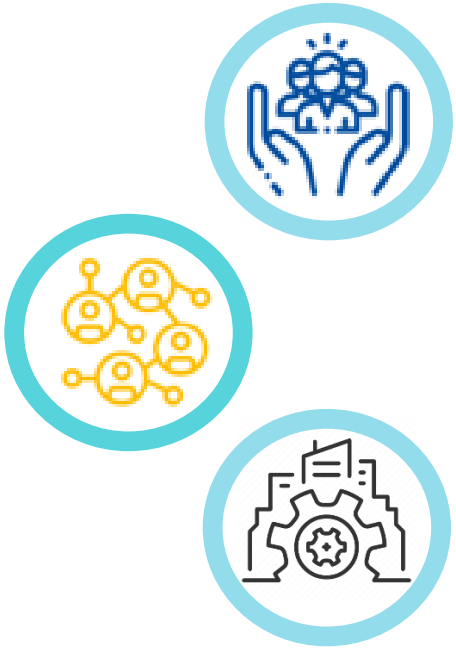
Postdoctoral Fellowships and ERA Fellowships

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

David Marçal

Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions



- Based on mobility (international, intersectoral, interdisciplinary);
- All scientific domains;
- Strong accent on participation of industry, SMEs and non-academia partners;

- Attract and retain talents
- Institutional visibility and networking
- Joint advanced training
- @ interfaces of the knowledge value-chain

Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions – 2026 calendar

Doctoral Networks

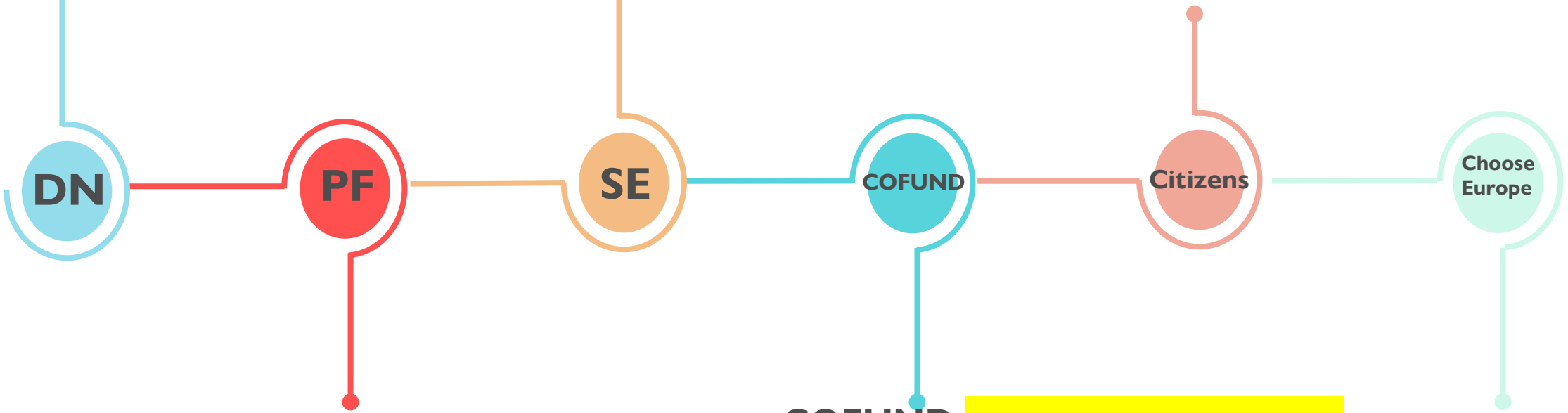
Opens: 28 May.'26
Closes: 24 Nov.'26

Staff Exchanges

Opens: 16 Dec.'25
Closes: 16 Apr.'26

MSCA & Citizens

No call foreseen



Postdoctoral Fellowships

Opens: 09 Apr.'26
Closes: 09 Sep.'26

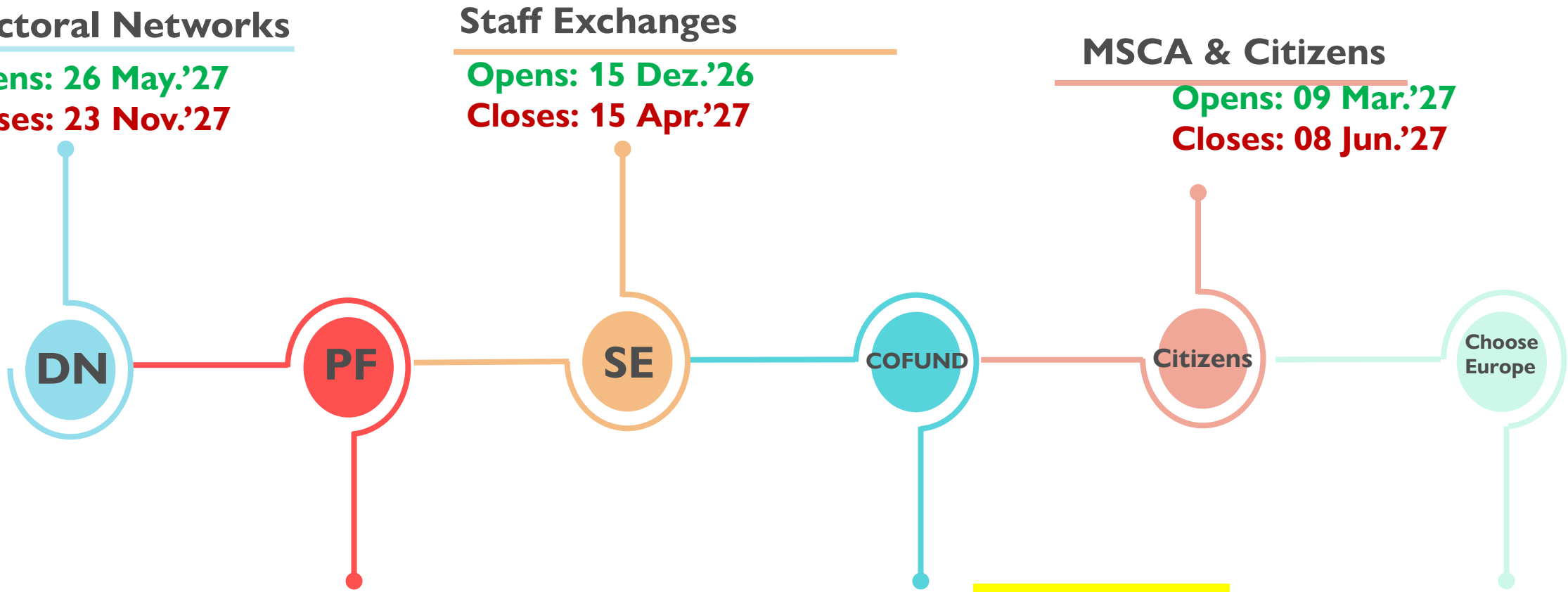
COFUND (doctoral + postdoctoral programs)

Opens: 16 Dec.'25
Closes: 08 Apr.'26

Choose Europe

No call foreseen

Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions – 2027 calendar



Postdoctoral Fellowships

Main objectives:

- **Foster excellence** through implementation of a research project
- Enhance the **creative and innovative potential** of researchers **holding a PhD** (training on transferable skills & career development)
- Focus on **i3** (international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary) mobility
- Bridges and **exposure to the non-academic sector**

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Two main types of Fellowships:

- **European Fellowships (EF)**
- **Global Fellowships (GF)**

All research topics including **Euratom** areas

- Competition within regular scientific panels, no separate ranking
- Stricter eligibility conditions linked to Euratom MS/AC

ERA Fellowships

- Spreading excellence and contribute fostering balanced brain circulation in Widening Countries
- “Second chance” for Widening countries like Portugal.

Project duration

- **European Fellowships:** between **12 and 24 months**
- **Global Fellowships:** outgoing phase between **12 and 24 months** in Third Country (TC), followed by a **mandatory 12 month return phase** in EU Member State (MS) or HE Associated Country (AC).

EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS (EF)

12 – 24 months

in EU Member State (MS)
or HE Associated Country (AC)

Up to 6 months
of non-academic placement
(optional)

Possibility to add a **non-academic placement** at the end of the project for a duration of **up to 6 months**

GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS (GF)

Possibility to add a **non-academic placement** at the end of the project for a duration of **up to 6 months**

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Eligible organisations:

Academic sector

- ✓ public or private higher education establishments
- ✓ public or private non-profit research organisations
- ✓ International European Research Organisations

Non-academic sector

- ✓ any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector

EUROPEAN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS	
Standard duration	From 12 to 24 months
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – RESEARCHER:	
Doctoral degree	The researcher must be in possession of a doctoral degree or have successfully defended their doctoral thesis at the date of the call deadline. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements / corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline. Supporting documentation may be requested. [12]
Nationality	Any
Mobility	The researcher cannot have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.)[13] in the country of the beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline. [14] [15]
Research experience (full-time equivalent)	**Maximum 8 years** from date of award of the (first) doctoral degree. This limit can be extended (in days) for the following reasons: – ***Maternity leave*** (18 months – i.e. 548 days per child born after the PhD award date, or the exact duration of maternity leave taken, whichever is longest); – ***Paternity leave*** (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date); – ***Compulsory national service***; – ***Time spent not working in research***; – ***Long-term sick leave*** (periods > 30 days) – ***Time spent working in research in a non-associated TC*** (only for nationals or long-term residents[16] of MS or AC, wishing to reintegrate in Europe);[17] More information on the calculation of the 8 years research experience is available in section 8.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - PARTICIPATING ORGANISATION:	
Beneficiary	Single independent legal entity established in MS or AC.[18]

GLOBAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS	
Standard duration	From 24 to 36 months: • An initial **outgoing phase** of minimum 12 and maximum 24 months to an institution in a non-associated Third Country; • Followed by a mandatory 12-month **return phase** to the beneficiary located in MS or AC.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – RESEARCHER:	
Doctoral degree	The researcher must be in possession of a doctoral degree or have successfully defended their doctoral thesis before call deadline. The successful defence must be unconditional (no further requirements/corrections that need to be addressed) and take place before the call deadline. Supporting documentation may be requested. [19]
Nationality	Nationals or long-term residents[20] of MS or AC.
Mobility	The researcher cannot have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.)[21] in the country of the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.[22] [23]
Research experience (full-time equivalent)	**Maximum 8 years** from date of award of the (first) doctoral degree. This limit can be extended (in days) for the following reasons: – ***Maternity leave*** (18 months – i.e. 548 days per child born after the PhD award date, or the exact duration of maternity leave taken, whichever is longest); – ***Paternity leave*** (exact duration per child born after the PhD award date); – ***Compulsory national service***; – ***Time spent not working in research***; – ***Long term sick leave*** (periods > 30 days). More information on the calculation of the 8 years research experience are available in section 8.
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS:	
Beneficiary	Single independent legal entity established in MS or AC. [24]
Associated partner hosting the outgoing phase	Single independent legal entity established in a non-associated Third Country. It **MUST be encoded** as a participating organisation (**associated partner**) in Part A.

PF – proposal submission

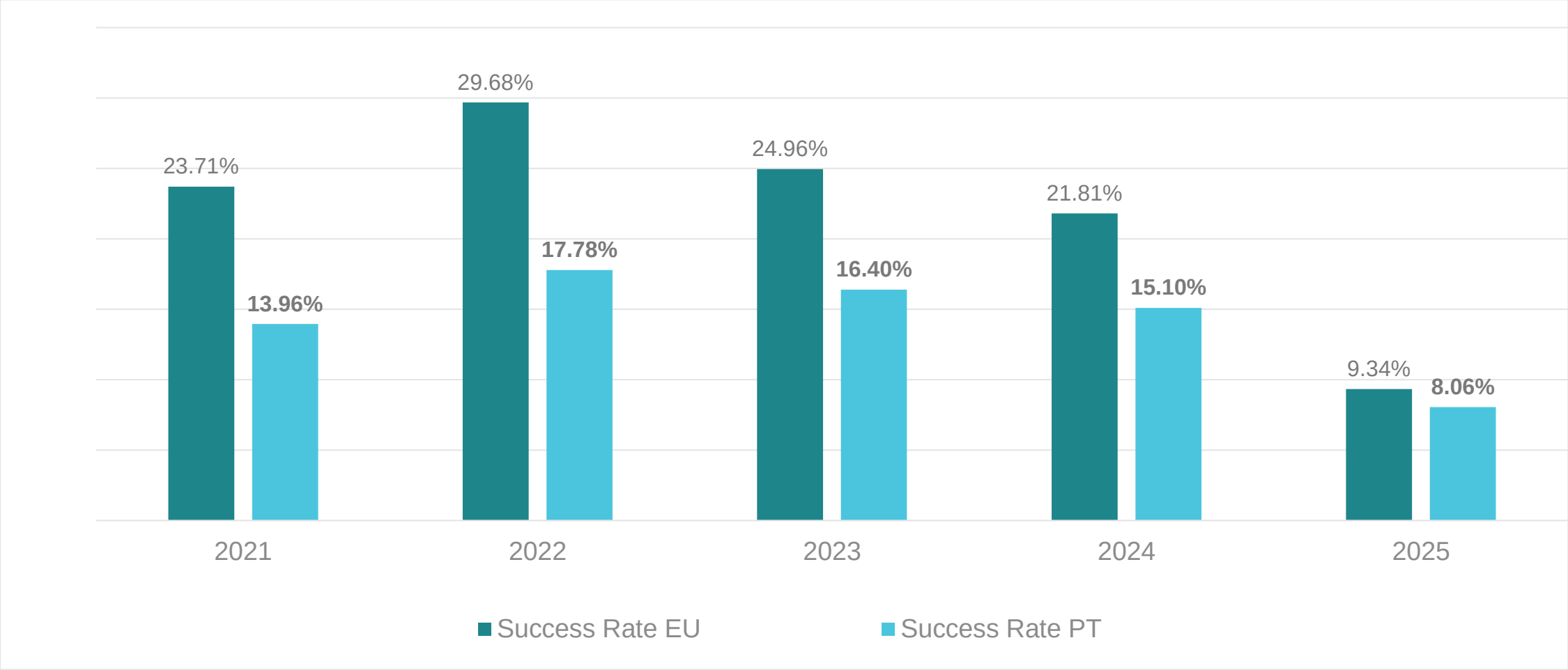
Resubmissions:

- Proposals involving the same recruiting organisation (and for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships also the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase) and individual researcher submitted to the previous call of MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe and having received a score **of less than 80% must not be resubmitted** the following year.

	Secondment(s)	Non-Academic Placement
General principles		
Maximum Duration	European Postdoctoral Fellowships: Up to half of the standard project duration[25]. Global Postdoctoral Fellowships: Secondments are permitted for up to half of the outgoing phase duration [26].	Up to 6 months duration.
Timing	**European Postdoctoral Fellowships:** at any time **during the standard project duration**. Secondments can be divided into multiple shorter periods. **Global Postdoctoral Fellowships:** at any time **during the outgoing phase** of the project. Secondments are not permitted during the mandatory return phase of the project. Secondments can be divided into multiple shorter periods. A maximum of three months of secondment can be spent at the start of the project at the beneficiary (or associated partners linked to the beneficiary) before going to the associated partner for the outgoing phase. This period will be deducted from the overall maximum time allowed for secondments and no further secondment periods are allowed at the beneficiary. All periods of secondment are counted as an integral part of the outgoing phase and must be within its limits of duration.	**Additional period** that takes place only **after** the standard duration of the fellowship; cannot be divided in multiple periods.

	Secondment(s)	Non-Academic Placement
Where	Any country worldwide	MS or AC
Sector	Any sector (secondments may take place in one or more organisations)	Non-academic sector only[27] (only one organisation allowed)
How to fill in the application forms		
Part A Section 2 Participants ⚠	**Do NOT encode** the secondment organizations as a participating organisation.	The organization hosting the placement **MUST be encoded** as a participating organisation (= **associated partner**).
Part A Section 3 Budget	**Do NOT encode** (as no additional budget is allowed for secondments).	**ADD the number of months** requested for the non-academic placement as a separate line (up to 6 months are allowed).
Description in Part B-1	**Yes**. Secondments should be described in part B-1 and the evaluators will assess their relevance and quality in the respective criterion. Secondments should be included in the **Gantt chart**.	**Yes**. Non-academic placement should be described in part B-1 and the evaluators will assess their relevance and quality in the respective criterion. Non-academic placement should be included in the **Gantt chart**.
Description in Part B-2	Secondment hosts **must be listed** in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 within part B-2 template as an associated partner.	Non-academic placement hosts **must be listed** in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 within part B-2 template as an associated partner.
Supporting Document in Part B-2	None. Do not include letter(s) of commitment.	None. Do not include a letter of commitment.

Success rates MSCA PF (PT and EU)

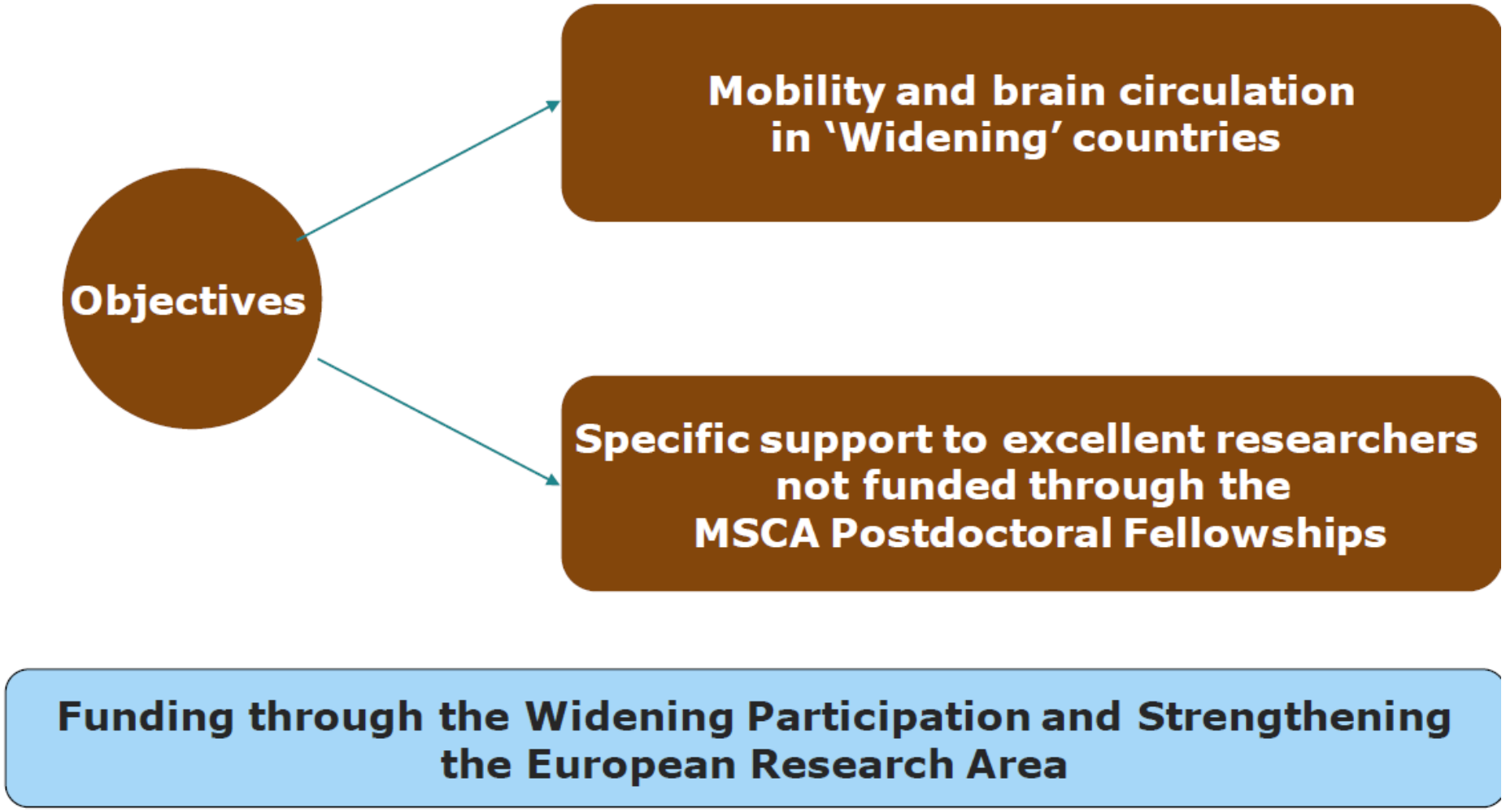


ERA Fellowships

(Widening fellowships in H2020)

PERIN Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network

ERA Fellowhips



ERA Fellowhips

One single evaluation performed under MSCA-PF call:
Only one submission & one simple agreement (tick box), applicants **significantly increase their opportunities to be funded.**

Proposals are eligible for ERA fellowships funding if:

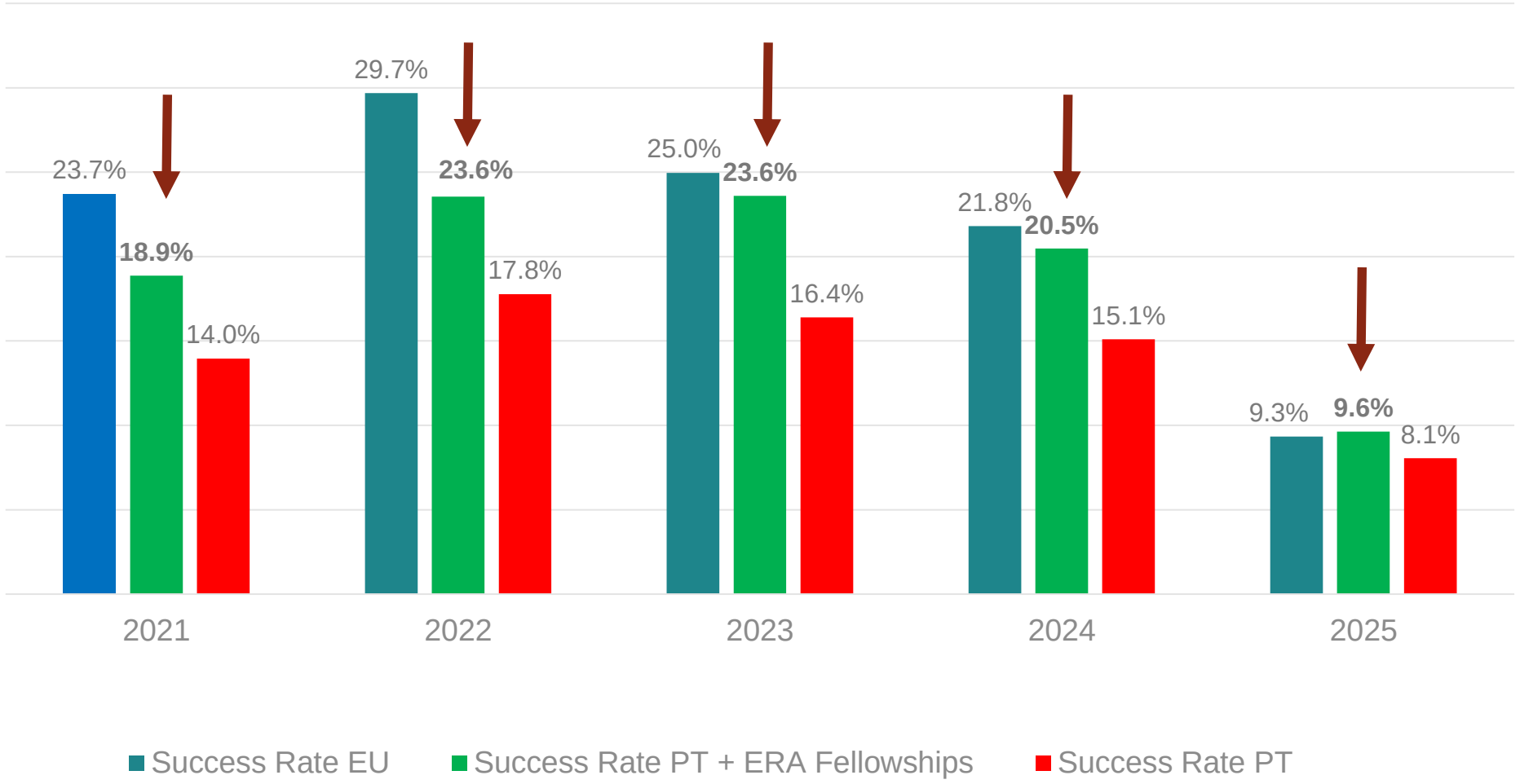
- submitted by a host institution from a 'Widening' country,
- admissible and eligible for MSCA-PF European Fellowships (EF)*,
- have agreed to be considered for ERA Fellowships call,
- passed all the thresholds under the MSCA-PF-EF call ,
- Failed to reach an adequate place in the ranking to be funded under that call.

** MSCA-PF Global Fellowships (GF) proposals are not eligible.*

ERA Fellowhips

- Widening activities: “**ERA Fellowships**”
- **No separate application or evaluation** – integral part of the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call application form
- For specific countries – available in Work Programme **(Portugal is included**)
- Only for European Fellowships, Global Fellowships do not qualify
- **Attention**: “call specific question” to be completed in the PF submission for EF to indicate willingness to participate in this call (only if host organisation is a qualifying country)
- **Only proposals scoring over 70% in the PF call will be considered**
- Timing aligned with PF call

Success rates MSCA FP (PT + ERA Fellowships and EU)



Proposal submission

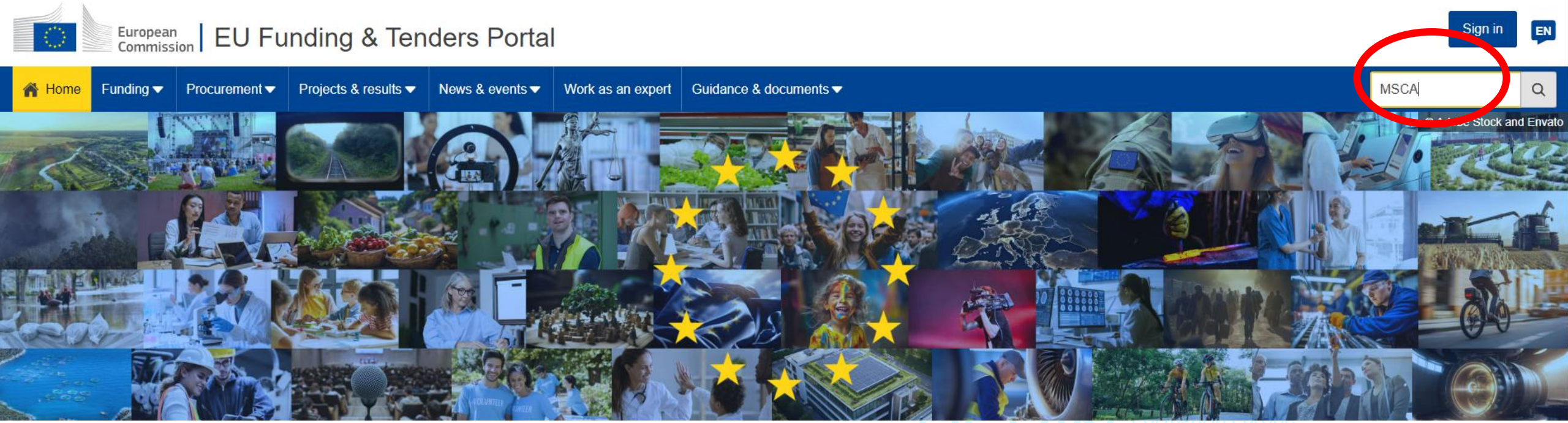
Postdoctoral fellowships

PERIN Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network

PF - Proposal submission

Applications are submitted through the **Funding and tender opportunities portal**:

- Find your call: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025
- Sign into the portal and register your organization (get a PIC number)



PF - Proposal submission

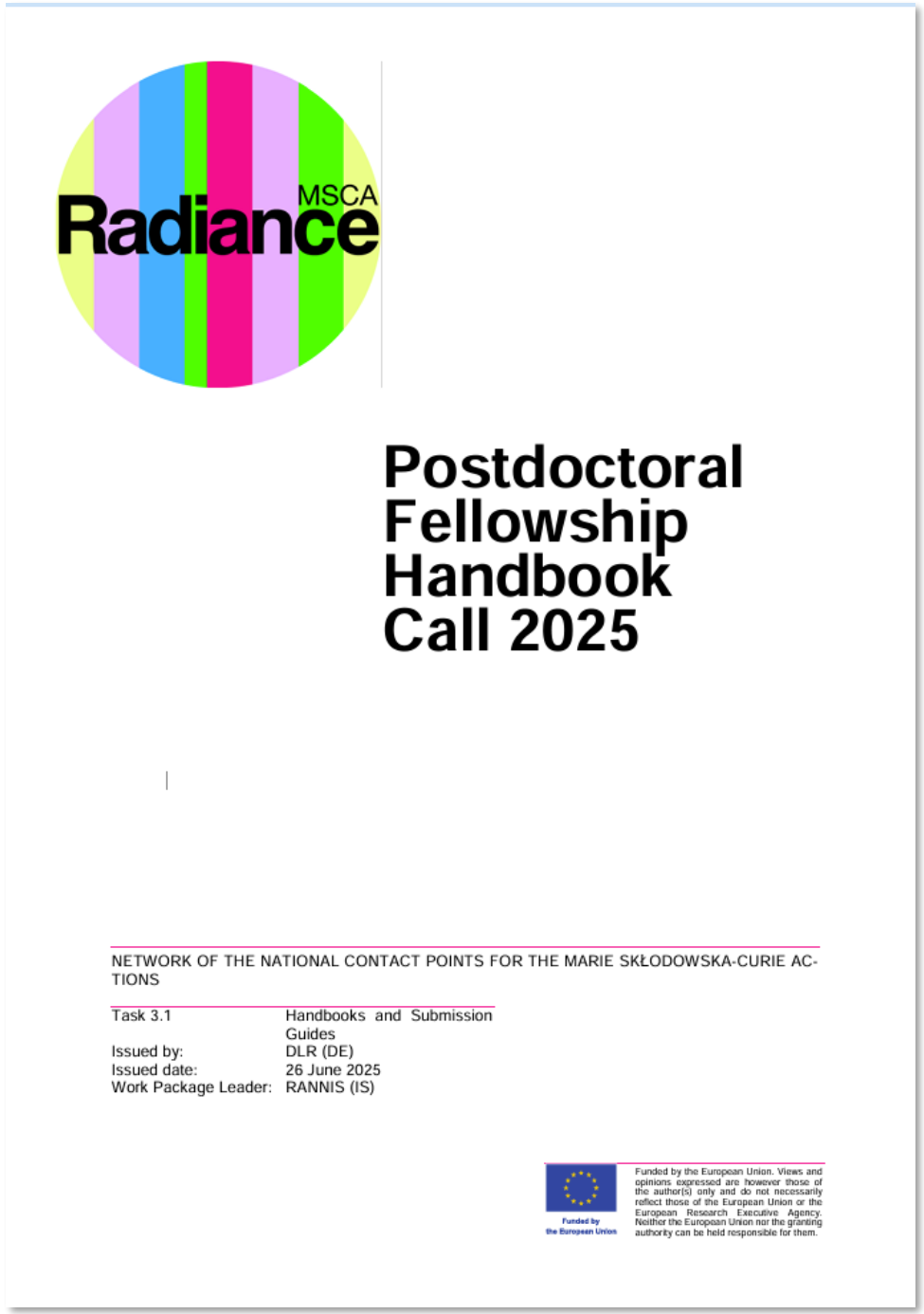
- Read **all guidance documents**:
  - **MSCA Work Programme** and annexes
  - HE-MSCA-PF **Guide for Applicants** and other useful documents
  - Standard application form;
  - **Revised version of the MSCA Supervision Guidelines**, **Green Charter**
  - Submit specific queries to the **Research Enquiry Service** (funding, validation of participants, etc.)

PF - Proposal submission

[Postdoctoral Fellowship Handbook Call 2025]

- The 2026 version will be available soon
- There are very few differences, use this one while the new one is not available

https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/store/handbooks-msca



PF - 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

Part A (structured data)

Part B (description of action)

Page limit:

Part B-1: 10 pages
Part B-2: no limit

PF – proposal submission

Key features:

Part A: use of submission wizard

Researcher information:

- PhD award date only, no other qualification fields available
- Residency and activity table
- Table for extensions on the 8-year post PhD limit – number of days/category only, beneficiary to keep relevant records

Beneficiary information:

- PIC based
- Non-academic placement host and secondment host: in development
- Gender Equality Plan

Budget:

- Family allowance
- Long term leave allowance and special needs allowance (not visible in proposal as cannot be requested at that stage)

PF – proposal submission

Key features PART A (online forms):

Ethics self-assessment

Security self-assessment

Call specific questions (non-exhaustive)

- Euratom: applicant to confirm if they qualify for the Euratom topics/conditions
- ERA Fellowships: applicant to confirm if they wish to be considered for ERA call (question appears based on qualifying PIC country)
- Secondment information
- Optional non academic placement information

Keywords are updated for HE

- KW's 1, 2 mandatory and of selected scientific panel, KW 3 mandatory and of any panel, KW's 4 and 5 optional and of any panel

Resubmissions

- Question will appear in the forms

PF – proposal submission

Gender Equality Plan

https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ffcb06c3-200a-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-232129669

PF – proposal submission

PART B – use available templates, no form

Part B-1 is strictly restricted to 10 pages.

- A cover page, table of contents, ...on page 1, 2, will count towards the page limit and automatically result in excess pages that cannot be evaluated
- The Part B-1 should start with “1. Excellence” (instructions, definitions to be deleted before submission)

Part B-2 (no page restriction):

- Researcher’s CV
- Letters of commitment (host for outgoing phase of GF or non-academic placement host)
- Participating organisations (max 1 page for beneficiary, max 1⁄2 page others)
- Ethics & Security (additional info, if needed)

Living guidelines on the responsible use of generative AI in research

When considering the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the preparation of the proposal, it is imperative to exercise caution and careful consideration. The AI-generated content should be thoroughly reviewed and validated by the applicants to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations. Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal (even those parts produced by the AI tool) and must be transparent in disclosing which AI tools were used and how they were utilized.

Specifically, applicants are required to:

- **Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content and any citations generated by the AI tool and correct any errors or inconsistencies.**
- **Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations, including those generated by the AI tool. Double-check citations to ensure they are accurate and properly referenced.**
- **Be conscious of the potential for plagiarism where the AI tool may have reproduced substantial text from other sources. Check the original sources to be sure you are not plagiarizing someone else's work.**
- **Acknowledge the limitations of the AI tool in the proposal preparation, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge.**

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/2b6cf7e5-36ac-41cb-aab5-0d32050143dc_en

Living guidelines on the responsible use of generative AI in research

GENERAL GUIDELINES | 15 April 2025

Living guidelines on the responsible use of generative AI in research

An ERA Forum stakeholders' document.

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/2b6cf7e5-36ac-41cb-aab5-0d32050143dc_en

Award criteria

Postdoctoral fellowships

PF – 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 interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science 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%**

PF – 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 interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science 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%**

PF – award criteria

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)

➢ Explain the research context of your project and introduce your project's subject.

➢ Explain the importance of the research being carried out and how it addresses a challenge/priority at a global/European level.

➢ **Describe the specific research objectives (ROs) of the project**. These should give the evaluator an insight into what research will be carried out during the project and should be feasible.

➢ **Each research objective should correspond to the research work packages**. For example, objective 1 is the objective for research WP 1. Number the objectives O1, O2, O3 etc. and include the corresponding work package in brackets at the end of each objective (WP1).

PF – award criteria

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)

➢ **Break the state-of-the-art (SOA) into separate short paragraphs**, each focussing on a specific research objective of the project.

➢ For each paragraph, briefly outline the current level of knowledge in the research area and **highlight how the project will progress the research 'beyond the current state-of-the-art'**. Use up-to-date references and ask your supervisor for assistance.

➢ If there is SOA work being carried out by your supervisor or by you then mention this here (as it demonstrates your excellence and adequacy to carry out the research).

➢ You could finish each paragraph with a bold /text-box statement of how the project is progressing the area beyond the current state-of-the-art.

PF – award criteria

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)

STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the current state of the art. The hypothesis and objectives are highly innovative and realistic, and the proposed work is expected to advance this research field substantially. *2. The research objectives are laid out in a clear and concise way and are founded very well in the presented background. The objectives are innovative, relevant, realistically achievable, measurable, verifiable and address a matter of high importance* *3. The research objectives are highly ambitious and go well beyond the current state of the art as they tackle so far unexplored themes in the thematic area of the proposal.* *4. The hypotheses are clearly stated, and all the aims are clearly defined and developed against the field's current state of the art.* *5. The state-of-the-art is very well outlined: the research will bring new perspectives and novel knowledge to its field of study.*

Postdoctoral Fellowship Handbook Call 2025

PF – award criteria

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)

WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The originality and innovation potential of the proposal is not outlined in a sufficiently convincing and detailed manner, particularly as the background on recent developments in the field of the proposal is not presented in sufficient detail to support the working hypotheses.
2. It is insufficiently clear what new or novel research would be achieved in this proposal compared to the state of the art, i.e., what new research fields would develop from this proposed research.
3.The overall objectives of the research are not clearly presented; they are overly ambitious and unrealistic for a proposal of this size and duration.
4. In general, the ideas are not structured clearly or concretely enough. Almost every section reads like a collection of buzz words and unclarified words with details that do not hang together sufficiently, making it difficult to understand what exactly is proposed, and to assess quality. For instance, there are sections focusing more on implementation than on quality/pertinence and innovation objectives.
5. The proposal fails to discuss to a sufficient level of detail the specific objectives, nor to properly establish how those are measurable and verifiable.
6. It is not convincingly explained how the researcher can really take the lead for all the tasks mentioned. The proposal does not convincingly demonstrate that the objectives are realistically achievable.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Handbook Call 2025

PF – excellence

Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)

➢ In this section you should describe how the research project will be carried out. **Break this section up into short paragraphs/bullet points to describe the steps/methods** you will take to achieve the research objectives proposed (put in brackets the research objective and work package it relates to). In the Implementation section (section 3.1.), the workplan (specific tasks) relating to the research WP will be detailed.

➢ **Highlight the experiments, blocks of work to carry out, techniques and equipment** that will be used, especially if they are to be used in a novel way. If there will be new analysis, concept, methods planned – mention and highlight (bold).

➢ If **a secondment, non-academic placement** or short visits are included, be specific about why they are needed in terms of the work being carried out (use of equipment, access to data etc). ➢

➢ Be careful here as you do not have space to describe everything in detail as the proposal is 10 pages long but you must give enough detail to show how the research will be conducted.

PF – excellence

Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)

➢ **Interdisciplinarity** means the integration of information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories from two or more scientific disciplines. These aspects will be assessed during the evaluation. **The term discipline refers to the first level of MSCA keywords**.

MSCA keywords is available on: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-10/MSCA%20Keywords.pdf

➢ Highlight the key interdisciplinary aspect of your proposal (methodology, supervision, dissemination, etc.)

➢ If you consider that an inter-disciplinary approach does not apply, provide a justification.

PF – excellence

Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)

- Gender dimension and other diversity aspects: Describe how the gender dimension and other diversity aspects are taken into account in the project's research and innovation content. If you do not consider such a gender dimension to be relevant in your project, please provide a justification.

Remember that that this question relates to the content of the planned research and innovation activities, and not to gender balance in the teams in charge of carrying out the project.

In other words, you should take into account biological characteristics (sex) and social/cultural features (gender) in your research

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/gendered-innovations-2-2020-11-24_en

PF – excellence

Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)

- Open science practices: Describe how appropriate open science practices are implemented as an integral part of the proposed methodology. Show how the choice of practices and their implementation is adapted to the nature of your work in a way that will increase the chances of the project delivering on its objectives [e.g. up to 1/2 page, including research data management]. If you believe that none of these practices are appropriate for your project, please provide a justification here.

PF – excellence

Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other
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Open Science Practise[2]		Mandatory	Recommended
Early and open sharing of research	• Preregistration, registered reports, preprints, etc.		Yes
Research output management	• Data management plan (DMP)	Yes	
Ensure reproducibility of research outputs	• Information on outputs/tools/instruments and access to data/results for validation of publications	Yes	
Open access to research outputs through deposition in trusted repositories	• Open access to publications • Open access to data • Open access to software, models, algorithms, workflows etc.	Yes, for peer-reviewed publications and research data ('as open as possible as closed as necessary')	Yes, for other research outputs.
Participate in open peer-review	• Publish in open peer-reviewed journals or platforms		Yes
Involving all relevant knowledge actors	• Involve citizens, civil society, and end-users in co-creation of content (e.g., crowd-sourcing, etc.)		Yes

https://msca-net.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Task-3.6-Open_science_Brief.pdf

STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1.The methodology, scientific concepts and models are convincing and fully in line with the working hypothesis. *2. The interdisciplinary nature of the proposal is appropriately demonstrated to add a very substantial contribution to the achievement of the proposal's objectives.* *3. The gender dimension and other diversity aspects are very well identified, and gender, age and ethnicity will be incorporated in the proposed models.* *4. The proposed open science practices are convincing and well described, considering FAIR principles for data, models and papers.* *5. Open science practices are well addressed, and concrete actions and protocols are described to comply, including making the data accessible through public databases.*
WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The proposed methodology is supported by previous work of the researcher. While the methodology is explained in general terms and is mostly a descriptive one, it lacks some information on the concrete methods to be used. *2. Open scientific practices do not precisely identify a data repository where research outputs will be accessible.* *3. An interdisciplinary approach is relevant for the research proposed. However, the proposal does not adequately indicate how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be integrated in the research.* *4. The gender dimension and other diversity aspects could be relevant for the research. However, these have not been taken into account sufficiently in the proposal's research and innovation content and an insufficient justification has been provided.* *5. Significant dimensions of intersectional subjectivity and inequality, such as class and race, are not addressed sufficiently in the conceptual foundation of the proposal's approach.*

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linary approaches,
gender dimension and other
elevant for the research
ity of open science

PF – award criteria

Quality of the **supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host

➢ **Provide a few sentences on supervisor's key achievements**: years of experience in the field, examples of awards, international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration, examples of the coordinated projects and number of publications (most important journals, H-Index..), patents (especially if they are closely connected to your research – remember the state-of-the art), number of supervised researchers (is there any success story – are the supervised researchers now in leading positions..).

➢ You should have a suitably qualified supervisor who is close to your research field. Highlight in particular if the supervisor has an international career with experience in implementing EU projects (especially ones involving postdocs).

➢ **If you are having a co-supervisor, shortly explain his/her added value**. Co-supervisors can be members of the same research team as the main supervisor. Co-supervision is possible, but the respective roles of both co-supervisors should be clearly defined and complementary.

➢ If applicable, explain the value of the supervisor(s) during the secondments, non-academic placement and during outgoing phase of the Global Fellowship

➢ Be very brief with all relevant information **– you can provide more information in table B2 in section 5!**

PF – award criteria

Quality of the **supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host

Scientific skills
• Which new techniques and methods will be acquired? • How will they be acquired? Through research or through specific courses? Ask your supervisor for suggestions on potential trainings • Training on "Research integrity ", "open science ", digital techniques, tools, gender in research, new techniques
Transferable skills
• Teaching as well as tutoring/mentoring of students and doctoral candidates (→ leadership/communication skills) • Project/financial/organisational management (project planning, organisation of a conference) • Development and organisation of follow-up projects (sourcing funding, proposal writing) • Acquisition/development of skills in working in an international environment (communication, building networks) • Entrepreneurial skills and competencies • Handling intellectual property rights (IPR), training in patent law, course in gender awareness

PF – award criteria

Quality of the **supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge** between the researcher and the host

WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The training activities cover most aspects of scientific, technical and management development, but are not outlined in concrete terms, e.g., the number and frequency of seminars or workshop participation. *2. Training skills to be acquired by the researcher are not convincingly described. The transfer of scientific knowledge to be acquired by the researcher in the return phase is not sufficiently detailed nor is the transfer of knowledge from the researcher to the hosts.* *3.The supervisor based at non-university institution has rather limited experience in mentoring researchers at an advanced level.* *4.The transfer of knowledge during the secondment is not sufficiently described. Since that supervisor has already supervised the researcher during their PhD on the general theme of the action, further transfer of knowledge is limited.* *5. The two-way transfer of knowledge is not described with sufficient details: the training activities are general and vague. Although the researcher has competences related to the project, it is not clearly explained how they will be transferred to the host and how different are they, when comparing to those already existing in the host institution.*

PF – award criteria

Quality and appropriateness of the **researcher's professional experience**, competences and skills

➢ Describe why you are the best person to do this fellowship**! Summarise your professional experience to date** and what led you to this point. Try to get the evaluator to relate & understand you. Keep them interested!

➢ **Explain why your scientific background is unique** (think of the transfer of knowledge to the host organisation), how you have excellent potential and you are perfectly able to carry out the project. Demonstrate how you have key transferable skills (e.g., leadership skills, independent thinking, etc.).

➢ **Choose the key highlights from your CV** (section 4) to show the evaluator your abilities (research achievements, fellowships and awards received, key conferences, publications, experience in project management, experience in supervision, non-academic sector, etc.). If you are analysing literature or conducting fieldwork which is neither in English nor in your native language, provide information that you have the basics of language knowledge to carry out the planned activity effectively.

PF – award criteria

Quality and appropriateness of the **researcher's professional experience**, competences and skills

WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1.The quality of the scientific output of the researcher is unconvincing for the time spent as a post-doc. The proposal does not fully consider how the researcher's existing professional experience is relevant to the proposed project.
2. The researcher's track record in terms of publication output and visibility in the scientific community is low for their stage of career. The impact of their publications has been low.
3. The administrative and leadership experience and skills of the researcher appear to be overstated as they are not based on evidence provided in the proposal or their CV.
4. The supervision of the researcher is not adequately described given the large number of experts at the host and at the secondments involved.
5. The plan for the supervisory meetings to create and monitor progress on the career perspectives is not sufficiently detailed to convincingly demonstrate adequate mentorship from the primary supervisor.

Postdoctoral Fellowship Handbook Call 2025

PF – 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 interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science 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%**

PF – **Impact**

Credibility of the measures to **enhance the career perspectives and employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development

- Give **specific examples of your career opportunities** in the academic & non-academic sectors after the fellowship.
- Where do you want to go (**long-term career perspectives**) and how does this project contribute to it (tenure track position, initiating a new laboratory or a research group, becoming a pioneer researcher in your specific filed, new position in industry, potential ERC application)?
- Explain why the skills & experiences (research-related and transferable) acquired during the fellowship would benefit future employers and contribute to better quality research and innovation? **Give specific examples**.
- Describe and **highlight the impact of the collaborations (especially intersectoral and interdisciplinary)** made during the fellowship – for example, will they result in a higher impact R&I output from your future work, thus more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services?
- If applicable, highlight the importance of the non-academic placement.

PF – **Impact**

Credibility of the measures to **enhance the career perspectives and employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development

Example of impact on your career development

Now you are at 80% → the MSC-PF gives you the missing 20%

- You will be integrated into existing European and international networks of the host institution and also have created your own (transnational) networks
- Your strengthened project management skills will result in better-managed research and innovation projects and will strengthen the likelihood of careers/positions across sectors.
- Your enhanced leadership skills, developed through 'x' course and supervision of undergraduate and PhD students will make you more employable and competitive in applying for future leadership roles.
- You will be able to work in an international and interdisciplinary research environment

STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. *The researcher's prospects for becoming a leader and supervisor of academic groups will also be enhanced via the mentoring of Master students by the researcher, as presented in the proposal.* 2. *The proposal convincingly describes how the career perspectives of the researcher would be improved in academia and the public sector. The interdisciplinarity of the proposal and the respective training and mentoring activities would certainly enhance the theoretical, technical, and management skills of the researcher, facilitating career prospects in academia and beyond.* 3. *The measures to enhance the researcher's expected career perspectives inside academia (as a recognized professor at a European level) and outside (as national and EU policymakers and regulators) are credible and excellent.* 4. *The planned training activities will significantly enhance the skill set of the researcher in both the scientific and non-scientific sector. These new skills together with the attainment of the research targets and dissemination to the scientific community, the strong international networking opportunities, and the possibilities for follow-up projects will clearly enhance their career perspectives.* 5. *The proposal explains properly how the researcher's further development of technical and complementary skills will increase their employability in the academic sector. The researcher will acquire new research competencies and additional skills, such as new scientific skills in cutting-edge technologies, and will gain several complementary skills, such as organizational and management skills.*
WEAKNESSES FORM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. *The proposal does not fully consider opportunities for the researcher to participate in educational activities (e.g. student supervision, teaching).* 2. *The researcher has several years of experience as a postdoctoral fellow in a closely related field. The measures to enhance career perspectives have been generically and superficially described, and it is not sufficiently clear how would gaining additional skills further improve the employability of the researcher beyond the current state.* 3. *The specific measures to enhance the researcher's career beyond the project's duration, including soft skills and preparation for job market, are not sufficiently well described in the proposal.* 4. *The measures to enhance the researcher's intersectoral career perspectives are not appropriately reflected in the proposal. The employability in university spinoffs (highlighted by the applicant) is not addressed adequately.*

Credibility of the measures to **enhance the career perspectives and employability** of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development

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PF – Impact

Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

At a minimum, address the following aspects:

- **Plan for the dissemination and exploitation activities, including communication activities**: Describe the planned measures to maximize the impact of your project by providing a first version of your 'plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities'.
- Describe the dissemination, exploitation measures that are planned, and the **target group(s)** addressed (e.g. scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large).
- **Regarding communication measures and public engagement strategy**, the aim is to inform and reach out to society and show the activities performed, and the use and the benefits the project will have for citizens. Activities must be strategically planned, with clear objectives, start at the outset and continue through the lifetime of the project. The description of the communication activities needs to state the main messages as well as the tools and channels that will be used to reach out to each of the chosen target groups.

PF – Impact

Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

- Detail the **dissemination activities** you will use. Examples include: conferences, industry events, journal publications, workshops, social media, tradeshows, book chapter etc.
- Describe who the target audiences and what the main messages are. Who will be interested in the results described and why (benefit)? For example:
  - Industry examples that could use the results for further development,
  - Research fields (give examples),
  - Expert users (clinicians, companies, services etc.),
  - Regulators
  - Types of policy makers that would use the results,
  - Associations who would be interested in the results.
- **Do not confuse this with communication to public audiences**

PF – Impact

Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

Communication and public engagement	Dissemination and exploitation
• About the project and results. • Starts at the beginning of the project. • Multiple audiences. • Inform and reach out to society, show the benefits of research. • General media, social media, different type of events, popular science publications.	• About results only. • When results are available and after the end of the project. • Potential professionals that may use the results in their own work. • Enable use and uptake of results. • Publications, conference presentations, patents.

PF – Impact

Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

- Provide targeted draft plans for both dissemination and communication activities.
- All the activities should be included in work package table & Gantt chart (section 3.1).
- Summarise each dissemination activity with specific & realistic details, using a table. For example:

Activity	Target audience	When	Where	Key indicators (KPI)
Conference (provide the full name)	List the target audience that will participate to the conference	Estimated month of project when it will take place (M12, M14)	If known at the time of the project proposal application	Number of attendees, etc.

PF – Impact

Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

- **Standardisation activities:** Results could be used to develop new standardisation activities or contribute to ongoing work.
- **Spin-offs:** A separate company could be established as a result of the research results.
- **Engagement with communities/end users/policymakers:** Describe the activities to ensure that relevant societal actors will benefit from your project. For example, results will be used in policy briefings to impact on policymaking.

PF – Impact

Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise **expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

- Strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures: if relevant, discuss the strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures, such as patents, design rights, copyright, trade secrets, etc., and how these would be used to support exploitation.

➢ Mention who you will seek advice from in your institution on these matters (e.g., technology transfer office, IPR office).

STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The proposal presents a well-defined and realistic plan for the dissemination of its scientific results through articles and conferences, presentations of their work at weekly group seminars, and a short in-house lecture series. *2. A good discussion on the impact of the research outcome beyond the immediate scope and duration of the proposal is provided.* *3. The plan for the scientific dissemination of the results is clearly articulated and tailored to reach different specialized audiences, including private companies. Dissemination and exploitation activities are clearly outlined and specific, through publications, attendance in international conferences, web-based and social media platforms, and a dedicated project website.* *4. A good IP management strategy is described that fully appreciates the delicate balance between open access science and the protection of ideas. The supervisor at the host institution has experience in patent applications which strengthen the IP management strategy.* *5. Communication activities and measures (e.g., website, newspapers, social media...) are clearly defined and target groups are well identified (e.g., local Science School, social media and general public); the communication to the general public will be carried out with the support of the Public Relation Office of the host institution.*
WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORTS
1. The proposal insufficiently mentions long-term impacts beyond the proposal's immediate scope and duration. The expected scale and importance of its contribution is not fully measurable. *2. The target journals for the planned publications are not convincingly identified. Therefore, the impact of the publications is not fully evident.* *3. The proposal does not address in sufficient detail dissemination of the project results to industry and application community.* *4. The proposal lacks in detailing the dissemination and communication plan: a superficial description of scientific journals and conferences together with general outreach activities are listed, without proposing a clear and structured plan to address different target audiences.* *5. Exploitation is insufficiently covered. It is unclear which results of the proposal will be made available for exploitation and how the research will go beyond publication.*

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PF – Impact

The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**

- Provide a narrative **explaining how the project's results are expected to make a difference in terms of impact, beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project**. The narrative should include the components in the next slide, tailored to your project.
- **Be specific**, referring to the effects of your project, and not R&I in general in this field. State the target groups that would benefit.

PF – Impact

The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**

- Have in mind that during the Horizon Europe implementation, the European Commission aims to achieve an impact-driven programme by maximising the effect of research and innovation. To achieve this aim, the EC identified key impact pathways as follows:

Key impact pathways	
Scientific impact	1. Creating high-quality new knowledge 2. Strengthening human capital in research and innovation 3. Fostering diffusion of knowledge and open source
Societal impact	4. Addressing EU policy priorities and global challenges through research and innovation 5. Delivering benefits and impact through research and innovation missions 6. Strengthening the uptake of research and innovation in society
Towards technological/ economic impact	7. Generating innovation-based growth 8. Creating more and better jobs 9. Leveraging investment in research and innovation

PF – Impact

The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the **expected scientific, societal and economic impacts**

- Expected scientific impact(s): e.g. contributing to specific scientific advances, across and within disciplines, creating new knowledge, reinforcing scientific equipment and instruments, computing systems (i.e. research infrastructures);
- Expected economic/technological impact(s): e.g. bringing new products, services, business processes to the market, increasing efficiency, decreasing costs, increasing profits, contributing to standards' setting, etc.
- Expected societal impact(s): e.g. decreasing CO2 emissions, decreasing avoidable mortality, improving policies and decision-making, raising consumer awareness.

⚠ Only include such **outcomes and impacts** where **your project would make a significant and direct contribution**. Avoid describing very tenuous links to wider impacts.

STRENGTHS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. The impact of the proposal beyond its immediate scope is increased since the envisaged results are highly relevant also for different industries, which are not in the direct focus of the proposal. *2. Beyond the immediate scope, the proposal will establish a long-term collaboration between leading labs in Europe and the US and it will significantly advance the development of multimodal optical probes for biomedical applications. There is an excellent long-term impact reasonably to be expected.* *3. The proposal's results will, directly and indirectly, impact the research area beyond the immediate scope and duration of the proposal. The quantified estimates of the proposal's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts are credible.* *4. The magnitude of the proposal's contribution is realistically and clearly described with some excellent potential for economic impact and creating new market opportunities. This includes potential plans to start a new consultation service based on the proposal results and experience.* *5. The proposal is very timely and will have an important scientific and societal impact, given the novelty of the methodological approach and the social relevance of the research questions.*
WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. The proposal lacks a clear identification of the research contribution to the scientific, societal and economic areas. Moreover, the impact beyond the immediate scope of the proposal is not convincingly presented. *2. No adequate estimate of the scientific medium- and long-term impact of the project is discussed. Also, the impact on other science areas is not very convincing as the link appears very indirect.* *3. The researcher does not sufficiently address the expected scientific impact beyond the immediate scope of the proposal and existing connections of model theory to other fields.* *4. The expected scientific impact of the proposal is explained only in a qualitative form. Sufficiently clear quantified estimates showing how the project outcomes could impact the state of the art are not provided.* *5. Quantified estimates of the project scientific, societal and economic impact are not provided.*

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PF – 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 interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science 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%**

PF – award criteria

Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

- Brief presentation of the overall structure of the work plan, including **deliverables** and **milestones**.
- Timing of the different work packages and their components;
- **Mechanisms in place to assess and mitigate risks (**of research and/or administrative nature).
- A **Gantt chart must be included** and should indicate the proposed Work Packages (WP), major deliverables, milestones, secondments, placements. This Gantt chart counts towards the 10-page limit. The schedule in the Gantt chart should indicate the number of months elapsed from the start of the action (Month 1).

PF – award criteria

Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

- Work Packages titles (there should be at least 1 WP);
- Indication of major deliverables and milestones.
- Secondments, if applicable;
- Planning for dissemination, exploitation and communication activities

		Year 1												Year 2												Year 3											
Work Package	Title	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
WP1	Management						D1.1																		M1.1												M2, D1.2
WP2	Data collection							M2.1									D2.1																				
WP3	Field work							M3.1														M3.2	D3.1														
WP4	Research part x																		M4.1, D4.1														M4.2, D4.2				
WP5	Research part y																								M5.1, D5.1												
WP6	Dissemination and communication					D6.1						D6.2			D6.3						D6.4																
WP7	Secondments																														M7.1						
...	...																																				

Legend

Milestone	M
Deliverable	D

PF – award criteria

Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

- There should be at most **6 work packages**

- **2-3 research work packages only!**
  - These can run sequentially or concurrently and can be interconnected.
  - Ensure they are in line with details provided in 1.1 research objectives and methodology.

- **WP for Management**
  - Meetings with supervisor(s), and standard reports to EU (financial and technical reports at end of fellowship).

PF – Implementation

Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

- **WP for Training and Transfer of Knowledge**
  - Tasks/events should match the details in the excellence session

- **WP Dissemination/Exploitation, Communication/Public Engagement**
  - Tasks/events should match the details the impact session
  - It is important to have specific examples of dissemination & communication activities rather than listing general examples.

➢ There is no need for detailed work plan for the non-academic placement, but it must be mentioned in the Gantt chart and noted, where relevant, in the research work packages

PF – Implementation

Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

Keep in mind that the MSCA Work programme lists mandatory deliverables for Postdoctoral Fellowships that will have to be submitted for in projects selected for funding:

- **Mobility declaration** submitted within 20 days of the start of the research training activities and updated (if needed) via the Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool;
- **Career development** plan of the recruited researcher, submitted at the beginning of the action (not later than 6 months after its start) and updated if needed throughout the project;
- **Evaluation questionnaire** completed by the recruited researcher and submitted at the end of the research training activity; a follow-up questionnaire submitted two years later;
- **Data management plan** submitted within the first 6 months of the project;
- **Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results** submitted towards the end of the project.
- **Include career development plan, data management plan and plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results in their respective WPs and in the Gantt chart.**

PF – Implementation

Quality and effectiveness **of the work plan**, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

Mechanisms in place to assess and mitigate risks (of research and/or administrative nature)

- Explain **how the research, training and career planning will be monitored** and **how the quality of deliverables will be assured** (regular meetings with supervisor and project management support (for example financial department, technology transfer office),
- **Identify specific risks** that could delay the progress of deliverables (delayed start, supervisor leaving the project, equipment failure, insignificant results) & **include a contingency measure**(s) for each risk plans.
- Include both scientific and non-scientific risks.
- With the description of risk, include likelihood of each risk (low, medium, high) and connect them with relevant WP.
- **Note that if no risks and corresponding alternative strategies are mentioned, it is considered a major weakness.**

STRENGHTS FROM THE EVALUATITON SUMMARY REPORT
1. The work plan is well structured with activities progressing in parallel, rather than being inter-dependent, reassuringly meaning that data should be produced even if one area stalls. This also effectively mitigates risk. *2. A clear Gantt chart is included and completely consistent with the structure and timings of the workflow, including deliverables, milestones, and secondment.* *3. Progress monitoring is very well planned, as regular meetings between the researcher and the supervisor are scheduled and regular data reports for the host laboratory/institute.* *4. The proposal presents good risk management which includes technical and administrative risks and proposes sufficiently effective measures how to mitigate them.* *5. The effort assigned to work packages including timing and duration of the different work packages is appropriate and credible. The proportion of assigned tasks across the work plan is well balanced and time lines are as expected for this type of research work.*
WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. Some deliverables and milestones are not sufficiently explained in the proposal. *2. The administrative and training tasks and activities (e.g. management or dissemination, communication, and exploitation) are too loosely organised in terms of the time and effort needed and not assigned to specific periods in the Gantt chart.* *3. The workplan lacks sufficient detail. Timescales and person month allocations are unclear e.g., it is hard to determine when specific tasks will be completed.* *4. The assessment of risks is insufficiently prepared with insufficient reference to risks associated with dissemination, exploitation, and communications, and risks associated with managerial and institutional support.* *5. The proposal does not adequately provide sufficient detail on time management and the effort assigned to different activities. The way the researcher allocates their time between the different tasks is insufficiently described.*

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PF – Implementation

Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements

- Hosting arrangements, **including integration in the team/institution and support services available to the researcher.**
- Quality and capacity of the participating organisations, including infrastructure, logistics and facilities **should be outlined in Part B-2 Section 5** (“Capacity of the Participating Organisations”).
- Note that **for GF**, both the quality and capacity of the outgoing Third Country host and the return host should be outlined.
- If applicable, outline here **the involvement of any 'associated partners linked to a beneficiary'** (in particular, the name of the entity, the type of link with the beneficiary and the tasks to be carried out).

PF – Implementation

Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements

- **Describe the research group(s)/environment** as a whole (various disciplines, opportunities to collaborate during the fellowship, number of people in the research group, technical support etc.).
- Explain **clearly how you will be integrated into this research group(s)/environment and the wider host institution(s)** – internal meetings, induction days, social activities, refer back to training courses that are offered etc.
- **Include any support from HR services**(hosting agreement, work contract, familiarization with internal procedures) assisting you with reallocation to the host country and research environments.

PF – Implementation

Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements

For Global fellowship:

- Specify the practical arrangements in place to host a researcher coming from another country (visa process etc.).
- Explain the integration into the research team/environment.
- Remember: the researcher can spend first 3 months in European host for preparation (mention this here, if applicable). Incoming phase (return to European host):
- Specify the measures planned for the successful (re)integration of the researcher.

PF – Implementation

Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements

Quality and capacity of the participating organisations, including infrastructure, logistics and facilities should be outlined in Part B 2 Section 5 (“Capacity of the Participating Organisations”).

- In short explain that you will have access to research/technical infrastructure (equipment, labs, software, technology, data sources, access to end users), access to administrative infrastructure (staff training resources, library use, access to finance office, research office or your personal working space etc.) that will assure smooth execution of your project
- **It is not necessary to explain what the infrastructure is as you don’t have space, you will refer to it in B2- Section 5.**

PF – Implementation

Quality and capacity of **the host institutions and participating organisations**, including hosting arrangements

For non-academic placement host:

- Explain the integration into research team/environment, that you will have access to research/technical and administrative infrastructure and dedicated workplace.

STRENGHTS FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. The host institution has a highly experienced administrative support structure that is available to the researcher. The infrastructure and equipment at the host institution and, in particular, the high-performance computers and data storage services made available to the researcher, are highly appropriate to achieve the research objectives. *2. Host institution has a centre for junior scientists with events and training opportunities and networking, effectively facilitating integration scientifically and culturally into the new environment.* *3. The hosting arrangements of all the institutions involved (including the non-academic placement host) are of the highest quality. For example, the researcher will benefit from working with very renowned research groups and non-academic partners, expanding their experience and integration into their research and development environments.* *4. The host organization shows high-quality capacity, infrastructure, and facilities (e.g., library facilities, human resource, and IT services, and assistance with project management).* *5. Both prestigious host institutions and the renowned institution where the secondment would take place suit the planned research project very well, especially with regards to both the scientific environment (which complement each other in this regard) and the infrastructure, as well as with respect to the institutional support provided to the researcher.*
WEAKNESSES FROM THE EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT
1. The administrative support from the host institution (incoming phase) available for the researcher is not described in sufficient detail. *2. The active contribution of the host and secondment institutions in terms of training activities and the integration of the researcher in the research teams are not adequately described* *3. Insufficiently detailed information is offered on the infrastructure and equipment at the host institution that will support achieving the research objectives.* *4. The proposal does not provide a clear description of non-scientific hosting arrangements involving support services related to accommodation, administration, and integration of the researcher throughout the fellowship* *5. The description of overall management structure and the monitoring actions such as meetings with the supervisor lack detail. The integration of the researcher into the research group is not well described.*

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DEFINITIONS	
Artificial Intelligence[1]	Artificial intelligence (AI) refers to systems that display intelligent behaviour by analysing their environment and taking actions – with some degree of autonomy – to achieve specific goals. AI-based systems can be purely software-based, acting in the virtual world (e.g. voice assistants, image analysis software, search engines, speech and face recognition systems) or AI can be embedded in hardware devices (e.g. advanced robots, autonomous cars, drones or Internet of Things applications) **If you plan to make use of Artificial Intelligence in your project, the evaluators will evaluate the technical robustness of the proposed system under the appropriate criterion**
Critical risk	A critical risk is a plausible event or issue that could have a high adverse impact on the ability of the project to achieve its objectives. Level of likelihood to occur (Low/medium/high): The likelihood is the estimated probability that the risk will materialise even after taking account of the mitigating measures put in place. Level of severity (Low/medium/high): The relative seriousness of the risk and the significance of its effect.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/af_he-msca-pf_en.pdf

DEFINITIONS	
Deliverable	A report that is sent to the Commission or Agency providing information to ensure effective monitoring of the project. There are different types of deliverables (e.g. a report on specific activities or results, data management plans, ethics or security requirements).
Impacts	Wider long term effects on society (including the environment), the economy and science, enabled by the outcomes of R&I investments (long term). Impacts generally occur some time after the end of the project. For this call Impacts refers to subsection 2.3 Example: *The deployment of the advanced forecasting system enables each airport to increase maximum passenger capacity by 15% and passenger average throughput by 10%, leading to a 28% reduction in infrastructure expansion costs.*
Milestone	Control points in the project that help to chart progress. Milestones may correspond to the achievement of a key result, allowing the next phase of the work to begin. They may also be needed at intermediary points so that, if problems have arisen, corrective measures can be taken. A milestone may be a critical decision point in the project where, for example, the consortium must decide which of several technologies to adopt for further development. The achievement of a milestone should be verifiable.
Objectives	The goals of the work performed within the project, in terms of its research and innovation content. This will be translated into the project's results. These may range from tackling specific research questions, demonstrating the feasibility of an innovation, sharing

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/af_he-msca-pf_en.pdf

	knowledge among stakeholders on specific issues. The nature of the objectives will depend on the type of action, and the scope of the topic.
Outcomes	The expected effects, over the medium term, of projects supported under a given topic. The results of a project should contribute to these outcomes, fostered in particular by the dissemination and exploitation measures. This may include the uptake, diffusion, deployment, and/or use of the project's results by direct target groups. Outcomes generally occur during or shortly after the end of the project. Example: *9 European airports adopt the advanced forecasting system demonstrated during the project.*
Research output	Results generated by the action to which access can be given in the form of scientific publications, data or other engineered outcomes and processes such as software, algorithms, protocols and electronic notebooks.
Results	What is generated during the project implementation. This may include, for example, know-how, innovative solutions, algorithms, proof of feasibility, new business models, policy recommendations, guidelines, prototypes, demonstrators, databases and datasets, trained researchers, new infrastructures, networks, etc. Most project results (inventions, scientific works, etc.) are 'Intellectual Property', which may, if appropriate, be protected by formal 'Intellectual Property Rights'. Example: *Successful large-scale demonstrator: trial with 3 airports of an advanced forecasting system for proactive airport passenger flow management.*

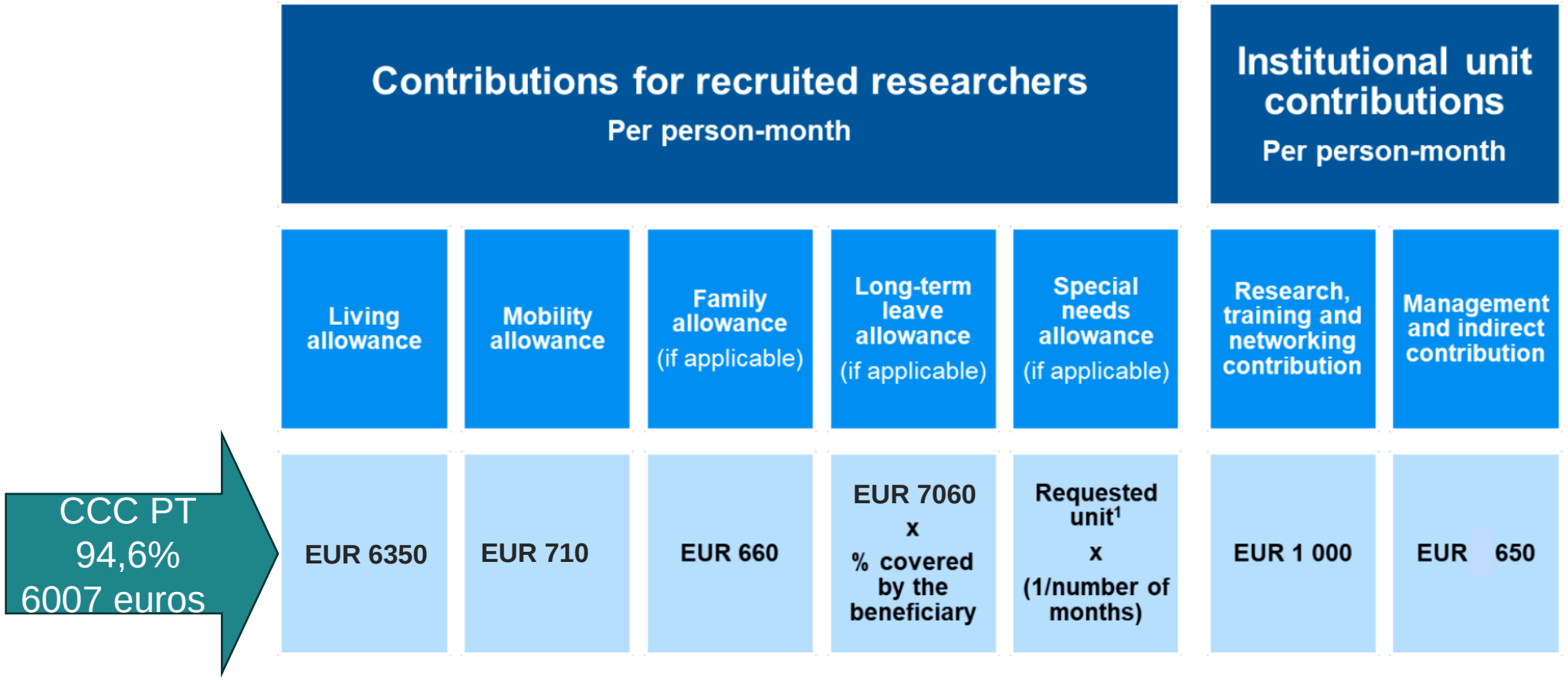
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/af_he-msca-pf_en.pdf

Budget Structure

Postdoctoral fellowships

PERIN Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network

MSCA **Postdoctoral Fellowships** – budget structure



* Living allowance is adapted with the country correction coefficient listed in the WP EF= 1 coefficient for the country of the beneficiary (CCC PT= **94,6%)**
GF= 1 coefficient for the country of the beneficiary + 1 coefficient for the associated partner hosting the outgoing phase

PF – budget structure

- **Living allowance** to cover personnel costs for the employment of researchers with full social security coverage.
- **Mobility allowance** to cover additional, private (not professional) mobility-related costs, e.g. travel and accommodation costs.
- **Family allowance** covers mobility-related costs of researchers with family obligations – defined by:

(i) marriage

(ii) relationship with equivalent status to marriage (under the law of the country or region in which this relationship was formalised)

(iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher

The allowance is due if the researcher has or ***acquires*** family obligations during the action's implementation.

PF – budget structure

The **Research, Training and Networking** costs contribution should cover:

- costs for training and networking activities that contribute directly to the
- researchers' career development (e.g. participation in conferences, trips related to work on the action, training, language courses, seminars, lab material, books, library records, publication costs, research expenses)
- visa-related fees and travel expenses, additional costs arising from optional secondments (e.g. travel and accommodation costs).

The **Management and Indirect** costs contribution should cover the beneficiary's additional costs in connection with the action (e.g. personnel costs for project management, indirect costs)..

All above rates apply to postdoctoral researchers devoting themselves to their project on a **full-time basis**. Part-time (max. 50%) for personal, family, professional reasons subject to REA approval.

PF – “What is my net salary” ?

- **The values on the table are from the perspective of the MSCA budget**, that is, they corresponds to the costs of hiring from the employer's perspective.

- **A country correction coefficient is applied to the living allowance**, in the case of Portugal is 94,6%, which reduces the living allowance. But this has to cover not only the employee's tax obligations, but also those of the employer.

- **The mobility allowance and family allowance** will be included in the salary and **will also be subject to taxation**. No country correction coefficient here.

- Portuguese labor law foresees **14 salaries during the year**, the 12 months, plus Holiday allowance and Christmas allowance

- Portuguese labor law also foresees **end of contract indemnities**, that might decrease the monthly salary, but on the end of contract, the employee is compensated

- The **employer social security tax** is usually 23.75%

- **The employee social security tax** is usually 11%

- Your **income tax (IRS)** rate will vary depending on your household and other income you have.

PF 2026 call Planning

Call Opening:	**09 April 2026**
Call Deadline:	**09 September 2026**
Evaluation period:	**Sept 2026 – Jan 2027**
Launch Grant preparation:	**Feb 2027**
Project Starting dates:	**1 April 2027 – 1 September 2028**

National Delegates / National Contact Points

Pillar 1
Excellent Science

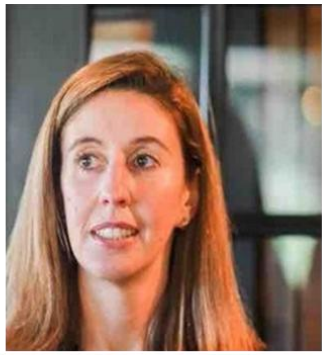
- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

Rui Munhá (FCT)
rui.munha@fct.pt
(+351) 213 911 538

ERC & Widening

David Marçal (FCT)
david.marcal@fct.pt
(+351) 213 924 350

MSCA
ERC & Widening



Marta Abrantes (FCT)
marta.abrantes@fct.pt
(+351) 213 911 596

Research Infrastructures

Daniel Carapau (FCT)
daniel.carapau@fct.pt
(+351) 213 911 514

Research Infrastructures

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

- Widening participation and spreading excellence
- Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

LINKS:

[Recorded sessions at EDUCAST]

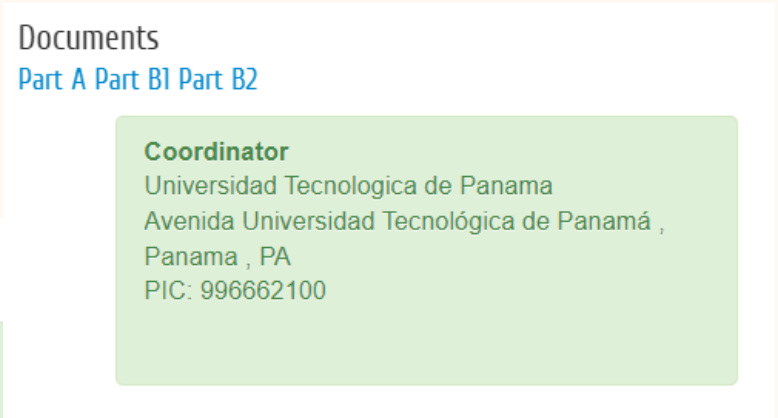
[Join our Contact List!]

Most frequent mistakes in the PF proposal submission

European Commission

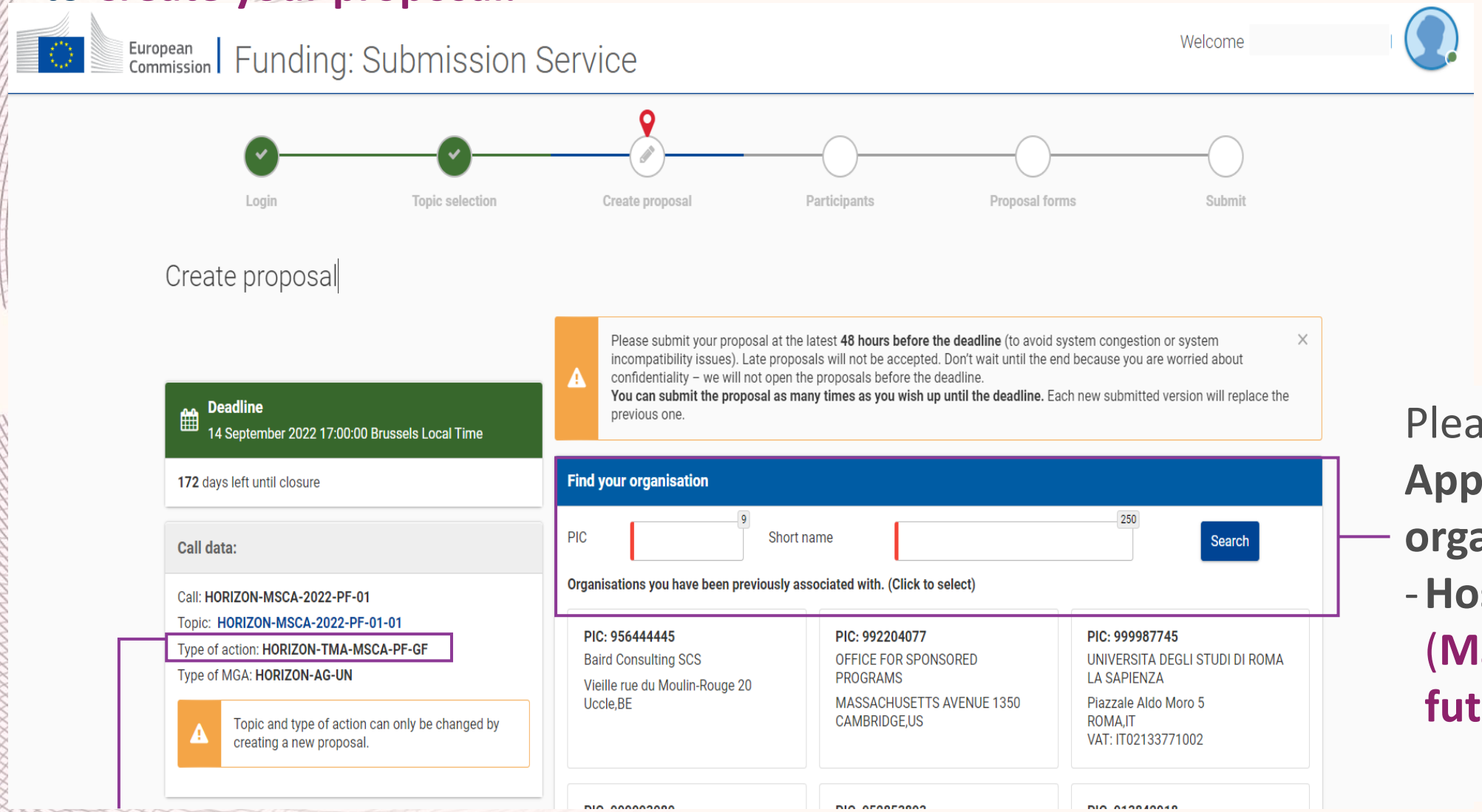
Type of action and host institution

- **Wrong type of action encoded**: GF instead of EF or vice versa
- **Wrong Applicant Organization**: outgoing phase host or affiliation of researcher at time of application (different from the real future host organization)



European Commission

After you **log in** the F&T portal and select the **topic** you will be redirected to this page to **Create your proposal.**



Please encode **Applicant organization** for:

- **Host Coordinator (MS/HE AC) – future beneficiary**

Please verify you have chosen the correct type of action:
HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF - **European Fellowship (EF)** or **Global Fellowship (GF)**

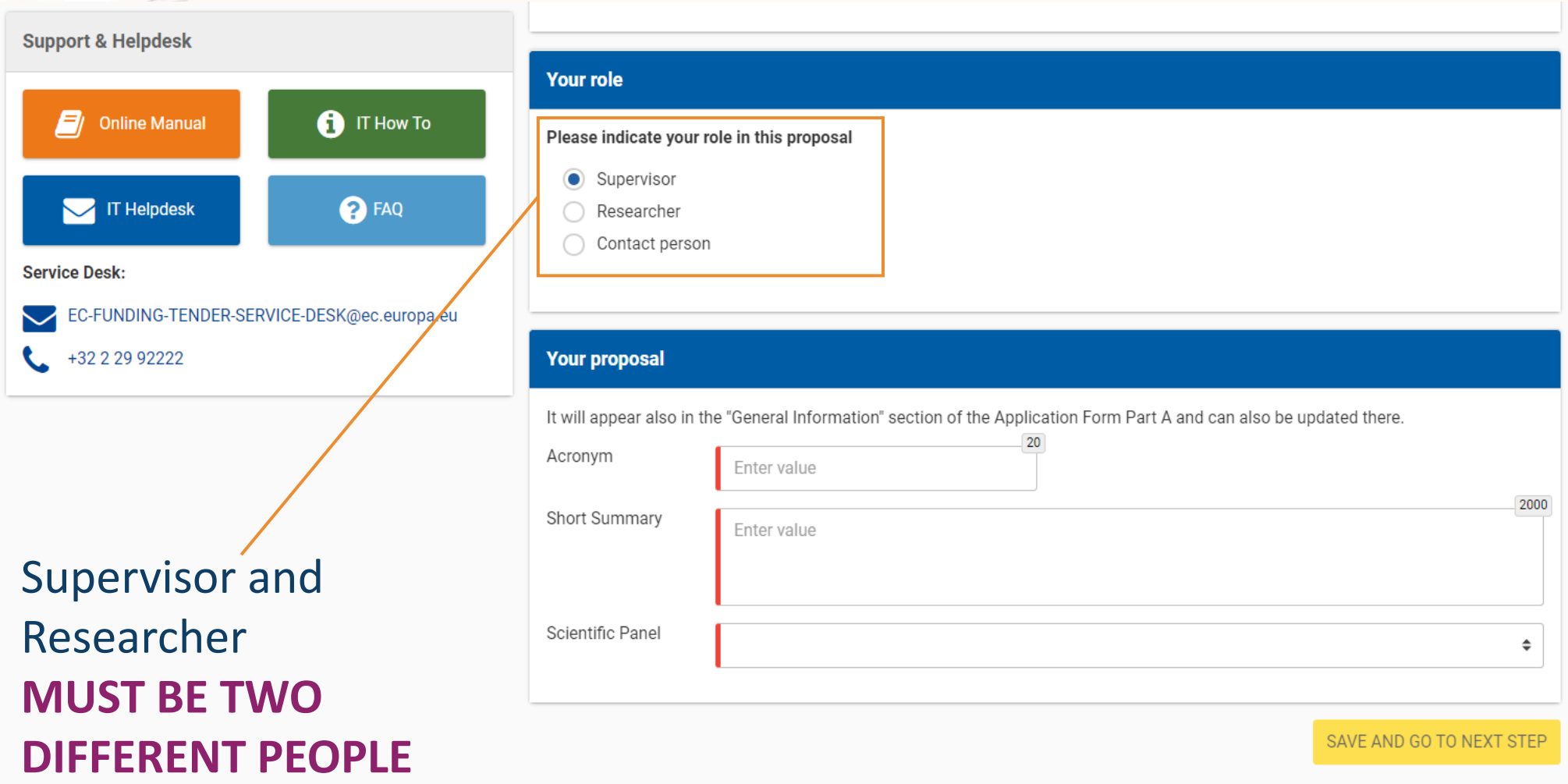
European Commission

Information about physical people and basic proposal details

- Researcher and Supervisor are NOT the same person
- Missing abstract, panel and keywords

European Commission

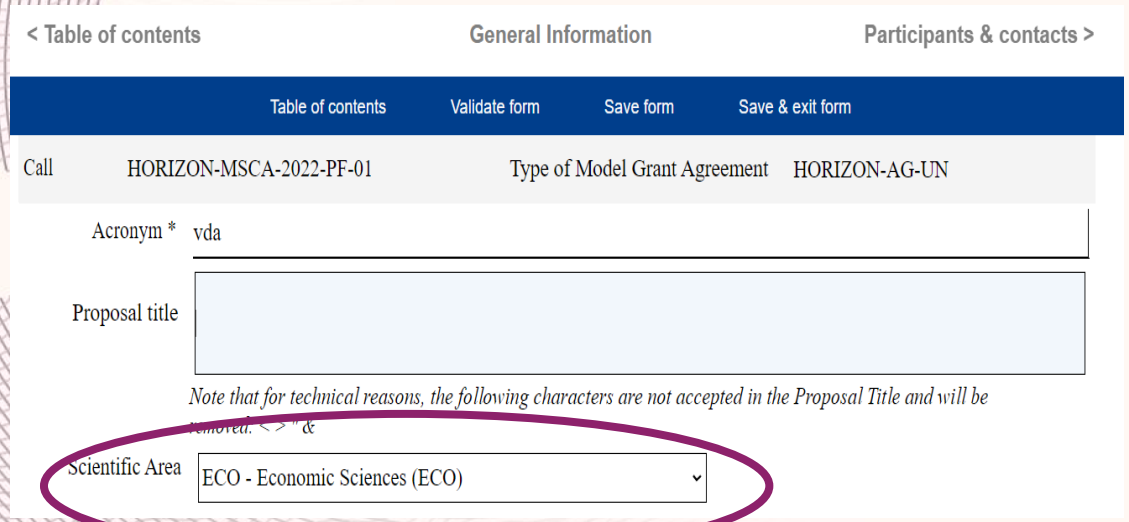
If these fields are not filled, you should not move forward to the next steps

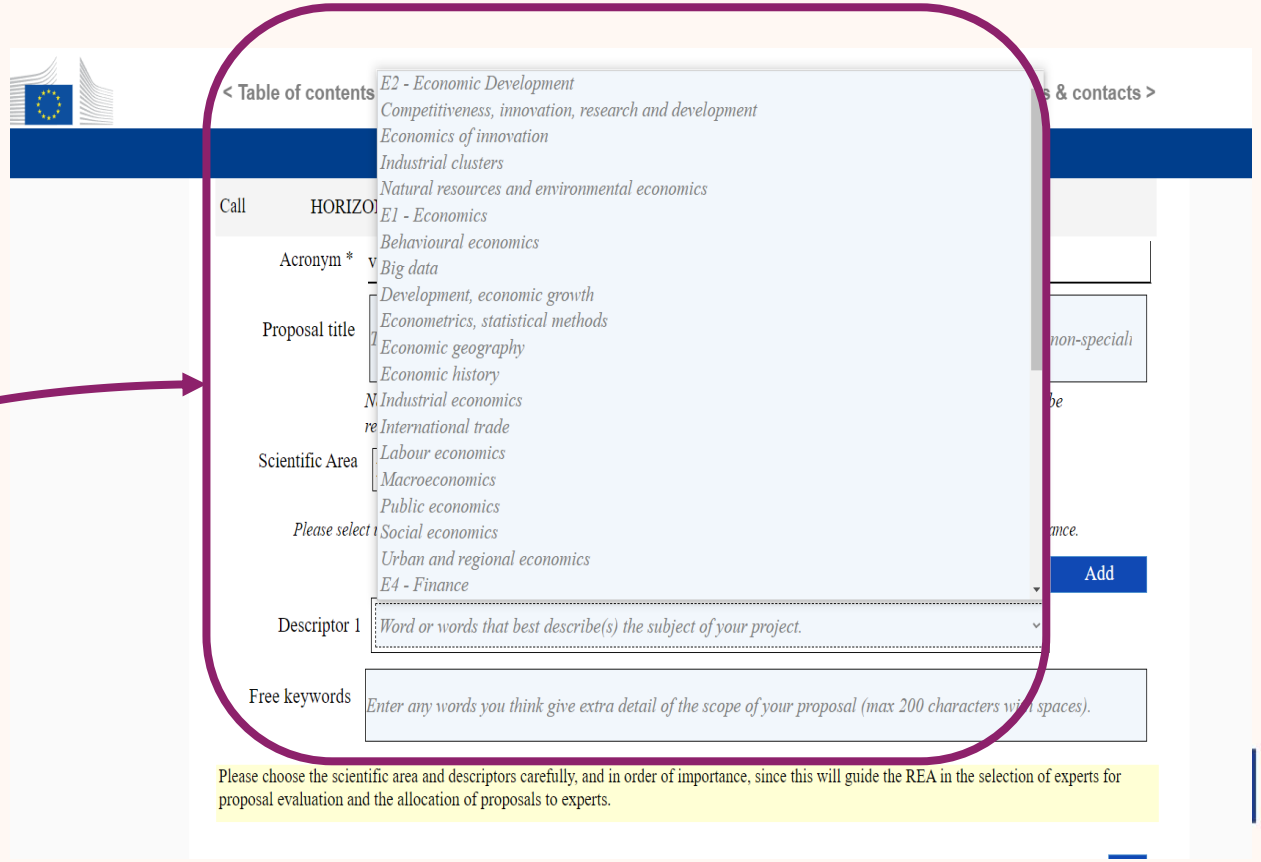


Supervisor and Researcher **MUST BE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE**

European Commission

- When the **Scientific Area** (Panel) is selected, a drop down menu with selected **Descriptors** (keywords) will appear.
- Select **more than one keyword** as these will be used for the pairing with the experts





List of participants

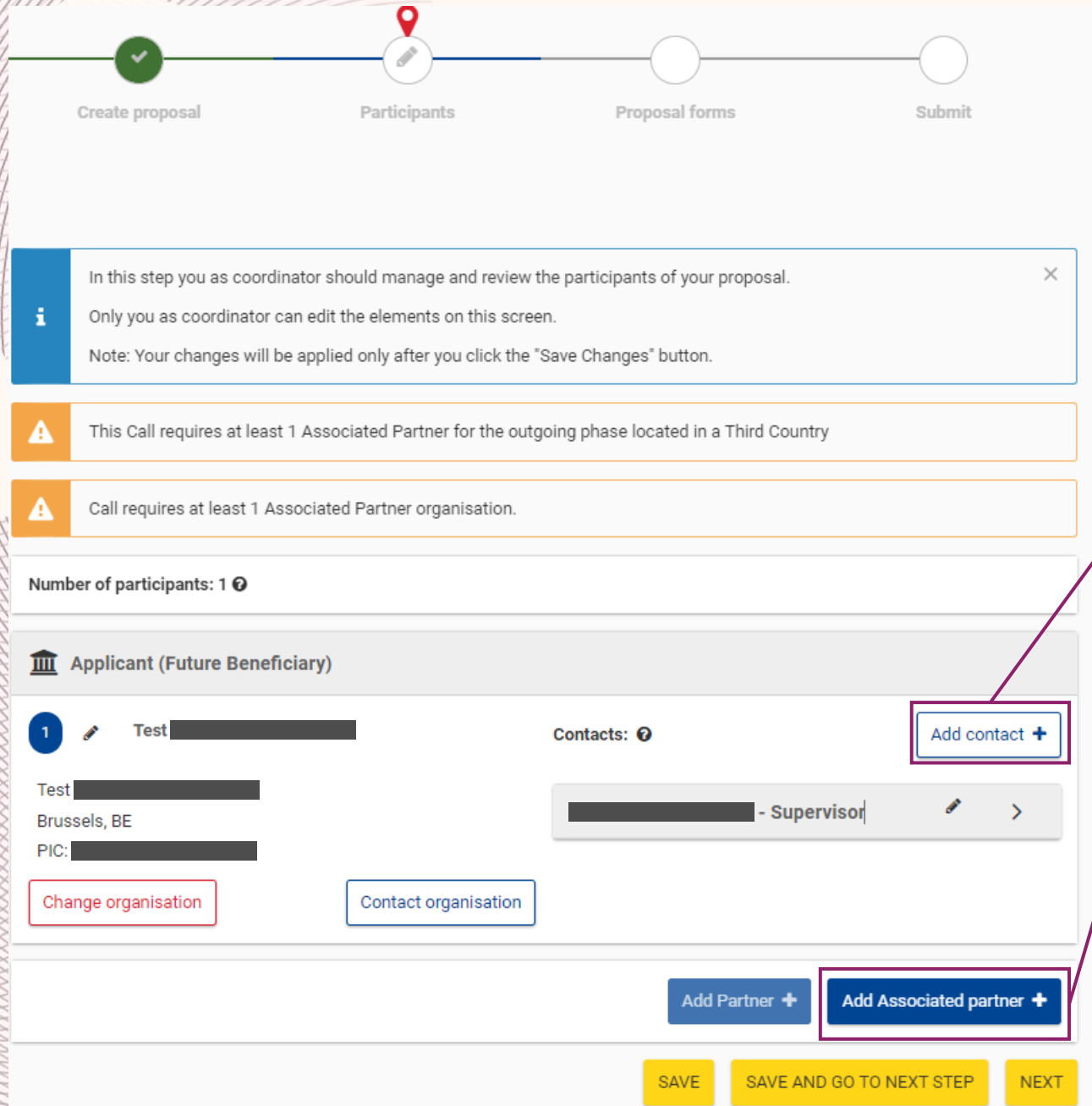
- **Wrongly encoded NAPs, secondments and short visits**

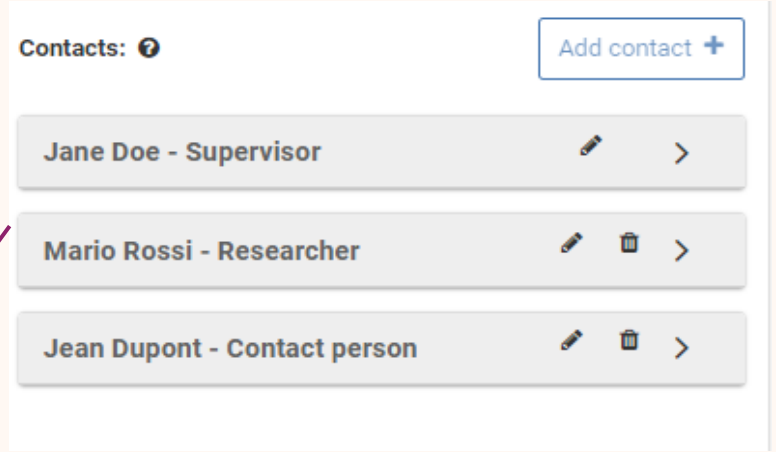
  - **About 25%** of the encoded non-academic placements in PF-2024 were secondments/short visits and NOT NAPs

- **Wrongly encoded outgoing/return phase institutions**

European Commission

After the proposal is created, please **list all Participants** to the proposal



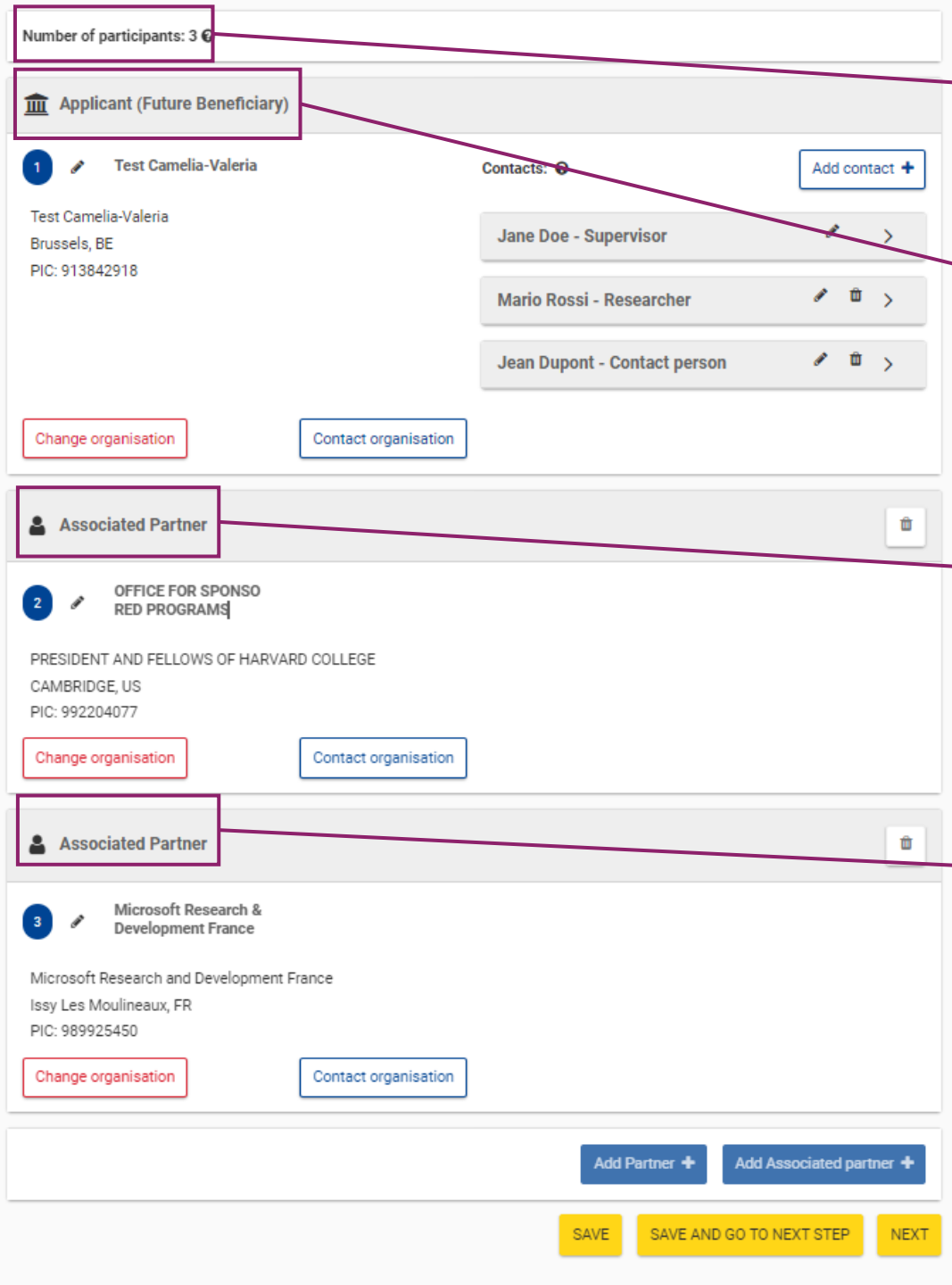


Maximum three contacts can be listed for the host Applicant

Please only encode **associated partners ONLY** for:

- **Outgoing Phase** (TC) – **ONLY FOR GF**
- **Non-Academic Placement** (MS/ HE AC) – **IF APPLICABLE**

European Commission



Maximum Nb of Participants for **GF**: 3

Maximum Nb of Participants for **EF**: 2

Host Applicant (MS/HE AC)

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

First Associated partner: Host of Outgoing Phase (Third Country)

Always put the outgoing phase partner first

Second Associated partner: Host for Non-Academic Placement (MS/HE AC)

Do not encode hosts for secondments here

European Commission

How to encode the **Associated partners in the proposal** (part B2):

- **Add** the outgoing phase host and the NAP host as associated partners in **Tables 5.1 and 5.2** of **part B2**

5.1 Template table: ***Overview of Participating Organisations***

Organisation role	PIC	Legal Entity Short Name	Academic organisation (Y/N)	Country	Name of Supervisor
Beneficiary					
Associated partner linked to a beneficiary (if applicable)					
Associated partner for outgoing phase (mandatory for GF)					
Associated partner for secondment (if applicable)					
Associated partner for non-academic placement (if applicable)					

5.2 Template table: ***Capacity of the Participating Organisations***

Please complete a separate table for each participating organisation. For the beneficiary, this table should be maximum 1 page in length; for each associated partner, the table should be maximum ½ page in length.

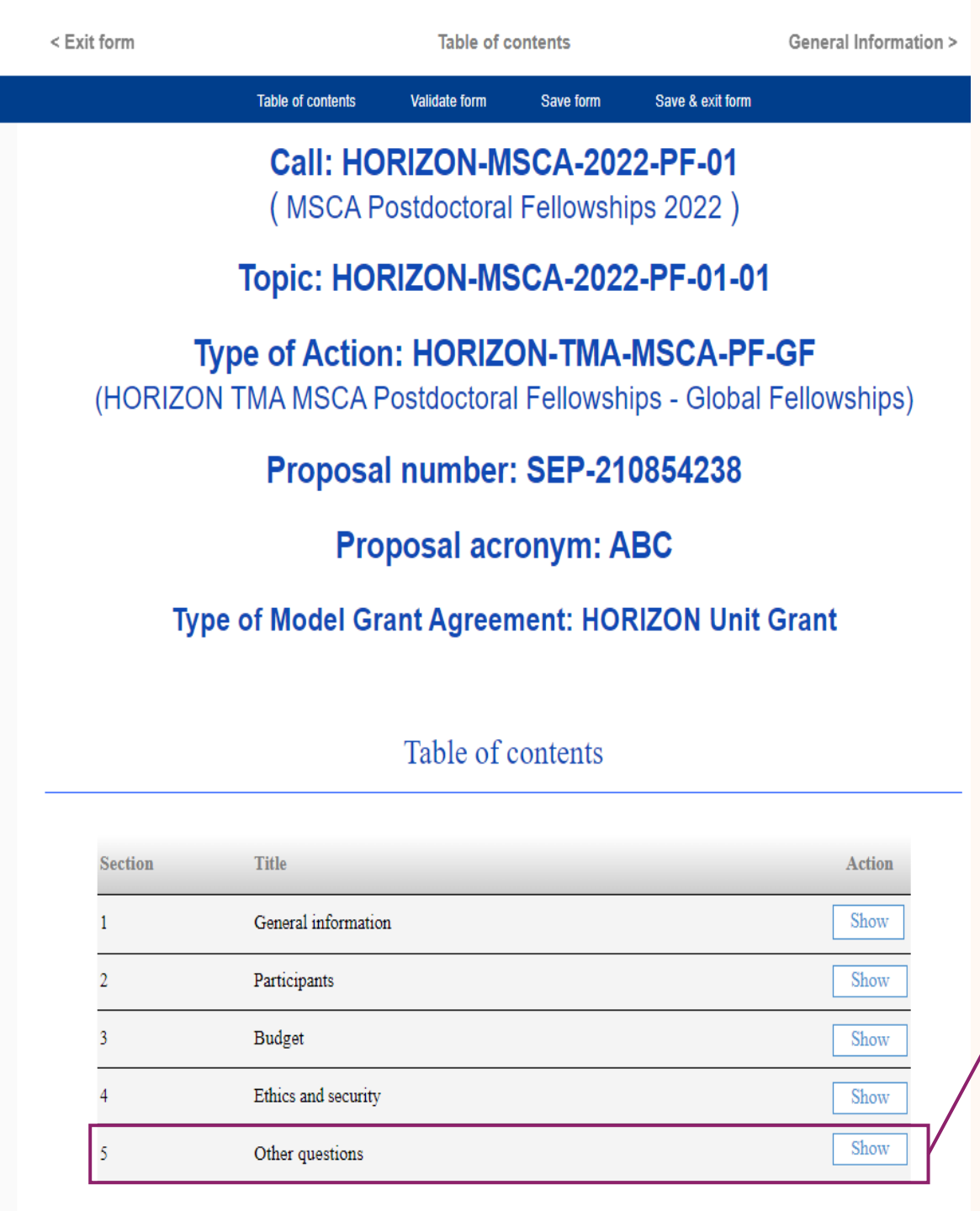
Choose one of: ☐ *Beneficiary (compulsory)* ☐ *Associated partner linked to a beneficiary (if applicable)* ☐ *Associated partner for outgoing phase (mandatory for GF only)* ☐ *Associated partner for secondment (if applicable)* ☐ *Associated partner for non-academic placement (if applicable)*	
[Full name + Legal Entity Short Name + Country]	
General description	
Role and profile of supervisor	
Key research facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment	*Demonstrate that the beneficiary has sufficient facilities and infrastructure to host and/or offer a suitable environment for training and transfer of knowledge to the recruited experienced researcher.* *If applicable, indicate the name of the associated partner linked to a beneficiary and describe the nature of the link in the corresponding table.*
Previous and current involvement in EU-funded research and training programmes/actions/projects	*Indicate up to 5 relevant EU, national or international research and training actions/projects in which the institution/department has previously participated and/or is currently participating.*

Secondments and NAP are not mandatory elements of the application. **However, if they are part of the proposal, the respective hosts should be addressed here**.

How to encode secondments

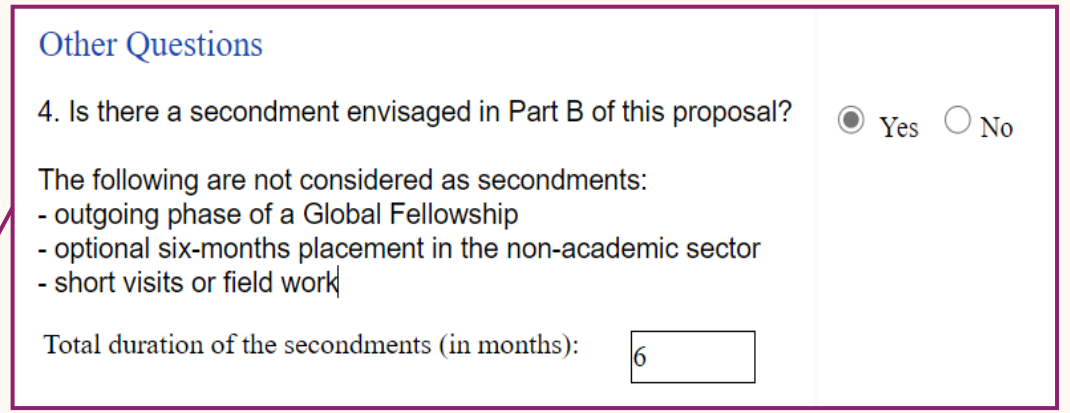
Do not encode it as an Associated Partner (section 1 – Participants)

- ✓ **Describe secondments in the narrative part B-1 and add the secondment host(s) in the dedicated tables in part B-2**



Secondment in the application forms (**part A**):

- Go to **Section 5 "Other Questions"**
- Click "**Yes**" to **question 4**
- Add the total duration of the secondments in months



European Commission

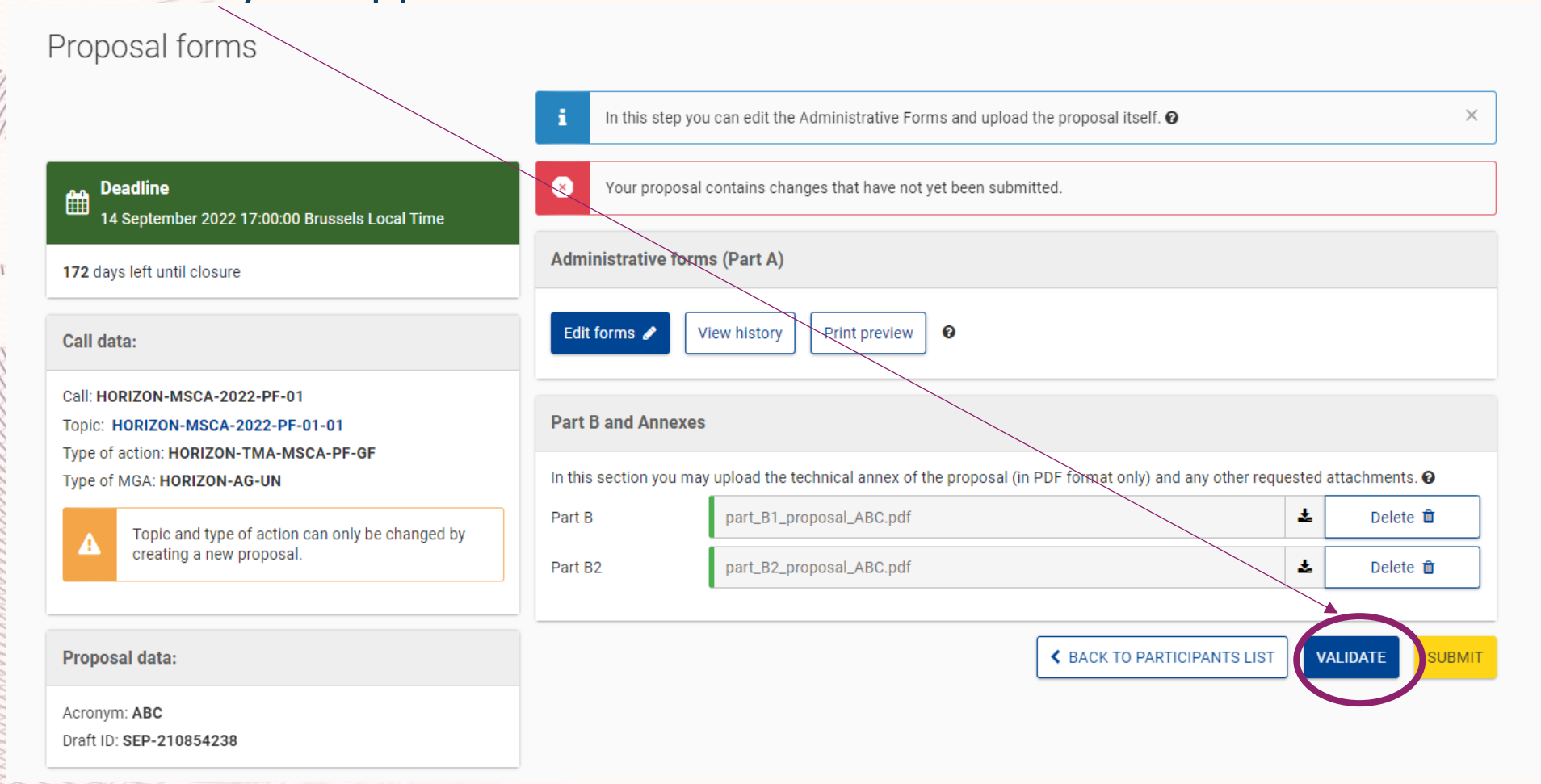
Validation errors and warnings

- Several applications submitted with **Warnings not addressed**
- Most of the **inconsistencies** identified in participating organizations, proposal duration, and budget

Warning - indicating the criterion that should be respected to have an admissible application

Blocking issue - if not solved, submission will not be possible

Once both **parts B1 and B2 are uploaded**, before submitting, please **VALIDATE** your application



After clicking on **VALIDATE**, a new screen will appear where all information provided in the forms will be available and validation errors/warnings will appear (*next slide*)

European Commission

< Exit form | Table of contents | General Information >

Table of contents | Validate form | Save form | Save & exit form

By clicking on **Validate form** all validation **error**/**warnings** will be listed

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01
(MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2022)

Topic: HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01-01

Type of Action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-PF-GF
(HORIZON TMA MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships)

Proposal number: SEP-210854238

Proposal acronym: ABC

Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Unit Grant

Table of contents

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	Show
2	Participants	Show
3	Budget	Show
4	Ethics and security	Show
5	Other questions	Show

How to fill in the forms

The form must be filled in for each proposal using the templates available in the submission system. Some data fields in the form are pre-filled based on the steps in the submission wizard.

Read more

Correct all Errors and verify all Warnings

< Other questions | Validation result | Exit form >

Table of contents | Validate form | Save form | Save & exit form

Application forms

Validation result

Show Error — The red 'Show Error' button indicates an error due to a missing or incorrect value related to the call eligibility criteria. The submission of the proposal **will be blocked** unless that specific field is corrected!

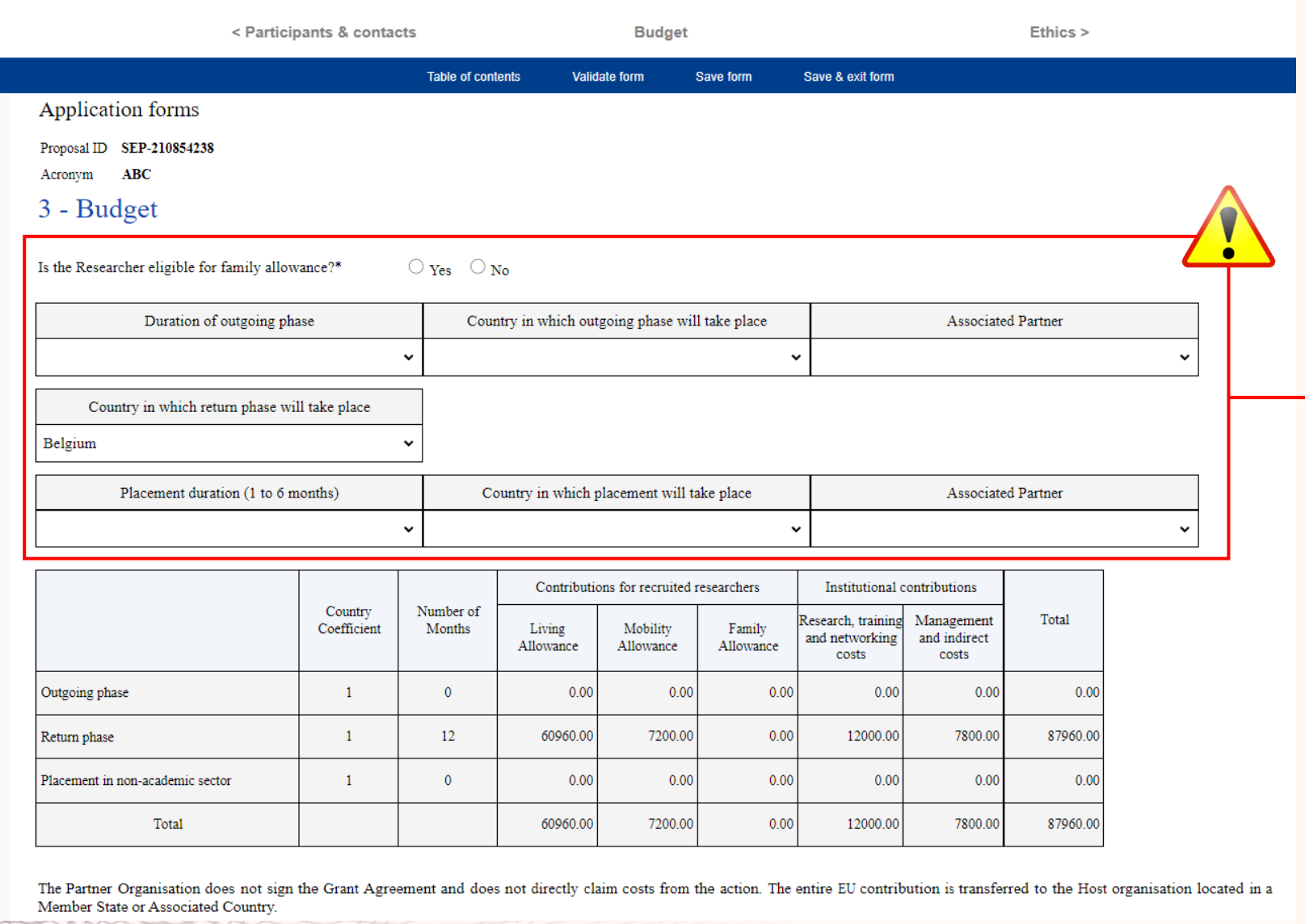
Show Warning — The yellow 'Show Warning' button indicates a warning due to a missing or incorrect value related to the call eligibility criteria. The submission of the proposal **will not be blocked** (proposal will be submitted with the missing or incorrect value).

Section	Description	
Declaration	Declaration 1 is mandatory	Show Error
Test	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
OFFICE FOR SPONSORED PROGRAMS	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
Microsoft Research & Development France	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
Budget	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
Ethics	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
Other questions	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
General Information	Similar Proposal submitted - missing entry	Show Warning
Declaration	Declaration 2 is missing	Show Warning
Declaration	Declaration 3 is missing	Show Warning
Declaration	Declaration 4 is missing	Show Warning
Declaration	Declaration 5 is missing	Show Warning

Most common errors in budget

- **Wrongly encoded nations** (TC instead of MS/HE AC for host beneficiary, NAPs in TC)
- **Wrong duration of different phases** (EF duration, GF outgoing phase, GF return phase, NAP)
- **Wrong budgets** (directly related to wrong durations)
- **Wrong Country Coefficient** (directly related to wrong nation encoding)
- **Secondments/short visits added as Associated Partners** generated an extra budget

Pay **particular attention** to the **Budget Table** and the information reported therein



< Participants & contacts | Budget | Ethics >

Table of contents | Validate form | Save form | Save & exit form

Application forms

Proposal ID **SEP-210854238**

Acronym **ABC**

3 - Budget

Is the Researcher eligible for family allowance?* ○ Yes ○ No

Duration of outgoing phase	Country in which outgoing phase will take place	Associated Partner

Country in which return phase will take place
Belgium

Placement duration (1 to 6 months)	Country in which placement will take place	Associated Partner

	Country Coefficient	Number of Months	Contributions for recruited researchers			Institutional contributions		Total
			Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
Outgoing phase	1	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Return phase	1	12	60960.00	7200.00	0.00	12000.00	7800.00	87960.00
Placement in non-academic sector	1	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total			60960.00	7200.00	0.00	12000.00	7800.00	87960.00

The Partner Organisation does not sign the Grant Agreement and does not directly claim costs from the action. The entire EU contribution is transferred to the Host organisation located in a Member State or Associated Country.

Please fill in **all the fields** with the correct information.

If not, this will be reflected on a wrong budget as listed in the table below

Verify that the information encoded in the budget table **corresponds** to the intended application.

Refer to next slide for an example of correctly filled budget table.

European Commission

< Participants & contacts | Budget | Ethics >

Table of contents | Validate form | Save form | Save & exit form

Application forms

Proposal ID **SEP-210854238**

Acronym **ABC**

3 - Budget

Is the Researcher eligible for family allowance?* (•) Yes ( ) No

Correct family status

Duration of outgoing phase	Country in which outgoing phase will take place	Associated Partner
24	United States	OFFICE FOR SPONSORED PROGRAMS

This should be a **TC**

Country in which return phase will take place
Belgium

This should be a **MS/HE AC**

Placement duration (1 to 6 months)	Country in which placement will take place	Associated Partner
4	France	Microsoft Research & Development France

This should be a **MS/HE AC**

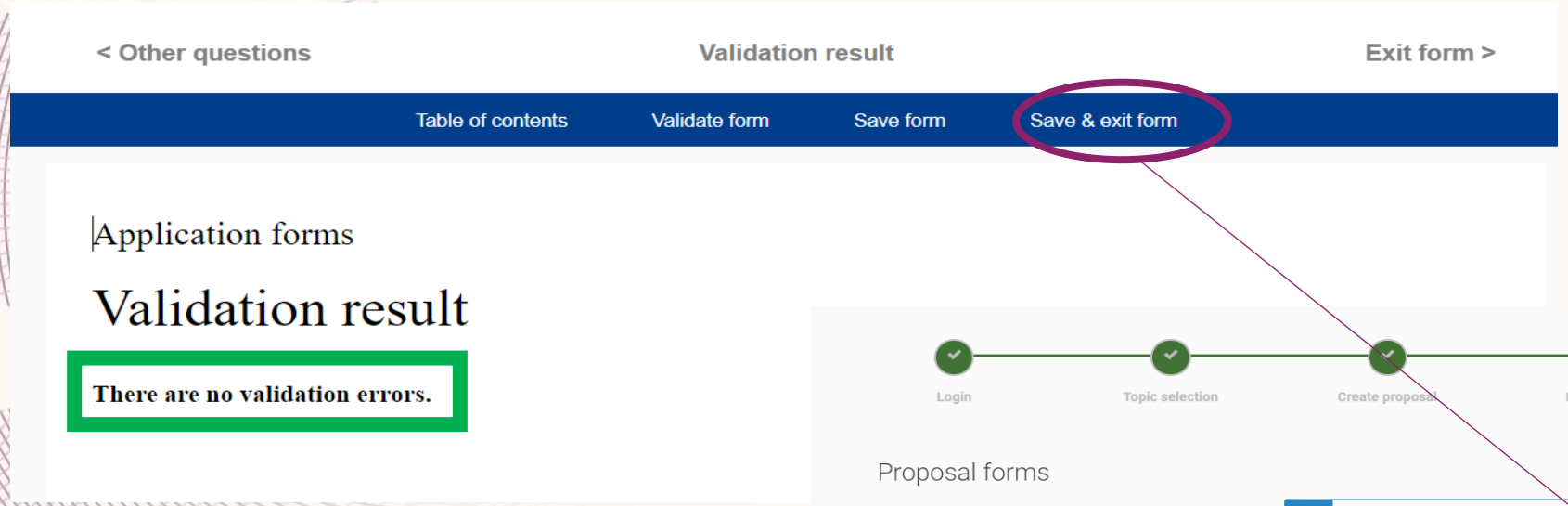
	Country Coefficient	Number of Months	Contributions for recruited researchers			Institutional contributions		Total
			Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
Outgoing phase	1.023	24	124724.15	14400.00	15840.00	24000.00	15600.00	194564.15
Return phase	1	12	60960.00	7200.00	7920.00	12000.00	7800.00	95880.00
Placement in non-academic sector	1	4	20320.00	2400.00	2640.00	4000.00	2600.00	31960.00
Total			206004.15	24000.00	26400.00	40000.00	26000.00	322404.15

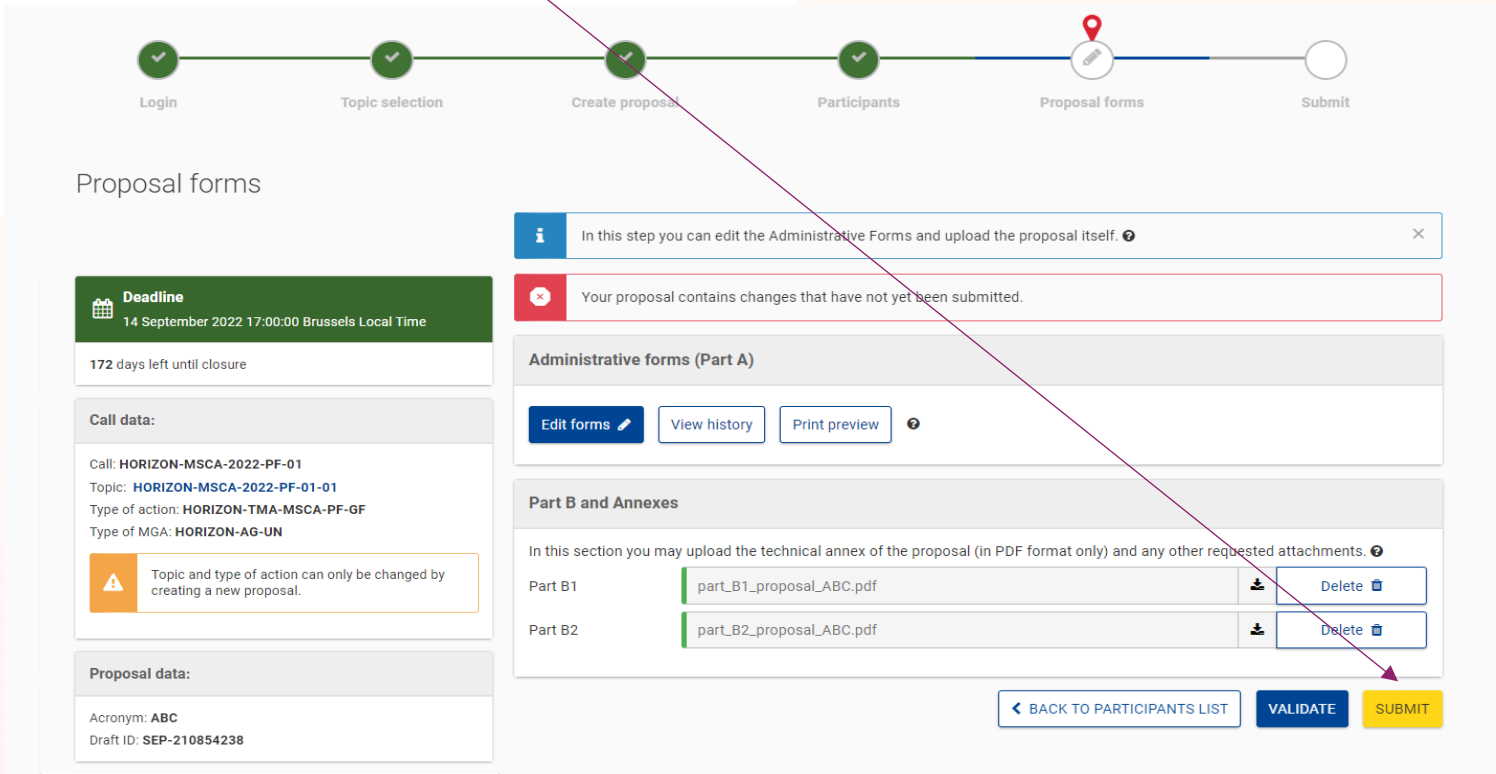
Correct number of months

The Partner Organisation does not sign the Grant Agreement and does not directly claim costs from the action. The entire EU contribution is transferred to the Host organisation located in a Member State or Associated Country.

European Commission

Once there are **no Validation errors/warnings**, you can **save and exit** and prepare for submission





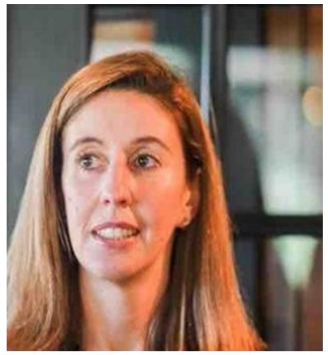
National Delegates / National Contact Points

Rui Munhá (FCT)
rui.munha@fct.pt
(+351) 213 911 538

ERC & Widening

David Marçal (FCT)
david.marcal@fct.pt
(+351) 213 924 350

MSCA
ERC & Widening



Marta Abrantes (FCT)
marta.abrantes@fct.pt
(+351) 213 911 596

Research Infrastructures

Daniel Carapau (FCT)
daniel.carapau@fct.pt
(+351) 213 911 514

Research Infrastructures

Thank you!