



European  
Commission



# MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

*Your next career move!*

*Education  
and Culture*

# MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS (MSCA)

Want to go further in your research career? Use the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions!

These actions offer a myriad of opportunities for researchers from Europe and beyond, taking careers to the next level. There is an action for every need.

Considering a doctoral degree? Go to **section 1** to learn more about the Innovative Training Networks (ITN).

Advancing your career with a change of country and possibly sector? Have a look at the Individual Fellowships (IF) in **section 2**.

Interested in collaborating and sharing knowledge? Read about the Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) in **section 3**.

Does your organisation fund or manage a doctoral or fellowship programme? Check out the Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes action (COFUND) in **section 4**.



“ When I wanted to relocate to Europe, I realised that a Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant would provide my projects with momentum because of the flexibility in the funding. ”

Romain Koszul, Geneticist

## 1. Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

If you are an organisation aiming to host early-stage researchers, ITN will finance you to train them to be excellent in their research field, plus equip them with a range of skills (such as **entrepreneurship, commercialisation of research results, management** or **patenting**) to maximise their future employment options. Researchers will apply to specific vacancies of the project finally funded.

**High-quality** international and intersectoral training for researchers at doctoral level is supported under:

» European Training Networks (ETN): research training delivered jointly by at least three partners from different EU Member States or Associated Countries.

» European Industrial Doctorates (EID): at least two partners: one academic organisation entitled to deliver doctoral degrees and one non-academic organisation (primarily businesses). They jointly supervise the doctoral degree candidate, who spends at least 50% of his/her time in the non-academic sector.

» European Joint Doctorates (EJD): at least three organisations entitled to award doctoral degrees from three different EU Member States or Associated Countries.

“ The Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship provided me with a unique opportunity to develop my skills. ”

Esmeralda Valiente, Molecular Microbiologist

## 2. Individual Fellowships (IF)

Advanced training based on international and possibly intersectoral mobility for **researchers at postdoctoral level and beyond**.

» Returning to research after a career break, re-integrating in Europe after time away, or working on research projects elsewhere in or outside Europe are the opportunities that this action offers.

## 3. Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

Should you be an organisation interested in short-term researchers' mobility (1-12 months), RISE is your action. You can benefit from these international and intersectoral exchanges based on a joint research and innovation project. You could involve researchers or management, administrative or technical staff members of your organisation.

» Keystones of RISE are **the transfer of advanced knowledge** through exchange of personnel and the reinforcement of **research partnerships involving** organisations in EU Member States/Associated Countries and possibly also non-European countries.

“ As a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow (MSC) I had a lot of opportunities to learn from experts from both the industry and the academia ”

Yang Ren Bin, researcher on fuel cell catalyst

## 4. Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes (COFUND)

Funding for **doctoral programmes** or **fellowship programmes** at postdoctoral level. Regional, national or international research programmes fostering excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development can be supported by COFUND.

» Mobility across borders is a must. Cross-sectoral mobility is also encouraged. COFUND aims at improving employment conditions of researchers and the quality of the selection and recruitment processes.

“ An excellent programme appreciated by both the academic and non-academic communities. ”

## NEW RESEARCH FUNDING POSSIBILITIES IN THE MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

<p><b>Which action?</b></p>	<p><b>ITN</b> Innovative Training Networks <i>(Host applies)</i></p>	<p><b>IF</b> Individual Fellowships <i>(Individuals apply)</i></p>	<p><b>RISE</b> Research and Innovation Staff Exchange <i>(Host applies)</i></p>	<p><b>COFUND</b> Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes <i>(Funder applies)</i></p>
<p><b>What does it offer?</b></p>	<p>High-quality research training delivered through international and interdisciplinary networks, industrial doctorates or joint doctorates</p>	<p>Opportunities to work on personal research projects by moving between countries and possibly sectors to acquire new skills</p>	<p>International and/or intersectoral exchanges of staff members involved in research and innovation to develop sustainable collaborative projects and transfer knowledge</p>	<p>Regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development</p>
<p><b>Who is it for?</b></p>	<p>Networks of organisations that train researchers at doctoral level (less than four years of full-time research experience and no doctoral degree)</p>	<p>Postdoctoral researchers (doctoral degree or at least four years of full-time research experience)</p>	<p>Partnerships of organisations that undertake a joint research project supported by the exchange of their staff (researchers, technical, administrative and managerial staff)</p>	<p>Organisations funding or managing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes</p>

“ The Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant helped me enter more deeply into the philosophical research areas that I have specialised in and gave the opportunity to form new research collaborations. ”

Karin Edvardsson Björnberg, researcher in climate policy

## FACTS ON THE MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS 2007-13:

- 23% of participants work within industry. Of these participants 34% work in a small to medium sized enterprise (SME)
- 38% of participants are women
- 90% of participants are in employment two years after their fellowship
- 9 out of 10 from the top Research and Development (R&D) investors in Europe participating in MSCA
- From the Shanghai top 500 world university ranking, 2/3 participate in MSCA
- Over 130 nationalities and host organisations in more than 80 countries
- A third of Marie Skłodowska-Curie researchers are from outside the EU

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