



# HORIZON EUROPE



## THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

**MSCA Doctoral Networks**  
Infoday Presentation  
Laurence Marrama Rakotoarivony



16 June 2023

Marie  
Sklodowska-Curie  
actions

This presentation is based on the conditions and requirements of the MSCA DN 2023 call, as set out in the Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023.

# Content

1. MSCA Work Programme
2. MSCA Doctoral Networks
3. Eligibility rules
4. Funding mechanism
5. Evaluation criteria
6. Resources

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# The MSCA in Horizon Europe

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MSCA in HE: Total Budget of € 6.6 billion

# The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

1. MSCA Work Programme
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## 1 Doctoral Networks

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

2022: 428 M€, DL 15/11/2022  
2023: 435 M€, DL 28/11/2023

## 2 Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

2022: 257 M€, DL 14/09/2022  
2023: 260 M€, DL 13/09/2023

## 3 Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

2022: 77 M€, DL 08/03/2023  
2023: 79 M€, DL 28/02/2024

## 4 COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

2022: 95 M€, DL 09/02/2023  
2023: 97 M€, DL 08/02/2024

## 5 MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

2023: 15 M€, DL 25/10/2023

# As all MSCA funding

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**C1 Q3&4**  
**C2 Q2**



**Researchers'**  
training, skills and  
career development

**C1 Q1&2**  
**C2 Q3&4**  
**C3 Q1&2**



**Excellent research**  
(bottom-up approach)

**C1 Q2&3**  
**C2 Q4**  
**C3 Q2**



**International,**  
cross-sectoral &  
**interdisciplinary**  
mobility



Attractive working  
and employment  
conditions

**C2 Q1&3**  
at European  
level



**Structuring impact**  
(on organisations)

**C1 Q3(&4)**  
**C2 Q1&3&4**  
**C3 Q2**



Strong **collaboration**  
with industry and  
**SMEs**

# MSCA DN Programme Expected Outcomes

- Benefits for both **Doctoral Candidates** and **Participating Organisations**
- Train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates (DCs) able to
  - Face current and future challenges
  - Convert knowledge and ideas into products and services
  - Achieve sustainable economic and social benefit
- Offer training in research-related skills and competences for **innovation and long-term employability**
- Expose the DCs to **academic and non-academic sectors** for developing **transferable skills**
- Enhance **cooperation and knowledge transfer** between sectors and disciplines
- Provide 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*



# What are Doctoral Networks?

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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

**Since Horizon Europe the 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels**



# Doctoral Networks – Common eligibility rules

- **Size:**  $\leq 540$  person-months for all modes
- **Minimum fellowship duration:** 3 months
- **Beneficiaries:**  $\geq 3$  independent legal entities from  $\neq$  EU MS or HE Associated Countries  
 $\geq 1$  beneficiary from an EU Member State and  $\geq 2$  from an EU MS or HE AC
- **Recruitment, hosting, supervision:** All beneficiaries must recruit  $\geq 1$  doctoral candidate, 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 – Specific eligibility rules

## ➤ **Doctoral Networks (DN):**

- Project duration  $\leq$  48 months and fellowship duration  $\leq$  36 months
- Secondment  $\leq$  1/3 of fellowship's duration

## ➤ **Industrial doctorates (ID):**

- Project duration  $\leq$  48 months and fellowship duration  $\leq$  36 months
- 50% of DC participation is done in the non-academic sector;
- Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise the DC

## ➤ **Joint doctorates (JD):**

- **Project duration  $\leq$  60 months and fellowship duration  $\leq$  48 months** (incentive)
- Enrolment in joint/double or multiple of PhD (from at least 2 MS/AC)
- Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- Letter of pre-agreement to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)

# 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**

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# Doctoral Networks – Participant Types

	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	✓	✗

# Doctoral Networks – Eligible Countries

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## 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

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

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

\* *Morocco, United Kingdom.*

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

**Third Country (TC):** any other country (see Annex A for the list of countries)

\* Still ongoing, so consult the [HE programme guide](#) and the [List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](#)

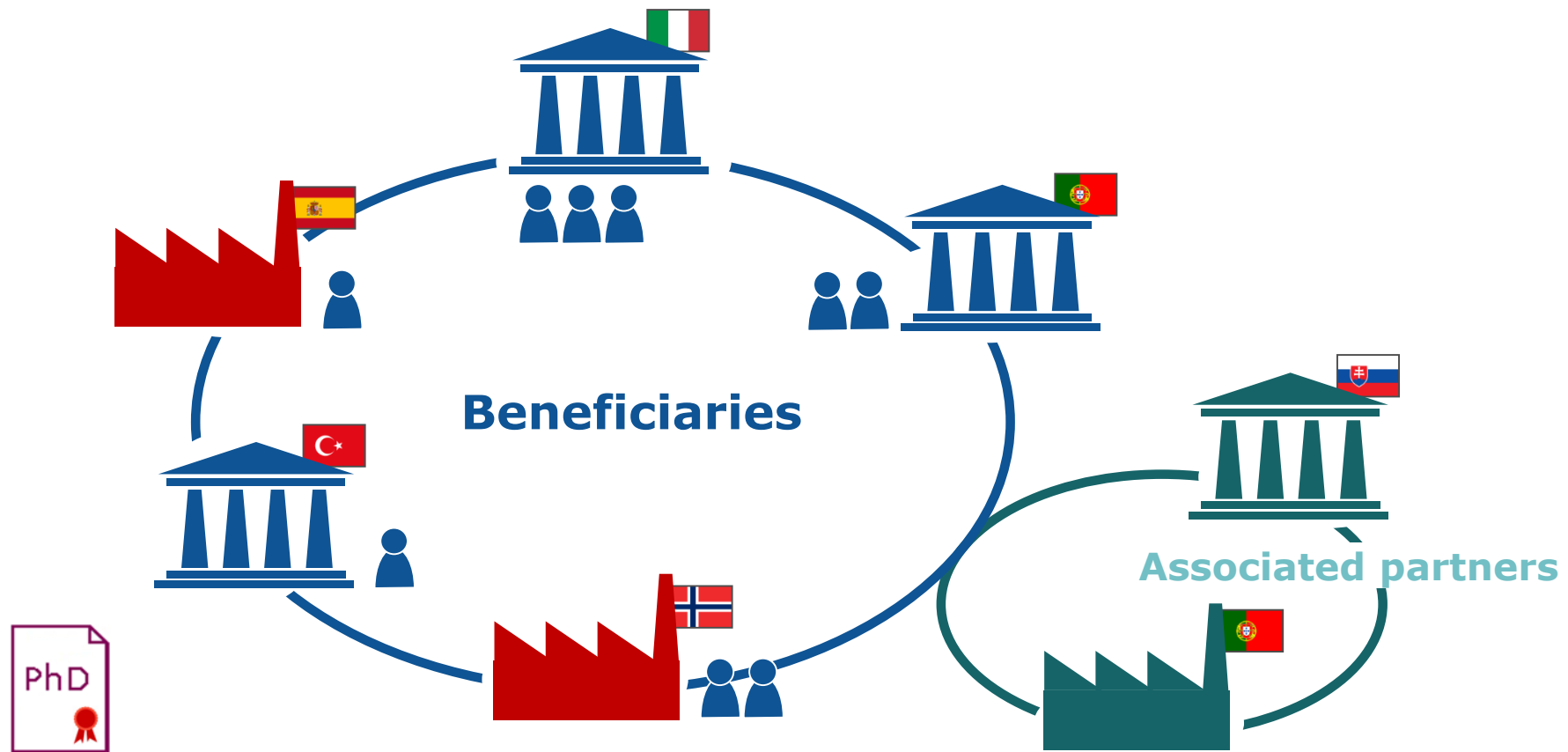
# Doctoral Networks – Eligible Researchers

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- Researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (no 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:** 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

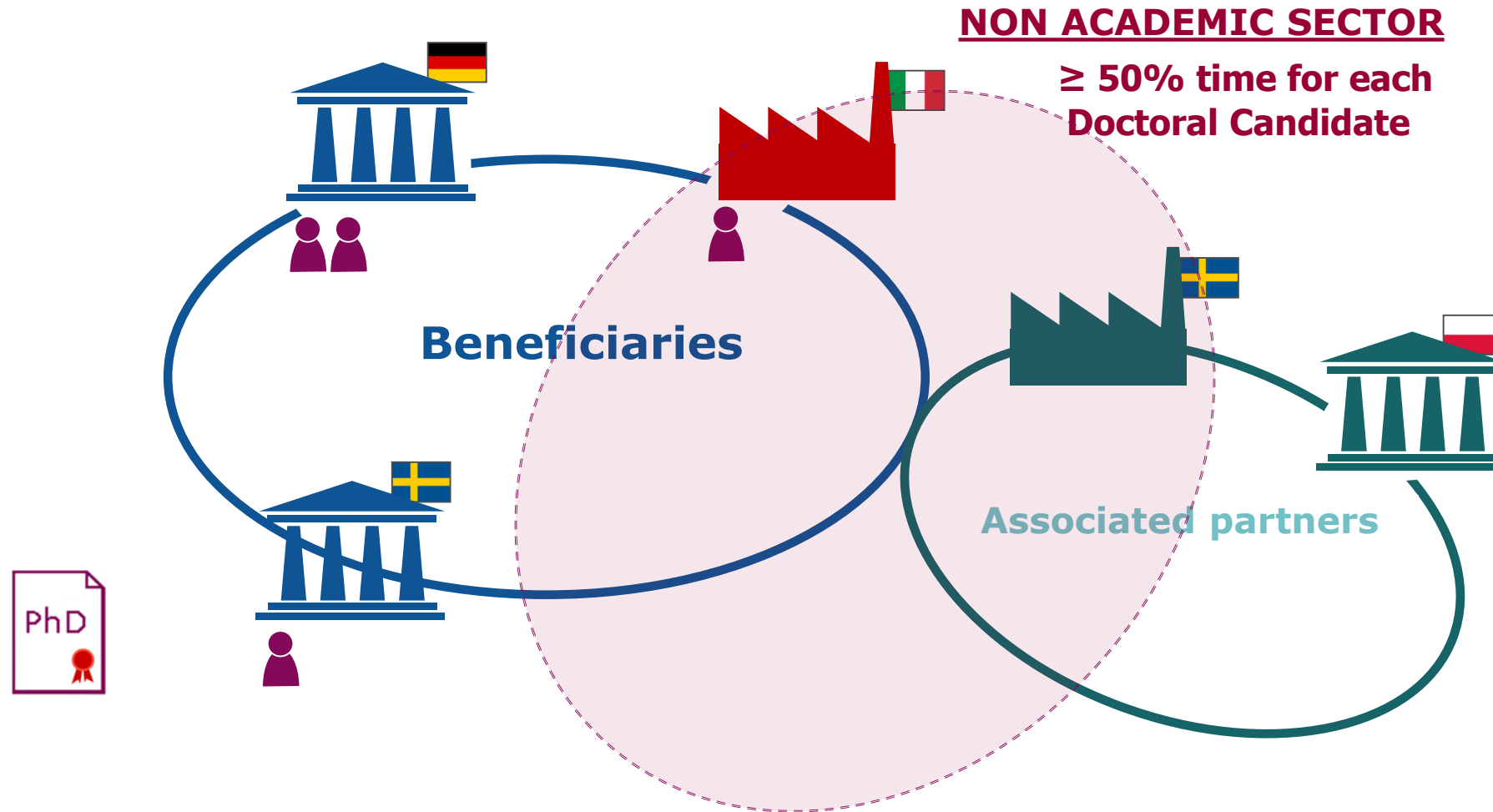
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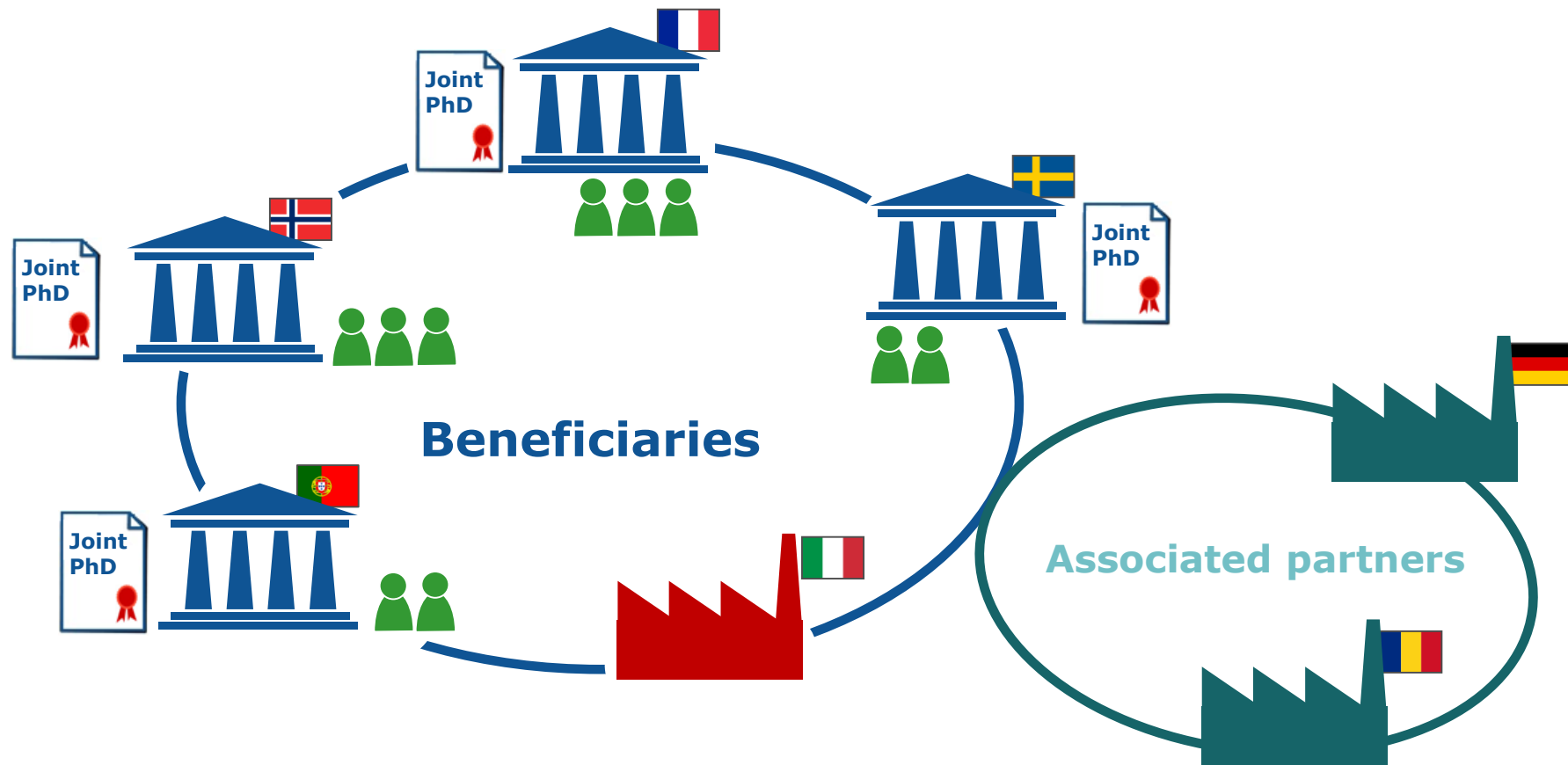
# Industrial Doctorate – Example consortium

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# Joint Doctorate – Example consortium

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# Doctoral Networks – Funding mechanism

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## 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

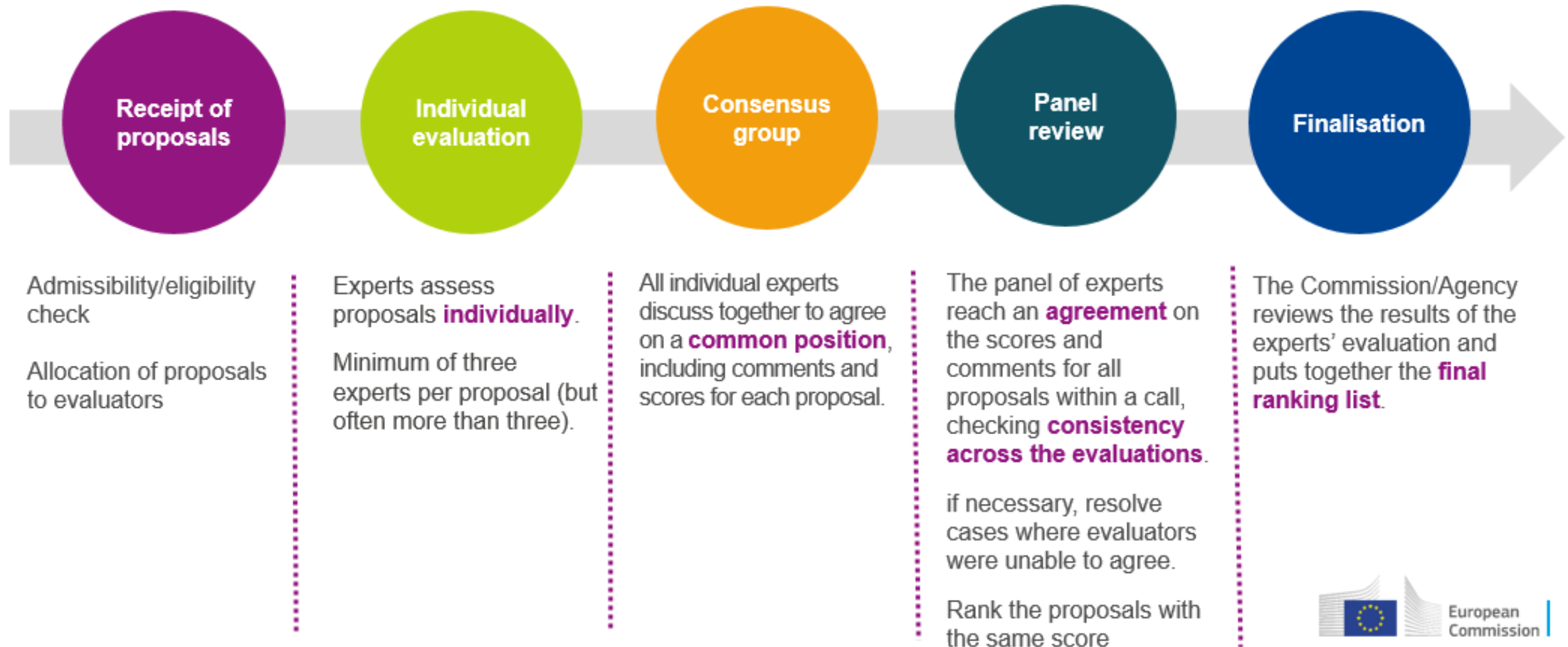
\*A **country correction coefficient** applies in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers

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



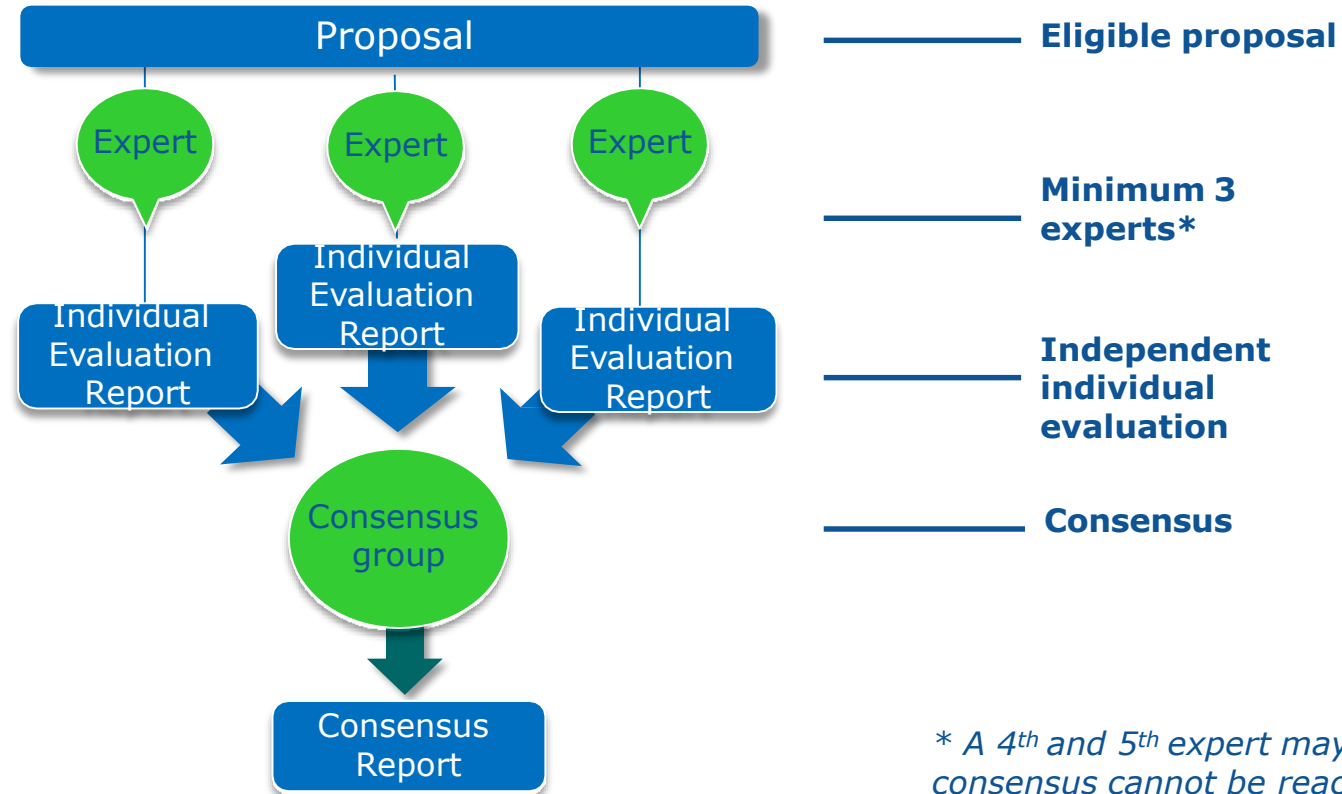
# Doctoral Networks – Evaluation process

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# Doctoral Networks – Evaluation process

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# Doctoral Networks – Award Criteria

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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	
<b>Weighting</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Priority</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

# Doctoral Networks – How to apply?

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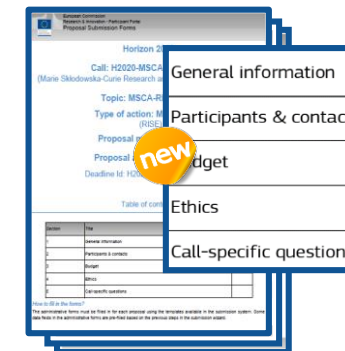
## Useful documents

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

The screenshot shows the 'Funding & tender opportunities' page for 'MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023'. The URL is <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-msca-2...>. The page title is 'MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023' with the topic ID 'HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01-01'. A 'Grant' button is visible. The 'General information' section is expanded, showing the following details:

General information		
Topic description		
Destination	Programme Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)	
Conditions and documents	Call <b>MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023 (HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01)</b>	
Partner search announcements		
Submission service		
Topic related FAQ		
Get support		
Call updates		
<a href="#">Go back</a>		
Type of action	HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks	Type of MGA HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]
	HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates	HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]
	HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates	HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]
Deadline model	Opening date	Deadline date
single-stage	30 May 2023	28 November 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time
Topic description		

## Part A (structured data)



## 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
- 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 (applications, documents, partner search): <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen>

Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023-2024:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions\\_horizon-2023-2024\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf)

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

European Research Executive Agency website:  
[https://rea.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](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](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](https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service_en)

# Doctoral Networks – Resources

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← ↻ 🏠 🔒 <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-docur>

European Commission | **Funding & tender opportunities**  
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

🏠 | SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▾ | **HOW TO PARTICIPATE** ▾ | PROJECTS & RESULTS | WORK AS AN EXPERT | SUPPORT ▾

Programming period  
2021-2027 ▾

Horizon Europe (HORIZON) ✕

Clear filter

## Reference Documents

### Grants

This page includes reference documents of the programmes managed on the EU Funding & Tenders portal starting agreements and guides for specific actions.

Please select the programme to see the reference documents.

### Procurement

Reference Documents related to tendering opportunities are published on TED eTendering in the calls for tenders.

🔍 Filter

- + Legislation
- + Work programme & call documents
- + Grant agreements and contracts
- + Simplified cost decisions
- + Guidance
- + Templates & forms
- + Experts lists
- + Funding & Tenders Portal

# Work as an EC expert

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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

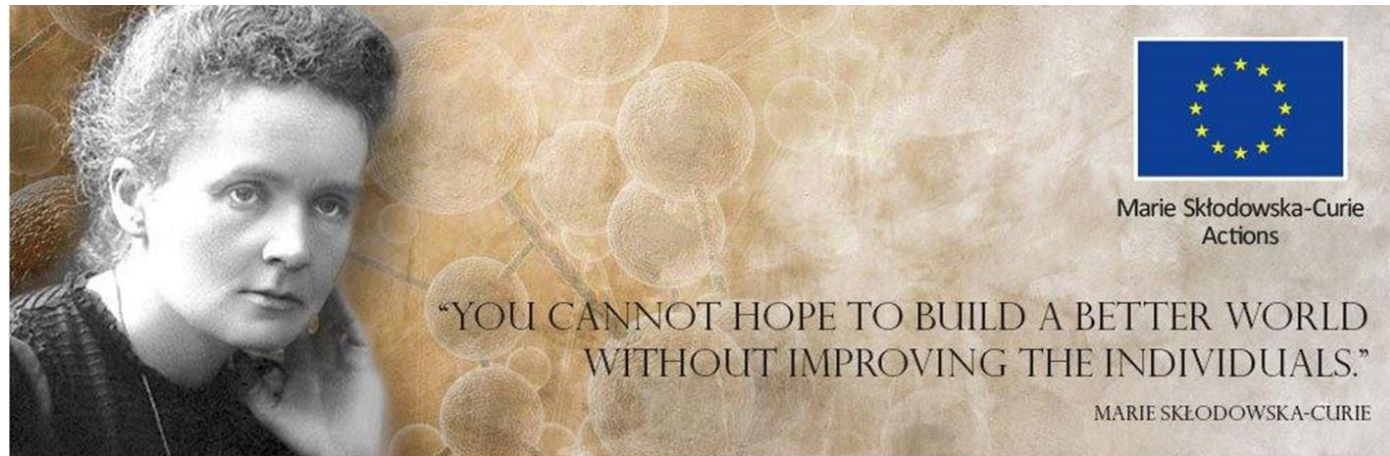
The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) is looking for experienced technical and Life Cycle assessment (GHG) experts, as ...

All news >

### Quick Links

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

# Thank you



Laurence Marrama Rakotoarivony – MSCA Doctoral Networks

[Laurence.Marrama-Rakotoarivony@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Laurence.Marrama-Rakotoarivony@ec.europa.eu)



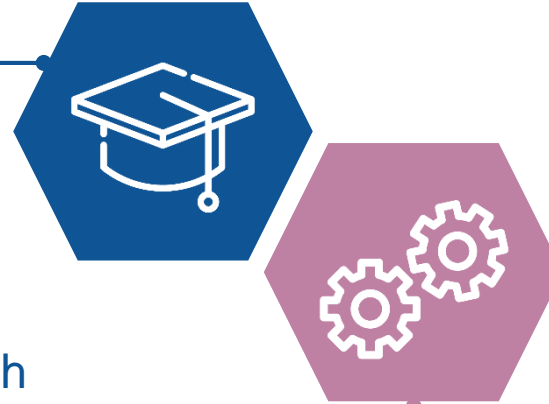
# Annex: some definitions and complementary information

# Doctoral Networks – Academic/non-academic sectors

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## Academic sector

- ✓ Public or private higher education establishments
- ✓ Public or private non-profit research organisations
- ✓ International European Research Organisations



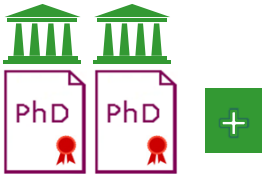
## Non-academic sector

- ✓ any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector

# 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 – 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.

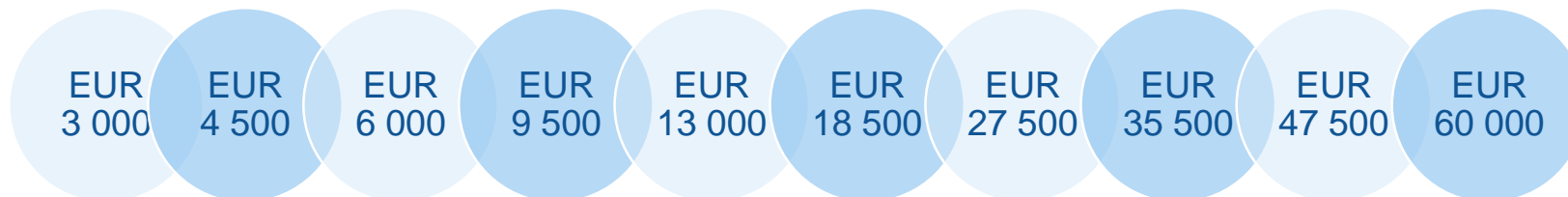


# Doctoral Networks – Special needs allowance

**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

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

\* Letters of Pre-Agreement required

\*\* No ceiling for the duration of the secondments