

**INVESTMENT LINE 1.2, “FUNDING PROJECTS  
PRESENTED BY YOUNG RESEARCHERS”**

**GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS**

**Funding of projects for young researchers  
who have obtained a “Seal of Excellence” in  
MSCA calls for proposal**

**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 201 PUBLISHED ON JULY  
4TH, 2024**



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## 1 PURPOSE

These guidelines intend to provide support to applicants who wish to participate in the Public Notice No. 201/2024 (henceforth “Notice”) aimed at supporting the research activities of young researchers who won the “**Seal of Excellence**” following their participation in the “**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships**” within the Horizon Europe framework program.

The guidelines are addressed to Applicants. They can also be used as a reference tool by the “Implementing Entities” (Host Institutions) to ensure that researchers are properly supported in carrying out their activities.

## 2 ADMISSIBILITY AND ELIGIBILITY CHECK

The following section will detail the admissibility and eligibility requirements of the recipients.

### 2.1 RECIPIENT

The Public Notice aims at funding **at least 150 young researchers**, defined as applicants, who have obtained a “**Seal of Excellence**” following participation in the “**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships**” within the Horizon Europe framework program.

Young researchers who have received **notification of the achievement of the “Seal of Excellence” in the 24 months prior to the date of publication of this Notice (201/2024)** are eligible for funding.

For the purpose of the Notice, two types of recipients are identified:

- applicants (*Principal Investigators*)
- implementing entities (*Host Institutions*).

### 2.2 APPLICANTS

The applicant is a “**young researcher**” who will submit the project proposal within the deadline foreseen by the Notice and will carry out the activities of the project.

According to the Notice (Art. 1, co. 11), a “**young researcher**” is defined as: a researcher of any nationality who, for various reasons, has not yet gained a consolidated experience in managing research groups and does not hold a contractual position that ensure a stable career perspective in the field of research.

This definition includes all researchers who, at the date of adoption of Notice, are up to 40<sup>1</sup> years of age, or, for profiles over 40 years of age and up to 45<sup>2</sup> years of age, having completed the PhD within the last 7 years, and who find themselves in one or more of the following conditions:

- needing to acquire a first experience as responsible for funds and/or research activities (e.g. Principal Investigator – P.I);
- needing to gain experience in leadership and management of national and/or international research team;
- not having, or not having had before awarded the European grant, a permanent Full Time Equivalent (FTE) contract as a researcher and/or tenured professor;



*Any candidate that has participated to the Notice 247/2022 and, following the signature of the Obligatory Deed, have turned down the grant assigned, **cannot submit another application under this Notice No. 201/2024.***

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1. It is meant to be by the completion of the 41st year of age as of the date of adoption of this Notice.
  2. It is meant to be by the completion of the 46th year of age as of the date of adoption of this Notice.



*Each Applicant may submit only one proposal under this Notice.*

### 2.3 IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES

The “**implementing entities**”, as beneficiaries of the grant, are the following public or private entities responsible for the beginning, implementation and the functionality of the intervention/project funded by the NRRP:

- State and non-State universities, including the telematic ones, whatever their name, including high schools with a special system;
- Public research entities, as defined by the article 1, co. 1, of the Decree No. 218/2016, with operational headquarters throughout the national territory.

### 3 TYPE OF PROJECT PROPOSAL

The projects must constitute a **readjustment of the original proposal** which obtained the “**Seal of Excellence**” (*SoE Evaluated Proposal*), with reference to the **financial framework and timetable** of activities. The readjusted proposals have to be previously validated by the Host Institution.

The Project proposals may relate to one of the research areas belonging to the scientific-disciplinary macro-sectors covered by the “MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships” grant (listed in Annex 8 of the Notice).

#### 3.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

In order to be admitted, the project proposals must:

- be consistent with the objectives and purposes of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, with the general strategy and the detail sheet of the component of the NRRP;
- aim at achieving the results measured with reference to Milestones and Targets assigned to the Investment;
- comply with the “do no significant harm” pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, in accordance with the technical guidelines prepared by the European Commission (Communication from the Commission 2021 / C58 / 01);
- be suitable for addressing and bridging gender inequalities;
- support the participation of women and young people, in accordance with the provisions of the decree-law of 31 May 2021, n. 77 (so-called Simplification Decree);
- promote the exploitation of research results and guarantee the protection of intellectual property, ensuring access, open to the public, to research results and related data (for example, publications of original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, sources, digital graphic and image representations and scientific multimedia materials), in the shortest time and with the least possible limitations, according to the principles of “Open science” and “FAIR Data”.

#### 3.2 DURATION OF PROJECT PROPOSAL

The activities envisaged in the project proposals must be carried out **within a maximum time frame of 36 months since the signature of deed of obligation** pursuant to art. 7 of the Notice, according to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) legislation currently in effect.

## 4 DOCUMENT PREPARATION

The following section will detail the activities of the Applicants and Implementing entities.

### 4.1 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE APPLICANT

The Applicant must identify and contact the Host Institution where the activities of the project will be carried out.

In order to collect the required documentation, the Applicant has to share with the Host Institution the following records of the project which obtained the “**Seal of Excellence**”:

- “*SoE Evaluated Proposal*” of the Project awarded with the “*Seal of Excellence*”;
- Copy of “*Seal of Excellence*”;
- *Evaluation Summary Report of “SoE Evaluated Proposal”*.

Furthermore, to take part in the call, the applicant has to complete the sections below, accordingly with article 4, co. 4 and 5 of the Notice:

- **Financial framework and timetable** (excel form template attached to the guidelines);
- **Self-assessment form about ethic requirements fulfillment (Annex 3):** declaration to certify the compliance of the project with the principles of ethics.
- **Declaration of compliance with DNSH principle (Annex 4):** declaration to certify the compliance of the project with “do no significant harm” (DNSH) principle, pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.

The applicant will share aforementioned documents to the Host Institution, in order to receive the validation of the remodulated parts of the project (**Validation Report, Annex 1B**).

#### 4.1.1 *Financial framework and timetable*

The contribution is established within a maximum limit of € **250,000** for each project proposal.

The Applicant must complete the financial framework and timetable, that will be a version remodulated and adapted of the previous proposal which obtained the “*Seal of Excellence*”.

Once the financial framework and timetable has been compiled, it must be presented to the Host Institution for its validation.

The table below consist of a template of the **Financial Framework and Timetable** annex that will be attached to these guidelines. The Annex must be filled with the **new cost items accordingly to the Decree N. 201/2024** as well as the implementation timeframe of the research activities.

ELIGIBLE COSTS (According to the Decree, art. 8 c. 5)	DURATION (max 36 months)			
	M1 - M12	M13-M24	M25-M36	TOTAL
<b>A1. Personnel cost - Principal Investigator</b>				
<b>A2. Personnel cost - other staff to be recruited for the project under fixed-term contracts, research grants, doctoral grants</b>				
<b><i>SUBTOTAL PERSONNEL COST (A1+A2)</i></b>	- €	- €	- €	- €
<b>B. Travel and subsistence</b>				
<b><i>SUBTOTAL TRAVEL and SUBSISTENCE (B)</i></b>	- €	- €	- €	- €
<b>C1. Other costs - Scientific consultancy or technical-scientific assistance services</b>				
<b>C2. Other costs - Communication and dissemination activities</b>				
<b>C3. Other costs - Long-term utility assets (such as tool, equipment, acquisition and use of patents, applying the depreciation procedure)</b>				
<b>C4. Other costs - Other operating costs (such as consumables)</b>				
<b><i>SUBTOTAL OTHER COSTS (C1+C2+C3+C4)</i></b>	- €	- €	- €	- €
<b>D. Indirect costs (flat rate of 15% of personnel costs)</b>	- €	- €	- €	- €
<b><i>SUBTOTAL INDIRECT COSTS</i></b>				
<b><i>TOTAL COSTS (A+B+C+D)</i></b>	- €	- €	- €	- €

#### 4.1.2 Self-assessment form about ethic requirements fulfillment

The Annex 3 represents the declaration, in the form of a checklist, that the applicant must complete and sign to certify the compliance of the project with the principles of ethics.

#### 4.1.3 Declaration of compliance with DNSH principle

The applicant has to fill in and sign the declaration of “do no significant harm” (DNSH) principle, pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (Annex 4).

### 4.2 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY (HOST INSTITUTION)

The Host Institution commits to hiring the Principal Investigator (Applicant) according to the types of positions, as described by art. 3, co. 2, of the Ministerial Decree No. 637/2024, and will guarantee access to the infrastructure necessary to carry out the project.

The Host Institution receives from the Applicant a set of annexes to be validated through the **Validation Report** (Annex 1B), in which it declares:



- To have verified and approved the updated **Financial Framework and Timetable** of activities (excel form attached to the guidelines);
- To have verified and approved the compliance of the project with the **DNSH principle** (Annex 4);
- To have verified the compliance of the project with the **ethics requirements** (Annex 3).

In addition, the Host Institution must fill the specific **DNSH checklist (Checklist No. 26 - “Finanziamenti a impresa e ricerca”)** related to Investment 1.2 and attach the checklist to the Validation Report.

All the useful information regarding the DNSH (operational guide and checklist as published in May 2024) are available at the following page:

[Il principio DNSH \(Do No Significant Harm\) nel PNRR - Italia domani](#)

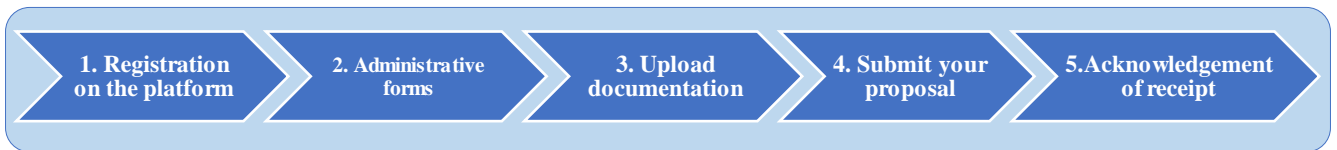
## 5 SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION

Applications, awarded through the **over-the-counter procedure**, must be submitted in English under penalty of exclusion and inadmissibility, exclusively electronically, via the <https://www.gea.mur.gov.it> platform.

To this end, the Ministry, at the opening of the terms for submitting the application, will guarantee access to the <https://www.gea.mur.gov.it> platform for the recipients admissible to submit the project proposal.

### 5.1 SUBMISSION PROCESS

The applicant must fill in the platform the following sections:



#### 5.1.1 Administrative forms

**Application Form** is divided into:

**Part A** is generated while entering the data into the Submission platform;

**Part B** needs to be prepared in advance (using the templates attached to this document, under the validation of Host Institution).

- a) **Registry form of the updated version of the Project awarded with the Seal of excellence:** the scientific macro sector; the reference of the call for proposals; Notification of Seal of Excellence (SoE) awarded; Score obtained; Project abstract; Project title; Project start date (foreseen); Duration in months (max 36 months); Keywords (max 5).

The applicant has to indicate the requested contribution filling the application form.

- b) **Financial framework and timetable** that must include the eligible costs reported according to the timetable of the project.

To complete the submission of the proposal, the applicant must include the documentation described in article 10, co. 11 of the Notice.

## 6 ANNEX TO THE NOTICE

This section summarizes all the documents needed to submit the proposal.

### 6.1 ANNEXES SIGNED BY THE HOST INSTITUTION

Herebelow are the Annexes that the Applicant must present to the Host Institution before submitting the application on the platform.

The Host Institution will have to complete and sign the following Annexes:

1. **Validation Report:** which includes the adjusted version of the financial framework and timetable, the compliance to the DNSH principle and the ethic self-assessment presented by the applicant (**Annex 1B**);
2. **Data communication of beneficial ownership for public or private entities** - ex art. 22, par. 2, lett. d) Reg. (UE) 2021/241 - undersigned by the Host Institution legal representative possessing legal personality in public or private law (**Annex 5A Public entities; Annex 5B Private entities**), (the content of the Annex is in Italian);
3. **Auto declaration of absence of double financing in the selection phase**, undersigned by the Host Institution legal representative (**Annex 6**), (the content of the Annex is in Italian);
4. **Declaration of the non-existence of conflict-of-interest situations** by the legal representative, or beneficial owner if not coincident with the legal representative, of the Implementing Entities (**Annex 7**): between the Host institution itself and the Ministry of University and Research (the content of the Annex is in Italian).

### 6.2 ANNEXES SIGNED BY THE APPLICANT

Below there are the Annexes that the Applicant must complete and sign to successfully submit the application.

- **Self-assessment form about ethic requirements fulfillment (Annex 3):** declaration to certify the compliance of the project with the principles of ethics.
- **Declaration of compliance with DNSH principle (Annex 4):** declaration to certify the compliance of the project with “do no significant harm” (DNSH) principle, pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.

### 6.3 ANNEX SIGNED BY BOTH THE APPLICANT AND HOST INSTITUTION

Below the annex that both the Applicant and the Host Institution must complete e sign to successfully submit the application.

- **Preliminary agreement between the Host Institution and the Principal Investigator (Annex 2).**

### 6.4 OTHER DOCUMENTATION

Furthermore, the following documentation must be attached:

- **“SoE Evaluated Proposal”** of the Project awarded with the **“Seal of Excellence”**;
- Copy of **“Seal of Excellence”**;

- ***Evaluation Summary Report*** of “*SoE Evaluated Proposal*”;
- **Curriculum vitae of Principal Investigator** (*Please, highlight consistency with the definition of young researcher*);
- **Identity document.**

## 7 ATTACHMENT

- Financial Framework and Timetable Template (excel form)