



HORIZON EUROPE



THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

MSCA Doctoral Networks
Infoday Presentation
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13 June 2024

This presentation is based on the conditions and requirements of the MSCA DN 2024 call, as set out in the Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025.

Marie
Sklodowska-Curie
actions

Content

1. MSCA Work Programme
2. MSCA Doctoral Networks
3. Eligibility rules
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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



MSCA in HE: Total Budget of € 6.6 billion

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

1 Doctoral Networks

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

2024: € 608.6 million
DL 27/11/2024

2 Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

2024: €417.2 million
DL 11/09/2024

3 Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

2024: €99.5 million 79 M€
DL 05/02/202

4 COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

2024: €104.8 million
DL 26/09/2024

5 MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

The next call will open in 2025

MSCA DN Programme Expected Outcomes

- Benefits for both the **Doctoral Candidates** and **Participating Organisations**
- Train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates
- 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 **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**

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/double/multiple doctoral degree, Joint selection and supervision; pre-agreement for joint degrees required

Doctoral Networks – Modes of implementation

3 modes



*Participants implement
a joint research
programme*



*Doctoral training with the
non-academic sector*



*Doctoral programme to
deliver joint degrees*

NEW: all 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels

Doctoral Networks – Novelties compared to DN 2023



INCREASED UNIT COSTS

The contributions for the recruited researchers have been increased as of DN 2024. More precisely, the **living allowance becomes EUR 4010** (gross amount to be multiplied by CC) and the **mobility allowance becomes EUR 710** per eligible person-month.



RESUBMISSION RESTRICTIONS

As specified in the [MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025](#), any proposal involving 70% or more of the same recruiting organisations as in another proposal submitted to the previous call of the MSCA Doctoral Networks under Horizon Europe that has received a score of less than 80% will be assessed for whether it is a resubmission, irrespective of the applicants' self-declaration.



DN-JD ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Joint Doctorates (DN-JD) should lead to the delivery of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees recognised in **at least one** EU Member State (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Country (AC) (as opposed to minimum two under DN 2023).

Doctoral Networks – 2024 Features



STANDARD DN

- Up to **540 person-months**
- Project duration: max. **48 months**
- **Fellowship**: min 3 /max 36 months
- **Secondments**: worldwide, up to **1/3** of the fellowship duration



DN-JD

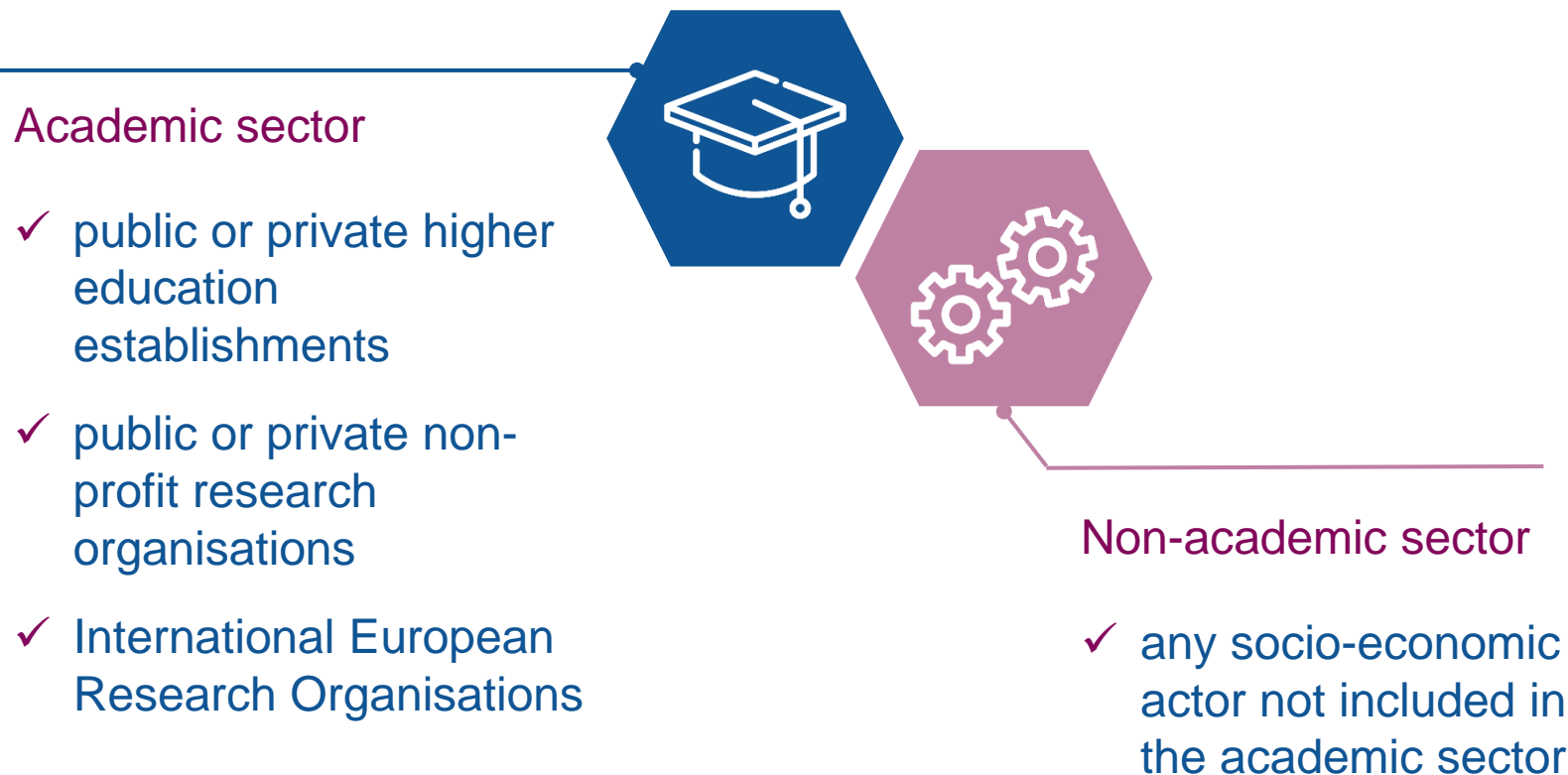
- Up to **540 person-months**
- Project duration: max. **60 months**
- **Fellowship**: min 3 – max 48 months
- **NO limitation for secondments**
- Enrolment in a **joint/double or multiple PhD** (at least 1 MS/AC among the PhD awarding entities)
- Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- **Mandatory letters of pre-agreement** to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)



DN-ID

- Up to **540 person-months**
- Project duration: max. **48 months**
- **Fellowship**: 3 - 36 months
- **No limitation for secondments**
- **Min 50% in the non-academic sector**
- Non-academic sector as **beneficiary or AP**
- Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise

Doctoral Networks – Academic / non-academic sectors



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% 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 2023

DN-JD specific conditions



- ✓ Min 3 participants **awarding PhD, 1 of which** from **MS/AC**
- ✓ Enrolment in **joint/double/multiple PhD** (delivered by entities from min. 1 MS/AC)
- ✓ Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- ✓ Letters of **pre-agreement** to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)
- ✓ Max **48 months** fellowship, max **60 months** network

DN-ID specific conditions



- ✓ **Min 50% in non-academic sector**
- ✓ **Non-academic sector as Beneficiary or Associated Partner (full flexibility)**
- ✓ **No secondment limitation**
- ✓ **Academic and non-academic organisations **jointly supervise****

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 Participants



WHO CAN APPLY

- Any legal entity from anywhere in the world
- 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 of
Associated Partners**

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

Doctoral Networks – Eligible Countries

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, United Kingdom

* *Morocco*

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

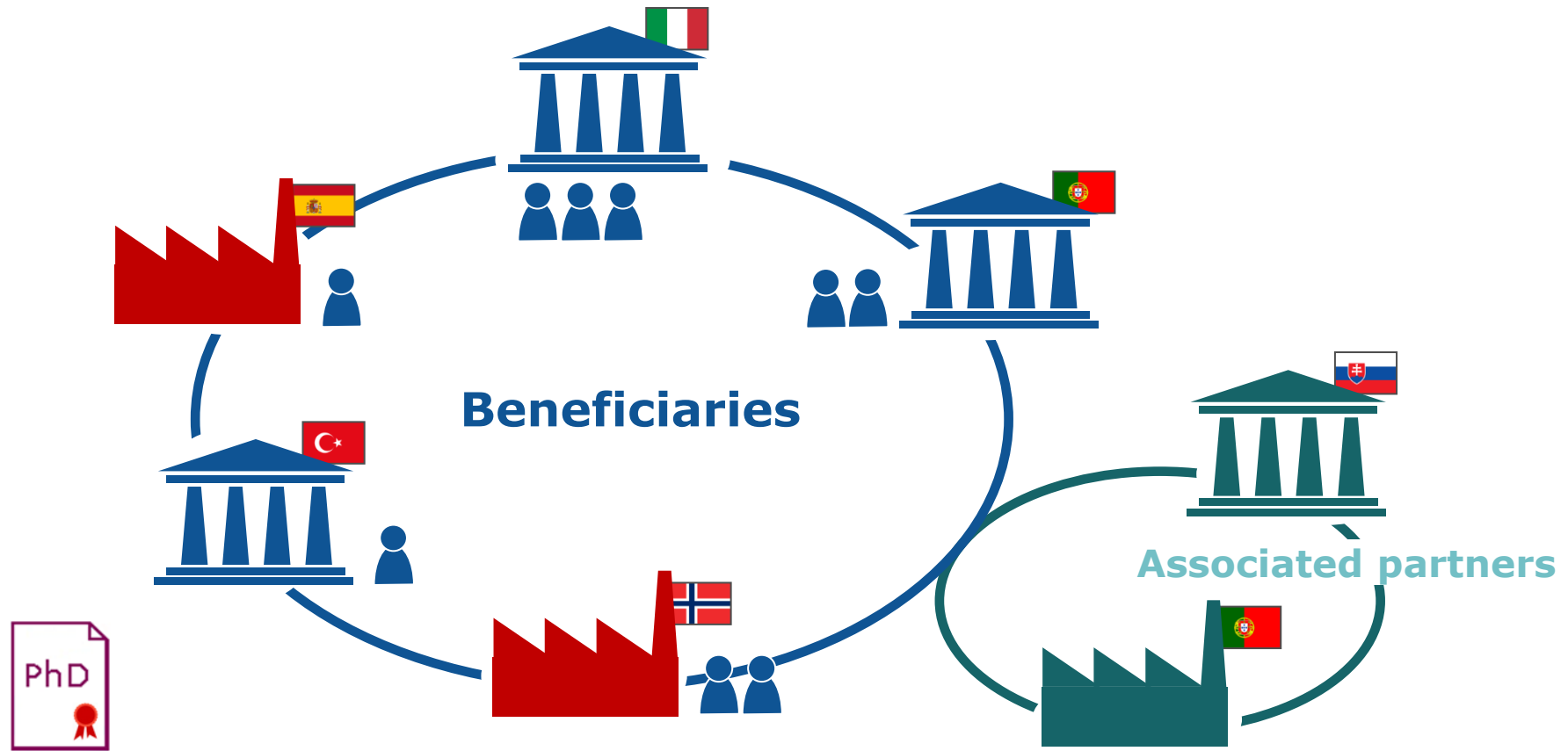
Third Country (TC): any other country (n.b. Annex A list of countries that can receive funding)

* **Still ongoing** – for more detail, please consult the [HE programme guide](#) and the List of [Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](#)

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
- **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.

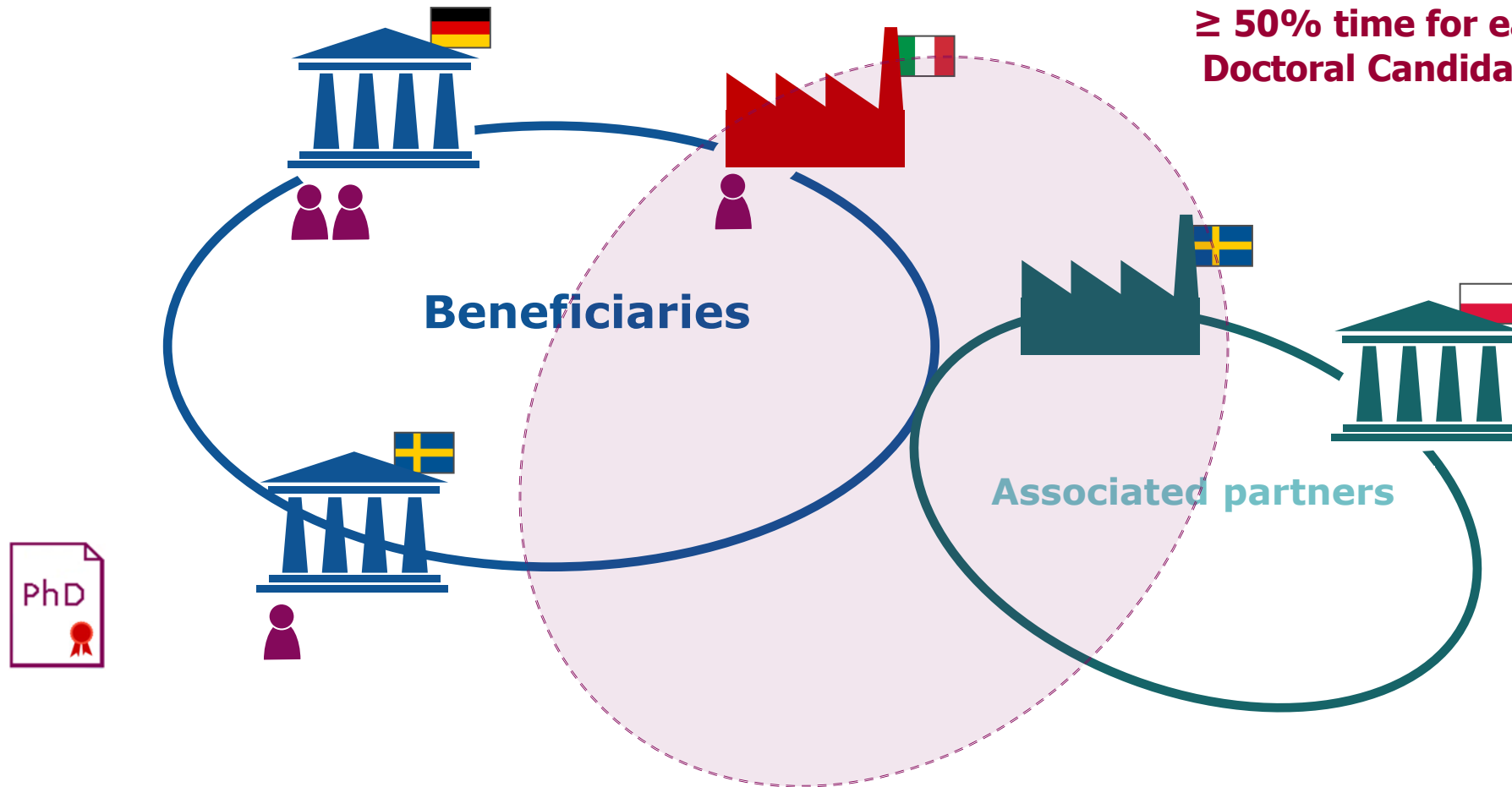
Doctoral Network – Example consortium



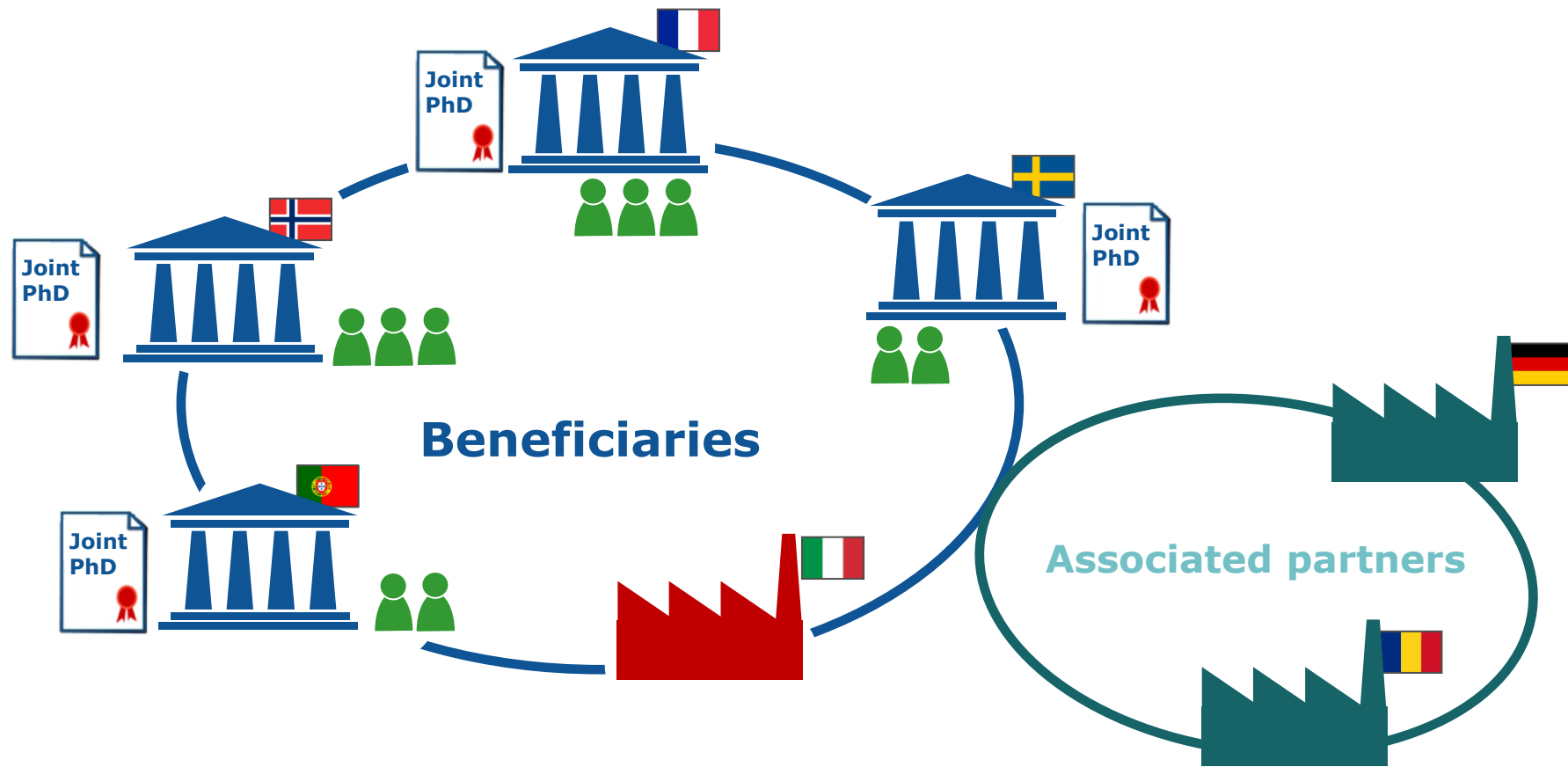
Industrial Doctorate – Example consortium

NON ACADEMIC SECTOR

**≥ 50% time for each
Doctoral Candidate**



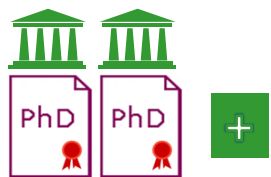
Joint Doctorate – Example consortium



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

Summary

DN (Standard)

DN-ID (Industrial)

DN-JD (Joint)

Consortium

Min 3 entities from 3 different EU MS/AC (Min 1 from MS)

Each beneficiary must recruit at least 1 DC

Max 40% funding per country

AP can't recruit, but can host secondments and provide training

Project Duration

Max 48 months

Max 60 months

DC contract

Max 36 months

Max 48 months

Secondments

Max 1/3 fellowship

No limitation on secondment duration

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

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 4010*	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 4720 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit ¹ 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.

¹ 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.

Doctoral Networks – Evaluation process



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

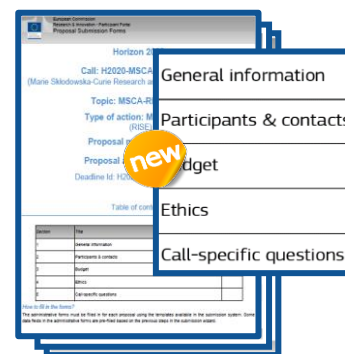
Doctoral Networks – How to apply?

The screenshot shows the 'EU Funding & Tenders Portal' for 'MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024'. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024'. The main heading is 'MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024' with the identifier 'HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01'. A 'Topic' tag indicates 'Call for proposal'. The 'Internal navigation' sidebar includes: General information, Topic description, Destination, Conditions and documents, Partner search announcements, Start submission, Topic Q&As, and Get support. The 'General information' section contains: Programme: Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON); Call: MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01); Type of action: HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks; and two sub-sections: 'HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates' and 'HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates'.

Useful documents

- DN 2024 Guide for Applicants
- Proposal templates
- [Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025](#)
- Horizon Europe programme guide
- [F&T Manual on how to submit a proposal](#)
- Topic Q&A under [F&T portal](#)

Part A (structured data)



Part B (description of action)



Part B1: 30 page
Part B2: no limit

Doctoral Networks – 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

Proposal preparation – DN 2024 Call Info Day

When: June 7th, 2024

Where: ONLINE via [RTD platform](#)



Horizon Europe - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
Doctoral Networks 2024 - Call info day

- Join us live or watch the recording on this [platform](#).
- To attend, simply sign up or log in.
- Review all the [call related documents](#) available as of **May 29th**
- Send us your questions before June 7th at www.Slido.com with the code **#DN2024**
- For more details on the programme, please consult the [MSCA 2024 Call Info event page](#).

Doctoral Networks – Resources



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[MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024 Call documents](#)

[Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025](#)

[Doctoral Networks 2024 - Call info day](#)

[MSCA website](#)

[European Research Executive Agency website](#)

[MSCA Guidelines on Supervision](#)

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](#)

Work as an EC expert



• 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: Interesse...


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

