

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

*Developing talents,  
advancing research*

*30 years of EU support to researchers'  
skills and career development*

With a budget of €6.6 billion for the period 2021–2027, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) is a research and training programme that supports the career, skills development, and mobility of researchers at all stages of their careers and from all over the world. The programme funds bottom-up research in all fields based on scientific excellence and competitive funding. The programme was named after the double Nobel Prize winner Marie Skłodowska-Curie to honour and spread the values she stood for. To date, more than 150 000 researchers have participated in the programme with many more benefiting from it – including 23 Nobel laureates.

## The MSCA have 5 main actions

### Doctoral Networks

**implement doctoral programmes** (including joint doctorates and industrial doctorates) **by international partnerships** of organisations from different sectors. They train highly-skilled doctoral candidates, stimulate their creativity, enhance their innovation capacities and boost their employability in the long-term.

### Postdoctoral Fellowships

**support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research and innovation.** Researchers holding a PhD can carry out their research activities, acquire new skills and develop their careers abroad, whilst developing competences in non-academic sectors and working within interdisciplinary teams.

### Staff Exchanges

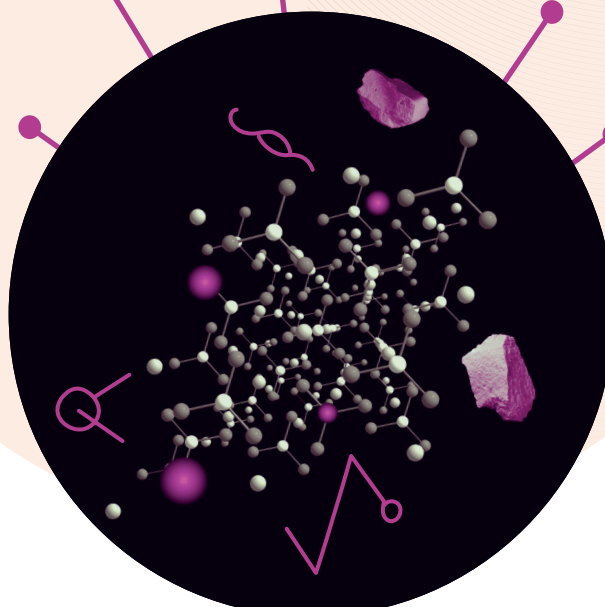
**offer researchers and innovators short term international and inter-sectoral exchanges** through sustainable, collaborative projects in Europe and beyond. These promote the transfer of both knowledge and skills, while also increasing organisation's capacities for research and innovation.

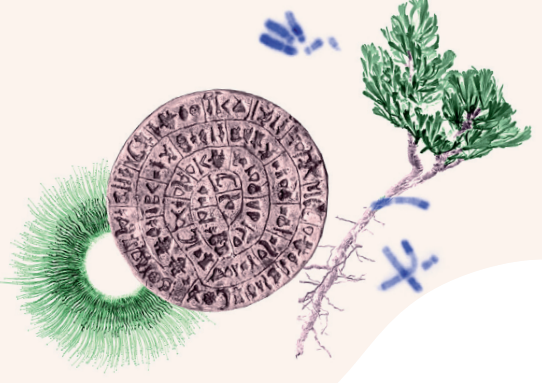
### MSCA and Citizens

**brings research and researchers closer to schoolchildren, families and the wider public at large** through actions such as the European Researchers' Night - the annual research communication and promotion event taking place at the end of September across EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

### COFUND

**co-finance regional, national and international doctoral and postdoctoral programmes for researchers' training and career development.** COFUND spreads MSCA's best practices by setting high standards and excellent working conditions, through international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.



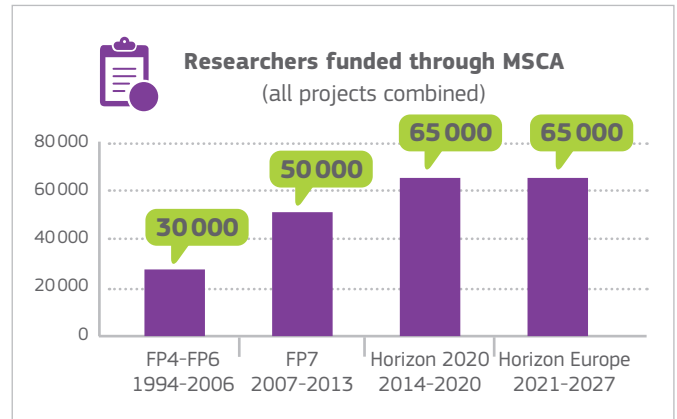
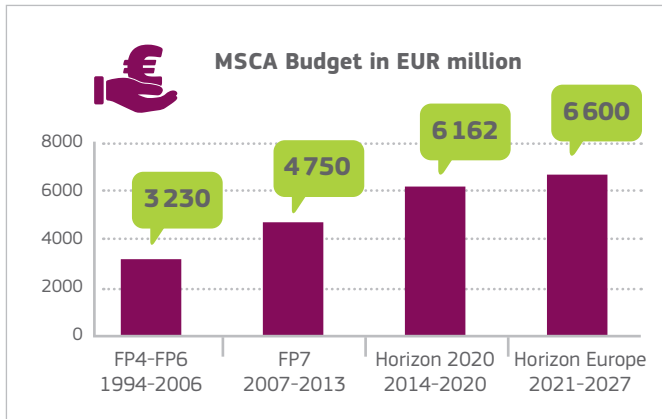


### What is the impact?

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions have **set the benchmark** for attracting and retaining the most talented researchers. These opportunities are especially attractive because they **give researchers the freedom to work in any field or to combine disciplines**. This means they can help meet the challenges facing society, both today and tomorrow.

By making researchers mobile and encouraging cooperation and networking, the MSCA help to **foster knowledge transfer**. Researchers gain experience in various types of organisations, which boosts their career prospects and capacity for entrepreneurship.

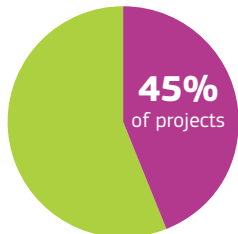
### The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in numbers: funding and participants



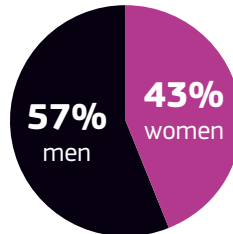
Under Horizon Europe, **over 8 400 organisations from more than 110 countries** have participated in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.



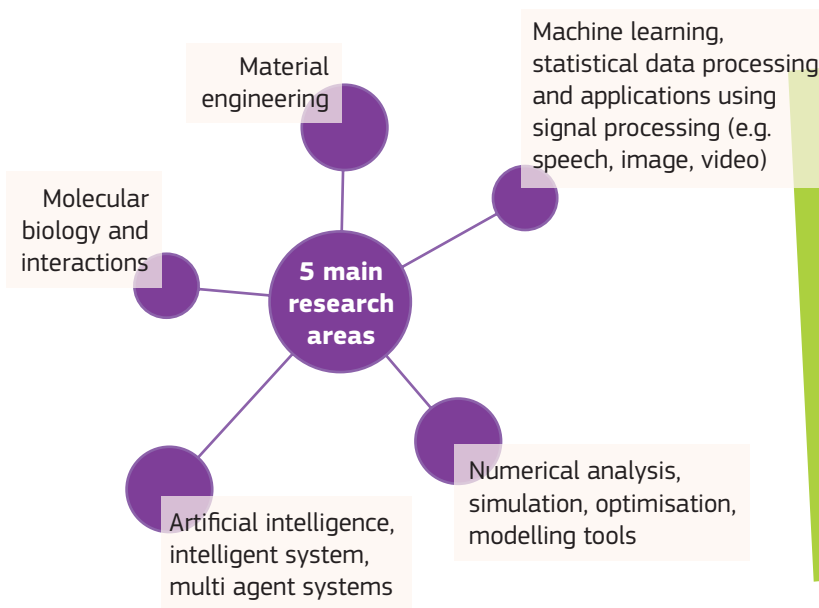
**Over €450 million** has been awarded so far to over **5,500 organisations** outside academia.



In funded projects, **nearly 45% of funded actions are interdisciplinary**.



Under Horizon Europe, **43% female researchers in the programme** vs 57% male researchers, compared to 38% share of female researchers under Horizon Europe on average.



### THE EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT - WHERE FUN AND SCIENCE MEET

Each year on the last Friday in September, the European Researchers' Night invites citizens to meet scientists and see their work up close. Events take place in over 400 cities across the EU and neighbouring countries. Involving **more than 1.5 million visitors** every year, the European Researchers' Night is a fun way for young people to discover science and how it affects our daily lives and to interest them in scientific careers.



Please note that all the figures utilised refer to the programme's performance under Horizon Europe

## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions promote excellence

### NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS INVOLVED AS FELLOWS OR SUPERVISORS IN THE PROGRAMME:

2010

Konstantin Novoselov

**Konstantin Novoselov** has received funding, supervised, and coordinated several MSCA projects. He received the **Nobel Prize in Physics** alongside Andre Geim “for groundbreaking experiments regarding the two-dimensional material graphene”.

2012

Serge Haroche

**Serge Haroche**, a former MSCA supervisor, received the **Nobel Prize in Physics** alongside David J. Wineland “for ground-breaking experimental methods that enable measuring and manipulation of individual quantum systems”.

2013

James Rothman

**James Rothman**, a former (MSCA) supervisor, received the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** alongside Randy W. Schekman and Thomas C. Südhof “for their discoveries of machinery regulating vesicle traffic, a major transport system in our cells”.

2014

Jean Tirole

**Jean Tirole**, a former MSCA supervisor, received the **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** “for his analysis of market power and regulation”.

2014

Stefan W. Hell

**Stefan W. Hell**, a former MSCA fellow and coordinator received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** along with Eric Betzig and William E. Moerner “for the development of super-resolved fluorescence microscopy”.

2014

Edvard I. Moser and May-Britt Moser

**Edvard I. Moser and May-Britt Moser**, former MSCA project coordinators received the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** alongside John O’Keef “for their discoveries of cells that constitute a positioning system in the brain”.

2015

Takaaki Kajita

**Takaaki Kajita**, a former MSCA researcher received the **Nobel Prize in Physics** alongside Arthur B. McDonald “for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass”.

2016

Bernard Feringa and Jean-Pierre Sauvage

**Bernard Feringa** former MSCA project coordinator, received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** alongside Fraser Stoddart “for the design and synthesis of molecular machines”.

2017

Richard Henderson

**Richard Henderson**, former MSCA project coordinator received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** along with Jacques Dubochet and Joachim Frank “for developing cryo-electron microscopy for the high-resolution structure determination of biomolecules in solution”.

2020

Emmanuelle Charpentier

**Emmanuelle Charpentier** former MSCA fellow and supervisor, received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** alongside Jennifer A. Doudna “for the development of a method for genome editing”.

2021

Benjamin List and David MacMillan

**Benjamin List and David MacMillan** former MSCA supervisors received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** “for their development of a precise new tool for molecular construction: organocatalysis”.

2022

Alain Aspect and Anton Zeilinger

**Alain Aspect and Anton Zeilinger**, former MSCA supervisors, received the **Nobel Prize in Physics** alongside John F. Clauser “for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science”.

2022

Morten Meldal

**Morten Meldal**, former MSCA supervisor, received the **Nobel in Chemistry** alongside Carolyn Bertozzi and Barry Sharpless “for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry”.

2023

Anne L’Huillier and Ferenc Krausz

**Anne L’Huillier and Ferenc Krausz**, current and former MSCA supervisors and coordinators, received the **Nobel Prize in Physics** alongside Pierre Agostini “for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter”.

2024

David Baker

**David Baker**, former MSCA supervisor, received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** “for computational protein design”, alongside Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper “for protein structure prediction”.

2025

Michel H. Devoret

**Michel H. Devoret**, former MSCA supervisor, received the **Nobel Prize in Physics** alongside John Clarke and John M. Martinis “for the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit.”

2025

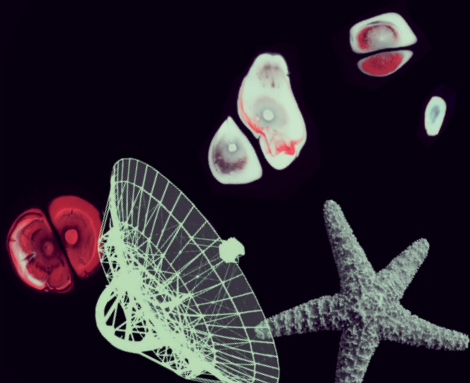
Omar M. Yaghi

**Omar M. Yaghi**, current MSCA supervisor, received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** alongside Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, “for the development of metal-organic frameworks.”

2025

Philippe Aghion

**Philippe Aghion**, former MSCA researcher and scientific coordinator, received the **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** alongside Peter Howitt “for the theory of sustained growth through creative destruction”.



Over the past 30 years, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions have left an indelible mark on the scientific community. In the past five years alone, three MSCA researchers have won the European Prize for Women Innovators: **Rana Sanyal** (2024), **Maria Fátima Lucas** (2020) and **Michela Puddu** (2019).



“The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) were crucial at the beginning of my career in Sweden. [...] Receiving support from MSCA to train and supervise doctoral and postdoctoral fellows within a network was very important for me. [...] I think the MSCA have helped a lot to increase networking and communication among research actors.”

**Dr Anne L’Huillier**  
2023 Physics Nobel Prize laureate  
and Wolf Prize winner

“The MSCA fellowship saved my career because it bought me some time to perform a number of important experiments that supported the viability of my ideas and eventually find an institution that would support me in pursuing them.”

**Dr Stefan Hell**  
2014 Chemistry Nobel Prize laureate

“When I needed it most, the MSCA empowered me with my most precious core value – ‘courage’. My Marie Curie grant for example served as a vital resource for my newly established independent research lab at Boğaziçi University. Being the first researcher with a Marie Curie reintegration grant project funded in Türkiye, not only marked a significant milestone in my career and research, but also served as an inspiration for future researchers.”

**Dr Rana Sanyal**  
Winner of the 2024 European Prize for Women Innovators

The programme has fostered excellence and scientific cooperation across borders, disciplines, and socioeconomic sectors, boosting the competitiveness of the European Union. Numerous MSCA fellows have been awarded various European prizes, including:

#### 2023 European Sustainable Energy Awards – Women in Energy:

Anastasia-Maria Moschovi won the award in the Woman in Energy category for her work as a materials engineer bringing energy innovation to Greece.

#### 2020 Innovation Radar Prize Grand Prix:

Dr Nanasahab Thorat, MSCA fellow, and her supervisor Dr Joanna Bauer won the 2020 EU Innovation Radar Grand Prix for their innovative research into nanomaterials that can improve the diagnostics and treatment of breast cancer.



 <https://marie-skłodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/>

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