



Horizon Europe

Evaluation Form (HE MSCA)

Version 2.2
17 December 2025



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Scoring:


Scoring must be in the range from 0-5. Scores will be awarded with a resolution of one decimal place.

- 0 — The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1 — Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2 — Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3 — Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- 4 — Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 5 — Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Thresholds & weighting:

The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the 3 individual scores, is 70 points.

Weighting is only for the ranking (not to determine if the proposal passed the thresholds).

 Specific calls or topics may have different rules regarding thresholds and weighting.

Specific cases:

Two-stage calls

For stage 1 proposals, only the criteria Excellence and Impact will be evaluated and within those criteria only the aspects indicated in bold in General Annex of the Main Work Programme. The threshold for each of the two individual criteria is 4.

After the evaluation, the call coordinator will then fix an overall threshold, to limit the proposals that will be invited to stage 2. (This overall threshold will be set at a level which ensures that the total requested budget of proposals admitted to stage 2 is as close as possible to three times the available budget, and in any case, not less than two times the available budget. The actual level will therefore depend on the volume of proposals received. The threshold is expected normally to be set at 8 or 8.5.)

**SENSITIVE**

[INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION REPORT (IER)]/[CONSENSUS REPORT (CR)]
[EVALUATION SUMMARY REPORT]

PROJECT	
Project number:	[project number]
Project name:	[project title]
Project acronym:	[acronym]
Coordinator contact:	[PCoCo name NAME], [organisation]
Call:	[call ID]
Topic:	[topic ID]
Type of action:	[ToA ID]
Responsible service:	[responsible unit, e.g. JUST/04]
Project duration:	[number of months]

PARTICIPANTS					
Number	Role	Short name	Legal name	Country	PIC
1	COO				
2	BEN				
2.1	AE				
3	BEN				
4	AP				

PROJECT ABSTRACT*Text from Proposal Abstract (Application Form Part A).***EVALUATION****Evaluation model:**

[single] [step 1] [step 2]


Panel:

[insert panel identifier]

Evaluators:

[name NAME], [name NAME], [name NAME]

1. EVALUATION

 Applications **must be evaluated as they were submitted**, NOT on their potential if certain changes were made. Therefore, do NOT recommend any modifications (e.g. consortia composition, resources or budget, or inclusion of additional work packages). Shortcomings should be reflected in lower score. For lump sum proposals using a detailed lump sum budget, comments are required, including concrete recommendations if changes are needed.

 If an application is partly out of scope, this should be reflected in the scoring and explained in the comments.

1. Excellence

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- *[OPTION for MSCA Doctoral networks, Postdoctoral fellowships:* 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).
- 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 and appropriateness of open science practices).]
- *[OPTION for MSCA Doctoral networks* Quality and credibility of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects).
- Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for industrial and joint doctorate projects).]
- *[OPTION for MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships;* Quality of the supervision, training and of the two-way transfer of knowledge between the researcher and the host.
- Quality and appropriateness of the researcher's professional experience, competences and skills.]
- *[OPTION for MSCA Staff exchanges:* 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).
- Soundness of the proposed approach to foster international intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaborations
- Soundness of the proposed methodology (including consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)
- Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations in light of the research and innovation objectives.]
- *[OPTION for MSCA COFUND:* Quality and novelty of the selection / recruitment process for the researchers (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities, the gender dimension and other diversity aspects) and quality and attractiveness of the appointment conditions, including competitiveness of the salary for the standards of the hosting

<p>countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and pertinence of the programme's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art) • Quality and novelty of the research options offered by the programme in terms of interdisciplinarity, inter-sectorality and level of international mobility. Quality of open science practices. • Quality, novelty and pertinence of the research training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects). • Quality, novelty and pertinence of the supervision, career guidance and career development arrangements.] • <i>[OPTION for MSCA Special needs allowances:</i> Appropriateness and relevance of the proposed measures [or special needs items or services] that are necessary for the researcher/staff member to carry out the work in the linked MSCA action.] • <i>[OPTION for MSCA COFUND Choose Europe:</i> Quality of the selection / recruitment process for the researchers (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities, the gender dimension and other diversity aspects) • Quality and attractiveness of the appointment conditions, including inclusive working conditions, quality and attractiveness of the research environment and the resources, training and career development opportunities provided throughout the project, and the competitiveness of remuneration rates for the standards of the hosting countries offered in the phase of the fellowship fully funded by the beneficiary. • Quality and attractiveness of the concrete long-term career prospects that extend beyond the duration of the fellowship <p>Quality and ambition of the research, innovation and/or academic objectives of the recruitment programme.]</p>	
<p>Comments:</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">Score 1 (0-5): Weighting: 50%</p>	
<p>2. Impact</p> <p>The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>[OPTION for MSCA Doctoral networks</i> Contribution to structuring doctoral training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity, including the potential for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field b) developing sustainable elements of doctoral programmes.] • Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development.] • <i>[OPTION for MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships:</i> Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of the researcher and contribution to his/her skills development.] • <i>[OPTION for MSCA Staff exchanges:</i> Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge between participating organisations and contribution to improving research and innovation potential at the European and global level. • Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives of staff members and contribution to their skills development.] • <i>[OPTION for MSCA COFUND:</i> Strengthening human resources good practices at institutional, regional, national or international level, in particular through aligning the practices of participating organisations with the principles set out by the EU for human resources development in research and innovation. • Credibility of the proposed measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of 	

researchers and contribution to their skills development.]

- *[OPTION for all MSCA except Special needs allowances and COFUND Choose Europe: Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.]*
- *[OPTION for MSCA Doctoral networks, Postdoctoral fellowships and Staff exchanges: The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts.]*
- *[OPTION for MSCA Special needs allowances: Effectiveness of the proposed measures with respect to the work in the linked MSCA action.]*
- *[OPTION for MSCA COFUND Choose Europe: Contribution to addressing local human resource needs, to advancing regional/national specialisation strategies, and to strengthening European research, innovation and teaching capacity*

Strengthening human resources good practices at institutional, regional, national, or international level, in particular through aligning the practices of participating organisation with the principles set out by the EU for human resources development in research and innovation.]

Comments:

Score 2 (0-5):

Weighting: 30%

3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- *[OPTION for all MSCA except Special needs allowances and COFUND Choose Europe: Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages.]*
- *[OPTION for MSCA Doctoral networks and Staff exchanges: Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.]*
- *[OPTION for MSCA Postdoctoral fellowships: Quality and capacity of the host institutions and participating organisations, including hosting arrangements.]*
- *[OPTION for MSCA COFUND: Quality and capacity of the host institution(s) and participating organisations (where appropriate), including hosting arrangements and extent to which they bring together the necessary expertise to successfully implement the research training programme.]*
- *[OPTION for MSCA Special needs allowances: Appropriateness of the resources deployed.]*
- *[OPTION for MSCA COFUND Choose Europe: Quality, credibility and effectiveness of the recruitment plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned towards offering concrete career prospects for recruited researchers.*
- Quality and capacity of the recruiting institutions, including hosting arrangements and institutional procedures' alignment with the European Charter for Researchers (institutions with the HRS4R label are exempted from providing further justification for this criterion) and the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment.]


Comments:	
Score 3 (0-5): Weighting: 20%	
Total score Overall threshold /100	

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2. OTHER QUESTIONS

Opinion on additional questions
Scope of the application
<p>Based on the information provided, this application is:</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 'in scope' because it corresponds, wholly or in part, to the topic description against which it has been submitted</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 'out of scope' because: [Comment box]</p>
<i>[additional OPTION for IER for lump sum topics: Assessment of lump sum cost estimations]</i>
<p>I have assessed the cost estimations and included my approval of the lump sum budget or my recommendations to modify it in the evaluation report.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes]</p>
<i>[additional OPTION for CR for lump sum topics: Assessment of lump sum cost estimations]</i>
<p>We have assessed the cost estimations and included our approval of the lump sum budget or our recommendations to modify it in the evaluation report.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes]</p>

Exceptional funding

 A third country participant/international organisation not listed in the General Annex to the Main Work Programme may exceptionally receive funding if their participation is essential for carrying out the project (for instance due to outstanding expertise, access to unique know-how, access to research infrastructure, access to particular geographical environments, possibility to involve key partners in emerging markets, access to data, etc.). (For more information, see the HE programme guide)

Please list the concerned applicants and requested grant amount and explain the reasons why.

Based on the information provided, the following participants should receive exceptional funding:

[Comment box]

Based on the information provided, the following participants should NOT receive exceptional funding:

[Comment box]

Use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC)

Does this proposal involve the use of hESC?

No

Yes

If YES, please state whether the use of hESC is, or is not, in your opinion, necessary to achieve the scientific objectives of the proposal and the reasons why. Alternatively, please state if it cannot be assessed whether the use of hESC is necessary or not, because of a lack of information.

[Comment box]

Use of human embryos

Does this proposal involve the use of human embryos?

No

Yes

If YES, please explain how the human embryos will be used in the project.

[Comment box]

Activities excluded from funding

Activities that:

- aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes, or
- intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed), or
- intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer, or
- lead to the destruction of human embryos (for example, for obtaining stem cells)?

are excluded from funding. Does the proposal include any of these activities?

No

Yes

If YES, please explain.

[Comment box]

Exclusive focus on civil applications
<p>Do the activities proposed have an exclusive focus on civil applications (activities intended to be used in military application or aims to serve military purposes cannot be funded)?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes </p> <p><i>If NO, please explain.</i></p> <p>[Comment box]</p>

3. COMMENTS

Overall comments
[Comment box]

[additional OPTION for CR:

]

Consensus meeting
Consensus meeting minutes
[Comment box]
Minority opinion
<p>Does this proposal have a minority opinion?</p> <p> <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes </p> <p>If YES, please encode the names of dissenting evaluators and the reasons:</p> <p>[Comment box]</p>

]

[additional OPTION for ESR (for internal use – will not be included in the ESR sent to applicants):

Panel review
Consensus meeting minutes
[Comment box]
Proposal panel review minutes
[Comment box]

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HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	18.06.2021	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	28.02.2025	Removed references to Do No Significant Harm principle and AI robustness
2.1	10.11.2025	Instructions and declaration on lump sum budget assessment added Included MSCA-COFUND-Choose Europe option
2.2	17.12.2025	Update MSCA – WP2026/7