

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



2024 calls

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Developing talents, advancing research



Estadísticas MSCA COFUND 2024 Errores a evitar en la propuesta 21 marzo 2025

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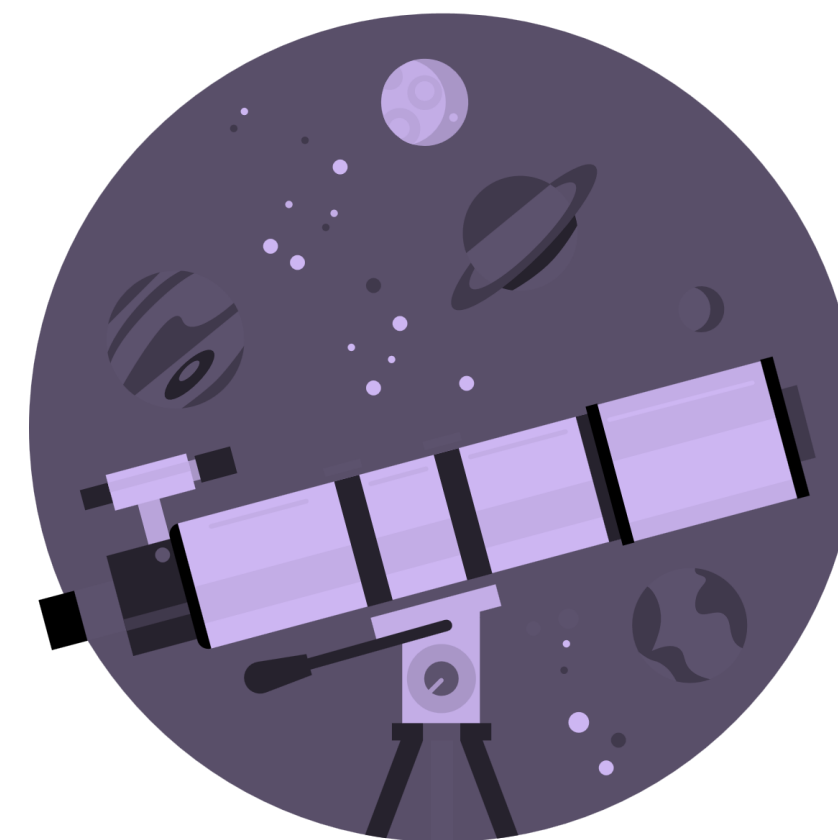
Solicitudes MSCA COFUND 2024

81 propuestas recibidas

- 33 (Financiadas y Reserva)
- 45 por debajo del umbral
- 3 No elegibles

(vs 106 in 2023)

40 Doctoral Programmes
41 Postdoctoral Programmes



COFUND 2024 call Proyecto Financiados

(27 Propuestas)

D

Doctoral
Programmes

12 Proyectos

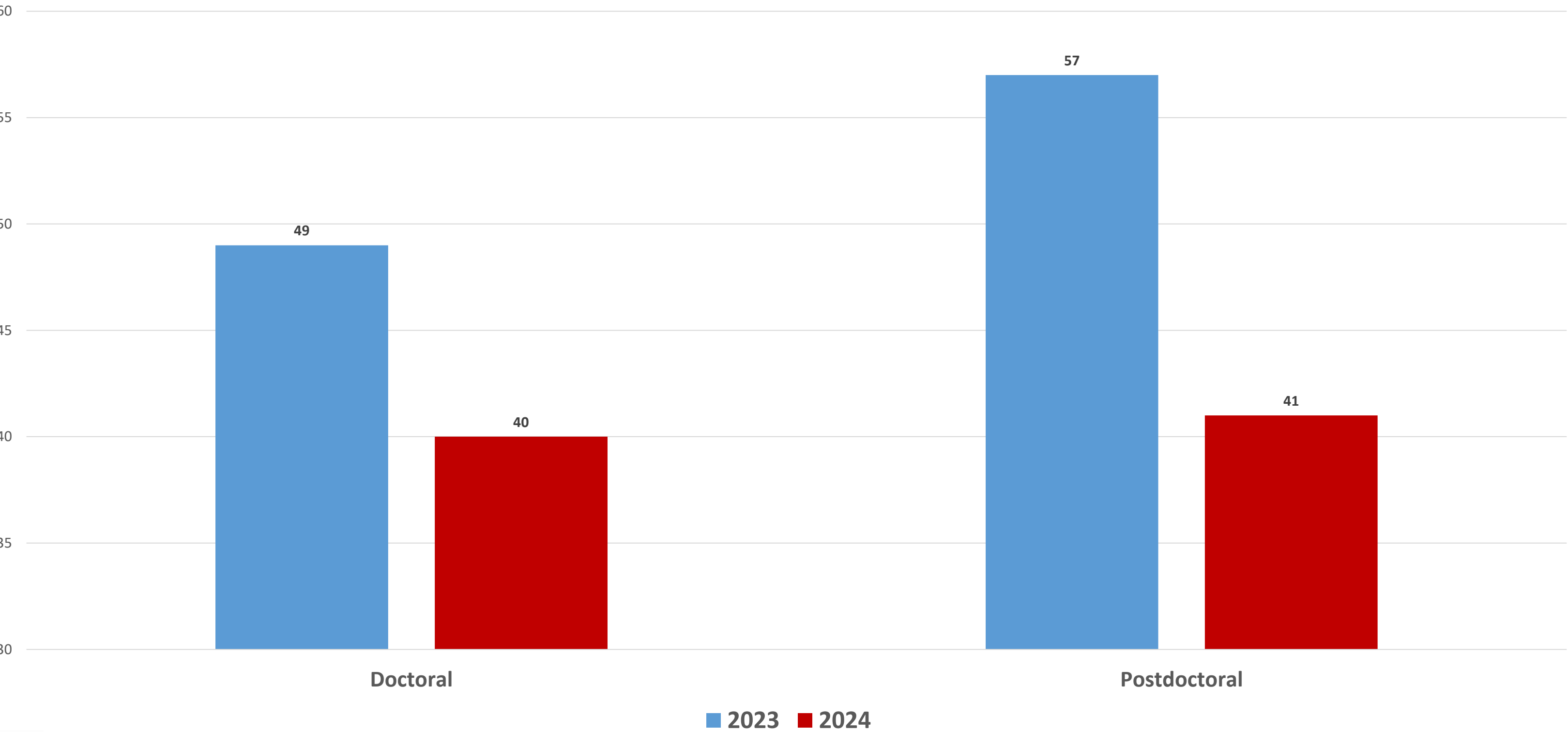
P

Postdoctoral
Programmes

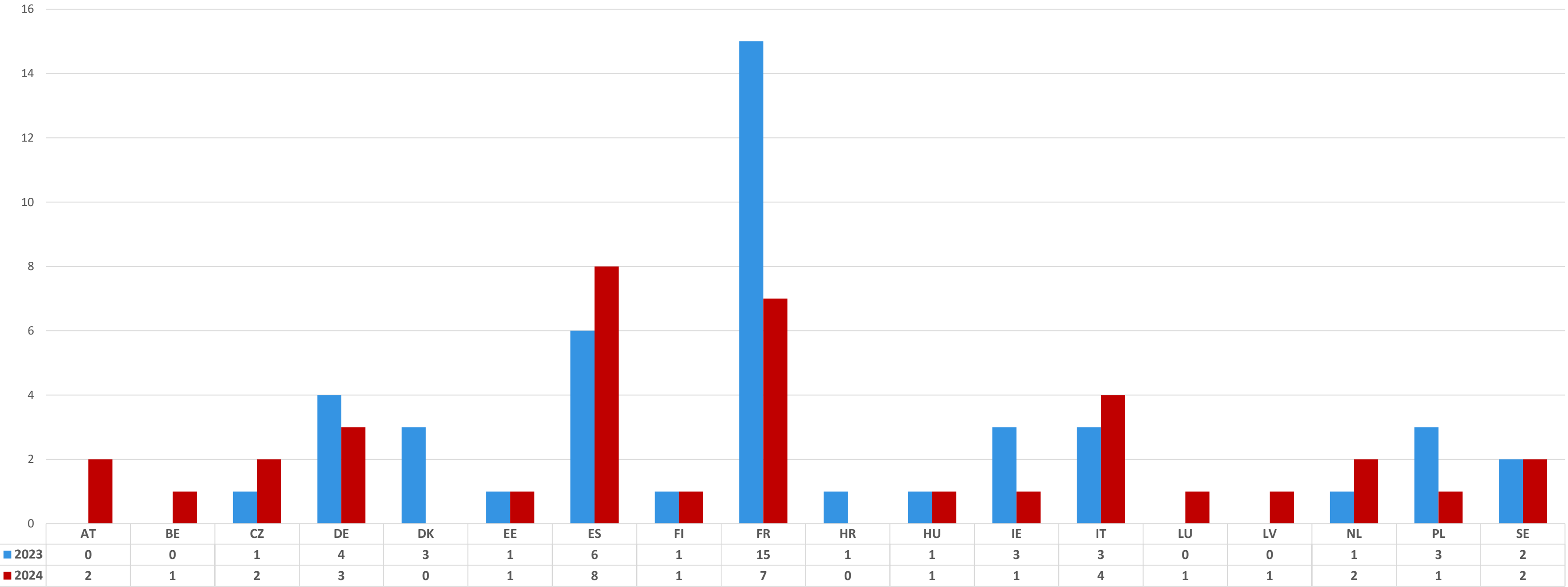
15 Proyectos



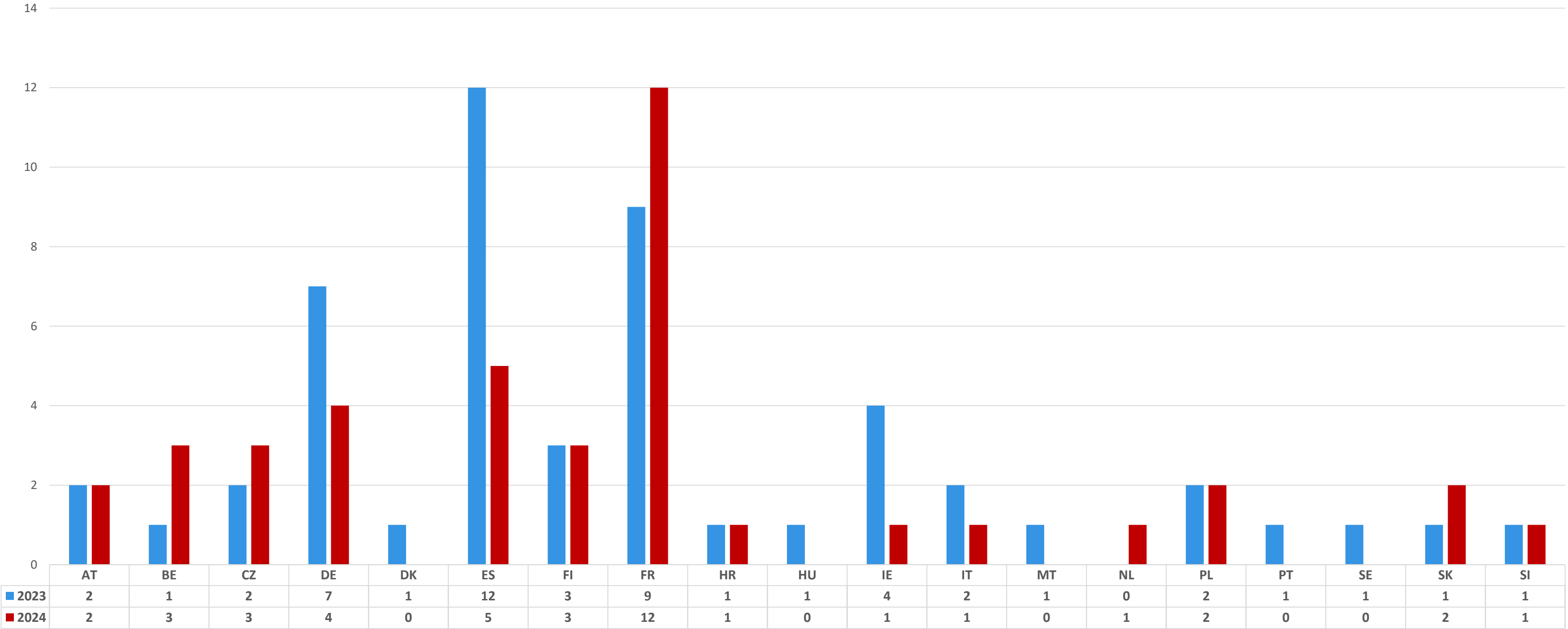
COFUND 2024 call -Submission per panel (vs COFUND 2023)



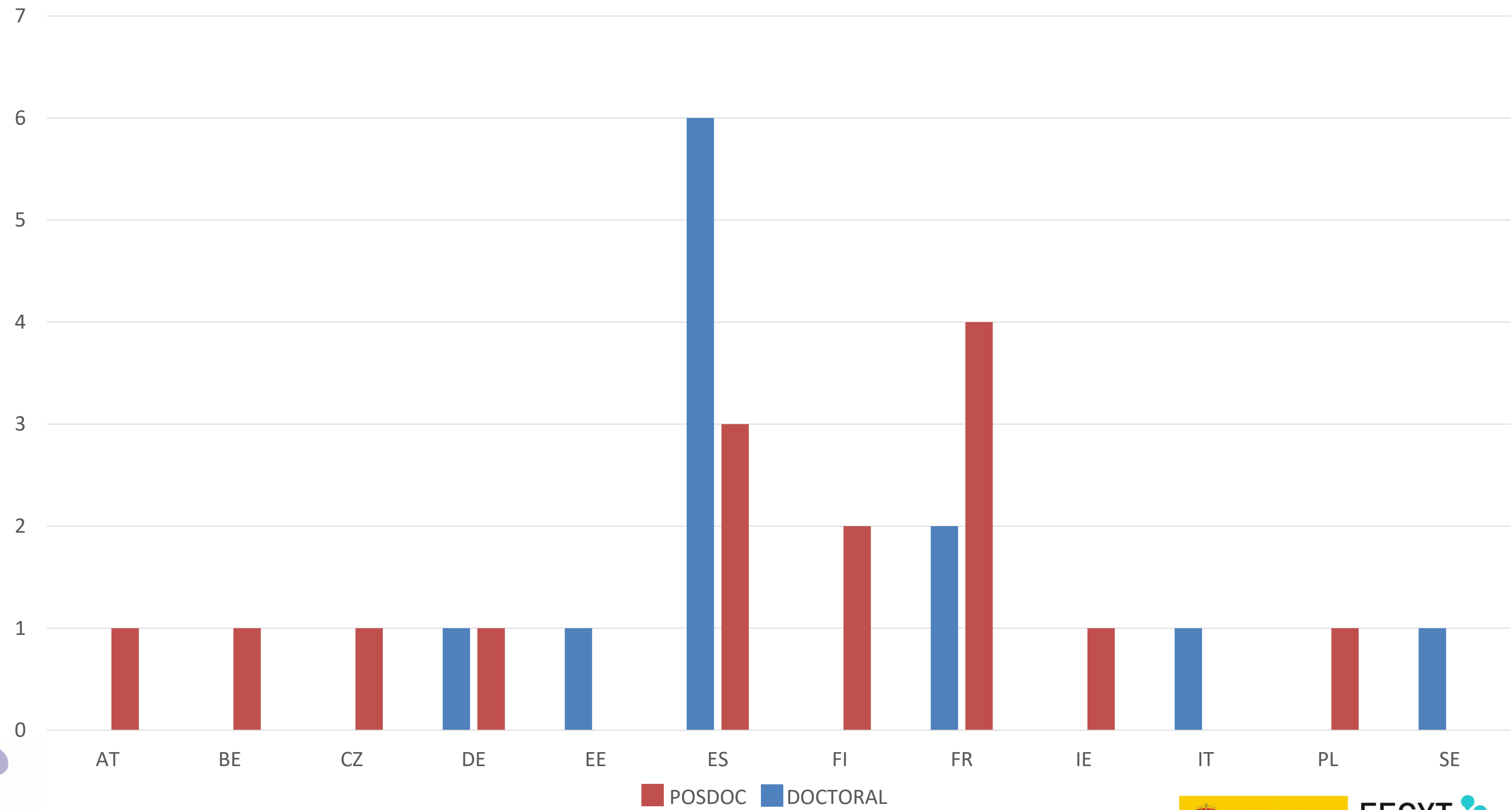
COFUND 2024 call - Doctoral - Submission per country MS (vs COFUND 2023)



COFUND 2024 Postdoctoral Submission per MS (vs COFUND 2023)



Resultados MSCA COFUND 2024 por Países



MSCA COFUND 2024 – Algunas Cifras sobre proyectos financiados

- 27 Proyectos Financiados
 - 15 Posdoc
 - 12 Predocs
- 6 Lista de Reserva
- 7,8 M€ media de presupuesto / 3,8M€ EU Contribution
 - 33,4 M€ más grande
 - 2,4M€ el más pequeño
- 53% media de co-financiación (UE)
 - La más alta 70%
 - La mas baja 25%



GENERAL	76,8
Doctoral	76,8
Posdoc	78,6

- Mayoría duración 60 meses , 2 de 54 y 2 de 48 meses



MSCA COFUND 2024 – Algunas Cifras sobre proyectos financiados

- Media de 14,1 Participantes
 - Mayor nº 38
 - Menor 1

2024

- 463 Entidades en proyectos financiados (134 PRC – 79 PYMES)

2023

- 366 Entidades en proyectos financiados (103 PRC – 60 PYMES)

2024	Financiados	Solicitudes
Higher or Secondary Education	176	510
Other	68	154
Private for Profit	134	276
Public Body	22	43
Research Organisation	63	162
Total	463	1145

2023	Financiados	Solicitudes
Higher or Secondary Education	107	495
Other	68	198
Private for Profit	103	391
Public Body	25	69
Research Organisation	63	213
Total	366	1366



MSCA COFUND 2024 – Temáticas

- **Ciencias de la Vida y Medicina Avanzada**
 - Medicina molecular, biomateriales avanzados, terapias génicas y celulares, medicina regenerativa.
- **Ciencias de la Computación y Algoritmos**
 - Inteligencia artificial aplicada a la salud, sociedad algorítmica, TIC para el impacto social.
- **Biología Sintética y Bioingeniería**
 - Redes doctorales en biología sintética, biomoléculas e ingeniería celular.
- **Astrofísica y Física Cuántica**
 - Astronomía basada en tecnología avanzada, ingeniería cuántica y física de partículas.
- **Neurociencia y Envejecimiento**
 - Investigación sobre envejecimiento, neurociencia y soluciones digitales para el bienestar.
- **Energías Renovables y Sostenibilidad**
 - Hidrógeno verde, transición energética, energías renovables y materiales sostenibles.
- **Big Data y Ciencia de Datos Aplicada**
 - Aprendizaje automático para descubrimientos científicos, intersección de datos y ciencia aplicada.
- **Química e Innovación en Materiales**
 - Polímeros porosos, estrategias innovadoras en nuevos materiales y química sostenible.
- **Cambio Climático y Medioambiente**
 - Impacto climático, transiciones globales y sostenibilidad.
- **Innovación en Servicios Digitales**
 - Innovación en Europa digital, telecomunicaciones y redes inteligentes.
- **Redes y Telecomunicaciones Avanzadas**
- **Redes de sensores inteligentes, tecnologías de comunicación y telecomunicaciones avanzadas.**
- **Ética e Interdisciplinariedad en Ciencia y Tecnología**
- **Desafíos sociales de la ciencia, ética en la IA y competencias interdisciplinarias.**
- **Desarrollo Rural y Productividad**
- **Ciencia aplicada al desarrollo rural, optimización de productividad laboral.**
- **Física Aplicada y Nuevos Paradigmas Científicos**
- **Innovación Educativa y Formación Avanzada**



Chekclist - EXCELENCIA

SELECTION/ RECRUITMENT PROCESS

- Call Dissemination
- Information to Applicants
- Selection Process Quality
- Selection Process Application Requirements
- Eligibility Criteria
- Selection Process Evaluation Criteria
- Selection Process Transparency
- Selection Process Internationality
- Selection Process Equal Opportunities
- Researchers at Risk
- Selection Process Gender Aspects
- Selection Process Other Diversity Aspects
- Redress Criteria/ Procedure/ Complaint Mechanism
- Selection Committees Composition & Organisation
- Preparation and Training of the Experts
- Recruitment Process
- European Charter & Code for Researchers' Recruitment
- Appointment Conditions • Competitiveness of the Salary
- Information on Financial Elements of the Programme

RESEARCH OPTIONS

- Research Options Quality
- Research Options Novelty / Innovation
- Freedom of Choice of Research Projects
- Research / Scientific Environment
- International Mobility Options Offered
- Multi / Interdisciplinary Options Offered
- Inter-Sectorality Options Offered
- Secondments
- Open Science Practices
- Fair Principles & Data Management

RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAMME

- Training Programme Quality, Novelty And Pertinence
- Technical Training
- International Training
- Inter/ Multidisciplinary Training
- Inter-Sectoral Training
- Transferable Skills Training
- Gender Training
- Other Diversity Aspects Training
- Networking Activities

SUPERVISION CAREER GUIDANCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- Supervisors' Experience
- Supervision Quality Novelty & Pertinence
- Role of the Supervisor/Mentor
- Supervision Arrangements
- Progress Monitoring
- Career Development
- Non-Academic Supervision Involvement

Chekclist - IMPACTO

HUMAN RESOURCES´GOOD PRACTICES

- Strengthening Human Resources
- Spreading Good Practice to All Partners/
Regional/National/International Level
- Alignment of the Practices with the Eu Principles
- National Policy and Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3)

CAREER PERSPECTIVE AND EMPLOYABILITY

- Career Perspectives & Researchers' Employability
- Researchers' Skills Development

MAXIMASE EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

- Maximise Expected Outcome & Impact
- Dissemination Plan
- Communication Plan & Activities
- Exploitation Plan
- IPR & Data Management
- Enhancing Collaboration and Improving Competitiveness Beneficiary/ Partner Org.



Chekclist - IMPLEMENTACIÓN

HUMAN RESOURCES' GOOD PRACTICES

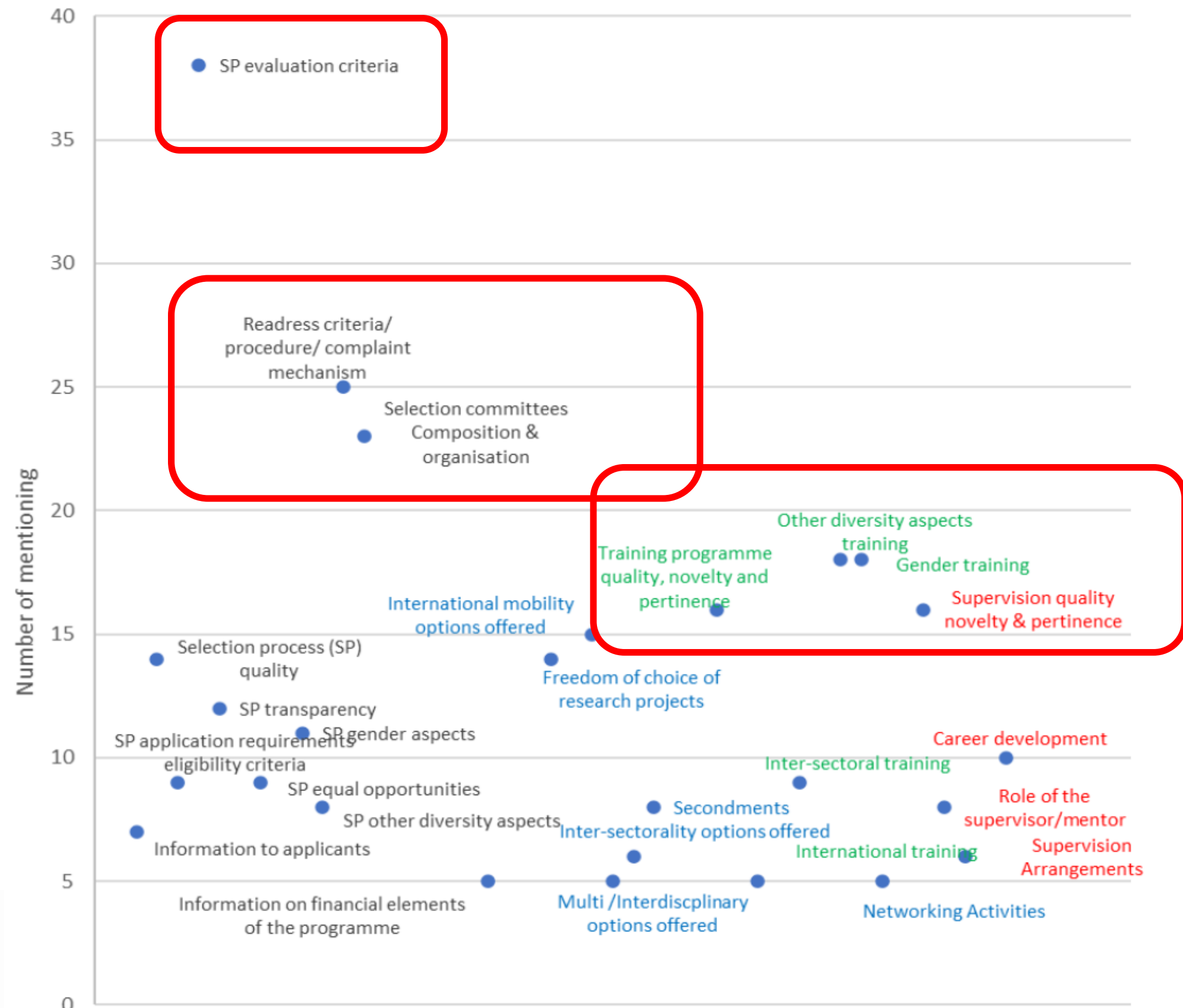
- Work Plan
- Work Packages
- Tasks
- Deliverables
- Milestones
- Gantt Chart & Timeline
- Effort Assigned to Work Packages (Including Tasks)
- Risks Assessment
- Project Management Structure

CAREER PERSPECTIVE AND EMPLOYABILITY

- Consortium Composition
- Host Institution(s) Quality & Capacity
- Participating Organisations Quality & Capacity
- Host Institutions & Participating Organisations' Expertise to Implement Research Training Programme
- Complementarity with Associated Partners
- Financial Management
- Commitment to Project
- Letter of Commitment
- Hosting Arrangements
- Programme's Support to the Fellows



MSCA COFUND EXCELLENCE – WEAKNESSES



The most common weaknesses of the MSCA COFUND projects were the *Selection Procedure Evaluation Criteria*, *Reddress Criteria/ Procedure/ Complain Mechanism*, *Composition and Organisation of Selection Committee*, as well as *Gender and Other Diversity Trainings*.

- Black font is related to the selection and recruitment process
- Blue font is related to the research aspects
- Green font is related to training aspects
- Red font is related to supervision aspects and career development

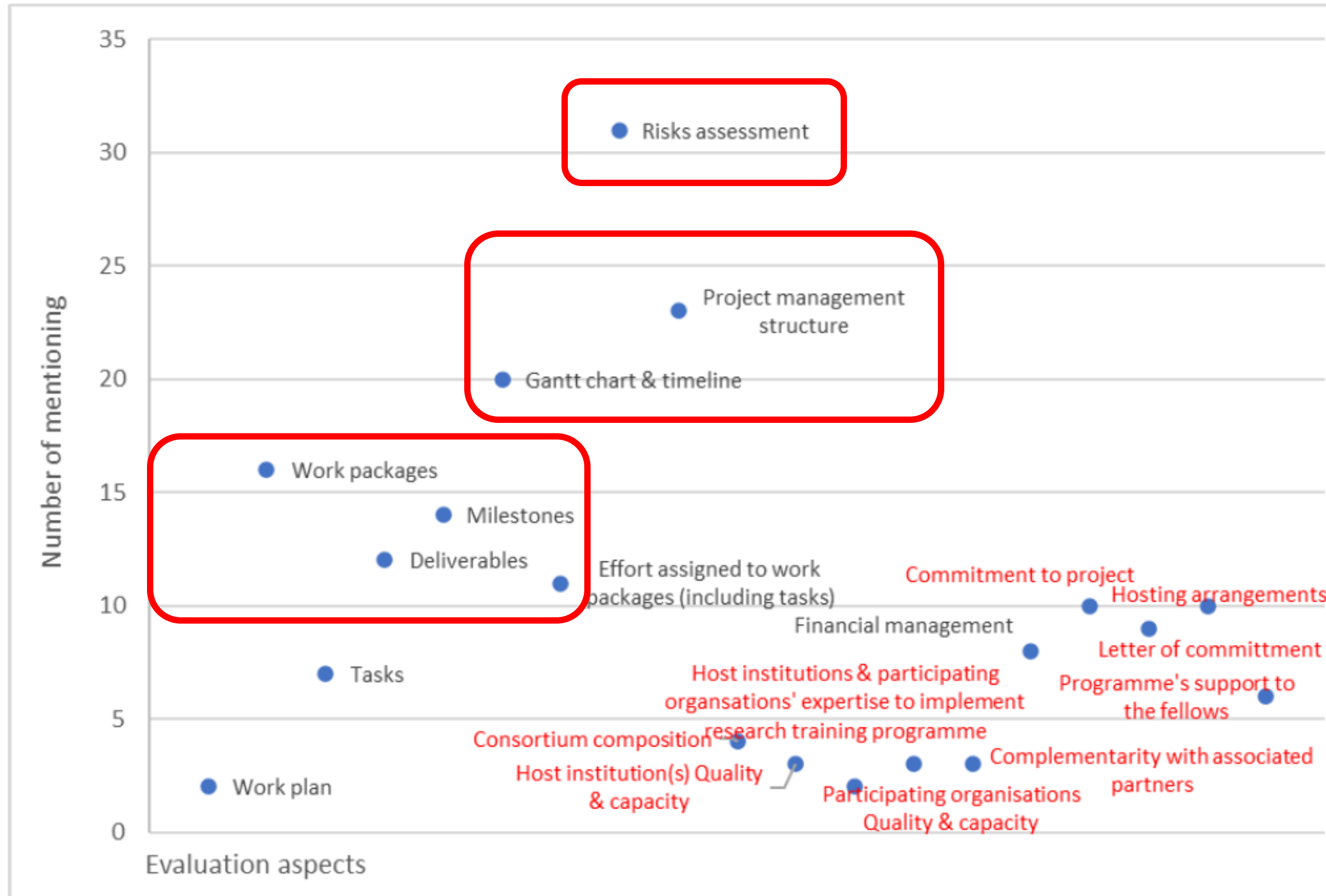
MSCA COFUND IMPACT – WEAKNESSES



- Black font is related to the human resources aspects
- Green font is related to the expected outcomes of the project



MSCA COFUND IMPLEMENTATION – WEAKNESSES



- Black font is related to the work plan
- Red font is related to host institutions



Debilidades en Excelencia. DOCTORAL

Quality and novelty of the **selection / recruitment process for the researchers** (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities, the gender dimension and other diversity aspects) Quality and **attractiveness of the appointment conditions**, including competitiveness of the salary for the standards of the hosting countries.

- The selection/recruitment process is **insufficiently transparent and confusing**, considering the unspecified requirements and an unclear timeline including dates that are unrealistic or do not correspond to the COFUND timeline. An ambiguity between the proposed programme and another EU-funded PhD programme persists across the proposal.
- The proposal **lacks transparency and clarity in the selection process**. External experts are **insufficiently represented** in all steps of the evaluation process, and their **role in ranking final candidates is unclear**. Additionally, the criteria for final selection after in-person interviews are not specified.
- The procedures for involving **internal and external experts lack transparency**. Encouraging applicants' direct contact with potential supervisors during the application phase creates the **possibility of pre-selection**, especially considering the unclear role of supervisors during the selection process.



Debilidades en Excelencia. DOCTORAL

Quality and novelty of the **selection / recruitment process for the researchers** (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities, the gender dimension and other diversity aspects) Quality and **attractiveness of the appointment conditions**, including competitiveness of the salary for the standards of the hosting countries.

- The high proportion of **staff members** from the applicant and programme partners **involved as experts** in the selection committees raises **concerns about the impartiality** of the selection process.
- Adding a **mandatory requirement of two years of full-time quantitative research experience** will negatively affect equal opportunities and **reduce the number of eligible applicants**.
- The description of the application phase provides **insufficient information** about the **redress procedure**.
- The consideration of **gender and diversity aspects in the selection process lacks an explanation** of whether and how **career breaks will be considered**, potentially impacting equal recruitment opportunities.
- The proposal **fails** to sufficiently **demonstrate the competitiveness of the salary offered** to DCs in relation to the standards of the hosting country, and for example, details regarding the living allowance remain unclear.



Debilidades en Excelencia. DOCTORAL

Quality and novelty of the research options offered by the programme in terms of science, interdisciplinarity, inter-sectorality and level of international mobility. Quality of open science practices.

- The choice of research **topics available** for doctoral candidates' projects is **limited to offerings of five PIs**. Furthermore, as the doctoral candidates will write a research proposal at the end of the first doctoral year, it is not fully clear whether, and to what extent, they will have the **freedom of choice for their own research themes** at the time of the application.
- **Interdisciplinary aspects** of the programme are presented only in **general terms**, with insufficient details provided about how the interdisciplinary environment of the applicant organisation will be exploited for the benefit of doctoral candidates' research.
- While opportunities for **intersectoral exposure and international mobility exist**, the programme lacks clear measures to ensure their implementation. For example, **secondments to non-academic and international partners are encouraged but not mandatory**.
- The **quality and novelty of the research options are unclear**. Details about the working groups and the integration of disciplines, industry, and international mobility are insufficiently elaborated.
- The **proposal is vague** about the alignment of the programme with Horizon Europe guidelines on **Open Science practices**. Moreover, it remains **unclear** how compliance with **FAIR principles** will be implemented and monitored.



Debilidades en Excelencia. DOCTORAL

Quality, novelty and pertinence of the research training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects).

- The planning of the **main training events lacks sufficient coherence** with the **timeline** of researchers recruitment.
- The **training program on transferable skills** provides **limited evidence** that researchers will receive relevant training on **gender issues** and other diversity aspects.
- Gender dimension, **equal opportunities and other diversity aspects** are addressed in a very poor manner.
- The **soft skills training topics are unfocused** and the proposal provides **insufficient information** on their content. For example, the training lacks adequate content on gender and diversity courses, as well as on intersectoral and multidisciplinary components.
- The strategy for core scientific and transferable skills training lacks clarity and precision concerning resources, objectives and specific activities. Specifically, **only the titles of courses/activities** are listed and the **contribution of associated partners** in the training programme is **insufficiently explained**.



Debilidades en Excelencia. DOCTORAL

Quality, novelty and pertinence of the supervision, career guidance and career development arrangements.

- The **supervision arrangements** are insufficiently detailed, with **only one supervisor assigned** and a second supervisor being optional. Furthermore, **no mentor is allocated**, and the **planned monthly meetings** between the doctoral candidate and their supervisor are **inadequate to ensure a sufficient level of supervision**.
- The **career development plan**, co-created between the researcher and the supervisor, is **poorly detailed** in terms of procedures and the **level of support provided**.



Debilidades en Excelencia. POSTDOCTORAL

Quality and novelty of the **selection / recruitment process for the researchers** (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities, the gender dimension and other diversity aspects) Quality and **attractiveness of the appointment conditions**, including competitiveness of the salary for the standards of the hosting countries.

- The **information provided** to postdoctoral researchers and the **eligibility and evaluation criteria** (including the ranking scheme) are **unclear and lack detail**, including **appeal procedures**.
- The **selection of the members of the evaluation committee** is described in general terms and the **presence of international experts at each stage** of the postdoctoral evaluation process is **not sufficiently guaranteed**.
- The **restriction of the positions to specific research directions** severely **limits the freedom of postdoctoral** researchers to develop their own research projects.
- The **MSCA mobility rule is not clearly** tied to the call deadline.
- The **procedures for dealing with conflicts or complaints between postdoctoral researchers and supervisors** are not entirely clear.
- The competitiveness and **attractiveness of salary and appointment** conditions compared to local/national/regional systems are **not sufficiently addressed**. In addition, the cost categories foreseen for postdoctoral researchers are only listed but not explained in sufficient detail, and the total amount included in Part B differs from the budget in Part A.
- The proposal **does not provide sufficient detail on equal opportunities initiatives**.



Debilidades en Excelencia. POSTDOCTORAL

Quality and novelty of the **selection / recruitment process for the researchers** (transparency, composition and organisation of selection committees, evaluation criteria, equal opportunities, the gender dimension and other diversity aspects) Quality and **attractiveness of the appointment conditions**, including competitiveness of the salary for the standards of the hosting countries.

- The requirement for a **'yes/no' final approval of candidates by supervisors** significantly **undermines** the **independence and transparency** of the recruitment and selection process and is a very significant weakness in the process.



Debilidades en Excelencia. POSTDOCTORAL

Quality and novelty of the research options offered by the programme in terms of science, interdisciplinarity, inter-sectorality and level of international mobility. Quality of open science practices.

- The scientific **quality of the research options is not convincingly demonstrated** and the proposal does not sufficiently demonstrate the cross-sectoral or international aspect of the research programme.
- The proposal is **unclear about the programme's reliance on open science practices** and data management strategies.
- The programme's focus on international networking is not fully robust, as it is too regional and has only limited mandatory engagement with international perspectives. In addition, the proposal does **not** provide **sufficient detail on broader open science practices**, in particular their implementation and adaptation to the programme.



Debilidades en Excelencia. POSTDOCTORAL

Quality, novelty and pertinence of the research training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects).

- The **training programme** and its components are **not described in sufficient detail**, and the training in **transferable skills and the interdisciplinarity and intersectorality of the training** programme (including information on secondments) are not sufficiently detailed. In addition, there is a **lack of clear information** on the possible **co-supervision structure that would be relevant to ensure the intersectoral** or interdisciplinary perspectives for postdoctoral researchers.
- The focus on **gender and other diversity issues** in the **training programme** is **not clearly addressed**.
- The **involvement of associated partners and the non-academic sector** in the training is not clearly described.
- The **programme offers limited cross-sectoral training with partners** and there is limited information on the **exact timing, duration and involvement** of associated partners in **secondments** and other short visits.



Debilidades en Excelencia. POSTDOCTORAL

Quality, novelty and pertinence of the supervision, career guidance and career development arrangements.

- The **involvement of the supervisor** in the preparation of the application is **not fully justified** and **their role** in the **decision-making process** is not convincingly explained.
- Supervision arrangements are not clearly specified in the proposal and the **experience and qualifications** of potential supervisors are **not clearly specified**.
- The **required qualifications** of the supervisors are insufficiently described.
- The level of **experience of some of the listed supervisors and their publication record** is **not fully convincing** and there is a **limited threshold for supervisor quality** (i.e. five years post-doctoral qualification).
- Although a **personal career development plan** is in place, its specific content is **not sufficiently detailed**.
- The proposal does not provide sufficient **details** on **career development plans and monitoring systems**.
- The **maximum possible duration of secondments** (taking into account the possibility of extending secondments) is **not clearly stated** in the proposal.



Debilidades en Impacto. DOCTORAL

Strengthening human resources good practices at institutional, regional, national or international level, in particular through aligning the practices of participating organisations with the principles set out by the EU for human resources development in research and innovation.

- The proposal **lacks sufficient information** on how the doctoral programme will **impact the strengthening of good human resources practices at the institutional**, regional, national, or international levels.
- It lacks a clear explanation of how it will influence HR policies and practices within **the applicant and partner institutions** or on a broader geographical scale.
- The programme **does not adequately demonstrate alignment with EU principles** for human resources development, including the **European Charter and Code**.

Credibility of the proposed measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development.

- The programme **lacks sufficient information** on how specifically it **enhances DCs' career perspectives, employability, and skills** development.
- The programme is **short of definite measures for enhancing the career perspectives and employability** of researchers. Opportunities for soft skills development, engagement of the private sector, as well as a baseline for evaluating the outcomes attained, are not appropriately outlined.



Debilidades en Impacto. DOCTORAL

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

- The dissemination, exploitation and communication strategy lacks detail on suitable **key messages, channels, events and audiences**.
- Important **IPR issues are insufficiently detailed**, including **support available to the fellows** for commercialising their results, and options for **training in IP management**. Additionally, **no comprehensive IP agreements are envisaged among the parties involved**.
- The **level of involvement** of the **doctoral candidates** in outreach activities is **insufficiently clarified**.
- There is no information available on Subcriterion 2.3.



Debilidades en Implementación. DOCTORAL

Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, management structures, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages.

- The descriptions of work packages **lack specificity regarding tasks and objectives**. The Gantt chart is **not** entirely **coherent with implementation activities, overlooking essential details** like key activities, evaluation timelines, and expected start and end dates for doctoral candidates' appointment.
- Although a list of major deliverables is included, it **lacks coherence and adequacy concerning the work plan and packages**. Additionally, **timelines** for some deliverables, such as D1.1, are **unrealistic**, given the timeline suggested for the recruitment process.
- There are **discrepancies concerning the alignment of some milestones'** dates with their corresponding means of verification, particularly for Milestones 2 and 3.
- The **programme lasts 48 months**, which is also the duration of the doctoral programme, leaving **not enough time for the selection**, recruitment, and employment of doctoral candidates.
- The proposal's **management structure is inadequately detailed**, overly reliant on the Programme Manager, and **lacks evidence of sufficient institutional support**.



Debilidades en Implementación. DOCTORAL

Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, management structures, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages.

- The **composition and departmental involvement of the Supervisory Board** is **unclear**, raising concerns about balanced and representative decision-making.
- Despite the inclusion of a risk management framework, the plan **lacks clarity in key areas**. Specific shortcomings include unclear definitions of certain risks, the **absence of associated work packages** for some risks, and the **failure to specify risks and mitigation measures** for work package 2.
- The proposal **lacks sufficient detail on the management structure**, making it unclear **how** the key **personnel will effectively collaborate in a program** of this size and scope.
- The quality and effectiveness of the risk assessment are unconvincing. **Key risks**, such as a low number of female applicants, potential management issues within the consortium or management team, and challenges related to dissemination and exploitation activities, are insufficiently identified, and corresponding mitigation actions **are inadequately addressed**.
- **Critical risks**, including funding gaps, drop-out of researchers or partners, researcher-supervisor conflicts, lack of PhD project progress and associated mitigation measures are **not properly considered**.



Debilidades en Implementación. DOCTORAL

Quality and capacity of the host institution(s) and participating organisations (where appropriate), including hosting arrangements and extent to which they bring together the necessary expertise to successfully implement the research training programme.

- Hosting support available to the candidates at the enrolling universities is outlined only in general terms and important information regarding practical aspects of the doctoral candidates' stay is lacking.
- The proposal lacks sufficient detail regarding the support offered to doctoral candidates, particularly concerning the hosting arrangements.
- The applicant does not demonstrate sufficiently their ability to mobilise the human and financial resources needed to ensure successful programme implementation.
- It is not adequately explained in what way the capacities and expertise of the associated partners, given their limited inter-sectorial dimension, and their uncertain contribution to training and networking, will combine to fulfil the programme objectives.
- The proposal fails to adequately demonstrate that the host institution has the necessary expertise and capacity to deliver the programme. Additionally, the specific contributions of strategic partners and international networks to enhance the applicant's capacity are not adequately outlined.



¡Muchas gracias!

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