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MSCA
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Developing talents, advancing research

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Effect of MSCA measures targeted to the non-academic sector

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

MSCA key features

Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stages of career)	Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)	International, **inter-sectoral (academic/non-academic)** & interdisciplinary mobility
Attractive working and employment conditions	Structuring impact on organisations + strategic partnerships	Fostering **collaboration beyond academia, notably with industry**

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Incentives to encourage non-academic participation

- All MSCA Actions are open to organisations from all sectors:
    - ➢ Non-academic organisations can receive funding, recruit researchers, coordinate a project, as long as they meet eligibility conditions applicable for any other organisation

- Imbedded in the training activities of MSCA projects:
    - ➢ *"equipping researchers with **new knowledge and skills, including transferable ones** and providing them with an international as well as **inter-sectoral exposure** (including through academia-business collaboration)"* (MSCA WP 2023-2025)

- Dedicated schemes in different actions:
    - ➢ MSCA European Industrial Doctorates (introduced 2014)
    - ➢ MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships non-academic placements (introduced 2021)
    - ➢ MSCA Staff Exchanges focused notably on intersectoral mobility

- Evaluation:
    - ➢ Award Criteria
    - ➢ Ex-aequo priority order
    - ➢ Evaluators from different backgrounds

Support measures for non-academic participation

- Synergies supporting intersectoral collaborations
  - ➤ New guides on synergies with Erasmus+ and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
  - ➤ Forthcoming in 2024: *EIC Next Generation Innovation Talents scheme* open for MSCA DN, PF and COFUND fellows (see EIC Work programme 2023)
  - ➤ Synergies with Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)
- Facilitating matchmaking:
  - ➤ MSCA Matchmaking platform by MSCA-Net, in collaboration with EEN and other partners
  - ➤ Ad-hoc events, i.e. MSCA/JRC Science-policy matchmaking events (2022 & 2023)
  - ➤ New: MSCA-Net Guidance on how to approach the non-academic sector
- Examples of dedicated reports & studies:
  - ➤ *Study of business participation and entrepreneurship in Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (FP7 and Horizon 2020)* available here (2017)
  - ➤ Action-specific: RISE impact analysis and ITN innovative dimension study (2023)
  - ➤ MSCA-Net's Report on the non-academic sector in MSCA in Horizon 2020 (2023)

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Non-academic participation in MSCA

H2020	H2020 total	H2020 NA	%	HE	HE total	HE NA	%
				Standard Doctorates	3980	1517	38.1%
				Industrial Doctorates	525	263	50%
				Joint Doctorates	393	154	39.1%
Innovative Training Networks	**13107**	**4825**	**36.8%**	**Total Doctoral Networks**	**4898**	**1934**	**39.5%**
				European Fellowships	2195	123	5.6%
				Global Fellowships	551	46	8.3%
Individual Fellowships	**11218**	**414**	**3.7%**	**Total Postdoctoral Fellowships**	**2746**	**169**	**6.15%**
Research & Innovation Staff Exchanges	**6693**	**1909**	**28.5%**	**Staff Exchanges**	**1756**	**485**	**27.6%**
COFUND	**967**	**361**	**37.3%**	**COFUND**	**1066**	**490**	**46%**
Total	**31985**	**7509**	**23.5%**	**Total**	**10466**	**3078**	**29.4%**

Non-academic participation in MSCA

- As of the first two years under Horizon Europe, the number of distinct non-academic organisations participating in MSCA are:
  - ➢ ~2700 non-academic organisations, including:
  - ➢ ~2000 from industry
  - ➢ ~1000 SMEs
  - ➢ ~300 private non-profit
  - ➢ ~250 public bodies

Impact of non-academic participation

For researchers	For non-academic organisations	For academic organisations
Development of transferable skills	Funded recruitment/hosting of world class researchers	Strengthen or develop long-term partnerships
Improved employability	Access to state-of-the-art expertise & infrastructures	Quality and scope of training programmes/curricula
Expand employment opportunities outside academia	Help building strong and active networks	Career prospects for graduates
Increased impact of their research	Help produce innovations (e.g. new products, services, policies)	Knowledge transfer
Enhanced entrepreneurial spirit	Contribute to researchers' training programmes/ curricula	Increased impact of research

Impact on MSCA fellows' training and experience

- Based on the MSCA end-of-fellowships questionnaires, under Horizon 2020 :
  - ➢ **1/3rd of fellows** gained experience in the non-academic sector during their MSCA fellowship
  - ➢ Two years later, **54% of them** considered that the experience outside academia had been to a **very large or large extent beneficial for their career** since the fellowship
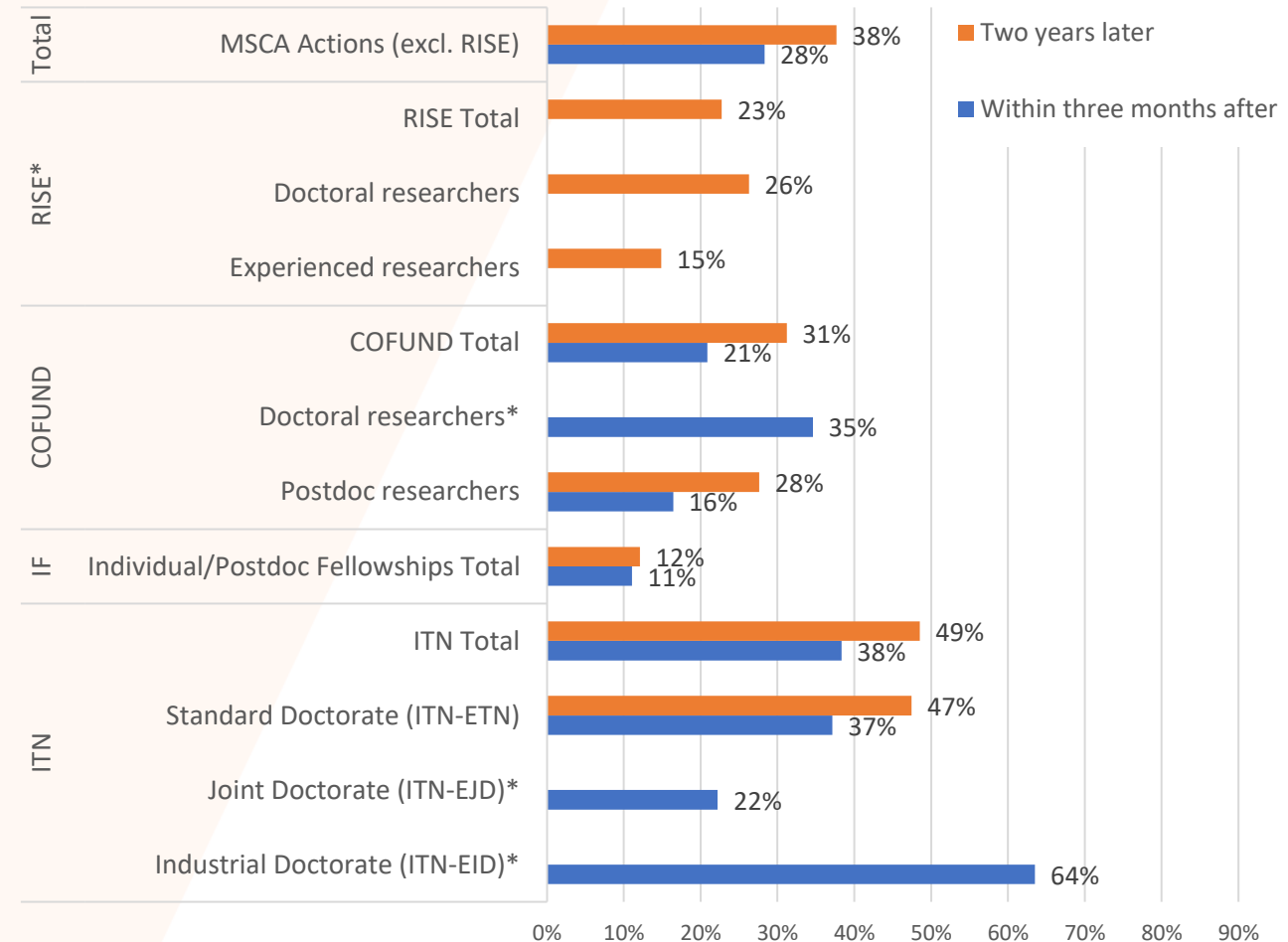
MSCA fellows hosted in industry have also reported **higher impacts on different transferable skills**' development, e.g. project management skills (34% vs 26%)

Impact on MSCA fellows' careers
Results of end-of-fellowships questionnaires

- **Career paths after MSCA vary** according to actions with the highest share of fellows working outside academia after the fellowship found among Industrial Doctorate graduates

- **70% of fellows working outside academia** at the end of the fellowship are in the **private for-profit sector**

- But the **share varies according to scientific fields,** i.e. public administration, main employer for Economics and Social Science & Humanities former fellows outside academia

- At the end of the fellowship, nearly half of employed ITN, COFUND and IF fellows worked in an **institution involved in the MSCA project**

Share of employed former MSCA fellows working in non-academic sectors, by type of action

Legend: ■ Two years later (orange) ■ Within three months after (blue)

Category	Sub-category	Two years later	Within three months after
Total	MSCA Actions (excl. RISE)	38%	28%
RISE*	RISE Total	23%	
RISE*	Doctoral researchers	26%	
RISE*	Experienced researchers	15%	
COFUND	COFUND Total	31%	21%
COFUND	Doctoral researchers*		35%
COFUND	Postdoc researchers	28%	16%
IF	Individual/Postdoc Fellowships Total	12%	11%
ITN	ITN Total	49%	38%
ITN	Standard Doctorate (ITN-ETN)	47%	37%
ITN	Joint Doctorate (ITN-EJD)*		22%
ITN	Industrial Doctorate (ITN-EID)*		64%

(x-axis: 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90%)

* actions/sub-actions with missing data, because the question is either not included in the questionnaire (RISE in evaluation questionnaire), or the sample is currently too low

Source: MSCA end of fellowships questionnaires (report available here)

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Thank you!

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