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MSCA Doctoral Networks Call 2026

Opportunities for African institutions in doctoral education

20 May, University of Nairobi

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

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Content

Some relevant terminology

MSCA Doctoral Networks Call features

Useful tools for institutional partner seach and for doctoral candidates

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Organisations vs individuals



Organisation

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

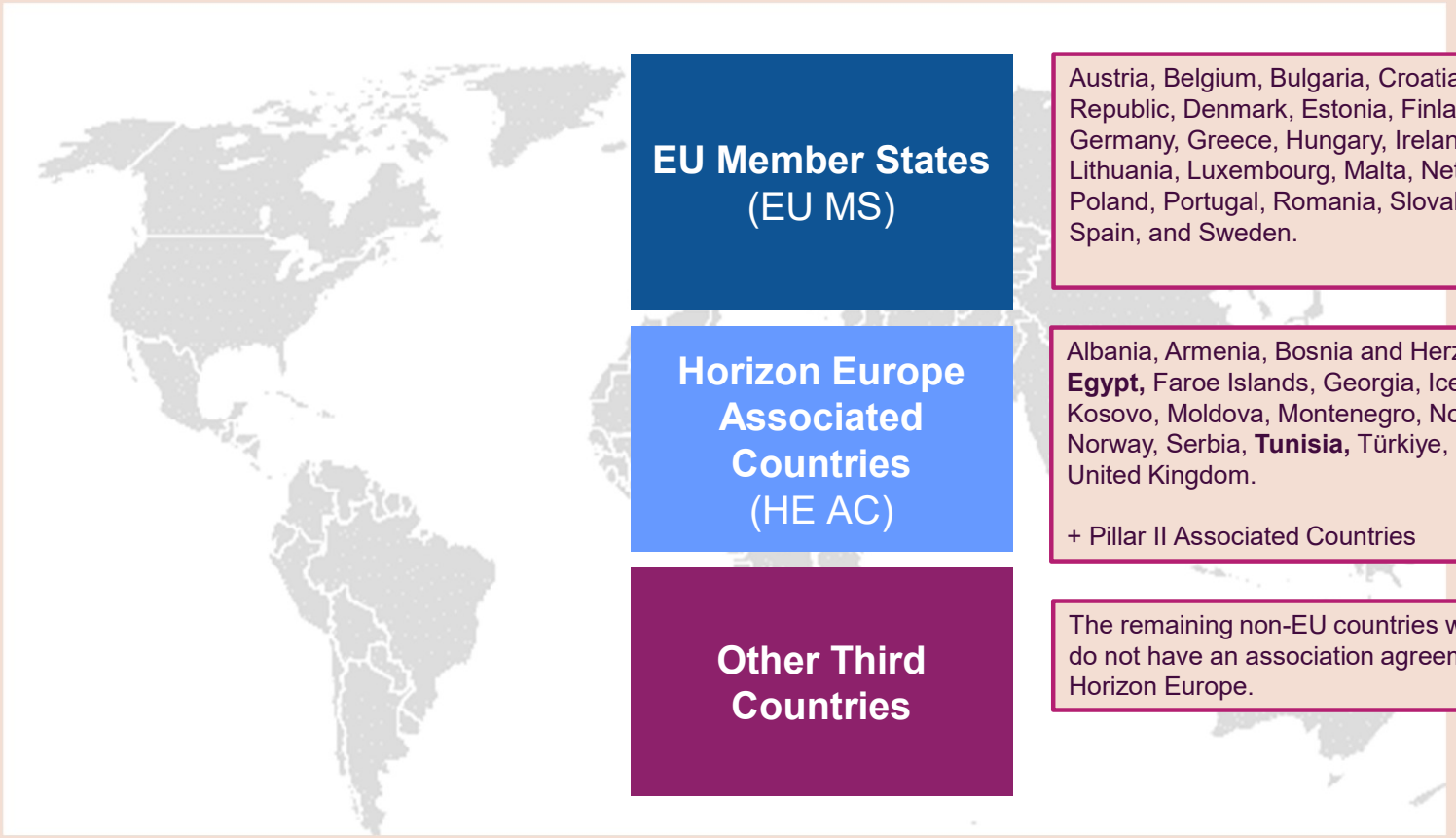


Individual researcher

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

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The World according to Horizon Europe



EU Member States (EU MS)

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

Horizon Europe Associated Countries (HE AC)

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Egypt,** Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, **Tunisia,** Türkiye, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

+ Pillar II Associated Countries

Other Third Countries

The remaining non-EU countries worldwide that do not have an association agreement with Horizon Europe.

Egypt and Tunisia are associated countries to HE, the rest of African countries are considered non-associated countries and **are eligible to receive funding**

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Beneficiary vs Associated Partner



Beneficiary

- Signs the Grant Agreement with the EU
- Minimum number and geographical requirements
- Receives funding directly, recruits doctoral candidates Doctoral Networks



Associated partner

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

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Relevant terminology



ACADEMIC SECTOR

- Public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees
- Public or private non-profit research organisations
- International European Research Organisations http://eiroforum.org/



NON-ACADEMIC SECTOR

Any other socio-economic actor not included in the academic sector: SME, companies, NGOs, hospitals, public administration, museums, town halls, etc …

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MSCA: Bottom-up programme

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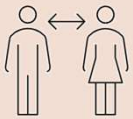
Chemistry (CHE)





Environment and Geosciences (ENV)

Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)





Life Sciences (LIF)

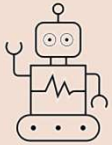
Economic Sciences(ECO)

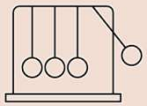




Mathematics (MAT)

Information Science and Engineering (ENG)





Physics (PHY)

Open to all scientific fields

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What is a Doctoral network (MSCA DN)?

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- ✓One consortium
- ✓Proposing a research project
- ✓With interlinked individual PhD research projects
- ✓For doctoral candidates

DN
Doctoral Networks
Participants implement a joint research programme

DN-ID
Doctoral networks Industrial Doctorates
Doctoral training with the non-academic sector

DN-JD
Doctoral Networks Joint Doctorates
Doctoral programme to deliver joint degrees

All 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels

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Doctoral Networks: Main features

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DURATION
4 -5 years



CONSORTIUM
Minimum 3 organizations from 3 different European countries (1 MS)



DOCTORAL CANDIDATE CONTRACT
From 3 to 36 / 48 months

- **Beyond minimum consortium, beneficiaries from Third Countries could join (low and middle income)**
- **Associated partners (hosting secondments, offering trainings, etc.) from any part of the world and any sector**
- Other requirements (Max. 40% of the total budget of a project can go to the same country; resubmission restrictions to proposals scoring <80% en DN 2025; max. number of PM per project, 540)

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MSCA Doctoral Networks: modalities

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Doctoral Networks (Standard)	*Industrial Doctorates*	*Joint Doctorates*
A consortium of min. 3 entities from 3 different countries, and from the academic and non-academic sectors that offer innovative doctoral training linked to a university (PhD awarding)	Doctoral candidates will spend at least **50% of the contract in the non-academic sector** to develop capabilities thanks to joint supervision between entities from these two sectors	**Integrated doctoral training** that will lead to the obtaining of **double, multiple, joint doctorates** and with joint selection and supervision by the institutions
Maximum 540 PMs		
Recruitment of max. 15 doctoral candidates/project funded **Action: 48 months/4 years** **Recruitment: up to 36 months**	Recruitment of max. 15 doctoral candidates/project funded **Action: 48 months/4 years** **Recruitment: up to 36 months**	N. Recruited candidates vary (48 or 36 months recruitment) **Action: 60 months/5 years** **Recruitment: upt to 48 months**

Network-wide and institutional training
Training on academic/technical & transferable skills
International and intersectoral secondments

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Industrial Doctorates

- ✓ Min **50% in non-academic sector**
- ✓ **Non-academic** sector as **Beneficiary** or **Associated Partner (full flexibility)**
- ✓ **No secondment limitation**
- ✓ Academic and non-academic organisations **jointly supervise**

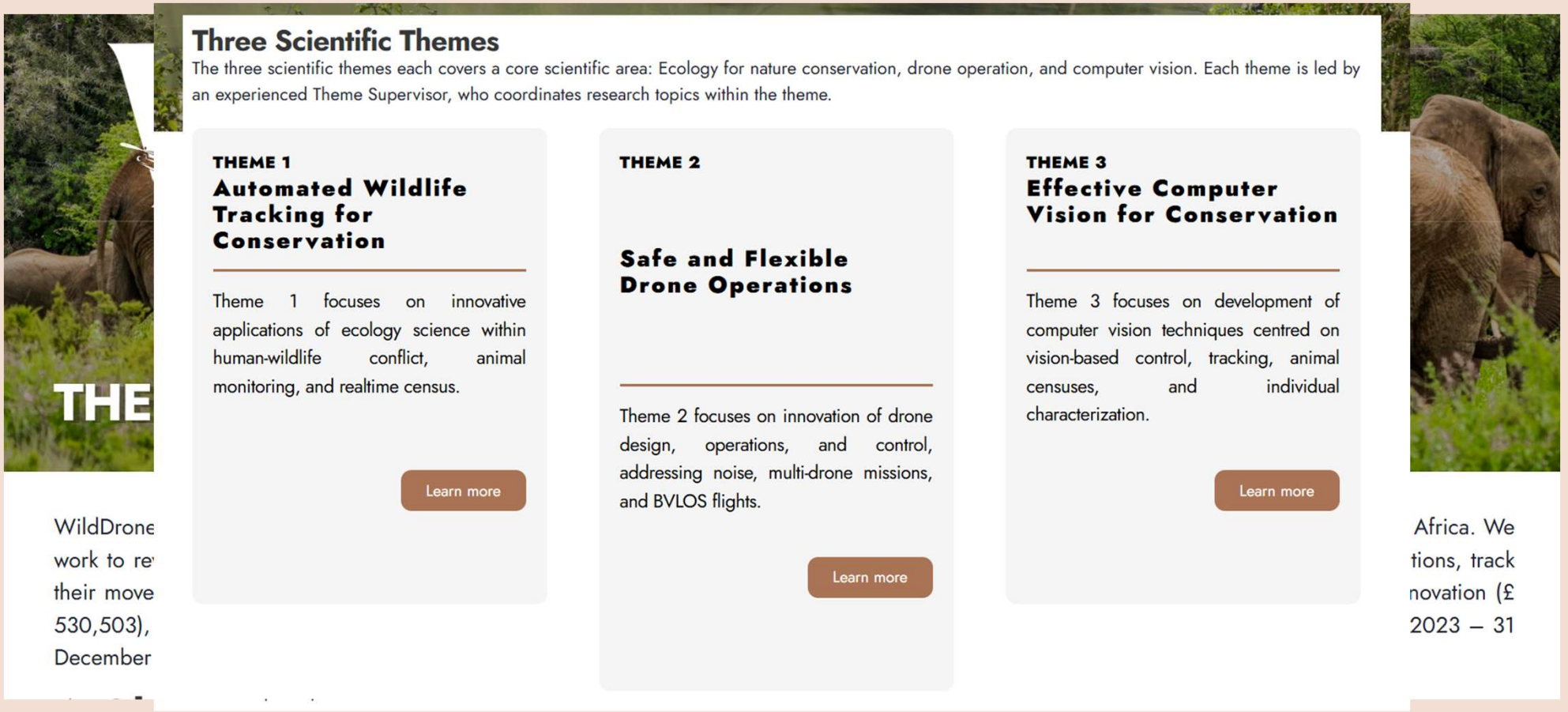
Joint Doctorates

- ✓ Min 3 participants **awarding PhD**, 1 of which from **EU MS/ HE AC**
- ✓ Enrolment in **joint/double/multiple PhD** (delivered by different entities from min. 1 MS/AC **or a 3rd country beneficiary**)
- ✓ Joint admission, selection, training, supervision, governance
- ✓ Letters of **pre-agreement** to deliver joint/double/multi degrees (template)
- ✓ Max **48 months** fellowship, max **60 months** network

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Wilddrone: Autonomous Drones for Nature Conservation Missions

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Example of a MSCA DN Project funded

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Wilddrone: Autonomous Drones for Nature Conservation Missions



Coordinador

SYDDANSK UNIVERSITET

Dirección
CAMPUSVEJ 55
5230 Odense M
Dinamarca

Región
Danmark > Syddanmark > Fyn

Tipo de actividad
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Aportación neta de la UEn
€ 905 364,00

Coste total
Sin datos

PARTNER	**Bristol, Clifton and West of England Zoological Society Limited** United Kingdom	Net EU contribution **€ 0,00**
PARTNER	**KBR Wyle Services, LLC** United States	Net EU contribution **€ 0,00**
PARTNER	**The Danish Environmental Protection Agency** Denmark	Net EU contribution **€ 0,00**
PARTNER	**Kuzikus African Safaris PTY LTD** Namibia	Net EU contribution **€ 0,00**
PARTNER	**LANDBRUG & FODEVARER F.M.B.A.** Denmark	Net EU contribution **€ 0,00**
PARTNER	**UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL** United Kingdom	Net EU contribution **€ 0,00**
PARTNER	**WWF SCHWEIZ** Switzerland	Net EU contribution **€ 0,00**

Doctoral Networks: Funding

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Researcher unit contributions (Person-Month)					Institutional unit contributions (PM)	
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 4.250	**EUR 710**	**EUR 660**	**EUR 4.720 x % covered by the beneficiary**	**Requested unit x (1/number of months)**	**EUR 1 600**	**EUR 1 200**

- (*) Country correction coefficient applies to living allowance,that is a gross amount
- Funding assigned exclusively based on number of **DCs and months of contract** (MAX. 540 PM/Project)
- Internal redistribution of Institutional costs is allowed (e.g., recruitment of project manager, organising network-wide trainings, hosting doctoral candidate secondments). **Partnership Agreement recommended**.

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Doctoral Candidates recruited in MSCA DN



No PhD degree at the time of the recruitment

Will be enrolled in a doctoral programme leading to a PhD degree (at least 2, in different countries, for Joint Doctorates)

Any nationality

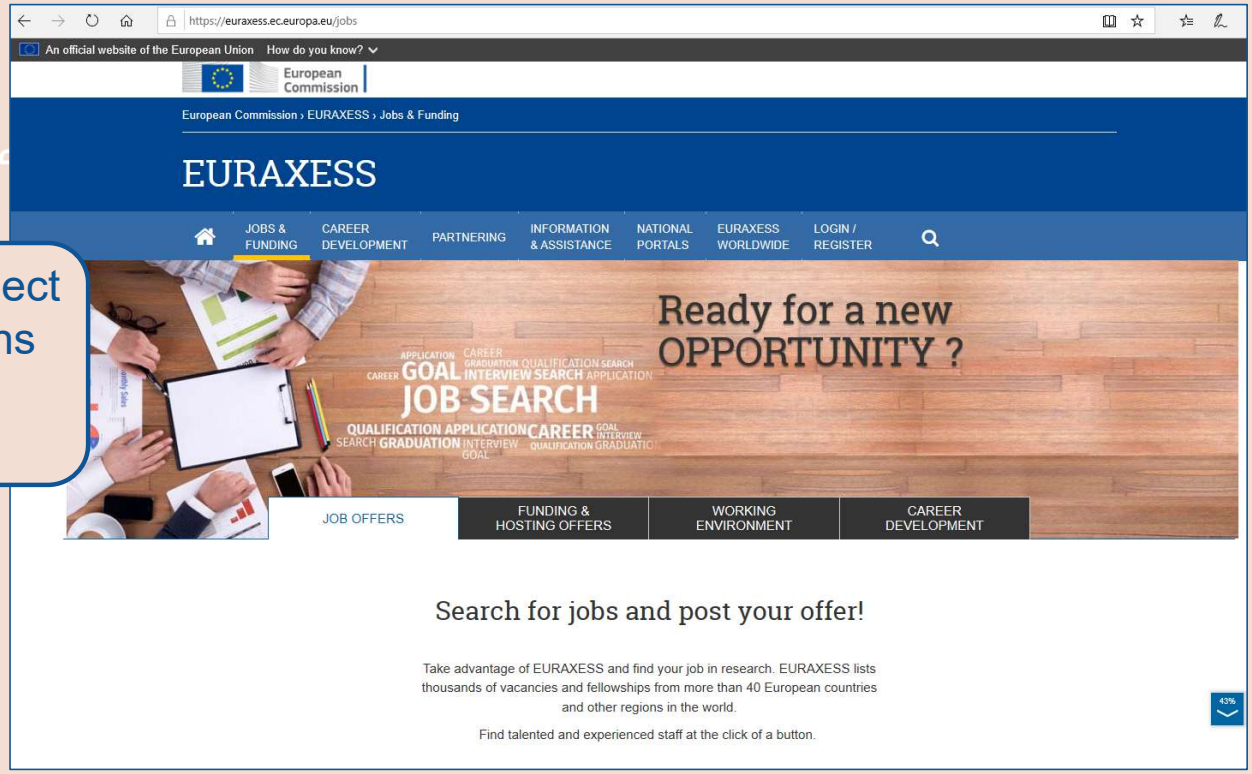


Mobility rule: The doctoral candidate must not have resided or carried out their main activity in the country of the recruiting entity for more than 12 months in the last 36 months prior to the recruitment date.

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MSCA DN: Open, transparent and merit-based recruitment

Once a MSCA DN project is funded, the positions will be published in EURAXESS Jobs



https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs

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Doctoral Networks: Proposal

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Part A - administrative forms

filled *on-line on the Funding & Tenders Opportunities Portal*



Part B1 - the proposal, max 34 pages (PDF uploaded)

 # Start page, table of contents, list of participating organisations

 # Excellence

 # Impact

 # Implementation, incl. Gantt Chart

Maximum 30 pages to convince the evaluators!



Part B2 - no page limit, PDF uploaded

 # Network organisation

 # Supervisory Board

 # Environmental aspects in light of the MSCA Green Charter

 # Participating organisations (1 pg per beneficiary, ½ pg per associated partner)

 # Letters of pre-agreement (for DN-JD)

RAISE DN for applicants of HORIZON-RAISE 2026-01-MSCA

Novelty 2026!

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Resource for AI Science in Europe RAISE DN 2026 call

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Funding for projects that aim to apply AI in their scientific research & for those focused on developing new AI tools, systems and methodologies.

- **Indicative budget: €30 million** (funding from Pillar 2, Cluster 4)
- **Call for proposal dates:** 28 May 2026 – 24 November 2027
- **How to apply:** Applications must be submitted through the MSCA DN 2026 call. At proposal stage, applicants will be able to declare their interest in being considered for the RAISE Doctoral Networks and, if so, they should demonstrate that their proposal falls within the scope of the RAISE call.

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MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 Call

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026

 # Reference: HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01

Opening date: 28 May 2026, 0:00 CEST

Deadline: 24 November 2026, 17:00 CET

Indicative budget

EUR 593.034 million (TBC)

General information

Programme
Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

Call
MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 (HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01)

Type of action HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates	**Type of MGA** HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]	Forthcoming
Deadline model single-stage	**Planned opening date** 28 May 2026	**Deadline date** 24 November 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time
Type of action HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-JD HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates	**Type of MGA** HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]	Forthcoming
HORIZON-TMA-MSCA-DN-ID HORIZON TMA MSCA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates	HORIZON Unit Grant [HORIZON-AG-UN]	Forthcoming
Deadline model single-stage	**Planned opening date** 28 May 2026	**Deadline date** 24 November 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time 24 November 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

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How to find partners for MSCA projects?

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NETWORKING EVENTS (CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, ETC.)



FORMER OR CURRENT COLLABORATIONS



JOINT PROJECTS



FUNDING AND TENDER PORTAL



MSCA MATCHMAKING PLATFORM



EURAXESS PORTAL



NATIONAL CONTACT POINT

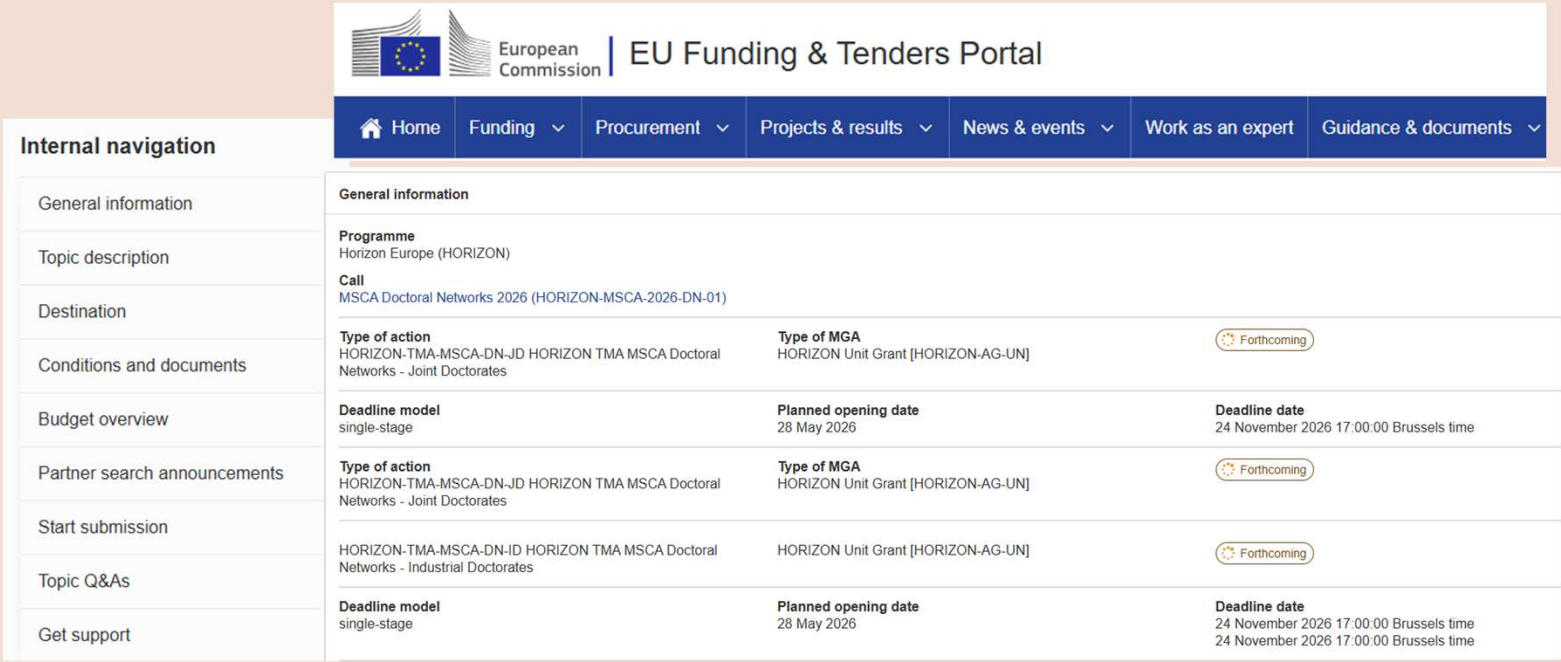
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Funding and Tenders Portal: Partner Search

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[Funding and Tenders Portal]

- ✓ In the official Call documentation
- ✓ You can see the institution profile, their collaborations….
- ✓ You can publish your own expression of interest



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RADIANCE MSCA Matchmaking platform

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Welcome to the NEW MSCA matchmaking platform!

MSCA Radiance

1:1 meetings for your future MSCA proposals, inspiring sessions, informative workshops and more.

The new MSCA matchmaking platform under the RADIANCE project , brings together Academic Organizations, companies, NGOs , supervisors and other entities from a large number of European countries and beyond. This is a unique opportunity to generate new contacts and future successful collaborations in the actual and upcoming MSCA calls.

Using this platform, you will be able to publish your company profile and offer your hosting arrangements to attract **Postdoctoral Fellows** and **Doctoral Candidates**. The MSCA Matchmaking platform will help you to find your **partners** for Doctoral Networks, Staff Exchanges, COFUND and MSCA and CITIZENS proposals. Don't forget to include your **Marketplace** in your profile!.

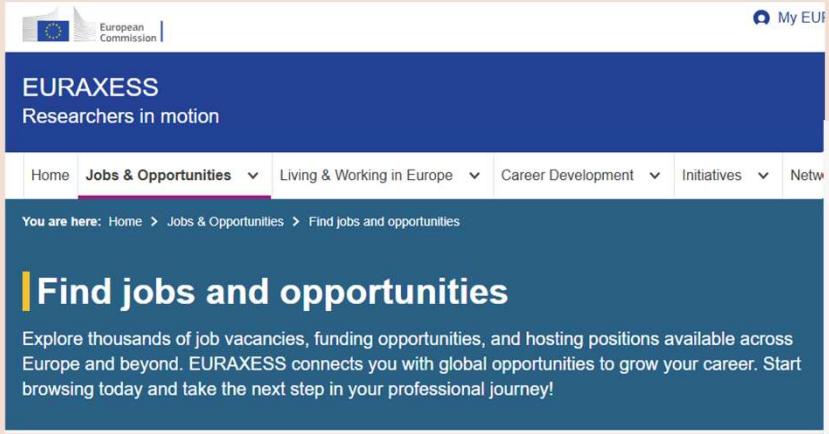


[MSCA Matchmaking Platform]

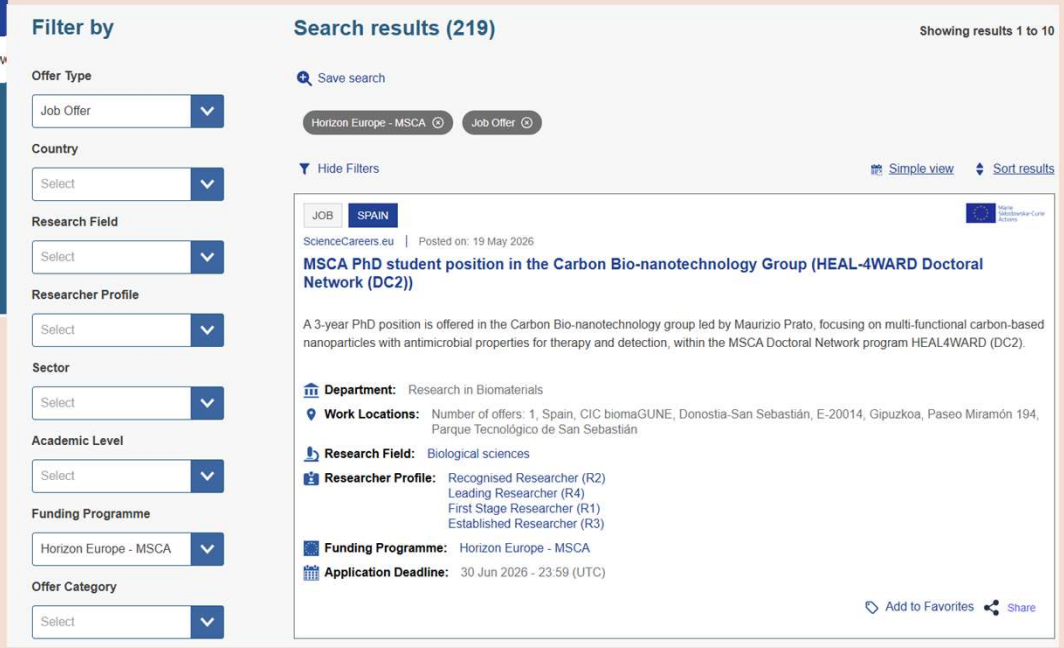
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EURAXESS: for researchers and institutions

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EURAXESS Jobs



EURAXESS AFRICA



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Thank you

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