European Commission

MSCA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
*Developing talents, advancing research*

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Overview

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DG EAC, European Commission

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

image source: iStockphoto.com

# Horizon Europe

## EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

### Pillar I
### EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

### Pillar II
### GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

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

### Pillar III
### INNOVATIVE EUROPE

- 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

## EURATOM

- Fusion
- Fission
- Joint Research Center

2021-2027

**Budget: EUR 95.5 billion**

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# Pillar I: Excellent Science

**Reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union's science base**

### European Research Council

Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

**€16 billion**

### Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

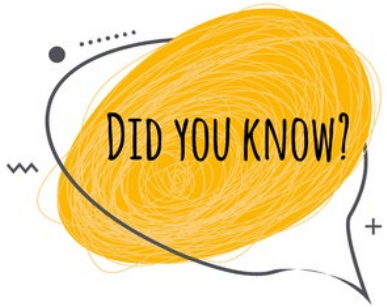
Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

**€6.6 billion**

### Research Infrastructures

Integrated and inter-connected world-class research infrastructures

**€2.4 billion**




**12 Nobel Prize winners** either backed by or involved in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions between 2012 and 2020

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# Key features

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

**Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)**

**International, inter-sectoral (academic/non-academic) & interdisciplinary mobility**

**Attractive working and employment conditions**

**Structuring impact on organisations + strategic international partnerships**

**Fostering collaboration beyond academia, notably with industry**

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# The Actions

**Doctoral Networks**

*Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates*

**Postdoctoral Fellowships**

*Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers*

**Staff Exchanges**

*Support for research and innovation staff exchanges*

**COFUND**

*Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes*

**MSCA and Citizens**

*Public outreach events (Night)*

European Commission

# H2020: Main figures for Italy

Funded Projects: **1,598**

Submitted Proposals: **12,139**

Distinct Organisations: **659**

Researchers hosted in Italian organisations: **4,248**

- Male: **56.60%**
- Female: **43.40%**

Budget Awarded **531,731,942 €**

Success Rate[1]: **13.20%**

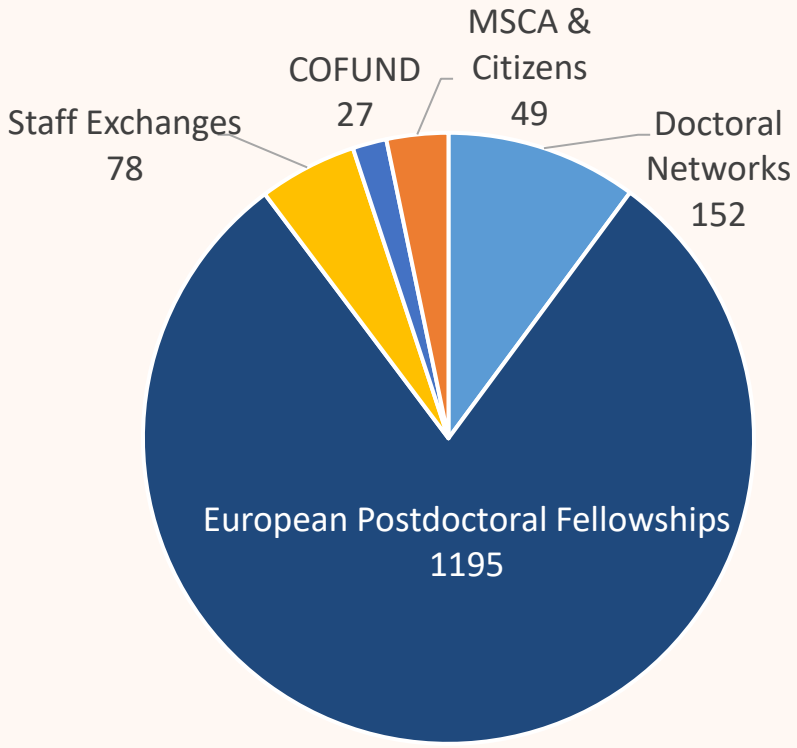
Organisation Participations: **2,644**

Italian Researchers: **6,391**

- Male: **57.60%**
- Female: **42.40%**

European Commission

# Horizon Europe: initial figures (2021 calls)




Number of projects funded under the MSCA 2021 calls

- Over 1500 funded projects involving around 3000 distinct organisations, including over 1600 from non-academic sectors

**Italian participation in MSCA 2021 calls:**

- 140 distinct organisations receiving funding (under all calls)
- 210 researchers funded under MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Success rate of Italian researchers in MSCA PF: 18,4% (vs PF average 14,3%)

European Commission

# Supporting organisations and individuals

## Organisation

- Any legal entity
- From academic or non-academic sector
- Beneficiary or associated partner
- Applies to Doctoral Networks, Staff Exchanges and COFUND

## Individual researcher

- Any nationality
- Specific conditions (mobility rule, PhD, nationality/residence for Global PF)
- Applies to Postdoctoral Fellowships jointly with host in EU/AC

# Who do the MSCA support?

| Researchers | Actions available |
|---|---|
| Researchers without a PhD degree | Doctoral Networks<br>Staff Exchanges<br>COFUND-DP |
| Researchers with a PhD degree | Postdoctoral Fellowships<br>Staff Exchanges<br>COFUND-PP |
| Other staff (Research managers, technicians, etc.) | Staff Exchanges |

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# Participation of third country individuals

## Individuals from third countries can participate in all MSCA actions

| MSCA Action | Eligible | Where to look for vacancies | Where to apply |
|---|---|---|---|
| Doctoral Networks | Yes | EURAXESS | Hosting/recruiting institution (or as announced in vacancy) |
| Staff Exchanges | Yes | Sending institution | Internally |
| Postdoctoral Fellowships | Yes | Find host organisation/ EURAXESS | FTOP* |
| COFUND | Yes | EURAXESS | Hosting/recruiting institution (or as announced in vacancy) |

* FTOP: Funding and tender opportunities portal

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# MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

One postdoctoral researcher

Host Institution

For **European Fellowships**:

Beneficiary from EU MS or HE AC

For **Global Fellowships**:

Beneficiary + 1 Third Country Associated Partner

Supervisor

## Next calls:

**2023:** 12 Apr 2023 – 13 Sep 2023 ; 260,47 M€

**2024:** 10 Apr 2024 – 11 Sep 2024 ; 270,75 M€

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# MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: How it works?

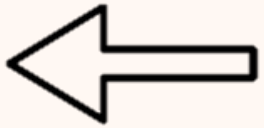
## European Fellowship

**12-24 months**

For fellows coming to EU MS / HE AC "incoming"

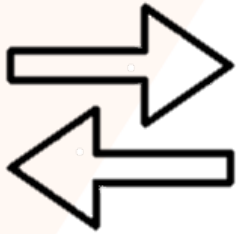
or

moving within EU MS / HE AC "intra-European"



## Global Fellowship

**12-24 months**



**12 months**

For fellows from Europe going to third countries

and then returning to Europe

**+ 6 months**
in non-academic sector in MS/AC (optional)

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# MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: Who can apply?

## Postdoctoral researcher

- Have obtained a PhD at the date of the call deadline
- No age restriction
- Maximum 8 years (full-time) research experience since award of the (first) doctoral degree

## Any Nationality

- Except for Global Fellowships: the researcher must be a national or long-term resident (5 years) of an EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Country

## Mobility rule

- Must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the beneficiary (for European Fellowships) or associated partner (for Global Fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline

## Resubmission

- Restrict resubmissions with score less than 70% to the following year

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# EU contribution

**1 unit**
**=**
**1 person/month**

| Researcher unit cost | Institutional unit cost | |
|---|---|---|
| "top-up allowance" | Research, training and networking | Management and indirect costs |
| **5080 €** (living allowance)*<br>**600 €** (mobility allowance)<br>**660 €** (family allowance)** | **1000 €** | **650 €** |

*** adjusted through the application of a country correction coefficient**
****if applicable, as well as long term leave allowance or special needs allowance**

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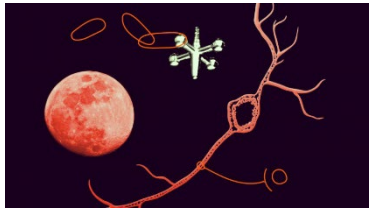
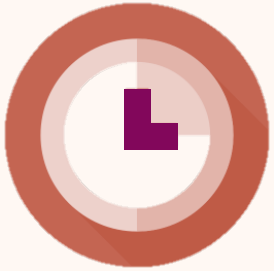


# MSCA Doctoral Networks

- **Multi-beneficiary action** to set up innovative **doctoral programmes**, including:
  - **Industrial Doctorates**
    - Training in academia and industry
    - Joint supervision
  - **Joint Doctorates**
    - Joint collaborations leading to a joint/double/multiple doctoral degree
    - Joint selection, supervision and governance structure
    - Pre-agreement for joint degrees required
- **Recruited researchers:**
  - **doctoral candidates,** i.e. researchers without a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment; mandatory enrolment in a doctoral programme in at least 1 EU MS/AC (at least 2 for Joint Doctorates)
  - **researchers apply to vacancies published** by the institutions participating in the projects
- **Focus** on **career development plan, supervision, training**: research and transferable skills
- **Who applies?**
  - **consortia** of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors; each beneficiary to recruit at least 1 researcher
  - at least **three independent legal entities**, each established in a different MS or AC; minimum of 1 beneficiary from a MS (on top of this minimum, any entity from any third country can join)
  - **Resubmission restrictions** for applications receiving a score **below 80%** in the previous call

# MSCA Doctoral Networks



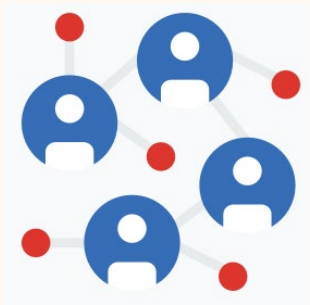
**DURATION**

Max 4 years

(max 5 years for Joint Doctorates only)

**COMPOSITION**

Min 3 organisations in 3 ≠ EU MS or HE AC (at least 1 MS)



**FELLOWSHIP**

Between 3 and 36 months

(up up to 48 months for Joint Doctorates only)

**BUDGET**

540 PM

## Next calls:

- **2023:** 30 May 2023 – 28 Nov 2023 ; 434,8 M€
- **2024:** 29 May 2024 – 27 Nov 2024 ; 451.15 M€

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# EU contribution

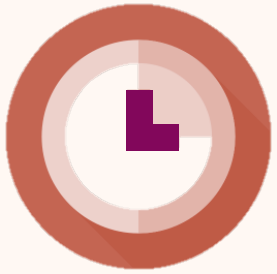
**1 unit**
**=**
**1 person/month**

| Researcher unit cost | Institutional unit cost | |
|---|---|---|
| "top-up allowance" | Research, training and networking | Management and indirect costs |
| **3400€** (living allowance)*<br>**600 €** (mobility allowance)<br>**660 €** (family allowance)** | **1600 €** | **1200 €** |

*** adjusted through the application of a country correction coefficient**
****if applicable, as well as long term leave allowance or special needs allowance**

European Commission

# MSCA Staff Exchanges



**DURATION**
4 years

**COMPOSITION**
Min 3 organisations in 3 ≠ countries (min. 2 EU MS or HE AC)

**SECONDMENTS**
1-12 months per staff

**BUDGET**
Max EUR 1.6 million (360 PM per project)

## Calls

- **2022**: call still open (until 8 Mar 2023; 77,5 M€)
- **2023**: 5 Oct 2023- 28 Feb 2024; 78,5 M€
- **2024**: 10 0ct 2024 – 5 Mar 2025; 81,23M€

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# EU contribution

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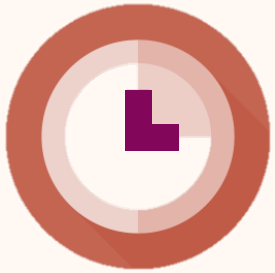
# MSCA COFUND



**DURATION**
Max 5 years

**COMPOSITION**
1 beneficiary from EU MS or HE AC

**FELLOWSHIP**
For doctoral and postdoctoral researchers for minimum 3 months

**BUDGET**
Co-funding
Max EUR 10 million per beneficiary per call

## Calls

- **2022:** Call still open (until 9 Feb 2023); 95 M€
- **2023**: 10 Oct 2023 – 8 Feb 2024: 95,67M€
- **2024**: 8 Oct 2024 – 6 Feb 2025; 99,28M€

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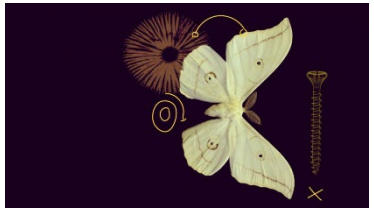

# MSCA COFUND – Unit contributions

| Contributions for recruited researchers and institutional contributions<br>Per person-month | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **COFUND allowance** | **Long-term leave allowance** (if applicable) | **Special needs allowance** (if applicable) |
| **Doctoral Programmes** | **EUR 2 800[1]** | **EUR 2 800 x % covered by the beneficiary** | **Requested unit[2] x (1/number of months)** |
| **Postdoctoral Programmes** | **EUR 3 980[1]** | **EUR 3 980 x % covered by the beneficiary** | **Requested unit[2] x (1/number of months)** |

[1]These amount are also the minimum gross remuneration applicable for researchers recruited under the programmes

[2]The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

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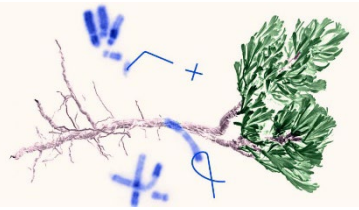
# MSCA and Citizens 2023



- **Aim:** To bring researchers and researchers closer to children, families and the public at large
- **Who applies?** One or more legal entities established in an EU Member State or HE Associated country
- **EU contribution**
  - **Lump Sum contributions**
  - Contribution estimated between **100-300k€ per annual edition** of the European Researchers' Night
- **Duration**
  - The call 2023 covers two successive editions (2024-2025)
  - Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals covering **activities for both 2024 and 2025**, including the organisation of two successive editions (2024 and 2025) of the **European Researchers' Night** and implementation of **Researchers at Schools** activities during the project duration.
- **Call**
  - **2023:** 20 Jun 2023 – 25 Oct 2023; 15.42 M€
  - No call in 2024

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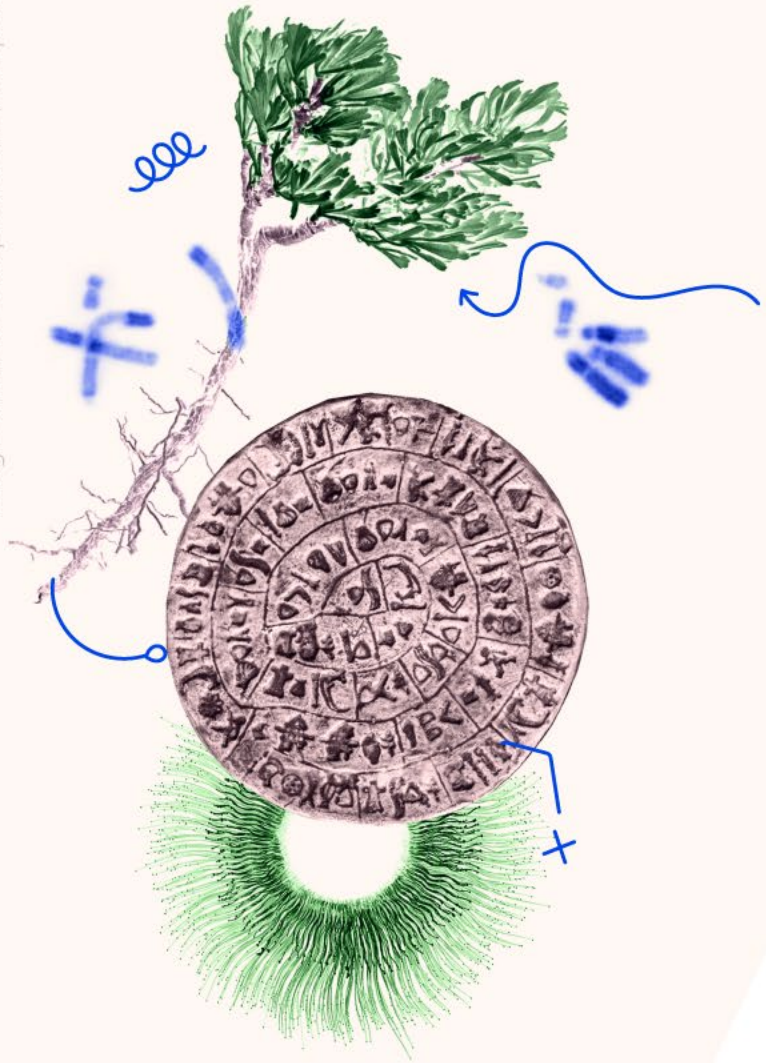

image sources: iStockphoto.com / Unsplash

# MSCA Seal of Excellence

- Under MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and COFUND
- The Seal of Excellence is awarded to **applications achieving a score of 85% or above** not retained for funding under MSCA PF and COFUND
- Quality label, helping recipients to attract other potential funders
- **Specific support schemes** exist for MSCA Seal of Excellence holders **(including several in Italy).** You will find the complete list here

European Commission

# What is funded?

| | Participating entity | | MSCA fellow*** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DN | Research, networking, training contributions | 1600 € | Living allowance* | 3400 € |
| | Management and indirect contributions | 1200 € | Mobility allowance | 600 € |
| | | | Family allowance | 660 € |
| | | | Long-term leave allowance** | 4000 € |
| PF | Research, networking, training contributions | 1000 € | Living allowance* | 5080 € |
| | Management and indirect contributions | 650 € | Mobility allowance | 600 € |
| | | | Family allowance | 660 € |
| | | | Long-term leave allowance** | 5680 € |
| SE | Research, networking, training contributions | 1300 € | Top-up allowance | 2300 € |
| | Management and indirect contributions | 1000 € | | |
| COFUND | COFUND allowance, DP**** | | | 2800 € |
| | COFUND allowance, PP**** | | | 3980 € |
| | | | Long-term leave allowance**, DP | 2800 € |
| | | | Long-term leave allowance**, PP | 3980 € |

(*) The living allowance is multiplied by a country correction coefficient (e.g. 103,3% Japan, 125,4% Sweden)
(**) Long-term leave allowance, if applicable.
(***) Special needs allowance allowance, if applicable (3 000 - 60 000 €).
(****) Minimum remuneration applies in COFUND:
2 800 € for Doctoral researcher, 3 980 € for Postdoctoral researcher

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# MSCA Call Calendar 2022

| | Action | Opening | Deadline | Budget (EUR million) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| closed | Doctoral Networks | 12 May 2022 | 15 November 2022 | 428.28 |
| closed | Postdoctoral Fellowships | 12 May 2022 | 14 September 2022 | 257 |
| open | Staff Exchanges | 6 October 2022 | 8 March 2023 | 77.5 |
| open | COFUND | 11 October 2022 | 9 February 2023 | 95 |

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# MSCA Call Calendar 2023 2024

| | Action | Opening | Deadline | Budget (EUR million) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2023 | Postdoctoral Fellowships | 12 April 2023 | 13 Sept 2023 | 260.47 |
| | Doctoral Networks | 30 May 2023 | 28 Nov 2023 | 434.80 |
| | MSCA & Citizens | 20 June 2023 | 25 Oct 2023 | 15.42 |
| | Staff Exchanges | 5 October 2023 | 28 Feb 2024 | 78.5 |
| | COFUND | 10 October 2023 | 8 February 2024 | 95 |
| 2024 | Postdoctoral Fellowships | 10 April 2024 | 11 Sept 2023 | 270.75 |
| | Doctoral Networks | 29 May 2024 | 27 Nov 2024 | 451.15 |
| | Staff Exchanges | 10 October 2024 | 5 March 2025 | 81.23 |
| | COFUND | 8 October 2024 | 6 February 2025 | 99.28 |

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*Are you a researcher looking for a host organisation?*
*Or an organisation looking for partners?*

## Some useful resources and links

- Vacancies under MSCA Doctoral Networks and COFUND programmes are published on the Euraxess portal (as well as some offers from host institutions for Postdoctoral Fellowships)
- **NEW !** : MSCA-Net's MSCA Matchmaking platform for researchers and organisation to find relevant partners and host institutions
- "*Partner search*" tool on Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal
- Enterprise Europe Networks (for non-academic partners)

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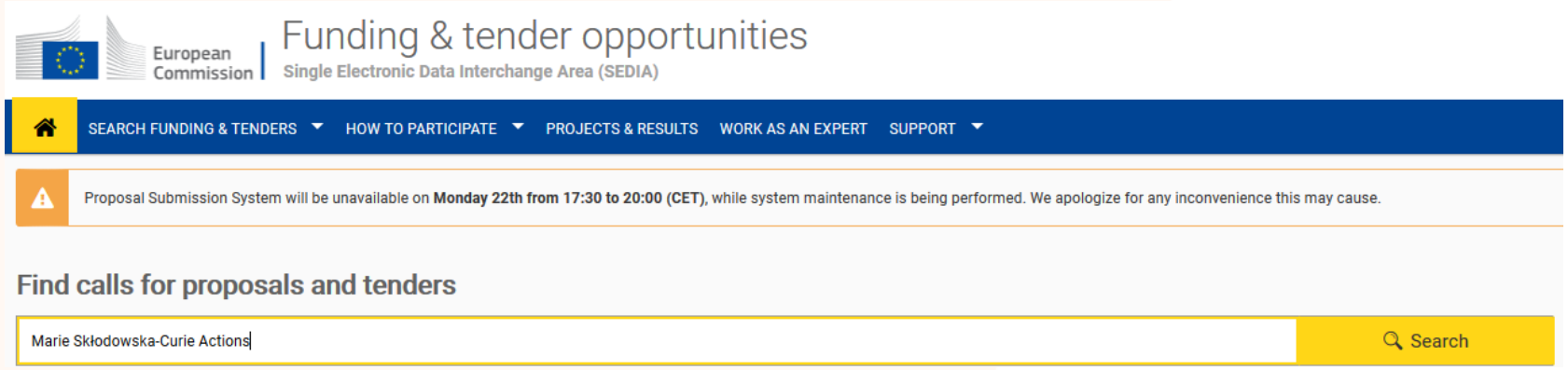
# Funding opportunities

- All calls are published on the **Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal**
- Applications are submitted through the portal:
  - Find your call
  - Sign in to the portal and register your organisation (get a PIC number)
  - Find partners
  - Apply

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/

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# Key resources and guidance

- Check all **guidance documents** available on Funding and Tenders Portal :
  - Guide for applicants: overview of rules, financial aspects, etc.
  - MSCA Work Programme and annexes
  - Proposal templates
  - Model Grant Agreements
  - Horizon Europe Programme Guide
  - Online manual on how to submit an application
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Partner search
- Ask for advice to your **MSCA National Contact Point** where available
- Submit specific queries to the **Research Enquiry Service** (funding, validation of participants, etc.)

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# Other useful links

- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Website**
  https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/node_en
- **Factsheet, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, 2021-2027**
  https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/128028
- **Funding and Tenders Portal (applications, documents, partner search)**
  https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon
- **Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023-2024**
  https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf
- **European Charter and Code for Researchers**
  https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter-code-researchers
- **MSCA Guidelines on Supervision**
  https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/508311
- **MSCA Green Charter**
  https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/720690
- **Horizon Dashboard**
  https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard
- **Become an Expert**
  https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert
- **Contact**: EAC-UNITE-C2@ec.europa.eu

**@MSCActions**

**@Marie.Curie.Actions**

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*Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.*

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

# Thank you!

**#MSCA #HorizonEU**

**@MSCActions**

https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/

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