



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in Horizon Europe

MSCA Doctoral Networks

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The information in this presentation is preliminary and subject to the adoption of the Work Programme.

Doctoral Networks

Main objective:

- Respond to **well-identified needs** in various R&I areas (bottom-up),
- expose the researchers to the **academic and non-academic sectors**,
- and offer training in research-related, as well as competences relevant for **innovation and long-term employability**
- Focus on **research and transferable skills**, (inter-sectoral secondments), **career development plan**, **supervision**, **internationalisation/attractiveness**

Doctoral Networks

Modalities:

Multi-beneficiary Action to set up **doctoral programmes**, including

- **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 (standard):** Training in academia and/or industry

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 supervising can be in the same country

Doctoral Networks

Eligible participants:

- Who applies?
 - **Consortia** of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors
 - At least **three independent legal entities**, each established in a different MS or AC; minimum of 1 beneficiary from a MS (on top of this minimum, any entity from any third country can join; no minimum for associated partners)

Doctoral Networks

Eligible participants:



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

Academic and non-academic sectors

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

Doctoral Networks

Eligible participants:

	<u>Beneficiaries</u>	<u>Associated Partners</u>
<u>Academic/Non-academic</u>		
<u>Signatories of the Grant Agreement</u>		
<u>Recruitment of researchers</u>		
<u>Training and/or hosting of seconded researchers</u>		
<u>Participation in Supervisory Board</u>		
<u>Directly claim costs</u>		

Doctoral Networks

Eligible participants:

- **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.

Doctoral Networks

Eligible researchers:

- Supported researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of 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 Networks

Main differences compared to H2020-ITNs:

- **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% in non-academic sector**
- **Resubmission restrictions** as of 2022 for applications receiving a score **below 80%**

Doctoral Networks

		DN	DN-ID	DN-JD
BENEFICIARY (IES)	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			
Budget	~€403 mn			



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Proposal submission



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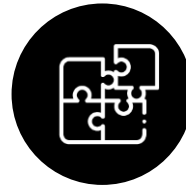
DN – proposal submission

Novelties compared to H2020



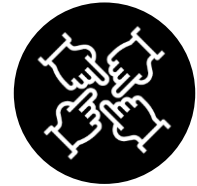
NEW FIELDS IN PART A

- Researchers table – needed to follow up researchers careers (HE indicator)
- Role of participating organisation
- Self-declaration on gender equality plan



FIELDS MOVED FROM PART B TO PART A

- Ethics self-assessment
- Security questionnaire (**NEW!** in all HE proposals)



NEW IN PART B

- Glossary of terms.
- Consistency on the use of terminology is ensured in all project phases (from WP to proposal and reporting)
- Extensive explanations on what exactly should be included in each section.

DN – proposal submission

Gender Equality Plans

Corporate eligibility criterion in Horizon Europe (not specific to MSCA)

Applicable to public bodies, research organisations and higher education establishments from EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries

Minimum process-related requirements for publication, dedicated resources, data collection & monitoring, and training

Transition/grace period before full enforcement for calls with deadlines in 2022

DN – proposal submission

DN specificities of Part A proposal template:

- **3 submission links**, 1 per modality (standard DN, Industrial Doctorates, Joint Doctorates)
- **Associated partners** register in the tool like beneficiaries (with a validated or temporary PIC)
- **Scientific panel** and **keywords selection** (similar to H2020, guidance on REA website)
- **Unit-cost budget table**

DN – proposal submission

DN specificities of Part B proposal template:

Part B1:

- Follows the **award criteria**
- **Same page-limit** as in H2020
- **instructions** included in the template
- **Harmonised** with RIA/IA corporate template whenever possible.

Part B2:

- **Description of participants** (similar to H2020)
- **Letters of commitment** (templates similar to H2020)

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Award criteria



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Doctoral Networks: Three award criteria

‘Excellence’, ‘Impact’ and ‘Quality and efficiency of the implementation

- Each criterion includes the ‘aspects to be taken into account’. The same aspect is not included in different criteria, so it is not assessed twice.
- Open Science practices are assessed as part of the scientific methodology in the excellence criterion.

Doctoral Networks: award 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
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	
50%	30%	20%

DN – award criteria

Excellence: main novelties

1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology

- Gender dimension and diversity aspects
- Open science practices
- Research data management and management of other research outputs

DN – award criteria

Impact (main novelties)

2.3 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

- Plan for the dissemination and exploitation activities, including communication activities
- Strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures

DN – award criteria

Impact (main novelties)

2.4 The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts (project's pathways towards impact)

Expected scientific impact(s)

Expected economic/technological impact(s)

Expected societal impact(s)

DN – award criteria

Quality and efficiency of the implementation (main novelties)

3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

Management structures not assessed anymore

Risk management at consortium level

Gender aspects (both at the level of recruitment and that of decision-making within the action)

Environmental aspects in light of the [MSCA Green Charter](#)

DN – award criteria

**Quality and efficiency of the implementation
(main novelties)**

3.2 Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise

Operational capacity fully assessed under criterion
3.2

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Evaluation



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DN – evaluation

Overview of the process



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Budget structure & Project implementation



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DN – project implementation

Funding mechanism

- *1 person-month = 1 unit*
- *Reimbursement rate: 100%*
- *Different cost categories*

1 unit
=
1 month of eligible ESR

DN – project implementation

Novelties compared to H2020: new cost categories

MSCA Doctoral Networks	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 3 400	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 4 000 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit ⁷⁶ x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 600	EUR 1 200

DN – project implementation

Novelties compared to H2020 – new cost categories

- **NEW** - If a fellow has or acquires **family obligations during the action duration**, the **family allowance** must be paid to him/her as well.
 - **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.
 - **NEW** - The **special needs allowance** contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities.
- ▶ Both long-term leave and special needs allowances should be requested **when the need arises**.

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2021 – 2022 Call details



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DN – call details

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN 2021 and 2022

CALL	2021		CALL	2022	
	opening closing	budget (M€)		opening closing	budget (M€)
Doctoral Networks	Tbc 16/11/21	402,95	Doctoral Networks	03/05/22 15/11/22	427,28

Thank you



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