

## HORIZON EUROPE Research and Innovation Framework Programme MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF) HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF-01

<b>Organisation Name/ Department</b> <i>(if applicable)</i>	Foundation for Innovation and Research – Malta (FiR.mt)	
<b>Website of the organisation</b> <i>(in English)</i>	<a href="http://FiR.mt">FiR.mt</a>	
<b>Organisation Short Name</b>	FiR.mt	
<b>Organisation Type</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Academic  <input type="checkbox"/> Non-academic	<input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education establishment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research organisation <input type="checkbox"/> International European Research Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> SME <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
<b>Research Fields</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry (CHE) <input type="checkbox"/> Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic Sciences (ECO) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Science and Engineering (ENG) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment and Geosciences (ENV) <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences (LIF) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mathematics (MAT) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Physics (PHY)	
<b>Sub-Fields/ Keywords</b> <i>(up to 5)</i>	Energy Transition Transport Electrification Solar Energy and Renewable Energy Sources Energy Storage Devices Optimisation and Decision Making Support Digitilisation	
<b>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action(s) of interest</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> European Postdoctoral Fellowships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global Postdoctoral Fellowships	
<b>Short Description of the Organisation/ Department</b> - strengths and scientific achievements (publications, patents, etc.), important infrastructure <i>(up to 2000 characters with spaces)</i>	The Foundation for Innovation and Research – Malta (FiR.mt), is an independent, voluntary, non-profit and public-purpose foundation. The Foundation is a research and knowledge dissemination organisation as well as a Research and Technology Organisation (RTO). It is strongly committed to promoting the advancement of innovation and research for humanity throughout the Mediterranean, highlighting the role of Malta as a hub of knowledge between the EU and the region, to support the ongoing Maltese economy expansion into an innovation-led economy.	

	<p>The Foundation is the home to Maltese-based innovators and researchers, with a pool of personnel engaged and dedicated to innovation and research, acting as a vehicle to their success and the Maltese R&amp;I index. The current research, technology and dissemination activities are related to renewable energy, electric mobility, vision techniques and technology transfer and have established a network of experienced experts, and active public and private entities in the field throughout the country and beyond.</p> <p>FiR.mt is the organiser of The 13th Mediterranean Conference on Power Generation, Transmission, Distribution and Energy Conversion (MEDPOWER2022.org) under the auspicious of The Institution of Engineering and Technology (The IET) in the UK and Technical Sponsor of the Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – Power and Energy Society (IEEE-PES) in the US. FiR.mt is the coordinator of two successful Horizon Europe projects as coordinator HORIZON-CL5-2021-D3-02-02: Sustainability and educational aspects for renewable energy and renewable fuel technologies with the PROJECT TRANSIT - TRANSITION to a sustainable future through training and education and HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-03-01 TWINNING with PROJECT PROMISE - Photovoltaics Reliability Operations and Maintenance Innovative Solutions for Energy Alliance and partner in one national funded project under MCST Space Fund called BEEPOLL. Other funded projects: GIANTS (Horizon Europe), RoOFPEVs and VirtualKES1.0 (MCST) and MAP-PV (ERASMUS+).</p> <p>FiR.mt has an established Research Management and Administration department supporting pre/post-proposals and is establishing a Postgraduate School for Research-Intensive Masters and Doctorate programmes supported by international partners and the EU. These activities ensure a smooth and successful implementation of the project to the highest standards. Furthermore, FiR.mt has expertise in the coordination and dissemination of research projects as well as a pool of talented personnel readily engaged and dedicated to innovation and research.</p> <p>FiR.mt is the Technical Sponsor of the IEEE ISGT Europe 2025 in Malta between October 20 – 23, 2025 organised together with the IEEE Power and Energy Society and the IEEE Section Malta.</p>
<p><b>Link to the short country profile in case of Widening countries</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.visitmalta.com/en/">https://www.visitmalta.com/en/</a></p>
<p><b>Previous Projects/ Research Experience</b> (international/ EU/ big national or regional projects especially in the areas in which you would like to host fellows) (<i>up to 5</i>)</p>	<p>PROMISE is a 3 year research and innovation project funded by the European Commission through a Twinning action (HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-03), as part of the Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence objective under Horizon Europe. A research framework featuring a Malta-based platform to study of existing and emerging PV modules and systems, including digitalisation aspects for prediction and optimisation algorithms. The Malta PV Living laboratories for data collection and analysis,</p>

	<p>where we employ cutting-edge methodologies to gather and interpret information crucial for optimizing photovoltaic (PV) systems' reliability and energy yield. <a href="https://pv-promise.eu/malta-pv-living-laboratories/">https://pv-promise.eu/malta-pv-living-laboratories/</a></p> <p>TRANSIT (TRANSITION to sustainable future through training and education) is a project funded by the European Union under the program Horizon Europe that aims to provide sustainable training and re-skilling programmes for current and future generations on a multidisciplinary approach in renewable energy. <a href="https://transitproject.eu/">https://transitproject.eu/</a></p> <p>GIANTS vehicles will be based on sustainability by design, facilitating easy and low-cost repair through modular design. Use of solar supported charging will reduce the need for external charging energy in regions with low-level grid infrastructure and/or high shares of fossil fuels in electricity mix. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101138220. <a href="https://giants-project.eu/the-project/">https://giants-project.eu/the-project/</a></p> <p>BEEPOLL provide tools that can help identify the best locations for translocating honeybees for crop pollination in Malta. This innovative approach has the potential to make a real difference in bee conservation and food security. <a href="https://fir.mt/projects/beepoll/">https://fir.mt/projects/beepoll/</a></p> <p>RoOFPEVs aims to optimal integrate electric vehicles within the low voltage network while investigating and exploiting the use of solar energy. A stochastic optimisation framework is proposed to evaluate the integrated optimal sizing and operation of photovoltaics and electric vehicles under uncertainties of climate, usage, energy loads and costs. VirtualKES1.0 highlight the frequency-based issues, and how the modifications in the control of PVs can be opportune for the latter in providing myriad services such as voltage regulation, frequency regulation, and also help in enhancing the large-signal stability of the utility grid. RoOFPEVs and VirtualKES1.0 received funding from Xjenza Malta Excellence Research Framework Programme. <a href="https://fir.mt/projects/">https://fir.mt/projects/</a></p>
<p><b>Thematic areas and list of supervisors who are looking forward to preparing a project proposal with postdoctoral researchers</b></p>	<p><b>Renewable Energy &amp; Photovoltaics</b></p> <p><b>Sustainable Mobility &amp; Electrification</b></p> <p><b>Education &amp; Capacity Building</b></p> <p><b>Digitalisation &amp; Smart Energy Systems</b></p> <p><b>Environmental &amp; Agricultural Sustainability</b></p>

<b>Contact Person/ Position in the Organisation/ Phone/ E-mail</b>	<i>Austeja-Mockeviciute-Azzopardi, Projects Manager, AMA@FiR.mt</i>
<b>Deadline for Expressions of Interest from postdoctoral researchers</b>	
<b>Necessary documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ CV</li> <li>✓ Brief description of the project idea</li> <li>✓ Draft of MSCA PF Proposal Template</li> </ul>
<b>What we offer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Full-time contract to work on a research project and enjoy advanced training,</li> <li>✓ Competitive salary – €5,534.76 gross amount ( compulsory deductions under national law, such as employer and employee social security contributions and direct taxes are to be deducted);</li> <li>✓ Mobility (€ 710) and Family allowances (if applicable - € 660);</li> <li>✓ Budget for Research, Training and Networking costs (€ 1 000);</li> <li>✓ Special needs allowance (if applicable).</li> </ul>
<b>Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applicants should be in a possession of a doctoral degree at the call deadline.</li> <li>- At the call deadline, supported researchers must have a maximum of 8 years full-time equivalent experience in research, measured from the date of award of the doctoral degree. Years of experience outside research and career breaks (e.g. due to parental leave) will not count towards the amount of research experience. For nationals or long-term residents of EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries who wish to reintegrate to pursue their research career in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries, years of experience in research in third countries will not be considered in the above maximum.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Mobility rule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European Postdoctoral Fellowships - applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in In Malta for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline,</li> <li>- Global Postdoctoral Fellowships - applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organisation for the outgoing phase for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b><u>IMPORTANT – apply with us and increase your chances for success<sup>1</sup>:</u></b></p>	<p>✓ Not funded applications for European Postdoctoral Fellowships with a host organisation from Malta have the chance to be funded under the <b>ERA Fellowships</b> Call (‘Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area’ part of the Framework Programme). They will be automatically transferred to the ERA Fellowships Call and will be ranked in one single list according to the scores and evaluation of the Postdoctoral Fellowships call. Furthermore, Malta has an additional funding for proposals that score above threshold.</p>
	<p>✓ <b>European Commission website for Seal of Excellence Programmes:</b> <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/seal-excellence/funding-opportunities-under-msca_en">https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/seal-excellence/funding-opportunities-under-msca_en</a></p>



<sup>1</sup> The first bullet is only for Widening countries, the second bullet is only for countries and/ or organisations that have a Seal of Excellence programme adopted. Delete accordingly.