MSCA Staff Exchanges Call 2026
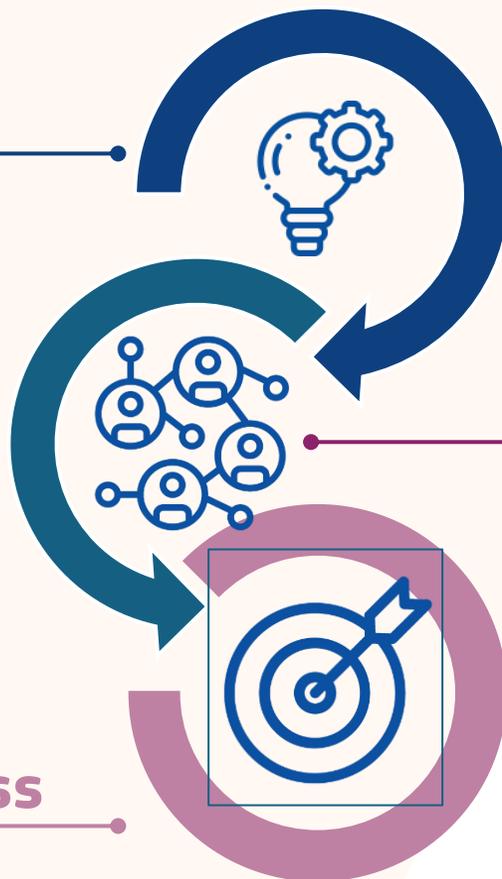
Nicoleta PETRE, Project Adviser

European Research Executive Agency

Overview

Policy background

Staff Exchanges

Application process

European Commission

Policy background

Horizon Europe (€ *95.5 billion)*

**Pillar I
EXCELLENT SCIENCE**

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures

**Pillar II
GLOBAL CHALLENGES &
EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL
COMPETITIVENESS**

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry & Space
- Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Center

**Pillar III
INNOVATIVE EUROPE**

European Innovation Council

European Innovation Ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation & Technology

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

Reforming & enhancing the European R&I system

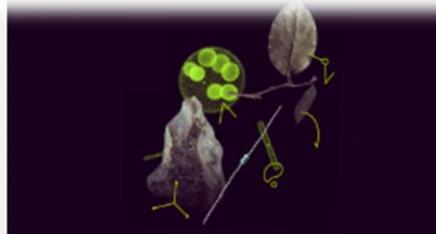**Info on HE:** Horizon Europe - European Commission

European Commission

Marie Sklodowska -Curie Actions

Doctoral Networks (DN)

Supporting programmes to train doctoral candidates in academic and non-academic organisations.

Rules and requirements for the Doctoral Networks action

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Supporting career perspectives and excellence of postdoctoral researchers.

Postdoctoral Fellowships and who can apply for them

Staff Exchanges (SE)

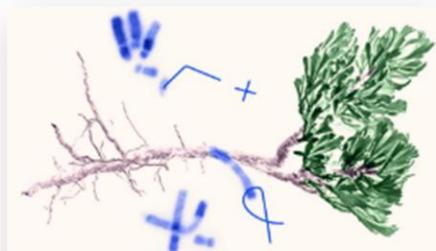Encouraging collaborations between organisations through staff exchanges.

How to apply for Staff Exchanges action

COFUND

Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes.

Full details of the COFUND action

MSCA and Citizens

Bringing research and researchers closer to the public at large.

Learn what MSCA and Citizens is and does

Choose Europe for Science

Supporting attractive and sustainable research careers in Europe for top talent.

Discover the details of the Choose Europe for Science action

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
30 years
Curiosity that changes the world.

150,000 researchers &
23 Nobel Prize winners

Shaping research and innovation

Structuring impact in Europe and beyond

MSCA Key Policies

Researchers' training, skills & career development (all career stages)	**Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)**	**International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility**
Attractive working & employment conditions	**Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes**	**Strong collaboration with industry & SMEs**

European Commission

Staff Exchanges

Main features

What is Staff Exchanges?

Research & Innovation **mobility** action

It equips researchers and organisations **worldwide** with advanced skills and cutting knowledge

It fosters mobility of entities from both the **academic** and **private** sectors

Can be combined with other programmes (**synergy**)

The **budget** allocated in 2026 call is **97.92 M€**

European Commission

Objectives

International, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of R&I staff (secondments)

Knowledge transfer between participating organisations

Collaboration between the academic and non-academic sectors (including SMEs)

Cooperation across the globe

European Commission

Added Value

Staff members
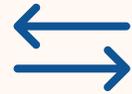
- Transferable skills & competences
- Employability & career prospects
- Ideas converted into products, processes & services
- International exposure
- Networking & communication

Organisations
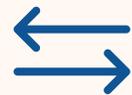
- Transfer of knowledge
- Collaborative networks
- R&I capacity

European Commission

Key features of Staff Exchanges

BOTTOM UP
with different scientific panels

Unit cost 5170 €
2870 € – staff allowance
2300 € – organisation

SECONDMENTS
1-12 months/staff
Interdisciplinary
Intersectoral
International

DURATION
4 years
Max 360 person-months per project
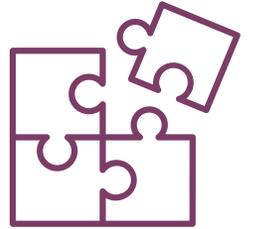
SYNERGY
EU grants
Not MSCA*

Budget 2026 call = **97.92 M€**

Who can participate in MSCA-SE projects?

Consortium of min. **3 legal entities in 3 different countries,** 2 of which in a different EU Member State or HE Associated Country

Academic sector

Non-academic sector
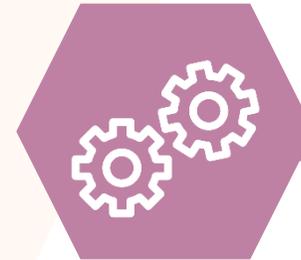
NEW

The consortium must include participating organisations from <u>both</u> academic and non-academic sectors

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Eligible Staff

Seconded staff members

Any type of staff involved in R&I activities (researchers, administrative staff, managerial staff, technical staff)

Researchers at any career stage (e.g. from doctoral candidates to postdoctoral researchers)

Each staff member is seconded for a period of **1 to 12 months** (may be split into several stays)

Staff needs to be devoted **full-time** to the action during the secondment

After the secondment, staff should **return to their sending institution**

European Commission

Eligible secondments in Europe & AC

EU MS/AC BENEFICIARIES

European Commission
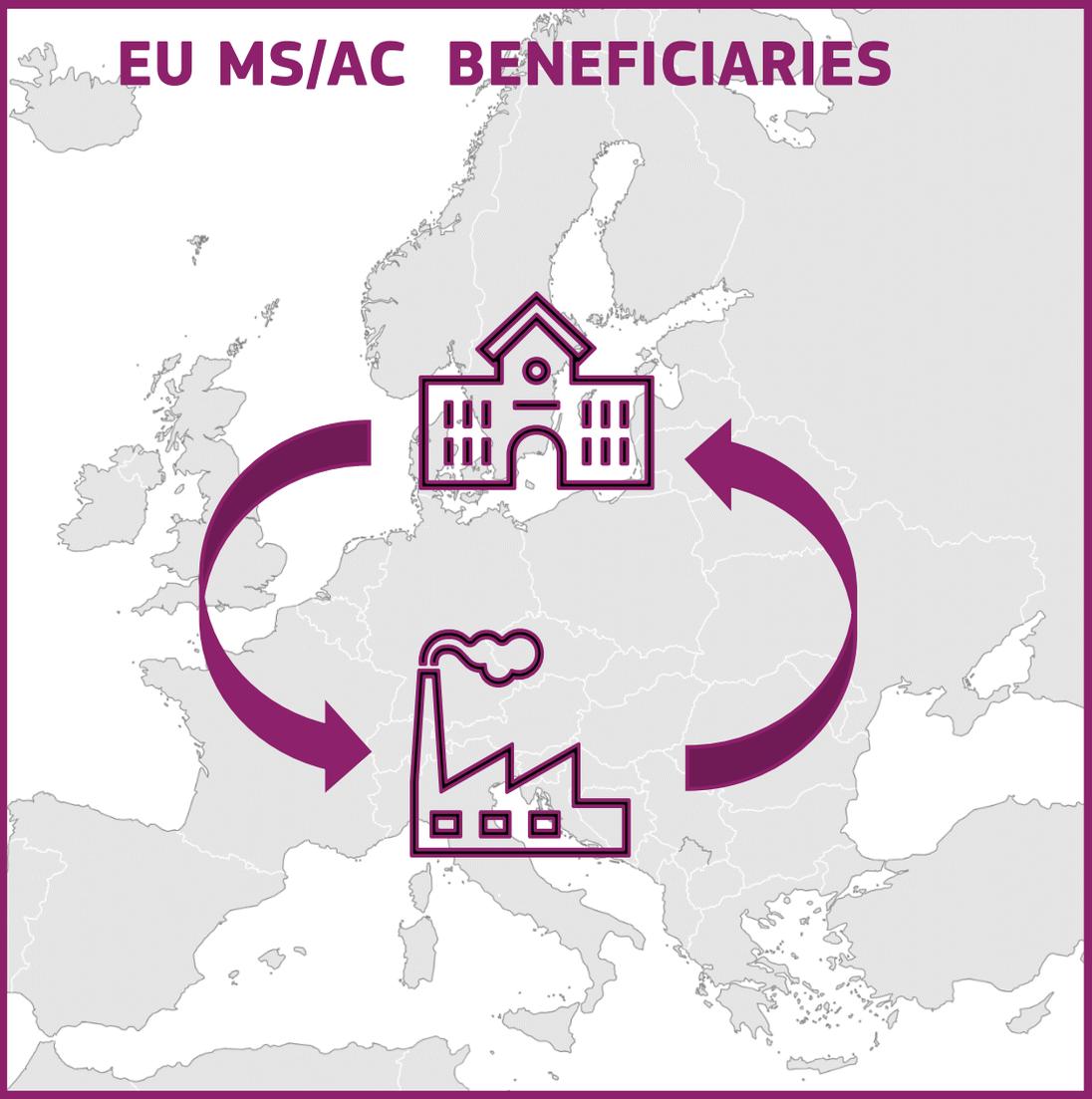
What does Staff Exchanges fund?

Staff member
unit costs

€ 2870

Special needs
allowance
(if applicable)
requested unit

Unit cost
per Person Month

€ 5170

Research,
training, networking

€ 1300

Management
and indirect costs

€ 1000

1 unit = 1 month of eligible staff
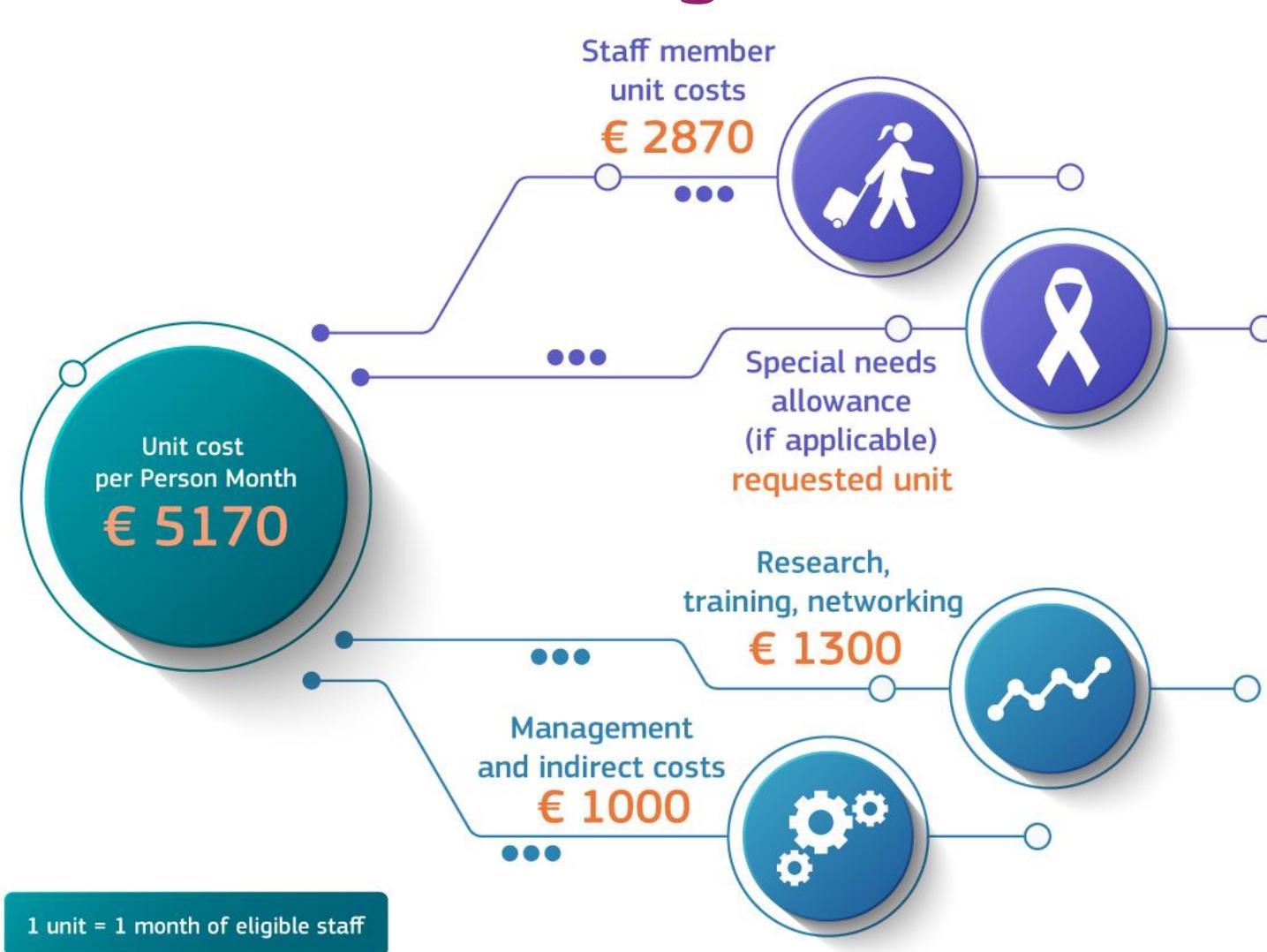
Budget of SE project based on the Nr of planned secondments

European
Commission

Unit cost

Total monthly cost breakdown (per person/month)

€ 2,870 Staff cost	€ 2,300 Institutional cost
Top-up for travel, accommodation, subsistence. Goes to researcher	Research/training + management/indirect.

Total € 5,170 per person/month

No country correction coefficient applies. Max. budget ~€ 1.86 M (360 PM)

European Commission

Eligible SE research consortia (for min of 3 entities)

If all 3 entities are **European (MS/AC),** one should be **from a different sector**

If all 3 entities from **same sector (e.g. academic)** one must be **located outside Europe**

European Commission

Staff Exchanges

Proposal submission

Marie Skłodowska
Curie Actions

Key Dates & Budget Call 2026

Call Opening 2026: **16 December 2025**

Call Closure: **16 April 2026**

Call 2026 Budget: **97.92 M€**

European Commission

Critical updates for the 2026 Call

NEW FOR 2026

Sector requirement
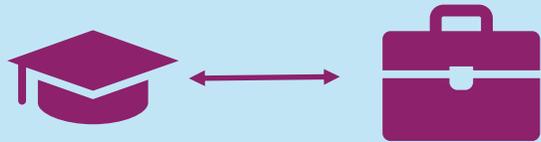
Consortia **MUST** now include entities from two different sectors. This is now a strict eligibility rule.

NEW FOR 2026

Interdisciplinary Quota Removed:

The "1/3" rule removed. Interdisciplinarity is now fully integrated into the project design and evaluation criteria.

NEW FOR 2026

Prior Employment Rule Removed:
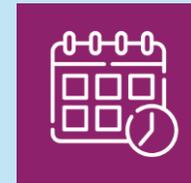
The "1-month prior to secondment rule" is removed.

European Commission

Key Changes

This year budget is
€ 97.92 M

Unit cost is
increased to
€ 5170

Staff allowance
increased to
€ 2870

2 ≠ sectors

**No one month
employment rule**

European
Commission

Reference Documents

- Guide for Applicants
- MSCA Work Programme & annexes
- Proposal templates
- HE Programme Guide
- Model Grant Agreement
- Frequently Asked Questions

Horizon Europe
Work Programme 2026-2027

2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

(European Commission Decision C(2025) 8493 of 11 December)

EU Funding & Tenders
Online Manual
EU Funding Programmes 2021-2027

Horizon Europe Programme
Guide for Applicants
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Staff Exchanges (SE)
Version 6.0 - 2026
16 December 2025

European Commission

Dos and don'ts when applying for funding

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/dos-and-donts-when-applying-funding_en
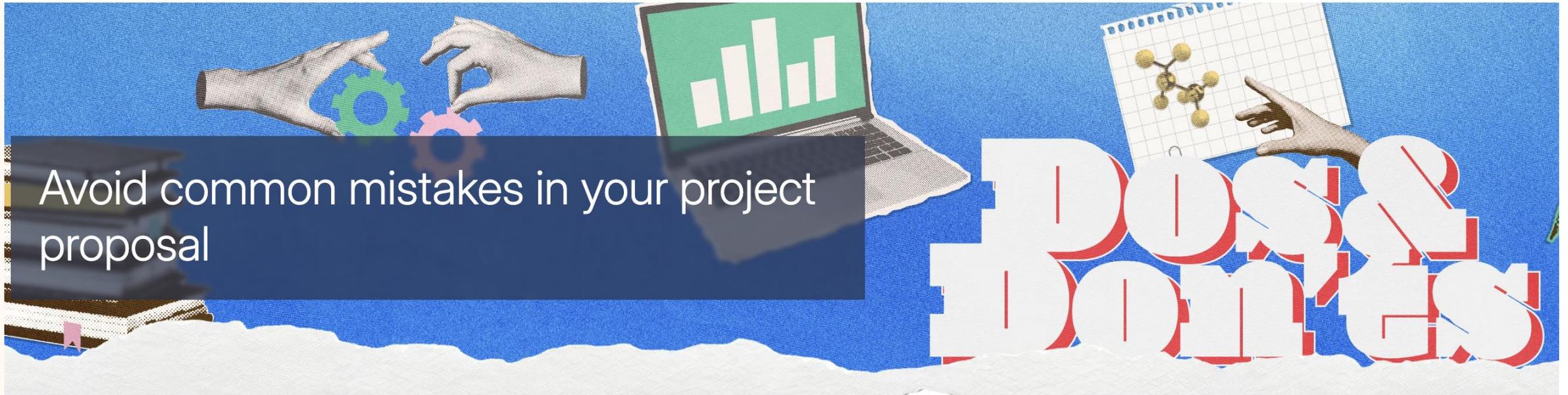
Avoid common mistakes in your project proposal

Staff Exchanges 2026 – Funding & Tenders Portal

How to start writing your proposal

Funding & tender opportunities

Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

European Commission

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▼   HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▼   PROJECTS & RESULTS   WORK AS AN EXPERT   SUPPORT ▼
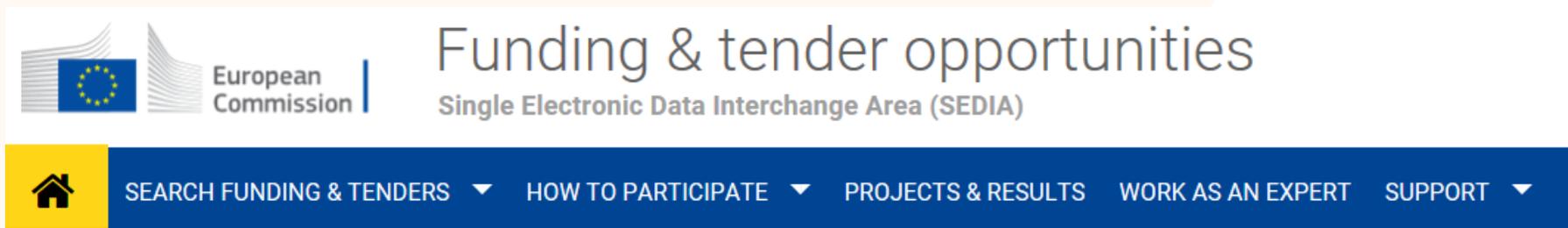
Start submission

⊕ Need help?

To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the **type of action** and the **type of model grant agreement** that corresponds to your proposal. You will then be asked to confirm your choice, as it cannot be changed in the submission system. Upon confirmation, you will be linked to the correct entry point.

To access existing draft proposals for this topic, please login to the Funding & Tenders Portal and select the My Proposals page of the My Area section.

Please select the type of your submission:

◉ HORIZON TMA MSCA Staff Exchanges [HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-SE], HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

[Start submission]

European Commission | Funding: Submission Service

✓ Login — ✓ Topic selection — ✎ Create proposal — ○ Participants — ○ Proposal forms — ○ Submit

Create proposal

📅 **Deadline**
05 February 2025 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

103 days left until closure

⚠ Please submit your proposal at the latest **48 hours before the deadline** (to avoid system congestion or system incompatibility issues). Late proposals will not be accepted. Don't wait until the end because you are worried about confidentiality – we will not open the proposals before the deadline.
You can submit the proposal as many times as you wish up until the deadline. Each new submitted version will replace the previous one.

Call data

Call: **HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01**

Topic: **HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01-01**

Type of action: **HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-SE**

Find your organisation

PIC ❶ *   [   ] 9   Short name ❶ *   [   ] 250   [Search]

European Commission

Proposal documents – Coordinator takes the lead

Part A
(structured data)

Part B (1+2)
(description of action)

Part A:
- ➤ Admin details
- ➤ Budget
- ➤ Ethics/ Security

Part B1:
- ➤ Excellence
- ➤ Impact
- ➤ Quality & Efficiency of the Implementation

How to find partners?
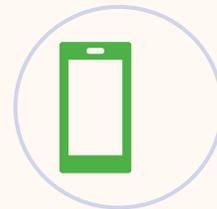

NETWORKING EVENTS (CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, ETC.)

FORMER OR CURRENT COLLABORATIONS

JOINT PROJECTS

FUNDING AND TENDER OPPORTUNITIES PORTAL

MSCA MATCHMAKING PLATFORM

ENTERPRISE EUROPE NETWORK

NATIONAL CONTACT POINT

European Commission

https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/partnering

How to find partners F&T opportunities

Tips and tricks

Closely follow the call requirements

Highlight the EU dimension

Sustainability of collaboration

Follow available guidelines

Get a second opinion

Contact your National Contact Point

(NCP)

European Commission

Research Enquiry Service

For questions about
research and Horizon Europe
please contact
the Research Enquiry Service (europa.eu)
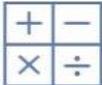
European
Commission

Staff Exchanges

Proposal evaluation

HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01 – Indicative timeline

Launch of the call for proposals

Deadline for submitting proposals

Notification of call results to applicants (TBC)

Grant agreement signature for successful projects (TBC)

First EU-funded projects start (TBC)

| 16 December 2025 | 16 April 2026 | July 2026 | end 2026 (Indicative) | 2027 |

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Scientific panels

	Chemistry	CHE
	Economic Sciences	ECO
	Information Science and Engineering	ENG
	Environment and Geosciences	ENV
	Life Sciences	LIF
	Mathematics	MAT
	Physics	PHY
	Social Sciences and Humanities	SOC

European Commission

Award Criteria

NEW

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of the **project's research/innovation objectives** (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)	Developing new and lasting **research collaborations**, achieving **transfer of knowledge** between participating organisations and contributing to improving **research and innovation potential** at the European and global level	Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of **risks**, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Soundness of the proposed approach to **foster international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaborations**	Credibility of the measures to enhance the **career perspectives** of staff members and contribution to their **skills development**	Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including **hosting arrangements** and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
Soundness of the proposed **methodology** (including consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)	Suitability and quality of the measures to **maximise expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	
Quality of the proposed **interaction between the participating organisations** in light of the research and innovation objectives.	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected **scientific, societal and economic impacts**	
50%	**30%**	**20%**

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Work as an expert

Making a difference

WORLD-WIDE
The highest participation of non-EU countries in MSCA

BUSINESS PARTICIPATION
Businesses receive an estimated 30% of the available funding

PATENTS
Significant share of all patents in MSCA actions

SUCCESS RATE
Between ~30% depending on the discipline and on the year

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"Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood"

European Commission

Thank you!

#MSCA #HorizonEU

@REA_research

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe
-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions_en

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