

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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building your career in Europe  
*(but not only)*

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SoAIR 2019 – Shonan Village, Japan  
2019-03-23





# About me

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Sapienza,  
University of Rome



University of  
Liverpool



Fraunhofer Institut  
IAIS



PhD



Postdoc  
Scientific Manager



Research Scholar



JACOBS  
UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor  
*current*

# About me

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Marie-Curie  
**Research Training Network**  
2007-2010



# About me

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## **Towards Intelligent Cognitive Autonomous Underwater Vehicles TIC-AUV**

Marie Skłodowska Curie  
**Individual (Global) Fellowship**  
2017-2018

# About me

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- **Founder and director Kosmo Strategio Ltd.**
- **Activities:**
  - Proposal writing
  - Project management
  - Project reporting
  - Training activities



Worked with 64 organisations from 23 countries

# What about you?

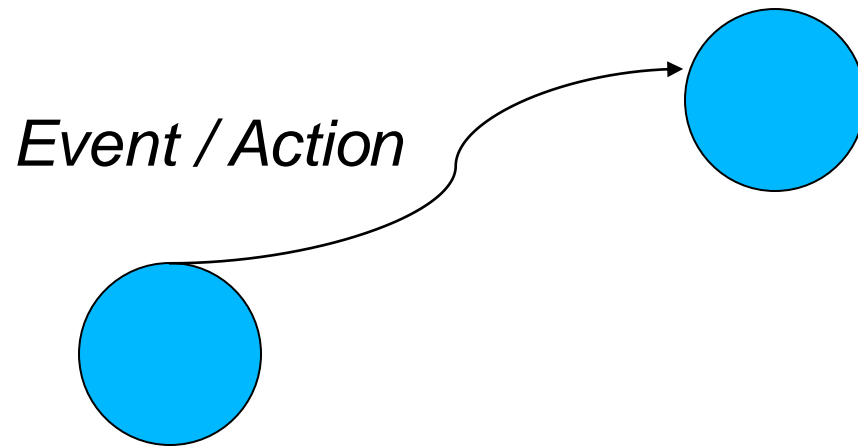
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- Where do you see yourself in three years' time?
  - Academia
  - R&D in Industry
  - Start-up
  - ...
- What is a common step?

# What about you?

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- What is a common step?



# Sales!

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- Interaction to convince somebody of:
  - Your skills (*technical, social, hard, soft, etc.*)
  - Your competences
- Your person!
  - Is it going to be successful?
  - Will it fit?
  - Will it deliver?



# What is the most important aspect?

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- The other person/entity!
- Analyse carefully the other's motivation, abilities, plans, etc.
- **First message:** what are they looking for?

# Why EU?

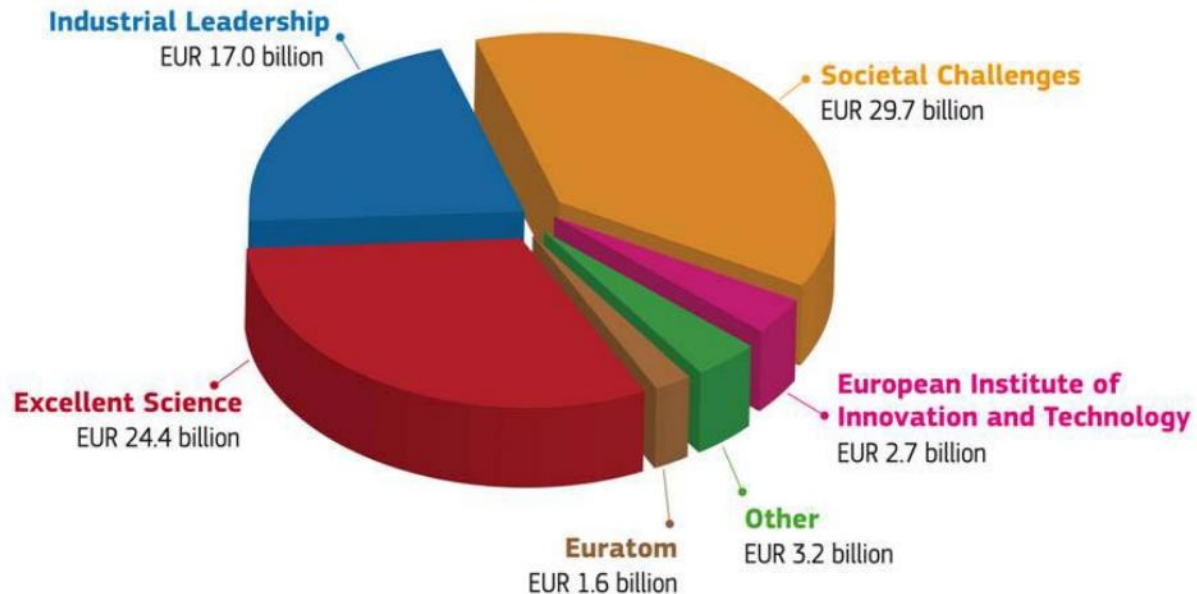
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- Second largest economy (after China)
- Attention to citizens' rights
- Peaceful place from World War II

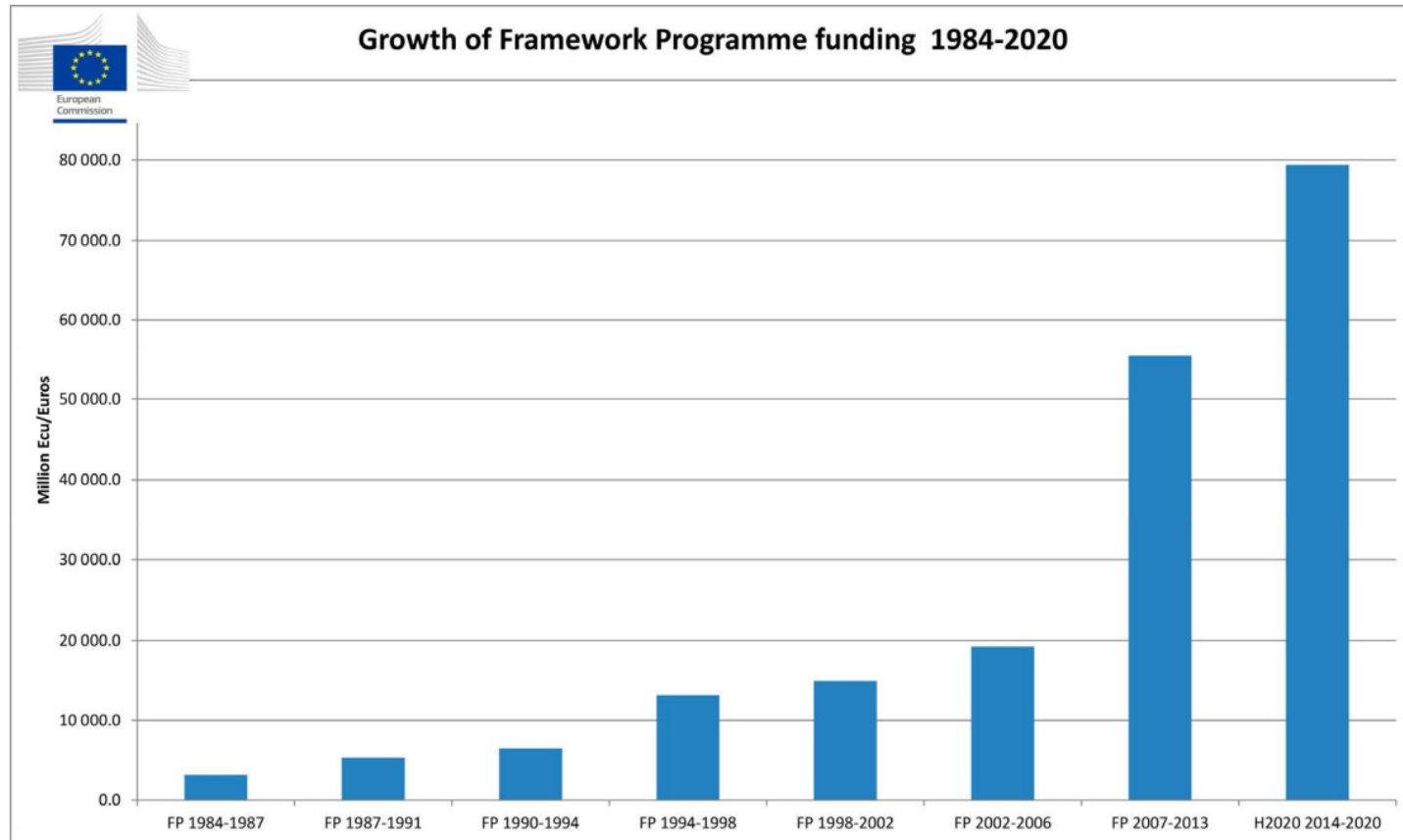


# EU-funded research

## HORIZON 2020 BUDGET (EUR 78.6 billion, current prices)



# EU-funded research



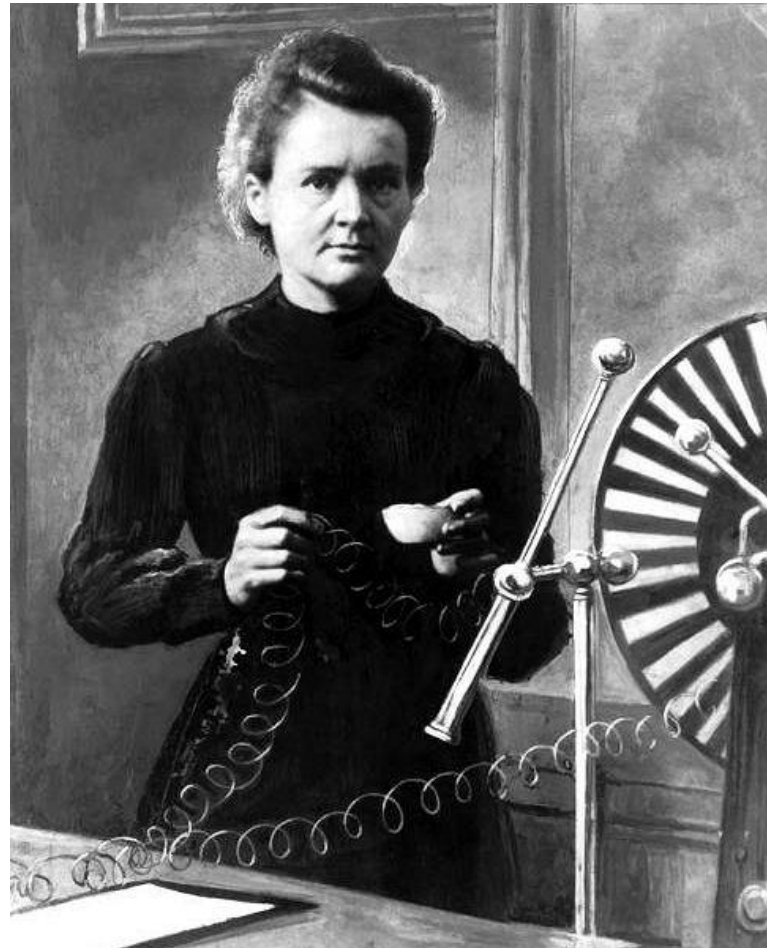
# Why MSCA?

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- General H2020 proposals requires a consortium of 3-15 partners  
→ *likely not something you will be involved shortly*
- **MSCA** provides opportunities also for individual researchers to write their own project proposal
- **First message?**

# Marie Skłodowska Curie

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# MSCA Actions

*(courtesy of EC)*



1. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in HORIZON 2020
  - IF: Individual Fellowships
  - RISE: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange
  - ITN: Innovative Training Networks
  - COFUND: Co-funding
2. Evaluation Process and Criteria of IF proposals
3. IF statistics
4. Working as an expert
5. Tips
6. Website





## MSCA in a nutshell...

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



### ITN Innovative Training Networks

#### What does it offer?

High-quality research training delivered through international and interdisciplinary networks, industrial doctorates or joint doctorates

#### Who applies?

International networks of research organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

#### Who is funded?

Researchers at doctoral level (less than four years of full-time research experience and no doctoral degree)



### IF Individual Fellowships

#### What does it offer?

Opportunities to work on personal research projects by moving between countries and possibly sectors to acquire new skills

#### Who applies?

Individual researchers together with the host organisation

#### Who is funded?

Postdoctoral researchers



### RISE Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

#### What does it offer?

The exchange of staff members involved in research and innovation to develop sustainable collaborative projects and the transfer of knowledge

#### Who applies?

International networks of research organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

#### Who is funded?

Researchers, technical, administrative and managerial staff of any nationality and at all career levels



### COFUND Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes

#### What does it offer?

Regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development

#### Who applies?

Organisations funding or managing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes

#### Who is funded?

Researchers at doctoral and postdoctoral level



# ELIGIBLE RESEARCHERS



## Early-Stage Researchers (ESR)

No PhD  
< 4 years of experience

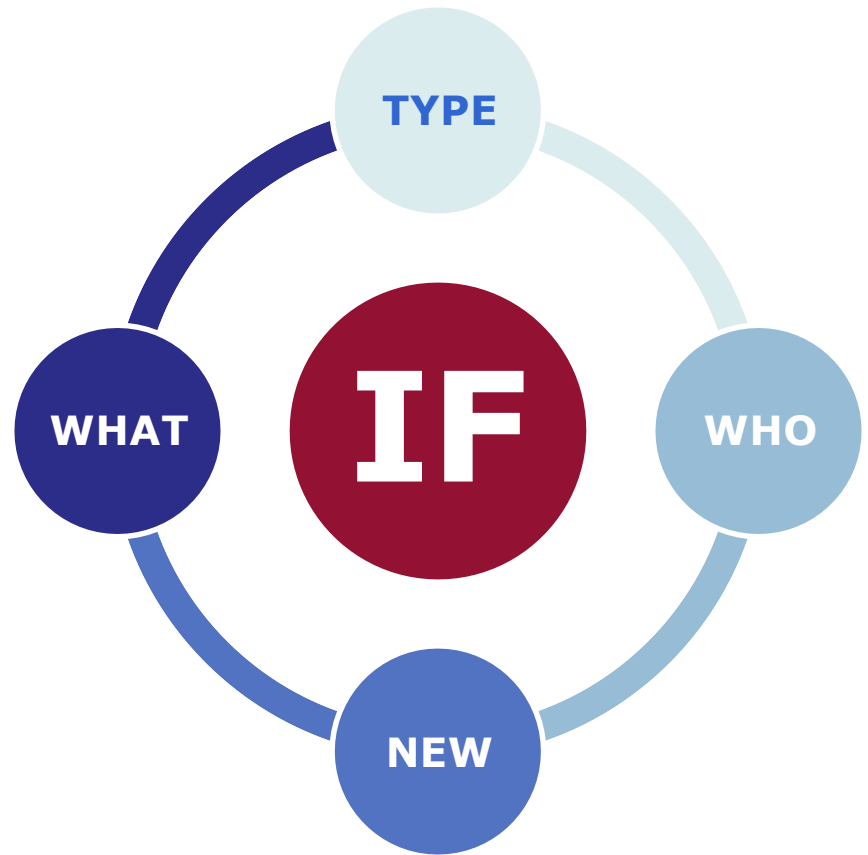
ITN RISE  
COFUND

## Experienced Researchers (ER)

PhD or  
≥ 4 years of experience

IF RISE  
COFUND

# INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS IF





## An IF project...

... is written by the experienced researcher;

... includes a concrete plan of training-through-research;

... implemented in the host organisation's premises;

... and under the direct Supervisor(s)' coordination.

## What are IFs?

- Individual **trans-national** fellowships to the best and most promising **experienced\*** researchers  
(\* PhD or 4-year full-time equivalent research experience)

### European Fellowships (EF)

Career  
Restart Panel  
(CAR)

Reintegration  
Panel (RI)

Society and  
Enterprise  
Panel (SE)

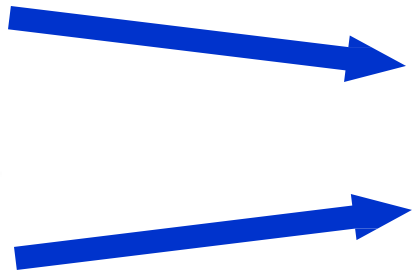
### Global Fellowships (GF)

- Secondments of 3 – 6 months in Europe (MS or AC), for greater impact
- Specific eligibility criteria
- Career development with an appropriate **inter-sectoral** dimension

**IF 2018**



**An Experienced Researcher may submit only one proposal to this call for proposals.**



**European Fellowships**

**For fellows coming to or moving within Europe (duration 12-24 months)**



**Global Fellowships**

**For fellows from Europe going to Third countries (12-24 months) returning to Europe (12 months)**



**Total duration 24-36 months**



**Member States (MS): 28 countries**

## **Associated Countries (AC):**

Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia -

**NEW!**

**Third Countries (TC): any other country**



## Academic

Public or private **Higher Education establishment** awarding academic degrees

Public or private **non-profit research organisations**

International **European interest** organisations



## Non-academic

**Broad definition:**

**Any socio-economic actor NOT included in the academic sector definition**



EU Validation Services ultimately determine the sector of every participating organisation



**Realistic and well-defined objectives in terms of career advancement or resuming a research career after a break.**

- **Training-through-research:** individual personalised action
- **Hands-on training activities** for developing **scientific** (new techniques, instruments) and **transferable skills** (proposal preparation, IPR management, task coordination, supervising & monitoring, exploitation of research results)
- **Inter-sectoral or interdisciplinary transfer of knowledge** (secondments)
- Organisation of **scientific/training/dissemination events**
- Communication, **outreach activities** and horizontal skills
- Training dedicated to **gender issues**



# MSCA IF Financial Aspects



Individual Fellowships	Researcher unit cost [person/month]			Institutional unit cost [person/month]	
	Living allowance*	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training & networking costs	Management & indirect costs
	4 880	600	500	800	650

***\*adjusted through the application of a country correction coefficient***

***EL: 88.7 %***

# MSCA IF Secondments



A transfer of knowledge which contributes significantly to the impact of the fellowship.

Fellowship Duration	Maximum duration of secondment
$\leq$ <b>18</b> months	<b>3</b> months
$>$ <b>18</b> months	<b>6</b> months

- Secondment should be clearly described in proposal
- Can be a single period or divided into multiple shorter periods
- Can be at more than one partner organisation located in Europe
- Can be to an institution in the same country as the beneficiary
- Can be in the same sector
- No letter of commitment needed
- Is different from **short visit** (e.g. field work), which can be done in a TC

# European Fellowships (EF) - Standard



**8 panels**

CHE

SOC

ECO

ENG

ENV

LIF

MAT

PHY

Incoming

Intra EU



**Not  
resided/worked/studied  
> 12 months  
in the 3 years  
immediately before call  
deadline, in the country of  
the beneficiary**



**Duration: between 12 and 24 months**

**CAR: up to 36 months**

## **Host Institution (future Beneficiary)**

- Location: MS or AC
- Sector: Academic or Non-academic
- Can be International European Interest Organisation (IEIO)
- Can be International Organisation (*exceptional cases*)
- Appoints the Supervisor
- Recruits the experienced researcher (contract of employment)

## **Researcher (future Fellow)**

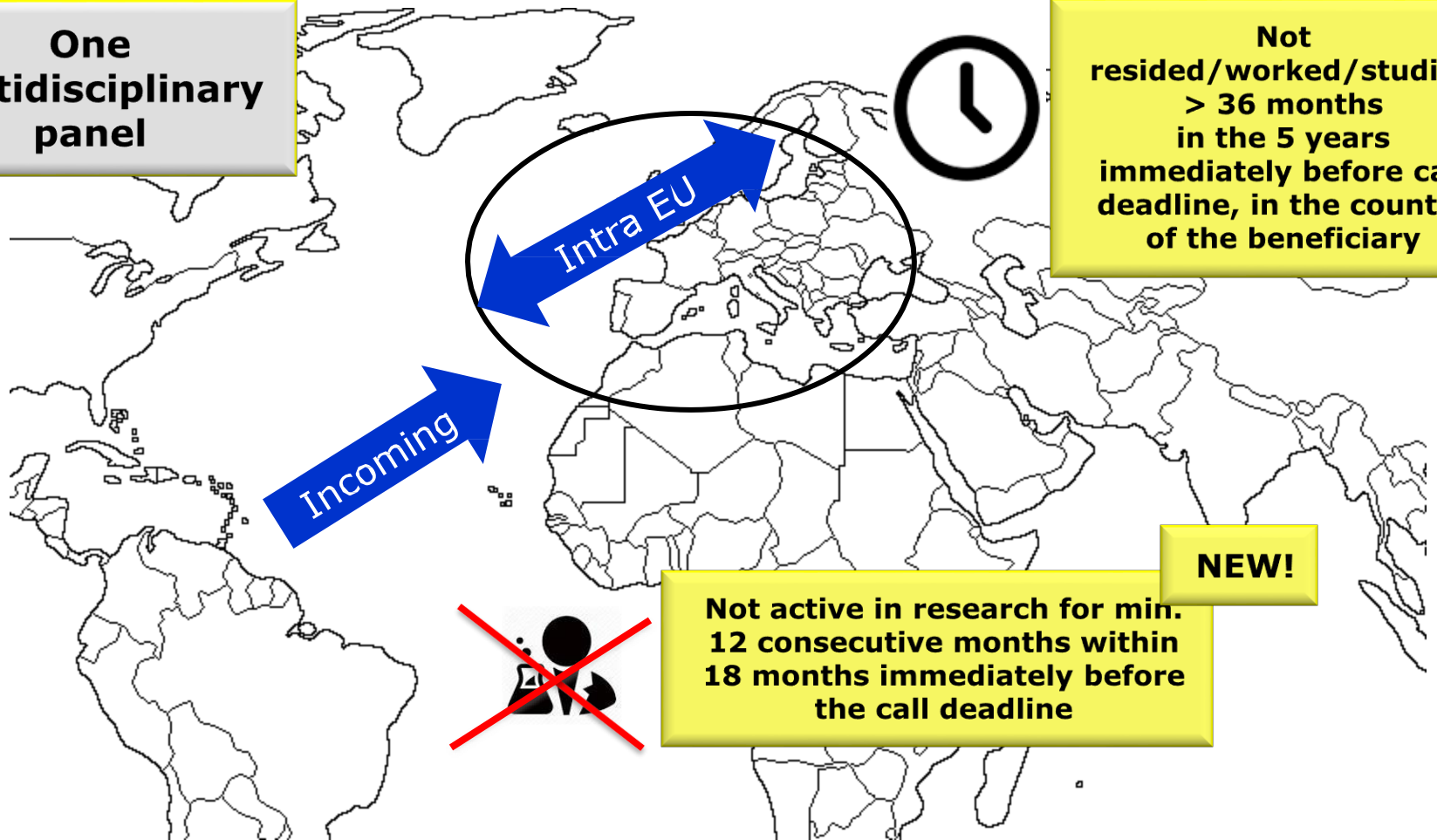
- Must undertake transnational mobility
- Can be of any nationality (with the exception of the Re-Integration panel)

# EF – Career Restart Panel



**One  
multidisciplinary  
panel**

**Not  
resided/worked/studied  
> 36 months  
in the 5 years  
immediately before call  
deadline, in the country  
of the beneficiary**



# EF – Career Restart Panel



## Definition of CAREER BREAK in research:

Not have been active in research for at least 12 consecutive months within the 18 months immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals (13/03/17 to 12/09/18).

active in research is determined on the basis of:

**A.fellowships in research domain or**

**B.employment contracts in research domain**

The **professional status** should be clearly explained in the proposal, **both in part A and B** (*e.g. unemployment, parental/sick leave, no fellowship/employment contract in research*)

# EF – Reintegration Panel



**One  
multidisciplinary  
panel**



**If not European,  
the researcher  
must have resided  
continuously at  
least 5  
consecutive years  
in Europe before  
leaving (long term  
residency)**

**Not  
resided/worked/studied  
> 36 months  
in the 5 years  
immediately before call  
deadline, in the country  
of the beneficiary**

**Researcher now returns to EU**  
**Researcher left EU**

**No minimum  
time spent  
outside EU**

# EF – Society & Enterprise Panel



Since 2016!

## Society & Enterprise Panel

- **Beneficiary ONLY** from **NON-ACADEMIC** sector
- **Mobility rule:** Not resided/worked/studied >36 months in the 5 years immediately before the call deadline, in the country of the beneficiary
- **Budget:** 8 million € (2018)

**THE MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS:**  
Individual Fellowships 'Society and Enterprise' Panel

VISIT US ON:

- Facebook
- QR code
- Our website
- Twitter
- QR code

**Host organisations from non-academic sector only** (e.g. businesses, civil society and government bodies)

**€10 million funding to boost participation**

**For experienced researchers - fellowships of 1-2 years**

**Call opens: 12/04/2016; Deadline: 14/09/2016**

**All domains of research and innovation are eligible for funding** (except areas of research covered by the Euratom treaty).

**Benefits for host organisations**

- Recruitment of highly skilled researchers;
- Employers costs included
- Transfer of cutting edge science and innovation into your organisation

**Benefits for researchers**

- Increase your career prospects outside academia through the acquisition of new skills and expertise
- 100% Funding
- Recognition of excellent science: MSCA funding is a prestigious award



# EF – Society & Enterprise Panel



**One  
multidisciplinary  
panel**

**Not  
resided/worked/studied  
> 36 months  
in the 5 years  
immediately before call  
deadline, in the country  
of the beneficiary**



**Intra EU**

**Incoming**

**Non-academic  
sector only**

# Global Fellowships



**8 panels**

CHE

SOC

ECO

ENG

ENV

LIF

MAT

PHY



**Not  
resided/worked/studied  
> 12 months  
in the 3 years  
immediately before the  
call deadline, in the  
country of the Third  
Country partner  
organisation (outgoing  
phase)**

**Phase 1 – outside of EU  
(up to 24 months)**

**Phase 2 – Researcher returns  
to EU (12 months)**

**If not European, the  
researcher must have  
worked in research at  
least 5 consecutive years  
in Europe before leaving  
(long term residency)**



**Duration: between 24 and 36 months**

***12-24 months initial outgoing phase in a in a Third Country +  
12 months of mandatory return phase***

## **Host Institution (future Beneficiary)**

**Same as in EF!**

- Location: MS or AC
- Sector: Academic or Non-academic
- Can be International European Interest Organisation (IEIO)
- Can be International Organisation (*exceptional cases*)
- Appoints the Supervisor
- Recruits the experienced researcher (contract of employment)



**DOES NOT sign the Grant Agreement**

**DOES NOT recruit the researcher**

**DOES NOT claim costs directly from the action**

## **Partner Organisation**

- Location: Third Country (not MS or AC)
- Sector: Academic or Non-academic
- Can be International Organisation
- Nominates a Supervisor for the researcher
- Provides a signed **Letter of Commitment** (in the proposal)

## RESEARCHER (future Fellow)

**Mobility:** from ANY country to the partner organisation in the Third Country

**Mobility rule:** not more than 36 months years in the last 5 years in the Third Country of the partner organisation

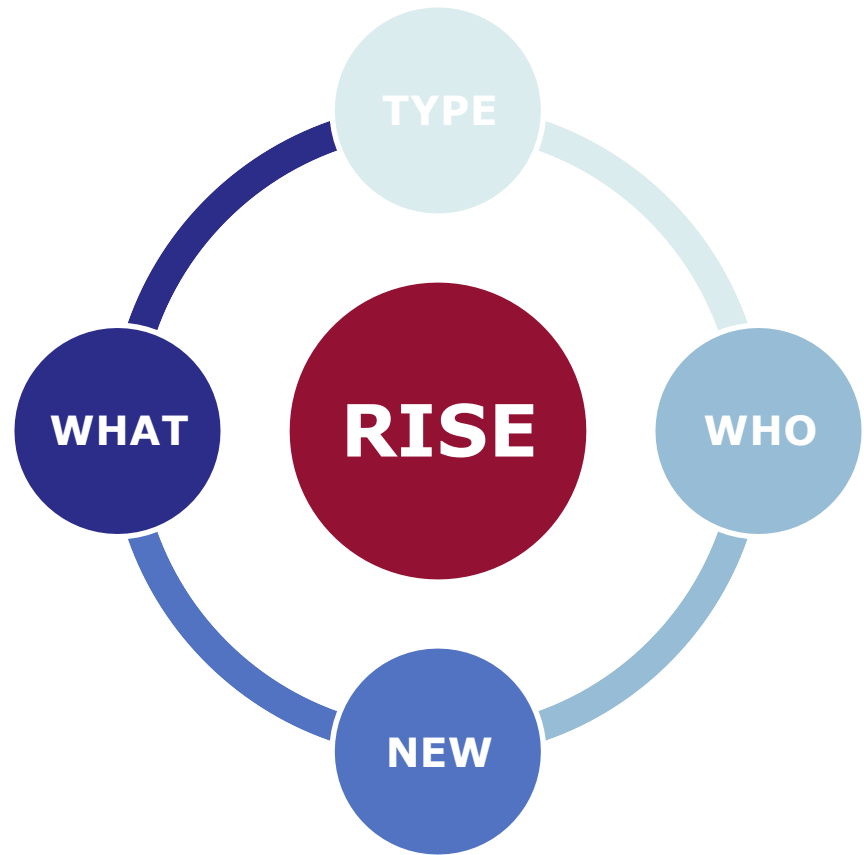
**Nationality:** national of MS/AC or long-term resident of a MS/AC

**!!!Under the direct supervision of two Supervisors!!!**

### Duration

Phase GF	Duration (months)
1. Outgoing to TC	12 - 24
2. Return to MS or AC	<b>12</b> (mandatory)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 - 36</b>

# RESEARCH & INNOVATION STAFF EXCHANGE



# RISE OBJECTIVES



## Partnership

- Academic and non-academic organisations
- Europe and the rest of the world



## Staff exchanges

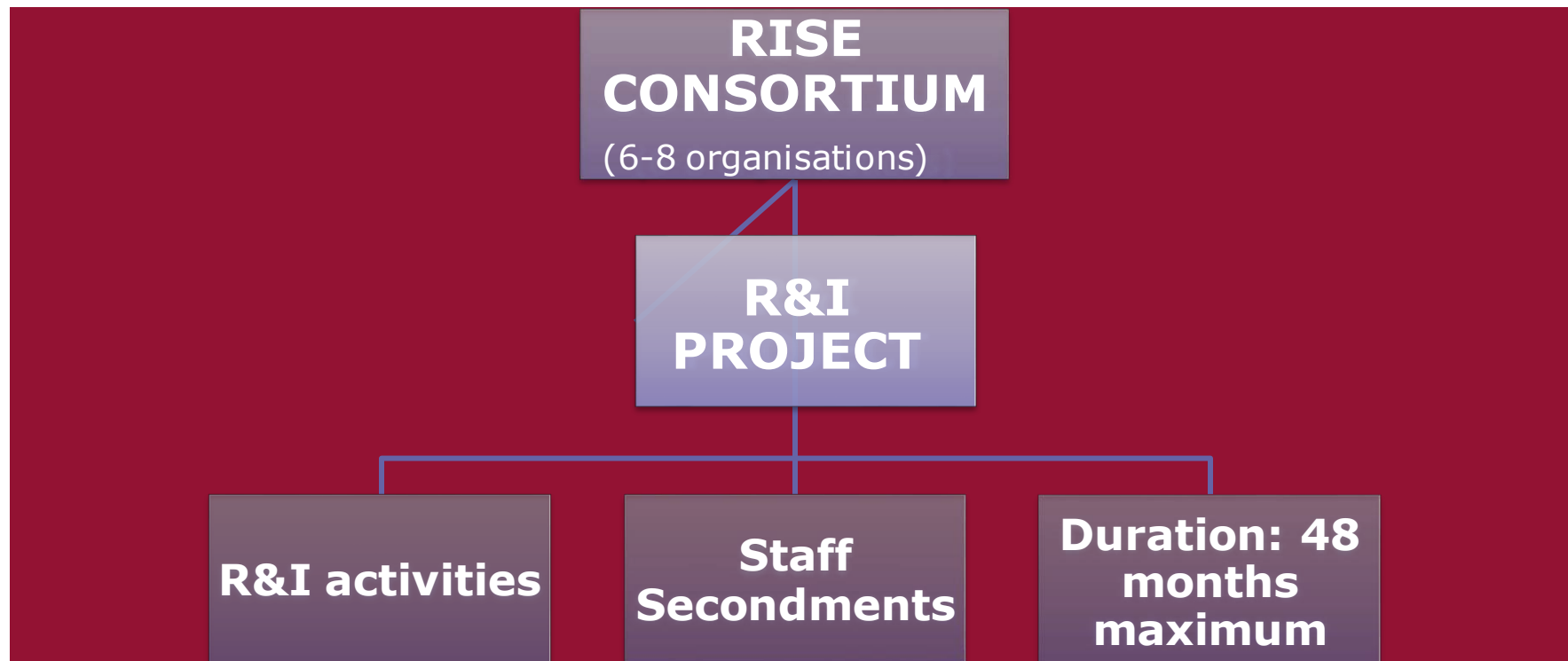
- Projects implemented through R&I staff exchanges
- Staff seconded for 1-12 months



## Transfer of knowledge

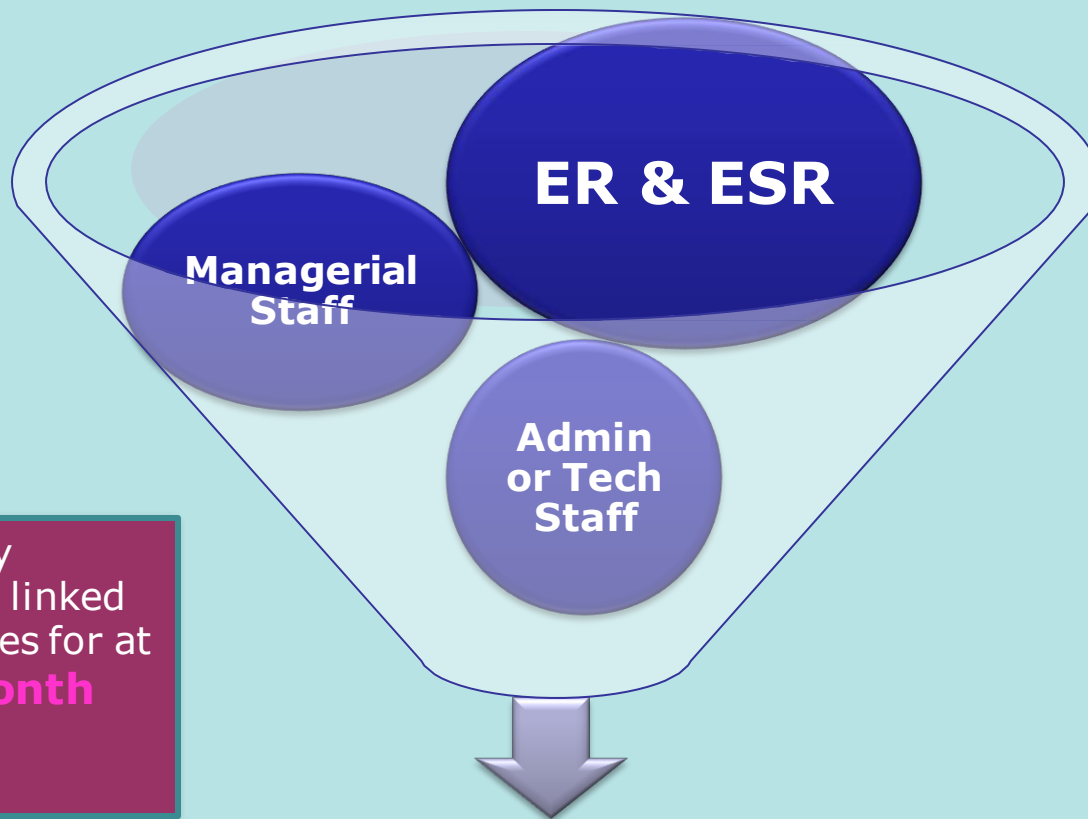
- International and inter-sector transfer of knowledge
- Sharing of ideas and of R&I culture

# TYPICAL RISE PROJECT





# SECONDED STAFF



STAFF actively engaged in or linked to R&I activities for at least **one month** prior to first secondment

**SECONDMENTS**

# TYPE OF SECONDMENTS



- **Intra-European** (MS/AC)  
*Can be intersectoral*  
(academic & non-academic sectors)

- **International** (MS/AC and TC)



# RISE COSTS CATEGORIES



**NEW  
FROM 2018**

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action**

**Staff member unit cost \***

*person/month*  
Top-up allowance

**Institutional unit cost \***  
*person/month*

Research, training  
and networking costs

Management  
and indirect  
costs

**Research and  
Innovation Staff  
Exchange**

**EUR 2 100**

**EUR 1 800**

**EUR 700**

**Min 1 - Max 12  
Person Month(s)  
per Researcher**

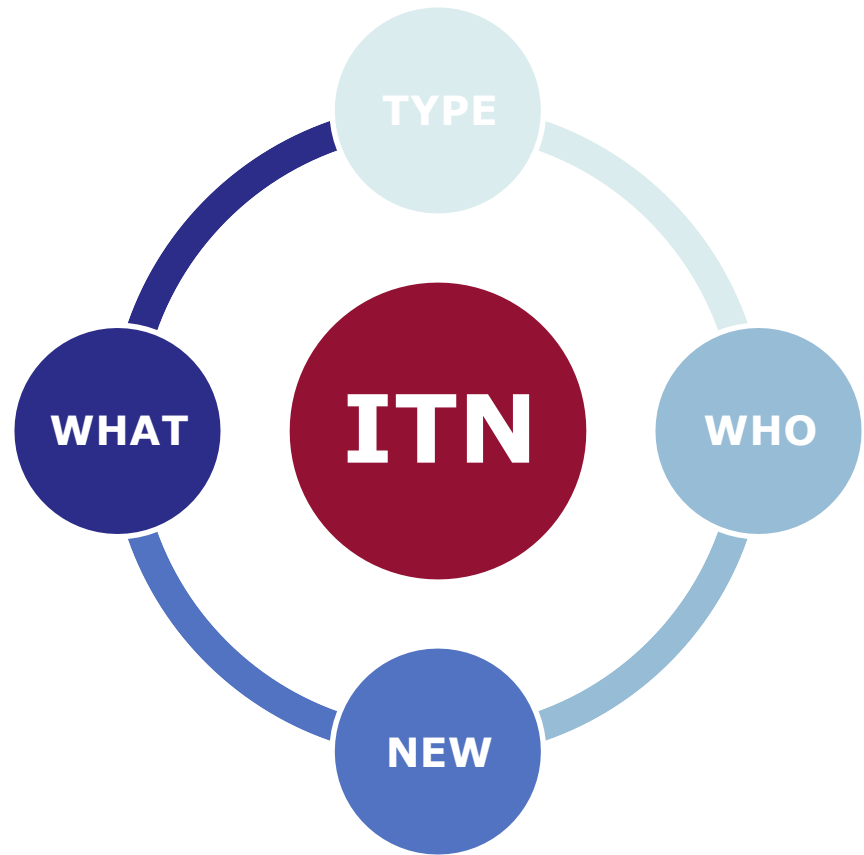
**Maximum 540  
Person Months per  
Grant**

# INNOVATIVE TRAINING NETWORKS

ITN



European  
Commission



Research  
Executive  
Agency

# ITN: KEY FEATURES



- Research, Training, Supervision
- Innovation, Training and Excellent Research
- International, multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral **networks of organisations**
- Any scientific domain
- **Recruiting** of only Early-Stage Researchers
- [EURAXESS](#) portal for vacancies
- **Secondments**
- Project duration up to 48 months

# TYPE OF ITN SCHEMES



**ETN**

**European Training  
Networks**

*Participants implement  
a joint research programme*

**Min. 3 beneficiaries  
from any sector  
from 3 different  
MS/AC**

**540PM**

**EID**

**European  
Industrial  
Doctorates**

*Doctoral training with the  
non-academic sector*

**Min. 2 beneficiaries  
from 2 different  
MS/AC:  
1 academic + 1 non-  
academic sector  
180PM**

**540PM > 2 entities**

Research  
Executive  
Agency

**EJD**

**European  
Joint Doctorates**

*Academic programme to  
deliver joint degrees*

**Min. 3 beneficiaries  
from academic  
sector, awarding  
PhD from 3 different  
MS/AC**

**540PM**

# ITN BUDGET

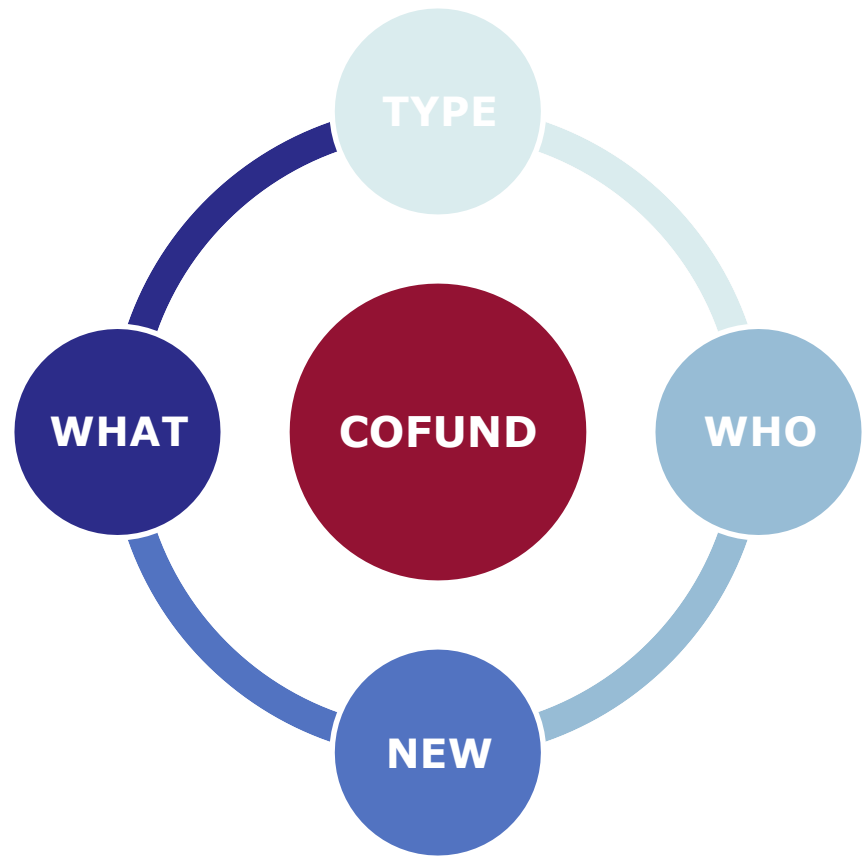


## Institutional unit cost person/month

Research, networking, training costs	1 800 €
Management and indirect costs	1 200 €

## Researcher unit cost person/month

Living allowance	3 270 €
Mobility allowance	600 €
Family allowance	500 €





# COFUND: OBJECTIVES



- ✓ COFUND scheme aims at stimulating regional, national or international programmes
- ✓ Co-funding new/existing regional, national, and international programmes for international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research training
- ✓ At all stages of their career (ESR, ER)



# COFUND: KEY FEATURES



- ✓ **EURAXESS portal for vacancies**
- ✓ **Budget: € 80 Million in 2017** (Doctoral Programmes: 30 Mio)
- ✓ **Maximum € 10 Million per single applicant** per call
- ✓ **Duration of projects: min. 3 years, max. 5 years**
- ✓ **Fellowships: minimum 3 months**



# COFUND: BENEFICIARIES



- ✓ Mono-beneficiary
- ✓ Legal entities (public and private) established in MS or AC and International European Interest Organisations (IEIO)



**Doctoral  
Programmes**



**Fellowship  
Programme**

# Evaluation Criteria



Excellence	Impact	Quality and Efficiency of Implementation
Quality and credibility of the research / innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter-/multidisciplinary and <i>gender aspects</i>	Enhancing the future <i>career prospects of the researcher after the fellowship</i>	Coherence and effectiveness of the <i>work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources</i>
Quality and appropriateness of the training and of the two way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host	Quality of the proposed measures to <i>exploit and disseminate</i> the project results	Appropriateness of the allocation of <i>tasks and resources, including risk management</i>
Quality of the supervision and of the integration in the team/institution	Quality of the proposed measures to <i>communicate</i> the project activities to different target audiences	Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
Potential of the researcher to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence during the fellowship		

**Each criterion will be scored out of 5. Decimal points may be given.**

# Award Criteria



Excellence	Impact	Quality and Efficiency of Implementation
Weighting		
<b>50%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>
Priority in Case of Ex Aequo		
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

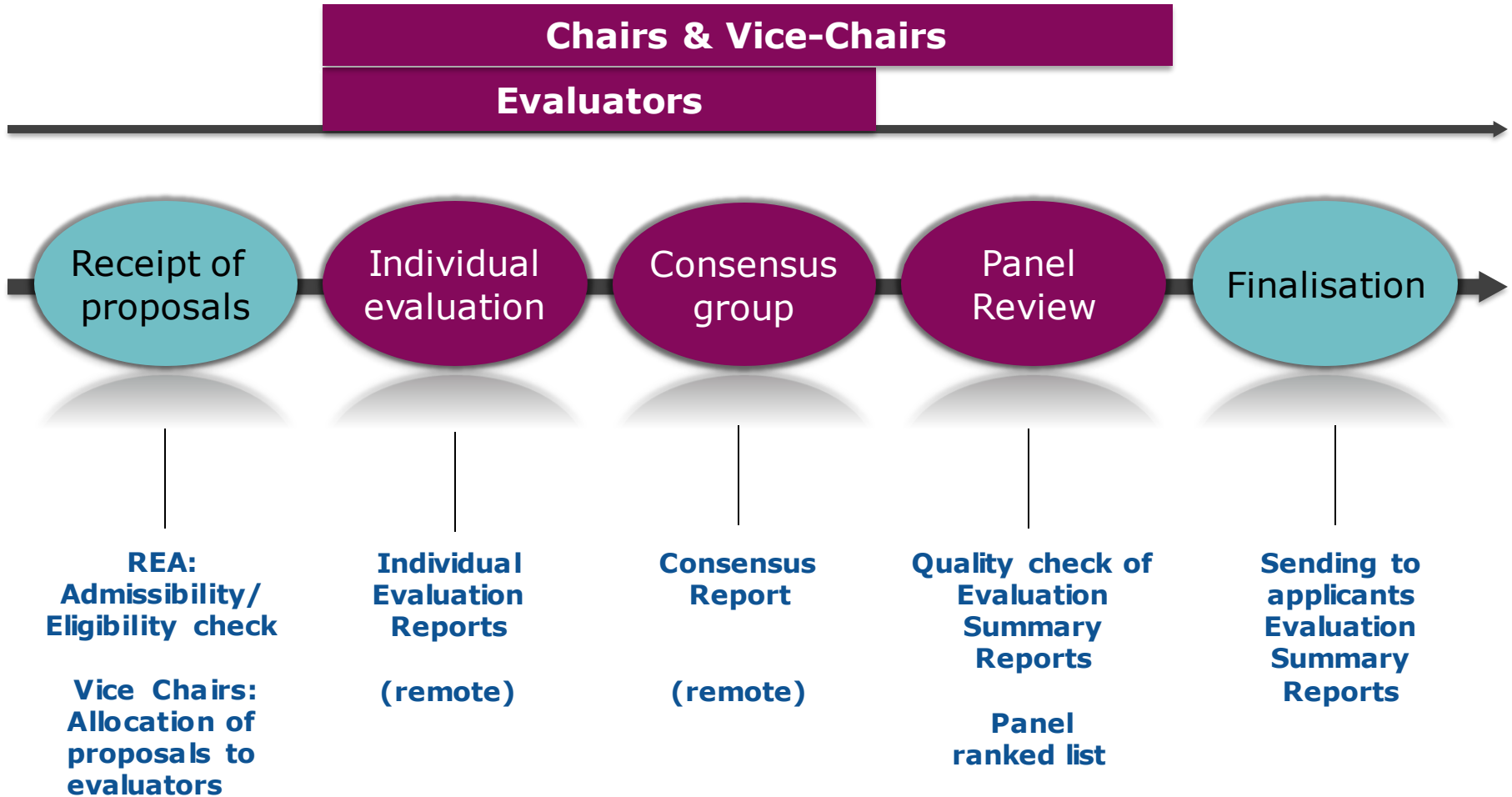
The total score is weighted, the maximum is 100.

An overall threshold of 70% will be applied to the total weighted score.

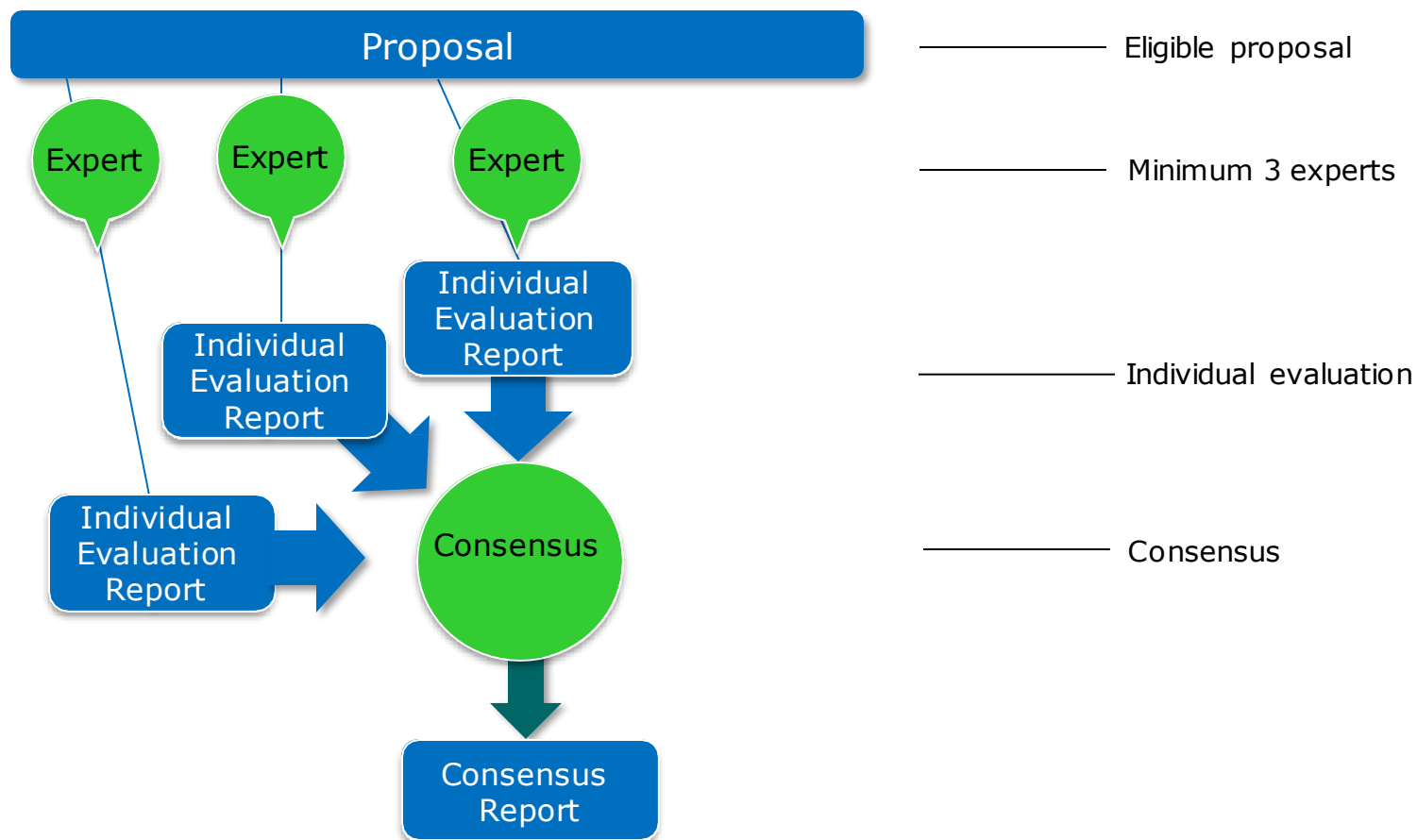
## Further Prioritization

- **if necessary, based on other appropriate characteristics**
  - \* decided by the panel
  - \* related to the contribution of the proposal to the European Research Area and/or general objectives mentioned in the Work Programme
- **depends on available budget and call conditions**

# Overview of the evaluation process



# Overview of the evaluation process





*Do you wish to be an H2020 Evaluator?*



# Some tips

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- Start early
  - Focus on the big picture
  - Why YOU?
  - Host institution(s) fit with the project needs
  - be SMART, KISS!
  - Reviewers are lazy!
  - Answer all questions clearly
  - Get somebody else to proofread
  - Listen to the feedback!
- 
- If fails, don't hesitate to try the second time!

# Science & Society



# Website

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[https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/individual-fellowships\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/individual-fellowships_en)

**Next deadline for IF likely in September**

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# Thanks!

## Any questions?