

SNSF TRANSITIONAL MEASURES: INFORMATION EVENT

25 September 2023

Programme

1. **Welcome**
2. **Presentation of the political Situation –SERI**
3. **SNSF Consolidator Grants 2023 -SNSF**
4. **SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023-SNSF**
5. **SNSF Advanced Grants 2023 -SNSF**
6. **Presentation ERC Calls - Euresearch**
7. **Q&A**

Rules

Please be aware that we will give the whole presentations before allowing questions

We will be recording the presentation, so that we can set it online for the people you could not participate

Chat: you can write questions, it might be that we will not manage to answer all the questions during the meeting, but we will either answer them afterwards or directly take them up in the FAQ

If you would like an answer directly, please raise your hand and we will answer you orally during the meeting

We will share the presentation and the recording in the next days 😊

Today SERI's team



Mascha Zurbriggen

Deputy Head EU Framework
Programmes

Today SNSF's team



Simona Berardi
Head of Projects



Florence Ettlin
Scientific Officer
(CoG/AdG)



Marco Bieri
Scientific Officer (SPF)

SNSF Consolidator Grants 2023



CoG: Aim and Target Group

Eligibility time window:

- Applicants with a PhD or equivalent degree awarded between **1 January 2011 and 16 October 2016**

Applicants have shown research independence and contributions to science without the participation of their PhD supervisor. These benchmarks should be complemented by at least one of the following indicators:

- Several important peer-reviewed publications in a responsible role that had an impact in the research field(s).
- Major research monographs (for research fields where monographs are the norm).
- A substantial record of invited presentations at well-established international conferences, organisation of international conferences, granted patents, outreach activities, general contributions to science, other artefacts with documented use.

CoG: Eligibility Time Window

Doctorate/PhD/equivalent qualification: awarded between **1 January 2011 and 16 October 2016**

Is it possible to extend the eligibility period in special circumstances?

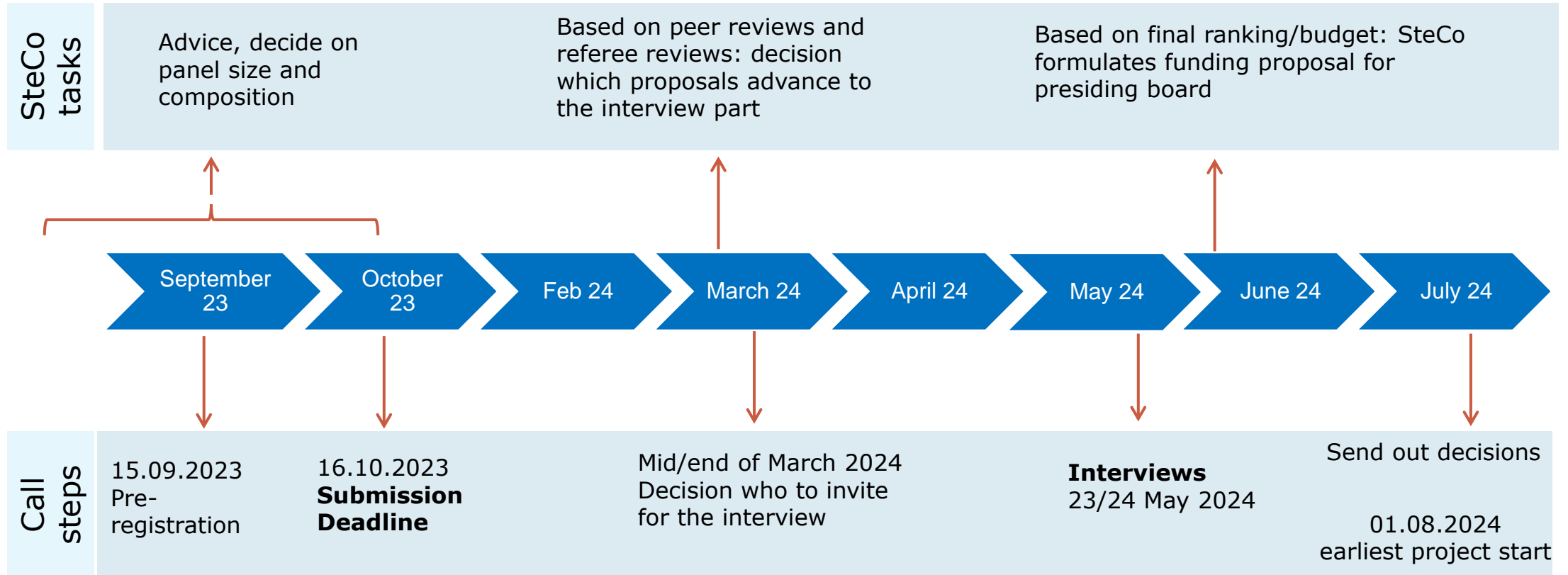
Clause 1.11 of the General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations

An extension of the eligibility window can be requested based on the listed reasons in the implementation regulations:

- a) paternity, adoption or parental leave;
- b) inability to work due to illness or accident;
- c) care duties;
- d) services that benefit the general public, particularly military or civilian service;
- e) continuing education in connection with the applicant's research activities, particularly internships or clinical work;

The actual delays (in weeks) can be requested or in the case of maternity 18 mo/child

Consolidator Grant: New Call Procedure



CoG: Most important Changes

- Procedure:
 - 1-step procedure: the full proposal is evaluated – without a first step with only an extended synopsis
 - The full proposal is evaluated by external reviewers + panel members – not only by panel members
 - ...This builds the basis for the decision regarding the invitation to the interview vs. rejection.
 - For those invited to give an interview, the external reviews, the panel members' written evaluations, the interview (presentation + Q&A), and the following discussion without the applicant will build the basis for the panel members' votes. (Corresponds to “Step 2” of previous CoG Call)
- New standardized SNSF CV format must be used
- No DMP for submission; only necessary for approved grants
- **Proposals are evaluated on mySNF, not on the SNSF Portal**

CoG: Budget and Duration

SNSF Consolidator Grants are awarded up to a maximum of CHF 1.75 million for a period of up to 5 years (in addition, overhead is paid directly to the host institution).

Applicants may request additional funding of up to CHF 870,000 for

- a) eligible installation costs in connection with the move to Switzerland due to the SNSF Consolidator Grant (see Annex, section 8.1)
- b) for the acquisition or use of scientific infrastructure/major equipment
- c) other major experimental and fieldwork costs, excluding personnel costs

CoG: Evaluation Criteria

Scientific quality of the research project

- Ground-breaking nature and potential impact of the research project
- Scientific Approach

Qualification of the applicant

- Applicant – intellectual capacity and creativity

CoG: Relation to other Funding

- The applicant may submit an application under the call identifier ERC-2023-CoG. **But cannot be PI** in any ERC frontier project or SNSF Advanced Grant or SNSF Starting Grant and in an SNSF Consolidator Grant in parallel.
- A researcher participating as principal investigator in an ongoing ERC frontier research grant may not submit a proposal to the present SNSF Consolidator Grant Call 2023 unless the existing project ends before the end of **July 2025**. An SNSF Consolidator Grant can only start once the previous ERC frontier research grant agreement has ended.

CoG: Previous Call

The SNSF awarded 54 million Swiss francs to projects selected under the transitional measure SNSF Consolidator Grants 2022. 30 projects out of the 182 could be funded. The total success rate lies at around 17%.

Applicants whose projects were rejected in the first or second stage of evaluation for the SNSF Consolidator Grants 2022 can submit an application in the call for proposals for the SNSF Consolidator Grants 2023. However, previously submitted and evaluated proposals will not be regarded as re-submissions but as new applications.

SNSF Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023



Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships

Aim

- Transitional solution for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Open to researchers of any nationality
- Offer expert scientific training and academic career development in Switzerland

Duration

- 12 to 24 months

Eligibility

- Doctoral degree (PhD defence at submission date required)
- Mobility rule (applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity - work, studies, etc. - in Switzerland for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately prior to the submission deadline)
- A maximum of eight years of postdoctoral experience

Eligible costs

- Postdoc's salary and social security contributions
- Research funds
- Conference costs

Evaluation

- Fully remote setting by discipline-specific experts
- MSCA PF criteria 'Excellence', 'Impact', 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'
- Success rate 2021: ~10%
- Success rate 2022: ~18%

Application details - FAQ

Supervisor

- Ambizione/Eccellenza fellows are eligible as SPF supervisors
- A supervisor can support more than one SPF applicant
- Supervision must be ensured for the whole project duration and grantee

Confirmation letters

- Digital signatures are permissible for host/supervisor letters

CV

- SPF 2023 new standardized CV format must be used

Resubmission

- If evaluation score < 6.3 then host institution must be changed (restriction does not apply if resubmission refers to an unsuccessful application under SPF 2021)
- Unsuccessful applications under SPF 2021 and 2022 can be resubmitted under SPF 2023

Research plan

- Must strictly follow the structure of the template
- Must not exceed 10 pages (including references, tables, figures, etc.)

Further restriction

- No parallel submissions with other SNSF career funding schemes (exception: Postdoc.Mobility return grant, ERC transitional measures schemes)

Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships 2023

Main changes to SPF 2022

- Introduction of new CV format (standardized format, no research output list)
- No career plan required anymore
- Data management plan (DMP) only required for approved grants

Timeline

Opening of the call	1 September 2023
Submission deadline	1 December 2023 (no pre-registration)
Communication of results	June 2024
Earliest project start	1 July 2024
Latest possible project start	1 July 2025

SNSF Advanced Grants 2023



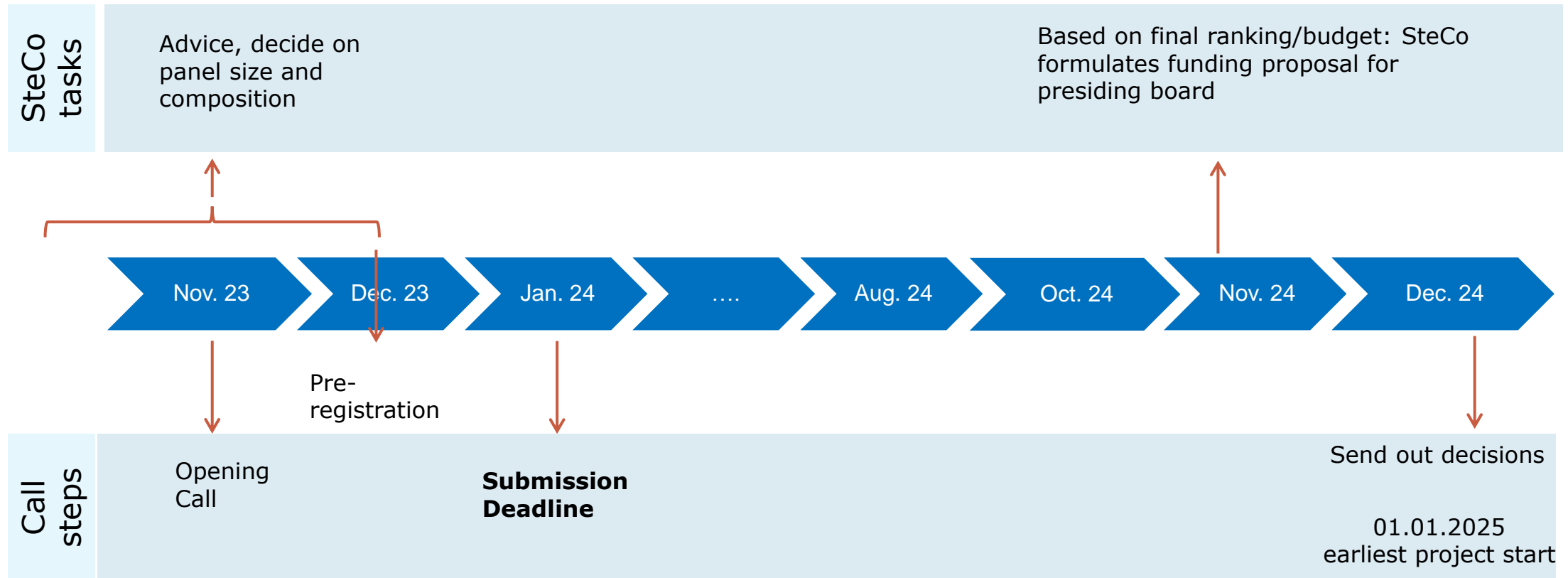
Advanced Grant: New Call Procedure

The same procedure applied to the CoG will be most probably used, i.e.

- 1) No need to submit an extended Synopsis
- 2) New standardized CV format must be used
- 3) and all proposals will be sent out for expertisation

- 4) There are thoughts on avoiding the interview but to give the possibility of a rebuttal letter concerning the criticism of the external reviewers

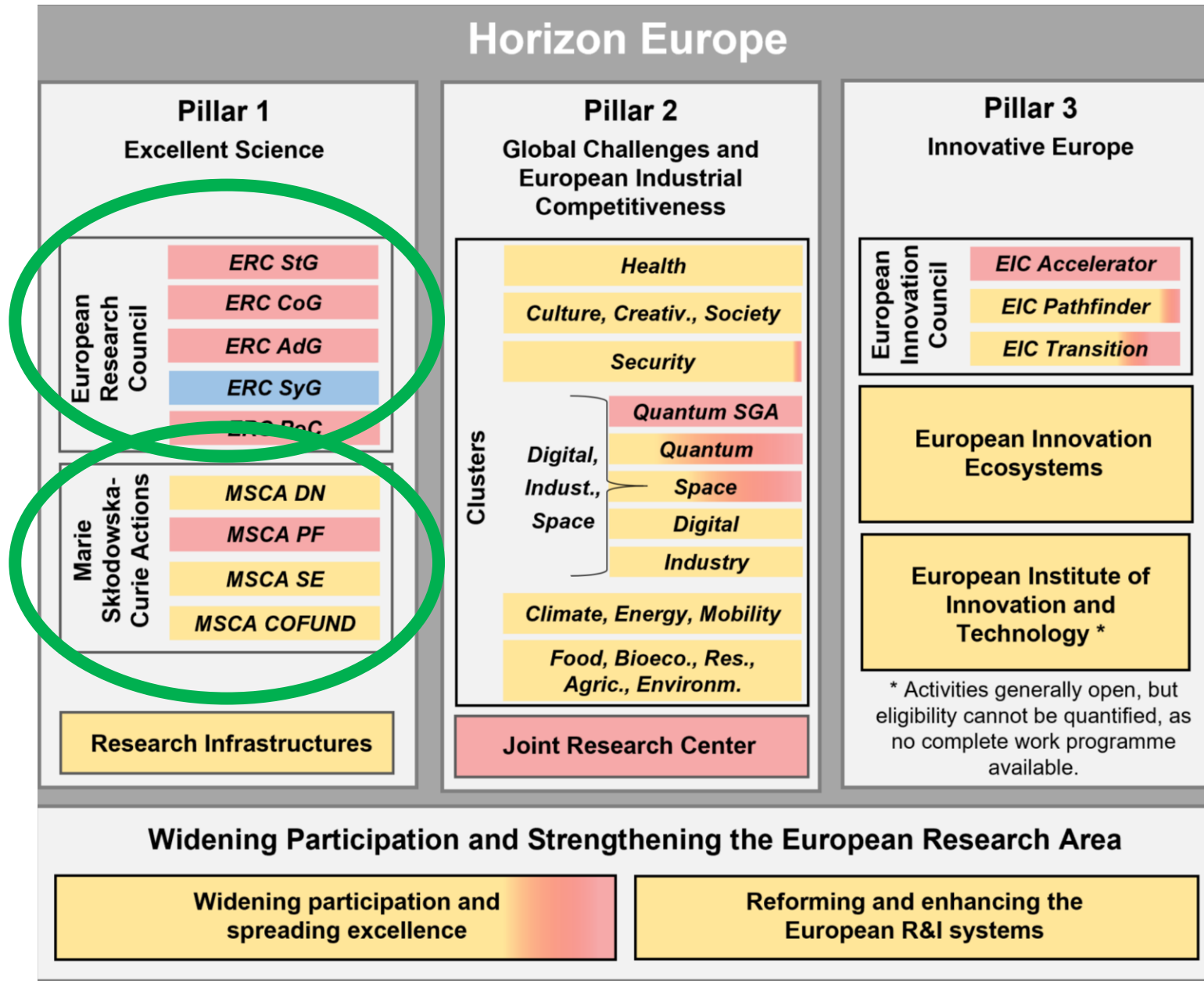
Advanced Grant: New Call Procedure to be defined, Draft timelines



ERC Calls



Horizon Europe – 9th Framework Programme for R&I



	Direct funding by SERI
	EC funding
	CH not eligible

Years post PhD

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

Starting Grant

€1.5M

5 years

Consolidator Grant

€2M

5 years

No specific criteria regarding years post PhD

Advanced Grant

€2.5M

5 years

Synergy Grant

€10M

6 years

2-4PIs

Proof of Concept Grant

€150 K

1.5 years

For PIs on an ERC grant



ERC 2024-2025 Grants Timeline

Grant	2023							2024											
	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
ERC-2024-StG		Open – deadline 24 Oct																	
ERC-2024-CoG				Open – deadline 12 Dec															
ERC-2024-AdG												29 May – 29 Aug							
ERC-2024-SyG		Open – deadline 8 Nov																	
ERC-2024-PoC																			
ERC-2025-StG														Open call					
ERC-2025-CoG																Open call			
ERC-2025-AdG																			
ERC-2025-SyG														Open call					
ERC-2025-PoC																			

Changes to the ERC in 2024

Evaluation: New Panel - SH8
– Studies of Cultures and Arts
– Physical Sciences and Engineering = 11 Panels
– Life Sciences = 9 Panels
– Social Sciences and Humanities = 8 Panels

Evaluation: Focus will be slightly more on project than on PI

Evaluation: Two new categories = 'A' and invited to step 2, 'A' but not invited to step 2

Eligibility: date of the successful defence (not award) of first PhD degree

Lump Sum Pilot Scheme: ERC AdG funding is paid in one lump sum, regardless of actual costs incurred

Starting Grant

- 2-step evaluation
- thematic panels
- interview

Advanced Grant

- 2-step evaluation
- thematic panels
- interview

Proof of Concept Grant

- single-step evaluation

Consolidator Grant

- 2-step evaluation
- thematic panels
- interview

Synergy Grant

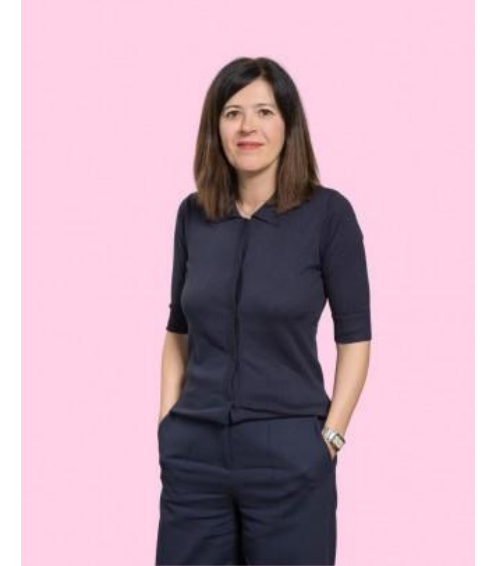
- 3-step evaluation
- thematic panels
- interview

ERC vs SNSF Transitional Measures



	ERC	SNSF Trans Measures
Evaluation - panels	28 Thematic Panels PE – 11 Panels LS – 9 Panels SSH – 8 Panels	5-6 'discipline specific panels' that are determined after deadline
Evaluation - 'high-risk/high-gain'	No longer present	Still a criteria for the SNSF-CoG
Funding - schedule	actual costs except for AdG (lump sum)	actual costs only
Eligibility - window	StG = 2-7 years post PhD CoG = 7-12 years post PhD	StG = 2-8 years post PhD CoG = 7-12 years post PhD

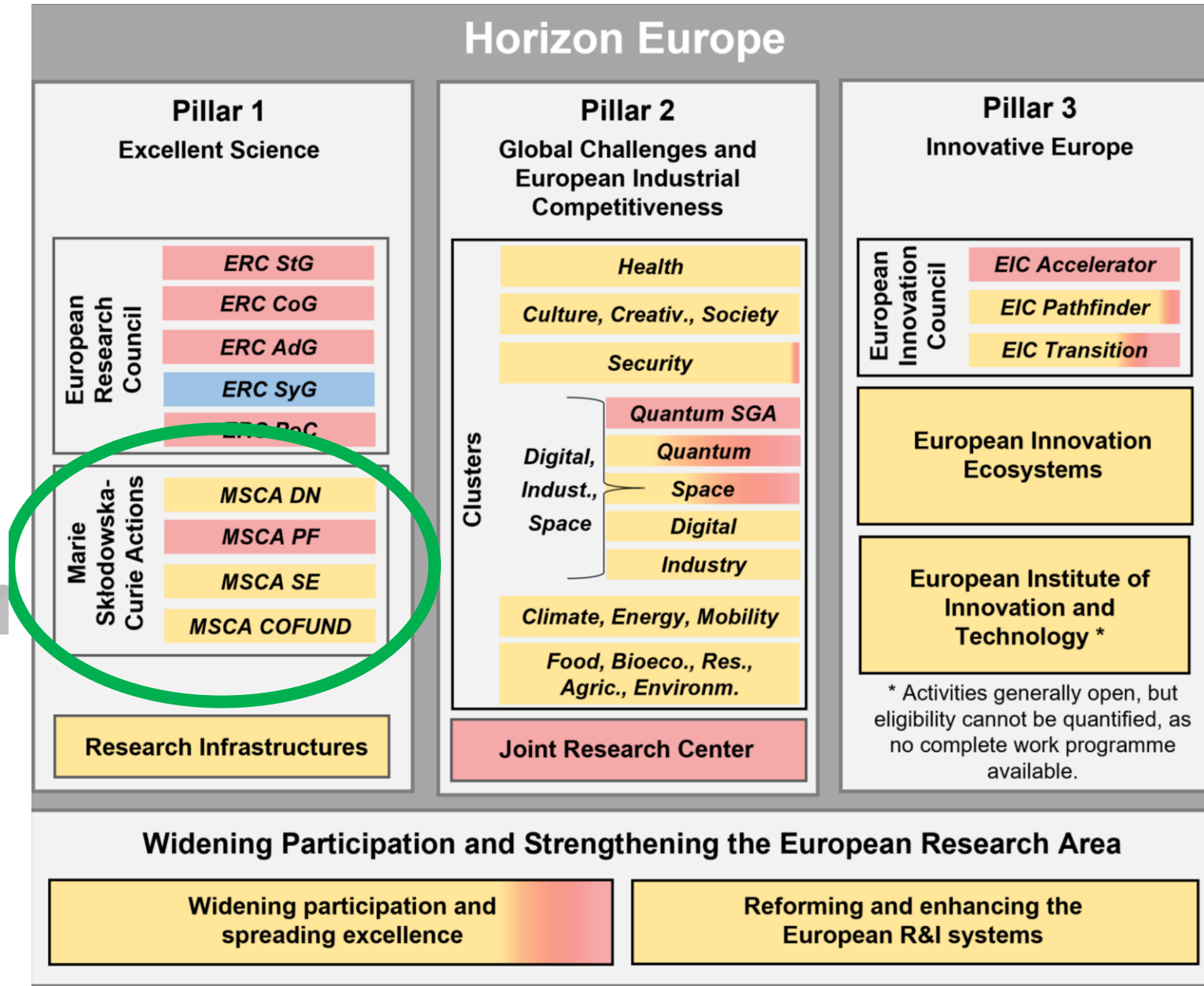
Horizon Europe National Contact Points



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Horizon Europe – 9th Framework Programme for R&I



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

Mobility, Career Development and Training

- Funding for excellent **projects**, skills development and **training**
- For postdoctoral researchers, max 8 years after PhD
- **1-3 years** project duration
- Additional 6 months placement in the private sector possible
- **Triple “I”** (international, intersectoral, interdisciplinary)
- **Mobility Rule** (< 12 months in the 3 years prior to call deadline)
- Funding includes **salary, research/training/networking costs** and overheads
- **Annual calls** (opening in April, deadline in September)

Two implementation modes: European & Global Fellowship



MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

European Fellowship (EF)

- Mobility inside Europe
- 1-2 years
- For researchers of any nationality
- Host institution in a EU Member State (MS) or Associated Country (AC)
Currently NOT possible with Swiss host institution!

Global Fellowship (GF)

- 2-3 years
- Outgoing phase: 1-2 years in a non-associated Third Country
- Return phase: 1 year in an EU MS/AC
- Only for nationals of EU MS/AC or long-term residents
Swiss institution can host the outgoing phase!



MSCA PF vs. Swiss PF

MSCA PF and SPF by SNSF are very similar, **some differences** with regards to:

- Evaluation/Scoring
- Implementation
- Part-time work
- Host institution
- Funding mechanism
- Administration of grants



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