Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Staff Exchanges

Acciones Marie Sklodowska-Curie (MSCA)

SE 2021: proyectos de intercambio de personal, 12 de enero 2021
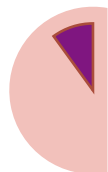
Rodrigo Gutiérrez Domínguez, Jefe de Sector

European Research Executive Agency
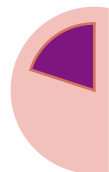
@REA_research, @MSCActions

Overview

1. Policy background
- Horizon Europe & MSCA

2. MSCA Staff Exchanges
- Objectives
- Added value
- Eligibility rules
- Key features

3. Proposal Submission
- Novelties in Horizon Europe
- Part A
- Part B
- **Gender Equality Plan**
- Next Calls & Budget
- Tips & Tricks

4. Evaluation Process
- Evaluation Criteria
- Ex-aequo proposals
- Open Science

5. Success Stories
- Examples of RISE projects

European Commission

1. Policy background

HORIZON EUROPE

EURATOM

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

Exclusive focus on defence research & development

Research actions

Development actions

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT*

Exclusive focus on civil applications

**Pillar I
EXCELLENT SCIENCE**

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures

**Pillar II
GLOBAL CHALLENGES &
EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL
COMPETITIVENESS**

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre

**Pillar III
INNOVATIVE EUROPE**

European Innovation Council

European Innovation Ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation & Technology*

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

Fusion

Fission

Joint Research Center

* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

European Commission

Five Missions Areas

Adaptation to climate change, including societal transformation

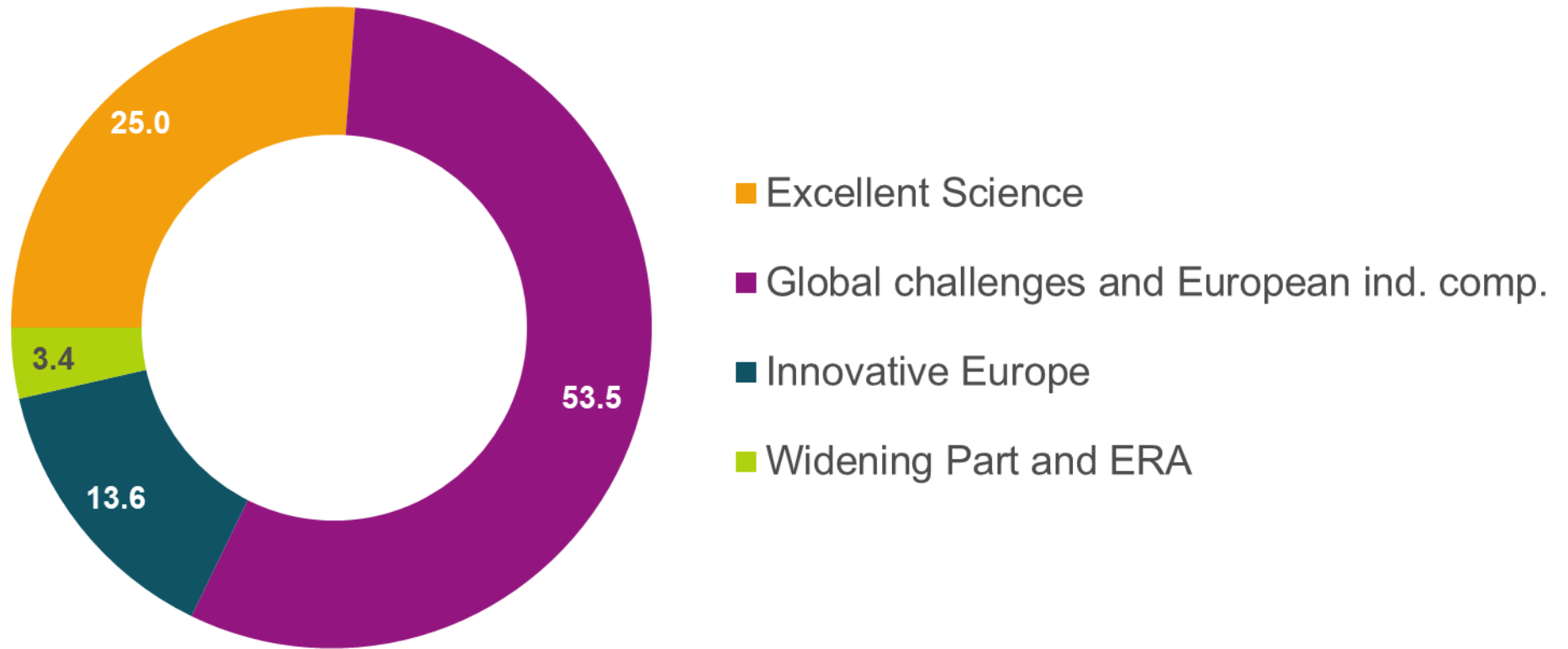**Cancer**

Healthy oceans, seas, coastal & inland waters

Climate-neutral & smart cities

Soil health & food

European Commission

Horizon Europe Budget: €95.5 billion (2021-2027)

- **Excellent Science** — 25.0
- **Global challenges and European ind. comp.** — 53.5
- **Innovative Europe** — 13.6
- **Widening Part and ERA** — 3.4

Pillar I: Excellent Science

Reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union's science base

European Research Council

Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

€16 billion

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

€6.6 billion

Research Infrastructures

Integrated and inter-connected world-class research infrastructures

€2.4 billion

European Commission

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

The MSCA have 5 main actions

Doctoral Networks

implement doctoral programmes (including joint doctorates and industrial doctorates) **by international partnerships** of organisations from different sectors. They train highly-skilled doctoral candidates, stimulate their creativity, enhance their innovation capacities and boost their employability in the long-term.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research and innovation. Researchers holding a PhD can carry out their research activities, acquire new skills and develop their careers abroad, whilst developing competences in non-academic sectors and working within interdisciplinary teams.

Staff Exchanges

encourage short-term international and inter-sectoral exchanges of research and innovation staff through sustainable, collaborative projects in Europe and beyond. By doing so, they enhance knowledge and skills transfer and increase organisations' research and innovation capacities.

MSCA and Citizens

brings research and researchers closer to children, families and the public at large through the European Researchers' Night – the annual research communication and promotion event taking place at the end of September across EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

COFUND

co-finances regional, national and international doctoral and postdoctoral programmes for researchers' training and career development. The COFUND action spreads MSCA's best practices by setting high standards and excellent working conditions, and boosts training and international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.
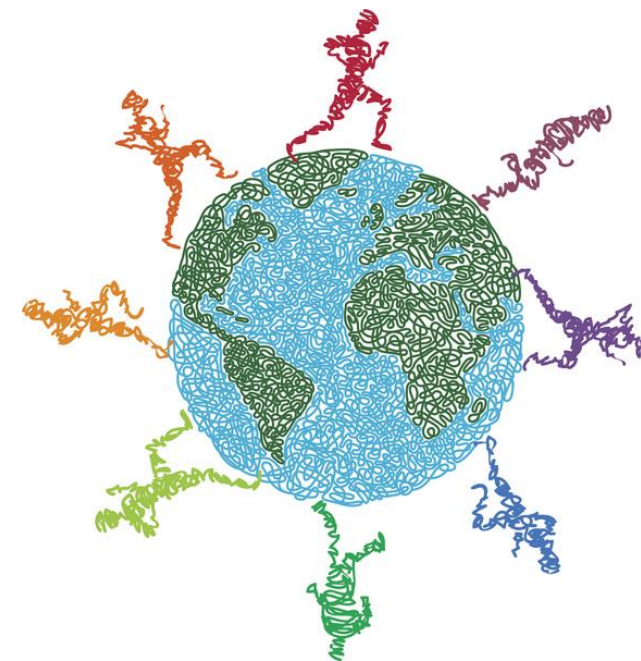
European Commission

MSCA: Key figures 2014-2020

+65,000 Researchers, including 25,000 PhD candidates	**37%** Researchers from outside EU	**6.2 billion €** Under Horizon 2020
+1,000 Doctoral programmes	**+4,500** Companies supported	**42%** Female researchers

European Commission

MSCA: Key policies

Researchers' training, skills & career development (all career stages)

Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)

International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility

Attractive working & employment conditions

Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes

Strong collaboration with industry & SMEs

European Commission

2. Staff Exchanges

Main features

Objectives

- International, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of R&I staff ("secondments")
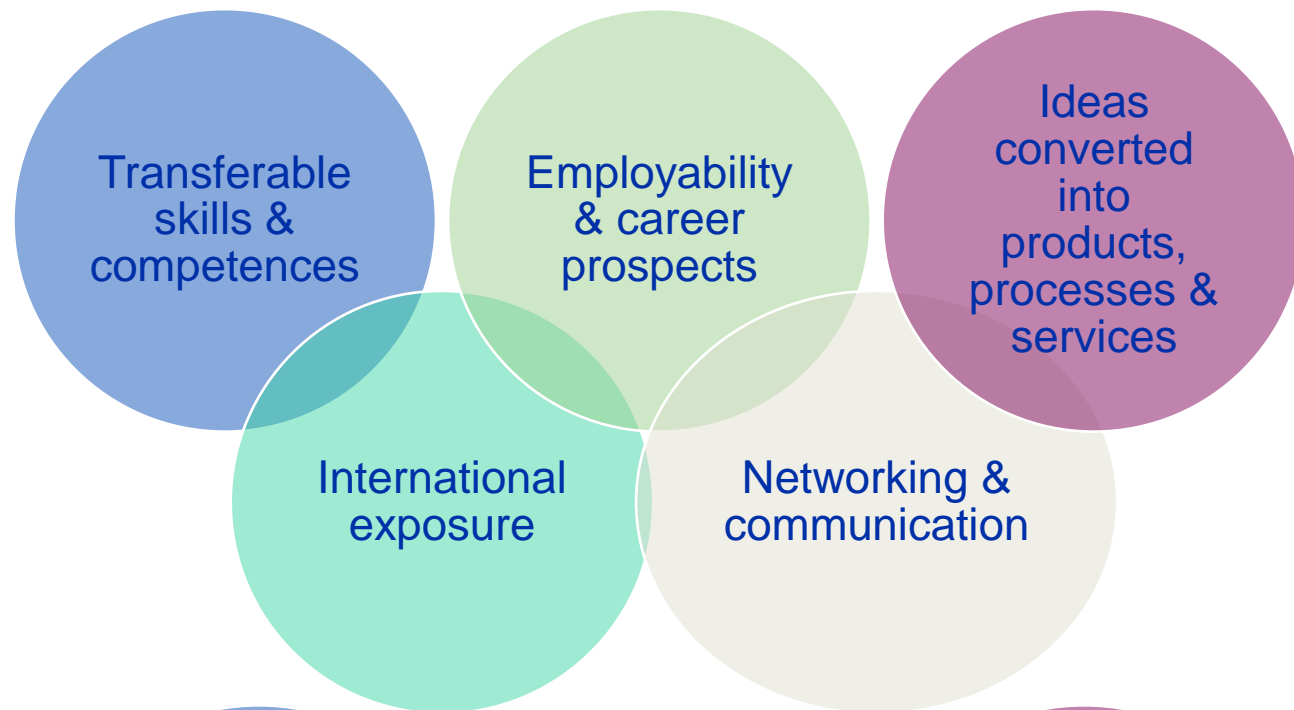
- Knowledge transfer between participating organisations

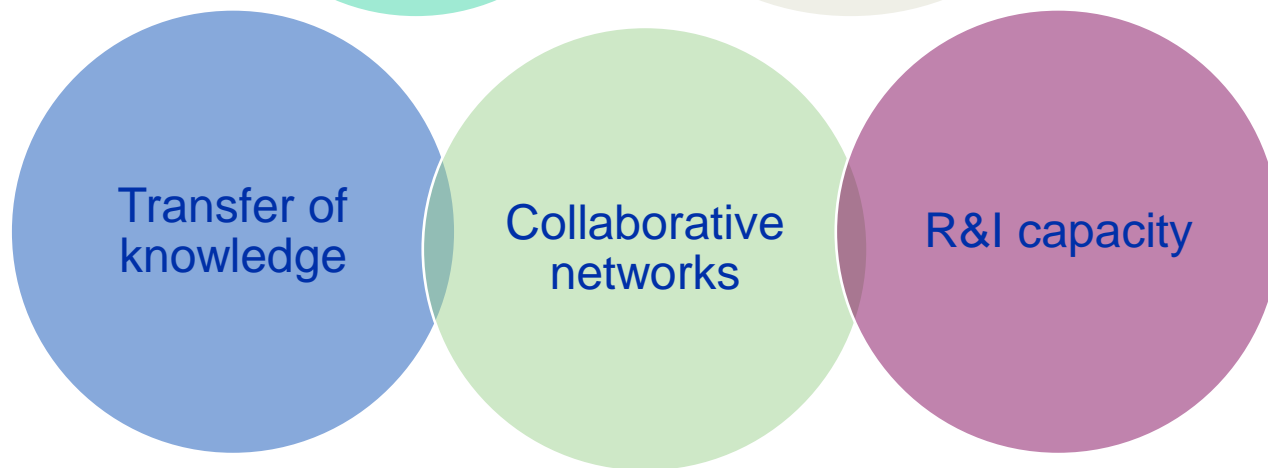- Collaboration between the academic and non-academic sectors (including SMEs)
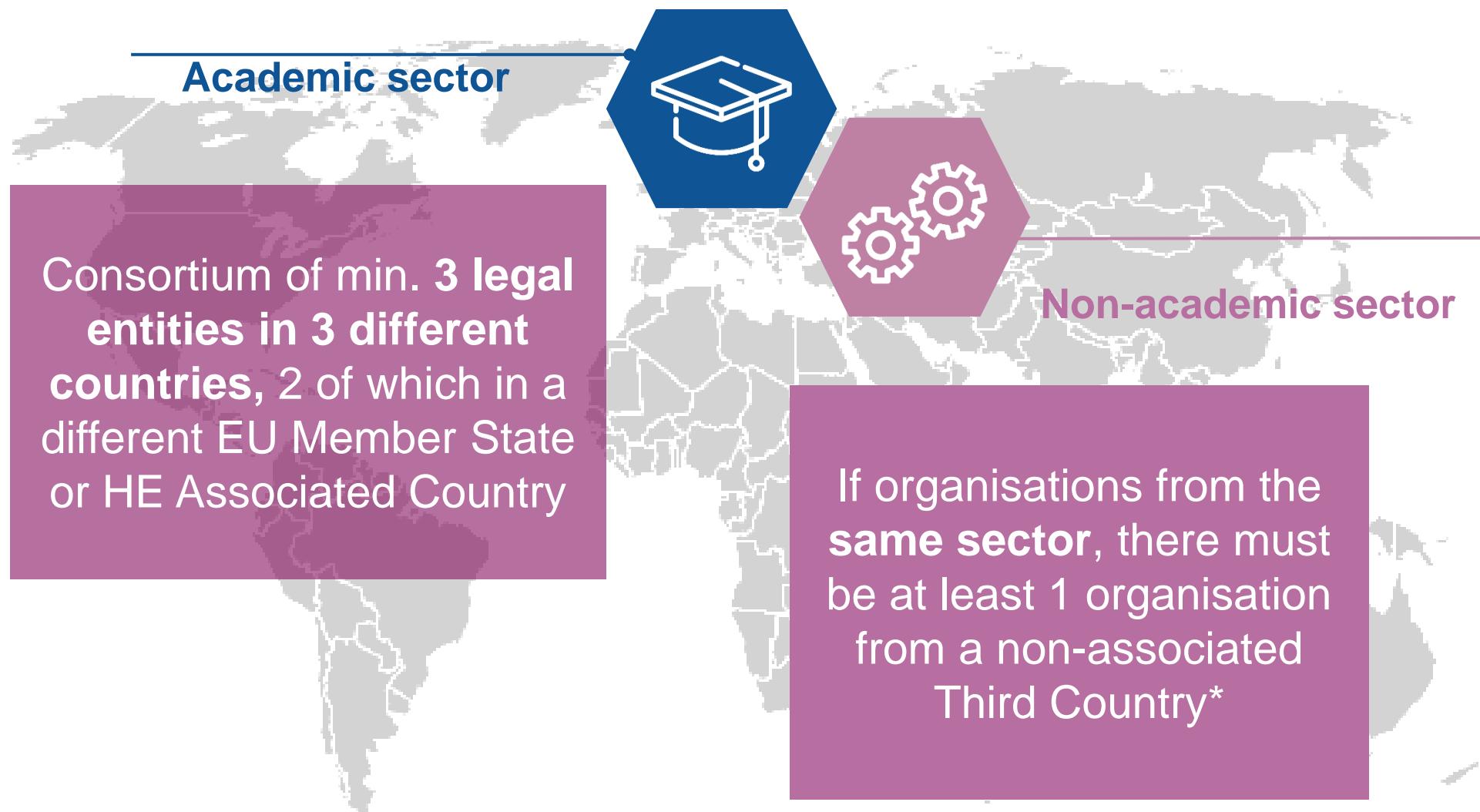
- Cooperation across the globe

Added value

Staff members

Transferable skills & competences

Employability & career prospects

Ideas converted into products, processes & services

International exposure

Networking & communication

Organisations

Transfer of knowledge

Collaborative networks

R&I capacity

European Commission

Eligible participants

Academic sector

Consortium of min. **3 legal entities in 3 different countries,** 2 of which in a different EU Member State or HE Associated Country

Non-academic sector

If organisations from the **same sector**, there must be at least 1 organisation from a non-associated Third Country*

* Secondments within EU MS or HE AC must be between different sectors (between academic and non-academic), except for interdisciplinary secondments, which must be limited to a maximum of 1/3 of the total implemented months.

European Commission

Eligible staff

Seconded staff members

Any type of staff involved in R&I activities (researchers, administrative staff, managerial staff, technical staff)

Each staff member is seconded for a period of **1 to 12 months** (may be split into several stays)

Researchers at any career stage (from doctoral candidates to postdoctoral researchers)

Staff needs to be devoted **full-time** to the action during the secondment

Actively engaged in research and/or innovation activities for at least **1 month** prior at the sending institution

After the secondment, staff should **return to their sending institution**

European Commission

Eligible exchanges

What does Staff Exchanges fund?

Staff member
unit costs
€ 2300

Research,
training, networking
€ 1300

Unit cost
per Person Month
€ 4600

Management
and indirect costs
€ 1000

1 unit
=
1 month of
eligible staff

European
Commission

Same-sector secondments in Europe (MS/AC)

≤ **1/3** of the total secondments funded by the EU, if considered ***Interdisciplinary***

Interdisciplinary secondments integrate aspects from two or more different scientific disciplines.
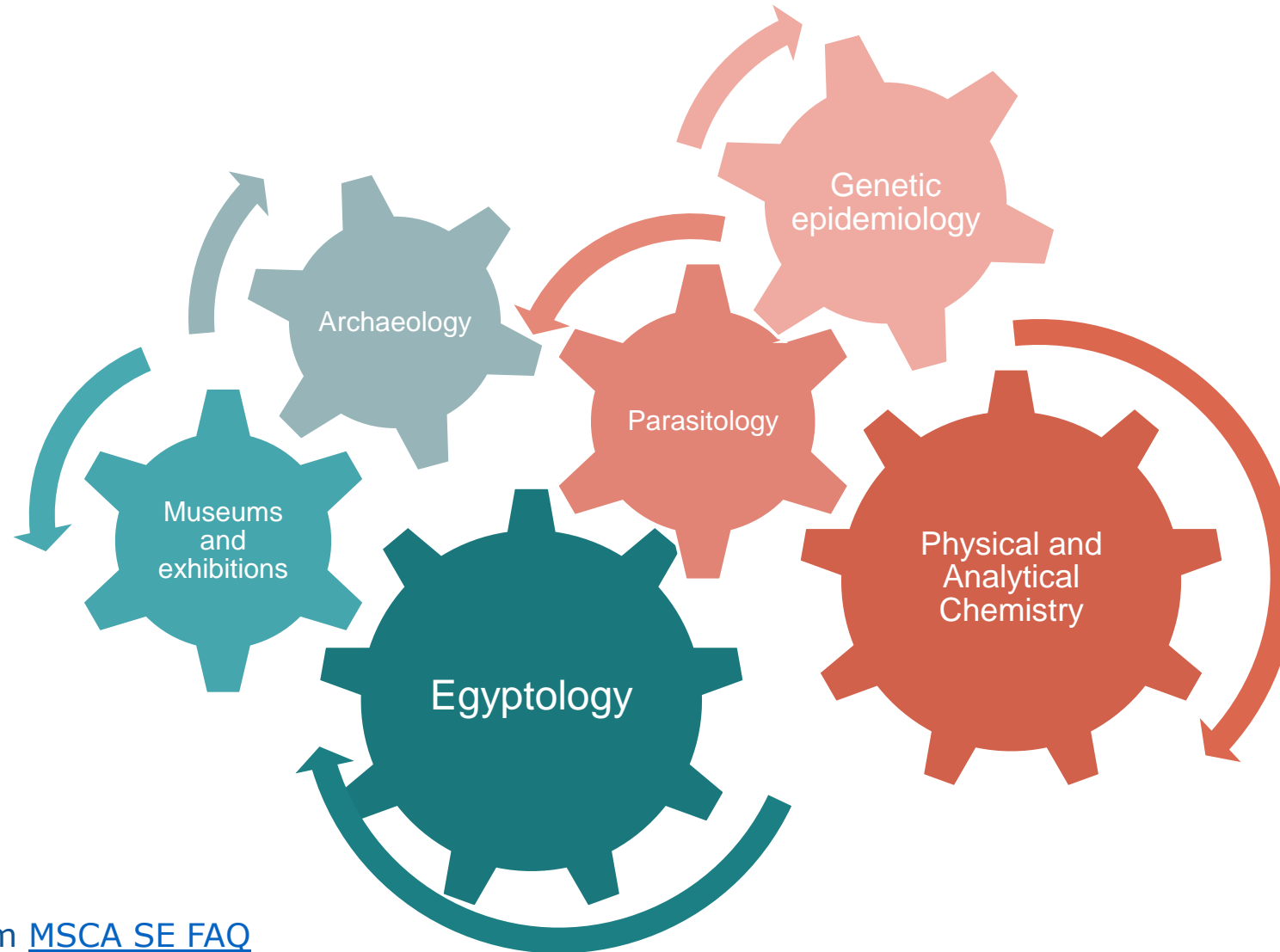
Important: **scientific panels + descriptors/first level MSCA keywords** from proposal form part A (see REA Website)

European Commission

Same-sector secondments in Europe (MS/AC)

MSCA Keywords - example

Economic Sciences (ECO)	E1-Economics	Behavioural economics
		Big data
		Development, economic growth
		Econometrics, statistical methods
		Economic geography
		Economic history
		Industrial economics
		International trade
		Labour economics
		Macroeconomics
		Public economics
		Social economics
		Urban and regional economics
	E2-Economic Development	Competitiveness, innovation, research and development
		Economics of innovation
		Industrial clusters
		Natural resources and environmental economics
	E3-Management	Business governance
		Entrepreneurship
		Human resource management
		Innovation management
		Marketing strategy
		New industrial value chains
		Organization studies: theory & strategy, industrial
		Startups
	E4-Finance	Accounting
		Banking, corporate finance, accounting
		Finance, banking, insurance
		Financial & Investment management
		Financial markets, asset prices, international finance
		Venture capital

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-10/MSCA%20Keywords.pdf

European Commission

Interdisciplinary mobility explained (1)

Interdisciplinary mobility explained (2)

Energy conversion

G3-Products and Processes Engineering

Numerical analysis

G1-Computer science and informatics

To study the temperature in the windings of the transformer when using biodegradable liquids

European Commission

Interdisciplinary mobility explained (3)

Mechanisms of pain

L5-Neurosciences and neural disorders

Molecular and cellular neuroscience

L5-Neurosciences and neural disorders

Neuroimaging

L5-Neurosciences and neural disorders
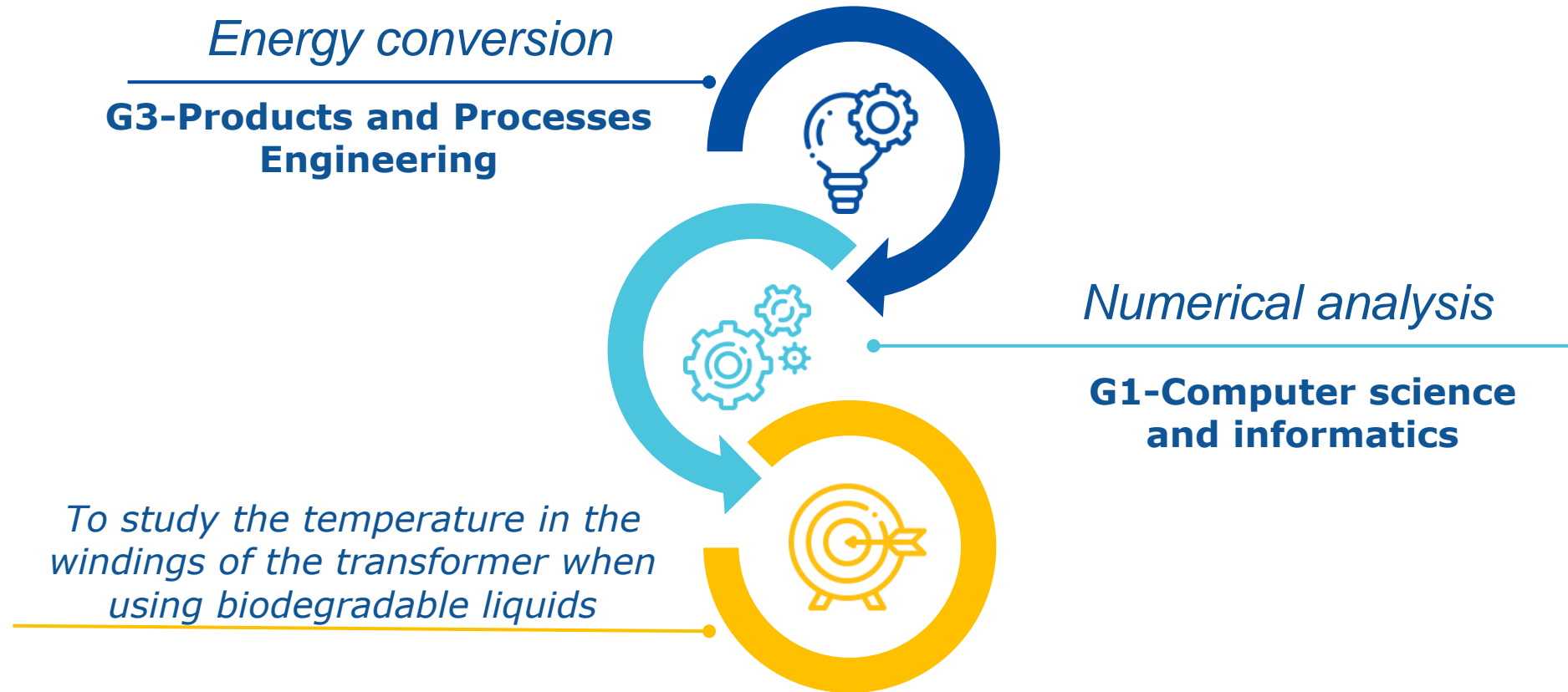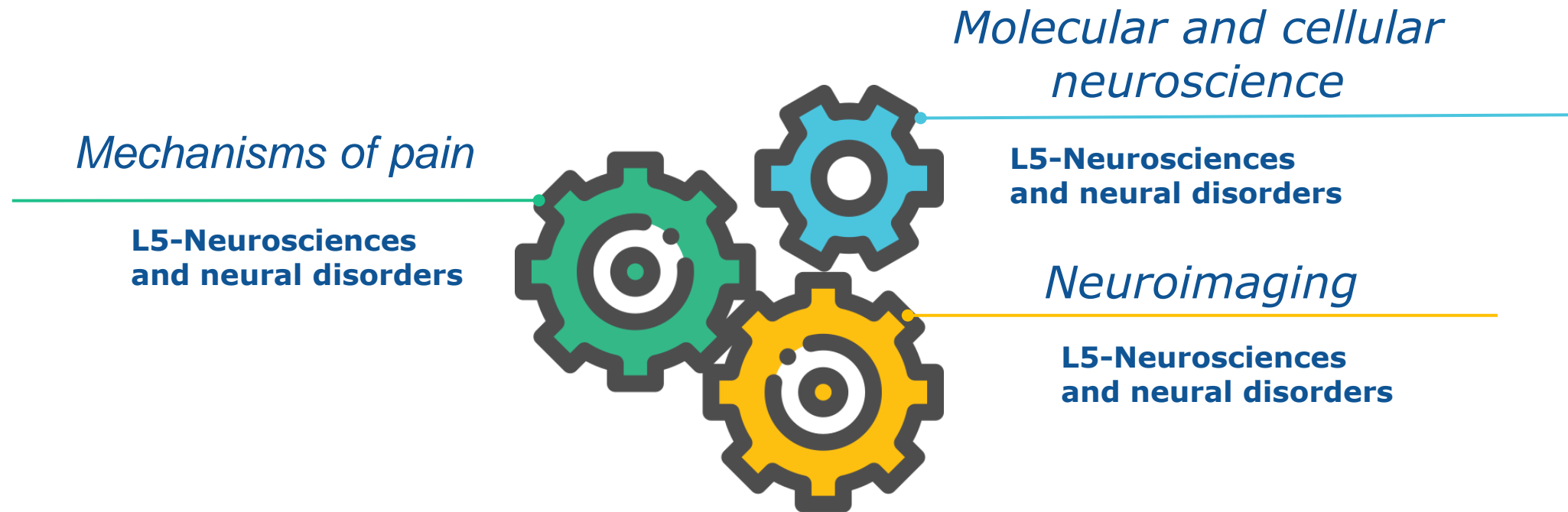
Key features – summary
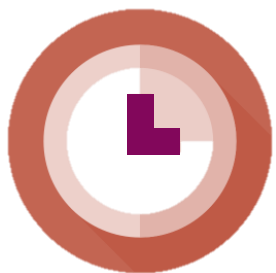
DURATION
4 years
360 PM per project

SECONDMENTS
1-12 months per staff
Interdisciplinary
secondments: same
sector, within Europe
for max 1/3 PM

UNIT COST
4600€
2300€ - Staff
allowance
2300€ -
organisation

BUDGET
EU funding
average
75,5 Mio€/call

European
Commission

In a nutshell…for organisations

Horizon Europe

H2020

- Consortium of at least 3 legal entities in 3 different countries, 2 of which in a different MS/AC

- Consortium of at least 3 legal entities in 3 different countries, 2 of which in a different MS/AC

- Maximum of **360** person-months per network *" NEW"*

- Maximum of **540** person-months per network

- **Interdisciplinary** secondments 1/3 of total eligible secondments *" NEW"*

*Secondments must always take place between **different countries** and between legal entities **independent** from each other*

European Commission

In a nutshell...for researchers
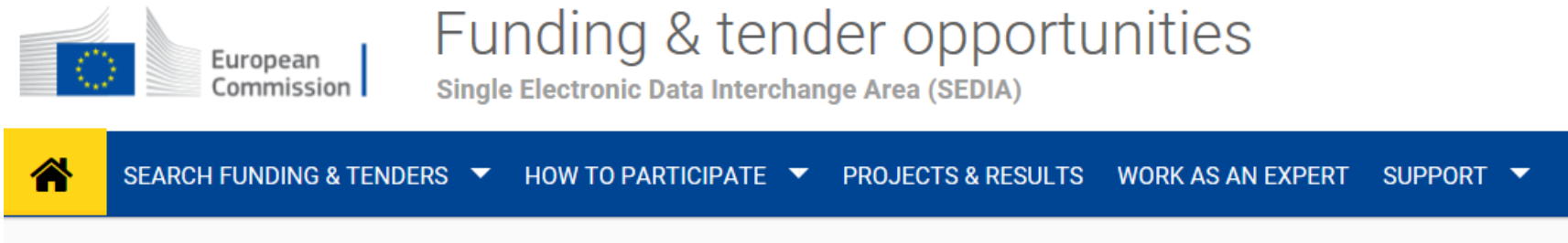
Horizon Europe

H2020

- Be considered "**staff**" of the sending organisation.

- Be actively engaged in or linked to R&I activities at the sending institution

- Have the appropriate R&I experience

- Return to the sending institution

- Secondment min. 1 month independent to which institution (split stay allowed) *" NEW"*

- Be considered "**staff**" of the sending organisation.

- Be actively engaged in or linked to R&I activities at the sending institution

- Have the appropriate R&I experience

- Return to the sending institution

- Secondment min. 1 month to the same hosting institution (split stay allowed)

*Researchers are seconded for **minimum 1** and **maximum 12 months**.*

3. Proposal submission

Novelties in Horizon Europe

Proposal Submission

Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▼   HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▼   PROJECTS & RESULTS   WORK AS AN EXPERT   SUPPORT ▼
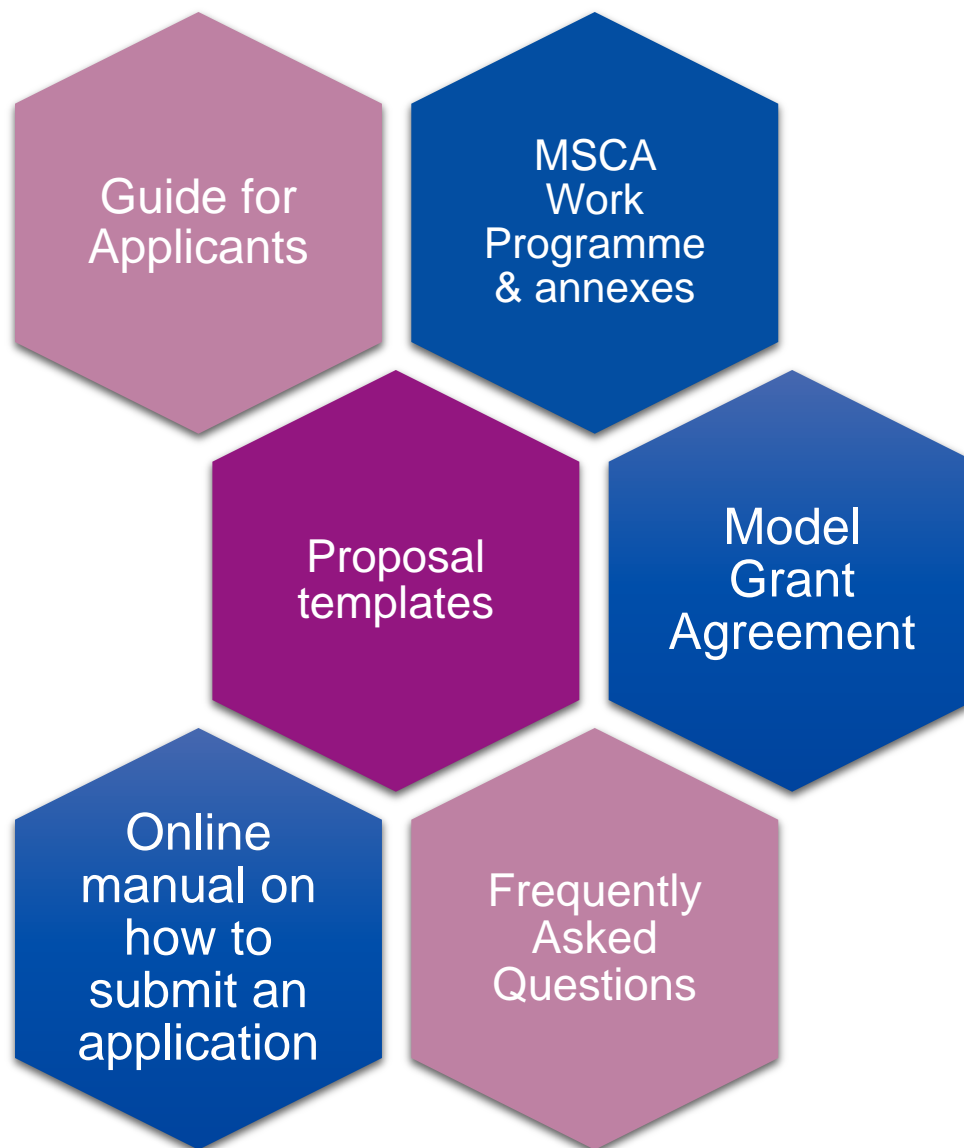
All calls are published on the **Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal.** Applications are submitted through the portal:

- Find your call
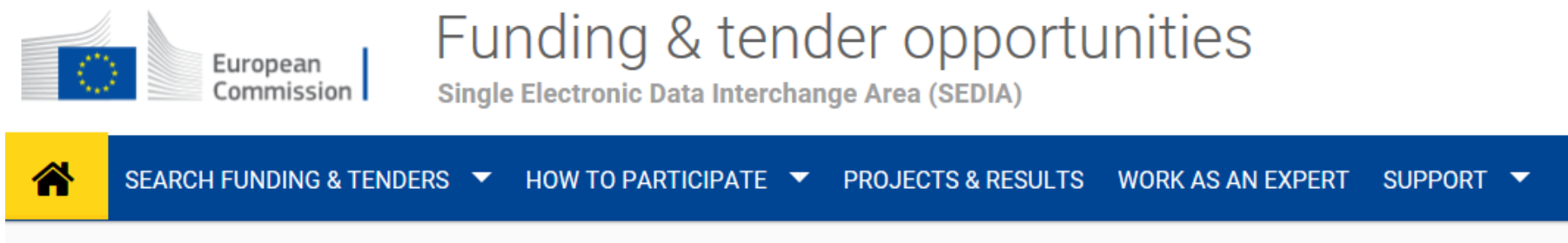
- Sign in to the portal and register your organisation (get a PIC number)
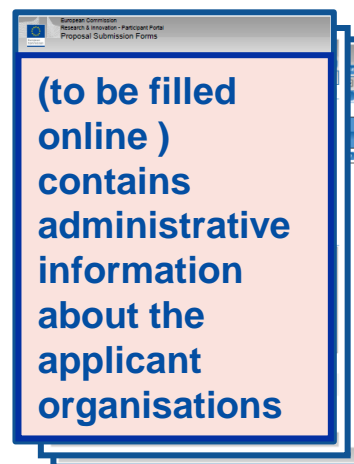
- Find partners

- Apply!

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/

Reference Documents

Guide for Applicants

MSCA Work Programme & annexes

Proposal templates

Model Grant Agreement

Online manual on how to submit an application

Frequently Asked Questions

EN

Horizon Europe

Work Programme 2021-2022

2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

(European Commission Decision C(2021)4200 of 15 June 2021)

EU Funding & Tenders

Online Manual

EU Funding Programmes 2021-2027

Version 1.0
8 February 2021

Horizon Europe Programme

Guide for Applicants

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Staff Exchanges (SE)

Version 1.0 - 2021
12 July 2021

Disclaimer
This guide aims to facilitate potential applicants. It is provided for information purposes only and is not intended to replace consultation of any applicable legal sources. Neither the European Commission, nor the European Research Executive Agency (or any person acting on their behalf) can be held responsible for the use made of this guidance document. The guidance provided in the Annotated Model Grant Agreement shall prevail in case of discrepancies.

European Commission

Proposal documents

Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

European Commission

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▼ HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▼ PROJECTS & RESULTS WORK AS AN EXPERT SUPPORT ▼

Apply here!

Part A
(structured data)

(to be filled online) contains administrative information about the applicant organisations

Part B
(description of action)

START PAGE

(to be downloaded from the Portal) contains the technical description of the project

European Commission

Roles of the participating organisations

Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▼   HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▼   PROJECTS & RESULTS   WORK AS AN EXPERT   SUPPORT ▼
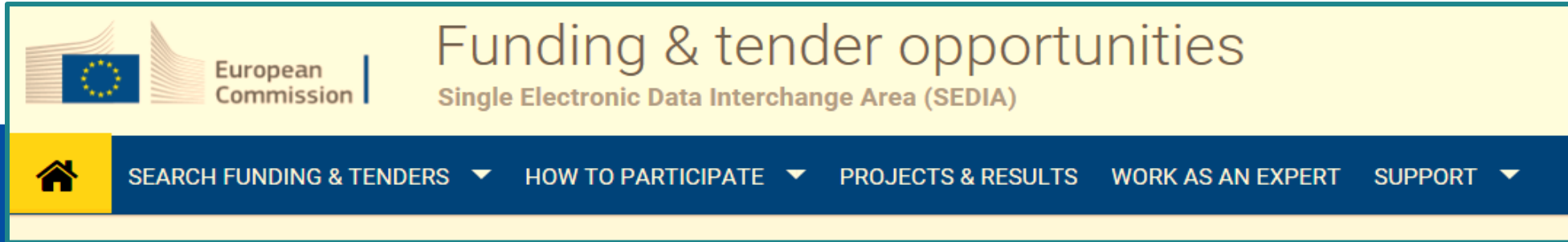
Beneficiaries

Associated Partners

Associated Partners linked to a Beneficiary

*Secondments between **Associated Partners** are not eligible for funding.*

How to fill in these roles in the Portal

How to fill in these roles in the Portal

Interdisciplinary encoding

(to be filled online) contains administrative information about the applicant organisations

Application forms

Proposal ID
Acronym

1 - General information

Fields marked * are mandatory to fill.

that descriptors will be used to support REA services in identifying the best qualified evaluators for your proposal.

Descriptor1 | Word or words that best describe(s) the subject of your project. | Add

Free keywords | Enter any words you think give extra detail of the scope of your proposal (max 200 characters with spaces).

months

Panel

Please select up to 5 descriptors (and at least 3) that best characterise the subject of your proposal, in descending order of relev
that descriptors will be used to support REA services in identifying the best qualified evaluators for your proposal.

Descriptor1 | Word or words that best describe(s) the subject of your project. | Add

Free keywords | Enter any words you think give extra detail of the scope of your proposal (max 200 characters with spaces)

Abstract *

< Table of content

Proposal title *

Duration in months

Panel

New industrial value chains
Organization studies: theory & strategy, industrial organization
Startups
G1 - Computer science and informatics
Algorithms, distributed, parallel and network algorithms, algorithmic game theory
Artificial intelligence, intelligent systems, multi agent systems
Augmented Reality
Bioinformatics, biocomputing, and DNA and molecular computation
Cloud computing
Cognitive science
Complexity and cryptography, electronic security, privacy, biometrics
Computer architecture, pervasive computing, ubiquitous computing
Computer games
Computer graphics, computer vision, multi media, computer games
Computer hardware and architecture
Data mining
E-Commerce
E-learning, user modelling, collaborative systems
Embedded systems
Human computer interaction and interface, visualization and natural language processing

Descriptor1

Descriptor2

Descriptor3 | Human computer interaction and interface, visualization and natural l ⌄ | Add | Remove

Descriptor4 | Chromatography ⌄ | Add | Remove

Descriptor5 | Financial markets, asset prices, international finance ⌄ | Add | Remove

Free keywords | Enter any words you think give extra detail of the scope of your proposal (max 200 characters with spaces).

European Commission

Unit-cost budget table

(to be filled online) contains administrative information about the applicant organisations

Application forms

Proposal ID

Acronym **Acronym is mandatory**

3 - Budget

Participant number	Organisation short name	Role	Country	Academic sector	IO	No of seconded researchers	Number of person months	Contributions for seconded researchers	Institutional contributions		Total
								Staff Member Unit Costs	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
1				No	No	0					
Total						0	0		0	0	

The Partner Organisation does not sign the Grant Agreement and does not directly claim costs from the action. The entire EU contribution is transferred to the Host organisation located in a Member State or Associated Country.

Removal of the secondments tables

European Commission

Part B proposal template

Part B (description of action)

(to be downloaded from the Portal) contains the technical description of the project

Part B1:

- Follows the **award criteria**
- **Same page-limit** as in H2020
- **Instructions** included in the template
- **MSCA harmonised with award criteria**
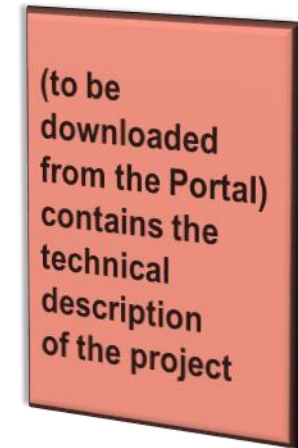
Part B2:

- **Description of participants** (similar to H2020)
- **Letters of commitment** (templates similar to H2020)

European Commission

Gender Equality Plan: Eligibility Criterion

Gender Equality Plan (applicable from 2022 onwards)

Participants that are **public bodies, research organisations** or **higher education institutions*** established in a Member State or Associated Country **must have a gender equality plan** in place, fulfilling **mandatory process-related requirements.**

* Private-for-profit entities (incl. SMEs), NGOs, CSOs, as well any type of organisations from non-associated third countries, are exempted for the criterion
See legal categories definitions in the Funding & Tenders Portal here

Mandatory GEP process requirements

Public document

- Formal document
- Signed by top management
- Published on the institution's website
- Disseminated through institution

Dedicated resources

- Funding for gender equality positions or teams
- Reserved time for others to work on gender equality
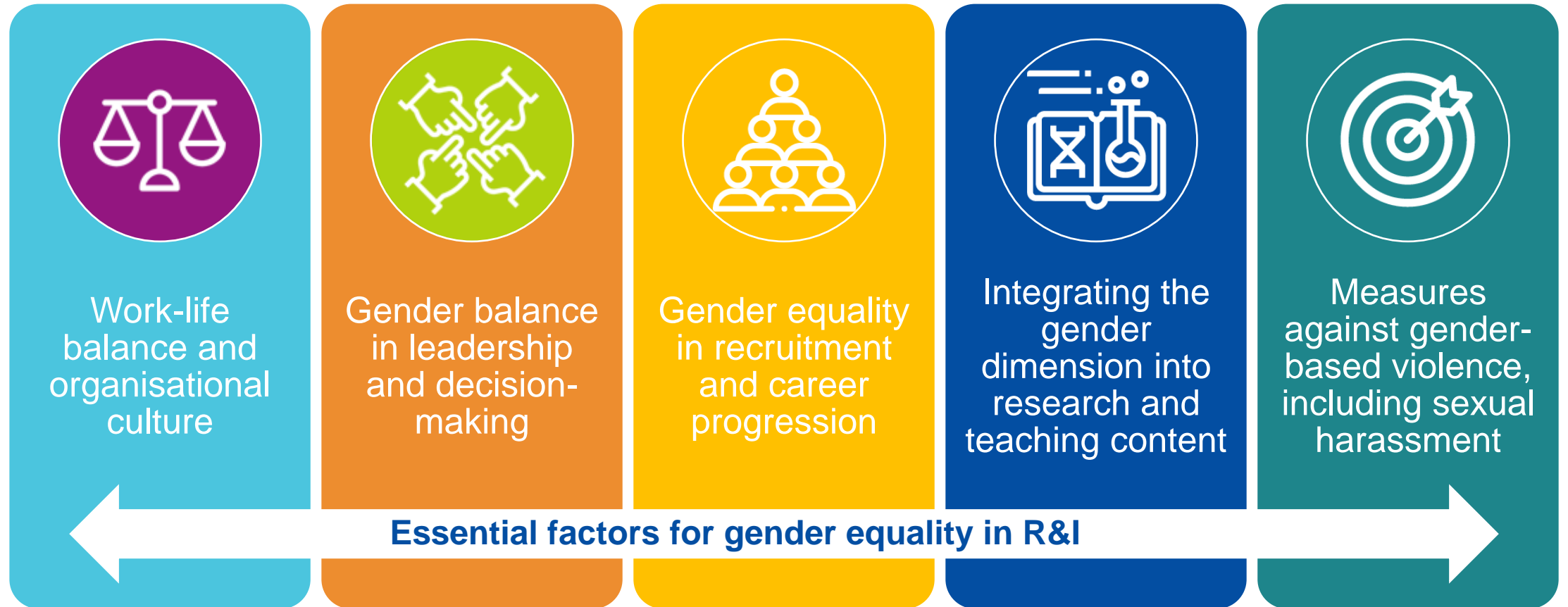
Data collection and monitoring

- Data on sex or gender of staff across roles and leadership
- Annual reports and evaluation of progress and outcomes

Training and capacity building

- Whole organisation engagement
- Tackle gender biases of people and decisions
- Joint action on specific topics

European Commission

Recommended GEP content areas

Work-life balance and organisational culture	Gender balance in leadership and decision-making	Gender equality in recruitment and career progression	Integrating the gender dimension into research and teaching content	Measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment

Essential factors for gender equality in R&I

European Commission

Eligibility/admissibility conditions

Plan for the Dissemination and Exploitation activities, including Communication activities **mandatory for Admissibility!**

Where? Part B
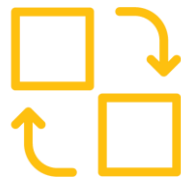
European Commission

Recommended Guidelines in the HE Work programme

Horizon Europe Work Programme :

*"All MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to follow the recommendations outlined in the **Guidelines for MSCA supervision"**.*
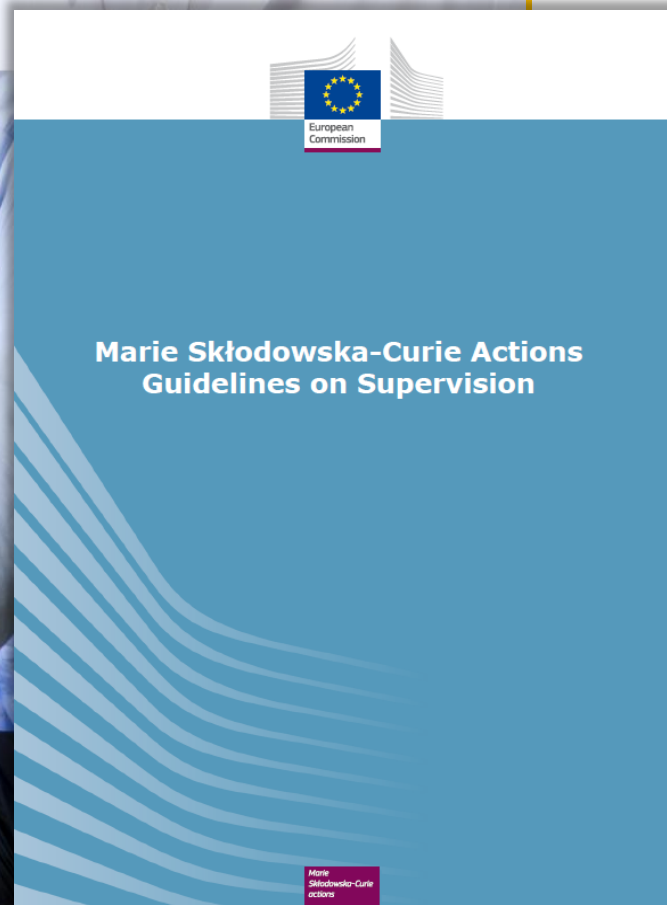
A set of recommendations to be adopted on a best effort basis by participants in the programme – both individuals and institutions – e.g. from research support and career development to well-being, conflict resolution and training for supervisors.
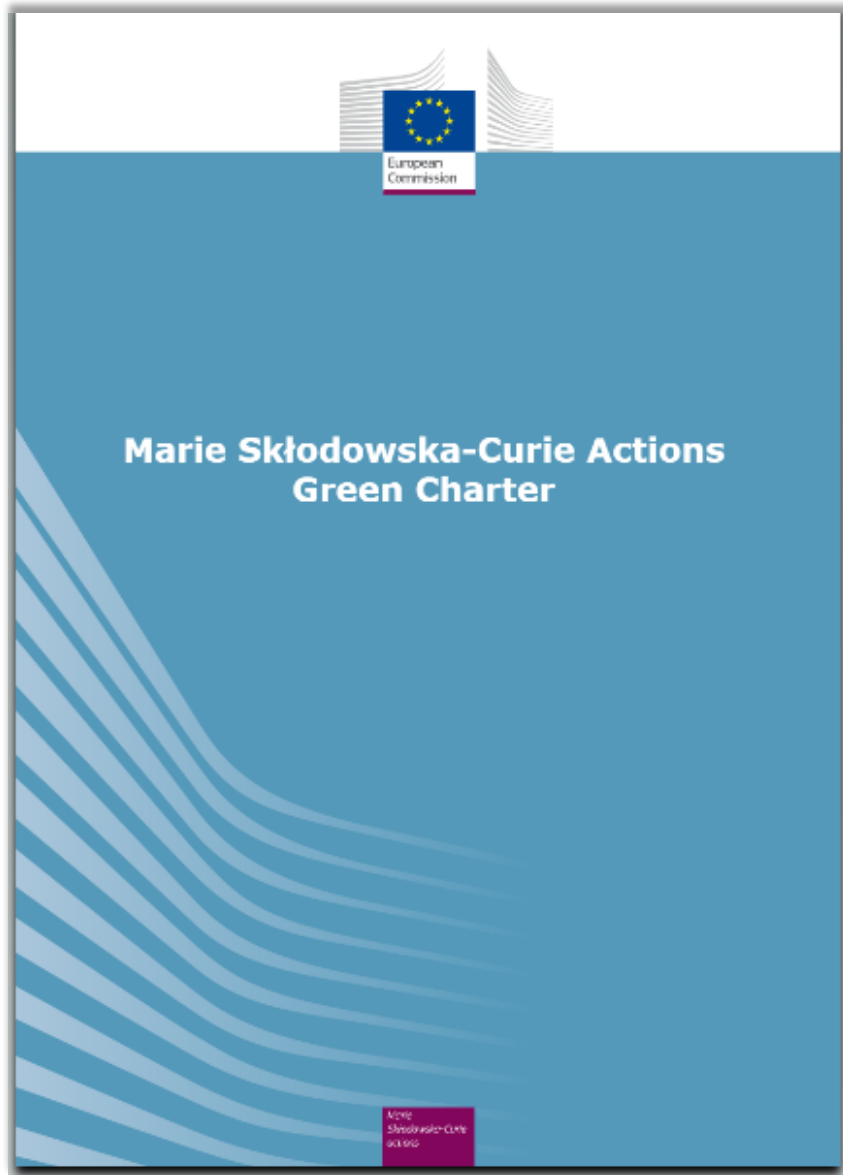
https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/msca-guidelines-supervision

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Guidelines on Supervision

Marie
Skłodowska-Curie
actions

European
Commission

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Green Charter

Recommended Guidelines in the HE Work programme

Horizon Europe Work Programme :
"All MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to address the principles of the MSCA Green Charter and implement measures to minimize the environmental footprint of their activities".

https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/green-charter

European Commission

Tips and tricks

Closely follow the call requirements

Be in line with the action's objectives and expected outcomes

Follow available guidelines

Use the structure provided in the template and address all the evaluation criteria

Highlight the EU dimension

Show that your proposal addresses EU policy priorities and/or societal challenges

Get a second opinion

Have your proposal proof-read by a colleague and pre-screened by your NCP

Sustainability of collaboration

Describe the benefits of cooperation and how they can go beyond this project

Contact your National Contact Point

(NCP)

European Commission

Next MSCA SE calls

Call	2021		Call	2022	
	Opening Closing	Budget (M€)		Opening Closing	Budget (M€)
Staff Exchanges	07/10/2021 09/03/2022	72,5	Staff Exchanges	06/10/2022 08/03/2023	77,5

European Commission

4. Evaluation Process

Overview of the process

Receipt of proposals	Individual evaluation	Consensus group	Panel review	Finalisation

Admissibility/eligibility check

Allocation of proposals to evaluators

Experts assess proposals **individually**.

Minimum of three experts per proposal (but often more than three).

All individual experts discuss together to agree on a **common position**, including comments and scores for each proposal.

The panel of experts reach an **agreement** on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking **consistency across the evaluations**.

if necessary, resolve cases where evaluators were unable to agree.

Rank the proposals with the same score

The Commission/Agency reviews the results of the experts' evaluation and puts together the **final ranking list**.

European Commission

Evaluation criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of the project's **research and innovation objectives** (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)	Developing new and lasting **research collaborations**, achieving **transfer of knowledge** between participating organisations and contributing to improving **research and innovation potential** at the European and global level	Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of **risks**, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Soundness of the **proposed methodology** (including i3 approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects, and the quality of open science practices)	Credibility of the measures to enhance the **career perspectives** of staff members and contribution to their **skills development**	Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including **hosting arrangements** and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
Quality of the proposed **interaction between the participating organisations** in light of the research and innovation objectives	Suitability and quality of the measures to **maximise expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	
	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected **scientific, societal and economic impacts**	
50%	**30%**	**20%**

Evaluation

Formula for Staff Exchanges success stories
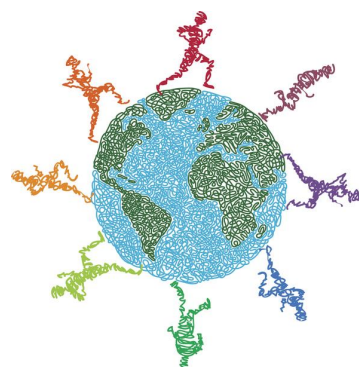
$$= (E + I)^{\textbf{Im}\text{pact}}$$

Excellence and **I**mplementation are closely interlinked!

European Commission

Ex-aequo proposals

The priority order:

1. Scores they have been awarded for the criterion 'Excellence'.

2. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for the criterion 'Impact'.

3. If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors such as:

   - *gender and other diversity aspects in the research activities,*

   - *participation of the non-academic sector (including involvement of SMEs),*

   - *geographical diversity,*

   - *international cooperation,*

   - *favorable working/secondment conditions or relationship to the Horizon Europe objectives in general.*

Evaluation of proposals and Open Science

"Excellence" criterion

"Quality of implementation" criterion

- Up to 1 page to describe OS practices + up to 1 page to describe research data/output management

- Evaluation of the quality of open science practices

- Explain expertise on OS (if no OS practices are involved then no expertise required)

- List publications, software, data, etc, relevant to the project with qualitative assessment (part B2)

- Publications expected to be open access; datasets expected to be FAIR and 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'.

5. Success Stories

Examples of RISE projects

European Commission

MAGNAMED 734801 (RISE-2016)

Novel magnetic nanostructures for medical applications

Success stories

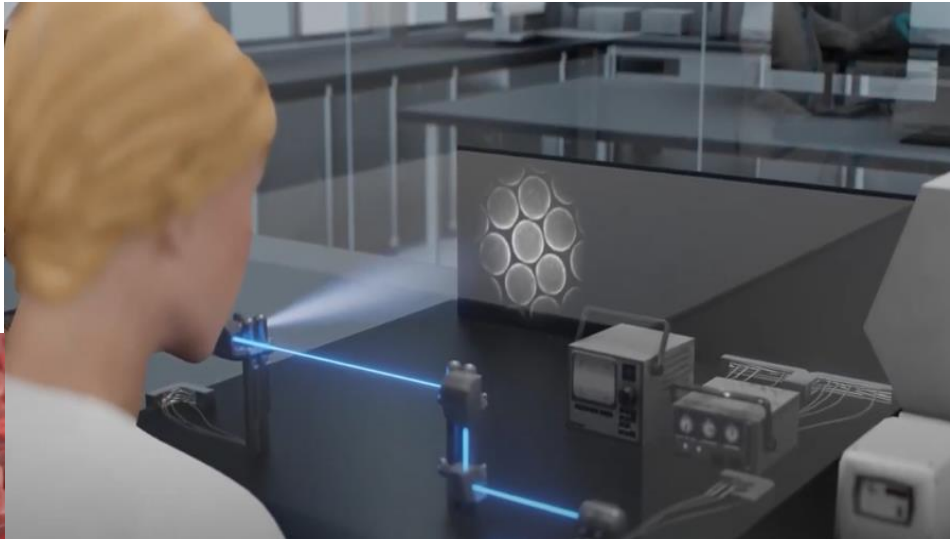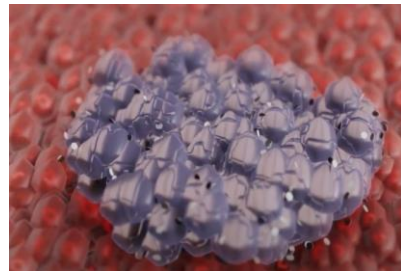

Photo reused from MSCA Cancer Cluster event MAGNAMED - Fighting cancer with magnetic nanodisks - YouTube

MAGNAMED designs, fabricates, and assesses novel magnetic nanostructures (MNS) with unique spin configurations for innovative diagnostics and therapy techniques.

846,000 EUR

- Spanish Coordinator
- 7 organisations in Europe
- 7 organisations in Third Countries
- 2 non-academic partners

European Commission

RECOPHARMA 778266 (RISE-2017)

Removal and Recovery of Pharmaceutical Persistent Pollutants from Wastewater by Selective Reagentless Process

Success stories

RECOPHARMA aims to develop, validate and demonstrate a novel process based on Nanocomposites Functional Materials (NFMs) and Advanced Oxidation Processes (AOP) for an effective water treatment and decontamination from cytostatic drugs (CDs)

895,500 EUR

- Spanish Coordinator
- 6 Beneficiaries in Europe
- 2 Third Countries partners
- 2 non-academic (SME) partners

This Project has been funded with support from the European Commission

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RECOPHARMA

....versatile, fast, highly efficient and low-cost treatment for wastewaters....

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Thank you

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Q&A

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