



European
Commission



Marie Skłodowska- Curie Actions

Doctoral Networks

UK Event, 7 June 2022

Sohail LUKA, PhD

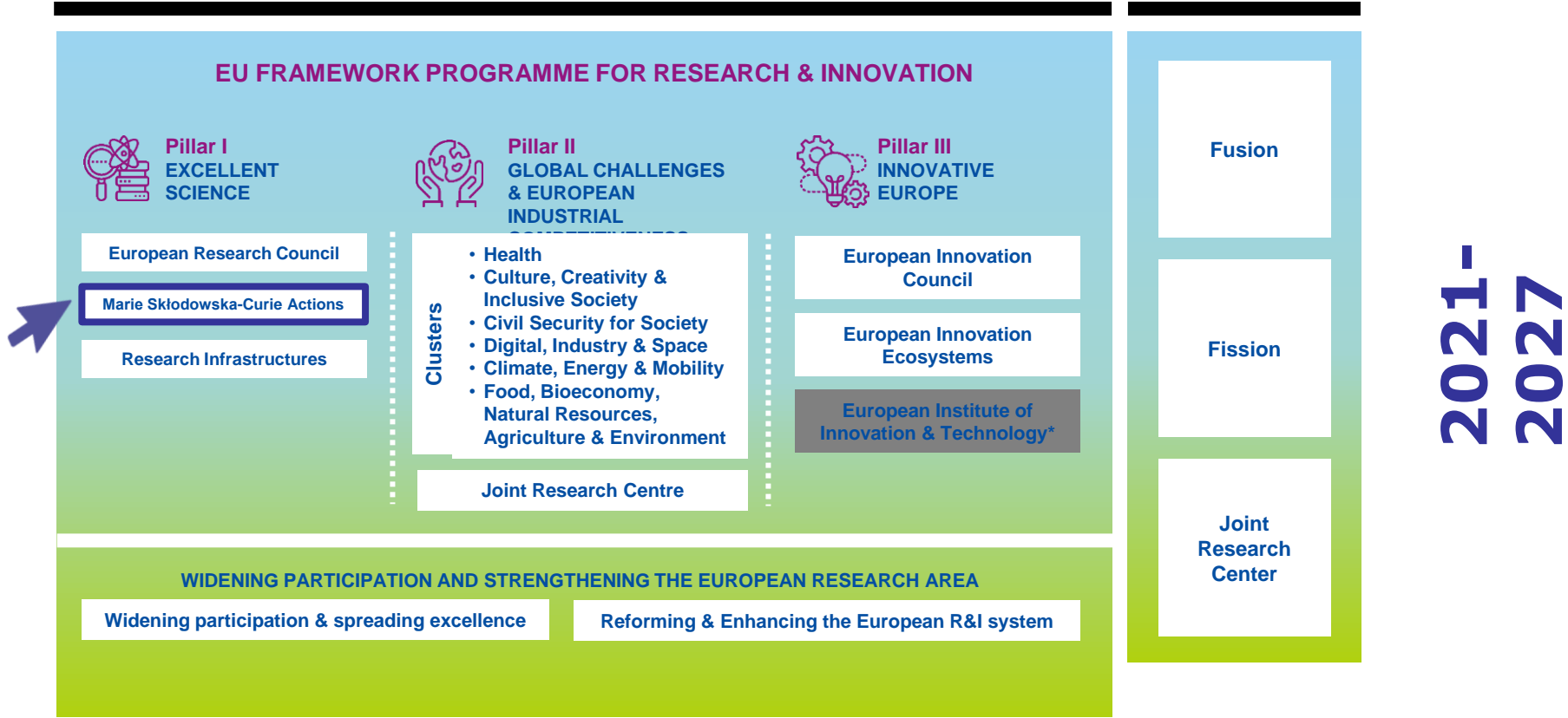
European Commission

Directorate-General for Education, Youth,
Sport and Culture

Unit C2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Horizon Europe

EURATOM



Budget: EUR 95.5 billion

Pillar I: Excellent Science

Reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union's science base

European Research Council

Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

€16 billion

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

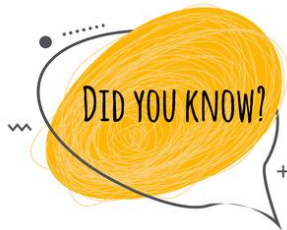
Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

€6.6 billion

Research Infrastructures

Integrated and inter-connected world-class research infrastructures

€2.4 billion



12 Nobel Prize winners either backed by or involved in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions between 2012 and 2020



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 industry and SMEs

The Actions

Doctoral Networks

Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

50% of MSCA Budget



DNs Strategic Value (1): **Structuring Effects**

- MSCA DN does not simply fund the fellowships; it **funds networks/doctoral programmes.**
- Powerful element in structuring the EHEA and the ERA.
- Joint Doctorates as a structuring vehicle.
- Structuring effects for universities; deep collaboration culture and administrative infrastructure becoming part of the DNA of Higher Education Institutions.

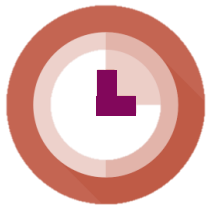
DNs Strategic Value (2): **Being a trend setter**

- Training on **transferable skills** (communication, science-policy interface, IPR...) at individual and network level
- Career development plan
- New guidelines on supervision
- Green Charter (also for other MSCAs)
- Bridging Academic and Non-Academic: Industrial Doctorate; Inter-Sectoral Secondments.

DNs Strategic Value (3): **Attractiveness of European programmes**

- Attractive for doctoral candidates, universities and employers.
- Access to wider portfolio of courses, expertise and infrastructure for **doctoral candidates**.
- As well as skills relevant for **innovation and long-term employability**
- **Formal acknowledgement** of international and interdisciplinary experiences providing more attractiveness to **employers**.
- Contribute to **internationalisation**, attractiveness international visibility of European doctoral programmes

MSCA Doctoral Networks



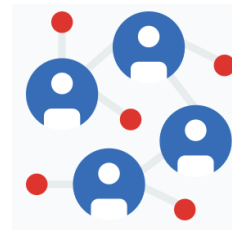
DURATION

4 years



COMPOSITION

Min 3 organisations
in 3 different EU
MS or HE AC (at
least 1 MS)



FELLOWSHIP

Between 3 and 36
months



BUDGET

360 PM for regular
DN;
540 PM for Industrial
Doctorates & Joint
Doctorates

Doctoral Networks Modalities

Doctoral Networks (Standard): A consortium of at least 3 entities offering innovative doctoral training in academia and/or non-academia.

Industrial Doctorates: Doctoral candidates step outside academia to develop skills in industry and business by being jointly supervised by the academic and non-academic organisations.

Joint Doctorates: Highly integrated doctoral training leading to joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees and with the candidate selection and supervision jointly done by the degree-awarding institutions.

Features

Size:

- Up to 360 person-month (standard) + 180 **additional** person-month as incentive for Industrial or Joint Doctorates

Duration:

- **Programme:** Max 48 months
- **Fellowship:** Between 3 and 36 months
- **Secondments:** Up to 1/3 of fellowship duration for standard DN and with no upper limit for Industrial and Joint doctorates
- **Industrial Doctorate:** Minimum 50% of the fellowship duration spent at the non-academic sector

Eligible *Participants*

Who Applies?

- **Consortia** of universities, research institutions, businesses including SMEs and other non-academic actors like NGOs, Charities, Hospitals, government institutions, etc.
- At least **three independent legal entities**, each established in a different MS or AC; minimum of 1 beneficiary from a MS (on top of this minimum, any entity from any third country can join; no minimum for associated partners).

Eligible *Researchers*

- Supported researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment)
- Researchers must be **enrolled in a doctoral programme**, in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country (**at least 2 for Joint Doctorates**)
- For Industrial Doctorates, candidate must spend **minimum 50% of fellowship at non-academic partner**
- **Any nationality**
- **Mobility rule**: must not have resided or carried out main activity in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date

EU contribution

1 unit
=
1 person/month

Researcher unit cost	Institutional unit cost	
"top-up allowance"	Research, training and networking	Management and indirect costs
3400€ (living allowance)* 600 € (mobility allowance) 660 € (family allowance)**	1600 €	1200 €

* adjusted through the application of a country correction coefficient

**if applicable, as well as long term leave allowance or special needs allowance

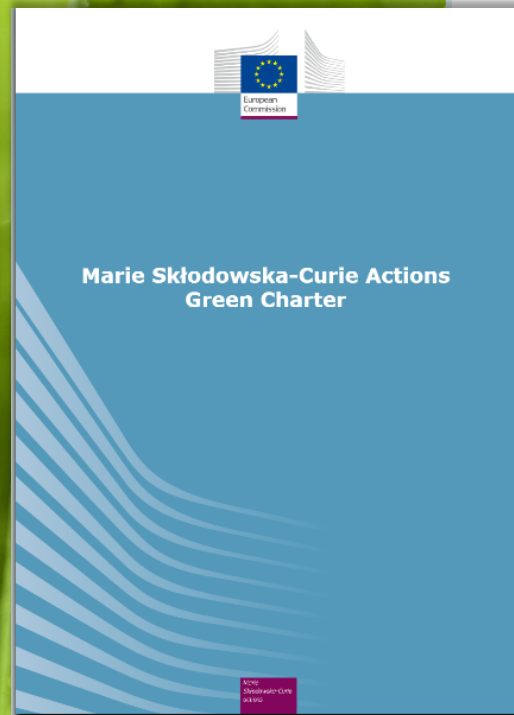
Beneficiaries and associated partners

	Beneficiaries	Associated Partners
Academic/Non-academic	✓	✓
Signatories of the Grant Agreement	✓	✗
Recruitment of researchers	✓	✗
Training and/or hosting of seconded researchers	✓	✓
Participation in Supervisory Board	✓	✓
Directly claim costs	✓	✗

Novelties

- MSCA Green Charter
- Guidelines on Supervision
- Providing an alternative to multiple recruitment in Industrial Doctorates (as of the 2022 call)

MSCA Green Charter

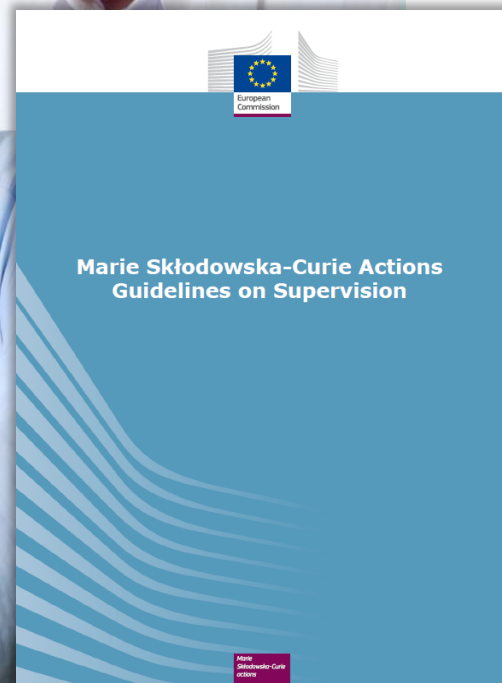


Horizon Europe Work Programme :
*“All MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to address the principles of the **MSCA Green Charter** and implement measures to minimize the environmental footprint of their activities”.*

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/green-charter>



Guidelines on Supervision



Horizon Europe Work Programme :

*“All MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to follow the recommendations outlined in the **Guidelines for MSCA supervision**”.*

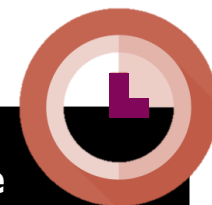
A set of recommendations to be adopted on a best effort basis by participants in the programme – both individuals and institutions – e.g. from research support and career development to well-being, conflict resolution and training for supervisors.

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/msca-guidelines-supervision>

Multiple Recruitment in Industrial Doctorates

- In the 2021 calls, the non-academic partner in an ID **had** to be a beneficiary.
- Since beneficiaries **must** recruit, ID fellows had two consecutive contracts by the academic and non-academic partners, respectively.
- In some countries/cases, this created issues for fellows and/or hosts.
- As of 2022 call, amendment to give flexibility:
 - Remove obligation of non-academic partner to be beneficiary.
 - Remove the 1/3 upper limit of secondment to allow fellow to spend at least 50% at non-academic.

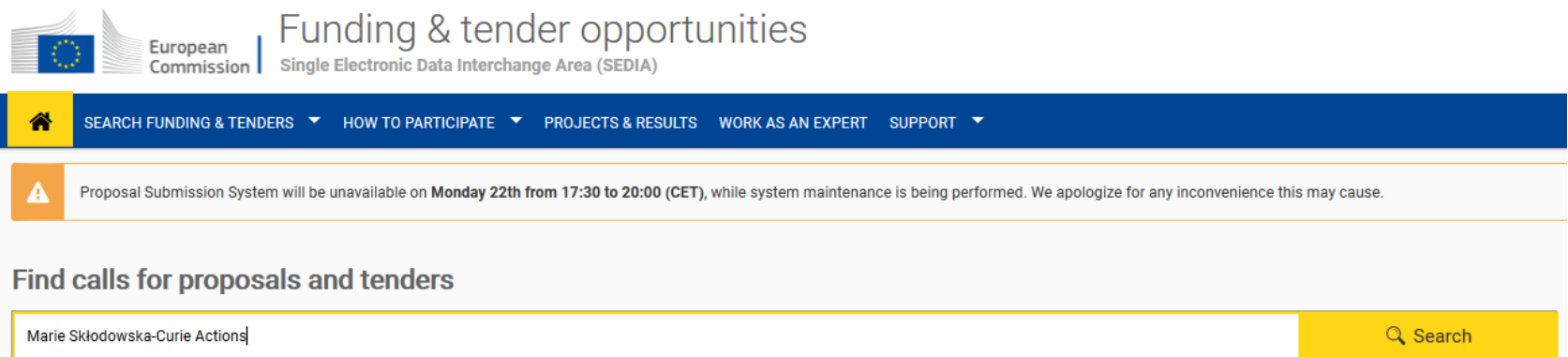
Call calendar



Year	Action	Opening	Deadline
2021	Doctoral Networks	22 June 2021	16 November 2021
	Postdoctoral Fellowships	22 June 2021	12 October 2021
	Staff Exchanges	7 October 2021	9 March 2022
	COFUND	12 October 2021	10 February 2022
2022	Doctoral Networks	12 May 2022	15 November 2022
	Postdoctoral Fellowships	12 May 2022	14 September 2022
	Staff Exchanges	6 October 2022	8 March 2023
	COFUND	11 October 2022	9 February 2023

Funding opportunities

- All calls are published on the **Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal**
- Applications are submitted through the portal:
 - Find your call
 - Sign in to the portal and register your organisation (get a PIC number)
 - Find partners
 - Apply



European Commission | Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▾ HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▾ PROJECTS & RESULTS WORK AS AN EXPERT SUPPORT ▾

⚠ Proposal Submission System will be unavailable on **Monday 22th from 17:30 to 20:00 (CET)**, while system maintenance is being performed. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Find calls for proposals and tenders

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Key resources and guidance

Guide for Applicants

MSCA Work Programme & annexes

[Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal](#)

CLICK HERE



Proposal templates

Model Grant Agreement

Online manual on how to submit an application

Frequently Asked Questions



Job offers for **individual** researchers



- Look for PhD and postdoctorate opportunities and hosting offers on **EURAXESS / Job portals**
- <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>



- Ask for advice to your **MSCA National Contact Point**



- Check the **project's requirements** and **apply to your institution** of interest

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