



The EU Research & Innovation Programme 2021-2027

MSCA Doctoral Networks
NCPs' Call Infodays – *Country*

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MSCA Doctoral Networks, REA

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The MSCA in Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe budget: EUR 95.5 billion



2021-2027

Pillar I: Excellent Science

Reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union's science base

European Research Council

Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

€16 billion

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

€6.6 billion

Research Infrastructures

Integrated and inter-connected world-class research infrastructures

€2.4 billion

MSCA: A world reference for research and training



Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stage 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 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

1 Doctoral Networks

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

Total budget DN 2026: €593,03 million
Opening call: 28/05/2026
DL 24/11/2026

2 Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

2026: €399,05 million
Opening call: 09/04/2026
DL 09/09/2026

3 Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

2027: €95,04 million
Opening call: 15/12/2026
DL 15/04/2027

4 COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

2027: €51,25 million
Opening call: 08/12/2026
DL:06/04/2027

5 MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

2027: €15.71 million
DL: 08/06/2027

6 Choose Europe for Science

Supporting attractive & sustainable research careers in Europe for top talent

2027: €51.25 million
Opening call: 08/12/2026
DL: 06/04/2027

What is a Doctoral Network (DN) project ?

- One consortium
- Proposing a research project
- With interlinked individual PhD research projects
- For doctoral candidates

MSCA DN Programme Expected Impacts

Strengthening the European Research Area

- 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**

DN expected outputs for doctoral candidates



DN expected outputs for participating organizations

**Recruitment
of EU funded
excellent
DCs**

TALENT

**Cooperation &
knowledge
transfer between
sectors/
disciplines**

NETWORK

**Strengthening
Research &
Innovation
capacity**

CAPACITY

**Improved quality,
relevance, and
sustainability of
PhD programmes**

**ENHANCED
TRAINING
PROGRAMME**

DN - Academic vs Non-Academic sector

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

DN – 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	✓	✗

MSCA-DN – Types of implementation

Joint Doctorates

- Joint collaborations leading to a joint/multiple doctoral degree;
- Pre-agreement for joint degrees required;
- Joint selection and supervision.

JD

Industrial Doctorates

- Training in academia and industry.
- Joint supervision.

ID

Doctoral
Networks

DN

(Standard)

Doctoral Networks (standard)

Training in academia and/or industry.

All 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels:

CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC

Industrial Doctorates

*** Incentives
for DN-ID**

- **No limitation for secondments ***
- **Min 50% in the non-academic sector**
- Enrolment in a PhD at 1 MS/AC among awarding entities
- Non-academic sector as **beneficiary or associated partners (full flexibility) ***
- Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise

Joint Doctorates

- Project duration: **max. 60 months***
- **Fellowship**: min 3 / **max 48 months ***
- **No limitation for secondments ***
- Enrolment in a **joint/double or multiple PhD** (delivered by different entities from min. 1 MS/AC)
- Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- **Mandatory letters of pre-agreement** to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)

*** Incentives
for DN-JD**

No preference between a joint, a double or a multiple degree

DN 2026 call novelties

- **Living allowances increased and some Country Correction Coefficients reviewed**
- **Eligibility restrictions:** ‘protection of European communication networks’ and ‘Participation of Chinese universities linked to Ministry of Industry & Information Technology (MIIT)’
- **New exception for all DNs:** where researchers are recruited by beneficiaries established in non-associated third countries, it is now permitted for enrolment to take place **solely** in a doctoral programme offered in that country.
- **Evaluation threshold per criterion (3/5)**
- **Secondments for standard DN up to 50%** of the fellowship duration
- **Font size:** the minimum font size allowed is 11 points, for both main text and tables. Only literature references, listed as footnotes, can have a lower font size (minimum of 8 points)

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General eligible 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
 - No minimum / maximum number of Associated Partners
- **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% of the EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country** or to a single international organisation.

DN - Eligible participants

Who can apply?

- Any Legal Entity worldwide*
- But not all applicants are eligible for funding
- More details [HE programme guide](#)

Consortia

- Universities, research institutions and research infrastructures
 - Businesses including SMEs
 - Other socio-economic actors
- => **No** minimum/maximum number of Associated Partners

*Eligibility restrictions: 'protection of European communication networks' and 'Participation of Chinese universities linked to Ministry of Industry & Information Technology (MIIT)' ([see Annex B of General Annexes](#))

DN – 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 their participation is essential or if they are identified in the relevant Horizon Europe Work Programme as being eligible for funding.

*For more detail, please consult the [HE programme guide](#) and the List of [Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](#)

Eligible size and duration

Duration

- **Proposal:** max. 48 months for DN and DN-ID
- *incentive for DN-JD up to 60 months*
- **Fellowship:** 3 to 36 months for DN and DN-ID
- *incentive for DN-JD up to 48 months*

Secondments: worldwide, any sectors, **up to 50%** of the fellowship duration for Standard DN. **Incentive for DN-ID & DN-JD no secondment limit**

Consortia

- **Up to 540 person-months** for all type of actions

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**.
- **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 – Eligible Researchers

- Researchers must be **enrolled in a doctoral programme, in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country**

(!) New exception for all DNs: where researchers are recruited by beneficiaries established in non-associated third countries, enrolment may take place solely in a doctoral programme offered in the country of the beneficiary.

- **Any nationality**

(!) Restrictions from the general annexes to the WP 2026-2027: * Natural persons established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine are not allowed to participate in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. For more information, please consult the applicable participation restrictions from the General Annexes, Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2026-2027

Summary – MSCA-DN

	DN (Standard)	ID (Industrial Doctorates)	JD (Joint Doctorates)
Project duration	48 months		60 months
DC contract	Max 36 months	Max 36 months (50% in the non-academic sector)	Max 48 months
Secondments	Max 1/2 of the fellowship	No limitation of secondment duration	
PhD	All DCs enrolled in a PhD from a MS/AC		Enrolled in PhD from min. 1 MS/AC
	New exception for all DNs: Where researchers are recruited by beneficiaries established in non-associated third countries, it is now permitted for enrolment to take place solely in a doctoral programme offered in that country.		

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Funding mechanism

- Fully based on unit costs
- **1 person-month = 1 unit**
- Total costs = costs per unit x number of units
- 100% Reimbursement rate for eligible beneficiaries
- Different cost categories:
 - Researcher's cost
 - Institutional costs (research, training, networking + management)

1 unit
=
1 month of
eligible DC

Funding mechanism - Cost categories

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 4250*	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.

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Resource for AI Science in Europe

RAISE DN 2026 call

Additional chance of funding for projects that aim to apply AI in their scientific research & for those focused on developing new AI tools, systems and methodologies.

- **Indicative budget: €30 million** (funding from Pillar 2, Cluster 4)
- **Call for proposal dates: 28 May 2026 – 24 November 2026**

RAISE DN 2026 call – How to apply?

- All applicants apply to the MSCA DN 2026 call – same eligibility conditions & same features such as modes, duration, rules and size
- Applicants need to demonstrate that their proposal falls within the scope of the RAISE DN call in the dedicated section in part B2

Scope: To train a new generation of researchers in AI-driven scientific methods across all disciplines. They will also help build the RAISE scientific community which will contribute to shaping modern science. Together, these initiatives represent a coordinated effort to embed AI in the core of scientific research in Europe and pave the way to RAISE. For more detail information, please consult [the Work Programme](#)

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MSCA DN Award Criteria

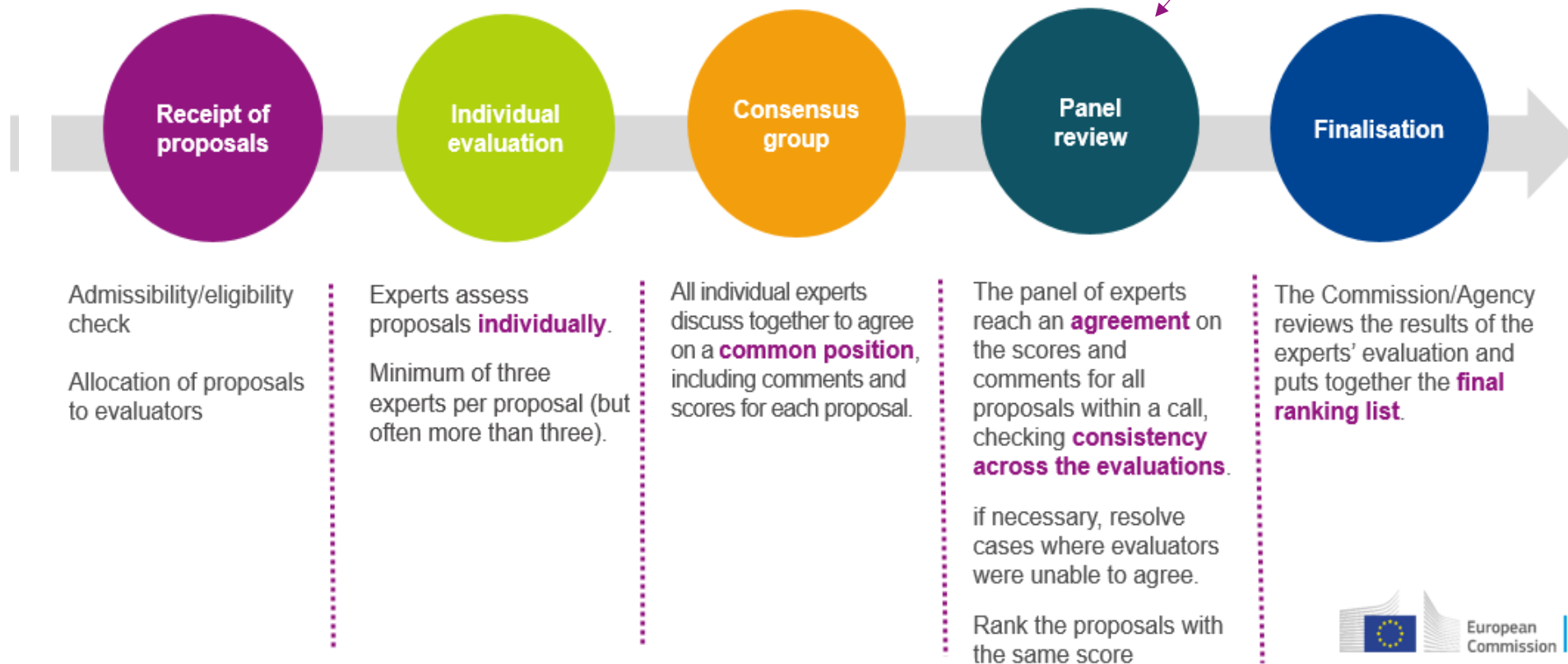
Criteria	Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Sub-criteria	Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives	Contribution to structuring doctoral training at European level and strengthening European innovation capacity	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan , assessment of risks , 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

(!) Novelty - Evaluation threshold for all three criteria will be 3 out of 5

Overview of Evaluation Process

RAISE DN

- Experts will assess the relevance of the proposals on the list to the RAISE topic
- Final ranking of RAISE proposals



RAISE DN 2026 evaluation procedure

RAISE proposals will participate in the MSCA DN 2026 evaluation procedure

- **A cross-panel list of fundable RAISE proposals will be established with the highest-ranking reserve list proposals.**
 - The list will be ranked according to the MSCA evaluation scores and comprise proposals with requested budget as close as possible to 3 times available budget.
- Experts will assess relevance of proposals to the RAISE topic.
- **Final ranking of the RAISE proposals = MSCA score and assessment of the relevance of the proposal to RAISE topic.**

How to apply?

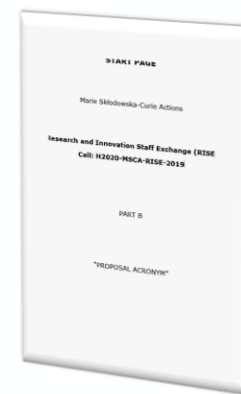
Useful documents

- DN 2026 Guide for Applicants - available in the F&T Portal as of **May 28th, 2026**
- Proposal templates - available in the F&T Portal as of **May 28th, 2026**
- [Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2026-2027](#)
- [F&T Manual on how to submit a proposal](#)
- Topic Q&A under [F&T portal](#)

Part A (structured data)

General information
Participants & contacts
Budget
Ethics
Call-specific questions

Part B (description of action)



Part B1: 30 pages preliminary pages page, table of contents and list of participants 34 pages in total.
Part B2: no limit

RAISE-DN: in Part B2, demonstrate that their proposal **fits the scope of the RAISE DN call.**

Proposal preparation

- Read the **MSCA Work Programme** and **Guidance documents**
- Use the **proposal template**
- 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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Funding and Tenders opportunities (Work Programme, applications, documents, partner search)

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 Call documents available in the F&T Portal as of May 28th

RAISE – Doctoral Networks 2026 Call documents available in the F&T Portal as of May 28th

Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2026-2027

Work Programme 2026-2027, 14. Horizontal Activities, RAISE Doctoral Networks

MSCA website

European Research Executive Agency website
MSCA Guidelines on Supervision

Code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers

MCAA alumni platform

Resources

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



@MSCActions



@Marie.Curie.Actions

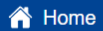
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- Monitoring of EU funded projects and contracts,
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Find out more about the evaluation and monitoring objectives and scope in the [terms of reference](#) ↗.

If you need further guidance, access the [key steps for experts](#).



Useful links



[Helpdesk and Support Services](#)

E

DN 2026 Call Info Day

When: 3 June 2026 - 9.30-12.30 (CET)

Where: ONLINE via platform
(no need to pre-register)



- Review all the [call related documents](#)
- [Slido](#) (**#DN2026**) will open with the launch of the call, you can send us your questions in advance
- For more details on the programme, please consult the [MSCA 2026 Call Info event page](#)

*"You cannot hope to build a
better world without improving
the individuals"*

Marie Skłodowska-Curie



Thank you

PO name – MSCA Doctoral Networks

...@ec.europa.eu

