



Financial management and MSCA: the Ghent University approach

Fifth Meeting of the WG 2 Finance
COST Targeted Network TN1302: BESTPRAC

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Overhead / Indirect costs

At Ghent University: a 17% fixed flat-rate is used.

Exceptions:

- In case a lower (maximum) overhead flat-rate is mentioned in the call documents / website;
- In case a lower or higher flat-rate is decided by the University Board.

In case of H2020 projects: 25% fixed flat-rate.

- 17 out of 25: used to cover overhead costs;
- 8 out of 25: added to cover (additional) direct costs.



The overhead regulation in MSCA

Institutional unit costs + personal unit costs (WP 2016-2017; EU Contribution for Belgium*)

Type of MSCA	Management + Indirect Costs (person/month)	Living allowance (researcher) (person/month)	Mobility allowance (researcher) (person/month)	Family allowance (researcher) (person/month)	Research, Training and Network Costs (person/month)	Staff member Unit Costs (person/month)
ITN	1,200	3,110	600	500	1,800	N/A
IF	650	4,650	600	500	800	N/A
RISE	700	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,800	2,000
COFUND	325** + 0	1,855 (ESR)** 2,625 (ER)**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Euro	Euro	Euro	Euro	Euro	Euro

* This means no country correction coefficients (for ITN and IF living allowances) have been taken into account

** This figure represents 50% cofunding (Commission Decision No C (2013) 8194)

The Ghent University approach

General principle concerning the “Management + Indirect costs”:

- 50% is used to cover Overhead Costs (except COFUND).
- The destination of the other 50% of this cost category varies:
- In case Ghent University acts as coordinator or project manager (ITN, RISE):
 - => Ghent University PI (no overhead deduction);
 - => financial contributions from partners to PI (no overhead deduction),
- In case Ghent University acts as partner:
 - => transfer to coordinator or project manager (no overhead deduction);
 - And/Or
 - => transfer to Ghent University PI (after overhead deduction is calculated on the total amount available to the UGent PI (including Research, Training and Network Costs));



The Ghent University approach

Type of MSCA	Management + Indirect Costs (person/month)	Minimum Overhead Costs deducted (person/month)	Maximum Overhead Costs deducted (person/month)
ITN	1,200	600	937.70
IF	650	325	325
RISE	700	350	646
COFUND	325 + 0	0	0
	Euro	Euro	Euro

Use of the allowances (1)

In general:

- Living Allowance is used to appoint the researcher (PhD Grant or Postdoctoral Grant)
- Mobility Allowance (+ Family Allowance) is (are) monthly transferred to the researcher

In case the Living Allowance is not sufficient:

- part of the Mobility Allowance is added to the Living Allowance to cover the personnel cost;
- the remaining part of the Mobility Allowance is monthly transferred to the researcher.

Use of the allowances (2)

- Allowances are unit costs
- To cover gross salary (= including social security contributions)
- No simplification for Ghent University
- PhD and postdoctoral grantees are appointed
- This implies:
 - Fixed wage scales have to be followed
 - Induces differences among grantees:
 - Seniority
 - Marital status
 - Children at charge
 - ...
- Bookkeeping data differ from the data in the financial reports

Intake meetings (RISE + ITN)

- Budget transfer from partners to coordinator?
- Consortium agreement?
- Extra clause in (or annex to) each individual PhD grant and postdoctoral grant agreement
- Two payments per month: grant/salary + fixed (remaining) allowance(s)
- Near the end of the project: recalculation to ensure that the whole allowances have been correctly paid to the grantees
- Time sheeting: always. (requested by auditors as they consider these documents as the «best» proofs to show (even full time) involvement in the project

Incentives to take up the coordinatorship of MSCA consortia

- A “free to use” allowance of 10.000 EUR for each PI taking up the coordinatorship of a RISE or ITN proposal.
 - Payment depends on obtaining a score equal to or above the overall threshold score identified in the call documents.
 - Most applicants use it to hire external expertise to write the proposal or to finance other types of activities.
- Financial support to hire a half-time staff member.
 - to assist the PI in performing the coordination tasks.
 - only in case of an ITN or RISE project with a least 3 partners.
 - maximum of 30.000 EUR / year taking into account the amounts transferred by each partner in the consortium (i.e. up to half of the Management and Indirect Costs).



Thank You

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