

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Programme overview and funding opportunities

Audrey ARFI

Research Executive Agency



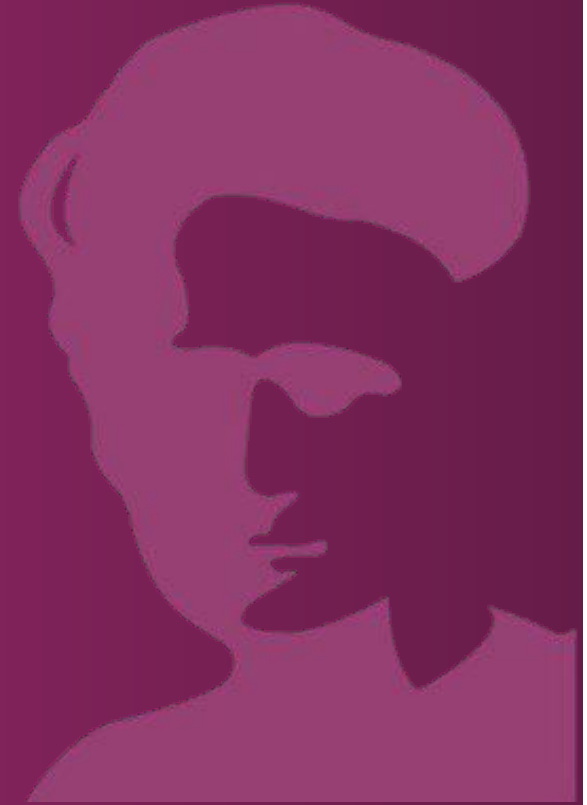
H2020: World class Science & Enabling Innovation - 80 billion EUR



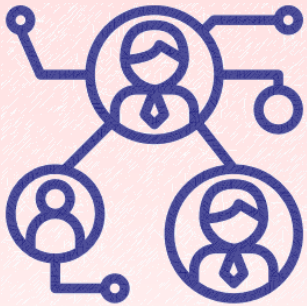
MSCA: 6,1 b€

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



MSCA overview



**Innovative
Training
Networks**



**Individual
fellowships**



**Research and
Innovation Staff
Exchanges**



**Cofunding of
research
programmes**

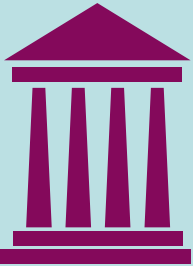
MSCA Participating Countries

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

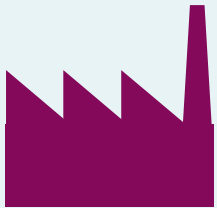
Third Country (TC): any other country (n.b. Annex A list of countries that can receive funding)

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)

Which researchers?

	<p>Early stage researcher (ESR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ≤ 4-year in research• no PhD awarded	<p>ITN</p> <p>COFUND</p> <p>RISE</p>
	<p>Experienced researcher (ER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ≥ 4-year in research <p><u>or</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have obtained PhD	<p>IF</p> <p>RISE</p>
	<p>Other staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managers, technicians, administrators (involved in research activities)	<p>RISE</p>

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

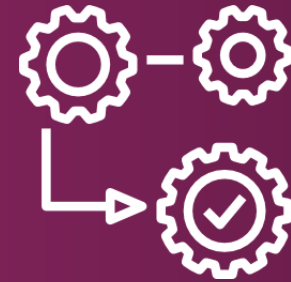
...awarded based on 3 Evaluation criteria (MSCA)



50%
Excellence



30%
Impact



20%
Implementation

Why should one apply for a MSCA grant?

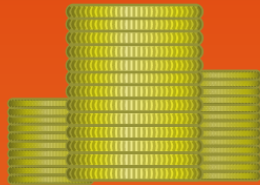
MSCA offers unique opportunities to

- **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.

MSCA Key Figures (2014-2020)

€ 6.162 billion



TOTAL BUDGET

~ 30 %

2007-2013 2014-2020

BUDGET INCREASE

~ 100



SPIN-OFFS

~ 1 500



PATENT APPLICATIONS

~ 350 events a year



EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT

attended by over 1 million people / year



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERSECTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

~ 1200

~ 65 000



ALL RESEARCHERS

Support:

40 %



FEMALE RESEARCHERS

~ 16 000



NON-EU RESEARCHERS

~ 25 000



PHD CANDIDATES

H2020-MSCA-ITN-2020

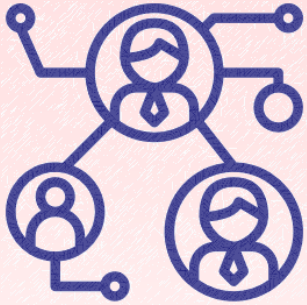
Innovative Training Networks



INNOVATIVE
TRAINING
NETWORKS

@MSCActions

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



**Innovative
Training
Networks**



**Individual
fellowships**



**Research and
Innovation Staff
Exchanges**



**Cofunding of
research
programmes**

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**
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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**
3. Submission of ITNs
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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)



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)

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

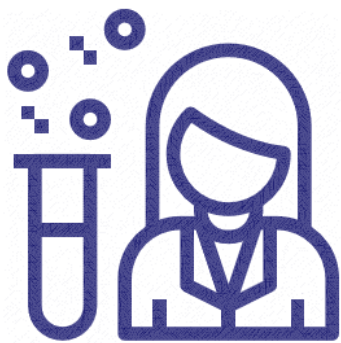
**Min. 3 beneficiaries
from academic sector awarding PhD
from 3 different MS/AC**

Above this minimum: participants from any sector / country

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



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

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

Joint research training programme

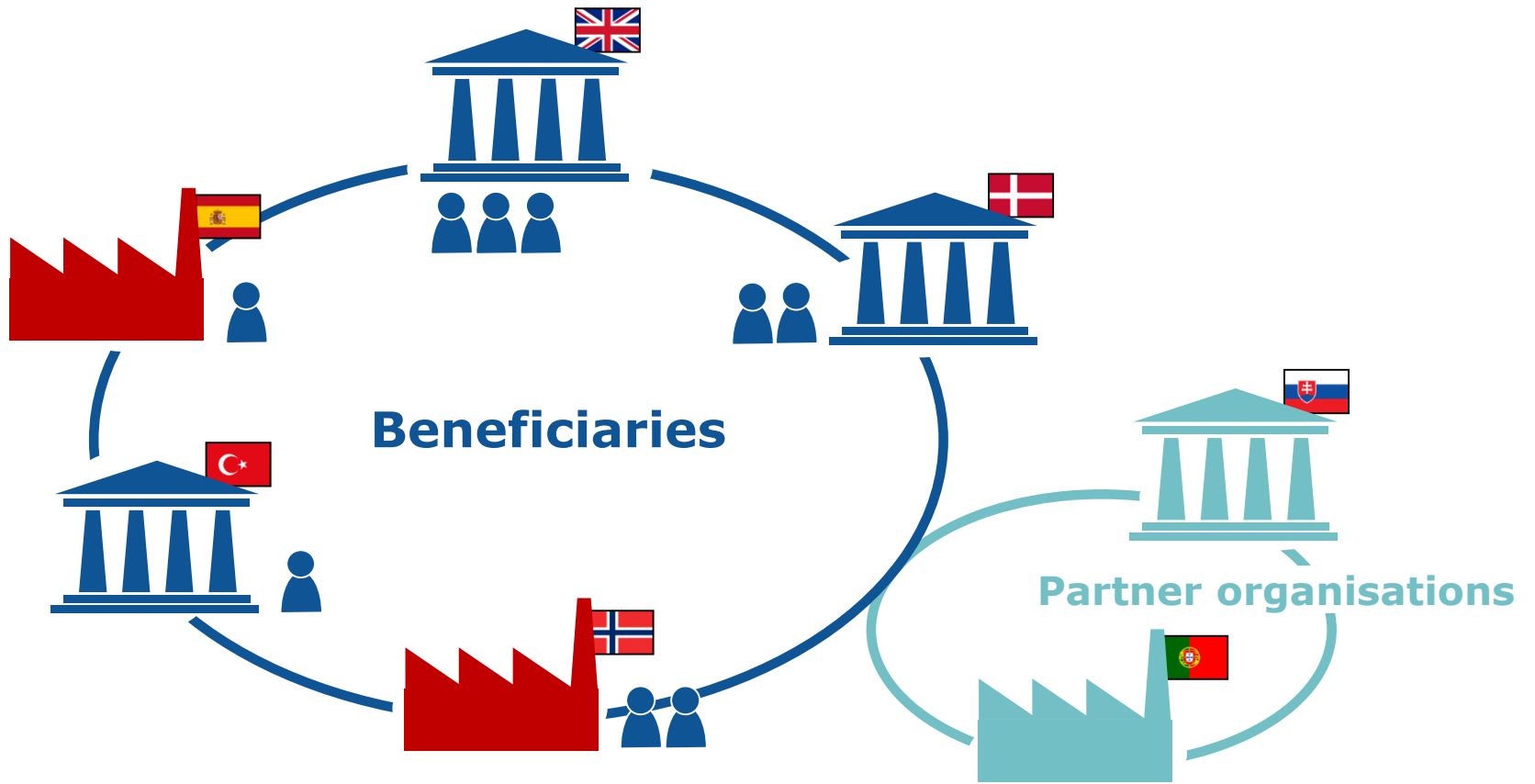
Mandatory

- ✓ **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 ($\leq 30\%$ time)**
- ✓ **Joint supervision recommended**
- ✓ **Partner organisations (any country/sector)**
- ✓ **Typically 6-10 beneficiaries**

ETN



Doctoral training with the non-academic sector

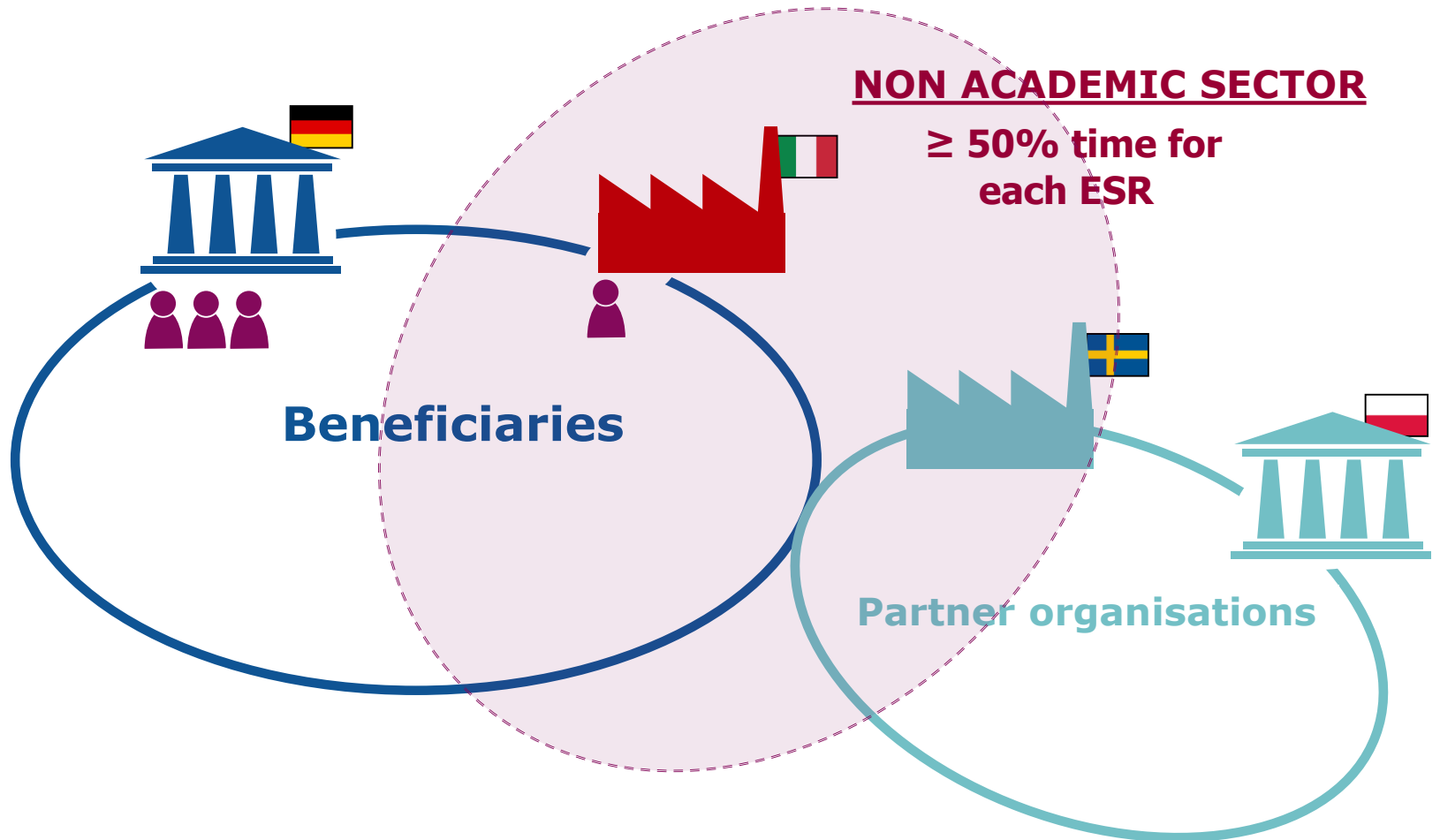
Mandatory

- ✓ **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 $\geq 50\%$ time in non-academic sector**
- ✓ **Each ESR spends $\geq 30\%$ 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**

EID



2 beneficiaries: max 180 PM

≥3 beneficiaries: max 540 PM

Universities cooperating to deliver joint multiple doctoral degrees

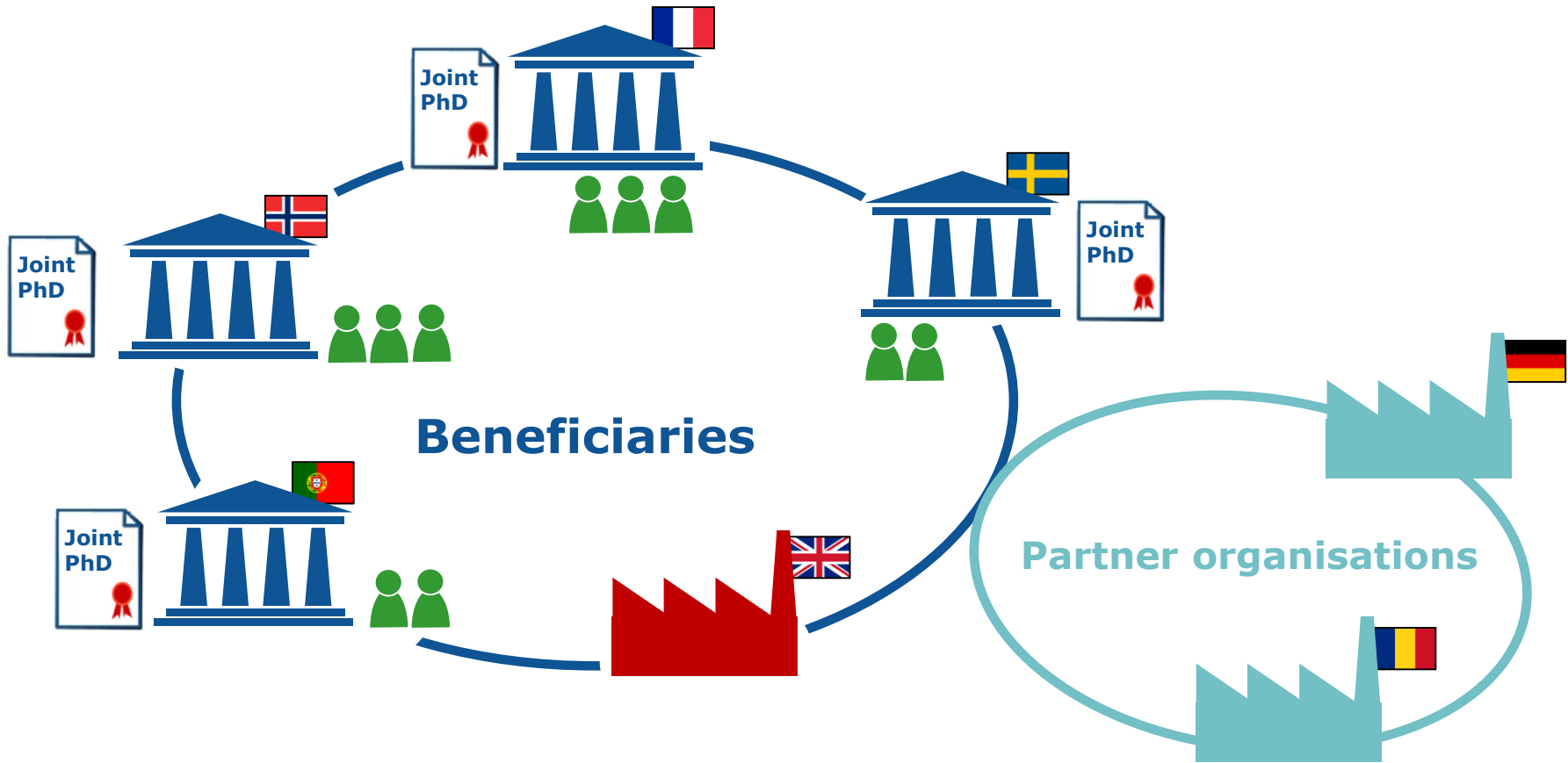
Mandatory

- ✓ **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**

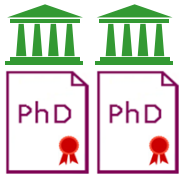
EJD



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€)



Funding mechanism (Financial aspects)

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

**1 unit
=
1 month of
eligible ESR**

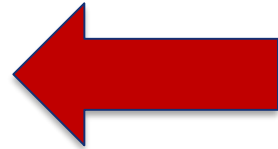
EU contribution for ITN recruitments

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

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

Funding And Tenders portal



Funding & tender opportunities (the Single Electronic Data Interchange Area) is the entry point for participants and experts in funding programmes and tenders managed by the European Commission and other EU bodies.

Find calls for proposals and tenders

Search calls for proposals and tenders by keywords, programmes...



Calls for proposals by EU Programme

3rd Health Programme (3HP)	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)	Consumer Programme (CP)	Creative Europe (CREA)	European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIIP)	EU Aid Volunteers Programme (EUAVP)	Erasmus+ Programme (EPLUS)	Europe For Citizens (EFC)
European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)	European Statistics (ESTAT)	HERCULE III (HERC)	Horizon 2020 Framework Programme (H2020)	Internal Security Fund Borders and Visa (ISFB)	Internal Security Fund Police (ISFP)	Justice Programme (JUST)	Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPPA)
Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME)	Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)	Promotion of Agricultural Products (AGRIP)	Research Fund for Coal & Steel (RFCS)	Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC)	Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)	Programming Period 2007-2013 (FP7 - CIP)	Overview of EU funding

ITN proposal "anatomy"

Part A
- structured data -

European Commission - Research - Participants
Proposals Submission Forms
Research Executive Agency

Horizon 2020
Sub-programme
Call: H2020-MSCA-ITN
Topic: MSCA-ITN-2015
Action: MSCA-ITN-2015
Proposal Number: SEP-2015-1-0151
Proposal Acronym:

Table of contents

Section	Title
1	General information
2	Participants & contacts
3	Budget
4	Ethics
5	Call-specific questions

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

How to fill in the forms?
The administrative forms must be filled in for each proposal using the template. The data fields in the administrative forms are pre-filled based on the previous submission.

Read more

H2020-ITN.pdf - Ver 1.54 20140318 Page 1 of 12 Last saved: 24/05/2014 at 16:08

Part B
- description of action -

Annex 5
Annex 5 - Part B Template

START PAGE

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS
Innovative Training Networks (ITN)
Call: H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015

PART B

"PROPOSAL ACRONYM"

This proposal is to be evaluated as:
[ETN] [EID] [EJD]
[delete as appropriate]

Part B - Page X of Y
Name: Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Guide for Applicants
Innovative Training Networks 2015

Page 32 of 46

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

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 <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> 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 <i>EJD</i> projects only)	Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including quality management and risk management (with a mandatory joint governing structure for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> projects)
Quality of the supervision (including mandatory joint supervision for <i>EID</i> and <i>EJD</i> 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 <i>ex aequo</i>		

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!**

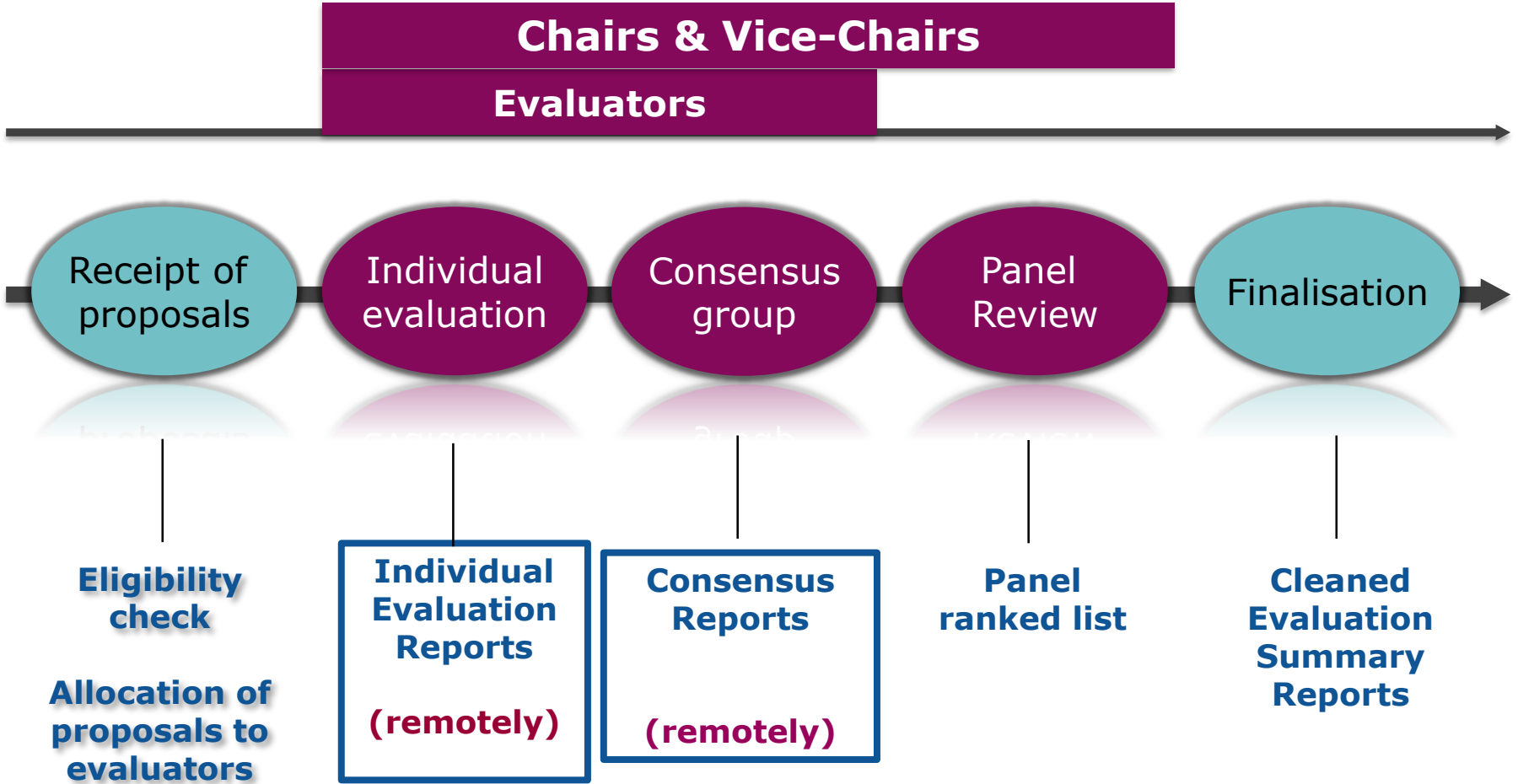


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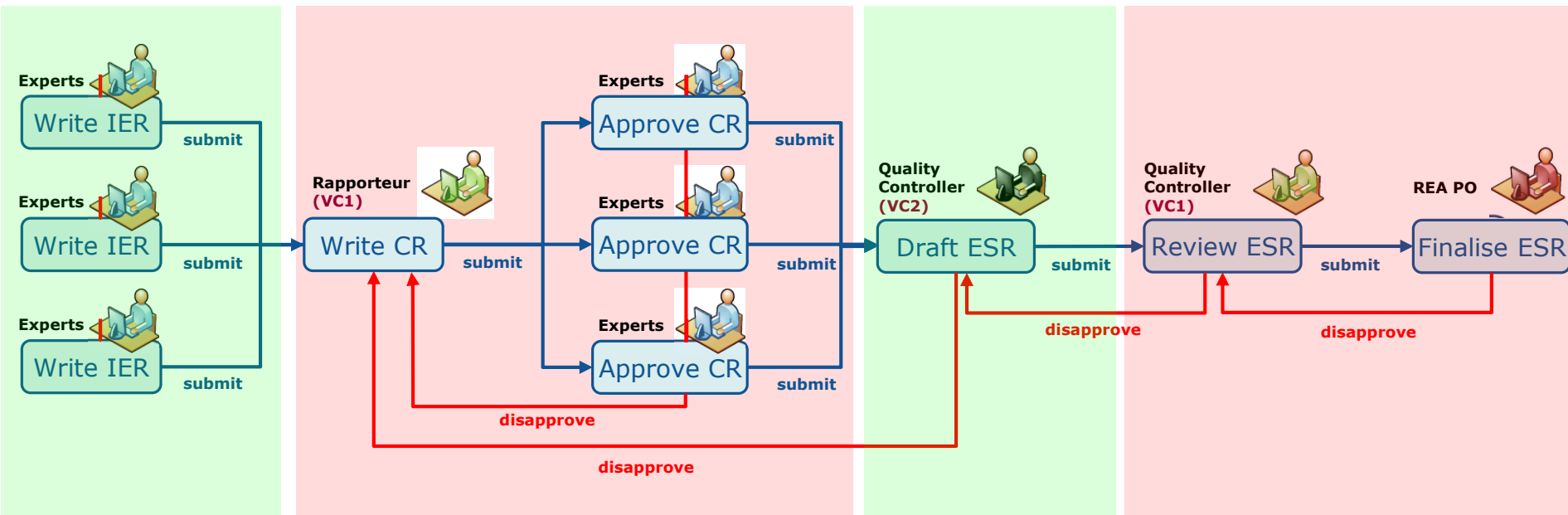
1. ITN-2020: Topics & Planning
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Evaluation Process

ITN Overview



Workflow overview



ITN 2019 evaluation

- **ITN-Chairs & Vice-Chairs: 10 Chairs, 206 Vice-Chairs**
 - 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

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NCP – National Contact Points



SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▾

HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▾

PROJECTS & RESULTS

WORK AS AN EXPERT

SUPPORT ▾



National Contact Points for Horizon 2020

The network of National Contact Points (NCPs) is the main structure to provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of Horizon 2020.

Search by

Country(ies):

Choose country(ies) ▾



Your country

Function(s):

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

MSCA



Contact


Recent

Organisation

Search

Clear

H2020 manual

 **RESEARCH & INNOVATION**
Participant Portal H2020 Online Manual

Search

H2020 Online Manual

- My Area - User account & roles
 - EU Login
 - Roles & access rights
 - Terms and Conditions of Use
- Grants
 - Applying for funding
 - Find a call
 - Horizon 2020 structure and budget
 - What you need to know about Horizon 2020 calls
 - Find partners or apply as individual
 - Register in the Participant Register
 - Registration of your organisation
 - LEAR appointment
 - Validation of potential beneficiaries
 - Bank account validation
 - Financial capacity assessment
 - Data update

My Area - User account & roles

Grants

Applying for funding

Find a call → Find partners → Register an organisation → Submit a proposal

Evaluation & Grant signature

Admissibility and eligibility check → Evaluation of proposals → Grant preparation → Grant signature

Grant management

Keeping records | Amendments | Reports & payment requests | Deliverables

Dissemination & exploitation | Communicating your project | Acknowledgement of EU funding | Checks, audits, reviews & investigations

Working as an expert

Expert registration | Contracting & payment | Expert roles & tasks

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
- ◆ ...

The screenshot shows the European Commission's Funding & tender opportunities portal. The page is titled "Innovative Training Networks" and "MSCA-ITN 2020". It displays the call's status as "Open" and provides the opening date (13 September 2018) and the deadline (13 January 2019 17:00:00 Brussels time). The work programme year is listed as "2020". The page includes a "Topic description" section with an objective and scope, and a "Go back to search results" link.

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***



European
Commission

Research
Executive Agency