



**Vilnius  
University**

# MSCA PF funding scheme: journey of Vilnius University

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# Vilnius University

- **#1** University in Lithuania
- Established in **1579**
- The **first and largest** comprehensive university in **Lithuania**
- **Research** university
- **24,000** students
- **3,000+** academic staff

# Faculties' structure

## Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences

- Institute of Chemistry
- Institute of Geosciences

## Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

## Faculty of Philosophy

- Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies
- Institute of Philosophy
- Institute of Psychology
- Institute of Sociology and Social Work
- Institute of Educational Sciences

## Faculty of Philology

- Institute of English, Romance Studies and Classical Studies
- Institute of Baltic Languages and Cultures
- Institute of Literature and Cultural Studies
- Institute of Applied Linguistics
- Institute of Foreign Languages

## Faculty of Physics

- Center for the Physics of Nuclear and Elementary Particles
- Institute of Chemical Physics
- Institute of Photonics and Nanotechnology
- Laser Research Center
- Institute of Applied Electrodynamics and Telecommunications
- Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astronomy

## Life Sciences Center

- Institute of Biosciences
- Institute of Biochemistry
- Institute of Biotechnology

## Faculty of History

## Kaunas Faculty

- Institute of Languages, Literature and Translation Studies
- Institute of Social Sciences and Applied Informatics

## Faculty of Communication

## Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics

- Institute of Data Sciences and Digital Technologies
- Institute of Informatics
- Institute of Mathematics
- Institute of Applied Mathematics

## Faculty of Medicine

- Institute of Biomedical Sciences
- Institute of Clinical Medicine
- Institute of Odontology
- Institute of Health Sciences

## Šiauliai academy

- Institute of Education
- Institute of Regional Development

## Institute of International Relations and Political Science

## Faculty of Law

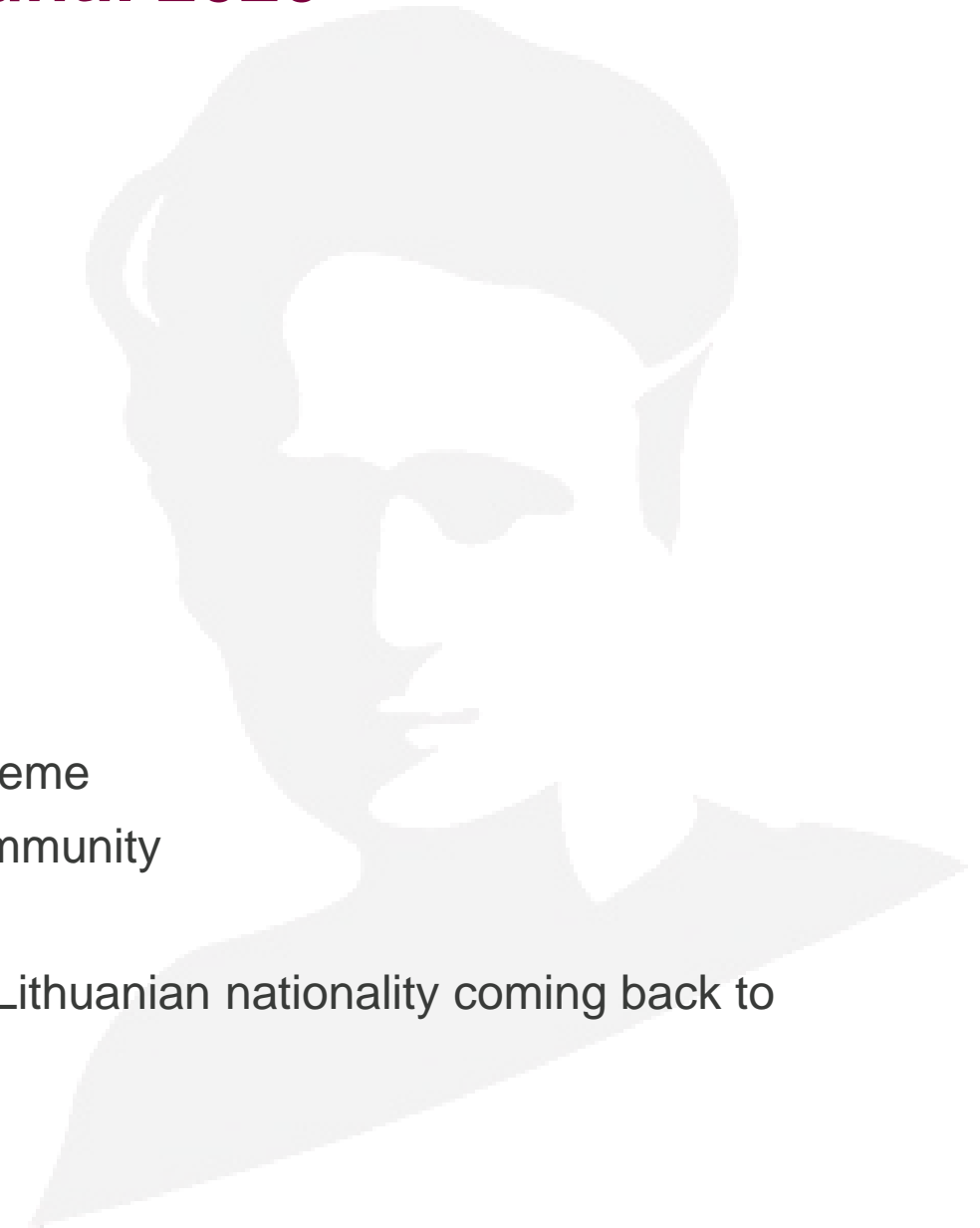
## Business School



# VU participation in MSCA IF/PF calls until 2020



- No defined strategy
- No active communication and promotion of the funding scheme
- Low awareness of the funding scheme in the academic community
- Limited support in preparation of the applications
- Participation on the basis of the initiative of researchers of Lithuanian nationality coming back to Lithuania, sometimes – personal contacts of the supervisor



# VU Strategic plan for 2021–2025: focus on MSCA PF projects and internationalization

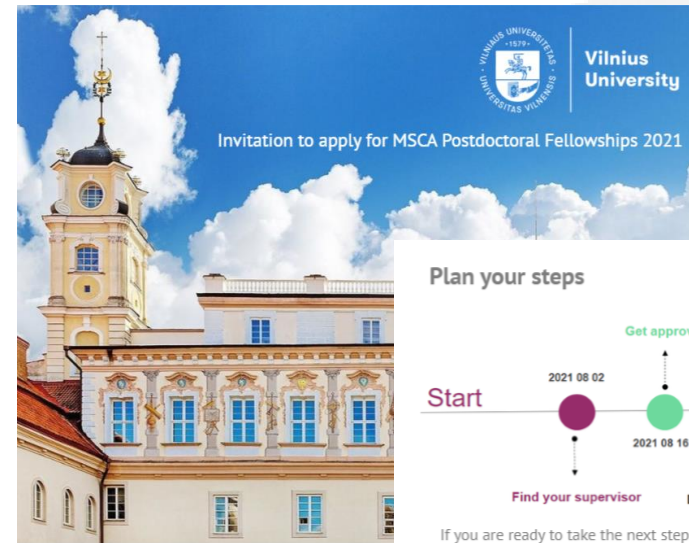
LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE	INDICATORS
<b>1.2. Research of a high international level</b>	<p>1.2.1. An increase in the comparative assessment of the quality evaluation of scientific fields (a higher evaluation in 2023: no less than 10 fields evaluated no less than 4–5 out of 5 – 60% of fields).</p> <p>1.2.2. International recognition of research: an increase in the number of top-level international research grants (ERC/MSCA IF/Coordinated Horizon Europe projects) (50%).</p> <p>1.2.3. The growth of the share of foreign researchers working at VU for at least a year from the total number of academic staff (50%).</p>

**Action required:** A need to build a strategy and to work towards a change in the number of submitted MSCA PF applications, increase in highly evaluated proposals and grants received.

# MSCA PF 2021: first steps

- First attempt to give **more visibility to VU supervisors** – 13 researchers expressed their interest to be announced as potential MSCA PF supervisors
- **Digital booklet** available online created: information about VU, invitation to jointly apply for MSCA PF, application process, list of potential supervisors
- **Invitation to apply with VU** disseminated with the help of NCP, via the networks the university belongs to, etc.
- Started too late – end of June.

**6 proposals submitted**  
**1 MSCA PF grant**



## Plan your steps



If you are ready to take the next step in your research career, look further into our University's host offers and find the one that best suits your interests. Once you have it, you should contact the corresponding scientific supervisor directly or simply reach Department for Research and Innovation (email: [mokslas@crv.vu.lt](mailto:mokslas@crv.vu.lt)). After the supervisor agrees to endorse you as a candidate, you can start preparation of a project proposal.



## Non-Exhaustive List of Possible Supervisors

### Dr. Ainė Ramonaitė, Professor

*Institute of International Relations and Political Science  
Department of Political behavior and Institutions  
The (Post)soviet Memory Studies Center*

**Research focus:** political behavior and political attitudes, electoral behavior, party politics in post-communist countries, civil society, memory studies, oral history

**Find more >>>**; Email: [aine.ramonaitė@tsomi.vu.lt](mailto:aine.ramonaitė@tsomi.vu.lt)

### Dr. Dovilė Jakniūnaitė, Professor

*Institute of International Relations and Political Science  
Department of International Relations*

**Research focus:** border studies, critical security studies, identity and foreign policy, de facto states

**Find more >>>**; Email: [dovile.jakniunaite@tsomi.vu.lt](mailto:dovile.jakniunaite@tsomi.vu.lt)

### Dr. Mažvydas Jastramskis, Associate Professor

*Institute of International Relations and Political Science  
Department of Political Behavior and Institutions*

**Research focus:** party politics, electoral behaviour, presidential politics

**Find more >>>**; Email: [mazvydas.jastramskis@tsomi.vu.lt](mailto:mazvydas.jastramskis@tsomi.vu.lt)

# MSCA PF 2022: refinement of the process

- **Analysis of good practices:** consultations with partners, useful examples online
- **MSCA PF dedicated VU webpage** created: information about the funding scheme, eligibility conditions, application process with VU, useful documents
- **Awareness raising:** active communication about the funding scheme to VU researchers – emails, newsletter, intranet, VU Research Projects Office Facebook group, individual conversations
- Offer to the members of academic community to **express their interest to supervise MSCA postdoctoral fellows** – 41 registered
- **Lists of potential VU supervisors** accessible on VU MSCA PF webpage – names, departments, research related keywords, links to personal webpages, emails
- **Invitation to apply with VU** disseminated with the help of NCP, via university networks, on social media, first **VU hosting offer on Euraxess**
- First **MSCA PF webinar** organized: introduction to the proposal structure, experiences of the successful applicant, supervisor, evaluator



**Vilnius University**

**MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2022 Call**  
List of Potential Vilnius University Supervisors  
Life Sciences Panel

SUPERVISOR	DEPARTMENT	KEYWORDS RELATED TO THE FIELD OF RESEARCH	WEBPAGE	EMAIL
Patrick Pausch	<a href="#">Life Sciences Center</a> <a href="#">EMBL Partnership for Genome Editing Technologies</a>	CRISPR Genome editing Microbiology Biochemistry Structural Biology	<a href="#">LINK</a>	<a href="mailto:patrick.pausch@gmc.vu.lt">patrick.pausch@gmc.vu.lt</a>
Eglė Lastauskienė	<a href="#">Life Sciences Center</a> <a href="#">Institute of Biosciences</a> <a href="#">Department of Microbiology and Biotech</a>	Microorganism population research Biocontrol of microorganisms Pathogenic yeast	<a href="#">LINK</a>	<a href="mailto:egle.lastauskiene@of.vu.lt">egle.lastauskiene@of.vu.lt</a>
Aurelijus Burokas	<a href="#">Life Sc Institut</a>			
Inga Griškova-Bulanova	<a href="#">Life Sc Institut Depart</a>			



The screenshot shows the 'MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships' page on the Vilnius University website. It features a navigation menu with options like 'ABOUT VU', 'STUDIES', 'RESEARCH', 'INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION', 'BUSINESS', 'NEWS & EVENTS'. The main content area includes a '2024 CALL FOR PROPOSALS' button, a 'VU HOSTING OFFERS ON EURAXESS' button, and detailed information about the call, such as the opening date (April 10, 2024), deadline date (September 11, 2024), and call budget (€270.75 million). A sidebar on the right provides contact information for the Research Projects Office.

**11 proposals submitted**  
**1 MSCA PF grant**  
**1 ERA Fellowship grant**  
**3 national grants for well-evaluated MSCA PF proposals**

# MSCA PF 2023: full-on MSCA PF campaign

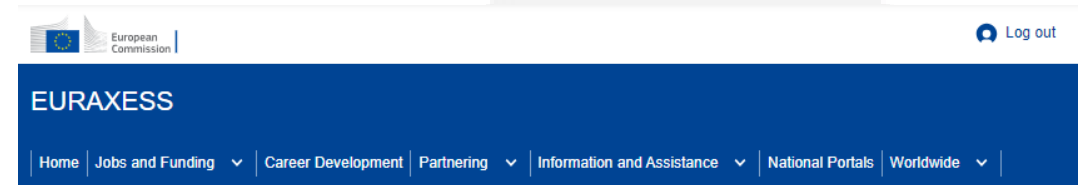
- **MSCA PF dedicated VU webpage further refined:** information on all the steps of the application process, support services offered
- **Active internal communication** about the funding scheme continued
- **External communication intensifies** - some faculties start looking for postdoctoral candidates themselves by reaching out to their partner institutions, university presentation in Euraxess events
- **Decision to exploit Euraxess:** personal hosting offer for each VU researcher who expresses his/her interest to supervise MSCA postdoctoral fellows – 31 registered (less than in 2022, but registration form requires much more input – description of the department/research group, supervisor’s experience, preferred experience of the candidate, etc.). **Time consuming, but works!**
- **MSCA PF webinar** tradition continued: more focus on the content of the proposal – invaluable help of the NCP
- **Additional incentive – national call to fund MSCA PF proposals** that scored 70% or more during the evaluation

**17 proposals submitted**

**2 MSCA PF grants**

**2 ERA Fellowship grants**

**Up to 5 national grants for well-evaluated MSCA PF proposals expected**



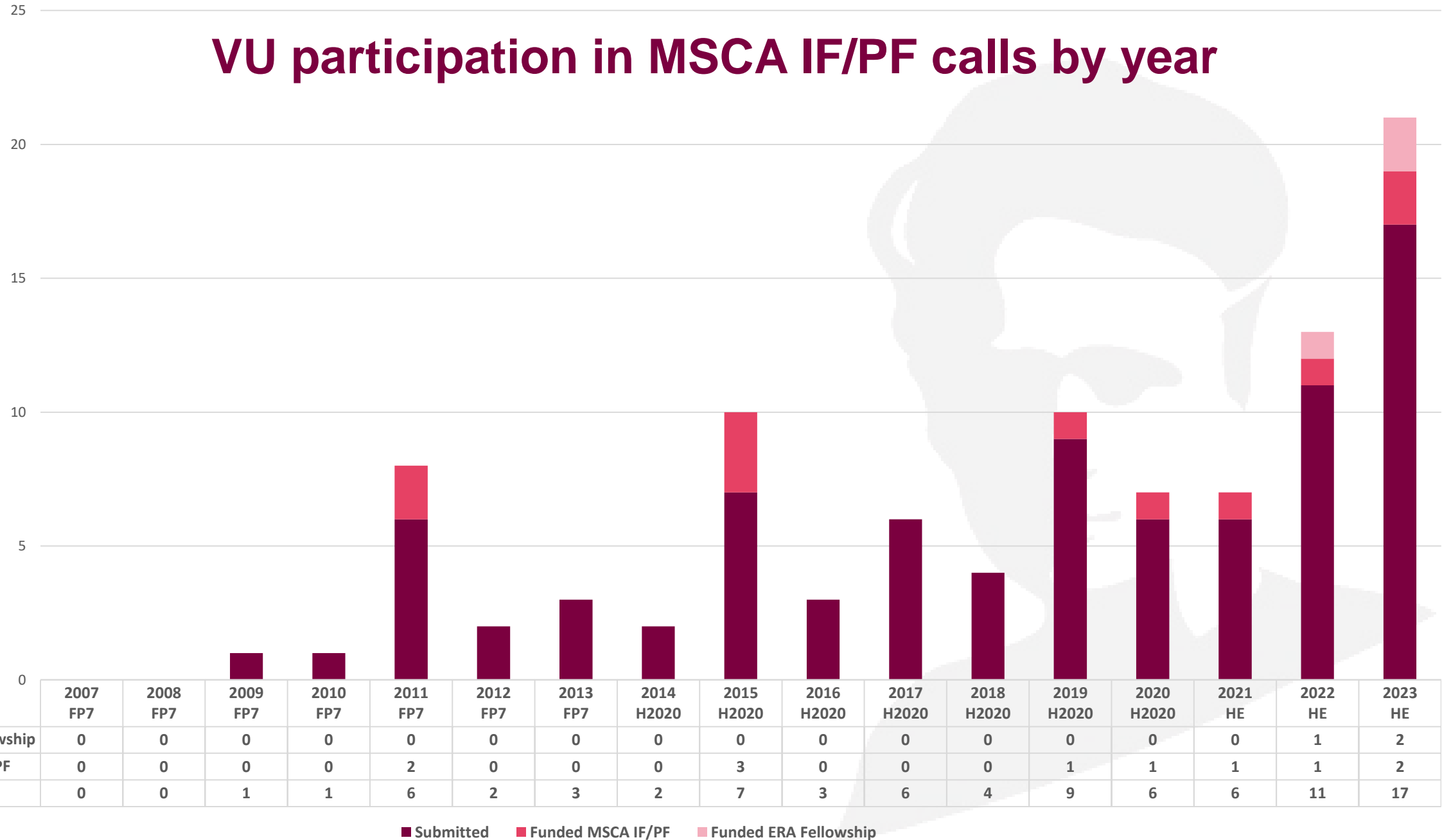
Home > Jobs & Funding >

MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AT VU FACULTY OF LAW (Gender-based violence, Intimate partner violence, Restorative justice and victim-offender mediation, Non-discrimination)

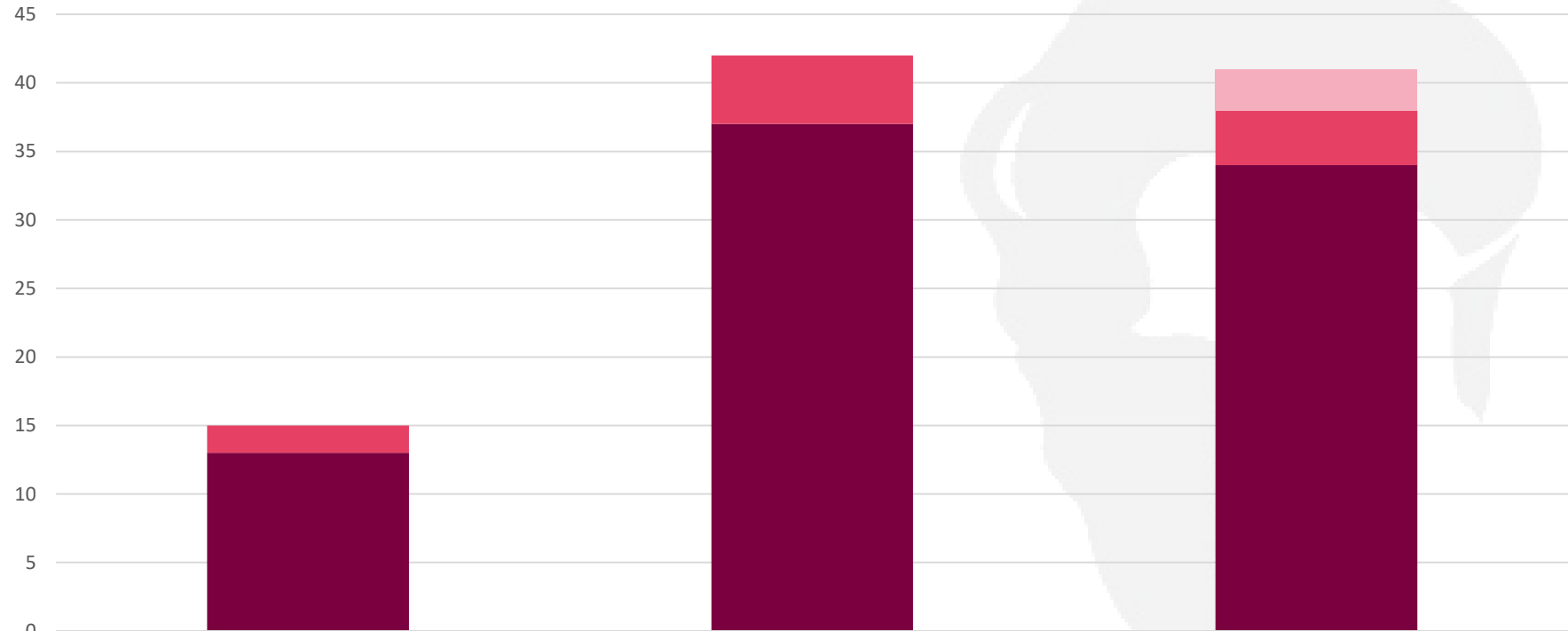
**MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AT VU FACULTY OF LAW  
(Gender-based violence, Intimate partner violence, Restorative justice  
and victim-offender mediation, Non-discrimination)**



# VU participation in MSCA IF/PF calls by year



# VU participation in MSCA IF/PF calls by FP



	2007-2013 FP7	2014-2020 H2020	2021-2023 HE
Funded ERA Fellowship	0	0	3
Funded MSCA IF/PF	2	5	4
Submitted	13	37	34

Submitted Funded MSCA IF/PF Funded ERA Fellowship

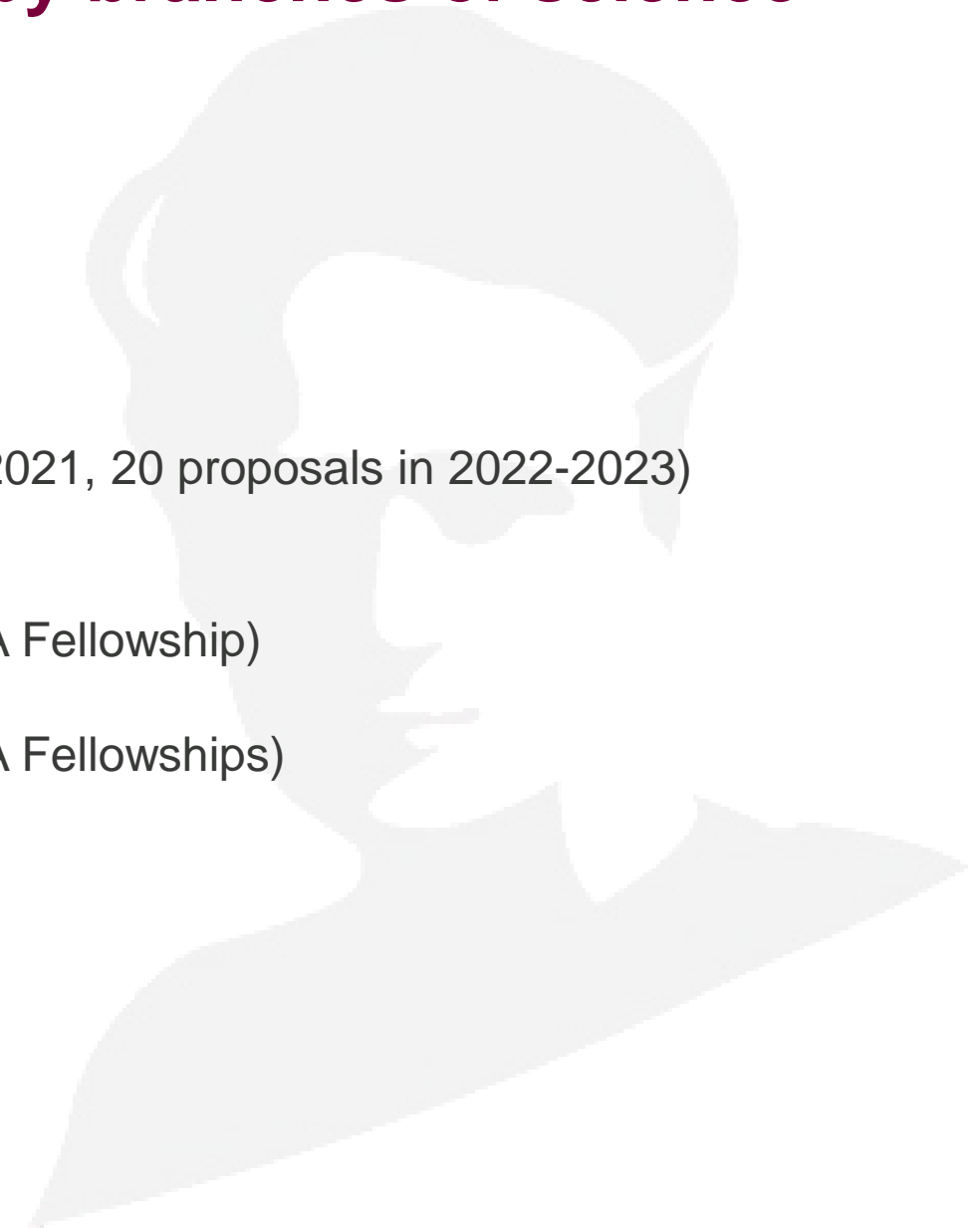
# VU participation in MSCA IF/PF calls by branches of science

## Submitted:

Life sciences	26
Physical sciences and engineering	30
Mathematics	2
Social science and humanities	26 (6 proposals in 2007-2021, 20 proposals in 2022-2023)

## Funded:

Life sciences	9 (8 MSCA IF/PF, 1 ERA Fellowship)
Physical sciences and engineering	2
Social sciences and humanities	3 (1 MSCA IF/PF, 2 ERA Fellowships)





# Application process I

**1. Identifying a supervisor.** Prospective applicants need to find a suitable supervisor or a potential host faculty by browsing:

- [Websites of VU academic units](#)
- [Research Teams search](#)
- VU researchers' hosting offers on [EURAXESS](#)

VU Research Projects Office (RPO) **helps with matchmaking**, if needed.

**2. Contacting a supervisor.** Direct contact with the supervisor in order to express interest in making a joint MSCA PF application.

Documents needed:

- Curriculum Vitae
- List of publications
- [Proposal summary](#)

**3. Endorsement of the candidate.** Postdoctoral fellow needs to request [an endoresement letter](#) from the supervisor (signed by the supervisor and the head of the faculty). After receiving supervisor's endorsement, the applicant can start working on MSCA PF project proposal.

# Application process II

**4. Getting acquainted with the funding scheme.** VU RPO sends each applicant an email with relevant information:

- Application forms
- Documents recommended to familiarize with (MSCA Work programme, Guide for Applicants, HE Programme Guide, etc.)
- Supporting material (internal guide, information about support services offered at VU, MSCA PF handbook by MSCA-Net)

**5. Proposal writing.** Postdoctoral fellow prepares the proposal with the support from the supervisor and VU RPO.

**6. Proposal review.** VU RPO always checks and helps to complete proposal Part A, and the applicants have an opportunity to send us their draft proposal Parts B1 and B2 for review.

**7. Proposal submission.** We are here to help if any technical issues arise, but encourage our applicants to submit their applications at least 48 hours before the call deadline.





## Support services at VU

- Assistance with eligibility check
- Help in finding a supervisor at VU
- Support during the preparation and submission of the MSCA PF proposal
- Individual consultations and help in finding answers to applicants' questions
- Proposal review
- Providing guidance material with tips for proposal writing and information about VU, including on its training, support services and hosting arrangements offered
- MSCA PF Webinar, dedicated to acquainting with the rules of participation in the program, the content of the application, the experiences of successful VU MSCA PF applicants.

# Hinc itur ad astra



## GET IN TOUCH!

VU Research Projects Office

research@cr.vu.lt

Universiteto str. 3, LT-01513 Vilnius, Lithuania

<https://www.vu.lt/en/research/research-activities/postdoc-fellowships>

