

# Prospects in academia

EU funding instruments

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TiGRE Young Scholars' Workshop

09 June 2022

Utrecht, Netherlands

# Overview

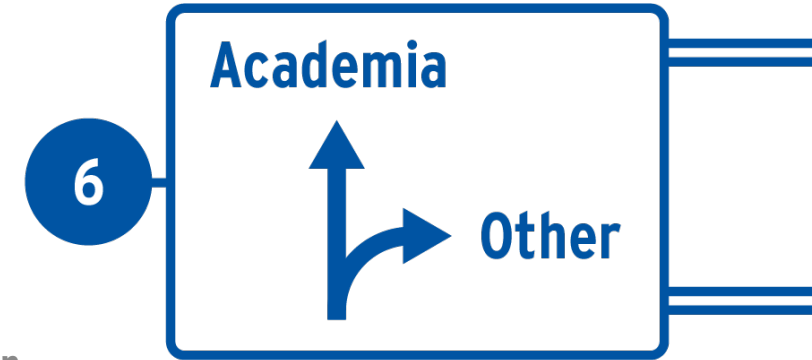
- » Your expectations (questionnaire)
- » Euraxess platform
- » Erasmus +
- » Horizon Europe: MSCA
- » Horizon Europe: ERC starting grants
- » Next open calls?
- » Mistakes to avoid
- » Round table: perspectives from senior TiGRE PIs

# Your expectations

I'm mostly interested in opportunities in academia at the moment. However, other options are also of interest to me.



I would be interested to hear from people who transitioned from research to applied fields (regulators, consultancies, EU positions). Or those who work between both academic and applied worlds.



Which are the possibilities to move to the private sector or combine both options in our career?

I keep my eyes open for jobs in private organisations, i.e. within EU consultancies and interest groups.

What are some common mistakes of early-career researchers that can hurt their career prospects?

Staying in academia involves making sacrifices in terms of other parts of life (e.g. moving countries because of a particular position)...

Any advice on how to profile myself: better to be an all-rounder or an expert on a rather specific topic?

To join a multinational institution afterwards, such as the EC?



# Let's foster your mobility

- » Access to the research facilities and infrastructures needed for making impactful scientific progress
- » Early scientific maturity and independence
- » Be flexible and open-minded: adaptation to new situations, global structures, new cultures etc.
- » Impact of mobility on **outputs** (e.g. publications), **career** (e.g. job options), **networking**, **finance** (e.g. salary, research funding), **personal life**

Your expectations  
(questionnaire)

Euraxess platform

Erasmus +

Horizon Europe:  
MSCA

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# Euraxess platform

- » Unique pan-European initiative to support professional researchers mobility and career development
- » Portal connecting researchers with universities, research organisations and businesses in Europe and even worldwide

Your expectations  
(questionnaire)

## Euraxess platform

Erasmus +

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# Euraxess platform

- » Unique pan-European initiative to support professional researchers mobility and career development
- » Portal connecting researchers with universities, research organisations and businesses in Europe and even worldwide
- » **Scholars' mobility**
  - <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs>
  - Find (i) **job**, (ii) **funding**, (iii) **hosting and collaboration** opportunities
  - Post offers and vacancies
  - All research fields and for all research profiles / career stages
  - 40 EURAXESS national portals, with country specific info

Your expectations  
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# Euraxess platform

- » Unique pan-European initiative to support professional researchers mobility and career development
- » Portal connecting researchers with universities, research organisations and businesses in Europe and even worldwide
- » **Career development**
  - <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/career-development>
  - Create your profile (free registration), upload your CV
  - **Career Orientation Tool:** toolkit incl. self-assessment materials, skills / values / motivations, guidance & resources about career options etc.
  - **Training resources:** job interview skills (in or beyond academia), entrepreneurial skills etc.

Your expectations  
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# Erasmus +

- » Since 1987! Renewed for the 2021-2027 period
- » Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate (EMJD): no longer exist ☹️
- » **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD)** programmes

Your expectations  
(questionnaire)

Euraxess platform

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# Erasmus +

- » Renewed for the 2021-2027 period
- » Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate (EMJD): no longer exist ☹️
- » **Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD)** programmes:
  - Consortium of at least 3 HEI
  - Duration of the masters: 1-2 years
  - Degree awarded: joint degree vs multiple degrees
  - Students with bachelor's degree or bachelor graduation before the master starts
  - **EMJM scholarships** covering the costs for participation in the programme, travel and living allowance

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/opportunities/individuals/students/erasmus-mundus-joint-masters-scholarships>

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# Erasmus +

- » Renewed for the 2021-2027 period
- » Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate (EMJD): no longer exist ☹️
- » Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) programmes
- » **Higher education – staff teaching / training:**
  - Support for teaching / training periods in HEI abroad
  - 2 days min – 2 months max
  - EU contributions to your costs for travel and subsistence
  - Grant application via your HEI

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/opportunities/individuals/staff-teaching/higher-education-teaching-staff>

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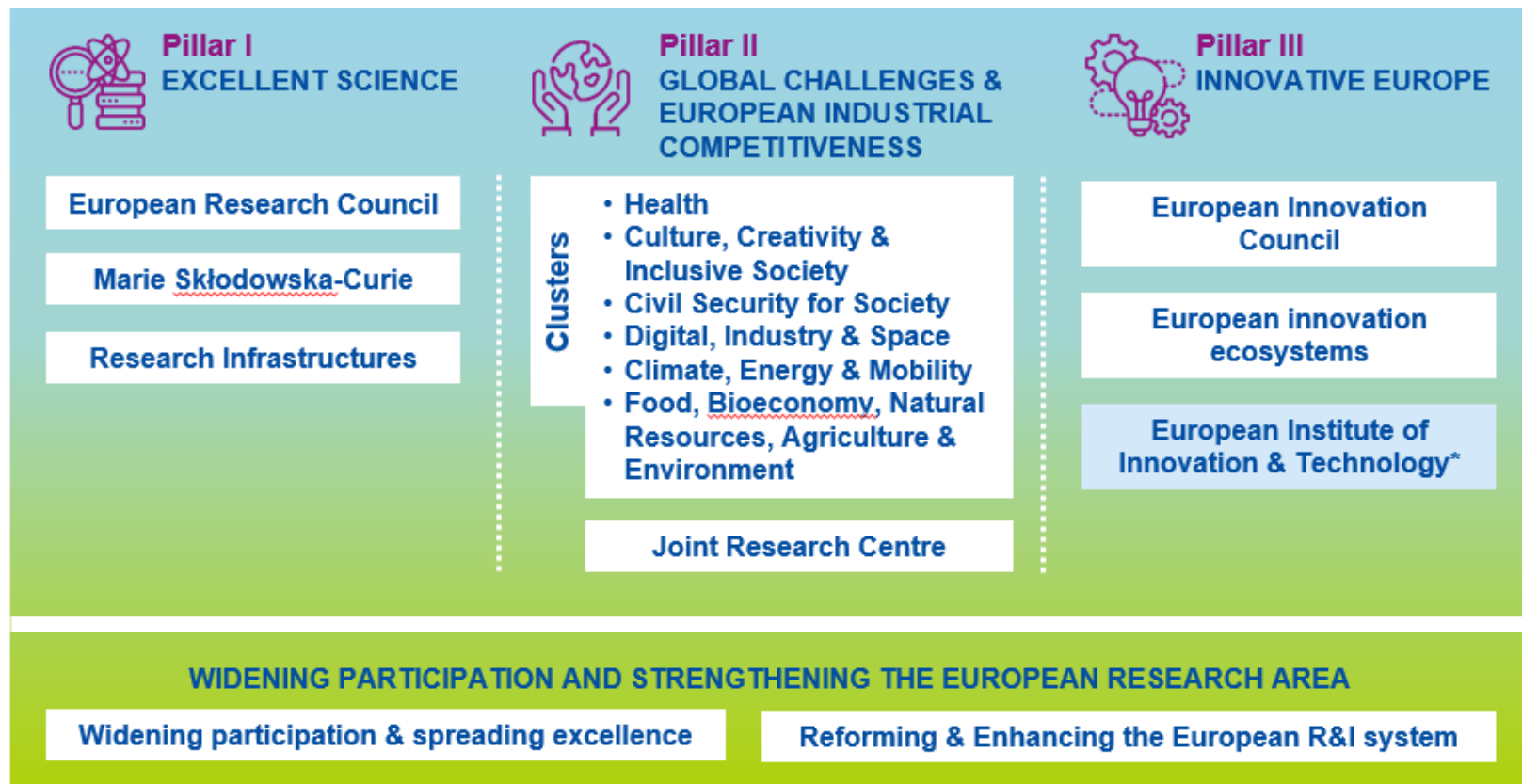
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# Horizon Europe



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# Horizon Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

- » EU flagship funding programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training of researchers
- » 5 types of MSCA funding with different objectives

Horizon 2020	Horizon Europe
Innovative Training Networks (ITN)	Doctoral Networks (DN)
Individual Fellowships (IF)	Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE)	Staff Exchanges (SE)
Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)	COFUND (no change)
European Researchers' Night (NIGHT)	MSCA and Citizens

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/about-msca>

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(questionnaire)

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# Horizon Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

## » Doctoral Networks (DN)

- Doctoral programmes implemented by consortia of at least 3 universities, research institutions, businesses, SMEs across Europe and beyond
- At least one PhD candidate per beneficiary
- Fellowship of 3-36 months
- Mobility requirement: not living nor working in the beneficiary country more than 12 months in the last 3 years
- <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks>

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# Horizon Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

## » Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

- Researchers with PhD degree: successful thesis defense when applying; < 8 years experience in research
- Application together with a host organisation: university, research institution, business, SME across Europe and beyond
- Mobility requirement: not living nor working in the country of the host organisation more than 12 months in the last 3 years
- <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/postdoctoral-fellowships>

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# Horizon Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

## » Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

2 types of PFs

### A. European PF

- » Moving within Europe or coming to Europe
- » Fellowship of 1-2 years
- » No nationality restriction

### B. Global PF

- » Outside Europe + return phase in Europe
- » Fellowship of 2-3 years, incl. 1 year to EU organisation
- » Application restricted to nationals / long-term residents of EU Members States or HE Associated Countries

Your expectations  
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## **Horizon Europe: MSCA**

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# Horizon Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

## » Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

2 types of PFs

Build bridges between the **academic and non-academic sectors**:

- » Short-term secondments anywhere in the world during the fellowship
- » Additional application: support to carry out a placement of up to 6 months in a EU non-academic organisation

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# Horizon Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

## » Staff Exchanges (SE)

- Develop collaborative projects with international and inter-sectoral exchanges of staff members between different organisations from the **academic and non-academic sectors** (in particular SMEs), based in Europe and beyond
- Funding for the mobility of seconded staff members: 1 month – 1 year
- Return to the sending organisation mandatory
- Open for researchers at any career stage (incl. PhD candidates) and other workforce

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/staff-exchanges>

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# Horizon Europe: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



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# Horizon Europe: European Research Council

## ERC STARTING GRANTS

These grants are for researchers with 2-7 years of experience since the completion of their PhD, a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal.

## ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT

These grants are for researchers who have already received an ERC grant for their frontier research project and now want to explore the commercial or societal potential of it.

## ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS

These grants are for researchers with 7-12 years of experience since completion of PhD, a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal.

## ERC SYNERGY GRANTS

These grants are for two to maximum four researchers working together and bringing different skills and resources to tackle ambitious research problems.

## ERC ADVANCED GRANTS

These grants are for active researchers with a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years.

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There are other initiatives linked to ERC funding. If you are not planning to apply for a grant, or it's too early to, you may still be interested in these.

<https://erc.europa.eu/funding>

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# Horizon Europe: European Research Council

## » ERC Starting Grants

- 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD ("thesis defense" for upcoming 2023 calls)
- Application by a single PI together with a host institution: EU public or private research organisation (no mobility rule)
- Team members: from EU and beyond
- Up to € 1.5 million for a period of 5 years
- Excellence of the (i) research project and (ii) PI
- Yearly calls for proposals covering all scientific fields: 27 panels in 3 domains:
  - » Life Sciences
  - » Social Sciences and Humanities
  - » Physical Sciences & Engineering

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# How to apply? Example ERC

## » ERC Starting Grants – proposal template

- **Part A:** administrative submission form: participants, budget, ethics ...
- **Part B1:** extended synopsis, CV, early achievements track record
  - » Step 1: only Part B1 is evaluated (panel members)
- **Part B2:** scientific proposal: state-of-the-art and objectives, methodology, budget and resources
  - » Step 2: Part B1, part B2 and budget are evaluated (panel members + remote reviewers)
- **Supporting documentation:** PhD certificate, HI support letter, ethics ...
- **Guide for applicants:** [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/information-for-applicants\\_he-erc-stg-cog\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/information-for-applicants_he-erc-stg-cog_en.pdf)

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# Next open calls

## » Erasmus + master programmes

- [Catalogue](#) of EMJMD programmes: courses, universities, entry requirements, application process etc.
- Applications: Oct – Jan, for courses starting the next academic year

## » MSCA

- DN: call opened 12 May 2022; deadline 15 Nov 2022
- PF: call opened 12 May 2022; deadline 14 Sep 2022
- SE: call opening 6 Oct 2022; deadline 8 Mar 2023

## » ERC

- Starting Grants: call opening 12 Jul 2022; deadline 25 Oct 2022 (*tentative dates, pending approval*)

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# Grant application: success rates

## » Erasmus + master programmes

- EMJMD success rate (funded projects): about 30%
- EMJM scholarships success rate: ???

## » MSCA

- DN success rate: about 13% (144 grants for about 1,100 applications)
- PF success rate: about 14% (1,150 grants for about 8,350 applications)

## » ERC

- Starting Grants success rate: about 16% (480 grants for about 3,000 applications)

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# Mistakes to avoid

- » “I don’t have time now” - Treat your research project and your **career development** with the same priority!
- » “I can do it alone”
  - Seek for **support**
    - » Grant Office in your institution
    - » National Contact Point (NCP) in your country
  - **Networking**
- » “I am simply the best”
  - Make an **honest analysis** of who you are
  - **Identify** the best funding instrument based on your skills, career stage and plans
  - Read carefully the **Work Programmes**, incl. instructions, templates etc.

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## **Mistakes to avoid**

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# Thank you very much!



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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No **870722 (TiGRE)**.

# Round table: perspectives from senior TiGRE PIs

- » Prof. David Levi-Faur - *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*
- » Prof. Dr. Rahel Schomaker - *German University of Administrative Sciences Speyer*
- » Prof. Judith van Erp - *Utrecht University*
- » Prof. Tobias Bach - *University of Oslo*
- » Don't miss the **roundtable about career paths for SSH PhDs outside academia**, with the perspectives from TiGRE external advisors:
  - Martha Baxter - *OECD*
  - Prof. Nikiforos Diamandouros - *former EU ombudsman*
  - Dr. Femke de Vries - *&samhoud consultancy*

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