MSCA Work Programme 2018-2020:

New financial support: MSCA Special needs

**What?**
Additional financial support to enable MSCA participation and mobility of disabled researchers

**Which MSCA actions are concerned?**
All MSCA actions

**Who can benefit from this allowance?**
Only eligible MSCA researchers with disabilities

**Type of grant?**
Grant awarded for the purchase of items/services
- Lump sum grant to beneficiary
- Capped at EUR 60 000/researcher

**How will it be implemented?**
As a separate grant to the beneficiary of the main MSCA grant

**From when?**
Tentatively available as of first quarter of 2019 (retroactively to all ongoing projects)

Modification of the Country Correction Coefficient

Increase by 5% of the living and top-up allowances

Optional introductory training for all MSCA fellows

- **Training on skills** necessary to face the challenges of tomorrow (such as digitally-enabled open science and FAIR data management, responsible research and innovation, communication and outreach, project management).
- **Information on their career** as MSCA researchers (rights and obligations as fellows, EU support for innovation, possibilities for worldwide collaboration).

More flexibility for third-country researchers through a revised long-term residency rule*:

- **Only residence counts**, and not research activity and residence as before.
- **Periods of absence are now allowed** during the 5 years of legal and continuous residence within EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries.
- **Refugees**, even though they are third-country citizens, **do not have to comply with the long-term residency rule when applying to the Reintegration Panel**.

2018-2020 changes by MSCA action

**ITN**
- **Cover costs for short secondments (up to 6 months) of researchers in ITN with the Research, Training and Networking costs**
  - > Should cover at least travel and accommodation costs.

**IF**
- **IF Career Restart Panel (CAR) and Reintegration Panel (RI) are strengthened**
  - > Maximum duration of CAR prolonged to 36 months.
  - > More budget for both panels.

**RISE**
- **Revised rule on international mobility in European Industrial Doctorates (EIDs)**
  - > Inter-sectoral mobility between beneficiaries must be international.
  - > Mobility to partner organisations is aligned with standard European Training Network (ETN) rules: limited to 30%; can be international or not.

**COFUND**
- **Indicate the minimum gross salary in vacancy announcements to ensure transparency**

**NIGHT**
- **Possibility to organise pre-events during spring or summer prior to the main event in September**

**European Joint Doctorates (EJDs): Researchers must take their joint degree always within Europe or with a European beneficiary**

- Part-time work for IF to pursue supplementary activities, such as creating a business, advanced studies, etc.
  - > Agreement between supervisor and fellow necessary.
  - > Minimum working time in MSCA: ≥50%.
  - > Proportional extension of project.

- Possibility to spend time at the European beneficiary before the outgoing mobility
  - > Max. 3 months (part of outgoing phase to ensure knowledge transfer when back).

**Less strict eligibility criteria for secondments**
- > Staff members to be linked to the sending institution one month before the first period of secondment.
  - > More flexibility and more secondments.
Widening Fellowships

Context
The results from the first years of Horizon 2020 implementation reveal the existence of a Research & Innovation gap across Europe and discrepancies between European countries in their ability to attract excellent researchers.

Widening countries tend to apply less, coordinate fewer projects and have a higher share of rejected proposals.

However, all Widening countries have many proposals above quality threshold and a majority of Widening countries have excellent (very high-scoring) proposals not funded due to lack of budget.

What?
Specific support to researchers to undertake their fellowship in a Widening country. This will help spread excellence and widen participation within Horizon 2020.

How will it be implemented?
Through the Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation part of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme in line with the high-quality standards and benefits of the MSCA Individual Fellowships.

Who can benefit from the Widening Fellowship?
Researchers applying for an MSCA European Fellowship in Widening countries, be it a Standard, Society & Enterprise, Career Restart or Reintegration Fellowship. Proposals above quality threshold but not retained for funding through the MSCA Individual Fellowship call with a host institution in a Widening country will be automatically reassigned to the Widening Fellowships call (unless the applicants explicitly opted-out).

Which countries are concerned?
Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.
Associated Countries: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Budget
2018: EUR 5 million
2019: EUR 6 million
2020: EUR 7 million

Who will implement this action?
Research Executive Agency (REA)