



The EU Framework Programme
for Research and Innovation

HORIZON 2020



MSCA Standard Eligibility Conditions

Extract from the MSCA part of the main Work Programme

Version 1.0
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Eligibility conditions

PROPOSAL

A proposal will only be considered eligible if it complies with the minimum participation and any other eligibility conditions set out below, depending on the type of action.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will comply with the applicable rules for funding as set out in part A of the General Annexes to the work programme.

The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission notice Nr 2013/C 205/05 (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11) shall apply for all actions under this part of the Work Programme, including with respect to partner organisations, third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries in accordance with Article 137 of the EU's Financial Regulation, notably Programme Co-Fund action.

Some entities from third countries are covered by the Council sanctions in place and are not eligible to participate in Union programmes. Please see the consolidated list of persons, groups and entities subject to EU financial sanctions, available at http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/consol-list_en.htm.

For the purpose of determining eligibility, where one of the participants is an international European interest organisation or the EU's Joint Research Centre or an entity created under Union law, it shall be deemed to be established in an EU Member State or Associated Country other than any EU Member State or Associated Country in which another participant in the same proposal is established.

Participants are organisations from the academic or the non-academic sector. These two sectors are defined as follows:

Academic sector

Academic sector consists of public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations whose primary mission is to pursue research, and international European interest organisations⁴⁵.

Non-academic sector

Non-academic sector includes any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

⁴⁵ For the purpose of this document, international European interest organisations shall be understood as defined in article 2 of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

Participants can be divided in two groups based on their level of participation:

- **Beneficiaries:** signatory to the agreement

Beneficiaries are full partners with complete responsibility for executing the proposed programme and other requirements of the project. They contribute directly to the implementation of the research training programme by appointing, supervising, hosting and training researchers.⁴⁶ They may also provide secondment opportunities.

- **Partner organisations:** non-signatory of the agreement

Partner organisations are non-beneficiary organisations contributing to the project by providing training and hosting researchers⁴⁷ during secondments. Partner organisations do not employ researchers within the project⁴⁸. Partner organisations shall include a letter of commitment in the proposal to ensure their real and active participation in the proposed network. The experts will be instructed to disregard the contribution of any partner organisations for which no such evidence of commitment is submitted.

Consortia involving partner organisations are encouraged to sign a partnership agreement to regulate the relationship between participants. These partnership agreements shall be in compliance with the obligations laid down in the Agreement.

In **Individual Fellowships (IF)**, the beneficiary shall be a participant located in an EU Member State or Associated Country and employing the researcher during the project.

Innovative Training Networks (ITN) can take the form of collaborative European Training Networks (ETN), European Industrial Doctorates (EID) or European Joint Doctorates (EJD). They must be created by at least three beneficiaries (or at least two for EID) located in three different EU Member States or Associated Countries. Above this minimum, the participation of institutions from any country or organisation is possible under the conditions provided by the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

In the case of EID, at least one beneficiary must be entitled to award doctoral degrees⁴⁹ and at least one beneficiary must come from the non-academic sector, primarily enterprises. For EJD, at least three beneficiaries must be entitled to award doctoral degrees.⁵⁰

The overall Union contribution for ITN is limited to the recruitment of a maximum 540 person-months. For EID with only two participants, this limit is set to 180.

⁴⁶ In the framework of COFUND, beneficiaries may also fund doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes for researchers.

⁴⁷ In the framework of RISE, "researchers" refers to staff members.

⁴⁸ In the framework of COFUND, this restriction does not apply.

⁴⁹ Every time the document refers to doctoral degrees, this means that the degrees have to be recognised as such by the relevant authorities of the country or countries concerned.

⁵⁰ For EJD, at least two institutions conferring a joint, double or multiple doctoral degree must be established in an EU Member State and/or Associated Country.

Not more than 40% of the requested EU contribution shall be dedicated to hosts in the same country (except for EID).

Participants in the **Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)** shall be established in at least three different countries of which at least two must be EU Member States or Associated Countries. If all participants are from the same sector (either only academic or only non-academic), at least one participant must be from a third country. Above this minimum, the participation of institutions from any country or organisation is possible under the conditions provided by the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation.

The overall European Union contribution for RISE is limited to the secondment of a maximum 540 person-months.

Participants in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie **Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)** shall be legal entities established in an EU Member State or Associated Country that fund or manage doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes for researchers. International European interest organisations that fund or manage doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes for researchers can also participate in this action.

RESEARCHERS

Researchers may be of any nationality. Researchers receive support on the condition that they move from one country to another to broaden or deepen their competences.

Global Fellowships and the Reintegration Panel in IF are open to nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States and Associated Countries. Long-term residence means a period of full-time research activity of at least 5 consecutive years.

Supported researchers fall into two categories: early-stage or experienced researchers:

Early-stage researchers (ESR) shall at the time of recruitment (ITN, COFUND) or secondment (RISE) by the host organisation, be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.

Experienced researchers (ER) shall, at the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals (IF), recruitment (COFUND) or secondment (RISE) by the host organisation, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

Full-time equivalent research experience is measured from the date when a researcher obtained the degree which would formally entitle him or her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited or seconded, irrespective of whether or not a doctorate is or was ever envisaged.

Mobility rules:

At the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals (IF), or recruitment by the host organisation (ITN), researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date. Compulsory national service and/or short stays

such as holidays are not taken into account. As far as international European interest organisations or international organisations are concerned, this rule does not apply to the hosting of eligible researchers. However the appointed researcher shall not have spent more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date, depending on the action, in the same appointing organisation.

In the Career Restart Panel and the Reintegration Panel in IF, researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their host organisation for more than 3 years in the 5 years immediately prior to the relevant deadline for submission of proposals.

Staff members in RISE are researchers (ESR and ER), administrative, managerial and technical staff supporting the research and innovation activities of the project. They shall be actively engaged in or linked to research and/or innovation activities for at least six months (full-time equivalent) at the sending institution prior to the first period of secondment. Secondments in RISE are not subject to the mobility rules.

Duration of support

The support granted to eligible researchers (including staff members in RISE) will cover the following periods:

1. ITN: 3-36 months
Researchers in EID shall spend at least 50% of their time in the non-academic sector
2. IF European: 12-24 months
IF Global: 12-24 months for the outgoing phase plus 12 month return phase in Europe
3. RISE: 1-12 months
Secondments may be split into several stays not exceeding 12 months in total and not going beyond the project duration. The splits must be justified and considered beneficial for the transfer of knowledge activities.
The exchanged staff members should be guaranteed full reintegration into the sending institution thus maximising the impact of the action for knowledge sharing and long-term collaboration.
4. COFUND: minimum 3 months
Researchers in COFUND shall not be recruited for less than 3 months.