



European
Commission



Supporting excellence in researchers' careers through Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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Research
Executive
Agency

Content:

- **MSCA and excellence**
- **MSCA today**
- **Impact of MSCA**
- **MSCA some achievements**
- **Study 'Research Careers in Europe'**
- **MSCA researchers' quotes**

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA): *supporting excellence*

Research

Training

Skills

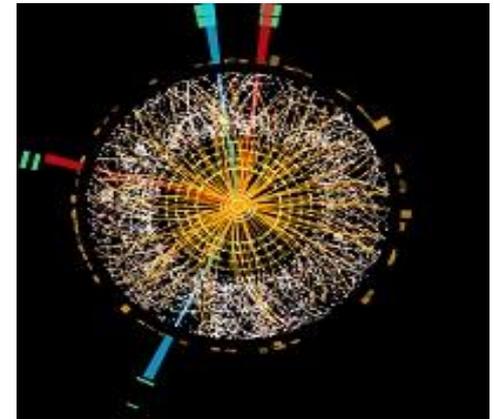
Mobility

Career perspectives

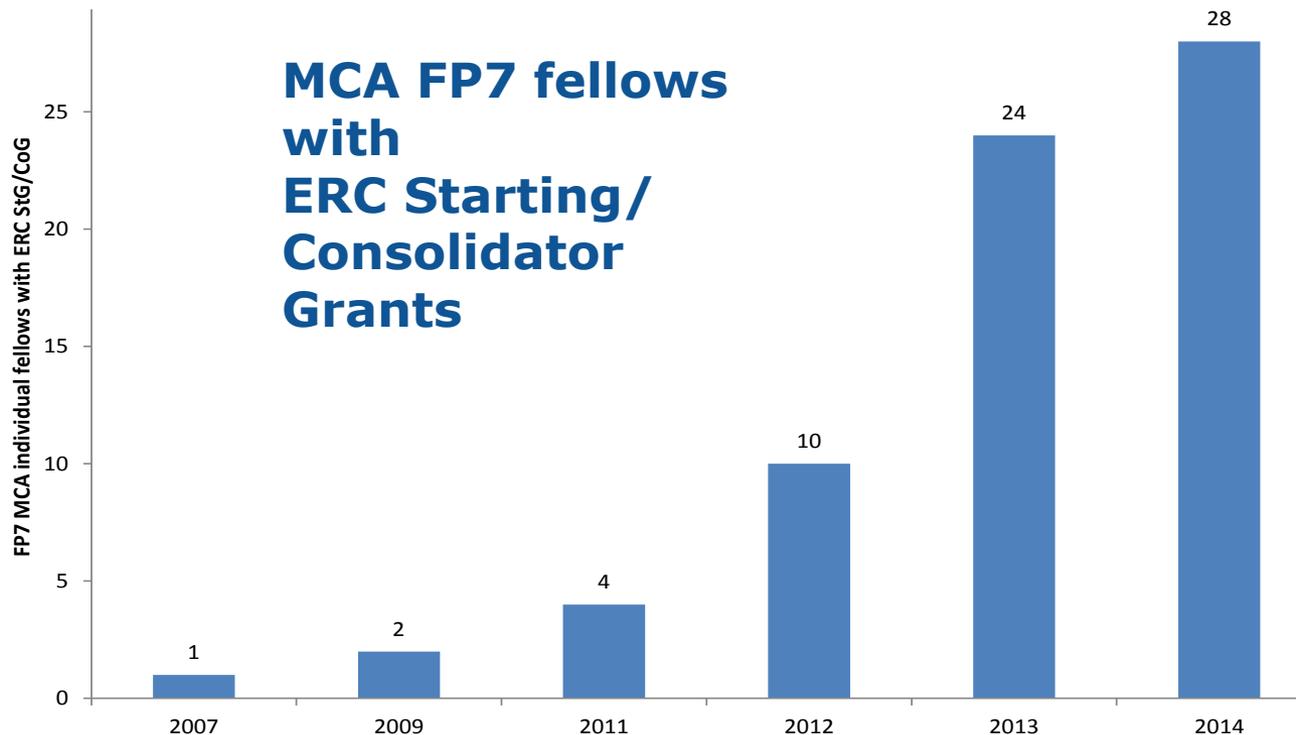


Fellows at the forefront of science

- **Stefan W. Hell, one of the winners of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry 2014** was awarded an MCA postdoctoral Individual Fellowship in 1996: '*a critical moment in my career*'.
- 30 scientists supported by the FP7 MCA were involved in the 2012 **discovery of the Higgs Boson at CERN**.
- **The 2016 discovery of gravitational waves** brought a new way to observe some of the darkest events in our universe. An FP7 MCA project contributed to the breakthrough with 14 early-stage researchers, coordinated by the European Gravitational Observatory.



MCA fellows – ERC grantees:



- Already 85 FP7 individual fellows are now ERC Principal Investigators
- Progress compared to FP6: even five years after its end, there were only 68 MCA individual fellows among ERC Principal Investigators

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Features of the MSCA

- Excellent and innovative **research training**
- Open to **all** career **stages and nationalities**
- **Bottom-up** approach
- Attractive **career** and **knowledge-exchange** opportunities through **mobility**
- **International, intersectoral and interdisciplinary**
- Development of knowledge and enhancement of **skills**
- Promotion of attractive **working and employment conditions**

MSCA Calls



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ITN

Innovative Training Networks

What does it offer?

High-quality research training delivered through 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 4 years of full-time research experience and no doctoral degree)

Call details:

Opens: 15 September 2016
Closes: 10 January 2017
Budget: 430M€



IF

Individual Fellowships

What does it offer?

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

Who applies?

Individual researchers together with the host organisations

Who is funded?

Postdoctoral researchers

Call details:

Opens: 11 April 2017
Closes: 14 September 2017
Budget: 248M€



RISE

Research & Innovation Staff Exchange

What does it offer?

The exchanges 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

Call details:

Opens: 1 December 2016
Closes: 5 April 2017
Budget: 80M€



COFUND

Co-Funding of Regional, National & International Programmes

What does it offer?

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

Who applies?

Organisations funding or managing doctoral or fellowships programmes

Who is funded?

Researchers at doctoral and postdoctoral level

Call details:

Opens: 5 April 2017
Closes: 28 September 2017
Budget: 80M€

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The impact of the MSCA on Europe's needs:

Excellence

MC fellows score higher on both citations of given publications by other authors and the journal impact factor

Career drivers and employability

- MCF contributed to key career drivers: access to excellent labs, engaging professional networks, improving skills
- MCF improved fellows employability, better than other types of fellowships

Marie Curie researchers and their long-term career development study 2014:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/pdf/mca/marie_curie_researchers_and_their_long-term_career_development.pdf



The impact of the MSCA on Europe's needs:

Engaging businesses in research training

- MSCA have funded 887 enterprises since 2014, which represents 37% of total beneficiaries

ERA key priorities

- Facilitating mobility, supporting training and ensuring attractive career

And more...

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Outcomes of 2007-2013 programme

- 95% of MSCA fellows had **employment** positions two years after the end of their fellowship.
- 37% of MSCA fellows were **women**, whereas on average 33% of EU researchers were female.
- Evidence that participating organisations improved their practices in respect of **recruitment and working conditions**.
- MSCA fellows were of 140 different **nationalities**. 24% were from countries outside the EU Member States or FP7 Associated Countries.





MSCA – first years of Horizon 2020

- 2014 calls MSCA funded
 - **2 000 organizations** in 96 countries
 - **4 000 researchers**
 - **8 700 staff exchanges**
- 2014 and 2015 calls
 - **19 500 proposals** evaluated
 - with help of **4 000 experts**
 - **2 800 GAs signed**
- 2016 – **20 years of the Marie Curie brand**
- Early 2017 – **100 000 supported researchers**
- Several **Nobel Prize winners** previously involved in the MSCA



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"Research Careers in Europe"

Results and Recommendations:

1. Perception and promotion of research career
2. Dual careers in research
3. Research career restart



1. Perception and promotion of research career

- **Continue improving the financial conditions and opportunities** - particularly for early-stage researchers
- **Importance of promoting research careers** - raise awareness among the universities and other employers
- **Increase scope of outreach activities** in MSCA - make them more experimental/interactive and better adapted to a non-scientific audience
- **Open Science agenda** – explore how MSCA can contribute to it
- **Adequate science popularization instruments** - continuous using and adapting them to specific target groups



2. Dual careers in research

- **Dual career** - main factor impacting researchers mobility: Raise awareness among national authorities and employers about it
- **More funding supporting dual careers** - for organizations and for instruments
- **Dual career couple procedures** - to develop, promote and exchange good practices
- **Dual-career-friendly environment** - possibility of introducing it in existing EU programmes



3. Research career restart

- **Long-term research positions** - increase their overall number
- **Flexible working arrangements preventing research career breaks** - promote the measures
- **Acceptance of research career breaks** – support specific measures aiming at its acceptance among employers
- **MSCA Career Restart Panel** – increase the visibility, extension of the fellowships
- **Supporting part-time fellowships** - including professional reasons

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'When I read that my Marie Curie project was accepted, I felt like opening the window of my room and enjoying that fantastic spring day. The first thing I did was to call my mother and my family to tell them the great news.'

Maria Jover-Cobos, LIF science researcher

'I am living a dream that comes true again every single day. The Marie Curie fellowship has put me in a stimulating environment with outstanding researchers, which is most likely to facilitate my scientific production. Thus I can extend the record of my papers by a considerable amount, both in qualitative and in quantitative terms, and achieve standards of definite excellence.'

Salvatore Tringali, researcher in the field of mathematical modelling

'The Marie Curie fellowship is very attractive because it is based on merit and genuinely promotes excellence, which grants researchers with a prominent status at the European and international level. Also, it provides the necessary conditions to develop an indepth research. Third, the basic concept of mobility pushes the researcher to broaden his intellectual horizon and to acquire a truly European and international mindset.'

Ottavio Quirico, researcher in the field of security

'When I applied to a Marie Curie programme, I did not have the faintest idea of the fantastic experience I would have for the next three years! I have always been interested in research and being from South Africa, the opportunity to come to Europe – to a whole different world in terms of science and research – was a dream come true.'

Raelize du Plooy, researcher in the transport field



MSCA 20 years of scientific excellence

29/11/2016

http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/news-events/events/year/2016/1129-20-years-msca_en.htm

***Thank you for
your attention!***

