



MSCA

Measures taken on COVID-19

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European Commission

DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Key features

- **Support to researchers** at any stage of their career, from any country, with a focus on **training and career development**
- **Support to institutions** through excellent doctorates and collaborative projects
- **Excellent research** in all domains (bottom-up approach)
- Support to **international, inter-sectoral** and **interdisciplinary** cooperation
- Strong links **beyond academia** with industry and SMEs
- Promote attractive working and employment conditions
- Impact on **research careers, organisations and structures**

Key figures 2014-2020

+65,000

Researchers,
including
25,000 PhD
candidates

31%

Researchers
from outside
Europe

6.2 billion €

Under Horizon
2020

+1,000

Doctoral
programmes

+4,500

Companies
supported

42%

Female
researchers

MSCA and COVID-19

- **Confinement measures with harsh impact**
 - on R&I activities
 - on MSCA fellows' mobility
- **Issue raised by**
 - MSCA fellows
 - Stakeholder organisations
 - MEPsthrough
 - Social media
 - Newspaper articles
 - Letters to and meetings with the Commissioner and President

Guidance for project coordinators and fellows

- Requests for **paid extensions** of MSCA projects
- **Information note** for MSCA IF projects – April 2020
- **Individualised guidance** by REA project officers
- **Maximum flexibility** measures taken by EC and REA
 - ✓ Paid remote work and telework
 - ✓ Postponement and reorganisation of tasks
 - ✓ Part-time arrangements and extension of contracts
 - ✓ Delayed start dates
 - ✓ Paid during absences of up to 30 days
 - ✓ Use of unspent institutional unit costs to cover salaries - if agreed suspension
 - ✓ Project continuation even if laboratories are closed
- **Additional resources and measures** by MS and host institutions (“**duty to care**”)
- **MSCA-specific FAQs** published on the Funding and Tenders Portal – more coming soon

Consultation with stakeholders

- MCAA Survey - close follow-up of individual cases
- Meeting with 9 organisations on COVID-19's impact on doctoral studies, research, training and mobility
 - **Impact on MSCA projects and flexibility measures by institutions**
 - ✗ Impact on women, young and mobile researchers
 - ✗ Issues with secondments (ITN and IF notably)
 - ✗ Impact and delays on research activities, field work, networking, motivation, increased pressure
 - ✗ Impact on research group leaders - snowball effect on PhDs and postdocs
 - ✓ Virtual and blended mobility (e.g. rules on thesis defence)
 - ✓ Increased interest in outreach, dissemination and open science

Consultation with stakeholders

- **Current areas impacted by COVID-19, possible solutions and coordinated steps**
 - ✗ Less interest for staff mobility, possible boost of other mobility after COVID-19
 - ✗ Persisting travel and visa restrictions
 - ✗ Quality of online activities, need for proper infrastructure
 - ✗ Need to reinforce communication on *force majeure* cases
 - ✓ Increase links and communication between fellows, MSCA projects, institutions, REA and Commission for a better guidance to projects and fellows
 - ✓ Guidelines for supervisors and career development
 - ✓ Emergency fund
 - ✓ Identification of legal barriers at national level for realisation of the ERA (mobility, labour law, etc.) > Study by DG RTD
 - ✓ Improve info on visa regulations

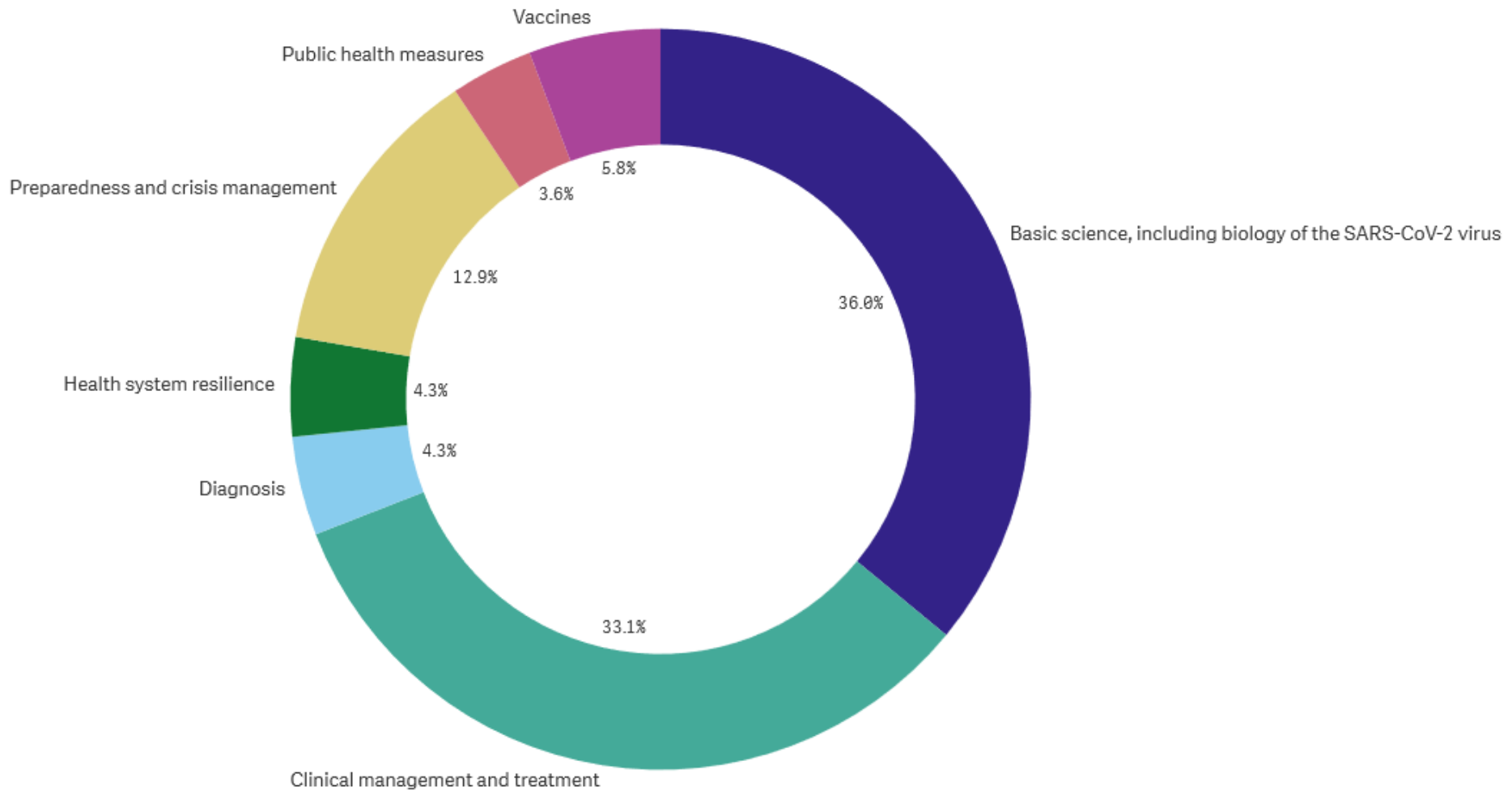
MSCA COVID-19 information and projects

- MSCA COVID-19 page launched in March 2020
- Provide a single info point for MSCA projects
 - **ERA Corona Platform**
 - **Open Access Resources**
 - Guidelines for projects working on COVID-19
 - COVID-19 Data Portal
 - **Call extensions**
 - **FAQs and news for projects and fellows**
 - **EC action and funding on COVID-19**
- Highlight MSCA projects and fellows working on COVID-19
- Social media: Special Fellow of the Week featuring fellows working on COVID-19

MSCA COVID-19 Portfolio

- Offer possible reorientation of work plans
- Redirect to relevant funding sources and COVID-19 funding
- Identification of COVID-19 results
- Identification of EU-funded projects contributing to:
 - Health Emergency Fighting
 - Resilience and preparedness
 - Long term actions
- 655 projects identified for all EU R&I programmes
 - **81 MSCA with a direct link to COVID-19**
 - of which **40 with COVID-19 results**

MSCA COVID-19 Portfolio



Horizon Results Platform – COVID-19

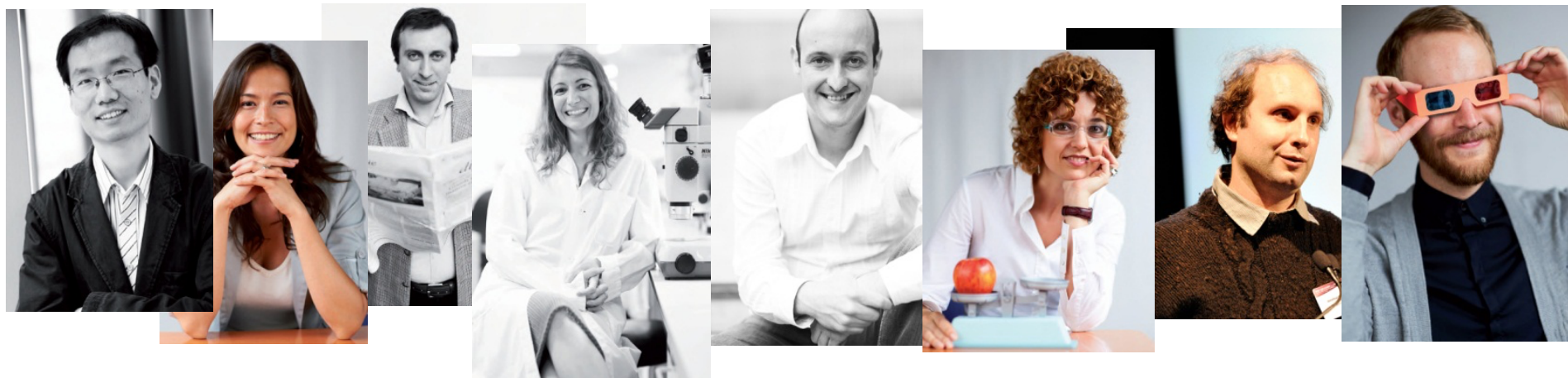
- New platform for EU-funded projects to promote their results
 - **Support policy decisions**
 - **Find partners and collaboration**
 - **Find funding, loans or investment**
 - **Find support to bring results to market**
 - Synergies with other initiatives: e.g. Horizon Results Booster
- Dedicated section to COVID-19 results
- **13 COVID-19 results published by MSCA projects**



COVID-19 results

Relevant links

- [MSCA COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [MSCA COVID-19 Projects](#)
- [MSCA fellows working on COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 FAQs – Funding and Tenders Portal](#) (updated soon)
- [Horizon Results Platform](#) (including COVID-19 results)
- [CORDIS articles about MSCA COVID-19 projects](#)
- [Open access guidelines for H2020 projects – COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Data Portal](#)
- [European Research Area Corona Platform](#)
- [MSCA Website](#)
- [Research vacancies and opportunities under the MSCA](#)
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Thank you for your attention!