



HORIZON EUROPE

THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

MSCA Doctoral Networks
Infoday Presentation
Thomas Vyzikas

22 March 2022

Marie
Sklodowska-Curie
actions

The information in this presentation is preliminary and subject to the amendment of the Work Programme 2022

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

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2. MSCA Doctoral Networks
3. From ITN to DN
4. Eligibility rules
5. Funding mechanism
6. Evaluation criteria
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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



MSCA in HE: Total Budget of € 6.6 billion

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

1 Doctoral Networks

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

2021: 402 M€, DL 16/11/2021
2022: 427 M€, DL 15/11/2022

2 Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

2021: 242 M€, DL 12/10/2021
2022: 257 M€, DL 14/09/2022

3 Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

2021: 72 M€, DL 09/03/2022
2022: 77 M€, DL 08/03/2023

4 COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

2021: 89 M€, DL 10/02/2022
2022: 95 M€, DL 09/02/2023

5 MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

2022: 15 M€, DL 07/10/2021

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

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

What are Doctoral Networks?

Multi-beneficiaries Actions to set up **doctoral programmes** comprising:

- **Doctoral Networks (standard)**: Training in academia and/or industry
- **Industrial Doctorates**: Training in academia and industry, Joint supervision
- **Joint Doctorates**: Joint collaborations leading to a joint/multiple doctoral degree, Joint selection and supervision; pre-agreement for joint degrees required

Doctoral Networks – Modes of implementation

3 modes



*Participants implement
a joint research
programme*



*Doctoral training with the
non-academic sector*



*Doctoral programme to
deliver joint degrees*

NEW: all 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels

Doctoral Networks - Features

Size

- Up to **360 person-months** (standard)
+ **180 additional person-months for joint or industrial doctorates** (incentive)

Duration

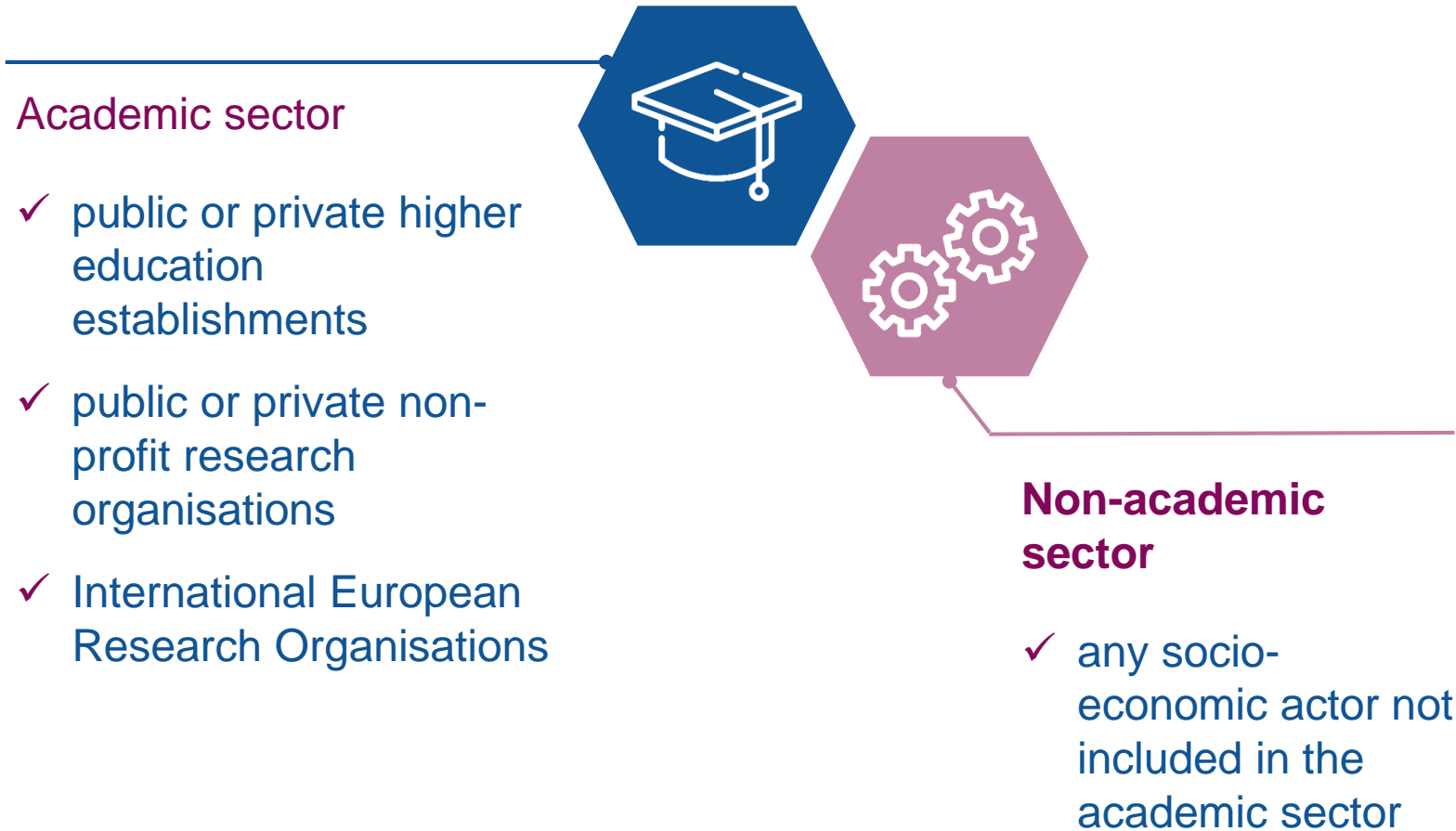
- **Programme:** max. 48 months
- **Fellowship:** between 3 and 36 months
- **Secondments:** worldwide, up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration
- **Industrial doctorates:**
 - 50% in the non-academic sector;
 - Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise
 - No ceiling for secondments' duration*
- **Joint doctorates:**
 - Joint award of PhD
 - Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
 - Letter of pre-agreement to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)
 - No ceiling for secondments' duration*



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
- **Not more than 40.0% of the EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country** or to a single international organisation.
- **Specific eligibility conditions for Industrial and Joint Doctorates**
- **!** Re-submission restrictions for proposals scoring below 80% in Call 2021

Doctoral Networks – Academic / non-academic sectors



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

From ITN to DN



Doctoral Networks – Comparison with ITN

- **Size** of Doctoral Networks: 360 PM
Industrial Doctorates/Joint Doctorates: up to 540 PM
- **All beneficiaries must recruit** at least one researcher
- Fellow: **only doctoral candidates**
- Secondments: **up to 1/3**
- Industrial doctorates: **50% of time in non-academic sector**
NB: intersectoral secondment can now be in the same country

Doctoral Networks

Horizon Europe

- Min 3 beneficiaries from MS/AC, of which 1 from a MS
- Maximum of 360 person-months per network
- Secondments for maximum 1/3 of total recruitment period (all modes)
- Doctoral Candidate enrolment in PhD mandatory

H2020

- Min 3 beneficiaries from MS/AC
- Maximum of 540 person-months per network
- Secondments for maximum 30% of total recruitment period
- ESR enrolment in PhD optional

Industrial Doctorates

Horizon Europe

- Min 3 beneficiaries from MS/AC, of which 1 from a MS
- Intersectoral secondments can be in the same country.
- Multiple recruitment
- No ceiling for secondments' duration*
- Maximum of 540 person-months per network

H2020

- Min 2 beneficiaries from MS/AC
- Intersectoral stays between beneficiaries has to be international
- Flexible recruitment rule
- Secondments limited to 1/3 duration

Joint Doctorates

Horizon Europe

- Min 3 beneficiaries from MS/AC, of which 1 from a MS
- all recruited researchers must be enrolled in a joint, double or multiple degree awarded by at least two participating organisations from MS/AC
- Joint/double/multiple degree –letter of pre-agreement
- No ceiling for secondments' duration*
- Maximum of 540 person-months per network

H2020

- Min 3 beneficiaries from MS/AC
- At least two-thirds of the supported early-stage researchers within an EJD must be enrolled in a joint, double or multiple degree within Europe, i.e. between two or more beneficiaries/partner organisations established in an MS or AC. The remaining supported researchers must also be enrolled in a programme that results in a joint, double or multiple degree awarded by at least one European participating organisation (MS/AC).
- Joint/double/multiple degree –Letters on institutional commitment
- The limitation of secondments to 30% of the total recruitment period does not apply to EJD insofar as time spent at other participating organisations occurs in line with the proposal description.

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

Doctoral Networks – Eligible Participants

- **Who can apply?**
 - Any Legal Entity from Anywhere in the world
 - But not all applicants are automatically eligible for funding
- **Consortia of:**
 - Universities, research institutions and research infrastructures
 - Businesses including SMEs
 - Other socio-economic actors
- No minimum / maximum number for **associated partners**

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	✓	✗

Doctoral Networks – Eligible Countries



EU COUNTRIES

- Member States (MS) including their outermost regions
- The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the MS.



NON-EU COUNTRIES

- Countries associated to Horizon Europe (AC)
- Low and middle income countries: See [HE Programme Guide](#).
- Other countries when announced in the call or exceptionally if their participation is essential



SPECIFIC CASES

- Affiliated entities established in countries eligible for funding.
- EU bodies
- International organisations (IO):
 - International European research organisations are eligible for funding.
 - **Other IO are not eligible (only exceptionally if participation is essential)**
 - **IO in a MS or AC are eligible for funding for Training and mobility actions and when announced in the call conditions**

Doctoral Networks – Eligible Countries

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

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

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

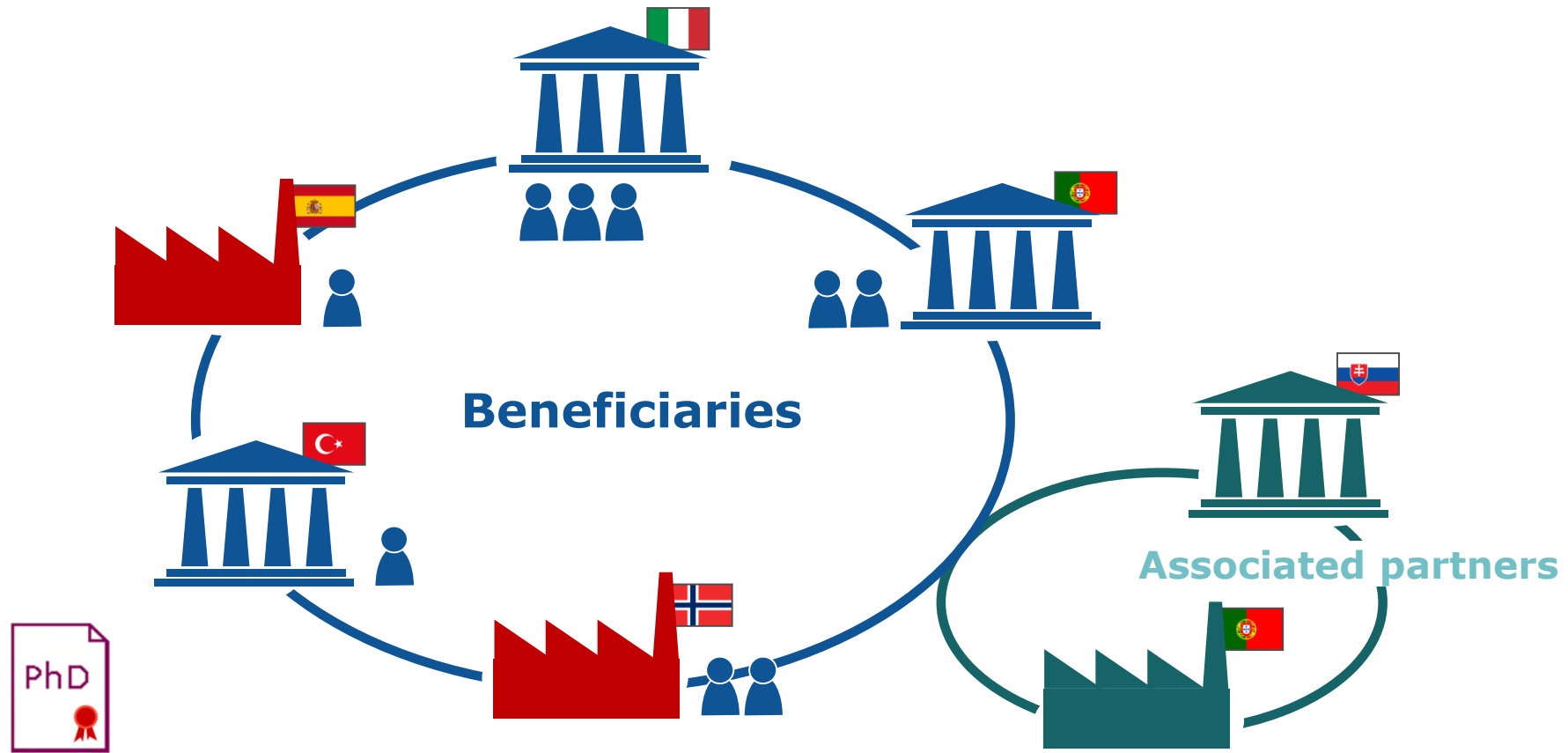
Third Country (TC): any other country (n.b. Annex A list of countries that can receive funding)

In case of doubt, please consult the [HE programme guide](#)

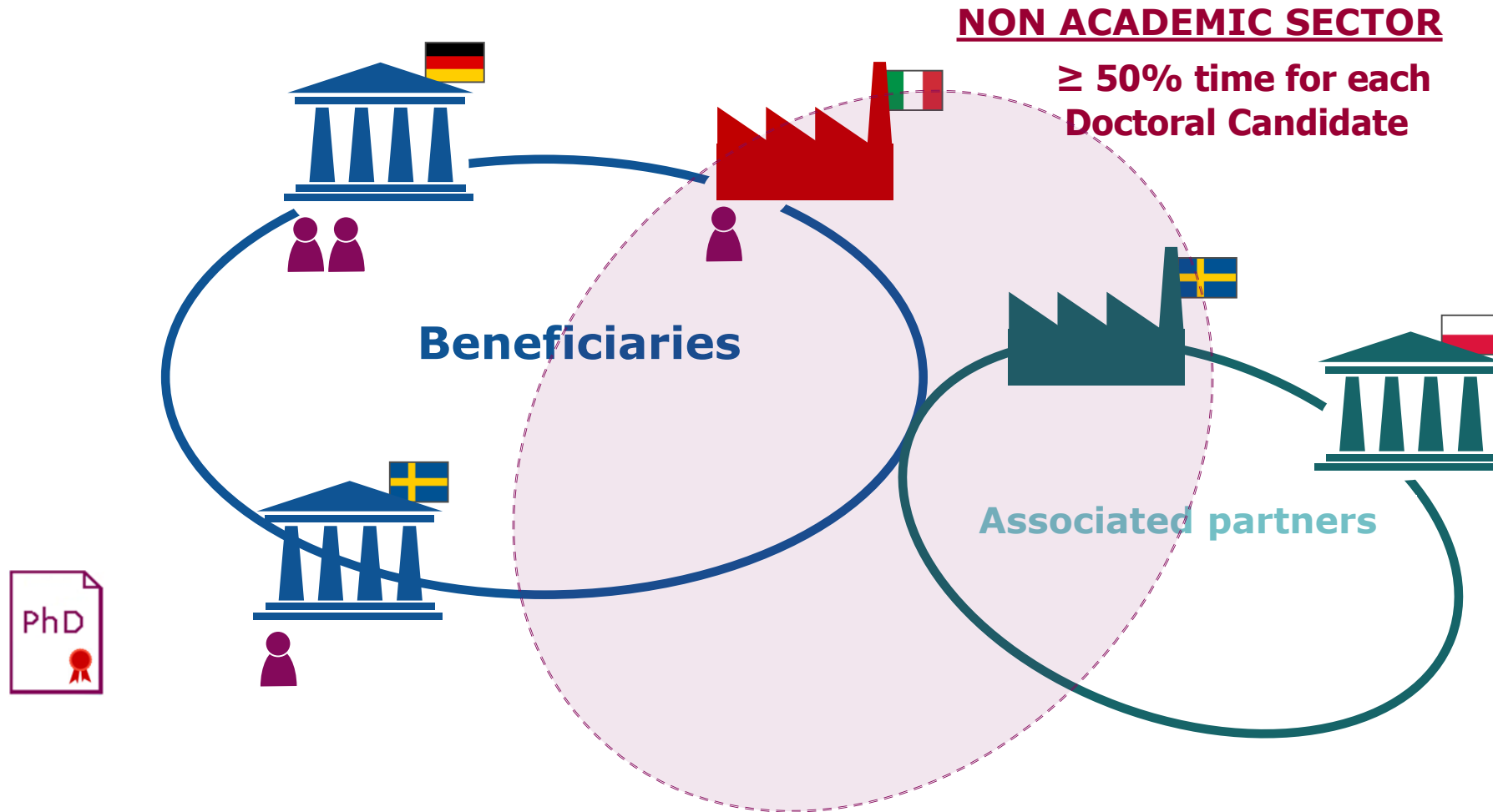
Doctoral Networks – Eligible Researchers

- Researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment)
- Be recruited following an **open, merit-based and transparent recruitment**
- Researchers must be **enrolled in a doctoral programme**, in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country (at least 2 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.

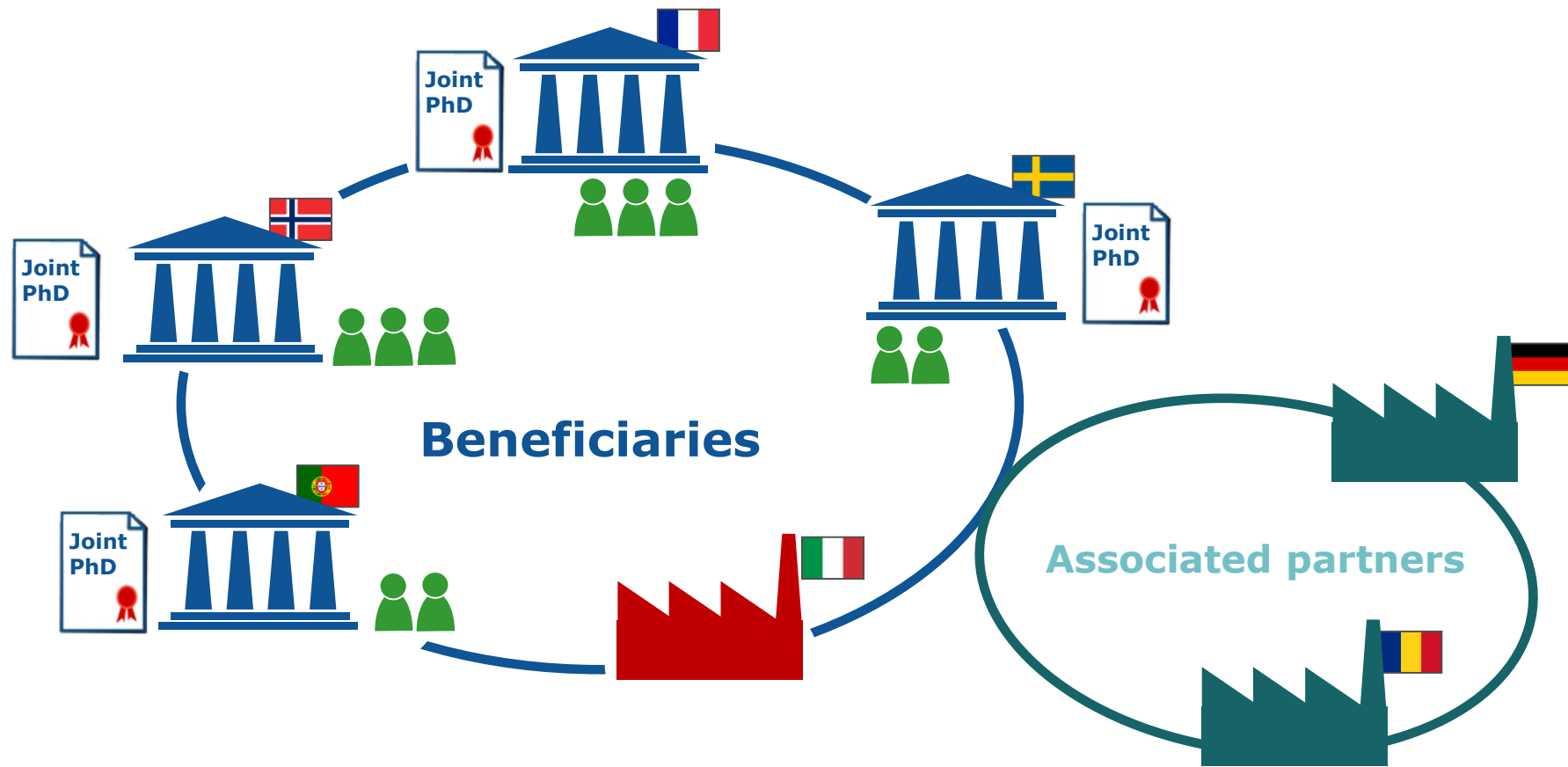
Doctoral Network – Example consortium



Industrial Doctorate – Example consortium



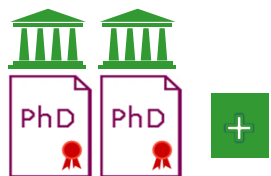
Joint Doctorate – Example consortium



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

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

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

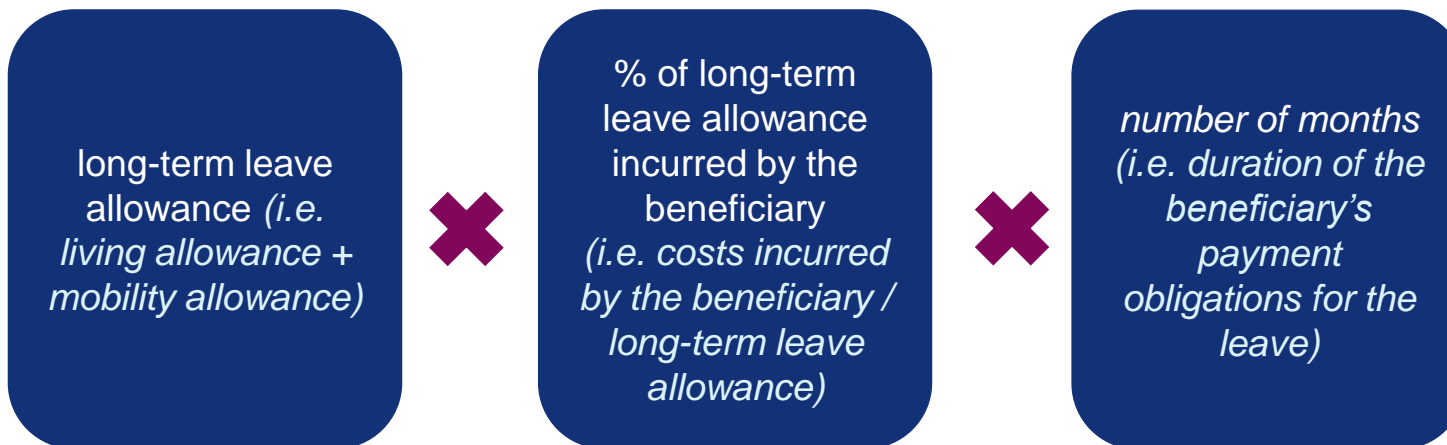
Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month					Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance** (if applicable)	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution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

** **NEW** - A **family allowance** to contribute to mobility-related costs of researchers with family obligations which can be granted **during** the project.

Doctoral Networks – Long-term leave allowance

NEW - 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.

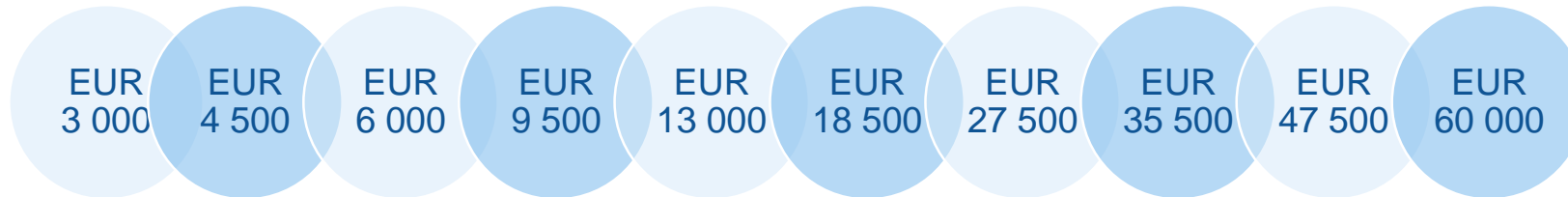


Doctoral Networks – Special needs allowance

NEW - 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 – Overview

		DN	DN-ID	DN-JD
BENEFICIARIES	Minimum Number of beneficiaries	3	3	3
	Minimum MS or AC	3	3	3
	Minimum MS (beneficiaries)	1	1	1
	Academic sector	No restrictions	Minimum 1	Minimum 3 entitled to award doctoral degrees; at least 2 (beneficiaries/ associated partners/ associated partners linked to a beneficiary) conferring the degree established in MS/AC.
	Non-academic sector	No restrictions	Minimum 1*	No restrictions
	Max no. of person months	360	540	540
	Max 40.0% budget for 1 country/international organisation	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Beneficiary (or associated partner/associated partner linked to a beneficiary) awarding PhD	Mandatory (beneficiary or associated partner/ associated partner linked to a beneficiary)	Mandatory (beneficiary or associated partner/ associated partner linked to a beneficiary)	Mandatory for minimum 3 beneficiaries in MS/AC	
Joint award of PhD	Optional	Optional	Mandatory	
Joint degree – letter of pre-agreement	N/A	N/A	Mandatory	
Joint supervision for researchers	Encouraged	Mandatory (from the 2 sectors)	Mandatory	
Researchers enrolment in the PhD	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	
Secondments: international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary	≤ 1/3	≤ 1/3 and <i>Min 50% stay in the non-academic sector**</i>	≤ 1/3**	
Associated partner: Letter of Commitment	Mandatory***			
Ranking lists	8 (Scientific) panels			

*Not mandatory 1 beneficiary from non-academic sector for ID (subject of approval of Work Programme 2022)

** No ceiling for the duration of the secondments (subject of approval of Work Programme 2022)

***LoC not required for Associated Partners linked to beneficiaries (subject of approval of Work Programme 2022)

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

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

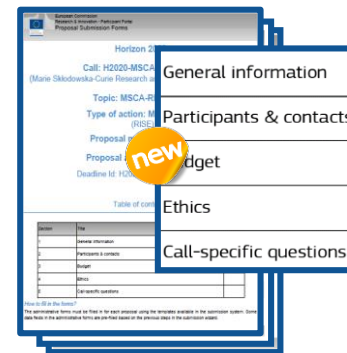
Doctoral Networks – How to apply?

The screenshot shows the European Commission website for 'Funding & tender opportunities' in the Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA). The main heading is 'MSCA Doctoral Networks 2021' with the topic ID 'HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01-01'. A 'Grant' button is visible. The page is divided into two columns: 'General information' on the left with a navigation menu (Topic description, Destination, Conditions and documents, Partner search, Submission service, Topic related FAQ, Get support, Call updates) and 'General information' on the right with details: Programme (Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)), Call (MSCA Doctoral Networks 2021 (HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01-01)), Type of action (HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks), and a list of related calls including HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID and HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD.

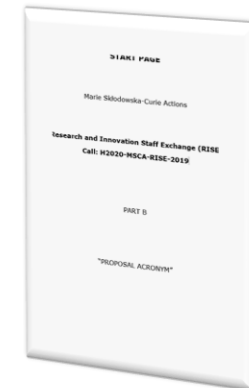
Useful documents

- MSCA Work Programme
- Horizon Europe annexes
- Guide for Applicants
- Proposal templates
- Frequently Asked Questions

Part A
(structured data)



Part B
(description of action)



Part B1: 30 page
Part B2: no limit

Doctoral Networks – Proposal preparation

- Read the MSCA Work Programme and Guidance documents
- Use the proposal template
- Use the Letter of Commitment 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 partner
- 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

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

Doctoral Networks – Resources

Useful links

Funding and Tenders opportunities (documents & submit application):

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen>

MSCA website:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

European Research Executive Agency website: https://rea.ec.europa.eu/index_en

MSCA in Horizon Europe Info Days: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/events/upcoming-events/horizon-europe-info-days/marie-sklodowska-curie-actions_en

MSCA Guidelines on Supervision:

<https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/508311>

Do you have questions?

Ask advice to your MSCA/EU National Contact Point

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

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

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service_en

Work as an EC expert



Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

English

[Register](#) [Login](#)

[SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS](#) [HOW TO PARTICIPATE](#) [PROJECTS & RESULTS](#) **WORK AS AN EXPERT** [SUPPORT](#)

• Legal Entity and Bank Account validations tasks will experience issues in the Grant Management Services on Monday, 21.03.2022, between 20:00 and 21:30 CET.
• The Identity, Bank Account, Contracts & Payments functionalities in the Experts Area of the F&T Portal will be unavailable on Monday, 21.03.2022, between 20:00 and 21:30 CET.

Need help?

Work as an expert

The European Union Institutions appoint external experts to assist in the evaluation of grant applications, projects and tenders, and to provide opinions and advice in specific cases.



In particular, experts assist in:

- **Evaluation** of proposals, prize applications and tenders
- **Monitoring** of actions, grant agreements, public procurement contracts

In addition, experts provide opinion and advise on:

- **Preparation, implementation and evaluation of EU programmes and design of policies.**

In order to select experts, the European Union Institutions publish regularly calls for expression of interest (see list below) detailing the selection criteria, the required expertise, the description of the tasks, their duration and the conditions of remuneration.

Interested? Please join the database of external experts!

[Register as expert](#)

As **new expert**, you will be first requested to create your EU login account and register your profile.

Registered experts can update the profile via the My Expert Area after **login**.

News

24 Feb, 2022

Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) - Call for experts!

The Research Fund for Coal and Steel is looking for expert evaluators. A call for experts for RFCS has been published on the RFCS website. IMPORTANT: Intereste...

14 Oct, 2021

CINEA Innovation Fund – Call for experts

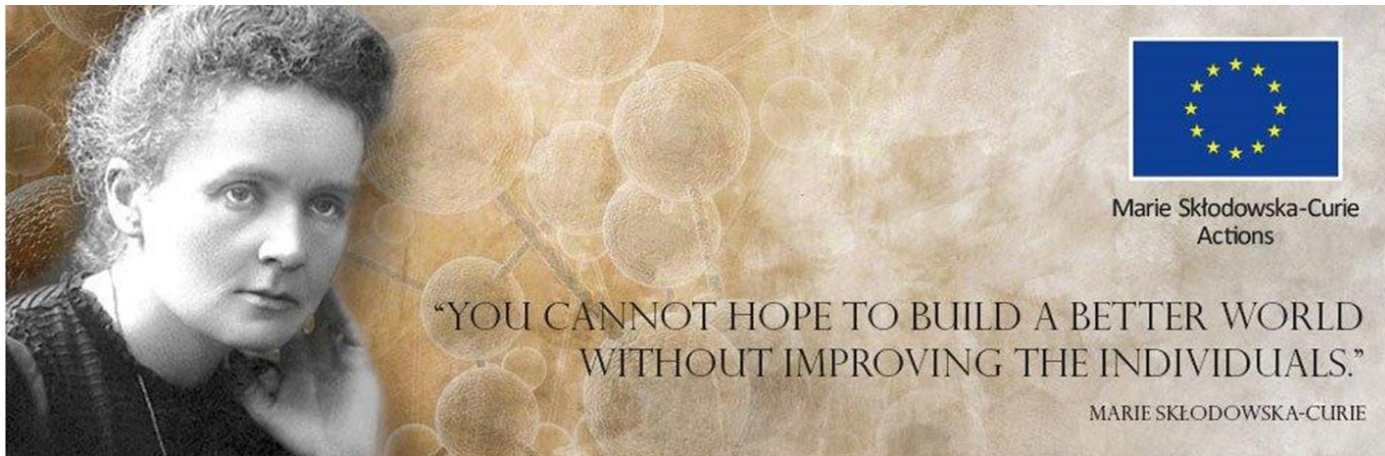
The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) is looking for experienced technical and Life Cycle assessment (GHG) experts, as ...

[All news >](#)

Quick Links

- Standard briefing slides for experts (HE)
- [FAQ for Experts](#)
- [Lists of contracted experts](#)

Thank you



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