A WEBINAR FOR MSCA-IF RESEARCHERS

Making the most of your MSCA Individual Fellowship





28 May 2021

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Agenda

10:00 – 11:15	Session 1	
10:00 – 10:05	Opening Remarks	Christopher Reynolds
10:05 – 10:10	Welcome	Begoña Arano
10:10 – 10:25	Introduction: Understanding the MSCA	Christopher Reynolds
10:25 – 10:35	Project Lifecycle: Setting the Scene	Antonio Cipollaro
10:35 – 10:55	MSCA-IF Budgets	Manuel de la Guia
10:55 – 11:15	Implementation of your MSCA-IF Project	Daniela Ceccarelli
11:30 – 13:00	Session 2	
11:30 – 11:50	Project Reporting	Elisavet Gagatsi
11:50 – 12:10	Open Access Requirements	Marianne da Silva
12:10 – 12:25	Communication, Exploitation and Dissemination	Dimitris Káganis
12:25 – 12:45	Your MSCA-IF Project and the Covid-19 Pandemic	Cécile Menétrey-Monchau
12:45 – 13:00	Concluding Remarks	Christopher Reynolds



Questions and Survey - Who are you today?

Join at slido.com #MSCAIF







BEGOÑA ARANO

Welcome remarks





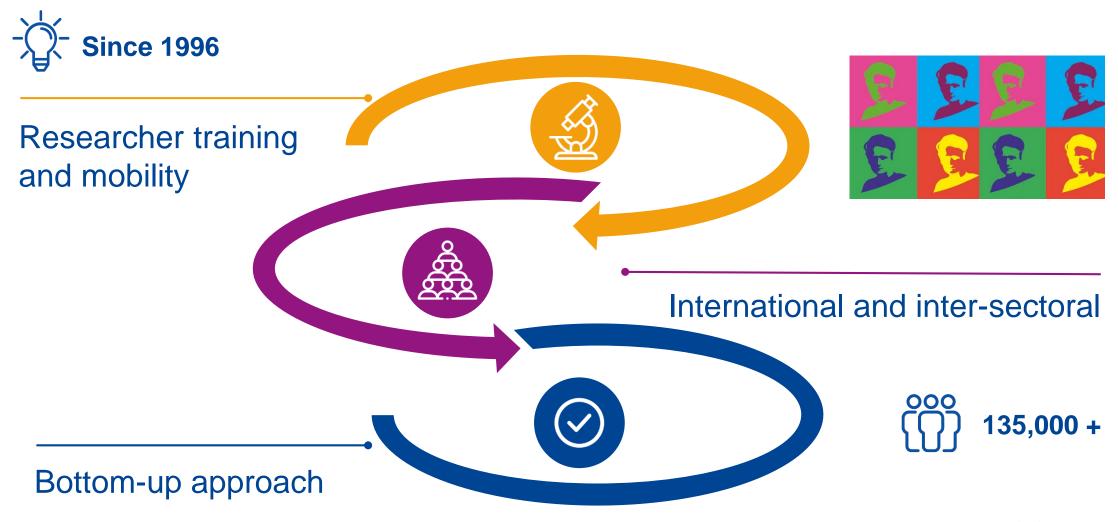
CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS

Introduction: Understanding the MSCA

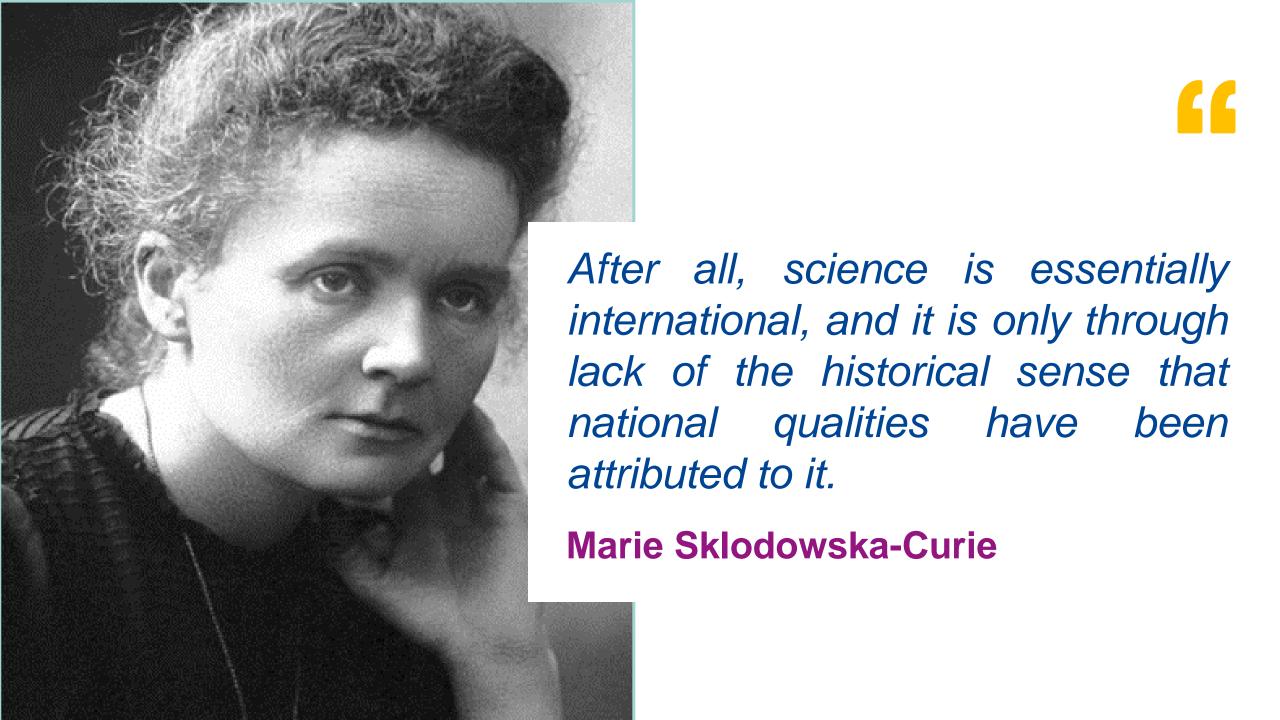




The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions







Who are we?



DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC)

Political responsibility

European Research Executive Agency (REA)

Programme management

The MSCA team @ REA



60 Project Officers





Where does the funding come from?

EU Research and Innovation Programmes



EUROPE'S SCIENCE SPENDING The European Commission has proposed a €100-billion (US\$120-billion) budget for Horizon Europe, the next instalment of its research-funding programme, which will last from 2021 to 2027. Framework 1 (1984–87) Framework programme 2 (1987-91) Euratom research programme 3 (1990-94) 4 (1994-98) **5** (1998–2002) 6 (2002-06) **7** (2007–13) Horizon 2020 (2014-20) Horizon Europe (2021–27) 60 80 20 40 100 European framework programme budget (€ billion) Euratom's budget is included as part of the framework's total funding, onature but its grants are distributed through a separate programme.

Source: Nature **557**, 150 (2018)



Horizon Europe (2021-2027)



Overall budget:

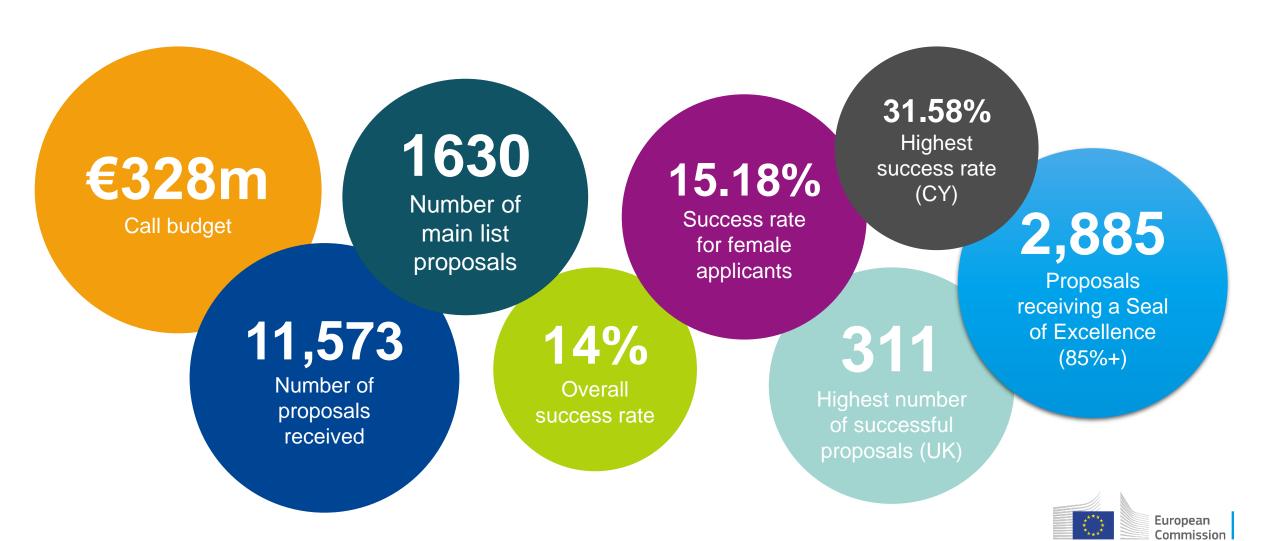
€95.5 billion

(+30% compared to H2020)

MSCA: ca. €6.6 billion

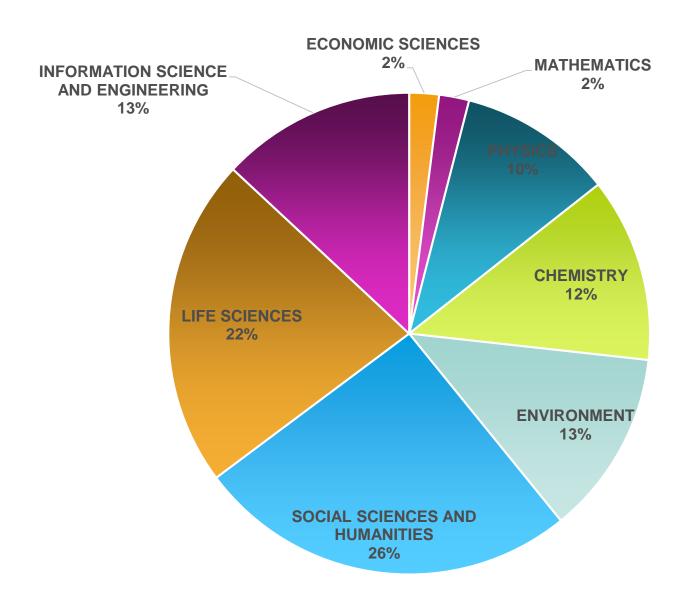


MSCA-IF 2020 Call Statistics



MSCA Individual Fellowships 2020

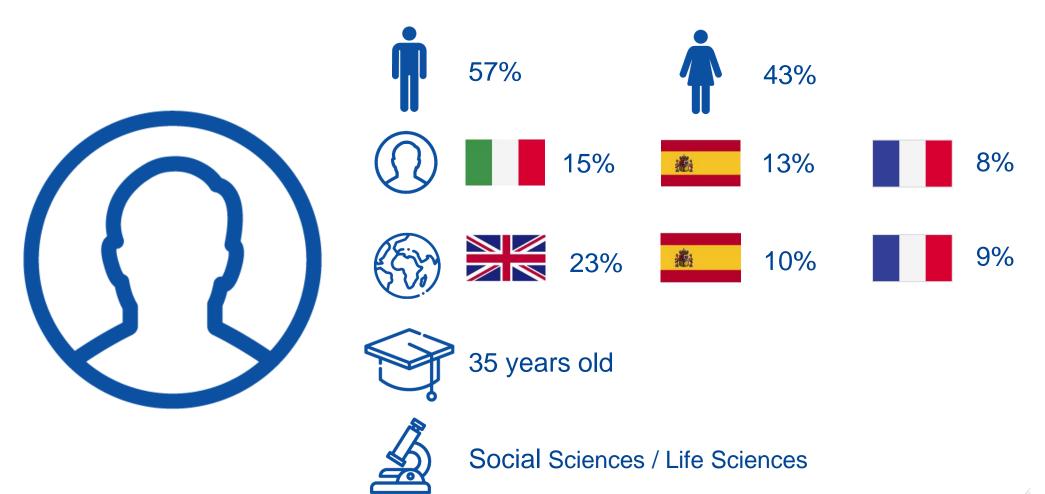
Proposals by scientific panel



- ECONOMIC SCIENCES
- MATHEMATICS
- PHYSICS
- CHEMISTRY
- ENVIRONMENT
- SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
- **LIFE SCIENCES**
- INFORMATION SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING



Who are MSCA-IF researchers?





Who are you today? Results













Project Lifecycle: Setting the Scene





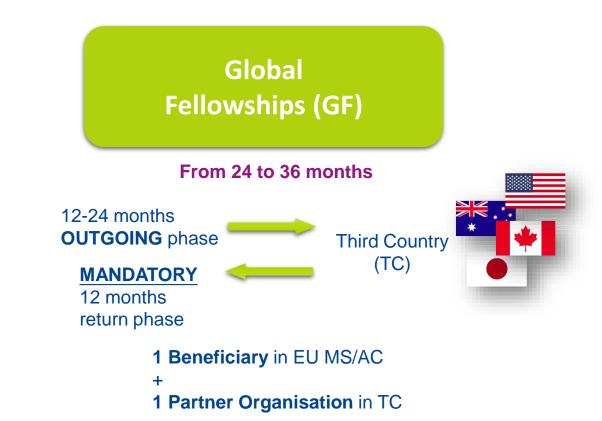
Individual Fellowships - Main features

European Fellowships (EF)

From 12 to 24 months (36 months for CAR)

Researcher mobility: has to move to an EU Member State or Associated Country (EU MS/AC)

1 Beneficiary in EU MS/AC



Beneficiaries and Partner Organisations can be either in <u>academic</u> or <u>non-academic</u> sector



Your reference documents and people



Your Grant Agreement

i. Legal text, ii. Scientific Part (Annex 1)

Annotated Model Grant Agreement

FAQs on the FTOP

People

Scientific supervisor

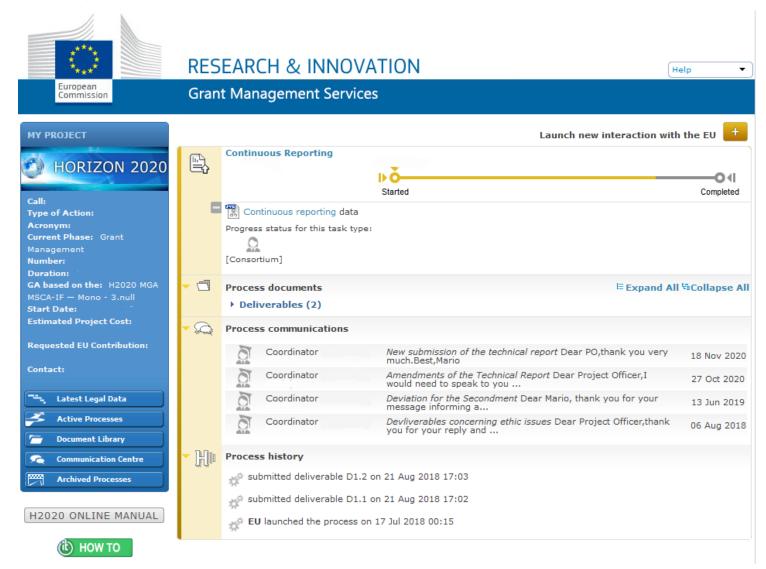
Administrative contact (HR)

National Contact Point

Project Officer

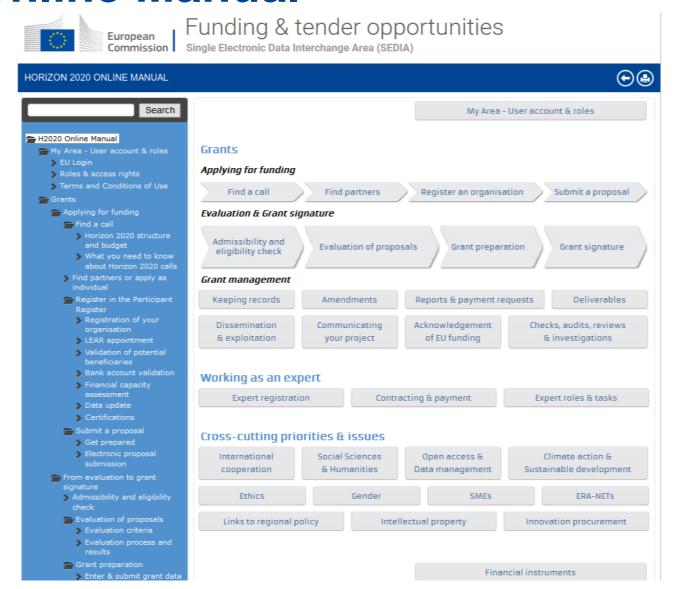


Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal Your project area –Where it all happens





Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal H2020 Online Manual





Individual Fellowships – some reminders

Career Development Plan

Your MUST ensure together with your supervisor that you establish your training plan in relation to the research objectives and the career goals.

There is no official template. It is not a deliverable but a contractual requirement!

Optional Secondments

- up to 3 or 6 months depending on project duration
- can take place ONLY in a EU MS/AC (not in a TC)
- the <u>partner</u> hosting the secondment is <u>responsible for the supervision</u> of the researcher
- <u>different from short visits</u> (can be in a TC, under the supervision of your host institution, only for a small part of the project)

Part-time

Max. 50%, for professional, personal or family reasons, <u>subject to approval</u> → not during the GF outgoing phase for professional reasons

Reporting

EF: 1 period → 1 final report

GF: 2 periods → 1 interim report (after the end of the outgoing phase) + 1 final report





Thank you!

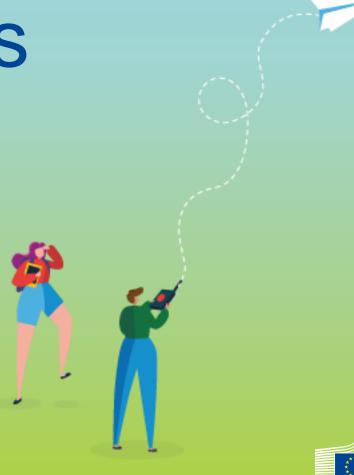






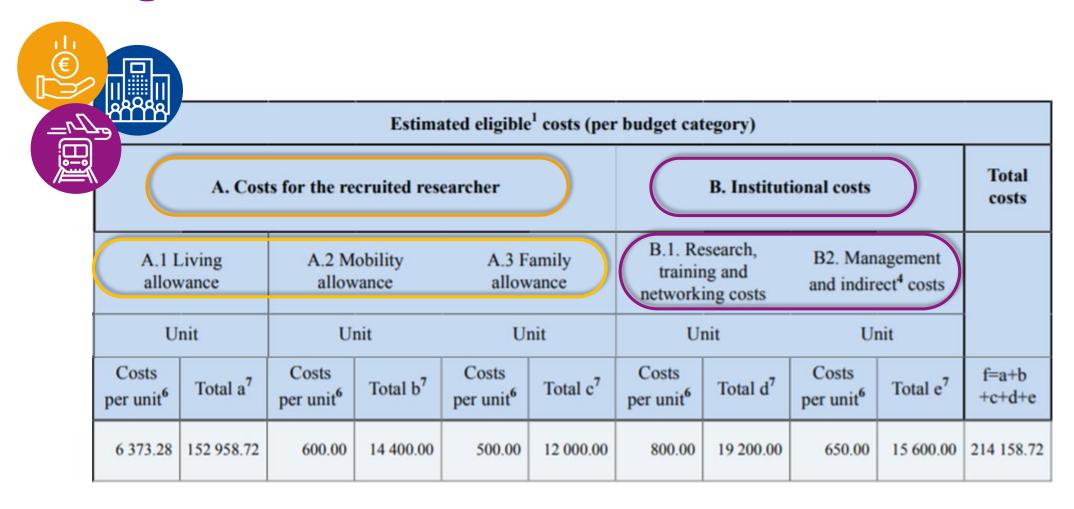
MANUEL DE LA GUIA

MSCA-IF Budgets





Budget breakdown





Where are the costs charged







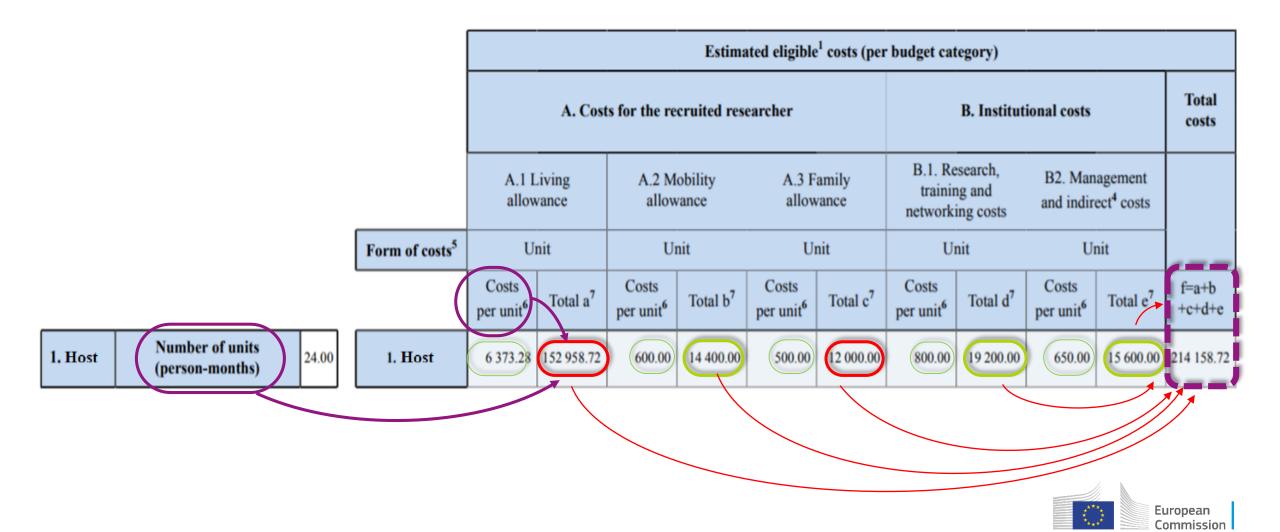




Estimated eligible costs (per budget category)						
A. Costs for the recruited researcher			B. Institutional costs			
A.1 Living allowance	A.2 Mobility allowance	A.3 Family allowance	B.1. Research, training and networking costs	B2. Management and indirect ⁴ costs		
Employment or fixed-amount fellowship with social security coverage (i.e. gross amount, including compulsory deductions and taxes, such as employer - employee social security contributions)	Costs related to the researcher mobility. e.g. relating to travel and accommodation	If the researcher has family, to reduce family-related obstacles to researcher mobility	1. Training and Networking activities that contribute directly to the researcher's career development 2. Research expenses 3. Visa-related fees (even if incurred before the recruitment date) and travel expenses 4. Secondment costs	For the beneficiary's additional costs in connection with the project.		



Budget calculation



Eligibility



The costs (in MSCA: the person-months) must fulfil several eligibility conditions, including:

- to have been fully incurred for the benefit of the researcher
- to be incurred for a researcher who:
 - is <u>eligible</u> (e.g. research experience, mobility)
 - has an <u>employment contract</u>/equivalent direct contract or, if national law prevents it, a fixed-amount fellowship
 - is employed <u>full-time</u> (part-time employment can be accepted)
- the institutional costs must be used for the implementation of your project



What do I do if I have unused funds?



Budget flexibility

Transfers between budget categories are formally not possible; however there is some flexibility for the institutional costs:

- Research, training and networking costs unused amounts may be used for other projectrelated purposes (e.g. to increase the salary of the researcher, or to organize additional trainings)
- Management and indirect costs unused amounts may be used for other project related purposes (e.g. to increase the salary of the researcher)

Please keep in mind that:

Unused budget can be used in support of your research

The duration (number of person/months) of the project can never be extended

There is no time limit on the use of institutional costs (must be related to the MSCA project)

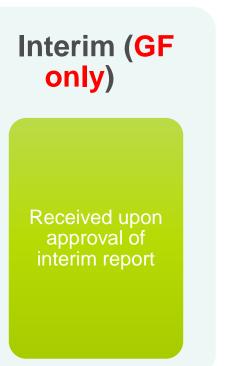


Payments



All payments are paid to the host institution, as responsible for the implementation of the project.









Budget modifications



- Part-time and project suspensions do not modify the budget of the project. Grants
 get extended according to the time dedicated to the project.
- Early terminations do reduce the budget of the project. Depending on the final duration of the project, the final payment will be reduced, or a recovery process will be initiated.
- Budget reductions due to substantial errors, irregularities, fraud or serious breach
 of contractual obligations can be applied at the end of the project.
- Special Needs Allowance: cover the additional mobility costs faced by researchers with a disability.





Thank you!







DANIELA CECCARELLI

Implementation of your MSCA-IF Project



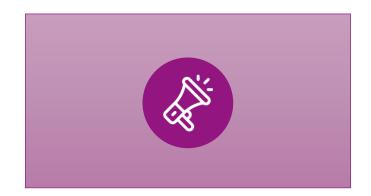


Project lifecycle



European Commission

Interaction with your Project Officer







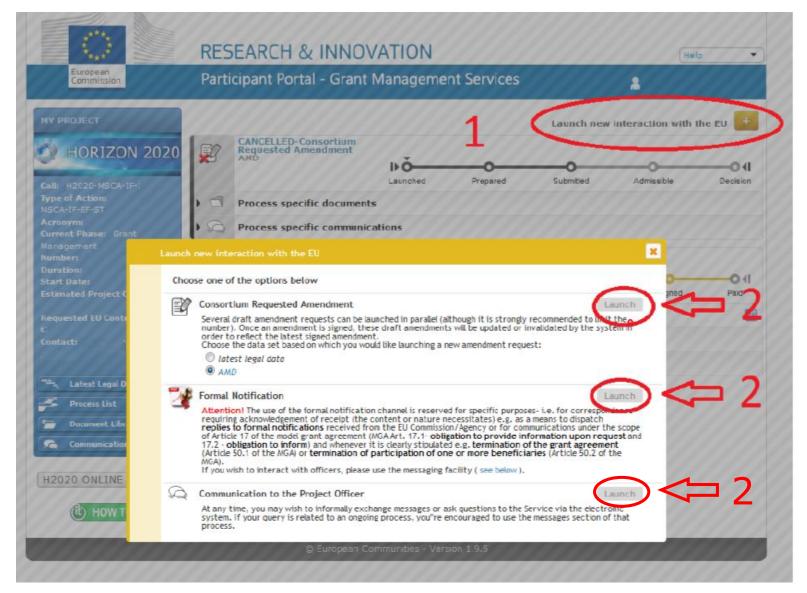
Notifications

Amendments

Deliverables



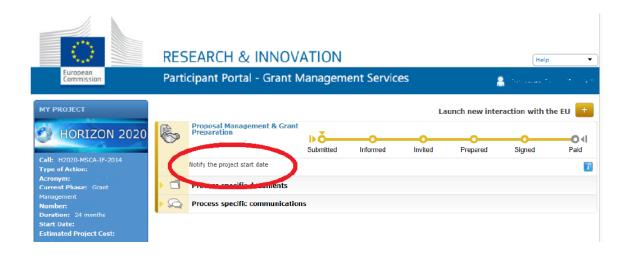
Launch interaction via Portal

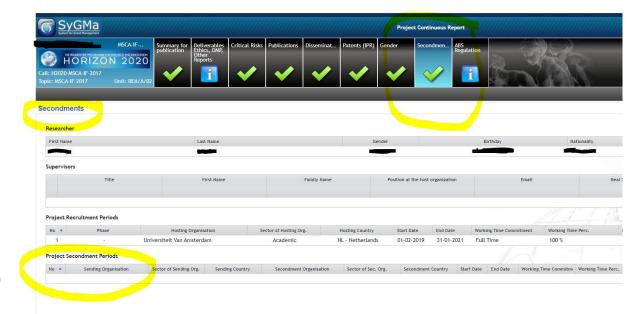




Notifications

- Start date (in case of projects with open start date)
- Changes to the secondment duration, location, destination, add/remove
- Changes to the scientific supervisor (approval by PO required)
- Grant Termination (in case of personal or professional reasons - no liability for Fellow)







Amendments

- Change of start date (for personal and professional reasons, within the latest possible start date of your call)
- Part-time for personal and family reasons (up to 50% part-time)
 - Possible for <u>professional activity</u>, assessed on a case by case
 - Organization of the part-time work to be agreed with Supervisor and approved by PO (to respect mobility rule, avoid double funding, etc...)
- Suspensions for personal/professional reasons
 - Suspensions must be requested if the researcher is absent for more than 30 consecutive days (for reasons other than normal annual leave)
 - Suspensions should not exceed 30% of the project duration
 - Parental, maternity, sick leave
 - Professional activity, assessed on a case by case
 - No costs eligible
- Change of host: "transfer of the agreement" to a new beneficiary (primarily due to transfer of Supervisor to another institution and Fellow wishes to follow)



Amendments

We understand science evolves but we need to know!

• Change of Annex 1 - change to the fundamental scientific direction of the project

Work packages 1 & 2

"Instead of making a model, I have built a data analysis pipeline using data from clinical collaborators."

Objectives "not applicable given that the project objectives have changed in the process"...

Substantial deviations from original proposal – not previously communicated to the Project Officer

"At this stage (middle of WP1) I took the corrective action to switch focus from cytoskeletal sensing in mammalian cells"

Ethics implications: from fruit-fly to mouse model



Amendments



- 1. Initiate an amendment (AMD) process via the Portal (Coordinator only)
- **2. Consult** the EU Officer (recommended)
 - Review of the amendment and/or to apply some modifications on the amendment data.
- 3. Sign and Submit (Project Legal Signatory PLSIGN- only)
- **4. Verification** by REA
 - AMD accepted and countersigned
 - AMD rejected and rejection letter created

Make sure that the amendment request is sent well before the end of the reporting period – no amendments will be accepted afterwards.



Deliverables



We are not talking here about the scientific deliverables set in your proposal

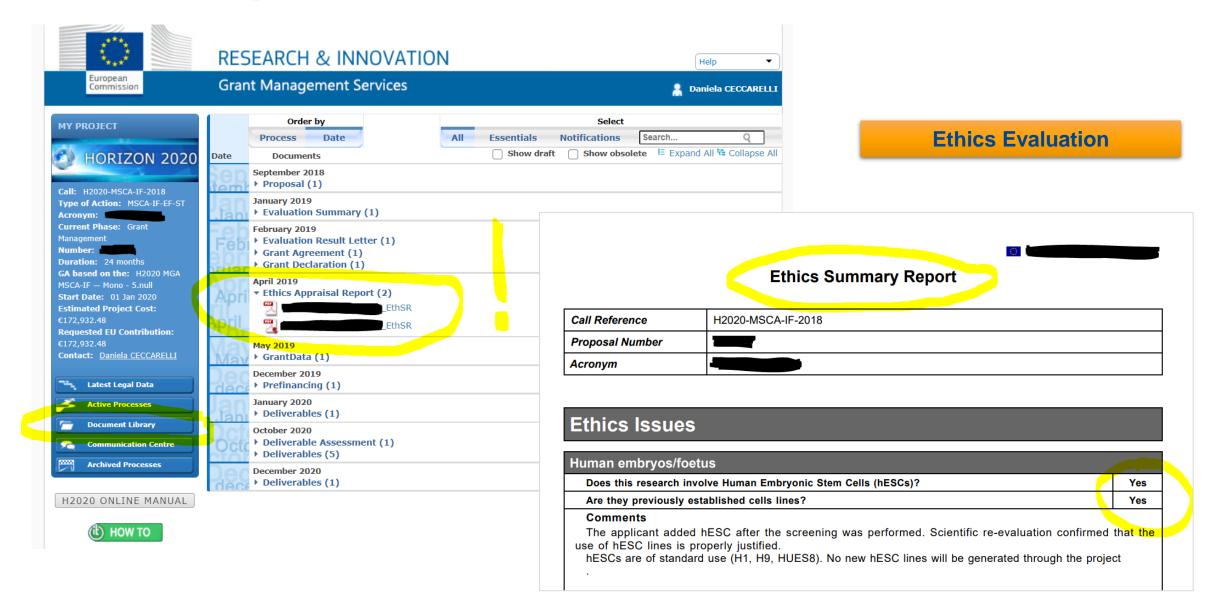
- **1. Data Management Plan** (within the first 6 months, then updated if needed)
 - To be assessed and approved by the Project Officer
 - how to properly draft a DMP will be addressed in an upcoming presentation

2. Ethics requirements

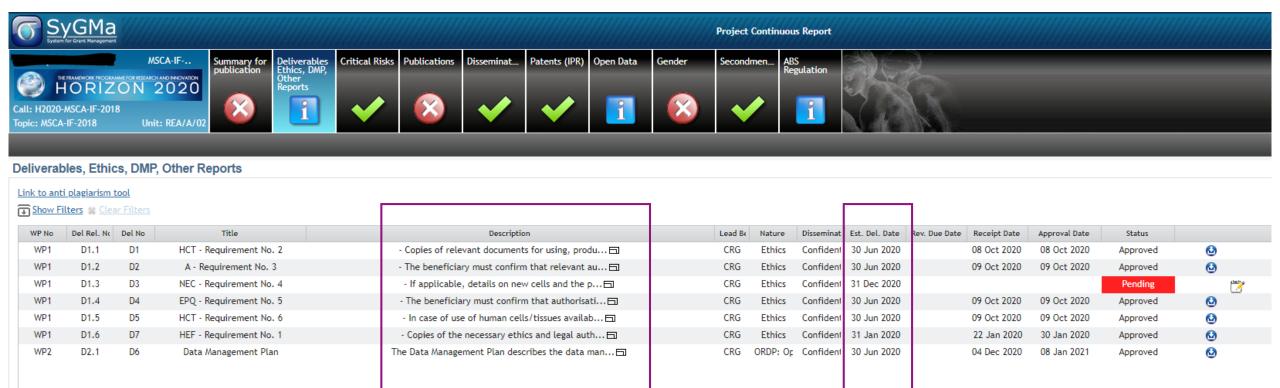
- No specific template nor guidelines (if you are not sure, check with the Project Officer how to address the deliverables)
- To be assessed and approved by the Project Officer



Ethics requirements



Deliverables in Continuous Reporting





Carefully **read the description** and submit deliverables by the expected **deadline**



How to address ethics deliverables

 Confirmation – no extra documents required

2. Documents submission

- The beneficiary must confirm that relevant authorisations for animal experiments (covering also the work with genetically modified animals, if applicable) have been obtained, and are kept on file.

View Description

View Description

- Further information about the possible harm to the environment caused by the research and the measures that will be taken to mitigate the risks must be provided.

- Authorisations for relevant facilities (e.g. safety classification of laboratory, GMO authorisation) must be submitted.
- Appropriate health and safety procedures conforming to relevant local/national guidelines/legislation followed for staff involved in this project must be submitted.





Thank you!

















ELISAVET GAGATSI

Project Reporting







Project lifecycle



European Commission

Reporting

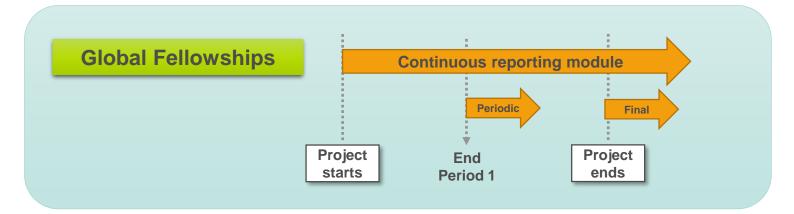


- Reporting obligations (when)
- The Final (Periodic) Report (what, where, how)
- What is next after you submit the report?
- Frequent Mistakes (to avoid!!)



When?

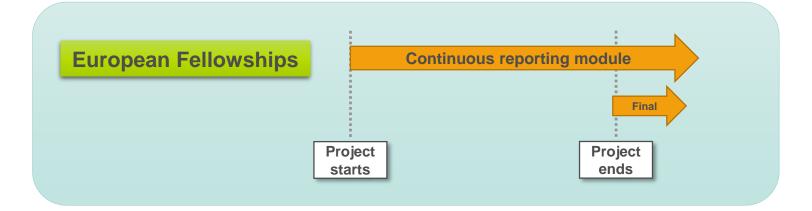






60 days after the end of:

- period 1 (GF)
- the project (GF & EF)





any amendment request shall be sent well before the end of the reporting period – no amendments will be accepted afterwards



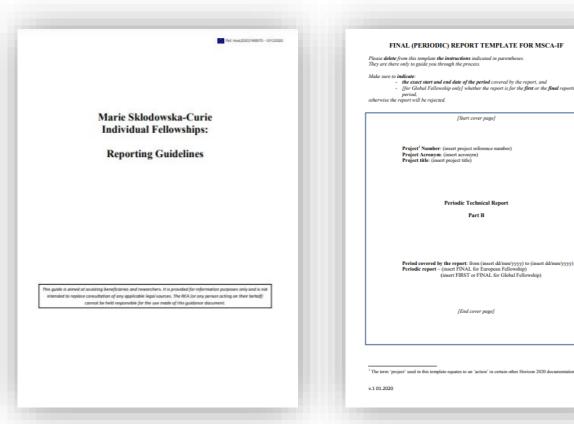


Follow the **instructions** that will be sent to you at the end of the reporting period/ project



Key documents:

- 1. MSCA- IF: Reporting Guidelines
- Final (Periodic) ReportingTemplate for MSCA-IF



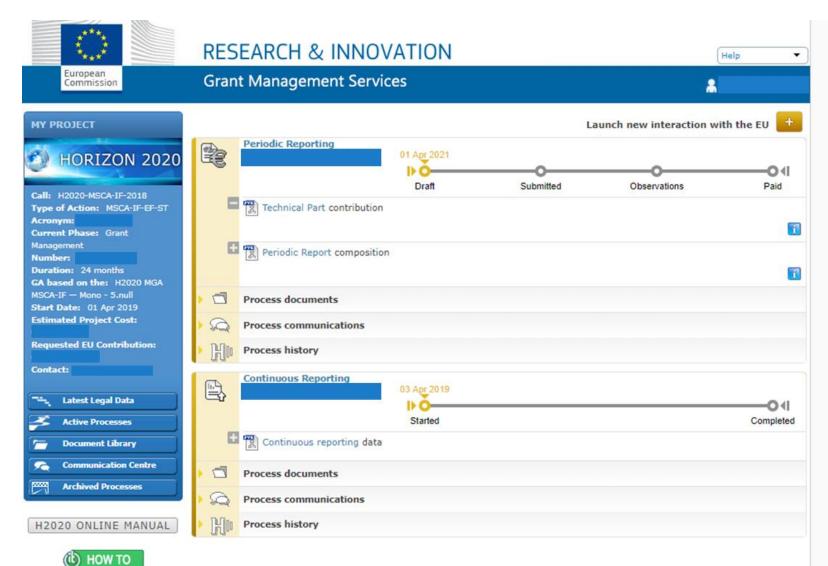


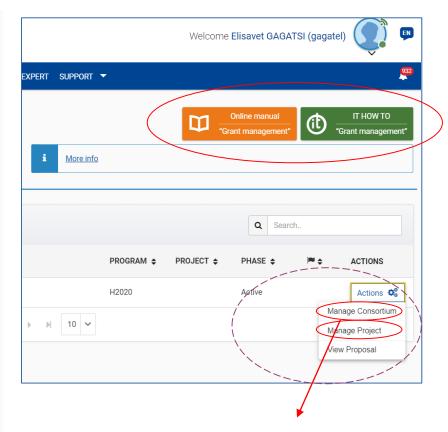
Make sure you use MSCA –IF reporting templates





Through Funding & Tenders Portal





Update e-mail addresses Add contact persons



Where? Periodic Report module

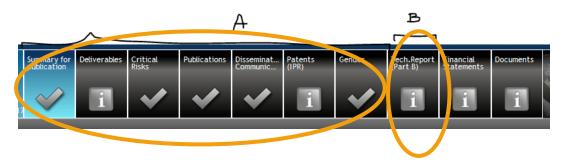


Technical Report for the project period

Part A - Info from continuous reporting



- cover page (number, acronym, title and the actual start/end dates)
- overview of the work progress towards the objectives of the project.



- Publishable Summary
- Deliverables
- Secondments
- Publications
- Dissemination and communications activities
- Horizontal aspects (gender, patents)



Financial statement automatically filled – not editable, but check accuracy!



all deliverables must be submitted well before the end of the reporting period.



What (to report)?



What was planned (GA

Objectives

Activities (scientific

WPs, <u>training</u>, <u>knowledge</u>

transfer, non scientific

activities, exploitation,

dissemination, etc)

Impact

What was done

Everything that was done

<u>Deviations</u> from the original proposal (missed objectives, trainings, activities, etc)

Progress assessment

Deviations from the grant agreement (Reasons for deviation,
Consequences on original plan, Proposed corrective actions)



You have submitted your report ... Now What?

Your Project Officer and Financial Officer will assess the report and:

- Proceed with the payment <u>or</u>
- Ask for additional information/ clarifications or
- Ask for a revision of the report



- Check suspension letter
- 15 days to provide information or re-submit the report
- Resubmission via the portal





RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Participant Portal - Grant Management Services

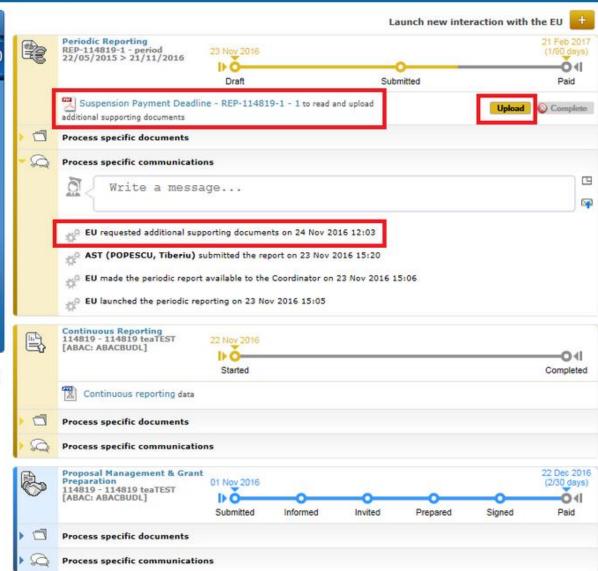


Help



















Frequent mistakes (to avoid)

- ➤ Wrong dates encoded in technical report
- ➤ Non respect of the report structure
- Non reporting on the original proposal (description of the action)
- **➤ Insufficient** information, poor content
- **★** Missing information on:
 - non scientific activities (management, training, communication etc)
 - secondments
 - deviations
 -
- ➤ Incorrect/ missing information on project publications (i.e. repository link, open access)





Thank you!







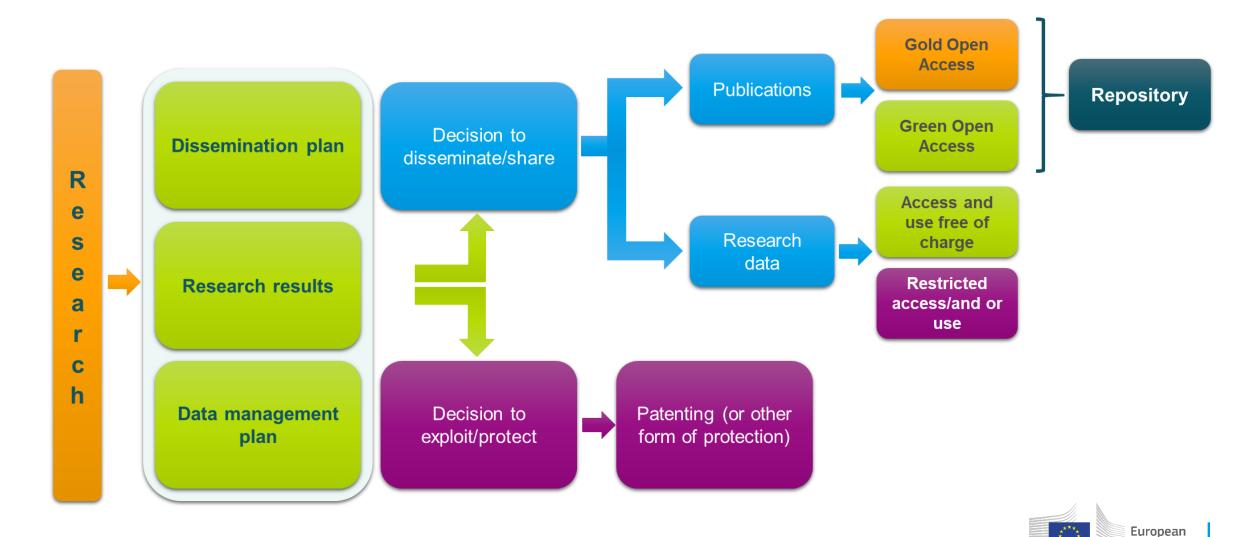
MARIANNE DA SILVA

Open Access Requirements





Open Access- What are we talking about?



Commission

Open Research Data Pilot (ORDP)

Open access research data

What are we talking about?

A repository document for data (meta data, data of scientific publications, all other data..) collected during the project, presenting the measures taken to make it possible for third parties to access, mine, exploit, reproduce and disseminate free of charge

What are the rules for a good Data Management Plan (DMP):

The document assessed by Project Officer should clearly describe how the fellow is set on:

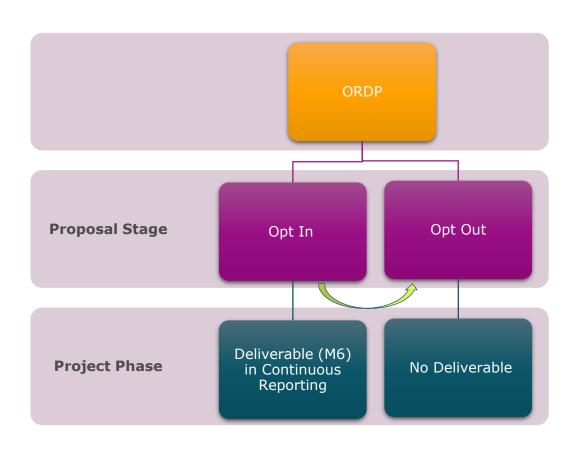
- Making data Findable
- Making data openly Accessible
- Making data Interoperable
- Increase data Re-use
- Allocation of resources and data security



Open Research Data Pilot (ORDP)

So Practically?

- 1. Proposal stage: you can opt out from ORDP (OPTIONAL)
- 2. During project implementation: you can choose to opt out BUT justification must be given
- 3. At **M6** of project implementation, deliverable to submit through continuous reporting on FTOP





Open Research Data Pilot (ORDP)

What template?

- Template available
- 2. Google Open Access data H2020
- 3. Make sure you do not use templates that are specific to other Agencies (not ERC)
- 4. Follow the guidelines, answer all questions and submit

TEMPLATE HORIZON 2020 DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN (DMP)

- Instructions and footnotes in blue must not appear in the text.
- For options [in square brackets]: the option that applies must be chosen.
- For fields in [grey in square brackets] (even if they are part of an option as specified in the previous item): enter the appropriate data.

Introduction

This Horizon 2020 DMP template has been designed to be applicable to any Horizon 2020 project that produces, collects or processes research data. You should develop a single DMP for your project to cover its overall approach. However, where there are specific issues for individual datasets (e.g. regarding openness), you should clearly spell this out.

Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020 are available in the Online Manual.

FAIR data management

In general terms, your research data should be 'FAIR', that is findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable. These principles precede implementation choices and do not necessarily suggest any specific technology, standard, or implementation-solution.

This template is not intended as a strict technical implementation of the FAIR principles, it is rather inspired by FAIR as a general concept.

More information about FAIR:

FAIR data principles (FORCE11 discussion forum)

FAIR principles (article in Nature)

Structure of the template

The template is a set of questions that you should answer with a level of detail appropriate to the project.

It is not required to provide detailed answers to all the questions in the first version of the DMP that needs to be submitted by month 6 of the project. Rather, the DMP is intended to be a living document in which information can be made available on a finer level of granularity through updates as the implementation of the project progresses and when significant changes occur. Therefore, DMPs should have a clear version number and include a timetable for updates. As a minimum, the DMP should be updated in the context of the periodic evaluation/assessment of the project. If there are no other periodic reviews envisaged within the grant agreement, an update needs to be made in time for the final review at the latest.

In the following the main sections to be covered by the DMP are outlined. At the end of the document, Table 1 contains a summary of these elements in bullet form.

This template itself may be updated as the policy evolves.

Open Access - Publications



2 steps for open access to publications:

- 1. Selecting open access route (green or gold open access)
- 2. Depositing publications in open access independent repositories



Irrespectively of route chosen, the publication must be deposited in an open access repository!

Important!

- Rules concern all peer-reviewed publications (not conference proceedings, book chapters...) only stemming from your MSCA project
- 2. Accepted **embargo period** is **6 months**, with an exception of 12 months for Social Sciences and Humanities
- 3. EU funding must be correctly acknowledged in all publications



But Wait.....



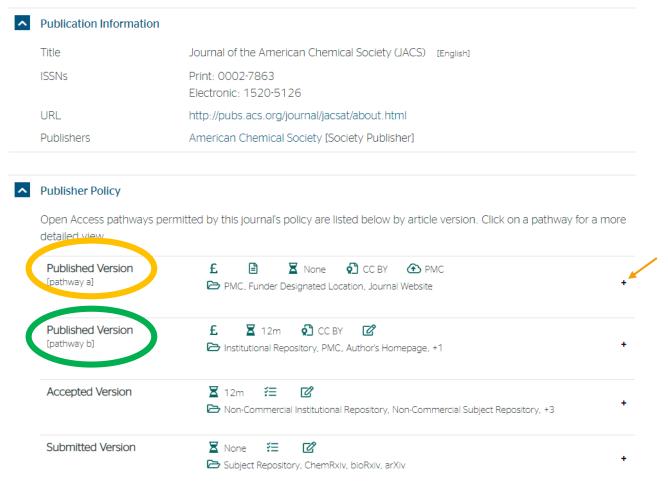
How can I know if a journal respects the EU's OA requirements?

- Check the Publications rules on SHERPA/ROMEO
- 2. Aim to target Journals which respect the EU's OA rules

My publication is not from SSH and I have a 12 months embargo period-What do I do?

- 1. Check the rules for Green Access and Accepted Version
- 2. Go for Gold Access
- 3. Contact your Project Officer

Journal of the American Chemical Society





Repositories



What is an online repository?

Site independent of the journal website, with free access (sometimes with a restricted – embargo - access period) where publications may be deposited.

Why?

Ensure free access to the publications to all.

When?

The article should be deposited "as soon as possible and at the latest on publication" (access to it might be delayed in case of embargo).



Repositories



What does the EU accept as Repositories?

Many repositories out there BUT they need to be fully Open access (no email registration required)

Suggested repositories:

- Independent Repositories
- Institutional repositories
- Subject Based or Generalist: e.g: arXiv, BiorXiv, Zenodo, PubMedCentral, AND MANY OTHERs
- Not social media type repositories:
 - ResearchGate is not a repository!





Thank you!















What is the difference?



Communication

- Promote your project and results
- Mainstream
 newspapers and
 magazines, TV and
 radio channels



Dissemination

- Make your results public
- Open Science
- Horizon results platform



Exploitation

- Make good use of your results
- Commercial, societal political purpose



Communication



HOW

Having a well-designed strategy

Conveying clear messages

Using the right media channels

WHEN

From the start of the project until the end (and beyond)

WHY

Engage with stakeholders

Attract the best experts to your team

Generate market demand

Raise awareness of how public money is spent

Show the success of European collaboration



Build your own communication strategy

- **Be strategic**: allocate resources, involve professional communicators and ensure continuity
- Set your goals and objectives: make clear what you want to achieve with your communication strategy, and how
- Define your audience: include all relevant target groups and tailor your content to each audience.
- Choose your message: is it news? Share it with your audience. Keep it simple and remember to tell a story; do not just list the facts
- Use the right medium: Use a channel that will reach your target audience. Do you have a media list relevant to your area?
- Evaluate your efforts: set simple indicators to measure your success
- Read the full guide on Horizon 2020 project communication: https://europa.eu/!Qf94Pu

Remember to let your Project Officer and National Contact Point know about your achievements



Communication examples

Common activities

- Project website
- Social media
- Events
- Publications (non scientific)
- MSCA Ambassadors
- MSCA Open Doors events
- Public talks (multimedia releases)

EC activities

- European Researchers' Night (NIGHT)
- EC events, conferences
- Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA)
- MSCA "Fellow of the Week" on Facebook
- EC Campaigns





EU communication channels

- CORDIS
- Research & innovation success stories
- Horizon Magazine
- Research & Innovation Days
- Horizon Results Platform TV



HORIZON

European CORDIS

Receive our editor's picks: 🖾 🔰 🧗 📝 🔝

'There is a high upfront risk of developing a geothermal system.'

Mathematician Prof. Inga Berre on the risks and rewards of drilling further afield. →

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

HOME VIEWS TOPICS VIDEOS

Solving the problem of temperature-sensitive

Transport and storage of some vaccines at below-freezing temperatures may soon become a thing of the past. New lipid research points the way to stabilising vaccines at room temperature

Publicly acknowledge EU Funding



In any communication activity related to the project and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant, **the beneficiary must acknowledge receiving H2020 Funding** (MSC Grant) by:

displaying the EU emblem

EU emblem high-resolution emblems can be found here

https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/flag_en



including a standard sentence

For <u>communication activities</u>: "This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No [number]."

For <u>infrastructure</u>, <u>equipment and major results</u>: "This [infrastructure][equipment][insert type of result] is part of a project that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No [number]."

Twitter and REA

#H2020 **#MSCA #MarieCurious #MSCAjobalert** #MSCA20 #EUbudget4results **#Bioeconomy #Openaccess**







Thank you!







CÉCILE MENÉTREY-MONCHAU

Your MSCA-IF Project and the Covid-19 Pandemic





What help is available to you?





Funding and Tenders Portal

Research Enquiry services



HOST ORGANISATION

- Remote work/Telework
- Suspension request
- Furlough
- Practicalities...



NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS (NCP)

NCP website



Our General Approach



Flexibility

- As much flexibility as possible within the limits of MSCA-IF rules as they appear in the Grant Agreement
- Postponing reporting deadlines, part-time, telework, etc., all on a <u>case-by-case</u> basis
- Postponing start date of the project
- Suspension (requires fellow's agreement, beneficiary encouraged to use the institutional costs during the suspension period)
- Flexibility on project implementation (fieldwork, change of secondment, scientific deliverables, etc.)

Communication

Changes must be agreed with REA prior to their implementation





No extension: neither the number of person/months nor the maximum grant amount can be increased.

2 possibilities:

- Part-time (50% minimum)
- Suspension for personal or professional reasons of the researcher of up to 30% of the project duration possible, and beyond this period on case-by-case basis

In all cases, the project <u>duration remains the same</u> but the end date of the project is postponed.

Requires amendment to Grant Agreement





Mobility Rule

Can the researcher work on the project "remotely" from his/her current place of residence?

If possible, delay the project starting date.

Other situations examined on a <u>case-by-case</u> basis, but must:

- be duly justified
- be only for a limited period of time
- if the nature of the project allows
- fellow must relocate to the country of the beneficiary <u>as soon as conditions allow.</u>

REA will consider adopting a flexible approach whenever possible.





Secondments (EF and GF)

Secondments are an important part of your project (training, networking etc.)

- Postpone secondment until later in the project
- Change the secondment host?
- Is a "remote" secondment possible?

No secondments can take place during periods of suspension





Outgoing Phase (GF)

Due to the exceptional COVID-19 circumstances, if duly justified and upon approval of the **Project Officer**:

- the funded researchers can pursue their research work notably through telework (if allowed by their employer) from a third country or from Europe, according to their personal choice;
- work for the project can be performed with the beneficiary not only before the outgoing phase but also throughout it.

The <u>Project Officer will monitor the situation closely</u> and the researcher must be seconded to the partner organisation of the outgoing phase specified in the grant agreement as soon as the conditions allow it.

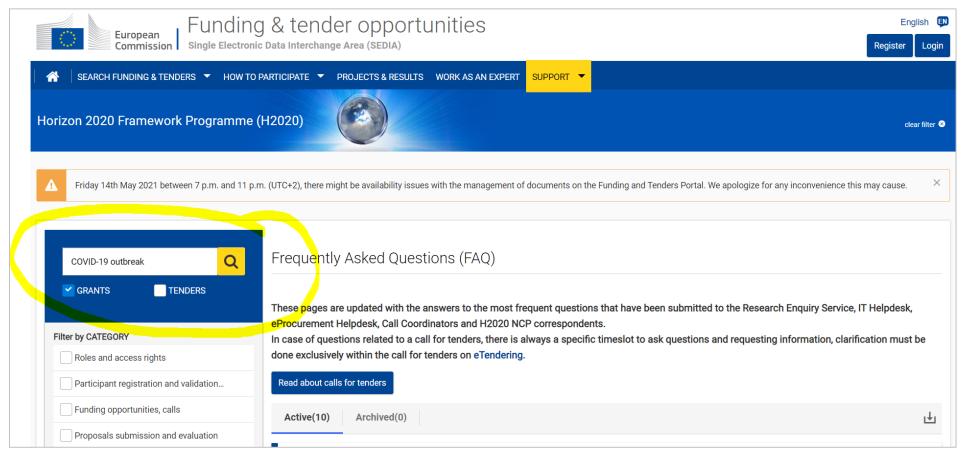


And much more....



Sources of Information

- Contact your PO for clarification or to request changes!
- Please remember to visit the <u>FAQs</u>







Thank you!







CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS

Concluding Remarks





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Work as an Expert

