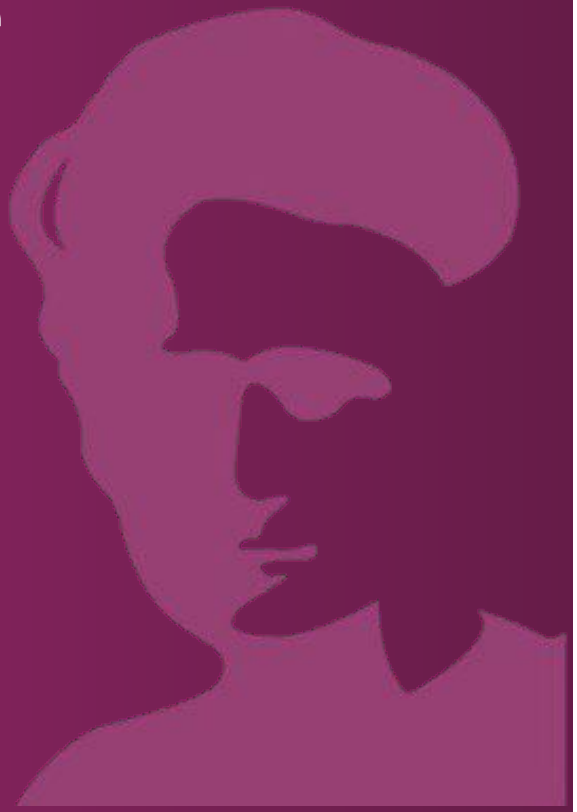
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)



Programme overview and funding opportunities

Audrey ARFI

Research Executive Agency

European Commission

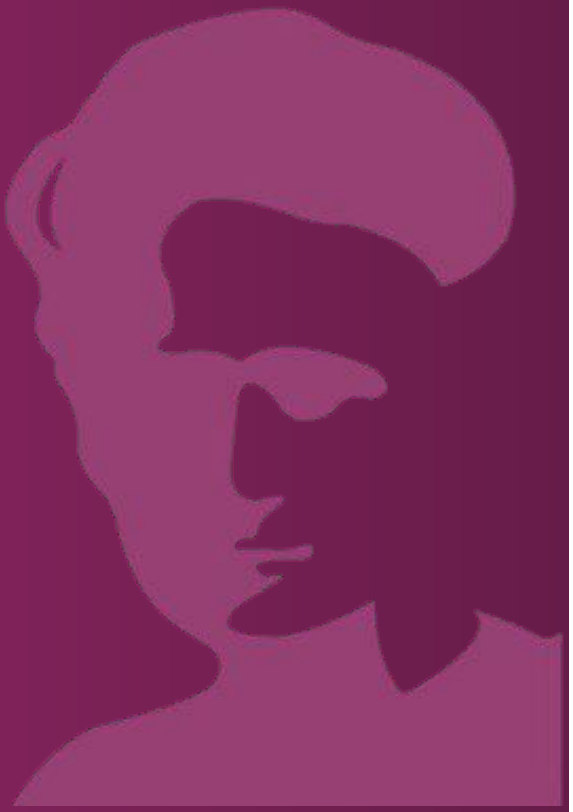
H2020: World class Science & Enabling Innovation - 80 billion EUR

MSCA: 6,1 b€

European Commission

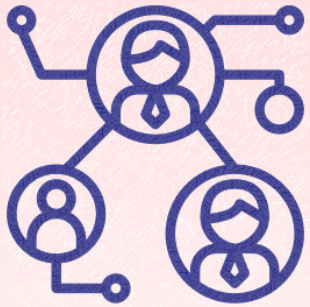
MSCA basics

- **Funding** (grants) = all career stages, all nationalities, all fields of research
- **Training** = unique skills and experience for career in public or private sector
- **Opportunities** = Good working conditions/benefits, mobility countries, sectors, disciplines
- **Sustainability** = collaboration between individuals and institutions



European Commission

MSCA overview



Innovative Training Networks

Individual fellowships

Research and Innovation Staff Exchanges

Cofunding of research programmes

European Commission

MSCA Participating Countries

EU Member State (MS): 28 countries/ overseas territories

Associated Country(AC): Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia

Third Country (TC): any other country (n.b. Annex A list of countries that can receive funding)

Which organisations?

Academic sector

- Higher education establishments (awarding academic degrees)
- Non-profit research organisations (primary mission research)
- International European interest organisations (e.g. CERN, EMBL)

Non-academic sector

- Any entity not included in the academic sector:
- e.g. large companies, SMEs, NGOs, hospitals, international organisations (e.g. UN, WHO)

European Commission

Which researchers?

	Early stage researcher (ESR) • ≤ 4-year in research • no PhD awarded	**ITN** **COFUND** **RISE**
	Experienced researcher (ER) • ≥4-year in research **or** • Have obtained PhD	**IF** **RISE**
	Other staff • Managers, technicians, administrators (involved in research activities)	**RISE**

European Commission

MSCA as substantial long-term grants…

1 unit
=
1 month of eligible researcher

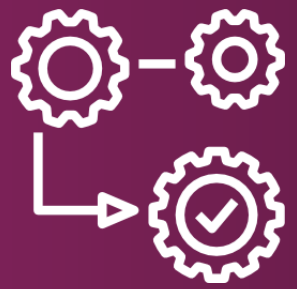
MSCA	Duration (years)	Staff member unit cost (€)	Institutional unit cost(€)		Average total budget
		Living allowance*, mobility allowance, family allowance	Research, training and networking	Management and indirect costs	
ITN	4	3270*, 600, 500	1800	1200	3,5 M
IF	2 (3 for GF)	4880*, 600, 500	800	650	0,2 M
RISE	4	2100*	1800	700	1 M
COFUND	5	1935*/2740*	325	-	Max 10 M

European Commission

…awarded based on 3 Evaluation criteria (MSCA)

50%
Excellence

30%
Impact



20%
Implementation

European Commission

Why should one apply for a MSCA grant?

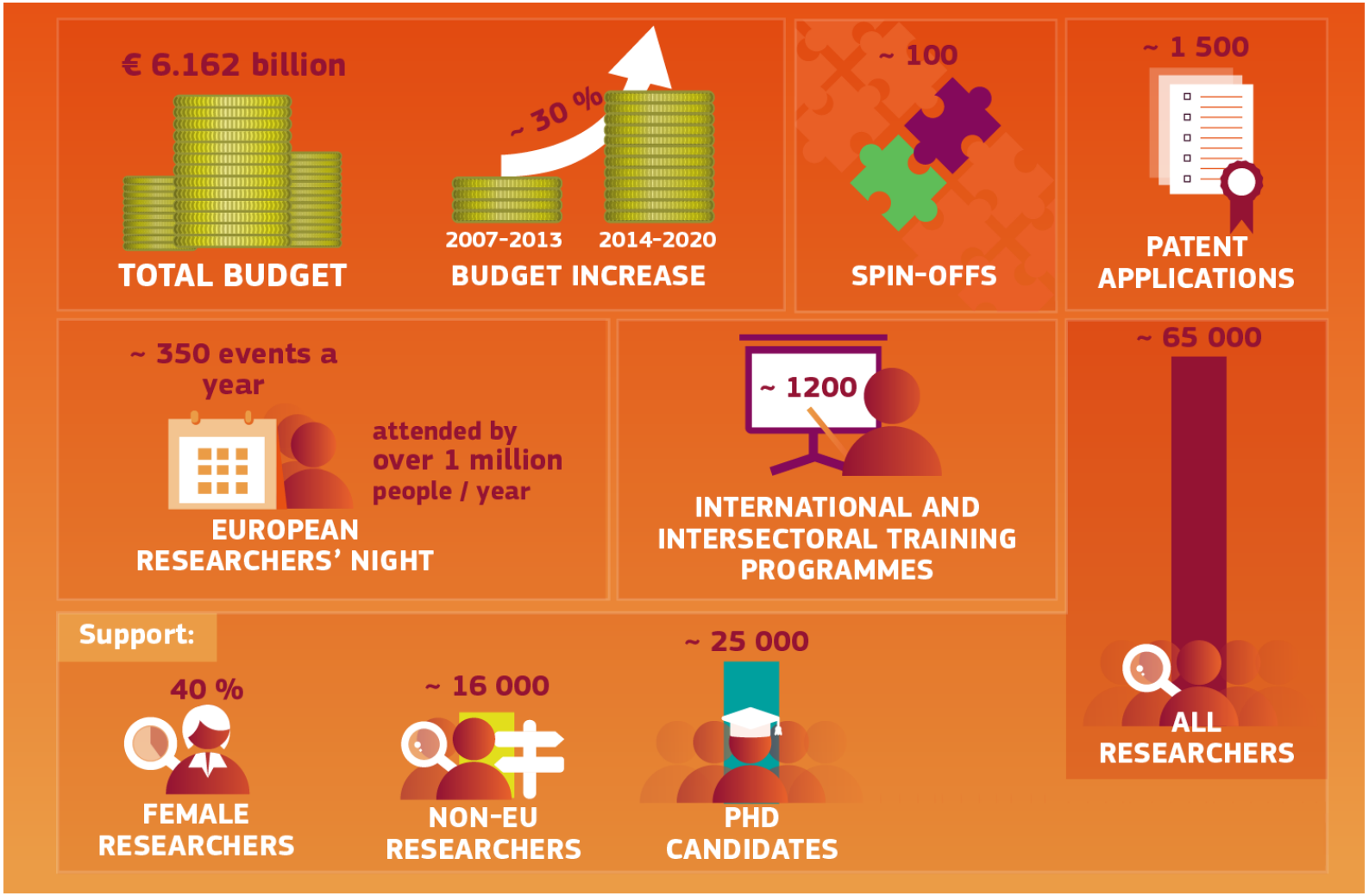
MSCA offers unique opportunities to

- **move** across Europe or beyond
- increase your **research network in all scientific domains**
- develop your **scientific career**
- attract **top early-stage & experienced** researchers and enhance their career perspectives and employability
- offer **innovative & high-quality training** (research and soft skills)
- create **cooperation between industry and academia**

Structuring impact on ERA by setting standards for quality training, attractive working conditions and open recruitment for all EU researchers.

European Commission

MSCA Key Figures (2014-2020)

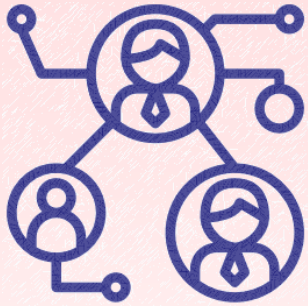


European Commission

H2020-MSCA-ITN-2020
Innovative Training Networks

European Commission

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



Innovative Training Networks

Individual fellowships

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European Commission

Content

1. ITN-2020: Topics & Planning
2. ITN in practice
3. Submission of ITNs
4. Evaluation Process
5. Help needed?

Content

1. **ITN-2020: Topics & Planning**
2. **ITN in practice**
3. **Submission of ITNs**
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5. **Help needed?**

ITN 2020 call

Modes & Budget

ETN

European Training Networks

Participants implement a joint research training programme

~445 M€

EID

European Industrial Doctorates

Doctoral training with the non-academic sector

40 M€

EJD

European Joint Doctorates

Universities cooperate to deliver joint degrees

45 M€

Call Opening:	**12 Sep 2019**
Call Closure:	**14 Jan 2020**
Allocation of proposals:	**22 Jan - 24 Jan 2020**
Remote phase:	**07 Feb - 28 March 2020**
Central Panel Reviews:	**30 March– 03 April 2020**
Launch Grant preparation:	**mid-May 2020**

Content

1. ITN-2020: Topics & Planning
2. **ITN in practice**
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ITN in practice

Who
Minimum 3 independent organisations from 3 different MS/AC countries
Early-Stage Researchers (**ESRs**)

What
R&I activities, training, supervision

How
Recruitment: 3 to 36 months

How long
Up to 4 years

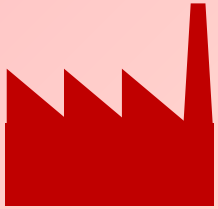
How much
Max. 540 person month (unit cost)

European Commission

Who applies ?

Academic sector

- ✓ public /private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees
- ✓ public /private non-profit research organisations whose primary mission is to pursue research
- ✓ international European interest organisations (e.g. CERN, EMBL)



Non-academic sector

- ✓ any entity not included in the academic sector:
- ✓ e.g. large companies, SMEs, NGOs, hospitals
- ✓ international organisations (e.g. UN, WHO)

European Commission

Eligibility rules?

EU 28 Member States (MS)
Associated Countries (AC)
Third Countries (TC)

ETN

Min. 3 beneficiaries from any sector from 3 different MS/AC

EID

Min. 2 beneficiaries from 2 different MS/AC:
min. 1 from academic
+ min. 1 from non-academic sector

EJD

Min. 3 beneficiaries
from academic sector awarding PhD
from 3 different MS/AC

Above this minimum: participants from any sector / country

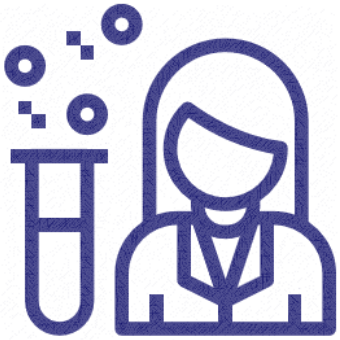
European Commission

ITN Consortium Participants

Beneficiary	Partner Organisation
In Member State (MS) or H2020 Associated Country (AC) *	Any Country, Any sector
Recruit researchers	Do NOT recruit researchers
Trains/hosts seconded researchers	
Sign Grant	Do NOT sign Grant
Claim costs	Do NOT Claim costs
Overall implementation	Letter of Commitment required

* Above minimum requirements, TC can also participate

European Commission



Early-Stage Researchers

Only Early-Stage Researchers (**ESRs**):

- ≤ 4 years of research experience
- no PhD yet

Mandatory **trans-national mobility** at the time of recruitment.

Recruitment: **3 to 36** months after the project starts

European Commission

Expected Impact

- ✓ **Researcher level**
  - Employability, successful career
- ✓ **Organisation level**
  - Cooperation and ToK between sectors and disciplines
  - Quality of training programmes
- ✓ **System level**
  - Societal and economic relevance of European higher education
  - Europe more attractive as a leading research destination
  - Better quality research and innovation

ETN

Joint research training programme

Mandatory

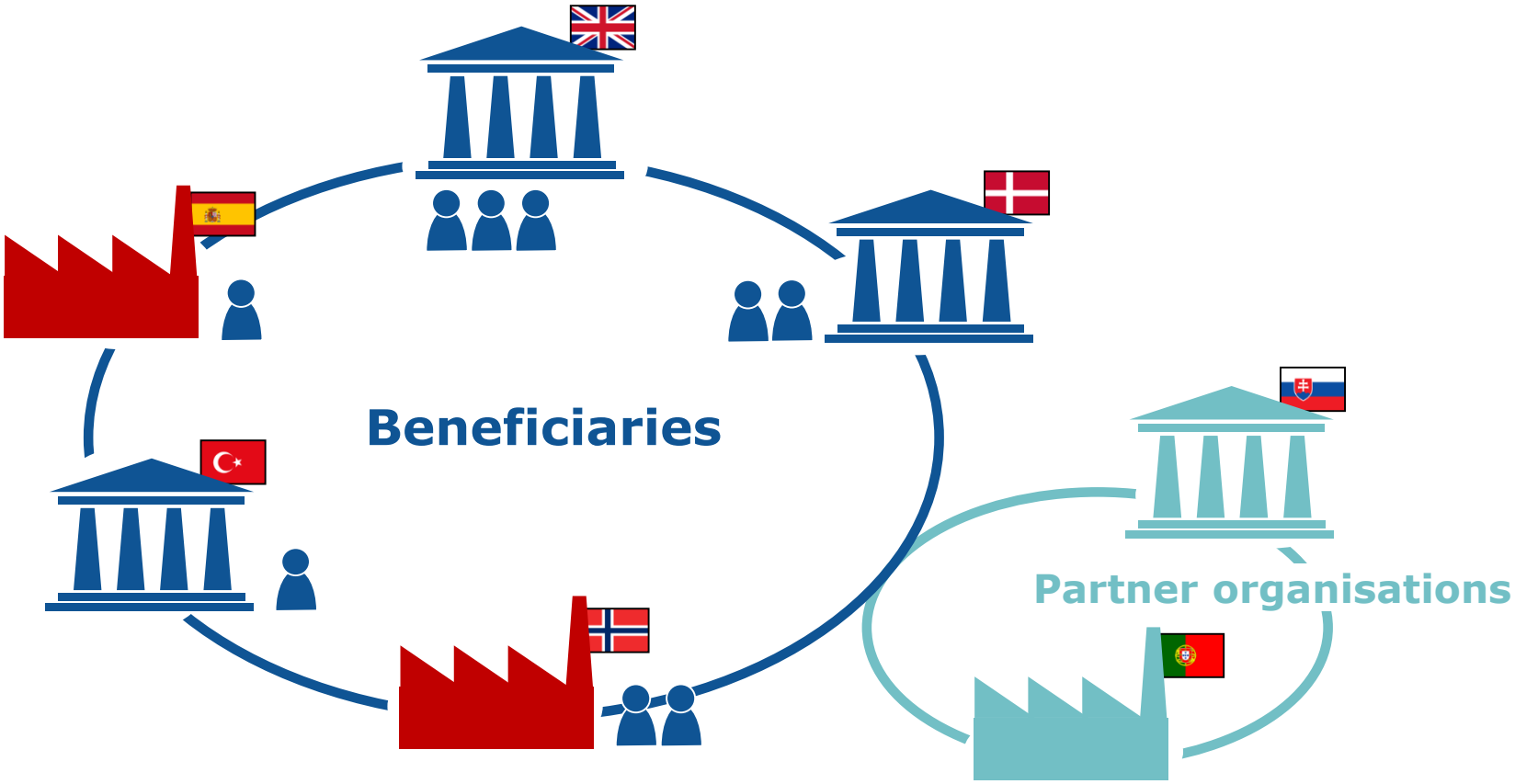
- ✓ Minimum 3 beneficiaries from 3 different MS/AC
- ✓ Each beneficiary recruits and/or hosts at least 1 ESR
- ✓ Max 540 person-months (e.g. 15 ESRs x 36 months)
- ✓ Max 40% budget to one country

Other features

- ✓ Non-academic sector participation essential
- ✓ PhD enrolment typically expected (not mandatory)
- ✓ Secondments to other countries/sector/disciplines (≤30% time)
- ✓ Joint supervision recommended
- ✓ Partner organisations (any country/sector)
- ✓ Typically 6-10 beneficiaries

European Commission

ETN



European Commission

EID

2

Doctoral training with the non-academic sector

Mandatory

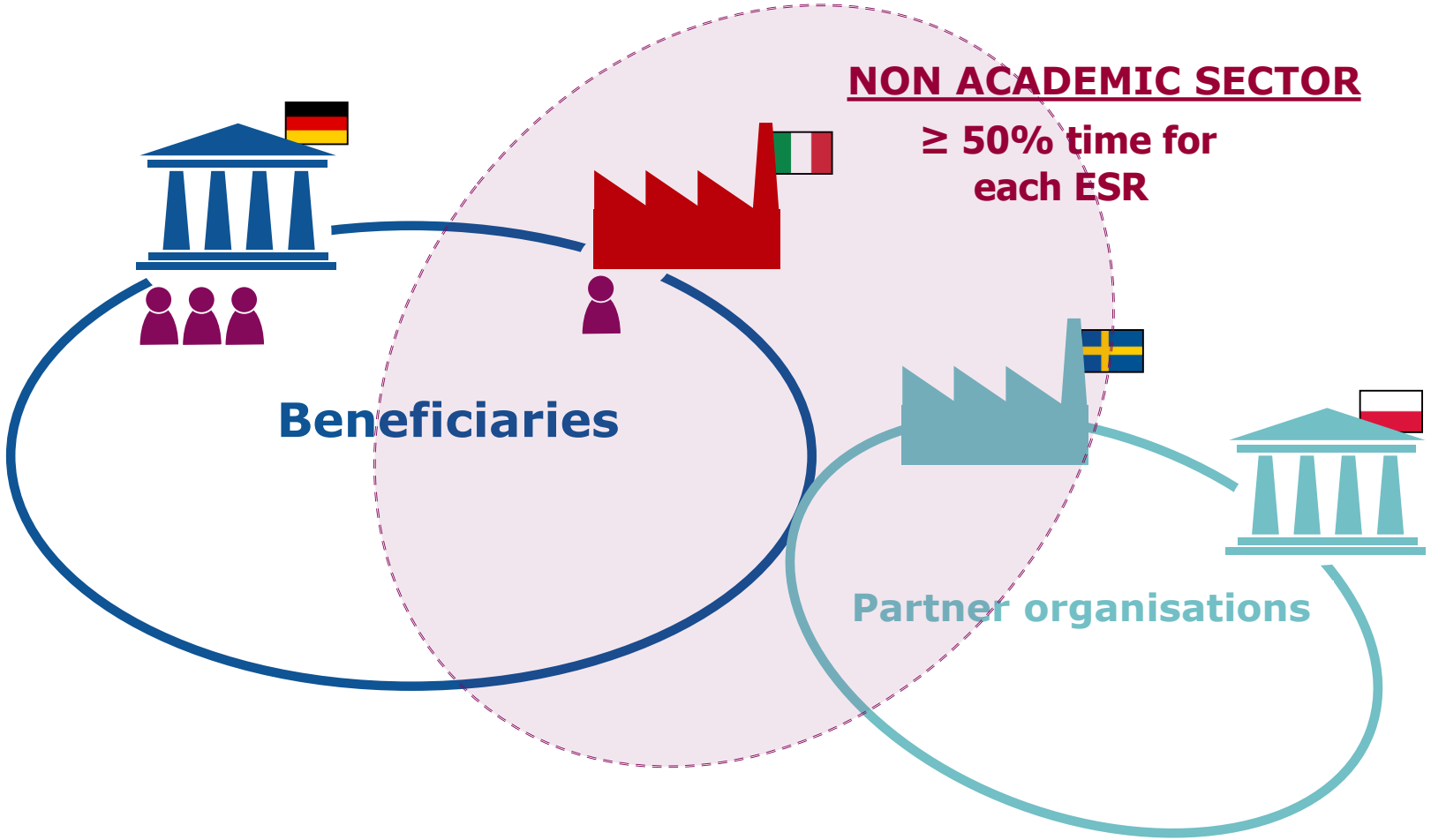
- ✓Minimum 2 beneficiaries from 2 different MS/AC
  1 academic + 1 non-academic
- ✓ If: 2 organisations = Max 180 person-months
  If: ≥3 organisations=Max 540 person-months
- ✓Each ESR enrolled in a PhD
- ✓Each ESR spends ≥ 50% time in non-academic sector
- ✓Each ESR spends ≥ 30% time in partner organisations
- ✓Joint selection, training and supervision (1 supervisor/sector)
- ✓Intersectoral secondments are international between beneficiaries

Other features

- ✓ Individual research projects under the topic of the doctoral programme
- ✓ Partner organisations (any country/sector)
- ✓ Flexible recruitment rule

European Commission

EID



2 beneficiaries: max 180 PM

≥3 beneficiaries: max 540 PM

European Commission

EJD

3

Universities cooperating to deliver joint multiple doctoral degrees

Mandatory

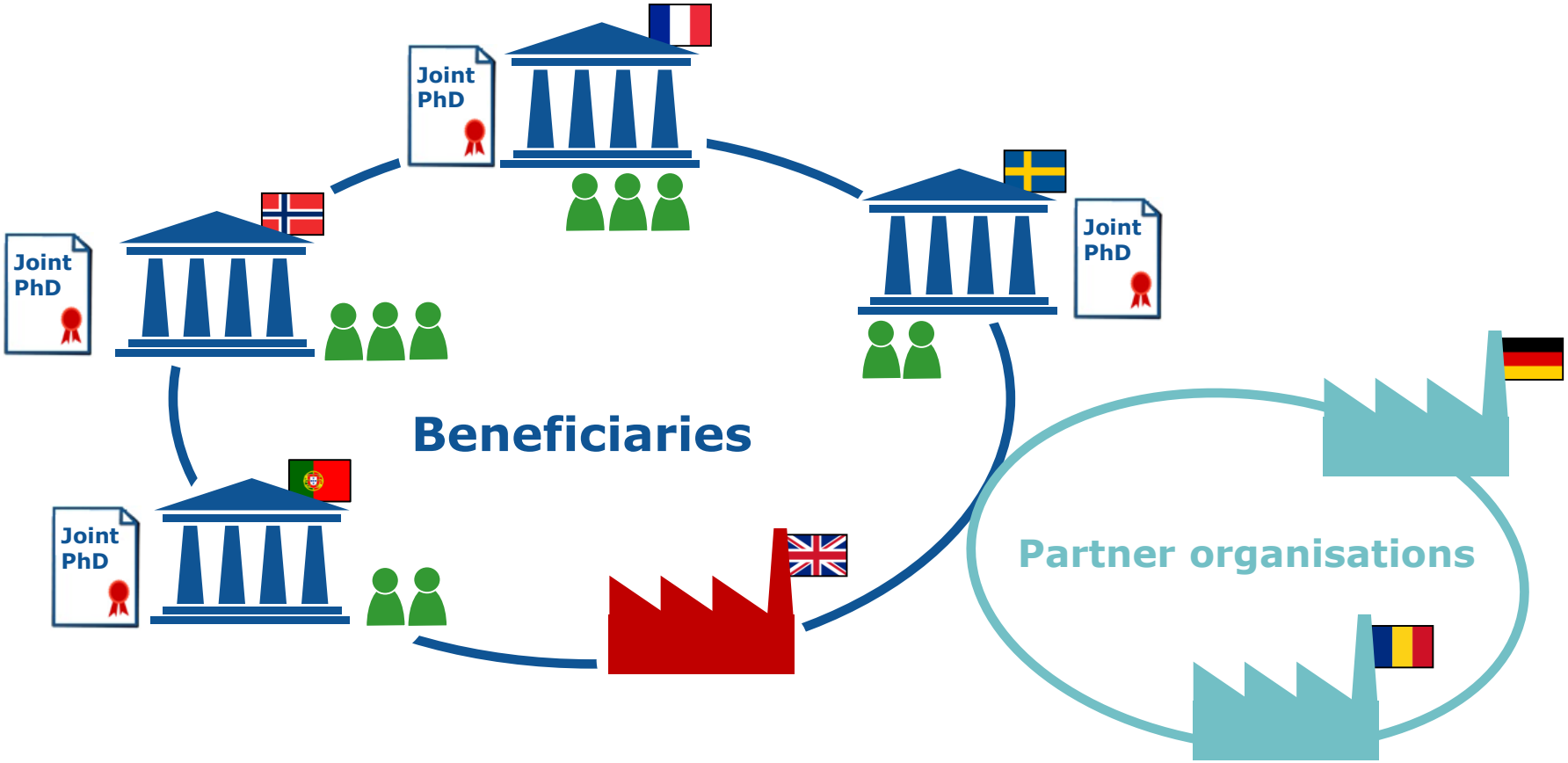
- ✓ Minimum 3 beneficiaries from 3 different MS/AC
- ✓ Minimum 3 beneficiaries entitled to award doctoral degree, of which at least 2 established in a MS/AC
- ✓ At least 2/3 of the supported ESRs enrolled in a joint/double /multiple doctoral degree awarded by two or more beneficiaries /partner organisations in a MS/AC
- ✓ Each ESR enrolled in the joint (international) doctoral programme
- ✓ Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- ✓ Commitment to deliver joint/double/multi degrees
- ✓ Max 540 person-months (e.g. 15 ESRs x 36 months)
- ✓ Letters of institutional commitment from Organisations to deliver PhD degrees are required in the proposal (template)

Other features

- ✓ Please refer to Guide for Applicants

European Commission

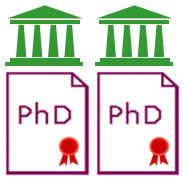
EJD



European Commission

EJD

Joint degree: single diploma issued by at least 2 academic institutions located in 2 different countries and recognised officially



Double/multiple degree: 2 or more separate national diplomas issued by two or more higher education institutions located in different countries and recognised officially

Letters of institutional commitment to deliver joint/double doctoral degrees are mandatory in the proposal

Summary

	ETN	EID	EJD
Beneficiaries	**≥3 from 3 diff. MS/AC**	**≥2 from 2 diff. MS/AC: (≥1 academic + ≥1 non-academic)**	**≥3 (acad. award PhD) from 3 diff. MS/AC**
Person-months	Max. 540	Max. 180 / 540	Max. 540
Researchers	ESRs only (3-36 months)		
Partner Organ.	Unlimited (any country / sector / discipline)		
PhD enrolment	typically expected	**mandatory**	**mandatory**
Non-academic participation	essential	**mandatory**	essential
Inter-sectoral exposure	possible through secondments	≥50% in non-academic International (for beneficiaries	possible through secondments
Panels and rank lists	8 panels: CHE, ECO, ENG, ENV, LIF, MAT, PHY, SOC **(445 M€)**	EID panel **(40 M€)**	EJD panel **(45 M€)**

European Commission

Funding mechanism (Financial aspects)

1 unit = 1 month of eligible ESR

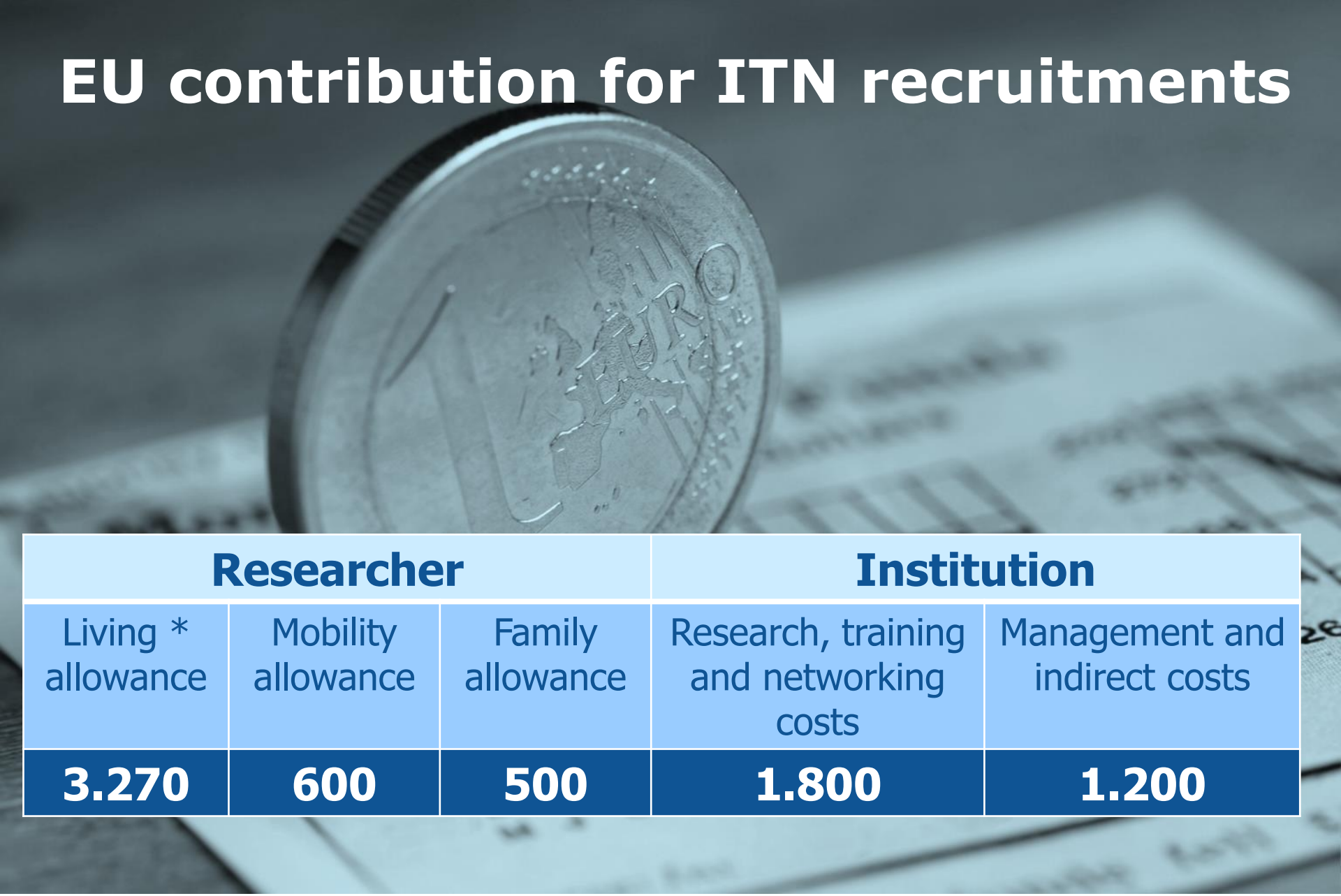
Unit costs

Unit costs are a pre-estimated cost for the implementation of the action.

Advantage when applying

Automated calculation of budget when computing ESR months in your proposal

EU contribution for ITN recruitments



Researcher			Institution	
Living * allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Research, training and networking costs	Management and indirect costs
3.270	**600**	**500**	**1.800**	**1.200**

European Commission

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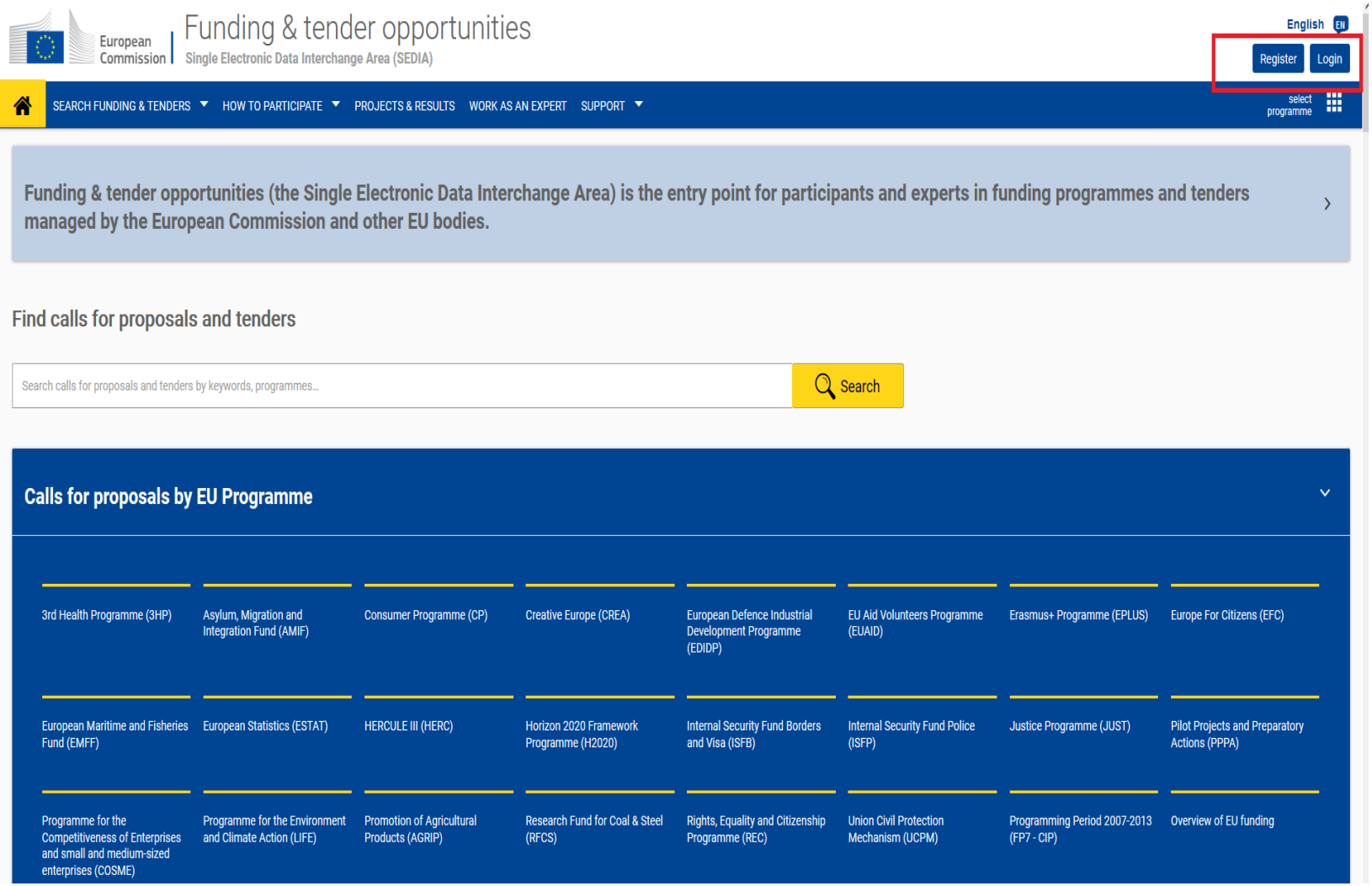
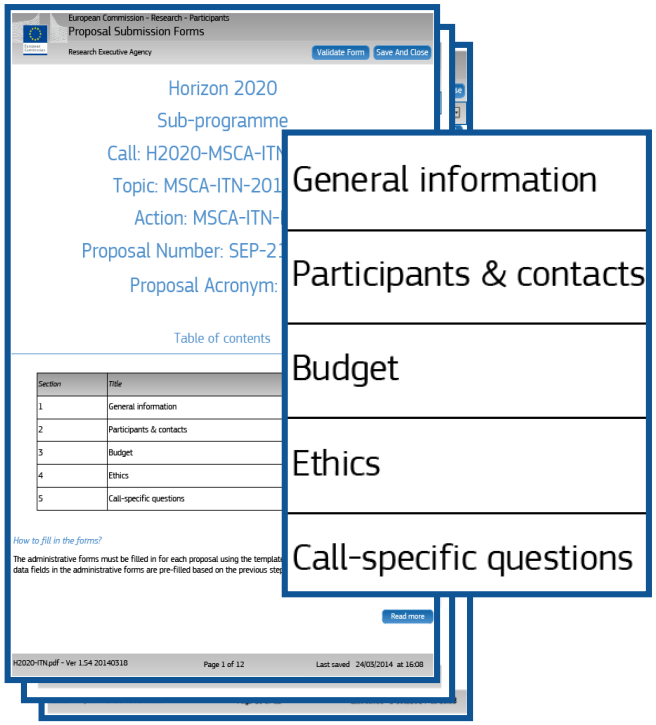
Funding And Tenders portal



European Commission

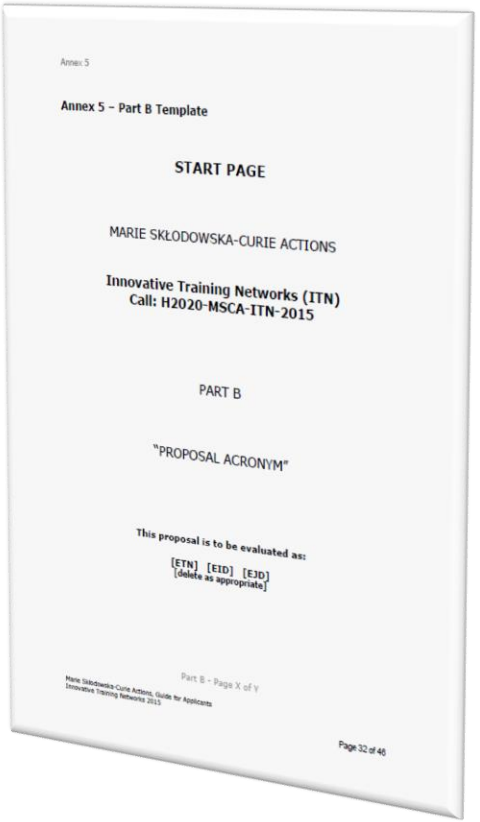
ITN proposal "anatomy"

Part A
- structured data -



Partner organisation in a separate table (manual entry, PIC should be included)

Part B
- description of action -



European Commission

ITN proposal Part A

- **Section 1:** General information (including Abstract)
- **Section 2:** Information on participants
- **Section 3:** Budget and recruitment tables
- **Section 4:** Ethics table

European Commission

ITN proposal Part B

DOCUMENT 1 (Proposal Number-Acronym-Part B1)

START PAGE (*1 page*)

TABLE OF CONTENTS (*1 page*)

LIST OF PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS (max 2 pages)

START PAGE COUNT (MAX 30 PAGES SECTIONS 1-3)

1. EXCELLENCE (*starting page 5*)
2. IMPACT
3. QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

STOP PAGE COUNT (MAX 30 PAGES SECTIONS 1-3)

30 pages limit

Part B1: max 34 pages

DOCUMENT 2 (Proposal Number-Acronym-Part B2)

NO OVERALL PAGE LIMIT APPLIED

4. EID SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS (FOR EID ONLY)
5. CAPACITIES OF THE PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS
6. ETHICS ISSUES
7. LETTERS OF COMMITMENT

Template available

European Commission

ITN Evaluation Criteria

ITN: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks		
Excellence	**Impact**	**Quality and efficiency of the implementation**
Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme (including inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and, where appropriate, gender aspects)	Enhancing the **career prospects** and **employability** of researchers and contribution to their **skills** development	**Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan**, including appropriateness of the allocation of **tasks and resources**, (including awarding of the doctoral degrees for *EID* and *EJD* projects)
Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary, intersectoral and, where appropriate, gender aspects)	Contribution to **structuring doctoral / early-stage research training at the European level** and to strengthening **European innovation capacity**, including the potential for: **a)** meaningful contribution of the non-academic sector to the doctoral/research training, as appropriate to the implementation mode and research field **b)** developing sustainable joint doctoral degree structures (for *EJD* projects only)	**Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures**, including quality management and risk management (with a mandatory joint governing structure for EID and EJD projects)
Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for *EID* and *EJD* projects)	Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and **disseminate** the project results	Appropriateness of the **infrastructure** of the participating organisations
Quality of the proposed interaction between the participating organisations	Quality of the proposed measures to **communicate** the project activities to different target audiences	**Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and their commitment to the programme**
50%	**30%**	**20%**
Weighting		
1	**2**	**3**
Priority in case of *ex aequo*		

European Commission

Pay attention to differences between ETN/EID/EJD

- **The proposal must be consistent with the requirements and objectives of the different modes (ETN/EID/EJD)**

- **Some of the evaluation criteria are specific to EID and/or EJD**

Final check

- ✓ **Meet the eligibility requirements for the specific call/ITN implementation mode**
- ✓ **Follow the template guidance and format in the electronic submission system (access on the ITN 2020 call page)**
- ✓ **Address all evaluation criteria**
- ✓ **Do not submit at the last minute!**

Content

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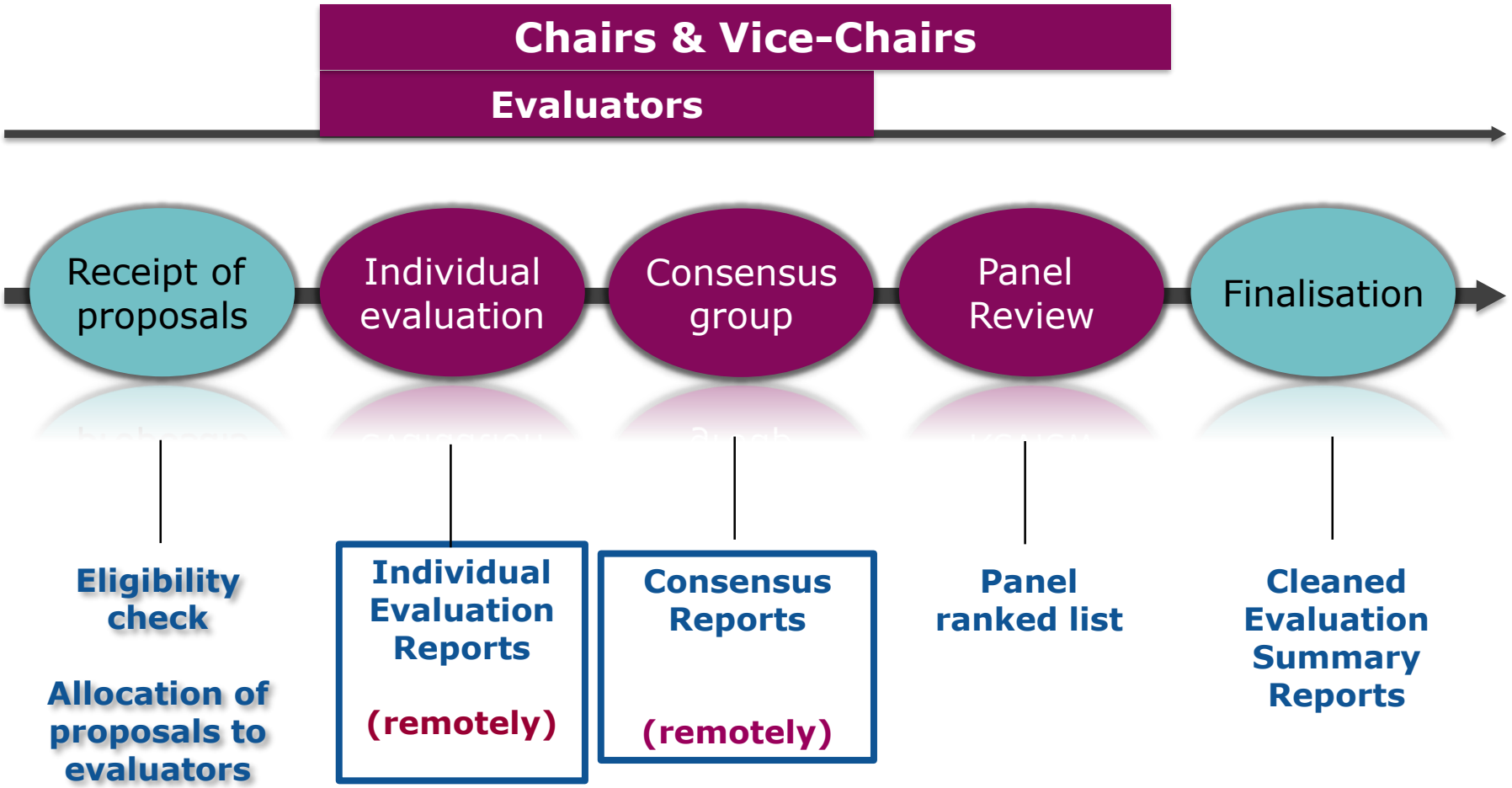
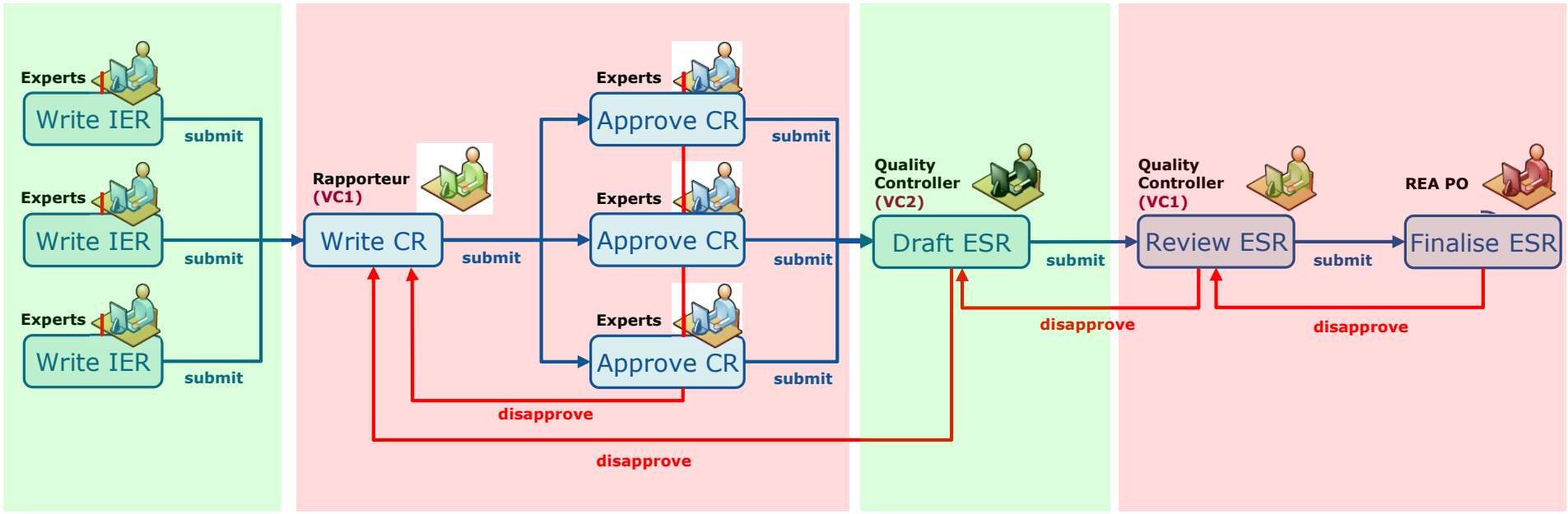
Evaluation Process
ITN Overview



European Commission

Workflow overview



ITN 2019 evaluation

- **ITN-Chairs & Vice-Chairs: 10** Chairs, **206** Vice-Cha*irs*
  - 1 Vice-Chair per max. 10 proposals
  - 872 evaluators contracted and assigned to proposals

  To evaluate 1554 eligible proposals

- **Remote IER phase**: 4665 IERs, 3 cases with a 4th expert

- **Remote Consensus phase:** 1554 CRs

Content

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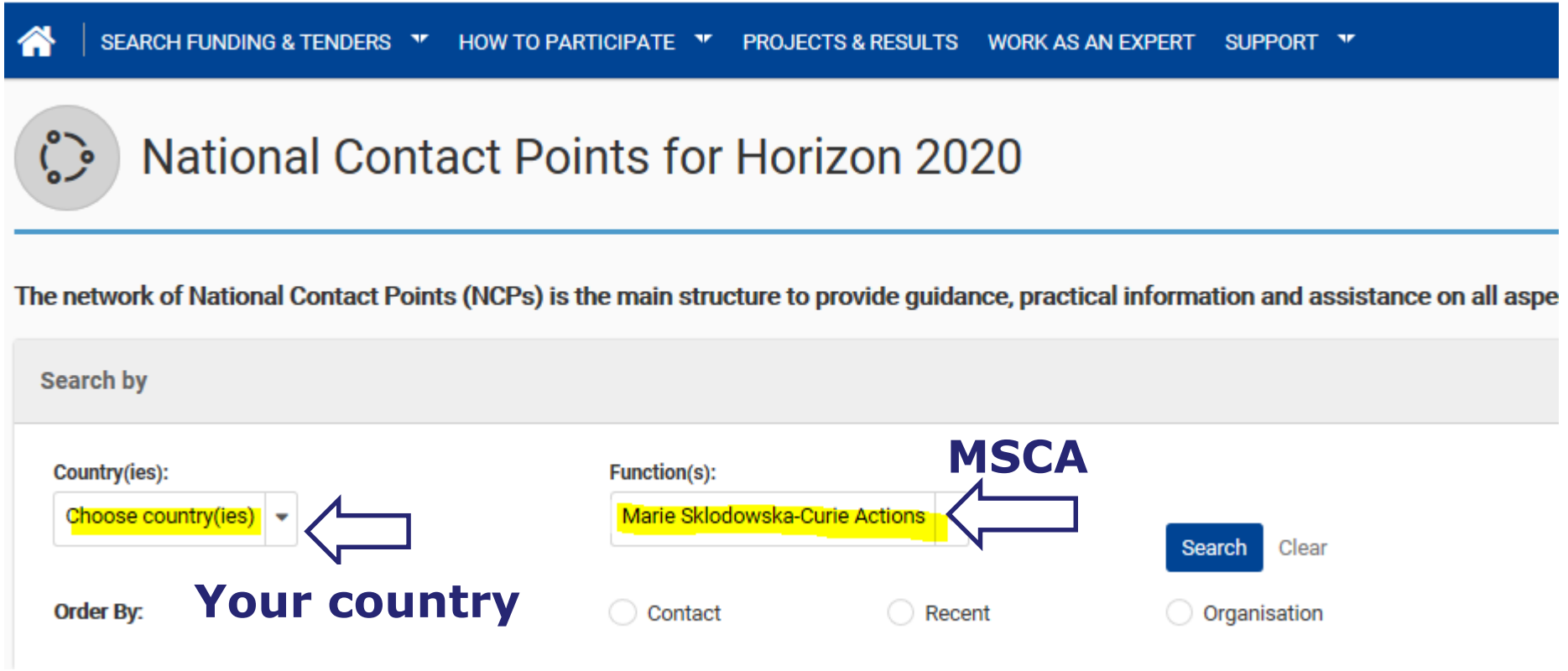
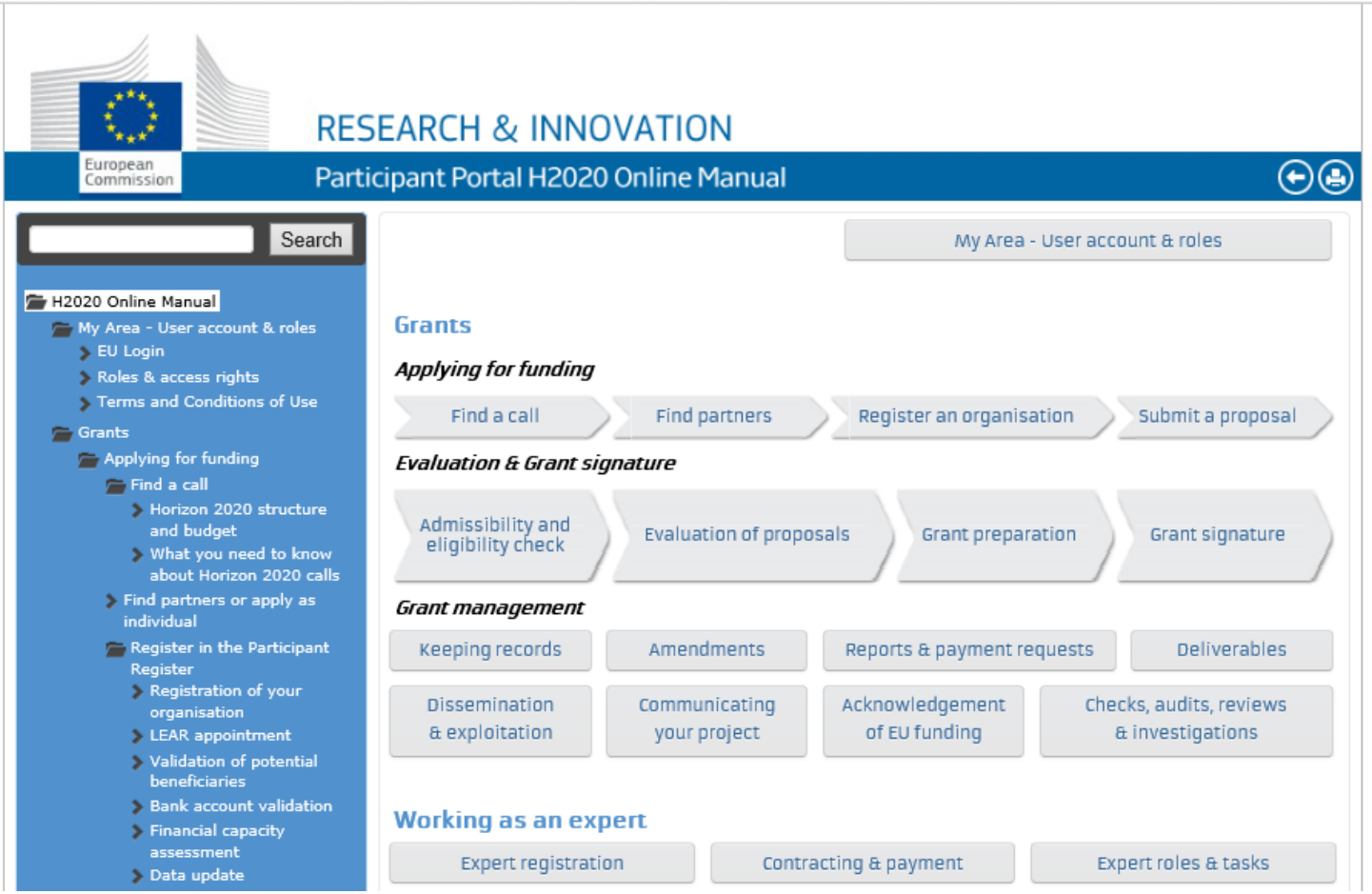
NCP – National Contact Points

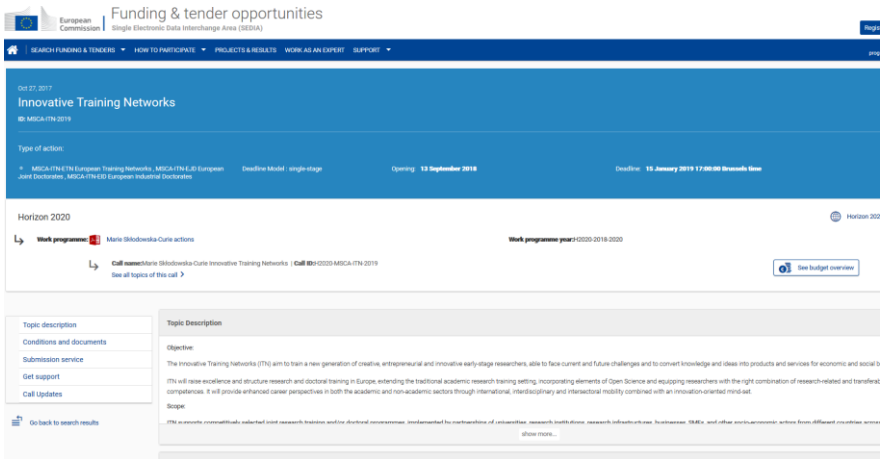


H2020 manual



Where to find information for the ITN 2020 call?

Funding and Tenders Portal



H2020-MSCA-ITN-2020

Call page

- Guide for Applicants 2020 (GfA)
- Work Programme (WP 2018-20)
- FAQs
- …

Where to find information for the other MSCA 2020 calls?

Funding and Tenders Portal

MSCA Call	Open on	Deadline on	Budget (million €)
RISE	8/12/2019	28/04/2020	80
COFUND	8/04/2020	29/09/2020	100
IF	8/04/2020	09/09/2020	328

Thank you
for your attention