# MUNI

# MSCA OP J.A.C.

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*An accessible funding for postdocs*

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# Purpose of the seminar

**WHY**
**Promotion** of this opportunity

**WHAT**
**Description of specific actions** leading to the funding

**HOW**
Introduction of **research support** we are going to provide

**WHEN**
Formulation of the **next steps** to be done now

# WHY

# The very introduction to the topic

- **MSCA OP J.A.C.** is a *planned* Operational Programme grant scheme funding excellent (>70%) **Horizon Europe MSCA-PFs**, but below the funding level.

**In short, an *alternative* funding for MSCA-IF below a fundable threshold**

- **First call** should be published **only in spring 2022.**
- And right now, we do not know anything specific!)

**MSCA-PF** (Postdoctoral Fellowship) is a **grant for postdocs** up to 8 years after their Ph.D. undertaking **mobility between countries**

- It is **prestigious grant** being a part of *Excellent science* pillar within the „Framework Programme" of EC (currently Horizon Europe)

- Individuals and research organizations try hard to get them

# MSCA-IF… WF… 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-WF project**

Your enter the MSCA-WF negotiation and finally **sign the MSCA-WF Grant Agreement**

In case you do not reach MSCA-WF, 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-WF, but rather wait for a possible invitation to negotiate MSCA-PF*

# MSCA OP J.A.C. as a sequel of MSCA OP RDE

**MSCA OP VVV** funded excellent **H2020 MSCA-IFs** below the funding level.

The overall **allocation** of MSCA OP VVV was **500 millions CZK**

– all money was easily used!

- MSCA OP J.A.C. will be a „sequel" of the current **OP RDE MSCA** funded from OP and administered by **MEYS**

- The MSCA OP J.A.C should be a continuation – we do not expect any revolution

- The MEYS have collected feedback on MSCA OP RDE – we expect rather positive changes

But what is the *concept* behind this option of alternative funding resource (OP) to support excellent MSCA-PF/IF?

# The *Seal of Excellence* and MSCA

- The EC created a *„Seal of Excellence" (SoE)* for excellent project below the funding level – i.a. to help them *find* **alternative funding**

- In case of MSCA the level for SoE award is **85%** in evaluation (threshold for funding is usually >92%)

- Some European countries, or even local governments, use the SoE as a **criterion** allowing o fund unfunded MSCA individual grants

In the Czech Republic, we had and very likely will have the privilege to **fund MSCA projects >70% through OP J.A.C.**!

- Out of EU-13 countries, only **Czech Republic** and **Lithuania** funds MSCA-IF-EF proposals **scoring >70%!**

- **Bulgaria** funds MSCA-IF proposals scoring **>80%**

- **Slovenia, Cyprus** fund MSCA-IF proposals scoring **>85%**

# Distribution of scores across the panels - MSCA-IF-2020 call

**MSCA-IF-2020: Cumulative percentage of proposals above threshold, with a given score or higher (funding range marked in green)**

| Score equal to or above | CAR | RI | SE | ST-CHE | ST-ECO | ST-ENG | ST-ENV | ST-LIF | ST-MAT | ST-PHY | ST-SOC | GF-CHE | GF-ECO | [obscured] | [obscured] | GF-LIF | GF-MAT | GF-PHY | GF-SOC |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of eligible proposals | 632 | 707 | 230 | 1230 | 175 | 1188 | 1052 | 1929 | 194 | 993 | 2105 | 62 | 16 | 109 | 144 | 137 | 12 | 71 | 396 |
| Cut off score for funding* | 90,0 | 92,4 | 88,6 | 93,0 | 95,0 | 94,0 | 93,6 | 94,4 | 93,8 | 92,4 | 93,4 | 90,2 | 93,0 | 92,2 | 91,8 | 90,8 | 93,8 | 92,6 | 90,4 |
| 100 | 0,00% | 0,14% | 0,43% | 0,16% | 0,57% | 0,25% | 0,29% | 0,41% | 0,00% | 0,00% | 0,29% | 0,00% | 0,00% | | | 0,00% | 0,00% | 0,00% | 0,25% |
| 99 | 0,16% | 1,13% | 1,30% | 0,24% | 1,14% | 0,76% | 1,05% | 0,90% | 0,00% | 0,30% | 0,95% | 1,61% | 6,25% | | | 2,19% | 0,00% | 0,00% | 0,25% |
| 98 | 1,11% | 3,68% | 2,61% | 1,46% | 4,00% | 1,68% | 2,09% | 3,47% | 1,55% | 1,51% | 2,85% | 3,23% | 12,50% | | | 5,11% | 0,00% | 2,82% | 1,77% |
| 97 | 2,53% | 5,09% | 3,04% | 2,93% | 6,86% | 2,95% | 4,75% | 5,70% | 2,06% | 2,52% | 3,90% | 4,84% | 12,50% | | | 8,03% | 0,00% | 8,45% | 2,78% |
| 96 | 4,43% | 8,06% | 6,52% | 4,55% | 9,14% | 5,64% | 6,37% | 8,14% | 5,67% | 3,93% | 5,94% | 8,06% | 12,50% | | | 8,76% | 8,33% | 8,45% | 5,05% |
| 95 | 6,01% | 12,31% | 8,70% | 7,56% | 13,14% | 9,60% | 8,94% | 11,30% | 7,73% | 5,64% | 8,12% | 8,06% | 18,75% | | | 8,76% | 16,67% | 11,27% | 8,59% |
| 94 | 7,91% | 15,84% | 10,43% | 9,76% | 13,71% | 12,37% | 11,31% | 14,46% | 10,82% | 7,75% | 11,16% | 11,29% | 18,75% | | | 9,49% | 16,67% | 12,68% | 12,12% |
| 93 | 9,81% | 18,10% | 13,04% | 12,44% | 14,86% | 15,07% | 14,92% | 17,68% | 14,43% | 11,18% | 13,78% | 12,90% | 25,00% | | | 13,14% | 25,00% | 18,31% | 14,39% |
| 92 | 13,13% | 21,78% | 15,65% | 15,12% | 18,86% | 17,76% | 18,54% | 19,85% | 19,07% | 14,70% | 16,25% | 16,13% | 25,00% | | | 15,33% | 25,00% | 26,76% | 16,92% |
| 91 | 16,61% | 26,03% | 18,26% | 18,94% | 20,57% | 21,97% | 22,24% | 22,50% | 19,59% | 17,42% | 19,57% | 20,97% | 25,00% | | | 21,17% | 25,00% | 29,58% | 21,21% |
| 90 | 18,83% | 30,27% | 20,87% | 22,85% | 22,86% | | | 25,51% | 21,65% | 20,44% | 22,33% | | 25,00% | | | 27,01% | 25,00% | 30,99% | 24,75% |
| 89 | 22,15% | 33,95% | 21,30% | 25,85% | 27,43% | | | 28,82% | 26,29% | 24,17% | 25,46% | 30,65% | 31,25% | | | 33,58% | 33,33% | 38,03% | 26,77% |
| 88 | 24,05% | 39,32% | 24,78% | 30,33% | 29,14% | | | 31,73% | 31,44% | 28,70% | 28,36% | 32,26% | 31,25% | | | 37,96% | 50,00% | 40,85% | 29,55% |
| 87 | 26,42% | 43,00% | 26,96% | 33,74% | 30,86% | | | 35,10% | 33,51% | 32,73% | 30,40% | 38,71% | 37,50% | | | 40,88% | 50,00% | 45,07% | 32,58% |
| 86 | 29,43% | 47,52% | 28,70% | 37,32% | 32,00% | | | 38,31% | 37,63% | 38,07% | 33,06% | 46,77% | 37,50% | | | 45,26% | 50,00% | 49,30% | 35,10% |
| 85 | 31,65% | 51,06% | 30,87% | 40,16% | 34,29% | | | 41,01% | 40,72% | 42,30% | 35,63% | 50,00% | 37,50% | | | 48,18% | 50,00% | 50,70% | 38,64% |
| 84 | 34,49% | 54,88% | 33,91% | 43,82% | 36,57% | | | 44,69% | 46,39% | 45,12% | 38,24% | 54,84% | 37,50% | | | 48,91% | 50,00% | 53,52% | 41,16% |
| 83 | 36,39% | 57,14% | 36,09% | 46,50% | 37,14% | | | 49,20% | 48,97% | 49,75% | 41,09% | 58,06% | 43,75% | | | 49,64% | 50,00% | 57,75% | 42,68% |
| 82 | 39,87% | 60,68% | 39,57% | 50,89% | 39,43% | | | 52,20% | 52,06% | 52,87% | 44,23% | 62,90% | 56,25% | | | 51,82% | 58,33% | 59,15% | 44,95% |
| 81 | 42,56% | 63,51% | 43,91% | 55,04% | 40,57% | | | 55,05% | 60,31% | 55,99% | 46,77% | 66,13% | 56,25% | | | 57,66% | 66,67% | 61,97% | 48,48% |
| 80 | 44,94% | 66,34% | 47,83% | 58,54% | 42,29% | | | 57,80% | 61,86% | 59,52% | 49,12% | 70,97% | 56,25% | | | 62,04% | 66,67% | 63,38% | 51,26% |
| 79 | 48,10% | 69,17% | 51,74% | 61,54% | 44,57% | | | 60,86% | 65,46% | 63,34% | 51,59% | 74,19% | 56,25% | | | 65,69% | 66,67% | 64,79% | 53,28% |
| 78 | 50,63% | 70,86% | 56,09% | 64,63% | 50,86% | | | 63,56% | 68,04% | 65,76% | 54,25% | 79,03% | 56,25% | | | 68,61% | 66,67% | 71,83% | 55,56% |
| 77 | 53,48% | 73,27% | 57,83% | 67,40% | 52,57% | | | 66,51% | 69,07% | 67,98% | 57,01% | 83,87% | 56,25% | | | 70,80% | 75,00% | 74,65% | 57,83% |
| 76 | 56,65% | 76,10% | 60,43% | 70,16% | 54,29% | | | 69,26% | 71,13% | 71,20% | 59,57% | 87,10% | 56,25% | | | 72,99% | 75,00% | 80,28% | 60,10% |
| 75 | 59,34% | 77,37% | 63,04% | 72,44% | 56,00% | | | 71,59% | 73,20% | 75,23% | 62,14% | 88,71% | 56,25% | | | 73,72% | 75,00% | 80,28% | 62,88% |
| 74 | 61,55% | 78,78% | 64,78% | 74,07% | 58,86% | | | 73,77% | 74,74% | 77,14% | 63,71% | 90,32% | 56,25% | | | 75,91% | 83,33% | 81,69% | 64,65% |
| 73 | 63,29% | 81,47% | 68,26% | 76,02% | 60,00% | | | 75,48% | 77,84% | 79,15% | 65,84% | 91,94% | 62,50% | | | 76,64% | 83,33% | 83,10% | 67,17% |
| 72 | 65,82% | 82,89% | 68,70% | 78,70% | 63,43% | | | 77,66% | 78,87% | 79,96% | 67,51% | 91,94% | 68,75% | | | 78,83% | 91,67% | 83,10% | 69,95% |
| 71 | 67,88% | 83,59% | 70,87% | 80,73% | 65,14% | | | 79,52% | 79,90% | 81,77% | 69,83% | 93,55% | 75,00% | | | 78,83% | 91,67% | 84,51% | 71,97% |
| 70 | 69,94% | 85,01% | 72,61% | 82,60% | 66,86% | | | 81,44% | 82,47% | 84,79% | 71,59% | 93,55% | 75,00% | | | 81,02% | 91,67% | 85,92% | 72,73% |
| Percentage of proposals below threshold (<70) | 30,06% | 14,99% | 27,39% | 17,40% | 33,14% | | | 18,56% | 17,53% | 15,21% | 28,41% | 6,45% | 25,00% | 15,60% | 14,58% | 18,98% | 8,33% | 14,08% | 27,27% |

\* your proposal can have the same score as the cut off score yet not be funded, d[ue to ...] (as defined in the Guide for Applicants) and ex-aequo ranking decisions by the panel.

**How to interpret this table**

The percentage of proposals above the overall threshold and with a given score or [higher ...] [ra]nking list. Green shows the funding range. Proposals below the overall threshold are shown seperately and are not part of the cumulative total.
For example:
 - in the CAR ranking, 6,01% of all eligible proposals submitted in this ranking list s[cored 95 or higher. The] funding cut off is 90.
 - in the ST-PHY ranking, 20,44% of all eligible proposals submitted in this ranking list scored 90 or higher. The funding cut off is 92,4.
 - in the GF-SOC ranking, 27,27% of all eligible proposals submitted in this ranking list scored less than the threshold (70) and were rejected.

Callout boxes (enlarged ST-SOC column, 2105 proposals, cut off 93,4):

0,29% · 0,95% · 2,85% · 3,90% · 5,94% · 8,12% · 11,16% · 13,78% · 16,25% · 19,57% · 22,33% · 25,46% · 28,36% · 30,40% · 33,06% · 35,63%

35,63% · 38,24% · 41,09% · 44,23% · 46,51% · 49,12% · 51,59% · 54,25% · 57,01% · 59,57% · 62,14% · 63,71% · 65,84% · 67,51% · 69,83% · 71,59%

28,41%

# MSCA Widening Fellowship
## ... what is the issue?

- ***Widening Countries (WC)*** = ranked below 70% of the EU average of the [composite indicator of Research Excellence](#) (excellence, applied outcomes, collaborations)
- They **apply less (for H2020**), coordinate fewer projects, have a **higher share of rejected proposals**, and generally **do not attract the best researchers**
- This results in „Research & Innovation gap" across Europe (namely EU-15 and EU-13 member countries, i.e. West-East divide)

**Did you know?** → *Interim evaluation of H2020 showed that the share of H2020 applications from EU-13 entities is **8.5% (!)** and remains relatively low compared to their share of the EU's scientists and engineers (**17%**). EU-13 entities had a lower success rate of applications: **11.1%** compared to 14.4% for the EU-15 and receive **only 4.4.%** of the overall funding.*

**WIDENING COUNTRIES**
**Member States:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, **Czech Republic**, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
**Associated Countries:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Northern Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine

**EU-13 COUNTRIES:**
Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; **Czech Republic**; Estonia; Hungary; Latvia; Lithuania; Malta; Poland; Romania; Slovakia; and Slovenia
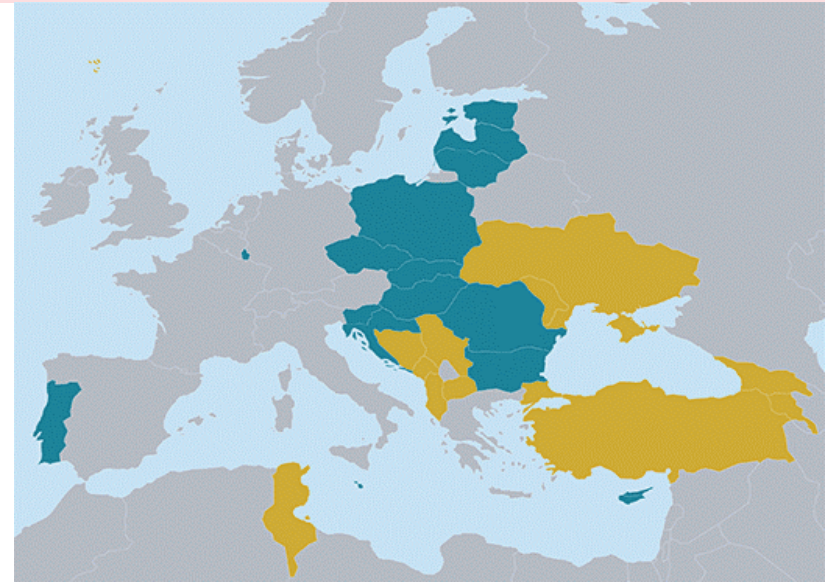
# MSCA Widening Fellowship
## …what is the response?

- **Specific** support to researchers to **undertake their fellowship in a Widening country**
- Through the **Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation** part of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme (= different part of H2020 budget)
- the question remains – will MSCA-WF it make a substantial difference?

**The mechanism** ➡ *Applicants **submit a regular MSCA-IF** proposal and if they end up below the line they may still get funded thanks to specifically dedicated Spreading Excellence „budget" for those whose **host organization is located in a Widening country***

## What is the BUDGET?
- 2018: EUR 5 million *(MSCA-IF: **273M** EUR; 1.83%)*
- **2019: EUR 6 million** *(MSCA-IF: **294.49M** EUR; 2.03%)*
- **2020: EUR 7 million** *(MSCA-IF: **324M** EUR; 2.16%)*
- *2021 - ???*

**FACTSHEET ON MSCA-WF:**
**https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/sites/mariecurie2/files/msca-wp-2018-2020-web_en_0.pdf**
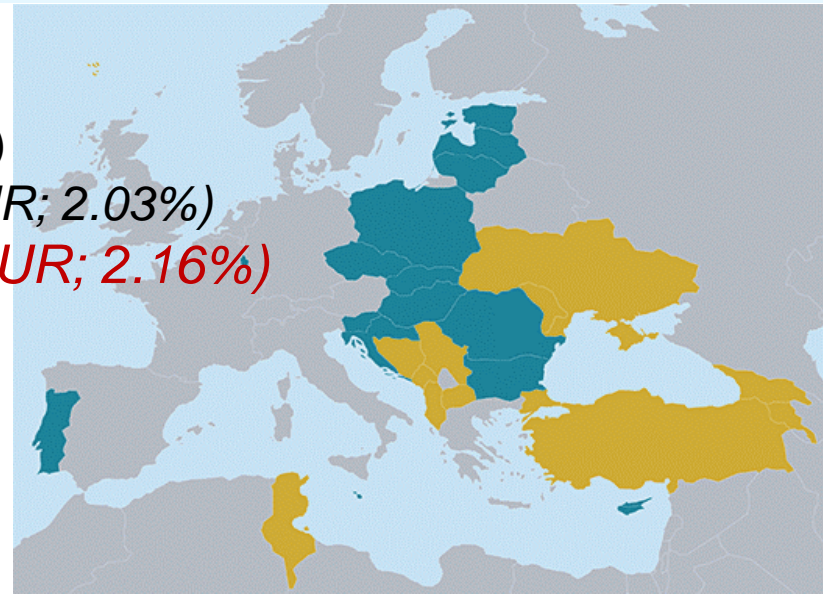
# Why do we use the option of OP funding?

- Widening Fellowship is not a sufficient source of funding (a few dozens project for all Widening countries)

- Synergies between FP (H2020/HE) and Structural Funds have been declared as an important strategic goal

- The option of alternative OP funding makes our willingness to participate on HE MSCA-PF much more likely and sensible

It makes us more competitive when we address candidates – **we have something to offer them!**

# OP RDE MSCA – success & failure

**SUCCESS**

- The whole *idea* of the scheme was a **great success** of the MEYS

- To negotiate funding for 70%+ projects was not easy – well done!

- This was a huge and unprecedented opportunity for Czech research institutions

**FAILURE**

- **we failed to exploit it** – as 90% of our proposal got the OP VVV MSCA-IF funding!

Huh…90%? So what does he mean…?
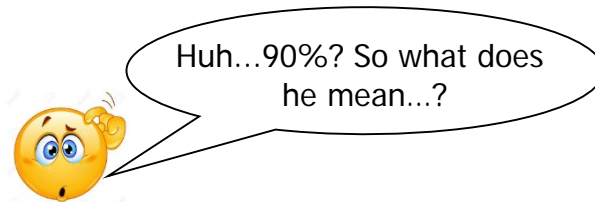
# OP VVV Postdocs vs. Horizon 2020 MSCA

- Match activity and motivation of researchers towards **OP VVV Postdocs** and **H2020 MSCA-IF**

**Look at the pictures below: Correct or incorrect match?**

**Horizon2020 MSCA-IF**

**OP VVV Postdocs**

# Why was it a failure

- **Low number of applications**, although there was a high success rates of applications

**WHY ?**

- Low level of OP VVV MSCA **promotion** at the faculties / MUNI

- Low level of **researchers activity / motivation** (not that easy money)

- **Seemingly** low chance to have a **good offer** for applicants

- Low level of support by **management** (top-down) and **research support staff** (bottom-up)

- Your ideas? – *write down in the chat!*

# Submitted MSCA-IF proposals

Total number of proposals: **86**

Yearly average: **12.2!**

MU average success rate: 11.6%

National average success rate: 9%*

European average success rate: **15%!***

**About 90% eligible for OP VVV MSCA!**

About **25 OP VVV MSCA projects** implemented / being implemented
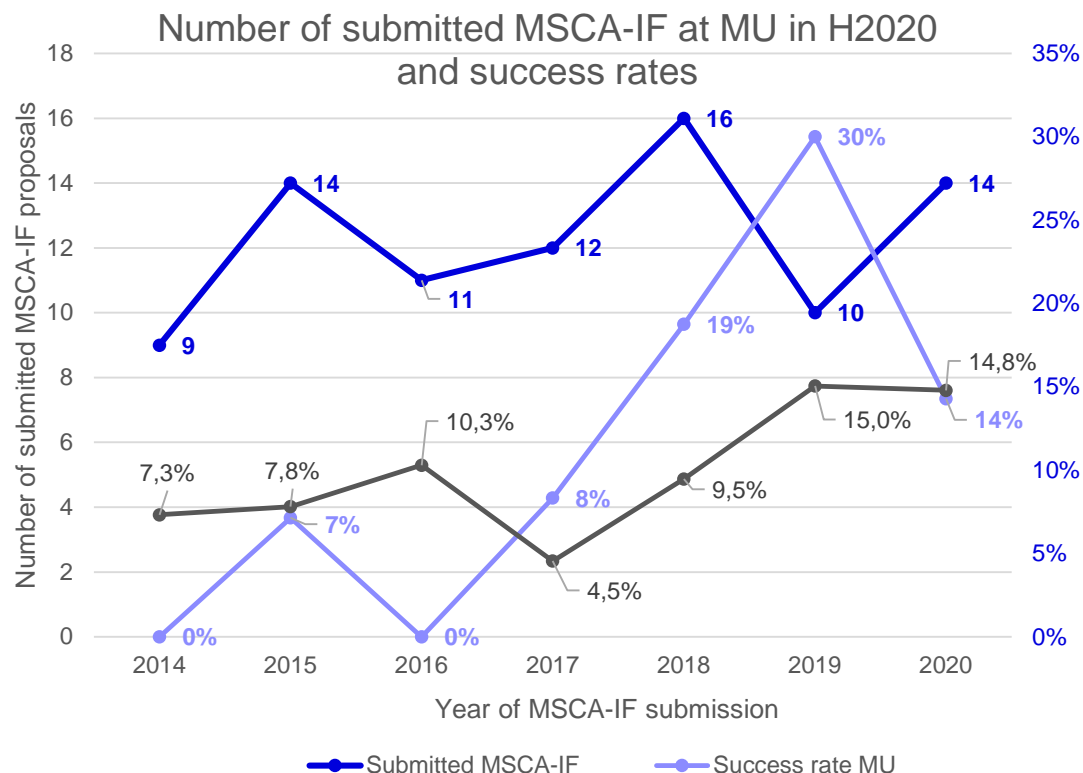
*Based on datasets of Technology Centre AV ČR*



Number of submitted MSCA-IF at MU in H2020 and success rates

# TO SUM UP –
# WHY TO APPLY FOR MSCA-PF?

**One single reason - Accessibility of funding for postdocs**

- The call is expected to fund all project proposals scoring **above 70%**, i.e. all above the threshold

- In any case - the threshold will follow the threshold set by the EC (be it 70% or more in the future)

- Large majority of our MSCA applicants were eligible  for **funding (about 90%)**

**Other – indirect reasons**

- Getting familiar with Horizon Europe projects

- Getting experienced and professional with preparation of the projects

- **The only way to get EU funding is to apply for EU funding ;)**

# WHAT

# Who is the MSCA-PF for?

- **MSCA-PF** = **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Postdoctoral Fellowship**

- **MSCA-PFs** support *Experienced Researchers\* (ERs)* undertaking mobility between countries

  - **European Fellowship** = it is held in EU **Member States** (MS) or EU **Associated countries**\*\* (AC); duration between **12 and 24 months**

  - **Global Fellowship** = **in a TC** (Third country) with a following mandatory return period (**any** EU/AC organisation); duration **12/24 + 12 months**

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\* *Experienced Researcher* is either:
  - a **postdoc** or…
  - a **PhD student** with at least **4-year long full-time research experience**

\*\***Associated countries:** *Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia*

# Eligibility check for MSCA-PF

- **Qualification**
  - Be in possession of a **doctoral degree**, or
  - Have at least **4 years of research experience** (full-time equivalent)

- **Mobility**
  - Researchers **must not have resided or carried out their main activity** (work, studies, etc.) **in the Czech Republic (or, generally, in the country of your Host Institution)** for more than 12 months in the last 3 years prior to the deadline for proposal submission.

# Novel features

- **Placement in the non-academic sector**

Postdoctoral Fellowships can provide an **additional period of up to six months** to support researchers **seeking a placeme**nt at the end of the project to work on **R&I projects in an organisation from the non-academic sector** established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

This incentive aims at **promoting career moves between sectors** and organisations and thereby stimulate innovation and knowledge transfer while **expanding career opportunities** for researchers.

- **Stronger accent of transferrable skills trainings**

The training activities implemented under the Postdoctoral Fellowships must include training for **key transferable skills***, foster innovation and entrepreneurship, (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.)..

*http://eurodoc.net/skills-report-2018.pdf

# Novel features - eligibility

## No re-submission of proposals scoring <70%

- By now, you would understand there is a problem with what they call „oversubscription " –

- *Oversubscription rate* was about **220% in FP7**; **424% in H2020** **!**

- Though you may think the best solution is to **increase the budget allocation**… they have come with this idea

- Anyway – we hope it could increase the quality of evaluations (hopefully lower burden on evaluators)

## Postdocs max 8 years after Ph.D.

- Another measure limiting the number of proposals will limit the „age" of the applicants

- There is an „L-shaped" curve of the age of applicants, so the effect may not be dramatic, but still…

* Number of high quality proposals / number of retained proposals * 100
** FP7 ex post and H2020 interim evaluation of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) – Final Report **2017**

# THE IDEA behind MSCA-PF

## *Objectives of MSCA-PF*

**The EC,** as **the funder** of the MSCA, has the following expectations:

### Increasing employability of professionals in research

- Increased set of research and **transferable skills and competences**, leading to **improved employability** and **career prospects** of MSCA postdoctoral fellows within academia and beyond
- **New mind-sets** and approaches to R&I work forged through interdisciplinary, inter-sectoral and international experience
- **Enhanced networking** and **communication capacities** with scientific peers, as well as with the general public that will increase and broaden the research and innovation impact

## Basic instruments

International and inter-sectoral **mobility**
Advanced **training**(-through-research)

# MSCA-PF Timeline

Call to be published on: **15th April 2021**

The deadline of the call: **15th September 2021**

# Financial regime
## *In general*

- **100%** of the action is **covered** by the funder
- The budget is calculated exclusively based on the **fixed unit costs for each month of MSCA-PF** (budget = unit costs * 12-24 months)
- **It includes all taxes and deductions = gross-gross pay**
- the budget is **calculated automatically** in the submission system
- The Living Allowance is corrected with a **country coefficient***

| | Researcher unit cost in EUR person/month | | | Institutional unit cost in EUR person/month | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Living Allowance | Mobility Allowance | Family Allowance | Research, training and networking costs | Management and indirect costs |
| **Individual Fellowships** | **5,080** | **600** | **660** | **1,000** | 650 |

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* **81.78%** *for the Czech Republic*

# Financial regime
## *Researcher unit cost*

| | Researcher unit cost in EUR person/month | | | Institutional unit cost in EUR person/month | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Living Allowance | Mobility Allowance | Family Allowance | Research, training and networking costs | Management and indirect costs |
| **Individual Fellowships** | **5,080** | **600** | **660** | **1,000** | 650 |

## Researcher unit cost

### *Living Allowance* **– salary of the researchers**

*Mobility Allowance* – another part of researcher's income

*Family Allowance* – for researchers with a spouse, or children

# Financial regime
## *Institutional unit cost*

| | Researcher unit cost in EUR | | | Institutional unit cost in EUR | |
| | person/month | | | person/month | |
| | Living Allowance | Mobility Allowance | Family Allowance | Research, training and networking costs | Management and indirect costs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Individual Fellowships** | **5,080** | **600** | **660** | **1,000** | 650 |

## Institutional unit cost

*Research, training and networking costs* – expenses related to research costs and **training activities** (conferences, course, …)

*Management and indirect costs – costs to cover indirect expenses of the Host Institution*

# Evaluation of proposal

| 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) | 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 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 and appropriateness of open science practices) | Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development | 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% |
| Weighting | | |

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# Summary of the MSCA purpose

MSCA-PFs' main objective is **professional development of a postdoc** through conducting an **innovative research** project, and customised **trainings** under **supervision** of an advanced expert with a complementary expertise.

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# HOW

# Major barriers of success

- Low **number of proposals**, partly due to **low awareness** of funding accessibility

- Low **quality of science**/researchers
  - MU still cannot attract the best
  - Recruitment of candidates is not intensive enough…?

- Low **involvement of supervisors** in proposal preparation
  - supervisor can help where applicant lacks experience
  - supervisor can explain the local environment, network and training opportunities
  - supervisor critically reads and add specific parts of text

- Low level of cooperation with **research support staff**
  - the impact and implementation part might remain neglected
  - keeping deadlines and work in line with an agreed plan

- Low quality of the proposal
  - Time, time, time…. **Start early!**
  - Make it neat and pretty

# Supervisor's role in proposal preparation

- **Active recruitment** of potential applicants
- **Consult** the overall concept of the proposal, from idea to feasibility and impacts
- Define the **match** between yourself and your candidate
- Envisaged **transfer of knowledge,** suggest specific **trainings**
- **Introduce** your lab, institution and future common **collaboration**
- Critically read and edit the proposal, provide profound feedback => significant **improvement**
- Prepare (= write) your own and your RG's **profile**
- Advice on **risks and risk management**
- Consults the overall **budget** and make sure you have enough resources

# Support activities starting in spring 2021

**OP J.A.C. MSCA =** Your 70%+ MSCA projects **GET FUNDED!**

## COMMUNICATIONS

- Engagement of vice-deans & faculties' management & grant support
- Identification of & addressing supervisors
- Preparing unique communication content
- Defining of and utilizing specific communication channels and networks
- **Addressing & informing potential applicants**
- Collecting feedback on communication effectiveness & innovating accordingly
- Operational communication & management of local support (MSCA Working group)

## CONSULTATIONS

- A **time-line** of proposal preparation
- Regular **consultations** of draft proposals provided by local grant support
- **Co-consultations** => candidate + local grant support + RMU grant support
- **Supervisions on consulting** – review of consulted drafts and personal feedback (MSCA WG; RMU < = > local support)
- **Supervisors' view** – regular feedback on the preparation process and draft proposals
- **Submissions & feedback** on the 2021 run

## TRAININGS

- **MSCA for Supervisors** training session and written guide
- Training for **MSCA WG members** on consulting – workshops and a written Guide
- **Sessions with supervisors** – an „enhanced" MSCA Workshop
- **MSCA Essentials –** both lectures and a guide for potential applicants
- 3-day **MSCA WORKSHOP** – intensive writing session and training for candidates

**19 MSCA-PF submissions in 2021 ONLY**
*(= 150% of MU H2020-MSCA-IF annual mean value)*

**Tens of millions within *Horizon Europe* for postdocs**

# The purpose of the support activities

**Consulting project proposals is not an art, it is a skill!**

- To develop a wider MUNI community sharing existing knowledge, skills and experience
- To decentralised the consulting competences and experience, i.e. – to develop local staff in CONSULTING skills
- Only then can we gradually increase the number of applications we are able to submit in a reasonable quality
- To shift the grant strategy more towards international grants – the existence of MSCA OP J.A.C. is a pragmatic incentive
- To increase the competence of MUNI researchers in Horizon Europe – „collateral" benefits

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# MUNI MSCA Working Group

MUNI MSCA WORKING GROUP
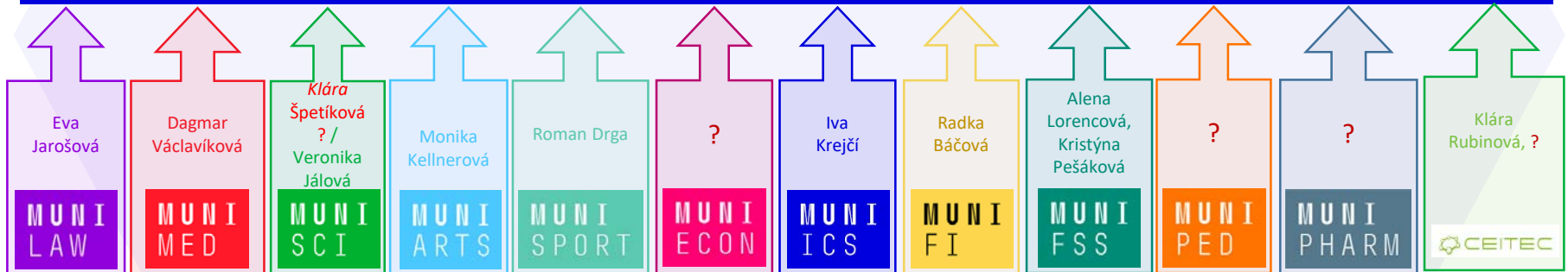
RESEARCH OFFICE RMU
JAKUB ZEMAN

## COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisors, applicants, MU management, grant writing consultants

## TRAININGS

**MSCA Essentials** ; Trainings for **MSCA WG** members & supervisors, **MSCA WORKSHOP**

## CONSULTATIONS

A **time-line** of preparation; **Co-consultations; Supervisions on consulting Submissions & feedback**

| Eva Jarošová | Dagmar Václavíková | *Klára Špetíková ?* / Veronika Jálová | Monika Kellnerová | Roman Drga | ? | Iva Krejčí | Radka Báčová | Alena Lorencová, Kristýna Pešáková | ? | ? | Klára Rubinová, ? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MUNI LAW | MUNI MED | MUNI SCI | MUNI ARTS | MUNI SPORT | MUNI ECON | MUNI ICS | MUNI FI | MUNI FSS | MUNI PED | MUNI PHARM | CEITEC |

**A sustainable WG to continuously develop MSCA knowledge and competences at MUNI**

Connection to national MSCA community

Communication and information sharing platforms (Teams, SharePoint)

# Internal MSCA review panel?

- Apart from task above, there are immediate challenges… and ideas
- A usual problem is that we get EXCELLENCE below 4.5 – it is too low.
- Supervisors, profile matter a lot – we cannot do anything about that
- We can improve a lot of the other stuff

**Campus Life Sciences MSCA review pannel?** **(Fajkus, Dobrovolná, Boisivon, Marečková, Hejátko, Damborský, … ?)**

**SSH review pannel? (FSS, Arts, Econ, Ped, Law) – any ideas?**

# External MSCA reviewers?

- Not only networks of supervisors
- We need **other people than „friends"** – **GAMU Horizons** might be used to cover some of expense
- However, we need to see interest and motivation of the researchers
- Closed loop – we need to promote MSCA-PF and provide support, if there is a **response** of the researchers (active interest and motivation, need)

# The role of the research support staff

- **Identify** supervisors, **promote** and introduce MSCA-PF
- Provide communication and „recruitment" support (content, channels)
- Providing **templates**, but also **customisation**
- Tailored **guidance** and **consultations**
- **Feedback on** structuring the **texts**
- Specific advice on language and content of **Impact** and **Implementation**
- Minor **Co-writing** of specific parts, if needed
- Support related to **administrative** parts and **ethics**
- Keeping track of proposal preparation timeline

# WHEN

NOW

# The role of the research support staff

Internal communication has to start **NOW:**

- **Identification of potential supervisors**
  - You need to use your knowledge of the people
  - You can use **ISEP** (research implementing important projects who SHOULD have international postdocs – GAČR EXPRO, ERC, H2020 coordinators/patners, etc…; regular applicats in H2020

- **Preparing communication means and content**
  - In collaboration with supervisors and RMU
  - We might prepare a dedicated web-site „MSCA at MUNI" with testimonies of current MSCA Fellows, advantages of MUNI, etc. – also depending on interest of supervisors and faculties, management
  - Description of support we provide with the proposal preparation
  - Help with addressing specific MU partners and networks

# The role of the research support staff

Internal communication has to start **NOW:**

- **Defining & utilisation of specific communication channels**
  - Existing institutional networks (**Utrecht Network, EULife, Alliance4Life, ESFRI networks**);
  - **CrowdHelix Network** – RO MRU has provided a basic on how to use this professional network
  - **JCMM** – overlaps with and impacts on JCMM's mission and South-Moravian region politics and targets in R&I, but we need to make a research on their options to contribute to the promotion;
  - **JIC** – we may try to use their network and also promotion materials and expertise related to the region and its R&I environment;
  - **Czexpats in Science** – we will try to discuss promotion via this network, we have an existing collaboration with the organisation;
  - **European NCPs (organised in IGLO)** – we will ask for promotion the **Czech NCP for MSCA**, and our liason office in Brussles (**CZELO**); on-line information session can be included;
  - **South-Moravian region representatives in Brussels** – we need to research her options;

## Other to be identified by you and your supervisors

# The role of the research support staff

Internal communication has to start **NOW:**

- **Getting ready for communication with potential applicants**
  - Supervisors and faculties need to sort out their priorities – will you „take them all", or select based on CVs, etc…?
  - Video on-line sessions with candidates…?
  - Further information needs to be ready for serious candidates (about MUNI, the city, our support activities, possible visits of the site/lab, ….
  - Typical email replies to typical applicants
  - „batches" of applicants – session with supervisors to consult them – take them, or leave them?
  - Make clear who is doing what is in your team
  - Readiness to start proposal preparations immediately once there is an agreement (supervisor-applicants) – we CAN start immediately….
  - Et cetera… this point is about practical arrangements, routines…

**Other points to be discussed –**

**typical bottom-up stuff**

# Next steps of the RMU

- **Contacting** your international project manager (or staff identified in the MSCA WG scheme) **by 15th March 2021**

- Discussing **specific steps at your faculty** in line with the tasks just presented

- At the same time, we will be preparing **„templates"** to facilitate proposals preparation

- We will prepare **workshops for consultants / project support** at the faculties – on how to consult MSCA-PF

- We will also start preparation of a **written guide for you and the applicants** on how to write the proposal

- Other „editions" of the Guide are supposed to be **co-designed / co-written**, so as the whole effort of MSCA WG…

- Then ultimate aim is to create a **collaborating community sharing experience, knowledge, ideas**

# MSCA-IF related events at MU to come

### MSCA-PF INFODAY – 21.4.2021
## FOR **POSTDOCS AND SUPERVISORS WHO CONSIDER APPLICATION**

- … and need to learn more on MSCA-IF's purpose, objectives and the proposal template

### MSCA-IF 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

MUNI