



CALL

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MSCA EF Seal of Excellence

Call funded by The Strategy Group for EU-Coordination

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Revisions

Date	Change
2017-06-14	Additional condition regarding indirect costs
2018-02-01	Updated links to Allmänna villkor
2019-01-08	Updated for IF-2018
2020-10-27	Updated for IF-2019
2021-02-04	Updated for IF-2020
2021-12-20	Updated for PF-2021

1 Short description of call

The European Commission is awarding Seal of Excellence Certificates to researchers in recognition of their high-quality research proposals under the Marie-Skłodowska Curie Actions. These are being awarded to all researchers whose MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship proposals had a score of 85% or above but could not be funded due to the highly-competitive nature of the MSCA programme.

2 Expected impact of the funding?

The Strategy Group for EU-Coordination (EU-Samordningsfunktionen in Swedish)¹ has decided to offer funding to excellent researchers submitting proposals to the European Fellowship with a Swedish organization as host. Proposals that have been awarded a Seal of Excellence Certificate have passed a high-quality assessment process. The offer will enable more highly qualified researchers to execute their Fellowships in Sweden.

3 Target group?

Researchers with proposals applying for a **European Postdoctoral Fellowship** at a Swedish host organization that has been awarded a Seal of Excellence Certificate **and is listed on the Reserve List** are eligible to apply. The offer is only valid for European Postdoctoral Fellowships (Horizon Europe).

In case of budget limitations, the offer will be given in order to the evaluation score regardless of evaluation panel.

The Swedish host organization shall be the formal applicant and administrator of the grant (coordinator). The researcher shall be the project leader for the project.

4 What can the funding be used for?

4.1 MSCA

The funding shall be used for the same activities as described in the proposal submitted to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships.

4.2 Eligible costs

Funding is provided as grants. Grants to organizations participating in their economic activity are regulated by rules on state aid.² The rules regulate what

¹ consisting of the research and innovation funding agencies Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova), The Swedish Research Council, Swedish Energy Agency, The Swedish Research Council Formas, Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte) and Swedish Space Agency

²<https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/state-aid-to-companies/>

type of costs and how large part of the costs that can be covered by the grant. Research organizations participating in their non-economic activities may receive up to 100% of their eligible costs.

5 How large is the contribution available?

The contribution is based on the same principle as the standard MSCA PF scheme:

Amounts per month are in Swedish kronor (calculated from Euro using the exchange rate of 10 SEK/Euro) and based on 100% active research months

Living allowance	(50 800*125.4%)	SEK 63 700
Mobility allowance		SEK 6 000
Family allowance		SEK 6 600
Research, training and networking costs		SEK 10 000
Management and indirect costs		SEK 6 500

Maximum length of a project without placement is 24 months. **In case a placement is included in the proposal, the maximum length of a project will be 30 months.**

6 Conditions for the evaluation of proposals

There will be no additional evaluation of the proposal, but it must be complete in accordance with p 7 below.

7 Content of an application

A complete proposal consists of:

- The complete original proposal submitted to the MSCA PF-2020 call (European Fellowship) including all administrative forms (Project description)
- Seal of Excellence Certificate (Additional appendix)
- Letter of commitment from Swedish host that is signed by an authorized signatory **clearly stating the agreed salary level for the researcher before addition of mobility and family allowances.**
- Evidence of eligibility in case of family allowance

Please note that the page limits stated in the Vinnova eServices Portal is not valid for this proposal.

8 Decision and general conditions

8.1 Regarding the Vinnova decision

Vinnova is the appointed decision agency for the MSCA EF Seal of Excellence call. Our decision to fund or not fund a project cannot be appealed.

8.2 Terms and conditions for funded projects

The Vinnova general conditions for grants will apply for funded projects.³ They include rules regarding project agreements, payment routines, follow up, reporting and result handling.

In addition to the general conditions the following special conditions will apply:

- The living allowance is a contribution to the salary costs for the researcher. The salary including living allowance shall be agreed upon between the Swedish host organization and the researcher based on the experience of the researcher as well as the salary level principles applied at the Swedish host organization. This may result that co-funding of the salary costs is required from the Swedish host organization.
- The mobility allowance (as well as family allowance in relevant cases) are to be paid in addition to the agreed salary.
- The mobility allowance (as well as family allowance in relevant cases) shall exclusively be used for the researcher.
- The Swedish host organization must inform Vinnova immediately in case REA decides to fund the project.
- What is stated in Vinnova's general terms and conditions for grants § 6.1 regarding calculations for indirect costs, is not applicable. Contribution to indirect costs and management is provided with a fixed amount according to the principles applied by the European Commission for MSCA Individual Fellowship.

9 How to submit the proposal

Submission of proposals are done via the Vinnova eServices Portal. Application for grants are done by completing a web-based form together with submitting relevant appendices.⁴

³ <https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/general-terms-and-conditions-2020-one-part.pdf>

⁴ The link to the call will be sent, to both the researcher and their supervisor of eligible proposals, by Vinnova.

10 Confidentiality

Applications related to this call for proposals are public documents. As a rule, in accordance with the principle of public access to official records, the public has the right to access these documents. This also applies to applications that are rejected or withdrawn. Vinnova's decisions and the reasons for its decisions are also public information. However, Vinnova is required to keep confidential all information about an individual's business and operating circumstances, inventions and research results if it can be assumed that the individual will suffer financial loss if the information is made public.