Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Staff Exchanges Info Session

SLIDO #SE21
#StaffExchangesDay
19 November 2021
Meeting will start soon!

Welcome to our Staff Exchanges Info Session

19 November 10:30

MSCA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research

#StaffExchangesDay
@REA_research
@MSCAActions
Go to Slido #SE21

- www.sli.do
- Polls
- Questions and Answers

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@REA_research
@MSCActions
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Staff Exchanges Info Session

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@REA_research
@MSCActions
Agenda

Introduction

Policy context

Apply for funding

Panel discussion

Go to Slido #SE21
Today's speakers

- Begoña ARANO – Head of Department REA.A
- Marlène BARTES – Policy Officer DG EAC.C.2
- Vasiliki EXARCHOU – Project Officer REA.A.3
- Nancy DZOKOTO POMENYA – Project Officer REA.A.3
Today's panellists

Maria Fatima LUCAS
CEO - ZYMVOL

Anne-Laure MENTION
Director - Global Business Innovation Enabling Capability Platform at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Alessio DI IORIO
CEO - Alma Sistemi SRL
Opening remarks

Begoña ARANO
Head of Department
European Research Executive Agency REA.A
Slido 1st poll results

www.sli.do #SE21
MSCA Policy context

Marlène BARTES
Policy Officer
Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, DG EAC.C.2
Horizon Europe 2021-2027

Pillar 1
Excellent Science
- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness
- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
- Joint Research Centre

Clusters

Pillar 3
Innovative Europe
- European Innovation Council
- European innovation ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area
- Widening participation and spreading excellence
- Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

MSCA budget under Horizon Europe: 6.6 billion €
MSCA key features

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

Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)

International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility

Attractive working and employment conditions

Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes

Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs

EU’s reference programme for doctoral and postdoctoral training
The Actions

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 the 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.
# Call Calendar 2021-2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Opening</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Budget (EUR million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Networks</td>
<td>3 May 2022</td>
<td>15 November 2022</td>
<td>427.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellowships</td>
<td>13 April 2022</td>
<td>14 September 2022</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Exchanges</td>
<td>7 October 2021</td>
<td>9 March 2022</td>
<td>72.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COFUND</td>
<td>12 October 2021</td>
<td>10 February 2022</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contribution to policy priorities

New publishing platform and open peer review:
https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/
MSCA novelties under HE

• **Streamlined actions**, clearer identity

• **Simpler rules**, harmonised conditions

• **Reinforced synergies** within Horizon Europe and with other EU funding programmes (e.g. Erasmus+)

• **Feedback to Policy** (F2P), e.g. through “Cluster events”

• **New guidelines** (Supervision / Green Charter)

• **More gender-friendly and inclusive MSCA**
Questions and answers
www.sli.do #SE21
Staff Exchanges
Apply for funding

Nancy DZOKOTO POMENYA
Vasiliki EXARCHOU
Project Officers European Research Executive Agency
REA.A.3
Objectives

- International, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of R&I staff (“secondments”)
- Knowledge transfer between participating organisations
- Collaboration between the academic and non-academic sectors (including SMEs)
- Cooperation across the globe
Added value

Staff members

Transferable skills & competences

Employability & career prospects

International exposure

Networking & communication

Organisations

Transfer of knowledge

Collaborative networks

Ideas converted into products, processes & services

R&I capacity

Ideas converted into products, processes & services

Transfer of knowledge

Collaborative networks

R&I capacity
Eligible participants

Consortium of min. 3 legal entities in 3 different countries, 2 of which in a different EU Member State or HE Associated Country.

If organisations from the same sector, there must be at least 1 organisation from a non-associated Third Country.

* Secondments within EU MS or HE AC must be between different sectors (between academic and non-academic), except for interdisciplinary secondments, which must be limited to a maximum of 1/3 of the total implemented months.
Eligible staff

Seconded staff members

Any type of staff involved in R&I activities (researchers, administrative staff, managerial staff, technical staff)

Researchers at any career stage (from doctoral candidates to postdoctoral researchers)

Actively engaged in research and/or innovation activities for at least 1 month prior at the sending institution

Each staff member is seconded for a period of 1 to 12 months (may be split into several stays)

Staff needs to be devoted full-time to the action during the secondment

After the secondment, staff should return to their sending institution
### Eligible exchanges

**"SENDING"**
(secending staff members from organisation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic organisation in MS/AC (1)</th>
<th>Non-academic organisation in MS/AC (2)</th>
<th>Organisation in TC*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="checkmark.png" alt="Checkmark" /></td>
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**"HOSTING"**
(receiving seconded staff members)

1/3 This symbol refers to same sector secondments up to 1/3 of the total implemented secondments funded by the EU as long as they are demonstrated to be interdisciplinary.

* denotes TC partners that are eligible for automatic funding

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European Commission
Same-sector secondments in Europe (MS/AC)

≤ 1/3 of the total secondments funded by the EU, if considered **Interdisciplinary**

Interdisciplinary secondments integrate aspects from **two or more different scientific disciplines**.

**Important:** **Scientific panels + descriptors/first level** MSCA keywords from proposal form part A (see [REA Website](#))
Interdisciplinary mobility explained

Examples taken from MSCA SE FAQ
What does Staff Exchanges fund?

1 unit = 1 month of eligible staff

- Staff member unit costs: € 2300
- Research, training, networking: € 1300
- Management and indirect costs: € 1000

Unit cost per Person Month: € 4600
Key features – summary

**DURATION**
4 years
360 PM per project

**SECONDMENTS**
1-12 months per staff
*Interdisciplinary* secondments: same sector, within Europe for max 1/3 PM

**UNIT COST**
4600€
2300€ - Staff allowance
2300€ - organisation

**BUDGET**
EU funding average
75,5 Mio€/call
Proposal Submission

All calls are published on the **Funding and Tender Opportunities 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/](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/)
Reference Documents

- Guide for Applicants
- MSCA Work Programme & annexes
- Proposal templates
- Model Grant Agreement
- Online manual on how to submit an application
- Frequently Asked Questions
Proposal documents

Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

Apply here!

Part A
(structured data)
(to be filled online)
contains administrative information about the applicant organisations

Part B
(description of action)
(to be downloaded from the Portal)
contains the technical description of the project
## Evaluation criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellence</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge between participating organisations and contributing to improving research and innovation potential at the European and global level</td>
<td>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soundness of the proposed methodology (including i3 approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects, and the quality of open science practices)</td>
<td>Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives of staff members and contribution to their skills development</td>
<td>Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations in light of the research and innovation objectives</td>
<td>Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The magnitude and importance of the project’s contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| 50% | 30% | 20% |
Evaluation

Formula for Staff Exchanges success stories

\[ \text{Impact} = (\text{Excellence} + \text{Implementation}) \]

Excellence and Implementation are closely interlinked!
Horizon Europe Work Programme:

“All MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to follow the recommendations outlined in the Guidelines for MSCA supervision”.

A set of recommendations to be adopted on a best effort basis by participants in the programme – both individuals and institutions – e.g. from research support and career development to well-being, conflict resolution and training for supervisors.

https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/msca-guidelines-supervision
Horizon Europe Work Programme: “All MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to address the principles of the MSCA Green Charter and implement measures to minimize the environmental footprint of their activities”.

https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/green-charter
## Tips and tricks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Closely follow the call requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Be in line with the action’s objectives and expected outcomes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Follow available guidelines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use the structure provided in the template and address all the evaluation criteria</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highlight the EU dimension</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Show that your proposal addresses EU policy priorities and/or societal challenges</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Get a second opinion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have your proposal proof-read by a colleague and pre-screened by your NCP</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sustainability of collaboration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describe the benefits of cooperation and how they can go beyond this project</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Contact your National Contact Point (NCP)</th>
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Next MSCA SE calls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Opening Closing</td>
<td>Budget (M€)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Exchanges</td>
<td>07/10/2021 09/03/2022</td>
<td>72,5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions and answers
www.sli.do #SE21
Business & academia: success stories
Maria Fatima LUCAS
CEO - ZYMVOL

Anne-Laure MENTION
Director - Global Business
Innovation Enabling
Capability Platform at Royal
Melbourne Institute of Technology

Alessio DI IORIO
CEO - Alma Sistemi SRL

Slido: #SE21
Bacterial Enzymes and Bioprocesses for Lignin Valorization

B-LigZymes aims to solve key fundamental and technological challenges for lignin biodegradation and valorization.

- Identify and isolate new bacterial ligninolytic enzymes
- Improve the performance and robustness of enzymes, relying on iterative experimental and computational protein engineering tools
- Advance the understanding of ligninolytic enzymes at a molecular level, which will guide further optimization of biocatalytic systems
- Set-up enzymatic processes for lignin depolymerization fractionation that lead to the production of chemicals and polymers from renewable resources

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 924017.
Consortium

Coordinator

Academic Partners

Industrial Partners
A global network of researchers and industry practitioners across Europe and Australia for promoting the translation of research between university-industry through cooperation and Open Innovation in the sectors of:

**FinTech**
A new financial industry that applies technology to improve or innovate financial services

**Industry 4.0**
Digitalisation of fully integrated, automated, optimised manufacturing flows

**CleanTech**
A range of low carbon technologies aimed at providing solutions to environmental problems

**FoodTech**
Application of advanced tech to production, packaging & distribution of food

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### Achievements

- **2.4MEUR**
  - H2020 EU Project
- **540 PM**
  - Intra EU + Australian secondments
- **1 Hackathon**
- **1 Summer School**
- **1 Masterclass**
- **9 Book**
- **9 Sessions @ Conferences**
- **9 Workshops**
- **21 Journal Articles**
- **21 Internal Meetings**
Partners across Europe & Australia:

- **22 Partners**
- **15 Researchers seconded to RMIT via OIT**
More information? Reach out

Prof. Anne-Laure Mention  
RMIT University  
Anne-laure.mention@rmit.edu.au

Pauline Rasera  
OpenInnoTrain Project Manager  
RMIT Europe  
Pauline.rasera@rmit.edu.au

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 823971
Italian SME providing high level engineering and consultancy services in the space and defence market

Established in 2005

16 employees

(+ 2 permanent consultants)

1,2 M€ turnover in 2019

Certified ISO 9001: 2015

RTD Projects & industrial contracts (MGSE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Customer</th>
<th>Completed Projects</th>
<th>Ongoing projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC Framework Program 7 and Horizon 2020</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering – European Space Agency</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTD - Italian Space Agency</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTD - National Programs</td>
<td>2**</td>
<td>2**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Of which 5 as coordinator / ** Both as coordinator
Ongoing Research & Technology Development Projects

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2016: PATH - Plasma Advanced Technologies

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018: IN TIME – Planetary Instrument and Mars Geoscience
Ongoing Research & Technology Development Projects

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018: STABLE – Assess and monitor Structural stability of Cultural Heritage building resilience to earthquakes using remote sensing and engineering modelling

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018: RESEARCH – Monitoring of Cultural Heritage assets by remote sensing techniques
New RTD projects

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2020: eUMaP - Development of Utilities Management Platform for the case of Quarantine and Lockdown

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2020: EYE – Economy bY space
Questions and Answers: Slido code #SE21

Maria Fatima LUCAS
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Director - Global Business Innovation Enabling Capability Platform at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

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Slido feedback poll
www.sli.do #SE21
Thank you