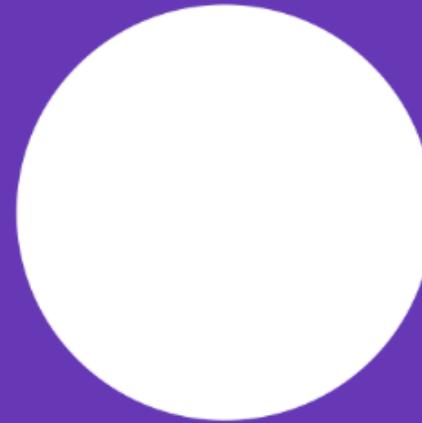




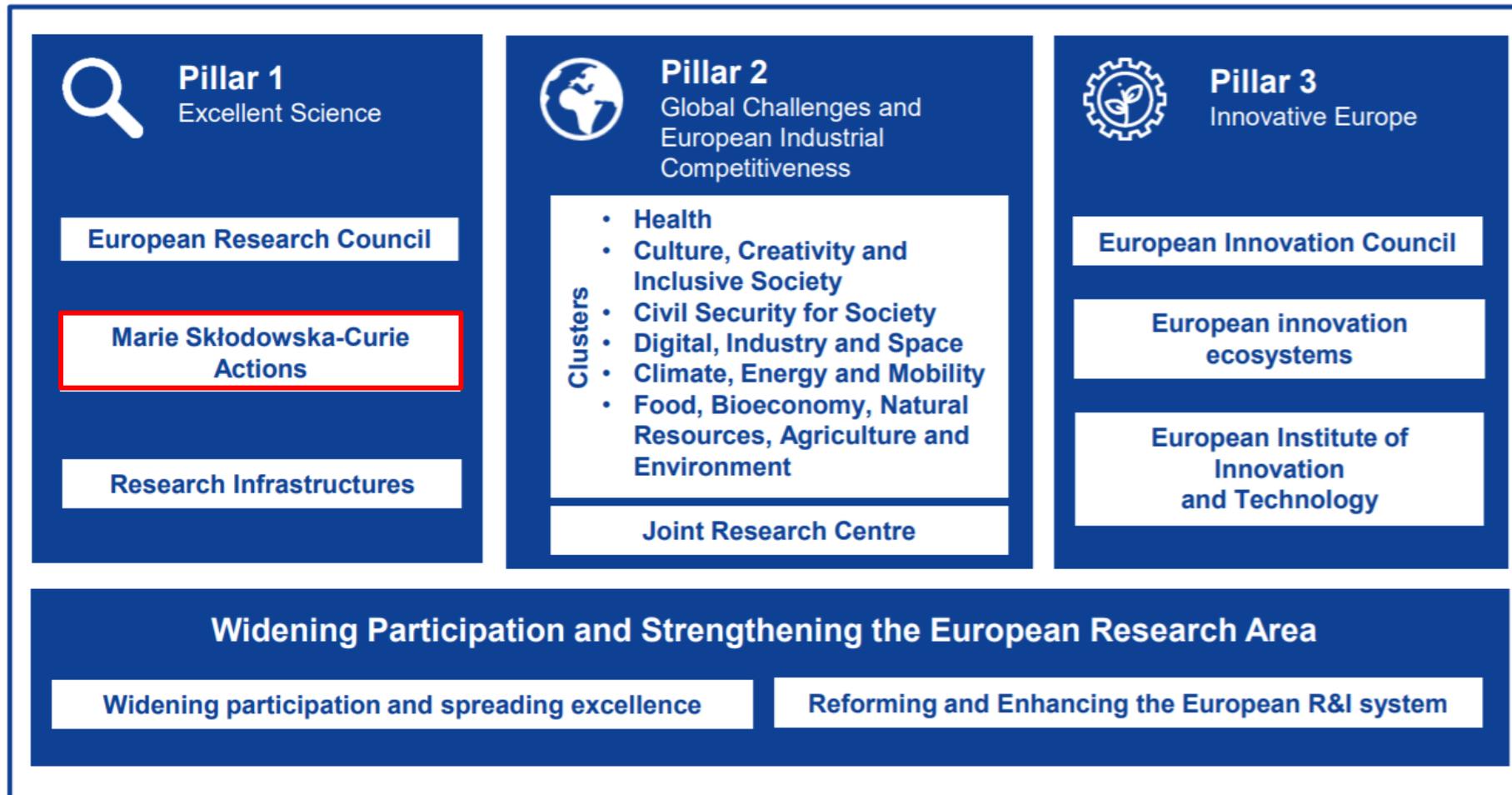
Estonian  
Research Council



# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships

For supervisors | Kristin Kraav

# Horizon Europe



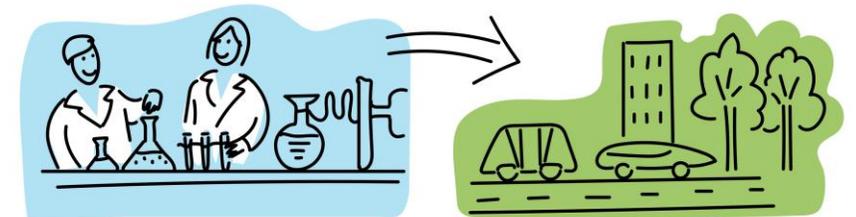
# MSCA Actions

1. MSCA Doctoral Networks	→ <i>networks training doctoral candidates</i>
2. MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	→ <i>postdoctoral researchers</i>
3. MSCA Staff Exchanges	→ <i>any type of research(-related) staff</i>
4. MSCA COFUND	→ <i>co-funding training programmes</i>
5. MSCA and Citizens	→ <i>public outreach events</i>

# MSCA postdoctoral fellowships

## Postdoctoral fellowships include:

- Carrying out a research project
- Skills development (both scientific and transferable)
- Dissemination of research results and communication activities targeted at general population
- Developing connections with the non-academic sector
- Physical mobility to another country



# Types of the MSCA postdoctoral fellowships

## European Fellowships:

- For coming to Europe\* from any country in the world or moving within Europe
- Duration 12-24 months

## Global Fellowships:

- For going outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe AC
- Duration 24-36 months (12-24 outgoing phase & 12 months mandatory return phase in Europe)

Optional ***secondments*** worldwide up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration (or outgoing phase of GF)

Optional additional ***placement*** of **up to 6 months in a non-academic** European organization at the end of the regular duration of the Fellowship

# Applicants of MSCA postdoctoral fellowships

The proposal is submitted by the researcher in cooperation with the European Host **organisation** (*beneficiary*):

- There are no limitations to organisation type, but it must provide **supervision** and conditions for carrying out the research project
- In case of Global Fellowships, the Host organisation located outside Europe is an *associated partner* in the project and must submit a letter of commitment with the project

**Researcher** (postdoctoral fellow):

- Can be of **any nationality** (Global Fellowships: nationals or long term residents of MS or HE AC)
- in possession of **PhD** at the call deadline
- **up to 8 years** research experience after PhD (with exceptions: career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers,...)
- **mobility rule**: not resided / had main activity in the country of the beneficiary (or host organization for GF) more than 12 months in the 36 months before call deadline

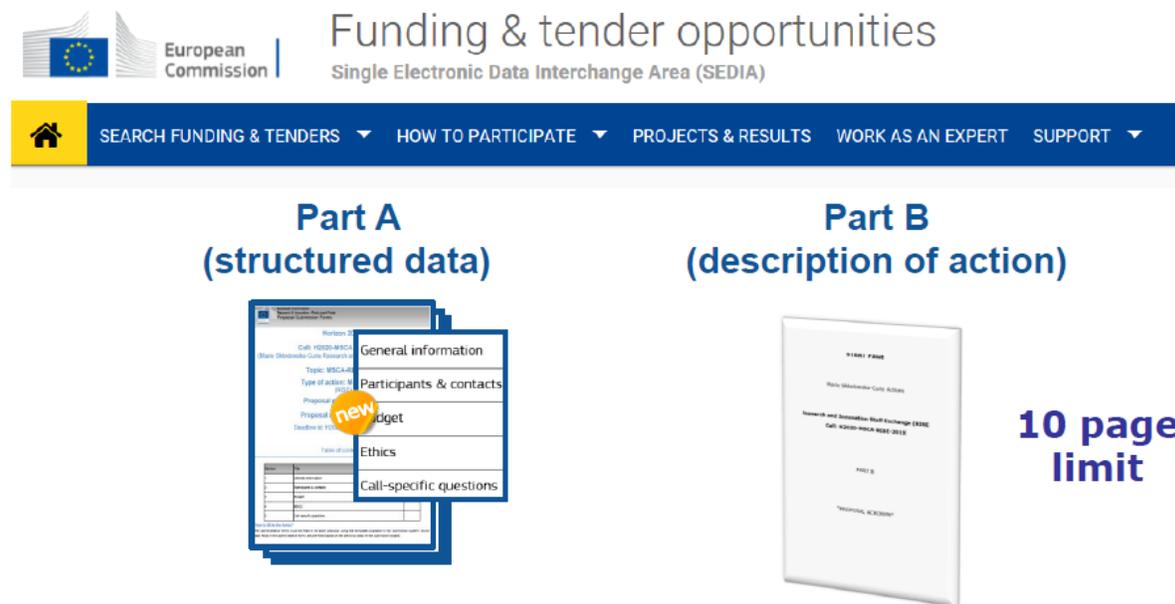
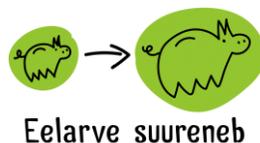
# MSCA postdoctoral fellowships Funding

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month					Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance (if applicable)	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 5990	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 6700 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit <sup>1</sup> x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 000	EUR 650

- Country coefficient will apply to the Living allowance
- CC for Estonia: **92,7 %** (living allowance: 5552,73 €/month)

# Applying for MSCA postdoctoral fellowships

- Call for proposals will open on 9 May; deadline for submitting proposals is on **10 September 2025**
- Budget of the call:
  - EF 233.44 M€
  - GF 41.20 M€
- Application via the Funding and Tenders portal



The screenshot shows the European Commission's 'Funding & tender opportunities' portal. The header includes the European Commission logo and the text 'Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)'. A navigation bar contains links for 'SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS', 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE', 'PROJECTS & RESULTS', 'WORK AS AN EXPERT', and 'SUPPORT'. Below the navigation bar, there are two main sections: 'Part A (structured data)' and 'Part B (description of action)'. 'Part A' is illustrated with a stack of documents representing a form with fields for 'General information', 'Participants & contacts', 'Budget', 'Ethics', and 'Call-specific questions'. A 'new' badge is visible on the 'Budget' field. 'Part B' is illustrated with a document representing a '10 page limit' for the 'description of action'.

# Evaluation criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
<p>Quality and pertinence of the <b>project's research and innovation objectives</b> (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)</p>	<p>Credibility of the measures to <b>enhance the career perspectives and employability</b> of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development</p>	<p>Quality and effectiveness of the <b>work plan</b>, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages</p>
<p><b>Soundness of the proposed methodology</b> (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)</p>	<p>Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise <b>expected outcomes and impacts</b>, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities</p>	<p>Quality and capacity of the <b>host institutions and participating organisations</b>, including hosting arrangements</p>
<p>Quality of the <b>supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge</b> between the researcher and the host</p>	<p>The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the <b>expected scientific, societal and economic impacts</b></p>	
<p>Quality and appropriateness of the <b>researcher's professional experience, competences and skills</b></p>		<p><b>50%</b></p>
<p><b>50%</b></p>	<p><b>30%</b></p>	<p><b>20%</b></p>

# Proposal for MSCA postdoctoral fellowships

## Part A administrative forms are filled on-line:

- General information
  - Title, scientific area, keywords, abstract, declarations
- Information on participants
  - Beneficiary, supervisor, researcher
- Budget (is generated automatically)
- Ethics and Security
- Other questions

## Part B of the proposal consists of two PDF documents:

- *Document 1 – max 10 pages*
  1. EXCELLENCE: research, training, supervision, researcher
  2. IMPACT: impact on career; scientific, economic, societal impact; dissemination and communication
  3. IMPLEMENTATION: work plan, infrastructures
- *Document 2 – no overall page limit*
  4. CV OF THE RESEARCHER *5 p (indicative)*
  5. CAPACITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS *max 1 p for beneficiary and max ½ p for associated partner*
  6. ADDITIONAL ETHICS INFORMATION
  7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SECURITY SCREENING
  8. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS (GREEN CHARTER)
  9. LETTER OF COMMITMENT: *only for Global Fellowship*

# Proposal for MSCA postdoctoral fellowships

## Part A administrative forms are filled on-line:

- General information
  - Title, scientific area, keywords, abstract, declarations
- Information on participants
  - **Beneficiary, supervisor**, researcher
- Budget (is generated automatically)
- **Ethics** and Security
- Other questions

## Part B of the proposal consists of two PDF documents:

- *Document 1 – max 10 pages*
  1. EXCELLENCE: **research, training, supervision**, researcher
  2. IMPACT: impact on career; **scientific, economic, societal impact; dissemination and communication**
  3. IMPLEMENTATION: **work plan, infrastructures**
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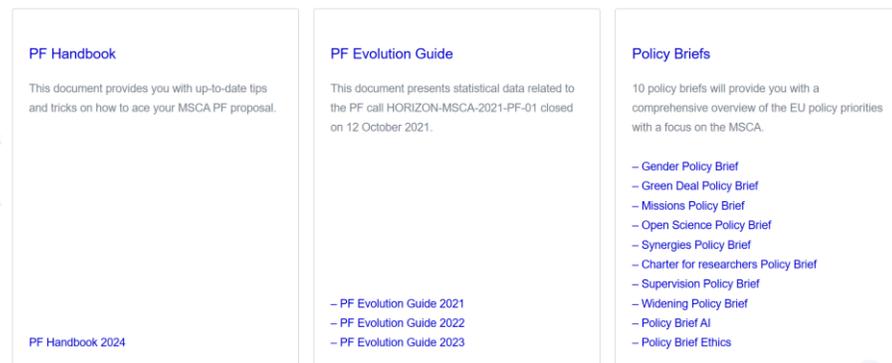
# Useful materials

- Official documents (in the F&T portal):
  - [Work programme](#)
  - [Proposal template](#) with explanations
  - Official FAQ
  - [Model Grant Agreement](#)
  - [HE programme guide](#)
- Official documents on [REA](#) website:
  - [Guide for Applicants](#) (PF 2024)
  - Guidelines how to calculate the 8 years Research experience
- Official documents on the EC's MSCA website:
  - [MSCA Guidelines on supervision](#)
  - [MSCA Green Charter](#)

## Trustworthy materials elsewhere:

- Materials developed by the MSCA-NET project:
  - [MSCA-NET PF Handbook](#)
  - Policy briefs

### MSCA-NET Documents for your application

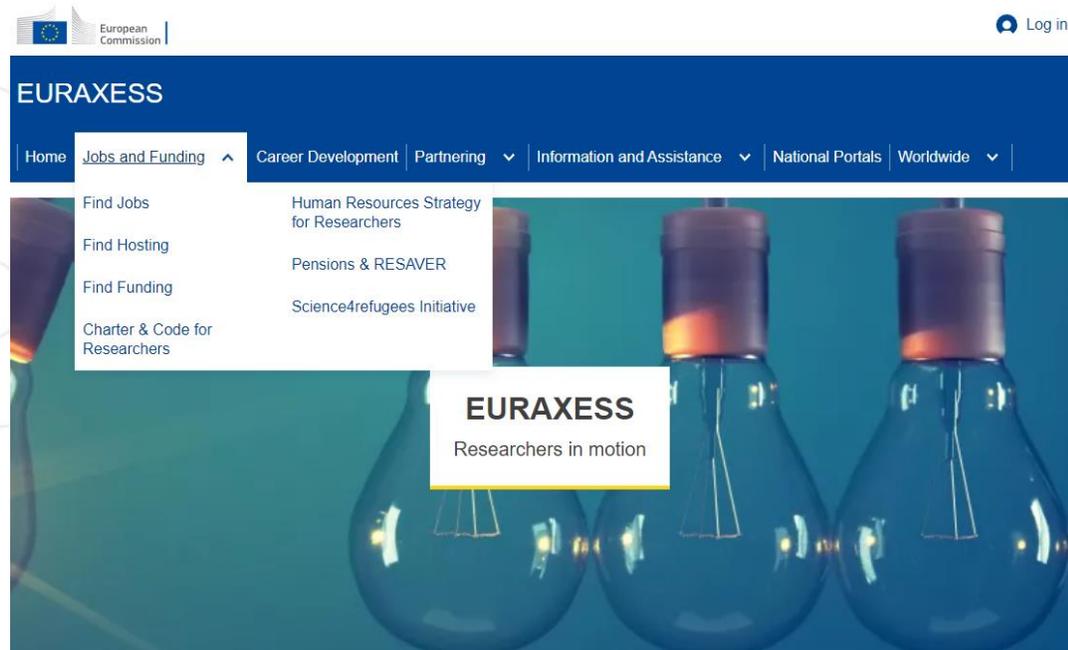


The screenshot displays three document cards under the heading "MSCA-NET Documents for your application".

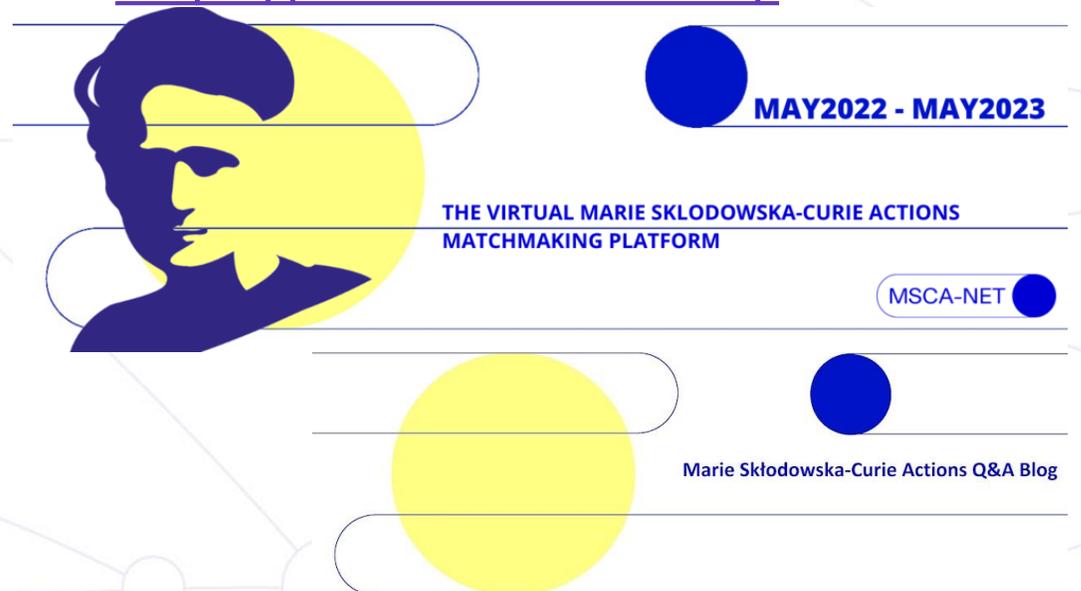
- PF Handbook**: This document provides you with up-to-date tips and tricks on how to ace your MSCA PF proposal. (PF Handbook 2024)
- PF Evolution Guide**: This document presents statistical data related to the PF call HORIZON-MSCA-2021-PF-01 closed on 12 October 2021. (PF Evolution Guide 2021, PF Evolution Guide 2022, PF Evolution Guide 2023)
- Policy Briefs**: 10 policy briefs will provide you with a comprehensive overview of the EU policy priorities with a focus on the MSCA. (Gender Policy Brief, Green Deal Policy Brief, Missions Policy Brief, Open Science Policy Brief, Synergies Policy Brief, Charter for researchers Policy Brief, Supervision Policy Brief, Widening Policy Brief, Policy Brief AI, Policy Brief Ethics)

# How to attract candidates

- EURAXESS Jobs portal
  - <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>



- MSCA matchmaking platform:
  - <https://msca.b2match.io/>



# ERA Fellowships

- **Aim:** to combat brain drain and support researchers to undertake their fellowship in a **Widening country** (including Estonia)
- All **non-funded MSCA European Fellowship** applications that pass all evaluation thresholds (70%) will be automatically passed on to the ERA Fellowships call (*NB! no applications can be submitted directly to this call*) funded from the Widening participation part of Horizon Europe
- A single multidisciplinary ranking list will be formed; ca. 35 top-ranking proposals will be funded
- Conditions of the MSCA PF will apply (same funding, same Grant Agreement)
- **Budget:** 8 M€ in 2024

# Estonian incoming postdoctoral grant



- ETAG funds incoming postdoctoral grants, using the *MSCA Seal of Excellence* principle.
- There are three specific objectives for the action:
  - to motivate early-career researchers pursuing postdoctoral research to apply for Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions funding;
  - facilitate the completion of postdoctoral research in Estonia;
  - support the transfer of knowledge acquired abroad to Estonia.
- The grants are funded from the EU funds and from state budget
  - "Support for the Internationalization of Research and Development and Participation in the International Knowledge Market" or Mobilitas 3.0

# Who can apply?

- The grant is provided to researchers who intend to pursue postdoctoral research in Estonia and have previously participated in an MSCA postdoctoral fellowship call for applications.
  - The application must meet the MSCA evaluation threshold (70%);
  - The application receives negative funding.
- The researcher can take the same project and apply for our post-doctoral grant in Estonian Research Information System (ETIS).
- ETAG does not evaluate the scientific excellence of the MSCA applications, but uses the official evaluation result from the MSCA application.

# Requirements



- The postdoctoral fellow must work full-time at the host institution and be located in Estonia during the implementation of the project.
- The supervisor:
  - must have an employment contract with the host institution.
  - must have a doctoral degree or equivalent qualification.
- During the support period the postdoctoral fellow cannot be any of the following:
  - the recipient of the outgoing postdoctoral grant awarded by the Council;
  - the PI or the member of the (senior) research staff of a team or starting grant project.

# Budget and the period



- The support is based on an unit cost, which is 76,000 € per year (6,333 per month);
- The unit cost includes:
  - salary incl any and all taxes, contributions and compensations arising from law;
  - research costs necessary to carry out the project;
  - overhead.
- The host institution must ensure self-financing, which is 13,42% of the total unit cost.
- The support is provided for a period up to two years – i.e. up to 152,000 €.

# Application process



- The call is opened usually immediately after the results of the MSCA call are announced.
- Application must be submitted to us via ETIS, in Estonian or in English.
- The application must include:
  - Title of the project, host institution, supervisor, brief summary of the project, project period, budget, RD field;
  - Original MSCA grant application and its evaluation report;
  - In addition, describe the project's contribution to RDIE focus areas.
    - **„Estonian Research and Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy 2021-2035“:**
      - 1) digital solutions across all areas of life; 2) health technologies and services; 3) valorisation of local resources; 4) smart and sustainable energy solutions; 5) viable Estonian society, language and cultural space.
  - Please look for RDIE roadmaps - <https://www.taie.ee/taie-fookusvaldkonna-teekaart>

# MSCA PF success rates

- European Fellowships:

- 2021: 13,83 %
- 2022: 17,52 %
- 2023: 15,71 %
- 2024: 16,68 %

- Global Fellowships:

- 2021: 16,80 %
- 2022: 16,52 %
- 2023: 16,82 %
- 2024: 17,39 %

- The number and success rate of applications with Estonian Host Institutions is significantly lower

- This is compensated to a (very) *small* extent by ERA Fellowships and to a *large* extent by Estonian incoming postdoctoral grant

# ETAG NCP events & support

- **3 April, 4 April:** Info days (in Estonian and in English) [Registration](#)
- **8-22 April:** Series of webinars (same registration link)
- **May:** on-site trainings
- **Questions, consultation** – any time before the deadline:  
[kristin.kraav@etag.ee](mailto:kristin.kraav@etag.ee); +372 501 3482
- **Pre-screening of the proposal** – (sufficiently early) before the call  
deadline: [kristin.kraav@etag.ee](mailto:kristin.kraav@etag.ee)