Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

Opportunities for Organisations and Individual Researchers

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Directorate-General Education and Culture

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HORIZON 2020

MSCA

The three pillars of H2020

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

€756.5 million in 2016 for all calls together

MSCA - 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;

➢ Open to researchers at **all career stages** and flexible funding periods;

➢ **Mobility** as the key requirement - funding on condition participants move from one country to another;

➢ No **nationality** or **age** restrictions;

➢ Promotion of attractive **working** and **employment conditions**;

➢ Particular attention to a **quality of opportunities**;

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MSCA Funding schemes

Individual Fellowships	**IF** **experienced Researchers 'post-Doc'**	Support for experienced researchers to undertake international and inter-sector mobility, incl. career restart and reintegration
Innovative Training Networks	**ITN** **early-stage Researchers 'pre-Doc'**	Doctoral and initial training: European Training Networks, European Industrial Doctorates, European Joint Doctorates
Co-funding of programmes	**COFUND** **'pre-Doc' or 'post-Doc'**	Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes: - doctoral programmes (ESR) - fellowship programmes (ER)
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange	**RISE** **'pre-Doc' or 'post-Doc'**	International and inter-sector cooperation through the exchange of staff (scientific, administrative and technical)

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What can be funded?

1) Costs of researchers/fellows and seconded staff

| Living allowance or Top-up allowance | Mobility allowance | Family allowance |

2) Organisational costs for host institutions

| Research, networking and training costs | Management and indirect costs |

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MSC actions – Financial Overview

RISE

Research, networking, training costs	1800 €	Top-up allowance	2000 €
Management and indirect costs	700 €		

ITN

Research, networking, training costs	1800 €	Living allowance*	3110 €
Management and indirect costs	1200 €	Mobility allowance	600 €
		Family allowance	500 €

IF

Research, networking, training costs	800 €	Living allowance*	4650 €
Management and indirect costs	500 €	Mobility allowance	600 €
		Family allowance	500 €

COFUND

Management costs	325 €	Living allowance Early-stage researchers	1855 €
		Living allowance Experienced researchers	2625 €

* The living allowance base rate is multiplied by Country Correction Coefficient – for Greece 92,7%

Which MSCA should you choose?

You
are
an
individual
researcher

Opportunities for **individual researchers**

- As a researcher I want to…

  - ☑ Undertake a **project** in Europe or outside Europe;

  - ☑ Spend my time at **leading labs;** Opportunities to work and train with the best researchers in Europe and worldwide;

  - ☑ Be part of a well-established and **prestigious programme**;

  - ☑ Benefit from **good working conditions:** employment contracts, full social security, very competitive salaries etc.*;

  - ☑ Work with **businesses**;

  - ☑ Be part of an **exchange**…

  - ☑ Access to top level conferences, **professional** associations & Marie Curie Alumni;

  … ***Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions!***

- **European Charter for Researchers and code for conduct for recruitment; the Democritus University of Thrace has signed it.*

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Opportunities for individual researchers

Compare to researchers in general:

- **Short-term employability**

❖ MSC fellowships are very effective in improving fellows' short-term employability;

❖ MSC fellows are some 8% more likely of obtaining a permanent position after the fellowship;

❖ MSC fellows are more likely to obtain an ERC grant;

- **Retention by hosts**

❖ MSC fellows are some 11% more likely to be retained by hosts, especially after long fellowships.

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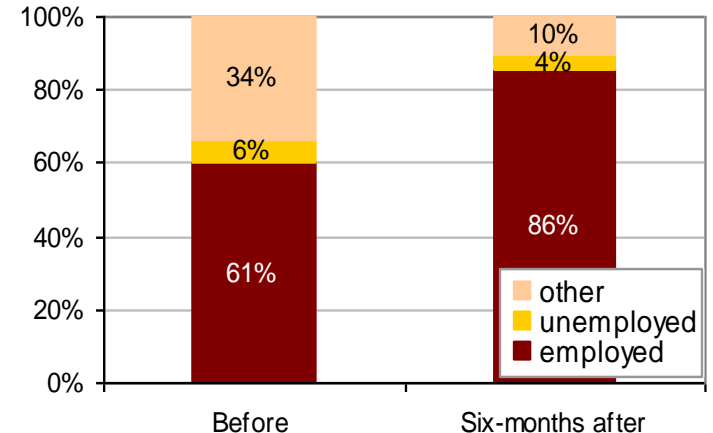
Opportunities for individual researchers

Early-stage Researchers (ESR)

Less than four years of research experience and no doctoral degree
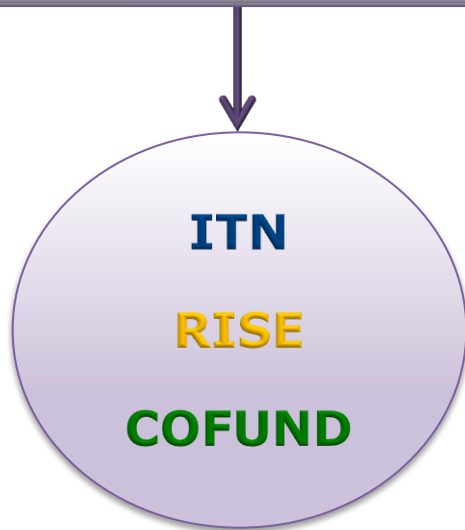
Experienced Researchers (ER)

At least four years of research experience and/or a doctoral degree

ITN

RISE

COFUND

IF

RISE

COFUND

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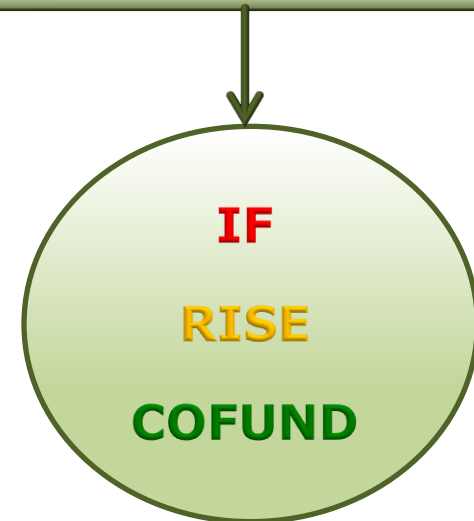
You

are

a

host

organisation

Opportunities for host organisations: who can participate?

Academia

Public or private **High Education Institutions** awarding academic degrees

Public or private **non-profit research organisations**

International **European interest** organisations

- Universities
- Non-profit research institutes
- IEIOs

Business and non-academia

Broad definition:

Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector definition

- Industry
- SMEs
- Other socio-economic actors

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Host organisations
Choose your level of involvement

Develop medium- to long-term collaborations around a common strategy

Focus on core business & short- to medium-term research agenda

Start getting involved

- ✓ Gain and transfer knowledge/expertise through staff exchange

- ✓ Take part in shaping the training of researchers you would like to hire

- ✓ Recruit one or more researchers during their entire fellowship IF, ITN

- ✓ Develop a European Industrial Doctorate with academic partner(s) from another country

- ✓ Host secondments RISE, IF

- ✓ Build around a common research project RISE, ITN

- ✓ Provide specific training modules ITN, Cofund

- ✓ Get co-funding for your doctoral or fellowship programme Cofund

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Individual fellowships - Main Features

- Only for **experienced** researchers;

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

- Open to hosts from both **academic** and **non-academic** sectors;

- Can include **3 – 6 months at another organisation** anywhere in Europe ("on secondment");

- **Mobility:** Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the host organisation for *more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the call deadline*;

- Separate multidisciplinary panels for **Society & Enter**prise (€10m earmarked budget), **Career Restart**, and **Reintegration** – all with the same **special mobility rule**;

- Duration: **2 years** (Global Fellowships: **3 years**).

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IF - Individual Fellowships

European Fellowships

Global Fellowships

Outgoing phase – 2 years

Return phase – 1 year
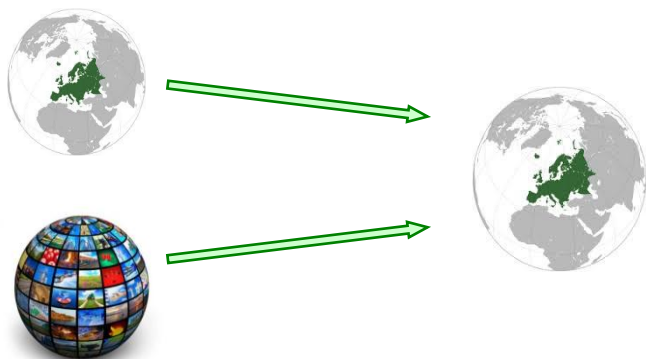
Society and Enterprise Panel

Reintegration Panel

Career Restart Panel

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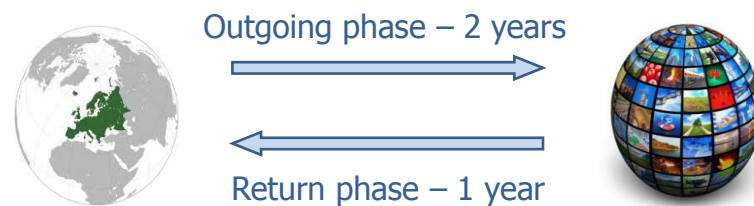
IF – Society and Enterprise Panel

- The objective is to encourage **non-academic** organisations to host individual fellows;

- Most requirements common to other European Fellowships;

- Beneficiary **only** from non-academic sector;

- **Mobility rule** = not more than 3 years in the last 5 years in the country of the beneficiary;

- Dedicated budget of **10 EUR million**;

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IF Reintegration Panel

Return and **reintegration** of researchers into a **longer term** research position in Europe;

- Separate multi-disciplinary **reintegration** panel (RI);

- Researchers must be a national or long-term resident of **EU or AC**;

    - **Long term resident**: at least 5 consecutive years of research activity in one or more EU Member State or AC;

- <u>Mobility rule different</u>: Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the host organisation for *more than* **36 months** *in the* **5 years** *immediately prior to the call deadline;*

    - Mobility **<u>into</u>** Europe is essential.

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IF - Career Restart Panel

- Multidisciplinary panel to provide financial support to individual researchers who wish to resume research in Europe after a career break (e.g. after parental leave, working outside research, etc.).

- For **refugees** covered by the 1951 Refugee Convention (Geneva Convention), the refugee procedure (i.e. before refugee status is conferred) will not be counted as 'period of residence/activity in the country of the beneficiary'. This is regardless of whether he/she was active in research at that time.

- The experienced researcher must have undertaken a **career break in research**, i.e. he/she **must not have been active in research** for at least 12 months immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals (corresponding to the period 15 September 2015 to 14 September 2016).

- Whether or not the researcher has been active in research is determined on the basis of fellowships or employment **contracts** in the domain of research.

COFUND

- Co-funding new or existing **regional, national**, and **international** programmes**;**

- **Fellowships** programmes (ER) or **Doctoral** programmes (ESR);

- **Mono-beneficiary**: any organisation funding or managing doctoral or post- doctoral programmes; could be universities, research centres, industries etc.; signs the grant agreement;

- **Partner organisations**: could be universities, research centres, industries etc.; do not sign the grant agreement;

- **Minimum** living allowance fixed in the Work Programme; No correction coefficient applies in the living allowance;

- EU contribution to co-fund living allowances for researchers and management costs;

- Budget for 2016 call: **€ 80 Million** (Doctoral Programmes: 30 Mio).

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COFUND Fellowships Programmes

- MSCA COFUND fellowships projects offer 'post-doc' positions **similar** to the **IF**;

- Employment **contracts** with full social security;

- **Minimum** which hosting organisations should pay their COFUND fellows: **3675 €**;

- All positions are **advertised** on the European Researcher Mobility Portal EURAXESS http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/jobs ;

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COFUND Doctoral Programmes

- MSCA COFUND projects offer PhD candidate-level positions **similar** to those in an **ITN** programme;

- Employment **contracts** with full social security;

- **Minimum** monthly rate which hosting organisations should pay their COFUND fellows: **2597€;**

- All positions are **advertised** on the European Researcher Mobility Portal EURAXESS http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/jobs ;

ITN
Innovative Training Networks

- Raise excellence and structure **research** and **doctoral training**;

- **Trigger cooperation** and exchange of best practice among participants;

- Enhance researchers' **employability** and provide them with new career perspectives;

- Only for **early stage researchers**;

- Fellowships of **3-36 months** ;

- Project duration up to **4 years** ;

- Maximum **540** person-months (EID: 180) ;

- Budget for 2016 call: **€ 370 Million** (EID: 25 Mio, EJD 28 Mio)

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ITN – 3 modes of implementation

✓ **ETN - European Training Networks**

- at least **3 beneficiaries** from **3 different EU MS** or **AC**. Above this minimum any country can participate;

✓ **EID - European Industrial Doctorates**

- at least **2 beneficiaries** established in **2 different MS** or **AC**;
- At least **one beneficiary** must be entitled to **award doctoral degrees** and at least **one beneficiary** must come from the **non-academic sector**, primarily enterprise;
- Each researcher - enrolled in a doctoral programme and spend **at least 50%** in the non-academic sector;
- The **joint supervision** of fellows by supervisors from each sector is **mandatory**;

✓ **EJD - European Joint Doctorates**

- at least **3 beneficiaries** from **different EU MS** or **AC** which are entitled to award doctoral degrees;
- creation of **joint doctoral programmes**, leading to the delivery of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees.

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RISE
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

- Common **research and innovation project;**

- International and inter-sector **transfer of knowledge** and sharing of ideas and of R&I culture;

- **Staff member** – at least 6 months at the sending institution;

- **Secondments** from 1 to 12 months;

- Project duration up to **4 years**;

- Maximum **540** person-months;

- **No** correction coefficient applies to the top-up allowance;

- Budget for 2016 call: **€ 80 Million**;

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RISE – Eligibility Conditions

- At least **3 independent participants** in 3 different countries

- At least 2 participants from **2 different MS/AC**

- If **all in MS/AC**: at least 1 academic and 1 non-academic

In addition:

- **All Countries** can participate in RISE;

- **All nationalities** can participate in RISE;

- **All institutions** fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation can participate in RISE;

- **No mobility rules*** for RISE;

* Only inter-sector secondments within Europe;

No secondments between institutions located outside Europe or within the same MS/AC

On top of minimum of three organisations other may participate. The average number of participants in RISE is 8.

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Examples: Intra-European Exchanges
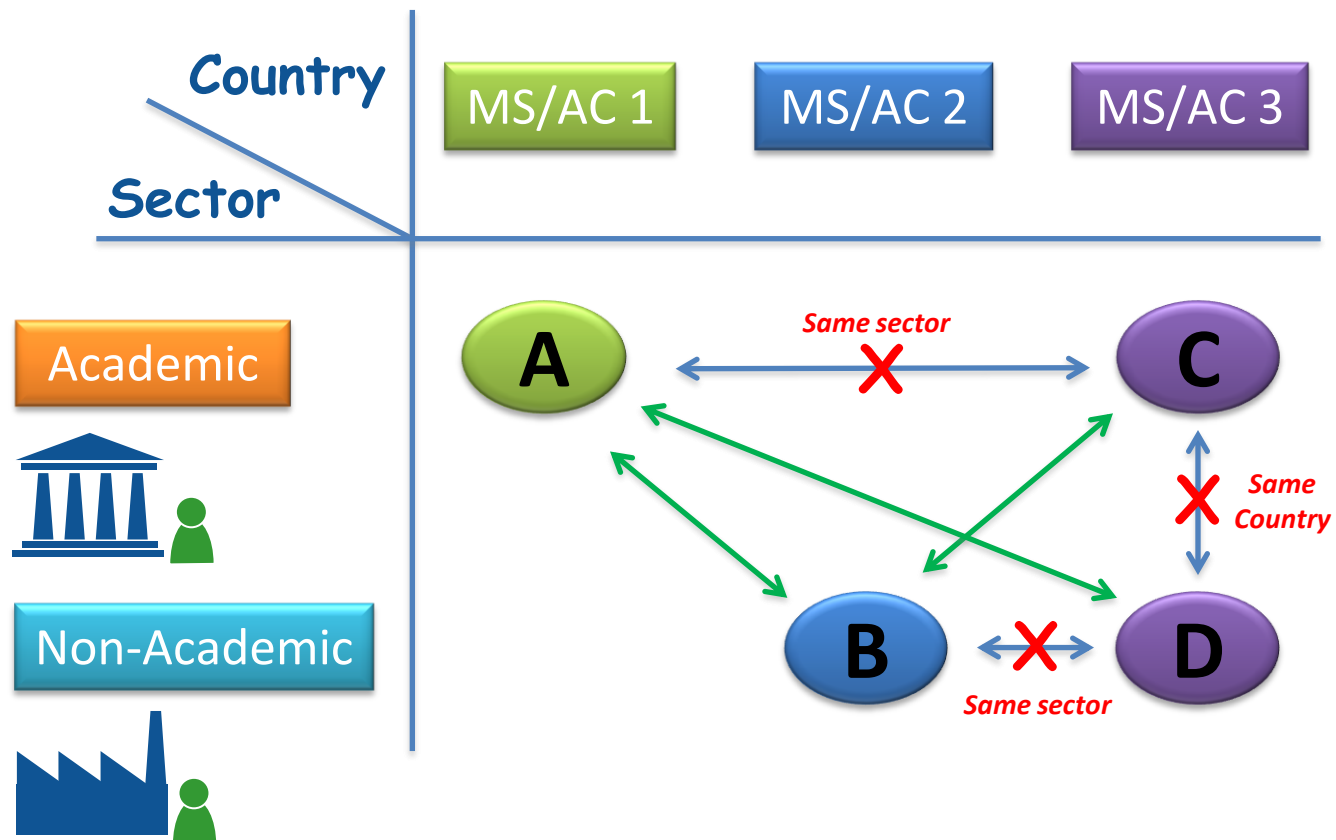
Examples: Europe-Third Countries Exchanges

Country

MS/AC 1 | MS/AC 2 | TC

Sector is not relevant

A ↔ C

Same or Different Third Country ✗

B ↔ D

⚠️
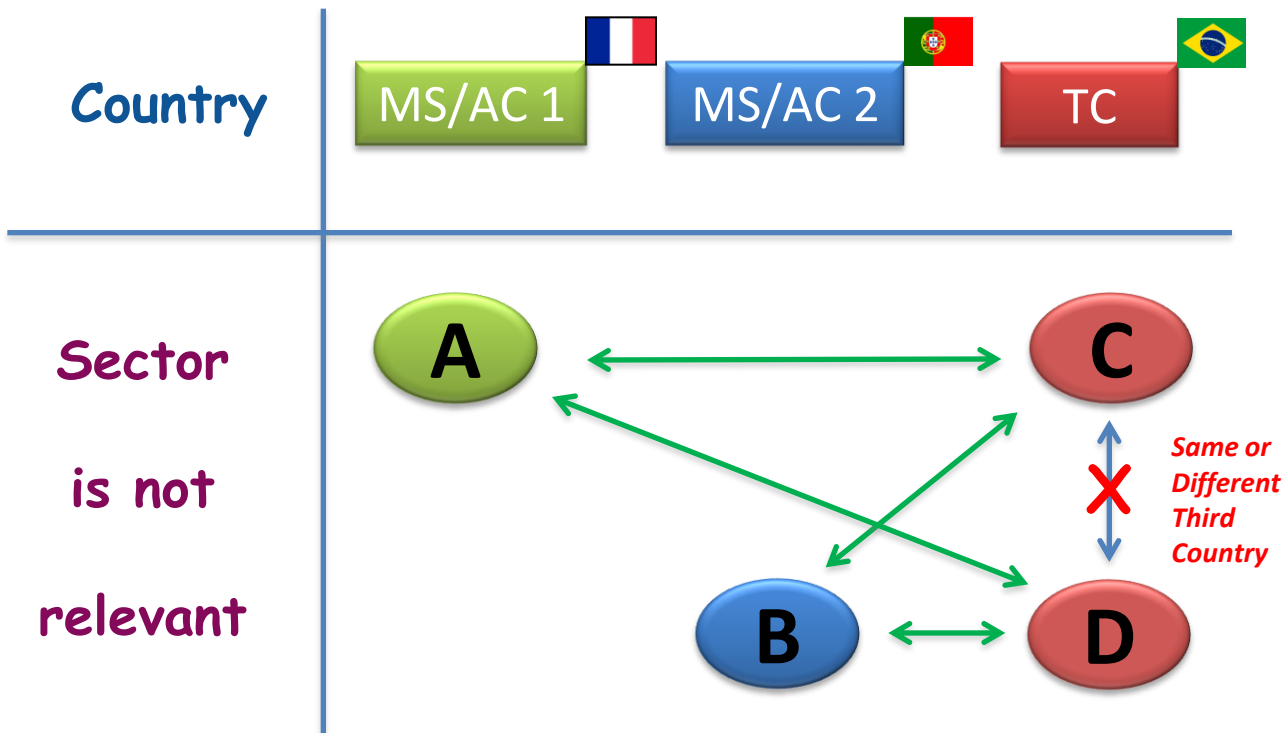
Secondments from a TC to a MS/AC are not always eligible for EU funding but all of them must be described in the proposal.

Project Management Aspects

Project Officer

Selection of experts

Project Officer

Independent Experts

Evaluations

Call for Proposals

Project
Life Cycle

GAP

Payments & Closure

Reporting & Monitoring

**Project Officer
&
Financial Officer**

Help and support

**Project Officer
&
Financial Officer**

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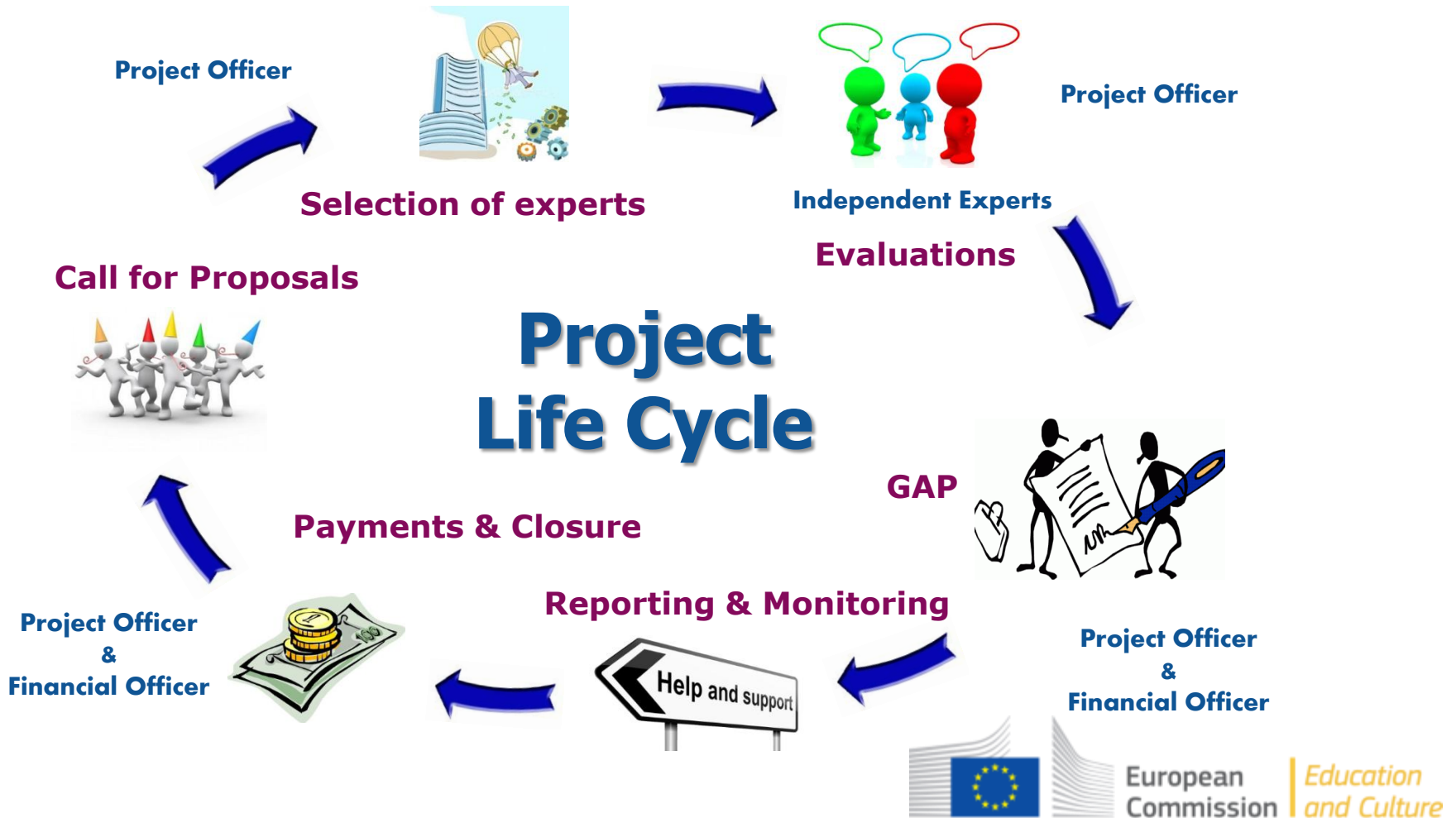
Hints for a successful Proposal

Before you start preparing your proposal

❖ Read carefully the **Work Programme**, at least the part that interests you the most;

❖ Read more than carefully the **Guide for applicants**;

❖ Provide the evaluators with evidence for your claims, but **avoid** external resources (links to websites etc.);

❖ Graphics and charts can be very helpful, but **don't overdo** it! Make sure they are readable in black & white;

❖ Page limit **10 pages** (for IF) and **30 pages** (for ITN and RISE) to be absolutely respected.

❖ Take also note of the following…

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Hints for a **successful** proposal

❖ Proposal should make the evaluators' "life" **easier** (consistent, well-written, "built" around the award criteria);

❖ The evaluators may not all be world experts in **exactly** the area of your proposal – avoid using very specific jargon and acronyms!

❖ Provide the evaluators with evidence for your claims, but **avoid** external resources (links to websites etc.);

❖ Graphics and charts can be very helpful, but **don't overdo** it! Make sure they are readable in black & white.

❖ Check the English with a **native speaker** if possible.

❖ Take also note of the following…

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Hints for a successful IF Proposal

❖ Explain the contribution that your project is expected to make. Your project should be innovative and original. **It cannot look like a continuation of a PhD.**

❖ Demonstrate the expertise of the host institution as well as the expertise of the scientific in charge in the field of research you want to explore. Information must be given **on host's expertise in training experienced researchers** and capacity to provide mentoring/tutoring.

❖ Describe how this project will **contribute to your own career**. The potential of the fellow to acquire new competencies should be clearly described.

❖ Find a successful proposal (Google also helps – "**Part B**").

Structure of the Proposal

Part A
- structured data -

General information

Participants & contacts

Budget

Ethics

Call-specific questions

Part B
- description of action -

Greece in MCA

(FP7 2007-2013)

MSCA Fellows from Greece	1720
Fellows hosted in Greece	1247
Participations of all organisations from Greece	449
Participations of businesses from Greece	110
Number of SMEs from Greece	26

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1247 Fellows going to Greece, grouped by their nationality (top nationalities)
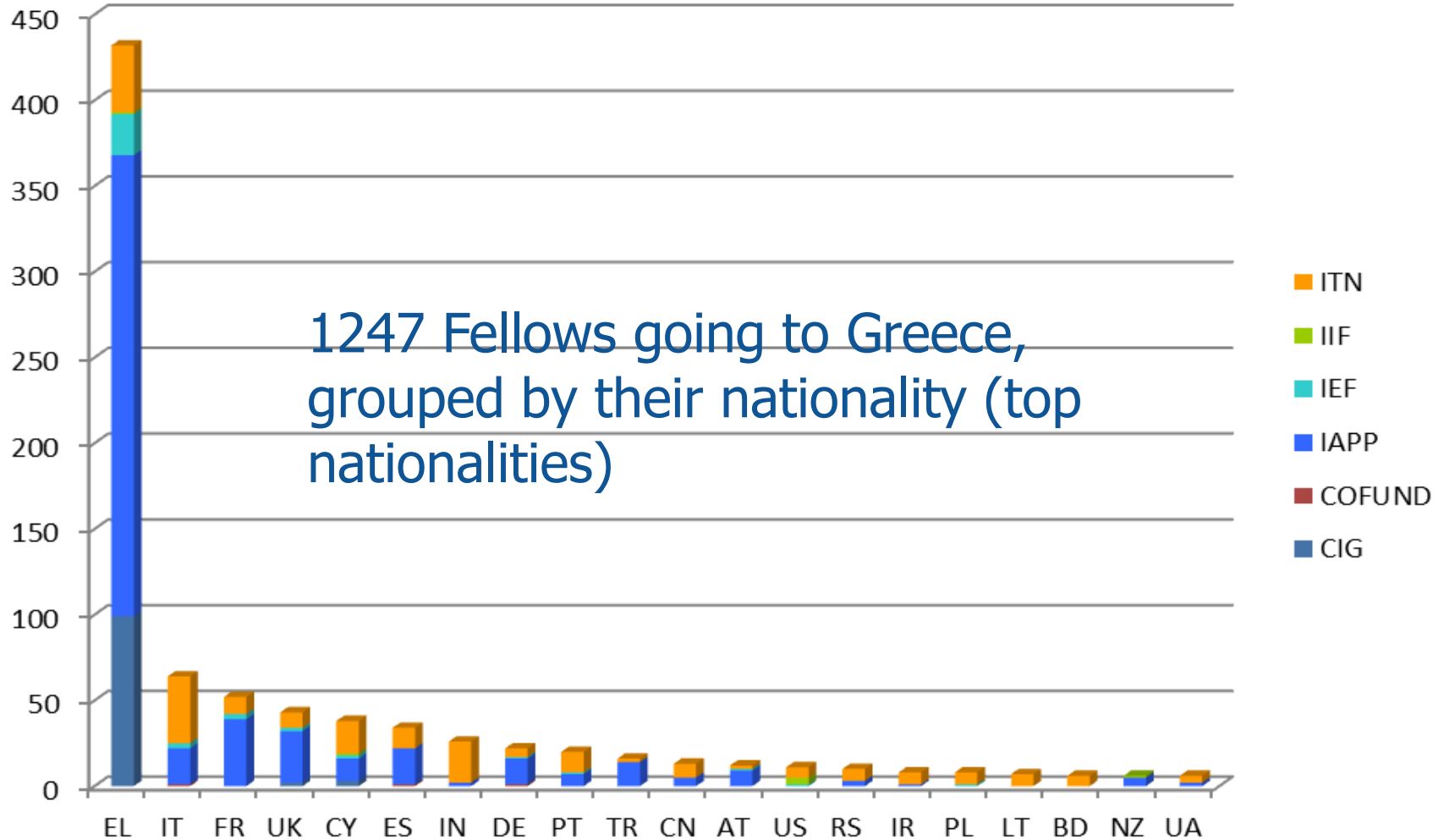
1720 Greek fellows grouped by the country of destination (top countries):

Greece in MSCA
(H2020)

MSCA Fellows from Greece	206
Fellows hosted in Greece	84
Participations of all organisations from Greece	151
Participations of businesses from Greece	54
Number of SMEs from Greece	24

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MSCA 2016-2017 Calls

Funding scheme	Call deadlines	Budget
ITN	15/10/2015 – 12/01/2016 **15/09/2016 – 10/01/2017**	EUR 370.00 million EUR 430.00 million
IF	**12/04/2016 – 14/09/2016** 11/04/2017 – 14/09/2017	EUR 218.50 million EUR 248.00 million
RISE	08/12/2015 – 28/04/2016 **01/12/2016 – 05/04/2017**	EUR 80.00 million EUR 80.00 million
COFUND	**14/04/2016 – 29/09/2016** 05/04/2017 – 28/09/2017	EUR 80.00 million EUR 80.00 million

IPR Helpdesk for IPR-related issues

https://www.iprhelpdesk.eu/

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)

http://een.ec.europa.eu/

More Information

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Website

http://ec.europa.eu/msca

Horizon2020

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020

Participant Portal (applications/documents)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal

Euraxess (jobs, rights, services, etc.)

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/

European Charter for Researchers

http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/whatIsAResearcher

MSCA on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/Marie.Curie.Actions
MSCA on Twitter @MSCactions

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For questions

- **H2020 Help desk**
- http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=enquiries
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
- http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/faq.html
- **National Contact Points**
- http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html
- **Marie Curie Alumni Association**
- https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/

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Thanks for your attention

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