New elements in MSCA-COFUND
under Horizon 2020

Dr Julie SAINZ
Directorate General for Education And Culture
- European Commission -
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
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
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**
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXCELLENCE</th>
<th>IMPACT</th>
<th>IMPLEMENTATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality of the <strong>SELECTION / RECRUITMENT PROCESS</strong> for the researchers</td>
<td>Enhancing research- and innovation-related <strong>HUMAN RESOURCES, SKILLS AND WORKING CONDITIONS</strong> to realise the potential of individuals and to <strong>PROVIDE NEW CAREER PERSPECTIVES</strong></td>
<td>Overall <strong>COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND APPROPRIATENESS</strong> of the <strong>WORK PLAN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of the <strong>RESEARCH OPTIONS</strong> offered by the programme</td>
<td>Impact of the programme on <strong>ALIGNING PRACTICES</strong> at participating organisations <strong>WITH PRINCIPLES SET OUT BY THE EU FOR THE HR DEVELOPMENT IN R&amp;I</strong></td>
<td><strong>APPOINTMENT CONDITIONS of researchers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of <strong>CAREER GUIDANCE AND TRAINING</strong></td>
<td>Effectiveness of the proposed measures for <strong>COMMUNICATION and RESULTS DISSEMINATION</strong> of the programmes</td>
<td><strong>COMPETENCE of the participant TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAMME</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>50%</strong></td>
<td><strong>30%</strong></td>
<td><strong>20%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Weighting</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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%
EU Contribution via Unit Costs: Advantages for Beneficiaries

- Simplification of financial projections
- Easier Application Preparation
- Simplified Reporting Requirements
- Shorter Time To Grant
- 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)
- EU contribution under a fixed-amount-fellowship agreement*

Early-stage researchers (DP): €1885 per person/month
Experienced researchers (FP): €2625 per person/month

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**

**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

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

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

- Operational Programmes prepared by each Member State and/or region:
  - financed under the ERDF or the Cohesion Fund
  - financed under the ESF
Synergies MSCA COFUND & European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

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. »

Visit our Facebook page!

facebook.com/ Marie.Curie.Actions