



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: What's new in Horizon Europe *Doctoral Networks*

24 November 2021

Sohail LUKA

European Commission

Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture

Unit C2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Doctoral Networks

- Multi-beneficiary Action (several organizations apply together) to set up **doctoral programmes**, also including
 - **Industrial Doctorates**: Training in academia and industry, Joint supervision
 - **Joint Doctorates**: Joint collaborations leading to a joint/multiple doctoral degree, Joint selection and supervision; pre-agreement for joint degrees required
- Respond to **well-identified needs** in **various** R&I areas (bottom-up), expose the researchers to the **academic and non-academic sectors**, and offer training in research-related, as well as competences relevant for **innovation and long-term employability**
- Focus on research and **transferable skills**, (inter-sectoral secondments), career development plan, supervision, internationalisation/attractiveness

Eligibility of organisations

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)
- 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

Eligibility of 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.

Features

Size

- Up to 360 person-months (standard) + 180 additional person-months for joint or industrial doctorates (incentive)

Duration

- Programme: max. 48 months
- Fellowship: 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

Calls

- 2021: 22 June - 16 Nov; 402.95M€
- 2022: 3 May - 15 Nov; 427.28M€
- Resubmission restrictions applying as of 2022 for applications receiving a score below 80%

Award criteria

Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives	Contribution to structuring doctoral training at European level and strengthening European innovation capacity	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages
Soundness of the proposed methodology	Credibility of the measures to enhance the career perspectives 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	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	The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts	
50%	30%	20%