

# **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Actions: general information and tips for a successful application**

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- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships: General Information
- Funding and Success Rates
- Application and Evaluation Procedure
- Tips for a Successful Application
- Further Information



## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Objectives

Economic Growth	
Qualified Researchers	Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase the attractiveness of Europe</li><li>• International and intersectoral cooperation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attractive working conditions</li><li>• Employability across all sectors</li></ul></li><li>• Development of competences to tackle societal challenges</li></ul>	

## Individual Fellowships – Objectives

- **Career development** of experienced researchers
- **Widening of the competences** of the researcher (scientific and non-scientific) – international, interdisciplinary, intersectoral experience
- **Transfer of knowledge** to the host institution
- Support returnees to Europe and researchers resuming a scientific career after a break

## Individual Fellowships – Types

- **European Fellowships (EF):**  
Research stays **in Europe** with a duration of 12-24 months
- **Global Fellowships (GF):**  
Research stays **outside of Europe** with a duration of 12-24 months; with a mandatory **return to Europe** for 12 months

## Individual Fellowships – Secondments

- Optional secondment phase only in MS/AC, preferably intersectoral
- Dividable into several shorter stays
- Significant contribution to the fellowship's impact
- To be justified in the proposal

Fellowship duration	Secondment duration
$\leq 18$ months	$\leq 3$ months
$> 18$ months	$\leq 6$ months

## Individual Fellowships – Funding

- Living Allowance is multiplied by correction coefficient of the host country (DE: 98,8%)
- Allowances are **employer's gross** amounts

	Researcher unit cost [person/month]			Institutional unit cost [person/month]	
	Living allow- ance	Mobility allow- ance	Family allow- ance	Research, training and networking	Manage- ment and overheads
<b>IF</b>	4 650 €	600 €	500 €	800 €	650 €

## Financing Example **EF** Germany → UK

A German researcher without family obligations applies for a 12-month fellowship in UK

Term	Calculation	Contribution
Living Allowance CCC	$12 \times 4.650 = 55.800$ 120.3%	<b>67.127 €</b>
Mobility Allowance	$12 \times 600$	<b>7.200 €</b>
<b>Employer's gross amount</b>		<b>74.327 €</b>
Institutional Unit Costs	$12 \times 800 + 12 \times 650$	<b>17.400 €</b>
<b>Maximum EU Contribution</b>		<b>91.727 €</b>



## Financing Example **GF** Germany → USA

A German researcher with family obligations applies for a 24-month fellowship in the USA with a 12-month return phase in Germany

Term	Calculation	Contribution
Living Allowance CCC	$24 \times 4.650 = 111.600$ 99.4% (USA)	<b>110.930 €</b>
Living Allowance CCC	$12 \times 4.650 = 55.800$ 98.8% (Germany)	<b>55.130 €</b>
Mobility Allowance	$36 \times 600$	<b>21.600 €</b>
Family Allowance	$36 \times 500$	<b>18.000 €</b>
<b>Employer's gross amount</b>		<b>205.660 €</b>

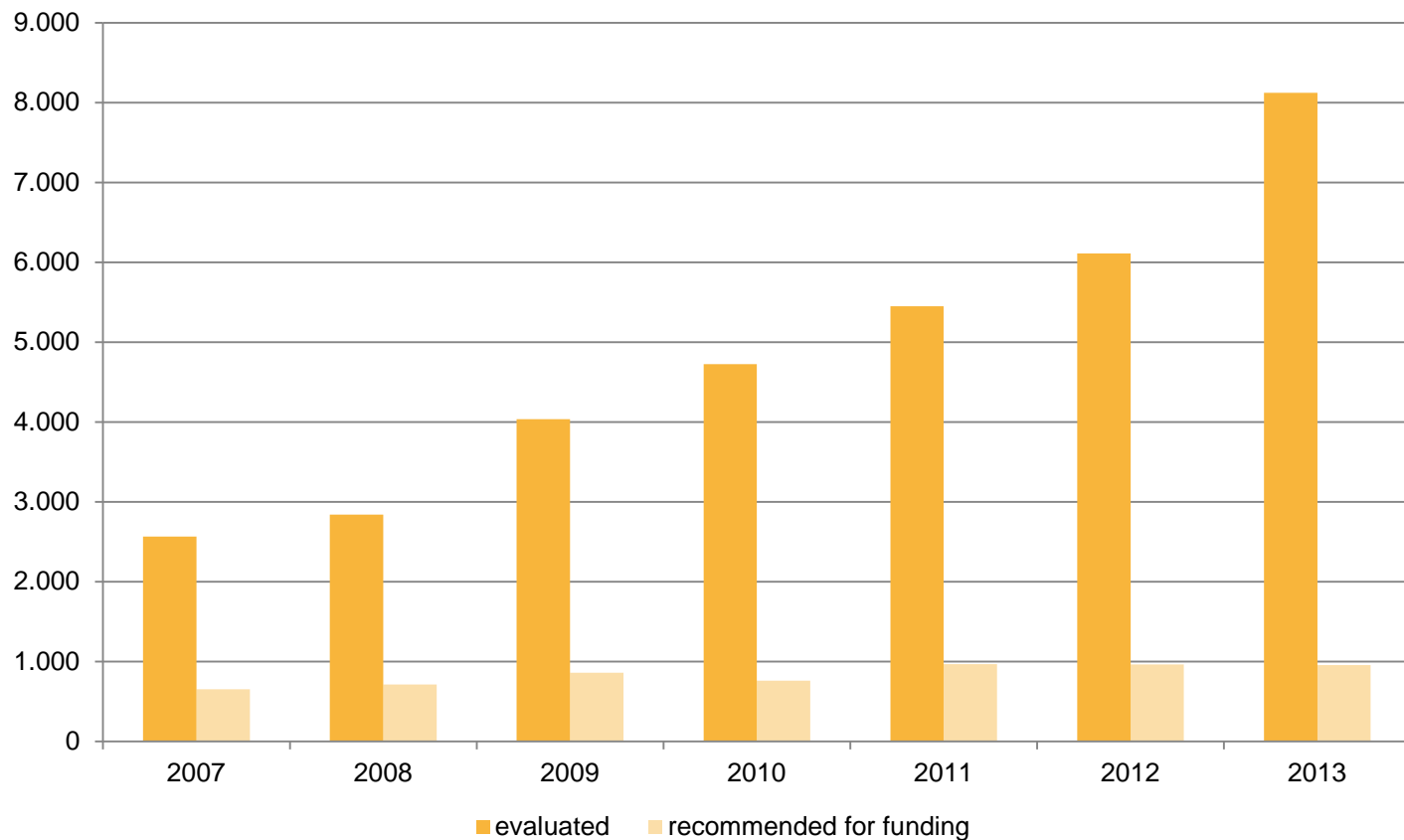
## Financing Example **GF** Germany → USA

A German researcher with family obligations applies for a 24-month fellowship in the USA with a 12-month return phase in Germany

Term	Calculation	Contribution
Research, Training and Networking	$36 \cdot 800$	<b>28.800 €</b>
Management and Overheads	$36 \cdot 650$	<b>23.400 €</b>
Institutional Unit Costs		<b>52.200 €</b>
Maximum EU contribution		<b>205.660 + 52.200 257.860 €</b>

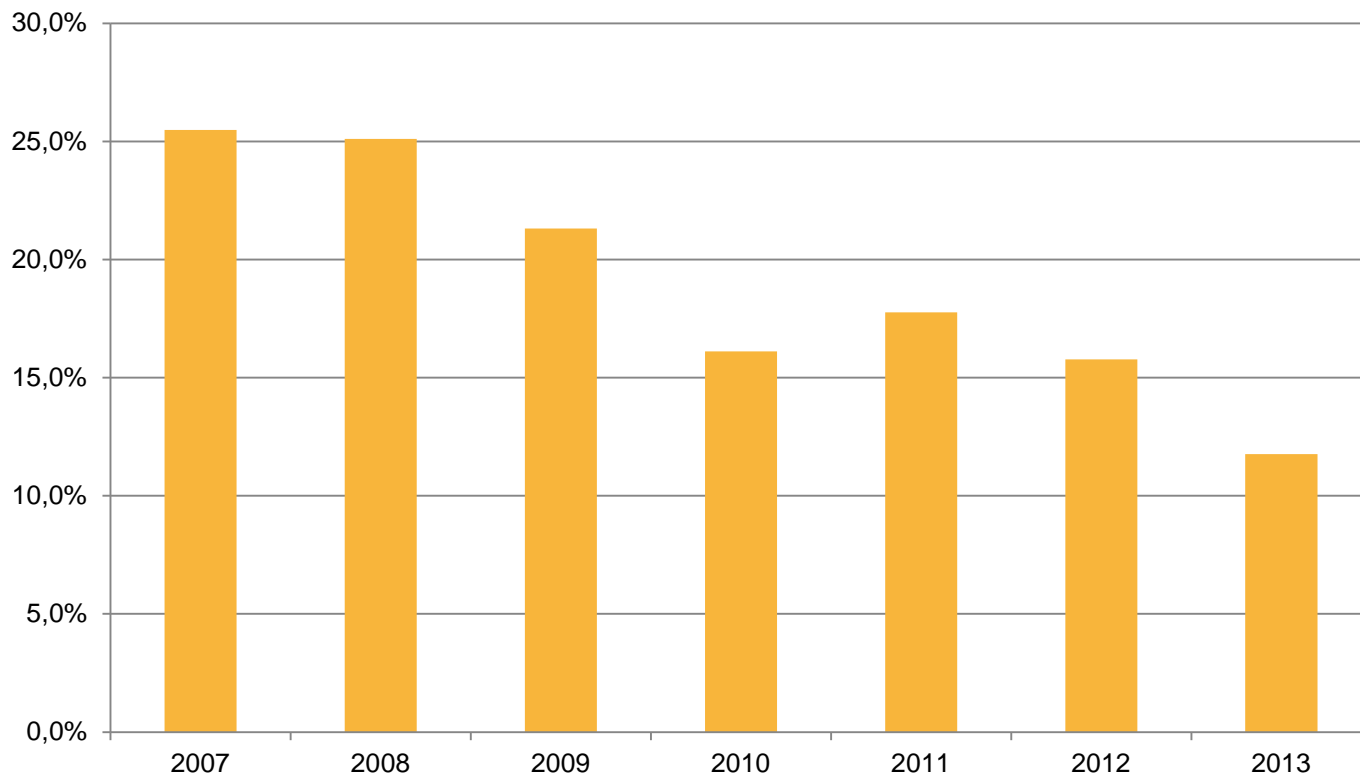


## Individual Fellowships in FP7 (IEF, IOF, IIF)





## Individual Fellowships in FP7 (IEF, IOF, IIF) – Success Rates





## Experience 2013 Intra-European Fellowship

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Positively evaluated applications	<b>3856</b> (overall 4915)
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Funded applications	<b>614</b>
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Overall success rate	<b>12.5 %</b>
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Target countries 2013	UK, Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland
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## Experience International Outgoing Fellowship

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Positively evaluated applications	<b>983</b> (overall 1207)
Funded applications	<b>152</b>
Overall success rate	<b>12.6 %</b>
Return phase 2013	UK, Spain, France, Germany
Outgoing phase 2012	<b>USA</b> 118 <b>Canada</b> 13 <b>Australia</b> 12

## Application Procedure

- Open call for proposals required
- Annual calls for proposals, dates published in the biennial Work Programme
- Participant Portal  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal>  
Call for proposals, documents (Work Programme, **Guide for Applicants**), access to the submission service
- Electronic proposal submission, deadline 17:00 Brussels Time sharp

# Application Procedure

- Single-stage submission and evaluation process
- Proposal structure:
- Part A: Administrative Forms  
filled in online
- Part B: Proposal text  
Word template for download in the submission  
system  
Upload as pdf  
→ Page limits



## Application Documents: Part A – Forms

- A1: General information about the proposal (→ descriptors and keywords)
- A2: Data on participating organisation (→ PIC)
- A3: Project budget (in person months)
- A4: Ethics table
- A5: Information on partner organisation(s)



# Application Documents: Part B – Proposal text

Structured according to evaluation criteria:

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	START PAGE COUNT
1. SUMMARY	} max. 10 pages
2. EXCELLENCE	
3. IMPACT	
4. IMPLEMENTATION	
	STOP PAGE COUNT
5. CV OF THE EXPERIENCED RESEARCHER	} page limits
6. CAPACITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS	
7. ETHICAL ASPECTS	
8. LETTERS OF COMMITMENT OF PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	

## Evaluation Criteria

- Corresponding proposal structure
- All criteria need to be addressed

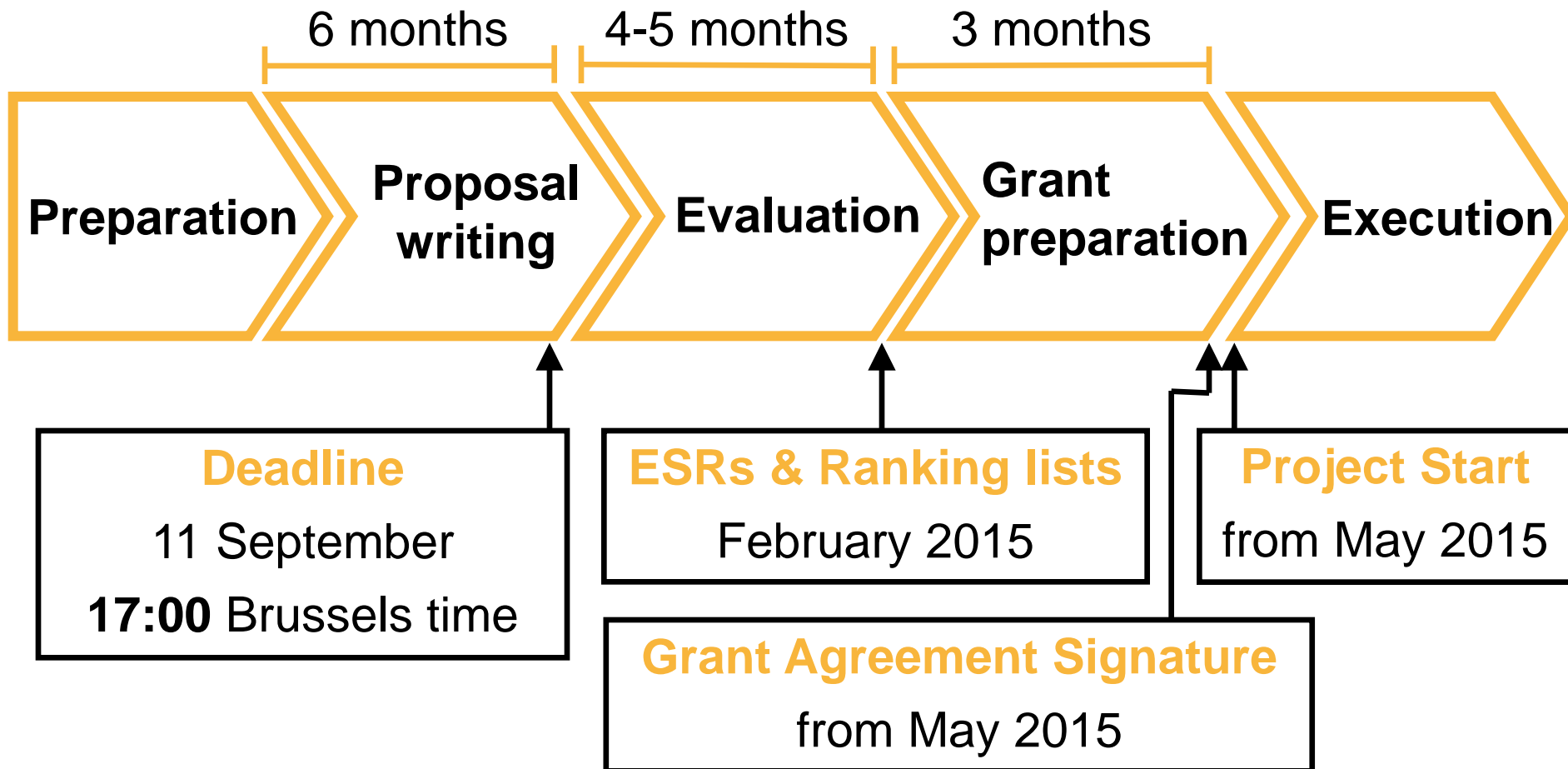
2. IF - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action: Individual Fellowships		
Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research (including inter/multidisciplinary aspects)	Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills and working conditions to realise the potential of individuals and to provide new career perspectives	Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
Clarity and quality of transfer of knowledge/training for the development of researcher in light of the research objectives	Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and results dissemination	Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management
Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements		Appropriateness of the institutional environment (infrastructure)
Capacity of the researcher to reach or re-enforce a position of professional maturity in research		Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and institutional commitment
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		
1	2	3
Priority in case of <i>ex aequo</i>		

## Evaluation

- **Eight scientific panels:** CHE, SOC, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY (in EF additional CAR and RI panels)
- **Score** (between 0 and 5) for each evaluation criterion, weightings apply
- Best overall score: 100 points, minimum: 70 points
- Short **justification** of score (strengths and weaknesses): Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)
- **Ranking list** per panel based on overall score:  
A = recommended for funding, B = reserve list, C = rejected for budgetary reasons, D = insufficient quality



## Schedule



## Proposal – Formalities

- In **English**
- **Stick to the guidelines:**  
Structure, format, page limit, font size, no attachments, etc.  
→ Word template in the submission system
- **Readability**  
Make it easy to find the relevant aspects in the text, use figures, emphasise by formatting, separate sections, use footnotes sparingly, ...
- Mark **resubmissions** as such in the A1 form (only)

## Research Project

- Choose an **interdisciplinary** project (with **intersectoral** secondments, if possible)
- The project has to be highly **innovative and ambitious**, but **realistic**
- The project should **not** be a continuation of your dissertation
- Goals, methodology (**advantages/disadvantages; risks and contingent alternatives**), and work plan must be clear and consistent (content-wise and time-wise)
- At best: the results are applicable directly
- Describe the state-of-the-art carefully

## Training/Transfer of knowledge

- Adjust **training and transfer of knowledge** to the **specific** needs of the researcher and the host organisation
- „Doing more with less“:
  - Concentrate on a few training activities you really need instead of trying to be trained in everything → unrealistic
  - Acquire management and leadership skills → you will need them in your (non-)academic future as an independent and mature researcher
- Why is the host institution the **perfect match** regarding your accumulated (scientific and transferable) needs?
- How can your expertise promote the host institution?



## Researcher – Self-Description

- Do not be too modest (but stay authentic), your competitors are not modest neither
- Describe your **individual achievements** and **potential** → Explain why
  - **Your** scientific background is (to a certain degree) unique
  - **You** have an excellent potential
  - **You** are perfectly able to carry out the project
  - **You** would greatly benefit from this project

# Impact

Explain clearly the impact of the research and training on your career:

- Provides new (better) career perspectives (via better expertise and new collaboration opportunities)
- Develops your full potential
- Impact on society, economy, the public

Public Engagement:

**Addressing a broad public is mandatory** (Researchers' Night, Newspaper Articles, Science Slams, Open Lab Days, ...) → at best: based on own experience and complementary to yet existing activities at the host institution

## Host Institution/Implementation

- Choose a **renowned** host institution
- Choose a **well known** supervisor
- Emphasize the host's experience in international projects as well as the track record (patents, publications, number of projects, major achievements, ...)
- Describe the infrastructure of the host organisation (equipment, international collaborations, experience, ...) and why this institution suits your project better than any other institution
- Describe the progress monitoring of your project

## General Advices

- **All parts of the proposal are important** to be successful
- Be as **precise** and **concrete** as possible
- Project should be innovative, but realistic
- Describe your **individual achievements** and **potential**
- Goals, methodology, and work plan clear and consistent
- **Intersectorality**, inter- and multidisciplinary
- Be aware of **risks** and describe alternatives
- Stay in close contact with the host organisation

## General Advices

- Start writing the proposal **early enough** → you will retype it over and over
- Write the proposal **in cooperation** with the supervisor/host institution
- Let others (non-experts as well) read your proposal → listen to them
- Avoid spelling errors → make use of professional proofreading
- **Adhere closely** to the given format
- **Readability**: Make it easy to find the relevant aspects in the text, use figures, emphasise by formatting (heavy type), separate sections, use footnotes sparingly, ...
- Do not overuse graphs etc.

## General Advices

- Avoid a manifold usage of external resources (links to websites)
- The **beginning** of your proposal must arouse curiosity and impression, the **end** must be a harmonious final chord → these two paragraphs are of special importance in any kind of text!
- Do not underestimate any category of a proposal with less value concerning the evaluation criteria → **All parts of the proposal** are important to be successful
- Do not hesitate to contact your **National Contact Point**

## Further Information

- EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie websites  
[ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/marie-sk%C5%82odowska-curie-actions/](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/marie-sk%C5%82odowska-curie-actions/)  
[ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions)
- German Horizon 2020 portal  
[www.horizont2020.de](https://www.horizont2020.de)
- Expert registration  
[ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/experts/index.html)

# National Contact Point Mobility

**Information and advice** concerning the mobility actions of the EU Framework Programmes

## **Services offered:**

- Information on funding opportunities and application deadlines
- Advice during the entire project lifecycle
- Proof reading of proposals and tips on optimisation
- Information events
- Provision of additional information, analyses and statistics

**[www.nks-mobilitaet.de](http://www.nks-mobilitaet.de)**



## EURAXESS Germany

National Coordination Point in the  
EU-wide EURAXESS network  
facilitating international researcher  
mobility

**Information and personal advice for  
mobile researchers and their host  
institutions:**

- Funding programmes, jobs
- Immigration and residence
- Social security, taxation, etc.

**[www.euraxess.de](http://www.euraxess.de)**





## National Contact Point Mobility – Contact

### Initial consultation

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### Individual actions

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