



MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

*global opportunities & synergies with
Erasmus +*

Robin Gadbled, PhD

European Commission (MSCA Unit)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



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Global opportunities under MSCA

Synergies with Erasmus+



Global opportunities under MSCA

Introduction to the MSCA programme



Researchers' training,
skills and career
development



Excellent R&I in all
disciplines (no limits)



International mobility,
across sectors and
disciplines



Excellent working
conditions



Structural impact on
organisations through
collaborative R&I projects



Cooperation with the
private orgs., public
sector, NGOs and
SMEs

Budget **EUR 6.6 billion** (Horizon Europe)

- **Bottom-up research & training** programme: funding for all scientific disciplines & research topics, **excellence** as main criterion
- **Interdisciplinary, intersectoral & international (i³)** mobility
- **Global coverage**: support for researchers and organisations around the world

Actions

Doctoral Networks

Doctoral programmes to train doctoral candidates incl. Joint and industrial programmes

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support for the best postdoctoral researchers

Staff Exchanges

Collaborative research and innovation projects through exchange of academic and administrative staff

COFUND

Co-funding for doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

MSCA and Citizens

Outreach events

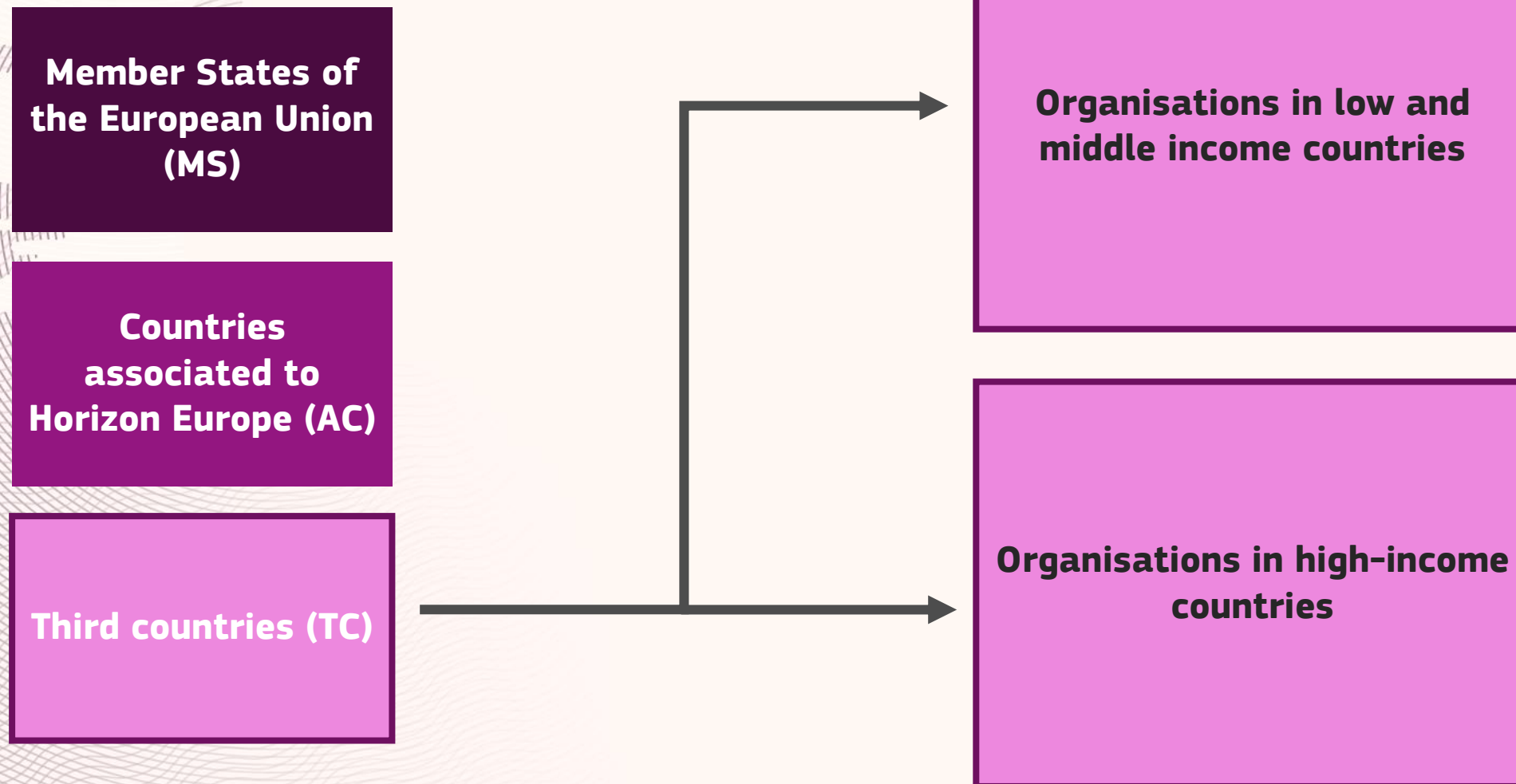


European
Commission

MSCA and Third Countries in a nutshell

- **Funding for organisations & researchers (all scientific disciplines)**
- **Organisations**
 - universities, research centres, public sector, businesses, NGOs, museums, SMEs, etc.
 - Different modalities of participation depending on the project. **Third Country organisations may receive funding or host/send researchers, academic and administrative staff paid for by the project**
 - Opportunities to **create connections, attract talents and develop new projects**
- **Researchers**
 - Open to researchers of **any nationality**
 - Some restrictions depending on Action (years of experience in research, place of residence, etc.)
 - Opportunity to participate in a **prestigious funding programme** (and join its alumni network: [MCAA](#))

Participation



Participation of Third Countries – Status

Beneficiary organisation (Middle and Low Income Countries in Doctoral Networks only)

- Signs the contract with the European Union
- Receives funds directly from the European Union
- Must respect certain geographical requirements and comply with the required composition of the consortium
- **Can host, send and train researchers**

Partner organisation

- Does not sign the contract with the European Union
- It does not receive funds directly from the European Union
- Contributes to the implementation of the project
- **It can host and train researchers under the project's costs, and in some cases send academic and administrative staff to other organisations**

Doctoral Networks

Doctoral Networks

- **Design excellent training programmes for the next generation of researchers**
 - Train doctoral researchers **to and through excellent research** (scientific skills)
 - Prepare them to take the **next steps in their careers** (training in transferable skills, career development...)
 - Projects with international, interdisciplinary and/or intersectoral dimensions
- Enable the organisations involved to **attract talent and strengthen ties with leading scientific teams** around the world
 - To selected researchers, MSCA funding provides a **salary, mobility allowances, research and training costs**

Doctoral Networks: conditions for organisations

- Applications are submitted by **international consortia** consisting of:
 - at **least three organisations in three different EU Member States or Associated countries**, of which at least one must be in an EU Member State.
 - From this minimum number, **organisations from Third Countries can participate, host and train researchers**
- **Eligible organisations** include: universities, research organisations, public institutions, enterprises, SMEs, museums, hospitals, NGOs...

Doctoral Networks – Conditions for researchers

- Researchers can be **hosted, trained and supervised in Third Country organisations for up to** 1/3 of the duration of the project
- **No limitations on age or nationality**
- **Mobility rule:** the researcher cannot have carried out his/her main activity in the main host country in the EU and associated countries for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline
- Researchers must **not** hold **a doctoral degree** or have successfully defended the doctoral thesis at the closing date of the call

Researchers apply directly for vacancies published by projects on [**Euraxess**](#)

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Highly **prestigious** fellowships recognised at global level
- Support to organisations **to attract international talent**
- Support to **postdoctoral researchers** (whatever their nationality) to:
 - manage their own project and boost their career
 - train and work under the supervision of leading researchers in their sector
 - acquire new skills and competences
- Support to organisations **to attract international talent**
- **Funding for projects in all scientific disciplines**
 - To selected researchers, MSCA funding provides a **salary, mobility allowances, research and training costs**

Postdoctoral Fellowships – Conditions for organisations

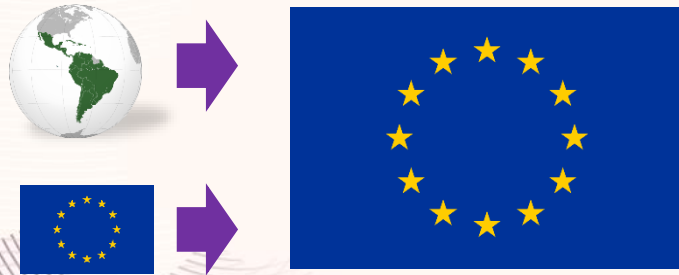
- **Third country organisations can host researchers for periods between 4 months and 2 years**, according to the applicable rules
 - Organisations in **any socio-economic sector**: universities, research centres, public institutions, businesses, NGOs, SMEs, museums, research infrastructures, etc.
 - Hosting organisations should appoint an experienced **supervisor** to supervise the researcher of the project

Postdoctoral Fellowships – Conditions for researchers

- Applicants must have **a doctoral degree** or have successfully defended the doctoral thesis before the call deadline
- **There are no limitations on age or nationality**
- Limitations for researchers with more than **8 years of research experience** since obtaining their (first) doctoral degree
 - Do not count: research periods outside Europe, paternity/maternity leave, periods of inactivity, etc.
- For **Global Fellowships**, the researcher must have the **nationality of an EU Member State or an Associated country or be permanently residing** (min. 5 years) in one of these countries
- **Mobility rule**: the researcher/researcher cannot have carried out his/her main activity in the country of the beneficiary organisation (European fellowships) or outgoing phase host organisation (Global fellowships) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately preceding the call deadline

Postdoctoral Fellowships – modalities

European fellowships



- **Researchers from Third Countries** can carry out a fellowship in **EU Member States and Associated countries**
- **Third Country researchers residing in Europe** (for min. 5 years) can carry out their fellowship in another EU Member State or Associated Country
- Projects of **12 to 24 months** (incl. short stays)
- Possible stays in Third Country organisations up to **1/3 of the duration of the contract**
- Researchers apply with host organisation and supervisor in the EU or Associated Country

+ 6 months (optional) non-academic placement in an EU Member State or an Associated Country

Global fellowships



- Researchers in the **European Union or Associated countries** (incl. Third Country nationals residing in these countries) can carry out a fellowship in Third Countries
- Projects of maximum 36 months
 - **Outgoing phase: Period 12 to 24 months in the third country** (incl. short stays)
 - **Return phase: Mandatory return period of 12 months** in the European Union or Associated Country
- Researchers apply with the host organisation and supervisors in the EU or Associated Country and in cooperation with the Third Country organisation

Staff Exchanges

Staff Exchanges

- Collaborative **research and innovation projects through the exchange of research, academic and administrative staff** (between 1 and 12 months)
- Allow participating organisations to:
 - Develop **long-lasting collaborations** and **cutting-edge research** between different organisations in the academic and non-academic sectors, test **innovative** ideas and turn them into products and services
 - Foster **knowledge exchange, capacity building**, institutional exchanges, **training** for research infrastructures, etc.

Staff Exchanges – Conditions for organisations

- Organisations **apply for international consortia** consisting of:
 - At least **3 independent legal entities in three different countries, 2 of which established in different EU Member States or Associated Countries**
 - If all organisations are from the same sector (academic or non-academic), **at least one organisation must be from a Third Country**
 - Above this minimum, the consortium may include **Third Country organisations**
- **Eligible organisations** include: universities, research organisations, public institutions, enterprises, SMEs, museums, NGOs...
- Third country organisations can:
 - **Host and train research staff from** other organisations of the consortium based in the European Union and Associated Countries, covered by the project's budget
 - **Second staff to** other consortium organisations in the European Union and Associated Countries, **covered** by the project's budget (only low- and middle-income countries)
 - **Send research staff** to the European Union and Associated Countries at their own costs (high-income countries)

Staff Exchanges – Conditions for staff

- Staff can be seconded for 1 to 12 months, in one or several stays
 - Includes **research (pre or post-doctoral), academic, administrative, technical and managerial staff** at any stage of their career
 - May be of **any nationality**
 - Must have a **contractual link or have been involved in research and innovation activities at the sending organisation** at least one month before their stay in a host organisation
 - **Continues to be linked to the sending organisation and must return to it** after the stay in order to convey knowledge and continue the collaboration
 - It **is selected** directly by the participating organisations

Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)

Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)

Financial support (co-funding) **for doctoral and postdoctoral programmes** (maximum 60 months)

- They allow organisations to:
 - Create, support or improve their own programmes to **attract talent at regional, national and international levels** and enhance scientific collaboration with other countries
 - Train researchers with a particular focus on the acquisition of scientific and transferable skills and their career development

Researchers apply directly for vacancies published by selected projects on [Euraxess](#)

COFUND – Conditions for organisations

- A **single organisation** from EU Member States or Associated countries applies
- **Organisations from Third Countries** can **participate as partners, define job offers to host and train researchers**, also for shorter stays
- **Eligible organisations** include: universities, research organisations, public institutions, enterprises, SMEs, museums, hospitals, NGOs,...

COFUND – Conditions for researchers

- Common:
 - **There are no age or nationality limitations** (except for **Postdoctoral Fellowships outside EU Member States and Associated countries**)
 - **Mobility rule**: the researcher cannot have carried out his/her main activity in the host country for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately preceding the **closing date for applications under the programme**
- PhD candidates:
 - Researchers must NOT hold **a doctoral degree** or have successfully defended the doctoral thesis by the application **deadline for the programme**
 - Researchers must follow a doctoral programme leading to a degree
- Postdoctoral researchers:
 - Researchers must hold **a doctoral degree** or have successfully defended the doctoral thesis by the **deadline for applying for the programme**
 - For **Postdoctoral Fellowships outside EU Member States or Associated Countries**, the researcher must be a national or permanent resident (+ 5 years) in one of these countries

COFUND – modalities

Doctoral programmes



- **Researchers from Third Countries** can carry out a fellowship in **EU Member States or Associated countries**
- Researchers in **EU Member states or Associated countries** (incl. TC nationals permanently resident in these countries) can carry out a fellowship in other **EU Member States or Associated Countries**
- Projects of at least **3 months**
- Possible stays in Third Country organisations up to **1/3 of the duration of the researcher's contract**

Postdoctoral programmes



- Researchers in **EU Member States or Associated countries** (including TC nationals permanently resident in these countries) may carry out a project of **at least 15 months**:
 - **Outgoing phase in a TC** (short stays possible)
 - **Mandatory return phase of 12 months** in the EU or Associated Country



- Researchers in TC may carry out a project of **at least 3 months in EU Member States or Associated Countries**
- Possible stays in TC organisations up to **1/3 of the duration of the researcher's contract**

How to apply?

- All calls are published on [the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#)
- Familiarise yourself with **key documents**, available on [the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#):
 - Guides for applicants: overview of rules, financial aspects, etc.
 - [MSCA work programme](#) and [annexes](#)
 - Proposal templates
 - [FAQs](#) on the Funding & Tender Opportunities portal
- **Find partners** with whom to form a consortium and announce your organisation as a potential partner for the call for interest:
 - On the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal via the partner search function
 - In [MSCA Matchmaking Platform](#)
 - For MSCA PhD projects, find researchers interested in developing a project with your organisation [by publishing hosting offers on Euraxess](#)
- **Register your organisation to participate** in a proposal or call. Follow the link to [register your organisation to get a PIC number](#)
- Check the [MSCA-NET](#) project website (useful information for researchers and organisations wishing to apply)
- Attend information events organised in your region by **Euraxess Worldwide**
- The [MSCA National Contact Point](#) in your country can help you.

Timetable of the calls (2023-2024)

Year	Scheme	Opening	Deadline
2024	Doctoral Networks	29 May 2024	27 November 2024
	Postdoctoral Fellowships	23 April 2024	11 September 2024
	Staff Exchanges	19 September 2024	5 February 2025
	COFUND	23 April 2024	26 September 2024
2025	Doctoral Networks	28 May 2025	25 November 2025
	Postdoctoral Fellowships	9 April 2025	10 September 2025
	Staff Exchanges	27 March 2025	8 October 2025
	COFUND	23 January 2025	24 June 2025

Participation of Third countries – in a nutshell

MSCA Actions	Beneficiary	Partner organisation	Third Country organisations can...
Doctoral Networks	Yes, with direct European Union funds *	Yes, but does not receive funds directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit, monitor and train doctoral researchers (beneficiary organisations established in low- and middle-income countries only) • Receive doctoral researchers for shorter stays (1/3 of project duration) for research and training funded by the project
Staff Exchanges	No	Yes, but does not receive funds directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host research staff from EU Member States and from Associated Countries up to 12 months, funded by the project • Send research staff to EU Member States or Associated countries up to 12 months funded by the project (only low- and middle-income countries) • Send research staff to EU Member States or Associated countries at their own costs (High Income Countries)
Postdoctoral Fellowships	No	Yes, but does not receive funds directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host postdoctoral researchers from EU Member States or Associated countries up to 2 years • Hosting postdoctoral researchers from EU Member States or Associated countries for shorter research assignments (1/3 of project duration) funded by the project
COFUND	No	Yes, but do not receive funds directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host doctoral and postdoctoral researchers from the EU or Associated countries (1/3 of the duration of the project) for shorter research stays funded by the project • Host postdoctoral researchers from EU Member States and Associated countries up to 2 years funded by the project

* Beneficiaries can be organisations established in low- and middle-income countries and receive funds directly from the European Union. The full list of these countries is available in the [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#).

A stylized, high-contrast portrait of Erasmus of Rotterdam, rendered in a light purple or grey tone, occupies the left side of the slide. The portrait is composed of fine, intersecting lines that create a textured, almost halftone effect. It shows Erasmus from the chest up, facing slightly to the right.

Synergies with Erasmus+

Complementarity between research and higher education projects

- E.g. Mobility projects for higher education students and staff to/from third countries (Erasmus+)
 - higher education institutions can send and host (to/from Third countries) students and staff (**including doctoral researchers and post-docs**) to study, teach, or train.
 - Differences with MSCA mean organisations have **more choices** open (purpose of mobility, lengths of stay, duration of the project, what is being funded...)

Complementarity between research and higher education projects

- **Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters**

- High-level and **integrated study programmes** (**master** level), involving at least three higher education institutions from three different countries, of which at least two must be EU Member States/AC
- Can be followed up at **doctoral** level with MSCA support (esp. MSCA DN JD) and strengthen the integration of programmes between institutions
- **Common challenges** (e.g. facilitating joint degrees)

Complementarity between research and higher education projects

- Capacity-building in the field of higher education (Erasmus+)
 - Transnational cooperation projects, based on multilateral partnerships, which may have a **training** component and be relevant for the **doctoral** cycle
 - Collaboration and integration between several organisations can lead to **further/complementary projects** under MSCA (cf consortia in DN, Staff Exchanges, associated partners under COFUND...)

Strengthening networks

- **Collaboration between institutions** through one of the programmes means **access to a wider network and (potentially) to greater ‘know-how’** on how to access EU funding
- [Evaluation study on the external coherence and synergies of Horizon 2020 within the European research and innovation support system](#) (2023):

*"in the case of international partners, **their chances of navigating through the different programmes** available at EU level are **depending a lot on joining a consortium with an expert European member, knowledgeable** of the European R&I system."*

- **Collaboration** is also key **between the different contact points and networks** of the respective programmes (Erasmus+ National Focal Points, MSCA National Contact Points, Euraxess, chapters from alumni associations...) to allow potential candidates to learn about the opportunities available to them



Thank you!
HorizonEU #MSCA
@MSCActions

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