



The EU Research & Innovation Programme 2021-2027

MSCA DN 2026

CALL INFO DAY



Policy Introduction

MSCA Principles & Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme

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MSCA: A world reference for research and training



Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stage of career)



Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)



International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility



Attractive working and employment conditions



Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes



Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs

The MSCA in Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe budget: EUR 95.5 billion



2021-2027

Pillar I: Excellent Science

Reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union's science base

European Research Council

Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

€16 billion

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

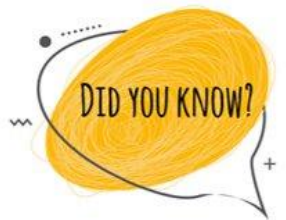
Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

€6.6 billion

Research Infrastructures

Integrated and inter-connected world-class research infrastructures

€2.4 billion



23 Nobel Prize winners either backed by or involved in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions between 2012 and 2025

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

1 Doctoral Networks

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

Total budget DN 2026: €593,03 million
Opening call: 28/05/2026
DL 24/11/2026

2 Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

2026: €399,05 million
Opening call: 09/04/2026
DL 09/09/2026

3 Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

2027: €95,04 million
Opening call: 15/12/2026
DL 15/04/2027

4 COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

2027: €51,25 million
Opening call: 08/12/2026
DL:06/04/2027

5 MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

2027: €15.71 million
DL: 08/06/2027

6 Choose Europe for Science

Supporting attractive & sustainable research careers in Europe for top talent

2027: €51.25 million
Opening call: 08/12/2026
DL: 06/04/2027

PART I

- a. **MSCA Doctoral Networks: Why?**
- b. **Doctoral Networks in practice**

Julien GIORDANI

Call Coordinator, MSCA Doctoral Networks, REA

What is a Doctoral Network (DN) project ?

- One consortium
- Proposing a research project
- With interlinked individual PhD research projects
- For doctoral candidates

DN expected outputs for doctoral candidates



DN expected outputs for participating organizations

**Recruitment
of EU funded
excellent
DCs**

TALENT

**Cooperation &
knowledge
transfer between
sectors/
disciplines**

NETWORK

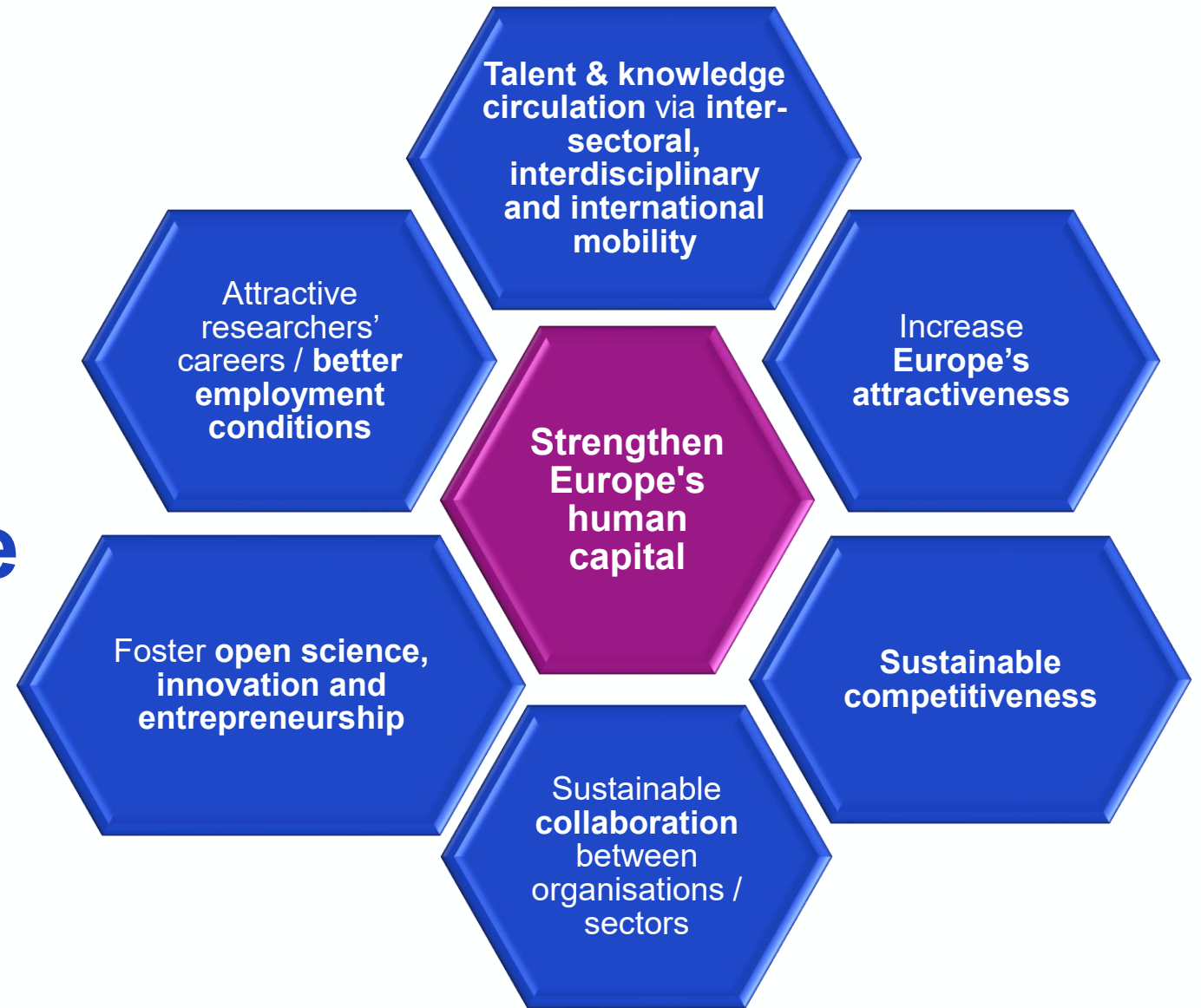
**Strengthening
Research &
Innovation
capacity**

CAPACITY

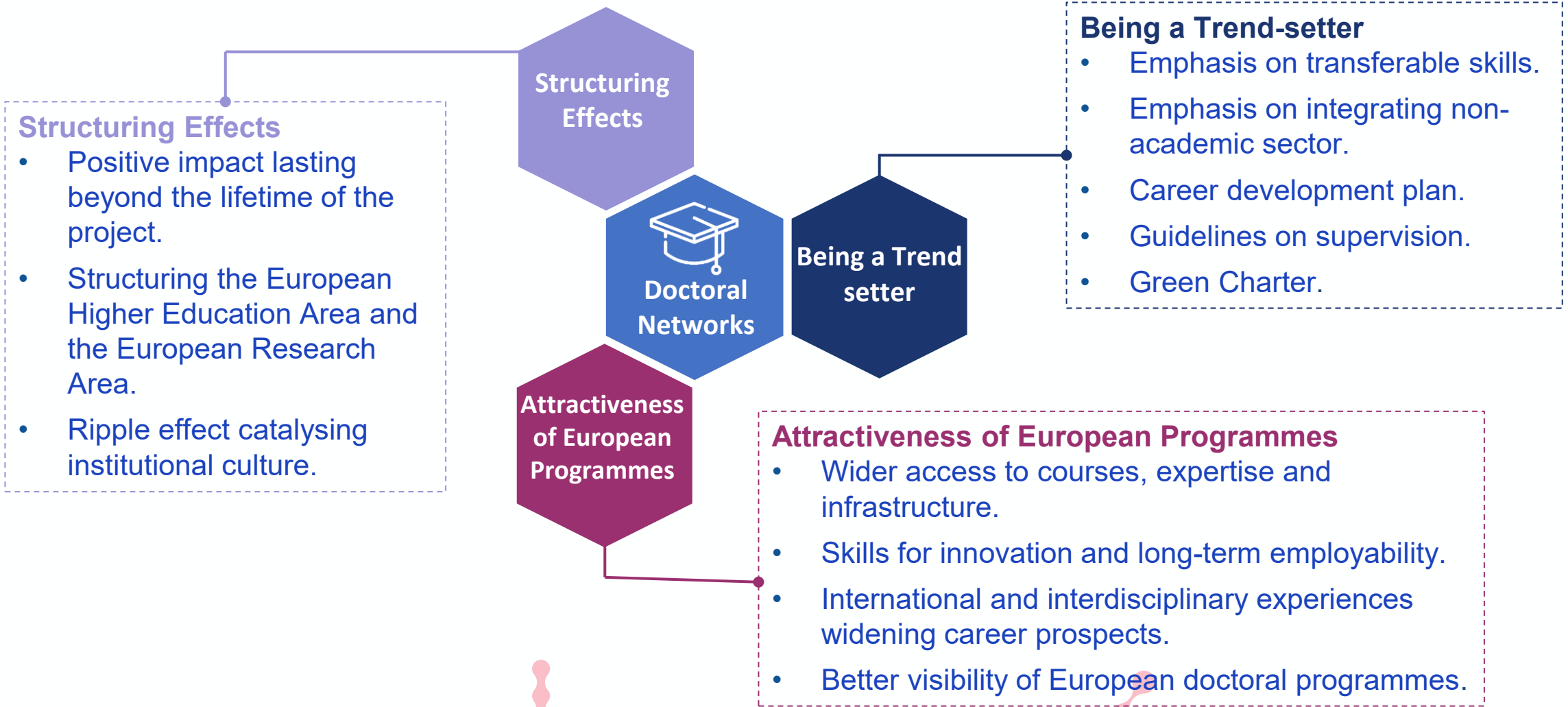
**Improved quality,
relevance, and
sustainability of
PhD programmes**

**ENHANCED
TRAINING
PROGRAMME**

DN expected impact for Europe



MSCA-DN strategic value



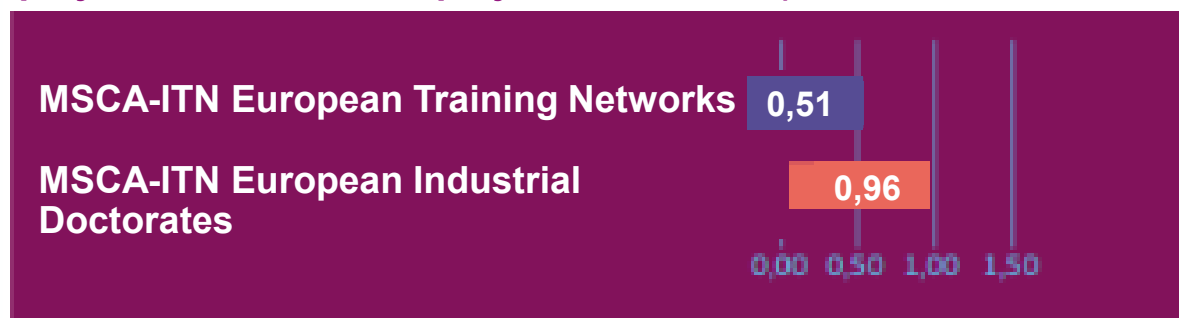
Key Findings: Innovative dimension of MSCA ITNs

Recent study on the innovative dimension of ITNs

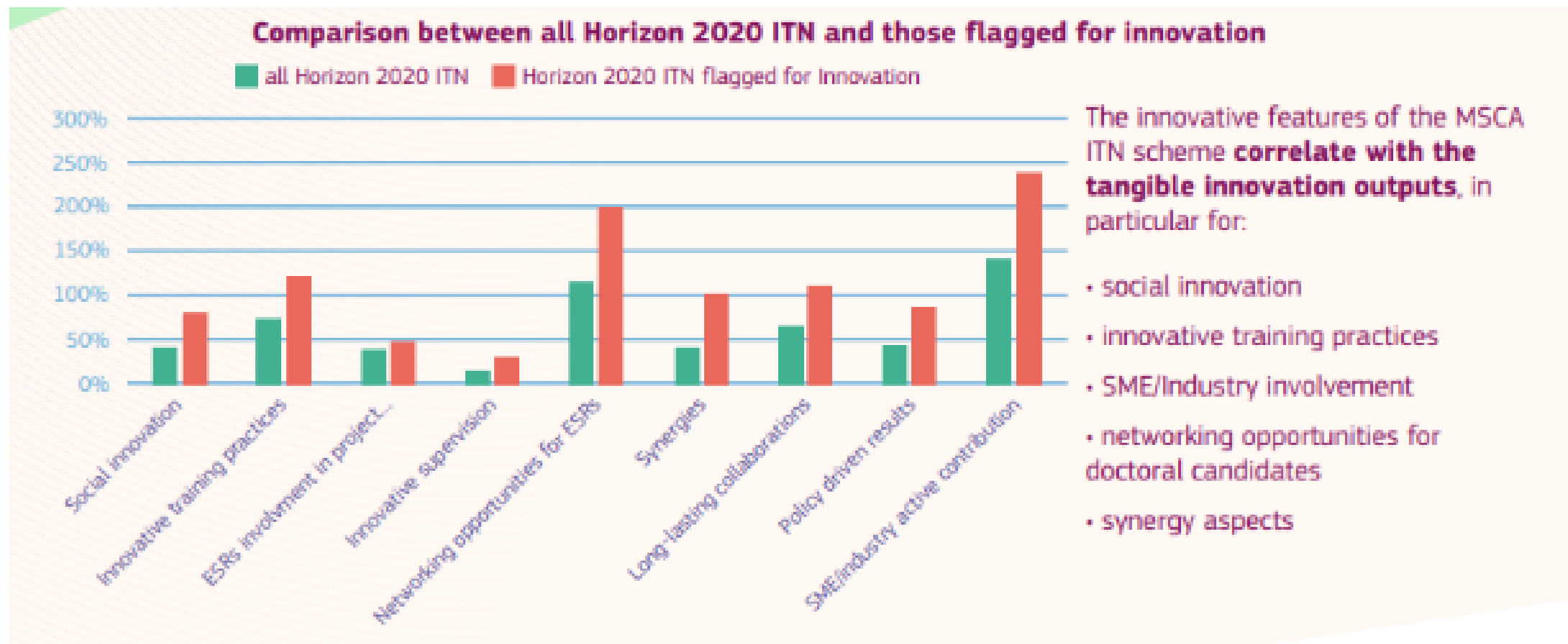
Fostering links with non-academic sector/industry (non-academic participation +++), leading to **strong innovative outputs**:

- Beneficiaries from the **industry, especially those acting as project coordinators** are associated with the most innovative projects.
- Among the most innovative projects, **Industrial Doctorates (EID)** also showed a **higher patent performance** than other networks.

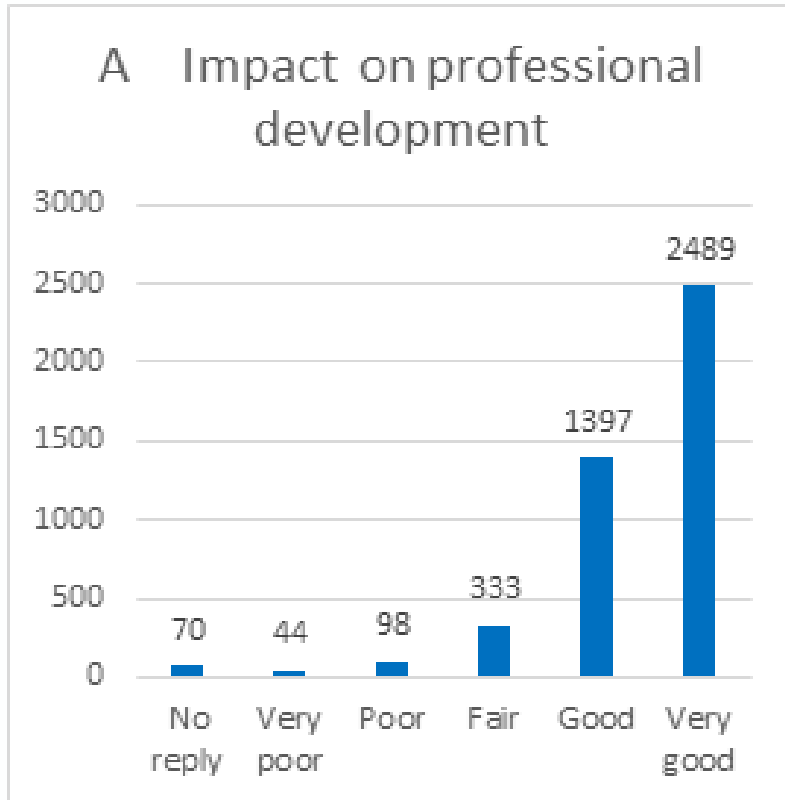
Number of patents per flagged project for innovation (118 projects, normalized to project relative size).



Key Findings : Other types of Innovation & best practices



Key Findings: Impact on research career



- Confirmed by several studies and Fellows' questionnaires
- MSCA ITN/DNs **foster capacity in research Excellence**
- The practices incentivised by the MSCA ITN/DN's design likely to **provide an ecosystem conducive to innovation.**



Bitsios *et al.*, 2023,
DOI: [10.12688/f1000research.138482.1](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.138482.1)

MSCA-DN evolves from year to year

2022	2023	2024	2026 (novelties)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide alternative to multiple recruitment in DN-ID - Abolish maximum secondment duration for DN-ID and DN-JD <p><u>Simplification</u>: Abolish requirement of a “Steering Board”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the standard DN grant size from 360 to 540 person-month - Increase the DN-JD maximum duration of fellowships to 4 years and of projects to 5 years <p><u>Simplification</u>: Abolish requirement of letters of commitment for Associated Partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allow organisations from non-associated 3rd countries as degree-awarding institutions in DN-JD (jointly with at least one from MS/AC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secondments for standard DN up to 50% of the fellowship duration - Evaluation threshold per criterion (3/5) - New exception for all DNs: where researchers are recruited by beneficiaries established in non-associated third countries, it is now permitted for enrolment to take place solely in a doctoral programme offered in that country.

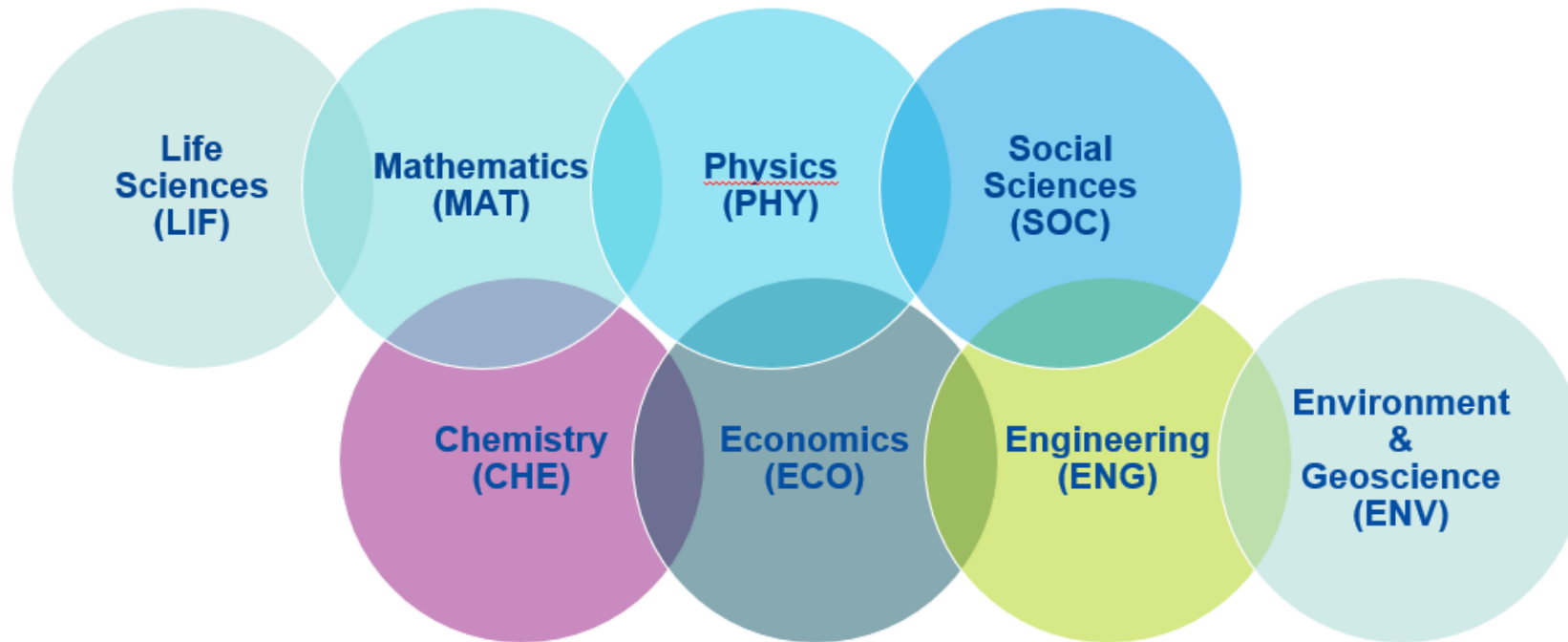
PART I

- a. MSCA Doctoral Networks: Why?
- b. Doctoral Networks in practice

Julien GIORDANI

Call Coordinator, MSCA Doctoral Networks, REA

Doctoral networks – a bottom-up scheme



All 3 type of actions compete within the same scientific panels

MSCA-DN – Type of actions

Joint Doctorates

- Joint collaborations leading to a joint/multiple doctoral degree;
- Pre-agreement for joint degrees required;
- Joint selection and supervision.

JD

Industrial Doctorates

- Training in academia and industry.
- Joint supervision.

ID

Doctoral
Networks

DN

(Standard)

Doctoral Networks (standard)

Training in academia and/or industry.

Important definitions

- **Academic vs Non-Academic sectors**
- **Participant types**
- **Joint/double/multiple PhD degree**

DN - Academic vs Non-Academic sector

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

DN – 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	✓	✗

What is a joint or double/multiple degree?



Joint degree: single diploma issued by at least 2 higher education institutions and recognized officially



Double/multiple degree: 2 or more separate national diplomas issued by 2 or more higher education institutions and recognized officially

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



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Part I



PART II

Eligibility conditions

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 their participation is essential or if they are identified in the relevant Horizon Europe Work Programme as being eligible for funding.

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

Eligible participants

Who can apply?

- Any Legal Entity worldwide*
- But not all applicants are eligible for funding

Min. 3 independent legal entities from 3 EU MS/ HE AC of which 1 must be from an EU MS

Consortia

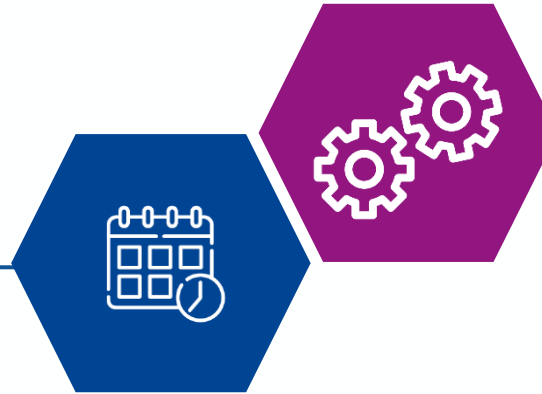
- Universities, research institutions and research infrastructures
- Businesses including SMEs
- Other socio-economic actors

*Eligibility restrictions: 'protection of European communication networks' and 'Participation of Chinese universities linked to Ministry of Industry & Information Technology (MIIT)' ([see Annex B of General Annexes](#))

Eligible size and duration

Duration

- **Proposal:** max. 48 months for DN and DN-ID
- *incentive for DN-JD 60 months*
- **Fellowship:** 3 to 36 months for DN and DN-ID
- *incentive for DN-JD 48 months*
- **Secondments:** worldwide, any sectors, up to 50% of the fellowship duration for Standard DN
- **incentive for DN-ID and DN-JD** **no secondment limitation**



Size

- **Up to 540 person-months for all type of actions**

*No minimum / maximum number of **Associated Partners***

Other eligibility conditions

All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate, host and supervise in own premises, or use associated partners linked to them to do so

Max. 40% of budget allocated to the same country or to a single international organisation.

Re-submission restrictions for proposals scoring below 80% in Call 2025

Specific eligibility conditions for Industrial and Joint Doctorates

Industrial Doctorates – What benefits?



Industrial Doctorates

- No limitation for secondments *
- Min 50% in the non-academic sector
- Enrolment in a PhD at 1 MS/AC among awarding entities
- Non-academic sector as **beneficiary or associated partners (full flexibility)** *
- Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise

* Incentives
for DN-ID

Joint Doctorates - What benefits?



Joint Doctorates

- Project duration: **max. 60 months***
- **Fellowship**: min 3 / max 48 months *
- **No limitation for secondments***
- Enrolment in a **joint/double or multiple PhD** (delivered by different entities from min. 1 MS/AC)
- Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- **Mandatory letters of pre-agreement** to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)

*** Incentives
for DN-JD**

No preference between a joint, a double or a multiple degree

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**.
- **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.

Eligible Researchers

- Researchers must be **enrolled in a doctoral programme, in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country**

(!) New exception for all DNs: where researchers are recruited by beneficiaries established in non-associated third countries => enrolment may take place solely in a doctoral programme offered in the country of the beneficiary.

- **Any nationality**

(!) Restrictions from the general annexes to the WP 2026-2027: * Natural persons established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine are not allowed to participate in the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. For more information, please consult the applicable participation restrictions from the General Annexes, Horizon Europe - Work Programme 2026-2027

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Part II

PART III

- a. Funding mechanism**
- b. RAISE DN**
- c. Evaluation criteria & process**
- d. Resources**

Funding mechanism

- Fully based on unit costs
- **1 person-month = 1 unit**
- Total costs = costs per unit x number of units
- 100% Reimbursement rate for eligible beneficiaries
- Different cost categories:
 - Researcher's cost
 - Institutional costs (research, training, networking + management)

1 unit
=
1 month of
eligible DC

Funding mechanism - Cost categories

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 4250*	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 4720 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.

PART III

a. Funding mechanism

b. RAISE DN

c. Evaluation criteria & process

d. Resources

Resource for AI Science in Europe

RAISE DN 2026 call

Additional chance of funding for projects that aim to apply AI in their scientific research & for those focused on developing new AI tools, systems and methodologies.

- **Indicative budget: €30 million** (funding from Pillar 2, Cluster 4)
- **Call for proposal dates: 28 May 2026 – 24 November 2026**

RAISE DN 2026 call – How to apply?

- All applicants apply first to the MSCA DN 2026 call – same eligibility conditions & same features such as modes, duration, rules and size
- Applicants need to demonstrate that their proposal falls within the scope of the RAISE DN call in the dedicated section in part B2

Scope: To train a new generation of researchers in AI-driven scientific methods across all disciplines. Together, these initiatives represent a coordinated effort to embed AI in the core of scientific research in Europe. For more detail information, please consult [the Work Programme](#).

PART III

- a. Funding mechanism
- b. RAISE DN
- c. Evaluation criteria & process
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MSCA DN Award Criteria

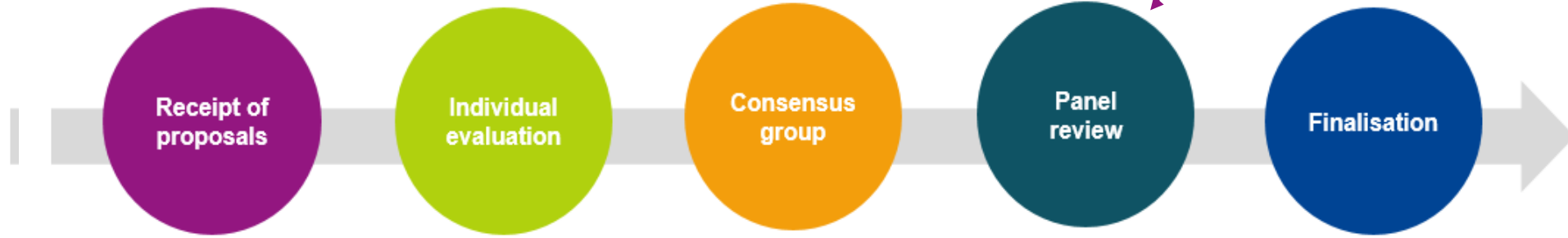
Criteria	Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Sub-criteria	Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives	Contribution to structuring doctoral training at European level and strengthening European innovation capacity	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan , assessment of risks , 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

(!) Novelty - Evaluation threshold for all three criteria will be 3 out of 5

Overview of Evaluation Process

RAISE DN

- Experts will assess the relevance of the proposals on the list to the RAISE topic
- Final ranking of RAISE proposals



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**.



RAISE DN 2026 evaluation procedure

RAISE proposals will participate in the MSCA DN 2026 evaluation procedure

- **A cross-panel list of fundable RAISE proposals will be established with the highest-ranking reserve list proposals.**
 - The list will be ranked according to the MSCA evaluation scores and comprise proposals with requested budget as close as possible to 3 times available budget.
- Experts will assess relevance of proposals to the RAISE scope.
- **Final ranking of the RAISE proposals = MSCA score and assessment of the relevance of the proposal to RAISE scope.**

Scope & Key evaluation figures (DN 2025 Call)

One of the largest call within
Horizon Europe, in terms of
budget and proposals received.

~617 m€
1616 proposals

Evaluated by more than 1400 experts
monitored by over 50 Project officer

Resulting in 141 proposals
selected for funding, which
will recruit more than 2100
DCs.

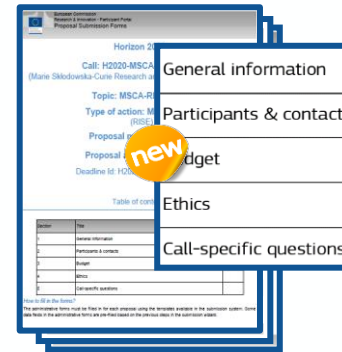
Source of statistics: [MSCA website](#)

How to apply?

Useful documents

- DN 2026 Guide for Applicants - available in the F&T Portal as of **May 28th, 2026**
- Proposal templates - available in the F&T Portal as of **May 28th, 2026**
- [Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2026-2027](#)
- [Work Programme 2026-2027, 14. Horizontal Activities, RAISE Doctoral Networks](#)
- [F&T Manual on how to submit a proposal](#)
- Topic Q&A under [F&T portal](#)

Part A (structured data)



The image shows a screenshot of a proposal form with a table of contents overlay. The table of contents lists the following sections: General information, Participants & contacts, Budget, Ethics, and Call-specific questions. A red 'new' sticker is placed over the 'Budget' section.

General information
Participants & contacts
Budget
Ethics
Call-specific questions

Ethics self-assessment: (1) Complete the Ethics issues table (Yes/No) - **(2)** clearly explain mitigation strategies

Part B (description of action)

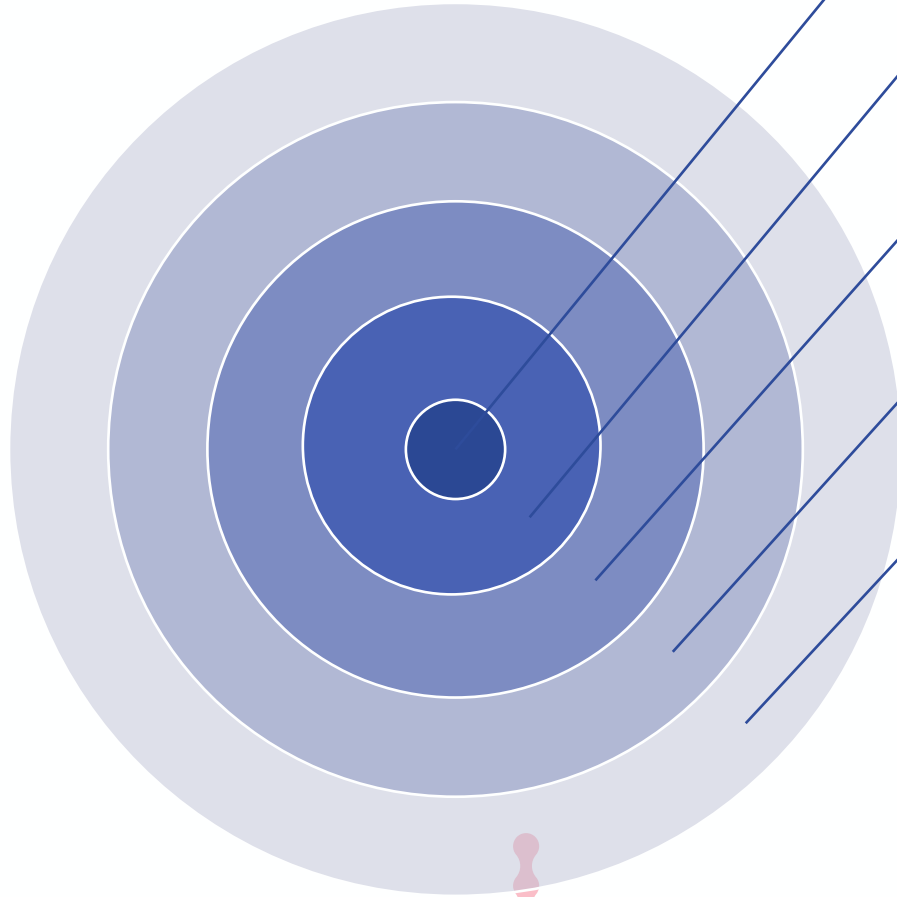


RAISE-DN: in Part B2, demonstrate that their proposal **fits the scope of the RAISE DN call (1 page)**

Part B1: 30 pages (+ 4 preliminary pages (cover page, table of content and list of participants). 34 pages in total.

Part B2: no limit

Tips and tricks for Proposal preparation I



*Read the **MSCA Work Programme and Guidance documents***

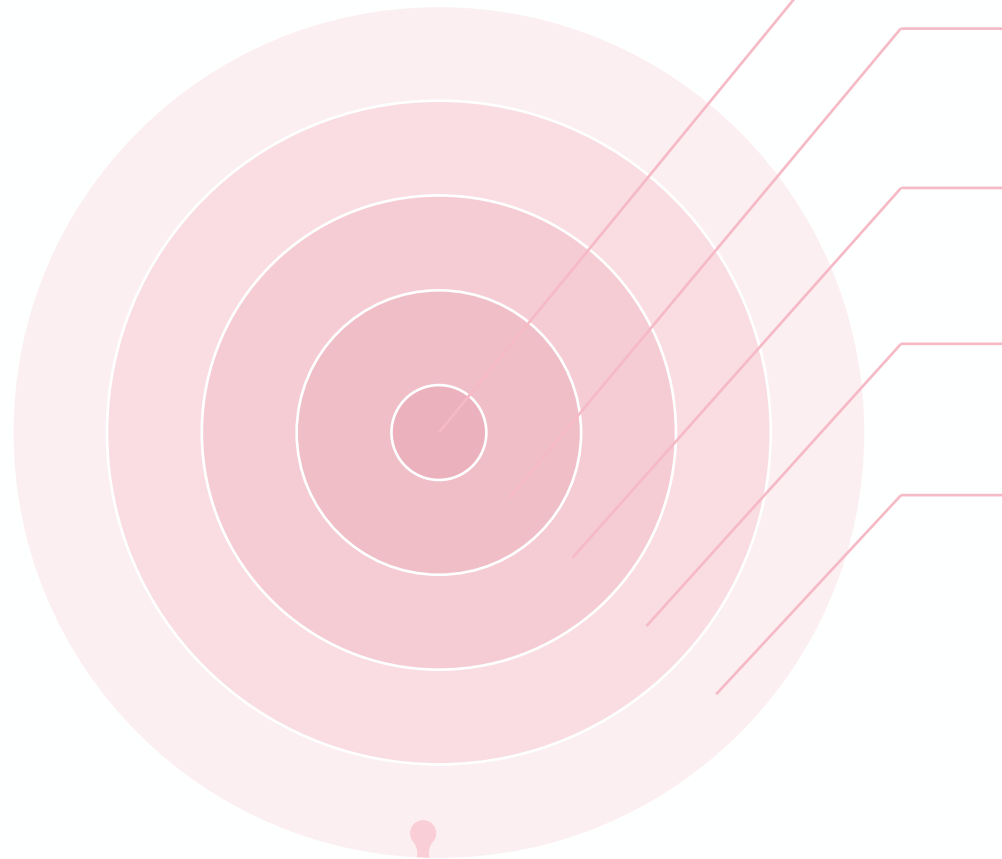
*Use the **proposal template- (!) Font size 11 for text and tables***

*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*

Tips and tricks for Proposal preparation II



Perform an 'internal' peer-review with your consortium partners

*Consult your **National Contact Points***

*Duly complete **Part A***

Start preparing early

Don't leave submission for the last minute

“

Think like an evaluator

Write for an evaluator

”



PART III

- a. Funding mechanism
- b. RAISE DN
- c. Evaluation criteria & process
- d. Resources

Funding and Tenders opportunities (Work Programme, applications, documents, partner search)

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 Call documents available in the F&T Portal as of May 28th

RAISE – Doctoral Networks 2026 Call documents available in the F&T Portal as of May 28th

Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2026-2027

Work Programme 2026-2027, 14. Horizontal Activities, RAISE Doctoral Networks

MSCA website

European Research Executive Agency website
MSCA Guidelines on Supervision

Code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers

MCAA alumni platform

Resources

Do you have questions?

Ask advice to your MSCA / EU
National Contact Point

Ask your questions about EU funding, validation of participants, and others to the
Research Enquiry Service



@MSCActions



@Marie.Curie.Actions



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

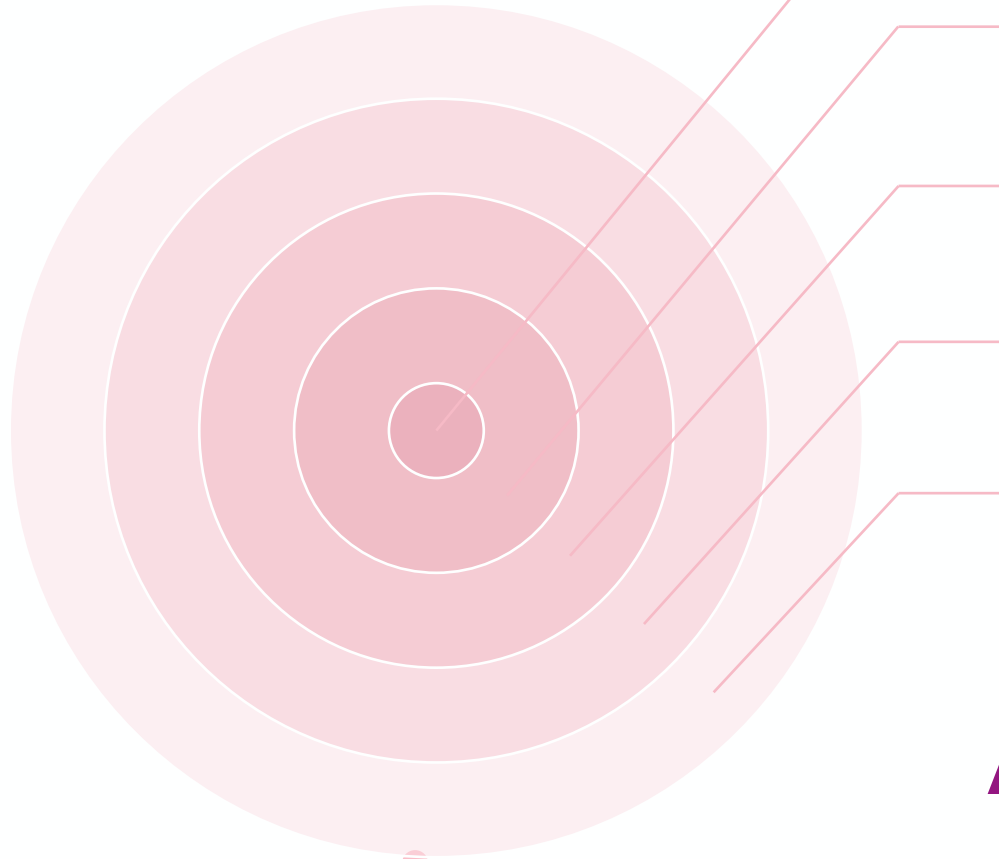
Part III



Please submit your questions via slido – join with (#DN2026)



Final Tips



READ the guidance

FOLLOW the templates

WRITE clearly

SUBMIT on time

FINAL CHECK

All the best!!!