MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) 2022:

Aspectos prácticos

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❏ MSCA National Contact Points in Spain

❏ Doctoral Networks Call 2022 (I): Practical considerations for proposal development

❏ Doctoral Networks Call 2022 (II): Submission and evaluation

❏ Useful links

Puntos Nacionales de Contacto MSCA España

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Apoyo NCPs MSCA: Horizonte Europa

APOYO MSCA

- Sesiones de promoción y formación
- Resolución de dudas
- Revisión de propuestas
- Formación de personal de gestión
- Asesoramiento personal de supervisión
- Reuniones preparación propuestas

- Sesiones principalmente **on-line**, aunque poco a poco retomando la **presencialidad**

- Revisión propuestas:
  - ✓ **Doctoral Networks**
  - ✓ Staff Exchanges
  - ✓ COFUND

- Actividades de apoyo a **nivel de gestión** a proyectos COFUND concedidos
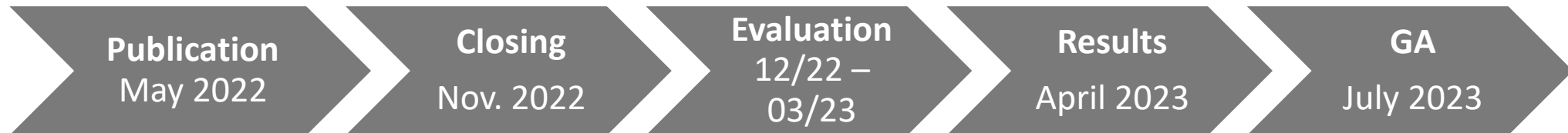
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MSCA Doctoral Networks 2022: Objectives

- ✓ **Multidisciplinary, multisectoral and international consortium**
- ✓ A collaborative research project implemented through individual PhD projects
- ✓ A competitively selected joint research training programme for Doctoral Candidates
- ✓ Aim is to **train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates**
- ✓ **Increase the excellence and structure research and doctoral training**
- ✓ Supports long term employability
- ✓ Consortium recruits the researchers across the consortium (beneficiaries)
- ✓ **All projects publish their vacancies on EURAXESS**
- ✓ Doctoral Candidates **recruited on a full employment contract**

MSCA DN 2022: Timeline

Call ID	Opens	Closes	Budget
TMA-MSCA-DN-2022	12/05/2022	15/11/2022	428,28 M€

Publication May 2022 → Closing Nov. 2022 → Evaluation 12/22 – 03/23 → Results April 2023 → GA July 2023

HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01-01

12 May 2022	Launch of the call for proposals (TBC)
15 November 2022	Deadline for applicants to submit proposals (TBC)
April 2023	Notification of applicants if their proposal has been selected
July 2023	Grant agreement signature for successful projects
autumn 2023	Coordinators Day

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions/msca-doctoral-networks_en

MSCA DN 2022: Resubmissions

Novelty for 2022 call

- ✓ **Resubmission restrictions:** applicants having received a score **below 80% in the DN 2021** call are not eligible to resubmit a similar proposal in the DN 2022 call.

- ✓ As specified in the submission forms Part A, a "Similar" proposal or contract is one that differs from the current one **in minor ways**, and in which **some of the present consortium members** are involved.

MSCA DN 2022: Main features
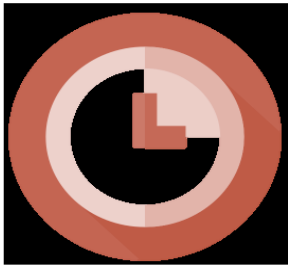
DURATION
4 years

COMPOSITION
Min 3 organisations in 3 different EU MS or HE AC (at least 1 MS)

FELLOWSHIP
Between 3 and 36 months

BUDGET
360 PM for regular DN; 540 PM for Industrial Doctorates & Joint Doctorates

MSCA DN modalities	The Basics: supervision and inclusion of the academic/non academic sector	Enrolled in PhD programmes
Standard Doctoral Networks (DN)	• Consortium of 3 beneficiaries located in EU MS/HE AC • Inclusion of non-academic sector encouraged, but not mandatory	In at least one PhD programme in an EU MS or HE AC
Industrial Doctorates (DN-ID)	• Consortium of 3 beneficiaries located in EU MS/HE AC • Inclusion of non-academic partner mandatory • Doctoral candidates must spend at least 50% of their time in non-academic sector • Joint supervision by the academic and non-academic partner **2022 call:** ❖ **Remove obligation of non-academic partner to be beneficiary** ❖ **Remove the 1/3 upper limit of secondment to allow fellow to spend at least 50% at non-academic**	In at least one PhD programme in an EU MS or HE AC
Joint Doctorates (DN-JD)	• Consortium of 3 beneficiaries located in EU MS/HE AC • Joint supervision by at least two supervisors from the academic sector	In **at least two** PhD programmes in two EU MS or HE AC

MSCA DN 2022: Eligible participants

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

MSCA DN 2022: Eligible participants

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
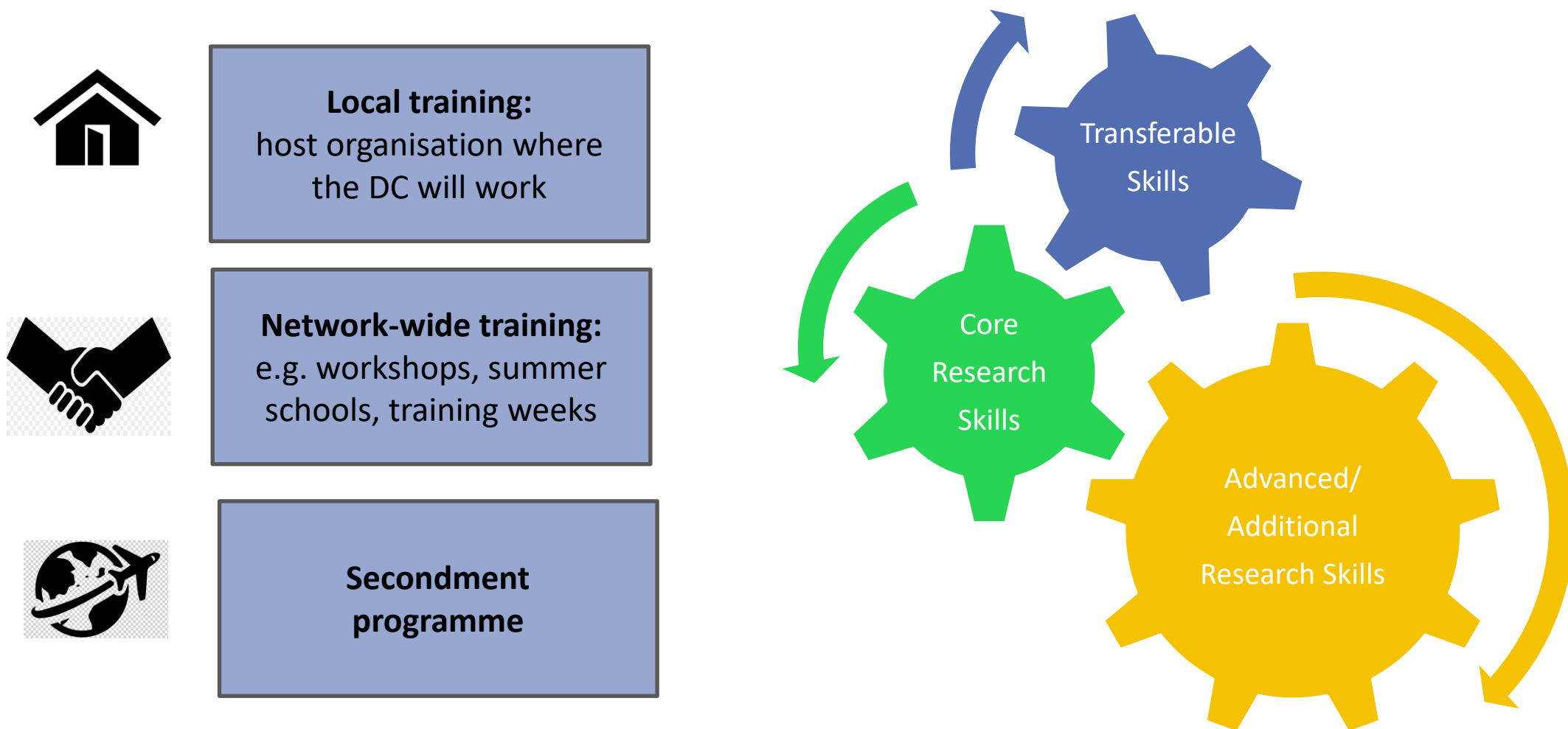
MSCA DN 2022: How to participate

	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	✔	✘

MSCA DN 2022: Eligible 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**)

- For Industrial Doctorates, candidate must spend **minimum 50% of fellowship at non-academic partner.**

- **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.

A successful MSCA DN proposal

"Training through Research"

Local training: host organisation where the DC will work

Network-wide training: e.g. workshops, summer schools, training weeks

Secondment programme

Transferable Skills

Core Research Skills

Advanced/ Additional Research Skills

A successful MSCA DN proposal

"Training through Research"

✓ Transferable **skills training** for Doctoral Candidates
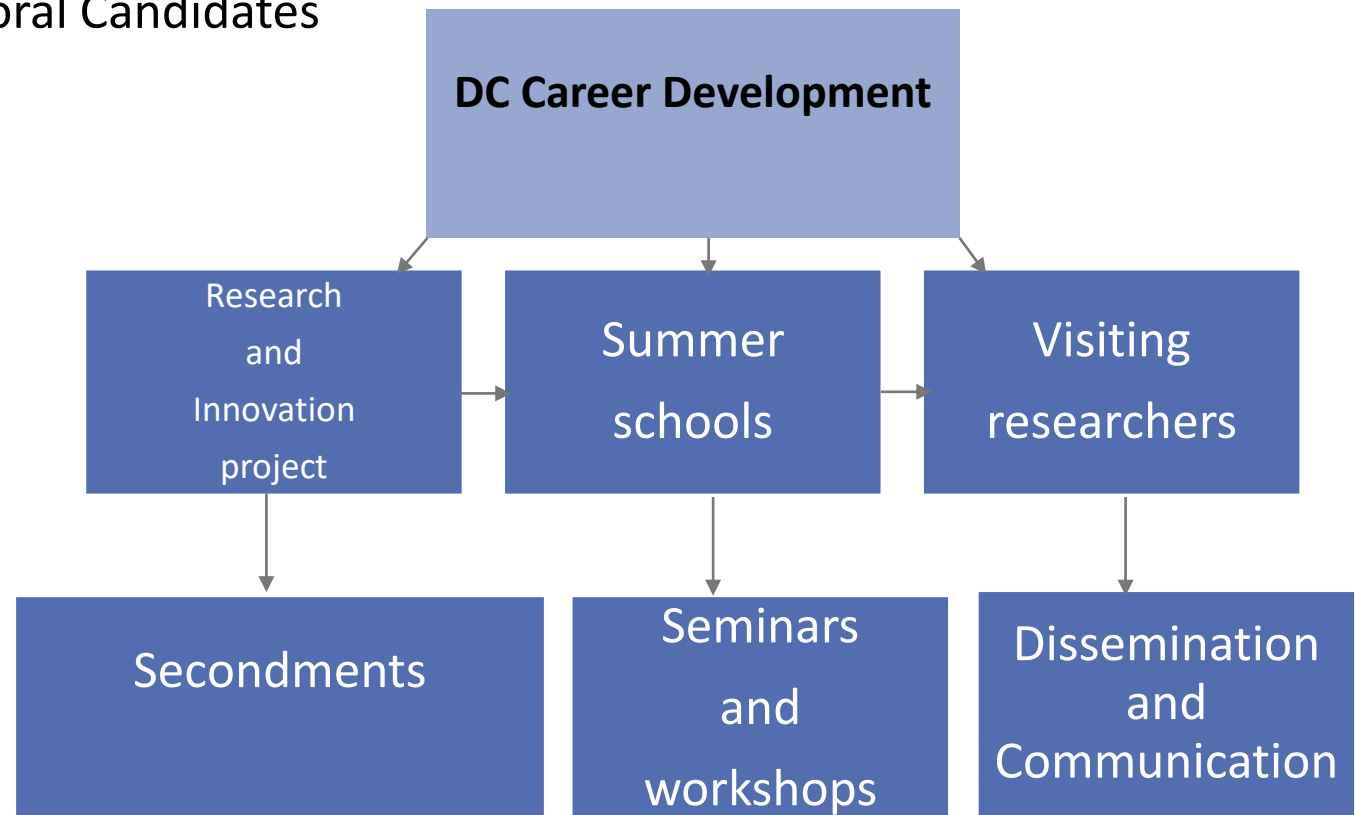- **Communication**
- **Research management**
- **Societal outreach**
- **Entrepreneurship**
- **IPR, Open Science**
- **Gender**

✓ Exposure to **non-academic** sector

✓ **Networking** events

✓ **Dissemination** activities
- **Social media**
- **Final conference**
- **Public engagement**

DC Career Development

Research and Innovation project → Summer schools → Visiting researchers

Research and Innovation project → Secondments

Summer schools → Seminars and workshops

Visiting researchers → Dissemination and Communication

MSCA DN: Secondments

"Training through Research"

• **Highly recommended to supplement and complement training of DCs!**

• During their secondment, researchers receive supervision and training at the premises of the receiving beneficiary or associated partner

• Can take place in MS/AC and Third Countries

• Can take place in the academic and non-academic sector

• Costs

✓ Costs for secondments 6 months or less covered by institutional costs (**at least** travel, visa and accommodation)

✓ Longer secondments can also be covered in this way, if necessary

MSCA DN: Maximum secondment duration

Standard Doctoral Networks (DN)	Doctorates (DN-ID)	Joint Doctorates (DN-JD)
up to 1/3 of the researchers' project duration	**unlimited**	**unlimited**

- ✓ Specific percentage of time that each researcher will spend at each institution needs to be indicated in the proposal
- ✓ Be clear on the objectives for the secondments

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MSCA DN 2022: 100% EU contribution (unit costs)

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 3 400	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 4 000 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 600	EUR 1 200

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

MSCA DN 2022: 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%

MSCA DN 2022: Panel selection
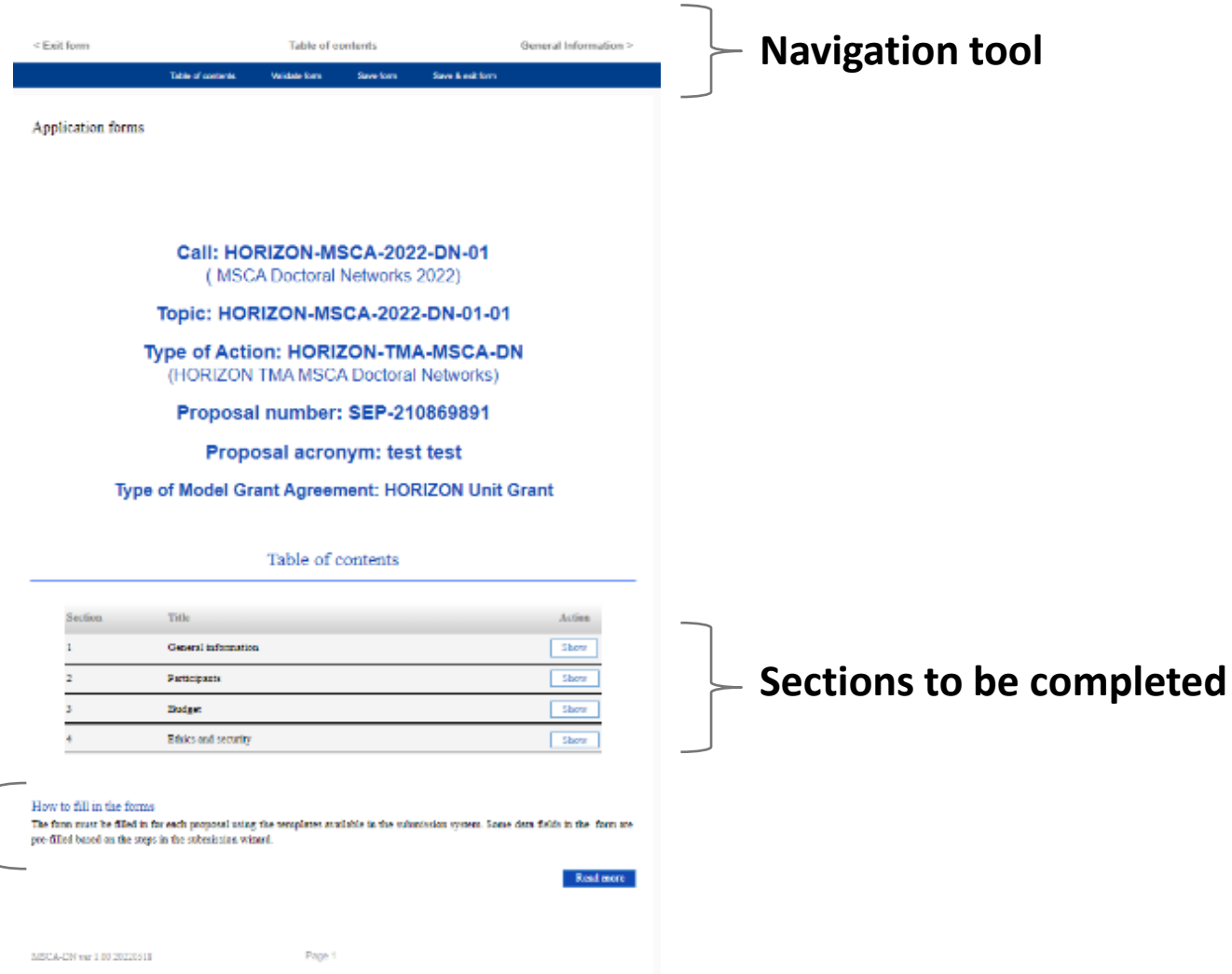
- **Evaluation Panels**

Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY)

- Multidisciplinary is encouraged
- **Abstract and Descriptors are important**
- **Industrial and joint doctorates will be ranked in the scientific panel of submission**
- No predefined budget allocation among the panels: **Budget distributed based on number of eligible proposals in each panel**

MSCA DN Proposal Forms – Part A (Administrative Forms)

Navigation tool

❖ Many fields will be pre-populated using information from both PIC and EU Log-ins.

❖ All other fields to be completed and saved in the online form.

Sections to be completed

Guidance

MSCA DN: Part B1 & Part B2

- Complete ALL mandatory tables
- Use required sub-headings
- Can also include additional subheading
- Action should be divided in Work Packages
- Should reflect the research objectives
- Deliverables should be divided into:
  - ✓ Scientific deliverables
  - ✓ Management, Training, Recruitment and Dissemination deliverables
- Milestones: Control points in the action that help to chart progress and MAY be linked to deliverables

part B1 (document 1):
- The maximum total length for this document is 34 pages
- Comprises the Start Page, Table of Contents, List of Participating Organisations and and declarations tables
- Sections 1-3
- Respect the instructions
- The Expert evaluators will disregard any excess pages above the 34 page limit

part B2 (document 2):
- Sections 4-7
- No overall page limit will be applied to this document
- Respect the instructions

MSCA DN Part B1-Key Template Changes From 2021

- **Work Package List moved** from Excellence to Implementation as Table 3.1a

- **Recruitment Deliverables moved** from Excellence to Implementation as Table 3.1e

  ✓ relabelled Recruitment Table per Beneficiary

- Table 3.1 **Description of Work Packages** -deliverable descriptions removed

- Table 3.1c **Deliverables List** –new column "Short description" added

- **Network organisation subheading moved** from part B1 to part B2

- **Joint governing structure subheading merged** with Network organisation

- **Environmental aspects moved** from part B1 to part B2 section 5

- **New subheadings**

  ✓ **Section 1.4**: *Developing sustainable elements of doctoral programmes after the end of the DN funding, this could include (non exhaustively) e.g. sustainability of training programmes at local or network-wide level, sustainable cooperation and secondment opportunities, sustainability of transferable skills training offering, sustainability of researchers recruitment according to the code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers*

  ✓ **Section 2.3**: *If exploitation is expected primarily in non-associated third countries, justify by explaining how that exploitation is still inthe Union's interest.*

  ✓ **Section 3.2**: *Gender aspects concerning decision-making and recruitment embedded in the Supervisory board and Recruitment strategy*

MSCA DN Part B2- Key Template Changes From 2021

- **New sections added:**

✓ **Network organisation**: *Please explain the management structure and organisation of the network, including the roles of the different actors, and modus operandi including project monitoring and decision making. Please describe the Joint Governing structure for DN-ID and DN-JD.*

✓ **Environmental aspects in light of the** **MSCA Green Charter***: Please explain how the proposed project would strive to adhere to the MSCA Green Charter during its implementation.*

MSCA DN: Evaluation Workflow
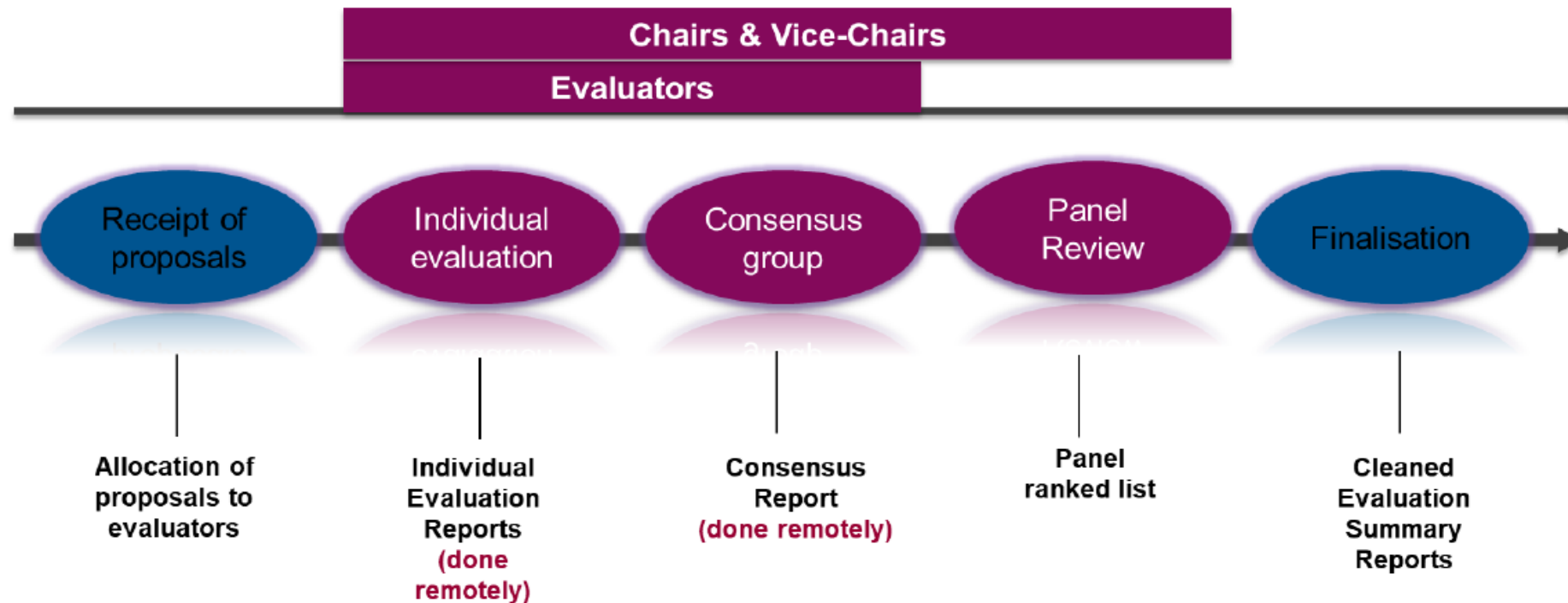
- ✓ Automatic pre-allocation done by REA based on MSCA specific key words
- ✓ Vice-Chairs revise the pre-allocation of proposals to experts
- ✓ Do not assign 3 experts from the same nationality to a proposal, taking into account Conflict of Interest

MSCA DN Score Descriptors – Consensus Discussions
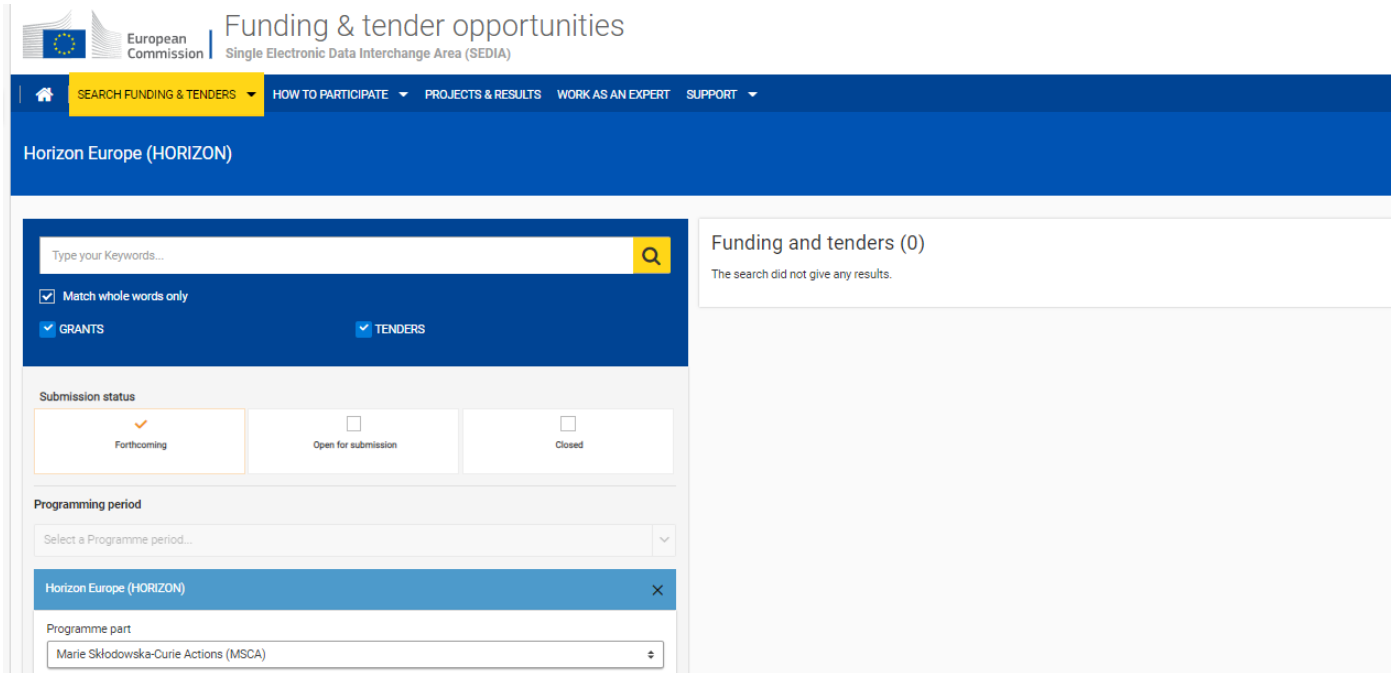
Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.	**5**	**Excellent**
Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.	**4** (4.9 ↕ 4.0)	**Very Good**
Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.	**3** (3.9 ↕ 3.0)	**Good**
Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.	**2** (2.9 ↕ 2.0)	**Fair**
Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.	**1** (1.9 ↕ 1.0)	**Poor**
The proposal **fails** to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.	**0**	

✓ Involves an exchange on the basis of the 3 individual evaluations –Not just a simple averaging exercise
✓ The aim is to find agreement on comments and then the scores
✓ "Outlying" opinions are explored
✓ Additional evaluators can be used if necessary

MSCA DN Evaluation and scoring

- **Proposals funded in ranking order**

- **Highly competitive** and need to score of 90-95 + depending on the panel

- **Same scores:** prioritisation decided by panel, based on scores for award criteria (weighting above)
  - ✓ If needed further prioritisation based on criteria in line with the Work Programme (e.g. gender balance of supervisors, involvement of non-academic sector, geographical spread, international co-operation, etc.)

- Distribution of the indicative **budget is proportional** to the number of **eligible proposals received** in each panel

MSCA DN 2022: Useful links

[Search Funding & Tenders (europa.eu)](europa.eu)

KEEP CALM AND READ THE GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

MSCA DN 2022: Useful links

- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Website https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/node_en

- Euraxess (PhD and postdoctoral vacancies, more information) https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/
- **MSCA-NET project** www.msca-net.eu
- **MSCA matchmaking platform** https://msca.b2match.io/

- National Contact Points https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp
- Research Enquiry Service https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service-and-participant-validation_en

- European Charter and Code for Researchers https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter-code-researchers
- **MSCA Guidelines on Supervision** https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-msca/msca-guidelines-on-supervision
- **MSCA Green Charter** https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/green-charter

- MCAA (Marie Curie Alumni association) https://www.mariecuriealumni.eu

Centralized documents: www.horizonteeuropa.es

MSCA DN 2022 - Sesiones informativas y documentación de apoyo Convocatoria Redes de Doctorado

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Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less

¡Gracias por vuestra atención!

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