European Commission

#HorizonEU

HORIZON EUROPE

**THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME**

2021 – 2027

MSCA Doctoral Networks
Infoday NCP Poland
Caroline PETERS

29 May 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
Skłodowska-Curie
actions*

Content

1. MSCA Work Programme

2. MSCA Doctoral Networks

3. Eligibility rules

4. Funding mechanism

5. Evaluation criteria

6. Resources

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

European Commission

The MSCA in Horizon Europe

Pillar 1
Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3
Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

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

**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
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

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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**

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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**

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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

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Doctoral Networks – Modes of implementation

3 modes

DN

Doctoral Networks

Participants implement a joint research programme

DN-ID
Doctoral networks Industrial Doctorates

Doctoral training with the non-academic sector

DN-JD
Doctoral Networks Joint Doctorates

Doctoral programme to deliver joint degrees

NEW: all 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels

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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).

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Doctoral Networks – 2024 Features

STANDARD DN

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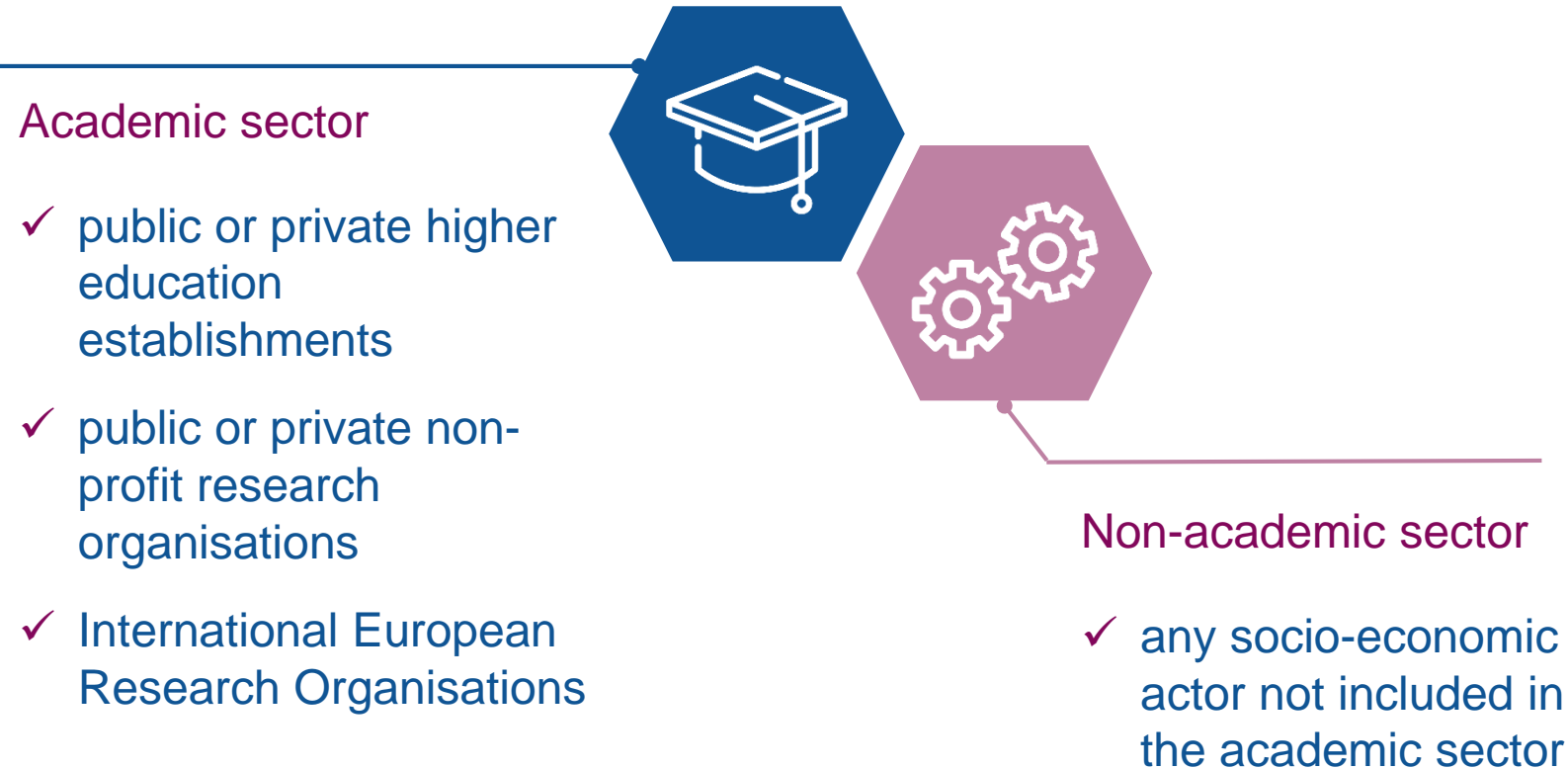- **Secondments**: worldwide, **up to 1/3** of the fellowship duration

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

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Doctoral Networks – Academic / 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

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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**

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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 seconded researchers	✔	✔
Participation in Supervisory Board	✔	✔
Directly claim costs	✔	✘

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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

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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): 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**, <u>in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country</u>

- **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

Beneficiaries

Associated partners

PhD
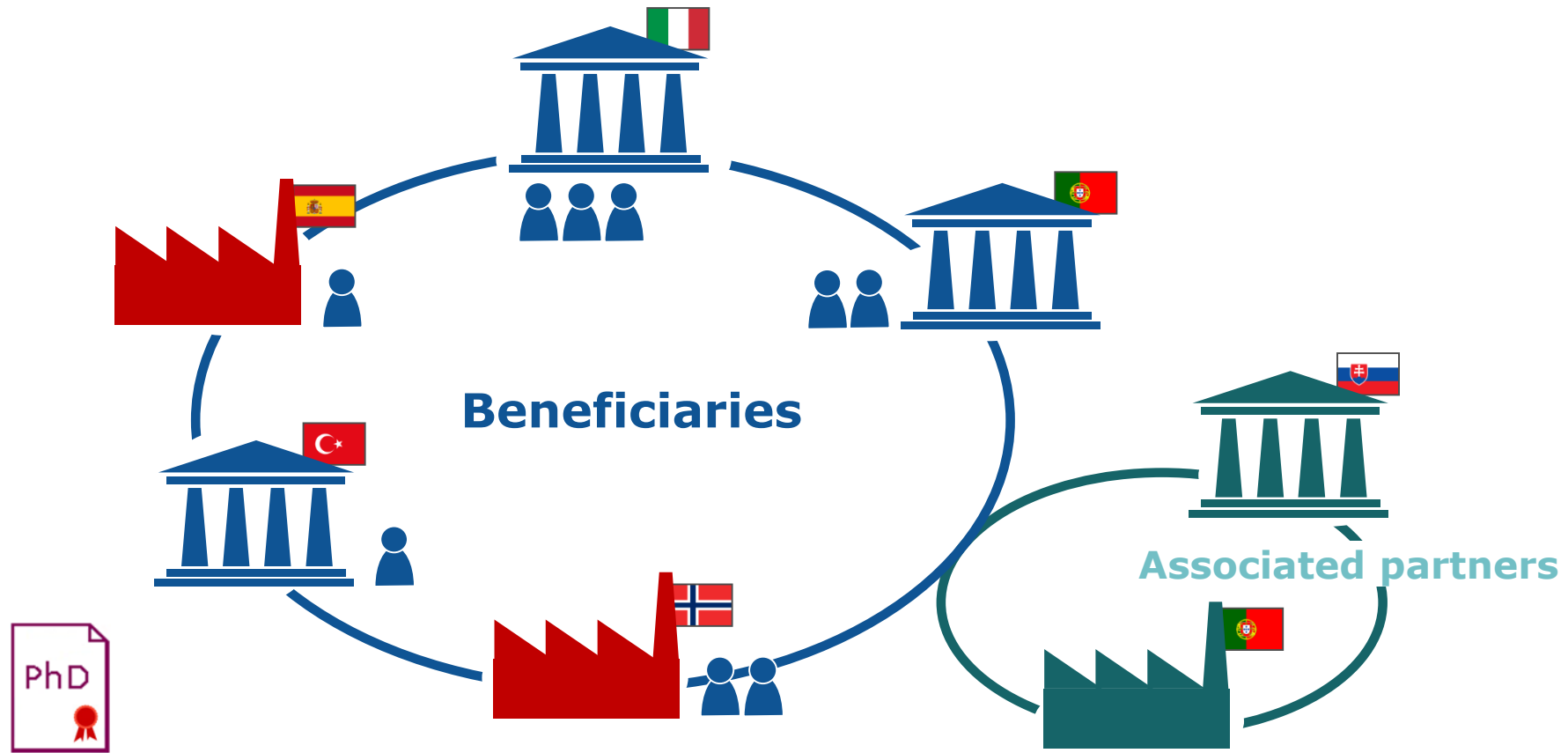
Industrial Doctorate – Example consortium

NON ACADEMIC SECTOR

≥ 50% time for each Doctoral Candidate

Beneficiaries

Associated partners

Joint Doctorate – Example consortium

Beneficiaries

Associated partners
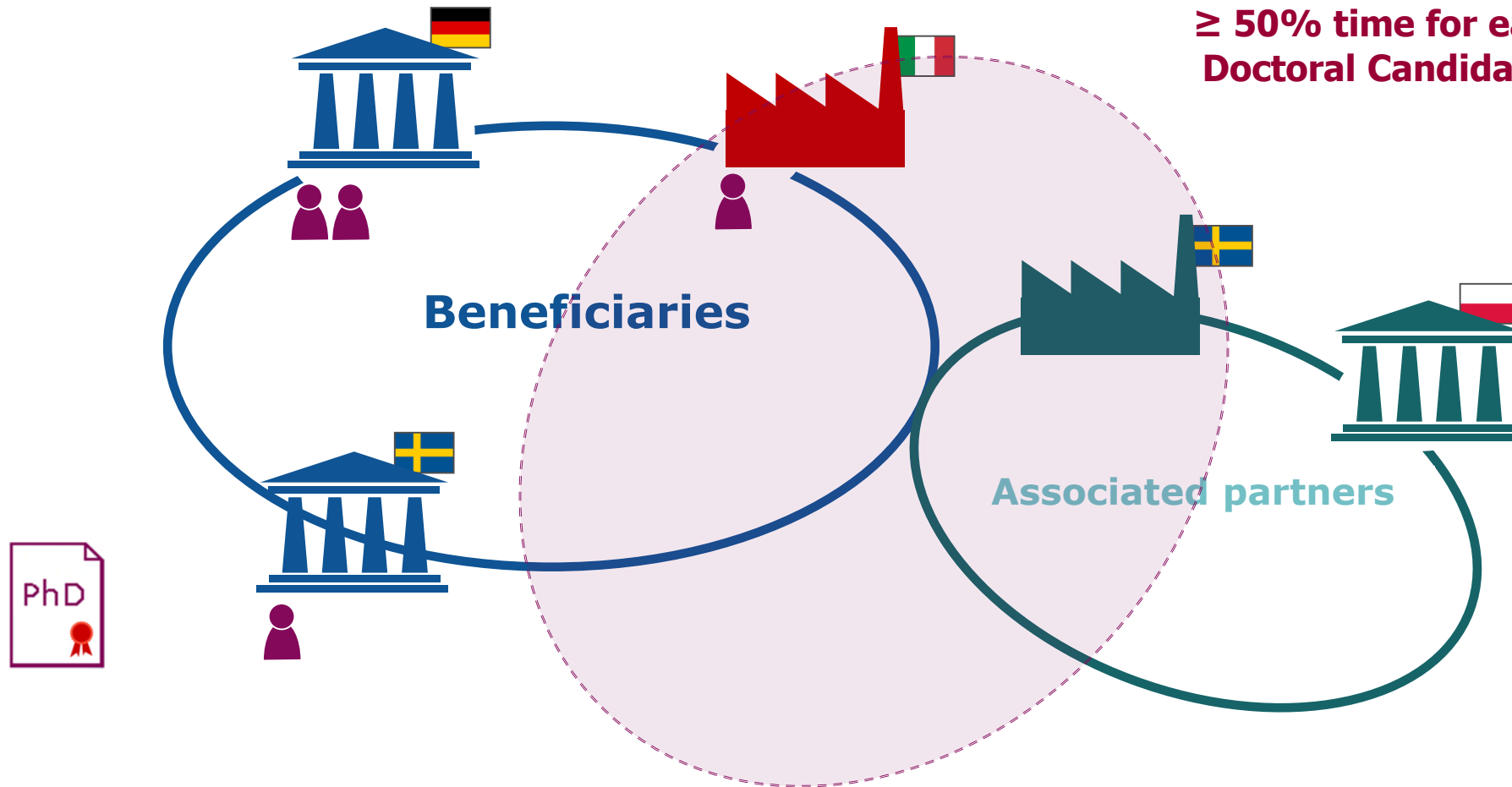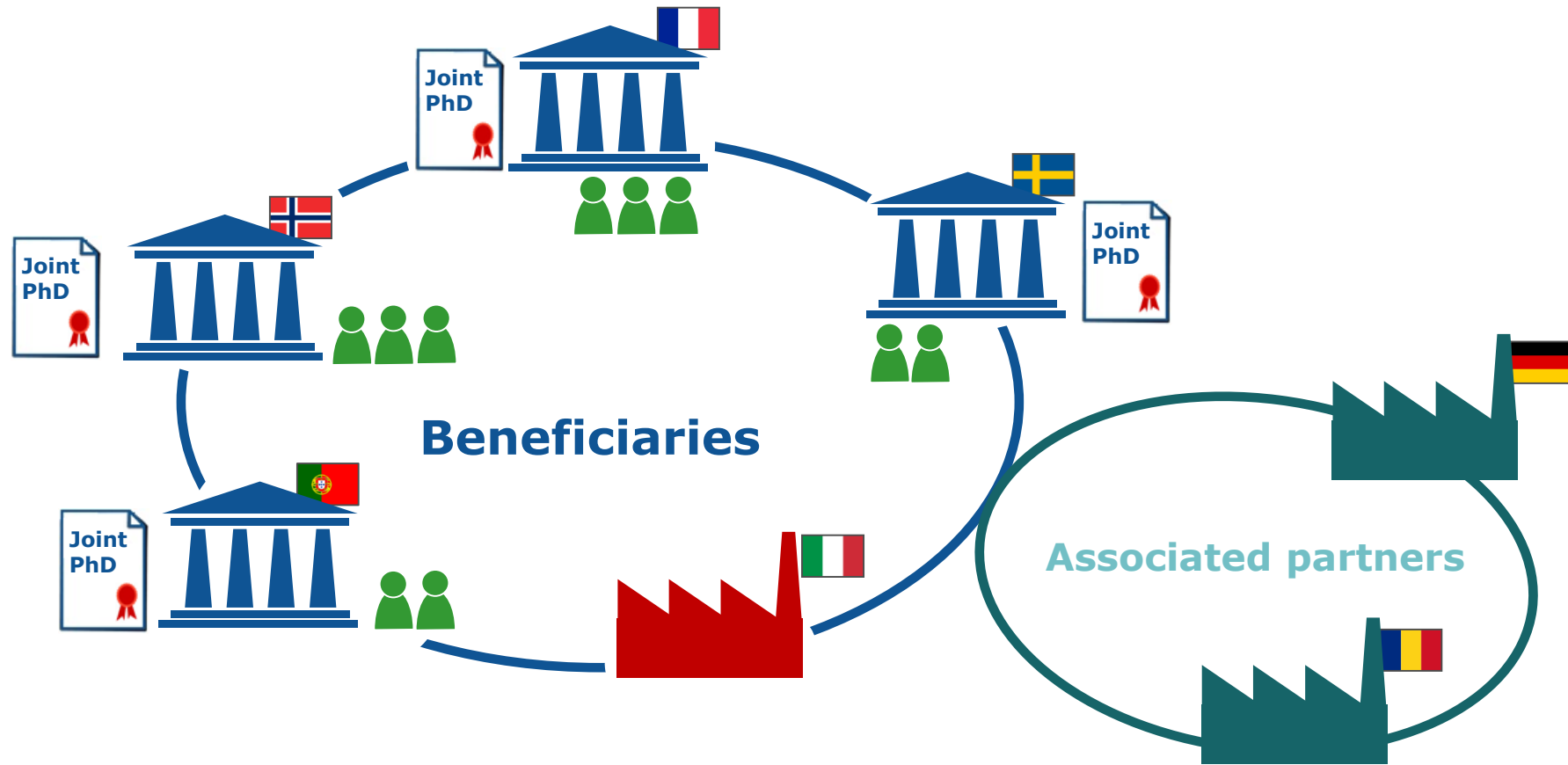
Joint Doctorate – Degrees

Joint degree: single diploma issued by at least 2 academic institutions located in 2 different countries and recognised officially
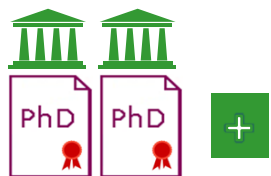
Double/multiple degree: 2 or more separate national diplomas issued by two or more higher education institutions located in different countries and recognised officially

Letters of pre-agreement to deliver joint/double doctoral degrees are mandatory in the proposal

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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	

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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.

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Doctoral Networks – Evaluation process

Receipt of proposals

Admissibility/eligibility check

Allocation of proposals to evaluators

Individual evaluation

Experts assess proposals **individually**.

Minimum of three experts per proposal (but often more than three).

Consensus group

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

Panel review

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

Finalisation

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

Evaluation is carried out by external experts under the responsibility of REA

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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?

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Home Funding ▾ Procurement ▾ Projects & results ▾ News & events ▾ Work as an

Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01

Topic Call for proposal

Internal navigation

General information

Topic description

Destination

Conditions and documents

Partner search announcements

Start submission

Topic Q&As

Get support

General information

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

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID HORIZON TMA MSCA
Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates

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)

General information

Participants & contacts

new

Budget

Ethics

Call-specific questions
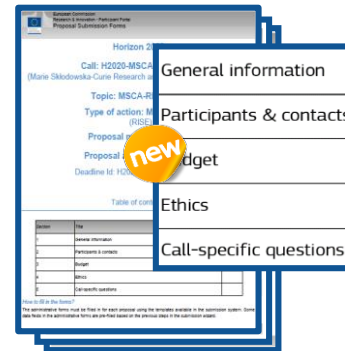
Part B
(description of action)
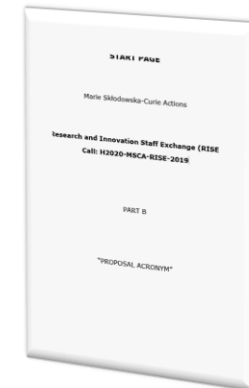
Part B1: 30 page
Part B2: no limit

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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

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

European Commission

Work as an EC expert

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/work-as-an-expert

Thank you

"YOU CANNOT HOPE TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD WITHOUT IMPROVING THE INDIVIDUALS."
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Caroline Peters– MSCA Doctoral Networks

Caroline.Peters@ec.europa.eu

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