



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Proposed New Cost Categories in Horizon Europe

MSCA Researchers' Unit Costs in H2020

MSC Action	Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Top-up allowance
ITN	3270	600	500	-
IF	4880	600	500	-
RISE	-	-	-	2100
COFUND	50 % of living + mobility	-	-	-

Special needs

Lump sum allowance (**SNLS**) through separate GA

MSCA additional costs in Horizon Europe Legal Base

Article 32.4(a) of the draft **Regulation establishing Horizon Europe** and laying down its rules for participation and dissemination.

MSCA to 'take due account of any additional costs of the beneficiary related to maternity or parental leave, sick leave, special leave or change of recruiting host organisation or family status of researcher during the lifetime of the grant agreement'.

MSCA Proposed New Cost Categories in Horizon Europe

1) Long-term leave allowance

2) Special needs allowance

Objectives: make the MSCA funding even fairer and more inclusive

→ **cover additional costs** incurred by host organisations not provided for by the current unit-cost system (**long term leaves of fellows**)

→ **simplifying contribution** to costs arising from **special needs** of researchers with disabilities (currently covered through a separated lump-sum grant agreement)

Methodology: evidence from **Study** (review the whole MSCA unit costs) + GA management evidence + results from SNLS cut-offs

Study link: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/8900e099-8a89-11ea-812f-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

The new cost categories described in this presentation are still subject to assessment and approval of the relevant EC services

Long-Term Leave Allowance (1/2)

→ Reimbursement of beneficiaries' pay obligations for maternity/parental/ sick leave of MSCA fellows (longer than 30 days)

MSCA Unit Cost **Study evidence:**

- Employers **pay obligations vary significantly** across Europe (e.g. national legislation, collective agreements)
 - No single rate identifiable
- Employers have to pay a **percentage of the salary** (when applicable)
 - salary = measure of beneficiary pay obligations

→ Unit cost base rate = Living allowance (subject to CCC) + Mobility allowance (corresponding to the salary of the researcher)*

*In Horizon Europe, current amounts of the researchers' allowances are expected to be updated, on the basis of evidence from the study on MSCA unit costs

Long-Term Leave Allowance (2/2)

→ Reimbursement of beneficiaries' pay obligations for maternity/parental/ sick leave of MSCA fellows (longer than 30 days)

Beneficiaries to declare:

- **Salary paid as a percentage** of the long-term leave allowance base rate (declaration in cost claim or researcher declaration)
- **duration** of the period of leave

Calculation of **EU Contribution**:

Long-term leave allowance \times % of allowance paid by the beneficiary \times duration in months of the period of leave to be covered

Special Needs Allowance (1/2)

→ Reimbursement of costs emerging from **Special Needs of Researchers with disability**

MSCA Unit Cost **Study evidence:**

- Wide variety of disability items and services
- Wide **variety of costs** (across Europe, also for the same item)
- Possible grouping of items/services in categories
 - **Range of rates:** from low cost to expensive items/services
 - Covering ranges of costs

Unit cost base rates:

from minimum to maximum covered (EUR 3 000 to EUR 60 000*)

Proportionate distance between each rate (e.g. 3 000, 4 500, 6 000, 9 000, etc.)

All the amounts referred to here are still provisional and may vary on the basis of further policy considerations, discussion with the Shadow Programme Committee and final approval of the relevant EC services

Special Needs Allowance (2/2)

→ Reimbursement of costs emerging from **Special Needs of Researchers with disability**

Base rate = overall amount to be received by beneficiaries

Beneficiaries:

- request the **closest lower rate** compared to the special needs expenses
- indicate the type of items/services (plausibility check)

Calculation of **EU Contribution**:

Base rate claimed by beneficiary **x** % factor (=monthly rate) **x** duration of the support needed

END – Thank you for your attention

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