MSCA: A world reference for research and training

Researchers' training, skills and career development (all stage of career)
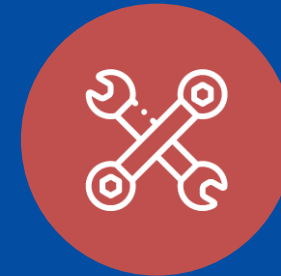
Excellent research in all domains (bottom-up approach)

International, cross-sectoral & interdisciplinary mobility

Attractive working and employment conditions

Structuring impact on organisations through excellent programmes

Strong collaboration with industry and SMEs

TÜBİTAK

European Commission

Key figures (2014-2020)

TÜBİTAK

+65,000 Researchers, including 25,000 PhD candidates	**50 %** of all third countries' participations in H2020 ~40% of researchers from outside of the EU	**42%** Female researchers
+1,000 Doctoral programmes	**Over 5000** Companies supported	**6.5 billion €** Under Horizon 2020

European Commission

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

1 **Doctoral Networks**

Doctoral programmes in and outside academia incl. joint & industrial doctorates
Total budget 2025: € 597.80 million
Opening call: 28/05/2025
DL 25/11/2025

2 **Postdoctoral Fellowships**

Support to excellent postdoctoral researchers

2025: €404.29 million
Opening call: 08/05/2025
DL 10/09/2025

3 **Staff Exchanges**

Support for research and innovation staff exchanges
2025: €97.71 million
DL 08/10/2025

4 **COFUND**

Co-funding doctoral and postdoctoral programmes
2025: €128.06 million
DL 24/06/2025

5 **MSCA and Citizens**

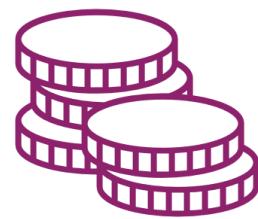Public outreach events (Night)

2025: €16.25 million
Opening call: 17/06/2025
DL 22/10/2025

MSCA Doctoral Networks

Main Objective
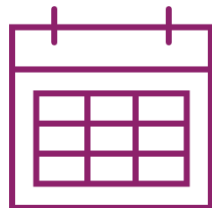
"Train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit"

Budget (DN-2025): EUR 597.80 million (TBC, pre-published WP available here)

Call opening : 28 May 2025

Call deadline: 25 November 2025

European Commission

- Strengthen Europe's human capital base in R&I by training **highly-skilled doctoral candidates**

- Improve the attractiveness of researchers' careers in Europe notably through **better working and employment conditions** of doctoral candidates in Europe

- Enhance **talent and knowledge circulation** across the R&I landscape, through **inter-sectoral, interdisciplinary and international mobility**

- Increase **Europe's attractiveness** as a leading research destination

- Enhance the quality of R&I contributing to Europe's **sustainable competitiveness**

- Establish sustainable **collaboration between academic and non-academic** organisations

- Foster the culture of **open science, innovation and entrepreneurship**

European Commission

Benefits for both the Doctoral Candidates and Participating Organisations

- New **research and transferable skills and competences**, leading to improved employability and career prospects within and outside academia;

- New knowledge allowing the **conversion of ideas into products and services**, where relevant;

- Enhanced **networking and communication capacities** with scientific peers, as well as with the general public that will increase and broaden the research and innovation impact.

- Improved quality, relevance and sustainability of **doctoral training programmes** and supervision arrangements;

- Enhanced **cooperation and transfer of knowledge** between sectors and disciplines;

- Increased **integration of training and research activities** between participating organisations;

- Boosted R&I capacity; Increased **internationalisation and attractiveness**;

- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organisations.

Doctoral Networks - Academic vs Non-Academic sector

TÜBİTAK

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

European Commission
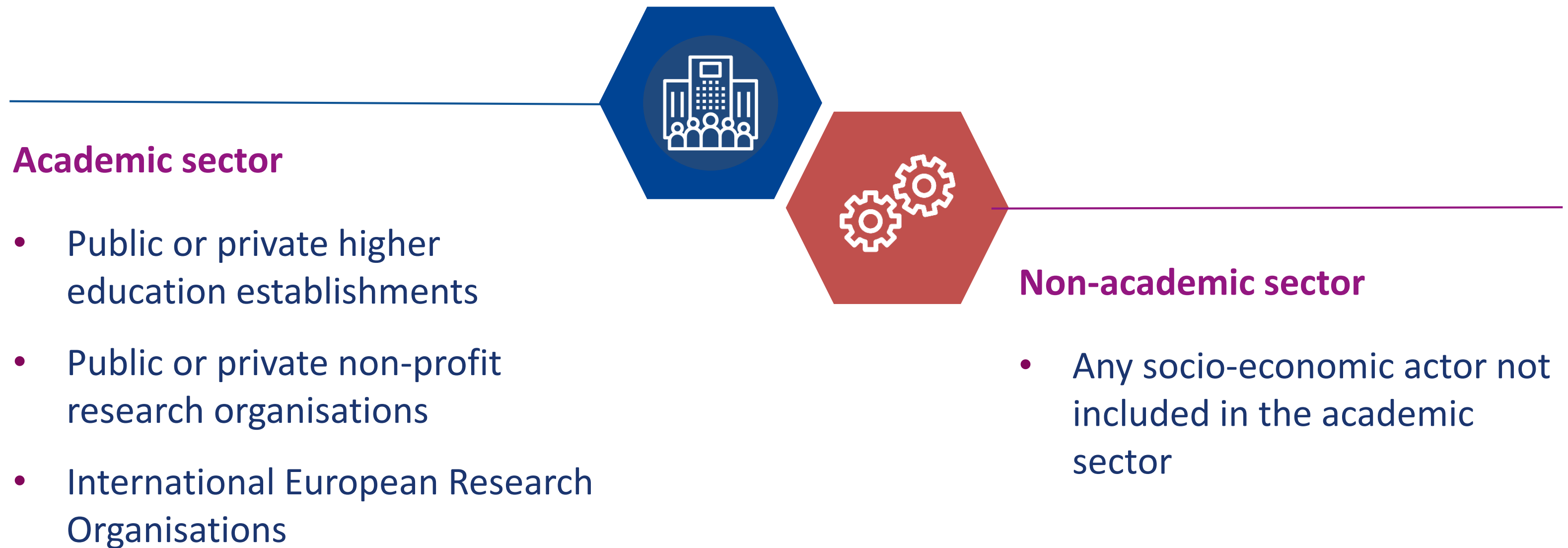
Doctoral Networks – participant types

	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	✓	

MSCA-DN – Types of implementation

Industrial Doctorates
- Training in academia and industry.
- Joint supervision.

Joint Doctorates
- Joint collaborations leading to a joint/multiple doctoral degree;
- Pre-agreement for joint degrees required;
- Joint selection and supervision.

JD

Doctoral Networks

ID

DN (Standard)

Doctoral Networks (standard)
Training in academia and/or industry.

All 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels:

LIF, MAT, MAT, PHY, ECO, SOC, CHE, ENG, ENV.

Doctoral Networks – 2025 Call

TÜBİTAK

STANDARD DN

- Up to **540 person-months**
- Project duration: max. **48 months**
- **Fellowship**: min 3 /**max 36 months**
- **Secondments**: worldwide, **up to 1/3** of the fellowship duration

DN-ID

- Up to **540 person-months**
- Project duration: max. **48 months**
- **Fellowship**: min 3 / **maximum 36 months**
- **No limitation for secondments**
- **Min 50% in the non-academic sector**
- Non-academic sector as **beneficiary or associated partners**
- Academic and non-academic organisations jointly supervise

DN-JD

- Up to **540 person-months**
- Project duration: max. **60 months**
- **Fellowship**: min 3 / **max 48 months**
- **No limitation for secondments**
- Enrolment in a **joint/double or multiple PhD** (at least 1 MS/AC among the PhD awarding entities)
- Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- **Mandatory letters of pre-agreement** to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)

European Commission

INCREASED UNIT COSTS

The contributions for the recruited researchers have been increased as of DN 2024. More precisely, the **living allowance becomes EUR 4010** (gross amount to be multiplied by CC) and the **mobility allowance becomes EUR 710** per eligible person-month.

RESUBMISSION RESTRICTIONS

As specified in the MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025, any proposal involving 70% or more of the same recruiting organisations as in another proposal submitted to the previous call of the MSCA Doctoral Networks under Horizon Europe that has received a score of less than 80% will be assessed for whether it is a resubmission, irrespective of the applicants' self-declaration.

DN-JD ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Joint Doctorates (DN-JD) should lead to the delivery of joint, double or multiple doctoral degrees recognised in **at least one** EU Member State (MS) or Horizon Europe Associated Country (AC) (as opposed to minimum two under DN 2023).

European Commission

- 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
  - No minimum / maximum number of 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% of the EU contribution may be allocated to beneficiaries in the same country** or to a single international organisation.

European Commission

Eligible participants

Who can apply?

- Any Legal Entity worldwide

- But not all applicants
  are eligible for funding

Consortia

- Universities, research institutions
  and research infrastructures

- Businesses including SMEs

- Other socio-economic actors

*No minimum / maximum number of **Associated Partners***

Eligible countries

TÜBİTAK

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, <u>only exceptionally</u>** if their participation is essential or if they are identified in the relevant Horizon Europe Work Programme as being eligible for funding.

* For more detail, please consult the HE programme guide and the List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe

European Commission

Eligible size and duration

Size

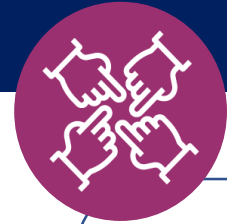- Up to **540 person-months for all type of actions**

Duration

- **Proposal**: max. 48 months for DN and DN-ID
  - *incentive for DN-JD **60 months***

- **Fellowship**: 3 to 36 months for DN and DN-ID
  - *incentive for DN-JD **48 months***

- **Secondments**: worldwide, any sectors, up to 1/3 of the fellowship duration for Standard DN
  - **incentive for DN-ID and DN-JD no secondment limitation**

- Researchers must be **doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment)

- Be recruited following an **open, merit-based and transparent recruitment**

- Researchers must be **enrolled in a doctoral programme**, <u>in at least 1 EU Member State/Associated Country</u>

- **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.

European Commission

TÜBİTAK

Consortium

- Up to **540 person-months** for all Doctoral Networks modalities.

At least **three** independent legal entities, each established in a different MS or AC; minimum **1 beneficiary from a MS** (no minimum for associated partners).

Each beneficiary must recruit at least 1 DC

Max 40% funding per country

Associated partners contribute to the implementation of the action (i.e. training of researchers, secondments) but may not employ researchers under the action. They do not sign the grant agreement.

Recruitment

Open, fair, transparent, merit-based recruitment. Any nationality

- Eligible researchers must:
  - Comply with the MSCA **mobility rule***
  - **Be Doctoral candidates** (not already in possession of a doctoral degree at the date of recruitment)
  - They can be of **any nationality**.

* DCs must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their recruitment date.

Summary

	DN (Standard)	ID (Industrial Doctorates)	JD (Joint Doctorates)
Project duration	48 months		60 months
DC contract	Max 36 months	Max 36 months (50% in the non-academic sector)	Max 48 months
Secondments	Max 1/3 of the fellowship	No limitation of secondment duration	
PhD	All DCs enrolled in a PhD from a MS/AC		Enrolled in PhD from min. 1 MS/AC

- Fully based on unit costs

- **1 person-month = 1 unit**

- Total costs = costs per unit x number of units

- 100% Reimbursement rate for eligible beneficiaries

- Different cost categories:

    – Researcher's cost

    – Institutional costs (research, training, networking + management)

1 unit = 1 month of eligible DC

Doctoral Networks – Funding
Cost Categories

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 4010*	EUR 710	EUR 660	EUR 4720 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.

[1] The 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.

Overview of Evaluation Process

TÜBİTAK

Receipt of proposals

Admissibility/eligibility check

Allocation of proposals to evaluators

Individual evaluation

Experts assess proposals **individually**.

Minimum of three experts per proposal (but often more than three).

Consensus group

All individual experts discuss together to agree on a **common position**, including comments and scores for each proposal.

Panel review

The panel of experts reach an **agreement** on the scores and comments for all proposals within a call, checking **consistency across the evaluations**.

if necessary, resolve cases where evaluators were unable to agree.

Rank the proposals with the same score

Finalisation

The Commission/Agency reviews the results of the experts' evaluation and puts together the **final ranking list**.

European Commission

Evaluation is carried out by independent external experts under the responsibility of REA

Doctoral Networks – Award Criteria

Criteria	Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Sub-criteria	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	
Weighting	50%	30%	20%
Priority	1	2	3

Doctoral Networks – How to apply?

TÜBİTAK

EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024

HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01

Topic **Call for proposal**

Internal navigation

- General information
- Topic description
- Topic updates
- Mission
- Destination
- Conditions and documents

General information

Programme
Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Call
MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-[

Type of action
HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID HORIZON TMA MSCA
Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates

Deadline model
single-stage

Useful documents

- DN 2025 Guide for Applicants - available in the F&T Portal as of **May 28th**
- Proposal templates - available in the F&T Portal as of **May 28th**
- Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025
- F&T Manual on how to submit a proposal
- Topic Q&A under F&T portal

Part A (structured data)

General information

Participants & contacts

Budget

Ethics

Call-specific questions

Part B (description of action)
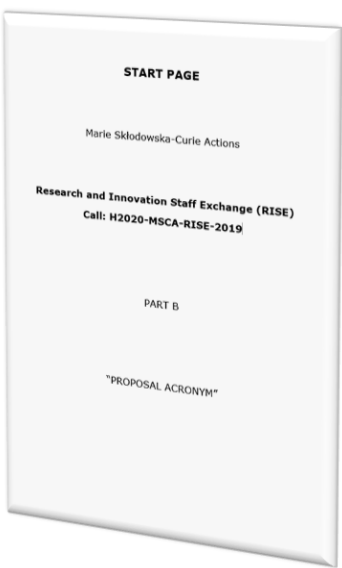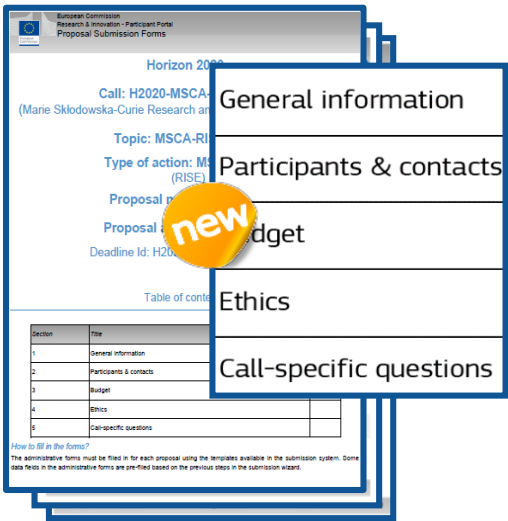
Part B1: 30 pages
Part B2: no limit

European Commission

Doctoral Networks – Proposal preparation

- Read the **MSCA Work Programme** and **Guidance documents**

- Use the **proposal template**

- Read carefully the **evaluation form**

- Don't **underestimate** any part of the proposal

- Write **each section** clearly and in coherence with all sections in the proposal

- Perform an **'internal' peer-review** with your consortium partners

- Consult your **National Contact Points**

- Duly complete **Part A**

- Start preparing early and **don't leave submission for the last minute**

Think like an evaluator + Write for an evaluator

Proposal preparation – DN 2025 Call Info Day

When: June 24th, 2025

Where: ONLINE via RTD platform

Horizon Europe - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks 2025 - Call info day

- Join us live or watch the recording on this **platform**.

- To attend, simply sign up or log in. By clicking the "I'm interested" button, the event will be added to your list

- Review all the **call related documents** available as of **May 28th**

- Send us your questions before May 29th at **www.Slido.com** with the code **#DN2025**

- For more details on the programme, please consult the **MSCA 2025 Call Info event page.**

Doctoral Networks – Resources

TÜBİTAK

Useful links

@MSCActions

@Marie.Curie.Actions

Funding and Tenders opportunities (Work Programme, applications, documents, partner search)

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025 Call documents available in the F&T Portal as of **May 28th**

Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programme 2023-2025

MSCA website

European Research Executive Agency website
MSCA Guidelines on Supervision

Code of conduct for the recruitment of researchers
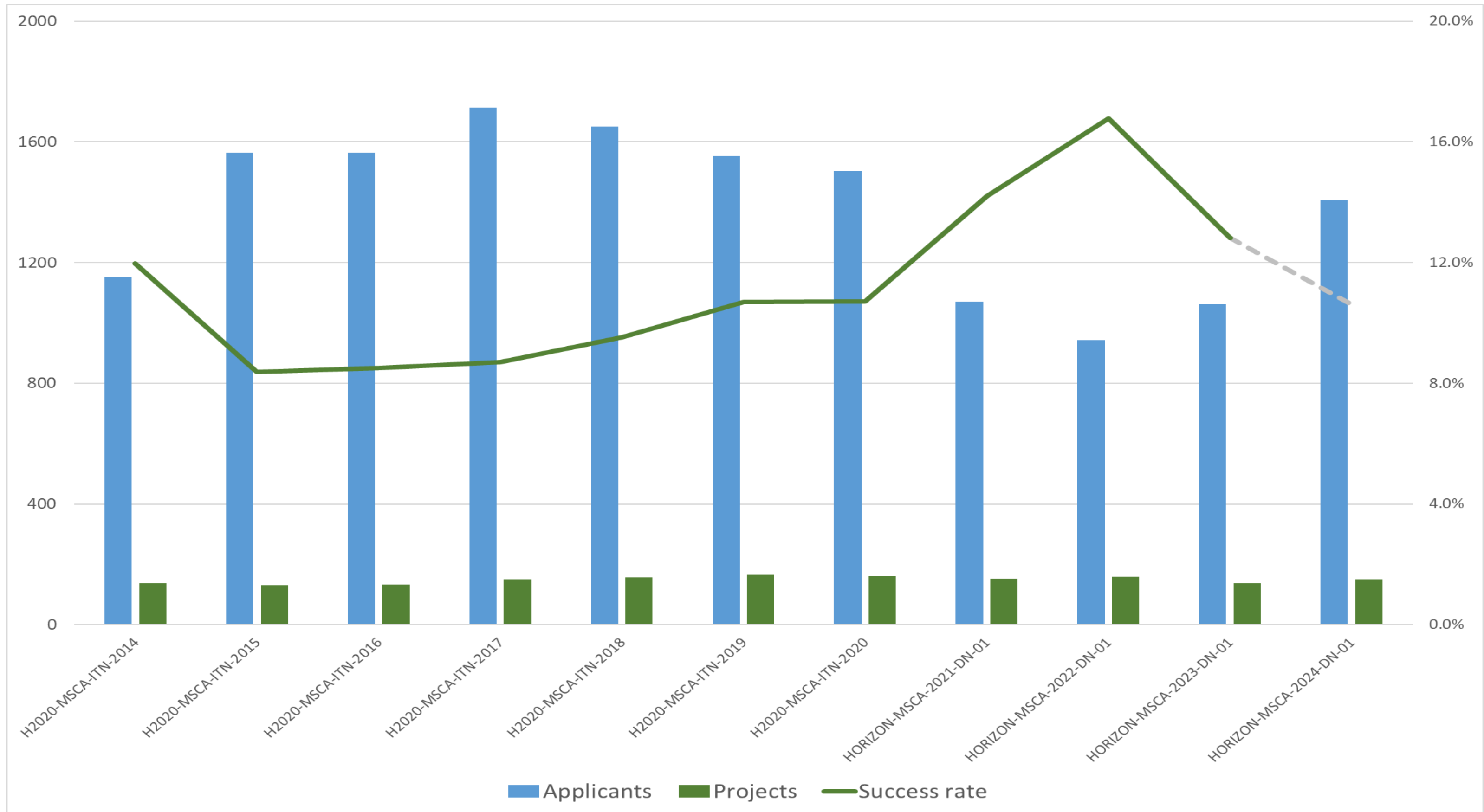
MCAA alumni platform

Do you have questions?

Ask advice to your MSCA / EU **National Contact Point**

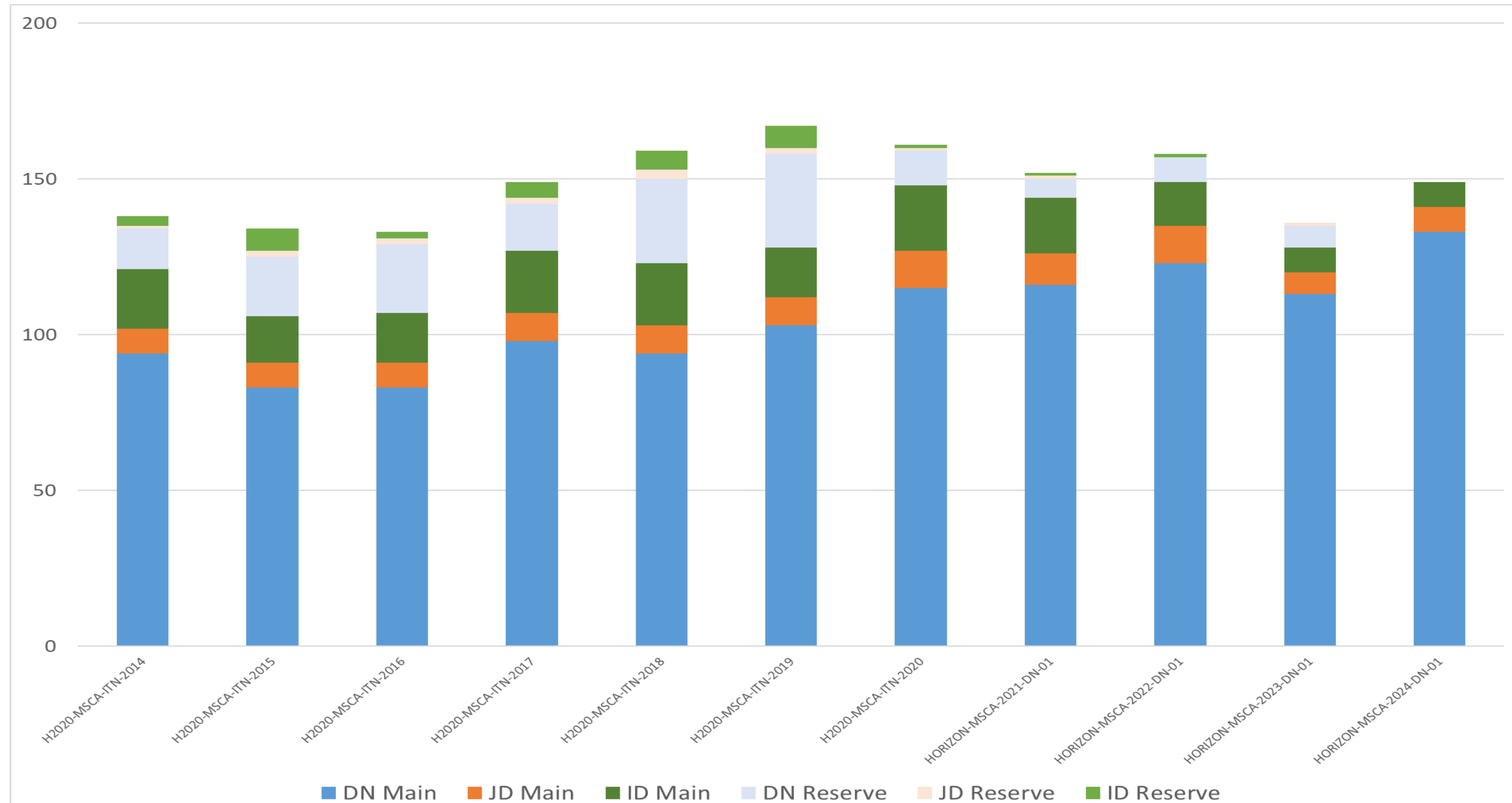Ask your questions about EU funding, validation of participants, and others to the **Research Enquiry Service**
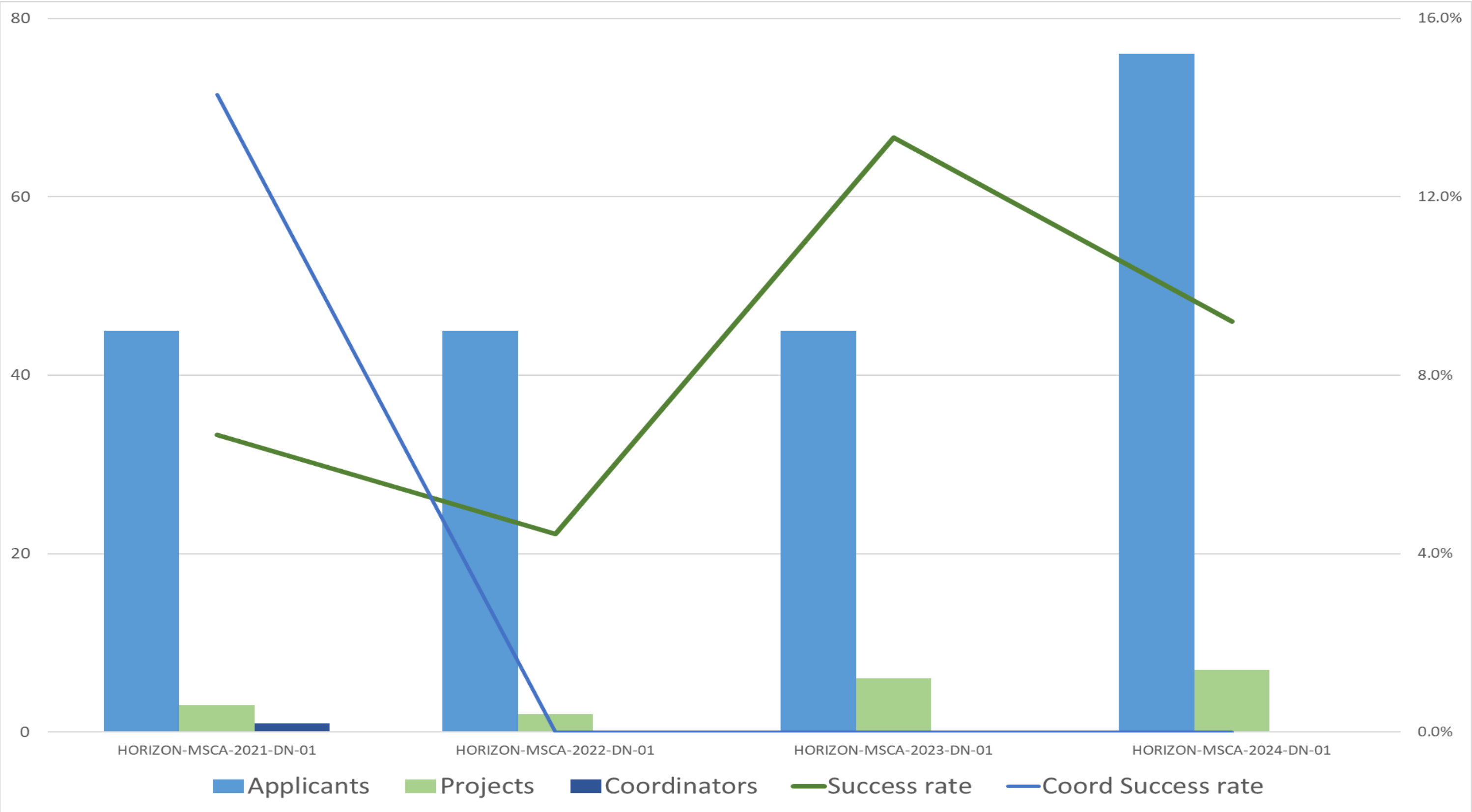
European Commission

MSCA DN – Success Rate

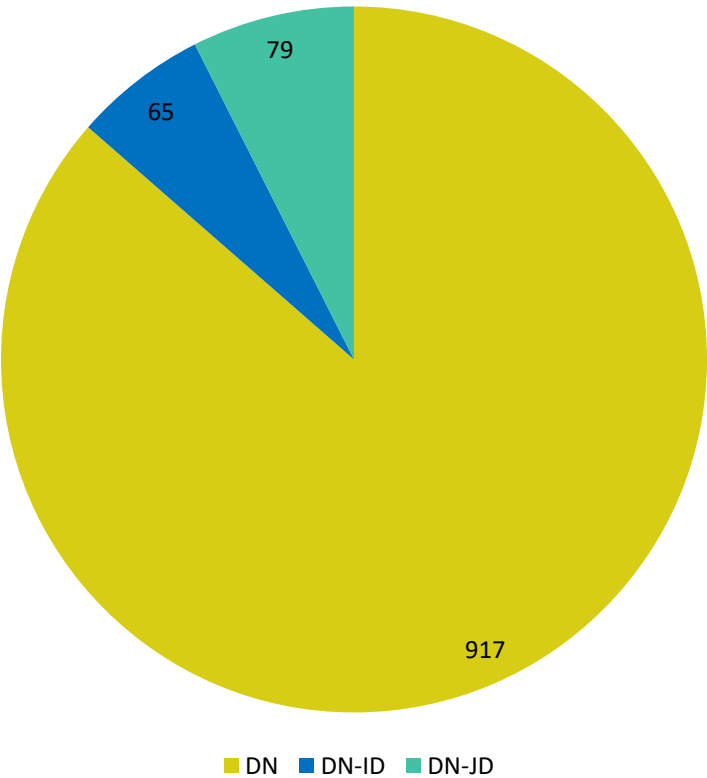# MSCA DN – Implementation Type

MSCA DN – Türkiye's Success Rate

THANK YOU!

European Research Executive Agency

https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions_en

https://ufukavrupa.org.tr/tr/alanlar-kumeler/marie-sklodowska-curie-alani-tum-cagrilar/msca-doktora-aglari-doctoral-networks-dn

ncpmobility@tubitak.gov.tr

HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN CALL STATISTICS

Submitted eligible proposals in total (1061 in number)

	DN	DN-ID	DN-JD

Submitted-Funded-Reserve Eligible Proposals (1061 eligible proposals)

	DN	DN-ID	DN-JD
Funded	113	8	7
Reserve List	21	0	2
Submitted	917	65	79
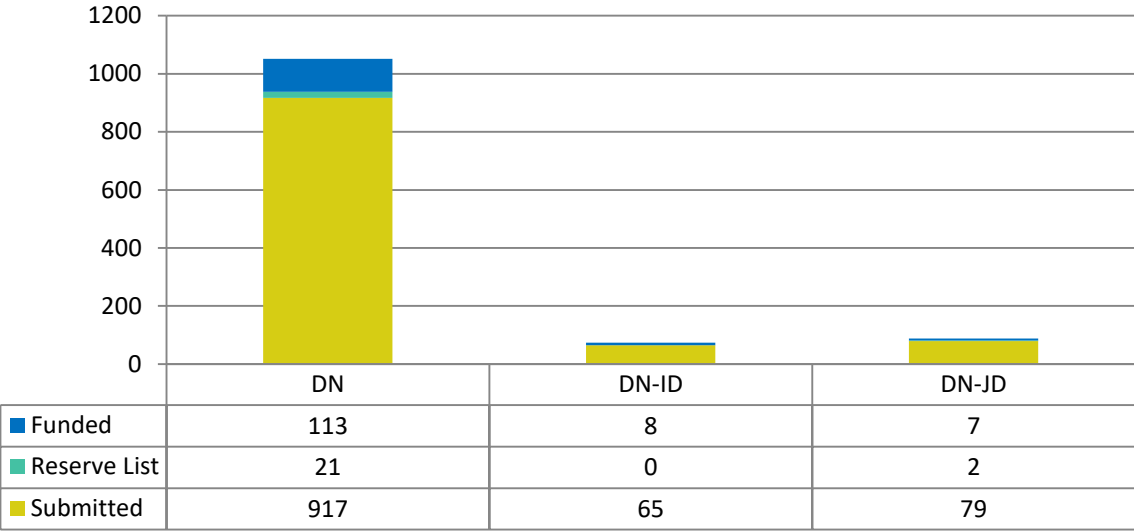
Participants in Submitted-Funded-Reserve Proposals (for all 17981 participants)

	DN	DN-ID	DN-JD
Funded	2022	152	117
Reserve List	418	0	18
Submitted	15527	1112	1342
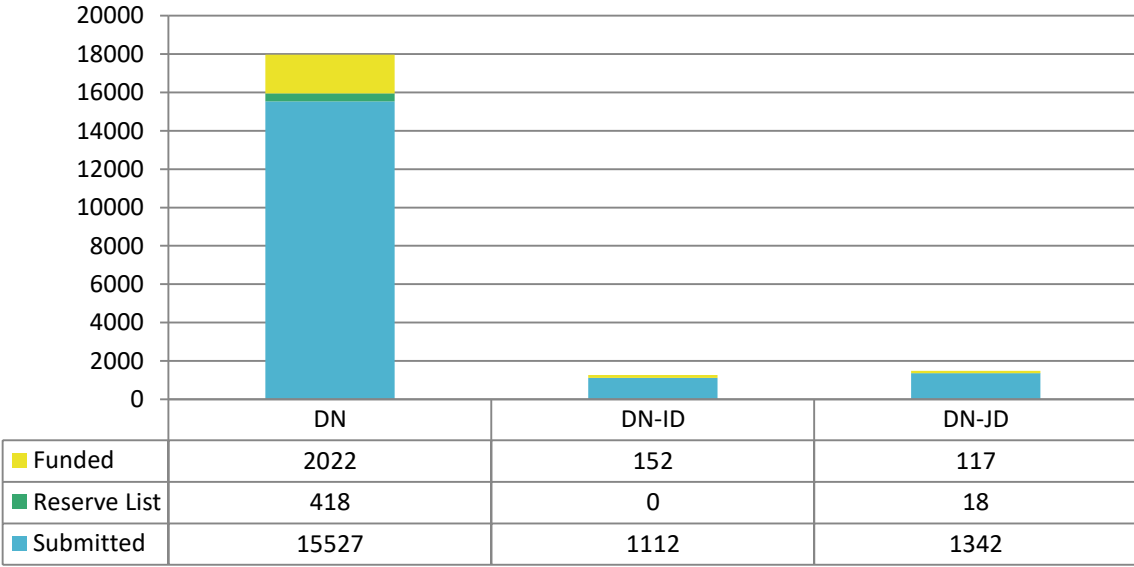
Total Participants including APs (17981 in number)

	DN	DN-ID	DN-JD
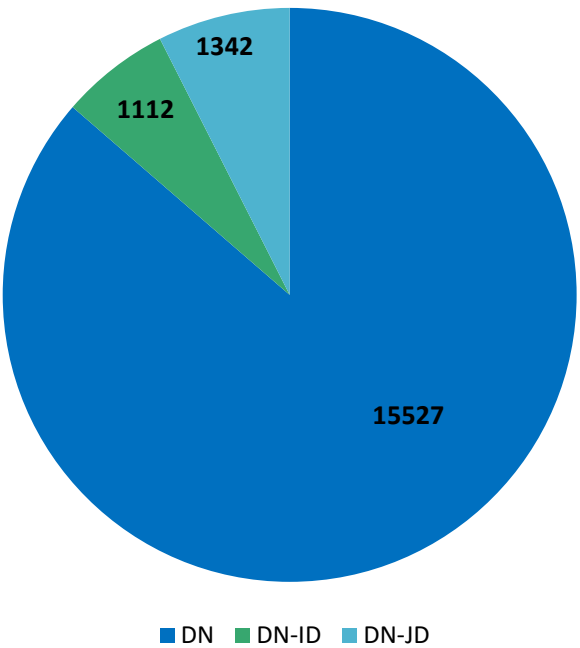
HORIZON-MSCA-2023-DN CALL STATISTICS

Success Rate (submitted proposals)

	For All
Success rate (submitted proposals)	12,06%
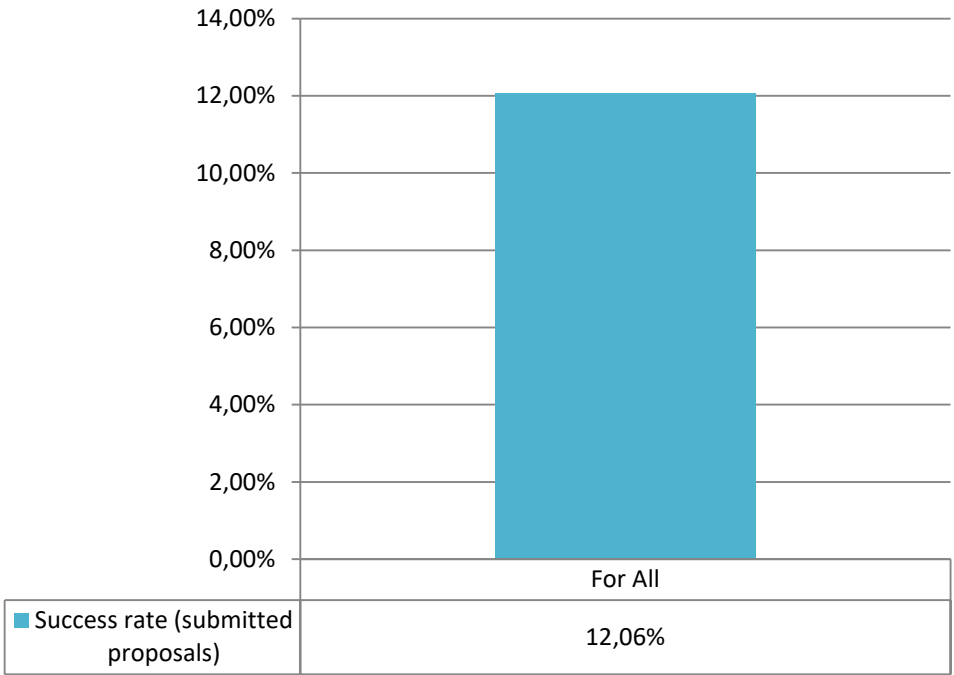
Cut-off Scores (Mainlist)

	CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC
DN	97	95	96	96,4	96	97,6	97,2	96,6
DN-ID	96,2	0	96,6	0	97,6	0	0	99,4
DN-JD	97,6	0	98,4	0	96,4	0	97,6	96,2
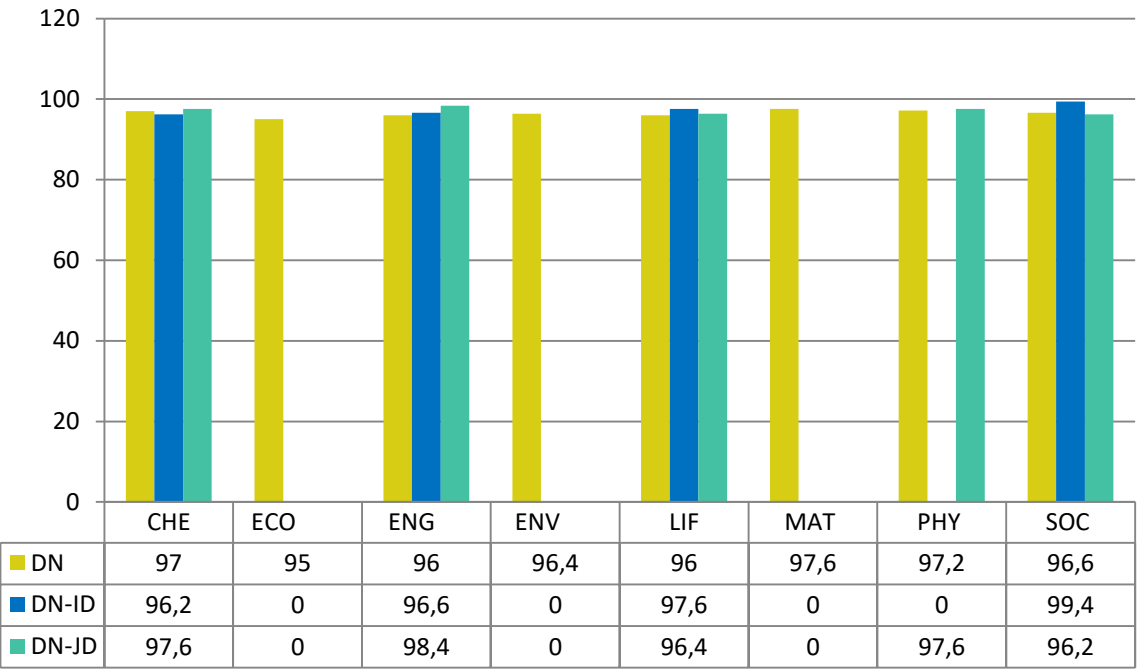
Cut-off Scores (Reserve list)

	CHE	ECO	ENG	ENV	LIF	MAT	PHY	SOC
DN	96	91	95,6	96	95,2	96,8	96,4	96
DN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DN-JD	0	88,8	96	0	0	0	0	0
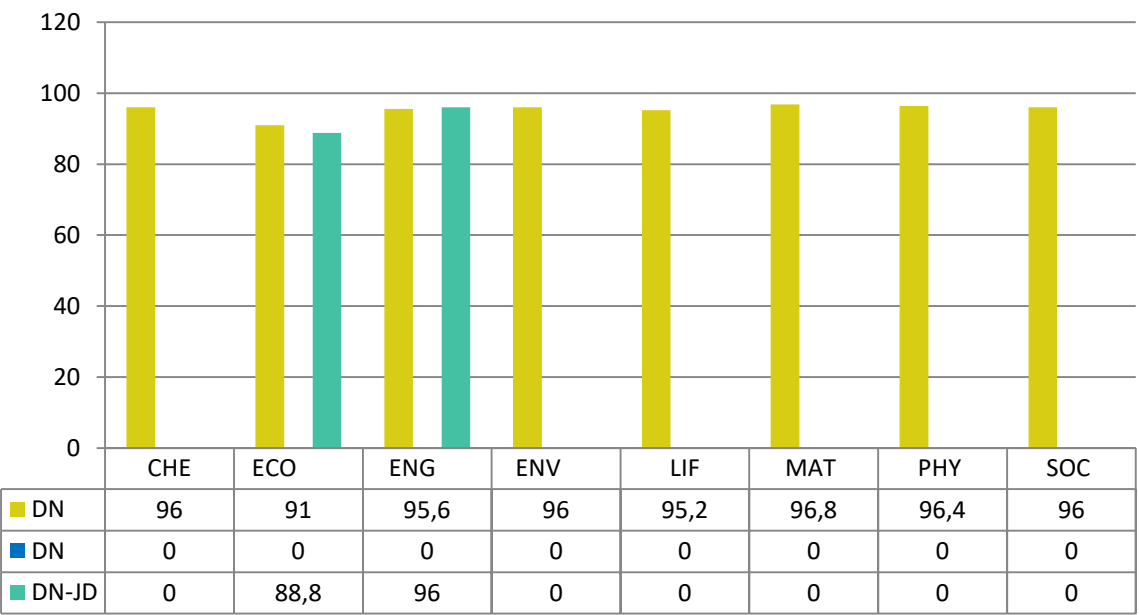
Applicants' activity type (for all 17981 participants)

	Higher or Secondary Education Applicants	Research Organisations Applicants	Private for Profit Applicants	Public Body Applicants	Other Applicants
Funded	1133	313	606	56	183
Applicants	9029	2545	4630	427	1350

**Submitted-Funded eligible proposals from EU Member States
(for all 14814 participants)**

	Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czechia	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden
■ Funded	61	128	8	5	9	28	97	12	33	271	343	43	11	38	193	0	5	10	3	205	31	58	7	0	21	234	59
■ Applicants	508	892	37	84	88	234	610	86	333	1802	2622	384	127	322	1729	37	52	78	20	1311	315	463	72	35	156	1813	604

European Commission

Submitted-Funded eligible proposals from Associated Countries
(for all 1974 participants)

	Albania	Armenia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Faroe Islands	Georgia	Iceland	Israel	Kosovo	Moldova (Republic of)	Morocco	Montenegro	Republic of North Macedonia	Norway	Serbia	Tunisia	Türkiye	United Kingdom	Ukraine
Funded	1	0	1	0	0	2	21	0	0	3	0	0	55	2	1	8	139	3
Applicants	3	0	5	3	3	18	141	2	1	6	5	6	354	30	2	75	1298	22