



MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research



The Other Opportunities for the academic and non-academic sector within MSCA Doctoral Networks – COFUND – Postdoctoral Fellowships

Staff Exchanges - Info Day, Istanbul, 04/09/2023

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Curie Actions

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The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

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Doctoral Networks

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

2023: 435 M€, DL 28/11/2023
2024: 451 M€, DL 27/11/2024

2

Postdoctoral Fellowships

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

2023: 260 M€, DL 13/09/2023
2024: 270 M€, DL 11/09/2024

3

Staff Exchanges

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges

2023: 79 M€, DL 28/02/2024
2024: 81 M€, DL 05/03/2025

4

COFUND

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes

2023: 97 M€, DL 08/02/2024
2024: 99 M€, DL 06/02/2025

5

MSCA and Citizens

Public outreach events (Researcher's Night)

2023: 15 M€, DL 25/10/2023



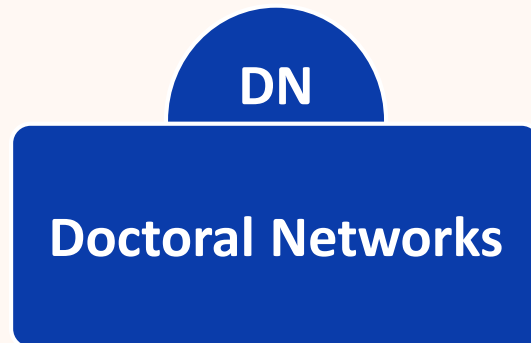
MSCA Doctoral Networks

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What are Doctoral Networks?

Multi-beneficiaries Actions to set up **doctoral programmes** comprising:

- **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/double/multiple doctoral degree, Joint selection and supervision; pre-agreement for joint degrees required



*Participants implement
a joint research
programme*



*Doctoral training with the
non-academic sector*



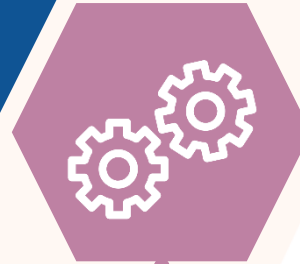
*Doctoral programme to
deliver joint degrees*



Doctoral Networks - Academic / 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

Doctoral Networks – Eligibility Conditions

- At least **3 independent legal entities**:
 - Each established in a different EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Country
 - Minimum of 1 beneficiary from an EU Member State
- **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.
- Specific eligibility conditions for Industrial and Joint Doctorates
- **!** Re-submission restrictions for proposals scoring below 80% in Call 2022

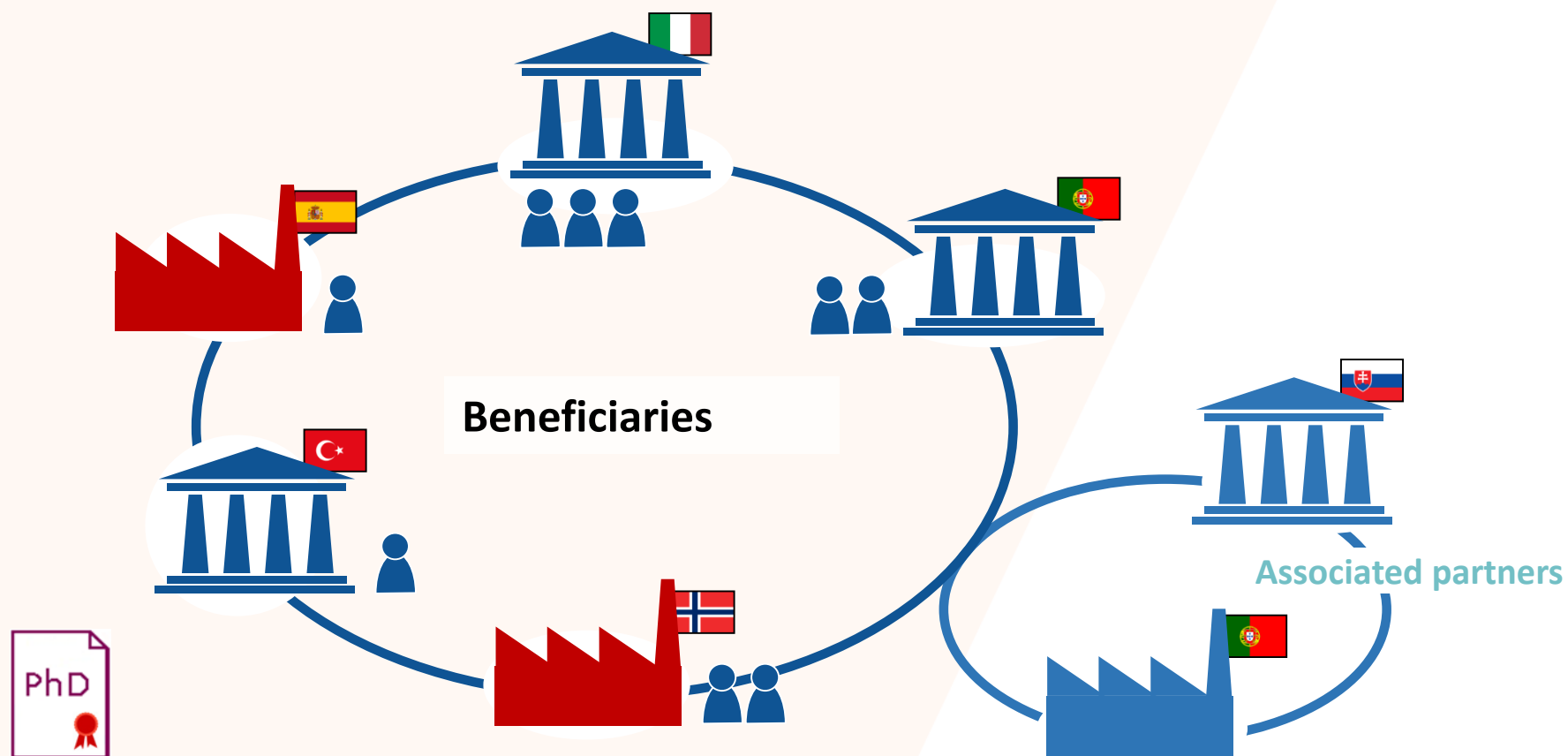
Doctoral Networks – Eligible Participants

- **Who can apply?**
 - Any Legal Entity from anywhere in the world
 - But not all applicants are automatically eligible for funding
- **Consortia of:**
 - Universities, research institutions and research infrastructures
 - Businesses including SMEs
 - Other socio-economic actors
- No minimum / maximum number of **Associated Partners**

Doctoral Networks – Eligible Researchers

- Researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment)
- Recruitment for min. 3 to 36 months (48 for JD as of 2023 call)
- Be recruited following an **open, merit-based and transparent 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 in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date.

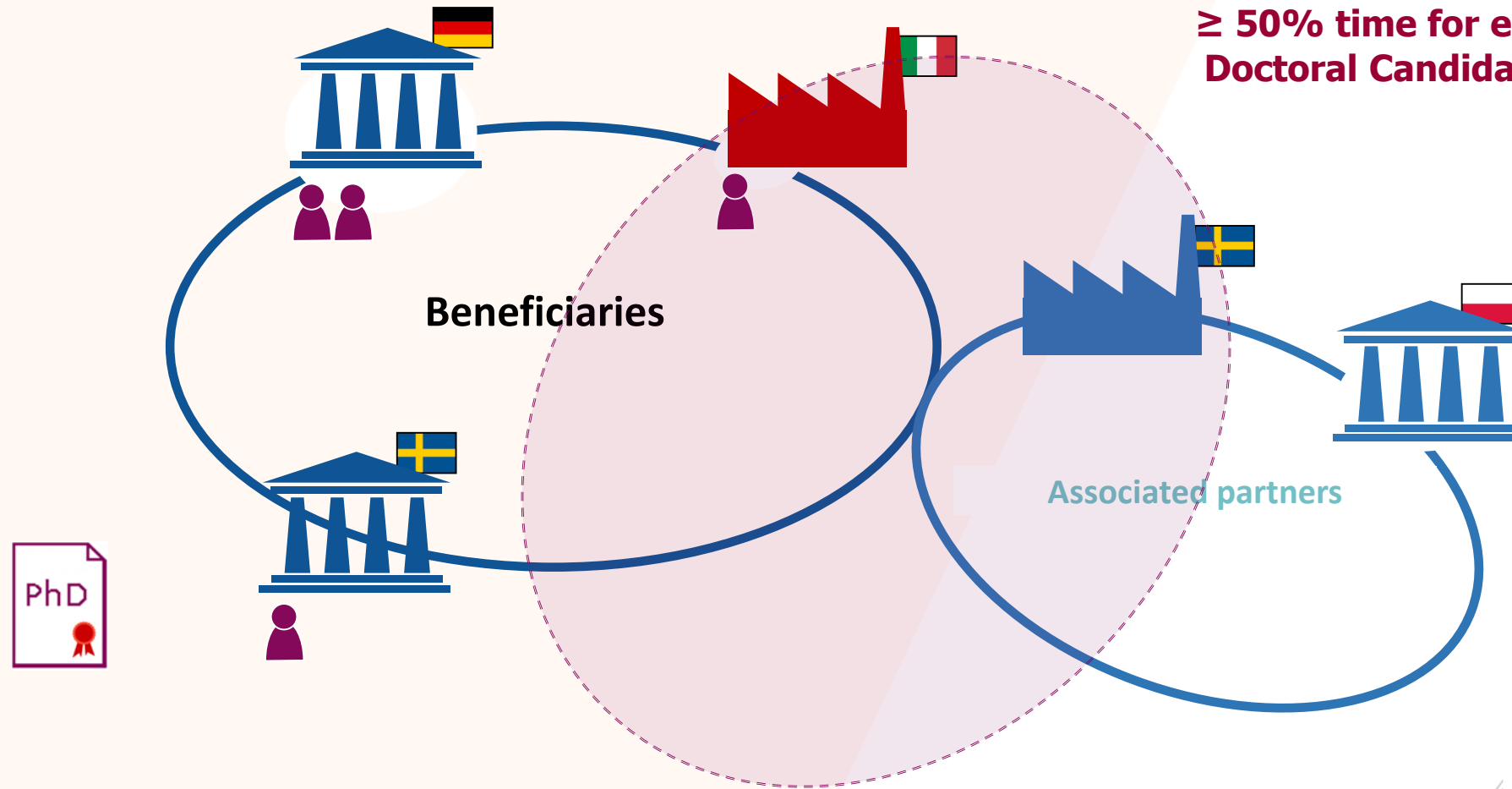
Doctoral Network – Example consortium



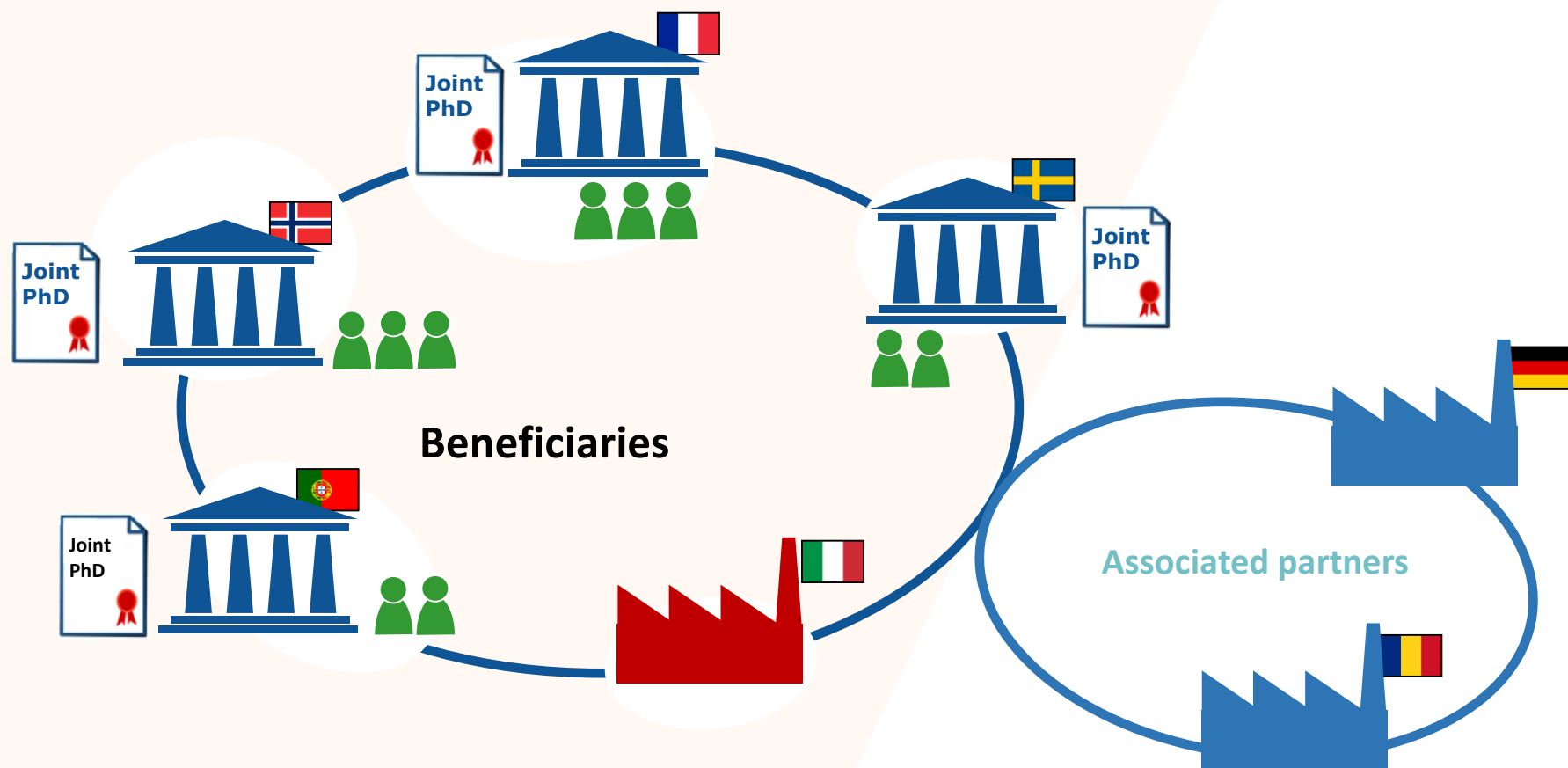
Industrial Doctorate – Example consortium

NON ACADEMIC SECTOR

**≥ 50% time for each
Doctoral Candidate**



Joint Doctorate – Example consortium



Doctoral Networks – Funding mechanism

Simplified Approach

- **1 unit cost** = 1 person-month of each eligible researcher
- 100% Reimbursement rate for eligible beneficiaries
- Different cost categories
 - Researcher's cost
 - Institutional costs (research, training, networking + management)

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 3400*	EUR 600	EUR 660	EUR 4000 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit ¹ x (1/number of months)	EUR 1600	EUR 1200

*A **country correction coefficient** applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers

** A **family allowance** to contribute to mobility-related costs of researchers with family obligations which can be granted during the project.

¹The pre-defined categories are as follows: EUR 3 000, EUR 4 500, EUR 6 000, EUR 9 500, EUR 13 000, EUR 18 500, EUR 27 500, EUR 35 500, EUR 47 500 and EUR 60 000.

Call deadline

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2023

Reference

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN-01-01

Deadline

28 Nov 2023

Indicative budget

EUR 434.80 million





MSCA COFUND

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Mono-beneficiary action to co-fund new or existing national, regional, international 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 Smart Specialisation Strategies.

Modalities:

- **Doctoral Programmes:** offer research training activities to allow doctoral candidates to develop and broaden their skills and competences. They will lead to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country. The training activities should be based on the EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training.
- **Postdoctoral Programmes:** fund individual advanced research training and career development fellowships for postdoctoral researchers. The programmes should offer training to develop key transferable skills and competences common to all fields, foster innovation and entrepreneurship and promote and (where appropriate) reward Open Science practices.

Who can apply?

- **Single legal entity** established in an EU Member State or HE Associated country
- **All beneficiaries must recruit at least three researchers.** They are required to host at their premises and supervise recruited researchers, or use implementing partners linked to them to do so

COFUND - Practicalities

➤ Co-funding

- Max **10 M€** per beneficiary per call

➤ Duration

- **Programme:** max. 60 months
- **Fellowship:** min 3 months

➤ Recruitment

- **Euraxess**

Eligible researchers:

- **Doctoral programmes:** researchers without a doctoral degree at the deadline of the co-funded programme's call; mandatory enrolment in a doctoral programme
- **Postdoctoral programmes:** researchers with a doctoral degree at the deadline of the co-funded programme's call
- **Any nationality**
- **Mobility rule:** must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the recruiting beneficiary or implementing partner for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the deadline of the co-funded programme's call

Unit contributions

Contributions for recruited researchers and institutional contributions			
Per person-month			
COFUND allowance		Long-term leave allowance (if applicable)	Special needs allowance (if applicable)
Doctoral Programmes	EUR 2 800	EUR 2 800 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit ¹ x (1/number of months)
Postdoctoral Programmes	EUR 3 980	EUR 3 980 x % covered by the beneficiary	Requested unit ¹ x (1/number of months)

Minimum remuneration applies:
EUR 2 800 for Doctoral researcher, EUR 3 980 for Postdoctoral researcher
(including both fellow's and employer's social contributions)

Call deadline

MSCA COFUND 2023

Reference

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01-01

Deadline

8 Feb 2024

Indicative budget

EUR 96.57 million





MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

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MSCA-PF Target and Objectives

*"...offers fellowships to researchers **holding a PhD** wishing to undertake **mobility** either to or between EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries (European Postdoctoral Fellowships), or to a non-associated Third Country (Global Postdoctoral Fellowships) in order to undertake an **original and personalised research and innovation project**.*

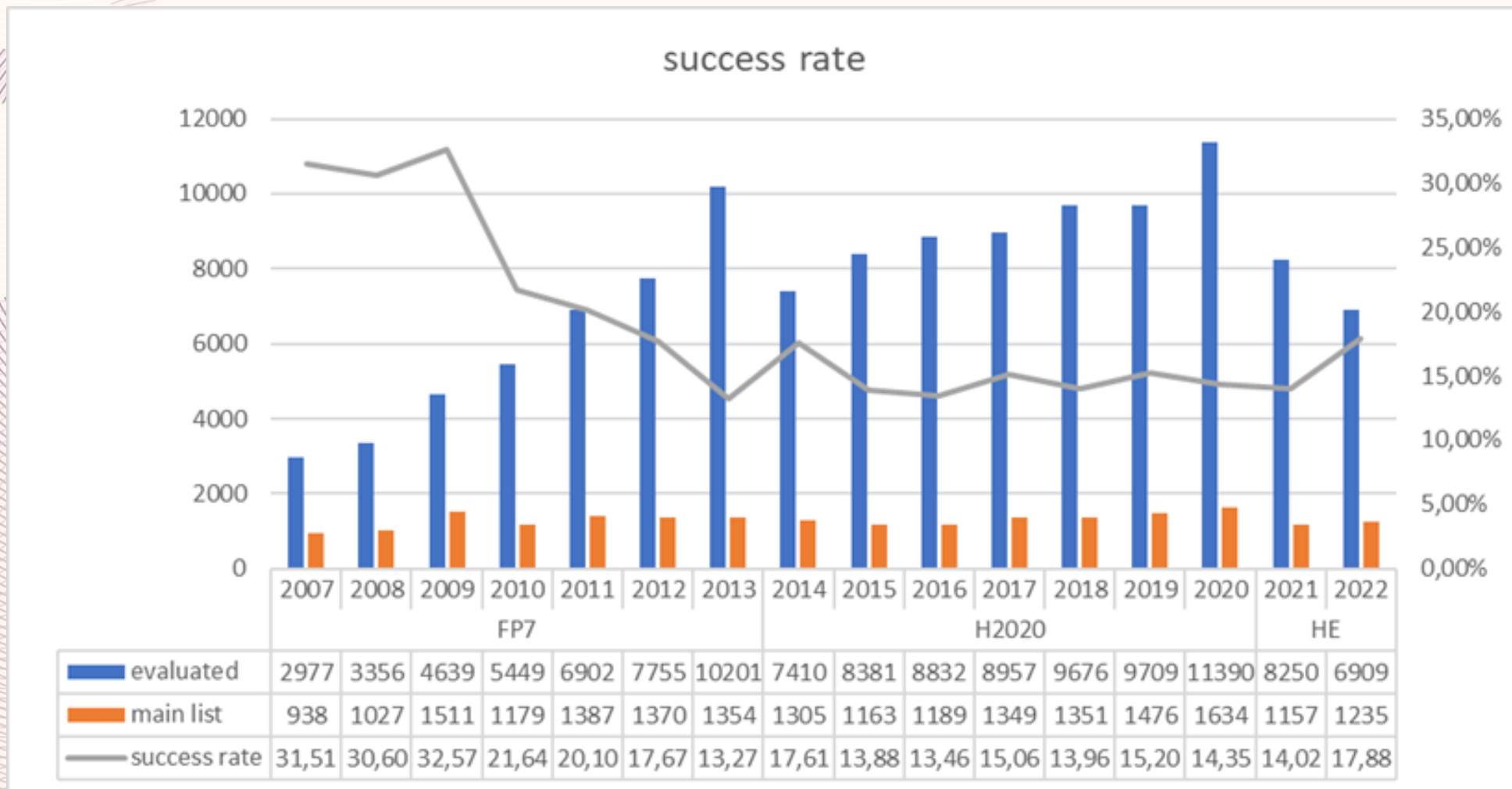
*The objective is to improve researchers' **employability** and **career prospects** within academia and beyond, with a strong focus on **interdisciplinarity** and **intersectoral** experience."*

Eligibility Criteria

- **Host beneficiary in EU/AC:** Mono-beneficiary programme
 - **Researcher Mobility:** Any nationality, but <12m in host country in previous 36m (and “long-term resident” for GF)
 - **PhD Requirement:** Applicants must be “in possession of a PhD” or “unconditional defence” before Call deadline
 - **Scientific Age of < 8 years:** But multiple exceptions
- + **Resubmission Restrictions** (+70% in previous evaluation)

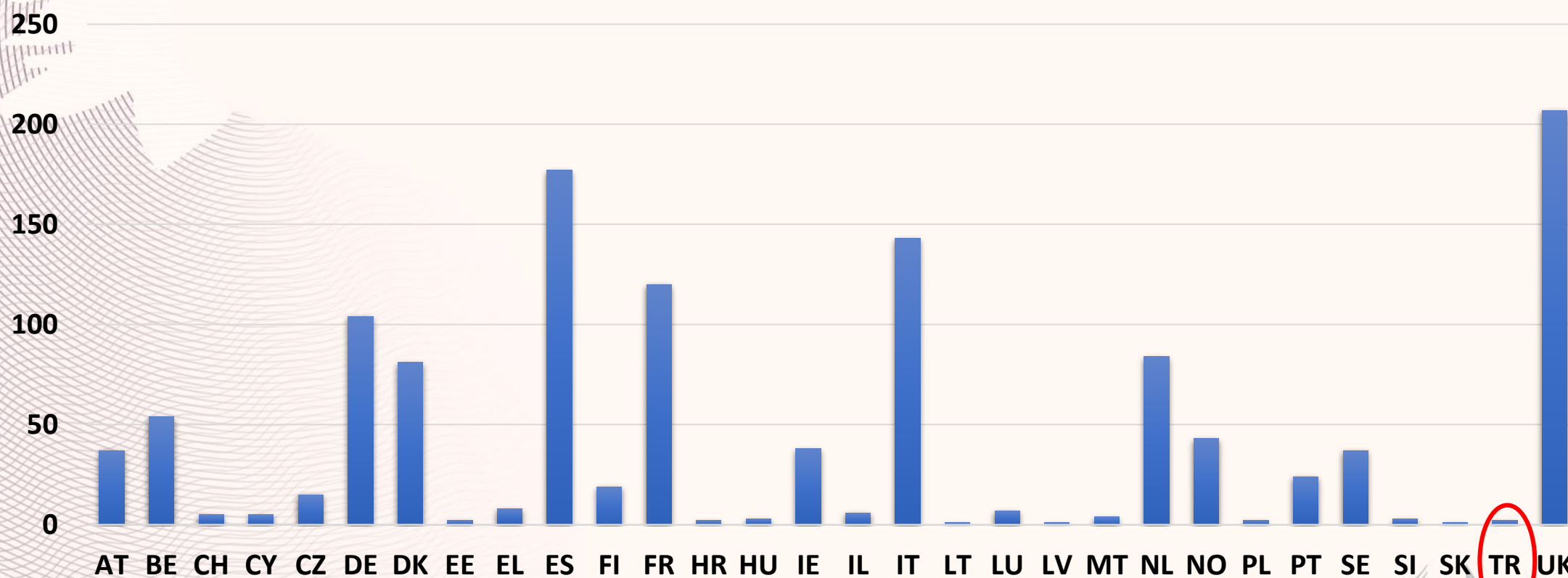


Popularity of MSCA-IF/PF



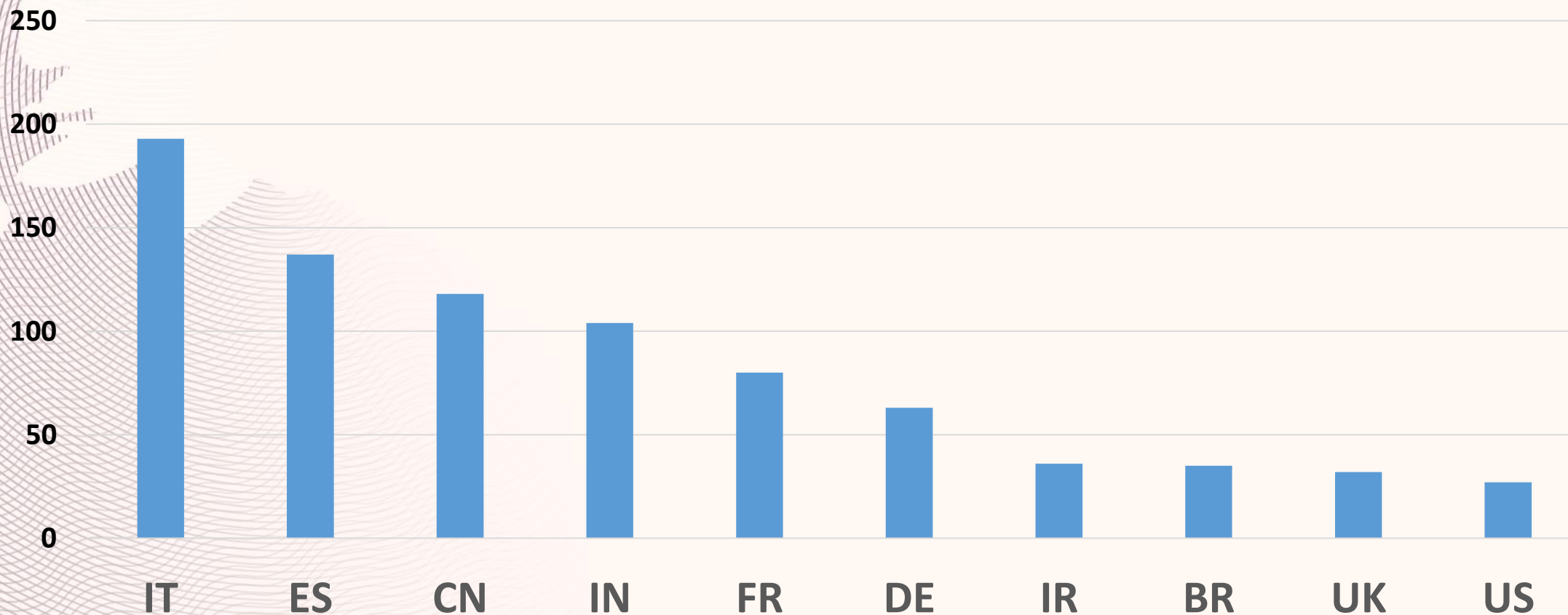
Who is applying?

Count of Country coordinator
(PF 2022 – Main List)



Top 10 Research Nationalities

PF 2022 - Main List



Unit Contributions

Contributions for recruited researchers

Per person-month

Living
allowance*

EUR 5 080

Mobility
allowance

EUR 600

Family
allowance
(if applicable)

EUR 660

Long-term
leave
allowance
(if applicable)

EUR 5 680
x
% covered by
the beneficiary

Special needs
allowance
(if applicable)

Requested
unit¹
x
(1/number of
months)

Institutional unit contributions

Per person-month

Research,
training and
networking
contribution

EUR 1 000

Management
and indirect
contribution

EUR 650

*A country correction coefficient (CCC) applies to the living allowance in order to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers.
CCC for BE: 100%



Call deadline

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024

Reference

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01-01

Deadline

11 Sep 2024

Indicative budget

EUR 270.75 million





MSCA Researcher's Night

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Objective of MSCA and Citizens

- To **contribute** to promoting excellence research projects across Europe and beyond
- To **increase** awareness among the general public of the importance and benefits of research and innovation and showcase its concrete impact on citizens' daily life
- To **heighten** young people's interest in science and research careers

Who can apply?



**research
organisations
(public/private)**



companies



public authorities



science museums



foundations



**media
organisations**



European
Commission

Call deadline

European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools 2024-2025

Reference

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-CITIZENS-01-01

Deadline

25 Oct 2023

Indicative budget

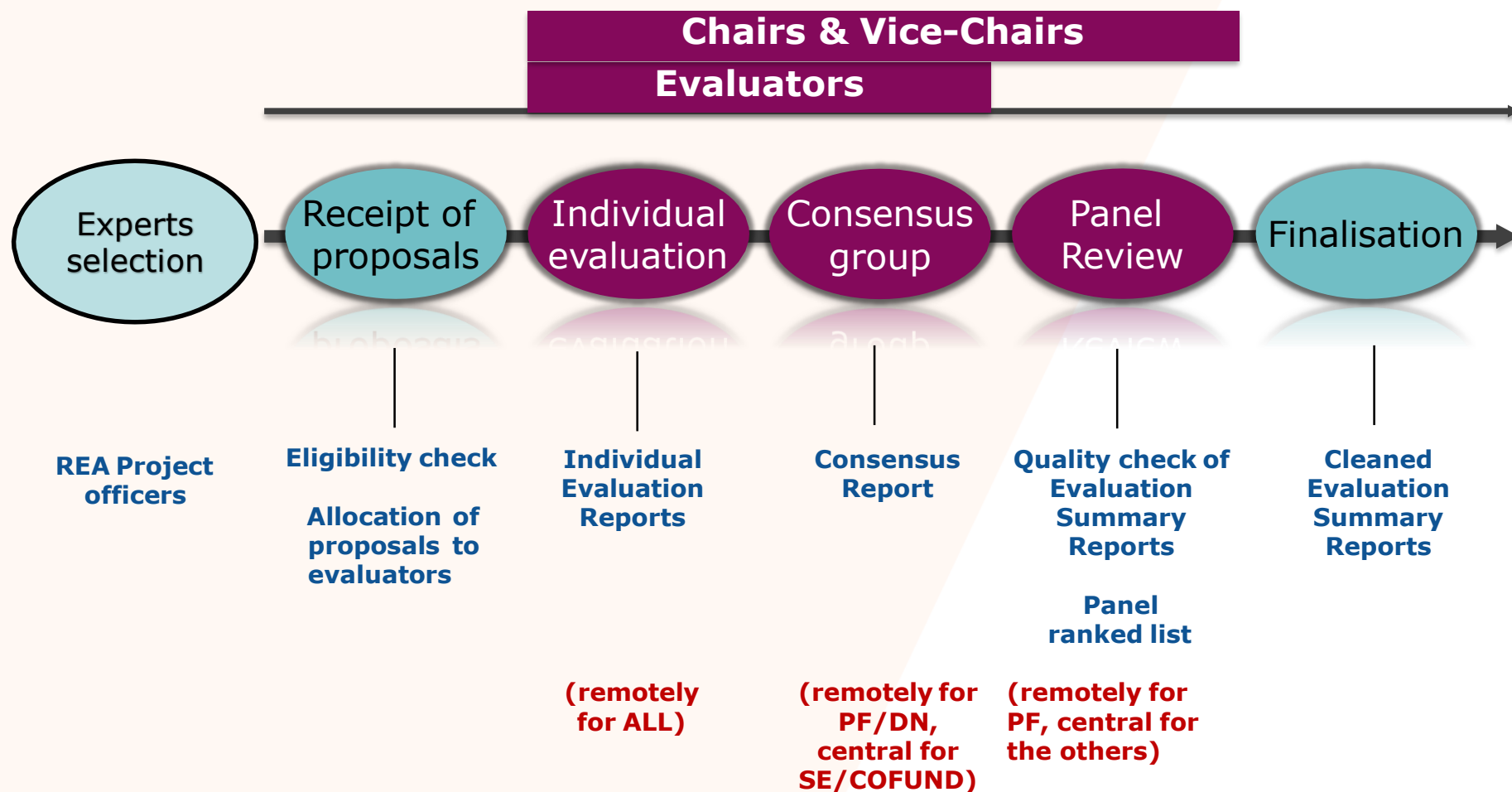
EUR 15.42 million





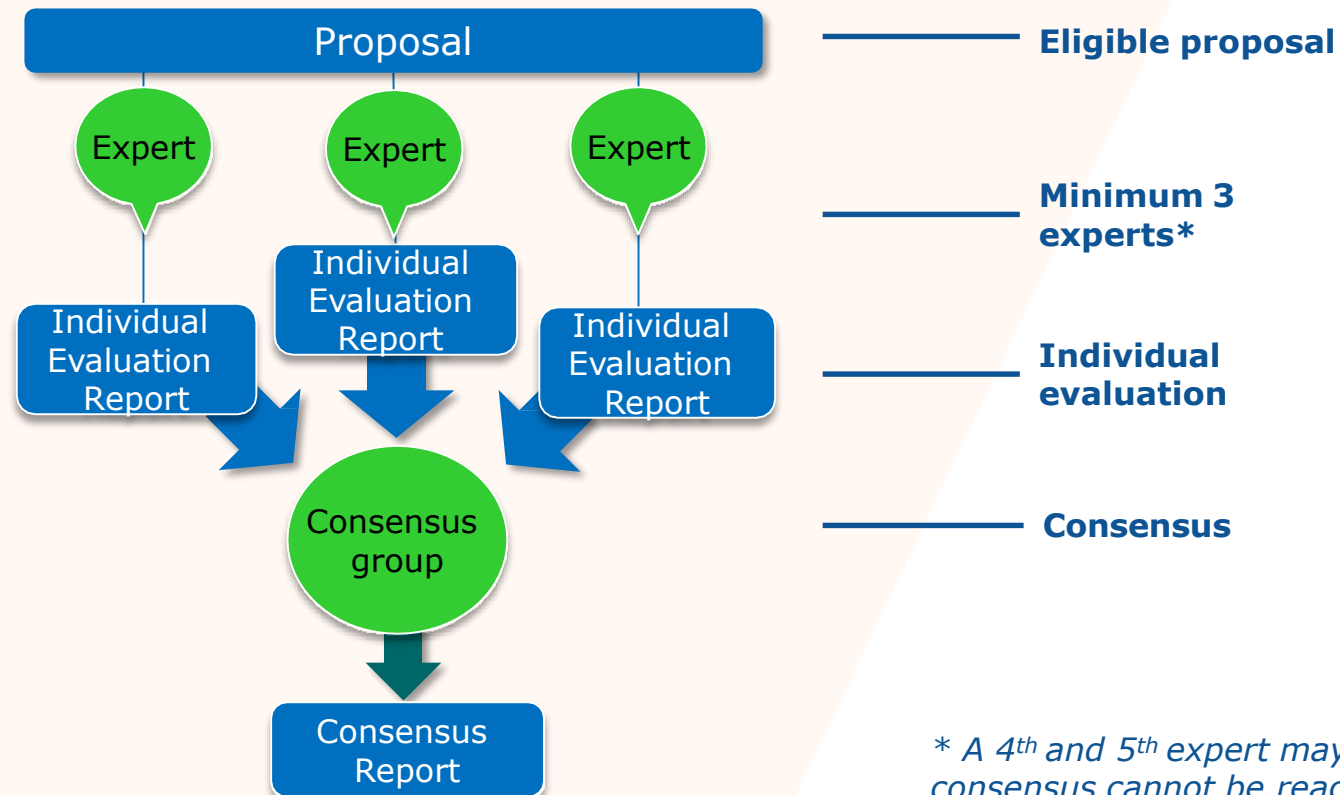
MSCA Evaluation process

Overview of Evaluation Process



SEP – system for Submission and Evaluation of Proposals

Overview of Evaluation Process



** A 4th and 5th expert may be added in case consensus cannot be reached*

Resources and guidance



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Website

https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/node_en

Research Enquiry Service

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/contact/research-enquiry-service_en

National Contact Points

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/ncp>

Funding and Tenders Portal (applications)

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen>