



MSCA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Developing talents, advancing research



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026

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European Research Executive Agency (REA)
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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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Content

- Overview of the MSCA Programme and of the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)
- Proposal preparation and submission – Common errors
- Evaluation process
- Norway in MSCA-PF

The MSCA in Horizon Europe

Part of Pillar I : Excellence Science

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
regional, national &
international doctoral
and postdoctoral
programmes*

MSCA and Citizens

*Public outreach events
(Nights)*

Total indicative budget 2021-2027: €6.6 billion

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Objective

To 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

Budget:

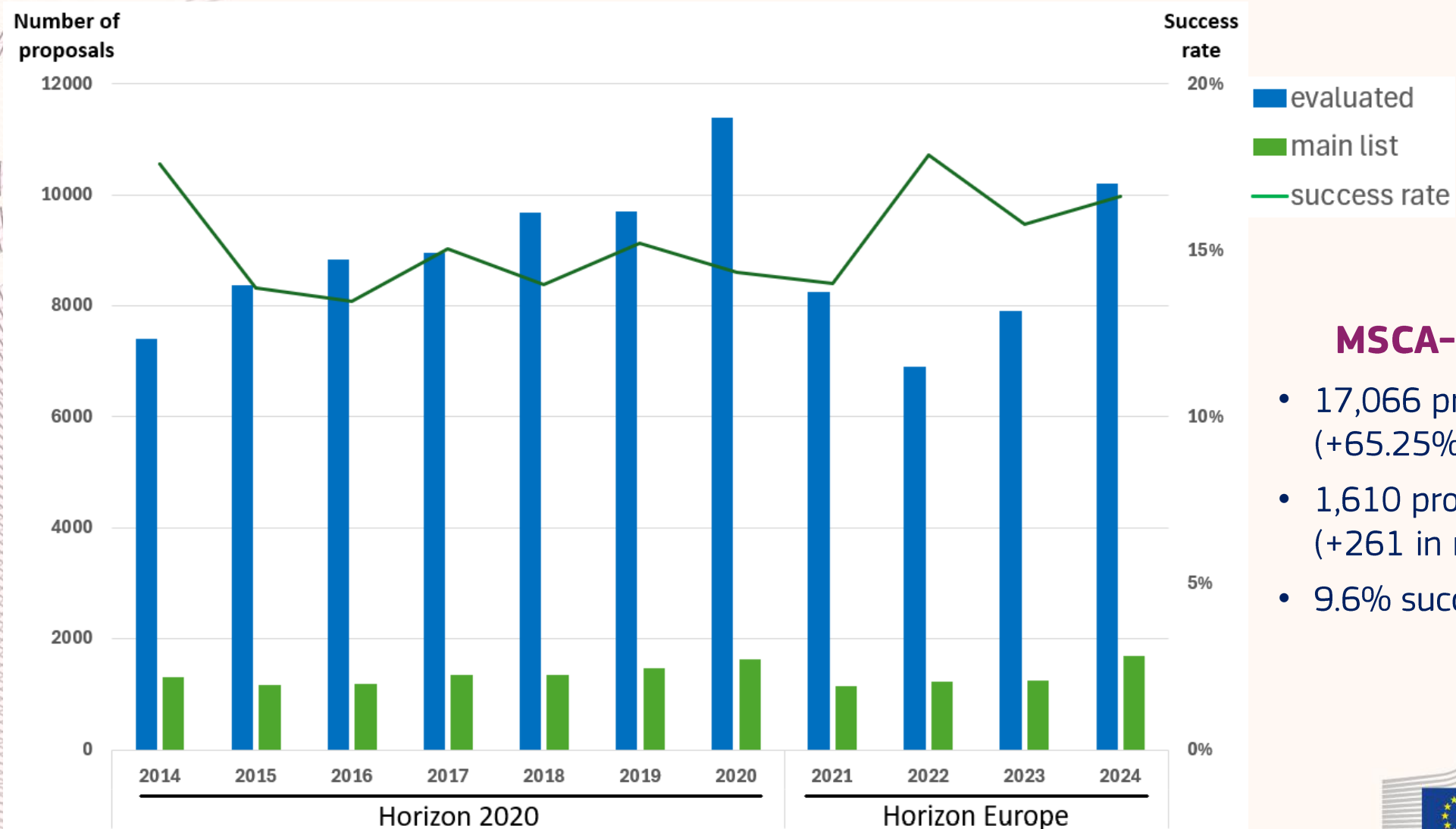
EUR 399.05 million

- EUR 339,19 million European Fellowships
- EUR 59,86 million Global Fellowships

Call opening: 9 April 2026

Call deadline: 9 September 2026

MSCA-PF: A very popular programme



MSCA-PF 2025 call

- 17,066 proposals received (+65.25% vs 2024)
- 1,610 proposals funded (+261 in reserve list)
- 9.6% success rate

MSCA-POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

European Fellowships

Researcher (PhD) - Any Nationality



Beneficiary: located in EU Member State or Associated Countries of HE

Duration: 12-24 months

Global Fellowships

Researcher (PhD) - National or long-term resident* of EU Member States or Associated Countries of HE



Outgoing phase: Third country 12 – 24 months

Return phase: 12 months mandatory at the beneficiary (EU Member State or Associated Countries)

Duration: 24-36 months

+ Optional Non-Academic Placement up to 6 months

* **Long-term resident** = a person must have legally resided in an EU MS or HE AC for an uninterrupted period of five years (Definitions of the long-term resident given at page 83 in Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027)

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

- **Mono-beneficiary (One beneficiary)**
 - Host organization in EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country*
- **One researcher**
 - Post-Doc
 - Max 8 years research experience following PhD award date
- **Bottom-up approach, open to all research domains, including Euratom.**
Euratom covers nuclear research and innovation.

HE Associated Countries (WP-13 Annex B): Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine and United Kingdom.
Egypt and Morocco have transitional arrangements.*

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF): Eligibility Criteria

Participating organisations:

- Any organisation in an EU Member State or HE Associated Country

Researchers:

- for EF: any nationality. For GF: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC
- in possession of a **doctoral degree** (or, with a successful, “unconditional” defense) prior to call deadline
- with **max 8 years FTE research experience** after PhD (with exceptions: maternity leave, paternity leave, long term sick leave, compulsory national service, work outside research, research in a non associated TC for reintegrating researchers)
- **mobility rule**: must not have resided or have had main activity in the country of the beneficiary (or Third Country host organisation for GF) more than 12 months in the 36 months before call deadline

Other admissibility and eligibility conditions -1

Resubmissions rule:

Proposals involving the **same host organisation** (and for Global PF also the same associated partner hosting the outgoing phase), and the **same individual researcher**, submitted to the previous call and received a **score of less than 80% cannot** be resubmitted.

Originality:

One proposal per researcher (last submitted is eligible), not the same proposal for multiple researchers (first submitted is eligible). Researcher and supervisor must be different.

Completeness:

Applications must be complete and contain all parts and supporting documents. The applicant must fill in the submission forms online that will become part A of the proposal and upload parts B1 and B2.

Other admissibility and eligibility conditions -2

Letter of Commitment for Outgoing host:

The associated partner for the outgoing phase must provide an up-to-date letter of commitment, to be submitted with the application, confirming their precise role and active participation in the proposal

Non-academic placement (NAP):

It must be from a non-academic sector. If the placement does not meet the requirements, the proposal will be evaluated without taking into account the non-academic placement.

Secondments & Non-Academic Placements

Both optional but Secondment \neq Non-Academic Placement (NAP)



Secondments:

- Any country worldwide, any sector (academic & non-academic)
- For EF: **NEW in 2026: up to half** of total project duration
- For GF: **new in 2016: up to half** of outgoing phase, only during the outgoing phase, a max 3 months can be spent at the start of the project at the beneficiary premises which will be considered as part of the outgoing phase.
- Can be a single period or be divided into several shorter periods.
- Must be described in the proposal, Gantt chart
- Secondment institution as *Associated Partner in Grant Agreement* with secondment Supervisor
- No additional budget

Secondments & Non-Academic Placements

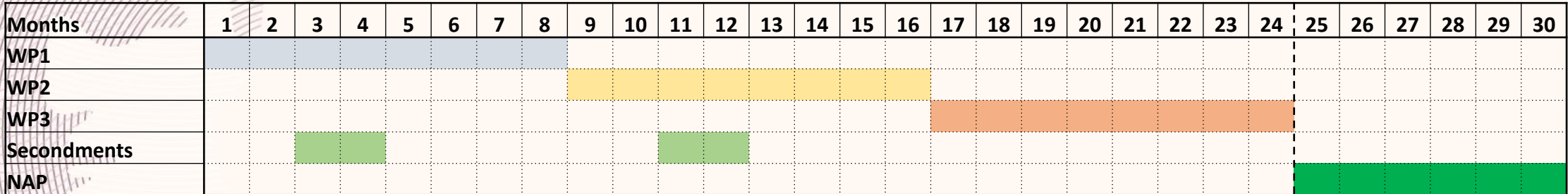
Non-Academic Placements (NAP):

- Additional placement only in a non-academic sector, only in an EU MS or HE AC
- Maximum 6 months
- Takes place **only after the standard duration of the fellowship**
- Must be described in the proposal, Gantt chart
- NAP institution as Associated Partner in Grant Agreement, with NAP Supervisor
- Contract of employment offered by Beneficiary must cover the NAP duration
- **Additional budget**, to be encoded in Part A of the proposal.
- If not requested in the proposal, cannot be added later.

A mix of secondment, NAP is allowed within a proposal. Respect correct terminology

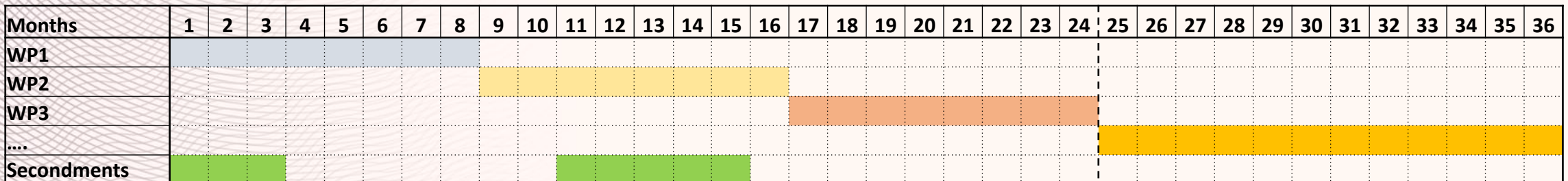
Gantt chart examples

European Fellowship



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

Global Fellowship



↓
Secondment: optional, max. 3
months at the start of project at
the beneficiary

↓
Secondment(s)
optional,
anywhere in
the world

NAP
optional
6M max
MS/AC

Budget PF-2026 Unit Contributions

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	Contributions for the recruited researcher					Institutional unit contributions	
	Per person-month					Per person month	
	Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
	€6,350*	€710	€660	€7,600 x % covered by beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	€1,000	€650

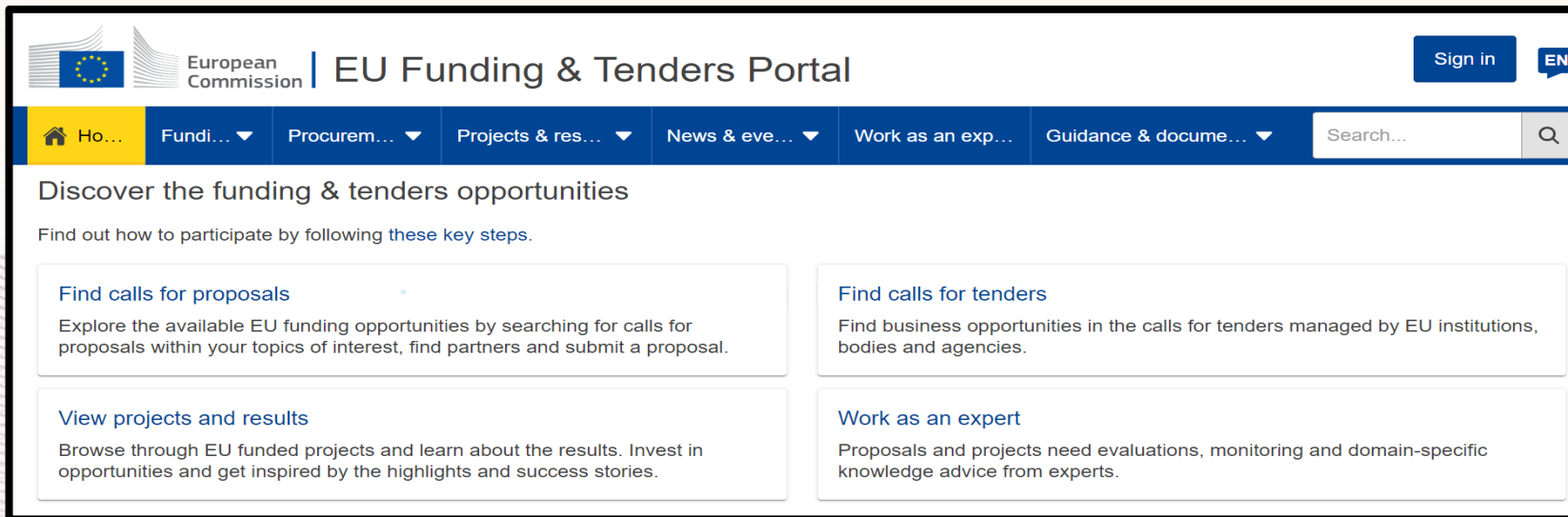
*Living Allowance (a gross amount) corrected by a country correction coefficient (NO = 135.6%).
The country correction coefficients are listed in Table 1 of the Work Programme

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Submitting a Proposal

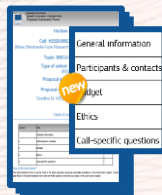
- All calls are published on the Funding and Tender Portal
- Applications are submitted through the portal:



The screenshot shows the homepage of the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. At the top, there is the European Commission logo and the text 'EU Funding & Tenders Portal'. A navigation bar contains links for 'Home', 'Funding', 'Procurement', 'Projects & results', 'News & events', 'Work as an expert', and 'Guidance & documents', along with a search bar. Below the navigation bar, the main heading is 'Discover the funding & tenders opportunities'. A sub-heading reads 'Find out how to participate by following these key steps.' There are four main content boxes: 'Find calls for proposals' (exploring EU funding opportunities), 'Find calls for tenders' (finding business opportunities), 'View projects and results' (browsing EU funded projects), and 'Work as an expert' (proposals and projects need evaluations).

Part A (Application Form)

Part B (Technical Description – PDF)



Call Deadline: 9 Sept 2026

Part A (Application Form)

- **One Acronym** and **One Title** for the project
- Select the **Scientific Area** which is the “best fit” for the evaluation of your proposal (i.e. 1 Panel out of the 8 proposed)
- Up to 5 MSCA **Descriptors** (=keywords) which best characterise the content of the proposal, in descending order of relevance:
 - **First 3 descriptors are mandatory** and are linked to selected panel, other descriptors can come from other panel(s)
 - **Free keywords** (optional; if needed or applicable to your proposal)
- Abstract: **maximum 2,000 characters**
- **Resubmission** of a proposal must be declared.

Part A (Application Form)

- **Beneficiary Information** including Participant Information Code (PIC), supervisor, etc.
- **If Global Fellowship: Outgoing host Information** (in addition to Beneficiary Information)
- **If NAP: Non-Academic Placement host Information**
 - NAP budget to be added in the budget table
- **If Secondment:** The secondment host must not be included in Part A
- **Researcher Information**, including:
 - PhD award date (or date of successful defence)
 - If PhD more than 8 years before the call deadline, please complete table for extensions for the time spent outside research*
 - Countries of residence during the last 5 years up until the call deadline

* Explanation given in the *MSCA PF 2026 Guide for Applicant*

Part A (Application Form)

- Add info on publications, research projects and infrastructure
- **Gender Equality Plan:** for all public bodies, higher education institutions, and research organisations
- **Ethics Self-Assessment:** guidance is available [online](#)

Proposal Part B (Technical Description)

Part B of the Proposal is comprised of *two documents*: **Part B1** and **Part B2**; to be uploaded as separate PDF files

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, including texts in tables

Proposal Part B (Technical Description)

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

- CV of the Researcher (indicative length: 5 pages)
- **Capacity of the Participating Organisations (Section 5.1 and 5.2)**
 - Beneficiary, Outgoing phase host for GF (if GF), organisation for NAP (if NAP), organisation for Secondment (if secondment), organisation linked to the beneficiary (if applicable)
- Letter of Commitment for the outgoing phase of the Global Fellowship

Common errors in proposals

- Missing the Call deadline
- Not respecting eligibility requirements (e.g. PhD or max 8 years research experience)
- Exceeding the page limit for the part B1
- Missing Letter of Commitment for Global Fellowships
- Confusing Secondments and Non-Academic Placements
- Requesting an ineligible Non-Academic Placement (they are disregarded)
- Using a smaller-than-allowed font. This cause issues in evaluation. It is critical to follow the instructions of the guide and available templates

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The MSCA-PF Evaluation

Large-Scale Evaluation

Due to large number of proposals

Standard Peer-Review

≥ 3 experts per proposal

Expert Balance

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

8 Scientific Panels

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

Single-Stage Evaluation

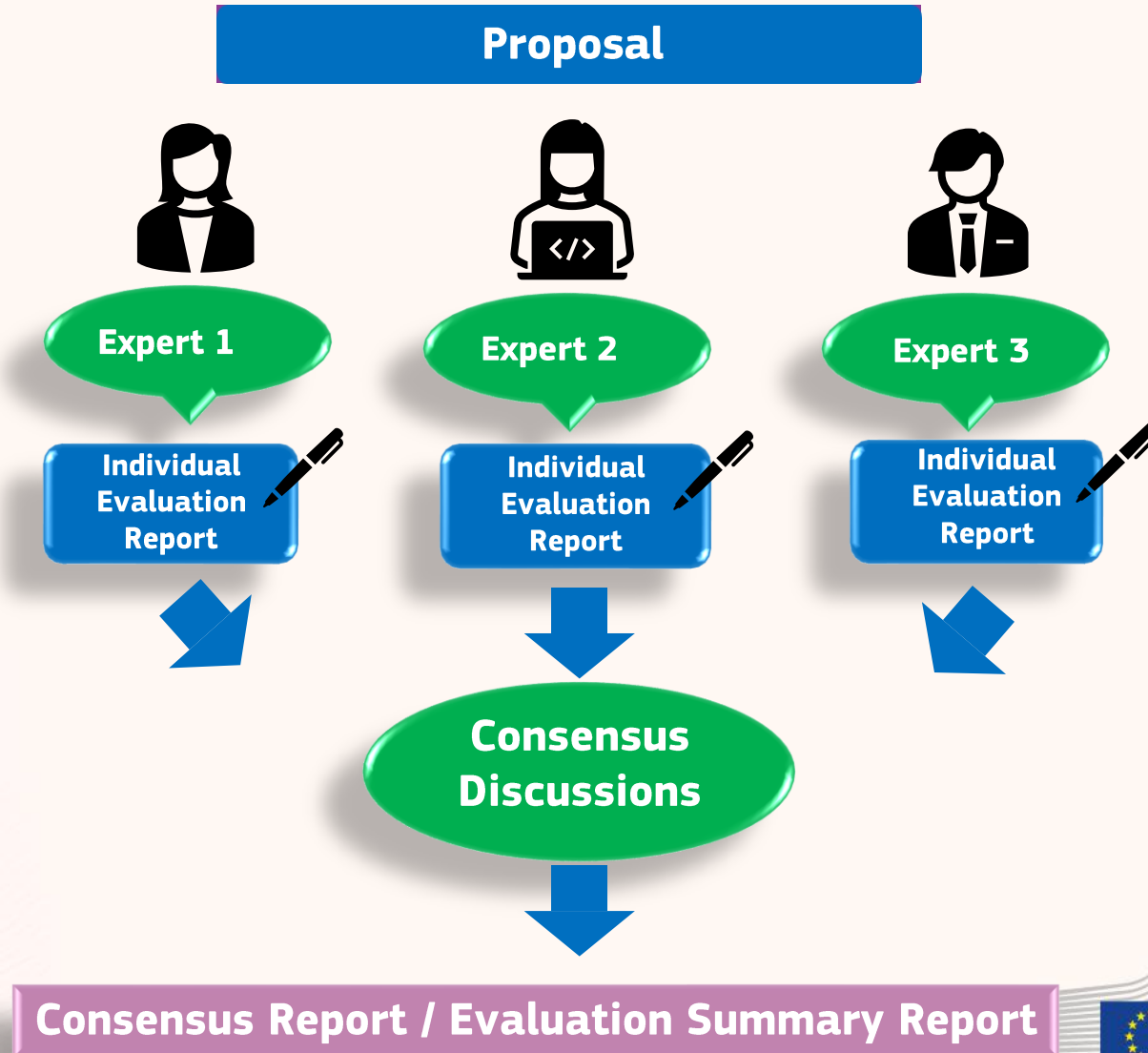
**From Call deadline to funding decision:
5 months (+3 months to GA signature)**

Evaluation Process Overview

ALLOCATION OF PROPOSALS TO EXPERTS

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

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



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 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 <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 ranked – and funding allocated
 - **by Scientific Panel, and**
 - **by type of Fellowship** (*European and Global Fellowships*)
- ***Seal of Excellence:***



- For proposals scoring $\geq 85\%$ which could not be funded because of budget limits
- through the proposal page on the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal

MSCA-PF: EURATOM Research and Training

Objective: 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, are eligible to participate.

- Applicants must comply with all conditions defined in the MSCA PF calls set in the Work Programme. **No separate application or evaluation** – integral part of the MSCA PF call application form (tick box in Part A of the proposal).
- Specific eligibility conditions of the [EURATOM Work Programme](#) apply to MSCA postdoctoral fellowships in the research areas covered by the Euratom Research:
 - beneficiary: legal entity established in an EU Member State or Euratom AC
 - Researcher: nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or a Euratom AC
- **Indicative budget: EUR 1 million**
- The Council decided to extend the Euratom Research and Training Programme for 2026-2027: [Council Decision](#)

ERA FELLOWSHIPS (Widening activities)

- **Objective:** To provide specific support to researchers to undertake their fellowship in a widening country*
- **Reserved to EU Member States and AC 'widening' countries** with lower R&I performance.
- This action builds on the MSCA PF. **No separate application or evaluation** – integral part of the MSCA PF call application form
- Applicants, significantly increase their opportunities to be funded
- **Budget: EUR 8 million** only for European Fellowships

* Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and all Associated Countries with equivalent characteristics in terms of R&I performance as well as the Outermost Regions.

MSCA-PF-2026 Call Planning

Call Opening:

9 April 2026

Call Deadline:

9 September 2026 at 17:00 Brussels time

Evaluation period:

Oct 2026 – Jan 2027

Notification of Applicants:

Feb 2027

Project starting dates:

April 2027 - Sept 2028

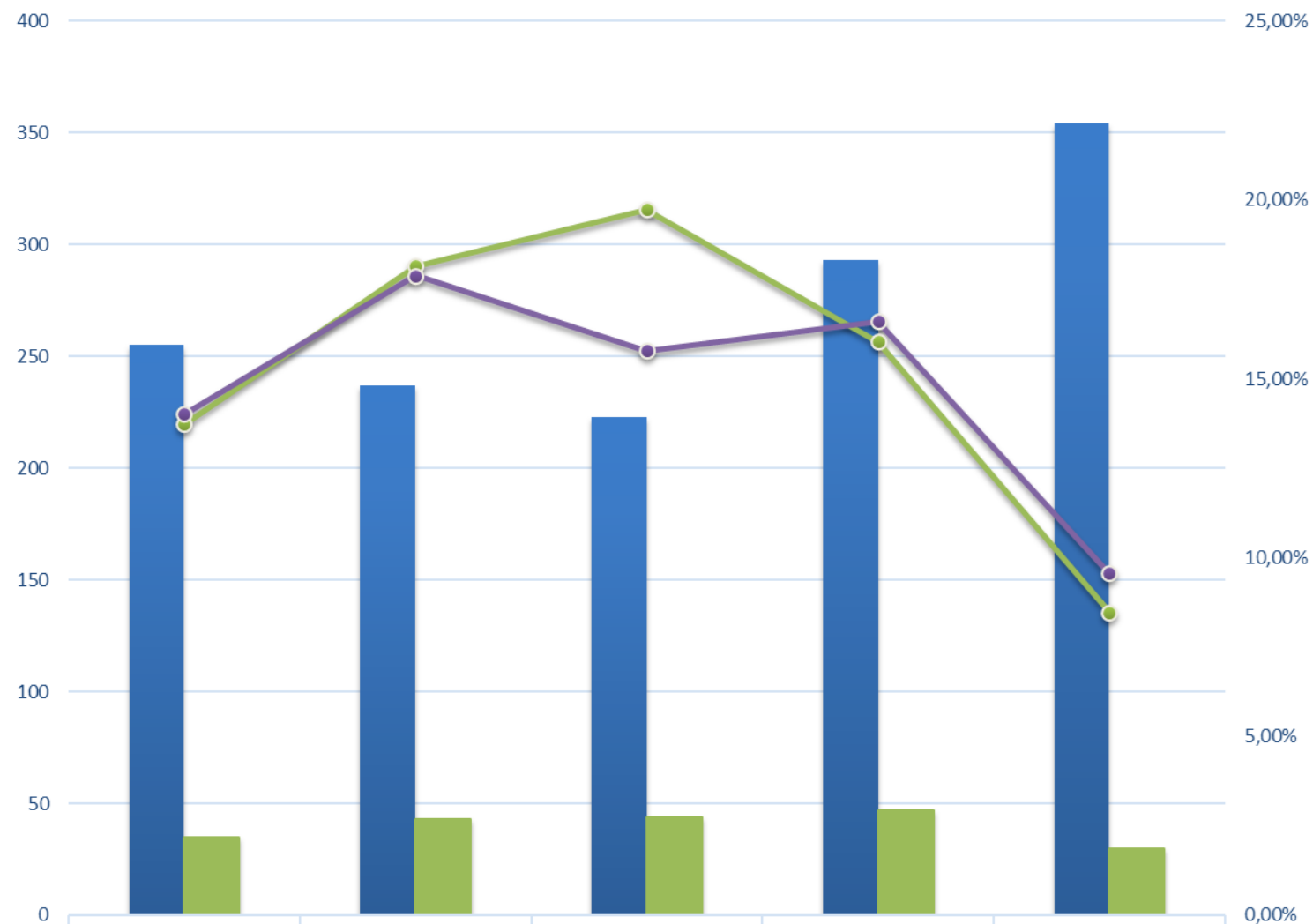
Resources and Guidance

- [MSCA PF 2026 - Call page on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- [MSCA Website](#)
- [National Contact Points](#) - ask for advice to your MSCA National Contact Point
- [Research Enquiry Service](#) - Submit specific queries (funding, validation of participants, etc.)

Content

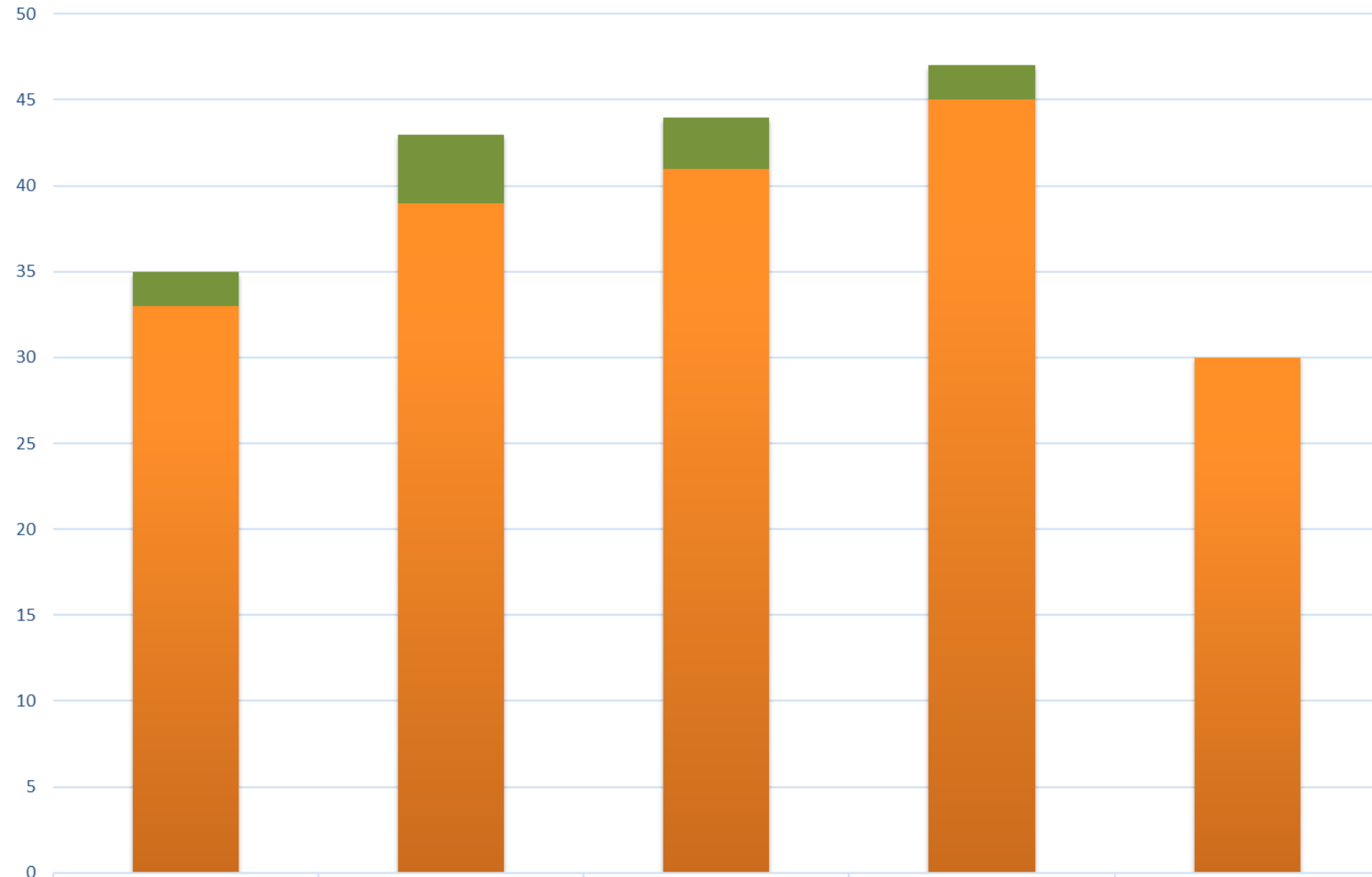
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SUCCESS RATE OF NO HOSTS



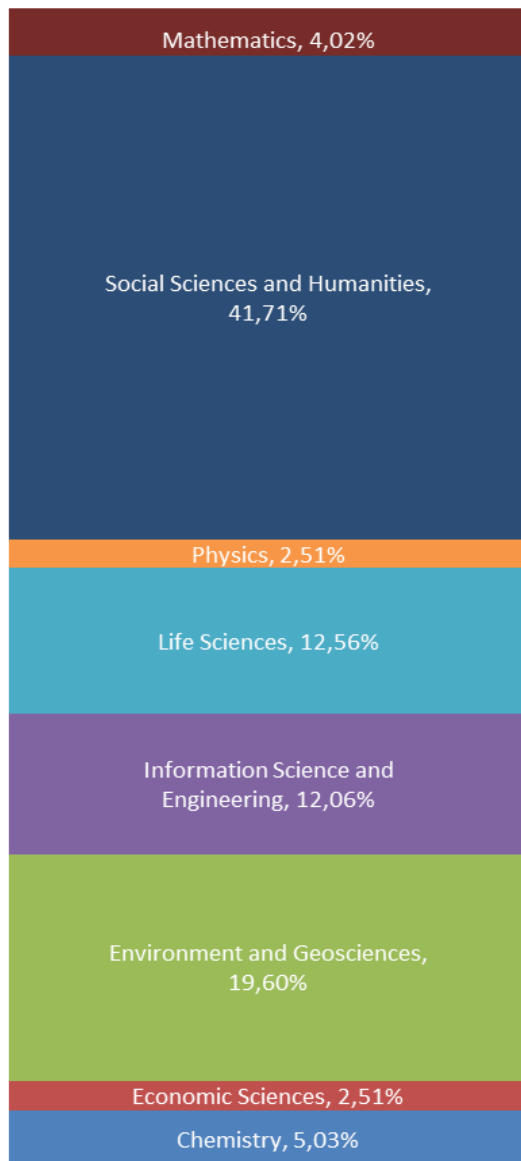
	HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF	HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF	HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF	HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF	HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF
Proposals	255	237	223	293	354
Grants (Main list)	35	43	44	47	30
SUCCESS RATE OF NO HOSTS	13,73%	18,14%	19,73%	16,04%	8,47%
Overall success rate for call	14,02%	17,88%	15,77%	16,61%	9,56%

GRANTS AT NO HOSTS

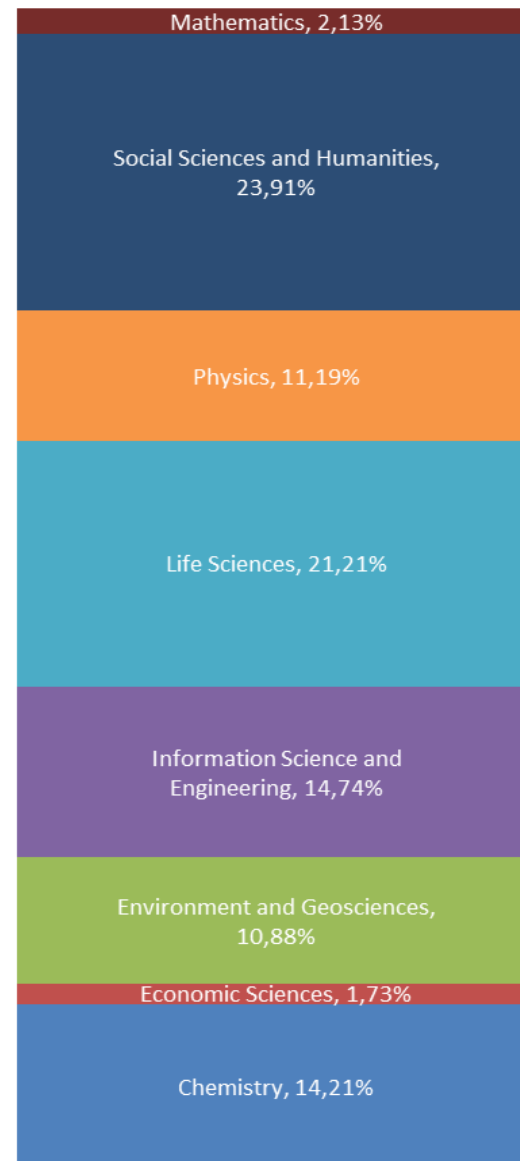


	HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF	HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF	HORIZON-MSCA-2023-PF	HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF	HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF
GF	2	4	3	2	0
EF	33	39	41	45	30

SCIENTIFIC AREAS IN NO HOSTS - ALL PF CALLS

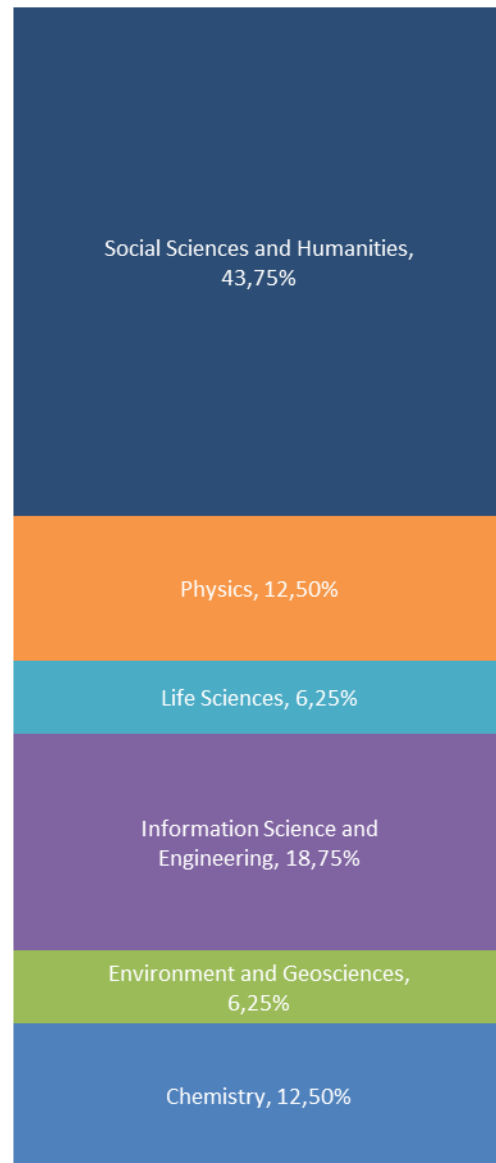


GRANTS (MAIN LIST) AT NO HOSTS

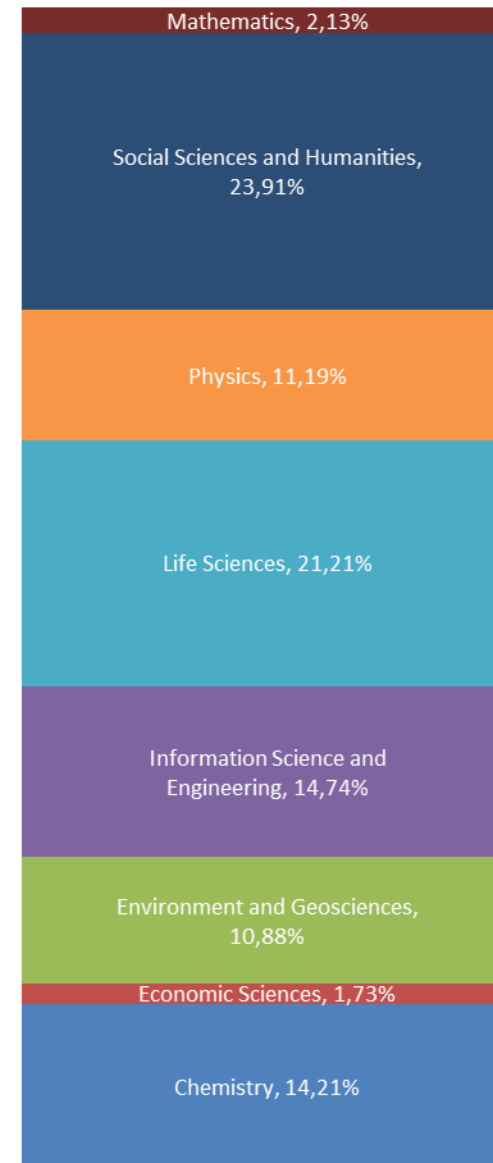


ALL GRANTS

SCIENTIFIC AREAS FOR NO NATIONALS - ALL PF CALLS



GRANTS (MAIN LIST) FROM NO NATIONALS



ALL GRANTS



Thank you for your attention!



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