

MUNI

MSCA Doctoral Networks

*Funding supporting mobility, career development
and knowledge transfer of PhD students*

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MSCA in a really tiny nutshell

- **Bottom-up** research
- **Mobility** of researchers
- Accent on development of **researchers' careers** to foster their **employability**
- **Trainings** and **transfer of knowledge**
- Improvement of PhD education and integration of efforts, including collaboration with non-academic sector

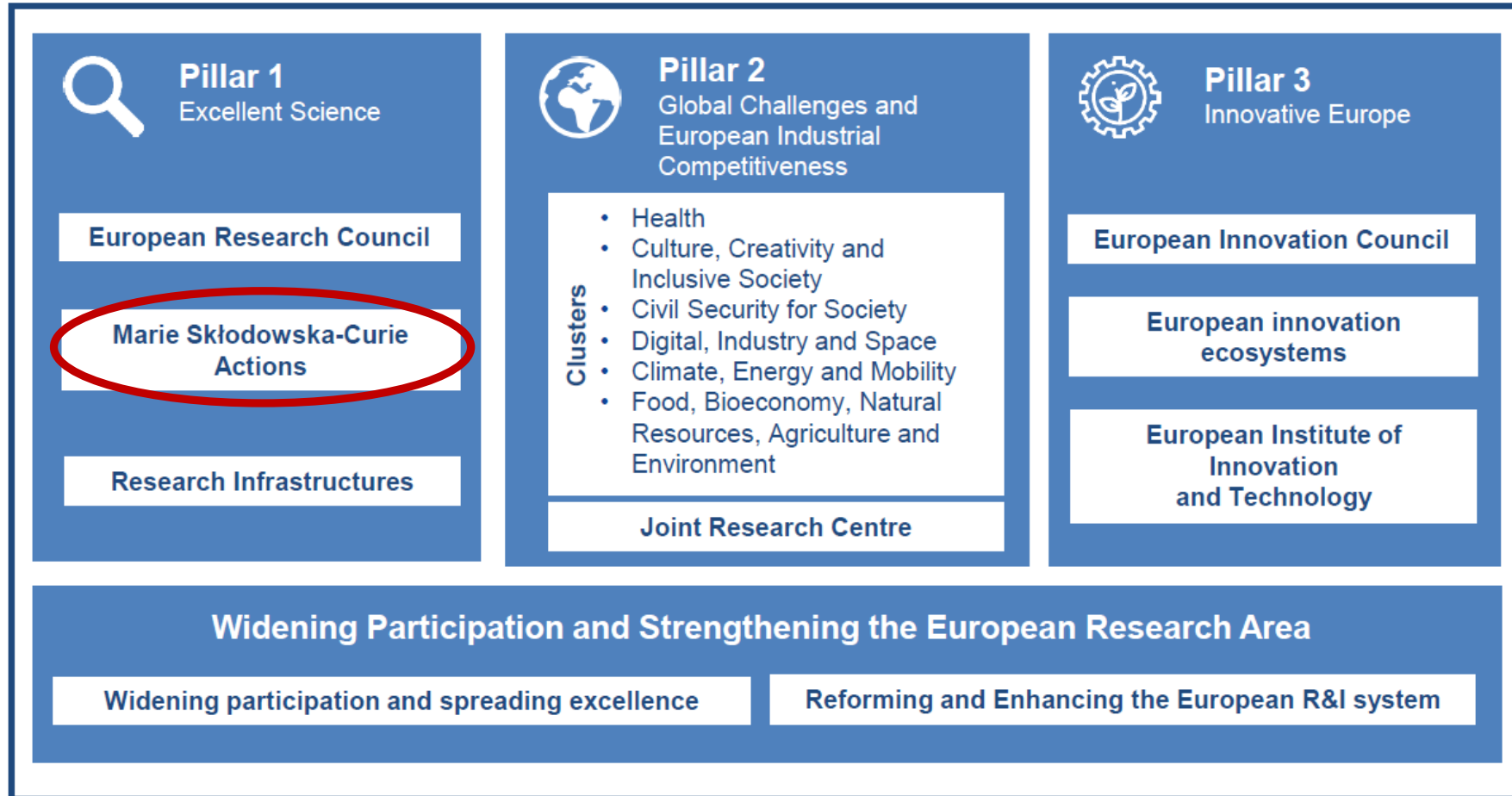
DEADLINE OF *MSCA-DN-2021* = 16th November, 2021

MSCA-ITN at MU in H2020

- We have submitted **82 (!)** proposals in H2020, majority of them in a **partner** role
- **7** proposals succeeded in the competition, i.e.
SR = 8.5%
- We coordinate **1 ITN project – PRORISK (prof. Bláha)**

MSCA within HORIZON EUROPE

- **Horizon Europe (HEU)** = the 9th Framework Programme (2021-2027)
- HEU has got **3 pillars + horizontal schemes** shortly called „Widening“



MSCA in H2020 and HE

ITN (Innovative Training Networks)

- **DN, Doctoral Networks**



IF (Individual Fellowships)

- **PF, Postdoctoral Fellowships**

RISE (Research and Innovation
Staff Exchange)

- **SE (Staff Exchanges)**

COFUND (Co-finances of regional,
national and international
programmes)

- **COFUND**, Co-finances of regional, national and international programmes

NIGHT (Researchers' Night)

- **MSCA and Citizens**

Specific types of MSCA sub-schemes



Doctoral Networks

MSCA-DN Doctoral training networks

- *Min 3 partners / 3 EU states*
- *Duration 48 months*
- *PhD funding for 36 months*
- *Max 360 person-months*
- *Inter-sectoral collaboration recommended*



Postdoctoral Fellowships

MSCA Individual postdoctoral grants

- *Any nationality*
- *12-24 months (6 more optional)*
- *Up to 8 years after PhD*
- *At least 12 in the last 36 outside the hosting country*
- *ERA Fellowships*
- *OP J.A.C MSCA*



Staff Exchanges

MSCA Exchange of staff

- *Min 3 partners / 3 EU states*
- *48 months*
- *Max 360 person-months*
- *Staff exchange inter-sectoral (Europe + 1/3 of all interdisciplinary)*
- *Staff exchange academic (global)*

COFUND

PhD or postdoctoral programmes co-funded by institutions or regional governments

Example: SoMoPro (EU + JMK)

MSCA and Citizens

European researchers' night

WHO IS IT FOR?

- Consortium of at least **3 legal entities** from EU MSs or Associated countries (at least one of them from EU MS)
- All beneficiaries must recruit at least one **doctoral candidate** (= not already in possession of a doctoral degree + enrolled in a doctoral programme)
- Recruited researchers can be of **any nationality** and must comply with the following mobility rule



MOBILITY RULE

Applicants have not resided/studied/worked in the country of their host organization for **more than 12 months in the 36 months** immediately prior to the deadline

Option of **SECONDMENTS** - anywhere in the world, up to **1/3** of the contract

8 EVALUATION PANELS:

- Chemistry (CHE), Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC), Economic Sciences (ECO), Information Science and Engineering (ENG), Environment and Geosciences (ENV), Life Sciences (LIF), Mathematics (MAT), Physics (PHY).
- Each panel will establish **two ranked lists**, one for **European** and one for **Global Postdoctoral Fellowships**.

OBJECTIVES OF MSCA-DN

The impacts the funder envisions

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.

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.

EXPECTATIONS & IMPACTS OF MSCA-DN

What the funder expects the beneficiaries to establish and create

Steering Board – Each DN should have a **clearly identified steering board** co-ordinating network-wide training and research activities and establishing continuous communication and exchange of best practice.

MSCA Doctoral Networks should **exploit complementarities between participating organisations** and foster **sharing of knowledge and networking**; training activities should respond to well identified needs in various R&I areas, with appropriate references to inter- and multidisciplinary fields and follow the **EU Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training**

Doctoral Networks should **develop substantial training modules**, including digital ones, addressing key transferable skills and competences common to all fields and fostering the **culture of Open Science, innovation and entrepreneurship**.

EXPECTATIONS & IMPACTS OF MSCA-DN

What the funder expects the beneficiaries to establish and create

Supervision

Particular attention is paid to the **quality of supervision and mentoring arrangements** as well as **career guidance**. Joint supervision of the researchers is mandatory for Industrial and Joint Doctorates.

Career Development Plan must be **established jointly by the supervisor and each recruited doctoral candidate**. In addition to research objectives, **this plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs**, including training on transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences and events aiming at opening science and research citizens. The plan, established at the beginning of the recruitment, should be revised (and updated where needed) within 18 months.

Main features of MSCA-DN summarised

- For **international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility** leading to **skills and knowledge development** and **knowledge transfer**
- **Funding for PhD students – usually 36-month FTE job (3-36 months)**
- **CONSORTIUM: at least three independent legal entities, established in three different MS/AC**
- Open and fair recruitment of international PhD student; all beneficiaries must recruit **at least one** doctoral candidate
- **Bottom-up research topics!**
- Built on **joint research** and innovation activities
- Project max size: **360 person month** of seconded staff + 180 additional PMs for joint or industrial doctorates (incentive)
- **Budget constructed as a product of person-months and person-month unit cost;** max. **40%** of the EU contribution allocated **to one country**
- Project max duration: **48 months**
- All research areas, 8 evaluation panels
- **Annual calls** – if not successful, you can re-apply next year (if > 80%)

Types of MSCA-DN

- **3 sub-types**
 - **Doctoral Network** (in H2020, **90%** of all ITNs)
 - **Joint Doctorates**, at least three independent legal entities entitled to award doctoral degrees
 - **Industrial Doctorates**, at least one of the three independent legal entities must be from the academic sector and at least one must come from the non-academic sector; 50% in the non-academic sector; **can be in the same country as the academic host**

MSCA-DN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

How much is there for the PhD and the Host institution??

RESEARCHERS UNIT COSTS		INSTITUTIONAL UNIT COSTS	
SPECIFIC ITEM	UNIT COST (person-month – PMs)	SPECIFIC ITEM	UNIT COST (person-month – PMs)
Living Allowance	€3,400	Research, training and networking	€1,600
Mobility Allowance	€600	Management and indirect costs	€1,200
Family Allowance (if applicable)	€660		
Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	€5,680 x % covered by the beneficiary		
Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Requested unit x 1/number of months		

- **The living allowance is a contribution to the gross-gross salary** of the fellow including compulsory deductions under national law (e.g. employer and employee social security contributions, taxes etc.).
- **For the Living allowance, a Country Correction Coefficient (CCC) applies**, the rates are specified in the MSCA Work Programme. **The coefficient for Czechia is 79.1 %.**
- For the Global Fellowships, the CCC is applied to the outgoing country during the outgoing phase, and to the CCC for the return country during returning phase

- 13 • Special needs allowance - the pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

MSCA – openings and deadlines of calls

Year	Action	Estimated opening*	Estimated deadline*
2021	Doctoral Networks	18 May 2021	16 November 2021
	Postdoctoral Fellowships	18 May 2021	15 September 2021
	Staff Exchanges	7 October 2021	9 March 2022
	COFUND	12 October 2021	10 February 2022
	MSCA and Citizens (covers 2 editions)	17 June 2021	7 October 2021
2022	Doctoral Networks	3 May 2022	15 November 2022
	Postdoctoral Fellowships	13 April 2022	14 September 2022
	Staff Exchanges	6 October 2022	8 March 2023
	COFUND	11 October 2022	9 February 2023
	MSCA and Citizens	No call foreseen in 2022	

**Dates to be confirmed with the adoption of the Work Programme*

Structure of the DN proposal template

DOCUMENT 1 (MAX 32 PAGES)

START PAGE (MAX 1 page)

1 TABLE of CONTENT (MAX 1 page)

START PAGE COUNT (MAX 30 PAGES SECTIONS 2-4)

2. EXCELLENCE (starting page 3)

3. IMPACT

4. QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

STOP PAGE COUNT (MAX 30 PAGES SECTIONS 2-4)

DOCUMENT 2 (NO OVERALL PAGE LIMIT APPLIED)

5. REFERENCES

6. CAPACITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

7. ETHICS ASPECTS

8. LETTERS OF COMMITMENT OF TC PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

END PAGE (1 page)

Please note that:

- Applicants must ensure that document 1 does not exceed the total page limit of maximum 32 pages (1 start page + 1 table of content page + 30 pages for Sections 2-4).
- *No reference to the outcome of previous evaluations of this or any similar proposal should be included in the text. The expert evaluators will be strictly instructed to disregard any such references*

DN evaluation criteria

- Evaluated by experts on the basis of the award criteria: **EXCELLENCE (50%), IMPACT (30%), IMPLEMENTATION (20%)**
- Scores are **1-5** in each criterion, with a resolution of **one decimal place** and will be subject to the indicated **weighting factor**
- Applications scoring **equal to or above 70% will be considered for funding** — within the limits of the available call topic budget.
- Successful **ITN** projects in H2020 had to score (on average) **above 95%!**
– **we expect better numbers in the MSCA-DN-2021 call... Why? See the next slide...**

MANAGING LOW SUCCESS RATE...?

Reducing number of submitted proposals & and actions' size

Re-submission restriction: score below 80% not eligible to apply in the consecutive call

Maximum of 360 person-months instead of 540 person-months with exception for Industrial and Joint doctorates (serves as an incentive for those sub-schemes)

Other novelties in MSCA-DN

All fellows **enrolled** in a doctoral training

Focus on the supervision - a short **profile of each supervisor**

Ex Aequo in the evaluation - Prioritization based on a) gender balance of supervisors in the consortium;
b) **geographical diversity**

Evaluation Criteria

EXCELLENCE (50%)	IMPACT (30%)	IMPLEMENTATION (20%)
Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)	Contribution to structuring doctoral training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity, including the potential for: a) meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field b) developing sustainable elements of doctoral programmes	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan , assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Soundness of the proposed methodology (including interdisciplinary approaches, consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability 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 (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, inter-sectoral and gender as well as other diversity aspects)	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 (including mandatory joint supervision for industrial and joint doctorate projects)	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts	

Support of Research Office

What we offer

- Primary consultation of your consortium and **expected project benefits** and **knowledge transfer**
- A half-day / full-day workshop on the **overall aim** and **specific objectives** as well as overall **structure of the proposal**
- Ideas and approaches regarding the **dissemination plan**
- Expert project management **advice on preparing the implementation** part
- Consultation of your texts, **editorial revisions & tips**
- A detailed and **agreed preparation plan** to avoid stress

MSCA-DN – Useful documents & links

- **Overview of the MSCA-ITN proposals selected in 2020**
- **MSCA website on DN**
- **MSCA-DN – start application at the *Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal* and get all documentation**
- **MSCA-DN „Guide for Applicant“**
- **MSCA Work Programme**
- **MSCA-ITN Handbook 2020** - elementary „text-book“ on **how to prepare an ITN project**

Contacts

Grant support team at **your department or faculty** (see the next slide)

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