

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

DOCTORAL NETWORKS

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Doctoral Networks (DN) aim to train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit. They will equip researchers with the right combination of research-related and transferable competences and provide them with enhanced career perspectives in both the academic and non-academic sectors, through international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.

DN are implemented by partnerships of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond. They 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.

DN are encouraged (but not obligated) to lead to Industrial or Joint Doctorates. In **Industrial Doctorates**, doctoral candidates will be jointly supervised by academic and non-academic organisations, both of which can be established in the same EU Member State (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Country (AC). **Joint Doctorates** lead to the delivery of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees recognised in at least two MS or AC, based on a joint governance structure with joint admission, selection, supervision, monitoring and assessment procedures.

The overall EU contribution per DN is limited to a maximum of 540 person-months.

Alike the other Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, DN follows a bottom-up approach, i.e. research fields are chosen freely by the applicants.

NEXT CALLS

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01, opening 29 May 2024

Budget: EUR million 608.60

Deadline: 27 November 2024

HORIZON-MSCA-2025-DN-01, opening May 28 2025

Budget: EUR million 458.66

Deadline: 25 November 2025

DEFINITIONS

Academic sector: Public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit research organisations for whom one of the main objectives is to pursue research or technological development, and International European Research Organisations.

Non-Academic sector: Any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector (e.g. industry, business, independent research infrastructures, government, civil society organisations, hospitals, etc.).

ELIGIBILITY & DURATION

- Applications must be submitted by a consortium including at least three independent legal entities, each established in a different MS or AC and with at least one of them established in an EU Member State.
- All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate. They are required to host at their premises and supervise recruited researchers, or use so-called associated partners linked to them to do so.
- Industrial Doctorates: Doctoral candidates must spend at least 50% of their fellowship duration in the non-academic sector.
- Joint Doctorates: at least three independent legal entities must be entitled to award doctoral degrees. At least one of the institutions conferring a joint, double or multiple doctoral degree must be established in a MS and/or AC.
- Duration of the action: max. 48 months, exception for Joint Doctorates: 60 months.
- Duration of each fellowship: between 3 and 36 months (on the basis of full-time employment), exception for Joint Doctorates: up to 48 months.
- Supported 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.
- Also, they must be doctoral candidates, i.e. not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment, and enrolled in a doctoral programme in at least one MS/AC

FUNDING

The contribution of the European Commission covers the activities of the researchers as well as part of the costs for the implementation of the project. If applicable, the researchers are also entitled to a family allowance, long-term leave allowance and/or a special needs allowance.

Please be aware that these contributions **might not cover the real costs regarding the researcher's salary completely**, since fellows must enjoy at least the same standards and working conditions as those applicable to local researchers holding a similar position at the place of the implementation (for instance regarding collective bargaining agreements or other salary schemes).

Contributions for the recruited researchers [person/month]:

Living allowance	EUR 4,010.00
Mobility allowance	EUR 710.00
Family allowance (if applicable)	EUR 660.00

A correction coefficient applies to the living allowance, e.g. for Austria: 109.7%

Institutional contributions [person/month]:

Research, training and networking contribution	EUR 1,600.00
Management and indirect contribution	EUR 1,200.00

CONTACT

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We kindly ask researchers from Austrian universities and non-university research institutions to contact their research services for basic counselling (for universities: www.forschungsservice.at).

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