

# Funding Opportunities in Europe for US based researchers

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**Viktoria Bodnarova**, Regional Representative,  
EURAXESS Links North America

- EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion initiative
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- European Research Council Grants

# Overview of EURAXESS initiatives

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recruitment tool with job opportunities, funding opportunities, grants, employment, etc.



relocation assistance for researchers and their family



information on the Charter and Code, pension, visa



a networking tool for researchers of all nationalities outside Europe

# EURAXESS Links North America

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- Main focus: international mobility and career development of individual researchers
- Networking tool for researchers based in North America (US and Canada)
- Information on job vacancies and funding opportunities in Europe (MSCA, ERC)
- Promotional activities – events, workshops, seminars, career fairs
- Website, newsletter, social media (LinkedIn, Facebook)
- First point of contact before moving to Europe (link to EURAXESS Service Centers)

# 1<sup>st</sup> event in 2014



euraxess  
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

Horizon 2020  
European Union Funding  
for Research & Innovation

COLUMBIA | SIPA  
School of International and Public Affairs

## EURAXESS SHARE: BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS! European-Funded Research and North America

New York, 27 March 2014 at Columbia University 9am–2.30pm  
[click here to register!](#)

This event will present research projects that were successfully funded by the European Commission. Researchers interested in applying for EU funding schemes will have a unique opportunity to interact with recipients of such programs ...more info

euraxess  
RESEARCHERS IN MOTION

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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- Support for two types of mobility:
- - European:*** moving from outside Europe into Europe
  - Or moving within Europe
- ***Global:*** moving from Europe to a country outside of Europe – NB compulsory return phase of one year (fully funded)

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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- Experience: Support for two categories of researchers:
- **Early Stage Researcher**: Less than 4 years of research experience<sup>\*</sup>, and without a doctoral degree ("pre-doc")
- **Experienced Researcher**: In possession of a doctoral degree or at least 4 years of research experience<sup>\*</sup> ("post-doc")
- <sup>\*</sup> counted from the time when the individual is entitled to embark on a doctoral degree

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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Innovative Training Networks	<b>ITN</b> early-stage researchers ( $< 4$ years)	Doctoral and initial training: European Training Networks, European Industrial Doctorates, European Joint Doctorates
Individual Fellowships	<b>IF</b> experienced researchers ( $> 4$ years)	Support for experienced researchers to undertake international and inter-sector mobility, incl. career restart and reintegration
Research and Innovation Staff Exchange	<b>RISE</b>	International and inter-sector cooperation through the exchange of staff
Co-funding of programmes	<b>COFUND</b>	Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- doctoral programmes (ESR)</li><li>- fellowship programmes (ER)</li></ul>



# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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2 ways to be supported:

- Apply for your own fellowship
  - or
- Apply to a project

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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## 1. Apply for your own fellowship

Directly to the  
Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

→ Post Doc level

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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## Individual Fellowships

Post-doctoral fellowships for outstanding researchers

For experienced researchers

- In possession of a doctoral degree, or have 4 years of full-time research experience at the time of the call deadline
- Two types depending on the mobility of the researcher

Within Europe - European Fellowships

Outside Europe - Global Fellowships

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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## European Fellowships Researchers:

- International mobility within or into Member States (MS) and Associated Countries (AC)
  - Experienced researchers of any nationality
- Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the call deadline

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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- Next call: March 2014
- Opened: 12 March 2014
- Closes: 11 September 2014
  - @ 17:00:00 CET

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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2. Apply to a project

→ PhD

limited opportunities currently available for first post  
doc also

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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## Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

Research training for PhD & (some) first PostDoc

- transnational network in multi/interdisciplinary and emerging fields
- training primarily through research on individual, personalised research projects
- complemented by substantial training modules in key transferable skills
  - Strong involvement of commercial entities in training
- Working with some of the best researchers in Europe and internationally

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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## How to apply for a fellowship

- All projects publish their vacancies on the Marie Curie website
- Eligibility criteria depend only on level of research experience and mobility
- Funding levels defined by the MSCA - employment contracts with full social security
- 3 year PhD training; max 24 months for post docs

!!! Check the MSCA website frequently !!!



# European Research Council

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- The ERC supports excellence in frontier research through a bottom-up, individual-based, pan-European competition

**Budget:** € 13.09 billion (2014-2020) - 1.87 billion €/year

## Legislation

- Scientific governance: independent Scientific Council with 22 members; full authority over funding strategy
- Support by the ERC Executive Agency (autonomous)
  - Excellence as the only criterion

## Strategy

- Support for the individual scientist – no networks!
  - Global peer-review
  - No predetermined subjects (bottom-up)
- Support of frontier research in all fields of science and humanities

# European Research Council

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## Starting Grants

starters (2-7 years  
after PhD)  
up to \$2.7 Mio for 5  
years

## Consolidator Grants

consolidators (7-12  
years after PhD) up  
to \$3.7 Mio for 5  
years

## Advanced Grants

track-record of  
significant  
research  
achievements in  
the last 10 years  
up to \$4.7 Mio for 5  
years

## Proof-of-Concept

bridging gap between research - earliest  
stage of marketable innovation  
up to \$200,000 for ERC grant holders  
for 18 months

## Synergy Grants (2 exploratory calls)

2 – 4 Principal Investigators  
up to \$ 20.4 Mio for 6 years

# European Research Council

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ERC calls are open to researchers of **any nationality, age or current place of work** in the world (with at least 50% of work time in Europe)

## ERC offers independence, recognition & visibility

- to work on a research topic of **own choice**, with a team of **own choice**
- to gain true **financial autonomy** for 5 years
- to negotiate with the host institution the **best conditions** of work
- to attract **top team members** (EU and non-EU) **and collaborators**
- to move with the grant to any place in Europe if necessary (**portability of grants**)
- **to attract additional funding and gain recognition**; ERC is a quality label

# European Research Council

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## "Excellence is the Sole Criterion of Evaluation"

Evaluation of excellent quality at two levels:

### ➤ Excellence of the Research Project

- ✓ Ground-breaking nature
- ✓ Potential impact
- ✓ Scientific approach
- ✓ Added-value of the Group (only Synergy Grant)

### ➤ Excellence of the Principal Investigator

- ✓ Intellectual capacity
- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Commitment

Referees and panels evaluate and score **each criterion**, and then rank the proposals according to these results.

# European Research Council

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## Evaluation of Proposals

- The ERC Scientific Council is responsible for proposing independent experts
- Structure: 25 panels distributed across 3 scientific domains (10 Physical Sciences and Engineering, 9 Life Sciences and 6 Social Sciences and Humanities)

### What makes ERC evaluation exceptional?

- Highly international participation in panels
- Full autonomy of panels to decide

Panel members and chairs based in **49 countries**:

26 EU Member States, 7 Associated Countries, 16 Non-ERA countries

Remote referees based in **87 countries**

# European Research Council

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- **OPEN CALLS:**
- ERC Starting Grant | ERC-2014-StG  
Deadline Date: 25 Mar 2014
- ERC Consolidator Grant | ERC-2014-CoG  
Deadline Date: 20 May 2014
- ERC Proof of Concept | ERC-2014-PoC  
Deadline Dates: 1 Apr 2014 and 1 Oct 2014

# Thank you for your attention!

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