



HORIZON EUROPE



THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME

2021 – 2027

MSCA Doctoral Networks
Infoday Presentation
Julien GIORDANI



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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
6. Resources

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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

What are Doctoral Networks ?

One consortium (Universities, research centres, industries, SMEs)...

...which proposes an overall coherent research project...

...and a number of interlinked individual PhD research projects...

...for PhD students that they will recruit in the future.

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

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**:



*Participants implement
a joint research
programme*



*Doctoral training with the
non-academic sector*



*Doctoral programme to
deliver joint degrees*

All 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels

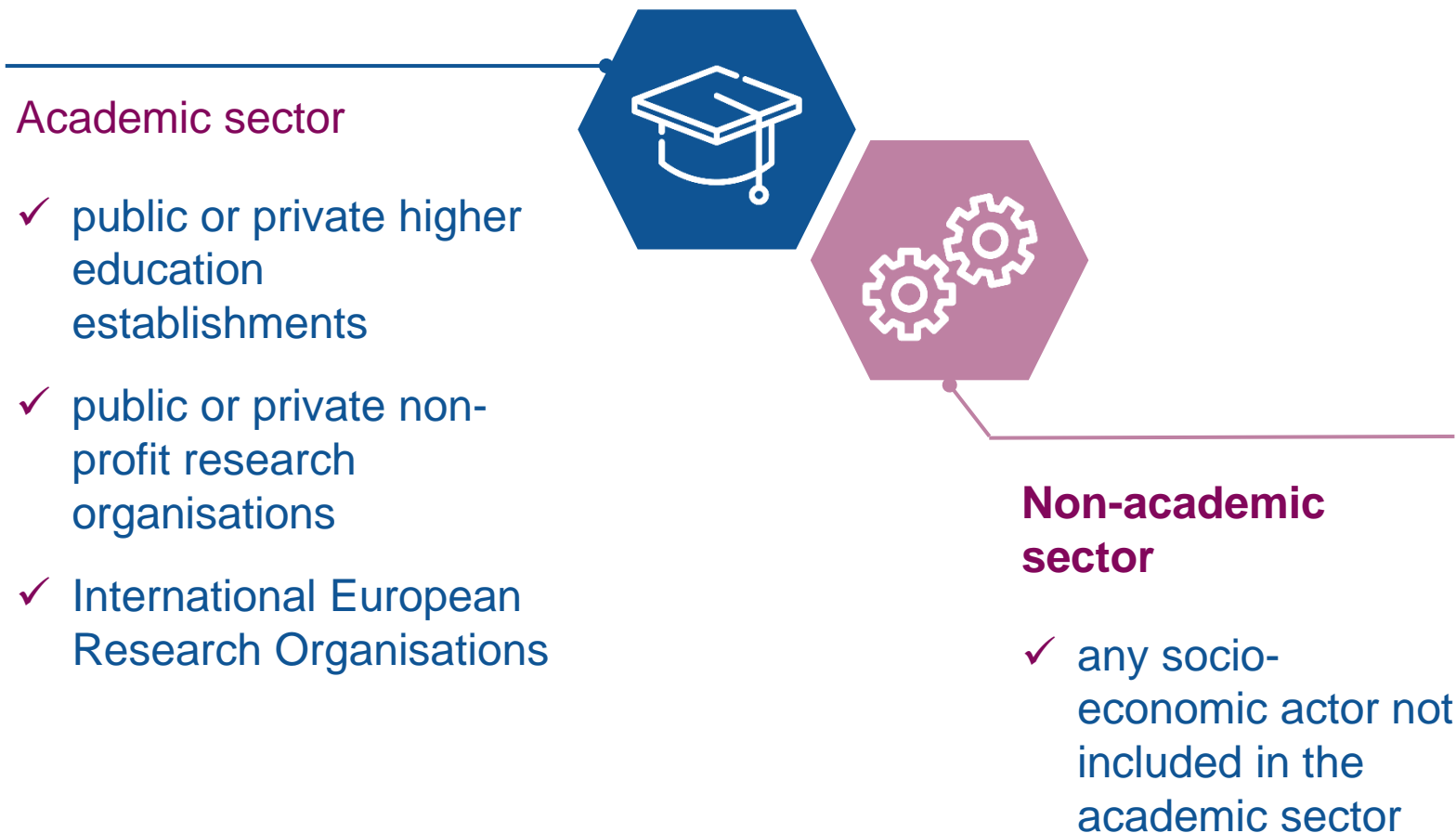
Doctoral Networks – 2023 Features

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)

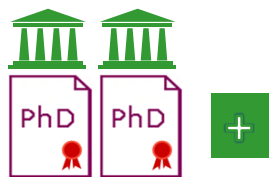
Doctoral Networks – Academic / non-academic sectors



Joint Doctorate – Degrees



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



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



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

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Doctoral Networks – Eligibility Conditions

- At least **3 independent legal entities**:
 - Each established in a different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Country
 - Minimum of 1 beneficiary from an EU Member State
- **All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate**, 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.



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**

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

Third Country (TC): any other country (n.b. Annex A list of countries that can receive funding)

*** Still ongoing** – for more detail, please consult the [HE programme guide](#) and the List of [Participating Countries in Horizon Europe](#)

Doctoral Networks – Eligible Researchers

- Researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment)
- Be recruited following an **open, merit-based and transparent recruitment**
- Researchers must be **enrolled in a doctoral programme**, 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
BENEFICIARIES	Minimum Number of beneficiaries	3	3	3
	Minimum MS or HE AC	3	3	3
	Minimum MS (beneficiaries)	1	1	1
	Academic sector	No restrictions	No restrictions	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/HE AC.
	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 for minimum 3 beneficiaries in MS/HE 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	<i>Min 50% stay in the non-academic sector**</i>	No ceiling for secondment duration	
Associated partner: Letter of Commitment (LoC)	No Letters of Commitment			
Ranking lists	8 (Scientific) panels			

* 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 ¹ x (1/number of months)	EUR 1600	EUR 1200

*A **country correction coefficient** applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers

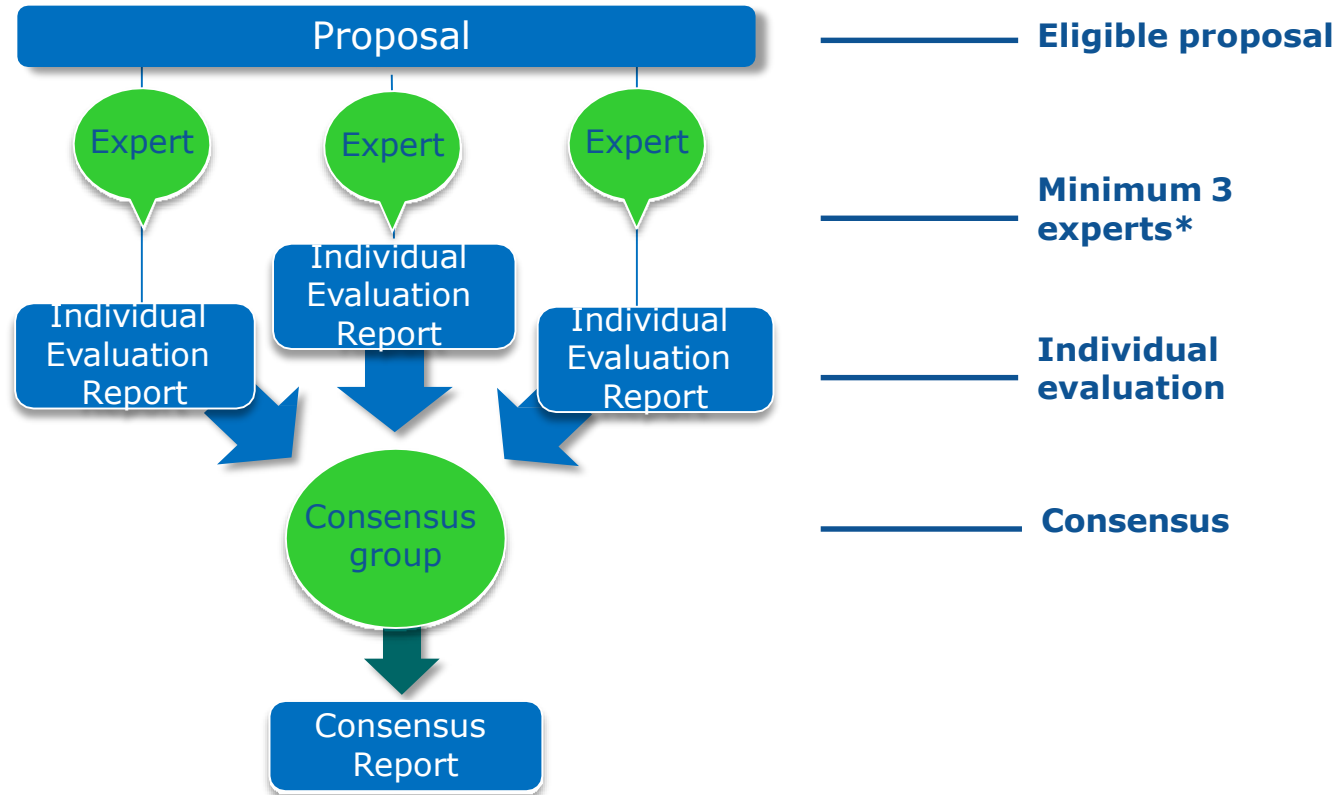
** A **family allowance** to contribute to mobility-related costs of researchers with family obligations which can be granted **during** the project.

¹ The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

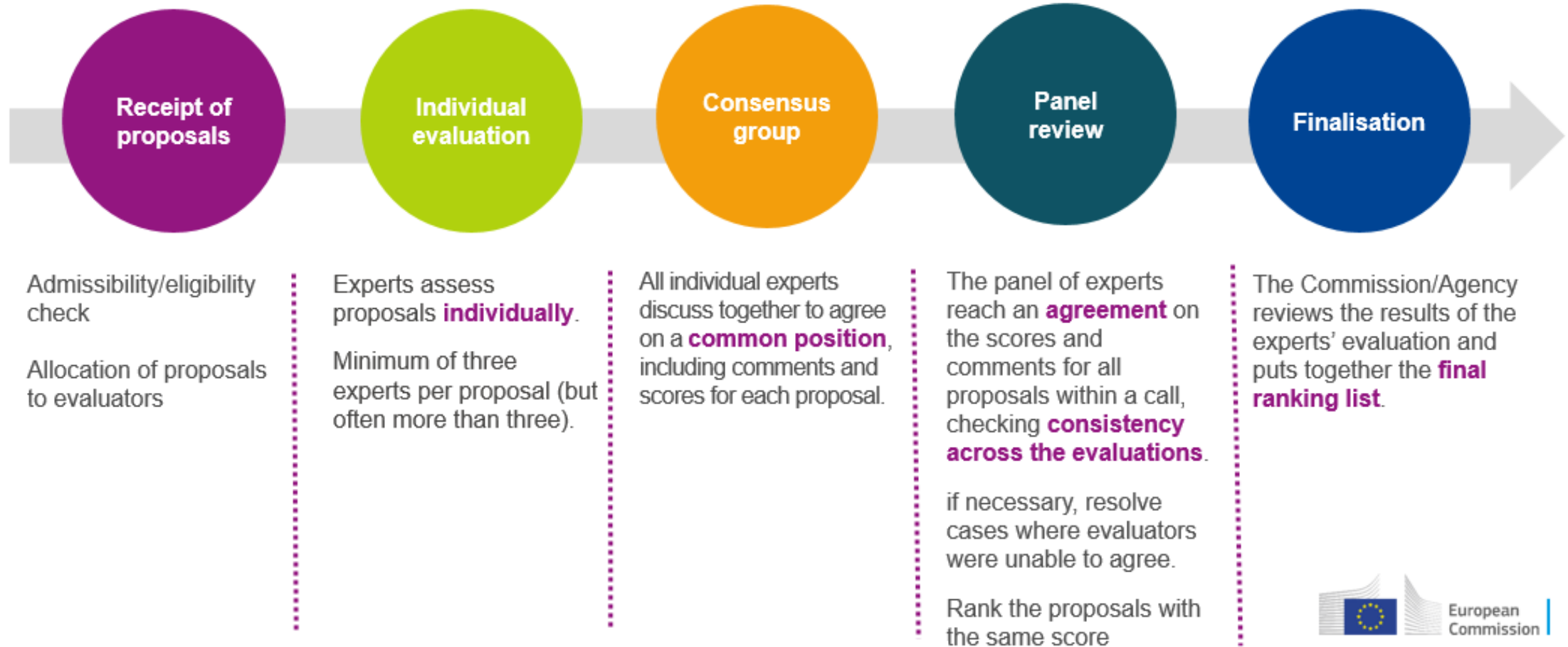
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Overview of Evaluation Process



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	
Weighting	50%	30%	20%
Priority	1	2	3

Doctoral Networks – How to apply?

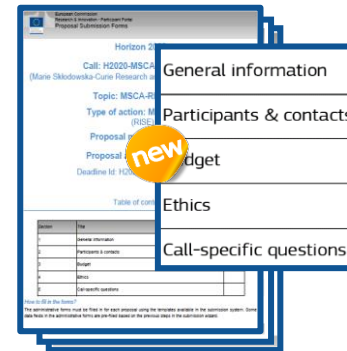
The screenshot shows the European Commission's funding portal. At the top, it says 'Funding & tender opportunities Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)'. Below that is a navigation bar with 'SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS', 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE', 'PROJECTS & RESULTS', and 'WORK AS AN EMPLOYEE'. A warning banner indicates issues with legal entity and bank account validations. The main heading is 'MSCA Doctoral Networks 2021' with the topic ID 'HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01-01'. A 'Grant' button is visible. On the left is a sidebar with 'General information' and various links like 'Topic description', 'Destination', 'Conditions and documents', etc. The main content area shows details for the 'General information' section, including the programme 'Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)', the call title 'MSCA Doctoral Networks 2021 (HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01-01)', and the type of action 'HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks'.

Useful documents

- MSCA Work Programme
- Horizon Europe annexes
- Guide for Applicants
- Proposal templates
- Frequently Asked Questions

Part A
(structured data)

Part B
(description of action)



Part B1: 30 page
Part B2: no limit

Doctoral Networks – Proposal preparation

- Read the MSCA Work Programme and Guidance documents
- Use the proposal template
- Read carefully the evaluation form
- Don't underestimate any part of the proposal
- Write each section clearly and in coherence with all sections in the proposal
- Perform an 'internal' peer-review with your consortium partners
- Consult your National Contact Points
- Duly complete Part A
- Start preparing early and don't leave submission for the last minute

Think like an evaluator + Write for an evaluator

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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/screen>

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

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

European Research Executive Agency website:
https://rea.ec.europa.eu/index_en

MSCA in Horizon Europe Info Days:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/events/upcoming-events/horizon-europe-info-days/marie-sklodowska-curie-actions_en

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

Work as an EC expert



Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

English

[Register](#) [Login](#)

[SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS](#) [HOW TO PARTICIPATE](#) [PROJECTS & RESULTS](#) **WORK AS AN EXPERT** [SUPPORT](#)

• 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

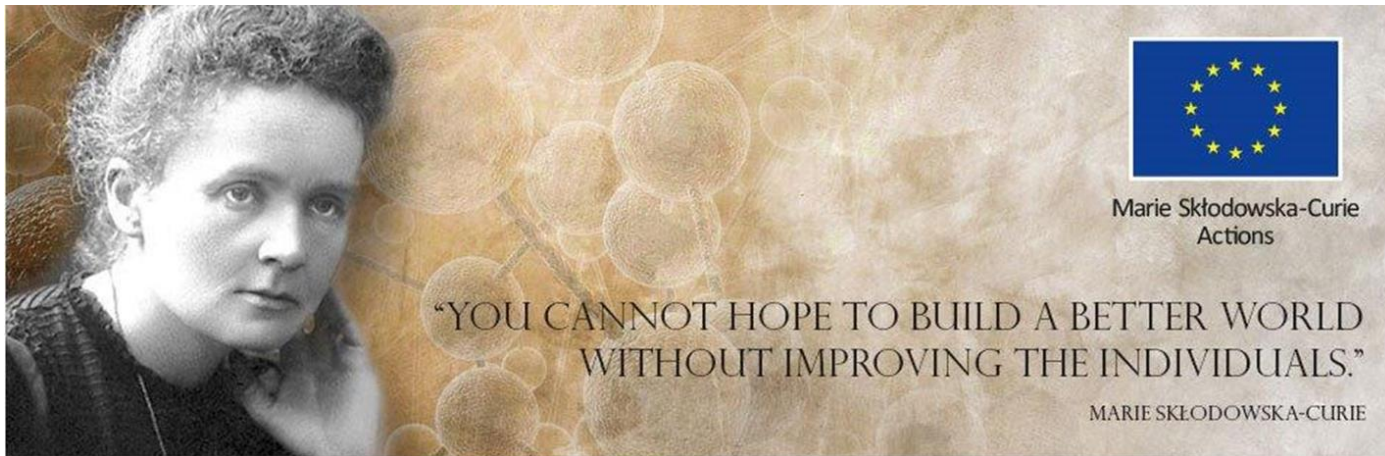
The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) is looking for experienced technical and Life Cycle assessment (GHG) experts, as ...

[All news >](#)

Quick Links

- Standard briefing slides for experts (HE)
- [FAQ for Experts](#)
- [Lists of contracted experts](#)

Thank you



Julien Giordani– MSCA Doctoral Networks

Julien.giordani@ec.europa.eu

