



MSCA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Developing talents, advancing research



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

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

Overview

- Short introduction to MSCA and Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)
- The main objectives and eligibility criteria applicable to the PF 2025 call
- What is required of applicants (incl. evaluation criteria)
- Some data about Irish applications
- Your questions

What are the MSCA?

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (or “MSCA”)
- EU-level researcher mobility programme since 1996
- Highly competitive and prestigious fellowships
- All career stages
- More than 120,000 researchers supported

The MSCA under Horizon Europe

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 doctoral
and postdoctoral
programmes*

MSCA and Citizens

*Public outreach events
(Nights)*

Total budget 2021-2027: €6.6 billion

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Budget (2025): **€404,29mn** (€ 343.65mn European, €60.64mn Global) **TBC**
Call opening: **08 May 2025 TBC**
Call deadline: **10 September 2025**

Objective

➤ *“[E]nhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD, wishing to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.”*

- **Monobeneficiary:** One researcher, one host organization
- **Two types: European** and **Global** Fellowships
- Host organization must be in **EU or Horizon Europe Associated Country**
- Open to **all research domains**, including Euratom
- Open to “*excellent researchers of **any nationality***” (restrictions for GF and Euratom)

* As of 1 January 2024, UK became an Associated Country to Horizon Europe

European vs Global Fellowships

European Fellowships

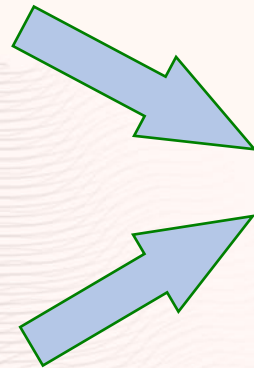


EU MS/AC



Third Country

Duration: 12-24m



EU MS/AC

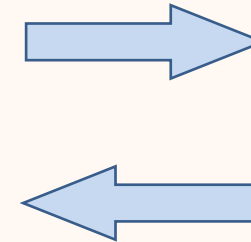
**+ Non-Academic
Placement
Max. 6m**

Global Fellowships

Outgoing phase: 12–24m



EU MS/AC

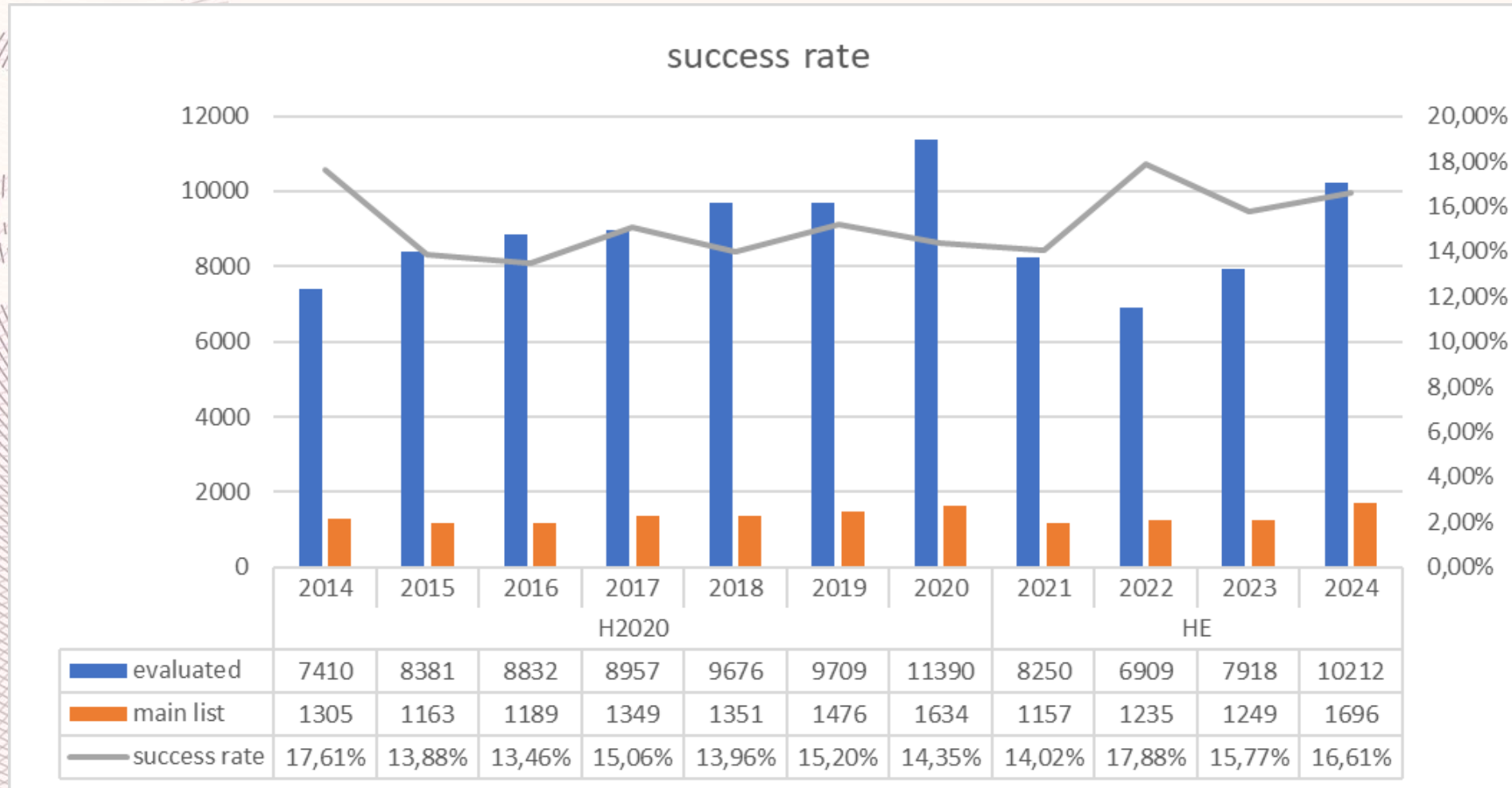


Third Country

- mobility must start at the beginning (excluding secondment);
- no more than 12 months at the return phase can be asked

Duration: 24-36m

Very popular programme



Key points about MSCA-PF

Postdoctoral researchers only [*ELIGIBILITY*]

Max. 8 years FTE postdoctoral research experience [*ELIGIBILITY*]

Researcher mobility scheme [*ELIGIBILITY*]

Training and career development through research

Non-Academic Placements possible (up to 6m at end of project)

Secondments encouraged (worldwide, up to 1/3 of project duration)

12-24m (EF) or 24-36m (GF) + Non-Academic Placement (max. 6m)

Eligibility Criteria

Postdoctoral Researchers only

- Must be “*in possession of a doctoral degree*” before call deadline
- If not yet awarded, must be “*unconditional*” defence before call deadline

Max. 8 years FTE postdoctoral research experience

- Measured from date of PhD award (time outside research not counted)

Researcher Mobility

- Must not have resided or carried out their main activity in country of the beneficiary (EF) or the host for the outgoing phase (GF) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline
- For GF, must be “long-term residents” of EU/AC

Secondments & Non-Academic Placements

Do not confuse:

- ≠ Secondment
- ≠ Non-Academic Placement (NAP)
- ≠ Short visits (e.g. field work)



A mix of secondment /NAP/short visits are allowed within a proposal
Respect the correct terminology

Secondments & Non-Academic Placements

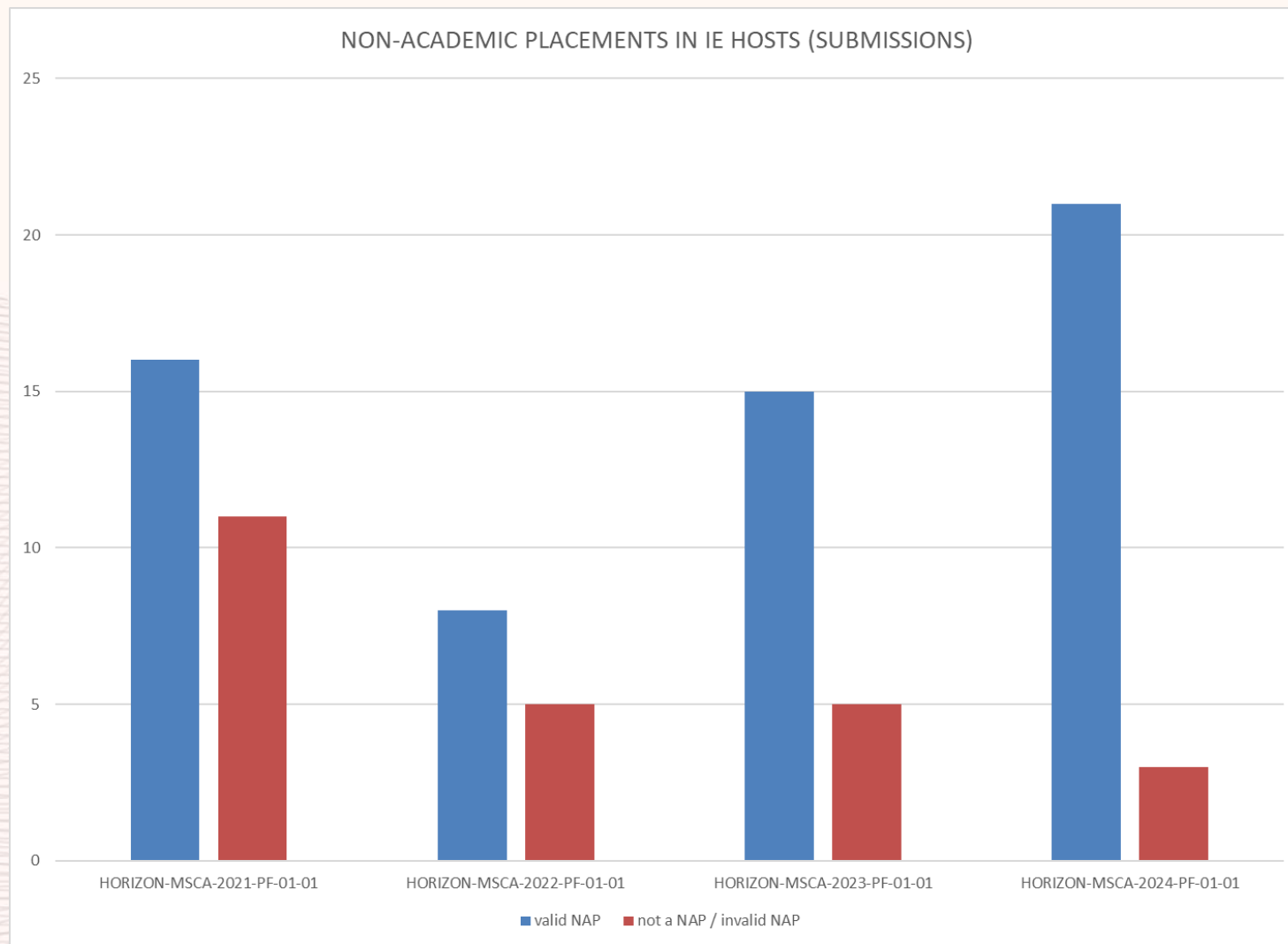
Secondments (Optional):

- Up to 1/3 of the total project duration in EF (e.g. max 8m for a 24m project) or 1/3 of the outgoing phase in GF
- Secondments can be divided into several shorter periods
- Any sector (academic and non-academic)
- Any country worldwide
- No additional budget for secondment

Non-Academic Placements (Optional):

- Up to 6m at the end of the project in a non-academic institution located in a MS or AC of Horizon Europe
- Additional budget for NAP
- Encouraged! (only ca. 6% of proposals)

Non-Academic Placements in Irish hosts



Example 1

European Fellowship

- Irish researcher awarded a PhD in 2019 in Sweden, remains resident there. Applies for a European Fellowship in the field of nanotechnology together with a host institution in Ireland.
- **ELIGIBLE?** *Awarded a PhD before the Call deadline; less than 8 years since award of PhD; has not resided in Ireland for more than 12 months in previous 3 years.*



Example 2

Global Fellowship

- Indian researcher living in Ireland for previous 3 years, PhD in 2023, applies for a Global Fellowship in the field of thermodynamics with a host in France, and outgoing phase in the US.
- **Eligible?** Awarded a PhD before the call deadline; less than 8 years since award of PhD; not more than 12 months in France in previous 3 years...but “long-term resident” in EU/AC?

?

The MSCA-PF Evaluation

Large-Scale Evaluation

Due to large number of proposals

Standard Peer-Review

≥ 3 experts per proposal

Bottom-up Programme

Proposals and Experts from all disciplines

Expert Balance

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

8 Scientific Panels

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

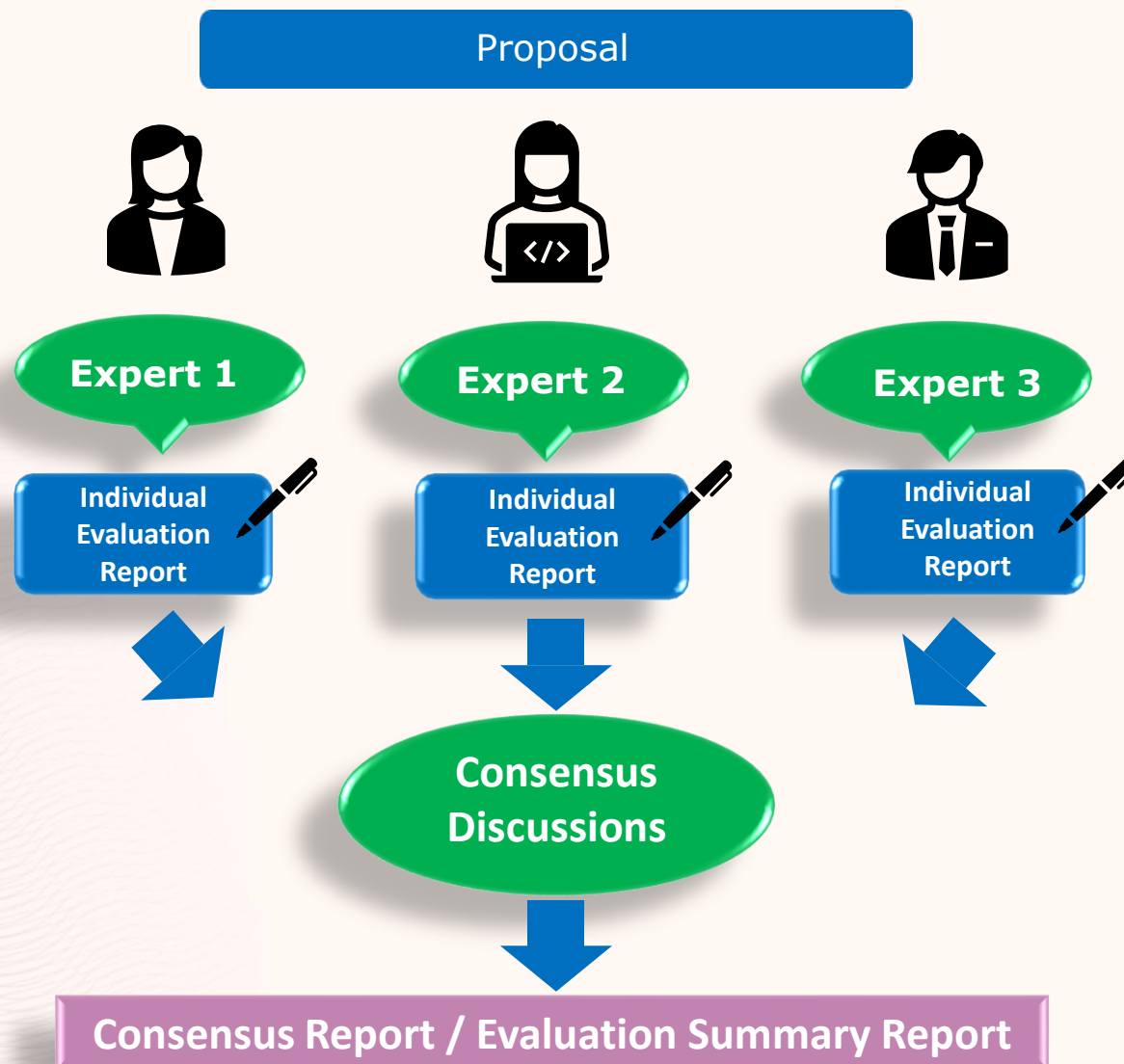
Single-Stage Evaluation

Call deadline to funding decision:
5M (+3M to GA signature)

Evaluation Process

ALLOCATION OF PROPOSALS TO EXPERTS

based on
the scientific field of the
proposal, including the
DESCRIPTORS and
KEYWORDS
provided by the
Applicant



Proposal Ranking

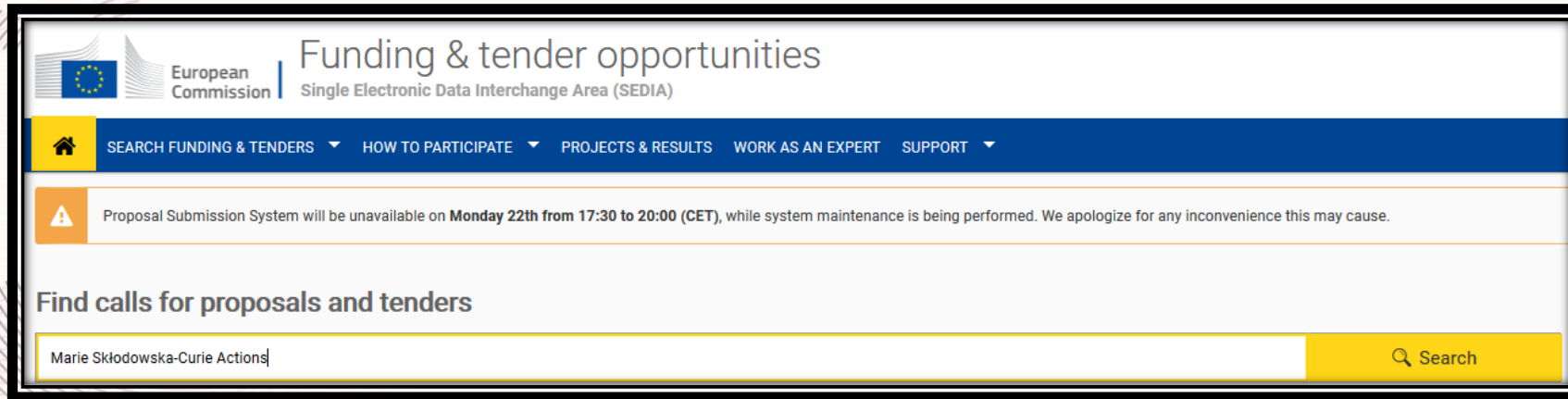
- Proposals ranked – and funding allocated :
 - **by Scientific Panel**, and
 - **by type of Fellowship** (separate ranking for *European* and *Global Fellowships*)
- ***Seal of Excellence***: awarded to proposals which score $\geq 85\%$
- ***New in HORIZON EUROPE***: Resubmission restriction for proposals with same researcher and same host scoring $\leq 70\%$ in previous evaluation (TBC for 2025!)
- **Evaluation Review procedure**

Budget – Unit contributions

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024-2025	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
	€5,080	€600	€660	€5,680 x % covered by beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	€1,000	€650

Living Allowance corrected by a country correction coefficient.
Figures are gross amounts.

Proposal Submission



European Commission | Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▾ HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▾ PROJECTS & RESULTS WORK AS AN EXPERT SUPPORT ▾

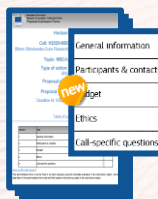
⚠ Proposal Submission System will be unavailable on **Monday 22th from 17:30 to 20:00 (CET)**, while system maintenance is being performed. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Find calls for proposals and tenders

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

🔍 Search

Part A
(Application Forms)



Part B
(Technical Description - PDF)



Part A (Application Form)

- Structured data entered into the IT system
- **One Acronym** and **One Title** for the project
- Select the **Scientific Area** (i.e. 1 Panel out of the 8 proposed) which is the “best fit” for the evaluation of your proposal
- 3 to 5 “**Descriptors**” which best characterise the content of the proposal, in descending order of relevance
 - First 3 descriptors linked to selected panel, others unrestricted
 - **Free keywords**
- Abstract: **maximum 2,000 characters**
- **Resubmission** of a proposal must be declared

Part A

Researcher Information, including:

- PhD award date (or date of successful defence)
- If PhD more than 8 years ago, complete table for extensions
- Countries of residence for past 5 years

Beneficiary Information, including:

- Participant Information Code (PIC)
- Outgoing host (for GF)
- Non-Academic Placement host (if applicable)

Part A (Application Form)

- **Beneficiary Information** (including validated PIC, supervisor)
- **If Global Fellowship: Outgoing host Information** (in addition to Beneficiary Information)
 - + Mandatory Letter of Commitment (LoC) for the Outgoing host for GF will need to be included in **Part B2**
- **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
- **If NAP: Non-Academic Placement host Information**
 - NAP budget to be added in budget table
- **If Secondment:** The associated partner for the secondment must not be included in Part A

* Explanation will be given in the *MSCA PF 2025 Guide for Applicant*

Proposal Part B1 (Technical Description)

Part B of the Proposal is comprised of *two documents* (**Part B1** and **Part B2**), uploaded as separate PDF files

Part B1

- Technical description of the project
- **Limit of 10 pages** (excess pages will not be visible to evaluators)
- **Minimum font size 11 points***, with standard spacing
- Use the **Part B template** available on the MSCA-PF Call page and structure your proposal accordingly

* including tables

Part B1 (Technical Description) – Evaluation Criteria

1. Excellence	2. Impact	3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation
1.1 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)	2.1 Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development	3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology (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)	2.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	3.2 Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements
1.3 Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host	2.3 The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts	
1.4 Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills		
Weight: 50%	30%	20%

* Criteria described in the *Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025 / 2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (European Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024)*



European
Commission

Proposal Part B2 (Technical Description)

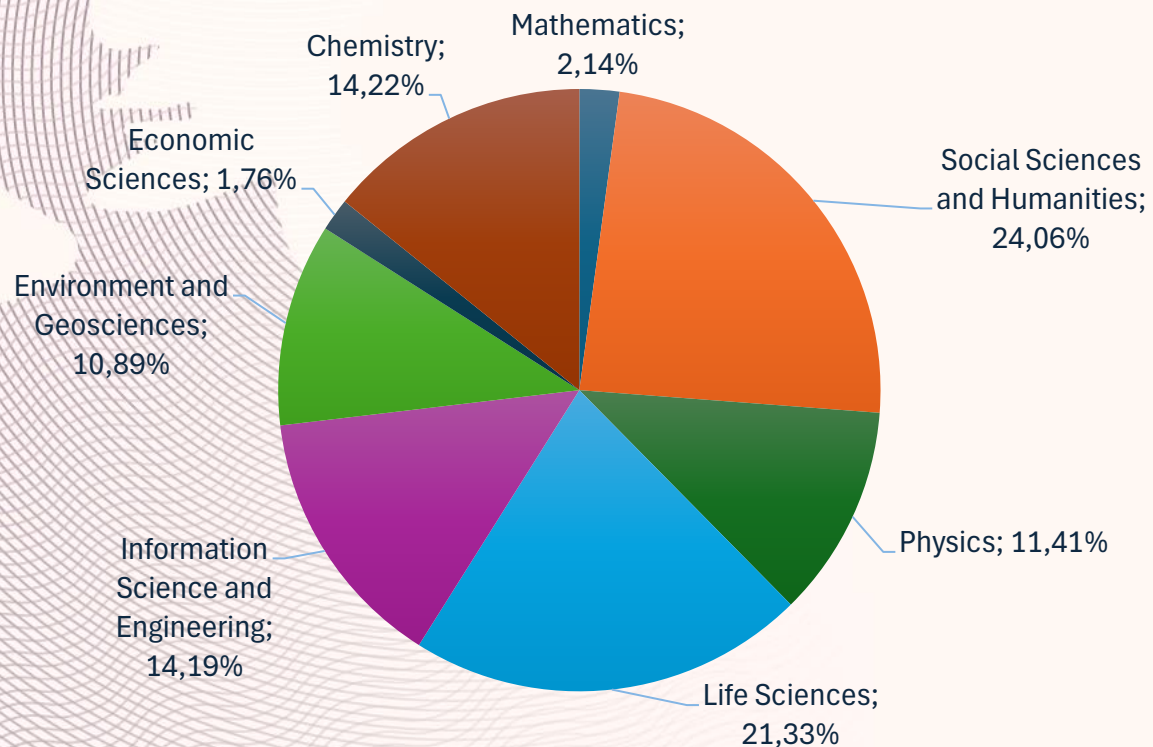
Part B2 (no formal page limit)

- CV of the Researcher (ca. 5 pages)
- Capacity of the Participating Organisations (max. 1 page per organisation, ½ page for associated partners) : 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 Global Fellowships, outgoing phase)

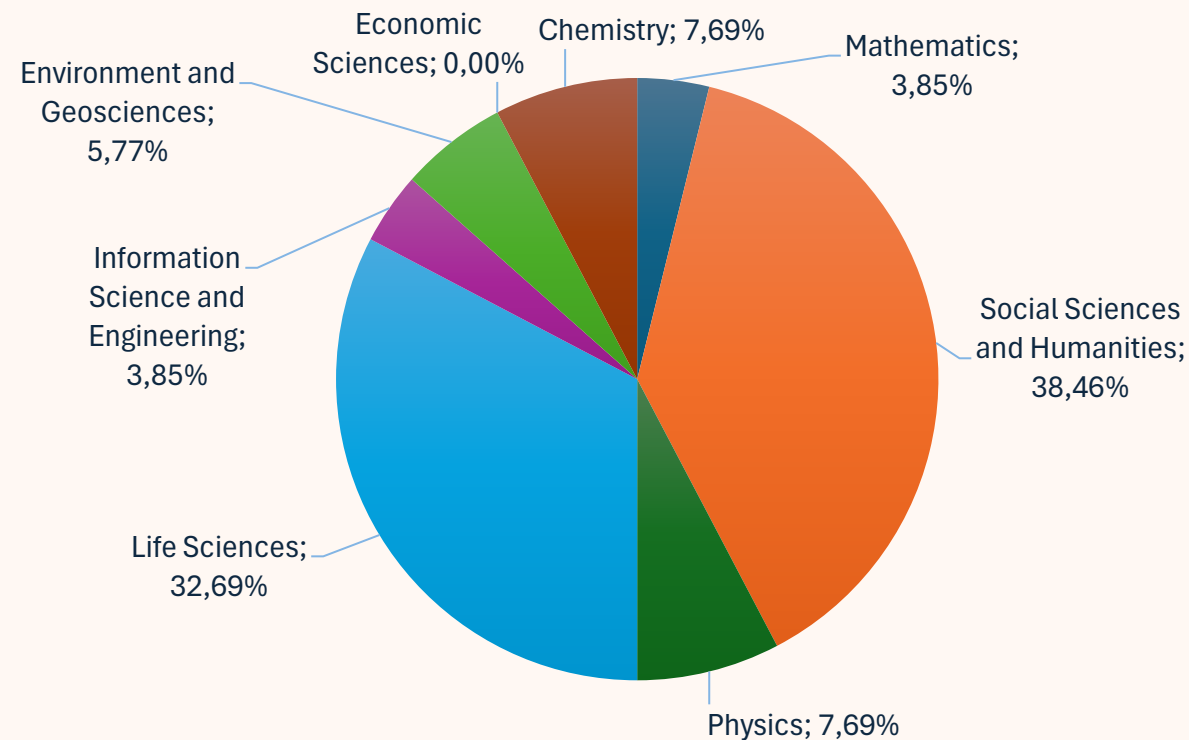
See [Part B template](#) on 2025 MSCA-PF call page for more information

Irish Researchers 2024 : Scientific area distribution

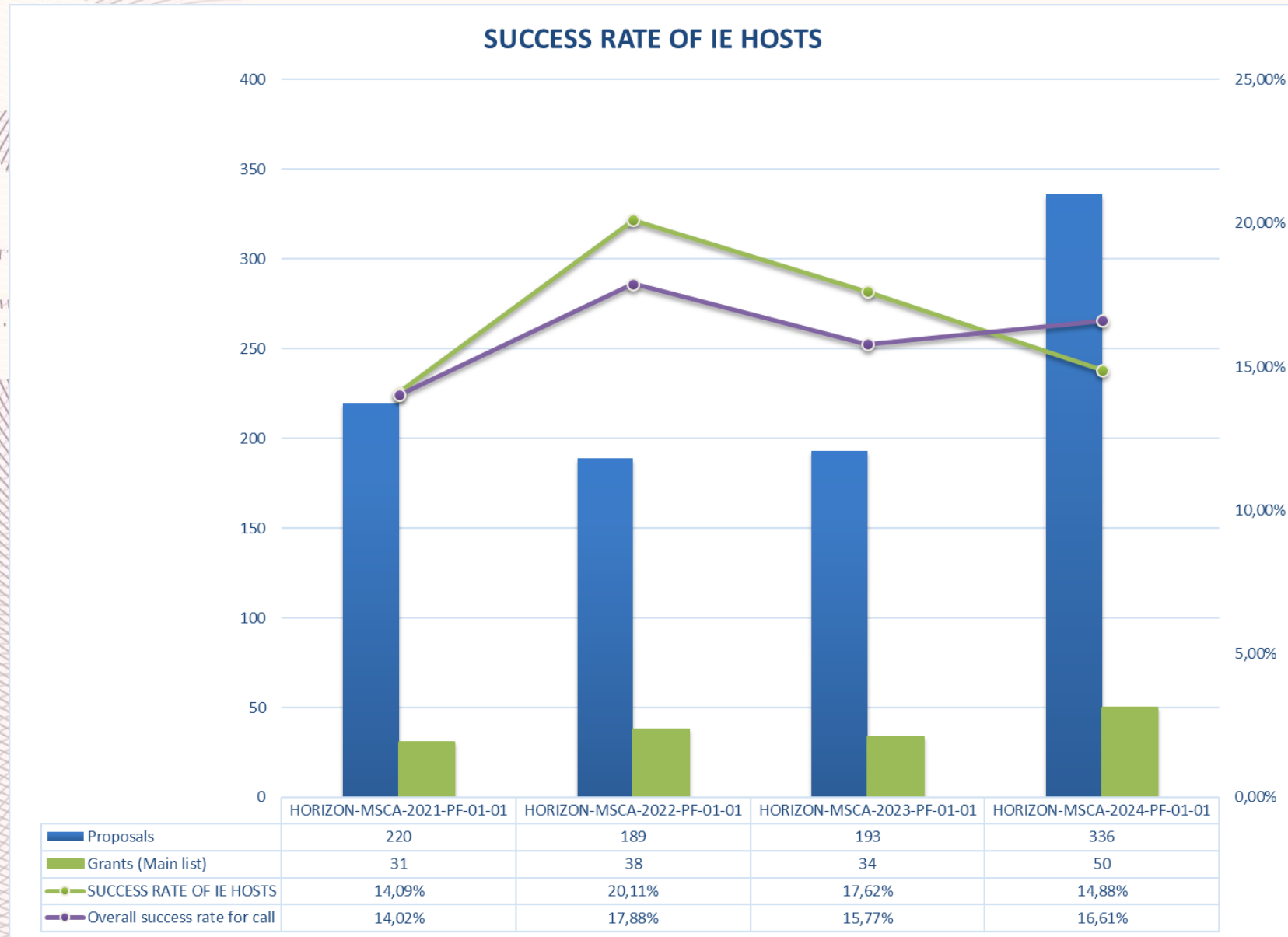
All grants (Main List)



Grants from Irish nationals (Main List)

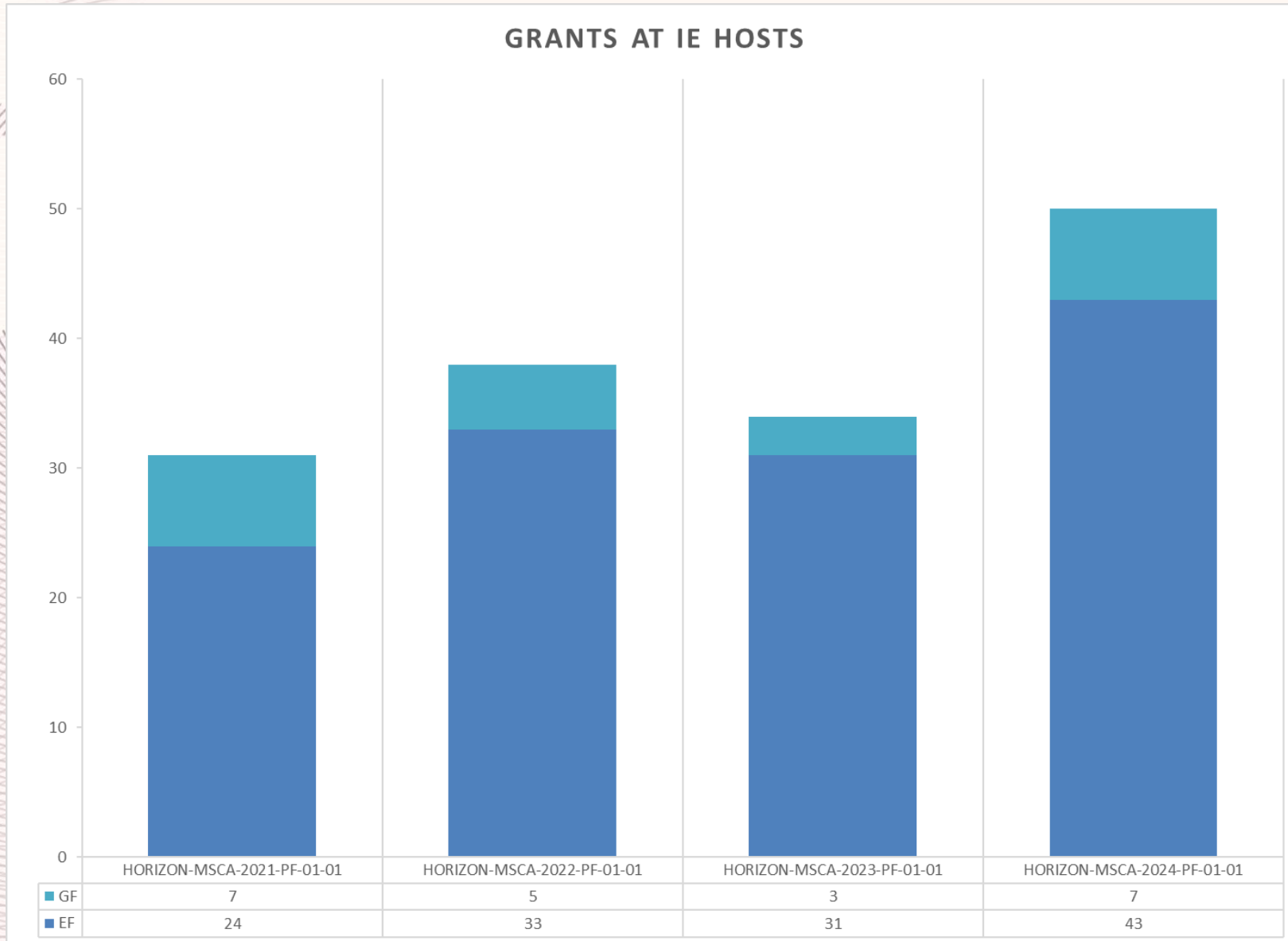


Success rate for Irish institutions (HORIZON EUROPE)



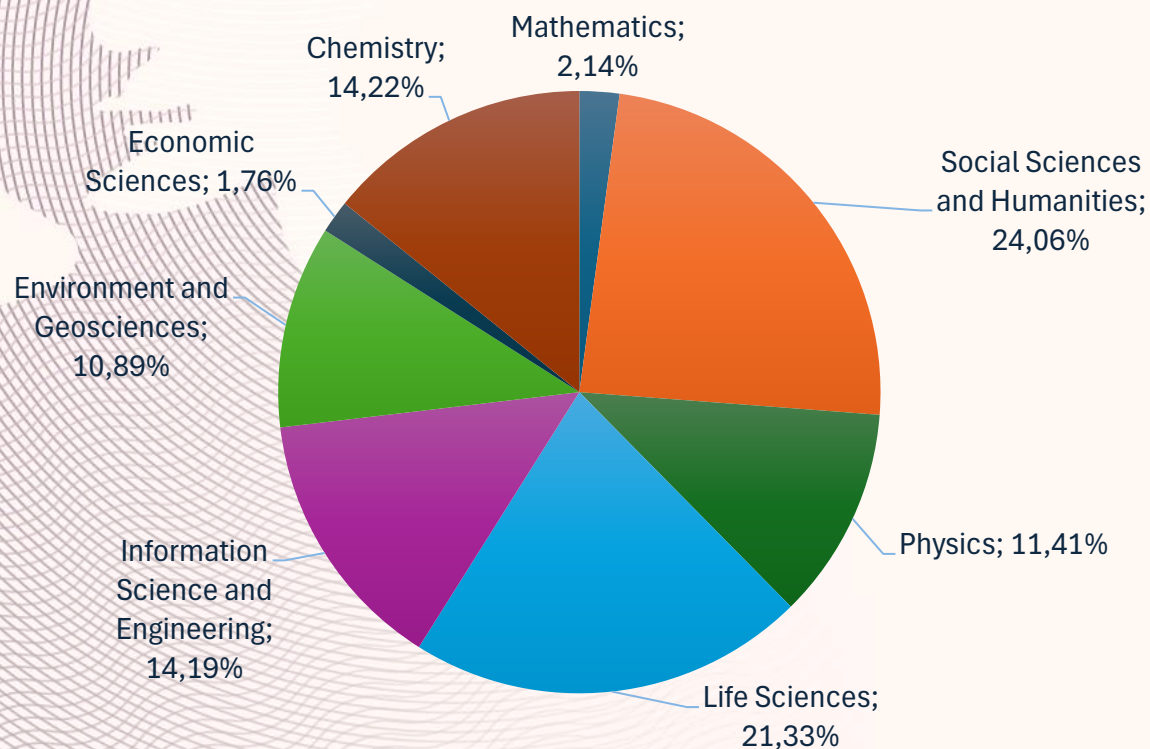
Success rate in Horizon 2020 ≈16%

Irish hosts : EF / GF distribution (HORIZON EUROPE)

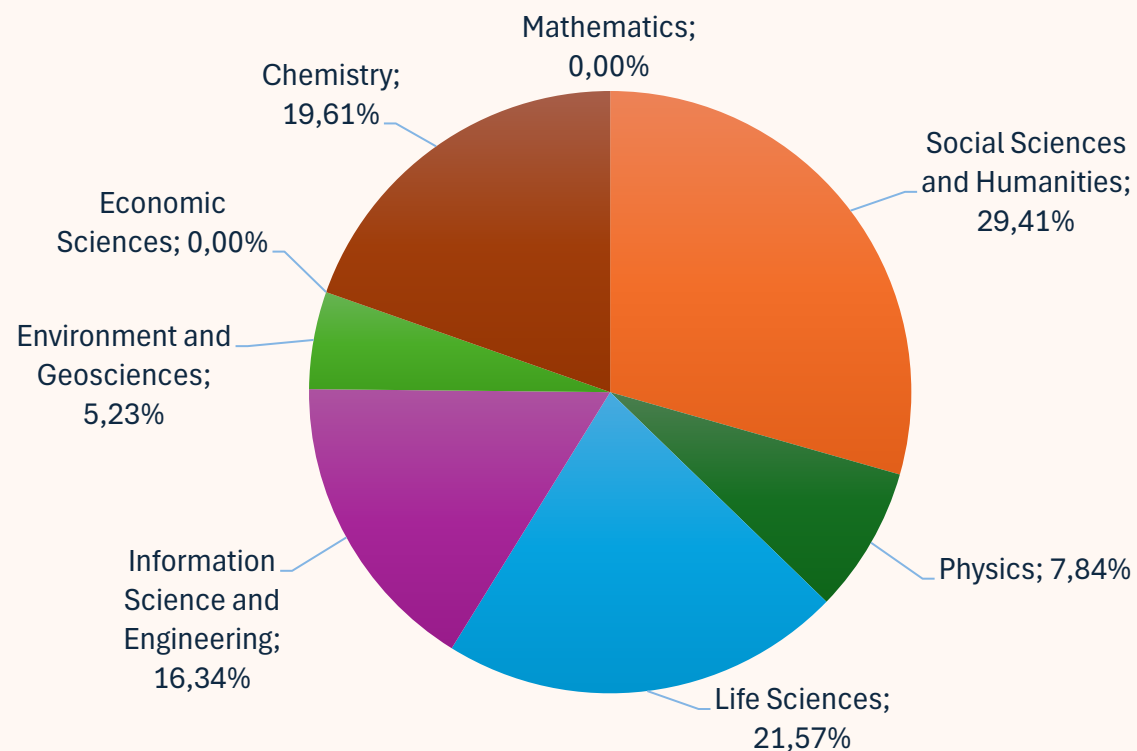


Irish Hosts 2024 : Scientific area distribution

All grants (Main List)



Grants from Irish Hosts (Main List)





Common Errors

Missing the Call deadline

Not respecting eligibility requirements (i.e. PhD, mobility or max 8 years research experience)

Exceeding the page limits

Missing Letter of Commitment (for Global Fellowships)

Confusing Secondments and Non-Academic Placements

Requesting an ineligible Non-Academic Placement or secondment

Using too small font

Call Planning (TBC)

<i>Call Opening:</i>	08 May 2025
<i>Call Deadline:</i>	10 Sept 2025
<i>Evaluation Period:</i>	Oct 2025 – Jan 2026
<i>Launch Grant Preparation:</i>	Feb 2026
<i>Project Starting Dates:</i>	Apr 2026 - Sept 2027

Resources and Guidance

- [MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025](#)
- [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) : MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025
- [MSCA-PF Guide for Applicants \(PF-2024\)](#), (as an example) Please use GfA 2025!!
- [Proposal templates \(PF-2024\)](#) (as an example). **Attention!** Mandatory use of 2025 template!!
- [Q&As](#) (PF-2024)
- [Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#)
- [Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#)
- [MSCA Website](#)
- [Research Enquiry Service](#)
- [National Contact Points](#)



**Thank you for your
attention!**