



# Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND Doctoral and Fellowship Programmes

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# REA in numbers

## FUNDING



**FP7**  
€6.4 billion



**Horizon 2020**  
€17 billion

### PROJECTS



**7 000**

### BENEFICIARIES



**66 000**

### SERVICE SATISFACTION



**82%**  
of beneficiaries

### ENQUIRIES



**10 500** answered/year to  
citizens  
applicants  
beneficiaries

### EXPERTS



**15 700** assessing proposals  
and monitoring projects in 2017  
**7 000** supported on site

### STAFF



Over **700**

March 2018

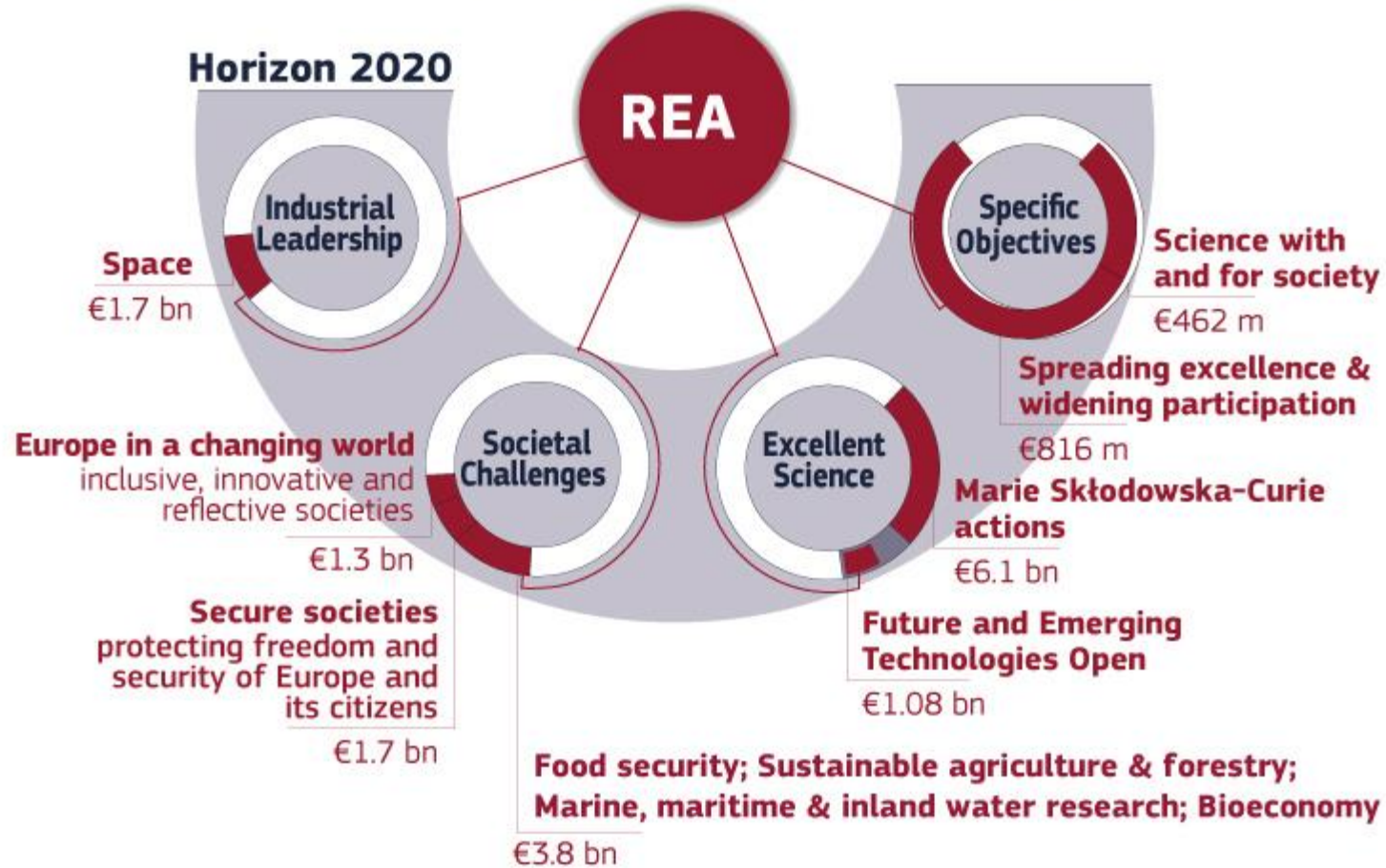


European  
Commission

# REA's responsibilities in Horizon 2020

(2014-2020)

REA manages €17 billion  
of Horizon 2020's €80 billion budget





# H2020: World class Science & Enabling Innovation - 80 billion EUR



## ***Excellent Science - Priority I***

- ✓ **European Research Council**
- ✓ **Future and Emerging Technologies**
- ✓ **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**
- ✓ **Research Infrastructures**

## ***Industrial leadership - Priority II***

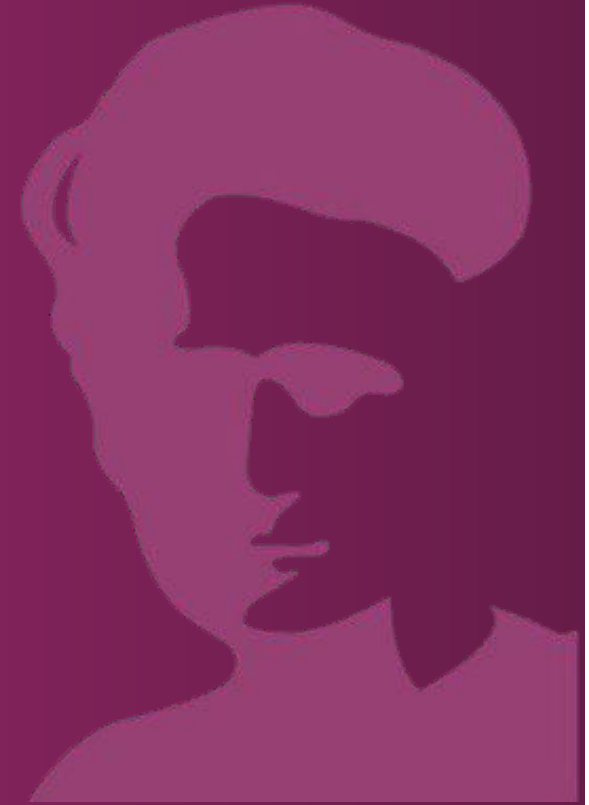
- ✓ **Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies**
- ✓ **Access to risk finance**
- ✓ **Innovation in SMEs**

## ***Societal challenges - Priority III***

- ✓ **Health, demographic change and wellbeing**
- ✓ **Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research, bio-economy**
- ✓ **Secure, clean and efficient energy**
- ✓ **Smart, green and integrated transport**
- ✓ **Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials**
- ✓ **Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies**
- ✓ **Security**

# MSCA goals

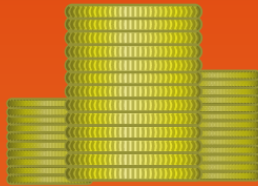
- **Funding** (grants) = all career stages, all nationalities, all fields of research
- **Training** = unique skills and experience for career in public or private sector
- **Opportunities** = Good working conditions/benefits, mobility countries, sectors, disciplines
- **Sustainability** = collaboration between individuals and institutions



# Key figures

2014-2020

€ 6.162 billion



**TOTAL BUDGET**

~ 30 %

2007-2013

2014-2020

**BUDGET INCREASE**

~ 100



**SPIN-OFFS**

~ 1 500



**PATENT APPLICATIONS**

~ 350 events a year



attended by  
over 1 million  
people / year

**EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT**

~ 1200



**INTERNATIONAL AND INTERSECTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

~ 65 000



**ALL RESEARCHERS**

Support:

40 %



**FEMALE RESEARCHERS**

~ 16 000



**NON-EU RESEARCHERS**

~ 25 000



**PHD CANDIDATES**

# Key Features



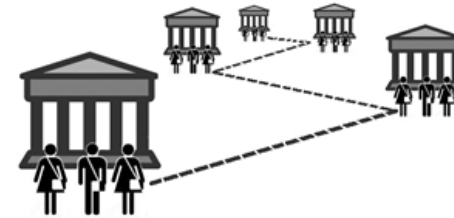
- Entirely bottom-up
- Open to all domains of research and innovation from basic research up to market take-up and innovation services
- Participation of non-academic sector strongly encouraged, especially industry and SMEs
- Mobility as the key requirement - funding on condition participants move from 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)





**IF**

Individual Fellowships



**RISE**

Research and Innovation  
Staff Exchange



**ITN**

Innovative Training Networks



**COFUND**

Co-funding of regional, national  
and international programmes

# 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, ER)
- For doctoral programmes and fellowship programmes



## 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

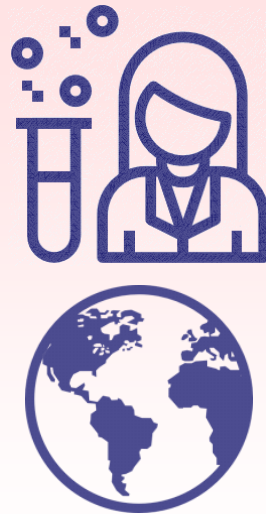
✓ leverage funding and combat fragmentation

# COFUND Objectives

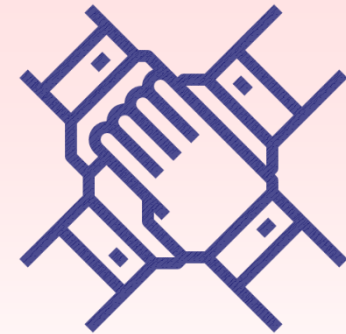
**Stimulating regional, national or international programmes to foster:**



**Excellence in  
researcher  
training**



**Mobility and career  
development**



**Spreading best  
practices of  
MSCA**

# 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



# Next MSCA COFUND calls



	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Opening Date</b> <b>Closing Date</b>	04 APR 2019 26 SEP 2019	08 APR 2020 29 SEP 2020
<b>Budget</b>	<b>90 million €</b>	<b>100 million €</b>

- ✓ Mono-beneficiary
- ✓ Legal entities (public and private) established in MS or AC and international European interest organisations



**Doctoral  
Programmes**



**Fellowship  
Programmes**

# COFUND – Main Features



- ✓ **Budget:** € 90 Million in 2019 (Doctoral Programmes: 35 Mio)
- ✓ **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



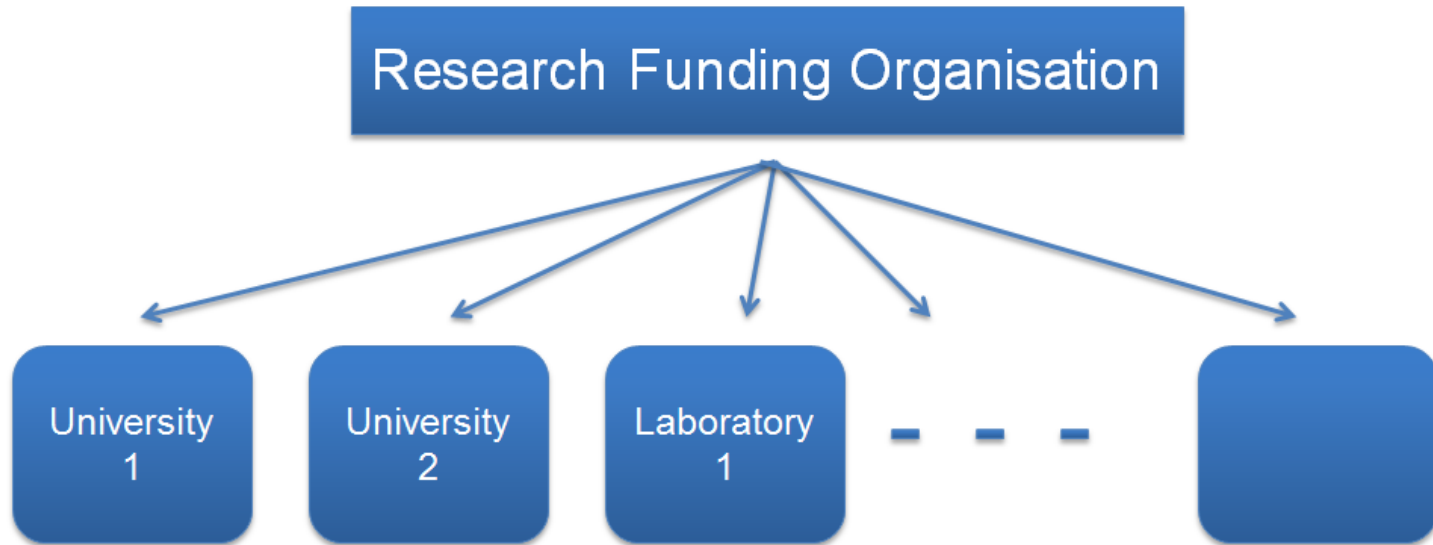
## Synergies with European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

- ✓ Support regional policies by internationalisation of human resources in research
- ✓ Possibility to support programmes that prioritise specific scientific disciplines based on smart specialisation strategies
- ✓ Cost items other than living allowance and management (such as research costs, travel and mobility allowances, overheads) may be funded through other resources including EU programmes other than Horizon 2020 (e.g. ESIF)



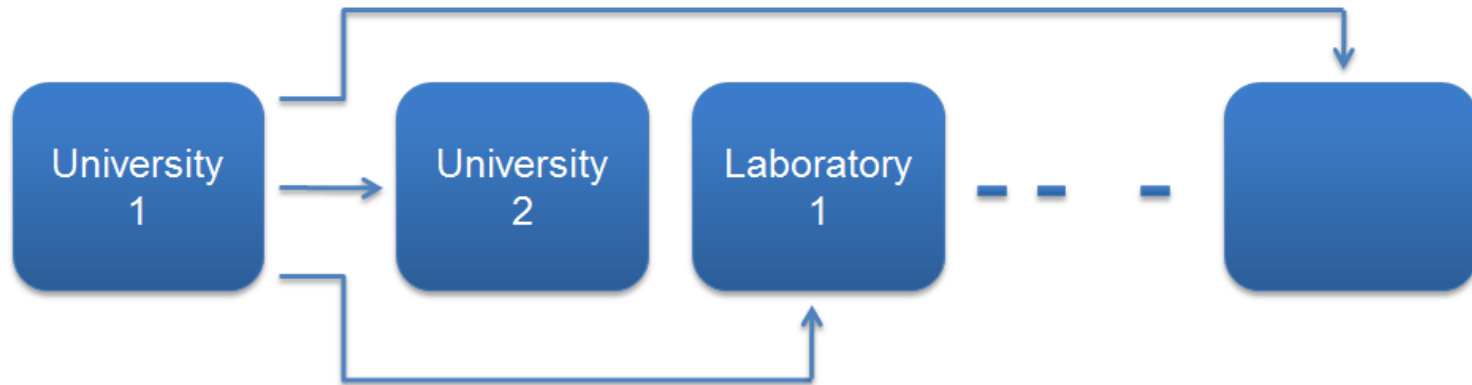
# COFUND – Possible structures

## 1-Hierarchical



# COFUND – Possible structures

## 2-Horizontal



# COFUND – Possible structures

## 3- Single Point



We do everything!

# 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>	

# 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)

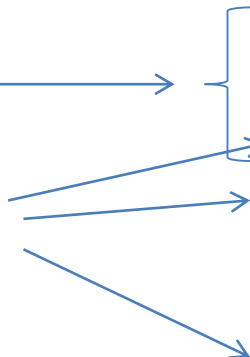
Cost item	Total cost [€ per person-month]	EU contribution [€ per person-month]
Living allowance	4800	2740
Mobility allowance	500	
Research costs	500	
Management costs	600	325
Indirect costs	600	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7000</b>	<b>3065</b>

✓ 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)



NB – in the exceptional case where fellows are recruited on a stipend the EU COFUND contribution is further halved



## COFUND PROJECTS – SUCCESS FACTORS

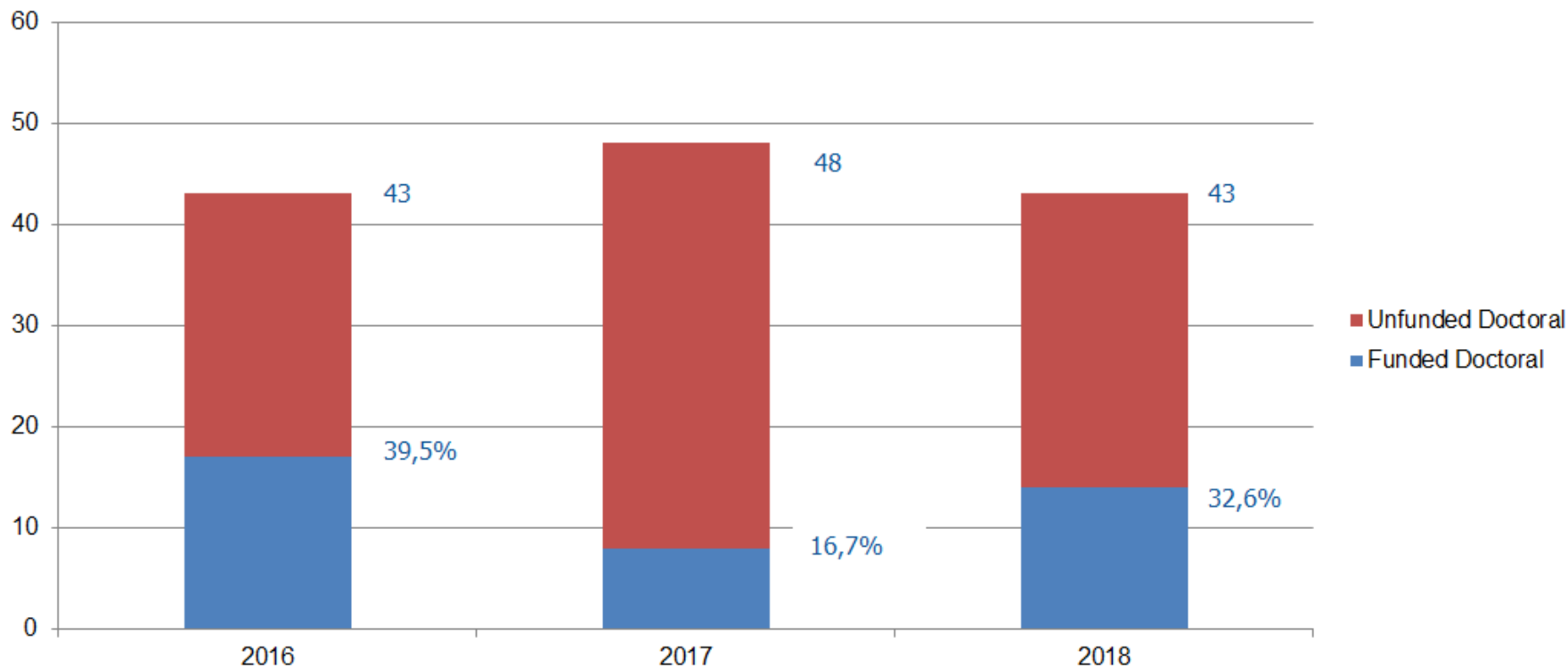
- Interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international dimension.
- Solid co-funding mechanism.
- Wide and diversified network.
- Impact at individual and institutional level.



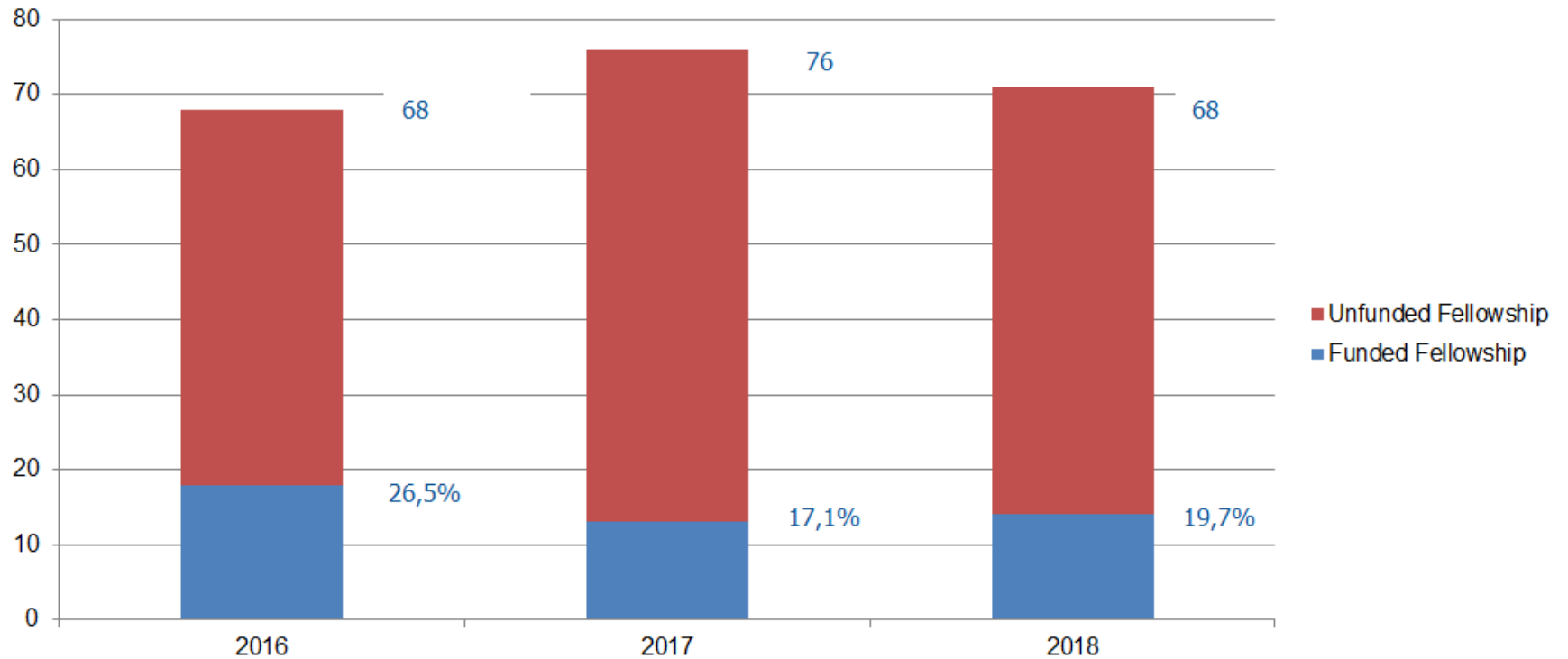
## LESSONS LEARNED FROM COFUND IMPLEMENTATION

- 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.

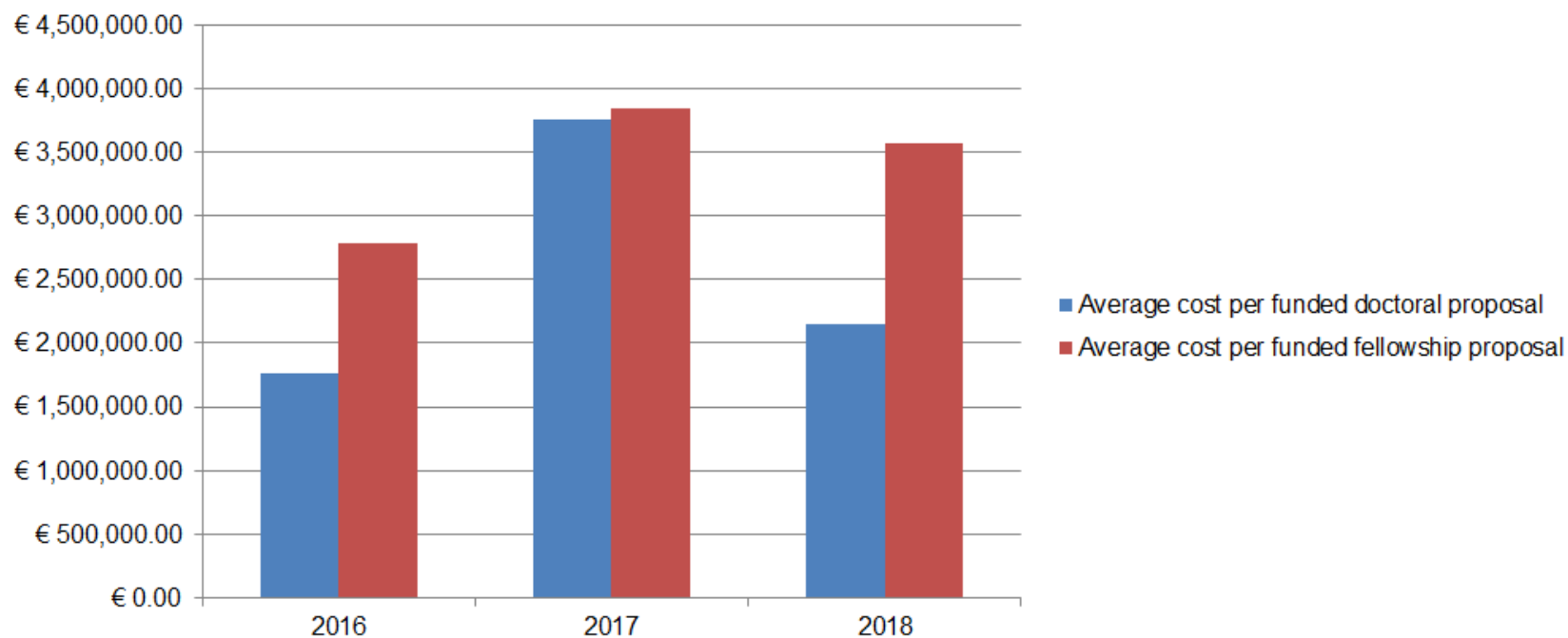
# Success rates Doctoral Programme



# Success rates Fellowship Programme



# Average Proposal Costs (EU contribution)







## Doctoral Programme - Eligible Submissions

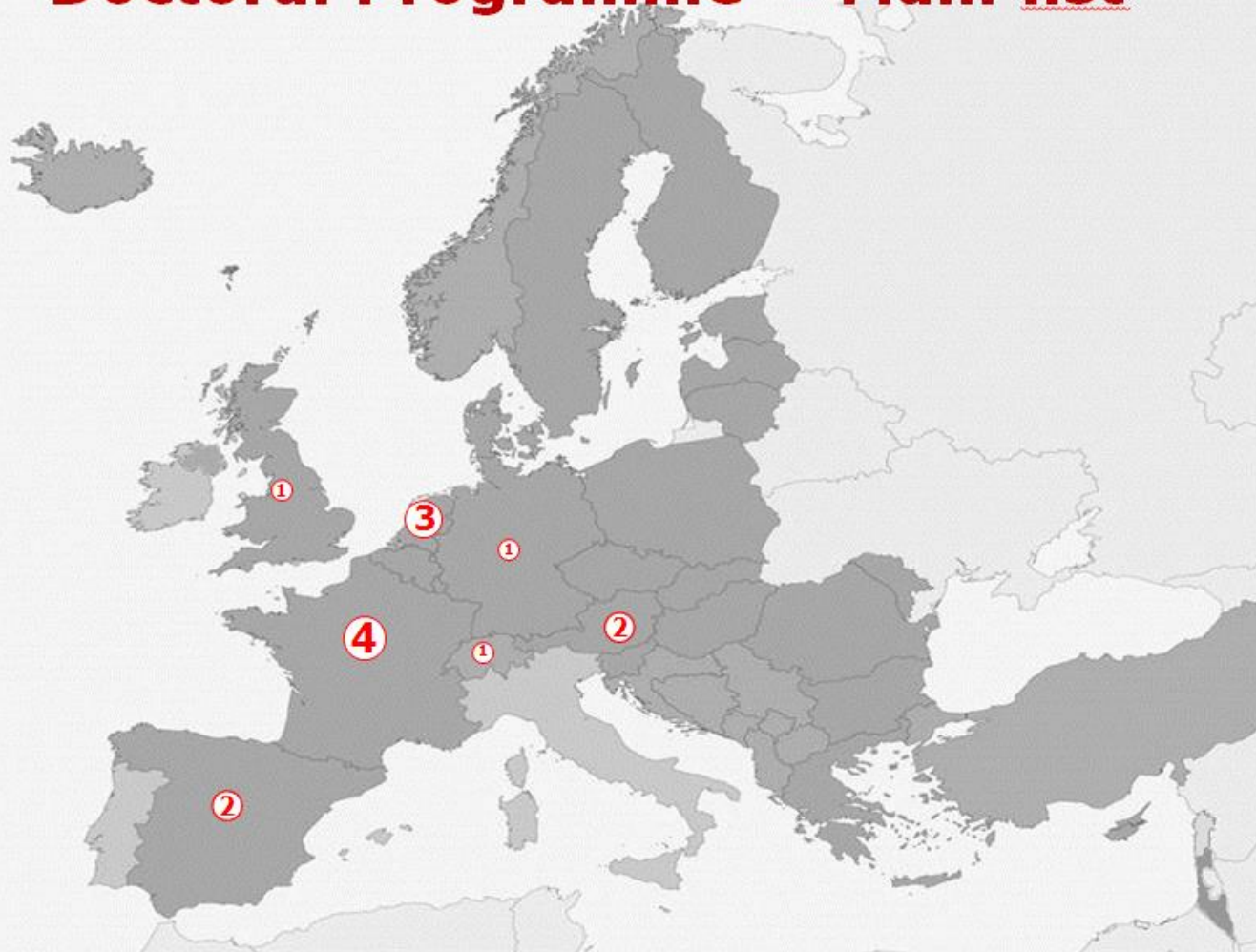


FR	13
NL	7
ES	6
AT	3
UK	3
IT	2
PL	2
BE	1
CH	1
DE	1
FI	1
PT	1
SE	1
SI	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>

**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€**

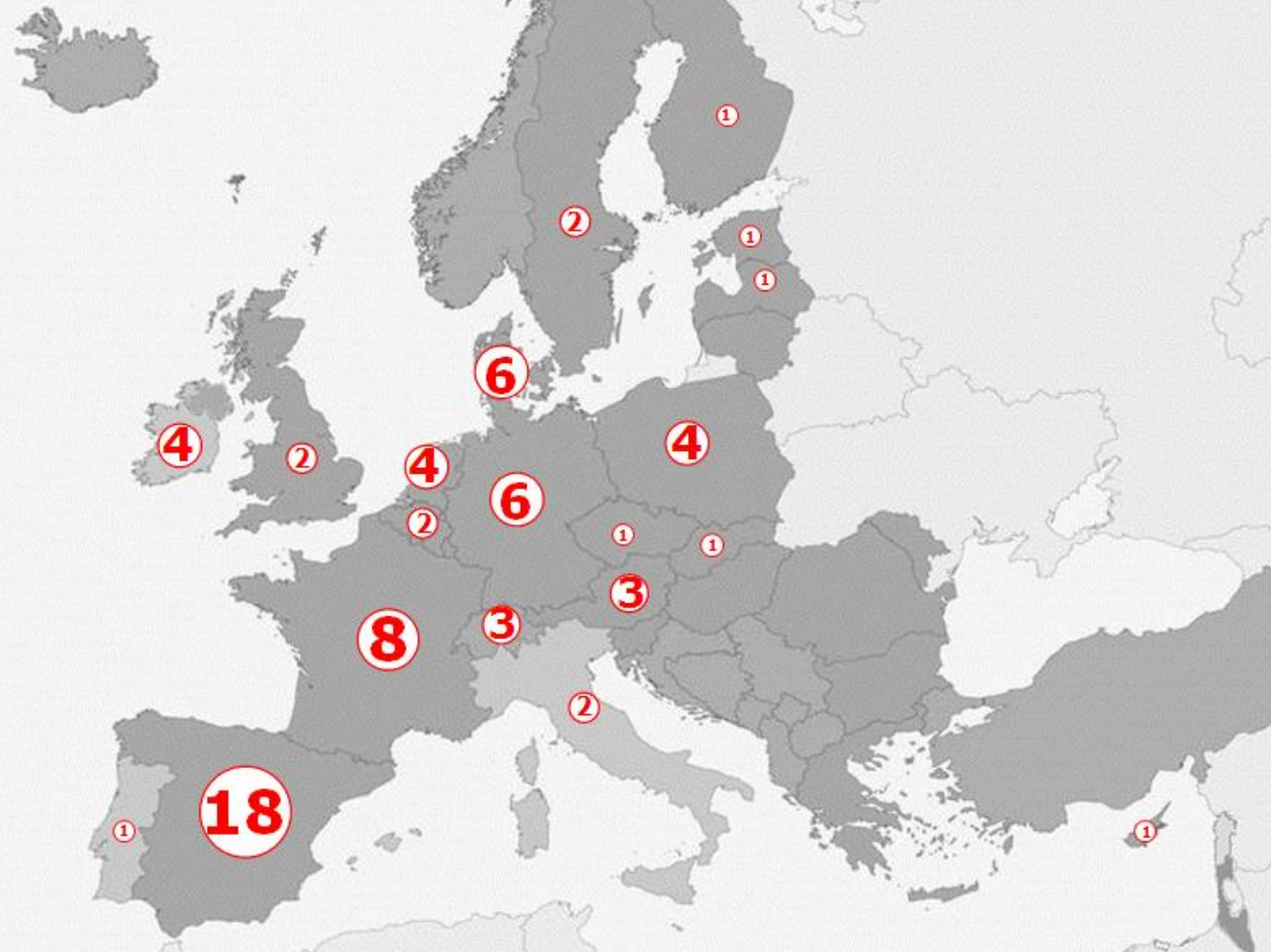
**Success Rate**

**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)**