







THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 - 2027

MSCA Doctoral Networks

Infoday Preseantation Thomas Vyzikas



2 July 2024

This presentation is based on the conditions and requirements of the MSCA DN 2024 call, as set out in the Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023 -2025.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

Content

- 1. MSCA Work Programme
- 2. MSCA Doctoral Networks
- 3. [From ITN to DN]
- 4. Eligibility rules
- 5. Funding mechanism
- 6. Evaluation criteria
- 7. Resources



Content

- 1. MSCA Work Programme
- 2. MSCA Doctoral Networks
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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



The MSCA in Horizon Europe 2021-2027

SPECIFIC SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT PROGRAMME: Exclusive focus on civil applications **EUROPEAN** Pillar I € 25 billion Pillar II DEFENCE INNOVATIVE EUROPE **EXCELLENT SCIENCE GLOBAL CHALLENGES &** FUND **EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL** Exclusive focus on COMPETITIVENESS defence research European Research Council Health European Innovation & development Culture, Creativity & Council Inclusive Society Marie Skłodowska-Curie · Civil Security for Society European innovation Digital, Industry & Space Research Infrastructures ecosystems Research · Climate, Energy & Mobility € 6.6 billion actions · Food, Bioeconomy, Natural European Institute of Resources, Agriculture & Innovation & Technology* Environment Joint Research Centre Development actions WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA Widening participation & spreading excellence Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system

® European Union 2021

HORIZON EUROPE

EURATOM

Fusion

Fission

Joint

Research

Center

Horizon Europe:

✓ EU R&I Framework Programme

✓ 2021-2027

✓ €95.5 billion budget





* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



Doctoral Networks

Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates

2024: € 608.6 million DL 27/11/2024



Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

2024: €417.2 million DL 11/09/2024

3 Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

2024: €99.5 million DL 05/02/202



COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

2024: €104.8 million DL 26/09/2024



MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

The next call will open in 2025



Doctoral Networks Call 2024

Calendar:

Opening

29 May 2024

Deadline

27 November 2024

Budget:

2024

EUR 608.60 million

2023

EUR 435 million



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What is a Doctoral Network (DN) project?

One consortium

Proposing a research project

With interlinked individual PhD research projects

For doctoral candidates



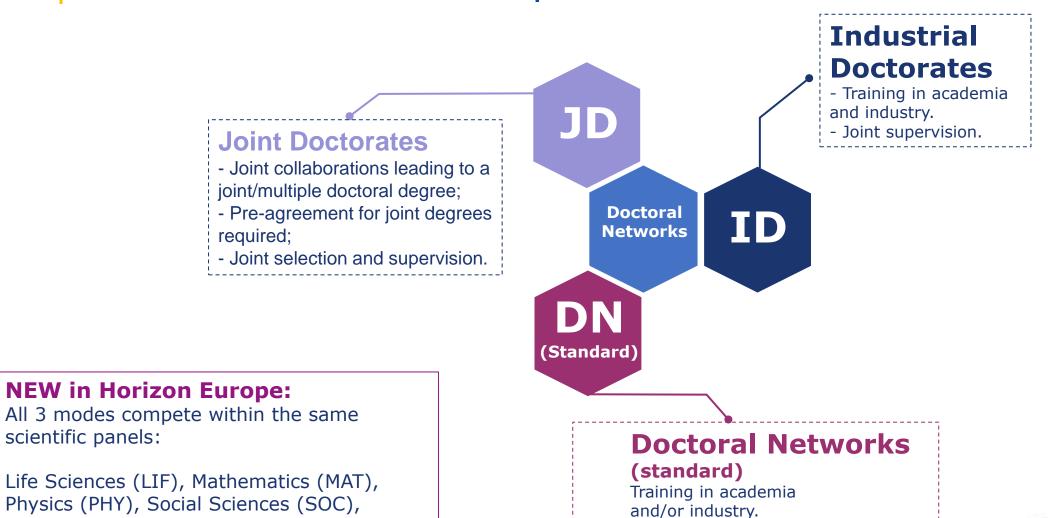


MSCA-DN – Modes of implementation

scientific panels:

Chemistry (CHE), Economics (ECO),

Engineering (ENG), Environment (ENV).



European

Doctoral Networks – 2024 Features



- Up to **540 person-months**
- Project duration: max. 48 months
- Fellowship: min 3 /max 36 months
- Secondments: worldwide, up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration



- Up to 540 person-months
- Project duration: max. 60 months
- Fellowship: min 3 max 48 months
- NO limitation for secondments
- Enrolment in a joint/double or multiple PhD (at least 1 MS/AC among the min 3 PhD awarding entities)
- Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- Mandatory letters of preagreement to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)



- Up to **540 person-months**
- Project duration: max. 48
 months
- **Fellowship**: 3 36 months
- No limitation for secondments
- Min 50% in the non-academic sector
- Non-academic sector as beneficiary or AP
- Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise



MSCA DN Programme Expected Outcomes

- Benefits for both the Doctoral Candidates and Participating Organisations
- Train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates
 - Face current and future challenges
 - Convert knowledge and ideas into products and services
 - Achieve sustainable economic and social benefit
- Expose the researchers to the academic and non-academic sectors
- Offer training in research-related, as well as competences relevant for innovation and long-term employability within and outside academia
- Focus on research and transferable skills, (inter-sectoral secondments), career development plan, supervision, internationalization / attractiveness
- Enhanced cooperation and knowledge transfer between sectors and disciplines
- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education



MSCA DN Programme Expected Impacts

- Strengthen Europe's human capital base in R&I by training highly-skilled doctoral candidates
- Improve the attractiveness of researchers' careers in Europe notably through better working and employment conditions of doctoral candidates in Europe
- Enhance talent and knowledge circulation across the R&I landscape, through inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary and international mobility
- Enhance the quality of R&I contributing to Europe's sustainable competitiveness
- Establish sustainable collaboration between academic and non-academic organisations
- Foster the culture of open science, innovation and entrepreneurship

Strengthening the European Research Area



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Doctoral Networks – Eligibility Conditions

- At least 3 independent legal entities:
 - Each established in a different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Country
 - Minimum of 1 beneficiary from an EU Member State
- 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
- No 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 2023



Doctoral Networks – Eligible Participants



WHO CAN APPLY

- Any legal entity from anywhere in the world
- Not all applicants are automatically eligible for funding



CONSORTIA OF

- Universities, research institutions and research infrastructures
- Businesses including SMEs
- Other socio-economic actors

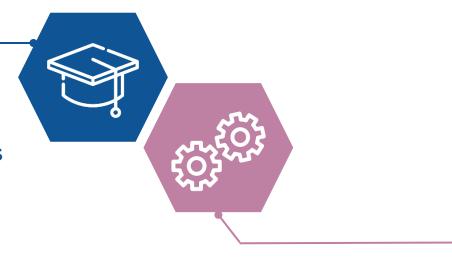
No minimum / maximum number of Associated Partners



Doctoral Networks – Academic / non-academic sectors

Academic sector

- ✓ public or private higher education establishments
- ✓ public or private nonprofit research organisations
- ✓ International European Research Organisations



Non-academic sector

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



Doctoral Networks – Eligible 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 <u>HE</u> <u>Programme Guide</u>.
- 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 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, United Kingdom

* Morocco

Note: Switzerland is **not** an associated country

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

* **Still ongoing** – for more detail, please consult the <u>HE programme guide</u> and the List of <u>Participating Countries in Horizon Europe</u>



Doctoral Networks – Eligible fellows

- 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, in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country (as of 2024 also for Joint Doctorates)
- 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.



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		*



DN-JD specific conditions



- ✓ Min 3 participants awarding PhD, 1 of which from MS/AC
- ✓ Enrolment in joint/double/multiple PhD (delivered and recognized by entities from min. 1 MS/AC)
- ✓ Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- ✓ Letters of pre-agreement to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)
- ✓ Max 48 months fellowship, max 60 months network



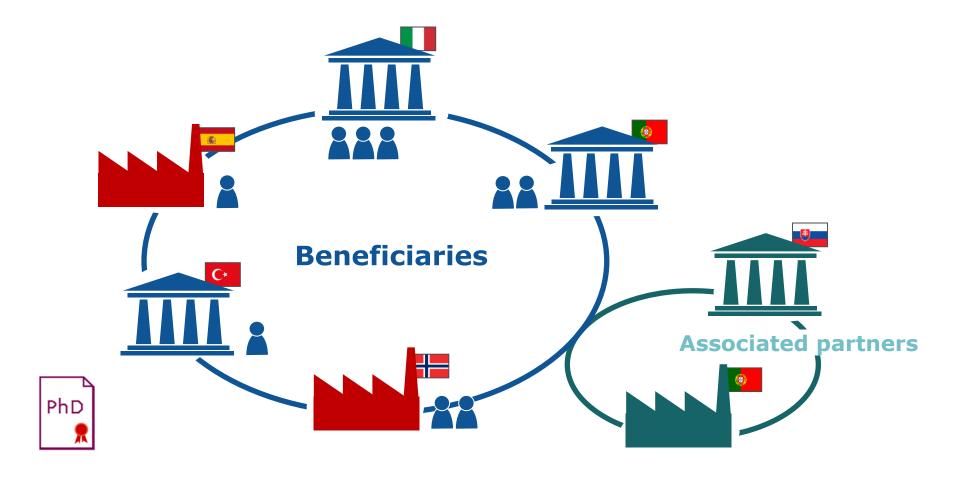
DN-ID specific conditions



- ✓ Min 50% in non-academic sector
- ✓ Non-academic sector as Beneficiary or Associated Partner (full flexibility)
- ✓ No secondment limitation
- Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise

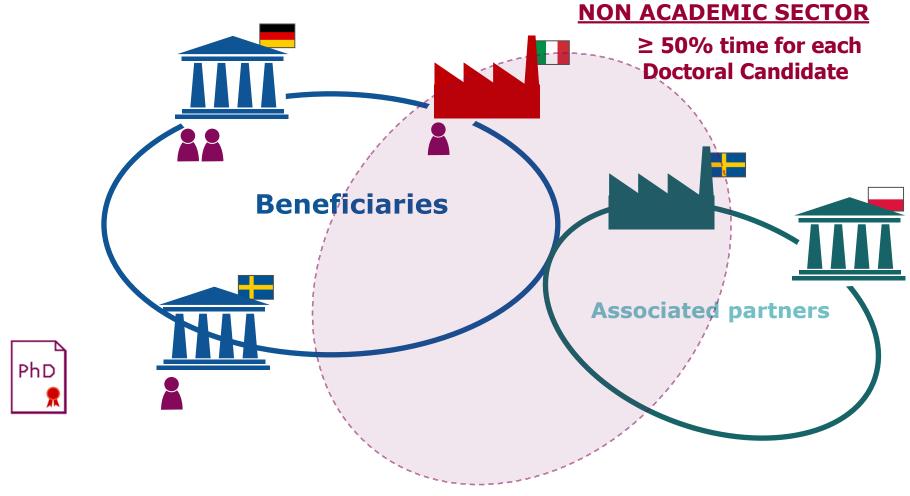


Doctoral Network – Example consortium



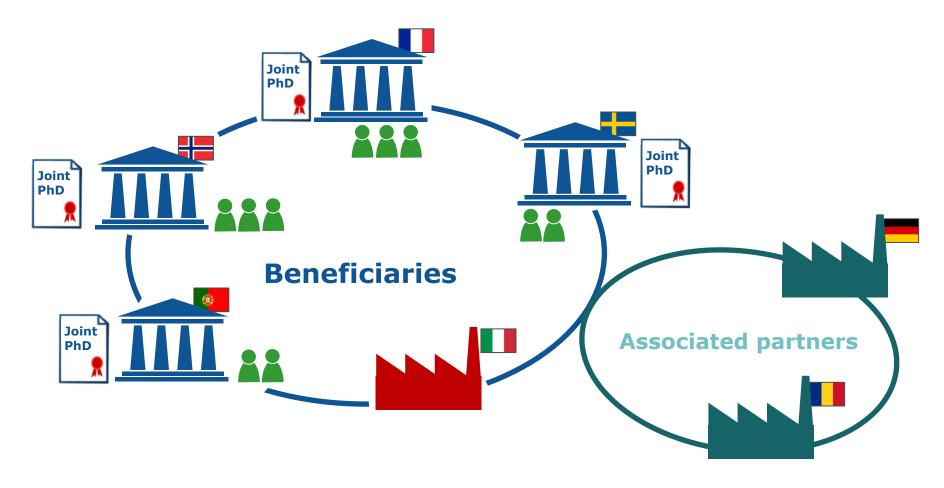


Industrial Doctorate – Example consortium





Joint Doctorate – Example consortium





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 – 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 (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 4010 *	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 4720 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.



Country correction coefficients

Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2023-2024 Marie Skłodowska -Curie Actions

Table 1: Country correction coefficients (CCC) for Doctoral Networks and Postdoctoral Fellowships living allowances¹⁶⁸

For countries where the correction coefficient is not indicated, the Commission will decide on a case-by-case basis.

Country Code ¹⁶⁹	ccc	
EU Member States		
AT	109,7%	
BE	100%	

These conditions only apply to the 2024 and 2025 calls of this Work Programme. For the conditions applying to the 2023 calls, please see the Work Programme version adopted on 6 December2022(European Commission Decision

BG	64,7%
CY	81,9%
CZ	94,1%
DE	101,2%
DK	132,8%
EE	92,7%
EL	86,8%
ES	95,6%
FI	118%
FR	118,1%
HR	80,1%
HU	76,7%
IE	136,4%
IT	95,3%
LT	86,6%
LU	100%
LV	83,8%
MT	92,4%
NL	111,6%
PL /	74,1%
PT	93,7%
RO	70,7%
SE	125%
SI	87,7%
SK	80,9%

Third Countries	
AE	95,5%
AL	56,1%
AM	107,1%
AO	128,9%
AR	82,7%
AU	108,3%
AZ	99,1%
BA	59,9%
BB	115,6%
BD	83,7%
BF	92%
BI	85,6%
BJ	94,5%
ВО	78,3%
BR	90,1%
BW	69,1%
BY	71,8%
BZ	79,9%
CA	114,4%
CD	139,3%
CF	106,6%
CG	120,7%
CH	163,8%
CI	88,6%
CL	67,6%

CM	91,8%
CN	85,2%
CO	69,4%
CR	85,4%
CU	121,4%
CV	69%
DJ	107,9%
DO	75,2%
DZ	64,8%
EC	82,7%
EG	72,3%
ER	106,3%
ET	80,1%
FJ	72,6%
FO	134,2%
GA	107,7%
GE	77,7%
GH	83,7%
GM	92,9%
GN	115,5%
GT	96,9%
GW	75,6%
GY	89%
HK	117%
HN	85,1%
HT	107,8%

01 90/

UK	141,7%
	1 . 1 , , , , ,

As of the Call 2024, the UK is an HE associated country, which means that UK can receive EU funding and coordinate projects

wp-2-msca-actions horizon-2023-2024 en.pdf (europa.eu)

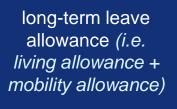


C(2022)7550).

169 ISO 3166 alpha-2, except for Greece and the United Kingdom (EL and UK used respectively instead of GR and GB).

Doctoral Networks – Long-term leave allowance

NEW in Horizon Europe - The **long-term leave allowance** contributes to the personnel costs incurred by the beneficiaries in case of the researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave, longer than 30 consecutive days.





% of long-term
leave allowance
incurred by the
beneficiary
(i.e. costs incurred
by the beneficiary /
long-term leave
allowance)



number of months (i.e. duration of the beneficiary's payment obligations for the leave)



Doctoral Networks – Special needs allowance

NEW in Horizon Europe - **The special needs allowance** contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities. e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel or transportation costs.

MSCA fellows with disabilities, whose long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments are certified by a competent national authority and of such nature that their participation in the action would not be possible without the special needs items or services.

• The amounts range between EUR 3 000 and EUR 60 000 per researcher.



- Beneficiaries shall claim the closest lower rate per researcher/staff member compared to the estimated actual costs of his/her special needs.
- The approved amount will be divided among the number of months remaining in the fellowship/staff secondment as a "unit cost".



Doctoral Networks – Novelties compared to DN 2023



INCREASED UNIT COSTS

The contributions for the recruited researchers have been increased as of DN 2024. More precisely, the **living allowance becomes EUR 4010** (gross amount to be multiplied by CC) and the **mobility allowance becomes EUR 710** per eligible person-month.





As specified in the MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025, any proposal involving 70% or more of the same recruiting organisations as in another proposal submitted to the previous call of the MSCA Doctoral Networks under Horizon Europe that has received a score of less than 80% will be assessed for whether it is a resubmission, irrespective of the applicants' self-declaration.



DN-JD ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Joint Doctorates (DN-JD) should lead to the delivery of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees recognised in **at least one** EU Member State (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Country (AC) (as opposed to minimum two under DN 2023).



Summary

DN (Standard)

DN-ID (Industrial)

DN-JD (Joint)

Consortium

Min 3 entities from 3 different EU MS/AC (Min 1 from MS)

Each beneficiary must recruit at least 1 DC

Max 40% funding per country

AP can't recruit, but can host secondments and provide training

Project Duration

Max 48 months

Max 60 months

DC contract

Max 36 months

Max 48 months

Secondments

Max 1/3 fellowship

No limitation on secondment duration



Summary

DN (Standard)

DN-ID (Industrial)

DN-JD (Joint)

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

50% in non-academic

Enrolled in joint/double/multiple PhD from min 1 MS/AC

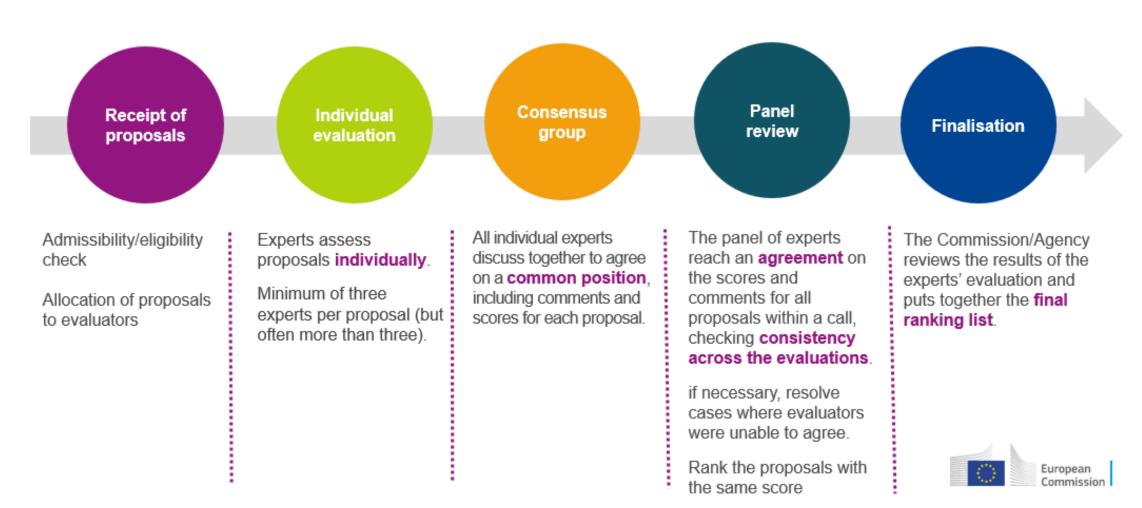


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Doctoral Networks – Evaluation process



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?



Internal navigation General information General information Programme Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON) Topic description Call Destination MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01) Conditions and documents Type of action HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks Partner search announcements Start submission HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates Topic Q&As Get support HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD HORIZON TMA MSCA **Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates**

Useful documents

- DN 2024 Guide for Applicants
- Proposal templates
- Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025
- Horizon Europe programme guide
- F&T Manual on how to submit a proposal
- Topic Q&A under F&T portal

Part A (structured data)



Part B (description of action)



Part B1: 30 page Part B2: no limit



Doctoral Networks – Proposal preparation

- Conceive a <u>novel</u> idea and have a clear <u>plan</u> (methodology + implementation + risks) → convince the evaluators
- Remember: the training of the fellows and their skills' development is core to the DN programme
- Read the MSCA Work Programme and Guidance documents
- Use the <u>latest</u> proposal template and <u>understand</u> what is requested
- Aspects in Part B2 are not evaluated (you can gain valuable space in Part B1)
- Read carefully the evaluation form to understand what questions the evaluators are asked
- Don't underestimate any part of the proposal
- Write each section clearly (e.g., use tables, indicators etc if applicable)
- Write each part in coherence with all the others in the proposal to avoid confusion and doubts
- Perform an 'internal' peer-review with your consortium partner
- Consult your National Contact Points
- Duly complete Part A
- Start preparing early and don't leave submission for the last minute



Inter-sectoral collaboration, research and mobility

Researchers stepping outside academia develop skills in industry and business, get acquainted with different practices and cultures, create personal and professional networks and increase their employability.

How to effectively engage with the industry?

Best practice report



IPR: Ownership of intellectual property is critical for industry/business. The Consortium Agreement should have the necessary provisions for background and foreground IP. There should be a balance between publication expectations and IPR protection.



Understand the industry's needs: The consortium should analyse and clearly understand the incentives of industry/business to participate and engage early and continuously to ensure that mutual interests are pursued.



SMEs: The reporting can be demanding for small companies. More experienced beneficiaries can support with templates and a dedicated project manager.

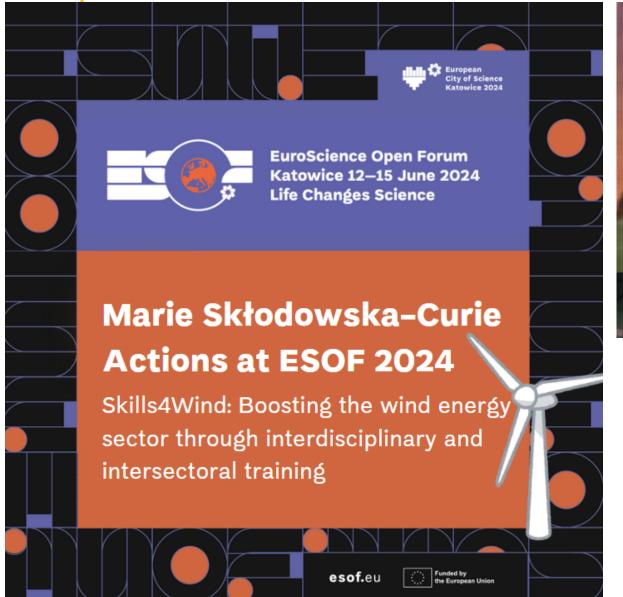


Training: Entrepreneurship training to create an innovation and provide researchers with strong technical and high entrepreneurial skills, with appropriate career development plans.



Synergies: Project and /or programme synergies should be incorporated into dissemination & communication and exploitation plans as they can lead to positive unexpected connections and benefits.

Synergies among projects















Proposal preparation – DN 2024 Call Info Day

When: June 7th, 2024

Where: ONLINE via RTD platform



Horizon Europe - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks 2024 - Call info day

- Watch the recording on <u>youtube</u>.
- Review all the <u>call related documents</u> available at the EU F&T Portal
- For more details on the programme, please consult the MSCA 2024 Call Info event page.



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Doctoral Networks - Resources

Useful links

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024 Call documents

Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025

Doctoral Networks 2024 - Call info day

MSCA website

European Research Executive Agency website

MSCA Guidelines on Supervision

The MSCA Green Charter

The Code of Conduct for Recruitment and Charter for researchers

MSCA Financial Guide 2023

Annotated Grant Agreement

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

MSCA recent studies

<u>European Industrial Doctorates – Cluster Event and</u> Lessons Learnt

<u>Innovative dimension of MSCA-ITN projects under H2020</u>



Proposal template

2.2	18.04.2023	 Link between scientific challenges in excellence 1.2 and implementation risk t 3.1g. 	
		 Clarification on DMP and subheading Research data management and management of other research outputs in excellence 1.2 	
		 Deletion of sub-heading Role of non-academic sector in the training programme from section 1.3 as already covered by section 2.1. 	
		 Further clarification on section 2.1 part b. 	
		 Further explanations on section 2.2. 	
		 Clarification on Consortium agreement and subheading Strategy for the management of intellectual property 	
		 Supervisory board description moved to part B2 	
		Recruitment strategy: gender aspect replaced by adherence to the Code of Conduct	
		for the recruitment of researchers	
		 Implementation risk table 3.1g, instructions added to insert any scientific and technical risk(s) identified in section 1.2 	
		 Letters of Commitment deleted as not applicable to 2023 call. 	
		 Supervision table added in Supervisory board section in part B2 	
3.0	22.04.2024	Guidance on the use of AI for the preparation of the proposal	
		 Additional information on how to describe the activities per work package 	
		 Challenges to the chosen methodology and ways to overcome them has been moved from section 1.2 to section 3.1. 	
		 Quality of the supervision arrangements for standard DNs added as required subheading in section 1.4. 	
		 Developing sustainable elements of doctoral programme has been redrafted in section 2.1 	
		 Recruitment strategy has been moved from section 3.1 to section 4 in part B2. 	
		 Subheading on commitment of associated partners has been redrafted in Section 3.2 	

Please:

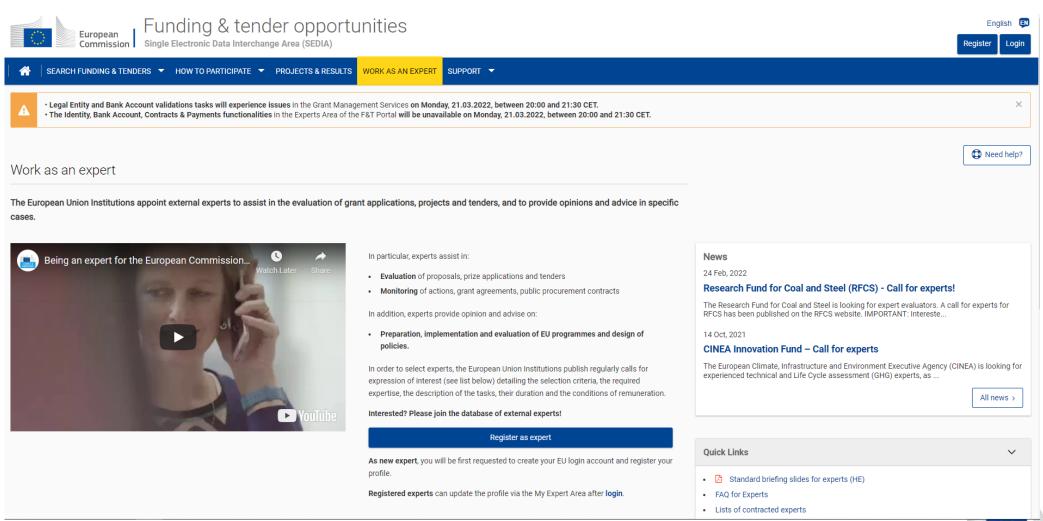
- Use the latest template
- Do not abuse the margin, font sizes etc

Link – application template: <u>af he-msca-dn en.pdf (europa.eu)</u>

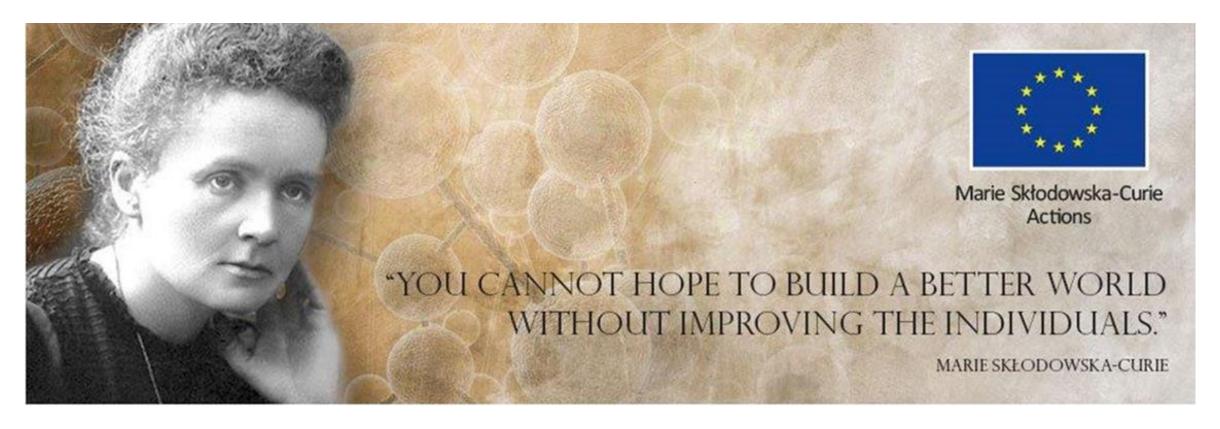
Link – evaluation form: ef he-msca en.pdf (europa.eu)



Work as an EC expert







Questions?



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