

**INVESTMENT LINE 1.2, “FUNDING PROJECTS
PRESENTED BY YOUNG RESEARCHERS”**

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

**Funding of projects for young researchers
who have won MSCA grants**

**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 201 PUBLISHED ON JULY
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1 PURPOSE

These guidelines intend to provide support to applicants who wish to participate in the Public Notice No. 201/2024 (henceforth “Notice”) aimed at supporting the research activities of young researchers who won “**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships**” within Horizon 2020 and “**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships**” within Horizon Europe framework programs.

The guidelines are addressed to Applicants. They can also be used as a reference tool by the “Implementing Entities” (Host Institutions) to ensure that researchers are properly supported in carrying out their activities.

2 ADMISSIBILITY AND ELIGIBILITY CHECK

The following section will detail the admissibility and eligibility requirements of the recipients.

2.1 RECIPIENT

The Public Notice aims at funding **at least 100 young researchers**, defined as applicants, that are identified within the winners of “**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships**” and “**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships**”.

Young researchers who have **completed their projects no later than 60 months** before the publication date of the Notice No. 201/2024, are eligible for funding.

For the purpose of the Notice, two types of recipients are identified:

- applicants (*Principal Investigators*)
- implementing entities (*Host Institutions*).

2.2 APPLICANTS

The applicant is a “**young researcher**” who will submit the project proposal within the deadline foreseen by the Notice and will carry out the activities of the project.

According to the Notice (Art. 1, co. 11), a “**young researcher**” is defined as: a researcher of any nationality who, for various reasons, has not yet gained a consolidated experience in managing research groups and does not hold a contractual position that ensure a stable career perspective in the field of research.

This definition includes all researchers who, at the date of adoption of the Notice, are up to 40¹ years of age, or, for profiles over 40 years of age and up to 45² years of age, having completed the PhD within the last 7 years, and who find themselves in one or more of the following conditions:

- needing to acquire a first experience as responsible for funds and/or research activities (e.g. Principal Investigator – P.I);
- needing to gain experience in leadership and management of national and/or international research team;
- not having, or not having had before awarded the European grant, a permanent Full Time Equivalent (FTE) contract as a researcher and/or tenured professor.



*Any candidate that has participated to the Notice 247/2022 and, following the signature of the Obligatory Deed, have turned down the grant assigned, **cannot submit another application under this Notice No. 201/2024.***

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1. It is meant to be by the completion of the 41st year of age as of the date of adoption of this Notice.
 2. It is meant to be by the completion of the 46th year of age as of the date of adoption of this Notice.



Each Applicant may submit only one proposal under this Notice.

2.3 IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

The “**implementing entities**”, as beneficiaries of the grant, are the following public or private entities responsible for the beginning, implementation and the functionality of the intervention/project funded by the NRRP:

- State and non-State universities, including the telematic ones, whatever their name, including high schools with a special system;
- Public research entities, as defined by the article 1, co. 1, of the Decree No. 218/2016, with operational headquarters throughout the national territory.

3 TYPE OF PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project proposals must consist in a **new project complementary and/or consequential with respect to the “MSCA Funded Project”**.

The new project proposals may relate to one of the research areas belonging to the scientific-disciplinary macro-sectors covered by the “MSCA Individual Fellowship” and “MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships” grant (listed in Annex 8 of the Notice).

3.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

In order to be admitted, the project proposals must:

- be consistent with the objectives and purposes of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, with the general strategy and the detail sheet of the component of the NRRP;
- aim at achieving the results measured with reference to Milestones and Targets assigned to the Investment;
- comply with the “do no significant harm” pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, in accordance with the technical guidelines prepared by the European Commission (Communication from the Commission 2021 / C58 / 01);
- be suitable for addressing and bridging gender inequalities;
- support the participation of women and young people, in accordance with the provisions of the decree-law of 31 May 2021, n. 77 (so-called Simplification Decree);
- promote the exploitation of research results and guarantee the protection of intellectual property, ensuring access, open to the public, to research results and related data (for example, publications of original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, sources, digital graphic and image representations and scientific multimedia materials), in the shortest time and with the least possible limitations, according to the principles of “Open science” and “FAIR Data”.

3.2 DURATION OF PROJECT PROPOSAL

The activities envisaged in the project proposals must be carried out **within a maximum time frame of 36 months since the signature of deed of obligation** pursuant to art. 7 of the Notice, according to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) legislation currently in effect.

4 DOCUMENT PREPARATION

The following section will detail the activities of the Applicants and Implementing entities.

4.1 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE APPLICANT

The applicant must present a **new project proposal**, complementary and/or consequential with respect to the “MSCA Funded project”. In addition, the applicant prepares and presents the documentation listed below, that will be verified during the evaluation process by the Evaluation Panel nominated by the Ministry of University and Research:

- **Project proposal (Annex 1A)** that includes the description of the new project complementary and/or consequential with respect to the “*MSCA Funded Project*”;
- **Financial framework and timetable** (excel form template attached to the guidelines);
- **Self-assessment form about ethic requirements fulfillment (Annex 3):** declaration to certify the compliance of the project with the principles of ethics.
- **Declaration of compliance with DNSH principle (Annex 4):** declaration to certify the compliance of the project with “do no significant harm” (DNSH) principle, pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.

4.1.1 Project proposal

Annex 1A contains information for the detailed description of all elements of the new project proposal candidate to receive funding.

The document consists of the following sections to be filled in:

- Project information
- Project Proposal: Technical description
 - Section A: Excellence
 - Section B: Impact
 - Section C. Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation.

4.1.2 Financial framework and timetable

The contribution is established within a maximum limit of € **300,000** for each project proposal.

In the platform, the applicant must **indicate the requested amount filling the application form and submitting the financial framework and timetable**. The section must be filled with the cost items accordingly to the Notice No. 201/2024 as well as the implementation timeframe of the research activities.

The table below consists of a template, attached to these guidelines, of the **Financial Framework and Timetable** to be filled directly in the platform.

ELIGIBLE COSTS (According to the Decree, art. 8 c. 5)	DURATION (max 36 months)			
	M1 - M12	M13-M24	M25-M36	TOTAL
A1. Personnel cost - Principal Investigator				
A2. Personnel cost - other staff to be recruited for the project under fixed-term contracts, research grants, doctoral grants				
<i>SUBTOTAL PERSONNEL COST (A1+A2)</i>	- €	- €	- €	- €
B. Travel and subsistence				
<i>SUBTOTAL TRAVEL and SUBSISTENCE (B)</i>	- €	- €	- €	- €
C1. Other costs - Scientific consultancy or technical-scientific assistance services				
C2. Other costs - Communication and dissemination activities				
C3. Other costs - Long-term utility assets (such as tool, equipment, acquisition and use of patents, applying the depreciation procedure)				
C4. Other costs - Other operating costs (such as consumables)				
<i>SUBTOTAL OTHER COSTS (C1+C2+C3+C4)</i>	- €	- €	- €	- €
D. Indirect costs (flat rate of 15% of personnel costs)	- €	- €	- €	- €
<i>SUBTOTAL INDIRECT COSTS</i>				
<i>TOTAL COSTS (A+B+C+D)</i>	- €	- €	- €	- €

4.1.3 Self-assessment form about ethic requirements fulfillment

The Annex 3 represents the declaration, in the form of a checklist, that the applicant must complete and sign to certify the compliance of the project with the principles of ethics.

4.1.4 Declaration of compliance with DNSH principle

The applicant has to fill in and sign the declaration of “do no significant harm” (DNSH) principle, pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (Annex 4).

4.2 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (HOST INSTITUTION)

The Host Institution commits to hiring the Principal Investigator according to the types of positions, as described by art. 3, co. 2, of the Ministerial Decree No. 637/2024, and will guarantee access to the infrastructure necessary to carry out the project.

The Host Institution receives from the applicant a series of information regarding both the new project proposal,

which will be implemented at its headquarters, and the “MSCA Funded Project”. Furthermore, the Host Institution receives some annexes that will have to complete and return to the Applicant, in order to present the proposal.

Below the list of Annexes:

1. **Preliminary agreement** (Annex 2);
2. **Data communication of beneficial ownership for public or private entities** (Annex 5A Public entities; Annex 5B Private entities);
3. **Auto declaration of absence of double financing in the selection phase**, (Annex 6);
4. **Declaration of the non-existence of conflict-of-interest situations** (Annex 7).

5 SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted in English, under penalty of exclusion and inadmissibility, exclusively electronically, via the <https://www.gea.mur.gov.it> platform.

To this end, the Ministry, at the opening of the terms for submitting the application, will guarantee access to the <https://www.gea.mur.gov.it> platform for the recipients admissible to submit the project proposal.

5.1 SUBMISSION PROCESS

The applicant must fill in the platform the following sections:



5.1.1 Administrative forms

The applicant must complete section A, B and C in the platform:

- a) **Registry form of the funded Project** that must include: the scientific macro sector; the reference of the call for proposals; the funded project amount; the date of notification of project's admission; the date of Grant Agreement subscription; project start date; project end date; project abstract; project title.
- b) **Form of the New Project Proposal** that must include: project title; the scientific macro sector; project start date (foreseen); duration in months (max 36 months); maximum 5 keywords; project abstract; total requested contribution.
- c) **Financial framework and timetable** that must include the eligible costs reported according to the timetable of the project.

To complete the submission of the proposal, the applicant must include the documentation described in article 9, co. 8 of the Notice.

6 EVALUATION PROCESS AND AWARDING OF THE GRANT

The following section will list the activities related to the evaluation process and awarding of the grant.

6.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

As indicated in art. 11 of the Notice, the evaluation procedure is carried out by an Evaluation Panel, following criteria of competence, transparency and rotation, in accordance with the principles of impartiality, readiness and absence of conflicts of interest.

The evaluation of merit, carried out by the Evaluation Panel appointed by the Ministry, is based on the following criteria:

A.1 SCIENTIFIC PROPOSAL	Consistency, clarity and ambition of the project goals with respect to those of the project, according to the complementarity and consequentiality with respect to the goals of the “MSCA Funded Project”.
A.2 EXPECTED IMPACT	Expected impact of the project on the scientific, social and economic level, and adherence to European and international policies (for example, the Sustainable Development Goals and the 5 Missions of the Horizon Europe Framework Program) and in terms of knowledge transfer and/or technology.
A.3 IMPLEMENTATION AND FEASIBILITY	Robustness, clarity and feasibility of the activity plan and of the economic-financial plan in the proposed timing.

The achievable **score for each point is between 0** (The proposal does not meet the evaluation criteria) **and 5** (The proposal successfully addresses the evaluation criteria).

The maximum score that can be achieved is 15.

Projects that achieve an overall score lower than 10 out of 15 or that have at least a score on the individual criteria lower than or equal to 3 are not eligible for the grant.

6.2 AWARDING OF THE GRANT

Upon completion of the evaluation phase, the Ministry draws up and publishes the list of eligible subjects on the platform <https://www.gea.mur.gov.it>. Within the ranking, priority is given to proponents whose headquarters are in the **Southern Regions, up to 40% of the available financial resources.**

In case of an equal overall score, the project proposal with the highest score assigned to criterion **A.1 “Scientific proposal”**, mentioned in the table above, prevails. In case of equal score for criterion 1, the project with the highest score assigned to criterion **A.2 “Expected impact”** of the aforementioned table prevails. In case the score assigned to criterion 2 is equal, the project proposal submitted by the candidate with a lower age prevails.

In case of renunciation and/or non-acceptance by the applicant admitted for funding, the ranking list will be scrolled.

7 ANNEX TO THE NOTICE

This section summarizes all the documents needed to submit the proposal.

7.1 ANNEXES SIGNED BY THE HOST INSTITUTION

Below, there are the Annexes that the Applicant must present to the Host Institution before submitting the application on the platform and collect them after signature.

The Host Institution will have to complete and sign the following Annexes:

1. **Data communication of beneficial ownership for public or private entities** - ex art. 22, par. 2, lett. d) Reg. (UE) 2021/241 - undersigned by the Host Institution legal representative possessing legal personality in public or private law (**Annex 5A Public entities; Annex 5B Private entities**), (the content of the Annex is in Italian);
2. **Auto declaration of absence of double financing in the selection phase**, undersigned by the Host Institution legal representative (**Annex 6**), (the content of the Annex is in Italian);
3. **Declaration of the non-existence of conflict-of-interest situations** by the legal representative, or beneficial owner if not coincident with the legal representative, of the Implementing Entities (**Annex 7**): between the Host institution itself and the Ministry of University and Research (the content of the Annex is in Italian).

7.2 ANNEXES SIGNED BY THE APPLICANT

Below the Annexes that the Applicant must complete and sign to successfully submit the application.

- **Project proposal** that includes the description of the new project complementary and/or consequential with respect to the “MSCA Funded Project” (**Annex 1A**);
- **Self-assessment form about ethic requirements fulfillment (Annex 3)**: declaration to certify the compliance of the project with the principles of ethics;
- **Declaration of compliance with DNSH principle (Annex 4)**: declaration to certify the compliance of the project with “do no significant harm” (DNSH) principle, pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.

All the useful information regarding the DNSH (operational guide and checklist as published in May 2024) are available at the following page: [Il principio DNSH \(Do No Significant Harm\) nel PNRR - Italia domani.](#)

7.3 ANNEX SIGNED BY BOTH THE APPLICANT AND HOST INSTITUTION

Below the Annex that both the Applicant and the Host Institution must complete and sign to successfully submit the application.

- **Preliminary agreement between the Host Institution and the Principal Investigator (Annex 2).**

7.4 OTHER DOCUMENTATION

Furthermore, the following documentation must be attached:

- “**MSCA Funded Project**” with a copy of the European Commission funded contract (Grant agreement);

- **Evaluation Summary Report of the First submission** (of the “MSCA funded project”);
- **Curriculum vitae of Principal Investigator** (*Please, highlight consistency with the definition of young researcher*);
- **Identity document.**

8 ATTACHMENT

- Financial Framework and Timetable Template (excel form)