Agenda

Science and policy matchmaking event

Linking researchers and policymakers for MSCA non-academic placement opportunities

31st May 2022
Science and policy matchmaking event: Linking researchers and policymakers for MSCA non-academic placement opportunities
Online event, 31st May 2022, 09:30-13:00 (CET)

The European Commission’s Directorate-General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (DG EAC) and the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) are organising a “Science and policy matchmaking event” to bring together researchers and potential policy-related host institutions.

09:30 OFFICIAL WELCOME
Vivianne Hoffmann, Deputy Director-General, DG EAC

09:35 WHY FOSTERING INTER-SECTORAL MOBILITY FOR BETTER SCIENCE FOR POLICY? AN EAC-JRC COLLABORATION
Claire Morel, Head of Unit, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, DG EAC
David Mair, Head of Unit, Knowledge for Policy: Concepts and Methods, JRC

09:45 KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SCHEMES AND OPPORTUNITIES UNDER MSCA
Lorenzo Melchor, Policy Analyst, Knowledge for Policy: Concepts and Methods, JRC
Anouk Lafortune, Policy Officer, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, DG EAC

10:10 DISCUSSION PANEL: People bringing science and policy closer
Moderated by Marija Mitic, Policy Analyst, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, DG EAC
Lisa Higgins, Head of Challenge Research, Education & Public Engagement, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)
Harihar Jaishree Subrahmaniam, Interim Chair of Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) Policy Working Group, ISE External Policy Advisor and Board Member
Dante Abate, Associate Research Scientist, The Cyprus Institute / MSCA alumnus

11:00 SHORT BREAK

11:15 MATCHMAKING SESSION 1: Scientific discipline groups
Break-out groups will be moderated by MSCA National Contact Points, and attendees will be allocated according to their interests into different scientific disciplines (following their selected choice during registration).

12:00 MATCHMAKING SESSION 2: Policy organisation types
Break-out groups will be moderated by MSCA National Contact Points, and attendees will be allocated according to their interests into different policy fields (following their selected choice during registration).

12:45 WRAP-UP PLENARY SESSION
General feedback and next steps will be provided by Marija Mitic, Anouk Lafortune, and Lorenzo Melchor.

13:00 END
General information

- Are you a researcher interested in being exposed to policy environments for a short time? Would you like to have a better understanding of how policymaking works and the role of scientific evidence in it? Would you like to grow your network of policy professionals?
- Do you belong to a policy institution interested in hosting researchers at your organisation for a short time? Would you like to have scientific support in improving your evidence-informed processes? Would you like to have better access to scientific knowledge and academic networks?

If you have answered ‘yes’, you will be interested in this science and policy matchmaking event organised by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (DG EAC) and the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC), held online next 31st May from 09:30-13:00 (CET).

Background

The European Commission is currently evaluating their policy frameworks, instruments and mechanisms available to promote science for policy and evidence-informed policymaking processes across all Commission services and Member States’ governance levels, as part of the writing of a SWD on the topic (see participatory workshop).

Among these, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) offer researchers the opportunity to join public administrations, establish links with policymakers and engage in policymaking processes through their research work.

Although the range and formats of such opportunities spans across almost all programme actions (Doctoral Networks, Postdoctoral Fellowships, Staff Exchanges, etc.), this first event will focus on the placement opportunity under MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF).

Placements are a new feature in PF and their goal is to create stronger inter-sectoral links through a 6-month placement in a non-academic organisation at the end of the fellowship. Next MSCA PF call is opening in May 2022 (closing mid-September 2022).

As PF applicants must state their host organisation for any placement experience at the time of the application, this event seeks to foster networking and help both parties—researchers and policy institutions—find their right matches based on their scientific discipline and/or policy field.

Therefore, the main aim of this matchmaking event is to link policymakers interested to host researchers with researchers preparing their PF application and looking for suitable hosts for the 6-month non-academic placement at the end of the fellowship.

Call for researchers

This is an event dedicated to researchers with an interest in applying for MSCA postdoctoral fellowships. In addition, they should have one or more of the following interests:

- Researchers with an interest in learning about policymaking,
- Researchers interested in providing science advice to governments and/or parliaments, and/or
- Researchers with an interest in exploring career options in policymaking.

Call for policy organisations

We kindly invite representatives from the following organisations and with the interest of potentially hosting researchers for a short time to register to the event:

- Science, technology and innovation policy organisations such as research and education ministries, regional governments, public foundations, etc.
- Science and policy boundary organisations providing science advice to governments and/or parliaments such as public agencies, science advisory councils, strategic and foresight government offices, science and technology parliamentary offices, research parliamentary libraries, etc.
- Science diplomacy organisations such as Ministries of Foreign Affairs, embassies, consulates, international bodies, national/regional networks of science and innovation delegates, etc.
- Any public administration body (ministry, regional government, local council, parliament, agency...) interested in having access to scientific knowledge.

Importantly, public organisations qualifying as Research Organisation or Higher Education institution are NOT eligible to be a non-academic placement host.

For organisations that have registered in the Participant register of the EC and have a PIC number, you can check what category your organisation falls under.

If your organisation is not yet registered, it will need to do so to participate in the call.
What does it entail for a non-academic organisation to host MSCA postdoctoral fellows for 6 months?

The MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships now offer the possibility for a non-academic public body to host a postdoctoral fellow for a period of up to six months at the end of the fellowship.

The objective of the non-academic placement is to promote career moves between sectors and organisations, and thereby stimulate innovation and knowledge transfer while expanding career opportunities for the researchers.

The host can be from any non-academic sector and must be based in the EU or HE Associated Countries. The request for such a placement is an integral part of the researcher’s proposal.

The placement hosts have the status of associated partners. They must submit a letter of commitment at the application stage, confirming their precise role and active participation in the proposal.

As associated partner, they contribute to the implementation of the action, but do NOT sign the grant agreement and do NOT recruit the researcher.

You will find more information on the condition to participate in the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships in the MSCA Work Programme 2021-2022 (incl. p. 27-31 and from p. 74). We also encourage you to consult the document provided on the MSCA-PF 2022 call’s page here.

Should you have further questions about the placement opportunity and specific conditions, you can also reach out to the MSCA national contact points in your country.