



Marie Skłodowska- Curie Actions

under Horizon Europe

Doctoral Networks

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REA.A1 - MSCA Doctoral Networks

The MSCA under Horizon Europe



Pillar 1 Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

Research Infrastructures



Pillar 2 Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre



Pillar 3 Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European innovation
ecosystems

European Institute of
Innovation
and Technology

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

Key features



**Researchers'
training, skills and
career
development (all
stages of career)**



**Excellent research
in all domains
(bottom-up
approach)**



**International,
cross-sectoral &
interdisciplinary
mobility**



**Attractive working
and employment
conditions**



**Structuring impact
on organisations
through excellent
programmes**



**Strong
collaboration with
industry and SMEs**

The Actions

Doctoral Networks

Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

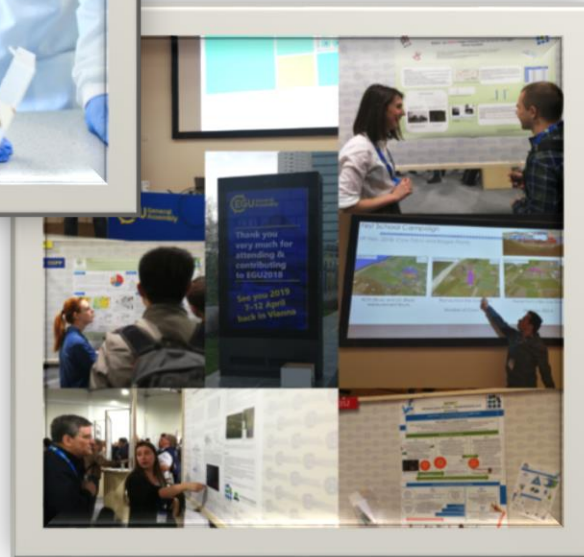
COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Night)

Doctoral Networks



What are Doctoral Networks?

- Multi-beneficiaries Actions to set up **doctoral programmes**, 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

Why Doctoral Networks?

- 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**

Doctoral Networks: who is eligible for funding?



EU COUNTRIES

- Member States (MS) including their outermost regions
- The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the MS.



NON-EU COUNTRIES

- Countries associated to Horizon Europe (AC)
- Low and middle income countries: See [HE Programme Guide](#).
- Other countries when announced in the call or exceptionally if their participation is essential



SPECIFIC CASES

- Affiliated entities established in countries eligible for funding.
- EU bodies
- International organisations (IO):
 - International European research organisations are eligible for funding.
 - **Other IO are not eligible (only exceptionally if participation is essential)**
 - **IO in a MS or AC are eligible for funding for Training and mobility actions and when announced in the call conditions**

Doctoral Networks: who can apply?

Consortia of :

- universities,
- research institutions and research infrastructures,
- businesses including SMEs,
- and other socio-economic actors



Doctoral Networks: consortium eligibility

- ⑩ At least **three independent legal entities**, each established in a different MS or AC;
- ⑩ minimum of 1 beneficiary from a MS
- ⑩ on top of this minimum, any entity from any third country can join;
- ⑩ no minimum for associated partners.



Academic and non-academic sectors

Academic sector













- ✓ public or private higher education establishments
- ✓ public or private non-profit research organisations
- ✓ International European Research Organisations



Non-academic sector

- ✓ any socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector

Beneficiaries/Associated Partners

	Beneficiaries	Associated Partners
Academic/Non-academic		
Signatories of the Grant Agreement		
Recruitment of researchers		
Training and/or hosting of seconded researchers		
Participation in Supervisory Board		
Directly claim costs		

Doctoral Networks: 40% rule

- **Not more than 40.0% of the EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country or to a single international organisation.**



Doctoral Networks: recruitment rule

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



Doctoral Networks: 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 immediately before their recruitment date

Doctoral Networks: other features

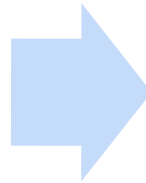
- **Size**
 - Up to **360 person-months** (standard) + **180 additional person-months for joint or industrial doctorates** (incentive)
- **Duration**
 - **Programme:** max. 48 months
 - **Fellowship:** between 3 and 36 months
 - **Secondments:** worldwide, up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration
 - **Industrial doctorates:** 50% in the non-academic sector; academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervising can be in the same country
- **Calls**
 - **2021:** 27 May - 16 Nov; 402,95M€
 - **2022:** 3 May - 15 Nov; 427,28M€
 - **Resubmission restrictions** applying as of 2022 for applications receiving a score **below 80%**

MSCA Doctoral Networks: Unit contributions

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

Family allowance

Mobility-related costs of researchers with **family obligations**



(i) marriage

(ii) relationship with equivalent status to marriage (under the law of the country or region in which this relationship was formalised)

(iii) dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher

EUR
500

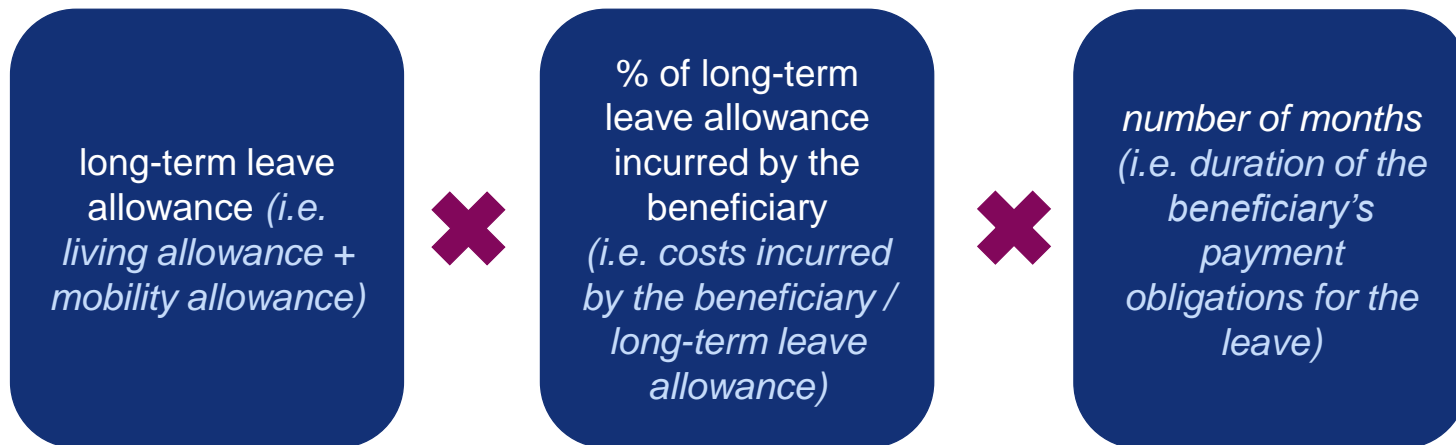
EUR
660

Due if the researcher has or acquires family obligations during the action

Long-term leave allowance

What does it cover?

- personnel costs incurred by the beneficiaries in case of researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave.




 For absences longer than 30 consecutive days.

Special needs allowance

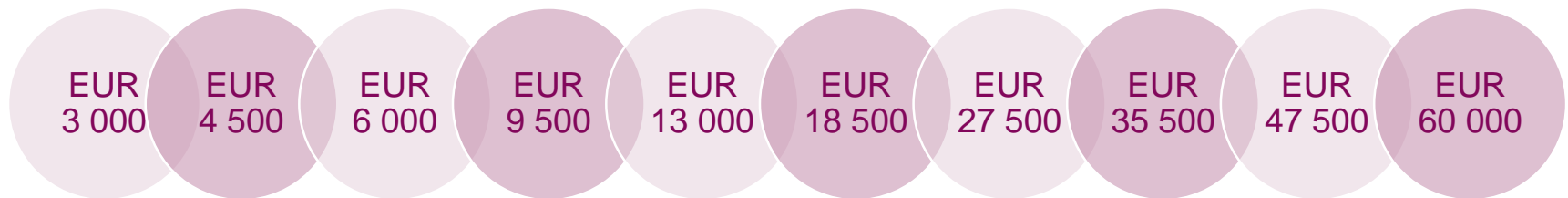
What does it cover?

- Additional costs for the acquisition of **special needs items and services** for fellows with disabilities, e.g. assistance by third persons, adaptation of work environment, additional travel or transportation costs.

 The items or services must not have been covered from another source (e.g. social security or health insurance)

For whom?

- MSCA fellows with disabilities, whose **long-term** physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments are **certified by a competent national authority** and of such nature that their participation in the action **would not be possible** without the special needs items or services.



 Beneficiaries shall claim the **closest lower rate** per researcher/staff member compared to the estimated actual costs of his/her special needs.

Doctoral Networks: award criteria

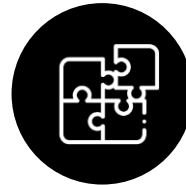
Excellence	Impact	Quality and efficiency of the implementation
Quality and pertinence of the project's research and innovation objectives	Contribution to structuring doctoral training at European level and strengthening European innovation capacity	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment 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%

New features in the Horizon Europe proposal



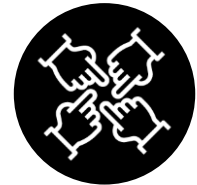
NEW FIELDS IN PART A

- Researchers table – needed to follow up researchers careers (HE indicator)
- Role of participating organisation
- Self-declaration on gender equality plan



FIELDS MOVED FROM PART B TO PART A

- Ethics self-assessment
- Security questionnaire (**NEW!** in all HE proposals)
- Information on participants' previous activities related to the call



NEW IN PART B

- Glossary of terms.
- Consistency on the use of terminology is ensured in all project phases (from WP to proposal and reporting)
- Extensive explanations on what exactly should be included in each section.

Gender Equality Plans

Corporate eligibility criterion in Horizon Europe (not specific to MSCA)

Applicable to public bodies, research organisations and higher education establishments from EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries

Minimum process-related requirements for publication, dedicated resources, data collection & monitoring, and training

Transition/grace period before full enforcement for calls with deadlines in 2022

MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS



The information in this presentation is preliminary and subject to the adoption of the work programme

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Main Objectives:
 - **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**

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

- **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.

* Widening activities: “ERA Fellowships” will be aligned with the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships call

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

- **Who applies? 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
 - Researchers: nationals or long-term residents of an EU Member State or a Euratom AC

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

- **Duration**
 - **European Fellowships:** 12-24 months
 - **Global Fellowships:** 24-36 months (12-24 outgoing phase & 12 months mandatory return phase in Europe)
- **Secondments worldwide** up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration– (novelty: worldwide secondments)
- **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:** 27 May – 15 Sept (tbc); 242 M€ [+indicative EUR 1 million for Euratom]
 - **2022:** 14 Apr – 14 Sept; 257 M€ [+indicative EUR 1 million for Euratom]
 - Resubmission restrictions applying as of 2022 for **applications receiving a score below 70%**

MSCA COFUND



MSCA COFUND

- **Mono-beneficiary action to co-fund** new or existing national, regional, institutional schemes for **doctoral** training and **postdoctoral** fellowships
- **Focus**
 - Spread **best practices** of the MSCA by promoting **high standards** in the recruitment process and **excellent working conditions**
 - Introduce **sustainable structuring effects**, by promoting excellent and sustainable research training, international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary cooperation and mobility
 - Encourage **synergies** with Cohesion policy funds as well as the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Programmes could focus on specific disciplines, notably when based on RIS³.

MSCA COFUND

- **Target groups**
 - **Doctoral candidates**, i.e. researchers without a doctoral degree at the deadline of the co-funded programme's call; mandatory enrolment in a doctoral programme
 - **Postdoctoral researchers**, i.e. researchers with a doctoral degree at the deadline of the co-funded programme's call
- **Who applies?**
 - **Single legal entity** established in an EU Member State or HE Associated country.
 - A **minimum of three researchers** must be recruited.
- **Career Development Plan**
 - To be jointly established by the supervisor and each recruited researcher upon recruitment. Revised (and updated where needed) within 18 months

MSCA COFUND

- **Co-funding**

- Max **10 M€** per beneficiary per call (unchanged)
- The EU contribution covers **minimum remuneration** (70% living + mobility allowance) and can be used more **flexibly**

- **Duration**

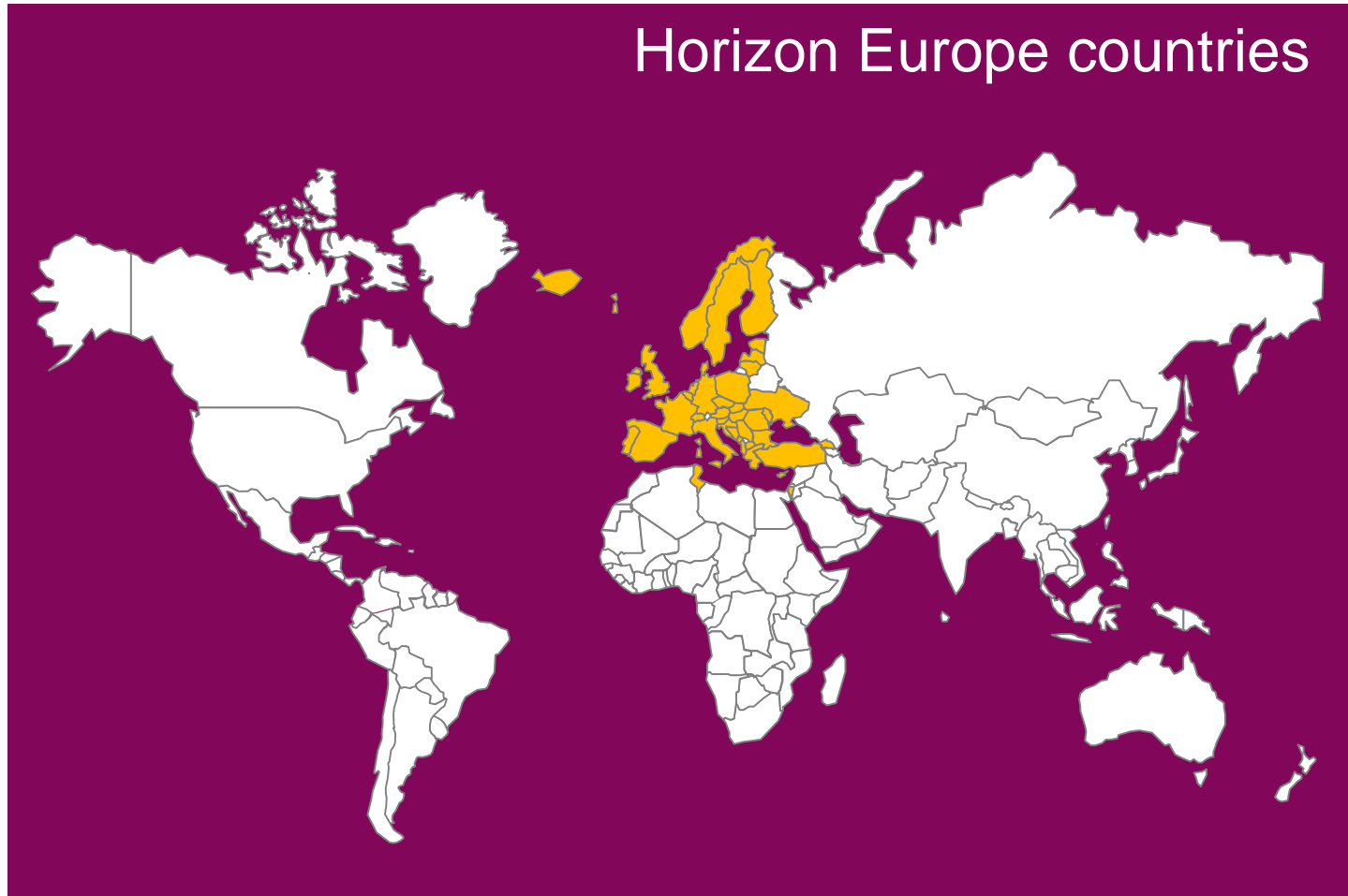
- **Programme:** max. 60 months (unchanged)
- **Fellowship:** min 3 months
- **Secondments:** up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration

- Introduction of an MSCA Cofund **Seal of Excellence** for applications scoring $\geq 85\%$

- **Calls:**

- **2021:** 12 Oct 2021 – 10 Feb 2022; 89 M€
- **2022:** 11 Oct 2022 – 9 Feb 2023; 95 M€

MSCA Staff Exchanges



EU Member States and HE Associated Countries

AL, AM, BA, FO, GE, IS, IL, MK, MD, NO, RS, CH, TN, TR, UA, UK*

The information in this presentation is preliminary and subject to the adoption of the work programme

MSCA Staff Exchanges

Main objectives

International, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility of R&I staff (“secondments”)

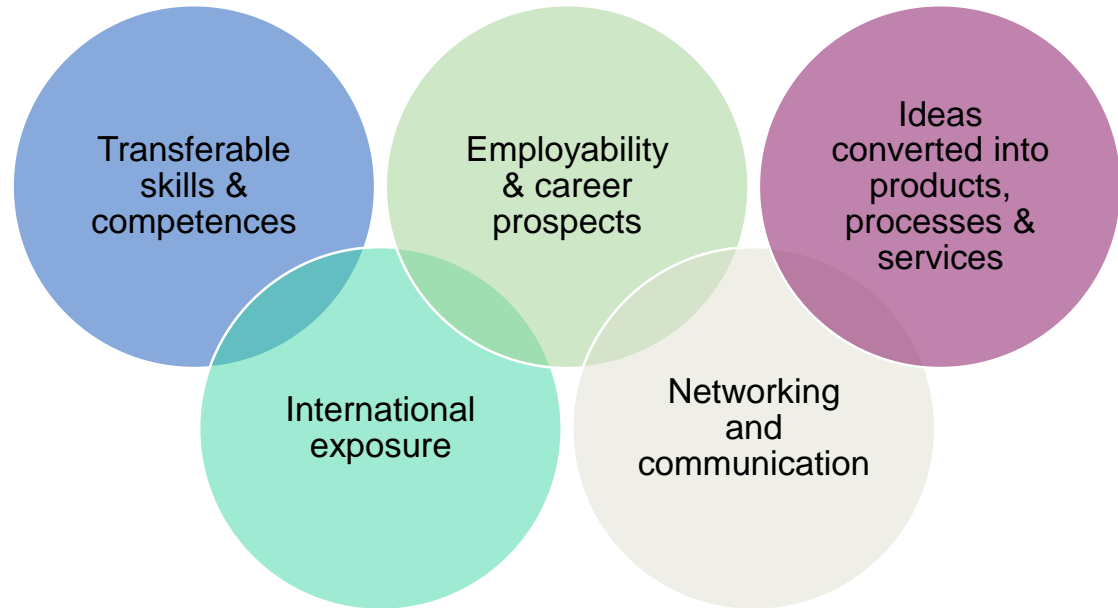
Knowledge transfer between participating organisations

Collaboration between the academic and non-academic sectors (including SMEs)

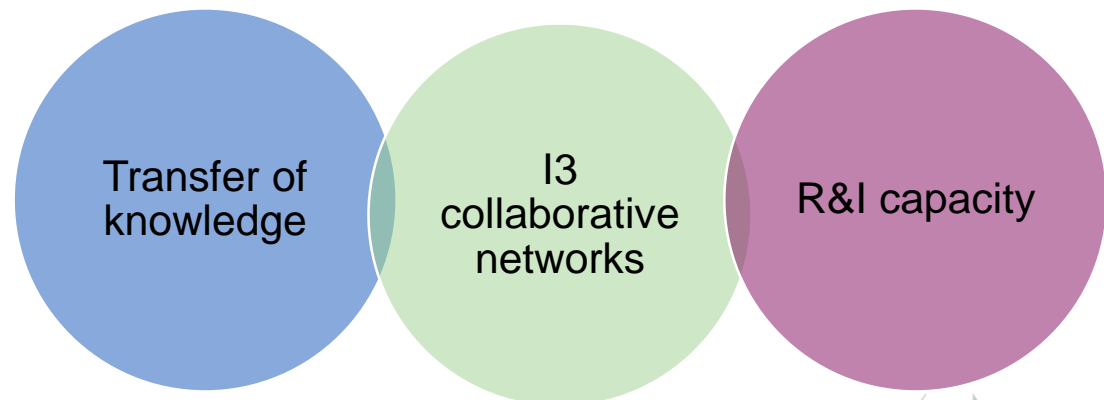
Cooperation across the globe

MSCA Staff Exchanges

Outcome for
staff members



Outcome for
organisations



MSCA Staff Exchanges

Activities

Implementation of a joint R&I project by seconding and/or hosting eligible staff members

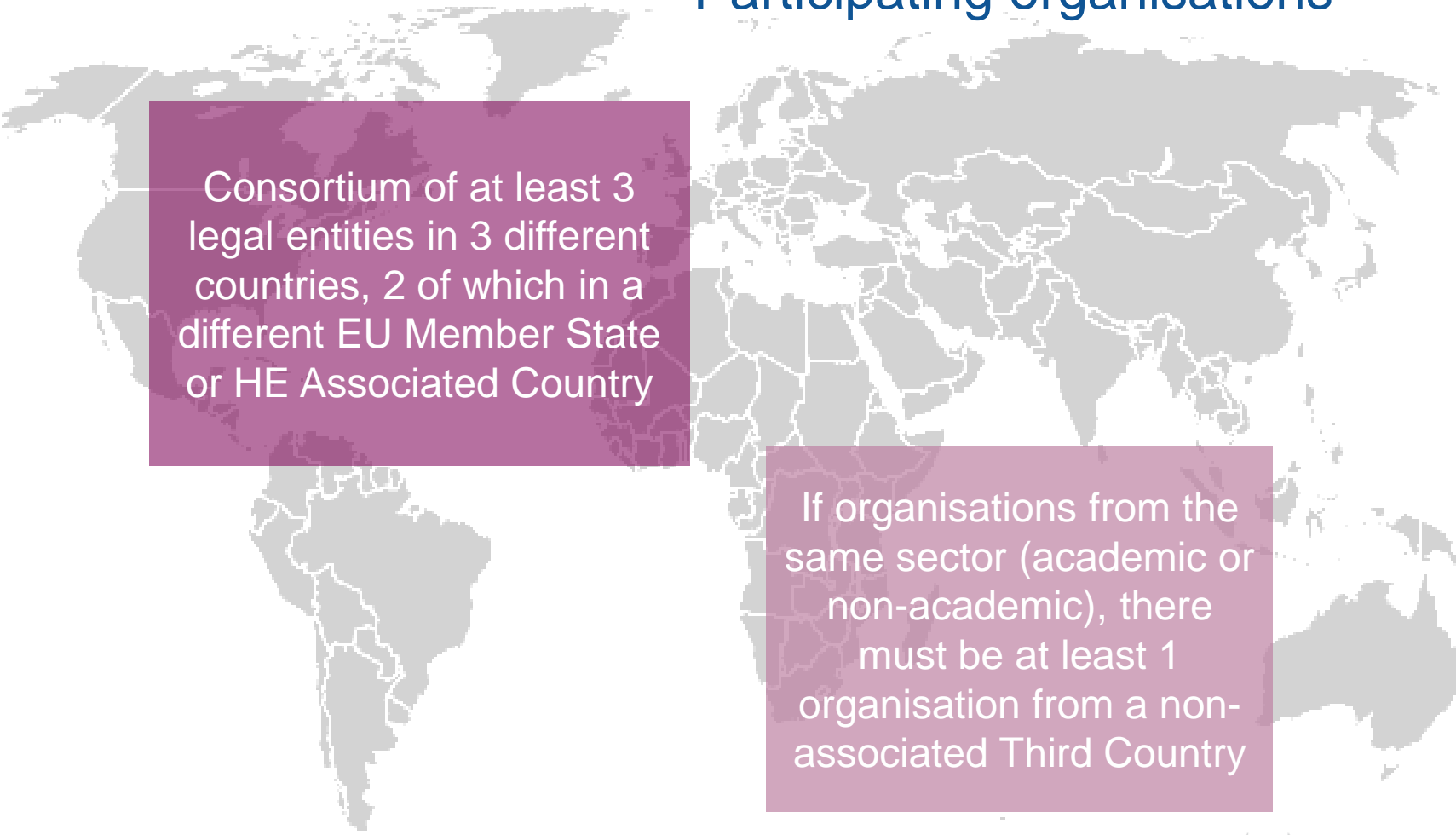
Three dimensions of mobility: inter-sectoral, international and interdisciplinary

Networking activities, organisation of workshops and conferences

New skills acquisition and career development perspectives

MSCA Staff Exchanges

Participating organisations



Consortium of at least 3 legal entities in 3 different countries, 2 of which in a different EU Member State or HE Associated Country

If organisations from the same sector (academic or non-academic), there must be at least 1 organisation from a non-associated Third Country

MSCA Staff Exchanges



Seconded staff members



Any type of staff contributing to R&I activities (researchers, administrative staff, managerial staff, technical staff)

Researchers at any career stage (from doctoral candidates to postdoctoral researchers)

Actively engaged in research and/or innovation activities for at least **1 month prior** at the sending institution

Each staff member is seconded for a period of 1 to 12 months (may be split into several stays)

Staff needs to be devoted full-time to the action during the secondment

After the secondment, staff should return to their sending institution

MSCA Staff Exchanges

- **Duration**

- **4 years** for project implementation
- Maximum **360 person-months** per project (**novelty**)
- Secondments: **1-12 months** per staff
- **Interdisciplinary secondments** in the same sector possible within Europe (max 1/3 of project's person-months) (**novelty**)

- **Calls**

- **2021:** 7 Oct 2021 – 9 March 2022; 72.5 M€
- **2022:** 6 Oct 2022 – 8 March 2023; 77.5 M€

MSCA Staff Exchanges

Contributions for seconded staff members

Per person-month

Top-up allowance

EUR 2 300

Special needs allowance
(if applicable)

Requested unit¹
x
(1/number of months)

Institutional unit contributions

Per person-month

Research, training and networking contribution

EUR 1 300

Management and indirect contribution

EUR 1 000

Top-up allowance: travel, accommodation and subsistence costs

Research, training and networking contribution: training, transfer of knowledge, networking activities and research expenses

Management and indirect contribution: beneficiary's additional costs



Participating organisations are expected to continue paying the salary of the staff during the secondment

MSCA and Citizens



MSCA and Citizens

- Coordination and Support Action to **bring research and researchers closer to the public at large**, through the organisation of the **European Researchers' Night**
- **Target group:** general public, pupils, families, students
- **Focus:**
 - Enhance **engagement with citizens** on R&I
 - Increase awareness among the general public of the **importance and benefits of R&I** and its concrete impact on citizens' daily life
 - Raise **young people's interest for research** and science
 - Improves **researchers' communication skills** and competences

The European Researchers' Night

- **Every year**, on the last Friday of September (events can last up to two days)
- A **Europe-wide** public and media event for the promotion of research careers, in particular focused on young people and their families
- In 2022-2023, focus on **Horizon Europe Missions**



The European Researchers' Night

- **Who applies?**
 - **One or more legal entities** established in an EU Member State or HE Associated country
- **EU contribution**
 - Lump-sum contributions
 - Contribution estimated **between 50-150k€ per annual edition** of the European Researchers' Night
- **Duration**
 - The call 2022 covers two successive editions (2022-2023)
 - Applicants encouraged to submit proposals covering two successive editions (2022/2023) of the NIGHT
- **Call**
 - **2021:** 17 Jun – 7 Oct; 15 M€

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

