

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

February 2018



CONTENT

1. Marie-Skłodowska-Curie Individual fellowships: Evaluation results and next opportunities.....	3
2. European Researchers' Night Call 2018 closed – more proposals than ever	3
3. Upcoming deadline for proposals in the MSCA Research and Innovation Staff exchange (RISE)	4
4. Keep a note: Career Grants for travel costs to job interviews and relocation costs	4
5. News from the Marie Curie Alumni Association.....	5
6. Tipp: Science Europe published guidance document for research data management	5
7. Follow-up on EURAXESS Training on Career Development, 6-8 Feb 2018 in Warsaw	5
8. Follow-up on EURAXESS Austrian Network Meeting in Vienna 19 Feb 2018	6
9. Public consultations in preparation for the EU's next long-term budget post-2020	6
10. Upcoming events	7
11. Open vacancies and other opportunities	7
12. Good to know... in February: Researcher's Guide to Austria	9

Impressum

Medieninhaber und Herausgeber:
Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH
Sensengasse 1, A - 1090 Wien
Tel.: +43 (0)5 77 55 - 0,
Fax: +43 (0)5 7755 - 97011,
email: office@ffg.at
FN: 252263a, Handelsgericht Wien

1. Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Individual fellowships: Evaluation results and next opportunities

The results of the 2017 call for proposals for Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Individual fellowships (IF) are known. From 8.957 evaluated projects 1.348 were selected for funding, which stands for a general success rate of 15% across all types of fellowships. More precisely, 14,9% of proposals for a European Fellowship (EF) and 16,4% of proposals for a Global Fellowship (GF) were funded. Thus, the success rates were higher than in the previous call, reflecting the increased budget of additional 30 Mio. EUR compared to the call in 2016. The highest success rate in the 2017 call was in the panel Society and Enterprise, i.e. European fellowships with a host institution outside the academic sector, for example within an SME or industry (28,4%). 27 fellowships with an Austrian host institution were selected for funding (23 EF and 4 GF). For a detailed picture of the results per panel, including the cut-offs for funding and the percentage of proposals evaluated as below threshold, see: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/msca-if-2017/1805117-table_with_percentiles_if2017_en.pdf

With an IF, experienced researchers receive between 1 and 3 years of funding to carry out an individualized research project in Europe and beyond. Seen from an institutional perspective, Individual Fellowships are not only an attractive scheme for funding post-docs, but to use this also in the sense of building institutional cooperation. This can be realized through the involvement of partner institutions to host the fellow during secondments, a feature which is most pronounced in the Global fellowships. Here, the researcher is employed over the whole duration of the fellowship by the European institution, but spends up to 2 years at an institution outside Europe. Calls for Individual Fellowships are published on a yearly basis, with dates and budgets already known until 2020. This means that both researchers and potential host institutions can prepare for this funding scheme on a long-term basis. Also worth mentioning is that the next call for Individual Fellowships (H2020-MSCA-IF-2018) comes again with an increased budget (plus 25 Mio. EUR compared to the previous call, adding up to 273 Mio. EUR). The call opens 12 April 2018, the deadline being 12 September 2018. Also the calls for 2019 and 2020 foresee increased budgets.

Safe the Date: To support future applicants, FFG organizes a training in proposal writing for Marie-Sklodowska Curie Individual Fellowships, scheduled for 24-25 April 2018 in Vienna.

2. European Researchers' Night Call 2018 closed – more proposals than ever

14 February 2018 the call for proposals for the European Researchers' Night closed. The European Researchers' Night is an annual outreach event funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, aimed at enhancing recognition of researchers amongst the general public. It also aims to stimulate interest in scientific careers amongst young people through the organisation of "edutaining" events. Around 1.1 million citizens took part last year.

The total call budget in 2018 amounts to 12 Mio. EUR, which is 4 Mio. EUR more compared to the last call in 2016. Altogether 128 proposals were submitted, accounting for the highest number ever received. The highest share of proposals came from Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, with 14, 12 and 11 proposals from those countries respectively. Portugal, Romania, Germany and Poland were also well-represented, as well as France and the Netherlands. Of the proposals received from Associated Countries, the most proposals were submitted by Turkey, Republic of Serbia and the Ukraine. Evaluation will take place from 19 to 23 March 2018, with the success

rate expected to be similar to previous years – around 30-35 %. For more details see: https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/night-receives-highest-number-proposals-ever-2018-feb-19_en

The next call for proposals for European Researchers' Nights will open in October 2019, the deadline being 8 Jan 2010. Details can be found in the work programme for MSCA 2018 – 2020:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-msca_en.pdf

Learn more about European Researchers' Night funded so far:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/european-researchers-night_en

3. Upcoming deadline for proposals in the MSCA Research and Innovation Staff exchange (RISE)

In view of the currently open call for applications in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie action “Research and Innovation Staff Exchange” (RISE), with deadline 21 March 2018, we would like to remind you that FFG provides proposal checks for projects coordinated by an Austrian institution. The check includes a thorough feedback to draft proposals and suggestions for improvement.

RISE is a good funding mechanism if you have partners elsewhere in Europe and the world with whom you would like to cooperate in a structured manner via staff secondment and joint activities like workshops and summer schools. Funding covers a monthly top-up to cover mobility costs to second staff members (the amount is now slightly higher – 2.100 EUR per seconded month; a staff member can be seconded between 1 and 12 months) plus funding for institutional costs related to research, training and networking as well as management and overheads. Based on the unit cost approach in MSCA, the budget for institutional unit costs alone can add up to max. 1.35 Mio EUR per project (972.000 EUR for research, training, networking and 378.000 EUR for management and overheads), based on the max. amount of 540 person months for secondments. Even though the RISE scheme was developed to support primarily the cooperation and knowledge exchange between the academic and the non-academic sector (“intersectoral secondments”), experience from selected projects show that “international secondments”, which can be within the same sector – i.e. academic-academic, but between Europe and the world, are equally relevant. So far, the average size of consortia for RISE is between 6 and 9 organisations. If you have questions, get in touch <https://www.ffg.at/europa/h2020/msca/rise>. More details plus examples from ongoing projects can be found in the slides of the webinar on MSCA funding opportunities for companies and the non-academic sector, held 25 Jan 2018: <https://www.ffg.at/europa/akademie/webinare/aufzeichnungen>

4. Keep a note: Career Grants for travel costs to job interviews and relocation costs

Career Grants support researchers to start or continue their career in Austria in the field of research, development and innovation. The funding includes travel costs to job interviews in Austria (Interview Grant, max. 80% of the travel costs), relocation costs when taking up a post in the field of research, development and innovation (Relocation Grant, max. 2.000 EUR) and the professional integration of the partner (Dual Career Grant, max. 2.000 EUR).

In order to be eligible for funding, applicants must have at least a Master's degree. The post, for which a job interview is held or which is started, must be filled for at least 12 months and directly relate to research, development and innovation. Applications can be made on an ongoing basis.

The programme is managed by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), further information on eligibility criteria and the process of application are available here: <https://www.ffg.at/career-grants>

5. News from the Marie Curie Alumni Association

From 2-3 February 2018 the Annual Conference and General Assembly of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) took place at the University of Leuven, Belgium. A wide variety of topics was covered, for example Innovation in Europe; Career Choices and Career Development; Open Science; Science Communication; Writing Successful Applications; Setting up a Spin-off Company; Future Leadership programmes in Industries for PhD students and post-docs – just to mention some. If you are curious to learn more about the event, you find a good documentation including the recording of some speeches and discussions here:

<https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/events/2018-mcaa-conference-general-assembly#2018-conference-general-assembly-tab-3>

Furthermore, the MCAA elected a new board. Here, the past and the current chair of the Austrian chapter of the MCAA, Matthew DiFranco and Mostafa Moonir Shawrav were elected as chair and vice-chair of the Marie Curie Alumni Association and will be working in this position for the next two years. The MCAA was launched initially as a restricted-access web-site in 2012; the official creation as an international not-for-profit association under Belgian law took place in early 2014. Funding and support for the MCAA is provided by the European Commission. Membership is free of charge and open to any researcher who benefited from any of the past or present schemes proposed as part of the European Commission's Marie Curie programme. So far, the Association has 10.888 registered users. It consists of 29 geographically organized chapters and has a number of working groups on topics like career. <https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu/about-us>

6. Tipp: Science Europe published guidance document for research data management

Research organisations and funders increasingly require researchers to create data management plans for their work and their proposals. The Science Europe Working Group on Research Data has therefore developed a framework for the creation of domain-specific data management protocols, a "Guidance Document Presenting a Framework for Discipline-specific Research Data Management". The framework provides a structured format that sets a number of minimum requirements for data management plans. Scientific communities are encouraged to build on this with the requirements that are specific to their field of research. This will result in domain data protocols that can be used as blank templates by individual researchers. Such protocols will both reduce the time needed for researchers to create data management plans, and simplify the process of evaluating them for research organisations. See http://www.scienceeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SE_Guidance_Document_RDMPs.pdf

7. Follow-up on EURAXESS Training on Career Development, 6-8 Feb 2018 in Warsaw

From 6-8 February 2018 a training on Career Development for EURAXESS bridgehead organisations (BHOs) took place in Warsaw. The training was organized in the context of the ongoing EURAXESS project TOP III, which is dedicated to the further development and

improvement of services provided by the EURAXESS network, including career development. More information about the project can be found here: <https://topiii.eu>. Participants in Warsaw were provided with an overview of the different career development tools designed within various EURAXESS projects. Of particular interest were guidelines on how EURAXESS centres can introduce career services, focusing on two Career Development models developed within TOP III: 1. Career Development Platform (namely a EURAXESS website, putting information/tools on the website), which is the most basic level that a EURAXESS centre can offer; 2. Career Development Service – a more advanced level, with e.g. some training provided to researchers.

If you are interested to learn more about current and previous EURAXESS initiatives, outcomes and further developments, or would like to know more about EURAXESS in general, please contact Ylva Huber (FFG), research_career_eu@ffg.at and Maria Unger (OeAD) info@oead.at

8. Follow-up on EURAXESS Austrian Network Meeting in Vienna 19 Feb 2018

On 19 February 2018 the annual meeting of the Austrian EURAXESS network took place in Vienna. Apart from an introductory session for newcomers to the EURAXESS Extranet, participants were provided with an update on EURAXESS-related policy developments and ongoing EURAXESS projects like the project EURAXIND - EURAXESS for Industry and the already mentioned project Top III (see previous news item). This was followed by two presentations with experiences from being part of EURAXESS and which benefits this brings for the institution. One presentation was provided by Heidrun Mörtl from the Welcome Center of the Technical University Graz and her colleague Armanda Pillinger from the Office for Gender Equality and Equal Opportunity /Dual Career Service, followed by a presentation from Juliane Mayer, Transferstelle Wissenschaft – Wirtschaft – Gesellschaft at the University of Innsbruck. Both presentations highlighted the importance to exchange experiences with colleagues from other institutions in Austria and from abroad in developing institutional services. Another item on the agenda was a session on the current Austrian legal framework for social security for students and researchers from abroad and the recent changes related to Amendment to the Law relating to Aliens (Fremdenrechtsänderungsgesetz 2017) in Austria.

The full meeting documentation can be found here: <https://www.euraxess.at/node/282105>

If you want to learn more about the EURAXESS network activities in Austria, see if your institution is partner and if so, with whom to get in touch, consult <https://www.euraxess.at/austria/austria-network/network-members>

9. Public consultations in preparation for the EU's next long-term budget post-2020

On 10 January 2018, the European Commission launched a series of public consultations clustered by key policy areas, in preparation for the EU's next long-term budget post-2020 (Multiannual Financial Framework - MFF). The consultation on EU funds in the area of investment, research and innovation, SMEs and single market is available here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-eu-funds-area-investment-research-innovation-smes-and-single-market_en.

All citizens, organisations and stakeholders with an interest and/or involvement in issues related to investment, entrepreneurship, research, innovation and SMEs are welcome to respond to this consultation and can give their views online until 8 March 2018.

10. Upcoming events

- [COST Webinar 5 March 2018 \(new date – instead of 26 Feb 2018\)](#)
- [FFG Academy: Proposal writing for MSCA Individual Fellowships \(IF\), 24-25 Apr 2018, Vienna](#)
- [FFG Academy: Proposal writing MSCA Innovative Training Networks, 9-10 Oct 2018, Vienna](#)

11. Open vacancies and other opportunities

- **Junior Scientific Officer in Microbiology/Epidemiology at EFSA, Parma, Italy; Deadline: 7 March 2018**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), based in Parma, Italy is looking for a Junior Scientific Officer - Microbiology/Epidemiology (Contract Agent, Function Group IV). EFSA is the keystone of European Union risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. In close collaboration with national authorities and in open consultation with its stakeholders, EFSA provides independent scientific advice and clear communication on existing and emerging risks. EFSA is looking for a motivated and talented scientist who will contribute to the work of EFSA through scientific expertise related primarily to foodborne zoonoses, foodborne outbreaks and molecular typing. The selected scientist could also be asked to contribute to the work in the area of food hygiene and antimicrobial resistance.

Deadline for application is 7 March 2018 at midnight (local time, GMT +1), further details for the application process, formal criteria of candidates etc. can be found here: <https://efsa.contactrh.com/jobs/11578/23782304>

- **6 positions for Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) for three years, funded by COFUND “POLITICO” at the University of Aberdeen, UK; Deadline 20 March 2018**

The University of Aberdeen offers six Early Stage Researcher positions, lasting 3 years, starting in September 2018, for ground-breaking research on how political concepts are used in the world. Applicants from across the social sciences and humanities are welcome, including anthropology, cultural and literary studies, education, history, legal theory and socio-legal studies, philosophy, politics, religious studies, sociology, and theology. ESRs will be employed by the University on a salary of £26,075 per annum, and will be eligible for a range of additional benefits including ample travel and research funding. The ESRs will propose and develop their own research projects around the theme of how political concepts have been fostered historically, debated philosophically and politically, fought over by social movements, codified in law, transmitted through education and the media, and lived out in everyday life. They will register for a PhD and work under the supervision of an interdisciplinary team of supervisors. They will receive extensive training, including in engagement with non-academic audiences, which will include one or more placements with one of the programme’s 23 partners. They will also actively participate in the activities of the Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society and the Rule of Law. Successful applicants will be required to start on 1 September 2018.

For more information consult: <https://www.euraxess.at/jobs/270840>

- **12 Postdoctoral fellowships for the Bioengineering Excellence Scientific Training (BEST) at IBEC, Barcelona, Spain, Deadline 30 April 2018**

The Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC) is currently looking for Postdoctoral candidates to apply for the 2018 call of the Programme in Bioengineering Excellence Scientific

Training (BEST). In this call, BEST offers up to 12 high-potential fellows a two-year contract at IBEC, as well as funded interdisciplinary and intersectoral placements at world-class research centres, hospitals and companies within IBEC's global network of collaborating institutions. Funded under the Marie Curie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND scheme and by the Severo Ochoa programme of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Competitiveness, BEST aims to attract experienced international researchers in the areas of Nanomedicine, Cell Engineering and ICT for Health. Deadline for applications is 30 April 2018; the starting dates for selected fellows is between 1 October to 31 December 2018.

For further information see: <https://www.euraxess.at/jobs/276834>

- **20 Postdoctoral Positions (duration 2 years) within the COFUND STARS programme at Barcelona Supercomputing Centre, Spain, deadline 30 April 2018**

Barcelona Supercomputing Centre (BSC) is currently calling for applications for its COFUND fellowship programme "STARS: Supercomputing and related applications". With this programme BSC aims at fostering the training of highly skilled post-doc in all fields of High Performance Computing and related applications, specifically in Earth Science and Meteorology, in Life Sciences, Genomics and Personalised Medicine and in Computational Engineering and Physics and Computational Sciences. BSC is the leading supercomputing center in Spain, it houses MareNostrum, one of the most powerful supercomputers in Europe, and is a hosting member of the PRACE European distributed supercomputing infrastructure. The mission of BSC is to research, develop and manage information technologies in order to facilitate scientific progress. BSC combines HPC service provision and R&D into both computer and computational science (life, earth and engineering sciences) under one roof, and currently has over 500 staff from 44 countries.

The programme will award 20 outstanding post-doctorate researchers of all nationalities with 24-month INCOMING fellowships, providing them with all necessary tools for developing their potentials, deepening their skills and knowledge in a stimulating, international and interdisciplinary environment, and offering them intersectoral short secondments (1-3 months) with private industry or non-academic research centres (such as Lenovo, CISCO, AstraZeneca, IBERDROLA, EU JRC, AEMET, IRB and CRG) in order to boost their career perspectives as successful independent researchers. Fellows will also be strongly encouraged to participate at least once a year in an international event in their domain of research. Deadline for applications is 30 April 2018;

For further information see: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/278109>

- **36 Postdoctoral Fellowships in the field of Photonics, Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND Programme "MULTIPLY". Various locations in Germany, France, Spain, United Kingdom, Finland, Saudi Arabia, China. Deadline 2 April 2018.**

The MULTIPLY Fellowship Programme announced its third call for applications to its postdoctoral programme in the field of photonics science, technology and applications. MULTIPLY aims to facilitate worldwide mobility and offers high-level interdisciplinary training for international Experienced Researchers towards their professional development, providing both incoming and outgoing fellowships. The current call foresees fellowships at: Ludwig Maximillians University, Munich, Germany; IO-CSIC, Madrid, Spain; KAUST, Saudi Arabia; Leibnitz University, Hannover; National Physical Laboratory, United Kingdom; School of Physics, Nankai University, China; TuT, Finland; CRHEA, CNRS France; Université Paris Diderot, France; Center for Photonics and Photonic Materials, Department of Physics, University of Bath. See: <https://www.euraxess.at/jobs/265738>

- **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 February: Researcher's Guide to Austria

This month, we would like to highlight a source which is helpful both for researchers and institutions alike: the Researcher's Guide to Austria, developed by the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OEAD) in cooperation with the Austrian Research and Promotion Agency (FFG) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). For researchers, the guide provides a good introduction into Austria's research & development landscape, as well as general information on entry and residence regulations, taxation, social security and family issues in Austria. Institutions are free to use parts of the guide for their institutional information packages. The recently updated version is available here: <https://www.euraxess.at/austria/austria-network/downloads>

CONTACT

Yasmin Dolak-Struss (yasmin.dolak@ffg.at)

Expert for Marie-Sklodowska Curie Actions

Tel: 057755 4606

Ylva Huber (ylva.huber@ffg.at)

Austrian National Contact Point for the European Research Council

EURAXESS Information Officer

Tel: 057755 4102

Therese Lindahl (therese.lindahl@ffg.at)

Austrian National Contact Point for Marie-Sklodowska Curie Actions

Tel: 057755 4604

Lil Reif (lil.reif@ffg.at)

Expert for Marie-Sklodowska Curie Actions

EURAXESS Information Officer

Tel: 057755 4608

Nicole Schmidt (nicole.schmidt@ffg.at)

Austrian National Contact Point for COST

Tel: 057755 4105

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

FFG: EUROPEAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH CAREERS

<https://www.ffg.at/content/das-internationale-angebot-f-r-eine-karriere-forschung-und-entwicklung>

MSCA: <https://www.ffg.at/content/msca>

ERC: <https://www.ffg.at/erc>

EURAXESS: <https://www.euraxess.at/>

COST: <https://www.ffg.at/programme/cost>