Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, DG EAC, European Commission

Horizon Europe

Budget: EUR 95.5 billion

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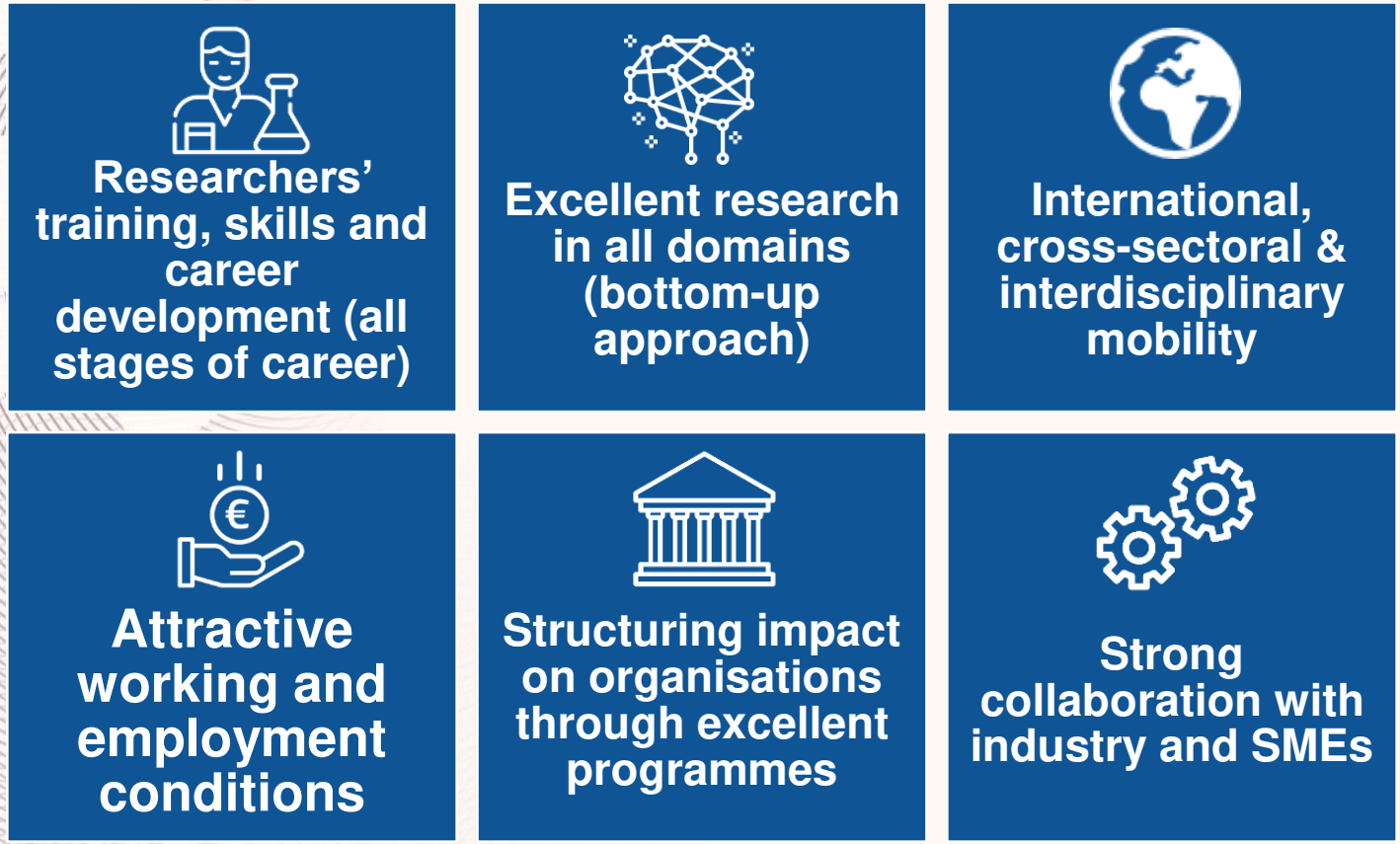
MSCA core objectives



- MSCA budget under Horizon Europe: **6,6B€**
- **Excellent Science (Pillar 1)**: reinforcing and extending the excellence of the EU's science base
- **Worldwide** geographic coverage

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Other policy priorities

- Equal opportunities, diversity and inclusiveness
- Open Science and responsible R&I
- Academic freedom & freedom of scientific research
- Quality supervision
- Support to reform of research assessment
- Environmental sustainability

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The MSCA have 5 main actions

Postdoctoral Fellowships

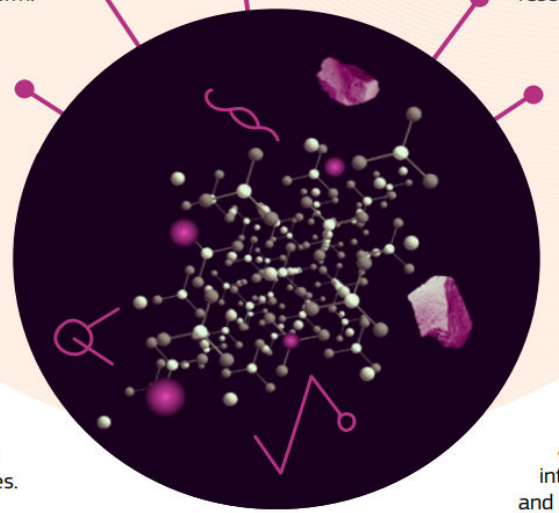
support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research and innovation. Researchers holding a PhD can carry out their research activities, acquire new skills and develop their careers abroad, whilst developing competences in non-academic sectors and working within interdisciplinary teams.

Doctoral Networks

implement doctoral programmes (including joint doctorates and industrial doctorates) **by international partnerships** of organisations from different sectors. They train highly-skilled doctoral candidates, stimulate their creativity, enhance their innovation capacities and boost their employability in the long-term.

Staff Exchanges

encourage short-term international and inter-sectoral exchanges of research and innovation staff through sustainable, collaborative projects in Europe and beyond. By doing so, they enhance knowledge and skills transfer and increase organisations' research and innovation capacities.



MSCA and Citizens

brings research and researchers closer to children, families and the public at large through the European Researchers' Night - the annual research communication and promotion event taking place at the end of September across EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

COFUND

co-finances regional, national and international doctoral and postdoctoral programmes for researchers' training and career development. The COFUND action spreads MSCA's best practices by setting high standards and excellent working conditions, and boosts training and international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.

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Novelties in 2023 and 2024 MSCA calls

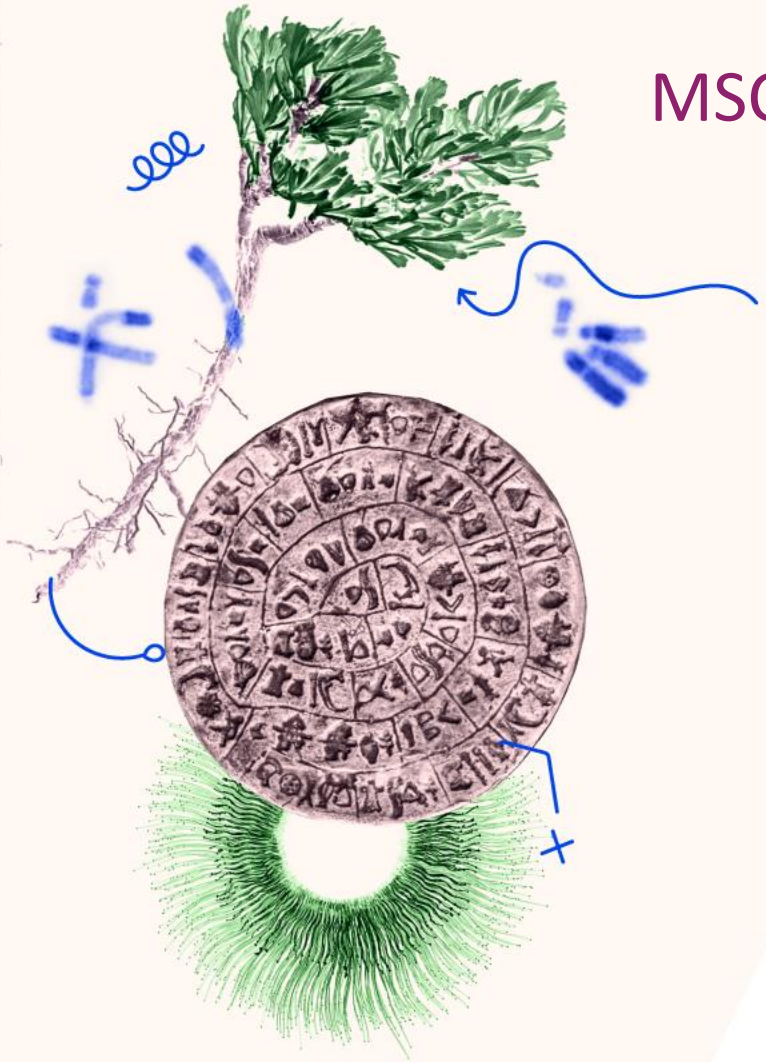
2023 calls

- Grant size of doctoral networks: up to 540 person-month
- Incentives for Joint Doctorates:
  - Project duration: up to 60 months (48 months for the others)
  - Fellowship duration: up to 48 months (36 for the others)

2024 calls (not yet confirmed, still under discussion with Member States)

- Joint doctorates: only one of the two degree-awarding universities has to be EU MS or AC. JD with only one third country now eligible
- New resubmission rule for doctoral networks

- New call calendar,
- MSCA unit contributions under review
- Environmental considerations in line with MSCA Green Charter taken into account



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MSCA Doctoral Networks

- Set up **doctoral programmes**, with incentives for **industrial and joint doctorates**
- **Partnerships** of at least 3 entities: universities, research organisations, businesses, SMEs and other socio-economic actors. Each should be established in a different EU country or AC, at least one should be from the EU
  - On top of this any other organisation from low/middle-income Third Countries can join as beneficiary, and as many as needed as associated partners
- Goal: raise the **attractiveness and excellence of doctoral training**
- Conditions:
  - Programme max 4 years (5 for joint doctorates)
  - Fellows: 3 to 36 months (48 for joint doctorates)
  - Funding: Up to 540 person months, including secondments
- Target group: **doctoral candidates**
  - Research-related and transferable skills
  - Enhanced career perspectives, innovation-oriented mind-set
  - Vacancy notices widely advertised, including on EURAXESS

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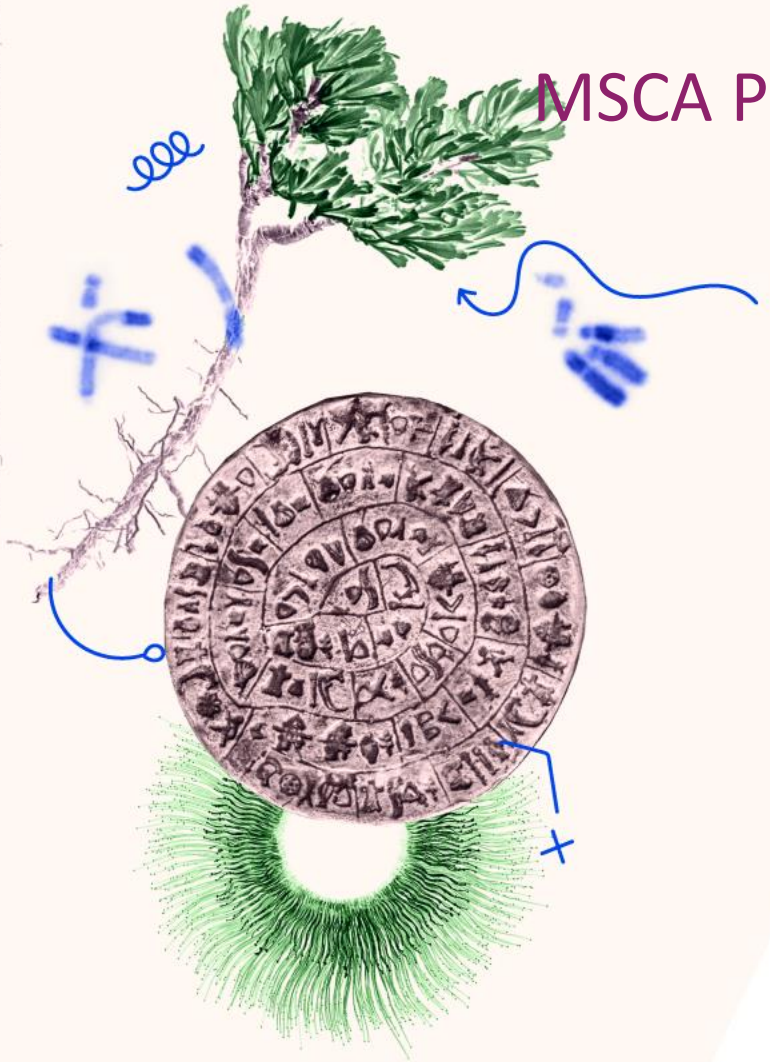

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Support to postdoctoral research and careers
- Target group: postdoctoral researchers
  - New mind-sets, approaches to research and innovation and skills through interdisciplinary, inter-sectoral and international experience
  - Develop skills in and outside academia, foster excellence
  - All fields including Euratom
- Two destinations:
  - European Fellowships in Europe or Associated Countries (12 to 24 months)
  - Global Fellowships (12 to 24 months outside Europe / AC + 12 months return in Europe / ACs)
  - Secondments worldwide possible (max. 1/3 of fellowship duration)
  - Extra 6 months possible for placements in non-academic organisations (in Europe)
- Who applies:
  - Single legal entity based in the EU / ACs
  - Third countries can take part as associated partners, to host researchers during secondments or in Global Fellowships

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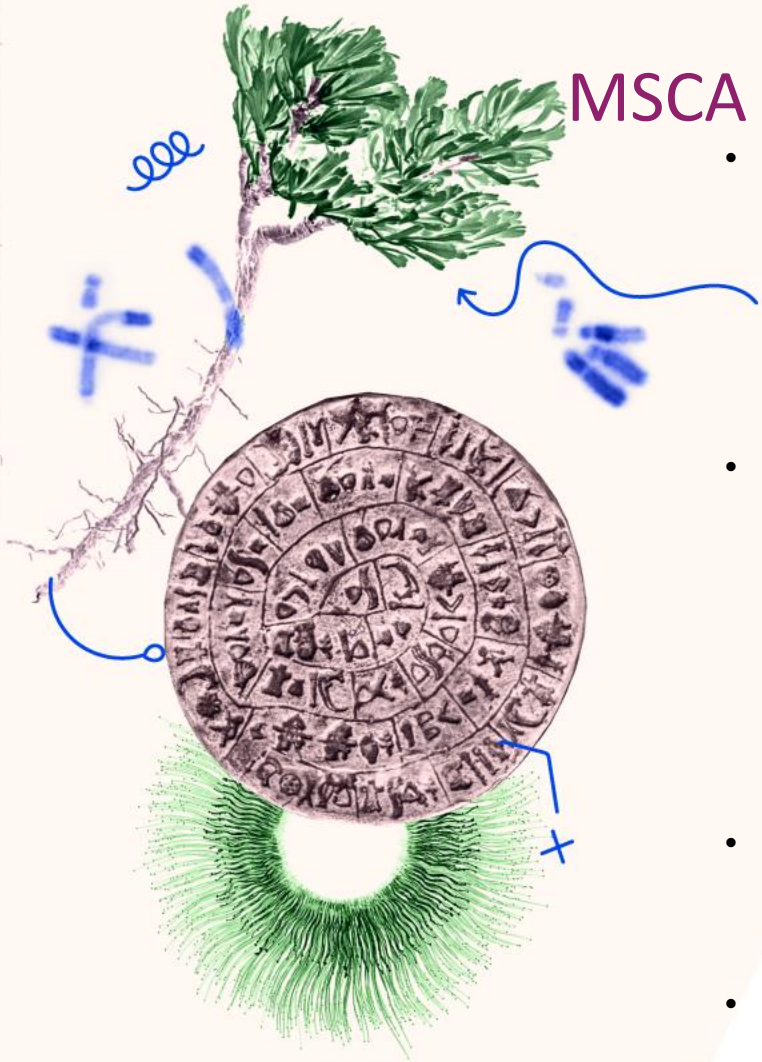

MSCA Staff Exchanges

- Support to:
  - High added value collaborative research and innovation projects to exchange staff in Europe/AC and beyond
  - International, intersectoral, interdisciplinary secondments
  - Support to partnerships of universities, research organisations, businesses, etc.
- Target group: research, technical, administrative and managerial staff
  - Share knowledge and ideas at all stages of the innovation chain
  - Turn ideas into innovative products, services or processes
  - Same sector cooperation is now possible but with interdisciplinary dimension (not required with third countries)
- Duration:
  - Project: 48 months
  - Max. 360 person-months
- Who applies:
  - Consortia of at least 3 legal entities in 3 different countries – 2 should be in different EU countries or AC

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MSCA Cofund

- Mono-beneficiary Action to co-fund new or existing national, regional, institutional doctoral programmes and postdoctoral fellowship schemes
- Target group: doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers
- Focus:
  - Spread **best practices** of the MSCA by promoting **high standards** in the recruitment process and **excellent working conditions**
  - Introduce **sustainable structuring effects**, by promoting excellent and sustainable research training
  - Encourage **synergies** with ESIF and other EU/national/institutional funds (Seal of Excellence)
- **Who applies?**
  - **Single legal entity established in an EU Member State or HE Associated country**
  - Max 10M€ per beneficiary per call, max 60 months

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MSCA and Citizens

- European Researchers' Night and ressearchers at schools
- Support to organise science outreach events
- Target groups: large public, citizens, youngsters
  - ➢ Raise young people's interest for research and science
  - ➢ Show the impact of research and innovation for daily lives
  - ➢ Recognition for researchers' role in society and economy
- Lump Sum contributions: estimated between 50-150k€ per annual edition
- Applicants encouraged to submit proposals covering two successive editions of the Night
- Who applies: one or more legal entities

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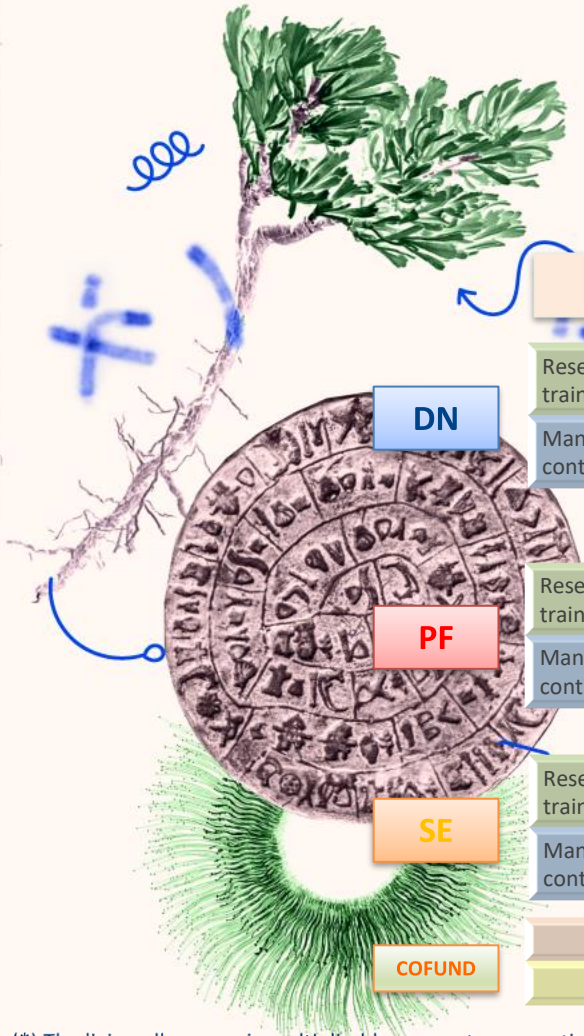
What is funded?



	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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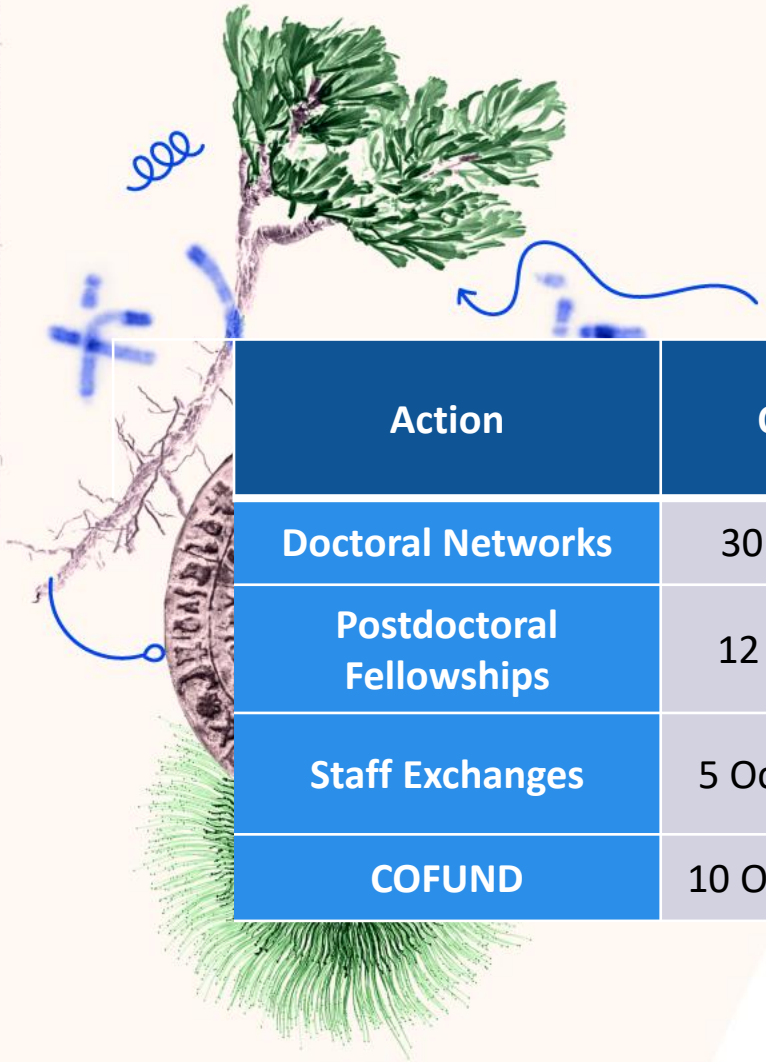

MSCA Call Calendar 2023

Action	Opening	Deadline	Budget (EUR million)
Doctoral Networks	30 May 2023	28 Nov 2023	434.80
Postdoctoral Fellowships	12 April 2023	13 Sept 2023	260.47
Staff Exchanges	5 October 2023	28 Feb 2024	78.5
COFUND	10 October 2023	8 February 2024	95

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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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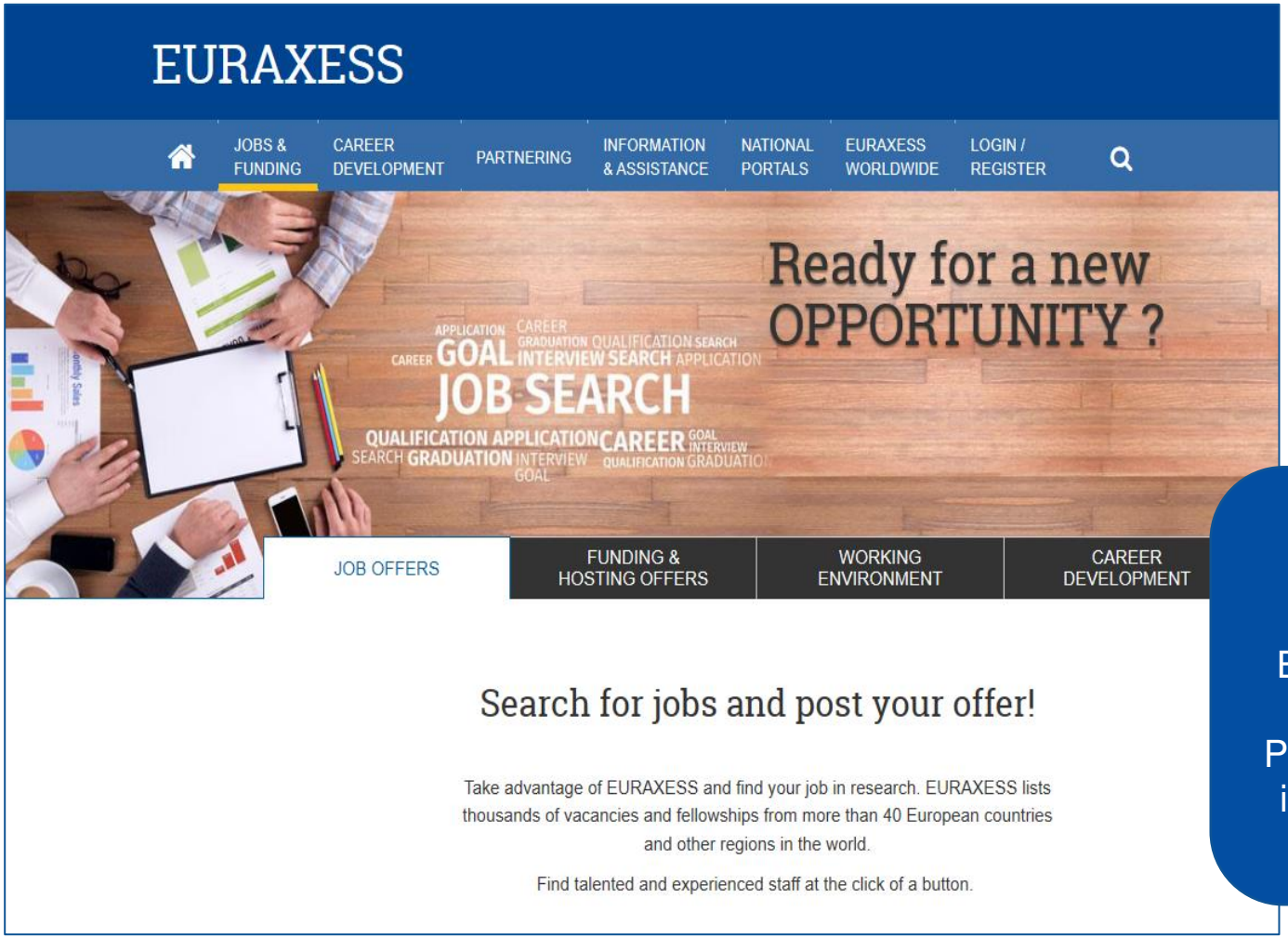

Job Offers

https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs

CLICK HERE

Look for available positions on the EURAXESS Job Portal

PhD & postdoc positions in Europe and beyond!

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Key links and references

- 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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Key links and references

- **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
- **Euraxess portal**
  https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/hosting/search
- **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
- **Guides on synergies between MSCA & E+ in the field of higher education**
https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/f4d7d733-19ba-11ec-b4fe-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-230944692
- **Guides on synergies between MSCA & the EIT**
  https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/40f1a820-2cc2-11ed-975d-01aa75ed71a1/language-en
- **Contact**: EAC-UNITE-C2@ec.europa.eu

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Thank you!

#MSCA #HorizonEU

@MSCActions

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

Contact: EAC-MARIE-SKLODOWSKA-CURIE-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu

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