



**Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Staff Exchanges (SE)
for institutions in China**



MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Staff Exchanges (MSCA SE)

Dr. Corina Georgeta BARNA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
National Contact Point

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Overview



**Policy
background**



**MSCA Staff
Exchanges**



**Strategic
Advantages for
Researchers &
Organisations
from China**



Finding partners



**Staff Exchanges
proposal
submission and
evaluation**



1. Policy background

The MSCA under Horizon Europe



Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research
Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

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 Center



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



European
Commission

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Doctoral
Networks

COFUND

Postdoctoral
Fellowships

Staff
Exchanges

MSCA and
Citizens



2. Staff Exchanges Main features

What is Staff Exchanges?



Research & Innovation **mobility** action



It equips researchers and organisations **worldwide** with advanced skills and cutting-edge knowledge



It fosters mobility of entities from both the **academic** and **private** sectors



Can be combined with other programmes (**synergy**)



The **budget** allocated in 2026 call is € 97.92 million

Objectives



**International,
inter-sectoral
and
interdisciplinary
mobility of R&I
staff
(secondments)**



**Knowledge
transfer
between
participating
organisations**



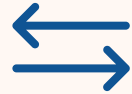
**Collaboration
between the
academic and
non-academic
sectors
(including SMEs)**



**Cooperation
across the globe**

Added value

Staff members



Transferable
skills &
competences



Employability
& career
prospects



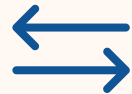
Ideas
converted
into
products,
processes &
services



International
exposure



Networking &
communication



Transfer of
knowledge



Collaborative
networks



R&I capacity

Organisations

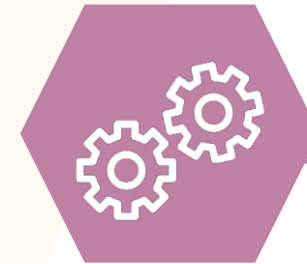
Who can participate in MSCA-SE projects?

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

Academic sector



Non-academic sector



At least one organisation should be **from the non-academic sector**

Minimal conditions for a consortium

The **minimal conditions** when forming an MSCA Staff Exchanges consortium consist of three elements:

- **Members of consortium:** Composed of **at least three legal entities independent** of each other.
- **Countries:** Organisations established in **three different countries**, of which at least two must be established in different EU Member States and/or Horizon Europe Associated Countries.
- **Sectors:** The consortium must include participating organisations from both **academic and non-academic sectors**.

Minimum

3 organisations

3 countries

2 EU MS/AC

Academic +
Non-academic

Staff Exchanges in a nutshell

Overview	
Minimum number of participating organisations⁴	3 in 3 different countries
Minimum number of beneficiaries from EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries⁵	2
Min number of participants from <u>Academic</u> sector⁶	1
Min number of participants from <u>Non-academic</u> sector⁷	1
Number of associated partners	No minimum
Max number of person months (PM)	360
Secondment duration⁸	1 – 12 months
Intersectoral secondments	Must be between academic and non-academic sector
Ranking lists⁹	8 (scientific) panels ¹⁰
Budget 2026	97.92 Million €

Other conditions

Above these minimum requirements, additional organisations established in Member States/Associated Countries and/or in **non-associated third countries can participate under the conditions provided by the Horizon Europe rules for participation and dissemination.**

Only legal entities that are established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries can be beneficiaries.

Legal entities located in third countries not associated to Horizon Europe participate as Associated Partners only.

There is no predefined size for Staff Exchanges projects. Based on previous calls, the average size of the consortia is between 6 to 10 organisations (beneficiaries and associated partners). The **number of associated partners should remain reasonable** and commensurate with the size of the network

Eligible staff



Seconded staff members



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

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

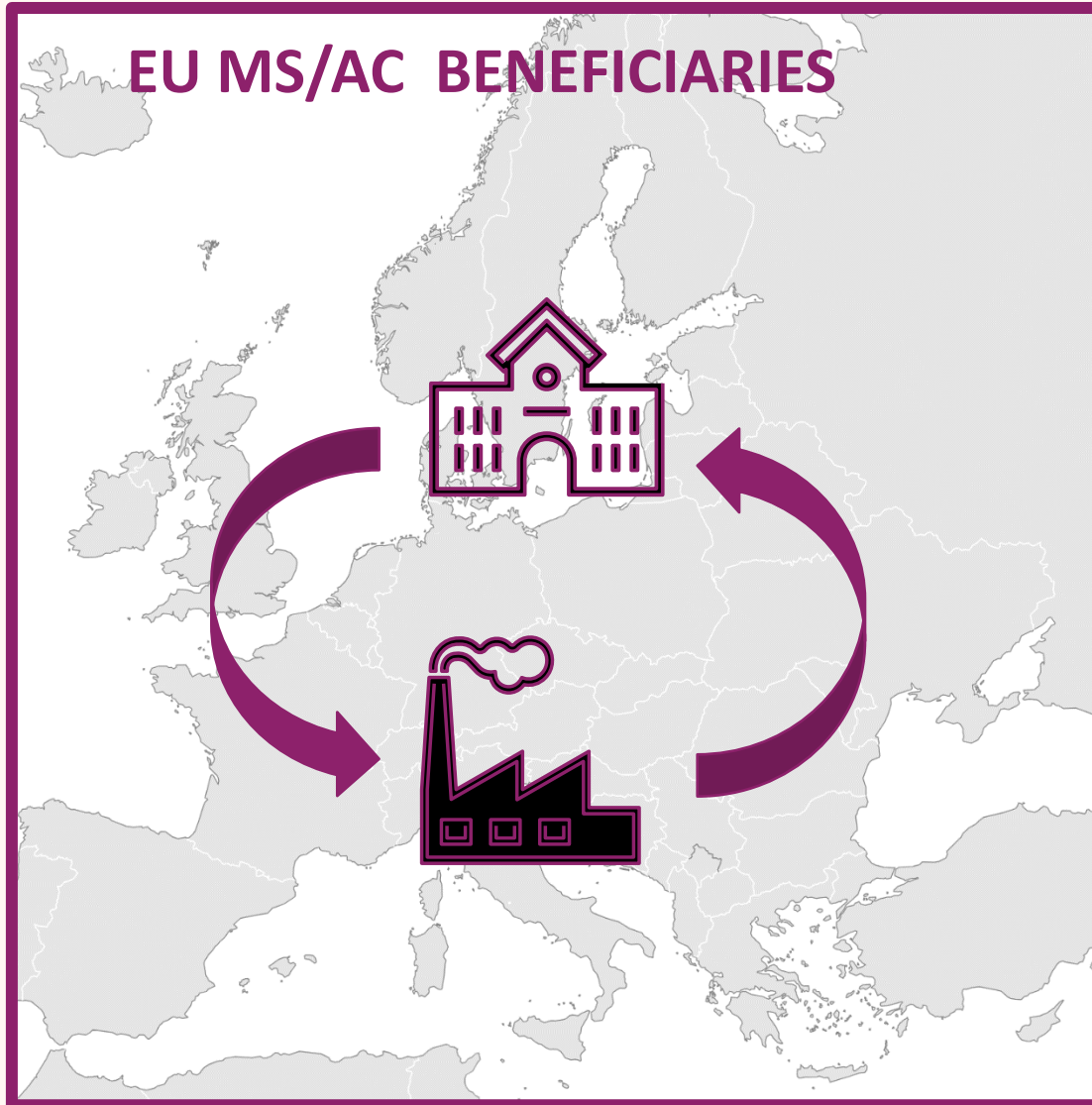
Each staff member is seconded for a period of **1 to 12 months** (may be split into several stays)

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

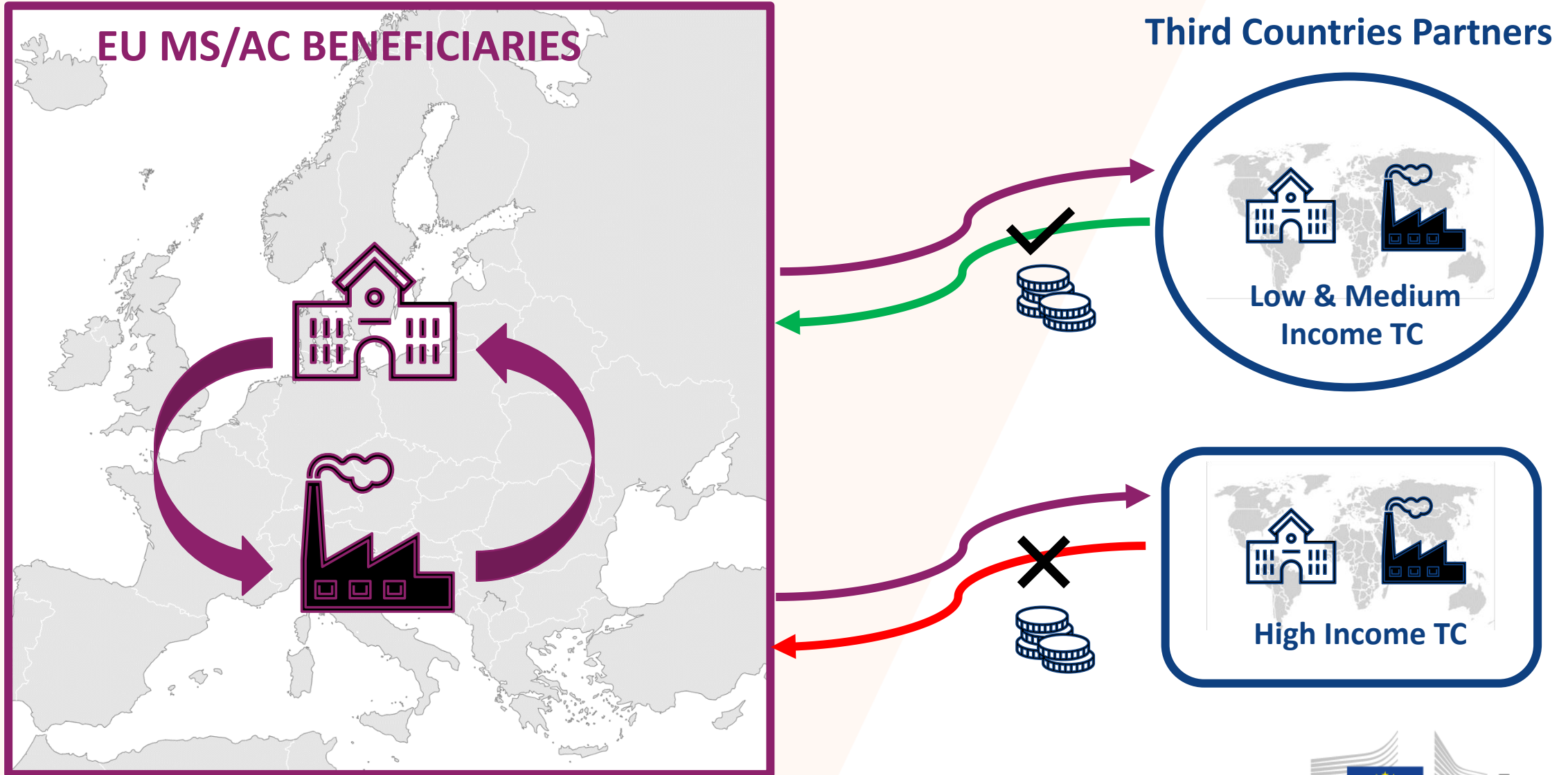
After the secondment, staff should **return to their sending institution**



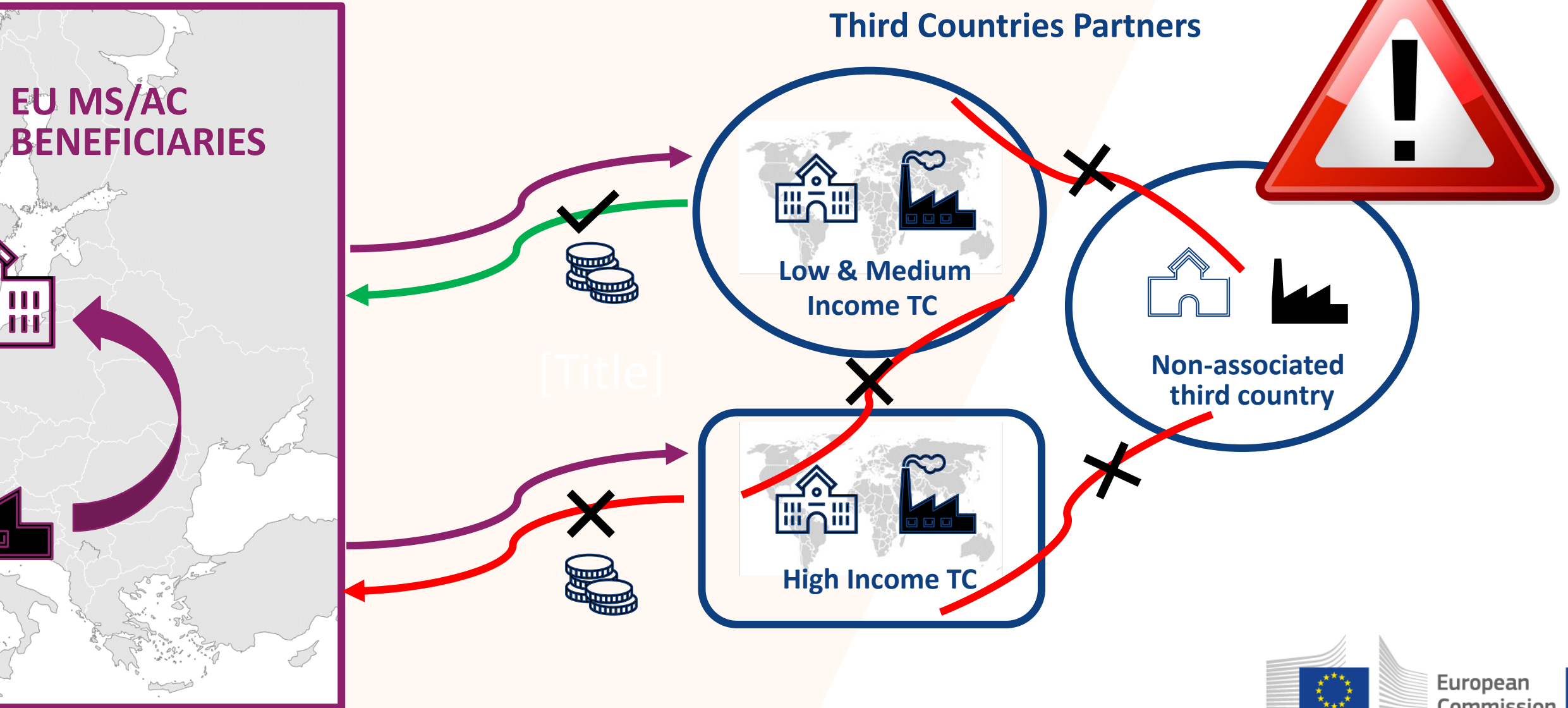
Eligible secondments in Europe & AC



Eligible international secondments



Secondments between two non-associated third countries are NOT eligible



Eligibility for EU funding of secondments for sending organisation

		"HOSTING" (receiving seconded staff members)		
		Organisation in MS/AC (2)	Associated Partners eligible for funding	Associated Partners non-eligible for funding
"SENDING" (sending staff members from organization)	Organisation in MS/AC (1)	✓	✓	✓
	Associated Partners eligible for funding	✓	✗	✗
	Associated Partners non-eligible for funding	✗	✗	✗

Summary of tasks

Status ¹¹	Sign Grant Agreement	Secondment of staff	Training and/or hosting of seconded staff	Directly claim costs
Beneficiary*	✓	✓	✓	✓
Associated partner**	x	✓	✓	x

* Beneficiaries not requesting EU funding (e.g., not seconding staff, nor hosting staff from an associated partner from third country eligible for funding) are not allowed under Horizon Europe rules, except for the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC). They can participate as associated partners only.

** Only secondments from associated partners located in some low to middle-income third countries included in the ***List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe*** are eligible for funding.

- Beneficiaries sign the agreement – must be eligible
- Entities not requesting funding should normally participate as Associated Partners
- Associated partner does not sign the agreement and cannot be coordinator.



Key 2026 Updates

- Change in **consortium composition** eligibility rule
- **Removal of 1-month staff eligibility** rule
- **Removal of 1/3 interdisciplinary** rule
- Updated Excellence **sub-criterion**
- **Minimum threshold of 3** on all criteria
- AI technical robustness no longer required under Excellence

Sending and hosting organisations

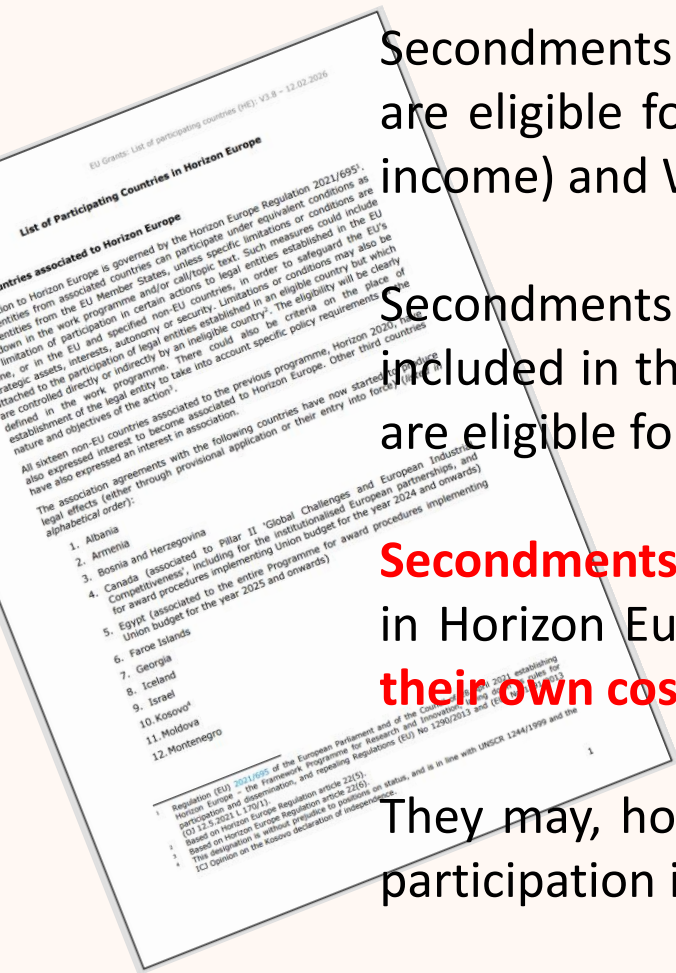
Secondments must always take place between different countries.

Secondments from beneficiaries from EU Member States / Horizon Europe Associated Countries are eligible for funding. Funding depends on country category (low and middle-income vs high-income) and Work Programme conditions

Secondments from associated partners located in some low and middle-income third countries included in the ***List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe*** on the Funding & Tenders Portal are eligible for funding.

Secondments from participants from “Other Countries” (not in the List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe) **are not eligible for funding and therefore by default have to participate at their own cost.**

They may, however, receive funding exceptionally, if the granting authority considers that their participation is essential for implementing the project.



Exceptional funding for Third Countries non-associated to Horizon Europe Programme

Participants from other countries (i.e. countries that are neither EU Member States nor countries associated to Horizon Europe) are not automatically eligible for funding and therefore **usually have to participate at their own cost.**

They can however receive exceptional funding, if:

- their country is explicitly identified in the work programme and call for proposals as being eligible for funding
- the granting authority considers that **their participation as a beneficiary is essential for implementing the project**, for example in view of their:

- ✓ **outstanding competence/expertise**
- ✓ **access to particular research infrastructures**
- ✓ **access to particular geographical environments**
- ✓ **access to particular data.**

In addition, a number of non-EU/non-associated countries that are not automatically eligible for funding have made specific provisions for **national financing mechanisms** for their participants in **Horizon Europe projects**. For more information, see *Horizon Europe Complementary funding mechanisms in third countries*.



The Overheads Top-Up scheme is available for New Zealand entities participating in Horizon Europe research and innovation projects funded through the Catalyst Fund.

No Chinese co-funding mechanism for MSCA

For each grant. A cap of NZD \$100,000 applies.

Further information: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/international-opportunities/horizon-europe-research-fund/mbie-horizon-europe-top-up-funding-scheme>

2.7. The People's Republic of China (CN)

National programmes or funds that can support Chinese participants in Horizon Europe projects:

In line with the ongoing discussions on the Joint Roadmap for the Future of EU-China cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation^[1], the EU and China have signed an Administrative Arrangement for the period 2021-2024 to set up a Co-funding Mechanism (CFM) supports collaborative research projects under two agreed research flagship initiatives, one on Food, Agriculture and Biosolutions (FAB) and the other on Climate Change and Biodiversity (CCB) (both sides are now negotiating an updated administrative arrangement covering 2025-2027 – discussions are ongoing). In the Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2023-2024, this applies to:

Food, Agriculture and Biosolutions (FAB) flagship initiative: the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST) has funded Chinese participation in four FAB topics:

- HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01-15: Integrative forest management for multiple ecosystem services and enhanced biodiversity.
- HORIZON-CL6-2023-ZEROPOLLUTION-02-1-two-stage: Optimisation of manure use along the management chain to mitigate GHG emissions and minimize nutrients/contaminants dispersion in the environment.
- HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-02-5-two-stage: Animal nutritional requirements and nutritional value of feed under different production management conditions;
- HORIZON-CL6-2024-COMMUNITIES-02-2-two-stage: New sustainable business and production models for farmers and rural communities.

Climate Change and Biodiversity (CCB) flagship initiative: MOST has funded Chinese participation in three CCB topics:

- HORIZON-CL5-2023-D1-02-01: EU-China international cooperation on data and model development for pathways to carbon neutrality: focusing on decarbonisation, energy efficiency and socio-economic implications of the transition.
- HORIZON-CL5-2023-D1-02-02: EU-China international cooperation on blue carbon.

^[1] The development of a Joint Roadmap for the Future of EU-China cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation was agreed at the Fourth EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue of April 2019 and is currently under discussion. It aims at the development of a research and innovation ecosystem that is levelled, reciprocal, and respectful of R&I values, through the discussion, agreement, and implementation of set framework conditions for cooperation.

- HORIZON-CL6-2024-CLIMATE-01-7: EU-China international cooperation on improving monitoring for better integrated climate and biodiversity approaches, using environmental and Earth observation.

Through the CFM, Chinese entities participating in the flagship topics are funded by MOST. The exact terms and conditions of MOST CFM calls are published on their website.

Other Co-Funding opportunities by MOST:

MOST also co-funds additional projects that do not fall under the above flagship topics, but that are nevertheless directly linked to the goals of the flagship initiatives. Only projects that have a low level of technological maturity (not exceeding a level of Technology Readiness Level 4 - TRL4) are eligible to receive co-funding from the Chinese authorities.

Useful links and contacts:

- MOST: Ms. WANG Yingshi email: wangys@most.cn, or in the China Science and Technology Exchange Centre (CSTEC) Ms. SONG Song, email: songss@cstec.org.cn
- Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China: 中华人民共和国科学技术部 (most.gov.cn); Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (most.gov.cn) zfg@cstec.org.cn
- Delegation of the European Union to China: [China | EEAS Website \(europa.eu\)](http://China | EEAS Website (europa.eu)) Delegation-China-Scitech@eeas.europa.eu
- EURAXESS China: [EURAXESS China | EURAXESS \(europa.eu\)](http://EURAXESS China | EURAXESS (europa.eu)); Dr. Karlis Rokpelnis, email: china@euraxess.net

2.8. Principality of Monaco (MC)

National programmes or funds that can support Monegasque participants in Horizon Europe projects:

For participating in Horizon Europe research and innovation projects funded through the Catalyst Fund, a co-funding mechanism is available for Monegasque entities. The scheme is based on known R&I priorities, such as the environment, digital technologies, and economics.

Chinese co-funding mechanisms refer to Horizon Europe Pillar 2 Global challenges, clusters 5 and 6

of the above mentioned topics. The Government up to a maximum of 50% of the total project cost.

The Business Development Agency (Direction Générale de l'Entrepreneuriat) within the Ministry of Finance and Economy has been appointed as the co-funding body.

In practice, any Monegasque organisation that wants to submit an application under the Horizon Europe programme and wishes to receive national funding, must request a preliminary meeting with the Business Development Agency in order to confirm their eligibility.

The MSCA under Horizon Europe



Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research
Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

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 Center



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



European
Commission



EN

Horizon Europe
Work Programme 2026-2

15. General Annexes

(European Commission Decision C(2025) 8493)

Restrictions on the participation of legal entities established in China — In accordance with the 2019 “EU-China – A Strategic outlook” communication, the 2021 “Global Approach to Research and Innovation” communication, and the joint conclusions of the 4th EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue of 2019, an exercise to develop a Joint Roadmap for the future of EU-China cooperation in science, technology, and innovation (Roadmap) has been established between the EU and China. It has the objective to stimulate the development of a level playing field for cooperation between the EU and China in the areas of science, technology, and innovation (STI) through the agreement and implementation of a number of framework conditions for engagement. So far, progress in these discussions has mainly taken place on the framework conditions linked to research and not on the ones related to innovation. At the same time, substantive concerns persist, including in relation to the undesired transfer of IP to China which is supported rather than deterred by both legislative and policy initiatives such as China’s Made in China 2025 strategy, China’s civil military fusion strategy, China’s new quality productive forces framework, China’s data security law, the National security law, China’s cybersecurity law, and a number of other measures aimed at bolstering China’s technological base in both civil and military domains.

In view of the persistent lack of progress in the discussions on the Roadmap and the substantive concerns in relation to the undesired transfer of IP to China supported by both legislative and policy initiatives, cooperation involving entities established in China needs to be calibrated accordingly. In particular, taking into account the current persistent imbalance as concerns innovation-related framework conditions and linked effects it is appropriate under Article 22(6)

⁸ See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

⁹ See Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

of the HE Regulation that the eligibility of legal entities established in China to participate in innovation-related activities is restricted. Accordingly:

- (1) **Innovation Actions:** Legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in any Horizon Europe Innovation Action;
- (2) **Research and Innovation Actions:** Unless otherwise stated, legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in any Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Action (RIA). Under this work programme, in view of their scope and nature as well as the objectives of the associated destination, legal entities established in China are to be considered eligible to participate in Research and Innovation Actions within the following work programme part destinations:

- Cluster 2 – Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
 - Destination - Innovative Research on Democracy and Governance

lural heritage and

l and economic

the transformation

re and Environment

food systems from

n

l rural, coastal and

d observations and

mentation of the EU

ocean and waters

sd other actions to

re Europe"

arch Area

l innovation system

clusion and local

e transformation of

resources, software

Member States, it is

n networks" and to

that concern the

chnologies linked to

ination equipment

erficiaries, affiliated

uple due to:

e.g. state-owned or

e.g. a strong link to a

tion or government

luding an offensive

turning or access to

tries as well as other

essed case-by-case,

x, the security risks

the Horizon Europe

my or security, the

blished only in EU

on-associated third

specific call/Topic

stante protection of

opic conditions may

lled by non-eligible

e their participation

is — The protection

areas is essential to

science. Innovation

For IA and RIA actions mentioned above, this includes participation of legal entities established in China in any capacity (as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any)). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons. The above eligibility criteria may again be reviewed in the future in accordance with policy developments.

Participation of Chinese universities linked to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) — Based on Article 22(6) of the HE Regulation, universities (higher education establishments) established in China which are public bodies, that are administered by or fall under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) are not eligible to participate in any action under all parts of this Work Programme. This takes into account China’s specific civil military fusion strategy, wider China-related risks¹⁰, Horizon Europe’s exclusive civil use application mandate and relevant policy requirements.

Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks — The protection of European communication networks has been identified as an important security interest of the Union and its Member States¹¹. In line with the Commission Recommendation on the cybersecurity of 5G networks of 2019¹² and the subsequent report on the EU coordinated risk assessment of the cybersecurity of 5G networks of 2019,¹³ the EU Toolbox on 5G cybersecurity¹⁴, the second report on Member States’ progress in implementing the EU toolbox on 5G cybersecurity of 2023,¹⁵ and the related Communication on the implementation of the 5G cybersecurity toolbox of 2023,¹⁶ the Commission together with the Member States has worked to jointly identify and assess cyberthreats and security risks for 5G networks¹⁷. The toolbox also recommends adding country-specific information (e.g. threat assessment from national security services, etc.). This work is an essential component of the Security Union Strategy and supports the protection of electronic communications networks and other critical infrastructures.

Entities assessed as “high-risk suppliers”, are currently set out in the second report on Member States’ progress in implementing the EU toolbox on 5G cybersecurity of 2023¹⁸ and the related Communication on the implementation of the 5G cybersecurity toolbox of 2023¹⁹.

The toolbox also underlines that further developing European capacities in the area of 5G and post-5G technologies by leveraging EU Research & Innovation Funding programmes is a strategic risk mitigating measure. This entails the need to avoid the participation of high-risk supplier entities in the development of other technologies linked to the evolution of European communication networks to prevent technology transfer and the persistence of dependencies in

¹⁰ China’s National security law, the National Defence law, the State Secrets Law, the data security law, and a number of other measures aimed at bolstering China’s technological apparatus in both civil and military domains.

¹¹ European Council conclusions of 1 and 2 October 2020 (EUCO 1320), point 11; Council Conclusions on the significance of 5G to the European Economy and the need to strengthen security risk assessment of the cybersecurity of 5G networks, 9 October 2019.

¹² Commission Recommendation (EU) 2019/514 of 26 March 2019 on Cybersecurity of 5G networks, L 84/42.

¹³ NIS Cooperation Group, Report on EU coordinated risk assessment of the cybersecurity of 5G networks, 9 October 2019.

¹⁴ NIS Cooperation Group, EU Toolbox on 5G Cybersecurity, 29 January 2020.

¹⁵ NIS Cooperation Group, Second report on Member States’ progress in implementing the EU Toolbox on 5G Cybersecurity, June 2023.

¹⁶ Communication from the Commission, Implementation of the 5G cybersecurity Toolbox, Brussels, 15.6.2023 (COM(2023) 4049 final).

¹⁷ Within the NIS framework NIS + 2 (October – 2022/2023) – the EU Risk Assessment.

¹⁸ NIS Cooperation Group, Second report on Member States’ progress in implementing the EU Toolbox on 5G Cybersecurity, June 2023.

¹⁹ Communication from the Commission, Implementation of the 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox, Brussels, 15.6.2023 (COM(2023) 4049 final).

Actions (IAs) under Horizon Europe are designed to support the development, piloting, and market deployment of advanced technologies. Given their proximity to commercial and potentially security-related applications, these actions are particularly sensitive to issues of strategic dependence, technology leakage, and foreign interference. In line with the objectives set out in the European Economic Security Strategy²¹, A Competitiveness Compass for the EU²², and related policy documents, the Union must ensure that research and innovation funding does not contribute—directly or indirectly—to the unwanted transfer of sensitive technologies or the creation of strategic dependencies. It should also not result in heightened security risks for the European Union.

In this context, the participation of entities controlled by China in certain innovation actions poses specific risks to the overall security of the European Union. The risks are determined by a fundamental regulatory imbalance between the EU and China in the area of innovation and by an array of Chinese policy and legislative initiatives that increase the level of risk such as China’s Made in China 2025 strategy, China’s civil military fusion strategy, China’s new quality productive forces framework, the National security law, China’s cybersecurity law, China’s data security law, and a number of other measures aimed at bolstering China’s technological apparatus in both civil and military domains. The EU has legitimate concerns linked to the potential risks of allowing entities controlled by China participate in critical technology areas, particularly those related to artificial intelligence, semiconductors, biotechnologies and quantum technologies. To address these concerns, it is appropriate to calibrate the participation of Chinese owned or controlled entities accordingly.

In light of the above, in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation, entities established in a Member State, Associated Country or in an eligible third country which are directly or indirectly controlled by China or by a legal entity established in China are not eligible to participate in Innovation Actions where stated in the specific call/Topic conditions of the Horizon Europe Work Programme.

These restrictions apply to Innovation actions that fall within the four critical technology areas identified by the European Commission in the Annex to the Commission Recommendation on critical technology areas for the EU’s economic security for further assessment with Member States 2023/2113 as being most sensitive for our economic security: advanced semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum technologies and biotechnologies.

EU restrictive measures — Entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)²³ as well as Article 75 TFEU²⁴, are not eligible to participate in any capacity.

²¹ Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council on “European Economic Security Strategy”, JOIN(2023) 26 final, Brussels, 20 June 2023.

²² “Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, A Competitiveness Compass for the EU, COM(2023) 50 final, Brussels, 20 June 2023.

²³ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

²⁴ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

2026-2027 Work Programme General Annexes Section B stipulates **certain restrictions for Chinese participation in MSCA**

- Entities established in China that are linked to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology are excluded from participating in any MSCA action.
- This applies to Staff Exchanges!
- Certain entities may be subject to **security-related eligibility restrictions** (case-by-case, per Work Programme General Annexes)
- Chinese institutions may not be eligible to participate in **MSCA proposals that concern the evolution of European communication networks (5G, post-5G, etc.)**
- Exceptions are assessed on case-by-case basis



Success Story (Typical MSCA SE)

- EU university + China institute + industry
- Joint research & training
- Long-term partnership built
- Follow-up Horizon Europe projects



INOVEC #101086257HORIZON-MSCA-2021-SE-01



The **INOVEC** project seeks to establish a broad European network for developing innovative, integrated mosquito vector control methods against emerging arboviruses



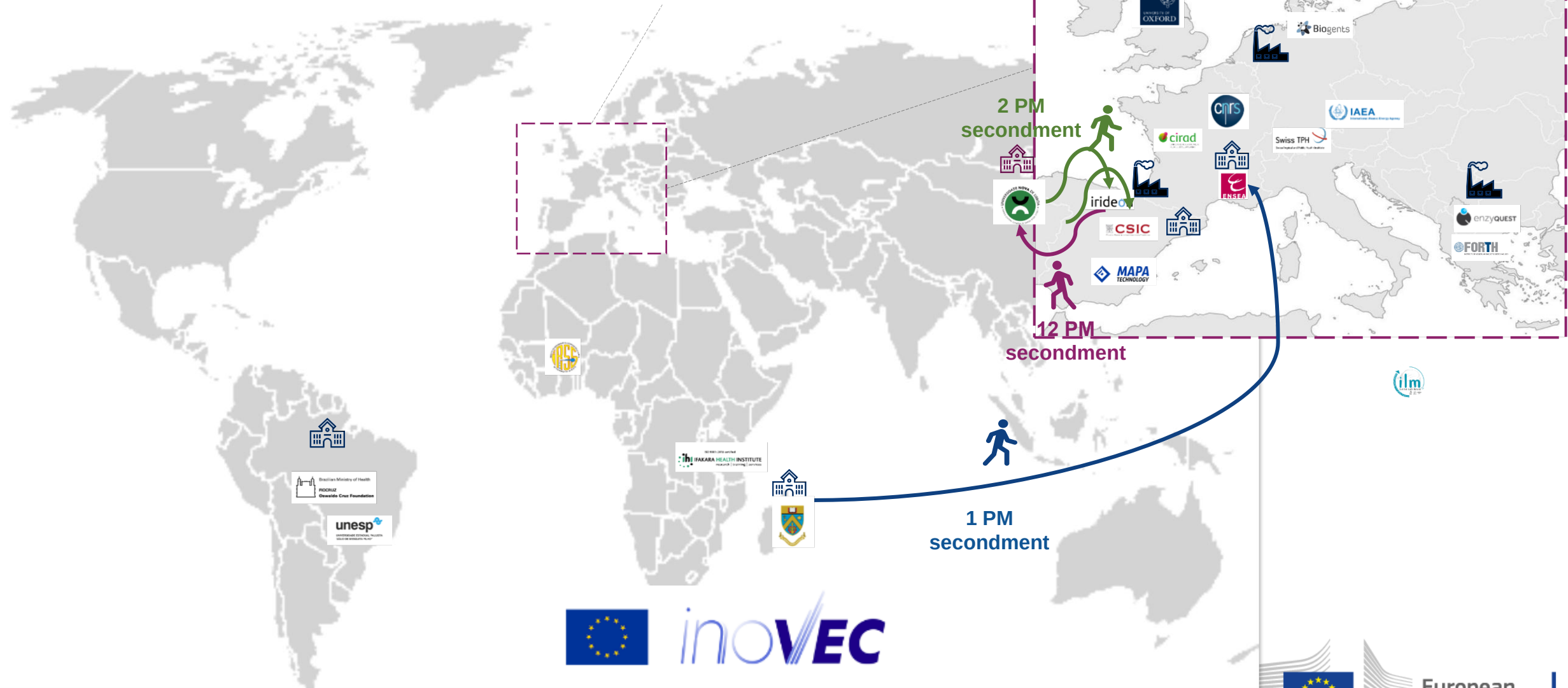
- 23 partners
- 14 based in EU/AC
- 9 entity based in a TC
- 8 SME partners



€ 1,407,600.00



INOVEC Project Example



What does Staff Exchanges fund?

MSCA Staff Exchanges Unit Contribution



Budget of SE project based on the number of planned secondments

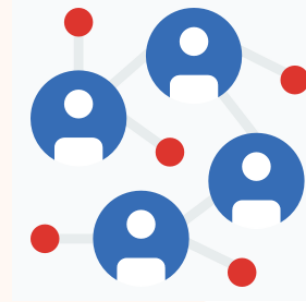
Key features



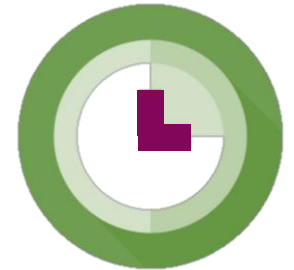
BOTTOM UP
with different
scientific panels



TOP UP ALLOWANCE
5170 €:
2870 € - staff allowance
2300 € - organisation



SECONDMENTS
1-12 months per staff
- Interdisciplinary
- Intersectoral
- International



DURATION
4 years
360 person-months
per project (max)

Staff Exchanges - making a difference



WORLD-WIDE

The highest participation of non-EU countries in MSCA



BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

Businesses receive an estimated 30% of the available funding



PATENTS

Significant share of all patents in MSCA actions



SUCCESS RATE

Between 20 & 30% depending on the discipline and on the year



3. Strategic Advantages for Researchers & Organisations from China

Why MSCA Staff Exchanges Matter for China

- Direct access to **European research ecosystems & networks**
- Integration into **high-impact, interdisciplinary consortia**
- Strong platform for **EU–China scientific cooperation**
- Proven pathway to **long-term international partnerships**

Core Benefits (At a Glance)

For Researchers

- Advanced **skills & international mobility**
- Enhanced **career prospects & global visibility**
- Co-authorship, **high-impact publications**, citations
- Exposure to **EU research standards** (Open Science...)

Core Benefits (At a Glance)

For Organisations

- Strengthened **R&I capacity** & infrastructure
- Access to **European industry & innovation ecosystems**
- Increased **global ranking, visibility & attractiveness**
- Development of **sustainable international networks**

Strategic Added Value for China

Integration into Excellence

- Entry into elite EU research networks
- Adoption of cutting-edge methodologies & standards

Acceleration of Innovation

- Faster knowledge transfer → innovation uptake
- Links with EU industry, SMEs, and clusters

Institutional Internationalisation

- Attraction of international talent
- Reinforced global reputation & partnerships

China in MSCA Staff Exchanges: Participation, Funding & Strategy

Participation

- ✓ Open to Chinese organisations (as Associated Partners)
- ✓ Strong role in global collaboration networks

Funding Reality

- ⚠ Not automatically eligible for EU funding
- ⚠ Participation usually requires **own / national funding**
- ⚠ EU funding only in **exceptional cases (essential expertise)**

Chinese organisations participate mainly as **Associated Partners** and are generally **not eligible for EU funding**, unless exceptional conditions apply.

China in MSCA Staff Exchanges: Participation, Funding & Strategy

Strategic Positioning

- 🎯 Bring **unique expertise / infrastructure / data**
- 🎯 Become **indispensable partner**
- 🎯 Combine with **bilateral or institutional funding**

MSCA SE is not about funding access — it is about

strategic integration into European research ecosystems.

Long-Term Impact

- Preparation for **Horizon Europe & future EU calls**
- **Higher success rates in collaborative projects**
- Development of **trust-based EU–China partnerships**
- Contribution to **global challenges (health, climate, food, etc.)**

From Participation to Leadership

Step 1 → Join as Associated Partner

Step 2 → Deliver **strong scientific contribution**

Step 3 → Build **trust & EU integration**

Step 4 → Become core partner

Step 5 → Lead future projects

👉 MSCA SE = **entry point** → **credibility** → **leadership**

MSCA Staff Exchanges: A Strategic Gateway for China

ENTRY

Associated Partner
EU consortia
Global collaboration

EXCELLENCE

EU standards
Open Science
Methods

INNOVATION

Academia–
Industry
Transfer
Ecosystems

TALENT

Mobility
Careers
Skills

IMPACT

Visibility
EU–China links
Funding success
Leadership

From Participation → Integration → Leadership



4. Finding partners

How to find partners?



NETWORKING
EVENTS
(CONFERENCES,
WORKSHOPS,
ETC.)



FORMER OR
CURRENT
COLLABORATIONS



JOINT
PROJECTS



Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal
FUNDING AND
Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal
TENDER
Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal
OPPORTUNITIES
Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal
PORTAL



MSCA matchmaking platform
MSCA
MSCA matchmaking platform
MATCHMAKING
MSCA matchmaking platform
PLATFORM



European Enterprise Network
EUROPEAN
European Enterprise Network
ENTERPRISE
European Enterprise Network
NETWORK



National Contact Point
NATIONAL
National Contact Point
CONTACT
National Contact Point
POINT



How to find partners F&T opportunities

The image shows a screenshot of the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Funding, Procurement, Projects & results, News & events, and Work as an expert. A dropdown menu under 'Funding' is open, highlighting 'Partner search' with a red circle and an arrow pointing to the search results page. The search results page shows a search for 'par' with 10000+ results found. A warning message states: 'There are more than 10000 results, please refine your search criteria.' The search filters include 'Match whole words only' (checked), 'Type', 'Horizon Europe (HORIZON)', 'Topic', 'Country', and 'All filters'. The results list includes 'INAGROPEC SOCIEDAD LIMITADA' (Private for profit organisation, ZARAGOZA, Spain) and 'SYNYO GmbH' (Small or medium-size enterprise, WIEN, Austria). Both results have an 'Organisation' button next to them.

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Home Funding Procurement Projects & results News & events Work as an expert

Calls for proposals

Participant register

Partner search

EU programmes

Funding updates

Horizon4Ukraine

Discover the funding & tenders opportunities

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Sign in EN

Home Funding Procurement Projects & results News & events Work as an expert Guidance & documents

par

Home > Funding > Partner search

Partner search

Filters

10000+ item(s) found

Quick search

Select...

Match whole words only

Type

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Topic

Country

All filters

There are more than 10000 results, please refine your search criteria.

Programme Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

INAGROPEC SOCIEDAD LIMITADA

Private for profit organisation

ZARAGOZA | Spain

Projects: 0 | Partner search announcements: 14

SYNYO GmbH

Small or medium-size enterprise

WIEN | Austria

Organisation

Organisation

Call page:

MSCA Staff Exchanges 2026

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01-01

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01-01



EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Sign in

EN

Home

Funding

Procurement

Projects & results

News & events

Work as an expert

Guidance & documents

Search...

Q

2

Home

>

Funding

>

Calls for proposals

>

MSCA Staff Exchanges 2026

MSCA Staff Exchanges 2026

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01-01

Topic

Call for proposal

General information

Topic description

Topic updates

Destination

Conditions and documents

Budget overview

Partner search announcements

Start submission

Topic Q&As

Get support

General information

Programme

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Call

MSCA Staff Exchanges 2026 (HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01)

Type of action

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-SE HORIZON TMA MSCA Staff Exchanges

Type of MGA

HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

Open For Submission

Deadline model

single-stage

Opening date

16 December 2025

Deadline date

16 April 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

Topic description

Expected Outcome:

Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For staff members

Frequently
Asked
Questions

How do you search for organisations to build a consortium for a particular project?

Frequently Asked Questions

- Participants can search for partners in the Funding & Tenders Portal directly.
- They can search among the participants in past EU-funded projects through the "[Partner Search](#)" option in the "How to Participate" menu; a filter can be applied by keyword, topic or country.
- Interested organisations can also post a partner search announcement directly on the topic page.
- For more information on the Partner Search, please read the [IT HowTo](#).



THE MSCA MATCHMAKING PLATFORM

Radiance MSCA



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Matchmaking Platform

Register now



Registration open until 1 May 2026

<https://www.b2match.com/e/radiance-msca>



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Matchmaking Platform

[Home](#)

[Institutions](#)

[Companies](#)

€

>

[Log in](#)

[Register](#)

Welcome to the NEW MSCA matchmaking platform!



1:1 meetings for your future MSCA proposals, inspiring sessions, informative workshops and more.

The new MSCA matchmaking platform under the RADIANCE project , brings together Academic Organizations, companies, NGOs , supervisors and other entities from a large number of European countries and beyond. This is a unique opportunity to generate new contacts and future successful collaborations in the actual and upcoming MSCA calls.

Using this platform, you will be able to publish your company profile and offer your hosting arrangements to attract **Postdoctoral Fellows** and **Doctoral Candidates**. The MSCA Matchmaking platform will help you to find your **partners** for Doctoral Networks, Staff Exchanges, COFUND and MSCA and CITIZENS proposals. Don't forget to include your **Marketplace** in your profile!.



THE MATCHMAKING PLATFORM IN 3 STEPS

REGISTER - INCLUDE MARKETPLACE - BOOK MEETINGS

Register



in the MSCA
Matchmaking Platform

Marketplace



Project Idea,
Expertise
or Request

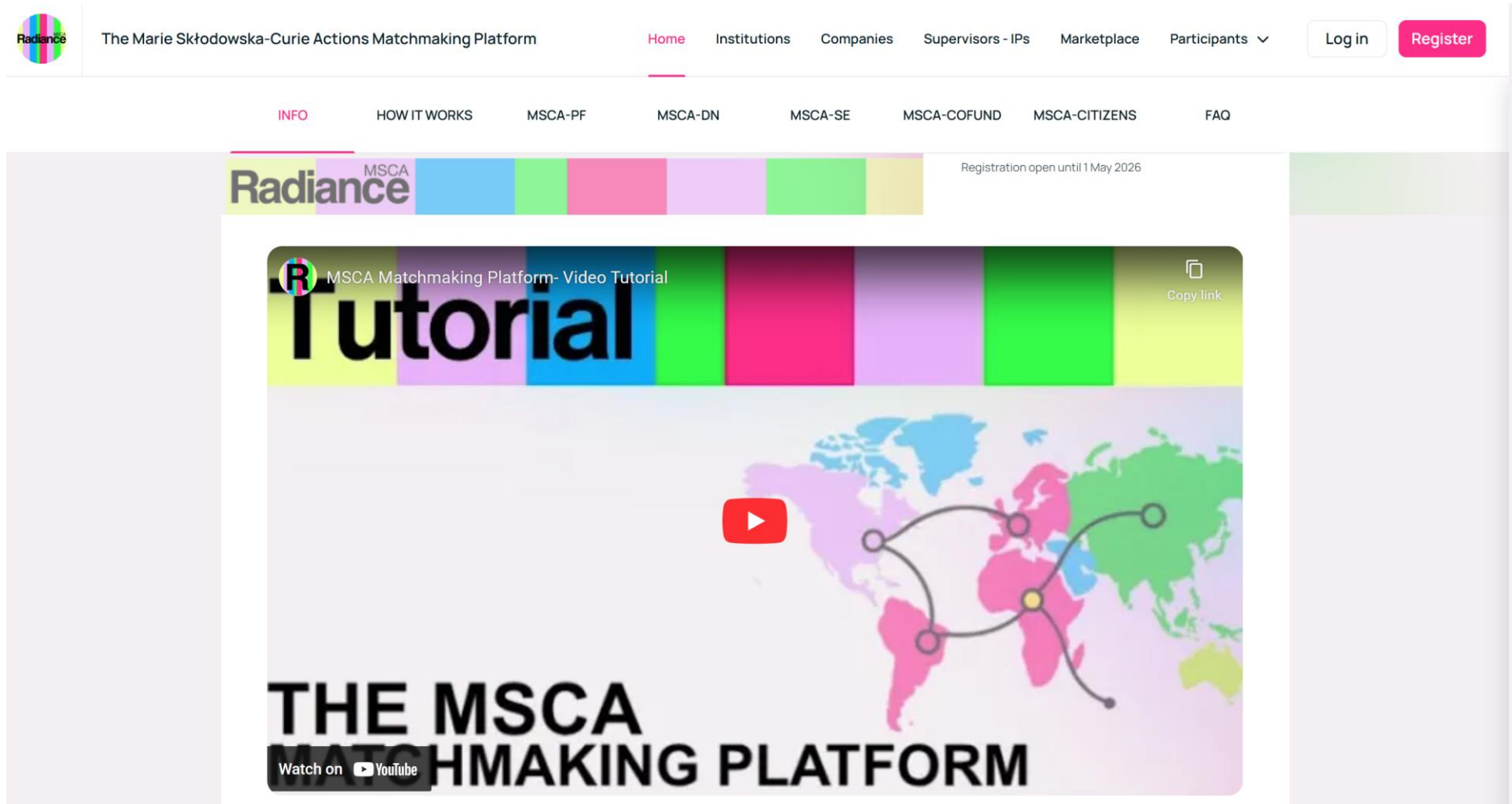
BOOK MEETINGS



Successful
Networking

MSCA Matchmaking Platform- Video Tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4KlpxAq84w>



The screenshot displays the MSCA Matchmaking Platform website. The header includes the 'Radiance' logo, the site title 'The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Matchmaking Platform', and navigation links: Home, Institutions, Companies, Supervisors - IPs, Marketplace, and Participants. A 'Log in' button and a pink 'Register' button are also present. Below the header, a secondary navigation bar lists categories: INFO, HOW IT WORKS, MSCA-PF, MSCA-DN, MSCA-SE, MSCA-COFUND, MSCA-CITIZENS, and FAQ. The main content area features a video player for the 'MSCA Matchmaking Platform- Video Tutorial'. The video thumbnail shows the word 'Tutorial' in large letters, a world map with connecting lines, and the text 'THE MSCA MATCHMAKING PLATFORM'. A 'Watch on YouTube' button is at the bottom left of the video frame. A 'Copy link' button is at the top right of the video frame. A banner at the top of the video area reads 'Registration open until 1 May 2026'.

Radiance MSCA

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Matchmaking Platform

Home Institutions Companies Supervisors - IPs Marketplace Participants

Log in Register

INFO HOW IT WORKS MSCA-PF MSCA-DN MSCA-SE MSCA-COFUND MSCA-CITIZENS FAQ

Registration open until 1 May 2026

R MSCA Matchmaking Platform- Video Tutorial

Tutorial

Copy link

THE MSCA MATCHMAKING PLATFORM

Watch on YouTube



5. Staff Exchanges

Proposal submission &
evaluation

MSCA Staff Exchanges 2026

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01-01

Topic

Call for proposal

Internal navigation

General information
Topic description
Topic updates
Destination
Conditions and documents
Budget overview
Partner search announcements
Start submission
Topic Q&As
Get support

General information

Programme

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Call

MSCA Staff Exchanges 2026 (HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01)

Type of action

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-SE HORIZON TMA MSCA Staff Exchanges

Type of MGA

HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

Open For Submission

Deadline model

single-stage

Opening date

16 December 2025

Deadline date

16 April 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

Topic description

Expected Outcome:

Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For staff members

How to start submitting your proposal

 **EU Funding & Tenders Portal**

Home

Funding

Procurement

Projects & results

News & events

Work as an expert

Guidance & documents

Search...

Q

1

Sign in

EN

Partner search announcements

43

Searches of partners to collaborate on this topic

View / Edit

LEARs, Account Administrators or self-registrants can publish partner requests for open and forthcoming topics after logging into this Portal, as well as any user having an active public Person profile.

Start submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the corresponds to your proposal. You will then be asked to confirm your choice, as it cannot be changed to the correct entry point.

To access existing draft proposals for this topic, please login to the Funding & Tenders Portal and

Please select the type of your submission:

☒ HORIZON TMA MSCA Staff Exchanges [HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-SE], HORIZON Unit Grant

Start submission

 **Funding: Submission Service**

Login

Topic selection

Create proposal

Participants

Proposal forms

Submit

Create proposal

Deadline

16 April 2026 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

26 days left until closure

Please submit your proposal at the latest 48 hours before the deadline (to avoid system congestion or system incompatibility issues). Late proposals will not be accepted. Don't wait until the end because you are worried about confidentiality – we will not open the proposals before the deadline.

You can submit the proposal as many times as you wish up until the deadline. Each new submitted version will replace the previous one.

Call data

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01

Topic: HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01-01

Type of action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-SE

Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG-UN

Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.

Find your organisation

PIC ¹ *

Short name ¹ *

Search

Organisations you have been previously associated with. (Click to select)

PIC: 987914058

UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES

KING MIHAIL IEROM TIRGOARA

CALEAPADULUI 110

Staff Exchanges – call 2026

For detailed information about the Staff Exchanges, including the eligibility conditions and implementation modalities, please check the corresponding sections in the [MSCA Work Programme](#) and the [dedicated Funding & Tenders portal page](#).

Additional useful information for applicants on the Staff Exchanges can be found in the:

[Info session recording and Q&A session \(3 March 2026\)](#)

- [Staff Exchanges Guide for Applicants 2026](#)
- [General annexes of the work programme](#)
- [Proposal template and instructions on how to fill it in](#)
- [6 steps to prepare your application for the 2026 Staff Exchanges call](#)
- Staff Exchanges informative flyer (coming soon)
- [MSCA specific evaluation forms used by the expert evaluators](#)
- [Specific FAQs for Staff Exchanges call 2026](#)

In order to help the REA select the appropriate expert evaluators whose expertise best matches your proposal, you will be asked to select [specific keywords](#) in the proposal template. These keywords should also be considered if your proposal includes interdisciplinary secondments following the instructions provided in the Guide for Applicants.

Any additional useful documents can be found on the [call page](#).

Access the [proposal online form](#) for all Staff Exchanges modalities (the link is available under ‘Start submission’ section).

[Discover more about MSCA Staff Exchanges from successful beneficiaries!](#)

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en#staff-exchanges--call-2026

6 steps to prepare your application

1. [Get familiar with how funding works](#)
2. [Make sure your organisation can apply and your staff is eligible to take part](#)
3. [Find the best partners to prepare your proposal](#)
4. [Start drafting your application](#)
5. [Check your application with your peers](#)
6. [Submit your application](#)

MSCA SE Proposal Evaluation: What Matters

EXCELLENCE (50%)

- Innovation
- Knowledge transfer
- Interdisciplinary approach

IMPACT (30%)

- Career development
- Partnerships
- Societal relevance

IMPLEMENTATION (20%)

- Work plan
- Secondments
- Risk management

Minimum threshold: 3/5 for each criterion

What Evaluators Expect

Excellence

- **Clear, innovative objectives**
- **Strong knowledge transfer**
- **Interdisciplinary & intersectoral approach**

What Evaluators Expect

Impact

- **Career development of staff**
- **Long-term partnerships**
- **Scientific, societal & economic **relevance****

What Evaluators Expect

Implementation

- **Coherent work plan** (WPs, deliverables)
- **Balanced secondments**
- **Risk management & governance**



Evaluator Reality



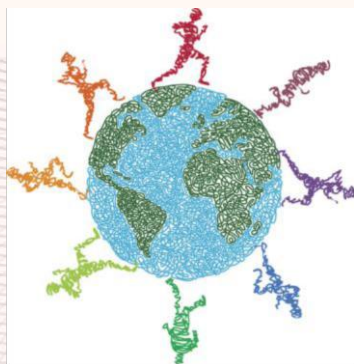
Weak proposals = *mobility without knowledge transfer*



Strong proposals = *knowledge ecosystems with mobility as a tool*

Evaluation

Formula for Staff Exchanges success stories



$$= (E + I) \text{Impact}$$

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

How to Build a Winning Proposal



- Align **objectives + methodology + secondments**
- Demonstrate **real knowledge exchange** (2-way, measurable)
- Ensure **strong consortium balance** (EU + TC + industry)
- Provide **measurable impact & dissemination strategy**
- Demonstrate **long-term collaboration** potential

👉 *Key formula:* **Excellence × Implementation → Impact**

Top Mistakes to Avoid



- ✗ Mobility with no real knowledge transfer
- ✗ Weak intersectoral dimension
- ✗ Unbalanced secondments
- ✗ Vague impact
- ✗ No long-term vision

👉 *“If your secondments can be removed without affecting the project, your proposal will not be funded.”*

Secondments: What Is Really Eligible

Core Rules

- ✓ 1–12 months (can be split)
- ✓ Full-time commitment
- ✓ **Return to sending institution**

Geographical Rules

- ✓ Must be **international mobility**
- ✓ **Between different countries**



Secondments: What Is Really Eligible



● CRITICAL RULE

✗ NO secondments between two non-associated third countries

Sectoral Rules

✓ **Intersectoral** (academic ↔ non-academic strongly encouraged)

Evaluator Lens

👉 Not mobility → **structured knowledge transfer**



Strategic Tips



- Choose panel & keywords **strategically**
- Highlight the **EU dimension**
- Ensure **coherence & realism**
- Get **external feedback** (NCP, peers)

Key Takeaway

👉 MSCA Staff Exchanges are not just mobility — they are a **strategic gateway for China** to:

- Integrate into European **excellence**
- Accelerate **innovation** capacity

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

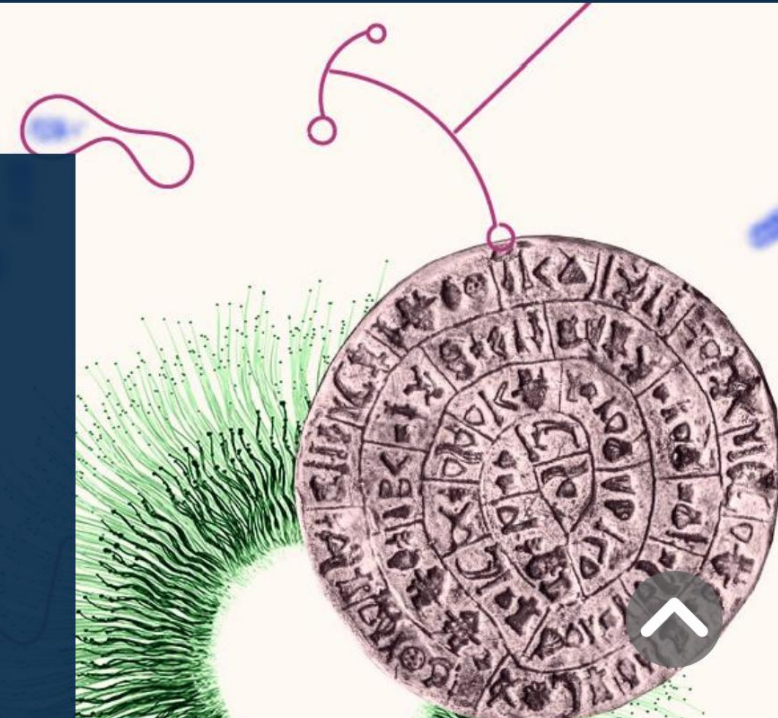
Developing talents, advancing research

[Home](#)[About
MSCA](#) ▼[Actions](#) ▼[Funding](#) ▼[Jobs](#)[Resources](#) ▼[What's
new](#) ▼[Science is
Wonderful!](#)[30 years of
MSCA](#)

You are here: [Home](#)

Supporting excellence in research and innovation

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions are the European Union's reference programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training.

[Discover the MSCA](#)

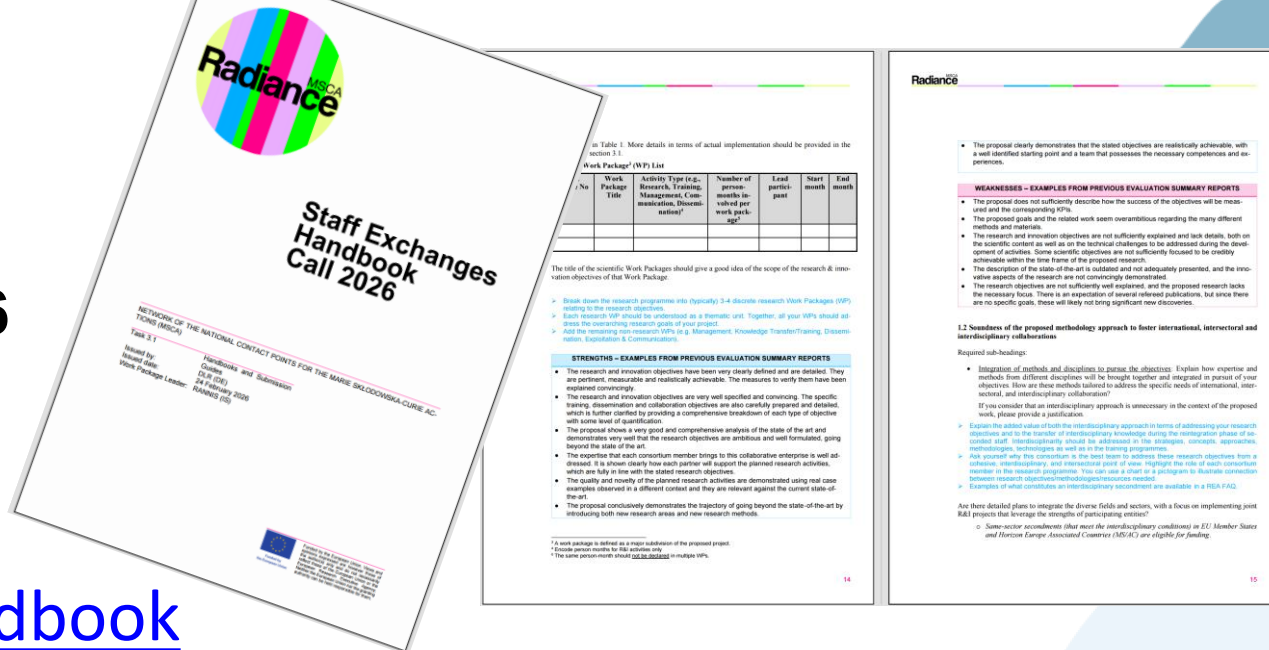
Q&A session on the MSCA Staff Exchanges call 2026

European Research Executive Agency (REA), 03.03.26 (Online)

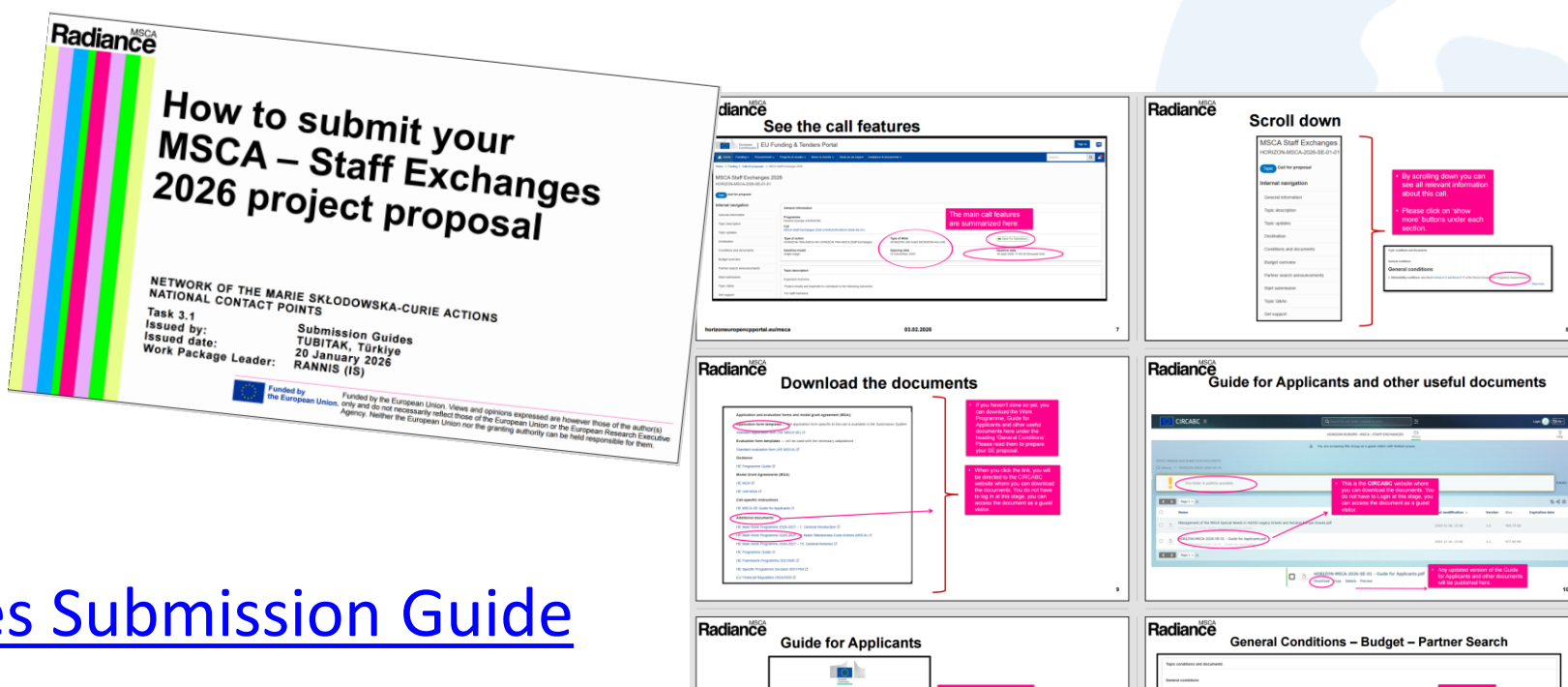
- You can access the session here : [Q&A session: MSCA Staff Exchanges call 2026 - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/event/qa-session-msca-staff-exchanges-call-2026)
- <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/event/qa-session-msca-staff-exchanges-call-2026>
- On that page you can also **watch the pre-recorded info session** and learn more about the key features of Staff Exchanges, familiarise yourself with the application process and access insightful tips to help you draft proposals:
 - Introduction and policy context
 - 2026 Call and novelties
 - Evaluation process
 - Proposal submission
 - Tips for a good proposal
 - Open Science
 - Ethics
 - Conclusion and Q&A

RADIANCE Staff Exchanges 2026 Handbook & Submission Guide

RADIANCE Staff Exchanges Handbook



RADIANCE Staff Exchanges Submission Guide



MSCA CALL CALENDAR 2026

16 Dec MSCA COFUND 2026 08 Apr

16 Dec MSCA SE 2026 16 Apr

09 Apr MSCA PF 2026 09 Sep

28 May MSCA DN 2026 24 Nov



2026





MSCA CALL CALENDAR 2027

08 Dec MSCA CHOOSE EUROPE 2027 06 Apr

08 Dec MSCA COFUND 2027 06 Apr

15 Dec MSCA SE 2027 15 Apr

09 Mar MSCA & Citizens 08 Jun

07 Apr MSCA PF 2027 08 Sep

26 May MSCA DN 2027 23 Nov



2027

[Calls for proposals](#)

[Participant register](#)

[Partner search](#)

[EU programmes](#)

[Funding updates](#)

[Horizon4Ukraine](#)



© Adobe Stock and Envato

Discover the funding & tenders opportunities

Find out how to participate by following [these key steps](#).

Find calls for proposals

Explore the available EU funding opportunities by searching for calls for proposals within your topics of interest, find partners and submit a proposal.

Find calls for tenders

Find business opportunities in the calls for tenders managed by EU institutions, bodies and agencies.

View projects and results

Browse through EU funded projects and learn about the results. Invest in opportunities and get inspired by the highlights and success stories.

Work as an expert

Proposals and projects need evaluations, monitoring and domain-specific knowledge advice from experts.



Guidance & manuals

Reference documents

How to participate

FAQ

Helpdesk & support

SME Self-assessment tool

Videos

Guidance & documents

© Adobe Stock and Envato



Discover the funding & tenders opportunities

Find out how to participate by following [these key steps](#).

Find calls for proposals

Explore the available EU funding opportunities by searching for calls for proposals within your topics of interest, find partners and submit a proposal.

Find calls for tenders

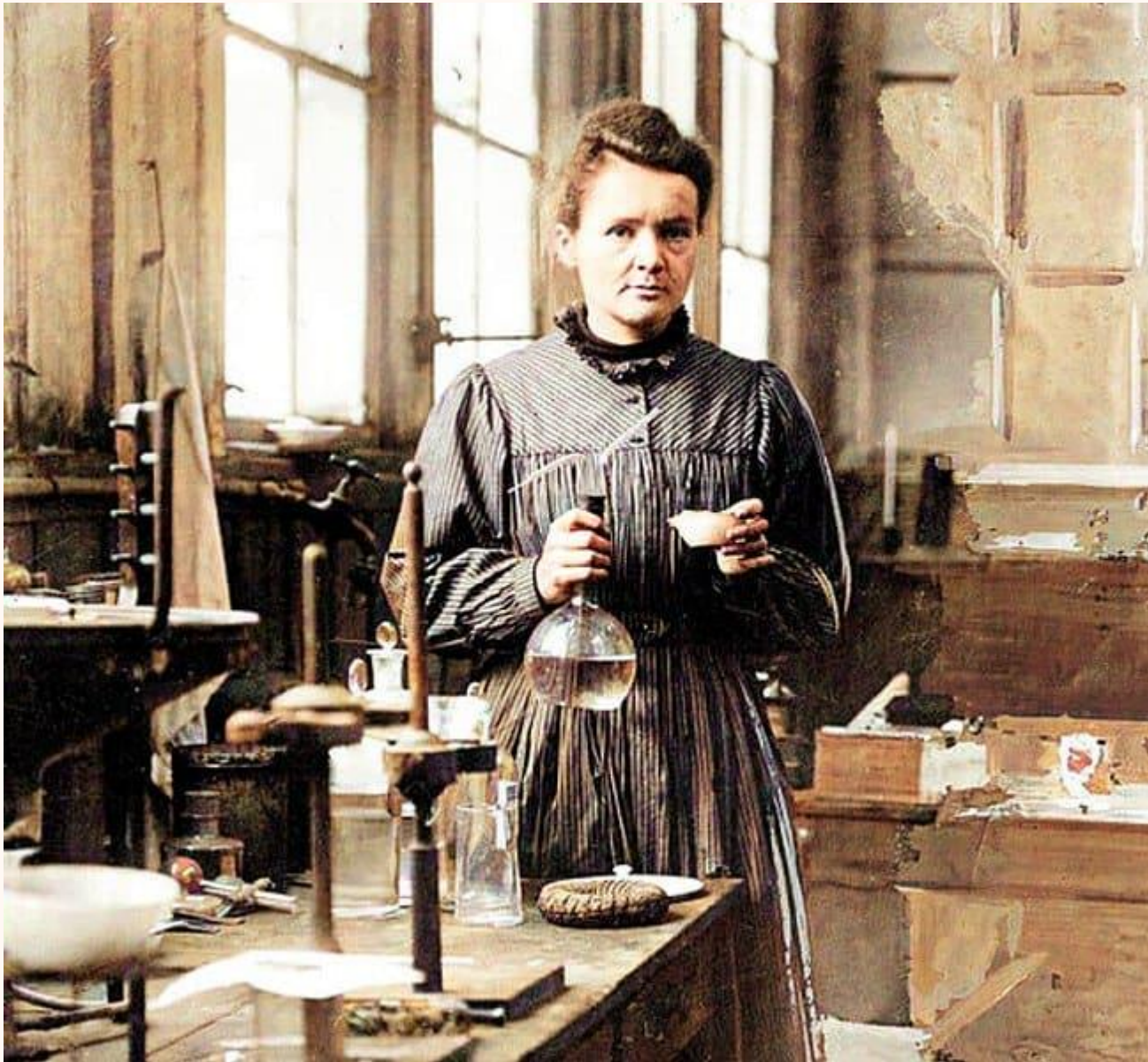
Find business opportunities in the calls for tenders managed by EU institutions, bodies and agencies.

View projects and results

Browse through EU funded projects and learn about the results. Invest in opportunities and get inspired by the highlights and success stories.

Work as an expert

Proposals and projects need evaluations, monitoring and domain-specific knowledge advice from experts.



*“Nothing in
life is
to be feared;
it is only
to be
understood”*

Marie Skłodowska-Curie



Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Corina Georgeta BARNA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions National Contact Point
University of Life Sciences "King Mihai I" from Timișoara