

## **Report on Activities**

### **1. Summary of the session "Unlocking Horizon Europe Funding" at the MCAA Conference and General Assembly 2025 in Krakow**

Session Name: "Unlocking Horizon Europe Funding"

Date: 21 March 2025

Time: 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM

Place: MCAA Conference 2025 at AGH University, Krakow

Mode: Hybrid

#### **Speakers:**

1. Irene Castellano Pellicena, MCAA Board Member
2. David Wizel, REA
3. Radenka Krsmanovic Whiffen, Cost Association
4. Maria Rodriquez Aburto, UCC

#### **Rapporteur:**

Ashwani Kumar Tiwari, JNU, Chair of RFWG

#### **Abstract of session:**

Horizon Europe is the EU's main funding programme for research and innovation for 2021–2027, with a total funding of 93,5 billion euros. However, unlocking its full potential can be challenging, especially for newcomers. This session will address challenges such as programme complexity, funding mechanisms, administrative burden, and the programme's supposedly low success rate. It will break Horizon Europe into different pillars and programmes, with a special focus on MSCA, EIC, COST, ERC and Clusters, bringing in perspectives from programme experts and successful researchers.

#### **Outcome:**

All speakers provided much information about Horizon European Funding, its application procedure, eligibility criteria, and portals for applying for these grants. The session highlighted how the young researchers got the opportunity to do the research and training with European Funding. How European Funding Shaping the Career of Young Researchers in Academics and Industries. How MSCA fellow succeeded in getting the ERC grant with the help of the MSCA Postdoc researcher experience and research data.

The session closed with a vote of thanks.

## Session Poster



MARIE CURIE ALUMNI

# Parallel session

**MCAA KRAKOW**  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
& GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
**MARCH 21-22 2025**

## Unlocking Horizon Europe Funding

March 21st, 2025, 11:15 – 12:15 CET

Research and innovation  
in a *rapidly evolving world*

#MCAAConf2025

## Session Picture are below:



## 2. Working Group Award

I received the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) Working Group Award as the Chair of the Research Funding Working Group (RFGW) for dedication, collaboration, and contribution. The Chair of MCAA announced this award at the Gala Dinner of the MCAA Annual Conference and General Assembly 2025 in Krakow, Poland. I dedicate this award to all members of the Research Funding Working Group (RFGW) and all contributors. As the MCAA-RFGW Chair, I thank my MCAA and non-MCAA collaborators, speakers, MCAA management, the MCAA Board, and RFGW members for all their support. Additionally, I would like to thank the award selection committee for this award and encouragement. It is a team achievement rather than an individual one. Credit goes to all.



Certificate



At the Gala Dinner of the MCAA Annual Conference and General Assembly 2025 in Krakow, Poland

### **Coming Event**

The MCAA-RFWG is organising a webinar on “Brainstorming on MSCA Research Funding and Career Opportunities” with the collaboration of MCAA-Africa Chapter, MCAA Career Development Working Group, EURAXESS Africa, IAH-Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network and r-bridge. The event will be in two parts. The aim of the event is to promote and support the participation of African researchers and institutions to get the MSAC funding for Researcher Career development. This webinar will provide a general overview of the MSCA actions, application procedures and opportunities for participation by African researchers and institutions. Previous beneficiaries of African origin will be sharing their experiences and responding to questions from participants.

**Part 1:** Exploring MSCA Actions for the Career Development of African Researchers

Date: May 9th 2025,

at 13:00 – 14:00 GMT (15:00 – 16:00 CEST)

**Part 2:** Excelling in your MSCA Fellowships applications for African Researchers

Date: 23rd May 2025,

at 13:00 – 14:00 GMT (15:00 – 16:00 CEST)]



Link for Zoom registration:  
[eu.zoom.us/meeting/register/2B1KlscHQo2GZLrr7dvThA](https://mariecuriealumni-eu.zoom.us/join/2B1KlscHQo2GZLrr7dvThA)

[https://mariecuriealumni-](https://mariecuriealumni-eu.zoom.us/join/2B1KlscHQo2GZLrr7dvThA)

## Poster of the event



### Brainstorming on MSCA Research Funding and Career Opportunities

#### Part I Exploring MSCA Actions for the Career Development of African Researchers

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Time: 13:00 – 14:00 GMT / 15:00 – 16:00 CEST

Online via Zoom

FREE

Register for the event :

[https://mariecuriealumni-](https://mariecuriealumni-eu.zoom.us/join/2B1KlscHQo2GZLrr7dvThA)  
[eu.zoom.us/meeting/register/2B1KlscHQo2GZLrr7dvThA](https://mariecuriealumni-eu.zoom.us/join/2B1KlscHQo2GZLrr7dvThA)



Contact:

**Ashwani Kumar Tiwari**

Chair, MCAA - RFWG

[research-funding@mariecuriealumni.eu](mailto:research-funding@mariecuriealumni.eu)