



TECHNOLOGY
CENTRE PRAGUE

MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS & MSCA STAFF EXCHANGES

Ludmila Tysjačna
WIDE AcrossEU seminar
30 October 2025

HORIZON EUROPE

EURATOM

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

Exclusive focus on defence research & development

Research actions

Development actions

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT

Exclusive focus on civil applications



Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie

Research Infrastructures



Pillar II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters

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

Joint Research Centre



Pillar III INNOVATIVE EUROPE

European Innovation Council

European Innovation Ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation & Technology*

Fusion

Fission

Joint Research Center

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation & spreading excellence

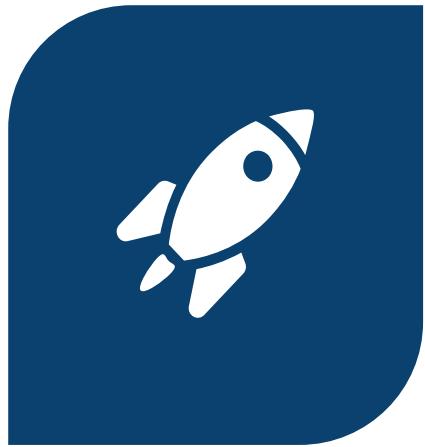
Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system



MSCA CHARACTERISTICS



BOTTOM-UP



MOBILITY



TRAINING AND CAREER
DEVELOPMENT



INTERSECTORAL COOPERATION

SCHEME	TARGET GROUP	IN A NUTSHELL
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)	Postdocs	Individual research projects
MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)	Ph.D. candidates	Innovative doctoral programmes, including programmes leading to industrial and joint doctorates
MSCA Staff Exchanges (SE)	Employees participating in R&I activities	International, interdisciplinary and intersectoral cooperation through secondments
MSCA COFUND (COFUND)	Ph.D. candidates or postdocs	Co-funding of regional, national and international doctoral or postdoctoral programmes
MSCA Choose Europe for Science (CEfS)	Postdocs	Co-funded programme offering long-term employment beyond the project period
MSCA and Citizens (CITIZENS)	Public	European Researchers Night and Researchers at Schools

MSCA CALL SCHEDULE 2026-2027 (TENTATIVE!)

Call	Scheme	Call Opening	Call deadline
MSCA-PF-2026	Postdoctoral Fellowships	09/04/2026	09/09/2026
MSCA-PF-2027	Postdoctoral Fellowships	07/04/2027	08/09/2027
MSCA-DN-2026	Doctoral Networks	28/05/2026	24/11/2026
MSCA-DN-2027	Doctoral Networks	26/05/2027	23/11/2027
MSCA-COFUND-2026	COFUND	16/12/2025	08/04/2026
MSCA-COFUND-2027	COFUND	08/12/2026	06/04/2027
MSCA-2027-COFUND-02-01	Choose Europe for Science	08/12/2026	06/04/2027
MSCA-SE-2026	Staff Exchanges	16/12/2025	16/04/2026
MSCA-SE-2027	Staff Exchanges	15/12/2026	15/04/2027
MSCA-CITIZENS-2027	MSCA and Citizens	09/03/2027	08/06/2027



MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS

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MSCA DN

MSCA DN IN A NUTSHELL

- A consortium proposing an innovative doctoral programme with interlinked individual PhD projects
 - Min. 3 independent legal entities from an EU MS/HE AC, with at least 1 beneficiary from an EU MS
 - Not more than 40% of the budget can go to the same country or a single international organisation
 - Each beneficiary must recruit at least 1 DC
- Beneficiaries can be from:
 - EU MS
 - HE associated countries
 - Low- and middle-income third countries
 - Exceptional funding possible if the participation of a high-income third country is deemed essential by evaluators (must be requested in the proposal)
- Beneficiaries (recruiting entities) can be from the academic as well as non-academic sector
 - If none of beneficiaries can award the PhD degree, a university which is able to must be added in the consortium as an associated partner (or an associated partner linked to a beneficiary)



Standard DN

- Training programme for PhD candidates in academia (as well as industry)
-  540 PM
-  Project duration: max. 48 months
-  Individual fellowship: 3 – 36 months
-  Secondment: up to 50% (**NEW from 2026**)

Industrial Doctorates

- PhD programme with at least 50% of the time spent in the non-academic sector
- Joint supervision (academic and non-academic) required
-  540 PM
-  Project duration: max. 48 months
-  Individual fellowship: 3 – 36 months
-  Secondment: no secondment limitation

Joint Doctorates

- PhD programme leading to a joint/double/multiple doctoral degrees (acknowledged in at least 1 MS/AC)
- Joint admission, selection, training, supervision and governance
-  540 PM
-  Project duration: max. 60 months
-  Individual fellowship: 3 – 48 months
-  Secondment: no secondment limitation



ELIGIBLE RESEARCHERS

- Doctoral candidates (i.e. not already possessing a PhD degree at the date of recruitment)
- Any nationality
- Mobility rule – in case of multiple recruitment, the rule applies only to the first beneficiary
- Following an open, merit-based and transparent recruitment
- Positions must be advertised internationally, at least at the EURAXESS portal
- Obligatory enrollment in a PhD programme
 - Researchers must be enrolled in a doctoral programme leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
 - By way of exception, where researchers are recruited by beneficiaries established in non-associated third countries, enrolment may take place solely in a doctoral programme offered in the country of the beneficiary. (**NEW from 2026**)



FUNDING

- Unit costs, 1 unit = 1 person-month of an eligible DC, 100% reimbursement rate

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month						Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Budget category	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
Amount	EUR 4 250	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 4 960 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 600	EUR 1 200

- * Country Correction Coefficient (CZ: 97,4%)
- ** Pre-defined categories: 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.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

Part A

Part A (online)

Panel, keywords, abstract (2000 characters incl. spaces),
information about participating institutions, budget, ethics

Part B

Part B1 (PDF)

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

• 30 pages

Part B2 (PDF)

- Recruitment strategy
- Network organisation
- Supervisory board
- Environmental aspects in light of the MSCA Green Charter
- Capacity of the participating institutions
- Pre-agreement letter for DN-JD
- Declaration on the use of AI

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
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)	<p>Contribution to structuring doctoral training at the European level and to strengthening European innovation capacity, including the potential for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <u>as a whole brings</u> 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	
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		

EVALUATION

Evaluation panels

CHE SOC ECO ENG ENV LIF MAT PHY

Evaluation criteria

- 1) **Excellence (50%)**,
- 2) **Impact (30%)**,
- 3) **Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (20%)**

- A min. threshold of 3 per criterion must be surpassed (**NEW from 2026**)
- A min. score of 70% to be considered for funding

- Resubmission restriction: 70% or more of the same recruiting organisations as in a previous proposal that received a score of less than 80%



MSCA STAFF EXCHANGES

MSCA SE

MSCA SE IN A NUTSHELL



360 PM

48 months

- Joint research and Innovation projects implemented through an exchange of staff within a consortium
 - At least 3 independent legal entities established in 3 different countries, 2 of which are from a different EU MS or a HE AC
 - Only legal entities from EU MS and HE AC can be beneficiaries, but also low- and middle income countries are eligible for funding (though as associated partners)
 - The consortium must consist of a mix of academic and non-academic partners (**NEW from 2026**)
- Secondments
 - At least 1 month, max. 12 months for the same staff member
 - Split secondments possible
 - One staff member can be seconded to different organisations
 - Only international secondments possible (between different countries)
 - Secondments between non-associated third countries not eligible
 - Secondments must be performed on a full-time basis
 - No limitation for same-sector secondments between EU MS/HE AC (**NEW from 2026**)

ELIGIBLE STAFF

- Researchers of any career stage as well as administrative, managerial and technical staff supporting R&I activities
 - Staff of the sending organisation
 - Type of contract irrelevant
 - Be under the direction and instructions of the sending organisation
 - Have appropriate R&I experience
 - Purely administrative staff (e.g. accountant) not eligible
 - Reintegration
 - After the secondment, seconded staff must return to their sending institution



FUNDING

- Unit costs, 1 unit = 1 person-month of eligible staff, 100% reimbursement rate

Contributions for the seconded researcher per person-month		Institutional unit contributions per person-month	
Top-up allowance	Special needs allowance *	Research, training and networking contributions	Management and indirect contributions
EUR 2 870	requested unit $x (1/\text{number of months})$	EUR 1 300	EUR 1 000

- * Pre-defined categories: 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.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

Part A

Part A (online)

Panel, keywords, abstract (2000 characters incl. spaces),
information about participating institutions, budget, ethics

Part B

Part B1 (PDF)

- Excellence
- Impact
- Implementation

• 30 pages

Part B2 (PDF)

- Participating organisations
- Explanation on the use of AI in the preparation of the proposal
- Environmental considerations in light of the MSCA Green Charter

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of the project's research/innovation objectives (and the extent to which they are ambitious, and go beyond the state of the art)	Developing new and lasting research collaborations, achieving transfer of knowledge between participating organisations and contributing to <u>improving research</u> and innovation potential at the European and global level	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Soundness of the proposed approach to foster international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary collaborations	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives of staff members and contribution to their skills development	Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium <u>as a whole brings</u> together the necessary expertise
Soundness of the proposed methodology (including consideration of the gender dimension and other diversity aspects if relevant for the research project, and the quality of open science practices)	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 proposed interaction between the participating organisations <u>in light of</u> the research and innovation objectives.	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts.	
50%	30%	20%
Weighting		

EVALUATION

Evaluation panels

CHE SOC ECO ENG ENV LIF MAT PHY

Evaluation criteria

- 1) **Excellence (50%)**,
- 2) **Impact (30%)**,
- 3) **Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (20%)**

- A min. threshold of 3 per criterion must be surpassed (**NEW from 2026**)
- A min. score of 70% to be considered for funding

- No resubmission restriction



MSCA NCP SUPPORT

Project RADIANCE



The Marie
Skłodowska-Curie
Actions Matchmaking
Platform

 Share

B2MATCH.COM/E/RADIANCE-MSCA



Doctoral Networks Handbook Call 2025

NETWORK OF THE NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR THE MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

Task 3.1 Handbooks and Submission
Guides
Issued by: DLR (DE)
Issued date: 23 September 2025
Work Package Leader: RANNIS (IS)

HANDBOOKS & SUBMISSION GUIDES



How to submit your MSCA – DOCTORAL NETWORKS 2025 project proposal

NETWORK OF THE MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS
NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

Task 3.1 Submission Guides
Issued by: TUBITAK, Türkiye
Issued date: 01 September 2025
Work Package Leader: RANNIS (IS)



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**THANK YOU
FOR THE ATTENTION.**

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