

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Horizon Europe

DOCTORAL NETWORKS MSCA DN 2021 Novelties and rules for participation

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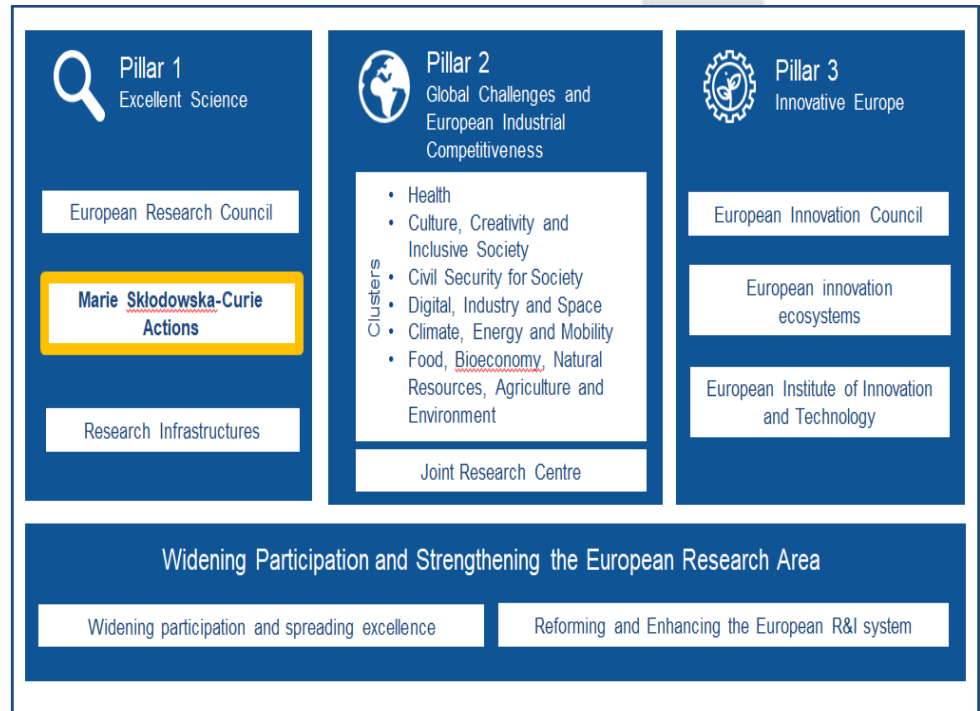
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Content

- MSCA General Aspects
- Doctoral Networks:
 - ✓ Objectives
 - ✓ Who can apply and how
 - ✓ Eligible researchers
 - ✓ Different modalities
 - ✓ Main features
 - ✓ Funding scheme
 - ✓ Relevant FAQ
- MSCA Support

MSCA General Aspects



MSCA General Aspects



- Gender friendly and inclusive
- Focus not only on dissemination, but on public outreach
- Synergies with European Policies, such as Green Deal, bridging ERA and EEA, RRI, C&C

MSCA: From Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe

Horizon 2020

I. Training Networks (ITN)

Individual Fellowships (IF)

R. and I. Staff Exchanges (RISE)

COFUND

European Researchers' Night



Horizon Europe

Doctoral Networks (DN)

Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Staff Exchanges (SE)

COFUND

MSCA and Citizens

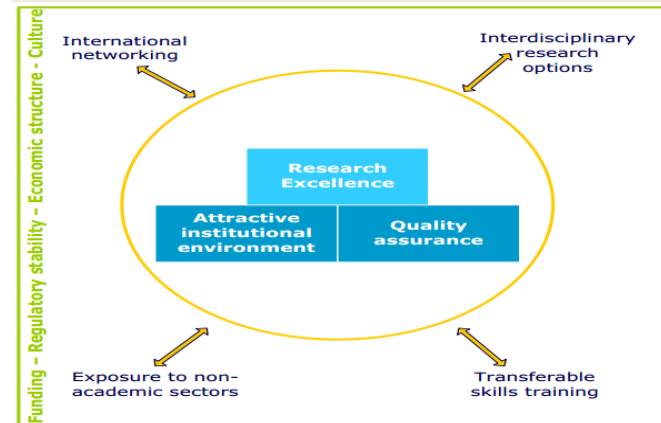
- Streamlined actions, clearer identity
- Simpler rules
- Demand management to maintain high quality
- [Guidelines on supervision](#)
- [MSCA Green Charter](#)

NEW

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2021: Objectives

- Networks training doctoral candidates, responding to **well-identified needs** in various R&I areas (bottom-up);
- Expose researchers to the **academic and non-academic sectors**;
- Offer research-related training, as well as competences relevant for **innovation and long-term employability**;
- Focus on **research and transferable skills**, (inter-sectoral secondments), **career development plan, supervision**
- Proposals can reflect **existing or planned research partnerships** among the participating organisations

**Not a research project, it is a
RESEARCH TRAINING
PROGRAMME**



MSCA DN 2021: Timeline

Open



Closed



€402.95M

MSCA DN 2021: 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 MS or AC
- Minimum of **1 beneficiary from a MS** (on top of this minimum, any entity from any third country can join; no minimum for associated partners)

MSCA DN 2021: Eligible participants



EU COUNTRIES

- Member States (MS) including their outermost regions
- The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the MS.



NON-EU COUNTRIES

- Countries associated to Horizon Europe (AC)
- Low and middle income countries: See [HE Programme Guide](#).
- Other countries when announced in the call or exceptionally if their participation is essential



SPECIFIC CASES

- Affiliated entities established in countries eligible for funding.
- EU bodies
- International organisations (IO):
 - International European research organisations are eligible for funding.
 - Other IO are not eligible (only exceptionally if participation is essential)
 - IO in a MS or AC are eligible for funding for Training and mobility actions and when announced in the call conditions

MSCA DN 2021: Eligible participants



For the purposes of the eligibility conditions, applicants established in Horizon 2020 Associated Countries or in other third countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe will be treated as entities established in an Associated Country, if the Horizon Europe association agreement with the third country concerned applies at the time of signature of the grant agreement.

- **Países Asociados:** Iceland; Norway; Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; North Macedonia; Montenegro; Serbia; Turkey; Israel; Moldova; Faroe Islands; Ukraine; Tunisia; Georgia; Armenia.
- **Novedades:** United Kingdom, Morocco and Kosovo

Specific situation of UK: The UK is associating to the full Horizon Europe programme with the only exception of the EIC Fund (which is the loan/equity instrument of the EIC).

Switzerland: In 2021 Call, it is considered a third country.

MSCA DN 2021: Eligible participants

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

MSCA DN 2021: How to participate

	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		

Compulsory: Letters of Commitment
for A.P + Letters of pre- agreement for
DN

MSCA DN 2021: Eligible researchers

- Supported researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment)
- Researchers must be enrolled in a doctoral programme, in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country (at least 2 for Joint Doctorates)
- **Any nationality**
- **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**
- **Open, merit-based and transparent recruitment**



MSCA DN 2021: Modalities

Multi beneficiaries Actions to set up doctoral programmes, including:

Doctoral Network (Standard)

Training in
academia and/or
industry

Industrial Doctorates (ID)

Training in
academia and
industry, Joint
Supervision

Joint Doctorates (JD)

Joint
collaborations
leading to a
joint/multiple
doctoral degree,
Joint selection
and supervision;
pre agreement for
joint degrees
required

- ✓ - **MSCA Doctoral Networks are encouraged to lead to Industrial or Joint Doctorates**
- ✓ - **Different set ups explained in the GfA summary**

MSCA DN 2021: Main features

Size

- Up to 10 doctoral candidates (360 person-months) (standard)
- Additional 5 doctoral candidates, 15 (180 additional PM) for joint or industrial doctorates (incentive)

Duration

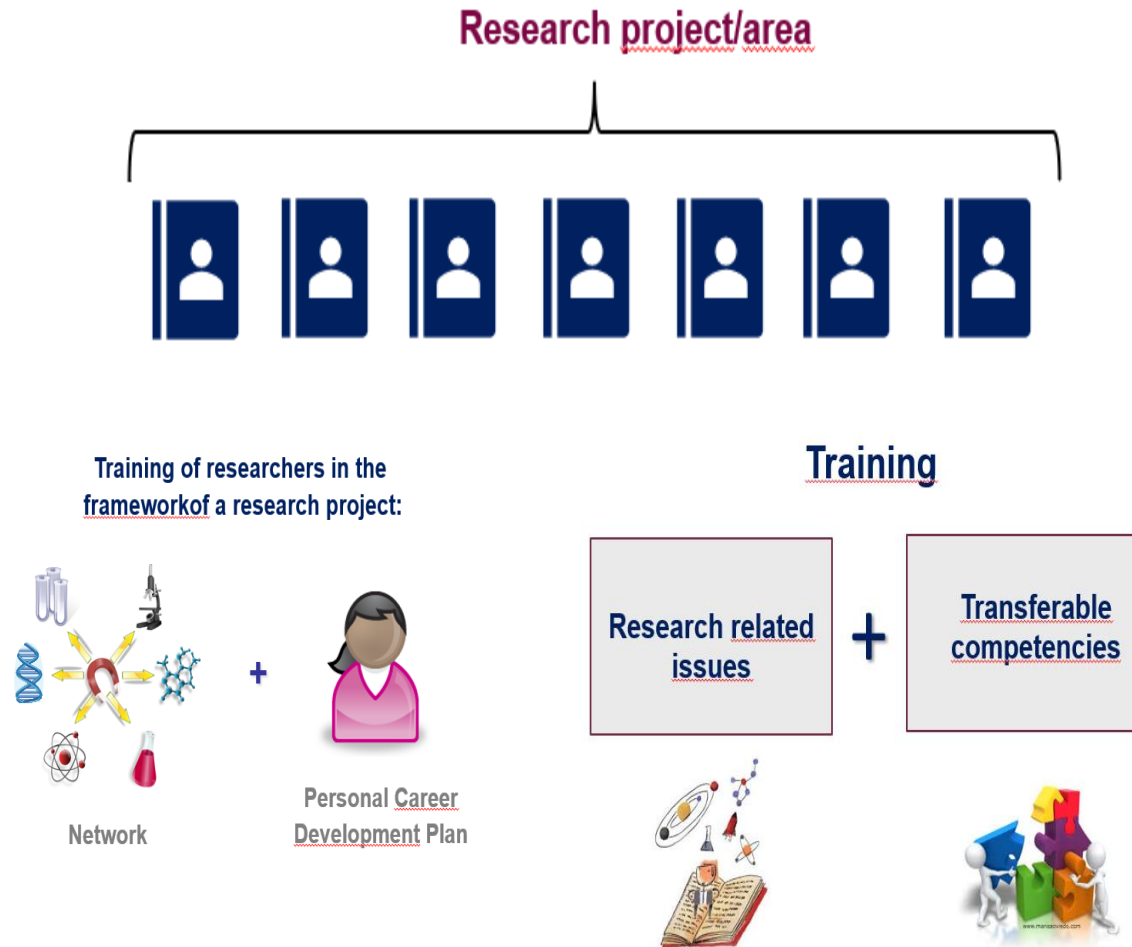
- **Programme:** max. 48 months
- **Fellowships:** between 3 and 36 months
- **Secondments:** worldwide, up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration
- **Industrial doctorates:** 50% in the non-academic sector; academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervising can be in the same country **NEW**

MSCA DN 2021: Main features

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



MSCA DN 2021: Activities



MSCA DN 2021: Secondments

- Relevant, feasible and beneficial for the researchers, in line with the project objectives.
- Variation in % time depending on the DN mode:
 - DN + JD: Up to **1/3** of the recruitment period (max. **11 months**) .
 - DN - ID **>= 50% sector no-academic (+ 1/3 of secondments at other institutions if needed)**
- During secondments researchers **keep their contracts** with the sending institution, which also pays their travel and subsistence expenses
- **Secondments of 6 months or less = accommodation + travel must be paid by RTN Unit Cost**
- Researchers receive **supervision and training** at the premises of the receiving beneficiary or partner organisation.



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

Research Excellence

Striving for excellent research is fundamental to all doctoral education and from this all other elements flow. Academic standards set via peer review procedures and research environments representing a critical mass are required. The new academic generation should be trained to become creative, critical and autonomous intellectual risk takers, pushing the boundaries of frontier research.

Attractive Institutional Environment

Doctoral candidates should find good working conditions to empower them to become independent researchers taking responsibility at an early stage for the scope, direction and progress of their project. These should include career development opportunities, in line with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.²

Interdisciplinary Research Options

Doctoral training must be embedded in an open research environment and culture to ensure that any appropriate opportunities for cross-fertilisation between disciplines can foster the necessary breadth and interdisciplinary approach.

Exposure to industry and other relevant employment sectors

The term 'industry' is used in the widest sense, including all fields of future workplaces and public engagement, from industry to business, government, NGO's, charities and cultural institutions (e.g. musea). This can include placements during research training; shared funding; involvement of non-academics from relevant industry in informing/delivering teaching and supervision; promoting financial contribution of the relevant industry to doctoral programmes; fostering alumni networks that can support the candidate (for example mentoring schemes) and the programme, and a wide array of people/technology/knowledge transfer activities.³

¹ Extract from "Report of Mapping Exercise on Doctoral Training in Europe "Towards a common approach" of 27 June 2011 (final), adopted by the ERA Steering Group on Human Resources and Mobility. The Principles were defined with the help of experts from university associations; industry and funding organisations. They reflect the Salzburg Principles of EUA, good practice in Member States and the Marie Curie experience. The Principles have been endorsed in the Council conclusions on the modernisation of higher education, Brussels, 28 and 29 November 2011.

² http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus/pdf/research_policies/Report_of_Mapping_Exercise_on_Doctoral_Training_FIN_AL.pdf

³ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/126375.pdf

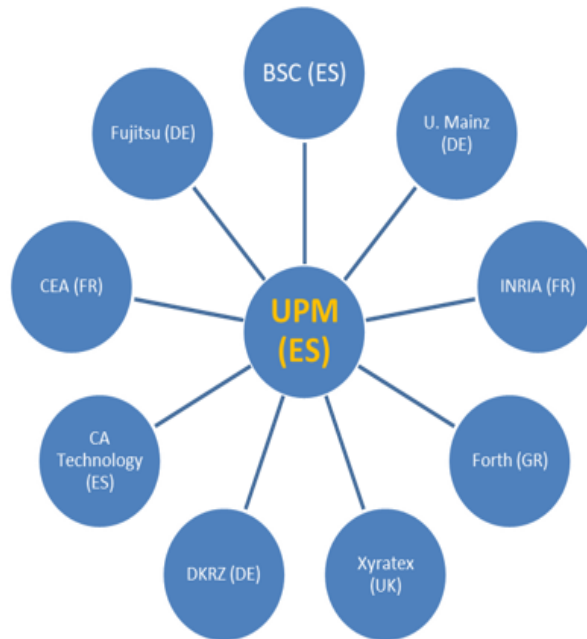
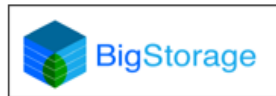
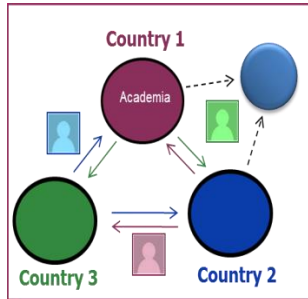
⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/erasmus/pdf/brochure_rights/am509774CEE_EN_E4.pdf

⁵ <http://www.eua.be/eua-work-and-policy-area/research-and-innovation/doctoral-education/doc-careers>

MSCA DN 2021: Example DN (previous ITN)

MSCA – ITN 2019: ETN mode

European Training Networks (ETN)



- **Minimum 3 beneficiaries** : 3 countries (MS/AC)
- **Max. 540 Re/Mo** for the network: **15 ESR**
- Max. **40%** of total budget to one country
- Participation of **non-academic sector** considered essential
- **Joint supervision** encouraged
- **Secondments up to 30%** of the researcher recruitment period to a different beneficiary, partner organisation, entity with capital link to a beneficiary

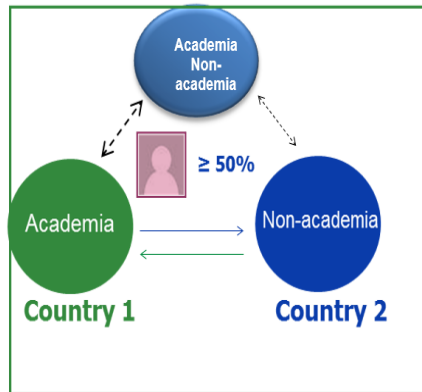


Important: In HE, max. recruited fellows is 360 P/M or 10 fellows. In H2020, it was 540 P/M or 15 fellows

MSCA DN 2021: Example DN - ID (previous EID)

MSCA – ITN 2019: EID mode

European Industrial
Doctorates
(EID)



AIRBUS
B2 – FR (40%)



Università Ca' Foscari Venezia
B1 – IT (40%)

ThalesAlenia Space
P. O – IT (20%)

2 beneficiaries

- 1 academic, 1 non-academic
- 2 countries (MS/AC)
- P.O any country, any sector
- Max. 180 ESR/Mo (5 ESR)

> 2 beneficiaries

- 1 academic, 1 non-academic
- 2 countries (MS/AC), add beneficiaries and P.O. any sector, any country
- Max. 540 ESR/Mo (15 ESR)
- Max. 40% total budget to one country

Applying to both

- PhD enrollment compulsory
- > 50% of time at non-academic sector: at beneficiaries or P.O.
- Any intersectoral mobility between beneficiaries must be international. The total secondment duration to P.O (irrespective of the sector) is limited to a max. of 30% of the fellowship duration.
- Joint governance structure compulsory (joint selection, supervision...)
- For academic institutions not offering doctoral degrees, **Universities should be included as P.O or entities with legal link**

Important:

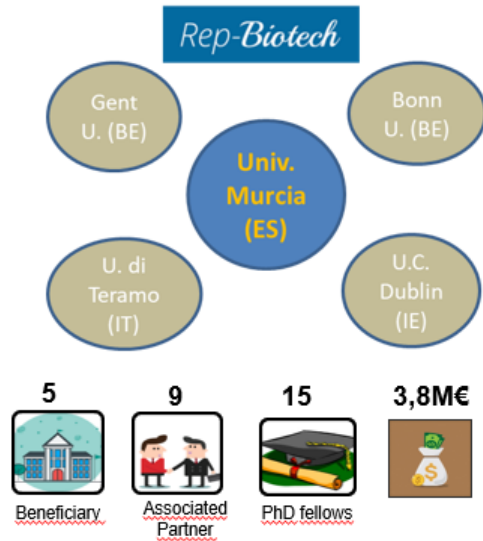
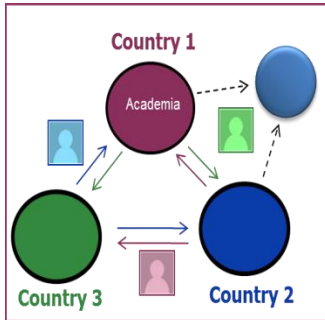
In HE, minimum eligible consortium criteria is 3 entities (not 2 as in H2020).

Intersectoral mobility within a country is possible.

MSCA DN 2021: Example DN - ID (previous EID)

MSCA- ITN 2019: EJD mode (1)

European Joint
Doctorates
(EJD)



- **Minim. 3 academic beneficiaries:** 3 MS/AC (entitled to award doctoral degrees)
- Mandatory enrollment in doctoral programme
- Provision of joint, double or multiple degrees
- **Max. 540 ESR/Mo (15 ESR)**
- **Max. 40% of total budget to one country**
- Joint governance structure compulsory (joint selection, supervision...)
- Participation of non-academic sector encouraged
- Letters of institutional commitment of beneficiaries

- **At least 2 of the entities awarding PhDs based in MS /AC**
- **Applicants must indicate from which institution (s) supported ESRs will receive the degree (s)**

MSCA DN 2021: Unit Cost funding

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month					Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance (if applicable)	Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)	Research, training and networking contribution	Management and indirect contribution
EUR 3 400	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 4 000 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 600	EUR 1 200

- Budget pre- calculated by EC, base on unit costs
- 100% financing

MSCA DN 2021: Unit Cost funding

Novelties of HE: reviewed and new cost categories

A living allowance to cover personnel costs for the employment of researchers with full social security coverage.

A mobility allowance to cover additional, private mobility-related costs, e.g. travel and accommodation costs.

A family allowance to contribute to mobility-related costs of researchers with family obligations which can be granted during the project.

NEW

A long-term leave allowance to cover personnel costs incurred by the beneficiaries in case of the researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave.

NEW

A special needs allowance to contribute to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities, e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel/transportation costs.

NEW

MSCA: Evolution, not revolution – DN 2021

Size:

360 PM DN
540 PM for ID and JD

All fellows are to be
embarked in a
Doctoral Programme

Multiple
recruitments
foreseen in ID and JD

Intersectorial
secondments are
allowed within the
same country in ID

secondments up to
1/3 of the duration

Increased budget
categories

Evaluation criteria

Resubmission
restriction from 2022
(80% score needed)

MSCA DN 2021: relevant FAQ

In Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN), do applicants have to declare in part A the person-months funded with own resources?

In an MSCA DN, where associated partners propose to fund their own participation in the action, or beneficiaries propose to fund additional person-months (over the 360 or 540 person-months limit) from another budget source, these person-months should not be indicated in Part A of the proposal, but instead they must be clearly indicated in Part B of the proposal. A clear explanation of this set-up and of the use of own resources should therefore be provided in [Part B](#).

MSCA DN 2021: relevant FAQ

Are multiple recruitments foreseen in Horizon Europe MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) projects?

In order to respect all MSCA DN rules (e.g. all beneficiaries recruit at least one fellow) and Industrial Doctorates (ID) / Joint Doctorates (JD) specific rules (e.g. min 50% in the non-academic sector for ID), multiple recruitment should be foreseen.

The location of the premises of the recruiting beneficiary will have an influence on the fellow's salary in view of the different country correction coefficients (see Table 2 of the [MSCA Work Programme 2021-2022](#)).

It may also affect the eligibility of the proposal (see for example the 40.0% rule and the mandatory recruitment rule by each beneficiary above).

Applicants are invited to consider that in IDs and JDs fellows will have to spend long periods in different countries with different country coefficients. If not duly considered at proposal stage by choosing the most appropriate recruitment option (or the most appropriate recruiting beneficiary), this might have negative implications on the capacity of the fellows to afford the cost of living during their mandatory secondments.

Please also note that in case of multiple recruitment, a mobility declaration should be submitted by each recruiting institution.

MSCA DN 2021: relevant FAQ

In DN-ID, is it possible that only one Beneficiary (academic or non-academic sector) recruits all researchers throughout the whole duration of the project?

No, it isn't. All beneficiaries must recruit at least one researcher. See MSCA [Work Programme](#) and [Guide for Applicants](#).

Please note that an MSCA DN-ID must be composed of at least three independent beneficiaries each established in a different EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country and with at least one of them established in an EU Member State.

At least one independent beneficiary must come from the academic sector and at least one beneficiary from the non-academic sector.

In addition, a maximum of 40.0% of the total EU financial contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries within one country.

Therefore, recruitments (and related budget) must be planned accordingly. The arrangements in the consortium must be made keeping in mind the obligation of hosting and training the ESRs for at least 50% of their time in the non-academic sector and the enrolment of the fellows in the doctoral programme.

MSCA DN 2021: relevant FAQ

Under the DN call, can universities which are not offering doctoral degree programmes (e.g. universities of applied sciences) still apply?

For MSCA Doctoral Networks such universities may participate as beneficiaries, as long as they recruit, host and supervise the recruited fellows at their premises.

In such a case, the fellow may be enrolled in a PhD programme at a university or a consortium/grouping of academic/research institutions (entitled to award a doctoral degree) which must be added as an associated partner or an associated partner linked to a beneficiary.

For DN Joint Doctorates (JDs) and DN Industrial Doctorates (IDs), such universities may also participate. However for JDs they do not count as one of the academic beneficiaries required for the minimum eligibility rules as they are not entitled to award doctoral degrees.

For IDs, should none of the academic beneficiaries be entitled to award a doctoral degree, a university or a consortium/grouping of academic/research institutions entitled to award a doctoral degree must be at least associated to the project as an associated partner or as an associated partner linked to a beneficiary.

MSCA DN 2021: where to find the information

Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2021

TOPIC ID: HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01-01

Grant

General information

Topic description

Destination

Conditions and documents


Partner search

Submission service

Topic related FAQ

Get support

Call updates

 Go back to search results

General information

Programme
Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)

Call
[MSCA Doctoral Networks 2021 \(HORIZON-MSCA-2021-DN-01\)](#)

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

Type of MGA
HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

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

HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

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

HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]

Deadline model
single-stage

Opening date
22 June 2021

Deadline date
16 November 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

MSCA DN 2021: where to find the information

Horizonte Europa Website



La documentación se actualiza a medida que tengan lugar las diferentes sesiones.

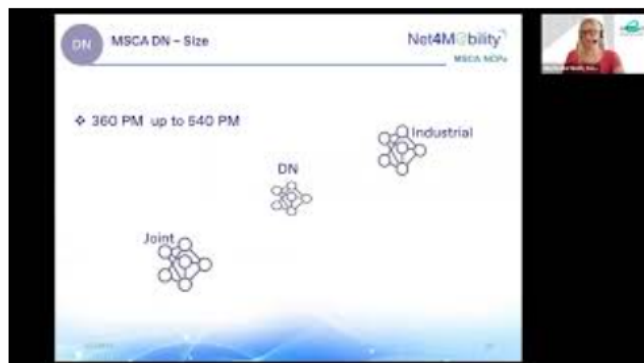
Webinario nacional 15/06/2021: aspectos generales de la convocatoria. En esta sesión se ofrece información sobre las novedades, reglas de participación, aspectos de elegibilidad y demás aspectos generales de esta primera convocatoria MSCA DN 2021 en Horizonte Europa. Se cuenta igualmente con el testimonio tanto de un coordinador de un proyecto beneficiario como de personal de gestión que apoya la preparación de propuestas en una institución española. Finalmente, se explica el apoyo que los Puntos Nacionales de Contacto ofrecen para esta convocatoria en España.

Webinario nacional 07/09/2021: aspectos prácticos para preparación de propuestas

En esta sesión se hará una breve revisión de aspectos generales pero se centrará en aspectos más prácticos relacionados con los diferentes criterios de evaluación y pautas para escribir una propuesta competitiva. Los Puntos Nacionales de Contacto de MSCA serán los encargados de impartir este seminario, con el apoyo de una evaluadora de proyectos ITN en Horizonte 2020.

Inscripción: <https://bit.ly/3g2cHaP>

15_06_2021_Explicación aspectos generales Convocatoria DN 2021 - REA	3.12 MB
15_06_2021_Caso de éxito ITN BioInspireSensing_UPC	421.45 KB
15_06_2021_Ejemplo práctico apoyo institucional UPC	1.23 MB
15_06_2021_Explicación apoyo Puntos Nacionales de Contacto MSCA en España	1.27 MB
15_06_2021_Agenda sesión informativa DN 2021: aspectos generales	608.97 KB
07_09_2021_Agenda sesión informativa DN 2021: aspectos prácticos	588.41 KB
Documento Guía del Participante MSCA DN 2021 publicado por la Comisión Europea	735.02 KB
Formato de propuesta técnica MSCA DN 2021 publicado por la Comisión Europea	1.3 MB



Evento 05-07-2021: Webinario sobre Redes Doctorales (Doctoral Networks) DN 2021, realizado en el marco del proyecto Net4mobility+. Disponible en Inglés

DN 2021: pre-screening service

Fechas:

Apertura servicio revisión: **11/10/2021**. Cierre servicio revisión: **25/10/2021, a las 10:00**

Envío de comentarios por parte de NCP: **máx. 2 semanas tras confirmación de aceptación revisión (8/11/2021)**.

Procedimiento:

- La solicitud de revisión deberá hacerse a través de la Oficina de Proyectos de la entidad coordinadora, **siendo la propuesta preferiblemente revisada por dicha Oficina con anterioridad al envío a I@s NCP**.
- Incluir en copia al personal coordinador científico del proyecto al hacer el envío.
- Solo se hará una revisión por proyecto.
- La elegibilidad DEBE ser previamente revisada por la Oficina de Proyectos
- Se deberá enviar la siguiente documentación al correo msca@fecyt.es :
 - ✓ Propuesta completa en Word con formato DN 2021. Apartados B1 y B2
 - ✓ Si se trata de un reenvío, indicadlo e incluir también el Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) del año anterior, la propuesta **debería estar preferiblemente actualizada**.

Quién puede solicitarla?:

- Proyectos **coordinados** por entidades españolas.
- **El presupuesto** solicitado por el conjunto de entidades españolas participantes deberá ser **superior al 25 % del total** solicitado por el consorcio en la convocatoria.
- En caso de propuestas enviadas con anterioridad, se dará prioridad a los proyectos con mayor puntuación.
- Se dará prioridad a aquellas propuestas no revisadas con anterioridad

NOTA. Se irán aceptando revisiones en función de la demanda y los criterios establecidos, pudiendo quedar fuera del servicio aquellas propuestas que no se ajusten al perfil o excedan del volumen máximo de revisiones.

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

¡Muchas gracias!

Cristina Gómez

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