

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Individual Fellowships (IF)

Quick evaluator tips

A. Soul-searching: *Carefully assess how well your (and your project) objectives match the objectives and the design of the funding scheme*

B. Focus on your goal! - *Carefully read the proposal template and follow the instructions! and when you are done....*

READ IT AGAIN WITH THE EYES OF AN EVALUATOR

In a nutshell: Clarity, brevity, coherence, **coherence**, coherence....

A. Soul-searching: *Carefully asses how well your (and your project) objectives match the objectives and the design of the funding scheme*

Where to check: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/applying-for-funding/find-a-call_en.htm

Once you made a final list of options, it is worth reading the relevant part of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme. For MSCA you can find it here:

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

Initial checklist

*MSCA's main focus is on **supporting researcher's career path***

*Open to researchers and innovation staff at **all stages of their career**; organisations from **both the academic and the non-academic sectors**, and from **third party countries** can receive funding;*

***Geographical mobility as the main tool:** researchers can receive funding on the condition that they move from one country to another*

Fixed budget and duration

- Do I have a clear view on where my career is going? Did I evaluated correctly my background and my needs for developing my career?
- Is the research project contributing to my career goals?
- Can this project be successfully performed in a different team?

- Do I take the best advantage of this wide range of possibilities?
- Is the project as I designed it and wish to implement correctly suited to the current stage of my career?
- One or two secondment periods?

- Do I really need to relocate?
- Is this host institution the best I could find for acquiring the new knowledge I need for my career? At the minimum, is it better than my current home institution? Ideally, it is uniquely positioned to help me?

- Can I complete the project in the given time and budget?
- If there is a natural continuation, do I have means for it?

Evaluation process in a nutshell:

- Each proposal is assigned to 3 experts. **Experts** use the **bullet-points to list strengths and weaknesses for each sub-criterion**, by demonstrating fact-based opinion that is specific and briefly justified.
- For each proposal a **consensus report** is drafted, putting together the opinions of the evaluators. In case of disagreement, a process of negotiation follows. Experts take turns at writing the CRs
- The experts have **very little time** to evaluate a proposal.

(some) Evaluation principles:

- Any information in pages surpassing the maximum limit **is not considered**.
- Experts are not allowed to use their own knowledge to **fill-in** the missing explanations in the proposal.
- Lack or insufficient attention given to planning and dissemination/outreach activities are considered **major weaknesses**.
- A careful description of the operational capacity of the participating organisations in tight connection with the project **is key** for the success of the application
- All proposals go through a very strict and careful **ethics scrutiny**.

B. Focus on your goal! - *Carefully read the proposal template and follow the instructions!*

1. *Excellence1 1.1 Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project; level of novelty, appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary and gender aspects*

Provide an introduction, discuss the **state-of-the-art**, **specific objectives** and **give an overview of the action**.

Discuss the **research methodology and approach**, **highlighting the type of research / innovation activities proposed**.

Explain the **originality and innovative aspects of the planned research** as well as the contribution that the action is expected to make to advancements within the research field. Describe any novel concepts, approaches or methods that will be implemented.

Discuss the **interdisciplinary aspects** of the action (if relevant).

Discuss the **gender dimension** in the research content (if relevant).

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/call_ptef/pt/2018-2020/h2020-call-pt-msca-if-2018-20_en.pdf

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