



# The EU Research & Innovation Programme 2021-2027

**MSCA Doctoral Networks**  
NCPs' Call Infodays – France

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# The MSCA in Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe budget: EUR 95.5 billion



2021-2027

# Pillar I: Excellent Science

Reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union's science base

## European Research Council

Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

**€16 billion**

## Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

**€6.6 billion**

## Research Infrastructures

Integrated and inter-connected world-class research infrastructures

**€2.4 billion**

# MSCA: A world reference for research and training



**Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stage 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 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

## 1 Doctoral Networks

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

**Total budget DN 2026: €593,03 million**  
**Opening call: 28/05/2026**  
**DL 24/11/2026**

## 2 Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

**2026: €399,05 million**  
**Opening call: 09/05/2026**  
**DL 09/09/2026**

## 3 Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

**2027: €95,04 million**  
**Opening call: 15/12/2026**  
**DL 15/04/2027**

## 4 COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

**2027: €51,25 million**  
**Opening call: 08/12/2026**  
**DL:06/04/2027**

## 5 MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

**2027: €15.71 million**  
**DL: 08/06/2027**

## 6 Choose Europe for Science

Supporting attractive & sustainable research careers in Europe for top talent

**2027: €51.25 million**  
**Opening call: 08/12/2026**  
**DL: 06/04/2027**

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# What is a Doctoral Network (DN) project ?

- One consortium
- Proposing a research project
- With interlinked individual PhD research projects
- For doctoral candidates

# DN - Academic vs Non-Academic sector

## 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

# DN – 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	✓	✗

# MSCA-DN – Types of implementation

## Joint Doctorates

- Joint collaborations leading to a joint/multiple doctoral degree;
- Pre-agreement for joint degrees required;
- Joint selection and supervision.

JD

## Industrial Doctorates

- Training in academia and industry.
- Joint supervision.

ID

Doctoral  
Networks

DN

(Standard)

## Doctoral Networks (standard)

Training in academia and/or industry.

All 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels:

**CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC**

# Industrial Doctorates

- **No limitation for secondments \***
- **Min 50% in the non-academic sector**
- Enrolment in a PhD at 1 MS/AC among awarding entities
- Non-academic sector as **beneficiary or associated partners (full flexibility) \***
- Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise

**\* Incentives  
for DN-ID**

# Joint Doctorates

- Project duration: **max. 60 months\***
- **Fellowship**: min 3 / max 48 months \*
- **No limitation for secondments\***
- Enrolment in a **joint/double or multiple PhD** (delivered by different entities from min. 1 MS/AC)
- Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- **Mandatory letters of pre-agreement** to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)

**\* Incentives  
for DN-JD**

**No preference between a joint, a double or a multiple degree**

# DN 2026 call novelties

- **Living allowances increased and some Country Correction Coefficients reviewed**
- **Eligibility restrictions:** ‘protection of European communication networks’ and ‘Participation of Chinese universities linked to Ministry of Industry & Information Technology (MIIT)’ (see Annex B of General Annexes)
- **New exception for all DNs:** where researchers are recruited by beneficiaries established in non-associated third countries, it is now permitted for enrolment to take place **solely** in a doctoral programme offered in that country.
- **Evaluation threshold per criterion (3/5)**
- **Secondments for standard DN up to 50% of the fellowship duration**

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# General eligible 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
  - No minimum / maximum number of Associated Partners
- **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% of the EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country** or to a single international organisation.

# DN – 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 their participation is essential or if they are identified in the relevant Horizon Europe Work Programme as being eligible for funding.**

\*For more detail, please consult the [HE programme guide](#) and the List of [Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](#)

# Eligible size and duration

## Duration

- **Proposal:** max. 48 months for DN and DN-ID
  - *incentive for DN-JD up to 60 months*
- **Fellowship:** 3 to 36 months for DN and DN-ID
  - *incentive for DN-JD up to 48 months*

**Secondments:** worldwide, any sectors, **up to 50%** of the fellowship duration for Standard DN. **Incentive for DN-ID & DN-JD no secondment limit**

## Consortia

- **Up to 540 person-months** for all type of actions

# 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**.
- **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 – Eligible Researchers

- Researchers must be **enrolled in a doctoral programme, in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country**

**(!) New exception for all DNs:** where researchers are recruited by beneficiaries established in non-associated third countries, enrolment may take place solely in a doctoral programme offered in the country of the beneficiary.

- **Any nationality**

**(!) Restrictions from the general annexes to the WP 2026-2027:** \* Natural persons established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine are not allowed to participate in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. For more information, please consult the applicable participation restrictions from the General Annexes, Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2026-2027

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# Funding mechanism

- Fully based on unit costs
- **1 person-month = 1 unit**
- Total costs = costs per unit x number of units
- 100% Reimbursement rate for eligible beneficiaries
- Different cost categories:
  - Researcher's cost
  - Institutional costs (research, training, networking + management)

1 unit  
=  
1 month of  
eligible DC

# Funding mechanism - Cost categories

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 4250*	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 4720 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit <sup>1</sup> 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

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

<sup>1</sup> The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

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# Resource for AI Science in Europe

## RAISE DN 2026 call

**Additional chance of funding for projects that aim to apply AI in their scientific research & for those focused on developing new AI tools, systems and methodologies.**

- **Indicative budget: €30 million** (funding from Pillar 2, Cluster 4)
- **Call for proposal dates: 28 May 2026 – 24 November 2026**

# RAISE DN 2026 call – How to apply?

- All applicants apply to the MSCA DN 2026 call – same eligibility conditions & same features such as modes, duration, rules and size
- Applicants need to demonstrate that their proposal falls within the scope of the RAISE DN call in the dedicated section in part B2

**Scope:** To train a new generation of researchers in AI-driven scientific methods across all disciplines. They will also help build the RAISE scientific community which will contribute to shaping modern science. Together, these initiatives represent a coordinated effort to embed AI in the core of scientific research in Europe and pave the way to RAISE. For more detail information, please consult [the Work Programme](#)

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# MSCA DN Award Criteria

Criteria	Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Sub-criteria	Quality and pertinence of the project's <b>research and innovation objectives</b>	Contribution to <b>structuring doctoral training</b> at European level and strengthening European innovation capacity	Quality and effectiveness of the <b>work plan</b> , assessment of <b>risks</b> , and appropriateness of the <b>effort</b> assigned to work packages
	Soundness of the proposed <b>methodology</b>	Credibility of the measures to enhance the <b>career perspectives</b> of researchers and contribution to their <b>skills development</b>	<b>Quality, capacity and role of each participant</b> , including hosting arrangements and extent to which the <b>consortium as a whole</b> brings together the necessary expertise
	Quality and credibility of the <b>training programme</b>	Suitability and quality of the measures to <b>maximise expected outcomes</b> and impacts, as set out in the <b>dissemination and exploitation</b> plan, including <b>communication</b> activities	
	Quality of the <b>supervision</b>	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected <b>scientific, societal and economic</b> 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>

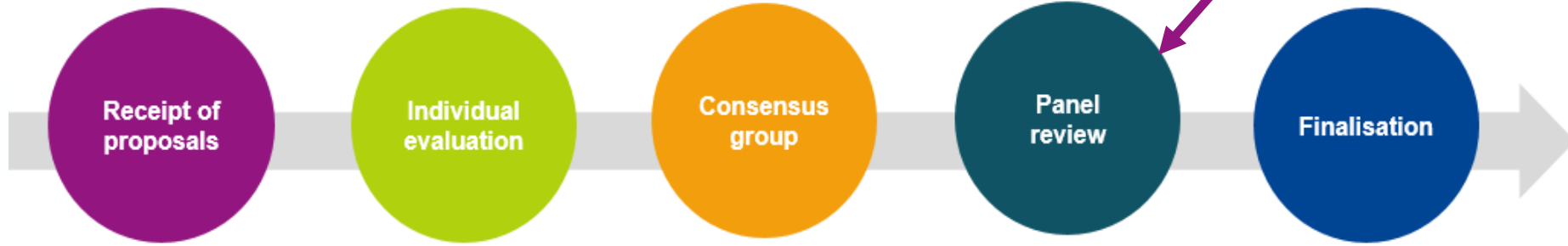
(!) Novelty - Evaluation threshold for all three criteria will be 3 out of 5

# Overview of Evaluation Process

**RAISE DN**

- Experts will assess the relevance of the proposals on the list to the RAISE topic
- Final ranking of RAISE proposals

Call closes:  
24/11/2026



Admissibility/eligibility check  
Allocation of proposals to evaluators

Experts assess proposals **individually**.  
Minimum of three experts per proposal (but often more than three).

All individual experts discuss together to agree on a **common position**, including comments and scores for each proposal.

The panel of experts reach an **agreement** on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking **consistency across the evaluations**.  
if necessary, resolve cases where evaluators were unable to agree.  
Rank the proposals with the same score

The Commission/Agency reviews the results of the experts' evaluation and puts together the **final ranking list**.



# RAISE DN 2026 evaluation procedure

RAISE proposals will participate in the MSCA DN 2026 evaluation procedure

- **A cross-panel list of fundable RAISE proposals will be established with the highest-ranking reserve list proposals.**
  - The list will be ranked according to the MSCA evaluation scores and comprise proposals with requested budget as close as possible to 3 times available budget.
- Experts will assess relevance of proposals to the RAISE topic.
- **Final ranking of the RAISE proposals = MSCA score and assessment of the relevance of the proposal to RAISE topic.**

# How to apply?

## Useful documents

- DN 2026 Guide for Applicants - available in the F&T Portal
- Proposal templates - available in the F&T Portal [Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2026-2027](#)
- [F&T Manual on how to submit a proposal](#)
- Topic Q&A under [F&T portal](#)

## Part A (structured data)

The image shows a screenshot of a proposal submission form for Horizon 2020 MSCA. A table of contents overlay is positioned on the right side of the form, listing the following sections: General information, Participants & contacts, Budget, Ethics, and Call-specific questions. A yellow 'new' badge is placed over the 'Budget' section of the table of contents. The form background shows fields for Call (H2020-MSCA), Topic (MSCA-R), Type of action (RISE), Proposal ID, and Deadline (15/02/2026).

## Part B (description of action)



**Part B1:** 30 pages (+ 4 preliminary pages (cover page, table of content and list of participants)).  
34 pages in total.  
**Part B2:** no limit

**RAISE-DN:** in Part B2, demonstrate that their proposal fits the scope of the RAISE DN call.

# Proposal preparation

- 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 partners
- 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***

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**Funding and Tenders opportunities** (Work Programme, applications, documents, partner search)

**MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 Call documents** available in the F&T Portal as of May 28th

**RAISE – Doctoral Networks 2026 Call documents** available in the F&T Portal as of May 28th

**Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2026-2027**

**Work Programme 2026-2027, 14. Horizontal Activities, RAISE Doctoral Networks**

**MSCA website**

**European Research Executive Agency website**  
**MSCA Guidelines on Supervision**

**Code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers**

**MCAA alumni platform**

# Resources

**Do you have questions?**

Ask advice to your MSCA / EU  
**National Contact Point**

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



@MSCActions



@Marie.Curie.Actions



# Thank you

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