





MSCA Doctoral Networks

Infoday Preseantation Thomas Vyzikas

11 May 2022



Marie Skłodowska-Curie

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

Poll 1

I work in

- 1) Academia
- 2) Private sector
- 3) I am student



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



The MSCA ITN in numbers



Poll 2

How many ITN projects were funded in H2020?

- 1) < 700
- 2) 700-1000
- 3) > 1000



Poll 3

In how many ITN projects there were participants from the Baltic countries

- 1) < 50
- 2) 50-150
- 3) > 150



Statistics: MSCA ITN overview in the Baltic countries

Country	Applicants	Unique Applicants	Proposals
EE	325	34	298
LT	204	35	187
LV	137	23	128
Total	666	92	613

Total proposals: 11867

Participating in 5% of the proposals

Top applicants	Number of applications
TARTU ULIKOOL	113
TALLINNA TEHNIKAULIKOOL	58
VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS	51
LATVIJAS UNIVERSITATE	45
KAUNO TECHNOLOGIJOS UNIVERSITETAS	37
LATVIJAS ORGANISKAS SINTEZES INSTITUTS	31
TALLINN UNIVERSITY	29
EESTI MAAULIKOOL	21
RIGAS TEHNISKA UNIVERSITATE	21

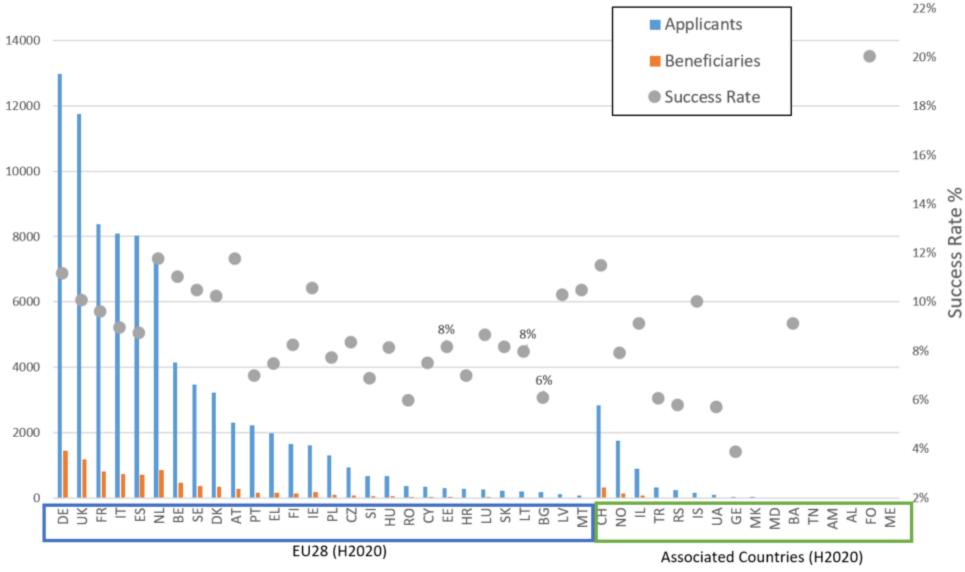
Country	Applicant Coordinators	Coordinators in Projects
EE	19	3
LT	15	0
LV	12	0
Total	46	3

Tartu University in 2014 and 2018 Tallinn Technical University in 2016

Top beneficiaries	Number of participations
TARTU ULIKOOL	9
TALLINNA TEHNIKAÜLIKOOL	6
LATVIJAS UNIVERSITATE	4
VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETAS	4
KAUNO TECHNOLOGIJOS UNIVERSITETAS	3
LATVIJAS ORGANISKAS SINTEZES INSTITUTS	3



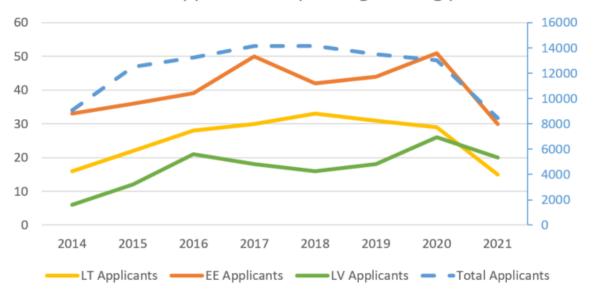
Statistics: H2020 – MSCA ITN Applicants - Beneficiaries



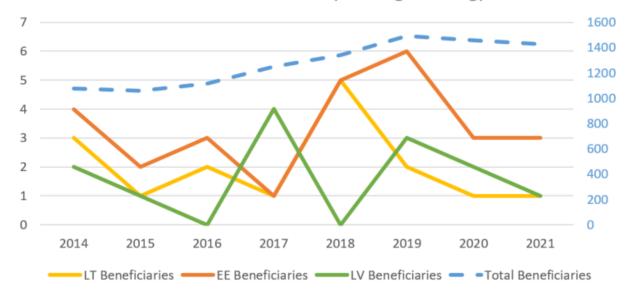


Statistics: Per Call – Baltic Applicants - Beneficiaries

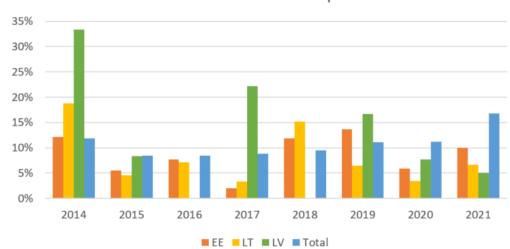
MSCA ITN Applicants Requesting funding per Call



MSCA ITN Beneficiaries Requesting fundingper Call

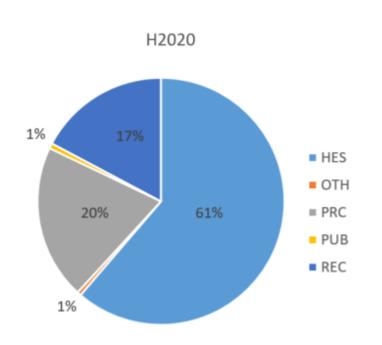


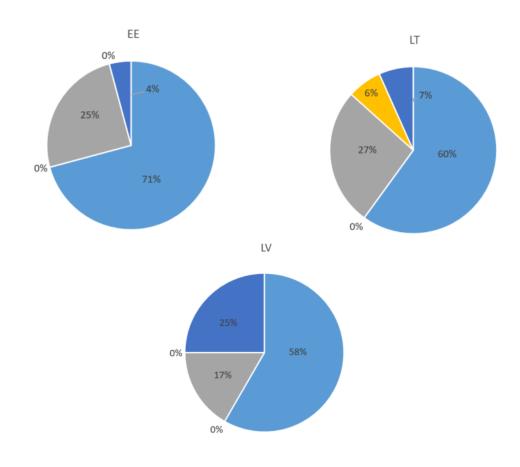
MSCA ITN Success Rate per Call





Statistics: Per Legal Entity type in H2020 projects



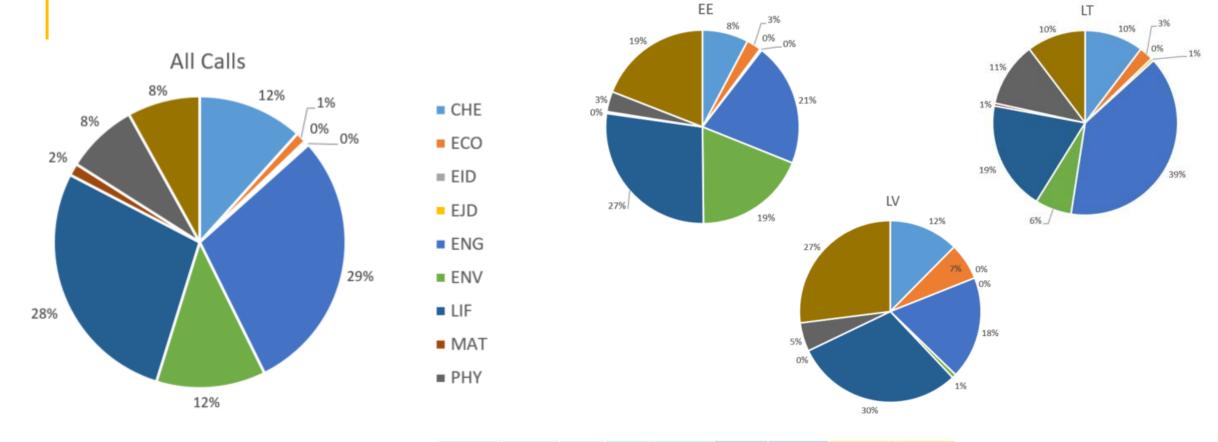


	Total	%	EE	%	LT	%	LV	%
HES - Higher or Secondary Education Establishments	5388	61%	17	71%	9	60%	7	58%
OTH - Other (e.g. non-profit organizations)	45	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
PRC - Private for-profit entities	1782	20%	6	25%	4	27%	2	17%
PUB - Public bodies	60	1%	0	0%	1	7%	0	0%
REC - Research Organisations (including RTOs -research and technology organizations)	1515	17%	1	4%	1	7%	3	25%
Total	8790	100%	24	100%	15	100%	12	100%



Disclaimer: Beneficiaries are considered only the participants requesting funding

Statistics: Per Panel Applicants



NB: EID	/ EJD	are n	ot s	eparate	panels	in	Horizon	Europe

Disclaimer: Applicants are considered only those
participants requesting funding

Panel	Total	%	EE	%	LT	%	LV	%
CHE	11445	11,7%	25	7,7%	21	10,3%	17	12,4%
ECO	1148	1,2%	8	2,5%	5	2,5%	9	6,6%
EID	245	0,2%	0	0,0%	0	0,0%	0	0,0%
EJD	285	0,3%	1	0,3%	1	0,5%	0	0,0%
ENG	28757	29,3%	67	20,6%	80	39,2%	25	18,2%
ENV	11885	12,1%	61	18,8%	13	6,4%	1	0,7%
LIF	27308	27,8%	89	27,4%	39	19,1%	41	29,9%
MAT	1322	1,3%	1	0,3%	1	0,5%	0	0,0%
PHY	7821	8,0%	11	3,4%	23	11,3%	7	5,1%
SOC	7899	8,1%	62	19,1%	21	10,3%	37	27,0%
Total	98115	100%	325	100%	204	100%	137	100%



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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





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: 428 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 / MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

2022: 15 M€, DL 07/10/2021



MSCA Programme Policy Context

Refer to the introduction of the Work Programme:

The European Union needs a strong, resilient, flexible and creative human resource base, with the right combination of skills to match the future needs of the labour market, to innovate and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit.

The MSCA do not only have a positive impact on individual researchers, they also contribute to the development of excellent doctoral programmes, postdoctoral training programmes and collaborative research projects. They have a structuring impact on higher education institutions and other entities way beyond academia by widely spreading excellence and setting standards for high-quality researcher education and training, not only across the European Research Area (ERA), but also worldwide. Positive structuring effects on organisations include:

The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted once more the importance of the Union's reliance on a highly skilled research-based human capital that is able to detect and tackle upcoming challenges, to communicate scientific evidence to policy-makers and the public at large, and to work across disciplines.



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 intersectoral, 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



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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

DN

Doctoral Networks

Participants implement a joint research programme **DN-ID**

Industrial
Doctorates

Doctoral training with the non-academic sector

DN-JD

Doctoral Networks
Joint
Doctorates

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

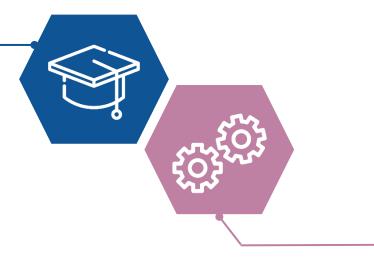
- At least 3 independent legal entities:
 - Each established in a different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Country
 - Minimum of 1 beneficiary from an EU Member State
- All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate. They are required
 to host at their premises and supervise 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

Academic sector

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



Non-academic sector

 ✓ any socioeconomic actor not included in the academic sector



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From ITN to DN











Doctoral Networks – Comparison with ITN

Overall a mild evolution from H2020...but:

With changes in the implementation:

- 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

Other changes in the evaluation:

- Resubmission restrictions for proposals scoring below 80%
- Proposal template and application forms
- Evaluation criteria
- Evaluation panels



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
- <u>all recruited researchers</u> must be enrolled in a joint, double or multiple degree awarded by at least two participating organisations from MS/AC

- Joint/double/multiple degree -<u>letter of pre-agreement</u>
- 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.

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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 <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): 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

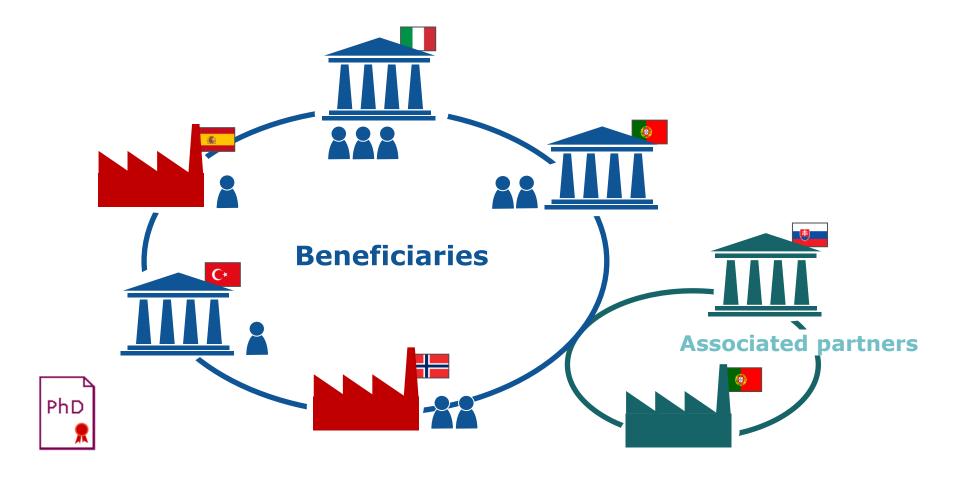


Doctoral Networks – Eligible Researchers

- 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.

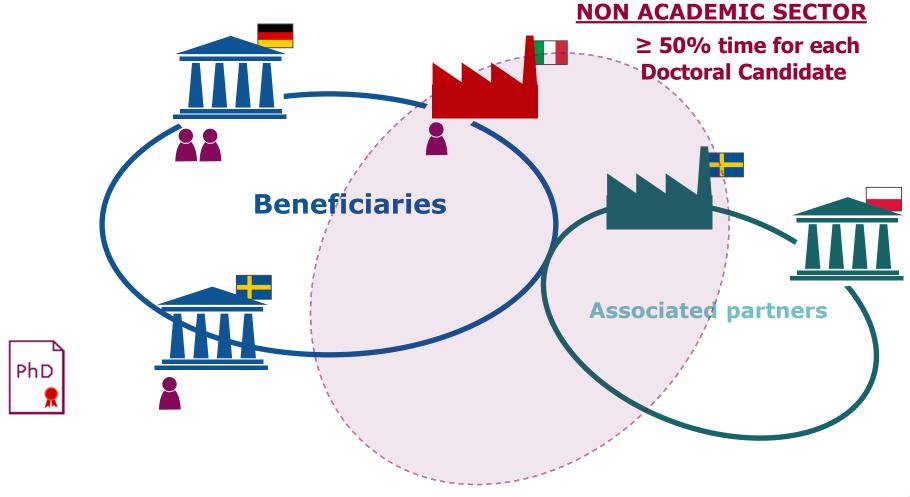


Doctoral Network – Example consortium



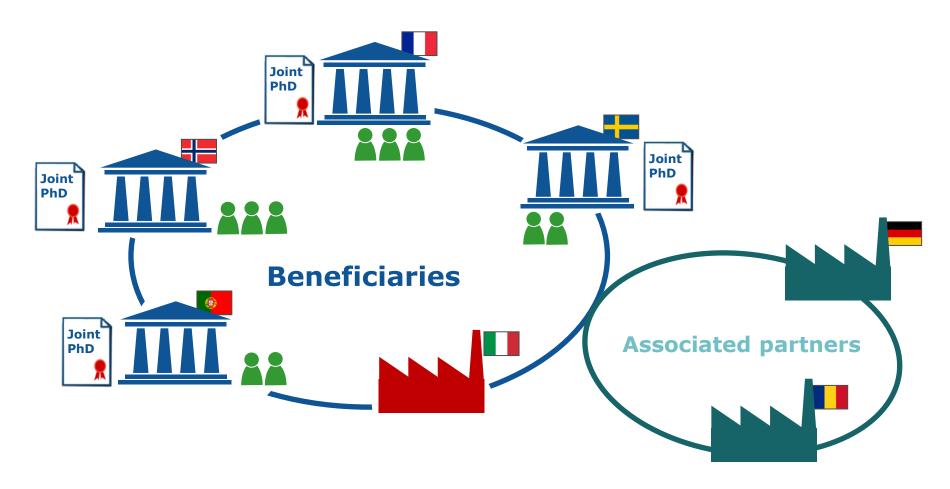


Industrial Doctorate – Example consortium





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



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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

C	ontribution F	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	
	Minimum Number of beneficiaries	3	3	3	
	Minimum MS or AC	3	3	3	
	Minimum MS (beneficiaries)	1	1	1	
BENEFICIARIES	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 Min 50% stay in the non- academic sector**	≤ 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)

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Timeline for Call 2022

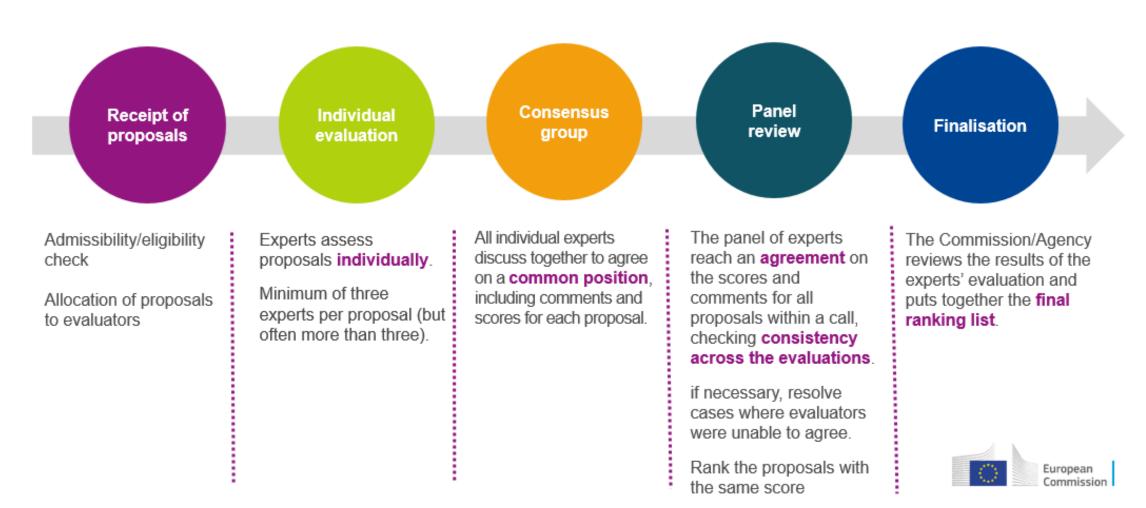
HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01-01



Project start date: September 2023 – March 2024



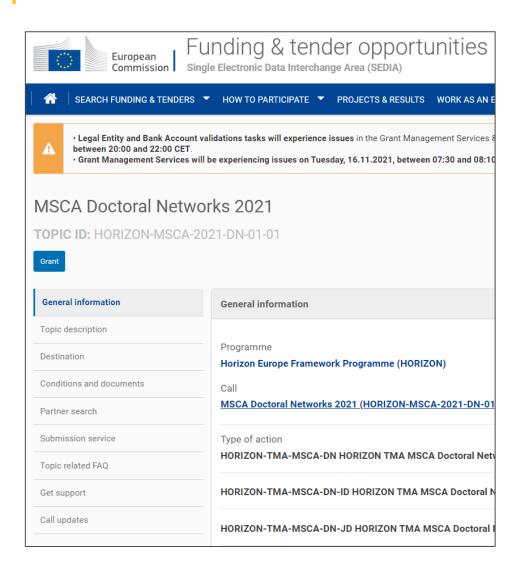
Doctoral Networks – Evaluation process



Doctoral Networks — Award Criteria [the proposal template follows it the grid]

Criteria	Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
	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
Sub-criteria	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?



Useful documents

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

Part A



Part B (structured data) (description of action)

Call: H2020-MSCA-RISE-2019

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 (the services will be described after the presentation)
- Duly complete Part A
- Start preparing early and don't leave submission for the last minute to account for technical issues



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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-andinnovation/events/upcoming-events/horizoneurope-info-days/marie-sklodowska-curieactions 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

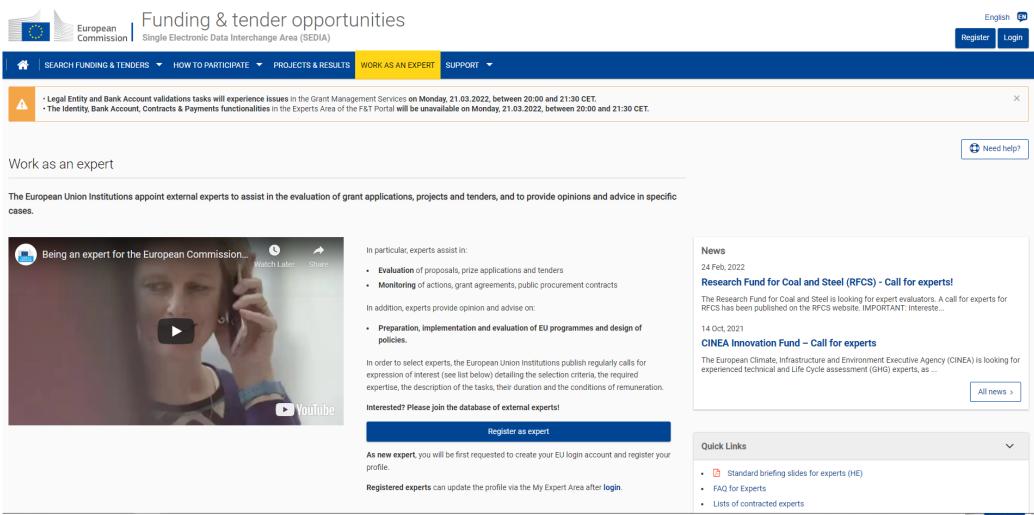
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp

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



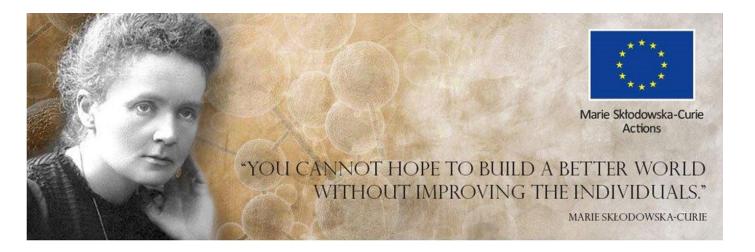
Poll 4

What was the most useful thing that you learnt?



Thank you

Paldies Ačiū Aitäh



Thomas Vyzikas – MSCA Doctoral Networks thomas.vyzikas@ec.europa.eu

European