

MSC Individual Fellowships

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During webinar please
email queries to
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Presentation and Q&A
report will be available
online



Irish Marie Skłodowska-Curie Office

Sponsored by the **Irish Research Council** (www.research.ie)

Based at IUA, service is for all research-active organisations

- **Promote** the Actions to Irish researchers and research organisations
- **Support** researchers in preparing funding applications
- **Contribute** to policy initiatives relevant to the Actions



How the MSC Office can help

Information

- Email Distribution List (mariecurie@iua.ie)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Office Ireland on [Linkedin](#)
- Dedicated website www.iua.ie/mariecurie
- YouTube channel MarieCurieActionIre

Support

- Training Webinars for specific Calls (recordings on website)
- Advice on whether your concept 'fits' the Call
- Help to access financial supports from Enterprise Ireland and InterTradeIreland (for All-Island collaboration)

Marie Curie Actions, an Irish Success Story

Watch the videos at
<http://bit.ly/TU5jAD>

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the YouTube channel page for MarieCurieActionsIre. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOSWs8pPBepT6XbZ--wGr6Q>. The channel page features a banner image of a group of people, the channel name 'MarieCurieActionsIre', and a 'Subscribe' button with a subscriber count of 20. Below the banner, there are three video thumbnails with titles: 'FP7 MCA for Social Sciences and Humanities', 'FP7 Marie Curie Fellowship Experience', and 'FP7 Marie Curie Actions for Principal Investigators'. The left sidebar shows 'What to Watch' with categories like Popular on YouTube, Music, Sports, Gaming, and Movies. The right sidebar shows 'Popular channels on YouTube' with a list of channels including erika saccone, Nadeshot Plays, piddleass, OpticBigTymeR, SprinkleofChatter, and JerichoAFK. The bottom of the browser window shows the Windows taskbar with icons for various applications and the system clock displaying 09:44 on 10/07/2014.

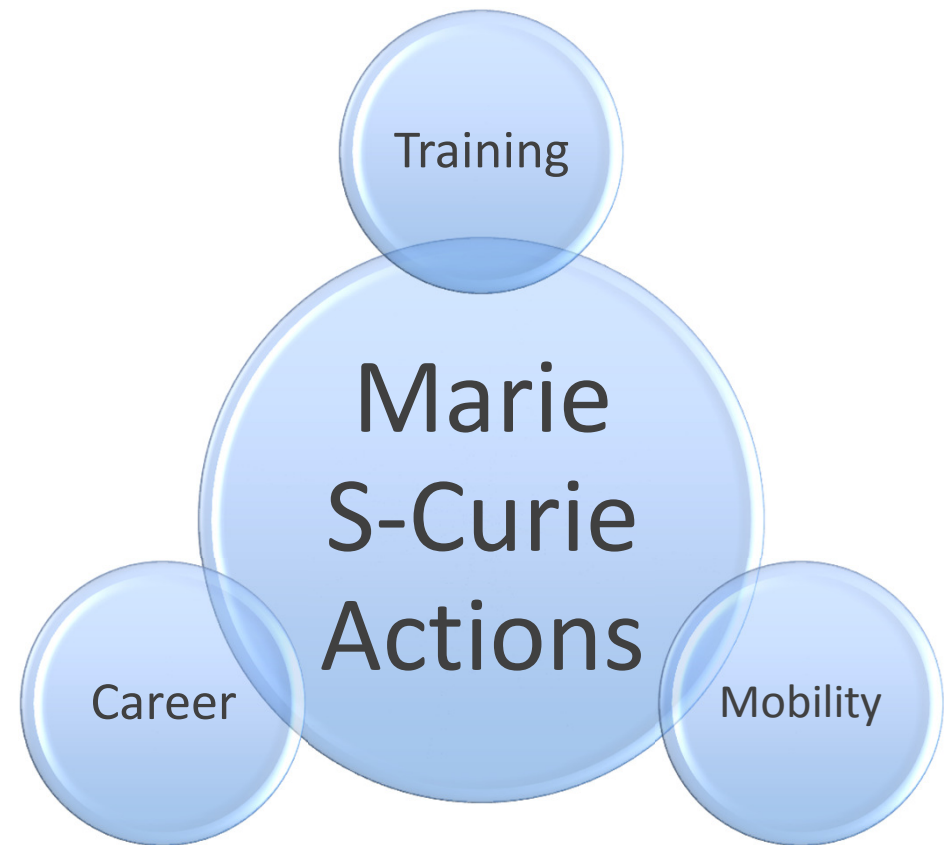
Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions in Horizon 2020:

€6.2 billion budget

In the **Excellence Science** Pillar

Funds **ALL RESEARCH AREAS**
(no thematic calls or priorities)

Implemented via Annual
Calls for Proposals





RISE

- Research & Innovation Staff Exchange

ITN

- Innovative Training Networks

COFUND

- Co-financing fellowship or doctoral programmes with transnational mobility

NIGHT

- European Researchers' Night

IF

- Individual Fellowships



Want to know more about the other MSCA?

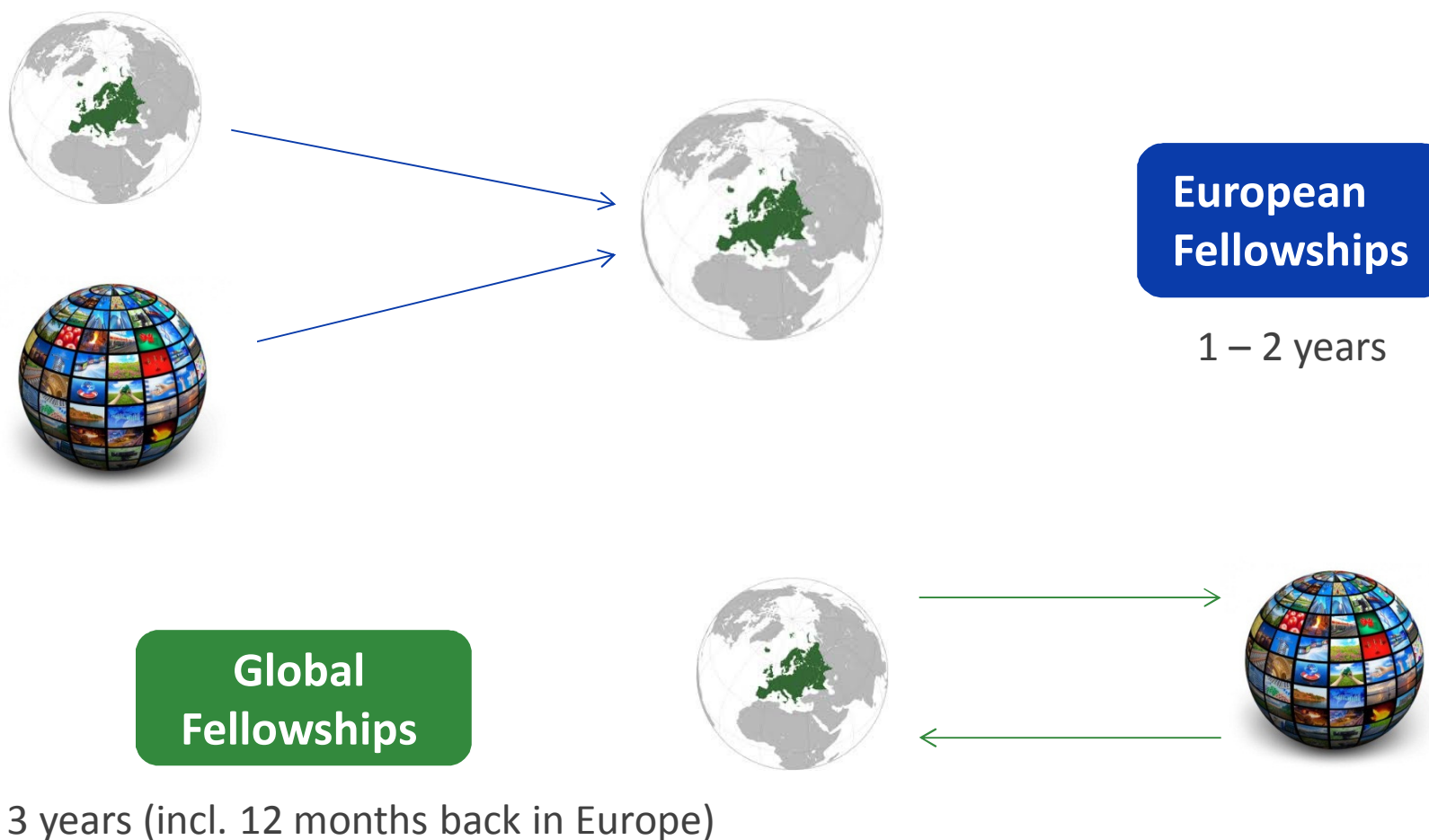
View my webinar at
[http://www.iua.ie/webinar-on-
marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/](http://www.iua.ie/webinar-on-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/)

Individual Fellowships



- A personal fellowship to support a period of mobility
- For Experienced Researchers
 - Post-PhD or equivalent
 - No upper age or experience limit
- Fully-funded fellowships
 - Salary, research costs etc.
- Academic or non-academic host
- Minimum duration 1 year

IF – European and Global





Secondments

- During the IF, can be seconded to any host organisation in Europe
- Ideally should take place in a different sector, i.e. academic to non-academic or vice-versa

Fellowship Duration	Maximum Secondment Duration
≤ 18 months	3 months
> 18 months	6 months

- The secondment can be split into several shorter periods
- If you can't specify the precise host organisation for the secondment in the proposal, must at least specify the sector (academic or non-academic), the timing and the purpose of the secondment



Mobility is key

In the main, cannot apply for a fellowship in a country where you have lived for **>12 months** in the **3 years** before the Call deadline

Currently studying in Ireland?

- European Fellowship: must apply with host outside Ireland (i.e. move country)
- Global Fellowship: rule applies to country outside Europe, so can apply to come back to Irish host (or anywhere else in Europe). If you're not European, must have lived in Europe for 5 years before applying for GF.

Recently moved to Ireland?

- Could apply for EF with current host, and GF if you've been in Europe for ≥ 5 years before applying



European Fellowship – three options

Standard European Fellowship (EF)

- Mobility rule as described on previous slide
- Proposals ranked in disciplinary panels (more info. later)

Reintegration Panel (RI)

- For those who wish to (or recently have) relocated to Europe from outside
- Must be nationals or previous long-term residents (≥ 5 years) of a European country
- Relaxed Mobility Rule: no more than **3** years in the **5** years before the call deadline in the country of the host organisation

Career Restart Panel (CAR)

- For people who have taken a career break (any reason) for at least 12 months before call deadline
- Relaxed Mobility Rule: see above



More than just a research project; a career development fellowship

- Training through research (individual project)
- Additional scientific skills (new techniques, instruments etc.)
- Transferable skills (e.g. communication, IPR, entrepreneurship etc.)
- Interdisciplinary/inter-sectoral transfer of knowledge (**secondments**)
 - Can spend up to 6 months (in total) working in another organisation (ideally in another sector) in Europe.
 - Opportunity to link with industry, NGO, public sector, national archive etc.
- Research and financial management of the fellowship
- Organising and taking part in events (including public engagement)
- Training in gender and ethics issues

Must be managed by a Career Development Plan



Funding Model

Categories of eligible costs	Costs of researcher PER MONTH			Institutional costs PER MONTH	
	Living allowance (a)	Mobility allowance (b)	Family allowance (c)	Research, training and networking costs (a)	Management and indirect costs (b)
Marie Skłodowska-Curie action					
IF (100%)	4 650	600	500	800	650

- Fellow's Salary = Living Allowance + Mobility Allowance (+ Family Allowance)
- Rates in table are inclusive of employers' costs (e.g. employer's PRSI, pension contribution)
- A country coefficient applies to the Living Allowance (e.g. 113.5 for Ireland, 68.3 for Romania)
- Estimated Gross Salary (prior to employee's tax, social security and pension deductions)
 - €55,000 p.a. (no family allowance)
 - €60,000 p.a. (with family allowance)



How to apply



Administrative Forms

- Completed online
- Visit Call page on Participant Portal
- ECAS Account Login
- Need PIC (Participant Identification Code) to submit
- Call deadlines are Brussels time!

Proposal “Part B”

- Download template from inside online system
- Complete and save as PDF
- Upload to online system
- Multiple submissions possible – submit early and often!



- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | • Summary | } 10 pages max |
| 2 | • Excellence | |
| 3 | • Impact | |
| 4 | • Implementation | |
| 5 | • Researcher's CV (5 pages max) | |
| 6 | • Capacities of the host(s) | |
| 7 | • Ethics issues | |
| 8 | • Letters of Commitment | |



Evaluation



Evaluation Panels

Proposals are read by at least 3 disciplinary experts

Distribution of awards across Panels is proportional to # of proposals received

From Call deadline to Grant Agreement Signature – 8 months max.

Global Fellowships/Standard European Fellowships – single disciplinary ranking

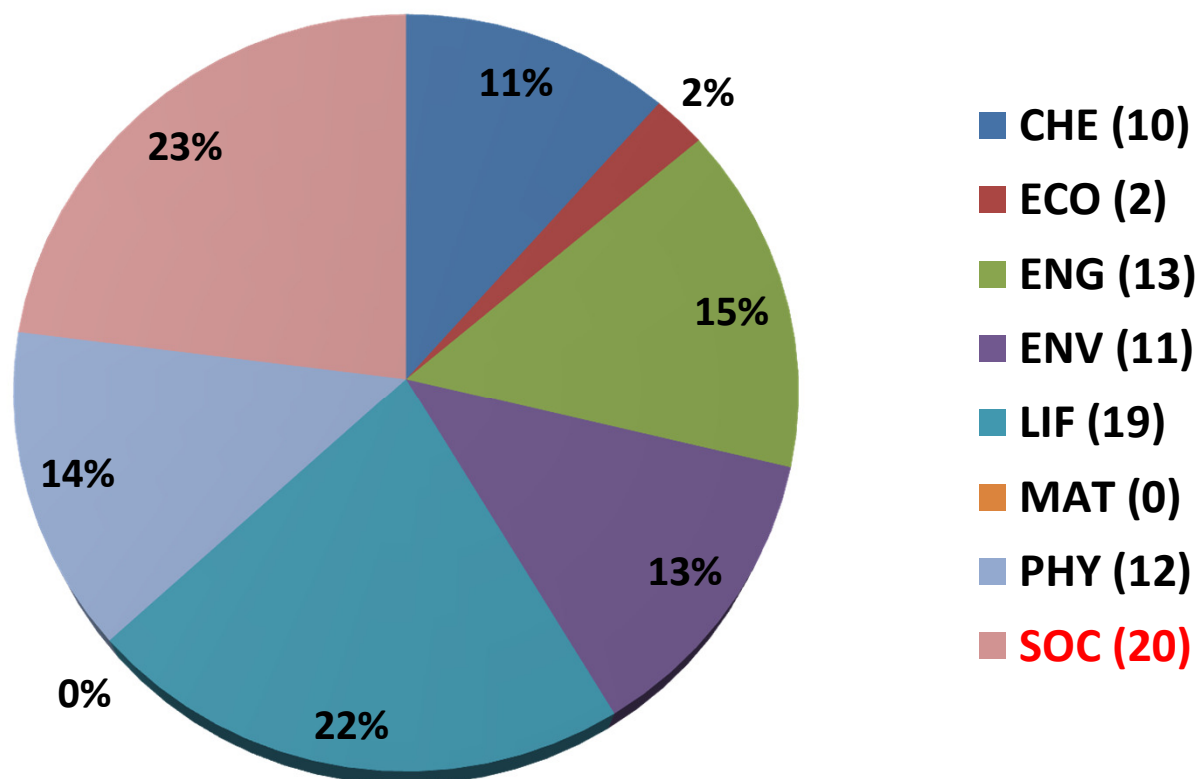
- Chemistry (CHE)
- Physics (PHY)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Life Sciences (LIF)
- Economic Sciences (ECO)
- ICT and Engineering (ENG)
- Social Sciences & Humanities (SOC)
- Earth & Environmental Sciences (ENV)

Reintegration (RI) European Fellowship – multidisciplinary ranking

Career Restart (CAR) European Fellowship – multidisciplinary ranking



FP7 Fellowships in Ireland – By Panel



Social Sciences and Humanities Researchers were the most successful in FP7 Individual Fellowships



Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Weighting	Priority (ex-aequo)
Excellence	50%	1
Impact	30%	2
Implementation	20%	3

Overall threshold of 70%
No individual thresholds



Excellence (50%) Priority 1	Impact (30%) Priority 2	Implementation (20%) Priority 3
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects)	Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills, and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives	Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Clarity and quality of transfer of knowledge/training for the development of researcher in light of the research objectives		Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management
Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and results dissemination	Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research		Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and institutional commitment

Proposal template matches this table

The “Charter and Code” and Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R)

Embedded in Evaluation Criteria for all MSCA

- **Charter:** researchers’ career management
- **Code:** open and transparent recruitment and appraisal
- If institution has endorsed the **C&C**, include in proposal

HRS4R: mainstreaming **C&C** in institutions

- Awarded the right to use “HR Logo”
- UCD, UL, NUIG, UCC and WIT are awardees (to-date).
- If applicable, should be included in proposal



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Indicative Call Timetable

Activity	Date
Publication of Call	12-Mar-2014
Deadline	11-Sep-2014
Evaluation of Proposals	Oct/Nov 2014
Evaluation Outcome	Feb 2015
Signing of Grant Agreements*	May 2015

* Earliest start date – can postpone for up to 12 months



2013 Call Stats – all Europe

Fellowship Type	IEF	IIF	IOF
Average cut-off score (differs for each panel)	91.7	92.8	93.0
# applications evaluated	4939	1959	1225
#of fellowships funded	~690	~185	~155
Success Rate	14%	9.5%	12.6%

Number of applications increasing every year => success rates falling



Writing a good proposal:

Advice from evaluators and the
PeopleNetwork+ of MSCA NCPs



General Comments - 1

- Use a self-explanatory title
- A memorable acronym is helpful
- Use the proposal template:
 - It matches the evaluation criteria and makes it easy for the evaluators to find what they are looking for.
 - It helps you to put the right information in the right place for the evaluators to find it.
 - Some evaluators use a “checklist” approach to marking – if the information is not in the correct section, they will give you “zero” for that sub-criterion.



General Comments - 2

- Use Diagrams, Charts, Tables or Figures where possible
 - Easy to evaluate
- Minimise scientific jargon and write in a clear readable style
- Be aware of the overall weighting of each criterion
 - You need to score well in all sections in order to be funded – don't spend all your time writing the Excellence section!



Abstract (Admin forms) & Summary (Part B)

Provided to evaluators to help them choose the proposals they will evaluate

- Be concise
- Reflect the whole proposal including proposed impact
- Identify precise & concrete objectives for the whole proposal, not just the research
- Provide enough technical/research information to help an evaluator with knowledge of the field to select it



Layout of Proposal

Not evaluated but it makes life easier for the evaluators

Template

- Use the Correct Template
- Use the Template sub-headings (provides good structure)
- Provide a Table of Contents with page numbers
- Use the Full Page Limits
- Put the proposal acronym in the Header
- Put Page Numbers (format Page X of Y) in the Footer

Format

- Use charts, diagrams, tables, text boxes, figures.
- Use appropriate font size, line spacing, page margins
- Ensure any colour diagrams etc. are understandable when printed in black and white
- Use highlighting where appropriate (bold, underline, italics) but don't overdo it!

Language

- Avoid jargon
- Explain any abbreviations
- Simple clear text
- Avoid long sentences
- Get rid of repetitions (refer to other parts of proposal if necessary)
- Don't copy text from other documents or websites
- Be consistent with language (UK/US English)



2.1 Quality of research programme

- Educate the Evaluator
 - The majority of evaluators will not be expert in the specific subject area of the proposal so....
 - Write in a style that is **accessible to the non-expert** using figures/tables/charts/diagrams to illustrate where appropriate
- Research objectives
 - Make them clear, focused and up front
 - Relate them to the state-of-the-art and make sure the 'state of the art' is up to date
 - Include a list of bibliographic references (**in footnotes**)



2.1 Quality of research programme - 2

- Provide a clear, focused description of the research methodology (diagrams etc. to illustrate)
- Highlight originality and innovative aspects of the proposal
- Timeliness: why carry out this research now?
- Gendered innovations are NB and must be mentioned
- How will the research contribute to the field?
- Clearly explain how the research will:
 - open up the best career possibilities for the researcher
 - new collaboration opportunities for the host(s)

2.2 Quality of Training/Transfer of Knowledge

- Spell out the training objectives
- Clearly describe what you are trying to achieve (**what – why- when**)
- Link to your overall short and long term career goals
- Include a training schedule with well-defined timeframe (use the mandatory Gantt chart)
- Must include the preparation and use of a Personal Career Development Plan
- If a secondment of other opportunities for exposure to other sectors (industry, charity, national archive etc.) is included, be specific about **why** and **when** these will happen



2.2 Quality of Training/Transfer of Knowledge 2

- Need to demonstrate potential acquisition of three kinds of skills:
 1. Research Skills core to your research project
 2. Additional Research Skills (to diversify your competencies)
 3. Transferable & Complementary Skills (also consider skills useful in non-academic careers)
- Acquired through training courses and “on the job”

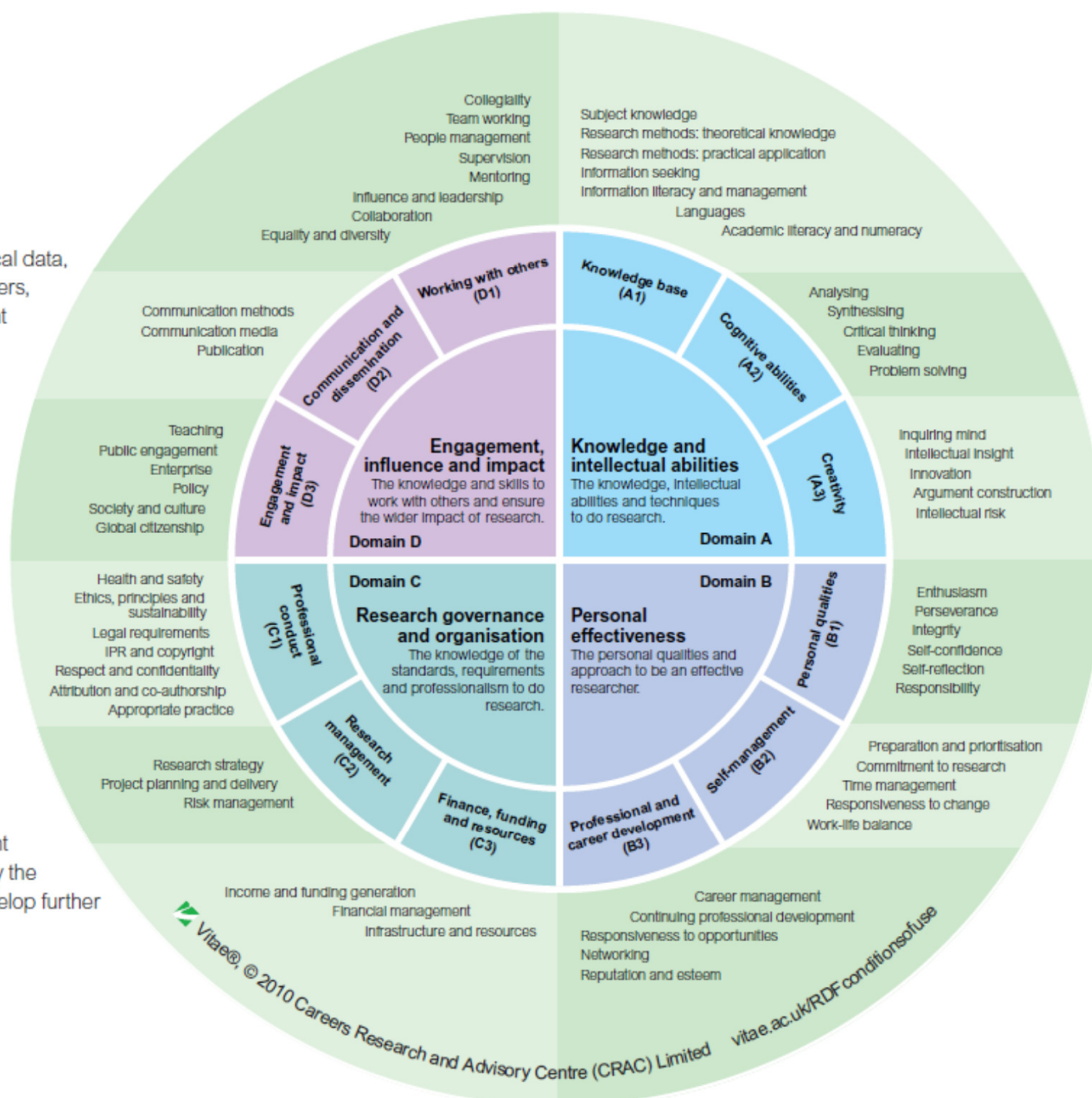
The **VITAE Researcher Development Framework**
is a useful resource



Structure

The RDF has been created from empirical data, collected through interviewing researchers, to identify the characteristics of excellent researchers expressed in the RDF as 'descriptors'. The descriptors are structured in four domains and twelve sub-domains, encompassing the knowledge, intellectual abilities, techniques and professional standards to do research, as well as the personal qualities, knowledge and skills to work with others and ensure the wider impact of research. Each of the sixty-three descriptors contains between three to five phases, representing distinct stages of development or levels of performance within that descriptor.

The RDF has been incorporated into a downloadable Professional Development Planner to enable researchers to identify the areas in the framework they want to develop further and to create an action plan.





2.2 Quality of Training/Transfer of Knowledge

- Explain how the host (ToK) will gain new knowledge from the researcher
- Particularly important for
 - Global Fellowships (ToK between host outside Europe and host in Europe)
 - Reintegration European Fellowships (ToK into Europe from outside)



2.2 Quality of Training/Transfer of Knowledge 2

- Precisely what knowledge will be transferred
 - Provide a bulleted list or a table of objectives – easy for the evaluators to follow
- How will you transfer it?
 - What specific measures will you use to embed this knowledge into the host organisation and the wider Europe
 - Examples: mentoring students, delivering workshops, attending conferences, building collaborations with other European research organisations.
 - Be creative!



2.2 Quality of Training/Transfer of Knowledge

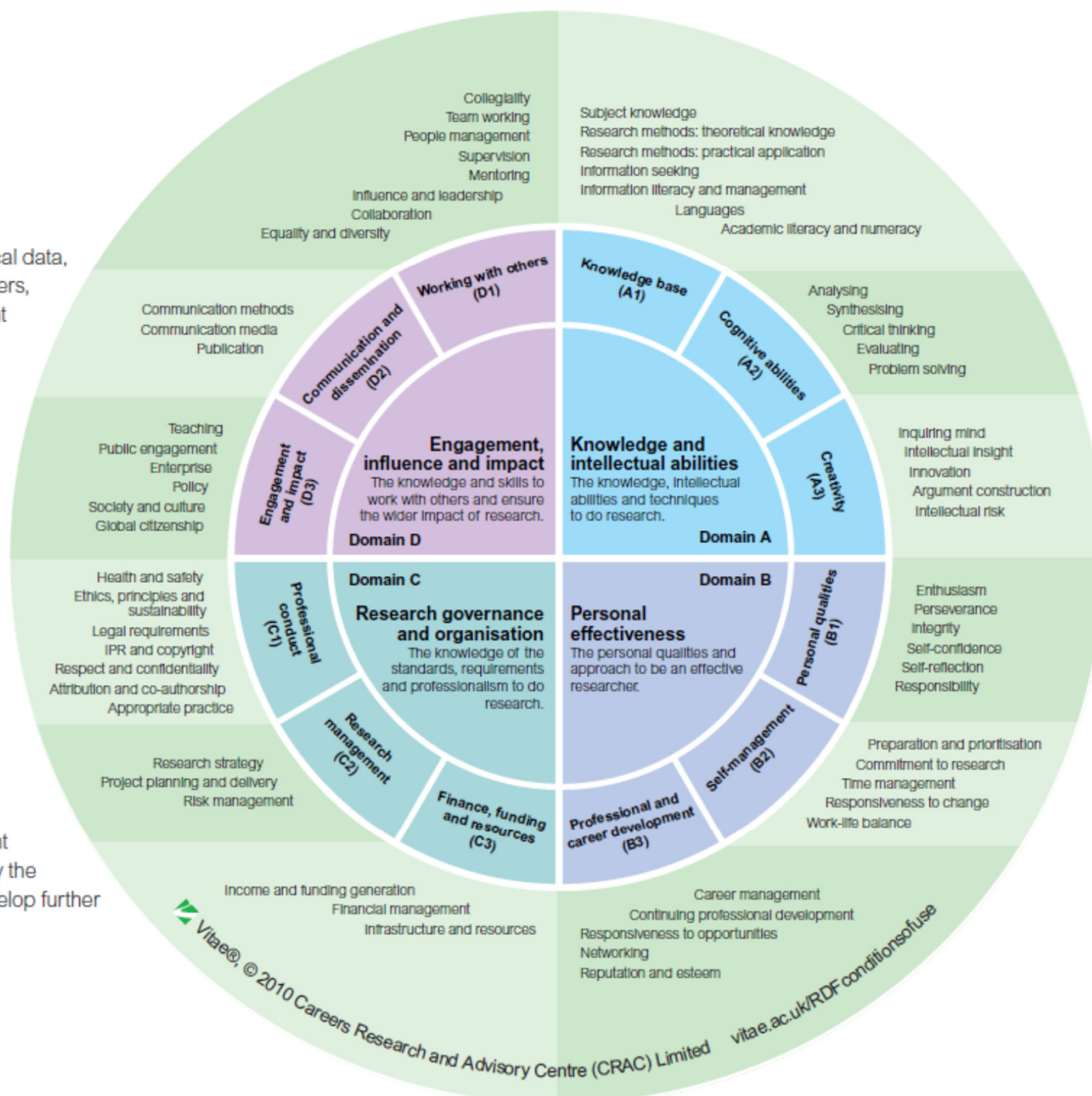
- Explain how the researcher will gain new knowledge from the host (ToK) and **vice versa**
- The latter is very NB for Global Fellowships (ToK between host outside Europe and host in Europe) and the Reintegration European Fellowships
- Need to demonstrate potential acquisition of three kinds of skills:
 1. Research Skills core to your research project
 2. Additional Research Skills (to diversify your competencies)
 3. Transferable & Complementary Skills (also consider skills useful in non-academic careers)

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- Spell out the training objectives
- Clearly describe what you are trying to achieve (**what – why- when**)
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- Include a training schedule with well-defined timeframe
- Must include the preparation and use of a Personal Career Development Plan
- If a secondment of other opportunities for exposure to other sectors (industry, charity, national archive etc.) is included, be specific about **why** and **when** these will happen



2.3 Quality of the supervision

- Clearly demonstrate, with hard evidence, the quality of the research supervisor(s)/institution(s) with regard to the training of researchers
 - Include numbers of postdocs mentored, number of Marie Curie Actions they participated in
- If the researcher will be co-supervised/mentored by other members of the team, spell out their role and experience
- Spell-out the supervision arrangements e.g., frequency of meetings, help with Career Development Plan etc.
- Demonstrate that the supervisors are experts in the research area (cite their publications)
- If your host has a researcher career development programme, then spell out precisely how you will incorporate relevant aspects of it into your personal training plan



2.4 Capacity of the researcher / 5. CV

- Need excellent track record appropriate to career stage, discipline and sector (academic/non-academic)
 - E.g. publications/conference participation, granted patents, monographs, book chapter, examples of leadership in industrial innovation
 - Include bibliographic information e.g. impact factor, number of citations, journal ranking in the field.
 - If you are not the first or lead author, briefly explain your contribution
- Include all relevant experience (e.g. teaching, consultancy, supervision, event organisation)
- Consider using Europass CV format or parts of it
 - The sections on Personal Skills and Additional Information are well laid out
- Need to provide a clear statement that the Researcher is a good match to the proposed research but need to demonstrate that they will learn something new



2.4 Capacity of the researcher/ 5. CV

- Include a description of major research achievements – a short paragraph is sufficient. Link to information in CV – don't duplicate
- Provide good evidence of the candidate's ability to think/act independently and show leadership
 - If you really have no examples from your research career, you can include some from your personal life (e.g. student body president, captain of football team, secretary of gardening club.....)
- For 2014 Call, no opportunity to include letters of reference so you need to "sell yourself"



3.1: Research HR and new career perspectives

In all sections, be specific: provide details of how the impact will be achieved.

- Explain the impact of the research and training on the fellow's career, e.g.
 - Research skills, transferable skills gained
 - Exposure to non-academic sector (secondments or other), if applicable
 - How it will help them to achieve/work towards their career goals
 - Outline what they plan to do after the fellowship
- Explain how the researcher's activity will impact on European society and/or the economy
 - Importance to the field of research
 - Link to Horizon 2020 objectives, research roadmaps, European standardisation
 - Promoting collaboration between the academic and non-academic sectors and between Europe and outside (for Global Fellowship/Reintegration Panel)
 - Entrepreneurship, innovation (social and economic), creativity



3.1: Research HR and new career perspectives - 2

- Look to EU policies on research which refer to training/careers for researchers
 - E.g. Innovation Union, Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, Youth on the Move
 - Final Report of the Expert Group on the Research Profession
 - Most docs are available on the EURAXESS Policy Library
<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/services/researchPolicies>
- Don't simply cut and paste from EU docs or “pay lip service” by naming them in the document – present an analysis of how the fellowship fits in with their objectives



3.2: Communication and Dissemination

What is the Impact of these activities?

- Dissemination & Exploitation
 - Ensure you target multiple audiences, e.g. other researchers, policy makers (can link to European excellence), industry, government science advisors, “think tanks”, legislative bodies.....
 - Outline plans to exploit any IP/social innovation arising from the programme
- Public Engagement
 - Do not underestimate its importance – see Guidelines doc at http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/documents/documentation/publications/guidelines_en.pdf for details.
 - Include specifics (**what – who – when**) in a readable format (e.g. table)
 - Target different groups (students at all education levels and the general public) – participation in a European Researchers’ Night



4.1: Workplan

- Must have a clear work plan
- Use the standard EU format of Work Packages, deliverables and milestones – be clear and concise
- Must complete the required Gantt Chart to illustrate timelines
- Don't just have research Work Packages, include, e.g.:
 - Management
 - Dissemination, Exploitation and Public Engagement
 - Training/Transfer of Knowledge (including any secondments)



4.2: Management Structure & Procedures

- Must have a clear management plan, to explain who will do what and when.
- Tasks include:
 - Progress monitoring (research, training, transfer of knowledge, dissemination etc., career planning)
 - Financial management
 - IPR management (if applicable)
 - Risk management (research and the overall fellowship)



4.3: Infrastructure and Institutional Environment

Prove that the host(s) have the necessary research and training infrastructure to successfully implement the fellowship

- Infrastructures: technical and other such as office space, access to library and IT facilities, researcher development programmes etc.
- Outline the relocation assistance for the researcher (EURAXESS Ireland can help) e.g. new researcher orientation etc.
- Describe which institutional departments will help with managing the programme (Finance, HR etc.) and what their experience is
- The **Capacities Table** in section 6 will also be used to evaluate this criterion – don't duplicate the information.



4.3: Infrastructure and Institutional Environment - 2

- Has the organisation(s) endorsed the **Charter & Code** – if yes, say so!
 - List at <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/charterAndCode>
- Is the organisation(s) working towards earning the “**HR Excellence in Research**” logo? If yes, say so!
 - List at <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/strategy4ResearcherOrgs>

**But....don't assume that evaluator knows what this means.
Explain it to them – it underlines the institution's
commitment to excellent working conditions for researchers**



4.4: Competences, Experience and Complementarity

- Explain how the fellowship will benefit the researcher and the host organisation(s)
- For Global Fellowship, clearly explain the complementarities between the two organisations (in and outside Europe) and how these will be exploited (use a diagram or table)
- Need a Letter of Commitment (in section 8) from the host outside Europe – **no letter required for European host**
- Good idea to include Letter of Commitment from organisations that will host the researcher whilst on secondment, if applicable

6: Capacities Table

Information Requested	Suggested Content
General Description	
Role and commitment of key persons (supervisor)	% time commitment. Role of other persons apart from supervisor.
Key Research Facilities, Infrastructure and Equipment	Relevant to the research to be carried out in the IF
Independent Research Premises?	Yes / No answer. If no, explain where the research premises are located. Example: spin-out company who has R&D space in an academic institution.
Previous involvement in research and training programmes	e.g. FP7 or FP6 Marie Curie, Erasmus, Structured Doctoral Programmes.....
Current involvement in research and training programmes	As above
Relevant publications and/or research/innovation products	Relevant to the research to be carried out in the IF



7: Ethics Issues

- All proposals will be checked for ethics issues
- Ethics Table is in the Administrative Forms
- If you indicate Ethics Issues in the Table:
 - Clearly describe how Ethical Issues will be managed
 - How does the proposal meet national legal and ethical requirements of the host country?
 - Who will oversee the project's ethical aspects? E.g. institutional ethics committee, Data Protection Officer
 - Provide sample consent forms etc.
 - There is no page limit, so provide as much relevant information as possible



Deadlines 2014/2015

CALL	Opening Date	Closing Date
Individual Fellowships 2014	12-Mar-2014	11-Sep-2014
COFUND 2014	10-Apr-2014	2-Oct-2014
Innovative Training Networks 2015	2-Sep-2014	13-Jan-2015
Research & Innovation Staff Exchange 2015	6-Jan-2015	28-Apr-2015
Individual Fellowships 2015	12-Mar-2015	10-Sep-2015
COFUND 2015	14-Apr-2015	1-Oct-2015

Questions?

Please email your queries
to

mariecurie@iua.ie

All material will be made
available for download
afterwards

Join our [Linkedin Group](#)
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Office Ireland

