



# **Horizon 2020**

# **Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions**

## **COFUND PROGRAMME**

MSCA Information Day, Bucharest, 7 June 2019

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# MSCA KEY FEATURES

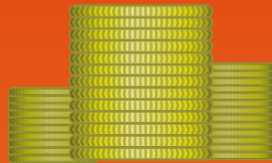


- Open to all domains of **research and innovation** from basic research up to market take-up and innovation services
- Entirely **bottom-up**
- Participation of **non-academic sector** strongly encouraged, especially industry and SMEs
- **Mobility** as the key requirement - funding on condition participants move from one country to another
- (Almost) no nationality conditions
- Promotion of attractive **working and employment conditions**
- Particular attention to **gender** balance
- **Public engagement** of supported researchers
- Annual calls (except for NIGHT – biennial)

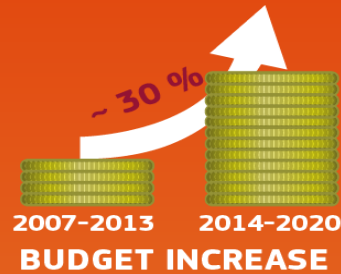
# Key figures

2014-2020

€ 6.162 billion



**TOTAL BUDGET**



~ 100



**SPIN-OFFS**

~ 1 500



**PATENT APPLICATIONS**

~ 350 events a year



**EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT**

attended by  
over 1 million  
people / year



**INTERNATIONAL AND INTERSECTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

~ 65 000



**ALL RESEARCHERS**

Support:

40 %



**FEMALE RESEARCHERS**

~ 16 000



**NON-EU RESEARCHERS**

~ 25 000



**PHD CANDIDATES**

# Key features COFUND



**Cofunding of  
research  
programmes**

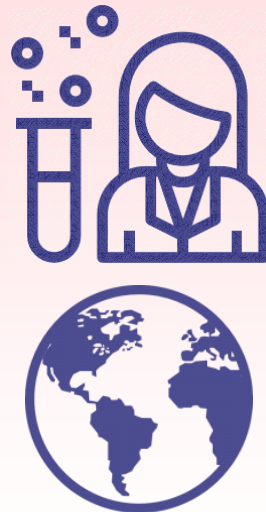
- COFUND provides funding for funders
- Stimulates regional, national or international programmes
- At all stages of their career (ESR – Doctoral Programme; ER – Fellowship Programme)
- For doctoral programmes and fellowship programmes

# COFUND Objectives

**Stimulating regional, national or international programmes to foster:**



**Excellence in  
researcher  
training**



**Mobility and career  
development**



**Spreading best  
practices of  
MSCA**

## MSCA to foster excellence throughout Europe

### Objective

✓ stimulate regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development

### Scope

✓ international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary **research training**, as well as transnational and cross-sector **mobility** of researchers at all stages of their career

✓ Possibilities of synergies with structural funds

✓ Opportunities for **researchers from all countries**

✓ Researchers to comply with the mobility rules of the MSCA

✓ Open and transparent recruitment, vacancies widely publicised

### Expected Impact

✓ exploit synergies between European Union actions and those at regional, national, and international level

✓ leverage funding and combat fragmentation

# COFUND in practice



- **Applicant** = Mono-beneficiary (EU MS or AC institutions) with max. 10 million EUR per call
- **Project duration** = between 3 and 5 years (n.b. fellowships min 3 months)
- **Recruitment** = EURAXESS

# COFUND – Main Features



- ✓ **Maximum € 10 Million per single applicant per call**
- ✓ **Duration of projects: minimum 3 years, maximum 5 years (including the time taken to publish calls and recruit researchers)**
- ✓ **Fellowships: minimum 3 months**
- ✓ **EU contribution to cover living allowances for researchers and management costs**
- ✓ **Minimum living allowance fixed in the WP**



# COFUND – Main Features



- ✓ Each single application must only address the doctoral or fellowship programme, but
- ✓ More than one application can be submitted
- ✓ Recruited researchers must respect the same mobility rule as IF (for the fellowship programme) or ITN (for the doctoral programme). Existing programmes can continue with own mobility rule if well-justified.
- ✓ Unless prohibited by national legislation all fellows, including doctoral fellows, must be recruited on a work contract.
- ✓ In the doctoral programme all fellows must be registered for a PhD

# EU Contribution for COFUND



1 unit  
=  
1 person/month



Researcher unit cost		Institutional unit cost
ESR	ER	Research, training and networking costs
<b>1935</b>	<b>2740</b>	<b>325</b>



- ✓ EU contribution to **living allowance** for contracts with full social security:
  - Early stage researchers (ESR): € 1935 per person-month
  - Experienced researchers (ER): € 2740 per person-month
- ✓ EU contribution to **management costs**: € 325 per person-month

## Example (Fellowship programme – ER)

Cost item	Total cost [€ per person-month]	EU contribution [€ per person-month]
Living allowance	4800	2740
Mobility allowance	500	
Research costs	500	
Management costs	600	325
Indirect costs	600	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7000</b>	<b>3065</b>

Minimum amounts for monthly living + mobility allowances:

- ESR: € 2709
- ER: € 3836

Other cost items may be funded through other resources (including ESIF funds)



To put the previous example in another way:

- The **living allowance and management costs** are 5400 EUR and the EU contributes 3065 EUR to this
- The remaining 2335 EUR in this category can come from any source, except EU funding.
  
- The **mobility, research and indirect costs** are 1600 EUR and these can come from any source except H2020 (but including ESIF)

# COFUND

## Budget and submitted proposals

- ✓ 2014 -2018: € 80 million annual budget
- ✓ 2019: € 90 million (€ 35 for DP - € 55 for FP)  
Call opening: 4/4/2019 – Deadline: 26/9/2019
- ✓ 2020 (indicative): € 100 million
- ✓ 2014 – 2018: 4 calls for proposals with 570 eligible proposals submitted
- ✓ 2014 – 2018: 140 proposals funded
- ✓ Success rate: 24,6%

# Award Criteria - COFUND



Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Implementation (20%)
<p><b>Quality of the selection / recruitment process for the researchers</b> (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities)</p>	<p>Enhancing the <b>potential and future career perspectives</b> of researchers; <b>Strengthening human resources</b> on regional, national or international level</p>	<p><b>Coherence, effectiveness and appropriateness of the work plan</b></p>
<p><b>Quality of the research options offered by the programme</b> in terms of science, interdisciplinarity, intersectorality and level of transnational mobility</p>	<p><b>Aligning practices of participating organisations with the principles set out by the EU for human resources development in research and innovation</b></p>	<p><b>Appointment conditions of researchers</b></p>
<p><b>Quality of career guidance and training</b>, including supervision arrangements, training</p>	<p>Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and <b>disseminate</b> the results</p>	<p><b>Competence of the participant</b> to implement the programme</p>
	<p>Quality of the proposed measures to <b>communicate</b> the results to different target audiences</p>	



## COFUND PROJECTS – SUCCESS FACTORS

- Interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international dimension.
- Solid co-funding mechanism.
- Wide and diversified network.
- Impact at individual and institutional level.



## LESSONS LEARNED FROM COFUND IMPLEMENTATION

- Successful proposals are based on high-quality peer-reviewed selection processes and provide a wide range of opportunities, including secondments and complementary training, to the researchers.
- Proposals involving networks of institutions – both national and international – offer much more choice to the researcher.
- Recurrent issue: transparency and fairness of selection procedures.





## Doctoral Programme - Eligible Submissions

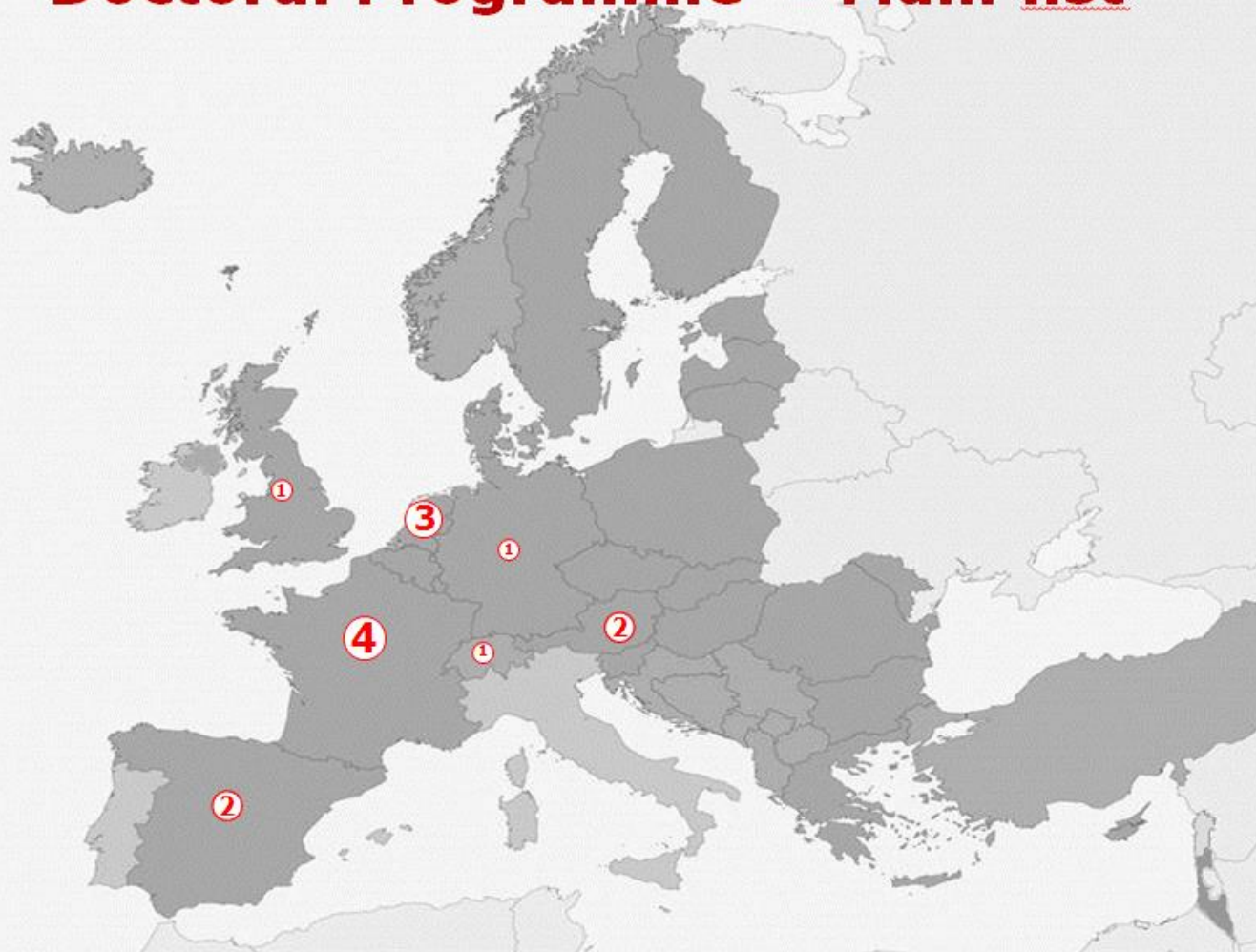


FR	13
NL	7
ES	6
AT	3
UK	3
IT	2
PL	2
BE	1
CH	1
DE	1
FI	1
PT	1
SE	1
SI	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

**Average Requested Budget**

**2,73 M€**

## Doctoral Programme - Main list



FR	4
NL	3
AT	2
ES	2
CH	1
DE	1
UK	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>

**Average Grant**

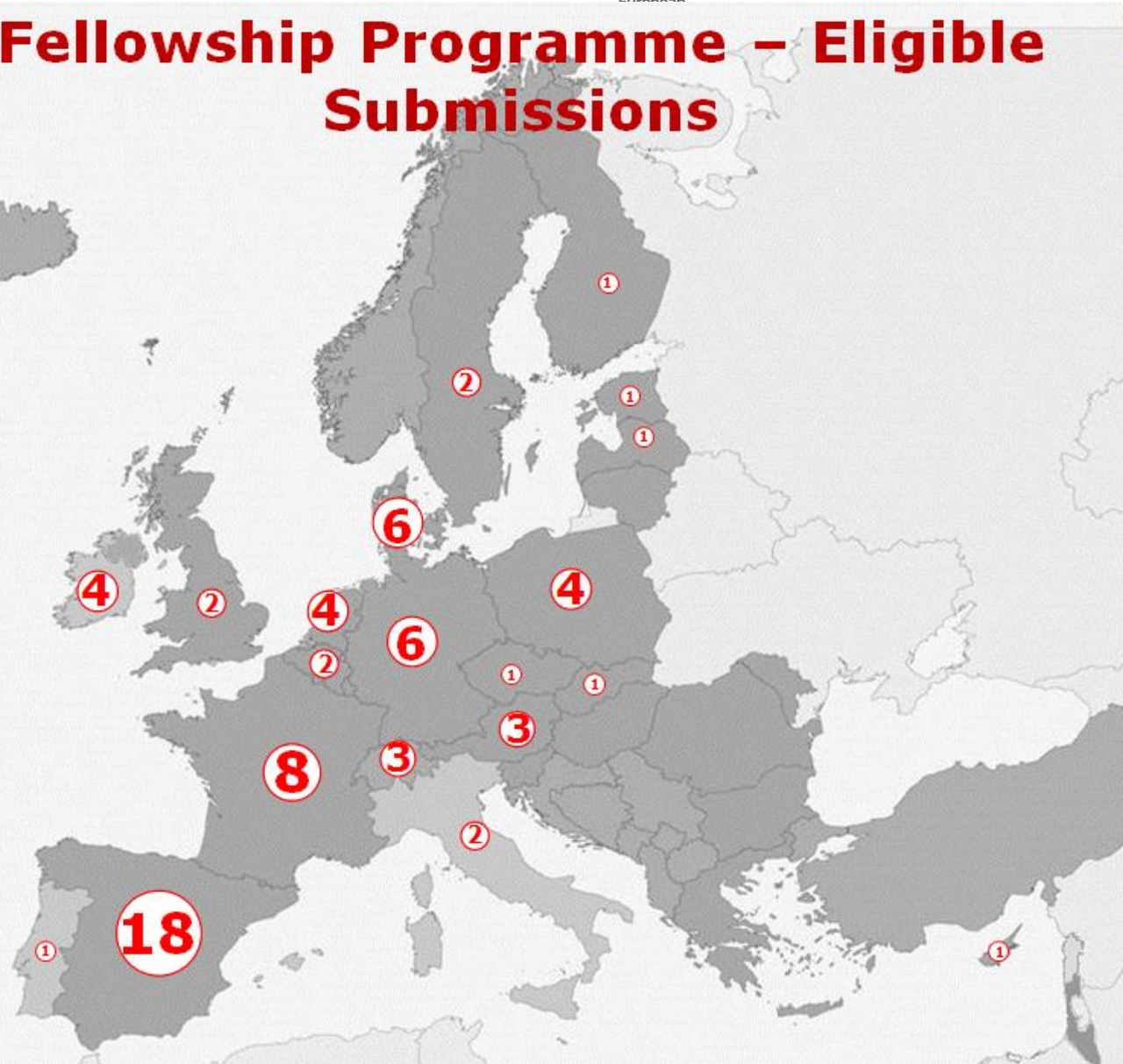
**2,07 M€**

**Success Rate**

**32,6%**



## Fellowship Programme – Eligible Submissions



ES	18
FR	8
DE	6
DK	6
IE	4
NL	4
PL	4
AT	3
CH	3
BE	2
IT	2
SE	2
UK	2
CY	1
CZ	1
EE	1
FI	1
LV	1
PT	1
SK	1

**Total 71**

**Average Requested Budget**

**3,33 M€**

## Fellowship Programme – Main list



ES	3
IE	3
AT	2
PL	2
CH	1
DE	1
DK	1
NL	1

**Total 14**

**Average Grant**

**3,14 M€**

**Success Rate**

**19,7%**



**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Website**  
**<http://ec.europa.eu/mariecurieactions>**

**Horizon 2020**  
**<http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020>**

**Participant Portal (applications)**  
**<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home>**

**...or email**  
**[alan.craig@ec.europa.eu](mailto:alan.craig@ec.europa.eu)**