

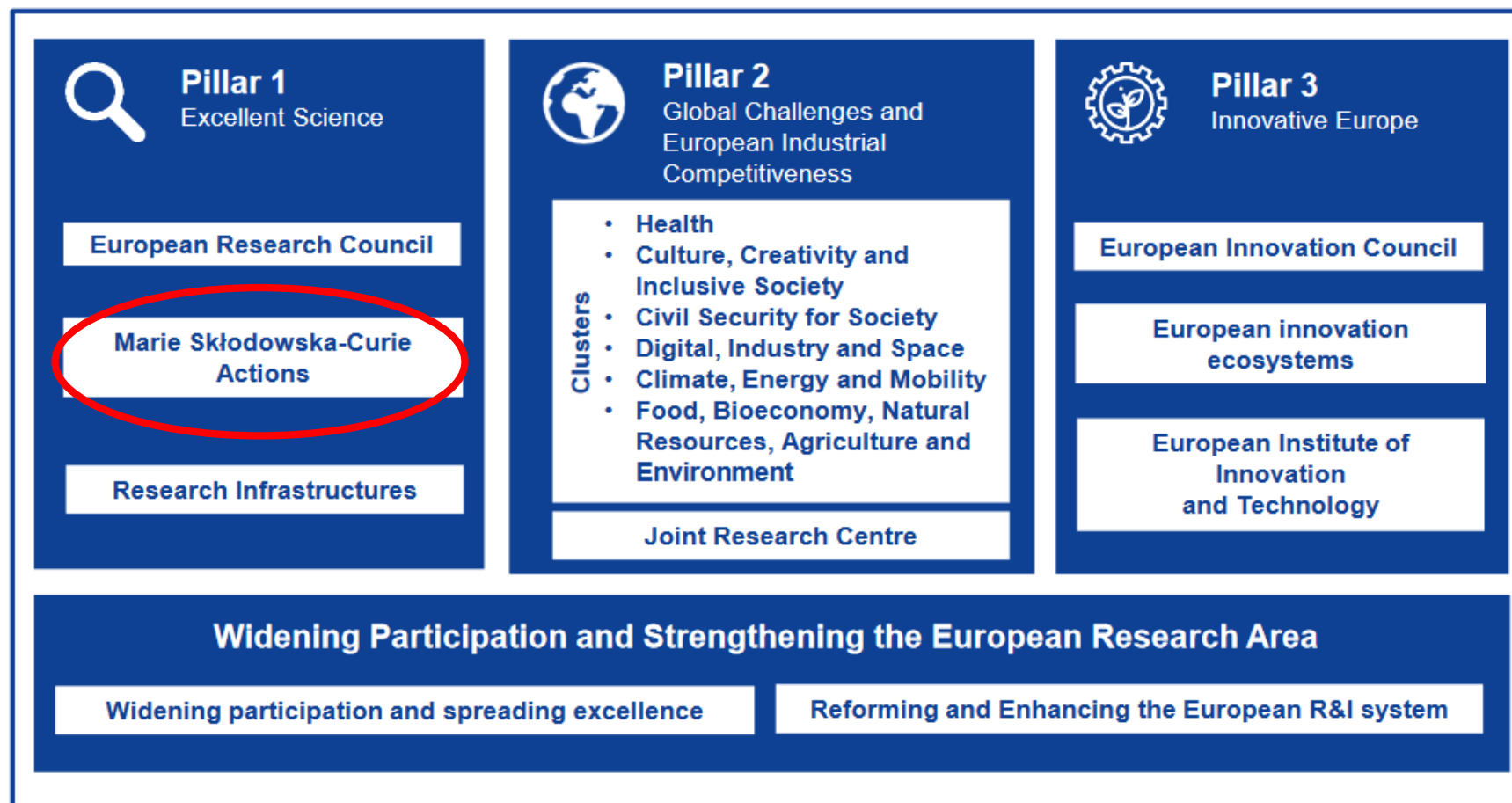
Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) in Horizon Europe Programme

5.3.2021 Outi Ala-Honkola & Mervi Lipponen, Academy of Finland

HORIZON EUROPE

— EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME —

Horizon Europe: Structure



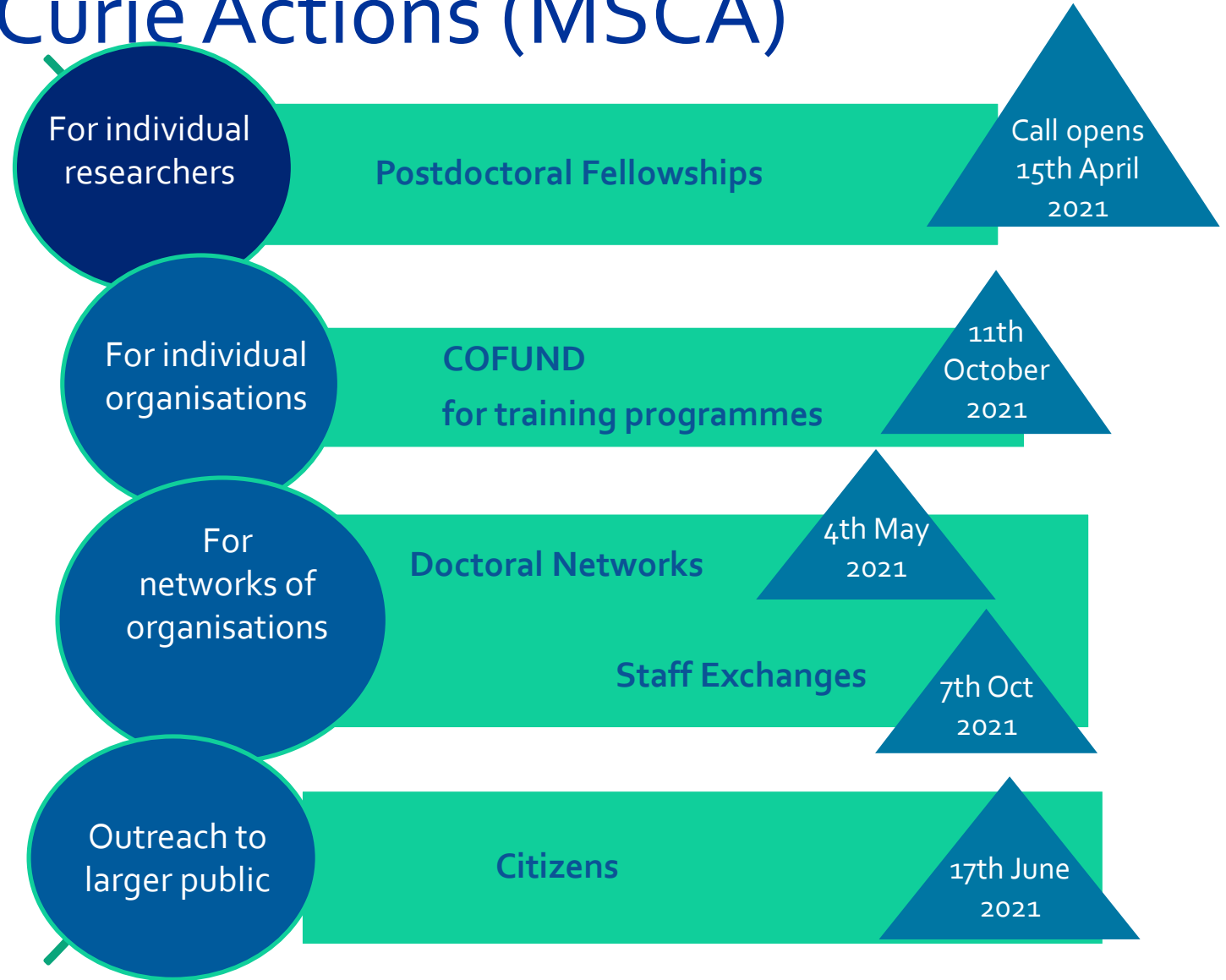
Main Principles of MSCA

- Excellence
- Physical mobility
- Bottom-up
- Equal opportunities and inclusiveness
- Supervision and mentoring
- Open Science and Responsible Research and Innovation
- Sustainable research

MSCA Key Features

- **Support the training and career development** of researchers from **all over the world** through excellent doctorates, postdoctoral fellowships and collaborative projects
- Stimulating **international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary** cooperation. Participation of **non-academic sector**, especially industry and SMEs
- For researchers at **every stage** of their career
- Support excellent research in all domains (**bottom-up approach**)
- Promotion of **attractive working and employment** conditions (financing rate of up to 100%)
- Impacting **researcher careers, organisations, structures**

Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)



Contacts in Finland

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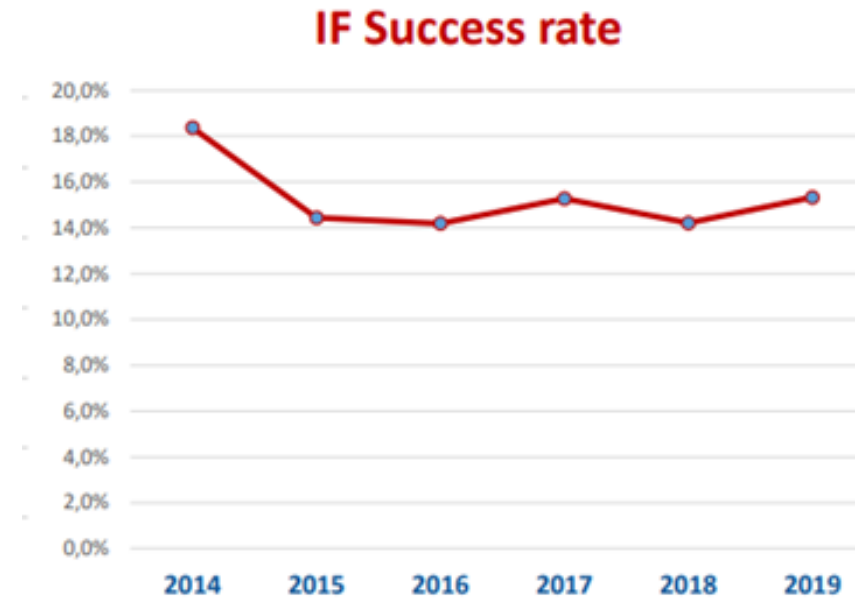
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

MAIN OBJECTIVE:

To enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD, wishing to acquire **new skills** through advanced **training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility**.

Why apply for a MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship?

- Possibility for international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research, also outside academic sector
- Career development possibilities are huge
- Salary is very competitive
- Success rate is about the same as in the Academy of Finland post doctoral fellowships
- The award is considered very prestigious → gives a boost to your CV and research career
- International mobility is almost a must for a successful research career



Why host a MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship?

- Possibility for the host to acquire new skills (knowledge transfer from the Postdoctoral Fellow to the host is an important aspect of the fellowship)
- Possibility for the host to acquire excellent Postdoctoral Fellows
- Collaboration between the host and the Postdoctoral Fellowship is essential to ensure high quality application.
- Host gets a small monthly sum for management costs (650 € per person-month)

MSCA Doctoral Networks

- The MSCA Doctoral Networks will raise the **attractiveness and excellence of doctoral training** in Europe.
- Training **creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates**, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit.
- Right combination of **research-related and transferable competences with enhanced career perspectives** in both the **academic and non-academic sectors**.

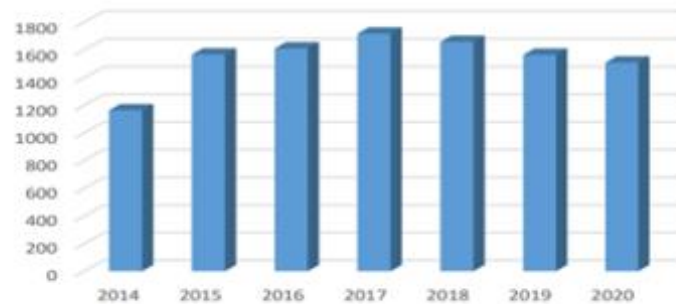
Why apply for a MSCA Doctoral Network?

- Opportunity to create an international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary doctoral network for a particular research theme
- Opportunity for the PIs and their research groups for networking with academic and non-academic organizations
- Opportunity for academic sector to fund doctoral students and enhance the internationality of the students
- Opportunity for non-academic organisations to become involved in the research carried out in the network
- Great opportunity for the doctoral students to carry out their research in an international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary environment

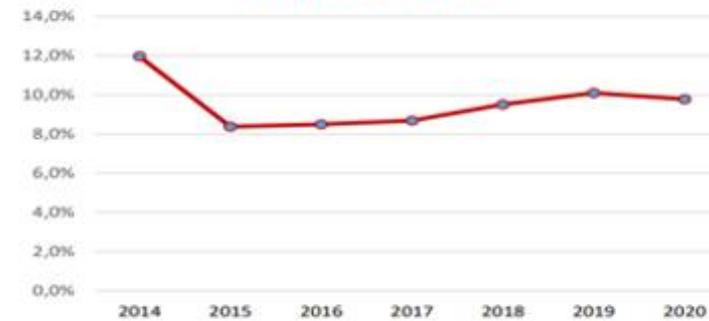
Statistics: Innovative Training Networks under Horizon 2020

ITN under H2020

ITN submission evolution



ITN Success rate



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Proposals submitted	1164	1567	1611	1718	1658	1565	1509
Proposals evaluated	1153	1563	1567	1714	1650	1554	1503
Budget (WP) M€	405,18	370	375	430	456,68	497,69	530,13
GA signed	138	131	133	149	157	166	147*
Success rate	12,0%	8,4%	8,5%	8,7%	9,5%	10,7%	9,8%*

*Based on the Main list



MSCA Staff Exchange

- Promotes **innovative international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration** in research and innovation **through exchanging staff**. **Rewards creativity and entrepreneurship** and helps turn **ideas into innovative products, services or processes**.
- Involves organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors from across the globe.
- Support for international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of R&I staff leading to knowledge transfer between participating organisations.

MSCA COFUND

- **Co-financing** for new or existing **doctoral programmes** and **postdoctoral fellowship schemes** with the aim to spread the best practices of the MSCA including **international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research training**, as well as **transnational and cross-sectoral mobility** of researchers at all stages of their career.
- Provides complementary funding for doctoral or postdoctoral programmes managed by entities established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries

MSCA Citizens

- Aims to bring **research and researchers closer to the public** at large, to increase awareness of research and innovation activities and to boost public recognition of science and research education.
- Pursued by organizing **European Researchers' Night**, the largest research communication and promotion event taking place across EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries

How to write a successful MSCA application

- Scientific excellence is a must BUT don't forget impact and implementation
- Read all documentation as soon as they are published in mid April (start with MSCA Work Programme and Guide for Applicants)
- Read and follow the instructions carefully
- Remember to read and follow all guiding principles, such as Open Science, Responsible Research and Innovation, UN Sustainable Development goals etc.
- Read evaluation guidelines. What are the reviewers looking at? Make sure you "tick all the boxes"
- Not all reviewers are specialists of your field; explain well!
- Start preparing your application several months before the dead-line.
- Postdoctoral Fellowships: collaborate with your host in the writing process
- More tips:
 - Net4Mobility+: [MSCA Individual Fellowships Handbook 2020](#); [MSCA ITN Handbook 2020](#). Also other handbooks available here: <https://www.net4mobilityplus.eu/msca-ncp/>

Kiitos

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