



UK Research Office
Brussels

mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk

3 July 2024

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Doctoral Networks 2024

**Information For Applicants: Submission
Evaluation and Proposal Development**

Agenda

1. Welcome

Introduction to UKRO and UK Relationship to EU

2. MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024

Submission and evaluation process, and practical considerations for proposal development

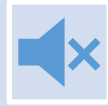
4. Question and Answer



UK Research Office
Brussels



Housekeeping



All participants will be muted for the duration of the webinar.



A chat function is available and will be monitored.



The session is being **recorded**.



Please use the Q&A function to submit questions.

About UKRO

We support UK research intensive organisations maximise their participation in EU R&I

- Maximise UK participation in Horizon Europe
- Provide a service to around 140 subscribers
- A Brussels and UK-based team of advisors
- Part of UKRI's wider International team
- UK National Contact Point for:
 - [European Research Council](#)
 - [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programmes](#)
 - [European Cooperation in Science and Technology](#) (COST)
 - [Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area](#) (WIDERA)



Unlock the power of the UKRO portal

<https://www.ukro.ac.uk/mariecurie/>

Sign up for MSCA news delivered to your inbox

Register for an event

Find out more about MSCA funding opportunities

Contact the UK MSCA National Contact Point
mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk



UK Research Office
Brussels



The UK's Relationship with the EU

Participation in Horizon Europe



Horizon Europe participation

- On 24 December 2020, the negotiations on the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement concluded
- The [announcement](#) confirmed **the UK's intention to associate to Horizon Europe**
- **As of the 1 January 2024, the UK associated to the Horizon Europe programme**
- This includes **full participation in the programme** (except for the EIC Fund)
- UK entities can participate in/coordinate projects and receive funding from Horizon Europe, **incl. all MSC Actions**
- [European Commission's Q&A](#) confirms UK eligibility
- UKRO [website](#) provides latest information on UK participation



UK Research Office
Brussels

UK-EU TRADE AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Summary

December 2020

UK participation in Horizon Europe

All 2024 (and subsequent) MSCA Work Programme calls will be covered by the UK's association to Horizon Europe, with applicants receiving their funding directly from the European Commission.

They will be able to participate **as beneficiaries** with the same rights and obligations as EU MS, including the possibility to coordinate consortia.

“UK researchers will be able to fully participate in the Horizon Europe programme on the same terms as researchers from other associated countries, including leading consortia, from the 2024 Work Programmes and onwards – including any 2024 calls opening this year.”

Joint Statement by the European Commission and the UK Government,
7 September 2023.

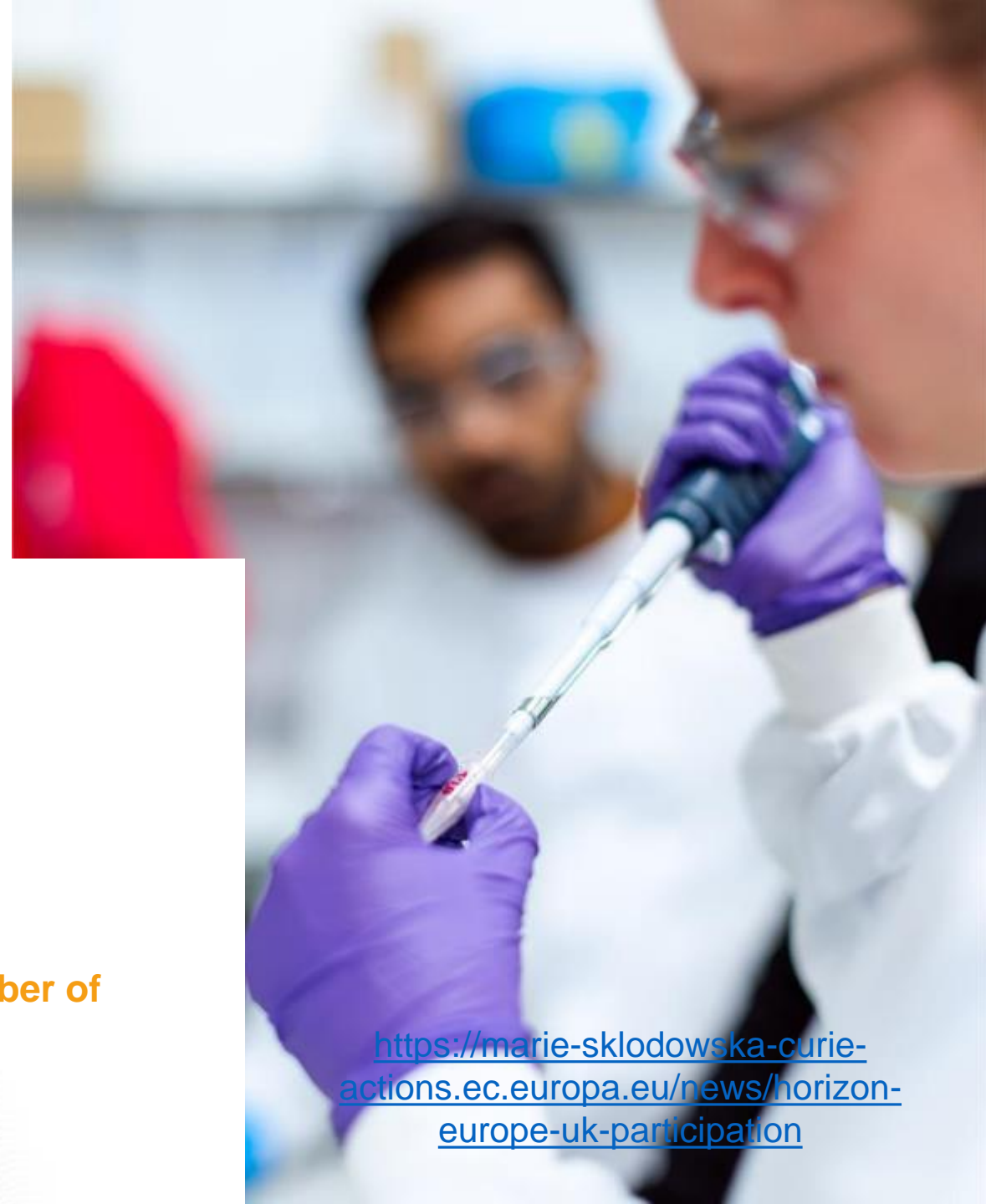


UK Research Office
Brussels

What Does this Mean for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions?

In MSCA Doctoral Networks, UK based organisations can:

- Participate as beneficiaries
- Coordinate projects
- Recruit doctoral candidates
- Can award PhDs
- Host secondments
- **Recruited doctoral candidates count toward the total number of person-months**



<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/horizon-europe-uk-participation>

MSCA Doctoral Networks: Recap

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01



Call Timeline

All information for a successful application can be found on the [MSCA 2024 DN Call Webpage](#)

Action	Date (tentative)
Call opening	29 May 2024
Deadline for Submission	27 November 2024, <u>17:00 CET.</u>
Notification of applicants if their proposal has been successful	~April 2025
Indicative Date for Signing the Grant Agreement	~July 2025
Project Start	~September 2025

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/msca-doctoral-networks_en



UK Research Office
Brussels

Submit Early, Submit Often!

Commission collects proposals at Deadline

MSCA Doctoral Network



A collaborative research project implemented through individual PhD projects.

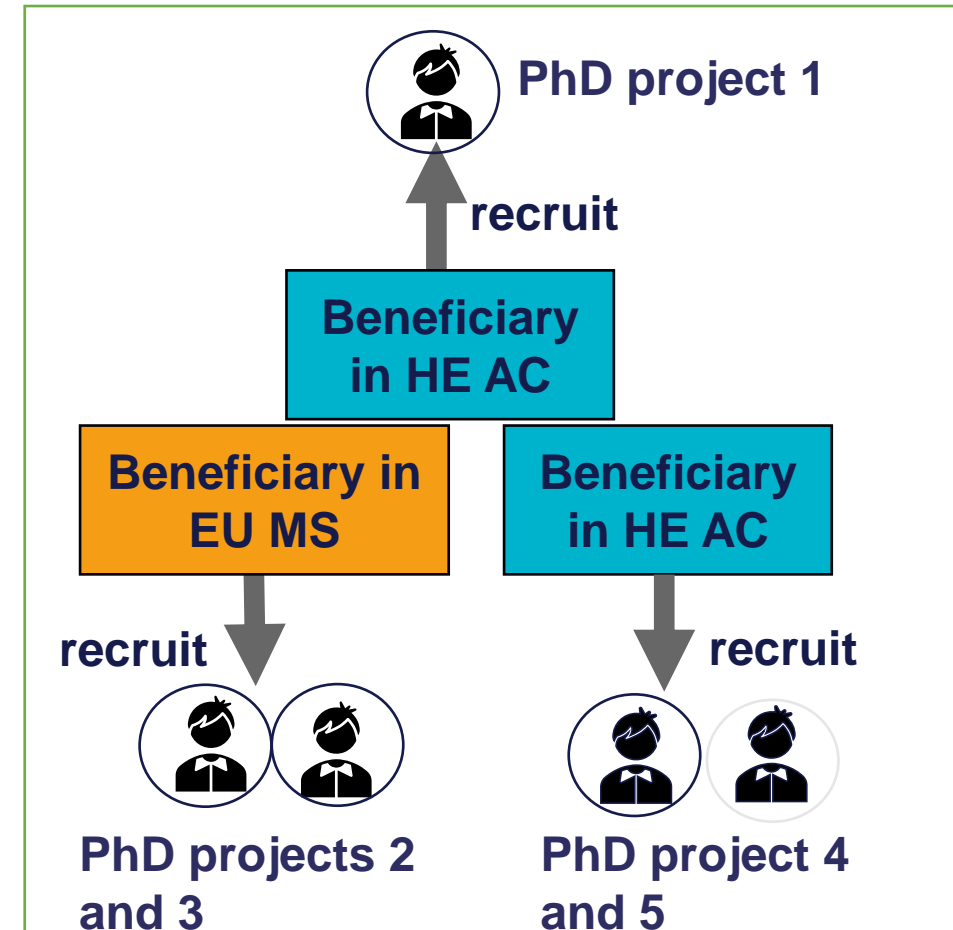
Networks (beneficiaries) recruit PhD students in order to fulfil the research outcomes of the consortia.



The consortia should be multidisciplinary, multisectoral and international



The aim is to train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates, while undertaking a shared research project



A collaborative research project implemented through individual PhD projects.

Three Types of Networks

Doctoral Network (DN)

Innovative doctoral training in academia and/or non academia

Standard duration of project = 48 months
Standard duration of PhD = 36 months)

Secondments limited to 1/3 duration of the fellowship

Industrial Doctorates (ID)

Develop skills in industry and business by being jointly supervised by the academic and non-academic organisations

50% of fellowship duration in the non academic sector and mandatory joint supervision from both sectors

Standard duration of project = 48 months
Standard duration of PhD = 36 months

No limit on secondment duration

Joint Doctorates (JD)

Integrated doctoral training leading to joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees and with the candidate selection and supervision jointly done by the degree awarding institutions

Researchers must be enrolled in a doctoral programme leading to delivery of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees, recognised in at least 1 EU MS/AC. Joint supervision mandatory

Standard duration of project = 60 months
Standard duration of PhD = 48 months

No limit on secondment duration



Doctoral Candidate (DC) - Eligibility Criteria

Often referred to as Early-Stage Researcher (ESR)

- Supported researchers must be a doctoral candidate (i.e. **not already in possession of a doctoral degree** at the date of the recruitment).
- ESR **must be recruited and enrolled in a doctoral programme** leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country
- Industrial Doctorates - ESR must spend minimum 50% of fellowship at non-academic partner
- Recruited researchers can be of **any nationality**
- Recruited researchers must comply with the **mobility rule**

Mobility rule

- They must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date.
- Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent by the researcher as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account.



UK Research Office
Brussels

Practical Matters

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01



Key Definitions

Beneficiaries

- Signatory to the Grant Agreement
- Full partner of the network
- Claims costs directly from the EC
- Contributes directly to the implementation of the joint training programme by recruiting, supervising, hosting and training ESRs
- Can also provide secondment opportunities
- Participate in the Supervisory Board

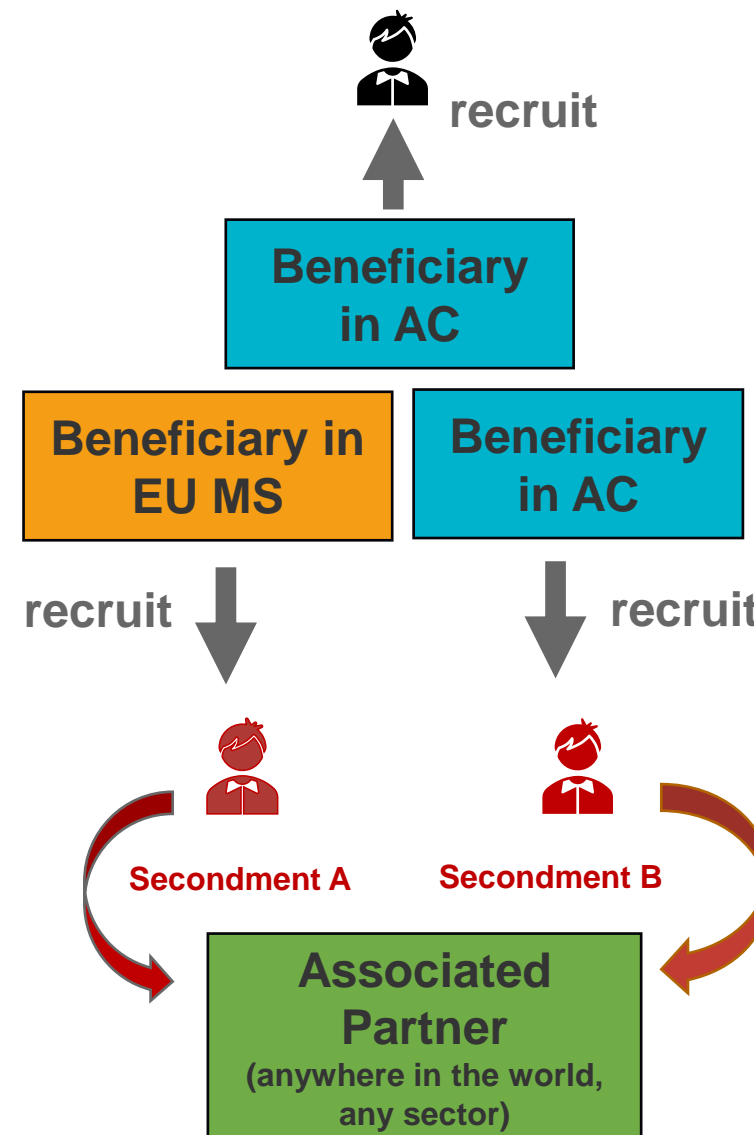
Associated Partner organisations

- Do not sign the Grant Agreement
- Do not recruit ESRs
- Do not claim costs directly (but through a beneficiary)
- Provide training opportunities and host DCs during secondments
- Participate in the Supervisory Board
- Do not need to provide a letter of commitment, but they must be clearly indicated in the proposal.
- Can be established anywhere in the world, and be from any sector



UK Research Office
Brussels

Collaborative Research Project



DC Working Time Commitment

Doctoral candidates are expected to work 100% of their time on the project activities

- Researchers may opt to work part-time for personal or family reasons
 - Requires approval from REA
- Requests can be made at any stage of the grant implementation
- Cannot be used to circumvent the mobility rule.
- Not included in the proposal
- Requested during implementation period
- The beneficiary should report costs as pro rata of the applicable full-time unit contributions.



UK Research Office
Brussels

Part-time working

Allowed:

- Personal or family reasons

Not Allowed:

- Professional reasons
- Participating in another MSCA award or another source of funding
- If it is circumventing the mobility rule
- If a suspension is more appropriate

Doctoral Networks - Secondments

“Training through Research”

Highly recommended to supplement and complement the training of DCs!

- During their secondment, researchers receive supervision and training at the premises of the receiving beneficiary or partner organisation.
- Must be detailed in the proposals – *please refer to proposal template*:
 - Percentage of time spent at secondment hosting institutions
 - Goals of secondments
- Secondment costs
 - Costs for secondments 6 months or less covered by institutional costs (**at least** travel, visa and accommodation).
 - Longer secondments can also be covered in this way, if necessary.



UK Research Office
Brussels

Secondments can take place anywhere in the world.

Secondments can take place in the academic and non-academic sectors.

Secondment duration:

Standard MSCA DN:

-Maximum 1/3 fellowship duration

MSCA DN-ID, MSCA-JD:

No limitation on secondment duration

The Budget

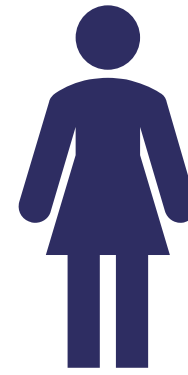
How the funding works

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01



Monthly Unit Costs

Maximum number of person-months you can request = 540



Monthly EC contributions per recruited Doctoral Candidate (“Person-month”)

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month					Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Living Allowance	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance*	Long-term Leave Allowance*	Special Needs Allowance*	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 4010	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 4720 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 600	EUR 1 200

* Only if applicable.



UK Research Office
Brussels

Contributions for the recruited researcher

Research & training costs

Costs for the host institution

ESR Unit Costs

Contributions for recruited researchers per person-month

Living Allowance*	Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance**
EUR 4010	EUR 710	EUR 660

*multiplied by the country correction coefficient (CCC)

** can be applied at any time (as and when needed)

UK CCC = 141,7%

Researcher Unit Costs (ESR allowances)

- Living allowance subject to Country Correction Coefficient - **141,7%% for the UK**. EC contribution = gross salary costs of the researcher
- If paid out together as salary, the living allowance, mobility allowance and (if applicable) family allowance is subject to compulsory deductions under national law (e.g. employer and employee social security contributions; direct taxes...)

Institutions are strongly advised to explain how the salary will be calculated

- UK institutions may apply a conservative exchange rate
 - Protects the institution and fellow from fluctuations
 - This usually leads to an underpayment, corrected at the end of the fellowship with a lump sum payment

ESR Unit Costs

Contributions for recruited researchers per person-month

Living
Allowance*

EUR 4010

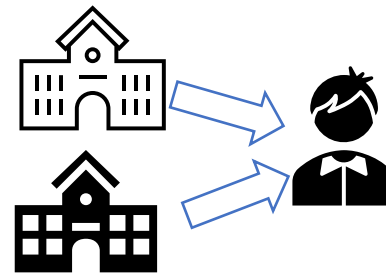
*multiplied by the country correction coefficient (CCC)

UK CCC = 141,7%

Industrial Doctoral and Joint Doctorates:

CCC needs to be considered when calculating the requested ESR unit costs for the living allowance

- ESR employed 100% by a beneficiary and sent to other beneficiaries or partner organisations
- When calculating the requested award, only **one country correction coefficient must be used**



- ESR recruited separately by each beneficiary for a specific duration
- When calculating the requested award, **different country correction coefficients for each stay must be used**

ESR Unit Costs

Contributions for recruited researchers per person-month

Mobility Allowance	Family Allowance**
EUR 710	EUR 660

** can be applied at any time (as and when needed)

Mobility Allowance

- covers costs related to the researcher's mobility (e.g. relating to travel and accommodation).
- It covers the private costs of the researcher

Family allowance

- For if the researcher has family obligations or acquires family obligations during the action duration
- Family obligations means persons linked to him/her by;
 - (i) marriage,
 - (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to marriage recognised by the legislation of the country/region where the relationship was formalised;
 - (iii) dependent children who are being maintained by the researcher

ESR Unit Costs

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month

** can be applied at any time (as and when needed)

Long-term Leave Allowance**	Special Needs Allowance**
EUR 4720x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)

Long-Term Leave allowance

- **Only when leave exceeds 30 days for reasons other than annual leave**
- contributes to the beneficiary's pay obligations related to researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave, longer than 30 consecutive days.
- All other allowances and contributions are set to '0'
- % covered by the beneficiary will depend on national legislation and internal policies

Special Needs Allowance

- Contributes to **the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities**
- Their participation in the action may not be possible without them
- These special needs items or services shall not / cannot have been funded from another source (e.g. social security or health insurance).
- Likely to be managed by the beneficiary and claimed according to internal policies

Institutional unit costs

Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 1 600	EUR 1 200

Research, Training and Networking costs (RTN)

- **Covers costs related to the research and innovation related activities of the project**
 - training and networking activities that contribute directly to the researcher's career development
 - professional costs of the researchers (travel expenses, visa costs, NHS surcharges, relocation costs related to starting the fellowship)
 - **costs for research expenses**
 - costs arising from optional secondments and placements
- Activities must contribute to the research and training programme
- **Managed by the host institution according to usual internal policies** e.g. travel / purchase policies

Institutional unit costs

Institutional unit contributions Per person-month

Management
and indirect
contribution

EUR 1 200

Management and Indirect Costs

- **Covers general costs of the host institution** connected to organising and implementing the fellowship - administrative/financial management, logistics, ethics, HR, legal advice, documentation etc. (otherwise known as **overhead costs**)
- Managed by beneficiaries according to usual policies.
- **Agreement in place to set out redistribution of funds to associated partners** (secondment hosts, placement hosts, research visit hosts)
- **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 – **always best to discuss the budget early.**



Secondment costs

Contributions for recruited researchers per person-month

The normal practice during secondments is for the recruited researchers to keep their contract with the sending (host) institution.

Institutional unit contributions Per person-month

Research, Training and Networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 1 600	EUR 1 200

Secondments in DN of six months or less which require mobility from the place of residence must be financed using the Research, Training and Networking contribution in order to prevent an unreasonable financial burden for the recruited researchers.

- at least the travel and accommodation costs.
- other costs: visa costs, subsistence costs....
- Longer secondments can also be supported in the same way.
- Costs that the secondment host incurs as part of the Action can be covered by the Management and Indirect Costs (agreement must be in place)

The 40% Rule

No more than 40.0% of the total EU financial contribution can be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country or to any one International European Research Organisation or International Organisation.

- **Concerns the total amount of the budget allocated to a country - not the number of person-months!**
- **Take the country correction coefficients into account** when calculating the budget!
- Proposals not complying with this condition will be considered ineligible.
- Must be followed **during project implementation!**



UK Research Office
Brussels

Tuition Fees

How will international tuition fees affect recruitment and implementation of the DN?

- It is up to institutions to determine the tuition fees charged
- For MSCA awards, guidance on tuition fees can be found in the document below:
 - https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/msca/funded-projects/how-to-manage/funded-projects/how-to-manage/general_documents/frequently_asked_questions_to_the_marie_curie_actions_financial_guidelines.pdf
- PhD Fellows should be treated on equivalent terms as staff members.
- **The PhD Fellow should under no circumstance be asked to use their researcher allowances to pay for tuition (or visa) fees.**
- **Visa fees are eligible costs under the Institutional Costs budget.**
- Practice varies by institution (e.g., waived, reduced or claimed fees)



UK Research Office
Brussels



Submission Process



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** – *only the latest version will be accepted*

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




UK Research Office
Brussels

Who is involved in the submission process?



Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal



European Commission

EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Home

Funding

Procurement

Projects & results

News & events

Work as an expert

Guidance & documents

Calls for proposals

Participant register

Partner search

EU programmes

Funding updates

Horizon4Ukraine

Discover the funding & tenders opportunities

Find out how to participate by following the steps below:

Find calls for proposals

Explore the available EU funding topics of interest, find partners and funding opportunities

View projects and results

Discover the EU funded projects and results

Filters

Quick search

Doctoral Netwo... X

Q

☒ Match whole words only

Calls for proposals

Calls for tenders

Partners

EU Funded projects

FAQs

Calls for Proposals

Programme Horizon Europe (HORIZON) X

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01 | Call for proposal

Opening date: 29 May 2024 | Next deadline: 27 November 2024 | Single-stage

Programme: Horizon Europe (HORIZON) | Type of action: HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks

[See all calls for proposals](#)

Calls for Tenders

[EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) | [EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)

Call Page on Funding & Tender Opportunities

Topic conditions and documents

General conditions

1. Admissibility conditions: described in [Annex A](#) and [Annex E](#) of the Horizon Europe Work Programme General Annexes

Proposal page limits and layout: described in Part B of the Application Form available in the Submission System...

▼ [Show more](#)

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 having an active public Person profile.

Start submission

The submission system is planned to be opened on the date stated on the topic header.



UK Research Office
Brussels

[EU Funding & Tenders Portal | EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)

Submission system

Call Information

Template

Support



UK Research Office
Brussels

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

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](tel:+3222992222)

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

Your proposal contains changes that have not yet been submitted.

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

[Upload](#)

Part B2

[Upload](#)

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

Part A
completed
online

Part B must be
uploaded as a
PDF

Adding Participants

Call Information

Template

Support



UK Research Office
Brussels

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
1 UKRI
UNITED KINGDOM RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
SWINDON, UK
PIC: 906446474
Change organisation Contact organisation
Contacts: 1 Add contact +
Branwen Hide - Main contact

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

The Application

Structured data is entered into the IT system

Acronym and title for the project (not the same)

Select the Scientific Area (i.e. panel) which is the “best fit”

Choose up to 5 “descriptors” which best characterise the content of the proposal, in descending order of relevance

First 3 descriptors should be linked to the selected panel, others unrestricted

Can add free keywords to give extra detail

[Useful FAQ - EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data-ref/h2020/other/call_ptef/pt/h2020-call-list-descr-msca-itn_en.pdf)

Abstract: maximum 2,000 characters



UK Research Office
Brussels

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data-ref/h2020/other/call_ptef/pt/h2020-call-list-descr-msca-itn_en.pdf



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

List of Descriptors

Explanation notice

These descriptors are to be used by applicants in Part A of their proposal in order to best describe the scientific content of their proposal. In the electronic proposal submission system, the descriptors are only available as a long, drop-down list. Therefore the full list is available below in order to ease the selection of the most appropriate descriptors. Please note that only descriptors from the third level can be selected (e.g. 'Physical chemistry').

The descriptors selected by applicants in their proposals will be used by the REA services as a help to select the best qualified evaluators.

<https://rea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-10/MSCA%20Keywords.pdf>

MSCA KEYWORDS

Scientific panel	Level 1 keywords	Level 2 keywords
Chemistry (CHE)	C1-Inorganic Chemistry	Catalysis Coordination chemistry Inorganic and nuclear chemistry NMP Non-Metallic Materials & basic processes Organometallic chemistry Radiation and nuclear chemistry
	C2-Organic, Polymer and Molecular Chemistry	Carbohydrates Combinatorial chemistry Heterocyclic chemistry Macromolecular chemistry Molecular architecture and structure Molecular biology Molecular chemistry Natural product synthesis Organic chemistry Organic reaction mechanism Peptide chemistry Polymer chemistry Stereochemistry Supramolecular chemistry Synthetic Organic chemistry
	C3-Physical and Analytical Chemistry	Analytical chemistry Chemical instrumentation Chemical reactions: mechanisms, dynamics, kinetics and catalytic reactions Chemistry of condensed matter Chromatography Colloid chemistry Corrosion Crystallography and X-ray diffraction Electrochemistry, electrodialysis, microfluidics, sensors Forensic chemistry Heterogeneous catalysis Homogeneous catalysis Ionic liquids Mass Spectrometry Method development in chemistry Microscopy Molecular dynamics Molecular electronics Photocatalysis

Panel Selection

Applicants choose one evaluation panel:

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 projects are still encouraged!

- ID and JDs ranked in the scientific panel of submission
- No predefined budget allocation among the panels
 - distributed based on no. of eligible proposals in each panel



Proposal Forms – Part A (Administrative Forms)

< Exit form Table of contents General Information >

Table of contents Validate form Save form Save & exit form

Navigation Tool

Application forms

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01
(MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023)

Topic: HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01-01

Type of Action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN
(HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks)

Proposal number: SEP-210958084

Proposal acronym: Test DN

Type of Model Grant Agreement: HORIZON Unit Grant

- ❖ 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.

Table of contents

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

Sections to be completed

Guidance

How to fill in the forms

The form must be filled in for each proposal using the templates available in the submission system. Some data fields in the form are pre-filled based on the steps in the submission wizard.

[Read more](#)



UK Research Office
Brussels

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
- ☐ Automatically assumes 70% of DC will be eligible for the family allowance when calculating the 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 (e.g., Switzerland)*



UK Research Office
Brussels

Partner = Beneficiary

Ethics & Security questions

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

- ❖ Follow the 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 specific questions.
- ❖ Page references to relevant sections of proposal for each issue if you answer 'Yes' (part B1 and B2)



UK Research Office
Brussels

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

Part B

- ❖ Applicants will not be able to submit their proposals unless both documents 1 and 2 are provided

- ❖ Complete ALL mandatory tables
- ❖ Use required sub-headings
 - ❖ Can also include additional subheading
- ❖ Action should be divided in Work Packages (WPs)
 - ❖ 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)

- Comprises the Start Page, Table of Contents, List of Participating Organisations and declarations tables
- **Sections 1-3 (max 30 pages)**
- **Maximum total length of document is 34 pages**
- 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 is applied to this document
- Respect the instructions!

Formatting

Min font size 11

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

All margins at least 15mm**

Not including any footers or
headers

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

**Don't give the evaluators any reason to reject your
proposal!**

Save files using specified
format and naming
convention



UK Research Office
Brussels

Resubmission Restriction

- **Applicants who have scored below 80% in the DN 2023/2024 call are not eligible to resubmit a “similar” proposal in the DN 2024/2025 call**
- **A “similar” proposal is defined as one that differs from the current one in minor ways, and in which some of the present consortium members are involved.**
- REA has a system in place to flag similarities with previous proposals. They may contact applicants who should not have resubmitted and ask them to explain how different their proposal(s) are in comparison to the previous submission(s).
- Proposals may be double-checked by some external experts for most critical cases.
- The final eligibility decision will then be taken by the REA Admissibility and Eligibility Committee appointed for the call evaluation.

Proposal Writing

Things to think
about



Getting started

- **What is the over-arching research question?**
 - How can this be achieved through the individual PhD projects?
- **What are the research objectives?**
 - are they pertinent to the topic?
 - Are they measurable, verifiable and realistic?
- **How does this project go beyond the current state of the art?**
 - What novel methods will be used?
- **What skills are needed by the DCs in the proposed research area?**
 - What and where will they be in 4 years, 10 years from now?
 - Think about their long-term employability
- **How will the network contribute to Europe's innovation landscape**
- **How will the network increase doctoral training within and beyond the EU?**
 - Long term sustainability is important
- **How will the results will be exploited and communicated?**
- **How have you considered research data management and the gender dimension?**



Setting up your consortium

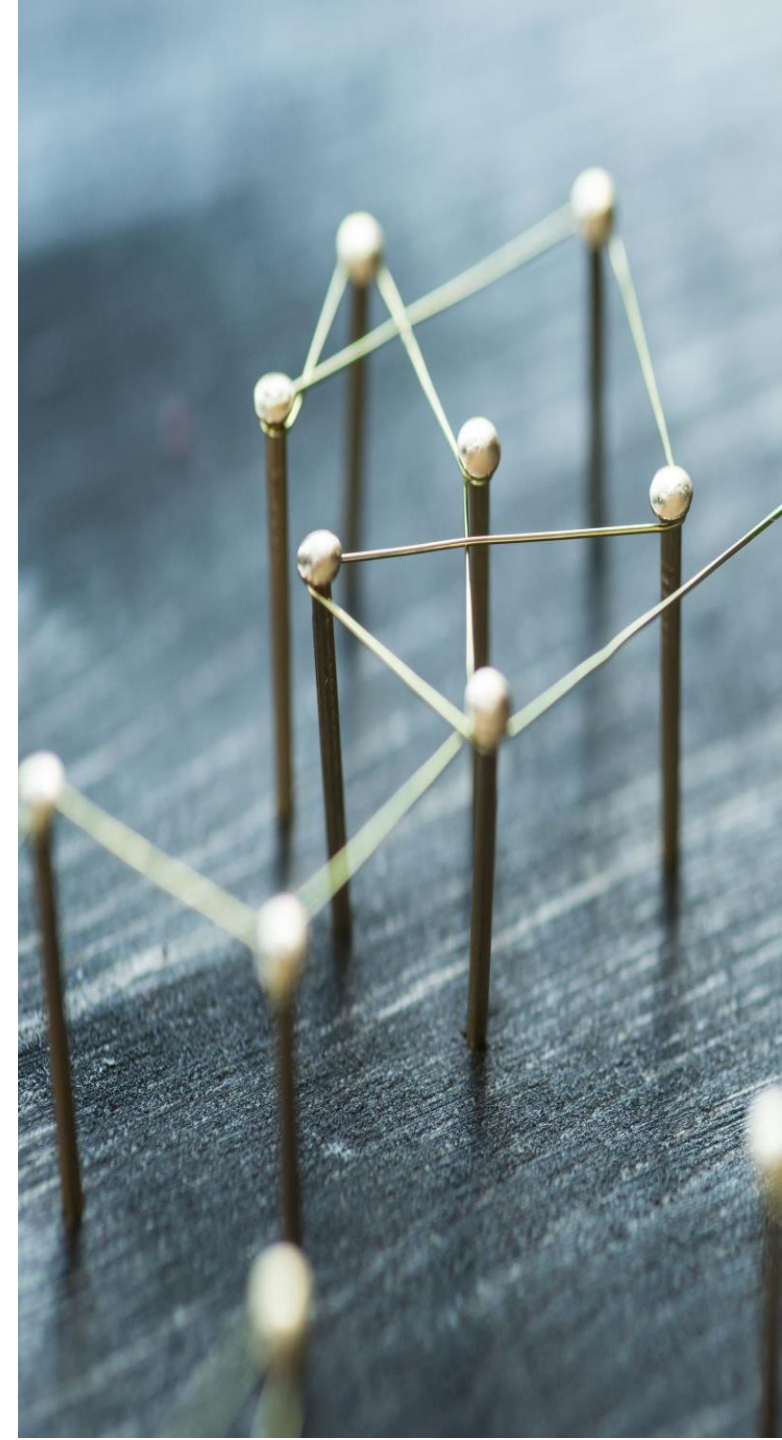
As early as possible, agree with your partners on:

- How each PhD project will fit into the overall project
- The role of each consortium partner
- What resources, supervision & training is needed
- How the budget will be allocated
- The governance, management and monitoring structure of the consortium
- The modus operandi (including project monitoring and decision making)

Simple tables and Gantt charts can help!



UK Research Office
Brussels



Finding partners

- Use the [MSCA matchmaking platform](#)
- Use the [Partner Search function](#) on the Call Webpage
- Use your existing networks
- Contact potential partners - ask yourself:
 - Is my internet presence up-to-date?
 - Am I clear on what I'm contributing to the project?
- Check [Previous Projects](#) for potential collaborators



Gender/Intersectionality

Every cell is sexed, everyone has a gender

Adds a valuable dimension to research and can take it in a new direction

Aims to eliminate gender inequalities and intersecting socio-economic inequalities

Makes research more responsive to social needs

Enhances societal relevance research and outputs

Ensures excellence and quality in outcomes and enhancing sustainability



UK Research Office
Brussels

Open Access

Encouraging uptake of Open Science Practices

Enhance researcher skills in Open Science and support reward systems

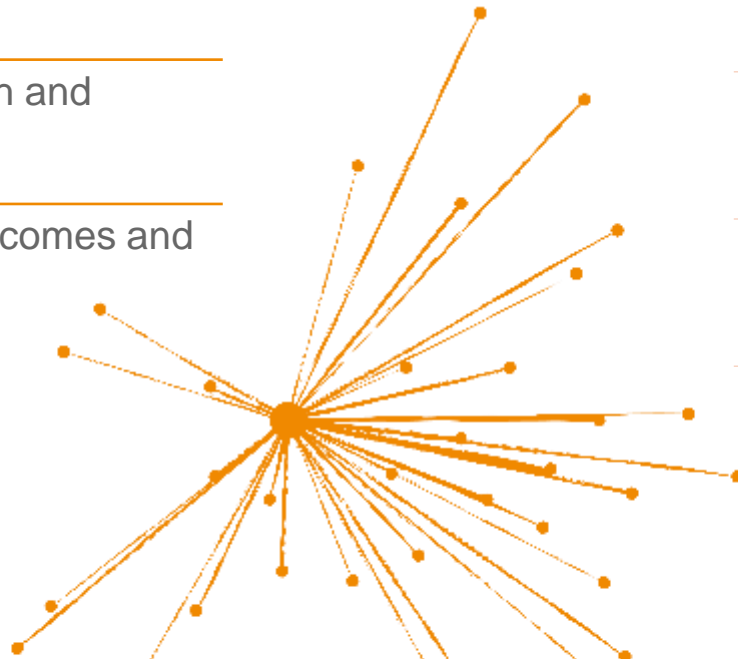
Open access to scientific publications as well as to data

Immediate open access via repository at the latest upon publication under open licence

All research data must be managed in line with FAIR principles, with data management plan as a standard deliverable

Open access to research data via repository under principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'

The use of and quality of open science practices are evaluated.



Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication

What do you do with your results...?

Dissemination - Promoting and raising awareness of project results

Exploitation - Utilising the results (e.g., for commercial purposes or in public policymaking)

Communication - Making your research activities known to society through public engagement

Evaluated under 'Impact'

Institutions often have teams that can help/support these activities

Link to training & research objectives and activities

Who is the target audience and why?

Detail the activities you will use and why

One way vs. two way communication

Achievements, expectations, project activities, lessons learned,

Activities occur throughout the entire project's lifetime – not just at the end



UK Research Office
Brussels

Expected Impact

Steps towards the achievement of the expected impacts of the project over time

Scientific impact

- Creating high-quality new knowledge
- Strengthen human capital in R&I
- Fostering diffusion of knowledge and Open Science

Societal impact

- Addressing EU policy priorities and global challenges
- Delivering benefits and impacts via R&I missions
- Strengthening the uptake of R&I in society

Economic impact

- Generating innovation-based growth
- Creating more and better jobs
- Leveraging investments in R&I

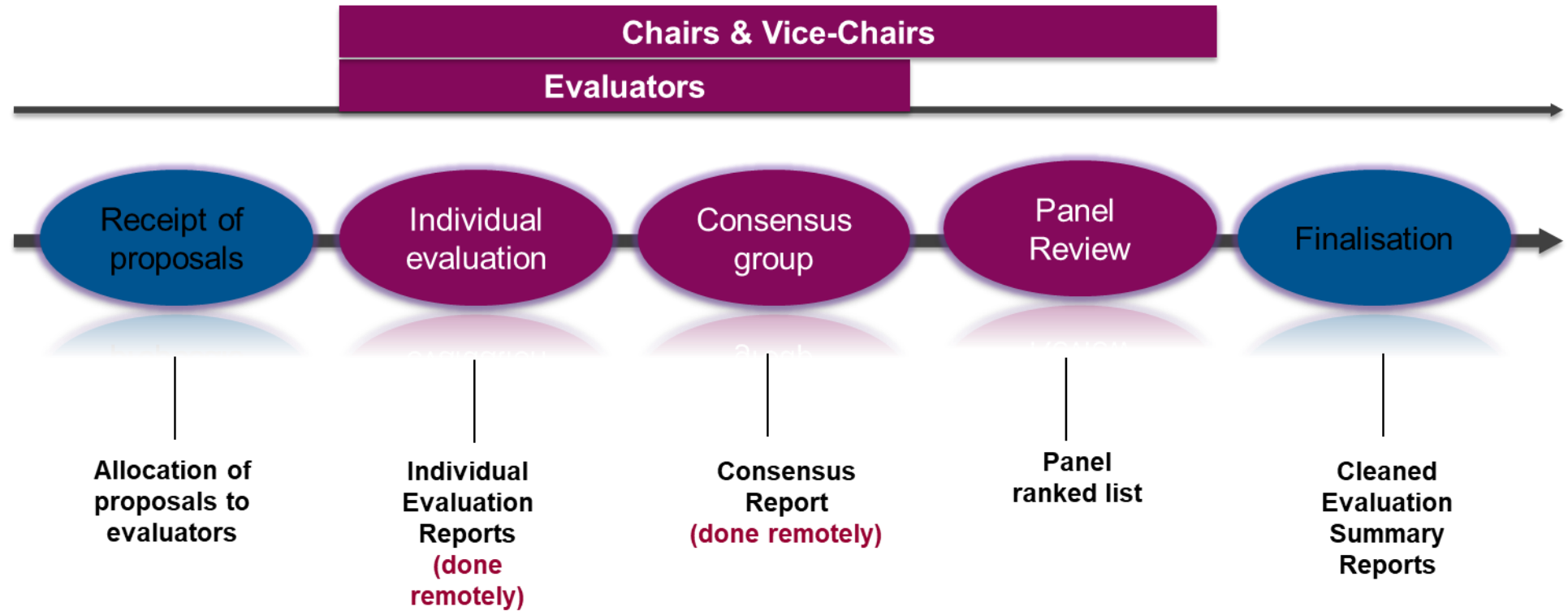
- Begins with the results, through to dissemination, exploitation and communication
- Maps the contribution to the expected outcomes in the destination and wider work programme
- Depending on the project may address only 1 or more of the three expected impacts

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, considering Conflict of Interest

Evaluation Process

1. Each of the experts prepares an Individual Evaluation Report

2. Rapporteur drafts Consensus Report (CR), reflecting their comments

3. Once comments are agreed, experts discuss and agree on a score

4. CR is reviewed by Vice-Chairs for consistency

5. Final version becomes an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) sent to the applicant



UK Research Office
Brussels



Horizon Europe

Evaluation Form (HE MSCA)

Version 1.0
18 June 2021

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/ef/ef_he-msca_en.pdf

Evaluation and Scoring

Proposals are funded in ranking order

- **Highly competitive** and typically **need a score of 90-95+** depending on the panel
- In case of proposals with the same score(s) → prioritisation decided by panel, based on scores for award criteria
- 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



UK Research Office
Brussels



Evaluation Criteria

Excellence (50%)	Impact (30%)	Quality and efficiency of the implementation (20%)
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)	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	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan , assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
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)	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability 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 (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects)	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 (including mandatory joint supervision for industrial and joint doctorate projects)	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts	

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 - a fully detailed DMP is not requested
- Highlight inter/multi-disciplinary elements
- If 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](#), [EDCI](#) 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, COFUND

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)
- What is their role of the non-academic sector 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 - detailed IP management plan is not expected
- 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 to deliver
- Synergies between all partners – added value of working together
- How they complement and enhance each other's 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

Guidelines – relevant for sections 4, 5, 6 & 7



Researchers at Risk

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/guidelines-for-inclusion-of-researchers-at-risk>



MSCA Green Charter

[MSCA Green Charter | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(europa.eu\)](#)



Guidelines for Supervision

[Guidelines for Supervision](#)



Attractive Working and Employment Conditions:

[European Charter for Researchers](#)
[Code of Conduct for Recruitment](#)
[Declaration on Sustainable Researcher Careers](#)



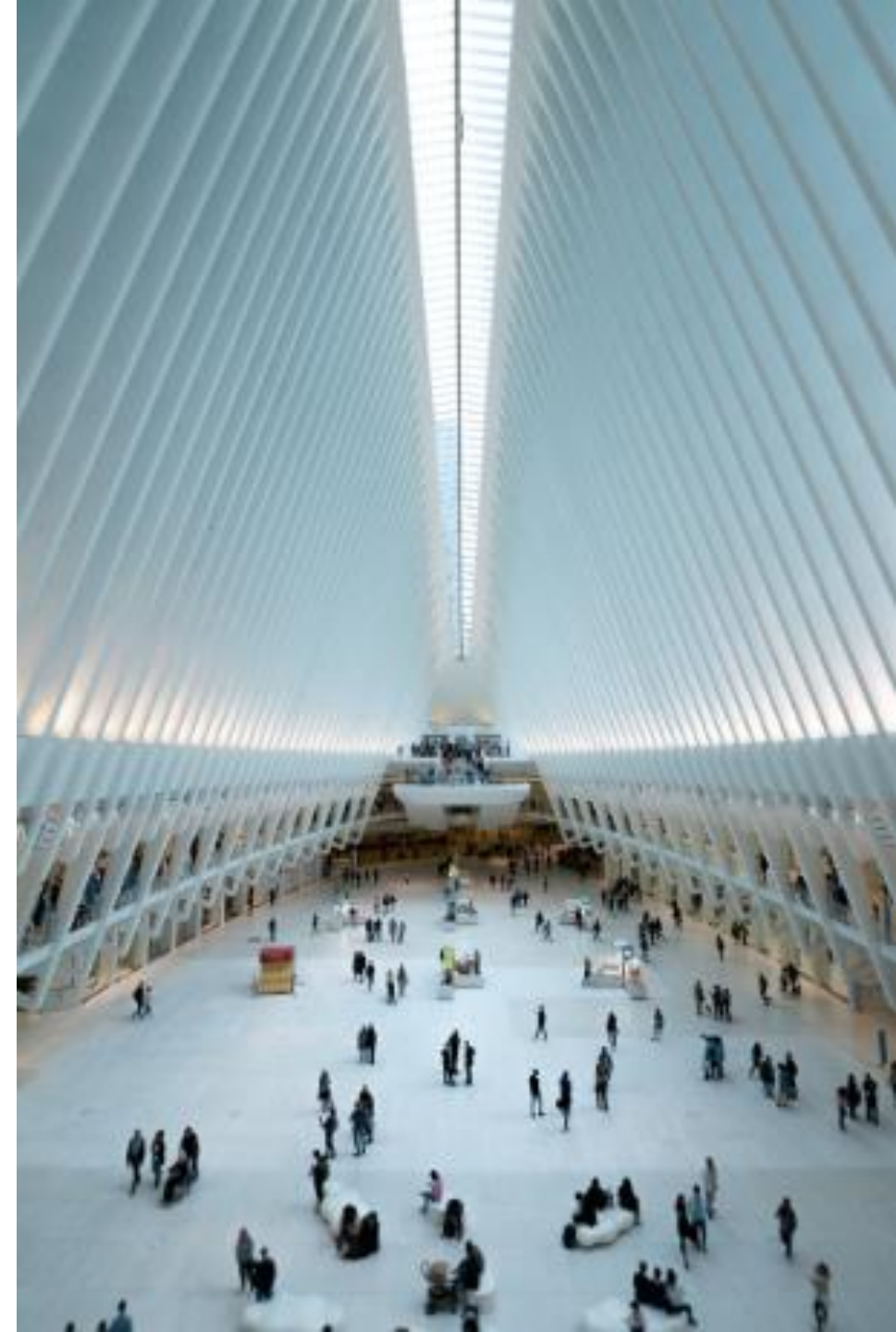
UK Research Office
Brussels

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
- Does the organisation have other HR awards? E.g., Athena Swan?



UK Research Office
Brussels



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



UK Research Office
Brussels

[MSCA Green Charter Guidance Material](#)



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 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 deem proposal ineligible

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.



Call Timeline

All information for a successful application can be found on the [MSCA 2024 DN Call Webpage](#)

Action	Date (tentative)
Call opening	29 May 2024
Deadline for Submission	27 November 2024, <u>17:00 CET.</u>
Notification of applicants if their proposal has been successful	~April 2025
Indicative Date for Signing the Grant Agreement	~July 2025
Project Start	~September 2025

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/msca-doctoral-networks_en



UK Research Office
Brussels

Submit Early, Submit Often!

Commission collects proposals at Deadline

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

MSCA-NET [handbooks](#) and [policy briefs](#)

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](#), [Open Science](#), [How to evaluate open science in Horizon Europe Proposals](#)

Gender in Research Resources [Genderaction.eu](#), [Gendered Innovations](#), [Gender in Research](#)



UK Research Office
Brussels





UK Research Office
Brussels

Thank you!

mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk

3 July 2024

