Horizon 2020
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
Innovative Training Networks (ITN) 2017 Call for proposals

About us

• UKRO is the office of the seven UK Research Councils in Brussels and delivers a subscription-based advisory service for around 150 research organisations in the UK and beyond.

• UKRO also provides National Contact Point services on behalf of the UK Government.

• Our mission is to maximise UK engagement in EU-funded research, innovation and higher education.

Our daily work

• UKRO services: offering a wide range of quality services to help subscribers and sponsors make informed decisions on participating in EU programmes

• Policy work: supporting UK input into European research policy development and implementation.

• Brussels liaison: establishing and maintaining contacts with the European Institutions and other major Brussels stakeholders in research and innovation.
Our suite of services

- UKRO Portal: always up to date with the latest in EU funding and policy
- Enquiry service and you dedicated European Advisor: individual support and advice, all year round
- Annual visit: a tailored event for your institution
- Meeting room: a venue in Brussels – free of charge
- Specialist training courses, focus groups and information events: providing in-depth insight into EU programmes
- Annual conference for European officers: the latest information on programmes and policies presented by European Commission staff, and other speakers
- UK National Contact Points for the Marie Curie Actions and the European Research Council (ERC)

UKRO National Contact Points

- Advice on the European Research Council and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Websites
  - www.ukro.ac.uk/erc
  - www.ukro.ac.uk/mariecurie
- Helpdesk
  - erc-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk; Phone: 0032 2289 6121
  - mariecurie-uk@bbsrc.ac.uk; Phone: 0032 2230 0318
- Funded by Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Session overview (London)

10:00  Registration and coffee
10:30  Overview of ITN MSCA; Funding rules, Application process, (UKRO)
11:45  Q&A
12:00  ETN case study, (Professor Kenny Coventry, University of East Anglia)
12:30  Q&A
12:45 – 13:45  Lunch break
13:45  EID case study (Peter Daldorph, Atkins)
14:05  Q&A
14:30  Award criteria and evaluation process of proposals, (UKRO)
15:15  Q&A
15:30  Event close

Thank you to the University of West London for hosting our event today
**Excellent Science**
30% of total Horizon 2020 budget
Objective: to strengthen the excellence of European research
- New research and ideas are drivers of competition
- Attract and retain high potential individuals
- Fund the most talented and creative researchers
- Develop and maintain world-class research infrastructures

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)**
Policy background, schemes overview and basic participation rules

*“Ensure excellent and innovative research training as well as attractive career and knowledge-exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility of researchers to best prepare them to face current and future societal challenges.”*

**Total budget: €6.2bn**
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Innovative Training Networks (ITN)
- For Early Stage Researchers

Individual Fellowships (IF)
- For Experienced Researchers

Research and Support Staff Exchange (RISE)
- Exchange visits (secondments) of staff

Co-funding of programmes (COFUND)
- For regional, national, international doctoral or fellowship programmes

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Researchers’ Night

- Coordination and support action
- Europe-wide public and media event dedicated to the promotion of science and research careers
- Call published every two years

MSCA calls – 2017 timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call identifier</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Call budget, €M</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>MSCA-ITN-2017</td>
<td>15 September 2016</td>
<td>10 January 2017</td>
<td>430</td>
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<td>MSCA-RISE-2017</td>
<td>1 December 2016</td>
<td>5 April 2017</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSCA-IF-2017</td>
<td>17 April 2017</td>
<td>14 September 2017</td>
<td>248.70</td>
</tr>
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<td>MSCA-COFUND-2017</td>
<td>5 April 2017</td>
<td>28 September 2017</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Who is eligible?

All 28 EU Member States:

- Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

Who is eligible?

- Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to the Member States
  - Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Corcasp, Falkland Islands, French Polynesia, Greenland, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn Islands, Saba, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Helena, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Sint Eustatius, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands, Wallis and Futuna
- Associated Countries:
  - Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland (partial association Pillar 1 + SEWP + Euratom), Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Yemen and Georgia. Armenia to be associated by mid-2016.
- Third countries (whether they can receive funding depends on GDP/list in WP)

UK Referendum Outcome Impact

- UK Treasury guarantees EU Funding for UK researchers beyond the date the UK leaves the EU:
  - “…where UK organisations bid directly to the European Commission on a competitive basis for EU funding projects while we are still a member of the EU, for example universities participating in Horizon 2020, the Treasury will underwrite the payments of such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK’s departure from the EU”.
- UKRO understands that eligibility for the guarantee extends to proposals submitted before the UK’s exit, not just to grants signed.
- UK universities and research organisations should therefore continue to apply for EU funding through mechanisms such as Horizon 2020 while the UK remains a member of the EU.
Statement 4 July 2016: "until the UK leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply to and within the UK, both when it comes to rights and obligations. This includes the eligibility of UK legal entities to participate and receive funding in Horizon 2020 actions."


The agreement on Switzerland's participation in Horizon 2020 provides for the country's full association from 1 January 2017, only if it ratifies the protocol extending the free movement of people to Croatian nationals by 9 February 2017.

The Swiss Federal Council signed the protocol on 4 March 2016; the Swiss Parliament approved the ratification on 17 June 2016, but further regulations must be adopted by the Parliament in December.

When preparing project submissions for all 2016 and 2017 calls, researchers in Switzerland are advised to do so on the basis of Switzerland's full association from 2017.

In the event of non-association, the Swiss government will take the necessary measures to cover the expenses of Swiss participants, as is currently the case in some parts of the programme.

Third countries – eligibility and funding

- Only less developed economies (countries mentioned in Annex A to the WP) are automatically eligible for EU funding

- Developed and developing economies, such as the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, BRIC, Mexico, etc. will no longer automatically qualify for EU funding

Exceptionally, funding for partners from countries that no longer qualify for EU funding may be provided in the following cases:

- Under the existence of a bilateral agreement specifying such funding (i.e. EU-US agreement for Societal Challenge 1);
- When such funding is explicitly mentioned in the call text or topic;
- When the Commission deems participation of an entity essential for the success of the project due to its expertise, access to data, etc.
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

- Operates in a ‘bottom-up’ basis for any research and innovation ideas (basic research; market take-up)
- Mobility (cross-border and cross-sector) is a key requirement
- Aim to enhance skills of people behind research and innovation
- Strong participation across sectors
- Dissemination and public engagement - public outreach activities
- Gender balance - equal opportunities in the research content

Key MSCA Definitions

**Early Stage Researcher (ESR)**
At the time of recruitment (ITN), must be in the first 4 years (full-time research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.

**Experienced Researcher (ER)**
At the time of the call deadline (IF) or secondment (RISE) by the host organisation, must be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least 4 years of full-time equivalent research experience.

**Academic sector**
Includes universities and higher education institutions (public and private) awarding degrees, non-profit research institutions (public and private), and international European interest organisations.

**Non-academic sector**
Includes any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector.

Standard Mobility Rule

“At the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals, or recruitment/secondment by the host organisation, depending on the action, researchers shall not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date.”

No restrictions on nationality!
Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

Overview

Innovative Training Networks (ITN)
Main EU programme for structured doctoral training
• Dedicated to early-stage researchers (no experienced researcher recruitment)
• Involving wide partnership of institutions from academic and non-academic sectors

3 modes:

Objectives
• Raise excellence and structure research and doctoral training
• Train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers
• Facilitate triple ‘i’ dimension of mobility: international, interdisciplinary, intersectoral
• Create knowledge triangle: research, education, innovation: innovation skills and employability
• Exchange of best practice amongst participating organisations

ITN – European Training Networks (ETN)
• Average size: 6-10 beneficiaries
• Expectation of beneficiaries from both academic and non-academic sectors
• Each beneficiary recruits and hosts at least one ESR
• ESR contract length: 3-36 months (project length up to 48 months)
• ESR can spend up to 30% of their contract period on secondment(s) to other beneficiaries or partner organisations
• Max. 40% of total budget to any one country
• Enrolment on doctoral programme not mandatory
• Joint supervision encouraged
ETN – minimum set-up

Max. 540 researcher months (15 ESRs on 36 month contracts)

ITN – European Industrial Doctorates (EID)

• Obligatory non-academic beneficiary, “preferably enterprise”

• ESRs must be enrolled on a doctoral programme at academic beneficiary
  “should none of the academic beneficiaries be entitled to award a doctoral degree an institution entitled to
  award a doctoral degree must be associated as a partner organisation”

• Research must be in the area of the doctoral programme and should aim
  to support long-term, industry-oriented research (fundamental or applied)

• Mandatory joint selection, training and ESR supervision by both sector

• ESR contract length: 36 months expected, can be split between
  beneficiaries (check mobility rules and salary implications)

  = Flexibility: either 1 employment contract + secondment or more
  than one employment contract

ITN – European Industrial Doctorates (EID)

• ESRs must spend at least 50% of their time in the non-academic sector
  (at beneficiaries or partner organisations)

• This inter-sectoral mobility must be between participating
  organisations located in different countries.

• ESR must be jointly supervised by at least two supervisors, one from
  each sector (academic and non-academic)

• Additional secondments are possible – there is no time limit

• Max. 40% of total budget to any one country (except 2-beneficiary EID)
EID – minimum set-up

- Max. 180 researcher months (5 ESRs on 36 month contracts)
- 40% budget rule not applicable

EID – 3+ beneficiaries

- Max. 540 researcher months (15 ESRs on 36 month contracts)
- 40% budget rule applicable

EID – Multi-beneficiaries

- 3+ beneficiaries
  - Min. 1 academic
  - Min. 1 non-academic
  - 2 countries (MS/AC)
  - Additional beneficiaries any sector, any country
- Max. 540 researcher months
- PhD enrollment
- > 50% of time at non-academic sector
- Joint supervision

ITN – European Joint Doctorates (EJD)

- Promotes structural change to European doctoral training landscape
  - Closer cooperation between academic organisations
- Creation of coherent joint doctoral programmes that deliver joint, double or multiple degrees
- Mandatory joint selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment of ESRs through a joint governance structure
- ESRs must be enrolled on a doctoral programme
- ESR contract: 36 months expected, contract can be split between beneficiaries (check mobility rules and salary implications)
  - Flexibility: either 1 employment contract + secondment or more than one employment contract
- ESR likely to split their stay between beneficiaries to fulfil joint doctoral programme requirements + additional secondment(s) possible
- Maximum 40% of total budget to any one country
**EJD - degree options**

**Joint degree**
- Single diploma issued by at least two HEIs offering an integrated programme and recognised officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located.

**Double / multiple degrees**
- Two or more separate national diplomas issued by two or more HEIs and recognised officially in the countries where the degree-awarding institutions are located.

The final degree must be awarded by institutions from at least two different countries.

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**EJD – minimum set-up**

Max. 540 researcher months (15 ESRs on 36 month contracts)

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**A typical Innovative Training Network**

- Collaborative work in multidisciplinary, international consortia (academic + non-academic) applies for funding
  - proposing competitively selected joint research training/doctoral programme for Early-Stage Researchers
- When successful, consortium recruits researchers across the consortium
  - All projects publish their vacancies on EURAXESS [http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess)
  - each researcher has an Individual Research Project
  - employment contract with full social security (UK visa considerations)
- Duration of projects: 4 years
- Fellowships of 3-36 months (usually 36 months)
- Maximum 540 researcher-months per consortium (180 for EID with 2 partners) and no more than 40% of the budget in one country (not applicable to EID with two partners)

Source: European Commission
A typical Innovative Training Network

- Advanced research and transferable skills training
  - e.g. communication, research management, societal outreach, entrepreneurship, IPR, elements of Open Science, gender
- Exposure to non-academic sector (secondments)
- Networking events
- Dissemination activities
  (social media, final conference, public engagement)

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Secondments

- Highly recommended; can take place in MSAC and Third Countries (consider practicalities and costs)
- Costs should be covered by the sending employer (not from ESRs allowances)

- **ETN**
  - Secondment to other beneficiaries and/or to partner organisations for a duration of up to 30% of his/her recruitment period is encouraged
  - During their secondment, researchers receive supervision and training at the premises of the receiving beneficiary or partner organisation

- **EID**
  - Limitation of secondments to 30% of the recruitment period does not apply

- **EJD**
  - Limitation of secondments to 30% of the recruitment period does not apply, as time spent at other participating organisations occurs in line with the proposal

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Around 130 supported ITN projects every year

- **http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess**
- **http://cordis.europa.eu**
How to find partners?

- CORDIS Partner search: https://cordis.europa.eu/partners/webguest/home self-registered profiles of researchers and innovators, searchable by area of expertise, country, call for proposals
- "Projects and Results" on the CORDIS website Access to experienced researchers: http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html
- European Enterprise Network: http://een.ec.europa.eu/ - brings together almost 600 business in over 50 countries
- Events, info days, conferences
- National Contact Points: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal4/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html

How to find partners?

- Health: http://www.fitforhealth.eu/
- ICT: http://www.ideal-ist.eu/partner-search/pssearch
- Pharmaceuticals: https://cloud.imi.europa.eu/web/eimi-pst
- Environment: http://www.ic.ee/envncp/?page=search
- Transport: http://www.transport-ncps.net/services/partner-search.html
- Space: http://www.fp7-space.eu/fp7-space-info-16.phtm

NCP networks

Innovative Training Networks - Consortium

Beneficiaries (Participants level 1)
- Signatory to the Grant Agreement
- Full partner of a network
- Contribute directly to the implementation of the joint training programme by recruiting (at least 1 ESR for ETNs), supervising, hosting and training ESRs
- Can also provide secondment opportunities
- Participate in Supervisory Board

Partner organisations (Participants level 2)
- Do not sign the Grant Agreement
- Do not recruit ESRs
- Do not claim costs directly through the beneficiary
- Provide training and host ESRs during secondments
- Participate in Supervisory Board

Mind differences with other MSCA schemes, such as RISE!
Letters of Commitment

- Should be on headed paper and signed by a legal representative
- Should be scanned and included in Part B (document 2 - section B.7.)
- The evaluators will be instructed to disregard the contribution of any partner organisations for which no such evidence of commitment is submitted

For all ITNs: letters from Partner Organisations (only)
- Content is important; generic letters are not useful
- Must contain specifics about role and participation of Partner Organisations (tasks allocated) and their commitment to do so

For EJD only: letters from Beneficiaries
- From the academic beneficiaries that will award the doctoral degrees
- Signed by a legal representative – a person authorised to commit the beneficiary to the joint degree programme

Innovative Training Networks - Consortium

- No maximum consortium size – typical number of beneficiaries:
  - ETN 6 to 10;
  - EJD 5 to 8;
  - EID 2 to 10 (40% were 2 beneficiary in 2015; 30% in 2016)
- Good to have non-academic sector participating as beneficiaries
- Allowed to have more than one participant from same country but no more than 40% of the budget can go to one country (except EID with 2 beneficiaries)
- ESRs must be recruited by a named beneficiary
  - From 2017 participation of entities with a legal or capital link is possible
- Possible to include many non-European countries as Beneficiaries or Partner Organisations – but “high income” countries (e.g. US) are better off applying as Partner Organisations

ITN Consortium Agreements

- Obligatory for all ITNs
- No official templates, normally prepared by coordinator
- Unofficial templates, based on DESCA 2020 Model Consortium Agreement: www.desca-2020.eu
  - BAK template for European Training Networks: www.uni-giessen.de/index.php/BAK/BAKAG_Recht_CA_Marie_CurieITN_based_on_DESCA_01062015.docx/view

REA is not party to this agreement and does not verify its content.
**ITNs – overview of 3 modes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>ITN-KSMB</th>
<th>EID-KSMB</th>
<th>EJD-KSMB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefit/Teams</td>
<td>3 minimum, 3 different MS/AC</td>
<td>3 minimum, 3 different MS/AC</td>
<td>3 minimum, 3 different MS/AC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partners (Level 2)</td>
<td>any country/sector</td>
<td>any country/sector</td>
<td>any country/sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-academic sector</td>
<td>beneficiary and/or partner level</td>
<td>beneficiary and partner</td>
<td>partner and/or beneficiary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EJD minimum</td>
<td>3-18 months</td>
<td>1-2 months</td>
<td>0-2 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN minimum</td>
<td>3-18 months</td>
<td>1-2 months</td>
<td>0-2 months</td>
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</table>

**Budget/country**

- Funding based fully on unit costs, multiplied by requested ESR person months
- Automated calculation of budget when ESR months filled into application
- *A country-specific correction co-efficient will apply to living allowance (UK = 120.3%)

**Institutional Unit Costs**

- Can be moved between beneficiaries and redistributed to partners (needs to be agreed in the Consortium Agreement); usual practice for the coordinator to retain larger proportion of management costs; discuss the budget early
- Are managed by beneficiaries according to usual policies
- No detailed financial reporting but need to evidence ESR recruitment and that ESRs have received their full allowances

**EU contribution**

**Researcher Unit Costs (ESR allowances)**

- Cover employer + employee contributions e.g. NI, statutory pension, tax
- Good practice to explain the final amount paid to the fellows

**Institutional Unit Costs**

- Can be moved between beneficiaries and redistributed to partners (needs to be agreed in the Consortium Agreement); usual practice for the coordinator to retain larger proportion of management costs; discuss the budget early
- Are managed by beneficiaries according to usual policies
- No detailed financial reporting but need to evidence ESR recruitment and that ESRs have received their full allowances
The Research, training and networking costs cover the costs of research and innovation related activities of the project such as purchasing of consumables, laboratory costs, conferences, workshops, coordination and review meetings, and networking activities, costs of secondments (travel and subsistence).

PhD fees: fellows cannot be expected to pay fees; eligible cost under institutional costs budget; practice varies (waived fees; reduced fees; claimed fees)

Management and indirect costs cover all general costs connected with the organisation and implementation of the project (administrative and financial management, logistics, ethics, human resources, legal advice, documentation, etc.).

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Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

Application Process

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ITN 2017 Call Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Indicative budget</th>
<th>€430M</th>
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<tr>
<td>Publication date</td>
<td>15 September 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call deadline</td>
<td>10 January 2017 (17:00 Brussels time)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation of proposals</td>
<td>March 2017</td>
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<td>Evaluation Outcome</td>
<td>June 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signing of Grant Agreement</td>
<td>September 2017</td>
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1-stage submission Feedback Report (ESR)
ITN grant application process

• Applications on-line through the ECAS Participant Portal
• Apply to specific discipline panel

Evaluation panels

• Chemistry (CHE)
• Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)
• Economic Sciences (ECO)
• Information Science and Engineering (ENG)
• Environment and Geosciences (ENV)
• Life Sciences (LIF)
• Mathematics (MAT)
• Physics (PHF)

Additional multidisciplinary panels for ITNs

• European Industrial Doctorates (EID)
• European Joint Doctorates (EJD)
8. Additional documents:

- Guide for Applicants
- FAQ
- H2020 Work Programme 2016-17, Introduction
- H2020 Work Programme 2016-17, Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA)
- H2020 Work Programme 2016-17, Research, Exploitation and Evaluation
- H2020 Work Programme 2016-17, General Annexes
- Legal base: Horizon 2020 - Regulation of Establishment
- Legal base: Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation
- Legal base: Horizon 2020 Specific Programme

Key information

- Work Programme
  - Introduction
  - Call description (Objective, Scope, Expected impact)
  - Links to:
    - "European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers"
    - "EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training"
- Guide for Applicants and FAQ

- Previously funded ITN projects: http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/home_en.html

Proposal submission

- **Coordinator** registers the draft proposal
  - PIC code
  - Draft acronym, draft summary, choice of panel
- **Coordinator** adds beneficiary organisations onto the proposal
  - PIC codes [at least draft PIC - http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/index.html]
  - Contacts
- Proposal is completed
  - Administrative forms (’Edit forms’)
    - Part B – Two parts (B1 and B2) (’Download template’ in MS Word and ’Upload’ as Pdf)
- Proposal is submitted
  - Submission system checks (’Validate forms’ and ’Print preview’)
  - ’Submit’ as many times as required until the deadline – submit early and often!
• Funding based fully on unit costs, multiplied by requested person months
• Automated calculation of budget when secondment months filled into application
• Institutional costs can be redistributed (at the implementation stage) between beneficiaries and redistributed to partners (needs to be agreed in the Consortium Agreement) – discuss the budget early!

Proposal – Part B (Research proposal)

Tips - Application
• Register in Participant Portal / Submission Service
• Give access to the proposal to relevant people in and outside your organisation (Beneficiaries)
• Put yourself in the shoes of the evaluator
• Write clearly and concisely (plain English!)
• Stick to formatting rules (page limits, font, etc.)
• Present case clearly: use tables, diagrams, bullet points and summaries where appropriate
• Ask someone to read through your proposal
• Make sure final version is submitted!
Innovative Training Networks (ITN)

Call results from previous years

### ITN – 2014 Call Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluated proposals</th>
<th>Retain List Threshold</th>
<th>Reserve List Threshold</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIF</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG</td>
<td>92.6</td>
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<td>PHY</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXD</td>
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<td>83.8</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
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### ITN – 2015 Call Results

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**ITN – 2016 Call Results**

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<thead>
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<th>Evaluated proposals</th>
<th>Retain List Threshold</th>
<th>Reserve List Threshold</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIF</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>93.2</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHE</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV</td>
<td>95.4</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC</td>
<td>97.4</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>84.8</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECO</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>89.8</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EID</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EJD</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ITN Resubmission Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITN Call</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of eligible ITN proposals</td>
<td>1161</td>
<td>1563</td>
<td>1565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of resubmissions among eligible proposals</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of funded projects (Main List)</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of resubmissions among funded projects (Main List)</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resubmissions among funded projects (Main List) - %</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall ITN success rate (Main List/eligible proposals)</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITN resubmissions success rate (Resubmitted in Main List/Resubmissions)</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total % of resubmissions among submitted proposals</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>52.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Resubmission allowed, but no reference to the outcome of previous evaluations in new proposal
- Evaluators’ feedback received can be helpful. However, each evaluation is conducted independently from the previous one
- Look to update your proposals not only with regard to feedback received, but try to improve the quality of the project as a whole

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**Innovative Training Networks (ITN)**

Evaluation Process and Award Criteria
Become an evaluator!

Evaluation Process

1. Proposal Submission
   - Via Participant Portal
   - Admissibility/eligibility checks

2. Remote Evaluations
   - At least 3 evaluators (often 4)
   - Individual reports produced
   - Each evaluator assesses ~10 proposals

3. Consensus Meetings
   - Consensus reports produced
   - Agreement on comments/score
   - Now mostly done remotely

4. Ranked list of proposals
   - Lists by panel
   - Projects funded in priority order until budget is exhausted

Max. 5 Months to Outcome!

ITN evaluation and scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks</th>
<th>Excellence</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scored on a scale of 0-5</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority in case of ex aequo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall threshold of 70% applies to total score

- Proposals ranked within panels by overall score
- Proposals funded in ranking order – need to aim at a score of 90+!
- Evaluation summary reports provided
- No restrictions on re-application
### Score Descriptors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fair. Proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Good. Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very Good. Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Excellent. Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Application form reflects evaluation criteria
- Each criterion scored between 0 and 5
- Decimal points can be awarded

### ITN Evaluation Criteria

- **Excellence**
  - Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme — including inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects and, where appropriate, gender aspects — new!
  - Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme — including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects and, where appropriate, gender aspects — new!
  - Quality of the supervision — including mandatory joint supervision for EID and EJD projects
  - Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations

### 1.1 Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme

(including inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects and, where appropriate, gender aspects)

- Write in a way that is clear for the evaluators reading it:
  - Evaluators may not be exact, specific experts in your areas
  - Evaluators may not be familiar with country specific arrangements
  - Evaluators likely to have English as their second language
  - Use diagrams, tables, figures as appropriate to clarify any point

- Ensure the Research Programme and its objectives, methodology, approach, originality and innovativeness are clear:
  - Ensure the ‘state-of-the-art’ is emphasised
  - Explain how individual researcher projects will integrate
  - For EJD/EID explain the research projects in the context of doctoral training
  - Bibliographic references should be included in the footnotes
  - Think about the benefit to Europe of having an ITN in this area
1.1 Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme
(including inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects and, where appropriate, gender aspects)

- The project should be split into Work Packages that reflect the research objectives. Table 1.1 should provide brief headings and overviews of the Work Packages (more detail to be provided in table 3.1)

Table 1.1: Work Package (WP) List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WP No.</th>
<th>WP Title</th>
<th>Lead Beneficiary No.</th>
<th>WP独特</th>
<th>WP Title</th>
<th>Lead Partner's Name</th>
<th>WP Sponsor</th>
<th>WP Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1.2 Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)

- Provide a detailed summary of the training objectives stressing the innovative aspects
- Training opportunities provided should be both unique and tailored to particular areas and also be offered on a network-wide scale:
  - Must demonstrate that advanced skills would be acquired, including complementary/transferable skills and, where appropriate, gender – now more explicit!
  - Emphasise the role of any non-academic organisations in the training and their impact for both beneficiaries and partner organisations
  - Network-wide events can be opened up to those outside of the network, describe the potential benefits if such activities are planned
  - Give detail of how local doctoral training at hosts will be integrated into the programme
- Including secondments is highly recommended to increase impact, preferably at least one per researcher of ~3 months minimum and to an alternate sector to the main host, e.g. from academic to non-academic

1.3 Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for EID and EJD projects)

- Specific detail is required on the proposed supervisors and should include:
  - Qualifications of supervisors
  - Numbers of previously supervised fellows
  - Numbers of post-docs mentored
- Include details of any joint supervision, which is mandatory for both EID and EJD
  - How will they complement each other
  - Who will be responsible for what aspects
- The supervisors identified should be appropriately qualified and available to monitor and guide ESRs through their training in line with the European Charter for Researchers: http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/europeanCharter

Note: To avoid duplication, the role and profile of the supervisors should only be listed in the “Participating Organisations” table in section 5.
1.4 Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations

- What will be the contributions of each participating organisation and how are they appropriate:
  - Particular expertise
  - Geographical location
  - Existing links or collaborations

- Synergies between partners:
  - To what extent do they complement and enhance each other's activities
  - Opportunity for researchers to be involved in a number of linked activities at different partners

- Exposure to different sectors and the opportunity to work outside of 'comfort zones':
  - Learn new techniques
  - Develop transferable skills that would be of benefit to industry

Evaluation Summary Report Quotes - Excellence

Strengths
- The state of the art, the overview of the action as well as the objectives are clearly formulated and well balanced between scientific and training and mobility.
- The research programme is clearly articulated, coherent and relevant regarding the field.
- The individual research projects are sufficiently analysed and in line with the research objectives.
- Qualifications and supervision experience of the supervisors are well evident.
- All participants have established strong synergies in the field.
- The project partners interact in an obvious and active way and the roles of the non-academic partners are well integrated.

Evaluation Summary Report Quotes - Excellence

Weaknesses
- Innovative aspects of the training are not clearly justified.
- The interaction between academic and non-academic partners is not fully explored.
- Gender aspects of the research approach are not convincingly demonstrated. The information provided in the proposal regarding gender issues does not refer to clear provisions translated into concrete measures.
- The allotted time for some of the activities, e.g. the conference, is not sufficiently considered.
- The opportunities to pursue research careers at high profile universities and in well-established private enterprises are not sufficiently elaborated.
**ITN Evaluation Criteria**

- Impact
- Enhancing the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development

- Contribution to structuring doctoral / early-stage research training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity, including the potential for:
  a) meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral/research training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field
  b) developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures (for EJD projects only)

- Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results

- Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the project activities to different target audiences

---

**2.1 Enhancing the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development**

- Explain the impact of the research and training on the Fellows’ careers with specific details of how the impact will be achieved:
  - Research training
  - Transferable skill development
  - Exposure to different sectors, emphasis links with the non-academic sector

- Where possible and appropriate, think about how the research programme fits into higher level EU policies:

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**2.2 Contribution to structuring doctoral / early-stage research training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity, including the potential for:**

a) meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral/research training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field

- What is the role of the non-academic sector in the doctoral/research programme and how does it enhance and separate the programme as leading:
  - Will depend on the field being worked in
  - What can the programme offer with the inclusion of the non-academic sector that other programmes that don’t, can’t

- Make sure the innovative aspects that the involvement of non-academic partners bring is emphasised and, again, highlight any relevant EU policies:
b) developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures (for EJD projects only)

- How might the programme contribute to developing sustainable collaborative degree structures delivering joint degrees?
- Demonstrate further, cross-border integration of EU institutions through the programme

2.3 Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results

- Dissemination of the research results
  - Horizon 2020 obligations to make publications and research data open access
  - How will the results be disseminated, which repositories, etc.? How will data be managed?
- Exploitation of results and intellectual property
  - If you decide to exploit and/or commercialise your results, how will you do this?
  - What form of protection, e.g. patents, will you adopt?

2.4 Quality of the proposed measures to communicate the activities to different target audiences

- What are the project’s plans for communication of research findings
  - What is the communication and public engagement strategy of the project?
  - Who are the appropriate audiences for these activities?
  - What are the appropriate means for these activities?
- In the European Charter for Researchers, the following are covered in more detail:
  - Public Engagement – make the general public aware of the research activities in a manner that is widely understandable
  - Dissemination and exploitation of results – all results should be appropriately disseminated bearing in mind contractual obligations concerning Open Access. Where results are being exploited, appropriate action to protect them, e.g. patents, should be adopted
Obligation to provide open access when publishing

Open Access to Research Data mandatory, unless appropriate reason to opt-out.

Source: European Commission

Useful resources
www.openaire.eu

The following applies for all calls with an opening date on or after 26/07/2016:

• Grant beneficiaries under this work programme part will engage in research data sharing by default, as stipulated under Article 29.3 of the Horizon 2020 Model Grant Agreement (including the creation of a Data Management Plan). Participants may however opt out of these arrangements, both before and after the signature of the grant agreement. More information can be found under General Annex L of the work programme.
Strengths

• The potential for meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector is high and credible.
• The dissemination strategy is concrete and appropriate and offers a practical plan on how to share data resources and results of the project with different target groups like partners, specialists and a general audience.
• The communication and public engagement strategy are clearly described, using different platforms and taking advantage of special events like the European Researcher’s Night, which ensure a broad audience.
• The IP strategy is sound. Some exploitable results have been identified.
• The communication plans include a good number of actions towards the industrial sector.
• Relevant outcomes for the economy and society are adequately outlined.
• Long-lasting collaboration between sectors after the end of the project are foreseen to strengthen the innovation capacity.

Evaluation Summary Report Quotes - Impact

Weaknesses

• The impact of the research and training programme on the fellows’ careers beyond the narrow research field is not guaranteed.
• The relevance of complementary skills to enhance career perspectives of the fellows is insufficiently discussed.
• The measures for dissemination of results have been described; however the dissemination plans are not quantified and no innovative activities are included. The focus on disseminating results within the small membrane scientific community is not clearly justified.
• The outreach activities towards general public have been described, but their relevance is not clearly discussed.

ITN Evaluation Criteria

• Implementation
  – Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources (incl. awarding of the doctoral degrees for EID and EJD projects)
  – Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management (with a mandatory joint governing structure for EID and EJD projects)
  – Appropriateness of the infrastructure of the participating organisations
  – Competences, experience and complementarity of participating organisations and their commitment to the programme
3.1 Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources (incl. awarding of the doctoral degrees for EID and EJD projects)

- The Work Plan must be clear and include the following using tables provided:
  - Work Package descriptions – Table 3.1a
  - Work Packages should be included for all activities:
    - Research
    - Management
    - Training
  - List of major deliverables – Table 3.1b (including awarding of doctoral degrees where applicable)
  - List major milestones – Table 3.1c
  - Fellows individual projects – Table 3.1d

- Include a Gantt chart using the example provided to show progress of the project in months elapsed

3.2 Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management (with a mandatory joint governing structure for EID and EJD projects)

- Include comment on the following points and explains who in the consortium will be responsible for what and when they do it:
  - Network organisation and management structure
  - Joint governing structure (mandatory for EID and EJD projects)
  - For EJD, joint admission, selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures
  - Supervisory board
  - Recruitment strategy
  - Progress monitoring and evaluation of individual projects
  - Risk management at consortium level (including Table 3.2a)
  - Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)
  - Gender aspects (both at the level of recruitment and that of decision making within the project)
  - Data Management Plan

- Include Table 3.2a on Implementation Risks

3.3 Appropriateness of the infrastructure of the participating organisations

- Given the tasks allocated to each participating organisation, provide details to explain and demonstrate their appropriateness. Will help be provided by other institutional departments such as HR or Finance

- Factual information will be provided in section 5 ‘Participating Organisations’ so more of a narrative can be provided here

- What do the organisations have to offer:
  - Laboratories
  - Technical expertise
  - Workshops
  - Office space
  - Other facilities

- Again, refer to the European Charter for Researchers and any endorsement of it by participating organisations

- Other evidence to show competence of organisations in recruiting and hosting, such as the ‘HR Excellence in Research’ award – http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/strategy4ResearcherOrg - can demonstrate this
3.4 Competences, experience and complementarity of participating organisations and their commitment to the programme

- Demonstrate complementarity across the network in terms of compatibility and coherence between tasks
- Explain the level of commitment of the organisations involved and their readiness to deliver a success ITN project if selected (partner organisations see sections 5 and 7 as well)
- In particular, emphasise the commitment of non-academic sector organisations
- If 'Third Countries' not automatically eligible for funding are requesting support, the reasons for this should be detailed here
- Partner Organisations need to provide a letter of commitment in Section 7, so make sure this is in line with what is said here to reinforce the case

Evaluation Summary Report Quotes - Implementation

Strengths
- The listed work packages are well defined with clear deliverables and milestones.
- The individual ESR projects are well structured with well argued and realistic objectives, expected results, secondments. The secondments are coherent with the objectives.
- The basic principles of the management of the project are clearly formulated: shared responsibility, joint ownership of data and good communication. The management structure is clear and well structured with a SB (Supervisory Board) that guarantee an adequate balance between scientific and technological training. The management plan offers a realistic problem-solving mechanism in the event of disputes between partners with the creation of an External Advisory Committee.
- The progress monitoring mechanisms and evaluation of individual projects are clearly presented.

Evaluation Summary Report Quotes - Implementation

Weaknesses
- The procedure for awarding doctoral degrees is not clearly presented.
- The complementarity of the partners is not sufficiently demonstrated.
- Key research facilities, infrastructure and equipment of both beneficiaries are insufficiently detailed with regard to the hosting of ESRs by the non-academic beneficiary.
- The timing in the work plan is not convincing, e.g. the first workshop is scheduled when almost half of the ESRs have not yet joined the network, and the final conference is scheduled after more than half of the ESRs have finished.
- The management structure is not fully clear. It contains few bodies and relies to a large extent on individuals instead of boards/committees. The structure supporting these individuals is not clearly explained.
- The scientific milestones and their means of verification are not sufficiently defined.
Other Key Considerations

• Operational capacity of the organisations
  – Use well tables in Section 5 of Part B
  – Profile of key staff, description of key infrastructure or technical equipment, all partner organisations contributing towards the proposed work
  – Different information for Beneficiary and Partner.

• Ethics Issues
  – Self-assessment in Part A and strategy in Section 6 of Part B
  – Outside the 10-page limit – provide detailed strategy
  – Crucial for all research domains - need to identify any potential ethical issues and describe they will be addressed
  – All proposals considered for funding subject to Ethics Review
  – Read the Ethics Self-Assessment Guidelines

• Letters of Commitment
  – From Partner Organisations - On headed paper and signed with individual with appropriate authority
  – EJD - Mandatory letters from beneficiaries detailing commitment to award appropriate degrees signed by someone with appropriate authority

Responsibility and Innovation

"Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions endorse the Horizon 2020 Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) cross-cutting issue, engaging society, integrating the gender and ethical dimensions, ensuring the access to research outcomes and encouraging formal and informal science education. All applicants to the MSCA calls are encouraged to adopt an RRI approach into their proposals."

Gender Aspects

• Don’t underestimate this section (gender experts in all Evaluation Panels) – now explicit evaluation criteria!
• Relate to EU policies on Gender Equality – cross-cutting priority in Horizon 2020
• Equal opportunities (among researchers and decision-makers/supervisors)
• Gender dimension in the research content (e.g. subjects or end-users)
• Gender dimension in training activities – where appropriate
Gender Aspects - links

- Gendered Innovation, Stanford University project: https://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/
  - practical tools for researchers: methods to be used in a research project; case studies; checklist

Horizon 2020 IPR

- For further information see: www.iprhelpdesk.eu
  – Horizon 2020 IPR Helpdesk (advice, events, articles, webinars)

IPR Helpdesk – IP in MSCA Factsheet:

Abstract – Have a story to tell…

"Needs to be simple and concise. Include all the essential information needed in order to evaluators the 'first & best' idea" (MSCA evaluator's advice)

- Make the relevance very clear
- Clearly but shortly explain what you are going to do
- Explain relation to host institution and potential outcomes
- Highlight impact

Overall presentation matters…

- Use tables, colours, graphs and schematic representations of concepts & information you want them to see and understand (this takes time…)
- Check consistency across the whole proposal
- Avoid repetition, highlight key information
- Use the Gantt Chart well
Thank you!

MSCA National Contact Point Helpdesk

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Phone: +32 2 230 0318