

# Personal Perspective of an MSCA-IEF

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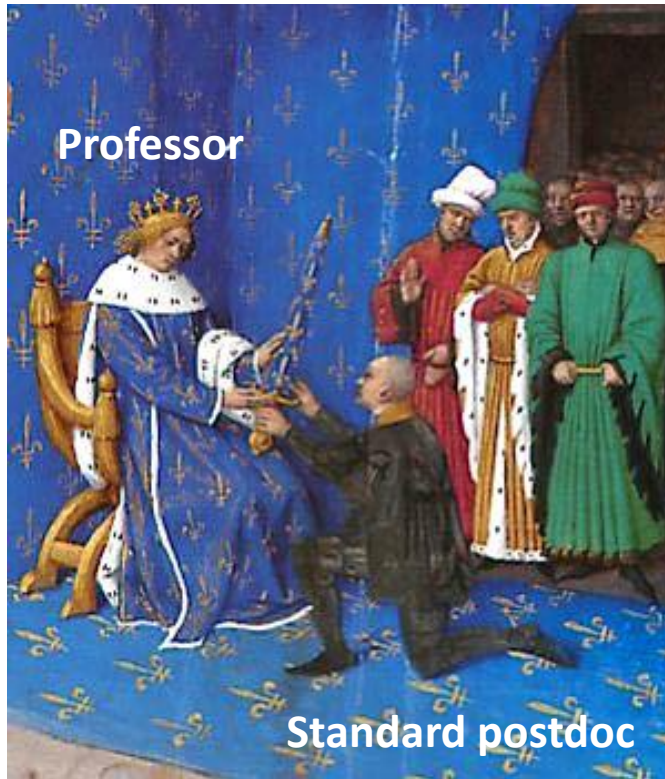
# Introduction

- Traditional concept of postdoctoral fellow



# Decision

- Standard postdoc vs. a good fellowship!



Example: As a Marie Curie postdoctoral fellow you lead your own project, not so obvious for standard postdoctoral positions

# Chasing a fellowship



# MSCA

## What are the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions?



A European Union funded programme for structuring researcher training, mobility and career development

### Objectives

Ensure the optimum development and dynamic use of Europe's intellectual capital, to generate new skills, knowledge and innovation

- **Budget 2014-2020: € 6.162 billion**

# MSCA – 4 main schemes

<b>ITN</b> <b>Innovative Training Networks</b>	Doctoral and initial training of researchers proposed by international networks of organisations from public and private sectors
<b>IF</b> <b>Individual Fellowships</b>	Individual fellowships for most promising experienced researchers to develop their skills through international or inter-sector mobility
<b>RISE</b> <b>Research and Innovation Staff Exchange</b>	International and inter-sector cooperation through the exchange of research and innovation staff
<b>COFUND</b>	Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes covering actions 1, 2 and 3

# MSCA-IF – 2 topics



European  
Fellowships



**For fellows coming to or moving  
within Europe  
(12-24 months)**

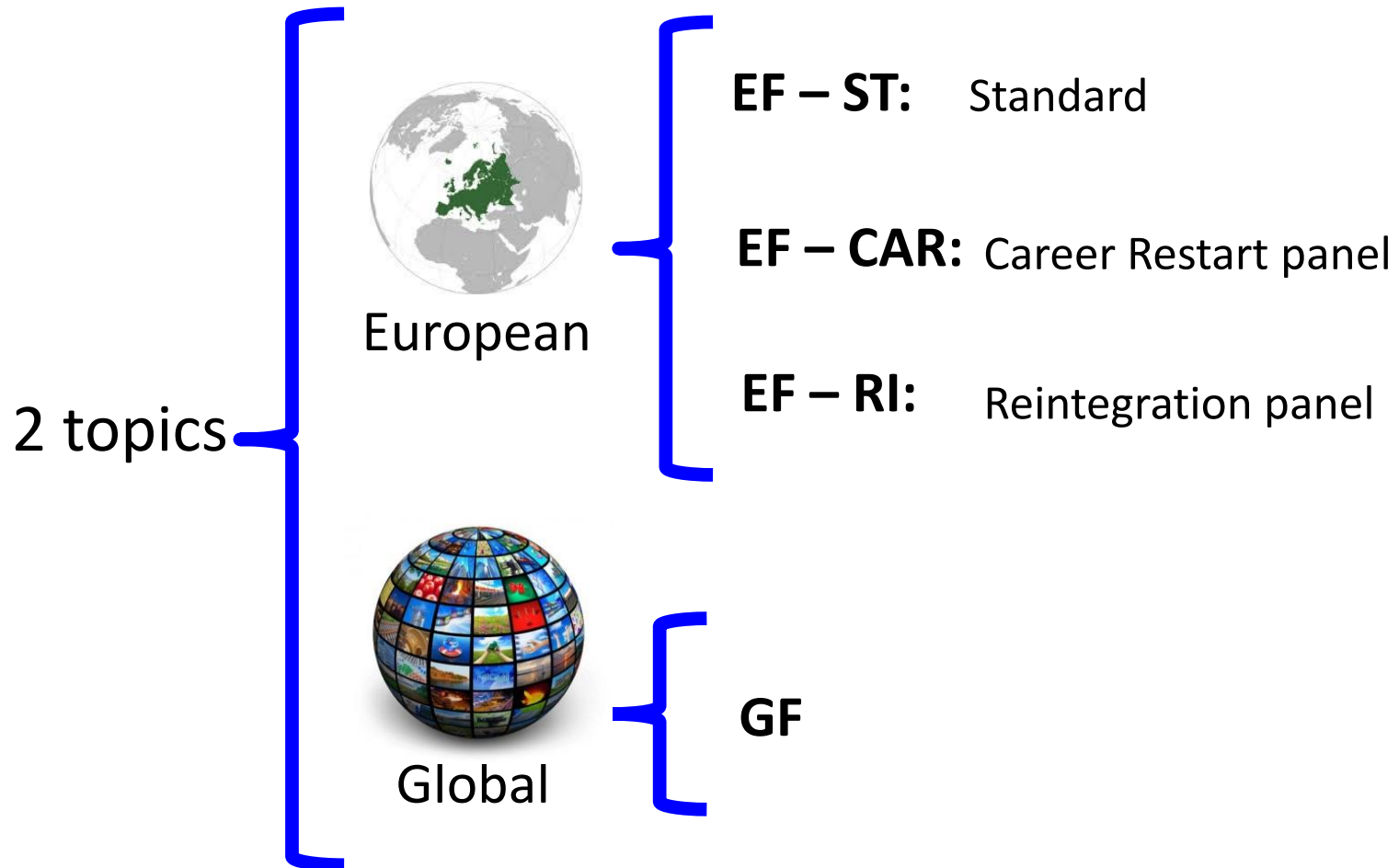
**Any Experienced Researcher  
may submit only one proposal  
to this call for proposals.**

Global  
Fellowships



**For fellows from Europe going to Third  
countries (12-24 months) and returning  
(12 months)**

# MSCA-IF – 4 actions

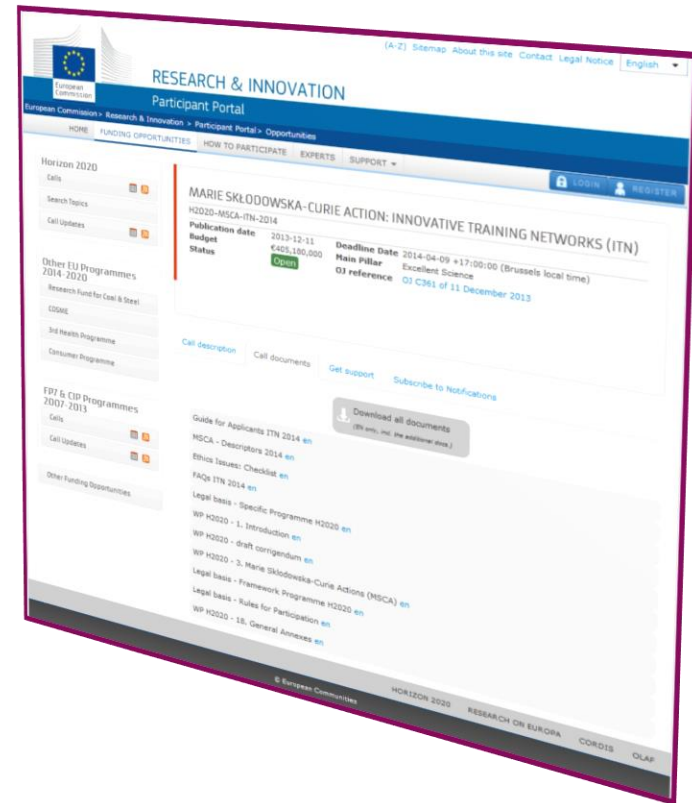


# How to apply?

- EC Participant Portal

## IF Call page

- Guide for Applicants (GfA)
- Work Programme (WP)
- FAQs
- ...



<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/msca-if-2019>

More details: see presentation by Cristina Gracia

# First steps

- Contacting your host group leader, the host university or research institute
- You need to identify an institution which can offer you the right resources to efficiently develop your work. **STRONG TEAM!**
- Cultivate your collaborations and network during your PhD. Who knows... later it could be crucial to support your fellowship proposal or find a new job

# In my case ...

Why UoL?



One of the leading research-intense Universities in the UK

Why Cockcroft Institute?



Founded in 2006 as an international center of excellence in Accelerator Science and Technology

Why QUASAR group?



Vibrant forefront research portfolio!

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/quasar/>

# Proposal

The hard work starts ...

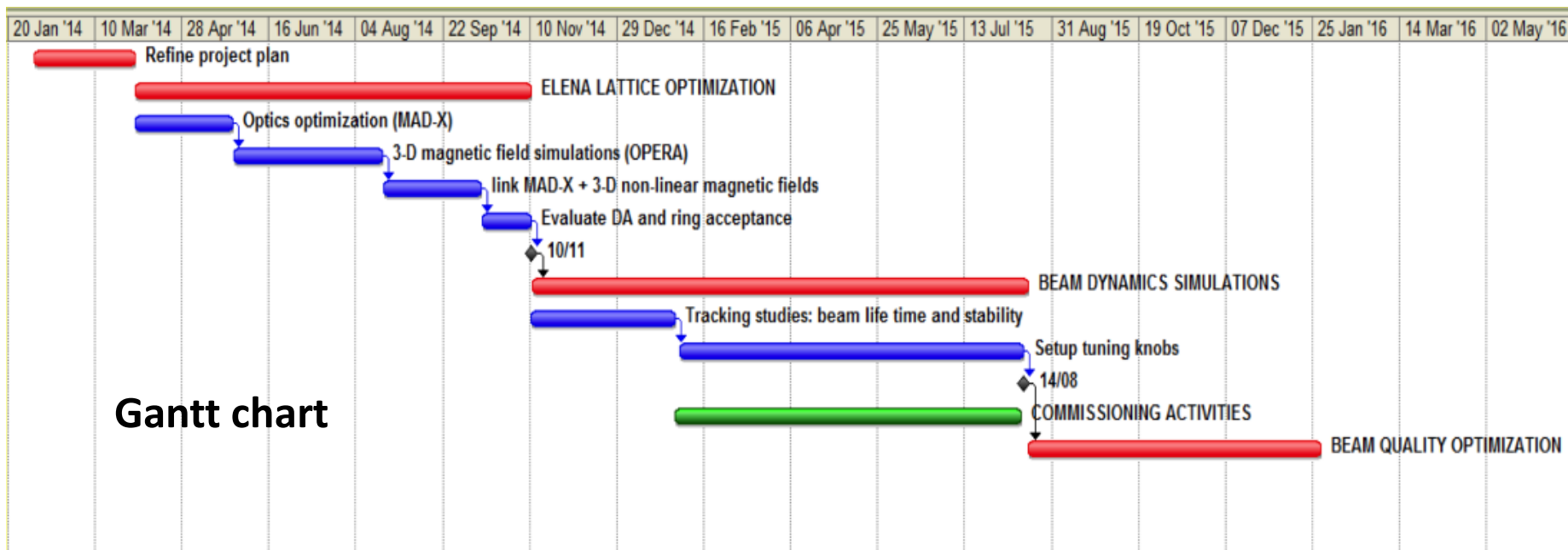
- Identify an exciting and dynamic research area
- Being realistic, matching your field of expertise
- Know very well the state-of-the-art related to your project
- Book minimum 2 weeks of your life to focus on preparing a strong and detailed proposal
- Iterations between host supervisor and candidate to polish the document
- End with a very robust proposal

# Proposal

- **Multidisciplinary:** accelerator physics, engineering, particle physics, computing, ...
- **Researcher training plan** also well defined
- Unique opportunity to **reinforce certain skills:** leadership, management, computation, etc.
- **Outreach:** STEM ambassador, outreach symposiums
- **Dissemination**

# Proposal

- Important to propose a very clear plan, with very well defined deadlines and milestones!



At the same time, keeping certain flexibility to vary the plan without compromising the entire project

# Goals

## Define clear Milestones and Deliverables

- Intermediate results
- Experimental set up
- Measurements
- Reports, papers, etc.



# Training and teaching

Define if any:

- International Schools,



Accelerator Optimization  
July 7th - 11th 2014, RHUL, UK

- Supervision of graduate and undergraduate students
- Teaching responsibilities

# Dissemination

- Plan for Conferences, workshops and meetings



IPAC 2014, Dresden, Germany



Space-Charge 2015, Oxford

IPAC 2015, Richmond, USA  
International Conference on  
Accelerator Optimisation, Sevilla, Spain, 2015



LEAP 2016, Kanazawa, Japan

# Benefits

## You

- No worries, you have all the necessary resources to focus on your own project
- You are the leader of your own project, managing your time
- You become a more consolidated researcher
- It can help you to boost your career!

# Benefits

## Host Institution

- Getting highly qualified researchers
- Who can train local early stage career researchers and students
- Knowledge interchange

# Drawbacks

- It is a fellowship that forces researchers to move country, no matter their personal situation and career history
- Great funding, but for a short period only
- In many cases, if you start a new project, 2 years can fly easily struggling to get results to be published within the stipulated time. Although the fruits can be collected afterwards, not sure if the EU commission would accept this
- In some cases, after 2 years, projects may not continue and be forgotten

**Thank you!**

**Time for questions**