



**UK Research
and Innovation**

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks (DN)

Information webinar

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18 June 2026



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction

Raquel Meco Melguizo, UK MSCA NCP, UKRI

2. MSCA Doctoral Networks

Edward Ricketts, MSCA DN Project Officer, REA

3. MSCA Doctoral Networks

Raquel Meco Melguizo, UK MSCA NCP, UKRI

Break Time



4. MSCA DN: The applicant's perspective

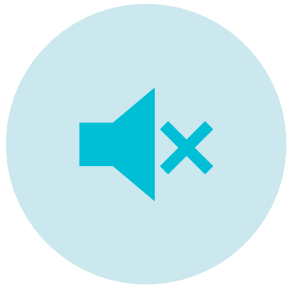
Prof. Richard Hall, Prof. Biomechanical and Oncological Engineering, University of Birmingham

5. Questions and Answers

All presenters



Housekeeping



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



A chat function is available and will be monitored.



The session is **recorded**



Please use the **Q&A function** to submit questions. Up voting is available.

UKRI Horizon Europe

We support UK based organisations involved in EU R&I

Our Mission: Maximise UK participation in Horizon Europe

UKRO Portal

- Dedicated **news articles, events and factsheets** to support participation
- Alerts to **upcoming opportunities and call updates**

UK National Contact Point for

- [European Research Council](#)
- [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programmes](#)
- [Widening Participation](#)
- [COST](#) and [New European Bauhaus](#)

We are part of UKRI's International team



Horizon Europe: UK Participation

The UK's association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus took effect on 1 January 2024.

This means UK entities can participate in/coordinate projects and receive funding from Horizon Europe*

The [UKRO website](#) provides information on upcoming European funding opportunities



What Does this Mean for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions?

In MSCA Doctoral Networks, UK based organisations can:

- Participate as beneficiaries or associated partner
- Coordinate projects
- Can award PhDs
- Host secondments

Recruited doctoral candidates count toward the total number of person-months

UK joins Horizon
Europe, inc. MSCA

MSCA Doctoral Networks

Things to think about



Finding Partners



- Use the [MSCA matchmaking platform](#)
- Use your **existing networks**
- Contact potential partners, but before ask yourself:
 - Is my **online presence** current and impactful?
 - Am I clear on my '**potential contribution**' to the project?
- [COST Actions](#)
- Check [CORDIS](#) to access previous projects for potential collaborators

Setting up your consortium

Engage with your partners as early as possible to agree 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)



MSCA DN – International Tuition Fees

- It is **up to institutions** to determine the tuition fees to charge doctoral candidates recruited as part of a MSCA DN
- 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 unit contributions
- Approaches vary by institution. Here are some examples:
 - **complete waiving** of fees for all recruited researchers under the action
 - charging every recruited researcher a **reduced rate**, which is neither the home rate nor the international student rate
 - charging every recruited researcher the **home rate**
- MSCA Doctoral Networks – International PhD Student Tuition Fees – UKRO



Getting started

- **What is the overarching 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**



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Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication

What would 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, etc.

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

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

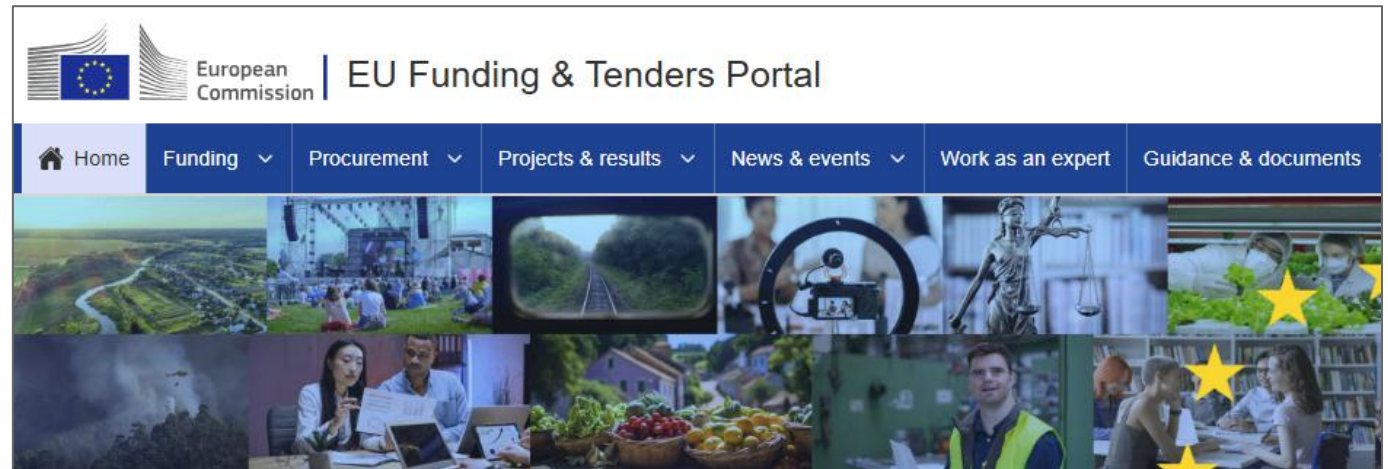
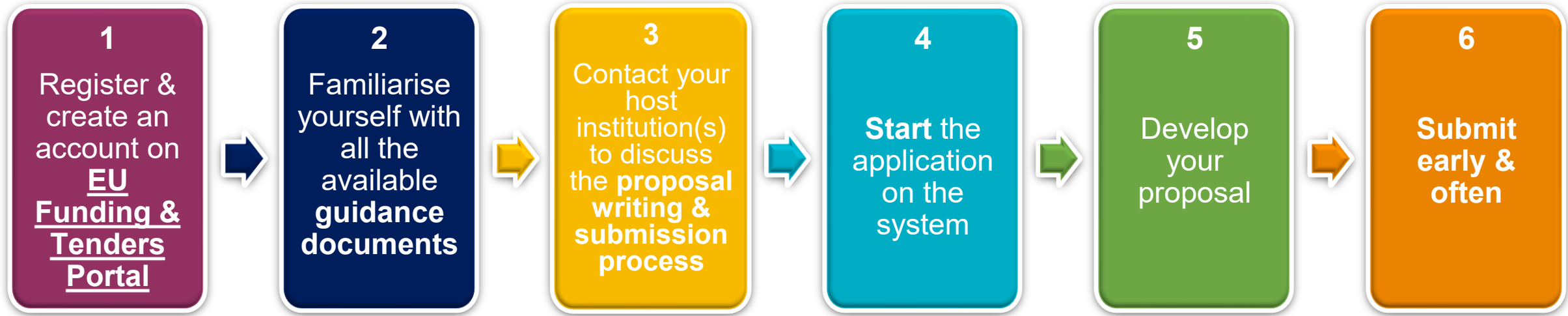
- depending on the project it may address only **one or more** of the three expected impacts
- begins with the results, through to dissemination, exploitation and communication
- maps the contribution to the expected outcomes in the destination and wider work programme

MSCA Doctoral Networks

The Submission Process



The Submission process



Who is involved in the submission process?



Coordinator

Registers the draft proposal in the EU F&T portal

Acronym, summary and panel

Adds partner organisations

PIC codes and contact details

Completes Part A (Admin form)

Responsible for uploading Part B1/B2 as a PDF



Beneficiaries

Adds additional contacts

Checks that information in Part A is correct

May also be responsible for completing corresponding sections of Part A



Associated Partners

Do not have access to the EU F&T portal

To have access, key contact(s) must be included under the corresponding beneficiary or coordinator

Step 1 & 2: EU Funding & Tenders Portal

2026 MSCA DN call page: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) | [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

The screenshot shows the EU Funding & Tenders Portal interface for the MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 call. The page includes a top navigation bar with the European Commission logo and a search bar. A callout bubble points to the 'Sign in' button, stating 'Register here'. The main content area displays the call details, including the call number 'HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01-01' and the call title 'MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026'. A callout bubble points to the 'Call for proposal' button, stating 'Find all the call documents here'. The 'Internal navigation' sidebar on the left lists various sections, with 'Start submission' highlighted. A callout bubble points to the 'Start submission' button, stating 'Choose the right type - Only 1!'. The 'Start submission' section on the right provides instructions on how to access the Electronic Submission Service and lists the available submission types: 'HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates', 'HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks', and 'HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates'. Each type has a 'Start submission' button.

Find all the call documents here

Register here

Choose the right type - Only 1!

Start submission

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

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

Please select the type of your submission:

- ☐ HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates [HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID], HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]
- ☐ HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks [HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN], HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]
- ☐ HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates [HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD], HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

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Step 3: Contact your host institution

Ensure you have
the details of your
host institution

Reminder:
3 EU MS or AC, at
least 1 from EU MS

Find your organisation

PIC [?] * 9 Short name [?] * 250

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

[?] Reminder: Be aware of the DN-ID specific eligibility conditions, see MSCA DN 2026 Guide for applicants for details

Organisations you have been previously associated with. (Click to select)

PIC: 906446474

UKRI

POLARIS HOUSE NORTH STAR AVENUE

SWINDON, UK

VAT: GB287461957

Your role

Please indicate your role in this proposal *

☒ Main contact

☐ Contact person

Your proposal

It will appear also in the "General Information" section of the Application Form Part A and can also be updated there.

Acronym * 20 Enter value

Short Summary * 2000 Enter value

Contact person =
Research Office



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Adding Participants

Call Information

Template

Support

Participants



Deadline

24 November 2026 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

160 days left until closure

Call data

Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01

Topic: [HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01-01](#)

Type of action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID

Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG-UN



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

Proposal data

Acronym: TEST 2

Draft ID: SEP-211347718

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, the coordinator can manage and review the participants.



Note: The changes will be applied only after you click the "Save Changes" button.



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



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



Reminder: Be aware of the DN-ID specific eligibility conditions, see MSCA DN 2026 Guide for applicants for details

Number of participants: 1 

[Reorder](#) 



Coordinator

UKRI



UKRI

UNITED KINGDOM RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

SWINDON, UK

PIC: 906446474

[Change organisation](#)

[Contact organisation](#)



Main contact

Raquel Meco Melguizo

[Add contact](#) 



Add Partner



Add Associated partner



SAVE



SAVE AND GO TO NEXT STEP



NEXT

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

Add contact details, and partners

Step 4: Start your application

Part A (Administrative Part): complete online

Part B1 + Part B2 (Narrative Part): prepare offline & submit as pdf

Proposal forms

Deadline
24 November 2026 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time
160 days left until closure

Call data
Call: HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01
Topic: HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01-01
Type of action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID
Type of MGA: HORIZON-AG-UN
⚠ Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.

Proposal data
Acronym: TEST 2
Draft ID: SEP-211347718

Download Part B templates
Download part B templates

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

Administrative forms (Part A)
Edit forms View history Print preview

Part B and Annexes
In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments.
Part B of proposal *
Part B2

Part A (online)

Part B1 & B2 (PDF)

Download Part B Templates

Support available

BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST VALIDATE SUBMIT

Step 5: Panel Selection (Part A)

[List of MSCA keywords](#)

- **8 scientific panels:** Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT) and Physics (PHY).
- Budget per panel will be determined by number of proposals received
- Select the best fit **keywords/descriptors** (3-5) for your proposal – **DO NOT** select by previous success rates or popularity

Menu

- General Info
- Declarations
- Participants
- Budget
- Ethics
- Security

Free keywords

Word or words that best describe(s) the subject of your project.

Abstract *

TEST 2

Project Descriptor(s)

A minimum of 3 descriptors are required

Panel	Subpanel	Descriptor
-	-	-
Panel *	Subpanel *	Descriptor *

This is a mandatory field.

This is a mandatory field.

This is a mandatory field.

Max. 2000 characters

List of up to 5 publications, projects, infrastructure

List of up to 5 publications, widely-used datasets, software, goods, services, or any other achievements relevant to the call content.

Type of achievement	Short description (Max 500 characters)	+
---------------------	--	---

List of up to 5 most relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal.

Name of Project or Activity	Short description (Max 500 characters)	+
-----------------------------	--	---

Description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work.

Name of infrastructure or equipment	Short description (Max 300 characters)	+
-------------------------------------	--	---

Please also note that, in part A, neither the beneficiaries nor the associated partners need to fill in the list of up to five publications, relevant previous projects, or significant infrastructure. This information however will need to be described in the relevant sections of part B2.

Step 5: Budget Table (Part A)

Funding based on **unit costs** multiplied by requested person months

Country Correction Coefficient (CCC) automatically applies

Enter the no. of recruited researchers (DCs) and no. of person months

Automatically assumes 70% of DC will be eligible for the family allowance when calculating the budget

Budget

Search Text

×

Q

Sort By

Order no. ...

Ascending

Order no.	Participant name	Role	Country	IO
1	UKRI	Coordinator	UK	No

Order no.

Participant name

Role

Country

Country correction coefficient

1

UKRI

Coordinator

UK

1.435

Academic sector

IO

No of recruited researchers

0

Total number of person months *

0

▲ For each of the participant at least one researcher is required

▲ Number of person months is 0, please check that the information is correct.

Estimated EU contribution

Estimated eligible unit contributions (per budget category)

A. Contributions for recruited researchers

A.1 Living allowance (a)

0

person month

x

6,098.75

€

=

0

€

A.2 Mobility allowance (b)

0

person month

x

710

€

=

0

€

A.3 Family allowance (c)

0

person month

x

495

€

=

0

€

B. Institutional contributions

B.1 Research, training and networking contribution (f)

0

person month

x

1,600

€

=

0

€

B.2 Management and indirect contribution (g)

0

person month

x

1,200

€

=

0

€

Total (h) 0 €

Maximum grant amount (i) 0 €

▲ Total is zero; please check that the field "Number of person months" has a value.

Items per page: 10

Showing 1-1 of 1

Total Requested EU Contribution

0 €

▲ The Total is zero; please check that the field "Number of person months" has a value

Total number person months

0

Step 5: Ethics & Security questions (Part A)

- Follow the guidance on [How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#)
- Answering “**Yes**” might require a brief statement and/or upload of documents
- Page references to relevant sections of proposal for each issue if you answer ‘Yes’ (part B1 and B2)
- This will not affect your eligibility

UK applicants tick “Yes”
to non-EU country
activity and list the UK



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Ethics issues table

Human embryonic stem cells and human embryos

Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Humans

Does this activity involve human participants?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, tracking and tracing, etc.) on the study participants?

☐ Yes

☒ 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)

☐ Yes

☒ No

Human cells / tissues

Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues (not covered by section 1)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Personal data

Does this activity involve processing of personal data?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of preexisting data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries?

☐ Yes

☒ 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?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Does this activity involve the processing of personal data related to criminal convictions or offences?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Animals

Does this activity involve animals?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Non-EU countries

Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries?

☐ Yes

☒ No

In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Is it planned to use local resources (e.g. animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna or flora samples, etc.)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Step 5: Part B

- Complete **ALL** mandatory tables
- Do **not** alter headings

Can also include additional subheading

- **Actions** should be divided in Work Packages

Should reflect the research objectives

- **Deliverables** should be divided into:

Scientific deliverables and management, training, recruitment and dissemination deliverables

- **Milestones**

Control points in the action that help to chart progress and MAY be linked to deliverables

Part A

ONLINE

- Proposal's title and abstract
- Coordinator and Beneficiaries' information
- Budget table
- Other information: Gender, Ethics, etc.

Part B1 (document 1):

UPLOAD
AS PDF

- Sections 1-3
- Core of your proposal, divided in: Excellence, Impact and Quality and Efficiency of Implementation
- Maximum length: **34-page pages**
- Respect the instructions (e.g. margins, font size, etc)

Part B2 (document 2):

UPLOAD
AS PDF

- **Sections 4-9**
- Recruitment strategy, Supervisory Board, Participating Organisations, Environmental Considerations, etc.
- **No overall page limit** will be applied to this document
- Letter of pre-agreement for DN-JD
- RAISE DN justification (if applicable)

Formatting Rules

Min font size 11

Except for 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

Headers and page numbers as specified

Save files using specified format and naming convention

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



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Resubmission Restriction

- Applicants who scored **below 80%** in the MSCA DN 2025 call are not eligible to resubmit a “similar” proposal in the DN 2026 call
- Any proposal involving **70% or more of the same recruiting organisations** as in another proposal submitted to the MSCA DN 2025 call and a score of less than 80% will be assessed for resubmission
- The assessment will be carried out by external expert evaluators based on the **similarity of objectives and the scientific approach** proposed to reach such objectives
- REA system will flag similarities with previous proposals
- Final eligibility decision by REA Admissibility and Eligibility Committee appointed for the call evaluation

2026 MSCA DN Guide for Applicants (page 7)

MSCA Doctoral Networks

Resources & Timelines



The 2026 Call Timeline

The call page is hosted on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Action	Date
Launch of the call	28 May 2026
Deadline for submission	24 November 2026 (17:00 Brussels Time)
Information on outcome of evaluations	April 2027
Grant Agreement signature	July 2027
Prospective start date	from September 2027



UK Research Office
Brussels

Submit Early, Submit Often!

Additional Resources

- [Horizon Europe MSCA - How to apply - European Commission](#)
- [Doctoral Networks - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)
- [MSCA DN Guide for Applicants](#)
- [MSCA Financial Guide](#)
- [MSCA RADIANCE](#)
- [MSCA Work Programme 2026-2027](#)
- [EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal](#)
- [Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027](#)
- [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#)



UK Research Office
Brussels





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*Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be
understood. Now is the time to understand
more, so that we may fear less.*

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Thank you

mariecurie-uk@ukro.ac.uk

