



MSCA Doctoral Networks

Zuzana Čapková, MSCA and ERC NCP
Information Day on MSCA Doctoral Networks under
Horizon Europe, 2 June 2021

NETIQUETTE

Please stay muted. You can keep your camera on.

We will take your questions after each presentation or after bigger sections.

You can write your questions via sli.do, code: DN2021

Use the function „raise hand“ in the Participants section, if you want to ask directly.

You can enable your camera when speaking.

Objectives

- To familiarize participants with new rules under HE
- To guide them through proposal submission, evaluation and financial aspects
- To share with them experience of coordinator and participating institution

Speakers:

- Zuzana Čapková, MSCA NCP, Technology Centre CAS
- Eva Šauerová, project manager, Charles University
- Alexander Wilkie, Projects DISTRO and PRIME, Charles University



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INTRODUCTION ON MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS



MSCA in Horizon Europe

New Framework Programme (2021-2027)

MSCA support researchers' mobility, training and career development



HE budget (2021-2027)

Horizon Europe Budget: €95.5 billion (2021-2027)

(including €5.4 billion from NGEU – Next Generation Europe – programme of EU for Recovery from COVID-19 crisis)



Political agreement December 2020

€ billion in current prices

- Excellent Science
- Global challenges and European ind. comp.
- Innovative Europe
- Widening Part and ERA

Terminology

Participating countries:

- **EU Member States (MS)**
- **Associated Countries (AC)** = third country which is party to an international agreement with the EU
- **Third Countries (TC)** = not associated to Horizon Europe, the rest of the world

2 categories of researchers according to scientific age:

- **Doctoral Candidates** = not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of the recruitment.
- **Postdoctoral Researchers** = at the date of the call deadline in a possession of a doctoral degree, defined as a successfully defended doctoral thesis, even if the doctoral degree has yet to be awarded.
- **Interdisciplinarity** = integration of information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts or theories from two or more scientific disciplines.

Key features of the MSCA



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

MSCA PF in Horizon Europe

<u>Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)</u>	<u>Horizon Europe (2021-2027)</u>	<u>Who?</u>
Innovative Training Networks (ITN)	Doctoral Networks (DN)	Doctoral Candidates
Individual Fellowships (IF)	Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)	Postdoctoral Researchers
Research and Innovation Staff Exchanges (RISE)	Staff Exchanges (SE)	Any type of research-related staff
Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)	COFUND (COFUND)	Doctoral Candidates, Postdoctoral Researchers
European Researchers' Night (NIGHT)	MSCA and Citizens (CITIZENS)	Public

QUESTIONS?

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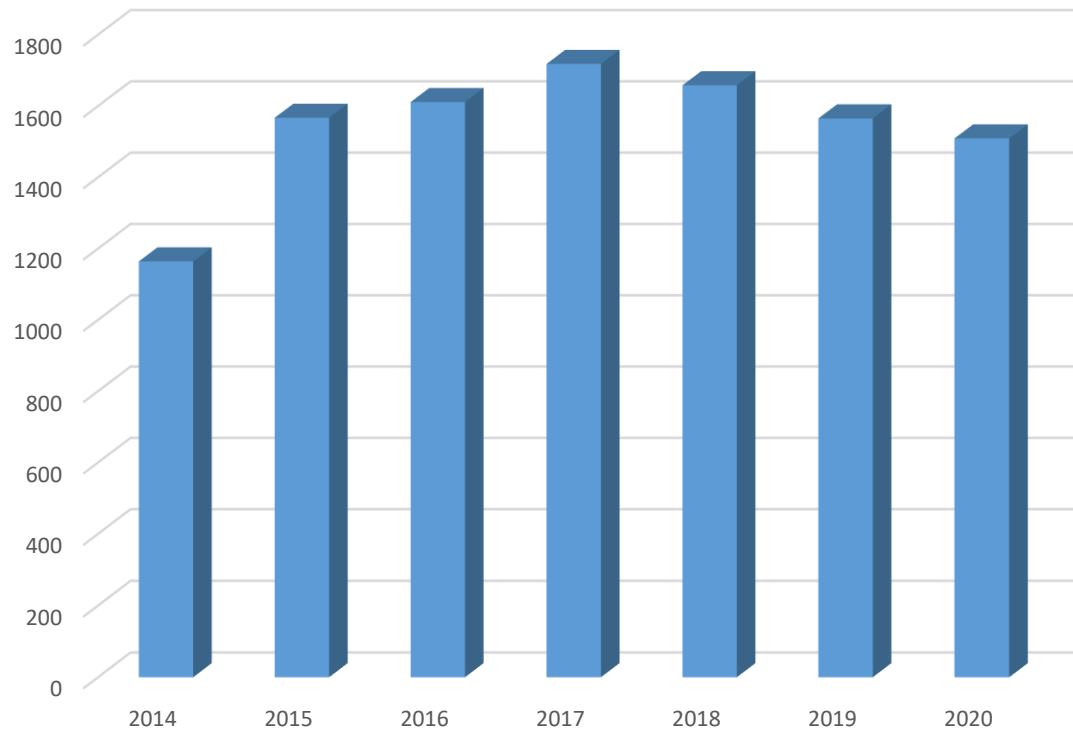


INTRODUCTION ON MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS

Lessons learnt from MSCA ITN under H2020

MSCA ITN under Horizon 2020: Summary

ITN submission evolution



MSCA-ITN-2020 (overall results):

- 1 509 submitted proposals (↓ 54 compared to 2019)
- GA signed with 161
- Success rate: 10,7 %
(ETN – 9,84 %, EID – 15,60 %, EJD – 15,85 %)

MSCA-ITN-2020 (CZ):

- 12 out of 143 submitted proposals were funded, 1 coordinator
- Success rate: 8,39 %

ETN = European Training Networks

EJD = European Joint Doctorates

EID = European Industrial Doctorates

Czech participation in MSCA ITN calls under H2020

Call	Funded projects
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014	16
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015	17
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2016	16
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017	13
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2018	14
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2019	9
H2020-MSCA-ITN-2020	12
Total	97

Type of action	Projects
MSCA-ITN-ETN	82
MSCA-ITN-EJD	12
MSCA-ITN-EID	3

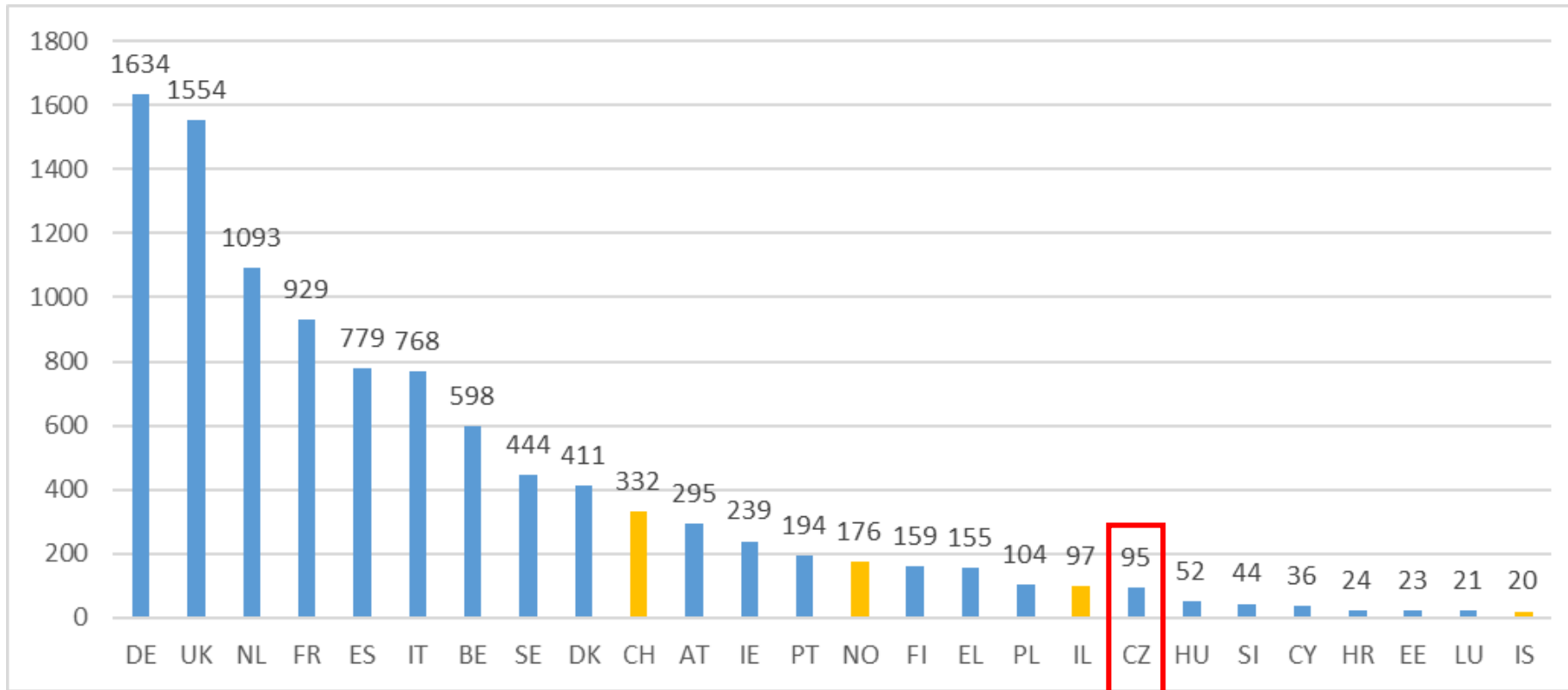
Panel	Funded projects
LIF	26
ENG	23
SOC	19
ENV	13
CHE	13
PHY	2
MAT	1

Institution	2 and more funded projects /institution
UNIVERZITA KARLOVA	13
MASARYKOVA UNIVERZITA	7
CESKE VYSOKE UCENI TECHNICKE V PRAZE	5
VYSOKA SKOLA CHEMICKO-TECHNOLOGICKA V PRAZE	4
FAKULTNI NEMOCNICE U SV. ANNY V BRNE	3
INOCURE SRO	3
USTAV FYZIKALNI CHEMIE J. HEYROVSKEHO AV CR	3
USTAV ORGANICKE CHEMIE A BIOCHEMIE AV CR	3
BIOLOGICKE CENTRUM AV CR	2
CONTIPRO AS	2
JIHOCESKA UNIVERZITA V CESKYCH BUDEJOVICICH	2
PSI (PHOTON SYSTEMS INSTRUMENTS) SRO	2
USTAV MOLEKULARNI GENETIKY AV CR	2
VYSOKE UCENI TECHNICKE V BRNE	2

ITN under H2020

ESRs/Host Country under H2020

(main hosting countries, 2014-2019 calls)



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INTRODUCTION ON MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS

New rules for participation in Horizon Europe

Objectives

- Respond to well-identified needs in various Research and Innovation areas (**bottom-up**)
- Expose the researchers to the **academic and non-academic sectors**
- Offer training in research-related, as well as competences relevant for **innovation and long-term employability**
- Focus on **research and transferable skills** (intersectoral secondments), **career development plan**, supervision, **internationalisation/attractiveness**

Doctoral Networks

- Multi-beneficiaries Actions to set up **doctoral programmes**:
 - **Doctoral Networks (standard)**: Training in academia and/or industry
 - **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

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:** **22 June** - 16 November (budget: 402,95 mil. EUR)
 - **2022:** 3 May - 15 November (budget: 427,28 mil. EUR)
 - **Resubmission restrictions** applying as of 2022 for applications receiving a score **below 80%**

Who can apply?

Consortia of:

- Universities
- Research institutions and research infrastructures
- Businesses including SMEs
- Other socio-economic actors

Consortium eligibility:

- At least **three independent legal entities**, each established in a different MS or AC, of which minimum of 1 beneficiary from a MS
- Beyond the three entities mentioned above, any entity from any third country can join
- No minimum for associated partners



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		

Academic and non-academic sector

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

Other rules

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.

Recruitment rule:

- 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.

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 the 3 years before their recruitment date.

Summary

		DN	DN-ID	DN-JD
BENEFICIARY (IES)	Minimum Number of beneficiaries	3	3	3
	Minimum MS or AC	3	3	3
	Minimum MS (beneficiaries)	1	1	1
	Academic sector	No restrictions	Minimum 1	Minimum 3 entitled to award doctoral degrees; at least 2 (beneficiaries/ associated partners/ associated partners linked to a beneficiary) conferring the degree established in MS/AC.
	Non-academic sector	No restrictions	Minimum 1	No restrictions
	Max no. of person months	360	540	540
	Max 40.0% budget for 1 country/international organisation	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Beneficiary (or associated partner/associated partner linked to a beneficiary) awarding PhD		Mandatory (beneficiary or associated partner/ associated partner linked to a beneficiary)	Mandatory (beneficiary or associated partner/ associated partner linked to a beneficiary)	Mandatory for minimum 3 beneficiaries in MS/AC
Joint award of PhD		Optional	Optional	Mandatory
Joint degree – letter of pre-agreement		N/A	N/A	Mandatory
Joint supervision for researchers		Encouraged	Mandatory (from the 2 sectors)	Mandatory
Researchers enrolment in the PhD		Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Secondments: international, inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary		≤ 1/3	≤ 1/3 and Min 50% stay in the non-academic sector	≤ 1/3
Associated partner: Letter of Commitment		Mandatory		
Ranking lists		8 (Scientific) panels		
Budget		~€403 mn		

What are the main differences compared to Horizon2020 – ITNs?

- Size of Doctoral Networks: 360 pm; Industrial Doctorates/Joint Doctorates: up to 540 pm
- Secondments in EID do not need to be transnational
- No flexible recruitments anymore in EIDs and EJDs
- Fellow: **only doctoral** candidates
- Secondments: up to 1/3

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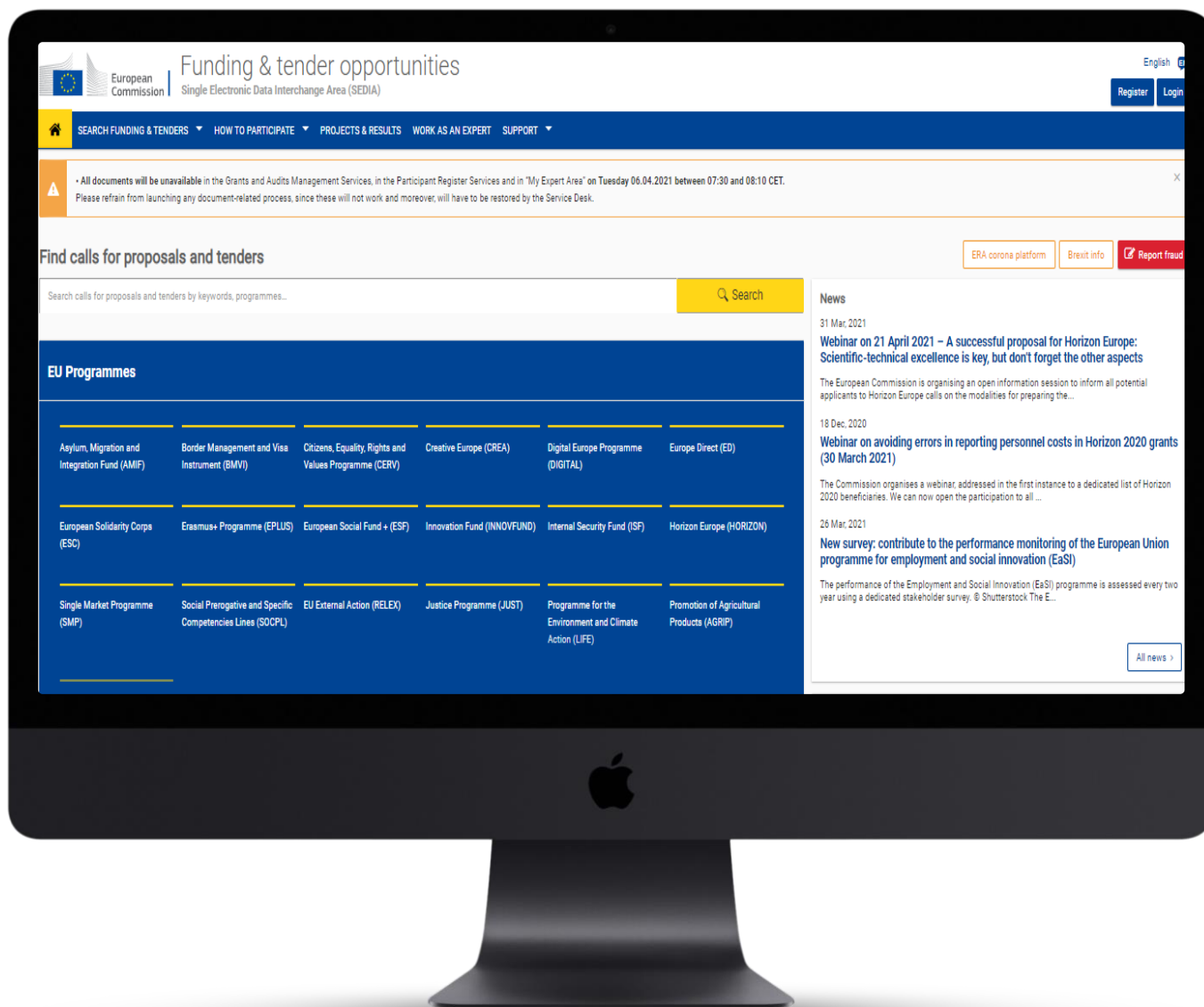
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HOW SHOULD YOUR PROPOSAL BE STRUCTURED?



Proposal submission

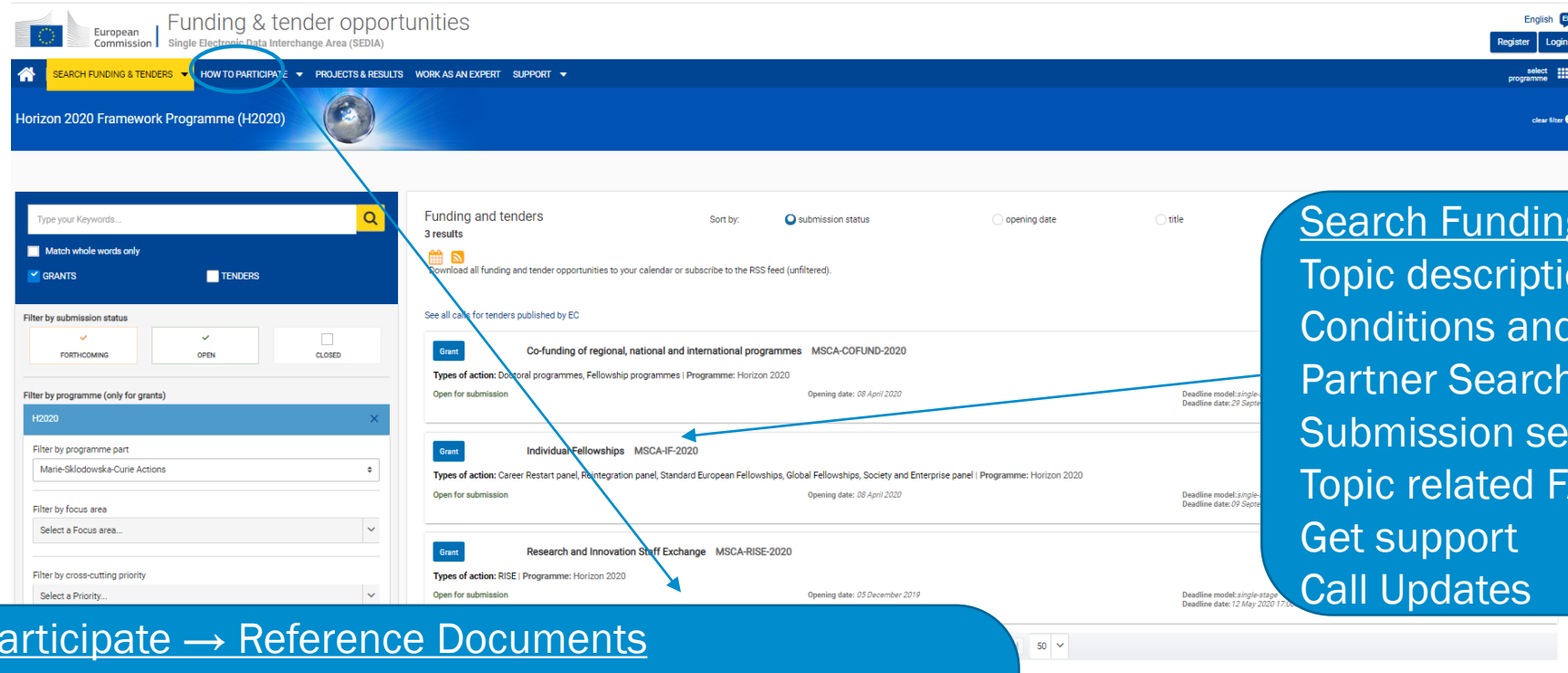


Funding & Tender Opportunities

Portal for applicants to the EU programmes:

- Information on calls
- Supporting documents, manuals
- Partner search
- Dashboard
- Experts: you can register to get experience as evaluator!!
- Support
- <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/>

Funding & tender opportunities portal



Search Funding & Tenders:
Topic description
Conditions and documents
Partner Search
Submission service
Topic related FAQ
Get support
Call Updates

How to Participate → Reference Documents

Legislation
Work Programmes
Grant agreements, contracts and rules of contest
Guidance
Templates & forms
Expert names (annual lists)

- Log in to EU Login
- Choose the type of Action
- Click on **Start submission**

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)



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

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/gender-equality-research-and-innovation_en



DN specificities of Part A proposal template

- 3 submission links, 1 per modality (standard DN, Industrial Doctorates, Joint Doctorates)
- Associated partners register in the tool like **beneficiaries** (with a validated or temporary PIC)
- Scientific panel and keywords selection (similar to H2020, guidance on REA website)
- Unit-cost budget table

DN specificities of Part B proposal template

Part B1:

- Follows the **award criteria**
- **Same page-limit** as in H2020 (30 pages for 3 criteria)
- **Instructions** included in the template
- **Harmonised** with RIA/IA corporate template whenever possible

Part B2:

- **Description of participants** (similar to H2020)
- **Letters of commitment** (templates similar to H2020)

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How should your
proposal be
structured?

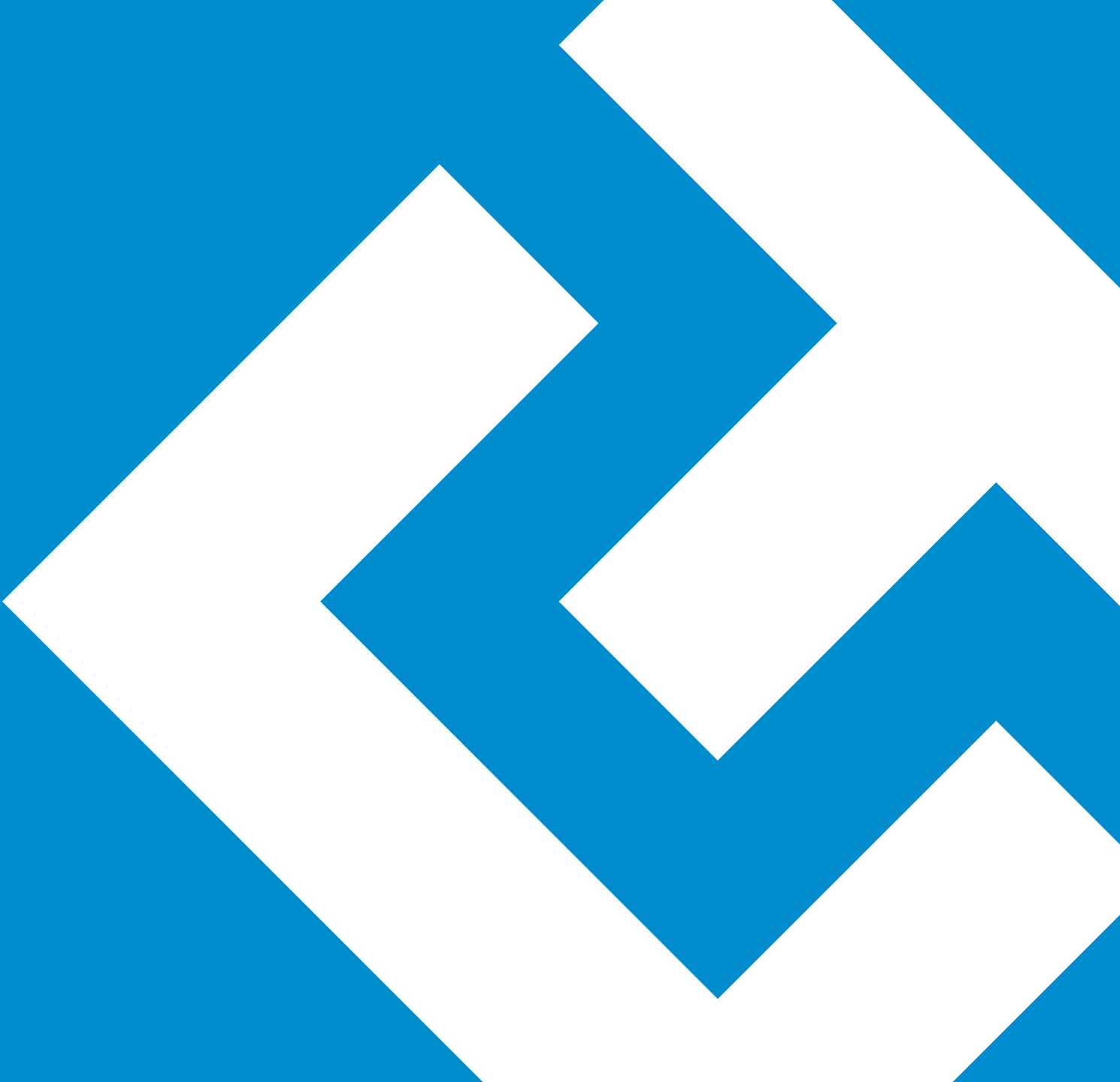
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How to write a
competitive
proposal?

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AWARD CRITERIA



—
Excellence, Impact and Implementation

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%

Excellence: main novelties

1.2 Soundness of the proposed methodology

- Gender dimension and diversity aspects
- Open science practices
- Research data management and management of other research outputs

Impact: main novelties

2.3 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities

- Plan for the dissemination and exploitation activities, including communication activities
- Strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures

2.4 The magnitude and importance of the project's contribution to the expected scientific, societal and economic impacts (project's pathways towards impact)

- Expected scientific impact(s)
- Expected economic/technological impact(s)
- Expected societal impact(s)

Quality and efficiency of the implementation: main novelties

3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages

- Management structures not assessed anymore
- Risk management at consortium level
- Gender aspects (both at the level of recruitment and that of decision-making within the action)
- Environmental aspects in light of the MSCA Green Charter

3.2 Quality, capacity and role of each participant, including hosting arrangements and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise

- Operational capacity fully assessed under criterion 3.2.

Overview of the process



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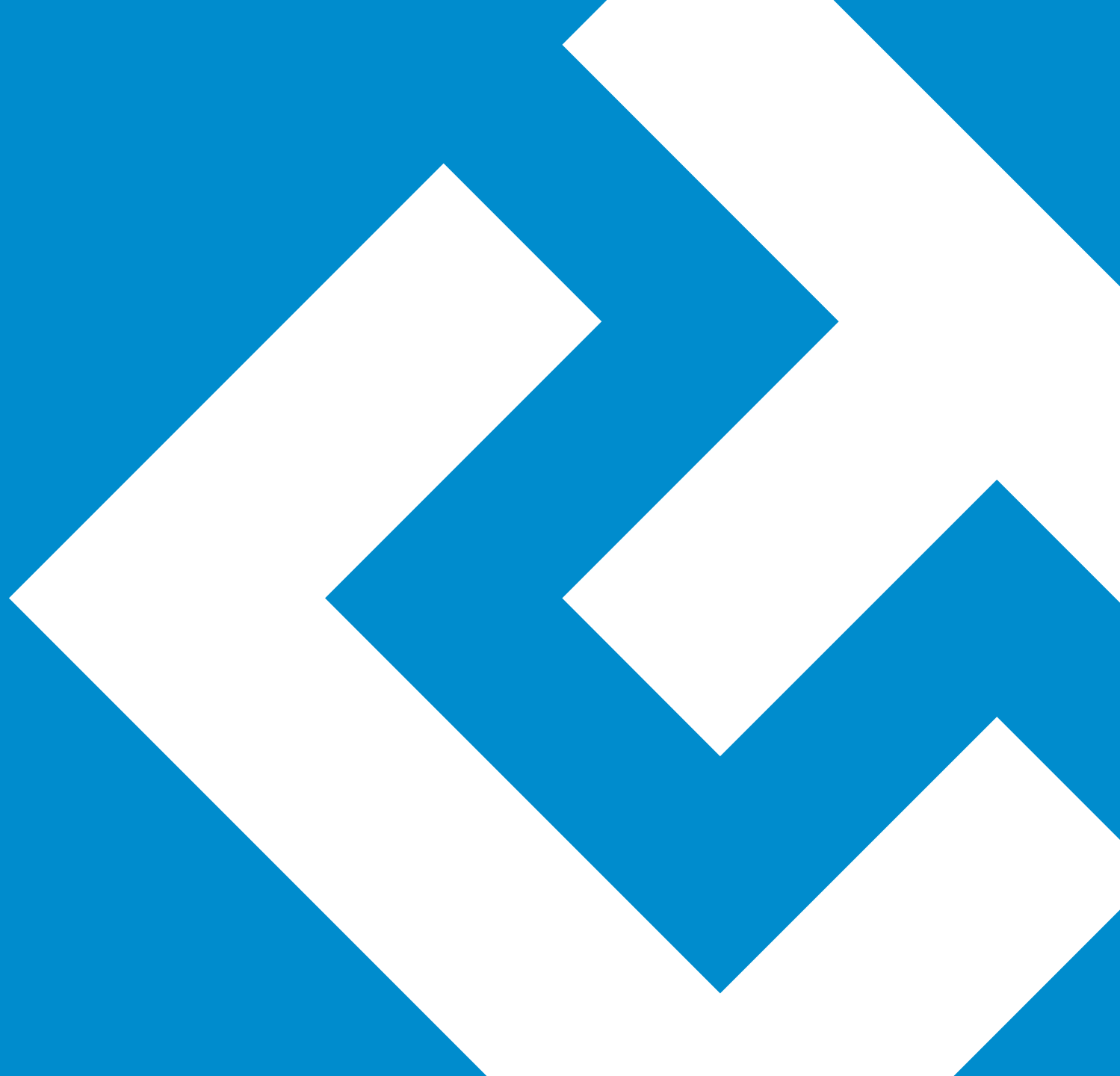
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FINANCIAL ASPECTS



Budget structure



Funding mechanism

- **100 % reimbursement rate** – automatically calculated by the EC (Part A of the MSCA proposal)
- **Simplified model for financing = unit contributions**
- What is the unit? 1 Person-month = 1 person working for 1 month FTE (full-time equivalent)

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

Unit contributions

Novelties of HE: reviewed and new cost categories

Contributions for recruited researchers Per person-month						Institutional unit contributions Per person-month	
Budget category	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
Amount	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

Contributions for recruited researchers

Contributions for the recruited researcher					Institutional unit contributions	
per person-month					per person-month	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Long-term leave allowance	Special needs allowance	Research, training and networking contributions	Management and indirect contributions
EUR 3 400	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 4 000 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 600	EUR 1200

Contributions for recruited researchers

- They have to be fully paid to the researcher
- **LIVING ALLOWANCE**
 - A living allowance to cover personnel costs for the employment of researchers with full social security coverage
 - Adjusted through the country correction coefficient (in the Work Programme)
 - Applied according to your host institution; CZ - 79.1%
- **MOBILITY ALLOWANCE**
 - To cover additional, private mobility-related costs, e.g. travel and accommodation costs (NOT: business trips, conference fees, etc., covered by research, training and networking contribution)

Contributions for recruited researchers

- **FAMILY ALLOWANCE**

- Applicable to researchers with a family (persons linked to the researcher by marriage, or equivalent status, and dependent children)
- If a fellow has or acquires **family obligations during the action duration**, the family allowance must be paid to him/her as well.

- **LONG-TERM LEAVE ALLOWANCE**

- contributes to the personnel costs incurred by the beneficiaries in case of the researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave, longer than 30 consecutive days.

- **SPECIAL NEEDS ALLOWANCE**

- contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities
- Both long-term leave and special needs allowances should be requested **when the need arises**.

Institutional unit contributions

Contributions for the recruited researcher					Institutional unit contributions	
per person-month					per person-month	
Living allowance	Mobility allowance	Family allowance	Long-term leave allowance	Special needs allowance	Research, training and networking contributions	Management and indirect contributions
EUR 3 400	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 4 000 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit x (1/number of months)	EUR 1 600	EUR 1200

Institutional unit contributions

- Their eligibility depends on the eligibility of researcher's unit costs
- **RESEARCH, TRAINING AND NETWORKING COSTS**
 - To cover costs for training and networking activities, research expenses, visa-related fees and travel expenses, additional costs arising from each secondment of six months or less, which require mobility from the place of residence (e.g. travel and accommodation costs)
 - Unused amounts may be used to the benefit of the researcher
- **MANAGEMENT AND INDIRECT COSTS**
 - To cover the beneficiary's additional costs in connection with the action (e.g. personnel costs for project management/coordination, indirect costs)

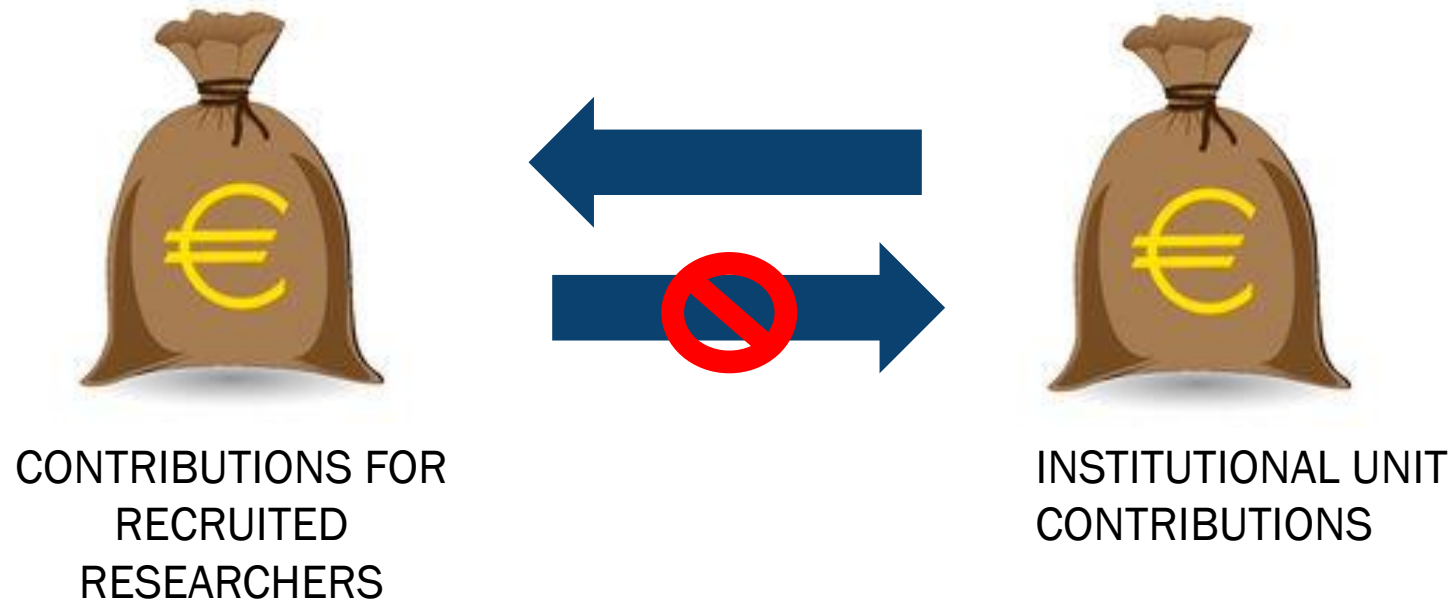
Novelties of HE: reviewed and new cost categories

- Each beneficiary must recruit each eligible doctoral candidate under an **employment contract or equivalent direct contract** with full social security coverage.
- When an employment contract cannot be provided (due to national legislation), the beneficiary may exceptionally recruit the doctoral candidate under a '**fixed-amount fellowship**'. In this case, the living allowance will be halved and the beneficiary must ensure that the doctoral candidate enjoys minimum social security coverage.
- Each beneficiary **must pay the family and mobility allowances** to the recruited fellow.
- Doctoral candidates should devote them on a **full-time basis** to the project.
- **Part-time** is allowed for personal or family reasons, with a prior agreement of the REA.

Mandatory deliverables

- establishment of a **supervisory board** of the network
- **progress report** submitted within 30 days after one year from the starting date of the action
- **mid-term meeting** organised between the participants and the granting authority
- **mobility declaration** submitted within 20 days after the recruitment of each researcher and updated (if needed) via the Funding & Tenders Portal Continuous Reporting tool
- **career development plan**: a document describing how the individual Career Development Plans have been established (listing also the researchers for whom such plans have been put in place), submitted before the mid-term meeting
- **evaluation questionnaire** completed by each recruited researcher and submitted at the end of the research training activity; a **follow-up questionnaire** submitted two years later
- **data management plan** submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project if needed
- **plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, including communication activities**, submitted at mid-term and an update towards the end of the project

Budget transfers?



Do you have any specific questions?

Legal and Financial Aspects

Financial and Administrative Aspects :

Lenka Chvojková, Aneta Kašlíková, Milena Lojková



Legal Aspects:

Jiří Kotouček



- [Contacts](#)

QUESTIONS?

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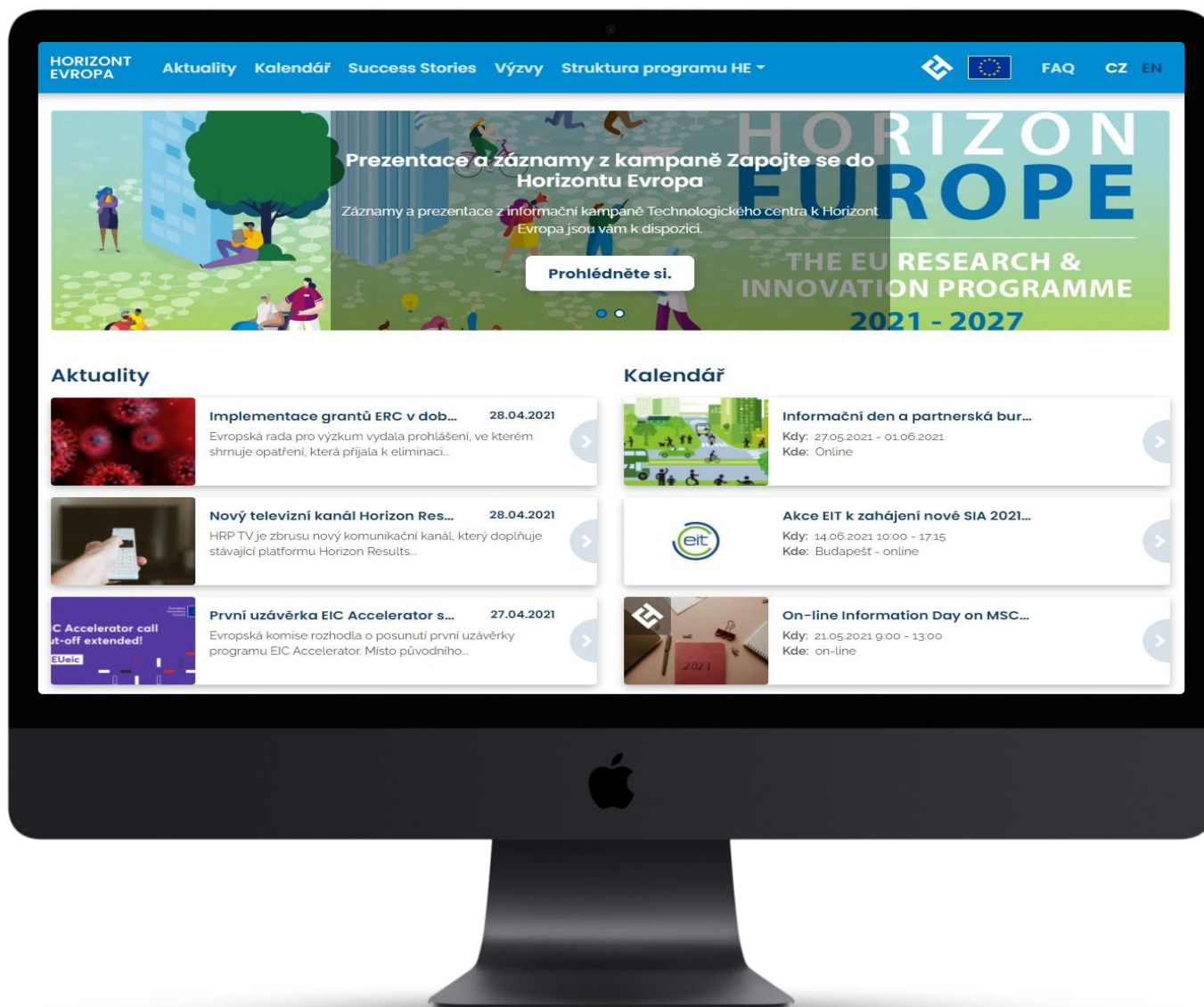
Other useful information



Technology Centre CAS

National Information Centre for European Research





National Portal Horizon Europe

New webpage (Czech/English version)

horizontevropa.cz

- News
- Calendar
- Success stories
- Calls
- Newsletter (subscribe)
- MSCA under Excellent Science

 [@TC_AVCR](https://twitter.com/TC_AVCR)

National support to MSCA applicants

Information events:

- National Information Day (this year within the campaign Join HE, [8 March 2021](#))
 - Information Days on specific Action
 - Applicants´ workshops (intensive training in proposal writing)
 - Events on demand, specific trainings
-
- Brochure on MSCA to be updated in summer (Vademecum)
 - Individual consulting and proposal pre-screening (non-scientific issues), e-mails, phone calls, personal/virtual meetings
- **Collaboration with key stakeholders:** Marie Curie fellows and evaluators ...



Planned events – INVITATION

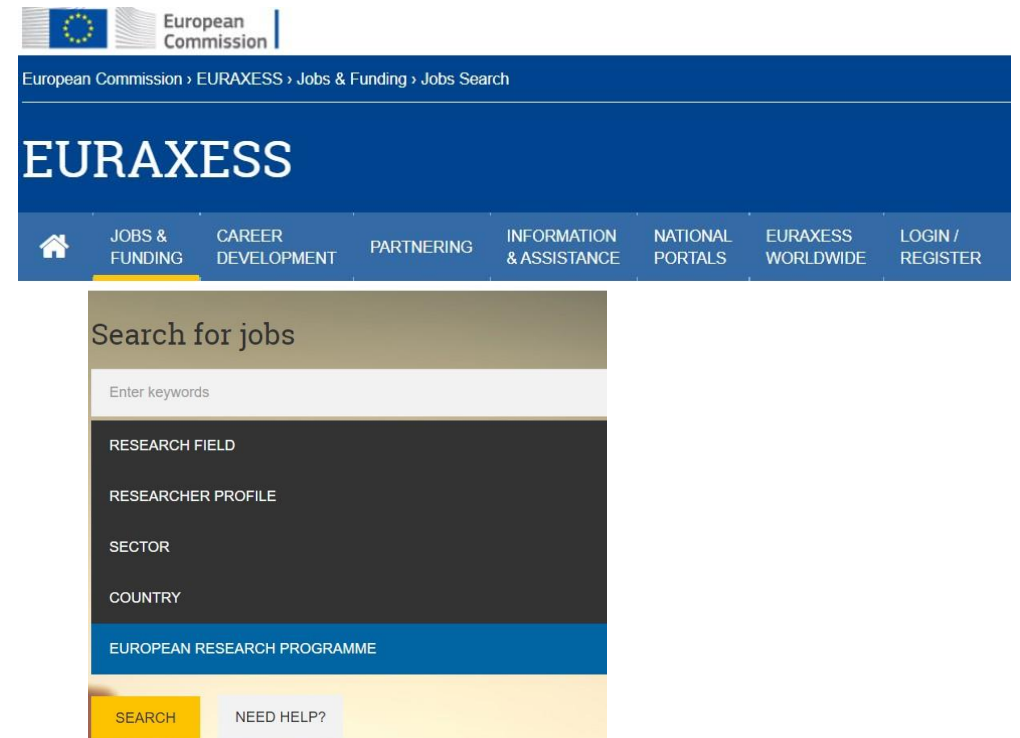
Date	Venue	Event*
8 March 2021	on-line	Národní informační kampaň ZAPOJTE SE DO HORIZONTU EVROPA
23 March 2021	on-line	Infoday on MSCA under Horizon Europe – for the research community (by European Commission)
21 May 2021	on-line	Information day on MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
2 June 2021	on-line	Information day on MSCA Doctoral Networks
3 June 2021	on-line	Information day on MSCA COFUND
24-25 June 2021	on-line	Module 6: Applicants´ workshop on MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships
September 2021	tbc	Applicants´ workshop on MSCA Staff Exchanges, 2. Networking setkání projektů MSCA RISE
October 2021	tbc	Applicants´ workshop on MSCA COFUND

* Titles according to the language of the event



USEFUL LINKS

- [Marie Curie Actions Website](#)
- [Research Executive Agency](#)
- [FTO Portal](#) (applications, documents)
- [CORDIS](#) (funded projects)
- [Net4Mobility+](#) (MSCA NCP project)
- [Euraxess Portal](#) (vacancies, COFUND Programmes)
- [Research Enquiry Service](#)
- [MSCA Green Charter](#)
- [Guidelines on Supervision](#)



The screenshot shows the EURAXESS website interface. At the top, there is a header with the European Commission logo and the text 'European Commission'. Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads 'European Commission > EURAXESS > Jobs & Funding > Jobs Search'. The main heading 'EURAXESS' is prominently displayed. A navigation bar contains several links: 'HOME', 'JOBS & FUNDING' (which is highlighted), 'CAREER DEVELOPMENT', 'PARTNERING', 'INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE', 'NATIONAL PORTALS', 'EURAXESS WORLDWIDE', and 'LOGIN / REGISTER'. The 'Jobs Search' section features a search bar with the placeholder text 'Enter keywords'. Below the search bar, there are several filter categories: 'RESEARCH FIELD', 'RESEARCHER PROFILE', 'SECTOR', 'COUNTRY', and 'EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROGRAMME'. At the bottom of the search section, there are two buttons: 'SEARCH' and 'NEED HELP?'.

QUESTIONS?

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SOURCES: European Commission, Net4Mobility+

DISCLAIMER: The information in this presentation is preliminary and subject to the adoption of the MSCA Work Programme 2021-2022.



Thank you for your attention.

Zuzana Čapková

MSCA and ERC NCP, Technology Centre CAS

+420 702 179 875

capkova@tc.cz

SHORT BREAK

