



European  
Commission



# **H2020**

# **Marie Skłodowska- Curie Actions**

## **Evaluation process**

**Paris, France**  
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# MSCA in H2020 – objectives

To ensure the optimum development and dynamic use of Europe's intellectual capital in order to generate new skills and innovation:

- Attract and retain **research talent in Europe**
- Develop state-of-the-art, **innovative training schemes**, consistent with the requirements of R&I
- Promote **sustainable career development in R&I**
- Focus on delivering **new knowledge and skills**
- Back up **strong partnership with MS** via co-funding mechanism

**Total budget** (2014-2020): **€ 6.126 billion** (current prices)

# MSCA in H2020 - key features

## Bottom-up approach

Includes all domains of research and innovation

## Openness

Strong accent on participation of industry, SMEs and non-academia overall

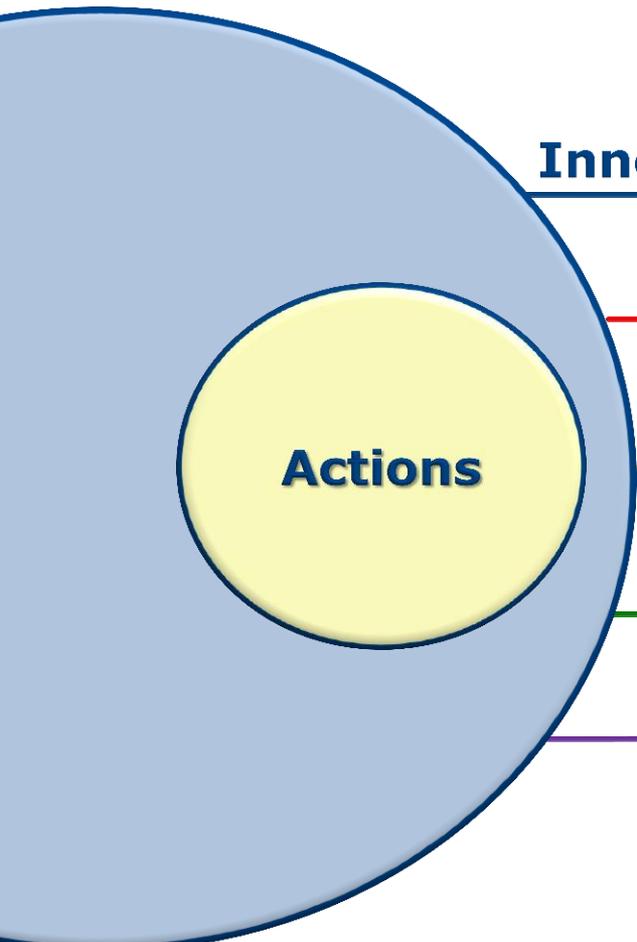
## Mobility

A global scope with trans-national mobility required and often cross-sector mobility as a key component

## Flexibility

Level of involvement is proportional to the participant's needs

# MSCA in H2020



**Actions**

**Innovative Training Networks - ITN**

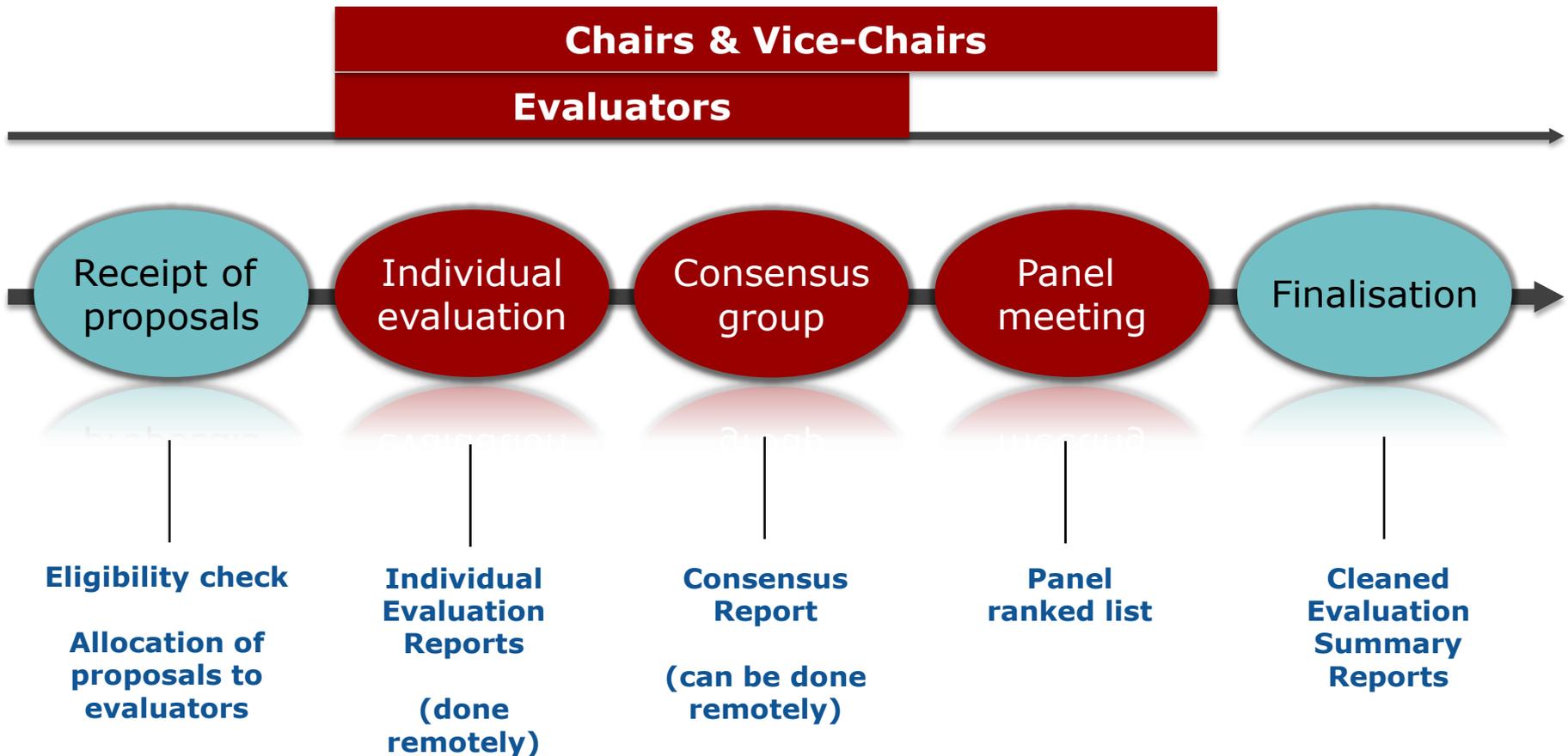
**Individual Fellowships - IF**

**Research and Innovation Staff Exchange -  
RISE**

**Co-funding of regional, national and  
international programmes - COFUND**

**European Researchers' Night**

# Overview of evaluation process



# Typical Schedule of an Evaluation:

## Pre-evaluation phase

Call Publication	day X
Call Closure	80-90 days after Call publication

## Evaluation Phase

Eligibility Check + Proposal allocation	day	100
Expert contracting and briefing	day	110
Remote evaluation (4 to 6 weeks)	day	150
Central week evaluation / Panel meeting	day	160

## Post-Evaluation Phase

Results made public	day	200
Ethics screening		
GAP-Grant Agreement Preparation		
Grants signed (max 3 months after results)	day	290

# The Actors:

## **Evaluators**

- Submit Individual Evaluation Reports (IER)
- Participate in Consensus discussions and approve Consensus Reports (CR)
- Act as Rapporteurs for some proposals (1-4 proposals):
  - Lead consensus discussion
  - Draft and submit CR
- Participate in the central Panel meeting (depending on the action)

## **Chair and Vice-chairs (CVC)**

- Assist REA in the evaluation and monitor progress (especially large calls)
- Do not evaluate proposals
- Quality check IERs and CRs
- Participate at the central panel meeting

## **Observer**

- Observe the evaluation process
- Provide advice / suggestions to the REA

# Experts' selection: long and complex process

## Step 1:

- **Preliminary large pool** of potentially suitable experts is created.
- MSCA – bottom-up - all potential scientific areas must be covered.

## Step 2:

- Experts in this pool are contacted to check availability and **absence of CoI** (Conflict of Interest).

## Step 3:

- The pool is furtherly screened to ensure **geo-national coverage, balance in gender, academic/non-academic sector** and adequate turnover of experts (min. 25% of new experts).

## Step 4:

- **After call closure – the pool** is finalized and **experts are invited**.

# Experts registration:

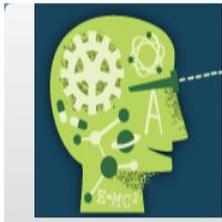
## Via Participant Portal

***<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html>***

- My Organisation(s)
- My Proposal(s)
- My Project(s)
- My Notification(s) **17**
- My Expert Area

News

The [3rd Health Programme](#) and the [Consumer Programme](#), managed by the Consumer, Health and Food Executive Agency (CHAFAEA), and the [Research Fund for Coal and Steel \(RFCS\)](#) are now using the [European Commission's experts database](#) to select experts for assignments including the evaluation of proposals and monitoring of projects. If you are already registered as an expert and wish to also indicate your interest in these programmes, please [update your profile](#) by ticking "RFCS (Research Fund for Coal and Steel)" and/or "Third Health Programme (managed by Chafea)" ('Programme Selection' section). New experts registering can indicate their interest in working for any of the programmes listed in the 'Programme Selection' section.



### Experts

H2020 ONLINE MANUAL

Join the database of independent experts for European research and innovation.

The European Commission appoints independent experts to assist with research and innovation assignments including the evaluation of proposals, monitoring of projects, and evaluation of programmes, and design of policy.

#### New experts

##### Who can be an expert?

You have a chance of being selected as an expert if you:

- have high-level of expertise in the relevant fields of research and innovation ([see call](#) for details on types of expertise).
- can be available for occasional, short-term assignments

[REGISTER AS EXPERT](#)



##### What do expert assignments involve?

Experts, as peer reviewers, assist in the:

- **evaluation** of proposals
  - **monitoring** of actions
- In addition, experts assist in the :
- **preparation, implementation or evaluation of programmes and design of policies.** This includes the Horizon 2020 Advisory Groups.

Assignments mainly concern research and innovation, falling within the Horizon 2020 programme designed to address the challenges Europe is facing through funding excellent science, technology and innovation

Take a look at the most recently [funded projects](#).

#### Registered experts

- Registered experts can complete or **update their profile** at any time by [logging-in](#) to their Portal account (ECAS) and accessing **My Expert Area**.
- Your profile is only available to the Commission for consideration once it is complete and valid.

**Registration for new experts**

**Update your existing profile**

# A good expert should:

- Belong to the **academic or non-academic sector**
- Have the relevant **expertise in the scientific areas**
- **Be able and willing to learn and accept** our process
- **Be on time** in delivering reports and present during consensus meetings
- Informs the REA **ON TIME** in case of problem
- **Be reliable** (e.g. CoI)
- **Be flexible**
- Have written and spoken **English of good quality**
- **Be able to judge and evaluate** the project, not to copy/paste
- **Be able to explain**, if comments are negative – WHY?, if comments are positive – WHY?

We do not look for expert-superman or superwoman,  
everybody can learn it...

# Allocation of proposals to experts:

- **Once** the proposals are submitted and the **Call is closed**.
- **Each scientific area of the proposal must be covered** (experts from several disciplines for multidisciplinary proposals).
- Before the allocation - **checks on potential CoIs** of experts.
- A preliminary allocation considers a **number of constraints** (nationality, academic/non-academic, max. n° of proposals per experts, gender etc.).
- **Automatic allocation** combined with the **manual verification**.

# Conflict of interest:

## = Reliability of expert!

1st time – when accepting participation and signing contract

2nd time – when full proposal is received in SEP (check of names, beneficiaries, etc.)

3rd time – at any moment during evaluation

**NB: It is very important to review in detail all the proposals allocated to each expert so that experts are able to promptly identify any potential conflict of interest and decline the respective task(s).**

# Conflict of interest (CoI)

## Disqualifying

- Involved in preparation
- Stands to benefit directly
- Close family relationship
- Employed/Director/partner of one applicant
- Any other situation that compromises impartiality

## Potential

- Employed in last 3 years
- Involved in research collaboration in last 3 years
- Any other situation that casts doubt, or that could reasonably appear to do so

# Evaluation principles

## **Confidentiality**

- ✓ No disclosure of any information concerning proposals/applicants, evaluation outcomes or the names of other experts involved.

## **Independence**

- ✓ Experts assess proposals in a personal capacity.
- ✓ They neither represent their employer nor their country!

## **Impartiality**

- ✓ Experts must treat all proposals equally and assess the proposals impartially irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants.

## **Objectivity**

- ✓ Each proposal is evaluated as submitted; meaning on its own merit, not on its potential if certain changes were to be made.

## **Accuracy**

- ✓ Evaluators make their judgment against the official evaluation criteria and the call or topic the proposal addresses, and nothing else.

## **Consistency**

- ✓ The same standard of judgment should be applied to all proposals.

# Evaluation steps:

**1. REMOTE EVALUATION**

**2. CONSENSUS**

**3. PANEL MEETING**

Min 3 experts assigned to each proposal

# Remote evaluation:

- From **home or work place**
- Can take **several weeks** (4-6 weeks)
- Each expert evaluate **all proposals allocated to him/her**
- **Submission of IER** (Individual Evaluation Report) electronically
- **Experts don't know other co-experts** evaluating the same proposal
- Evaluation **based on own experience** in the field and his/her **best knowledge** about the topic
- **Calibration of marks** when more proposals to be evaluated
- **End of Remote phase:**
  - All IERs must be submitted in the system
  - Rapporteurs are allocated to each proposal – preparation for consensus stage

# Consensus stage:

## 1. Either in Brussels

- 1st time all experts meet around one table
- Day 1 – experts get instructions + their individual schedule for each consensus meeting (room number, date and timing)
- Each proposal is discussed between 30 min and 2 hours depending on the complexity

## 2. Or remotely

- large calls – remote consensus
- CR is agreed and finalized remotely
- Conference call discussion for difficult cases, with involvement of PO

## Consensus must be reached!

- If needed, another evaluator may be asked to step in (exceptional cases – CoI during central week, not possible to reach consensus, etc.)
- Moderator – either Rapporteur or EC official
- All experts must approve CR

# Panel meeting in Brussels: = ranking list approval

- At the **end of the Consensus stage**
- **After all CRs are finalized** and approved by all experts
- **All rapporteurs** present (classical evaluation) **or only Chairs and Vice-chairs** (fully remote evaluation)
- If needed, **discussion on difficult cases**
- **Ranking list approval**
- **Ex-aequo cases** discussion – Work Programme must be respected
- **Free discussion** on evaluation process – suggestions, comments

# Scoring:

**0 – Proposal fails** to address or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information

**1 – Poor.** The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious weaknesses

**2 – Fair.** Proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses

**3 – Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion well, but number of shortcomings are present

**4 – Very good.** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but small number of shortcomings are present

**5 – Excellent.** Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion, any shortcomings are minor.

# Post-evaluation:

Once the evaluation is completed the following activities start:

- **Ethics screening**
- Preparation of **internal procedure** with the EC
- **Publication of evaluation results** to MS and to applicants

Next steps:

- **GAP** (Grant Agreement Preparation)
- **Signature of successful grants**

# Evaluation review process :

- **After the evaluation results are received** by applicants
- If an applicant considers that the evaluation of his/her proposal was **not carried out in accordance with the H2020** Rules for Participation, the Work Programme and Call.
- The scope of the evaluation review - **only the procedural aspects** of the evaluation, including the **suitability of the experts selected**.
- The **Committee cannot call into question the judgment of appropriately qualified experts**.



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***Thank you  
for your attention***



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