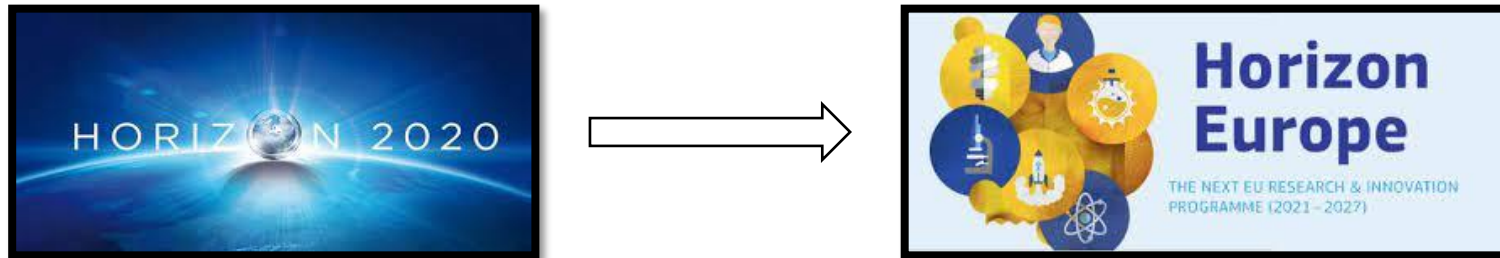


MSCA programme: identifying the key differences between **Horizon 2020 and **Horizon Europe****

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MSCA programme from **Horizon 2020** to **Horizon Europe**:



The overall structure of the MSCA program **in five sub-actions** under Horizon 2020 remains the same in Horizon Europe and only the namings have changed:

- **Innovative Training Networks** (ITNs) become “**Doctoral Networks**”;
- **Individual Fellowships** (IF) are merged into a single action: “**Postdoctoral Fellowships**” with two destinations (Global and Europe);
- the **Research and Innovation Staff Exchange** (RISE) becomes the “**Staff Exchanges**”;
- the **COFUND** program (Co-funding of regional, national and international programs) keeps its name;
- the **European Researchers' Night** is renamed as “**MSCA and Citizens**”.

Innovative Training Networks - Doctoral Networks

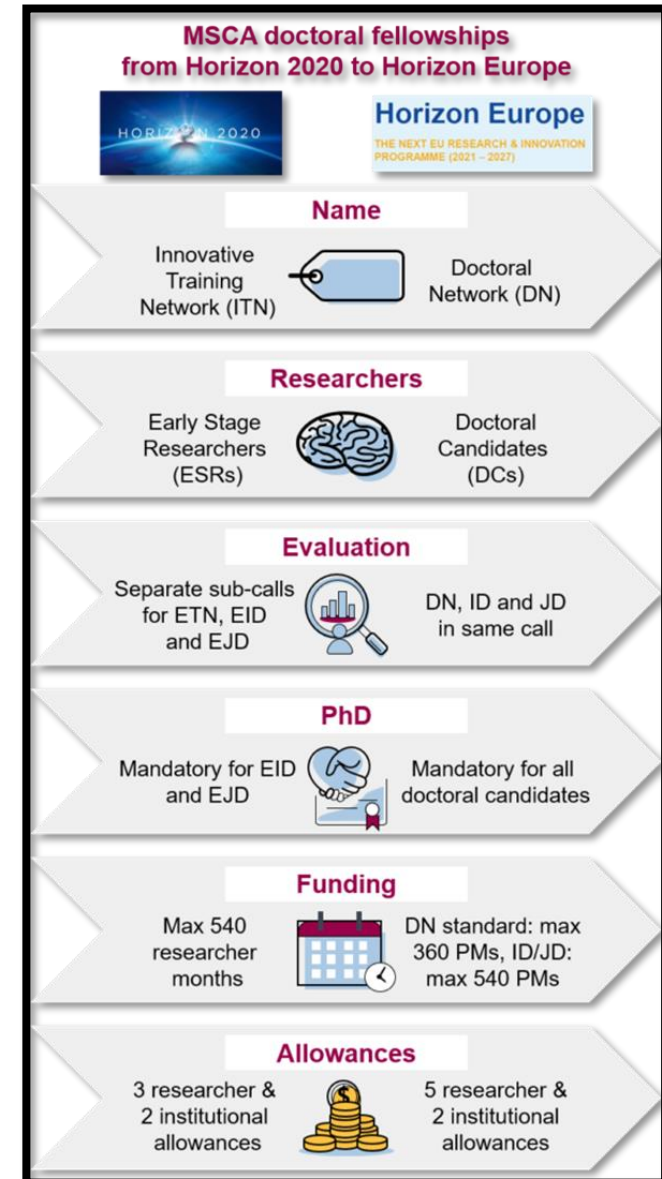


New terminology: The new ITNs have a completely refreshed terminology. Under Horizon Europe, they are called **Doctoral Networks (DN)**. The European Industrial Doctorates and European Joint Doctorates lose their “E”, becoming simply **Industrial Doctorates (ID)** and **Joint Doctorates (JD)**. The recruited researchers, are no longer ESRs, but DCs (doctoral candidates) and **Partner Organizations** are re-named to **Associated Partners**.

Smaller size: A maximum of **360 person-months (PM) per DN**, (reducing the number of funded PhD students from 15 to 10) while IDs and JDs are incentivised with an additional 180 PM, which brings them to a total of 540.

The Program duration is still max. 48 months.

Combined evaluation: **There will be no separate panels for ID and JD.** Under Horizon 2020, EIDs and EJDs were evaluated in separate panels, which resulted in comparatively higher chances for success than in the ETN panels. At least for the 2021 and 2022 calls, this will no longer be the case. All DN proposals, be they standard, ID or JD networks, will be evaluated together within the eight scientific panels.



Innovative Training Networks - Doctoral Networks



Simplified joint supervision: For ID networks, the academic and non-academic supervision of **doctoral candidates may now be domestic**. This marks a significant change to **Horizon 2020**, in which **all beneficiary to beneficiary mobility had to be international**. The implementation of IDs and the fulfilment of the 50% rule will now be much more straightforward.

Secondments duration: From **30% under Horizon 2020** up to **1/3** of the fellowship duration **under Horizon Europe**.

New allowances: In line with the European Commission's aim to make programmes more inclusive, the MSCA programme has also introduced two new researcher allowances: **long-term leave** and **special needs**. Both can only be claimed if a researcher qualifies for them. The long-term leave allowance will cover personnel costs incurred by a beneficiary in case of a researcher's long-term leave (e.g. maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave) and applies for absences longer than 30 consecutive days. While the EC categorises this contribution as a researcher allowance, it is a very welcome addition for the beneficiaries. **Under Horizon 2020, beneficiaries could not claim person-months for researchers on leave for more than 30 days.**

Gender equality plan: Public bodies, research organisations, and higher education establishments will have to **confirm the existence of a gender equality plan to participate** in any Horizon Europe programme. This eligibility criterion is not specific to the MSCA programme. A transition period applies for calls in 2021.

Innovative Training Networks - Doctoral Networks



Budget: The allowance structure has largely remained the same. However, the basic amounts have changed. For the 2021 and 2022 calls, the standard and non-negotiable allowances will be:

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 ¹ x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 600	EUR 1 200

Note: Under Horizon Europe, the contribution for the recruited researcher increased but the management and indirect contribution has been reduced.

EU contribution under Horizon 2020



Marie Skłodowska- Curie Action	Researcher unit cost person/month			Institutional unit cost person/month	
	Living allowance*	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs
Innovative Training Networks	3270	600	500	1 800	1 200

Proposal template: Consist of Part A, Part B1 and Part B2. Part B2 template also includes profiles for the participants, known as **‘partner profiles’**. These are also included in Part A (online forms). Participants will have to duplicate much of the profile information in two different proposal parts.

Part B1 template - some significant changes.

1) Excellence:

- Section 1.2 is now entirely dedicated to the methodology.
- Open science practices and research data management are now required sub-headings under this section.
- The training program is now covered under section 1.3; however, the expected content has not changed significantly.

MSCA-DN-2021-01 DN structure	
1	Excellence
New ✓	1.1 Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives
	1.1.1 Introduction, objectives and overview of the research programme No change
New ✓	1.1.2 Pertinence and innovative aspects of the research programme
New ✓	1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology
	1.2.1 Overall methodology Moved
New ✓	1.2.2 Integration of methods and disciplines to pursue the objectives
New ✓	1.2.3 Gender dimension and other diversity aspects
New ✓	1.2.4 Open science practices
New ✓	1.2.5 Research data management and management of other research output
	1.3 Quality and credibility of the training programme Moved
	1.3.1 Overview and content structure of the doctoral training programme Moved
	1.3.2 Role of the non-academic sector in the training programme Moved
	1.4 Quality of the supervision Moved
	1.4.1 Qualifications and supervision experience of supervisors Moved
	1.4.2 Quality of the joint supervision arrangements (mandatory for ID and JD) Moved

2) Impact:

- This section has been restructured and includes an entirely **new sub-section 2.4 dedicated to wider impacts**.
- The dissemination, exploitation and communication activities are now all to be covered in section 2.3.

MSCA-DN-2021-01 DN structure		
2	Impact	
2.1	Contribution to structuring doctoral training at the European level and to strengthening the European innovation capacity	Moved
2.2	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives and employability of researchers and contribution to their skills development	Moved
2.3	Sustainability of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities	Moved
2.3.1	Plan for dissemination and exploitation activities, including communication activities	Moved
New ✓	2.3.2 Strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures	Moved
New ✓	2.4 The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts (project's pathways towards impact)	
New ✓	2.4.1 Expected scientific impact(s)	
New ✓	2.4.2 Expected economic/technological impact(s)	
New ✓	2.4.3 Expected societal impact(s)	

3) Implementation:

- This section has seen the least amount of changes.
- The proposal **still includes a management section**. In other Horizon Europe proposals, the management section is no longer needed.
- For the DN proposals, at least this year, most of the required **content of the former section 3.2 has been integrated into section 3.1**. Specific sections for the Industrial Doctorates (DN-ID) and Joint Doctorates (DN-JD) also remain.

New ✓

New ✓

New ✓

MSCA-DN-2021-01 DN structure	
3	Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation
3.1	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
3.1.1	Work Packages description No change
3.1.2	List of major deliverables No change
3.1.3	List of major milestones No change
3.1.4	Fellow's individual projects, including secondment plan No change
3.1.5	Network organisation Moved
3.1.6	Joint governing structure Moved
3.1.7	Joint admission, selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures (mandatory for JD) Moved
3.1.8	Supervisory board Moved
3.1.9	Recruitment strategy Moved
3.1.10	Progress monitoring and evaluation of individual projects Moved
3.1.11	Risk management Moved
3.1.12	Gender aspects Moved
3.1.13	Environmental aspects in light of the MSCA Green Charter
3.2	Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
3.2.1	Appropriateness of the infrastructure and capacity of each participating organisation Moved
3.2.2	Consortium composition and exploitation of participating organisations' complementarities Moved

MSCA - Individual Fellowships – Postdoctoral Fellowships

Main Objectives (remains the same):

- Foster excellence through implementation of research project
- Enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD (training on transferable skills & career development)
- Focus on i3 (international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary) mobility
- Bridges and exposure to the non-academic sector

Research areas:

- All scientific fields
- **Including Euratom areas (indicative amount EUR 1 million annually) within existing scientific panels – novelty**

Activities:

Mono-beneficiary action to support post-doctoral research and careers with:

- **European Postdoctoral Fellowships:** coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe
 - **No separate panels – mainstreamed incentives– novelty**
- **Global Postdoctoral Fellowships:** outside EU Member States and Horizon Europe AC.

MSCA - Postdoctoral Fellowships – Postdoctoral Fellowships

Duration:

1. European Fellowships: 12-24 months
2. Global Fellowships: 24-36 months (12-24 outgoing phase & 12 months mandatory return phase in Europe)
3. **Secondments worldwide up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration - novelty worldwide secondments**
4. **Optional additional placement of up to 6 months in a non-academic European organization - novelty**
 - at the end of the fellowship applicable to both European and Global PF

Calls:

- 2021: 18 May – 15 Sept (tbc); 242 M€ [+indicative EUR 1 million for Euratom]
- 2022: 13 Apr – 14 Sept; 257 M€ [+indicative EUR 1 million for Euratom]
- **Resubmission restrictions applying as of 2022 for applications receiving a score below 70%**
- Seal of Excellence will be awarded to applications with a total score equal to or higher than 85%, but which cannot be funded due to lack of budget available under the call.

MSCA - Postdoctoral Fellowships – Postdoctoral Fellowships

Who can apply? (Participating Organisations):

- Legal entity in an EU Member State or HE Associated country

Recruited Researchers - Target Groups:

- any nationality (Global Fellowships: nationals or long-term residents of MS or HE AC)
- **in possession of PhD at the call deadline – novelty**
- up to 8 years research experience after PhD (with exceptions= career breaks, work outside research, research outside Europe for reintegrating researchers) – novelty
- mobility rule: not resided /main activity in the country of the beneficiary (or host organization for GF) more than 12 in the 36 months before call deadline

Specific eligibility criteria for PFs supported by Euratom:

- Organisation: legal entity established in an EU Member State or Euratom AC
- Researcher: nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or a Euratom AC

MSCA-Postdoctoral Fellowships - ERA Fellowships



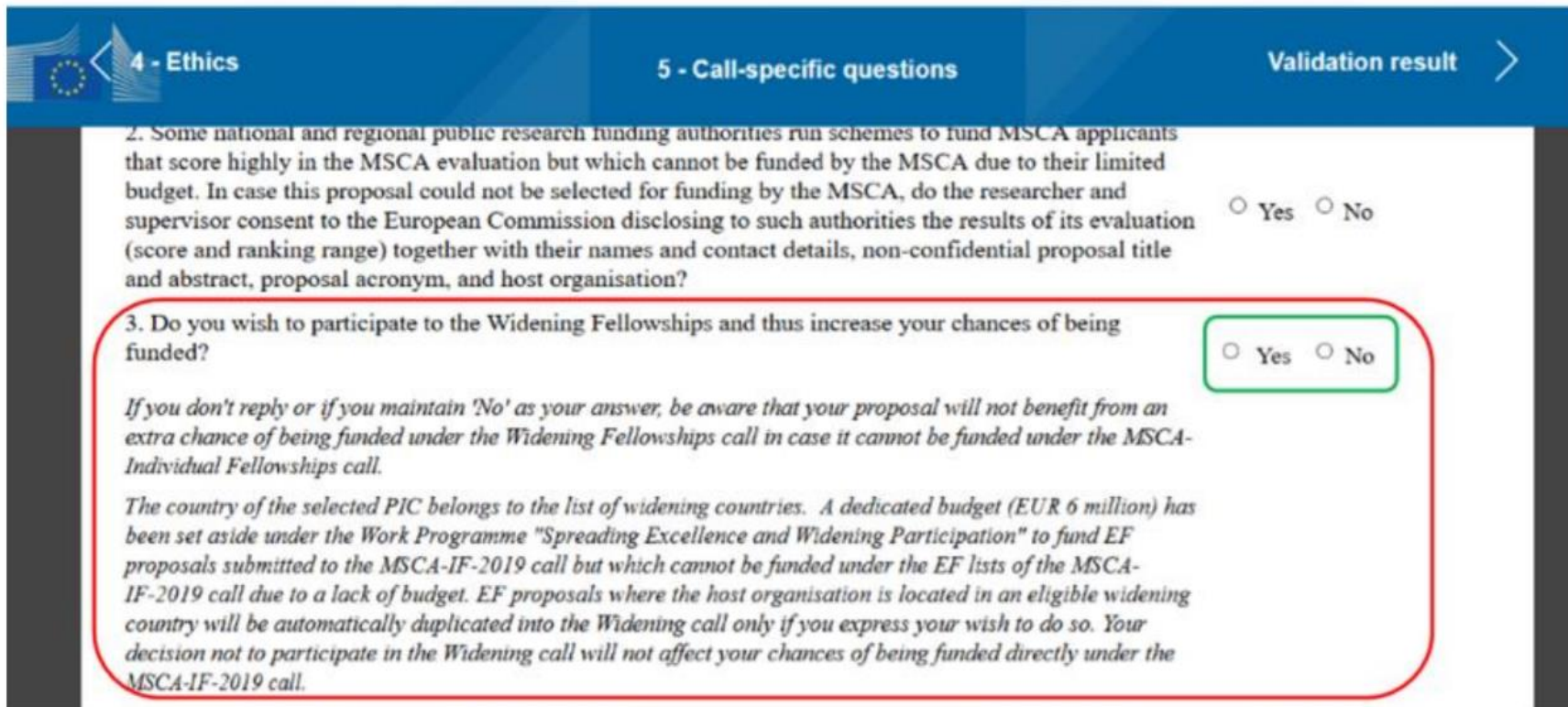
- **European Research Area (ERA) Fellowships** aligned with the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2021 – funded through the **Widening part of the Horizon Europe WP**.
- Offering a “**second chance**” of funding for fellows with host institutions in widening countries.
- The best ranking MSCA-PF proposals with host institution in one of the “Widening countries” that are not funded due to lack of budget (and are just under the “cut-off-score”) will be **funded from the ‘Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence’ part in of Horizon Europe**.
- In the application for MSCA-PF, the fellow **must indicates** that if not selected for funding, he/she wants to **apply for the ERA Fellowship**.
- After the MSCA-PF evaluation is completed, if the proposal is not selected for lack of funding, but is eligible for ERA Fellowship, it is **automatically “resubmitted”** to the ERA Fellowship call (with the score the proposal received in the MSCA-PF evaluation).

15 EU Member States are eligible for Widening support:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

14 upcoming Associated Countries eligible for Widening support:

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine.



4 - Ethics

5 - Call-specific questions

Validation result

2. Some national and regional public research funding authorities run schemes to fund MSCA applicants that score highly in the MSCA evaluation but which cannot be funded by the MSCA due to their limited budget. In case this proposal could not be selected for funding by the MSCA, do the researcher and supervisor consent to the European Commission disclosing to such authorities the results of its evaluation (score and ranking range) together with their names and contact details, non-confidential proposal title and abstract, proposal acronym, and host organisation?

☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Do you wish to participate to the Widening Fellowships and thus increase your chances of being funded?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you don't reply or if you maintain 'No' as your answer, be aware that your proposal will not benefit from an extra chance of being funded under the Widening Fellowships call in case it cannot be funded under the MSCA-Individual Fellowships call.

The country of the selected PIC belongs to the list of widening countries. A dedicated budget (EUR 6 million) has been set aside under the Work Programme "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation" to fund EF proposals submitted to the MSCA-IF-2019 call but which cannot be funded under the EF lists of the MSCA-IF-2019 call due to a lack of budget. EF proposals where the host organisation is located in an eligible widening country will be automatically duplicated into the Widening call only if you express your wish to do so. Your decision not to participate in the Widening call will not affect your chances of being funded directly under the MSCA-IF-2019 call.