Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions
Doctoral Networks in Horizon Europe

Uppsala University Humanities and Social Sciences

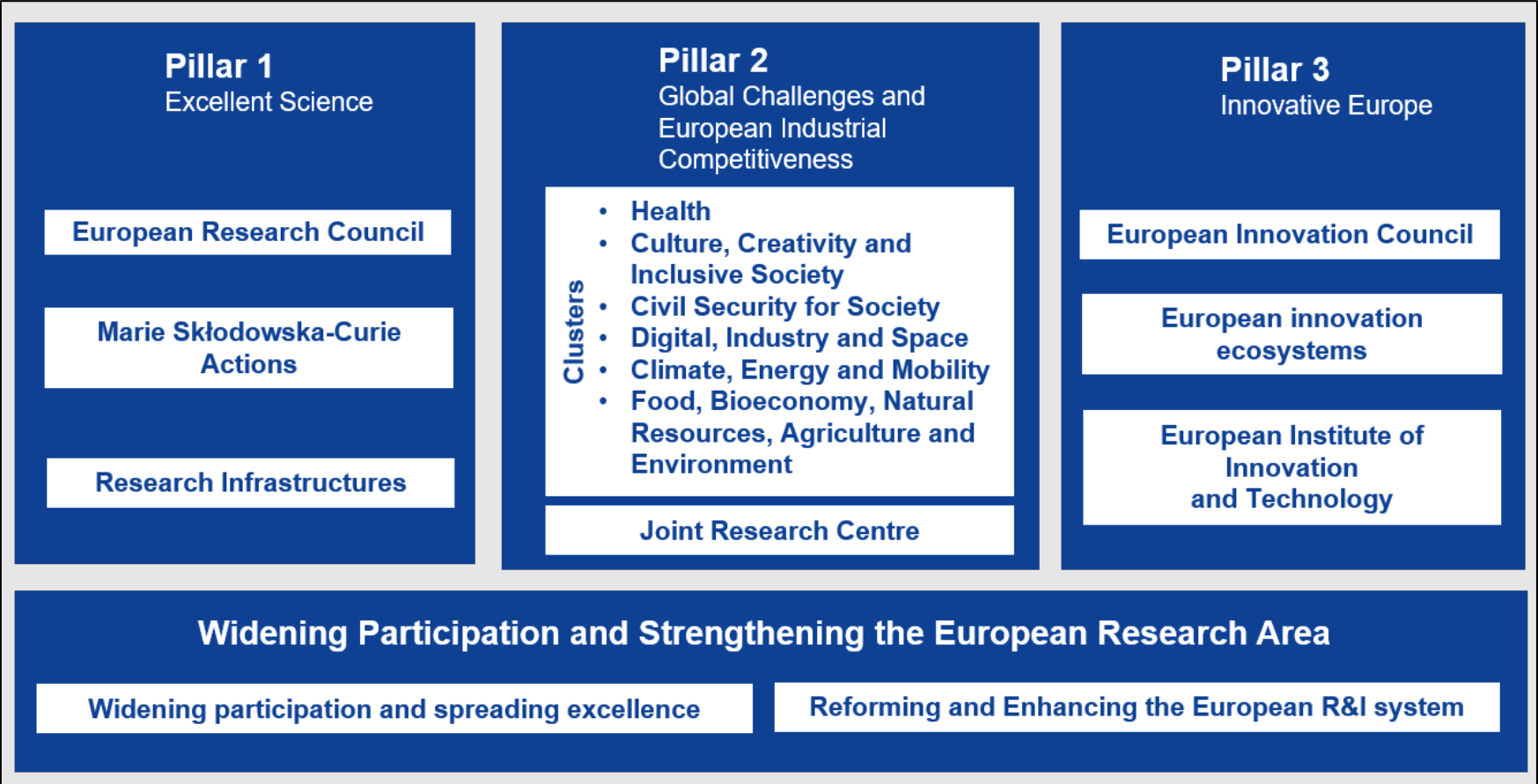2021-05-06

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Kind contribution of Dr. Erik Litborn, Vinnova

Vetenskapsrådet

European Commission

Horizon Europe

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN) industrial

- doctoral programme (consortium) in and outside academia incl. joint & doctorates

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

- postdoc (individual)

MSCA Staff Exchanges

- networking (consortium)

MSCA COFUND

- doctoral or postdoc fellowship chemes (monobeneficary)

MSCA and Citizens

- European Researchers Night

DISCLAIMER
Info is based on
MSCA WP **DRAFT**

Work Programme and Guide for Applicants planned **May 26**
MSCA DN call *planned* to open 27 May

Evolution in the MSCA's implementation

- **Streamlined actions**, clearer identity

- **Simpler** rules, **fine-tuned** definitions, **harmonised** conditions

- Continuation and expansion of **simplified form of grants**

- **Demand management** to maintain high-quality and attractiveness

- Strengthen **structuring effects** on host institutions

- More guidance on **supervision** and **exposure beyond academia**

- Improved internal coherence between actions

- Reinforced synergies within Horizon Europe and between programmes: **Erasmus+, ERC, EIT, COST, EIC, Research Infrastructures,** …

- Synergies between funding instruments: **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); European Social Fund (ESF+)**

The information in this presentation is still subject to change

European Commission

Doctoral Networks

- Multi-beneficiary Action 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

- 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**

European Commission

Doctoral Networks: eligibility/organisations

- ## Who applies?
  - ➤ **Consortia** of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors
  - ➤ At least **three independent legal entities**, each established in a different MS or AC; minimum of 1 beneficiary from a MS (on top of this minimum, any entity from any third country can join; no minimum for associated partners)

- **All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate**. They are required to host at their premises and supervise recruited researchers, or use associated partners linked to them to do so

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

European Commission

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	✔	✖

European Commission

Doctoral Networks: eligibility/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

European Commission

Doctoral Networks

- **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**: ~~18 May~~ **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%**

European Commission

Unit costs in MSCA

- Defined cost categories, fixed amounts per month

- Reimbursement based on activity per month

- **No audit on actual costs**

- **Audit on formalities e.g. eligibility**

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

European Commission

Unit costs

Living allowance   contribution to salary costs (fellow)

Mobility allowance   contribution to private costs (fellow)

Family allowance   contribution to private costs (fellow), marriage,
relationship with equivalent status as marriage
(sambo), dependent children, <u>flexibility during the action</u>

Long-term leave all.   contributes to the beneficiary´s pay obligations,
longer than 30 consecutive days

Special needs allowance   contributes to additional costs for researchers with
disabilities (lump sum)

RTN allowance   contribution to costs for activities in project description

Management and OH   fixed amount (some co-funding might be required)

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%**

European Commission

More gender-friendly and inclusive MSCA

- Horizon 2020: 41% of female fellows (from 38% in RISE to 44% in ITN)
- In line with the Charter and Code, all MSCA projects are encouraged to embrace diversity
- **In the interest of non-discrimination and equal opportunities:**
  - ✓ Family allowances will be accessible to all, even if their parental status changes during the duration of the project
  - ✓ Long-term leave allowance in case of the researchers' leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave
  - ✓ Broader definition of family to ensure full access to these allowances (recognised LGBTI+ couples)

European Commission

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions

- **Academia – non academia collaboration**
  - Inter-sectorial exposure through incentives, transferable skills

- **Open Science** and **Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI)**
  - engage society, gender and ethical dimensions, FAIR datahandling
    - New publishing platform and open peer review [Open Research Europe | Open Access Publishing Platform (europa.eu)](#)

- **European Green Deal** /**MSCA** [Green Charter](#)
  - General principles and objectives, code of good practice to minimise environmental footprint, UN 2030 SDG

- **Reinforced synergies with HE and other EU funding programmes**
  - EIC, ERC, Erasmus+ etc, Seal of Excellence (mono-beneficierary)

Doctoral Networks – the gain?

<u>Doctoral candidates</u>

- New research and transferable skills and competences
- Improved career prospects within and outside academia
- Knowledge conversion of ideas into products and services
- Enhanced networking and communication capacities

<u>Participating organisations</u>

- Improved doctorial training programmes and supervision arrangements
- Enhanced cooperation between sectors and disciplines
- Increased integration between participating organisations
- Increase R&I capacity, internationalisation, attractiveness
- Regular feedback R&I results into teaching and education

Thank you!