

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



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the world*





MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026

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European Research Executive Agency (REA)

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Agenda

- Overview of the MSCA Programme & MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)
- Key aspects of the PF 2026 call
- Proposal preparation & submission
- Evaluation process
- Poland in MSCA-PF

The MSCA in Horizon Europe

Doctoral Networks

Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Nights)

Total indicative budget 2021-2027: €6.6 billion

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Objective

“Enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD, wishing to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility”

MSCA-PF 2026

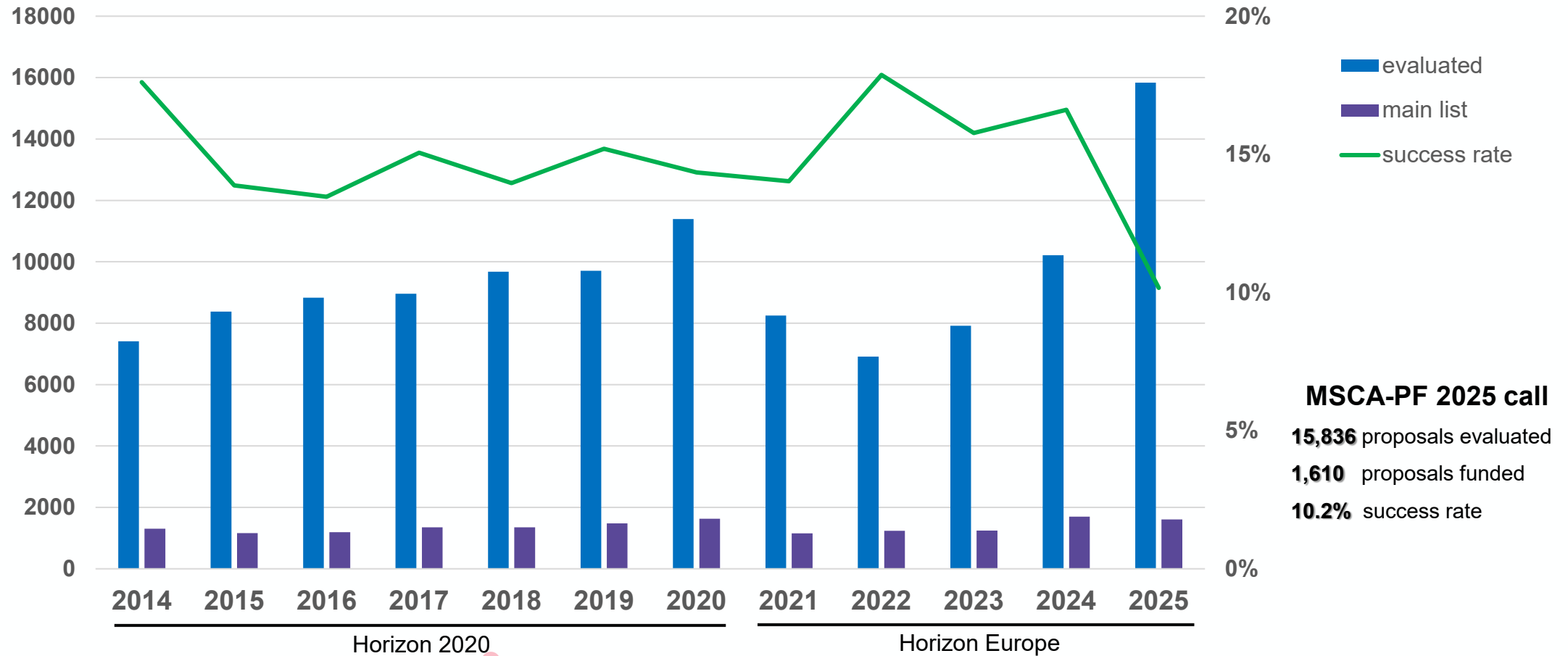
Provisional Budget: EUR 399.05 million (to be confirmed)

- EUR 339.19 million - European Fellowships
- EUR 59.86 million - Global Fellowships

Call opening date: 9 April 2026

Call deadline: 9 September 2026

A very popular programme



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

One beneficiary (Mono-beneficiary)

- EU MS or Horizon Europe-Associated Country

One researcher

- Post-Doc
- Max. 8 years following PhD award date

Open to all research domains, including Euratom

Two Types:

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

European Fellowships – EF

Researcher (PhD)

any nationality

Single period

Beneficiary

in EU Member State or HE Associated Country

12-24 months duration

(including optional secondments)



Global Fellowships- GF

Researcher (PhD)

National or long-term resident of an EU Member State or HE Associated Country

Two periods:

- **Outgoing phase**
in Third country, 12-24 months
- **Return phase:**
in EU Member State or HE Associated Country, 12 months



Beneficiary

in EU Member State or HE Associated Country

24-36 months duration

(including optional secondments)

+ Optional non-academic placement (NAP), up to 6 months

Eligibility Criteria

Postdoctoral Researchers only

- Must be “*in possession of a doctoral degree*” before call deadline
- If the degree is not awarded yet, must have had a successful, “*unconditional*” defence before call deadline

Max. 8 years postdoctoral research experience

- Measured from date of PhD award (time outside research not counted)

Researcher Mobility

- Must not have resided or carried out their main activity in country of the beneficiary (EF) or of the host for the outgoing phase (GF) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline
- For GF, must be National or long-term resident of EU Member States or HE Associated Country

Example 1

European Fellowship

Polish national researcher awarded a PhD in 2022 in Germany;

Still residing in Germany;

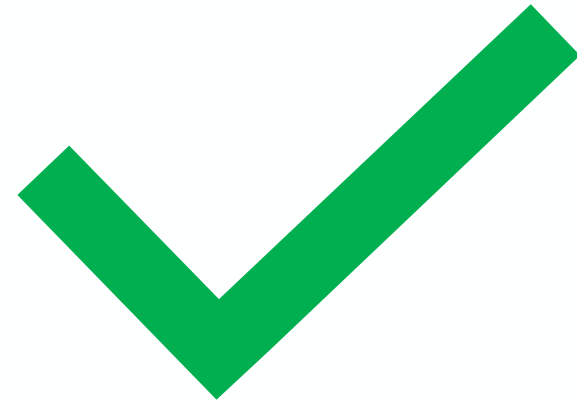
Applies for a European Fellowship together with a host institution in Poland.

ELIGIBLE?

Awarded a PhD before the Call deadline;

Less than 8 years experience in research since award of PhD;

Has not resided in Poland for more than 12 months in previous 3 years.



Example 2

Global Fellowship

Indian researcher living in Italy for the previous 3 years (up to the call deadline);

PhD in 2022;

Beneficiary (return phase host) in Poland, and outgoing phase in the USA.

ELIGIBLE?

Awarded a PhD before the call deadline.

Less than 8 years work in research since award of PhD

Less than 12 months in the USA in the 3 years prior the call deadline;

...but “long-term resident” in EU/AC?



Secondments & Non-Academic Placements

Do not confuse:

- Secondment
- Non-Academic Placement (NAP)
- Short visits (e.g. field work)

Allowed within the same proposal

Use the correct terminology in the proposal!



Secondments (Optional)

- **Any country worldwide**
- **Any sector** (academic and non-academic)
- **Duration:**
 - **European Fellowships:**
 - Up to 1/2 of the standard project duration
 - **Global Fellowships:**
 - Up to 1/2 of the outgoing phase
 - Max. three months can take place at the beneficiary, at the start of the project
 - No secondments during the return phase of a GF

updated

updated

Non-Academic Placements - NAP (Optional)

- Must be implemented in the **non-academic sector***
- Must take place **after** the standard duration of the fellowship
- **Additional budget** for the NAP, to be encoded in Part A
- Must take place in **MS or HE Associated Country**
- **Maximum 6 months duration**

* Definitions of the academic and non-academic sectors are given page 68: *Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027*

Some Examples

European Fellowship

Months	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
WP1																														
WP2																														
WP3																														
Secondments																														
NAP																														

Optional NAP, 6 M max, must be located in MS or AS

Global Fellowship



Months	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																																				
WP2																																				
WP3																																				
....																																				
Secondments																																				

Optional NAP
6M max
MS/AC

Optional, max. 3 months at the start of project at the beneficiary

Optional, anywhere in the world

Budget

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	Contributions for the recruited researcher					Institutional unit contributions	
	Per person-month					Per person-month	
	Living Allowance updated	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
2026	€6,350*	€710	€660	€7,060 x % covered by beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	€1,000	€650

*Living Allowance corrected by a country correction coefficient
Figures are gross amount

Details available in [WP2026-2027](#)

Proposal Preparation

Updated [Template](#) for the **2026 MSCA-PF call** is available in the Funding & Tenders portal!

[MSCA-PF 2026 Call page](#)

Call Deadline: 9 Sept 2026

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 ▾

⚠ Proposal Submission System will be unavailable on **Monday 22th from 17:30 to 20:00 (CET)**, while system maintenance is being performed. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

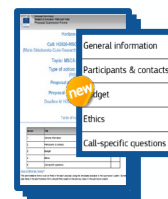
Find calls for proposals and tenders

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

🔍 Search

Part A
(Application Forms)

Part B
(Technical Description - PDF)



Part A - Application Forms

- **Acronym** and **Title** for the project
- **Scientific Area** (i.e. 1 Panel out of the 8 proposed) - “best fit” for the evaluation of your proposal
- 3 to 5 “**Descriptors**” (keywords) which best characterise the content of the proposal, in descending order of relevance
 - First 3 descriptors linked to the panel you select, others unrestricted
- **Free keywords**
- **Abstract**: maximum 2,000 characters
- **Resubmission** of a proposal must be declared

Part A - Application Forms

- **Beneficiary Information**

→ Including validated Participant Information Code (PIC) and **supervisor**

- For **Global Fellowships: Outgoing phase host information**

→ Budget to be added in budget table

- Proposals with **NAP: NAP host information**

→ NAP budget to be added in budget table



Secondment hosts (if applicable) must **not** be included in Part A

- **Researcher Information**, including:

- PhD award date (or date of successful defence)*
- Countries of residence for the last 5 years up until the call deadline

* If PhD awarded for more than 8 years before the call deadline: fill in the table for extensions for the time spent outside research & reflect that in the CV - please see the MSCA PF 2026 Guide for Applicants for detailed information

Part B - PDF

core of the proposal

Part B of the Proposal consists of *two documents* (**Part B1** and **Part B2**), to be uploaded as separate PDF files. Ensure the correct document is uploaded in the correct space.

Part B1

- Technical description of the scientific work
- **Strict limit of 10 pages** (excess pages will not be visible to evaluators)
- **Minimum font size 11 points**, with standard spacing and a minimum of single line spacing. This applies to body text, including any text in tables
- Use the **Part B template** available on the MSCA-PF Call page and structure your proposal accordingly

Part B - PDF

core of the proposal

Part B2 (no formal page limit, but follow recommendations in the template)

- CV of the Researcher (ca. 5 pages)
- Capacity of the Participating Organisations (Sections 5.1 and 5.2)
(max 1 page per organisation)
- Letter of Commitment (for Global Fellowships): from the future outgoing host organisation in the third country, in support of the researcher and the proposed project
- Refer to the **Part B template** on the MSCA-PF 2026 call page for full information

common errors in proposals



- Missing the Call deadline
- Submitting under a wrong type of action (GF vs EF)
- Not respecting eligibility requirements (e.g. PhD, mobility or max 8 years research experience)
- Missing Letter of Commitment (Global Fellowships)
- Confusing Secondments and Non-Academic Placements
- Requesting an ineligible Non-Academic Placement or secondment
- **Non-compliance to minimum font required and other formatting conditions**
- **Exceeding the page limit for the part B1**

ERA Fellowships 2026 call

One single evaluation under MSCA-PF call: Applicants **significantly increase their opportunities to be funded.**

Proposals are eligible for European Research Area (ERA) Fellowships funding if:

- submitted by a host from '[Widening](#)' country & open to researchers of any nationality
- admissible & eligible for MSCA-PF European Fellowships (EF)*
- agreed to be considered for ERA Fellowships call → one simple agreement (tick box)
- not reached adequate place in ranking under PF call

Overall Indicative Budget: EUR 8 million

[ERA Fellowships - European Commission](#)

[Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area Work Programme 2026-2027](#)

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

MSCA - EURATOM Research and Training

To enhance nuclear expertise and excellence as well as synergies between Programmes, organisations active in nuclear research established in one of EU Member States or countries associated to the [Euratom Research and Training programme 2026-2027](#), are eligible to participate.

- Applicants must comply with all conditions defined in the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships calls set in the Work Programme.
- Specific eligibility conditions that apply to MSCA postdoctoral fellowships in the research areas covered by the Euratom Research.

Indicative budget for 2026: EUR 0.8 million

How to apply? Tick box in the Application Form

MSCA-PF Evaluation Process

Large-Scale Evaluation

Due to large number of proposals

Standard Peer-Review

≥ 3 experts per proposal

Bottom-up Programme

Proposals and Experts from all disciplines

Expert Balance

of experience, nationality, gender, age, sector, etc.

8 Scientific Panels

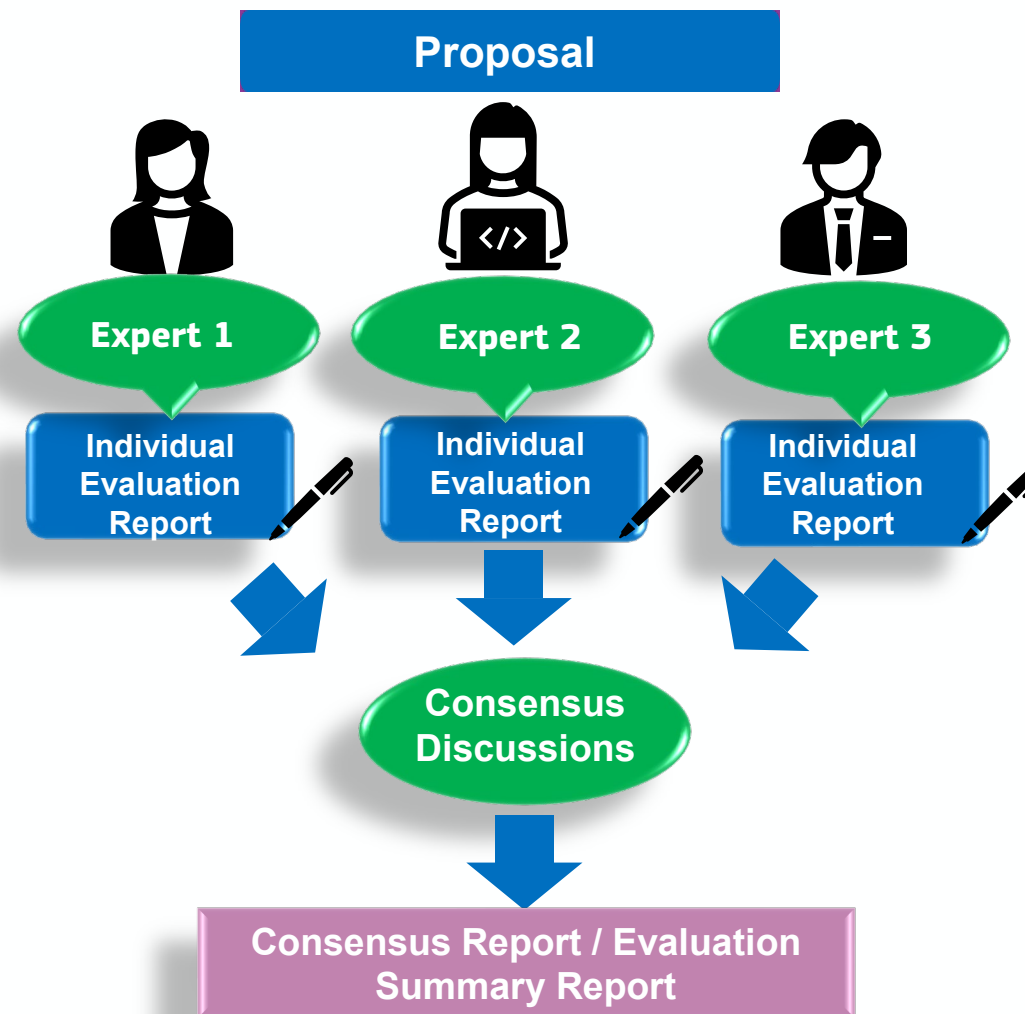
CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC

Single-Stage Evaluation

MSCA-PF Evaluation Process

ALLOCATION OF PROPOSALS TO EXPERTS

based on the scientific field of the proposal (including the *DESCRIPTORS* and *KEYWORDS* provided by the Applicant)



Evaluation and 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 their 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 <i>interdisciplinary</i> approaches, consideration of the <i>gender</i> dimension and other <i>diversity</i> aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of <i>open science</i> 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%

Proposal Ranking

Proposals are ranked - and funding allocated

- by Scientific Panel, and
- by type of Fellowship (*European and Global Fellowships*)

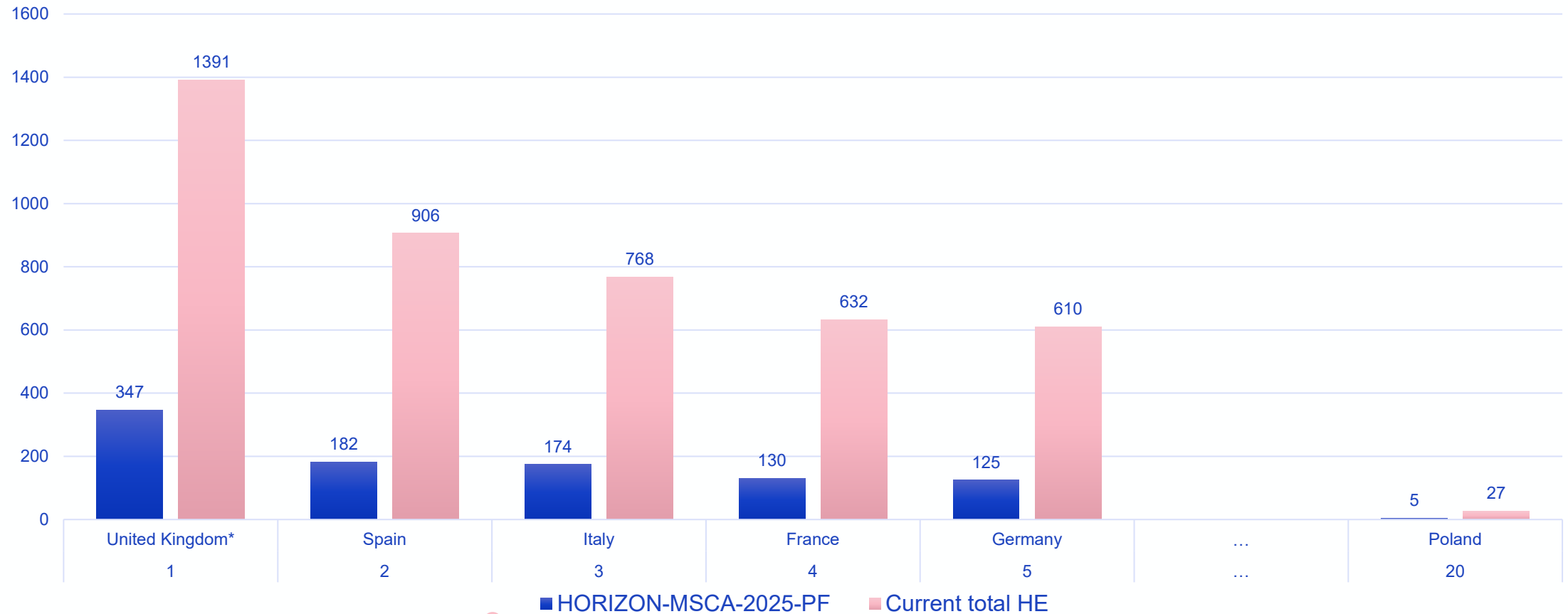
Seal of Excellence: awarded to proposals which score $\geq 85\%$

Resubmission restriction for proposals with same researcher + same host(s) scoring $\leq 80\%$ in the 2025 call evaluation

REA staff ensures the evaluation process rules are respected
Independent observer scrutinises the entire evaluation

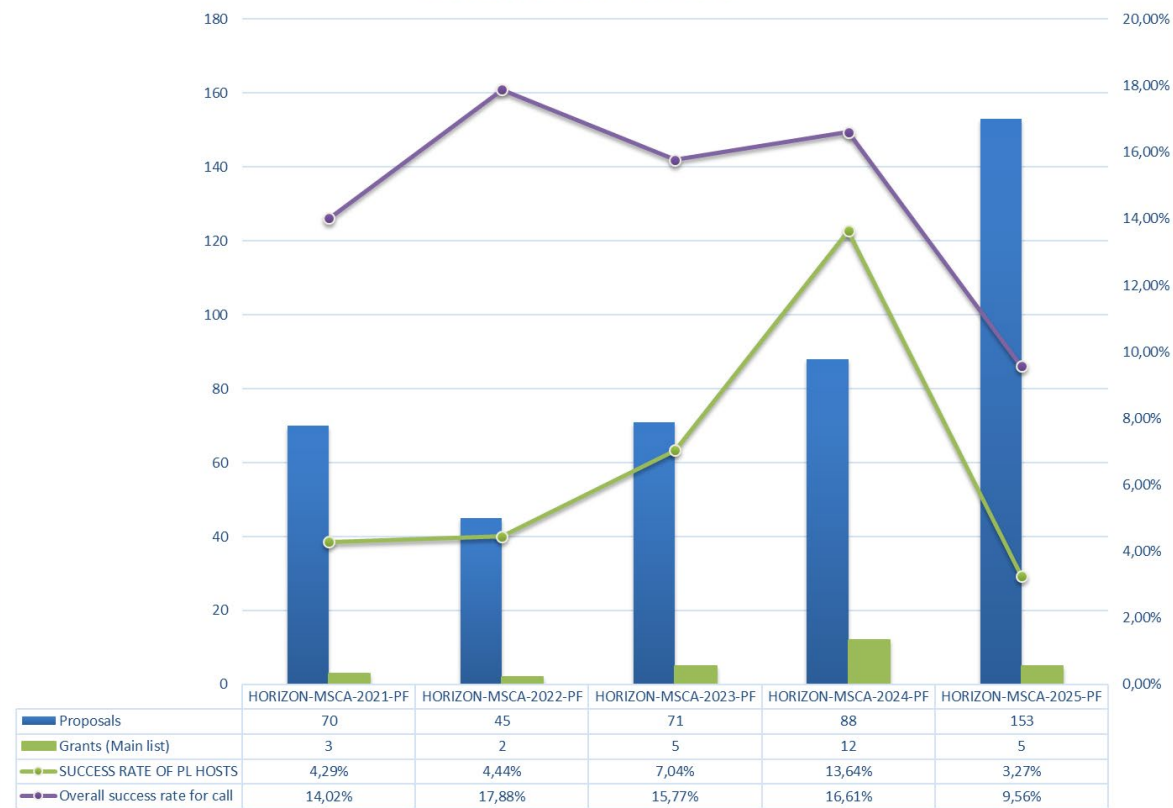
Some data on Poland in MSCA-PF

MSCA top countries & PL position



Success rates - Poland

SUCCESS RATE OF PL HOSTS



SUCCESS RATE FOR PL NATIONALS



Call Planning

<i>Call Opening:</i>	09 April 2026
<i>Call Deadline:</i>	09 September 2026
<i>Evaluation period:</i>	Oct 2026 - Jan 2027
<i>Outcome made available:</i>	Feb 2027 (indicative)
<i>Project starting dates:</i>	Apr 2027 - Sept 2028

Resources and Guidance

Start here!

[Funding & Tenders Portal - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) - call page

- All relevant info, application forms, deadlines, guidance, [FAQs](#)...
- The [guide for applicants](#) is the best starting point!
- Use the [self-assessment tool](#) and **guidelines on the calculation of [8-year research experience](#) in Postdoctoral Fellowships under Horizon Europe**

[MSCA Work Programme](#)

[MSCA Website](#) and the specific [Postdoctoral Fellowships section](#)

[Standard application form \(HE MSCA PF\)](#) and [Standard evaluation form \(HE MSCA\)](#)

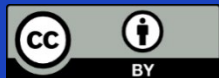
The [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#) with guidance on the specific aspects being evaluated

Additional info

Contact

[Research Enquiry Service](#) and [National Contact Points](#)

Thank you



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