An overview of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in Horizon 2020 for practitioners

FIT FÜR HORIZON 2020
Info-day Salzburg,
20th January 2014

Frank MARX
Deputy Head of Unit, REA P.2
Excellence

Research

Training

Skills

Mobility
MSCA Objective

Ensure the optimum development and dynamic use of Europe’s intellectual capital in order to generate new skills, knowledge and innovation

Budget 2014-2020: 6 162 million €
Strategic programming approach

- Attract and retain research talent
- Develop state-of-the-art, innovative training schemes, consistent with the highly competitive and increasingly inter-disciplinary requirements of research and innovation
- Promote sustainable career development in research and innovation
- Focus on delivering new knowledge and skills, in line with the key driver identified in the strategic programming approach
- Contribute to a strong partnership with MS via the co-funding mechanism
Key features

- Open to all domains of **research and innovation** from basic research up to market take-up and innovation services
- Entirely **bottom-up**
- Participation of **non-academic sector** strongly encouraged, especially industry and SMEs
- **Mobility** as the key requirement - funding on condition participants move from one country to another
- Promotion of attractive **working and employment conditions**
- Particular attention to **gender** balance
- **Public engagement** of supported researchers
- 2014-2015: 10 calls foreseen -> one call per each MSC action per year + one call covering 2 years of European Researchers' Night + NCP
MSCA: 4 Actions

**Innovative Training Networks**
Support for doctoral and early-stage training
European Training Networks, European Industrial
Doctorates, European Joint Doctorates

**Individual Fellowships**
Support for experienced researchers undertaking
international and inter-sector mobility: European
Fellowships and Global Fellowships
Dedicated support for career restart and reintegration

**Research and Innovation Staff Exchange**
International and inter-sector cooperation
through the exchange of staff

**Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes**
- Doctoral programmes
- Fellowship programmes
In FP7...

Topics

- Life Sciences 27%
- COFUND 9%
- Economics 2%
- Mathematics 2%
- Social Sciences and Humanities 9%
- Chemistry 10%
- Environmental and Geosciences 11%
- Information Science and Engineering 19%
- Physics 11%

MSCA
Mobility
Requirement in all projects

Global reach
130 nationalities, 80 countries
Most of the fellows (79%) who already finished their training were employed as researchers in a university, other higher education institution or a public research organisation.

92% of the ITN fellows assessed the Marie Curie impact on their career prospects as “very good” or “good”.

Almost two thirds of the universities from the Shanghai top 500 list participated in the host-driven MCA in 2011. Nine out of ten European companies, investing the largest sums in research and development, participated in the host-driven MCA in 2010 and 2011.
86% of the beneficiaries agreed that participation in Marie Curie projects has strengthened/will strengthen existing collaborations with partner organisations.

Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (including 50 industrial doctorate programmes) leading to around 4 000 new applications for patents or trademarks.

Table 5. Comparison of how organisations view the involvement of industry and the contribution of Marie Curie Actions to marketable applicability of research results and innovation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>ITN</th>
<th>IAPP</th>
<th>IRSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITN has contributed to the formation and/or development of an academia-industry network</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN has contributed to applications for patents, trademarks, registered design, etc.</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN has contributed to innovation through development of the processes and products</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: data from the survey of beneficiary organisations and administrative data.
Excellent Science part

MSCA objective

Ensure the optimum development and dynamic use of Europe’s intellectual capital in order to generate new skills and innovation

Total budget (2014-2020): € 6.2 billion (current prices)

1. Fostering new skills through excellent initial training of researchers
2. Nurturing excellence through cross-border and cross-sector mobility
3. Stimulating innovation through cross-fertilisation of knowledge
4. Increasing structural impact by co-funding the activities
5. Specific support and policy action
MSCA–Key Features

✓ Funding levels ~maintained
✓ Broad schemes ~maintained
✓ Main features (bottom-up, mobility, career development, gender balance, employment conditions) maintained
✓ Simplification in implementation
✓ Broader definition of industry involvement: participation of businesses (including SMEs) and other socio-economic actors
✓ Synergies with other parts of H2020 and with Erasmus+
Funds and calls

- **EU contribution** based on unit costs calculated on the basis of the researcher-months
- **Allowances** for the researcher (living, mobility and family allowance)
- **Unit costs** for research, training and networking
- **Unit costs** for management and overheads

**Calls:**
- **Yearly calls** (first call planned to be open in December 2013 - launch of the Horizon 2020)
- Application through the Participant portal
- **National Contact Points** to help with application
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Innovative Training Networks</th>
<th>ITN</th>
<th>Support for doctoral and early-stage training Training Networks, Industrial Doctorates, Joint Doctorates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Fellowships</td>
<td>IF</td>
<td>Support for experienced researchers undertaking international and inter-sector mobility: European Fellowships and Global Fellowships Dedicated support for career restart and reintegration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Innovation Staff Exchange</td>
<td>RISE</td>
<td>International and inter-sector cooperation through the exchange of staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-funding of programmes</td>
<td>COFUND</td>
<td>Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes: - doctoral programmes - fellowship programmes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

 Dedicated to early-stage researchers (no experienced researcher recruitment)
 Involving wide partnership of institutions from academic and non-academic sectors
 Based on (currently) 618 FP7 ITN + 43 Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates:
  ➢ ETN (European Training Networks)
  ➢ EID (European Industrial Doctorates)
  ➢ EJD (European Joint Doctorates)
 Combining scientific excellence with innovation-oriented approach
 Developing entrepreneurship and skills matching research labour market needs
 Enhancing employability of researchers

MSCA - main EU programme for structured doctoral training

✅ MSCA - main EU programme for structured doctoral training

✅ Dedicated to early-stage researchers (no experienced researcher recruitment)
✅ Involving wide partnership of institutions from academic and non-academic sectors
✅ Based on (currently) 618 FP7 ITN + 43 Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates:
  ➢ ETN (European Training Networks)
  ➢ EID (European Industrial Doctorates)
  ➢ EJD (European Joint Doctorates)
✅ Combining scientific excellence with innovation-oriented approach
✅ Developing entrepreneurship and skills matching research labour market needs
✅ Enhancing employability of researchers
ITN – Main features

- **Budget**: € 405.18 Million in 2014 (EID: 25.5 Mio, EJD: 30 Mio)
  € 370 Million in 2015 (EID: 25 Mio, EJD 28 Mio)

- Duration of projects: maximum 4 years

- Consortium agreement: required only for EID

- Support to **early-stage researchers only**

- Fellowships of 3-36 months

- Maximum **540 researcher-months** per consortium (180 for EID with 2 partners)

- Separate **multidisciplinary panels for EID and EJD**
Individual Fellowships (IF)

- Opportunities for international and inter-sector mobility of experienced researchers to facilitate career moves
- Enhance competences and creative potential of best researchers, European and non-European willing to work in the EU
- European Fellowships or Global Fellowships
- Career Restart Panel and Reintegration Panel

- Secondments embedded in the career development – to take place within Europe
- Special focus on inter-sector collaboration
IF – Main features

- **Budget**: € 240.50 Million in 2014 (Global Fellowships: 29 Mio)  
  € 213 Million in 2015 (Global Fellowships: 27 Mio)

- Duration of projects: 2 years (IF Global: 3 years)

- Support to **experienced researchers of any nationality** (IF Global and IF Reintegration: nationals of EU MS/AC and long-term residents)

- Focus on **career development**, not necessarily experience

- Additional 3 or 6 month **secondment option**, within Europe and in another sector

- Separate multidisciplinary **panels for CAR and Reintegration**

- Same award sub-criteria for all proposals
IF – Main features

- **Budget**: € 240.50 Million in 2014 (Global Fellowships: 29 Mio)  
  € 213 Million in 2015 (Global Fellowships: 27 Mio)

- Duration of projects: 2 years (IF Global: 3 years)

- Support to **experienced researchers of any nationality** (IF Global and IF Reintegration: nationals of EU MS/AC and long-term residents)

- Focus on **career development**, not necessarily experience

- Additional 3 or 6 month **secondment option**, within Europe and in another sector

- Separate multidisciplinary **panels for CAR and Reintegration**

- Same award sub-criteria for all proposals
New type of exchange of staff action to stimulate **transfer of knowledge** and sharing of ideas

Flexible inter-sector and international exchanges of **highly skilled research and innovation staff**

Based on a common research and innovation project

Exchanges between institutions within Europe cover only inter-sectoral exchanges

Exchanges with institutions from **outside Europe** can be both inter-sector and within the same sector

No support for exchanges between institutions located outside Europe
RISE – Main features

- **Budget**: € 70 Million in 2014
  € 80 Million in 2015
- Duration of projects: maximum 4 years
- Minimum eligibility condition: **participants in 3 different countries** (at least 2 MS/AC)
- Partnership agreement recommended
- Support to **secondments of staff members** (1-12 months)
- No mobility rule required
- **Eligibility condition** for staff member: **6 month (full time) at the sending institution** prior to the first secondment
- Maximum **540 researcher-months** per consortium
- 8 evaluation panels
COFUND

- Stimulating regional, national and international programmes to foster excellence
- Spreading best practices of MSCA in terms of international mobility, research training, career development
- Doctoral programmes and Fellowship programmes
- Sole beneficiary responsible for matching funds
- Use of unit costs
- Contribution possible from EU regional funds
Mono-beneficiary

Legal entities (public and private) established in MS or AC and international European interest organisations
MSCA to foster excellence throughout Europe

Objective
✓ stimulate regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development

Scope
✓ international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as transnational and cross-sector mobility of researchers at all stages of their career
✓ Possibilities of synergies with structural funds
✓ Opportunities for researchers from all countries
✓ Researchers to comply with the mobility rules of the MSCA
✓ Open and transparent recruitment, vacancies widely publicised

Expected Impact
✓ exploit synergies between European Union actions and those at regional, national, and international level
✓ leverage funding and combat fragmentation
COFUND – Main features

- **Budget**: € 80 Million in 2014 (Doctoral Programmes: 30 Mio)  
  € 80 Million in 2015 (Doctoral Programmes: 30 Mio)

- **Maximum**: € 10 Million per single applicant per call

- **Duration of projects**: maximum 5 years

- **Fellowships**: minimum 3 months

- **EU contribution**: to cover living allowances for researchers and management costs

- **50% co-funding for established unit costs**

- **Minimum living allowance fixed in the WP**
European Researchers' Night

Objective
✓ bring researchers closer to the general public
✓ increase awareness of research and innovation activities

Scope
✓ yearly event, typically on the last Friday of the month of September
✓ focus on the general public, addressing and attracting people regardless of the level their scientific background
✓ special focus on pupils and students
✓ promotion of the European dimension and gender balance in research and innovation
✓ involvement of researchers funded by Horizon 2020

Expected Impact
✓ raise awareness of the importance of research careers
✓ in the long term, encourage young people to embark on scientific careers
NIGHT – Main features

- **Budget**: € 8 Million in 2014 (2 editions covered)
- Call under **Coordination and support action**
- Maximum 100% funding
- **Duration**: maximum 2 years (option for one edition only)
- Beneficiaries: any legal entity in the EU Member States and Associated Countries
- Consortium agreement not required
### MSCA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Researcher unit cost</th>
<th>Institutional unit cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Living allowance (country coefficient)</td>
<td>Mobility allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ITN</strong></td>
<td>3 110</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IF</strong></td>
<td>4 650</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RISE</strong></td>
<td>Staff member unit cost Top-up allowance (accommodation, travel and subsistence)</td>
<td>2 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COFUND</strong></td>
<td>Researcher unit cost (50%)</td>
<td>Institutional unit cost (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early-stage researchers</td>
<td>3 710</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced researchers</td>
<td>5 250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls</td>
<td>Start/End</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN</td>
<td>11/12/2013 – 9/04/2014</td>
<td>EUR 405.18 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2/09/2014 – 13/01/2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IF</td>
<td>12/03/2014 – 11/09/2014</td>
<td>EUR 240.50 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12/03/2015 – 10/09/2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISE</td>
<td>11/12/2014 – 24/04/2014</td>
<td>EUR 70.00 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6/01/2015 – 28/04/2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COFUND</td>
<td>10/04/2014 – 2/10/2014</td>
<td>EUR 80.00 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14/04/2014 – 1/10/2015</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGHT</td>
<td>11/12/2014 – 4/03/2014</td>
<td>EUR 8.00 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposal submission

In accordance with Evaluation criteria

- Excellence (50%)
- Implementation (30%)
- Impact (20%)

Read call documentation
Respect call provisions
Get advice: from NCPs and others
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Website
http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions

Horizon 2020
http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020

Participant Portal (applications)
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Frank.Marx@ec.europa.eu

Nothing in life is to be feared just understood.
- Marie Curie