MSCA Work Programme 2018-2020:

New financial support: MSCA Special needs

**What?**
Additional financial support to enable MSCA participation and mobility of disabled researchers

**Which MSCA actions are concerned?**
All MSCA actions

**Who can benefit from this allowance?**
Only eligible MSCA researchers with disabilities

**Type of grant?**
Grant awarded for the purchase of items/services

- Lump sum grant to beneficiary
- Capped at EUR 60,000/researcher

**How will it be implemented?**
As a separate grant to the beneficiary of the main MSCA grant

**From when?**
Tentatively available as of first quarter of 2019 (retroactively to all ongoing projects)

**Modification of the Country Correction Coefficient**

- Increase by 5% of the living and top-up allowances

**Optional introductory training for all MSCA fellows**

- Training on skills necessary to face the challenges of tomorrow (such as digitally-enabled open science and FAIR data management, responsible research and innovation, communication and outreach, project management).
- Information on their career as MSCA researchers (rights and obligations as fellows, EU support for innovation, possibilities for worldwide collaboration).

**More flexibility for third-country researchers through a revised long-term residency rule***:

- Only residence counts, and not research activity and residence as before.
- Periods of absence are now allowed during the 5 years of legal and continuous residence within EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries.
- Refugees, even though they are third-country citizens, do not have to comply with the long-term residency rule when applying to the Reintegration Panel.

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2018-2020 changes by MSCA action

**ITN**
1. Cover costs for short secondments (up to 6 months) of researchers in ITN with the Research, Training and Networking costs
   > Should cover at least travel and accommodation costs.

2. Revised rule on international mobility in European Industrial Doctorates (EIDs)
   > Inter-sectoral mobility between beneficiaries must be international.
   > Mobility to partner organisations is aligned with standard European Training Network (ETN) rules: limited to 30%; can be international or not.

3. European Joint Doctorates (EJDs): Researchers must take their joint degree always within Europe or with a European beneficiary

**IF**
1. IF Career Restart Panel (CAR) and Reintegration Panel (RI) are strengthened
   > Maximum duration of CAR prolonged to 36 months.
   > More budget for both panels.

2. Part-time work for IF to pursue supplementary activities, such as creating a business, advanced studies, etc.
   > Agreement between supervisor and fellow necessary.
   > Minimum working time in MSCA: ≥50%.
   > Proportional extension of project.

3. Possibility to spend time at the European beneficiary before the outgoing mobility
   > Max. 3 months (part of outgoing phase to ensure knowledge transfer when back).

**RISE**
1. Less strict eligibility criteria for secondments
   > Staff members to be linked to the sending institution **one month** before the first period of secondment.
   > More flexibility and more secondments.

**COFUND**
1. Indicate the minimum gross salary in vacancy announcements to ensure transparency

**NIGHT**
1. Possibility to organise **pre-events during spring or summer** prior to the main event in September
**Widening Fellowships**

**Context**

The results from the first years of Horizon 2020 implementation reveal the existence of a **Research & Innovation gap across Europe** and discrepancies between European countries in their ability to attract excellent researchers.

Widening countries tend to apply less, coordinate fewer projects and have a higher share of rejected proposals.

However, all Widening countries have many proposals above quality threshold and a **majority of Widening countries have excellent (very high-scoring) proposals not funded due to lack of budget.**

**What?**

**Specific support to researchers to undertake their fellowship in a Widening country.**

This will help spread excellence and widen participation within Horizon 2020.

**How will it be implemented?**

**Through the Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation part of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme** in line with the high-quality standards and benefits of the MSCA Individual Fellowships.

**Who can benefit from the Widening Fellowship?**

Researchers applying for an MSCA European Fellowship in Widening countries, be it a Standard, Society & Enterprise, Career Restart or Reintegration Fellowship. Proposals above quality threshold but not retained for funding through the MSCA Individual Fellowship call with a host institution in a Widening country will be automatically reassigned to the Widening Fellowships call (unless the applicants explicitly opted-out).

**Which countries are concerned?**

**Member States:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

**Associated Countries:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.

**Budget**

- 2018: EUR 5 million
- 2019: EUR 6 million
- 2020: EUR 7 million

**Who will implement this action?**

Research Executive Agency (REA)