

**European Funding and Policy  
Support for Research Careers**

**October 2017**



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## Impressum

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## 1. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Work Programme 2018 – 2020 prepublished

The European Commission has recently prepublished the Work programme 2018 – 2020 for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, with a total estimated budget of appr. 2,9 billion EUR for the last three years of Horizon 2020, the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The MSCA Work programme is key for long term planning to prepare proposals in MSCA, as it includes the call dates and budget for the next years to come. For those already well acquainted with MSCA: the yearly calls will stay in the similar frequency and periodicity as in previous rounds – ie the deadline for Individual fellowships (IF) in the mids of September or for the Innovative Training Networks (ITN) in early to mid January each year. In particular the budget for Innovative Training Networks and the Individual Fellowships will be substantially increased over the next three calls (for IF additional 78 Mio EUR over the three calls; for ITN 95 Mio. EUR plus over the three calls). The adoption of the MSCA Work programme is expected for 27 of October 2017 and will be published on the Horizon 2020 website and on the Participant Portal. The prepublished version can be found here:

[https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/03.\\_h2020-msca-2018-2020\\_post\\_isc\\_post\\_pc\\_for\\_pre-publication.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/sites/horizon2020/files/03._h2020-msca-2018-2020_post_isc_post_pc_for_pre-publication.pdf)

## 2. Call for Proposals for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks

The call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks is now open, with the deadline being 17 January 2018. The budget for this call is 442 Mio. EUR, of which 375 Mio. EUR are foreseen for European Training Networks (ETN), 32 Mio. EUR for European Industrial Doctorates (EID) and 35 Mio. for the European Joint Doctorate (EJD). If you have questions related to this call or ITN in general, feel free to contact the Austrian National Contact Point for MSCA at the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG). For ITNs with an Austrian institution as coordinator, FFG offers a free proposal check. For this, please get in touch with us ideally by 10 December 2017 latest <https://www.ffg.at/europa/h2020/msca>. For the call text see:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/msca-itn-2018.html>

## 3. Upcoming: Call for Proposals for the European Researchers' Night

On 7 November 2017 the next call for proposals for European Researchers' Night will open, with the deadline being 14 February 2018 and with an indicative call budget of 12 Mio. EUR. Funding is provided for public and media events for the promotion of research careers, to increase awareness among the general public of the importance of research and innovation, for a better understanding of the key benefits that research brings to society, including the reduction in the stereotypes about researchers and their professions. The European Researchers' Night takes place yearly, typically on the last Friday of the month September and can last up to two full days and should be particular towards young people and their families. Pre-events can also be organized during spring and summer, prior to the main event. As the year 2018 will be designated as the "European Year of Cultural Heritage", applicants are encouraged to include activities in their events related to cultural heritage. Proposals should cover two editions of the NIGHT in successive years, but single editions will be considered as well. Learn more about the the European Researchers' Night and previously funded events:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/researchersnight/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/researchersnight/index_en.htm)

#### **4. Video Campaign for Project Coordinators launched – with a prize for free travelling to ESOF 2018**

The European Commission initiated a video campaign for project coordinators (H2020 and FP7), to build up a portfolio of good project videos that showcase the impact of EU funded research and innovation on our daily lives. The project coordinator whose video receives the most likes from the YouTube Playlist by 5pm on Friday 30 March 2018 will receive a prize, consisting of free travel and accommodation to attend the next EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) conference, to be held in Toulouse in July 2018. Full information on this initiative can be found here: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/investeuresearch/index.cfm>

#### **5. Open for Competition: Houskapreis 2018 – deadline 30 November 2017**

Until 30 November 2017, research projects can be handed in for competition, to receive the well dotted award Houskapreis, a prize awarded by the B&C Privatstiftung for research and development projects close to industry, if run by the Austrian Universities, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Institute for Science and Technology Austria as well as small and medium companies. There are two categories in which projects can be proposed for competition: “university research” and “research and development in SMEs”, each with 200.000 EUR prize money. The best project in each category will receive 150.000 EUR, nominated projects receive 10.000 EUR and another 10.000 EUR will be awarded to the project with most votes from the audience. For all information on criteria for participation, the jury and the winner projects of last year, see: <https://www.bcholding.at/houskapreis-1>

#### **6. Reminder: “Horizon 2020 zum Frühstück” – Webinar series on H2020 Calls 2018**

Between 20 October and 16 November 2017, the FFG Academy organizes twelve webinars with useful information on the upcoming Horizon 2020 Calls of 2018. During virtual breakfasts with FFG experts you will learn about various new developments, available budgets, deadlines, etc. Among the webinars, one is dedicated to the latest developments in deriving from the new work programme of the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (6 November)** and one on **COST (14 November)**. The breakfasts are held in German. Further information and registration: [https://www.ffg.at/europa/veranstaltungen/h2020\\_webinar\\_2017-10](https://www.ffg.at/europa/veranstaltungen/h2020_webinar_2017-10)

#### **7. Study on European Industrial Doctorates published**

If you have always been wondering how one of the formats of an MSCA Innovative Training Network – the European Industrial Doctorate (EID) is actually implemented, what institutions, fellows and stakeholders think about this scheme and if there are national schemes comparable with the EID, the study “European Industrial Doctorates - towards increased employability and innovation” is a good tip for reading. Though there is a brief version available, too, presenting the main results in English, German and French, we highly recommend to dive a bit in the study itself, as it provides a nice in-depth insight into the pros and cons of collaboration between university and industry in doctoral studies.

<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/c6abb4b4-3c3e-11e7-a08e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-45546275>

## 8. Report on Skills and Competencies for Researchers to practise Open Science

The European Commission has recently published the report “Providing researchers with the skills and competencies they need to practice Open Science”, written by the Working group on Education and Skills under Open Science. Apart from different perspectives and good practices on Open Science, the report gives a good insight into different categories of Open Science skills, including a presentation of current resources, including trainings, to develop such skills. Valuable reading is the chapter placing Open Science in the ERA policy –since it brings the topic of Open Science closer to other central policy documents and instruments like the Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training and the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R). A valuable read for all involved in setting up / implementing institutional strategies linked to the career development for researchers, including doctoral training, staff development and the development of human resources in general.

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/pdf/os\\_skills\\_wgreport\\_final.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/pdf/os_skills_wgreport_final.pdf)

## 9. Eurydice Brief on Academic Staff 2017

The Eurydice brief on Academic Staff 2017 provides a good snapshot on the general picture of academic staff in 35 European countries. The focus of the data for this study was on academic staff working in public and publicly subsidised private higher education institutions, trying to provide a better understanding of working conditions and careers of academic staff. Reading the main outcomes comes a bit as a déjà-vu. For example, in the comparison of female academic staff between 2000 and 2015, the study shows an upward trend, but nevertheless, women remain particularly underrepresented in higher positions. Other outcomes show that some countries are particularly good in attracting international staff – leading here are Switzerland and United Kingdom. Also of interest are many of the overviews and comparisons, for example, which public authority regulate academic staff salaries, how sabbaticals are regulated in the different countries, or which qualifications are needed for positions in academia and where still civil servant status for academic staff still exists. Both, the full study and the brief based on this are available here:

[https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Publications:Modernisation\\_of\\_Higher\\_Education\\_in\\_Europe:\\_Academic\\_Staff\\_%E2%80%93\\_2017](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Publications:Modernisation_of_Higher_Education_in_Europe:_Academic_Staff_%E2%80%93_2017)

## 10. “beSCIENCED”... This was the European Researchers' Night 2017 in Vienna

On 29 September 2017, another European Researchers' Night took place in over 300 cities in Europe. The key objective of the event was to motivate and inspire youth to enjoy, understand and pursue science and technology by connecting them with outstanding scientists and innovations. Austria's contribution to this event was “beSCIENCED”, hosted by the Practical Robotics Institute Austria in partnership with the Vienna Institute of Technology (TGM), Vienna's biggest high school. Here, 3.700 visitors were counted, of these 15% younger than 10 years and 35% between 10-20 years. Over 170 researchers gave insights into their work, mainly in the fields informatics, electronics, biotechnology, energy and automation. The programme comprised 21 workshops, 70 science booths, 8 science slams, a science café and a life translation to CERN. Another activity was a knowledge quiz, in which 350 visitors participated. For impressions of the European Researchers' Night event in Austria 2017 see:

<http://be-scienced.eu/gallery-2017>.

## 11. Open vacancies and other opportunities

- **PhD positions (4 years) funded by the EPFLinnovators programme, Switzerland/Lausanne**

Starting from November 2017, the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne - EPFL launches two calls for attractive 4-year-PhD positions funded by the EPFLinnovators programme. With this programme, EPFL aims to attract excellent PhD candidates with an interest in entrepreneurship and (i) increase their awareness – from the very beginning of their PhD studies - of the possibility to initiate a start-up, (ii) increase the number of PhD candidates who create a start-up and become an entrepreneur/innovator, and (iii) to increase the success of their start-ups once these have been created. The programme includes a long stay between 6 and 24 months in the non-academic sector and will result in a new type of “Industry-oriented PhD” at EPFL.

EPFLinnovators PhD studies may be held in any of the 19 doctoral programmes within the EPFL. The duration of an EPFLinnovators scholarships is 48 months (4 years) and cannot be prolonged. There will be 2 calls, each aimed at selecting 18 excellent PhD candidates, the first call opening on 1 November 2017, the deadline for the submission of applications is 15 January 2018; the second call opening 1 February 2018, the deadline is 16 April 2018. Selected candidates must start their PhD at the latest on 1 September 2018. For further information see: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/238562>

- **More job offers on EURAXESS**

Many more job offers for experienced and early-stage researchers can be found on the EURAXESS website: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/search/>

- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Expression of Interest (EOI)**

If you are looking for a host institution to carry out an individual fellowship or for a partner institution to set up a MSCA Innovative Training Network or a RISE project, the following site can be of interest: <http://www.net4mobility.eu/eoi.html>

## 12. Good to know... in October: the Open Access Week

October has almost past – and we are in the middle of the Open Access Week, running from 23 – 29 October 2017. The OA Week is a global event entering its tenth edition this year, an opportunity for the academic and research community to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share experiences with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research. Learn more about this initiative, check out which events related to this week take place in different countries and see how to get involved next time via <http://www.openaccessweek.org>

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**TIP:** For researchers working at larger national research institutions or universities, please check also for institutional support, for example under [http://www.forschungsservice.at/index\\_en.html](http://www.forschungsservice.at/index_en.html)

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