

MUNI

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship

*Supporting mobility, career development
and knowledge transfer*

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Purpose of the seminar

„Theoretical“ part

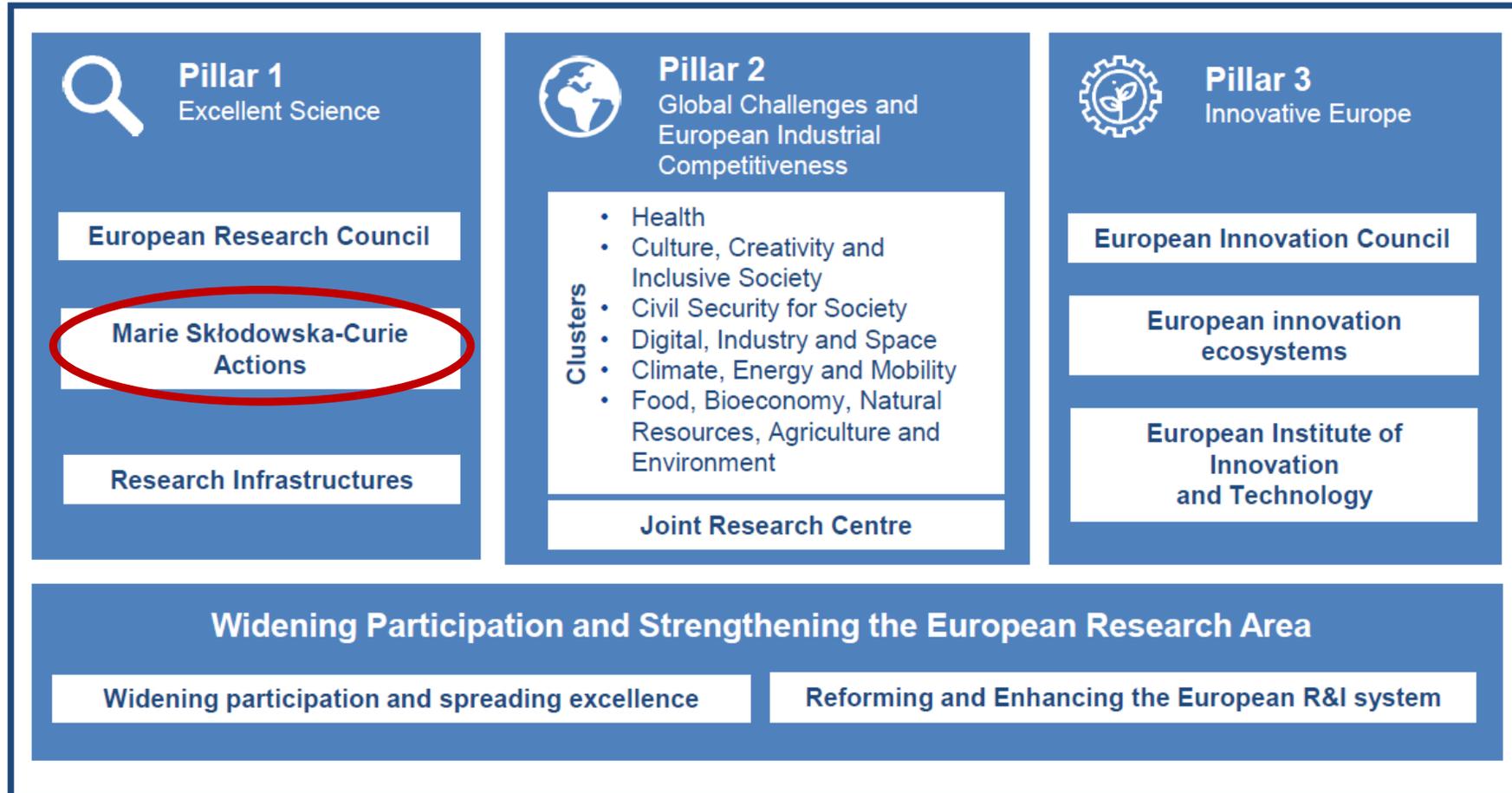
- Purpose and key features of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship
 - ERA Fellowship 
 - OP J.A.C. MSCA 
- Calls in 2021 and 2022

Practical part – discussion with [Dr. Kamila Pacovská](#), Centre for Ethics, Univerzita Pardubice

Note: Information based on a *WORK PROGRAMME draft, March 2021*

MSCA within HORIZON EUROPE

- **Horizon Europe (HEU)** = the 9th Framework Programme (2021-2027)
- HEU has got **3 pillars + horizontal schemes** shortly called „Widening“



MSCA in H2020 and HE

ITN (Innovative Training Networks)

- **DN, Doctoral Networks**

IF (Individual Fellowships)

- **PF, Postdoctoral Fellowships** 

RISE (Research and Innovation Staff Exchange)

- **SE (Staff Exchanges)**

COFUND (Co-finances of regional, national and international programmes)

- **COFUND**, Co-finances of regional, national and international programmes

NIGHT (Researchers' Night)

- **MSCA and Citizens**

WHO IS IT FOR?

- **Postdocs = in possession of doctoral degree** (also those who successfully defended their doctoral thesis) ☀️
- And **not more than 8 years after PhD** (doctoral thesis defence) ☀️
- Who have not submitted a MSCA-PF proposal in the previous call with score <70% ☀️
- **Any field** of science
- **bottom-up** topics!

MOBILITY RULE

Applicants have not resided/studied/worked in the country of their host organization for **more than 12 months in the 36 months** immediately **prior to the deadline**



8 EVALUATION PANELS:

- Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY).
- Each panel will establish **two ranked lists**, one for **European** and one for **Global Postdoctoral Fellowships**.

Writing Tips

- „Select“ your evaluators through selecting the right descriptors and the right free keywords – that is the way your proposal will be match with an evaluator from the database
- Be careful in case your topic is highly interdisciplinary; you should always make sure that your „weaker“ discipline will be very safely described and not identified by the primary descriptors and key words

OBJECTIVES OF MSCA-PF

What impacts the funder envisions?

enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers wishing to acquire **new skills through advanced training**, **i**nternational, **i**nterdisciplinary and **i**nter-sectoral mobility

Writing Tips

- *Describe how you can do achieve those impacts on yourself and your potential career using the specific topic, relationship with your supervisor and special context of local environment and the resulting trainings*
- *Notice – and address in your proposal – the important „3 I’s principle“*

encourage researchers to work on research and innovation projects also in the **non-academic sector**

Writing Tips

- *Focus on acquiring skills (through trainings) that can potentially facilitate your career outside academia*
- *Despite you may loathe this idea, immerse yourself in this fantasy and **do realise such options***

support excellent researchers of any nationality, including researchers wishing to **reintegrate in Europe**, researchers who are displaced by conflict as well as researchers with high potential aiming for a career restart in research

MOBILITY

Essential and mandatory aspect of any MSCA

Two types of *Postdoctoral Fellowships* – EF & GF with separate budgets

Option of **SECONDMENTS** within EF, GF

- anywhere in the world 
- EF – up to 1/3 of the EF 
- GF – up to 1/3 of the outgoing phase, max 3 months can be spent at the start of the project at HI or other organization being part of the project
- Short visits possible, too...

Optional **ADDITIONAL PERIOD!**

- Up to 6 months in non-academic sector in an **EU MS or AC**
- Letter of commitment mandatory

European Fellowships (EF)

- within EU member states of Associated countries (including UK)
- 12-24 months
- Any nationality
- Part time possible (min 50% on action)

Global Fellowships (GF):

- 12-24 outgoing (= in a Third country) &
- 12 months **mandatory** return phase in MS/AC (any organisation!)
- For MS/AC nationals and long-term residents
- Part time possible except for outgoing phase

ANY Third country (12-24 MONTHS)

Mandatory return to the EU/AC (12 MONTHS)

MSCA FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

How much is there for me?

| RESEARCHERS UNIT COSTS | | INSTITUTIONAL UNIT COSTS | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| SPECIFIC ITEM | UNIT COST (person-month – PMs) | SPECIFIC ITEM | UNIT COST (person-month – PMs) |
| Living Allowance | €5,080 | Research, training and networking | €1,000 |
| Mobility Allowance | €600 | Management and indirect costs | €650 |
| Family Allowance (if applicable) | €660 | | |
| Long-term leave allowance (if applicable) | €5,680 x % covered by the beneficiary | | |
| Special needs allowance (if applicable) | Requested unit x 1/number of months | | |

- **The living allowance is a contribution to the gross-gross salary** of the fellow including compulsory deductions under national law (e.g. employer and employee social security contributions, taxes etc.).
- **For the Living allowance, a Country Correction Coefficient (CCC) applies**, the rates are specified in the MSCA Work Programme. **The coefficient for Czechia is 79.1 %**
- For the Global Fellowships, the CCC is applied to the outgoing country during the outgoing phase, and to the CCC for the return country during returning phase

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- Special needs allowance - 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.

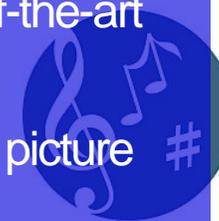
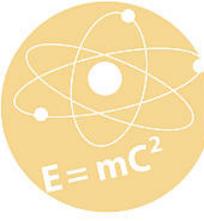
MSCA – openings and deadlines of calls

| Year | Action | Estimated opening* | Estimated deadline* |
|------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | Doctoral Networks | 18 May 2021 | 16 November 2021 |
| | Postdoctoral Fellowships | 18 May 2021 | 15 September 2021 |
| 2021 | Staff Exchanges | 7 October 2021 | 9 March 2022 |
| | COFUND | 12 October 2021 | 10 February 2022 |
| | MSCA and Citizens (covers 2 editions) | 17 June 2021 | 7 October 2021 |
| | Doctoral Networks | 3 May 2022 | 15 November 2022 |
| | Postdoctoral Fellowships | 13 April 2022 | 14 September 2022 |
| 2022 | Staff Exchanges | 6 October 2022 | 8 March 2023 |
| | COFUND | 11 October 2022 | 9 February 2023 |
| | MSCA and Citizens | No call foreseen in 2022 | |

**Dates to be confirmed with the adoption of the Work Programme*

TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH

Hard skills



Not only **HARD SKILLS = RESEARCH, SCIENCE**

- Increasing knowledge in the main research domain, building up knowledge on the state-of-the-art and its scientific contexts
- knowledge of methodologies and methods, scientific reasoning and ability to see a bigger picture
- Fostering interdisciplinary competence
- Research risks assessment
- ...

Writing Tips

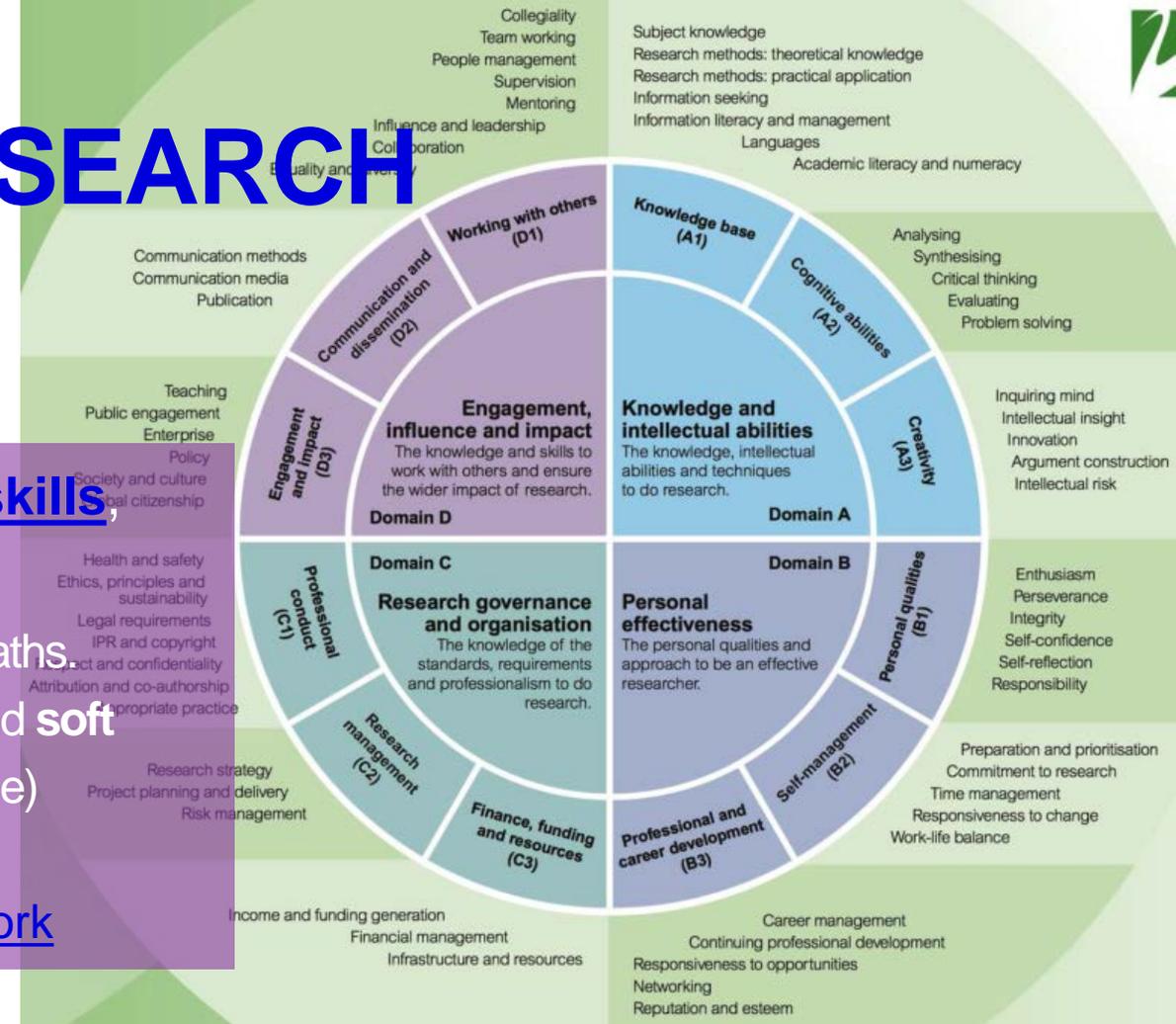
- „Gap-analyse“ the **complementarity** between the applicant and their Supervisor + the whole HI (research) community as a collaborative environment
- Any **gaps in knowledge/expertise** in any of the parties means a **potential** for development and makes a foundation for a relevant plan of **trainings & knowledge transfer!**
- **Justifying the logic** of the plan **makes it credible** – how is it related to where you come from (past experience) and where you are heading (future ambition) in your research effort (at individual / RG / institutional level)

TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH

Transferrable skills

The project MUST include training for key transferable skills, such as:

- Transferable skills can be used in many different jobs and career paths.
- Transferable skills can be hard skills, which are easy to quantify, and soft skills, which are harder-to-quantify skills like communication or (time) management, ...
- Check vitae.co.uk for the Researcher Development Framework



Writing Tips

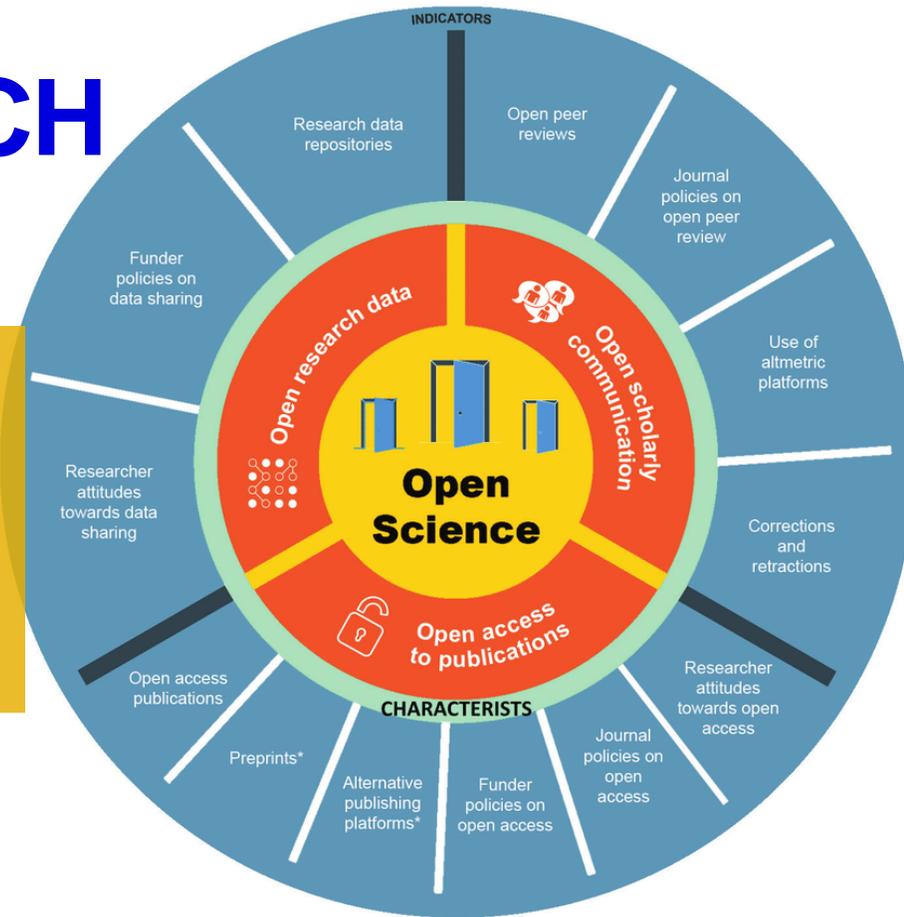
- *Assess the level of skills you have – to learn where you need to get better*
- *Specify how you can develop the skills – people at the Host Institution, external entities, etc.*
- *Logically interlink the skills development/trainings with career perspectives and options part of the IMPACT section*

TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH

Other specific accents of the MSCA WP

Other resource

- Briefly on what OPEN SCIENCE is: [Factsheet on Open Science](#) published by EC
- [Providing researchers with the skills and competences they need to practise Open Science](#) (Open Science Skills WG Report)
- [Open Science Monitor](#) – tracking trends for open access, collaborative and transparent research across countries and disciplines



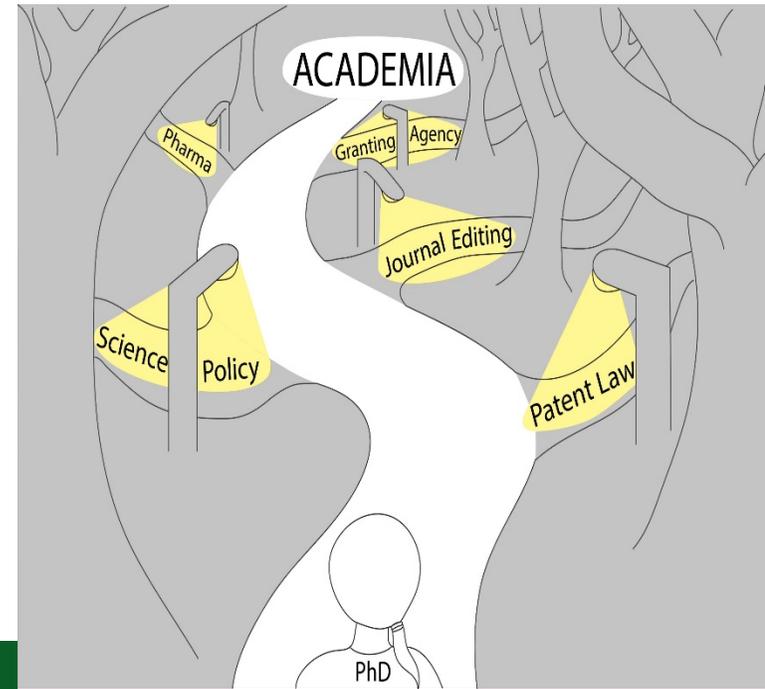
- Foster **INNOVATION** and **ENTREPRENEURSHIPS**, e.g. commercialisation of results, Intellectual Property Rights, communication, public engagement and citizen science, and ...
- Promote **Open Science practices** – open access to publications and to research data, FAIR data management, etc.

TRAINING THROUGH RESEARCH

... and **IMPACT** on your career options



What can you be... with a PhD?



Writing Tips

- **INNOVATION** and **ENTREPRENEURSHIP** – not only start-up or companies, it is about mind-set
- **OPEN SCIENCE** in terms of **communication (IMPACT section)** is one of the trainings you should take through practical events and pieces of communications of your research towards different target groups
- **Dissemination ,exploitation and communication (IMPACT section)** – tools you should use to your advantage, do not perceive it as an „external“ duty, it is **opportunity** for you (visibility, networking, diverse future career options)
- **Think out-of-the-box (IMPACT section, career perspectives)** – the fact you are an archaeologist or an art historian does not mean you have nothing to say to current affairs as a consultant of a government or NGOs, content developer, etc. – do realise you have a special expertise and that your voice perhaps should be heard (leadership)

MANAGING OVERSUBSCRIPTION

Or reducing number of submitted proposals and increasing the success rate...

Ph.D. degree required at the call deadline

Limited research experience: at the call deadline, max. 8 years full-time equivalent research experience after Ph.D.

Exceptions

- *time spent outside research and career breaks will not be counted*
- *reintegration: time of research experience in the TC will not be counted*
 - *for MS/AC nationals and long-term residents who wish to reintegrate from a TC to Europe*
 - *direct mobility to MS/AC within the last 12 months before the call deadline*

Re-submission restriction: score below 70% not eligible to apply in the consecutive call

MSCA PROJECT PROPOSAL

Part A – Administrative information, e-forms

Part B1 – the actual proposal – 10 pages max; attached as a pdf in the electronic system

Part B2 – CV (5 pages max); HI description (dense 1 page); attached as a pdf in the electronic system

Evaluation Criteria

| EXCELLENCE (50%) | IMPACT (30%) | IMPLEMENTATION (20%) |
|---|---|---|
| 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 | | |

ERA Fellowships

A map of Europe and the Mediterranean region. Countries in teal include Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Countries in yellow include Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

A “second chance” for researchers applying for a fellowship in a Widening Country

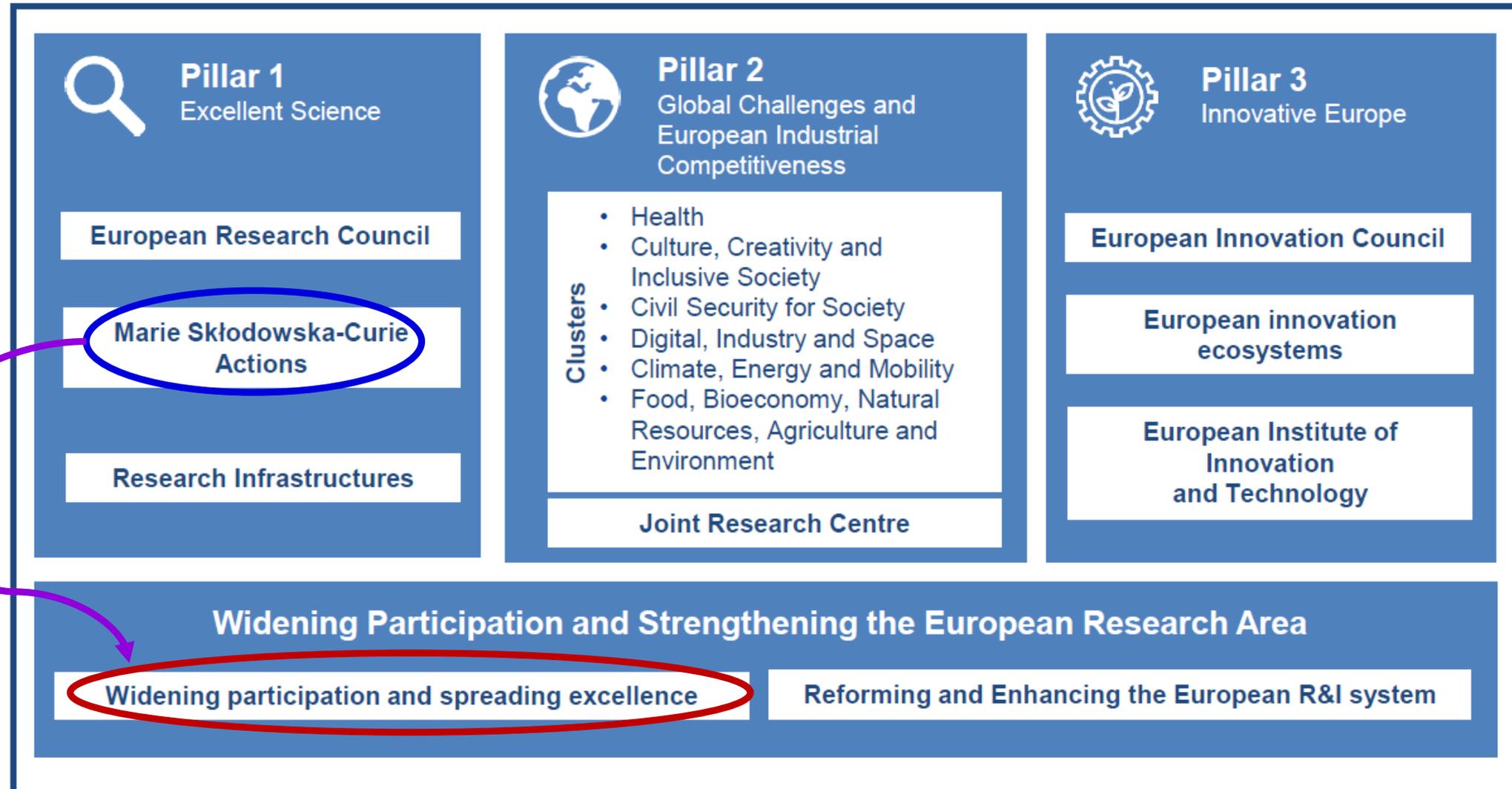
Open to researchers of any nationality coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe to a Widening Country – must take place in a **Widening Country**

Builds on the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and will be implemented within the same call

Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, **Greece**, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Associated Countries Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

ERA FELLOWSHIP within HORIZON EUROPE



MSCA OP J.A.C.

New Structural Funds funding - **Operational Programme Jan Amos Comenius (OP J.A.C.)**, programming period 2021-2027

Structural funds „Seal of Excellence“ funding; administered by MEYS

Seals of Excellence will be awarded to applications with a total score **equal to or higher than 85%**, but which cannot be funded due to lack of budget available to the call

ACCESSIBLE (very likely for projects **>70%**) and funding both incoming and outgoing postdocs

Proposals scoring equal to or above 70% will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

The only drawback – the first call expected in late 2022, maybe early 2023

MSCA-IF (MSCA-PF)



Required score

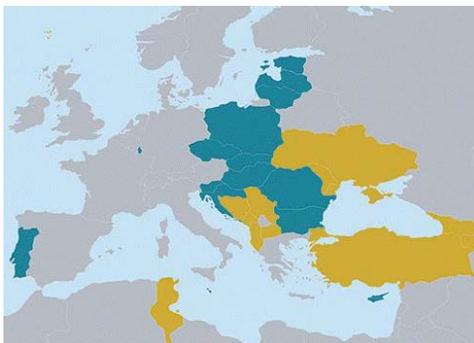
>93 %

Achieved by

10-15 %

proposals

Widening Fellowship (ERA Fellowship)



>91 %

20-25 %

Seal of Excellence – Structural Funds (OP VVV → OP J.A.C.)



>70%

80 %

MSCA-PF... EF... OP VVV / OP J.A.C....

...what is the application flow?

You **submit you MSCA-PF** proposal

Your MSCA-IF project ends up **closely** below the line, but you **receive an invitation to negotiate your MSCA-EF project**

You enter the MSCA-EF negotiation and finally **sign the MSCA-EF Grant Agreement**

In case you do not reach MSCA-EF, but score **above 70%**, you can **apply for OP J.A.C. MSCA** and get the funding

Note: in case you end up on a „MSCA-PF reserve list“ you may want not to sign the MSCA-EF, but rather wait for a possible invitation to negotiate MSCA-PF

MSCA-PF PREPARATION SUPPORT

MSCA-PF **Information** seminar

MSCA-PF **WORKSHOP** (*introduced in 2018*)

MSCA-PF **Sessions with Supervisors** (*piloted in 2020*)

MSCA-PF **Individual grant writing & consultations**

MSCA-PF related events at MU to come

Yes, this is just happening...

MSCA-PF INFODAY – 28.4.2021

FOR POSTDOCS AND SUPERVISORS WHO CONSIDER APPLICATION

- ... and need to learn more on MSCA-IF's purpose, objectives and the proposal template.
- **Moderated discussion with our special guest – Dr. Kamila Pacovská – consulted two successful IFs**

MSCA-PF WORKSHOP– May & June 2021 (details will be published on the IMPROVE project website)

FOR POSTDOCS WHO HAVE DECIDE TO APPLY AND NEED TO LEARN MORE ON THE SCHEME AND THE TEMPLATE

- The workshop consists of activities, sharing, discussions and feedback that will help the applicants to embrace the idea of MSCA-IF and clarify their concept and writing
- The applicants will kick-start their writing and retrieve, collect and combine information and leave the training with tangible material and momentum that will help them to apply in time and with a high-quality proposal

Useful links for MSCA-PF proposal writing

- YOU DEFINITELY MUST HAVE the **Assessment Grid**:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/msca_if_assessment_grid.pdf
- Guide for MSCA-IF Evaluators (seek for a new one once the call is out):
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/msca_if_2018_manual_for_evaluators.pdf
- Net4Mobility Guide **MSCA-Individual Fellowship Handbook 2020**:
https://www.net4mobilityplus.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/N4M_2020_IF_Handbook_Final.pdf
- European Commission: **MSCA under Horizon Europe Information Event (23.2.2021)**:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/sites/default/files/20210323_msca_postdoctoral_fellowships_v3.pdf
- **On-line Information Day on MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe (21.5.2021)**:
<https://www.horizontevropa.cz/cs/kalendar/yiifcalendarevent/58/on-line-information-day-on-msca-postdoctoral...> **WORKSHOP for applicants will follow on 24-25th June 2021 – registration to be opened in early May**

Who will help you at MUNI with the MSCA-PF?

Mgr. Jakub Zeman – zeman@rect.muni.cz - RMU Research Office, MSCA coordinator at MUNI

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