



Synergies to fuel Researchers' Careers
Luxembourg, 10 – 11 December 2015

organised by  Fonds National de la
Recherche Luxembourg

11 December 2015 – Plenary Session

New elements in MSCA-COFUND under Horizon 2020

Dr Julie SAINZ

Directorate General for Education And Culture

- European Commission -



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COFUND Objective

➤ WHAT?

To stimulate excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development, spreading the best practices of Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

➤ HOW?

Through co-funding of new or existing regional, national, and international programmes which foster excellence in researcher's training and career development.

Programmes shall promote international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility, while providing open recruitment and attractive working conditions.



Exploit synergies between EU actions and regional, national and international programmes

⇒ **leverage funding and combat fragmentation** in terms of objectives, evaluation methods and working conditions **and thereby help structure the ERA**

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COFUND :

Main new elements under H2020

- **COFUND Doctoral Programmes**
- **Use of unit costs for EU contribution to living allowance + management costs**
- **Synergies with European Structural and Investment Funds**



COFUND Doctoral Programmes

- a few specificities -

➤ Training follows the **EU PRINCIPLES ON INNOVATIVE DOCTORAL TRAINING**, in addition to those set in the Charter & Code



EUROPEAN CHARTER FOR RESEARCHERS & CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF RESEARCHERS



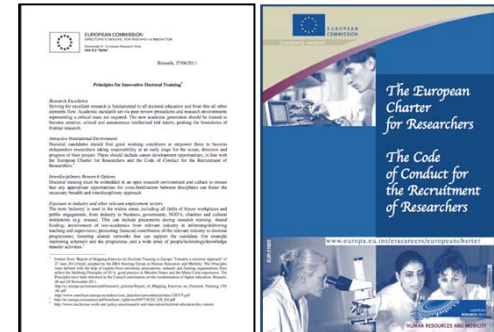
INNOVATIVE DOCTORAL TRAINING

- Research excellence
- Attractive Institutional Environment
- Interdisciplinary Research Options
- Exposure to industry and other relevant employment sectors
- International networking
- Transferable skills training
- Quality Assurance



COFUND Doctoral Programmes - a few specificities -

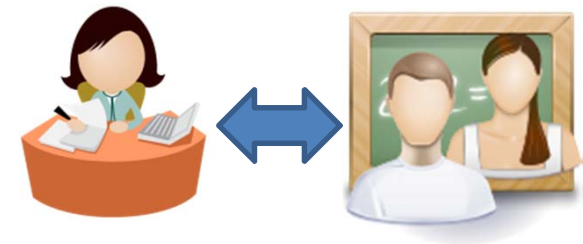
➤ Training follows the **EU PRINCIPLES ON INNOVATIVE DOCTORAL TRAINING**, in addition to those set in the Charter & Code



➤ Each ESR must be **ENROLLED IN A DOCTORAL PROGRAMME**



➤ Qualitative and quantitative **SUPERVISION, MENTORING ARRANGEMENTS** and **CAREER GUIDANCE**

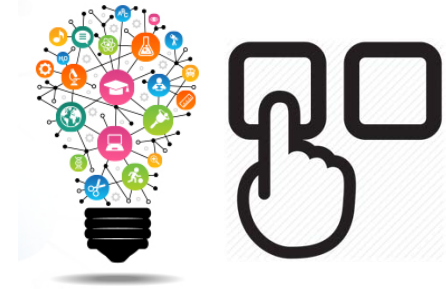


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COFUND Doctoral Programmes - a few specificities -

- ESR should be **able to CHOOSE THE TOPIC OF THEIR PHD PROJECT** to a certain extent
- Must provide for a call with a **SELECTION PROCEDURE TO BE OPEN, TRANSPARENT, MERIT-BASED**, impartial and equitable, with **vacancies internationally advertised** and published (*incl. on EURAXESS Jobs website*)
- Measures to ensure **GENDER BALANCE** among the recruited researchers
- Collaboration with **A WIDE SET OF PARTNERS, includ. from the non-academic sector**



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MSCA COFUND Award Criteria

EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	IMPLEMENTATION
Quality of the SELECTION / RECRUITMENT PROCESS for the researchers	Enhancing research- and innovation-related HUMAN RESOURCES, SKILLS AND WORKING CONDITIONS to realise the potential of individuals and to PROVIDE NEW CAREER PERSPECTIVES	Overall COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND APPROPRIATENESS of the WORK PLAN
Quality of the RESEARCH OPTIONS offered by the programme	Impact of the programme on ALIGNING PRACTICES at participating organisations WITH PRINCIPLES SET OUT BY THE EU FOR THE HR DEVELOPMENT IN R&I	APPOINTMENT CONDITIONS of researchers
Quality of CAREER GUIDANCE AND TRAINING	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for COMMUNICATION and RESULTS DISSEMINATION of the programmes	COMPETENCE of the participant TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMME
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		



COFUND 2014 Call for proposals

Doctoral Programmes (DP) & Fellowship Programmes (FP)

- 101 proposals **Received** (DP=49 ; FP=52)
- 90 proposals **Evaluated** (DP=43; FP=47)
- 66 proposals **Above Threshold** (DP=31; FP=35)
- 23 proposals **on Main List** (DP=11; FP=12)

Number of projects to be financed:

22 projects from Main List (1 Withdrawal)
+ 3 projects from Reserve List

25 projects (DP=12; FP=13)

Success Rate
≈ 27%

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EU Contribution via Unit Costs: Advantages for Beneficiaries

**Simplification of financial
projections**

Easier Application Preparation

**Simplified Reporting
Requirements**

Shorter Time To Grant



**UNIT COST
Person/Month**

**Decreased Administrative
and Financial Workload
during Implementation**



EU Contribution: What does it co-fund?



LIVING ALLOWANCE:

- EU contribution under an employment contract (or other direct contract with equivalent benefits, incl. social security)

Early-stage researchers (DP): €1885 per person/month

Experienced researchers (FP): € 2625 per person/month

- EU contribution under a fixed-amount-fellowship agreement*

Early-stage researchers (DP): €942.5 per person/month

Experienced researchers(FP): € 1312.5 per person/month



MANAGEMENT COSTS

- EU contribution

(DP & FP): €325 per person/month

* Researchers must be offered employment contracts or other direct contracts with equivalent benefits, including full social security coverage. Fixed-amounts fellowships would only be allowed in exceptional cases, where the national law would prohibit employment contracts.



Key Requirements for receiving EU contribution



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COFUND



+



MINIMUM REMUNERATION (incl. EU Contribution) for [LIVING ALLOWANCE + MOBILITY ALLOWANCE]

- under an employment contract
(or other direct contract with equivalent benefits, incl. social security)

Early-stage researchers (DP): €2597 per person/month

Experienced researchers (FP): € 3675 per person/month

- under a fixed-amount-fellowship agreement

Early-stage researchers (DP): €1298.5 per person/month

Experienced researchers (FP): € 1837.5 per person/month



OTHER COSTS

(i.a. Research Costs, Training and Networking Costs,
Mobility allowance, Family Allowance, Indirect Costs)



Some Key Financial Requirements for receiving EU contribution



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COFUND



+



MINIMUM REMUNERATION (incl. EU Contribution) for
[LIVING ALLOWANCE + MOBILITY ALLOWANCE]

• **under an employment contract**

(or other direct contract with equivalent benefits, incl. social security)

Early-stage researchers (DP): **€2597** per person/month

Experienced researchers (FP): **€ 3675** per person/month

• **under a fixed-amount-fellowship agreement**

(DP): **€1298.5** per person/month

(FP): **€ 1837.5** per person/month



**Other EU funds than
H2020 (e.g. ESIF)**

OTHER COSTS

(i.a. Research Costs, Training and Networking Costs,
Mobility allowance, Family Allowance, Indirect Costs)



Synergies MSCA COFUND & European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

WHAT FOR?

- To support regional and national policies for internationalisation of human resources in research (incoming and outgoing mobility)
- To support programmes that prioritise specific scientific disciplines based on smart specialisation strategies (RIS3).



Synergies MSCA COFUND & European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Example 1

An organisation wants to run a fellowship programme open to both mobile and non-mobile researchers.

- MSCA COFUND can be used to co-fund the living allowance and management costs relating to the **mobile researchers**.
- ESIF can be used to co-fund the **non-mobile researchers**.



Synergies MSCA COFUND & European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Example 2

- ESIF funds (ERDF) are used to build a **new large research infrastructure**.
- MSCA COFUND fellowships are used **to attract researchers** to work within the new infrastructure.



Synergies MSCA COFUND & European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Example 3

- For a doctoral programme run by a University, MSCA pays the agreed standard-unit cost per researcher-month (for **living allowance** and **management cost**).
- The University can apply for ESIF to cover *i.a.* **research, travel, training and networking costs (ESF)** related to the doctoral programme (but not covered by the MSCA action), provided that all ESIF rules are respected.



Synergies MSCA COFUND & European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)



- **Guide on synergies ESIF/H2020/other R&I EU programmes** (e.g. ESIF <->MSCA-COFUND)

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/synergy/synergies_en.pdf

- **Operational Programmes** prepared by each **Member State** and/or region:

-financed under the **ERDF** or the **Cohesion Fund**

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/atlas/programmes/

-financed under the **ESF**

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=576&langId=en>



Synergies MSCA COFUND & European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

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Programmes

Summaries of the Operational Programmes adopted by the European Commission at the beginning of a programming period can be found below. The programmes are prepared by each Member State and/or region, and financed under the European Regional Development Fund or the Cohesion Fund. For European Social Fund (ESF) programmes, please visit the ESF site.

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Keywords:

Period: 2014-2020

Country: [all countries / all regions]

Region: [all regions]

Type: [all types]

Theme: [all themes]

Thematic Objective: TO1 - Research and innovation

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Programme description

Main objectives

The Programme aims to add value to wider investment programmes so that together they can support sustainable jobs and growth in the West Wales and the Valleys region of Wales and contribute to the delivery of the Europe 2020 targets for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The programme aims to focus on specific structural weaknesses as well as targeting specific growth opportunities. There is particular focus on providing the right conditions for the private sector to invest across Wales, building on the area's specific strengths.

Funding priorities

The Programme will focus on four main priorities:

- Research and Innovation
- SME competitiveness
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
- Connectivity and Urban Development

Some of the expected results

- Increased research funding (including business expenditure) coming into Wales and increased commercialisation of research by Welsh SMEs
- Increased birth rate of SMEs, increased employment growth in SMEs, increased take-up of NGA broadband by SMEs, and reduced gaps in access to finance for SMEs
- Increased installed capacity of marine energy in Wales, increased numbers of small renewable energy schemes, and improved energy efficiency of households facing severe fuel poverty
- Improved travel times, improved public transport connections to employment centres, near-completed ICT networks, and increased local employment in urban areas

Managing authorities

Welsh European Funding Office
Welsh Government, Rhydycar,
CF48 1UZ Merthyr Tydfil
+44 845 010 3355
enquiries-wefo@wales.gsi.gov.uk
<http://wefo.wales.gov.uk>

Regions

- > West Wales & The Valleys

Funds

- > ERDF: 1,203,510,449.00 €

Thematic priorities

- > T1 - Technical Assistance
- > **TO1 - Research and innovation**
- > TO2 - Information and communication technologies
- > TO3 - SMEs competitiveness
- > TO4 - Low-carbon economy
- > TO7 - Transport and energy networks

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index.cfm/en/atlas/programmes/

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Next Call for Proposals

COFUND 2016 CALL

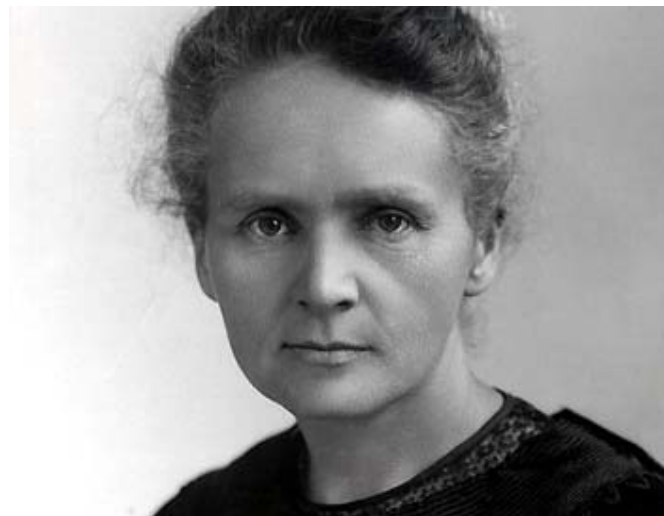
14/04/2016 – 29/09/2016

Budget: EUR 80 million



Thank you for your attention!

<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>



« Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. »

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