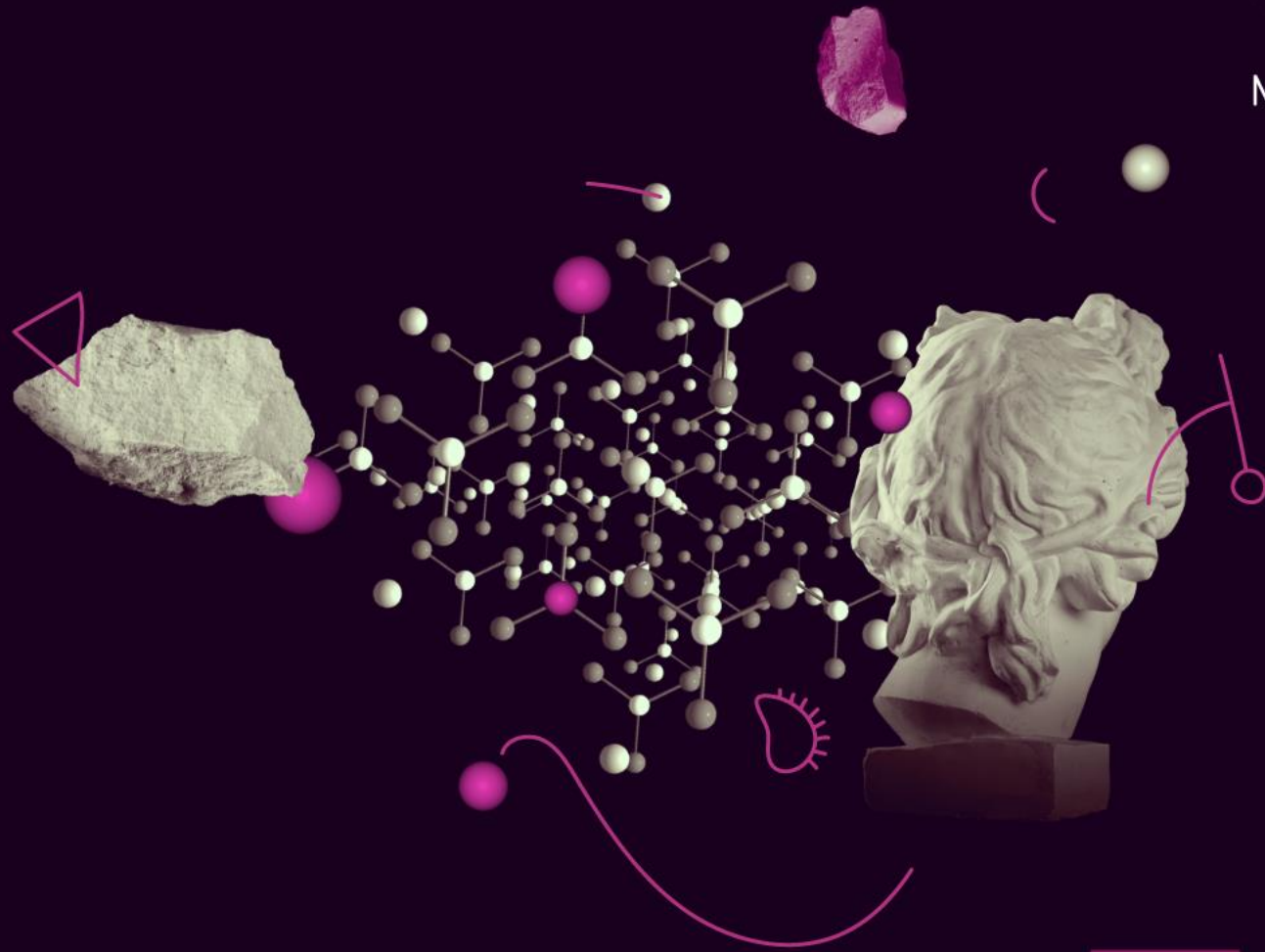




MSCA

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Developing talents, advancing research

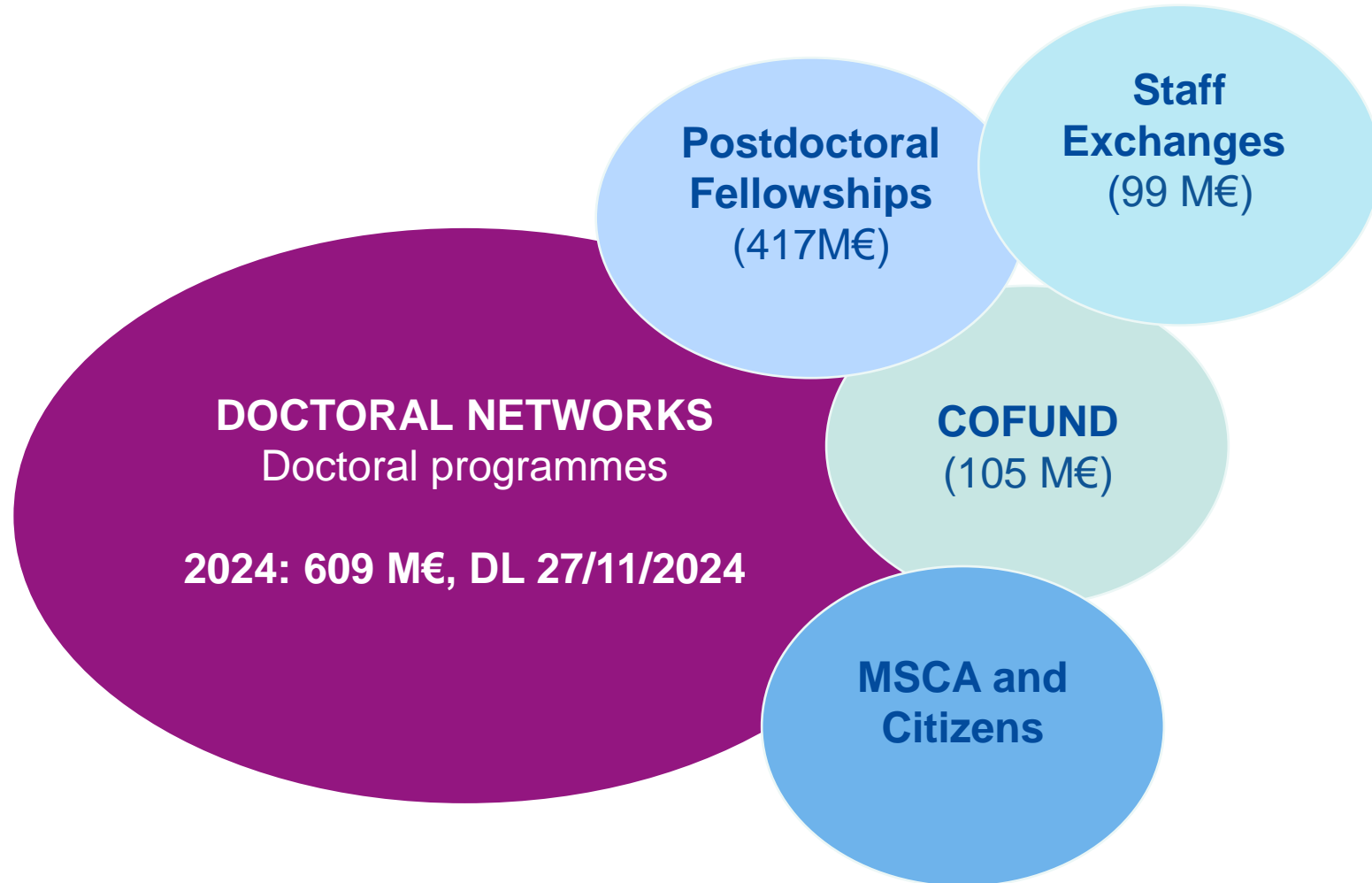


Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Doctoral Networks

Audrey ARFI, European Research Executive
Agency - MSCA Doctoral Network

Marie Skłodowska-
Curie Actions

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions



DN 2024 Call Info Event last 7 June 2024



Horizon Europe - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
Doctoral Networks 2024 - Call info day

- Watch the recording on this [platform](#).
- Presentations and Q&A document available on the [platform](#).
- Review all the [call related documents](#)

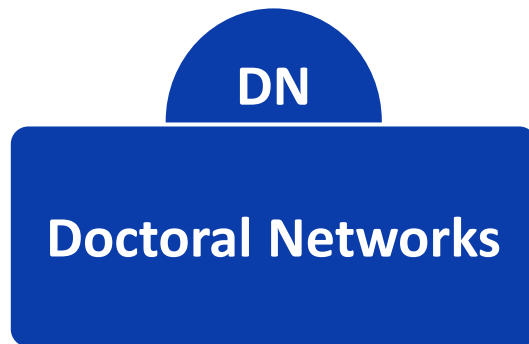
Next DN 2024 Call Info event organised on 2nd July 2024 by the UK NCPs

What is a Doctoral Network (DN) ?



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

Implementation modes



Participants implement a joint research programme



Doctoral training with the non-academic sector



Doctoral programme to deliver joint degrees



All 3 modes compete within the same scientific panels

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**

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



Consortia

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

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** – for DN-ID min **50% in non-academic sector**

Other eligibility conditions

All beneficiaries must recruit at least one doctoral candidate, host and supervise in own premises, or use associated partners linked to them to do so

Max. 40% of budget allocated to the same country or to a single international organisation.

Re-submission restrictions for proposals scoring below 80% in Call 2023

Specific eligibility conditions for Industrial and Joint Doctorates

Eligible researchers



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:**

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.

Funding mechanism



- ✓ Fully based on unit costs
- ✓ 1 person-month = 1 unit
- ✓ Amount in EUR per unit cost
- ✓ Total costs = costs per unit x number of units
- ✓ 100% Reimbursement rate for eligible beneficiaries

1 unit
=
1 month of eligible DC

Cost categories

A. Contributions for recruited researchers					B. Institutional contributions	
A1. Living allowance (€)	A2. Mobility allowance (€)	A3. Family allowance (if applicable) (€)	A4. Long term leave (if applicable) (€)	A5. Special needs (if applicable) (€)	B1. Research training and networking contribution (€)	B2. Management and indirect contribution (€)
4010*	710	660	4000 x % covered by the beneficiary	requested unit x 1/ number of PM	1600	1200

**gross amount multiplied by country correction coefficient*

DN expected outputs for doctoral candidates



DN expected outputs for participating organisations

Recruitment
of EU funded
excellent
DCs

TALENT

Cooperation &
knowledge
transfer between
sectors/
disciplines

NETWORK

Strengthening
Research &
Innovation
capacity

CAPACITY

Improved quality,
relevance, and
sustainability of
PhD programmes

**ENHANCED
TRAINING
PROGRAMME**

DN expected impact for Europe



MSCA-DN Strategic Value

Being a Trend-setter

- Emphasis on transferable skills.
- Emphasis on integrating non-academic sector.
- Career development plan.
- Guidelines on supervision.
- Green Charter.

Structuring Effects

- Positive impact lasting beyond the lifetime of the project.
- Structuring the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.
- Ripple effect catalysing institutional culture.

Structuring Effects



Doctoral Networks

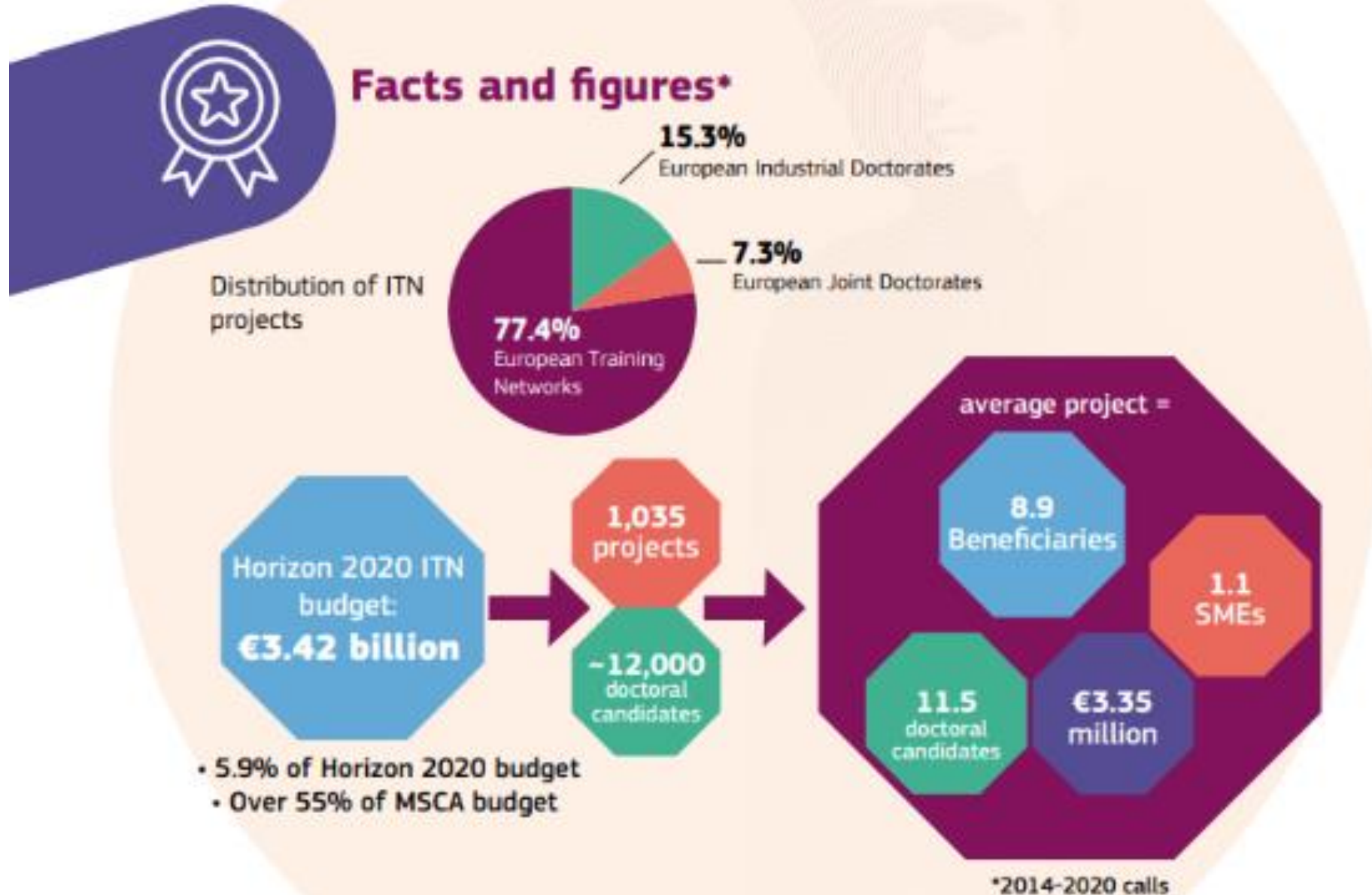
Being a Trend setter

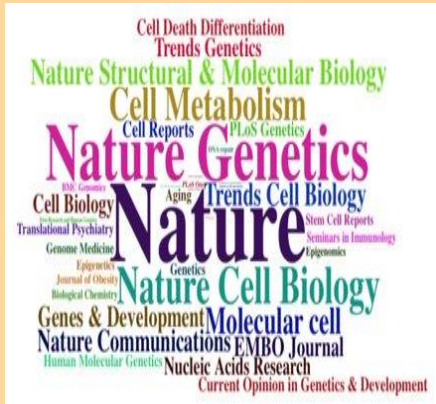
Attractiveness of European Programmes

Attractiveness of European Programmes

- Wider access to courses, expertise and infrastructure.
- Skills for innovation and long-term employability.
- International and interdisciplinary experiences widening career prospects.
- Better visibility of European doctoral programmes.

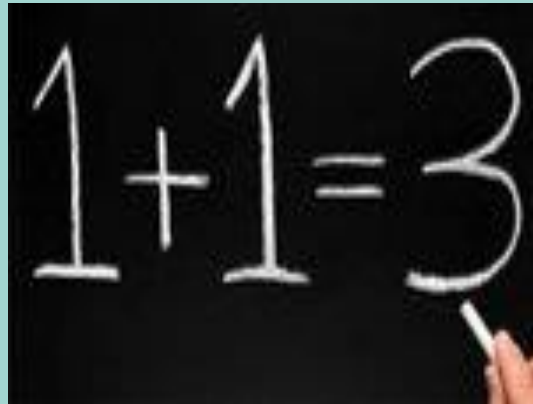
Key Facts & Figures from H2020





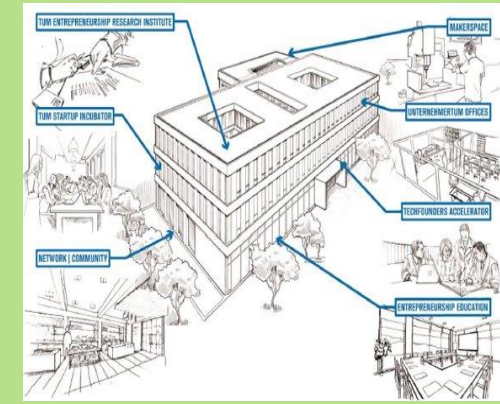
Excellent Science & Innovation

GraWIToN (2017)
ENLIGHT-TEN ITN (2020)



Cooperation (3i) & Synergies

PERSEPHONE
EUPRAXIA-DN
FOODTRANET
WAKEUPCALL-STRIKE



Excellent Training & Innovative Outreach

Biocascades
FBI
EN_ACTI2NG
PBNv2

A gold mine for success stories, research excellence capacity & generated innovation

Key Findings: Research Excellence

Recent studies on the innovative dimension of ITNs and on the evaluation of the programme, etc. showed:

- **Research Excellence** (publications, awards, Nobel prizes, etc...) of the programme confirmed.
 - **Performance of ITN/DN in terms of publications output** above average compared to whole H2020
 - **Since 1996, 18 Nobel Prizes and many more awards** (all MSCA)

How to further build Excellence capacity?

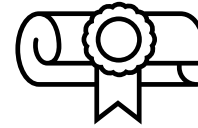
Through synergies: few examples



- Complementary funding:
- MSCA COFUND



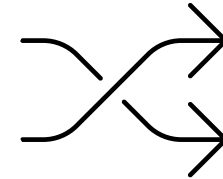
- Sequential funding:
 - Pilot between MSCA-ITN, ERC and EIC projects on raw material (common trainings, dissemination events, secondments...) to maximise impact of projects
 - Synergy initiatives between Erasmus+ and MSCA (cross references in WP)
 - Many former MSCA fellows among ERC grantees



Alternative funding:

Seal of Excellence: MSCA-PF (H2020 & HE), COFUND (HE)

Common evaluations: MSCA PF, ERA fellowships, Euratom PF



• Complementarity of parallel projects

- New EIC Talent Innovation scheme pilots (2023) with MSCA, EIT, ERC (cross references in WP)

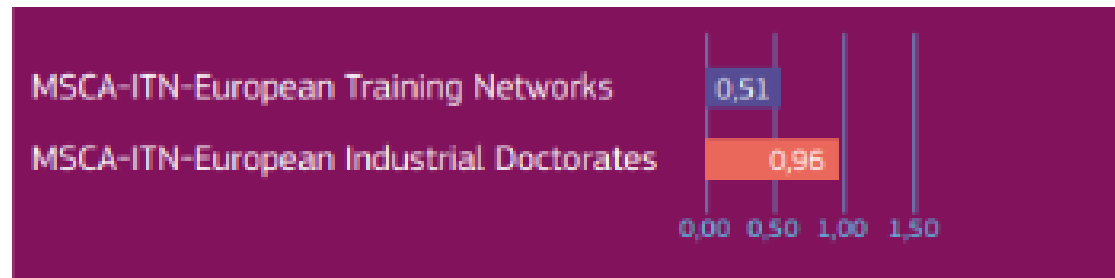
- Many MSCA projects with PIs with ERC grants

Key Findings: Innovation

Recent study on **the innovative dimension of ITNs**

- **Fostering links with non-academic sector/industry** (non-academic participation +++), leading to **strong innovative outputs:**

Number of patents per flagged project for innovation
(118 projects, normalized to project relative size).

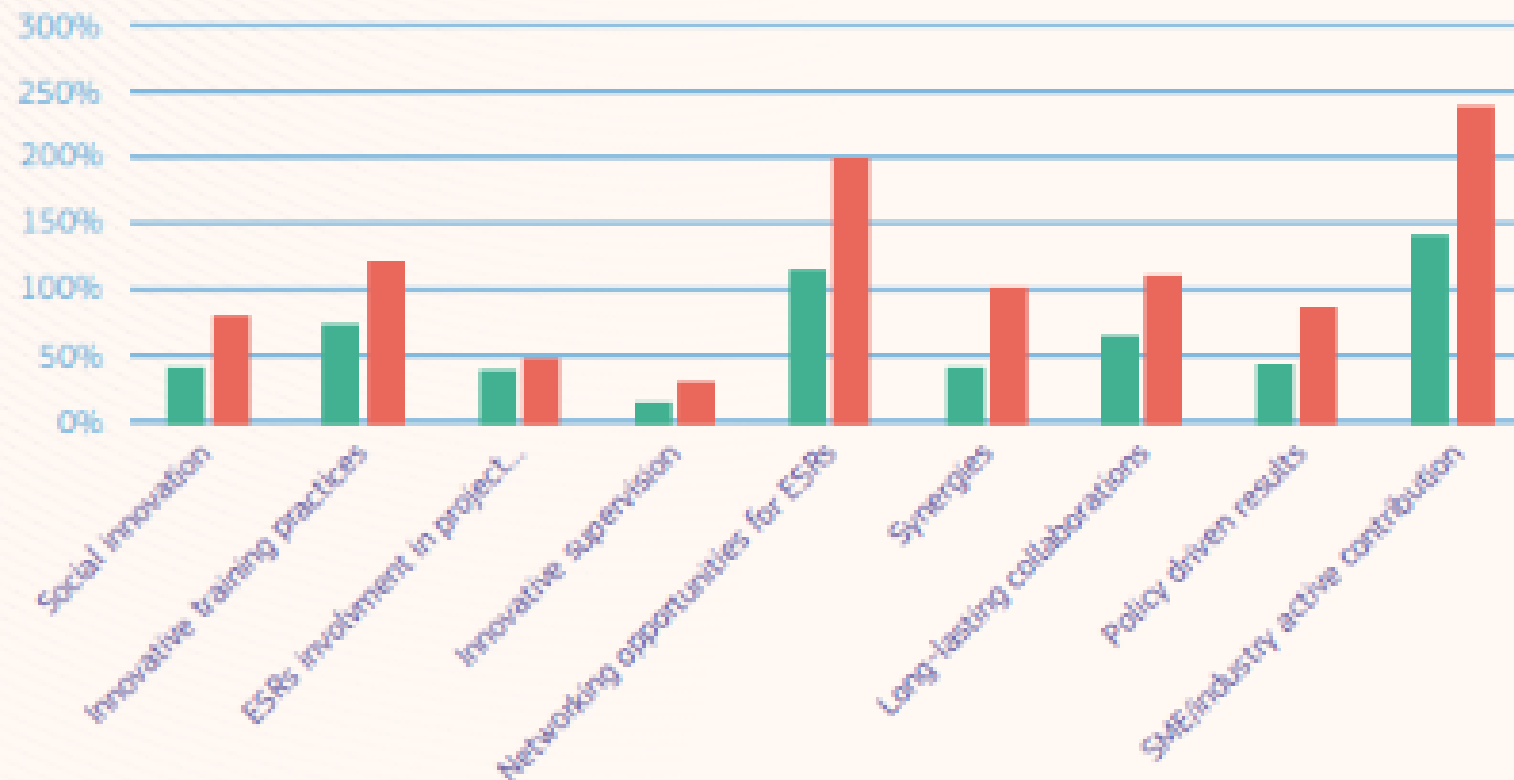


- Beneficiaries from the **industry, especially those acting as project coordinators** are associated with the **most innovative projects.**
- Among the most innovative projects, **Industrial Doctorates (EID)** also showed a **higher patent performance** than other networks.

Key Findings : other types of Innovation & best practices

Comparison between all Horizon 2020 ITN and those flagged for innovation

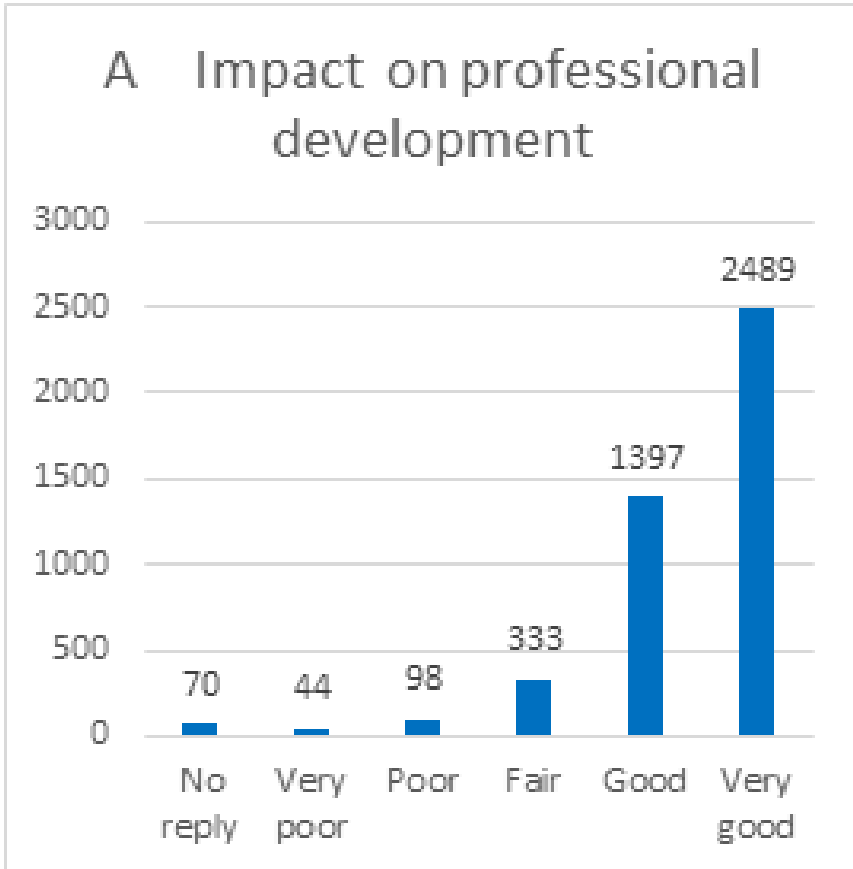
■ all Horizon 2020 ITN ■ Horizon 2020 ITN flagged for Innovation



The innovative features of the MSCA ITN scheme **correlate with the tangible innovation outputs**, in particular for:

- social innovation
- innovative training practices
- SME/Industry involvement
- networking opportunities for doctoral candidates
- synergy aspects

Key Findings: Impact on research career



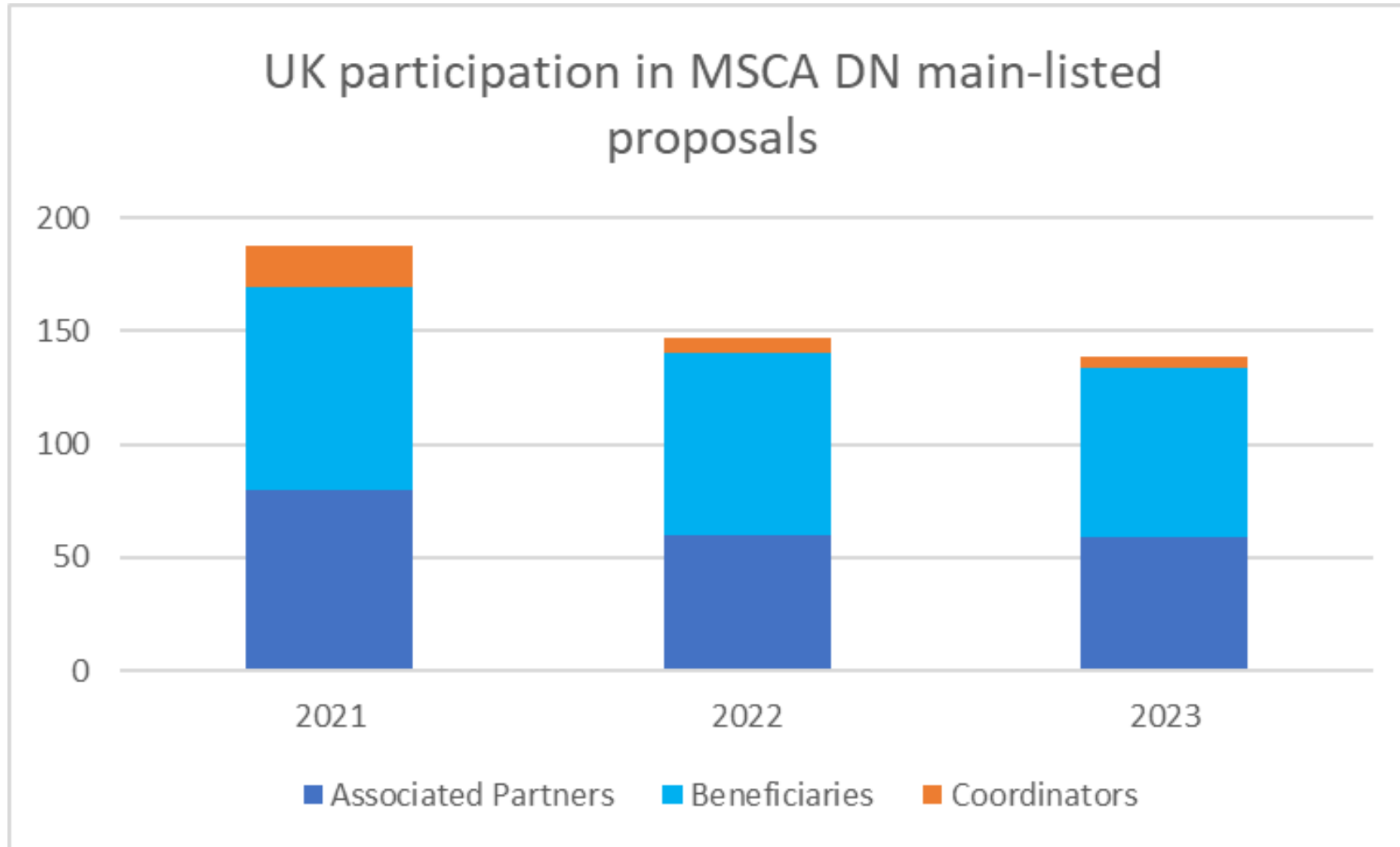
- Confirmed by several studies and Fellows' questionnaires
- MSCA ITN/DNs **foster capacity in research Excellence**
- The practices incentivised by the MSCA ITN/DN's design likely to **provide an ecosystem conducive to innovation.**



Bitsios *et al.*, 2023,

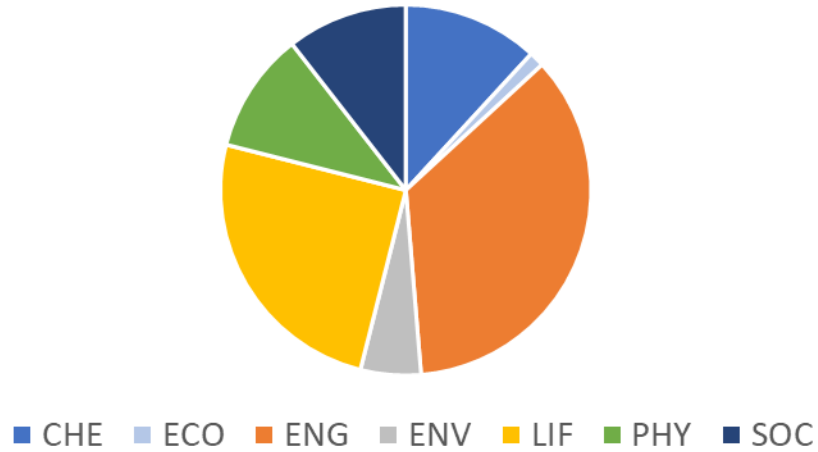
DOI: [10.12688/f1000research.138482.1](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.138482.1)

UK participation in HE MSCA DN calls

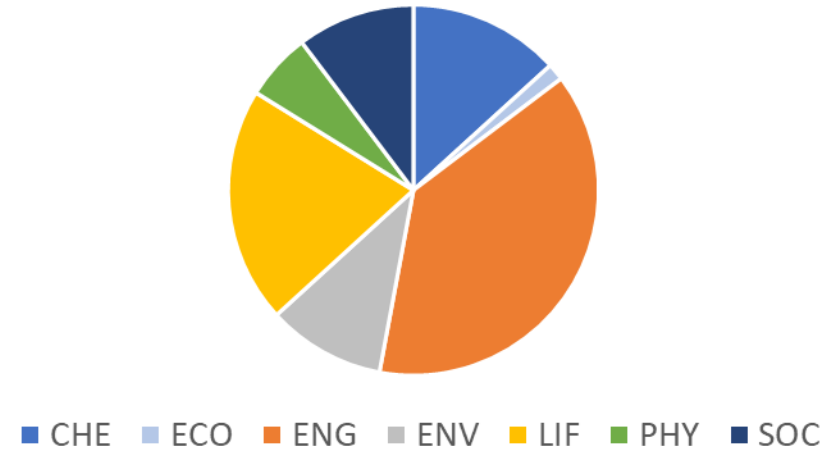


UK participation per scientific panel

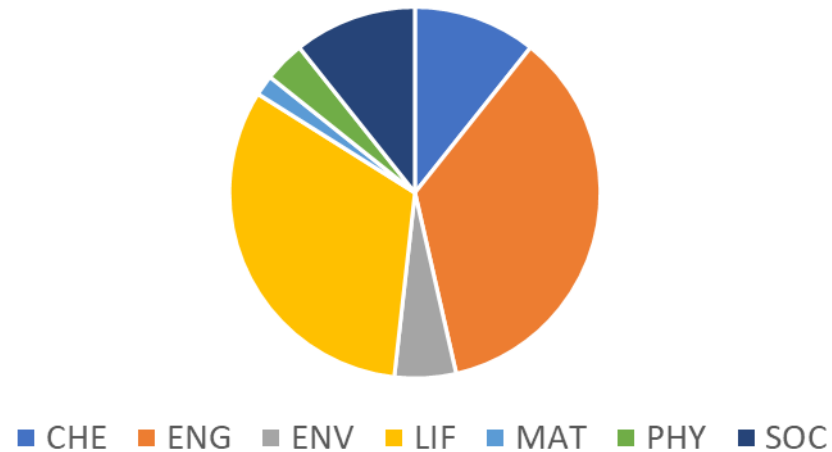
UK Participation DN 2021 main-list per panel



UK Participation DN 2022 main-list per panel



UK Participation DN 2023 main-list per panel





Thank you!

European Research Executive Agency

#MSCA #HorizonEU

 **@REA_research @MSCAactions**

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



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