How to make good use of funding programmes for your own career development

2nd ITN Summer School for Personalized Medicine Paris, 12 Sep 2014

Patrice Wegener
Overview

1. The network of Max Planck EU grants offices
2. Overview: The funding landscape at a glance
3. Introducing the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
4. The ERC grant
5. Other fellowships
6. Team simulation game: a MSCA fellowship application (session part 2)
1. The network of Max Planck EU grants offices (1)

- Max Planck EU Liaison Office Brussels
  http://www.mpg.de/7521589/Buero_Bruessel

- Max Planck EU Regional Office Baden-Württemberg
  http://eu.tuebingen.mpg.de

- Max Planck EU Regional Office Bayern
  http://www.mpq.mpg.de/cms/mpq/institute/service/eu

- Max Planck EU Regional Office Niedersachsen
  http://www.ds.mpg.de/16714/eu

- Max-Planck-Institut für Eisenforschung GmbH
  http://www.mpie.de/index.php?id=1009

- Max Planck EU Regional Office Bonn
  http://www.mpifr-bonn.mpg.de/service/eu_buero

- Max Planck EU Regional Office Köln & Nijmegen
  http://www.age.mpg.de

- Max Planck EU Regional Office Sachsen
  http://www.cbs.mpg.de/staff/otte-11189/@@index.html

- etc. ....

... and many more local MPI offices available for advice, assistance, etc.
1. The network of Max Planck EU grants offices (2)

Furthering effective participation from Max Planck scientists in third-party funded research and related activities:

- Information and expert advice on EU and national funding opportunities, programmes and policies
- Comprehensive assistance with bid preparations
- Backup during contract negotiation and project management
- Help with cost calculation
- Information about trans-national researcher mobility and ERC grants
- Advice on strategy or profile building (individual or group)
- Individual advice for young scientists
2. Overview: The funding landscape at a glance

The young researcher’s challenge

- PhD: cross-road between research and professional career
- The postdoc between dependence, “quasi-independence”, and “early independence”
- Building an early competitive profile for gaining a later tenure position
- Learning the ‘Art of Grantsmanship’: difference that makes or brakes an application ("Good writing will not save bad ideas, but bad writing can kill good ones", Jack Kraicer, HFSP)
- Complementary skills for overcoming access barriers to project funding and grants

- **MPG PhD-Net** and **Lead-Net**: opportunities to network, exchange experiences, organise training sessions or workshops (science, management, career/profile building)
Defining the ‘young researcher’ phase (1)

- No age restriction
- Postdoc years
- PhD phase
  - Postdoc phase
- Young postdoc (0 - ~ 3 y)
- Senior young postdoc (< 10 y)

Marie Curie ‘young researcher’ definition

- International profile building
- Early independence
Defining the ‘young researcher’ phase (2)

**Researcher Self-assessment**
- What do I aim for?
- How ‘good’ am I?

**Building your project**
- What is it about? (objectives)
- What is new about it, and which problem will it help tackle? (innovation)
- How do you plan to do it? (methodology)
- How much risk is involved, and how will you deal with contingencies?
- Who will you collaborate with? (network)
- Which will be the benefits? (impact)
- Which project type will be eligible for funding, and under which conditions? (the funding programme choice)

**The „training factor“**
- Training-through-research
- Complementary skills
- Supervisor & host

**Career & profile building (by funding)**, see previous slide
- Early postdoc experience: Mobility by fellowship
- Advanced postdoc: Grants, Research group
Career prospects in the Max-Planck-Society

- Scientific freedom
- Secure financial basis
- Well equipped institutes
- Involvement in teaching, e.g. through International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS)

Students as support staff (1,600)
PhD students (5,200)
Academic staff (5,400)
Post docs 2,500
MPI Senior research scientists (233)
Heads of Max Planck Research Groups (124)
Directors (277)
3. Introducing the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

I. Marie Skłodowska-Curie: Basics

II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

III. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks

IV. Marie Skłodowska-Curie: other actions
3.1. Marie Skłodowska-Curie: Basics (1)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie features

• **MC-IF**: “Training-through-research under supervision” (research project and integrated personal career development plan, incl. training on transferable skills, planning for publication & conferences etc.)

• Marie Curie actions **open to all areas of scientific research** (bottom up)

• Most actions open to **any career development phase**

• **Experience** criterion instead of age limit

• **Transnational mobility** (Europe, overseas)

• **Individual** fellowship/grant based

• **Straightforward** application process, costs calculated automatically

• Good opportunity for PhD and first years’ postdocs to **gain initial experience**

• **Opportunity for hosts** (directors, group leaders): ‘brain gain’, skilled staff
3.1. Marie Skłodowska-Curie: Basics (2)

Marie Curie definitions: Who is eligible?

- **‘Early stage’ researcher (ESR):** < 4 years of full-time active research experience (e.g. researchers undertaking a doctoral degree) at recruitment

- **‘Experienced’ researcher (ER):** with at least 4 years of full-time active research experience at time of relevant deadline or recruitment (ITN) or a doctoral degree

- **‘Nationality’:** as a general rule, there are no more restrictions anymore. **Exception:** MSCA Global Fellowship (GF) and the Reintegration Panel, which are open to nationals from EU member or associated states OR to nationals of third countries who have spent a period of full-time research activity in Europe for at least 5 consecutive years prior to application deadline.

- **Marie Curie mobility rule:** (a) transnational mobility, (b) max. 1 out of the last 3 years in the host country at the moment of proposal submission or selection (host institution action)

  **Specific mobility rule** for Reintegration Panel and Career Restart Panel: max. 3 out of the last 5 years at host country already (resident/active)
3. Introducing the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

I. Marie Skłodowska-Curie: Basics

II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

III. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks

IV. Marie Skłodowska-Curie: other actions
3.11. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

Any Experienced Researcher may submit only one proposal to this call for proposals.

**MSCA European Fellowship (EF)** and **Global Fellowship (GF)** replace former Marie Curie IEF, IIF, CIG, IOF

- **European Fellowships**
  - For fellows coming to or moving within Europe (12-24 months)

- **Global Fellowships**
  - For fellows from Europe going to Third countries (12-24 months) and returning (12 months)

Source: EC official presentation slides 10 June 2014
MSCA standard **European Fellowship (EF)** (Deadline: 10 Sep 2015)

- Enhance creative/innovative potential of ER wishing to diversify their competence by skill acquisition through advanced training and mobility
- Transnational mobility in Europe (EU member or associated states), for researchers either coming to Europe (former IIF) or moving within Europe (former IEF)
- Researchers of any nationality. Mobility rule: maximum of 1 year residence or work activity during last 3 years in country of host institution
- Researchers may opt to include a secondment phase in Europe, notably in the non-academic sector, within the overall duration of their fellowship (3-6 months)
- Duration: 1 - 2 years in total at European host institution
- Candidate applies together with European host institution
- Salary (living & mobility allowance), research & training costs, overhead/management
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

**MSCA European Fellowship (EF): Multi-disciplinary Reintegration Panel (RI) ...**
(Deadline: 10 Sep 2015)

- Return and reintegration of ER into a longer term research position in Europe, including in their country of origin
- Mobility from third country to Europe (EU member or associated states)
- Nationals from EU member or associated states, and from third country if residence (i.e. full-time research activity) during last 5 years in Europe
- Specific RI mobility rule: maximum of 3 years residence or work activity during last 5 years in country of host institution
- Duration: 1 - 2 years in total at European host institution
- Candidate applies together with European host institution
- Salary (living & mobility allowance), research & training costs, overhead/management
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

... multi-disciplinary Career Restart Panel (CAR)  (Deadline: 10 Sep 2015)

- Aims at supporting ER to resume research in Europe after a career break (e.g. after parental leave) in an EU member or associated state

- Researchers must not have been active in research for at least 12 months immediately prior to the deadline for submission

- Transnational mobility (from any country to an EU member or associated state)

- Researchers of any nationality. CAR mobility rule applies: maximum of 3 years residence or work activity during last 5 years in country of host institution

- Duration: 1 - 2 years in total at European host institution

- Candidate applies together with European host institution

- Salary (living & mobility allowance), research & training costs, overhead/management
**3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships**

**MSCA Global Fellowship (GF)** (Deadline: 10 Sep 2015)

- Reinforcing the international dimension in career of European ER
- Transnational mobility from Europe to a third country (e.g. USA, China, Ghana, Switzerland etc.). Mobility rule: maximum of 1 year residence or work activity during last 3 years in country of partner organisation (i.e. the secondment phase host)
- Nationals from EU member or associated states, and from third country if residence (i.e. full-time research activity) during last five years in Europe
- Duration: 2 - 3 years in total, of which 1 - 2 years in third country followed by mandatory return period to European host institution
- Candidate applies together with both the European host institution and a third country partner organisation (i.e. the secondment phase host)
- Secondment, salary (living & mobility allowance), research costs, overhead
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

**MSCA COFUND Fellowships**  (Deadline: various)

- Regional, national or international postdoc programmes co-funded both by institutions in EU member or associated states and the EU (MSCA)
- Transnational mobility required
- Specific eligibility criteria depending on programme
- **Example 1:**
  **Basque Foundation for Science (ikerbasque):**
  permanent contract positions at a Basque research institution for senior PhD holders with a solid track record
  Application Deadline: 31 Mar 2015  ([http://www.ikerbasque.net/fellows](http://www.ikerbasque.net/fellows))
- **Example 2:**
  **ETH Zurich Postdoctoral Fellowship Program:**
  1-2 year fellowships for young postdocs (PhD not longer than two years ago)
  Application deadline: 1 Mar and 1 Sep 2014 and 2015
  ([http://www.vpf.ethz.ch/services/ETH_Fellows/](http://www.vpf.ethz.ch/services/ETH_Fellows/))
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

MSCA **COFUND**  (Deadline: various)

- Overview of available programmes (continuously updated):
  
### 3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS</th>
<th>EUROPEAN</th>
<th>GLOBAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INNOCENTILY</strong></td>
<td>Standard EF</td>
<td>CAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationality</td>
<td>ANY</td>
<td>ANY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>From ANY country to MS or AC</td>
<td>From ANY country to MS or AC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career break in research</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>≥ 12 months prior to call deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPERIENCED RESEARCHERS</strong></td>
<td>Beneficiary</td>
<td>MS or AC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner Organisation</td>
<td>MS or AC (optional secondments)</td>
<td>MS or AC (optional secondments)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PARTICIPANTS</strong></td>
<td>Duration (months)</td>
<td>12 - 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Panels/Areas</td>
<td>8 panels</td>
<td>8 areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Ranking Lists</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUDGET:</strong></td>
<td>€240.50 million</td>
<td>€211.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: e-Application
Horizon 2020

Excellent Science
- European Research Council
- Future and Emerging Technologies
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions
- Research infrastructures
- Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies (LEIT)
- Access to risk finance
- Innovation in SMEs
- ... (more options)

Type: Proposal
Status: Forthcoming

In addition to the search facilities, the full list of H2020 Calls can be found [here](#).
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

Individual Fellowships (IF)
Call: H2020-MSCA-IF-2014

"PROPOSAL ACRONYM"

"Title"

This proposal is to be evaluated as:

[Standard EF] [CAR] [RI] [GF]
[Delete as appropriate]
In drafting PART B of the proposal, applicants must follow the structure outlined below.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. SUMMARY
2. EXCELLENCE
3. IMPACT
4. IMPLEMENTATION

5. CV OF THE EXPERIENCED RESEARCHER
6. CAPACITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS
7. ETHICAL ASPECTS
8. LETTERS OF COMMITMENT OF PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

NB:
- Applicants must ensure that sections 1 – 4 do not exceed the limit of 10 pages.
- No reference to the outcome of previous evaluations of this or any similar proposal should be included in the text. Experts will be strictly instructed to disregard any such references.
List of Participants

Please provide a list of all participants (both beneficiary and, where applicable, partner organisations) indicating the legal entity, the department carrying out the work and the supervisor of the action.

If a secondment in Europe is planned but the partner organisation is not yet known, as a minimum the type of organisation foreseen (academic/non-academic) must be stated.

For non-academic beneficiaries, please provide additional data as indicated in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Legal Entity Short Name</th>
<th>Academic (tick)</th>
<th>Non-academic (tick)</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Dept./Division/Laboratory</th>
<th>Supervisor</th>
<th>Role of Partner Organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiary</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>- NAME</td>
<td><strong>Beneficiary</strong>: name and short name of European HOST (not of researcher)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partner Organisation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- NAME</td>
<td><strong>Partner Organisation</strong>: name and short name of OVERSEAS HOST</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data for non-academic beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location of research premises (city/country)</th>
<th>Type of R&amp;D activities</th>
<th>No. of full-time employees</th>
<th>No. of employees in R&amp;D</th>
<th>Web site</th>
<th>Annual turnover (approx. in Euro)</th>
<th>Enterprise status (Yes/No)</th>
<th>SME status (Yes/No)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: e-Application

Part B - Table of Contents
(maximum 10 pages for sections 1. - 4.)

1. Summary (e.g. format of abstract in administrative forms)

2. Excellence

- Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects): Introduction, state-of-the-art, objectives and overview; research methodology and approach; Originality and innovative aspects; emphasis on career possibilities for the ER and new collaboration opportunities for the host organisation

- Clarity and quality of transfer of knowledge / training for the development of the researcher in light of the research objectives (two way transfer): demonstrate how ER will gain new knowledge from the hosting organisation(s); organisations may also benefit from the previous experience of the researcher training-through-research, other scientific & transferable skills

- Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements: demonstrate ER to be well integrated within the hosting organisation(s) in order that all parties gain the maximum knowledge and skills from the fellowship (European Charter for Researchers!) Into Section 6!

- Capacity of the researcher to reach and re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: e-Application

Part B - Table of Contents

3. Impact

- *Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills, and working conditions*

- *Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and results dissemination*:
  Communication and public engagement strategy of the action, Dissemination of the research results, Exploitation of results and intellectual property (include in Gantt Chart)

4. Implementation

- *Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan*, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources (incl. work packages description, list of major deliverables and major milestones, secondments (if applicable))

- *Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures*, including quality management and risk management: project organisation and management structure, risks & contingency

- *Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)*  
  ➔ Into Section 6!

- *Competences, experience and complementarity* of the participating organisations (benefits!) and institutional commitment letter (letter only for overseas’ host in GF required)
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: e-Application

Example Gantt Chart

*Reflecting work package, secondments, training events and dissemination / public engagement activities*

| Month | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Work package |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Deliverable   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Milestone     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Secondment    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Conference    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Workshop      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Seminar       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Dissemination |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Public engagement |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Other         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |

*Delete rows and columns that do not apply.*

3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: e-Application

The WP/T/Del/M structure should well reflect the project's complexity
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: e-Application

**Work packages**

WP1: Science etc.

WPn: Science etc.

WPn+1: Complement. Training („soft skills“)

**Deliverables**

- Del1.1: S&T
- Del1.2: S&T
- Del1.3: C/W/S (or T)
- D, CO

**Risk/Progress**

- R/P1.1
- R/P1.2

**Milestones**

- M 1

Risk / progress = assess risk and provide for contingency

(max. 3 - 4 WPs)

(max. 5 - 6 Ms)

M = a key deliverable or critical decision point

S&T= Science, R/P= Risk assessment/Progress monitoring, C/W/S=Conference/Workshop/Seminar, D=Dissemination, CO=Gen. public communication, T=Training
Part B - Table of Contents

5. CV of the Experienced Researcher (max. 5 pages, in table form)
   - Publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals, patents (if applicable)
   - Research monographs, chapters in collective volumes
   - Invited presentations, Research expeditions (led by ER)
   - Organisation of International conferences
   - Prizes and awards/grants, leadership in industrial innovation

6. Capacity of the Participating Organisations (separate table, max. 1 page for European host, max. 0.5 page for Partner organisation in GF)

7. Ethics Issues (no maximum pages, separate E.I. table and, i/a, Ethics self-assessment)
   Privacy and data protection, Informed consent, Use of human biological samples and data, Research on animals, Research in developing countries, Dual use

8. Letter of commitment (only for Partner organisation in GF, no template available yet)
### 6. Capacity of the Participating Organisations

All organisations (whether beneficiary or partner organisation) must complete the appropriate table below. Complete one table of maximum one page for the beneficiary and half a page per partner organisation (min font size: 9). The experts will be instructed to disregard content above this limit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiary X</th>
<th>General Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Role and Commitment of key persons (supervisor)</td>
<td>(Including names, title, qualifications of the supervisor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment</td>
<td>(Demonstrate that the team has sufficient facilities and infrastructure to host and/or offer a suitable environment for training and transfer of knowledge to recruited Experienced Researcher)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent research premises?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current involvement in Research and Training Programmes</td>
<td>(Detail the EU and/or national research and training actions in which the partner is currently participating)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation products</td>
<td>(Max 5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Organisation Y</th>
<th>General description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key Persons and Expertise (supervisor)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Research facilities, infrastructure and equipment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous and Current Involvement in Research and Training Programmes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevant Publications and/or research/innovation product</td>
<td>(Max 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Ethics Issues

Importance of Research ethics in H2020

For all activities funded by the European Union, Ethics is an integral part of research from beginning to end.

Ethical compliance is crucial for all scientific domains (not only in Life Sciences).

In H2020, all proposals considered for funding will be submitted to an Ethics Review.

Source: EC official presentation slides 10 June 2014
1- HUMAN EMBRYOS/FOETUSES
2- HUMANS
3- HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES
4- PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA
5- ANIMALS
6- THIRD COUNTRIES
7- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY
8- DUAL USE
9- MISUSE
10- OTHER ETHICS ISSUES
Ethics Self-Assessment by the applicant

- Each applicant is responsible for:
  - identifying any potential ethics issues
  - handling ethical aspects of their proposal
  - detailing how they plan to address them in sufficient detail already at the proposal stage.

- The Ethics part of each proposal should include description of issues and how the applicants plan to deal with them (Ethic Issues Table in part A, Ethics Self-Assessment in part B)

Source: EC official presentation slides 10 June 2014
**Ethics review**

*Granting ethics clearance* (proposals ‘ethics-ready’)

OR

*Granting conditional ethics clearance*

Conditions may include:
- regular reporting
- appointing of independent ethics advisor or board
- ethics check or audit
- submission of further information / documents
- adaptation of the methodology
- recommend an ethics assessment
- refuse ethics clearance
Useful links and documents

- **Participant Portal H2020 Ethics section:**

- **IF Guide for Applicants (Ethics section Pag 46-49):**

- **Ethics issues table-Checklist:**
ENDPAGE

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

Individual Fellowships (IF)
Call: H2020-MSCA-IF-2014

PART B

“PROPOSAL ACRONYM”

“Title”

This proposal is to be evaluated as:

[Standard EF] [CAR] [RI] [GF]
[Delete as appropriate]
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: Tips & advice

• Golden rule: **major ideas & points clearly detectable** … “help” the evaluators

• Check the **evaluation criteria** and procedure … slip into the evaluators’ role

• **Clear and concise** presentation (e.g. Form A abstract and Part B sections 1. - 4.)

• **Part B - scientific proposal**
  - innovative nature of the science, clear & sustainable “training-through-research”
  - appropriate **methodology** and **work plan**, realistic **impact on career** and beyond
  - detailed, courageous dissemination & outreach plans, including exploitation
  - gain/risk assessment, ethics self-assessment, beneficial secondment to add. Host

• **Host supervisor & infrastructure**: use in Part B only “Form 6. Capacities (…)”

• **Career plan (based on self-evaluation)**: focused and realistic! Ask yourself & get feedback - what distinguishes you from your peers / other applicants you know of?

• **CV**: quality (first authored) publications? Prizes? Supervisor of in-house projects, research groups, tasks? (External) Funding? **International** scientific collaborations and experiences, stays abroad etc.? First experience with scientific **independence**?

• Start early, get **help & feedback** from future supervisor(s), colleagues, grants office
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: Evaluation (1)

- **Evaluation within 10 Panels:**
  8 + 2 panels: Chemistry CHE, Social Sciences and Humanities SOC, Economic Sciences ECO, Information Science and Engineering ENG, Environment and Geosciences ENV, Life Sciences LIF, Mathematics MAT, Physics PHY, multidisciplinary Career Restart Panel CAR and Reintegration Panel

- **Evaluation criteria & scoring for MSCA-IF** (Scoring: 0-5 per criterion, overall threshold: 70%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellence: S&amp;T quality, innovation, training/ transfer of knowledge, host &amp; supervisor, career prospects</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact: skills development, measures for communication &amp; results dissemination</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation: coherence &amp; feasibility of work plan, appropriateness of management &amp; infrastructure &amp; host</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: Evaluation (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellence</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects)</td>
<td>Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives</td>
<td>Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarity and quality of transfer of knowledge/training for the development of researcher in light of the research objectives</td>
<td>Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and results dissemination</td>
<td>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements</td>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research</td>
<td></td>
<td>Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and institutional commitment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Priority in case of ex aequo

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
3.II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: Evaluation (3)

Marie Curie EF life cycle

- **Proposal preparation**: Jul-Sep 2014
- **Project start**: 1 May 2015
- **Interim report**
- **Periodic report and final report**
- **Evaluation of reports**
- **Project end**: 30 Apr 2017
- **Final EU payment**
- **Deadline**: 11 Sep 2014
3. Introducing the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

I. Marie Skłodowska-Curie: Basics

II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

III. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks (skipped)

IV. Marie Skłodowska-Curie: other actions
3. Introducing the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

I. Marie Skłodowska-Curie: Basics

II. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships

III. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks

IV. Marie Skłodowska-Curie: other actions (skipped)
Annex: Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions online (I)

General Information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions](http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions)
Annex: Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions online (II)

Research Job Vacancies: http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess
Annex: Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions online (III)

Annex: Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions online (IV)

Participant Portal: ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal
4. The ERC grant

I. Introducing the ERC grant

II. ERC: How to apply

III. ERC: Evaluation process
4.1. Introducing the ERC grant (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core grant schemes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting grant</td>
<td>For early-career researchers to develop their career and establish their own team</td>
<td>PhD + 2-7 years’ experience</td>
<td>Up to €2 million</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consolidator grant</td>
<td>For researchers to consolidate their own research team or programme</td>
<td>PhD + 7-12 years’ experience</td>
<td>Up to €2.75 million</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced grant</td>
<td>For well-established researchers to develop a new and outstanding project</td>
<td>10-year excellent scientific track record</td>
<td>Up to €3.5 million</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Additional grant schemes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proof of Concept grant</td>
<td>For ERC grantees to bridge the gap between research and marketable innovation</td>
<td>Holders of previous ERC grant</td>
<td>Up to €150 000</td>
<td>Up to 18 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synergy grant (pilot)</td>
<td>For a team of 2-4 researchers to collaborate on a research problem with a novel approach</td>
<td></td>
<td>Up to €15 million</td>
<td>Up to 6 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ERC official presentation set, ERCEA 2014
4.1. Introducing the ERC grant (2)

ERC „Programme philosophy“

- ERC grants aim to support ‘Frontier Research’, in other words the pursuit of questions at or beyond the frontiers of knowledge, without regard for established disciplinary boundaries.

- Proposals of a multi- or interdisciplinary nature which cross the boundaries between different fields of research, pioneering proposals addressing new and emerging fields of research or proposals introducing unconventional, innovative approaches and scientific inventions are encouraged, as long as the expected impact on science, scholarship or engineering is significant.

- The research proposed should have a high-gain/high-risk profile, i.e. if successful the payoffs will be very significant, but there is a higher-than-normal risk that the research project does not entirely fulfil its aims.

Source: ERC official presentation set, ERCEA 2012
4.1. Introducing the ERC grant (3)

**ERC basics**
Main futures of ERC funding schemes

**ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility**
- to work on a research topic of own choice, with a team of own choice
- to gain true financial autonomy for 5 years
- to negotiate with the host institution the best conditions of work
- to attract top team members (EU and non-EU) and collaborators
- to move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary (portability of grants)
- to attract additional funding and gain recognition; ERC is a quality label

Source: ERC official presentation set, ERCEA
4.I. Introducing the ERC grant (4)

ERC Starting Grants
Principal investigator profile and commitment

- **PI Profile:**
  - Any current place of work but working or moving to work in Europe (EU member state or FP7 Associated Country)
  - Any nationality or age
  - Over 2 and up to 7 years of experience after PhD
  - Promising track-record of early research achievements, appropriate to their research field and career stage

- **Commitment:**
  - Minimum 50% of PI working time on ERC project
  - Minimum 50% of PI working time in a EU Member State or Associated Country

Source: ERC official presentation set, ERCEA 2012
4.1. Introducing the ERC grant (5)

**ERC Consolidator grants**
Principal investigator profile and commitment

- **PI Profile:**
  - Any current place of work but working or moving to work in Europe (EU member state or FP7 Associated Country)
  - Any nationality or age
  - Over 7 and up to 12 years of experience after PhD
  - Independence and evidence of maturity shown
  - Promising track-record of early research achievements, appropriate to their research field and career stage

- **Commitment:**
  - Minimum 50% of PI working time on ERC project
  - Minimum 50% of PI working time in a EU Member State or Associated Country

Source: ERC official presentation set, ERCEA 2012
4.I. Introducing the ERC grant (6)

**ERC Calls in FP7 – submissions and success rates**

Source: BmBF presentation slides 2014
4.I. Introducing the ERC grant (7)

Life Cycle of ERC Starting Grant 2014

- **Proposal preparation**
  - Jan - Mar 2014

- **2-steps evaluation**
  - Apr - Nov 2014

- **Step 2 interviews**
  - end Sep - mid Oct 2014

- **Results Step 2**
  - mid Nov 2014

- **Project start**
  - ~1 Apr 2015

- **Project life**
  - (60 months)

- **2-steps evaluation**
  - Apr - Nov 2014

- **Final EU payment**
  - 31 Mar 2020

- **Final reporting**

- **Periodic reporting**

- **Evaluation of reports**

- **Deadline**
  - 25 Mar 2014

- **Project end**
  - 31 Mar 2020
4. The ERC grant

I. Introducing the ERC grant

II. ERC: How to apply

III. ERC: Evaluation process
## 4.11. ERC: How to apply

### PART A – online forms

- **A1** Proposal, PI, HI data
- **Exclusion of reviewers**
- **A2** Host institution/other organisations
- **A3** Budget (reference for grant)
- Online form on ethical issues and security issues
- Ethics review self-assessment

### ERC Grant proposal StG 2014

#### PART B1 – submitted as .pdf

**Section 1 Track Record of PI**
- a) Extended synopsis 5 p.
- b) CV 2 p.
  + Funding ID
- c) Early achievements track-record 2 p.

### PART B2 – submitted as .pdf

**Section 2 Scientific proposal** 15 p.
- a) State of the art and objectives
- b) Methodology
- c) Resources

---

Source: ERC Work programme 2014
4. The ERC grant

I. Introducing the ERC Grant

II. ERC: How to apply

III. ERC: Evaluation process
4.III. ERC: Evaluation process (1)

ERC Starting & Consolidator Grants

Evaluation procedure

**STEP 1**
- Remote assessment by Panel members of section 1 – PI and synopsis
- Panel meeting
- Proposals retained for step 2

**STEP 2**
- Remote assessment by Panel members and reviewers of full proposals
- Panel meeting + interview
- Ranked list of proposals

**Feedback to applicants**

Source: ERC official presentation set, ERCEA 2012
4.III. ERC: Evaluation process (2)

**ERC StG & CoG**
Evaluation: panel structure

**LIFE SCIENCES**
- LS1 Molecular and structural biology and biochemistry:
- LS2 Genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and systems biology:
- LS3 Cellular and developmental biology:
- LS4 Physiology, pathophysiology and endocrinology:
- LS5 Neurosciences and neural disorders:
- LS6 Immunity and infection:
- LS7 Diagnostic tools, therapies and public health:
- LS8 Evolutionary, population and environmental biology:
- LS9 Applied life sciences and non-medical biotechnology:

**SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES**
- SH1 Markets, individuals and institutions:
- SH2 The social world, diversity and common ground:
- SH3 Environment, space and population:
- SH4 The human mind and its complexity:
- SH5 Cultures and cultural production:
- SH6 The study of the human past:

**PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**
- PE1 Mathematics:
- PE2 Fundamental constituents of matter:
- PE3 Condensed matter physics:
- PE4 Physical and analytical chemical sciences:
- PE5 Synthetic chemistry and materials:
- PE6 Computer science and informatics:
- PE7 Systems and communication engineering:
- PE8 Products and process engineering:
- PE9 Universe sciences:
- PE10 Earth system science:

Source: ERC homepage 2014
5. Other fellowships

I. EMBO

II. HFSP

III. DFG

IV. Humboldt Foundation

V. Others
5. Other fellowships

I.  EMBO

II. HFSP

III. DFG

IV. Humboldt Foundation

V. Others
5.I. EMBO Long-Term Fellowship (LTF)

- **WHAT is funded:**
  - 12 - 24 months fellowships in molecular biology
  - Selection criteria:
    1. Previous scientific achievements of the applicant
    2. Novelty and biological significance of proposed research
    3. Appropriateness of the host laboratory for the proposed research and for training of applicant

- **WHO can apply:**
  - PhD degree at start of fellowship (and max. 2 years prior to application deadline)
  - at least one first author publication at time of application
  - move between countries – receiving institute OR applicant nationality must be from EMBC member state;
  - max. 7 months already at host prior to application deadline

- **HOW MUCH funding:**
  - depending on country; in Germany 34 765 € / year & travel allow. No „bench fees“.

- **WHEN to apply:**
  - 2 deadlines per year: **15 August 2014** (start: 1 Jan 2015), **13 February 2015**
  - Selection process: online submission of proposal, 6-weeks notification, interview

- Success rate 12 - 15%; max. of combination previous support + EMBO = 36 months!
5. Other fellowships

I. EMBO

II. HFSP

III. DFG

IV. Humboldt Foundation

V. Others
5.11. Human Frontier Science Program Postdoctoral Fellowship (1)

- **WHAT is funded:**
  - Innovative basic research into complex biological systems
  - Emphasis on novel approaches and interdisciplinarity, training in a new field
  - 3 year fellowships (last year can be used to return to home country)

- **Long-Term Fellowship** for candidates with a PhD in a biological science for a project in a different field of the life sciences, i.e. candidates which propose an original study in biology that marks a departure from their previous Ph.D. or postdoctoral work

- **Cross-Disciplinary Fellowship** for applicants with a Ph.D. from outside the life sciences e.g. in physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering or computer sciences, and with limited exposure to Biology during previous training. Applicants for the CDF should propose a significant departure from their past research

- **WHO can apply:**
  - candidates from HFSP supporting countries, no longer than 12 months in host country or laboratory when taking up the award
  - PhD at start of the fellowship (and no longer than 3 years prior to application deadline)
  - at least one lead author publication
5.II. Human Frontier Science Program Postdoctoral Fellowship (2)

- **HOW MUCH funding:**
  - Depending on country, in Germany approx. 42 000 € / year plus 4 300 € annual travel and research allowance

- **WHEN to apply:**
  - Password registration by: **13 August 2014**
  - Submission of application by: **28 August 2014**

- Success rate approx. 10% - 9%

- **WHEN to start:**
  - Between **1 April 2015** and **1 January 2016**

- [http://www.hfsp.org/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships](http://www.hfsp.org/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships)

- **Career Development Award:** for former HFSP fellows upon return to their home country; 3 years of support for starting their first independent laboratory
5. Other fellowships

I. EMBO

II. HFSP

III. DFG

IV. Humboldt Foundation

V. Others
5.III. DFG - Research fellowships

- **WHAT is funded:**
  - 3 - 24 months fellowships for project abroad

- **WHO can apply:**
  - young German researchers OR
  - international researchers who have been working in Germany for at least 3 years and state that they wish to continue to pursue their research in Germany in the future
  - PhD at start of the fellowship (thesis submitted at Univ. at moment of application!)
  - peer reviewed publications

- **HOW MUCH funding:**
  - between ca. 2 200 € and 3 200 € / month in Europe, and up to 3 800 € for USA (depending on age, family status, children) - additional allowances e.g. for travel and publication costs all included; no „bench-fees“!

- **WHEN to apply:**
  - year round; time-to-grant: 6 - 8 months.

- Possibility to apply for return fellowship after stay abroad (6 months, 1 500 - 1 900 € p.m.)
- Success rate approx. 25%-20%

- [http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes/individual/research_fellowships/index.html]
5. Other fellowships

I. EMBO

II. HFSP

III. DFG

IV. Humboldt Foundation

V. Others
5.IV. Alexander von Humboldt Foundation – AvH (1)

- **WHAT is funded:**
  - 6 - 24 months fellowships for all disciplines

- **WHO can apply:**
  - PhD at start of the fellowship (no longer than 4 years ago)
  - peer reviewed publications

- **Outgoing option: Feodor Lynen Fellowship**
  - applicant must be German or have lived in Germany for > 5 years
  - host must be a former Humboldt fellow

- **HOW MUCH funding:**
  - basic allowance of min. ca. 2 500 € / month (depending on age) plus additional allowance according to family status, country; „bench fees“ flat rate of 150 € p.m.

- **WHEN to apply:**
  - year round, selection meetings in February, June and October

- Possibility to apply for return fellowship (max. 6 months)

- success rate approx. 25%

5.IV. Alexander von Humboldt Foundation – AvH (2)

- **Incoming option: Humboldt Fellowship**
  - foreign researchers moving to Germany
  - no longer than 6 months residence in Germany prior to moment of submission of application

- **HOW MUCH funding:**
  - 2 250 € / month including mobility allowance plus 800 € / month research allowance

- **WHEN to apply:**
  - year round, selection meetings in March, July and November

- Possibility to apply for return fellowship after the stay in Germany
- success rate approx. 25%

- [http://www.hfsp.org/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships](http://www.hfsp.org/funding/postdoctoral-fellowships)
5. Other fellowships

I. EMBO

II. HFSP

III. DFG

IV. Humboldt Foundation

V. Others
5.V. Others - DAAD postdoc fellowships

- **WHAT is funded:**
  - 3 - 24 months fellowships for all disciplines

- **WHO can apply:**
  - German nationals
  - PhD with at least magna cum laude at start of the fellowship (no longer than 4 years ago)

- **HOW MUCH funding:**
  - min. ca. 2 200 € / month (depending on age and host country) plus additional allowances related to family status

- **WHEN to apply:**
  - 3 deadlines per year: **15 November, 15 March, 15 June**

Fellowship database for German researchers wishing to go abroad:

Fellowship database for foreign researchers wishing to come to Germany:
6. Team simulation game: a MSCA Fellowship application

I. Introduction

II. Group work (80 min)

III. Discussion & evaluation (15 min)

IV. Looking into an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)
Thank you for your attention!

Patrice Wegener
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