Grants Week: MSCA Talks

Veronika Mikitová, GO RMU

MSCA principles

- Excellence in research
- Physical mobility of funded researchers
- Interdisciplinary and intersectoral dimension
- Recruitment, working/employment conditions and inclusiveness
- Supervision, mentoring, career development
- Open Science and Responsible Research and Innovation

MSCA Actions

Doctoral Networks (DN)	Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)	Staff Exchange (SE)
Networks training PhD students in academic and non-academic environment. Supporting excellence and career perspectives of postdoctoral researchers.	Supporting excellence and career perspectives of postdoctoral researchers.	Encouraging scientific collaborations between organizations through Staff exchanges.

Other MSCA calls: COFUND, MSCA and Citizens, Choose Europe

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Project support for MSCA-PF at MU

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

- What: research training that aims to support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research. It help researchers gain experience in other countries, disciplines and non-academic sectors (non-academic placement or secondment)
- For whom: PhD holders with ≤ 8 years of experience in research + mobility condition.
- Success rate: 16% (80% with MSCA-CZ)
- Call deadline: mid September 2026

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MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP

Challenges:

- Setting **labour law condi**tions in accordance with the standards of the given country
- **Administrative and financial obligations** in an institution not familiar with MSCA-PF
- **Immigration matters** – visas, residence permits

Measures:

- Set conditions with partner institution in a contract ASAP, incl. allocation of cost, responsibility for additional costs and financial and admin obligations

MU cannot guarantee support during outgoing stage if Fellow stays MU employees.

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Alternative funding ERA Fellowship (EU) and MSCA-CZ (MEYS)

ERA Fellowship (Widening programme HE, EU)

- Applications in Widening countries
- Required score: >91%
- Achieved by: 20-25%

MSCA-CZ (OP JAK, MEYS)

- Applications in Czech Republic
- Required score: >70%
- Achieved by: >80%

OP JAK

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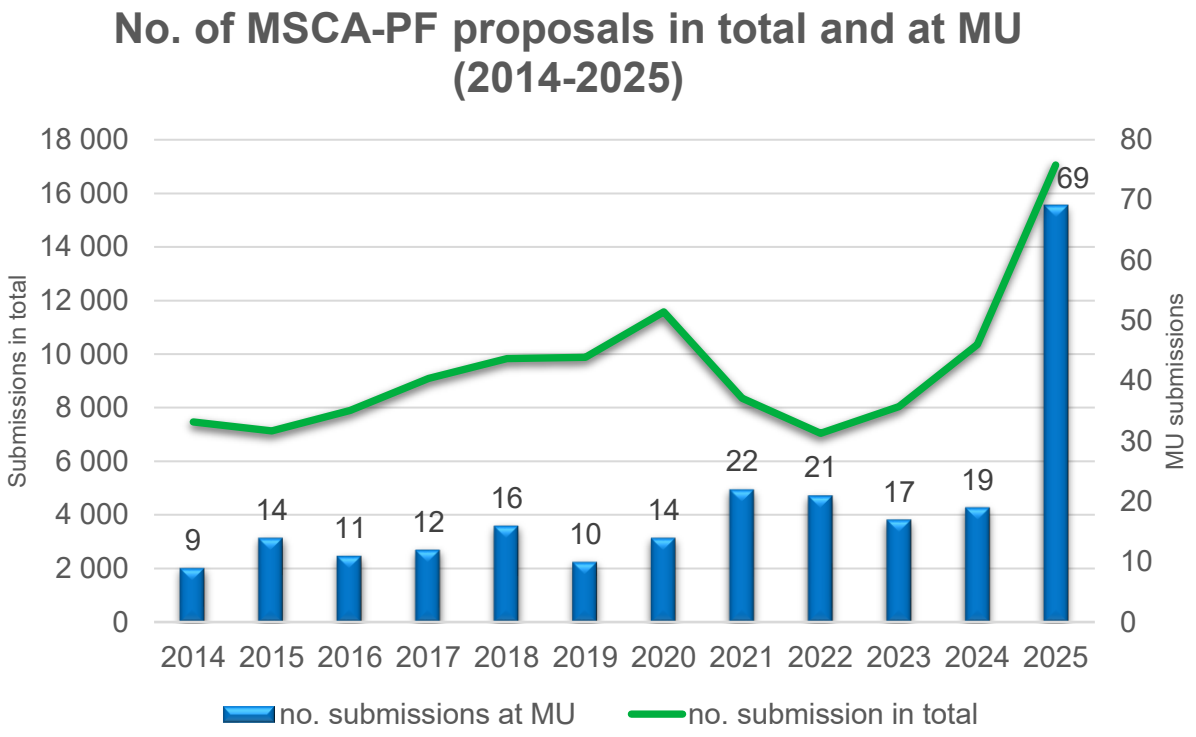
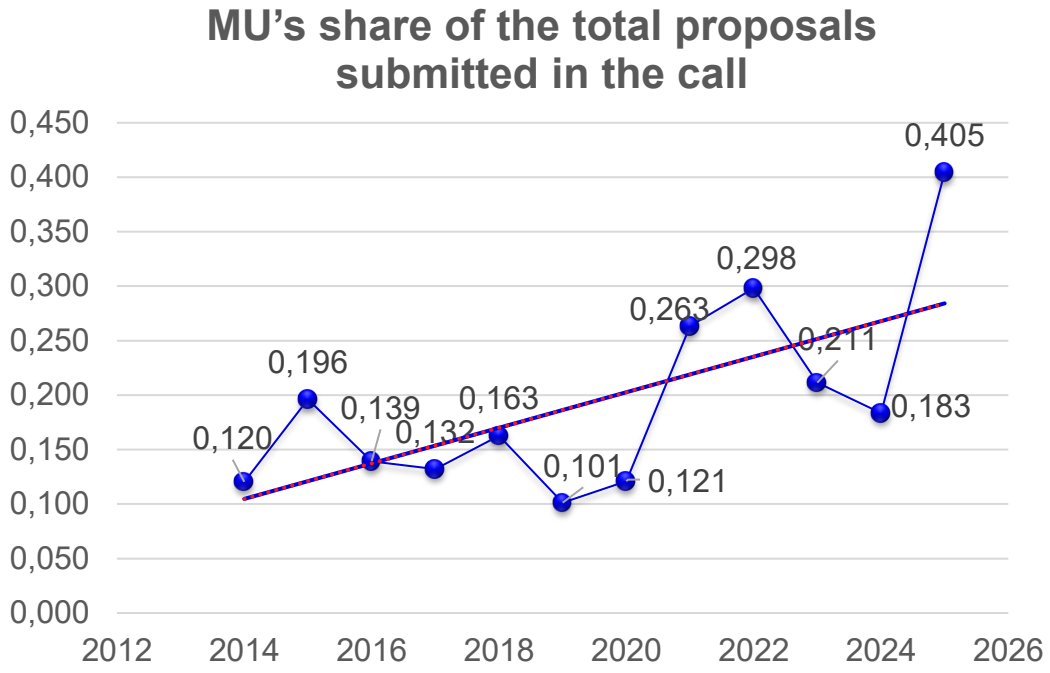
Participation of MU in MSCA-PF





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Success of MU in MSCA PF

- HE (24x): 10x EF, 3x GF, 7x ERA, 4x MSCA4Ukraine
- MU: leading position in Czechia and between top in EU-13

Ranking	EU-13 institution	Country	EU Contribution	Coordinations
1	University of Malta	MT	€ 4 956 648,08	25
2	Masaryk University	CZ	€ 4 366 776,00	24
3	Vilnius University	LT	€ 3 610 155,36	21
4	Palacký University Olomouc	CZ	€ 3 569 629,95	19
5	University of Ljubljan	SI	€ 3 332 550,94	19
6	Institute of Physics CAS	CZ	€ 2 378 585,40	14
7	University of Cyprus	CY	€ 2 231 443,44	14
8	Brno University of Technology	CZ	€ 2 092 475,16	11
9	Jožef Stefan Institute	SI	€ 1 876 200,96	12
10	Czech Technical Uni. in Prague	CZ	€ 1 726 421,28	9

Source: R&I Projects Dashboard – 11 /.2025

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Central project support for MSCA-PF

METHODOLOGICAL

- Information servis – dedicated webpage on the MUNI Portal and MU website
- Knowledge sharing within MSCA-PF working group of project managers
- Proposal templates with instructions and examples
- Manual for MSCA-PF Supervisors
- Training events

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MSCA PF on internal MUNI web

What do you need to read?

REA (European Research Executive Agency):

- Guide for Applicants MSCA-PF 2025 HERE
- Template of Application Form (Part B) for MSCA-2025-PF call HERE
- MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025 HERE
- Self-assessment tool - 8 years of research experience for MSCA-PF HERE
- Guideline on the calculation of 8 years of research experience for MSCA-PF HERE
- MSCA PF Handbook 2024 prepared by MSCA-NET HERE
- MSCA Evaluation Form HERE

MU (internal):

MUST READ

- Manual for MSCA-PF Supervisors HERE
- MU Handbook for MSCA-PF applicants draft HERE
- Project canvas - key questions to be addressed in MSCA-PF HERE

What kind of support will you get during the preparation of your MSCA-PF proposal?

TRAINING

Internal training:

- **MSCA-PF Seminar for Future Supervisors** (February)
- **MSCA-PF Training Day** - 30 April, 2025 (online)
- **MSCA-PF Workshop** - 29-30 May, 2025 (online)

Consultations and revisions of the proposal:

- **Send us a draft of your proposal by 13 July 2025** at the latest. Writing as a team effort ensures higher quality and higher success rates.
- **Book a meeting with us no later than 30 June 2025** to coordinate the preparation process as a team effort, and make a plan to divide tasks between postdoc, supervisor, and project support. For those scientists who already have a draft project and know MSCA-PF well, we will evaluate the different parts together and suggest a way to improve the proposal.

+ news and events

+ eligibility, budget

+ presentations, application forms other documents and resources etc.

MSCA and ERA fellows at MU (Horizon Europe)

OUR FELLOWS

- **Deeptajyoti Sen** (Faculty of Science) project CrossInteractions
- **Marta Gaia Sperandii** (Faculty of Science) project VegTrends
- **Anirban Ghosh** (CEITEC) project QDHassay
- **Jan Grebík** (Faculty of Informatics) project BORCA
- **Shanu Shukla** (Faculty of Social Studies) project MULTIPLE
- **Mark Peter Kamsma** (Faculty of Science) project CatModStab
- **Mateo Seoane Blanco** (CEITEC) project PHAGE
- **Jan Fousek** (CEITEC) project PINGED
- **Žiga Tkalec** (Faculty of Science) project FRANKIE
- **Kapil Mandrah** (Faculty of Science) project RENAISSANCE
- **Sorath Shah** (Faculty of Economics and Administration) project ROMSUR
- **Csilla Pelyhe** (Faculty of Science) project EPIC
- **Gabriel Glotz** (Faculty of Science) project CoeusCy7
- **William Shakespeare Morton** (CEITEC) project POL2PHASE
- **Alexandra Wilson** (Faculty of Science) project TASTE
- **Michal Racyn** (Faculty of Arts) project COLD-WAR-EURASIA
- **Alejandro Hernández Tanguma** (CEITEC) project SELPEP
- **Pavla Fialová** (Faculty of Science) project AQUAGloCon
- **Vladimír Sobota** (Faculty of Medicine) project ALCOHEART

Manual for MSCA-PF Supervisors

WHY TO SUPERVISE MSCA-PF?

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

WHERE TO FIND SUPPORT?

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MANUAL FOR MSCA-PF SUPERVISORS

GRANT OFFICE RMU

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WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING AN MSCA-PF SUPERVISOR?

- **Strengthening the research team:** a postdoc can bring new expertise and methodological approaches, which can help expand the supervisor's research portfolio.
- **Publications:** collaborative research with the postdoc will lead to more high-quality publications, which will improve the supervisor's scientific profile.
- **Financial support:** the MSCA PF not only funds the salary of a postdoc but also brings in research funds, which will expand the capacity of the research group.
- **International prestige and networking:** involvement in MSCA enhances the reputation of the supervisor and his/her institution (higher chances of getting another MSCA fellow), and allows the development of new collaborations and involvement in prestigious European networks.

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WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT WILL I GET WHEN PREPARING MY PROJECT?

INTERNAL TRAINING

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PROPOSAL CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS

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WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM MSCA-PF SUPERVISORS?

PROVIDE RESEARCH SUPPORT

- supervise the project implementation, ensure its feasibility, and provide access to necessary resources and facilities.

FACILITATE CAREER DEVELOPMENT

- help the researcher acquire new skills, knowledge, and experience. Mentor on career paths and support professional development.

ENSURE PROPER INTEGRATION

- facilitate the researcher's integration into the research group and the host institution.

PROVIDE FEEDBACK

- monitor the researcher's progress, and offer constructive criticism. Revise project report (1x at the end of the project).
- ensures the project stays on track and the researcher develops effectively.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROPOSAL

- provide information regarding the research environment, and the research that will be undertaken. Explain your own merits as researchers, and your experience with supervision.

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HOW SHOULD I CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROJECT WRITING?

Demonstrate you are a good supervisor already during the grant preparation.

Read and revise the proposal extensively, ideally start writing some sections.

Provide guidance to your potential future postdoc, who typically does not have grant writing experience and is unfamiliar with the opportunities available at MU.

RESEARCH ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL

- Ensure the quality of the scientific content in section 1.1 on the **project's R&I objectives** (*indicative length: ¾–1 ½ page*).
  - this section should include a brief state-of-the-art, the overall goal statement and the individual research objectives. It must be clear that this postdoctoral project is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art. It should clearly demonstrate how the supervisor's expertise and the fellow's experience will synergistically contribute to the achievement of the project goal.
- Help to define the methodological approach and review the selection and description of methods used to achieve the objectives in section 1.2 on **methodology** (*indicative length: ¾–1 ½ page*).
  - ensure that the description of methods is clear, that methods are linked to individual research objectives and that the chosen methods are appropriate and sound.
  - help in justifying the interdisciplinary aspects (in research content, methodology, collaborations, dissemination and/or impact of the project) – **interdisciplinarity will be assessed!**
  - help in explaining gender and diversity aspects in the research content of the proposal. Is gender or social categories (race, class, religious groups, etc.) the subject of your study or does your project have an impact on them? Does the methodology ensure that gender differences are taken into account?

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TRAINING ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL

Write section 1.3 on supervision, training and two-way transfer of knowledge transfer between the fellow and the MU (*indicative length: ½ – 1 page*).

- Describe your **qualifications and experience as a researcher and supervisor**:
  - your current position(s) and role(s) in the scientific community,
  - your main scientific achievements,
  - international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaborations,
  - awards, major funding grants,
  - details on your mentoring skills and supervising experience, e.g. number of PhDs and postdocs you have supervised and their achievements, any particularly successful alumni from your group.
  - suggest co-supervisor and/or advisory committee (can be interdisciplinary, intersectoral, from within or outside MU) and their collaboration with your postdoc.
  - describe your collaboration with the postdoc: your personal involvement on the project, individual and group meetings, regular feedback, career development plan.
- Develop **training objectives and training activities** to enhance specific transferable and research skills of your postdoc. Help identify appropriate training opportunities available at MU:
  - Training to enhance research skills: new qualitative and quantitative methods and techniques from you, specific research colleagues, or different MU infrastructure
  - Training in transferable skills: ethics in research, open science and data management, gender dimension in research, presentation skills, research funding and project management, IPR management and patenting, entrepreneurship and innovation, leadership/influencing courses, CV preparation, interview skills, language skills, etc.

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WHERE CAN I FIND POTENTIAL MSCA-PF APPLICANTS?

- **Conferences/meetings**: announce your interest in recruiting an MSCA fellow and apply for a grant together.
- **Collaborators**: ask your colleagues abroad about potential candidates for a postdoctoral position in your group.
- **Projects and networks**: check contacts on ongoing projects in your group, department or faculty. Use the networks and professional societies in which you are involved.
- **Interns/trainees**: contact PhD students and early career researchers visiting your faculty/department.
- **Advertising**: advertise call for expression of interest on Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships on:
  - the website of your faculty, institute research group,
  - social media (LinkedIn, Twitter),
  - platforms such as Euraxess, Crowdhelix, etc.
- **MSCA Matchmaking platform**

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WHO CAN PROVIDE ME A PROJECT SUPPORT?

MUNI	Grant Office, Rectorate: **Veronika Mikitová**
MUNI MED	Faculty of Medicine: **Dagmar Václavíková**
MUNI PHARM	Faculty of Pharmacy: **Richard Heger**
MUNI ARTS	Faculty of Arts: **Jakub Zeman, Denisa Foldešiová**
MUNI LAW	Faculty of Law: **Stanislava Hřebíčková**
MUNI ECON	Faculty of Economics and Administration: **Lucie Winklerová**
MUNI SCI	Faculty of Science: **Kateřina Ježová, Tomáš Lády, Veronika Jálová**
MUNI FI	Faculty of Informatics: **Jana Halámková**
MUNI FSS	Faculty of Social Studies: **Eva Šlesinger**
MUNI ICS	Institute of Computer Science: **Iva Krejčí**
MUNI CEITEC	CEITEC: **Veronika Michlová Štěrbová**

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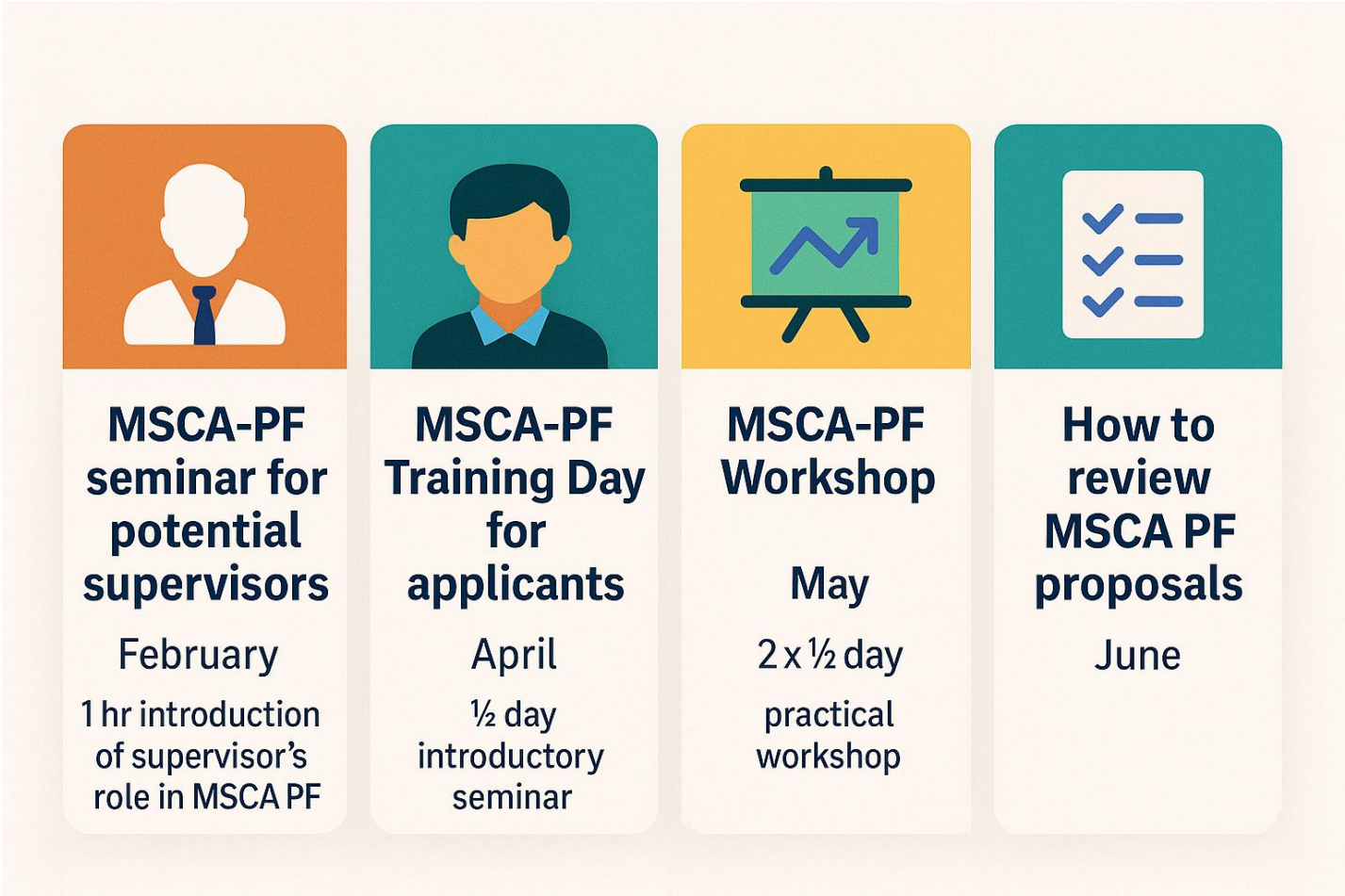
MU training events for MSCA-PF



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Central project support for MSCA-PF

DIRECT

- Individual consultations for applicant + supervisor + PM
- Proposal review

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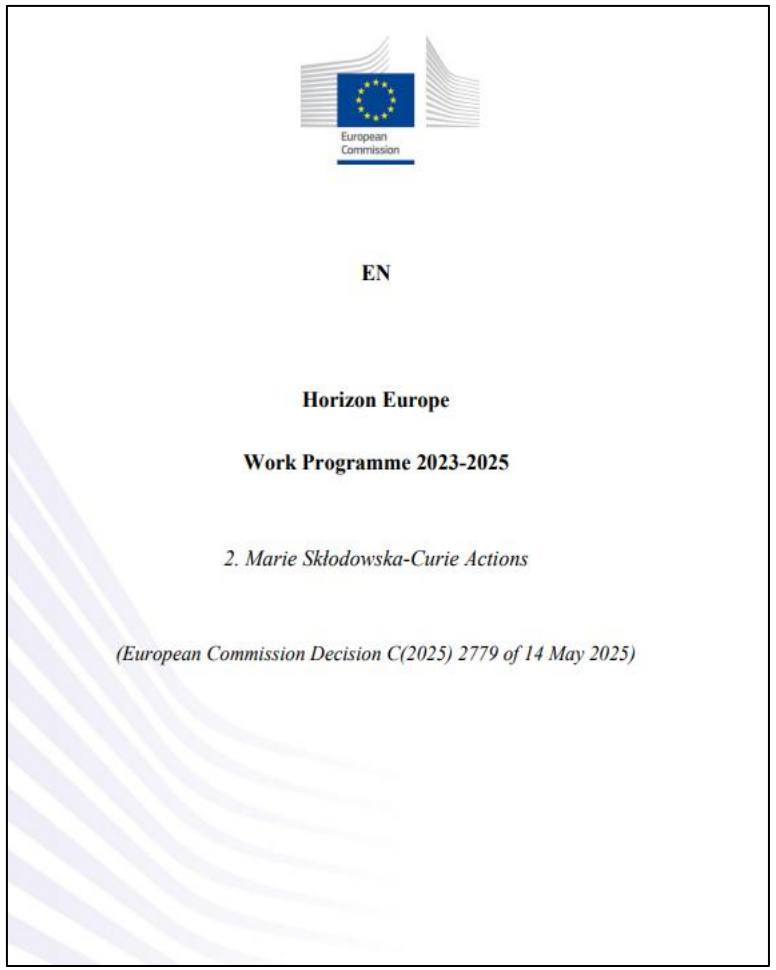
MUST READ



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Other recommended resources

Workshop on "How to write a competitive proposal for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 call"

When: 03/06/2025 9:00 AM - 04/06/2025 12:30 PM

Where: online (MS Teams)

Technology Centre Prague is pleased to invite you to the annual on-line seminar for applicants on How to write a competitive proposal for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships grant call.

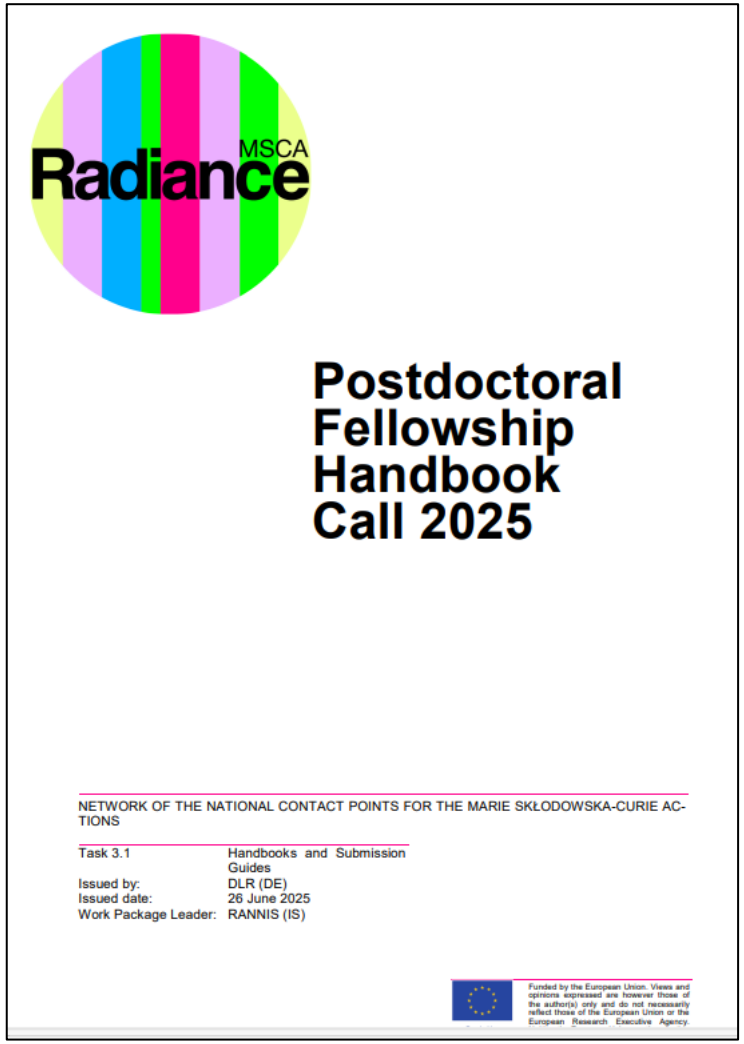
The event will be held on 3-4 June 2025 as Module 6 of TC Prague's event series on „How to successfully participate in Horizon Europe".

The on-line seminar shall equip you with practical knowledge on how to tackle requirements on this type of project. The event is open to researchers who are currently preparing a MSCA PF proposal to be submitted to the 2025 call with the deadline on 10 September 2025.

Files:

MSCA PF_2025_Programme.pdf

application form template MSCA PF



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How to increase activity and success rate in the MSCA PF call

- Early start – writing and revising proposal requires min. 2 months
- Engagement of supervisor – good track record of supervising MSCA fellows, clear supervision plan, proposal revision
- Individualized approach – meetings of applicant + supervisor + project support, proposal reviews
- Feedback from peers – networking with other MSCA Fellows
- Clear Career Development Plan - highlighting the fellow's potential for future leadership roles
- Profile of HI - strong institutional track record attracts more MSCA fellows

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QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

MSCA PF as a strategic tool

- **Attracting top talents** - competitive salaries and research budgets for excellent early career scientists
- **Career development** - creative and innovative potential, professional independence
- **Scientific mobility** and **knowledge exchange**
- International **research collaborations**

BOOSTING RESEARCH PROFILE OF MU

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Attracting MSCA PF applicants

- **Advertising** – Euraxess, LinkedIn, Crowdhelix Network, MSCA Matchmaking platform, scientific conferences (by supervisors)
- Engaging **collaborators, interns** and trainees
- **Funding for newcoming postdocs** – with condition MSCA PF, pioneered by the National Center for Biomolecular Research at MU

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