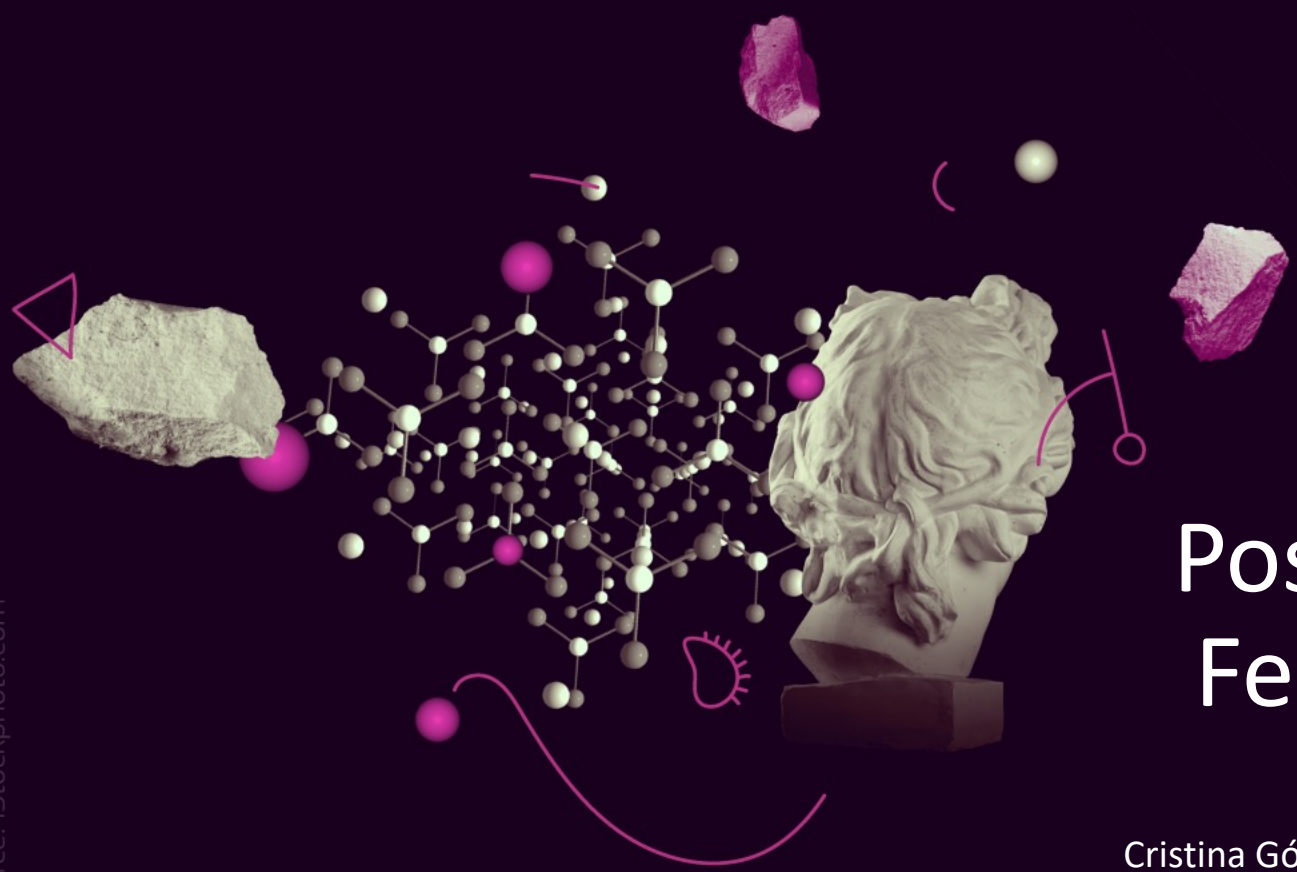


MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Cristina Gómez

Euraxess Worldwide Project Coordinator

Content

- Recap of main features of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Call
- Evaluation Process
- Tips to write a successful proposal based on Evaluation Criteria

The presentation is based on DG EAC and MSCA NET and NCP material

European Commission

Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

EURATOM

EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Pillar I
EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

Pillar II
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar III
INNOVATIVE EUROPE

- European Innovation Council
- European Innovation Ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation & Technology*

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

- Widening participation & spreading excellence
- Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

EURATOM

- Fusion
- Fission
- Joint Research Center

HE Budget: €95.5 billion. MSCA Budget: €6,6 billion.

European Commission

Introduction to MSCA: Key features

Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stages of career)

Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)

International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility

Attractive working and employment conditions

Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes

Strong collaboration with the non-academic sector

European Commission

MSCA-PF call: 23 April – 11 Sept 2024

Timing of the call and budget

Indicative timeline

- **23 April 2024**: Launch of the call for proposals
- **11 September 2024**: Deadline for submitting proposals
- **February 2025**: Notification of call results to applicants (TBC)
- **April 2025**: Grant agreement signature for successful projects (TBC)
- **April 2025**: First EU-funded projects start (TBC)

Indicative budget

- EUR 417.18 million

European Commission

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: What is it?

Individual fellowships to support excellent postdoctoral researchers.

Main objectives

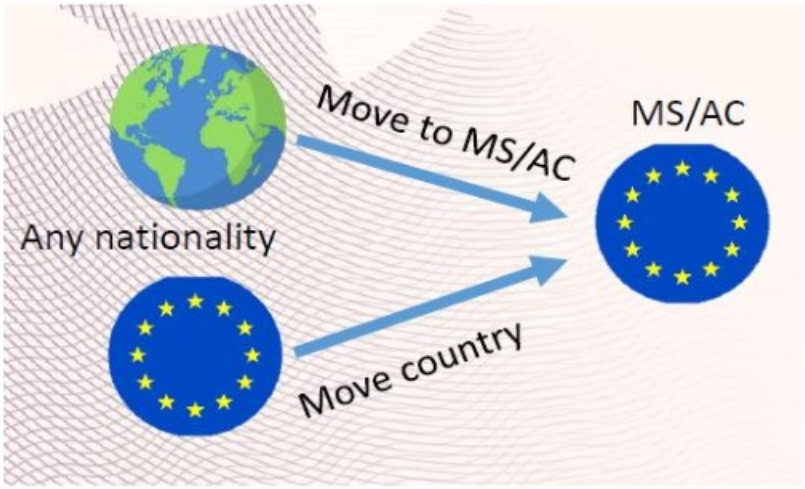
- **Foster excellence** through implementation of research project
- Enhance the **creative and innovative potential** of researchers holding a PhD (training on transferable skills & career development)
- Focus on **I3** (international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary) mobility
- Bridges and **exposure to the non-academic sector**
- **Career development** of researchers.

European Commission

Two types of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

European Fellowships (EF)

12 – 24 months in Europe

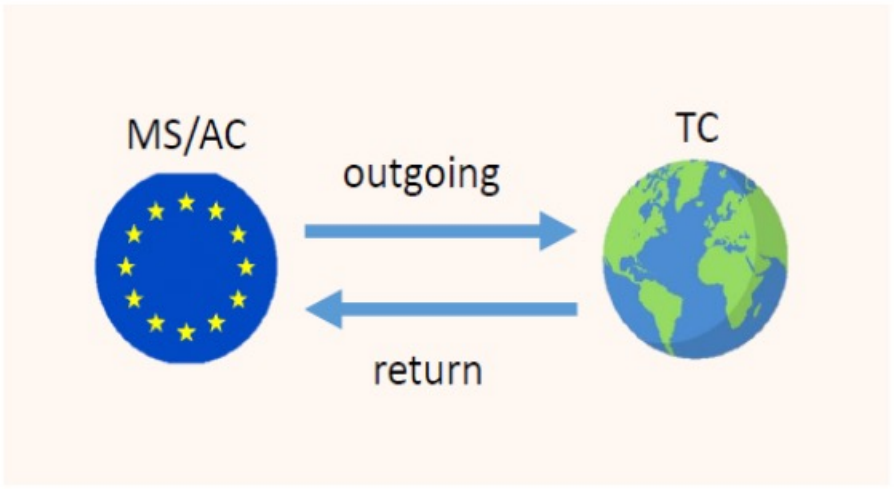


2024 call indicative budget: 354.60M€

Global Fellowships (GF)

12-24 months outside of Europe +

12 months return phase in Europe



2024 call indicative budget: 62.58M€

- The researcher can only apply for one mode
- Resubmission restriction: 70% score min. last year (same researcher, same institution)

European Commission

Two types of participants

BENEFICIARIES

Legal entities based in Member States or Associated Countries to Horizon Europe

Receive EU Funds to carry out the project activities (recruiting and supervising researchers, training … etc.)

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Located anywhere in the world

Contribute to the action by hosting secondments in their premises, allowing for scientific/transferible skills training, etc.

Costs, if any, will be taken care by the beneficiary, in the framework of a bilateral agreement, but not charged to the EC

European Commission

Two types of sectors

Academic

Public or private **Higher Education establishment** awarding academic degrees

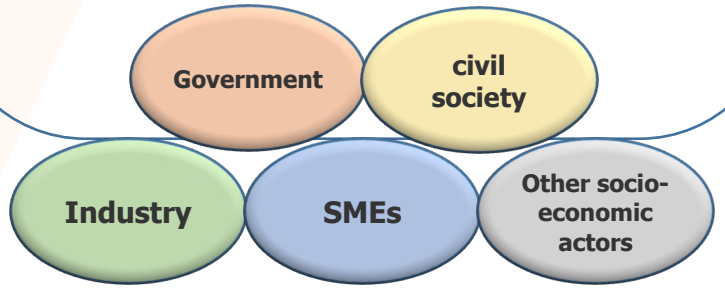
Public or private **non-profit research organisations**

International **European Research** Organisations

Non-Academic

Broad definition:

Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector definition



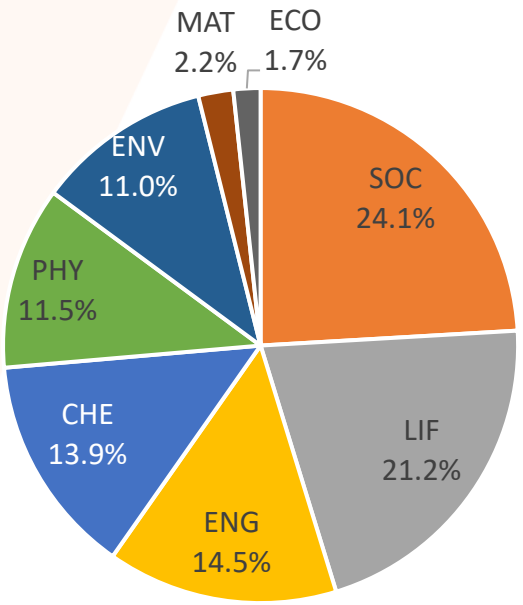
EU Validation Services ultimately determine the sector of each participating organisation

For already registered organisations, researchers can check the sector of the organisation here: [Participant register (europa.eu)]

European Commission

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: Fields of research

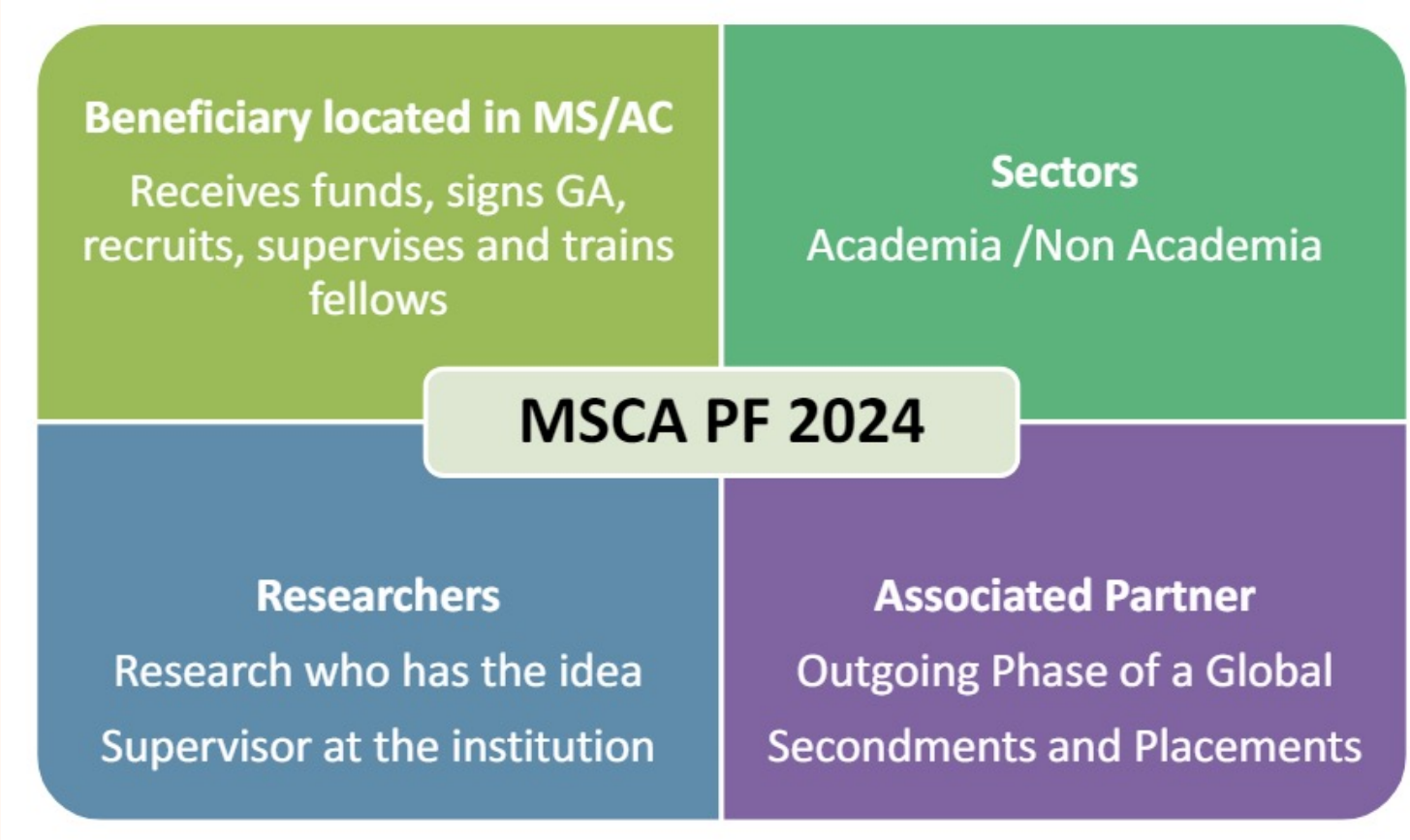
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2022 submissions



- Chemistry (CHE)
- Enviroment and Geosciences (ENV)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Economic Sciences(ECO)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
- Physics (PHY)

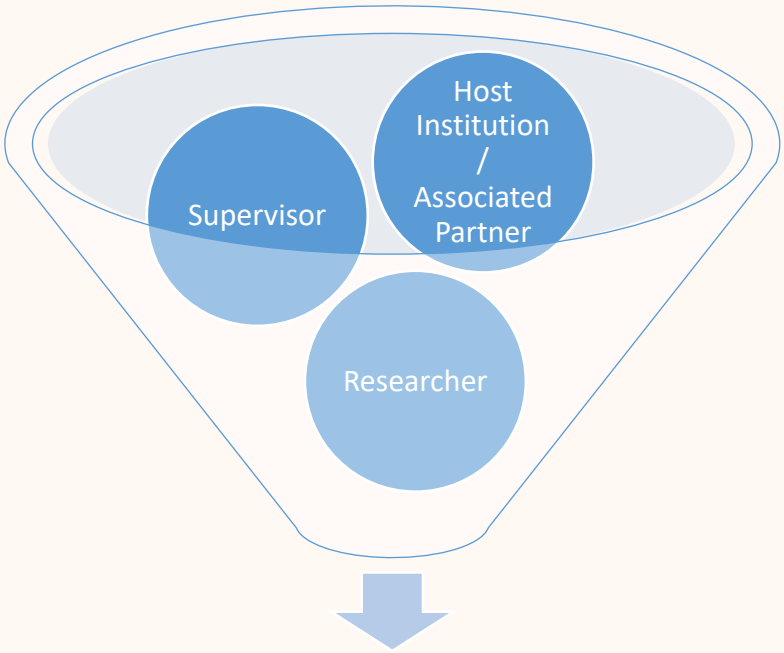
European Commission

How does it work?



European Commission

An MSCA successful proposal



Successful proposal

Much more than a research project

- Improvement of research capacities
- Development of complementary skills
- Knowledge Exchange and transfer between researcher, supervisor and institution (s)

A common approach is needed

- The best projects are always built together by both parts (researcher and institution)
- Supervisor has an active role in the proposal
- Ensure all expectations are covered and well established
- Be well aware of the project and researcher needs

European Commission

Eligibility of researchers

Eligibility of the researcher

Research Experience	The researcher must be in possession of a **doctoral degree** or have successfully **defended their doctoral** thesis before call deadline. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline. Supporting documentation may be requested
Nationality	
Mobility rule	The researcher cannot have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately prior to the call deadline.

- All criteria are measured at the call deadline 11/09/2024
- Documented exceptions for the Research Experience criteria (paternity and maternity leave, career breaks, time not spend doing research etc.)

Guidelines and a **self-assessment tool** available here:
https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en

European Commission

Two types of fellowships

EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS

- **Open to all nationalities**
- **Mobility rule:** not more than 12/36 months in the country of the beneficiary prior to 11/09/2024
- Researchers awarded a PhD and not more than **8 years** of research experience by 11/09/2024
- Exceptions apply
- Project to be carry out at a **beneficiary in Europe**
- Duration: 12-24 months
- **Secondments** can take place, anywhere in the world
- Possible 6 months extension to carry out a **non-academic placement** in Europe

GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS

- **Initial** outgoing phase outside of Europe (to a Third Country for 12-24 months) and a **final** return pase in Europe (12 months) at the beneficiary
- **Open to european researchers and long term residents in MS/AC**
- Researchers awarded a PhD and not more than **8 years** of research experience by 11/09/2024
- Exceptions apply
- **Mobility rule:** not more than 12/36 months in **the country of the outgoing phase** prior to 11/09/2024
- Duration: 24-36 months
- **Secondments** can take place, anywhere in the world
- Possible 6 months extension to carry out a **non-academic placement** in Europe

European Commission

Optional features

	SECONDMENT	NON-ACADEMIC PLACEMENT
What?	Aligned with the research objectives, will enhance the triple I dimension of the project, adding value and impacting in the results	This incentive aims at promoting career moves between sectors and organisations and thereby stimulate innovation and knowledge transfer while expanding career opportunities for researchers.
When?	• EF: Anytime during the project • GF: only possible during the outgoing phase (a possible 3 months can be initially spent at the beneficiary in Europe) • In both modes, secondments can be divided into several periods	Part of the proposal that takes place at the end of the standard EF/PF duration
Where?	Anywhere in the world, in any sector	In Europe, in the non-academic sector
Timing	• EF: Up to 1/3 of the total standard duration • GF: Up to 1/3 of the outgoing phase duration	Up to 6 months

European Commission

Unit contributions: 100% funding costs

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month					Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Living allowance[1]	Mobility allowance	Family allowance (if applicable)	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 5 990	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 6 700 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit[2] x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

[1] The living allowance is a **gross amount**. A **country correction coefficient** will apply.
[2] The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

European Commission

Unit contributions: example of a 2 years EF in Spain

MSCA European Fellowship	Researchers costs (person/month)			Institutional costs (P/M)	
	Living allowance*	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and Networking Costs	Management and Indirect Costs
UNIT COSTS	5,990	710	660	1.000	650
PF – EF in Spain	5,726.44	710	660	1.000	650
PF 24 months	137,434.56	17,040	15,840	24.000	15.600
TOTAL PF 2 years	170,314.56 + 39,600 = 209,914,56€				

RESEARCHER COSTS

- *CCC: country coefficient correction (**95,6 ES**)
- All deductions apply (employer and employee)
- Possible family situation during the project will be taken into account
- Long-term leave allowance requested if needed
- Disability allowance requested if needed

INSTITUTIONAL COSTS

Research, training and networking costs: lab material, secondments costs, participation and organization of events, etc.

European Commission

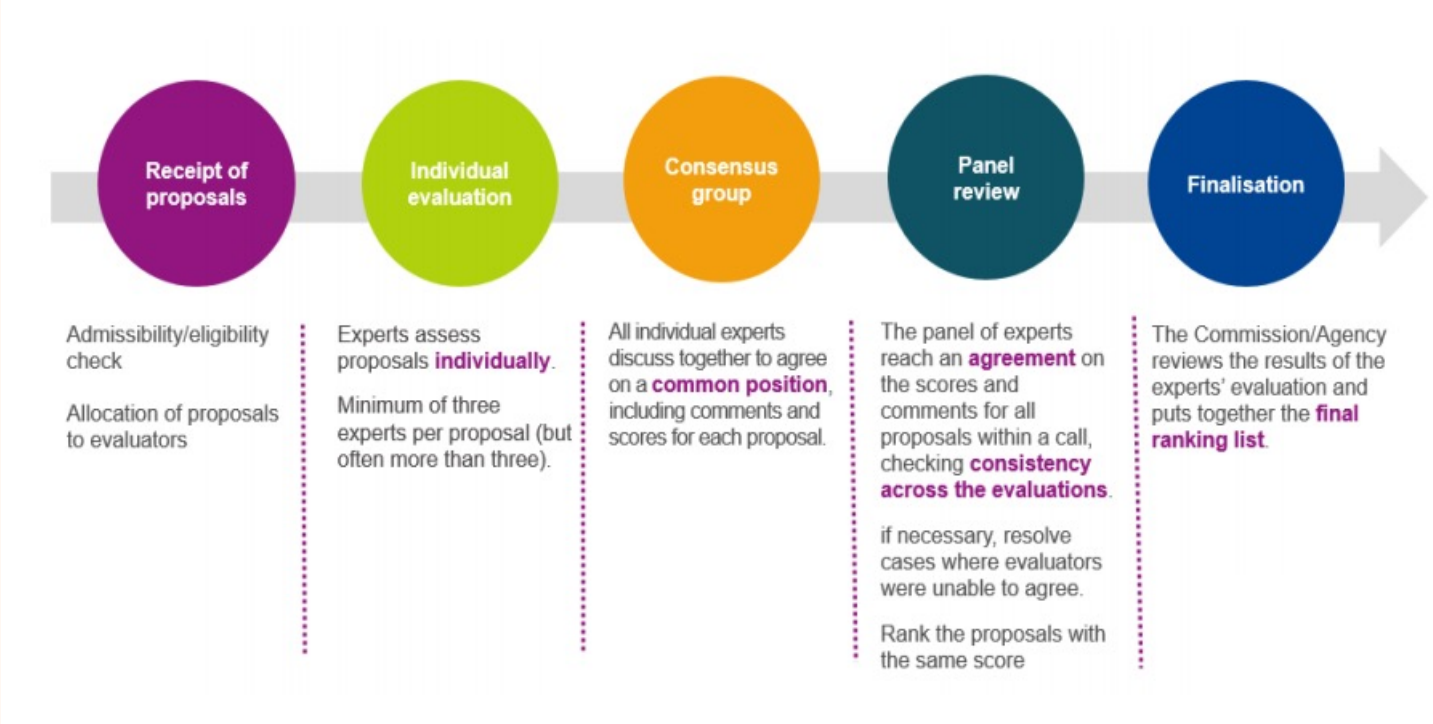
Content

- Recap of main features of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Call
- Evaluation Process
- Tips to write a successful proposal based on Evaluation Criteria

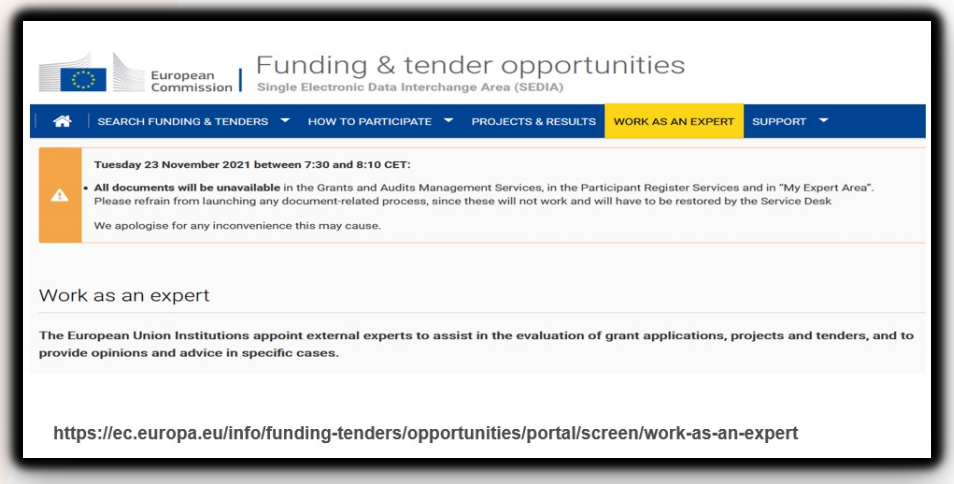
The presentation is based on DG EAC and MSCA NET and NCP material

European Commission

How are projects evaluated?



- 3 experts per project
- Geographical and sectoral diversity …



How does the score work?

[ef_he-msca_en.pdf (europa.eu)]

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Scoring:

Scoring must be in the range from 0-5. Half-marks may be given.

- **0** — The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- **1** — Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- **2** — Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- **3** — Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- **4** — Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- **5** — Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Thresholds & weighting:

The threshold for the individual criteria is 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the 3 individual scores, is 10 points.

Weighting is only for the ranking (not to determine if the proposal passed the thresholds).

⚠ Specific calls or topics may have different rules regarding thresholds and weighting.

Specific cases:

Two-stage calls

For stage 1 proposals, only the criteria Excellence and Impact will be evaluated and within those criteria only the aspects indicated in bold in General Annex of the Main Work Programme. The threshold for each of the two individual criteria is 4.

After the evaluation, the call coordinator will then fix an overall threshold, to limit the proposals that will be invited to stage 2. (This overall threshold will be set at a level which ensures that the total requested budget of proposals admitted to stage 2 is as close as possible to three times the available budget, and in any case, not less than 2.5 the available budget. The actual level will therefore depend on the volume of proposals received. The threshold is expected to normally be around 8 or 8.5.)

EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	IMPLEMENTATION
?/5.00	?/5.00	?/5.00
50%	30%	20%

European Commission

Proposal structure

Part A
Administrative

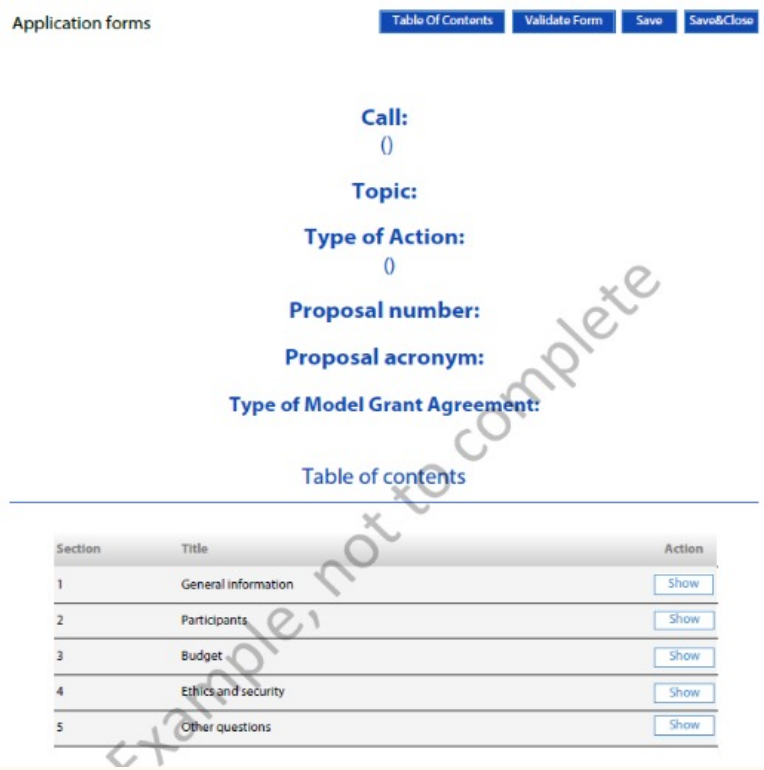

Application forms

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

Example, not to complete

Part B
Technical

B1 (10 pages)

Sections
- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

B2
- CV of the researcher
- Institutional Info
- Ethical aspects
- Security screening
- Environmental considerations
- Letter of commitment (if aplicable)

European Commission

Content

- Recap of main features of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Call
- Evaluation Process
- Tips to write a successful proposal based on Evaluation Criteria

The presentation is based on DG EAC and MSCA NET and NCP material

European Commission

Award Criteria – Part B

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
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)	Credibility of the measures to **enhance the career perspectives and employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development	Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
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)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements
Quality of the **supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**	
Quality and appropriateness of the **researcher's professional experience**, competences and skills		
50%	**30%**	**20%**

European Commission

Award Criteria – Part B

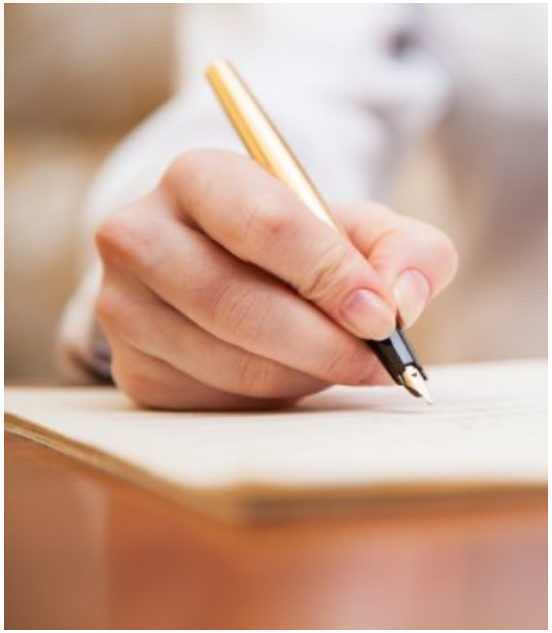
Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of **the project's research and innovation objectives** (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)	Credibility of the measures to **enhance the career perspectives and employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development	Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
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)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements
Quality of the **supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**	
Quality and appropriateness of the **researcher's professional experience**, competences and skills		
50%	**30%**	**20%**

European Commission

EXCELLENCE: CRITERIA 1.1.

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)

- Precise and catchy introduction
- Innovative Project, realistic objectives (list them) with an updated state of the art (showing how you will advance)
- Alignment with initiatives (SDG, Missions, Specific WP topics …)



European Commission

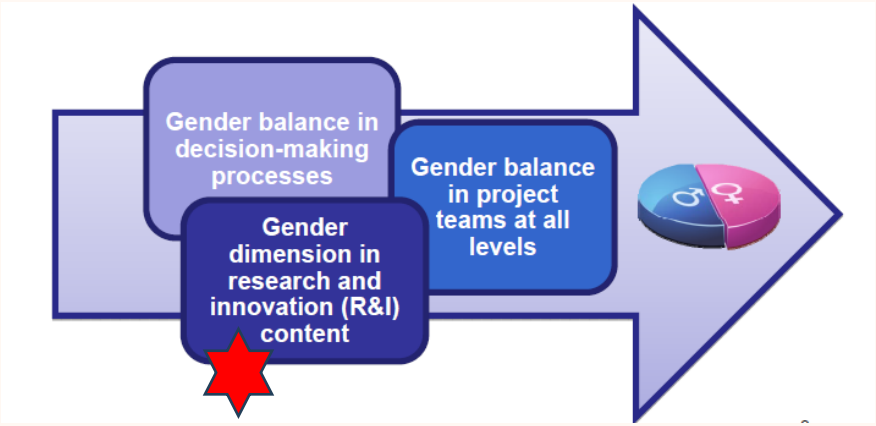
EXCELLENCE: CRITERIA 1.2.

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

- Concrete and excellent methodology (identify mechanims, techniques…) related to the research objectives previously explained
- How will interdisciplinarity be explained? (techniques, profiles …)
- Gender and diversity
- Open science and research data management

European Commission

EXCELLENCE: GENDER ASPECTS (1.2)



- Are gender norms embedded in the concepts, theories and models used by your research field? How do gender and interconnected social categorisations, such as race, class, etc., work?
- Do your chosen methodologies ensure that gender and other connected social characterisations are considered and investigated?
- Have you explained how including sex and gender findings will increase the quality of the research and improve the impact and relevance of the results?

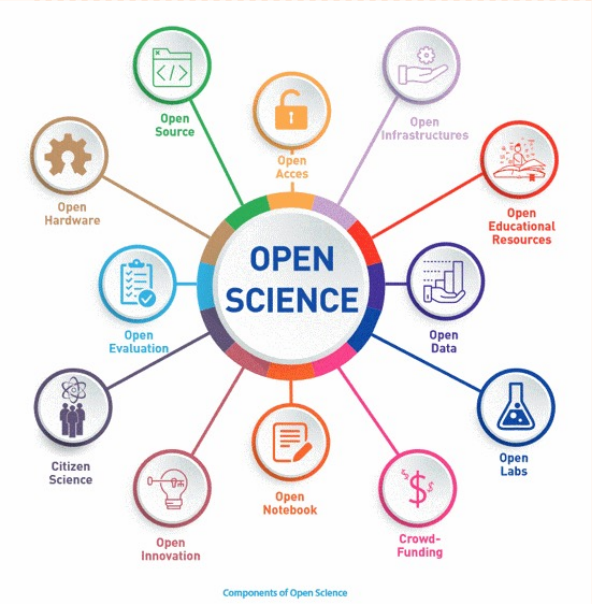
Gender aspect can be relevant in case of proposals with the same score

European Commission

EXCELLENCE: OPEN SCIENCE ASPECTS (1.2)

Open Science

Open science is an approach based on **open** cooperative work and systematic **sharing of knowledge and tools** as early and widely as possible in the process. Including active **engagement of society**



- **Mandatory immediate Open Access to publications:** beneficiaries must retain sufficient IPRs to comply with open access requirements;
- **Data sharing as 'open as possible, as closed as necessary':** mandatory Data Management Plan for FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) research data
- **Engagement of Society**

European Commission

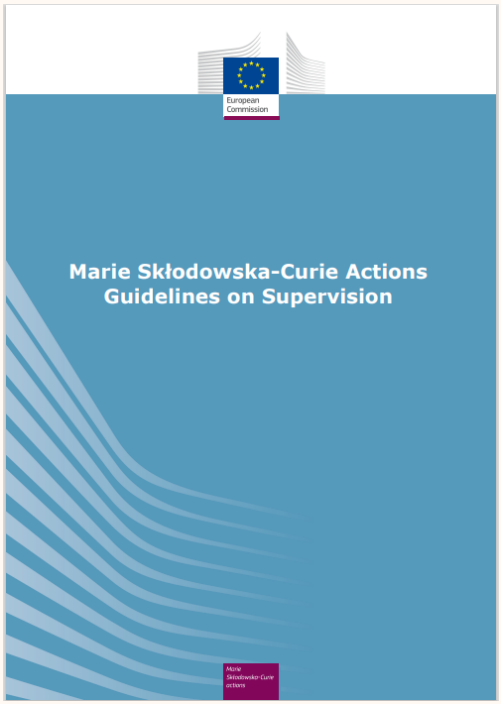
EXCELLENCE: CRITERIA 1.3.

Quality of the **supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host

- Relevant information on the supervisor and how will he/she participates in the Career Development Plan
- Detailed information on Scientific and Transferable Skills training
- Secondments, placements, fieldwork information
- Knowledge transfer, match and complementarity between the researcher and the supervisor

European Commission

The importance of supervision (1.3.)



- Aligned with the Principles of the Code and the Charter for Researchers, the beneficiaries of MSCA projects must ensure proper supervision and mentoring.
- Document establishing a Code of good practice that can complement other initiatives at institutional level.
- Aspects of supervision vary according to scientific disciplines, type of project, experience and skills of the person to be supervised.
- Guidelines to be applied at institutional level, for supervising staff and applicant researchers.

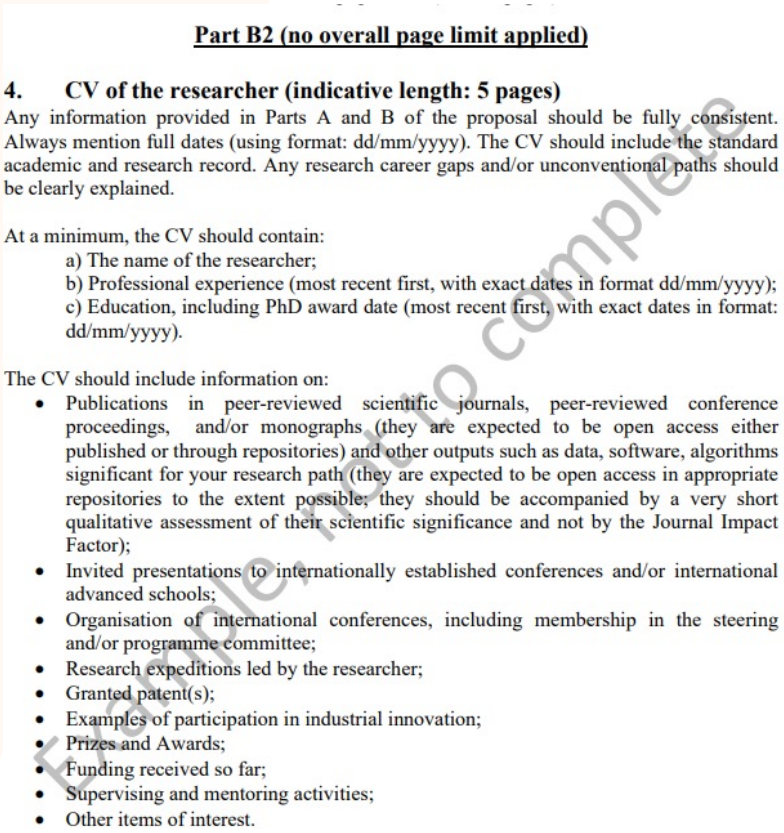
MSCA Guidelines on Supervision | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (europa.eu)

European Commission

EXCELLENCE: CRITERIA 1.4.

Quality and appropriateness of the **researcher's professional experience**, competences and skills

- Align your profile as a researcher with the proposal goals.
- Convince the evaluator you are the right person for this proposal
- Align with CV included in B2 part



Part B2 (no overall page limit applied)

4. CV of the researcher (indicative length: 5 pages)

Any information provided in Parts A and B of the proposal should be fully consistent. Always mention full dates (using format: dd/mm/yyyy). The CV should include the standard academic and research record. Any research career gaps and/or unconventional paths should be clearly explained.

At a minimum, the CV should contain:

a) The name of the researcher;
b) Professional experience (most recent first, with exact dates in format dd/mm/yyyy);
c) Education, including PhD award date (most recent first, with exact dates in format: dd/mm/yyyy).

The CV should include information on:

- Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, peer-reviewed conference proceedings, and/or monographs (they are expected to be open access either published or through repositories) and other outputs such as data, software, algorithms significant for your research path (they are expected to be open access in appropriate repositories to the extent possible; they should be accompanied by a very short qualitative assessment of their scientific significance and not by the Journal Impact Factor);
- Invited presentations to internationally established conferences and/or international advanced schools;
- Organisation of international conferences, including membership in the steering and/or programme committee;
- Research expeditions led by the researcher;
- Granted patent(s);
- Examples of participation in industrial innovation;
- Prizes and Awards;
- Funding received so far;
- Supervising and mentoring activities;
- Other items of interest.

Reviewer feedback: top 5 weaknesses in Excellence

MSCA-NET

Methodology	*Not adequately addressed/ is not convincingly discussed / not clearly described/ not explained in sufficient detail;* *Aspects: the methodological concepts; the critical methodological challenges the description of key methodological the selection of methodological, etc.*
Quality of the two-way transfer of knowledge	*Not entirely clear/ not discussed in sufficient detail;* *Aspects: transfer of unique competences of the researcher to the host; the expertise of the researcher already present at the host; complementarity of the transferred knowledge, etc.*
Beyond state-of-the art	*Not sufficiently explained/ not convincing/ it is not fully described/ addressed;* *Aspects: how the main lines of research differ from what has already been done; certain statements are mentioned without being supported by references or relevant explanations; lacks a clear identification of some of the main issues addressed in the proposal, etc.*
Objectives	*Insufficiently detailed/ not clearly presented;* *Aspects: overly ambitious and unrealistic, unclear and lack specificity, and are not supported by measurable indicators; the specific objectives do not clearly address the main problem to be resolved, etc.*
Interdisciplinary approaches	*Not sufficiently precise and explained/ not convincingly presented/ vaguely referred/ not sufficiently demonstrated;* *Aspects: how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be brought together and integrated, despite several novel techniques being used the interdisciplinary nature of the research is not sufficiently demonstrated, etc.*

European Commission

Award Criteria – Part B

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
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)	Credibility of the measures to **enhance the career perspectives and employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development	Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
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)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements
Quality of the **supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**	
Quality and appropriateness of the **researcher's professional experience**, competences and skills		
50%	**30%**	**20%**

European Commission

IMPACT: CRITERIA 2.1.

Credibility of the measures to **enhance the career perspectives and employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development

- Argue how the whole excellence section contributes Impact on the researcher's career
- Skills to be gained: M/l foresight exercise: what is the person pursuing?
- Employability and their future inside and outside academia (concrete examples)
- What impact will the collaborations established during the project have (triple i)?

European Commission

IMPACT: CRITERIA 2.2.

Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

- Realistic and comprehensive exploitation, dissemination and communication plan.
- Different audiences: they are all important: research community, end-users, businesses, policy makers, citizens.
- Include impact indicators
- Important joint work with the TTO / Legal Department of the Institution.
- Describe the procedures, capacities and experience of the institution.

European Commission

IMPACT: CRITERIA 2.2.

Communication:
Promote your action and results

Inform, promote and communicate your activities and results

Reaching multiple audiences
Citizens, the media, stakeholders

How?
- Having a well-designed strategy
- Conveying clear messages
- Using the right media channels

When?
From the start of the action until the end

Why?
- Engage with stakeholders
- Attract the best experts to your team
- Generate market demand
- Raise awareness of how public money is spent
- Show the success of European collaboration

Legal obligation of your Grant Agreement

Dissemination:
Make your results public

Open Science: knowledge and results (free of charge) for others to use

Only to scientists?
Not only but also to others that can learn from the results: authorities, industry, policymakers, sectors of interest, civil society

How?
Publishing your results on:
- Scientific magazines
- Scientific and/or targeted conferences
- Databases

When?
At any time, and as soon as the action has results

Why?
- Maximise results' impact
- Allow other researchers to go a step forward
- Contribute to the advancement of the state of the art
- Make scientific results a common good

Legal obligation of your Grant Agreement

Exploitation:
Make concrete use of results

Commercial, Societal, Political Purposes

Only by researchers?
Not only, but also:
- Industry including SMEs
- Those that can make good use of them: authorities, industrial authorities, policymakers, sectors of interest, civil society

How?
- Creating roadmaps, prototypes, softwares
- Sharing knowledge, skills, data

When?
Towards the end and beyond, as soon as the action has exploitable results

Why?
- Lead to new legislation or recommendations
- For the benefit of innovation, the economy and the society
- Help to tackle a problem and respond to an existing demand

Legal obligation of your Grant Agreement

European Commission

IMPACT: CRITERIA 2.3.

The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**

- Differentiate between the types of impacts associated with the project.
- Differentiate between outputs and outcomes (impacts) during the project.
- Alignment with major global initiatives (Missions, SDGs ...etc.)

Scientific impact

- Contribute to the advancement of the state of the art
- Generate new knowledge
- Improve equipment, infrastructure

Economic and technological impact

- Create new services, products to market
- Reduce costs, increase efficiency in processes
- Contribute to the creation of new standards

Social impact

- Improve public policies and decisions based on results.
- Raise public awareness on specific issues
- Reduction of avoidable mortality (traffic accidents, child births...)

Reviewer feedback: top 5 weaknesses in Impact

Project's contribution to the expected societal and economic impacts	*Not sufficiently addressed/ justified in the proposal; superficially addressed/considered; not sufficient evidence on impact; not fully explored; elaborated in a generic manner with insufficient details.* *Aspects: expected results, economic relevance; magnitude and importance of the economic and social impacts; quantified scale of the proposal's economic impact; impact of industry is underestimated.*
Communication plan	*Too limited in scope and reach; not sufficiently/convincingly/ clearly/detailed described; limited and not properly described; not sufficiently elaborated; not persuasive; lack focus.* *Aspects: public outreach activities; structured communication/outreach plan; main messages; objectives of public engagements; tools and channels; webpage and social media; target audience (including beyond scientific community; stakeholders, policy makers); level of involvement of the researcher.*
Project's contribution to the expected scientific impacts	*Not convincingly addressed; not adequately explained; not been discussed in enough detail; overstated and not adequately justified in the proposal; speculative and unconvincing.* *Aspects: Experimental design, theoretical advances; education models; time scale for expected impact (beyond duration of the project); quantified estimation and magnitude of expected impact; new scientific knowledge on the processes; sustainable solutions; bridging existing theories; new treatment developments.*
Target group audience	*not adequately/sufficiently/convincingly explained; not presented in sufficient detail; not adequately defined; not considered; not satisfactorily differentiated; are inadequately identified and main messages insufficiently defined; needs are not appropriately outlined.* *Aspects: non-academic experts, stakeholders (including industrial and policy makers), think-thank members; strategy for targeting peers; target audiences beyond the scientific community (students, children, etc).*
IPR – intellectual property rights	*Not given sufficient consideration/detail; insufficiently specified; lacks a clear identification of the strategy; not sufficiently taken into account; not been thoroughly considered; not very convincing.* *Aspects: managing intellectual property; protection measures; plans for licensing; specific actions of patent office; experimental data from the secondment partner.*

Award Criteria – Part B

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
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)	Credibility of the measures to **enhance the career perspectives and employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development	Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
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)	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements
Quality of the **supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**	
Quality and appropriateness of the **researcher's professional experience**, competences and skills		
50%	**30%**	**20%**

European Commission

IMPLEMENTATION: CRITERIA 3.1.

Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

- ✓ Fundamental coherence: in the duration of the Work Packages (WP), in the development of tasks, in the number of deliverables and milestones.
- ✓ Coherence and adequacy with the Excellence and Impact parts (cross references).
- ✓ Duly specify the number of PM (effort) associated to the WP (and tasks), ensure institutional support
- ✓ Include a GANTT Chart with as much project information as possible.
- ✓ Correct approach to administrative and scientific risk management.

		Year 1												Year 2												Year 3											
Work Package	Title	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
WP1	Management						D1.1																		M1.1												M2, D1.2
WP2	Data collection							M2.1									D2.1																				
WP3	Field work							M3.1														M3.2	D3.1														
WP4	Research part x																		M4.1, D4.1															M4.2, D4.2			
WP5	Research part y																								M5.1, D5.1												
WP6	Dissemination and communication					D6.1						D6.2			D6.3						D6.4																
WP7	Secondments																													M7.1							
...	...																																				

Legend

Milestone	M
Deliverable	D

European Commission

IMPLEMENTATION: CRITERIA 3.2.

Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements

- Detailed description of the infrastructures available to the researcher during the project, secondments, placements... remember also the partner institutions.
- Experience of the institution hosting visiting researchers: the host institution and the group are the best options for the fellow and for the project.

European Commission

Reviewer feedback: top 5 weaknesses Implementation

Risk assessment and management	*Not properly identified; not sufficiently/properly /insufficiently addressed/ elaborated; lacking in discussion of potential lower-level problem; insufficiently considered, not fully convincing; inadequate discussed; too generic, not sufficiently comprehensive and convincing, etc.* *Aspects: scientific issues, methods and techniques, access to data, theoretical, empirical, technical challenges for experiments, new analytical approaches, communicative tasks, dissemination program, implementation issues (delays, availability of instruments), overcoming language barriers, collecting interviews and survey answers, administrative risks (IPR management, progress monitoring, communication with supervisor, etc.), contingency plan, etc.*
Efforts/ resources allocation	*Not planned appropriately; too loosely organised in terms of the time and effort needed and not assigned to specific periods in the Gantt chart; not credible; not sufficiently clear; not addressed in sufficient detail; insufficient detail; not adequately justified; overly ambitious and unrealistic, etc.* *Aspects: Person-months; the administrative and training tasks and management activities; planned milestones; quantification of the effort assigned to work packages; resources to carry out the research, duration of different work packages; unclear overlap of work packages and tasks; defined timeline of the fieldwork*
Work packages	*Not properly planned and balanced; not convincingly described; not sufficiently detailed; lack quantitative details; unclear; description is not clearly structured in tasks, etc.* *Aspects: activities in work packages; complexity of the tasks; integration and organisation of activities; division of work package (overlapping same tasks in different work packages); contents of the research work packages and related deliverable, etc.*
Work plan	*Not convincingly formulated; not properly developed; not clearly presented; lacks sufficient coherence and credibility; insufficiently taken into account; presents certain inconsistencies; incoherent and overambitious, etc.* *Aspects: scope and divided activities; clear milestones and deliverables; Gantt chart; planned secondment; appropriate workload; planned tasks to reach objectives; overlapping of training and research activities; etc.*
Timing and duration	*Not convincingly justified; overlapping; not scheduled in a convincing way; overambitious and not fully realistic; not very adequate; not sufficiently justified, not precisely defined; etc.* *Aspects: different work packages; non-academic placement; fieldwork; outreach actions; parallel activities; methodological steps/ analysis; communication and dissemination activities (too early public talks);*

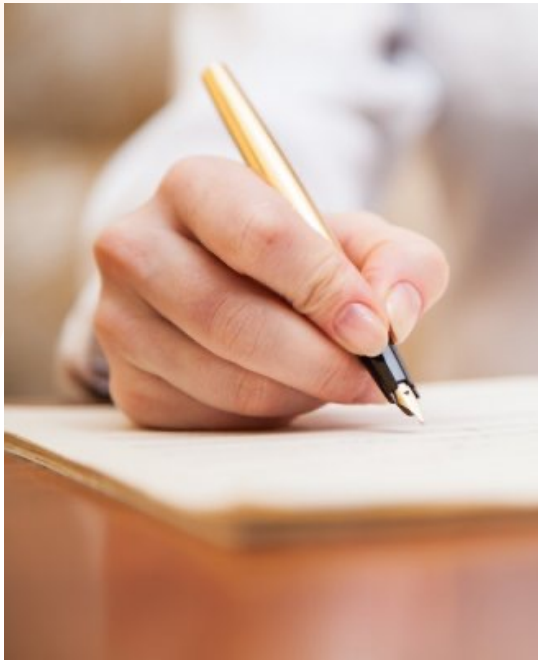
FINAL TIPS

General comments:

- Individual project, but collaborative preparation work.
- Hosting institution involved.
- National Contact Points in your destination country in Europe

Evaluation:

- Remember Criteria: 50% -30% -20%. You need to give 100% in each of them
- Do not innovate with the format
- “An image worth a thousand words”: use visuals
- KEY words: innovation, research career, intersectorality ….



European Commission

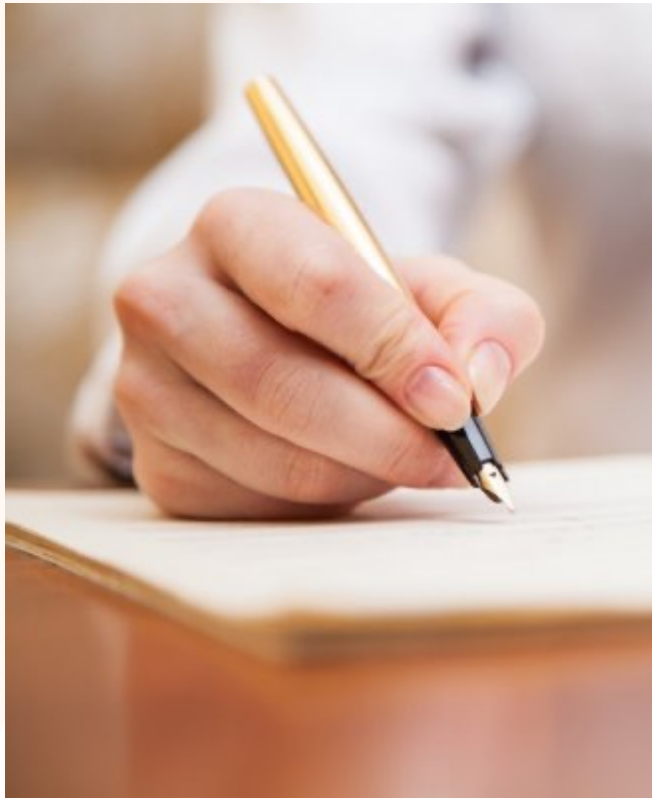
FINAL TIPS

About the project

- Research and training project
- Feasible work plan
- Well structured project
- Good match researcher/supervisor/host

About the researcher´s CV:

- CV doesn´t have to be perfect, training will cover shortcomings
- Future employability is essential



European Commission

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

THANK YOU!

European Commission