

# MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

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

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### 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](#).

Proposed programmes can cover any research disciplines ("bottom-up") and should be as thematically open as possible. Exceptionally, programmes can also focus on specific disciplines, notably when they are based on national or regional Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3 strategies). In this case, the range of covered disciplines should allow reasonable flexibility for the researchers to define their topic. Funding synergies with Cohesion policy funds and the Recover and Resilience Facility (RRF) 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](#).
- **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-2024-COFUND-01**, opening 23 Apr 24

**Budget:** EUR million 104.80

**Deadline:** 26 Sep 2024

**HORIZON-MSCA-2025-COFUND-01**, opening 23 Jan 25

**Budget:** EUR million 101.82

**Deadline:** 24 June 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 3,300.00

Postdoctoral programmes: EUR 4,700.00

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 than Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe provided that there is no double-funding. Note that the monthly gross remuneration including salary, social security contribution, taxes and other costs or compulsory deductions under national legislation and the mobility costs for the benefit of the researchers must not be lower than these amounts.

## IMPORTANT LINKS

[MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025](#)

[All relevant EC documents \(overview\)](#)

## CONTACT

Website: [https://www.ffg.at/europa/heu/msca/calls\\_cofund](https://www.ffg.at/europa/heu/msca/calls_cofund)

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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](http://www.forschungsservice.at)).

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