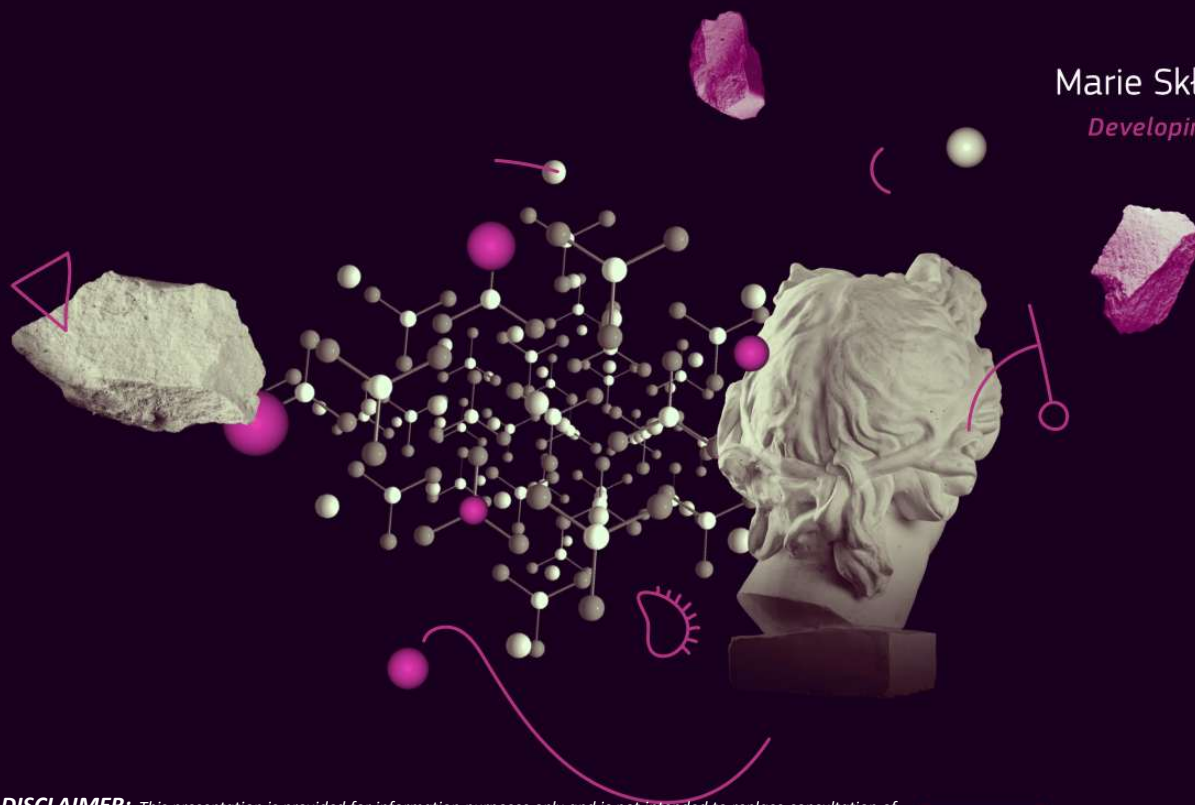




MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - 2025

Ilse DE WAELE – Project Adviser

European Research Executive Agency (REA)

(23/04/2025)

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Content

1. **MSCA and the Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)**
2. Submitting a proposal; common errors / frequent mistakes; the evaluation process
3. Belgium in MSCA-PF
4. Q&A

The MSCA in Horizon Europe

Doctoral Networks

*Doctoral programmes
in and outside
academia incl. joint &
industrial doctorates*

Postdoctoral Fellowships

*Support to excellent
postdoctoral
researchers*

Staff Exchanges

*Support for research
and innovation staff
exchanges*

COFUND

*Co-funding doctoral
and postdoctoral
programmes*

MSCA and Citizens

*Public outreach events
(Nights)*

Total indicative budget 2021-2027: €6.6 billion

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Indicative budget (2025):</i> | € <u>404.29 m</u> (€ 343.65 m for European, € 60.64 m for Global) |
| <i>Call opening:</i> | <i>POSTPONED – 08 May 2025</i> |
| <i>Call deadline:</i> | <u>10 September 2025</u> |

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships aim to enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD, who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF): Objectives

Main Objectives

- Increased set of **research** and **transferable skills** and competences for researchers, leading to improved employability and **career prospects** within academia and beyond
- New mind-sets and approaches to R&I work forged through **international, inter-sectoral** and **interdisciplinary** experience
- **Enhanced networking** and communication capacities with scientific peers, as well as with the general public that will increase and broaden the research and innovation impact
- Increased **alignment of working conditions** for researchers, including quality and sustainability of research training and supervision
- Increased **global attractiveness, visibility and reputation** of the participating organisation(s)
- **Stronger R&I capacity** and output among participating organisations; better transfer of knowledge

European vs Global Fellowships

European Fellowships

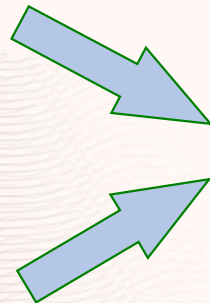


EU MS/AC



Third Country

Duration: 12-24m



EU MS/AC

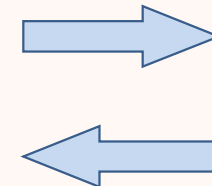
+ Non-Academic
Placement
Max. 6m

Global Fellowships

Outgoing phase: 12-24m



EU MS/AC



Third Country

Mandatory Return
phase: 12m

Duration: 24-36m

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF): Conditions

Participating organisations*

- An organisation in a EU Member State or HE Associated Country

Researchers

- in possession of PhD at the call deadline (or, with a successful defense prior to call deadline)
- for EF: of any nationality; GF: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC*
- with up to 8 years research experience after PhD (with exceptions: career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers,...)
- mobility rule: not have resided or have had main activity in the country of the beneficiary (or TC host organisation for GF) more than 12 months in the 36 months before call deadline

* *Specific eligibility criteria for PFs supported by Euratom:*

- *Organisation: legal entity established in an EU Member State or Euratom AC*
- *Researcher: nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or a Euratom AC*

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF): Conditions

Duration

- European Fellowships: 12-24 months
- Global Fellowships: 24-36 months (12 to 24-month outgoing phase in a third country*, followed by a 12-month mandatory return phase in Europe)

Secondments* can be undertaken worldwide, in any sector; for up to 1/3rd of total duration (for EF) or up to 1/3rd of the outgoing phase (for GF)

Optional additional placement* in the non-academic sector, in an EU MS or HE AC country; for up to six months, taking place at the end of the fellowship (after the standard duration)

** Refer to the WP/GFA/official documents for restrictions and details*

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF): Some specifics

Resubmissions

Proposals involving the same host organisation (and for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships also the same associated partner hosting the outgoing phase), and the same individual researcher who submitted a proposal to the PF 2024 call and received a score of less than 70% cannot be resubmitted in the PF 2025 call.

United Kingdom

As of January 2024, the United Kingdom is associated to the Horizon Europe programme. United Kingdom organisations will therefore be able to host researchers, [apply and receive funding](#) under this year's call under the same conditions as EU Member States and other countries associated to Horizon Europe.

Non-academic placements

If the placement does not meet the requirements, the proposal will be evaluated without taking into account the non-academic placement.

Non-academic sector = entities that are not part of the academic sector.

Academic sector = e.g. non-profit research organisations, higher education entities, international organisations (incl. of European interest).

This is always pending validation/verification.

Funding levels

| MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 | Contributions for the recruited researcher | | | | | Institutional unit contributions | |
|---|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---|---|---|--|
| | Per person-month | | | | | Per person month | |
| | Living Allowance* | Mobility Allowance | Family Allowance | Long-term leave allowance (if applicable) | Special needs allowance (if applicable) | Research, training and networking contribution | Management and indirect contribution |
| | €5,990 | €710 | €660 | €6,700 x % covered by beneficiary | Requested unit x (1/number of months) | €1,000 | €650 |

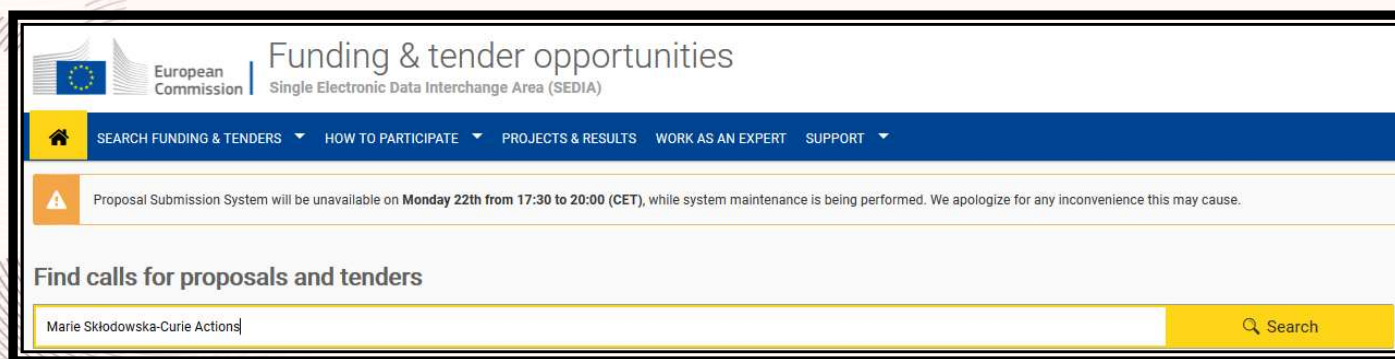
Details available in [WP2023-2025](#), figures apply for 2024-2025

*corrected by a country correction coefficient

Content

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Proposal Submission



European Commission | Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▾ HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▾ PROJECTS & RESULTS WORK AS AN EXPERT SUPPORT ▾

⚠ Proposal Submission System will be unavailable on **Monday 22th from 17:30 to 20:00 (CET)**, while system maintenance is being performed. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Find calls for proposals and tenders

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Part A
(Application Forms)



Part B
(Technical Description - PDF)



Use the
correct
current
proposal
template for
the call

*Using a template from another
action or call year could affect the
evaluation of your proposal !*



Part A (Application Forms)

Structured data entered into the Portal forms:

- **Acronym and title** for the project (the title is not the same as the acronym)
- The **scientific area** which is the best fit for the proposal (8 areas available)
- **Up to 5 MSCA descriptors (=keywords)** which best characterise the content of the proposal, in descending order of relevance
 - First 3 descriptors are mandatory
 - First 2 descriptors are linked to selected panel, other descriptors can come from other panel(s)
- Free keywords (optional; if needed or applicable to your proposal)
- **Abstract:** maximum 2,000 characters

Reminder: Resubmission restriction : proposals with same researcher and same host scoring <70% in previous evaluation cannot resubmit this year

Part A (Application Forms)

Researcher Information

- Personal details
- PhD award date (or date of successful defence)
 - If PhD awarded more than 8 years ago, complete the table for extensions to this period (be precise!)
- Countries of residence for past 5 years

Beneficiary Information

- Participant Information Code (PIC) of main beneficiary
- Participant Information Code (PIC) of outgoing host (for GF only)
- Participant Information Code (PIC) of non-academic placement host (if applicable)
- Indicate if a secondment is planned, but outline this only in Part B (no PIC)

Part A (Application Forms)

- Add info on publications, research projects and infrastructure
- **Gender Equality Plan:** for all public bodies, higher education institutions, and research organisations
- **Ethics Self-Assessment:** guidance is available [online](#)

Proposal Part B1

Core of the proposal

Part B of the Proposal consists of *two documents* (**Part B1** and **Part B2**), uploaded as separate PDF files. Ensure the correct document is uploaded in the correct space.

Part B1

- Technical description of the scientific work
- **Strict limit of 10 pages** (excess pages will not be visible to evaluators)
- **Minimum font size 11 points**, with standard spacing and a minimum of single line spacing. This applies to body text, including any text in tables
- Use the **Part B template** available on the MSCA-PF Call page and structure your proposal accordingly

Proposal Part B2

Part B2 (no formal page limit, but follow recommendations in the template)

- CV of the Researcher (ca. 5 pages)
- Capacity of the Participating Organisations (max 1 page per organisation)
- Letter of Commitment (for Global Fellowships – ensure this is from the future outgoing host organisation in the third country)

See the **Part B template** on the MSCA-PF 2025 call page (& also available from the submission forms) for more information



common errors in proposals

- Missing the Call deadline
- Submitting under a wrong type of action
- Mixing up host organisation, third country host, and current organisation
- Not providing all required basic information for the proposal
- Not respecting eligibility requirements (e.g. PhD or max 8 years research experience)
- Exceeding the page limit for the part B1
- Missing Letter of Commitment (Global Fellowships)
- Confusing Secondments and Non-Academic Placements
- Requesting an ineligible Non-Academic Placement or secondment
- **Using a smaller-than-allowed font**

[click here for a useful resource](#)

The MSCA-PF Evaluation

Large-Scale Evaluation

Due to large number
of proposals

Standard Peer- Review

≥ 3 experts per
proposal

Bottom-up Programme

Proposals and Experts
from all disciplines

Expert Balance

of experience,
nationality, gender,
age, sector, etc.

8 Scientific Panels

CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV,
LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC

Single-Stage Evaluation

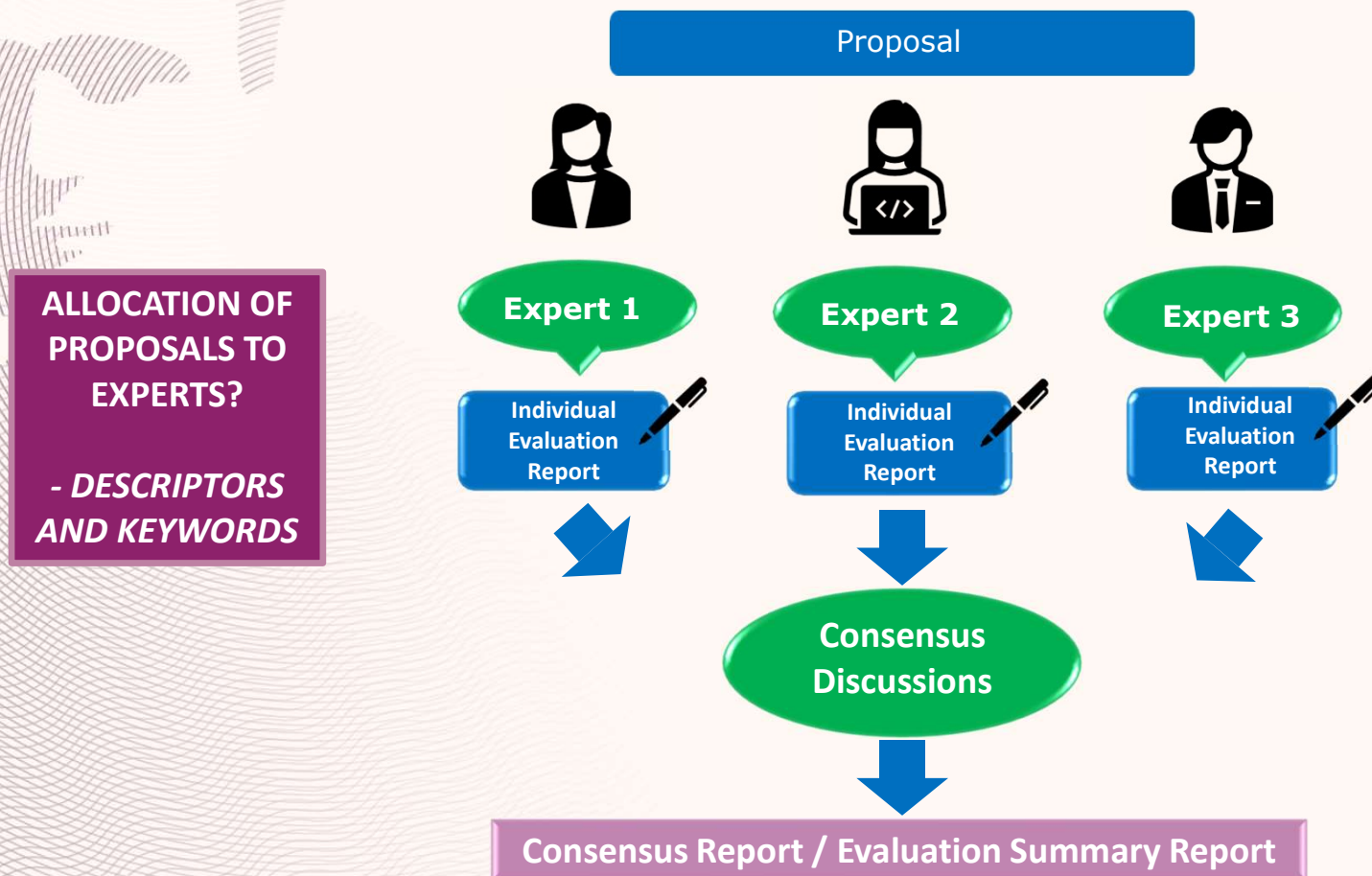


European
Commission

Evaluation and award criteria

| Excellence | Impact | Quality and efficiency of the implementation |
|--|--|---|
| Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art) | Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development | Quality and effectiveness of the work plan , assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages |
| Soundness of the proposed methodology (including <i>interdisciplinary</i> approaches, consideration of the <i>gender</i> dimension and other <i>diversity</i> aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of <i>open science</i> practices) | Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts , as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities | Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations , including hosting arrangements |
| Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host | The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts | |
| Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience , competences and skills | | |
| 50% | 30% | 20% |

Evaluation Process



Proposal Ranking

Proposals are ranked – and funding allocated – **by scientific panel and action**
(NB. *separate ranking for European and Global Fellowships*)

Seal of Excellence: awarded to proposals which score $\geq 85\%$

New in HORIZON EUROPE: Resubmission restriction for proposals with same researcher and same host scoring $<70\%$ in previous evaluation

Evaluation Review procedure (“redress”)

Call Planning

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Call Opening:</i> | 08 May 2025 (POSTPONED) |
| <i>Call Deadline:</i> | 10 September 2025 |
| <i>Evaluation period:</i> | Oct 2025 – Jan 2026 |
| <i>Outcome made available:</i> | Feb 2026 (indicative) |
| <i>Project starting dates:</i> | Mar/Apr 2026 - Sept 2027 |

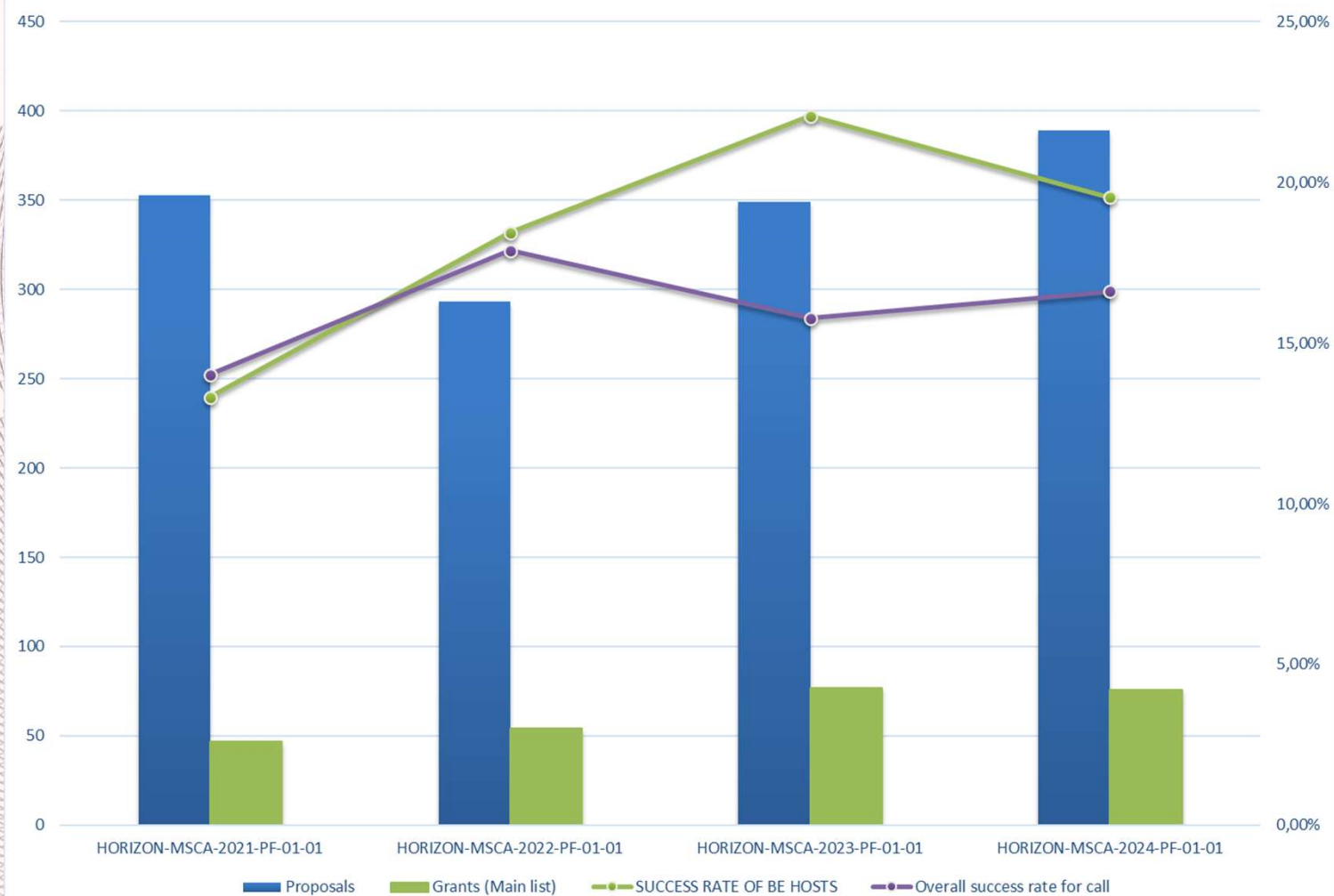
Resources and Guidance (2025 Call)

- [Funding & Tenders Portal - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 – call page](#)
- The [European Research Executive Agency \(REA\)](#) publishes a series of essential resources for any applicant:
 - The **guide for applicants** is the best starting point for any researcher interested in the scheme
 - The “Common mistakes in MSCA-PF proposal submissions” guide
 - A self-assessment tool and **guidelines on the calculation of 8-years research experience in Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe**
 - Proposal templates, evaluation guidelines used by experts and [many other resources](#)
- [MSCA Work Programme](#)
- [Proposal templates](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- The [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#) : guidance on specific aspects being evaluated
- Evaluators’ briefing videos, including on [how to evaluate Open Science in Horizon Europe proposals, how to evaluate dissemination, exploitation, and communication, how to evaluate strategy for intellectual property management](#)
- [MSCA Website](#)
- [Research Enquiry Service](#)
- [National Contact Points](#)

Content

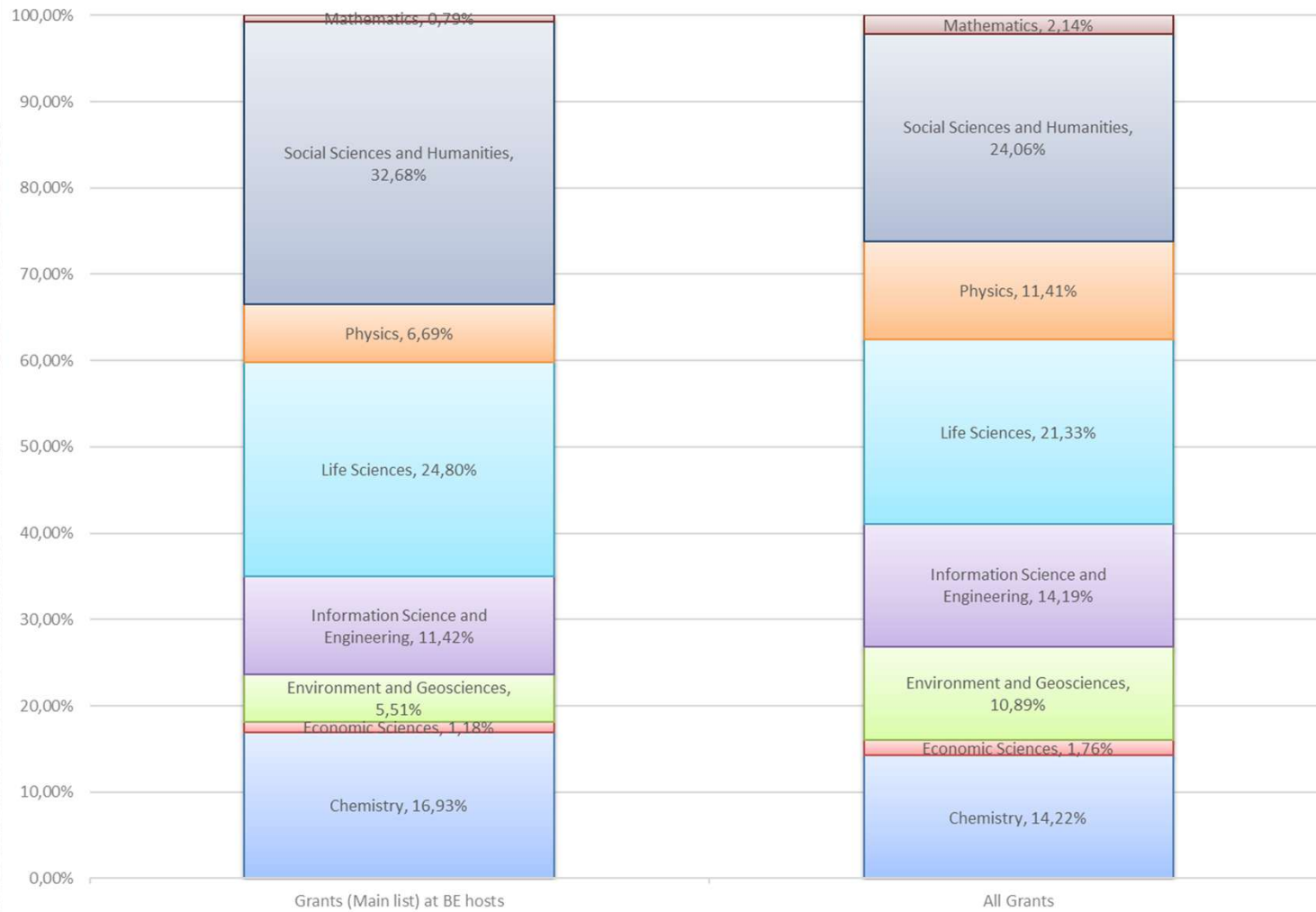
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SUCCESS RATE OF BE HOSTS



European
Commission

SCIENTIFIC AREA -BE HOSTS COMPARED TO ALL CALLS



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Thank you

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