

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

CO-FUNDING OF REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES: COFUND

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

COFUND provides **complementary funding for doctoral or postdoctoral programmes** managed by entities established in EU Member States (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Countries (AC). Those co-funded programmes must follow the **good practice of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** in terms of international recruitment and minimum standard of employment for the recruited fellows as described in the **European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers**:

euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter

Proposed programmes **can cover any research disciplines ("bottom-up")**, but exceptionally can also focus on specific disciplines. In this case, the range of covered disciplines should allow reasonable flexibility for the researchers to define their topic. **Funding synergies** with the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) are strongly encouraged.

COFUND can take the following forms:

- **Doctoral programmes** offer research training activities to allow doctoral candidates to develop and broaden their skills and competences. They will **lead to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one MS or AC**. The training activities should be based on the EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training:
euraxess.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/policy_library/principles_for_innovative_doctoral_training.pdf
- **Postdoctoral Programmes** fund individual advanced **research training and career development fellowships for postdoctoral researchers**. They should have regular selection rounds following fixed deadlines or regular cut-off dates, allowing fair competition between researchers. Researchers will be able to freely choose a research topic and the appropriate organisation to host them, fitting their individual needs.

The **maximum duration of the COFUND action is 60 months**, including the time needed to recruit or select the researchers. The **minimum duration of each fellowship** (on the basis of full-time employment) for COFUND is **three months**.

NEXT CALLS

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01, opening 10 Oct 23

Budget: EUR million 96.57

Deadline: 08 February 2024

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-COFUND-01, opening 08 Oct 24

Budget: EUR million 99.28

Deadline: 06 February 2025

ELIGIBILITY

- Applications must be submitted by a **single entity established in an MS or AC**.
- In each COFUND action, a **minimum of three researchers must be recruited**.
- **Supported researchers** can be of **any nationality**. They must comply with the following **mobility rule**: they may not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary or implementing partner for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline of the co-funded programme's call. On top of this compulsory international mobility, applicants are encouraged to include elements of **cross-sectoral mobility and interdisciplinarity** into their programmes.
- **Doctoral programmes**: Supported researchers must be **doctoral candidates**, i.e. not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the deadline of the co-funded programme's call.
- **Postdoctoral Programmes**: Supported researchers must be **in possession of a doctoral degree** at the deadline of the co-funded programme's call.

FUNDING

The EU contribution is limited to **EUR 10 million per beneficiary per call**. If an applicant submits two or more successful applications totalling more than EUR 10 million within one call, the applicant will decide which of these proposals to implement.

EU contributions for the recruited researchers and institutional contributions [person/month]:

Doctoral programmes: EUR 2,800.00

Postdoctoral programmes: EUR 3,980.00

This contribution can be used to support **any cost items of the programme** (remuneration costs, mobility costs, family costs, research, training and networking costs, management and indirect costs). Individual cost items may be **fully or partially funded through other resources** provided that double-funding is avoided.

Minimum total costs for the beneficiary related to the employment of the researchers [person/month]:

Doctoral programmes: not lower than EUR 2,800.00

Postdoctoral programmes: not lower than EUR 3,980.00

This includes salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs or compulsory deductions under national legislation and the mobility costs for the benefit of the researchers.

CONTACT

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We kindly ask researchers from Austrian universities and non-university research institutions to contact their research services for basic counselling (for universities: www.forschungsservice.at).

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