

Quarterly
Newsletter
Issue 1
2020

EURAXESS NORTH AMERICA

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we enter the final year of Horizon 2020 – the EU's €80 billion research and innovation program which started in 2014 – we prepare to ring in [Horizon Europe](#). The European Commission's proposal for Horizon Europe is even more ambitious than its predecessor with €100 billion set aside for the 2021 to 2027 period.

With the spread of COVID-19 creating uncertainty the world over, the European Commission is coordinating a [common European response](#) to the outbreak. EURAXESS North America is closely following the major events where we present and that we promote, and as soon as annual meetings, conferences, and more are rescheduled, our future emails and quarterly newsletters will reflect them. Similarly, if you wish to receive the latest funding opportunities, please subscribe to our bimonthly flashnotes [here](#).

Enjoy reading the newsletter and wishing you good health!

Your EURAXESS North America Team

The information contained in this publication is intended for personal use only. It should not be taken in any way to reflect the views of the European Commission nor of the Delegation of the European Union to the USA or the Delegation of the European Union to Canada.

This newsletter is also intended as a communication tool with you all, so please do not hesitate to contact us at northamerica@euraxess.net for comments, corrections, or if you want to advertise a particular funding scheme or event.

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KARACAN

EURAXESS North America Team



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Country size: 22,072 sq. km.

Population: 8,976,600 (2019)

Language: Hebrew, Arabic

Capital: Jerusalem

Median Age: 30.4 years old

Currency: New Israeli Shekel

Economy:

GDP Per Capita: 40,558,53 USD (2019)

Unemployment rate: 4.0% (2019)

Source: [Statistical report](#) from the Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel

1 EURAXESS country in focus: Israel

1.1 Introduction

Israel is a country in [Western Asia](#), located on the [south-eastern shore](#) of the [Mediterranean Sea](#) and the northern shore of the [Red Sea](#). It currently has a population of nearly nine million inhabitants. [Israel's economic](#) and [technological](#) center is [Tel Aviv](#).

Due to its immigrant background, Israel is one of the most multicultural and multilingual societies in the world. [Hebrew](#) is the official language of the country, and [Arabic](#) is given special status, while English and Russian are the two most widely spoken non-official languages. English is the language of choice for many Israeli businesses. Today, Israel is an industrialized country with most of its manufacturing, including many traditional fields, based on intensive and sophisticated research and development (R&D) and high-tech processes, tools, and machinery.

Tech companies in areas ranging from software to biotechnology and cybersecurity are a major driver of growth in the country's economy. Many leading international technology firms have opened R&D centers in Israel. In the last few years, out of the members of the OECD, Israel has spent the highest percentage of its GDP on R&D, and last year was ranked the fifth-most innovative country by the Bloomberg Innovation Index.

Israel has a long tradition of academic excellence, boasting world-class universities, colleges and research institutions. Israeli higher education institutions provide diverse academic programs in English for international students at the Bachelor and Master's degree level ranging from short-term courses to full degree programs. Israeli Institutions also welcome international students and researchers for PhD and post-doctoral research who collaborate with leading researchers in their fields.



1.2 Facts and figures

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development.

This pan-European effort is currently supported by over 40 countries, of which we will profile one in each of our quarterly newsletters.

Country briefing

This country briefing was created by [EURAXESS BHO Israel](#).

Universities in Israel

Education is highly valued within the national culture of Israel, and its higher education sector has been praised for helping to encourage the country's economic development and recent technological boom. The high quality of Israel's higher education system was also recognized in the QS Higher Education System Strength Rankings, published for the first time in 2016, in which it ranks as the world's 28th strongest national system.

Israel has 62 institutions for higher education (recognized by the Council for Higher Education), comprised of universities and other higher education institutions, both private and government funded. These institutions teach 262,591 students across all academic degrees.

There are nine universities in Israel, as well as many higher education colleges; the main difference is that the universities offer degrees all the way up to the doctorate level. Courses are often taught in Hebrew, but many leading Israeli universities also offer programs in English. Six of Israel's nine universities were featured in the [QS World University Rankings® 2020](#).

Israel is especially recognized for research in the fields of:

- **Science and engineering:** Israel is a world leader in science and engineering. Israeli scientists have won four Nobel Prizes in chemistry, three Turing Awards (computer science) and one Fields Medal (mathematics). Israel ranks 7th globally in the number of citations per scientific publication and is particularly strong in fields such as computer science, engineering, chemistry, and life sciences.
- **Innovation and entrepreneurship:** Leading companies from around the world chose to open R&D centers in Israel and some programs include opportunities to undertake internships in top companies, giving students the opportunity to develop their career.
- **Agriculture and sustainability:** Israel's challenging environment and lack of natural resources has led it to become a kind of agricultural 'incubator' of ideas, developing new kinds of plants as well as revolutionary agricultural technologies. Drip irrigation technology is one famous example of Israel's success in this field.
- **Art, design and music:** Areas of study cover a range of arts-related fields including fine arts, fashion and jewelry, photography, industrial and urban design, as well as traditional and contemporary music. Many programs offer innovative and multidisciplinary elements, allowing students/researchers to develop their own particular interests.
- **Israel and Middle Eastern studies:** Higher education institutions in Israel offer a range of programs from ancient to contemporary studies of Israel and Middle Eastern states, to Hebrew and Arabic language. Israel offers an unparalleled opportunity to acquire in-depth understanding of the region's political, social and economic dimensions



- **Jewish studies:** Studying in Israel gives students and researchers the opportunity to work with leading scholars in this field, and to immerse themselves in both ancient and contemporary Judaism.

Innovation and excellence

For those interested in innovation and technology, Israel is the place for you! Israel is the land of innovation, also known as the “Start-Up Nation”. It is a hotbed of high-tech activity, with the world’s highest investment per capita in start-up companies. Israel was ranked the third-most innovative country in the world (World Economic Forum Global Competitive Index). Studying and researching in Israel gives you the opportunity to experience and participate in Israel’s vibrant start-up culture and ecosystem.

Israel’s Technion Institute of Technology was ranked 77 in the Shanghai Academic Rating of World Universities (2018), and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem also ranks in the top 100 (95th place in 2018).

Patents: Israel has seen a steady rise in patent applications over the years. Between 2014 and 2018, the number of applications has risen by 17.37% to 7,363 patent applications.

Learn more about studying and researching in Israel:

<http://studyinIsrael.chc.org.il/>

1.3 Funding opportunities

Israel supports its R&D through many grants and scholarships; in 2018, the Ministry of Science and Technology signed 356 new engagement agreements to fund research, scholarships, and scientific knowledge centers that include a program for Scientific Infrastructure Development and one for Applied Engineering Research. In 2018, the total budget allocated for research, scholarships and knowledge centers was NIS147 million. [Applying to study in Israel only takes three Steps](#): 1) Search for a program; 2) Complete the forms; 3) Get a visa. Israeli higher education [tuition fees](#) are competitive on an international scale and tuition fees for PhD degrees are generally waived by the host institution.

Bilateral and international cooperation: As of 2019, Israel has 38 ongoing bilateral agreements with 29 countries all around the globe. Today, there are significant collaborations through bilateral and multilateral agreements between institutions and organizations that include joint research funds, projects, exchanges of researchers and faculty, and more. Israel’s key collaborations today include: US-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF), German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (GIF), Israel-China Research Foundation (ISF-NSFC), Israel-India Research Foundation (ISF-UGC), and Israel-Singapore Research Foundation (ISF-NRF). Promoting Israel’s international research relations is one of the key objectives in transforming its higher education system into a high-quality and competitive international player. The Israeli Ministry of

To learn more about this unique country, visit Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs website at <https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/Pages/default.aspx>



Science and Technology helps to organize and fund Young Scientists Schools, the COST program, and offers assistance with international and binational conferences in Israel. Israel is also an active member in several international organizations and programs such as CERN, Horizon 2020, EMBL, EMBC, GSF, SESAME, ICDP and more.

In the academic year of 2019-2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Israel has funded scholarships for foreign students following cultural agreements, and special scholarship arrangements. The resulting international research studies have been conducted in a variety of fields, including agricultural biotechnology, medical biotechnology, nanotechnology, advanced materials, electro-optics, and lasers. The collaboration is conducted by publishing joint calls for proposals. In recent years, joint studies have been conducted in the fields of energy engineering, agricultural and medical biotechnology, nanotechnology, advanced materials, and more.

1.4 MSCA in Israel

Experienced researchers willing to move to Israel can apply for an Individual Fellowship (IF) offered by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), irrespective of their country of origin. Since 2014, 40 researchers from various countries (including Italy, India, Portugal, China, Germany and others) have come to Israeli organizations as part of the IF program. A total of 87 other researchers came to Israeli as part of the RISE and ITN programs.

Israel is a very active member of MSCA, with hundreds of collaborative links with countries, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and France. The success rate of Israeli applicants is 15.7%, which is higher than the European average rate (12.66%).

1.5 EURAXESS Israel

Six academic institutions are currently members of the Israeli forum of EURAXESS: Technion Institute of Technology, Weizmann Institute of Science, Hebrew University, Ben-Gurion University, Haifa University and Bar-Ilan University. IP&D is an SME that serves as the EURAXESS Center for Industry and as an organization representing EURAXESS' Bridge Head Organization in Israel on behalf of the Ministry of Science.



EURAXESS activity in Israel:

- Continuous contact throughout the year on issues relating to international researchers and the promotion of national policy on the subject
- Participation in EU training and management meetings for the network
- Organizing conferences and study visits in Israel in accordance with network activities
- Conducting two meetings a year on forum topics
- Additional hosting and collaboration activities within Europe and biennial conferences of the entire network
- Continuous activity of the European and Israeli portal, which includes information for mobile researchers in all countries as well as the publication of relevant positions for researchers

1.6 Israel as a destination

Israel's higher education institutions are known worldwide for their academic excellence, and many offer programs in English, providing a unique international learning environment. But there are a number of other reasons that Israel is an attractive destination for study and research.

Whether you live on campus or off, in or out of the city, there is more to studying or researching in Israel than just hitting the books. Israel has a vibrant social scene with the opportunity to make life-long friendships from all over the world. You will also find yourself at the heart of a diverse, dynamic and constantly developing culture spanning 4,000 years of history and many different cultural influences. Whether it's food, history, art or music, students and researchers have many opportunities to immerse themselves in Israel's fascinating culture during their program, experiencing world-famous historical sites, floating in the Dead Sea, hiking in the beautiful Sea of Galilee region or the Negev Desert, marveling at the Bahá'í Gardens in Haifa, or simply enjoying a sunset on Tel Aviv beach.



2 How to submit a MSCA-IF proposal

Experienced researchers (completed doctoral degree or at least four years' full-time research experience) can apply for post-doctoral funding within the [MSCA Individual Fellowships](#). EURAXESS Worldwide team has prepared a step-by-step process on how to apply for this type of grant:

STEP 1

All MSCA-IF proposals must be submitted using the European Commission's electronic submission system, the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal (previously known as Participant Portal). You first need to log in.

1. Go to the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>
2. Click the **Login** button. You will be prompted to authenticate through the **EU login** screen.

3. Enter your email address in the field provided, then click the **Next** button.
4. Enter your password in the **Password** field.



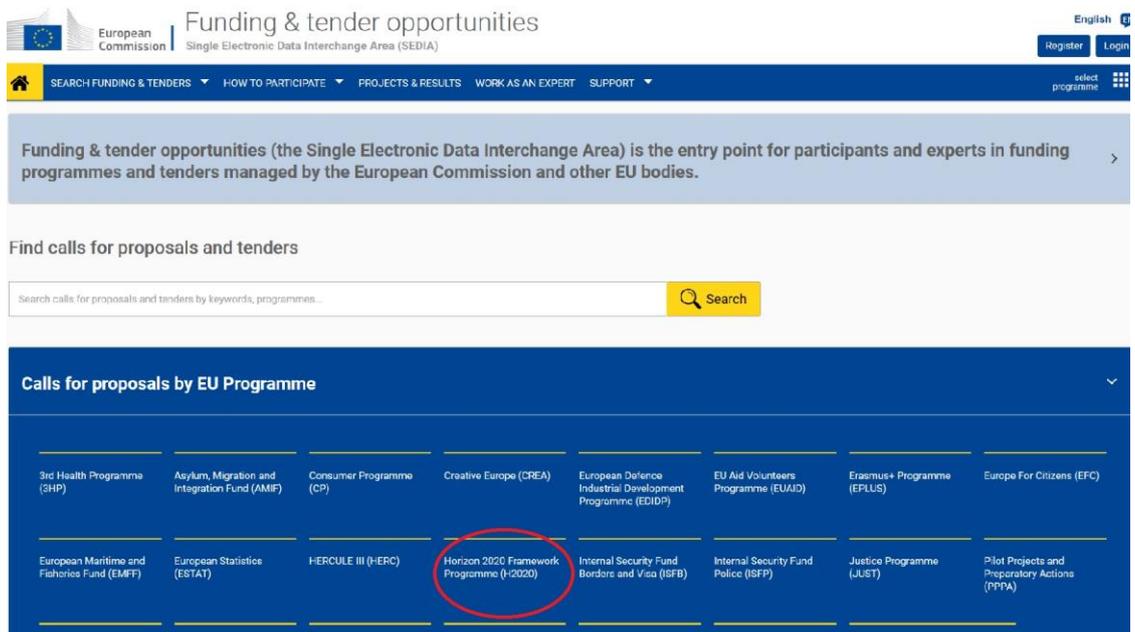
5. Click the **Sign in** button.

STEP 2

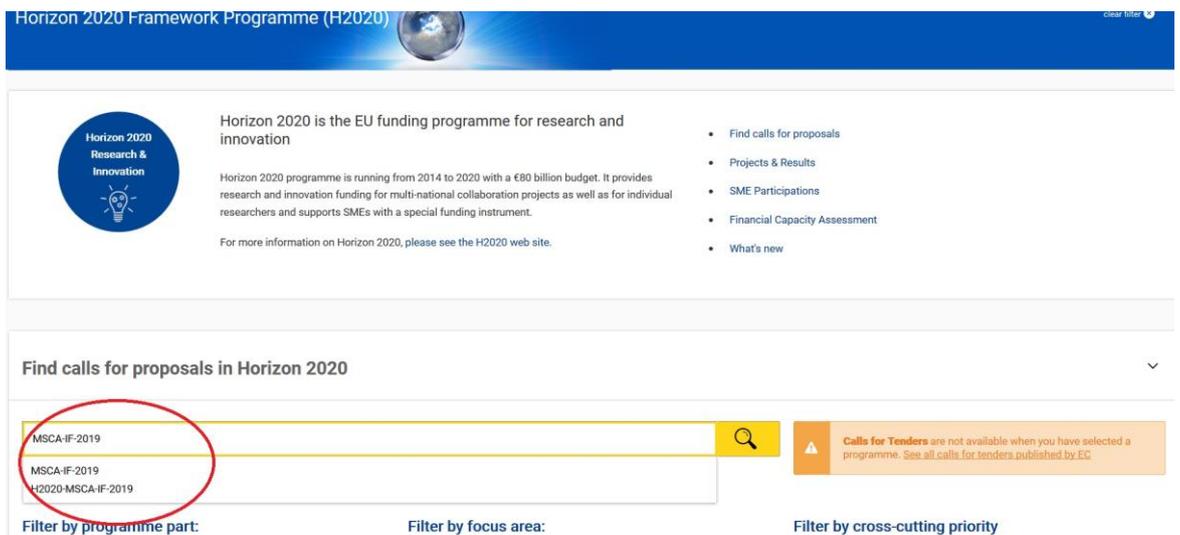
Once logged in to the **Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal**, you will need to select the **MSCA-IF Call** to start with the electronic proposal submission.

To do so, perform the following steps:

1. Click on **Horizon 2020**.

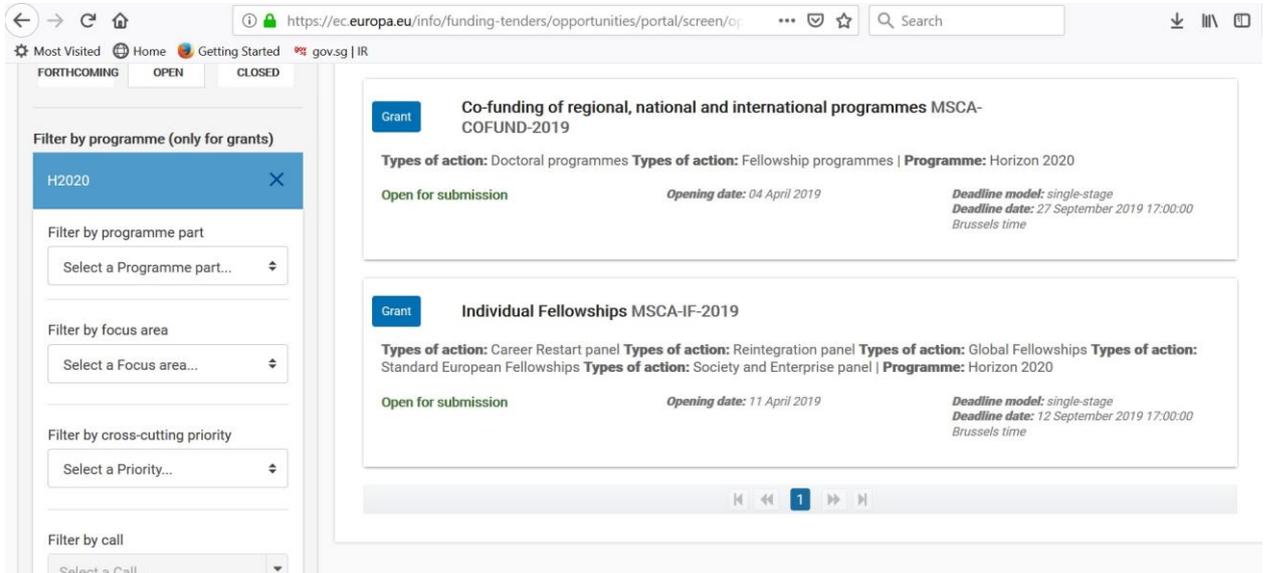


2. In the search function **Find calls for proposals in Horizon 2020**, type in 'MSCA-IF-2020'.

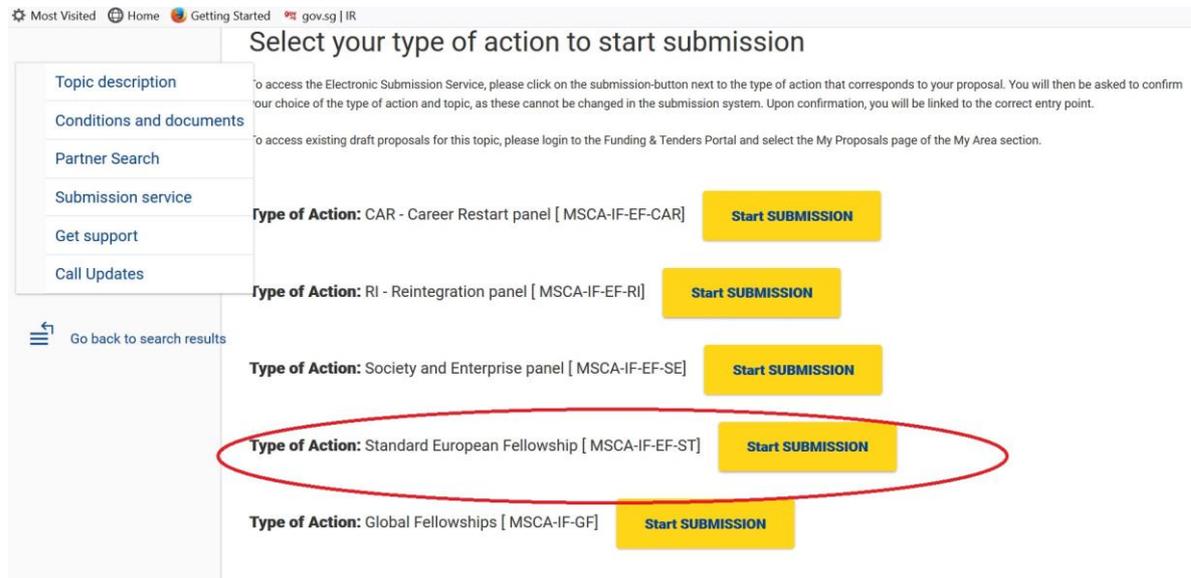




3. Select the Call for Individual Fellowships that is marked **Open** for application. In 2020, the call identifier is H2020-MSCA-IF-2020.



4. North America-based researchers planning to move *to Europe* in order to complete the Fellowship, select the section **Standard EF**, then click on **Start Submission**. The system will prompt you to confirm your choice.





STEP 3

Register your proposal.

To do so, perform the following steps:

1. Begin by **entering your organization's PIC**. Please be aware that you need to insert the **PIC* of the European institution that will host you during the fellowship!**
2. Once you enter the PIC number you will notice that the **Short name** field is automatically populated, and the address is shown in blue highlight. **Note:** If the PIC you entered is incorrect (for example, it contains less numbers than required, etc.), the system will show you an error message.

*A Participant Identification Code (PIC) is a nine-digit number serving as a unique identifier for organizations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programs. If you don't know the PIC, **ask your European host organization**. There is also a search tool for organizations and their PICs available [here](#).

Step 3
Create a Draft Proposal

H2020-MSCA-IF-2018

USER NAME
TOPIC
MSCA-IF-2018
TYPE OF ACTION
MSCA-IF-EF-ST
DEADLINE (Brussels Local Time)
WED 12 September 2018 17:00:00
48 days left until closure

Check Config
Download Part B Templates
Visit our 'How to' user guide
Visit our 'H2020 Online Manual'

Create a Draft Proposal

Please enter the following information to create a draft proposal. Please note that fields marked with a star (*) are mandatory.

It is highly recommended to submit your proposal as early as possible and at least 48 hours prior to the deadline of this call. This will avoid being confronted with incompatible local IT configuration settings shortly before the call deadline, when insufficient time would be left to handle it. There is no reason in delaying the submission for confidentiality concerns as the system does not allow any access to the proposals before call deadline or cut-off (other than to selected data that is part of the Submission and Evaluation of Proposals Assent Disclaimer). You can submit the proposal as many times as you wish up to the deadline. Every submitted version will replace the previously submitted one.

Your organisation

PIC* Short name*
Search for your organisation PIC search

Your Role

Please indicate your role in this proposal

3. Select **Your role – Researcher**.
4. Fill in the **Acronym** field. Acronyms can be changed later on by editing the **Administrative form in Part A** in the section A1 'content' within the form.
5. Fill in the **Summary** field.



6. **Download Part B** templates as indicated in the blue box on the bottom left corner of the screen.
7. Click the **Next** button.

The screenshot shows a web form for proposal submission. It is divided into two main sections: 'Your Role' and 'Your Proposal'. In the 'Your Role' section, there are three radio button options: 'Supervisor' (selected), 'Researcher', and 'Contact Person'. The 'Your Proposal' section contains three input fields: 'Acronym*' (with a note to restrict to Latin characters), 'Short Summary (max. 2000 characters)*' (with a character count label), and 'Scientific Panel*' (a dropdown menu currently showing 'Please select'). A green 'next >>' button is located at the bottom right of the form area.



The system will confirm that you have created a draft. Click **Continue with this proposal** to proceed to the next step. To postpone this action and return to your list of proposals in the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal, click **Go to my proposal**.

step 4
Manage Your Related Parties

H2020-MSCA-IF-2018

USER NAME
ASIAN@EURAXESS

TOPIC
MSCA-IF-2018

TYPE OF ACTION
MSCA-IF-EF-ST

A.B.C.
ACRONYM
HAPA

DRAFT ID | SEP-210529175

WED 12
DEADLINE (Brussels Local Time)
September 2018 17:00:00

48 days left until closure

Check Config

Download Part B Templates

Parties

In this step you as coordinator should manage and review the participants of your proposal. Only your coordinators can edit the elements on this screen.

Draft proposal HAPA created

Dear Asian@euraxess.net,

You have successfully created a draft proposal **HAPA** for the call **H2020-MSCA-IF-2018**.

You can continue editing your draft proposal now or access it at a later time (before the deadline **2018-09-12 17:00:00** Brussels Local Time) from the [Participant Portal](#) by accessing the [My Proposals](#) tab.

An email containing this information has been sent to this email address: asean@euraxess.net (which is associated with your ECAS account [naseanas](#)).

[Go to My Proposals](#) [Continue with this proposal](#)

STEP 4

Prepare your proposal – Part A.

Step 4 Table of contents 1 - General Information

Horizon 2020
Call: H2020-MSCA-IF-2018
(Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships)

Topic: MSCA-IF-2018
Type of action: MSCA-IF-EF-ST
(Standard European Fellowships)
Proposal number: SEP-210529175
Proposal acronym: HAPA
Deadline Id: H2020-MSCA-IF-2018

Table of contents

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	Show
2	Participants & contacts	Show
3	Budget	Show
4	Ethics	Show
5	Call-specific questions	Show



You can now start working on the actual proposal preparation. Start with **Part A – Administrative** details.

This part contains five sections. Click on **Show** to start entering data for the individual sections. Remember to always save your changes!

The sections listed in Part A require you to submit the following data and information.

Section 1 – General Information

- ✓ Abstract
- ✓ Panel

Note: Make sure you choose the correct panel! Your proposal will be evaluated in the panel which you confirm in this section! The system will prompt you if the panel differs from the one you previously selected.

- ✓ Descriptors

Descriptors (keywords) are chosen by applicants to guide the Research Executive Agency (REA) in the selection of experts and allocation of proposals to these experts. Applicants select the descriptors **in order of importance** (first being the most important), with a **minimum of three and a maximum of five** descriptors. The Guide for Applicants contains a breakdown of scientific areas into descriptors. **Keep in mind:**

- The mandatory **first descriptor** should best characterize the subject of the proposal and should be chosen from the area of research chosen for the proposal.
- The mandatory **second descriptor** should be within the same area of research (e.g. CHE).
- The mandatory **third descriptor** can be from any of the eight areas of research.
- Applicants may add **two** additional descriptors chosen freely from any of the eight areas of research.

Section 2 – Administrative data of participating organizations (concerning the supervisor(s) and the researcher)

- ✓ Names
- ✓ Contact details including email addresses, phone numbers
- ✓ PIC identifiers

Section 3 – Budget information on the duration (person-months) to calculate the total requested EU contribution

- ✓ The budget will be calculated automatically.

Section 4 – Ethics identifies any ethical aspects of the proposed work.

- ✓ Read each question carefully and address them appropriately in Part B.
- ✓ Even if there are no issues, do NOT leave this section blank; simply confirm that none of the ethical issues apply to the proposal!

Section 5 – Call-specific questions request declarations related to your eligibility and personal data, together with questions on any secondment in Europe.



Don't forget to upload any supporting documents!

STEP 5

Prepare and submit Part B – the core of your proposal.

Part B of the application is your actual proposal. It is submitted as two separate documents – you will not be able to submit the proposal in the submission system unless both Parts 1 and 2 are provided in pdf format.

The structure below is mandatory. Please do NOT include a **cover page or table of contents!**

DOCUMENT 1 – Maximum ten pages

Start counting page numbers

1. Excellence
2. Impact
3. Implementation

Stop counting page numbers. Do not exceed ten in total.

Of the maximum ten pages applied to sections 1, 2 and 3, applicants are free to decide on the allocation of pages between the sections. However, the overall page limit will be strictly applied; **excess pages will be blanked out and experts will not be able to read them.** It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that the submitted pdf documents are readable and are within the page limit.

DOCUMENT 2 – no page limit

4. CV of the experienced researcher
5. Capacities of the participating organizations
6. Ethical aspects

Once you have submitted your proposal you can still make changes to it until the deadline. Note that every new submission overwrites the previous one!

Some hints:

Part B – document 1

1. Excellence

- ✓ Be precise about objectives; explain the contribution that your project is expected to make.
- ✓ What is your methodology?
- ✓ Describe originality and innovative aspects of your research: Why is your project worth funding?
- ✓ Explain how the high-quality, novel research is most likely to open up your career possibilities.
- ✓ How will the project allow you to move towards research independence?



- ✓ Why are the host institution and supervisor ideal for the research project you aim to conduct?
- ✓ Describe how this project will contribute to your own research career development. Clearly describe which new competencies you will acquire through the fellowship.
- ✓ What type of skills and knowledge will you transfer on to the host institution?

2. Impact

- ✓ Impact of training on your career development and the host institution (be precise).
- ✓ List expected publications expected to result from your research project (be precise, i.e. concrete journal names).
- ✓ What is your IPR strategy?
- ✓ Be precise about your outreach activities.

3. Implementation

- ✓ Add a realistic GANTT chart.
- ✓ Include work packages, deliverables, milestones.
- ✓ Describe experimental risks and your contingency plan.

Part B – document 2

You may want to consider including the following information:

➤ CV

- ✓ Education
- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Research experience
- ✓ Publications
- ✓ Fellowships, awards, prizes
- ✓ Presentations (seminars, posters, and other invitations)
- ✓ Public outreach
- ✓ Supervising and mentoring activities
- ✓ Teaching experience
- ✓ Service and leadership (*ad hoc* review activities, committee members, etc.)

➤ Capacity of the participating organizations

- ✓ General description: Describe the reputation and expertise of your chosen host institution. Why is it the best host for your postdoc in the research field you aim to explore?
- ✓ Role and commitment of supervisor.
- ✓ Your supervisor's research and funding history.
- ✓ Key research facilities, infrastructure and equipment.
- ✓ Information about the research premises
- ✓ Previous involvement in research and training programs: Describe your host institution's involvement in national and international funding (e.g. EU FP7 (2007-2013), Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)).
- ✓ Current involvement in research and training programs: List the number of fellows at the host institution who receive fellowships, e.g. MSCA-IF or ERC.



- ✓ Relevant publications: List of relevant publications of your supervisor.

General tips:

- ✓ Read and follow the Application Guide!
- ✓ Help the evaluators with a concise, well-structured and relevant proposal!
- ✓ Ensure your project is innovative. Avoid a simple extension of your doctoral thesis!
- ✓ Don't assume reviewers know what you have done and what you can do – if something is important, make sure it is stated clearly!
- ✓ Avoid using very specific jargon and acronyms that are only known to experts in a specific field!
- ✓ Do several spell checks: Ask a native English speaker to proof-read your proposal!
- ✓ Graphics and charts are a useful tool but do not overdo it: Make sure they are readable in black and white!
- ✓ Stick to the page limit!
- ✓ You can only submit one proposal per call!
- ✓ Don't wait until the last day to submit, and note that every new submission overwrites the previous one!

In order to check the details on this funding opportunity, please access:
bit.ly/MSCAIF2019

Please note: The 2020 call will open on 8 April 2020 and close on 9 September 2020.

Support for applicants

For researchers interested in applying for the MSCA-IF there are a variety of tools available to support you in the application process:

- **Guide for Applicants:** Please make sure you carefully read the latest guide for applicants available [here](#).
- **Finding a Host Institution:** check out some ways on how you can find your host [here](#).
- **National Contact Point (NCP) Network:** This network is the main mechanism providing guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon 2020, including MSCA. North American researchers can contact the MSCA NCPs in the country where there would like to undertake their MSCA-IF and in their home country. Find their contacts here: bit.ly/Horizon_NCP

The NCPs offer the following services:

- ✓ Advice on administrative procedures and contractual issues
- ✓ Training and assistance on proposal writing
- ✓ Distribution of documentation (forms, guidelines, manuals etc.)
- ✓ Assistance in partner search
- ✓ The EU-funded Net4Mobility+ project has a number of resources that might assist applicants with their candidacies. Check their website: net4mobilityplus.eu
- **Facebook:** Follow the MSCA on Facebook: facebook.com/Marie.Curie.Actions/
- **FAQ:** Here is a link to a FAQ-Blog: mariecurieactions.blogspot.com



3 Hot topic: A glance at Horizon Europe

The European Commission has published its [proposal for Horizon Europe](#), an ambitious €100 billion research and innovation program that will succeed Horizon 2020. Set to launch next year, Horizon Europe will build on the achievements and success of Horizon 2020, bridging the past and the future of research and innovation in Europe.

The European Commission is proposing a total budget of €100 billion for 2021-2027 for Horizon Europe and the Euratom Research and Training Program. The new Framework Program is intended to be the most ambitious research and innovation funding program to date, described by former Commissioner Carlos Moedas as “the biggest increase in absolute amounts ever”.

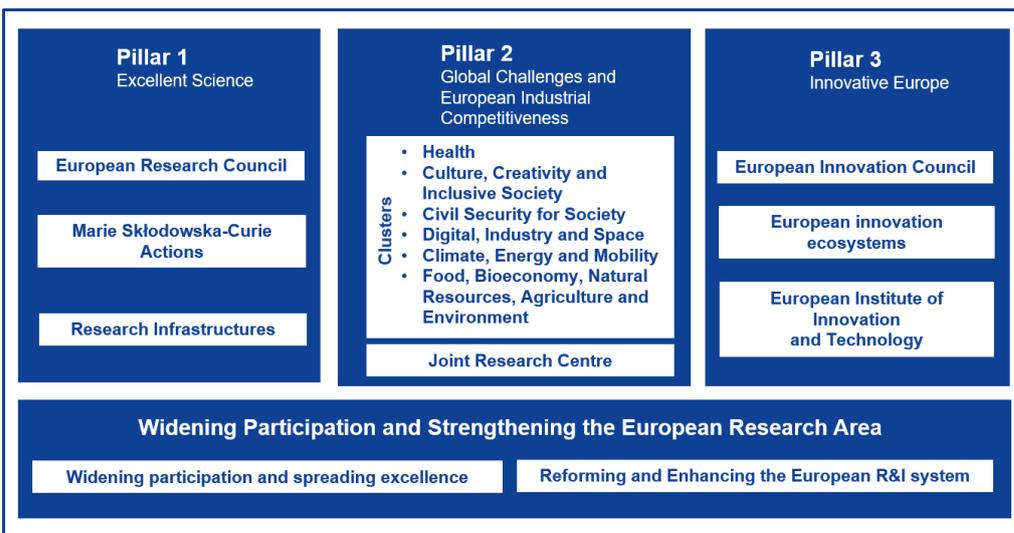
3.1 Introduction of the national research landscape

The Open Science pillar (€25.8 billion) supports frontier research projects defined and driven by researchers themselves through the European Research Council (€16.6 billion), funds fellowships and exchanges for researchers through Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (€6.8 billion), and it invests in world-class research infrastructures.

The Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness pillar (€52.7 billion) directly supports research relating to societal challenges, reinforces technological and industrial capacities, and sets EU-wide missions with ambitious goals tackling some of our biggest problems. It also includes activities pursued by the Joint Research Centre (€2.2 billion) which provides the EU and national policymakers independent scientific evidence and technical support.

At a conference entitled ‘International R&D: Horizon Europe and the world’, Jean-Eric Paquet, Director General of DG Research and Innovation, outlined the European Commission’s plans for participation of non-EU-countries in Horizon Europe. Association agreements to the program, allowing countries to participate in EU research under the same conditions as Member States, will be much wider than in the past. Making Horizon Europe open for international collaboration is “a top priority” for the Commission, he said.

The Open Innovation pillar (€13.5 billion) aims to make Europe a frontrunner in market-creating innovation via the European Innovation Council (€10 billion). It will help to develop the overall European innovation landscape, including by further strengthening the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) to foster the integration of business, research, higher education and entrepreneurship (€3 billion).



Horizon Europe will continue to drive Europe’s scientific excellence through the European Research Council (ERC) and the MSCA fellowships and exchanges,



drawing on the scientific advice, technical support and new level of ambition to boost the scientific, economic and societal impact of EU funding.

3.2 Novel features of Horizon Europe

The European Innovation Council: One-stop shop to bring the most promising ideas from lab to real-world application, and support the most innovative start-ups and companies to scale up their ideas. It will provide direct support to innovators through two main funding instruments, one for early stages and the other for development and market deployment.

EU-wide R&I Missions: Ambitious, bold goals to tackle issues that affect our daily lives. Examples could range from the fight against cancer, to clean transport or plastic-free oceans. They will be co-designed with citizens, stakeholders, the European Parliament and Member States.

Open Science: This will become the modus operandi of Horizon Europe. It will go beyond the Horizon 2020 policy and require open access to publications, data, as well as to research data management plans.

A new generation of European Partnerships: Horizon Europe will streamline the number of partnerships that the EU co-programs or co-funds with partners like industry, civil society and funding foundations.

Simpler rules: This will increase legal certainty and reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries and program administrators.

- Continued principle of a single set of rules with further improvements
- Stable funding rates
- Further simplification of funding model
- Increased use of simplified forms of grants where appropriate (including lump sums)
- More dissemination and exploitation of research result.

The proposed budget allocation of €100 billion for 2021-2027 includes €97.6 billion under Horizon Europe (€3.5 billion of which will be allocated under the InvestEU Fund) and €2.4 billion for the Euratom Research and Training Program. The Euratom program, which funds research and training on nuclear safety, security and radiation protection, will have an increased focus on non-power applications, such as healthcare and medical equipment, and will also support the mobility of nuclear science researchers under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

3.3 Missions in Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe will incorporate research and innovation Missions to increase the effectiveness of funding by pursuing clearly defined targets. This is in line with the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 which delineated a need to make it easier for citizens to understand the value of investments in research and innovation;



and to maximize the impact of investments by setting clearer targets and expected impact when addressing global challenges.

The Commission has engaged policy experts to develop studies, case studies and reports on how a mission-oriented policy approach will work. It has set up five Mission boards, one for each area, that will help specify, design, and implement Missions in Horizon Europe:

- Mission Board for Adaptation to Climate Change, including Societal Transformation
- Mission Board for Cancer
- Mission Board for Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters,
- Mission Board for Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities
- Mission Board for Soil Health and Food

On 30 July 2019, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas announced the names of the experts who have been selected as members of the Mission Boards. This follows the announcement of the Chairs of the Mission Boards made at the Informal Council for Research Ministers in Helsinki, Finland.

Each Mission Board consists of 15 experts, including the Chair. Their job is to identify the first possible specific Missions on cancer, climate change, healthy oceans, climate-neutral cities and healthy soil and food. In addition, for each Mission an assembly will be established, gathering a larger number of high-level experts. The assemblies provide an additional pool of ideas, knowledge and expertise that will be actively called upon to contribute to the success of the five missions.

Over 2,100 individuals from across the EU and beyond applied for membership to a Mission Board. The selection process ensured that the boards are composed of creative and highly motivated experts from a wide range of backgrounds, including academics, innovators, civil society, industry, finance and end-users. A first discussion with citizens, stakeholders, and experts from Member States took place at the European Research and Innovation Days in Brussels in September 2019.



4 In case you missed it...

Past event outlook

Please note that due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the date of many upcoming conferences and events are up in the air. Please see recent events with EURAXESS North America participation below.

<u>Event</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Organized by</u>	<u>Link</u>
Destination Europe: Research and Innovation Opportunities in Europe	13 February 2020	University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA	University of Washington Center for West European Studies and the European Commission	Link
AAAS Annual Meeting	13-16 February 2020	Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA, USA	American Association for the Advancement of Science	Link
MIT 24 th European Career Fair	22 February 2020	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA	MIT European Club	Link

About EURAXESS North America

EURAXESS North America is a network of thousands of European and non-European researchers, scientists, and scholars throughout North America (USA and Canada). This multidisciplinary network includes members at all stages of their careers. It allows them to connect with each other and with Europe, ensuring that they are recognized as an important resource for European research, whether they remain in North America or return to Europe.

For further information about EURAXESS North America, please visit:

<http://northamerica.euraxess.org>.

To sign up for membership in our network, please go to our [website](#) and click on *Sign up and become a member for free* button.

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