

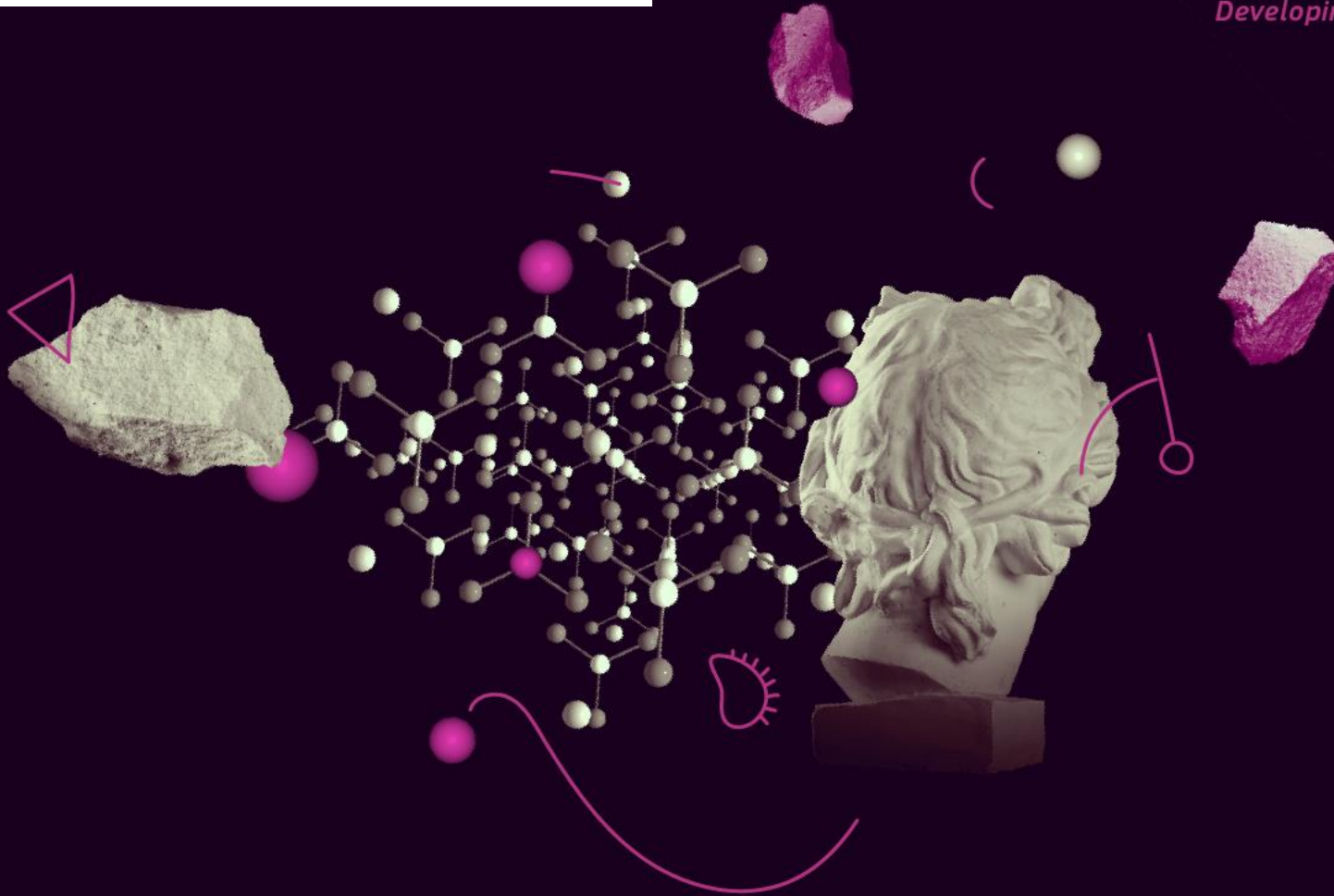


REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION,
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research



MSCA workshop Doctoral Networks

eUTOPIA

Rectors' Forum of Southeast Europe and
Western Balkans

University of Ljubljana, 21 November 2024

Dr. Stojan Sorčan, NCP MSCA



MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

*Developing talents,
advancing research*

AGENDA MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS (DN)

21 November 2024

University of Ljubljana

1. The role of the NCP's for MSCA
2. MSCA as a part of HORIZON EUROPE
3. MSCA key features
4. Call for MSCA DN
5. MSCA DN key elements
 - Eligibility criteria, recruitment, training, supervision, outcome and funding
6. Supporting materials and guidelines
7. Consortium set-up in DN
8. DN proposal structure
 - Evaluation criteria
9. Statistics
10. Questions



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MSCA National Contact Point



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
Developing talents, advancing research



Do you have questions about your #MSCA application?

Our National Contact Points can help you with:



Guidance



Eligibility checks



Practical questions

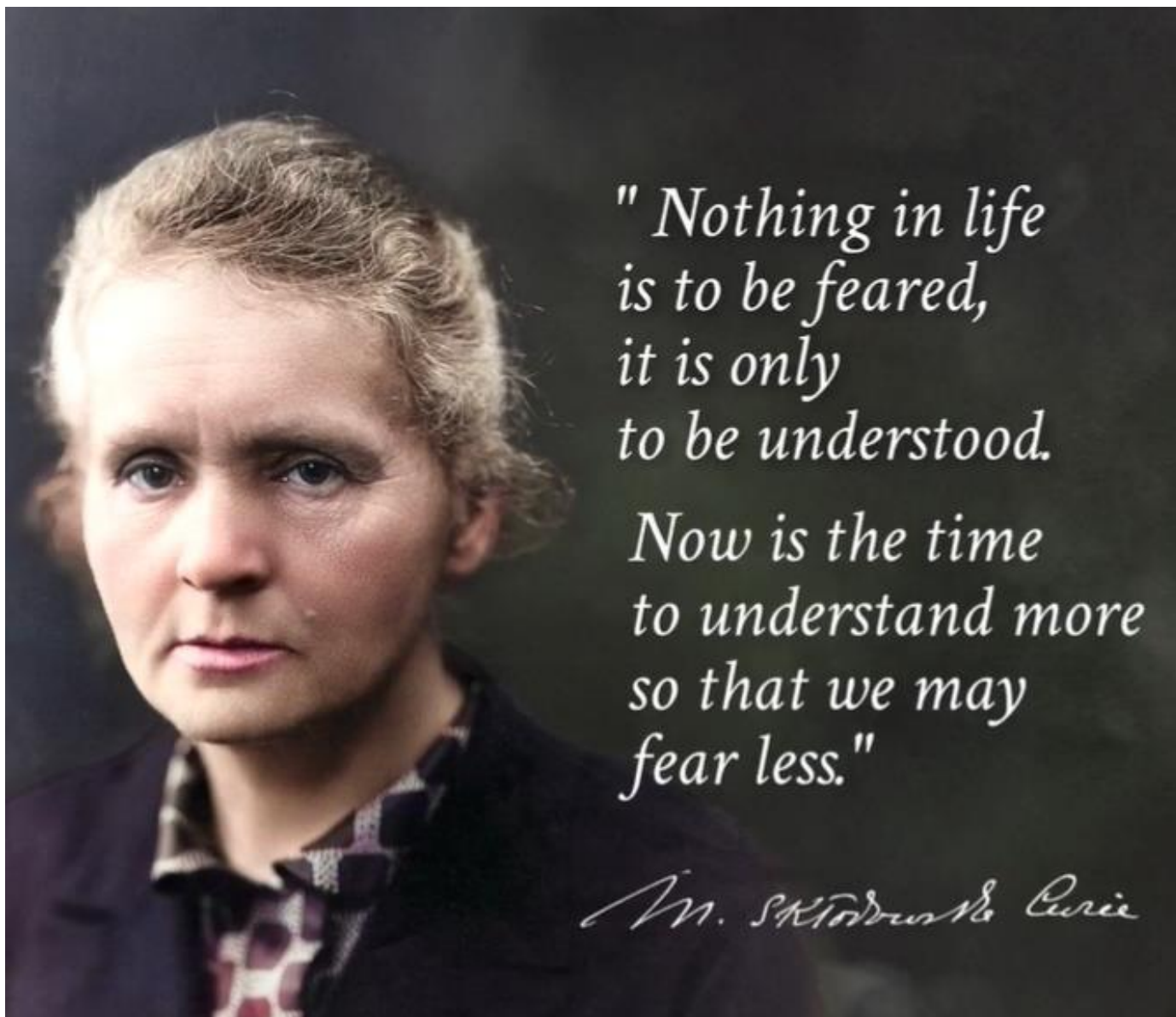


Proposal screening

Useful links:

- [Home - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)
- [Home Page - MSCA-NET](#)
- [Najnovejše informacije za javnost, NCP MSCA v Obzorju Evropa](#)
- stojan.sorcan@gov.si 
- [\(1\) Stojan Sorcan | LinkedIn](#) 





*" Nothing in life
is to be feared,
it is only
to be understood.*

*Now is the time
to understand more
so that we may
fear less."*

M. Skłodowska Curie

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research

[Home](#)[About MSCA](#) ▼[Actions](#) ▼[Funding](#)[Jobs](#)[Resources](#) ▼[What's new](#) ▼[Science is Wonderful!](#) ▼

You are here: [Home](#) / [Actions](#) / [Doctoral Networks](#) / [6 steps to prepare your application](#)

6 steps to prepare your application

1. [Get familiar with how funding works](#)

Today presentation!

2. [Make sure your organisation and consortium can apply](#)

3. [Find the best partners to prepare your proposal](#)

4. [Start drafting your application](#)

January workshop!

5. [Check your application with your peers](#)

6. [Submit your application](#)

HORIZON EUROPE (2021-2027)



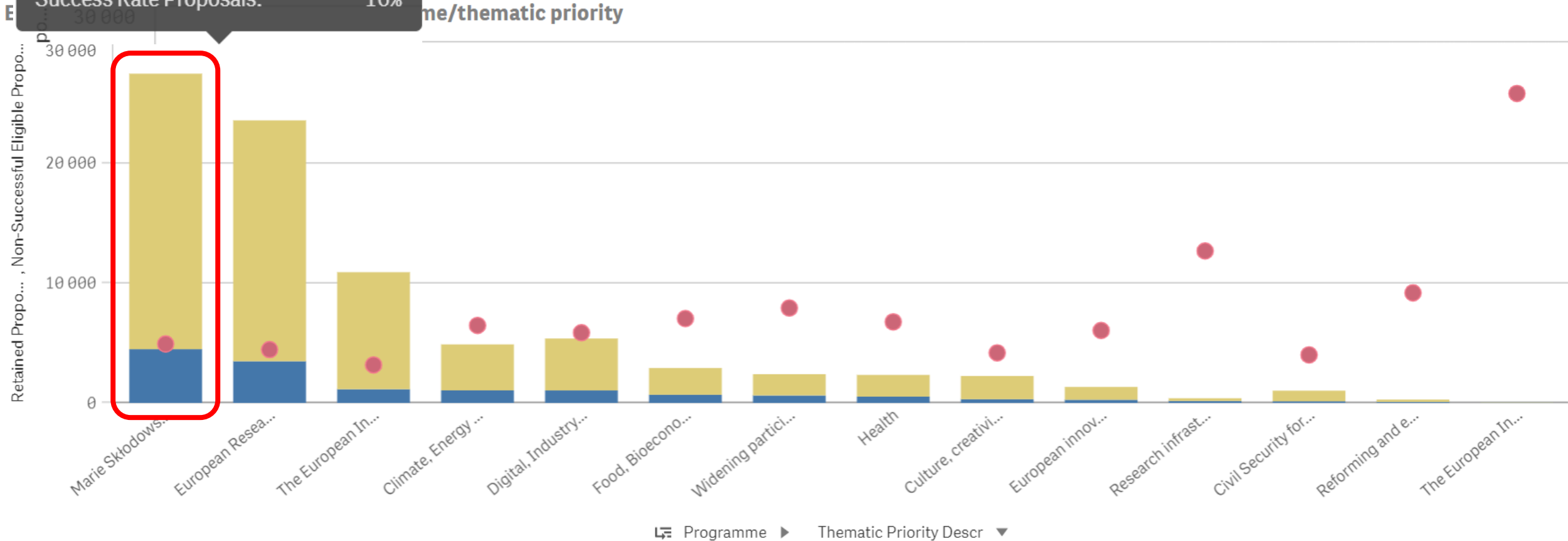
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
(MSCA)

Retained Proposals: 4 470

Non-Successful Eligible
Proposals: 22 889

Success Rate Proposals: 16%

Retained proposals by programme Horizon Europe, October 2024



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



Since 1996

Researcher Training
and Mobility



International and Inter-
Sectoral



Bottom-Up Approach



150,000 +





The Excellent Science pillar aims to increase the EU's global scientific competitiveness by reinforcing and extending the excellence of the Union's science base.

European Research Council

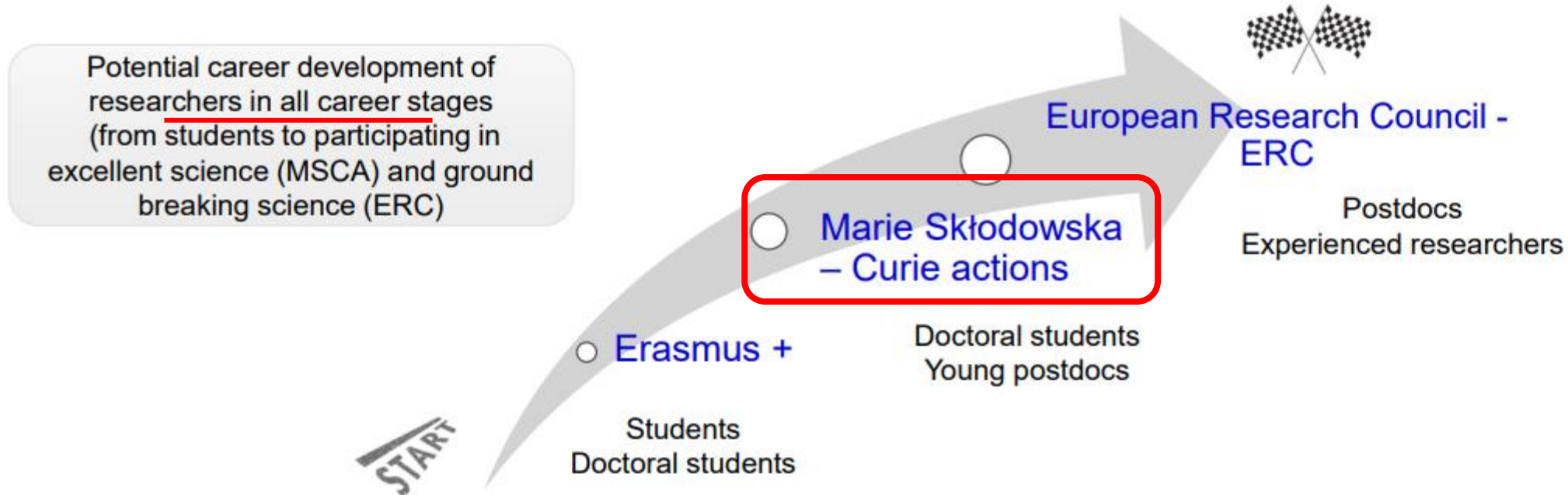
- Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

- Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

Research Infrastructures

- Integrated and interconnected world-class research infrastructures



EU's reference programme for doctoral and postdoctoral training, contributing to:

- ✓ A highly skilled research-based human capital able to detect and tackle upcoming challenges, communicate scientific evidence to policy-makers and the public, and work across disciplines
- ✓ Develop excellent doctoral programmes enhancing the global attractiveness and visibility of institutions involved in them
- ✓ Provide researchers with skills needed in the labour market, to innovate and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit
- ✓ Promote the EU's global attractiveness for talents

3i Dimension of MSCA

MSCA-NET

INTERNATIONAL mobility rule
..." 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 referent date."

INTERSECTORAL mobility
via secondments, non-academic placement
and industrial doctorates

INTERDISCIPLINARY projects
8 evaluation panels
(LIFE, CHE, PHY, MAT, ENG, ECO, SOC,
ENV)



Academic sector

Non-academic
sector

- ✓ Public or private higher education organisation
- ✓ Public or private non-profit research organisation
- ✓ International European Research Organisations

Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector

Aim is to develop transferable skills (e.g. innovation, entrepreneurship) leading to improved **employability and career prospects within and outside academia**

Introduction to MSCA

Key features



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



- MSCA budget under Horizon Europe: **6,6B€**
- **Excellent Science (Pillar 1)**: reinforcing and extending the excellence of the EU's science base
- **Worldwide** geographic coverage



**European
Commission**



Implementation of the **European Research Area (ERA)**

Strengthening Europe's Research and Innovation



[#EUResearchArea](#)

October 2024

The **European Research Area** (ERA) is an initiative aimed at creating a **single, borderless market** for research, innovation and technology across the European Union. It fosters the free mobility of researchers, scientific knowledge, and technology, allowing EU Member States to work more effectively together on research programmes and initiatives.



Contribution to the
**European Research Area
(ERA) and European
Education Area (EEA)**

Contribution to the **EU
external policy objectives**

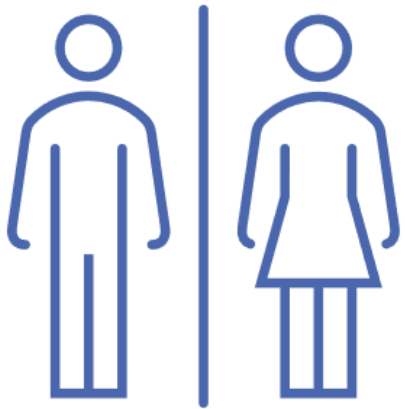
Commitment to the
**European Charter for
Researchers and the Code
of Conduct for the
Recruitment of
Researchers**

Commitment to the
**Innovative Doctoral
Training Principles**

Underlying Principles of
**Open Science,
Responsible Research &
Innovation (RRI)**

Contribution to the
**European Green Deal
objectives and UN
Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs)**





- MSCA programme actively promote and support **equality, diversity, and inclusion** throughout the various types of funded actions by ensuring **gender and family friendly funding conditions**. The measures include:
- equal pay,
- a dedicated family allowance,
- flexible part-time working arrangements,
- a special needs allowance,
- a long-term leave allowance,
- and • maternity/parental leave in line with host organisation's national rules.

Under Horizon 2020, 42% of all MSCA fellows were women, and they were more successful than men when applying for an Individual Fellowship.

Source: [EURAXESS](#)

- New provisions:

Integrating the gender dimension into research and innovation is a requirement by default



Developing inclusive gender equality policies in support of the new European Research Area, and empowering women



Gender Equality Plans are an eligibility requirement for public bodies, research organisations and higher education establishments in EU member states and associated countries applying to the programme from 2022



Commission launches EU missions to tackle major challenges

Training Programme 2021-2025). All MSCA will complement top-down collaborative research activities, notably contributing to the EU Missions.

MISSION AREAS:

Soil health and food



Cancer



Adaptation to climate change, including societal transformation



Climate-neutral and smart cities



Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters



#HorizonEU



European
Commission

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Doctoral
Networks

COFUND

Postdoctoral
Fellowships

Staff
Exchanges

MSCA and
Citizens



MSCA Call Opening and Deadline, Indicative budget overall/per person-month

Postdoctoral Fellowships	Doctoral Networks	Staff Exchange	COFUND	MSCA and CITIZENS
9 Apr – 10 Sept 2025	28 May – 25 Nov 2025	27 Mar – 8 Oct 2025	23 Jan – 24 Jun 2025	17 Jun – 22 Oct 2025
343,65 mio EUR	597,8 mio EUR	97,71 mio EUR	105,56 mio EUR	16,25 mio EUR
per person-month 9.010 EUR	per person-month 8.180 EUR	per person-month 5.010 EUR	per person-month DP = 3.300 EUR + ben. PP = 4.700 EUR + ben.	



Postdoctoral Fellowship

- Recruited researchers can be of any nationality and must comply with the following **mobility rule**: they 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.



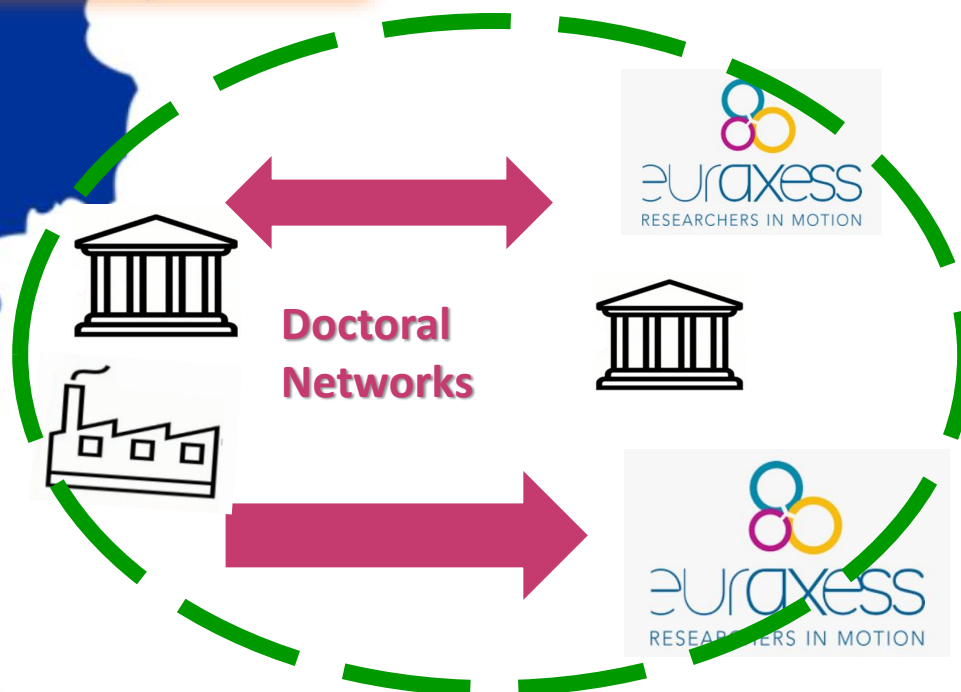
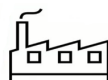
COFUND



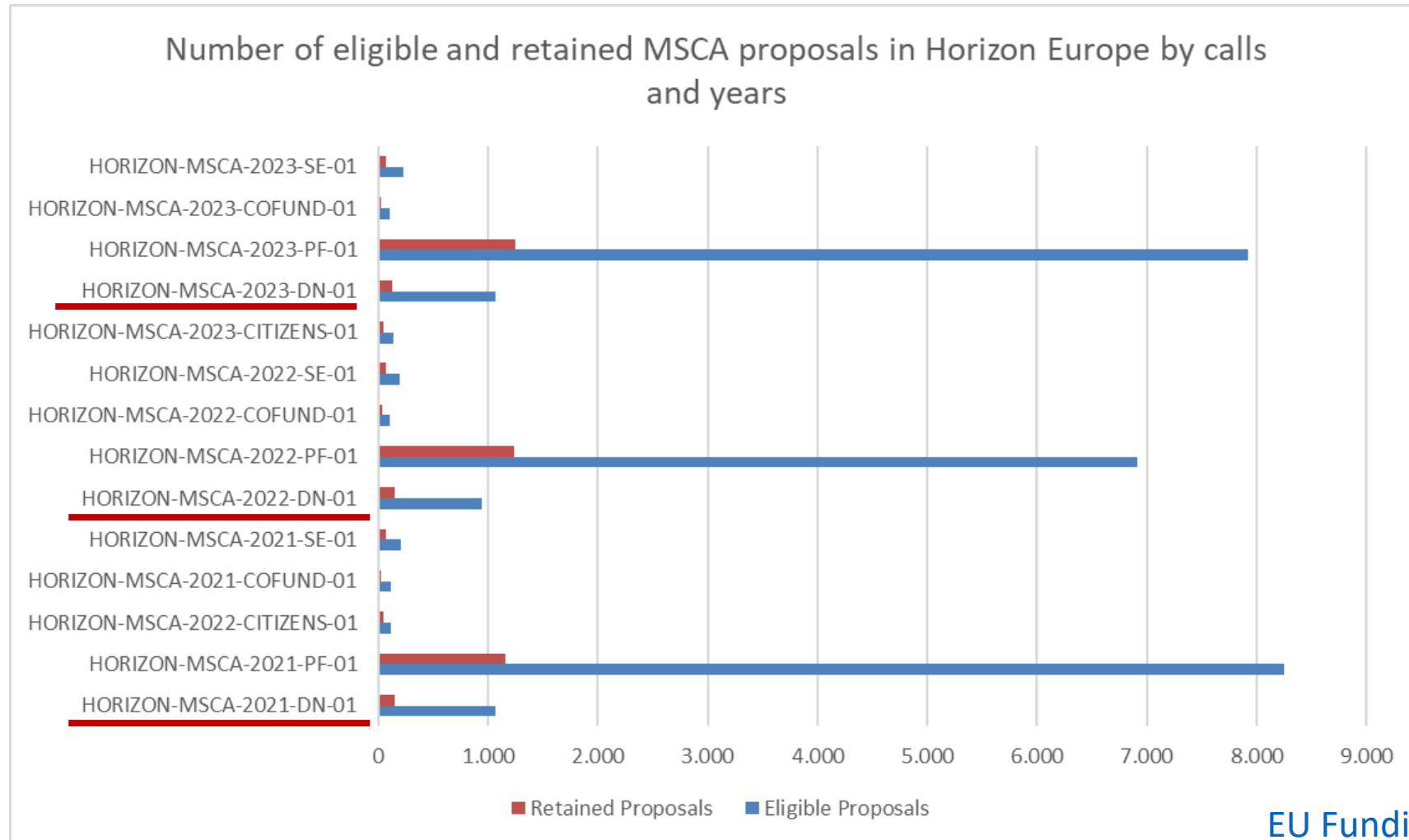
© Aivazovsky / WikiCommons



Staff Exchange

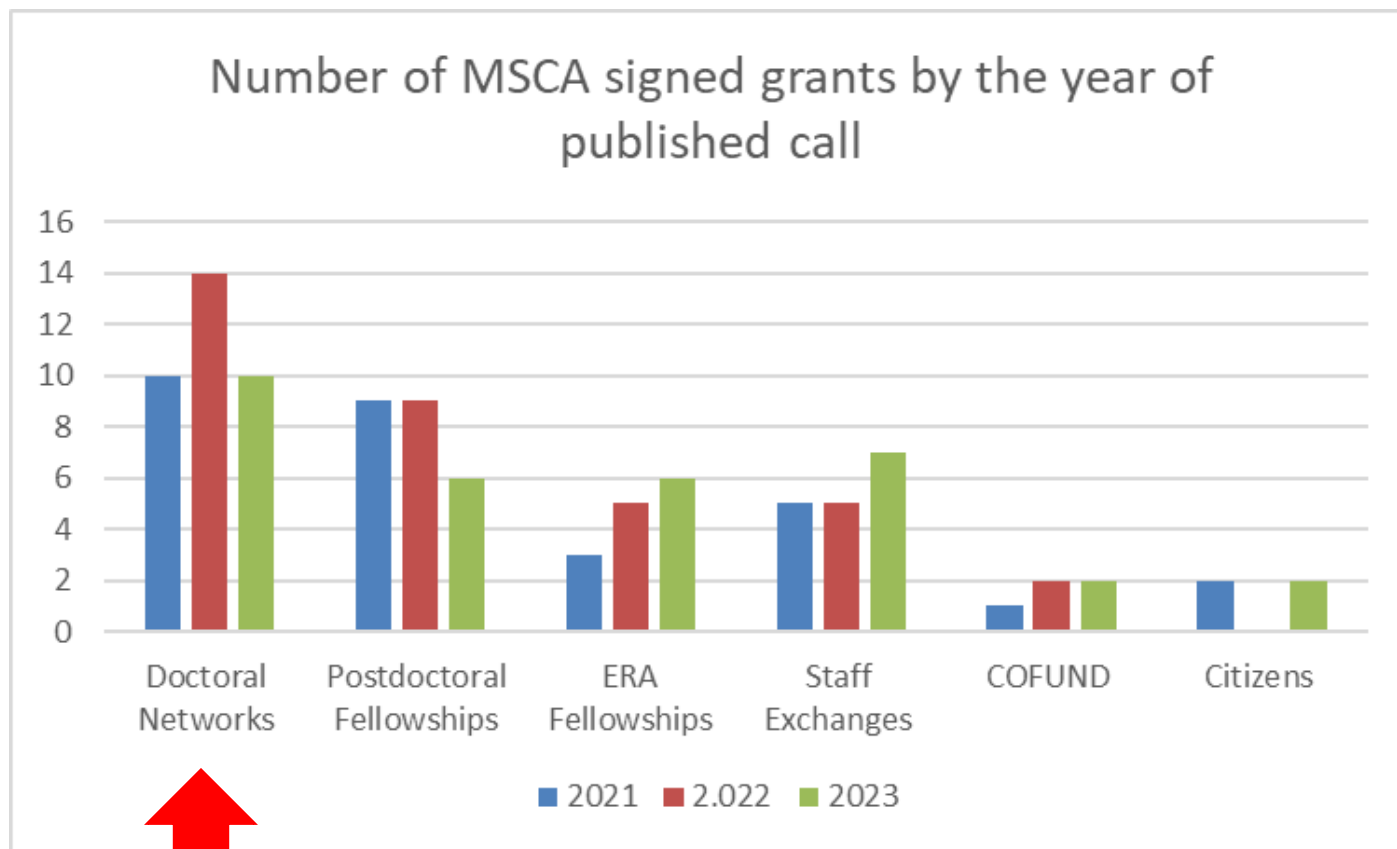


Number of eligible and retained MSCA proposals in Horizon Europe by calls and years



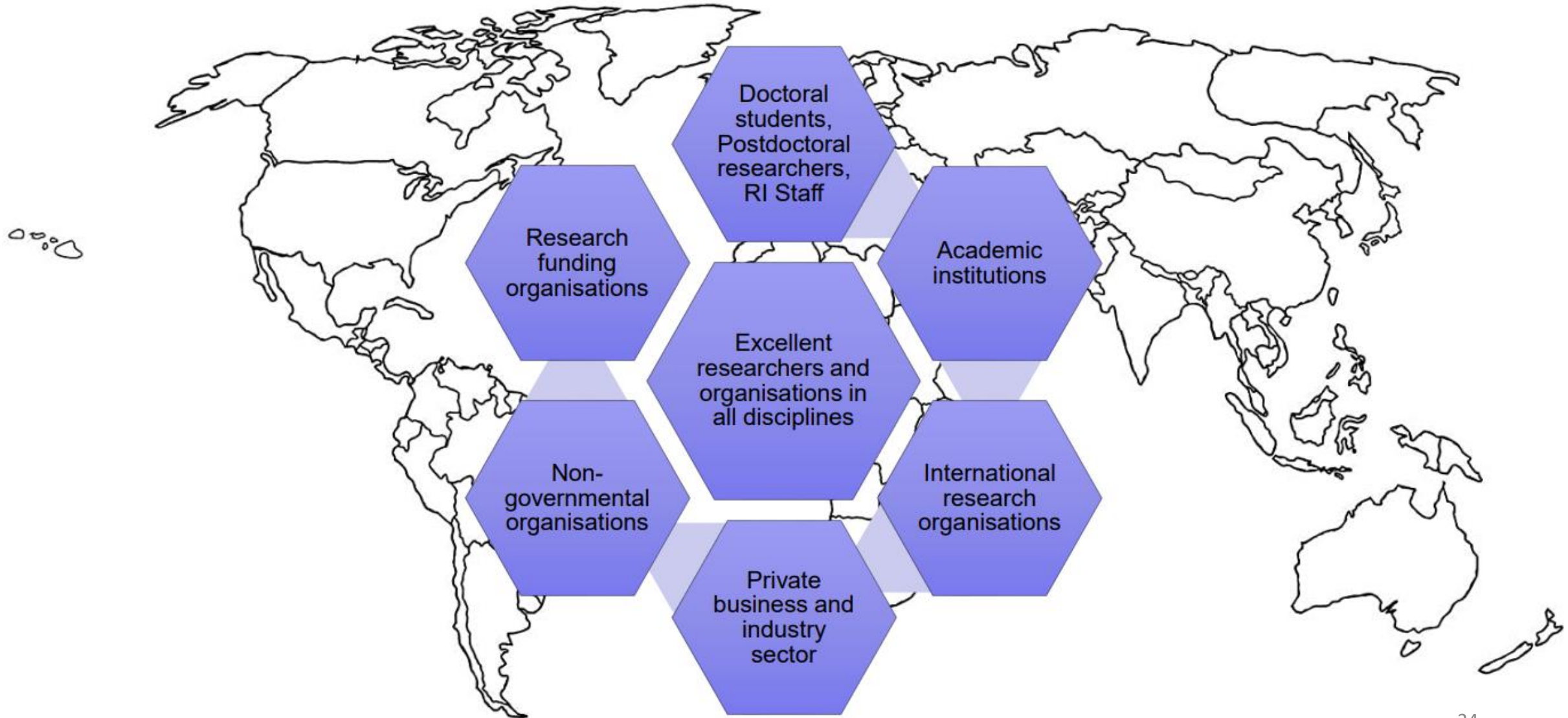


Signed grants for MSCA project by type and year of published call in Slovenia



Who can participate

MSCA-NET



Who can be funded

MSCA-NET



EU member states



Third Countries' (TC)
participants from the low- to
middle-income countries



International European research
organisations established in a
Member State



Associated Countries (AC)
to Horizon Europe



Participants from other countries that are not automatically eligible for funding can however receive exceptional funding, if their country is explicitly identified in the work programme and call for proposals and if their participation as a beneficiary is essential for implementing the project

[Topic](#) [Call for proposal](#)

Internal navigation

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

General information

Programme

Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

[€ Budget overview](#)

680,60 mio
EUR

Call

[MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024 \(HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01\)](#)

Type of action

HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN HORIZON TMA MSCA
Doctoral Networks

Type of MGA

HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

 Forthcoming

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

HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

 Forthcoming

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

HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

 Forthcoming

Deadline model

single-stage

Planned opening date

29 May 2024

Deadline date

27 November 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time



EN

Horizon Europe
Work Programme 2023-2025

2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

(European Commission Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024)

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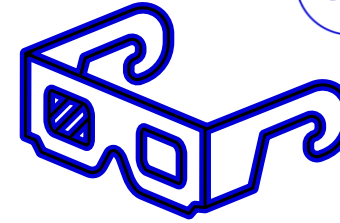
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- What **objectives**, **outcome** and **impact** project should achieve
- The **scope** provides applicants with expected project **objectives** that need to be included in a proposal.
- The **scope** provides information on:
 - what type of **challenges** the project should be addresssing,
 - what should be the project's **purpose**
 - and also identifies **other aspects** that must be considerd when writting the proposal (policy context, gender dimension, open science, responsible research and innovation, EU competition, EU green deal...)

Frame your idea within the Work programme!

(EXPECTED) SCOPE OF THE MSCA DN PROPOSAL:

Scope: MSCA Doctoral Networks will **implement doctoral programmes** by partnerships of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond. MSCA Doctoral Networks are indeed open to the participation of organisations from third countries, in view of fostering strategic international partnerships for the training and exchange of researchers.

These doctoral programmes will respond to well-identified needs in various R&I areas, expose the researchers to the academic and non-academic sectors, and offer training in research-related, as well as transferable skills and competences relevant for innovation and long-term employability (e.g. entrepreneurship, commercialisation of results, Intellectual Property Rights, communication). Proposals for doctoral networks can reflect existing or planned research partnerships among the participating organisations.



EXPECTED OUTCOME FOR DOCTORAL CANDIDATES:

HORIZON-MSCA-2025-DN-01-01: MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

For supported doctoral candidates

- New research and transferable skills and competences, leading to improved employability and career prospects within and outside academia;
- New knowledge allowing the conversion of ideas into products and services, where relevant;
- Enhanced networking and communication capacities with scientific peers, as well as with the general public that will increase and broaden the research and innovation impact.

EXPECTED OUTCOME FOR ORGANISATIONS:

For participating organisations

- Improved quality, relevance and sustainability of doctoral training programmes and supervision arrangements;
- Enhanced cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines;
- Increased integration of training and research activities between participating organisations;
- Boosted R&I capacity;
- Increased internationalisation and attractiveness;
- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organisations.

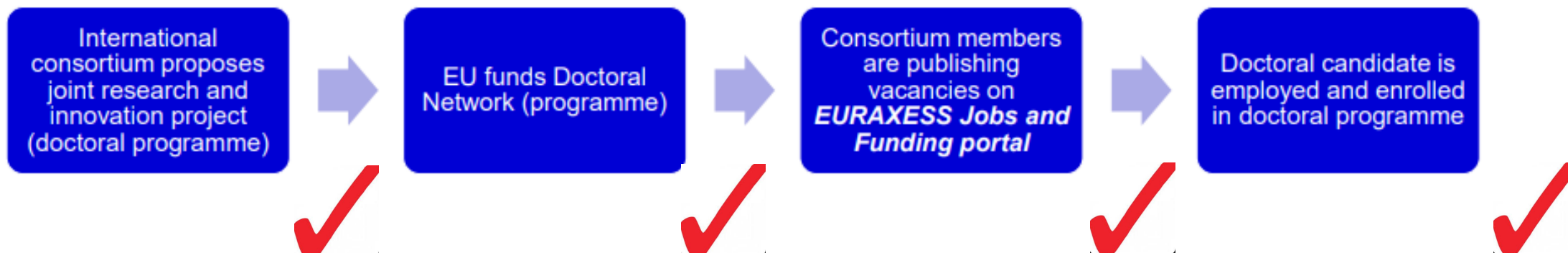


European
Commission

Consortium research and innovation project setting up doctoral programmes, including

- **Industrial Doctorates:** Training in academia and industry (50% in the non-academic sector), joint supervision
- **Joint Doctorates:** Joint collaborations leading to a joint/multiple doctoral degree, joint selection and supervision; pre-agreement for joint degrees required

Aim	✓ Respond to well-identified needs in various R&I areas (bottom-up), ✓ Expose the researchers to the academic and non-academic sectors, and offer training in research related, as well as competences relevant for innovation and long-term employability
Focus	✓ Research and transferable skills, (intersectoral secondments), ✓ Career development plan and supervision, ✓ Internationalisation / attractiveness of organisations/ doctoral programmes
Duration	Programme: max. 48 months, 60 months for Joint Doctorates Fellowship: between 3 and 36 months, 48 months for Joint Doctorates



Types of Doctoral Networks	Doctoral Networks - regular	Doctoral Networks – Industrial doctorates	Doctoral Networks – Joint doctorates
Consortium members	At least 3 independent legal entities, each established in a different EU MS / HE AC and with at least 1 of them established in an EU MS.		
Academic sector	No restrictions	Minimum 1	Minimum of 3 organisations awarding PhD recognized in at least 2 EU MS or AC
Non – academic sector	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions
Maximum number of person months	540 (15 doctoral candidates)	540 (15 doctoral candidates)	540 (15 doctoral candidates)
Max 40.0% budget for 1 country/international organisation	Mandatory		
Beneficiary or associated partner/associated partner linked to a beneficiary awarding PhD	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Joint/double/multiple award of PhD	Optional	Optional	Mandatory
Joint/double/multiple degree – letter of pre-agreement	N/A	N/A	Mandatory
Joint supervision for researchers	Encouraged	Mandatory (2 sectors)	Mandatory
Researchers enrolment in the PhD	Mandatory		
Stay in non-academic sector	Encouraged	Minimum 50% of fellowship duration	Encouraged
Secondments (worldwide)	Up to 1/3 of fellowship duration	No limitation	No limitation
Ranking list	8 panels (CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC)		



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



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

Who applies

Consortia of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors.

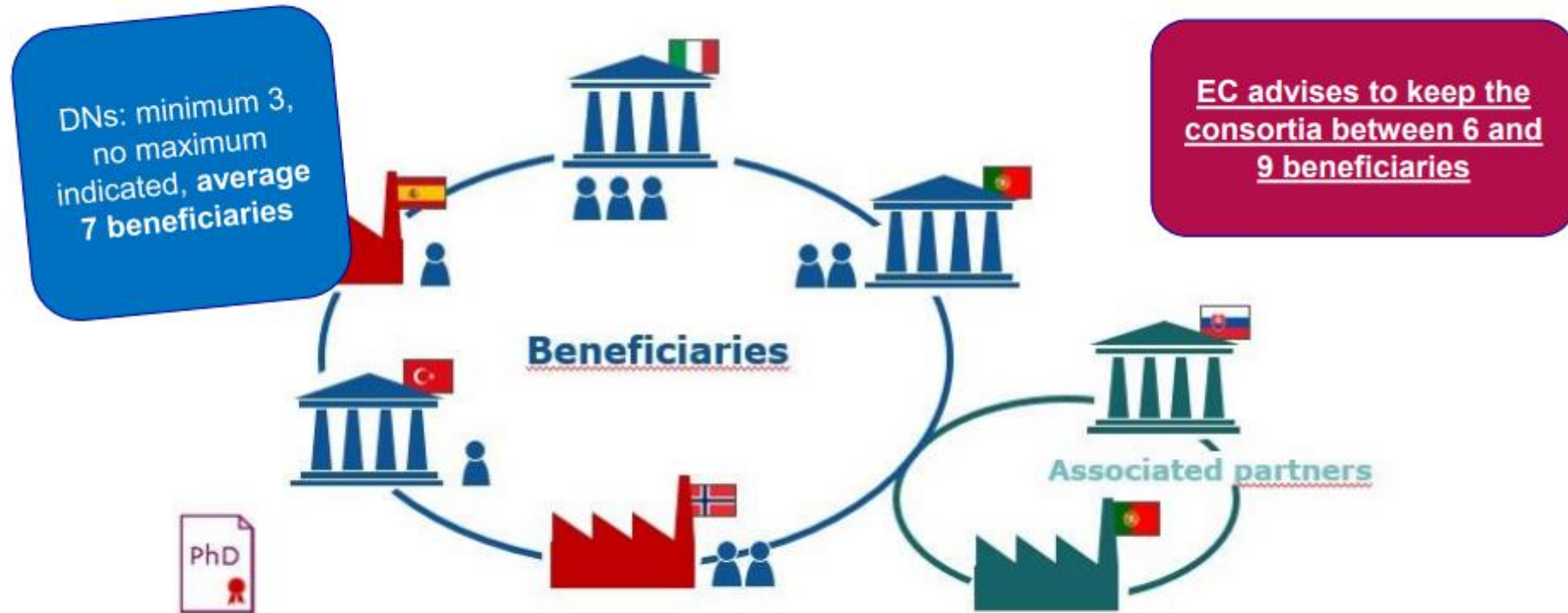
At least three independent legal entities, each established in a different EU MS or HE AC; minimum of 1 beneficiary from an EU MS (on top of this minimum, any entity from any third country can join; no minimum for associated partners).

All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate. They are required to host at their premises and supervise recruited researchers or use associated partners linked to them to do so.

	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 Network – example consortium

MSCA-NET



Secondments



Secondments

- ✓ In Standard DNs : DCs can be seconded for up to 1/3 of their recruitment duration
- ✓ In **Industrial** Doctorates or **Joint** Doctorates: no ceiling for **secondment duration**
- ✓ Only to beneficiaries, associated partners, or entities with capital/legal link included in the **list of participants**
- ✓ **Must** involve **physical** mobility
- ✓ **Virtual mobility** can also be envisaged to complement physical mobility, facilitate long-distance collaboration and be an effective means to faster achieving research and training objectives. This virtual mobility will not count towards the maximum secondment time.

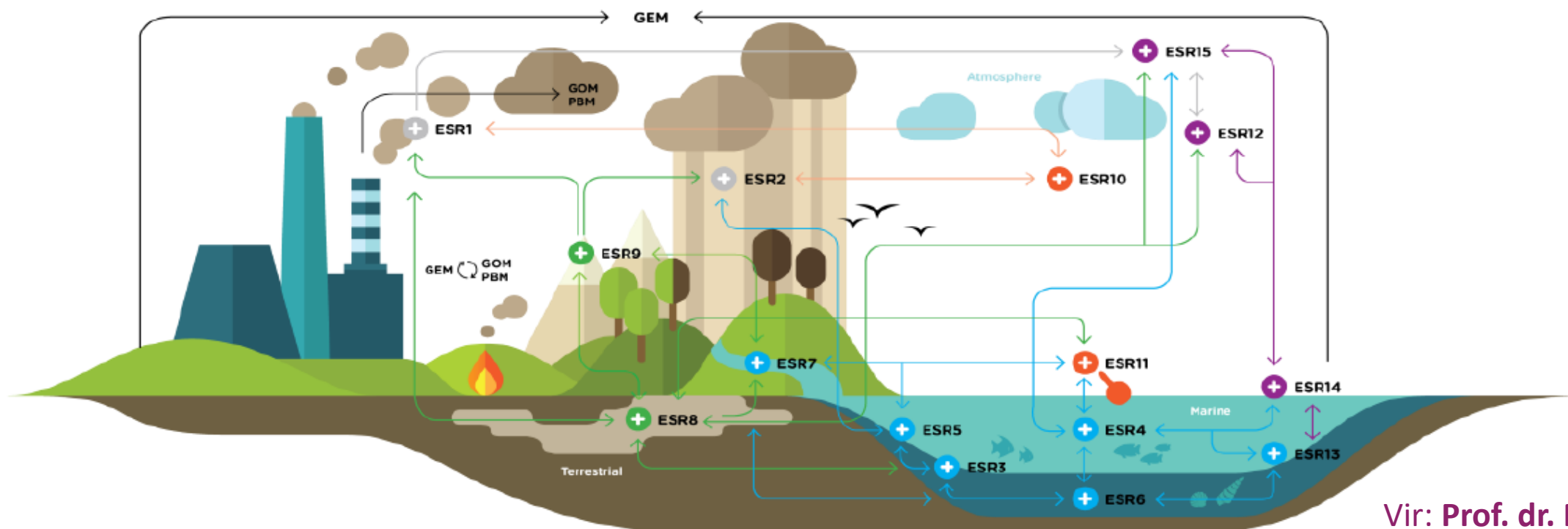
15 Early Stage Researchers

Global biogeochemical Hg Cycle

www.gmos-train.eu

The overall objectives are:

- 1) to provide urgently needed training in Hg science within the context of the UNEP Minamata Convention
- 2) to fill key knowledge gaps in biogeochemical Hg cycling linking anthropogenic emissions and Hg in marine food webs



Vir: Prof. dr. Milena Horvat, IJS, MIZŠ Info day, 3.5.21



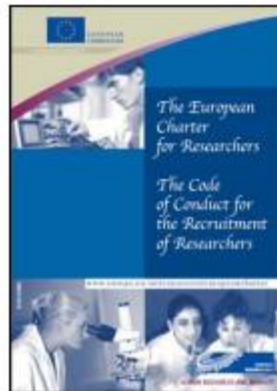
Supported researchers of **any nationality** must be **doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment).

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.

Researchers **must be enrolled in a doctoral programme**, in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country (at least 2 for Joint Doctorates).

Recruitment Process

- Advertise and publish vacancies internationally
- Beneficiaries must publish vacancies on the **EURAXESS Jobs and Funding portal**
- Follow an open, transparent, impartial equitable and merit-based recruitment procedure



Recruitments have to be in accordance with the European Charter and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

MSCA-NET

The screenshot shows the EURAXESS website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like Home, Jobs and Funding, Career Development, etc. Below this, a search bar is visible with the text 'Search for jobs (114)'. The search filters on the left include:

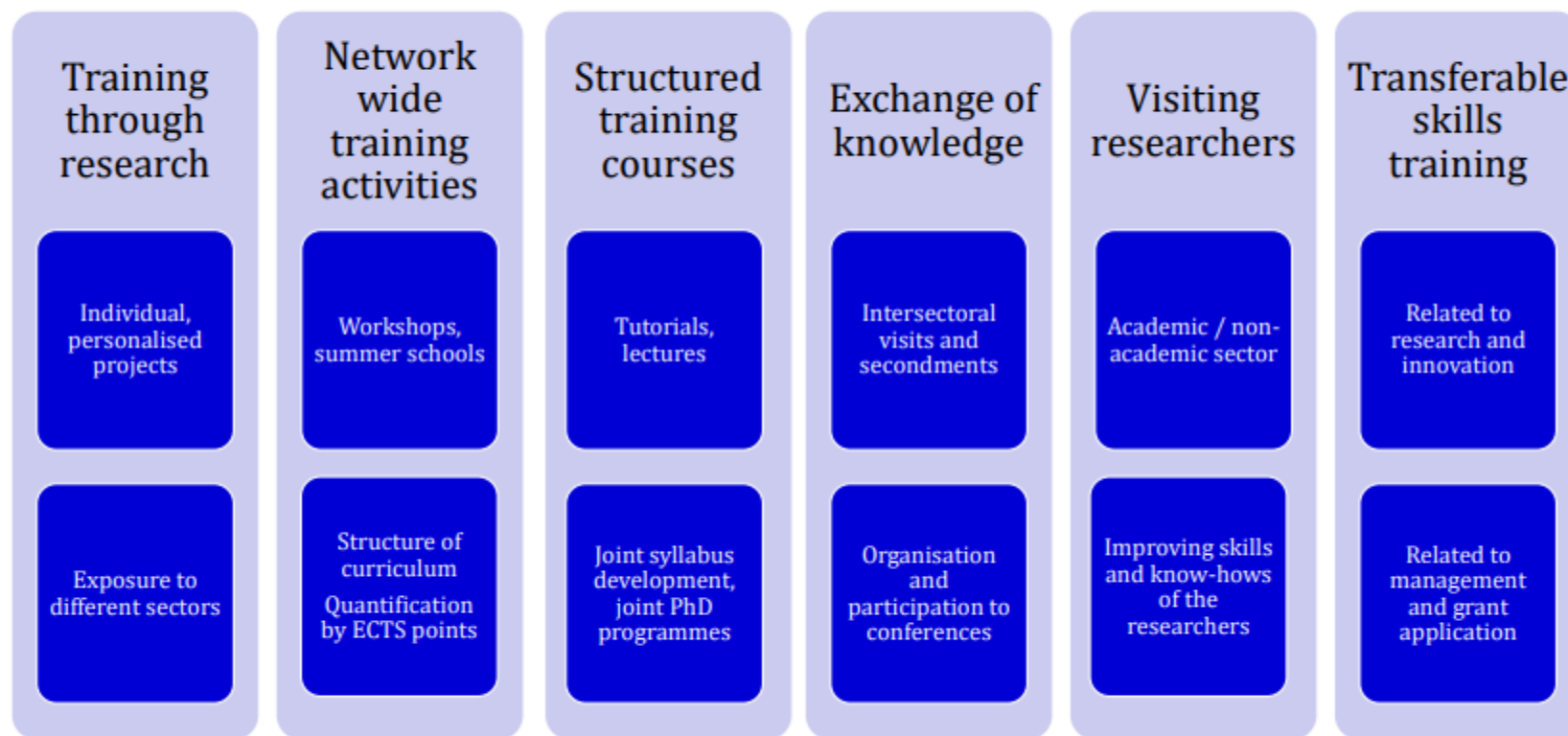
- Keywords: (empty field)
- Country: (dropdown menu)
- European Research Programme: HE / MSCA
- Researcher Profile: (dropdown menu)
- Research Field: (dropdown menu)
- Sector: (dropdown menu)

 The search results on the right show a list of jobs. The first result is from POLITECNICO DI MILANO, dated 12 FEB 2023, titled 'Doctoral Candidate (m/f/d) in the MSCA Doctoral Network TRACES on the topic "Multi-physics simulation of mechanical de-icing of aircraft"'. It includes details about the application deadline (07/03/2023), the European Research Programme (HE / MSCA), the Researcher Profile (First Stage Researcher (R1)), and the Research Field (Engineering > Aerospace engineering, Engineering > Mechanical engineering).

13

Typical activities of Doctoral Networks

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Based on the Innovative Doctoral Training principles

PRINCIPLES FOR INNOVATIVE DOCTORAL TRAINING



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

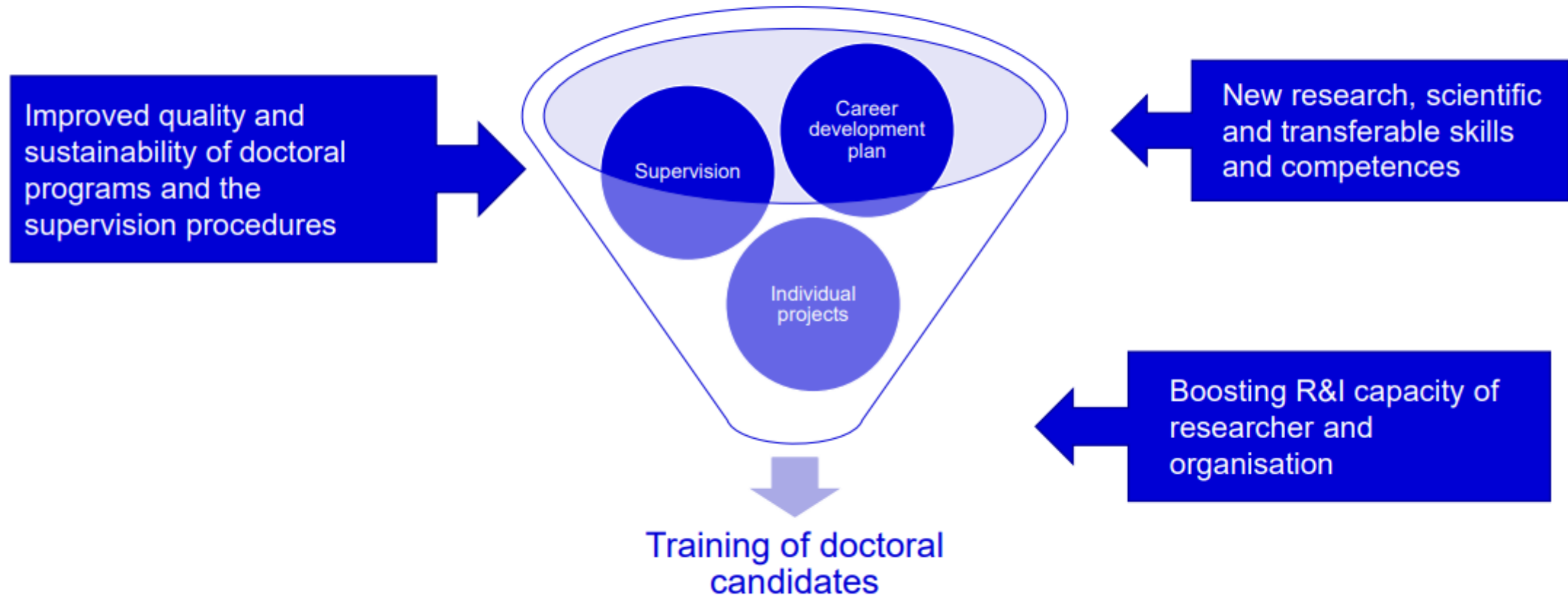
Directorate B - European Research Area
Unit B.2 "Skills"

Brussels, 27/06/2011

Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training¹

PRINCIPLES FOR INNOVATIVE DOCTORAL TRAINING

- Research **Excellence**
- Attractive **Institutional** Environment
- **Interdisciplinary** Research Options
- Exposure to industry and other relevant **employment** sectors
- **International** Networking
- Transferable **Skills** Training
- **Quality** Assurance



MSCA Guidelines on Supervision

MSCA-NET

- ✓ The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) are the European Union's flagship programme for the mobility and training of researchers, as well as the development of doctoral programmes, with a **strong structuring effect on participating institutions**.
- ✓ The MSCA promote effective supervision.
- ✓ MSCA Guidelines on Supervision constitute a **set of recommendations** to be adopted on a best-effort basis by participants in the programme – both individuals and institutions – in order to help institutions and supervisors in guiding MSCA researchers.

Role of the supervisor

General principles in the Charter and Code and integration of the researcher

Research support

Career development (regular review of the CDP)

Monitoring and wellbeing of the researcher

Communication and conflict resolution

Role of the researcher

General principles set in Charter and Code

Research

Wellbeing

Communication and conflict resolution

Role of the organisation

General principles and integration of the researchers

Raise awareness of the Codes of Ethics and Research Integrity in the institution

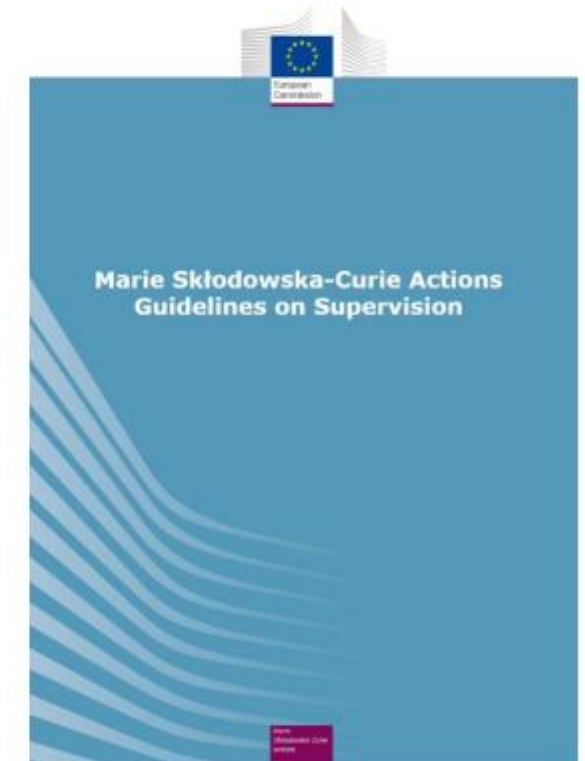
Research support

Career development

Mentoring and wellbeing of the researcher

Supervision management and conflict resolution

Training and professional development for supervisors



<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/bb02d56e-9b3c-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>



- The objective of the CDP is to empower MSCA researchers with the skills to expand their career opportunities within and beyond the academic sector
- It is compiled by the researcher and the supervisor(s)
- Project deliverables in the first 6 months of project implementation (to be revised during implementation)

MSCA PERSONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLAN TEMPLATE 2016

Career Development Plan-Year 1 (Draft)

Name of fellow:
Department:
Name of Supervisor:
Date:

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH PROJECT AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS EXPECTED (half page should be sufficient):

LONG-TERM CAREER OBJECTIVES (over 5 years):

1. Goals:
2. What further research activity or other training is needed to attain these goals?

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES (1-2 years):

1. Research results
 - Anticipated publications:
 - Anticipated conference, workshop attendance, courses, and /or seminar presentations:
2. Research Skills and techniques:
 - Training in specific new areas, or technical expertise etc:
3. Research management:
 - Fellowship or other funding applications planned (indicate name of award if known; include fellowships with entire funding periods, grants written/applied for/received, professional society presentation awards or travel awards, etc.)
4. Communication skills:
5. Other professional training (course work, teaching activity):
6. Anticipated networking opportunities:
7. Other activities (community, etc) with professional relevance:

Date & Signature of fellow

Date & Signature of supervisor

Career Development Plan-Final year (Draft)

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS, ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (half page should be sufficient):

LONG-TERM CAREER OBJECTIVES (over 5 years):

If relevant, mention any adjustments to your long-term career objectives as a result of the training received.

SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED DURING THE TRAINING PERIOD:

1. Research results
 - Publications (incl. in press):
 - Conference, workshop attendance, courses, and /or seminar presentations:
2. Research Skills and techniques acquired:
 - Training in specific new areas, or technical expertise etc:
3. Research management:
 - Fellowship or other funding applications achieved (indicate name of award if known; include fellowships with entire funding periods, grants written/applied for/received, professional society presentation awards or travel awards, etc.)
4. Communication skills:
5. Other professional training (course work, teaching activity):
6. Anticipated networking opportunities
7. Other activities (community, etc) with professional relevance:

Date & Signature of fellow

Date & Signature of supervisor

Contributions for recruited researchers

Per person-month

Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance (if applicable)	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)
EUR 3 400	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 4 000 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit ¹ x (1/number of months)

Basic, **gross amount** paid to the researcher in monthly installments.

- **Country correction coefficient** of the country in which the researcher will be recruited is applied.

Mobility allowance: private mobility related costs.

Family allowance: family obligations of the researcher are revised during the implementation of the project!

Long-term leave allowance: personal costs incurred by the beneficiary in case of researchers' leave (maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave) during the project life time.

Special needs allowance: additional costs for special needs items or services for researchers with disabilities.

Institutional unit contributions

Per person-month

Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 1 600	EUR 1 200

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

Additional costs in connection with the action:

- personnel costs for project management/coordination,
- indirect costs

- costs for participation in conferences,
- trips related to work on the action,
- training, language courses, seminars, lab material, books, library records, publication costs),
- research expenses,
- visa-related fees and travel expenses,
- additional costs for secondment 6 (travel and accommodation)



SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND GUIDELINES

Official and supporting documents

MSCA-NET

Official EC Documents

MSCA Work Programme

Guide for applicants for each action

Official REA frequent ask questions

Proposal evaluation template for each action

Specific evaluation forms used by the expert evaluators

<https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/>

MSCA-NET supporting documents

MSCA Handbook for each action - detailed writing guides for applicants of MSC Actions that complement the official documentation of EC and REA

Webinars – Short online events delivered by experienced MSCA NCPs to provide details on different topics like Call novelties, Grant preparation and many more

Statistics – Data is power and the project will provide you with statistics (number of proposals, success rate etc.) on previous calls to prepare a better proposal

Follow us:

<https://msca-net.eu/scientific-community/>

[MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships \(PF\)](#)[MSCA Doctoral Networks \(DN\)](#)[MSCA Staff Exchanges \(SE\)](#)[MSCA COFUND](#)

the MSCA-NET

...s to facilitate the transnational cooperation
(NCPs) for the MSCA to achieve a consistent
and harmonised level of support. The scientific community can also profit
from our project to support their MSCA application.

[Learn more](#)

MSCA-NET



MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)

Home / Scientific Community / MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)

MSCA-NET



The objective of DNs is to implement doctoral programmes by partnerships of organisations.

MSCA-NET Documents for your application

DN Handbook

This document provides you with up-to-date tips and tricks on how to ace your MSCA COFUND proposal.

MSCA-NET DN Handbook

DN Evolution Guide

This document presents statistical data related to the PF call HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01 closed on 16 November 2021.

MSCA-NET DN Evolution Guide

Policy Briefs

10 policy briefs will provide you with a comprehensive overview of the EU policy priorities with a focus on the MSCA.

- Gender Policy Brief
- Green Deal Policy Brief
- Missions Policy Brief
- Open Science Policy Brief

MSCA-NET support for your application

FAQ Blog

This "Frequently Asked Question" blog provides you with important information on the MSCA, based on the hands-on knowledge and experience of the MSCA NCP.

FAQ DN Blog

National Contact Points

In order to get support in your project country, find the MSCA National Contact Points (NCP) who are looking forward to supporting you.

MSCA NCP

Self-Assessment Tool

The self-assessment tool will allow you to test your MSCA knowledge in a fun and playful way.

Self-Assessment Tool

CORDIS - EU research results

[Home](#) | [Thematic Packs](#) | [Projects & Results](#) | [Videos & Podcasts](#) | [News](#) | [Datalab](#) | [Search](#)[Home](#) > [Projects & Results](#) > [H2020](#) > [Advanced research and Training Network in Food quality, safety and security](#)

Advanced research and Training Network in Food quality, safety and security

[Fact Sheet](#)[Reporting](#)[Results](#)

Project description



Food quality, safety and security training for early-stage researchers

The rapidly growing and changing nature of food science means researchers require a multidisciplinary, intersectoral understanding of mass spectrometry to successfully exploit both traditional and state-of-the-art methodologies and techniques. The FoodTraNet project will address this challenge by providing training to high achieving early-stage researchers (ESRs) via a common platform of advanced mass spectrometry tools for food quality, safety and security. A multidisciplinary training and research network will be created to give ESRs the opportunity to transfer their knowledge from scientific to industrial applications. FoodTraNet will cover techniques including stable isotopes, target, suspect, non-target screening, and mass spectrometry imaging to identify biomarkers and bioactive compounds to ensure food quality and traceability.

[Hide the project objective](#)

Objective

FoodTraNet is designed to provide high-level training of a new generation of high achieving early stage researchers (ESRs) in a common platform of advanced mass spectrometry tools for food quality, safety and security. Due to the

Project Information

FoodTraNet

Grant agreement ID: 956265



DOI

[10.3030/956265](https://doi.org/10.3030/956265)

EC signature date

30 April 2021

Start date

1 May 2021

End date

30 April 2025

Funded under

EXCELLENT SCIENCE - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Total cost

€ 3 801 361,32

EU contribution

€ 3 801 361,32

Coordinated by
INSTITUT JOZEF STEFAN

Coordinator



INSTITUT JOZEF STEFAN

Net EU contribution

€ 719 870,76

Address

Jamova 39

1000 Ljubljana

 Slovenia 

Total cost

€ 719 870,76

Region

Slovenija > Zahodna Slovenija > Osrednjeslovenska

Activity type

Research Organisations

Links

[Contact the organisation](#) 

[Website](#) 

[Participation in EU R&I programmes](#) 

[HORIZON collaboration network](#) 

Participants (8)

Sort alphabetically 

Sort by Net EU contribution 

Expand all



FONDAZIONE EDMUND MACH

 Italy

Net EU contribution

€ 522 999,36



UNIVERSITEIT ANTWERPEN

 Belgium

Net EU contribution

€ 256 320,00



UNIVERZA V MARIBORU

 Slovenia

Net EU contribution

€ 239 956,92



AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE
INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS

 Spain

Net EU contribution

€ 501 809,76



NETWORK OF THE
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS
NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS



CONSORTIUM SET-UP IN DOCTORAL NETWORKS

MSCA Collaboration projects: Opportunities for **organisations**

MSCA-NET



IMPACT OF MSCA CONSORTIUM PROJECTS

- Enhancing cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines;
- Increasing integration of training and research activities between participating organisations;
- Boosting R&I capacity;
- Increasing internationalisation and attractiveness;
- Fostering the culture of open science, innovation and entrepreneurship
- Enhancing the quality of R&I contributing to Europe's sustainable competitiveness and sustainable collaboration between academic and non-academic organisations

2

Talent	• Recruitment of EU funded excellent DCs
Network	• Cooperation and knowledge transfer between sectors/discipline
Capacity	• Strengthening Research and innovation capacity
Enhanced training programme	• Improved quality, relevance and sustainability of PhD programmes

Partner search - Identifying partners

MSCA-NET



- ✓ Start by identifying important stakeholders and the eligibility of partner
- ✓ Make sure that each partner brings something to the table
- ✓ Build on existing partnerships, but do not rely on them
- ✓ Involve people that you work well with – MSCA projects are multi-year relationships (up to 4 years)
- ✓ Previous successful collaborations can be used to showcase the strength of your consortium and mitigate risks

- ✓ Start on time – yearly calls for MSCA
- ✓ Considered developing a consortium before the call is published
- ✓ Functioning network with an aligned vision has a much easier time submitting proposals when the calls come
- ✓ 4 months of the call duration might be too short to build strong and lasting consortium

Key question while creating consortium

- ❖ Are they **reliable**?
- ❖ Are they **suitable** for the purposes of the Project?
- ❖ Is their Organization able to provide the necessary **resources**?
- ❖ Do they bring **added value** to the Consortium?
- ❖ Do they contribute to **gender balance**?

Characteristics of a **Good Consortium**

MSCA-NET



- ❑ **Solid project management structure**
- ❑ Successful consortia have non-scientific management framework to ensure the project runs according to plan and allows the researchers to focus on the research
- ❑ Include a **project management partner with demonstrated expertise** – this will convince reviewers that you will be able to meet deadlines within the available budget

- ✓ Experienced coordinator
- ✓ Relevant expertise and skills
- ✓ Good infrastructure and resources
- ✓ Involvement of competent staff
- ✓ Partners contributing to “triple i” dimension
- ✓ Gender Balance
- ✓ Multidisciplinary
- ✓ Partners have Complementarity (no major overlaps) and synergies
- ✓ Relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Good distribution of work
- ✓ Added value of each partner
- ✓ Previous collaborations
- ✓ Commitment

How to find partners for MSCA consortium projects

MSCA-NET



Personal contacts:

- ✓ Via contacts during previous or existing projects (e.g. COST actions)
 - ✓ Participating at conferences – dissemination of your results
 - ✓ Your own research (supervisor)/ business partners
 - ✓ Participation in European interest organizations or associations
 - ✓ Participation in Commission sponsored or national Info days or Brokerage events
-
- ✓ **MSCA NCP structure** – transnational cooperation and distribution of interests
 - ✓ Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) - currently there are 20533 registered MCAA users from 151 nationalities and counting!

Partner search **useful links**

MSCA-NET

- ✓ **MSCA-NET** -
<https://msca.b2match.io/>
- ✓ **FTOP** -
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/partner-search>
- ✓ **EEN** -
<https://een.ec.europa.eu/partners>
- ✓ **EURAXESS** -
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/partnering/organisations/search>



<https://horizoneuropencppportal.eu/sites/default/files/2022-05/guide-for-ps-tool.pdf>



MAIN TERMS OF THE CONSORTIUM:

- PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION,
- INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT,
- PROJECT BUDGET AND DISTRIBUTION OF EU FUNDING,
- ADDITIONAL IP RULES,
- RIGHTS AND OBLIGATION OF CONSORTIUM PARTNERS,
- ETC

The consortium agreement (CA) should be negotiated and concluded before signing the Grant Agreement (GA) and should complement the GA but must not contain any provision contrary to it.

The consortium agreement is a private agreement between the beneficiaries, to set out the rights and obligations amongst themselves. It does not involve the European Commission / REA.

It sets the framework for successful project implementation and exploitation of results including intellectual property management, and is meant to settle where already possible all issues that might hamper the smooth and seamless cooperation of the different actors for the different parts of the project.

The members of the consortium must sign a consortium agreement.



DOCTORAL NETWORKS PROPOSAL STRUCTURE

DN Proposal Structure



Part A - administrative forms

Filled in *online on the Funding & Tenders Opportunities Portal*



Part B1 - the proposal, max 34 pages (PDF uploaded)

Start page, table of contents, list of participating organisations

Excellence

Impact

Implementation, incl. Gantt Chart

Maximum 30 pages

Excess pages
disregarded



Part B2 - no page limit, PDF uploaded

Network organisation

Environmental aspects in light of the MSCA Green Charter

Participating organisations (1 pg per beneficiary, ½ pg per associated partner)

Letters of Commitment (compulsory for Associated partners)

Pre-agreement letters for DN Joint Doctorate

Proposal structure – part A

PART A:

- ✓ General information:
 - title,
 - acronym,
 - panel,
 - descriptors,
 - keywords,
 - abstract,
 - declarations
- ✓ **Participants** and contacts
- ✓ Budget – based on person-months
- ✓ **Gender Equality plan**
- ✓ **Ethics** questionnaire

Administrative
forms – to be
filled in online

Call:

0

Topic:

Type of Action:

0

Proposal number:

Proposal acronym:

Type of Model Grant Agreement:

Table of contents

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	
2	Participants	
3	Budget	
4	Ethics and security	

How to fill in the forms

The form must be filled in for each proposal using the templates available in the submission system. Some data fields in the form are pre-filled based on the steps in the submission wizard.

Part A - GEP, Ethics and questions

MSCA-NET

Application forms

Proposal ID

Acronym **Acronym is mandatory**

Short name

Gender Equality Plan

Does the organization have a Gender Equality Plan (GEP) covering the elements listed below?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Minimum requirements (building blocks) for a GEP

Public GEP: formal document published on the institution's website and signed by the top management, addressing the following issues:

- **Dedicated resources:** commitment of human resources and gender expertise to implement it.
- **Data collection and monitoring:** sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel and students and annual reporting based on indicators.
- **Training:** Awareness raising/trainings on gender equality and unconscious gender biases for staff and decision-makers.
- **Minimum areas to be covered** and addressed via concrete measures and targets:
 - o work-life balance and organisational culture;
 - o gender balance in leadership and decision-making;
 - o gender equality in recruitment and career progression;
 - o integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content;
 - o measures against gender-based violence including sexual harassment.

A self-declaration will be requested at **proposal stage**

If you are a public body, a research organisation or a higher education establishment (including private research organisations and higher education establishments), then you must have a Gender Equality Plan.

Ethics questionnaire → further reading at

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf (p. 21-26) and <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/16edbd19-0989-4308-882f-ae1fc572e3bc>

Questions related to completing part A of your proposal → EC FAQ section [here](#) and MSCA-NET Q&A blog [here](#)

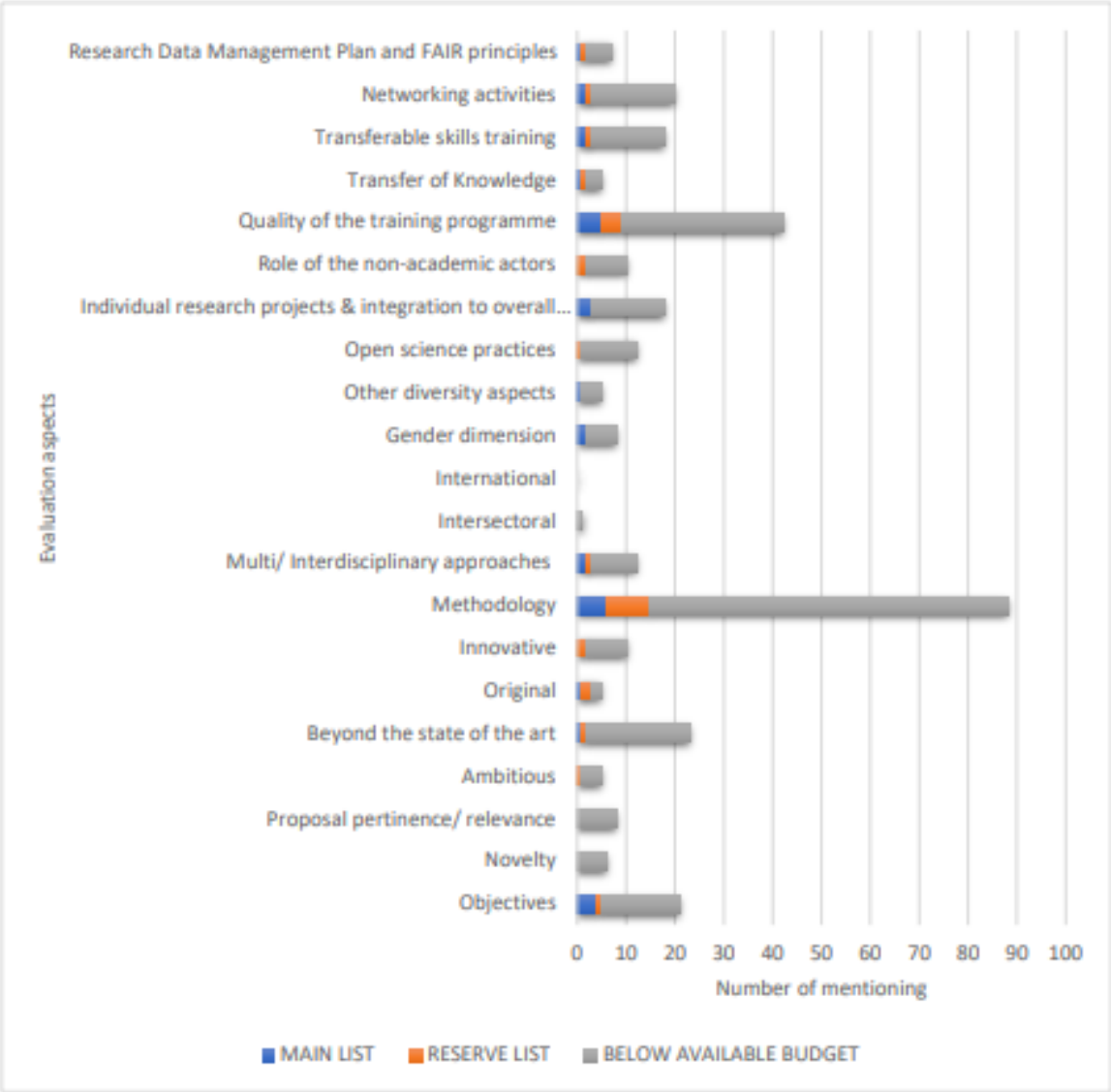
Doctoral Networks: award criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation <u>objectives</u>	Contribution to structuring doctoral training at <u>European level</u> and strengthening European innovation capacity	Quality and effectiveness of the <u>work plan</u> , assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Soundness of the proposed <u>methodology</u>	Credibility of the measures to enhance the <u>career perspectives</u> of researchers and contribution to their skills development	Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the <u>consortium</u> as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
Quality and credibility of the <u>training programme</u>	Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the <u>dissemination and exploitation plan</u> , including communication activities	
Quality of the <u>supervision</u>	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic <u>impacts</u>	
50%	30%	20%



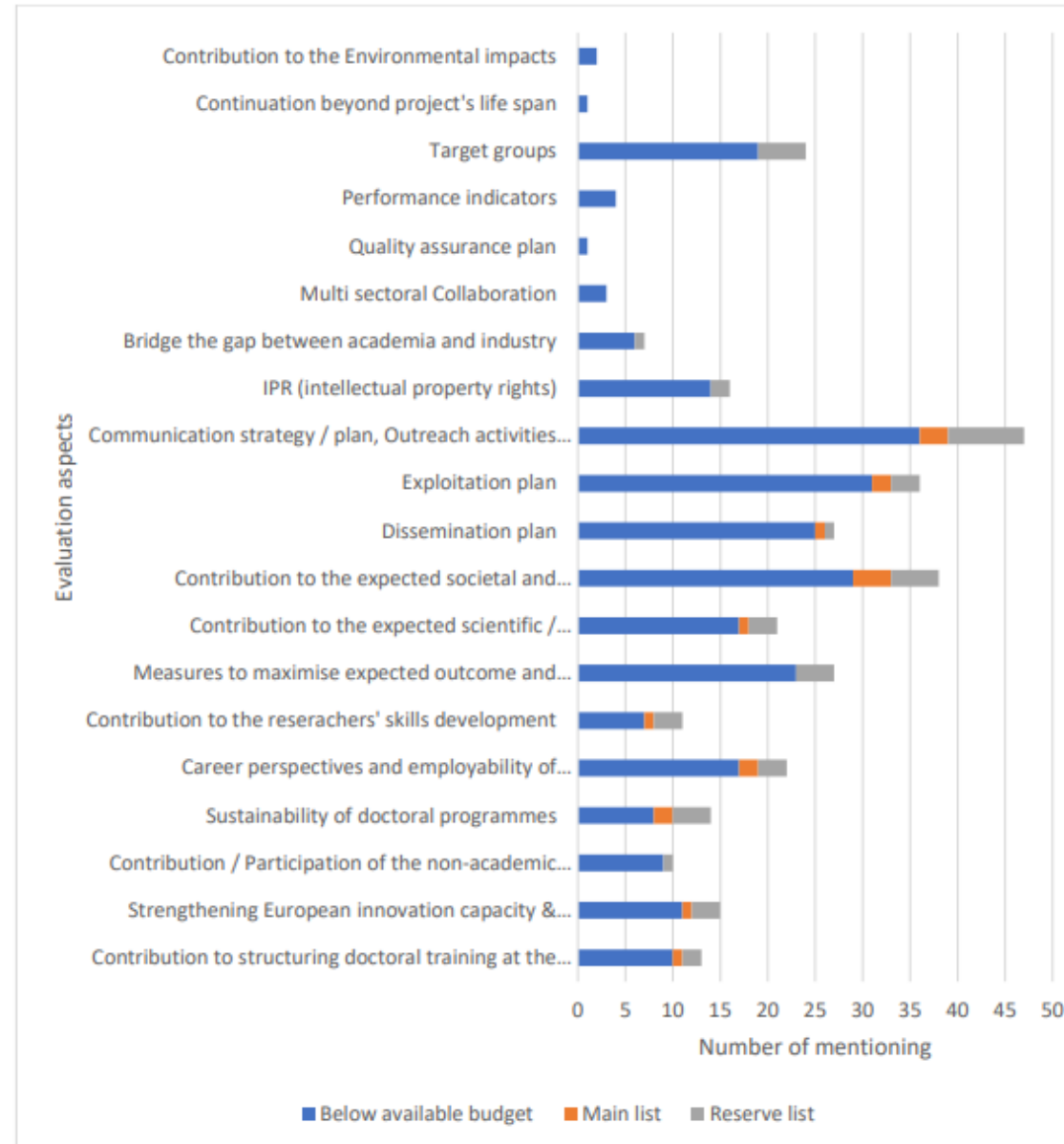
: ‘In the framework of the MSCA-NET network we have analysed the ESRs and herewith the outcomes are presented.’

FIG 12: EXCELLENCE WEAKNESSES BY THE PROJECT STATUS



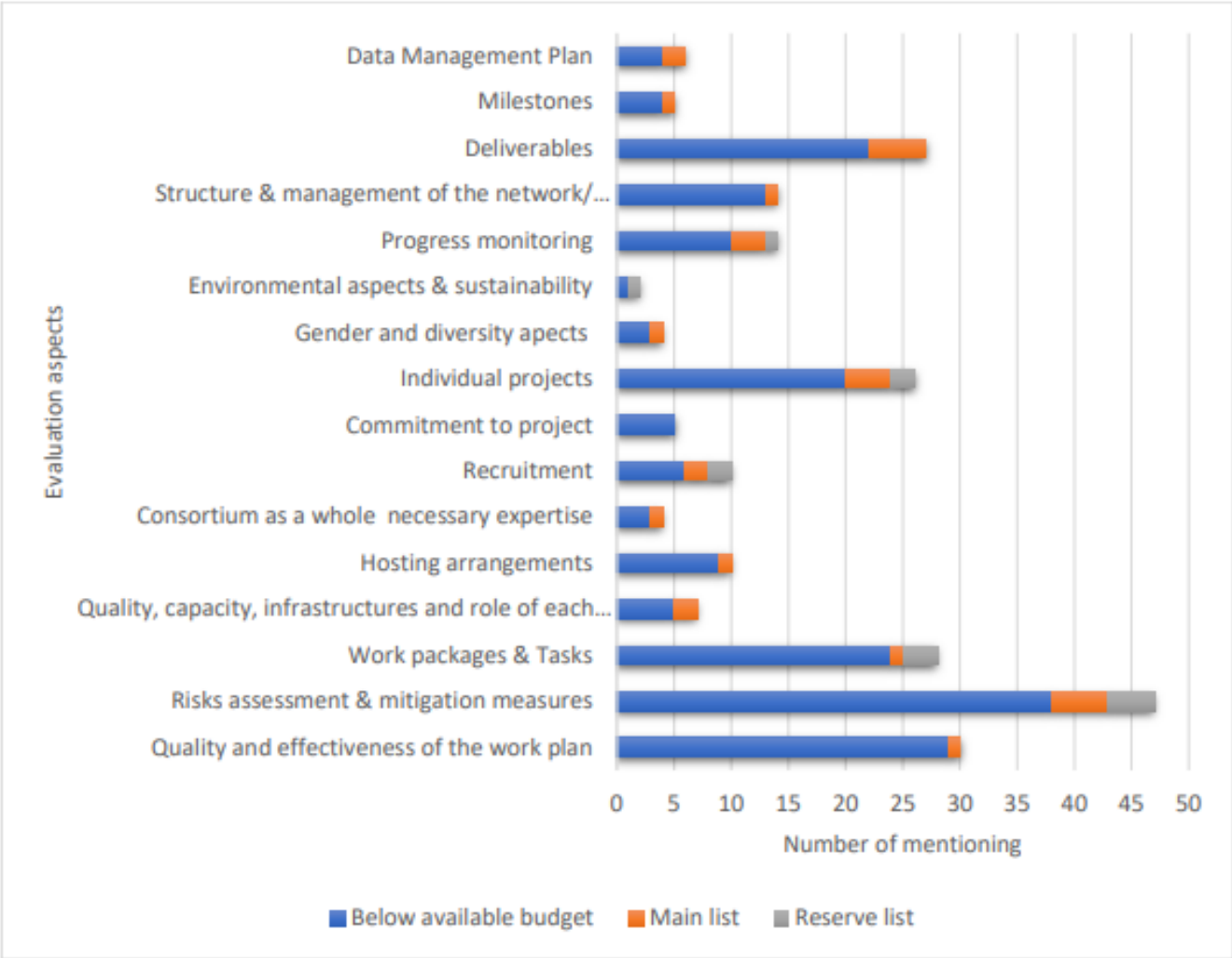
: 'In the framework of the MSCA-NET network we have analysed the ESRs and herewith the outcomes are presented.'

FIG 20: IMPACT WEAKNESSES BY THE PROJECT STATUS



: ‘In the framework of the MSCA-NET network we have analysed the ESRs and herewith the outcomes are presented.’

FIG 28: IMPLEMENTATION WEAKNESSES BY THE PROJECT STATUS



DN 2023 call

Modes & **Planning***

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*

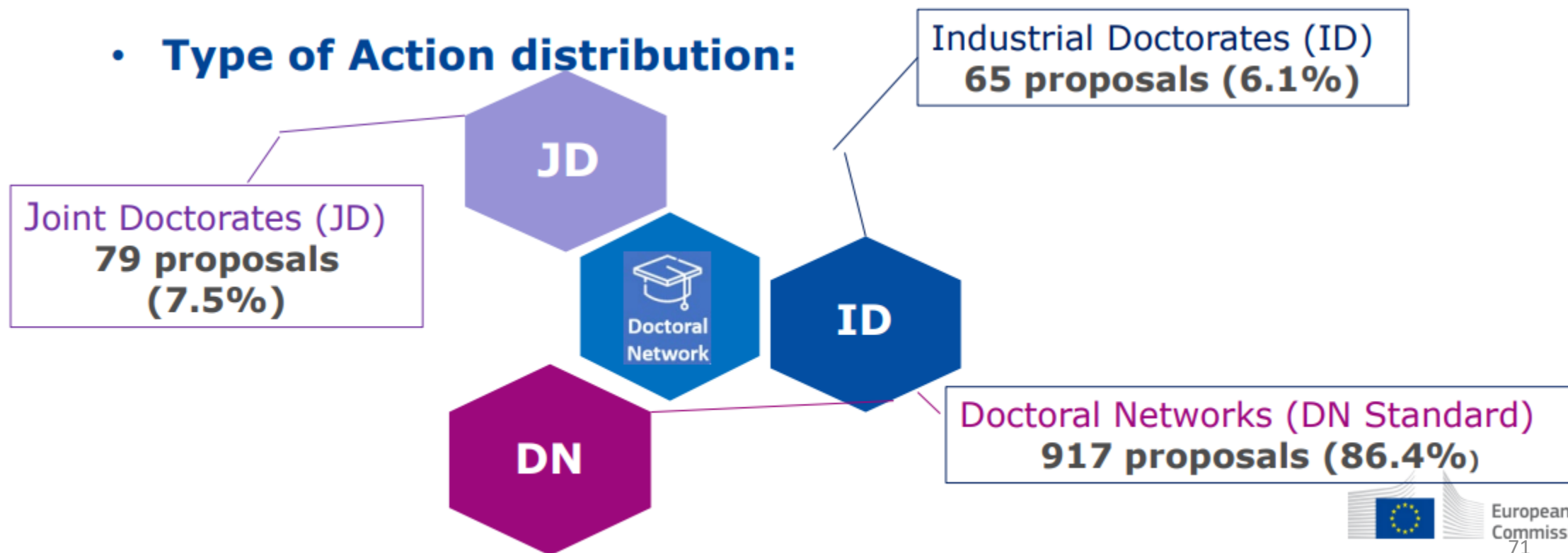
Call Opening:	30 May 2023
Call Closure:	28 Nov 2023
Remote Allocation of proposals:	14 – 15 Dec 2023
Remote Evaluation phase:	03 Jan 2024 – 23 Feb 2024
Central Panel Review:	26 Feb – 01 Mar 2024
Launch Grant preparation:	April 2024
Grant agreement signature:	July 2024
Project starting dates:	Sep 2024 – March 2025

*** As presented at PC meeting of 14.12.2023**

DN 2023 call

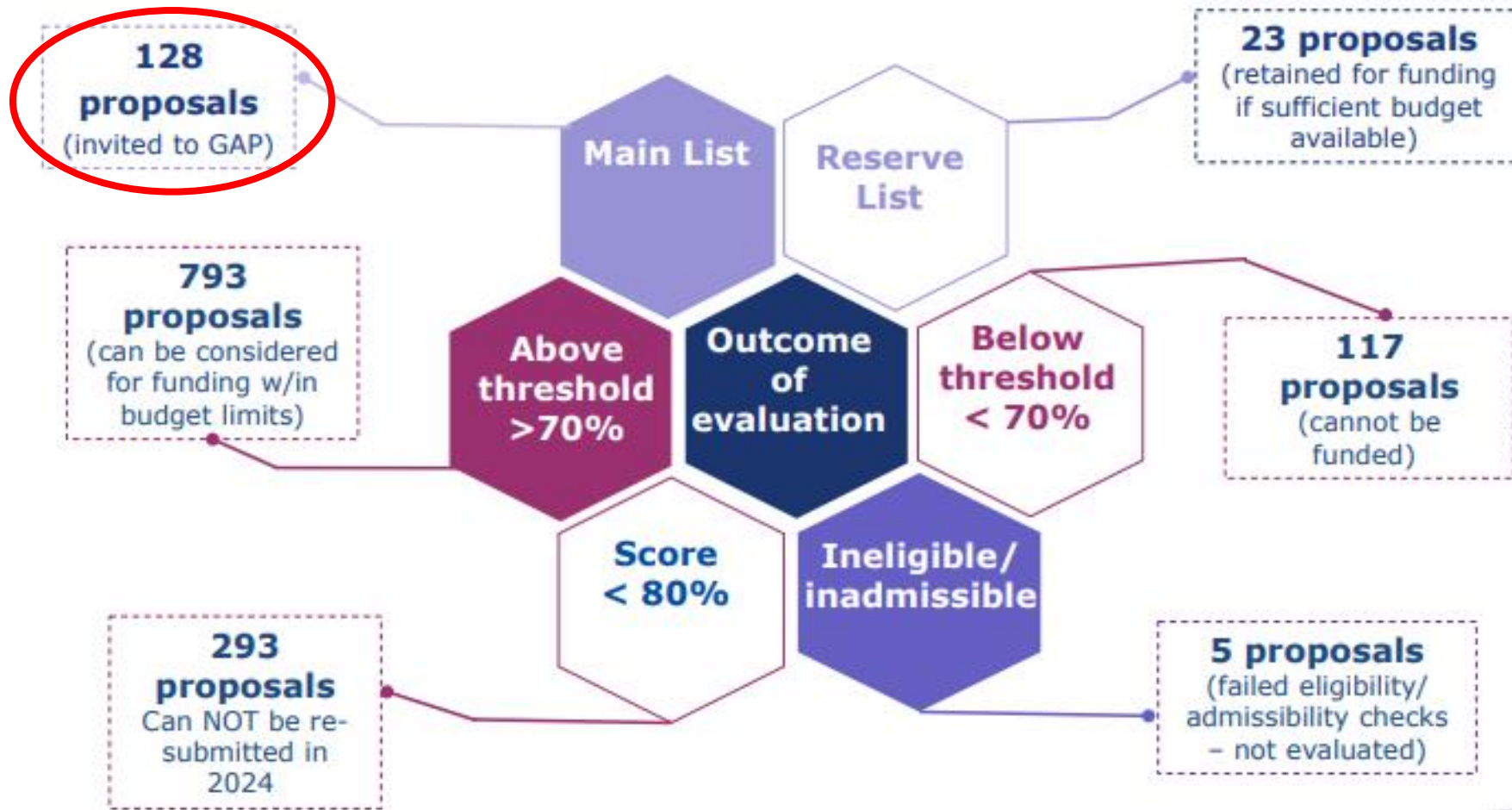
Evaluation results

- **MSCA DN 2023 call budget:** ~ 456.295 Million EUR
- **1066 submitted proposals** 4 ineligible; 1 withdrawn; **1061 evaluated**
- **Type of Action distribution:**



DN 2023 call

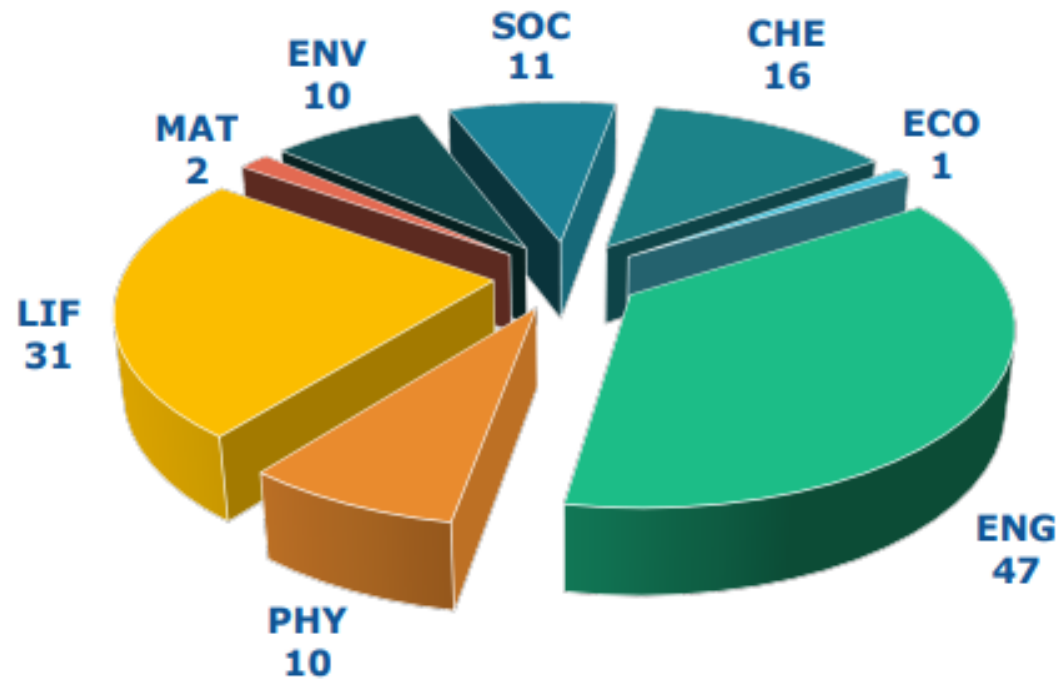
Evaluation results



DN 2023 call

Success rates per panel/ mode

128 Main list proposals



Panel	DN	DN-ID	DN-JD	Total
CHE	14	1	1	16
ECO	1	0	0	1
ENG	42	3	2	47
ENV	10	0	0	10
LIF	27	3	1	31
MAT	2	0	0	2
PHY	8	0	2	10
SOC	9	1	1	11
Total	113	8	7	128
Success Rate	12.3%	12.3%	8.9%	12.1%

CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC	Total
11.8%	5.6%	12.2%	12.2%	12.1%	15.4%	12.3%	12.2%	12.1%

DN 2023 call

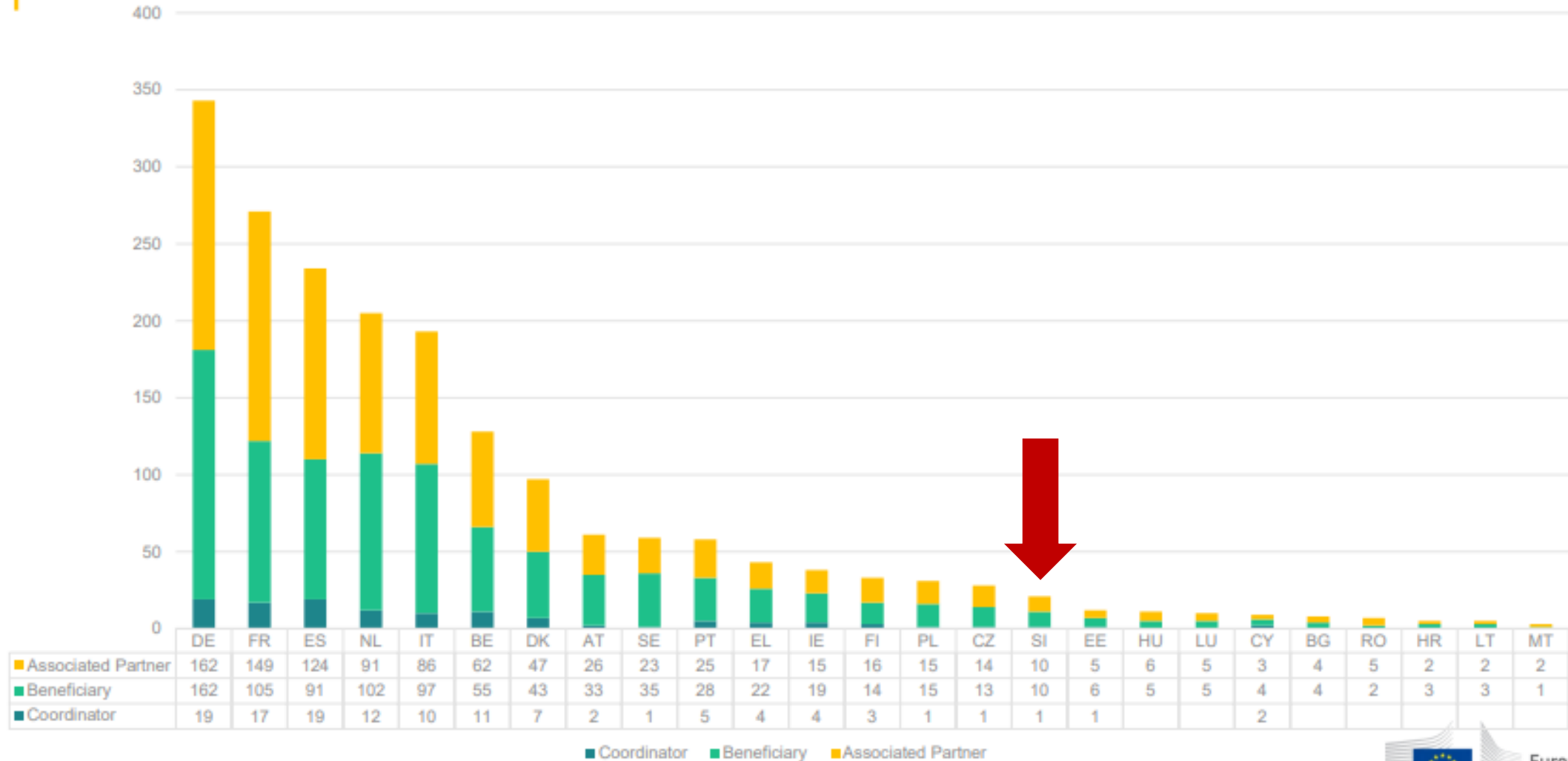
Percentile table

	MSCA-DN-2023: Cumulative percentage of proposals above threshold, with a given score or higher (with funding range marked in green)								
Number of <u>eligible</u> proposals	136	18	385	82	256	13	81	90	1061
Cut off score for funding	96,2	95	96	96,4	96	97,6	97,2	96,2	
Score equal to or above	CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC	Grand Total
100	1,47%	0,00%	1,56%	1,22%	0,78%	0,00%	1,23%	1,11%	1,23%
99	2,94%	0,00%	3,12%	1,22%	2,73%	0,00%	3,70%	4,44%	2,92%
98	7,35%	0,00%	6,49%	6,10%	6,64%	7,69%	8,64%	6,67%	6,69%
97	11,03%	0,00%	9,61%	8,54%	9,38%	15,38%	13,58%	8,89%	9,80%
96	13,97%	0,00%	12,47%	15,85%	12,11%	38,46%	16,05%	14,44%	13,38%
95	20,59%	5,56%	17,40%	21,95%	14,84%	38,46%	19,75%	14,44%	17,53%
94	23,53%	5,56%	22,34%	32,93%	17,58%	38,46%	24,69%	20,00%	22,05%
93	30,88%	5,56%	27,53%	35,37%	21,88%	38,46%	27,16%	21,11%	26,39%
92	35,29%	5,56%	31,17%	41,46%	25,39%	38,46%	32,10%	25,56%	30,35%

RESUBMISSION

- All proposals must indicate if they are resubmitted from the previous MSCA Doctoral Networks call under Horizon Europe.
- Proposals submitted to the previous call of MSCA Doctoral Networks under Horizon Europe and having received a score of less than 80% must not be resubmitted the following year.
- Any proposal involving 70% or more of the same recruiting organisations as in another proposal submitted to the previous call of the MSCA Doctoral Networks under Horizon Europe that has received a score of less than 80% will be assessed for whether it is a resubmission, irrespective of the applicants' self-declaration. The assessment will be carried out by external expert evaluators based on the similarity of objectives as well as on the similarity of the scientific approach proposed to reach such objectives.

DN 2023 call MS in main list



ViroiDoc at a glance

Viroids and Viroid-like RNAs

Infectious single circular RNA molecules

Understudied, widespread and fast evolving

Threat to crops and global food security

Viroid diseases affect yield and quality of vegetables, fruit trees, hops, hemp, grapevine, coconut and oil-palms, causing damage in millions of €

International trade & global warming impact pathogens dynamics (incidence, host range, disease severity)

ViroiDoc training

Expertise in molecular biology, genetics and genomics, NGS and bioinformatics, omics integration, phenotyping, sensor and CRISPR/Cas technologies, modelling

Skilled in programming, machine learning, statistics, data visualization, big data management, open science communication, project management, grant writing

Basics of IPR and entrepreneurship

ViroiDoc ambition

- 1 Tackle knowledge gaps (molecular pathogenesis, host factor interactions, trafficking)
- 2 Deliver risk assessments

- 3 Develop solutions for CRISPR/Cas- and sensor-based field diagnostics and live imaging of viroids
- 4 Provide viroid interventions: resistance breeding targets, inducers of plant immunity, RNA-based biopesticides, antiviral therapeutics

Impact

Boost careers in research, product, and service development in EU Agrisystem, Biomedicine and Biotech

Excellent EU R&I landscape and sustainable collaboration

Public awareness of viroid and viroid-like threats and opportunities

Food Safety policy recommendations, Disease management strategies

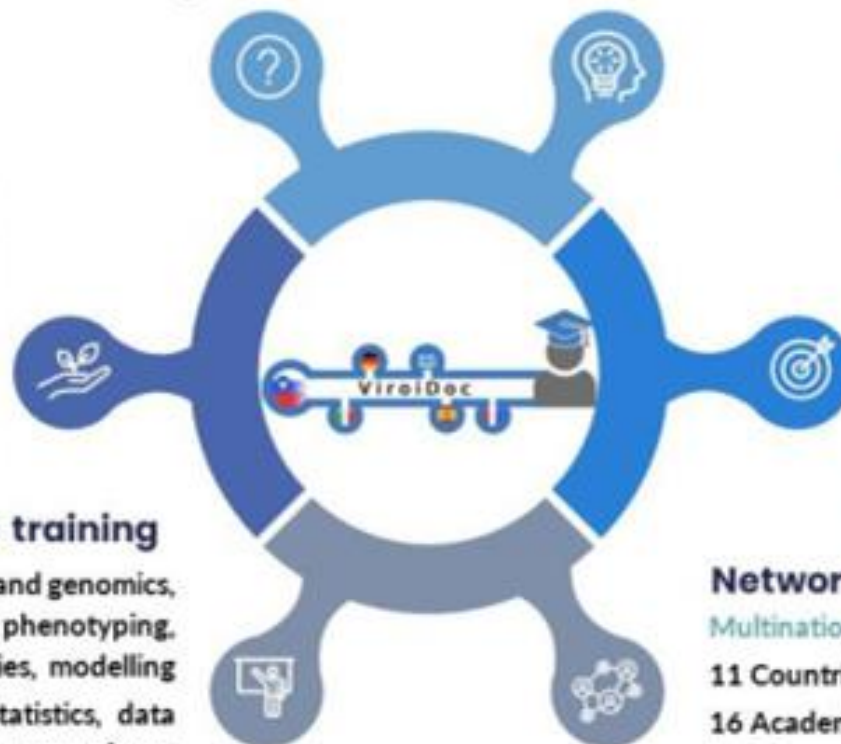
Network

Multinational, multidisciplinary and multisectoral

11 Countries

16 Academic institutions – Scientific and technological training

6 Industry partners – Transferable skills training and Secondments



Koordinatoriski H2020-ITN v Sloveniji

Naslov H2020-ITN projekta	RO
Advanced research and Training Network in Food quality, safety and security	INSTITUT JOZEF STEFAN
Global Mercury Observation and Training Network in Support to the Minamata Convention	INSTITUT JOZEF STEFAN
GreenTRIBOS	UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI
Innovative Network for Next Generation Training and Sequencing of Virome	NACIONALNI INSTITUT ZA BIOLOGIJO
Multidisciplinary European Joint Doctorate in the Design and Development of Glyco Drugs	UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI





MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

*Developing talents,
advancing research*

STATE OF THE
ART

IDEA

CONSORTIUM
&
SUPERVISOR(S)

TIME

Success in the
MSCA call for
proposals

SUPPORT

HOST

NCP

Proposal preparation effort

- We estimated that a median **coordinator** under Horizon Europe spends between **36 and 45 person-days** in preparing an application.
- A median value for contributing **partners** is between **16 and 25 person-days** in addition to those of the coordinator.
- The proposal preparation effort that is required from coordinators seems to **increase** with the size of the potential project: the requested budget level, the length of the project and the number of consortium partners.
- Our analysis also shows that **the coordinators of successful proposals spend longer on preparing** their proposals than those of unsuccessful proposals.

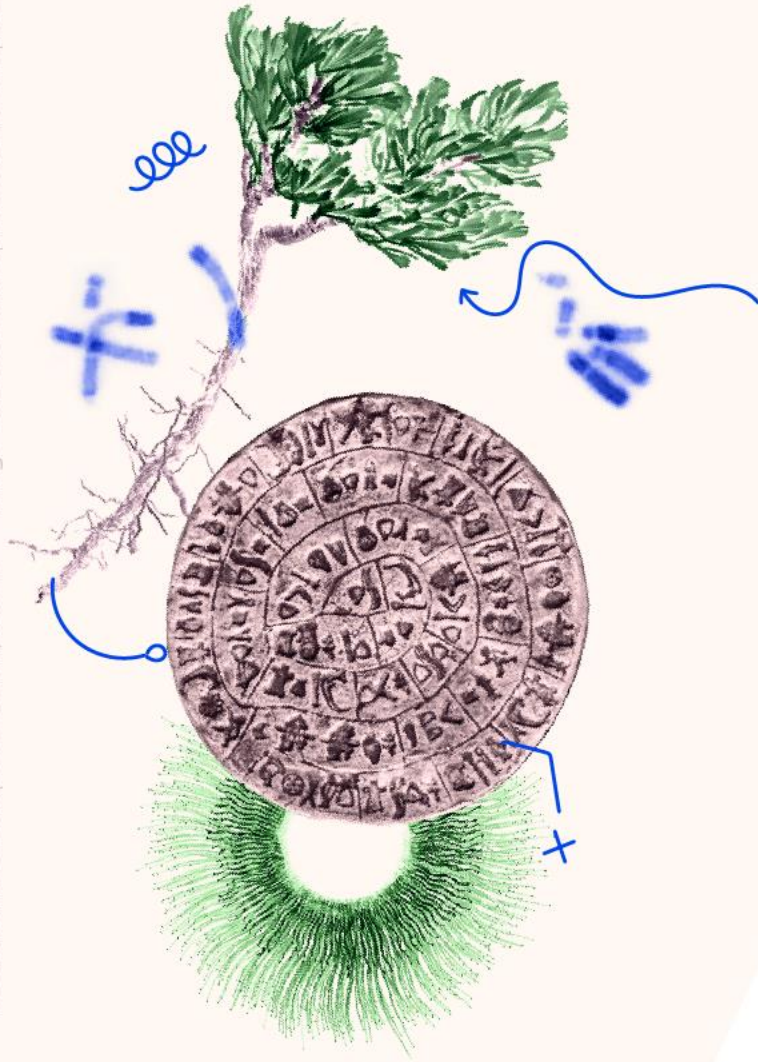




LJUBLJANA WORKSHOP

MSCA Doctoral Networks

16 January 2025



- 10.00 - 10.45 **Introduction** and presentation of the evaluation criteria for MSCA DN 2025 Call, Stojan Sorčan, MVZI
- 10.45 - 11.30 Research **proposal writing experiences** of xy , MSC DN, University of Ljubljana
- 11.30 - 11.45 Break
- 11.45 - 13.30 **"Excellence"** criterion: PPT presentation and analysis of the project evaluations received by the participants
- 13.30 – 14.00 Break
- 14.00 - 15.00 **"Impact"** criterion: PPT presentation and analysis of the project evaluations received by the participants
- 15.00 - 16.00 **"Implementation"** criterion: PPT presentation and analysis of the project evaluations received by the participants
- 16.00 - 17.00 **Discussion** and Conclusions



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA VISOKO ŠOLSTVO,
ZNANOST IN INOVACIJE

Hvala lepa za vašo pozornost!

stojan.sorcan@gov.si

[Najnovejše informacije za javnost, NCP MSCA v Obzorju Evropa](#)

