

Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) 2022 (2023)

As the Horizon Europe Programme gets underway, there are many disparate calls that may be appropriate for the Europlanet community to apply for. In this document we highlight calls under the Marie Curie programme.

The full Work Programme from the European Commission (EC) can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2021-2022/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf

and

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-marie-skłodowska-curie-actions>

I will draw down from the Work Programme the rest of this document.

1. Doctoral Networks (DN). MSCA DNs are supporting programmes to train doctoral candidates in academic and non-academic organisations. The deadline for the first call was 16 November 2021. The EC has consistently asked the Europlanet community why we have not established/bid for a doctoral network, as many other Research Infrastructures have. I am pleased to report we submitted a DN proposal this year - the Europlanet Doctoral Network – which involves 8 beneficiaries and 5 partner organisations from the UK, Belgium, France, Germany and Hungary. Results will be announced in April/May 2022, so fingers crossed. **The next round is with the deadline of 15 November 2022.**

2. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships. These Fellowships are perhaps the most well-known (and most oversubscribed) MSCA programme. Reports from reviewers and panel members of both MSCA and European Research Council (ERC) are that, within the physical sciences, there are FEWER applications from the planetary science community compared with astronomy/cosmology, and those that are submitted are mainly linked to exoplanets. We need to make more applications and support our Early Career Researchers in their bids. Let's aim for higher submission rates in 2022! **The next closing date is 14 September 2022.**

3. MSCA Staff exchanges. MSCA Staff Exchanges promote innovative international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration in research and innovation through exchanging staff and sharing knowledge and ideas from the academic and non-academic sectors (including SMEs) from *across the globe*. The programme is open to research, technical, administrative and managerial staff supporting R&I activities. The collaborative approach of MSCA Staff Exchanges should exploit complementary competences of the participating organisations and create synergies between them. The organisations constituting the partnership contribute directly to *the implementation of a joint R&I project by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members*. Such a project must explore activities that can be based on previous work but should go beyond and generate or strengthen long-term collaborations. The project should, among other things, enable networking activities and the organisation of workshops and conferences, to facilitate sharing of knowledge and testing of innovative approaches for specific R&I topics. Staff secondments between partners are the focus of the projects. To date there has been little activity in such calls from the planetary science/space community. **The next deadlines are 9 March 2022 and 8 March 2023.**

4. MSCA Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes. MSCA COFUND co-finances new or existing doctoral programmes and postdoctoral fellowship schemes with the aim of spreading the best practices of the MSCA, including international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as international and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career.

In practice, MSCA COFUND provides complementary funding for doctoral or postdoctoral programmes managed by entities established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

This is an opportunity to create a major centre in planetary/space sciences in Europe but will need national backing. The Origins Centre in the Netherlands has exploited this scheme <https://www.originscenter.nl/>. **The next deadlines are 10 February 2022 and 9 February 2023.**

5. MSCA and Citizens. MSCA and Citizens aims to bring research and researchers closer to the public at large, to increase awareness of research and innovation activities and to boost public recognition of science and research education. It will show the role of the researcher for the society and economy, as well as the impact of researchers' work on citizens' daily lives. It also aims to raise the interest of young people in research and scientific careers.

MSCA and Citizens will address the general public, attracting people regardless of the level of their scientific background, with a specific focus on families, pupils, students, and notably those who do not have easy access to, and thus are less inclined to engage in, STEAM fields (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) or research activities. Inclusiveness should be key, in view of broadening access to science and research to all. **Time of next call TBC.**

Europlanet with its work with amateur astronomers and citizen science projects is well placed to respond to this call which supports European Researcher Night programmes that many Europlanet partners are engaged in. The greater opportunity for developing citizen science projects is within the widening participation call. A call has just closed on 7 October 2021, which covered Researchers' Night in 2022 and 2023. The next call should be due in mid 2023.

In summary Europlanet community should be proactive in responding to these calls, in particular by:

- Promoting and encouraging ECRs to apply for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Developing a MSCA Staff Exchange project(s) for the planetary/space science community – ideas welcome.
- Exploring possible hosts for a MSCA COFUND programme in planetary/space sciences.