



## iCARE-2 Program

# (international CAncer REsearch fellowships 2)

iCARE-2 fellowship program has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 800924.

AIRC  
Milan, May 2018



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# Welcome...

... to today's webinar on iCARE-2  
post-doctoral fellowships program.

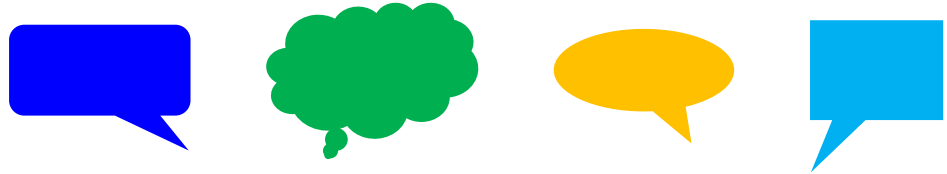


***Maria Francesca Mossuto, PhD***  
*AIRC Peer Review Officer*



## WEBINAR

~ 30min



## QUESTIONS

- write them in the chat
- will be answered at the end of the webinar
- will be collected and reported in the FAQs section of iCARE-2 website

Questions concerning personal issues (such as CV and eligibility) must be sent to [airc-direzione.scientifica@airc.it](mailto:airc-direzione.scientifica@airc.it)

The slides and the recording of this webinar will be available on iCARE-2 website

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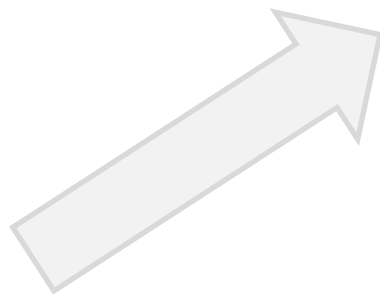
# Who are we?



Founded in 1965,  
AIRC (Italian Association for  
Cancer Research)  
is a leading charity in Italy,  
providing at least 40% of all  
research funds invested in  
cancer research in Italy.

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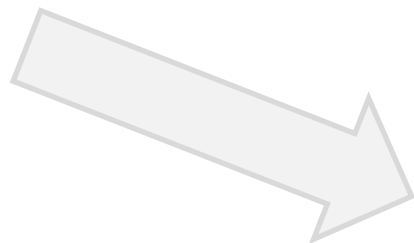
**Our activities**



support **research** on cancer through individual and collaborative research grants targeting researchers at different stages of their careers



complete the **training of young researchers** with fellowship awards



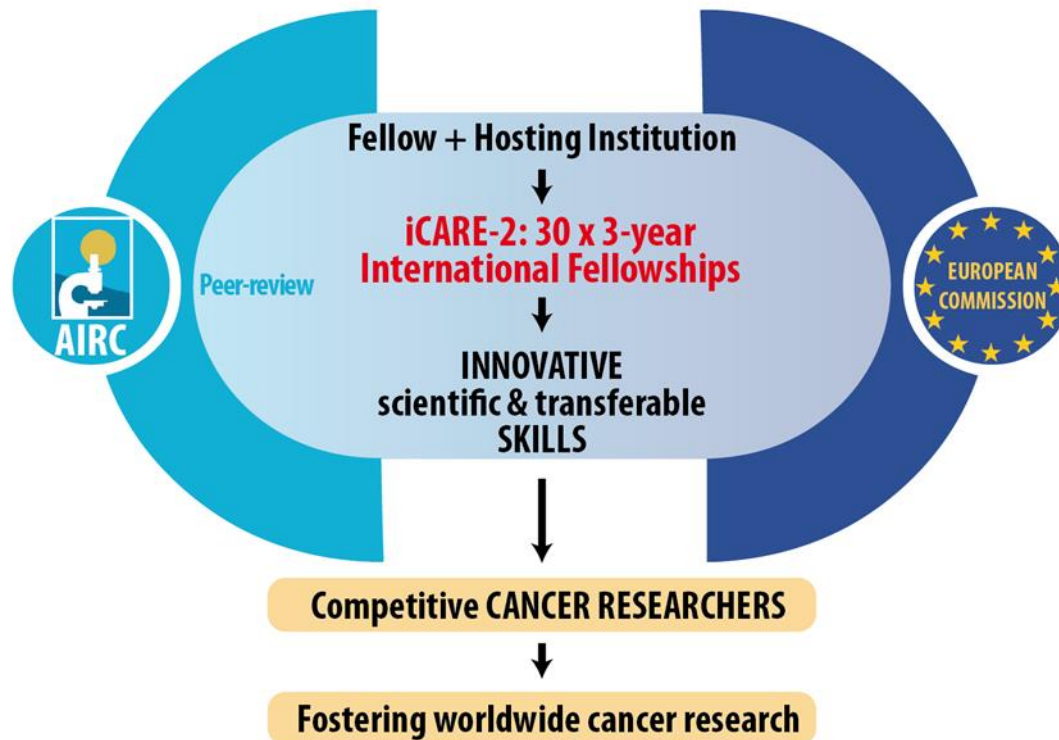
educate the public and **raise awareness** of the progress in cancer research

- 
- **What is iCARE-2?**
  - Who can apply?
  - Evaluation steps
  - 5 tips



## iCARE-2 (international CAncer REsearch fellowships)

is a program for transnational mobility post-doctoral fellowships co-funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, intended to **foster worldwide cancer research by training** competitive researchers.



## 2 calls for applications

**2018**

**15 international post-doctoral  
3-year fellowships**

**2019**

**15 international post-doctoral  
3-year fellowships**

(Applicants not funded in the first call can apply to the second call)



## 3 types of fellowships:

### **INCOMING:**

To bring to Italy the most promising foreign researchers



### **REINTEGRATION:**

To favour the return of Italian scientists after a successful research experience abroad



### **OUTGOING:**

To support fellows interested in a research experience in a competitive laboratory outside of Italy



## 3-year fellowships

# The fellowship must be focused on training on SCIENCE

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in the field of ONCOLOGY.

## **BOTTOM UP approach.**

Any project applied to cancer in any field can be submitted.

**INTERDISCIPLINARITY** is welcome, since cancer can be studied from different points of view.

# The fellowship must be focused on training on TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

beyond  
science

Research  
Integrity

Intellectual  
Property Rights

Data protection

Leadership

Grant  
writing

Entrepreneurship

Science  
Communication

iCARE-2 program adopts **SEVERAL STRATEGIES** to train fellows in transferable skills:

- ✓ Advertisement of **publicly available training events** on transferable skills
- ✓ **iCARE-2 meetings** in Milan
- ✓ A **dedicated budget** (€ 1800/year) to be used for meetings and/or training events
- ✓ **Hosting Institutions** must provide fellows with training opportunities



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# Applicants

must be EXPERIENCED RESEARCHERS

i.e. at the time of the submission deadline, applicants **MUST** either be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience after the degree which formally allowed them to embark on a doctorate

# Mobility rule

## INCOMING FELLOWSHIPS:

- Applicants non-Italian.
- Hosting Institution in Italy.
- Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the Call deadline.



## REINTEGRATION FELLOWSHIPS:

- Applicants Italian.
- Hosting Institution in Italy.
- Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the Call deadline.



## OUTGOING FELLOWSHIPS:

- Applicants must have legally resided and have had their main activity in Italy for at least 3 out of the last 4 years prior to the Call deadline.
- Hosting Institution not in Italy.
- Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the hosting organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years prior to the Call deadline.



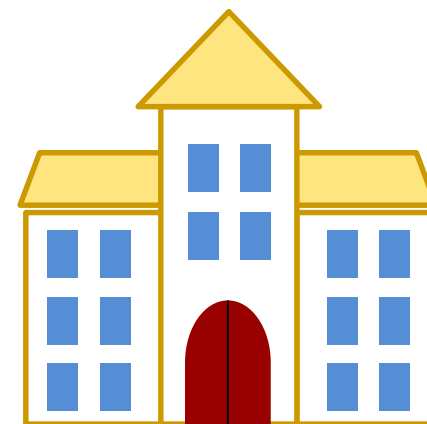
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# Hosting Institution

must be research organisations, organised under public or private law, whose primary goal is to independently conduct non-economic biomedical research and to disseminate its results.

Applicants can choose  
the most suitable  
Hosting Institution and Hosting Lab  
for their project!!!



[airc.direzione-scientifica@airc.it](mailto:airc.direzione-scientifica@airc.it)

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## Three reviewers per fellowship application

Each application is evaluated in an independent manner by

**1 member of CTS**

and **2 international reviewers**

**with specific expertise** in the research area

of the application.

# Peer Review evaluation steps

## Step 1 Admissibility & eligibility check

Formal requirements of the applicant and of the Hosting Institution will be verified



**Education records (PhD or 4 years)**

**Mobility check**

(it takes time!!!...there is a video tutorial!!!)



# Peer Review evaluation steps

**Step 1**  
Admissibility  
& eligibility  
check

Formal requirements of the applicant and of the Hosting Institution will be verified



**Step 2**  
Assignment to  
reviewers

Each application will be assigned to 3 reviewers based on keywords, abstract and expertise



**Step 3**  
Evaluation  
and  
ranking

Each reviewer will evaluate and give a score to the proposal. The average of the 3 scores will decide the position in the preliminary ranking



# Peer Review evaluation steps

## Step 4

Notification of preliminary results

Out of the **preliminary ranking**

- the top 15 applications will be the FINALISTS
- other 5 applications will be RESERVISTS



## Step 5

Interviews and ethics review

The **15 FINALISTS** will undergo:

- A **phone interview** with two of the three reviewers
- An **ethics review** of their application



### **Ethics Self Assessment!!!**

We ask information about the procedures.

# Peer Review evaluation steps

## Step 4

Notification of preliminary results



## Step 5

Interviews and ethics review



## Step 6

Notification of award

Out of the **preliminary ranking**

- the top 15 applications will be the FINALISTS
- other 5 applications will be RESERVISTS

The **15 FINALISTS** will undergo:

- A **phone interview** with two of the three reviewers
- An **ethics review** of their application

Applicants with positive interviews and ethics review will be awarded an iCARE-2 fellowship.



# Evaluation criteria

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## Quality of the Hosting Institution/laboratory and training



**It must be tackled in these sections of the application:**

- «Letter of acceptance by the Hosting Institution»
- «Biographical sketch» and «Publications» of the head of hosting lab

## Curriculum vitae of the applicant



**It must be tackled in these sections of the application:**

- «Biosketch of the applicant»
- «Personal Statement»
- Education records
- «Publications of the applicant»
- «Letter of presentation»

## Research project

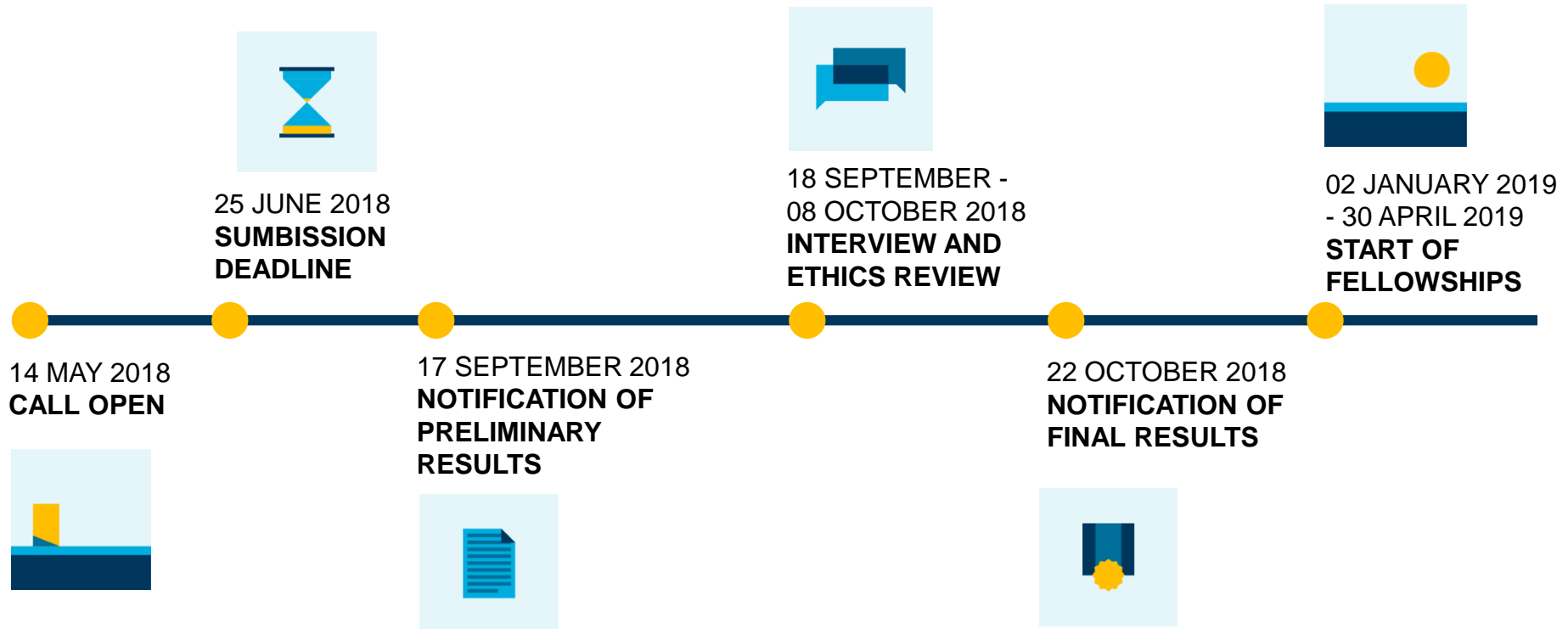


**It must be tackled in this section of the application:**

- «Abstract and Proposal main body»

# Timeline of iCARE-2 fellowships 2018

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- 
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# Common mistakes

## Step 1

Admissibility  
& eligibility  
check

- Missed deadline
- Application does not fulfill all formal requirements  
(applicant's track record, missing documents,...)

## Step 2

Assignment to  
reviewers

- Vague or similar keywords
- Abstract based mainly on background with few indications  
on project rationale and approach

## Step 3

Evaluation  
and  
ranking

- Scattered, confused or vague proposal
- Poor grantsmanship
- Lack of expertise

# 5 tips

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- 1. Read the call documents and be sure to be eligible!**  
(Call, Tips for applicants, FAQs on iCARE-2 website)

# 5 tips

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## 2. Deadlines are deadlines

Make a plan and take time to

- collect all documents and information needed
- have your proposal read by colleagues/experts/non experts

# 5 tips

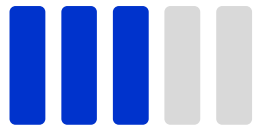
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Choose carefully the **keywords** describing your project.

In the **abstract** specify project rationale and scientific approach.

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Write the proposal in a clear and straight-to-the-point way

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# Previous AIRC-EU co-funded programs

Since 2010 AIRC and EU co-funded 2 Programs for Fellowships to Italy and for Abroad: FELCARES and iCARE

Years	Program	Submitted Applications	Awarded Fellowships	Average success rate
2010-2011	FELCARES	87	30	35%
2014-2015	iCARE	125	30	24%



## Contact us:

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+39 02 7797 410



AIRC Calls for proposals can be found at:

<https://www.direzionescientifica.airc.it/>

**iCARE-2 Website**

[www.icare-2.airc.it](http://www.icare-2.airc.it)

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**Thank you!**