



HORIZON EUROPE

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship 2024
Luxinnovation Support
Leonardo Tonetto
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Agenda

Webinar on MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

1. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
2. Proposal and evaluation
3. Writing dos and don'ts
4. Using LLMs to support the proposal writing
5. Luxinnovation support

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Postdoctoral Fellowships

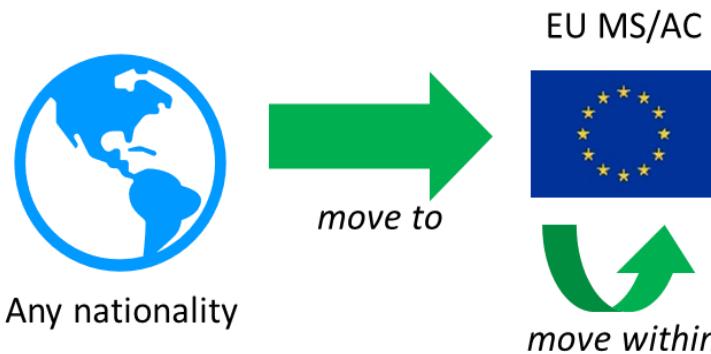
- Enhance the **creative** and **innovative potential** of PhD holders.
- **Bottom-up** projects (i.e., whatever suits your needs, aligned with EU priorities).
- Advanced **training** of individuals through international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral mobility.
- May include projects in the **non-academic sector**.

MSCA PF

Types of actions

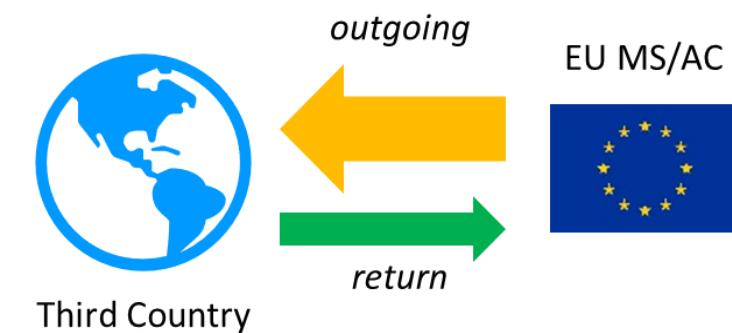
European Fellowships (EF)

- Researchers of any nationality engaging in research projects in European Member State/HEU Associated Country (EU MS/AC) or moving within EU MS/AC
- 12-24 months



Global Fellowships (GF)

- European nationals (or long-term residents) engaging in research outside EU MS/AC
- 12-24 months in Third Country + 12 months compulsory return phase



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Implementation – Funding mechanism (unit cost)

1 person-month = 1 unit (i.e., 1 unit = 1 month of eligible PhD candidate cost)

Reimbursement rate: 100%

MSCA PF	Contribution for recruited researchers Per person-month*					Institutional unit contrib. per person-month	
	Living allowance (gross)	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Long-term leave allowance	Special needs allowance	Research, training and networking contrib.	Management and indirect cost
	€ 5080	€ 600	€ 660	€ 5680 x % covered by beneficiary	Req. unit x (1/number of months)	€ 1000	€ 650

MSCA PF

Implementation – Funding mechanism (unit cost)

- **Living allowance:** personnel costs for employment (+ full social security).
- **Mobility allowance:** private mobility-related costs (e.g., travel and accommodation).
- **Family allowance:** mobility-related for researchers with family obligations.
- **Long-term leave allowance:** cover costs in case of leave, including maternity/paternity, parental, sick or special leave.
- **Special needs allowance:** additional costs for acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with special needs.

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Implementation – Funding mechanism (unit cost)

- **Research, training and networking contribution:** Should cover expenses associated directly with the fellow's activities and career development, e.g., conferences, trips related to work, lab material, publication costs, research expenses, visa-related expenses, and any cost related to secondments.
- **Management and indirect contribution:** should cover the beneficiary's additional costs in direct connection with the action (e.g., personnel costs for project management, indirect costs).

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Requirements and restrictions for candidates

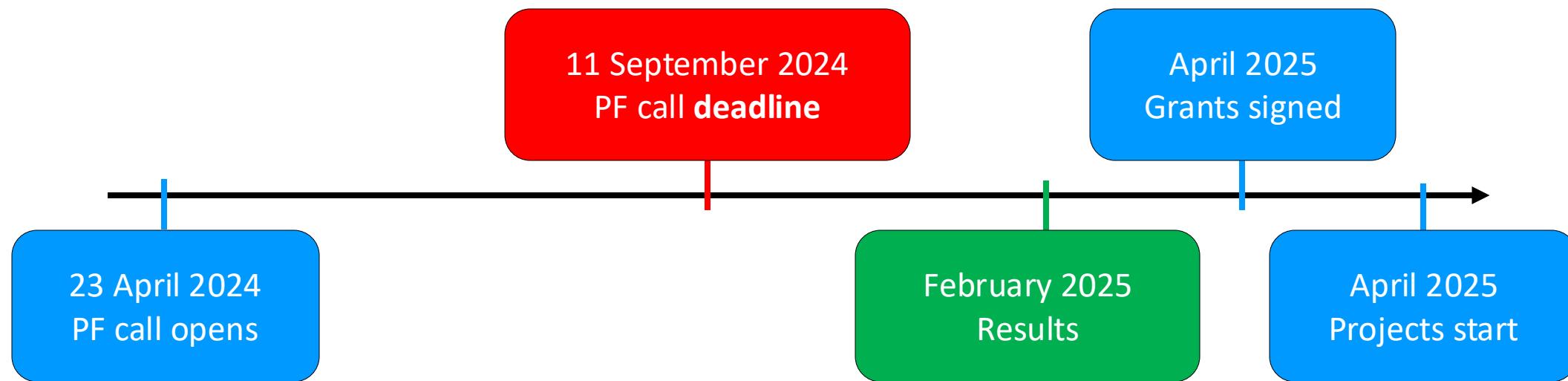
Research experience	Maximum of <u>8 years</u> from the award of the first PhD Deductions apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity/paternity leave, not working in research, long-term sick leave, research in a non-associated Third Country, compulsory national service
Mobility rule	Must <u>not have resided or carried out main activity</u> in the country of the beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline (N.B.: includes remote work)
Proposal	Only <u>one proposal per individual</u> can be submitted
Secondments	Can take up to one-third of the duration of the fellowship
Resubmission	Allowed if proposal scores at least 70%

MSCA PF

Host institution

- **Single entity** established in an EU MS/AC (*i.e.*, mono-beneficiary).
- **[PF GF] Associated Partner** of outgoing phase must include a letter of commitment.
- The beneficiary **must employ and supervise** the researcher during the action.
- May be academic, industry, public entity, NGO

MSCA PF 2024 - key dates



MSCA PF

Statistics – Success rate

MSCA Year	PF	Actions		Panels (EF+GF)								
		PF EF	PF GF	CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC	
2021	13.8%	<u>13.6%</u>	<u>15.7%</u>	13.9%	13.4%	13.3%	14.0%	13.7%	14.2%	14.0%	14.0%	
2022	17.6%	<u>17.3%</u>	<u>19.9%</u>	17.4%	18.5%	16.8%	17.3%	17.8%	17.7%	18.0%	17.9%	
2023	15.7%	<u>15.6%</u>	<u>16.6%</u>	15.9%	16.2%	15.2%	15.2%	15.9%	15.9%	16.0%	15.9%	

Statistics – Cut-off score for Main list

MSCA Year	PF	Actions		Panels (EF+GF)								
		PF EF	PF GF	CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC	
2021	83.8	92.0	83.8	<u>92.0</u>	<u>83.8</u>	<u>92.8</u>	<u>93.6</u>	<u>94.4</u>	<u>92.0</u>	<u>92.2</u>	<u>92.8</u>	
2022	81.0	89.4	81.0	<u>91.8</u>	<u>81.0</u>	<u>92.4</u>	<u>92.6</u>	<u>92.6</u>	<u>90.8</u>	<u>92.4</u>	<u>93.0</u>	

MSCA PF Proposal

Basics

Use the provided
template (on F&T)

Part A – Administrative forms, with information about candidate and host

Part B – Narrative document, in two parts

B1 – Maximum 10 pages, the **core** part of the proposal

Section 1. Excellence

What you will do

Section 2. Impact

Why it matters

Section 3. Implementation

How you will do it

B2 – no page limit, with Section 4-9 including CV, description of host, ethics, security, environmental considerations, and letters of commitment (PF GF only)

Section 1. Excellence



§1.1 Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives

- Explain your research and its objectives (RO)
- Describe State-of-the-Art, and how you go beyond it

Common **negative** comments

- Innovation potential is not convincing -> describe HOW you will do it
- Ideas are not clear, and too much *buzzwords* -> be clear and objective

§1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology

- Describe *how* the research project will be carried out
- Methodology, interdisciplinarity, gender, open science, data mgmt

Common **negative** comments

- Lacks details about methods used -> describe it with **enough** details
- Gender or Intersectoral aspects are not addressed -> highlight if those apply

Section 1. Excellence



§1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge...

- Few sentences on supervisor's experience
- Career development plan, transfer of knowledge

Common **negative** comments

- Training skills not convincing -> describe HOW you will do it
- Supervisor has limited experience -> Highlight why they are capable

§1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience...

- Why you are the best researcher to do this!
- Demonstrate your transferable skills, with references to CV if needed

Common **negative** comments

- Experiences are not relevant -> what/how past experiences matter here
- Supervisions not adequately described -> how/when you will meet

Section 2. Impact



§2.1 Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives...

- Clear examples of future career opportunities afterwards
- Importance of the collaborations built during the fellowship

Common **negative** comments

- Future opportunities not convincing -> describe the impact PF will have
- Soft skills training are missing -> Describe non-scientific training planned

§2.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes...

- Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation
- **GF:** how IP will be handled between the institutions

Common **negative** comments

- Long-term impact not clear and not measurable -> clear metrics
- Exploitation unclear (results publication, beyond papers) -> how to use results

Section 2. Impact



§2.3 The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution... impacts

- Expected scientific, societal, economic impacts
- Make sure the impacts are quantifiable

Common **negative** comments

- X impact not convincing -> Describe it beyond state of the art
- Impact not quantifiable -> Refer to metrics to measure impact

Section 3. Implementation



§3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks...

- Describe how your work packages and workload make sense
- No more than 6 work packages (mgmt., training, DCE, 2-3x scientific)

Common **negative** comments

- Work plan is overambitious -> Plan a 2-year project
- Risk assessment is insufficient -> Consider non-/scientific possible risks

§3.2 Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations...

- Describe the research group and PI's experience
- Describe how you will be integrated AND complement the group

Common **negative** comments

- Group integration is insufficient -> Describe the two-way learning opportunity
- Management structure insufficient -> Describe meetings and communication

MSCA PF Evaluation

Top 5 weakness criteria

1. Excellence

- Methodology
 - Scientific quality
- Two-way transfer
- Beyond SOTA
- Objectives (not clear)
- Interdisciplinary approaches

2. Impact

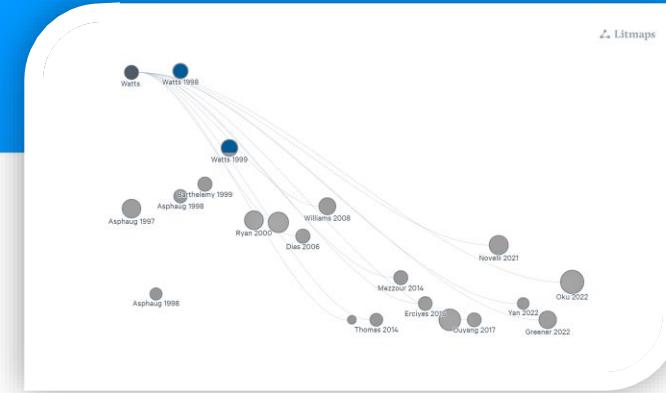
- Expected Econ. Impacts
 - Unclear, not explored
- Comm. plan
- Expected Sci. Impacts
- Target group audience
- IPR

3. Implementation

- Risk assessment/mgmt.
 - Lacking/unclear
- Effort allocation
- Work packages
- Work plan
- Timing and duration

Proposal writing

Using AI (LLM) to support you



Tools

- **ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini:** (re-)write text
- **Idea Factory:** brainstorming
- **Mind the Graph:** figures
- **Litmaps:** Citations/references
- **Elicit:** Literature survey

Prompting

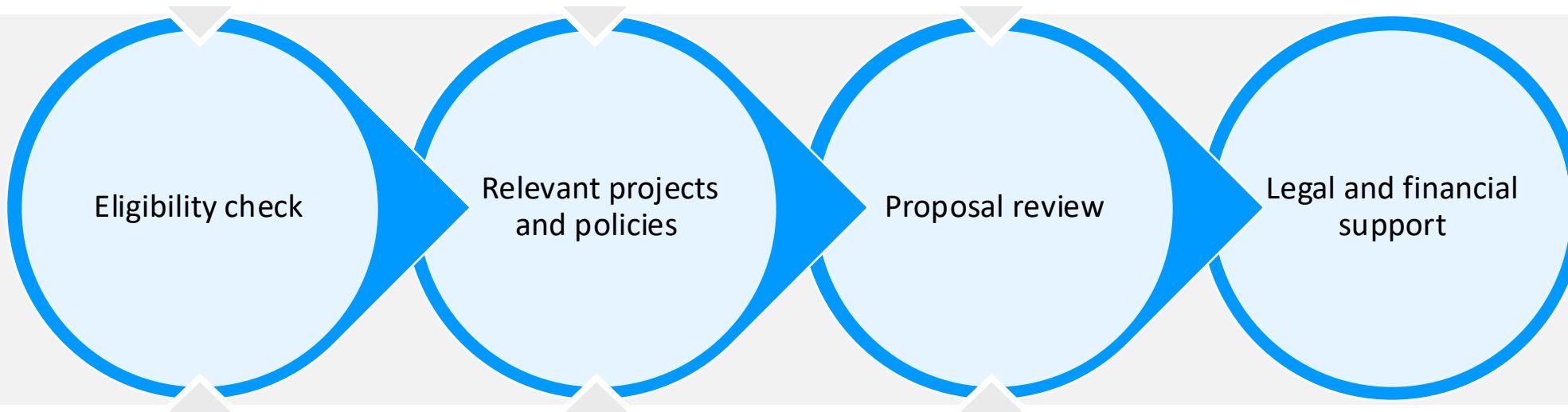
Give the model additional context along with the actual request. Example:

[Context] You are a helpful assistant, with extensive knowledge in ... This text includes ... Be concise, objective and clear. Ask me about ... and summarize the following [input text] to a maximum of 1000 characters.
[input text] <text you want summarized>



Luxinnovation support

MSCA PF proposal phase



Additional resources (PF)



[MSCA PF @ MSCA-NET](#)

[MSCA PF @ REA/EC](#)

[MSCA PF topic page F&T](#)

[MSCA PF – Initial application steps](#)

**11 September 2024
PF call deadline**

**April 2025
Grants signed**

**23 April 2024
PF call opens**

**February 2025
Results**

**April 2025
Projects start**

LuxInnovation support (MSCA PF) to candidates coming to Luxembourg

- Proposal review
- Legal & Financial questions (pre/post)

When is the right time to get help on MSCA PF?
ASAP 😊 (via e-mail)

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EU RDI Support

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