



# MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

## Marie Skłodowska - Curie Actions (MSCAs)



# What's in for SMEs?

## Marie Skłodowska - Curie Actions (MSCAs) in Horizon 2020 are of interest for your company

as highly qualified researchers are indispensable for technological development and competitiveness. **Training and career development** are the main objectives of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. International and inter-sector research experience - the **mobility of researchers** is a key feature of this programme.





## Objectives:

- Promotion of high quality research **training and career development** as well as knowledge transfer in Europe
- Cooperation between the academic and the private sector are the key to provide high quality research training and to open career perspectives in Europe
- Transnational cooperation between universities and SMEs should equip researchers with an entrepreneurial mindset

## General conditions:

- **Mobility of researchers:** international and/or inter-sectoral (between academic and non-academic sector)
- **No age limit:** the programme addresses researchers and innovation staff at all stages of their career
- **Bottom-up approach:** research projects can be chosen freely by the applicants
- **Gender mainstreaming:** Gender issues are taken into consideration in all actions

## Role of SMEs in the MSCAs:

- As **coordinator** you take the lead!
- As **project partner** you profit from the cooperation as signatory to the contract without the coordinating burden
- As **partner organisation** you contribute to the implementation of the project, costs are reimbursed by the beneficiaries

# MSCAs- Research & Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

## Objective:

The Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) scheme promotes **international and inter-sector collaboration** through **research and innovation staff exchanges**, sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa) for the advancement of science in the development of innovation.

Networks should consist of at least 3 participants from 3 different countries, of which at least 2 must be EU Member States (MS) and /or Associated Countries (AC).

## Your role as SME:

**Project coordination** by companies is very common for this scheme: as coordinator you take the lead in designing the staff exchange programme to reach the individual research and innovation goals of relevance for your company.

**As project partner** you would also benefit from the project activities like staff exchange, networking activities, widening competencies of your own staff, establishing new knowledge at your company, etc.

**TIP:** Depending on your background and capacities decide about your role as coordinator or project partner!

## Eligibility conditions and funding:

Researchers of any nationality (early stage and experienced level) as well as administrative, managerial and technical staff supporting the research and innovation activities of the project are eligible at the time of secondment. They must have been active for at least six months at their research institution before being seconded.

The **contribution of the European Commission** will cover the activities of the seconded staff as well as part of the costs for the implementation of the project. The overall European Union contribution for RISE projects is limited to the secondment of a maximum 540 person-months. Secondments can have a duration of 1-12 months and may be split into several stays (if justified).

# MSCAs - Individual Fellowships (IF)



## Objective:

The aim of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships (IF) is to enhance **the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers through advanced training, international and inter-sectoral mobility (between academic and non-academic sector)**, and to catalyse **a significant development in their careers** in both sectors. Applications are jointly made by the researcher and host organisation in the academic or non-academic sectors.

**European Fellowships** are held in EU Member States (MS) or Associated Countries (AC) and are open to researchers coming to Europe or moving within Europe to carry out research projects for the duration of **1-2 years**.

**Global Fellowships** are based on a secondment to a third country (i.e. not a MS or AC) for 1-2 years and a mandatory **12 month return period** to a European host.

## Your role as SME:

As **coordinator** of an IF you would get the chance to employ excellent researchers!

Alternatively, you are setting up fellowships **in cooperation with a partner university**. The IF is coordinated by universities and allows secondments of SMEs.

## Eligibility conditions and funding:

For the **European Fellowship**, the researcher can be of any nationality, but must comply with the mobility rule in the country where the European Fellowship is held.

For the **Global Fellowship**, the researcher must comply with the mobility rule in the country where secondment takes place (not for the return phase). Global Fellowships are open to nationals or long-term residents of MS and AC.

The **contribution of the European Commission** will cover the activities of the researcher as well as part of the costs for the implementation of the project.



# MSCAs - Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

## Objective:

The aim of Innovative Training Networks (ITN) is to **train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers** (i.e. researchers within the first four years of their careers and not yet awarded with a PhD).

ITN will **raise the quality of research and doctoral training**, extending the traditional academic research training setting and equipping researchers with the **right combination of research-related and transferable competences**. Researchers will thus have **enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and non-academic sectors**.

ITN **financially supports competitive networks of organisations from the academic and the non-academic sector, located in different countries, which build together a joint training and/or doctoral programme**. This programme must respond to specific needs in scientific and technological areas and include transferable skills common to all fields (e.g. entrepreneurship, communication etc.). Alike the other Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, ITN follows a **bottom-up approach**, i.e. research fields are chosen freely by the applicants.

## Your role as SME:

**Coordination** of an ITN is mainly carried out by **academic partner(s)**. Only if your company has the experience to come up with a research training curriculum for doctoral students and the respective capacity coordination could be considered.

Therefore, participation of **SMEs** is highly recommended as project partners in ITN. It allows you to "cherry-pick" with a minimum of effort in employing and hosting doctoral students, benefiting from networking activities and giving contributions to the training.

**TIP:** For one sub-scheme in the frame of the ITNs, called **European Industrial Doctorates** a university in one country develops a training programme together with a company located in another country. Depending on your company's mission this is an opportunity to develop a doctoral training for the needs of your particular industrial sector.

## Eligibility conditions and funding:

**Early-stage researchers:** in the first 4 years of their research career and not yet awarded with a PhD. They can be recruited for the duration of 3-36 months.

**Eligible researchers** can be of any nationality but must comply with the mobility rule: they must not have worked or resided in the country of destination for more than 12 months in the past 3 years.

The **contribution of the European Commission** will cover the activities of the recruited researchers as well as part of the costs for the implementation of the project.

## Links:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>  
<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/marie-sklodowska-curie-actions>

