



MSCA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Developing talents, advancing research



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

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*European Research Executive Agency (REA)
Unit A2 - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships*

30 May 2024 – MSCA-NCP Romania

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Marie Skłodowska-
Curie Actions

Objectives

- Short introduction to MSCA and Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)
- Explain the main objectives and eligibility criteria applicable to the PF 2024 call
- Explain the application and evaluation processes (incl. evaluation criteria)
- Common errors and most frequent mistakes in the PF proposal submission
- ERA Fellowships

The MSCA under Horizon Europe

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
(Nights)*

Total budget 2021-2027: €6.6 billion

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Budget (2024): **€ 417.18 m** (€ 354.6 m for European, € 62.58 m for Global)

Call opening: **23 April 2024**

Call deadline: **11 September 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time**

+60%
PF-2023

Objective

➤ *“Enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD, wishing to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.”*

NEW in 2024

- Higher call budget
- Higher living and mobility allowances
- Revised country coefficients (list in WP)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF): Main features

- **Monobeneficiary:** One researcher, one host organization
- Host organization (in the academic or non-academic sector) must be in **EU or Horizon Europe Associated Country (AC)***

Applications are made jointly by the researcher and the beneficiary, which must be established in an EU Member State (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Country (AC). However, the submission of the proposal and other actions that follow this procedure (such as withdrawal or, if successful, grant agreement signature) fall solely under the responsibility of the beneficiary).

- **Two types: European and Global Fellowships**
- Open to **all research domains**, including those covered by the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)
- Open to “*excellent researchers of **any nationality***” (restrictions for GF and Euratom)

** As of 1 January 2024, UK became an Associated Country to Horizon Europe. United Kingdom organisations will therefore be able to host researchers, apply and receive funding under this year’s call under the same conditions as EU Member States and other countries associated to Horizon Europe.*

European vs Global Fellowships

European Fellowships

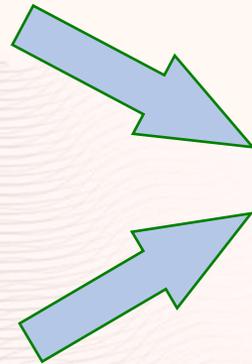


EU MS/AC



Third Country

Duration: 12-24m



EU MS/AC

+ Non-Academic Placement
Max. 6m

Global Fellowships

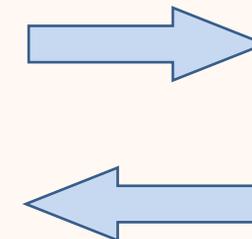
Outgoing phase: 12-24m



EU MS/AC



Third Country

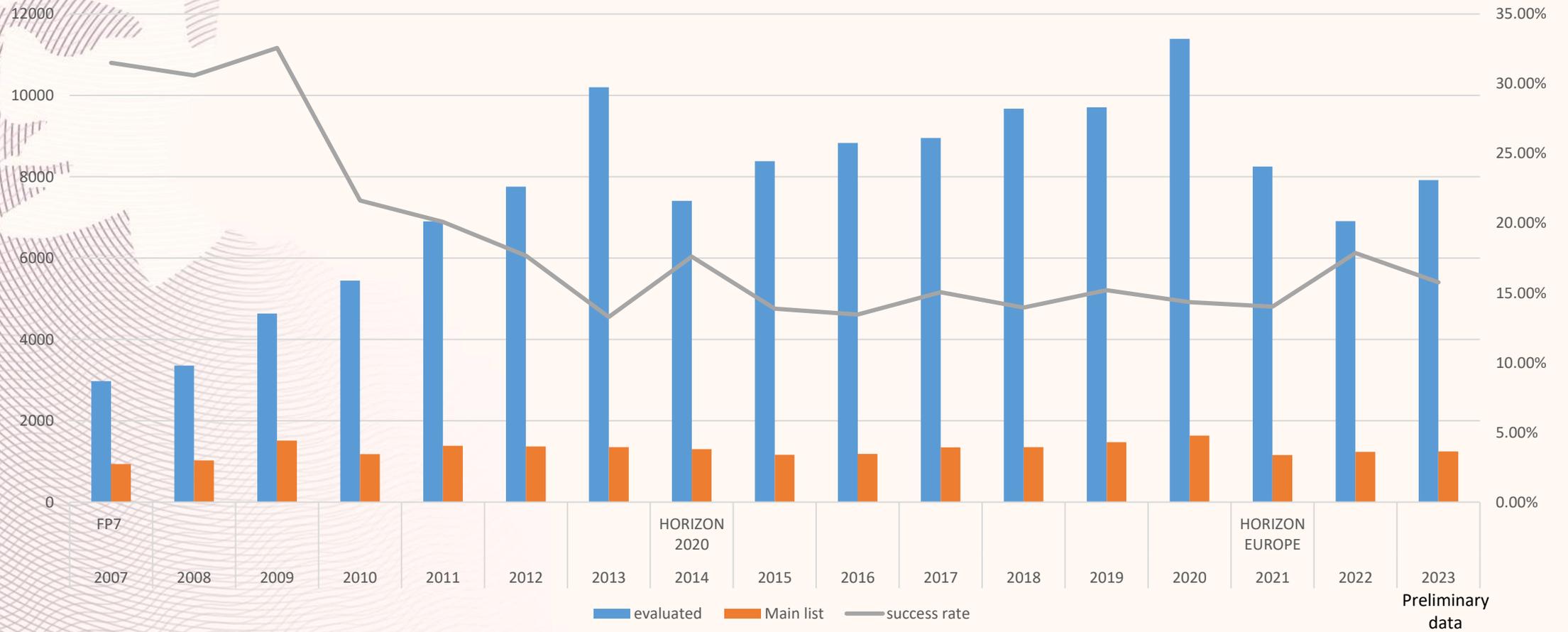


- mobility must start at the beginning (excluding secondment);
- no more than 12 months at the return phase can be asked

Duration: 24-36m

Very popular programme

success rate



Preliminary data

Key points about MSCA-PF

Postdoctoral researchers only [*ELIGIBILITY*]

Max. 8 years FTE postdoctoral research experience [*ELIGIBILITY*]

Researcher mobility scheme [*ELIGIBILITY*]

Training and career development through research

Non-Academic Placements possible (up to 6m at end of project)

Secondments encouraged (worldwide, up to 1/3 of project duration)

12-24m (EF) or 24-36m (GF) + Non-Academic Placement (max. 6m)

Eligibility Criteria

Researchers

- **Postdoctoral Researchers only:** Researchers must be “*in possession of a doctoral degree*” before call deadline. If not yet awarded, must be “*unconditional*” defence before call deadline
- **For EF: of any nationality; GF: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC**
- **With up to 8 years research experience after PhD** (with exceptions: career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers,...)
- **Researcher Mobility:** Researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity in country of the beneficiary (EF) or the host for the outgoing phase (GF) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline

Secondments & Non-Academic Placements

Proposals may include an optional **secondment** during the fellowship and/or add an optional **non-academic placement period**, provided they are in line with the project objectives and add significant value and/or impact to the fellowship.

Secondment:

- Can be undertaken worldwide, in any sector, for up to 1/3rd of the project duration for EF (i.e. max 8m for a 24m project) or up to 1/3rd of the outgoing phase for GF
- Can be divided into several shorter periods
- Inter-sectoral secondments encouraged

Non-Academic Placement*:

- Can be undertaken for up to 6 months *at the end of the fellowship* in an EU MS or HE AC non-academic institution
- Not a big take-up so far... (ca. 6% of proposals)

* Refer to the WP/GFA/official documents for restrictions and details

Funding levels (new for 2024)

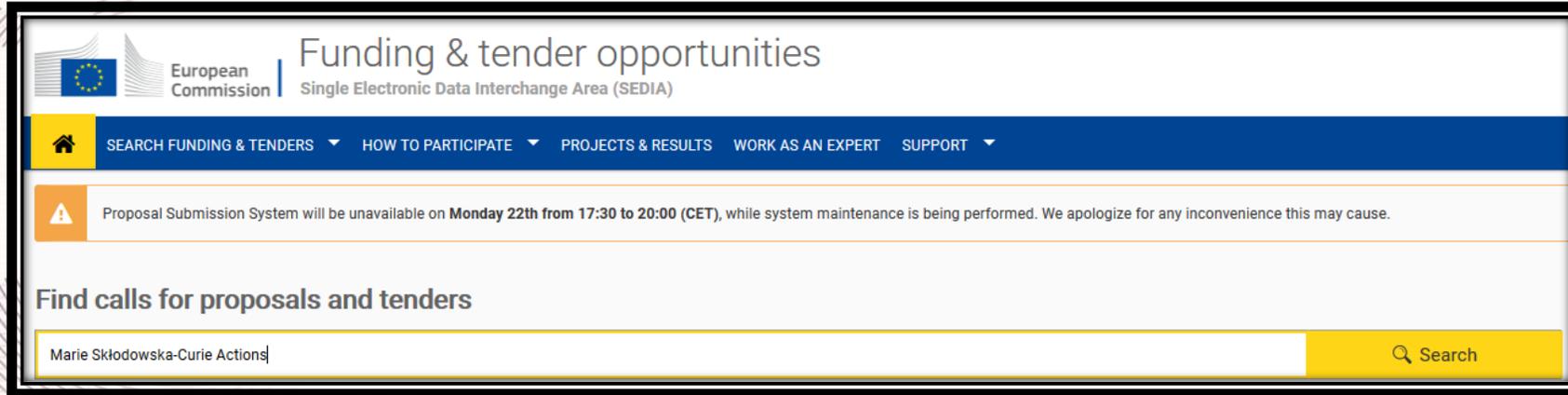
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024-2025	Contributions for the recruited researcher					Institutional unit contributions	
	Per person-month					Per person month	
	Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
	€5,990^{†*}	€710*	€660	€6,700 x % covered by beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	€1,000	€650

* Applicable only for the 2024 call onwards.

† Living Allowance corrected by a country correction coefficient.

Details available in [WP2023-2025](#), figures apply for 2024-2025

Proposal Submission



Part A
(Application Forms)



Part B
(Technical Description - PDF)



Part A (Application Forms)

Structured data entered into the IT system (Portal forms)

- **Acronym and Title** for the project (*NB title is not the same as acronym*)
- Select the **Scientific Area** which is the “best fit” (8 areas/panels available)
- **Up to 5 “Descriptors” (= keywords)** which best characterise the content of the proposal, in descending order of relevance
 - First 3 descriptors are mandatory
 - First 2 descriptors are linked to selected panel, others unrestricted
- Free keywords (optional; if needed or applicable to your proposal)
- **Abstract:** maximum 2,000 characters

Reminder: Resubmission restriction : proposals with same researcher and same hosts scoring <70% in previous evaluation cannot resubmit this year.

Part A

Researcher Information, including:

- Personal details
- PhD award date (or date of successful defence)
- If PhD more than 8 years ago, complete table for extensions (be precise)
- Countries of residence for past 5 years

Beneficiary Information, including:

- Participant Information Code (PIC) of main beneficiary
- Participant Information Code (PIC) of outgoing host (for GF only)
- Participant Information Code (PIC) of non-academic placement host (if applicable)
- Indicate if a secondment is planned, but outline this only in Part B

Proposal Part B1 (Core of the proposal)

Part B of the Proposal consists of *two documents* (**Part B1** and **Part B2**), uploaded as separate PDF files. Ensure the correct document is uploaded in the correct space.

Part B1

- Technical description of the scientific work
- **Limit of 10 pages** (excess pages will not be visible to evaluators)
- **Minimum font size 11 points**, with standard spacing and a minimum of single line spacing. This applies to body text, including any text in tables
- Use the **Part B template** available on the MSCA-PF Call page and structure your proposal accordingly

Proposal Part B2

Part B2 (no formal page limit, but follow recommendations in the template)

- **CV of the Researcher** (ca. 5 pages)
- **Capacity of the Participating Organisations** (max. 1 page per organisation, ½ page for associated partners)
- Additional ethics and security information (if needed)
- Environmental considerations in light of the [MSCA Green Charter](#) (½ page)
- For Global Fellowships, **Letter of Commitment** (ensure this is from the future outgoing host organisation in the third country)

See [Part B template](#) on MSCA-PF call page for more information

The MSCA-PF Evaluation

Large-Scale Evaluation

Due to large number of proposals

Standard Peer-Review

≥ 3 experts per proposal

Bottom-up Programme

Proposals and Experts from all disciplines

Expert Balance

of experience, nationality, gender, age, sector, etc.

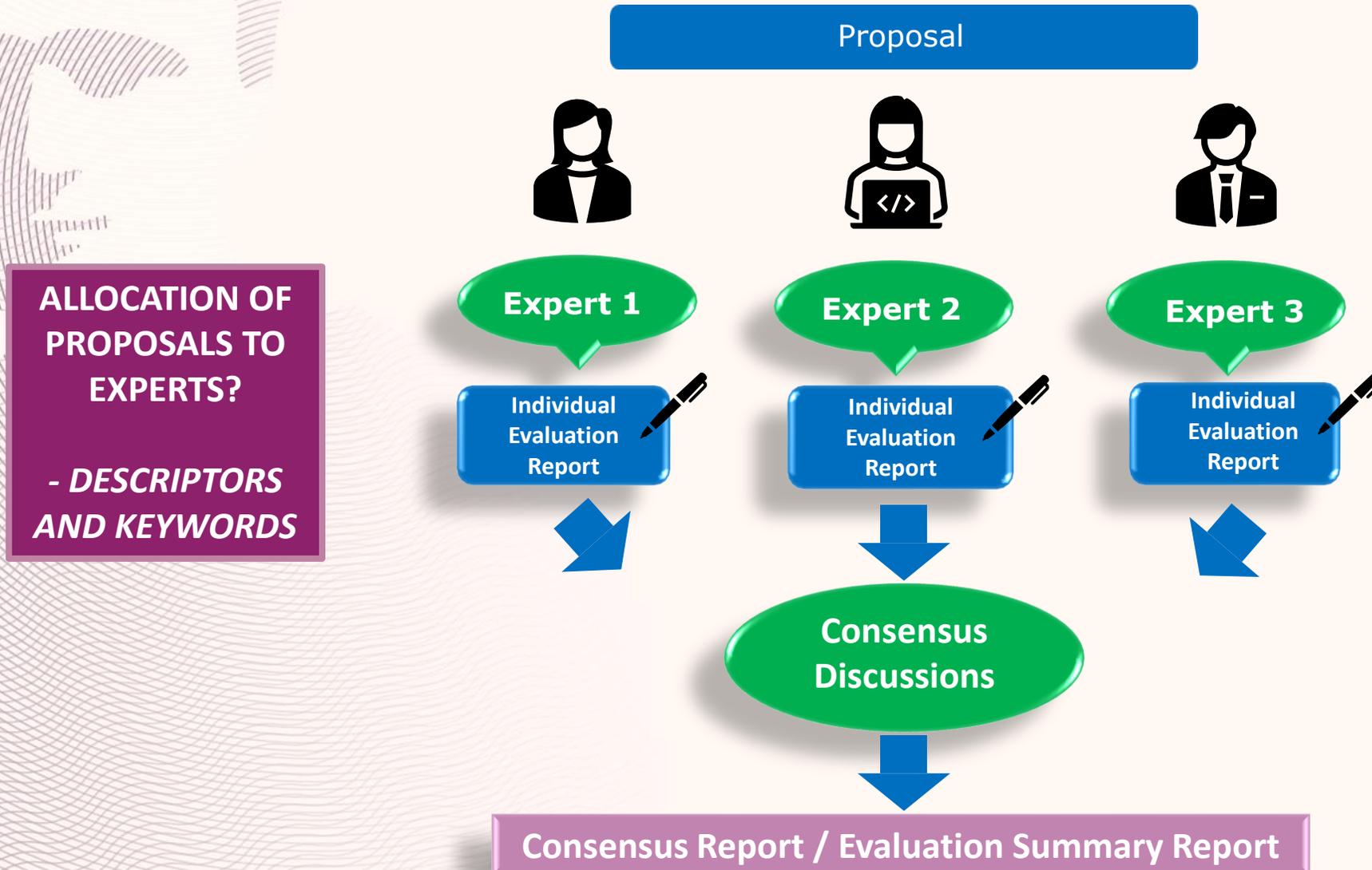
8 Scientific Panels

CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC

Single-Stage Evaluation

Call deadline to funding decision:
5M (+3M to GA signature)

Evaluation Process



Evaluation Criteria

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%
Weighting		

See MSCA Work Programme 2023-2024 (C(2022)7550 of 6 December 2022)



Proposal Ranking

- Proposals ranked – and funding allocated - **by Scientific Panel**
(NB. *separate ranking for European and Global Fellowships*)
- ***Seal of Excellence***: awarded to proposals which score $\geq 85\%$
- ***New in HORIZON EUROPE***: Resubmission restriction for proposals with same researcher and same host scoring $<70\%$ in previous evaluation
- **Evaluation Review procedure (“redress”)**

Call Planning

<i>Call Opening:</i>	23 April 2024
<i>Call Deadline:</i>	11 Sept 2024
<i>Evaluation Period:</i>	Oct 2024 – Jan 2025
<i>Launch Grant Preparation:</i>	Feb 2025
<i>Project Starting Dates:</i>	Apr 2025 - Sept 2026

Common Errors

Missing the Call deadline

Submitting under a wrong type of action

Mixing up host organisation, third country host, and current organisation

Not respecting eligibility requirements (i.e. PhD, mobility or max 8 years research experience)

Exceeding the page limits

Missing Letter of Commitment (for Global Fellowships)

Confusing Secondments and Non-Academic Placements

Requesting an ineligible Non-Academic Placement or secondment

Using too small font

ERA Fellowships

- European Postdoctoral Fellowships proposals where the host organisation is located in an **eligible Widening Country***, and which failed to score high enough to receive funding under the MSCA-2024-PF call due to a lack of budget, can increase their chances of being funded by expressing their wish to participate to the **ERA Postdoctoral Fellowships**.
- The ERA Fellowships (ERA-PF) build on the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024 action and aim at mobility and brain circulation in Widening Countries, including Romania.
- This scheme is open to individual researchers of any nationality holding a PhD who wish to engage in R&I projects in a host institution located in a Widening Country coming from any country in the world.
- ERA Fellowships will fund proposals submitted to the MSCA-2024-PF call with a beneficiary located in a Widening Country, which failed to score high enough to receive funding under this call.
- Only European Postdoctoral Fellowships can qualify for the ERA-PF call (Global Postdoctoral Fellowships are excluded). All eligibility and admissibility rules applicable to the MSCA-2024-PF call will apply.

** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia and all outermost regions, as well as all associated countries with equivalent characteristics in terms of R&I performance (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Morocco).*



ERA Fellowships

- Applicants can only be considered for this additional funding opportunity by ticking "**YES**" to the question "*Do you wish to participate to the ERA Postdoctoral Fellowships and thus increase your chances of being funded?*" in the application form (Section 5 - Other questions).

5. Do you wish to participate to the ERA Postdoctoral Fellowships and thus increase your chances of being funded? Yes No

- Applicants who do not reply, or tick "No" to the above question, will not be considered for the ERA-PF call (but will be evaluated and ranked under the MSCA-PF call, if eligible).
- The main implementation difference with MSCA-PF is that researchers supported by the ERA Fellowships will not formally be considered as MSCA fellows.
- Host organisations from Widening Countries will be informed simultaneously about the results of the evaluation for both MSCA-PF and the ERA-PF call, i.e. all applicants eligible for transfer to the ERA-PF call will receive a standard MSCA-PF evaluation result letter and an attached ERA-PF evaluation result letter. There will be a single centralised evaluation review procedure for both MSCA-PF and ERA-PF.

Resources and Guidance (2024 Call)

- [Funding & Tenders Portal](#) - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024 – Call page
- [MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025](#) and [General Annexes](#) to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025
- [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024 – Guidance, documents, FAQs and links](#) - The European Research Executive Agency (REA) publishes a series of essential resources for any applicant:
 - The [guide for applicants](#) is the best starting point for any researcher interested in the scheme. This guide will help you avoid the most common mistakes in Postdoctoral Fellowships proposals.
 - To check your research experience, REA has prepared a [self-assessment tool](#) and [guidelines on the calculation of 8-years research experience in Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe](#)
- [Proposal templates](#)
- [Topic Q&As](#) (PF-2023)
- [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#) : Guidance on specific aspects being evaluated
- [Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#)
- Evaluators' briefing videos, including on [how to evaluate Open Science in Horizon Europe proposals, how to evaluate dissemination, exploitation, and communication, how to evaluate strategy for intellectual property management](#)
- [MSCA Website](#)
- [Research Enquiry Service](#)
- [National Contact Points](#)



Thank you for your
attention!