MSCA Individual Fellowships

Last Horizon 2020 call, towards Horizon Europe

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Research Executive Agency
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SUMMARY

1. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships
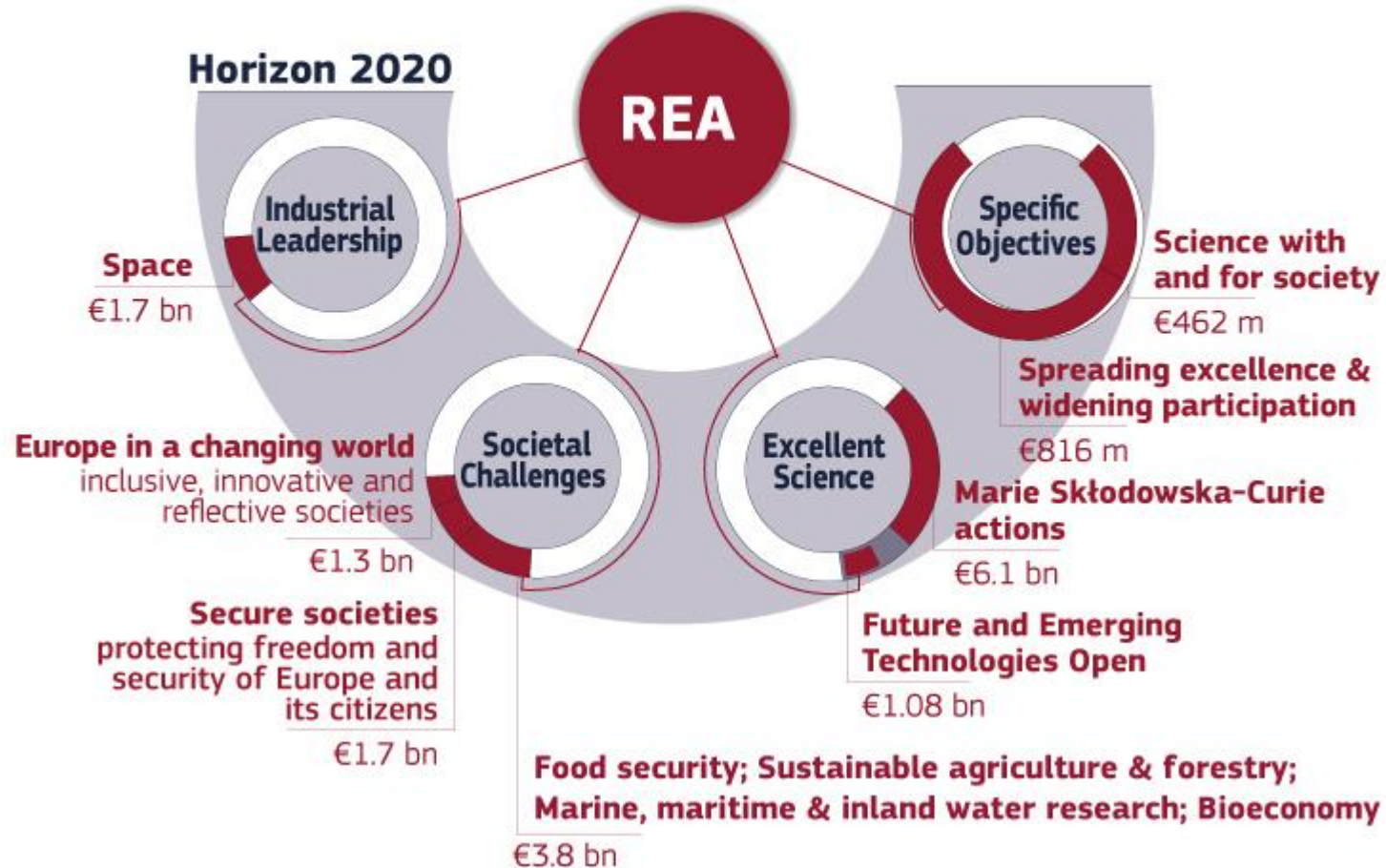
2. Evaluation Process

3. Useful documents

4. MSCA in Horizon Europe

REA's responsibilities in Horizon 2020

(2014-2020)

REA manages €17 billion
of Horizon 2020's €80 billion budget

Horizon 2020

REA

Industrial Leadership

Space
€1.7 bn

Specific Objectives

Science with and for society
€462 m

Spreading excellence & widening participation
€816 m

Europe in a changing world
inclusive, innovative and reflective societies
€1.3 bn

Societal Challenges

Excellent Science

Marie Skłodowska–Curie actions
€6.1 bn

Secure societies
protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens
€1.7 bn

Future and Emerging Technologies Open
€1.08 bn

Food security; Sustainable agriculture & forestry; Marine, maritime & inland water research; Bioeconomy
€3.8 bn

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

ITN
Innovative Training Networks

What does it offer?
High-quality research training delivered through international and interdisciplinary networks, industrial doctorates or joint doctorates

Who applies?
International networks of research organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

Who is funded?
Researchers at doctoral level (less than four years of full-time research experience and no doctoral degree)

IF
Individual Fellowships

What does it offer?
Opportunities to work on personal research projects by moving between countries and possibly sectors to acquire new skills

Who applies?
Individual researchers together with the host organisation

Who is funded?
Postdoctoral researchers

RISE
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

What does it offer?
The exchange of staff members involved in research and innovation to develop sustainable collaborative projects and the transfer of knowledge

Who applies?
International networks of research organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

Who is funded?
Researchers, technical, administrative and managerial staff of any nationality and at all career levels

COFUND
Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes

What does it offer?
Regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development

Who applies?
Organisations funding or managing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes

Who is funded?
Researchers at doctoral and postdoctoral level

An IF project...

... is written by the experienced researcher;

... includes a concrete plan of training-through-research;

... implemented in the host organisation's premises;

... and under the direct Supervisor(s)' coordination.

IF-2020: Topics & Budget

EF ST

European Fellowships Standard, Career and Re-integration Panel

Held in EU Member States or Associated Countries

263 M€

SE

Society and Enterprise Panel

Only for non-academic beneficiaries

10 M€

GF

Global Fellowships

based on a secondment to a third country

55 M€

Total Budget: 328 million €

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IF-2020: Calendar

Call Opening:	**08 April 2020**
Call Deadline:	**09 September 2020 *17:00:00***
Evaluation of proposals:	**October - December 2020**
Launch Grant preparation:	**Early February 2021**
Starting dates:	**1 March 2021 - 1 September 2022**

What are Individual Fellowships?

European Commission

European Fellowships

**For fellows coming to or moving within Europe
duration 12-36 months for CAR
duration 12-24 months for other EF**

Global Fellowships

For fellows from Europe going to Third countries (12-24 months) returning to Europe (12 months)

Total duration 24-36 months

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What are IFs?

> Individual **trans-national** fellowships to the best and most promising **experienced*** researchers
> (* PhD or 4-year full-time equivalent research experience)

European Fellowships (EF)

| Standard (ST) | Career Restart Panel (CAR) | Reintegration Panel (RI) | Society & Enterprise Panel (SE) |

Global Fellowships (GF)

> Specific eligibility criteria

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Which countries?

Member States (MS): 27+1 countries
                    (including UK for the IF2020 call)

Associated Countries (AC):

Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia
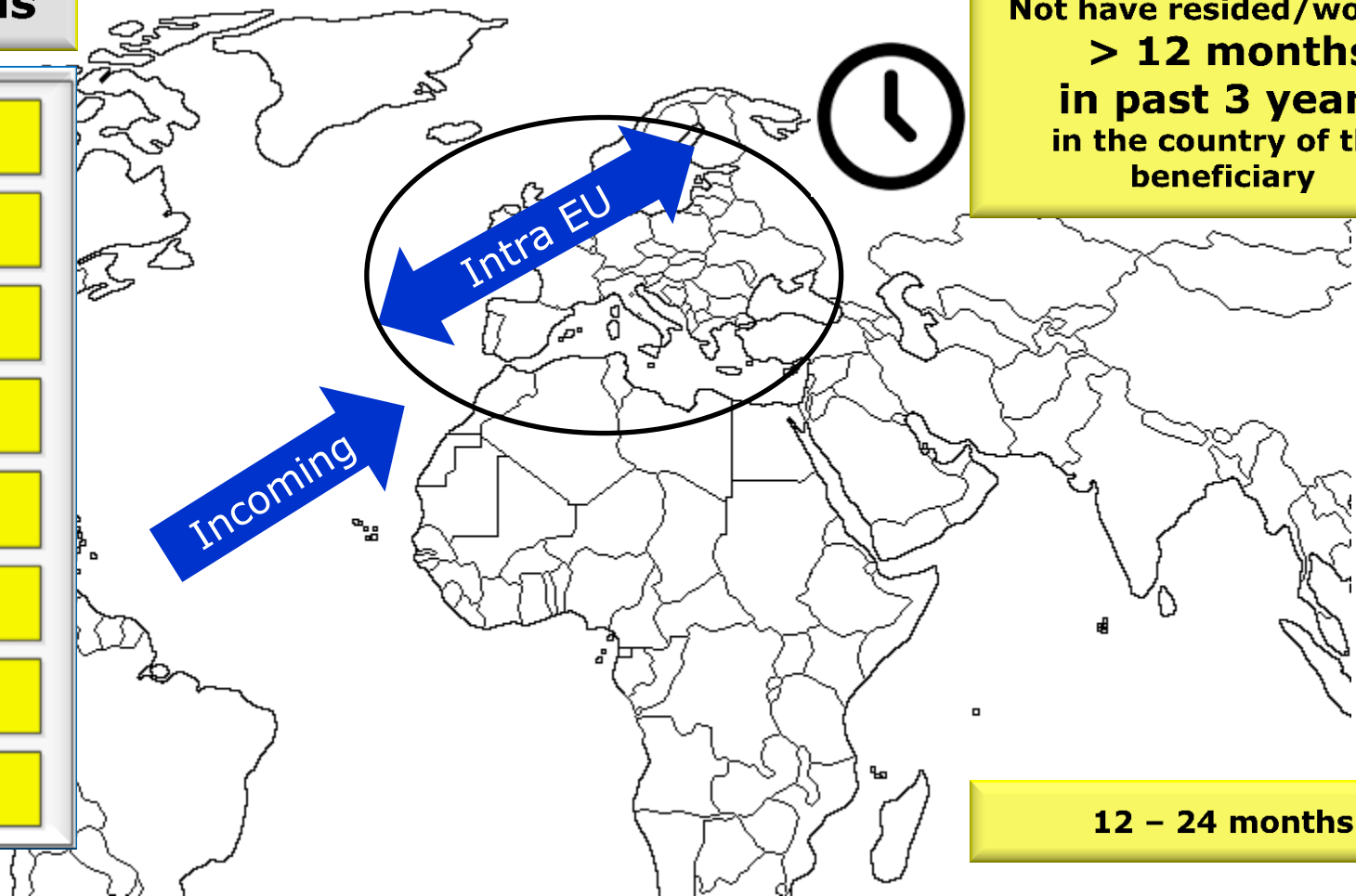
Third Countries (TC): any other country

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European Fellowships (EF) - Standard

European Commission

8 panels

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

Intra EU

Incoming

Not have resided/worked > 12 months in past 3 years in the country of the beneficiary
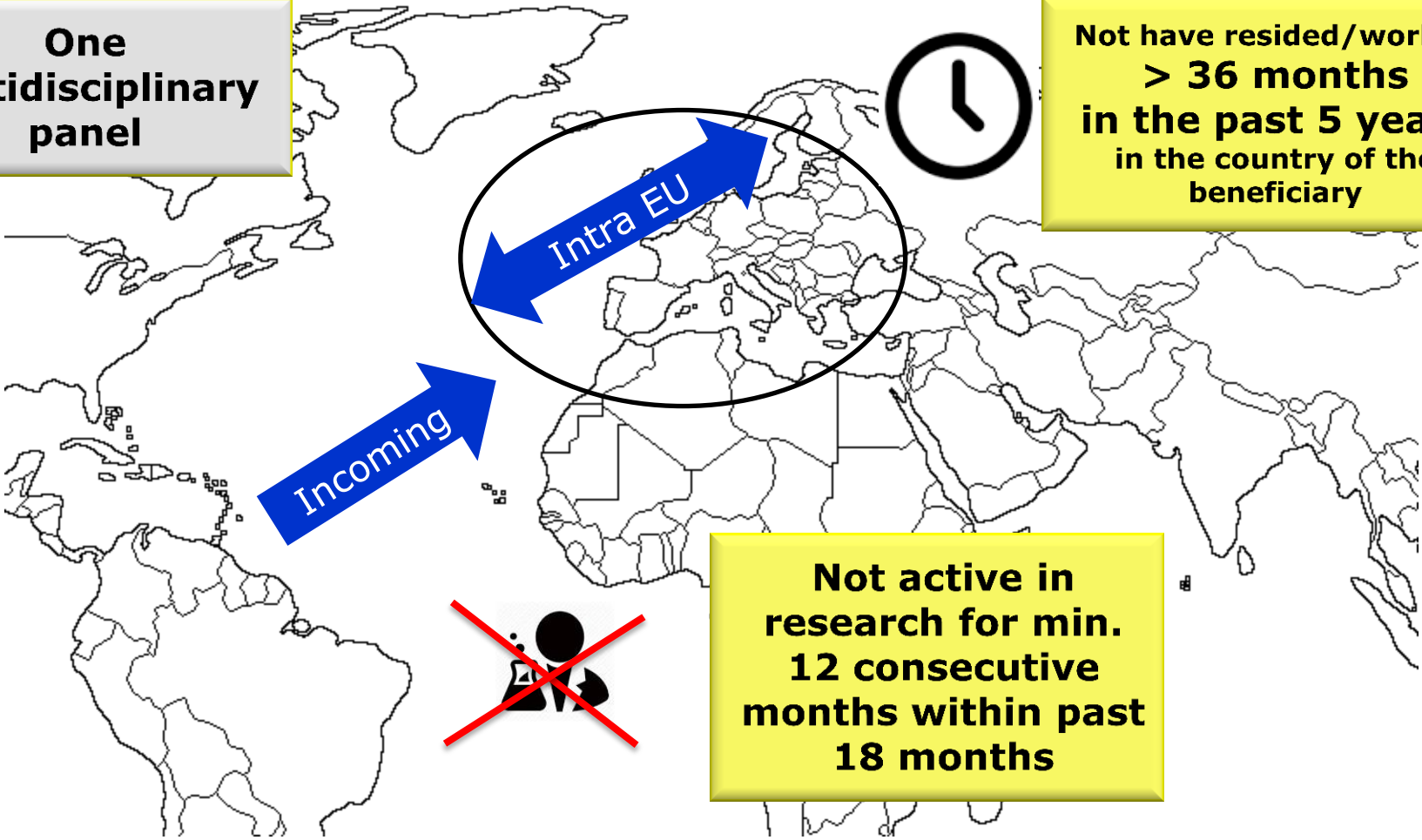
12 – 24 months

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European Commission

Definition of CAREER BREAK in research:

Not have been <u>active in research</u> for at least 12 consecutive months within the 18 months immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals (10/03/19 to 09/09/20).

<u>**active in research**</u> is determined on the basis of:

A. fellowships in research domain or

B. employment contracts in research domain

The **professional status** should be clearly explained in the proposal, **both in part A and B** (*e.g. unemployment, parental/sick leave, no fellowship/ employment contract in research*)
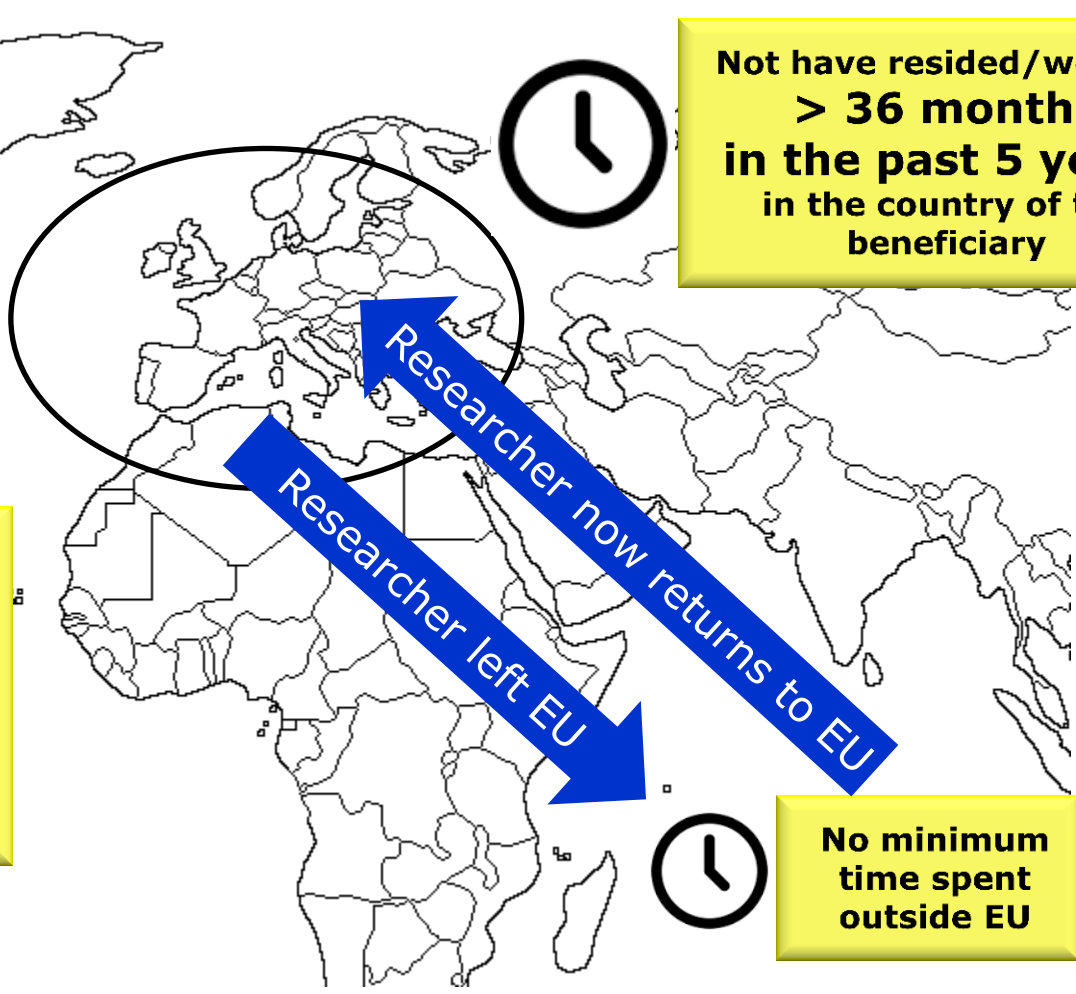
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EF – Reintegration Panel

European Commission

One multidisciplinary panel

If not <u>European</u>, the researcher must have spent at least 5 years in Europe before leaving (long term residency) term residency)

Not have resided/worked > 36 months in the past 5 years in the country of the beneficiary

Researcher now returns to EU

Researcher left EU

No minimum time spent outside EU

12 – 24 months

EF – Society & Enterprise Panel

European Commission

One multidisciplinary panel

Not have resided/worked **> 36 months in the past 5 years** in the country of the beneficiary

Intra EU

Incoming

Non-academic sector only

12 – 24 months

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Global Fellowships

European Commission

8 panels

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

Not have resided/worked **> 12 months in the past 3 years**, in the country of the Third Country partner organisation (outgoing phase)

Phase 2 - Researcher returns to EU (12 months)

Phase 1 – outside of EU (up to 24 months)

If not **European**, the researcher must have spent at least 5 years in Europe before leaving (long term residency) term residency)

DOES NOT sign the Grant Agreement

DOES NOT recruit the researcher

DOES NOT claim costs directly from the action

Partner Organisation

➢ Location: Third Country (not MS or AC)

➢ Nominates a Supervisor for the researcher

➢ Provides a signed **Letter of Commitment** (in the proposal)

What are secondments?

A transfer of knowledge which contributes significantly to the impact of the fellowship.

Fellowship Duration	Maximum duration of secondment
≤ **18** months	**3** months
> **18** months	**6** months

➢ Secondment should be clearly described in proposal

➢ Can be a single period or divided into multiple shorter periods

➢ Can be at more than one partner organisation **located in MS/AC**

➢ Can be to an institution in the same country as the beneficiary

➢ No letter of commitment needed

➢ Is different from **short visit** (e.g. field work), which can be done in a TC

➢ A special rule for **Global Fellowships**

What is the financial contribution?

European Commission

Individual Fellowships	Researcher unit cost [person/month]			Institutional unit cost [person/month]	
	Living allowance*	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training & networking costs	Management & indirect costs
	4 880	600	500	800	650

adjusted through the application of a ***country correction coefficient (IT 104,4 %)***

*All amounts are **GROSS***

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For recruited or seconded researchers/staff members with disabilities whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments.

The special needs allowance will take the form of a lump sum awarded in the form of a low value grant to an identified beneficiary and will cover up to 100% of eligible costs.

It will be limited to a maximum of EUR 60,000 per researcher.

For details please refer to the MSCA Work Programme and information available on the Participant Portal.

The IF proposal should NOT contain any information on disabilities
(separate grant and evaluation).

1. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

2. Evaluation Process

3. Useful documents

4. MSCA in Horizon Europe

Proposals: submitted exclusively electronically, using the Participant Portal.

Part A: administrative details

Section 1 – <u>General Information</u>

Section 2 – <u>Administrative data </u>of participating organisations (supervisor(s), researcher)

Section 3 – <u>Budget</u>: information on the duration (person-months) to calculate the total requested EU contribution.

Section 4 – <u>Ethics</u>: identifies any ethical aspects of the proposed work. Even if there are no issues, you must simply confirm that none of the ethical issues apply to the proposal.

Section 5 – <u>Call specific questions </u>request declarations related to eligibility and personal data, together with questions on any secondment in Europe.

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Proposal Part B

The "core" of the proposal – the structure below is mandatory

!!There is no cover page or table of contents!!

DOCUMENT 1 (10-PAGE LIMIT APPLIES)

START PAGE COUNT **(MAX 10 PAGES SECTIONS 1-3)** ....

1. EXCELLENCE
2. IMPACT   **MAX 10 pages**
3. IMPLEMENTATION

STOP PAGE COUNT **(MAX 10 PAGES SECTIONS 1-3)** ....

DOCUMENT 2 (NO OVERALL PAGE LIMIT APPLIED)

4. CV OF THE EXPERIENCED RESEARCHER
5. CAPACITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS
6. ETHICAL ASPECTS
7. LETTERS OF COMMITMENT OF PARTNER ORGANISATIONS (**only for GF**)

European Commission

Part B is submitted as two separate pdf documents.

Of the maximum 10 pages applied to sections 1, 2 and 3, applicants are free to decide on the allocation of pages between the sections.

However, the overall page limit will be strictly applied, <u>excess pages will be blanked out and experts will not be able to read them</u>.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify that the submitted .pdf documents are readable and are within the page limit.

Descriptors

Chosen by applicants and experts for pre-allocation of proposals to the experts.

Number of descriptors ranges from 3 to 5. Applicants select the descriptors **in order of importance** with 1st being the most important.

Guide for Applicants contains a breakdown of scientific areas into descriptors.

Applicants must:

1) Select the area of research (e.g.: CHE), i.e. the core discipline of the proposal

2) Within the most relevant sub-area of research (e.g.: C1-Synthetic Chemistry and Materials), select two **descriptors** that best characterises the subject of the proposal

4) Select a mandatory **Third descriptor:** from **any of the eight (8) areas of research** is mandatory.

5) If needed, applicants **may add further two (2) additional descriptors** chosen freely from any area.

Evaluation Roles

Evaluators (3600 in 2019)

❑ Evaluate proposals in a fair and independent way
❑ Submit individual evaluation reports
❑ Participate in Consensus discussions / Approve Consensus Reports
❑ Some also act as **Rapporteurs** for of their proposals
  • Draft and submit consensus report
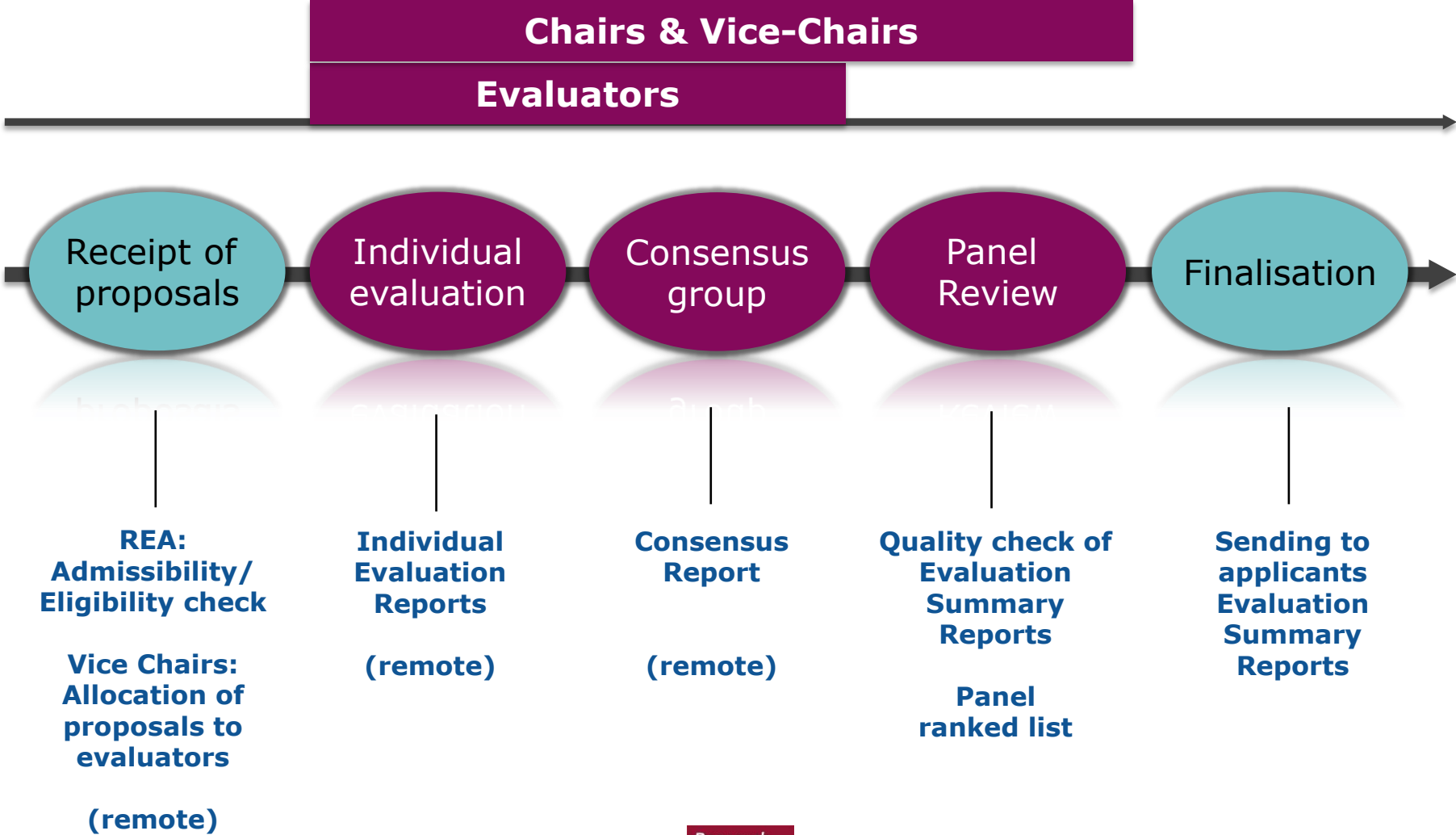 • Moderate remote consensus report discussion

Chair- and Vice-chairpersons, or 'C/VC' (450 in 2019)

❑ Assist evaluation management and monitor progress
❑ Finalise allocation of proposals to experts
❑ Do not evaluate proposals
❑ Quality check individual / consensus / evaluation summary reports
❑ Attend the panel review

Independent Observer (1)

❑ Observe the overall evaluation process
❑ Provide advice / improvement suggestions to the REA

Overview of the evaluation process

European Commission

Chairs & Vice-Chairs

Evaluators

Receipt of proposals	Individual evaluation	Consensus group	Panel Review	Finalisation

REA: Admissibility/ Eligibility check

Vice Chairs: Allocation of proposals to evaluators

(remote)

Individual Evaluation Reports

(remote)

Consensus Report

(remote)

Quality check of Evaluation Summary Reports

Panel ranked list

Sending to applicants Evaluation Summary Reports

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1. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

2. Evaluation Process

3. **Useful documents**

4. MSCA in Horizon Europe

Guide for Applicants

European Commission

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

Horizon 2020 Framework Programme (H2020)

Individual Fellowships

ID: MSCA-IF-2020

Topic conditions and documents

5. Proposal templates, evaluation forms and model grant agreements (MGA):

Specific rules and funding rates are described in the MSCA part of the Work Programme.

Supporting information will be found in the **Guide for applicants**.

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The **Guide for Applicants** is available on the IF2020 call page in the Portal.

Primary base for any information on how to prepare proposals.

It provides details to the general provisions of the MSCA Work Programme

All briefing and training material for experts is based on it.

Follow all instructions closely!

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COVID 19 and IF projects

FAQs

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

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

COVID-19 outbreak

Horizon 2020 Framework Programme (H2020)

Support overview
Guidance & Manuals
FAQ

how will the Commission/Research Executive Agency (REA) handle delays in the project implementation in Horizon 2020 Marie-Sklodowska-Curie (MSCA) ongoing grants?

… **maximum flexibility** will be given in H2020 MSCA grants on scheduled due dates for deliverables, milestones, reporting as well as to the implementation of the action whose performance was impacted by the confinement measures (see FAQs on delays in submitting reports or deliverables, on interim payments, on reorientation of the action)

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1. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

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1. MSCA Doctorates
2. MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships
3. MSCA Staff Exchanges
4. MSCA COFUND
5. MSCA and Citizens

→ *networks training doctoral candidates*
→ *postdoctoral researchers*
→ *any type of research(-related) staff*
→ *co-funding training programmes*
→ *public outreach events*

EC proposal after intense consultations with stakeholders.
Final implementation modalities will be confirmed pending feedback from Member States.

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Postdoctoral fellowships

- Continue supporting post-doctoral research and careers

- Clarify and simplify, a **single action**

- Deliver skilled people **to academia and beyond**

  - ➢ Intensify exposure/secondments to (training in) entities beyond academia
  - ➢ Improved guidance towards career development (plan & supervision)

- Manage the increasing demand to maintain high-quality selection

  - ➢ Limit research experience
  - ➢ Require PhD degree
  - ➢ Restrict resubmissions below quality threshold

European Commission

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European Commission

Nothing in life is to be feared just understood.
- Marie Curie

Thank you for your attention!