Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

MSCA COFUND CALL: Key aspects

11 February 2025

Oscar
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REA.A.4

What is MSCA COFUND?

Mono-beneficiary action:

new or existing national, regional, institutional schemes for doctoral training & postdoctoral fellowships

Focus:

best practice, high standards & excellent working conditions, sustainable structuring effects, encouraging synergies with other EU funds

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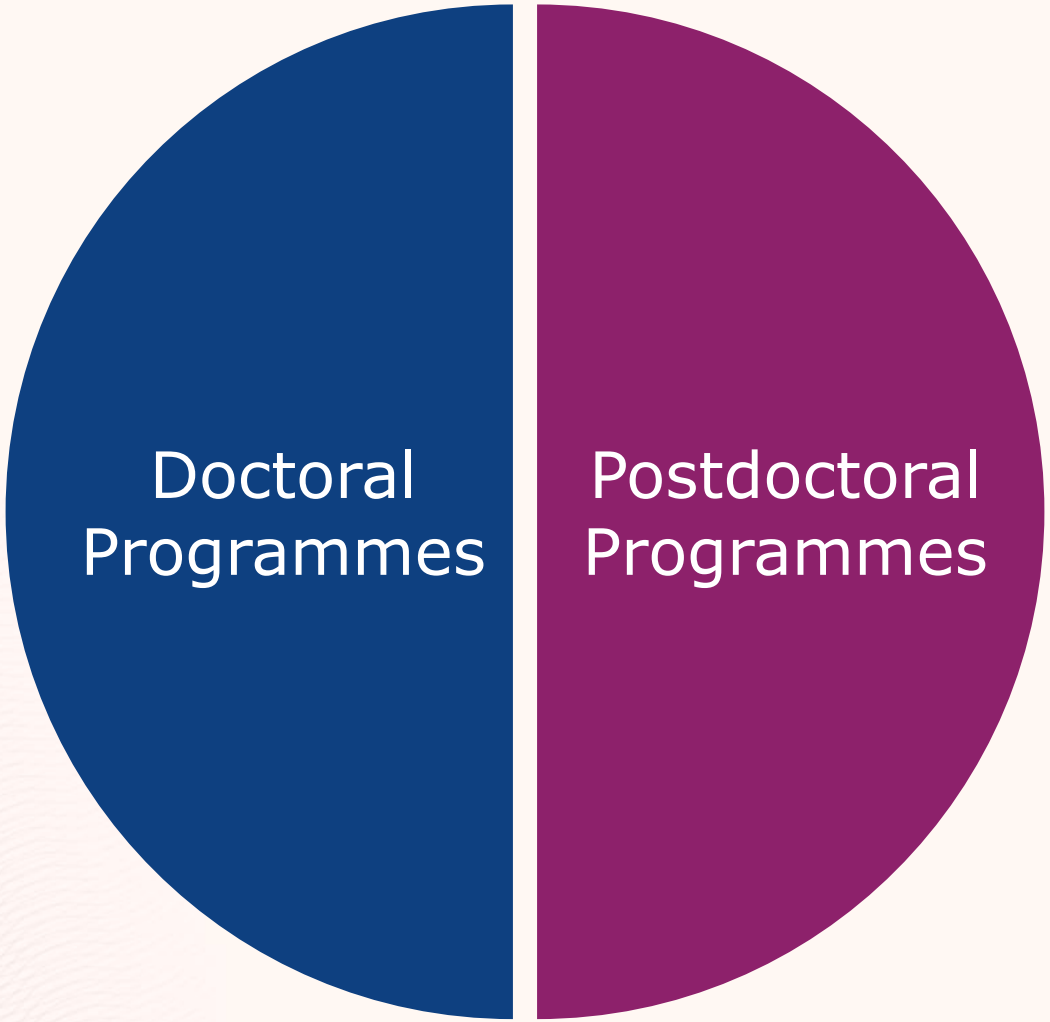
COFUND Modalities



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MSCA COFUND – For whom?

Single legal entity established in an EU Member State

Single legal entity established in HE associated country

The project must recruit at least three researchers

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COFUND Academic & non-academic sectors?

Academic sector

Higher education establishments

Non-profits

International European Research Organisations

Non-academic sector

Any socio-economic actor not included in academic sector

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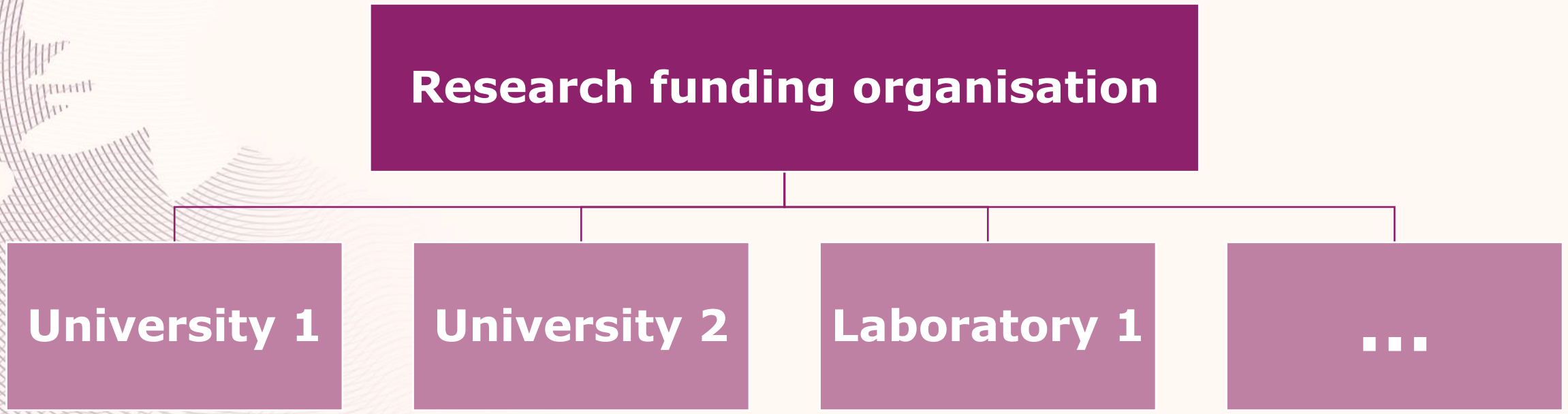
COFUND – Possible structures
1 - Hierarchical



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COFUND – Possible structures
2 - Horizontal

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COFUND – Possible structures
3 – Single Point

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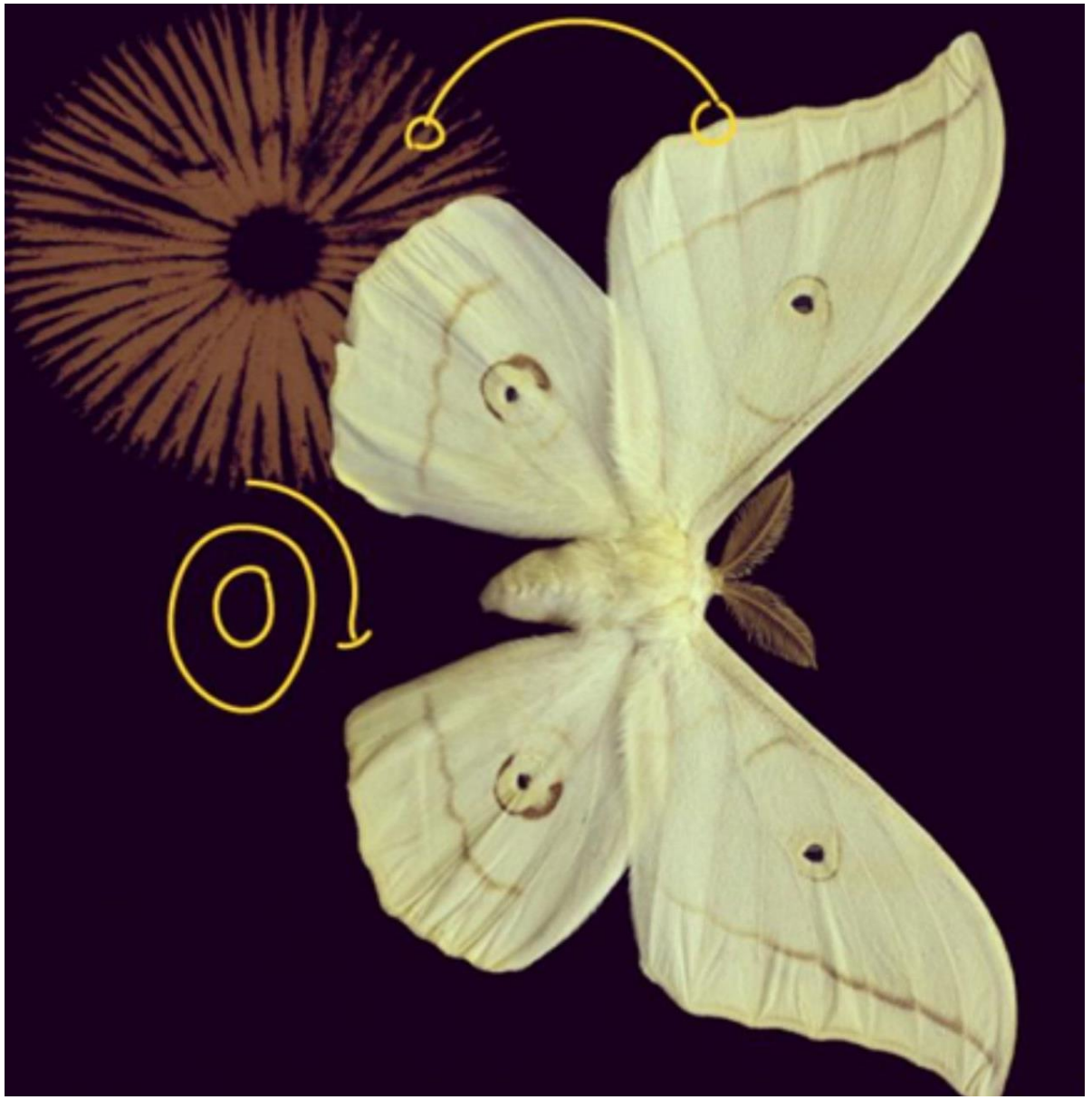
COFUND partners

Implementing partners

Associated partners



COFUND

Co-funding	Max. EUR 10m/beneficiary/call
Duration	Programme: max. 60 months Fellowship: min. 3 months
Recruitment	Fellows: min. 3 fellows must be recruited

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COFUND – Eligible researchers

Doctoral programmes

Postdoctoral programmes

Any nationality

Mobility rule

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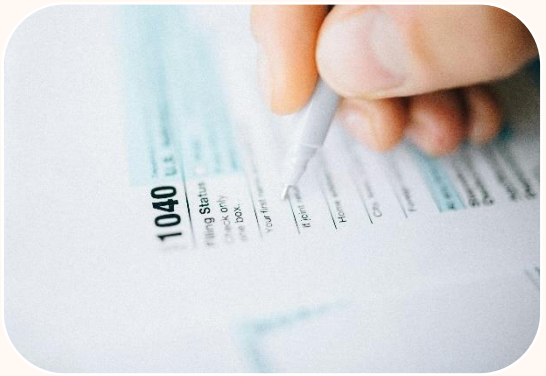
COFUND – Bear in mind

Researchers 100% on project



EU contribution coverage

Long-term leave allowance & special needs allowance

Researcher eligibility

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COFUND – Bear in mind

Part-time allowed for personal, family, or professional* reasons (*upon approval)

Secondments up to 1/3 of fellowship duration

COFUND **Seal of Excellence**
for applications scoring ≥85%

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COFUND – Award criteria

Excellence (50%)

Impact (30%)

Implementation(20%)

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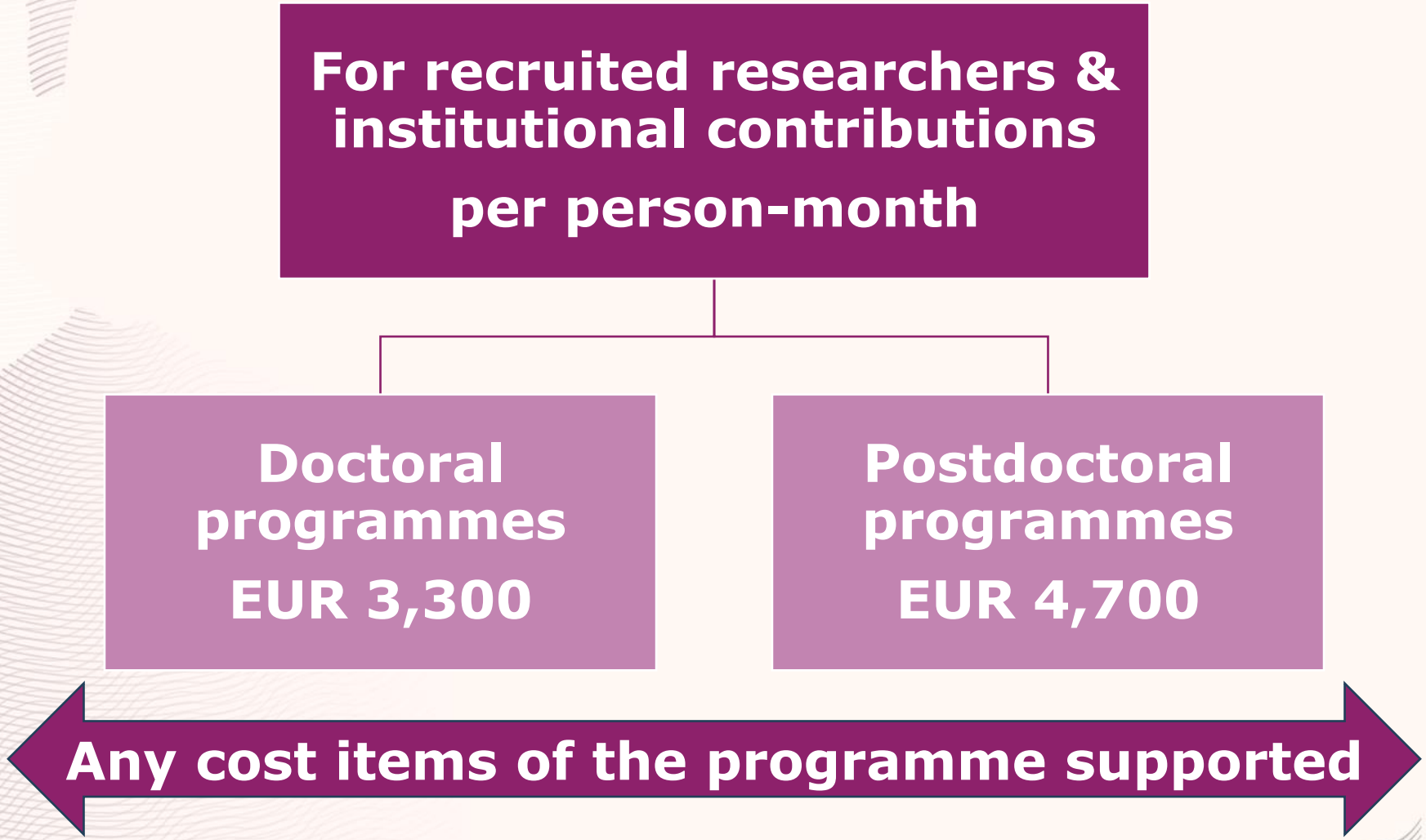
COFUND

Budget structure
&
Project implementation

European Commission

COFUND Budget – EU contribution



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COFUND budget - Conditions

Total amount of programme to be specified

- **Amounts for researchers**
- **Amounts for organisation(s)**

Minimum monthly gross remuneration + mobility costs

- **Doctoral candidates: EUR 3,300***
- **Postdoctoral candidates: EUR 4,700***

* Fixed amount fellowships 50% of those amounts

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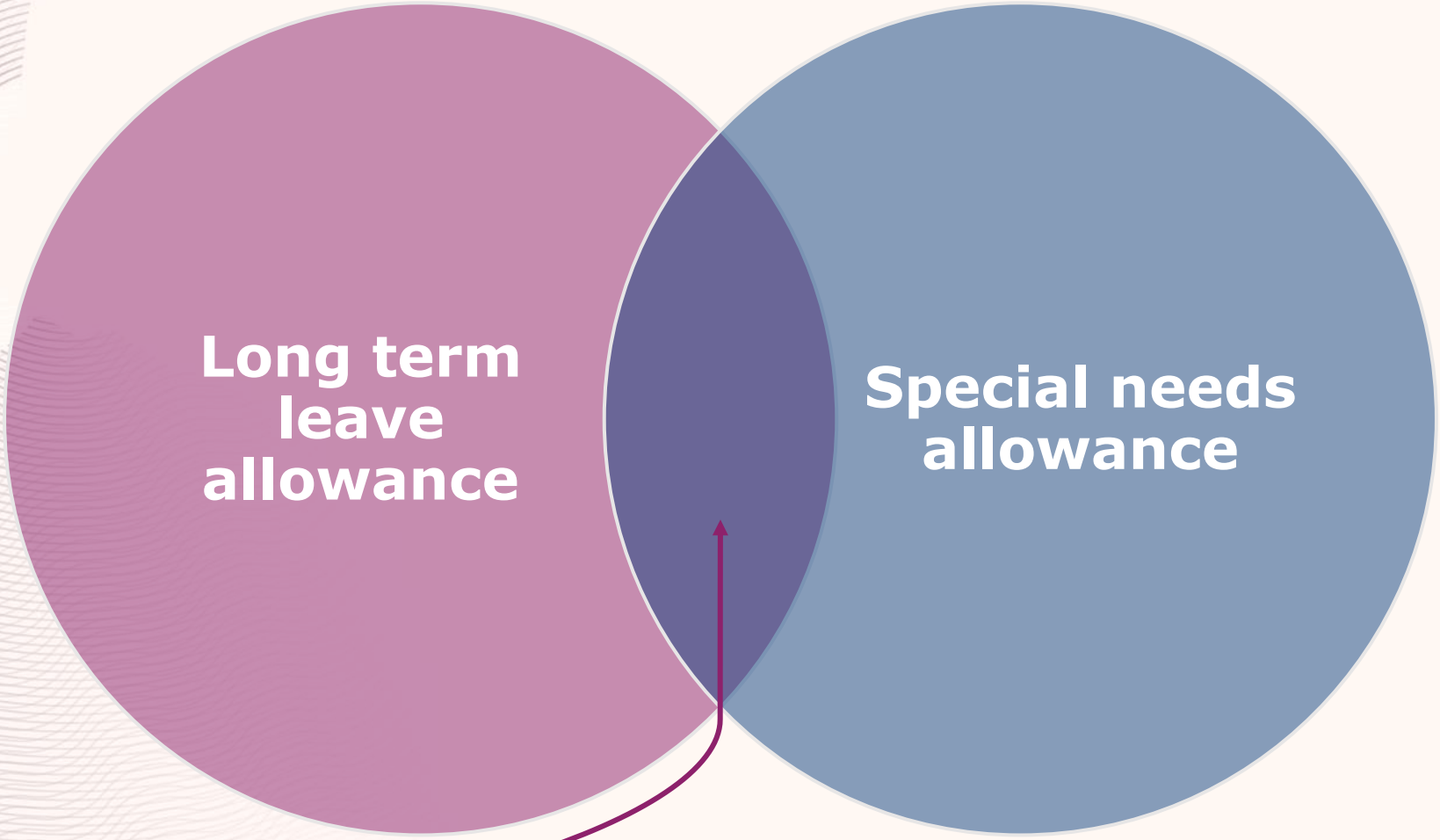
COFUND – Cost categories



Upon request

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COFUND – Project implementation

Employment contract or equivalent direct contract

No fixed-amount fellowships

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COFUND – Project implementation

Independent experts involved at every stage of selection process

The selection of the researchers

Training programme

Postdoctoral programmes must involve independent international experts

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COFUND – Project implementation

Call timing

Number of fellows to be recruited

Reserve list

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COFUND – Supervisor in application and recruitment process

- Rationale to be specified for contact with supervisor at application stage
- No involvement in the drafting of proposal and no approval required before submission
- No role in recruitment process or decision making
- Recruitment process to be open, transparent, merit-based, impartial and equitable
- Assurance of no conflict of interest and no preselection in the recruitment process

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COFUND – Use of artificial intelligence

- Use of generative AI tools permitted
- Applicants bear legal responsibility for their proposal
- No role in recruitment process or decision making
- Inaccurate/erroneous data generated by AI tools to be penalised
- Plagiarism may lead to proposal rejection

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COFUND

Application structure
&
2025 call details

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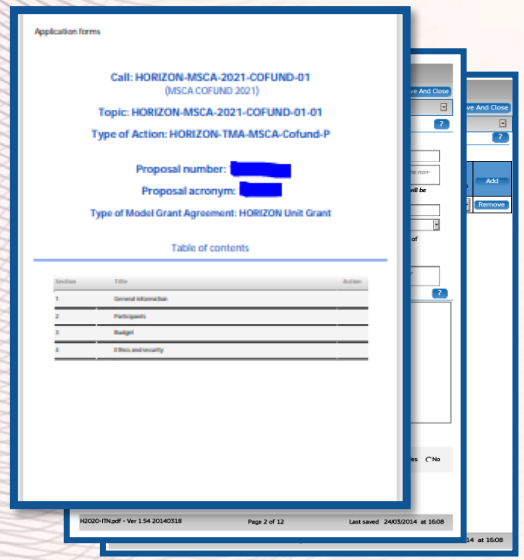
COFUND – Template structure

Part A

Structured data

Part B
Technical description



Part B1

Description of action

Part B2

Annexes

European Commission

Part A – Structured data

1. General Information
2. Participants
3. Budget
4. Ethics & Security

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Part B – Technical description

History of Changes

Instructions for drafting Part B

Definitions

Generative AI tools for proposal preparation

Part B1 – Description of the action

Part B2 - Annexes

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Part B1 – Description of the action

Start Page	**Table of Contents (1 page)**	**General Description & Info on Beneficiary (max 2 pages)**
1. Excellence	**2. Impact**	**3. Implementation**

Overal limit of 34 pages, and for Sections 1-3 a max of 30 pages

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Part B2 – Annexes

4. Ethics

5. Partner organisations

6. Environmental considerations re: MSCA Green Charter

No overall page limit

Exception: S5 - max ½ page per associated/ implementing partner)

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COFUND budget – Part B1

Cost categories	EU contribution (A) (EUR/person-month)	Own resources (B) (EUR/person-month)	Total cost = EU contribution + own resources (A+B) (EUR/person-month)
COFUND allowance	3 300 (for Doctoral)* 4 700 (for Postdoctoral)*		***
Mobility allowance**			****
Family allowance**			****
Travel allowance**			****
Research costs**			
Other (training, etc.) **			
Management costs **			
Indirect costs**			
Number of fellows			
Number of fellow months			
Total amount			

Please make sure that the Total cost (including EU contribution and Own resources) declared in section 3 of Part A of the proposal matches exactly what is presented in Part B1.

Example, not to be completed

* Choose applicable rate

** If applicable

*** Monthly gross remuneration

**** Total amount of allowance, if provided

COFUND budget – Part A

Participant number	Organisation short name	Role	Country	Academic sector	IO	No of recruited researchers	Number of person months (Employment)	Number of person months (Fellowship)	Contributions for recruited researchers		Total	Own resources	Financial contributions	Total estimated project income
									Employment Contract	Fixed amount fellowship				
1				No	No									
Total														

Cost categories	EU contribution (A) (EUR/person-month)	Own resources (B) (EUR/person-month)	Total cost = EU contribution + own resources (A+B) (EUR/person-month)
…			
Number of fellows			
Number of fellow months			
Total amount			

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COFUND – 2025 call details

Call	2025	
	Opening Closing	Budget (EUR m)
COFUND 2025	23 January 25 24 June 25	101.8

European Commission

Thank you!

#MSCA #HorizonEU

European Research Executive Agency

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions_en

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