

Marie Curie Alumni Association [MCAA]

H2020 Funding Opportunities



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Horizon 2020 overview

- The EU's funding programme for research and innovation
- Runs for seven years from 2014 – 2020
- 2 year work programmes
- Almost €80 billion of funding
- Structured around three pillars including a wide range of different funding schemes



Horizon 2020 overall policy objectives

- Overcoming the effects of the economic crisis and high unemployment rate
- Achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Ensuring Europe
 - produces world-class science and technology;
 - removes barriers to innovation;
 - and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering solutions to big challenges facing society

H2020 structure

Excellent Science

European Research Council (ERC)

Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Research Infrastructures

Industrial Leadership

Leadership in Enabling and Industrial Technologies (LEIT)
- ICT, NMBP, Space

Access to Risk Finance

Innovation in SMEs

Societal Challenges

Health and Wellbeing

Food security

Transport

Energy

Climate action

Societies

Security

Widening Participation; Science with and for Society, Mainstreaming of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and ICT, Fast Track to Innovation

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

EURATOM

Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Pillar 1: Excellent Science

Excellent Science

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Pillar 1: Excellent Science

“...reinforce and extend the excellence of the Union’s science base and to consolidate the European Research Area in order to make the Union’s research and innovation system more competitive on a global scale...”

- Activities under this pillar cover the breadth of Europe’s research and innovation needs
- Forward-looking, long-term skill development and capacity building to support emerging European talent
- Largely science-driven pillar with many ‘bottom-up’ opportunities



Excellent Science opportunities

Starting
Consolidator
Advanced
Proof of Concept

European
Research
Council

Research
Infra-
structures

Marie
Sklodowska-
Curie Actions

Future and
Emerging
Technologies

Individual Fellowships (IF)

Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)

Researchers' Night

Open

Proactive

Flagship ⁷

Pillar 2: Industrial Leadership

Excellent Science

European Research
Council (ERC)

Future and Emerging
Technologies (FET)

Marie Skłodowska-
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Pillar 2: Industrial Leadership

Aim: to speed up development of technologies and innovations that will underpin tomorrow's businesses and help innovative European SMEs to grow into world-leading companies

- Promotes activities in which businesses set the agenda
- Provides major investment in key industrial technologies
- Maximise growth potential of European companies by providing adequate financing levels
- Help growth of innovative SMEs

Pillar 3:

Societal Challenges

Excellent Science

European Research Council (ERC)

Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)

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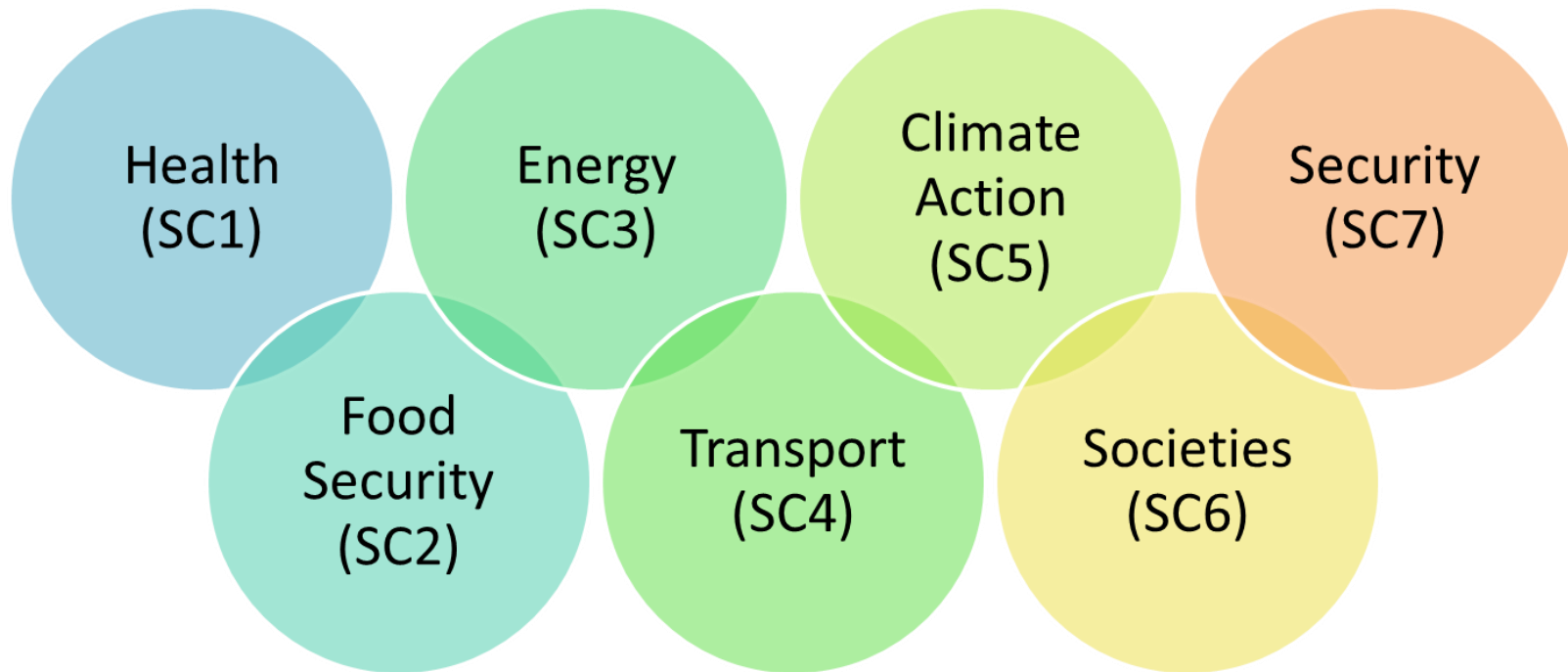
Security

Pillar 3: Societal Challenges

“Horizon 2020 reflects the policy priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy and addresses major concerns shared by citizens in Europe and elsewhere”

- Bringing together resources and knowledge across different fields, technologies and disciplines.
- Covering activities from research to market with a new focus on innovation-related activities, such as piloting, demonstration, test-beds, and support for public procurement and market uptake.

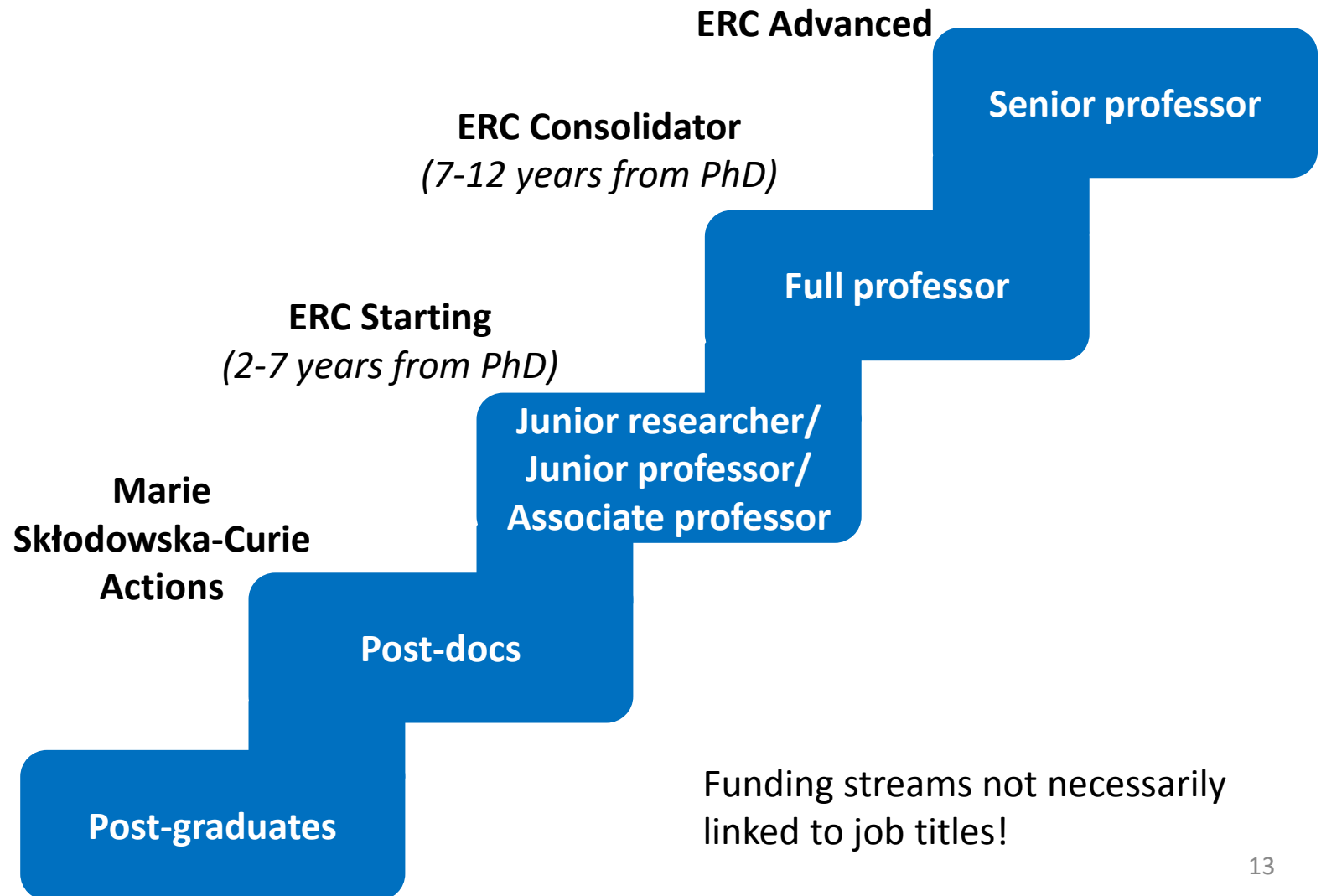
Pillar 3: Societal Challenges



- Top-down
- Mainly collaborative projects



Career development opportunities in H2020



From MSCA to ERC to ... ?

ERC Grantee Nobel Laurates

 ERC Grantee AdG 2012 Ada Yonath	 ERC Grantee AdG 2012 Andre Geim	 ERC Grantee AdG 2012 Christoforos Pissarides	 ERC Grantee AdG 2010 Theodor Hansch	 ERC Grantee AdG 2010 James Heckman	 ERC Grantee AdG 2011 Jean-Marie Lehn
 ERC Grantee StG 2007 ERC Grantee SyG 2012 Konstantin Novoselov Nobel 2010	 ERC Grantee AdG 2009 Serge Haroche Nobel 2012	 ERC Grantee AdG 2009 Jean Tirole Nobel 2014	 ERC Grantee AdG 2010 May-Britt Moser Nobel 2014	 ERC Grantee AdG 2008 ERC Grantee AdG 2013 Edvard Moser Nobel 2014	 Marie Curie Fellowship 1996 Stefan Hell Nobel 2014





Collaborative opportunities in H2020

- MSCA:
 - Innovative Training Networks (ITN) – *bottom-up*
 - Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) – *bottom up*
- Future and Emerging Technologies (FET):
 - Open – *bottom-up*
 - Proactive – *top-down*
- Societal Challenges:
 - Research and Innovation Actions – *top-down*
 - Innovation Actions – *top-down*
 - Coordination and Support Actions – *top-down*

Who is in a consortium

- **Coordinator:** main contact between EC and consortium
 - **Beneficiaries:** organisations signing up to the Grant Agreement (and most of the times receiving direct funding from the EC)
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- **Third parties:** legal entities carrying out some tasks in an action, but which do not sign the Grant Agreement (purchasing services, subcontracting, consultants...)

What does your project need?

The consortium must ensure:

- ***Match with activities in the proposal***
 - ***Appropriate balance of sectors***
 - ***No gaps in the implementation***
 - ***Appropriate management structure***
-
- Research organisations (academic and non-academic)
 - Industrial partners (SMEs, large industries)
 - Other non-academic partners (e.g. NGOs, museums, hospitals)
 - End users (could be umbrella organisations)
 - Specialist expertise, e.g. for dissemination, public engagement
 - Advisory Group
 - ...

How to build up your experience

- Start by being involved as a partner before becoming a coordinator
- Bring your local network into the consortium: e.g. local SMEs, non-academic partners, dissemination opportunities
- Keep your networks active from an early stage
- Consider 'entry-schemes', such as MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE) or Coordination and Support Actions

How to find (the right) partners

First challenge: finding partners

Second challenge: learning to say no

- **Existing contacts**
- Previous grant holders
- EC Networking/brokerage events
- Partner search services (Cordis, Enterprise Europe Network...)
- Social Media (LinkedIn...)

Proposal writing

- Coordinator initiates it
- Every participant contributes, usually to individual Work Packages
- Coordinator puts it together in a coherent format and submits
- May use proposal writing services (use them cautiously: be clear on expectations)
- Always try to meet in person before developing a proposal – facilitates communication and shows commitment
- Don't carry any 'dead wood'

Project management

- Lion-share on the coordinator: make careful considerations on who is the best to do this
- Decision making: have clear structures – too many cooks may spoil the broth...
- Be cautious with project management companies: this is not always the most efficient or cost-effective way
- If possible, appoint a Project Manager at the coordinating institute: this will help to ensure compliance with institutional policies
- Use resources available to you: research support function within your organisation, National Contact Points...
- Keep the communication between project partners active: this way you will not have surprises when it comes to reporting

Building up your own strategy

- Plan years ahead: from MSCA to ERC – the years can fly by
- Take into consideration the ERC re-submission rules: try to allow at least 2 tries
- Build up a Funding ID: take advantage of local or smaller funding mechanisms to prove you can manage budgets
- Keep visible in your community
- Consider 'entry' schemes: (e.g. MSCA RISE, CSA, Researchers' Night)
- Build up contacts with non-academic partners (MSCA RISE, ITN, Industrial actions...)



Building up your own strategy

- Become an evaluator – learn from other people's successes and mistakes
- Learn the language of the EC: Work Programmes
- Learn the 'buzz words': e.g. Innovation, Impact, Gender dimension, Open Science...
- Who are the key players? Who has been involved in previous projects? Check funded projects database: <http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/>
- Attend EC and National Contact Point information days, events & webinars



And most importantly:

DO NOT GIVE UP!

- Many proposals only succeed after re-submission
- Currently the only scheme with re-submission restrictions is ERC



Some useful links

H2020 main page: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/>

Participant Portal (calls, reference docs, proposal submission, reporting):
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/>

Work Programmes:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/reference_docs.html#h2020-work-programmes-2016-17

National Contact Points (NCP):

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html

Register as an evaluator:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/>

IPR helpdesk: <https://www.iprhelphdesk.eu/>

Funded projects: <http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/>

Cordis partner search: <https://cordis.europa.eu/partners/>



Thank you for your attention