

UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA  
DIREZIONE SERVIZI PER LA RICERCA  
E IL TRASFERIMENTO TECNOLOGICO

Unità Servizi per la Ricerca



# Project drafting support office

on programmes and funds for research

[tecnologi.ricerca@unipi.it](mailto:tecnologi.ricerca@unipi.it)



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA



- Support for drafting collaborative project proposals
- Support for drafting individual project proposals
- Targeted information and calls search



# The service- **WHAT WE DO**

- Analysis of the call
- Assessment of the match between the project idea and the call
- Active support to the drafting of the project proposal
- Support for budget drafting
- Support for partnership coordination if UNIPI is the leader
- Guide and support for the use of the submission platforms



# The webinar – TODAY LET'S TALK ABOUT...

- Introduction to the MSCA – Individual Fellowships
- The 2020 MSCA-IF call for proposals
- Tips to start writing a proposal
- Final information



# Introduction to the MSCA-IF – THE PROGRAMME

HORIZON  
2020

## Pillar 1 Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie  
Actions

Research Infrastructures

## Pillar 2 Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

- Clusters
- Health
  - Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
  - Civil Security for Society
  - Digital, Industry and Space
  - Climate, Energy and Mobility
  - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

## Pillar 3 Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation  
ecosystems

European Institute of  
Innovation  
and Technology

## Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

# Introduction to the MSCA-IF – GENERAL OVERVIEW

The MSCA – IF are based on:

- Bottom up approach
- Unit costs

**Which research topics are funded?**

8 Scientific Areas

Chemistry

Social Science and Humanities

Economic Sciences

Information Science and Engineering

Life Science

Mathematics

Physics

The 2014-2020 MSCA Programme has a total budget of 6,1 billion euros

**MSCA IF – 2019 CALL**

294,5 ml €

**MSCA – IF 2020 CALL**

325 ml €



# Introduction to the MSCA-IF – **THE OBJECTIVE**

The goal of the Individual Fellowships is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of **experienced researchers**, wishing to diversify their individual competence in terms of skill acquisition through advanced **training**, international and inter-sectoral **mobility**.



# Introduction to the MSCA-IF – KEY CONCEPTS

- **Triple “I”** mobility: International, Inter-sectoral, and Inter-disciplinary)
- Strong **industry participation**
- Acquisition of new and complementary **skills**
- Emphasis on **communication and public engagement activities**



## Being an experienced researcher:

- possession of a PHD or
- at least 4 years full time equivalent research experience\*

**NO AGE RESTRICTIONS**

**NO NATIONALITY RESTRICTIONS\*\***

\* The research experience is measured starting from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate – even if a doctorate was never started

\*\* In most cases, except for some if types (CAR-RI and GF)

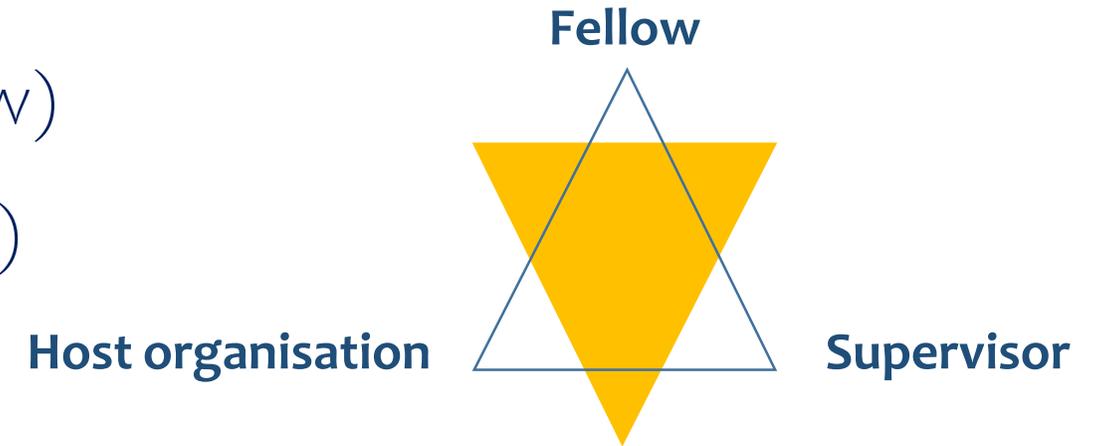


# Introduction to the MSCA-IF – WHO CAN APPLY?

A joint application between:

- the experienced researcher (the fellow)
- the host organization (the beneficiary)
- the supervisor

## The perfect triangle



### **Who can be host organisation?**

*Legal entity from the **academic and non-academic sector** (NGO, company, museum...)*

*Established in a European Member State or Associated Country*



# Introduction to the MSCA-IF – TYPE OF FELLOWSHIPS

## EUROPEAN FELLOWSHIPS

- 1-2 YEARS duration
- Secondments in Europe (MS/AC) (max 6 months)
- To a **Member State or Associated**

### Country

#### **NEWS 2018-2020**

*Possibility to spend max. 3 months at the European beneficiary before the outgoing mobility*

## GLOBAL FELLOWSHIPS

- 2- 3 YEARS, split in two phases: 1-2 years outgoing in a **Third Country;** 1 year back to Europe (return phase)
- Secondments in Europe
- Nationality is relevant (EU nationals or long term residents\*)

\*means a period of legal and continuous residence within one or more EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries of at least 5 consecutive years.



## STANDARD (EF-ST)

Experienced researchers of any nationality moving to a MS or AC

## CAREER RESTART PANEL (CAR)

The ER must have had a career break in research, i.e. being **not active in research** for a continuous period of at least 12 months within the eighteen months immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals. **Duration 12-36 m**

## REINTEGRATION PANEL (RI)

The researcher must be a national or long-term resident of a MS or AC. The researcher must move or have moved directly from a TC to the MS or AC where the beneficiary is located

## SOCIETY & ENTERPRISE (EF-SE)

dedicated to career opportunities for researchers seeking to work on research and innovation projects in an **organisation from the non-academic sector**



## TWO DIFFERENT MOBILITY RULES

- **EF-ST** – Have not resided/worked/studied in the country of the beneficiary for more than **12 months in the 3 years** immediately before the call deadline
- **CAR, RI, EF-SE** – Have not resided/worked/studied in the country of the beneficiary for **more than three years in the five years** immediately before the call deadline



## UNIT COSTS RULE

IF – financial



	Researcher unit cost [person/month]			Institutional unit cost [person/month]	
	Living allowance*	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training & networking costs	Management & overheads
<b>Individual Fellowships</b>	<b>4 650</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>650</b>

*Basic amount, a country correction coefficient is provided*

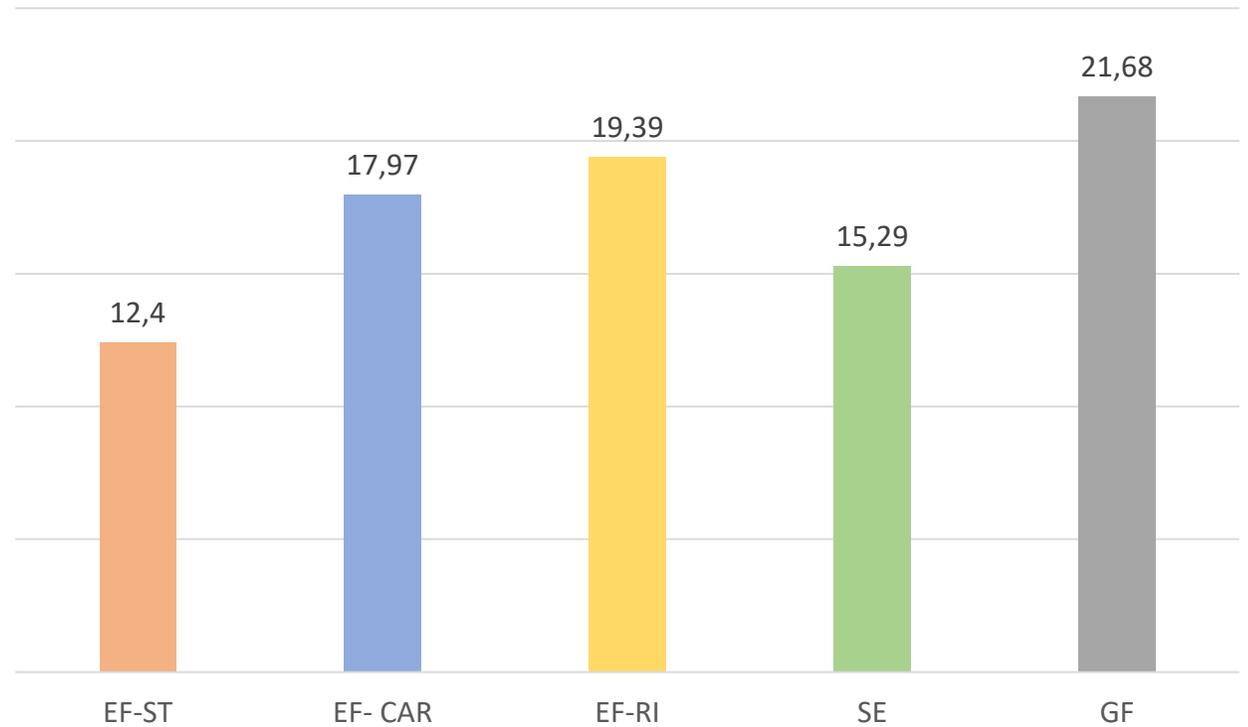


# Introduction to the MSCA-IF – SUCCESS RATE

## 2019 IF CALL

- 9875 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
- 1351 FUNDED
- 721 RESERVE LIST

Success rate - 2019



**MSCA-IF-2019 : Cumulative percentage of proposals above threshold, with a given score or higher (funding range marked in green)**

Number of eligible proposals	440 proposals	647 proposals	196 proposals	1061 proposals	168 proposals	951 proposals	856 proposals	1753 proposals	181 proposals	892 proposals	1740 proposals	58 proposals	11 proposals	88 proposals	119 proposals	148 proposals	10 proposals	74 proposals	316 proposals
Cut off score for funding*	89,4	93,0	82,2	92,4	91,6	92,4	93,4	92,6	91,2	91,4	93,0	92,0	89,4	89,8	91,6	91,2	94,2	88,4	90,0
Score equal to or above	CAR	RI	SE	ST-CHE	ST-ECO	ST-ENG	ST-ENV	ST-LIF	ST-MAT	ST-PHY	ST-SOC	GF-CHE	GF-ECO	GF-ENG	GF-ENV	GF-LIF	GF-MAT	GF-PHY	GF-SOC
100	0,23%	0,31%	0,00%	0,00%	0,60%	0,21%	0,35%	0,29%	0,00%	0,11%	0,23%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	0,68%	0,00%	0,00%	0,63%
99	0,45%	1,24%	0,00%	0,38%	1,19%	0,74%	0,82%	0,80%	0,55%	0,11%	0,75%	1,72%	0,00%	1,14%	1,68%	2,03%	0,00%	0,00%	1,27%
98	1,82%	3,40%	0,00%	1,13%	2,38%	1,47%	1,52%	1,83%	1,10%	0,67%	1,95%	1,72%	0,00%	1,14%	3,36%	3,38%	0,00%	0,00%	2,85%
97	2,95%	4,95%	2,04%	2,36%	2,98%	2,52%	2,57%	3,19%	1,10%	1,57%	3,68%	3,45%	0,00%	1,14%	4,20%	4,73%	0,00%	0,00%	5,38%
96	4,77%	8,66%	2,55%	4,52%	4,17%	4,63%	4,56%	5,02%	2,21%	3,25%	5,34%	5,17%	0,00%	4,55%	6,72%	6,08%	0,00%	1,35%	7,28%
95	6,82%	12,36%	5,10%	6,50%	4,76%	6,52%	7,83%	7,59%	2,76%	5,61%	7,41%	8,62%	0,00%	5,68%	7,56%	10,81%	0,00%	4,05%	10,44%
94	9,09%	17,31%	6,12%	8,67%	6,55%	8,52%	11,45%	10,33%	4,97%	7,29%	10,06%	17,24%	0,00%	10,23%	12,61%	16,22%	20,00%	4,05%	13,92%
93	11,59%	20,56%	7,14%	11,88%	10,12%	11,04%	14,60%	12,89%	6,63%	9,87%	13,16%	18,97%	0,00%	10,23%	15,97%	20,27%	30,00%	10,81%	17,72%
92	13,86%	24,11%	7,65%	15,08%	13,10%	15,04%	16,94%	16,26%	9,39%	12,11%	15,98%	25,86%	18,18%	13,64%	19,33%	21,62%	30,00%	10,81%	19,94%
91	16,59%	26,58%	10,71%	18,85%	14,88%	19,03%	20,68%	19,68%	14,36%	15,13%	17,87%	32,76%	18,18%	19,32%	26,89%	25,00%	30,00%	13,51%	22,15%
90	18,86%	28,90%	12,24%	22,34%	17,26%	21,35%	24,65%	22,88%	17,13%	18,50%	20,11%	39,66%	18,18%	23,86%	27,73%	25,00%	40,00%	16,22%	25,95%
89	20,91%	30,91%	14,80%	25,16%	19,64%	25,24%	27,45%	25,84%	19,34%	21,75%	22,01%	39,66%	36,36%	29,55%	29,41%	28,38%	40,00%	20,27%	29,11%
88	23,86%	34,00%	16,84%	29,03%	21,43%	28,29%	31,19%	28,75%	25,41%	26,01%	24,89%	43,10%	36,36%	30,68%	30,25%	32,43%	40,00%	22,97%	31,65%
87	25,45%	38,33%	18,88%	32,42%	24,40%	31,02%	34,23%	31,83%	29,28%	29,60%	27,01%	43,10%	36,36%	34,09%	31,93%	37,16%	50,00%	22,97%	33,54%
86	28,64%	41,73%	19,90%	36,48%	24,40%	33,65%	37,38%	35,48%	32,60%	33,74%	30,11%	43,10%	36,36%	38,64%	32,77%	39,86%	50,00%	29,73%	38,29%
85	30,68%	44,82%	21,94%	41,19%	25,60%	36,17%	41,00%	38,45%	39,78%	37,00%	33,33%	44,83%	45,45%	38,64%	38,66%	43,92%	50,00%	37,84%	41,46%
84	34,09%	48,07%	22,96%	44,30%	29,17%	40,06%	43,46%	41,36%	44,20%	40,70%	35,63%	50,00%	54,55%	45,45%	44,54%	47,97%	50,00%	43,24%	43,99%
83	37,50%	51,78%	25,51%	47,88%	34,52%	42,69%	46,14%	45,35%	47,51%	43,72%	38,10%	56,90%	54,55%	46,59%	49,58%	50,00%	50,00%	44,59%	46,52%
82	40,23%	55,02%	27,55%	51,46%	36,90%	45,95%	49,18%	49,06%	49,17%	47,09%	41,15%	60,34%	54,55%	47,73%	54,62%	52,03%	60,00%	47,30%	48,42%
81	42,73%	57,34%	29,59%	54,76%	38,69%	48,90%	53,86%	52,37%	51,93%	51,46%	44,14%	63,79%	54,55%	50,00%	60,50%	54,05%	60,00%	54,05%	52,85%
80	45,68%	60,74%	32,65%	56,93%	41,07%	51,52%	56,43%	56,19%	56,35%	54,60%	47,36%	67,24%	54,55%	53,41%	65,55%	58,11%	70,00%	56,76%	56,33%
79	50,00%	64,45%	34,18%	59,94%	44,05%	54,36%	59,23%	59,33%	57,46%	59,08%	50,29%	70,69%	54,55%	55,68%	68,07%	62,16%	70,00%	58,11%	59,81%
78	53,18%	70,02%	36,73%	62,58%	45,24%	57,52%	61,68%	62,46%	60,77%	63,12%	53,16%	74,14%	63,64%	59,09%	72,27%	64,86%	70,00%	60,81%	62,03%
77	55,91%	72,33%	39,80%	65,50%	47,02%	59,62%	64,02%	65,54%	62,98%	66,59%	55,75%	74,14%	72,73%	61,36%	74,79%	66,22%	70,00%	62,16%	63,29%
76	58,64%	74,50%	42,35%	68,43%	50,60%	63,09%	66,47%	67,83%	64,64%	68,50%	57,18%	74,14%	72,73%	65,91%	74,79%	68,24%	70,00%	63,51%	65,51%
75	61,59%	76,20%	45,41%	70,50%	55,36%	66,04%	69,98%	69,99%	66,30%	71,41%	59,48%	74,14%	81,82%	71,59%	78,15%	70,95%	70,00%	68,92%	68,99%
74	63,86%	78,83%	48,98%	73,14%	56,55%	68,35%	72,43%	72,96%	67,96%	73,77%	61,38%	75,86%	81,82%	73,86%	79,83%	72,97%	70,00%	70,27%	70,89%
73	66,14%	80,68%	52,04%	75,12%	57,74%	70,35%	75,12%	74,96%	69,61%	75,56%	63,62%	77,59%	81,82%	73,86%	84,87%	75,68%	70,00%	75,68%	72,15%
72	67,73%	82,38%	55,61%	76,72%	58,93%	71,50%	77,22%	76,10%	71,82%	78,81%	65,92%	79,31%	81,82%	75,00%	84,87%	77,70%	70,00%	77,03%	74,68%
71	69,55%	83,46%	59,18%	79,08%	61,31%	74,03%	78,86%	77,98%	74,03%	80,38%	68,33%	84,48%	81,82%	76,14%	84,87%	78,38%	70,00%	79,73%	75,32%
70	71,36%	84,70%	62,76%	80,77%	61,90%	75,81%	81,07%	79,35%	75,69%	82,51%	70,57%	87,93%	90,91%	77,27%	86,55%	79,05%	80,00%	81,08%	77,22%

<i>Percentage of proposals below threshold (&lt;70)</i>	28,64%	15,30%	37,24%	19,23%	38,10%	24,19%	18,93%	20,65%	24,31%	17,49%	29,43%	12,07%	9,09%	22,73%	13,45%	20,95%	20,00%	18,92%	22,78%
---	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	-------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

# The 2020 IF call – THE CALL TIMELINE



# Tips for writing a proposal – HOW TO START

As first, ask yourself

Would I be able to complete in this moment the research project I want to realise?

If the answer is YES, the IF call is not suitable for you

If not

- Are you **eligible**? See eligibility criteria and different panels
- Start to think about **where your project** and **training** path could be better realised – (THE HOST ORGANISATION)
- Think about the **most suitable mentorship** – THE SUPERVISOR and the research TEAM

**CONTACT THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!**



# Tips for writing a proposal– **FIND THE PERFECT MATCH**

**What research project, supervisor, host organisation best fit with your future career perspectives and training needs?**

- If is an individual grant, the research project should fit with **your CV** and **career plans**
- The choice of **the supervisor** is important, but take into account also **the research team** which may help to introduce you into the new work environment.
- There are very high ranking academic organisations or important companies, anyway **choose the host organisation which better match with your research project** and training needs.



# Tips for writing a proposal – THE IDEAL TIMELINE



# Tips for writing a proposal – LET'S SEE EVALUATION CRITERIA

**EXCELLENCE** the quality and novelty of the research; the training activities in the project; the capacity of the researcher, the scientific supervisor and their interaction.

**IMPACT** refers to the impact on the fellow's career development and the dissemination and communication activities.

**IMPLEMENTATION** is about the quality of the work plan, including the allocation of tasks and resources, and project management.



## Overview of evaluation criteria

Award Criterion	Threshold	Weight	Priority if ex-aequo
<b>Excellence</b>	n/a	<b>50%</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Impact</b>	n/a	30%	2
<b>Implementation</b>	n/a	20%	3
Total	70%		

<b>EXCELLENT.</b> The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.	<b>5</b>		<b>Excellent</b>
<b>VERY GOOD.</b> The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.	<b>4</b>	4.9 ↓ 4.0	<b>Very Good</b>
<b>GOOD.</b> The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.	<b>3</b>	3.9 ↓ 3.0	<b>Good</b>
<b>FAIR.</b> The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.	<b>2</b>	2.9 ↓ 2.0	<b>Fair</b>
<b>POOR.</b> The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.	<b>1</b>	1.9 ↓ 1.0	<b>Poor</b>
The proposal <b>FAILS</b> to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.	<b>0</b>		



# Tips for writing a proposal– **HOW EVALUATION WORKS**

- Each proposal is evaluated by **3 independent experts** (2 experts and a Rapporteur).  
**Each expert has to evaluate about 16 proposals in 3 weeks**
- Each expert drafts an **Individual Evaluation Report (IER)** to be shared during a virtual **Consensus Meeting** in order to deliver an **Individual Consensus Report**
- Each proposal receive an **Evaluation Summary Report**

*!! To facilitate the evaluators' work:*  
**be clear, use simple language, a legible font, tables and pictures**



## How proposals are assigned to the expert evaluators?

Making a match between their expertise and the **keywords** you have chose for qualifying your proposal.

## How evaluators judge your CV?

Only **talented researchers** are selected (the career stage doesn't matter). Your career stage should fit with your achievements. Be sure to show your **leadership skills**, not only PUBLICATIONS are important but also the **awards** you won, the **competitions** you have been selected for, the **conferences**, events you have organised...



# Tips for writing a proposal– **WHAT IS IMPORTANT**

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY ASPECTS**

Think about the possible interdisciplinary aspects of your research. Do not neglect this section of the application form!

## **THE TRAINING**

Think about the training you need to: achieve your research project, enhance your career perspectives, reach your career objectives. Remind that you should demonstrate to learn something during the fellowship! Remind to be specific!

## **INTERSECTORAL MOBILITY**

Take into account the opportunity to include a secondment in a different sector (academic/non-academic). Remind that the secondments must be meaningful for the implementation of the proposal!



# Tips for writing a proposal – THE PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

## PART B1 – MAX 10 pages

1. Excellence
2. Impact
3. Implementation

**Start with these two sections in order to prepare the ground for sections 1-3 :** make your CV relevant to your project, clear and easy to understand; make a description of the host (supervisor's scientific expertise and experience, the facilities and infrastructures if relevant) which fit with your proposal

## PART B2 – no page limits

4. CV of the Experienced Researcher (*indicative length of 5 pages*)
5. Participating Organisations → Host org
6. Ethical aspects
7. Letter of commitment (GF only)



## Examples of Training activities

- **Training through research:** acquisition of skills related to the research project (including the guidance of the supervisor and the research team)
- **Hands-on-training for developing scientific skills:** this refers to advanced research skills such as new methods, insights on other disciplines, instruments, research ethics...
- **Hands-on-training for developing transferable skills:** skills to be transferred to the future employment sector such as entrepreneurial skills, proposal preparation, patent applications, IPR, project management, task coordination and monitoring, supervising, exploitation of projects' results, communication and dissemination abilities..



# Tips for writing a proposal – **SOME INSIGHTS: DISSEMINATION vs COMMUNICATION**

## DISSEMINATION

- Targeted at peers – the scientific or the wider research and innovation community, industry and other relevant stakeholders, commercial actors, policy makers, professional organisations etc.
- Focus on research results – transfer them to other academic and/or industrial environments, foster their exploitation for commercial or research purposes, for stimulating decision makers...

## COMMUNICATION

- Targeted at the general public – to create awareness about the project and its results and implications for the society.
- Direct to a non-specialist public – use simple and comprehensible language
- For the researcher – to be used for understand the public concern and interest for the topic

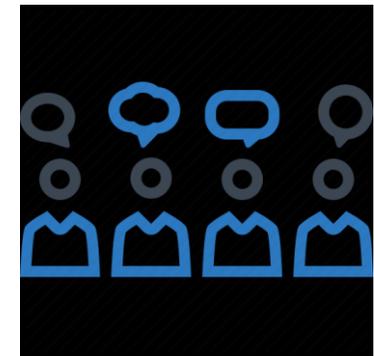


# The webinar– FINAL INFORMATION

This wants to be a preliminary overview of the call with some initial tips for starting writing a proposal.

To whom is interested to submit a proposal in the next MSCA-IF call or want to explore how to write e good MSCA-IF proposal, we are planning a **more practical webinar** in the coming weeks.

**Answer to our final poll to confirm your interest!**



# The webinar– CONTACTS

[tecnologi.ricerca@unipi.it](mailto:tecnologi.ricerca@unipi.it)

## LIFE SCIENCES

Martina Calamusa [martina.calamusa@unipi.it](mailto:martina.calamusa@unipi.it)

## PHISICS AND ENGINEERING

Marco Bargagna [marco.bargagna@unipi.it](mailto:marco.bargagna@unipi.it)

Francesca Ceron [francesca.ceron@unipi.it](mailto:francesca.ceron@unipi.it)

## SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

Veronica Moretti [veronica.moretti@unipi.it](mailto:veronica.moretti@unipi.it)

Francesca Zampagni [francesca.zampagni@unipi.it](mailto:francesca.zampagni@unipi.it)





Due to the high number of proposals received, the EC has proposed:

- 1. Possible limits to RESUBMISSION** starting from the 2022 call. No limits for the 2021 call (maybe similar to the ERC limits)
- 2. Possible age limits:** the EC is evaluating to introduce a limit to the «scientific age» of the researchers (i.e max 6 years after the PHD)
- 3. The Individual Fellowships** change the name in **Post-Doctoral Fellowships**

