European Commission

#HorizonEU

HORIZON EUROPE

**THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME**

2021 – 2027

MSCA Doctoral Networks
Infoday Presentation UK Research Office
Thomas Vyzikas

13 June 2023

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

This presentation is based on the conditions and requirements of the MSCA DN 2023 call, as set out in the Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023.

Content

1. MSCA Work Programme

2. MSCA Doctoral Networks

3. Eligibility rules

4. Funding mechanism

5. Evaluation criteria

6. Resources

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European Commission

MSCA: A world reference for research and training

Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stages of career)

Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)

International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility

Attractive working and employment conditions

Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes

Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs

European Commission

The MSCA in Horizon Europe

Pillar 1
Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3
Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

MSCA in HE: Total Budget of € 6.6 billion

European Commission

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

1 Doctoral Networks

Doctoral programmes in and outside academia including joint & industrial doctorates

2023: 435 M€, DL 28/11/2023

2 Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

2023: 260 M€, DL 13/09/2023

3 Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

2023: 79 M€, DL 28/02/2024

4 COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

2023: 97 M€, DL 08/02/2024

5 MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

2023: 15 M€, DL 25/10/2023

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MSCA programme in H2020

MSCA ITN:
- ✓ **Train** a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative researchers
- ✓ Turn ideas into products and services for the **economic and social benefit**

Benefits for researcher
- ✓ **Transferable** competences
- ✓ International + Intersectorial + Interdisciplinary
- ✓ **Career** perspectives
- ✓ **Innovation-oriented** mindset

Further simplification in H2020

- ✓ 25 year anniversary
- ✓ 145 000 researchers
- ✓ 1 100 doctoral programmes
- ✓ 12 Nobel Laureates
- ✓ Managed by REA

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What are Doctoral Networks ?

One consortium (Universities, research centres, industries, SMEs)…

…which proposes an overall coherent research project…

…and a number of interlinked individual PhD research projects…

…for Doctoral Candidates that they will recruit in the future.

Why - MSCA Programme Policy Context

Refer to the introduction of the [Work Programme](#):

> The European Union needs a strong, resilient, flexible and creative human resource base, with the right combination of skills to match the future needs of the labour market, to innovate and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit.

The MSCA do not only have a positive impact on individual researchers, they also contribute to the development of **excellent doctoral programmes, postdoctoral training programmes and collaborative research projects**. They have a **structuring impact** on higher education institutions and other entities way beyond academia by widely spreading excellence and setting standards for high-quality researcher education and training, not only across the European Research Area (ERA), but also worldwide. Positive structuring effects on organisations include:

> The MSCA strongly contribute to excellent research, boosting jobs, growth and investment by equipping researchers with **new knowledge and skills** and providing them with **an international as well as inter-sectoral exposure** (including through academia-business collaboration**)**, to fill the top positions of tomorrow.

The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted once more the importance of the Union's reliance on **a highly skilled research-based human capital** that is able to detect and tackle upcoming challenges, to communicate scientific evidence to policy-makers and the public at large, and to work across disciplines.

Policy agenda for [European Research Area](#) and [European Education Area](#)

MSCA DN Programme Expected Outcomes

Benefits for both **Doctoral Candidates** and **Participating Organisations**

Doctoral Candidates:

- Train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative doctoral candidates to

  - Face current and future challenges

  - Convert knowledge and ideas into products and services

  - Achieve sustainable economic and social benefit

- Offer research and training relevant for **enhanced career prospects** and **long-term employability** through:

  - Individual research projects, **research-related and transferable skills training**, inter-sectoral secondments, **career development plan,** appropriate supervision, **international mobility** etc

MSCA DN Programme Expected Outcomes

Benefits for both **Doctoral Candidates** and **Participating Organisations**

Participating organisations:

- **Talent:** Recruitment of EU funded excellent doctoral candidates

- **Network**: Enhanced cooperation and knowledge transfer between sectors and disciplines

- **Capacity**: strengthening Research and Innovation capacity

- **Enhanced training programmes**: improved quality, relevance, and sustainability of doctoral training programmes.

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MSCA DN Programme Expected Impacts for Europe

- Strengthen Europe's human capital by training **highly-skilled doctoral candidates**

- Improve the **attractiveness** of researchers' careers through **better employment conditions**

- Enhance **talent and knowledge circulation** across the R&I landscape, through **inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary and international mobility**

- Increase **Europe's attractiveness** as a leading research destination

- Enhance R&I quality, contributing to **sustainable competitiveness**

- Establish sustainable **collaboration** between organisations and sectors

- Foster the culture of **open science, innovation and entrepreneurship**

Strengthening the European Research Area

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Doctoral Networks – a bottom-up scheme

8 panels

Chemistry (CHE)	**Economics (ECO)**	**Engineering (ENG)**	**Environment (ENV)**
Life Sciences (LIF)	**Mathematics (MAT)**	**Physics (PHY)**	**Social sciences (SOC)**

Doctoral Networks – Modes of implementation

3 modes

DN

Doctoral Networks

Participants implement a joint research programme

DN-ID

Doctoral networks Industrial Doctorates

Doctoral training with the non-academic sector

DN-JD

Doctoral Networks Joint Doctorates

Doctoral programme to deliver joint degrees

All 3 modes compete within the same budget line in scientific panels

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Important definitions

- **Joint/double/multiple PhD degree**

- **Academic vs Non-Academic sectors**

- **Participant types**

Joint Doctorate – Degrees

Joint degree: single diploma issued by at least 2 academic institutions located in 2 different countries and recognised officially
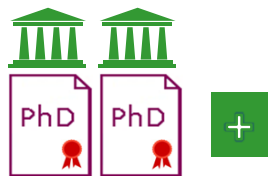
Double/multiple degree: 2 or more separate national diplomas issued by two or more higher education institutions located in different countries and recognised officially

Letters of pre-agreement to deliver joint/double doctoral degrees are mandatory in the proposal

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Doctoral Networks – Academic / non-academic sectors

Academic sector

- ✓ public or private higher education establishments

- ✓ public or private non-profit research organisations

- ✓ International European Research Organisations

Non-academic sector

- ✓ any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector

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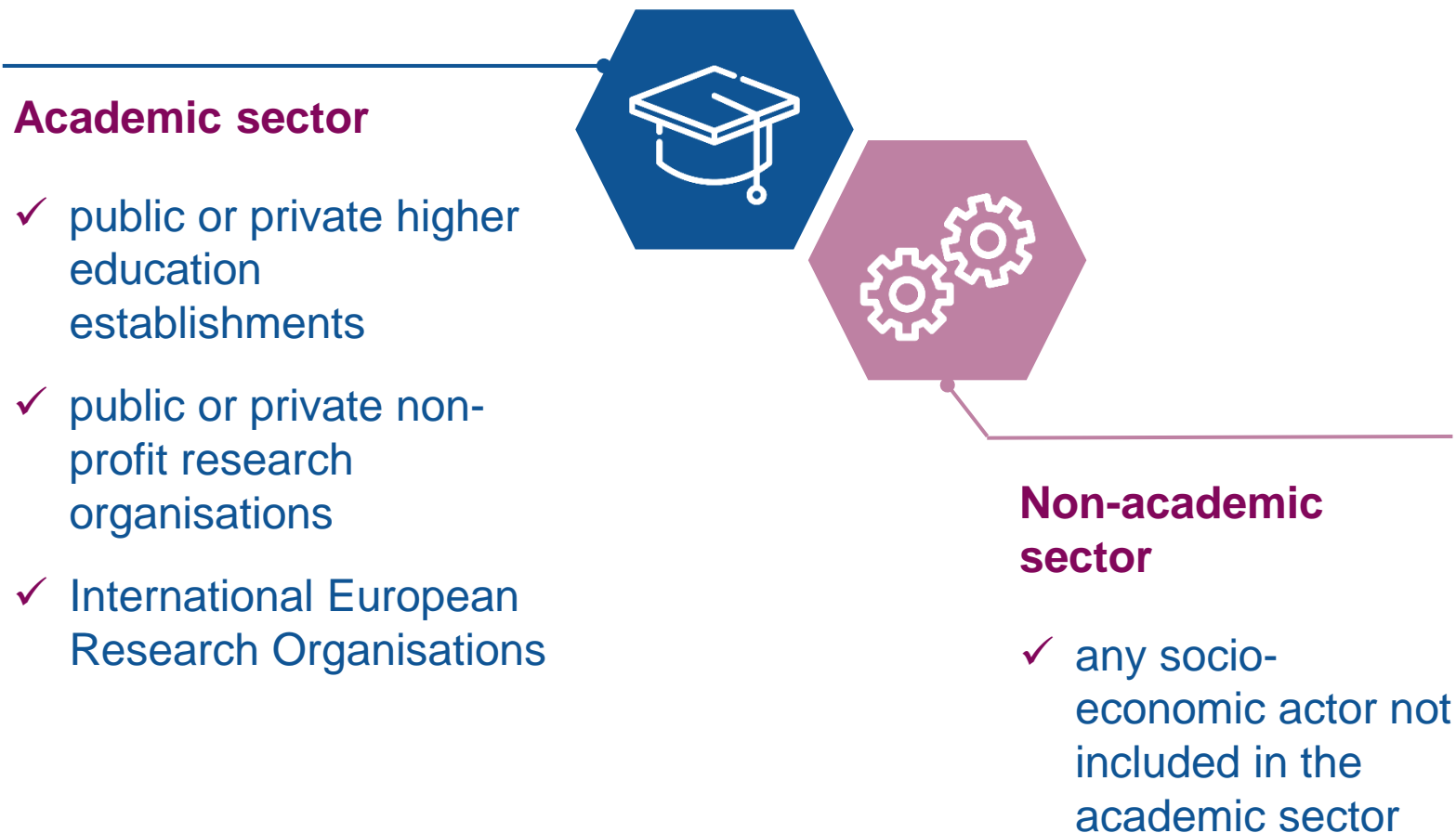
Doctoral Networks – Participant Types

	Beneficiaries	Associated Partners
Academic/Non-academic	✔️	✔️
Signatories of the Grant Agreement	✔️	✖️
Recruitment of researchers	✔️	✖️
Training and/or hosting of seconded researchers	✔️	✔️
Participation in Supervisory Board	✔️	✔️
Directly claim costs	✔️	✖️

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Doctoral Networks – Eligible Participants

- **Who can apply?**
  - Any Legal Entity from anywhere in the world
  - But not all applicants are automatically eligible for funding

- **Consortia** of:
  - Universities, research institutions and research infrastructures
  - Businesses including SMEs
  - Other socio-economic actors

- No minimum / maximum number of **Associated Partners**

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Doctoral Networks – Eligible Consortia

At least **3 independent legal entities**:

- Each from a different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Country

- Minimum 1 beneficiary from an EU Member State

Doctoral Networks – Eligible Countries

EU Member State (MS): 27 countries / overseas territories

Associated Country(AC): Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine
Morocco*, New-Zealand**, United Kingdom*

<u>Note</u>: Switzerland is **not** an associated country

Third Country (TC): any other country (n.b. Annex A list of countries that can receive funding)

In case of doubt, please consult the <u>HE programme guide</u>

Doctoral Networks – Eligible Countries

EU COUNTRIES

- Member States (MS) including their outermost regions

- The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the MS.

NON-EU COUNTRIES

- Countries associated to Horizon Europe (AC)

- Low and middle income countries: See HE Programme Guide.

- Other countries when announced in the call or exceptionally if their participation is essential

SPECIFIC CASES

- Affiliated entities established in countries eligible for funding.

- EU bodies

- International organisations (IO):

  - International European research organisations are eligible for funding.

  - **Other IO are not eligible (only exceptionally if participation is essential)**

  - **IO in a MS or AC are eligible for funding for Training and mobility actions and when announced in the call conditions**

Doctoral Network – Example consortium

Beneficiaries

Associated partners
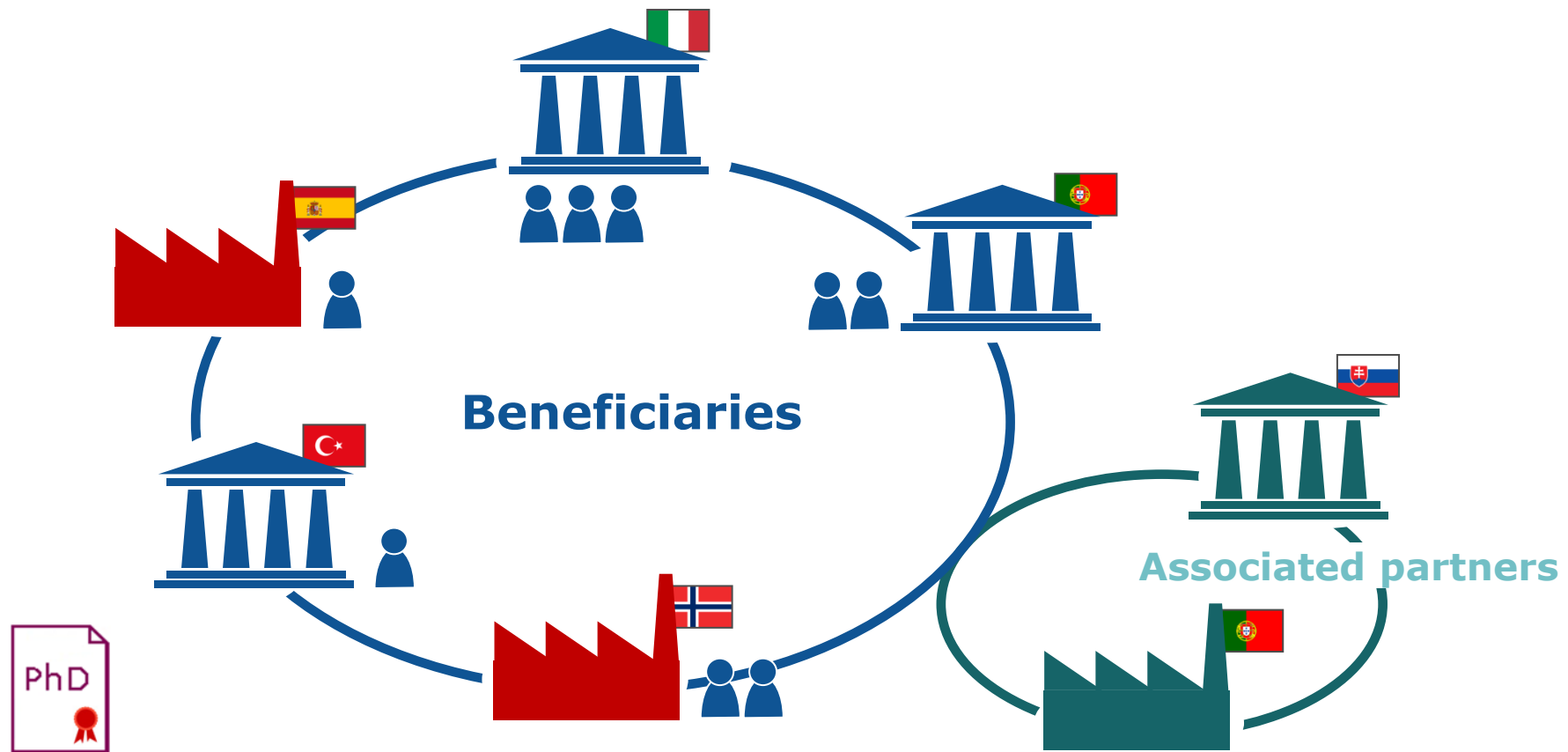
Industrial Doctorate – Example consortium

NON ACADEMIC SECTOR

≥ 50% time for each Doctoral Candidate

Beneficiaries

Associated partners

PhD

European Commission

Joint Doctorate – Example consortium

Beneficiaries

Associated partners
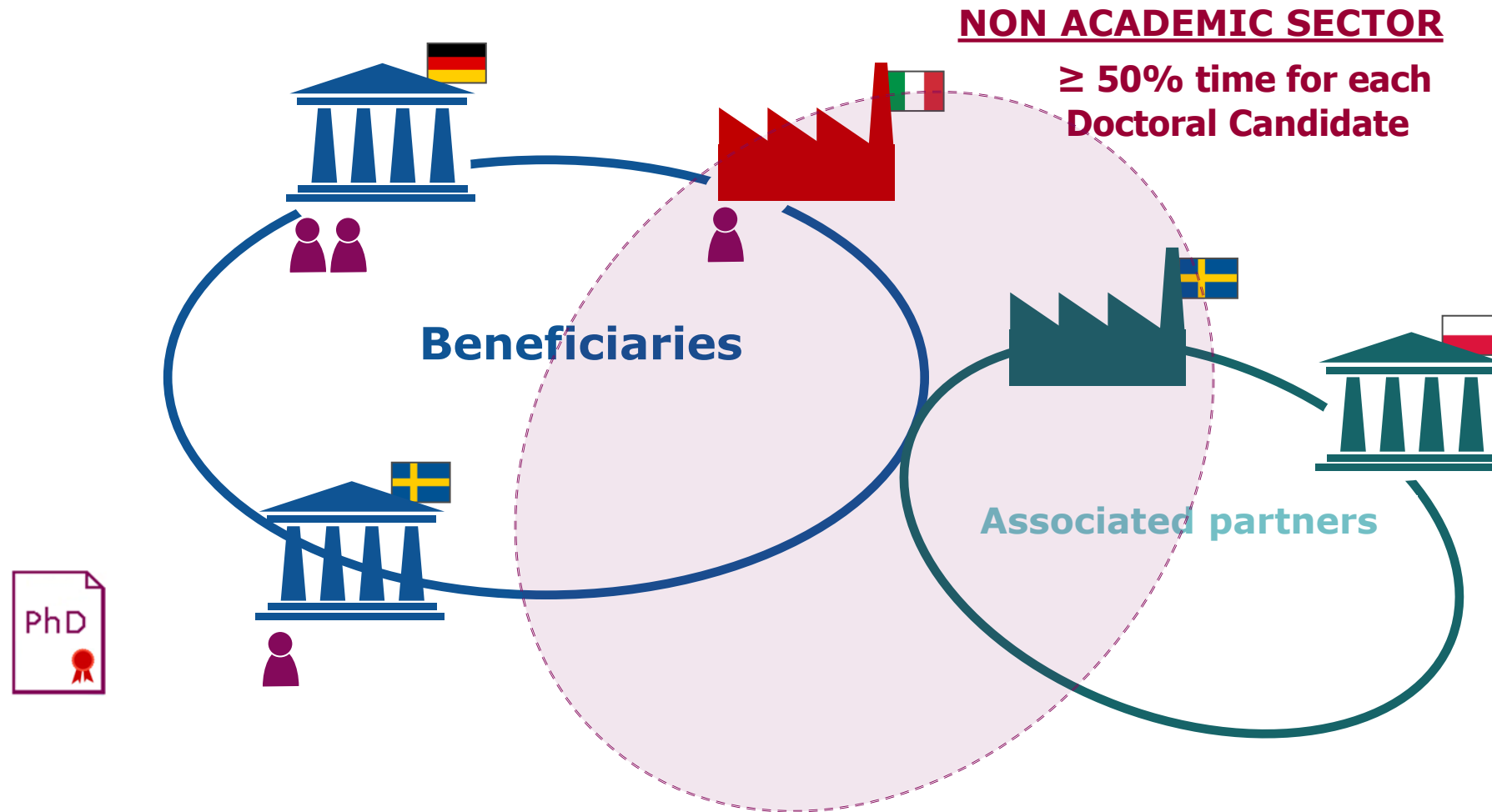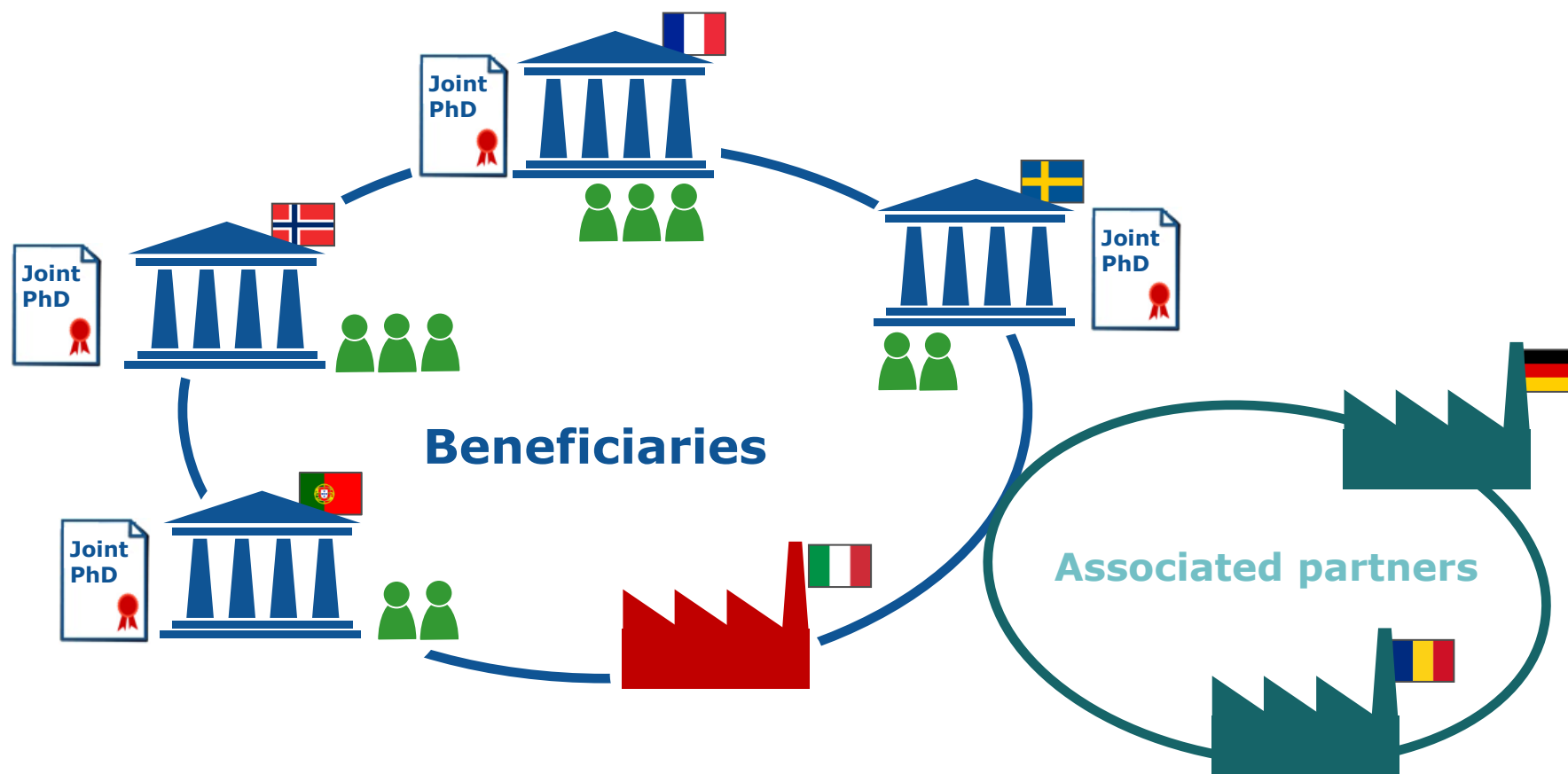
Doctoral Networks – Eligible Size and Duration

Size:

➢ **Up to 540 person-months for all modes**

Duration:

➢ **Proposal**: max. 48 months for DN and DN-ID; incentive for DN-JD **60 months!**

➢ **Fellowship**: 3 to 36 months for DN and DN-ID; incentive for DN-JD **48 months!**

➢ **Secondments**: worldwide, any sectors, up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration for Standard DN; incentive for DN-ID and DN-JD **no secondment limitation!**

Doctoral Networks – Other Eligibility Conditions

- **All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate.** They are required to host at their premises and supervise recruited researchers, or use associated partners linked to them to do so

- **Not more than 40.0% of the EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country** or to a single international organisation.

- **Specific eligibility conditions for Industrial and Joint Doctorates**

- **!** Re-submission restrictions for proposals scoring below 80% in Call 2022

Doctoral Networks – Mode specificities

- **Industrial doctorates (DN – ID)**:
  - At least 50% in non-academic sector (can be same country as academic host organisation); non-academic sector as beneficiary or AP
  - Academic and non-academic organisations **jointly supervise**

- **Joint doctorates (DN – JD)**:
  - Enrolment in joint/double/multiple PhD (delivered by entities from min. 2 MS/AC)
  - Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
  - Letters of pre-agreement to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)

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Summary

	DN (Standard)	DN-ID (Industrial)	DN-JD (Joint)
Consortium	Minimum 3 entities from 3 different EU MS/AC (Min 1 from MS)		
			Min. 3 PhD awarding (2 from MS/AC)
	Associated partners from any sector/country		
Researcher	PhD enrolment mandatory in min 1 MS/AC		
		50% in non-academic	Joint/double/multiple PhD min 2 MS/AC
Duration	Network max duration 48 months		Max 60 months
	Doctoral candidates funded for max 36 months		Max 48 months
Secondments	Maximum 1/3 fellowship duration	No limitation on secondment duration	

Doctoral Networks – Eligible Researchers

- Researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment)

- Be recruited following an **open, merit-based and transparent recruitment**

- Researchers must be **enrolled in a doctoral programme**, <u>in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country (at least 2 for Joint Doctorates)</u>

- **Any nationality**

- **Mobility rule**: must not have **resided or carried out main activity** in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date.
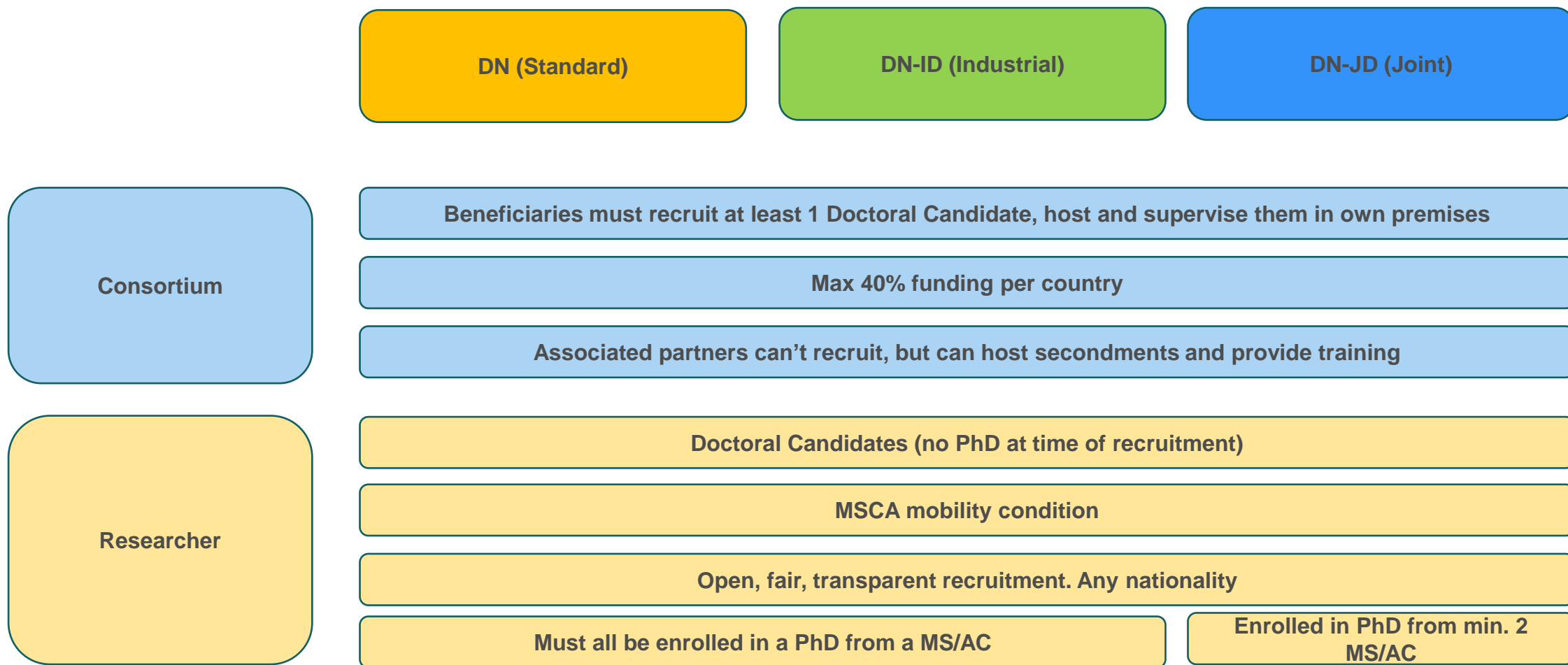
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Summary

| DN (Standard) | DN-ID (Industrial) | DN-JD (Joint) |

Consortium

Beneficiaries must recruit at least 1 Doctoral Candidate, host and supervise them in own premises

Max 40% funding per country

Associated partners can't recruit, but can host secondments and provide training

Researcher

Doctoral Candidates (no PhD at time of recruitment)

MSCA mobility condition

Open, fair, transparent recruitment. Any nationality

Must all be enrolled in a PhD from a MS/AC

Enrolled in PhD from min. 2 MS/AC

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Doctoral Networks – Funding mechanism

Simplified Approach

- **1 unit cost** = 1 person-month of each eligible researcher
- 100% Reimbursement rate for eligible beneficiaries
- Different cost categories
  - Researcher's cost
  - Institutional costs (research, training, networking + management)

Doctoral Networks – Funding

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month					Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Living allowance	**Mobility allowance**	**Family allowance**** (if applicable)	**Long-term leave allowance** (if applicable)	**Special needs allowance**[1] (if applicable)	**Research, training and networking contribution**	**Management and indirect contribution**
EUR 3400*	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 4000 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit[1] x (1/number of months)	EUR 1600	EUR 1200

*A country correction coefficient applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers
** A family allowance to contribute to mobility-related costs of researchers with family obligations which can be granted during the project.

[1] The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

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Overview of Evaluation Process

Proposal ———— **Eligible proposal**

Expert   Expert   Expert ———— **Minimum 3 experts***

Individual Evaluation Report   Individual Evaluation Report   Individual Evaluation Report ———— **Individual evaluation**

Consensus group ———— **Consensus**

Consensus Report

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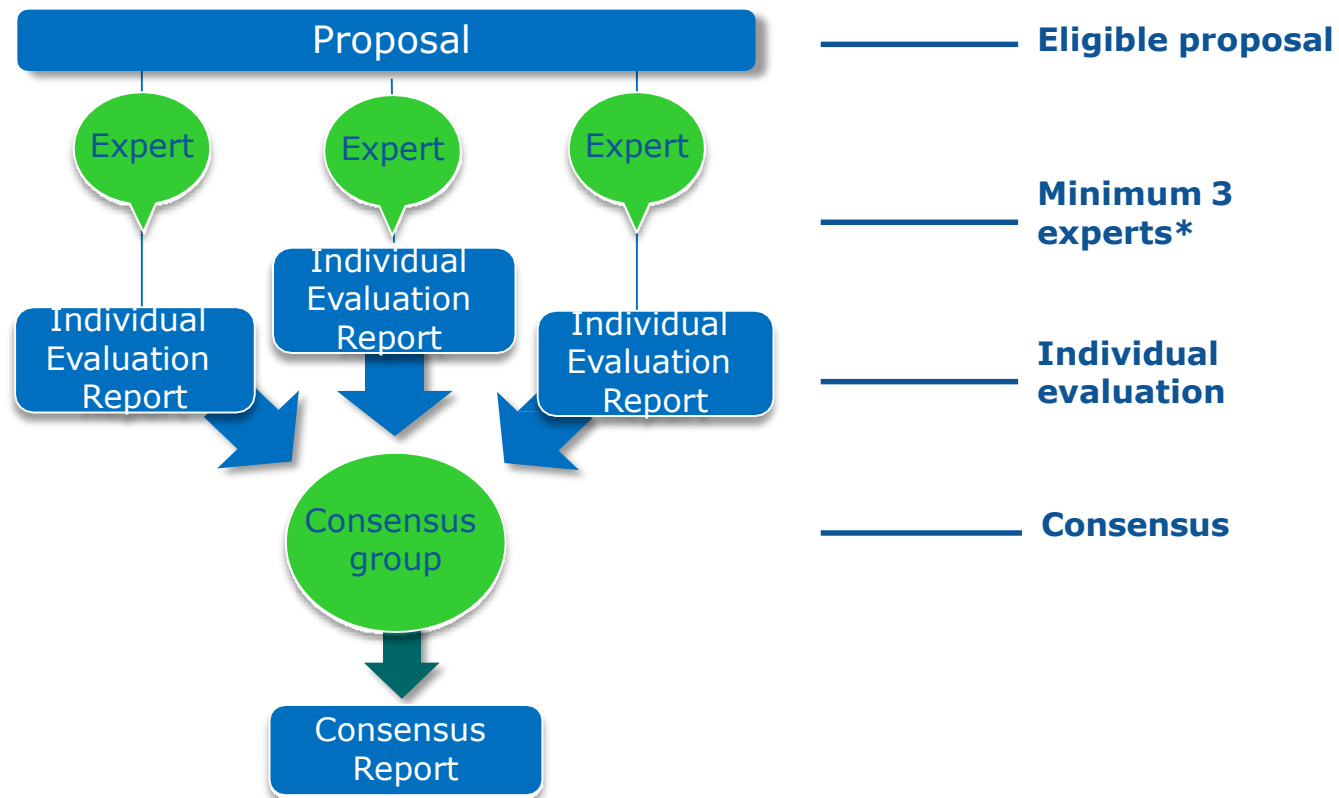
Doctoral Networks – Award Criteria

Criteria	Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Sub-criteria	Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives	Contribution to structuring doctoral training at European level and strengthening European innovation capacity	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
	Soundness of the proposed methodology	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives of researchers and contribution to their skills development	Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
	Quality and credibility of the training programme	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	
	Quality of the supervision	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts	
Weighting	**50%**	**30%**	**20%**
Priority	**1**	**2**	**3**

Doctoral Networks – How to apply?

Useful documents

- MSCA Work Programme

- Horizon Europe annexes

- Guide for Applicants

- Proposal templates

- Frequently Asked Questions

**Part A
(structured data)**
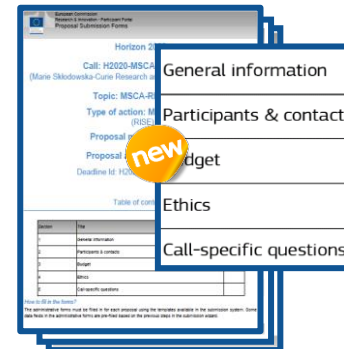
**Part B
(description of action)**

Part B1: 30 page
Part B2: no limit

Doctoral Networks – Proposal preparation

- Read the MSCA Work Programme and Guidance documents

- Use the proposal template   **New**

- Read carefully the evaluation form

- Don't underestimate any part of the proposal

- Write each section clearly and in coherence with all sections in the proposal

- Perform an 'internal' peer-review with your consortium partners

- Consult your National Contact Points

- Duly complete Part A

- Start preparing early and don't leave submission for the last minute

Think like an evaluator + Write for an evaluator

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Doctoral Networks – Resources

Useful links

Funding and Tenders opportunities (Work Programme, applications, documents, partner search)
TOPIC ID: HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01-01

MSCA website

European Research Executive Agency website

MSCA in Horizon Europe Info Days

MSCA Guidelines on Supervision

MSCA Green Charter

Code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers

Do you have questions?

Ask advice to your MSCA/EU **National Contact Point**

Ask your questions about EU funding, validation of participants, and others to the **Research Enquiry Service**

European Commission

Reminder: DN 2023 Call Info Event – 14 June

COMING SOON

Horizon Europe - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks 2023 - Call Information event

📅 14 June 2023

🕐 09:30 (GMT+02:00)

Do not forget to register to the event:

[Events | The research and innovation community platform (europa.eu)](#)

You can already submit your questions via Slido #DN2023

Work as an EC expert

Thank you

"YOU CANNOT HOPE TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD WITHOUT IMPROVING THE INDIVIDUALS."

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE

Thomas Vyzikas – MSCA Doctoral Networks

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