



# HOW TO WRITE A COMPETITIVE MSCA RISE PROPOSAL

# OUTLINE

- Introduction RISE (Objectives, Implementation, Eligibility criteria, Finance and Reporting)
- Examples on Excellence, Impact and Implementation
- How to find partners and support
- Further Information
- Q & A

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# INTRODUCTION: MSCA IN HORIZON 2020



Marie Skłodowska-Curie: A Mobile Researcher

*“After all, science is essentially international, and it is only through lack of the historical sense that national qualities have been attributed to it.”*



# INTRODUCTION: MSCA IN HORIZON 2020



## Aims

- Support researchers at different stages of their careers
- Ensure excellent and innovative research training
- Ensure attractive career and knowledge-exchange opportunities
- Attract and retain research talent

# INTRODUCTION: MSCA IN HORIZON 2020



## Key features

- Funding for all **research areas**
- Open to all **domains of** research and innovation
- Annual calls
- **Mobility** as key requirement
- Participation of non-academic sector encouraged

# INTRODUCTION: MSCA IN HORIZON 2020



5 Actions

Individual Fellowships

**Individual driven action**

RISE

COFUND

ITN

**Host-driven actions**

NIGHT

**Coordination and Support Action**

# MSCA IN H2020: AN OVERVIEW



## IF Individual Fellowships

### What does it offer?

Opportunities to work on personal research projects by moving between countries and possibly sectors to acquire new skills

### Who applies?

Individual researchers together with the host organisation

### Who is funded?

Postdoctoral researchers



## ITN Innovative Training Networks

### What does it offer?

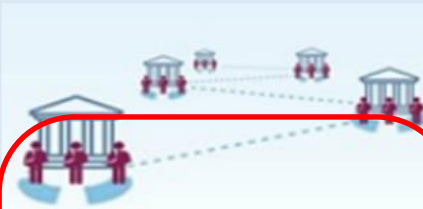
High-quality research training delivered through international and interdisciplinary networks, industrial doctorates or joint doctorates

### Who applies?

International networks of research organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

### Who is funded?

Researchers at doctoral level (less than four years of full-time research experience and no doctoral degree)



## RISE Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

### What does it offer?

The exchange of staff members involved in research and innovation to develop sustainable collaborative projects and the transfer of knowledge

### Who applies?

International networks of research organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors

### Who is funded?

Researchers, technical, administrative and managerial staff of any nationality and at all career levels



## COFUND Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes

### What does it offer?

Regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development

### Who applies?

Organisations funding or managing doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes

### Who is funded?

Researchers at doctoral and postdoctoral level

**Individual driven action**

**Host-driven actions**



# RISE - MAIN FEATURES



- Aim to stimulate transfer of knowledge
- Bottom-up approach
- Projects are built on joint research and innovation activities
- No recruitment foreseen
- Projects are implemented through the secondment of staff
- Staff members seconded for 1-12 months
- Project maximum size: 540 person months
- project maximum duration: 4 years
- 8 evaluation panels

# RISE – ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES



- EU Member States
- Overseas Countries and Territories linked to the MS (as defined on page 3 of General Annex A to the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017)
- Horizon 2020 Associated Countries
- The Third Countries listed (on page 3 of General Annex A to the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017)

# RISE – NON-ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES



- Countries not listed previously are not eligible for EU funding
- In practice, those countries are mainly:  
Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan,  
Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea,  
Russia, United States.

# RISE – ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS



- **Academic Sector:**
  - Higher education establishments (public or private)
  - Non-profit research organisations (public or private)
  - International European interest organisations (CERN, EMBL, ...)
- **Non-Academic Sector:**

Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the *Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation* (SMEs, multinationals, NGOs, etc.)

# RISE – ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS



- Beneficiaries
  - Sign the Grant Agreement and claim costs
  - Are responsible for the execution of the programme
  - Are established in a MS/AC
  - Are per definitionem the **COORDINATORS**
  
- Partner Organisations
  - Do not sign the Grant Agreement and do not claim costs
  - Must include a letter of commitment in the proposal
  - Are established in a Third Country (TC)

# RISE – ELIGIBLE STAFF



“Actively engaged in or linked to research/innovation activities for at least 6 months prior to first secondment”

Types of staff members:

- **ESR** (no PhD and < 4 years experience)
- **ER** (PhD or > 4 years experience)
- **Managerial staff**
- **Administrative or Technical staff - In-built return mechanism**
- 6 month at the sending institution prior to the first secondment

# RISE - ELIGIBLE CONSORTIA



- 2 possible minimum Settings:

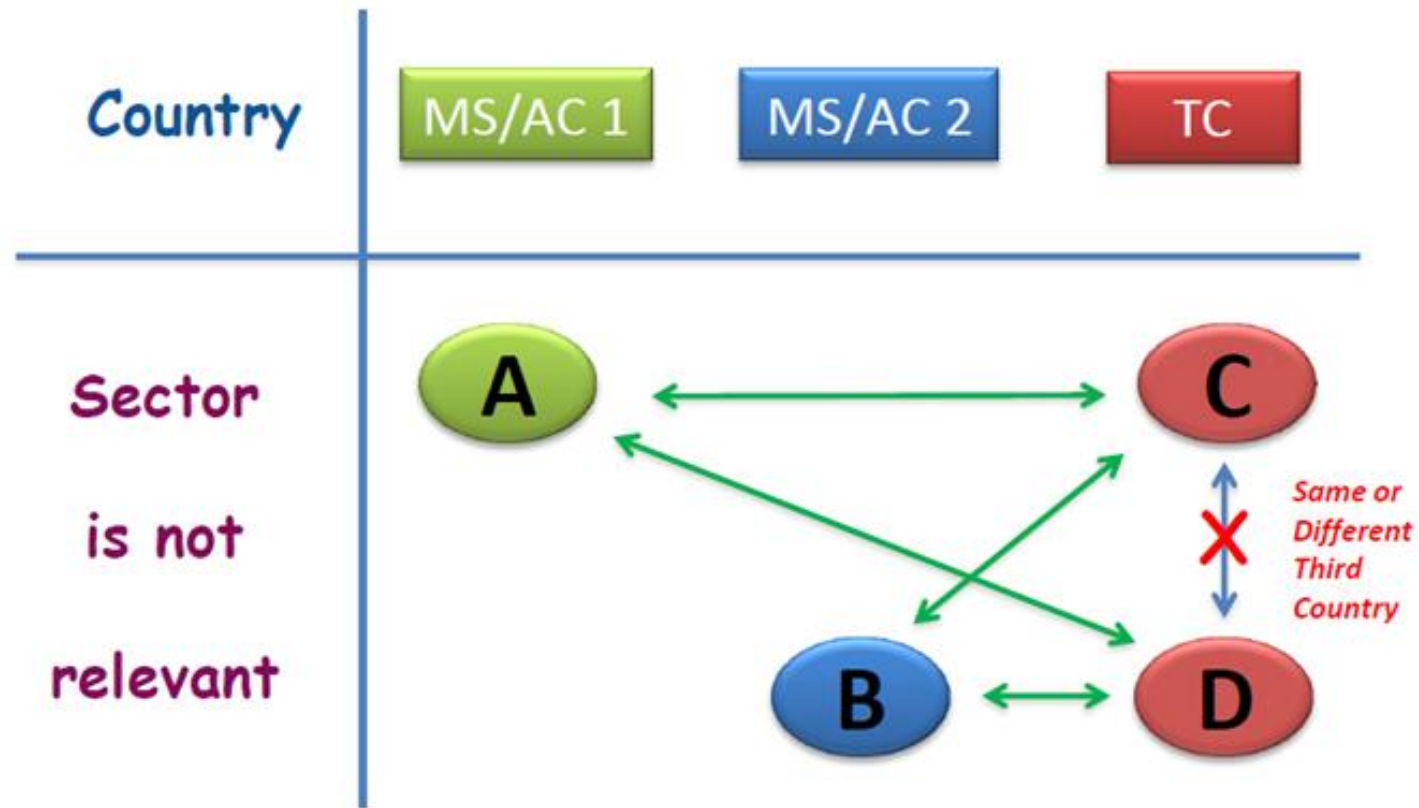



*or*



# RISE - ELIGIBLE SECONDMENTS

- Europe-Third Countries Exchanges



  
Secondments from a TC to a MS/AC are not always eligible for EU funding but all of them must be described in the proposal.



# RISE - ELIGIBLE DURATION



- Maximum project duration is 4 years
- Each staff member is seconded for a period of 1-12 months
- The maximum size for a project is 540 person months

# RISE – ELIGIBLE COSTS

- Unit costs per researcher per month of secondment for secondments eligible for funding

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action	Staff member unit cost [per person-month of secondment] [EUR]	Institutional unit cost [per person-month of secondment]	
		Research, training and networking costs [EUR]	Management and indirect costs [EUR]
RISE	2,000	1,800	700

Travel accomodation and subsistence costs

Purchasing of consumables, laboratory costs, participation to conferences, workshops and networking activities, coordination and review meetings

Administrative and financial management, logistics, ethics, human resources, legal advice, documentation etc.

**Exchange Rate**  
**22.11.2016:**  
**2000 € = 75 338**  
**THB**

# RISE – ELIGIBLE COSTS



## ■ An example

- ✓ 6 partners in 6 different countries (EU and 3rd countries)
- ✓ Overall duration of project 4 years
- ✓ Secondments eligible for funding: every year for every partner 4 months
- ✓  $4 \text{ RM} \times 6 \text{ partners} = 24 \text{ RM}$
- ✓  $24 \text{ RM} \times 4 \text{ years} = 96 \text{ RM per project}$
- ✓ 432 000 EC contribution (192 000+240 000 Euro)
- ✓ Maximum EU contribution 540 Researcher Months (540 x 4500Euro =2 430 000 Euro)

**915 360 902 THB**

Researcher unit cost	Institutional unit cost
2000 per month	1800 Research&Training costs + 700 Mgt&OH
	= 2500 Euro/Inst. Unit Cost
192 000 Total for 96 Researcher months	<b>240 000 Total for 96 Researcher months</b>

# RISE – EVALUATION PANELS



- Chemistry (CHE)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
- Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Physics (PHY)

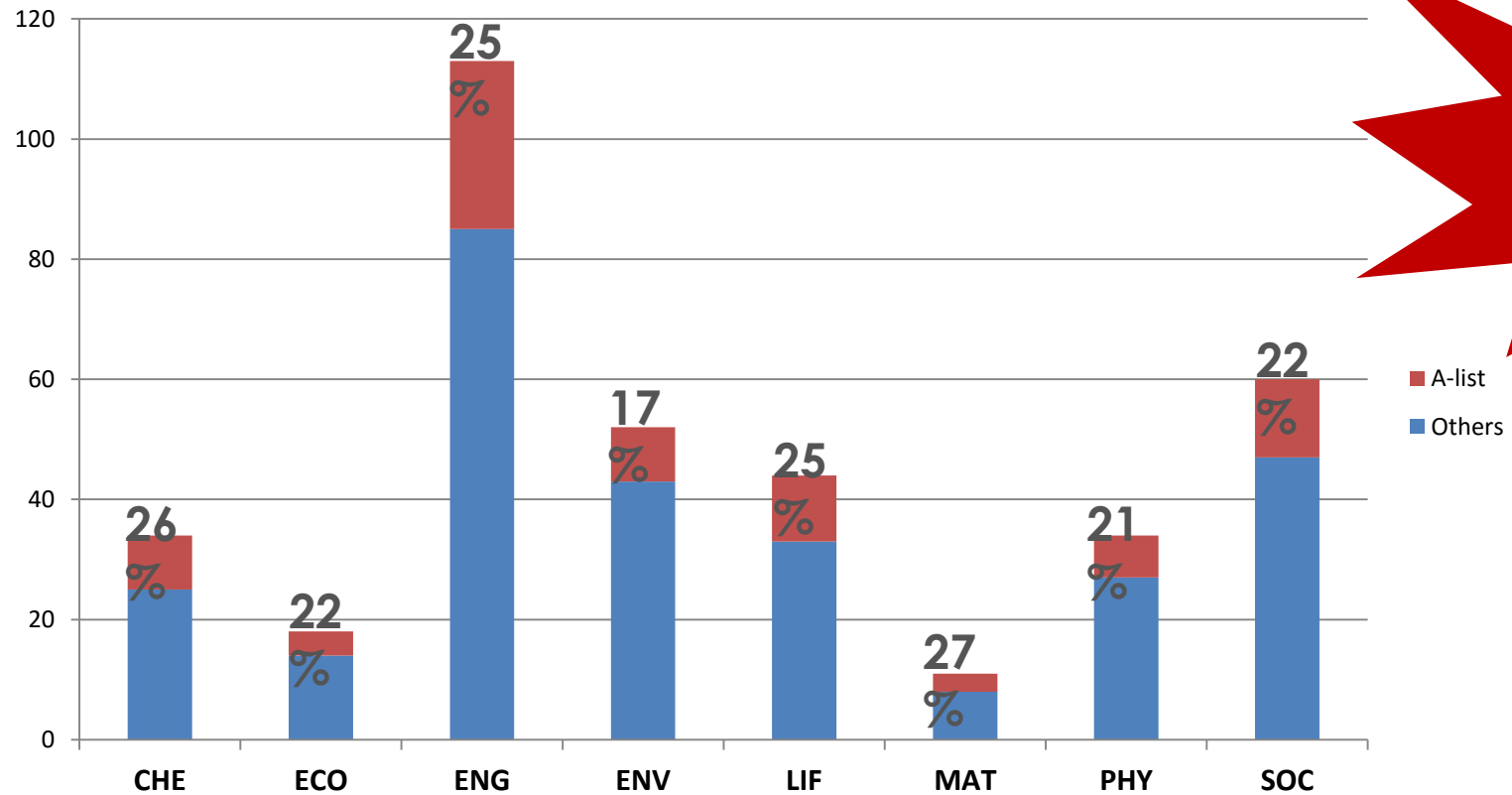
## RISE 2016: SUBMISSION

- **367** proposals received (1 inadmissible)
- Comparable to RISE 2015 (+4 proposals)

	Total	%
CHE	34	9%
ECO	18	5%
ENG	113	31%
ENV	51	14%
LIF	45	12%
MAT	11	3%
PHY	34	9%
SOC	61	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>100%</b>



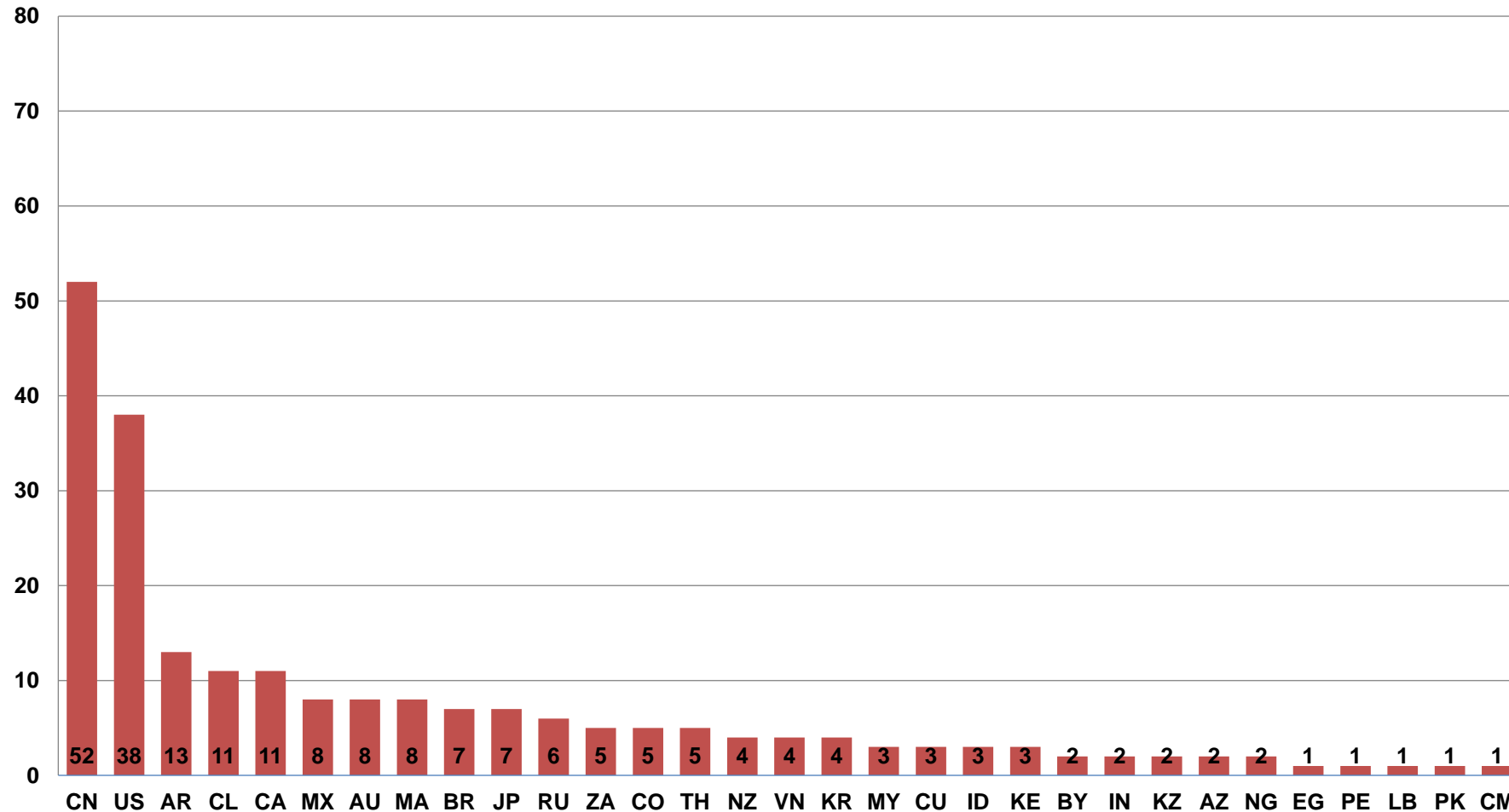
## RISE 2016: A-LIST – SUCCESS RATES



**22,9%**  
**A list**

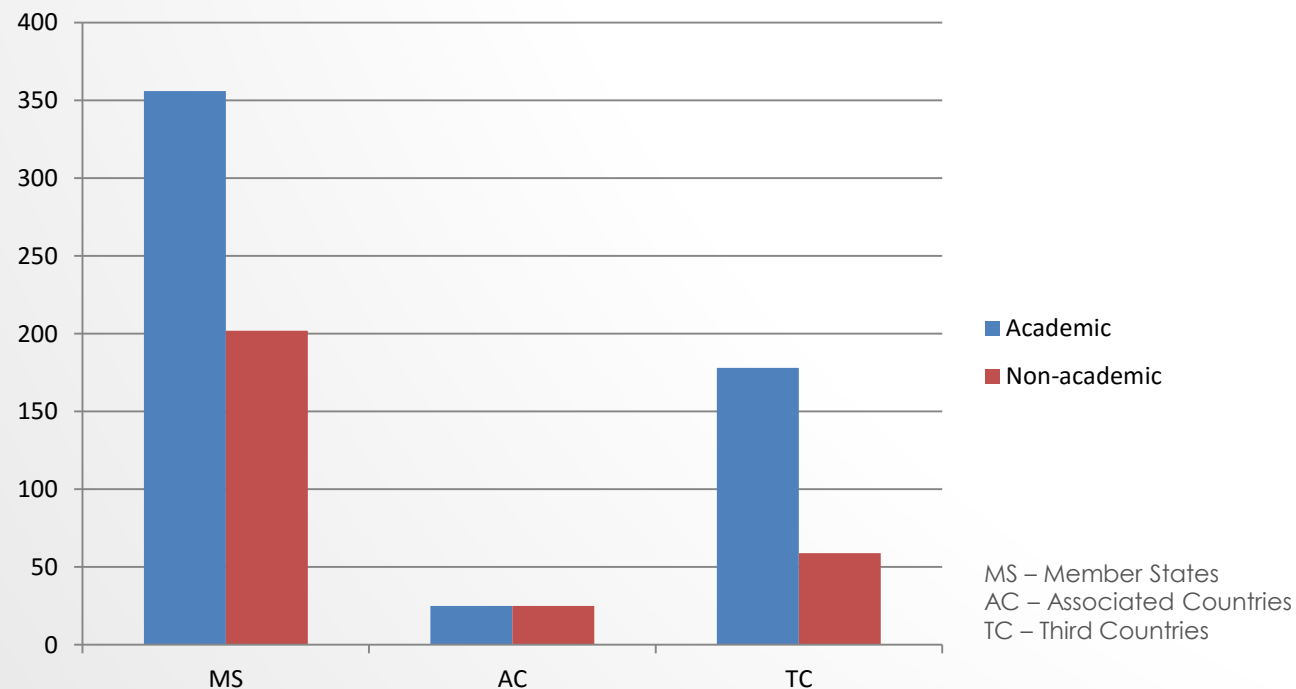
Others	25	14	85	43	33	8	27	47
A-list	9	4	28	9	11	3	7	13

## RISE 2016: Third Country partners on A-list



## RISE 2016: Type of participants ratio A-list proposals

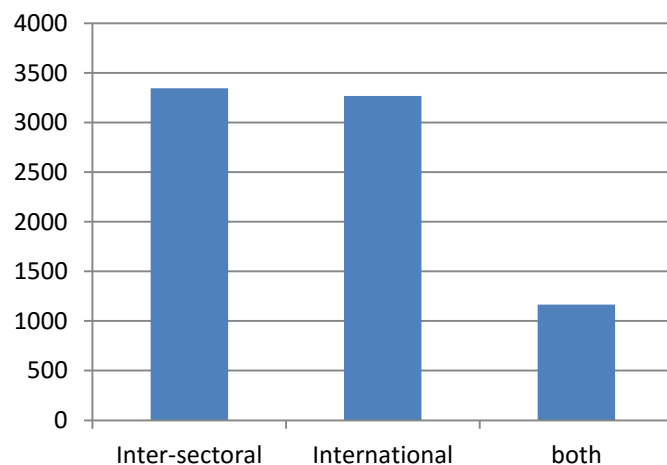
**Total number of participants: 845**  
Academic – 559 (66%); Non-Academic – 286 (34%)



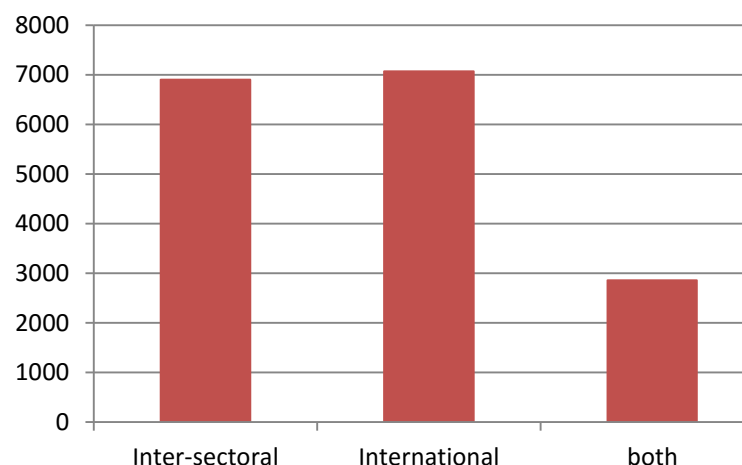


## RISE 2016: Secondments / Researcher-months ratio A-list proposals

Number of secondments



Number of researcher-months



- **Average duration of a secondment:** 2,16 months
- **Average number of secondments** per participant: 9,2
- **Average number of researcher-months** per participant: 19,9

# RISE – THE PROPOSAL – PART A



- **Section 1:** General information (including abstract)
- **Section 2:** Information on participants
- **Section 3:** Budget and Secondments tables
- **Section 4:** Ethics table

# RISE – EVALUATION AWARD CRITERIA

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
<p><b>Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project;</b> level of novelty and appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and gender aspects</p>	<p><b>Enhancing the potential and future career perspectives of the staff members</b></p>	<p><b>Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan,</b> including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources</p>
<p><b>Quality and appropriateness of knowledge sharing</b> among the participating organisations in light of the research and innovation objectives.</p>	<p><b>Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge</b> between participating organisations and contribution to improving research and innovation potential at the European and global levels</p>	<p><b>Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures,</b> including quality management and risk management</p>
<p><b>Quality of the proposed interaction</b> between the participating organisations</p>	<p>Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and <b>disseminate</b> the project results</p>	<p><b>Appropriateness of the institutional environment</b> (hosting arrangements, infrastructure)</p>
	<p>Quality of the proposed measures to <b>communicate</b> the project activities to different target audiences</p>	<p><b>Competences, experience and complementarity</b> of the participating organisations and <b>their commitment to the project</b></p>

# RISE – THE PROPOSAL – PART B



## **DOCUMENT 1 (MAX 31 PAGES)**

**START PAGE (1 page)**

**START PAGE COUNT (MAX 30 PAGES SECTIONS 1-3)**

- 1. EXCELLENCE (starting page 2)**
- 2. IMPACT**
- 3. QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION**

**STOP PAGE COUNT (MAX 30 PAGES SECTIONS 1-3)**

## **DOCUMENT 2 (NO OVERALL PAGE LIMIT APPLIED)**

- 4. REFERENCES**
  - 5. CAPACITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS**
  - 6. ETHICS ASPECTS**
  - 7. LETTERS OF COMMITMENT OF PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**
- END PAGE (1 page)**

# EXCELLENCE

**Quality and credibility of the research/innovation project;** level of novelty and appropriate consideration of inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and gender aspects

**Quality and appropriateness of knowledge sharing** among the participating organisations in light of the research and innovation objectives.

**Quality of the proposed interaction** between the participating organisations

How NOT to write the Excellence Part?

Discuss at your table and state **one** thing which absolutely should be avoided!

# A SECONDMENT PLAN



From (column) - To (row)	UPV/EHU	BCAM	INRIA	BSC	Company TOTAL	UC	PUCV	USM	KAUST	UT	TOTAL (Outgoing)
UPV/EHU					2	6	4	2	3	11	28
BCAM					2	5	2	6	4	4	23
INRIA					0	0	5	3	0	10	18
BSC					5	0	0	0	4	5	14
Company TOTAL	2	1		2		0	0	0	2	1	8
UC	5	6	2	0	0						13
PUCV	4	3	3	1	0						11
USM	3	3	5	3	0						14
KAUST											0
UT											0
TOTAL (Incoming)	14	13	10	6	9	11	11	11	13	31	129

Figure 2: Secondments

# SECONDMENTS

- The secondment plan is the backbone of the RISE project – plan it early on and think it through
- Each secondment should be meaningful in scientific terms
- It has to be clear which tasks will be carried out where and when and why
- Don't make too many short secondments – focus instead on longer ones (but less often)
- Prepare the staff what an actual secondment implies!

# IMPACT

Enhancing the potential and future career perspectives of the staff members

Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge between participating organisations and contribution to improving research and innovation potential at the European and global levels

Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results

Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences



# DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION



## 1. Academic Community (researchers and students)

- **Specialized workshops, seminars and courses for researchers and students.** The project has a wide program of workshops, seminars related to the secondments, short courses, and the “Geophysical Exploration Months”. The [REDACTED] Network reinforces the promotion of these activities motivating researchers to lead them and supporting the organization. The network also promotes actively the dissemination of our researchers’ scientific activities and achievements, so as to collaborate with their local and international collaborators. Since our time is limited and we want to achieve the best transfer of knowledge, we will also offer some of these seminars and courses through online platforms with high traffic such as *Coursera*.
- **[REDACTED] website** Conceived both as a tool for researchers and as a mean of informing the public about [REDACTED]’s scientific activities. The website will include also a list of publications, deliverables, videos, visual galleries, and other outputs such as a free e-book containing our investigation.
- **Newsletter campaign:** We will create an email database with our contacts working on the area and send them by-monthly newsletters informing them about the main [REDACTED] achievements, the investigation progress and our courses, seminars and workshops agenda.
- **[REDACTED] video tutorials:** Videos related to the activity of the project and/or specific topics of interest. Some of those videos will be technical, while others will be dissemination videos for the society at large.
- **[REDACTED] quarterly publication** that will target high-school, undergraduate, and graduate students. It will contain mainly the activities performed by the graduate students, and their vision of some of the [REDACTED] Project activities.
- **Social networks:** We will identify scientific social networks and scientific communities (in mathematics, geophysics, and HPC communities) in horizontal social networks. Then, we will provide them access to the videotutorials, online courses and seminars, and the results achieved during the [REDACTED] project. Some of these communities hold more than 80.000 people.

# COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION



## 3. Society at large

- **Events:** We will take part in local science events such as the science week of Bilbao to explain citizens our work in a simple way.
- **Talks:** We will give talks to transfer our passion for research to the society in an accessible language that they can understand. This [REDACTED] Network actively promotes initiatives to create awareness among the general public about the research work performed and its implications for citizens.
- **Press releases:** We will exploit our communication activities such as courses, seminars and workshops to send press releases to mass media (radio, newspapers, tvs, and popular blogs). We will also use press releases to explain them the broad impact of the [REDACTED] project.
- **[REDACTED] quarterly publication** that will target high-school, undergraduate, and graduate students. It will contain mainly the activities performed by the graduate students, and their vision of some of the [REDACTED] Project activities.

Apart from the dissemination on scientific activities (in the sense of publications, workshops, courses, etc.), to ensure a successful **exploitation of the results**, we will (a) guarantee the rights of our researchers as “inventors”, (b) ensure the “return” as scientific benefits in the sense of new contracts for PhD and postdoctoral fellows, (c) perform a **real technology transfer** to the industry and institutions, and (d) guarantee the **open access for the essential non-industrial research results** achieved during the [REDACTED] Project.

What would you  
**add or change?**  
Any other ideas for  
YOUR project?

# IMPLEMENTATION

**Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources**

**Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management**

**Appropriateness of the institutional environment (hosting arrangements, infrastructure)**

**Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and their commitment to the project**

# RISK ASSESSMENT



## RISKS AND CONTINGENCY PLAN

In terms of the core research activities, although we do not foresee any risk related to them, in case they occur, we anticipate two different scenarios:

Scenario I: If it is a scientific difficulty that only affects to one Work Package, the coordinator of such work package together with the Coordination Board will propose an alternative solution before contacting the Scientific Committee, who will meet via a videoconference and take a final decision.

Scenario II: Other management risks such as:

- 1) declination of one group,
- 2) resignation of one partner/beneficiary,
- 3) reorganization of the groups internally in the corresponding institutions,
- 4) declination of some group members and the group continuing into the project,
- 5) modification of the secondments.

In all the above cases, the coordinator will be in contact to the EC authorities (the Project Officer or Scientific Coordinator) in order to keep him/her updated.

Cases (1) or/and (2): The Scientific Committee will verify the viability of the project after the resignation of one group/institution. First, it will study if the task assigned to the group that resigned can be assumed and/or distributed by the rest of the groups, or if it exist some other group that can be incorporated into the project to develop some of the tasks. Then, it will take a decision of how to continue with the project, and it will inform and request the corresponding amendment following the REA rules.

Case (3): The Scientific Committee will verify the viability of the project after the modifications and will redistribute the corresponding tasks and secondments among the new groups.

Cases (4) and/or (5): The Scientific Committee will verify the viability of the project after the resignation of the researchers or modification of the secondments, and then will redistribute among the rest of the groups the corresponding tasks and secondments.

Discuss at your table  
the most common  
risks **you already  
experienced** – share  
them with us! Where  
do you see risks in a  
RISE?

# RISE – CALLS & TIMELINE



**Topic:** **MSCA-RISE-2017: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange**

**Forthcoming**

**Publication date:** 14 October 2015

**Types of action:** MSCA-RISE RISE

**DeadlineModel:** single-stage

**Opening date:** 01 December 2016

**Deadline:** 05 April 2017 17:00:00

Time Zone : (Brussels time)

- Evaluation outcome to be expected July 2017
- Start of project from November 2017 (latest starting date Nov. 2018)
- Average duration 4 years

# RISE – USEFUL LINKS

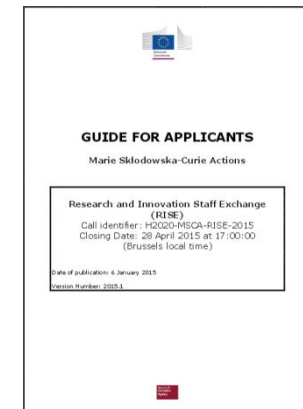
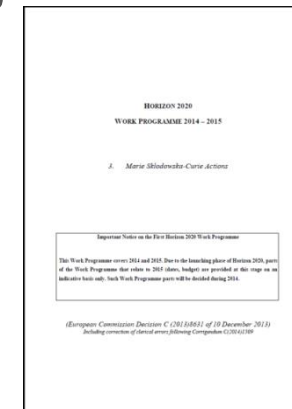


- Participant Portal call page  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>
- MSCA Work Programme 2016-2017  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016\\_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-msca\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-msca_en.pdf)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie website:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/msca>
- EURAXESS:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/>
- The European Commission's Horizon 2020 Enquiry service  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries>
- National Contact Points  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national\\_contact\\_points.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html)
- Guide to the submission and evaluation process  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse_en.pdf)

# FURTHER INFORMATION

## Key Documents:

- MSCA Work Programme
- RISE Specific ‘Guide for Applicants’



## Also look at:

- Previously funded projects under FP7 and Horizon2020

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html)

# HOW TO FIND PARTNERS

- Activate your network – take a leaflet on RISE/IF to your next conference
- Send basic RISE/IF information and outline of your research idea to interested partners
- Coordinators must be based in Europe: Ask who is best in your field
- Cordis Partner Search Tool

EURAXESS Website!

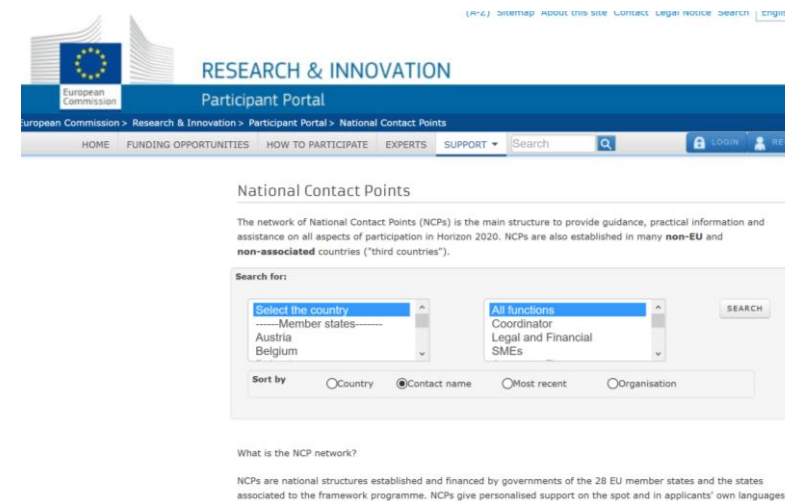
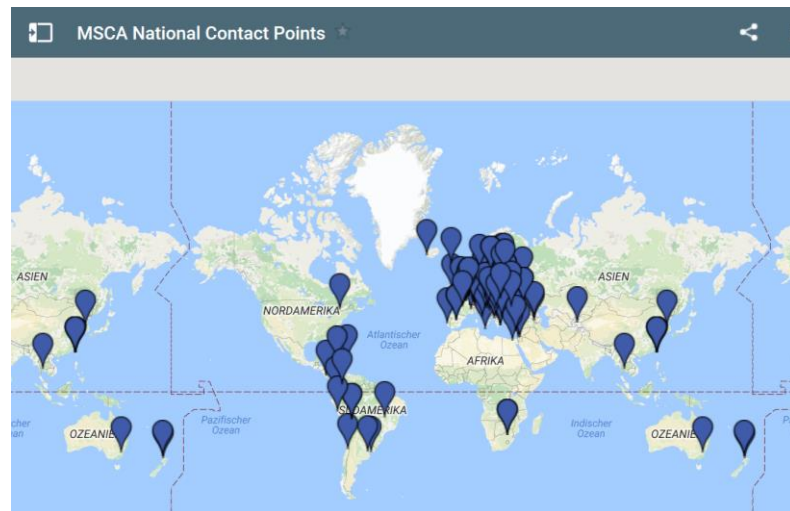


- Check out existing consortia on CORDIS – explore their websites and contact them



# HOW TO FIND SUPPORT

- Contact the National Contact Point of your country/ of your future partners' country



Check videos with helpful tips for applications and interviews with evaluators, e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn-mNSNm8Z4>

# HOW TO FIND SUPPORT



- Most (European) universities have an EU Grants Office / EU project help desk: Contact them early on in the application process
- FAQs by the EC  
<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/faq.html>
- by Net4Mobility <http://mariecurieactions.blogspot.ch/>
- Research Enquiry Service  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=enquiries>

# CONTACT DETAILS



OxygenEUM

Dr. Juliane Sauer

[julie@oxygeneum.ch](mailto:julie@oxygeneum.ch)

+41 79396 36 85

Skype: Juliane Sauer

[www.oxygeneum.ch](http://www.oxygeneum.ch) (as of Jan 1st 2017)

# KEY MESSAGES

- Prepare a proposal thoroughly and well in advance.
- Pick only partners with whom you get along well.
- Get support! Contact National Contact Points, EU helpdesk, ask in your network,...
- Try it out – if you do not succeed you can try again next year.
- IT IS WORTH IT. 😊