



HORIZON EUROPE

THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

MSCA Doctoral Networks
Infoday Presentation
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31 May 2022



Content

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2. MSCA Doctoral Networks
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4. Eligibility rules
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MSCA: world reference for research and training

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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

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MSCA in HE: Total Budget of € 6.6 billion

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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

5 MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events
(Night)

2022: 15 M€, DL 07/10/2021

MSCA Programme Policy Context

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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:

Policy agenda for [European Research Area](#) and [European Education Area](#)

MSCA DN Programme Expected Outcomes

- Benefits for both **Doctoral Candidates** and **Participating Organisations**
- Creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient researchers able to
 - Face current and future challenges
 - Convert knowledge and ideas into products and services
 - Achieve sustainable economic and social benefit
- Research-related skills and competences for **innovation and long-term employability**
- Exposure to **academic and non-academic sectors** for developing **transferable skills**
- Enhanced **cooperation and knowledge transfer** between sectors and disciplines
- Regular feedback of research results into **education and policy**

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MSCA DN Programme Expected Impacts

- Strengthen Europe's human capital base in R&I through **highly-skilled doctoral candidates**
- Improve **attractiveness** of researchers' careers in Europe notably through **better working and employment conditions**
- 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



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What are Doctoral Networks?

Multi-beneficiaries Actions to set up **doctoral programmes**, through **3 implementation modes**:

- **Doctoral Networks (DN):** Training in academia and/or industry
- **Industrial Doctorates (DN-ID):** Joint collaborations between academia and industry with joint inter-sectoral supervision
- **Joint Doctorates (DN-JD):** Joint collaborations in higher education leading to a joint/multiple doctoral degree with joint selection and supervision

NEW: all 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels

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Doctoral Networks - Commonalities

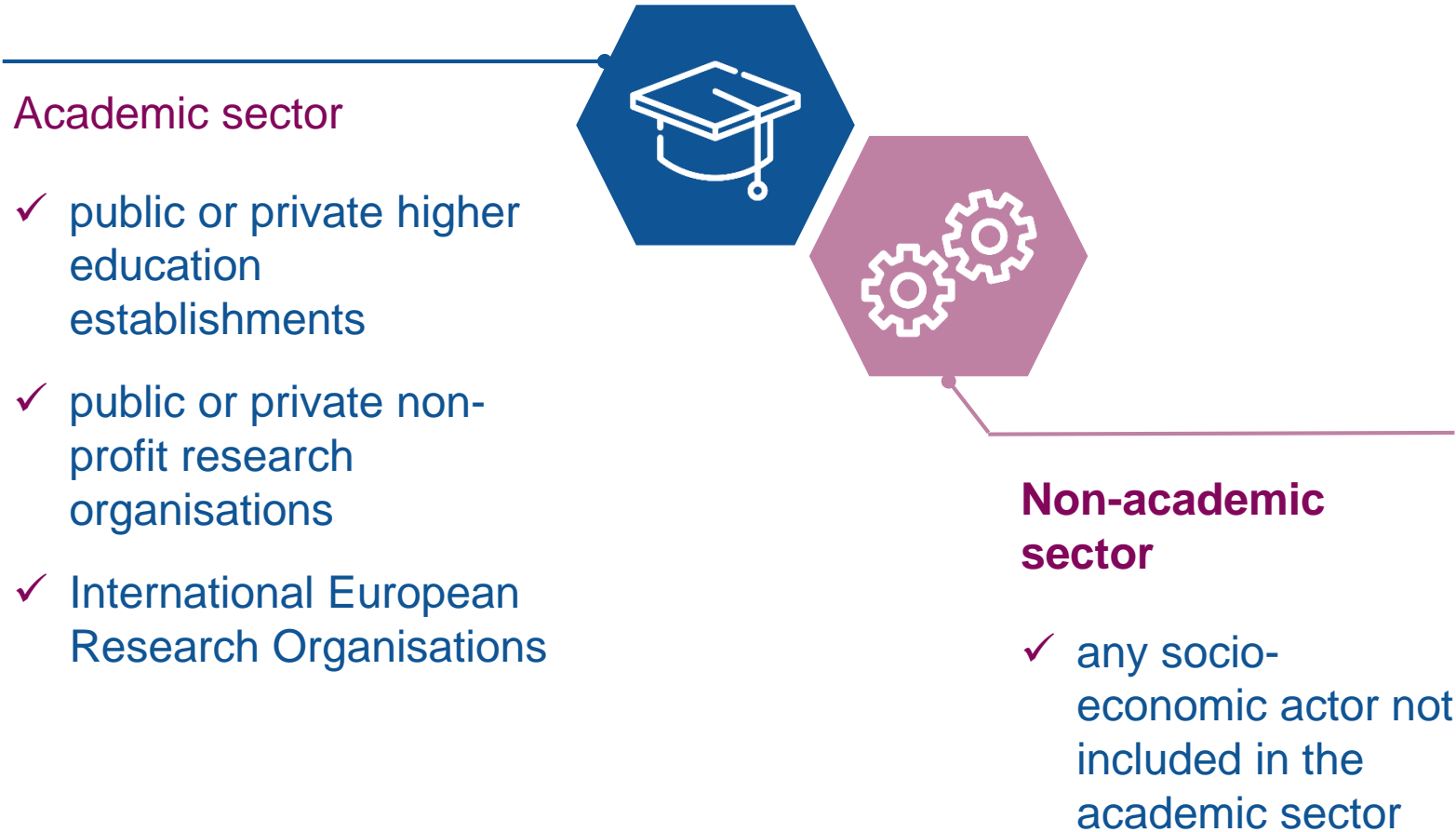
- **Programme duration:** 48 months
- **Fellowship duration:** 3 to 36 months
- **Beneficiaries:** ≥ 3 independent legal entities from \neq EU Member States or HE Associated Countries
 ≥ 1 beneficiary from an EU Member State and ≥ 2 from an EU MS or HE AC
- **Recruitment, hosting, supervision:** All beneficiaries must recruit ≥ 1 doctoral candidate (DC), host and supervise DCs at their premises or at a linked associated partner
- **Budget allocation:** $\leq 40\%$ of EU contribution for one country or international organisation.
- **! No re-submission** for proposals scoring below 80% in the previous call

Doctoral Networks - Specificities

- **Doctoral Networks:**
 - Size \leq 360 person-months
 - Secondment \leq 1/3 of fellowship's duration
- **Industrial doctorates:**
 - Size \leq 540 person-months (incentive)
 - 50% in the non-academic sector;
 - Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise
- **Joint doctorates:**
 - Size \leq 540 person-months (incentive)
 - Joint award of PhD
 - Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
 - Letter of pre-agreement to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)

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Doctoral Networks – Academic/non-academic sectors



From ITN to DN

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Doctoral Networks – Comparison with ITN

- **Size** of classical Doctoral Networks: 360 PM
Industrial Doctorates/Joint Doctorates: up to 540 PM
- Consortium ≥ 3 beneficiaries **EU MS/HE AC** including **1 EU MS**
- **All beneficiaries must recruit** at least one researcher
- Fellow: **only doctoral candidates** (PhD mandatory for all modes)
- Secondments: $\leq 1/3$ (limited to DN for call 2022)
- Industrial doctorates: inter-sectoral secondment possible **in the same country**

Doctoral Networks

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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

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Horizon Europe

- Min 3 beneficiaries from MS/AC, of which 1 from a MS
- Intersectoral secondments can be in the same country.
- No ceiling for secondments' duration

H2020

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

Joint Doctorates

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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 and recognized by at least two participating organisations from MS/AC
- Joint/double/multiple degree – letter of pre-agreement
- No ceiling for secondments' duration

H2020

- Min 3 beneficiaries from MS/AC
- $\geq 2/3$ of early-stage researchers must be enrolled in a joint/ double degree within Europe, i.e. ≥ 2 MS/AC. The other must be enrolled in joint/double degree awarded by ≥ 1 MS/AC.
- Joint/double/multiple degree – Letters on institutional commitment
- Secondments $\leq 30\%$ of recruitment period does not apply if the time spent in secondment occurs in line with the proposal description.

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

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

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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**

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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 (see Annex A for the list of countries)

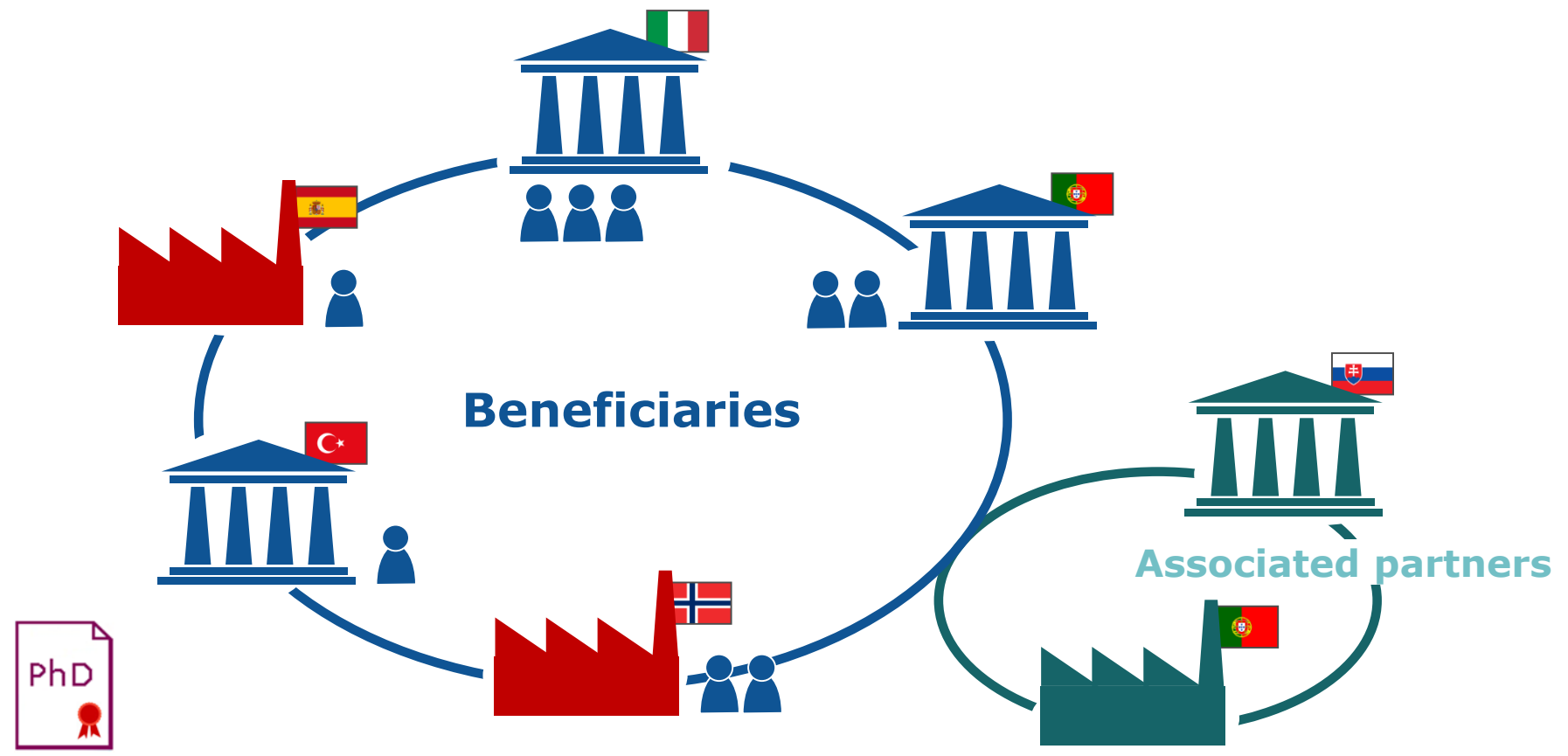
In case of doubt, please consult the [HE programme guide](#)

Doctoral Networks – Eligible Researchers

- Researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (do not have a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment)
- Be recruited following an **open, merit-based and transparent recruitment**
- 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.

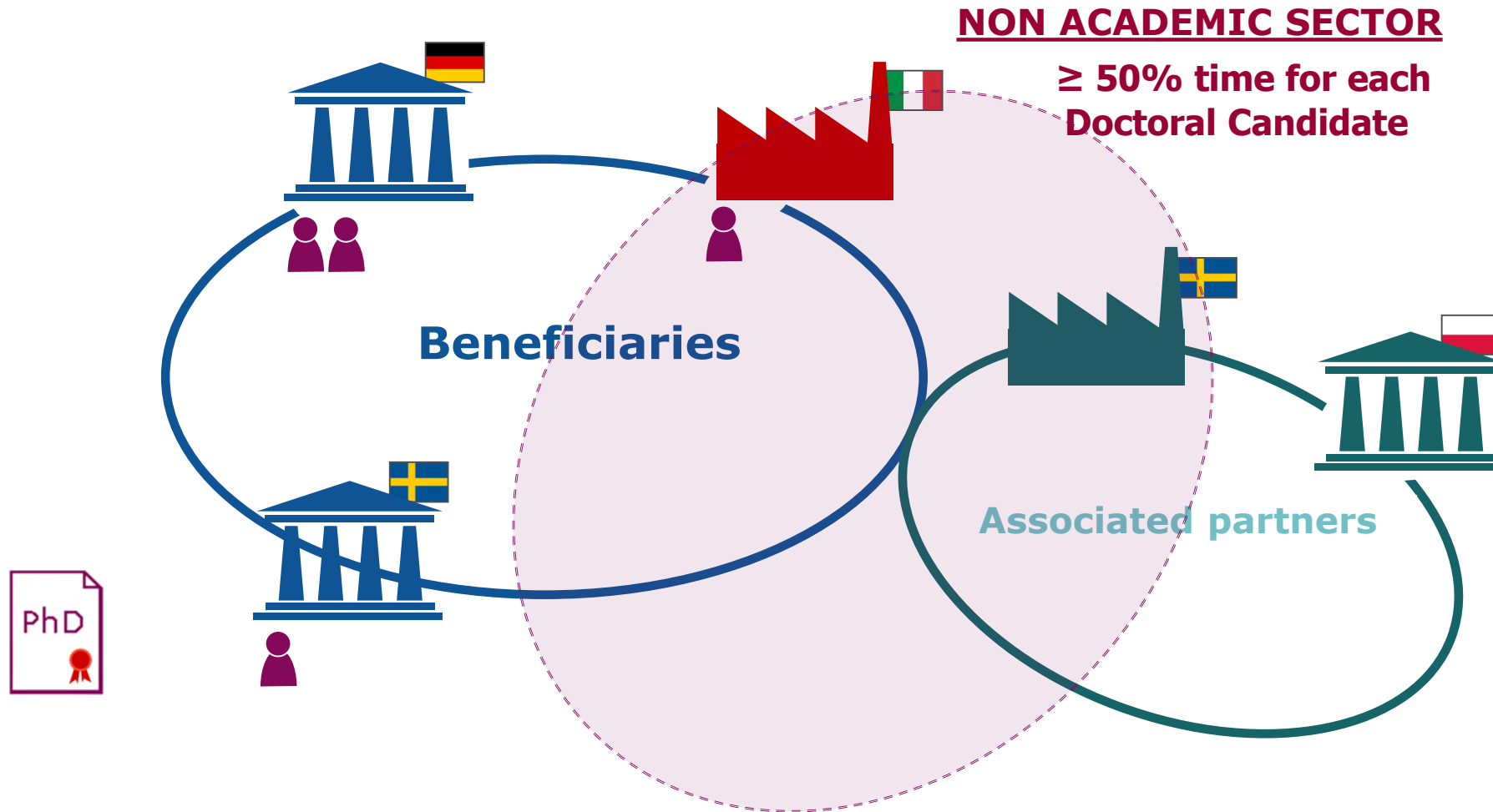
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Doctoral Network – Example consortium



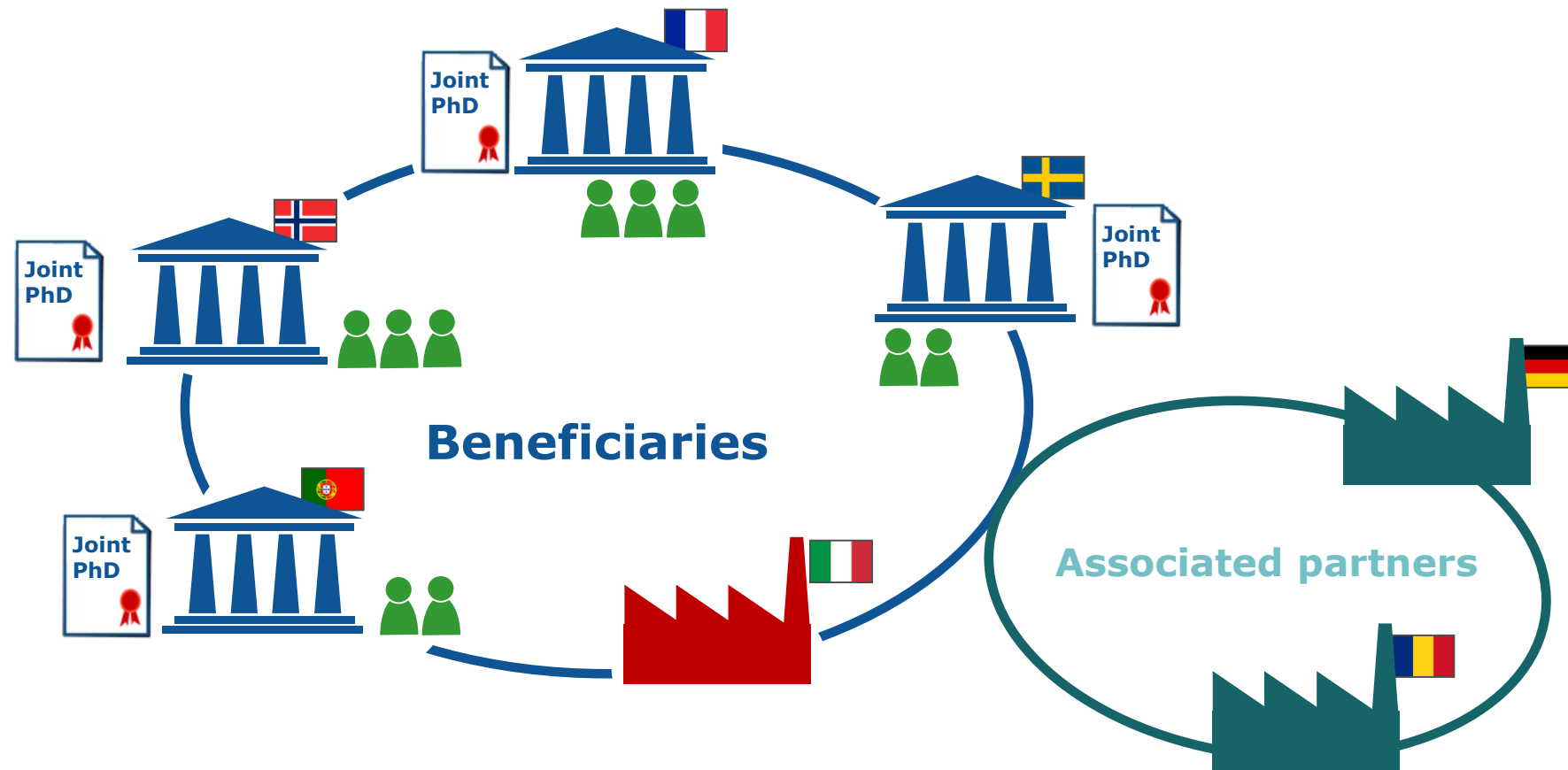
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Industrial Doctorate – Example consortium



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Joint Doctorate – Example consortium

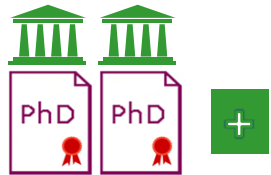


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Joint Doctorate – Degrees



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

Doctoral Networks – Funding mechanism

Simplified Approach

- **1 unit cost** = 1 person-month (PM) of each eligible researcher
- 100% reimbursement rate for eligible beneficiaries and validated PMs
- Different cost categories
 - Researcher's cost
 - Institutional costs (research, training, networking, management)

Doctoral Networks – Funding

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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 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.



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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.

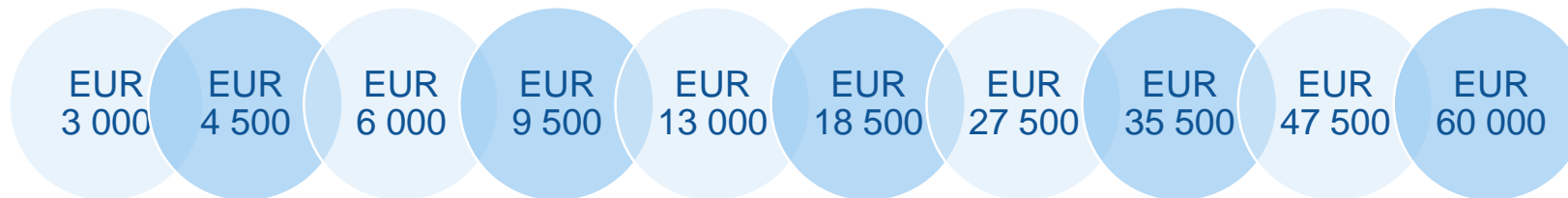


Doctoral Networks – Special needs allowance

NEW - The **special needs allowance** contributes to the additional costs to acquire 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 by the number of months remaining in the fellowship as a “unit cost”.

Doctoral Networks – Overview

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		DN	DN-ID	DN-JD
CONSORTIUM	Independant legal entities from different EU MS* / HE AC** countries (beneficiaries) - including EU MS	≥ 3		
	Legal entities awarding PhD	≥ 1		≥ 3 incl. ≥ 2 in MS/AC
	Non-academic sector	No restrictions	≥ 1	No restrictions
	Letter of Commitment for associated partner	Mandatory		
BUDGET	Person months	≤ 360	≤ 540	
	≤ 40% for 1 country/internat. organisation	Mandatory		
PhD	Researchers enrolment in the PhD	Mandatory		
	Joint/double PhD	Optional		Recognised in ≥ 2 MS/AC
	Joint degree – letter of pre-agreement	N/A		Mandatory
	Joint supervision for researchers	Encouraged	Mandatory from 2 sectors	Mandatory
Secondment		≤ 1/3	≥ 50% stay in non-academic sector	No restriction
Ranking lists		8 (Scientific) panels		



* EU MS: EU Member State - ** HE AC: Horizon Europe Associated Country

Doctoral Networks – Evaluation process

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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?

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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. A sidebar on the left lists navigation options: General information, Topic description, Destination, Conditions and documents, Partner search, Submission service, Topic related FAQ, Get support, and Call updates. The main content area under 'General information' includes:

- 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
- Submission service: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks
- Topic related FAQ: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks

Useful documents

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

Part A (structured data)

The diagram shows a stack of documents representing Part A (structured data). A 'new' sticker is placed on the top document. The documents are labeled with the following sections:

- General information
- Participants & contacts
- Budget
- Ethics
- Call-specific questions

Part B (description of action)



Part B1: 30 page
Part B2: no limit

Doctoral Networks – Proposal preparation

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- 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

Doctoral Networks – Resources

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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

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 • 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

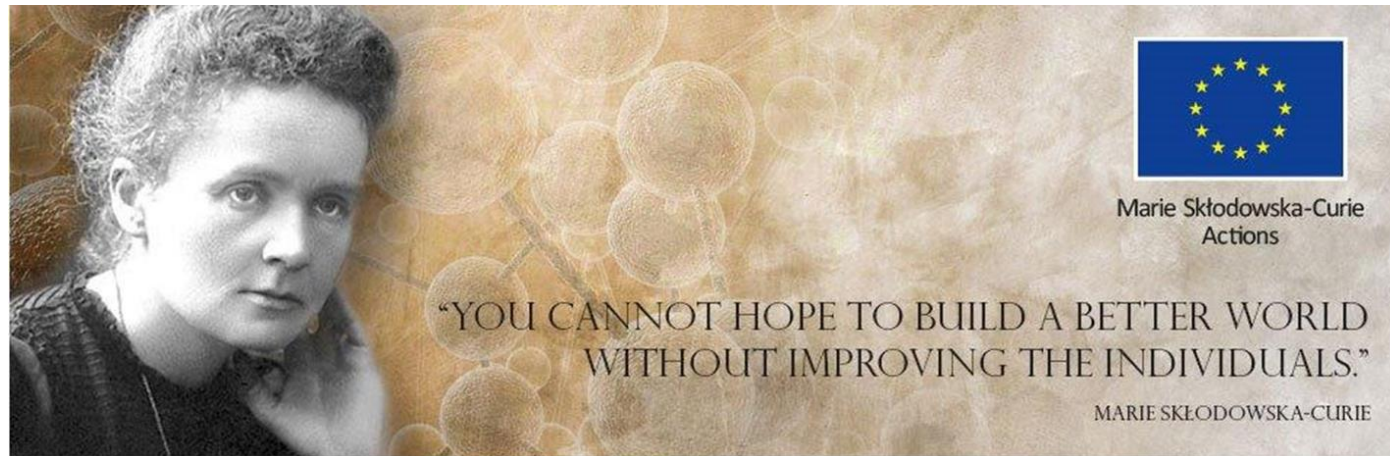
The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) is looking for experienced technical and Life Cycle assessment (GHG) experts, as ...

[All news >](#)

Quick Links

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

Thank you



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