



EUROPEAN RESEARCH EXECUTIVE AGENCY (REA)

REA.A - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions & Support to Experts
A.1 - MSCA Doctoral Networks

Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Network

2025 Call Info Event

Questions & Answers

Following the MSCA DN 2025 call info event, which took place on 24th June 2025, please find below the answers to the questions, submitted in Slido, that could not be addressed during the live session due to time constraints.

If you would like to go back to the questions answered in live, we invite you to watch the recording of the event, available on YouTube: [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\) Doctoral Networks 2025 - Call info day](#)

If you have any further questions on the DN 2025 call, you can submit your questions through the Research Enquiry Service: [Research Enquiry Service - European Commission](#)

We also invite you to read all the documents and guidance material available to prepare your proposal on the DN 2025 call page of the Funding and Tenders portal: [MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025 | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#).

In addition, the slides of the presentations are available on the event [platform](#):

Thank you again for your active participation!

The MSCA DN Team

Questions (as submitted in Slido)	Answers
Could you please highlight the changes in the new 2025 template and comparison with the previous 2024 call template. Detailed focus on the new subheadings and detailed content of what is requested with concrete examples if possible.	The main changes are that the individual Doctoral Candidate research project description were moved from section 3.1 to section 1.1, and that research data management plan was removed. Some tables were restructured, and additional explanations were provided. For a complete list of changes, we invite you to consult the history of changes table on page 23 of the application form.
How could I join this programme? How to apply?	Please follow the recording of the DN 2025 call info event and check all guidance documents and templates on the Funding and Tenders Portal call page.
A research institution hosts a PhD student ('Beneficiary') but doesn't award PhDs; an Associated Partner university does. Is time spent at that university a secondment, and does this depend on the visit's duration (e.g., short 2-month stays) or purpose (PhD program, training, research)?	Secondments should be differentiated from short visits (i.e. a few days). The difference is not only the "time spent" criterion, but it also depends on the purpose of the fellow's visit to the host institution. During short visits, fellows do not receive training, and they are not supervised.
I have done an internship, which will turn into a PhD on the 1st of November. Before that, I was not in France. My Internship started on the 1st of November the year before: can I still apply to the MSCA fellowship? Is the 1-year constraint until the start of the PhD or the start of the fellowship	The mobility rule (having not resided or carried out any professional activity in the host-country more than 1 year in the 3 years prior to the recruitment) is counted as from the recruitment date of the Doctoral Candidate in the project.
Is non-academic sector participation essential in a Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) proposal?	The participation of entities (as beneficiary or associated partner) from the non-academic sector is highly encouraged for all types of action and is evaluated under section 2.1 as "meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral training". For IDs, it is mandatory to include participants from the non-academic sector (as beneficiary or associated partner) since the Doctoral Candidates will need to spend at least 50% of their fellowship in this sector. Please note that the definition of non-academic sector is wider than industry.
Industrial Doctorates - for DN-ID, should the non-academic partners belong to industry or business? Is it possible to include private research	Please note that a non-academic partner refers to any socio-economic entity outside the academic sector. This includes industry and businesses, but also organisations such as private companies (including SMEs), non-governmental organisations

organisations or NGOs as non-academic partners?	(NGOs), hospitals, museums, public authorities, and other entities not primarily focused on academic research or education.
In a Joint Doctorate, can one of the degree-awarding organisations be a non-EU country that is not associated to Horizon Europe?	Yes, this is possible. The Doctoral Candidates must be enrolled in a joint/double/multiple doctoral degree in at least 1 EU MS/AC, the other PhD awarding entity can therefore be in a non-EU country. Please note that there is a list of third countries (i.e. non-EU countries that are not associated to Horizon Europe) from which entities are eligible to participate and get funded.
Under Horizon Europe, is there a recommended number of associated partners in an MSCA Doctoral Training (DN) proposal?	No, there is no recommended number of associated partners in a MSCA DN proposal. The number of partners will depend on each individual research training programme and on each associated partner's added value to the programme. Each associated partner should therefore demonstrate a real role in the project which should be clearly described in the proposal. Please note that associated partners, whether linked to a beneficiary or not, should no longer provide a letter of commitment. However, it should be clear from part B1 which associated partners are linked to a beneficiary, and which ones are not. In addition, all associated partners must be added in the part A of the proposal, and their role should also be clear from parts B1 and B2.
Under Joint Doctorates - is it allowed to foresee and implement different fellowship durations within the same DN-JD proposal?	Yes, this is possible. For proposals in DN-JD (Joint Doctorates), the maximum person-months is set to 540, however Doctoral Candidates can be recruited for a period of up to 48 months, as an incentive to increase the applicant's interest and the number of applications for Joint Doctorates. Consequently, the project duration of action DN-JD can last up to 60 months. It is possible to have some doctoral candidates recruited for 36 months, and others for 48 months, for instance.
Can organisations located in Third Countries and International Organisations with headquarters in a Third Country participate in the Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) call?	Once the minimum eligibility conditions for the consortium are fulfilled and provided that the conditions laid down in the Work Programme are met, other organisations located in Third Countries (TCs) and International Organisations (IOs) with headquarters in a Third Country may also participate in a MSCA DN call. The conditions are set out in the Horizon Europe Programme Guide. The term Third Country refers to a country that is neither an EU Member State nor a country associated to Horizon Europe. These TC entities can participate both as "beneficiaries" to the grant agreement as well as 'associated partners' under the following conditions. Participant from Third countries TCs are divided into two groups:

	1) TCs listed in the Horizon Europe Programme Guide and specifically in the annexed List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe as low- to middle-income countries: Organisations from these countries are automatically eligible for funding. 2) Other TCs not listed in the Horizon Europe Programme Guide and in the specific list mentioned above: Participants from other countries (i.e. countries that are not EU Member States, countries associated to Horizon Europe, or third countries listed in the Horizon Europe Programme Guide) are not automatically eligible for funding and therefore by default must participate at their own cost. These participants should explain in the proposal how their funding will be secured. They can however receive exceptional funding, if the granting authority considers that their participation as a beneficiary is essential for implementing the project, for example in view of their: · outstanding competence/expertise · access to particular research infrastructures · access to particular geographical environments · access to particular data. International Organisations with headquarters in a Third Country International organisations with headquarters in a Third Country are not automatically eligible for funding. They may exceptionally receive funding only if the granting authority considers that their participation is deemed essential for implementing the action, for example in view of their: ▪ outstanding competence/expertise ▪ access to particular research infrastructures ▪ access to particular geographical environments ▪ access to particular data. Finally, organisations from any country may participate as “associated partners” in a DN project. Associated partners contribute to the implementation of the action, but do not sign the grant agreement. Associated partners may not employ (recruit) the researchers under the action. They may be used to provide training and host researchers, but only during secondments.
Can post-doctoral researchers be recruited in Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)?	No, it is not possible. Please note that under the MSCA DN 2025, researchers must be doctoral candidates (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment).
Under a Joint doctorate, how many researchers may we recruit in an MSCA Doctoral Network (DN)?	Please note that the overall EU contribution for all three modalities (regular DNs, DN-IDs and DN-JDs) is limited to a maximum of 540 PMs. The number of Doctoral Candidates that can be recruited will depend on the duration of their individual contracts.

If we are a beneficiary from a low-income third country, what correction rate do we apply to the salaries? Does the student still need to be enrolled in an EU university?	The country Correction Coefficient (CCC) of the country where the Researcher is hosted applies. Researchers must be enrolled in a doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
Can an Institute that is not able to provide a PhD title be a beneficiary?	Yes, this is possible. In this case the doctoral degree awarding entity can be awarded by another partner in the consortium (i.e. beneficiary or Associated Partner).
Can a Colombian University be funded under the MSCA DN call as full beneficiary ?	Colombia is listed among the participants of other third countries in the list of participating countries under Horizon Europe that are eligible for funding. Please note that the Doctoral Candidate that they will recruit will need to be enrolled in a doctoral degree delivered in at least EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country.
How to interpret and prepare a section on "Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development "	When preparing this section, you have to explain how the project and the training will equip Doctoral Candidates (DCs) with a combination of technical and transferable skills that will improve their employability in academia and/or the industry, and explain the specific measures taken by the project to enhance the career perspectives of the DCs, i.e. to support them in exploring a wide range of career options in terms of topics, disciplines, professional environments or sectors.
Is there a direct (inverse) correlation between the achieved score of a proposal and the acceptance rate?	At the end of the evaluations, proposals are ranked by total score in each scientific panel. The proposals with the highest scores are proposed for funding, going down the ranking list, until the budget allocated to the panel is consumed.
Many appropriate acronym words are in current usage. Can MSCA-DN acronym words already in use be used for a new network (the letters standing for different things specific to the subject of course)?	There is no rule prohibiting the use of an acronym that already exists for your network. However, your acronym should clearly describe and relate to your project's content. In order to avoid confusion with other ongoing or completed MSCA projects, you can check in CORDIS Database for similar acronyms in your field.
Does the EU offer legal support for negotiating conditions in Industrial/Joint doctorates?	The EU does not directly provide legal services to negotiate conditions in DN-JD and DN-ID. However, once you have been awarded a grant agreement, there will be specific session organised on DN-JD and DN-ID. For any further guidance on this topic you can always contact the MSCA National Contact Point .
It is great to see the Green Charter highlighted in the current call. How will it be judged, as often the implementation may contradict mobility requirements?	In line with the green objectives of the European Union, projects are strongly encouraged to adopt sustainable practices in line with the MSCA Green Charter . Projects should report on their efforts in this direction, and sustainability may even be

	considered as a criterion to decide between otherwise ex-aequo proposals.
You mentioned that the applications for JDs and IDs is declining. I personally think that's difficult applying for JDs because it's not clear how they are evaluated. Is an excellent proposal for DN also good for JD or ID? Can you clarify what makes a JD or ID proposal excellent?	All types of actions (DN, DN-ID, DN-JD) are evaluated according to the same criteria and standards. However, DN-ID and DN-JD are also assessed on the quality of joint supervision under the excellence criterion, and DN-JD on joint admission, selection, supervision monitoring and assessment procedures under the implementation criterion. An excellent DN proposal that complies with the specific DN-ID or DN-JD requirements would also make an excellent DN-ID or DN-JD proposal.
In 1.1 (quality and pertinence) --> Does it involve only the scientific part or also the training part? for (a) introduction/objectives, (b) pertinence & innovative aspects. The guidelines note (current state of the art and existing programs). Does this involve the scientific part of the programs?	Section 1.1 involves the research and innovation objectives. The training is specifically addressed in section 1.3. Please refer to the instructions and guidance given in the application form.
how do we make the national doctoral selections coincide with those of the call for applications? because in our case they end at the end of October	If the proposal is successful, it will enter a Grant Agreement Preparation process whereby you have some flexibility in deciding the start date of the network. From this start date, since the networks typically last 1 year longer than the duration of each Doctoral Candidates (DCs) contract, it is possible to time the recruitment of DCs accordingly. Please note that DCs must respect the mobility rules, making it unlikely that a Master student from a given country be eligible to be recruited as a DC in the same country.
Proposal: In 1.2 soundness of methodology. Does it involve only the scientific part i.e. IRPs? or also the training etc? Do we need to describe this for all IRPs or do we need to find a way to present the general methodology of all IRPs in an aggregate manner?	Section 1.2 relates to the research part. You may mention the methodology to be used under section 1.1 for each IRP and then develop it in more details under section 1.2. It is indeed possible to present the methodology in an aggregate way for all IRPs in section 1.2.
In DNs, can all associate partners be academic partners or must there be non academic partners also? We want to send DCs to academic associate partners but academic partners we know have links with non academic partners locally.	In DNs all associated partners can be academic and/or non-academic. Please make sure that your project involves non-academic participants, as this will be evaluated in section 2.1. This non-academic involvement however can come from beneficiaries or associated partners.

Would entities in New Zealand be eligible to receive funding as a beneficiary?	New Zealand is not listed in the list of Third countries allowed to receive automatic EU funding and is not an associated country to the pillar 1 of Horizon Europe (Excellent Science). If they participate as beneficiaries, the expert evaluators will assess their role and contribution and decide if an exceptional funding is justified or not. If the exceptional funding request is not granted, the experts will assess the proposal as if the concerned entities were participating with their own funds. Please note that if a New Zealand entity participates as a beneficiary and recruits a Doctoral Candidate (DC), this DC will need to be enrolled in a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member state or Horizon Europe associated country. Entities located in New Zealand can always participate as Associated Partners.
Can we have more than one supervisor? Should the supervisor be a member of staff? Should they be part of the exam committee? Eg. can a post-doc researcher supervise (or co-supervise), even if they are not allowed to supervise formally by the university guidelines?	There is no maximum number of supervisors by Doctoral Candidate (DC). The supervisors should be assigned based on the needs of the DC individual research project, as well as their training needs. Joint supervision of the DCs is mandatory for Industrial and Joint Doctorates. There are no restrictions on the education level of the supervisors, but the qualification and supervision experience of supervisors is evaluated under the excellence criterion.
The maximum number of months is 540. Does this mean we could have 15 projects of 36 months duration as well as 12 PhD projects of 42 months	For all three modalities (regular DNs, DN-IDs and DN-JDs) the number of person-months is limited to a maximum of 540 PMs. For regular DN and DN-ID, the fellowship duration is maximum 36 months and for DN-JD the maximum is 48 months. Therefore, for all types of action, it is possible to reach these 540 person-months through 15 projects of 36 months. For Joint Doctorates only, it would be possible to have 12 projects of 42 months.
In impact, it is difficult to estimate societal and economic impacts. This is taken into account in the new rules. However, will the project officers and evaluators follow this rule? To my experience this is not always the case.	Please note that projects are not expected to address all three types of impact if they are not relevant to their scope. Expected scientific impacts must always be described. If the project is not expected to have significant economic/technological or societal impacts, a brief justification must be given and will be assessed. Evaluators are briefed on this.
pre-agreements. Do they need to be specific, or can the free field only include information on host, co-host and title of the project?	A template of joint/double/multiple doctorate pre-agreement letter (for DN-JD) is available at the end of the proposal template. This template must be strictly adhered to.
Scientific excellence counts most, as mentioned in the presentation. How about training, which one might expect to be even more prominent in training projects?	Doctoral Networks are as much a research programme as they are a training programme. The excellence section encompasses both aspects. Please refer to the application form and the evaluation form to see on which criteria each proposal is evaluated.

Is there going to be another session about proposal writing in the future and where to find the link?	There will not be any other session organised by REA. However, National Contact Points (NCPs) also organise call information session. We advise you to check with them directly MSCA National Contact Point.
Can a third country HEI participate as a recruiting beneficiary with an EU beneficiary acting as the awarding institution in a standard DN?	If a third country institution participates as a beneficiary, the Doctoral Candidate (DC) they recruit will need to be enrolled in a doctoral degree delivered by an institution from an EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country. This enrolment can come from another member of the consortium (beneficiary or associated partner). When a third country institution is not listed in the list of participating countries under Horizon Europe and participates as a beneficiary, the expert evaluators will assess their role and contribution and decide if an exceptional funding is justified or not. If the exceptional funding request is not granted, the experts will assess the proposal as if the concerned entities were participating with their own funds.
To what extent are interdisciplinarity and collaboration with the industry required in DNs? Are projects that lack strong interdisciplinary connections or industry collaboration, such as those in Philosophy or Literature, still eligible for support and funding?	The participation of entities (as beneficiary or associated partner) from the non-academic sector (wider than industrial partners) is highly encouraged for all types of action and is evaluated under section 2.1. However, please note that non-academic is broader than industry and often includes e.g. museums or NGOs. Interdisciplinarity is also an important feature of Doctoral Networks. However, please note that the term discipline refers to the first level of MSCA keywords. Under the SOC panel, for instance, the following terms are considered as different disciplines: sociology; political science; law; communication; cognition, psychology, linguistics; philosophy; education; literature, arts, music, cultural and comparative studies; archaeology, history and memory. Lastly, if you consider that an inter-disciplinary approach is not necessary in the context of the proposed work, you must provide a justification, which then will be evaluated in the context of the envisaged scope of the proposed project.
In my country after the courses, there is an qualification exam to write the thesis. I am a candidate now, and want to complete experimental & thesis part abroad within the scope of joint programme. Is it possible with MSCA and what are the application steps for this case	Please note as well that the Doctoral Networks call is not a call for application of individual researchers. If you wish to apply to a PhD position, you should consult Jobs, Career and Funding Opportunities EURAXESS. In order to apply for a MSCA DN fellowship, the researchers must be a doctoral candidate, meaning not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment. For further information, please follow the recording of the DN 2025 call info event and check all guidance documents and templates on the Funding and Tenders Portal.

What exploitable results are expected from DNs (especially JD) in the social sciences and humanities? What might policy exploitable results look like? Are there good examples?	Under Horizon Europe, exploitation is defined as the use of results in further research and innovation activities other than those covered by the action concerned, including among other things, commercial exploitation such as developing, creating, manufacturing and marketing a product or process, creating and providing a service, or in standardisation and policy making activities. From this definition, exploitation is not limited to commercial exploitation. The types of exploitable results depend on the scope and topic of each project.
where do I find details of the UK national action point?	Please consult: National Contact Points - MSCA-NET
view on use of AI in application process? How should we denote if AI is used to polish the language of the proposal?	When considering the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the preparation of the proposal, it is imperative to exercise caution and careful consideration. The AI-generated content should be thoroughly reviewed and validated by the applicants to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations. Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal (even those parts produced by the AI tool) and must be transparent in disclosing which AI tools were used and how they were utilized in section 10 of part B2.
How specific has to be the core topic of the project?	The core topic of your project should be clearly defined and well-identified, but it does not need to be highly specific or narrowly focused. The call adopts a bottom-up approach, meaning proposals can be submitted on any research topic, allowing for flexibility in choosing the research area
Organizations of Israel participating as beneficiaries or associate - is it expected to remain allowed or will there be a banishment to IL from the EU in the calls?	As is the case for other countries associated to Horizon Europe, organisations from Israel are entitled to participate as beneficiaries receive funding. Organisations from Israel could also participate as associated partners if they wish to do so.
Is it possible for a student to spend 6-months in a non-academic setting (industry) and 6-months at a second academic institution under the standard Doctoral Network? Is that possible to chose the scientific panel ? Or directly related to discipline of PhD applicants ? It seems harder in ECO due to relative low number of applications ...	Yes, multiple secondments are allowed under a standard doctoral network, and also industrial and joint doctorates. Please note that a doctoral candidate (DC) can also be recruited by more than 1 beneficiary during the 36 person-months. For standard Doctoral Networks, secondment is limited to 1/3 of the DC contract duration i.e. 12 months for a contract of 36 months. Applicants decide in which panel they wish to submit their proposal. The budget of each scientific panel is calculated in proportion of the number of eligible submitted proposals in each panel, resulting in equivalent success rates between panels.
	Indeed here is no designated scientific panel for "Humanities", but there is a panel entitled "Social Sciences and Humanities" (SOC). There is a list of MSCA keywords, accessible from the

There is no sector called "Humanities". Where should projects related to history or the arts be placed?	guide for applicants, that link these keywords to specific panels. In that instance, history and arts are in this Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC) panel.
Are Egypt and Morocco eligible for funding like Switzerland?	Switzerland is expected to become a country associated to Horizon Europe. Until the association agreement starts producing legal effects, transitional arrangements apply for Switzerland, meaning that Swiss entities are eligible for funding. The same applies to Egypt and Morocco, which are also expected to become associated to Horizon Europe.
Can I apply if I start phd in September 2025, but I'm already accepted	Please note as well that the Doctoral Networks call is not a call for application of individual researchers. If you wish to apply to a PhD position, you should consult Jobs, Career and Funding Opportunities EURAXESS . In order to apply to a MSCA DN fellowship, the researchers must be a doctoral candidate, meaning not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment. For further information, please follow the recording of the DN 2025 call info event and check all guidance documents and templates on the Funding and Tenders Portal .
How is it communicated that a high income country normally not eligible to receive EC contribution but is regarded by the experts to be an exception?	Beneficiaries can be established in EU Member State, Horizon Europe Associated Country or low- and middle-income non-associated countries included in the list of countries eligible for funding provided in the Horizon Europe Programme Guide. Legal entities established in countries not listed in the Programme Guide will be eligible for funding exceptionally if their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the granting authority. This will be assessed by the experts and communicated to the applicants as part of the Evaluation Summary Report.
Are there specific criteria to have incentive JD extended to 48 months ?	As long as the proposal was submitted as a DN-JD and respects its specific eligibility criteria (i.e. consortium composition, doctoral degree programme, joint supervision and governance end pre-agreement for joint degrees), the researchers can be offered a fellowship duration up to 48 person-months.
In practice: how many partners are involved in successful projects (in average)? Thanks!	Successful projects vary greatly in the size of their consortium, and we could not find any relationship between the number of partners of a proposal and its potential for being funded. Remember that all beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate, and that the maximum size of a project is 540 person-months.
I understand that in standard DNs there is a maximum of 12 months total secondment time. Is there a minimum period, and what is the minimum period spent at another partner that qualifies as an individual secondment?	For MSCA DN, secondments are eligible for up to one third of the actual months spent implementing the research training activities under the action. There is no minimum period, however secondments should be differentiated from short visits (i.e. a few days). The difference is not only the "time spent" criterion, but it also depends on the purpose of the fellow's visit to the host institution. During short visits, fellows do not receive training, and they are not supervised.

Can the 1/3 maximum time spent on secondment be spread across TWO secondment locations? 6-months in one location, 6-months in another?	Yes, the total maximum time spent on secondment (i.e. 1/3 of the standard project duration) can be split across multiple secondments.
Hi for MSCA DN, how much money can be dedicated for project costs like consumables, equipment's etc?	The budget for project-related costs such as consumables, equipment, and other research expenses is allocated within the cost category 'institutional unit contribution', more precisely 'Research, Training, and Networking', for which the unit cost is 1600 per person-month.
in a joint DN, can there be 1x academic partner from member state and 1 x from associated country and 1 x industrial partner? Is only the 2 academic partners will be involved in awarding the phd	Under DN-JD there must be minimum three participants awarding PhD, 1 of which is from EU member State or Horizon Associated Country.
Can the Ph.D. candidate have a Ph.D. in a different sector, say the DN is in Economy and the candidate has a Ph.D. in Chemistry?	No, under the MSCA DN 2025, researchers must be doctoral candidates (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment), whatever the field of the PhD.
we have 2 candidates in our company in Germany who will write their phd in Italy/Greece. but both are longer than 12 Month in germany. is there a chance to join?	Please note that the researchers must comply with the eligibility criteria set out in the guidelines under section 3.2. Additionally, Doctoral Candidates must be recruited following an open fair and transparent recruitment process. This aspect can be audited.
Can a DC only be employed only for 3 months?	Please note that the overall EU contribution for all three modalities (regular DNs, DN-IDs and DN-JDs) is limited to a maximum of 540 PMs. Shorter appointments (with a minimum duration of 3 months) must be carefully explained and justified. They will be assessed by the expert evaluators during the evaluation procedure, bearing in mind the spirit of the Work Programme which is to train "a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit" as well as engage in a doctoral research programme. Each DC must also be enrolled in a doctoral degree.
For ID, For DCs who will do their PhD project in industry, should the industrial supervisor have some sort of agreement with the doctoral school in a uni?	For MSCA DN-ID researchers must be jointly supervised by both academic and non-academic supervisors and there should be a bilateral agreement in place between the university's doctoral school (or host university) and the company to ensure proper integration, supervision, and enrolment in a recognized PhD programme.
regarding the mobility, is it ok if the 12 months or less were the year immediately prior to the PhD? For	Please note that the researcher must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date. Additionally,

example finishing a master's program in that country?	Doctoral Candidates must be recruited following an open fair and transparent recruitment process. This aspect can be audited.
What part of the budget can be allocated to network-wide joint training activities? (Is there a maximum amount that can be used for this?)	The EU contribution for MSCA Doctoral Networks will take the form of unit contributions for: (1) the recruited researchers, which include a living and mobility (and if applicable, a family, long-term leave or special needs allowance) and (2) Institutional unit contributions for the beneficiaries, which include contributions for the research, training and networking activities and management and indirect contributions. The contribution per person-month for Research, training and network contribution is EUR 1600. The consortium has the flexibility to redistribute these institutional unit contributions among beneficiaries to address specific needs.
Can an employee from industry be recruited as a Phd candidate and carry out their secondment at the same company/ organization they previously worked?	The primary objective of secondments is to enhance the doctoral candidate's research training by exposing them to different research environments and fostering collaboration between institutions. Secondments must involve mobility to a partner organisation that is independent from the recruiting beneficiary. This means that secondments cannot take place within the same legal entity or affiliated institutions of the recruiting organisation. Additionally, Doctoral Candidates must be recruited following an open fair and transparent recruitment process. This aspect can be audited.
Can you give examples of how the unit costs are typically shared between the co-supervising institutions in JD and ID?	The distribution of unit costs among co-supervising institutions under Joint Doctorates (JD) and Industrial Doctorates (ID) is flexible and should be tailored to the specific needs and roles of each partner. This flexibility allows for a collaborative approach in managing the project's budget, ensuring that all partners are adequately supported for their contributions.
Can we have more than one supervisors from the host or co-host? Can we write them both? Should the supervisor comply with the "formal" supervisor definition as noted in the national guidelines - for example in greece a member of staff (prof, etc) who can and should also be in the exam committee.	There can be more than one supervisor. There is no maximum number of supervisors by Doctoral Candidate (DC). The supervisors should be assigned based on the needs of the DC individual research project as well as their training needs. Joint supervision of the researchers is mandatory for Industrial and Joint Doctorates. There are no restrictions on the education level of the supervisors, but the qualification and supervision experience of supervisors is evaluated under the excellence criterion.
do public administrations count as academic or non-academic?	The academic sector includes public or private higher education establishments, public or private non-profit research organisations and International European Research Organisations. Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector belongs to non-academic sector. Please note that the entity's sector is defined upon its registration in the participant register. Upon adding an entity as a participant in part A of the proposal, their academic or non-academic status will also show in your proposal part A.

In the context of JD networks, is it allowed for one academic institution to be involved in all the joint degrees awarded, or would that violate the 40% rule?	Yes, one academic institution can be involved in all joint degrees awarded by the network, however, please note that for DN-JD there must be minimum three participants awarding PhD, 1 of which from EU MS/HE AC. Regarding the 40% rule, please note that this rule applies only to beneficiaries, who recruit at least one doctoral candidate, and that this refers to the budget. Also an associated partner can be a degree awarding institution.
An institution receives 36 x 2800 for hosting a PhD = 100800? Is this true? And the associated partners would get the same?	The EU contribution for MSCA Doctoral Networks will take the form of unit contributions for: (1) the recruited researchers, which include a living and mobility (and if applicable, a family, long-term leave or special needs allowance) and (2) Institutional unit contributions for the beneficiaries, which include contributions for the research, training and networking activities and management and indirect contributions. The consortium has the flexibility to redistribute these institutional unit contributions among beneficiaries/associated partners to address specific needs, such as organizing training or networking events with substantial costs and/or hosting a researcher for secondment. Associated partners do not receive funding from the EU.
Who are these experts evaluating the proposals?	Each proposal is assessed by at least three independent experts with relevant scientific or sector-specific expertise. Experts are external scientists that are contracted for this purpose. This is a peer review process.
For standard MSCA DN, are there any formal agreements required between Industry partners and the beneficiaries? For instance, how intellectual property issues are handled? Are there any example agreements or best practices available for such cases?	These agreements are internal to the consortium and be part of the consortium agreement. For further details on the set-up of the consortium agreement, please consult the Annotated Grant Agreement , chapter 4 ‘Grant Implementation’, article 7 – Beneficiaries
What's the success rate of JDs and IDs?	The average success rates of JD and ID in Horizon Europe so far was 12% and 15% respectively. We invite you to check the Horizon Dashboard, where this information can be retrieved: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard
Will the editable version of the template be made available?	Via the Funding and Tender portal, once you start your submission, you can navigate to the “download Part B templates” section on. Here, you can download the editable version of Part B1 and Part B2 of the proposal template.
There seem to be very few previous awardees that are based in humanities and social sciences. Please can you provide any tips to make these kind of proposals better? What makes a social science proposal stronger?	There is a dedicated Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC) panel. The budget of a panel is set in proportion of the number of submitted eligible proposals in this panel. As such, a proposal submitted under the SOC panel has as many chances to be funded than a proposal submitted in any of the other 7 scientific panels.

How long time does it take to evaluate, and to begin the project	All detailed information , including timeline, can be found back on the funding and tenders portal.
Is the amount of 4100 euro a net or gross amount (regarding personal income tax and social security) ?	The living allowance is a gross amount, including compulsory deductions under national law, such as employer and employee social security contributions and direct taxes.
Further to the question about the individual research project descriptions, should they be presented in a table or in text format?	The individual research projects should be presented in a text format. Explain how those projects will be integrated into – and contribute to – the overall research programme and objectives.
Is it valid to do the 1.1.2 DC description by using a table format design with font size 9? Or does it have to be regular text with size 11?	The individual research projects should be presented in a text format.
Can an European Competence Center participate, even if they cannot host directly PhD candidates?	All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate (DC), and host and supervise them in their own premises. Beneficiaries can use associated partners linked to them to host and supervise DCs, but they must be the ones recruiting them. Please note that any entity can also participate as an associated partner.
we have a beneficiary from Australia, which I understand can be a beneficiary but will not receive direct funding. They will probably come up with funding for 3 PhDs. Can we discuss these extra 3 DCs within the network, in the same way as the other DCs?	Australian entities can participate but can normally not get funded. Beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate (DC) from the project's budget. If they come up with their own funding, we would advise them to participate as associated partners. In such case, the extra DCs funded by the Australian funds would not count towards the maximum 540 person months.
In ID are the costs of 50% time spent in non-academia covered by the grant or should be paid by the partner?	Under DN-ID, it is mandatory that the recruited candidates spend at least 50% of their fellowship duration in the non-academic and 50% in the academic sector. This time spent is covered by the MSCA funding.
Can Canadian or US supervisor be involved in a JD network and how?	A supervisor can be of any nationality. There are no restrictions on the nationality of individual supervisors.
The letter of support from Associate partner is not mandatory anymore. But would you still recommend to attach them in e.g. Part B2?	There is no need or added value in adding the letter of support as this is no longer a requirement. Please note that Associated Partners must be listed in Part A.
Can a beneficiary partner purchase services—for example, in connection with PhD training—from an organisation that is not part of the consortium, or must all organisations contributing to training and/or involved	In MSCA Doctoral Networks, subcontracting is allowed for activities that are not core tasks of the project and can be assigned to external entities when the project partners are unable to carry them out. However, we encourage you to consider having such entity as associated partners instead.

in supervision be beneficiary or associated partners in the project?	
Are exceptions to the mobility rule made for applicants who might find it impossible to move countries (due to complex caring responsibilities or disabilities), even with the added financial support? How does the mobility rule impact on widening participation?	The mobility rule in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks (DN) requires that researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date. The project can request Special needs allowance to cover additional cost directly related to the participation of researchers with disabilities. For further detail on this allowance, please consult the HE Work Programme This rule aims to promote cross-border mobility and international collaboration, which are central to the MSCA's objectives
For regular DNs: Can an industry Beneficiary be registered legally in Country A but host the DC in Country B where they also maintain an R&D team? If yes, how is the correction coefficient applied? Thank you.	Country A can recruit a researcher while the research activities take place in country B. The country Correction Coefficient (CCC) of the country where the DC is hosted applies. In this case, it will be the CCC of country B.
Do all degree awarding institution need to be beneficiaries/associated partners?	Yes the degree awarding institutions must be beneficiaries or associated partner.
The "Declaration on the use of AI" now appears in Part B2. Are there any changes regarding expectations for this section? Should we address this point if only deep learning techniques are used but not for autonomous decision-making, meaning that robustness considerations are not relevant?	This is a confusion between the declaration on the development, deployment and/or use of AI in part A, and the declaration on the use of generative tools for the preparation of the proposal, which is now in section 10 of part B2. The robustness of AI is no longer required in the excellence section of the proposal.
Whether conducting research in the field of military industry can be a topic of research for a joint project?	DN proposals have an exclusive focus on civil applications. Activities intended to be used in military application or aiming to serve military purposes cannot be funded.
How is the need for mobility balanced with the green charter - for in-person meetings of the whole network, is there an increasing trend or expectation for some events to be held online?	We invite you to consult the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Green Charter
Can a hosting institution decide not to cover MC allowance-country-specific salary discrepancies and ask the	If you are a beneficiary under a MSCA DN project, you have the responsibility to recruit the researcher under an employment contract (or other direct contract) with full social security coverage and pension rights. The Doctoral Candidates (DCs)

individual beneficiary researcher to cover it him/herself?	must be paid according to the established MSCA rates. DCs should not cover any cost from their salary themselves.
when we present innovation and methodology in the relevant sections of Excellence. Should we include only the scientific side of the IRPs or also the training etc mechanisms of the project	Please see instructions in the application form, which explain which aspects need to be presented in which section.
Do you take into account the sick leaves, maternity leaves and disability of the PI to evaluate their performance and supervision experience?	The proposal should explain how the proposed supervisors are sufficiently experienced in supervising research, and have the time, knowledge, experience, and specific expertise for the envisaged individual research project they would supervise. It is on this basis that the qualification and supervision experience of supervisors will be evaluated.
One of the consortium PI is not eligible to serve as the primary supervisor of PhD studies by her institution (research center). How should the DC's supervision by that partner be arranged? Is an association with a university required?	The DC can be supervised by the consortium PI for the research to be performed, with a co-supervisor from a university.
If the number of applications increases again in 2025 (ie for a second year in a row) will the Commission substantially increase the budget for 2026 to take account of this (given success rates are already relatively low at present)?	It is too early to know what the budget for the call 2026 will be.
What is the portal for me to validate whether my non academic partners are in fact non academic please? My query relates to UNESCO, a policy division	'Academic sector' means public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations and International European Research Organisations (IERO). 'Non-academic sector' means any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector and fulfilling the requirements of the Horizon Europe Rules for Participation. When adding an institution in part A of the proposal, the system will state the academic or non-academic status of this institution.
In standard DN, can we have a joint phd between two partners (double diploma)? How the rule of mobility (no more than 12 months) applies in this case?	Yes, it is possible to propose joint doctorates in a standard Doctoral Network. The mobility rule applies not to the country of the PhD enrolment institution, but to the country of the recruiting institution, at the time of the initial recruitment.
Can advisory board members be from outside eligible countries (eg Argentina)	Yes, there are no rules concerning advisory board members.
Do the mobility rules also apply to secondments?	No, the mobility rule does not apply to secondments.

mobility rule for JD - how does that work - no previous residency in BOTH countries?	The mobility rule (i.e. the researcher must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their recruiting organisation for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their date of recruitment) applies per recruiting beneficiary, not per degree awarding institution.
if a PhD candidate fails to complete, what are the financial consequences for them and the host institution?	If DCs fail their probation period or terminate their contract, it is possible to re-open a call and recruit another candidate, if there are still sufficient person-months to allow the recruitment of another candidate. Nevertheless, if a candidate terminates their contract at month 30 and there are only 6 person-months left available, a new recruitment will need to be discussed and approved by REA. The consortium and beneficiary concerned will need to justify the added value of a new recruitment (for the candidate and the project as a whole). For those specific cases, please always consult with your project officer to discuss your options. Regarding the financial consequences, the project can only claim the cost actually incurred.
Will the reviewers see the score in a previous evaluation? After they have scored it	In case a proposal is a self-declared resubmission, experts have access to the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) of the previous submission after they have agreed on comments and scores. If experts spot inconsistencies between the previous and current evaluation, they should double check that the current evaluation is accurate and correct. However, previous evaluations should not unduly influence the evaluation of the current proposal. Each proposal is evaluated independently, and the evaluation is based on the content of the current proposal.