Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in Horizon 2020

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Education and Culture

European
Commission

Excellence

Research

Training

Skills

Mobility

European
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MSCA Objective

Ensure the optimum development and dynamic use of Europe's intellectual capital in order to generate new skills, knowledge and innovation

Budget 2014-2020: 6 162 million €

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

➢ Promotion of attractive **working and employment conditions**

➢ Particular attention to **gender** balance

➢ **Public engagement** of supported researchers

➢ 2014-2015: 10 calls foreseen -> one call per each MSC action per year + one call covering 2 years of European Researchers' Night + NCP

Strategic programming approach

- Attract and retain **research talent**

- Develop state-of-the-art, **innovative training schemes**, consistent with the highly competitive and increasingly inter-disciplinary requirements of research and innovation

- Promote sustainable **career development** in research and innovation

- Focus on **delivering new knowledge and skills**, in line with the key driver identified in the strategic programming approach

- Contribute to a **strong partnership with MS** via the co-funding mechanism

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MSCA in H2020

Innovative Training Networks	ITN	Doctoral and initial training
Individual Fellowships	IF	Support for experienced researchers undertaking international and inter-sector mobility
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange	RISE	International and inter-sector cooperation through the exchange of staff
Co-funding of programmes	COFUND	Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes: - doctoral programmes - fellowship programmes
Support and policy actions		European Researchers' Night (NIGHT) NCP support Non call-based activities

Definitions

- ✓ **Academic sector**: public or private HEI awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations, international European interest organisations

- ✓ **Non-academic sector**: any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector definition

- ✓ **Beneficiaries** => signatories of the grant agreement

- ✓ **Partner organisations** => not signing the grant agreement

- ✓ Categories of researchers: **ESR** and **ER** – in line with FP7 approach

- ✓ **Full time research equivalent** and **mobility** rule – following FP7 approach

- ✓ **Staff members** in RISE: researchers, managers, administrative and technical personnel supporting research and innovation activities of the project

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MSCA - main EU programme for structured doctoral training

Objective

- ✓ raise excellence and structure research and doctoral training

- ✓ train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers

Scope

- ✓ European Training Networks (ETN), European Industrial Doctorates (EID) or European Joint Doctorates (EJD)

- ✓ Triple 'i' dimension of mobility and particular focus on innovation skills

Expected Impact

- ✓ structure research and doctoral training in Europe

- ✓ trigger cooperation and exchange of best practice among participants

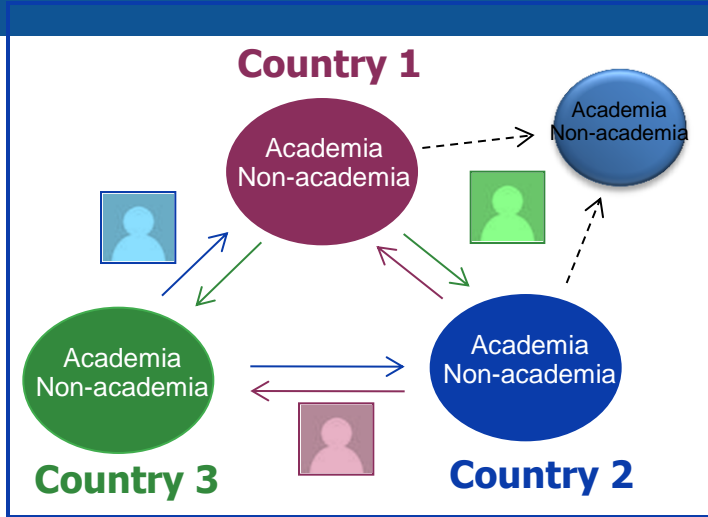- ✓ enhance researchers' employability and provide them with new career perspectives
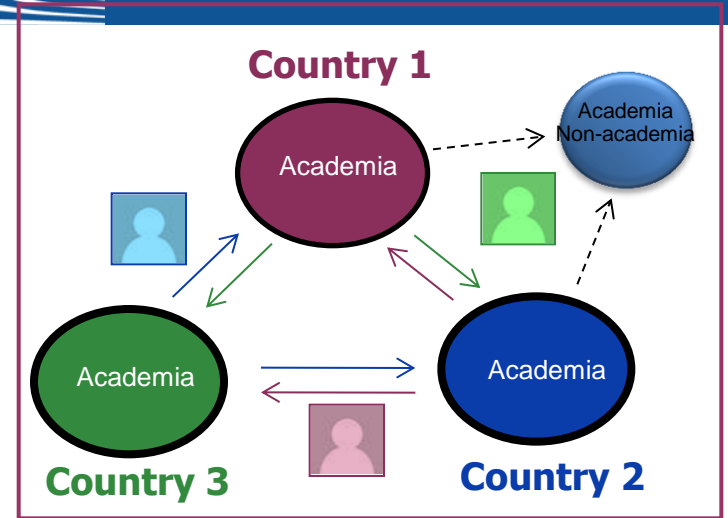
ITN – Main features

- ✓ **Budget**: € 405.18 Million in 2014 (EID: 25.5 Mio, EJD: 30 Mio)
  € 370 Million in 2015 (EID: 25 Mio, EJD 28 Mio)

- ✓ Duration of projects: maximum 4 years

- ✓ Consortium agreement: required only for EID

- ✓ Support to **early-stage researchers only**

- ✓ Fellowships of 3-36 months

- ✓ Maximum **540 researcher-months** per consortium (180 for EID with 2 partners)

- ✓ Separate **multidisciplinary panels for EID and EJD**

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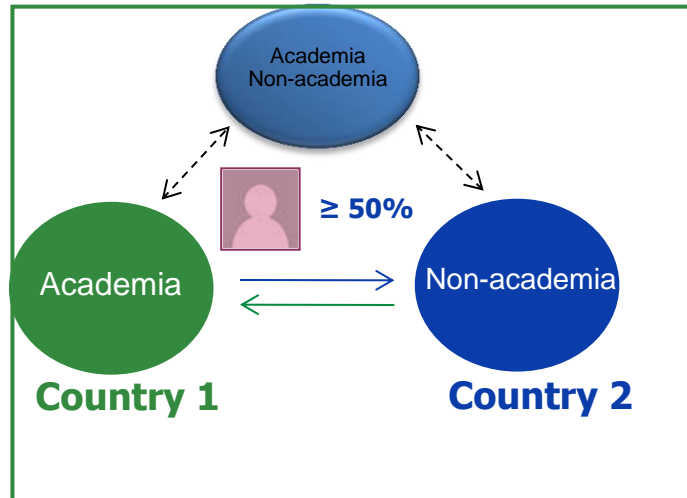
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ITN - consortia

European Training Networks

European Joint Doctorates

European Industrial Doctorates

Award criteria: ITN

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Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme (including inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)	**Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills, and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives**	**Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan,** including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources (including awarding of the doctoral degrees for *EID* and *EJD* projects)
Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)	**Contribution to structuring doctoral / early-stage research training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity, including the potential for**: **a)** meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral/research training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field **b)** developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures (for *EJD* projects only)	**Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures**, including quality management and risk management (with a mandatory joint governing structure for *EID* and *EJD* projects*)*
Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for *EID* and *EJD* projects)	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for **communication** and **dissemination of results**	**Appropriateness of the infrastructure of the participating organisations**
Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations		**Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and their commitment to the programme**

Individual Fellowships (IF)

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Objective

- ✓ enhance the creative and innovative potential of experienced researchers
- ✓ provide opportunities to acquire new knowledge, work on research projects in a European context or outside Europe, resume a career or return to Europe

Scope

- ✓ Individual, trans-national fellowships awarded to the best or most promising researchers
- ✓ European Fellowships or Global Fellowships
- ✓ Career Restart Panel and Reintegration Panel

Expected Impact

- ✓ release the full potential of researchers and to catalyse significant development in their careers in both the academic and non-academic sectors
- ✓ strengthen the contact network of the researcher and the host organisation

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IF – Main features

- ✓ **Budget**: € 240.50 Million in 2014 (Global Fellowships: 29 Mio)
  € 213 Million in 2015 (Global Fellowships: 27 Mio)

- ✓ Duration of projects: 2 years (IF Global: 3 years)

- ✓ Support to **experienced researchers** of **any nationality** (IF Global and IF Reintegration: nationals of EU MS/AC and long-term residents)

- ✓ Focus on **career development**, not necessarily experience

- ✓ Additional 3 or 6 month **secondment option**, within Europe and in another sector

- ✓ Separate multidisciplinary **panels for CAR and Reintegration**

- ✓ Same elements of award criteria for all proposals

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IF – European and Global

European Fellowships

Global Fellowships

Award criteria: IF

Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects)	**Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives**	**Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan,** including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Clarity and quality of transfer of knowledge/training for the development of researcher in light of the research objectives	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for **communication** and **results dissemination**	**Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures**, including quality management and risk management
Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements		**Appropriateness of the institutional environment** (infrastructure)
Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research		**Competences, experience and complementarity** of the participating organisations **and institutional commitment**

Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

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Objective

- ✓ promote **international and inter-sector collaboration** through research and innovation staff exchanges
- ✓ foster a shared culture of research and innovation

Scope

- ✓ International and inter-sector transfer of knowledge and sharing of ideas
- ✓ Common research and innovation project
- ✓ Highly skilled research and innovation staff
- ✓ Within Europe: only inter-sector secondments
- ✓ No secondments between institutions located outside Europe or within the same MS/AC

Expected Impact

- ✓ strengthen the interaction between organisations in the academic and non-academic sectors, and between Europe and third countries

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RISE – Main features
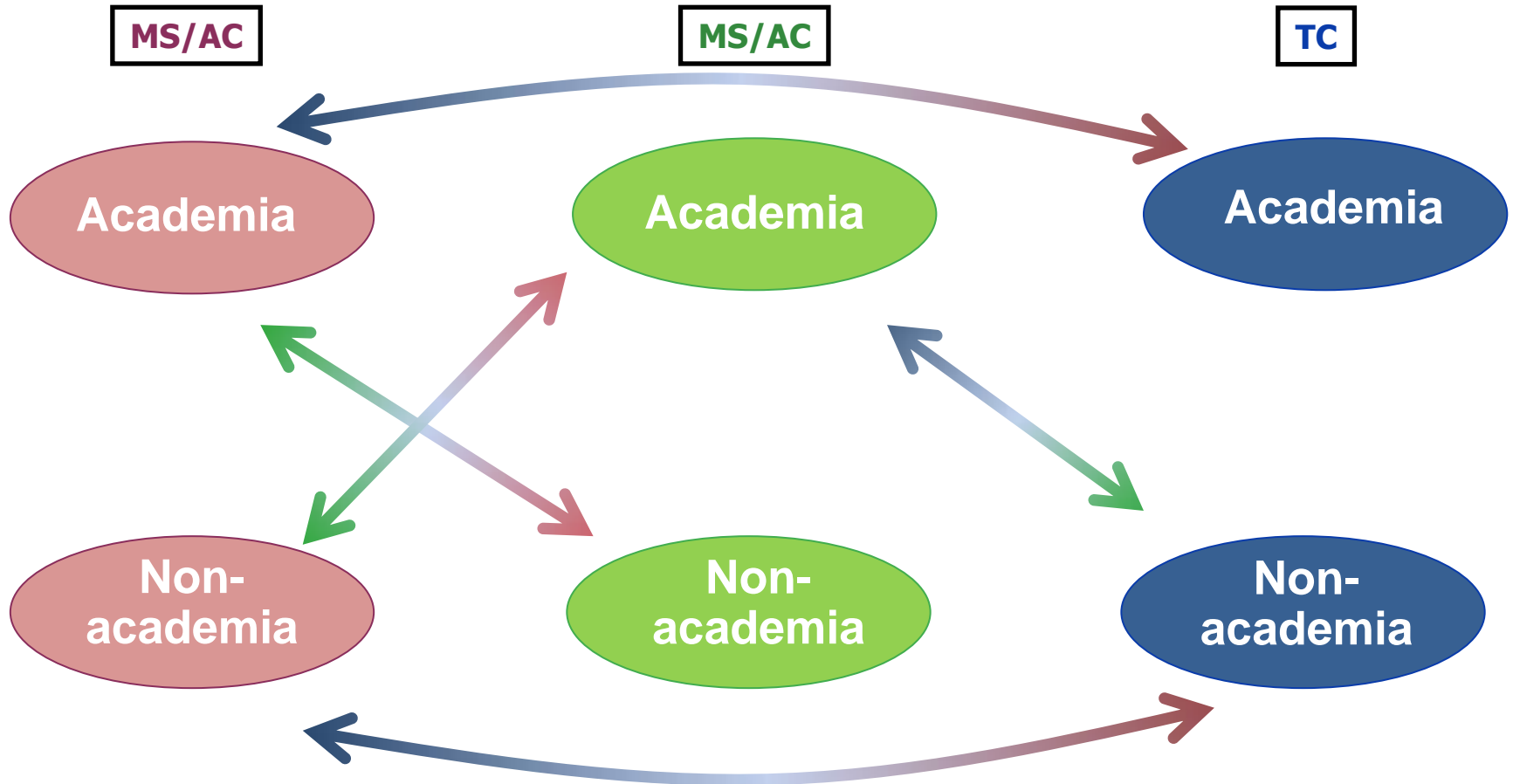
- ✓ **Budget**: € 70 Million in 2014
  € 80 Million in 2015

- ✓ Duration of projects: maximum 4 years

- ✓ Minimum eligibility condition: **participants in 3 different countries** (at least 2 MS/AC)

- ✓ Partnership agreement recommended

- ✓ Support to **secondments of staff members** (**1-12 months**)

- ✓ No mobility rule required

- ✓ **Eligibility condition** for staff member: **6 month at the sending institution** prior to the first secondment

- ✓ Maximum **540 researcher-months** per consortium

- ✓ 8 evaluation panels

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RISE – Exchanges

Award criteria: RISE

Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects)	**Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives**	**Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan,** including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Clarity and quality of knowledge sharing among the participants in light of the research and innovation objectives.	**To develop new and lasting research collaborations, to achieve transfer of knowledge** between research institutions and to improve research and innovation potential at the European and global levels	**Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures**, including quality management and risk management
Quality of the interaction between the participating organisations	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for **communication** and **results dissemination**	**Appropriateness of the institutional environment** (infrastructure)
		Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations **and institutional commitment**

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
- ✓ 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 selection and recruitment

Expected Impact
- ✓ exploit synergies between EU actions and those at regional, national, and international level
- ✓ leverage funding and combat fragmentation
- ✓ increase working / employment conditions of researchers

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COFUND

✓   Mono-beneficiary

✓   Legal entities established in MS or AC or international European
    interest organisations that fund or manage doctoral programmes or
    fellowship programmes for researchers.

**Doctoral
Programmes**

**Fellowship
Programmes**

COFUND – Main features

✓ **Budget**: € 80 Million in 2014 (Doctoral Programmes: 30 Mio)
€ 80 Million in 2015 (Doctoral Programmes: 30 Mio)

✓ Maximum **€ 10 Million per single applicant** per call

✓ Duration of projects: maximum 5 years

✓ **Researchers** recruited for **minimum 3 months**

✓ EU contribution to cover **living allowances for researchers** and **management costs**

✓ **50% co-funding for established unit costs**

✓ Minimum living allowance fixed in the WP

Award criteria: COFUND

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Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Quality of the selection / recruitment process for the researchers (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunity)	**Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives**	**Overall coherence, effectiveness and appropriateness of the work plan**
Quality of the research options offered by the programme in terms of science, interdisciplinarity, intersectorality and level of transnational mobility	**Impact of the programme on aligning practices at participating organisations with principles set out by the EU for the human resources development in research and innovation**	**Appointment conditions of researchers**
Quality of career guidance and training, including supervision arrangements, training in transferable skills	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for **communication** and **results dissemination of the programmes**	**Competence of the participant** to implement the programme

EU contribution – eligibility

Categories of eligible costs	Costs of researchers/seconded staff member (1)				Institutional costs (2)	
Marie Skłodowska-Curie action	Living allowance (a)	Mobility allowance (b)	Family allowance (c)	Top-up allowance (d)	Research, training and networking costs (a)	Management and indirect costs (b)
ITN	Unit cost per person/month	Unit cost per person/month	Unit cost per person/month	Ineligible	Unit cost per person/month	Unit cost per person/month
IF	Unit cost per person/month	Unit cost per person/month	Unit cost per person/month	Ineligible	Unit cost per person/month	Unit cost per person/month
RISE	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Unit cost per person/month	Unit cost per person/month	Unit cost per person/month
COFUND	Unit cost per person/month (one for early-stage researchers and one for experienced researchers)	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Ineligible	Unit cost per person/month (indirect costs not covered)

EU contribution – amounts

Categories of eligible costs	Costs of researchers/seconded staff member (1)				Institutional costs (2)	
Marie Skłodowska-Curie action	Living allowance (a)	Mobility allowance (b)	Family allowance (c)	Top-up allowance (d)	Research, training and networking costs (a)	Management and indirect costs (b)
ITN (100%)	3 110	600	500	--	1 800	1 200
IF (100%)	4 650	600	500	--	800	650
RISE (100%)	--	--	--	2 000	1 800	700
COFUND (50%)	ESR: 3 710 ER: 5 250	--	--	--	--	650

Example - COFUND

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action	Researcher unit cost [person/month]***		Institutional unit cost [person/month]***
Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes	Early-stage researchers	3 710	
	Experienced researchers	5 250	650

***These unit costs will be subject to a co-funding rate of 50%.

✓ 50% of the amounts in the table are the **EU contribution**

✓ To be used as contribution to living allowance and management costs

✓ Minimum amounts for living + mobility allowances (70%)

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

Example (Fellowship programme – ER)

Cost item	Total cost [€ per person-month]	EU contribution [€ per person-month]
Living allowance	4800	2625
Mobility allowance	500	
Research costs	500	
Management costs	600	325
Indirect costs	600	
Total	7000	2950

> € 3675

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Objective
- ✓ bring researchers closer to the general public
- ✓ increase awareness of research and innovation activities

Scope
- ✓ yearly event, typically on the last Friday of the month of September
- ✓ focus on the general public, addressing and attracting people regardless of the level their scientific background
- ✓ special focus on pupils and students
- ✓ promotion of the European dimension and gender balance in research and innovation
- ✓ involvement of researchers funded by Horizon 2020

Expected Impact
- ✓ raise awareness of the importance of research careers
- ✓ in the long term, encourage young people to embark on scientific careers

NIGHT – Main features

- ✓ **Budget**: € 8 Million in 2014 (2 editions covered)

- ✓ Call under **Coordination and support action**

- ✓ Maximum 100% funding

- ✓ Duration: **maximum 2 years** (option for one edition only)

- ✓ Beneficiaries: any legal entity in the EU Member States and Associated Countries

- ✓ Consortium agreement not required

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Call deadlines 2014

Call ID	Call Opens	**Call Deadline**	Budget (Mio EUR)
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014	11-12-2013	**09-04-2014**	405.18
H2020-MSCA-IF-2014	12-03-2014	**11-09-2014**	240.50
H2020-MSCA-RISE-2014	11-12-2013	**24-04-2014**	70.00
H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2014	10-04-2014	**02-10-2014**	80.00
H2020-MSCA-NIGHT-2014	11-12-2013	**04-03-2014**	8.00
H2020-MSCA-NCP-2014	11-12-2013	**02-04-2014**	1.50

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Call deadlines 2015

Call ID	Call Opens	Call Deadline	Budget (Mio EUR)
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015	02-09-2014	**13-01-2015**	370.00
H2020-MSCA-IF-2015	12-03-2015	**10-09-2015**	213.00
H2020-MSCA-RISE-2015	06-01-2015	**28-04-2015**	80.00
H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2015	14-04-2015	**01-10-2015**	80.00

MSCA part of the H2020 WP

at the Participant Portal

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/home

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