



UK Research Office
Brussels

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks

**Information For Applicants: Submission and
Evaluation**

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9 June 2022

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Quick Overview



What Does Horizon Europe Look Like?



Excellence Science: Reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Unions science base



UK Research Office
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https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

MSCA Key Features

- Operates on a 'bottom-up' basis – **any subject area**
- From basic research through to near market take-up
- **3 I approach to mobility** - interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international
- Enhance skills of people behind research and innovation
- **Gender Friendly and Inclusive** – equal opportunities in the research content
- Dissemination and public engagement - public outreach



MSC Actions

Doctoral Networks

- Supports doctoral programmes, developed by universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Enhances the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD.

Staff Exchanges

- Promote innovative international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration in research and innovation.

COFUND

- Co-finances new or existing doctoral programmes and postdoctoral fellowship schemes.

MSCA and Citizens

- Aims to bring research and researchers closer to the public at large, to increase awareness of research and innovation activities and to boost public recognition of science and research education.



MSCA Doctoral Networks

HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01



Overall strategy for Doctoral Networks

Training through Research

Train **creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates**

Develop doctoral candidates who are able to face current and future challenges

Increased emphasis on **exposure beyond academia**

Encourages **3I approach to mobility**

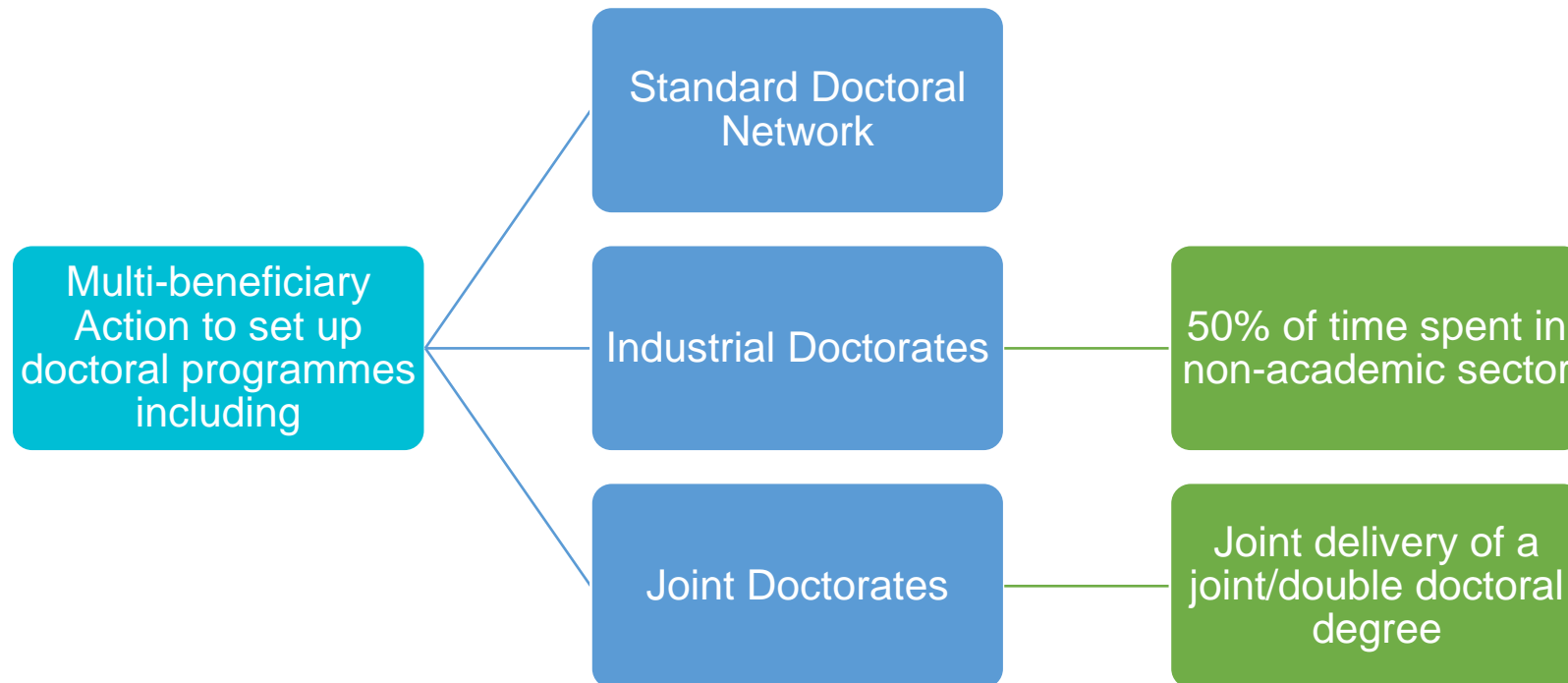
Supports **long term employability**

Raising the **excellence and structure research and doctoral training**



Set up

- ❖ Consortium is composed of partnerships of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.



Submission Process

Getting started



Submission outline

Register in the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#) and create an ECAS /EU Login account

Get in touch with your **research support office**

Add relevant **contact people** to the online application

Submit **early and often** – *latest version will be accepted*

Keep the **Guide for Applicants and MSCA Work Programme** in front of you!!!



Funding & Tender Opportunities

European Commission | Funding & tender opportunities

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS | HOW TO PARTICIPATE | PROJECTS & RESULTS | WORK AS AN EXPERT | SUPPORT

Find calls for proposals and tenders

Search calls for proposals and tenders by keywords, programmes...

EU Programmes

- Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI)
- Customs Control Equipment Instrument (CCEI)
- Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)
- Climate, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)
- Creative Europe (CREA)
- Customs Programme (CUST)
- Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)
- Europe Direct (ED)
- European Defence Fund (EDF)
- European Parliament (EP)
- EU Anti-fraud Programme (EUAFF)
- European Solidarity Corps (ESC)
- Erasmus Programme (ERASMUS)
- EU Health Programme (EUHE)
- European Social Fund + (ESF)
- European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)
- Erasmus Research and Training Programme (ERTM)

News

25 May 2022

The amendment to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 was adopted

The Commission adopted this amendment on 10 May 2022. Please read the related Press

[HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01-01](#)

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2022

TOPIC ID: HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01-01

Call

General information	General information
Topic description	Programme Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)
Destination	Call MSCA Doctoral Networks 2022 (HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01) Select project overview
Conditions and documents	Type of action HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks
Partner search announcements	Type of MGA HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AC-UN] Open for submission
Submission service	HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates
Topic-related FAQ	HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AC-UN]
Get support	HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates
Call updates	HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AD-UN]
Go back	Deadline model single-stage
	Opening date 12 May 2022
	Deadline date 15 November 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time
	Topic description

Call Page on Funding & Tender Opportunities

Topic description

ExpectedOutcome:
Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:
For supported doctoral candidates

- New research and transferable skills and competences, leading to improved employability and career prospects within and outside academic;
- New knowledge allowing the conversion of ideas into products and services, where relevant;
- Enhanced networking and communication capacities with scientific peers, as well as with the general public that will increase and broaden the research and innovation impact.

[show more...](#)

Destination

MSCA Doctoral Networks
The MSCA Doctoral Networks aim to train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit.

The MSCA Doctoral Networks will raise the attractiveness and excellence of doctoral training in Europe. They will equip researchers with the right combination of research combined with an innovation-oriented mind-set.

Expected impact
Proposals under this Action should contribute to the following expected impacts:

Topic conditions and documents

General conditions
1. **Admissibility conditions:** described in Annex A and Annex E of the Horizon Europe Work Programme General Annexes.
2. **Eligible countries:** described in Annex B of the Work Programme General Annexes. See exceptions and specific conditions in the MSCA part of the Work Programme.

A number of non-EU/Non-Associated Countries that are not automatically eligible for funding have made specific provisions for making funding available for their part...

Partner search announcements

55 Searches of partners to collaborate on this topic

[View / Edit](#)

LEARs, Account Administrators or self-registrants can publish partner requests for open and forthcoming topics after logging into this Portal, as well as any user hav...

Start submission

To access the Electronic Submission interface, please click on the submit button next to the type of action and the type of grant agreement that corresponds to your proposal. You will then be asked to confirm your choice, as it cannot be changed in the submission system. Upon confirmation, you will be linked to the correct entry point.

To access existing start proposals for this topic, please login to the Funding & Tenders Portal and select the My Proposals page of the My Action section.

Please select the type of your submission:

- HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks (HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN), HORIZON Unit Grant (HORIZON-UG-IN)
- HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorate (HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-IE), HORIZON Unit Grant (HORIZON-UG-IN)
- HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorate (HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD), HORIZON Unit Grant (HORIZON-UG-IN)

[Start submission](#)

[Get help?](#)

Topic related FAQ

Search...

- Can beneficiaries in the HORIZON MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) use associated partners linked to them to implement the tasks of hosting and training?**
In the MSCA DN, where necessary, associated partners linked to a beneficiary (and where this capital or legal link is either limited to the action or established for the sole purpose...
- Why is it necessary to select appropriate descriptors in the proposal Part A during submission of the proposal for a Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) call?**
The descriptors will help the European Research Executive Agency (REA) to identify the most qualified and suitable experts to evaluate the proposal. In question, in the Electronic Sub...
- Under Horizon Europe, can an organisation submit a proposal to each of the three MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) modalities?**
Yes, an organisation can submit a proposal to each of the three MSCA DN modalities. However, applicants must demonstrate that the scientific and training programme of each proposal i...
- Under Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN), how is the family status taken into account during the recruitment and is it possible to modify it in the course of the project (e.g. if a researcher has a child)?**
Family is defined as persons linked to the researcher by (i) marriage, or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognized by the legislation of the country or ng...
- Does the Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) call allow for research-able research?**
No, mono-site consortia are not allowed for the MSCA DN call under the Horizon Europe rules. However, mono-site doctoral programmes can now be co-funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Cu...
- Is it recommended that all associated partners and associated partners linked to beneficiaries be involved in the supervisory board of a Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) project proposal?**
Yes, in an MSCA DN project proposal, it is recommended that the supervisory board is composed of representatives of all beneficiaries and associated partners and may also include any...
- Can associated partners and associated partners linked to a beneficiary be implemented for the costs of training and/or hosting of research researchers in Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)?**
In an MSCA DN, associated partners and associated partners linked to a beneficiary are not registered to the grant agreements and cannot claim costs separately. Their costs are cons...
- In Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) and Industrial Doctorates (DN-ID) proposals, should the institution delivering the doctoral degree be identified in the proposal?**

Panel Selection

- **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 (PHY)*
- Multidisciplinary is encouraged
- **Abstract and Descriptors are important**
- **Industrial and joint doctorates will be ranked in the scientific panel of submission**
- No predefined budget allocation among the panels
 - **Budget distributed based on number of eligible proposals in each panel**



Who is Involved in the Submission Process

❖ Coordinator

- Registers the draft proposal
 - Acronym, summary and panel*
- Adds partner organisations
 - PIC codes or at least [draft PIC](#) and contact details*
- Completes administrative form (part A)
- Responsible for Uploading Part B1/B2 as a PDF

❖ Beneficiaries

- Add additional contacts as appropriate/necessary
- Checks that information in part A is correct
 - May also be responsible for completing corresponding sections of part A*

❖ Associated Partners

- Do not have access to submission system
 - To be provided access key contact(s) must be included under the corresponding beneficiary or coordinator*



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Adding Participants

Call Information

Template

Support

Participants

Deadline
15 November 2022 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time
167 days left until closure

Call data:
Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01
Topic: HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01-01
Type of action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN
Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG-UN
Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.

Proposal data:
Acronym: test test
Draft ID: SEP-210869891

Download Part B templates
Download part B templates

Support & Helpdesk
Online Manual IT How To
IT Helpdesk FAQ
Service Desk:
EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 29 92222

In this step you as coordinator should manage and review the participants of your proposal.
Only you as coordinator can edit the elements on this screen.
Note: Your changes will be applied only after you click the "Save Changes" button.

Call requires at least 3 participant(s) from different EC Member States or Associated Countries, of which at least one (1) should be from an EC Member State

Number of participants: 1

Coordinator
UKRI
UNITED KINGDOM RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
SWINDON, UK
PIC: 906446474
Branwen Hide - Main contact
Change organisation Contact organisation

Add Partner + Add Associated partner +

SAVE SAVE AND GO TO NEXT STEP NEXT

Add contact details, and partners

- Add Partner = Add Beneficiary
- Add Associated Partner = Add Associated Partner

Submission system

Call Information

Template

Support

Proposal forms

Deadline
15 November 2022 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

167 days left until closure

Call data:

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01
Topic: HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01-01
Type of action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN
Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG-UN

Warning: Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.

Proposal data:

Acronym: test test
Draft ID: SEP-210869891

Download Part B templates

Download part B templates

Support & Helpdesk

[Online Manual](#) [IT How To](#)
[IT Helpdesk](#) [FAQ](#)

Service Desk:
EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 29 92222

Administrative forms (Part A)

[Edit forms](#) [View history](#) [Print preview](#)

Part B and Annexes

In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments.

Part B1	<input type="text"/>	Upload
Part B2	<input type="text"/>	Upload

[← BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST](#) [VALIDATE](#) [SUBMIT](#)

Information: In this step you can edit the Administrative Forms and upload the proposal itself.

Warning: Your proposal contains changes that have not yet been submitted.

Part A
completed
online

Part B must be
uploaded as a
PDF

Proposal Forms – Part A (Administrative Forms)

The screenshot shows a web-based proposal form interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: '< Exit form', 'Table of contents', and 'General Information >'. Below this is a dark blue header with 'Table of contents', 'Update form', 'Save form', and 'Save & exit form'. The main content area is titled 'Application forms' and contains the following information:

- Call:** HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01 (MSCA Doctoral Networks 2022)
- Topic:** HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01-01
- Type of Action:** HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN (HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks)
- Proposal number:** SEP-210869891
- Proposal acronym:** test test
- Type of Model Grant Agreement:** HORIZON Unit Grant

Below this information is a 'Table of contents' section with a table:

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	Show
2	Participate	Show
3	Budget	Show
4	Ethics and security	Show

At the bottom of the form, there is a 'How to fill in the forms' section with a 'Read more' button. The footer contains 'MSCA-DN ver 1.00 20220118' and 'Page 1'.

Navigation Tool

Sections to be completed

Guidance

- ❖ Many fields will be pre-populated using information from both PIC and EU Log-ins.
- ❖ All other fields to be completed and saved in the online form.

Participants and Contacts

These sections do not need to be completed

Beneficiaries and Associated Partners **DO NOT** need to fill in:

- The information about the researchers involved
 - The role of participating organisation in the project
 - The list of up to five publications
 - The list of relevant previous projects
 - The list of significant infrastructure
- ❖ This information however will need to be described in the relevant sections of parts B1 and B2



Gender Equality Plans

Self-declaration will be requested at proposal stage from 2022

The GEP must at least cover:

Publication: formal document published on the institution's website and signed by the top management

Dedicated resources: commitment of resources and gender expertise to implement it

Data collection and monitoring: sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel and students and annual reporting based on indicators

Training: Awareness raising/trainings on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision-makers

Recommended areas to be covered and addressed via concrete measures and targets:

- work-life balance and organisational culture

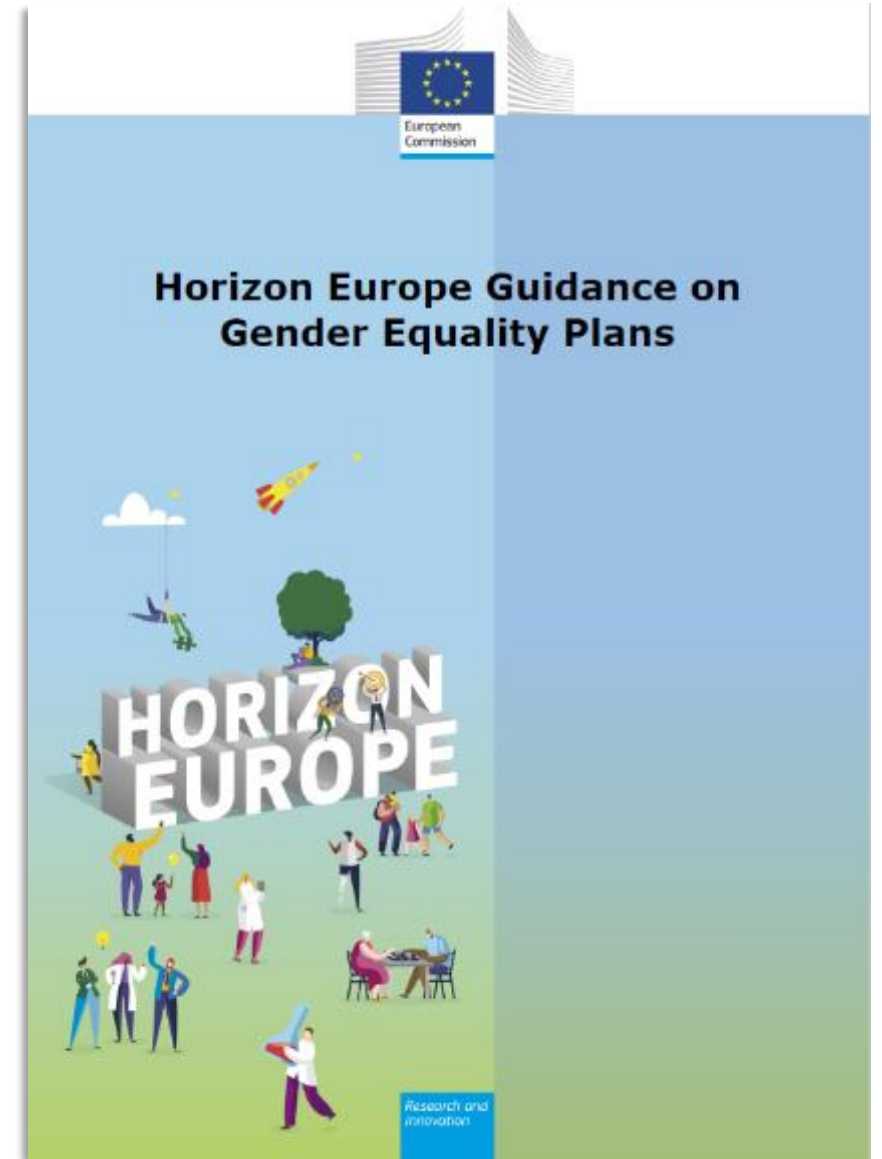
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making

- gender equality in recruitment and career progression

- integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content

- measures against gender-based violence including sexual harassment.

Does not apply to private-for-profit organisations including SMEs, non-governmental or civil society organisations.



<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ffcb06c3-200a-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-232129669>

Budget Table

Application forms

Proposal ID SEP-210869891

Acronym test test

3 - Budget

Participant number	Organisation short name	Role	Country	Country correction coefficient	Academic sector	IO	No of recruited researchers	Number of person months	Contributions for recruited researchers			Institutional contributions		Total
									Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs	
1	UKRI	Coordinator	UK	1.369	Yes	No	1	36	167565.60	21600	17820	57600	43200	307785.60
2	QMUL	Partner	UK	1.369	Yes	No	1	18	83782.80	10800	8910	28800	21600	153892.80
3	UOXF	Associated	UK	1.369	Yes	No	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00
Total							2	54	251348.40	32400	26730	86400	64800	461678.40

- Funding based fully on unit costs, multiplied by requested person months – *see session 2*
- Automatically assumes 70% of DC will be eligible for the family allowance when calculating budget
- Enter the number of recruited researchers (DCs) and number of person months – *taking into consideration split recruitment*
- Cannot make changes to budget line of Associated Partner - *if recruiting DC, the funding they will bring should be included in part B*

Ethics & Security questions

UK applicants should answer 'yes' on questions about non-European activity

Follow Horizon Europe guidance document: ['How to complete your ethics self-assessment'](#)

This will not affect eligibility.

Answering 'yes' on certain questions may require a brief text response from the applicant.

Applicants may be requested to upload documents related to particular questions.

Page references to relevant sections of proposal for each issue if you answer 'Yes' (part B1 and B2)

Application forms Table Of Contents Validate Form Save Save&Close

Proposal ID SEP-210732071
Acronym FAD

4 - Ethics & security

Ethics Issues Table ?

1. Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Human Embryos		Page
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
2. Humans		Page
Does this activity involve human participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
3. Human Cells / Tissues (not covered by section 1)		Page
Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
4. Personal Data		Page
Does this activity involve processing of personal data?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? Specify the type of personal data and countries involved	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	



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Part B1

- Complete ALL mandatory tables
- Use required sub-headings
 - Can also include additional subheading
- Action should be divided in Work Packages
 - Should reflect the research objectives
- Deliverables should be divided into
 - Scientific deliverables and management, training, recruitment and dissemination deliverables
- Milestones
 - Control points in the action that help to chart progress and MAY be linked to deliverables

part B1 (document 1):

- The maximum total length for this document is 34 pages
- Comprises the Start Page, Table of Contents, List of Participating Organisations and and declarations tables
- Sections 1-3
- Respect the instructions
- The Expert evaluators will disregard any excess pages above the 34 page limit

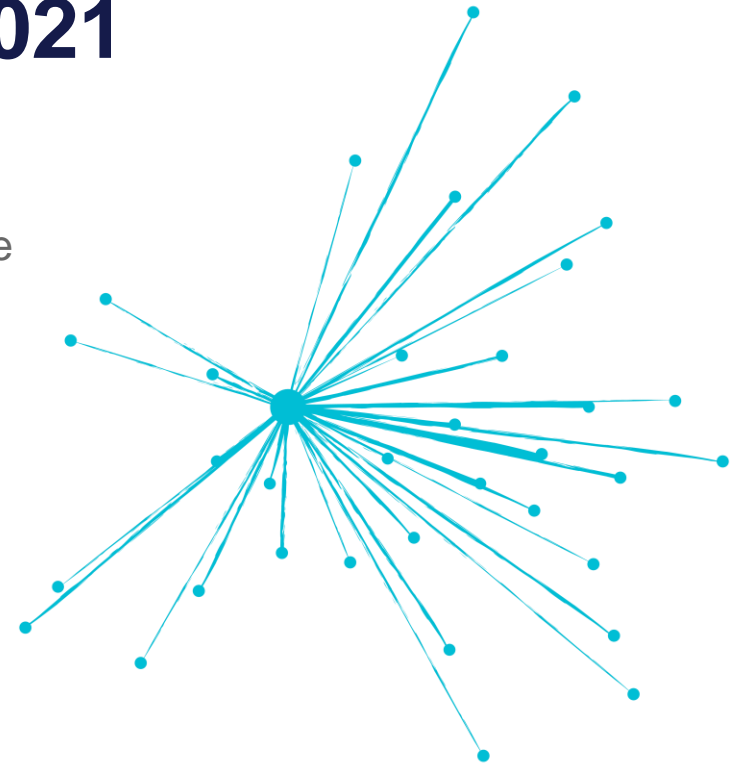
part B2 (document 2):

- Sections 4-7
- No overall page limit will be applied to this document
- Respect the instructions



Part B1- Key Template Changes From 2021

- **Work Package List moved** from Excellence to Implementation as Table 3.1a
- **Recruitment Deliverables moved** from Excellence to Implementation as Table 3.1e
 - relabelled Recruitment Table per Beneficiary
- Table 3.1 **Description of Work Packages** - deliverable descriptions removed
- Table 3.1c **Deliverables List** – new column “Short description” added
- **Network organisation subheading moved** from part B1 to part B2
- **Joint governing structure subheading merged** with Network organisation
- **Environmental aspects moved** from part B1 to part B2 section 5.
- **New subheadings**
 - **Section 1.4:** *Developing sustainable elements of doctoral programmes after the end of the DN funding, this could include (non exhaustively) e.g. sustainability of training programmes at local or network-wide level, sustainable cooperation and secondment opportunities, sustainability of transferable skills training offering, sustainability of researchers recruitment according to the code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers*
 - **Section 2.3:** *If exploitation is expected primarily in non-associated third countries, justify by explaining how that exploitation is still in the Union’s interest.*
 - **Section 3.2:** *Gender aspects concerning decision-making and recruitment embedded in the Supervisory board and Recruitment strategy*



Part B2- Key Template Changes From 2021

- **New sections added**
 - **Network organisation:** *Please explain the management structure and organisation of the network, including the roles of the different actors, and modus operandi including project monitoring and decision making. Please describe the Joint Governing structure for DN-ID and DN-JD.*
 - **Environmental aspects in light of the MSCA Green Charter:** *Please explain how the proposed project would strive to adhere to the [MSCA Green Charter](#) during its implementation.*



Part B1 - Additional Guidance

Excellence – aspects to be taken into account.

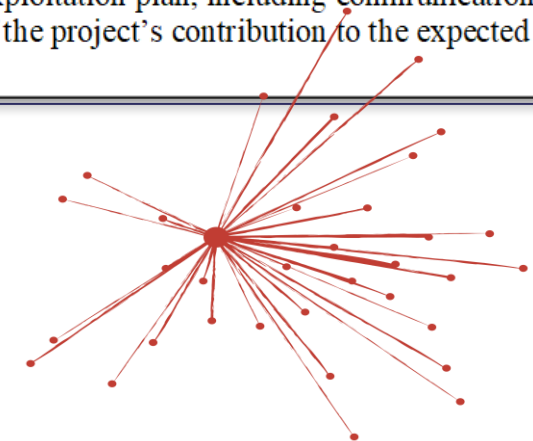
- Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art).
- Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality and appropriateness of open science practices).
- Quality and credibility of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects).
- Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for industrial and joint doctorate projects).

Impact – aspects to be taken into account.

- Contribution to structuring doctoral 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 training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field
 - b) developing sustainable elements of doctoral programmes.
- Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development.
- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.
- The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts.

Quality and efficiency of the implementation – aspects to be taken into account

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages.
- Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.



Formatting

Min font size 11*

All margins at least 15mm**

Reference font is Times New Roman (Windows platform), Times/Times New Roman (Apple platforms) or Nimbus Roman No. 9 L (Linux distributions)

Literature references should be listed in footnotes

The page formatting will be systematically checked by the REA

Information provided through hyperlinks will be disregarded

Tables should not be used to circumvent min font size

Headers and page numbers as specified

Save files using specified format and naming convention



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*Except for the tables and footnotes (min. font size 8)

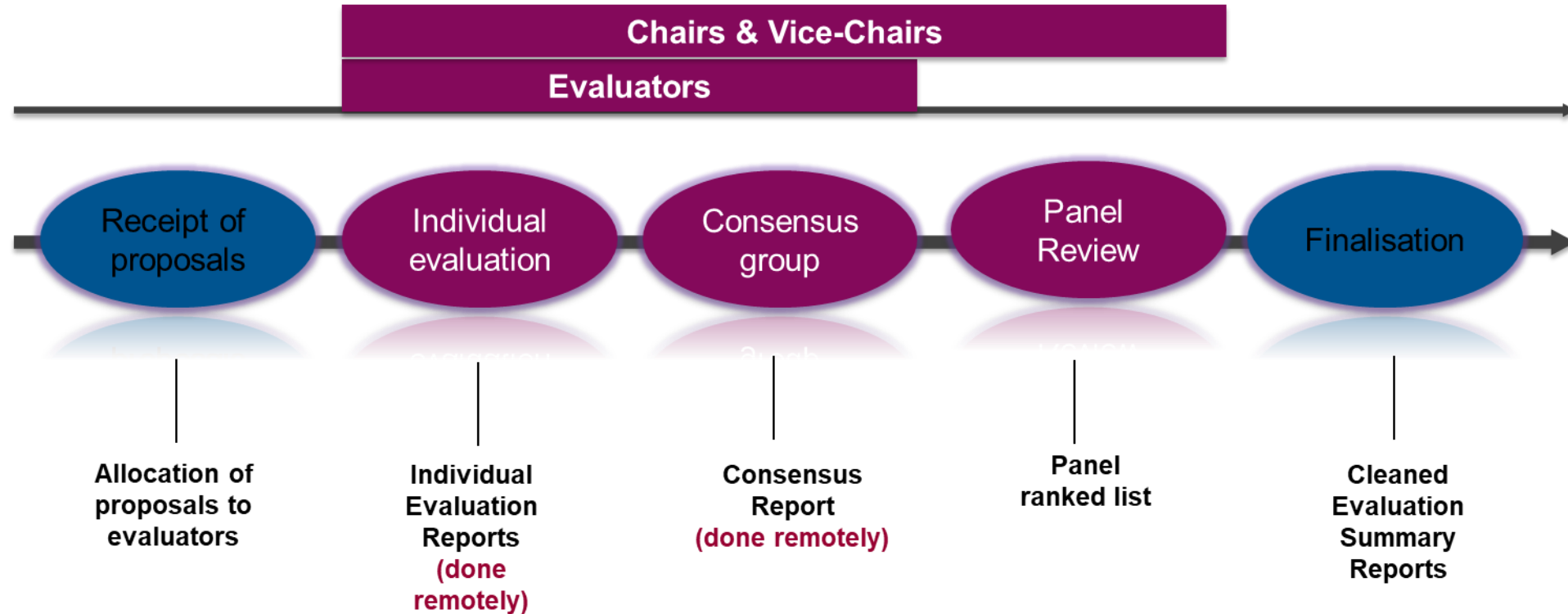
** Not including any footers or headers

Evaluation Process

How does it work



Evaluation Workflow



- Automatic pre-allocation done by REA based on MSCA specific key words
- Vice-Chairs revise the pre-allocation of proposals to experts
- Do not assign 3 experts from the same nationality to a proposal, taking into account Conflict of Interest

Score Descriptors – Consensus Discussions

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

- Involves an exchange on the basis of the 3 individual evaluations – Not just a simple averaging exercise
- The aim is to find agreement on comments and then the scores
- “Outlying” opinions are explored
- Additional evaluators can be used if necessary

Evaluation and scoring

Proposals funded in ranking order

Highly competitive and need to score of 90-95+ depending on the panel

Same scores: prioritisation decided by panel, based on scores for award criteria (weighting above).

If needed further prioritisation based on criteria in line with the WP (e.g. gender balance of supervisors, involvement of non-academic sector, geographical spread, international co-operation, etc.)

Distribution of the indicative budget is proportional to the number of eligible proposals received in each panel



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Resubmission Restrictions

Applicants scoring below 80% in the DN 2021 call are not eligible to resubmit a similar proposal in the DN 2022 call.

A `similar' proposal or contract is one that **differs from the current one in minor ways**, and in which **some of the present consortium members are involved**.



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Evaluation Criteria

Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Quality and efficiency of the implementation (20%)
<p>Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)</p>	<p>Contribution to structuring doctoral 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 training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field b) developing sustainable elements of doctoral programmes</p>	<p>Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages</p>
<p>Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)</p>	<p>Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development</p>	<p>Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise</p>
<p>Quality and credibility of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects)</p>	<p>Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities</p>	
<p>Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for industrial and joint doctorate projects)</p>	<p>The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts</p>	

Proposal Development

Points to Consider



Section 1 Excellence

Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives

- State the research/technical problem/knowledge/specific skills gap your DN will address and how
- Use diagrams, tables, figures as appropriate to clarify any point
- Have clear objectives, link to methodology
- Highlight originality and innovativeness
- Explain how individual projects integrate into the research programme
- Work Packages should reflect the research objectives
- Training through research

Soundness of the proposed methodology

- Describe and explain the overall methodology (links to objectives)
- Explain approaches to complying with open science requirements and gender
- Explain data management plans
- Highlight inter/multi disciplinary elements
- Is using AI provide explanations on the technical robustness of the proposed system

Section 1 Excellence

Quality and credibility of the training programme

- Detailed summary of the training objectives stressing the innovative aspects
- Training: core research skills, advanced/additional research skills/transferable skills
- Training opportunities unique and tailored to particular areas
- Offered on local and network wide level or wider (as appropriate)
- Emphasise the role of any non-academic organisations in the training and their impact
- Including secondments is highly recommended to increase impact
- Think about links to ECTS, EDCl etc - European approach to micro-credentials
- What other training programmes are you apart of that the DN can take advantage of – Erasmus+. EIT, UKRI DC

Quality of the supervision

- Qualifications of supervisor(s) (Numbers of previously supervised fellows, of post-docs mentored etc)
- Reference European Charter for Researchers
- Include details of joint supervision - mandatory for Industrial and Joint doctorates;
- Clear and well structured supervisory plan
- Clear role of the supervisory board
- Gender balance
- How will they complement each other
- Who will be responsible for what aspects

Section 2 Impact

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

- Meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral/research training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field
- What is their role in the programme and how does it enhance it to be world leading?
- What can the programme offer that other programmes don't or can't?
- Make sure the innovative aspects that the non-academic partners bring are emphasised
- Make it clear what the sustainable elements of doctoral programmes are after the end of the DN funding

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

- Explain the impact of the research and training on the Fellows' careers
- Link research training, transferable skill development and exposure to different sectors
- Think about how the research programme fits into higher level EU policies:
- European Charter for Researchers, Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, MSCA Guidelines for Supervision

Section 2 Impact

Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

- Horizon Europe obligations to make publications and research data open access
- How will the results be disseminated, which repositories, etc.?
- Data Management Plan
- Plans for Exploitation of results and intellectual property
- Think how, what form of protection, when?
- [IPR Helpdesk for MSCA Fact Sheet](#)
- Describe the dissemination, exploitation and communication measures that are planned, the target group
- Detail the project's plans for communication of research findings
- Does the project have communication and public engagement strategy? – hint, they probably should!
- Who are the appropriate audiences for these activities?
- What are the appropriate means for these activities?
- [Communicating EU R&I Guidance for Project Participants](#)

The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts (project's pathways towards impact)

- Explaining how the project's results are expected to make a difference in terms of impact, beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project
- Scientific, Economic and Society impact (as appropriate)

Section 3 Implementation

Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

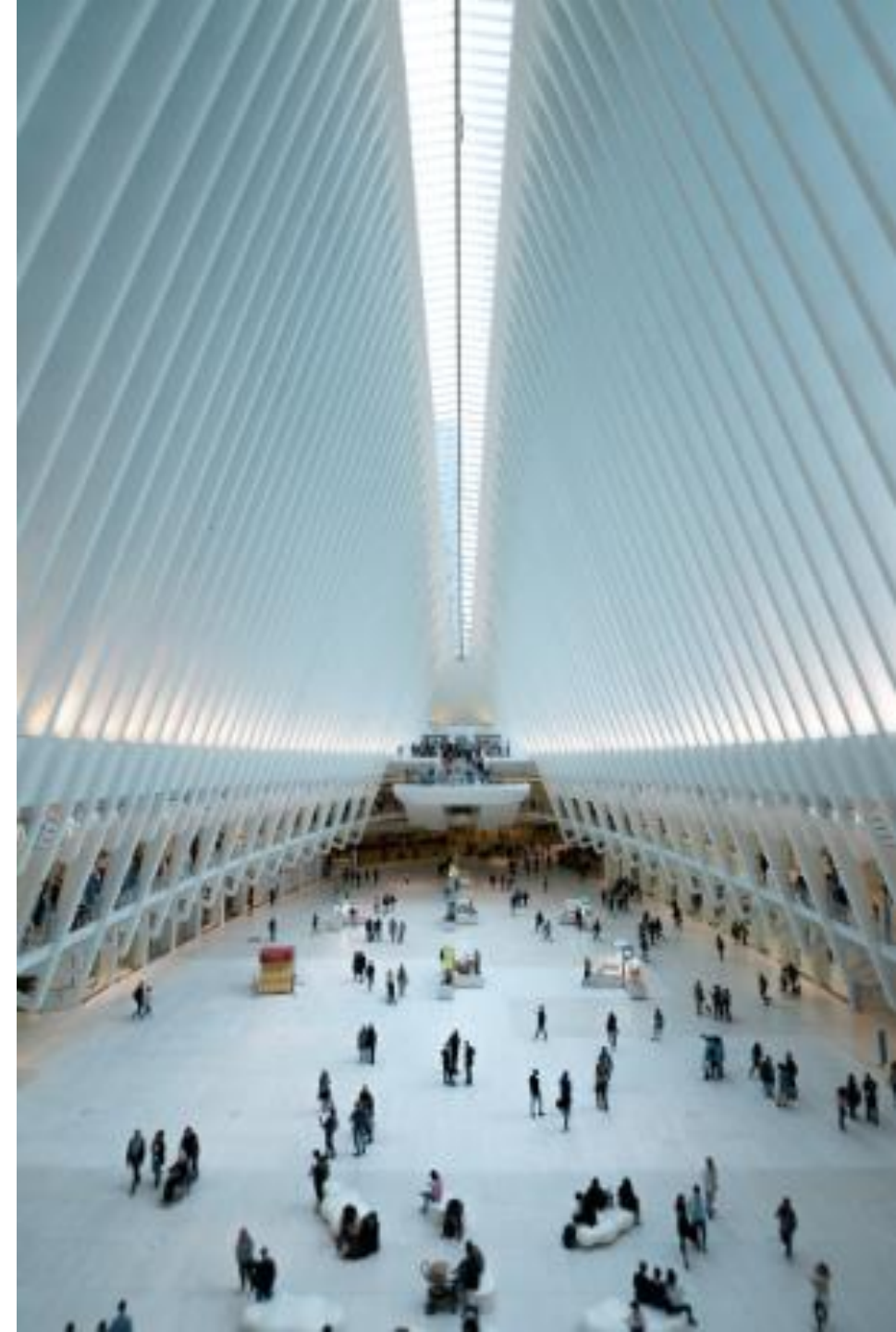
- Clear, Concise, Achievable Work Packages
- Research, Management, Training, Dissemination and Communication
- List of major deliverables and major milestones
- Risk assessment and mitigation
- Work Packages should reflect the research objectives
- Number of deliverables must be reasonable – scientific, management, training, recruitment, dissemination
- Clear details on recruitment process

Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise

- Explain the appropriateness of the infrastructure and capacity of each participating organisation against project needs
- Contributions of participating organisations with justification – why this consortium is best placed to deliver
- Synergies between all partners – added value of working together
- How they complement and enhance each others activities
- Exposure to different sectors or working outside ‘comfort zones’:
- Developing transferable skills (of benefit to industry)
- Justification for funding for non-associated third countries (if applicable)
- Demonstrate complementarity across the network in terms of compatibility and coherence between tasks
- Explain the level of commitment of the organisations involved – particularly non-academic sector
- Info on Associated partners should be consistent with letter of commitment

Section 4 – Network Organisation

- Demonstrate tasks for each participating organisation and appropriateness
- Involvement of HR or Finance support in institutions?
- What do the organisations have to offer: Laboratories/Office Space, Technical expertise, Workshops, Other facilities
- Refer to the European Charter for Researchers and institutional endorsement
- [‘HR Strategy for Research \(HRS4R\)’ award](#) - demonstrates competence for recruiting and hosting
- Explain who will be responsible for what and when will they do it:
 - Network organisation and management structure/supervisory board
 - Admission, selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures
 - Risk management at consortium level
 - IPR, Gender, Open Access, Data Management etc.
- Clear decision making and conflict resolution strategies
- Clear progress monitoring provisions



Section 5 Environmental aspects in light of the MSCA Green Charter

[MSCA Green Charter](#) is a set of guiding principles that aim to raise awareness, encourage best practice, empower fellows

- How will the project reduce its the carbon footprint?
- How will the project increase the awareness on environmental issues, promote sustainable behaviours and policies?
 - Of the recruited researchers and organizations involved
- What do the institutions already do that will be capitalized on the project?
- How will the project adhere to the MSCA Green Charter during implementation
- Directly link to research and training



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<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2bfbb0d9-9b3c-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>



Key Considerations for Sections 6 and 7

Operational capacity of the organisations

- Use tables to present factual information
- Profile of key staff, description of key infrastructure or technical equipment,
- Partner organisations contributing towards the proposed work
- Different information for Beneficiary and Partner
- If requested in Part A – be consistent

Letters of Commitment

- From Partner Organisations - On headed paper and signed with individual with appropriate authority
- Basic template provided
- Included in part B2 Section 5
- Must be signed by an authorised person, scanned and included in section B.5
- Lack of a letter can be deemed ineligible

Letters of Pre-Agreement

- For DN JD
- Signed by an authorised legal representative
- Offer reasonable assurance regarding the commitment to award the joint, double or multiple doctoral degree(s)
- Basic template provided
- Included in part B2
- Lack of a letter can be deemed ineligible

Final Thoughts - Ask Yourself

- ❖ Why does the EU/AC need a cohort of researchers training in this particular research area
- ❖ Where could the researchers end up working
- ❖ How can we design an DN to ensure that these researchers are employable in these areas
- ❖ How will this DN contribute to structuring research and doctoral training in EU/AC
- ❖ REMEMBER - DN is not only a research project – training-through-research!
- ❖ Understand Goals and Expectations of the Beneficiaries and Associated Partners
- ❖ Consider relevant EU policy documents
- ❖ Fully appreciate the evaluation criteria



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Evaluators
comments

Examples from ESR



Evaluator Comments – Excellence

Strengths

- 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 partners interact in actively. The roles of the non-academic partners are well-integrated.

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 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.



Evaluator Comments – Impact

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 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.

Weaknesses

- The impact of the programme on the fellows' careers beyond the research field is not guaranteed.
- The relevance of complementary skills to enhance careers 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.
- Outreach activities towards general public described, but relevance is not clearly discussed.



Evaluator Comments – 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 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.

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
- The timing in the work plan is not convincing
- 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 this is not clearly explained.
- The scientific milestones and their means of verification are not sufficiently defined.



Insights from an NCP - Training the next generation of researchers

Institutions need to be clear on the what they have to offer

Make sure all partners are fully integrated and necessity is clear

Clear expectations – level of involvement, financial contributions etc.

Be explicit and offer concrete examples

Sustainability of the collaboration

Level of Ambition – needs to be ambitious, but realistic

Institution/supervisor give continuous support during the fellowship

Be clear on use of research, training and networking costs

Remember the Fellows are employees

Have contingences in case of issues between ESR and supervisor

Clarity of PhD length (beyond 36 months) and funding for extra time



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Proposal Advice

Key points

- Read all call documentation and the evaluation criteria
- Consider any relevant EU policy documents
- Make it easy for the evaluators to find the information
- Evaluators will be experts, but not necessarily in your exact area
- Use clear and concise language
- Explain country/research area specific jargon
- Include diagrams, images, tables if appropriate
- Meet your consortium partners (virtual or otherwise)
- Set clear expectations
- Be clear on any budget redistribution (in GA?)
- Research previous and current projects
- Find colleagues to proof read drafts with the evaluation criteria
- The proposal will take time to write

Additional Resources

UKRO Portal <https://www.ukro.ac.uk/>

MSCA – How to Apply

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/horizon-europe-msca-how-apply_en#ecl-inpage-291

Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

Horizon Europe Strategic Plan <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/3c6ffd74-8ac3-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1>

Horizon Europe Programme Guide https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

Open Science Resources [OpenScience.eu](https://www.openscience.eu/), [Open Science](https://www.openscience.eu/en/open-science), [How to evaluate open science in Horizon Europe Proposals](https://www.openscience.eu/en/how-to-evaluate-open-science-in-horizon-europe-proposals)

Gender in Research Resources [Genderaction.eu](https://www.genderaction.eu/), [Gendered Innovations](https://www.genderaction.eu/en/gendered-innovations), [Gender in Research](https://www.genderaction.eu/en/gender-in-research)



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The Call Timeline

[MSCA Doctoral Networks 2022 \(HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01\)](#)

Action	Date
Invitation to Submit Proposal	12 May 2022
Deadline for Submission	15 November 2022 17:00 Brussels Time
Evaluation of Proposals	November – January 2022
Information on Outcome of Evaluations	March-April 2023
Indicative Date for Signing the Grant Agreement	May- July 2023



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***Make sure things are ready in good time and
submitted well ahead of the deadline!***



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Thank you

Questions?



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