MSCA PF Catalyst Programme

FUNDamentally SCIENCE®, 2025

A unique 3-part programme to elevate your MSCA PF applications - through Applicant Training, Supervisor Mentoring, and Expert Proposal Review.

Programme Overview

15 hours **Applicant Training** × 3 hours **Supervisor Mentoring** × 1 or 2 cycles of **Expert Reviews**

Preparation Starts Now.

The Deadline Doesn't Wait.

Programme Structure

Training Phase

Applicant Training: 5 × 3 hour sessions
Applicants don't just learn the MSCA PF framework - they build their own proposal in real time, session by session, with direct guidance and feedback throughout.

Supervisor Mentoring: 1 × 3 hour session
Specifically designed around the supervisor's role in the application and what they can do to make a measurable difference to the proposal's competitiveness.

Expert Review Phase

Expert Review: 1 or 2 cycles
Once training is complete, institutions select their most competitive proposals for one or two cycles of expert review. Each cycle covers three moments:

- Expert evaluation with detailed feedback in your document.
- 1-hour, recorded, feedback session: We present our analysis: what is working, what needs to change, and why, so the team has a reference they can return to.
- 30-minute Q&A session: Scheduled one to two weeks after the feedback session, for last minute checks.

Training Methodology

At **FUNDamentally SCIENCE**, we believe in building professional capacity through evidence-based adult learning approaches. Our training combines **Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle with Problem-Based Learning**, creating an environment where professionals can effectively develop new skills while building on their existing expertise.

Why This Approach Works

A MSCA PF is never just the researcher's application, it is a joint project between the fellow and the host institution. **Most proposals fall short not because the science isn't there**, but because applicants don't know exactly what goes where, supervisors haven't been prepared to contribute meaningfully, and no independent expert has identified what isn't convincing before it reaches the evaluator.
By addressing all three parts in sequence — **applicant training, supervisor mentoring, and expert review** — every proposal that reaches the final stage has been **built, supported, and refined with the evaluation criteria at its core**.

Your Trainer: Rita Gil Mata, PhD

Rita Gil Mata, PhD is an expert consultant in European R&D funding with over two decades of experience and deep specialisation in **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions**. She has supported more than **35 MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships**, Doctoral Networks and COFUNDs — and regularly serves as an **External Evaluator for European funding agencies**, giving her a precise understanding of what makes a proposal succeed or fail.

Her track record: **860+ proposals supported**, **€51M secured**, and a participant satisfaction rating of **4.8 out of 5** across **650+ hours of delivered training**.

In the MSCA PF Catalyst Programme, Rita brings a new lens to every stage — from building the proposal in training to coaching supervisors and reviewing submissions before they reach the panel.