

Informative session: all about MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023

1st June 2023

Cristina Gomez
Spanish MSCA Delegate and National Contact Point

General MSCA Aspects



MSCA: a global research and training programme



Cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility



Strong international dimension



Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)



Training
Transferable skills
Professional development



Impact on researchers



Impact on institutions



RDI impact



MSCA: Relevant terminology

Programme open to all thematic areas

CHE Chemistry	SOC Social Sciences and Humanities	ECO Economic sciences	ENG Information Science and Engineering
ENV Environmental and Geosciences	LIF Life Sciences	MAT Mathematics	PHY Physics

+ EURATOM areas

100% funding based on unit costs

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month			Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance * Long-term leave allowance * Special needs allowance *	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution

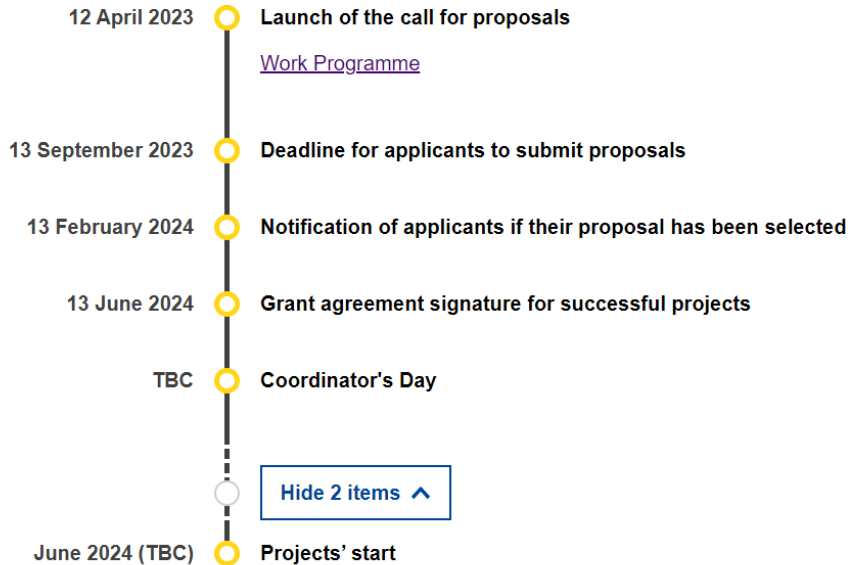


MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Call



Dates and budget

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF-01



**Postdoctoral Fellowships
2023 CALL**

Opening:
12 • 04 • 2023

Closing:
13 • 09 • 2023

Budget:
€260.47 million

MSCA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie **Actions**
Developing talents, advancing research

European Commission

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Source: iStockphoto.com

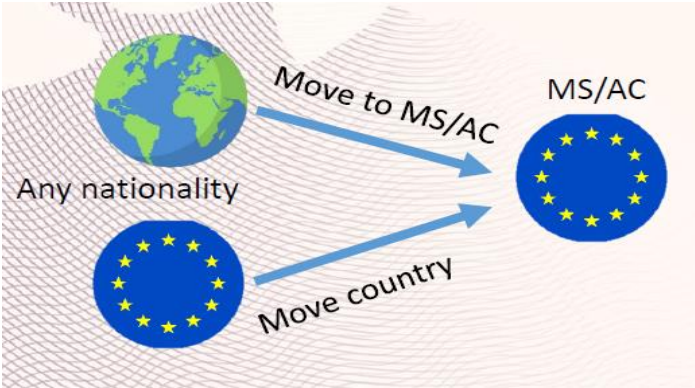
The poster features a dark background with a central image of a plant branch with green leaves and a cluster of green berries. The text is in white and yellow. The European Commission logo is in the bottom right corner.

Tentative starting dates: March 2024 - Sept. 2025

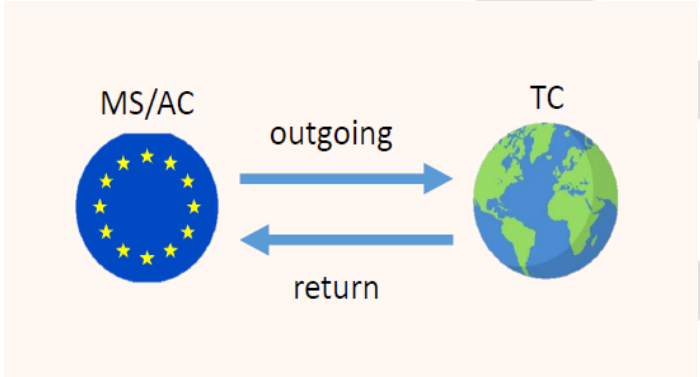


MSCA PF 2023: What does it offer?

EUROPEAN Postdoctoral Fellowships
12 – 24 months in Europe



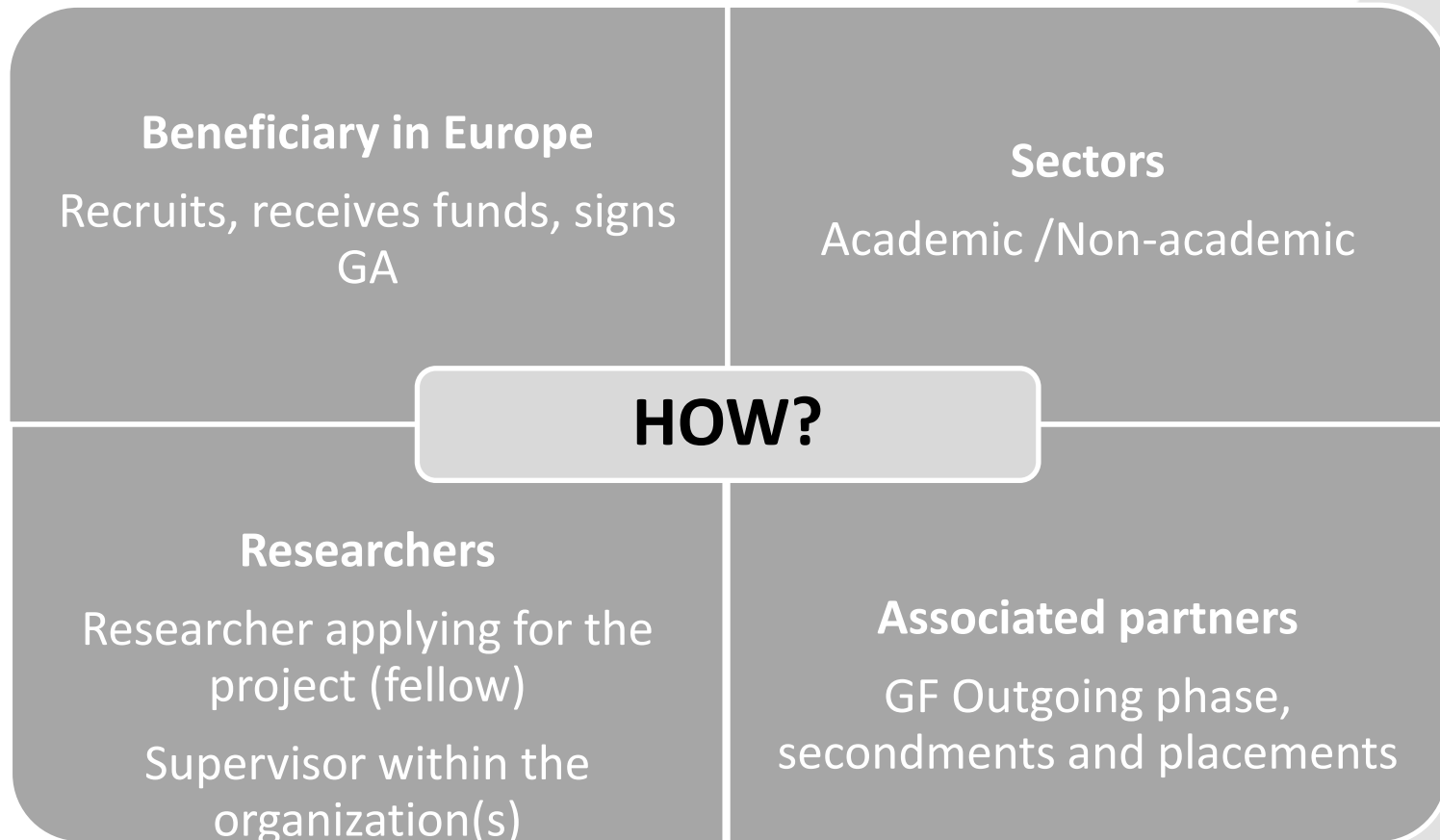
GLOBAL Postdoctoral Fellowships
12-24 months Outgoing Phase in TC +
12 months Return phase in Europe



- ✓ 1 proposal per researcher
- ✓ Restrictions to resubmissions: minimum 70% score the year before
- ✓ *Additional non-academic placement (not mandatory) + 6 months in Europe*



MSCA PF 2023: How to apply?



MSCA PF 2023: What do researchers need to keep in mind for applying?



Researcher
eligibility criteria



Research experience

Nationality

Mobility rule



**All criteria should be met at the time of call deadline:
13/09/2023**



MSCA PF 2023: PhD degree and maximum 8 years of research full-time experience as of 13/09/2023

Exceptions for the 8-year FTE:

- Maternal leave: 18 months per child born since the obtaining the PhD degree
- Paternal leave: Exact duration per child born since the obtaining the PhD degree
- Long-term sick leave
- Career breaks
- Time not devoted to research
- National service
- Nationals and long-term residents of MS & AC in a TC or having returned to Europe along the last 12 months before the call deadline, can discount their research experience in TCs when applying to EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS

How to calculate the 8-year experience?

- [REA Guidelines \(MSCA-PF 2023\)](#)
- [REA Self-assessment tool \(MSCA-PF 2023\)](#)



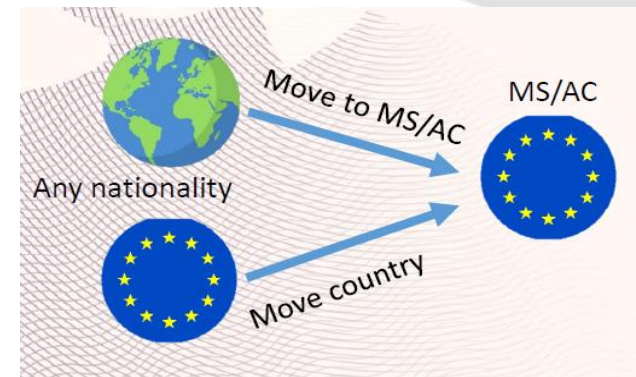
MSCA PF 2023: European Fellowships

- Project implemented in Europe
- **Open to all nationalities**
- **Mobility rule:** Max. 12 months of the last 36 months in the European country of the Beneficiary as of 13/09/2023
- Researcher with **PhD degree** and **max. 8 years of research FTE** as of 13/09/2023
- Duration from 12 to 24 months
- **Secondments** can take place in **any part of the world** (max. 1/3 of the project)
- Possibility of 6-month extension for a non-academic placement in Europe

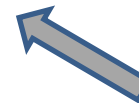
Researchers from Africa



European Fellowships



Organizations from Africa



MSCA PF EF 2023 Example



AHMED MAAEL Candidate to PF EF

- Researcher from Tunisia
- Living in Italy the last 4 years
- PhD degree from ENSI (TU) in 2015 (Oct.)



CRISTINA GOMEZ Supervisor

- Will support the candidate in the proposal with the role of supervisor as she is the head of a Research team at the BCBL (Basque Center on Cognition, Brain and Language), a beneficiary in Spain

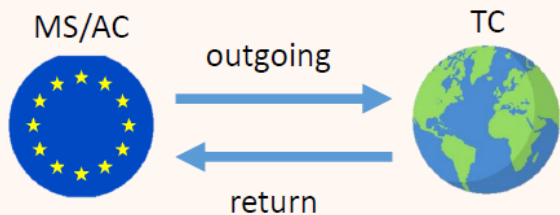


MSCA PF 2023: Global Fellowships

African Organization



Global Fellowships



**Letters of
commitment for
Associated Partners in
the Third Country**

- **Outgoing phase** outside Europe (Third Country, 12-24 months – Associated Partner) and **return phase in Europe**, in the beneficiary (12 months)
- **Researchers from MS or AC, and long-term residents (+5 years)**
- Researcher with **PhD degree** and **max. 8 years of research FTE** as of 13/09/2023
- **Mobility rule:** Max. 12 months of the last 36 months in the country of the **outgoing phase** as of 13/09/2023
- Duration from 24 to 36 months
- **Secondments** can take place in **any part of the world** (only during outgoing phase and max. 1/3 of the duration of the outgoing phase)
- Possibility of 6-month extension for a non-academic placement in Europe



MSCA PF GF 2023 Example



XAVIER EEKHOUT **Researcher candidate to a Global Fellowship**

- American nationality
- PhD degree in Spain, October 2015, lived there until end 2022.
- Since January 2023 he lives in Ethiopia
- Will apply for a Global Fellowship with a beneficiary in Tunisia (ENSI) and an associated partner in Ethiopia (Addis Ababa University): 24 months Ethiopia, 12 months Tunisia



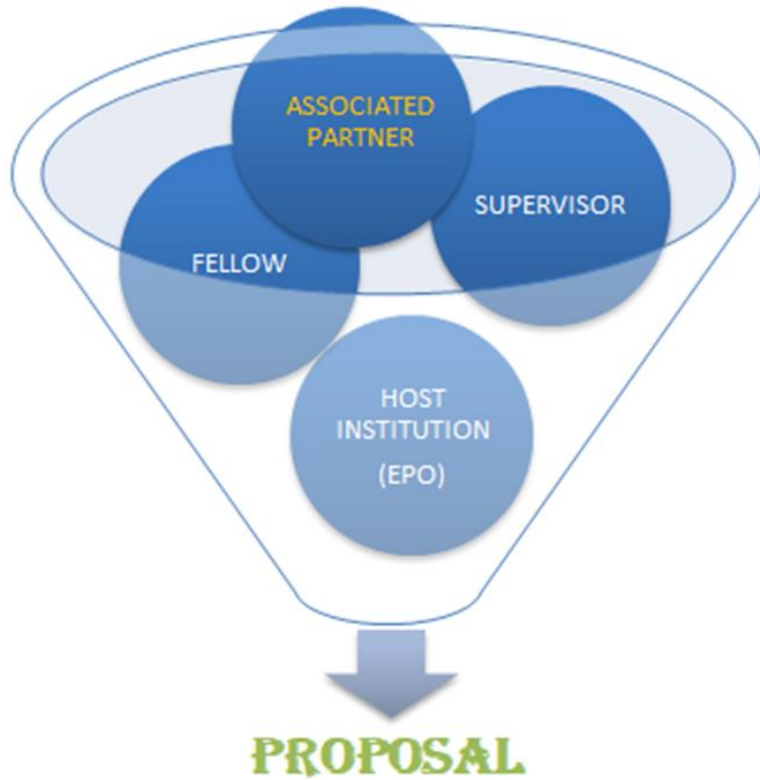
Initial outgoing phase:
Ethiopia



Final phase (Associated
Country to Horizon Europe) :
Tunisia



How do the projects work?



Much more than a research project

- Develop research capacity (related to the scientific project, leading to stronger research skills and advances in the research field)
- Develop transferable skills and employability
- Exchange of knowledge between researcher (fellow), supervisors and participating organizations

A common approach

- The best proposals are always collaborative between the candidate researcher, the organization presenting the proposal, and the assigned supervisor
- All parties should collaborate to establish expectations and reach
- Keep in mind the needs of the project and of the researcher applying



How are projects funded?

MSCA	Contributions for recruited researchers (per PM)			Institutional unit contributions (per PM)	
	Living allowance*	Mobility allowance	Family allowance **	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
European Fellowship	5.080	600	660	1.000	650
PF – EF in Spain	4.638,04	600	660	1.000	650
24 months	111.312,96	14.400	15.840	24.000	15.600
TOTAL PF 2 years	181.152,96€				

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RECRUITED RESEARCHERS

- CCC: Adjustments depending on country of destination (e.g., **0,913 ES**)
- *Includes all salary Costs, taxes must be deducted
- **Changes along the project implementation

INSTITUTIONAL UNIT CONTRIBUTIONS

Research and training costs of the fellow: lab material, organizing or participating in events, Conference fees, short stays...



Proposal templates and evaluation criteria



Forms and templates

Part A Administrative

Application forms

Table Of Contents Validate Form Save Save&Close

Call:

()

Topic:

Type of Action:

()

Proposal number:

Proposal acronym:

Type of Model Grant Agreement:

Table of contents

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	Show
2	Participants	Show
3	Budget	Show
4	Ethics and security	Show
5	Other questions	Show

Part B Technical

B1 (10 pages)

Sections

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

B2 (no page limit)

- Researcher CV
- Institutional tables
- Ethical aspects
- Security screening
- Letters of commitment (if applicable)

MSCA-NET



Evaluation criteria

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



Evaluation criteria

EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
<p>Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)</p>	<p>Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development</p>	<p>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages</p>
<p>Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)</p>	<p>Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities</p>	<p>Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements</p>
<p>Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host</p>	<p>The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts</p>	
<p>Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills</p>		
50%	30%	20%

General aspects of the evaluation: Excellence

An excellent research and innovation project



- Is it innovative, going beyond the state of the art?
- Scientific goals and global view of the project
- Interdisciplinary, intersectoral and diversity dimensions
- Methodology, detailed and following Open Science



[Open Innovation, Open Science, Open to the World](#)
European Commission



[Understanding gender dimension in MSCA Projects](#)

EU Science and Innovation



General aspects of the evaluation: Excellence

Issues related to supervision, training and profesional development

Supervision

- Experience and relevant data of supervisor
- Role in the Career Development Plan of the Fellow



[Guide for supervision](#)

Training

- In scientific/technical and transferable skills
- Secondments: intersectorality and interdisciplinary

Transfer of knowledge

- What does the fellow bring to the organization?, and vice versa?
- How are relationships enriched on the medium-long term?



General aspects of the evaluation: Impact



Professional development perspectives

- Prospective exercises on the medium-long term (different sectors)
- Gains in collaborations, networks, project management, fundraising, leadership capacity, etc.



Maximize results and effects

- Sharing results with final users, society, scientific community
- Dissemination and exploitation of results (if applicable)
- Communication channels – Target audience



Expected Impacts

- Impact in the European Research Area (ERA)
- References to public policies
- KPIs



Green
Charter
MSCA

General aspects of the evaluation: Implementation



- Identification and description of work packages (WP) and tasks (research and crosscutting)
- Follow-up mechanism (deliverables, milestones, Gantt Chart)
- Risk assessment and contingency plans
- Explain the capacities of the participating organizations (infrastructures, experience)



Previous call statistics and general tips



MSCA-PF 2022 data

7 044 proposals received

- 6334 European Fellowships
- 710 Global Fellowships

Comparison to 2021 Call:

Call	European	Global
PF-2021	7519	837
PF-2022**	6334	710
Difference	-15.76%	-15.17%

*As presented at PC meeting of 10 October 2022

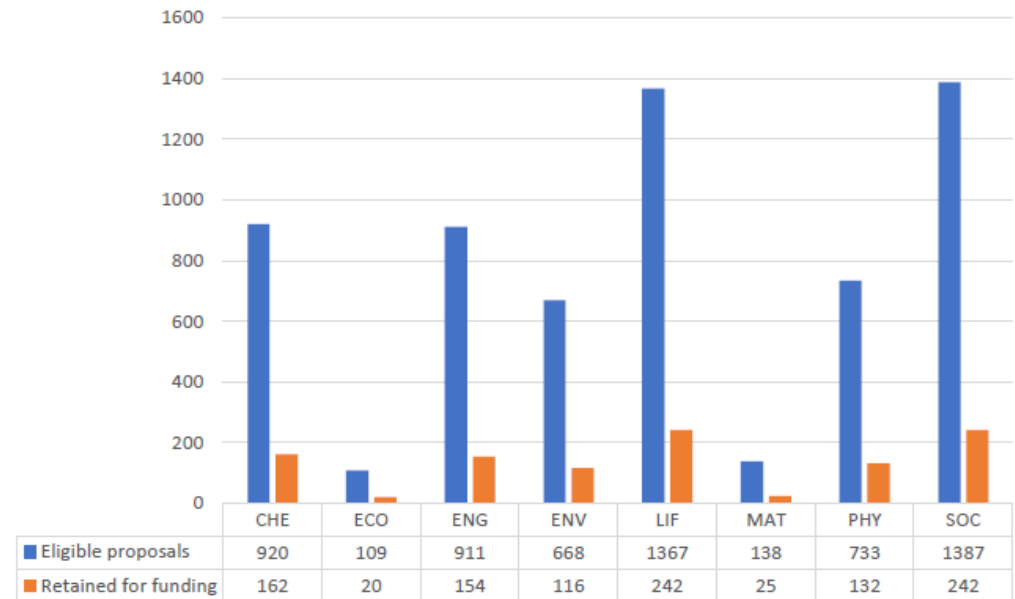
**PF-2022 New resubmission restriction rule introduced



Proposals retained for funding - EF

Action	Eligible proposals	Main list
PF-EF	6233	1093
Grand total	6909	1235

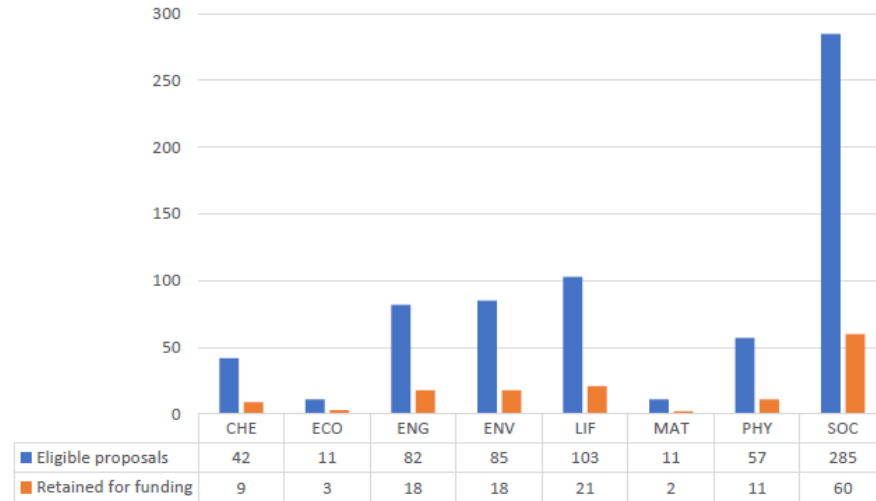
Panel	Success rate EF
CHE	17,61%
ECO	18,35%
ENG	16,90%
ENV	17,37%
LIF	17,70%
MAT	18,12%
PHY	18,01%
SOC	17,45%
Grand Total	17,54%



Proposals retained for funding - GF

Action	Eligible proposals	Main list
PF-GF	676	142
Grand total	6909	1235

Panel	Success rate GF
CHE	21,43%
ECO	27,27%
ENG	21,95%
ENV	21,18%
LIF	20,39%
MAT	18,18%
PHY	19,30%
SOC	21,05%
Grand Total	21,01%



MSCA-PF 2022 data

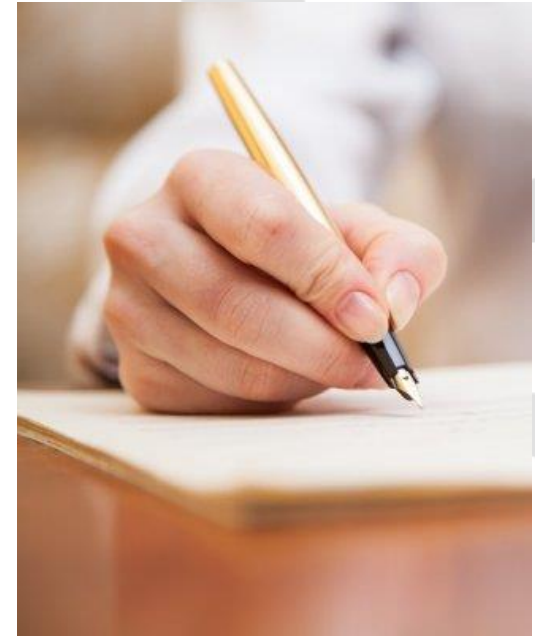
EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIP PF- EF 2022	CUT-OFF SCORE	Nº FUNDED PROJECTS	GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS PF - GF 2022	CUT-OFF SCORE	Nº FUNDED PROJECTS
CHE	91,8	162	CHE	95	9
ECO	89,4	20	ECO	81	3
ENG	92,4	154	ENG	96,4	18
ENV	92,6	116	ENV	94	18
LIF	93,6	242	LIF	92,6	21
MAT	92,2	25	MAT	90,8	2
PHY	92,4	132	PHY	93,4	11
SOC	93	242	SOC	93,6	60
TOTAL		1093	TOTAL		142



General advice

Project

- A PF project is not a research project, but a training in research project
- Do not be excessively ambitious, be realistic and propose viable actions for the time available
- Be precise: work on the structure if the proposal
- Show a **good match** between fellow, supervisor and beneficiary organization
- Follow the instructions of the template
- All sections are equally important
- Showing vs telling (when possible)



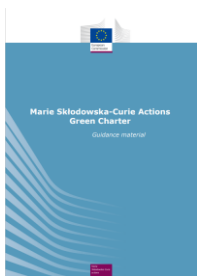
CV of the fellow

- It does not need to be perfect. It should be competitive and the key is showing how through the project, it will be even more.
- Future employability is key



General advices

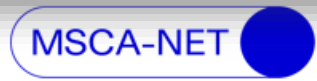
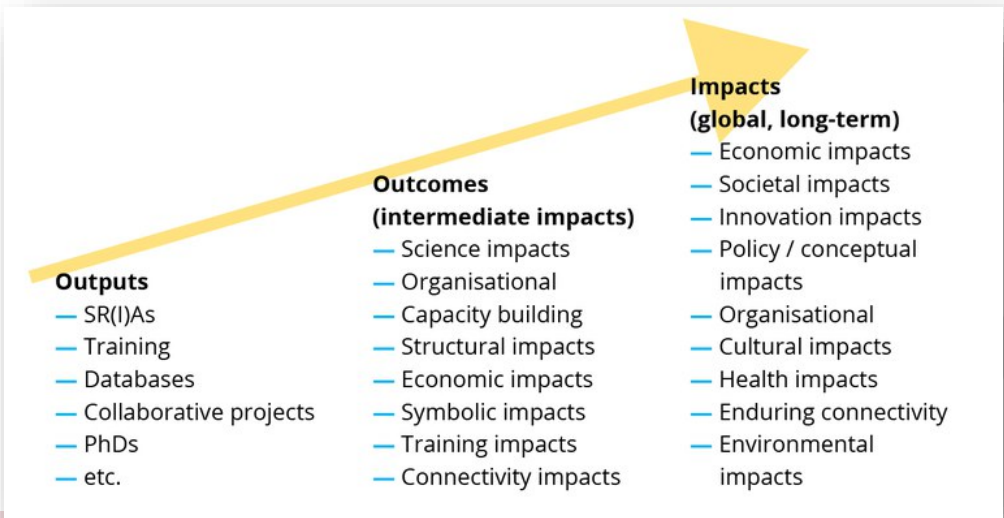
Align your project with relevant initiatives in your area



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Define your impact correctly



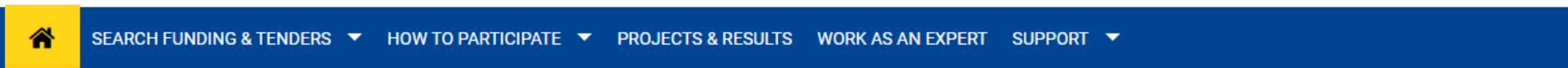
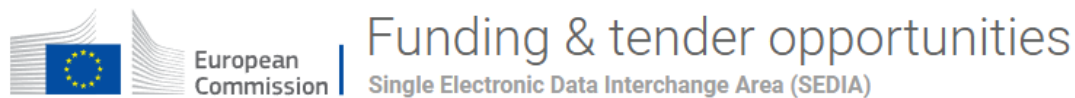


Where to go for information



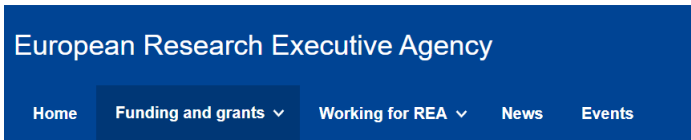
Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>



Find calls for proposals and tenders

Search calls for proposals and tenders by keywords, programmes...



European Commission > ... > Funding and grants > Horizon Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Ac

Horizon Europe MSCA - How to apply

[Research Executive Agency \(REA\)](#)



[MSCA European Commission](#)

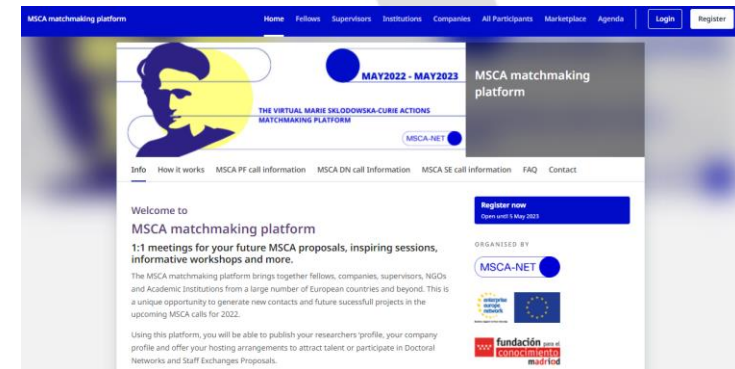


MSCA – NET Project

Home Page - MSCA-NET

- European project to support us, NCP, to better do our job
- Useful material to prepare calls
- **Matching Platform:** Opportunity to show the interest of an institution, researchers, supervisor in the MSCA Calls

MSCA-NET



<https://msca.b2match.io/>



MSCA-NET

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

Thanks – Merci!

Cristina Gómez

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