European Commission

#HorizonEU

**THE EU
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
PROGRAMME**

2021 – 2027

**MSCA Doctoral Networks
CALL INFO DAY**

07 June 2024

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions

Presentation of the DN 2024 call

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Part I

a. **MSCA Work Programme**

b. MSCA Doctoral Networks

c. Doctoral networks in more details

MSCA: A world reference for research and training

Researchers' training, skills and career development

Excellent research (bottom-up approach)

International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility

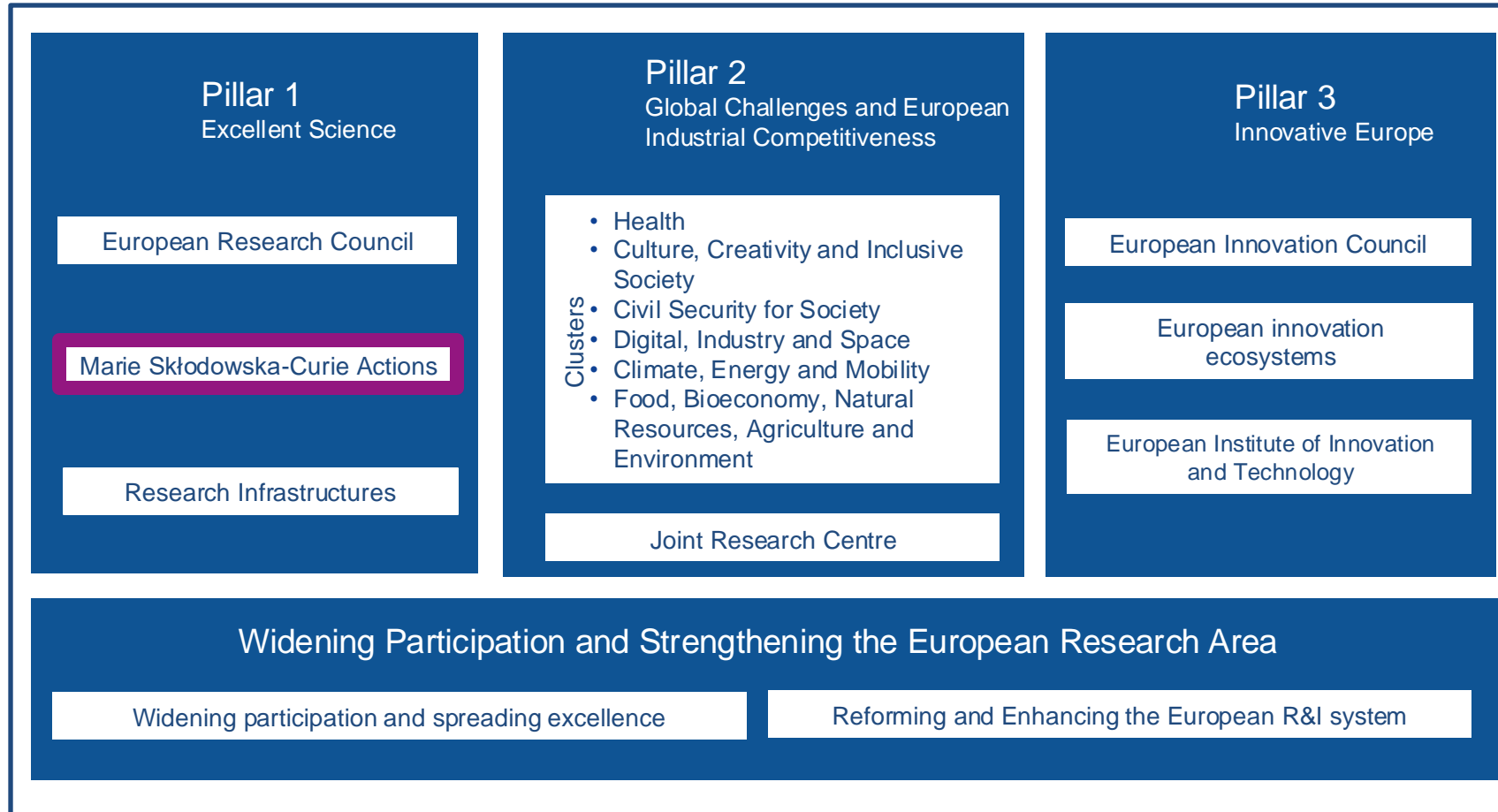**Attractive working and employment conditions**

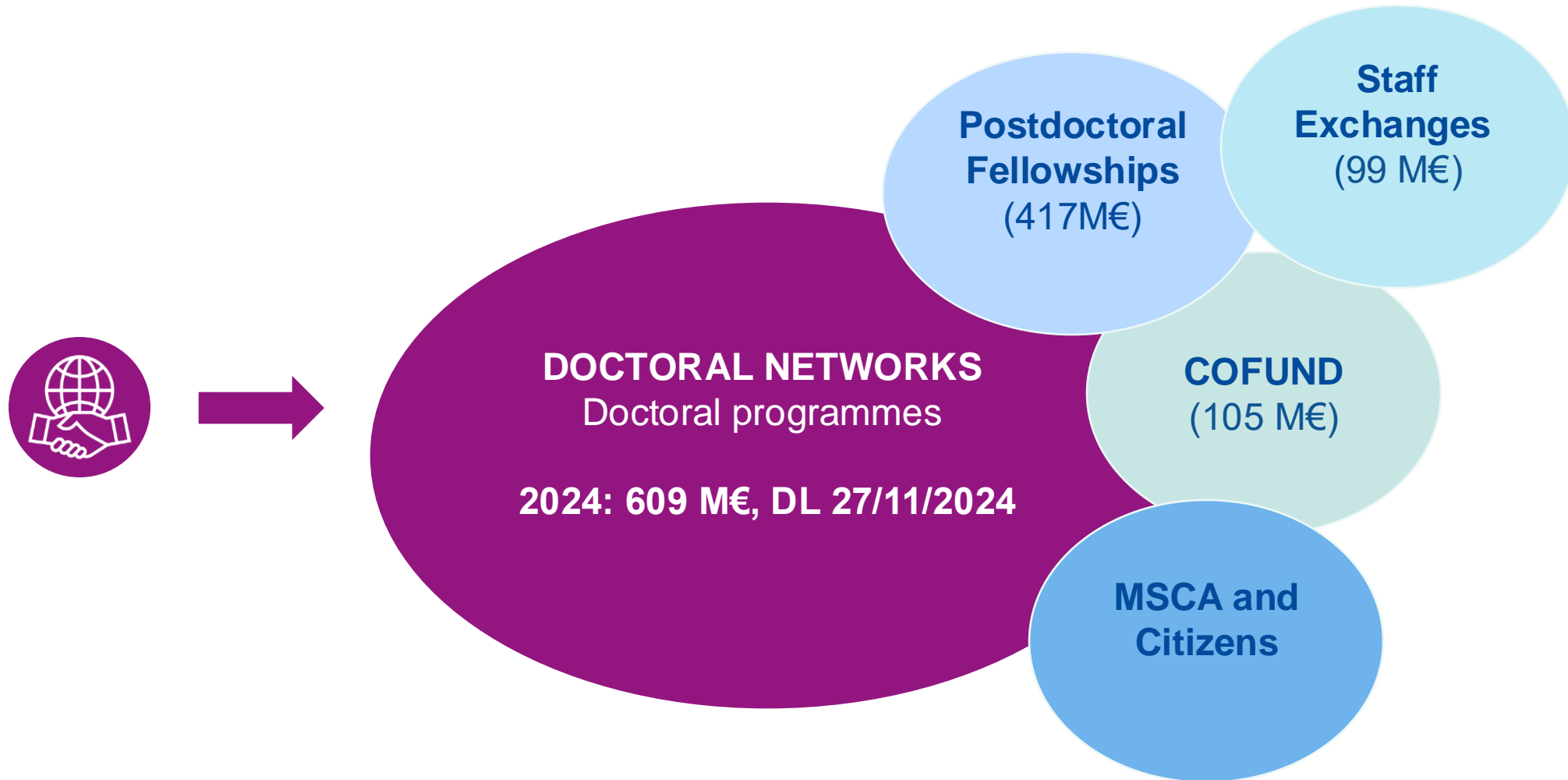**Structuring impact on organizations through excellent programmes**

Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs

European Commission

The MSCA in Horizon Europe

Pillar 1
Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2
Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

Clusters
- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3
Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

European Commission

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Postdoctoral Fellowships (417M€)

Staff Exchanges (99 M€)

DOCTORAL NETWORKS
Doctoral programmes

2024: 609 M€, DL 27/11/2024

COFUND (105 M€)

MSCA and Citizens

European Commission

Part I

a. MSCA Work Programme

b. **MSCA Doctoral Networks**

c. Doctoral networks in more details

What is a Doctoral Network (DN) ?

- ✓ One consortium

- ✓ Proposing a research project

- ✓ With interlinked individual PhD research projects

- ✓ For doctoral candidates

DN expected outputs for doctoral candidates

- Research-related and transferable skills training
- Individual research projects
- Inter-sectoral secondments
- Train DCs to increase career opportunities & employability
- Appropriate supervision
- International mobility
- Career development plan

European Commission

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

European Commission

DN expected impact for Europe

Talent & knowledge circulation via inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary and international mobility

Attractive researchers' careers / better employment conditions

Increase Europe's attractiveness

Strengthen Europe's human capital

Foster open science, innovation and entrepreneurship

Sustainable competitiveness

Sustainable collaboration between organisations / sectors

European Commission

MSCA-DN Strategic Value

Structuring Effects
- Positive impact lasting beyond the lifetime of the project.
- Structuring the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.
- Ripple effect catalysing institutional culture.

Being a Trend-setter
- Emphasis on transferable skills.
- Emphasis on integrating non-academic sector.
- Career development plan.
- Guidelines on supervision.
- Green Charter.

Attractiveness of European Programmes
- Wider access to courses, expertise and infrastructure.
- Skills for innovation and long-term employability.
- International and interdisciplinary experiences widening career prospects.
- Better visibility of European doctoral programmes.

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MSCA-DN evolves from year to year

✓ <u>2022</u>:

- Provide alternative to multiple recruitment in **DN-ID**

- Abolish maximum secondment duration for **DN-ID** and **DN-JD**

- *<u>Simplification</u>*: Abolish requirement of a "Steering Board"

✓ <u>2023</u>:

- Increase the **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

- *<u>Simplification</u>*: Abolish requirement of letters of commitment for Associated Partners

✓ <u>2024</u>:

- Allow organisations from non-associated 3rd countries as degree-awarding institutions in **DN-JD** (jointly with ones from MS/AC)

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Part I

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c. **Doctoral networks in more details**

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Doctoral networks – a bottom-up scheme
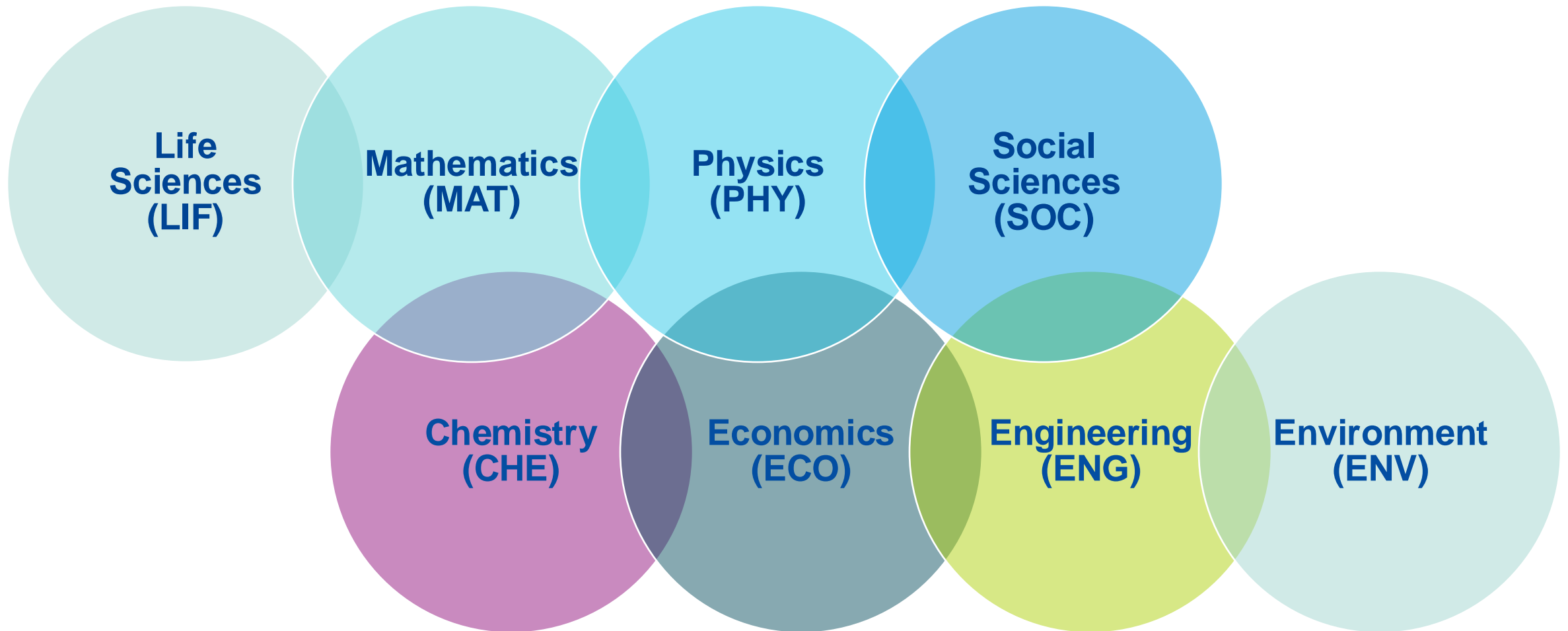
Implementation modes

DN

Doctoral Networks

*Participants implement
a joint research programme*

**DN-ID
Doctoral networks
Industrial
Doctorates**

Doctoral training with the non-academic sector

**DN-JD
Doctoral Networks
Joint
Doctorates**

*Doctoral programme to
deliver joint degrees*

All 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels

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Doctoral Networks – Novelties compared to DN 2023

INCREASED UNIT COSTS

RESUBMISSION RESTRICTIONS

DN-JD ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

European Commission

Important definitions

- **Joint/double/multiple PhD degree**

- **Academic vs Non-Academic sectors**

- **Participant types**

What is a joint or double/multiple degree?

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

Double/multiple degree: <u>2 or more</u> 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

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Academic vs Non-Academic

Academic sector

- ✓ Public or private higher education establishments
- ✓ Public or private non-profit research organisations
- ✓ International European Research Organisations
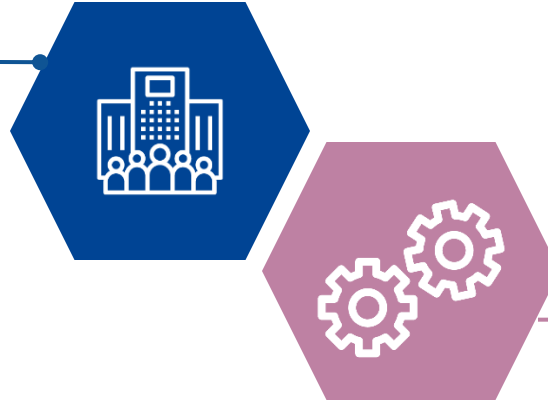
Non-academic sector

- ✓ Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector

Your entity's sector is defined upon its registration in the participant register !

European Commission

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	✔️	❌

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Part II

a. **Eligibility** conditions

Eligible participants

Who can apply?

✓ Any Legal Entity worldwide

✓ But not all applicants are eligible for funding

Consortia

✓ Universities, research institutions and research infrastructures

✓ Businesses including SMEs

✓ Other socio-economic actors

Min. 3 entities from 3 ≥ MS/AC of which 1 from a MS

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

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Some specific cases

✓ Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks

Entities that are assessed as high-risk suppliers of mobile network communication equipment (and any entities they own or control) are not eligible to participate as beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners.

✓ Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine not eligible to participate in any capacity

For further details, please refer to Horizon Europe - Work programme 2023-2025 General Annexes

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Eligible size and duration

Size

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

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 1/3 of the fellowship duration for Standard DN
  - incentive for DN-ID and DN-JD **no secondment limitation**

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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 2023

Specific eligibility conditions for Industrial and Joint Doctorates

European Commission

Specific eligibility conditions

Industrial doctorates (DN-ID)

✓ Min **50% in non-academic sector**

✓ **Non-academic** sector as **Beneficiary** or **Associated Partner (full flexibility)**

✓ **No secondment limitation**

✓ Academic and non-academic organisations **jointly supervise**

European Commission

Specific eligibility conditions

Joint doctorates (DN-JD)

- ✓ Min 3 participants **awarding PhD**, 1 of which from **MS/AC**

- ✓ Enrolment in **joint/double/multiple PhD** (delivered by different entities from min. 1 MS/AC)

- ✓ Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance

- ✓ Letters of **pre-agreement** to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)

- ✓ Max **48 months** fellowship, max **60 months** network

European Commission

Summary

	DN (Standard)	DN-ID (Industrial)	DN-JD (Joint)

Consortium
- Min 3 entities from 3 different EU MS/AC (Min 1 from MS)
- Each beneficiary must recruit at least 1 DC
- Max 40% funding per country
- AP can't recruit, but can host secondments and provide training

	DN (Standard) / DN-ID (Industrial)	DN-JD (Joint)
Project Duration	Max 48 months	Max 60 months
DC contract	Max 36 months	Max 48 months
Secondments	Max 1/3 fellowship	No limitation on secondment duration

European Commission

Eligible researchers

Doctoral candidates

- ✓ **No doctoral degree** at the date of recruitment

- ✓ **Open, merit-based and transparent recruitment** procedure

- ✓ **Enrolled in a PhD** from min 1 EU MS/AC

- ✓ Any nationality

- ✓ fulfill the **MSCA mobility condition:**

  DCs 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.

Summary

| DN (Standard) | DN-ID (Industrial) | DN-JD (Joint) |

Researcher

Doctoral Candidates (no PhD at time of recruitment)

MSCA mobility condition

Open, fair, transparent recruitment. Any nationality

Must all be enrolled in a PhD from a MS/AC

Enrolled in joint/double/multiple PhD from min 1 MS/AC

50% in non-academic

European Commission

Part III

a. **Funding mechanism**

b. Evaluation criteria

c. Resources

Funding mechanism

- ✓ Fully based on unit costs

- ✓ 1 person-month = 1 unit

- ✓ Amount in EUR per unit cost

- ✓ Total costs = costs per unit x number of units

- ✓ 100% Reimbursement rate for eligible beneficiaries

1 unit
=
1 month of
eligible DC

European Commission

Cost categories

	A. Contributions for recruited researchers				B. Institutional contributions	
A1. Living allowance (€)	A2. Mobility allowance (€)	A3. Family allowance (if applicable) (€)	A4. Long term leave (if applicable) (€)	A5. Special needs (if applicable) (€)	B1. Research training and networking contribution (€)	B2. Management and indirect contribution (€)
4010*	710	660	4000 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit x 1/ number of PM	1600	1200

*gross amount multiplied by country correction coefficient

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Part III

a. Funding mechanism

b. **Evaluation criteria**

c. Resources

Overview of Evaluation Process
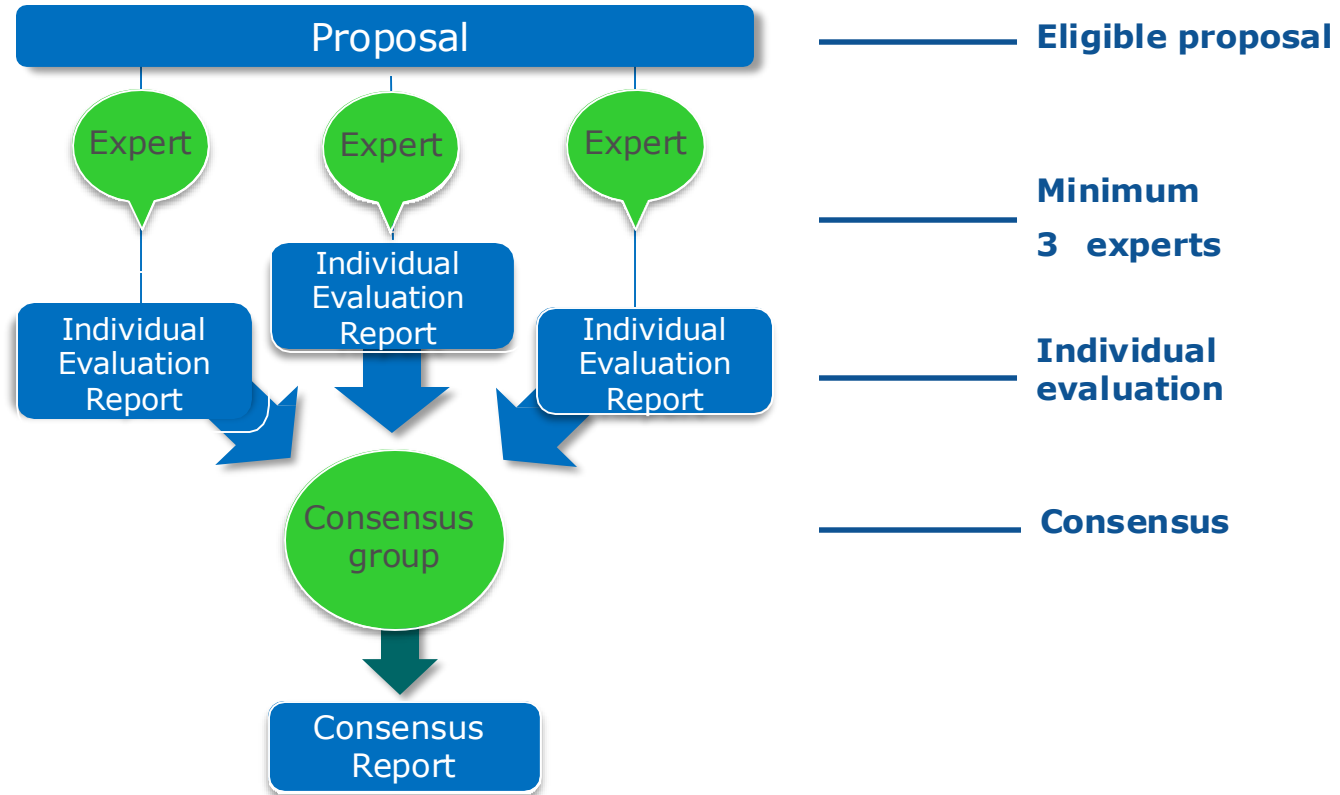
Doctoral Networks – Award Criteria

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

Doctoral Networks – How to apply?
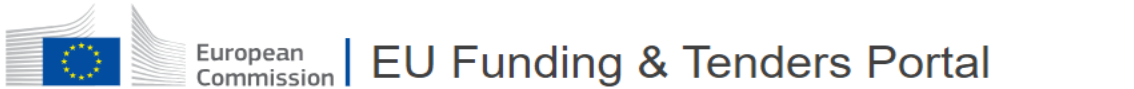

Useful documents

- MSCA Work Programme
- Horizon Europe programme guide
- Guide for Applicants
- Proposal templates
- F&T portal Online Manual on how to submit an application
- Frequently Asked Questions

**Part A
(structured data)**

**Part B
(description of action)**
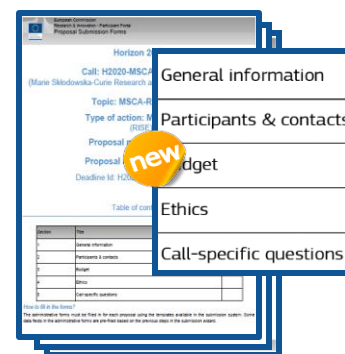
Part B1: 30 pages
Part B2: no limit

Doctoral Networks – How to apply?

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

🏠 Home | Funding ▼ | Procurement ▼ | Projects & results ▼ | News & events ▼ | Work as an

Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01

Topic Call for proposal

Internal navigation

- General information
- Topic description
- Destination
- Conditions and documents
- Partner search announcements
- Start submission
- Topic Q&As
- Get support

General information

Programme
Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

Call
MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01)

Type of action
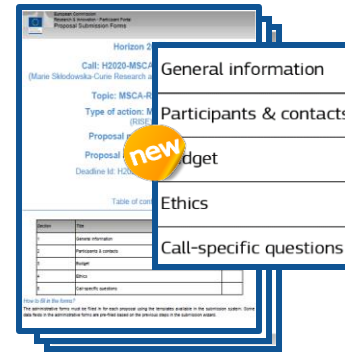HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates

Useful documents

- DN 2024 Guide for Applicants
- Proposal templates
- Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025
- Horizon Europe programme guide
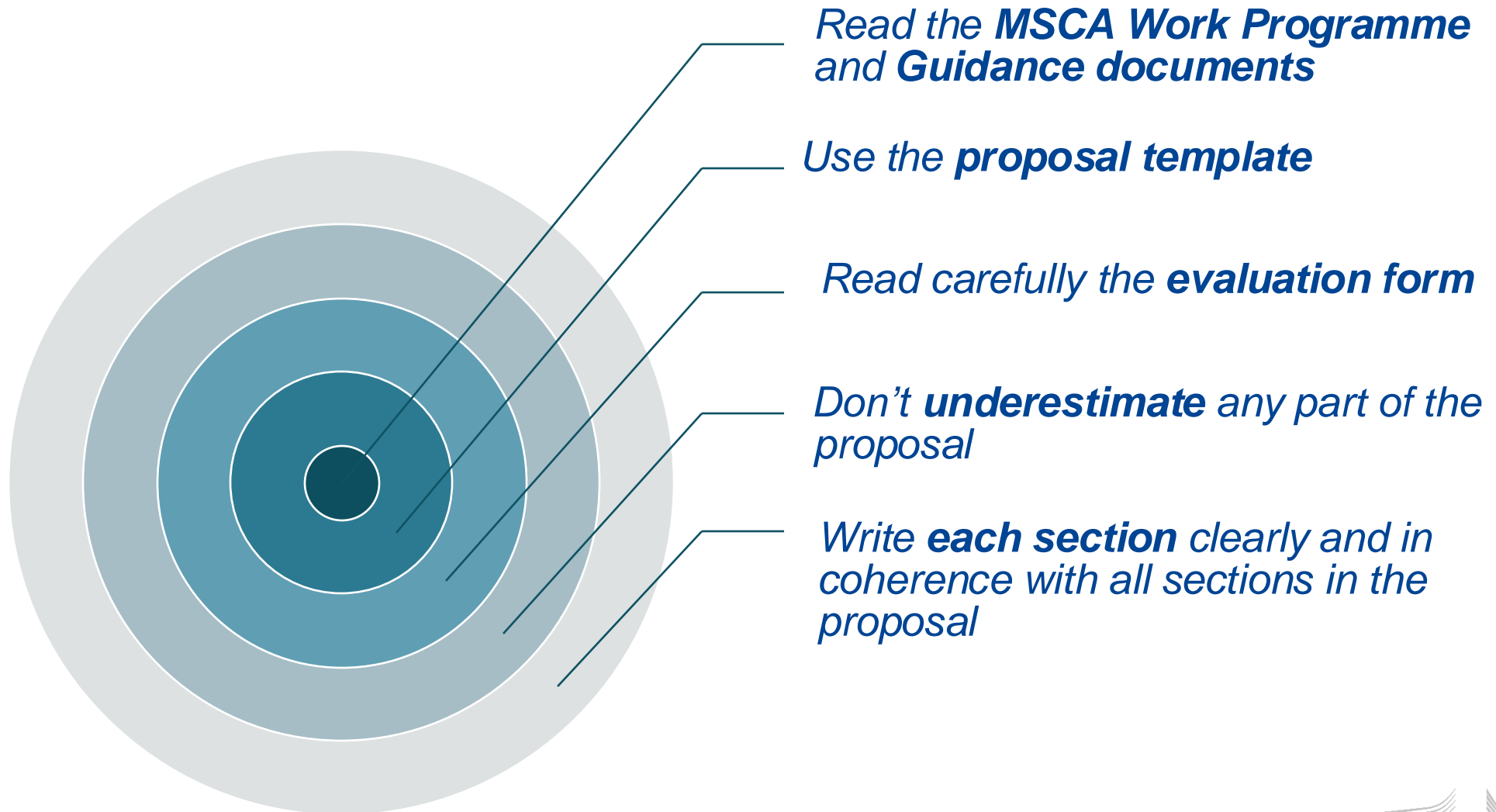- F&T Manual on how to submit a proposal
- Topic Q&A under F&T portal

**Part A
(structured data)**

General information
Participants & contacts
Budget
Ethics
Call-specific questions

**Part B
(description of action)**

Part B1: 30 page
Part B2: no limit

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

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Proposal preparation

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

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Think like an evaluator

Write for an evaluator

Part III

a. Funding mechanism

b. Evaluation criteria

c. **Resources**

Doctoral Networks – Resources

Useful links

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

MSCA website

European Research Executive Agency website

MSCA Guidelines on Supervision

Code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers

MSCA list of descriptors

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**

European Commission

> **You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals**
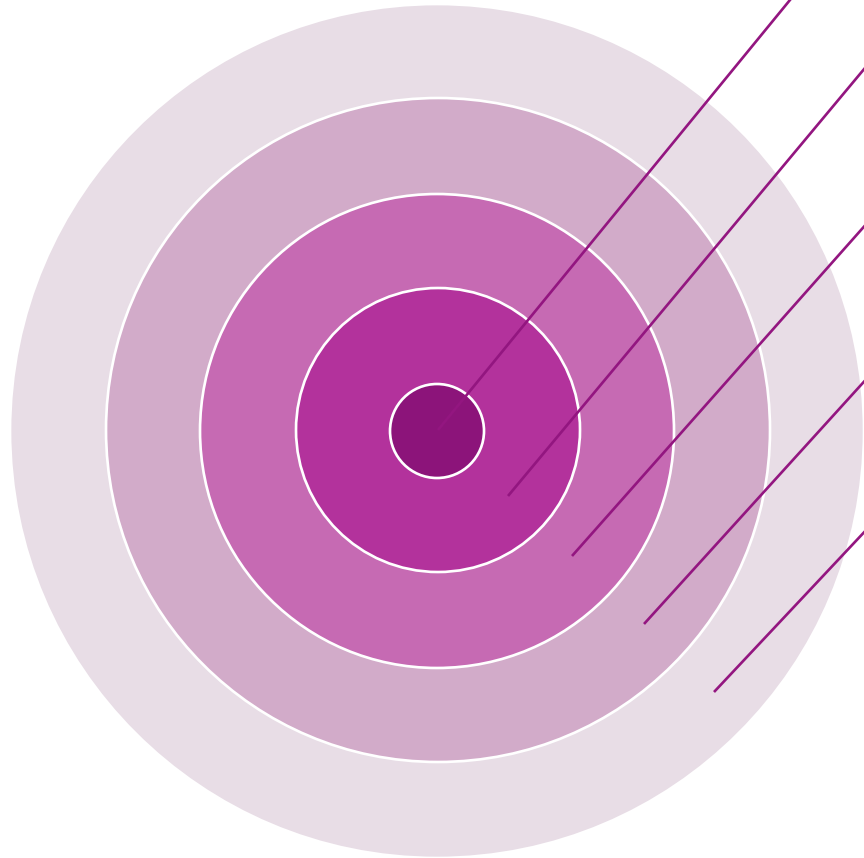
Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Final Tips

READ the guidance

FOLLOW the templates

WRITE clearly

SUBMIT on time

FINAL CHECK

All the best!!!

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