MSCA-RISE-2016/2017: Research and Innovation Staff Exchange

The Marie Sklodowska-Curie RISE scheme offers appropriate funding for secondments of staff members, including funding for research, innovation, training and networking activities.

Deadlines: 28 April 2016 5 April 2017


Objective: The RISE scheme will promote international and inter-sector collaboration through research and innovation staff exchanges, and sharing of knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa). The scheme fosters a shared culture of research and innovation that welcomes and rewards creativity and entrepreneurship and helps to turn creative ideas into innovative products, services or processes.

Scope: RISE involves organisations from the academic and non-academic sectors (in particular SMEs), based in Europe (EU Member States and Associated Countries) and outside Europe (third countries). Support is provided for the development of partnerships in the form of a joint research and innovation project. This is aimed at knowledge sharing via international as well as intersectoral mobility, based on secondments of research and innovation staff (exchanges) with an in-built return mechanism.

Key point about the scheme:
- 48 months maximum duration
- The overall EU contribution for RISE actions is limited to a maximum 540 person-months.
- Involves building a consortium formed of at least three legal entities, independent of each other and established in at least three different countries. At least two of them must be beneficiaries located in an EU Member State or Horizon 2020 associated country.
- If all participating organisations are from the same sector (i.e. either only academic or only non-academic), there must be at least one partner organisation from a third country.
- Above this minimum, the participation of beneficiaries/partner organisations from any country is possible under the conditions provided by the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013.
- For RISE actions, only legal entities that are established in EU Member States or Horizon 2020 associated countries can be beneficiaries; only legal entities that are established in third countries can be partner organisations.
- Supported staff members must be (early-stage or experienced) researchers or administrative, managerial or technical staff supporting the research and innovation activities under the action. They must be actively engaged in or linked to research and/or innovation activities for at least six months (full-time equivalent) at the sending institution, before the first period of secondment.
- Secondments: are not subject to a MSCA mobility rule and must be between 1-12 months. They may be split into several stays not exceeding 12 months in total and not going beyond the project duration. The splits must be justified and considered beneficial for the transfer of knowledge activities.
- The exchanged staff members must be guaranteed reintegration into the sending institution, thus maximising the impact of the action for knowledge sharing and long-term collaboration
- RISE should exploit complementary competences of the participating organisations, as well as other synergies, and enable networking activities, organisation of workshops and conferences to facilitate sharing of knowledge, new skills acquisition and career development for research and innovation staff members.
- RISE projects can focus either on one dimension of mobility (intersectoral /international), or include a combination of both.
Support for the exchanges between institutions within Europe (EU Member States and Associated Countries) covers only intersectoral secondments. Exchanges with institutions from and to third countries can be intersectoral as well as within the same sector. Secondments between institutions located in third countries or within the same EU Member State or Associated Country will not be supported.

**Expected Impact:**

**At staff member level:**
- Increased set of skills, both research-related and transferable ones, leading to improved employability and career prospects both in and outside academia
- Increase in higher impact R&I output, more knowledge and ideas converted into products and services
- Greater contribution to the knowledge-based economy and society

**At organisation level:**
- Enhanced cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines
- Strengthening of international and intersectoral collaborative networks
- Boosting of R&I capacity among participating organisations

**At system level:**
- Increase in international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility of researchers in Europe
- Strengthening of Europe's human capital base in R&I
- Increase in Europe's attractiveness as a leading destination for R&I
- Better quality R&I contributing to Europe's competitiveness and growth

**Financial Aspects**

The financial contribution to a Marie Skłodowska-Curie RISE project is calculated on the basis of unit costs. A unit cost is a fixed amount per person-month of secondment. The EU contribution is calculated by multiplying the unit costs by the number of completed person-months.

The financial support is composed of a staff member unit cost of 2,000 EUR per month, plus an institutional unit cost of 2,500 EUR per person-month. The institutional unit cost is split into research, training and networking costs of 1,800 EUR per month of secondment, and management and indirect costs of 700 EUR per month.

The Staff member unit cost is a top-up allowance to be fully used to support travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for the staff member during the secondment. The Staff member unit cost contribution can be managed centrally to pay for the costs linked to the individual staff member on secondment (e.g. moving costs, accommodation, etc.) or paid directly to the staff member or a combination of the two approaches. On request, the beneficiary must be able to show that the full amount (2,000 EUR) was used for the direct benefit of the seconded staff member.

The salary of the seconded staff or any other type of remuneration is not covered by the EU contribution. Therefore, the beneficiaries and partner organisations are expected to continue paying the staff member's salary (or any other type of remuneration) during their stay abroad.

- The **Research, training and networking costs** cover the costs of research and innovation related activities of the project such as purchasing of consumables, laboratory costs, participation to conferences, workshops, coordination and review meetings and networking activities.
- **Management and indirect costs** cover all general costs connected with the organisation and implementation of the secondments (administrative and financial management, logistics, ethics, human resources, legal advice, documentation, etc.).
Institutional unit costs reimbursed through eligible secondments can be reserved and used to pay an additional top up allowance to the staff members, to cover general networking/training/management events, or to be reshuffled among different secondments according to the internal arrangements of the partnership (e.g. Consortium/Partnership agreement) to achieve the objectives of the project. The beneficiaries, as grant recipients, are responsible for the management of the project. Each beneficiary will report to the REA the number of person-months that its own staffs have been seconded to other organisations, plus the secondments from TC partners to its own organisation.

The EU contribution is paid to the project coordinator who will distribute it to the beneficiaries according to the grant agreement and to the modalities agreed within the partnership.

A typical project?
A typical project would last 48 months and involve, on average, 4-7 organisations from the academic and/or non-academic sector (in particular SMEs) from member states/associated countries and third countries. All would contribute directly to the implementation of the joint research and innovation project by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members.

Depending on the size of the partnership and the nature of the research and innovation project that is jointly implemented, between 200 and 400 person months for secondments (with a maximum of 540 person months) could be envisaged in order to allow for a significant and sustainable impact of the RISE project. Appropriate supervision and support is to be provided to staff members during their period of secondment by the host organisation.

The sustainability of the research and innovation project will be reinforced through joint activities to which the project participants as a whole or part would participate. Within the framework of a RISE project, the consortium is therefore expected to implement the research/innovation activities by means of functional secondments. Moreover, the staff members of the consortium should take part in training courses, workshops, conferences, etc. aimed at sharing knowledge, acquiring new skills and developing career perspectives.

Regular meetings (at least once per year) will be the backbone of the planning and implementation of the project. The compulsory mid-term review meeting after the first year will allow for the provision of direct mutual feedback between the consortium and the Research Executive Agency (REA) Project Officer. Proposals should consider these elements and provide a convincing concept and work plan going beyond the simple scheduling of staff secondments.

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