Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
in Horizon Europe

MSCA Doctoral Networks

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REA.A1 - MSCA Doctoral Networks

"Προοπτικές σταδιοδρομίας και κινητικότητας των ερευνητών στον Ορίζοντα Ευρώπη μέσω των Δράσεων Marie Skłodowska-Curie"
Εθνικό Κέντρο Τεκμηρίωσης και Ηλεκτρονικού Περιεχομένου (ΕΚΤ), Εθνικό Σημείο Επαφής για τον Ορίζοντα Ευρώπη και Συντονιστής του Enterprise Europe Network-Hellas
Athens, 08 July 2021

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

The MSCA under 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

European Commission

Key features

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 Actions

Doctoral Networks

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

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

European Commission

Doctoral Networks

From 'ITN' to 'DN'

Doctoral Networks: objectives

➢ Respond to **well-identified needs** in various R&I areas (bottom-up);

➢ 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;**

➢ Focus on **research and transferable skills**, (inter-sectoral secondments), **career development plan, supervision, internationalization / attractiveness;**

Doctoral Networks: modalities

- Multi-beneficiaries Actions to set up **doctoral programmes**, including

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

Doctoral Networks: features

- **Size**
  - Up to **360 person-months** (standard) + **180 additional person-months for joint or industrial doctorates** (incentive)

- **Duration**
  - **Programme**: max. 48 months;
  - **Fellowship**: between 3 and 36 months;
  - **Secondments**: worldwide, up to **1/3** of the fellowship duration;
  - **Industrial doctorates**: 50% in the non-academic sector; academic and non-academic organizations jointly supervising can be in the same country.

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Doctoral Networks: eligible participants

Consortia of :

➢ Universities;

➢ Research institutions and research infrastructures;

➢ Businesses including SMEs;

➢ Other socio-economic actors.

European Commission

Doctoral Networks: eligible participants

➢ At least **three independent legal entities**, each established in a different MS or AC, of which minimum of 1 beneficiary from a MS;

➢ On top of this minimum, any entity from any third country can join;

➢ No minimum for associated partners.

Doctoral Networks: eligible for funding

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 organizations (IO):
  - International European research organizations 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

Academic and non-academic sectors

Academic sector

- ✓ public or private higher education establishments

- ✓ public or private non-profit research organizations

- ✓ International European Research Organizations

Non-academic sector

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

European Commission

Beneficiaries/Associated Partners

	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	✔	✖

European Commission

Doctoral Networks: 40% rule

- **Not more than 40.0% of the EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country** or to a single international organisation.

Doctoral Networks: recruitment rule

- **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.

Doctoral Networks: eligibility of researchers

- Supported researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of 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.

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What are the main differences compared to Horizon2020 – ITNs?

➢ **Size** of Doctoral Networks: 360 pm; Industrial Doctorates/Joint Doctorates: up to 540 pm;

➢ Secondments in EID do not need to be transnational;

➢ No flexible recruitment anymore in EIDs and EJDs; All beneficiaries must recruit at least one researcher;

➢ Fellow: **only doctoral** candidates;

➢ Secondments: **up to 1/3.**

Doctoral Networks

		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	Minimum 1	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/AC.
	Non-academic sector	No restrictions	Minimum 1	No restrictions
	Max no. of person months	360	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 for minimum 3 beneficiaries in MS/AC
Joint award of PhD		Optional	Optional	Mandatory
Joint 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
Secondments: international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary		≤ 1/3	≤ 1/3 and *Min 50% stay in the non-academic sector*	≤ 1/3
Associated partner: Letter of Commitment		Mandatory		
Ranking lists		8 (Scientific) panels		
Budget		~€403 mn		

Doctoral Networks in Horizon Europe

Proposals submission

New features in the Horizon Europe proposal

NEW FIELDS IN PART A

- Researchers table – needed to follow up researchers careers (HE indicator)

- Role of participating organization

- Self-declaration on gender equality plan
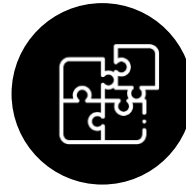
FIELDS MOVED FROM PART B TO PART A

- Ethics self-assessment

- Security questionnaire (**NEW!** in all HE proposals)

NEW IN PART B

- Glossary of terms.

- Consistency on the use of terminology is ensured in all project phases (from WP to proposal and reporting)

- Extensive explanations on what exactly should be included in each section.

Gender Equality Plans

Corporate eligibility criterion in Horizon Europe (not specific to MSCA)

Applicable to public bodies, research organisations and higher education establishments from EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries

Minimum process-related requirements for publication, dedicated resources, data collection & monitoring, and training

Transition/grace period before full enforcement for calls with deadlines in 2022

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/gender-equality-research-and-innovation_en

European Commission

New features in the Horizon Europe proposal

DN specificities of Part A proposal template:

➢ **3 submission links**, 1 per modality (standard DN, Industrial Doctorates, Joint Doctorates);

➢ **Associated partners register in the tool like beneficiaries** (with a validated or temporary PIC);

➢ **Scientific panel and keywords selection** (similar to H2020, guidance on REA website);

➢ **Unit-cost budget table;**

European Commission

New features in the Horizon Europe proposal

DN specificities of Part B proposal template:

Part B1:

➢ Follows the **award criteria;**
➢ **Same page-limit** as in H2020;
➢ **Instructions** included in the template;
➢ **Harmonized** with RIA/IA corporate template whenever possible.

Part B2:

➢ **Description of participants** (similar to H2020);
➢ **Letters of commitment** (templates similar to H2020);

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Doctoral Networks in Horizon Europe

Award Criteria

Doctoral Networks: award criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
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	
50%	**30%**	**20%**

Doctoral Networks: award criteria

‘Excellence’, ‘Impact’ and ‘Quality and efficiency of the implementation’

➢ Each criterion includes the ‘aspects to be taken into account’. The same aspect is not included in different criteria, so it is not assessed twice;

➢ Open Science practices are assessed as part of the scientific methodology in the excellence criterion.

Doctoral Networks: award criteria

'Excellence': main novelties

1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology

➢ Gender dimension and diversity aspects;
➢ Open science practices;
➢ Research data management and management of other research outputs;

Doctoral Networks: award criteria

'Impact': main novelties

2.3 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

➢ Plan for the dissemination and exploitation activities, including communication activities;
➢ Strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures.

Doctoral Networks: award criteria

'Impact': main novelties

2.4 The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts (project's pathways towards impact)

- ➢ Expected scientific impact(s);
- ➢ Expected economic/technological impact(s);
- ➢ Expected societal impact(s).

Doctoral Networks: award criteria

'Quality and efficiency of the implementation': main novelties

3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

➢ Management structures not assessed anymore;
➢ Risk management at consortium level;
➢ Gender aspects (both at the level of recruitment and that of decision-making within the action);
➢ Environmental aspects in light of the MSCA Green Charter;

Doctoral Networks: award criteria

'Quality and efficiency of the implementation': main novelties

3.2 Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise

➢ Operational capacity fully assessed under criterion 3.2.
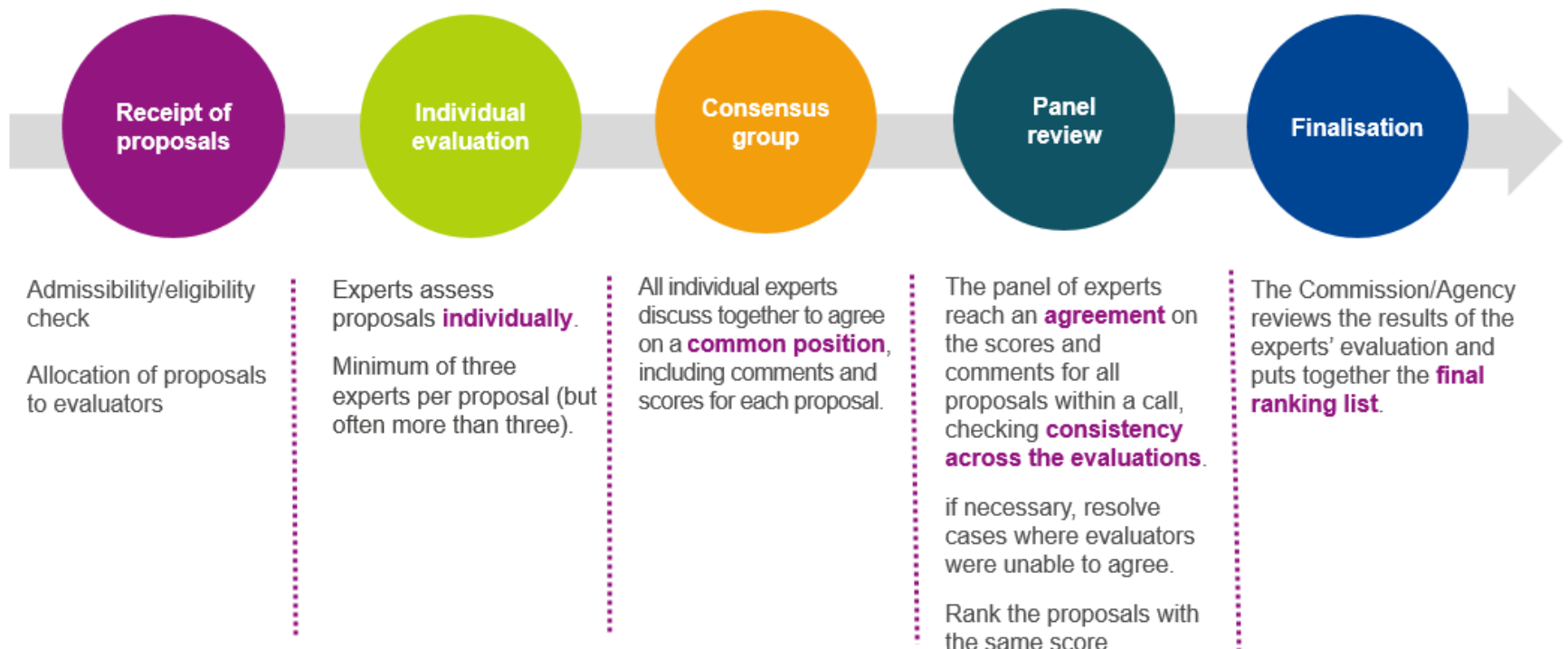
Doctoral Networks in Horizon Europe

Evaluation

Doctoral Networks: evaluation

'Overview of the process'

Receipt of proposals	Individual evaluation	Consensus group	Panel review	Finalisation
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**.

European Commission

Doctoral Networks: evaluation

Evaluation process

- **No major changes compared to H2020:**
    - use of external experts
    - SEP platform
    - Three evaluation criteria, scored out of 5, using decimals
    - Overall threshold of 70% (cf. resubmissions in 2022)

- **Establishment of ranking lists NEW:**
    - All modes assessed and ranked together under each scientific panel no more dedicated budget for ID/JD

Doctoral Networks in Horizon Europe

Budget structure
and
Project implementation

Doctoral Networks: budget structure

'Funding mechanism'

- ➢ 1 person-month = 1 unit
- ➢ Reimbursement rate: 100%
- ➢ Different cost categories

**1 unit
=
1 month of
eligible ESR**

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Doctoral Networks: budget structure

Novelties of HE: reviewed and new cost categories

Contributions for recruited researchers					Institutional unit contributions	
Per person-month					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 3 400	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 4 000 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit[1] x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 600	EUR 1 200

European Commission

Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Novelties of HE: reviewed and new cost categories

A living allowance to cover personnel costs for the employment of researchers with full social security coverage.

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

A mobility allowance to cover additional, private mobility-related costs, e.g. travel and accommodation costs.

NEW - A long-term leave allowance to cover personnel costs incurred by the beneficiaries in case of the researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave.

NEW - A special needs allowance to contribute to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities, e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel/transportation costs.

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Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Novelties of HE: reviewed and new cost categories

Each beneficiary must recruit each eligible doctoral candidate under an **employment contract or equivalent direct contract** with full social security coverage.

When an employment contract cannot be provided (due to national legislation), the beneficiary may exceptionally recruit the doctoral candidate under a **'fixed-amount fellowship'**. In this case, the living allowance will be halved and the beneficiary must ensure that the doctoral candidate enjoys minimum social security coverage .

Each beneficiary **must pay the family and mobility allowances** to the recruited fellow.

NEW - If a fellow has or acquires **family obligations during the action duration**, the **family allowance** must be paid to him/her as well.

European Commission

Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Novelties of HE: reviewed and new cost categories

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.

NEW - **The special needs allowance** contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities.

► Both long-term leave and special needs allowances should be requested **when the need arises**.
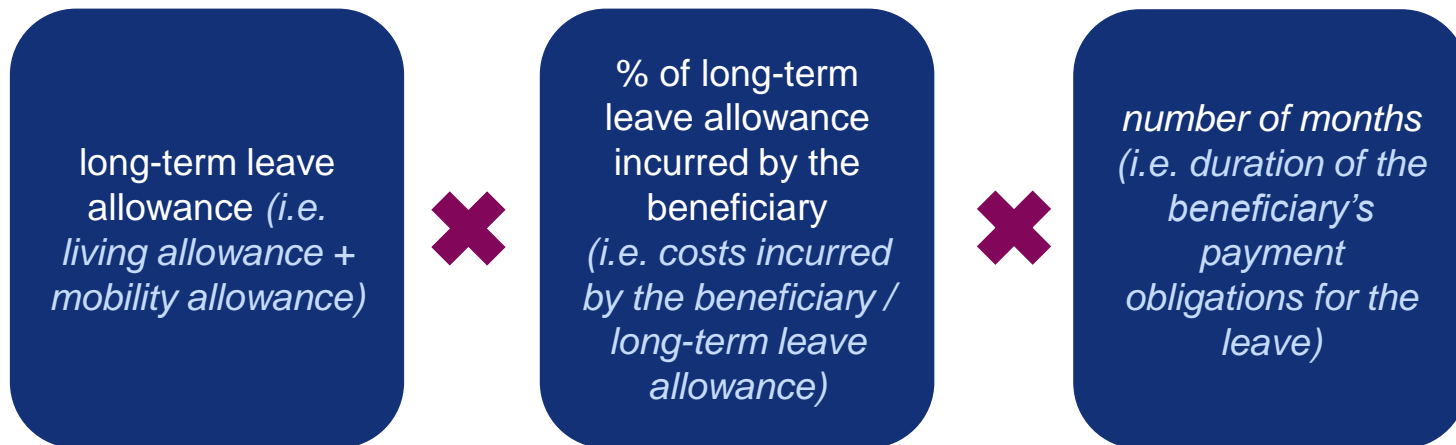
European Commission

Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Long-term leave allowance

What does it cover?

- personnel costs incurred by the beneficiaries in case of researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave.

long-term leave allowance *(i.e. living allowance + mobility allowance)*

✖

% of long-term leave allowance incurred by the beneficiary *(i.e. costs incurred by the beneficiary / long-term leave allowance)*

✖

number of months (i.e. duration of the beneficiary's payment obligations for the leave)

⚠️ For absences longer than 30 consecutive days.

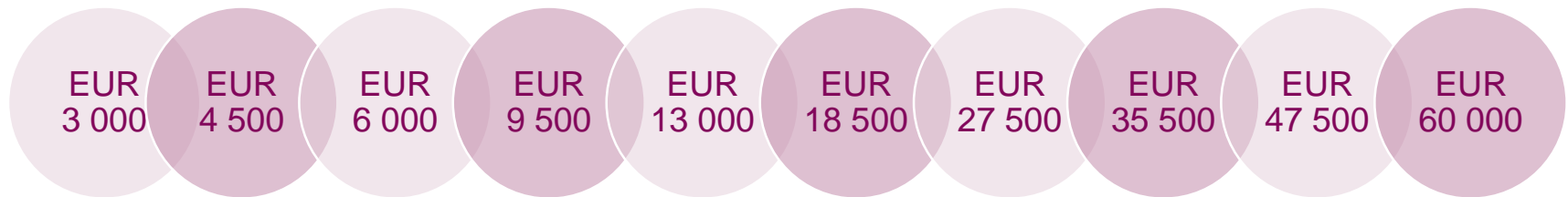# Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Special needs allowance

What does it cover?

- Additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for fellows with disabilities, e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel or transportation costs.

⚠️ The items or services must not have been covered from another source (e.g. social security or health insurance)

For whom?

- 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.

| 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 | EUR 60 000 |

⚠️ Beneficiaries shall claim the **closest lower rate** per researcher/staff member compared to the estimated actual costs of his/her special needs.

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Doctoral Networks: project implementation

The **research, training and networking contribution** should cover costs for training and networking activities research expenses, visa-related fees and travel expenses, additional costs arising from each secondment of six months or less, which require mobility from the place of residence (e.g. travel and accommodation costs).

The **management and indirect contribution** should cover the beneficiary's additional costs in connection with the action (e.g. personnel costs for project management/coordination, indirect costs).
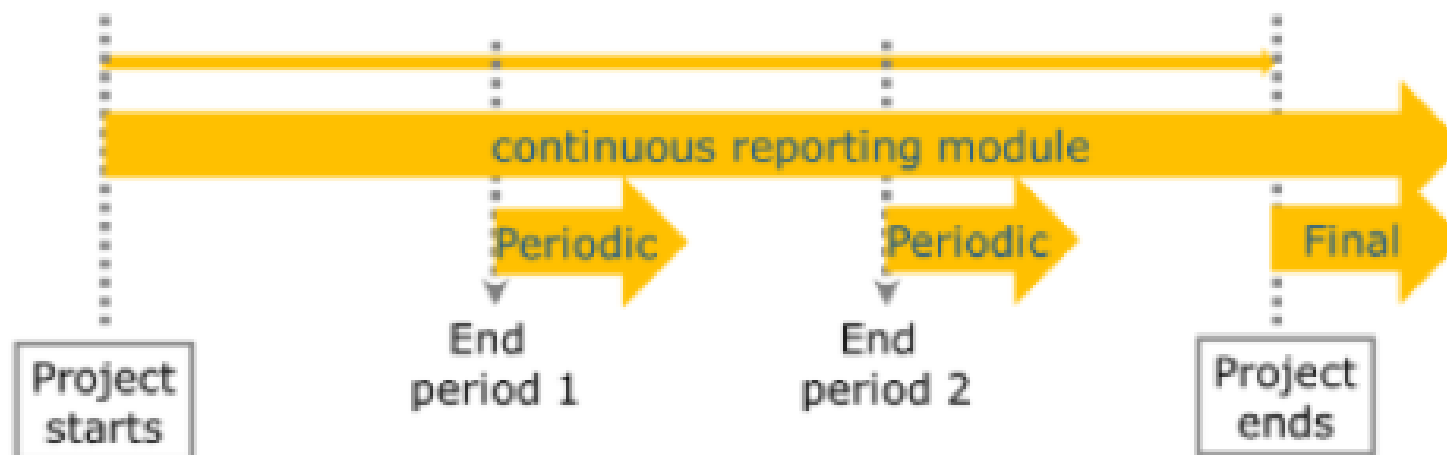
Doctoral candidates should devote them on a **full-time basis** to the project.

Part-time is allowed for personal or family reasons, with a prior agreement of the REA.

European Commission

Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Reporting – same principle as in Horizon 2020

- Continuous reporting module
- Periodic reporting module

Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Reporting – Continuous reporting

➢ At the beginning of the project, the **Continuous Reporting Module** is activated and COO can contribute to it on an ongoing basis. During the project, COO is expected to provide regular updates on the status of the project.

➢ The **continuous reporting** includes:

- ✓ **progress in achieving milestones**
- ✓ **deliverables**
- ✓ **updates to the publishable summary**
- ✓ **response to critical risks, publications, communications activities,**
- ✓ **IPRs**
- ✓ **programme-specific monitoring information (if required).**

Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Reporting – Payment request

➢ The **Periodic Report/Final Report is the pre-condition for receiving payments**; it must be submitted electronically **within 60 days after the end of the reporting period**.

➢ The **Report is divided into a technical and financial report.**

➢ The **Technical Report consists of 2 parts**:

- **Part A** contains structured tables with project information. IT is automatically generated by the IT system and is based on the information entered into the Portal Continuous and Periodic Reporting modules.

- **Part B** is a narrative description of the work carried out during the reporting period. Part B needs to be uploaded as PDF.

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Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Reporting – Payment request

➢ The Financial Report consists of the structured individual and consolidated Financial Statements (retrieved from the Grant Management System).

➢ There is an automatic calculation of the costs in the Financial Statement based on the duration (in person months) in the Mobility Declarations (costs are not editable).

➢ Thus Mobility Declarations are the basis for IFS (Individual financial Statement) and need to be updated in case of change (particularly before submission of periodic reports).

European Commission

Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Reporting – Novelties

The following deliverables will have to be submitted for grants awarded:

➢ Deliverable on the establishment of a supervisory board of the network;
➢ **NEW** - Progress report submitted within 30 days after one year from the starting date of the action;
➢ **NEW** - Mid-term meeting organized between the participants and the granting authority;
➢ **NEW** - Mobility declaration submitted within 20 days after the recruitment of each researcher and updated (if needed) via the Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool;
➢ **NEW** - Career development plan: a document describing how the individual Career Development Plans have been established (listing also the researchers for whom such plans have been put in place), submitted before the mid-term meeting;

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Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Reporting – Novelties

➢ Evaluation questionnaire completed by each recruited researcher and submitted at the end of the research training activity; a follow-up questionnaire submitted two years later;

➢ **NEW** - Data management plan submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project if needed;

➢ **NEW** - Plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities, submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project.

Doctoral Networks: project implementation

Reporting – Novelties

➢ Beneficiaries will also be requested to report on:

- Project Pathway to impact:

1. Results (results, scientific publications, research datasets, IPRs resulting from the project, standards resulting from the project, other research outputs)
2. Dissemination activities
3. Communication activities

- Impact (technology readiness level of the project, impact on **S**ustainable **D**evelopment **G**oals, citizen engagement, etc.)

Doctoral Networks in Horizon Europe

2021-2022 Call details

European Commission

Doctoral Networks: project implementation

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN 2021 and 2022

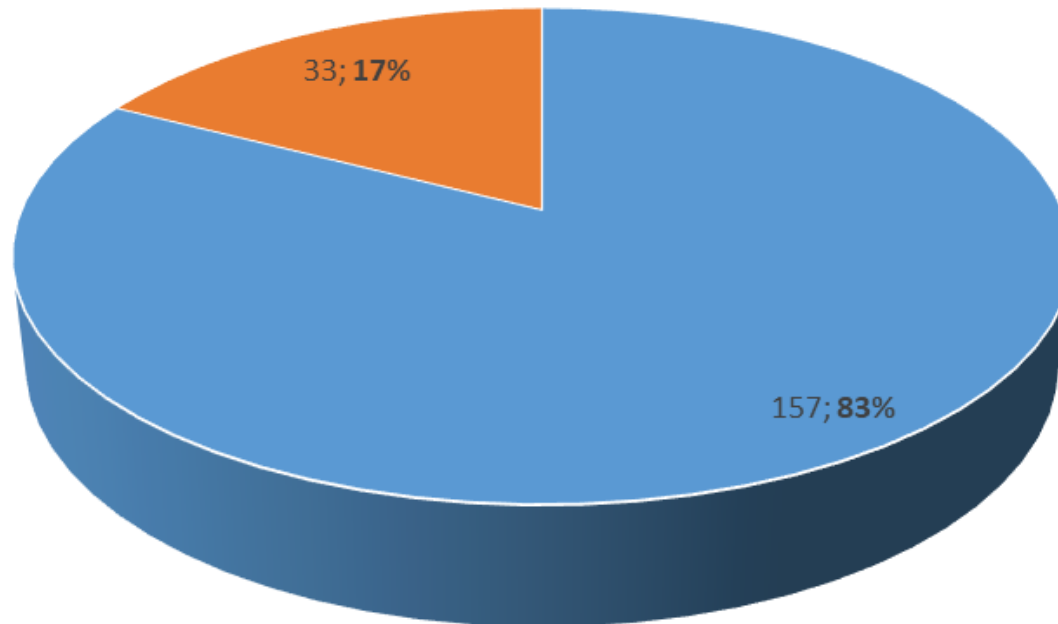| CALL	2021		CALL	2022	
	opening closing	budget (M€)		opening closing	budget (M€)
Doctoral Networks	22/06/21 16/11/21	402,95	Doctoral Networks	03/05/22 15/11/22	427,28

Some statistics on EL participation in H2020 ITN actions

EL participation

(Statistics maybe subject to clerical errors)

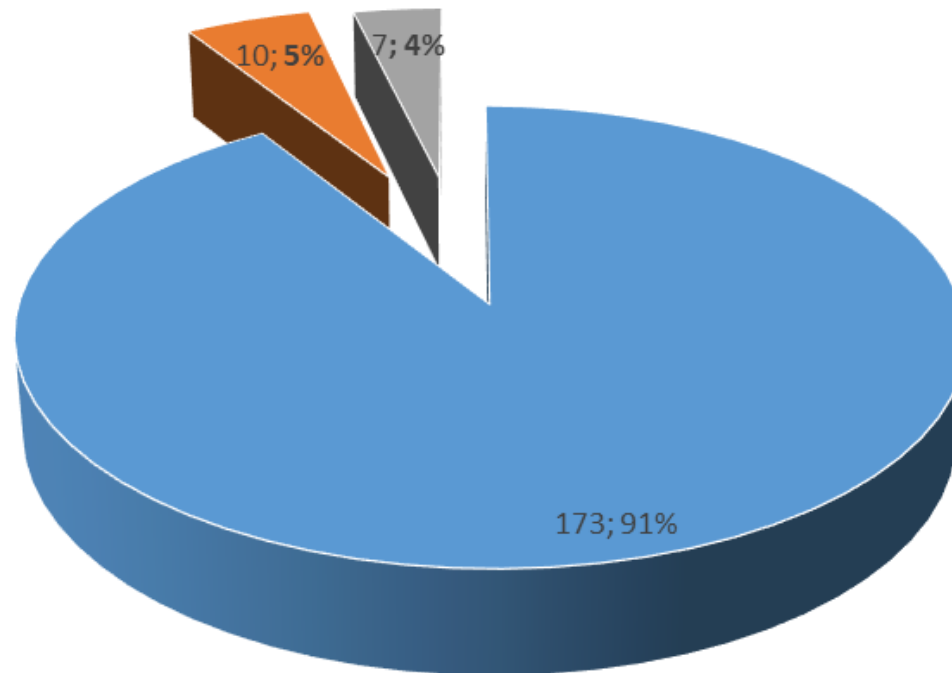# EL participation (overall)

Total EL participation = 190 occurences

33; **17%**

157; **83%**

- As beneficiary
- As partner organisation

Unique projects = 120

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EL participation (ETN / EID / EJD)

Total EL participation (mode)

10; **5%**   7; **4%**

173; 91%

- ETN   - EID   - EJD

EL participation (academic / non-academic)
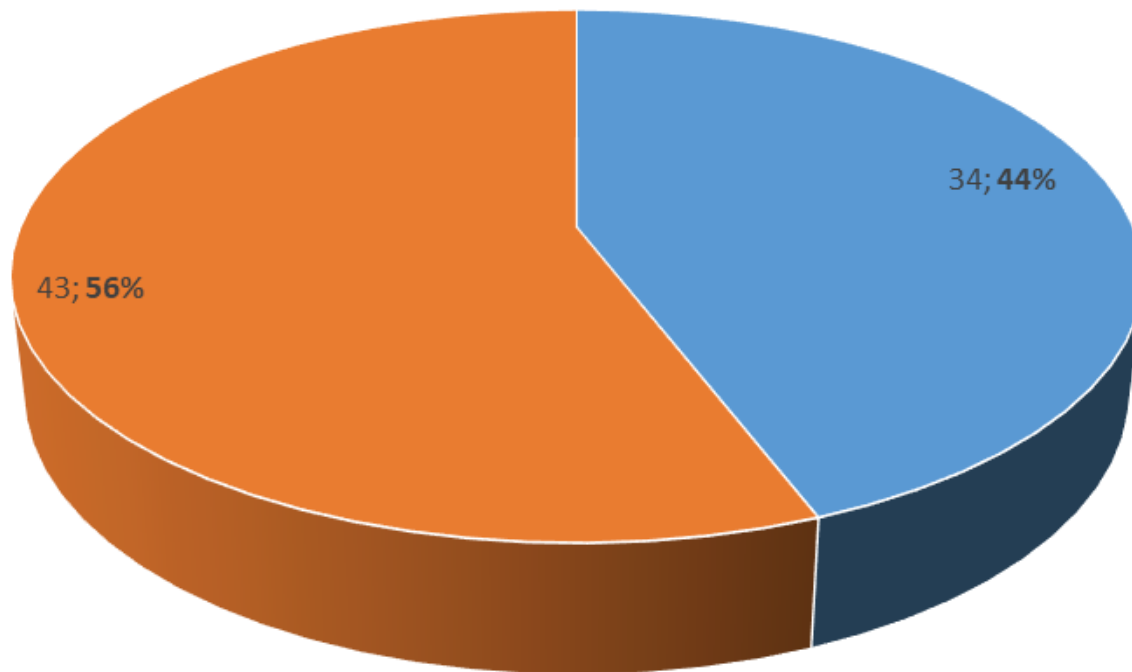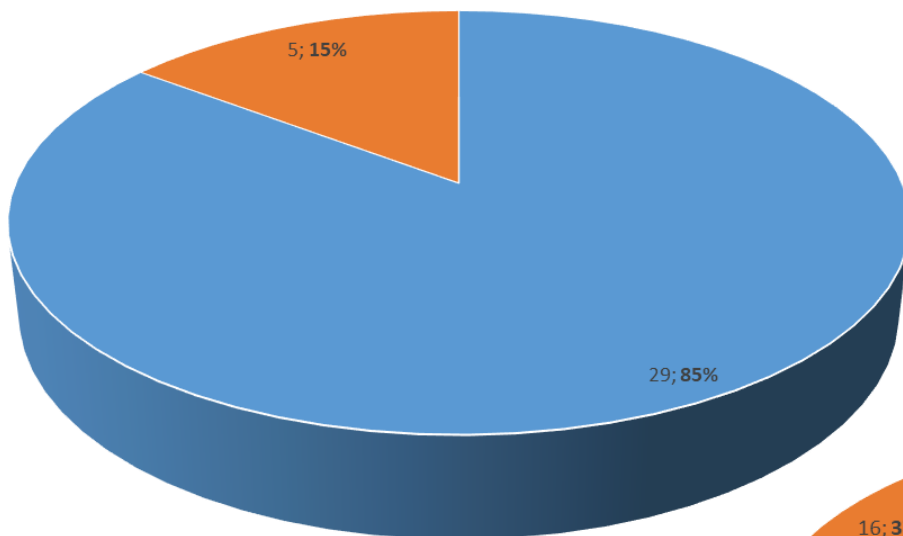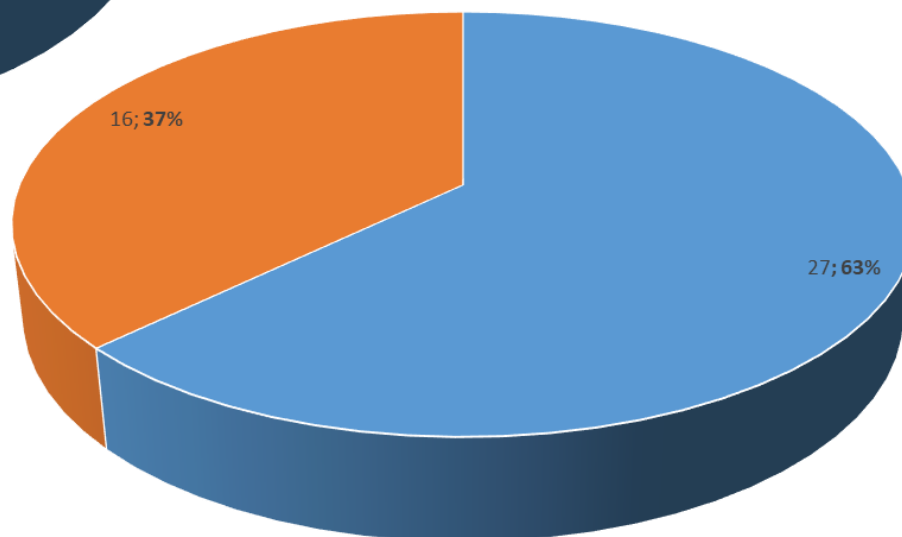
EL participation (academic / non-academic / beneficiary / partner organisation)

Academic (34 unique entities)

5; **15%**

29; **85%**

- As beneficiary
- As partner organisation

Non-academic (43 unique entities)

16; **37%**

27; **63%**

- As beneficiary
- As partner organisation

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EL participation (unique entities across 2014-2020 calls)

Participation (unique) across 2014-2020 calls

Call	Value
Call 2014	24
Call 2015	10
Call 2016	5
Call 2017	8
Call 2018	19
Call 2019	4
Call 2020	7

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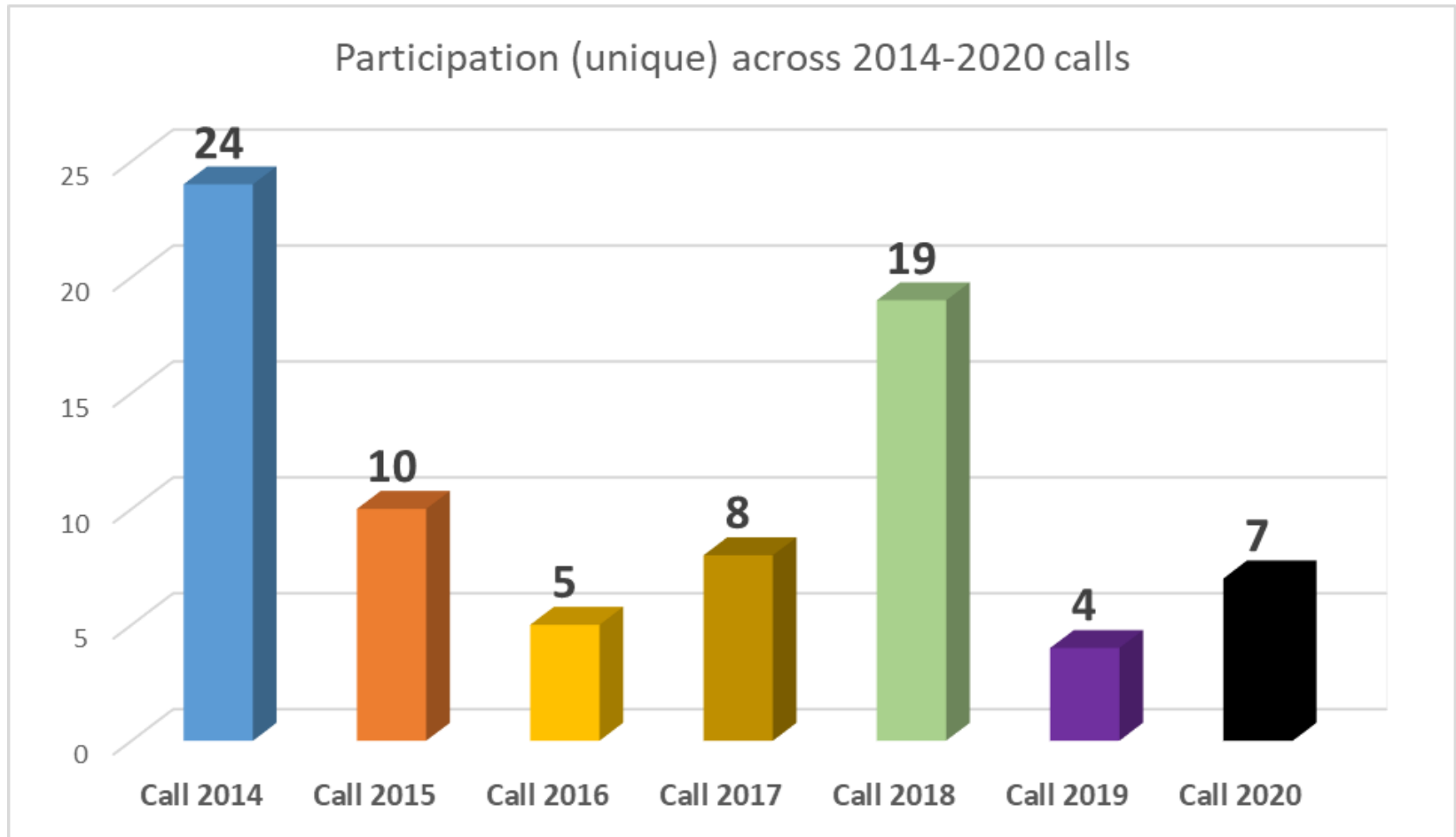
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !