



# Synergies and Complementarities

between the  
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions  
and Erasmus+

1 March 2022

# Framework

## Achieving a European Education Area by 2025

## New ERA for Research and Innovation

*"Higher education institutions in Europe are at the heart of both the European Education Area and the European Research Area (...). To ensure full **synergies** between these, the Commission is committed to support Member States and higher education institutions in creating a policy framework allowing for seamless and ambitious transnational cooperation between higher education institutions in Europe."* (EEA Communication)



*"EU, national and regional actions for better use of **synergies** between Union programmes including Horizon Europe, Erasmus, ESF+ and ERDF and private R&I investments, notably through the support of the InvestEU programme"* (ERA Communication)



Erasmus+

**26.2 € billion**



**6.6€ billion**



European  
Commission

# Legal basis Horizon Europe

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REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination – test adopted by the Council on 16 March 2021

- Article 7 - Principles of the Programme
  - 7. The Programme shall be implemented in synergy with other Union programmes while aiming for maximal administrative simplification...
- Article 15 - Alternative, combined and cumulative funding and transfers of resources
  - 4. An action that has received a contribution from another Union programme may also receive a contribution under the Programme, provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs...<sup>1</sup>
- ANNEX IV - SYNERGIES WITH OTHER UNION PROGRAMMES
  - 3. Synergies with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
  - 4. Synergies with the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)
  - 10. Synergies with the Erasmus+ Programme
  - 12. Synergies with the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III)
  - 20. Synergies with the Recovery and Resilience Facility

<sup>1</sup> ...The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution to the action. The cumulative financing shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action. The support from the different Union programmes may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support.

# Legal basis Erasmus+

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Art.32(2): “An action that has received a contribution under the Programme may also receive a contribution from another Union programme, provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs. The rules of the relevant Union programme shall apply to the corresponding contribution to the action. The cumulative financing shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action. The support from the different Union programmes may be calculated on a pro rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support.”

Recital 16: “Synergies with the Horizon Europe Programme established by Regulation (EU) 2021/... of the European Parliament and of the Council (‘Horizon Europe’) should ensure that combined resources from the Programme and Horizon Europe are used to support activities dedicated to strengthening and modernising European higher education institutions. Horizon Europe will, where appropriate, complement the Programme’s support for the European Universities initiative as part of the development of new joint and integrated long term and sustainable strategies on education, research and innovation. Synergies with Horizon Europe will help to foster the integration of education and research, in particular in higher education institutions.”

# Common features

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**Opportunities for  
mobility, training,  
and career dvp  
(incl. researchers)**



**Development of  
study and research  
programmes (incl.  
joint ones)**



**Strong  
international  
dimension**



**Attractive  
conditions for  
individuals &  
institutions**



**Establishment of  
collaborative  
projects (incl.  
exchange of staff)**



**Strong  
collaboration with  
non-academic  
sector**



# MSCA in Horizon Europe

EURATOM

2021-2027



EUR 6.6 billion

**Budget: EUR 95.5 billion**

# The MSCA have **5** main actions

## Doctoral Networks

**implement doctoral programmes** (including joint doctorates and industrial doctorates) **by international partnerships** of organisations from different sectors. They train highly-skilled doctoral candidates, stimulate their creativity, enhance their innovation capacities and boost their employability in the long-term.

## Postdoctoral Fellowships

**support researchers' careers and foster excellence in research and innovation.**

Researchers holding a PhD can carry out their research activities, acquire new skills and develop their careers abroad, whilst developing competences in non-academic sectors and working within interdisciplinary teams.

## Staff Exchanges

**encourage short-term international and inter-sectoral exchanges of research and innovation staff** through sustainable, collaborative projects in Europe and beyond. By doing so, they enhance knowledge and skills transfer and increase organisations' research and innovation capacities.

## MSCA and Citizens

**brings research and researchers closer to children, families and the public at large** through the European Researchers' Night - the annual research communication and promotion event taking place at the end of September across EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

## COFUND

**co-finances regional, national and international doctoral and postdoctoral programmes for researchers' training and career development.** The COFUND action spread: MSCA's best practices by setting high standards at excellent working conditions and boosts training and international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.

DID YOU KNOW?

**12 Nobel Prize winners** involved in the MSCA between 2012 and 2020

[Home](#) | [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#) ([europa.eu](http://europa.eu))

**CLICK HERE**



European  
Commission

# Relevant actions

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MSCA Doctoral  
Networks

MSCA  
Postdoctoral  
Fellowships

MSCA Staff  
Exchanges

MSCA  
COFUND

Erasmus+  
Mobility for  
Higher Education  
Students and  
Staff

Erasmus  
Mundus Joint  
Master Degrees

Erasmus+  
Capacity Building  
in Higher  
Education

Erasmus+  
Partnerships for  
Innovation

Erasmus+  
Partnerships for  
Cooperation

European  
Universities  
Initiative





# Possible synergies

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## Erasmus+ Mobility for Higher Education Students and Staff

Individual participants could:

- participate in MSCA research teams → traineeships (2-12 months), staff mobility (2 days-2 months), short term mobility (5-30 days) funded by E+
- apply for PhD positions in MSCA Doctoral Networks and COFUND following completion of MA studies
- apply for postdoc positions under MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and COFUND (for individuals holding a PhD)

Organisations involved in E+ mobility projects (e.g. with third countries) could use existing partnerships to set up MSCA Staff Exchange projects (1-12 months mobility of staff ).

# Possible synergies

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## Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

- Development of MA programmes jointly delivered by international consortium of HEIs in Europe and beyond
- Students (worldwide) can apply and receive joint, double or multiple degrees

→ Networks developed and experience gained could be used to set up doctoral programmes under MSCA Doctoral Networks and COFUND

# Examples

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## **ARCHMAT (EMJMD 2018)**

Coordinated by University of Evora (Portugal)

Synergies with “European Doctorate in Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Materials Science” (MSCA ITN 2017) and “European Research Infrastructure on Heritage Science” (Horizon 2020)

Activities: Joint training events, lectures and seminars with participation of ARCHMAT EMJMD students, MSCA Early Stage Researchers and ERIHS scholars and experts

<http://www.ed-archmat-ejd.eu/>

## **FONTE (MSCA Innovative Training Network 2017)**

Coordinated by Aston University (UK)

Gathered students from 3 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees in photonics and communication technologies - EMIMEO (2018), PIXNET (2017) and SMARTNET (2017)

Aim: Discuss opportunities for MA graduates in the MSCA. MSCA eligibility criteria and the EURAXESS tool were introduced to participants.

<https://fonte.astonphotonics.uk/>

# Possible synergies

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## Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education

- Transnational cooperation projects based on multilateral partnerships, between HEIs from E+ Programme and Partner Countries
  - Eligible activities: development of R&I capacities, new education programmes and curricula (including PhDs), new cooperation schemes with world of work, implementation Bologna process tools etc.
- Networks developed and experience gained could be used to set up:
- PhD and postdoc programmes (MSCA Doctoral Networks & COFUND)
  - Collaborative projects under MSCA Staff Exchanges

# Possible synergies

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## Erasmus+ Partnerships for Innovation / Cooperation

Transnational projects bringing together HEIs, VET, businesses etc.

- Aim: strengthen Europe's capacity to innovate and modernise Europe's higher education systems
- Focus: development of new, innovative, and multidisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning; entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills; exchange of knowledge

→ Could be used to set up MSCA Doctoral Networks, COFUND, MSCA Staff Exchange projects

→ Organisations involved in MSCA could use networks and experience to set up Innovation Alliances / Partnerships for Cooperation

# Example

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## **OEduverse (Strategic Partnership 2019)**

Focuses on 3 overarching modules: Mental Wellbeing, Open Science, and Communication

Aim: Equip early-stage researchers with key skills set for their careers

### Synergies:

- Involvement of MSCA partners (Marie Curie Alumni Association)
- Build on successful EDUWORKS MSCA Innovative Training Network (ITN), aiming to establish a consortium focused on addressing key labour market skills shortage

<https://oediverse.eu/>

# Possible synergies

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## European Universities Initiative

Transnational alliances co-developing long-term strategies

Student-centred curricula jointly delivered across inter-university campuses

Challenge-based approach for students, academics and external partners to tackle global challenges through interdisciplinary teams

As such, they could:

- set up MSCA Doctoral Networks, COFUND and MSCA Staff Exchanges projects
- mainstream MSCA best practices in doctoral, post-doctoral and researcher training
- exploit and transfer research results into learning and teaching activities and increase students' research and critical thinking skills

# Examples

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## UNA4CAREER

COFUND programme developed by UNA EUROPA ALLIANCE

Open network enabling 40 experienced researchers to combine their work in an international (6 countries), cross-sectoral (possibility to interact with over 500 actors through the UNA Europa Alliance) and interdisciplinary (4 scientific areas) framework.

Aim: spreading best practices of the MSCA

<https://www.una4career.eu/>

## EUTOPIA-Science and Innovation Fellowship (MSCA COFUND 2019)

COFUND programme launched by the EUTOPIA Alliance (network of six universities)

76 post-doctoral researchers will receive 24-months fellowships to work in 5 interdisciplinary key research areas: 1) Materials engineering; 2) Data & Intelligence; 3) Health; 4) Sustainability; 5) Welfare & Inclusion

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/945380>



# Examples

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## **CIVIS3i - The CIVIS Alliance Programme for International, Interdisciplinary, Intersectoral Research and Training for Experienced Researchers (MSCA COFUND 2020)**

COFUND programme developed by European University CIVIS

32 Experienced Researchers will receive 24-months postdoctoral fellowships to work on five important global societal challenges: 1) Health; 2) Climate, Environment, Energy; 3) Digital and Technological Transformation; 4) Cities, Territories and mobilities; 5) Society, Culture, Heritage

<https://www.univ-amu.fr/fr/public/actualites/nouveau-succes-pour-luniversite-europeenne-civis>

# Possible synergies

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## Optional secondments under the MSCA

For MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships, Doctoral Networks and COFUND

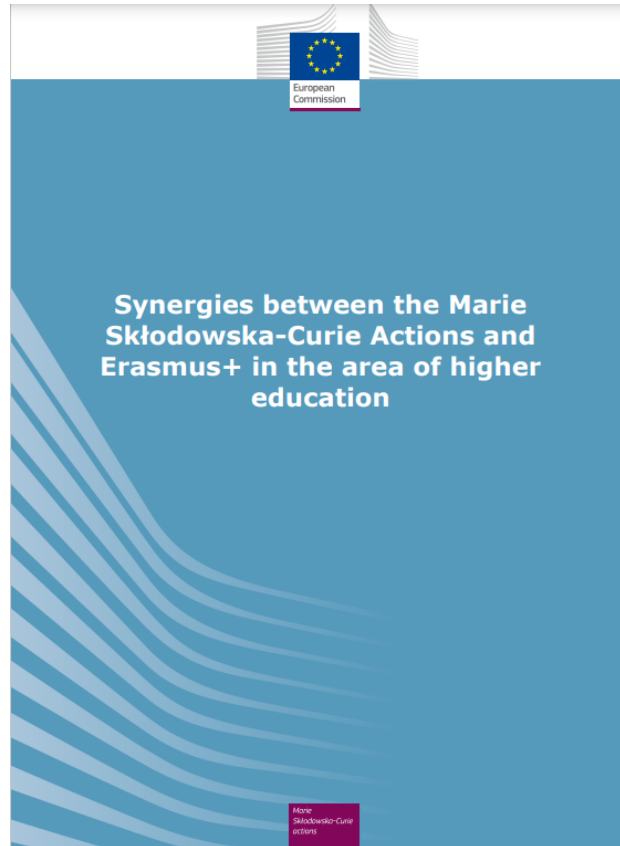
- Possibility to send recruited researchers on short-term secondments worldwide (up to 1/3 of total duration)
- MSCA researchers can be seconded to any organisations (e.g. involved in E+ projects)

### Conditions:

- Secondment needs to be in line with project objectives & add value and impact to the career development of the fellow
- Researchers need to be committed full-time to the MSCA project

# Guidelines available online

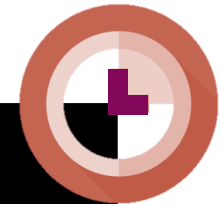
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[Synergies between the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions and Erasmus+ in the area of higher education | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(europa.eu\)](#)

# Upcoming MSCA calls

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| Action                   | Opening        | Deadline          |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Staff Exchanges          | 7 October 2021 | 9 March 2022      |
| Doctoral Networks        | 12 May 2022    | 15 November 2022  |
| Postdoctoral Fellowships | 12 May 2022    | 14 September 2022 |
| Staff Exchanges          | 6 October 2022 | 8 March 2023      |