

# Funding, Collaboration and Career Opportunities in the EU

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

EU's Flagship Science & Research Programme



# Horizon Europe (2021-2027) - in a Nutshell

EU's **key funding programme** for Research and Innovation

Budget of **€95.5 billion**

Global cooperation to tackle **climate, health & digital challenges**, helps to achieve the **UN's SDGs**

Boost scientific **excellence, innovation, competitiveness and growth**

**Open** to researchers, universities, and business **worldwide**



**3 Pillars >**



# Horizon Europe (2021-2027)

## Horizon Europe in Nutshell



### Pillar I EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie
- Research Infrastructures



### Pillar II GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

6 Clusters

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



### Pillar III INNOVATIVE EUROPE

- European Innovation Council
- European Innovation Ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation & Technology

# Horizon Europe Pillar I: Excellent Science

## European Research Council

Funds groundbreaking, high-risk research.

Supports individual researchers & teams

**€16 billion**

## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Supports researcher mobility, career development & interdisciplinary collaboration.

Provides funding for postdoctoral fellowships, doctoral training & staff exchanges

**€6.6 billion**

## Research Infrastructures

Funds development & integration of top-tier research infrastructures

Promotes open science, data sharing & cutting-edge technological advancements

**€2.4 billion**

# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

*The EU's Flagship  
Science and Research  
Programme*



# MSCA Key Priorities and Features



# The Actions



# Organisations vs Individuals



## Organisation

- Legal entity
- From academic or non-academic sector
- Beneficiary or associated partner



## Individual researcher

- Any nationality
- Any topic/field
- Mobility is required
- Specific conditions depending on which action

# Beneficiary vs Associated Partner



## Beneficiary

- Signs the Grant Agreement with the EU
- Minimum number and geographical requirements
- Receives funding directly



## Associated partner

- Does not sign the Grant Agreement
- Contributes to the action (e.g. hosts staff or researchers)
- Does not directly receive funding



# Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under Horizon Europe

## Doctoral Networks

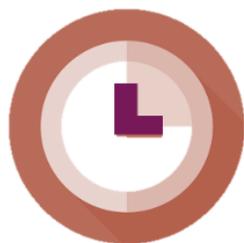
Doctoral programmes in and  
outside academia incl. joint &  
industrial doctorates

# What is a Doctoral Network (DN) ?

- ✓ One consortium
- ✓ Proposing a research project
- ✓ With interlinked individual PhD research projects
- ✓ For doctoral candidates
- ✓ +150 DN projects funded annually; ca. 2000 PhD positions available annually



# MSCA Doctoral Networks



## DURATION

Max 4 years  
(max 5 years for Joint  
Doctorates only)



## COMPOSITION

Min 3  
organisations in 3  
≠ EU MS or HE AC  
(at least 1 MS)



## FELLOWSHIP

Between 3 and  
36 months  
(up to 48 months for  
Joint Doctorates only)

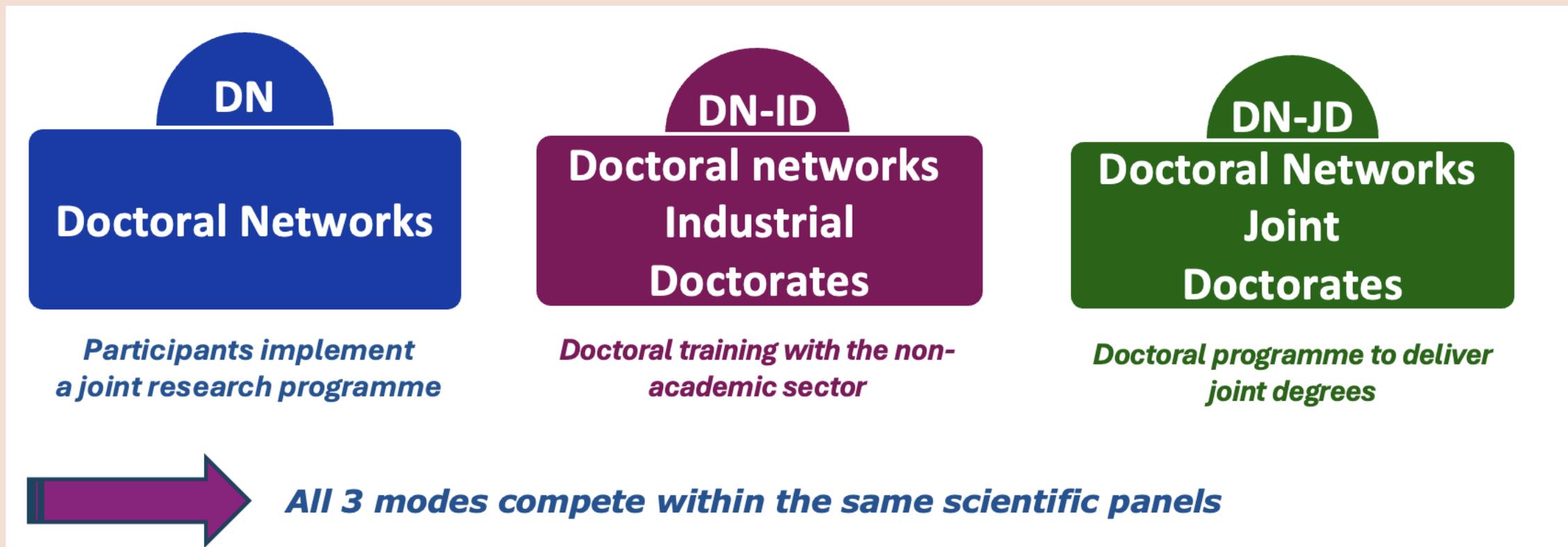


## BUDGET

max 540 person months =  
max 15 fellows/3  
years/project  
(Average €2.5 – 3M)

Selected projects must advertise their vacancies for doctoral researchers widely, including on EURAXESS portal

# 3 Types of Doctoral Programmes



# Eligible participants

## Who can apply?

- ✓ Any Legal Entity worldwide
- ✓ But not all applicants are eligible for funding



Min. 3 entities from 3 = MS/AC  
of which 1 from a MS  
as beneficiary

## Consortia

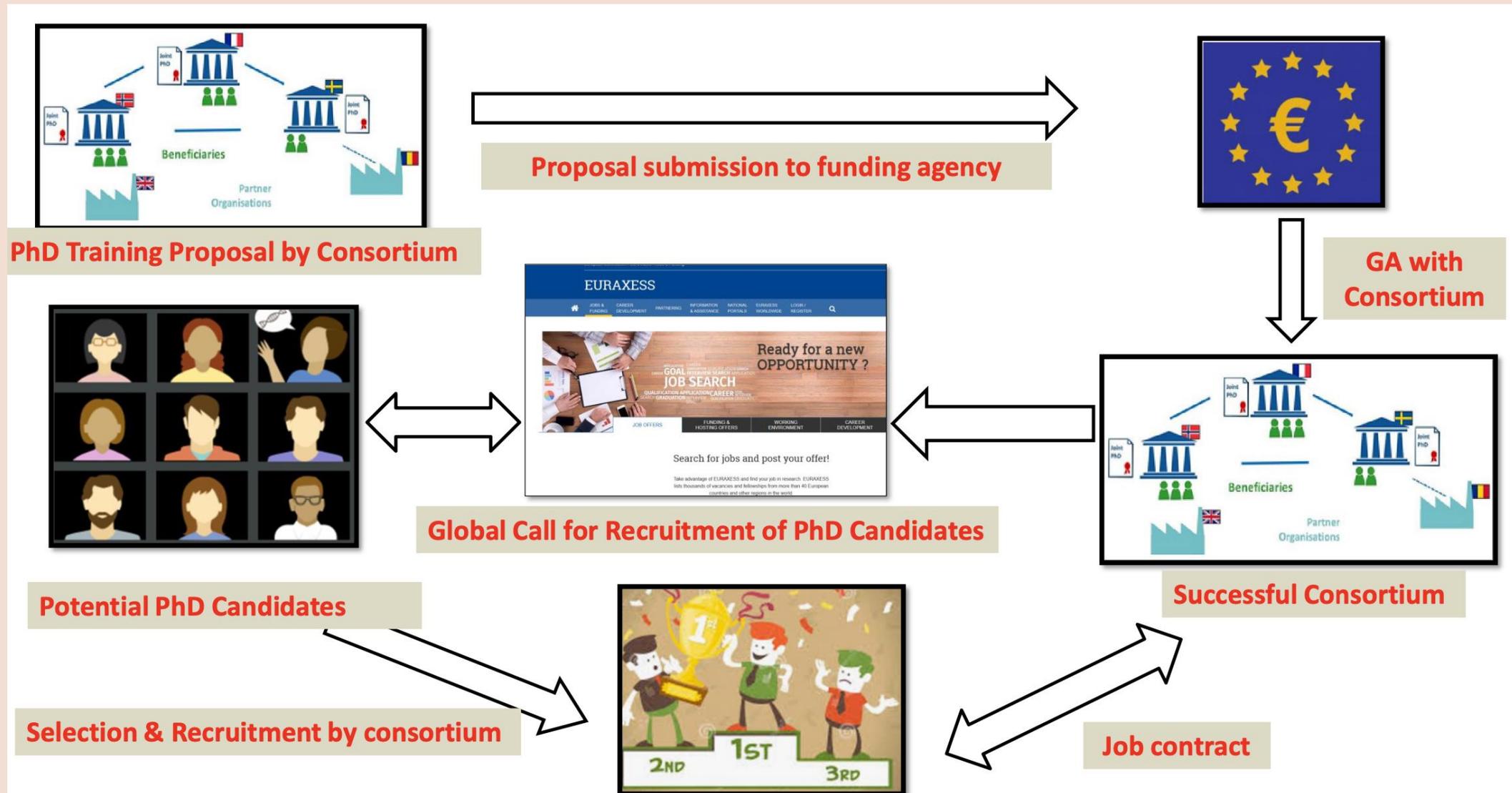
- ✓ Universities, research institutions and research infrastructures
- ✓ Businesses including SMEs
- ✓ Other socio-economic actors

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



## Doctoral candidates

- ✓ **No doctoral degree** at the date of recruitment
- ✓ **Open, merit-based and transparent recruitment** procedure
- ✓ **Enrolled in a PhD** from min 1 EU MS/AC
- ✓ Any nationality
- ✓ fulfill the **MSCA mobility condition:**  
Candidate 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.



# Host Institution

## 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

# Host Countries

- 27 EU Member States (MS)
- Horizon Europe Associated Countries



# Horizon Europe: EU Member States & Associated Countries

## 27 EU Member States (MS)

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

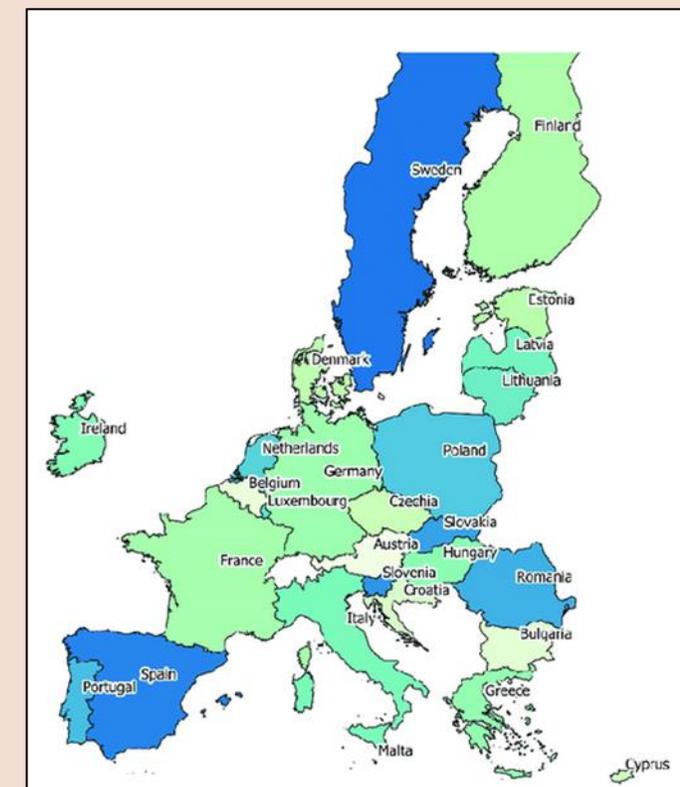
## 23 Horizon Europe Associated Countries (AC)\*

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada (Pillar 2), Egypt, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Korea (Pillar 2), Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand (Pillar 2), North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Transitional Agreement: Japan (Pillar 2)

See updates [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

\*updated - HE association agreements status as of 1.1.2026

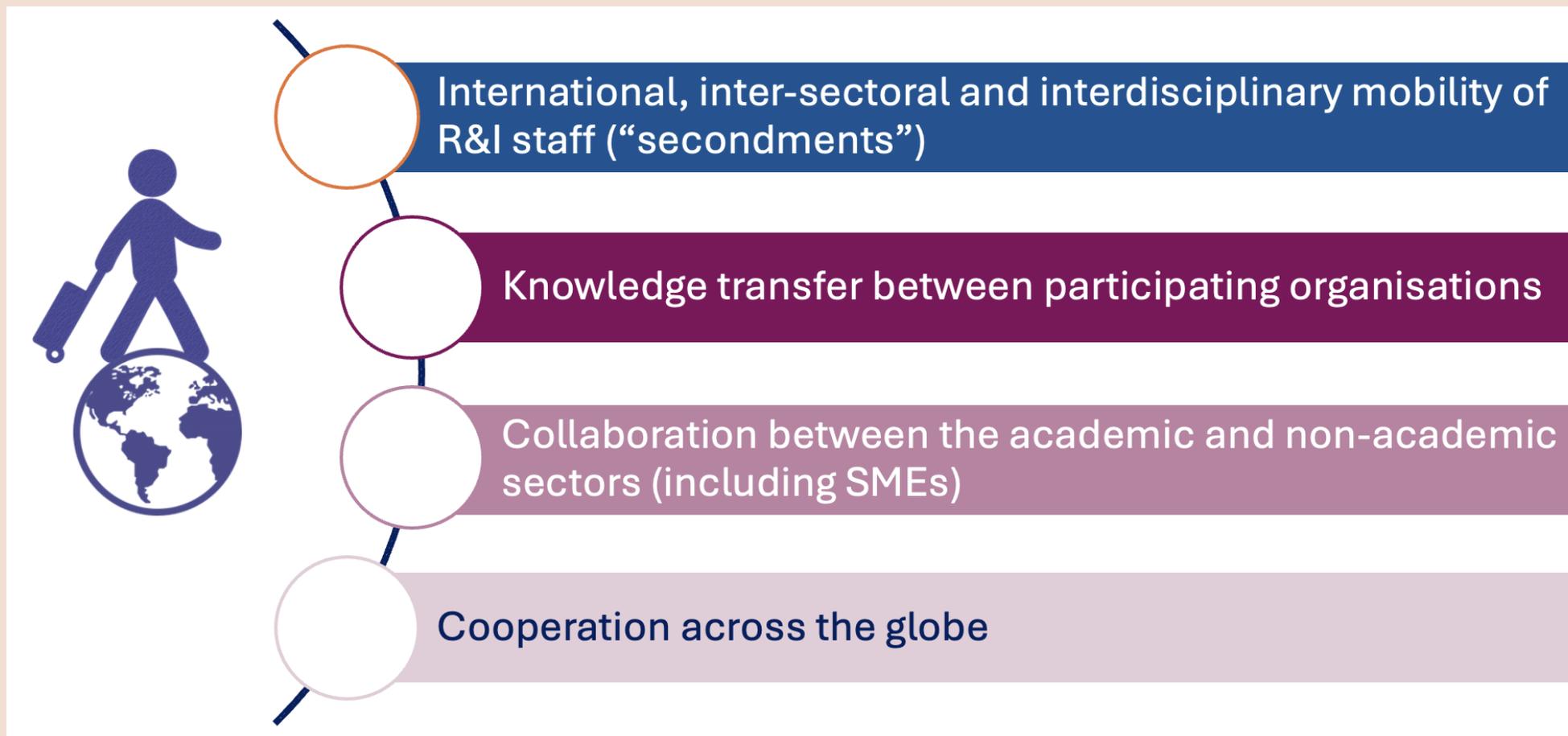




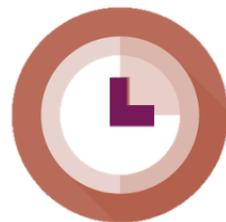
# Marie Skłodowska- Curie Actions

## Staff Exchanges

# Objectives



# MSCA Staff Exchanges



**DURATION**  
Max 4 years



**COMPOSITION**  
Min 3 organisations  
in 3 ≠ countries  
(min. 2 EU MS or  
HE AC)



**SECONDMENTS**  
1-12 months per  
staff

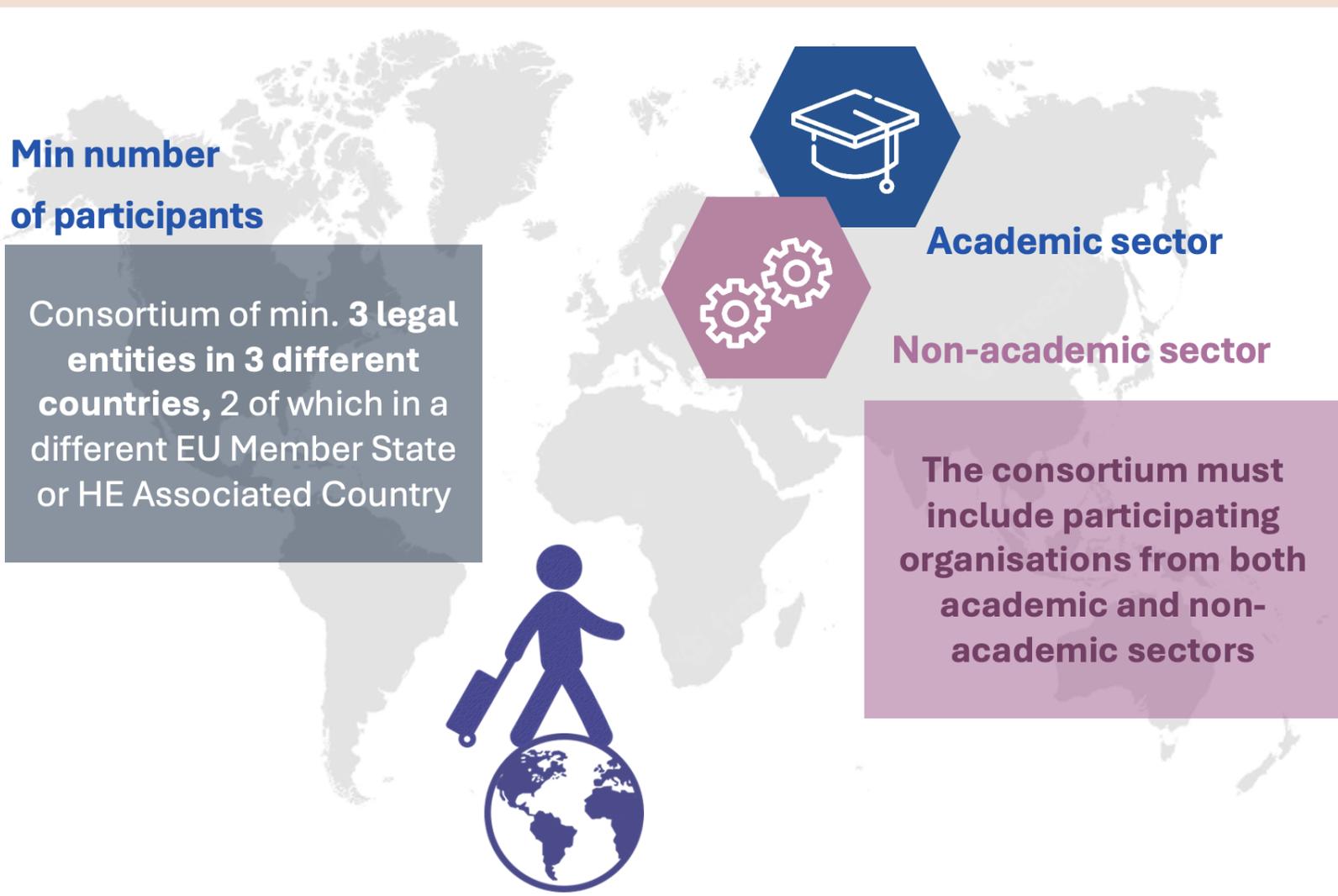


**BUDGET**  
Max 360 person  
months

This action supports **international and intersectoral exchanges** of R&I staff, leading to knowledge transfer between participating organisations.

Eligible participants: **Researchers or R&I staff** (i.e. technicians, support or managerial staff, etc.) in a participating organisation.

# Consortium Eligibility



# Eligible staff



Any type of staff involved in R&I activities (researchers, administrative staff, managerial staff, technical staff)

*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 (no part time)** to the action during the secondment

## Seconded staff members



Researchers at any career stage (e.g., from doctoral candidates to postdoctoral researchers)

After the secondment, staff should **return to their sending institution**

# Funding of Secondments

## Eligible for EU Funding

- Beneficiaries in EU Member States
- Beneficiaries in Horizon Europe Associated Countries
- Associated partners in low- & middle-income third countries

## Not Automatically Eligible

- Participants from high-income third countries
- Participate at own cost by default
- Exception: Funding possible if participation is deemed essential for project implementation by the granting authority
- Complementary matching fund

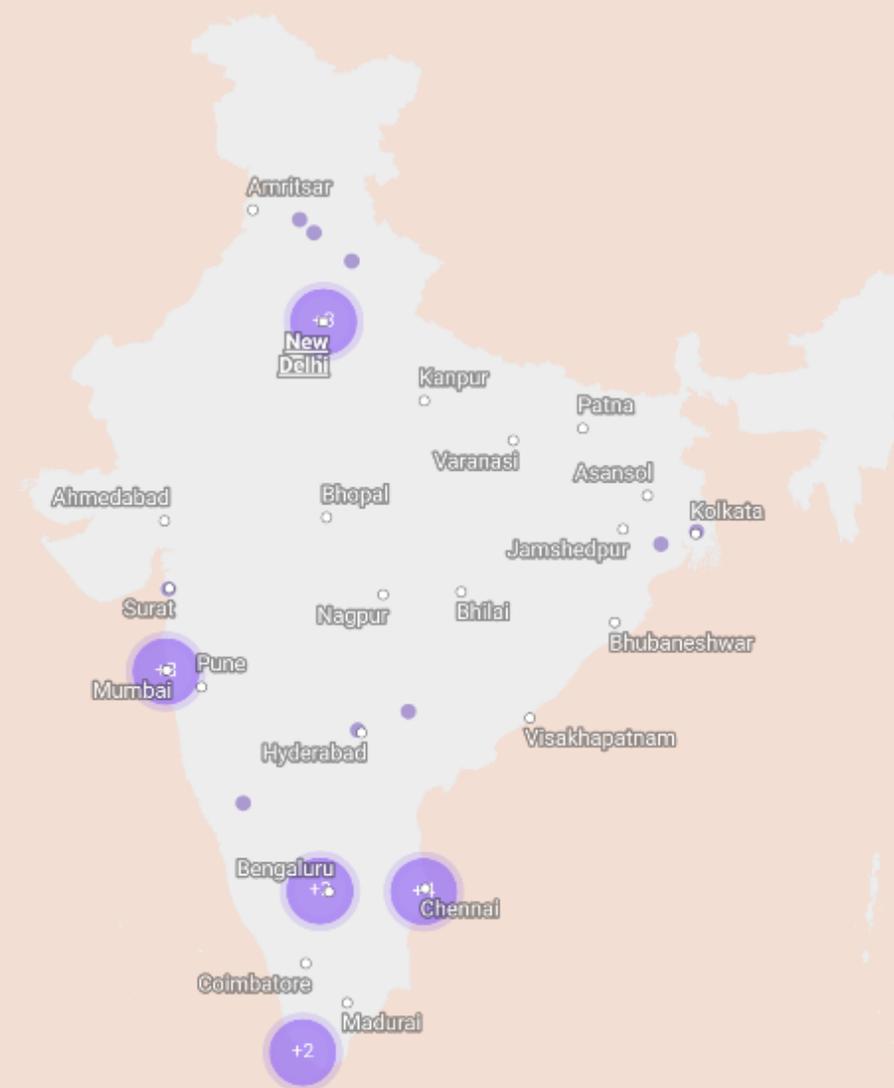
# EU-CSIR India Co-funding Agreement for the MSCA-Staff Exchanges

- Funding will be from 2025 to 2027 and **open to any CSIR institution** involved in successful projects selected under the upcoming Staff Exchanges calls.
- The 2026 Staff Exchanges call opened on **16 December 2025**, with a deadline of **16 April 2026**.
- To be eligible for the co-funding, projects should comply with Staff Exchange's eligibility criteria and include **at least one CSIR entity and staff member**.
- Full details and guidelines for applicants are available on **CSIR's website**.



# India's Participation in MSCA // I

- **India is ranked first** among non HE AC countries in terms of individual researcher beneficiaries under MSCA.
- **147 Indian researchers** received MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships in 2025.
- **Over 3,000 Indian beneficiaries** since 2014 (incl. ~2,000 PhDs & ~1,000 PDFs)
- **~200 MSCA projects** have involved Indian organisations (ranks in top 20 of non-associated countries).



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# India's Participation in MSCA /2

## Priority themes

- Quantum computing and artificial intelligence
- Marine biotechnology and environmental sciences
- Advanced manufacturing technologies
- Climate action and sustainability

**Notable institutions:** Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) play a leading role, representing 25% of all participations. Four IIT's are involved (Madras, Delhi, Kharagpur, and Ropar), with IIT Madras contributing through three different departments across separate projects.

**Ecosystem diversity:** 24 organisations participate, representing diverse sectors including universities, research institutes, and private companies across India.

# Timetable

Year	Action/ <u>Programme</u>	Opening	Deadline
2026	Doctoral Networks	<b>28 May 2026</b>	<b>24 November 2026</b>
2026	Postdoctoral Fellowships	<b>09 April 2026</b>	<b>09 September 2026</b>
2025-26	Staff Exchanges	<b>16 December 2025</b>	<b>16 April 2026</b>
2025-26	COFUND	<b>16 December 2026</b>	<b>08 April 2026</b>

# Some useful Resources and Links

- Vacancies under MSCA programmes are published on the [Euraxess portal](#).
- MSCA-Net's [MSCA Matchmaking platform](#) for researchers and organisation to find relevant partners and host institutions.
- “Partner search” tool on [EU's Funding & Tender Portal](#).
- [Enterprise Europe Networks](#) (for non-academic partners)
- Other useful contacts:
- [MSCA National Contact Points](#)
- [MCAA \(MSCA Alumni Association\)](#)



## **Global Cooperation Policy Enhancement and Strategic Promotion**

Strengthening Europe's position in international research collaboration through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme across 20 countries and 6 regions

MSCA-GLOPOL has received funding from the European Union's Research and Innovation Program Horizon Europe under grant agreement No 101202507



**Funded by  
the European Union**

# MSCA-GLOPOL geographical coverage



## Three pillars of excellence

### POLICY



#### Tracking progress & opportunities

Monitor participation trends and cooperation challenges in MSCA bilateral and bi-regional partnerships through quantitative and qualitative assessment.

### PROMOTION



#### Strategic promotion

Coordinate with local information networks to ensure strategic, targeted and effective promotion of MSCA opportunities for institutions.

### SYNERGIES



#### Strengthening synergies

Align MSCA activities with other EU research and innovation initiatives for maximum impact.

## Expected impact: Enhancing strategic research collaboration

MSCA-GLOPOL will deliver improvements in international research collaboration, strengthening Europe's position as a global leader in research excellence and innovation.

### Policy enhancement

Evidence-based  
recommendations improving  
bilateral cooperation frameworks

### Targeted institutional engagement

Selected institutions through  
stakeholder mapping and  
coordinated promotion groups

### Research excellence

Accelerated scientific  
breakthroughs through global  
collaboration

### Strategic partnerships

Enhanced collaboration between  
European and international  
institutions based on mutual  
research priorities



# Upcoming Events

**MSCA:GLOPOL**  
GLOBAL POLICY & PROMOTION

**MSCA-GLOPOL**  
Global Online Session  
Navigating MSCA: Actions & Tools

Batch 1: **24 March 2026**  
Online | 08:00-09:30 CET

Batch 2: **26 March 2026**  
Online | 17:00-18:30 CET

Learn more at: [msca-glopol.eu](https://msca-glopol.eu)

Scan to register for Batch1

Scan to register for Batch2

Funded by the European Union

**MSCA:GLOPOL**  
GLOBAL POLICY & PROMOTION

**Best Practice Forum /  
Mutual Learning Workshop  
on Proposal Development  
and Partnership Building**

**27 March 2026**  
Online | 08:00-10:00 CET

Learn more at: [msca-glopol.eu](https://msca-glopol.eu)

Co-hosted with: **RADIANCE**  
project of the MSCA National Contact Points (NCPs) Network

Funded by the European Union

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# Join the Survey



# Get involved with MSCA-GLOPOL

Whether you are a policymaker shaping research frameworks or an institution looking to strengthen global partnerships, MSCA-GLOPOL offers pathways to enhance your impact.

Connect with us to learn about upcoming training programmes, policy consultations, and networking opportunities that will define the future of international research collaboration.

● **Website**  
msca-glopol.eu

● **Contact**  
contact@msca-glopol.eu

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