

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

STAFF EXCHANGES

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Staff Exchanges promote innovative **international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration** in research and innovation through **exchanging staff and sharing knowledge and ideas at all stages of the innovation chain**. The organisations constituting the partnership contribute directly to the implementation of a joint R&I project by **seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members**. Such a project must **explore activities that can be based on previous work but should go beyond and generate or strengthen long-term collaborations**. Alike the other Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Staff Exchanges follow a **bottom-up** approach, i.e. research fields are chosen freely by the applicants. The maximum duration of the projects is **48 months**. The **overall EU contribution** amounts to a maximum of **360 person-months of secondments** (i.e. staff exchanges).

SECONDMENT RULES

- **Secondments must be between different countries.**
- Secondments between institutions established in Third Countries or within the same EU Member State (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Country (AC) are **not eligible**.
- Secondments within different MS/AC should be **between different sectors** (academic and non-academic, see definition on the next page), except for **interdisciplinary secondments**, which are possible within the same sector. These shall be limited to a maximum of one third of the total person months.
- Secondments are open for **researchers at any career stage, as well as administrative, managerial and technical staff supporting R&I activities under the action**.
- Supported staff members must be **actively engaged in or linked to R&I activities for at least one month** (full-time equivalent) at the sending institution before the first period of secondment.
- After the period of secondment, seconded staff should **return to their sending institution**.
- **Secondments must last at least one month and cannot be longer than 12 months** for the same staff member (independently of the number of organisations the staff is seconded to).
- The secondment of a staff member **may be split into several stays** with one or several hosts.

NEXT CALLS

HORIZON-MSCA-2021-SE-01, opening 07 Oct 2021

Budget: EUR million 72.5

Deadline: 09 March 2022

HORIZON-MSCA-2022-SE-01, opening 06 Oct 2022

Budget: EUR million 77.5

Deadline: 08 March 2023

DEFINITIONS

Academic sector: Public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations for whom one of the main objectives is to pursue research or technological development, and International European Research Organisations.

Non-Academic sector: Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector (e.g industry, business, independent research infrastructures, government, civil society organisations, cultural institutions, hospitals, etc.).

ELIGIBILITY

- Applications must be submitted by a consortium including at **least three independent legal entities in three different countries**, two of which in a different MS or AC.
- If all participating organisations are from the same sector (i.e. either only academic or only non-academic), there must be at least one organisation from a non-associated Third Country. **Above this minimum, the participation of organisations from any country is possible.**

FUNDING

The contribution of the European Commission consists of a top-up allowance for the seconded staff members as well as part of the costs for the implementation of the project. If applicable, the staff members are also entitled to a special needs allowance.

Contributions for seconded staff members [person/month]:

Top-Up allowance	EUR 2,300.00
Covering travel, accommodation and subsistence costs related to the secondment	

Institutional contributions [person/month]:

Research, training and networking contribution	EUR 1,300.00
Management and indirect contribution	EUR 1,000.00

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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