SciLifeLab PULSE

Research community briefing meeting

Time: November 4, 2024, 15:00-16:00, and November 6, 12:00-13:00, zoom

Participants: SciLifeLab research community/prospective PULSE PIs, PULSE-MG, PULSE support functions (economy, communications, KTH-RSO)

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- MSCA-COFUND
- Organization
- Training
- Budget/economy & reporting
- Communication, dissemination and exploitation
- Timeline
- Summary of PI commitment & Benefits
- Final comments

Introductions: SciLifeLab PULSE MG & Support functions

PULSE Management Group (PMG)

Mia Phillipson (UU)
PULSE Director, Co-Director of SciLifeLab

Per Ljungdahl (SU)
PULSE Co-Director (academic track), Campus Solna Director

Kristian Sandberg (UU)
PULSE Co-Director (entrepreneurial track), Co-Director of DDD Platform

Jessica Lindvall (SU)
PULSE Training Director, Head of Training

Maria Bäckström (UU)
PULSE Program Coordinator

Disa Hammarlöf (KTH)
PULSE Program Manager

Support functions

Anna Frejd (KTH)
Communications Manager

Karin Nedler (KTH)
Graphic Designer

Per Lek (KTH)
External Relations Officer

Emma Hagy Kasholm (KTH)
Financial controller

Anki Engvall Stjernberg (KTH)
KTH-RSO

MSCA COFUND

MSCA-COFUND 2023 in numbers

- European Research Executive Agency (REA) received 106 applications

- 27 selected projects coordinated by organizations in 13 countries:
  - Spain and France: 6 projects each
  - Ireland: 3 projects
  - Finland and Denmark: 2 projects each
  - Czechia, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia, **Sweden (SciLifeLab PULSE)**, Türkiye: 1 each

Country of coordinating organisations*

COFUND 2023 call results

Legend:
- Spain
- France
- Ireland
- Finland
- Denmark
- Czechia
- Germany
- Hungary
- The Netherlands
- Poland
- Slovenia
- Sweden
- Türkiye
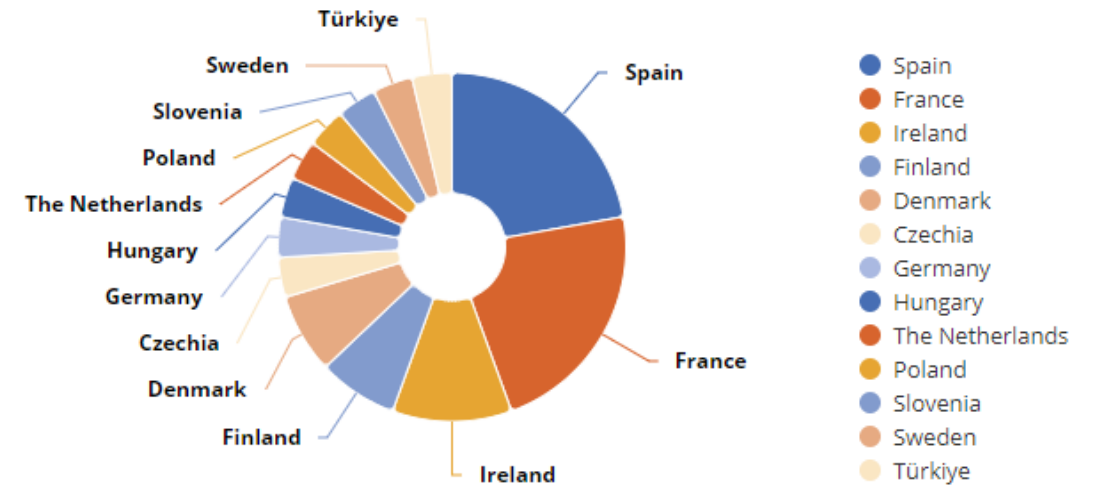
* (ranked by number of projects)

MSCA-COFUND

All participants must be aware of principles set out in *the Commission Recommendation on the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers*.

Guidelines for Supervision

The MSCA are the European Union's flagship program for the mobility and training of researchers. One of the essential elements of successful research is supervision.

→ Publications Office of the European Union: MSCA guidelines of supervision

→ About MSCA: MSCA guidelines on supervision

General principles of the Green Charter

- The goal of the MSCA Green Charter is to encourage sustainable thinking in research management.

SciLifeLab PULSE organization

Overview, partners, postdoc selection & recruitment, bodies & assignments

Overview of PULSE program

- PULSE will recruit and train 48 postdocs for 3 years in two closely connected tracks:
  - Academic - 32 postdocs
  - Entrepreneurial -16 postdocs
- Project time 2025-2030
  - Postdocs recruited in 2 calls, 2025 & 2026
- Postdocs recruited through SciLifeLab-coordinated calls
- A PULSE PI is a SciLifeLab Group Leader at one of the nine Swedish universities participating in the program
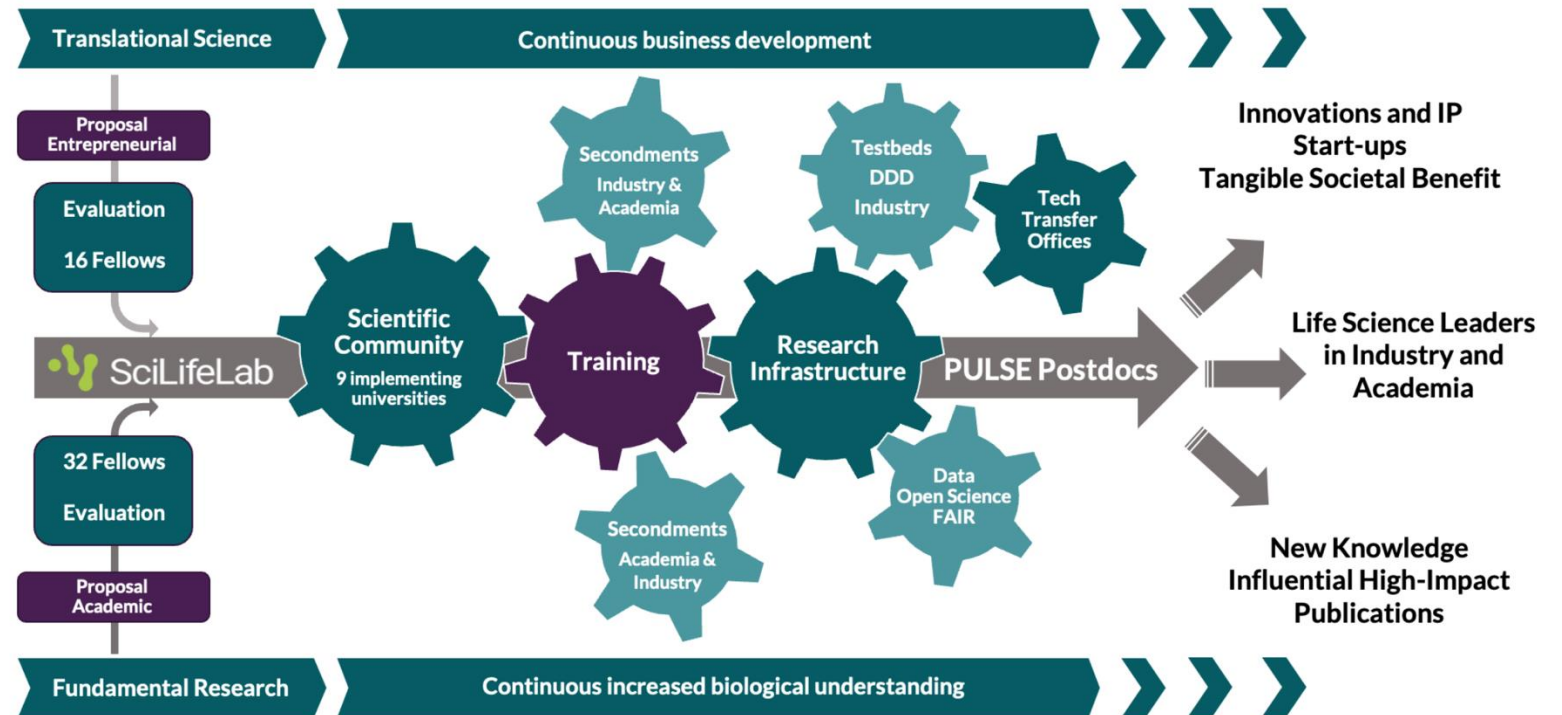
*"**Training** is at the core of the SciLifeLab PULSE program, that till provide postdocs with the tools needed to succeed as future research leaders, all within a **supportive** and **diverse** environment."*

PULSE partners

- KTH beneficiary/SciLifeLab responsible for program coordination
- 9 implementing partners acting as main postdoc hosts, SciLifeLab Drug Discovery & Development platform responsible for entrepreneurial track
- 24 associated partners (providing additional training and secondments)

Implementing partners

Associated partners

PULSE postdoc selection & recruitment

- Establishment of an international Evaluator Pool – **nominations welcome!**

- Matchmaking between candidates and SciLifeLab PI hosts (**no previous collaboration**)

- **A PI can support max 2 applications**

- Candidates apply with **individually-designed projects** (supervisors should not be involved in drafting the proposal, rationale for contact with hosting lab should be specified)

- Applications are evaluated in three steps

- Final list of postdocs approved by the PULSE National Steering Committee
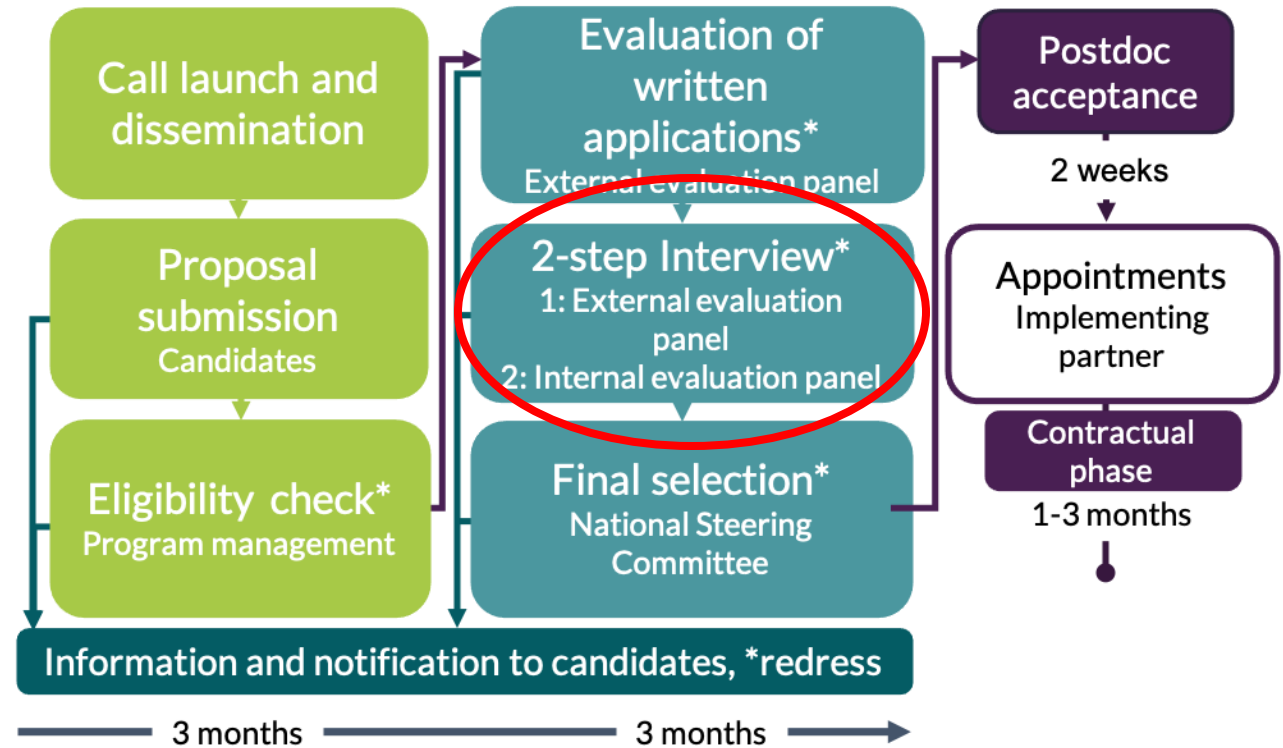
MSCA mobility rule: Applicants cannot have lived or worked in Sweden for more than 12 months in the past three years

PULSE bodies and assignments

Steering and monitoring

Operations and support

Training, research and innovation

The SciLifeLab Board

National Steering committee
Representing PULSE consortium

Program Management Group
Financial, Legal, Communication, Secondment

Training & Career development committee
Training design and monitoring

External Advisory Board

Postdoc's Supervision and Mentoring panel
Disciplinary and secondment superv.

Ethics Advisor

Ethics committees

Ombudsman Implementing HR
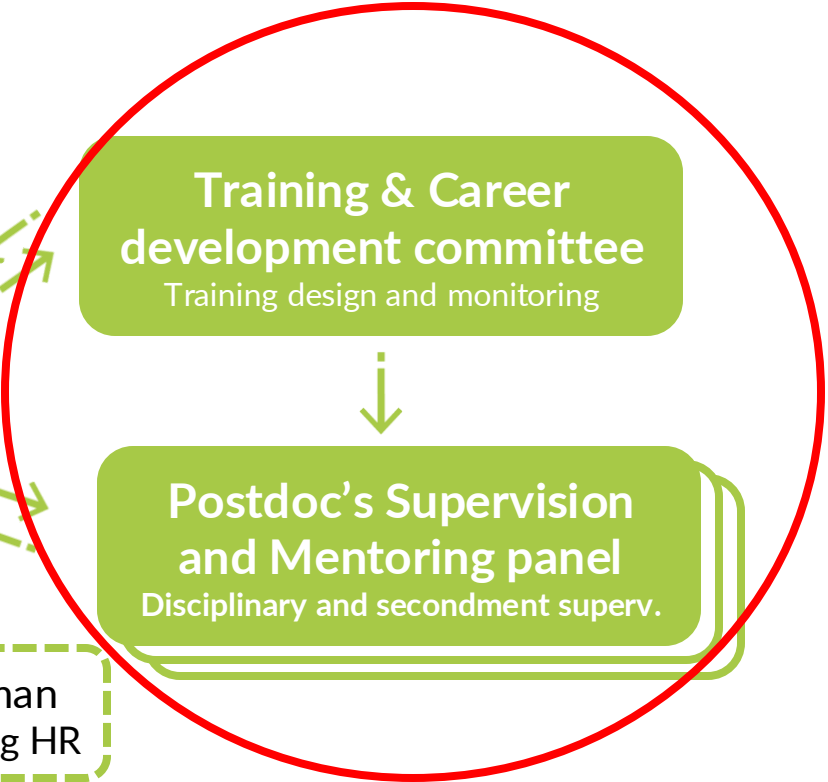
SciLifeLab PULSE training

Objectives, content, delivery of core – advanced – transferable skills

PULSE academic and entrepreneurial tracks

- Postdoc candidates will apply with their project to one of two tracks:

Research areas

PULSE postdoc candidates apply with an individually-designed project within molecular life science.

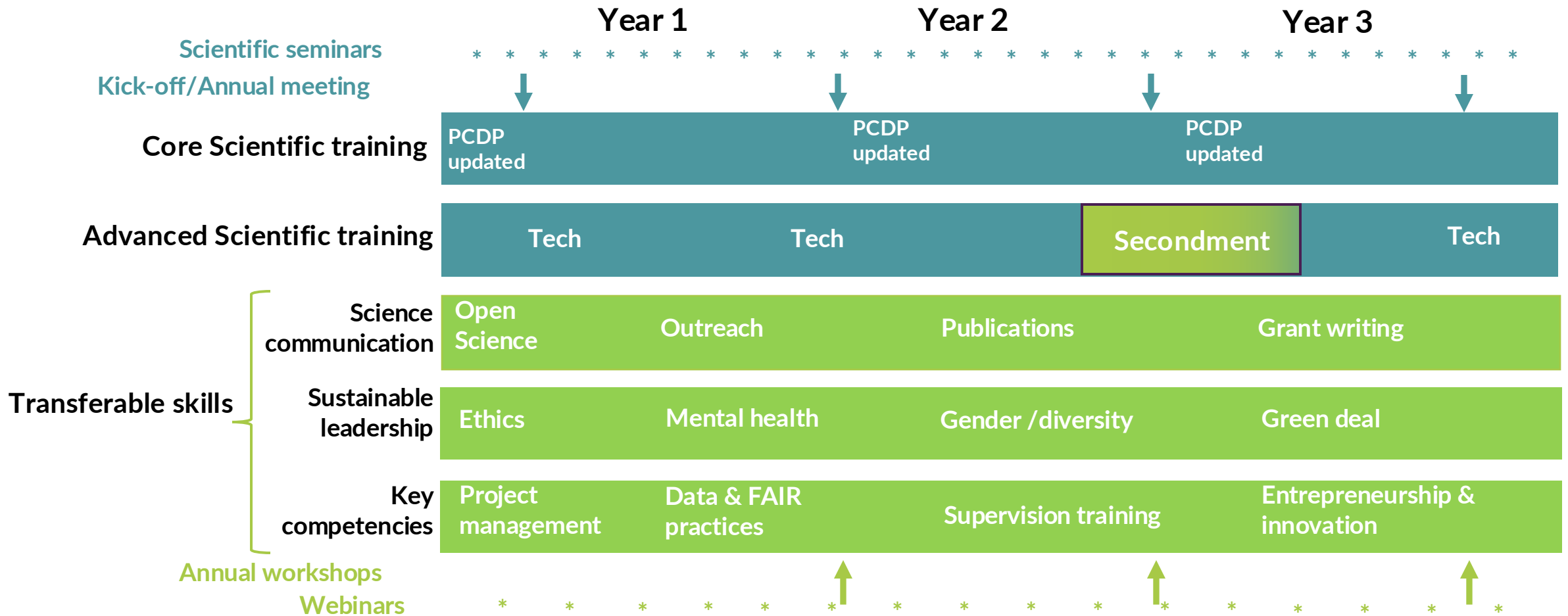| Focus areas for the academic track:	Focus areas for the entrepreneurial track:
Cell & molecular biology Precision medicine & diagnostics Evolution & biodiversity/planetary biology Epidemiology & infection biology/pandemic laboratory preparedness Traditional academic postdoc augmented by a well-conceived individual tailored career development & training programme with secondments Postdocs carry out research projects in laboratories skilled in the application of high-throughput technologies and data-dense analytical approaches Projects furthered by access to cutting-edge technologies	Technology development to facilitate target-based drug discovery of novel therapeutic agents within • Machine Learning/AI • Therapeutic Oligonucleotides • Display and Selection technologies • Proximity Inducing Agents Project ideas expected to advance from technical readiness level (TRL) 1-2 to TRL 5-6 in close collaboration with the SciLifeLab Drug Discovery and Development platform (SciLifeLab DDD), the associated academic innovation support system and the associated industrial partner The Swedish teacher's exemption gives the scientist employed by the University the right to their patentable inventions - Extensive and individual training as scientific leaders and entrepreneurs Main PI/SciLifeLab Group Leader host is a SciLifeLab DDD Head of Unit, a Platform Scientific Director at SciLifeLab DDD or, a PI with complementary expertise and know how

Close interaction between the two tracks

PULSE training – the core of the program

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Scientific seminars	* * * * * * * * * * * * * *	* * * * * * * * * *	* * * * * * * * *
Kick-off/Annual meeting	↓	↓	↓ ↓

Core Scientific training	PCDP updated	PCDP updated	PCDP updated

Advanced Scientific training	Tech	Tech	Secondment	Tech

Transferable skills	**Science communication**	Open Science	Outreach	Publications	Grant writing
	Sustainable leadership	Ethics	Mental health	Gender /diversity	Green deal
	Key competencies	Project management	Data & FAIR practices	Supervision training	Entrepreneurship & innovation

Annual workshops		↑	↑	↑
Webinars	* * * * *	* * * *	* * * *	* * * *

According to Personal Career Development Plan (PCDP)
Annual scientific meetings, workshops and secondments are mandatory

PULSE budget & economy

Budget overview, co-funding model and examples

PULSE total co-funding budget

5 year overview program budget	
EU contribution **(MSCA-COFUND)** To subsidise costs for postdoc salaries & program management	6.88 MEUR (est. 78.3 MSEK*) 6.5 MEUR to postdoc salaries 0.33 MEUR to program management (coordination, call, evaluation, program meetings, PULSE assignments External Advisory Board & Ethics Advisor)
Implementing partner PI contribution Co-funding of postdoc salary (>38000SEK), travel, research costs. Based on LKP 59,10% and OH 35%. OBS! Not by other EU grants.	7.8 MEUR (88.3 MSEK*)
SciLifeLab contribution national funding Program management not covered by EU contribution of 0.33 MEUR	11.5 MSEK* (1 MEUR) Included & decided in SciLifeLab annual budget, 2025-2030
SciLifeLab contribution DDD funding DDD commitment to entrepreneurial track	28.5 MSEK (2.5 MEUR)

based on average exchange rate August 2022 - August 2024

Examples of PULSE postdoc projects

35% Indirect Cost Level
59.1% LKP

Cofunding required
(incl. salary + est. research running costs, travel, indirect costs, and wage cost surcharge)

1 839 602 SEK (36 months)

613 201 SEK per year

51 100 SEK per month

Budget 1

Example 1 LKP 57,10% och 35% OH

Wage cost surcharge (LKP)	59,1%
Indirect cost (OH)	35%
Salary (SEK)	38 000
Exchange rate	11,35
Project duration (months)	36

Cost categories	EUR/month			SEK/month		
	EU contribution	Own contribution	Total cost	EU contribution	Own contribution	Total cost
Salary Postdoc, brutto amount (mobility and family allowance included)	3 348	0	3 348	38 000	0	38 000
Wage cost surcharge	441	1 538	1 979	5 002	17 456	22 458
Travel allowance	0	100	100	0	1 135	1 135
Research costs (depends on project)	0	1 000	1 000	0	11 349	11 349
Indirect costs Postdoc	0	1 864	1 864	0	21 160	21 160
Project cost	**3 789**	**4 502**	**8 291**	**43 002**	**51 100**	**94 103**

Summary	EUR	SEK
Total EU co-found (36 months)	136 404	1 548 090
Total own contribution (36 months)	162 089	1 839 601
Total project costs	**298 493**	**3 387 691**

Examples of PULSE postdoc projects

**20% Indirect Cost Level
53% LKP**

Cofunding required
(incl. salary + est. research running costs, travel, indirect costs, and wage cost surcharge)

1 412 990 SEK (36 months)

470 997 SEK per year

39 250 SEK per month

Budget 2
Example 2 LKP 53% och 20% OH

Wage cost surcharge (LKP)	53%
Indirect cost (OH)	20%
Salary (SEK)	38 000
Exchange rate	11,35
Project duration (months)	36

Cost categories	EUR/month			SEK/month		
	EU contribution	Own contribution	Total cost	EU contribution	Own contribution	Total cost 2
Salary Postdoc, brutto amount (mobility and family allowance included)	3 348	0	3 348	38 000	0	38 000
Wage cost surcharge	441	1 334	1 775	5 002	15 138	20 140
Travel allowance	0	100	100	0	1 135	1 135
Research costs (depends on project)	0	1 000	1 000	0	11 349	11 349
Indirect costs Postdoc	0	1 025	1 025		11 628	11 628
Project cost	**3 789**	**3 458**	**7 247**	**43 002**	**39 250**	**82 252**

Summary	EUR	SEK
Total EU co-found (36 months)	136 404	1 548 090
Total own contribution (36 months)	124 500	1 412 990
Total project costs	**260 904**	**2 961 080**

EU grant payment & reporting

- Disbursement of EU-contribution to Implementing partner PIs

  - EU grant paid out to Beneficiary (KTH) in three installments (start of project September 2025 (M1), mid-term (M25) and at end of project

  - Transfer of grant to Implementing partners in EUR or SEK (tbd)

  - Plan to use established SciLifeLab funding streams for payments to hosting departments (SciLifeLab Financial Coordinators informed)

- EU payment depends on reporting of 1) postdoc units & activity, 2) project implementations

PULSE communication, dissemination, and exploitation

Communication & exploitation

- New PULSE website launched, scilifelab.se/research/pulse/

- Remember to share information about SciLifeLab PULSE in your networks & upcoming conference (flyer & ppt)

SciLifeLab PULSE: an International Postdoctoral Program Empowering Future Leaders in Life Sciences

Fall 2024 marks the launch of SciLifeLab PULSE (Program for Future Leaders in Life Science), a 5-year postdoctoral program funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND, part of EU's Horizon Europe. The program will train 48 postdocs, recruited in two calls (January 2025 and 2026) of which the first cohort will start in October 2025.

PULSE will focus on innovative, fundamental and translational research, in supportive and diverse academic and industrial environments, preparing postdocs with necessary skills for long-term career sustainability. The program will offer 3-year fellowships hosted by SciLifeLab group leaders at nine Swedish universities with secondments at 24 academic and non-academic partners in Sweden and abroad.

SciLifeLab PULSE postdoctoral program

- Funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND

- 48 postdocs recruited in two calls: Jan 2025 and Jan 2026 (first cohort starts Oct 2025)

- First call: Jan 7 - March 31, 2025

- 3-year fellowships hosted by SciLifeLab Group Leaders across 9 universities, with secondments at 24 partners

- Focus on innovative, fundamental, and translational research in diverse environments

- Offers academic (32 positions) and entrepreneurial (16 positions) tracks

- Provides skills for long-term career sustainability through specialised training and mentor support

For application details or hosting inquiries, visit scilifelab.se/research/pulse

Co-funded by the European Union

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Communication & exploitation

- New PULSE website launched, scilifelab.se/research/pulse/

- Remember to share information about SciLifeLab PULSE in your networks & upcoming conference (flyer & ppt)

- All comms. material / publications of project data must include acknowledgement of EU funding and disclaimer (template will be provided)

- PULSE ←→ local academic innovation support system

- All PIs that recruit a PULSE postdoc will receive a welcoming package with all necessary information

PULSE timeline

In the pipeline and outlook

2024

November:

- Launch of PULSE call campaign & matchmaking

  Researcher profiles published to help postdocs find suitable main and co-supervisors/secondment host

2025

January:

- First call for 24 postdocs opens Jan 7
- Candidate information webinar

February: New SGL research profiles published

March 31: Call closes

May-June: Interview phase

October: Start 1st postdoc cohort

November: Kick-off meeting

2026

Jan-March:

- Second call for 24 postdocs

March:

- First PULSE annual scientific meeting

October:

- Start 2nd postdoc cohort

Useful links

- **Register interest to be a PULSE PI** to help postdoc candidates in finding a host via matchmaking (ie if they do not already have a specific hosting lab in mind): https://www.scilifelab.se/scilifelab-pulse-registration-of-interest-to-host-postdocs-and-nomination-of-evaluators/ (deadline to register Nov 8, second deadline mid-February 2025)

- Register interest to be a **PULSE Secondment host** (Associated partners): https://www.scilifelab.se/registration-for-pulse-secondment-hosts/

- Main **PULSE main host must be a SciLifeLab Group Leader**, link to the SciLifeLab Group leader nomination form: SciLifeLab Group Leader Nomination form (more information here: https://www.scilifelab.se/community-pages/our-scilifelab/group-leader-definition/) (Deadline Nov 6)

- **Nomination of PULSE evaluators**: https://www.scilifelab.se/scilifelab-pulse-registration-or-nomination-of-evaluators/

Summary of PI commitment & benefits

Summary of PI commitment

- Co-funding of postdoc
- Commit to PULSE training program
  - Design Personal Career Development plan with postdoc & PULSE Training Committee
  - Postdoc PULSE program training approx. 2 weeks/year (according to PCDP)
- Supervision
  - Follow MSCA supervision guidelines
  - Supervision with postdoc 2 h/week
  - Supervision panel, meet 2 times/year (main supervisor + 2 co-supervisors, of which one act as mentor)
- Project agreements as needed, ethical approvals for the project
- Open Science, data management & MSCA green charter
  - PULSE emphasizes Open Science practices, and all projects are expected to adhere to the SciLifeLab Data Policy
  - PIs and postdocs should ensure that research outputs such as publications, data, and code are made openly accessible whenever possible
  - MSCA Green charter

Benefits of being a PULSE PI

- Recruitment of **excellent postdocs** through attractive MSCA-branded call, where SciLifeLab is responsible for call and selection of postdocs

- **Co-funding** corresponding to **a half postdoc salary**

- Access to **PULSE international network** with industry partners, research institutions and infrastructures (also for future collaborations)

- Great opportunity to take part in major and **unique EU postdoctoral training program**, the first in its kind in Sweden

- Opportunity to tie **new Associated partners** to the network

Final comments

- We welcome questions & input/advise, pulse@scilifelab.se

- Thank you for taking part!

- Questions?