosting the outgoing phase in the Third Country) must be included in Part B-2 to ensure their real and active participation.

Do not attach this letter as a separate PDF file or as an embedded file since this makes them invisible in the proposal.

GF proposals which fail to include a *letter of commitment* of the partner organisation will be declared **inadmissible**. Please make sure that the letter is clearly visible in the **submitted** part B-2 – every year a number of proposals are declared inadmissible because the *letter of commitment* is not visible.

Minimum requirements for the letter of commitment:

- heading or stamp from the institution;
- up-to-date (should not be dated prior to the call publication);
- the text must demonstrate the will to actively participate in the (identified) proposal and the precise role.

Please note that no fixed template for this letter is provided.

Non-binding example template of Commitment letter for IF partner organisations

- On headed paper of the entity

- Beyond any additional information that the participating organisation wishes to indicate in its Letter of commitment, the following text should appear in all its parts and with no modifications:

I undersigned [First name and surname], in my quality of [Role in and name of the Institution] commit to set up all necessary provisions to participate as partner organisation in the proposal ..... submitted within the call H2020-MSCA-IF-2020 should the proposal be funded.

On behalf of [name of the entity], I also confirm that we will participate and contribute to the research, innovation and training activities as planned in this project. In particular, our [name of the entity] will be involved in ....[Free field for any additional information that the participating organisation wishes to indicate in order to describe its role and contribution to the project].

I hereby declare that I am entitled to commit into this process the entity I represent.

Name, date, signature

Importante: Criterio de Admisibilidad

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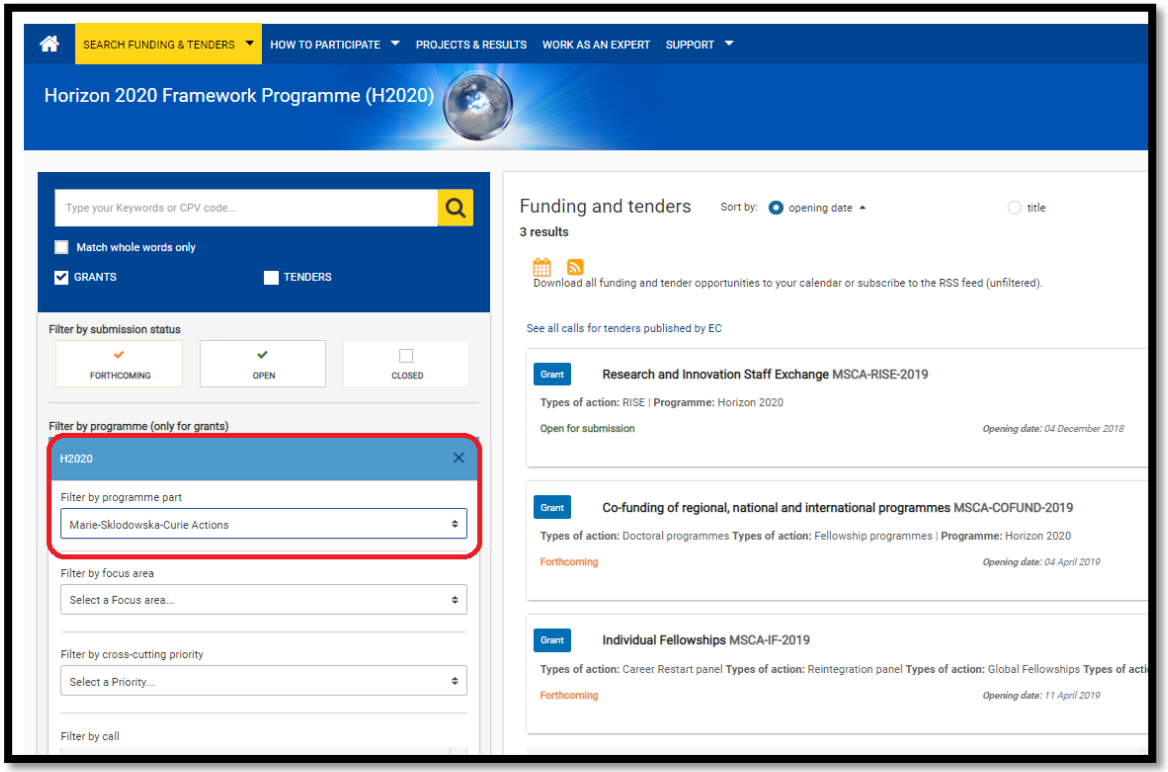
III. Familiarizarse con el programa es esencial

[Funding and Tenders Participant Portal]



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III. Conclusiones

En relación al proyecto:

- No se trata de un proyecto de investigación al uso, hay que **combinar formación e investigación**
- No ser excesivamente ambicioso, la planificación de actividades debe **ser realista**
- Hace falta **precisión** y una buena estructura de la propuesta
- Intentar conseguir un **buen encaje** de candidat@/supervisor@/entidad de acogida

En relación al CV:

- El CV no tiene que ser perfecto, indicar como la **formación adquirida** durante el proyecto va a paliar posibles debilidades
- La **empleabilidad a futuro** es clave

III. Conclusiones

En relación a la evaluación:

- El peso de los criterios es 50% -30% -20%. Hay que dar el 100% en cada uno de ellos
- Seguid el formato facilitado!
- Recordad que los evaluadores **no** tienen porqué ser **especialistas** en vuestro área
- “Una imagen vale más que mil palabras”

Aspectos generales a tener en cuenta:

- Es un proyecto individual pero que requiere un **trabajo colaborativo**
- Involucrar a la **entidad de acogida** desde el principio: Oficina de Proyectos Europeos, Oficinas de Transferencia de Tecnología / Recursos Humanos / Otros colegas de otras áreas …
- Puntos Nacionales de Contacto en destino
- Entrad pronto en el sistema (Funding and Tenders ´Portal): el proyecto se puede subir y re-escribir sobre él .

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Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less

¡Gracias y SUERTE!

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