

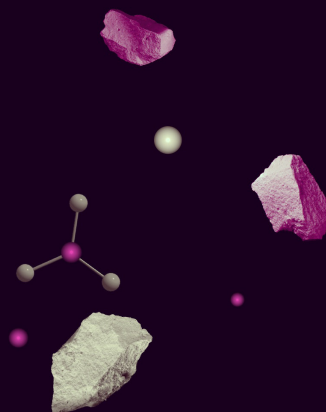
Space Research in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)



July 2026

About MSCA

With a budget of EUR 6.6 billion for the period 2021-27, 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 across the world. The programme funds bottom-up research in all fields based on scientific excellence and competitive funding.



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

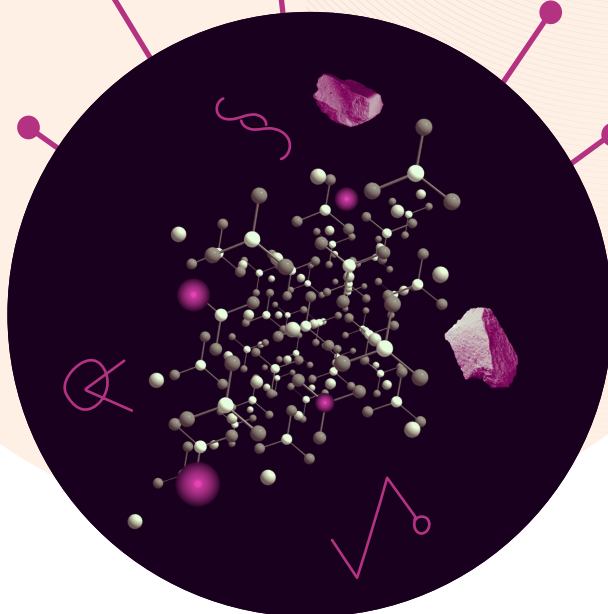
offer researchers and innovators short term international and inter-sectoral exchanges through sustainable, collaborative projects in Europe and beyond. These promote the transfer of both knowledge and skills, while also increasing organisation's capacities for research and innovation.

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.





Space research in MSCA projects

Under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe¹, **over 360 MSCA projects have focused on space science**, contributing to advancing interdisciplinary research in the field, fostering **academia-industry collaborations** and **training a new generation** of highly skilled researchers able to work across disciplines, sectors and borders in Europe and beyond. These projects also contribute to key EU priorities, including **satellite communications and connectivity**, **climate and environmental monitoring**, **crisis response and resilience**, and **strengthening Europe's competitiveness and sovereignty in space**.

¹ The results are based on AI-assisted screening and manual checks; figures are indicative and may vary depending on the information available. Data extracted in June 2026.

Key Figures:



+360 projects

relevant or highly relevant
to space (across space
science, space-enabled
applications, space technology
and industrial capability)



EUR 215 million

funding for space-related
research



190 projects

in space science (astronomy,
astrophysics, cosmology,
planetary science, exoplanets,
heliophysics, space weather
and human exploration)



120 projects

linked to space enabled
services (supporting
environmental monitoring,
connectivity, navigation and
downstream uses)



+220 projects

involving businesses



7 projects

in partnership with the
European Space Agency

Success Stories

Below are some examples of success stories from over 360 MSCA projects on space-related research. These examples demonstrate how space acts as a cross-cutting enabler for other industries and requires talent from diverse backgrounds:



Training a new generation of highly talented space researchers

Advanced technologies for future European satellite applications (TESLA)

MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN), Horizon 2020

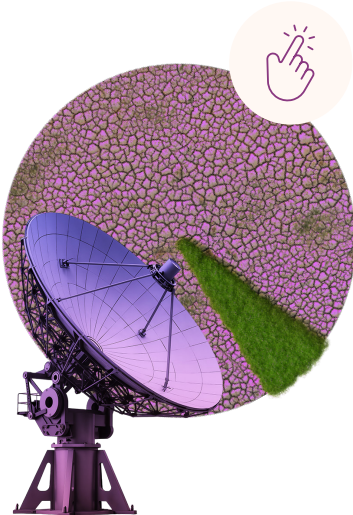
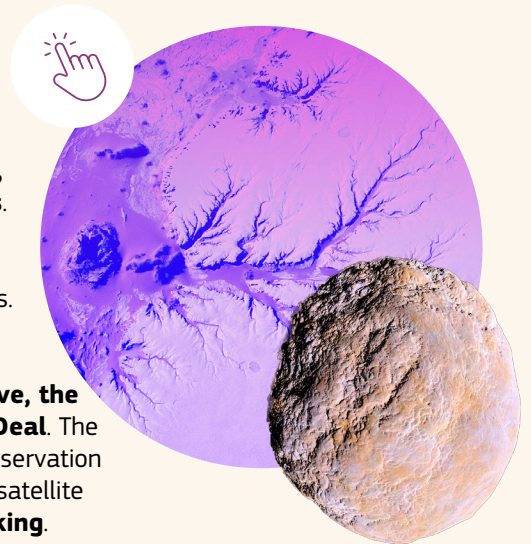
The MSCA-funded TESLA project trained the next generation of **satellite communication researchers** through cutting-edge research and cross-sector **collaboration between academia and industry**. The project focused on **enabling technologies for future European satellite systems**, including flexible payloads, large constellations, high-speed satellite communications, remote sensing and the emerging Internet of Space. Beyond training 15 early-stage researchers, TESLA delivered tangible innovation outcomes, including **three patent applications** – one of which was acquired by Airbus, demonstrating the project's direct relevance to future European satellite applications and strategic space technologies.

Advancing interdisciplinary research

Multi-sensor data assimilation using Bayesian analysis (MuSe-BDA)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship (PF), Horizon Europe

The MSCA-funded MuSe-BDA project combined expertise in **Earth observation, hydrology and data science** to improve the **monitoring of water resources**. The project developed an innovative Bayesian Data Assimilation framework that integrates multi-sensor satellite observations with hydrological models to provide more accurate estimates of terrestrial water storage and its components. By bridging satellite data and environmental modelling, MuSe-BDA contributed to **advanced tools for environmental monitoring and sustainable water management**, supporting the objectives of the **EU Water Framework Directive, the EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change and the European Green Deal**. The project's methodology also aligns with the ambitions of the Copernicus Earth Observation Programme and emerging Digital Twin Earth initiatives, which seek to integrate satellite observations and modelling systems to **support environmental decision-making**.



Fostering academia-industry collaboration

Tools for mapping human exposure to risky environmental conditions by means of ground and Earth observation data (EOXPOSURE)

MSCA Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE), Horizon 2020

The MSCA-funded EOXPOSURE project brought together researchers, public authorities and end users across Europe and South America to explore how **Earth observation data** can help assess **environmental risks** affecting human health and well-being. Combining satellite data from the Copernicus programme with ground-based measurements, the project developed innovative tools to monitor human exposure to environmental hazards in urban and peri-urban areas. The collaboration delivered tangible societal impact: one of the project's applications is being **used by Argentina's Ministry of Health to support decision-making on environmental health risks**. By linking academic research with practical policy needs, EOXPOSURE demonstrated the potential of Earth observation technologies to generate **actionable insights for public authorities and citizens** alike.

Follow us on:  Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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