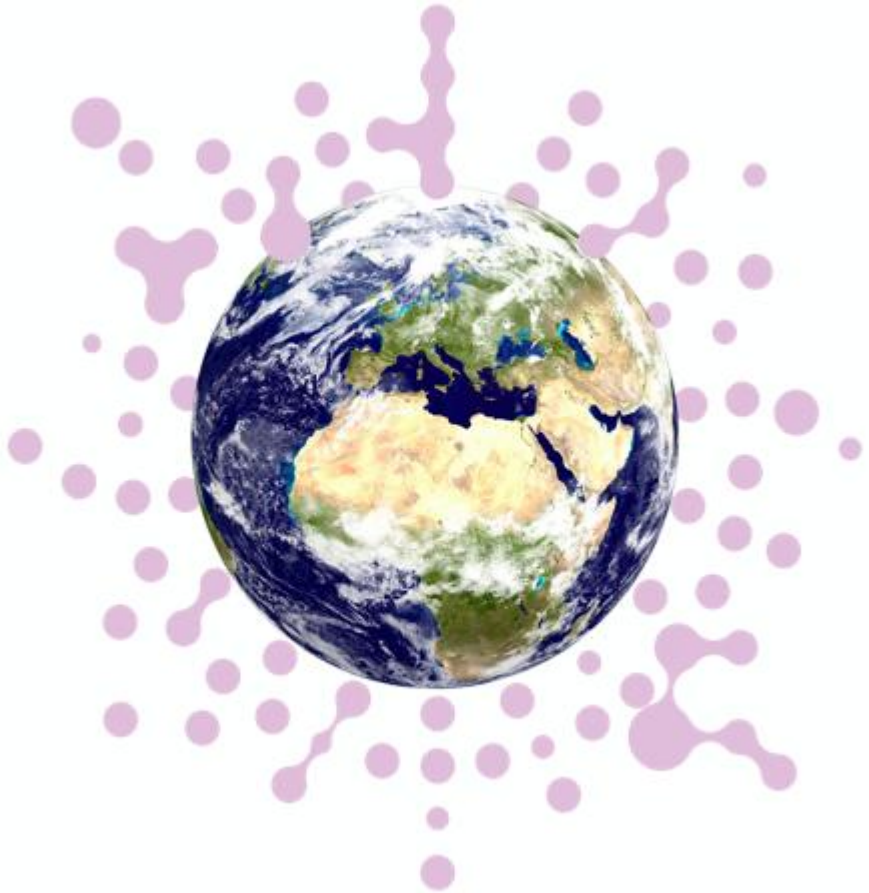
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The (Updated) MSCA Green Charter

Robin Gadbled, PhD

Policy Officer - MSCA Unit, European Commission

The (Updated) MSCA Green Charter

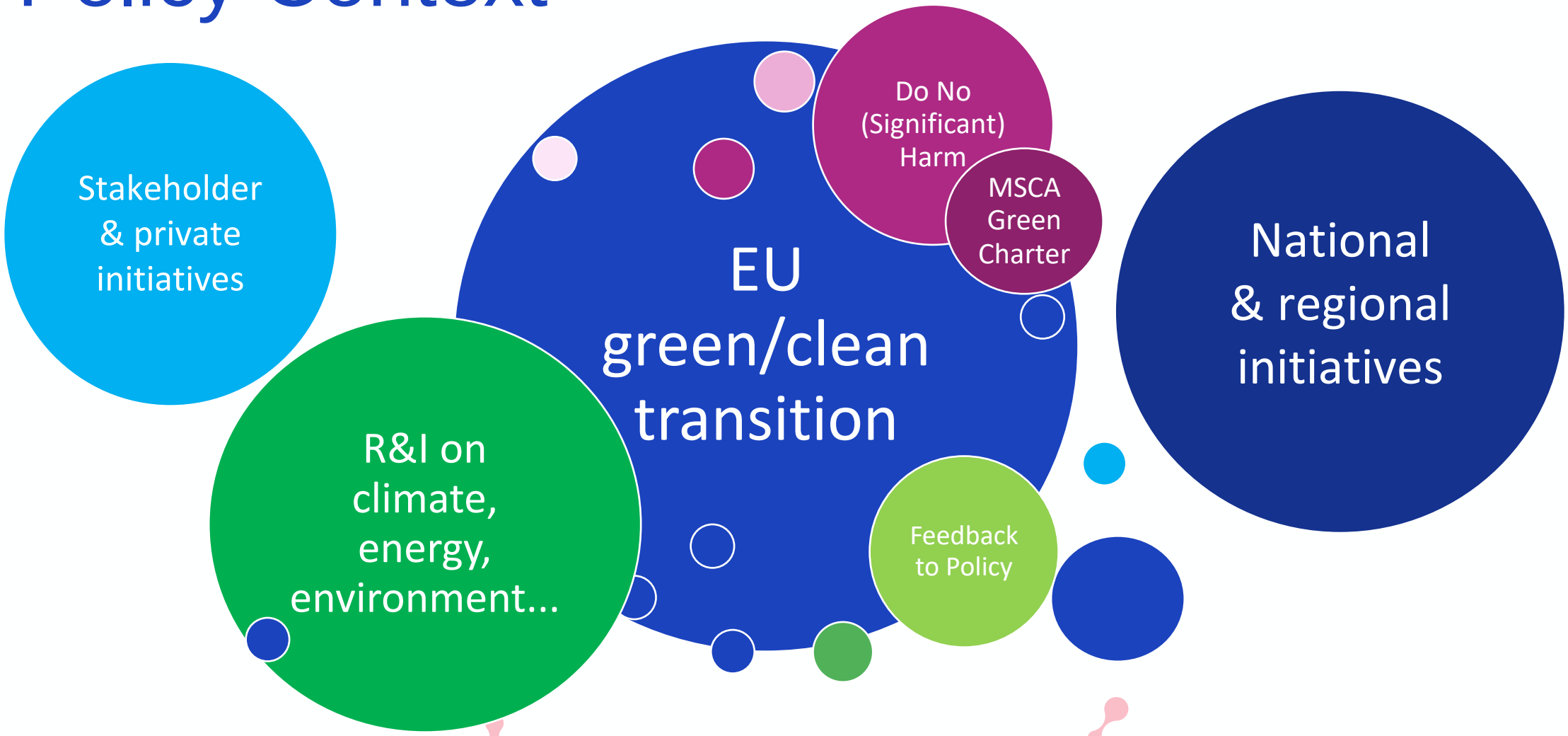


- Policy Context
- The MSCA Green Charter
- Encouraging sustainable practices

Policy Context

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Policy Context



The MSCA Green Charter

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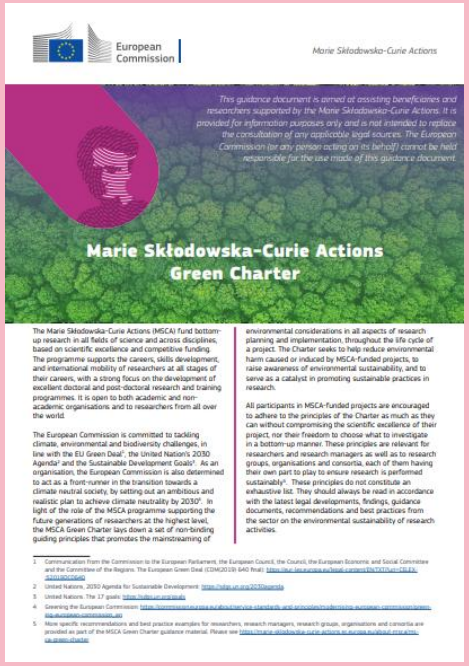
Horizon Europe Work Programme:

*“All MSCA-funded projects are **encouraged** to address the principles of the MSCA Green Charter and implement measures to minimise the environmental footprint of their activities”.*

https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/green-charter

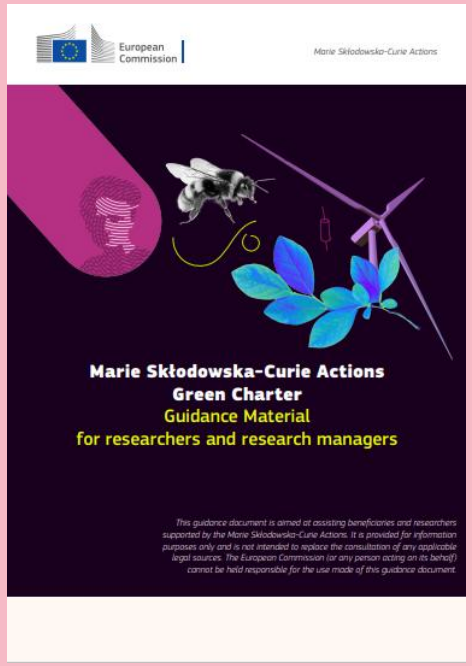
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The Green Charter & Guidance Material



[MSCA Green Charter*](#) (2025)

**Now in 23 languages!*

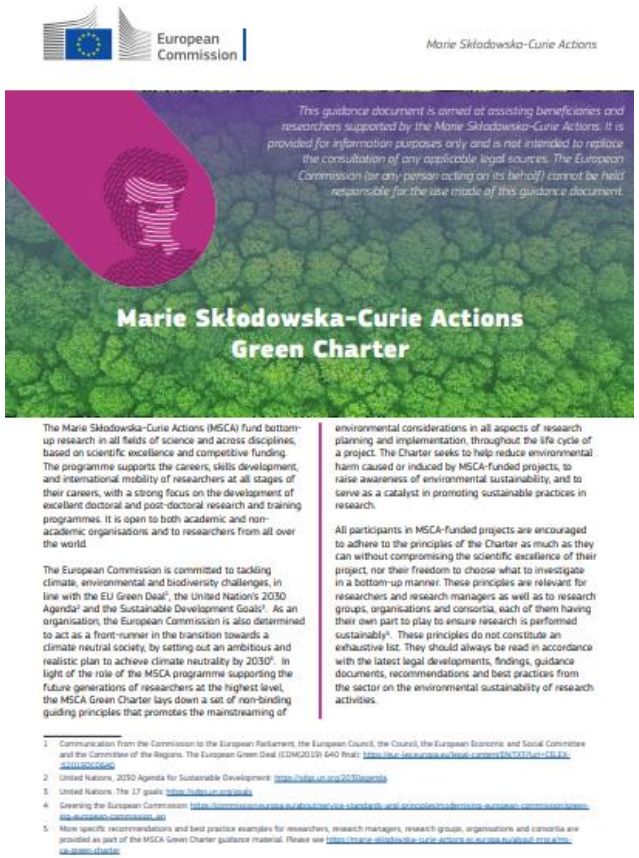


[Guidance for researchers & research managers](#)



[Guidance for research groups, organisations & consortia](#)

The MSCA Green Charter (2025)



European Commission

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Green Charter

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) fund bottom-up research in all fields of science and across disciplines, based on scientific excellence and competitive funding. The programme supports the careers, skills development, and international mobility of researchers at all stages of their careers, with a strong focus on the development of excellent doctoral and post-doctoral research and training programmes. It is open to both academic and non-academic organisations and to researchers from all over the world.

The European Commission is committed to tackling climate, environmental and biodiversity challenges, in line with the EU Green Deal[1], the United Nation's 2030 Agenda[2] and the Sustainable Development Goals[3]. As an organisation, the European Commission is also determined to act as a front-runner in the transition towards a climate neutral society, by setting out an ambitious and realistic plan to achieve climate neutrality by 2030[4]. In light of the role of the MSCA programme supporting the future generations of researchers at the highest level, the MSCA Green Charter lays down a set of non-binding guiding principles that promotes the mainstreaming of environmental considerations in all aspects of research planning and implementation, throughout the life cycle of a project. The Charter seeks to help reduce environmental harm caused or induced by MSCA-funded projects, to raise awareness of environmental sustainability, and to serve as a catalyst in promoting sustainable practices in research.

All participants in MSCA-funded projects are encouraged to adhere to the principles of the Charter as much as they can without compromising the scientific excellence of their project, nor their freedom to choose what to investigate in a bottom-up manner. These principles are relevant for researchers and research managers as well as to research groups, organisations and consortia, each of them having their own part to play to ensure research is performed sustainably[5]. These principles do not constitute an exhaustive list. They should always be read in accordance with the latest legal developments, findings, guidance documents, recommendations and best practices from the sector on the environmental sustainability of research activities.

1 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The European Green Deal (COM(2019) 640 final): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0640

2 United Nations, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda

3 United Nations. The 17 goals: https://sdgs.un.org/goals

4 Greening the European Commission: https://commission.europa.eu/about/service-standards-and-principles/implementing-european-commission-green-up-shared-ambition_en

5 More specific recommendations and best practice examples for researchers, research managers, research groups, organisations and consortia are provided as part of the MSCA Green Charter guidance material. Please see https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/about-msca/msca-as-green-charter

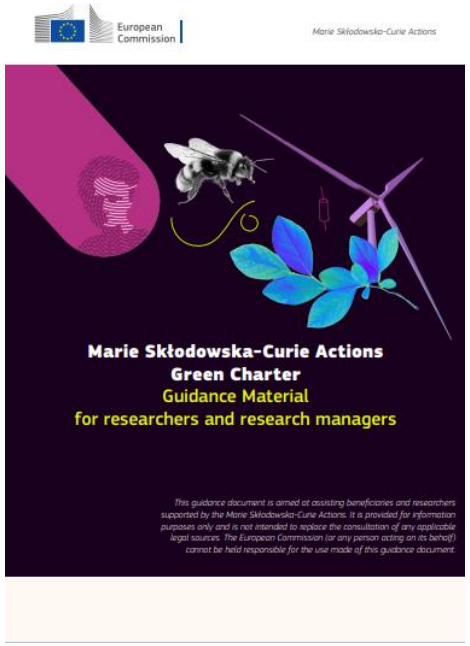
[Survey](): **needed guidance**, communication and training on sustainability in research

New Charter & guidance based on input from **40+ stakeholders and experts**, covering:

- travel, events and meetings;
- resource-intensive research settings;
- hardware, software and data usage;
- facilities, infrastructure and procurement.

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Guidance for researchers & research managers



Actionable recommendations for researchers and research managers

Links to hands-on tools & best practices

Explanation of main concepts & frameworks

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Guidance for research groups, organisations & consortia



Entry point for research groups & organisations

Tools & best practices relevant for different roles (procurement, internal green policies...)

Liaison with other initiatives (Spark-Hub...)

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Key messages from the Charter

Think green from the start

Design your project with sustainability in mind, from the materials you use to the way you share your results.

Use less, reuse more

Cut energy and water use, avoid single-use plastics, and give old materials a second life. Go for shared or leased lab equipment.

Travel smart

Skip unnecessary flights and meet online whenever it makes sense. When travelling, try to choose low-carbon options and make each trip count by combining meetings or visits.

Go digital, go efficient

Pick energy-saving tech tools, tidy up your data storage, and collaborate across departments to achieve great results at minimal cost for the planet.

Be a sustainability champion

Share tips and green methodologies, partner-up, and make eco-friendly habits part of your research culture.

Encouraging sustainable practices

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Encouragement measures discontinued in 2027:

- Explain in **proposals** how candidates plan to address the principles of the Charter
- Sustainability criterion may play a role in the evaluation of **ex-aequo proposals**
- Sustainability question at **final reporting** stage

How can we encourage sustainable practices more meaningfully?

Thank you



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