



# HORIZON EUROPE

THE EU  
RESEARCH & INNOVATION  
PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

**MSCA Doctoral Networks**  
Infoday Presentation  
**Eleni DELIGIANNI**

11 May 2023

Disclaimer: the information provided in this presentation is not legally binding.

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
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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

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

# MSCA DN Programme Expected Outcomes

- Benefits for both the **Doctoral Candidates** and **Participating Organisations**
- Train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates
  - Face current and future challenges
  - Convert knowledge and ideas into products and services
  - Achieve sustainable economic and social benefit
- 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**

*Strengthening the European Research Area*



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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

# 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*

**Attention: all 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels**

# Doctoral Networks – 2023 Features

**Size:** Up to **540 person-months** for all implementation modes

**Duration:**

- **Programme:** max. 48 months for Standard DN and DN-ID; **max 60 months for DN-JD**
- **Fellowship:** between 3 and 36 months for Standard DN and DN-ID; **max 48 months for DN-JD**
- **Secondments:** worldwide, up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration for Standard DN; **no limitation for DN-ID and DN-JD**

***Industrial doctorates (DN – ID):***

- At least 50% in the non-academic sector (can be in the same country as the academic host organisation); **non-academic sector as beneficiary or AP**
- Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise

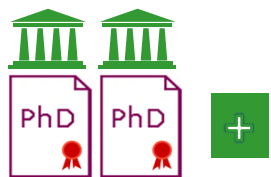
***Joint doctorates (DN – JD):***

- Enrolment in a joint/double or multiple PhD (**delivered by entities located in at least 2 MS/AC**)
- Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- Letters of pre-agreement to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)

# Joint Doctorate – Degrees



**Joint degree:** single diploma issued by at least 2 academic institutions located in 2 different countries and recognised officially

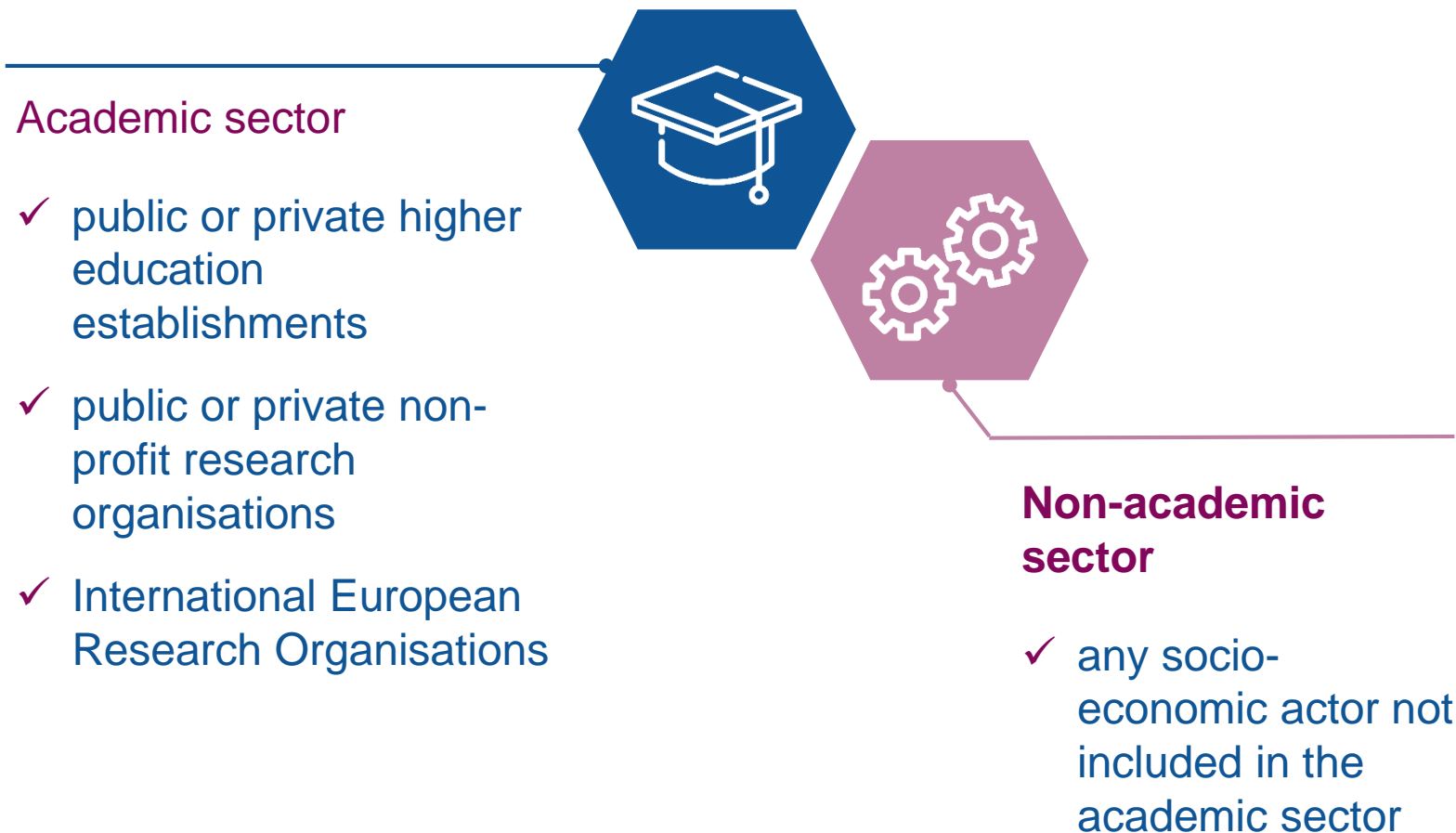


**Double/multiple degree:** 2 or more separate national diplomas issued by two or more higher education institutions located in different countries and recognised officially



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

# Doctoral Networks – Academic / non-academic sectors



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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 1 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 40.0% 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 2022



# 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 of **Associated Partners**

# 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 Countries



## EU COUNTRIES

- Member States (MS) including their outermost regions
- The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the MS ([list](#)).



## NON-EU COUNTRIES

- Countries associated to Horizon Europe (AC)
- Low and middle income countries: See [List of Participating Countries in HE](#) in the [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

*\* Morocco, United Kingdom*

Note: Switzerland is **not** an associated country. Liechtenstein does not intend to associate to Horizon Europe.

**Third Country (TC):** any other country (see List of countries that can receive funding [here](#))

**\* 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 (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.

# Doctoral Networks – Overview

		DN	DN-ID	DN-JD
BENEFICIARY (IES)	Minimum Number of beneficiaries	3	3	3
	Minimum MS or AC	3	3	3
	Minimum MS (beneficiaries)	1	1	1
	Academic sector	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions
	Non-academic sector	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions
	Max no. of person months	540	540	540
	Max 40.0% budget for 1 country/international organisation	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Beneficiary or associated partner/associated partner linked to a beneficiary awarding PhD	Mandatory (beneficiary or associated partner/ associated partner linked to a beneficiary)	Mandatory (beneficiary or associated partner/ associated partner linked to a beneficiary)	Mandatory (please see minimum requirements for DN-JD)	
Joint/double/multiple award of PhD	Optional	Optional	Mandatory (Researchers must be enrolled in a doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least 2 EU MS/AC) *	
Joint/double/multiple degree – letter of pre-agreement	N/A	N/A	Mandatory	
Joint supervision for researchers	Encouraged	Mandatory (from the 2 sectors)	Mandatory	
Researchers enrolment in the PhD	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	
Stay in non-academic sector	Encouraged	Min. 50% of fellowship duration**	Encouraged	
Secondments	≤ 1/3	No limitation	No limitation	
Max Project duration	48	48	60	
Fellowship duration	3-36 months	3-36 months	3-48 months	
Ranking lists	8 (Scientific) panels			
Budget	~€435 Million			

\* Letters of Pre-Agreement required

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

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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 3400*	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 4000 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

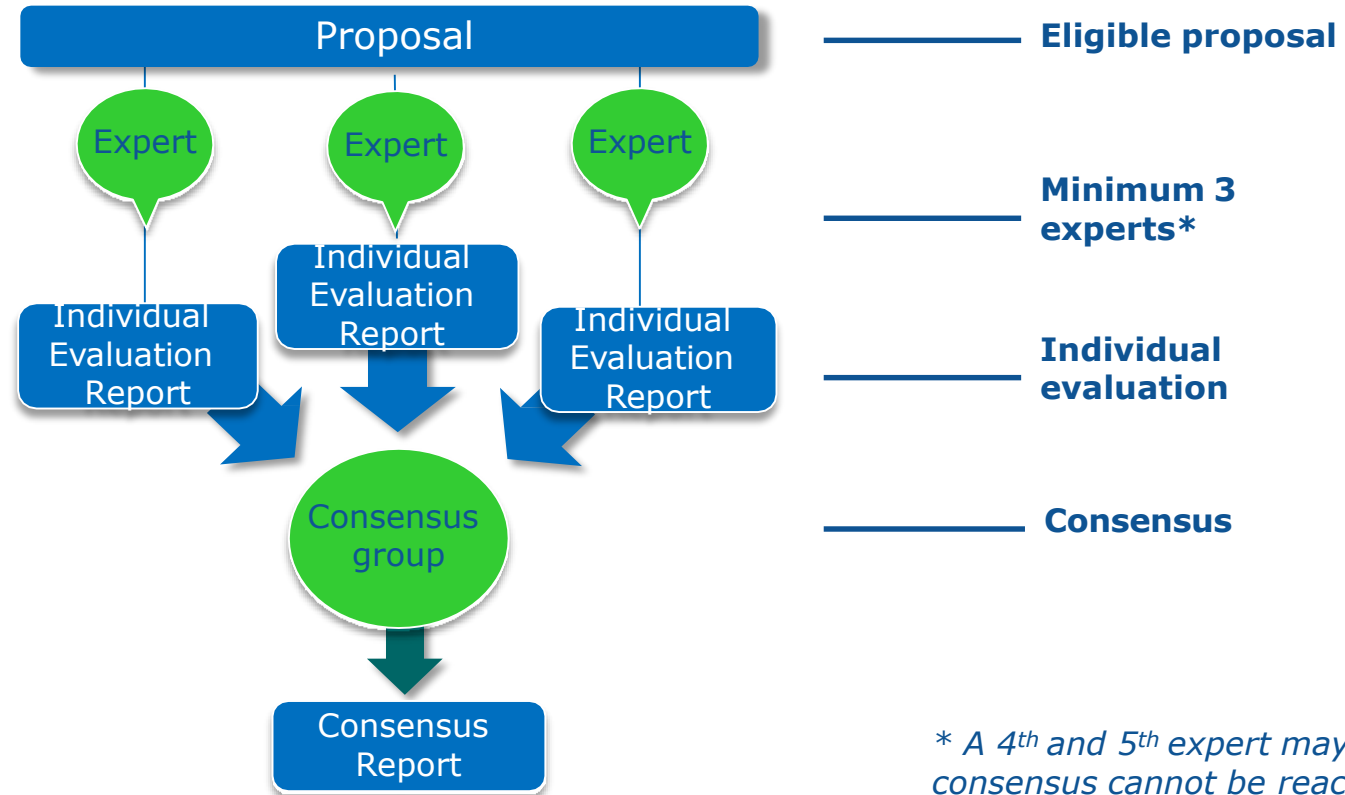
\*\* A **family allowance** to contribute to mobility-related costs of researchers with family obligations which can be granted **during** the project.

<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.

# Content

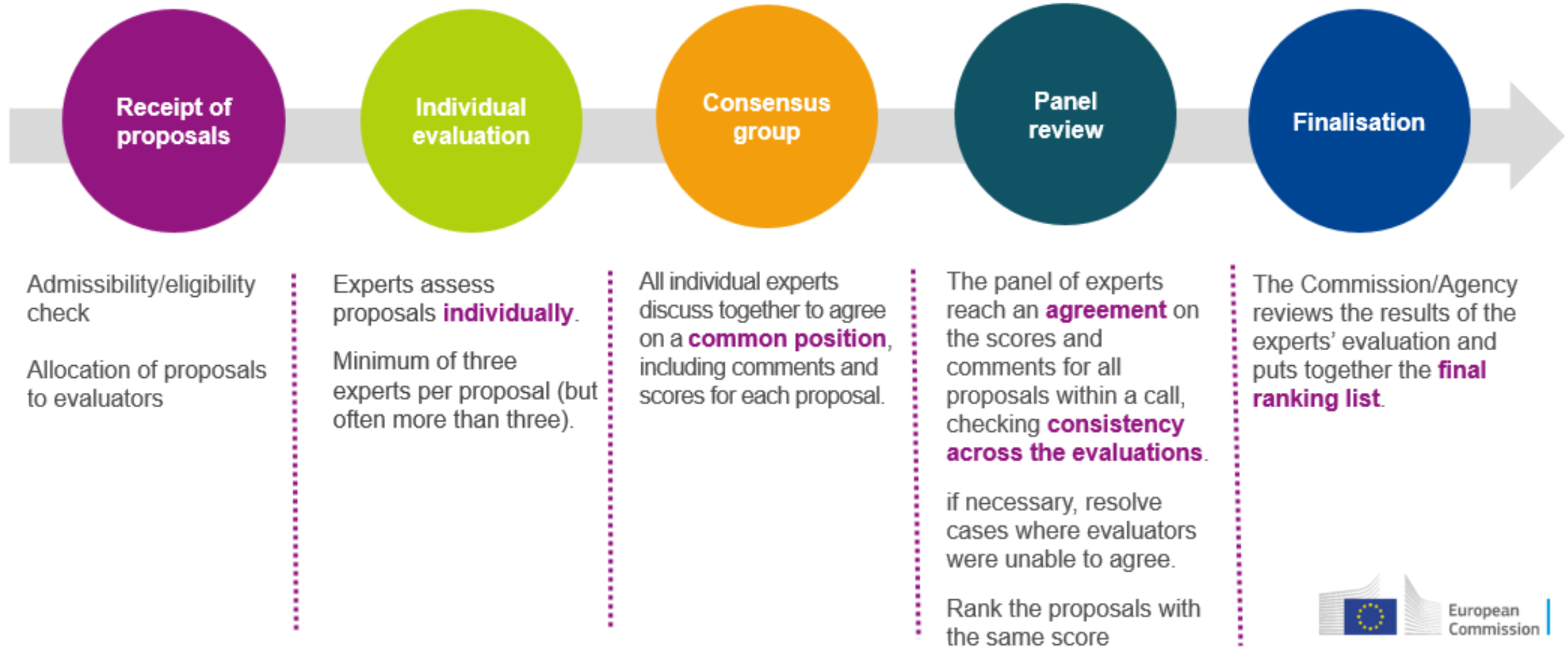
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# Overview of Evaluation Process



*\* A 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> expert may be added in case consensus cannot be reached*

# 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	
<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?

The screenshot shows the European Commission website for funding opportunities. The main heading is "MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023" with the topic ID "HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01-01". A "Grant" button is visible. The page is divided into two columns. The left column contains a navigation menu with items like "General information", "Topic description", "Destination", "Conditions and documents", "Partner search announcements", "Submission service", "Topic related FAQ", and "Get support". The right column displays the "General information" section, including the programme "Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)", the call "MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023 (HORIZON-MSCA-2023-)", and the type of action "HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks". It also lists several related calls and the deadline model as "single-stage".

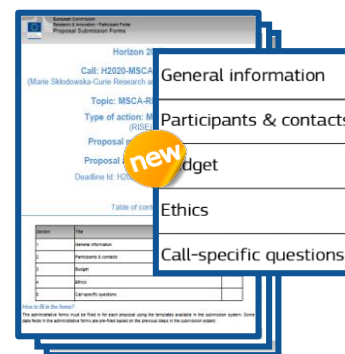
## Useful documents

- [MSCA Work Programme & HE work programme annexes](#)
- [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#)
- [Guide for Applicants](#)
- [Proposal template](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

REA website: [How to Apply](#)

[F&T portal Online Manual on how to submit an application](#)

## Part A (structured data)



## Part B (description of action)



Part B1: 30 pages  
Part B2: no limit

# Doctoral Networks – Proposal preparation

- Read the [MSCA Work Programme](#) and Guidance documents & check the [Support videos](#)
- Use the [proposal template](#)
- Read carefully the [evaluation form](#)
- Do not 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 (incl. Associated Partners) and the Budget Table (see here [Guide for Applicants](#))
- Start preparing early and don’t leave submission for the last minute

*Think like an evaluator + Write for an evaluator*

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# Doctoral Networks – Resources



@MSCActions



@Marie.Curie.Actions

## Useful links

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

MSCA DN 2023 Call on the F&T portal: [here](#) (Call opens on 30 May 2023)

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 Doctoral Networks website: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/calls/msca-doctoral-networks-2023>

European Research Executive Agency website [https://rea.ec.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://rea.ec.europa.eu/index_en)

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

MSCA in Horizon Europe Info Days:  
<https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/7ipbqmZ4PgO9sJ4gRVdpoR/overview>

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)

## How to Apply

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks>

# 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](#)

# Info event on MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023 call



The poster features the European Union flag and logo in the top left corner. The main title 'HORIZON EUROPE' is rendered in large, 3D block letters. Below it, the text 'INFO DAYS' is prominently displayed, followed by 'Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Doctoral Networks' and the date '14 June 2023'. The background is a vibrant green and blue gradient with various scientific and educational icons: a person climbing a ladder, a person sitting on a globe, a person holding a lightbulb, a person in a lab coat, a person in a spacesuit, a rocket, a globe, a person at a chalkboard, and a person holding a plant. A hashtag '#HorizonEU' is visible in the top right corner.

Horizon Europe - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks 2023 – Info day  
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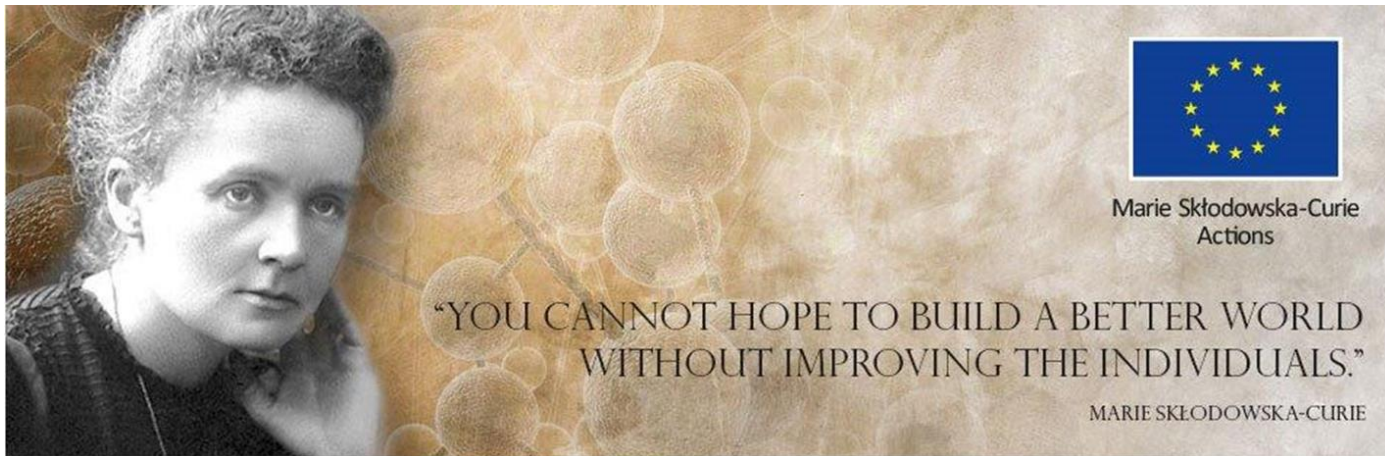
**When?** Wednesday **14 June 2023**, 09:30 – 17:00 CEST

**More information** - [here](#)

**Agenda** - [here](#)

**Register now** [here](#)

# Thank you



Eleni DELIGIANNI – MSCA Doctoral Networks

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