

Proposal writing and Funding - virtual seminar for researchers



Topics: career development

Tags: Funding

European Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career Development and Grant-Writing Hints-&-Tips for Competitive Proposals



Pierantonios Papazoglou

BSc-ENV, MEng-ENV, 6-sigma, NEBOSH, CSTC, Vocational Trainer, IAEM





Opening and Presentation's Programme



European Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career Development and Grant-Writing Hints-&-Tips for Competitive Proposals

At the end of the Training Session, the Trainees are expected to be able to:

- Navigate through the variety of Funding Opportunities, within the context of European Programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe), that address the Career Development of Individual Researchers.
- Identify the proper sources-of-information, the relevant necessary "background policy" readings, and the required Application-templates.
- Apprehend the "Reviewer's Mindset" for particular Calls-for-Proposals.
- Translate the Expected Content for particular Calls-for-Proposals into customized-by-them Application-proposals.

10.00 - Opening

10.10 - 11.30 - European Funding Opportunities Part I

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 - 13.00 - European Funding Opportunities Part II

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 - 15.00 - Grant-Writing Hints-&-Tips for Competitive Proposals





Opening – Presenter’s Background and Experience



Professional Experience:

- 2000-2005. Laboratory Researcher (Aegean & Stevens)
- 2007-2008. Environment Research Officer (Univ. Nicosia)
- 2008-2017. NCP & PCM FP7 – H2020, CY-RIF: “Marie Curie” | EURAXESS | “Climate Action & Environment” | Space
- 2017-2021. Cyprus Institute: Head-Project-Manager of TEAMING-CoE-“EMME-CARE”



EUC – CERIDES (<https://cerides.euc.ac.cy>):

- Research & Strategy Manager
- Portfolio/ Project Mngt, Identification of (funding) Opportunities and Networking
- Proposal Writing Support & Mentoring/ Training/ Capacity Build. for EU Grants: MSCA-PF/ ERC/ HEU-Civil-Security/ HEU-WIDERA, Climate, et.al.



Evaluator Experience: EC-Invited Expert H2020, HEU



Civil Defence Volunteer Safety Officer, Search-&-Rescue

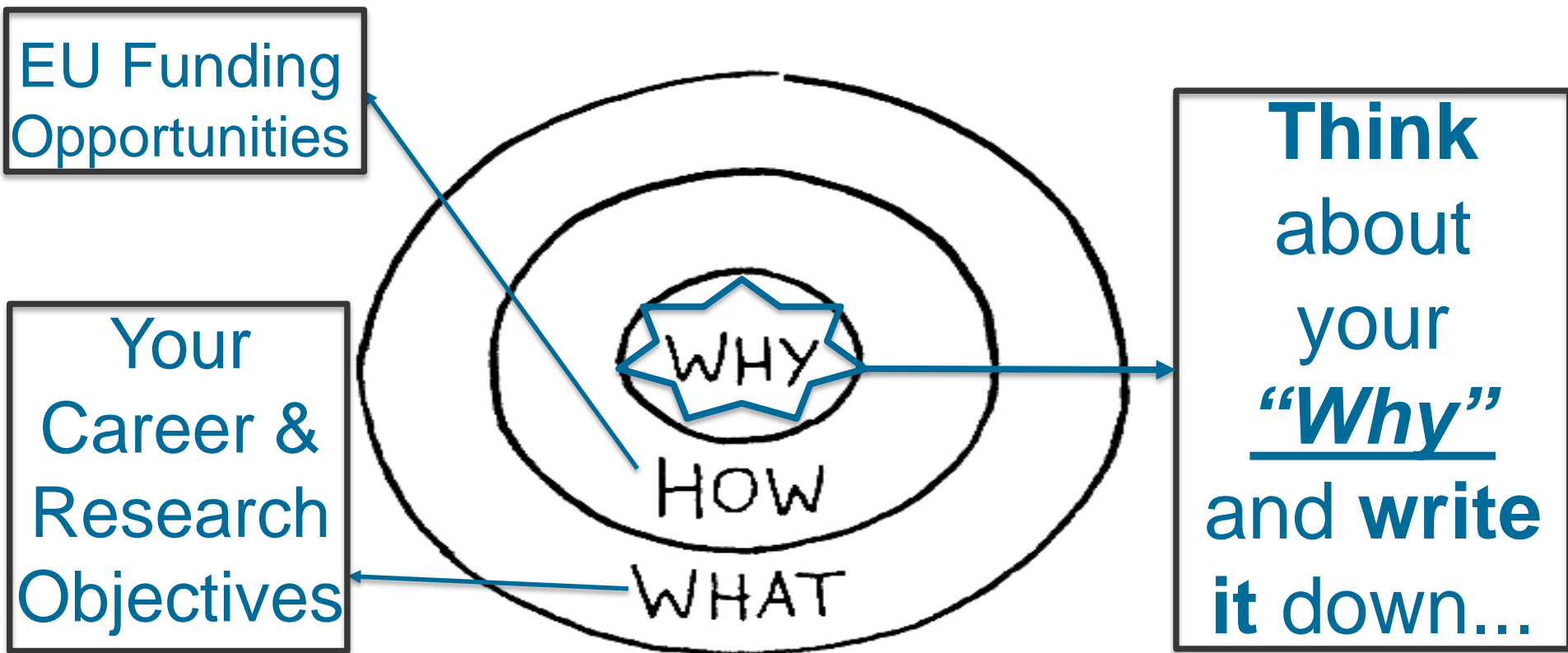


Opening –

Think about your... “Why”...!



The Golden Circle



Some... *Truths*... before Starting...!



○ Proposals for EU Funding are **NOT Papers/ Articles for Journals...**



○ They are... “*marketing/ sales*” pitches of your research... and your Career Development...

→ **so as to receive funding...!**

○ EC has been doing this for quite a few FPs... There are **particular policy and mandate backgrounds**. There’s a **particular language-jargon, structure, process...**



○ Philosophy: “**Competitive Calls**”...

→ **NOT “subsidies”...!**

○ EC publishes the Call, but Proposal evaluated by external Expert Evaluators... you “need” both “audiences”...





Some... *Truths*... before Starting...!



○ You need to showcase **EUROPEAN ADDED VALUE...!**

→ Problem/Issue to be solved or tech/innovation to be developed **cannot be of local/regional character but rather of pan-European...** scale/complexity of the “solutions” for EU and not “just Country

→ **Transnationality, replicability, transferability:** keywords for both “challenges”/“problems” addressed, and “solutions” proposed.



○ You need to showcase how you contribute to the priorities of:

→ the **EU GREEN DEAL,**

→ the **EU Green Transition,**

→ as well as how you align with the **EU Missions...**



EU Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career



CAREER
DEVELOPMENT



EU Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career



European Commission

MSCA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research

under **Horizon Europe**

@Marie.Curie.Actions
@MSCActions

○ Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

○ Pillar – I of “Horizon Europe”

○ The Action of “**Postdoctoral Fellowships**” is especially pertinent for Young (R1/R2) Researchers, at the early stages of their Individual Post-Doc Career.

→ More to follow later in the Presentation, in a dedicated showcase.



EU Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career



A bottom-up, individual-based, pan-European competition with host institution in EU or Associated Countries

Strategy

- Support for individual scientists
- International peer-review
- No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support for frontier research in all fields of science and humanities
- Look for high gain/high risk ambitious projects

Legislation

- Scientific governance by an independent 22-member **Scientific Council**, which has **full authority** over funding and evaluation
- Support by the **ERC Executive Agency** (autonomous)
- Only criterion: **quality of research** aiming for **excellence**

EU Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

FUNDING

PROJECTS & FIGURES

NEWS & EVENTS

MANAGING YOUR PROJECT

ABOUT ERC



FUNDING

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding>

STRONG profile: Papers...First-authorships...“Leader” profile...

What do we offer?

On this page you'll find information about our main grants, as well as some additional opportunities for researchers who are thinking of applying. This is also your first port of call if you've decided to apply but you are not sure where to start from.

ERC STARTING GRANTS

These grants are for researchers with 2-7 years of experience since the completion of their PhD, a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal.

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

These grants are for researchers with 7-12 years of experience since completion of PhD, a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal.

ERC ADVANCED GRANTS

These grants are for active researchers with a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years.

ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT

These grants are for researchers who have already received an ERC grant for their frontier research project and now want to explore the commercial or societal potential of it.

ERC SYNERGY GRANTS

These grants are for two to maximum four researchers working together and bringing different skills and resources to tackle ambitious research problems.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are other initiatives linked to ERC funding. If you are not planning to apply for a grant, or it's too early to, you may still be interested in these.



EU Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career



→ **COST** is an **EU-funded programme** enabling researchers to set up their **interdisciplinary research networks** in Europe and beyond. http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/networking

Funds for: **organising conferences, meetings, training schools** (3-15 days; €1500), short **scientific exchanges** (5-180 days; €2500-3500) or **other networking activities** in a wide range of scientific topics.

ESR: less than 8 years between the date of the PhD/doctorate (or similar experience) and the date of involvement in the COST

- Funding Networking Activities: <https://www.cost.eu/funding/what-do-we-fund/funding-network-ac/>
- Action Networking Tools: <https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/cost-actions-networking-tools/>
- How to Apply: <https://www.cost.eu/funding/how-to-get-funding/how-to-apply/>
- Browse (existing) Cost Actions: <https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions/browse-actions/>



EU Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career



Erasmus+

EU programme for education, training, youth and sport

Home About Erasmus+ ▾ **Opportunities ▾** Programme Guide Resources and tools ▾ News

You are here: [Erasmus+](#) / [Opportunities](#) / [Individuals](#)

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/opportunities/opportunities-for-individuals>

Overview of opportunities under Erasmus+

Individuals ▲

Students ▼

Staff (teaching) ▼

Staff (training) ▼

VET learners ▼

Pupil mobility

Adult learners

Opportunities for individuals

For nearly 30 years, the EU has funded the Erasmus programme, which has enabled over three million European students to spend part of their studies at another higher education institution or with an organisation in Europe.

Erasmus+ brings such opportunities to all - students, staff, trainees, teachers, volunteers and more. It's not just about Europe or Europeans either - with Erasmus+, people from all over the world can access opportunities.

Students

Studying abroad is a central part of Erasmus+ and has been shown to have a positive effect on later job



EU Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career



<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu>



Research job positions and Funding offers **daily available**;

Thousands of research organisations (companies, universities and SMEs across Europe and beyond) registered on EURAXESS with access to:

Thousands of **active CVs of researchers** who uploaded their CV to the attention of potential employers;

Job and funding opportunities covering a **vast array of research fields**;

EU funded (**MSCA, ERC**) jobs & funding opportunities systematically published (Eol, etc);

Collaborations with **relevant national/international job platforms and boards**. Some examples: **Naturejobs** (UK), **Focus Research** (BE), **Galaxie** (FR), **Euro*jobsciences** (BE), **INRA** (FR), **CINECA** (IT), **AcademicTransfer** (NL), **UniversityPositions** (SE), **Academic Positions** (SE), and many more ...





Presentation's Programme



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Coffee
11:30 -
12:00



MSCA

MSCA-PF: Showcase of Individual Researcher's Career-Development



#HorizonEU

MSCA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

*Developing talents,
advancing research*

under
Horizon Europe

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@MSCActions



EURAXESS BULGARIA

Home > Proposal writing and Funding - virtual seminar for researchers <https://www.euraxess.bg/bulgaria/events/proposal-writing-and-funding-virtual-seminar-researchers>

Proposal writing and Funding - virtual seminar for researchers

Topics: career development

Tags: Funding



European Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career Development and Grant-Writing Hints-&-Tips for Competitive Proposals





MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Support of excellent postdoc researchers

- Creativity & innovative potential
- Advanced training
- Mobility across countries, sectors & disciplines
- Skills & competences



MSCA



@MSCActions



@Marie.Curie.Actions

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



Seminar part

- “MSCA-PF-2021”....:

→ Comprehend Call Content & Rules



- “How” to Write the MSCA-PF Proposal:

→ Apprehend the...“Reviewer’s Mindset”



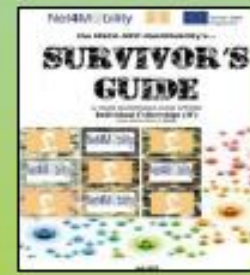
→ “Decipher” Expected Content



→ Utilize “Hints-&-Tips” for...“Survival”



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Bridging Business and Research



SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT

Exclusive focus on civil applications



Pillar I
EXCELLENT SCIENCE



Pillar II
GLOBAL CHALLENGES &
EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL
COMPETITIVENESS



Pillar III
INNOVATIVE EUROPE



European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre

European Innovation Council

European Innovation Ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation & Technology*



WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system



MSCA (and PF) Key Features



Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stages of career)

- **Training, Skills, Career-Development for Researchers**
- **Mobility** as the key requirement - funding **International, Intersectoral, Interdisciplinary** mobility;
- **Excellent research in all domains, in any field**, from fundamental research up to market take-up and innovation services; Entirely **bottom-up** approach;
- Participation of **non-academic sector** strongly encouraged, especially industry and SMEs; Promoting **business-academia collaborations**;
- Open to researchers of all **nationalities, ages and career stages** (PF = PostDocs); Promotion of **attractive working and employment conditions**; Particular attention to **equality of opportunities**.



International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility



Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)



Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs



Attractive working and employment conditions



Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes



European Commission





MARIE CURIE ACTIONS for an INNOVATIVE EUROPE

Excellence, mobility and skills for researchers

INNOVATION UNION - ERA

- 1 million more researchers
- Improve quality of doctoral training
- Involve businesses in doctoral training
- Attractive employment conditions
- ERA attractiveness
- Gender Balance
- Competitiveness of knowledge base enterprises, including SMEs
- Exploitation of results, commercialisation of research
- Leveraging national policies and programmes
- International cooperation
- Open access, dissemination



- Triple 'i' dimension:**
- International
 - Intersectoral
 - Interdisciplinary

The Agenda for NEW SKILLS and JOBS

- Equip researchers with relevant skills that will match both public and private sector needs
- Improve career prospects of doctoral candidates

YOUTH On the MOVE

- Promote researchers mobility across sectors, countries and disciplines

Modernisation of HIGHER EDUCATION

- Attractiveness of European universities
- Stronger links between universities and businesses



MARIE CURIE ACTIONS for an INNOVATIVE EUROPE

Excellence, mobility and skills for researchers



- Contribution to the **European Research Area (ERA)** and **European Education Area (EEA)**
- Contribution to the **EU external policy** objectives
- Committed to the **European Charter for Researchers** and the **Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers** + Innovative Doctoral Training Principles
- Underlying Principles: **Open Science, Responsible Research & Innovation**
- New publishing platform and open peer review:
<https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/>





MARIE CURIE ACTIONS for an INNOVATIVE EUROPE

Excellence, mobility and skills for researchers



Principles and novelties



- **Streamlined actions**, clearer identity
- **Simpler rules**, harmonised conditions
- Demand management to maintain high quality
- Reinforced **synergies** within Horizon Europe and with other EU funding programmes
- New guidelines on **supervision** to ensure that researchers are adequately supervised
- Towards “**greener MSCA**” to promote sustainable behaviors and policies, support policy and decision making, through MSCA Green Charter, Green Deal thematic clustering events...





MARIE CURIE ACTIONS for an INNOVATIVE EUROPE

Excellence, mobility and skills for researchers



Academia-non academia collaboration

- Encourage **inter-sectoral exposure** through incentives
- With the aim to develop transferable skills (e.g. entrepreneurship) leading to improved **employability and career prospects within and outside academia**
- **Incentives:**
 - ✓ **Postdoctoral Fellowships:** incentive: additional 6 months for placements in the non-academic sector at the end of the project





MARIE CURIE ACTIONS for an INNOVATIVE EUROPE

Excellence, mobility and skills for researchers



More gender-friendly and inclusive MSCA

- In line with the Charter and Code, all MSCA projects are encouraged to embrace diversity
- **In the interest of non-discrimination and equal opportunities:**
 - ✓ Family allowances will be accessible to all, even if their parental status changes during the duration of the project
 - ✓ Long-term leave allowance in case of the researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave
 - ✓ Broader definition of family to ensure full access to these allowances (recognised LGBTI+ couples)



Horizon Europe MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Evolution, not revolution!

Main Objectives:

- Support **excellent researchers** and foster **excellence** through the implementation of research projects.
- Focus on **i3** (international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary) mobility.
- Improve **employability** and **career prospects** within academia and beyond.
- Enhance the **creative and innovation potential** of researchers holding a PhD.
- Bridges and exposure to the **non-academic sector**.

How & Who:

- An **excellent research idea** deployed to the scientific proposal.
- An **individual postdoctoral researcher** and a **host organisation**.





MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships



Activities:

Mono-beneficiary action to support **postdoctoral research and careers:**

- **European Postdoctoral Fellowships:** researchers of any nationality moving within or coming to Europe.
- **Global Postdoctoral Fellowships:** nationals or long term residents of EU MS or HE AC to do research in a third country.
 - ✓ Discontinuation of panels (Career Restart, Reintegration, Society and Enterprise) replaced with **incentives**. **NOVELTY**
- Widening activities: **"ERA Fellowships"** will be aligned with the MSCA PF call.

Research areas:

All research domains, including **areas covered by EURATOM** **NOVELTY**





MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: Applicable unit contributions



Contributions for the recruited researchers per person-month					Institutional unit contributions per person-month	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance (if applicable)	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 5 080	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 5 680 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers.





ADMISSIBILITY CRITERIA

EUROPEAN and GLOBAL

- The postdoctoral researcher and the supervisor must be two different people.
- Only **one proposal per individual researcher** may be submitted to this call. In the event of multiple submissions, only the last submitted proposal will be evaluated.
- A supervisor can be involved in more than one proposal in the same call.
- In case of an optional **non-academic placement**, the associated partner must provide an **up-to-date letter of commitment** confirming their precise role and active participation in the proposal.

additional for GLOBAL

- The **associated partner** for the outgoing phase must provide an **up-to-date letter of commitment** confirming their precise role and active participation in the proposal.





#HorizonEU



MSCA European PFs: Eligibility conditions

DURATION		From 12 to 24 months
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		
RESEARCHER	Nationality	Any
	Mobility	The researcher cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (in the country of the beneficiary for more than 12 months in the three years immediately prior to the call deadline.
	Research experience (full time equivalent)	<p>Maximum 8 years after obtaining the Doctoral Degree. This limit can be extended for the following reasons (to be encoded in the submission forms):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maternity leave (548 days per child born or adopted after PhD, or exact duration whichever is longest) - paternity leave (exact duration) - research in a third country (only for nationals or long-term residents of EU MS or AC wishing to reintegrate in Europe) - national service - time spent not working in research - long term sick leave
PARTICIPANTS	Host organisation	Single legal entity established in of EU MS or HE AC.






MSCA Global PFs: Eligibility conditions



DURATION	From 24 to 36 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outgoing phase of minimum 12 and maximum 24 months in a TC • mandatory 12-month return phase in EU MS or HE AC.
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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

RESEARCHER	Nationality	Nationals or long-term residents of EU MS or HE AC
	Mobility	The researcher cannot have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the associated partner (in the third country) for more than 12 months in the three years immediately before the call deadline.
	Research experience (full time equivalent)	 Same as European PFs.

PARTICIPANTS	Host Organisation	Single legal entity established in of EU MS or HE AC.	 
Associated Partner	Single legal entity established in a TC.		



ERA Postdoctoral Fellowships

DURATION		Same as European PFs.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA		
RESEARCHER 	Nationality	Any
	Mobility	Same as European PFs.
	Research experience (full time equivalent) 	Same as European PFs.
PARTICIPANTS	Host Organisation	Single legal entity established in a Widening Country. https://www.net4mobilityplus.eu/widening-countries/
Encoding in Part A	Yes. In call specific question: <i>Do you wish to participate to the ERA Postdoctoral Fellowships and thus increase your chances of being funded?</i>	



EURATOM funding PFs

#HorizonEU



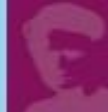
DURATION

Same as European PFs or Global PFs

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

RESEARCHER	Nationality	Nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or Euratom Associated Country (Switzerland, UK and Ukraine).
	Mobility	Same as European PFs or Global PFs
	Research experience (full time equivalent)	 <p>Same as European PFs.</p>
PARTICIPANTS	Host Organisation	The host organisation and (if applicable) the associated partner hosting the additional non-academic placement period must be based in an EU Member State or Euratom Associated Country.
Encoding in Part A		Yes. Must be indicated in the submission form.





Secondments vs Placement



#HorizonEU

	Secondment	Non-academic Placement
Maximum Duration	EF: Up to 1/3 of the normal project duration GF: Up to 1/3 of the duration of the outgoing phase	Additional. Up to 6 months
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At any time during the normal duration of the project (except during the return phase of a GF) - Can be divided in several smaller periods 	After the end of the normal project duration
Mobility	Any country worldwide	EU MS or HE AC
Sector	Any sector	Non-academic sector only
Encoding in Part A	Yes. In "Call Specific Questions" - complete all required information.	Yes. The associated partner must be encoded as participant.
Description in Part B-1	Yes. Its relevance and quality will be assessed by the evaluators.	Yes. Its relevance and quality will be assessed by the evaluators.
Supporting Document in Part B-2	None.	Yes. A letter of commitment is required.





Good characteristics...



Are they reliable?

Are they suitable for the purposes of the MSCA-PF Project?



Is their Organisation able to provide the necessary resources and working conditions?



- Do they bring added value to the Career Development of the Fellow?





...a "Good" match between Host – Supervisor - Fellow

✓ **Experienced Supervisor**

✓ Scientists with **track record**

✓ Relevant **expertise and skills**

✓ Good **infrastructure and resources**

✓ Involvement of competent staff



✓ Contribution to **“Quintuple helix” and “triple i” dimension**



✓ Gender Balance

✓ **Multidisciplinarity**

✓ **Complementarity** (no major overlaps) and **synergies**

✓ Involvement of relevant stakeholders

✓ Added value for

Career Development

✓ **Commitment**





Where should I look for Host-Supervisor-Fellow...?

- Personal contacts with (reliable) people and institutions you have worked with in other scientific/ research endeavours
- Previous Collaborations in (EU) Projects



- Contacts from participation in Working Groups / Committees





How about additional Good sources?

- Net4MobilityPlus Expression-of-Interest

<https://net4mobilityplus.eu/eoi>



- EURAXESS Hosting Offers

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/hosting/search>



- COST Actions: www.cost.eu



- Brokerage Events, Info-days
- Seminars, Conferences
- Linked In, ResearchGate.net





"Single Electronic Data Interchange Area" and "Evaluation in brief"





European Commission

Funding & tender opportunities

Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)



SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

PROJECTS & RESULTS

WORK AS AN

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search>



Type your Keywords...

Match whole words only

GRANTS

TENDERS

Submission status

Forthcoming (4)

Open for submission (11)

Closed (1)

Programming period

2021 - 2027 (16)



<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents;programCode=HORIZON>

#HorizonEU

The screenshot shows the 'Reference Documents' section of the Horizon Europe portal. A yellow box highlights the 'Reference Documents' header, with a yellow arrow pointing to it from the right. Below this, there are sections for 'Grants' and 'Procurement'. The 'Grants' section contains text about legal documents and a prompt to select a programme. The 'Procurement' section mentions that documents are published on TED eTendering. A search filter is present with a 'Filter' input and an 'Expand all' button. A list of categories is shown, with a yellow box highlighting '2021-2022' under the 'Work programme & call documents' category, and a yellow arrow pointing to it from the left. The 'Programming period' dropdown is set to '2021-2027', and a 'Horizon Europe (HORIZON)' filter is active.





Search Funding & Tenders

ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-search?code=submitterTextSearchKeyword+matchWholeWord+inTypeCode=0.12statusCodes=31094501.31094502.31094503programmePeriod=2021%2D%202027pr...

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

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

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Type your keywords...

Match whole words only

GRANTS TENDERS

Submission status

Followed (0) | Open for submission (0) | Done (0)

Programming period

2021 - 2027 (11)

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Programme part

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Filter

Funding and tenders (11)

Need help? | Sort by: | Submission status

Grant: Trans-national cooperation among Marie Skłodowska-Curie National Contact Points (NCP) 2021

Open for submission

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	HORIZON-MSCA-2021-MCP-01-01	Opening date	21 June 2021
Types of action	HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions	Deadline date	31 August 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

Grant: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021

Open for submission

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01-01	Opening date	22 June 2021
Types of action	HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships, HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships	Deadline date	12 October 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

Grant: MSCA International Cooperation 2021

Open for submission

Programme	Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Deadline model	single-stage
ID	HORIZON-MSCA-2021-INCO-01-01	Opening date	22 June 2021



EU Login
One account, many EU services

research requires you to authenticate

Sign in to continue

Welcome back
p.papazoglou@cyi.ac.cy
(External)

[Sign in with a different e-mail address?](#)

Password

[Lost your password?](#)

Choose your verification method
Password

Sign in

When ECAS?

English (en)

Careful: ECAS became... EU Login





EU Login
One account, many EU services

English (en)

Create an account **Login**

ECAS becomes "EU Login"

The European Commission's main authentication service (ECAS) has gone through a major redesign phase to make it more user-friendly. More than a new look and feel, its name also changed to "EU Login".

Here is some information to help you adapt to this update.

- > Why "EU Login"?
- > Do I have to change anything?
- > How is it easier than before?
- > Are there any new functionalities?
- > I'm stuck / don't know what to do / am experiencing a problem, who should I get in touch with?

Create an Account!





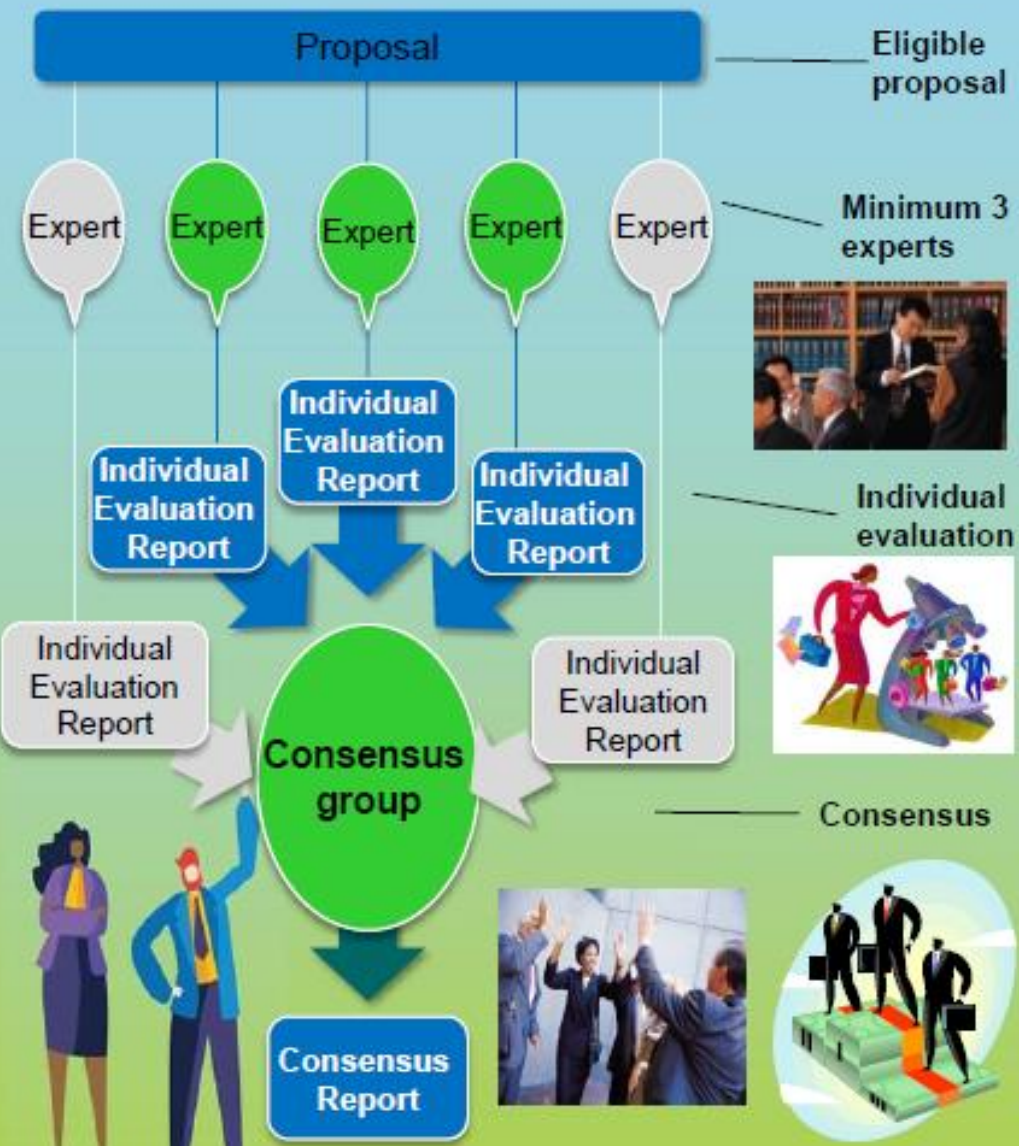
#HorizonEU



The screenshot shows the 'Funding: Submission Service' interface. At the top, a progress bar indicates the submission process: Login, Topic selection, Create proposal, Fill proposal, Proposal form, and Submit. The 'Proposal forms' section includes a 'Deadline' (13 October 2021), 'Call data' (Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01), and 'Proposal data' (Account: MSCA-MSCA-PF-2021). A red checkmark is placed next to the 'Administrative forms' section, which contains buttons for 'Edit forms', 'View history', and 'Print preview'. A yellow box highlights these buttons, with a yellow arrow pointing to a red-bordered text box. Another yellow box highlights the 'Download Part B templates' button, with a yellow arrow pointing to the same text box. A third yellow box highlights the 'Support & Helpdesk' section, with a yellow arrow pointing to the text box. The text box contains the following text:

Edit Forms: Part A
Download Templates:
Part B
Support & Helpdesk





- Dealing with **Multidisciplinary/ Multisectoral** proposals
- Applicants must **properly select Descriptors...!**
- Proposals strictly evaluated on their own merit (→ No recommendations for changes)
- **Criteria: “Excellence”, “Impact” and “Implementation”...but also “Cross-Cutting” Issues**
- All proposals above thresholds are **Ranked** in descending order of overall score (one ranked list per budget shown in Call)
- Selection of the proposals starts from top of list, until available budget exhausted





MSCA - PF Award Criteria Evaluation Weightings

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		
1	2	3
Priority in case of proposals with the same score (<i>ex aequo</i>)		
NB: An overall threshold of 70% will be applied to the total weighted score.		



0 – Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1 – Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 – Fair. Proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 – Good. Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.


4 – Very Good. Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5 – Excellent. Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.





MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: Award Criteria

Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Quality and efficiency of the implementation (20%)
<p>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)</p>	<p>Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development</p>	<p>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities</p>	<p>Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements</p>
<p>Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host</p>	<p>The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts.</p>	
<p>Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills.</p>		





...Remember...

#HorizonEU



“MSCA PF fellowships are meant to support the best, most promising individual researchers from anywhere in the world.”

@MSCActions





Presentation's Programme



European Funding Opportunities for Individual Researcher's Career Development and Grant-Writing Hints-&-Tips for Competitive Proposals

At the end of the Training Session, the Trainees are expected to be able to:

- Navigate through the variety of Funding Opportunities, within the context of European Programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe), that address the Career Development of Individual Researchers.
- Identify the proper sources-of-information, the relevant necessary "background policy" readings, and the required Application-templates.
- Apprehend the "Reviewer's Mindset" for particular Calls-for-Proposals.
- Translate the Expected Content for particular Calls-for-Proposals into customized-by-them Application-proposals.

10.00 - Opening

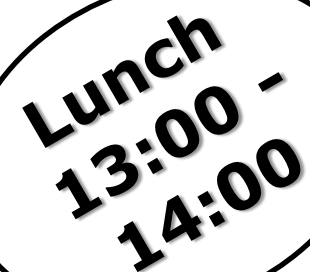
10.10 - 11.30 - European Funding Opportunities Part I

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 - 13.00 - European Funding Opportunities Part II

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 - 15.00 - Grant-Writing Hints-&-Tips for Competitive Proposals



**Lunch
13:00 -
14:00**





“Reviewer’s Mindset” Simulation Exercise on:

Real Examples Criteria





0 – Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1 – Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 – Fair. Proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 – Good. Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4 – Very Good. Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5 – Excellent. Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.





Excellence

X



Strengths:

- The research topic is highly relevant for climate and air-quality, with potential benefits for society.
- The main research objectives are clearly stated.
- The multidisciplinary aspects of the research are well covered
- The methodological approach is very well described.
- Appropriate interaction with other existing EU projects in relevant topics is foreseen.
- The proposed plan for training is highly appropriate, both for scientific/technical skills and for complementary skills.
- The transfer of knowledge from the host to the researcher is of high quality. Supervision of other members of the host group and external collaborators.
- The main supervisor has high-level expertise and experience in fields relevant to the project. Supervision will be appropriately complemented by other members of the host institution.
- The supervisor at the secondment institute also demonstrates an outstanding level of expertise and international recognition.
- The host institution provides excellent opportunities for international collaboration.
- Appropriate measures for the integration of the researcher have been included in the proposal.
- Very good capacity to reach greater professional maturity and independence during the proposed research is described, along with a well-motivated vision for future career development.

4,5

Weaknesses:

- The overview of the state of the art lacks consideration of several earlier works addressing the same problem in a European context with a similar approach.
- The level of novelty is not sufficiently described in the proposal.
- The professional track record of the researcher is modest considering the career stage, especially as regards publications.





Excellence

Y



Strengths

- The state-of-the-art is very well explained and introduces quite clearly the research to be performed.
- Methodology is appropriate to reach the goals proposed and achievable during the lifetime of the project.
- Action involves cooperation with international and European programmes, which will contribute to open up future career opportunities
- Location of the study is very well justified (important but under-sampled part of the world).
- Linking calibration chain of sensors according to international standards and extensive lab work is a very strong point.
- Skills and knowledge gained by the researcher from the host institution and the partners are clearly identified and described. In particular, the researcher will improve scientific and technical knowledge in the field, will learn new instrumental skills, will establish collaboration with an internationally recognised research network and will acquire experience in project management and leadership.
- Researcher will provide the host institution with a new research line, international collaborations with partners and networks in the field and will contribute to promote the science conducted by the host institution.
- Training activities in scientific skills are comprehensively explained, being very extensive and timely within the lifetime of the action.
- Topics covered during the secondment period complement well those dealt with at the main host institution.
- The supervisor's level of experience on the proposed research topic is very high. The supervisor's track record is outstanding including broad experience in supervision of graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows.
- Quality of integration is high as the host has a great UAV facility and the researcher brings in analytical skills regarding CH4 and N2O detection.
- A Personal Career Development Plan will be drafted by the supervisor during the action
- The proposed research will contribute to the development of skills by the researcher that are essential to build and manage a research group.
- Researcher has a very good publication record for the level of experience, good international experience and demonstrates good potential for independent thinking.

4,3

Weaknesses

- Originality of the proposal is moderate, it is unclearly described what new scientific questions will be addressed.
- Proposal does not fully justify the exact choice of sensors to be used.
- The training strategy to provide complementary skills is not robust enough, given the level of experience of the researcher.
- Specific support to help a newly arrived researcher to settle down quickly in a new country and new institution is not clearly considered.
- Potential for leadership and professional maturity are not fully demonstrated in the proposal.





Impact

X



Real Examples

Evaluation Exercise



Strengths:

- The topic of the project will beyond any doubt help the researcher to acquire multi-disciplinary skills in areas that are extremely relevant for good career prospects in the future.
- Fully realistic consideration has been given to options and strategies for the next career stages after the end of the project.
- A very good plan of publications and related topics is included in the proposal.
- The overall dissemination plan to the scientific community and stakeholders is at a high level with realistic ambitions.
- The dissemination of results from the modelling tools has been very well planned through existing websites and will ensure reaching a large scientific community and allow further data exploitation.
- A very good plan of communication activities for wider audiences, including publications targeting policy makers, is presented. The communication plan appropriately includes communication to young audiences.

5,0

Weaknesses:

No significant weaknesses.





Impact

Y



Real Examples

Evaluation Exercise



Strengths

- Researcher will acquire a considerable set of new scientific and technological skills in the field and will have gain further knowledge on managing resources.
- There will be good interaction with a network of leading scientists within the field of the project.
- Proposal considers strategies to help the researcher to apply for future research funding.
- Project opens possibilities for links between academia and industry that could be very beneficial for future career prospects.
- Research outcomes will be disseminated to the scientific community through publications in peer review journals, attendance to conferences, generation of an online database and organising a workshop.
- The project's results will be suitable for exploitation. Measures for implementation have been properly addressed. Intellectual property aspects have been adequately considered.
- Dissemination activities are included in the Gantt chart and their frequency is appropriate.
- Several outreach activities will be carried out during the project. Proposal gives good consideration to communicating and promoting science to young audiences.
- Adapted presentations and audiovisual strategies have been included as effective communication to the public.

4,0



Weaknesses

- The impact of teaching activities and student mentoring are not sufficiently considered in the future career development.
- The aim to create a new research group right after the fellowship is not realistic given the level of experience of the researcher. The proposal does not properly consider other alternatives.
- Participation in conferences is not sufficiently addressed.
- Communication targeting the modelling community is not considered adequately. This is a drawback given the topic of the project and the potential for further exploitation of data.
- Key stakeholders are not clearly identified and there is no clear image of the target audience. Corresponding communication activities are only generally described in the proposal.





Implementation

X



Real Examples

Evaluation Exercise



Strengths:

- The work plan is presented in a clear and coherent way through work packages and related tasks.
- An appropriate description of the deliverables and milestones is provided.
- The project design allows to work on several tasks at the same time, facilitating progress and monitoring.
- The described work plan is highly effective and is very well supported by the Gantt chart.
- The overall allocation of tasks and resources is fully realistic towards the accomplishment of the project objectives.
- Follow-up meetings with the secondment team are included in the project plan.
- Major risks associated with the proposed research are adequately considered and appropriate contingency measures are proposed.
- The equipment and facilities offered by the host and secondment institutions is excellent and clearly appropriate for developing the project.

Weaknesses:

- Time required for the planned reporting activities is not fully considered in the proposal.





Implementation

Y



Real Examples

Evaluation Exercise



Strengths

- Deliverables and milestones are well formulated and will facilitate progress monitoring.
- The independence of WPs has potential to facilitate rapid progress of the project.
- Resources for technical parts have been realistically allocated.
- Management plan is properly explained and it includes a clear description of overall responsibility for the activities
- Proposal includes adequate project design and setting of activities at the beginning of the project.
- The contribution of the host institution to the research activities is clearly explained.
- The equipment and facilities available at the host and co-conducting institutions are clearly appropriate to develop this project, especially regarding the availability of UAV expertise, which is world class.



3,7

Weaknesses

- There is no clear work package or task planned for the scientific exploitation of the results, leaving some of the scientific objectives of the proposal unaddressed.
- Number of person months specified for all the work packages are not fully justified according to the duration of the project. Allocated time to several actions is not convincingly described.
- Number of months allocated for school visits is unconvincingly presented.
- Contingency measures for potential risks associated with the instrumentation and techniques used are not clearly identified. Specifically, one unaddressed risk is that there will be no appropriate vehicle to carry up the load and/or the sensors are not light enough.
- Support services available to the researcher for help with practicalities and day to day management of the projects are not adequately described in the proposal.



• Let’s take an Overall look at the “Results”...





Proposal “Y”

1. Excellence: 4,30

2. Impact: 4,00

3. Implementation: 3,70



Overall:

• Score → 81,80

• NOT Funded...!





Proposal “X”

1. Excellence: 4,50

2. Impact: 5,00

3. Implementation: 4,90

Overall:

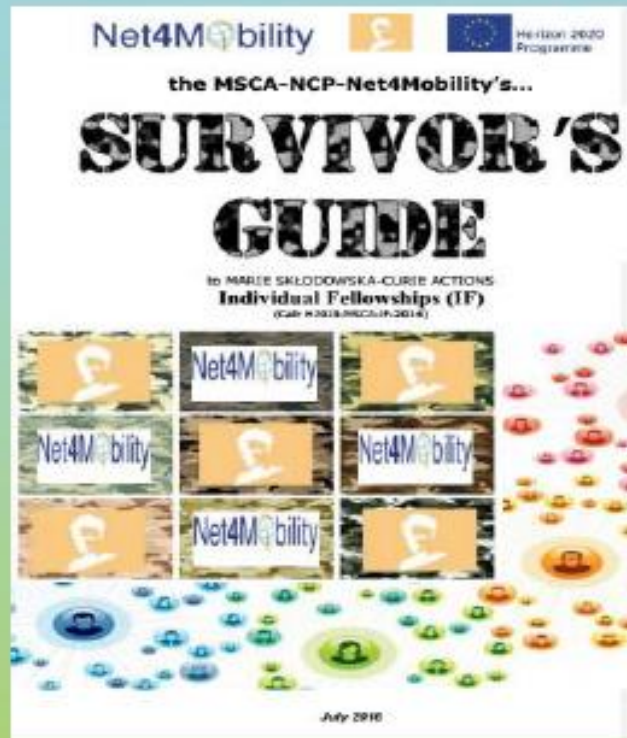
- Score → 94,60

- **FUNDED...!**





Proposal Preparation & Writing "Hints-&-Tips" from the ...



Pierantonios Papazoglou
European University Cyprus
Centre-of-Excellence in Risk & Decision Sciences



→ Overall Useful Links and Documents...!

- **SEDIA**

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

- **Helpdesk and Support Services**

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/helpdesks>

- **On-line Manual**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Online+Manual>



- **Annotated Model Grant Agreement [COMING SOON...!]**

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf

→ For the “UNIT Grants”:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/agr-contr/unit-mga_he_en.pdf

- **EURAXESS (Charter-&-Code, Policy...)**

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>

<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/useful-information/policy-library>





→ MSCA Useful Links and Documents...!

• MSCA-PF Essential Documents:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-msca-2021-pf-01-01>



• MSCA Green Charter:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2bffb0d9-9b3c-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>



• MSCA Guidelines on Supervision:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/bb02d56e-9b3c-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>





https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf



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≈105 pages on...
MSCA Rules and Regulations...
including for PF...!



“PF Guide-for-Applicants”



... a “MUST Have”

<https://rea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-06/Guide%20for%20applicants%20-%20MSCA%20PF%202021.pdf>

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≈15 pages on...
MSCA-PF...





https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/msca_if_2018_manual_for_evaluators.pdf

MSCA-IF EVALUATION STEP BY STEP
MANUAL FOR EVALUATORS 2018
 Research Executive Agency



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≈55 pages on how to...
Evaluate MSKA-IF...
 but useful for **PF...**!





→ https://www.net4mobilityplus.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/N4M_2020_IF_Handbook_Final.pdf

Net4Mobility+
Network of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions National Contact Points for the mobile scientific and innovation community

Deliverable No. 3.3
MSCA-Individual Fellowship Handbook 2020

Issued by: Geraldine Canny, Irish Universities Association [IE]
Issued date: 2 June 2020
Work Package Leader: Innovation Authority [IT]

Net4M+ project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the grant agreement no. 101018222



MSCA-Individual Fellowships Handbook 2020 Net4Mobility+

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45 pages on how to...
write **MSCA-IF-2020**...
but useful for **PF-2021**...!



“Hints”...



“Tips”...

... “Deciphering”... the Expected Content

#HorizonEU





Excellence

<p>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)</p>	<p>Introduction, state-of-the-art, SMART objectives and overview of the action Originality and innovative aspects of the research programme: contribution of the project within the field. Novel concepts, approaches or methods, and ambition that justify the “going beyond the state-of-the-art”</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>Overall Research methodology and approach Gender dimension and other Diversity aspects Interdisciplinarity...intersectorality Open Science practice/approach to be followed Management of Research Data and other Research Outputs</p>
<p>Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host</p>	<p>Qualifications and experience of the Supervisor Level of experience on the research topic proposed and track record of work, including the main international collaborations. Information provided should include participation in projects, publications, patents and any other relevant results. Experience in supervising Researchers. Show how the researcher will gain new knowledge from the hosting organisation(s) during the fellowship. Planned Training for the Researcher...: Scientific... and ...Complementary Skills...to broaden/diversify profile and career prospects How the organisation(s) may also benefit from the previous experience of the researcher. Outline the capacity for transferring the knowledge previously acquired by the researcher to the host organisation. <u>EF: 2-way / GF: 3-way transfer.</u> Added-value of non-academic placement (if applicable)</p>
<p>Quality and appropriateness of the researcher’s professional experience, competences and skills</p>	<p>Level of existing experience and skills, and potential to reach or reinforce professional maturity in relation to the proposed research</p>



Impact	
<p>Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development</p>	<p><u>Expected Impact</u> of the research and training on the experienced researchers' career: articulate clearly the advantages of mobility through this fellowship for the <u>researcher's personal career development</u> inside and/or outside academia</p> <p>Expected New <u>Competences and Skills</u> to be acquired...</p> <p>Personalised <u>Career Development Plan</u> for the researcher</p>
<p>Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities</p>	<p>Plan for:</p> <p><u>Dissemination</u> of the research results</p> <p><u>Exploitation</u> of results and <u>Strategy for management of intellectual property, along with foreseen protection measures</u></p> <p><u>Communication and public engagement strategy of the action towards different target audiences</u></p>
<p>The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts</p>	<p>Showcase the “<i>value of your research to the greater good and to the benefit of the European Citizen Tax-payer</i>” ...!</p> <p>How you “make a difference” / what is your “Impact” beyond the scope and duration of the project...!</p> <p>→ Scientific impacts... economic/technological... societal....</p> <p>Connect with the Policy Context of the Call / Work-Programme / Missions / Horizon Europe, and “broaden” the scope of your “Impact” ...</p> <p>(Green Deal, Green Charter, UN-SDGs, OECD, Health-&-Wellbeing, Employment, Economy...)</p> <p>How “widespread” are your impacts...: possible Target-Groups, Stakeholders and End-Users engagement...</p>



Implementation

<p>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages</p>	<p><u>Progress monitoring</u> Project organisation and management structure, including the financial management strategy, as well as the progress monitoring mechanisms put in place.</p> <p><u>Risk management</u> Risks that might endanger reaching the project's objectives and the contingency plans to be put in place should risk occur</p> <p><u>Work Packages</u> List of major <u>Deliverables</u> (= tangible output: report, document, technical diagram, software, etc.) List of major <u>Milestones</u> (=control/ decision points that help to chart progress) <u>Gantt Chart</u> (=Table of Activities over planned time) → in template Secondments if applicable Description of how the work planning and the resources ensure the research and training objectives. Explanation of the appropriateness of person-months in relation to the activities</p>
<p>Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements</p>	<p>description of the legal entity(ies), and its <u>main tasks and commitments, as well as infrastructure, logistics and facilities</u></p> <p><u>Hosting Arrangements...!</u> <u>Mention HRS4R-accreditations and/or Charter-&-Code Endorsements and/or EURAXESS-practical-assistance-arrangements</u></p>



✓ More on “IPR Management”:

https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/regional-helpdesks/european-ip-helpdesk_en






For Complementary / Transferable / Soft Skills, some ideas are:

→ Research project management, Entrepreneurship and Research Innovation, Presentation skills, communication of research results to the non-specialists/media/wide public, Grant / Proposal Writing for competitive (EU) Funds, Principles of the Peer-review process for Journals, (Advanced) Scientific Writing, Grants Negotiation Skills, Scientific Networking, Team Leadership / Team Management / Task Coordination / Conflict Resolution in Research Teams, Ethics in Research, Training for Gender Issues (in Research Teams and as Considerations in the Research Outputs), Training for Intellectual Property Rights Management and Patenting, Data Protection and Open Access, Training / Seminars on Interview Skills for (Tenureship) Positions/ Jobs, CV and Resume Preparation and Submission / Self-marketing Strategies and Techniques, (Advanced) Qualitative / Quantitative Methods, (Advanced) Experimental Design, Statistical Analysis for Data Processing (e.g. learning SPSS, Mathematica...), Learning/ Application of a research-specific Software/ computer-Language/ Model/ Tool, Language Courses, Teaching Methods (in Higher Education) / Tutoring and Mentoring Methods, Techniques for Presentation and Moderation

→ For more, take a look at: **EURAXESS Career Development**
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/career-development>, and the

→ **EURAXESS Career Handbook for Young Researchers**

https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/euraxess_career_handbook.pdf,

→ as well as the **UK–Vitae International Programme**
<https://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers-professional-development>





→ Common Errors

- Proposal written as Scientific Paper
- Objectives and “state-of-the-art” are elaborate and in-depth, but Implementation/ Methodology, “beyond-the-state-of-the-art” and Impact are under-developed
- Unclear Aims and Objectives
- Over-ambitious
- Not enhancing training/ career



- CV not properly presented or...not matching Part A...
- Off page limits...! Template/ structure/ essential parts disregarded/ not followed!
- Not-final...Wrong draft submitted...!





→ What Evaluators expect

- Well-organised, “flowing” text. Proposal should make the Evaluator’s “life” easier: consistent, well-written, following guidelines/templates.
- Proposal should help the Evaluators score it more easily: “built” around the Evaluation Criteria.
- Proposal has to convince that it will add value in the specific field, for the Career Development of the Researcher and the EU at large.



- Clear description of the content and structure of the Training Programme, as well as of the Quality of the Supervision.



- Clear Work Plan with **Contingency Planning**, **IPR management considerations**, and **Outreach/Dissemination Plans**.





- Always revisit the Criteria-questions... Stay within “Scope”
(→ copy from Documentation and work around it)
- No duplications of previous works/projects, but... building on them
- Clear language and organised contents
- Explain abbreviations / Use Glossary
- Use tables and diagrams (relevant and easily readable and understandable)

• Use Structure and Table-of-Contents from Templates... Use Headings and subheadings from Templates...

• Evaluators don't have too much time...
KISS → Keep It Short and Simple





- Remember... «economy» in words:

Write clearly:
Omit needless words

“The **main** purpose of any scientific article is to convey in the fewest **number of** words the ideas, procedures, and conclusions of an investigator **to the scientific community**. Whether **or not** this **admirable** aim is accomplished depends **to a large extent** on how skillful the author is in **assembling the words of the English language**.”

(Gaafar, 1981, “Use, misuse and abuse of language in scientific writing”)
 Acknowledgement: Prof. M. Avraamides, UCY



European Commission’s Clear Writing Tips Campaign...:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/clear_writing_tips_en.pdf



“Hints”...



“Tips”...

- Use Margins / Font Size / Numbering / Limits set in Templates!
- Accurate, Verifiable and Professional content (reference where needed)
- Part B matching Part A data...!
- Consider Cross-Cutting Issues: Gender, Open Data, Ethics, Societal aspects, Green Deal, Missions...
- No “emphatic” statements and claims that are unsubstantiated
- Consistent in English used throughout. NO jargon or slang.
- Write for the “non-specialist” – educate te Evaluator to understand what you want to do and why it’s worth the funding... !
- No typos, no inconsistencies, no obvious cut-&paste, no numbers which don’t add up, no missing pages...
- Proof – Read at the end...





Successful Proposals are...

S *Specific*



M *Measurable*



A *Attainable*



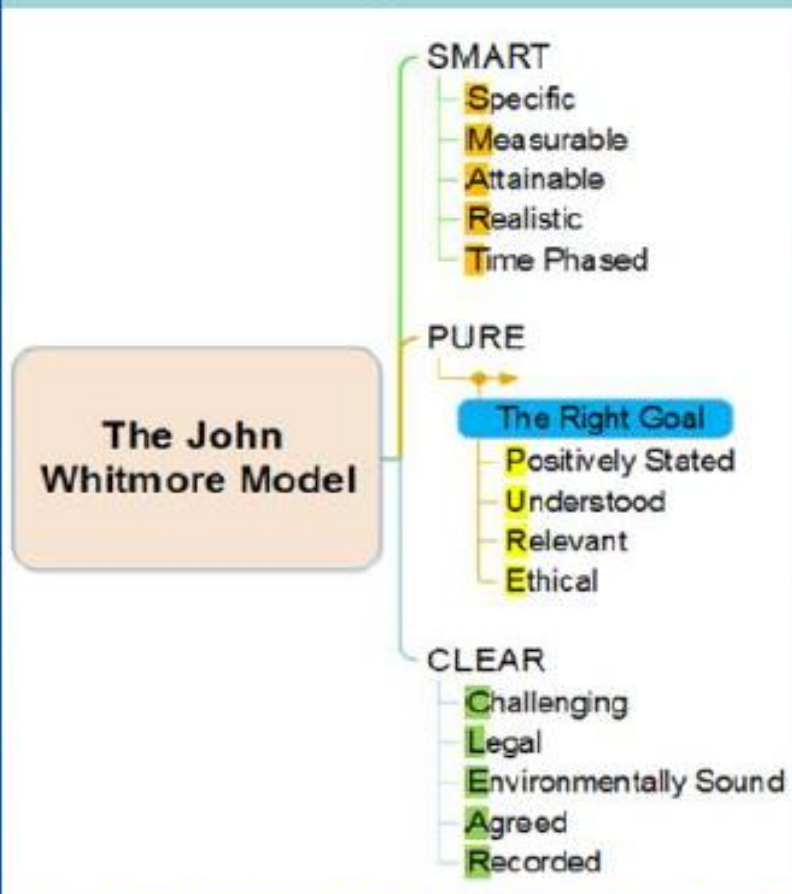
R *Relevant*

T *Timely*



(Doran, G.T., 1981.
Management Review)

But also, don't forget...



<https://www.biggerplate.com/mindmaps/NM3mZKfq/are-your-goals-smart,-pure,-and-clear>



- ✓ **Start early...!**
- ✓ Get Guidance & Info...!
- ✓ **Patience and Persistence...!**
- ✓ Find “ERs” and “Hosts” on time
- ✓ Sharpen “**Policy Background**” → Impact
- ✓ Write with the “**Eyes of Evaluators**”
- ✓ Make it easy for them to give you high marks...
- ✓ Successful Proposals are... **SMART – PURE – CLEAR**
- ✓ Follow the Template → cover all requested

“Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained...!”

As quoted in “Madame Curie: A Biography”, (1937) by Eve Curie Labouisse, Part 2, p. 116



- ✓ When you write... **KISS** (keep it simple & short)
- ✓ When you image/table... **KILL** (keep it large & legible)
- ✓ SMART proposals love “**Details! Details!**”
- ✓ Get your Proposal **PRESCREENED...and PROOF-READ...!**





SMART Proposals are... “Prescreened”...!!!



• We offer **FREE** (but not cheap...) guidance to our Team and Collaborators [others pay fees equivalent to Evaluation]

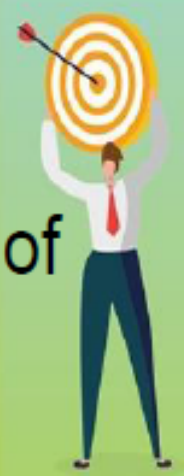


• CERIDES “Intensive Mentoring & Talent Management Programme” approach:

→ proof-reading / editing (“commas”/“fullstops”/“typos”...)

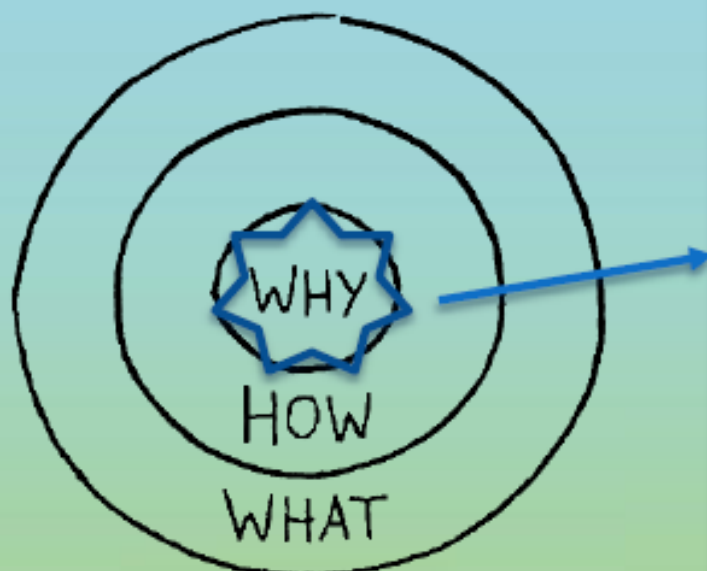
→ “Deciphering” of EC-jargon and Addressing of Template’s Questions

→ Strategy and Text Suggestions





The Golden Circle



Our Credo
Inspire...
Motivate...
Empower...

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...We believe in a holistic and inspirational offer to the academic and business world. CERIDES is based on the offering of educational, research, and consulting solutions...



Nothing in life is
to be feared, it is
only to be
understood.

– Marie Curie





Pierantonios Papazoglou

Research-Associate | Research & Strategy Manager
European University Cyprus

CERIDES – Centre-of-Excellence in Risk & Decision Sciences

Email: p.papazoglou@research.euc.ac.cy

<https://cy.linkedin.com/in/pierantoniospapazoglou>

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2785-8360>



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14Dec. 2021, Nicosia

