EU-funded opportunities for researchers:

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

Pamela Gorini
European Commission
Research Executive Agency

9th May 2019

REA in numbers

FUNDING

FP7
€6.4 billion

Horizon 2020
€17 billion

PROJECTS
7 000

BENEFICIARIES
66 000

SERVICE SATISFACTION
82%
of beneficiaries

ENQUIRIES
10 500 answered/year to
citizens
applicants
beneficiaries

EXPERTS
15 700 assessing proposals
and monitoring projects in 2017
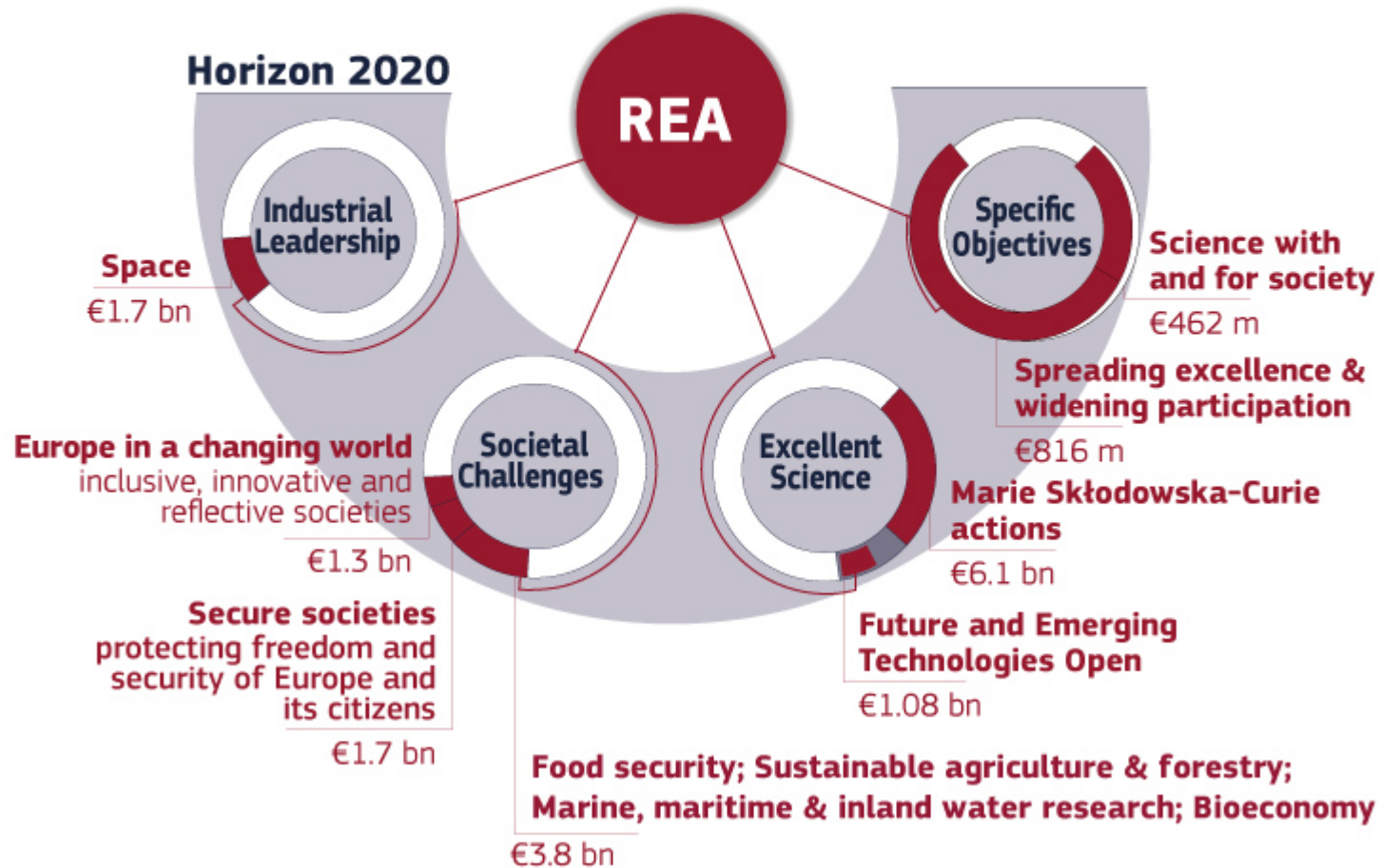7 000 supported on site

STAFF
Over 700

March 2018

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REA's responsibilities in Horizon 2020

(2014-2020)

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

REA

Horizon 2020

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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Horizon 2020: Marie **Skłodowska**-Curie actions (MSCA)

- ➢ Introduction: MSCA Actions

- ➢ ITN

- ➢ COFUND

- ➢ RISE

- ➢ Individual Fellowships

- ➢ MSCA Special Needs Allowance

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Introducing the
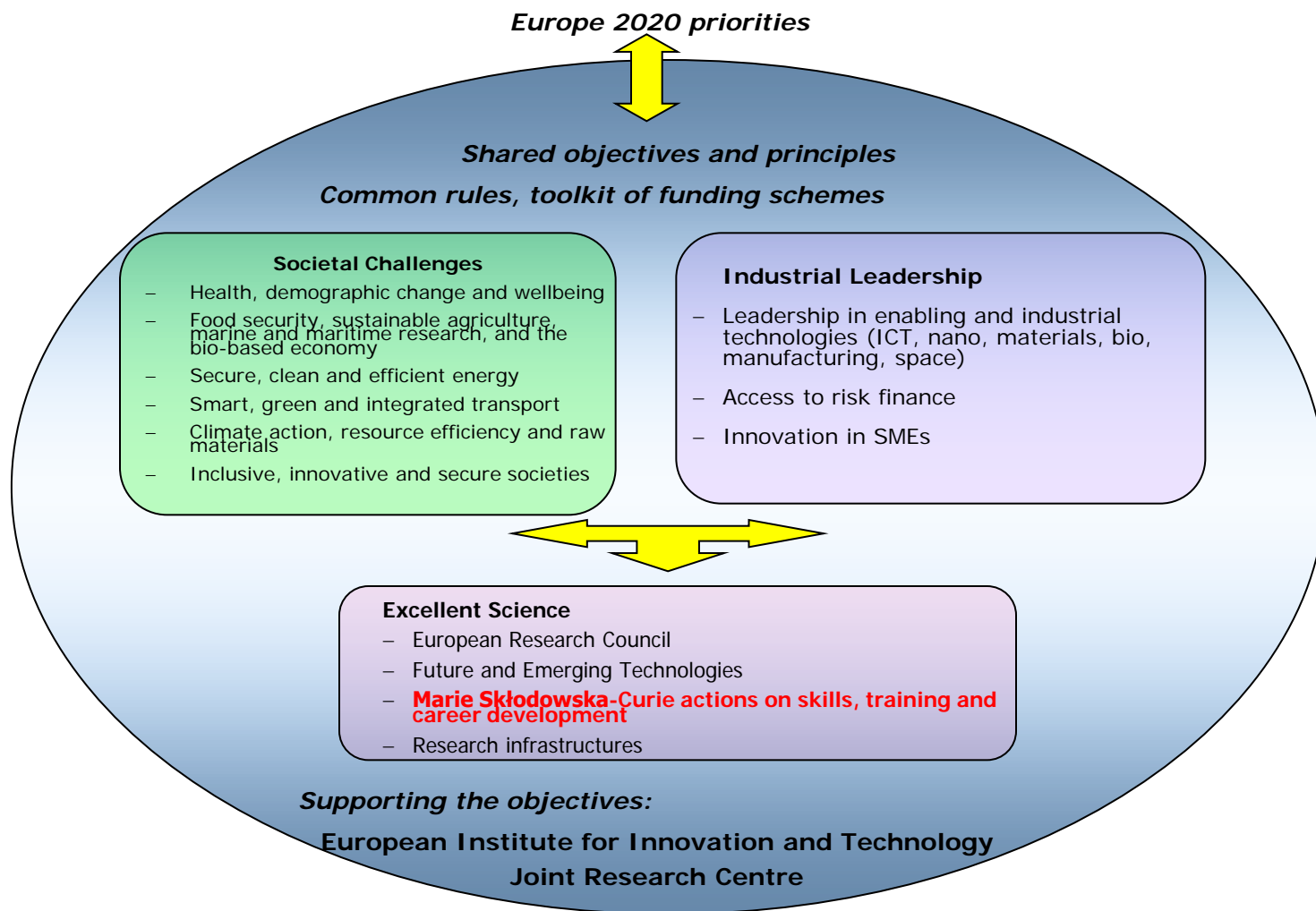# Marie **Skłodowska**-Curie Actions (MSCA)

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H2020

The EU Research intends to overrun the fragmentation imposed by the national boundaries: the EU level ensures an important budget line, deep transnational coordination, strong cooperation, full exploitation of networks and the exchange of human capital.

One of the main important aspects of the EU Research policy is the realization of a European Research Area (ERA) where connection between researches and ideas can bring to high quality research.

"Priority 1 – Excellent Science" concrete elements to favour infrastructures' access, to facilitate knowledge transfer, and guarantee open access to results.

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Europe 2020 priorities

Shared objectives and principles

Common rules, toolkit of funding schemes

Societal Challenges
- Health, demographic change and wellbeing
- Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research, and the bio-based economy
- Secure, clean and efficient energy
- Smart, green and integrated transport
- Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials
- Inclusive, innovative and secure societies

Industrial Leadership
- Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies (ICT, nano, materials, bio, manufacturing, space)
- Access to risk finance
- Innovation in SMEs

Excellent Science
- European Research Council
- Future and Emerging Technologies
- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions on skills, training and career development**
- Research infrastructures

Supporting the objectives:

European Institute for Innovation and Technology

Joint Research Centre

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Horizon 2020: integrated programme of € 79 billion coupling research to innovation

- ➢ **MSCA: € 6.16 billion** for excellent and innovative **research training**

- ➢ Open to **all** career **stages and nationalities**

- ➢ **Bottom-up** approach

- ➢ Attractive **career** and **knowledge-exchange** opportunities through **mobility**

- ➢ **International**, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary

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What are the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions?

A European Union funded programme for structuring researcher
training, mobility and career development

Objectives

Ensure the optimum development and dynamic use of Europe's intellectual capital

to generate new skills, knowledge and innovation

MSCA budget 2014-2020: € 6.162 billion

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MSCA: What do the MSCA offer researchers?

- Prestigious **career opportunities**
- Excellent **working conditions**: employment contracts, full social security etc.
- Very competitive **salaries**
- Opportunities to work and **train with the best** researchers in Europe and worldwide
- Whole career training: **complementary skills**
- Access to top level conferences, **professional** associations & Marie Curie Alumni

MSCA: who, what and where?

- **Who**: **All levels** of research experience from PhD researcher upwards – there are actions for different levels of experience.

- **What**: **All areas** of research are supported: bottom-up approach.

- **Where**: **Anywhere**: any research performing organisation, public or private worldwide - there are actions for European and international mobility.

In the MSCA, Europe means...

28 EU Member States (MS)
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

16 Associated Countries (AC)
Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, North Macedonia, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine.

**..."Third Country" means
any country not listed above**

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IF
Individual Fellowships
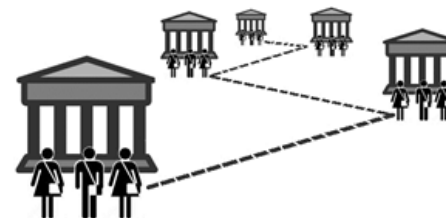
RISE
Research and Innovation
Staff Exchange

ITN
Innovative Training Networks

COFUND
Co-funding of regional, national
and international programmes

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Cathegory of Researchers

Early-stage Researchers (ESR)

Less than four years of research
experience and
No doctoral degree

ITN

RISE

COFUND
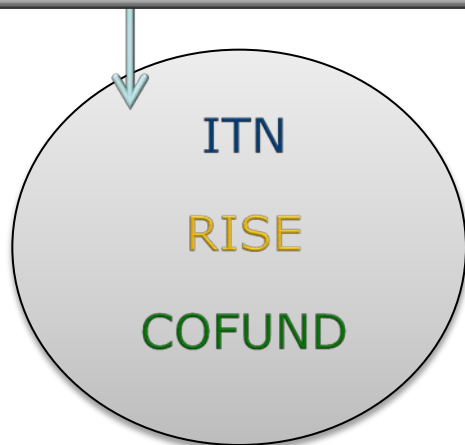
Experienced Researchers (ER)

At least four years of research
experience and / or
A doctoral degree

IF

RISE

COFUND

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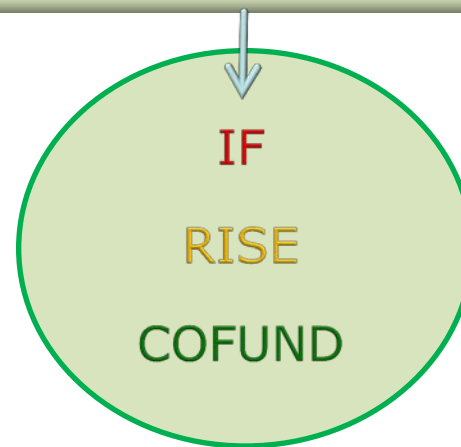
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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?
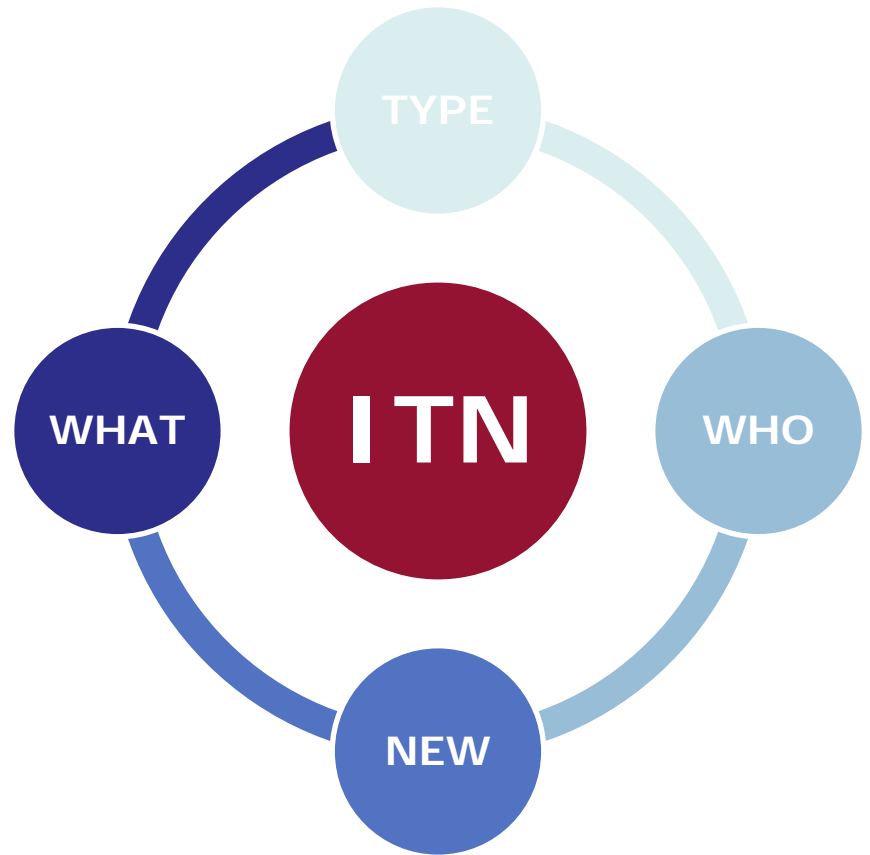Organisations funding or managing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes

Who is funded?
Researchers at doctoral and postdoctoral level

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ITN: Innovative Training Networks

- Raise excellence and structure research and doctoral training

- Trigger cooperation and exchange of best practice among participants

- Enhance **early stage researchers**' employability and provide them with new career perspectives

- Special support for European Industrial Doctorates and European Joint Doctorates

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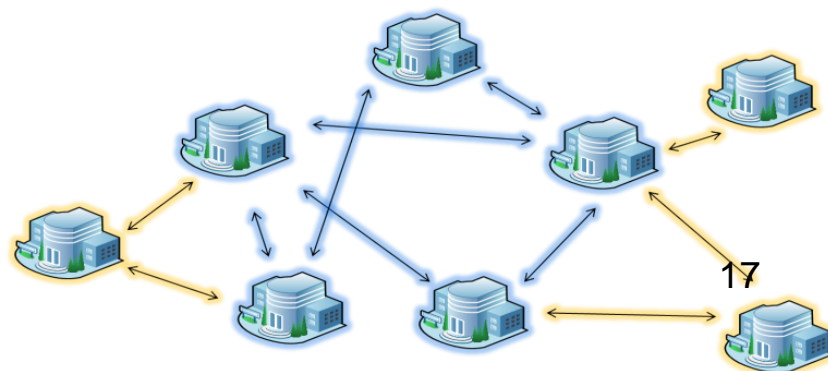
ITN: Features

✓ Excellence: International network of organisations applies and proposes a joint research training or doctoral programme

✓ All domains & bottom-up

✓ Multidisciplinary approach

✓ Meaningful exposure to non-academic sector

✓ Fellowships of 3-36 months

✓ Project duration up to 4 years

ITN: Features

✓ Strong networking within the consortium

✓ Mobility across countries /disciplines

✓ Career guidance arrangements

✓ Project duration typically 48 months

✓ only for Early Stage Researchers for max. 36 months/researcher - recruited after the start of the ITN programme

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ITN implementation modes:

ETN	EID	EJD
European Training Networks	**European Industrial Doctorates**	**European Joint Doctorates**
Participants implement a joint research programme	*Doctoral programme with the non-academic sector*	*Doctoral programme to deliver joint degrees*

**Research fields chosen freely by applicants
(CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC)**

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ITN: Eligibility rules

EU 28 Member States (MS)
Associated Countries (AC)
Third Countries (TC)

ETN
Min. 3 beneficiaries from any sector from 3 different MS/AC

EID
Min. 2 beneficiaries from 2 different MS/AC: min. 1 from academic sector awarding PhD + min. 1 from non-academic sector

EJD
Min. 3 beneficiaries from academic sector awarding PhD from 3 different MS/AC

Above this minimum: participants from any sector / country

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ETN

Network of participants implementing a joint research training programme

Mandatory

- ✓ Min. 3 beneficiaries from 3 different MS/AC
- ✓ Each beneficiary recruits and hosts at least 1 ESR
- ✓ Max 540 person-months (e.g. 15 ESRs x 36 months)

Other features

- ✓ Non-academic participation essential
- ✓ PhD enrolment typically expected (not mandatory)
- ✓ Secondments to other countries/sector/disciplines (≤30% time)
- ✓ Joint supervision recommended
- ✓ Partner organisations (any country/sector)

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EID

ITN: European Industrial Doctorate
✓ with the non-academic sector

- ✓ Min. 2 organisations from 2 different EU/ associated countries
  1 academic awarding PhD + 1 non-academic
- ✓ Max 180 person-months (if 2 organisations) - e.g. 5 x 36 months
- ✓ Max 540 person-months (if ≥3 organisations) - e.g. 15 x 36 months

- ✓ Individual research projects under the topic of the doctoral programme
- ✓ Flexible recruitment rule
- ✓ Each fellow enrolled in the doctoral programme
- ✓ Each fellow must spend ≥50% of time in non-academic sector
- ✓ Secondments above 50% rule (up to 30% of time)
- ✓ Partner organisations (any country/sector)

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EJD

Universities cooperating to deliver joint/multiple doctoral degrees

Mandatory

- ✓ Min. 3 beneficiaries from academic sector awarding PhDs, from 3 different MS/AC
- ✓ Each ESR enrolled in the joint (international) doctoral programme
- ✓ Joint selection, training and supervision
- ✓ Commitment to deliver joint/double/multi degrees
- ✓ Max 540 person-months

Other features

- ✓ Meaningful stays at joint doctorate beneficiaries
- ✓ Non-academic participation through secondments to other sector/disciplines (≤ 30%)
- ✓ Flexible recruitment rule

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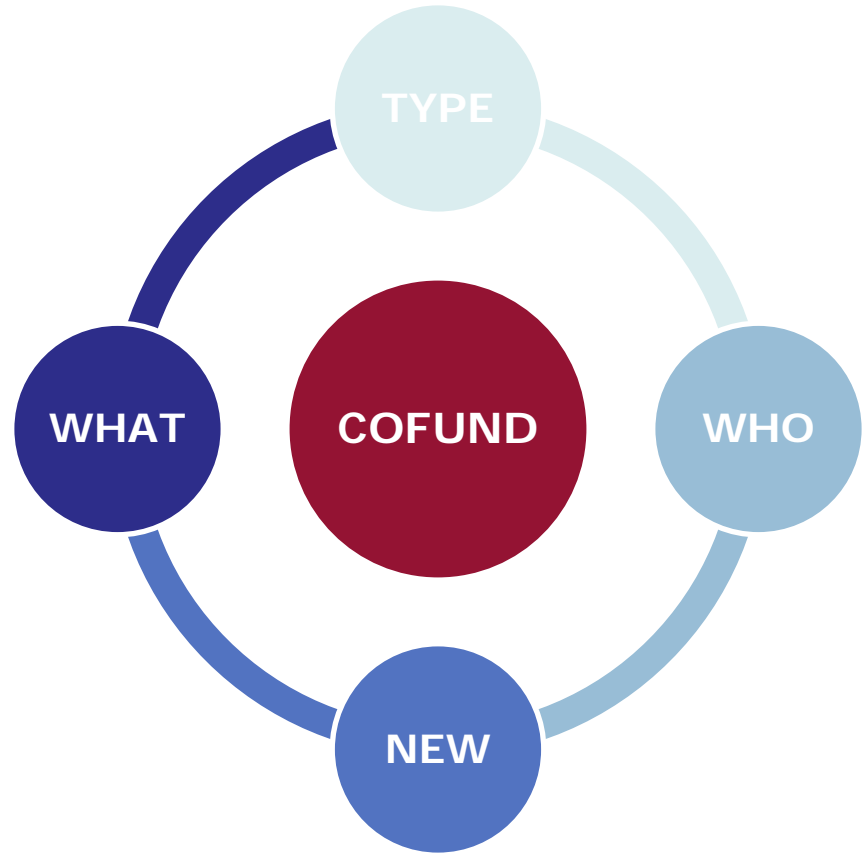
COFUND: Cofunding of regional, national and international doctoral and fellowship programmes

Why: to stimulate the regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development i.e. to **spread the best practices of the MSCA**

- Opportunities for researchers from all countries
- Researchers comply with the mobility rules of the MSCA
- Open and transparent: calls/vacancies widely publicised

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COFUND: Features

- Co-funding new or existing regional, national, and international programmes

- Leverage funding and combat fragmentation

COFUND: Features

- Mono-beneficiary: organisation funding or managing doctoral or post-   doctoral programmes

- EU contribution to co-fund living allowances for researchers and management costs

- The **maximum** size for a project is €10million

- Grant duration is between 36 and 60 months

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Doctoral Programme

- For ESRs – must be enrolled in a PhD programme

- Duration of appointment: min 3 months. No upper limit – should follow typical national timeline

- Fellow applies to the project, can select their research project from those available – does not have to write a research proposal

- New to H2020

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Fellowship Programme

- For ERs

- Duration of appointment: min 3 months. Typical fellowship between 12 and 36 months

- Must have calls for proposals, maximum cut-offs per year: 4

- Fellow should write research proposal

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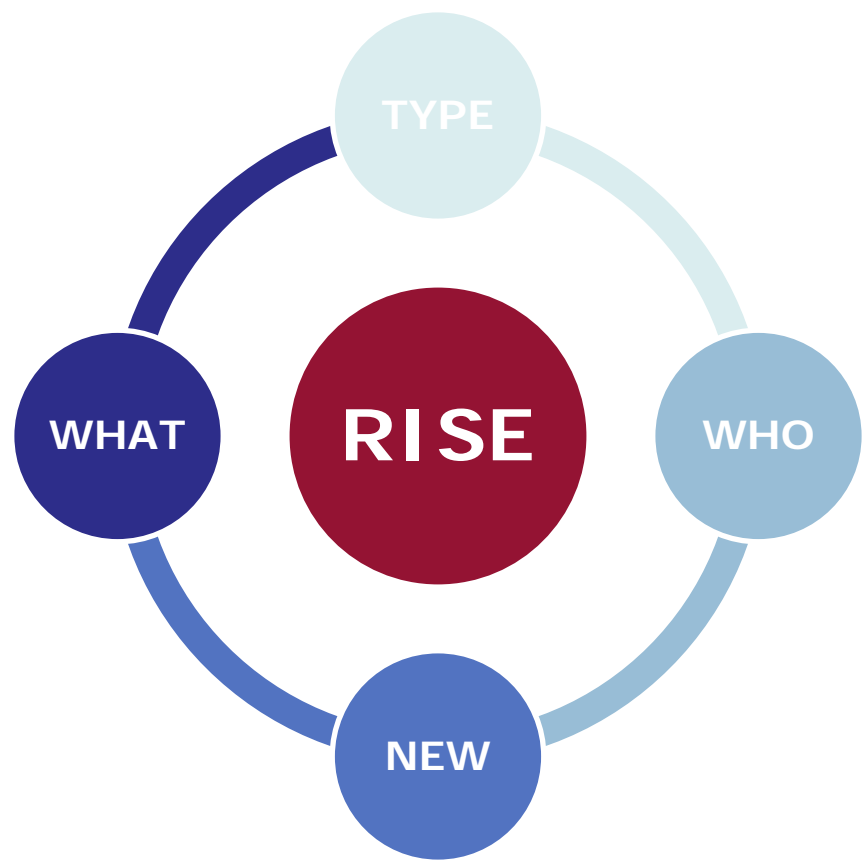
RISE: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

- Common research and innovation project

- International and inter-sector transfer of knowledge and sharing of ideas and of R&I culture

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RISE: features

- Organisations from any countries
- Exchanges of staff of any nationality
- No mobility rules
- Project built on joint research and innovation activities
- Project implemented through the secondment of existing staff
- Each staff member seconded for a period of 1 to 12 months
- The maximum size for a project is 540 person months
- No minimum size defined, but substantial impact is expected
- Maximum project duration is 4 years

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RISE: Staff Members

- Actively engaged in *or* linked to research/innovation activities for at least **6 months prior to first secondment**

- Types of staff members:
  - **ESR** (no PhD and < 4 years experience)
  - **ER** (PhD or > 4 years experience)
  - **Managerial** staff
  - **Administrative** or **Technical** staff

- **In-built return** mechanism

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RISE: Minimum Eligibility Conditions

- At least **3 independent participants** in **3 different countries**

- Of which at least **2 participants** from **2 different MS/AC**

- **If all** in **MS/AC**: at least **1 academic** and **1 non-academic** (intersectoral)

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RISE: Eligible secondments

- Within Europe: <u>only</u> between sectors

- Between Europe and international partners: between any organisations irrespective of sectors

- Secondement between international partners only
     →**not eligible** for MSCA funding

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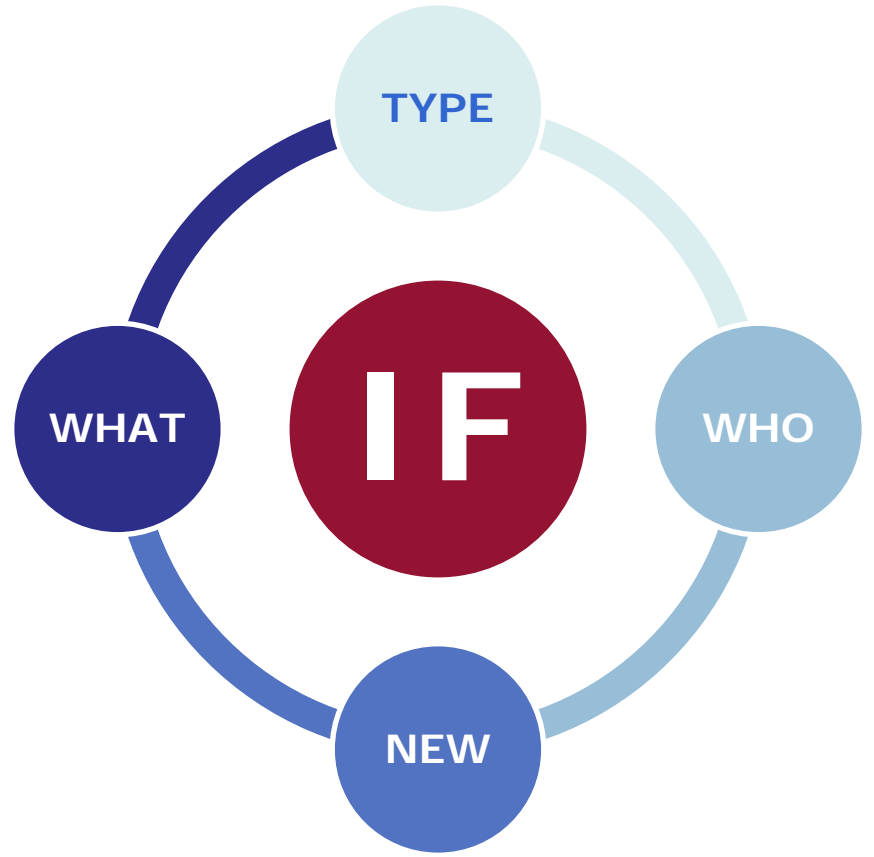
IF: Individual Fellowships

- Realise the potential of experienced researchers

- Catalyse significant development in their careers

- Provide opportunities to acquire new knowledge, work on research projects in a European context or outside Europe

- Maximum duration: 2 years (Global Fellowships and CAR: 3 years)

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EF

European Fellowships

held in EU Member States or Associated Countries

GF

Global Fellowships

based on an outgoing phase to a third country and a return phase in MS/AC

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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)

Career Restart Panel (CAR)	Reintegration Panel (RI)	Society and Enterprise Panel (SE)

Global Fellowships (GF)

➢ Secondments of 3 – 6 months in Europe (MS or AC), for greater impact

➢ Specific eligibility criteria

➢ Career development with an appropriate **inter-sectoral** dimension

ELIGIBLE COSTS

ITN

Research, networking, training costs	1800 €
Management and indirect costs	1200 €

Living allowance*	3110 €
Mobility allowance	600 €
Family allowance	500 €

IF

Research, networking, training costs	800 €
Management and indirect costs	500 €

Living allowance*	4650 €
Mobility allowance	600 €
Family allowance	500 €

COFUND

Management costs	325 €

Living allowance Early-stage researchers	1855 €
Living allowance Experienced researchers	2625 €

RISE

Research, networking, training costs	1800 €
Management and indirect costs	700 €

Top-up allowance	2000 €

* The living allowance base rate is multiplied by a Country Correction Coefficient

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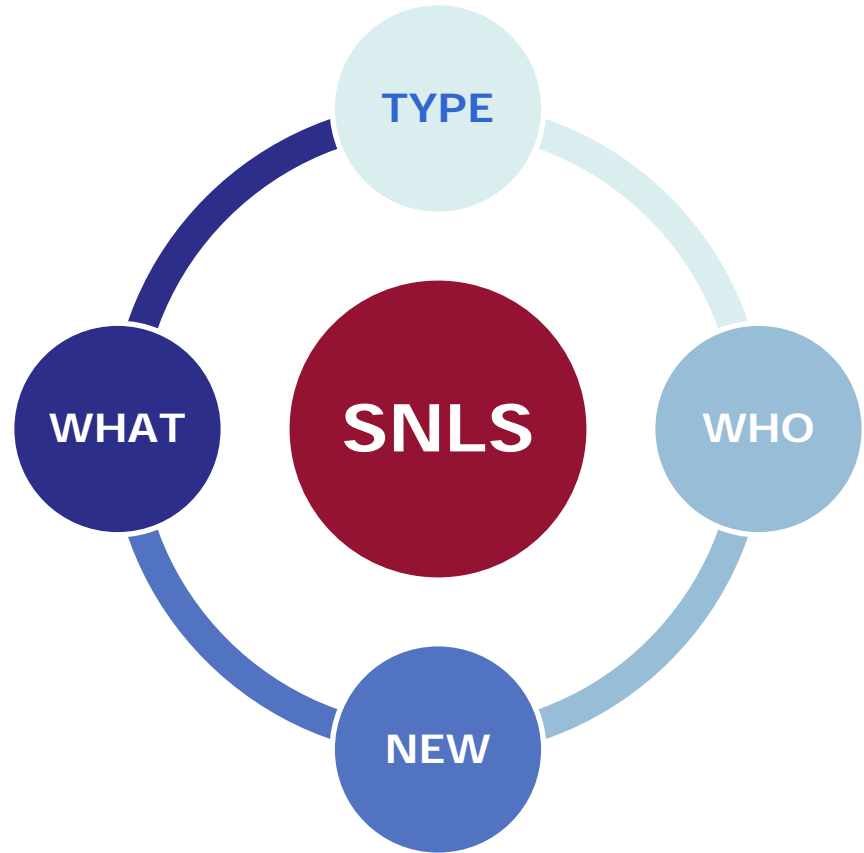
Purpose:

- To support through **additional costs** the recruited or seconded researchers/staff members **with disabilities whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments** are such that their participation in MSCA would not be possible without extra financial support.

- Total 2019 budget (2 deadlines): € 1 million

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How does it work:

- Eligible MSC actions: **ITN, IF, RISE and COFUND**.

- Proposal can be **submitted only by the MSCA beneficiary.**

- **One proposal per recruited researcher / seconded staff** member with special needs / disabilities.

- **If more than 1 researcher with special needs** with the same beneficiary – **separate proposal** for each researcher to be submitted by the same beneficiary.

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Eligible applicants: MSCA beneficiaries.

Applicant must comply with the **following cumulative criteria:**

✓ At the time of the SNLS deadline, it **must be a beneficiary in an ongoing H2020 MSCA grant**, or its proposal must be in the **Grant Agreement Preparation stage (GAP)** for a future MSCA grant agreement.

✓ **It has recruited/seconded** (or for a proposal in GAP, will recruit/second) **the researcher(s)/staff member(s) with disabilities** in the framework of an MSCA action.

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Eligible researchers:

To be eligible for SNLS, the researcher
must comply with the **following cumulative criteria**:

✓ He/she is **eligible under the main MSCA grant** (ITN, IF, RISE or COFUND).

✓ His/her disability is such that his/her participation would not be possible without an **extra financial support.**

✓ His/her **disability is officially recognised** by the relevant national legislation.

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Proposal duration:

- The duration of the SNLS is **limited to the duration of the main linked MSCA.**

- **It can be shorter but cannot be** longer than the main MSCA grant.

- If necessary, the duration of the SNLS **will be adjusted by the Project Officer** during the Grant Agreement Preparation phase.

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Financial support:

- **Max 60 000 EUR per researcher** with special needs/disabilities.

- The budget will be subjected to evaluation by the expert evaluators.

- In the case the amount needed to cover the special needs of the concerned researcher/staff member are higher than **EUR 60 000**, the remainder shall be covered from other sources. The applicants should provide details of the additional funding in the Part B.

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Award criteria:

Excellence	Impact	Quality and Efficiency of the implementation
Appropriateness and relevance of the proposed measures *[or special needs items or services]* that are necessary for the researcher/staff member to carry out the work in the linked MSCA action	Effectiveness of the proposed measures with respect to the work in the linked MSCA action	Appropriateness of the resources deployed

Who can help you?

NCP – National Contact Point

Your country ⟹   ⟸ **MSCA**

H2020 manual

The EU Research Enquiry Service

For specific questions on MSCA open calls please send a message to :

http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=enquiries

MSCA website:

http://ec.europa.eu/msca

MSCA on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/Marie.Curie.Actions

Participant Portal:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/

EURAXESS European Researchers Mobility Portal:

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/

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Thank you for your attention!

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

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