

RULES AND REGULATIONS
HORIZON EUROPE INCENTIVE

v1.3

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History of changes		
Version	Publication date	Changes
v1.0	30/06/2021	Initial version (decisions of the F.R.S.-FNRS board of directors of 27 April 2021)
v1.1	28/07/2021	Art. 2 : ERC applicants not holding a permanent position can submit an application in their name and do not need to do it through the head of department (simplification of procedure)
v1.2	10/10/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - art. 3, al. 3 : alignment with the terms used in Horizon Europe application forms - clarifications added in footnotes (footnote 6 and footnote 7)
v1.3	3/08/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - art. 3: clarifications added in footnotes (footnotes 1, 2, 3) - change of email address in footnote 7

Introduction

Since 2006, the F.R.S.-FNRS has encouraged and supported the development of European projects by granting subsidies.

This regulation implements the decisions of the F.R.S.-FNRS board of directors of 27 April 2021 and sets out conditions for granting incentives for the duration of the ninth European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe. It applies throughout the duration of Horizon Europe (2021-2027), subject to amendment by the board of directors.

Article 1 – Objective of the incentive

The objective of the incentive is to encourage and support the preparation of Horizon Europe proposals by researchers from universities in the French-speaking Community of Belgium.

It forms part of the mission of the F.R.S.-FNRS, which is to promote European research and innovation programmes for researchers that involve the French-speaking Community, while also supporting researchers so they are able to participate in these programmes, in addition to the services offered by the NCP-FNRS (<https://ncp.frs-fnrs.be>).

Article 2 – Beneficiaries (eligibility of the researcher)

- a) The following persons can benefit from this incentive and submit an application:
- Research associates, senior research associates and research directors of F.R.S.-FNRS who hold effectively this fellowship;
 - Permanently appointed members of the scientific personnel and permanently appointed members of the academic personnel at a university in the French-speaking Community of Belgium (Annexe 1). Members of the academic personnel with probationary posts are also eligible.
- b) The following persons can also benefit from this incentive:
- Researchers who submit an ERC Starting Grant (ERC StG), ERC Consolidator Grant (ERC CoG), ERC Advanced Grant (ERC AdG) or ERC Synergy Grant (ERC SyG) proposal with a university institution in the French-Speaking Community of Belgium as the *Host Institution*. In this case, the incentive application must be submitted to the F.R.S.-FNRS by the head of the body where the ERC project will be completed if it receives funding (= *Department carrying out the proposed work*, as indicated in the ERC proposal) who fulfils the conditions specified in a) (above).
 - Researchers who submit a Marie Skłodowska Curie (MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship) postdoctoral fellowship application to a university institution in the French-speaking

Community of Belgium, with the university as the *Host Organisation*. In this case, the incentive application must be submitted to the F.R.S.-FNRS by the *supervisor* who is mentioned in the proposal and fulfils the conditions specified in a) (above).

The official beneficiary of the incentive is the host university of the applicant.

Article 3 – Scope of application (eligibility of the proposal)

The researcher can benefit from the payment of a fixed sum for the preparation of any project that meets all of the following criteria:

- The proposal is submitted using the electronic submission system of the *Funding & Tenders Portal* of the European Commission (EC) in response to a call for proposals from the Horizon Europe framework programme;
- The type of proposal falls into one of the following categories:
 - Pillar I - European Research Council (ERC): ERC Starting Grant, ERC Consolidator Grant, ERC Advanced Grant, ERC Synergy Grant, as the principal investigator,
 - Pillar I - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA): MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship, MSCA Doctoral Network, MSCA Staff Exchange;
 - Pillar I – Research infrastructures: research and innovation actions (RIA), innovation action (IA), coordination and support action (CSA);
 - Pillar II - Cluster “Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society”: RIA, IA, CSA;
 - Part “Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area”: RIA, IA, CSA;
- The researcher (as mentioned in 2 a) or 2 b) above) is named in Section A of the proposal (*Main contact person*¹ / *Researcher*² / *Principal Investigator*³);
- The proposal is recognised as eligible by the EC⁴;
- If it is an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship application, the proposal obtained a minimum score of 85%;

¹ For all types of proposals except MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship and ERC.

² Only for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship proposals.

³ For ERC proposals.

⁴ The F.R.S.-FNRS reserves the right to request reimbursement of an incentive granted for a proposal that is declared ineligible.

- If it is an ERC Starting Grant, ERC Consolidator Grant or ERC Advanced Grant application, the proposal is accepted at the second evaluation stage; if it is an ERC Synergy Grant application, it is accepted at the third evaluation stage.

Article 4 – Non-accumulation

- a) For the same proposal (same proposal reference number), only one F.R.S.-FNRS incentive application can be submitted per institution⁵, except for ERC Synergy Grant proposals (a maximum of one incentive application per principal investigator).
- b) For the same call (same identification and closing date), only one incentive application can be submitted per beneficiary researcher.
- c) If the same project is submitted and evaluated by the EC in two stages, the researcher can only benefit from one incentive.

Article 5 - Amounts

The following amounts are granted:

- MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship: 500 €;
- Principal investigator: ERC Starting, ERC Consolidator, ERC Advanced Grant: 2000 €;
- Principal investigator (and associate principal investigator): ERC Synergy Grant: 5000 €;
- Partner: MSCA Doctoral Network, MSCA Staff Exchange, Research and Innovation Action (RIA), Innovation Action (IA), Coordination and Support Action (CSA): 1000 €;
- Coordinator: MSCA Doctoral Network, MSCA Staff Exchange, Research and Innovation Action (RIA), Innovation Action (IA), Coordination and Support Action (CSA): 10,000 €.

⁵ This means that, for the same submitted project, which involves several researchers from the French-speaking Community of Belgium:

- If the researchers come from different universities, each researcher must submit his own incentive application to the F.R.S.-FNRS;
- If the researchers come from the same university (but from different research bodies), they can only complete one application, as it would be for the same beneficiary institution.

Article 6 – Conditions for applications and administrative procedure

- a) The incentive application must be submitted to the F.R.S.-FNRS after the closing date for the Horizon Europe call for proposals:
- generally, within 2 months of this closing date;
 - or, for ERC proposals only, within 2 months of first receiving notification that the application has progressed to interview stage (Stage 2 for ERC Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grants – Stage 3 for ERC Synergy Grants);
 - or, for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships only, within 2 months of receiving the evaluation results.

- b) The application is submitted using the form available online on the e-space electronic platform of the F.R.S.-FNRS, which accessible at the address: <https://e-space.frs-fnrs.be>, by the researcher identified in the Horizon Europe proposal OR by the head of the body where the ERC project will be completed if it receives funding (if the *Principal Investigator* fails to fulfil the conditions in 2 a) above), OR by the *supervisor* of the researcher, for Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellowship candidates.

The following must be attached to the application:

- The proposal, as it was submitted via the *Electronic Submission Service*, including the electronic acknowledgement of receipt (PDF file to be attached to the online form)⁶;
- The letter or e-mail notifying candidates that they have progressed to Stage 2 (for ERC Starting, Consolidator or Advanced Grant candidates) or Stage 3 (for ERC Synergy Grant candidates) (PDF file to be attached to the online form);
- The letter or e-mail informing candidates of the evaluation results, which mentions the percentage obtained, for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF file to be attached to the online form).

The incentive application must be complete when it is submitted and no further documents will be accepted after this time.

- c) The F.R.S.-FNRS checks that the application is eligible. If the application is eligible, it sends an award letter to the researcher and a copy to the finance department of his institution.

⁶ A complete PDF file generated by the submission system including the electronic acknowledgement of receipt digitally sealed by the European Commission.

- d) After receiving the award letter, the finance department of the institution sends a declaration of claim to the finance department⁷ of the F.R.S.-FNRS. The incentive will be paid to the institution on the basis of this declaration of claim.

⁷ By post or e-mail to karine.patinier@frs-fnrs.be.

ANNEXE 1: HOME INSTITUTIONS

<p>Home institution of the incentive applicant</p>	<p>Universities of the French-speaking Community of Belgium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Catholic University of Louvain (UCLouvain)Free University of Brussels (ULB)University of Liège (ULiège)University of Mons (UMons)University of Namur (UNamur)University of Saint-Louis – Brussels (USL-B)
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